Preliminary Consultation

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Address: 29 West Kirke Street, Chevy Chase  
Meeting Date: 4/24/2019

Resource: Outstanding Resource  
Chevy Chase Village Historic District  
Report Date: 4/17/2019

Applicant: Katy & Bryan Anderson  
(Chris Snowber, Architect)  
Public Notice: 4/10/2019

Tax Credit: N/A

Review: Preliminary Consultation  
Staff: Michael Kyne

Case Number: N/A

PROPOSAL: Screened-in porch alterations and new construction

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the applicants make any revisions based on the HPC’s recommendations and return for a HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Outstanding Resource within the Chevy Chase Village Historic District
STYLE: Colonial Revival
DATE: 1892-1916

Fig. 1: Subject property.
PROPOSAL

The applicants propose the following alterations at the subject property:

- Enclose an existing screened porch on the west (left) side of the house.
- Construct a new screened porch on the northwest (rear/left) side of the house.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

When reviewing alterations and new construction within the Chevy Chase Village 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 Chevy Chase Village 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.

Chevy Chase Village Historic District

The Guidelines define an Outstanding Resource as “A resource which is of outstanding significance due to its architectural and/or historical features. An outstanding resource may date from any historical period and may be representative of any architectural style. However, it must have special features, architectural details and/or historic associations that make the resource especially representative of an architectural style, it must be especially important to the history of the district, and/or it must be especially unique within the context of the district.”

The Guidelines state:

Additional basic policies that should be adhered to include:

1. Preserving the integrity of the proposed Chevy Chase Village Historic District. Any alterations should, at a minimum, perpetuate the ability to perceive the sense of time and place portrayed by the district.
2. Preserving the integrity of contributing structures in the district. Alterations to contributing structures should be designed in such a way that the altered structure still contributes to the district.
3. Maintaining the variety of architectural styles and the tradition of architectural excellence.
4. Design review emphasis should be restricted to changes that will be visible from the front or side public right-of-way, or that would be visible in the absence of vegetation or landscaping.
5. Alterations to the portion of a property that are not visible from the public right-of-way should be subject to a very lenient review. Most changes to the rear of the properties should be approved as a matter of course.

The Guidelines break down specific projects into three levels of review – Lenient, Moderate and Strict Scrutiny.

“Lenient Scrutiny” means that the emphasis of the review should be on issues of general massing and scale, and compatibility with the surrounding streetscape, and should allow for a very liberal interpretation of preservation rules. Most changes should be permitted unless there are major problems with massing, scale and compatibility.

“Moderate Scrutiny” involves a higher standard of review than “lenient scrutiny.” Besides issues of massing, scale and compatibility, preserving the integrity of the resource is taken into account.
Alterations should be designed so that the altered structure still contributes to the district. Use of compatible new materials, rather than the original building materials, should be permitted. Planned changes should be compatible with the structure’s existing design, but should not be required to replicate its architectural style.

“Strict Scrutiny” means that the planned changes should be reviewed to insure that the intergrity of the significant exterior architectural or landscaping features and details is not compromised. However, strict scrutiny should not be “strict in theory but fatal in fact” i.e. it does not mean that there can be no changes but simply that the proposed changes should be reviewed with extra care.

The Guidelines state three basic policies that should be adhered to, including:

Preserving the integrity of the contributing structures in the district. Alterations to contributing structures should be designed in such a way that the altered structure still contributes to the district.

Design review emphasis should be restricted to changes that will be visible from the front or side public right-of-way, or that would be visible in the absence of vegetation or landscaping.

Alterations to the portion of a property that are not visible from the public right-of-way should be subject to very lenient review. Most changes to rear of the properties should be approved as a matter of course.

The Guidelines that pertain to this project are as follows:

Porches should be subject to moderate scrutiny if they are visible from the public right-of-way, lenient scrutiny if they are not. Enclosures of existing side and rear porches have occurred throughout the Village with little or no adverse impact on its character, and they should be permitted where compatibly designed.

