

HPC Review  
for 410 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

HPC2021-3-16-01

Homeowners Kirk Greenway and Misook Uh submitted an Application for Public Ways and Property Permit dated March 10 for construction of a gravel parking pad. HPC reviewed the project at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 16, held via Zoom. Kirk was unavailable that evening; Misook participated in the review, answered questions, and offered additional information.

**General Description:**

A parking pad is proposed at the rear of the property to allow for charging the homeowners' newly acquired electric vehicle.

**Adequacy of the Documents Submitted:**

The documents submitted were sufficient for HPC's review of the project. They included a permit application and sketches.

**General Scope of Project:**

A parking pad at the rear of the home, accessed from Johnson Alley, is contemplated. (*The dimensions cited on the application are 5'x17' while dimensions of 7'x15' are shown on the attached sketch.*) The homeowners state that the pad will double as a simple dry well, as it is planned to dig out several feet and fill the excavated depth with crushed stone, topped with a smaller diameter gravel, similar to that used on the avenue in front of their home. The pad will be rimmed with pressure-treated wood of railroad-tie dimensions. The homeowners plan to perform the work themselves, by hand. They suspect the identified area had been used for parking once before, as they have encountered a fair amount of embedded gravel when they have attempted to dig for planting.

**Visibility from public ways:**

The proposed changes will be visible from Johnson Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Acorn Lane.

**Contributing resource:**

The ca. 1894 cottage is a contributing resource to the Washington Grove Historic District. The December 2019 Architectural Survey prepared by Robinson & Associates, Inc., describes the home as follows:

*The frame house at 410 Fourth Avenue was once called "Wood Grange." It faces east toward Fourth Avenue and stands one-and-a-half stories tall under a peaked, front-gable roof. Characteristic of many Carpenter Gothic-style houses built in Washington Grove during the camp meeting period, the house features scroll-sawn bargeboards and a double-door on the front porch with flanking double-hung sash windows. Also characteristic of many camp meeting period cottages, the porch, which historic photographs indicate originally extended only across the front façade, was at some point enlarged to wrap around to the north façade. The porch features a hipped roof, square posts with simple brackets, and a wood plank floor. Gable windows were also frequently modified. In this case, the opening in the front gable, which originally held a single sash window and flanking louvers, was changed to accommodate a pair of double-hung sash windows. Two additions have been added to the back of the house – both one-story under a gable roof. German lap, wood siding covers the exterior walls, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles.*

**Nearby contributing resources:**

410 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, situated within the “tent department” of the historic district, is surrounded by other contributing resources. They include 402, 404, 408, 412, 414 and 417 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue; 402, 404, 406, 411 and 415 Grove Avenue; 407 Acorn Lane; as well as 402, 404, 406, 407, 409, 416 and 418 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Compatibility with the historic district and/or existing structure:**

The proposed parking pad is modest in scale, sensitive to environmental concerns, and protects the green space. The use of gravel (vs. asphalt or concrete) for the pad’s surface ensures its compatibility with the home and the historic district.

**HPC Recommendations:** None, other than encouraging the homeowner to remain constant to their plan of using small diameter gravel for the parking pad, similar to that used on the avenue in front of their home.

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Emilia A. Styles  
for the Historic Preservation Commission

Date: March 22, 2021

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

*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.*