

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

A special meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission is set for December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Lincoln Elementary School, 511 Park Avenue.

The agenda is as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Testimony
- III. PUBLIC HEARING Application #17-01 Certificate of Appropriateness application for the DEMOLITION of the single family residence located at 747 William Street, River Forest, IL, a structure listed on the Village survey of architecturally or historically significant properties.
- IV. DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION Application #17-01 Certificate of Appropriateness application for the DEMOLITION of the single family residence located at 747 William Street, River Forest, IL, a structure listed on the Village survey of architecturally or historically significant properties.
- V. DECISSION REGARDING CERTIFICATE OF APPOPRIATNESS Application #17-01 -Certificate of Appropriateness application for the DEMOLITION of the single family residence located at 747 William Street, River Forest, IL, a structure listed on the Village survey of architecturally or historically significant properties.
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

### September 20, 2017

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# SEP 2 2 2017

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

## Application for the Certificate of Appropriateness.

- 1. <u>Applicant's name</u>: Robert A. Sarvis, 826 Monroe Ave. River Forest, IL, Mark Sullivan, 146 Gale Ave. River Forest, IL
- 2. Owners name if different from applicant: N/A
- 3. Street Address: 747 William Ave. River Forest, IL 60305
- 4. <u>A site plan and front side, side and rear elevation drawings:</u> We do not have elevation drawings. Our intention is to demolish the structure, and build a new home. The building is structurally unsound and to rehabilitate it is not a possibility nor is it feasible.
- 5. A brief description and photographs of the structures, buildings and landscape features of the site: 747 William is a two-story structure with a basement. The building is approximately 1800 sq. feet. There is a two-car garage as well as a shed. The lot is mostly flat with and measures approximately 50'x183'. The most distinguishing feature of the land is the beautiful tree on the parkway. Photographs of the property are attached.
- 6. <u>A detailed description of the proposed alteration or demolition.</u> <u>together with pictorial renditions indicating how to what extent</u> <u>such proposed changes will affect the subject property</u>. Our intention is to demolish the structure. Architectural renderings have not been started as of yet. We were waiting to hear from the HDC after our initial meeting on September 11 at the property. The new home will be designed to be in character with surrounding homes and to fit in the style of River Forest architecture.
- 7. <u>Identification of any architect or developer involved in the project:</u> Pat Magner of the firm Magner-Manalang will be the architect. The developer is Mayborn Development, LLC, which is owned by the property owners, Robert Sarvis and Mark Sullivan.
- 8. Such other relevant information as requested by the Village Administrator or as the Commission may require: There has not been anything additional that has been requested.













RI FO Presd Brigh	VER REST Heritage 5 Future	40 AP	VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST 0 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois 6030 Phone: 708-366-8500 Fax: 708-366-3702 Email: building@river-forest.us PLICATION FOR DEMOLITION PERMI	5 Date Receive Total Fee: Form of Payn Payment Date Permit # Plumbing Dis Date Issued: Date Forward	Village Use Only         Date Received:         Total Fee:         Total Fee:         Form of Payment         Payment Date:         Payment Date:         Permit #         Plumbing Disconnect Date:         Date Issued:         Date Forwarded to HPC:	
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Owner: MAY 120	in deit	LOPMEN	T Phone: Email	8 4		
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Grading Plan	an 101 1 40		Other:	epunmeny		
Contractor	License	Bond	Name Mailin	g Address	Phone or Email	
Demolition			TED.			
Scavenger						
By signing this d further acknowled Village Code SIGNED: Propo Approved By Insy	dument you se and agree My Owner	a acknow e to term	ledge and agree that all information provided is true s, policies and conditions listed in the conditions, and	and accurate on yo notices found in th DATE: 913	ur behalf, You ne River Forest	

- Plumbing inspection required before back fill (24 hour notice required)
- Owner's plumber may televise the sewer to determine if it can be used for the new construction and shall provide a recording of the inspection to the Village.
- If sewer CAN be re-used, plumber shall cut off and cap the sewer inside property line.
- If sewer CANNOT be re-used, plumber shall cut off and cap the sewer lateral in the street at the sewer main.
- A detailed grading plan is required for demolitions, see the Village website for more details





**EXISTING WEST ELEVATION** D. .

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

747 William St. **River Forest, IL** 

6" WIDE PAINTED WOOD TRIM BOARDS AT ALL WINDOUS

PAINTED WOOD EAVE

51/2" HIGH PAINTED WOOD TRIM BOARD WITH DRIP CAP

EXISTING ALUMINUM WINDOWS AT FRONT FORCH







SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

747 William St. River Forest, IL ASPHALT SHINGLE ROOFING

ALUMINUM GUTTERS AND DOUNSPOUTS

NCOMING ELECTRIC SERVICE DROP

.

- PAINTED WOOD PORCH COLUMNS



**EXISTING SOUTH ELEVATION** 

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

747 William St. **River Forest, IL** 

### MAGNER – MANALANG ARCHITECTS

 915 AUGUSTA ST. – 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR
 (708) 383-7744

 OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302- 1678
 FAX (708) 383-7797

October 24, 2017

Mr. Tom Zurowski, Chairman Historic Preservation Commission Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, IL 60305

Re: 747 William Ave.

Dear Mr. Zurowski:

RECEIVITS OCT 2 5 2017 VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

At the request of the Historic Preservation Commission, I am providing the following structural assessment of the existing single family residential building located at 747 William Avenue. Mr. Rob Sarvis, the owner of the building, asked me to provide this information to the Commission.