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8

(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; 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 the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation:**

#2: The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

#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 proportion, 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**

**Porch Enclosure**

The applicants propose to enclose an existing screened porch on the west side (left side, as viewed from the front) of the historic house. The porch will be enclosed with wood walls and wooden SDL casement windows, which will be behind the existing railings, columns and entablature of the porch, preserving the visibility of these features. The proposed enclosed porch will match an existing enclosed porch on the east side (right side) of the historic house. The enclosure of the east side porch was reviewed and approved by the HPC at the June 15, 2014 HPC meeting.

**New Screened Porch**

The applicants propose to construct a new screened porch on the northwest side (rear/left side) of the historic house. The proposed new screened porch will connect to the existing screened porch on the west side of the historic house, which is proposed to be enclosed (see above). An existing non-historic deck with traditional wooden railing in the northwest corner of the historic house will be removed to accommodate the proposed new screened porch. The existing deck was previously approved by the HPC as part of the applicants’ June 15, 2014 HAWP application.
The applicants have noted the following details for the proposed new screened porch:

- The eave line of the proposed new screened porch will align with the eave line of the existing screened porch on the west side of the historic house.
- The cornice of the proposed new screened porch will be similar to that of the existing screened porch on the west side of the historic house, aside from the addition of a bed mould.
- The frieze/architrave of the proposed new screened porch will be flush to be consistent with that of the existing screened porch on the west side of the historic house, but it will not include the exposed rafter tails, as found on the existing.
- The proposed new screened porch will have columns that are similar in scale (10” – 11”) and detailing to those of the existing screened porch on the west side of the historic house, but they will be square instead of round for differentiation.
- The porch floor of the proposed new screened porch will align with that of the existing screened porch on the west side of the historic house.
- The proposed new screened porch will have a stone pier foundation to be compatible with the stone foundation of the screened porch on the west side of the historic house as well as with the historic house.
- The stone piers of proposed new screened porch will align with the columns above.
- The proposed new screened porch will have a traditional wooden railing, with a sloping top rail and inset square balusters.
- The heavy posts on the roof of the existing west side screened porch will be repeated on the roof of the proposed new screened porch, aligning with the porch columns and foundation piers below.
- A traditional wooden railing is proposed on the roof of the proposed new screened porch to match the proposed railing below.
- On the north elevation of the proposed new screened porch, there will be an enclosed gas burning fireplace, which will be vented through the wall.
- The proposed chimney will project 8” beyond the plane of the entablature of the proposed new screened porch, but it will not project beyond the eave line.
- Stairs to grade are proposed in the northeast corner of the proposed new screened porch.

Staff also notes the following, as depicted in the submitted plans and elevations:

- A slight inset is proposed between the existing west side screened porch and the proposed new screened porch, providing some articulation and differentiation between the existing and the proposed.
- Beyond the inset, the proposed new screened porch will be coplanar with the existing west side screened porch.
- The proposed stairs in the northeast corner of the proposed new screened porch will have traditional wooden railings to match the railings of the proposed new screened porch.

Staff is generally supportive of the applicants’ proposal; however, the proposed new screened porch will project beyond the west (left) side of the historic house and will be partially visible from the public right-of-way in the absence of vegetation. Therefore, in accordance with the Guidelines, the proposed new screened porch should be reviewed with moderate scrutiny.

According to the Guidelines:

“Moderate Scrutiny” involves a higher standard of review than “lenient scrutiny.” Besides issues of massing, scale and compatibility, preserving the integrity of the resource is taken into account. Alterations should be designed so that the altered structure still contributes to the district.
compatible new materials, rather than the original building materials, should be permitted. Planned changes should be compatible with the structure’s existing design, but should not be required to replicate its architectural style.

While staff acknowledges the applicants’ intention to differentiate the proposed new screened porch from the historic house, the proposed new railings will incorporate a feature that is currently only found on the c. 2014 deck, which is proposed to be removed. Staff is concerned that incorporating this feature to such a large degree (on the proposed new screened porch, on the roof of the proposed new screened porch, and at the stairs to grade) could cumulatively detract from the integrity and character of the historic house. This would be inconsistent with the Guidelines and with Standard #2, which states that the character should be preserved.

In accordance with preservation best practices, staff suggests that the applicants explore alternative railing designs, which are differentiated, yet take visual cues from existing features of the historic house. Staff asks for additional guidance from the HPC regarding the compatibility of the proposed new screened porch and alternative railing designs.

