

## DESIGN/ DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMISSION

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023** 

### D/DRC ANNUAL REPORT 2023

#### WHAT IS THE D/DRC

The Design/Development Review Commission (D/DRC) was established in 1999 as the City's quasi-judicial architectural review board. The D/DRC reviews work proposed within the City's historic districts, urban design areas, and on designated landmarks. In addition, the D/DRC makes recommendations to City Council regarding zoning map amendments for design districts, historic districts, and landmark designations.

#### D/DRC MEMBERS

The D/DRC is made up of up to nine members with expertise or interest in urban design and historic preservation and are appointed by City Council. The makeup of members' expertise include the following:

- · (1) architect registered in the State
- (1) lawyer admitted to practice before the South Carolina Supreme Court
- · (1) individual with preservation experience
- (1) city planner
- (1) real estate developer or licensed real estate broker
- · (1) architect with historic preservation experience
- (up to 3) community representatives who, by reason of other experience or education, shall be qualified for service on the D/DRC

#### OPEN POSITIONS (as of 1/2024):

- · Community Representative (2)
- · Realtor
- Architect

#### 2023 COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Robert Broom
- Bruce Greenberg
- · Chloe Jaco
- · Charles Leedecker
- Phillip Maguire (resigned 12/2023)
- Andrew Saleeby
- Mary Beth Sims Branham
- Taylor Wolfe (resigned 11/2023)



#### WELCOME NEW COMMISSION MEMBER

Charles Leedecker began serving as a Design/Development Review Commission member in September 2023. Mr. Leedecker is a retired heritage resource management professional who spent a 38-year career as a contractor for clients such as the National Park Service, the Department of the Navy, various state departments of transportation and real estate developers. He has received industry awards from the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office, the Society for Historical Archaeology and other trade groups. Since his 2014 retirement, he has served as a volunteer on archaeological projects in the DC area and South Carolina, where he has been a resident since 2018.

#### D/DRC CHAIR

Each January, D/DRC members elect one of its members Chair and another Vice-Chair, each for a one-year term.



Chloe Jaco served as D/DRC Chair for 2023. Chloe is a Senior Vice President with CGL, a firm focused on justice facility planning, design, program management and maintenance solutions worldwide. Chloe specializes in criminal justice system and government facilities master planning and is LEED AP BD+C and AICP certified.

Chloe joined the D/DRC in 2020 in the Planner position and has served as D/DRC Chair since 2021. As D/DRC Chair, Chloe has overseen hundreds of D/DRC cases at the monthly meetings, attended annual SC SHPO conferences, and has advised other municipalities on board and commission processes and procedures.

#### D/DRC STAFF

The D/DRC staff includes 1 urban design planner and 3 preservation planners.



WELCOME AMBER MATHIS!
Urban Design Planner

Amber Mathis joined D/DRC staff in 2023 as the new Urban Design Planner! Amber is a registered landscape architect with 10 years of experience in public space design. She has worked on a broad range of public projects from large scale infrastructure to nature based playgrounds. She is a steward of urban ecology and passionate about creating vibrant, thriving cities through thoughtful design and planning. As Urban Design Planner, Amber will oversee projects in the City's 4 urban design overlay districts.

### **AMY MOORE**Principal Preservation Planner

Amy has worked as a preservation planner for the City of Columbia for 20 years. Amy oversees work in Elmwood Park and the West Gervais historic districts. She also regulates work to locally designated Landmarks.

#### **RACHEL WALLING**

Senior Preservation Planner

Rachel joined the City's preservation team in 2016. She oversees work in the Cottontown, Granby, Landmark, Historic Melrose, Oakwood Court, and Wales Garden historic districts.

