MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 6801 Westmoreland Ave. Meeting 1

Meeting Date: 04/19/17

Resource: Contributing Resource

Report Date:

04/12/17

Takoma Park Historic District

Applicant: Mauricio Mateos

Public Notice:

04/05/17

Review:

HAWP

Tax Credit:

n/a

Case Number: 37/03-17BB

Staff:

Dan Bruechert

Proposal: Rear addition, windows, siding, and other changes

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the HPC approve with five (5) conditions the HAWP application.

- Replacement windows need to be wood, not clad and specifications for the specific proposed windows needs to be submitted to Staff for review with authority for final approval delegated to Staff.
- Specification for the replacement wood front door must be submitted to Staff for review with authority for final approval delegated to Staff.
- Detailed dimensions for the picket and stockade fence must be submitted to Staff for review with final authority for final approval delegated to Staff.
- Detailed dimensions for the wood handrail at the front porch and iron and wood handrail to the basement entrance must be submitted to Staff for review with final authority for approval delegated to Staff.
- Shingle specifications for the addition and historic house must be submitted to Staff for review with final authority for approval delegated to Staff.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Contributing to the Takoma Park Historic District

STYLE: Colonial Revival

DATE: c.1915-25

The subject property is a wood-frame aluminum-sided one-and-a-half story Craftsman bungalow with a gable-front roof and gabled front porch supported by two battered wood columns. There are three Craftsman-style wood brackets supporting the roof overhang. The front windows are replacement vinyl one-over-one sash windows. The front door also appears to be a replacement.

BACKGROUND

The HPC conducted a preliminary consultation at the February 22, 2017 HPC meeting (the transcript of that consultation is enclosed). The HPC was generally supportive of the proposal to add a one-story addition to the rear and noted that due to the narrow lot, that the offset for the rear addition was

acceptable. The applicant has made other changes to the proposal in response to the Commissioners recommendations including:

- Lowering the roof ridgeline of the addition
- Maintaining the side loading front porch
- Providing sufficient evidence that there is no historic siding

PROPOSAL

The applicant is proposing a full rehabilitation of the historic house including, new Hardiplank siding; replacing the non-historic vinyl windows; replacing the non-historic door; replacing the fencing; and constructing a rear, side-gable addition.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

When reviewing alterations and additions for new construction to Contributing Resources within the Takoma Park Historic District, decisions are guided by the Takoma Park Historic District Design Guidelines (Design Guidelines) and Montgomery County Code Chapter 24A (Chapter 24A).

Takoma Park Historic District Design Guidelines

There are two very general, broad planning and design concepts which apply to all categories. These are:

The design review emphasis will be restricted to changes that are at all visible from the public right-of-way, irrespective of landscaping or vegetation (it is expected that the majority of new additions will be reviewed for their impact on the overall district), and,

The importance of assuring that additions and other changes to existing structures act to reinforce and continue existing streetscape, landscape, and building patterns rather than to impair the character of the district.

Contributing Resources should receive a more lenient review than those structures that have been classified as Outstanding. This design review should emphasize the importance of the resource to the overall streetscape and its compatibility with existing patterns rather than focusing on a close scrutiny of architectural detailing. In general, however, changes to Contributing Resources should respect the predominant architectural style of the resource. As stated above, the design review emphasis will be restricted to changes that are *at all visible from the public right-of-way*, irrespective of landscaping or vegetation.

Some of the factors to be considered in reviewing HAWPs on Contributing Resources include:

All exterior alterations, including those to architectural features and details, should be generally consistent with the predominant architectural style and period of the resource and should preserve the predominant architectural features of the resource; exact replication of existing details and features is, however, not required

Minor alterations to areas that do not directly front on a public right-of-way such as vents, metal stovepipes, air conditioners, fences, skylights, etc. – should be allowed as a matter of course; alterations to areas that do not directly front on a public way-of-way which involve the replacement of or damaged to original ornamental or architectural features are discouraged, but may be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis

Major additions should, where feasible, be placed to the rear of existing structures so that they are less visible from the public right-of-way; additions and alterations to the first floor at the front of a structure are discouraged, but not automatically prohibited

Some non-original building materials may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis; artificial siding on areas visible to the public right-of-way is discouraged where such materials would replace or damage original building materials that are in good condition

Second story additions or expansions should be generally consistent with the predominant architectural style and period of the resource (although structures that have been historically single story can be expanded) and should be appropriate to the surrounding streetscape in terms of scale and massing

Alterations to features that are not visible from the public right-of-way should be allowed as a matter of course

All changes and additions should respect existing environmental settings, landscaping, and patterns of open space.

Montgomery County Code, Chapter 24A Historic Resources Preservation

- (b) The commission shall instruct the director to issue a permit, or issue a permit subject to such conditions as are found to be necessary to insure conformity with the purposes and requirements of this chapter, if it finds that:
 - (1) The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of an historic site or historic resource within an historic district; or
 - (2) The proposal is compatible in character and nature with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural features of the historic site or the historic district in which an historic resource is located and would not be detrimental thereto or to the achievement of the purposes of this chapter; or
 - (3) The proposal would enhance or aid in the protection, preservation and public or private utilization of the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district in a manner compatible with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural value of the historic site or historic district in which an historic resource is located; or
 - (6) In balancing the interests of the public in preserving the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district, with the interests of the public from the use and benefit of the alternative proposal, the general public welfare is better served by granting the permit.
- (d) In the case of an application for work on an historic resource located within an historic district, the commission shall be lenient in its judgment of plans for structures of little historical or design significance or for plans involving new construction, unless such plans would seriously impair the historic or architectural value of surrounding historic resources or would impair the character of the historic district. (Ord. No. 9-4, § 1; Ord. No. 11-59.)

STAFF DISCUSSION

The applicant has refined their proposal from the preliminary consultation to the point that staff supports approval of the application. There are, however, several elements that lack sufficient detail for staff to make a recommendation as to their appropriateness and the approval of this HAWP should be conditional on the review and approval of these materials. Staff feels that though details are lacking, these changes are all to either missing or replacing non-historic material and can be approved at the staff level.

Historic House

The house at 6801 Westmoreland Ave. has been vacant for some time, and the conditions of the building demonstrate that fact. The aluminum siding was installed directly onto the studs with no underlying siding, the windows all vinyl (though some do not have windows in the opening), and the house is generally in poor shape. The only significant historic element remaining at the subject property is its

form, including the front-gable front porch, and the contribution to the surrounding district. The applicant is proposing to rehabilitate the historic house by installing new siding, windows, doors, and roofing. As the building has lost all of its historic material, substitute materials are appropriate in this instance.

The current proposal will retain the historic, side-loading, front porch and will repair elements including the stairs, columns, and railing. This proposal will retain the relationship between the building, the streetscape, and the surrounding district.

