



October 4, 2011

(By Electronic Transmission)

Historical Advisory Board
City of Alameda Community Development Department
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, California 94501

Subject:—Proposed alterations to 1518 Park Street

Dear Boardmembers:

The Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS) has the following comments on this proposal:

1. We support the project objective of providing more usable space for on-street restaurant services, which we believe will enhance the vibrancy of Park Street by promoting more visible street activity.
2. The staff report is incorrect in its statement that “No historic materials...will be altered or removed”, since the project proposes removal of the entire early 20th century recessed corner entry (which appears original), including the distinctive polygonal wall configuration, polychrome tile floor, wood paneled ceiling and early 20th century bronze-plated steel (later painted) storefront window system and wood entry door. The bulkheads may also constitute historic materials, but since they have been painted, it is not clear what these materials are. A small portion of the paint should be removed to identify the bulkhead material. Since they are solid slabs, they could be marble, which was a common high-end early 20th century bulkhead material.
3. AAPS recommends that additional design options be considered that retain more of the existing entry treatment and/or mitigate the impact of the entry’s removal, while maintaining the project’s intent of providing more usable space for on-street restaurant services.

Possible options include:

- a. Retain the existing tile floor and wood paneled ceiling. Since these would become interior elements, a deed restriction requiring HAB approval of any future removal may be advisable.

- b. Consider the following modifications to the proposed aluminum folding doors:
 - i. Increase the height of the bottom rail so it aligns with the top of the center storefront's bulkhead; and
 - ii. Use a dark metallic color such as bronze or deep metallic green that is similar to the bronze plated steel used for early 20th century storefront systems; OR use wood folding doors to reference the historic wood individual storefront doors.
- c. Relocate the folding doors along the existing recessed entry's back wall alignment so that the existing distinctive polygonal configuration is maintained when the doors are closed.
- d. Expand the project scope to include restoration of the building's other two storefront bays along Park Street, which have been significantly remodeled. If the corner bay's bulkhead is indeed marble or other high quality material, its reuse as bulkhead material for one or both of the other two bays should be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 523-0411 or cbuckleyAICP@att.net if you have questions or would like to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher Buckley, Chair
Preservation Action Committee
Alameda Architectural Preservation Society

cc: AAPS Board and Preservation Action Committee members (By electronic transmission)
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