

160 East Bell Court
Bell Court Historic District

Linda Blackford and Van Meter Pettit, Owner

Scope of Work

Remove tree.

Background

The applicant is requesting that the Board grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove a large Red Maple tree from the rear yard. The owner has stated that they would like to remove the tree because it “blocks the sun from the potential vegetable garden”, “it encroaches on the neighbor’s garage” and “shades a well established vegetable garden”. Tim Queary the LFUCG Urban Forester reviewed the tree in question and determined that the tree is healthy.

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.

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Findings

The proposal to remove the healthy 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.” Staffs suggests the tree be pruned as well as the neighboring hedge to allow more light into both yards .

Recommendations

Staff recommends denial of the COA request.

Deadline for Board Action

October 30, 2016