

September 2, 2025

Ann Arbor Historic District Commission
City of Ann Arbor
Larcom Building
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Attention: Jill Thacher

Regarding: former Mail Shoppe at 317 S. Division Street

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

As a resident of Ann Arbor for the past 42 years, 23 of those years as a downtown resident, I see a valuable contribution to the vitality of our city in the proposed project to rehabilitate the historic building at 317 S. Division, known as The Mail Shoppe, into multiple apartments. The addition proposed behind the original house more than doubles the size of the original building, yet it respects the character of the original house facing Division Street. In addition, the new structure cleans up and infills an inaccessible and unusable rear space with new construction.

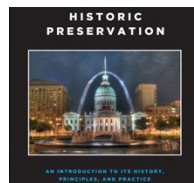
317 S. Division Street is a contributing structure in the East William Street Historic District. This building has been neglected and underused for decades, and this project addresses this deficiency by improving its appearance and its structural integrity. The scale and proportion of the historic property are preserved, including the size and muntins of the historic windows. Details such as the porch railing, dormer, chimney, and wood clapboard siding are restored. Great effort has gone into designing a compatible adaptation of the structure to serve the public clamoring for increased housing options in our downtown.

Please accept this letter as a strong vote of confidence in the proposed development to rehabilitate and expand the existing building. I urge you to approve the proposed application.

Sincerely,



Ilene R. Tyler, FAIA, FAPT



Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice, 3rd Ed. (Co-author)
Director of Preservation and Preservation Architect with Quinn Evans Architects (Retired)

126 N. Division Street (The Robert S. Wilson House, Division Street Historic District)
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104