## MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

| Address: | 3944 Baltimore Street, Kensington | Meeting Date: | $11 / 18 / 2020$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Resource: | Primary Resource <br> Kensington Historic District | Report Date: | $11 / 11 / 2020$ |
| Applicant: | Meredith Sharp | Public Notice: | $11 / 4 / 2020$ |
| Review: | HAWP | Staff: | Dan Bruechert |
| Case Number: | $31 / 06-200$ | Tax Credit: | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |
| Proposal: | Building Addition |  |  |

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the HPC approve the HAWP application.

## PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

| SIGNIFICANCE: | Primary Resource to the Kensington Historic District |
| :--- | :--- |
| STYLE: | Colonial Revival/Queen Anne |
| DATE: | c. 1898 |



Figure 1: The property at 3944 Baltimore St. is a wedge-shaped lot.

## BACKGROUND

The HPC held a preliminary consultation for the subject property on March 3, 2020. ${ }^{1}$ The HPC was generally supportive of the proposal and found the size and scale of the proposal appropriate, although, many Commissioners voiced that they found the $1^{\text {st }}$ floor rear gable was oversized, the Commissioners acknowledged that this feature was on the rear and would not be visible from the right-of-way. The applicant has made minor design revisions and seeks HAWP approval.

## PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to construct an addition to the rear and side of the house and to expand the rear deck.

## APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

## Kensington Historic District 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 Approved \& Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Kensington Historic District, Atlas \#31/6 (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: A Long-Range Preservation Plan

The HPC formally adopted the planning study, Vision of Kensington: A Long-Range Preservation Plan, and is directed by the Executive Regulations, which were approved by the County Council, to use this plan when considering changes and alterations to the Kensington Historic District. The goal of this preservation plan "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 21 st century." (page 1). The plan provides a specific physical description of the district as it is; 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 of Spacing between Buildings
- Geographic and Landscape Features
- Scale and Building Height
- Directional Expression of Building
- Roof Forms and Material

[^0]- 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 $19^{\text {th }}$ and early $20^{\text {th }}$ century houses 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.

## Montgomery County Code, Chapter 24A Historic Resources Preservation

(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;
(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, space and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. 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.
4. 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

The applicant proposes to construct a rear addition to the house at 3944 Baltimore St. The historic house was previously expanded at the rear, (see the Sanborn map below in Figure 2), and the proposed addition will add on to this later construction. On the first floor, the additions consist of a mudroom/pantry in the
southwest corner of the house and an extension of the rear wall. The rear/side deck will also be expanded. On the second floor, the applicant proposes installing a new bathroom in the southwest corner. A third-floor exterior wall will be relocated, which alters the roofline. All work will occur to the rear/rear corner of the house and will only have a minimal impact on the surrounding streetscape. The addition will be sided to match the existing and the roof will be covered in architectural shingles to match the existing roof. The windows and doors in the proposed addition will be wood throughout.

Staff's research demonstrates that the current configuration of the house has been altered from its historic configuration, as shown in the Sanborn map (below). The rear of the house was given a three-story rear addition. The large side/rear porch was also constructed in the latter part of the $20^{\text {th }}$ century.


Figure 2: 1924 Sanborn map showing a rectangular house shape that has been altered by non-historic, rear additions.

## First Floor Alterations

On the first floor, the applicant proposes to expand the house to the rear and to construct a new mudroom/pantry in the southwest corner. All of this work will be at the rear of the house and will not be visible from the public right-of-way due to the right (south) projecting L . The proposed change that will be visible from the right-of-way is the expansion of the side porch. The existing porch is co-planer with the right side-L.

The south wall in the proposal presented at the Preliminary Consultation, projected approximately 3' (three feet). The south wall of the revised proposal is now co-planer with the historic wall plane and the
proposed screened-in porch. Staff finds that the revised proposal will have less visual impact on the surrounding streetscape than the prior proposal. Staff additionally finds the screened-in porch provides a sufficient visual break between the historic construction and the new.

Staff finds that the proposed rear addition and deck will not impact the historic character of the house or the surrounding district when viewed from the right of way.

## Second Floor Alterations

The applicant proposes to construct a bathroom in the southwest corner of the second floor. The bathroom will have two casement windows in the south and west elevations. Due to the shape of the house and placement of this room, this change will only be visible from Prospect Street through the neighboring property. Staff finds that this change will not have a significant impact on the size and scale of the house and is generally appropriate. Both the Staff and HPC agreed that this feature was in keeping with the character of the house and its placement was appropriate under the requisite guidance.

