LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT: Wesley Heights

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 420 South Summit Avenue

SUMMARY OF REQUEST: Demolition

APPLICANT/OWNER: Don Duffy, applicant

Details of Proposed Request

Existing Conditions
The existing structure is a one story house constructed in 1981. The foundation is slab on grade and the siding is vertical T1-11 wood. The property is listed as non-contributing in the Wesley Heights National Register of Historic Places.

Proposal
The proposal is full demolition of the subject property. The applicant is requesting the HDC to approve immediate demolition of the structure.

Policy & Design Guidelines – Demolition, page 35
North Carolina Law (NCGS 160A-400.14.) states that the demolition of buildings and structures within Local Historic Districts requires the prior issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness. The policies listed below are designed to follow state law in a manner that minimizes the inconvenience to property owners when demolition is warranted, while affording as much protection as possible to structures that make valuable contributions to the character of Local Historic Districts.

1. No building or structure located within a Local Historic District can be demolished without a Certificate of Appropriateness.

2. The Historic District Commission will evaluate demolition applications to determine if the structure in question contributes to the character of the Local Historic District.

3. If the HDC finds that the structure does not contribute to the character of the district or is unsalvageable, immediate approval of the demolition request may be granted.

4. Should the Historic District Commission find that the structure does contribute to the character of the historic district; the HDC can delay the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness authorizing demolition for a period not to exceed 365 days, in order to work with the owner to seek alternatives to demolition.

5. When an application for demolition receives a 365-day delay, any consideration of applications for proposed new construction on the same site will be deferred for 90 days.
6. When an application for demolition receives a 365-day delay, the Historic District Commission Staff will seek an alternative to demolition and will contact, within one month of the delay vote, the property owner who has applied for demolition, Historic Charlotte, Inc., and Preservation North Carolina to inform them of the threatened status of the building.

7. A permanent injunction against demolition can be invoked only in cases where a building or structure is certified by the State Historic Preservation Officer as being of statewide significance.

8. Applications for the demolition of dilapidated accessory structures may be eligible for administrative approval. All other demolition applications will be reviewed by the full Commission.

9. The maximum delay period for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness authorizing demolition shall be reduced by the HDC where the Commission finds that the owner would suffer extreme hardship or be permanently deprived of all beneficial use or return from the property by virtue of the delay.

Staff Analysis

The Commission will make a determination as to whether or not this house is determined to be contributing to the Wesley Heights Historic District. With affirmative determination, the Commission can apply up to 365-Day Stay of Demolition. Or if the Commission determines that this property is no longer contributing, then demolition may take place without a delay.
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