### MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 7418 Maple Ave., Takoma Park Meeting Date: 5/23/18

**Resource:** Non-Contributing Resource Report Date: 5/18/18

**Takoma Park Historic District** 

Applicant: Jeff and Amber Bell Public Notice: 5/11/18

Review: HAWP Tax Credit: N/A

Case Number: 37/03-1800 Staff: Dan Bruechert

**Proposal:** Tree House Construction

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the HPC approve the HAWP application.

### **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

SIGNIFICANCE: Non-Contributing Resource to the Takoma Park Historic District

STYLE: Cape Cod DATE: c. 1930-40

The house at 7418 Maple Ave., Takoma Park is a one-and-a-half story, side-gable, asphalt-shingled, Cape Cod, with gable dormers. The house is three bays wide with six-over-six windows at either side of the central entrance. To the rear there is a later, non-historic, addition with a shed roof, sided in Hardi clapboards. The gravel driveway is placed to the right of the house, which, because of the significant slope of Maple Ave. is one floor below grade. A large concrete retaining wall, capped by a single row of bricks, separates the front yard from the driveway.



Figure 1: 7418 Maple Ave.

### **PROPOSAL**

The applicant is proposing to construct a tree house and playground in the rear of the property.

### APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

When reviewing alterations and new construction within the Takoma Park Historic District several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include the historic preservation review guidelines in the approved and adopted amendment for the Takoma Park Historic District (Guidelines), 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.

### Takoma Park Historic District 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.

Non-Contributing/Out-of-Period Resources should receive the most lenient level of design review. Most alterations and additions to Non-Contributing/Out-of-Period Resources should be approved as a matter of course. The only exceptions would be major additions and alterations to the scale and massing of Non-Contributing/Out-of-Period Resources which affect the surrounding streetscape and/or landscape and could impair character of the district as a whole.

### Montgomery County Code, Chapter 24A

- (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;

### Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work

shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportions, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will 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

In the rear of the property there are two tree stumps, approximately 7' (seven feet) and 5' (five feet) tall. The applicant proposes to construct a playground and treehouse in two platforms using the tree stumps as a base.

On top of the taller, rear, stump the applicant proposes to construct an enclosed treehouse. The treehouse will be 8' 9" (eight feet, nine inches) tall; and 8' (eight feet) wide by 11' (eleven feet) deep). The treehouse section will have a low-pitched roof and a combination of wood clapboard siding and wood shingle siding. The treehouse section will be supported by 2" × 8" (two by eight inch) diagonal braces. The treehouse will be more than 25' (twenty-five) feet to the rear of the house and will be several feet below ridge line of the house.

In front of the treehouse section will be a platform section built on top of the lower tree stump. The platform will have a wood guardrail. The platform will be 7' 6" (seven feet, six inches) deep and 8' (eight feet) wide. To provide access to the platform the applicant proposes to construct a ladder on the left side and a climbing rope to the right side.

The drawings also show a circular slide and note that it is an optional component. Staff encourages the HPC to evaluate this slide as part of the proposal as its approval will eliminate the need for a post-approval revision to the design. The proposed slide is a totally enclosed slide consistent with the drawing shown on A102 of the application.

Staff finds that the proposal will not alter the scale and massing of the non-contributing resource or the surrounding streetscape. The treehouse and playground will set largely behind the house and will only be minimally visible from the public right-of-way. Additionally, the step slope and retaining wall to the right of the lot, further limit the view of the proposed construction from the right-of-way.

Staff additionally finds that the treehouse is of a form and materials that are consistent with an accessory structure in the Takoma Park Historic District and supports approval.



Figure 2: Street view of 7418 Maple Ave., showing limited view of tree stumps.



Figure 3: Closer view showing right side of house with stumps minimally visible.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the HPC approve the HAWP application;

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.



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301/563-3400

# APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

contact mail: b.p.davis@att.net	Contact Person: BEN DAVIS			
Contact Bail: D. P. WAYIS Edition	Daytime Phone No.: (202) 744-8794			
Tax Account No.:	_			
Name of Property Owner: JEFFREY BELL	Daytime Phone No.:			
Address: 7918 MAPLE AVE TAKOMA F	APK, MD 20912			
CONTRACTOR: CONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY ST				
Contractor Registration No.: 88932				
	Daytime Phone No.: (202) 744-8794			
COCATION OF BUILDINGSPIESES				
House Number: 7418 Street	MAPLE AVE			
House Number: 7418 Street TownsCity: TAKOUTA PALK Nearest Cross Street:	PHILADERPHIA			
Lot: 7C Block: BG Subdivision: PETY	ESTATE			
Liber: Parcal:				
PARTONE: TYPE OF PERMIT ACTION AND USE				
1A. CHECK ALL APPLICABLE: CHECK ALL A	PPLICABLE:			
S Construct □ Extend □ Alter/Renovate □ A/C □	Slab			
☐ Move ☐ install ☐ Wreck/Razze ☐ Soler ☐	Fireplace			
•	(complete Section 4) B Other: TPE HOUSE			
18. Construction cost estimate: \$ 7500				
1C. If this is a revision of a previously approved active permit, see Permit #				
PARTAWOR COMPARTAGORIAN ACCUSTOMATION AND PARTAGONADOREO				
	03 🗆 Other: 📈 🗛			
	. 1 .			
2B. Type of water supply: 01 ☐ WSSC 02 ☐ Well	03 □ Other: N3/A			
PART THREE COMES OF COMES OF COMES ASSISTANCE WALL				
3A. Height feet inches				
3B. Indicate whether the fence or retaining wall is to be constructed on one of the folio	twing locations:			
☐ On party line/property line ☐ Entirely on land of owner	① On public right of way/easament			
I hereby cartify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the app	lication 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 con	dition for the issuance of this permit.			
AAAA	M7/300			
Signature of owner or authorized egent	Date			
Approved:For Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission				
Disapprovad: Signature;	Date:			
Application/Permit No.: Date Filed	Date Issued:			