As discussed in the preliminary consultation, the historic doors, windows, and siding were all removed prior to this application. The applicant is proposing to replace the aluminum siding with Hardiplank siding, with the smooth side facing out. This will approximate the appearance of historic wood clapboard siding and is an appropriate substitute material. The Design Guidelines dictate that substitute materials may be installed on a case-by-case basis. As the historic materials have been removed, and in some cases destroyed, the use of substitute materials for the siding of 6801 Westmoreland should be supported.

The applicant is proposing replacing the non-historic front door with a new wood front door, but has not identified a specific replacement model. Staff supports installing a wood door in this location, but needs full details to make a determination of appropriateness.

The windows in the historic house have all been replaced with vinyl windows. The applicant is proposing to replace the vinyl windows with a vinyl clad window in its place. The application materials identify either an Anderson 400 series or Marvin window as the replacement. During the preliminary consultation, the applicant and the HPC discussed the possibility of installing a wood window in their place. Staff recommends that the applicant use a wood window rather than a clad window and provide those details to staff for review and approval.

The new construction will provide direct access to the basement from a new set of exterior stairs to the left of the historic house. The railing will be supported by 1" (one inch) iron balusters, 4" (four inches) off center, with a wood top rail. While these dimensions appear to be appropriate, the level of detail necessary to make this determination needs to be submitted for review prior to approval.

Rear Addition

At the preliminary review, the HPC was generally supportive of the size and placement of the proposed rear addition. The Commissioners made some recommendations for the addition including lowering the ridge line to match the historic and lining up the gutter line. Those changes have been integrated into the current proposal and the detailing of the addition will match the historic. The siding will be Hardiplank, installed with the smooth side facing out. The proposed windows will match the replacement windows in the historic house. The ridgeline, gutter line, and shingles will match the historic house.

Due to the narrow lot and modest scale of the historic house, Staff supports the construction of the addition in its form and placement. The proposal is compatible with the scale and detail of the historic house and appears to comply with 24A-8(b)(2) and its placement at the rear appears to conform to the Design Guidelines.

As with the historic house, the details for the windows are insufficient to make a determination as to their appropriateness. The proposed windows are to match the windows in the historic house and details should be provided to staff for review and approval.

To the rear of the addition, the applicant is proposing to install a sunporch on piers. This proposal will have minimal impact on the historic house and will not be at all visible from the public right-of-way. This element should be proposed as a matter of course.

Finally, the applicant is proposing to replace the chain link fence surrounding the property. The proposal calls for the construction of a 6' (six foot) stockade fence to the rear of the property and a 36" (thirty-six inch) picket fence in front of the wall plane. Specifications for these fences has not been provided, however, their dimensions and materials generally compart with our fence guidance. Details, including gate access, for these fences must be submitted to staff for review and approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the HPC approve with five (5) conditions the HAWP application;

- Replacement windows need to be wood, not clad and specifications for the specific proposed windows needs to be submitted to Staff for review with authority for final approval delegated to Staff.
- Specification for the replacement wood front door must be submitted to Staff for review with authority for final approval delegated to Staff.
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and with the general condition applicable to all Historic Area Work Permits that the applicant will present <u>3 permit sets</u> of drawings to HPC staff for review and stamping prior to submission for permits (if applicable). After issuance of the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) permit, the applicant will arrange for a field inspection by calling the DPS Field Services Office at 240-777-6370 prior to commencement of work <u>and</u> not more than two weeks following completion of work.

DPS-#E



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301/563-3400

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

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THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

1. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

a. Description of existing structura(s) and environmental setting, including their historical features and significance:	
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b. General description of project and its effect on the historic resource(s), the environmental setting, and, where applicable, the historic district:	
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2. SITE PLAN

Site and environmental setting, drawn to scale. You may use your plat. Your site plan must include:

- a. the scale, north arrow, and date;
- b. dimensions of all existing and proposed structures; and
- c. site features such as walkways, driveways, fences, ponds, streams, trash disripsters, mechanical equipment, and landscaping.

3. PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

You must submit 2 copies of plans and elevations in a format to larger than 11" x 17". Plans on 8 1/2" x 11" paper are preferred.

- a. Schematic construction plans, with marked dimensions, indicating location, size and general type of walls, window and door openings, and other fixed features of both the existing resource(s) and the proposed work.
- b. Elevations (facades), with marked dimensions, clearly indicating proposed work in relation to existing construction and, when appropriate, context. All materials and fixtures proposed for the exterior must be noted on the elevations drawings. An existing and a proposed elevation drawing of each facade affected by the proposed work is required.

4. MATERIALS SPECIFICATIONS

General description of materials and manufactured items proposed for incorporation in the work of the project. This information may be included on your design drawings.

5. PHOTOGRAPHS

- Clearly labeled photographic prints of each facade of existing resource, including details of the affected portions. All labels should be placed on the
- b. Clearly label photographic prints of the resource as viewed from the public right-of-way and of the adjoining properties. All labels should be placed on the front of photographs.

6. TREE SURVEY

If you are proposing construction adjacent to or within the displine of any tree 6" or larger in diameter (at approximately 4 feet above the ground), you must file an accurate tree survey identifying the size, location, and species of each tree of at least that dimension.

7. ADDRESSES OF ADJACENT AND CONFRONTING PROPERTY OWNERS

For ALL projects, provide an accurate list of adjacent and confronting property owners (not tenants), including names, addresses, and zip codes. This list should include the owners of all lots or parcels which adjoin the parcel in question, as well as the owner(x) of lot(s) or parcel(s) which lie directly across the street/highway from the parcel in question.

PLEASE PRINT (IN BLUE OR BLACK INK) OR TYPE THIS INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.
PLEASE STAY WITHIN THE GUIDES OF THE TEMPLATE, AS THIS WILL BE PHOTOCOPIED DIRECTLY ONTO MAILING LABELS.

