The following exterior features of the Mathew B. and Electa L. Finlay House, 1617 Hampshire St., are protected by City Ordinance No. 8744, approved March 11, 1997:

- 1. Overall two-story, symmetrical massing with a low-pitched hip roof, and two-story service wing to the rear.
- 2. Rough cut limestone foundation walls, smooth cut stone watertable and brick exterior walls.
- 3. Four symmetrically-placed brick chimneys with stepped brick courses at the top and capped with stone, one brick chimney on two-story service wing, also with decorative brickwork and stone cap.
- 4. Double cupola of wood with all of its wood detailing, brackets, arched windows, low-pitched hip roof, and finial with brackets.
- 5. With the exceptions of two casement windows on the west side of the service wing, and two double-hung pantry windows on the east side of the service wing, all original window openings on the East, North, and West facades, and the first floor of South facade, with stone lintels and sills, wood framework and glazing; and second-story windows on the South facade with stone sills and stone segmental window crowns supported by brackets.
- The one-story, full-facade porch with large wood paired brackets and smaller wood brackets in between the large brackets, turned wood balustrade, wood railing, wooden double posts, wood floor, and wood steps.
- The semi-circular brick arched front door opening with round arched top-light and rectangular sidelights, and door with semi-circular shaped top.
- 8. The deep overhang of the roof with frieze below and large wood paired brackets with smaller brackets between the large pairs on the South facade, and large wood paired brackets on the East, North, and West facades, and single brackets on the three sides of the service wing.
- 9. The brick walk on the property that runs perpendicular to Hampshire Street from the City sidewalk to the front steps, the brick walk across the front of the porch, and the brick City sidewalk running parallel to Hampshire Street.