Preliminary Consultation

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

Address: 7214 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

Meeting Date: 12/16/2020

Resource: Contributing Resource

Report Date: 12/9/2020

Takoma Park Historic District

Public Notice: 12/2/2020

Applicant: Dale Sloan

Tax Credit: N/A

(Eric Saul, Architect)

Review: Preliminary Consultation

Case Number: N/A

Staff: Michael Kyne

PROPOSAL: Partial demolition and rear addition

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: Contributing Resource within the Takoma Park Historic District

STYLE: Bungalow

DATE: c. 1910-20

Fig. 1: Subject property.
PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to remove an existing non-historic deck at the rear of the historic house, construct a new 2-story rear addition, construct a second floor expansion over the rear slope of the historic house roof, and construct a new 8’ x 24’ deck at the rear.

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 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 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.

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.

- Major additions should, where feasible, be placed to the rear of existing structures so that they are less visible from the public right-of-way; additions and alterations to the first floor at the front of a structure are discouraged but not automatically prohibited.
• While additions should be compatible, they are not required to be replicative of earlier architectural styles.

• Second story additions or expansions should be generally consistent with the predominant architectural style and period of the resource (although structures that have been historically single story can be expanded) and should be approprite to the surrounding streetscape in terms of scale and massing.

• 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.

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 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

(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

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:

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.

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.

3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.

4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.

8. Significant archaeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

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 1 ½-story Craftsman-style Contributing Resource within the Takoma Park Historic District. There is an existing non-historic deck at the rear.

The applicants propose the following work items at the subject property:

- Remove the existing non-historic deck at the rear of the historic house.
- Construct a new 2-story rear addition.
  - The proposed addition will be 3’ taller than the roof ridge of the historic house to accommodate the legal height for habitable space (7’) on the second floor.
  - The addition will be dropped one step below the historic house, with the intention of making it lower and less visible from the public right-of-way of Maple Avenue.
  - The addition will be slightly inset from the rear corners of the historic house.
  - The proposed materials/specifications include fiber cement siding to differentiate the addition from the stucco siding of the historic house, architectural asphalt shingle roofing, aluminum-clad simulated divided lite windows, a rear cross gable with board and batten siding and wood brackets to match the existing on the historic house, and a bracketed canopy with standing seam metal roof on the rear elevation.
- Construct a second floor expansion over the rear slope of the historic house roof.
  - The proposed second floor expansion is designed with a relatively flat roof, giving the appearance of two flanking shed dormers when viewing the house from oblique angles within the public right-of-way of Maple Avenue.
  - The height of the proposed second floor expansion will be approximately equal to that of the historic roof ridge, and its purpose is to provide access from the historic house to the second floor of the proposed 2-story rear addition.
  - The proposed second floor expansion will be inset at least 1’ from the historic house beneath, and it will be further differentiated by the deep overhanging eaves of the historic house.
  - The proposed materials include fiber cement siding to differentiate it from the stucco siding of the historic house and aluminum-clad simulated divided lite wood windows.
- Construct a new 8’ deep x 24’ wide deck at the rear.
  - The proposed new deck will be constructed from pressure treated wood and will have Chippendale railings.

In accordance with the Guidelines, the proposed new 2-story addition, second floor expansion, and deck are all in the appropriate location at the rear of the historic house. The proposed second floor expansion and 2-story rear addition are also generally consistent with the predominant architectural style (bungalow) of the historic house. However, staff finds that, because the height of the proposed 2-story rear addition exceeds that of the historic house by 3’, it has the potential to detract from the surrounding streetscape. Rear additions in the historic district typically have a ridge height that is lower than or equivalent to that of the historic house. This minimizes the visibility of the addition from the public right-of-way, ensures that it is subordinate to the historic house, and that it does not detract from character-defining feature of subject property and/or surrounding streetscape, in accordance with Standards #2 and #9.