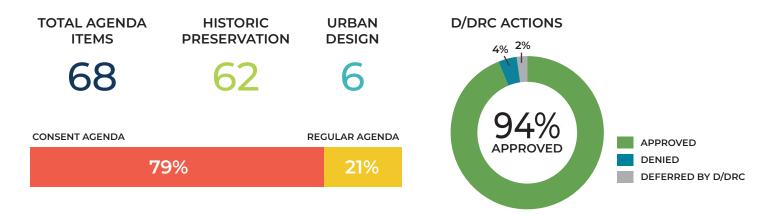
#### **BETSY KLEINFELDER**

Preservation Planner

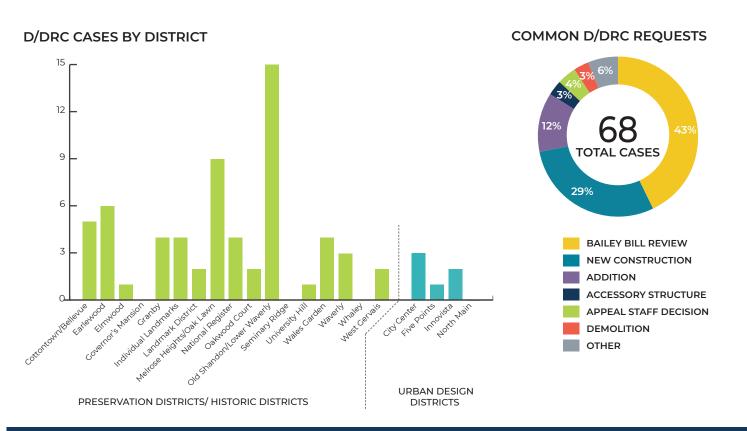
Betsy joined the preservation staff in 2022 and oversees projects in the Earlewood, Governor's Mansion, Old Shandon/Lower Waverly, Seminary Ridge, University Hill, Waverly, and Whaley districts.

#### 2023 D/DRC REVIEW STATISTICS

Matters requiring review and approval by the D/DRC in most urban design districts include a monetary threshold. Within historic districts, new construction and Bailey Bills always require D/DRC review. The D/DRC utilizes the consent agenda to approve non-controversial or routine matters by a single motion and vote. Examples of cases commonly found on the consent agenda include items that meet the design guidelines and most Bailey Bill projects.



In 2023, the highest number of requests requiring review by the D/DRC, involved buildings in Old Shandon/Lower Waverly and the Melrose Heights/Oak Lawn districts. The most common requests taken to the D/DRC in historic districts was for preliminary certification for the Bailey Bill and in urban design districts for new construction.



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#### **URBAN DESIGN** 2023 Requests

#### **URBAN DESIGN D/DRC REVIEWS**

Most Urban Design districts include a monetary threshold for review by the D/DRC which means that most Urban Design projects reviewed by the D/DRC are larger in scale and scope. As such, it is common for the D/DRC to have far fewer Urban Design projects to review per year than preservation projects. In 2023, Urban Design reviews represented 9% of all cases heard by the D/DRC; this included 5 unique projects, one of which was initially deferred by the D/DRC due to lack of information and then approved at its second review.

APPEAL **NEW CONSTRUCTION** 

**5 CASES** 

1 CASE

#### **NEW CONSTRUCTION REQUESTS**

Address D/DRC Ruling/Date **Current Status** 

Approved 1/19/2023 1400 Wheat Street No permits 700 Gervais St./1100 Wayne St. Approved 1/19/2023 No permits No permits

408/436 Blossom Street Approved 12/21/2023

NX 405 Gervais Street Deferred 9/21; Approved 11/16 No permits

#### STAFF APPEALS

1245 Huger Street/

D/DRC Ruling/Date Address **Current Status** 

748 Harden Street Denied 11/16/2023 Resolved: Screening applied to gate

#### STAFF APPEALS

Any decision made by staff to deny an application for work within a design district may be appealed to the D/DRC. Appeals of staff decisions are considered by the D/DRC based on evidence provided by the property owner or agent. After reviewing the application and all relevant materials and testimony, the D/DRC will make a decision to approve or deny the appealed request (in whole or in part).

748 Harden Street: The appeal of staff decision at 748 Harden Street involved a request to install a gate on a dumpster alcove facing Harden Street. Per the Five Points Urban Design guidelines, when a non-conforming condition is improved, the improvement must meet the design guidelines, therefore, staff required additional screening to be added to the proposed gate, which the applicant opposed. The D/DRC's ruling upheld staff's decision.



Harden Street gate with screen

#### **URBAN DESIGN REQUESTS 2022**

Since most Urban Design projects reviewed by the D/DRC are larger in scale and scope, they can take over a year to complete. As such, several projects approved by the D/DRC in 2022 are still in progress.

