

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD CITY OF PALATKA

Minutes for the April 4, 2013 Meeting

The Historic Preservation Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robbie Correa at 4:00 pm. Other members present included Lynda Little Crabill, Elizabeth vanRensburg and Laura Schoenberger. The following members were absent: Robert Goodwin, Gary Graffweg, Larry Beaton and Gilbert Evans Jr. Staff present: Planning Director Thad Crowe and Recording Secretary Pam Sprouse.

Motion made by Ms. vanRensburg to approve the March 7, 2013 minutes, seconded by Ms. Crabill. All present voted affirmative, motion passed.

Appeals Procedure- Chairperson Correa read the appeals.

NEW BUSINESS-

Case: HB 13-10
Address: 616 Kirby St.
Parcel Number: 42-10-27-6850-0420-0060
Applicant: Brianna Pierce
Request: Add a front porch with stoop, replace front door, add fish scale detail to the north side of home to match the south side, raise pitch of roof & screen in back porch, close in existing lean-to shed with wood siding to match home and to add operable wood shutters around all windows.

Mr. Crowe briefly discussed his recommendations in his staff report. He said he had concerns with the shutters, typically shutters were not used on frame vernacular buildings, but understood the Applicant was requesting them for functional and safety reasons. Staff did not oppose the use of shutters as long as they had a simple and unadorned look and were designed to cover the whole window. He recommended they be painted the same color as the house so not attract any attention.

He was unclear what the original front porch configuration was but Staff supported a full front porch as it is in keeping with the architectural style common with other historic homes in that vicinity, including the adjacent home.

He suggested the gutters be half-round with round downspouts which were utilized in that historic time period. He recommended the front porch step and handrail should be simple and not adorned and since they was a safety measure they should not visually detract from the home's appearance.

He recommended that the entire picket fence, including the posts, be painted white.

Finally he noted that the front door was in keeping with the simple and unadorned Frame Vernacular architectural style and recommended approval.

Applicant Brianna Pierce, 616 Kirby St. was present to answer questions from the board.

Ms. vanRensburg said the home was different from the other homes on the street as it had a very small front stoop as opposed to a larger front porch. She said if it was historically built with the smaller stoop then maybe it should be left for the next generation. She asked why the Applicant wanted a bigger porch. Ms. Pierce said she wanted a bigger front porch because she thought it was true to the historic design of the house. She was told there was a porch across the front of the home in the past. She added her neighbor's home has the same footprint and he too has a front porch. Chairperson Correa said the neighbor's front porch looked to be of a

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD CITY OF PALATKA

bungalow design and appeared to have been added around the late 1920's or 1930's. Mr. Crowe said according to the early 1900's Sanborn map it shows the neighbor's home to have a full front porch, and reiterated that Sanborn maps are hard to read. Chairperson Correa agreed the homes are a mirror image and if they look at the footprint they both could have had a front porch design at one time. She agreed with staff by saying the Sanborn maps are hard to read and there was no way of knowing if the porches were enclosed at one point and hard to detect if it was a whole wrap around porch. Mr. Crowe said in cases like this where original design was unclear, and when the proposed changes increase the attractiveness, convenience and enjoyment of the house he tended to defer to the applicant.

Ms. Crabill thought front porches were very prominently used in the past for cooling the homes and other reasons, not just for a portico covering the entryway. She also asked if the house was going to be painted gray or a different color. Ms. Pierce replied she would like to have it painted white. Ms. Crabill asked what color the trim will be. Ms. Pierce said she wanted to paint it all white except the shutters; she wanted to paint them black. She described a home across the street from the park and it has the same concept and appears to look very historical. Chairperson Correa said the staff's recommendations were to paint the shutters white so they blended in. Jeannie Pierce, 115 Walton Rd. commented most of the homes in the historic district have little non-functional decorative plastic shutters that came from Home Depot®. Chairperson Correa said that such shutters were added without a COA and they try to encourage the homeowners to remove them, but the board considers each home as an individual case. Ms. Jeannie Pierce said the proposed shutters will be functional for in the event of a storm or hurricane and believed they would be in keeping with historical homes. Mr. Crowe said generally with the research that he had done indicated that the grander homes would have been more likely to have shutters, but the frame vernacular homes were simple and unadorned. They didn't have any typical feature on them, but he said that's not to say that didn't occur. He said after some research across the state he found that most jurisdictions allow them but required they did not draw attention to them and he recommended this could be accomplished by painting the shutters a similar color as the house.

