

5/21/2024

**NOTICE OF DENIAL**

JAMES FIDLER  
1000 WOODWARD  
DETROIT, MI

**RE: Application Number 24-00166; 150 STATE; CAPITOL PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**Project Scope: RELOCATE STEVENS T. MASON STATUE, INSTALL OBELISK ON MONUMENT'S BASE**

Dear Mr. Fidler,

At the Regular Meeting that was held on May 8, 2024, the Detroit Historic District Commission ("DHDC") reviewed the above-referenced application. Pursuant to Section 5(1) and 9(1) of the Michigan Local Historic District Act, as amended, being MCL 399.205 (1), MCL 399.209 (9) and Sections 21-2-78 and 21-2-80 of the 2019 Detroit City Code; the DHDC hereby issues a Denial for the following work, effective on May 15, 2024, as it will be inappropriate according to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the district's Elements of Design:

Per the submitted proposal, remove the Stevens T. Mason statue from its current base/location and install an obelisk in its place/on the current base

The Commission's reasons for denial are the following:

- The historic Stevens T. Mason monument, to include its original bronze statue and limestone base, is a contributing element to the district as a discrete/single object and was originally erected to mark Mason's grave.
- The proposed dismantling of this historic object/the statue from its original base, the resulting disconnection from Mason's remains, and the installation of a new obelisk on the base remains will result in a false sense of historic development within the park and will contribute to a diminution of features that characterize the monument.

The Commission therefore finds that the proposed work fails to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, specifically Standards:

- 2) The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
- 3) Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding

conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.

The application may be resubmitted for the Historic District Commission's review when suggested changes have been made that address the cited reasons for denial, if applicable.

Please be advised that, in accordance with MCL 399. 211 and Section 21-2-81 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, an applicant aggrieved by a decision of the DHDC may file an appeal with the State Historic Preservation Review Board. Within sixty (60) days of your receipt of this notice, an appeal may be filed with:

Jon Stuckey, Michigan Department of Attorney General  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, G. Mennen Williams Building  
525 West Ottawa Street  
P.O. Box 30754  
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-335-0665  
E-mail: [stuckeyj@michigan.gov](mailto:stuckeyj@michigan.gov)

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please contact staff at 313-224-1762 or [hdc@detroitmi.gov](mailto:hdc@detroitmi.gov).

For the Commission:



Jennifer Ross  
Detroit Historic District Commission