MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address:	113 Elm Avenue, Takoma Park	Meeting Date:	5/27/2020
Resource:	Contributing Resource Takoma Park Historic District	Report Date:	5/20/2020
Applicant:	Brian and Catie Rowland (Eric Saul, Architect)	Public Notice:	5/13/2020
Review:	HAWP	Tax Credit:	No
Case Number:	37/03-20Z	Staff:	Dan Bruechert
PROPOSAL:	Partial demolition, new roof, rear addition, and other alterations.		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the HPC approve the HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE:	Contributing Resource within the Takoma Park Historic District
STYLE:	Vernacular/Eclectic
DATE:	1913



Fig. 1: 113 Elm Ave. is at the edge of the Takoma Park Historic District.

BACKGROUND

On April 22, 2020, the applicant presented a preliminary consultation¹ for the project at 113 Elm Avenue, Takoma Park. The HPC was uniformly supportive of the work proposed for the front porch and the roof replacement and did not feel that the proposed window wells would have a significant impact on the historic character of the resource.

The HPC was divided on the appropriateness of the mixture of sash and casement windows and the fenestration pattern at the rear. However, all Commissioners agreed that as a feature on the rear elevation, at the edge of the district, more leniency should be granted to the review of these features.

PROPOSAL

The applicants propose to:

- Remove the existing roof and construct a new roof;
- Reconfigure the rear, non-historic addition;
- Alter the front porch; and
- Install two new window wells for basement egress.

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 all visible from the public rightof-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 historic district.

A majority of structures in the Takoma Park Historic District have been assessed as being "Contributing Resources." While these structures may not have the same level of architectural or historical significance as Outstanding Resources or may have lost some degree of integrity, collectively, they are the basic building blocks of the Takoma Park district. However, they are more important to the overall character of the district and the streetscape due to their size, scale, and architectural character, rather than for their particular architectural features.

¹ The Staff Report for the April 22 preliminary consultation can be found here: <u>https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/III.E-113-Elm-Avenue-Takoma-Park.pdf</u>; and the audio recording of the hearing can be found here: <u>http://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=95de5380-859b-11ea-99b9-0050569183fa</u>.

Contributing Resources should receive a more lenient level of design 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.

The Guidelines that pertain to this project are as follows:

- 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
- Some non-original building materials may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis; artificial siding on areas visible from the public right of way is discouraged where such materials would replace or damage original building materials that are in good condition.
- All changes and additions should respect existing environmental settings, landscaping, and patterns of open space.
- Alterations to features that are not visible from the public right-of-way should be allowed as a matter of course
- While additions should be compatible, they are not required to be replicative of earlier architectural styles.

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8

- (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 ensure 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
- (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:

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:

- 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 two-story house with a stucco first floor and a clapboard sided second floor. Over time the subject property has had several changes, including an enlarged rear addition (see below), modifications to the roof form, and other material changes. Based on the side projecting bay and the asymmetrical roof form, Staff surmises the subject property could have been constructed with some late Queen Anne details and has been heavily modified over the last century. While Staff has been unable to determine the architectural details, Staff research found that the house was constructed by local carpenter, John Raines, for his own family. Mr. Raines built many houses in the area and appears to have done so without the extensive aid of architects which could be another explanation for the subject property's eclectic style.

The applicant proposes changes in four areas: removing the existing roof and constructing a new roof; reconfiguring the rear non-historic addition; altering the front porch; and installing two new window wells for basement egress.



Figure 2: 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the subject property in its original configuration.



Figure 3: 1959 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the subject property with its expanded rear.

Roof Replacement

The existing roof configuration is irregular and has several idiosyncratic features including multiple dormers and flared eaves. The roof peak is offset so it is to the right of the house center. The right and rear roof elevations both have dormers with attic vents. The left side of the roof has two hip projections that create a valley that has lead to water drainage issues. These water damage issues are the primary reason the applicant proposes altering the roof form. The applicants described the issues with the current roof at the April 22nd HPC meeting.

