

143 Shawnee Place  
Seven Parks Historic District

Friendly Properties LLC, Owner  
Friend Bechtel, Applicant

Scope of Work

Demolish garage/construct garage.

Background

On a site visit in mid-March, staff found that a garage had been demolished. A slab and foundation stem walls were being constructed. Staff told the contractor to stop work and talked with the applicant. Subsequently, the applicant made application to demolish and build a new garage on March 30, 2020.

In communication with Mr. Bechtel he said he has a contract to buy the property. He also said that the garage was in poor condition and collapsed. He was “simply clearing the debris.” According to the PVA, the structure was labeled a carport and they noted it was 20’ by 20’. From the photographs, it was a wood sided, metal roof, two- bay garage.

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to conduct the following work:

1. Demolish a partial collapsed garage.
2. Construct a 24’ by 24’, one- story, two-bay garage.

The proposed garage will be located in the same location as the previous garage. The southeast side of the garage will have a window and a single man door. The proposal calls for the gable end of the roof of the garage to face the street. The roof will be covered with dimensional roofing. It should be noted that the application was made for a vinyl sided garage. Staff did explain and discuss the Guidelines with the applicant and explained that no vinyl is allowed. The plans were since modified to change the siding and vinyl detailing to cementitious board.

The driveway will remain gravel with only slight refreshing of gravel from the rear of the house to the apron leading into the garage.

Guidelines

- II. Guidelines for New Construction
- B. Guidelines for Construction of New Buildings

Guidelines cont'd.

1. NEW PRIMARY BUILDINGS

DESIGN PRINCIPLE: New primary buildings should be designed to be compatible with adjacent historic buildings and those along the block. Compatibility is demonstrated by having similar orientation, roof forms, materials, window and door sizes and placement, porch size and location and foundation heights as adjacent buildings. New buildings that are exact replications or reproductions of historic designs are not appropriate. New construction should clearly be recognized as of its time and distinguishable from historic buildings. New construction may incorporate contemporary materials such as cementitious board, fiberglass and aluminum. The use of vinyl is not permitted.

New construction of primary buildings should maintain, not disrupt, the existing pattern of surrounding buildings, the streetscape and the historic district by being similar in:

- (II.B.1)A. Shape. Variations of rectangular and square forms are most appropriate for Lexington's historic districts.
- B. Scale (height and width). New construction should be in keeping with adjacent properties in height and in width. In general, new construction should not vary in height more than 10% from the average along the block and within the historic district. Width should also be consistent with surrounding buildings and buildings throughout the district.
- C. Setback. Consistent setbacks, or distances of the building from the street and adjacent buildings, help to convey a pattern and sense of rhythm along a block or within a district, which adds to the character of the streetscape and the overall district. Placement on the lot of new construction should be consistent with that of adjacent and surrounding buildings along the block and within the historic district. This includes both front and side yard setbacks.
- D. Roof shape and pitch. Roof slope ratio for new construction should be a minimum of 6:12 to a maximum of 12:12 (6:12 refers to six inches of rise to twelve inches of run in measuring slopes). Roof forms of gable and hipped variations are more typical than those of flat, mansard or gambrel forms.
- E. Orientation to the street. All buildings should have the primary entrance on the front of the building. Most houses in Lexington have their fronts oriented towards the street and this characteristic should be maintained by new construction.

Guidelines cont'd.

- F. Location and proportion of entrances, windows, divisional bays and porches. Openings, such as entrances and windows and architectural features such as divisional bays and porches, are design components that help establish balance, rhythm, scale, proportion and emphasis in a structure. Patterns of these components on buildings along blocks and within districts create a characteristic rhythm for streetscapes and neighborhoods. It is very important that new construction respect the balance, proportion and scale of existing buildings along the block and within the district in regards to these components.
- Entrances and divisional bays: Entrances shall be compatible in scale, size and proportion to established patterns of openings in adjacent and surrounding buildings. Divisional bays are where the facade of a building is divided into a series of vertical bays or sections using designs such as pilasters and columns and projecting and inset sections. Divisional bays in new construction should be compatible with the balance and proportion of divisional bays in existing buildings on the block and within the district.
  - Windows: Window openings shall be compatible in scale, size and proportion to established patterns of openings in adjacent and surrounding buildings. New buildings should have a similar ratio of window openings to solid wall space as adjacent and surrounding buildings as well as buildings in the district.
  - Porches and Decks: Porches and decks should be compatible in scale and materials with the principal structure and with adjacent and surrounding buildings. Placement and scale should be compatible with that of existing buildings along the street and in the historic district. Porches should have roof forms of gable or shed design and at least cover the entrance. Porches which extend partially or fully across the main facade are recommended. Porch columns and railings should be simple in design in square or round shapes. Columns should be a minimum of six inches square or in diameter. Porch railings should have balusters which are no less than two inches square or in diameter. Installation of porches that give a building an “imitation historic” appearance are not allowed.
- G. Foundations. Height of foundations should be a minimum of 1’-6” above grade. Foundation heights should be consistent with the average heights of other buildings on the street and in the historic district.
- H. Floor-to-ceiling heights. Regular patterns of floor-to-ceiling heights along a street and throughout a district help to create a sense of cohesiveness of character as well as balance and proportion. New construction floor-to-ceiling heights should be consistent with the majority of existing buildings along the block, the surrounding neighborhood, and the historic district.

Guidelines cont'd.

