

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

November 15, 2023

HDRC CASE NO: 2023-443
ADDRESS: 219 LAVACA ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 707 BLK 7 LOT 5 W 5.96 FT OF 6
ZONING: RM-4, H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
DISTRICT: Lavaca Historic District
APPLICANT: CHISCA CO LLC
OWNER: CHISCA CO LLC
TYPE OF WORK: Driveway replacement, concrete pad installation
APPLICATION RECEIVED: October 10, 2023
60-DAY REVIEW: December 9, 2023
CASE MANAGER: Claudia Espinosa

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to:

1. Replace an existing concrete driveway, measuring 10 feet in width, on the east side of the property.
2. Install a concrete pad, measuring 778.5 square feet.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Guidelines for Site Elements

5. Sidewalks, Walkways, Driveways, and Curbing

A. SIDEWALKS AND WALKWAYS

- i. *Maintenance*—Repair minor cracking, settling, or jamming along sidewalks to prevent uneven surfaces. Retain and repair historic sidewalk and walkway paving materials—often brick or concrete—in place.
- ii. *Replacement materials*—Replace those portions of sidewalks or walkways that are deteriorated beyond repair. Every effort should be made to match existing sidewalk color and material.
- iii. *Width and alignment*—Follow the historic alignment, configuration, and width of sidewalks and walkways. Alter the historic width or alignment only where absolutely necessary to accommodate the preservation of a significant tree.
- iv. *Stamped concrete*—Preserve stamped street names, business insignias, or other historic elements of sidewalks and walkways when replacement is necessary.
- v. *ADA compliance*—Limit removal of historic sidewalk materials to the immediate intersection when ramps are added to address ADA requirements.

B. DRIVEWAYS

- i. *Driveway configuration*—Retain and repair in place historic driveway configurations, such as ribbon drives. Incorporate a similar driveway configuration—materials, width, and design—to that historically found on the site. Historic driveways are typically no wider than 10 feet. Pervious paving surfaces may be considered where replacement is necessary to increase stormwater infiltration.
- ii. *Curb cuts and ramps*—Maintain the width and configuration of original curb cuts when replacing historic driveways. Avoid introducing new curb cuts where not historically found.

C. CURBING

- i. *Historic curbing*—Retain historic curbing wherever possible. Historic curbing in San Antonio is typically constructed of concrete with a curved or angular profile.
- ii. *Replacement curbing*—Replace curbing in-kind when deteriorated beyond repair. Where in-kind replacement is not be feasible, use a comparable substitute that duplicates the color, texture, durability, and profile of the original. Retaining walls and curbing should not be added to the sidewalk design unless absolutely necessary.

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Guidelines for Site Elements

3. Landscape Design

A. PLANTINGS

- i. *Historic Gardens*—Maintain front yard gardens when appropriate within a specific historic district.
- ii. *Historic Lawns*—Do not fully remove and replace traditional lawn areas with impervious hardscape. Limit the removal of lawn areas to mulched planting beds or pervious hardscapes in locations where they would historically be found, such as along fences, walkways, or drives. Low-growing plantings should be used in historic lawn areas; invasive or large-scale species should be avoided. Historic lawn areas should never be reduced by more than 50%.
- iii. *Native xeric plant materials*—Select native and/or xeric plants that thrive in local conditions and reduce watering usage. See UDC Appendix E: San Antonio Recommended Plant List—All Suited to Xeriscape Planting Methods, for a list of appropriate materials and planting methods. Select plant materials with a similar character, growth habit, and light requirements as those being replaced.
- iv. *Plant palettes*—If a varied plant palette is used, incorporate species of taller heights, such informal elements should be restrained to small areas of the front yard or to the rear or side yard so as not to obstruct views of or otherwise distract from the historic structure.
- v. *Maintenance*—Maintain existing landscape features. Do not introduce landscape elements that will obscure the historic structure or are located as to retain moisture on walls or foundations (e.g., dense foundation plantings or vines) or as to cause damage.

B. ROCKS OR HARDSCAPE

- i. *Impervious surfaces* —Do not introduce large pavers, asphalt, or other impervious surfaces where they were not historically located.
- ii. *Pervious and semi-pervious surfaces*—New pervious hardscapes should be limited to areas that are not highly visible, and should not be used as wholesale replacement for plantings. If used, small plantings should be incorporated into the design.
- iii. *Rock mulch and gravel* - Do not use rock mulch or gravel as a wholesale replacement for lawn area. If used, plantings should be incorporated into the design.

C. MULCH

Organic mulch – Organic mulch should not be used as a wholesale replacement for plant material. Organic mulch with appropriate plantings should be incorporated in areas where appropriate such as beneath a tree canopy.

- i. *Inorganic mulch* – Inorganic mulch should not be used in highly-visible areas and should never be used as a wholesale replacement for plant material. Inorganic mulch with appropriate plantings should be incorporated in areas where appropriate such as along a foundation wall where moisture retention is discouraged.

FINDINGS:

- a. The primary structure at 219 Lavaca is a single-family residence constructed in the Folk Victorian style circa 1890 and makes its first appearance on the 1896 Sanborn map. The home features stucco siding, wood windows screens, an asymmetrical porch, and a standing seam metal roof. The property is contributing to the Lavaca Historic District.
- b. **DRIVEWAY MODIFICATION** – The applicant is requesting to replace an existing driveway with a 10-foot-wide concrete driveway on the east side of the lot. Guideline 5.B.i and ii for Site Elements states that historic driveway configurations, such as ribbon drives, should be retained and repaired in place and to incorporate a similar driveway configuration—materials, width, and design—to that historically found on the site. Historic driveways are typically no wider than 10 feet. Additionally, the applicant should maintain the width and configuration of original curb cuts when replacing historic driveways. Avoid introducing new curb cuts where not historically found. Staff finds the proposed modifications to be consistent with the Guidelines.
- c. **HARDSCAPING** – The applicant is requesting to install a 778.5-foot-wide concrete pad to the rear of the primary structure in the rear yard. Guideline 3.B.i. for Site Elements states do not introduce large pavers, asphalt, or other impervious surfaces where they were not historically located. If used, small planting should be incorporated into the design. Staff finds the concrete pad installation to generally conforms to Guidelines.

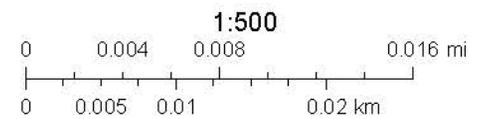
RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of items 1 and 2 based on findings a through c

City of San Antonio One Stop



November 6, 2023





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