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## Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission

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### Report to the Committee

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To: Charles J. Williams  
Thru: Bob Keesaer, AIA, NCARB- Planning and Design Supervisor  
From: Bob Keesaer  
Date: August 4, 2016

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Case No: 16COA1142  
Classification: Staff Review

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Property Address:** 1274 Willow Ave.

**Applicant:** Charles J. Williams  
Charlie Williams Design, Inc.  
1626 Windsor Place  
Louisville, KY 40204  
502-459-1810  
502-459-2428  
[charliewilliamsdesign@gmail.com](mailto:charliewilliamsdesign@gmail.com)

**Owner:** Phillip J. & Susan H. Lynch  
1274 Willow Ave.  
Louisville, KY 40204  
502-639-0909  
502-836-5347  
[Phil\\_lynch@b-f.com](mailto:Phil_lynch@b-f.com)

**Estimated Project Cost:** \$35,000.00

#### Description of proposed exterior alteration:

The applicant seeks approval to demolish the existing non-contributing two car garage originally approved by Landmarks on 5/20/93 in order to construct a new 1 ½ story frame garage / office. The foot print of the garage measures 28'-0" wide, 24'-0" deep, and 21'-0" tall on a 30'-0" wide lot with 1'-0" to each side of the adjacent property lines. The West Elevation, or alley facing façade, features a pitched roof with weathered wood composite shingles, half round gutters and down spouts, simulated divided single two car garage door, ¼ lite egress panel door, coach lamp, and shows 4" smooth Hardi-Board siding veneer. The North Elevation, or side façade, shows the end gable of the roof with the rear side of

the dormer, 4" smooth Hardi-Board siding veneer, and half round gutters and down spouts. No windows are proposed on the elevation. The **East Elevation** or yard facing façade features a pitched roof with second floor dormer showing two single double hung windows with two side by side double hung windows, and 4" smooth Hardi-Board siding veneer. The elevation includes weathered wood composite shingles with half round gutters and down spouts, ¼ lite egress panel door, coach lamp, three small casement windows with divided muntins on the first floor, and 4" smooth Hardi-Board siding veneer. The **South Elevation**, or side façade, shows the end gable of the roof with the rear side of dormer, 4" smooth Hardi-Board siding veneer, and half round gutters and down spouts. No windows are proposed on the elevation.

### **Communications with Applicant, Completion of Application**

The application was received on June 23, 2016. A revised proposal was submitting to staff on August 1, 2016 to address Floor Area Ratio requirements of the Land Development Code. Staff visited the site on August 2, 2016 to review the conditions of the site and the surrounding structures. The application was considered complete and needing Committee Review on August 3, 2016.

The case is scheduled to be heard by the Cherokee Triangle Architectural Review Committee on August 24, 2016 at 4:30 p.m., at 444 South Fifth Street, conference room 302.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Guidelines**

The following design review guidelines, approved for the Cherokee Triangle District, are applicable to the proposed exterior alteration: **Demolition, Site, New Construction Residential, and Garage**. The report of the Commission Staff's findings of fact and conclusions with respect to these guidelines is attached to this report.

The following additional findings are incorporated in this report:

### **Site Context/ Background**

The site, zoned R5B, is located on 1274 Willow Avenue. This two and a half story Queen Ann designed, wood framed single-family home is surrounded by 2 - 3 story wood framed homes that were built in the early 1900s.

### **Conclusions**

The proposed new garage / office generally meets the design guidelines except for New Construction guideline NC9, Site guideline ST9, and Garage (openings).

The existing adjacent contributing garage at 1272 Willow Avenue is located 6" from the side yard property line. An increase in the separation between the two structures will reduce Staff's concerns that constructing the new garage/office closer to the existing adjacent structure could potentially cause disturbance to the adjacent garage's foundation and perimeter loadbearing masonry walls.



## RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of the information furnished by the applicant, staff recommends the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness be **approved** with the following conditions:

1. Staff recommends that the proposed new garage/ office structure be revised to maintain the existing alley's scale of open space area vs. building massing area which is currently 23" between the structures.
2. Use the least invasive means necessary to remove the non-contributing structure and do not threaten the integrity of the adjacent contributing structure.
3. The Historic Concrete mix shall be used in the apron area of the drive leading from the alley to the garage.
4. Brick alley and limestone curbing shall be preserved.

*The foregoing information is hereby incorporated in the Certificate of Appropriateness as approved and is binding upon the applicant, his successors, heirs or assigns. This Certificate does not relieve the applicant of responsibility for obtaining the necessary permits and approvals required by other governing agencies or authorities.*



Bob Keesaer, AIA, NCARB  
Urban Design Supervisor

8/4/2016

Date

### Attached Documents / Information

1. Applicant Submitted Information
2. Design Guideline Checklists

# DEMOLITION

## Design Guideline Checklist From Economic Hardship Exemption

- + Meets Guidelines
- Does Not Meet Guidelines
- +/- Meets Guidelines with Conditions as Noted
- NA Not Applicable
- NSI Not Sufficient Information

### Introduction

Unless the city has determined that it poses an imminent threat to life or property, do not demolish any historic structure or part of a historic structure that contributes to the integrity of any historic district, or any individual landmark or part of an individual landmark.

### Demolition by Neglect

The deteriorated condition of a historic building attributable to the owner's failure to provide proper maintenance over an extended period of time will not be considered a mitigating circumstance in evaluations of economic hardship. Hardship that is attributable to a building's being allowed to deteriorate will be considered self-imposed; restoration costs incurred to remediate such neglect will not be considered.

	Guideline	Finding	Comment
DE1	Do not demolish existing non-contributing buildings and additions in a manner that will threaten the integrity of existing contributing structures.	+/-	Due to the closeness of the structures, the demolition of the existing garage could impact the structural integrity of the contributing adjacent garage.
DE2	Do take steps to assure the integrity of a wall exposed to the elements by the removal of a non-historic addition.	NA	
DE3	Do remove non-historic interior finishes such as plaster, drywall, or paneling that may be exposed as a result of the removal of non-historic additions.	NA	
DE4	Do infill non-historic openings in historic walls, exposed as a result of the removal of the non-historic finishes.	NA	
DE5	Do landscape areas that are left vacant as the result of removals of non-contributing buildings and additions. Topography should be made consistent with that of adjacent properties. The slope and grades of land left vacant after demolition should continue and be consistent with those features on adjacent properties.	NA	
DE6	Do take measures to reestablish the street wall after demolition through the use of low fences, walls, and/or vegetation.	NA	



# SITE

## Design Guideline Checklist

- + Meets Guidelines
- Does Not Meet Guidelines
- +/- Meets Guidelines with Conditions as Noted
- NA Not Applicable
- NSI Not Sufficient Information

	Guideline	Finding	Comment
<b>ST1</b>	Consider the relationships that exist between the site and structure when making exterior alterations. Changes to one will affect the other. A primary goal should be to maintain a complementary relationship.	+	
<b>ST2</b>	Retain established property line patterns and street and alley widths. Any replatting should be consistent with original development patterns.	NA	
<b>ST3</b>	Use paving materials that are compatible with adjacent sites and architectural character.	+	Historic Concrete mix for apron is proposed.
<b>ST4</b>	Restore and reuse historic paving materials for streets and sidewalks such as brick and hexagonal pavers and limestone curbing. Maintain original curbing whenever possible. The historic relationship between the road surface and edging should be preserved. Any replacement should use historic materials. If replacement with original materials is not technically or economically feasible, a substitute material may be used if it duplicates the color, texture, and visual appearance of the original.	NSI	Limestone curbing & brick alley need to be preserved.
<b>ST5</b>	Maintain brick, stone, or poured concrete steps wherever present. If replacement is required, original materials should be used. New construction should incorporate steps on blocks where they are a character-defining feature.	NA	
<b>ST6</b>	Do not harm historic resources through road widening or underground utility repair.	NA	
<b>ST7</b>	Locate driveways, parking areas, and loading docks to the side and rear of properties. Access from alleys is preferred.	+	
<b>ST8</b>	Maintain original front yard topography, including grades, slopes, elevations, and earthen berms where present. New construction should match the grade of adjacent properties. Do not recontour front-yard berms into stepped terraces, using railroad ties, landscape timbers, or any other historically-inappropriate material for retaining walls.	NA	
<b>ST9</b>	Do not carry out excavations or regrading within or adjacent to a historic building, which could cause the foundation to shift or destroy significant archeological resources.	-	Due to the closeness of the structures, excavation near the contributing adjacent garage could create structural disturbance.

