



**Project Name/Address:** 409 E Main  
**Application Type:** INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION  
Exterior alteration and addition in historic district  
**Legistar File ID #** [37500](#)  
**Prepared By:** Amy L. Scanlon, Preservation Planner, Planning Division  
**Date Prepared:** March 11, 2015

## Summary

**Project Applicant/Contact:** William Parsons  
**Requested Action:** The Applicant is requesting an Informational Presentation at this time and will return to the Landmarks Commission at a future date seeking the required Certificates of Appropriateness in a historic district.

## Background Information

**Parcel Location:** The subject site is located on East Main Street in the First Settlement historic district

### Relevant Landmarks Ordinance Sections:

33.19(14)(d) Criteria for the Review of Additions, Exterior Alterations and Repairs. All additions, exterior alterations and repairs must be compatible with the historic character of the building and the First Settlement Historic District. The criteria listed below are intended to maintain an historically accurate appearance. Modern materials that do not meet the exact requirements of the criteria but which duplicate the historic appearance may be considered on an individual basis in the variance procedure listed in Section 33.01(15) below.

1. Porches. Porches that are original to the building, or that pre-date 1930 and blend with the historic character of the building, shall be retained, rehabilitated or rebuilt to match the original in all details. Porches on street facades may be enclosed with wood-framed screens, on the condition that the railing must be retained or restored in a design compatible with the historic character of the building. Porches on street facades shall not be enclosed as a heated space. If a porch is on a street facade and the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that it is beyond repair, then a new porch must be constructed in its place. Construction of new porches to approximate the dimensions of original porches is encouraged.

All porches shall present a finished appearance, e.g., all floor joists shall be hidden from view and all porches shall be finished with ceilings and frieze boards. Porch ceilings shall have the appearance of narrow beaded boards, unless another original material is approved by the Landmarks Commission. First floor porch flooring shall be tongue-in-groove boards; carpeting and two-by-four decking are prohibited. All wood on exterior porches, except flooring and stair treads, shall be painted or opaque stained.

All railings on porches shall be constructed of wood, or another material that duplicates the appearance of wood, with top and bottom rails. Bottom rails shall be raised above the floor level and shall be no higher than three and one half (3 1/2) inches from the floor. All balusters on porch railings shall be square posts, unless the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that a different design is original to the building. If the building code requires a forty two (42) inch high railing, the lower

portion of the railing may be solid framed panels. Railings on stairways may be either wood to match the railings on the porch or wrought iron with one-by-one plain vertical balusters. Twisted or other decorative wrought iron is prohibited. All balusters shall be constructed such that a four (4) inch ball may not pass through the railing at any point. All balusters shall be located in between the top and bottom rail and shall not extend across the face of either. Siding on porch rails is prohibited unless the existing rail is sided. Porch posts shall be trimmed with decorative molding at the top and bottom of the posts.

All porches and stairways shall be enclosed between the frieze under the first floor and the ground with a framed lattice of criss-cross design, narrow vertical boards or other openwork design. The lattice shall be designed such that a three (3) inch ball could not pass through any portion of the lattice. All stairways shall have solid wood risers.

Porches on street facades may be enclosed by storm windows. Storm windows on porches shall have the appearance of double-hung windows, with or without a transom, and shall fill the space between the top of the railing and the upper frieze board. When porches are enclosed, the railing area underneath may be filled in with solid framed panels. Porches on street facades shall not be enclosed as a four-season heated space.