The applicant proposes to remove the existing roof and construct a pyramidal roof with a central peak. The new roof design will retain the distinctive flared eaves. The rear shed dormer will be retained and a window is proposed in place of the existing attic vent.

The roof reconfiguration will somewhat alter the appearance of the house when viewed from the public right-of-way. However, the current roof configuration and its inability to effectively control water continue to cause damage to the house. Staff finds that the long-term survival of the historic house appears to be better served by allowing the change (per 24A-8(b)(3)). Staff finds that converting the vent to a window is an acceptable alteration as this change is at the back and appears to match the size of the existing vent. Additionally, in the Takoma Park Historic District window replacements on the rear or new construction have frequently accepted aluminum-clad wood windows as an acceptable substitute for traditional wood windows. Staff recommends the HPC approve the proposed roof replacement and dormer alteration.

Rear Addition Alteration

As shown in the Sanborn Maps, above, the rear of the house has been expanded from its original form. The exterior wall treatments on the rear addition match the house with stucco on the ground floor and siding on the second floor. The windows in the rear are a mix of sash (both two-over-two and six-over-six) and casements. The rear door is a half-lite wood door. A rear stoop was removed, but its design and materials are unknown.

The applicant proposes altering the fenestration of the rear addition to accommodate a reconfiguration of interior spaces. The door will be moved closer to the center of the elevation with a new set of wood stairs. On the first floor, the applicant proposes a pair of sash windows to the left of the door and a pair of casement windows to the right of the door. On the second floor, the applicant proposes installing a single one-over-one sash window on the left of the elevation and a pair of one-over-on sash windows on the right. On the left (east) elevation, the applicant proposes installing a casement window on each floor. All of the new windows proposed are Andersen 400 Series aluminum-clad wood windows. The applicant proposes installing a new half-lite door on the rear. The proposed door (specifications attached) has a fiberglass exterior with a smooth paintable surface. While traditional materials are preferred for replacement windows and doors, more leniency is given in new construction and areas that are not visible from the public right-of-way. Staff finds that an aluminum-clad window on the rear and fiberglass door is acceptable under the Takoma Park Historic District *Design Guidelines* and 24A-8(d).

The last change proposed for the rear addition is re-siding both floors of the rear of the house in fiber cement clapboard siding in a reveal that matches the existing second floor.

Staff finds that proposed fenestration reconfiguration is appropriate overall. The rear elevation has been altered from its historic configuration, so the proposed work will not significantly alter historic features. Additionally, most of the proposed work is on the rear, and will not be visible from the public right-of-way within the district, so evaluations of these changes should be judged leniently (24A-8(d)) and *Design Guidelines*.

The alterations to the left (east) elevation will be visible from the right-of-way. The proposal will replace

a pair of six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and two fixed single-lite windows on the second floor, with a single-lite casement window on each floor. Staff finds that the appearance of the left elevation, with five different window types, will only have four different windows after the proposed work. The applicant indicated that the casement windows proposed on the first floor were selected because they are easier to operate in a kitchen environment.

At the April 22 HPC meeting, there was a split amongst the Commissioners regarding the desirability of the proposed fenestration and window selection. Some Commissioners expressed a desire for a more regularized fenestration pattern while others voiced their support for sash windows throughout. However, only one Commissioner recommended revising the fenestration at the rear. Staff finds that the comments presented by the HPC did not state that the window and doors selected at the rear will harm the resource or the surrounding district and recommends approval of the windows and doors under the *Design Guidelines* and 24A-8(b)(2) and (d).

Staff finds that the siding replacement at the rear will not have a significant impact on the character of the house or the surrounding district. Additionally, Staff finds that if the applicant proposed a new rear addition, the HPC would encourage some level of differentiation between the old and the new; and as the current appearance of the rear of the house is not its historic appearance, it would be appropriate to create that differentiation now. Staff would recommend approval of the siding alteration under 24A-8(b)(2) and (d).

