

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
FEBRUARY 22, 2016
NRD-2015-0119
Clarksville National Register District
1806 W 10th Street

PROPOSAL

Construct a new 2 story wood and stone house. The demolition of the previous contributing house on this site has been previously approved.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Construct a 2 story house with a roof deck. The house will be stone and wood or hardi-siding. It will be a modern design with a gable front that has a one long gable side. Centered in the gable front will be a picture window on the first floor and a 2 car garage will be on the first floor. The front door will be recessed a bit from the front and it will have a Charleston door form. On the one story portion of the front façade there will be a small window with an awning.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

This property is within the Clarksville National Register Historic District. The Secretary of the Interiors Guidelines does not have specific guidelines for new construction. General design guidelines in historic district stress the importance of maintaining a regular street pattern and to design additions and infill construction with a size, scale, and materials compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood and the other contributing houses within the district

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This house is oversized for Clarksville and has a multitude of building and roof forms, which is not typical of the historic architecture in Clarksville. However, because Clarksville is a National Register, and not a locally-designated historic district, the Commission's authority is limited to recommendations on the proposed design. Staff does not believe that this house is compatible with the historic character of Clarksville, and it is very unfortunate that a contributing structure will be demolished to make room for this. Contemporary houses can very easily fit into historic districts if they are sensitive to the historic character of the neighborhood, employ simple building and roof forms, and traditional fenestration patterns that are compatible with the historic character of the district. This house does not do so, and while the materials are compatible, the scale, massing, forms, and fenestration patterns are not.

Staff's recommendation to the applicant is to either modify the design of this house to make it more compatible in size, scale, and forms, or to not build in a historic district, where this house will detract significantly from the historic character of the neighborhood. There are plenty of areas of Austin that do not have the same sensitive context as the Clarksville National Register Historic District, where architecture such as what is proposed here would not be so dramatically out of place.

LOCATION MAP

