DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, October 19, 2026- 6:00 P.M.

Staff Report

Consent Agenda

A. 1001 Oxford Road, Lee Earley. Install new hedges along rear side-yard of corner lot. **1248327.**

Built in 1925 (18 002 04 025)

This property is in the Druid Hills Character Area #1 and the Druid Hills National Register Historic District.

07-19 1001 Oxford Road (DH), Wes & Rebecca Tignore. Install a fence in the side and rear yards of a corner lot. 1243332. **Approved by Default after 45 Days**

08-23 1001 Oxford Road, Adam Stillman. Build a one-story rear addition. 1246578. **Approved**

Summary

The applicant is submitting a retroactive application to plant a new hedge boarder in the rear-side yard of a historic property. The hedge replaced a previous 8ft, olive bush hedge that was removed due to the hedge limiting sign at the junction of The By Way. In the place of the previous hedge in the rear-side yard, along The By Way, the applicant planted 16, 8ft holly bushes to create a new hedge 30ft from the junction.

Recommendation

Approve. The proposed changes do not appear to have a substantial adverse effect on the property or 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.

9.3 *Vegetation* (p83) Recommendation – The plant list is intended to assist in the selection of appropriate plant materials. Olmsted's list and the list from the Georgia Landscapes Project provide guidance in selecting materials appropriate for historic landscape projects. There are other sources that can be consulted to identify additional plants used by Olmsted in Druid Hills, such as historic planting plans and particularly the archival record at the Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts. The Olmsted list presented in this document should be considered a beginning. Residents of Druid Hills are encouraged to add to this list with historic plants that can be documented as having been used by Olmsted. The native list should be used for natural areas within the district, such as creek corridors and drainage ways. Places within the district where the retention of healthy ecological environments is critical are best landscaped with native varieties. Since native plants have been available since the colony of Georgia was established in 1733, native plants are also appropriate for historic landscapes.

9.4 *Enclosures and Walls* (p90) Guideline - Fences and walls should not be built in front yard spaces and are strongly discouraged from corner lot side yard spaces. Retaining walls should only be used in situations where topography requires their use. In the review of the installation of fencing, the front yard shall be defined as the portion of land between the front entrance of the main structure on the property and the Right of Way of which the property is addressed.

9.4 *Enclosures and Walls* (p90) Guideline – The plantings of shrubbery to create a hedge is considered fencing and will require review by the preservation commission.

9.4 *Enclosures and Walls* (p90) Recommendation - Fences are appropriate in rear yard spaces. Rear yard fences should be coordinated with existing county codes. Suggested materials include wood and chain link. Vinyl- covered chain link fencing, typically in bronze, brown, or black, assist in making fences less obtrusive. Vines are suggested to "soften" the appearance of metal chain link fencing. If wood fencing is used, the paint color and design should be compatible with the architecture of the adjacent residence. Fence heights can range from 4' to 6' depending on the reason for the enclosure.