### **AGENDA**

# ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

January 12, 2003 – 3:00 P.M.

Mayor's Pre-Council Chamber – Mobile Government Plaza 205 Government Street

### A. CALL TO ORDER – Chair

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Approval of Minutes
- 3. Approval of Mid-Month Requests Approved by Staff

### B. MID MONTH APPROVALS

1. Applicant's Name: DoRight Construction Company

Property Address: 160 S. Warren
Date of Approval: January 6, 2004 asc

Work Approved: Replace rotten wood on siding and wooden steps and porch

decking as necessary to match existing in profile and dimension.

Repaint to match existing color scheme.

2. Applicant's Name: Leneda Jones

Property Address: 79 S. Lafayette

Date of Approval: December 8, 2003 asc

Work Approved: Replace rotten wood as necessary to match existing in profile

and dimension. Repaint house in the following BLP paint colors:

Body: Leek Leaf 2606T (32-13T) Trim: DeTonti Square off-white

3. Applicant's Name: Leneda Jones

Property Address: 79 S. Lafayette - B
Date of Approval: December 8, 2003 asc

Work Approved: Replace rotten wood as necessary to match existing in profile

and dimension. Repaint house in the following BLP paint colors:

Body: Leek Leaf 2606T (32-13T) Trim: DeTonti Square off-white

4. Applicant's Name: Paul Diaz/ Ryals Construction

Property Address: 358 Michigan Avenue Date of Approval: December 9, 2003 asc

Work Approved: Install new wood 5/4 tongue and groove decking. Prime and

paint to match existing color scheme.

5. Applicant's Name: Jerry Arnold

Property Address: 558 Conti Street

Date of Approval: December 12, 2003 weh

Work Approved: Install 3' high wood picket fence, painted white, along south and

west property lines behind existing concrete coping.

6. Applicant's Name: Wendell Quimby Property Address: 211 Marine Street

Date of Approval: December 12, 2003 asc

Work Approved: Repair to rotten wood as necessary with new wood to match

existing in dimension and profile to include 1 x 6 siding and 1 x 4 tongue and groove decking. Install new roof using black shingles. Prime new wood and paint. (Colors to be submitted to

MHDC at a later date.)

7. Applicant's Name: Thomas Neese

Property Address: 264 Stocking Street
Date of Approval: December 15, 2003 jss

Work Approved: Replace rotten joists and decking on porch to match existing

wood in profile and dimension. Repaint to match existing color

scheme.

8. Applicant's Name: John Mallory

Property Address: 300 George Street

Date of Approval: December 18, 2003 asc

Work Approved: Replace rotten wood on porch deck with new 1x4 tongue and

groove to matching existing. Paint new materials in existing

color scheme.

9. Applicant's Name: Enoch Aguilera

Property Address: 1118 Government Street Date of Approval: December 19, 2003 weh

Work Approved: Replace rotten wood as necessary with new to match existing in

profile and dimension. Prime for painting. (Painting COA dated

11-24-03)

10. Applicant's Name: City of Mobile

Property Address: 753 Government Street Date of Approval: December 23, 2003

Work Approved: Install new flat roof. Roof will not be visible from the street.

Replace flashing as necessary. Color of flashing to be approved

by MHDC.

11. Applicant's Name: Michael D. Smith

Property Address: 903 Palmetto Street
Date of Approval: December 23, 2003

Work Approved: Replace rotten wood as necessary with new matching existing in

profile and dimension.

Repaint house in the following Sherwin Williams color scheme:

Body: Downing Slate Trim: Roycroft Vellum Porch deck: Dark Green

Install 6' dog eared privacy gate to connect to an existing 6'

privacy fence.

### C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. 033-03/04-CA 1500 Government Street

Applicant: Saad Vallas, Realtors/Clark Geer Latham, Architects/ Dan Elcan,

Developer

Nature of Project: Construct shopping center as per submitted plans.