83632

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS** 

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

#### 1. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

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	forniect and its affact	on the historic re	source(s), the envi	ronmental setting, an	d, where ap	plicable, the historic district
eral description o	· project and the stigot					
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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 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.

- 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 (fecades), 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 front of photographs.
- 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 dripline 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

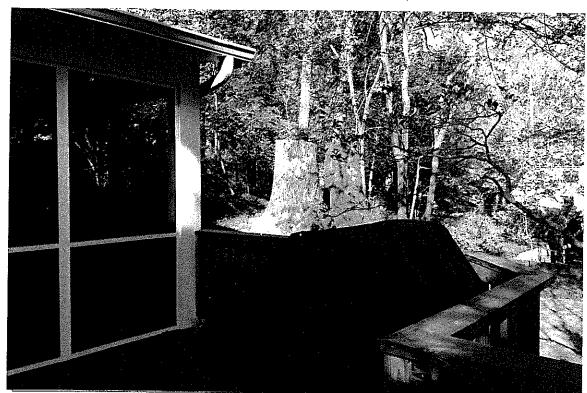
For ALL projects, provide an accurate list of adjacent and confronting property owners (not tenants), including names, addresses, and zip codes. This list should include the owners of all lots or parcels which adjoin the parcel in question, as well as the owner(s) of lot(s) or parcel(s) which lie directly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



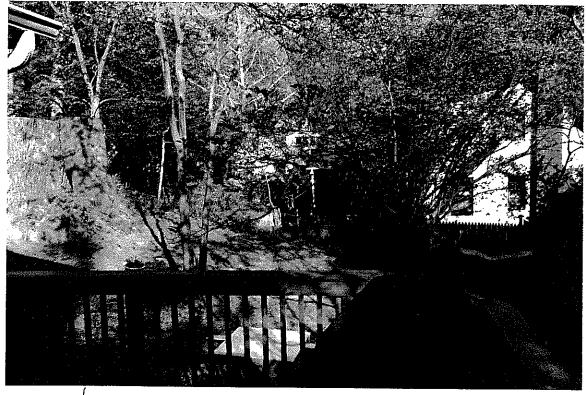
# HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING [Owner, Owner's Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners]

Owner's mailing address	Owner's Agent's mailing address			
JEFF & AMBER BELL	TEEL DAVIS			
7418 MARE AVE	212T ST NW			
TAKOMA PARK, MD 20913	WASHINGTON, DC 20001			
Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses				
7416 MAPLE AVE	7420 MAPLE AVE			
7417 MAPLE AVE	7419 MARE AVE			
7411 MAPLE AVE	7421 MARLE AVE			

### Existing Property Condition Photographs (duplicate as needed)



Detail: VIEW FROM DECK



Detail: VIEW From DECK

### A101 **QEWORRELL** 4 TOPRENCE COURT KENSINGTON, NO 20855 IRIE DESIGNS ASSOCITES SAVER STREET, NO ESCUE SEVER STREET, NO ESCUE SELETION OF 1418 WAPLE AVE REE HOUSE PLANS I DETAILS MAPLE AVE. OMA PARK, MD NEM LKEE HONZE @ MAPLE AVENUE Alphan I. Principal and a 1 O page comments 2 SITE PLAN A100 SCALE: 102 = 110 LOCATION MAP LOCATES PARTO LOCATES PERTY ESTATE WANTEMET COUNT MANAGEM O sections: WERE WILLS OF COUNCE ARE DISTURBED BY NEW CONSTRUCTION TO NOW SHEWN TO MATCH COSTING ADMICAN EXPRING ONL CELENCE AND MICHELEUM PARTHONS AT ALL AREAS OF TITLES OF OLD THE 1. ALL WORK SHOWN ON MENDED SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICACE. (COCAL, STATE, AND MENDEL, BEACH COCOCCES, SHALL OF BROWNING TO RE. ATTEMPTOR. TO THE ARROWSHIS SHALL OF BROWNING TO THE ATTEMPTOR. TO THE ATTEMPTOR TO TOWN DATE OF BROWNING WISH, WE SHALL SHOW TO TOWN DATE OF BROWNING TO THE WORK OF SHALL SHOW. SHEET NOTES 7418 MAPLE AVE., TAKOMA PARK, MD TREE-HOUSE DESIGN **HISTORIC REVIEW SET** KID's BACKYARD O A100 SCALE: 18" = 1.0 NEW TREEHOUSE **APRIL 9, 2018**



