



402 LEE STREET
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601
October 5, 2023

Council Chambers

Architectural Review Board

4:00 PM

I CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 14, 2023

III EXPEDITED CoAs SINCE THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:

313 Oak (McCarty) repair in kind front porch supports and build new wood front steps (#9 and #53 for the CoA)
615 1/5 Moulton (Cooper) new roof for garage (#47 for the CoA)
1022 Sherman (Sandlin) new roof (#47 for the CoA)
625 Sherman (Broman) new roof (#47 for the CoA)

IV NEW CoA REVIEWS:

CoA #1: 609 Oak (Hargrove)

Background: Project has a CoA issued for in kind replacement of damaged wood work, brick repointing and new roof on main house. A stop work order was issued on August 24th when staff confirmed that new trim was being added to the front gables of the house larger in scale/profile than the original trim, and additional trim pieces were added.

Action Requested: Applicant would like to keep the new, larger, trim.

Decatur's Design Review Standards: *4.0 Architectural Details*

4.1 Maintain and preserve historic architectural details and features. Architectural features help convey a historic building's architectural style. Architectural details should not be covered or removed. Their proper care and maintenance prevent deterioration and loss of individual elements, helping to maintain overall integrity.

4.2 Repair existing architectural details. For small areas of deterioration in wood features, repair with wood epoxy. Epoxies are fillers which are used to strengthen and consolidate wood. Cut out larger areas of decay, and fill the void with pieces of new wood. Clean metal features with light corrosion and flaking paint with a wire brush. After cleaning metal features, re-paint them immediately.

4.3 Replace a missing or severely damaged historic architectural detail and feature in-kind. Select replacement features that match the original feature in design, proportion, and detail. Historic photographs, drawings, graphics, or other physical evidence are useful aids to determine an appropriate example for a replacement feature. If no historic documentation is available, select a simple design in keeping with the building's historic architectural style and period. Ideally, any replacement feature should be made of the same material as the original, but when necessary, substitute materials may be considered if they successfully match the original appearance.

Staff Findings:

The rear elevation has the original molding and is a comparison for what the front gable of the house looked like before the changes.

For the new trim above the horizontal beadboard at the top of the porch ceiling, the original thin horizontal trim above the beadboard was more shallow, and did not have the large ogee molding that is now installed. The sum result is trim that projects more on the top line and is bulkier and more curved in design with the ogee trim. The design and scale of the ogee trim is beyond that found on this house originally and Craftsman homes in the district.

The original molding on the angled portions of the pediment were originally built out with two pieces of trim - a wide, thin board topped by a more complex molding similar to picture rail along the eave line. The new proposed design has three pieces of trim, a shallow depth wide strip on the lower portion of the angle, a mid-sized rectangular molding in the center, and a thinner more complex ogee type molding at the top. The design and scale of the new trim is beyond that found on this house originally and Craftsman homes in the district.

Guideline 4.2 states to repair existing details. Standard 4.3 states replacement should be in-kind with the same design, proportion, and detail. This CoA is requesting new design elements and different proportions than the historic front of the house.

CoA #2: 609 Oak (Hargrove)

Background: Project has a CoA issued for in kind replacement of damaged wood work, brick repointing and new roof on main house. A stop work order was issued on August 24th when staff confirmed five holes had been drilled for exterior lighting on the front of the house. Staff consulted with the builder and was given the style of the lights.

Action Requested: Five new lights, two on uncovered porch, followed by three on covered porch. Lights are a contemporary carriage style.

Decatur's Design Review Standards: The Design Review Standards do not address the number of lights on the exterior of a house.

Staff Findings: Staff could not find a precedent for the five exterior front lights on a building of this size, nor this era, and felt it best to bring the CoA to the Architectural Review Board.

CoA #3: Delano Park (Delano Park Conservancy)

Background: The existing footbridge was originally part of a garden at a house in Old Decatur and was moved to the park sometime between the 1930s and 1940s.

Action Requested: Removal of the contemporary concrete retaining walls and a stone/pebble mosaic design representing a stream, using four mill stones for the lily pads. A small bronze sculpture, perhaps a turtle, will be part of the finished art piece.

Project will be approximately 8' wide with a total length of approximately 20'.

Decatur's Design Review Standards: The standards don't specifically address art in Delano Park.

Staff Findings: This is an art install to accent an existing historic footbridge in the park. It will provide an anchor for a beloved bridge that is somewhat lost in the park landscape. The hardscape nature of it will allow continued access by children, without the worry of landscaping being trampled in a play area.