Ms. Brianna Pierce said the shutters will be made having board planks with a board across them making it look very simple even if they were to be painted a different color then white your eye wouldn't be drawn to them, it would just be a part of the house. Mr. Crowe said his job is to try and find what is historically accurate as possible but it is the board's decision.

He said they could consider another non-contrasting color for the shutters. Ms. Jeannie Pierce said the shutters will not have cut out patterns like the typical Christmas trees and stars; they will be more like a bungalow or country house. Chairperson Correa said the board understood what the shutters will look like, but said it was unlikely that house ever had shutters in the past and that is how the board makes their recommendations. Ms. Jeannie Pierce said the shutters will be functional, so if a storm came they can be closed to protect the windows from breaking and flooding the house. Chairperson Correa said she understood the reasoning, but had concerns if it would be historically accurate for that type of home. Ms. Crabill asked if the shutters will be around the whole house or just in the front. Ms. Brianna Pierce said she would try and put around the whole house.

Ms. Jeannie Pierce said when she talked to Ms. McCamey she showed her the bird's eye view from a Sanborn map of the home and it appeared then to have a large front porch. Mr. Crowe said his findings were that the Sanborn map was inconclusive and it was hard to determine accuracy in this case

Chairperson Correa asked what color the Applicant would like to paint the shutters, and asked for a compromise, maybe something that would be more in keeping with the intent of not calling attention to the shutters.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD CITY OF PALATKA

Ms. Brianna Pierce said she really wanted to go with a low country style house similar to what Paula Dean's house looks like, she has a white house with black shutters with a very southern and classy look and that is something the neighborhood needs something more classy, simple, southern style homes. She said she is not asking for 30 different colors she is only asking for the two. Ms. vanRensburg said the alternative to painting the shutters black would be to paint the trim on the house black because then the board would not have a problem. Ms. Brianna Pierce said no that would be too much. Ms. Jeannie Pierce perhaps if the board did not want to approve the black & white maybe they can change colors. Chairperson Correa suggested the color should be lighter and blended with the white. Ms. vanRensburg asked if the windows had the original glass. Ms. Brianna Pierce said yes. Mr. Crowe reiterated that shutters were not found to be a typical feature on vernacular style homes and they should not stand out because then it would be creating something that was never there. From staff's perspective he had no problem allowing them he just did not recommend any attention be drawn to them. Ms. Jeannie Pierce asked if she chose to paint the shutters a different color what would be something that wouldn't stick out against white. Mr. Crowe said two lighter or darker colors. Chairperson Correa said for example if a house was white maybe a soft yellow would be appropriate, something that fades into it. Ms. Crabill suggested a pale gray. Ms. vanRensburg said the important thing were the windows, since they are original she would rather see them protected with a shutter which could be removed in the future and with no harm to the house. Ms. Jeannie Pierce asked since the hardware will be constructed of black iron, will that need to be painted too. Mr. Crowe and Chairperson Correa said that they would not have to paint the hardware. Ms. Jeannie Pierce said that she and Ms. Brianna Pierce would need to rethink the color scheme, since Ms. Brianna Pierce had her heart set on the white and black. They will need to see what color combination they can come up with that the board would approve. Mr. Crowe suggested the board may want to make a general motion of approval to allow staff to work with the applicant when choosing the colors. Chairperson Correa asked for a motion. Ms. vanRensburg asked if they were considering a point by point or a blanket motion. Chairperson Correa said they could incorporate all of them in a blanket motion or point by point with the color to be determined by staff. Ms. VanRensburg asked about the roof, screening in the back deck, the siding or the front door. Chairperson Correa said staff had already talked about that but, if there were any questions they could answer them. Mr. Crowe said the back screening is really hidden from the view. Chairperson Correa said she was waiting on a motion.

Motion- made by Ms. vanRensburg to approve the application request as stated in its entirety with the applicant working with staff concerning a less contrasting shutter color. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crabill and with all those present voting in the affirmative the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS-

Ms. vanRensburg asked staff for an update concerning Main St. and the bike path.

Mr. Crowe said he did communicate to the City Manager the board's concerns about speeding and bike lane parking on this street. He said the parking in the bike paths have decreased and the speeding concerns have been passed on to the proper department.

Adjourn- with no further business meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm