

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
April 17, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Members present were Mary Evans, Suzette Astley, Hugh Lifson, Machele Pelkey, Ed Sauter, Leah Rogers, and Guy Booth. Also present were Jim Baty, architect, and Tom Redding.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2019 were approved.

The first item on the agenda is design review for property located at 615 6th St. NW, Mount Vernon, IA. The property is located in the Ash Park Historic District. The house has recently been purchased by Thomas and Laura Nogag. Mr. and Mrs. Nogag are moving to Mount Vernon from Maitland, FL. Jim Baty has been hired to provide architectural services for the renovation of the property. It had come to the attention of the Commission that construction work has started on the home, even though the Commission has not had an opportunity to review the permit application and the application for certificate of appropriateness. A great deal of renovation is taking place in the interior of the house. The exterior changes that need approval by HPC include the replacement of seven windows, the removal of a chimney, and the removal and rebuilding of a concrete stoop at the rear of the property. The building permit did not include the request for the removal of the chimney or the concrete stoop, so those two items will need to come before the Commission after the building permit has been submitted for that portion of the project.

The Commission discussed the type of window that is going to be used in the project. The contractor who has provided information to the owners has selected a vinyl double-hung window. It is shown that these will replicate the current windows that are being replaced. It was suggested that to be correct in their restoration procedures, that the new owners may want to consider the use of wood windows, rather than vinyl windows. Jim Baty will visit with the owners to see if the new windows have been ordered as yet, and if the owners would be willing to use wood frame windows, as opposed to vinyl. Upon motion made by Suzette Astley, and seconded by Hugh Lifson, a certificate of appropriateness was approved. Along with the certificate of appropriateness, however, the Commission is requesting that the owners consider using wood windows for the seven windows that will be replaced. This is a non-binding request.

Tom Redding was present to discuss the windows he needs to replace on his building located at 113 1st St. NW in the downtown district. As he indicated at the last meeting, the windows to be replaced are very tall and it is difficult to find pre-made windows. Most of the discussion revolved around whether he could use a one over one window with a transom window at the top of the opening. There are other examples of this in buildings in the downtown district. There was debate as to whether the transom should be a blind transom or a glass transom. Glass seemed to be the preference of the Commission. Mr. Redding will continue to investigate the design for the windows, and will, upon filing an application for a building permit, bring the project back for design review and approval by HPC.

Leah handed out material regarding a CLG training workshop that will be held in Maquoketa, Iowa on August 3 and 4, 2019. It is entitled "Preservation 101." Registration for

the program must be received by the Jackson County Historic Preservation Commission by July 23, 2019.

Suzette Astley gave an update on the Hart Family Small Town grant applications. She is moving ahead on this and it appears the City is willing to pay the matching funds if a grant is approved. HPC will also have an obligation to do fundraising for the grant.

Machele gave a brief update on the learning curve to be the administrator of design review. All of us are still less than clear about the process between Linn County Building Department and the building department for the City of Mount Vernon. There still needs to be a better understanding and coordination of when and how the county reviews and approves a building permit for projects that are within our historic districts. We will all be learning this together. There is always the problem of letting owners of property, or people who are purchasing property in the historic districts, know what is required to make any exterior changes on the property. Hopefully City Hall will be able to remind people in these districts that there are special procedures to follow if a building permit is required so that HPC has adequate notice that meetings for design review can be scheduled.

Finally, Leah mentioned that the Preserve Iowa Summit Conference will be held in early June. We should all receive information about the summit in case we want to attend. Leah also indicated again she would be very involved in the hearing for approval at the State National Registration Nomination Review Committee on June 14, 2019. We also need to schedule a public hearing for the 11 nominated structures before the hearing on June 14, 2019.

There was no other old business. Leah will announce when the next scheduled meeting will take place.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary