



402 LEE STREET  
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601  
May 8, 2025  
**MINUTES**

---

Council Chambers

Architectural Review Board

4:00 PM

---

**I CALL MEETING TO ORDER 4:00 PM**

**Roll Call:**

Present: Ellis Chenault, Barbara Kelly, Patrick Rasco (arrives 4:02), Jacob Woods

**II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 10, 2025**

**Vote:** Motion made by Barbara Kelly to approve the Minutes as submitted, seconded by Jacob Woods. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

**III EXPEDITED CoAs SINCE THE MARCH MEETING:**

615 Oak Street NE (Coggin) replace rotting trim and rear deck boards in-kind (#9 for the CoA)

1051 Jackson Street SE (Crow) replace rotting siding in-kind (#9 for the CoA)

504 Line Street NE (Riehl) repair existing windows and some trim in-kind (#9 for the CoA)

409 Oak Street NE (Bridges) new rear fence (#26 for the CoA)

608 Ferry Street SE (Lang) replace rotting siding in-kind (#9 for the CoA)

117 Walnut Street NE (Reichman) new roof (#47 for the CoA)

425 Sherman Street SE (Hall) new roof (#47 for the CoA)

606 Moulton Street SE (Pirouzbakht) entire house restoration (#9, 18, 25, 32, 52, 65 for the CoA)

419 Oak Street NE (Black) new rear fence (#26 for the CoA)

450 Jackson Street SE (Kennedy) new windows to replace non-period replacement windows (#65 for the CoA)

#### **IV 2025 HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH AWARDS:**

David Breland, lifetime achievement in Historic Preservation

Bonnie Goodman, assistance with Sykes Cemetery project

Ricky Thompson, assistance with the Sykes Cemetery project

Michael Coulter, Garth-Dancy Cemetery preservation

Karen and Mary Catherine Allen-Thomas, 809 Line Street NE, compatible addition

Joseph and Alicia Ryan, 213 Cherry Street NE, compatible addition

Charles and Carol Puckett, 629 Jackson Street SE, new fence

Mike and Britt Lovelace, 623 Jackson Street SE, new roof

#### **V NEW CoA REVIEWS:**

##### **CoA #1: 721 Ferry Street NE (Suggs)**

**Background:** An existing sunporch was destroyed by a falling tree in 2023. The ARB has met with the Suggs family previously to discuss the location and size of a replacement sunporch.

**Action Requested:** Approval of an addition. The applicant has two different options for the board to review. One has a stucco veneer siding with pilasters, the other has brick veneer. The addition size, windows, roof pitch and materials are the same in both options.

**Decatur's Design Review Standards:** 23.0 New Construction: - Additions 23.2 The overall proportions of the new addition should be compatible with the existing building in height, scale, size, and massing so as to not overpower it visually. 23.3 A new addition should be compatible with the existing building in terms of materials, style, color, roof forms, massing proportion, and spacing of doors and windows, details, surface texture, and location.

##### **Staff Report:**

This addition is replacement for one destroyed by a storm. A prior meeting with the ARB the board indicated flexibility with the location of the addition because it was the location of an original porch. The board also indicated support for mimicking the

kitchen addition roof with the rebuilt sunroom roof. The board is examining windows, window placement, shutters, and cladding for the final COA.

The board indicated they were amenable to a match in roof pitch and roof material to the kitchen addition on the southeast addition. This addition appears to match those. The house no longer has its original windows. New windows will match the number of lights to the kitchen addition, but have simulated divided lights. Board should confirm that there is no low –E coating that will tint the windows green.

The shutters and wood panels appear to match those on the main house and addition. The only possible door is on the rear elevation. When rear elevations are not visible from the public rights-of -ways, the board typically gives a fair amount of latitude with rear doors. There is nothing in the design review guidelines that indicates a rear door would be required if the applicant would prefer to not have a door on the rear of the sunporch.

The brick on the addition is compatible with the original house and the kitchen addition. Although masonry is typically not painted in the district, in this case painted brick would match the existing historic house. There is limited siding showing between the windows on the addition with the pilastered option. If the commission feels that there should be more of a visual break between the historic building and the addition, then the smooth Hardi siding could be interpreted as compatible, particularly since there is such a limited amount of siding showing on the addition. The Tuscan pillars introduce a design element that were not on the building originally and would be considered a false sense of historical development by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (Standard #2). The original porch supports were a cast iron, since the building was constructed in 1945. A detail of the original porch supports and roof railing are visible in the blueprints in the review packet. The current front porch has the original cast iron porch supports. Before destruction, the sun porch had the original cast iron railing around the roof.

**Discussion:** Jacob Woods indicates he fully supports the brick option but cannot support the pilasters on the proposed Hardi product option because it adds a false sense of historicism. He supports the metal roof to keep the symmetry on the house. Clarifies that the new windows should have clear glass, no Low-E green coating. Designer who is present confirms glass will be clear. There is discussion of aluminum clad windows, Jacob Woods is not in support of those since the rest of the windows on the main façade are wood.

**Vote:** Motion made by Jacob Woods to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness with the brick cladding, no pilasters. Seconded by Barbara Kelly. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

316 Lafayette Street NE  
Vote on Compliance Date

**Vote:** Motion made by Ellis Chenault to give applicants 3 (three) months to bring property into compliance. Seconded by Patrick Rasco. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

## **VII      ARB/HPC TRAINING**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:55 by Jacob Woods, seconded by Patrick Rasco. Unanimous approval, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.