<b>ST10</b>	Do not install masonry walls in street-visible locations unless they are used to retain earth at changes in grade, screen service areas, or unless a historic precedent exists.	NA	
<b>ST11</b>	Use materials that match existing sections of historic fencing in material, height, and detail when carrying out limited replacement projects. If an exact match cannot be made, a simplified design is appropriate.	NA	
<b>ST12</b>	use materials that match the existing character of the original when replacing retaining walls or curbing. If an exact match cannot be made, a simplified design is appropriate.	NA	
<b>ST13</b>	Install only historically-compatible iron fencing under 2'-5" in height where there is demonstrable historic precedent.	NA	
<b>ST14</b>	Do not install front-yard fencing where there is no historic precedent.	NA	
<b>ST15</b>	Install any rear- or side-yard privacy fencing so that it is set back from the side wall at least two feet and presents the finished side out. Any privacy fencing should be less than seven feet in height. Contact the Department of Inspections, Permits, and Licenses regarding additional restrictions on fencing at corner properties.	NA	
<b>ST16</b>	Do not install chain-link, split-rail, or woven-wood fencing, or concrete block walls in areas that are visible from a public way. Opaque fencing, such as painted or stained pressure-treated wood, may be permitted with appropriate design.	NA	
<b>ST17</b>	Use understated fixtures when installing any type of exterior lighting. Fixture attachment should be done so as not to damage historic fabric. Fixtures should not become a visual focal point.	NA	
<b>ST18</b>	Do not light parking areas or architectural features in a harsh manner. Generally, an average illumination level of 1.5 to 2.0 foot-candles will be sufficient. Light should be directed down and away from neighboring properties.	NA	
<b>ST19</b>	Parking lots of a certain size should have a portion of the parking area dedicated to plantings that will soften the expanse of paving. See the Jefferson County Development Code - Requirements for Landscaping and Land Use Buffers for specific requirements.	NA	
<b>ST20</b>	Use high-pressure sodium or metal halide lights to create a soft illumination where site or streetscape lighting is desired.		
<b>ST21</b>	Position fixtures, such as air conditioning units, satellite dishes, greenhouse additions, and overhead wiring, on secondary elevations where they do not detract from the character of the site. Try to minimize noise levels to adjacent properties.	NA	
<b>ST22</b>	Preserve large trees whenever possible and enhance established street tree patterns by planting additional trees along public rights-of-way. Consult the city arborist to determine what tree species are suitable for placement near overhead wires. Select and place street trees so that the plantings will not obscure historic storefronts once mature. Removal of trees within or immediately adjacent to a public right-of-way or within public open spaces requires review unless directed by the city arborist for emergency or public safety reasons.	NA	
<b>ST23</b>	Ensure that all proposed cellular towers and associated fixtures will be properly screened from view.	NA	
<b>ST24</b>	Install utility lines underground whenever possible.	NA	



# NEW CONSTRUCTION

## RESIDENTIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

- + Meets Guidelines
- Does Not Meet Guidelines
- +/- Meets Guidelines with Conditions as Noted
- NA Not Applicable
- NSI Not Sufficient Information

	Guideline	Finding	Comment
NC1	Make sure that new designs conform to all other municipal regulations, including the Jefferson County Development Code and Zoning District Regulations.	+	
NC2	Do not demolish contributing structures in a historic district to make way for new or large-scale construction. Non-contributing buildings are identified in each of the district or individual landmark designations or National Register nominations.	+	A non-contributing garage is proposed to be demolished.
NC3	Design new construction so that the building height, directional emphasis, scale, massing, and volume reflect the architectural context established by surrounding structures.	+/-	The proposed new structure's mass is larger than existing or recently constructed garages on similar lot widths.
NC4	Make sure that the scale of new construction does not conflict with the historic character of the neighborhood.	+/-	The scale and width of the proposed new structure is wider than similar existing structures on lots of the same width. The proposed 18" between the new garage/ office and adjacent structure is the smallest open space distance along this side of the alley.
NC5	Incorporate materials and design elements that complement the color, size, texture, and level of craftsmanship seen in surrounding buildings.	+	
NC6	Do not use materials in new construction that are visually incompatible with surrounding historic buildings within the district. Materials to be avoided include: ornamental pierced concrete masonry screens and walls, "antiqued" brick, wrought-iron porch columns, chain-link fencing, exterior carpeting, jalousie windows, glass block, picture windows, unpainted wood, and asphalt siding.	+	
NC7	Design new construction to reinforce the human scale of historic districts where this is a character-defining feature.	+	
NC8	Design new construction in such a way that it does not disrupt important public views and vistas.	NA	
NC9	Reinforce existing patterns of open space and enclosure, created by circulation routes, fences, walls, lawns, and allees of trees, in designs for new construction.	-	The proposed open space between the existing garage at 1272 Willow and the carriage house at 1274 (finished exterior wall to wall) would be the least amount of open space between existing structures found within the alley block. No exterior circulation route to the alley is proposed.

