Address:	7334 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park	Meeting Date:	6/14/2023
<b>Resource:</b>	Contributing Resource	<b>Report Date:</b>	6/7/2023
A		Public Notice:	5/31/2023
Applicant:	(Margo Ricks/Solar Solutions – Agent)	Tax Credit:	N/A
<b>Review:</b>	HAWP	Staff:	John Liebertz
Permit Number	:: 1029725		
PROPOSAL:	Installation of solar panels.		

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

# **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) **approve with three (3) conditions** the HAWP application with final approval of all details delegated to staff:

- 1. The applicant shall submit an amended roof plan that show the location of the existing chimney stack and roof-top HVAC equipment.
- 2. The applicant shall submit an amended drawing that confirms the location of proposed hardware on the south elevation (side) of the building near the existing utility meter.
- 3. The applicant shall submit all specification sheets for the combiner box and AC disconnect.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE:	Contributing Resource within the Takoma Park Historic District
STYLE:	Art Deco-influenced Commercial
DATE:	1930s-1940s



Figure 1: The subject property at 7334 Carroll Avenue (noted with the yellow star) is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Carroll and Lee Avenues. The red outline is the boundary of the Takoma Park Master Plan Historic District.

# **PROPOSAL**

The applicant proposes to install eighteen (18) solar panels on the flat/shed roof of the two-story, brickclad commercial building. The solar panels are mounted to eight (8) extruded aluminum beams that would be attached to the masonry parapets via steel bent plates. All electrical equipment including the combiner box and AC disconnect would be located on the southwest corner of the building adjacent to the existing utility meter (in the alley separating the subject building from the adjacent commercial building at 7330 Carroll Avenue).

## **APPLICABLE GUIDELINES**

The Historic Preservation Office and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) consult several documents when reviewing alterations and new construction within the Takoma Park Historic District. 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)*, and the HPC's *Policy No. 20-01 ADDRESSING EMERGENCY CLIMATE MOBILIZATION THROUGH THE INSTALLATION OF ROOF-MOUNTED SOLAR PANELS*. The pertinent information in these four documents is outlined below.

### Takoma Park Historic District Guidelines

There are two 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 the buildings in the Takoma Park Historic District have been assessed as being "Contributing Resources." While these buildings 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. They are important to the overall character of the district and the streetscape due to their size, scale, and architectural qualities, 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 following guidance which pertains 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.
- Alterations to features that are not visible from the public right-of-way should be allowed as a matter of course.
- All changes and additions should respect existing environmental settings, landscaping, and patterns of open space.

### Montgomery County Code, Chapter 24A-8

The following guidance which pertains to this project are as follows:

- (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;

### 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 applicable *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.

### Historic Preservation Commission Policy No. 20-01: Addressing Emergency Climate Mobilization Through The Installation of Roof-Mounted Solar Panels

### Now, THEREFORE:

WHEREAS, Historic Area Work Permit decisions are guided by the criteria in Section 24A, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and pertinent guidance from applicable master plan amendments and/or site or district-specific studies;

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as interpreted by the National Park Service limit the placement of rooftop solar panels under Standards 2, 9, and 10 to less conspicuous locations;

WHEREAS, the County Council has established a Climate Emergency;

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation is a body established by the County Executive and County Council;

WHEREAS, Section 24-8(b)(6) states, "In balancing the interest 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;"

WHEREAS, the widespread use of solar panels, both for hot water and for electricity production, will reduce greenhouse gases in the county, in accordance with the aims of the Emergency Climate Mobilization resolution (Resolution No.: 18-974), it shall be the policy of the Historic Preservation Commission that:

- 1. The preferred locations for solar panel installation(s) on a designated historic site or an historic resource located within an historic district is a) on the rear of the property, b) on non-historic building additions, c) on accessory structures, or d) in ground-mounted arrays;
- 2. If it is not feasible to install solar panels in one of the identified preferred locations due to resource orientation or other site limitations; and,
- 3. The roof is determined to be neither architecturally significant, nor a character-defining feature of the resource, nor is it a slate or tile roof, that unless it can be demonstrated that the solar array will be installed without damaging the historic character of the resource or historic fabric; then
- 4. The public welfare is better served by approving a Historic Area Work Permit for solar panels on all visible side or front roof slopes under Section 24A-8(b)(6).
- 5. A Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) is required for all work referenced in this policy.

