Preliminary Consultation MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 10304 Kensington Parkway, Kensington Meeting Date: 8/17/2022

Resource: Primary One Resource **Report Date:** 8/10/2022

Kensington Historic District

Applicant: Paul Longo **Public Notice:** 8/3/2022

Review: Preliminary Consultation **Tax Credit:** N/A

Proposal: Partial demolition and construction of new two-story addition with roof, deck, other

fenestration, and door alterations

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: Primary One Resource within the Kensington Historic District

STYLE: Queen Anne DATE: c. 1898



Fig. 1: Subject property located west of the intersection of Kensington Parkway and Frederick Avenue.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes partial demolition and construction of new two-story addition with roof, deck, other fenestration, and door alterations at the subject property.

APPLICABLE 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 *Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Kensington Historic District (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.

Master Plan Amendment

The *Amendment* notes that:

The district is architecturally significant as a collection of late 19th and early 20th century houses that 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.

Vision of Kensington

In accordance with Section 1.5 of the Historic Preservation Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures (Regulation No. 27-97), the Commission in developing its decision when reviewing a Historic Area Work Permit application for an undertaking involving a resource within the Kensington Historic District may use the *Vision* to determine the appropriateness of a proposal. The goal of the *Vision* "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 21st century."

In addition, the *Vision* provides a specific physical description of the district as it was at the time of the study (August, 1992), 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 and Spacing between Buildings
- Geographic and Landscape Features
- Scale and Building Height
- Directional Expression of Buildings
- Roof Forms and Materials
- Porches
- Dominant Building Material
- Outbuildings

- Integrity of Form, Building Condition, and Threats
- Architectural Style

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 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 c. 1898 Queen Anne-style Primary One Resource within the Kensington Historic District. The property is located on the west side of Kensington Parkway at the northeast boundary of the historic district. The confronting properties on the east side of Kensington Parkway are outside the historic district.

The applicant proposes to remove an existing one-story bay window and construct a new two-story addition at the rear of the historic house. Four of the windows to be removed from the rear elevation to accommodate the new addition will be reused and installed elsewhere on the historic house, with two being added to the rearmost section on both side elevations. On the right elevation, a first floor door in the two-story polygonal bay will also be swapped with a nearby window to accommodate interior changes. The trim of all relocated windows and doors will match the existing. On the rear roof slope of the historic house, an existing skylight is proposed to be removed, and a new shed dormer is to be constructed to provide access to a rooftop deck on the proposed new addition.

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Regarding design, the proposed addition is to be cube-shaped, with a flat roof, curved edges, and ganged multi-lite windows and doors. A hyphen with minimum 12" inset on each side will provide differentiation between the addition and historic house. The proposed materials for the addition include wood siding, windows casings, and trim to match the existing, SDL wood windows and doors, a parged concrete foundation, and Indiana limestone steps to grade at the rear. The proposed rooftop deck is to have wood decking and a frameless glass safety railing. The proposed shed dormer on the rear slope is to have wood shingle siding to match the historic house gables and asphalt shingle roofing to match the existing.

Staff finds that the proposed addition is in the preferred location at the rear of the historic house, where it is generally less visible from the public right-of-way. The proposed addition is also appropriately differentiated and deferential to the historic house, being smaller, inset, and much lower than the historic house. Staff also finds the proposed materials to be generally compatible and appropriate. However, staff has concerns regarding the compatibility of the proposed design, particularly given the openness and wide building spacing of the surrounding streetscape, which will make the proposed addition highly visible from oblique angles along Kensington Parkway.

While staff supports creative building design, staff finds that the proposed addition should take more cues from the historic house. Specifically, staff has concerns regarding the style and pattern of the proposed fenestration, especially on the side elevations. The historic house has single one-over-one windows, while, as noted, the proposed addition will have ganged multi-lite doors and windows. As designed, the proposed addition's fenestration has the potential to draw attention to itself, competing with and detracting from the historic house. Staff recommends that the proposed fenestration be simplified, with single single-lite or one-over-one stacked windows.

Staff also has concerns regarding the proposed addition's cube-shaped design, flat roof, curved edges, and the proposed glass rooftop safety railing, which are all characteristic of contemporary design. These aspects of the proposal will clearly differentiate the addition from the historic house, in accordance with *Standards #3* and *#9*, which respectively address changes that create a false sense of history and the differentiation of new work. However, the location, scale and massing, materials, and methods of construction of the proposed addition will already differentiate it from the historic house, and the contemporary design may be too incompatible with the subject property and surrounding streetscape.

While a contemporary addition may be appropriate in historic districts that exhibit a great deal of eclecticism, new residential construction and additions in the Kensington Historic District have typically been more consistent with the established architectural styles and material palette. As noted in the *Amendment*, the Kensington Historic District is a collection of Victorian-era architectural buildings, which share a uniformity and cohesiveness that convey a strong sense of time and place reflective of a Victorian garden suburb. With this, staff finds that the proposed addition could detract from the character-defining features of the historic district, contrary to *Standard #2*. This is also contrary to *Standard #9*, which, aside from issues of differentiation, also addresses the compatibility of architectural features.