2. 034-03/04-CA 1260 Selma Street

Applicant: Mack Lewis, Contractor/Matt McDonald, Owner

Nature of Project: Construct 6' wood privacy fence as per submitted plans.

3. 035-03/04-CA 558 Conti Street

Applicant: Jerry Arnold, Owner

Nature of Project: Construct 8' brick wall as per submitted plans.

4. 036-03/04-CA 965 Savannah Street/351 Charles Street

Applicant: Oakleigh Venture Revolving Fund

Nature of Project: Rehabilitate and construct addition to 3 room shotgun as per

submitted plans.

### D. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Discussion of Rules & Regulations
- 2. Election of ARB Chair and Vice Chair
- 3. New Distribution of Board Correspondence

### E. ADJOURNMENT

# APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS– STAFF COMMENTS

**033-03/04 – CA** 1500 Government Street

Applicant: Saad-Vallas, Realtors, Clark Geer Latham, Architect/Engineers, Dan Elcan, Owner

Received: 12/29/03 Meeting Date (s):

**Submission Date** + **45 Days**: 2/12/04 1) 1/12/04 2) 3)

# INTRODUCTION TO THE APPLICATION

**Historic District:** Old Dauphin Way Historic District

**<u>Classification:</u>** Contributing

**Zoning:** LB-2

**Additional Permits Required:** Demolition permit for 2 structures within the district

Demolition permit for former Ramada Inn

Permission to relocate two historic structures within the district

**Nature of Project:** Construct new shopping center as per submitted plans; demolish existing Ramada Inn

facility, one story masonry medical building, and one story frame bungalow with brick veneer infilled porch; relocate 2 historic frame structures to lots created by

resubdivision of property.

### **Project History:**

Due to the size and magnitude of this project, and at the request of the owner/developers, the ARB appointed a Design Review Committee to meet with the owner/developer and architect. This meeting was held 12/22/03 following the regularly-scheduled meeting of the Architectural Review Board.

### Attachment 2

The Design Review Committee's comments are attached for the Board's review.

#### Attachment 1

An analysis of the drawings submitted for the December 22, 2003 meeting was prepared by ARB staff and provided to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Staff has done no further analysis or review. The owner/developers and architects plan to bring additional drawings to the ARB meeting scheduled for January 12, 2004

### APPLICATION FOR DESIGN COMMITTEE REVIEW – STAFF COMMENTS

**033-03/04 – CA** 1500 Government Street

**Applicant:** Saad-Vallas, Realtors, Clark Geer Latham, Architect/Engineers, Dan Elcan, Owner

**Received:** 12/19/03 **Meeting Date (s):** 

Submission Date + 45 Days: 1) 2) 3)

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE APPLICATION**

**Historic District:** Old Dauphin Way Historic District

**Classification:** Contributing

**Zoning:** LB-2

**Additional Permits Required:** Demolition permit for 2 structures within the district

Demolition permit for former Ramada Inn

Permission to relocate two historic structures within the district

**Nature of Project:** Construct new shopping center as per submitted plans; demolish existing

Ramada Inn facility, one story masonry medical building, and one story frame bungalow with brick veneer infilled porch; relocate 2 historic frame structures

to lots created by resubdivision of property.

### **Project History:**

By re-subdividing and including existing lots located in the Old Dauphin Way Historic District, the entire parcel is now part of the District and therefore falls under review by the Architectural Review Board. At the request of the Old Dauphin Way Neighborhood Association and the Mobile City Council, a Design Review Committee was formed as a subset of the ARB to work with all parties involved and make recommendations to the Review Board.

# APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF GUIDELINES and DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Guidelines for New Residential and Commercial Construction in Mobile's Historic Districts

### STANDARD OF REVIEW

Section 9, STANDARD OF REVIEW, of the Historic Preservation Ordinance states that "The Board shall not approve any application proposing a Material Change in Appearance unless it finds that the proposed change:...Will not materially impair the architectural or historic value of the building, the buildings on adjacent sites or in the immediate vicinity, or the general visual character of the historic district..."

