

## Certificate of Appropriateness

*Filing Date:* January 14, 2026  
*Case Number:* **25-58-HPC**  
*Request:* **Certificate of Appropriateness**  
*Project Address:* 854 Williamson Street, Shreveport, LA 71103  
*Historic District:* St. Paul's Bottoms Historic District  
*Zoning:* R-UC (Urban Core Residential Zoning District)  
*Applicant:* Misha Farrell / Mischa Farrell Architecture  
*MPC Review by:* Walter Johnson, Community Planning Division  
 walter.johnson@shreveportla.gov  
*HPC Meeting Date:* January 23, 2026

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**854 Williamson Street** is a two-story brick, wood & stone structure and the location of the Old Galilee Baptist Church. This renovation project proposes the historic preservation and adaptive reuse of the Old Galilee Baptist Church to become the new **North Louisiana Civil Rights Museum**. This is a Historic preservation and adaptive reuse project converting this former church into a civil rights museum with precise care taken to address preservation concerns as well as ultimately educating the public about the time period and its' relevant social & civil right milestones.

### PROJECT SCOPE

The new use is a museum. The church space will house exhibits, interpretation and educational material focused on regional Shreveport civil rights history. Project work focuses on retaining the original structure, exterior form and architectural character while preparing it for its' new public-facing museum use.

Current concrete repair work for the three exterior front walkways has begun (*Figure 1 - Front Concrete Walkway Repair*), an ADA-compliant handicap ramp will be added in the rear of the structure (*Figure 2 - ADA Ramp; Williamson Street side*) and exterior windows (*Figure 3 - Set Windows*) have been set.



Northwest Louisiana Civil Rights Museum  
 854 Williamson Street Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

Mischa Farrell Architect, LLC - 208 Main St. - Shreveport, LA 71101 - www.mischafarrell.com



### OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

The proposed project will require a Building Permit from the City of Shreveport Permits Division.

## **APPROVAL STANDARDS – Certificate of Appropriateness.**

Per Shreveport UDC Article 21, Section 21.5, D. Approval Standards, for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

*It is not the intention of these regulations to require the reconstruction or restoration of individual or original buildings and/or prohibit the removal or demolition of the same. Upon review of the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, the Shreveport HPC and the Executive Director of the Shreveport-Caddo MPC, or his/her designee, must balance the following standards in making any recommendation and/or determination for approval:*

1. *Whether the proposed activity involving exterior features and/or exterior architectural features is harmonious with the special character of the HPOD.*

**MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity IS HARMONIOUS with the special character of the HPOD.**

2. *Whether the proposed activity will adversely affect any exterior feature and/or exterior architectural feature.*

**MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity WILL NOT adversely affect the exterior or architectural feature(s) and essence of the structure.**

3. *Whether the proposed activity will adversely affect the historic character of the landmark, site, building, structure, landscape and/or object.*

**MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity WILL NOT adversely affect the historic character of the structure and area.**

4. *In considering new construction, if a contemporary design is used, the architectural styles from particular historic periods are not required; however, a determination regarding whether the contemporary design is harmonious with the character of the HPOD is required.*

**MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the architectural style IS HARMONIOUS with the characteristics of the HPOD. The new addition(s) will retain the same architectural elements in color, siding and texture.**

5. *Whether the proposed activity is in compliance with the design standards contained in Article 4.*

**MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity IS IN COMPLIANCE with the design standards contained in Article 4 of the Shreveport UDC.**

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## **MPC STAFF ANALYSIS**

### **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

Based on the analysis of the approval standards, MPC staff finds that the proposed repairs and renovations are appropriate for **854 Williamson Street**. Therefore, MPC staff recommends Approval of this requested Certificate of Appropriateness.

