

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

July 20, 2022

HDRC CASE NO: 2022-303
ADDRESS: 226 E HUISACHE AVE
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 3086 BLK 2 LOT 7
ZONING: R-4 CD, H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
DISTRICT: Monte Vista Historic District
APPLICANT: Nadav Givoni/GR-226 HUISACHE LLC
OWNER: Nadav Givoni/GR-226 HUISACHE LLC
TYPE OF WORK: Window replacement
APPLICATION RECEIVED: May 01, 2022
60-DAY REVIEW: Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders
CASE MANAGER: Hannah Leighner
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to replace nineteen (19) existing wood windows with new wood windows.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 2, Exterior Maintenance and Alterations

6. Architectural Features: Doors, Windows, and Screens

A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

- i. *Openings*—Preserve existing window and door openings. Avoid enlarging or diminishing to fit stock sizes or air conditioning units. Avoid filling in historic door or window openings. Avoid creating new primary entrances or window openings on the primary façade or where visible from the public right-of-way.
- ii. *Doors*—Preserve historic doors including hardware, fanlights, sidelights, pilasters, and entablatures.
- iii. *Windows*—Preserve historic windows. When glass is broken, the color and clarity of replacement glass should match the original historic glass.
- iv. *Screens and shutters*—Preserve historic window screens and shutters.
- v. *Storm windows*—Install full-view storm windows on the interior of windows for improved energy efficiency. Storm window may be installed on the exterior so long as the visual impact is minimal and original architectural details are not obscured.

B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

- i. *Doors*—Replace doors, hardware, fanlight, sidelights, pilasters, and entablatures in-kind when possible and when deteriorated beyond repair. When in-kind replacement is not feasible, ensure features match the size, material, and profile of the historic element.
- ii. *New entrances*—Ensure that new entrances, when necessary to comply with other regulations, are compatible in size, scale, shape, proportion, material, and massing with historic entrances.
- iii. *Glazed area*—Avoid installing interior floors or suspended ceilings that block the glazed area of historic windows.
- iv. *Window design*—Install new windows to match the historic or existing windows in terms of size, type, configuration, material, form, appearance, and detail when original windows are deteriorated beyond repair.
- v. *Muntins*—Use the exterior muntin pattern, profile, and size appropriate for the historic building when replacement windows are necessary. Do not use internal muntins sandwiched between layers of glass.
- vi. *Replacement glass*—Use clear glass when replacement glass is necessary. Do not use tinted glass, reflective glass, opaque glass, and other non-traditional glass types unless it was used historically. When established by the architectural style of the building, patterned, leaded, or colored glass can be used.
- vii. *Non-historic windows*—Replace non-historic incompatible windows with windows that are typical of the architectural style of the building.
- viii. *Security bars*—Install security bars only on the interior of windows and doors.
- ix. *Screens*—Utilize wood screen window frames matching in profile, size, and design of those historically found when the existing screens are deteriorated beyond repair. Ensure that the tint of replacement screens closely matches the original screens or those used historically.

x. *Shutters*—Incorporate shutters only where they existed historically and where appropriate to the architectural style of the house. Shutters should match the height and width of the opening and be mounted to be operational or appear to be operational. Do not mount shutters directly onto any historic wall material.

OHP Window Policy Document

Individual sashes should be replaced where possible. Should a full window unit require replacement, inserts should:

- Match the original materials;
- Maintain the original dimension and profile;
- Feature clear glass. Low-e or reflective coatings are not recommended for replacements;
- Maintain the original appearance of window trim or sill detail.

FINDINGS:

