Brookline Preservation Commission
Local Historic District Report

Local Historic District: Chestnut Hill North

Applicant: Anand Devaiah and Manju Subramanian

Address: 63 Norfolk Road

House Built: 1895
Garage Built: 1904;1925

Architect: Chapman & Frazer

Statement of Significance: Lucy Chandler built two houses with Chapman & Frazer in 1895: this one at #63 Norfolk Road and another at #3 Alwyngton Road. She moved into the Alwyngton Road house in 1897, after her husband’s death, and shortly sold their original house at #1117 Boylston Street nearby. The building permit listed on December 20, 1895 was issued for $7,000 and the house was built by William Pettigrew.

This house dates to the third year from the start of Chapman and Frazer’s output in Chestnut Hill from 1893. That makes it a relatively early house, designed at a time when J.H. Chapman was still alive. The house is a lovely example of a Shingle Style house with simplified Queen Anne decorative brackets and a bay window with peaked roof.

Proposed Alterations: The applicant proposes to replace the existing wood entry steps at the front door with masonry steps of the same dimensions using a stone veneer on the risers and brownstone on the platforms and treads.

Staff Notes: An application to replace the existing wood steps with masonry steps to include stone veneers on risers and smokey blue granite on the treads went before the Preservation Commission on July 21, 2015. The Commission unanimously voted to deny the proposed changes stating that the proposed material was incongruous with the architectural style and period of the building. The Commission supported replacement in-kind of the existing wood steps.
Applicable Guidelines: “Porches and entrance porticos, including ornamental details, should be retained. Porch and entry steps should be replicated in kind. Traditional building materials should be used for existing buildings.

Preliminary Findings: The proposal to remove the existing wood steps and replace with masonry covered (a stone veneer at the risers and brownstone at the platform and steps) is an alteration of the original historic character and material and therefore does not conform to the design guidelines.
Steps to be replaced

Existing condition of foundation and steps.

Sep 8, 2015 - Brookline Preservation