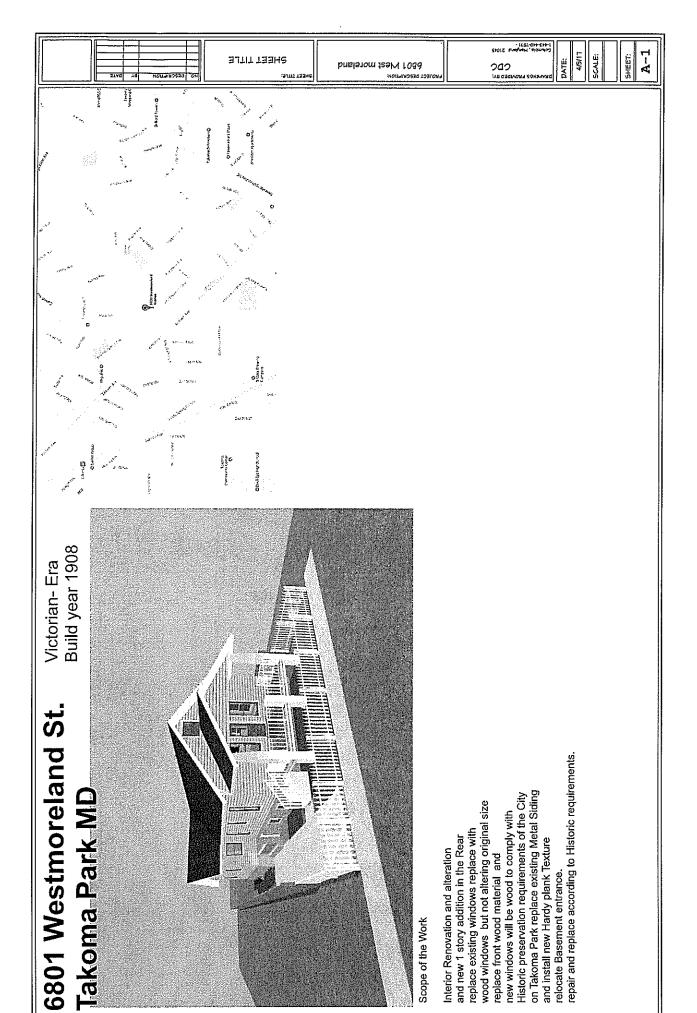
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HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING [Owner, Owner's Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners]

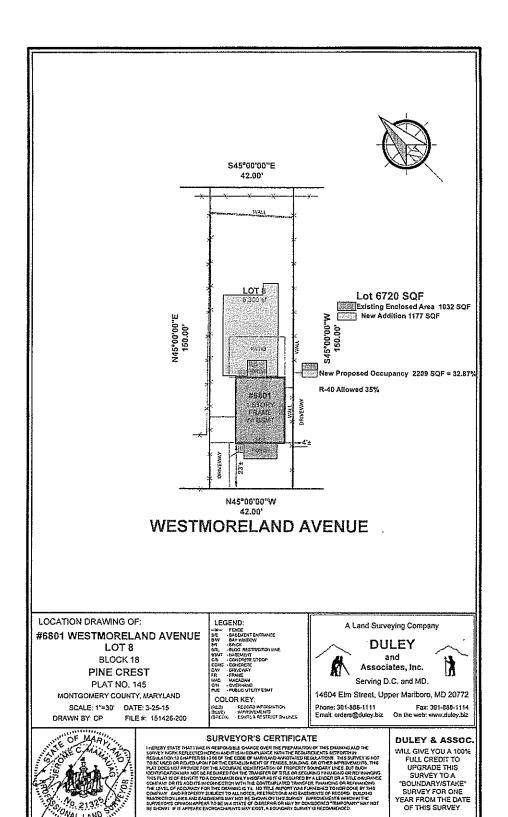
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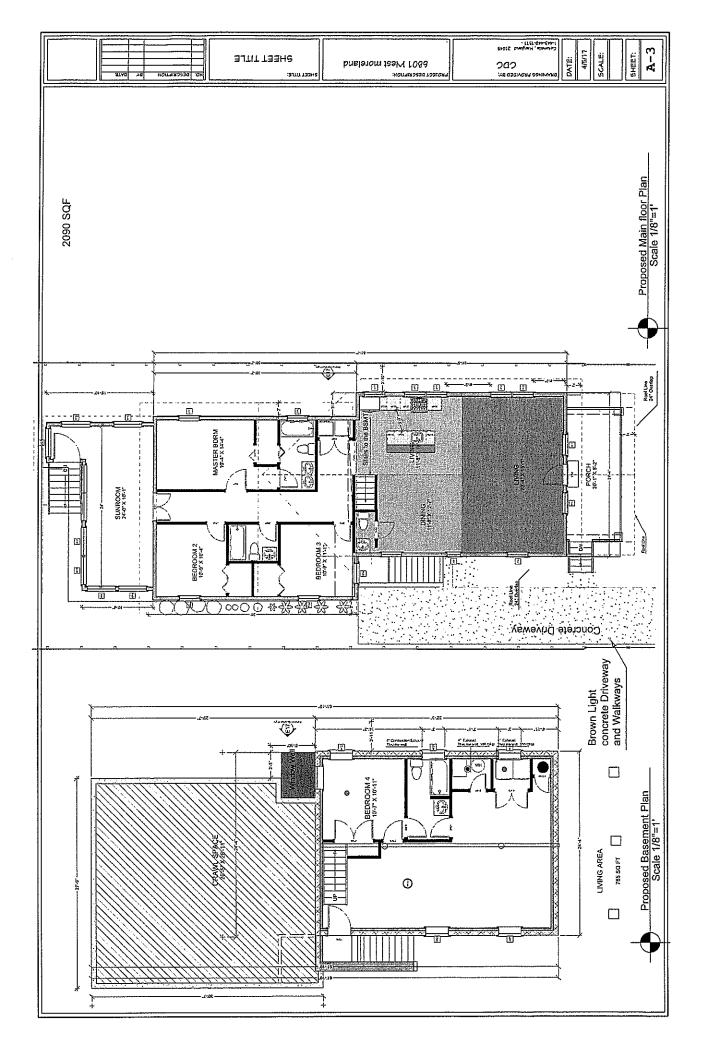
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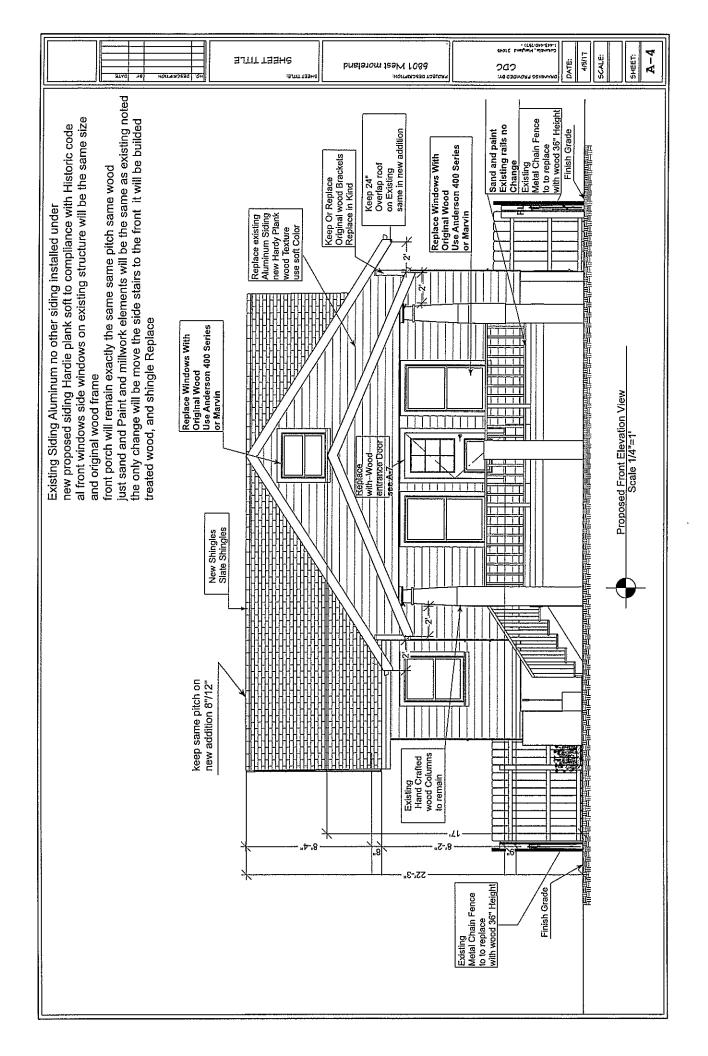