- a. The property located at 226 E Huisache is a two-story, single family, Italianate structure featuring stucco cladding, one-over-one windows and Romanesque-style arches over two front doors and a centered chimney. The house contributes to the Monte Vista Historic District.
- b. **WINDOW REPLACEMENT: WOOD WINDOWS** – The applicant has proposed to replace nineteen (19) existing wood windows with replacement wood windows. The windows requested for replacement are located on the north, south, east, and west elevations. According to the Historic Design Guidelines, wood windows should be repaired in place and restored whenever possible, unless there is substantial evidence that the windows are deteriorated beyond repair. Guideline 6.B.iv for Exterior Maintenance and Alterations states that new windows should be installed to match the historic or existing windows in terms of size, type, configuration, material, form, appearance, and detail when original windows are deteriorated beyond repair.
- c. **WINDOW REPLACEMENT: EXISTING CONDITION** – From the photos submitted to date, the wood windows proposed for replacement appear to be of historic-age, fully wood one-over-one windows. The windows do not show signs of significant wood rot, wood damage, or severe deterioration. Staff finds that the wood windows are in repairable condition based on the documentation provided, with most requiring minimal repair and intervention such as the reworking of the sashes and re-glazing, along with refitting into the trim and frames. Staff has scheduled a site visit with the applicant for Monday, May 30 and may be able to report additional information at the hearing.
- d. **WINDOW REPLACEMENT: WASTE AND LIFESPAN** – Over 112 million windows end up in landfills each year, and about half are under 20 years old. Historic wood windows were constructed to last 100+ years with old growth wood, which is substantially more durable than modern wood and clad products, and original windows that are restored and maintained over time can last for decades. Replacement window products have a much shorter lifespan, around 10-20 years, and cannot be repaired once they fail. On average, over the lifetime of an original wood window, replacement windows will need to be again replaced at least 4 times. The total lifecycle cost of replacement windows is also much more energy intensive than the restoration of existing windows, including material sourcing and the depletion of natural resources and forests, petroleum-heavy manufacturing methods, transportation, and installation. Finally, window repair and restoration utilize the local labor and expertise of craftspeople versus off-the-shelf, non-custom composite products. Staff generally encourages the repair and restoration of original windows whenever possible.
- e. **WINDOW REPLACEMENT: ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND MAINTENANCE** – In terms of efficiency, in most cases, windows only account for a fraction of heat gain/loss in a building. Improving the energy efficiency of historic windows should be considered only after other options have been explored such as improving attic and wall insulation. The original windows feature single-pane glass which is subject to radiant heat transfer. Products are available to reduce heat transfer such as window films, interior storm windows, and thermal shades. Additionally, air infiltration can be mitigated through weather-stripping or readjusting the window assembly within the frame, as assemblies can settle or shift over time. The wood windows were designed specifically for this structure and can accommodate the natural settling and movement of the structure as a whole throughout seasons. Modern replacement products are extremely rigid, often resulting in the creation of gaps, cracks, and major points of air infiltration at the window frames and other areas of the exterior wall plane over time due to material incompatibility when considering the structure as whole integrated system.


RECOMMENDATION:

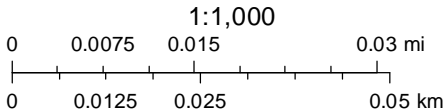
Staff does not recommend approval based on findings b – e. Staff recommends that the applicant restore the deteriorated wood windows and preserve all original window openings.

