MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Address: 3919 Baltimore St., Kensington  
Meeting Date: 12/6/2017

Resource: Outstanding (Primary One) Resource  
Kensington Historic District  
Report Date: 11/29/2017

Applicant: Jill McGrory  
(Jodi Longo, Architect)  
Public Notice: 11/22/2017

Review: HAWP  
Tax Credit: N/A

Case Number: 31/06-17N  
Staff: Michael Kyne

PROPOSAL: Building addition

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission approve with conditions the HAWP application.

1. Deck and railing details will be submitted, with final review and approval delegated to staff.

2. Window details will be submitted, with final review and approval delegated to staff.

3. Roofing material details will be submitted, with final review and approval delegated to staff.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Outstanding (Primary One) Resource within the Kensington Historic District
STYLE: Colonial Revival
DATE: c. 1923

PROPOSAL:

The applicant proposes to construct a one-and-a-half-story addition and screened porch at the rear of the historic house.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

When reviewing alterations and new construction within the Kensington Historic District several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include the Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Kensington Historic District (Amendment), Vision of Kensington: A Long-Range Preservation Plan (Vision), Montgomery County Code Chapter 24A (Chapter 24A), and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards). The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.
Vision of Kensington

In accordance with Section 1.5 of the Historic Preservation Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures (Regulation No. 27-97), the Commission in developing its decision when reviewing a Historic Area Work Permit application for an undertaking involving a resource within the Kensington Historic District may use the Vision to determine the appropriateness of a proposal. The goal of the Vision "was to establish a sound database of information from which to produce a document that would serve the HPC, M-NCPPC, their staff, and the community in wrestling with the protection of historic districts amidst the pressures of life in the 21st century."

In addition, the Vision provides a specific physical description of the district as it was at the time of the study, an analysis of character-defining features of the district, a discussion of the challenges facing the district, and a discussion of proposed strategies for maintaining the character of the district, while allowing for appropriate growth and change.

The Vision identifies the following, as those features that help define the character of Kensington’s built environment:

- Building Setbacks: Residential and Commercial Patterns
- Rhythm and Spacing between Buildings
- Geographic and Landscape Features
- Scale and Building Height
- Directional Expression of Buildings
- Roof Forms and Materials
- Porches
- Dominant Building Material
- Outbuildings
- Integrity of Form, Building Condition, and Threats
- Architectural Style

The Amendment notes that:

The district is architecturally significant as a collection of late 19th and early 20th century houses that exhibit a variety of architectural styles popular during the Victorian period including Queen Anne, Shingle, Eastlake, and Colonial Revival. The houses share a uniformity of scale, setbacks, and construction materials that contribute to the cohesiveness of the district’s streetscapes. This uniformity, coupled with the dominant design inherent in Warner’s original plan of subdivision, conveys a strong sense of both time and place, that of a Victorian garden suburb.

Sec. 24A-8. Same-Criteria for issuance.

(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
(4) The proposal is necessary in order that unsafe conditions or health hazards be remedied; or
(5) The proposal is necessary in order that the owner of the subject property not be deprived of reasonable use of the property or suffer undue hardship; [emphasis added] 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.
(c) It is not the intent of this chapter to limit new construction, alteration or repairs to any 1 period or architectural style.
(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)

**Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation**

The Secretary of the Interior defines rehabilitation as "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values." The Standards are as follows:

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.

8. Significant archaeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

STAFF DISCUSSION

The subject property is a c. 1923 Colonial Revival-style Outstanding Resource within the Kensington Historic District. The house is located on a wooded lot with a moderate setback from the public right-of-way of Baltimore Street.

The applicant proposes to construct a one-and-a-half-story addition with screened porch at the rear of the historic house. The proposed addition will be inset 1.5' from each side of the historic house and will have a ridge that is considerably lower than that of the historic house. The materials for the proposed addition include Hardie siding, wood trim to match the historic house, 6-over-1 aluminum-clad wood windows, and architectural asphalt shingles. The applicants also propose to construct a deck at the rear/left side of the historic house, which will be constructed from Trex composite decking.

Staff finds that the applicant's proposal will not alter or remove character-defining features of the historic house. The proposed addition is generally compatible with yet differentiated from the historic house and will not detract from the streetscape or surrounding historic district.