Front Porch Alterations

The current front porch is a wood porch constructed on brick piers. The applicant proposes to excavate a storage area under the front porch and construct a new parged solid concrete foundation under the porch. No other alterations are proposed for the front porch.

While much of the foundation will be screened with vegetation, evaluation of the proposal is to be considered in the absence of vegetation.

Staff finds that a parged and painted porch foundation will not significantly alter the character of the house. The HPC concurred with this position and voiced support for this change. Staff recommends approval of the front porch alterations under the *Design Guidelines* and 24A-8(b)(2) and 24A-8(d).

Egress Windows

The final alteration proposed is the introduction of two window wells on the right (west elevation). The two window wells will be constructed adjacent to two new basement bedrooms and will be required under the building code. The applicant had not selected a specific window well to present at the preliminary consultation, but did have approximate dimensions and the proposed placement. No Commissioner expressed any concerns about the proposed window wells as part of the rehabilitation.

The applicant proposes to install pre-fabricated galvanized steel window wells (specifications attached). This feature will be installed below grade and Staff finds it will not have a significant impact on the character of the historic resource, surrounding district, and is required by code. Staff recommends the HPC approve the proposed window wells under the *Design Guidelines* and 24A-8(b)(2).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b)(1), (2), (3), and (d) having found that the proposal, is consistent with and compatible in character with the purposes of Chapter 24A; the *Takoma Park Historic District Design Guidelines;*

and with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2, #9, and #10;

AFPU	For Staff only: HAWP# 909730
APPLICATIO	DATE ASSIGNED
HISTORIC AREA W HISTORIC PRESERVATION 301.563.340	
APPLICANT:	
Name: Brian and Catie Rowland	E-mail:brianarowland@gmail.com
Name: Brian and Catie Rowland Address: 113 Elm Avenue	E-mail: <u>Takoma Park</u> zip: 20912
Daytime Phone: 301-648-5023	Tax Account No.:
AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable):	
Name: Eric Saul	E-mail:
Address: 8114 Carroll Ave	City: Takoma Park zip: 20912
Daytime Phone: 301-270-0395	Contractor Registration No.:
LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE: MIHP # of Histor	113 Elm Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912
Is the Property Located within an Historic District?	Yes/District Name
Is there an Historic Preservation/Land Trust/Environm map of the easement, and documentation from the Ea	
Are other Planning and/or Hearing Examiner Approval (Conditional Use, Variance, Record Plat, etc.?) If YES, is supplemental information.	
	n Avenue
Town/City: Takoma Park Nearest Cro	ss Street: Allegheny Avenue
	0025 Parcel: 0000
TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: See the checklist on I for proposed work are submitted with this applic	
be accepted for review. Check all that apply:	Shed/Garage/Accessory Structure
□ New Construction ✓ Deck/Porch □ Addition □ Fence	Solar Tree removal/planting
Demolition Hardscape/Land	
Grading/Excavation 🖌 Roof	✓ Other: <u>Alteration</u>
I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the	
and accurate and that the construction will comply w agencies and hereby acknowledge and accept this to Eric Saul/Saul Architects	
Signature of owner or authorized agent	Date 8

Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures, landscape features, or other significant features of the property:

House is located in the Takoma Park Historic District. Existing house and immediate meighbors have a craftsman/bungalow style character.

Description of Work Proposed: Please give an overview of the work to be undertaken:

1. Existing rear addition (non-historic) to be altered with new windows, a rear door, replace stucco with Hardie Siding, and adding a small landing with steps.