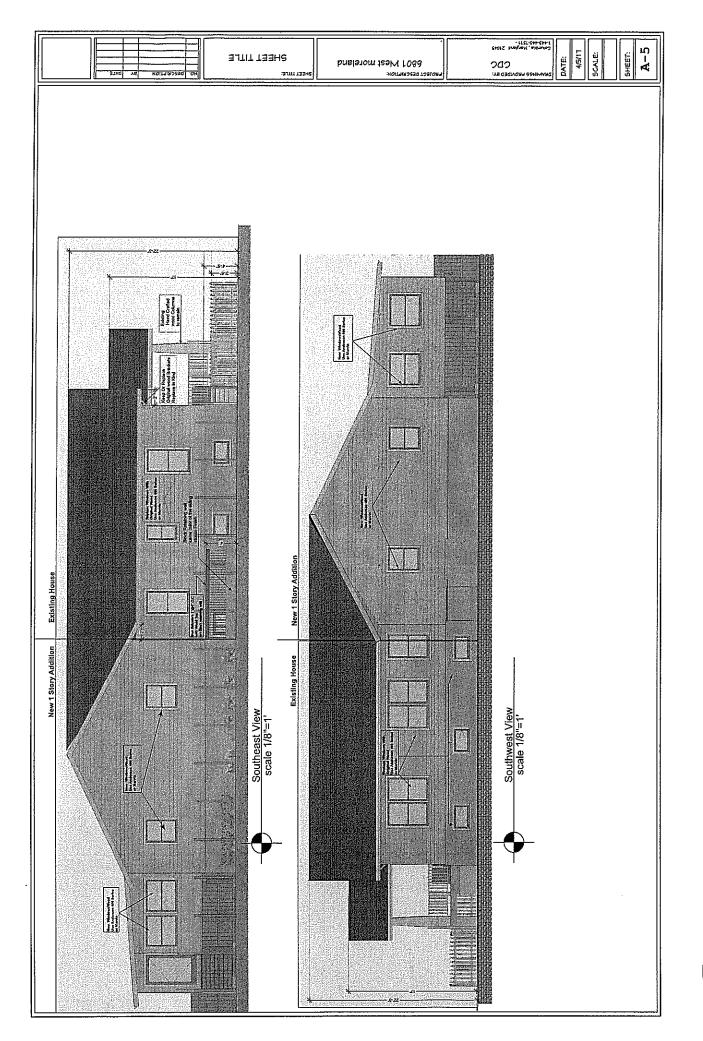
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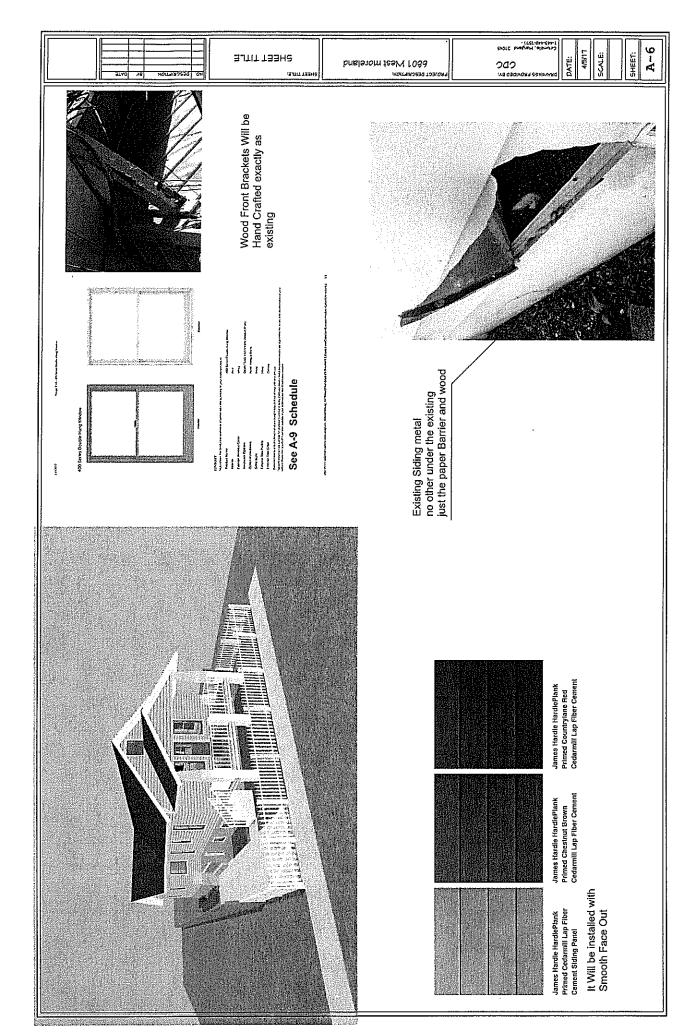


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Craftsman (1905-30)

Many Craftsman houses have a low bungalow shape in which the main roof extends over the front porch. The largest concentration of Craftsman houses are found in the Takoma Park Historic District where one may find, in addition to Craftsman bungalows and cottages, less common two story, front gable Craftsman houses. structural elements. Brackets under wide caves and gable end braces represent exposed rafter tails and bearn ends. The Aets and Cenfis Movement was a reaction against elaborate ornamentation of the Victorian-era dwellings and toward more practical, simplified design. Craftsman houses reflect the inherent nature of building materials and

Characteristics:

- Low-pitched gabled roof
- Brackers, including knee braces and exposed rafter rails
 - Decorative beams or braces under gables
 - Full or partial, open porch with square posts and Prominent lintels and sills
 - rapered arched openings One-over-one, double hung windows, or
- One-light, fixed window; with fixed transom
- Gabled dormers Wide cares
- Outside siding: wood clapboard Concrete or brick foundation



