

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
JUNE 7, 2023
HR-2023-043326; C14H-2012-0001
MCCRUMMEN-WROE HOUSE
2300 WINDSOR ROAD

PROPOSAL

Remove and replace existing stone steps at Windsor Road entrance to property. Create a front walkway to the house. Remove and rebuild existing brick wall at rear of property, matching new painted brick to existing brick.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) Remove and replace existing stone steps, widening and reducing height of staircase and creating curved cheek walls.
- 2) Construct a stone walkway from new steps to house.
- 3) Remove existing rear brick wall and replace in-kind, with painted brick to match existing.

ARCHITECTURE

The 2012 zoning change review sheet for the property describes its architecture as follows:

Two-story rectangular-plan Adamesque-style Colonial Revival side-gabled brick house with a symmetrical façade consisting of a central entry with two window bays on each side. The house has a prominent semi-circular portico on Corinthian columns and a leaded-glass fanlight above the door. Paired glazed doors open onto the balcony above the portico. The house consists of a two-story 5-bay central block with a two-story section on each side; the section to the left of the central block contains an attached garage with double doors opening to the side of the house. The house is ornamented with quoins at the corners of the central block and corners of the house, along with dentil work at the cornice and ornamental keystones above the first-floor windows. Fenestration consists of 9:9 Colonial Revival styled windows on the first floor and 6:6 Colonial Revival-styled windows on the second floor and in the secondary bays on each side of the central block. Roy L. Thomas, a prominent Austin architect, designed the house for Dr. Thomas D. and Elizabeth Wroe McCrummen in 1935.

The Adamesque form of the Colonial Revival style refers to more elaborate detailing and ornamentation than that found on many Colonial Revival houses of the 1930s, which were noted for their almost severe style. Adamesque houses also featured many more rounded surfaces, inside and out, including details such as the semi-circular portico so prominently featured on the McCrummen-Wroe House. The style takes its name from Robert Adam, a Scottish builder and designer in the late 1700s, who combined softer elements of the Baroque and Rococo styles of the early 1700s with the rectangular lines of the Georgian styles of his own time. Adam was also noted for integrating the design of the interior with that of the exterior, and for using classical motifs such as garlands, urns, and medallions on buildings. The Adamesque form of Colonial Revival resulted in more ornate and varied detailing on otherwise symmetrical Colonial Revival houses and was popular in the design of high-end buildings from the 1890s through the mid-1930s.¹

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects at historic landmarks. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Sites and streetscapes

1. Vegetation, topography, and landscaping

1.2 Retain permanent landscape features that define the character of the property and the district. Protect them when constructing new buildings or additions.

The proposed project removes and replaces the existing stairs from Windsor Road to the property.

2. Walls and fences

2.1 Retain historic fences and site walls on the street side or sides of the property, including gates and hardware.

2.2 Repair historic street-side fences and site walls with matching design and materials.

2.3 If damage or deterioration requires replacement of a portion of a street-side fence or site wall, replace only that portion in-kind, matching the design, materials, size, and finish.

2.4 If constructing a new street-side fence or site wall, design it so that the materials, style, and scale are compatible with and differentiated from the architectural style and period of the building and are in keeping with historic fence styles and

¹ Zoning Change Review Sheet: C14H-2012-0001—2300 Windsor Road. Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

heights in the historic district.

The proposed project retains the existing site walls at the Windsor Road elevation, constructing new cheek walls to match the existing retaining walls. It replaces the existing Pease Road brick wall in-kind.

5. Sidewalks, driveways, and parking

5.1 Repair historic sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas with a matching design and materials.

5.2 Construct new sidewalks and driveways that are compatible with the character of the district in location, size, width, pattern, and material.

The proposed new walkway is constructed in similar materials and in a similar location to the original walkway shown on the plot plan. The new design features a more ornate staircase to the main house; however, it appears to be in keeping with the Adamesque style of the house and may help to differentiate the modern landscaping from the historic.

6. Streetscape elements

6.2 Retain character-defining streetscape elements such as historic gateway entrances, mosaic curb signs, lights, and street furniture.

The proposed project retains existing gateways at both modified elevations.