2. Decks. Decks in rear yards will be approved by the Landmarks Commission provided that the design complies with Par. 1., except that tongue-in-groove flooring is not required. Decks in front and side yards may be permitted if they are not replacing an entrance porch, do not detract from the historic character of the building and neighborhood, and if they comply with Par.1.
3. Accessibility Ramps. It is the intent of this section to permit accessibility ramps wherever possible, especially when required by ADA guidelines. Accessibility ramps shall be as inconspicuous as possible. Landscape screening shall be provided where possible. The details of such ramps shall conform to the guidelines for porches in Par. 1.
4. Windows. On the front facade and on side facades within ten (10) feet of the front facade, all original windows or pre-1930 windows that are compatible with the historic character of the building shall retain their existing historic size, appearance, and trim detail. If any of the original windows or pre-1930 windows that are compatible with the historic character of the building have true divided lights (i.e., with small panes of glass between muntin bars), replacement sash shall duplicate the existing appearance and have true divided lights. If windows have been altered in the past, restoration to the original appearance is encouraged. On side facades not within ten (10) feet of the front facade and on rear facades of the building, the sills of original windows or pre-1930 windows that are compatible with the historic character of the building may be raised to serve bathrooms and kitchens. In other respects, the design shall duplicate the original appearance of the existing window. On side facades more than ten (10) feet from the front facade and on rear facades, new windows in locations where no window previously existed may be approved, provided they retain a similar ratio of height to width as original windows on the building, are the same type of window as others on the building (e.g., double-hung or casement), and are trimmed and finished to match the appearance of the other windows.
5. Entrance Doors. If the entrance door is original or is pre-1930 and blends with the historic character of the building, it should be retained unless the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that it is beyond repair. Metal doors may be approved, provided they blend with the historic appearance of the building. Unpaneled, modern-style doors, and doors with a fake wood grain are prohibited. All doors shall be painted or varnished.
6. Double or Multiple Doors. Double or multiple doors, such as doors leading onto patios or decks, may be permitted, provided they have frames similar to full view doors. Raw aluminum or other metallic finishes are prohibited. Patio doors shall be painted or finished with a material that resembles a painted finish. Such doors on street facades shall be hinged doors, rather than sliding doors.
7. Storm Windows and Doors. Storm windows and doors shall be enameled, painted or otherwise coated with a colored surface to resemble a painted surface. Raw aluminum or other metallic finishes on storm windows and doors are prohibited. Painted or varnished storm doors of wood and glass to match the

- original design on the building or on similar buildings in the district are encouraged. Storm doors of simple design with no stylistic references may be used. Full view storm doors will be permitted. Storm doors with metal grills are prohibited.
8. Skylights. Skylights on the roof slope over the main street facade are prohibited unless not visible from the street. Skylights may be permitted on rear roof slopes and on side roof slopes, provided the front edge of the skylight is at least ten feet back from the front edge of the main roof and provided that the skylight is not so obtrusive as to detract from the general appearance of the building. Skylights on any roof area not visible from the ground will be permitted. The design of new skylights shall be as simple as possible, of the flat (not bubble) type, and finished to blend with the color of the roof.
  9. Roof Materials. Reroofing shall be done with asphalt, fiberglass or other rectangular composition shingles similar in appearance to 3-in-1- tab asphalt shingles. Sawn wood shingles also may be approved. Modern style shingles such as thick wood shakes, Dutch lap, French method, and interlock shingles are prohibited. Vents shall be located as inconspicuously as possible and shall be similar in color to the color of the roof. Rolled roofing, tar-and-gravel, rubberized membranes, and other similar roofing materials are prohibited, except that such materials may be used on flat or slightly sloped roofs that are not visible from the ground.
  10. Dormers and Other Roof Alterations. New dormers shall match the appearance of original dormers on the building in roof shape and material, width of overhang, siding, window design, and trim details whenever feasible. If the original roof shape is not practical, another shape may be approved, provided that it does not detract from the historic character of the building or the neighborhood. New dormers shall be no less than twelve (12) feet from the front edge of the roof. The ridge line of a new dormer shall not extend above the ridge line of the main roof of the building unless such higher roof line is not visible from the ground. Shed dormers behind existing dormers or gables on non-street sides of the building may be approved, provided that the roof material, siding, window design and trim details match the original features of the building. Other roof alterations shall be compatible with the roof shape and other historic features of the building, such as siding and trim details, and shall not extend above the ridge line of the building unless such extension is not visible from the ground.
  11. Chimneys. The exterior appearance of original or pre-1930 chimneys visible from the street shall be maintained in good repair. The removal of the exterior portions of such chimneys is prohibited. Chimneys not visible from the street may be removed. New chimneys shall be constructed of brick, stone, stucco, or other compatible material. Metal chimneys are prohibited.
  12. Siding. Original wood siding or pre-1930 siding that blends with the historic character of the building shall be retained and restored as necessary, except that if the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that the original siding is beyond repair, it may be replaced with wood, composite wood, or concrete clapboard siding to match the original or existing pre-1930 appearance. Restoration of original wood decorative details is encouraged. Soffits may be replaced or sided with wood or artificial materials, provided the appearance of the proposed material matches as closely as possible the original appearance. Original brick, stone and stucco siding shall be retained. Installation of artificial siding on such buildings is prohibited. Painting of unpainted brick is prohibited. Mortar and other materials used in brick repair shall match the original in color, hardness, and appearance.
  13. Foundations. All original foundation masonry, such as brick, stone, or rusticated concrete block, shall be retained unless the owner can demonstrate to the Commission that significant repairs are required, in which case replacement with materials to duplicate the original appearance is encouraged. If duplicating the original appearance is not practical, other materials may be approved, provided they blend with the historic character of the building and the district.
  14. Additions. New additions on the front of the building are prohibited, except for open porches. Additions on the sides or rear shall be permitted if they are compatible with the building in architectural design, scale, color, texture, proportion of solids to voids, and proportion of widths to heights of doors and windows. Additions and exterior alterations that exactly duplicate the original materials in composition are encouraged. Additions or exterior alterations that destroy significant architectural features are