Staff has no concerns with the proposal to reuse and relocate the windows from the rear of the historic house and to swap the window and door on the right-side polygonal bay. As proposed, these fenestration alerations are generally consistent with the established pattern and will not significantly detract from the character of the historic house. Staff also has no concerns regarding the removal of the skylight and construction of a shed dormer on the rear roof slope of the historic house. The skylight is not at all visible from the public right-of-way, and, while the proposed shed dormer introduces a new form and a gable dormer would be more consistent with existing features, it will be minimally visible.

Questions for the HPC:

- Does the HPC concur with staff's concerns regarding the style and pattern of the proposed addition's fenestration, finding that they have the potential to draw attention to the addition, competing with and detracting from the historic house? If so, does the Commission agree with staff's recommendation that the proposed fenestration should be simplified, with single single-lite or one-over-one stacked windows?
- Does the Commission agree that, while it clearly differentiates the proposed addition from the historic house, the contemporary design of the proposed addition may be too incompatible with the subject property and surrounding streetscape?
- Are there any additional concerns or recommended revisions to make the proposal more compatible with the subject property and surrounding streetscape, in accordance with the purposes of Chapter 24A-8 and the *Standards*?

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: Paul Longo	E-mail: longop@gmail.com				
10304 Kensingto		Kensington Zip:			
Daytime Phone: 24060159	Tax Account No.:				
AGENT/CONTACT (if app	licable):				
Name:		E-mail:			
Address:	City:		Zip:		
Daytime Phone:		Contractor Registration No.:			
LOCATION OF BUILDING	/PREMISE: MIHP # of Hi	istoric Property			
Is the Property Located wi Is there an Historic Preser map of the easement, and	vation/Land Trust/Enviro	No/Individual : onmental Easemer	Site Name nt on the Prope	rty? If YES, include a	
Are other Planning and/or (Conditional Use, Variance supplemental information	e, Record Plat, etc.?) If YE	•	•	• •	
Building Number:	Street: _				
Town/City: Near		Cross Street:			
Lot: Block	د: Subdivis	ion: Parce	əl:		
TYPE OF WORK PROPOS for proposed work are s be accepted for review. New Construction Addition Demolition Grading/Excavation I hereby certify that I have and accurate and that the agencies and hereby ack	Submitted with this ap Check all that apply: Deck/Porch Fence Hardscape/L Roof e the authority to make to	andscape description. Incomp	Shed/Garage Solar Tree removal, Window/Doo Other: cation, that the	ions will not Accessory Structure planting r application is corrected by all necessary	

HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING [Owner, Owner's Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners] Owner's mailing address Owner's Agent's mailing address 10304 Kensington Parkway Kensington, MD 20895 Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses Flinn Park Johnson's Garden Center 10313 Kensington Parkway Kensington, MD 20895 301-946-6700 Kimberly and Mackie Barch Melanie and Ken Levy 10303 Montgomery Avenue 10216 Kensington Parkway 609-980-1861 703-342-6368 202-423-4362

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

Per the document "M: 31-6," the application to the National Register of Historic Places for the town of Kensington from 1978, 10304 Kensington Parkway was built in 1898 and was further described as a "large, two-story frame house of Queen Anne design with octagonal, conical-roofed, three-story tower set in the NW corner. The main house roof is a steep hip-roof, that breaks into overhanging gables at the N and SW corners. A one-story, open Victorian porch wraps around the front (north) and west side of the building. Decorative features include polygonal bays, brackets, fret-work, and patterned shingles."

The property has a non-historic detached garage at the end of the driveway behind the home: a wood framed structure with horizontal wood siding, open gable pitched roof, sitting on a concrete slab.

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

We are adding a two-floor rear addition to the house, with the rear addition coming in at least 12 inches on both sides to delineate the new construction from the original historical home. The two-floor addition is designed as a cube-shaped volume, with wood siding, curved edges, a set of French doors and large windows along the rear elevation, and a shed gable on attic rear elevation that leads out to a small outdoor deck area on the roof of the addition.

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Work Item 1: two-floor rear addition	
	Proposed Work: f construct two-story rear addition along the rear elevation that comes out from the original home about 17 feet, and includes a new shed gable along the roof line at the rear of the home, with French doors that open to an outdoor deck on the roof of the new addition
Work Item 2:	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:
Work Item 3:	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:

HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

	Required Attachments						
Proposed Work	I. Written Description	2. Site Plan	3. Plans/ Elevations	4. Material Specifications	5. Photographs	6. Tree Survey	7. Property Owner Addresses
New Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Additions/ Alterations	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Demolition	*	*	Νįc		*		*
Deck/Porch	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fence/Wall	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Driveway/ Parking Area	*	*		*	*	*	*
Grading/Exc avation/Land scaing	*	*		*	*	*	*
Tree Removal	*	*		*	*	*	*
Siding/Roof Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Window/ Door Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Masonry Repair/ Repoint	*	*	*	*	*		*
Signs	*	*	*	*	*		*





