#### 2022 NEW CONSTRUCTION REQUESTS

Address D/DRC Ruling/Date Current Status

- 2615 River Drive Approved 5/2022 Permits issued; in progress
  - 126 Williams/ 410 Gervais/ 411 Senate St. Approved 5/2022 Permits issued; in progress
  - Finlay Park Approved 11/2022 Permits issued; in progress
  - **737 Gadsden Street** Approved 12/2022 Permits issued; in progress





The Benton Crossing development is a five-story, 56 unit affordable housing project. The project was first presented to D/DRC in March 2022 but deferred to provide an opportunity for the applicant to address the items listed on the staff evaluation and then approved with conditions in May 2022.





The Homewood Suites and Tru Hotel under construction at the corner of Gervais and Williams Streets will be 7-stories tall with 249 rooms. The project was approved with conditions by D/DRC in May 2022.





This private student dormitory will be 12-stories tall with 935 beds (310 units), 12,000 square feet of retail, and 545 structured parking spaces. The project was approved with conditions by the D/DRC in December 2022.

#### **URBAN DESIGN Completed Projects**



Rendering from January 2021 D/DRC submittal, submitted by Clayco

#### THE STANDARD

The Standard was initially approved by the Design/ Development Review Commission in August 2016, and after a number of changes initiated by the Developer, Clayco Realty Group, it was ultimately approved by the D/DRC three times, with the latest and final design approval in January 2021. This 16-story private student dormitory at the corner of Assembly

and Washington Streets, opened in August 2023 and houses nearly 700 students in a variety of 206, 1-5

bedroom units. Part of the design approval process includes working with the development team on improvements to the public right-of-way adjacent to the building to ensure better pedestrian accommodations both for the new residents and for the public at large. The project installed wider sidewalks with a planted buffer between the sidewalk and the travel lanes, new accessible ramps, and a pedestrian refuge on Assembly Street. The building design includes large storefront windows and a corner entrance, and painted murals along



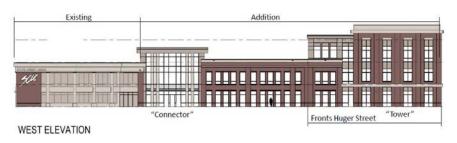
The Standard, nearing completion in June 2023

#### SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CREDIT UNION

Washington Street to help screen the garage frontage.

The South Carolina State Credit Union, 800 Huger Street, recently underwent a major renovation and expansion of their existing facility, approved by D/DRC in the fall of 2021. The 3-story addition to the credit union's complex provides an important mass to the corner of this wide intersection. In addition to providing visual interest, having vertical mass (buildings and trees) adjacent to streets helps to define a space for pedestrians that is more comfortable to walk in. The South Carolina State Credit Union expansion helps define the key intersection of Greene and Huger.





808 Huger Street renderings by Boudreaux

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION D/DRC REVIEWS

Per Section 17-2.5(q) of the UDO, preservation staff can approve CDAs for a wide variety of projects without D/DRC review. However, certain types of projects always require D/DRC review including new construction, construction of visible outbuildings over 240 square feet, demolition of contributing buildings, relocation of contributing buildings, major exterior changes to contributing buildings, and visible additions to ACCESSORY STRUCTURE Append Staff DECESON contributing buildings. Preliminary certification for the Bailey Bill is also required to be reviewed and approved by the D/DRC. In 2023, Bailey Bill certifications accounted for 47% of all historic preservation cases, with new construction accounting for 24% and addition requests at 13%.

**BAILEY BILL NEW CONSTRUCTION** ADDITION

> **29 CASES** 15 CASES 8 CASES

#### **ADDITION REQUESTS**

Address		D/DRC Ruling/Date	Current Status
	1317 Geiger Avenue	Approved 1/19/2023	Complete
•	1210 Woodrow Street	Approved 4/20/2023	Permits issued; nearing completion
•	2321 Pendleton Street	Approved 6/15/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	2304 Lincoln Street	Approved 8/17/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	3118 Amherst Avenue	Approved 9/21/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	3200 Amherst Avenue	Approved 10/19/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	1417 Maple Street	Approved 12/21/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	1001 Senate Street	Approved 12/21/2023	No permits

#### **ADDITION REQUESTS**

Within historic districts, additions are recommended to be located off the back of buildings and inset from the original corners, allowing the old to be distinguished from the new while also preserving the understanding of the original form. Most additions are still at least partially visible from the right-of-way and thus require D/DRC approval. Preservation staff recommended approval of all proposed additions in 2023.