### **STAFF DISCUSSION**

The subject property is a Contributing Resource to the Takoma Park Historic District and features a twostory, Art Deco-influenced commercial building constructed in the 1930s or 1940s. There are no relevant Historic Area Work Permits (HAWP) associated with this property.



Figure 2: View of the façade (left) and rear (right) of the subject property at 7334 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Avenue, 2023. Source: Montgomery Planning.



Figure 3: Aerial view, 2022. Source: ConnectExplorer.

Staff finds that the proposed placement of the solar arrays meet the applicable guidelines and recommends approval with several conditions. The HPC and staff utilize *Policy Guidance #20-01: Solar Technology (2021)* as the baseline for their review and to articulate their findings in the review of solar technology. While the array is located on the historic commercial building, the proposal takes advantage

of the flat/shed roof and parapet walls to obscure visibility of the panels from the public rights-of-way. The array would be setback 4' from the northeast corner of the façade and rear elevation. Steel bent plates attach to the parapets and support eight (8) extruded aluminum beams that the panels would be mounted on. As a result, the panels would be only 7.2" above the parapet and would not be visible from the public rights-of-way based on the provided viewshed analysis (*Figure 4*). These panels would have no adverse effects to the historic resource or the character of the commercial streetscape.<sup>1</sup> The present or future property owners could remove the structural supports and panels in the future with no impact to the historic resource. The applicant, however, should amend the drawings to include the location of the existing chimney stack and HVAC equipment to ensure no conflicts (*Figure 3*).



Figure 4: Solar layout (left), section showing attachment of panels to parapet (top right), and elevation (lower right) showing the height of the panels above the roof line. Source: ConnectExplorer.

Staff recommends approval for the placement of the exterior hardware and conduits associated with the solar array with conditions. *Policy Guidance #20-01: Solar Technology (2021)* states that all conduits for connections to electrical meters should be placed on the inside of the building or on a secondary elevation. The proposal has a discrepancy between Sheet A.01 and PV.01 which shows the combiner box on the rear and side elevations, respectively (*Figure 5*). Sheet A.01 should be amended to show the combiner box and AC disconnect on the side (south) elevation as depicted in Sheet PV.01. Specification sheets for the combiner box and AC disconnect should be included as well. Also, the applicants should submit additional details (an elevation or annotated photograph) regarding the treatment of the conduit wire with respect to the parapet. The wire should pierce the wall and not be placed over the parapet.



Figure 5: Detail from Sheet PV.01 (left) and A.01 (right). Staff requests clarifiation regarding the placement of the combiner box and conduit. Source: Applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Staff did not include an analysis of nearby Outstanding Resources as the proposed panels lack of visibility makes the assessment unnecessary.

After full and fair consideration of the applicant's submission, staff finds the proposal, as modified by the condition, consistent with the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b), (1), (2), and (d), having found the proposal is consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* #2, #9, and #10, and *Takoma Park Historic District Guidelines*, and the HPC's Policy No. 20-01 as outlined above.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Commission **approve with three (3) conditions** the HAWP application with final approval delegated to staff:

- 1. The applicant shall submit an amended roof plan that show the location of the existing chimney stack and roof-top HVAC equipment.
- 2. The applicant shall submit an amended drawing that confirms the location of proposed hardware on the south elevation (side) of the building near the existing utility meter.
- 3. The applicant shall submit all specification sheets for the combiner box and AC disconnect.

under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b), (1), (2), and (d), having found that the proposal, as modified by the condition, is consistent with the *Takoma Park Historic District Guidelines*, and therefore 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 in conformance with HPC Policy No.20-01;

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 an electronic set 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 john.liebertz@montgomeryplanning.org to schedule a follow-up site visit.

