

Written Testimony re:

Demolition, Fall & Construction of Property @ 1233 Morse St., NE

By: Camilla Parker – 10/16/07

Demolition:

The first activity I noticed was that of cleaning out the contents of the original house and removing them. Then the property began to be torn down from the back first and then towards the front portion. The actual time frame of demolition I do not specifically recollect. However, it was over a period of days with the use of a large refuse receptacle mounted on the street directly in front of the house.

Afterwards, the land had been cleared with the exception of the smaller front portion of the house known as the "sitting room." This room was not the same height of the original house but much shorter and protruding from the left side of the original house if one were facing the front of the house. This "sitting room" was all that was left of the original house and left leaning to the right (towards Montello Ave.) over the weekend preceding President's Day 2/20/2006. I saw how several people would stop and observe it as the leaning structure brought attention to itself.

Last night (10/15/07) I saw where I had circled on my old calendar, President's Day of 2006 and wrote house fell. This is what alerted me to the actual date because I would otherwise not have remembered the actual day of the fall of the sitting room as described above. I do know for sure that the whole house had been taken down except the small room left leaning. It fell and the tremor caused us to go outside to see its cause. The street lights and neighborhood houselights were out and shortly afterwards, fire trucks occupied the entire block. The firefighters made there way through the rubble as people gathered near to see. Someone constructed what appeared to be a light on a crane in front of the house for viewing and a local TV news station interviewed me as I was leaving for work the next morning. I told them what happened but never saw the televised coverage.

Construction:

After the subsequent cleanup, construction began and upon making several calls to the zoning dept., we discovered that the building permit was void. E-mail correspondence with Bill Crews and at least one phone call to/from him alerted us to let him know right away if any construction resumed. He said it was good that we complained before the roof was constructed. We alerted him several times as construction resumed on and off periodically. Each time the construction ceased for a while. Sometime later the structure was roofed. I kept no on-going record regarding timeframe of events, except the "fall of the sitting room."

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17657

EXHIBIT NO. 34

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