2. The Existing roof shape of the house proposed to be altered, as the current shape creates water issues

3. The front porch to have a storage area dug out underneath, chaing the pier foundation into a solid masony wall foundation with parging.

	tion: Stucco/siding mix exterior, small windows on both floors, contains a rear mudroom and powder room	Proposed Work: Remove stucco and use siding on the entire rear and driveway side. Kitchen to expand into the existing rear addition
Vork Item 2: Roof sh		Proposed Work:create a more regular roof shape, elimination of the exisitng fireplace
	added on over	which is not very visible

Description of Current Condit	ion: existing porch with roof deck above, built on pier foundation (open underneath)	Proposed Work: restore the existing front porch as it exists, but with a storage room built underneath the front porch (close off the underside with solid walls (parged and painted concrete block foundation)
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Owner's mailing address	Owner's Agent's mailing address
BRIAN & CATIE ROWLAND	SAUL ARCHITECTS
113 ELM AVE	8114 CARRON AVE
TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912	TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912
Adjacent and confront	ing Property Owners mailing addresses
MEROTTI, RACHEL SUSAN	CHRISTOPHER & EUZABETH WILSON
115 ELM AVE	116 ELM AVE
TAKOMA PARK MD 20912	TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912
SARAH BOEHM 11 ELM AVE Akoma Park, MD 20912	GEORGE MIDDENDORF LISA FAMOLARE 112 ELM AVE TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912
HEISTOPHOR HARTLEY	MARTINA BARASH
+ ELM	6807 ALLEGHENY AVE
HOMA PARK, NO ZOGIZ	TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912





3 EXISTING/DEMO SECOND FLOOR PLAN A1 1/4" = 1'-0"















 $\frac{4}{4^{2}} \xrightarrow{\text{EXISTING SIDE (WEST) ELEVATION}}_{1/4" = 1'-0"}$































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Manufacturers Warranty

Specifications

Item #: BK-EW-563660-WHITE Manufacturer: Boman Kemp Height: 60" Projection: 36' Well Width: 56" (53" inside) Materials: Galvanized Steel weight: 90 lbs. Code Compliant: Yes Production Time: 1-2 business days

Description

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JAN .

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<u>****</u>* Nice

like the white color as it seems to reflect more light into the basement.

★★★★

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**** Egress window set

Looks great but have not used it yet

**** Excellent

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Bobby · a year ago Difference between model S262-SDL	and moc	del S206-LHI?		1 answer
Answer this Question				
Therma-Tru · a year ago				
The S262-SDL is a clear glass with 9 divided dividing lites.	d lites and t	he S206 is a half lite	clear glass with no	
Helpful? Yes · 0 No · 0 Report				
Linda · 2 years ago Could you tell me the differences betw anything specific but the trim around				1 answer
Answer this Question				
Therma-Tru · 2 years ago				

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Hi Linda,

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I nank you for your interest in Smooth Star doors. Model S206 has a raised frame that surrounds the glass. Should the glass ever break the frames an be removed and the glass changed. Model S2100 is flush glazed. Doors that are flush glazed have glass that is inserted into the door during

manufacturing giving the door a clean easy to maintain appearance. Unfortunately should the glass ever break, it is not removable. A new door would be needed.

Helpful? Yes · 0 No · 0 Report

Krugenator · 2 years ago

Do any of your doors come with a double hung window? We're looking at fiberglass, colonial, 2'8", in white.

1 answer

1 answer

Answer this Question

Therma-Tru · 2 years ago

Good morning,

Thank you for your interest in a Therma-Tru door. Smooth Star fiberglass model S243 is a half-lite 2-panel door with a vent lite window with screen. The sash slides upward.

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mamaysa16 · 2 years ago

What is this door made of

Answer this Question

Therma-Tru · 2 years ago

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Thank you for considering a Therma-Tru Smooth Star door. Smooth Star doors are made of fiberglass. They have a smooth surface that you paint.

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connie · 3 months ago

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Answer this Question

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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 <u>contact the staff person</u> assigned to this application at 301-563-3400 or <u>dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org</u> to schedule a follow-up site visit.