COMERY		F	OR STAFF ONLY: AWP#
	PPLICATIO	N FOR	ATE ASSIGNED
	RIC AREA W		MIT
MARYLAND	301.563.340	00	
APPLICANT:			
Name:		E-mail:	
Address:		City:	Zip:
Daytime Phone:		Tax Account No.:	
AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable	e):		
Name:		E-mail:	
Address:		City:	Zip:
Daytime Phone:		Contractor Regis	tration No.:
LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREM	IISE: MIHP # of Histor	ic Property	
Is the Property Located within an	Historic District?	Yes/District Name	
		No/Individual Site	Name
Is there an Historic Preservation/ map of the easement, and docur	'Land Trust/Environm nentation from the Ea	ental Easement or asement Holder su	the Property? If YES, include a porting this application.
Are other Planning and/or Hearir (Conditional Use, Variance, Reconsupplemental information.	ng Examiner Approvals rd Plat, etc.?) If YES, ir	s / Reviews Requirence information	ed as part of this Application? on these reviews as
Building Number:	Street:		
Town/City:	Nearest Cros	ss Street:	
Lot: Block:	Subdivision:	Parcel:	
TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: Se	e the checklist on P	Page 4 to verify th	nat all supporting items
for proposed work are submit	ted with this application application application application apply:	ation. Incomplete	
New Construction	Deck/Porch	50	leu/ Garage/ Accessory Structure
Addition	Fence	Tre	ee removal/planting
Demolition	Hardscape/Land	scape W	indow/Door
Grading/Excavation	Roof	Ot	her:
I hereby certify that I have the a	uthority to make the f	oregoing application	on, that the application is correct
and accurate and that the const	ruction will comply wi	th plans reviewed	and approved by all necessary
agencies and hereby acknowled	lge and accept this to	be a condition for	the issuance of this permit.

# 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
Adjacent and confronting	Property Owners mailing addresses

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

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

Work Item 1:	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:
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	*	*	*		*		*
Deck/Porch	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fence/Wall	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Driveway/ Parking Area	*	*		*	*	*	*
Grading/Exc avation/Land scaing	*	*		*	*	*	*
Tree Removal	*	*		*	*	*	*
Siding/ Roof Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Window/ Door Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Masonry Repair/ Repoint	*	*	*	*	*		*
Signs	*	*	*	*	*		*

# Index

00\_Index

A01\_Overview

A02\_Line of Sight

PV01\_Mount Detail

PV02\_Mount Detail

**PV03\_Hardware Specs** 

E01\_Electrical Diagram

E03\_Electrical Labels

**E02\_Electrical Calculations** 

# Scope of Work:

To install 8.10kW size of solar panels with a system height of 0.6 feet on roof of building.

# Codes

!56.'!Ā2 !57"!124Ā !89"!124: !""!124:

CODE ANALYSIS	Existing	Existing Building		Alteration
	IBC	NFPA	IBC	NFPA
IBC occupancy classification(s)	R-2			
Type of construction	Type III-B			
Number of stories above grade	2			
High Rise (Y/N)	N			
Covered Mall (Y/N)				
IBC 510 Pedestal Construction (Y/N)	N			
Fully Sprinklered (Y/N)	N			
Fire Alarm (Y/N)	0			
Floor area of renovation	0 N/A	sq. ft		sq. ft.
Occupant load	N/A			
Energy Compliance Path	N/A			

NFPA 1 . section 11.12.1.New photovoltaic

with Section 11.10, Section 11.12 OF NFPA

systems shall be installed in accordance

1 2018

CLIEN	<b>nt</b> Ā	ÀÀÀ !"#\$\$%&&!'()*!	<b>ргојест но.</b>	system size	<b>issue</b>	drawn by
()*+	⊦',/012 +	-#,%-#!.#\$,*!/0!12341	% !&'	3"\$+4'	!" #"!\$!!	HS

All demolition and construction shall be made in accordance with the Montgomery County Fire Safety Code, IBC Chapter 33, and NFPA 241. Provisions shall be made to protect pedestrians and property located within close vicinity to the work area. (Note portable fire extinguishers shall be provided during construction).