Staff fully supports the enclosure of the existing west side screened porch. The proposed porch enclosure is consistent with the Guidelines, which state that porch enclosures should be allowed, where compatibly designed. Staff finds that the proposed porch enclosure is compatibly designed, and that it preserves the visibility of character-defining features (i.e., the railings, columns and entablature), in accordance with the Standards.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the applicants make any revisions based on the HPC’s recommendations and return for a HAWP application.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
301/563-3400
APPLICATION FOR
HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

Contact Email: chris@hamiltonsnowber.com
Contact Person: Chris Snowber
Daytime Phone No.: 202-285-4984

Tax Account No.: 
Name of Property Owner: Katy and Bryan Anderson
Daytime Phone No.: 240-423-0536
Address: 29 West Kirke Street Chevy Chase MD 20815

Street Number: 
City: 
Zip Code: 

Contractor: Mauck, Zantzinger and Associates
Phone No.: 202-363-8501
Contractor Registration No.: MoCo: BC4028, NHIC 41250, MHBR 6647
Agent for Owner: Chris Snowber
Daytime Phone No.: 202-285-4984

LOCATION OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE
House Number: 29
Street: West Kirke
Town/City: Chevy Chase
Nearest Cross Street: Cedar Parkway
Lot: 2 parts of
Block: 39
Subdivision:
Lots 1&3

PART ONE: TYPE OF PERMIT/TACK AND USE
1A. CHECK ALL APPLICABLE:
☐ Construct ☐ Extend ☒ Alter/Renovate ☐ A/C ☐ Slab ☐ Room Addition ☐ Porch ☐ Deck ☐ Shed
☐ Move ☐ Install ☐ Wreck/Raze ☐ Solar ☐ Fireplace ☐ Woodburning Stove ☐ Single Family
☐ Revision ☐ Repair ☐ Reveetable.
☐ Fence/Privacy (complete Section 4) ☐ Other:

1B. Construction cost estimate: $150,000

1C. If this is a revision of a previously approved active permit, see Permit #

PART TWO: COMPLETE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND EXTERIOR ADDITIONS
2A. Type of sewage disposal: 01 ☒ WSSC 02 ☐ Septic 03 ☐ Other:
2B. Type of water supply: 01 ☒ WSSC 02 ☐ Well 03 ☐ Other:

PART THREE: COMPLETE ONLY FOR FENCE/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/estate

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 herewith acknowledge and accept this to be a condition for the issuance of this permit.

[Signature of owner or authorized agent]

[Date]

Approved:

Disapproved:

Application/Permit No.: 

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS
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:
      See attachment.
   b. General description of project and its effect on the historic resource(s), the environmental setting, and, where applicable, the historic district:
      See attachment.

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.
   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
   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 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.

PLEAS 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.
29 West Kirke Street, Chevy Chase

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

   The existing house is a Craftsman style four-square, a wood framed with stucco 3-story residence, built in 1892 and renovated in 1916, and is an “outstanding” resource within the Chevy Chase Village Historic District with “high architectural integrity”. The house maintains its original design and detailing with the minimal changes. At some point, the west porch was enclosed with screens. On the northwest corner of the house, an open deck has been added, tying together the rear entry porch and the west side screen porch.

   b. General Description of project and its effect on the historic resources, the environmental setting, and, where applicable, the historic district:

   The project has two main components: the enclosing of the existing west side screen porch and the construction of a new screen porch in the side and rear yard.

   a. Enclose existing Screen Porch: Enclose existing side screen porch at the First Floor with walls and windows and trim to match the existing condition on the east side of the house. (Note: the east porch enclosed during a renovation project in 2014).

   In closing in the porch, the new exterior wall and windows are set back behind the plane of the existing railing, preserving the exterior rail, columns and entablature. The windows are of similar scale and detail to the existing house.

   b. New Screen Porch: Construct a new screen porch behind the existing porch, with a small screened hyphen that connects the two elements.

   On the new porch, there are elements that match the existing porch, and others that are different, but similarly scaled.