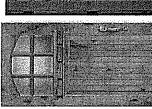
Indisman style (Tabama Park, MD)





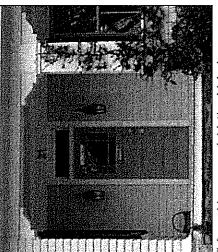
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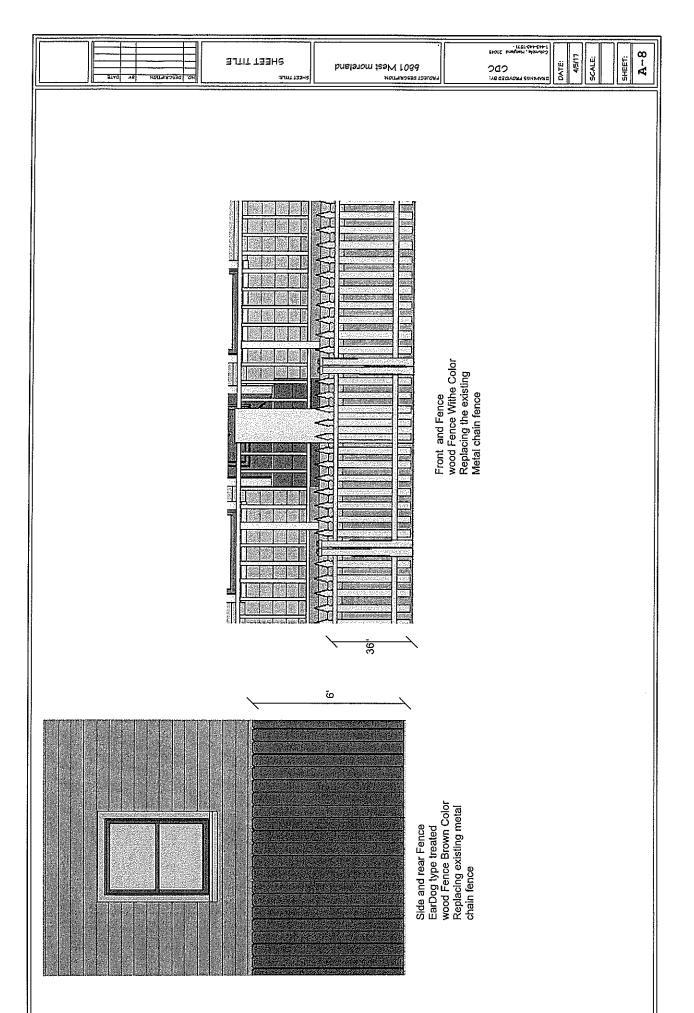






opical Croftsman style building elements. (Tokoma Park, MD)

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CASEMENT & AWNING WINDOWS



FEATURES

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Preliminary Consultation MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 6801 Westmoreland Ave. Meeting Date: 02/22/17

Resource: Contributing Resource Report Date: 02/15/17

Takoma Park Historic District

Applicant: Mauricio Mateos Public Notice: 02/08/17

Review: Preliminary Review Tax Credit: n/a

Case Number: n/a Staff: Dan Bruechert

Proposal: Rear addition, windows, siding, and other changes

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the applicants make any revisions based on the HPC's recommendations and return for a second preliminary consultation.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Contributing to the Takoma Park Historic District

STYLE: Colonial Revival

DATE: c.1915-25

The subject property is a wood-frame aluminum-sided one-and-a-half story Craftsman bungalow with a gable-front roof and gabled front porch supported by two battered wood columns. There are three Craftsman-style wood brackets supporting the roof overhang. The front windows are replacement vinyl one-over-one sash windows. The front door also appears to be a replacement.

BACKGROUND

This building was the subject of case 37/03-17A which was denied by the HPC at the January 11, 2016 meeting. The proposal before us is significantly revised design submitted for preliminary review.

PROPOSAL

The current proposal calls for:

- The construction of a large side gable rear addition
- Replacement windows
- Siding replacement

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

Montgomery County Code, Chapter 24A Historic Resources Preservation





- (a) The commission shall instruct the director to deny a permit if it finds, based on the evidence and information presented to or before the commission that the alteration for which the permit is sought would be inappropriate, inconsistent with or detrimental to the preservation, enhancement or ultimate protection of the historic site or historic resource within an historic district, and to the purposes of this chapter.
- (b) The commission shall instruct the director to issue a permit, or issue a permit subject to such conditions as are found to be necessary to insure conformity with the purposes and requirements of this chapter, if it finds that:
 - (1) The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of an historic site or historic resource within an historic district; or
 - (2) The proposal is compatible in character and nature with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural features of the historic site or the historic district in which an historic resource is located and would not be detrimental thereto or to the achievement of the purposes of this chapter; or
 - (3) The proposal would enhance or aid in the protection, preservation and public or private utilization of the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district in a manner compatible with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural value of the historic site or historic district in which an historic resource is located; or
 - (6) In balancing the interests of the public in preserving the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district, with the interests of the public from the use and benefit of the alternative proposal, the general public welfare is better served by granting the permit.
- (d) In the case of an application for work on an historic resource located within an historic district, the commission shall be lenient in its judgment of plans for structures of little historical or design significance or for plans involving new construction, unless such plans would seriously impair the historic or architectural value of surrounding historic resources or would impair the character of the historic district. (Ord. No. 9-4, § 1; Ord. No. 11-59.)

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The importance of assuring that additions and other changes to existing structures act to reinforce and continue existing streetscape, landscape, and building patterns rather than to impair the character of the district.

Contributing Resources should receive a more lenient review than those structures that have been classified as Outstanding. This design review should emphasize the importance of the resource to the overall streetscape and its compatibility with existing patterns rather than focusing on a close scrutiny of architectural detailing. In general, however, changes to Contributing Resources should respect the predominant architectural style of the resource. As stated above, the design





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Some of the factors to be considered in reviewing HAWPs on Contributing Resources include:

All exterior alterations, including those to architectural features and details, should be generally consistent with the predominant architectural style and period of the resource and should preserve the predominant architectural features of the resource; exact replication of existing details and features is, however, not required

Minor alterations to areas that do not directly front on a public right-of-way such as vents, metal stovepipes, air conditioners, fences, skylights, etc. – should be allowed as a matter of course; alterations to areas that do not directly front on a public way-of-way which involve the replacement of or damaged to original ornamental or architectural features are discouraged, but may be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis

Major additions should, where feasible, be placed to the rear of existing structures so that they are less visible from the public right-of-way; additions and alterations to the first floor at the front of a structure are discouraged, but not automatically prohibited

Some non-original building materials may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis; artificial siding on areas visible to the public right-of-way is discouraged where such materials would replace or damage original building materials that are in good condition

Second story additions or expansions should be generally consistent with the predominant architectural style and period of the resource (although structures that have been historically single story can be expanded) and should be appropriate to the surrounding streetscape in terms of scale and massing

Alterations to features that are not visible from the public right-of-way should be allowed as a matter of course

All changes and additions should respect existing environmental settings, landscaping, and patterns of open space.