Rear addition at 2304 Lincoln Street in progress



Porch addition at 3200 Amherst Avenue in progress

#### **NEW CONSTRUCTION REQUESTS**

Address	D/DRC Ruling/Date	Current Status
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Address		D/DRC Rulling/Date	Carrerit Status
•	2320 Senate Street	Approved 5/18/2023	No permits
•	2330 Pendleton Street	Approved 5/18/2023	No permits
•	2331 Pendleton Street	Approved 5/18/2023	No permits
•	2333 Pendleton Street	Approved 5/18/2023	No permits
•	2338 Pendleton Street	Approved 5/18/2023	No permits
•	E/S Shirley Street	Approved 5/18/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	Park & Beaufort Streets	Approved 6/15/2023	No permits
•	2315 Greene Street	Approved 7/20/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	2317 Greene Street	Approved 7/20/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	817 Heidt Street	Approved 7/20/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	425 Whaley Street	Approved 10/19/2023	No permits
•	507 Denmark Street	Approved 10/19/2023	Permits issued; in progress
•	NX2834 Gadsden Street	Approved 10/19/2023	No permits
•	1007 King Street	Approved 10/19/2023	No permits
	1235 Maiden Lane	Approved 11/16/2023	No permits



New construction at 2315 & 2317 Greene Street in progress



New construction at 507 Denmark Street in progress

#### NEW CONSTRUCTION IN OLD SHANDON/LOWER WAVERLY

In 2023, 10 out of the 16 proposals for new construction in historic districts were for projects located in the Old Shandon/Lower Waverly district. As a Protection Area, this district has seen a higher level of change over the decades including a high level of demolition. Because of this, there is more room for new construction in this and other Protection Areas. Five of the 10 Old Shandon/Lower Waverly new construction projects in 2023 are proposed by the TN Development Corporation, a part of the Columbia Housing Development Corporation, which aims to spur homeownership in the area. The new single family homes will be offered to low to moderate income families for purchase. The Old Shandon/Lower Waverly district is under increased pressure to provide housing for USC students and many long-time families are being priced out. This revitalization will be an important tool to stabilize the community.



New construction at 817 Heidt Street in progress

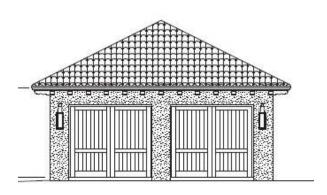
#### **ACCESSORY STRUCTURE REQUESTS**

Address D/DRC Ruling/Date Current Status

303 Saluda Avenue Approved 11/16/2023 Permits issued; in progress
 3112 Lakewood Avenue Approved 12/21/2023 Permits issued; in progress



Site work has started for the D/DRC approved garage at 303 Saluda Avenue



Drawing of the D/DRC approved garage at 303 Saluda Avenue, drawing by architect Tim Hance

#### STAFF APPEALS

Address D/DRC Ruling/Date Current Status

3430 Earlewood Drive Denied 9/21/2023 Resolved: Excess driveway material

removed

121-123 Williams Street Denied 10/19/2023 Resolved: Bailey Bill incentive

removed from property

#### STAFF APPEALS

Like Urban Design staff decisions, any decision made by preservation staff to deny an application for work within a historic district may be appealed to the D/DRC. After reviewing the application and all relevant materials and testimony, the D/DRC will make a decision to approve or deny the appealed request (in whole or in part).



Excess driveway material removed from 3430 Earlewood Drive per D/DRC ruling

3430 Earlewood Drive: This appeal involved a driveway that was altered without preservation review to be approximately 22' in width. The City Ordinance limits driveways to a maximum of 12 feet wide in primary yards, therefore staff recommended that the excess concrete be removed to create a 12' wide driveway. The D/DRC's ruling upheld staff's decision.

121-123 Williams Street: Changes to this Bailey Bill property, including removal of original windows, were made without preservation staff or D/DRC review. D/DRC upheld staff's decision to revoke the Bailey Bill.

#### **DEMOLITION REQUESTS**

Address D/DRC Ruling/Date Current Status

• 1421 Heidt Street Denied 2/16/2023 D/DRC decision appealed to circuit

court; court date pending

2307 Pendleton Street Approved 9/21/2023 No permits



1421 Heidt Street after attempted demolition

#### **DEMOLITION REQUESTS**

The City of Columbia UDO, Section 17-2.5 g(6)c states that "The demolition of a historic building should be an action of last resort. When a structure is demolished, the community loses a part of its history, which cannot be replaced. Accordingly, such requests are reviewed very deliberately and require detailed information." Although rare, there are situations where preservation staff recommends approving demolition of historic buildings. Such was the case at 2307 Pendleton Street, which had extenuating circumstances related to the lot and difficulties involved in fully bringing the building up to code. In contrast, the demolition request for 1421 Heidt Street was recommended for denial by preservation staff and subsequently denied by D/DRC.