## Third Floor Alteration

On the third floor, the applicant proposes to reconfigure a closet in the southwest corner, which will require an alteration to the roofline in this corner. No windows are proposed for this reconfiguration and only roof shingles will cover this new structure. Staff finds that this work will not be visible from the public right-of-way and will not impact the historic character of the house and will only have a minimal impact on the massing of this section.

Staff finds that, overall, the size of the project does not overwhelm the historic house and is compatible in size, design, and materials with the historic. Staff recommends the HPC approve the proposal under 24A$8(\mathrm{~b})(2)$ and (d) and Standards 2, 9, and 10.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b)(1), (2), and (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 \#2, 9, and 10;
and with the general condition that the applicant shall present the $\mathbf{3}$ 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 dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org to schedule a follow-up site visit.

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
301.563 .3400

## APPLICANT:

Name:
Meredith Sharp

Address: 3944 Baltimore Street Daytime Phone: 202.669.2374

AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable): Name:

Thomas Manion, AIA
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste 216 Address: $\qquad$
Daytime Phone:
301.229.7000
$\qquad$
DATE ASSIGNED $\qquad$

LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE: MIHP \# of Historic Property $\qquad$
Town of Kensignton
Is the Property Located within an Historic District?
XYes/District Name $\qquad$
Name $\qquad$
Is there an Historic Preservation/Land Trust/Environmental Easement on the Property? If YES, include a map of the easement, and documentation from the Easement Holder supporting this application.

Are other Planning and/or Hearing Examiner Approvals /Reviews Required as part of this Application? (Conditional Use, Variance, Record Plat, etc.?) If YES, include information on these reviews as supplemental information.

Building Number:
3944
Kensington
Town/City:
$\qquad$ Block: 11 $\square$ Lot: 17 $\qquad$ Subdivision: $\qquad$ Parcel: $\qquad$
TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: See the checklist on Page 4 to verify that all supporting items for proposed work are submitted with this application. Incomplete Applications will not be accepted for review. Check all that apply:

| New Construction | $\square$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Addition | $\square$ |
| Demolition | $\square$ |
| Grading/Excavation | $\square$ |

Deck/Porch
Fence
Hardscape/Landscape
Roof
Nearest Cross Street: Prospect Street earest Cross Street: Prospect Street
Street:
Baltimore Street Shed/Garage/Accessory Structure Solar
Tree removal/planting Window/Door
Other: $\qquad$
I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the application is correct and accurate and that the construction will comply with plans reviewed and approved by all necessary agencies and hereby acknowledge and accept this to be a condition for the issuance of this permit.


11-26-2019
Date

Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures, landscape features, or other significant features of the property:
Historic/Victorian colonial style residence.
Basement and 2 stories on original house plus attic.
Rear 2 story addition on crawl space was added.

Description of Work Proposed: Please give an overview of the work to be undertaken:
Expand rear addition and house for larger kitchen and eating area. Create mudroom/pantry.
Extend deck to rear.
Upgrade bathrooms and rework closets in bedrooms for extra storage.


Work Item 2: SECONO FLOD
Description of Current Condition:
Proposed Work:
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Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
H.1.4

Basement Floor-Proposed
SCALE: $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}=1^{\prime}-0$
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#### Abstract

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1 Second Floor -Proposed

H.1.8 ScALE: $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}=1^{\prime}-0 "$


Third Floor- Existing

(H.1.10 Third Floor- Proposed

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION $\square$


Roof Plan- Existing
H.1.11 SCALE: $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}=1^{\prime}-0 "$

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

(H.1.12 Roof Plan- Proposed

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION





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

Owner's mailing address
Meredith i Jess Sharp 3944 Baltimore Street Kensingtom, MD zobas

Owner's Agent's mailing address
Marion + Assoc. Architects
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Hz 16
Bethesda, MD zogi6

Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses

Nathan \&' Kristine Olson
3948 Baltimore St.
Kensinstion, MD 20995
(right side)

Peter Cappadiona
3929 Prospect St.
Kensington, mD zog95
(rear)
Joseph Mesmer
3941 Baltimore st.
Kensinston, mD zosas
(front-risht)

Alan Sxeealman
3940 Baltimore St.
Kensington, mD zogas
(left side)

Michael s Brett Bashaw 3947 Baltimore St.

Kensington, MD zo895

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The Staff Report from the March 3, 2020 Preliminary Consultation is available here: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/II.C-3944-Baltimore-Street-Kensington.pdf and the audio recording of the meeting is available here:
    http://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish id=158f9cd6-6480-11ea-99b9-0050569183fa.

