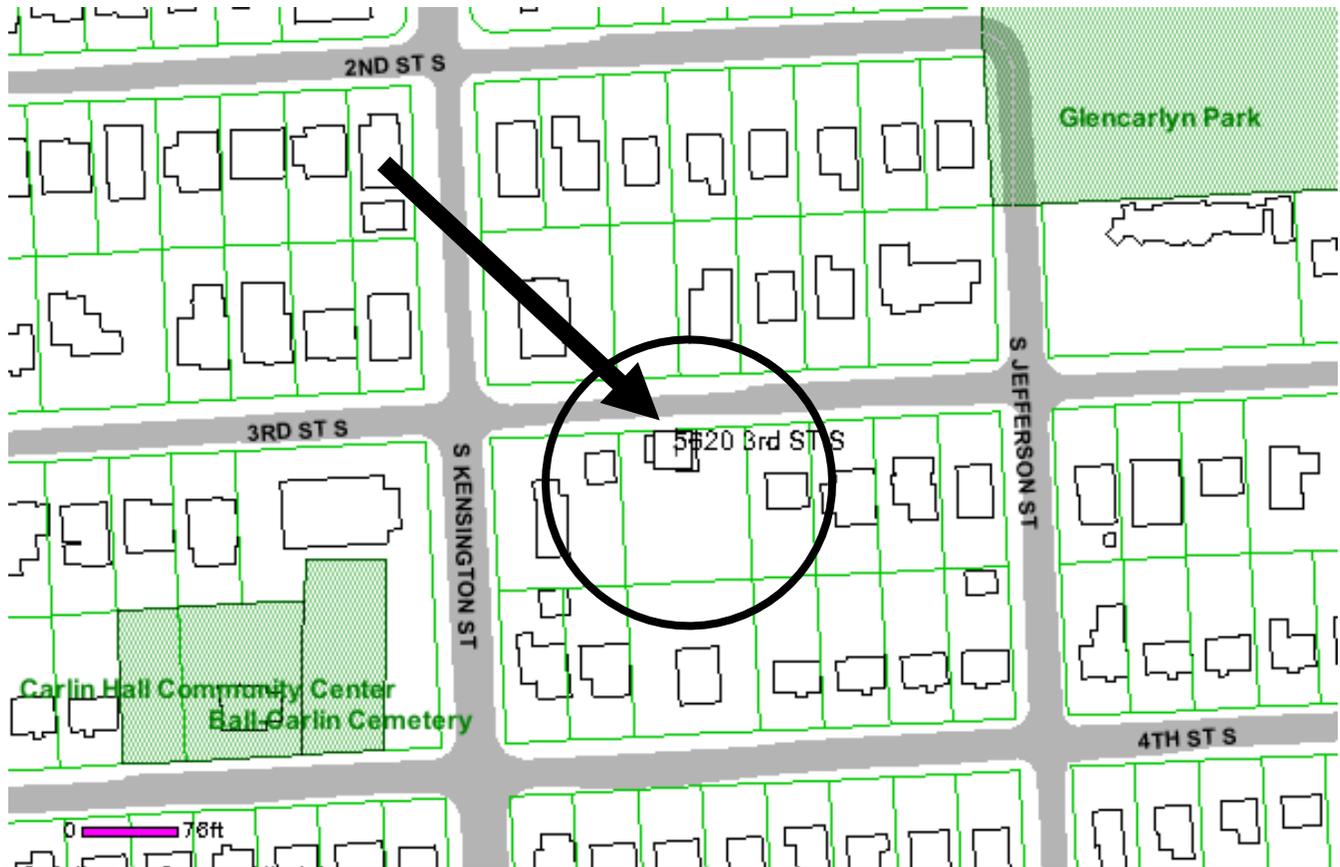


Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board

Arlington County, Virginia

HALRB Case 16-19 (HP1600050)



A request by the Arlington Historic Society, owners of the property at 5620 3rd Street South in the Ball-Sellers House Historic District, to install a rain garden.

For DRC (*circle those present*): **Robert Dudka, Charles Craig, Charles Matta, Andrew Wenchel, Tova Solo, Joan Lawrence, John Peck**

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

Case # 16-19 Agenda Item # 8

Application Complete

Application Incomplete

Applicant(s): AHS

For Applicant(s): Ms. Benbow

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

Design Recommendations:

1. N/A

Findings:

- Return to next DRC meeting
- Send to HALRB

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.

To: HALRB
From: John Liebertz, Historic Preservation Planner
Date: August 10, 2016
Subject: 5620 3rd Street South, CoA 16-19, Ball-Sellers House

Background Information

The Ball-Sellers House, constructed ca. 1750, is Arlington's oldest house. The house includes a two-story frame building and a one-story log house. Owned by the Arlington Historical Society, the original log section and lean-to function as a museum and the Victorian-era addition serves as a residence.

Proposal

The Arlington Historic Society (AHS) proposes to install a rain garden to assist with drainage issues on the property and capture stormwater runoff. The 150 sq. ft. rain garden would consist of 6-inch ponding, native trees and shrubs, and native perennial and ornamental grasses. As part of the proposed work, AHS coordinated with HPP staff on an archaeological investigation as the proposed rain garden is adjacent to a demolished historic addition to the original log cabin portion of the house.

DRC Review

The DRC heard this case at its August 2016 meetings. The committee commended the organic form/design of the rain garden, the use of a stone band to outline the walls and chimney of the lost addition, and the scope of the proposed archeological investigation. The DRC recommended that this application be placed on the consent agenda for the August 17, 2016, HALRB meeting.

Discussion and Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the construction of the rain garden. The proposal would assist in the long-term preservation of the property by improving drainage. Furthermore, the rain garden consists of native trees and plantings that are appropriate for the landscape. The garden is suitably sited and designed in relationship to the historic house. All of the proposed elements could be removed from the landscape with no longer term impact to the historic property. In addition, the approved archeological investigations will protect historic resources on the property. Staff finds that this request meets the intent of the *Secretary of the Interior Standards Design Guidelines* (Standards 8 and 10) and recommends approval.