The existing building has an 8" wide concrete block foundation wall which is approximately 52" high from the basement floor to the top of the wall, with a 2 x 4 wood stud wall on top of the block extending upwards. While there are no openings where I can visually see the exterior wall framing above the first floor, I strongly suspect that the exterior walls are balloon-framed, which would have been standard construction practice at the time this building would have been constructed. Buildings of this era also will only have headers above windows and doors consisting of (2) 2 x 4's laid flat (Photograph #1) which are not adequate for carrying loads above and also will not keep openings square and plumb.

Because the foundation walls are not continuous from the bottom of the basement to the first floor joists, the joint where the wood framing sits on top of the block is a weak connection and does not laterally brace the foundation wall. This is especially the case in block foundation walls, where the mortar between blocks is the only thing holding the wall together. (Grouted or reinforced foundation walls were not the standard for home foundations in the era of this building.) In this type of condition, soil bearing pressure against the outside of the foundations can cause the top of wall to 'tip' inward. This condition is most evident on the north side of the house where the driveway is right up against the top of the foundation. I put a level against the foundation wall in the back half of the basement and found the wall to be tilted inward 2-1/2" in the 52" of wall height.

In two locations in the rear of the house, there are significant diagonal cracks in the block wall. Moisture in the wall has eroded the mortar and the joints are opening up. (Photographs #2 and #3) The front half of the basement has been finished with wood furring strips and plywood paneling, so without removing the finish materials in that area, I am unable to

October 24, 2017 Mr. Tom Zurowski, Chairman Historic Preservation Commission Page Two.

determine the status of the foundation wall in that area. However, having visited the house again earlier today, which is the second consecutive day of rain, there is wetness on the floor in the northwest corner of the basement, so my suspicion is that there is likely cracking there as well. As similar to the condition noted above, that side of the house is directly adjacent to the driveway.

In the front half of the house, an interior column was removed which supported the main center beam. (Photograph #4) In addition, in the crawl space under the front sun porch, the beam is supported by a short jack post resting on wood blocking laid on the dirt floor. (Photograph #5). Note that the post is not located at the location where beams overlap - it is about 18" away. This is causing one part of the beam to sag, which can be seen in Photograph #6. The combination of the missing interior column and the poorly supported sun porch beam has caused the wood knee wall on top of the foundation wall at the west wall of the basement to tip outward approximately 2-1/2" in the 32" of wall height. In both the first floor living room and the second floor bedroom above this part of the house, there is a very significant slope in the floor going downhill to the west of about 2-1/2" to 3". The sloping clearly has occurred due to the shifting of the structure below.

One side note: referring again to Photograph #4, note that the support wall around the crawl space under the porch is brick and not block as is the case with the greater part of the house. This was done at some point later in the life of the home and is not original to the structure. Unless some excavation is done on the outside of this wall, there is no way to know if this was installed down to a supporting foundation depth or just added to keep animals from living under the porch. Given the serious slope in the floor of the sun porch, my suspicion is that the latter of these is likely the case. It is also interesting to note that the insulation that was installed is placed horizontally, not vertically between any type of stud wall framing. That validates that this space must have been open underneath and then infilled later.

The southeast corner of the building was also originally constructed as a porch. As is the case with the front sun porch, this area was enclosed at some point in history. Photograph #7 shows a hodgepodge of posts, screw jacks and blocks which shore up the floor in this area, and Photograph #8 shows the outside southeast corner held up by a temporary post and screw jack. The block of stone or concrete at this corner likely only extends a short distance below grade as the floor in the both the first and second floor rooms above this area slope almost 3" in 10 feet. Photograph #9 showing the wall of the second floor room above is evidence of how much this corner has dropped.

Throughout the basement, the floor slab has cracked and heaved significantly. Having seen this at other projects, this generally occurs from a combination of ground water pressure on the underside of the slab and lateral displacement of the foundations. (Photographs #10 and #11) Given the cracking and tipping of the walls in the portions of the basement where the foundations have not been concealed, I suspect that there must have been a substantial

October 24, 2017 Mr. Tom Zurowski, Chairman Historic Preservation Commission Page Three.

amount of movement in the northwest corner of the building as the floor in that corner has lifted up as much as 2-3/4" at a portion of the floor.

Finally, for your information, I have held an architectural license in both Illinois and Wisconsin for 35 years. I have had my own architectural practice in Oak Park since 1989, with a significant focus of my work being residential addition and remodeling projects in the area. In the years that I have been in business, I have worked on approximately 350 buildings in Oak Park and River Forest combined. I have received several historic preservation awards from the Village of Oak Park and have worked on numerous historically significant buildings in the Village. I make a point of this so as to state that I have an appreciation for older buildings. However, I also recognize when a structure has outlived its usefulness and when restoration is not a viable option. That is the case with this building. The extent of structural issues in the foundations is so significant that there is really no value in trying to salvage or repair them. These issues have caused so much displacement in the wood framing above that to level floors and walls would be an extraordinary task. I appreciate that in old homes people accept that not everything is square and level, but when the floor of a room slopes 3" in ten feet, that is beyond the realm of "charm".

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Magner Magner-Manalang Architects



Photograph #1 - (2) flat 2 x 4's used as a header



Photograph #2 - Foundation wall crack, southeast corner



Photograph #3 - Foundation wall crack, east wall



Photograph #4 - location where column removed. Pier visible in floor.



Photograph #5 - shoring below front sun porch



Photograph #6 - unsupported beam end under sun porch



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Photograph #7 - shoring & posts below southeast corner area



Photograph #8 - support at southeast corner of building



Photograph #9 - south exterior wall above shored area in southeast corner



Photograph #10 - heaved floor slab in northwest corner of basement



Photograph #11 - heaved floor slab in southeast corner of basement