

Town of Ipswich Architectural Preservation District Commission
Regular Meeting
February 23, 2016
Mary Conley Room - Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Chris Morse, John Fiske, Mitchell Lowe, Peter Bubriski and Will Thompson

Alternate Members Present: Ruth Strachan and Nancy Carlisle

Staff Present: None

Others Present: Bob Weatherall of 33 Labor in Vain Road

1. Call to Order. Mr. Morse called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

2. 39 Summer Street Proposed Alterations

Mr. Morse welcomed Mr. Bubriski and Mr. Weatherall to present their draft alteration plans.

Mr. Weatherall provided an overview of the existing conditions of the Foster Grant House to include exterior and interior floor plans. He explained that the interior frames of the primary house and two ells would be preserved. A foundation will be added along the rear length so that the center portion of the house can be enclosed. A projecting entryway will also be added to the left rear of the house as one faces it. A salt box roof will be added outside and down from the two ells while maintaining the framing.

Mr. Morse commented that perhaps the two ells had been built at different times and that one could raise the right ell to match the left ell. Mr. Weatherall replied that the interior volumes are different and that it would be difficult to make them match, as the two ells have differing widths, heights and roof pitches. Mr. Lowe commented that the right ell looks squat once the salt box roofline is added. Mr. Weatherall commented that one can either make the building more aesthetically pleasing or maintain the historical view.

Ms. Carlisle inquired as to whether or not the back of the house is on a single plain. Mr. Weatherall explained that the ells are not the same length. Ms. Strachan suggested that since the ells are not mirrored, it is worth considering leaving them as is. Mr. Weatherall iterated that the plan has the rear of the house being straight across the back with the far left entrance protruding from it.

Mr. Morse added that the Beverly jog and the rear entrance represent two significant additions and that Beverly jogs are often in alignment with the main body of the house. He recommended having the pitches match. Mr. Weatherall replied that the pitches cannot match and accommodate headroom inside the Beverly jog. Ms. Strachan commented that sometimes there is a broken back roof leading off of Beverly jog rooflines.

Ms. Carlisle inquired as to whether the rear of the building can be extended while maintaining the current form. She expressed appreciation that the back end of the ells is not impeded by current use. Mr. Bubriski commented that the center porch area is unusable and that the rear and ell windows are not original and represent recent adaptations. Mr. Lowe commented that the two back windows to center bathroom can be

seen through windows from below. Mr. Weatherall commented that the gable shown in sections A and B will not be included.

Mr. Morse commented on the beauty of the original ell and that adding the formal rear entrance seems to compete with the current structure. He suggested having the roof continue down over the new entrance or minimizing its extension out from the rear wall. Mr. Weatherall replied that doing either would detract from the functionality of the 8 x 8 foot space. Mr. Morse inquired as to storage in the front of the house. Mr. Bubriski replied that there is a hobbit sized closet in the front entry.

Ms. Strachan proposed bringing the extended wall elevation in one foot to break up the long elevation seen from the higher side of Summer Street. Ms. Strachan commented that the formal entrance with sidelights looks more like one that would be found on a later, central front entrance building. Ms. Carlisle agreed that the entrance did not fit the back of the house. Mr. Morse suggested a glass paneled door to allow for the desired light. Mr. Fiske agreed that bringing the extended façade in one foot would make sense to break up the long wall. Ms. Strachan inquired as to whether or not the existing rake style would be maintained. Mr. Weatherall replied that it would be.

Mr. Fiske inquired as to what period the design was intended. He suggested that the proposed elements are historically confusing and that fully modernizing the rear would make more sense than mixing the proposed doors and windows.

There was general discussion about types of windows. Mr. Weatherall expressed his affinity for aluminum clad windows. Ms. Strachan expressed her preference for mahogany windows incorporating interior storm windows. Mr. Lowe added that the Beverly jog should incorporate a wood window.

Mr. Weatherall summarized the comments and stated that he and the owners would consider the jog in the side elevation, the entry door and sidelights, and whether or not the rear would appear from a particular period or be modernized.

Mr. Fiske commented that the proposed rear entrance proportions reflect no other shapes present in the building.

Mr. Morse suggested scheduling a walkthrough, which was scheduled for 10:30AM on Saturday, March 5th.

3. Closing

The Commission decided the next meeting would be a Public Hearing to discuss the Old Town Hall on Wednesday, March 23rd.

Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Mr. Morse seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Will Thompson, Secretary

Attachments: none