   The eave line of the new porch aligns with the existing, with a similar cornice. The frieze/architrave is flush, like the existing, but we are not including the protruding “beams” that are found on the existing. We have added a bed mold to the cornice, as well.

   The columns are similar in scale to the existing (10 – 11”), but will be square, rather than round, and will have similar detailing.

   The deck of the porch will align with the existing, and have a stone foundation that matches the existing. Stone piers will align with the columns above.
The railing for the screen porch will be of traditional design, with a sloping handrail and square balusters. The heavy posts found on the existing porch will be repeated on the roof of the screen porch, aligned on top of the columns. A handrail matching that on the screen porch will run between the posts.

At the north elevation, there is a central stucco element, which encloses a gas-burning fireplace on the screen porch. The fireplace is open to the room, and the chimney does not protrude through the roof. The chimney projects 8" beyond the plane of the entablature, but does not project beyond the eave line.

There is a stair from the porch to grade at the northeast corner of the porch.

Since the porch is directly behind the existing and does not project any further into the side yard, it will be minimally visible from the street, from angled views only.
HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFYING
[Owner, Owner’s Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners]

Owner’s mailing address
Kathleen Anderson & Bryan Anderson
29 West Kirke Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Owner’s Agent’s mailing address:
Christopher R. Snowber
Hamilton Snowber Architects
1711 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Adjacent and Confronting Property Owner’s mailing addresses:

Richard A. Leach & Susanne Weinrauch-Leach
26 West Kirke Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Thomas Dann & Melissa Shakleton Dann
27 West Kirke Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Donna Evers
28 West Kirke Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Anthony F. Marra & Mary A. Sheehan
30 West Kirke Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

William Dooley & Marion Blakey
31 West Kirke Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Peter D. Keisler & Susan G. Keisler
20 Magnolia Parkway
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Sheet A001

Anderson Residence
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

2-Story Stucco w/ Basement

#29

EXISTING Site Plan

PROPOSED Site Plan

W. KIRKE STREET

EAST 80'

NORTH 125'

W. KIRKE STREET

SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"
Proposed Basement Floor Plan

HWP Submission 4.3.19

Architects
1711 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC  20009
Telephone: 202.332.5416
Facsimile: 202.332.4541
info@hamiltonsnowber.com
www.hamiltonsnowber.com

Anderson Residence
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
29 W Kirke Steet

Sheet A003

Proposed Basement Floor Plan

HWP Submission 4.3.19

Sheet A003
ATTIC Existing Plan (No Work)

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"
Remove existing screening.

Enclosed porch from 2014 renovation.

Attic

Second Floor

First Floor

Basement

10'-6"

20'-6"

-8'-0 1/2"

EXISTING South Elevation

SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"
Enclose existing screen porch with new walls and windows to match existing at east side of house.

PROPOSED South Elevation
2014 Addition: Two-story plus basement stucco on frame on stone foundation.

New window in existing wall from 2014 renovation

Remove existing screening

Remove deck from 2014 renovation

First Floor

Second Floor

Attic

Basement

Scale: 3/16” = 1'-0”
New screen porch
Painted wood railing
Stone piers

First Floor
0'-0"

Second Floor
10'-6"

Basement
-8'-0 1/2"

Attic
20'-4"
Remove deck from 2014 renovation.
Remove existing screening.

First Floor
0'-0"

Second Floor
10'-6"

Attic
20 1/2'

Basement
-8'-0 1/2"

Rec Room
-9'-6"

Attic
20 1/2'

Existing North Elevation

0.3" = 1'-0"
Proposed North Elevation

2014 Addition: Two-story plus basement stucco on frame on stone foundation.

Existing
Proposed

First Floor

Second Floor

Attic

Stucco over frame at fireplace
New screen porch
Painted wood railing
Stone piers

First Floor

Painted lattice panels to match existing
Stairs to match existing.

Basement
Rec Room

SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"
2014 Addition: Two-story plus basement stucco on frame on stone foundation.

Existing open porch enclosed in 2014 renovation.
1. VIEW From West Kirke Street (South)
2. VIEW From Rear Yard (North)
3. EXISTING Side Room (South)
4. EXISTING Side Room (Southeast)