# Digitally signed by David R. Hall Date: 2023.03.13









2 Street View of Building















View A

View B









### CODE REFERENCE:

### ART 690.8 (A)

1. The maximum current shall be the sum of parallel module rated short - circuit currents multiplied by 125%.

3. The maximum current shall be the inverter continuous output current rating.

### ART 690.8(B)(1)

- 1. CONDUCTION MUST HAVE 30 C AMPACITY > 125% OF CONTINUOUS CURRENT PER 690.8(A)
- 2. CONDUCTOR MUST HAVE (AFTER CORRECTIONS FOR CONDITIONS OF USE) GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO CONTINUOUS CURRENT PER TABLE 310.15
- 3. EVALUATE CONDUCTOR TEMPERATURE AT TERMINATION PER ART 110.14(C). AMPACITY OF WIRE DERATED FOR CONDITIONS OF TERMINATION MUST BE > CONTINUOUS CURRENT X 1.25.

### DC CALCULATIONS

SYSTEM SIZE: 18X 450 W = 8.10kW

PV SOURCE CIRCUIT PV MODULE ISC = 11.60 A # OF MODULES IN PARALLEL PER CIRCUIT = 1 MAX ISC = 1 X 11.60A X 1.25 = 14.5A OCPD/Ampacity = 14.5A x 1.25 = 18A, 20A OCPD

SOURCE CIRCUIT WIRING CONDUCTOR = COPPER #12 AWG THWN-2 90°C RATED CORRECTION FACTORE FOR 60°C AMBIENT = 0.71 CORRECTED AMPACITY: 30 A X 0.71 X 0.8 = 17.0A > 14.5A

### AC Current Calculations

Total Panels: 18 x 1.39A = 25.02 String 1: 10 x 1.39A = 13.9A String 2: 8 x 1.39 = 11.12A

Combiner Box Home Run Current: 18 x 1.39A = 25.02A OCPD Sizing: 40A 80% of OCPD = 40A x .8 = 32A > 25.02A

Wiring for Combiner Box: 1/2" Conduit #6 AWG & #10 Ground Conductor for #6 AWG THWN-2 90 C Rated Correction Factor for 45 C Ambient = 0.87 Corrected Ampacity: 75Ax0.87x0.8 = 52.2A > 25.02A





### Solar System Warning Labels Material

Vinyl Material - Flexcon DPM FWS White Vinyl

Reflective Material - Avery Dennison T-1500-A Engineering Grade Beaded Retroreflective Film

Lamination - Flexcon DPM Clear Gloss Polyester Laminate



















#### TO BE INSTALLED PER FIRE CODE 2015. SECTION 605.11



ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTI	CS I STC		
Maximum Power (Pmax)	440W	445W	450W
Maximum Power Current (Imp)	10.92A	10.99A	11.06A
Maximum Power Voltage (Vmp)	40.37V	40.57V	40.76V
Short Circuit Current (Isc)	11.48A	11.55A	11.60A
Open Circuit Voltage (Voc)	48.60V	48.80V	49.05V
Module Efficiency	19.7%	19.9%	20.2%
Power Tolerance	0~+5W	0~+5W	0~+5W

STC: AM1.5 Irradiance 1000W/m, 25° C



INPUT DATA (DC)
Commonly used module pairings <sup>1</sup>
Module compatibility
Maximum input DC voltage
Peak power tracking voltage
Operating range
Min/Max start voltage
Max DC short circuit current (module lsc)
Overvoltage class DC port
DC port backfeed current
PV array configuration

