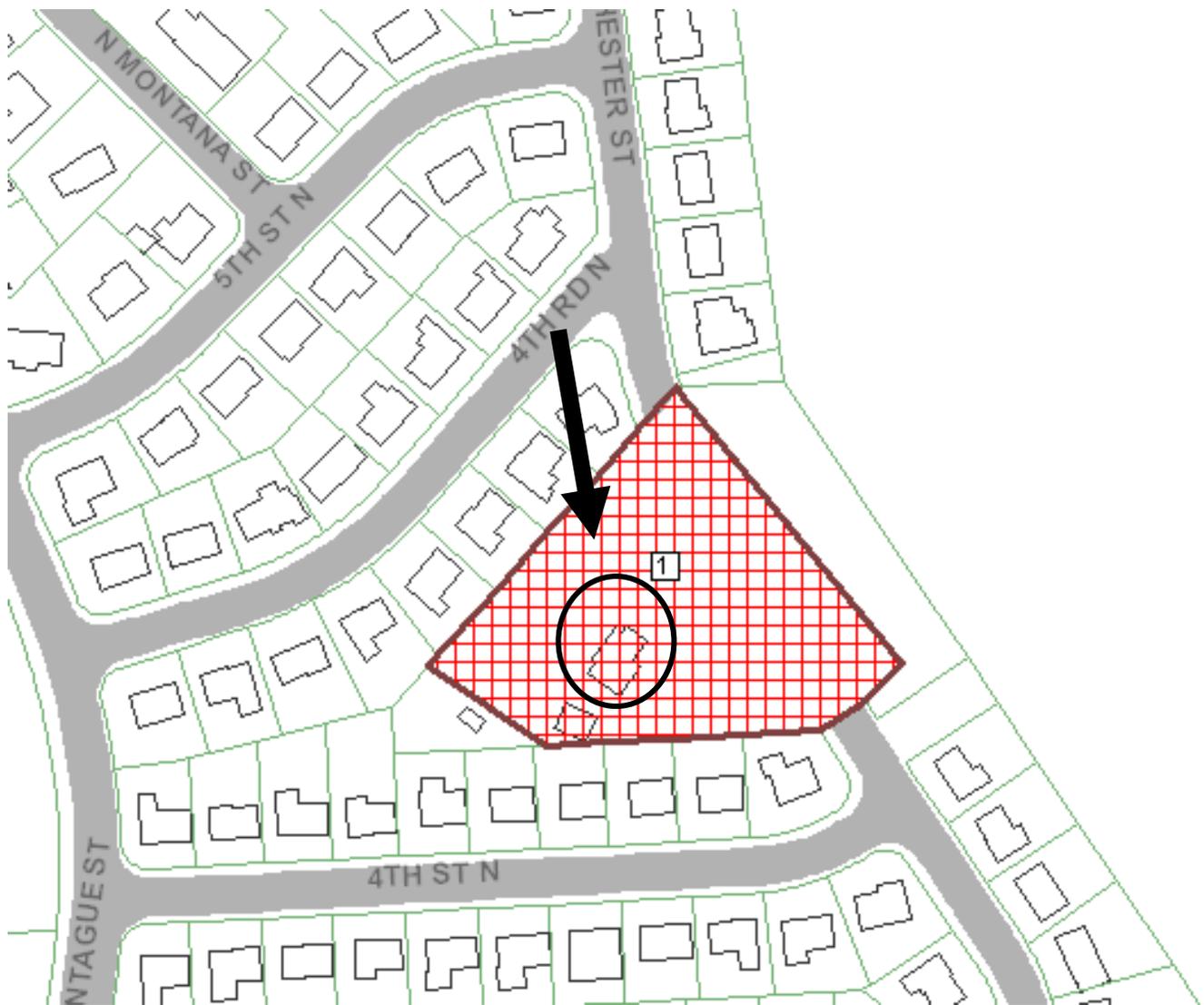


Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board

Arlington County, Virginia

HALRB Case 14-07 (HP1400012)



A request by Arlington County, owner of 400 North Manchester Street located in the Reevesland Historic District, on behalf of the Reevesland Learning Center, to construct thirteen raised wood gardening beds with row covers.