To be considered compatible and appropriate, five (5) design goals must be achieved. These are placement and orientation, massing, scale, façade elements, ornamentation and materials.

# **Existing Conditions:**

**District Resources:** 219 South Catherine Street – two story frame, ca. 1909

Classification: Contributing

(proposed to be relocated to Lot 4, Etheridge Street)

217 South Catherine Street – one story frame bungalow, ca. 1909

Classification – Non-contributing

213 South Catherine Street – one story frame bungalow, ca. 1924

Classification – Contributing

(proposed to be relocated to Lot 3, Etheridge Street)

211 South Catherine Street – one story masonry structure, post 1940 1500 Government Street - Former Ramada Inn Hotel, ca. 1959

# **General Site Conditions:**

The subject property is located at the northwest corner of Government and Etheridge Streets. The property includes 5 separate parcels which were re-subdivided into two parcels and rezoned to LB-2 and R-1. A new application is being made to create another R-1 lot at the rear of the property. The property covers approximately 5.50 acres. At the rear/north of the property, along Etheridge Street, 2 residential lots measuring 90' x 233' and 70' x 233' are being created to accommodate the two historic structures currently facing South Catherine Street.

Mobile City Code requires 1 parking space per 300 sf of floor area for retail. For this project, the minimum required spaces would be 142. The proposed parking area contains 204 parking spaces, 61 more than required.

# **Project Analysis**

### I. Placement and Orientation

- A. The Guidelines state that "New construction should be placed on the lot so that setback and spacing approximate those of nearby historic buildings. New buildings should not be placed too far forward or behind the traditional "façade line", a visual line created by the fronts of buildings along a street. An inappropriate setback disrupts the façade line and diminishes the visual character of the streetscape."
  - 1. The proposed setback is approximately 320' from the southeast corner of the building to the sidewalk at Government Street. The proposed side setback is approximately 50' from the east wall of the building to the sidewalk at Etheridge Street. The proposed setback is approximately 60' from the west wall of the building to sidewalk at South Catherine Street. All storefronts face south towards Government Street.
  - 2. Currently, the corner parcel is occupied by a Firestone Store. The building is set back approximately 35' from the sidewalk along Government Street, and features a partial hexagon which addresses the corner.
  - 3. Currently, the existing hotel facility is set back approximately 70' at the porte-cochere (southwest corner) and 60.55 at the southeast corner, for an average setback of approximately 65'.
  - 4. Currently, the houses along South Catherine Street have an average setback of approximately 18'.

- 5. As a comparison, in terms of large structures along Government Street, Blacksher Hall, 1056 Government Street, one of the deepest, has a setback of approximately 80'. The building immediately to the west, Kingdom Hall,1060 Government Street, one of the nearest, has a setback of approximately 18'. The Bay-Haas Building, 1150 Government Street, has a setback of approximately 30' with front lawn, and perimeter and rear parking.
- 6. The proposed setbacks are not compatible with setbacks along Government Street.

