



Project Name & Address: 940 Williamson Street

Application Type(s): Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior alterations in the Third Lake Ridge historic district.

Legistar File ID # [56060](#)

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Summary

Project Applicant/Contact: Bonnie Arent

Requested Action: The Applicant is requesting that the Landmarks Commission approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a mural.

Background Information

Parcel Location/Information: The site is located in the Third Lake Ridge Local Historic District.

Relevant State Statute Section:

Wisc SS 62.23(7)(em)2m. In the repair or replacement of a property that is designated as a historic landmark or included within a historic district or neighborhood conservation district under this paragraph, a city shall allow an owner to use materials that are similar in design, color, scale, architectural appearance, and other visual qualities.

Relevant Landmarks Ordinance Sections:

41.23 THIRD LAKE RIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT.

- (9) Standards for Exterior Alterations in the Third Lake Ridge Historic District - Parcels Zoned for Residential Use.
- a) Any exterior alterations on parcels zoned residential use that are located within 200 feet of other historic resources shall be visually compatible with those historic resources in the following ways:
 - (i) Height
 - (ii) Landscape treatment
 - (iii) Rhythm of mass and spaces
 - b) Alterations of the street façade(s) of any existing structure shall retain the original or existing historical proportion and rhythm of solids to voids.
 - c) Alterations of the street façade(s) of any existing structure shall retain the original or existing historical materials.
 - d) Alterations of the roof of any existing structure shall retain its existing historical appearance.
 - e) Alterations of the street facade(s) shall retain the original or existing historical proportional relationships of door sizes to window sizes.

Analysis and Conclusion

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a mural on the side of the building at 940 Williamson Street. Assessor information notes that this building was constructed in 1937, which would correlate with the Streamline Moderne style of the structure. The period of significance for the Third Lake Ridge Historic District ends in 1929. The building's wall cladding is painted masonry, so the introduction of a painted mural would not change the existing condition of the building materials.

The proposed mural complies with zoning as it does not contain content that would make it read as a sign. The mural is in the process to receive funding and approval from the Madison Arts Commission.

A discussion of the relevant ordinance section of Chapter 41.23 follows:

41.23 THIRD LAKE RIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT.

- (9) Standards for Exterior Alterations in the Third Lake Ridge Historic District - Parcels Zoned for Residential Use.
- a) Any exterior alterations on parcels zoned residential use that are located within 200 feet of other historic resources shall be visually compatible with those historic resources in the following ways:
 - (i) Height: The proposal will not change the height of the structure.
 - (ii) Landscape treatment: The proposal will not change the landscape treatment.
 - (iii) Rhythm of mass and spaces: The proposal will not change the physical rhythm of mass and spaces, but it does introduce a painted element that will create a feature on the side of the building. However, as this is a painted mural, it is easily reversible and is not a permanent change.
 - b) The mural gets close to the front of the building, but is not technically an alteration of the street façade. It will also not change the proportion of solids and voids on the building.
 - c) There will be no change to existing materials, just the colors of paint.
 - d) There will be no changes to the roof.
 - e) This proposal will not change any door or window sizes.

Recommendation

Staff believes that the standards for granting a Certificate of Appropriateness have been met and recommend the Landmarks Commission approve the project as proposed.