

# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION NOTICE OF DENIAL

City of Detroit - Planning & Development Department  
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

**Notification Date:** 07/16/25

**Application Number:** HDC2025-00292

## APPLICANT & PROPERTY INFORMATION

<b>NAME:</b> Meir Israel		<b>COMPANY NAME:</b> Swift Restore llc	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 4417 Balfour	<b>CITY:</b> Detroit	<b>STATE:</b> MI	<b>ZIP:</b> 48224
<b>PROJECT ADDRESS:</b> 1676 Chicago			
<b>HISTORIC DISTRICT:</b> Boston-Edison			
<b>SCOPE:</b> Replace soffits, install asphalt shingles at dormer roofs.			

At the Regular Meeting that was held on 07/09/25, 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 07/16/25, as it will be inappropriate according to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the district's Elements of Design:

## REASON FOR DENIAL:

1. While the newly installed soffits/dentils are wood, in keeping with the original soffits material, they do not match the historic appearance.
2. The soffit that was removed was a distinctive character-defining feature of the property which, per the standards, should be matched if deteriorated beyond repair. The number of front facing dentils (excluding the corners) was reduced from 22 to 13.
3. The spacing of the original dentils created a rhythm that aligned with the outer walls of the dormers (see arrows), and tied together the elaborate portico, the linear keystones above the windows, as well as the vertical pattern of the original tile roof.
4. The new existing widely spaced dentils are out of proportion with the cohesive patterning of the applied ornament and the decorative coursing of the brick veneer.

## FAILURE TO MEET STANDARDS:

**The Standards for Rehabilitation** (codified in 36 CFR 67 for use in the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program) address the most prevalent treatment. "Rehabilitation" is defined as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values."

As stated in the definition, the treatment "rehabilitation" assumes that at least some repair or alteration of the historic building will be needed in order to provide for an efficient contemporary use; however, these repairs and alterations must not damage or destroy materials, features or finishes that are important in defining the building's historic character.

The Standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

**Failure to meet standards:** 2, 5, 6

**Corresponding Standard numbered below:**

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment
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.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

## FAILURE TO MEET ELEMENTS OF DESIGN:

**Failure to meet Elements of Design:** 7, 10

**Corresponding design element numbered below:**

1. Height.	12. Walls of continuity.
2. Proportion of building's front façades.	13. Relationship of significant landscape features and surface treatments.
3. Proportion of openings within the façade.	14. Relationship of open space to structures.
4. Rhythm of solids to voids in front façade.	15. Scale of façade and façade elements.
5. Rhythm of spacing of buildings on streets.	16. Directional expression of front elevations.
6. Rhythm of entrance and/or porch projections.	17. Rhythm of building setbacks.
7. Relationship of materials.	18. Relationship of lot coverages.
8. Relationship of textures.	19. Degree of complexity within the façade.
9. Relationship of colors.	20. Orientation, vistas, overviews.
10. Relationship of architectural details.	21. Symmetric or asymmetric appearance.
11. Relationship of roof shapes.	22. General environmental character.

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

For the Commission:



Garrick Landsberg  
Director of Staff, Historic District Commission

PSR: Bilqees

250716BS

## APPEALS PROCESS

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  
2nd 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)



# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR WORK APPROVAL

City of Detroit - Planning & Development Department  
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 808  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

**APPLICATION ID**

HDC2025-00292

**PROPERTY INFORMATION****ADDRESS(ES):** 1676 Chicago**HISTORIC DISTRICT:** Boston-Edison**SCOPE OF WORK: (Check ALL that apply)**

- |  |   |  |  |   |                                |
|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows/<br>Doors | <input type="checkbox"/> Walls/<br>Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roof/Gutters/<br>Chimney | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch/Deck/Balcony   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition        | <input type="checkbox"/> Signage          | <input type="checkbox"/> New<br>Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Addition                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Improvements<br>(landscape, trees, fences,<br>patios, etc.) |                                |

**BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Install asphalt roof out roofing, Install water and ice, install synthetic plastic, install drip edge, install dimensional asphalt shingles, install wooden soffit ornament..

**APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION****TYPE OF APPLICANT:** Contractor**NAME:** Meir Israel**COMPANY NAME:** Swift Restore llc**ADDRESS:** 4417 Balfour**CITY:** Detroit**STATE:** MI**ZIP:** 48224**PHONE:** +1 (586) 913-1243**EMAIL:** Swiftrestore@gmail.com**I AGREE TO AND AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:**

- ☒ I understand that the failure to upload all required documentation may result in extended review times for my project and/or a denied application.
- ☒ I understand that the review of this application by the Historic District Commission does not waive my responsibility to comply with any other applicable ordinances including obtaining appropriate permits (building, sign, etc.) or other department approvals prior to beginning the work.
- ☒ I hereby certify that the information on this application is true and correct. I certify that the proposed work is authorized by the owner of record and I have been authorized to make this application as the property owner(s) authorized agent.

