

MINUTES  
VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION  
ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008  
1:30 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOM  
334 ROYAL STREET, 2ND FLOOR

Architectural Committee Members Present:                   Dodie Spencer Smith, Chairman  
Tom Bissell  
David Dillard  
Stewart Farnet

Vieux Carré Commission Members Present:                   Fred Lawson  
Betty Norris:

STAFF PRESENT:     Lary P. Hesdorffer, Director, Hilary Somerville Irvin, Principal Architectural Historian,  
Arthur Pittari, Building Inspector, Stephen McNair and Cynthia Schoenberger, Plan  
Examiners and Lily McNee, Preservation Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT:   Robert Vanlangendonck, Rodney Ratliff, Richard & Kate Bishop, David Hessler, Robert  
Cangelosi, Rick Fifield, Irving Rosen, John Williams, Keely Williams, Jim Farr and  
Kenneth Ferdinand.

I.     OLD BUSINESS

1101 N. Peters: City of New Orleans (French Market Corporation), owner/applicant. Review of proposal to install a 5' x 5' x 6' terra cotta, bas relief sculpture adjacent to the Ursulines Street arched entry to the Farmers Market shed, per application received 12/20/07 & additional material submitted 01/22/08 & 02/07/08.

The Committee **approved** the installation of the bas relief sculpture adjacent to the Ursulines Street entry to the Farmers Market shed, provided that the applicant submits additional information concerning the treatment of the back of the sculpture. In addition, the Committee action included the requirement that the support legs for the sculpture's mounting frame be installed so that the base mounting attachments are set below grade (beneath the sidewalk surface.).

1235 N. Peters: City of New Orleans (French Market Corporation), owner/applicant. Review of proposal to install a 16' tall, painted steel sculpture adjacent to the Barracks Street arched entry to the Flea Market shed, per application received 12/20/07, revised details received 02/07/08 & model to be presented at the meeting.

The Committee sent the proposal to the VCC with a recommendation for **conceptual approval**, provided that the following revisions are made:

- the location for the sculpture installation be revised to be lakeside of the shed and the vendors stall area, at the corner of the site, adjacent to the intersection of Barracks and French Market Place;
- the base of the sculpture be raised onto an elevated platform or pedestal, at sitting height, approximately 16" above grade.

In addition, the Committee expressed concern over the fragility of some of the parts of the sculpture, noting that with an elevated pedestal, the resulting greater overall height may serve to protect the most fragile elements from the general public moving about at grade level.

II.    NEW BUSINESS

1012-14 St. Peter: Pontalba Properties LLC, owner; Rick Fifield, applicant/architect. Proposal to replace existing, non-original, rear stair with new code-compliant stair, in a revised configuration, per application & drawings received 01/22/08.

The Committee **approved** the proposal as submitted with staff review and approval of final details.

911 Dauphine: Elizabeth D. Edmundson, owner; John C. Williams Architects, LLC, architect/applicant. Proposal to install metal/brass handrail at facade entrance for handicap accessibility, per application received 12/20/07 & drawings received 01/17/08.

The Committee **approved** the metal handrail on the facade entry as proposed, provided that the railing is removed whenever it becomes no longer necessary for handicapped accessibility.

1014 St. Philip: Robert Edmundson, owner; John C. Williams Architects, LLC, architect/applicant. Proposal to change an existing door into a window on the Burgundy elevation of the main cottage (rear of alleyway, near courtyard), per application & drawing received 02/06/08.

The Committee took the following action:

- **approved** the replacement of the door on the river side elevation with a window, with staff review

and approval of millwork details;

- **recommended** that staff begin the **citation process** for the work that was done without a permit, and contrary to VCC policy, i.e., beaded board gates and frames on both sides of the cottage's facade were replaced with metal gates & frames with mesh backing.

535-37 Decatur: Abdul Siddiqui, owner; Charles I. Silbelnagel & Associates, Inc., architect/applicant. Proposed architectural modifications, including the addition of a balcony at the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, for **change of use** of upper floors (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>) from *vacant* to *residential*, per application received 01/09/08 & drawings received 01/24/08.

The Committee denied the proposal as submitted and asked the applicant to further research and explore historical conditions and to revise the proposal to include either a balcony or gallery, per the archival drawing, with attention to the following items:

- appropriate **historic style** of wrought iron railing;
- **structural aspects** of construction to ensure security of the addition;
- **height** of proposed balcony or gallery relative to interior floor level of subject building and neighboring buildings; and
- appropriately detailed **fenestration** leading onto the balcony/gallery.

In addition, the Committee noted that the applicant should take the opportunity to correct other inappropriate conditions that make up the current conditions of the altered building.

400-08 Chartres: Kemper & Leila Williams Foundation, owner; Robert Cangelosi, Jr. (Koch & Wilson Architects), applicant. Proposal to renovate/restore the entire building, for **change of use** converting from *vacant* to *museum*, per application & drawings received 02/01/08.

With the understanding that this project must include consideration by the VCC of a **change of use** from *vacant* to *museum*, the Committee took the following action:

- **conceptually approved** the presented aspects for the restoration and renovation of this blue-rated building, with staff review and approval of details; and
- forwarded consideration to the VCC for installation of a new, recessed frameless glass wall and door, at the rear of the Chartres Street side pedestrian passageway, with a recommendation for **approval**.

439-41 Royal: Tortorici Family (Bob True), owner; Rodney Ratliff, architect/applicant. Proposal to remove the non-original windows and panels in ground floor openings on both Royal and St. Louis elevations and replace with pairs of French doors, per application & drawings submitted 02/01/08.

After discussing the historic character of the building and reviewing archival documentation showing the building in its Spanish colonial appearance, the Committee **conceptually approved** the installation of new French doors on the ground floor provided that the proposal is revised as follows, with additional review by the Architectural Committee:

- the entresol level, operable fanlight transoms are restored, with exploratory demolition to determine exact locations;
- the "clipped" corner entry is removed and that historically appropriate, arched openings (one on each elevation) are restored at the corner; and
- the millwork is revised to include appropriately detailed ten (10) or twelve (12) lite French doors.

637-41 Burgundy/1000-22 St. Peter Street: Burgundy Street Association, LLC (Eric Sharpe), owner; James M. Farr (Farr + Huson), architect/applicant. Proposal to remove non-original brick wall and pedestrian gate on St. Peter elevation, install new horizontal board fence with beaded board pedestrian and driveway gates, and install new curb cut, per application & drawings received 02/06/08.

The Committee forwarded the proposal to the VCC with a recommendation for **approval** for the proposal as submitted provided that the applicant also obtains the requisite permit for a curb cut from the Department of Public Works.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dodie Smith, Chairman