

HPC Review

HPC2009-11-17-01

for 517 Washington Grove Lane

An application for building permit dated October 26, 2009, and accompanying drawing submitted by homeowner Eric Gompf for the residence at 517 Washington Grove Lane was reviewed by the HPC at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. The applicant was not present at the meeting.

General Description: Alteration to the front and rear elevations of the existing house by change to existing dormers and the addition of a front entrance portico.

Adequacy of the Documents Submitted: The documents submitted were minimally sufficient for the HPC’s review. Documents included a building permit check-list & application and one drawing that included a sketch of the front and right-side elevations.

General Scope of Project: From the sketch that accompanied the building permit application, it appears the proposed construction is limited to the addition of a porch roof (portico) over the existing front “stoop” and changing the existing front and back shed-roofed dormers to gable-roofed dormers.

Visibility from public ways: The proposed changes will be visible from both Washington Grove Lane and Boundary Street.

Contributing structure: The house (c. 1927) is a contributing resource.

Nearby Contributing structures: The nearest contributing resource is 510 Washington Grove Lane.

Compatibility with the historic district and/or existing structure: While the existing shed dormers are more consistent with the original architecture of the home, the eave line remains low in the proposed plan. While the new dormers will change the character of the house, the scale is not negatively impacted and the mass of the roof remains broken up.

HPC Recommendations: The application and drawing made no mention of proposed materials. However, as always, HPC expresses its preference for natural materials.

Emilia A. Styles
for the Historic Preservation Commission

Date: November 24, 2009

cc: Applicant Planning Commission, John McClelland
HPC members Mayor Darrell Anderson
HPC Binder Town Clerk, Kathy Lehman
Web site, Bill Saar

Please note that the Historic Preservation Commission acts only in an advisory capacity to both applicants and the Planning Commission. The reviews undertaken are designed to assist homeowners in their projects, to provide input to deliberations of the Planning Commission and, more generally, to contribute to historic preservation in Washington Grove.

Further information regarding the scope, powers, duties, and structure of the Historic Preservation Commission may be found in Article XV of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Washington Grove. Section 5 (a) of Article XV describes the powers and duties of the Historic Preservation Commission in the building permit process. This section reads as follows:

The Commission shall review all applications for building permits filed with the Town Planning Commission which would involve any change to a structure or site visible from any public way for historical accuracy, integrity, or compatibility with the neighborhood and improvements therein. The Commission may recommend to an applicant alternative historical designs, materials and sources for the same which may be more historically compatible. The Commission shall forward its recommendations regarding the same, if any, in an advisory capacity, to the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission within thirty (30) days from the Commission’s receipt of the application from the Planning Commission.