STAFF DISCUSSION

Staff finds that the current proposal is a significant revision from the proposal submitted for the HPC meeting on January 11, 2017. The design revision goes a long way toward reinforcing and "continu[ing] existing streetscape, landscape, and building patterns rather than to impair the character of the district," however, Staff request input from the HPC regarding several elements.

The applicant has provided what amounts to a conceptual illustration, with a minimal amount of detail, which limits Staff's ability to offer detailed analysis of the project. Staff's discussion of specific elements of the proposal follows.





Building Addition and Form

The applicant's proposal will largely retain the historic form of 6801 Westmoreland Ave. The proposal calls for the construction of a side-gable addition to the rear with a sunroom topped by a shed roof off the back of side gable addition. This general form is not uncommon. However, the proposal would have the effect of more than doubling the building footprint (this historic core of the house is 31' deep \times 24' wide, and the addition is 30' deep \times 24' wide with an additional 10' of depth for the porch).

• In this instance does the HPC prefer a one-story addition with a larger footprint or does it feel that a two-story addition with a smaller footprint would be more appropriate for the surrounding district?

The side gable roof on the addition appears to have a taller ridgeline than the historic building. As the Design Guidelines address the potential of second floor additions, the Commission could find that it would be acceptable to have a taller addition at the rear is the proposed side gable addition is otherwise compatible with the criteria for approval ("Second story additions or expansions should be generally consistent with the predominant architectural style and period of the resource...").

• What additional information does the HPC need to determine if the roof pitch and height covering the addition are appropriate?

The renderings also show a reconfigured front porch. The porch entrance has been moved from a side-loading to a front-loading porch. This change will not have a significant impact on how the building interacts with the streetscape and generally respects the setting of the house. Additionally, many of the porches in neighboring houses have front steps. The renderings provided do show a change in the pitch of the roof and the coverage of the front porch. If accurate, the renderings show that the historic wood brackets – one of the few remaining historic elements – would be removed to accommodate the new porch roof. While reviewing changes to 'contributing' resources are to focus on the impact to the streetscape and surrounding district, this proposal would alter one of the few historic features and would contravene 24A-8(b)(1). Staff recommends that, consistent with this criterion for approval, the form and historic materials found in the porch should be retained in a revised design and seeks the Commission's guidance on the front step reorientation and alterations to the wood brackets and porch roof.

• Is it appropriate to reorient the front steps and replace a concrete element with wood construction?

Construction Materials

The building is currently clad in vinyl siding. The condition of any historic wood siding below has not been documented or identified. Staff's assessment of the vinyl siding is that it will need to be removed and replaced. Based on the information submitted for this preliminary review, Staff cannot identify the replacement proposed, however, the previous application called for the installation of Hardi siding throughout. It may be permissible to replace the siding per 28A-8(b)(1) - (3) and in the Takoma Park Historic District Design Guidelines ("Some non-original building materials may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis"), but more information is





necessary for staff to make a recommendation.

- What level of documentation does the HPC require to determine that the historic wood siding may be removed from the historic core of the house?
- Can the HPC provide guidance on the appropriate materials for both the historic core of the house and the associated additions?

There are no historic windows remaining at 6801 Westmoreland Ave. The images provided in the attached rendering show one-over-one sash windows. The simple details found on the house suggest that this is an appropriate configuration for the windows. Staff does recommend that the proposal does maintain the pattern and size of the historic window openings when installing replacement windows.

- What is the preferred material and configuration for replacement windows on the historic core of the building?
- What is the preferred material and configuration for windows in the addition?

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that applicant makes revisions based on the recommendations of the HPC and returns for a second preliminary review.



the Staff Report, and with the additional condition that the 1 2 applicant, if at all possible, seek to mitigate the bright frames on the remaining panels. 3 MR. KIRWAN: Do we have a second? 4 5 MR. ARKIN: I second that. MR. KIRWAN: Great. Any discussion? All in 6 7 favor, please raise your right hand. 8 VOTE. 9 MR. KIRWAN: The motion passes unanimously. want to thank you for your testimony this evening. I want 10 to thank the two witnesses for coming in tonight as well. 11 12 We appreciate your testimony. It was very helpful in our deliberation. 13 MS. PIERSALL: It was a good decision. Thank you. 14 15 MR. KIRWAN: All right. We are going to move on to our preliminary consultation this evening, which is II.B 16 17 at 6801 Westmoreland Avenue in Takoma Park. Do we have a Staff Report? 18 MR. BRUECHERT: This is a preliminary review for 19 6801 Westmoreland Avenue in Takoma Park. This is a building 20 that we've seen before. Previously it was in for a HAWP 21 22 application which included a full second story addition 23 which was denied. The applicant has return with a preliminary consultation for a significantly revised design. 24

It's more of a schematic proposal, and I think that once

we're done, the applicant will have some guidance going forward, and in the end, recommend that the applicant come back for a second preliminary consultation before submitting a final HAWP.

So, it's a circa 1915-1925 front gable contributing to the Takoma Park Historic District. Again, we're looking to ensure that the additions and other changes to the existing structures act to reinforce and continue the existing streetscape rather than to impair the character of the district. And the design review should emphasize the importance of the resource to the overall streetscape and its compatibility with the existing patterns, rather than focus on a close scrutiny of the architectural detail.

Just coming through the neighborhood, the subject property is actually largely obscured by the Pine tree to the left. The repetition of front gables is pretty consistent on this lot. On the right, the yellow building, is our subject property. You see consistently front gable repetitions. One to one and a half stories through the district. The subject property is actually the middle of the three identified on your screens. What you do see on the left is a second-story addition in the rear. There have been some expansions throughout the block where you've either seen a gable reorientation with a second floor addition to the rear, or you've seen changes in roof pitch



to accommodate expanded living space on the second floor.

The remaining features of the building are really related to its form. The openings appear to be historic, but my understanding is there's been some fire damage at some point in time. So, some materials may need to be removed before we can make that determination as well. And, we see the remaining historic brackets in the eaves, along with that.

So, the current proposal calls for additional construction to the rear. It is a one-story addition which will effectively double the size of the existing footprint. Additionally, it will add living space to the basement level with bedrooms to the rear. You can see on the left is sort of the subterranean level with a crawl space to the rear that won't be habitable. Upstairs we have a reorientation of the front porch with a front-loading rather than side-loading. The historic footprint is relatively well intact. And then there is a shift several feet to the left, and everything sort of beyond the blocked in blue is new construction.

