

ITEM NUMBER 5

**923 & 925 Cherry Street
Renovation Project 2010
Parcel 9-041-10**

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
P.O. Box 1678
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

APR 19 2010

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The hundred year old duplex at 923 & 925 Cherry Street is a bit of a puzzle. According to records at the County Assessor's office, the home was built circa 1900 as a single family home. The same records indicate that 59 years later the home had become a duplex and acquired additional second story enclosed living space above the front and side porch. As these changes/additions predate the permit process in Santa Rosa, it is impossible to determine the original architecture of the house or when the area above the porch was enclosed. Assumptions have been made by examining the structure, woodwork, and architecture numerous times and piecing together a history. Without any photographs or plans, even the most educated assumptions are still just guesses.

Our goal in renovating this old house is to preserve the patchwork history of the home as well as help it take its rightful place among the grand old homes on Cherry Street. To this end, we have hired Norm Oliver to create a new "historic" vision for 923 & 925 Cherry Street. His experience with historic homes in Sonoma County is vast and his designs are not only beautiful, but appropriate to the vernacular and style of the home in question. We are excited about his design for 923 & 925 Cherry Street because it marries the original 1900 construction with the 60 year old upstairs enclosure in a way that still maintains the style of the smaller Queen Anne and Bungalow styles so prevalent at the turn of the century.

When we were faced with what to do with the enclosed addition above the porch, we felt that taking the addition off completely would tarnish the patchwork history of the home, but leaving it in it's current state would be neither safe nor historically accurate. We chose to integrate the two disparate styles in a way that would honor the varied history we have inherited.

The current second story enclosure has two windows on the South facing front side and one window on each end, facing East and West. None of these windows match and they vary from aluminum framed to plastic. They are totally out of sync with the vernacular of the home and are useless and hazardous to the occupants due to limited egress. Additionally, the interior of the enclosure is substandard at less than six feet in height. In the new design, Mr. Oliver has created a bank of operable windows on either end of the second story enclosure that wrap around from the South facing front side to the East and West facing sides. Between these banks of windows on the front facing South side, he has created a covered balcony with glass doors. This type of upstairs balcony is in keeping with the style of the era and, in our

estimation, consistent with what might have existed prior to the upstairs area being enclosed over 60 years ago. Additionally, the new design creates necessary egress and a safe living space for the tenants.

Our master plan includes keeping, and updating, the shingles on the upstairs enclosure and the lower porch, replacing the unsightly collection of windows with matching wood clad windows that will honor the style of the era and create a much more comfortable and efficient living space, replace and shore up the roof, install heating and insulation inside, build a carport in the back yard, and create a landscape with historic, yet drought tolerant plants.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa R. Tamayo & John F. Kennedy