<b>NC10</b>	Design infill construction that reinforces the spatial organization established by surrounding buildings. The character of historic streetscapes relies heavily on the visual continuity established by the repetition of similarly-designed facades.	+/-	The spatial organization of open space between buildings is not consistent with other similarly sized structures on similarly sized lots.
<b>NC11</b>	Design infill construction in such a way that the façade's organization closely relates to surrounding buildings. Window and door openings should be similar in size to their historic counterparts, as should the proportion of window to wall space. Cornice lines, columns, and storefronts are other important character-defining facade elements.	+	
<b>NC12</b>	Design new construction so that the building mass has a similar sense of lightness or weight as surrounding historic structures. Mass is determined by the proportion of solids (walls) to voids (window and door openings). Historic window proportions are generally two-and-one-half (height) by one (width).	+/-	The proposed voids and solids match. However, the proposed new structure's width is larger than existing or recently constructed garages on similar lot widths.
<b>NC13</b>	Develop designs for new construction using windows that are sympathetic to the window patterns of surrounding buildings. Use of comparable frame dimensions, proportions, and muntin configurations is encouraged.	+	
<b>NC14</b>	Develop designs for new construction using front doors that are sympathetic to the door patterns of surrounding buildings. Use of comparable frame dimensions, proportion, and panel and light configuration is encouraged.	+	
<b>NC15</b>	Design new construction so that the orientation of the main entrance is the same as the majority of other buildings on the street	+	
<b>NC16</b>	Incorporate paved walks between sidewalks and the front entrances for new construction located on streets where this is a character-defining feature.	NA	
<b>NC17</b>	Retain the character-defining features of a historic building when undertaking accessibility code-required work.	NA	
<b>NC18</b>	Investigate removable or portable ramps as options to providing barrier-free access.	NA	
<b>NC19</b>	Locate handicapped access ramps on secondary elevations wherever possible. If locating a ramp on the primary façade is required, it should be installed in a manner that does not damage historic fabric and is as unobtrusive as possible.	NA	
<b>NC20</b>	Design infill construction so that it is compatible with the average height and width of surrounding buildings.	+/-	Proposed new structure's width is larger than existing or recently constructed garages on similar lot widths.
<b>NC21</b>	Design new construction to have a floor-to-floor height that is within 10 percent of adjacent historic construction where the floor-to-floor height is relatively consistent, and a character-defining feature.	NA	
<b>NC22</b>	Maintain the historic rhythm of the streetscape. The space between new construction and existing structures should fall within 20 percent of the average spacing for the block.	NA	
<b>NC23</b>	Maintain historic setback patterns. In order to maintain the continuity of the streetscape, setbacks for new construction should either match that of adjacent buildings where all share the same setback or be within 20 percent of neighboring structures in areas with varied setbacks.	NA	
<b>NC24</b>	Ensure that the roofs of new buildings relate to those of neighboring historic structures in pitch, complexity, and visual appearance of materials.	+	



<b>NC25</b>	Follow the precedent set by adjacent buildings when designing rooflines for infill construction. Where the predominant form is flat, built-up roofs are preferred. Where the predominant form is complex and steeply pitched, that is preferred. In blocks characterized by shallow-pitched roofs and pronounced overhangs with exposed rafters, these elements should be incorporated.	+	
<b>NC26</b>	Design new construction so that the orientation of the main roof form is parallel with the majority of other roofs on the street, where roof forms are relatively consistent and a character-defining feature.	+	
<b>NC27</b>	Design new construction to emphasize the existing cornice line on each block where this is a character-defining feature.	NA	
<b>NC28</b>	Integrate mechanical systems into new construction in such a way that rooftops remain uncluttered.	+	
<b>NC29</b>	Make provisions for screening and storing trash receptacles when designing new construction.	NSI	Supplied design information does not address storage of trash cans.
<b>NC30</b>	Use an exterior sheathing that is similar to those of other surrounding historic buildings. While use of wood siding is preferred, vinyl siding may be used for new construction, but only in areas where the predominate historic construction material is wood.	+	
<b>NC31</b>	Use masonry types and mortars that are similar to surrounding buildings in designs for new construction. Red brick is the most common masonry material found throughout the city's historic districts.	NA	
<b>NC32</b>	Incorporate stone or cast-stone sills and lintels into new construction designs on blocks where such elements are character-defining features.	NA	
<b>NC33</b>	Do not use modern "antiqued" brick in new construction.	NA	
<b>NC34</b>	Design new construction to have a raised masonry foundation, which is compatible in proportion and height with surrounding buildings. Foundation materials may be of a warm-toned poured concrete, split-face concrete block, or stuccoed concrete block that has a uniform, textured appearance.	NA	
<b>NC35</b>	Incorporate front porches on blocks where they are character-defining features. Design of new porches should be compatible with the form, scale, and detailing of surrounding buildings. On blocks where porch columns are prevalent, new columns should always consist of a base, shaft, and capital, and convey the appearance of actually holding up the porch roof.	NA	
<b>NC36</b>	Design porches on newly-constructed buildings so that the floor is even with or a maximum of one step below the corresponding floor of the house, the ceiling is even with that of adjacent rooms, the floor is at least 6' deep, the rhythm of the porch bays matches the facade's pattern of solids and voids, and the porch fascia board matches the height of the window head.	NA	
<b>NC37</b>	Design new garages or other secondary structures so that they complement the scale, roof form, setback, and materials of adjacent secondary structures.	+/-	Proposed side set back is the smallest within the surrounding properties.
<b>NC38</b>	Site new garages adjacent to alleys where present. Review the garage prototype insert that identifies styles appropriate to preservation districts when planning a garage construction project.	+	