- I. Porch height and depth. Porch heights should be consistent with those of adjacent buildings. Buildings along the street and in the historic district. Porch depths should be a minimum of six feet.
- J. Material and Material Color. Material color, texture, pattern and construction technique help define building character and scale. Materials are incorporated into all parts of buildings, but may vary from building to building. Installation of materials that give a building an “imitation historic” appearance are not allowed. Materials should be in scale to the building on which they are located and should be compatible with materials on adjacent and surrounding buildings. In areas where strong continuity of materials, texture and material color is a factor, the continued use of those materials is strongly recommended.
- Brick Structures: If the new construction has a brick exterior, the brick should closely match typical mortar and brick styles and color tones found along the block.
  - Foundations: Most foundations are of brick, poured concrete or concrete block. Poured concrete is more appropriate than concrete block. If concrete block is used, a stucco wash is recommended to provide a smooth surface. Split faced concrete block is also an acceptable foundation material. Lattice and other appropriate materials should be used as infill between masonry piers, when and in the district appropriate.
  - Frame Structures: If the new construction is of frame, the preferred exterior material is horizontal wood siding which is a minimum of four inches and a maximum of six inches in width. The use of smooth cementitious board siding is also acceptable as long as it meets these size recommendations. Vinyl siding is not allowed.
  - Porches and Decks: Porch and deck materials should be appropriate to the building on which they are to be located.
  - Windows: The use of wood or anodized or baked enamel aluminum windows is appropriate. Vinyl windows are not allowed. The use of plastic or "snap-in" muntins (window pane dividers) is not permitted.
- K. Details. Architectural details help give a building character and scale. Details include, but are not limited to: corner boards, rake boards, cornices, brackets, downspouts, railings, columns, steps, door and window moldings and decorative elements. Architectural details may be appropriate when they give the building on which they are placed a good “sense of belonging” on a street and within a district. Details should be appropriately scaled for the proposed structure and compatible with other adjacent buildings and the district. Installation of ornament or details that give a building an “imitation historic” appearance is not allowed. New construction may incorporate contemporary material (see above).
- L. Chimneys. Chimneys and other roof features should be incorporated into designs for new construction, provided they do not dominate the building or streetscape and are appropriate to new construction.

Guidelines cont'd.

2. New Accessory Buildings (Garages, Outbuildings, etc.)

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE:** Accessory buildings serve a variety of purposes and may include, but are not limited to garages, carports and sheds, new accessory buildings should be compatible in design, shape, materials and roof shape with other secondary buildings along the block and within the historic district. New accessory buildings should be simple in design and considerably smaller in scale than the principal building and should be appropriate to and not overwhelm the site. As with principal buildings, new accessory buildings should not be exact replications or reproductions of historic designs. New construction may incorporate contemporary materials such as cementitious boards, fiberglass and aluminum. The use of vinyl is not permitted.

New construction of accessory buildings should follow the design guidelines established for new construction of primary buildings.

Accessory Buildings should:

- (II.B.2) A. be simple in design and considerably smaller in scale than the primary building.
- B. be located in character with other secondary buildings for the street, near an alley or at the rear of the property, not close to or attached to the primary building.
- C. be compatible in design, shape, materials, and roof shape with other secondary buildings in the historic district.
- D. preferably be of brick or wood siding; however, cementitious board and other contemporary sidings may be considered. Vinyl siding is not allowed.
- E. for garages, wood paneled doors are more appropriate than paneled doors; however, aluminum or steel paneled doors may be considered.
- F. carports should be compatible with the property and adjacent properties and be located at the rear of the property.
- G. follow design guidelines established for new construction of primary buildings.

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.

5. Driveways and Parking Lots

**DESIGN PRINCIPLE:** Significant driveway materials such as brick, concrete and asphalt should be preserved and maintained. New driveway or parking lot surfaces should be of a material appropriate to the site and the historic district. Paving and parking should not be visually dominant. Parking areas should not be sited in front yards but at side or rear locations, as appropriate.

Driveways and Parking Lots:

- I. should be maintained.

Guidelines cont'd.

- J. that are new, should be located at the side or rear of the building and not be visually dominant.
- K. should be of concrete, asphalt, pavers or grassy pavers.
- L. should have their parking areas located in rear yards and be screened with hedges, shrubs or fences as appropriate. Driveways should include concrete tracks where characteristic of the property and historic districts.
- M. should not be sited in front yards. Circular are not permitted.
- N. requiring new curb cuts for access should be kept to a minimum.
- O. on vacant lots between buildings should align edge screening with front elevations/facades of adjacent buildings and on corner lots should have edge screening on both the primary and secondary street.
- P. of refreshed gravel should have appropriate retention element to contain the gravel and retard expansion.

Findings

Staff finds that the proposal to demolish and construct the proposed garage is within the Guidelines. However, it should be noted staff does not condone work carried out without a permit. Staff had observed that this garage was in poor condition. Guidelines VI. D and E state respectively, “Demolition of a structure ... should not be detrimental to the character, scale, rhythm, design and importance of a group of buildings, streetscape or district.” and “If tied to future development of the property, future development should be compatible in scale, size and use with existing zoning and existing characteristics of historic properties where the development is located.” The poor condition of the garage assured it was beyond saving. Staff has no specific documentation of its collapse.

Staff finds that the proposed garage meets the intent of the Guidelines. Per Guideline II.B.2.A. The details of the garage are “simple in design.” The proposal meets II.B.2.B. The proposed garage is “located in character with other secondary buildings for the street,” “at the rear of the property, not close to or attached to the primary building.” The proposed garage form, scale and location are compatible with the site and the historic district.

Recommendations

Staff recommends approval of the demolition the proposal of the garage construction with the following conditions.

1. No vinyl products are to be used on the exterior to construct the garage.
2. If any changes are made that alter the information submitted, resubmit the changes to staff for review and approval prior to the start of the work.
3. Once reviewed by other LFUCG Divisions, any changes shall be returned to staff or Board for review and approval prior to the start of work.

Deadline for BOAR Action

None at this time per COVID-19 related executive orders.