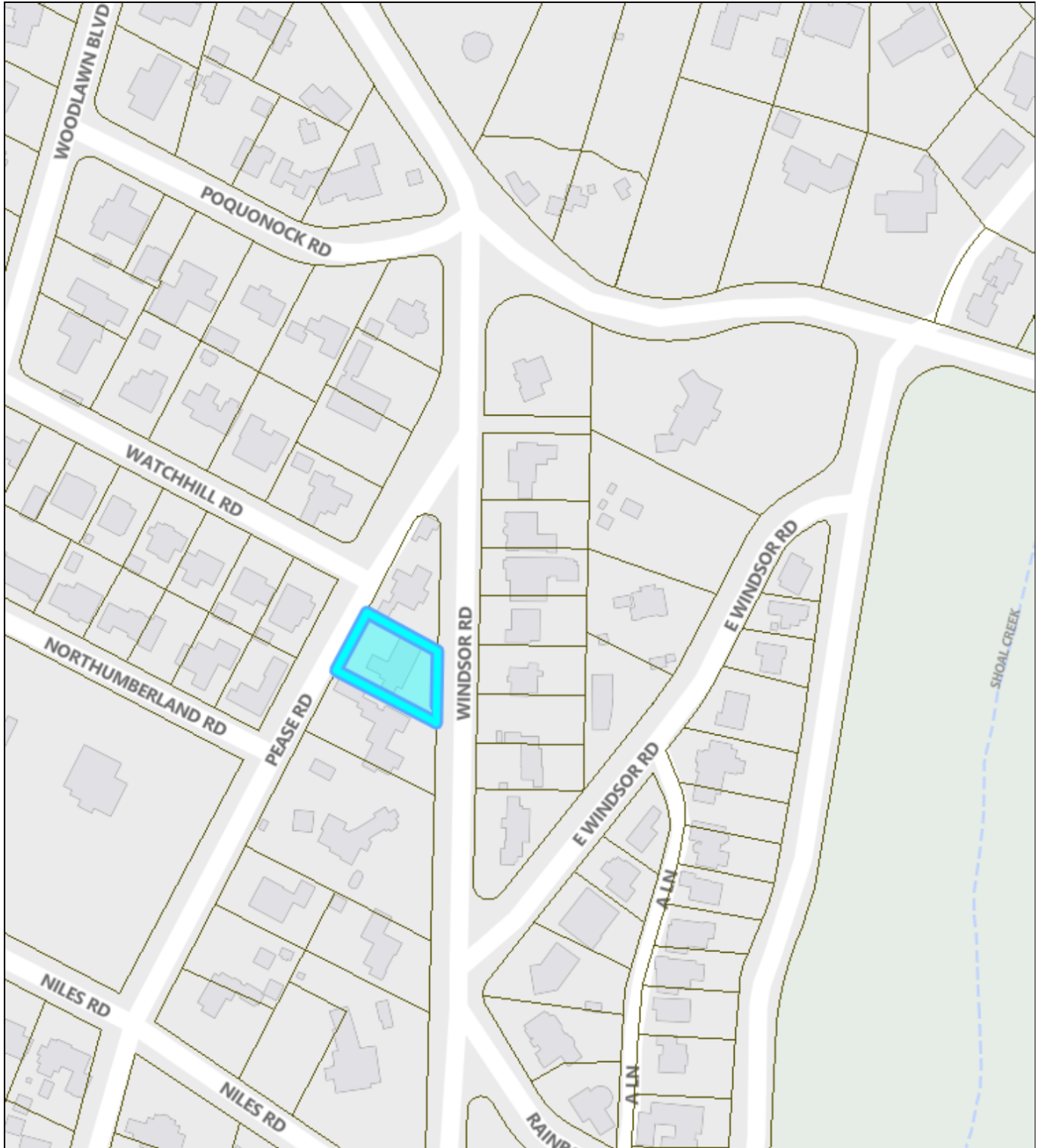
Summary

The project mostly meets the applicable standards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the application.

LOCATION MAP



1: 2400

Lot Lines

Lot Line



HR 23-043326

2300 WINDSOR ROAD



5/19/2023

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey. This product has been produced by the City of Austin for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

