

HPC Review
for 119 Grove Avenue

HPC2020-2-18-01

Homeowners Howard Harary and Wendy Weisbard submitted a building permit application dated January 5 for changes to their residence at 119 Grove Avenue. HPC reviewed the plan at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 18. The homeowners were not present for the review.

General Description: It is proposed to screen the existing front porch which faces Grove Avenue.

Adequacy of the Documents Submitted: The documents submitted were marginally sufficient for HPC's review of the project. They included a building permit application, site plan, and a partially legible purchase order from DeckMaster.

The building permit application had initially been made available to the HPC for review at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in January. The HPC looked at the application at that time but found the copy of the purchase order describing the proposed work to be unreadable.

A somewhat more legible copy of the purchase order was provided for the HPC's February meeting, and HPC elected to review the project in order not to delay the homeowners' project any longer. HPC notes, however, that a certain amount of conjecture was needed to visualize the project, since no photos or elevation drawings were included.

General Scope of Project:

A "Screeneze" fiberglass screening system is proposed for the existing front porch. (Note: The HPC referred to the Screeneze website as part of its review to familiarize itself with the supplier's products.)

The purchase order calls for two "32" Andersen metal storm doors with full screen and nickel handles to match door". The location of the screen doors is not specified. It is assumed that one door will line up with the entrance door to the house, and it is speculated that the second door may be placed on the right side, short "wall" of the porch, closest to the garage.

Visibility from public ways: The proposed changes will be visible from Grove Avenue.

Contributing resource: The residence is identified as a ca. 1956 one-story, side-gable house. While it is not identified as a contributing resource in the Washington Grove Historic District determination of 1980, it has been identified as a contribution resource in the pending updated National Register Historic District nomination.

Nearby Contributing resources: Currently identified contributing resources line Grove Avenue. Those in closest proximity to 119 Grove Avenue include the residences at 102, 103, 105, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 117, 118, 122, 123, 124, 125 and 127 Grove.

Compatibility with the historic district and/or existing structure: The proposed changes will likely be compatible with the existing residence and with the historic district.

HPC Recommendations: HPC recommends that the screening be placed **between** the porch posts, or **behind** the porch posts, in order to maintain full visibility of the character-defining structural elements (porch posts).

Screening should **NOT** be placed on the outside of the porch posts, as that would obscure a character-defining feature of the house.

HPC further recommends the use of natural materials, especially for the doors.



Emilia A. Styles
for the Historic Preservation Commission

Date: February 23, 2020

cc: Applicant Planning Commission
HPC members Mayor John Compton
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.