HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

June 17, 2015

Agenda Item No: 7

HDRC CASE NO: 2015-211

ADDRESS: 806 E GUENTHER ST **LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 2916 BLK 5 LOT 2

ZONING: RM4 H CITY COUNCIL DIST.:

DISTRICT: King William Historic District

APPLICANT: Jason Hull
OWNER: Jason Hull

TYPE OF WORK: Front yard landscaping

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to remove approximately 50% of the front yard turf and install gravel bed with xeriscape plantings. According to the applicant, decomposed pink granite will cover the planting bed and selected species of plants include Red Yucca, Autumn Sage, Birds of Paradise, Lantana, Agave, Cactus, Bear grass, and other native Texas plants.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

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.

FINDINGS:

- a) According to the Guidelines for Site Elements, landscape designs should generally follow the pattern established within the specific historic district. For instance, front yard gardens should be maintained where there is historic precedent. Similarly, where open lawns set the precedent, they should not be fully removed in favor of planting beds. Front yards in the King William Historic District feature a variety of plant palettes and landscape designs. While there is no precedent for the proposed planter bed at this specific property, there are many examples within the district that are similar to the requested landscaping.
- b) The Guidelines for Site Elements 3.A.ii. recommend that historic lawn areas not be reduced by more than 50%. The proposed gravel bed is approximately 50% of the existing lawn area and is consistent with the guidelines. A detailed site plant which includes dimensions will be needed in order to verify consistency with the Guidelines.
- c) The applicant has selected native and xeric plant species consistent with the Guidelines for Site Elements 3.A.iii.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval with the stipulation that a detailed landscaping plan which includes dimensions is provided to staff.

CASE MANAGER:

Cory Edwards





Flex Viewer

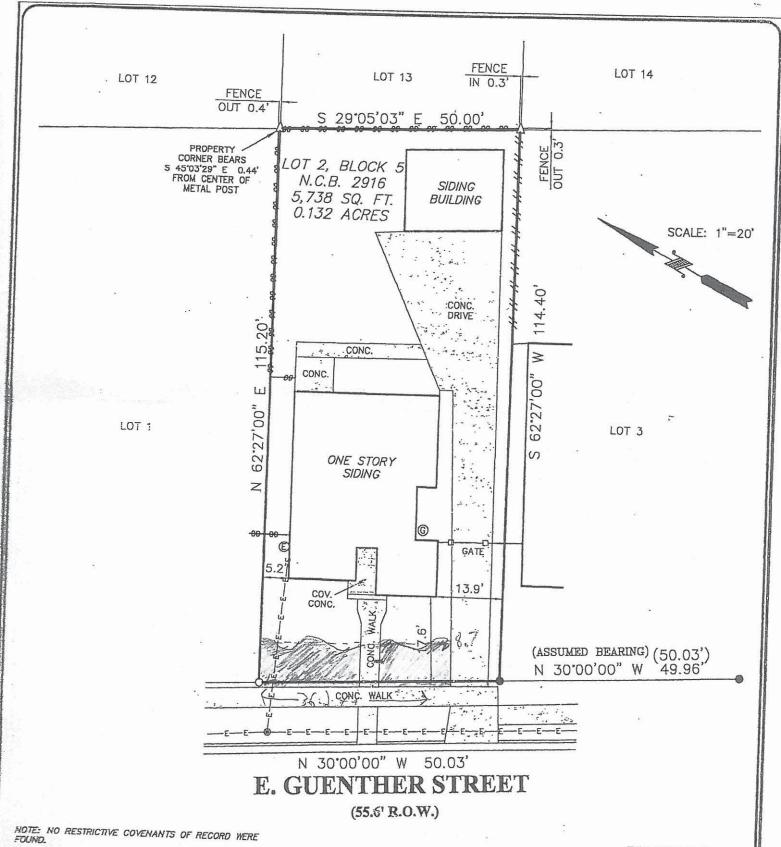
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THIS SURVEY IS ACKNOWLEDGED AND AS ACCEPTED;

FLOOD ZONE INTERPRETATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY INTERESTED PERSONS TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF FEMA FLOOD ZONE DESIGNATION OF THIS PROPERTY WITH FEMA AND STATE ACCURACY OF THE PROPERTY. The property will be included in a FEMA Flood insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Identified as Community No. 48029C. Panel No. 0415 G. which is Dated 09-29-2010. By seculing from that Firm, it property other than to interpret the information set out on FEMA's FIRM, as described above. This Survey of the survey of the property may be in Flood Zone(s). A. Because this is a boundary survey, the survey did not take any actions to determine the Flood Zone status of the property of th



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