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## **MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

### **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.**

MPC staff recommends APPROVAL of the requested **Certificate of Appropriateness** as it appears to meet the approval standards of Shreveport UDC Article 21, Section 21.5, D.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Exhibit A. Front Façade View
- Exhibit B. Zoning Map
- Exhibit C. Vicinity Map
- Exhibit D. Project Scope

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) RECOMMENDATION (January 23, 2026)**  
**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.**

**MPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DECISION (January 23, 2026)**  
**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.**

Executive Director Signature:	Date:
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**Exhibit A. Front Facade View**



Exhibit B. Zoning Map

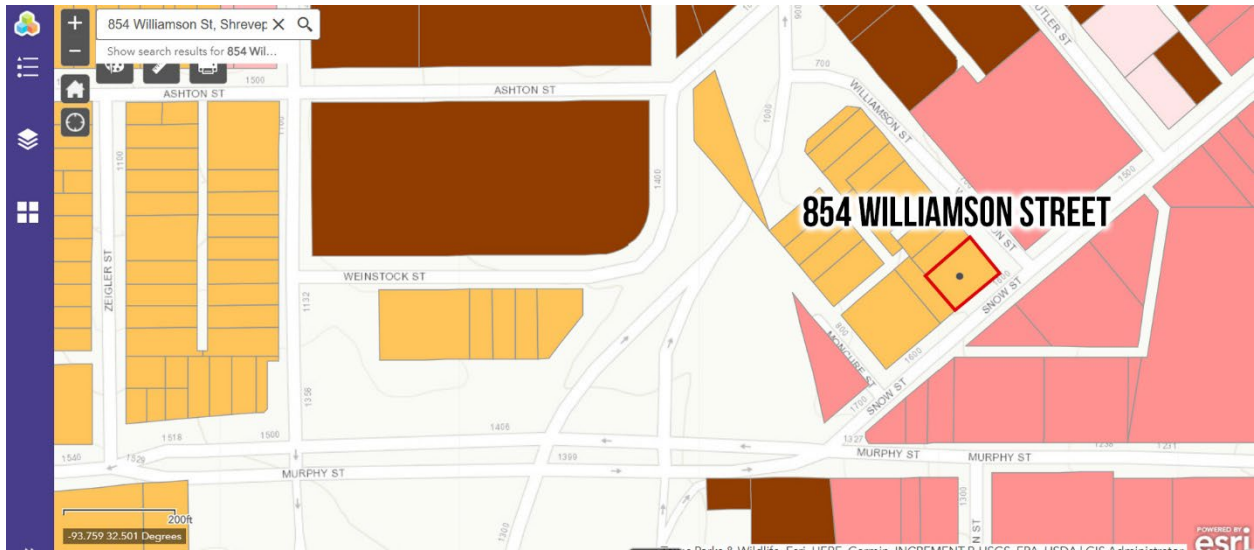


Exhibit C. Vicinity Map

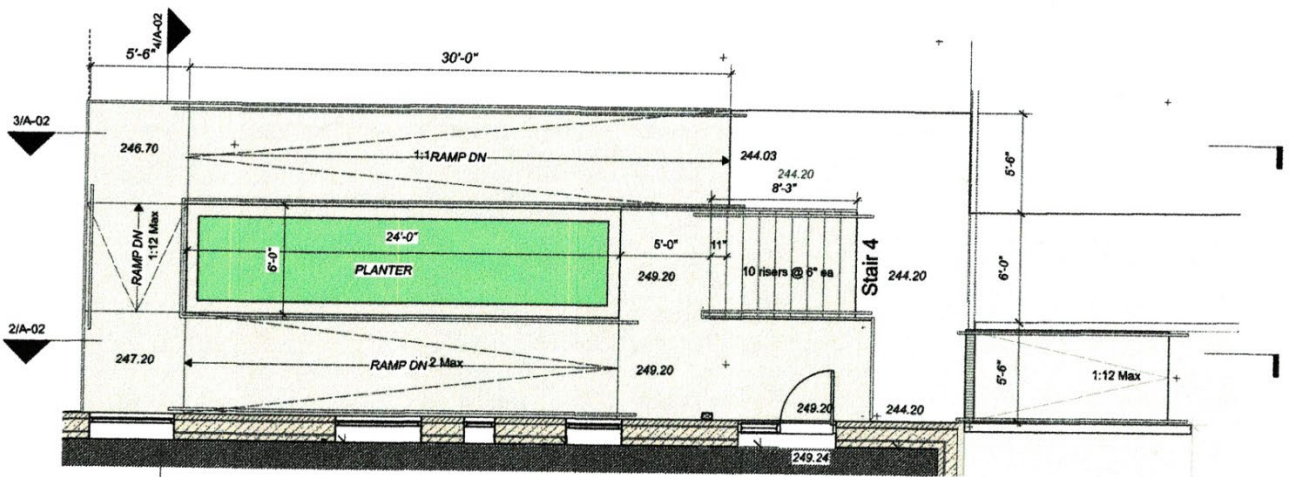


Exhibit D. Project Scope



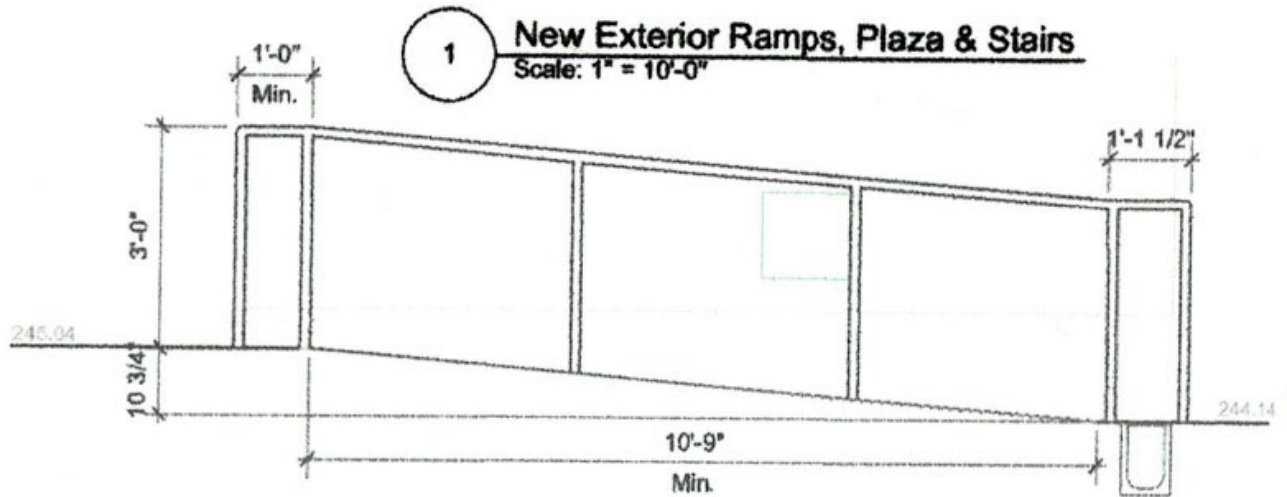


Figure 1 - Front Concrete Walkway Repair

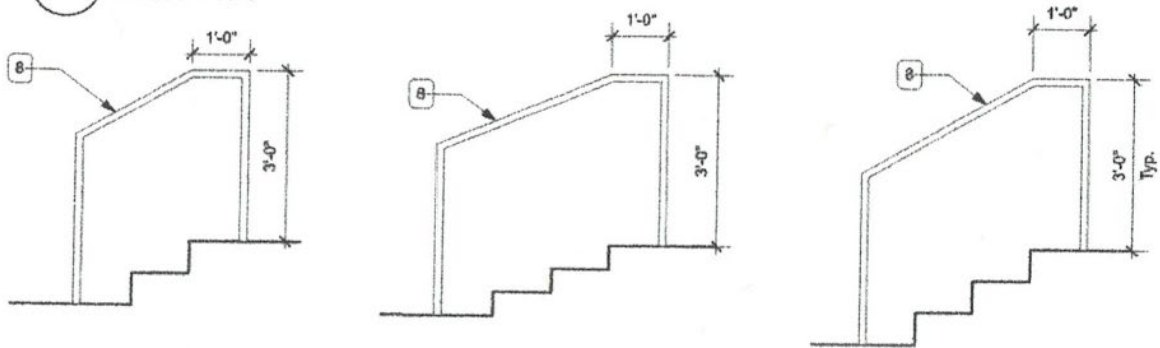


1 Entry Ramp Plan  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Figure 2 - ADA Ramp



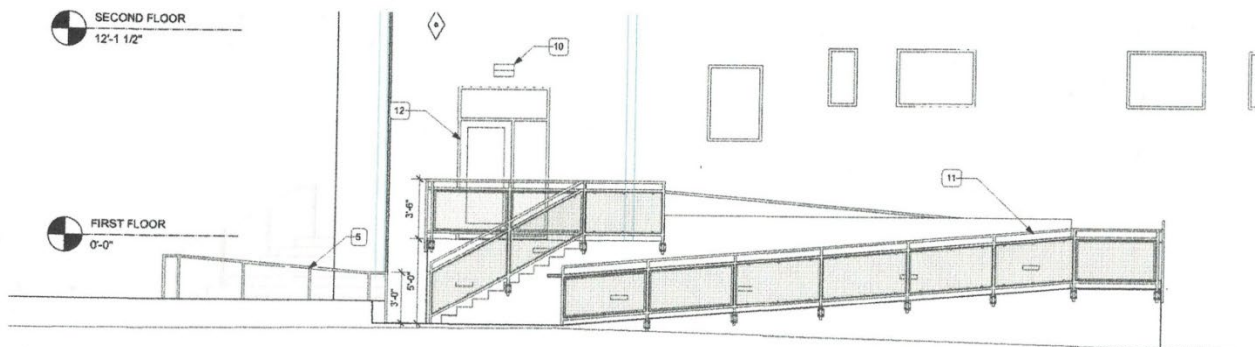
**2 Existing Condition Survey Excerpt**  
 Scale: 1" = 10'-0"



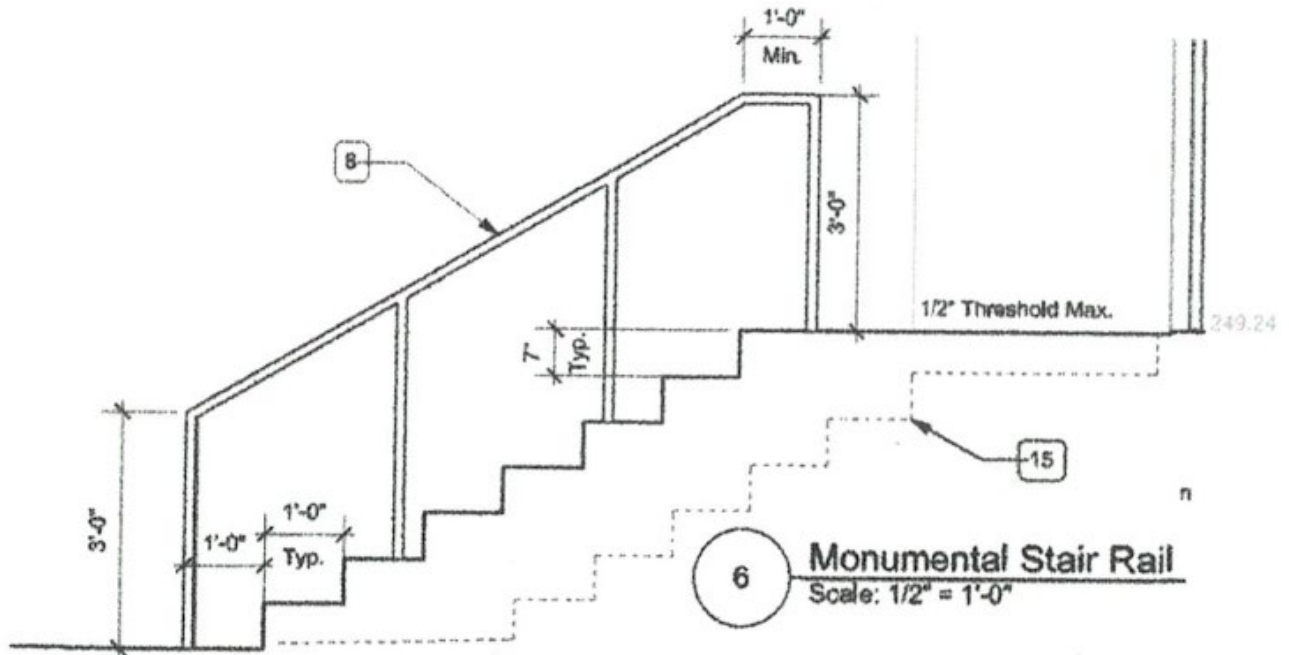
**3 Stair 1 Rail**  
 Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