# II. Massing and Scale

- A. The Guidelines state that "Building mass is established by the arrangement and proportions of its basic geometric components. Similarity of massing helps create a rhythm along a street, which is one of the appealing aspects of historic districts. Therefore, new construction should reference the massing of forms of nearby historic buildings."
  - The proposed structure is massed into 3 attached components:
     One anchor store measuring approximately 120' x 142', containing 17, 076 sf.
     One anchor store measuring approximately 136' x 88.25', containing 12,000 sf.
     A rectangular section measuring 85' x 160', containing 13,600 sf (to be divided among multiple tenants)
  - 2. The total length of the building is approximately 341'. The depth telescopes from 160' at the east end to 85' at the west end.
  - 3. The overall massing and building footprint give the impression of a "strip" center.
- B. The Guidelines state that "The foundation, the platform upon which a building rests, is a massing component of a building. Since diminished foundation proportions have a negative effect on massing and visual character, new buildings should have foundations similar in height to those of nearby historic buildings."
  - 1. All adjacent non-historic commercial structures, including the Firestone, The Ramada Inn, The Winn-Dixie, and the Dollar General, are built utilizing slab-on-grade construction.
  - 2. All adjacent historic residential structures are constructed on crawl spaces and vary in height from 2' to 5' above grade.
  - 3. The proposed new construction is proposed to be slab-on-grade construction.
- C. The Guidelines state that "the main body and wings are the most significant components. A building's form, or shape, can be simple (a box) or complex (a combination of many boxes or projections and indentations). The main body of a building may be one or two stories. Secondary elements, usually porches, or wings, extend from the main building. These elements create the massing of a building. Interior floor and ceiling heights are reflected on the exterior of a building and should be compatible with nearby historic buildings."
  - 1. The largest mass of the development occurs at the east end of the development, and is essentially a rectangle in footprint, with a 3 bay facade measuring 30' tall at the entry parapet, stepping down to 22' on each side. The second largest mass occurs directly to the west of the largest mass, is rectangular in footprint, and also has a 3 bay façade measuring 22' tall at the parapet, stepping down to 18' on each side. The third portion of the development has a rectangular footprint with a 5 bay façade, the center of which measures 18' in height, and is flanked by a pair of arched parapets, which are flanked by straight-topped parapets.

- D. The Guidelines state that "A building's roof contributes significantly to its massing and to the character of the surrounding area. New construction may consider, where appropriate, roof shapes and pitches and complexity similar to or compatible with those of adjacent historic buildings. The use of built-up or flat roof systems hidden behind parapet walls may be used in new commercial construction."
  - 1. The proposed main roof system is a flat roof occurring at different levels, and concealed behind parapet walls.
  - 2. The three attached structures are tied together with a continuous sidewalk covering, constructed using Spanish Tile and Standing Seam roofing materials.
  - 3. While providing covering for pedestrians, this feature reinforces the appearance of a strip shopping center.
- E. The Guidelines state that "The size of a building is determined by its dimensions height, width, and depth which also dictate the building's square footage. SCALE refers to a building's size in relationship to other buildings large, medium, small. Buildings which are similar in massing may be very different in scale. To preserve the continuity of a historic district, new construction should be in scale with nearby historic buildings."
  - 1. Nothing of this magnitude has been proposed or constructed within the Old Dauphin Way Historic District. The Weinaker Shopping Center (which pre-dates the historic district), across South Catherine Street to the west, is the closest in terms of scale and property size. However, the proposed development is substantially larger in terms of building footprint and parking lot coverage. The Storage Max is the most similar in terms of scale on Government Street.

# **III. Façade Elements**

- A. The Guidelines state that "The number and proportion of openings windows and entrances within the façade of a building creates a solid-to-void ratio (wall-to-opening). New buildings should use windows and entrances that approximate the solid-to-void ratio of nearby historic buildings. Windows and entrances should also be arranged in a manner consistent with nearby historic buildings. In addition, designs for new construction should also incorporate the traditional use of window casements and door surrounds. Where a side elevation faces a side street, proportion and placement of its elements may have an impact upon the visual character of the side street."
  - 1. The proposed storefronts vary in terms of design and materials, but all have the same components bulkhead, storefront, and transom. This design is consistent throughout the façade.
  - 2. A covered canopy runs the length of the front of the building, reinforcing the effect of a strip shopping center.
  - 3. The masses are differentiated from each other by changing building materials. The east portion is shorter in length than the other two, which helps break up the massing. However, there is not enough differentiation on the ground plane or in elevation to break up the massing between the two elements.
  - 4. The building does not address South Catherine Street.

### IV. Materials and Ornamentation

A. The Guidelines state that "The goal of new construction should be to blend into the historic district but not to create a false sense of history by merely copying historic examples. The choice of materials and ornamentation for new construction is a good way for a new building to

exert its own identity. By using historic examples as a point of departure, it is possible for new construction to use new materials and ornamentation and still fit into the historic district."

1. A variety of building materials can be found throughout the Old Dauphin Way Historic District. The predominant wall material for commercial, institutional and educational structures is masonry.

