

Brookline Preservation Commission Local Historic District Report

Local Historic District: Pill Hill

Applicant: Joanna Messing and Dominic Nicholas

Address: 85 Highland Road



House Built: 1927

Garage Built: 1947

Architect: N/A

Builder/owner: Harry Sklaver

Builder garage: Vincent Olivo

Statement of Significance: The three single family homes on Highland Road were built in the mid-1920s. Architecturally they represent a very simple vernacular design that, unlike the brick double houses, made no attempt to be stylistically fashionable. Numbers 81 and 89 appear to have been identical when originally built, but they were designed by different architects. Alvin Brodin was listed in the 1920 Boston directory as a carpenter from Roslindale. Frederick Freeman, the architect of record on the permit for number 89 may also have been a carpenter. Number 85 was built by Harry Sklaver, a developer who was very active in Brookline during the 1920s. The permit listed “private plans” for the architect, which may mean the plans were obtained from a mail order firm. An early renter of this house was Leo Hickey, whose occupation was listed at “houseman”.

Proposed Alterations: The applicant proposes to remove the existing wood garage door located on the south elevation and replace it with a new steel garage door. The new door will include divided light windows.

Applicable Guidelines: “The historic character of a property should be retained and preserved. Historic carriage barns and automobile garages should be preserved. Doors, including garage doors, should not be made of metal or plastic.”

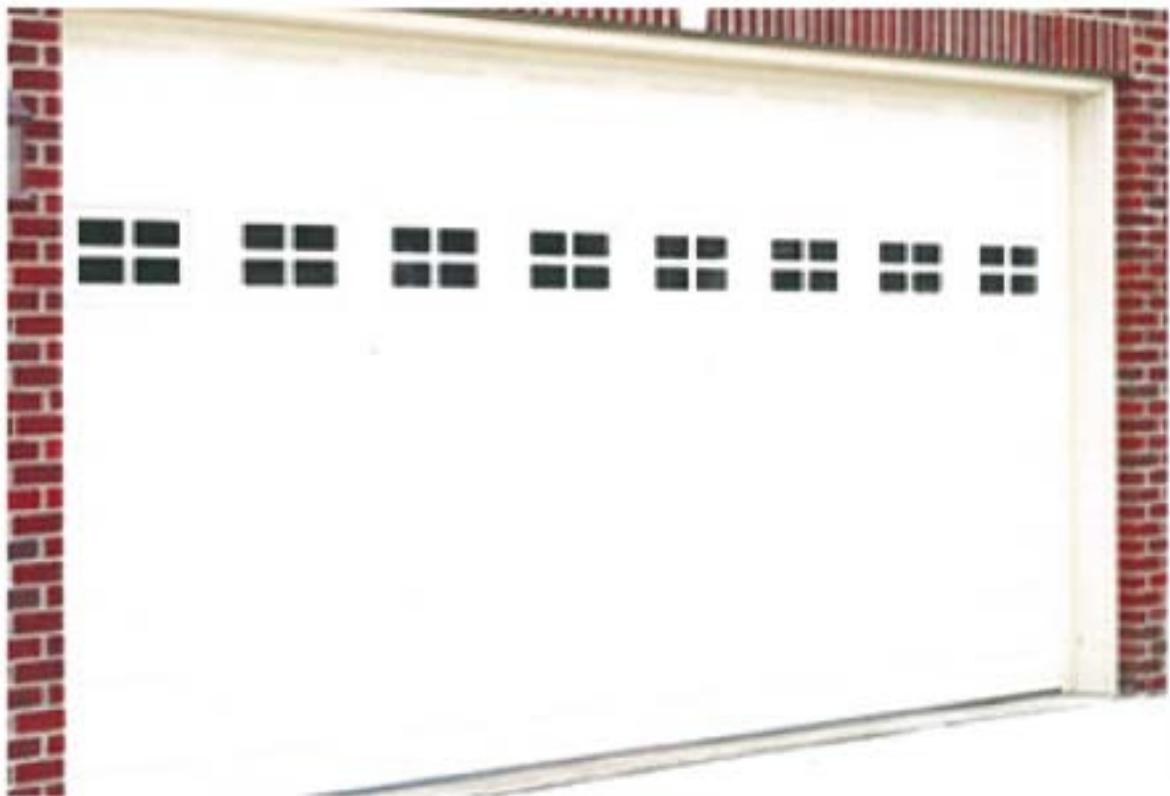
Preliminary Findings: The proposed garage door alteration is not supported by the Design Guidelines.



North elevation as visible from High Street



Existing garage door



Proposed garage door

