

DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, July 15th, 2024- 6:00 P.M.

Staff Report

Regular Agenda

H. 1593 North Decatur Road, Kimberly Hunt. Install new sign. **1247122**

Built in 1963 - Nonhistoric (18 003 08 005)

This property is located in the Emory Village Character Area and in the Druid Hills National Register Historic District.

09-16 1593 North Decatur Road (DH), John O'Connell. Install a sign. 20976. **Approved.**

Summary

The applicant proposes installing a new back-lit sign on the front façade of the commercial property. The sign will be black Channel letters with back-lighting, measuring 14.6 inches in height and 169 inches in length. An image of a wine bottle will be above the letters, bringing the total height of the sign to 25 inches. The Channel letters will be constructed from aluminum with a white LED strip of lighting behind the lettering and mounted on a clear Lexan backing.

Recommendation

Approve. These proposed changes do not appear to have a substantial adverse effect on the district. This application appears to meet the guidelines and the staff recommends approval.

Relevant Guidelines

- 5.0 *Design Review Objective* (p45) - When making a material change to a structure that is in view from a public right-of-way, a higher standard is required to ensure that design changes are compatible with the architectural style of the structure and retain character-defining features. When a proposed material change to a structure is not in view from the public-right-way, the Preservation Commission may review the project with a less strict standard so as to allow the owner more flexibility. Such changes, however, shall not have a substantial adverse effect on the overall architectural character of the structure.
- 11.0 *Nonhistoric Properties* (p93) Guideline - In reviewing an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a material change to a nonhistoric building, the Preservation Commission should evaluate the change for its potential impacts to any historic development (architecture and natural and cultural landscapes) in the area of influence of the nonhistoric property. Guidelines presented in *Section 7.0: Additions and new Construction* are relevant to such evaluations.
- 16.3.10 *Building Signage*. Allowable signs shall include those documented to have existed in Emory Village prior to 1980 may be considered provided that they meet other criteria herein and are approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. Furthermore, the number of signs and metrics thereof shall be as established for non-residential zoning districts in Chapter 21, Section 21-20 of the Code of Ordinances of DeKalb County, subject to the modifications contained herein. (Updated January 16th, 2024)
- i. All signs, except window signs, shall be located a minimum of eight (8) feet above the adjacent sidewalk.
 - ii. The following signs are permitted in all cases: Canopy signs (apron only), wall signs, projecting signs, directional signs, entrance signs, and window signs.

- iii. The following signs are prohibited in all cases: Roof signs, message signs, electronic signs, and other moving signs. Sandwich board signs are allowed providing they are located so that they do not create obstacles for the visually impaired.
- iv. One (1) marquee sign may be provided within the district when associated with a theater, based on the Historic Preservation Commission indicating that said sign is consistent with historic precedents for marquee signs found in the City of Atlanta or DeKalb County between the 1920's and the 1940's.
- v. Except for one (1) authorized marquee sign, all projecting signs shall have a maximum area of eight (8) square feet per side and a maximum width of three (3) feet. No projecting sign shall extend more than four (4) feet from the building façade.
 - i. Side walls of buildings may be painted with murals advertising a business contained within said building providing that such murals are approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.
 - ii. Pylons or other free-standing business signs are permitted only when replacing other existing free-standing signs. Said signs shall not exceed forty (40) square feet, five (5) feet in height, and eight (8) feet in width. Furthermore, said signs shall be supported by brick or stone bases having a width at least as wide as the sign it supports.
 - iii. Neon window signs may be only on first and in the case of second level businesses, second stories. Window signs on all stories may be painted or etched glass. Visibility into commercial establishments shall not be obscured by opaque signage or window advertisements.
 - iv. Parking and directional signage shall be unobtrusively located.
 - v. Temporary signs shall be replaced with permanent signs within four months of occupancy.

Signage shall be designed to complement the architectural features of the buildings it is on, and such signage shall be compatible with respect to size, scale, material, color and design of such buildings. Signs may be lit by duck/gooseneck lamps, and back/silhouette lighting. Individual sign lettering shall be a maximum of 15 inches in height. Appropriate locations for signage within traditional storefronts include at lintels which separate storefronts from the upper floors, the space above the transoms in the storefronts, and the windows.