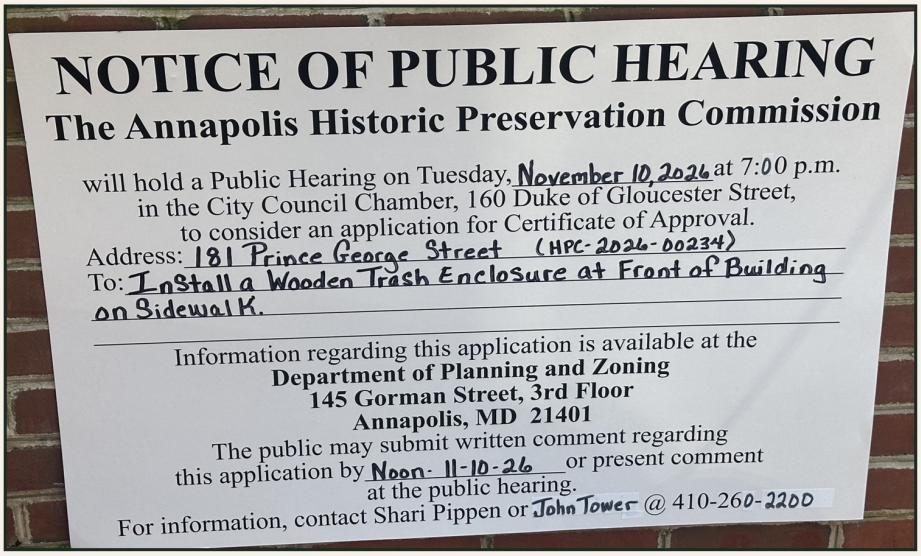
CONGRATULATIONS, HISTORIC DISTRICT!

You may soon qualify for your very own

custom sidewalk trash shed.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission

will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
in the City Council Chamber, 160 Duke of Gloucester Street,
to consider an application for Certificate of Approval.

Address: 181 Prince George Street (HPC-2026-00234)

To: Install a Wooden Trash Enclosure at Front of Building on Sidewalk.

Information regarding this application is available at the
Department of Planning and Zoning
145 Gorman Street, 3rd Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401

The public may submit written comment regarding this application by Noon- 11-10-26 or present comment at the public hearing.

For information, contact Shari Pippen or John Tower @ 410-260-2200

The notice posted at 181 Prince George St.



The 181 Monstrosity, already in place

The application asks permission to install a wooden trash enclosure "at Front of Building on Sidewalk."

It is already installed.

If it is approved, the rest of us can finally stop rolling our cans through our living rooms and up the areaway steps. Picture it: a plank box on every stoop, a lid at every lamppost, Prince George Street reborn as a gallery of homemade bins. Two hundred years of brick and slate, finished off with pressure-treated pine.

Why stop at one? Once the precedent is set, no principled line remains. Your house, your bin, your sidewalk. The Historic District, now with optional trash furniture.

OR: SAY NO, ON THE RECORD

Historic Preservation Commission public hearing

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chamber, 160 Duke of Gloucester Street

Application HPC-2026-00234, 181 Prince George Street

Written comments due by noon, November 10, 2026

Information: Dept. of Planning and Zoning, 145 Gorman St., 3rd Floor, 410-260-2200

Hearing details are copied from the City notice posted at 181 Prince George St. (photo above). Both photos: Shawn Harmon, Oct. 29, 2026, unaltered.

Dear Neighbors: one box on the sidewalk, and what comes next

I live at 212 Prince George Street in Ward 1, inside the Historic District. I keep my trash cans in my rear yard. On trash day I roll them through my own living quarters, out the front door, and up to the curb, then bring them back the same way (**Exhibit B**). It is inconvenient. It is also part of what living in the Historic District asks of us, and most of us accept it to keep the streetscape intact.

At 181 Prince George Street, a wooden trash enclosure now stands at the front of the building, on the sidewalk. The City's own hearing notice asks permission to "Install a Wooden Trash Enclosure at Front of Building on Sidewalk." I might be wrong, but to my understanding it was built before any permit or Historic Preservation review. Either way, I believe it is out of character with the district.

This is not new. On December 4, 2023, I asked the City's Chief of Historic Preservation whether the structure needed a permit. He replied the same day that a Notice of Violation would be issued requiring an HPC application, and that the enclosure "lacks design character" (**Exhibit A**). Nearly three years later, the enclosure is still on the sidewalk, and the City is only now holding a hearing to approve it after the fact.

As I recall, the previous owner and her tenants did not have such a structure; they carried their apartment trash around to the rear of 181 Prince George, which fronts on East Street. I am not aware of anything about the building that makes that impossible now. The building appears to have two rooftop decks, and the rear ground-floor unit appears to have direct access to the back yard, where trash cans could be kept and, as I understand it, may be kept now.

About four months ago, "fencing" appears to have been added around those two rooftop decks. I do not know whether permits and Historic Preservation approvals were obtained for that work. If so, those enclosed decks may offer two more places where cans can be kept off the street.

Investors who buy and restore buildings downtown help keep our property values strong, and many have done careful, beautiful work. But the Historic District exists because people fought for it. Anne St. Clair Wright, a founder of Historic Annapolis, led the effort that saw downtown Annapolis designated a Historic District and National Historic Landmark in 1965. Let us continue to follow her lead, and not go backwards one small exception at a time.

Exhibit C shows what our blocks could look like if every household were allowed to do what 181 has done, including my own home and the William Paca House grounds. If HPC-2026-00234 gets retroactively approved, it will be a slippery slope: there will be no principled reason to deny the next one, or the one after that.

If you share these concerns, please let the Historic Preservation Commission know before the hearing on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Written comments are due by noon that day. The last page shows how, in four simple steps.

Shawn Harmon, 212 Prince George Street

Note: statements about permits, the prior owner's practice and current trash storage are my understanding and have not been confirmed by City records (UNVERIFIED). Hearing details are copied from the City notice posted at 181 Prince George St.

Exhibit A

Copied exactly from my Gmail, thread "Re: holy moly." Email addresses and the owner's name are blacked out.

From: John J. Tower, Chief of Historic Preservation, City of Annapolis
To: Shawn Harmon
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023, 1:35 PM
Subject: Re: holy moly

Dear Shawn,

Thanks for bringing this to my attention. I believe the property, 181 Prince George, is owned by [redacted], and a Notice of Violation will be issued requiring an HPC Administrative Application. It is agreed that the enclosure lacks design character, but may meet guidelines with regard to materials. HPC Guidelines are beginning the process of revision. In this revision will be guidelines for trash enclosures which, due to multiple trash can violations written by a single inspector, have become a requirement.

Regards, John

John J. Tower, Chief of Historic Preservation, City of Annapolis, 145 Gorman Street, 3rd Floor, Annapolis, MD 21401

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 10:23 AM, Shawn Harmon wrote:

> Happy Holiday's John ~
>
> Don’t they need a permit for this unneeded wooden monstrosity on PG street?
>
> Best regards, Shawn Harmon, 212 Prince George St., Annapolis, MD 21401
>
> **Attachment: IMG_7051.jpeg**



The 181 Prince George St. enclosure on the sidewalk, December 2023: the photo attached to the email above.

UNVERIFIED: whether the Notice of Violation described was issued. City records would confirm.

Exhibit B. My home, 212 Prince George St.: trash kept out of sight

Rear yard, through the house, to the curb and back: seven steps each way.

1



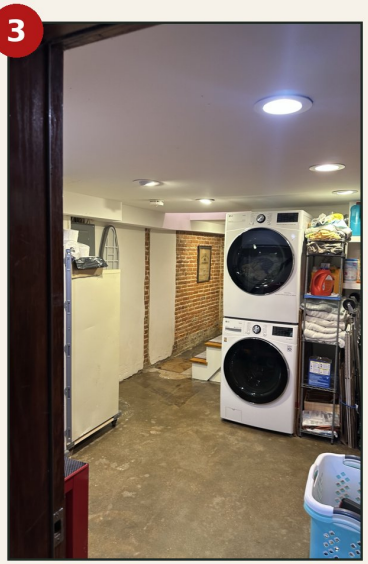
Cans stored in the rear yard enclosure

2



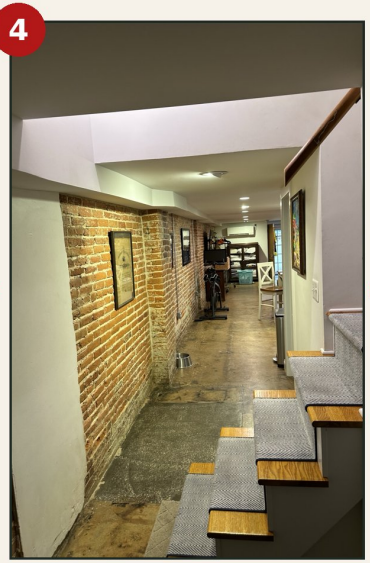
Rear yard: through the screen door

3



Laundry room

4



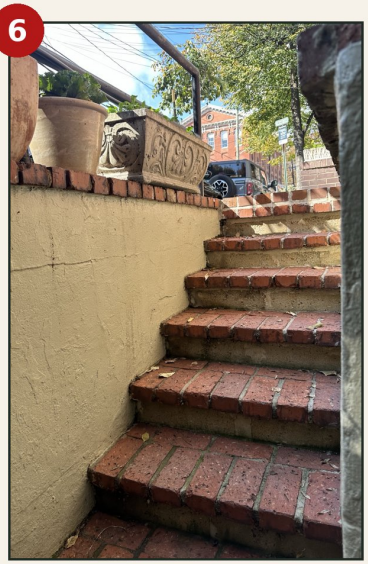
Basement hallway, past the stairs

5



Front door, basement level

6



Up the brick areaway steps

7



Out to the sidewalk on Prince George St.

Exhibit C. If HPC-2026-00234 gets retroactively approved, it will be a slippery slope

These are real Historic District homes with the 181 box digitally added. None of these boxes presently exist. Every one of these homes, and all the homes within the Historic District, could justifiably build the same enclosure.

My home, 212 Prince George St., with the 181 enclosure added



The William Paca House grounds, with the 181 enclosure added

Anne St. Clair Wright is turning over in her grave.



A Historic District neighbor, with the 181 enclosure added



Say no, on the record

Four steps. Ten minutes. The Commission counts every comment.

1. Email a short comment by noon, Tuesday, November 10, 2026, to John Tower: jjtower@annapolis.gov

Address it to the Historic Preservation Commission. Put the application in the subject line: HPC-2026-00234, 181 Prince George Street. By mail: Department of Planning and Zoning, 145 Gorman Street, 3rd Floor, Annapolis, MD 21401. Questions: 410-260-2200 (the notice lists Shari Pippen or John Tower).

2. Keep it simple. A sample you can copy, paste and send:

"I live at _____ in the Historic District. I oppose application HPC-2026-00234, which asks to install a wooden trash enclosure at the front of 181 Prince George Street, on the sidewalk. The enclosure is out of character with the district, and approving it after the fact invites the same request at every home. Please deny the application and require its removal."

3. Come to the hearing.

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m., City Council Chamber, 160 Duke of Gloucester Street. The notice says the public may present comment at the hearing.

4. Pass this along.

Hand this to the neighbor next door. One box becomes a hundred only if no one speaks up.

Sources

Hearing date, time, place, deadline, address, phone and contacts: City of Annapolis notice of public hearing, HPC-2026-00234, posted at 181 Prince George St. (photographed October 29, 2026; shown on the cover).

John Tower email address: the sender address on his December 4, 2023 email (Exhibit A). Comments by email are accepted: John Tower received and replied to my emailed comment on October 30, 2026.

December 4, 2023 email (Exhibit A): copied exactly from my Gmail, thread "Re: holy moly." Email addresses and the owner's name are blacked out. UNVERIFIED: whether the Notice of Violation was issued.

Anne St. Clair Wright and the 1965 designation: Maryland State Archives, Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, msa.maryland.gov.

Photos: taken by me, October 2026, except the December 2023 photo in Exhibit A. Every photo marked PHOTO ILLUSTRATION - DIGITALLY ALTERED shows the 181 enclosure added digitally; those enclosures do not exist at those properties.

UNVERIFIED: whether permits were issued for the 181 enclosure or the rooftop-deck fencing. City permit records would answer this.