| MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT | | | |
|--|--|----------------|--------------|
| Address: | 7207 Thornapple Place, Chevy Chase | Meeting Date: | 7/10/2019 |
| Resource: | Master Plan Site #35/96 | Report Date: | 7/3/2019 |
| | (Harper House) Thomas Dyszkiewicz (Claude Lapp, Architect) | Public Notice: | 6/26/2019 |
| Applicant: | | Tax Credit: | N/A |
| Review: | Preliminary Consultation | Staff: | Michael Kyne |
| Case Number: | N/A | | |
| PROPOSAL: | Building additions | | |

Preliminary Consultation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the applicants make any revisions based upon the HPC's comments and return with a HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

| SIGNIFICANCE: | Master Plan Site #35/96, Harper House |
|---------------|---|
| STYLE: | Four Square with Victorian Vernacular Detailing |
| DATE: | c. 1906 |

Excerpt from *Places from the Past*:

The Harper House demonstrates the persistence of picturesque Victorian-era detailing well into the 20th century. The frame dwelling features late examples of wrap-around porch with chamfered posts and scrolled brackets. The residence has outstanding architectural integrity with original details including louvered shutters, and chamfered porch posts with open brackets. The house is adorned with corner pilasters and features grand picture windows in the south front bays on both first and second levels.

In October 1906, James E. Harper acquired lots 9 and 10 from Louise H. Earll. The house was built in the following months since the property was assessed in 1907 with improvements valued at \$1,800. By 1909, Harper was living in Chevy Chase, according to the Washington directory. A native of South Carolina, he was an auditor for the U.S. Postal Service, and was married to Nelly E. Harper. The Harpers resided at this address for more than 25 years. After 1927, the property was reduced to the northern portion of Lots 9 and 10.





Fig. 1: Subject property marked by yellow star.

PROPOSAL

The applicants propose a building addition at the rear of the subject property.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

When reviewing alterations and new construction at Master Plan Sites several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include *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.

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.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

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.

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. 1906 Four Square-style house with Victorian vernacular detailing. The house is located on a corner lot, with its front facing Thornapple Place to the west and its left side facing Underwood Street to the north. The house retains outstanding architectural integrity, including a wraparound front porch with chamfered posts and open scrolled brackets.

The applicants propose to construct a building addition to the rear (east) of the historic house. The addition will be two stories, with basement beneath. The addition with be separated from the historic house via a hyphen that will be inset 1'-8" from the left (north) side of the historic house and 2' from the right (south) side of the historic house. Beyond the hyphen, the addition will project 1'-8" beyond the left (north) side of the historic house.

The roof of the addition will be hipped, with a 8:12 roof pitch and asphalt shingles to match the roof of the historic house. The roofs of both the hyphen and the addition will be well below that of the historic house. The addition and hyphen will have wooden siding, one-over-one wood windows, and wood shutters, with dimensions to match those on the historic house. Other details of the proposed addition include a fireplace clad with wood siding on the rear elevation and a rear porch with decorative brackets, taking cues from the features of the historic wraparound porch.

- As noted, the historic house retains outstanding architectural integrity, including the wraparound front porch. As designed, the wraparound porch has an open appearance on the right (south) side, as the rear of the property is visible beyond the porch, when viewed from the front (on Thornapple Place). Because the proposed addition projects 3' beyond the right (south) side of the historic house, it has the potential to detract from the openness of the property, as viewed from the front, and alter the perceived relationship of the wraparound porch to the property as a whole. This could alter a character-defining feature of the property, which is inconsistent with *Standards #2* and #9.
- The proposed addition extends to the required building setbacks (the property is zoned R-60) at the rear and right (south) side. Because the building is on a corner lot and the addition will be highly visible from two public rights-of-way, extending the addition to the building restriction lines has the potential to create a crowding effect, as the house relates to adjacent properties. This crowding effect could detract from the character of the property, which is inconsistent with *Standards #2* and #9.
- Although the proposed clad fireplace is on the rear elevation of the proposed addition, it will be visible from the public right-of-way of Underwood Street. Staff finds that the proposed clad fireplace is incompatible with the features of the historic house. This is inconsistent with *Standard #9*, which states that new work shall be compatible with the architectural features of the historic house. Staff suggests that the applicants explore alternatives, which are compatible with the historic house, such as a fully expressed traditional chimney or entirely interior fireplace.
- Paired double-hung windows are proposed on the second floor of the north (left) and south (right) elevations of the historic house. The applicants have indicated that the proposed paired windows will have operable double shutters. The proposed windows and double shutters will introduce new features to the historic house. While staff is not greatly concerned by the proposed paired windows and double shutters, staff suggests that the applicant explore alternative fenestration patterns, which take cues from the features of the historic house, in accordance with *Standard #9*.
- The applicants also propose to permanently shutter/infill an original window on the first floor of the right (south) elevation of the historic house to accommodate interior kitchen renovations. This would alter/remove character-defining features and materials of the historic house, which is inconsistent with *Standards #2* and *#9*. Staff finds that the original window and opening should be preserved, and the applicants should explore alternative interior plans, which will allow the window to be retained.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

• Staff recommends that the applicant make any revisions based upon the HPC's comments and return with a HAWP application.



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Agent for Owner:

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Edit 6/21/99

Address:



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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

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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. sita features such as walkways, driveways, fances, 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 foctures proposed for the exterior must be noted on the elevations drawings. An existing and a proposad 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 tabeled 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 lebel 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 photographe.

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 streat/highway from the parcel in question.

PLEASE PRINT (IN BLUE OR BLACK INIC) 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] | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Owner's mailing address Thomas Dyszkiewicz F207 Thornapple Place Chevy Chase, MD 20815 | Owner's Agent's mailing address | | | |
| Adjacent and confronting | Property Owners mailing addresses | | | |
| Faroog Thacher 7205 Thornapple Place Chevy Chase, MD 20815 | | | | |
| Daniel Radovsky 3610 Underwood Street Chevy Chose, MD 20815 | | | | |
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Detail: Existing wraparound front porch made of wood.



Detail: Existing wood siding & shutters which will be matched on the exterior of the proposed addition.

Applicant:_____

Page:___



Detail: Existing portion of house to be removed (left) and a new larger addition will be built in its place.

Applicant:_____

Page:__

Existing Property Condition Photographs (duplicate as needed)



Applicant:_____

Page:__