# **Proposed Building Materials:**

Parking Surface – Asphalt with concrete curbing

Building Exterior - Split Face Concrete Block

Brick Veneer True Stucco

Glazing - Anodized aluminum metal storefronts

Roofing - Sidewalk Coverings - Spanish Tile, barrel-vaulted

Standing Seam Metal

Main Buildings – flat roofs behind parapets

Staff recommends the following conditions be placed on any approval for the project:

1. Placement: The building should be relocated closer to Government Street, perhaps forming an "L" configuration.

- 2. Orientation: The building should address both Government and South Catherine Streets, but should not ignore Etheridge Street.
- 3. Massing: The massing of the building should be more varied in order to create a complex more in keeping with the neighborhood.
- 4. Scale: As a commercial building, emphasis should be placed on other aspects since it would be extremely difficult to have the scale match that of the surrounding residential resources.
- 5. Façade Elements: Historically, display windows were part of commercial buildings. Where possible, these elements should be utilized.
- 6. Materials and Ornamentation: A variety of materials and detailing would help break up the massing and scale.

### Items Not Addressed:

- 1. Landscaping: Most buildings along Government Street present a front lawn. This should be considered in any landscaping plan.
- 2. Landscaping along South Catherine Street should be addressed.
- 3. Parking There is an abundance of parking which should be minimized from the public right-of-way.
- 4. Pedestrian Access There should be safe and convenient access for the pedestrian from both Government and South Catherine Streets.
- 5. Colors & Materials Samples should be submitted with a formal application.

# Report from the Design Committee 22 December, 2003

Following the regularly-scheduled meeting of the ARB December 22, 2003, The Design Committee of the Architectural Review Board met with the developer's representative and the architect to discuss preliminary site plan and elevations.

Design Committee Members: Cindy Klotz, Dan McCleave, David Barr

Developer's Representative: John Vallas, Saad Vallas Realty Architect: Linda Snapp, Clark Geer & Latham

Staff: Anne Crutcher, Ed Hooker

The Committee had the following comments and concerns:

# **New Development:**

- Setback of the proposed development from Government and Catherine Streets
  The Committee questioned why the building could not be moved closer to Government and Catherine
  Streets to maintain the setbacks established by existing buildings. The developers' representatives stated
  that the placement of the building at the rear of the parcel was tenant-driven. The Committee noted that
  tenant desires should not drive the appearance of the historic district.
- Landscaping on the perimeter and interior of the parking lot
  The Committee noted that most buildings along Government have lawn-type settings with landscaping, and
  that this development should try to repeat that landscape theme. The developer's representatives stated that
  landscaping plans had not yet been developed but the intent was to leave the existing berm at Government
  Street, and to have heavily landscaped islands within the parking area. The retention pond on Catherine
  Street will not be required as previously proposed, so that area will become green space. The Committee
  felt that the internal areas in the parking lot designated as planting areas were not large enough. The
  Committee noted that effective landscape design can aid in creating/maintaining the streetscape and noted a
  landscape plan was required for review.
- Extent/size of the parking lot
  - The Committee noted the excess number of parking spaces and recommended utilizing those spaces as landscaping areas. The developer's representatives stated that the number of parking spaces shown was also in part a requirement of the tenants. The Committee suggested that possibly the additional spaces be alternative paving. The developer's representatives stated that alternative paving had not proven to be successful for retail use. They also stated that Parcel 1, facing Government Street, may be the site of a new restaurant, and parking to accommodate that use would be shared by the parking proposed for this development. Perhaps a low brick wall around the parking should be investigated.
- The proposed development's addressing of Catherine Street
  The Committee noted that a blank wall was proposed to face Catherine Street. The Committee requested that the architect present some type of storefront or window pattern to wrap the corner.
- Better pedestrian access from Government and Catherine Streets. A blank wall is unacceptable because there is no dialogue with Catherine Street.
- The Committee noted that the only planned pedestrian access was from Catherine Street. However, access
  from Government Street should be accommodated for people using public transportation as well
  approaching the development either on foot or by bicycle.

- Breaking up the massing of the development to read as individual buildings
  The Committee noted that the architect had attempted to break up the massing of the building using
  different materials and design elements. However, the Committee noted that the elevations still read as
  strip-like. They suggested preparing perspective sketches to bring to the Review Board Meeting to provide
  a better interpretation of the elevation. How the project will relate to the street should be illustrated.
- Streetscape
  The Committee noted this project removed the established streetscape at Government and Catherine Street
  and does not replace it The view from both streets is now paved parking. This design exacerbates the poor
  design of the Weinaker's Shopping center directly across the street.

### **Existing Structures:**

- Proposed relocation plans for existing historic structures
  The Committee noted that more information should be provided on the relocation of the two historic structures from Catherine Street to Etheridge Street. This information should include setbacks similar to those established along Etheridge Street and show any site improvements.
- Buffering of the existing residential from the proposed commercial development
  The Committee noted that plans for separating the use of residential and commercial should be more
  detailed in terms of fence and wall design, and the use of landscape elements as part of the buffer.

The Developer's Representative and Architect plan to bring additional drawings, including a perspective and more detailed landscaping plan, to the Review Board meeting.

### APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – STAFF COMMENTS

**034-03/04 – CA** 1260 Selma Street

**Applicant:** Mack Lewis Construction, Contractor/ Matt McDonald, Owner

Received: 12/10/03 Meeting Date (s):

**Submission Date + 45 Days:** 1/25/04 1) 1/12/04 2) 3)

### INTRODUCTION TO THE APPLICATION

**Historic District:** Oakleigh Garden Historic District

**Classification:** Contributing

**Zoning:** R-1, Single Family Residential

**Additional Permits Required:** (1) Fence

**Nature of Project:** Install privacy fence as per submitted drawings and site plan.

Fence to begin on the east property line at the end of the existing driveway, in line with the northeast/rear corner of the residence, and run to the northeast property line, then turn west and run to the northwest property line, then turn south and run to a point in line with the bay window on the west elevation, then turn east and die into the residence. A 3' wide walkway gate to be located on center of the south section of fence, and a double gate to be located at the driveway. Fence to be pressure-treated and stained.

# APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF GUIDELINES and DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT Design Review Guidelines for Mobile's Historic Districts

SectionsTopicDescription of Work3Fences, Walls and GatesInstall wood privacy fence

### **STANDARD OF REVIEW**

Section 9, STANDARD OF REVIEW, of the Historic Preservation Ordinance states that "The Board shall not approve any application proposing a Material Change in Appearance unless it finds that the proposed change:...Will not materially impair the architectural or historic value of the building, the buildings on adjacent sites or in the immediate vicinity, or the general visual character of the historic district..."

# STAFF REPORT

- A. The Guidelines state that "These should complement the building and not detract from it. Design, scale, placement and materials should be considered along with their relationship to the historic district. The height of solid fences in historic districts is generally limited to six feet..."
  - 1. The main residence is a two story wood frame structure.
  - 2. The proposed fence is 6' wood privacy fence.

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

### APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – STAFF COMMENTS

035-03/04 – CA 558 Conti Street Applicant: Jerry Arnold, Owner

**Received:** 12/10/03 **Meeting Date (s):** 

**Submission Date + 45 Days:** 1/25/04 1) 1/12/04 2) 3)

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE APPLICATION**

**Historic District:** Lower Dauphin Street Historic District

**Classification:** Contributing

**Zoning:** B-4, General Business **Additional Permits Required:** (1) Building

**Nature of Project:** Construct brick privacy wall along west property line as per submitted site plan

and elevations.

Wall to begin on the south property line, centered between windows of the main residence, and run to the sidewalk on the west property line, then turn north and stop at the existing garage. An arched opening to be located at the sidewalk on center with the back door of the main residence. Wall to be painted to match the main residence.

# APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF GUIDELINES and DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT Design Review Guidelines for Mobile's Historic Districts

SectionsTopicDescription of Work3Fences, Walls and GatesConstruct masonry privacy wall

### STANDARD OF REVIEW

Section 9, STANDARD OF REVIEW, of the Historic Preservation Ordinance states that "The Board shall not approve any application proposing a Material Change in Appearance unless it finds that the proposed change:...Will not materially impair the architectural or historic value of the building, the buildings on adjacent sites or in the immediate vicinity, or the general visual character of the historic district."

# **STAFF REPORT**

- A. The Guidelines state that "These should complement the building and not detract from it. Design, scale, placement and materials should be considered along with their relationship to the historic district. The height of solid fences in historic districts is generally limited to six feet..."
  - 1. The main residence is a one story painted solid masonry structure.
  - 2. The proposed wall is 8', including the existing concrete coping.
  - 3. 8' privacy fences/walls constructed at the sidewalk are allowed by B-4 zoning.

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

### APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – STAFF COMMENTS

**036-03/04 – CA 965** Savannah Street/ 351 Charles Street **Applicant:**Oakleigh Venture Revolving Fund

**Received:** 12/29/03 **Meeting Date (s):** 

**Submission Date + 45 Days: 2/11/04** 1) 1/12/04 2) 3)

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE APPLICATION**

**Historic District:** Oakleigh Garden Historic District

**Classification:** Contributing

**Zoning:** R-1, Single Family Residential

Additional Permits Required: (1) Building

Variance from the Board of Zoning Adjustment to build within 5' of the property line.

### **Nature of Project:**

The request is to rehabilitate an existing 3 room wood frame shotgun dwelling, and add an addition to the west side. The proposed addition, measuring 19'4" x 30'-8", will then become the front of the residence and face Charles Street.

Existing front porch of residence to be enclosed for bathroom and closet, leaving existing porch elements and infilling between columns with painted wood lattice. Existing brick piers to be re-pointed and infilled with painted wood lattice. Existing cornice to be repaired and painted. Existing siding to be repaired or replaced, and painted. New wood double hung two-over two windows to be installed in existing openings to replace existing aluminum windows. Existing roof to be re-decked and re-roofed with timberline shingles.

Proposed addition to be wood frame with wood lap siding to match existing, constructed on brick piers to match existing. Piers to be infilled with framed lattice. New wood two-over-two windows to match those installed in the existing portion of the residence; new two-over-four floor-length windows on new front of residence. New three bay front porch, with columns matching the existing front porch in profile and dimension. New front porch railing, MHDC stock design Number 1, with circular-design porch frieze as illustrated. Recycled <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> glass front door with two vertical panels below, as illustrated.

### **Additional Information:**

The house was damaged by an electrical fire in late summer. The owner approached the ARB about demolishing the structure and constructing a new rental property on the site. Staff inspected the property, along with a building inspector from Urban Development. A determination was made that the house was structurally sound and could be restored. The owner submitted a Demolition Application requesting to raze the property. The Board held over the request pending the sale of the property for restoration. The Oakleigh Venture Revolving Fund has purchased the property for restoration.

Urban Development has cited this structure under the Unsafe Buildings Act.

This project is being undertaken by the Oakleigh Venture Revolving Fund, a partner organization of the Mobile Historic Development Commission. If necessary, Section 106 review of this project should be carried out through the Alabama Historical Commission.

# APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF GUIDELINES and DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Design Review Guidelines for Mobile's Historic Districts

<b>Sections</b>	<u>Topic</u>	<b>Description of Work</b>
3	General	
3	Piers, Foundations and Foundation Infill	Construct addition
3	Exterior Materials and Finishes	
3	Doors and Doorways	
3	Windows	
3	Porches and Canopies	
3	Roof	

### STANDARD OF REVIEW

Section 9, STANDARD OF REVIEW, of the Historic Preservation Ordinance states that "The Board shall not approve any application proposing a Material Change in Appearance unless it finds that the proposed change:...Will not materially impair the architectural or historic value of the building, the buildings on adjacent sites or in the immediate vicinity, or the general visual character of the historic district..."

