

## PHAP24-00038

**Date:** August 21, 2025

**Application Type:** Certificate of Appropriateness

**Property Owner:** Paul Cicala **Representative:** Jose Flores

Legal Description: 6 Mundy Heights 15 To 17 (8400 Sq Ft), City of El Paso, El Paso

County, Texas

Historic District:Sunset HeightsLocation:1533 Upson Drive

Representative District: #8

**Existing Zoning:** R-5/H (Residential/Historic)

Year Built: 1957

Historic Status: Non-Contributing

Request: Reconsideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness for construction of

accessory structure and deck after-the-fact

**Orig. Application Filed:** 10/14/2024 **Orig. 45 Day Expiration:** 11/28/2024

#### ITEM #2



#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The applicant seeks approval for:

Reconsideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness for construction of accessory structure and deck after-the-fact

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The Historic Preservation Office recommends APPROVAL WITH A MODIFICATION of the proposed scope of work based on the following recommendations:

The Design Guidelines for El Paso's Historic Districts, Sites, and Properties recommend the following:

- Retain the original materials and features of historic garages and outbuildings including windows, doors, siding, trim, and latticework. If replacement of an element is necessary, match the original in design, and, if possible, materials.
- Design new garages and outbuildings to be compatible with the main structure on the lot in material and design, using existing historic outbuildings in the districts as an example.
- Limit the size and scale of garages and accessory structures so that the integrity of the original structure, or the size of the existing lot, is not compromised or significantly diminished.
- New garages and accessory buildings should be located in rear yards.
- Prefabricated wooden accessory structures are appropriate when they are designed to be compatible with the principal structure on the site, and with other outbuildings in the district.
- Retain mature trees that contribute to the character of the historic district.
- Maintain the property's natural topography, and avoid grading that adversely affects drainage and soil stability or could negatively impact existing trees. Slopes shall not be paved.
- Grass and sod may be removed from front yards, side yards on a corner provided not more than 50% of the area is covered with gravel or other masonry. Grass and sod may be removed from parkways provided not more than 50% of the area is covered with gravel or other masonry that is made of impervious materials (brick pavers, gravel, and masonry pavers). The remaining 50% must be covered with trees and living plants that provide ground cover.
- Locate decks at the rear of the structure, or in a location not readily visible from the street.
- Decks should be of materials and dimensions that do not monopolize the rear elevation or significantly detract from the architecture of the building.
- It is not appropriate to install decks that require the removal of historic materials, or otherwise damage or obscure architectural features. Design and construct decks so that they may be removed in the future without damage to the historic structure.
- Construction of new fences, stairs, or sidewalk rails and replacement of older existing fences is allowed on historic properties provided that the proposed site feature is of a compatible material and scale. Rock, brick, wood and wrought iron are acceptable materials but each case is decided individually. Cinder block and chain link fencing are relatively recent developments and are therefore not appropriate fencing materials. The height of the proposed fence should complement the structure (primarily as viewed from the street) and should not obstruct the public's view of the building. Replace mature trees with similar canopy and in the same location when

- they are damaged or diseased. When the same site location is not practical, select a location for replacement trees that will enhance the appearance and character of the historic streetscape or provide shade.
- Retain fences and walls that contribute to the historic character of the property and the district where possible. If replacement is necessary, replace only the deteriorated element to match the original in dimension, proportion, material, texture, and detail.
- Introduce new fences and walls compatible in material, design, scale, location, and size with original fences and walls in the historic district.
- The height of the proposed fence should complement the structure and should not
  obstruct the public's view of the building. Any proposed fence higher than 32" solid
  or 48" open, measured from ground level, at front property line or a side yard
  property line on a corner lot, shall be reviewed by the HLC. Any proposed fence
  higher than 6 ft., between buildings on an interior property line or across the rear
  property line, shall be reviewed by the HLC.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation recommend the following:

- The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal
  of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a
  property shall be avoided.
- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy
  historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property.
  The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the
  historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the
  integrity of the property and its environment.
- New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

The modification is that only permits for this work (the accessory structure) shall be issued until the property is in compliance.

# **AERIAL MAP**



## **BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS**





## **PLANS AND ELEVATIONS**

