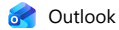


Public comment for 1018 Winter Street



Fw: Comment for 1018 Winter Street

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 7/27/2026 11:42 AM
To Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

From: Jenny Zhang <zhang.jenny119@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:40 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Comment for 1018 Winter Street

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To Chairman McCoubrey and the Committee:

I offer these statements in support of the applicant's proposal to rehabilitate and construct additional housing at 1018 Winter Street.

- Harry Leong is a dedicated community leader in Chinatown, serving as the Chinese Christian Church & Center director (one of Chinatown's oldest churches), leading the Philadelphia Suns youth sports leagues, and serving on Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation's RCO committee. He was born and raised in Philadelphia's Chinatown and continues to reside there. Through his involvement in the community, it is clear he cares deeply about the community and wishes to see it thrive.
- His project for his parents' historic home will bring sorely-needed affordable housing to Chinatown while continuing to ensure this centuries-old building continues to exist in its basic form, including the arched front entrance. He understands the need to maintain contextual and respectful development in historic neighborhoods like Chinatown.
- There is no record of the original historic nomination of 1018 Winter St, and the Historical Commission has not brought up any reason why this property is individually significant other than its age. Other examples of early 19th century buildings exist in Center City in much more historically preserved contexts.
- The Commission already acknowledged that the adjacent buildings to 1018 Winter have heavily altered facades and were likely altered before designation. Targeting 1018 Winter now just because it was the last one to get altered is unfair and arbitrary to the applicant's property rights.
- Harry is already planning to replicate the historic roofline with a dormer in the addition, at significant cost to the project and potential unit count. This respects the architectural composition of the building while maintaining a compatible height within the block. Plenty of similar historic three-story rowhouses with dormers exist in Chinatown, including the row from 912-918 Winter one block over.
- It is undeniable this alteration would be consistent with how generations of Philadelphians would have historically constructed additions since 1830. Denying this action in 2026 is an arbitrary and artificial action that does not respect the legacy of change in Philadelphia neighborhoods, especially one as diverse and incremental as Chinatown.
- If PHC continues to deny viable plans, Harry could be left with no choice but to pursue demolition by financial hardship, leaving the city with one less historic 1830s building facade altogether.

1018 Winter is almost 200 years old. If the Committee gives their blessing, they will ensure the continued occupancy of 1018 Winter for countless residents for another 200 years. We urge the Committee to please approve the Leongs' plan.

Thank you,

Jenny Zhang
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