HALRB/Design Review Committee Report Meeting Date:

For DRC (*circle those present*): **Robert Dudka, Charles Craig, Charles Matta, Darren Hannabass,**

For Arlington County (*circle those present*): **Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Rebecca Ballo, John Liebertz**

Case # Agenda Item #

Application Complete

Application Incomplete

Applicant(s):

For Applicant(s):

(See attached application for applicant, address, name of property and property description, drawings, photographs, and proposed scope of work.)

Design Recommendations:

Findings:

_____ Return to next DRC meeting

_____ Send to HALRB (see below for recommended actions)

If sent to HALRB, recommended action is:

_____ Place on consent agenda

_____ Place on discussion agenda:

_____ Recommend approval of CoA, with DRC design recommendations and/or additional information provided

_____ Recommend deferral of ruling on CoA (explanation):

_____ Recommend denial of CoA (explanation):

_____ No recommendation.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

April 9, 2014

TO: HALRB

FROM: John Liebertz

SUBJECT: 400 North Manchester, Case 11-01, Reevesland Historic District

This proposal is a request to construct eight raised wood gardening beds with row covers at 400 North Manchester Street in the *Reevesland Historic District*. The house is described in the local designation form as a “Two-story, frame farmhouse on a stone foundation, built in at least two stages and having a modified T-plan. The earliest portion is the two- story gabled-roofed unit positioned on an east-west axis. The 1900 modifications added cross gables.” In addition, the local designation dictated that “The significant features of the site include the frame house, one outbuilding, and its immediate surroundings. Priority for preservation will be maintaining the integrity and character of the house and its 1900 addition, as well as the outbuildings and the open character of the area around the original structures.”

On behalf of the Reevesland Learning Center, Arlington County’s Department of Parks and Recreation prepared the application to renew expired CoA 11-01 and request the installation of thirteen additional raised garden beds. Since 2011, the Reevesland Learning Center (formerly known as Lawns 2 Lettuce 4 Lunch) has focused on working with school age children to grow plants that will be harvested for consumption. Construction and maintenance of the garden will continue to be done by volunteers. The proposed beds will be placed in an area of the site that historically was used as a garden by former owner Nelson Reeves. Visibility of the raised beds from the front porch of the dwelling will be limited. No soil disturbance will occur, nor will any potential archaeological artifacts be disturbed, since all of the plantings will be grown in raised beds.

The application includes the following:

1. Construction of thirteen raised wood gardening beds.
 - a. The new beds will add an additional 1846 square feet. Total square feet dedicated to raised garden beds will be 2,993.
 - b. Each bed will be 4’ x 14’ wide and 15” high.
 - c. The walls of each bed will be constructed with 2” x 8” yellow pine. The wall planks will be attached to 8 posts that are 15” x 4” x 4” located at each corner of the planter boxes. Of note, the posts will not penetrate the ground.
 - d. Areas between and around the planter boxes will be covered with wood mulch.
2. Construction of row covers.
 - a. PVC piping to support a floating Remay Garden Blanket (row cover).
3. Annual renewal of the CoA that will be submitted to the HALRB.



HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

The application was heard by the DRC on April 2, 2014. The DRC asked questions regarding the proposed configuration of the desired new gardening beds and recommended the westernmost beds be shifted to the east. In addition, DRC and staff requested that the applicants differentiate the existing beds from the proposed beds on subsequent applications. Staff confirmed that the proposed location for the raised beds is surrounded by negative shovel test pits (no archaeological evidence). Archaeological evidence, however, could still be underneath the proposed beds. Therefore, DRC and staff affirmed that no shoveling of the ground will occur during the construction of the proposed beds. The applicant agreed to make the recommended changes.

The DRC and staff supported the application since the proposed raised beds are temporary and will not negatively impact the historic character of the site. Also, the construction of the garden would not preclude other simultaneous uses/activities elsewhere on the site. The DRC recommended approval of this application and asked that it be placed on the consent agenda for the April 15, 2014, HALRB meeting. Staff finds that the application meets the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* since the raised beds do not alter the historic relationship between the buildings and the landscape.