**4 Stair 2 Rail**  
 Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

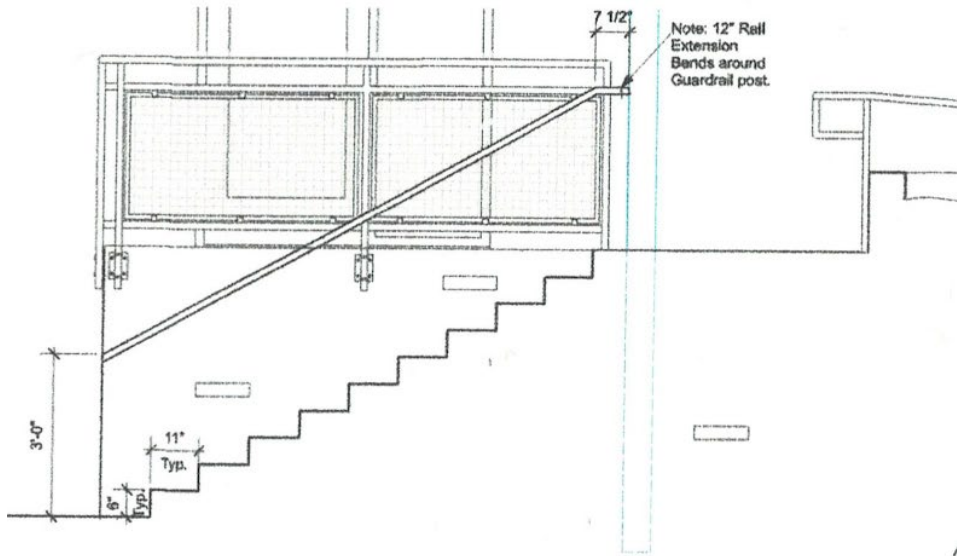
**5 Stair 3**  
 Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



**9 New Ramps and Stairs Elevation.**  
 Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



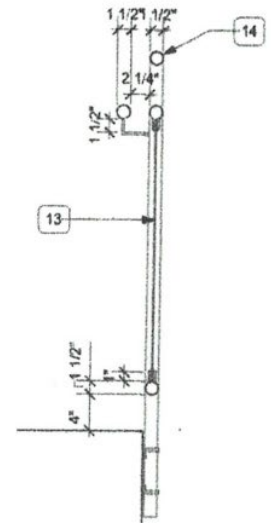
7 **Plaza Ramp Railing**  
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



8 **Stair 4 Section**  
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



13 **Face Mount Railing Detail**  
Scale: 1" = 1'-0"





*Figure 3 - Set Windows*