

Date: 3.6.2024
To: Detroit Historic District Commission
Re: Application for Window Replacement at 702 W. Canfield, Detroit
From: Renee Straber, homeowner

I have had the pleasure of living on W. Canfield Street for nearly twelve years. The history and beauty of the area is spectacular. I love it and I love living in Detroit. At the same time, there are aspects of historic home ownership that are a challenge – and I believe it may be especially challenging in Detroit.

I have been repeatedly told by contractors that they will either not work in the city or not work on historic homes. On MANY occasions I have been ghosted for appointments, calls go unanswered and unreturned. I wish I had tracked the number of contacts I've made requesting repairs and restoration on my windows over the years, and I've reached out to contractors who neighbors have recommended and through Brick and Beam, which lists trades who specialize in this – to no avail.

I was thrilled when I found a partner in Kendall Design Build to help me address some fundamental issues that remain in my home. Among the most pressing are windows that are in such bad shape that the wind permeates, sending curtains fluttering and the heating bills through the roof. At one point, Kendall had an employee that restored historic windows, but that person has since retired – so Kendall has recommended replacement with an historically authentic window. There is a beautiful renovation being completed on the house directly across from the street from my home that appear to be using identical or extremely similar windows to those proposed here, and I'm hoping that this is taken into consideration by the Commission.

I would also like to note that some of the windows in my home were replaced on the house in or about 2012, prior to my ownership, so there is already a lack of uniformity or consistent historic authenticity in part of the home – and my intention is to proceed with the remainder of these windows as finances allow – bringing back integrity to the structure of the home and the historic value with materials that also allow me to maintain a safe and environmentally sound residence.

I am dedicated to maintaining this beautiful home and piece of history. I thank you for your consideration and - optimistically! - your support for this improvement.

Kind regards,

Renee Straber
702 W. Canfield, Detroit, MI
Renee937@hotmail.com