After full and fair consideration of the applicant's submission staff finds the proposal as being consistent with the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-(b) 1 and 2, having found the proposal is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Kensington Historic District, and Vision of Kensington: A Long-Range Preservation Plan outlined above.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve with the conditions specified on Circle 1 the HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b), (1), (2) & (d) having found that the proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of the historic resource and is compatible in character with the district and the purposes of Chapter 24A;

and with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall present the 3 permit sets of drawings, if applicable to Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) staff for review and stamping prior to submission for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) building permits;
and with the general condition that final project design details, not specifically delineated by the Commission, shall be approved by HPC staff or brought back to the Commission as a revised HAWP application at staff’s discretion;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall notify the Historic Preservation Staff if they propose to make any alterations to the approved plans.

Once the work is completed the applicant will contact the staff person assigned to this application at 301-563-3400 or michael.kyne@montgomeryplanning.org to schedule a follow-up site visit.
APPLICATION FOR
HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

Contact Email: Jilongo @studiobiz.com
Contact Person: Jilongo
Daytime Phone No.: 240.374.2525

Tax Account No.: 

Name of Property Owner: Jill McGrory
Renting Phone No.: 

Address: 3919 Washington Baltimore 20815
Street Name: Washington Street
City: Baltimore
State: Maryland
Zip Code: 20815

Contractor: Renovation Studio
Owner: Jilongo
Phone No.: 240.374.2525

Contractor Registration No.: MC 92710
Daytime Phone No.: 240.374.2525

Agent for Owner: Jilongo

LOCATION OF BUILDING PREMISES:

House Number: 3919
Street: Washington Street
Town/City: Baltimore
State: Maryland
Nearest Cross Street: Connecticut Avenue
Legal Description:

PLOT ONE: TYPE OF PERMIT ACTION AND USE

CHECK ALL APPLICABLE

☐ Construct ☐ Extend ☐ Alter/Remodel ☐ A/C ☐ Sidewalk ☐ Room Addition ☐ Fence
☐ Move ☐ Install ☐ Wreck/Remove ☐ Solar ☐ Fireplace ☐ Woodburning Stove ☐ Dock
☐ Revision ☐ Repair ☐ Retain ☐ Single Family
☐ Permit ☐ Yacht ☐ Retractable ☐ Other:

Construction cost estimate: $150,000

PLOT TWO: DETAILS OF NEW CONSTRUCTION AND EXTENSIONS

2A. Type of sewage disposal:

☐ 01 SWSC ☐ 02 Septic ☐ 03 Other:

2B. Type of water supply:

☐ 01 SWSC ☐ 02 Well ☐ 03 Other:

PLOT THREE: COMPLIANCE WITH RETAINING WALL

3A. Height: feet inches

3B. Indicate whether the fence or retaining wall is to be constructed on one of the following locations:

☐ On party line/property line ☐ Entirely on land of owner ☐ On public right of way/assessment

I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the application is correct, and that the construction will comply with plans approved by all agencies listed and I hereby acknowledge and accept this to be a condition for the issuance of this permit.

[Signature]

Nov. 11, 2017

Approved:

For Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission

Disapproved:

Signature:

Date:

Applications/Permit No.:

Date Filed:

Date Issued:

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

819932
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

1. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
   a. Description of existing structure(s) and environmental setting, including their historical features and significance:

   [Handwritten: Colonial Shingle Style]

   [Handwritten: One and a half story Addition]

   [Handwritten: Screen porch off rear.]

2. SITE PLAN
   Site and environmental setting, drawn to scale. You may use your plot. 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 dumpsters, mechanical equipment, and landscaping.

3. PLANS AND ELEVATIONS
   You must submit 2 copies of plans and elevations in a format no 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 resources and the proposed work.
   b. Elevations (facades), with marked dimensions, clearly indicating proposed work in relation to existing construction and, when appropriate, content. 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
   a. Clearly labeled photographic prints of each facade of existing resource, including details of the affected portions. All labels should be placed on the front of photographs.
   b. Clearly label photographic prints of the resources as viewed from the public right-of-way and at 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 drip line 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 at least that dimension.

7. ADRESSES 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(s) 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.
November 28, 2017

TO: Historic Commission Members and Staff
RE: 3919 Baltimore Street, Kensington MD - McCrory Residence
FR: Jodi Longo, Builder - Renovation Studio

The proposed addition is at the rear. It will be a story and half, and not visible from the street. A portion of the back addition will house a new screen porch and deck.

The addition will be set in approx. 1.5’ from the existing home. The story and half vs. 2 full stories, allows the existing historic home to dominate, and again is not visible from the street as the McCrory’s home is flanked by neighbors on both sides.

Materials:
- Siding will be Hardie Board
- Trim will be wood to match existing
- Windows will be 6 over 1 Clad exterior/wood interior
- Decking with be Trex
- Roofing will be Certainteed architectural shingles
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