IQ7PLUS-72-2-US / IQ7PLUS-72-B-US
235 W - 440 W +
60-cell and 72-cell PV modules
60 V
27 V - 45 V
16 V - 60 V
22 V / 60 V
15 A
II
0 A
al DC side protection required; A per branch circuit

### CERTIFICATES

UL 61730 | IEC 61215 | IEC 61730 | CEC Listed | CE ISO 9001 Quality Management System ISO 14001 Environmental Management System

ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System

\*Please contact with Boviet Solar representatives for full list of certificates according to local requirements and product type

#### MECHANICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Monocrystalline I PERC PV Cells Solar Cell 166mm Cell I Half-cut I 9 Busbar I 144 (6x24) pcs in series Bifacial I 84.06 x 41.19 x 1.38 inch. I Weight: 68.34 lb. Solar Modules

OUTPUT DATA (AC)	IQ 7+ Microinverter	
Peak output power	295 VA	
Maximum continuous output power	290 VA	
Nominal (L-L) voltage/range²	240 V / 211-264 V	208 V / 183-229 V
Maximum continuous output current	1.21 A (240 V)	1.39 A (208 V)
Nominal frequency	60 Hz	
Extended frequency range	47 - 68 Hz	
AC short circuit fault current over 3 cycles	5.8 Arms	
Maximum units per 20 A (L-L) branch circuit <sup>3</sup>	13 (240 VAC)	11 (208 VAC)
Overvoltage class AC port	III	
AC port backfeed current	0 A	
Power factor setting	1.0	
Power factor (adjustable)	0.85 leading 0.85 lagging	

IQ7+



The universal SolarMount rail system has three options which can be assembled into a wide variety of PV mounting structures to accommodate any job site. Unirac provides a technical support system complete with installation and codecompliance documentation.



The S4 is manufactured from extruded aluminum to maximze spans while minimizing weight for improved handling. The S4 carrier has a side slot to enable the option of bottom mounting. Optimized features for large span length in Free Field systems.



### SolarMount Mid Clamp



### Product Certificate UL2703

- Mid clamp material: One of the following extruded aluminum
- alloys: 6005-T5, 6105-T5, 6061-T6
- Ultimate tensile: 38ksi, Yield: 35 ksi
- Finish: Clear or Dark Anodized
- Mid clamp weight: 0.050 lbs (23g)
- Allowable and design loads are valid when components are assembled according to authorized UNIRAC documents
- Values represent the allowable and design load capacity of a single mid clamp assembly when used with a SolarMount series beam to retain a module in the direction indicated
- Assemble mid clamp with one Unirac ¼°-20 T-bolt and one ¼°-20 ASTM F594 serrated flange nut
- Use anti-seize and tighten to 10 ft-lbs of torque
- Resistance factors and safety factors are determined according to part 1 section 9 of the 2005 Aluminum Design Manual and thirdparty test results from an IAS accredited laboratory

#### SolarMount End Clamp



- End clamp material: One of the following extruded aluminum alloys: 6005-T5, 6105-T5, 6061-T6
- Ultimate tensile: 38ksi, Yield: 35 ksi
- Finish: Clear or Dark Anodized
- End clamp weight: varies based on height: ~0.058 lbs (26g) Allowable and design loads are valid when components are assembled according to authorized UNIRAC documents
- Values represent the allowable and design load capacity of a single end clamp assembly when used with a SolarMount series beam to retain a module in the direction indicated
- Assemble with one Unirac ¼"-20 T-bolt and one ¼"-20 ASTM F594 serrated flange nut
- Use anti-seize and tighten to 10 ft-lbs of torque
- Resistance factors and safety factors are determined according to part 1 section 9 of the 2005 Aluminum Design Manual and thirdparty test results from an IAS accredited laboratory
- Modules must be installed at least 1.5 in from either end of a beam