prohibited. Side additions shall not detract from the design composition of the main facade. Siding on new additions shall be the same as the building, unless the building is masonry, in which case narrow-gauge clapboards will be permitted. Foundation material on new additions shall duplicate the original foundation material whenever practical. Other foundation materials may also be permitted, provided they do not detract from the historic character of the building.

15. Fire Escapes and Rescue Platforms. Fire escapes and rescue platforms shall be located such that they are as unobtrusive from the street as possible. No fire escapes or rescue platforms shall be permitted on the front facade of a building unless the owner can demonstrate to the Landmarks Commission that no other location is practical. The design of fire escapes and rescue platforms shall comply with the requirements of Par. 1., except that balusters on fire escapes and second exit platforms may be metal with one-by-one plain vertical balusters, painted to blend with the colors of the house. Twisted or other decorative wrought iron is prohibited.
16. Lighting Fixtures. Lighting fixtures that are visible from the street shall be of a design that is compatible with the historic appearance of the building.
17. Permanently Installed Air Conditioners. Permanently installed air conditioners shall be as inconspicuous as possible. Ground air conditioners shall be screened with landscaping where possible.
18. Shutters. The installation of new shutters requires approval of the Landmarks Commission. Shutters will be permitted, provided they are compatible with the historic character of the building and are of a size that, if the shutters were workable, would cover the window opening.
19. Repairs. Repairs to buildings shall either match the existing or the original appearance. Restoration to the original appearance is encouraged.
20. Alterations to Post-1930 Buildings. Alterations of buildings that post-date 1930 shall be compatible with the original character of the building and shall not detract from the historic character of older buildings in the district. Alterations that bring the building into compliance with the regulations of this section regarding siding, decks, foundations, porches, the proportion of windows and doors, and the proportion of solids to voids of the street facades of such buildings are encouraged. It is not the intent of this ordinance to create fake historic buildings, but to allow modern style buildings to retain their essential style while still blending with the appearance of historic buildings in the district.

## Analysis and Conclusion

None provided at this time.

## Recommendation

The Landmarks Commission is receiving an informational presentation. An action from the Commission is not requested and is not appropriate at this time; therefore, a staff recommendation has not been provided.

Staff suggests that the Commission provide the Applicant with general comments related to the project issues.