<b>NC39</b>	Where no alleys exist, garages should be sited at the rear of the property behind the main house. Garage doors should not face the street, and access should be along the side yard. Landscape screening along the driveway is encouraged.	NA	
<b>NC40</b>	Use of smaller, single garage doors rather than expansive double or triple doors is preferred.	+/-	A simulated divided garage door is proposed.
<b>NC41</b>	Orient the roofline of a new garage so that it is parallel with the main house or follow the predominant pattern of existing secondary structures where such a pattern exists.	+	
<b>NC42</b>	Roof pitch should be no less than one in six. Where the roof form of the main house is character-defining, owners are encouraged to echo the form of the main house.	+	
<b>NC43</b>	Design new construction so that access to off-street parking is off alleys or secondary streets wherever possible.	+	
<b>NC44</b>	Incorporate storm-water management provisions into the design of new construction, so that any related runoff will not adversely impact nearby historic resources.	NSI	Supplied design information does not address.

# GARAGE

## Design Guideline Checklist

- + Meets Guidelines
- Does Not Meet Guidelines
- +/- Meets Guidelines with Conditions as Noted
- NA Not Applicable
- NSI Not Sufficient Information

Design Element	Building Feature		Approved	Comments
<b>Location</b>		+	Rear-yard location	
		+	Align with adjacent secondary structures	
		+	Use to define and enclose rear yard	
		+	Minimize paving	
<b>Materials</b>	Walls	+	Horizontal wood siding (3" or 4" exposure)	Hardi-Board siding with corner boards.
		NA	Board and batten siding	
		NA	Brick	
		NA	Stucco over frame or concrete block	
		NA	Cast stone, molded concrete block	
		NA	Aluminum and vinyl siding (3" or 4" exposure)	
		NA	No painted concrete block.	
		NA	No un-painted concrete block.	
		NA	No T-111 plywood.	



	Roof	+	Asphalt, fiberglass, wood, vinyl, or slate shingles.	
		+	Metal roofing	
		+	Half-round or Ogee gutters	
		NA	Approved Gable-end element	
		NA	No membrane roofing on sloped roofs.	
<b>Building Forms</b>	Main Block	+	Simple, rectangular, prismatic volumes	
		NA	Ell-shaped buildings	
		NA	Slightly-projecting bays	
		NA	Cantilevered, second floors	
		+	No overly-elaborate volumes	
	Roof	+	Simple gable roofs (6-in-12 minimum slope)	
		NA	Hipped, shed, and flat roofs with parapets	
		NA	Intersecting gables	
		NA	Overhanging eaves	
		+	Half-round gutters	
		NA	No low-pitched gable roofs (less than 6-in-12 slope)	
		+	No flush eaves	
		+	No roofs without gutters	
<b>Openings</b>	Garage	-	Single-car openings	One large opening is proposed.
	Doors	+	Surface area of door broken up by articulated panels or stiles and rails to reduce scale	
		-	No double and triple doors	One articulated door is proposed.
		+	No flush garage doors (they accentuate the large size of the openings)	
	Windows	+	Use window openings to break up wall surface	
		NA	Security grills installed on the inside face of the windows	