Although the building was damaged from an un-permitted/un-approved attempted demolition, the D/DRC found that the building at 1421 Heidt street retained historic significance and denied demolition.

#### OTHER REQUESTS

Request/Address D/DRC Ruling/Date Current Status

Fence: 431-433 Waccamaw Avenue Approved 2/16/2023 Complete

Landmark Rec.: 1531 Taylor Street Recommend approval 8/17/2023 Landmark approved by City

Council; Group III Landmark status applied to property

ADA Ramp: 1231 Gervais Street Approved 6/15/2023 No permits

Exterior Change: 3452 N. Main St. Approved 2/16/2023 No permits





The approved fence at 431 & 433 Waccamaw Avenue is visible at the rear of the property

431-433 Waccamaw: Fence requests can typically be handled at staff level, however, the request heard by D/DRC in February 2023 was for an exception to the established fence guidelines in Wales Garden. Wales Garden guidelines limit fence height to 6'; the request was for a fence 8' in height. Ultimately the D/DRC ruled to approve the taller fence due to its location, far from the street, and because the fence separated single family from multi-family buildings.

#### **BAILEY BILL REVIEW**

Since the current version of the Bailey Bill was adopted in 2005, applications for the preservation tax abatement program have generally increased year-to-year. Currently, there are over 290 historic properties in the City of Columbia that are part of the program. In 2023, projects were located in 10 of the City's historic districts and included two Individual Landmarks and two National Register structures. This year, 79% of the approved Bailey Bill projects were for residential buildings and the required minimum investment for all 29 Bailey Bill projects approved in 2023 totals approximately \$1.8 million.

### 2023 PRELIMINARY CERTIFICATIONS

29

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

6

23

#### **BAILEY BILL REVIEWS**

Request/Address		D/DRC Ruling/Date	Current Status	
	1314 Fairview Drive	Approved 1/19/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
	1231 Confederate Avenue	Approved 1/19/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
	2402 Cypress Street	Approved 1/19/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
	1310 Gadsden Street	Approved 1/19/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
	1518 Richland Street	Approved 3/16/2023	Permits issued; nearing completion	
•	329 Picadilly Street	Approved 3/16/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	1210 Woodrow Street	Approved 3/16/2023	Permits issued; nearing completion	
•	1219 Assembly Street	Approved 3/16/2023	No permits	
•	1407 Gladden Street	Approved 4/20/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	1205 Fairview Drive	Approved 4/20/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	303 Saluda Avenue	Approved 4/20/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	3131 Lakewood Avenue	Approved 4/20/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	415 Harden Street	Approved 5/18/2023	No permits	
•	1407 Elmwood Avenue	Approved 6/15/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	1500 Calhoun Street	Approved 6/15/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	1429 Heidt Street	Approved 6/15/2023	No permits	
•	1009 King Street	Approved 7/20/2023	Permits issued; nearing completion	
•	1528 Blanding Street	Approved 7/20/2023	Complete/Final Cert. granted	
•	1237 Gadsden Street	Approved 7/20/2023	No permits	
•	2809 Grace Street	Approved 8/17/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	2607 Cypress Street	Approved 8/17/2023	Permits issued; nearing completion	
•	1713 Enoree Avenue	Approved 9/21/2023	No permits	
•	2324 Washington Street	Approved 9/21/2023	No permits	
•	1717 Devine Street	Approved 9/21/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	1003 Elmwood Avenue	Approved 10/19/2023	No permits	
•	2819 Earlewood Drive	Approved 11/16/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	1419 Anthony Street	Approved 11/16/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	1301 Woodrow Street	Approved 11/16/2023	Permits issued; in progress	
•	2415 Santee Avenue	Approved 12/21/2023	Permits issued; in progress	

#### BAILEY BILL Projects in Progress





While some Bailey Bill projects include additions in their scope of work, the costs associated with the construction of the addition do not contribute to the investment threshold. The projects at 1231 Confederate Avenue and 1407 Gladden Street include additions along with renovations and repairs for the Bailey Bill.