So, three bedrooms, bathrooms, and a sunroom off the rear, which are better sort of viewed in the schematics presented. From what's displayed, there is some reorientation of the front porch in addition to the loading. The rear has a cross gable, so there's an orientation of 90

degrees change there. Access to the lower level is provided 1 from the exterior, and then from the rear, you get a sense 2 of the sun porch which will extend out the back. It is 3 inset slightly from the massing of the new addition, so the sun porch will have less impact. However, the new addition 6 is sizeable and that's the extent of the materials 7 submitted, and I will entertain any questions. MR. KIRWAN: Very good. Any questions for Staff? 8 9 Commissioner Firestone? MR. FIRESTONE: Yes. Could you go back, there was 10 11 a picture of an adjacent building that had a rear addition that you showed early. Do you know if that addition was 12 done before or after the historic district was established? 13 14 MR. BRUECHERT: I do not. I can look into that 15 for you. 16 MR. FIRESTONE: Okay. The reason I'm asking was I've seen other additions similar to this on buildings in 17 the historic district that I believe were done before we had 18 a historic district. 19 MS. BARNES: Do you have the explanation for why 20 21 the sunroom is on piers? MR. BRUECHERT: I do not, but the applicant is 22 here and I think that is a question better directed to them. 23 MR. KIRWAN: Any other questions for Staff? 24 25 right. If not, I invite the applicant to please come

forward. You have seven minutes for your testimony. And just make sure you state your name for the record, and when the microphone is turned on before you speak. Thank you.

MR. RIOS: Thank you very much. My name is Marcos Rios. I'm agent for the owner of this property. Actually, what we want to do is just try to follow the guideline for historic preservation districts. We want to keep everything, that's why we are doing research. In the case of the brackets you see in the picture, we want to keep them. We want to keep exactly the front as is right now, even do, trying to change something that is going to keep this under the preservation historic values.

Changing the windows, because the existing windows right now, they are vinyl and we want to go back and put the original wood. The only change is going to be the steps.

We want move them to the front, and it's going to be wood, wood construction. We want to avoid concrete construction, and the answer to the question about the piers, in the rear, if this is going to be an issue for historic preservation, we can change to the same, and we are open to follow any suggestion to try to keep this valuable. I'm sorry, I'm a little nervous, it's the first time that I'm speaking in front of, yeah.

Well, if I was noticed that we don't want to change the pitch on the front porch. We want to keep



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1 exactly the same. In the rear, the elevation of the ridge, 2 in the picture, looks like it's a little higher. Yeah, it's a little high, but we can change the pitch, trying to avoid 3 any impact in the view from the street. Actually, we want to try to do it as exactly, I don't know we can do that, but we would like to have pictures of the original house to make exactly what was the look in the beginning. Because this house has a lot of changes. Maybe the last owner or owners 8 before, they did the work without permits. And, like the 10 siding, actually, is aluminum, and we want to change over. 11 I know it's like, just like a kind of hardiplank, soft that 12 could meet the, be compatible with historic and preservation. That's what I can say right now. 13

MS. BARNES: Mr. Rios, thank you very much for suggesting that you want to use wood windows, and that you want to deal with the siding. I have two questions. One is the decision to reorient the front porch, so you would have the entrance in the middle, rather than on the side, and what prompted that? And, I did raise the question about the sun porch, not that I think piers are inherently wrong, but just to understand why you are doing that since you have a proper foundation for the addition?

MR. RIOS: Okay the reason is just a design of the, for the piers in the rear. Because the contractor and the owner were thinking something about the budget.



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1 Obviously, if they run a concrete foundation, it's going to 2 be more expensive. But they want to try to keep some money, you know, for the windows, for the front, and they're trying 3 to save some money in the rear. But, as I told you in the beginning, we need to put something, we can change the 5 design. And now, with exception of the front, the owner say 7 that, would like to do, have accessibility directly in the front straight, because most of the houses in the 8 neighborhood, they have their steps in the front, and they 10 say, we would like to try to match with them. And you know, 11 if that is going to be easier for that, we can leave exactly 12 as it is right now, just do repairs and keep the historic character of the house. 13

> MS. BARNES: Thank you.

MR. AKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rios, directing your attention to Exhibit, on Circle 6, which I believe shows the proposed layout for the first floor, for your basement living area. On the next page there is a rendering which shows the left side of the house and shows an entry stairwell below grade, and presumably a stairway. There is, I think, an egress window on the other side for the bedroom?

MR. RIOS: Yes.

MR. ARKIN: How visible will that be from the street? And how do you plan to treat that?



MR. RIOS: Actually, to protect that, there was trying to put some kind of fiberglass cover, but it's not going to be visible. We're thinking just to cover that. But if that's going to be an issue, we can use a green metal to protect it.

MR. ARKIN: Well, a fiberglass cover may interfere with the purpose of the window which is to get out in case of fire. So there might be another answer. I would suggest that you make it as modest looking as possible from the exterior and still serve the purpose.

MR. KIRWAN: Well, I think, Commissioner Arkin, I think the Staff is looking to us to make recommendations on what we would require when this comes back for either a second preliminary or a HAWP. So, I think that might be something you should point out as something that would be important to see, not just suggest what it should be, but actually require they come back and show us, to illustrate that in more detail so we can make an appropriate judgment.

MR. ARKIN: Point taken. But first, I wanted clarification from Mr. Rios of what he planned. Thank you.

MR. KIRWAN: Any other questions for the applicant? All right, if not, then let's move into deliberations. I think, again, this is a preliminary matter, and we only have five Commissioners here this evening, so I think it's important for the applicant to hear



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from all of us. I'll go ahead and start things off.

Mr. Rios, I do want to thank you. I greatly appreciate your willingness to cooperate with the Commission's concerns on this. And you clearly seem to have a very good understanding of what the Takoma Park Guidelines require in designing. And this is a significant improvement to what we saw before. I'm generally supportive of the overall strategy in this proposal. We sometimes require additions to be set back from both rear corners of the original resource, but I think in this case, on such a narrow lot that this can be an appropriate way to distinguish between the new construction and the old.

I do support the one-story addition approach, which you're presenting here tonight. I do think that ridge of your addition should not exceed the height of the ridge of the existing resource. I don't think in this case I would require it to be lower than the ridge of the existing resource, which we sometimes require. But, I think as long as you -- if you meet that ridgeline, I would be satisfied with this proposal.

Similarly, you might just want to meet the gutter line as well, as it goes around, with the existing resource. At least in my opinion. I think Staff asked us to address some of the things that we think would be important additional information to see when you come back. We're



going to want to see, in addition to the before and after floor plans for this project, we're going to want to see before and after elevations. Each elevation, all four sides of the house. Not just in three dimensional hues, but in two dimensional straight on elevational views. That'll be important for us to really understand the changes you're making. Those drawings should show details like the brackets, and any details on the existing resource, as well as details that you'll be proposing on the addition as well.

