

# **CERTIFICATE of APPROPRIATENESS / HEARING CONTINUATION of APP # 20.1067 BH**

**Date:** June 23, 2020

**To:** Nicholas A. Armata, MRP / Senior Preservation Planner  
Beacon Hill Architectural Commission

**From:** Donald W. Mills, RA, LEED AP (BD+C)  
Mills Whitaker Architects LLC

**Re:** 2 Park Street / Fire Escape Repair  
Park Street Church

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Park Street Church submitted an application for repairs to the fire escape at the rear façade of 2 Park Street adjacent to the Granary Burying Ground. At the public hearing on June 18, the proposed replacement of one diagonal bracket supporting the third floor landing was reviewed by the Commission.

The proposed replacement bracket as submitted was a vertical bracket that would bear on the areaway wall behind the decorative wrought iron spear-finial fence, similar to another shorter vertical support below the fire escape landing at the second floor.

During the hearing, a view of the fire escape was shown via Google Earth (see similar image attached). The lighting in this image revealed that the vertical bracket as proposed would be quite visible since it would be in a similar plane as the leading edge of the fire escape stringers and open side guard rails. Those leading edges catch the limited light that filters through the trees, whereas the existing diagonal bracket is in shadow. Seeing this view, the Commission did not accept the proposed vertical bracket and continued the hearing so that alternates to supporting the third floor landing could be reviewed. (The Architect had never seen the façade in this particular light during site visits and agreed with the Commission's directive.)

## PROPOSD REVISION TO SUPPORT BRACKET

In lieu of replacing the diagonal bracket, which currently imposes loads that impact the brownstone lintel below and sill above, we propose to support the bracket with a concealed steel angle. This involves removal of the brick courses between the lintel and sill, placement of a steel angle, and resetting the bricks. This reinforcement work will result in no visual change to the existing fire escape. Note that this work will now be excluded from fire escape repairs and be incorporated into a separate project of selective masonry repairs and window restoration as part of a separate Certificate of Appropriateness application.

## ATTACHMENTS

- PHOTO FROM GOOGLE EARTH
- SKS-1: PARK STREET CHURCH FIRE ESCAPE STRUT END REPAIR

If you require any additional information in reference to this application, please contact the architect Don Mills at 617-876-7611 ext. 2, or via email at [donmills@millswitaker.com](mailto:donmills@millswitaker.com)

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Copy: Rich Elliott, Director of Campus Operations / Park Street Church

