

This email is written in support of the request by Holly Parker and David Santacroce to add a basement egress window to the northern basement wall. The project at 509 Detroit Street is for a complete historic renovation and an addition and has already been approved.

I reside at 515 Detroit Street and am perhaps the only person who has a completely unobstructed view of the northern face of the structure at 509 Detroit Street. What David and Holly are undertaking in restoring 509 is an enormous task which restores this house to owner-occupied status. The work being done to maintain the structural integrity of the original structure is a gift to our neighborhood. Having gone through a similar process 20 some years ago, I appreciate the difficulty in restoring an historic building while attempting to provide a home that meets today's needs. Clearly, your Petitioners are working to do just that.

I have walked around the house at 509 and looked very carefully at the northern face. The original foundation exists at the front portion of the house. Then, towards the middle, there seems to be a concrete block foundation added during perhaps a CBG project where a bump out occurs. Then the house returns to its original line and the field stone foundation is again present. As I look at this and consider what sort of options might be available to the Petitioners, it seems to me that the proposed window well offers the least compromise to the structure. And, visually, it makes for a much more pleasant view from my side.

Historic structures add so much to the vibrancy of Ann Arbor's neighborhoods. Often wonderful old houses are left to deteriorate because it is usually not cost effective to restore them. There is also the reality that we live our lives differently today than people did 50-75-100 years ago. A potential restoration project will often not happen if there is no way to respond to the needs of the day. The project at 509 Detroit is doing that in spite of all the obstacles the house has posed.

Please do support this Petitioners request to add the window well per their application.

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