I do not support the reorientation of the front porch steps. I think that is, despite other resources on the block, I think for this resource, its side loaded orientation is a defining characteristic of this resource. So I think it is important that that preserved. The railings appear to be low, and possibly don't meet code, so I think we would be flexible on, you know, redoing the railings and things like that to allow them to meet code for safety reasons but, I think the general orientation should be maintained on the porch.

And with regard to materials, again, I think we're going to want to understand the roof material you're proposing, the siding materials, all the details and specifications on the exterior doors and windows. Really, everything. You got railings. Everything should be fully noted and detailed and called out so that we can really

understand exactly what you're putting together. For instance, the railing, this new basement stair on the side of the house that Commissioner Arkin pointed out, the height of the railing in the rendering appears to be too low, so we're going to really want to see that railing in its code required height of three feet, and exactly how you're — what you're building that railing out of as well as how you're dealing with the front porch. So those are, you know, a fairly detailed and exhaustive understanding of everything is what we're going to want to see for a historic area work permit.

MR. BRUECHERT: Mr. Chairman, I have one question that maybe the Commission can address. The original denied proposal called for replacing the siding in hardiplank. In discussions with the applicant, he indicated that there had been a fire that occurred which destroyed some or all of the siding. Can the Commission weigh in on whether hardi is appropriate, or what level of documentation is required before a replacement material is acceptable?

MR. KIRWAN: Yeah. I think, I mean, I think it is going to be important to document that. I think removing the vinyl siding, having Staff come out and see what's underneath is going to be important in that determination. I think we just recently approved, in a similar situation, hardiplank on a contributing resource as being an

appropriate material, and I would be supportive of that as well.

MS. BARNES: Could I ask Staff to bring up a picture that showed the side of the house where the egress window is going to appear? So it's the other side. And there was one where there was seemingly a driveway, and it gave a nice view of the side of the house. The actual --sorry. There we are. Thank you. So, Mr. Rios, the question that Commissioner Arkin put to you, is very well borne out when we look at this picture, and the need to have the detail in how you will handle the egress window, and the visibility. And, I am presuming we're looking not at the driveway for this house, but the neighboring driveway, is that correct? So, it's going to be important to give us good detail on this.

I agree with the Chair that I do not support the reconfiguration of the front porch, and the move to wooden steps. In terms of the materials, I think, until you take the vinyl siding off, you can't know the condition of the wood siding, but I would be supportive of the use of hardiplank. I like the idea that you want to use wood windows. I think that's appropriate. And, I understand your owner's concern about cost, and that's perhaps what's bringing him to the piers for the sunroom, although I think that that may be a cost saving that will be regretted as

1 | time goes by.

MR. RIOS: I have a question. Just something — we want to upgrade the exterior walls, but that work is going to be inside, it's not going to be exterior work, because actually the house doesn't have insulation, and we need to meet the code to use R-21 insulation for energy, you know, energy things. But we want to upgrade. We want to add it to the existing two by four, we are going to add another piece of wood to make it fit the insulation. If we need to make — if we have any issue with the fire, we want to do research about that, and we can do the walls maybe two hours fire rated if it's necessary.

MR. KIRWAN: There shouldn't be a fire rating requirement, but I understand your need to thicken the walls to for the insulation. I think it would be advisable that you increase that depth on the inside, not to the exterior.

MR. RIOS: Exactly. It's going to be, all the work is going to be inside.

MR. KIRWAN: Yeah, and if it's for the interior, that's not a concern of the Commission. I'm sorry, Commissioner Firestone?

MR. FIRESTONE: I have nothing really to add to what the two previous commissioners have already stated on this project, and I'm looking forward to you coming back with more detail for another preliminary.



MS. VOIGT: Yeah, I would also agree with the other commissioners, and appreciate you coming here, and appreciate that you're looking at the historic aspects of this house. And I think really that should, if that's your goal, to kind of improve the existing historic house without an addition that is compatible but isn't -- that's not really what you see from the street. So that's the goal. And I agree that the side entrance is important, since that's here and that's an important characteristic of this house. And the hardiplank, just basically what everyone said. Okay? Thanks.

MR. ARKIN: I'm generally in agreement with what everyone else has said. A couple of things I'd like to point out. In the picture right now, it's really impossible to tell what the materials are, particularly on the basement level. And it looks like there's a fairly minor grade change. So in the picture that's now up, it looks like it's a poured concrete wall, and what you are showing in the drawings is a -- what looks to be a concrete block wall. I think when you come back with your historic area work permit application, you want to clarify that, what you intend to do, whether you intend to change the finish. And, the comment the Chairman made about the railing on the egress for the basement living area, I think was very important as the detailing for the egress windows, and the other windows

that you're adding on the basement -- in the basement on the other side of the house.

I do wonder whether the original orientation of the stairway on the front porch was to the side or to the front, and the materials that were used. And you might be able to get some old pictures of this from Historic Takoma, is that the name of the historical society in Takoma Park? And, so that could give you some guidance. You would also, I think, have some difficulty if you did want to change the orientation in dealing with the tree, which seems to be pretty much in your way there. But, I'd be interested in seeing what the original orientation was. Otherwise, I agree with the comments, and I think this is a much better solution than the solution on the house next door, and look forward to seeing your historic area work permit application.

MR. KIRWAN: So I think you heard general support for proceeding, and some additional information that we're going to want to see when you come back. So, we wish you the best with it, and again, Staff is an excellent resource for interpreting what we're looking for, and making sure the applicants understand it clearly. So please, please use them to the utmost, and we look forward to seeing you when you come back.

MR. RIOS: Thank you very much.



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1 MR. KIRAWN: Thank you very much.

Next on our agenda is preliminary consultation

II.C at 7230 Spruce Avenue in Takoma Park. A second

preliminary consultation. Do we have a Staff Report?

MR. KYNE: Yes, we do have a Staff Report. As you noted, this is a second preliminary consultation for 7230 Spruce Avenue in Takoma Park, a contributing resource within the Takoma Park Historic District. A bungalow, circa 1915-'25. The current proposal is to remove an existing rear deck, remove an existing rear/left side addition, remove an existing one-story rear addition, construct a new rear/left side addition, construct a new one and a half story rear addition, alter/expand the roof of the historic house, replace the existing front dormer with a new front dormer, construct two side shed dormers at the rear, construct a side projecting mudroom and porch, and that's it.

So, I will orient you to the site now with some photographs. And you may think that these look familiar, and that's because you've seen them before, fairly recently. And I will ask you to pay particular attention to this photograph, because I believe we will have some testimony or questions later regarding the orientation of the stairs and railing there on the side addition. So the plans, just as before, if we need to reference them.

And the applicable guidelines in this case, the