

380 South Mill Street
South Hill Historic District

Boca Tide, LLC, Owner
Bobby Freisberg, Applicant

Scope of Work

Remove tree.

Background

The applicant is requesting that the Board grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove a chinese elm tree from the west side of the property along Mill Street. The application was to remove two trees that are adjacent to each other; one tree is dead and a COA was issued on June 24, 2016 for the removal of the dead tree. Tim Queary the LFUCG Urban Forester reviewed the tree in question and determined that the tree is healthy; additionally the tree is in a location that does not threaten the building, street or pedestrians.

Guidelines

III. Guidelines for site and setting

In addition to buildings, elements of the surrounding site and setting contribute to the character of historic properties. These elements include both natural and manmade features such as trees, fields, gardens, fences, driveways, retaining walls and boundary definers. Historic site elements help to define a property's historic character and appearance. Historic site and setting features should be preserved and maintained.

6. Landscape, land features, land formations, view sheds and archaeology.

DESIGN PRINCIPLE: Landscape, land features, land formations, view sheds and archaeology define many site elements in historic areas throughout Fayette County. These elements include resources above and below the ground surface. As a result, landscape and land features are more difficult to define than built features and elements. Landscape and land features can be either man-made or natural. These features include, but are not limited to: trees and shrubs, decorative gardens, utilitarian (functional) gardens, fields, documented historic topography, archaeological and cultural resources and other land features and land formations.

Landscape, Land Features, Land Formations, Viewsheds and Archaeology:

- A. that are significant should be preserved and maintained.
- B. that are altered or introduced should be compatible to the site and with surrounding properties.
- C. should not be visually dominant, intrusive or suggest a false sense of history.
- D. should not be created by the demolition of existing structures.
- E. of open space should only be developed in scale and character with the neighborhood or designated historic landmark.
- F. of vistas and approaches should be preserved and maintained.
- G. trees with trunks greater than 10 inches in diameter should not be removed unless diseased or unsafe.
- H. new construction or rehabilitation activity should work around trees with trunks greater than 10 inches in diameter.
- I. the determination of archaeological/cultural resource significance is recommended before site work begins. If archaeological or cultural significance is determined, this should guide proposed alterations, new construction or demolition.

Findings

The proposal to remove the healthy chinese elm tree is not within the guidelines as stated in III.6.G. “trees with trunks greater than 10 inches in diameter should not be removed unless diseased or unsafe.”

Recommendations

Staff the denial of the COA request.

Deadline for Board Action

August 13, 2016