

# 4545 architecture

May 20, 2024

1485 Longfellow St.,  
Detroit, MI 48206

RE: 1485 Longfellow Exterior Renovations, District Historic Commission Submission

## Project Narrative

1485 Longfellow is a single family home in the Boston Edison Historic District. It is located on the south side of Longfellow street, between Woodrow Wilson Street and Byron Street. The structure is two stories, plus an attic and basement, with a red brick cladding on traditional wood framing. It features a gable roof, with two prominent dormers on the street-facing (north) facade. Also on the street-facing facade is a covered brick porch, offset from the structure's center. It features four neoclassical columns under a flat roof. Adjacent to the porch on the first floor is a box window. The second story has 4 evenly spaced single-hung windows on the north facade. No alterations are to be made to the street-facing facade under this permit.

Half of the rear facade is clad with the same brick as the front and sides, except where there is a 1-story aluminum-clad addition featuring a flat roof. This addition sits on brick foundation walls, where it is assumed there was originally a walk-out porch. The other half of the rear facade is made up of a 2-story mass clad in wood cedar shake on three sides. This section has wood single-hung windows on all 3 exposed sides, with a french door on the first floor centered on the addition. The french door steps out to a wood deck, which is not assumed to be original.

This project consists of exterior repair and refurbishment of existing building elements, window repair and replacement, demolition of elements which are not contributing factors to the structure's historic character, construction of a new addition to the structure, and the construction of a new deck in the structure's rear. All work will be completed on non-street facing facades.

The aluminum-clad rear addition is to be demolished, while keeping the original brick foundation walls. A new 2-story addition is to be constructed in its place, to align with these foundation walls, connecting the two separate masses of the home's rear into one. The addition will be wood framed and clad with fiber cement lap siding, with an asphalt shingle shed roof that will complement the existing main roof. The addition's second story will include three single hung windows on the rear facade and one single

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hung window on the side elevation, with simulated divided lites to match the existing windows. There will also be a new single hung window on the first floor, adjacent to a new exterior door. All windows are to be composite material. A new half-lite wood exterior entry door onto the deck will be placed at the center of the rear facade. It will have simulated divided lites similar to the existing single hung windows. The existing rear deck will be demolished and replaced with a new composite wood deck and stair, to contrast with the existing historic elements. Existing wood elements, including cedar shake siding and wood windows/french door, will be repaired with-kind materials as required and painted. Existing masonry will be repaired and tuckpointed as required. All wood painted elements, as well as new lap siding, will be painted in accordance with the appropriate Detroit Historic Commission Color System. Where it is necessary to repair or replace damaged existing elements, in-kind materials will be used.