### **STAFF REPORT**

### General

- A. The Guidelines state that "The standards listed and shown...illustrate elements that contribute to the architectural character of the buildings in Mobile's historic districts. These define the architectural style of the buildings and establish a repetition of forms and details, which create harmony and character of the historic districts.
  - 1. The existing structure is a one-story wood frame shotgun-style dwelling with vernacular detailing.
  - 2. The proposed addition is to be located at the west side of the existing structure, reorienting the main façade, incorporating the existing structure into a building twice the size and height of the original, making the original structure subordinate to the addition.

# **Work Item 1 – Rehabilitation of Existing Structure**

- A. Piers, Foundations and Foundation Infill
  - 1. The existing foundation is brick pier.
  - 2. Rehabilitation plans call for repointing of masonry and installation of framed lattice panels between the piers.
- B. Exterior Materials: The Guidelines state that "Replacement...must match the original in profile and dimension and material."
  - 1. The existing exterior sheathing is wood lap siding.

- 2. The existing exterior sheathing is to be repaired or replaced with wood lap siding to match existing.
- C. The Guidelines state that "Original window openings should be retained as well as original window sashes and glazing."
  - 1. Windows in the historic residence are aluminum.
  - 2. Windows proposed to replace the existing and proposed for the addition are wood double hung two-over-two.
- D. The Guidelines state that "The porch is an important regional characteristic of Mobile architecture. Historic porches should be maintained and repaired to reflect their original period."
  - 1. The original double bay front porch is incorporated under the main hipped roof and supported by three square plain wood posts.
  - 2. The proposed rehabilitation plan calls for new wood built-up columns to replace the existing wood posts.
- E. The Guidelines state that "Enclosing the front porch is generally prohibited. Where rear or side porches are to be enclosed, one recommended method is to preserve the original configuration of columns, handrails and other important architectural features."
  - 1. The proposed rehabilitation plan calls for the existing front porch to be enclosed with framed lattice panels concealing exterior walls behind.
  - 2. The proposed rehabilitation plan also calls for the existing front porch to become an enclosed side porch with the construction of a new front porch and reorientation of the structure to Charles Street.
- F. The Guidelines state that "...historic roof forms, as well as the original pitch of the roof, should be maintained."
  - 1. The predominant roof form is hipped.
  - 2. The roof for the proposed addition follows the pitch of the main roof but extends up past the main ridge to almost twice the height of the existing roof.

### Work Item 2 -Rear/Side Addition

- A. Piers, Foundations and Foundation Infill: The Guidelines state that "foundation screening should be recessed from the front of the foundation piers."
  - 1. The existing foundation is brick pier with lattice infill.
  - 2. The proposed addition is solid masonry with brick veneer brick pier with framed lattice infill, matching existing.
- B. Exterior Materials: The Guidelines state that "Replacement...must match the original in profile and dimension and material."
  - 1. The existing exterior sheathing is wood lap siding.
  - 2. The proposed exterior sheathing for the addition is wood lap siding.
- C. The Guidelines state that "Original doors and door openings should be retained along with any mouldings, sidelights and transoms."
  - 1. Proposed plans call for the use of a recycled ¾ glass front door with a pair of vertical panels below.

- D. The Guidelines state that "The size and placement of new windows for additions or alterations should be compatible with the general character of the building."
  - 1. Windows in the historic residence are aluminum.
  - 2. Windows proposed to replace the existing and proposed for the addition are wood double hung two-over-two.
- E. The Guidelines state that "...historic roof forms, as well as the original pitch of the roof, should be maintained."
  - 3. The predominant roof form is hipped.
  - 4. The roof for the proposed addition follows the pitch of the main roof but extends up past the main ridge to almost twice the height of the existing roof.

Staff defers comment on this project as there is a conflict of interest between the organization requesting approval and the reviewing agency.