

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**JULY 25, 2016**  
**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**  
**C14H-2002-0020**  
**Governors Ma and Pa Ferguson House**  
**1200 Enfield Road**

**PROPOSAL**

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Replace a wooden balcony with a metal balcony with wrought iron rails.

**PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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The wooden balcony on this house was not part of the original design of the house, but was on the house at the time it was landmarked in 2002. The balcony has deteriorated seriously, and the applicant proposes its replacement with a metal balcony on a metal post, and with wrought-iron rails to meet Code requirements.

**STANDARDS FOR REVIEW**

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The Commission's Standards for Review of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness include:

- Do not destroy the distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment. Avoid the removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features.
- Recognize all buildings, structures, and sites as products of their own time. Do not construct alterations which have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance.
- Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties are appropriate when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historic, architectural, or cultural material and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
- Construct new additions or alterations to structures in such a manner that if such addition or alteration were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure will be unimpaired.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Committee reviewed the proposal and recommended that if the balcony is allowed to stay, that the railings be modified to a simple design that reflects a modern construction rather than harking back to the time period of the construction of the house. The applicant has changed the design of the balusters for the railing in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Approve as proposed. The wooden balcony has been on the house for at least 15 years, and is now part of the configuration of the house, including a former window that was converted to a doorway to the balcony at an unspecified time at the time the balcony was constructed. While not original to the house, the balcony is part of the way the house now functions. The applicant has complied with the Committee's request to simplify the railings, and staff believes the new design will both satisfy the Committee's concerns to make it look like it

was not a part of the original construction, but also complement the historic architectural features on the house.



Historic photograph of the Ma and Pa Ferguson House



View of wooden balcony proposed for replacement

C14H-2002-0020 – Governors Ma and Pa Ferguson House  
1200 Enfield Road  
Balcony work  
Jack Lieberman

July 7, 2016

*Historic Preservation Committee  
City of Austin, Texas*

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present our request for continuance of maintaining the Historic value and integrity of the infamous Ma and Pa Ferguson House, otherwise known for the first Lady Governor of Texas, Miriam A. Ferguson.

Governor Ferguson, first female Governor of Texas in 1925, held the office until 1927, later winning another term in 1932, serving until 1935.

Although, I know everyone already knows these facts, I love sharing any and all tidbits of history with anyone who will listen. We are currently looking to reproduce any and all documents to support this great and interesting historical information so we can frame and hang them in the current mansion.

With regards to our proposal to reconstruct and enhance the Balcony off the front corner of the Mansion, I am sure you are aware that the previous balcony was a severe safety hazard and not usable. In addition, it took up a larger footprint and did not allow for good fascia exposure of the front side of the Mansion.

Our new proposed balcony will be constructed of Iron with beautiful period specific Balusters that make up the Railing system to compliment the New Iron balcony.

Again, I am very appreciative for our upcoming meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely

Jack Lieberman