City of San Antonio One Stop



May 27, 2022

 User drawn lines

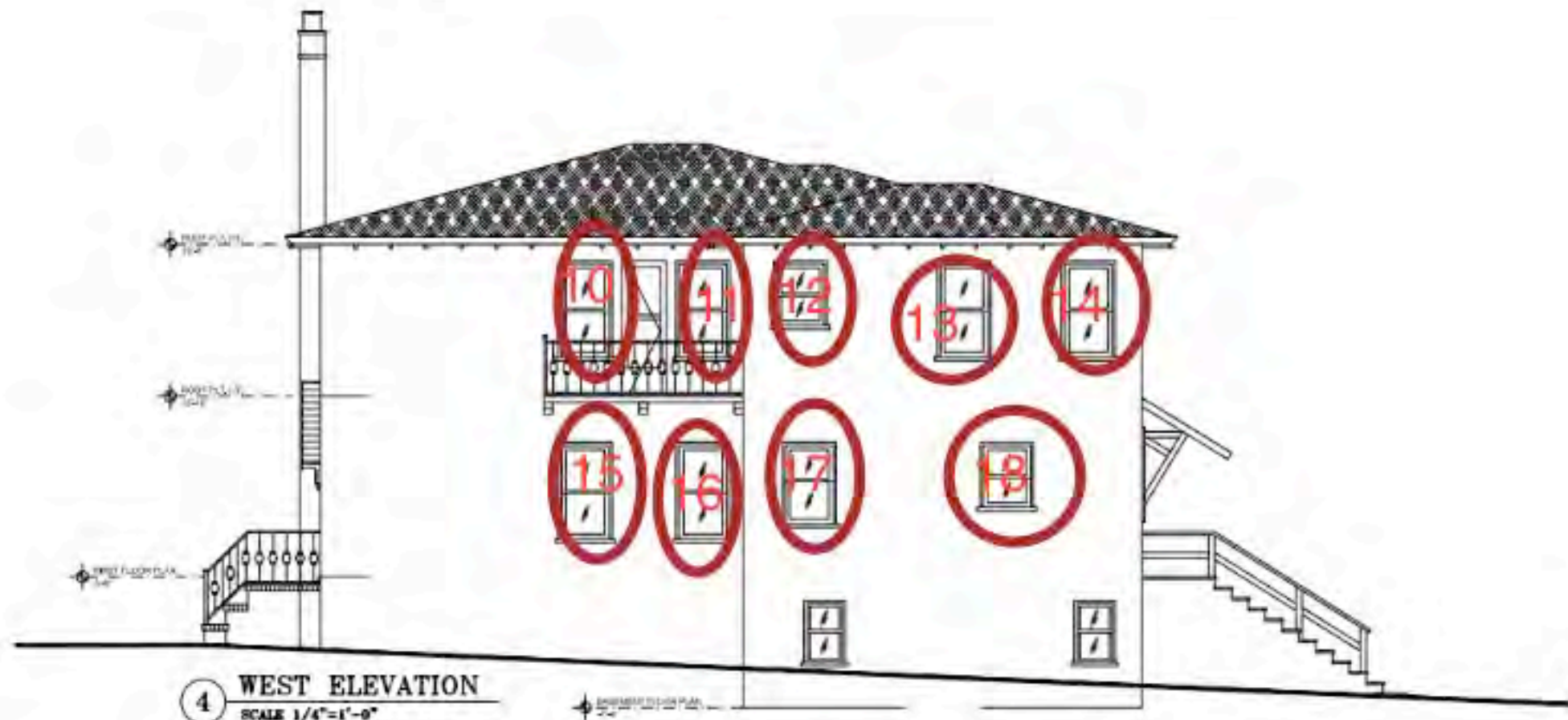








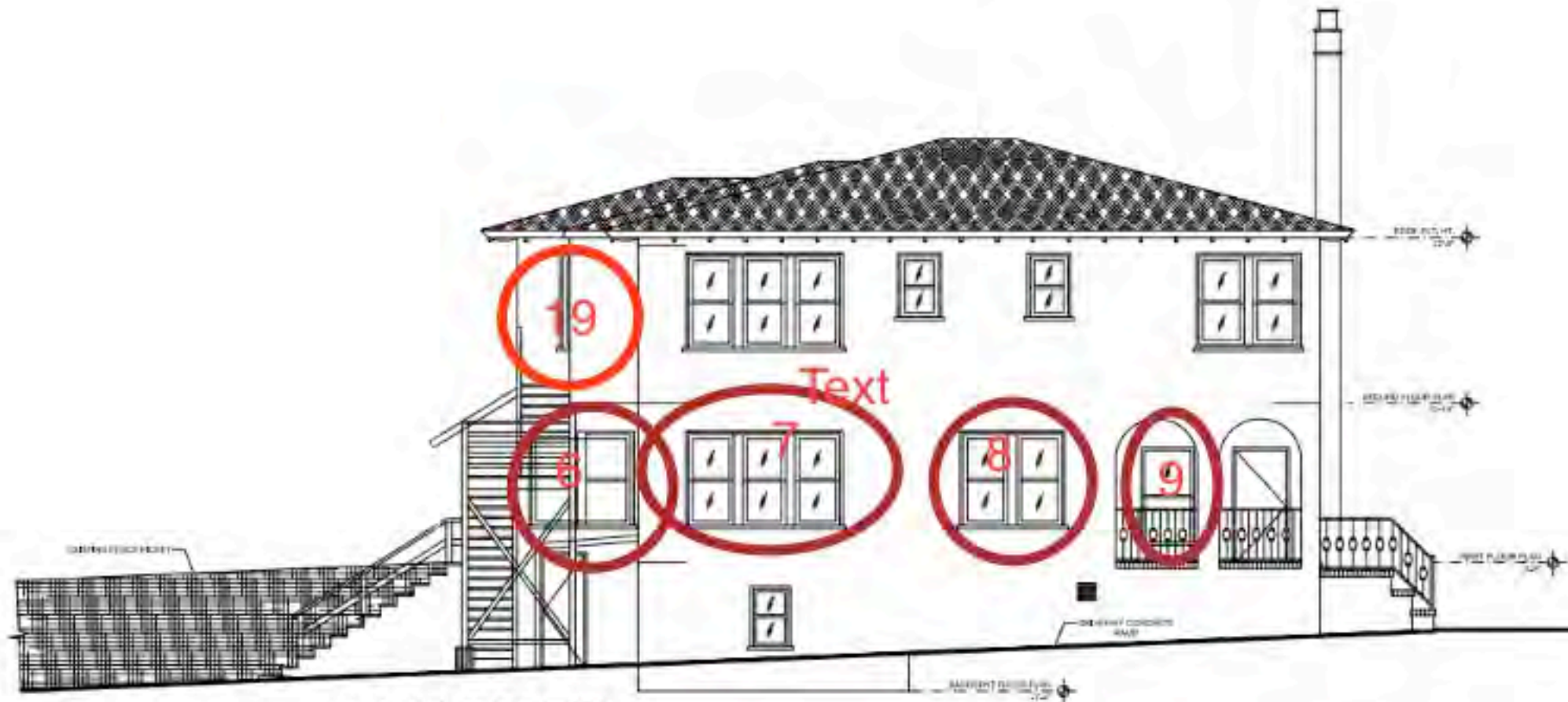




4 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



2 SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



3 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"