1210 Woodrow Street was a fire damaged house with a screened front porch. Bailey Bill renovations included repairs related to fire damage and restoring the porch to a more historic appearance. The scope of work also included a rear addition.







The renovation of this building from a church into a single family residence includes restoring the building to a more historic appearance by removing later changes (non-original siding and porch enclosure) and repairing extant original features.







The saltbox house at 329 Picadilly was badly damaged in a fire in 2019. Renovations are currently underway to restore the house by replacing damaged materials with matching new features and maintaining and restoring remaining original features.

#### BAILEY BILL Complete Projects 2023

#### FINAL BAILEY BILL CERTIFICATION

Final certification of the Bailey Bill is reviewed by preservation staff only who conduct a final review to ensure that all stipulations of the Bailey Bill are met. This includes checking that no unapproved changes have been made to the property and that the qualifying expenses accumulated for the Bailey Bill meet the minumum requirement for each project. Total investment into properties participating in the Bailey Bill program represents millions of dollars of reinvestment into our city each year. In 2023, the projects that received final certification represent over \$3.8 million invested back into 16 historic buildings in the City.

2023 FINAL CERTIFICATIONS

16

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

5

11

#### **FINAL CERTIFICATIONS 2023**

Eligibility/District	Address	Required Investm	ent Final	Investment
Cottontown ACD	1416 Victoria Street	\$14,300	\$	527,783
Cottontown ACD	2216 Wallace Street	\$20,300	\$	97,170
National Register	707-711 Saluda Ave.	\$110,980	\$	3110,980+
National Register	713-715 Saluda Ave.	\$33,540	\$	33,540+
Wales Garden ACD	1917 Seneca Avenue	\$84,340	\$	3117,852
Wales Garden ACD	208 Wateree Avenue	\$42,860	\$	488,000
Wales Garden ACD	610-612 Saluda Ave.	\$27,100	\$	28,383
Wales Garden ACD	317 Wateree Avenue	\$79,220	\$	215,955
Landmark District	1511 Richland Street	\$67,620	\$	512,329
Historic Melrose ACD	1202 Gladden Street	\$16,300	\$	21,715
Individual Landmark	1527 Gervais Street	\$111,640	\$	2,017,716
Historic Melrose ACD	1211-1213 Maple Street	\$27,840	\$	43,196
Elmwood Park ACD	2229 Park Street	\$31,420	\$	35,360
University Hill ACD	1917 College Street	\$27,260	\$	555,057
Historic Melrose ACD	1107 Maple Street	\$32,240	\$	32,451
Individual Landmark	1528 Blanding Street	\$36,160	\$	549,042
	Required Minimum I	nvestment =	Final Total Inve	stment =
		<b>\$763,120</b>	\$	3,886,529

**TOTAL INVESTED\*** 

\$3,886,529

COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT

\$2,723,607

RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT

\$1,162,922

<sup>\*</sup> as reported by property owners in final Bailey Bill paperwork

#### BAILEY BILL Complete Projects 2023





This one-story brick bungalow is a contributing building to the Cottontown/Bellevue district. The property owner applied for the Bailey Bill in February 2022 before starting renovations. Renovations included removing the non-original car port, removing the porch enclosure, foundation repairs, repointing, repairing the original windows, replacing the roof, and updating mechanical systems. The renovation was completed in 2023 with an overall investment of \$165,000, including over \$33,000 in eligible Bailey Bill expenses.





This two-story, stucco, American Foursquare was built in 1923 in the Melrose district. The owner applied for the Bailey Bill as part of renovations in mid-2022. The scope of working included roofing, painting, repairing or replacing rotten wood in kind, and structural, HVAC, and electrical work. The final investment included over \$43,000 in Bailey Bill eligible expenses.





This building was designed and lived in by W.B. Smith Whaley who was instrumental in the development and construction of the cotton mills. The house was built in 1892-1893 and is a fine example of Queen Anne architecture and a last remnant of the residential nature of this section of Gervais Street in the early 20th century. The building renovations conducted after the February 2022 Bailey Bill approval involved converting the second story to apartments and adapting the first floor for use as a cafe. The scope of work included removing the front porch enclosure with overall project costs totaling over \$2 million.

# City of Columbia Planning & Development Services