

Allen, Amber

From: maxsonia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 4:14 PM
To: PAZ Preservation
Subject: Property at 1510 Ashwood Road, Delwood Duplex Historic District

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I received notification of an application for a building permit for the house at 1510 Ashwood Road in the Delwood Duplex Historic District, Case # HR 21-119779. I own property nearby at 3902 Maplewood.

The windows of the house are being replaced, and I assume are the items under discussion. I'm an architectural historian, formerly with the National Register Department of the Texas Historical Commission.

I know that the metal casement windows found throughout the Historic District are now likely 70 years old and generally require maintenance. But these are also character-defining features for the neighborhood, as virtually every house or duplex in the Districts does or did have casement windows, and the loss of these particularly at a house at the gateway of the neighborhood would have a negative effect, causing me to **object**.

The windows that have already been replaced at this property seem to be tinted plate glass with fake interior muntions. These detract from the historic character of the property for at least four reasons:

- They have no shadow lines, which to the eye define divided light windows
- Their divisions are different than those of the historic casement windows
- The tinted glass is non-historic, and it sometimes totally obscures that there are any muntin elements at all
- The introduction of those windows sets a precedent in the neighborhood

When I was at the Historical Commission and reviewed similar cases, the in-house nickname for such windows was "The Orphan Annie Look," as the windows read as large black eyes where divided light clear windows belong.

The circa 1950 architecture of the district was at a time of few embellishments, very simple. The windows are distinctive, and certainly worth restoration or replacement in kind. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Peter Flagg Maxson

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