Signed by:

Meir Israel

Swift Restore llc

05/22/2025

SIGNATURE

4417 Balfour

DATE

Detroit

MI

48224

+1 (586) 913-1243

Swiftrestore@gmail.com

Questions? Contact us at [hdc@detroitmi.gov](mailto:hdc@detroitmi.gov) or (313)224-1762


**NOTE:** Based on the scope of work, additional documentation may be required. See [www.detroitmi.gov/hdc](http://www.detroitmi.gov/hdc) for scope-specific requirements.

PROJECT DETAILS – TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Instructions: Add project details using the text box in each section. If your details exceed the space provided, attach the details via the attachment icon for that section.

ePLANS PERMIT NUMBER: N/A  
(only applicable if you've already applied for permits through ePLANS)

GENERAL

<p><b>1. DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITION</b> <i>Please tell us about the current appearance and conditions of the areas you want to change. You may use a few sentences or attach a separate prepared document on the right. (For example, "existing roof on my garage is covered in gray asphalt shingles in poor condition.")</i></p>	
<p><b>2. PHOTOGRAPHS</b> <i>Help us understand your project. Please attach photographs of all areas where work is proposed.</i></p>	
<p><b>3. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT</b> <i>In this box, tell us about what you want to do at the areas described above in box #1. (For example, Install new asphalt shingle roofing at garage.)</i></p>	
<p><b>4. DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK</b> <i>In this box, please describe all steps necessary to complete the work described in box #3. (For example, "remove existing shingles, replace wood deck as necessary, replace wood eaves, install roof vents, replace rotted fascia boards, paint, clean worksite.")</i></p>	
<p><b>5. BROCHURES/CUT SHEETS</b> <i>Please provide information on the products or materials you are proposing to install. For example, a brochure on the brand and color of the shingles proposed.</i></p>	

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**














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# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUEST

**Date:** 05/27/2025

**Application Number:** HDC2025-00292

## APPLICANT & PROPERTY INFORMATION

<b>NAME:</b> Meir Israel		<b>COMPANY NAME:</b> Swift Restore llc	
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 4417 Balfour	<b>CITY:</b> Detroit	<b>STATE:</b> MI	<b>ZIP:</b> 48224
<b>PROJECT ADDRESS:</b> 1676 Chicago			
<b>HISTORIC DISTRICT:</b> Boston-Edison			

## REQUESTED INFORMATION

We have received your application, but it is not yet complete for review. Please provide additional details based on the comments and questions listed below. Should you need to attach additional files per this request, use the paperclip icons at the end of this form. You may attach up to (5) files per icon up to 25MB:

Please submit the manufacturer, line and color of the selected asphalt shingles and flat roofing material, as well as supporting documents showing the areas to be covered with each product. // Please submit additional photos of each side of the house, from the ground, showing each side of the house/roofs/soffits. // Please include in writing what, if any work, is proposed for the dormers - roofs and walls. // Please describe in writing what is proposed for the soffits, it isn't clear on what "install wooden soffit ornament" means. Submit product information on soffits as necessary. // Please confirm if gutters/downspouts are also planned for this project.

It appears that work is already in progress. Staff does not have the authority to approve asphalt shingles on the arched dormer roofs. This work will likely require review by the Detroit Historic District Commission at an upcoming meeting. Please submit the above requested information to HDC staff. Thank you.

PSR: 250527AD

## APPLICANT RESPONSE

Response Date: 06/06/2025



These photos shows the repaired soffit ornaments













PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
2 WOODWARD AVE SUITE 808, DETROIT, MI 48226

# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

## CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

**Application Number:** HDC2025-00292

**Effective Date:** 07/16/25

**Project Address:** 1676 Chicago

**Historic District:** Boston-Edison

**Description of Work:**

Install asphalt shingles at main roof.

**Issued to:** Meir Israel

4417 Balfour

Detroit, MI 48224

COA

**With the Conditions that:**

N/A

Pursuant to Section 5(10) of the Michigan Local Historic District Act, as amended, being MCL 399.205 (10) and Sections 21-2-57 and 21-2-73 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, and Detroit Historic District Commission ("DHDC") delegation of administrative authority via Resolutions 97-01, 97-02, 98-01, 20-03, 21-04, and/or 21-07, as applicable, the staff of the DHDC has reviewed the above referenced application and hereby issues a Certificate of Appropriateness ("COA") for the description of work, effective date above, as it meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the district's Elements of Design

**For the Commission:**

Garrick Landsberg

Director of Staff, Historic District Commission

PSR: Bilqees

250716BS

Post this COA at the subject property until work is complete. It is important to note that approval by the DHDC does not waive the applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable ordinances or statutes.