Staff supports the proposed second floor expansion with height approximately equivalent to that of the historic roof ridge. As noted, the proposed expansion will be inset from the historic house by at least 1’, and, with its proposed fiber cement siding, it is clearly differentiated from the historic house with stucco siding. Staff also supports the new rear wooden deck with Chippendale railings, finding it appropriate and compatible in location, material, and design.
Staff seeks further guidance from the Commission regarding the appropriateness of the proposed 2-story rear addition. Specifically, staff seeks recommendations for revisions and/or alternatives, which will allow the addition to remain subordinate to the historic house and make it compatible with the subject property and surrounding streetscape.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the applicants make any revisions based upon the HPC’s comments and return with a HAWP application.
APPLICATION FOR
HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
301.563.3400

APPLICANT:
Name: Dale Sloan
Address: 7214 Maple Avenue
Daytime Phone: 240-676-7252

E-mail: dalesmail@verizon.net
City: Takoma Park
Zip: 20912
Tax Account No.: 01066723

AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable):
Name: Eric Saul
Address: 8114 Carroll Avenue
Daytime Phone: 301-270-0395

E-mail: eric@saularchitects.com
City: Takoma Park
Zip: 20912
Contractor Registration No.: N/A

LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREmise: MIHP # of Historic Property

Is the Property Located within an Historic District? ☑ Yes/District Name: Takoma Park
No/Individual Site Name:

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: 7214
Street: Maple Avenue
Town/City: Takoma Park
Nearest Cross Street: Tulip Avenue
Lot: 27
Block: 5
Subdivision: 0025
Parcel: 0

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
- Addition
- Demolition
- Grading/Excavation
- Deck/Porch
- Fence
- Hardscape/Landscape
- Roof
- Shed/Garage/Accessory Structure
- Solar
- Tree removal/planting
- Window/Door
- Other: ____________________

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.

Signature of owner or authorized agent
Date: 11/16/2020

FOR STAFF ONLY:
HAWP#: 933649
DATE ASSIGNED: ___

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

Existing craftsman style home in the Takoma Park historic district. House is a 1.5 story structure plus basement.

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

New rear addition plus expansion of the existing second floor. New rear deck. Rear addition slightly taller than the existing roof ridge to accommodate legal heights for habitable space (7'). Addition to remain on the rear of the existing house.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Item 1: <strong>Rear Two Story addition</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of Current Condition:</strong> Existing deck to be removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed Work:</strong> New two story addition with a family room on the first floor and a master bedroom suite on the second floor. Addition is dropped one step from the main house to lower the height of the addition as much as possible to avoid view from the street.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Work Item 2: <strong>Second floor addition above existing house</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of Current Condition:</strong> Partial height second floor with master bedroom and bathroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed Work:</strong> New second floor addition over the existing footprint to connect the existing second floor to the second floor of the addition. The addition will look like flanking shed dormers on each side of the house. Dormers to be set in at least a foot from the floor below.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Item 3: <strong>New rear deck</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of Current Condition:</strong> N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed Work:</strong> New 8' x 24' open deck with chippendale style railings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner's mailing address</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>7214 Maple Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Takoma Park, MD 20912</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7216 Maple Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Takoma Park, MD 20912</td>
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EXISTING FRONT (EAST) ELEVATION
EXISTING REAR (WEST) ELEVATION
PROPOSED FRONT (EAST) ELEVATION
GRILLE OPTIONS

With Andersen, you'll find grille patterns, widths and configurations to fit any architectural style or the taste of any homeowner. If you're replacing windows and doors, we can match virtually any existing grille. We'll even work with you and your customers to create custom patterns.

Note: Some grille patterns not available in all configurations and products.

To see all of the standard patterns available for a specific window or door, refer to the detailed sections in this book for each product or contact your Andersen supplier.

GRILLE CONFIGURATIONS

Full Divided Light
For an authentic look, full divided light grilles are permanently applied to the interior and exterior of the window with a spacer between the glass.

Simulated Divided Light
Simulated divided light offers permanent grilles on the exterior and interior with no spacer between the glass. We also offer permanent exterior grilles with removable interior grilles in natural wood or prefinished white.

Convenient Cleaning Options
Removable interior grilles come off for easy cleaning. Andersen® Finelight™ grilles are installed between the glass panes and feature a contoured 1" or 1¼" profile.

Grille Widths
(actual size shown)

3¼"  7⅛"  1⅛"  2¼"