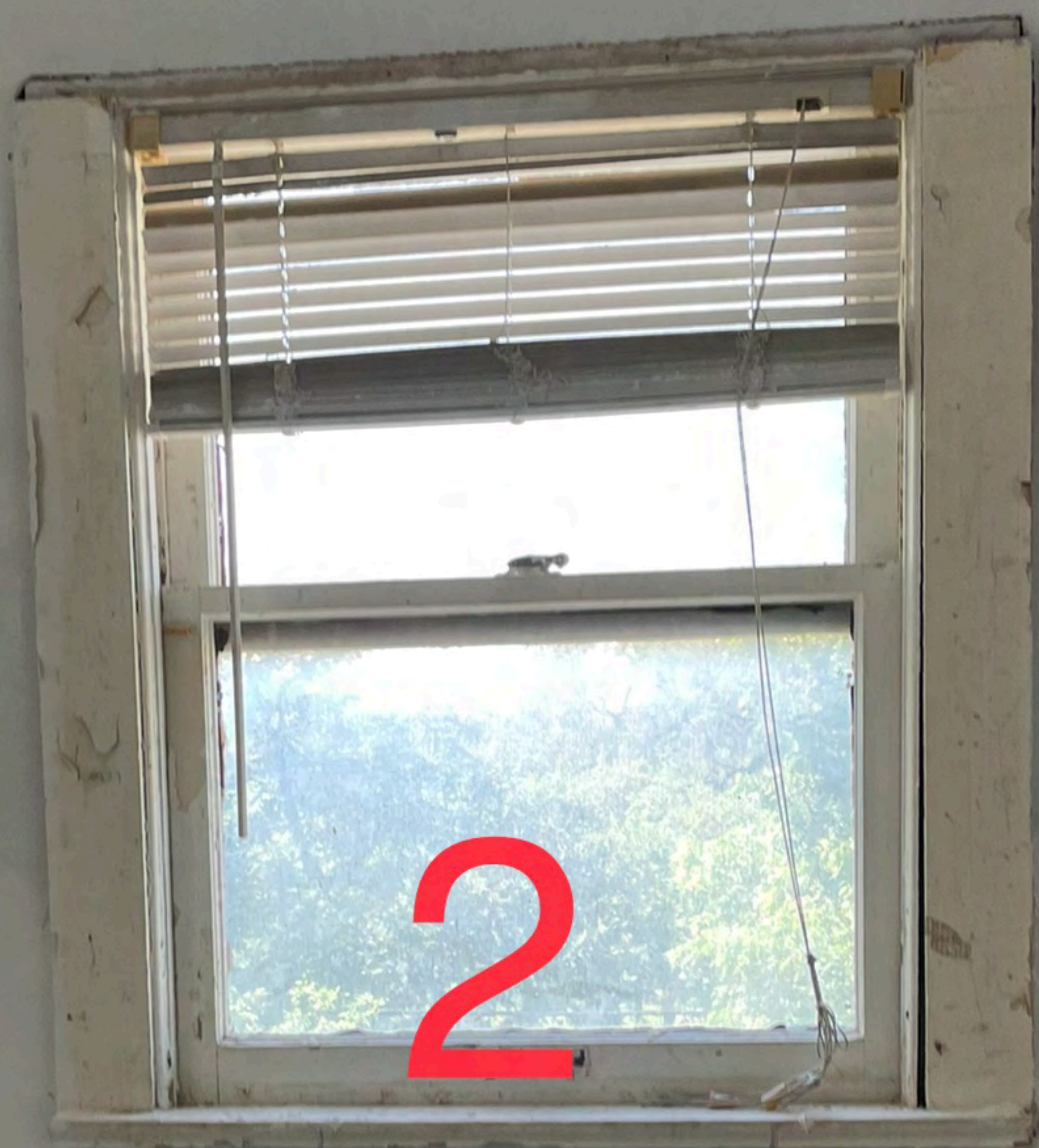














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19



The current condition of the windows is such that many are unrepairable. I've had multiple contractors visit the site and have commented as such. I need to replace them with comparable Marvin windows that are approved for historic window replacement.