



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

PSB188/26

Draft Staff Report

Board briefing July 1, 2026

Board Members Please Note: The citations from the District Ordinance, Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District, and Secretary of the Interior's Standards listed below are for your consideration in addition to any other citations you find relevant in considering each application.

070126.51 **FB and P building**
562 1st Ave S
DONH-COA-02150
Applicant: Raymond Tran

Proposed: Proposed alteration of the fire escape to add steel mesh panels to enclose the lower level

Staff report: This is a functioning fire escape so cannot be decommissioned. The building owner reported that vandals were accessing the building via the fire escape. This is the first proposal of its kind. The panels are proposed to be welded on to the fire escape. The District Guidelines identify fire escapes as a character defining feature. This fire escape faces Occidental Ave so is not an alley but still the architectural back of the building with the fire escape and is visually prominent. There are a lot of utilitarian items on the exterior that the owner reports are providing access to the fire escape but it is not clear what they all are or if they are functional.

Code Citations:

Seattle Municipal Code

23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

Certificate of approval required. No person shall alter, demolish, construct, reconstruct, restore, remodel, make any visible change to the exterior appearance of any structure, or to the public rights-of-way or other public spaces in a special review district, and no one shall remove or substantially alter any existing sign or erect or place any new sign or change the principal use of any building, or any portion of a building, structure or lot in a special review district, and no permit for such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Pioneer Square Preservation District Rules

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. (7/99) In considering rehabilitation projects, what is critical is the stabilization of significant historical detailing, respect for the original architectural style, and compatibility of scale and materials.

X. FIRE ESCAPES

Fire escapes are important character-defining features of numerous buildings in the District. They are particularly important in contributing to the special character of the District's alleyscapes. Proposals to remove or alter fire escapes shall be reviewed on a case by case basis with special consideration given to safety issues. However, as a general rule, fire escapes shall be retained. (7/99)

Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

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Genna Nashem

Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator