# **RECEIVED**

By Danielle McKissic at 11:38 am, Oct 28, 2022



404.371.2155 (o) 178 Sams Street 404.371.4556 (f) Decatur, GA 30030

Chief Executive Officer

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY** 

Director

**Michael Thurmond** 

Andrew A. Baker, AICP **Application for Certificate of Appropriateness** 

Dete Rece	erved	Application No.:	
Address o	Subject Property: 1853 North Dec	atur Road	
Applicant:	Linda I. Dunlavy, Dunlavy Lav	w Group, LLC	E Mad idunlavy@dunlavylawgroup.com
Applicant	Mailing Address: 245 North Highla	nd Ave NE, Suite 230	, #905, Atlanta 30316
Applicant	Phone(s): 404-371-4101 /404-66	34-0895	Fax:
Applicant's	s relationship to the owner: Owner		
Owner(s):	Naomi Johnson Singleterry	•••••••	E Mail: NSJohnson8@gmail.com
			E-Mad: djsingleterry@gmail.com
Owner(s)	Mailing Address: 1819 Fair Oaks Pl	lace, Decatur, GA 30	033
New const New acces	work (check all that apply): truction	Fence/Wall []	ing  Other building changes  Other environmental changes
Demolitic	on of the existing home on the pro	perty.	
samples, p format. E	photographs, etc. All documents si	hould be in PDF form	supporting documents, such as plans, list of materials, col nat, except for photographs, which may be in JPE plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov An incompte
			Signature of Applicant/Da
			Revised 10/5/20



#### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

#### Authorization of a Second Party to Apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness

This form is required if the individual making the request is not the owner of the property.

I/ We, Naomi Johnson Singleterry	and Darell Johnson Singleterry
being owner(s) of the property at _	1853 North Decatur Road
hereby delegate authority to Lind	a I. Dunlavy, Dunlavy Law Group, LLC
to file an application for a certificat	te of appropriateness in my/our behalf.
	marma Smilet ellow
	Signature of wine (s)
	10/12/22

#### Please review the following information

Approval of this Certificate of Appropriateness does not release the recipient from compliance with all other pertinent county, state, and federal regulations.

Before making any changes to your approved plans, contact the preservation planner (404/371- 2155). Some changes may fall within the scope of the existing approval, but others will require review by the preservation commission. If work is performed which is not in accordance with your certificate, a Stop Work Order may be issued.

If your project requires that the county issue a Certificate of Occupancy at the end of construction, an inspection may be made to verify that the work has been completed in accord with the Certificate of Appropriateness. If the work as completed is not the same as that approved in the Certificate of Appropriateness you will not receive a Certificate of Occupancy. You may also be subject to other penalties including fines and/or required demolition of the non-conforming work.

If you do not commence construction within twelve months of the date of approval, your Certificate of Appropriateness will become void and you will need to apply for a new certificate if you still intend to do the work.

Date

# **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF**

# **APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

#### Owners:

#### NAOMI SINGLETERRY AND DARRELL SINGLETERRY

Property Location:

1853 North Decatur Road

# Request for Certificate of Appropriateness to Demolish Existing Structures

Submitted for Applicant by:

Linda I. Dunlavy
Dunlavy Law Group, LLC
245 North Highland Avenue
Suite 230, #905
Atlanta, Georgia 30030
(404) 371-4101 Office Phone
(404) 664-0895 Mobile
Idunlavy@dunlavylawgroup.com

#### **BACKGROUND**

Subject Property. The Subject Property is located in the local Druid Hills

Historic District at 1853 North Decatur Road (Tax parcel ID #18-052-05-035). The

property is also within the University Park-Emory Highlands-Emory Estates Character

Area. It is on the south side of North Decatur Road between Emory Circle and

Ridgewood Drive. It is on the northern edge of the local historic district. Emory

University land is immediately across North Decatur to the north and is currently being

redeveloped by the demolition of older ranch style homes to make way for student

housing. DJ and Naomi purchased the property in 2018. The couple were attracted to the

area because both graduated from Emory and liked the prospect of living close to their

alma mater. They also believed the property had potential for expansion to create their

forever home. Four years and one newborn child (4 months old) later the house is too

small for their needs, especially since they are planning to have one set of parents live

with them at some point in the future. After investigation, regrettably they discovered

that adding on to the house is not really a viable option.

Existing structures. The Subject Property is currently developed with two-story wood frame house in the minimal traditional style built in 1941 with a partial basement. A metal carport adjacent to the home was built in 1983. The home itself is less than 1900 square feet. The existing residence and associated structures are in very poor condition. See attached photographs depicting home and associated structures along with those photographs in the engineer's report. While listed as a "contributing structure", the home was not designed by an architect to the best of the Singleterry's knowledge and does not otherwise appear to have significant architectural value. It was seemingly constructed by

a builder on site using accepted building techniques of the day and poorly so. The foundation system of the home is non-conforming and the floor systems for both the first and second floors are over spanned. None of the brick foundation walls have footings to support them and these walls are made of unreinforced, ungrouted brick. There are significant signs of instability in the exterior foundation wall and transverse brick basement walls. While previous owners appear to have attempted to shore up walls in various locations, this shoring has been insufficient to prevent the continued deflection of the walls. To renovate the existing structure such that it is stable and capable of supporting future additions, significant work would need to be done. The work needed is detailed in a Field Inspection Report by Harrington Engineers dated September 29, 2022 and included contemporaneously with the COA application herein<sup>1</sup>. Mr. Harrington, a licensed structural engineer, noted that "Even though the house may visually appear to be functioning alright now, the deficiencies noted above still exist and should be addressed... due to the extensive work required by Alternative 2 (renovation)...my recommendation is to select Alternative 1, demolish and rebuild. I think that is the most realistic and viable solution."

Cost to renovate. To assess the economic viability of renovation, an estimate from Homeside Construction was secured. Homeside estimated that replacement of the non-conforming foundation system to prevent further deflection and destabilization of the house and correcting the over spanned floor system would cost at least \$267, 220. Details

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) may recall that it denied demolition on the subject property recently based on a report from Harrington Engineers. That report however, did not contain the detailed photographs and conclusions that are present in the September 29<sup>th</sup> report. The HPC encouraged the Owners to submit a report with more detail to it after denying the first application. Applicant submits that this report contains the detail necessary to support a demolition approval under the Guidelines and ordinances of DeKalb County.

of the cost estimate can be seen in the Project Scope and Cost Estimate from Homeside filed contemporaneously with the COA application. The tax appraisal for the house is currently \$284,100. In other words, it would cost as much to renovate the house as it is currently valued. Relevant tax records are included with the COA application. The combination of the Harrington Engineers report and the Cost Estimate demonstrate that even if the home could practically be rehabilitated, the cost to cure deficiencies to bring the existing structure to code, stabilize it, and to make it safely habitable would be equal to or in excess of the fair market value of the home. As such, the Applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the existing structures on site—the house and the carport.<sup>2</sup> The Applicant requests that this approval be conditioned upon the subsequent approval of new house plans by the HPC.

### PROPOSED DEMOLITION

The Applicant desires to take the current Failing structure and demolish it along with the carport, concrete pads, driveway and walkways on site.

#### BASIS FOR THE DEMOLITION PROPOSAL

As noted above, like many homes in Druid Hills the house on the Subject Property was not designed by a professional but simply built using accepted building techniques of the day, techniques which the engineer notes in his report "would not be acceptable today". As such, many of the elements of the existing home are seriously deficient relative to current building codes and standards. These serious deficiencies,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Applicant recognizes that the HPC prefers not to approve demolition without having a parallel application for new construction, however, nothing in the Historic Preservation Ordinance or the Guidelines require simultaneous applications. Before expending massive amounts of money on an architect, the Owners need to establish whether the existing house can be approved for demolition. They have already expended more than \$50,000 on plans that have been rejected by the HPC as have previous efforts to secure demolition approval.

include, but are not limited to, the absence of footings for the foundation, over spanned flooring systems for the first and second floors, overly stressed and deflecting foundation walls. Moreover, the house is not a good representative of any particular style or house type and does not appear to have any architectural or historical significance.

## Applicable standards for demolition.

Historic Preservation Ordinance. Section 13.5-8 (3) of the Historic Preservation Ordinance (HPO), regarding review of certificates of appropriateness (COA) applications, specifically states that, in considering applications for existing buildings, the HPC is to consider the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Standards for Historic Preservation Projects (36 CFR 67). "Rehabilitation" is defined as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values. The Standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility. This same section also requires consideration of historical and architectural value and significance. architectural style, scale, height, setback, landscaping, general design, arrangement, texture and materials of architectural features, and pertinent features of other properties in the immediate neighborhood and Section 13.5-8(7) requires ("shall approve") the HPC to approve a COA application if the proposed material change would not have a substantial adverse effect on the...significance and value of the historic property or the historic district." Section 13.5-8(5) specifically allows for the demolition of buildings, structures, sites or objects within a local historic district.

Finally, in evaluating a request for demolition the HPC is required to determine if the existing structure is "so unsound that rehabilitation is not possible". Guideline 7.3.3. Applicant submits that this **guideline** must be interpreted and applied against the backdrop of the admonition from the Secretary of the Interior that economic and technical feasibility must be evaluated and in a reasonable manner and against the overarching legal standard under local and state law that the proposed change would not have a **substantial adverse effect** on historic property an historic district.

# Application of Standards to current COA application.

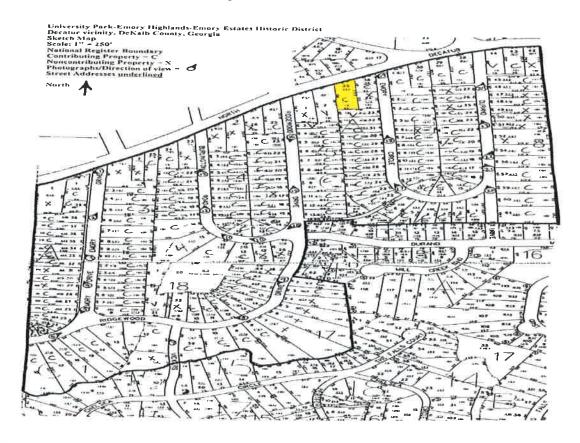
Secretary of Interior Standards. Under the Secretary's Standards, demolition should occur only if rehabilitation is not reasonably attainable technically and economically. The rehabilitation of the residence on the Subject Property is clearly not economically feasible and may not be technically feasible. The Homeside Construction estimate shows that renovation/rehabilitation of the house would cost a minimum of \$267, 200, almost as much as the current tax appraisal for the residence<sup>3</sup>. This makes rehabilitation economically infeasible. Moreover, Homeside notes that the "estimate is subject to change upon hidden or concealed conditions". Finally, the shoring of the walls necessary for the pouring of needed footings can be a difficult job and result in compromising the structural integrity of the walls during the process.

**HPO Section 13.5-8.** Taking into consideration any historical or architectural value of the existing residence and significance, architectural style, scale, height, setback, landscaping, general design, arrangement, texture and materials of architectural features, and pertinent features of other properties in the immediate neighborhood, it is clear that

6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The County Tax Assessor notes that the home is 90% economically obsolete.

the proposed demolition would not have a substantial adverse effect on the...significance and value of the historic property or the historic district per Section 13.5-8(7). The Subject Property, as can be seen below, abuts a contributing property at 526 Emory Circle and is itself designated as contributing<sup>4</sup>:



However, there are no contributing structures on the block face of North Decatur Road other than on the Subject Property. 526 Emory Circle fronts on Emory Circle with its rear yard abutting the eastern side yard of the subject property and, as evident from the photos submitted with this application cannot be seen from the Subject Property due to topography and dense vegetation between the two properties. Across North Decatur Road aging homes are in the process of demolition by Emory University for the construction of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Although denominated as "contributing", applicant submits that there is nothing architecturally or historically significant about the home on the Subject Property. It is simply old but was purpose built with no apparent architect and poorly built more than 80 years ago and has reached the end of its practical life span.

student housing and the other two lots within the same block as the Subject Property contain homes newly constructed at 1925 Ridgewood Drive (built in 2017) and 1917 Ridgewood Road (f/k/a 1847 North Decatur Road and built in 2017). See Tax Records filed with this application. Of the homes fronting North Decatur Road in the same block of the Subject Property, only 1925 Ridgewood and the Subject property can be seen by the walking public and due to the speed of traffic along North Decatur Road and the sharp drop in topography from the road, the residence on the Subject Property is not realistically visible to the motoring public along North Decatur Road. Because of the lack of a coherent historic fabric on the block face where the Subject Property is located and because of the lack of visual relationships between it and historic properties, it cannot be said that removal of the home on the Subject Property would have "a substantial adverse effect on the...significance and value of the historic property or the historic district". As such demolition is authorized as requested.

Guideline 7.3.3. The HPC has approved demolition of numerous structures within the District since its inception in 1996. These structures include historic (highlighted)and non-historic structures. The chart below summarizes the residences approved for demolition in the District:

SAMPLED DEMOLITIONS IN HISTORIC DISTRICT<sup>5</sup>

Address	Year Built	Demo Approved	Reasons
267 Chelsea Circle	1958	March 2005	Nonhistoric
		September	Mold, no footings,
957 Briarcliff		2017	fire damage
315 Vickers Drive		June 2005	
519 Durand Drive	1935	October 2006	fire

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> There are likely other approved demolitions since there is no searchable data base to assure complete information maintained and accessible to the public in DeKalb County Planning Department.

8

1000 Clifton	1953		nonhistoric
1164 Clifton Road	1952		
1000 Springdale	1952	January 2005	nonhistoric
		·	Damage to
007.0	1000	* ***	framing and
995 Springdale	1923	January 2009	foundation 1
			Grading caused
			drainage issues and joist not
			supported with
1182 the ByWay		2018	hangers
		Court order	
		demolition	Mold and
1185 the ByWay	<mark>1941</mark>	2009	structural damage
1254 Stillwood	1925	2017	No footings
			Mold, floor joists
			and foundation
1169 Lullwater	1929	A	could not take
1109 Luliwater	1929	August 2005 November	additional loads
1203 The ByWay	1953	2001	nonhistoric
1295 ING 25 Hay	1755	November	Homistorie
1209 The ByWay	1947	2001	nonhistoric
		December	
1247 University	1948	2005	
1282 Briardale	1950	August 2006	nonhistoric
1287 The ByWay	1950	April 2003	nonhistoric
1288 Briardale Lane		July 2004	
1056 D : 1100	1000		Nonhistoric
1256 Briarcliff	1960s		GMHI cottages
			profound
			structural; lacks significance;
			foundation
1302 Stillwood	1925	August 2006	problems
1314 University		March 2005	•
1444 Oxford Road		August 2006	
		November	Extreme structural
1595 Emory Road	1929	2001	and neglect
1739 Coventry		March 2005	
1839 North Decatur	1950	2015	Nonhistoric
1741 Coventry		March 2005	
1745 Coventry		January 2005	
2015 North Decatur	1930	[	Nonsignificant;

			poor condition
1100 Dan Johnson	1930s	2012	Not significant architecturally
2049 North Decatur	1930	1	Nonsignificant; poor condition
1141 Dan Johnson	1955	Dec-99	nonhistoric Not significant,
			inadequate footings, stressed foundation walls
			and no foundation anchors
1097 Dan Johnson	1940	2012	

Of the documented approvals Applicant was able to locate, 32 demolitions have been approved by the HPC since 1999; 11 (highlighted) of those 32 approved for demolition were historic structures. Demolition of several of the historic structures (i.e., 1097 Dan Johnson, 1302 Stillwood, 1254 Stillwood, and 995 Springdale) was approved on similar grounds and based on similar evidence to that presented by the Applicant in support of its demolition request herein—structural and foundation problems; no footings. Relevant documents from these applications and approvals are included with this submission. The home on the Subject Property is in deplorable condition. Similar to the historic homes above approved for demolition, it suffers from profound structural problems and its current condition militates against requiring rehabilitation and preservation. Two reports ( Homeside Construction and Harrington Engineering) documenting this condition are filed contemporaneously with this written justification.

The first expert report in support of demolition is a structural report from Gus Harrington wherein he evaluates the suitability of the existing structure for renovation. Mr. Harrington, a licensed professional engineer, notes that extensive work would be required to rehabilitate the home, largely because there a no footings under the

foundation walls, unsafe interior brick retaining walls, and over spanned floor joist throughout the first and second floors of the house. Because of this existing dangerous condition, Mr. Harrington indicates that to properly attach the house to the foundation, the brick foundation should be removed and replaced new foundation walls bearing on newly poured footings. This may be accomplished in sections by bracing the floor system and wall above, excavating both sides of the wall, removing the wall, pouring a new footing, and building a new wall. Mr. Harrington concludes that demolition of the existing structure and rebuilding is the "most realistic and viable solution".

The second report submitted is that of Homeside Construction. Dennis Brown of Homeside Construction inspected the home at 1853 North Decatur Road to determine the need for repairs and the estimated cost for making needed repairs to bring the home into compliance with current codes (i.e. "rehabilitate" defined in the Guidelines as "the process of returning a building to a state of utility while retaining those elements essential to its architectural, historical and/or aesthetic significance"). He identifies numerous concerns and estimates the "cost to cure" these concerns to be more than \$267,220.00.

Due to the structural condition of the home, and the need for major reworking of the systems within the home to bring it up to current code, Applicant submits that this home is not of a character worthy or even capable of effective rehabilitation and preservation. The current condition of the home as reflected in the reports make it clear that the house is so unsound that rehabilitation is not practically possible. As such, the Application meets the Guidelines for demolition and, pursuant to the Historic Preservation Ordinance, the HPC is required ("shall approve the application") to approve

the demolition request. To deny the request would be inconsistent with previous approvals and result in an arbitrary and capricious decision.

# **CONCLUSION AND REQUEST**

Based on the foregoing and for all the reasons set forth above, the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission should grant the Applicant's request for a Certificate of Appropriateness so that the existing structures on the Subject Property can be demolished.

## PRESERVATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

The Applicant respectfully submits that, should the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission refuse to grant the requested Certificate of Appropriateness, such an action would be unconstitutional as a taking of property, a denial of equal protection, an arbitrary and capricious act, and a denial of due process of law under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

Refusal to issue the requested Certificate of Appropriateness would deprive the Applicant of any alternative reasonable use and development of the Subject Property without just compensation and would be insubstantially related to the health and welfare of the public while substantially harming the Property owner.

Applicant specifically objects to the standing of any party that opposes this Application for Certificate of Appropriateness.

This 28th day of October 2022.

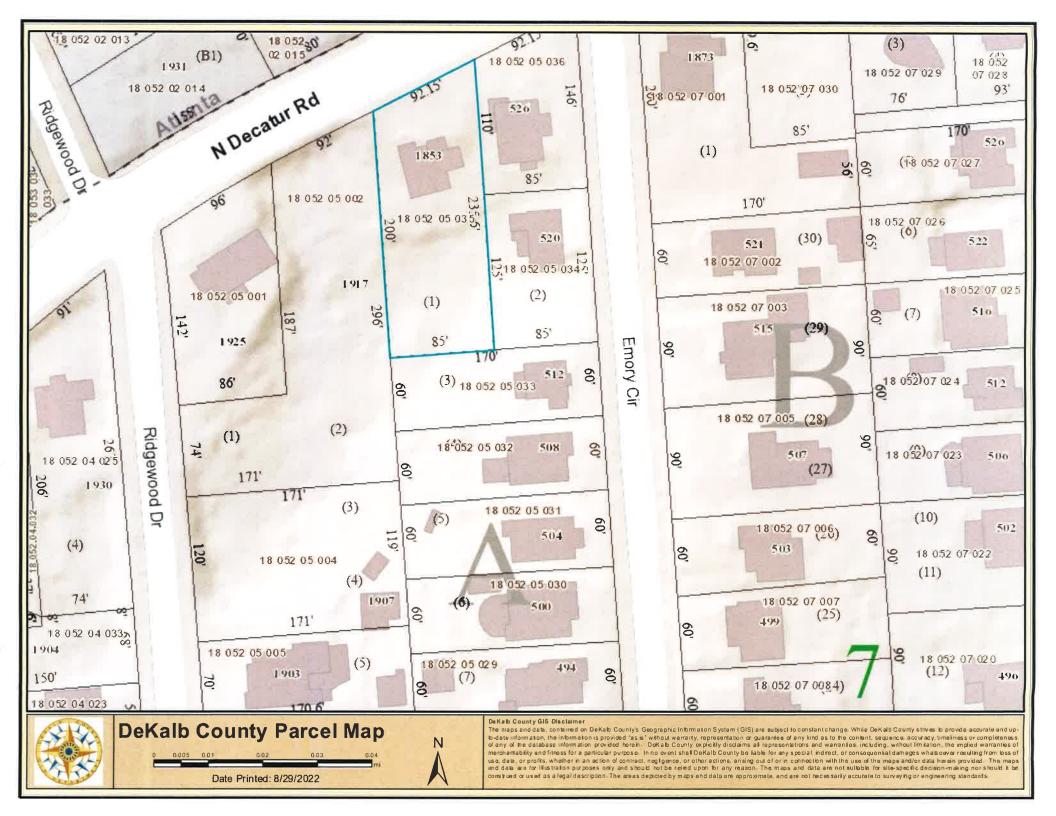
Respectfully submitted,

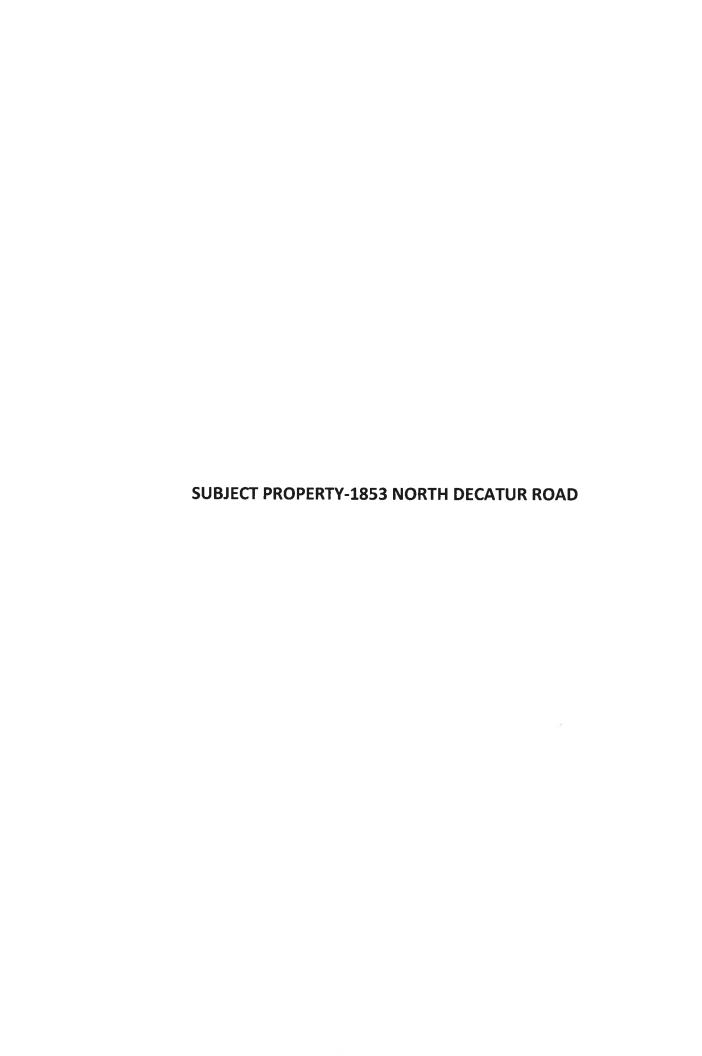
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Linda I. Dunlavy

Attorney for Applicant

Linda I. Dunlavy Dunlavy Law Group, LLC (404) 371-4101 Office Phone (404)664-0895 Mobile Phone 245 North Highland Avenue, Suite 230 #905 Atlanta, Georgia 30307 Idunlavy@dunlavylawgroup.com





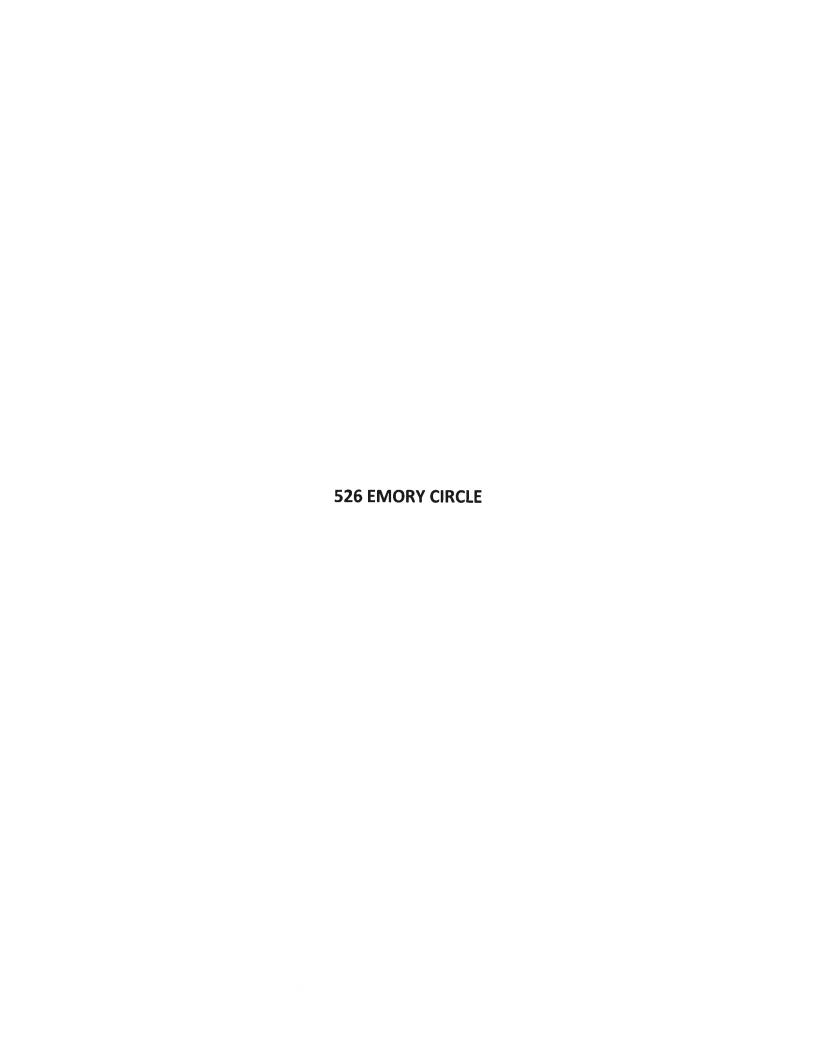






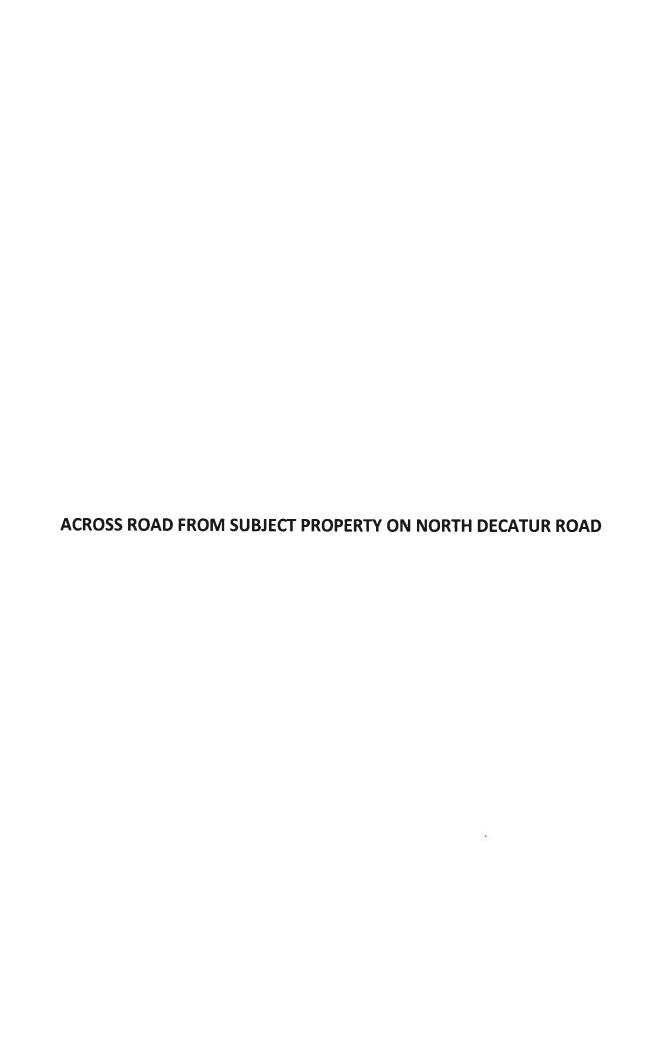


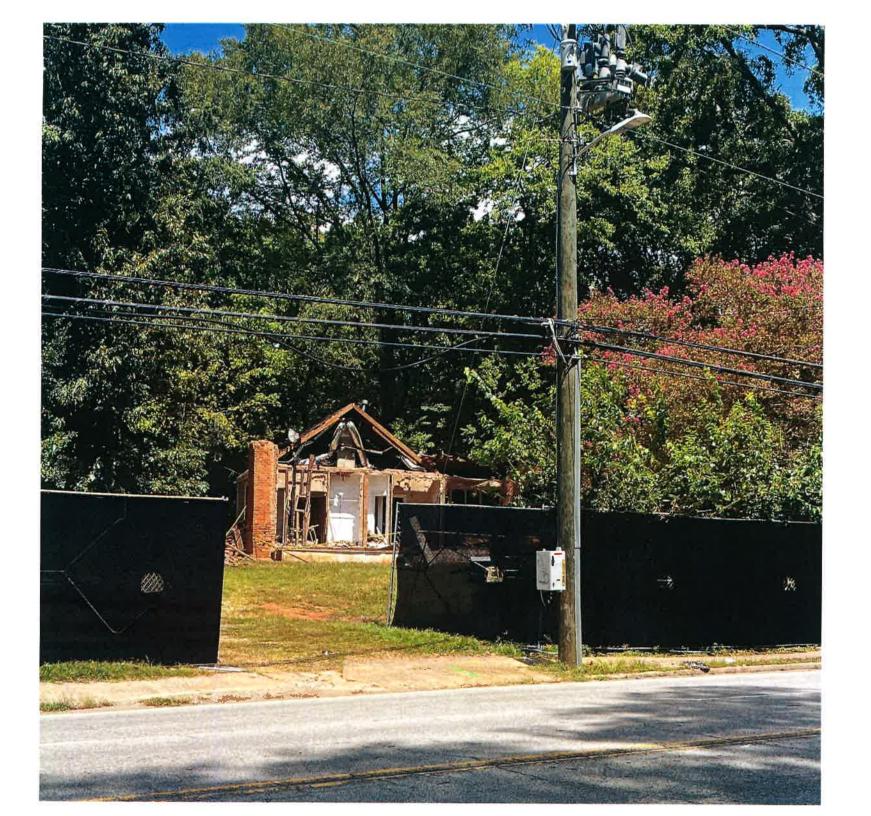


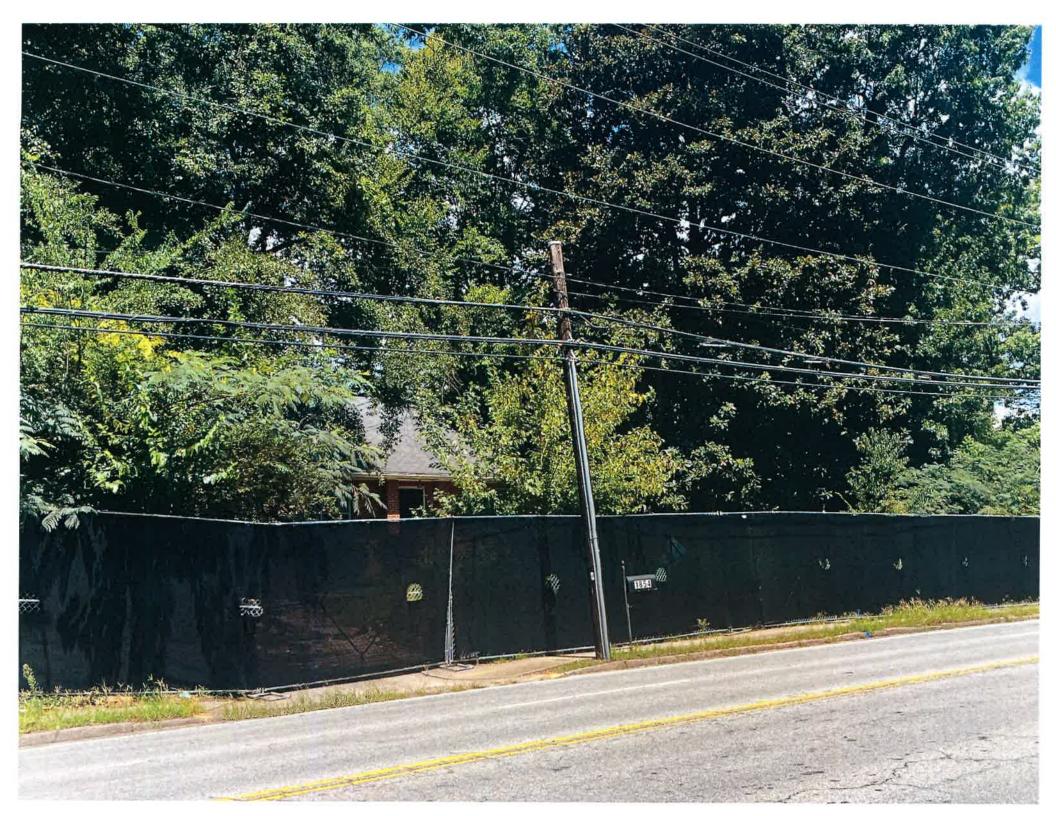


# **526 Emory circle**



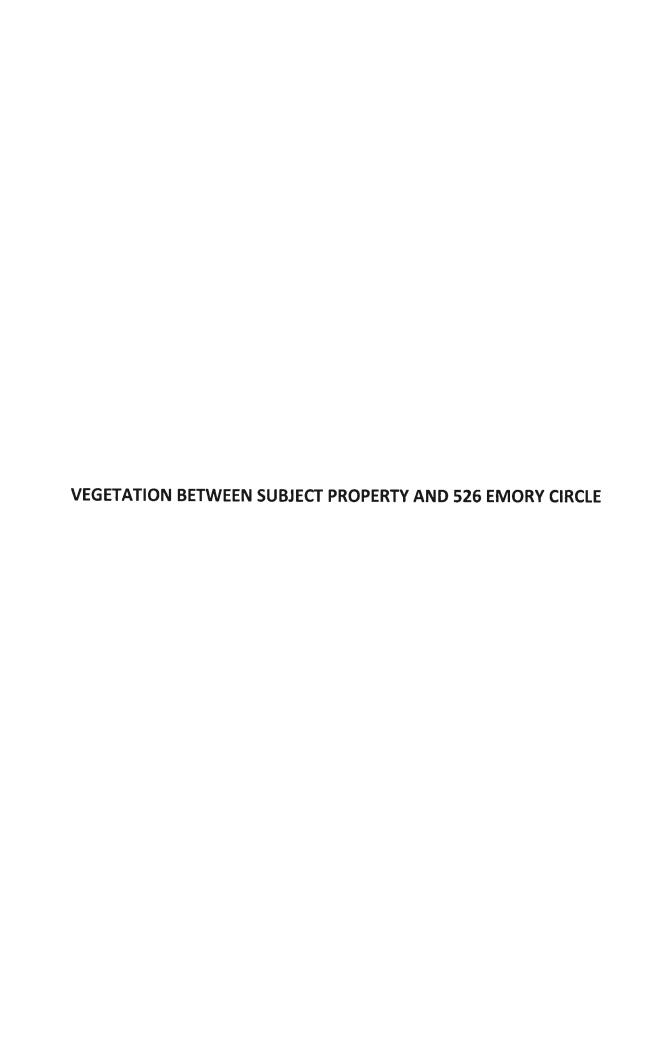










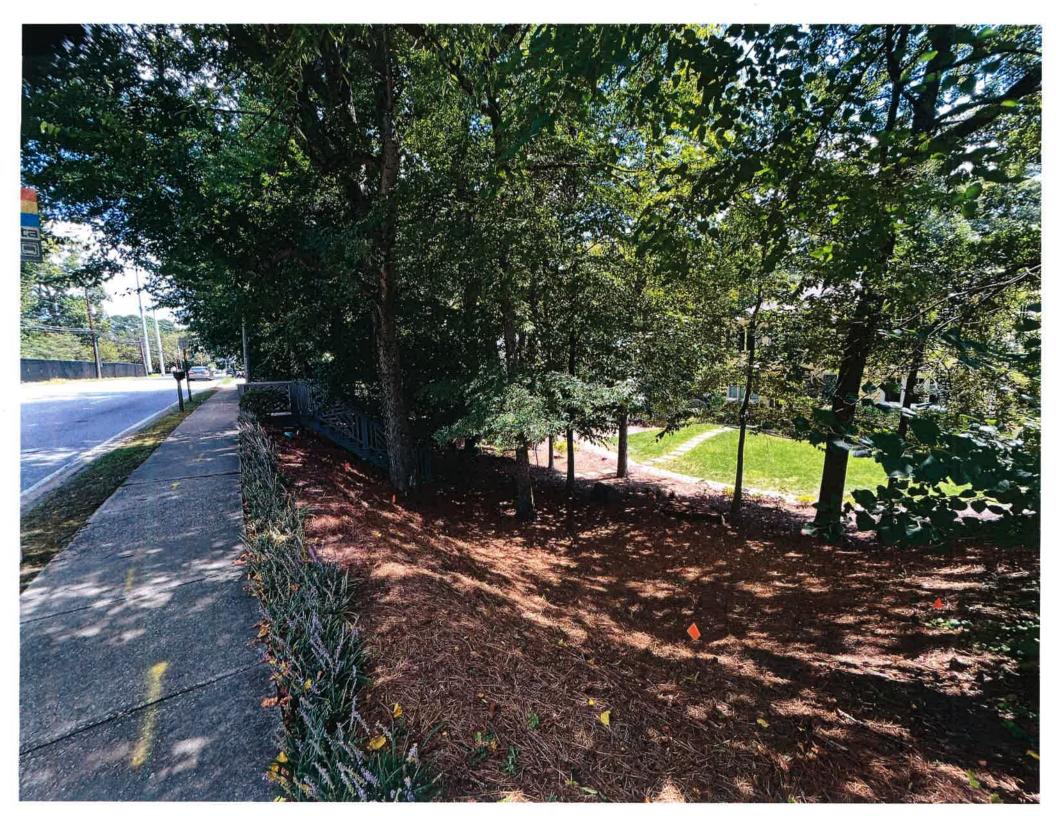




VIEW FROM SIDE YARD OF SUBJECT PROPERTY TOWARDS 1917 AND 1925 RIDGEWOOD ROAD



VIEW OF FRONTAGE ALONG N ROAD TO	NORTH DECATUR ROAD DWARDS SUBJECT PROP	











1 of 1

Printable Summary

Printable Version

Actions

# Property Appraisal Home Real Estate Search Personal Property Search Advanced/Sales Search Map Search

PARID: 18 052 05 035 Tax Dist: 04-UNINCORPORATED Profile SINGLETERRY DARELL JOHNSON 1853 DECATUR RD NE N Value History **Residential Structure** Appeals History Building # 1 Land Class **R3 - RESIDENTIAL LOT** Appeal by Year Stories 1.5 Construction 1 - FRAME Current Values Style 15 - TRADITIONAL Living Area 1,893 Commercial Quality Grade 025 **Detached Improvements** Condition ΑV Year Built 1941 Land Remodeled Year Effective Year Мар Bedrooms 5 Full Baths 3 Pictometry Half Baths 0 **Total Fixtures** Permits 13 Fireplaces **Photos** AC 4 - CENTRAL WITH A/C Basement 1 - SEE ADDITIONS Residential Structure Unfinished Area Finished Basement Living Area Sales Functional Obsolescene Economic Obsolescence 90 Sketch % Complete 100 Exemptions **Additions** Addition Number Description Area 854 1 BSMT UNDER DWELLING---854 3 -COMP ATTIC FIN-634 4 -OVERHANG-8 5 -ADD FRAME FULL STORY AFO/AFT--142 6 FINISH BASEMENT---750 7 -FULL STORY FRAME--255 8 PATIO---72 9 FINISH BASEMENT--255 10 PATIO--102

11

1300 Commerce Drive Decelur, GA 30030 2 104-371-2000 2 31!CCC@dekalbcountyga gov

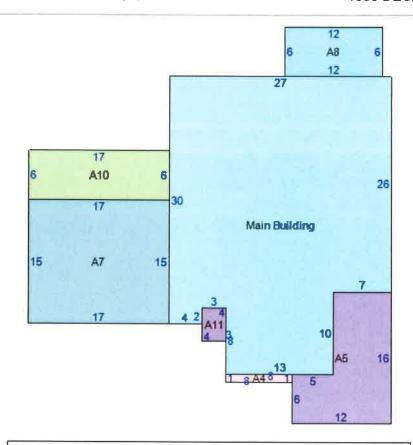
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-OPEN PORCH--

PARID: 18 052,05 035

Tax Dist: 04-UNINCORPORATED SINGLETERRY DARELL JOHNSON

## 1853 DECATUR RD NE N



Item	Area
Main Building	854
- 90:BSMT UNDER DWELLING	854
ALUM/F'GLS - CPA:ALUM/F'GLS CP	440
A10 - 88:PATIO	102
A11 - 84:OPEN PORCH	12
- 52:COMP ATTIC FIN	634
A4 - 45:OVERHANG	8
A5 - 10A:ADD FRAME FULL STORY AFO/AFT	142
- 96:FINISH BASEMENT	750
A7 - 10:FULL STORY FRAME	255
A8 - 88:PATIO	72

- 96:FINISH BASEMENT 255

Printed on Monday, August 29, 2022, at 10:45:44 AM EST

8/29/22,	11:39 AM			DeKalb County Property Apprais	sal	
2018		9	Assessment Notice		1	\$359,400
2019	•		Assessment Notice		1	\$429,200
2020			Appeal to Board of Assessors		1	\$402,900
2020			Assessment Notice		1	\$434,800
2021			Assessment Notice		1	\$402,900

## **Notices**

2022

Tax Year	Hearing Type	Subkey	Notice Type	Mail Date
2013	Board of Equalization	1	BOE Decision Form	09/17/2013
2013	Board of Equalization	1	BOE Appointment Letter	08/26/2013
2013	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	Appeal No Changes - Real Estate	08/22/2013
2013	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	Res Review Form	07/11/2013
2015	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	30 Day Letter	09/09/2015
2015	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	Appeal Value Changes- Real Estate	09/03/2015
2015	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	Res Review Form	07/20/2015
2020	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	306C	08/04/2020
2020	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	Appeal Value Changes- Real Estate	07/30/2020
2020	Appeal to Board of Assessors	1	Res Review Form	07/03/2020
2022	Assessment Notice	1	Res Review Form	05/27/2022

# **Detached Improvements**

Card #	Description	Year Built	Grade	Width	Length	Агеа
1	CPA : ALUM/F'GLS CP	1983	С	20	22	440

#### Land

Land Type	G - SITE
Land Code	2 - SITE VALUE
Square Feet	0
Calculated Acres	0
Deeded Acres	.4
Parcel ID	18 052 05 035
Address	1853 N DECATUR RD NE
Unit	
City	ATLANTA
Zip Code	30307-

Neighborhood 0931

Assessment Notice

Class **R3 - RESIDENTIAL LOT** Land Use Code 101-Residential 1 family Super NBHD

Zoning R75 - SF RES DIST

# **Residential Structure**

Building #	1	
Land Class	R3 - RESIDENTIAL LOT	
Stories	1.5	
Construction	1 - FRAME	
Style	15 - TRADITIONAL	
Living Area	1,893	
Quality Grade	025	
Condition	AV	

\$402,900

Year Built 1941 Remodeled'Year Effective Year **Bedrooms** 5 Full Baths 3 Half Baths 0 **Total Fixtures** 13 Fireplaces 1 AC 4 - CENTRAL WITH A/C **Basement** 1 - SEE ADDITIONS Unfinished Area

Finished Basement Living Area

Functional Obsolescene

Economic Obsolescence 90 % Complete 100

## Additions

Addition Number	Description	Area
0		854
1	BSMT UNDER DWELLING	854
3	COMP ATTIC FIN-	634
4	OVERHANG-	8
5	-ADD FRAME FULL STORY AFO/AFT-	142
6	FINISH BASEMENT	750
7	-FULL STORY FRAME	255
8	PATIO	72
9	FINISH BASEMENT	255
10	PATIO	102
11	-OPEN PORCH	12

#### Sales

Sale Date	Price	Tran Code	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Book / Page
06/16/2022	0	4 - Affiliated/Related Parties	SINGLETERRY JR DARELL	SINGLETERRY DARELL JOHNSON	LW - LIMITEDWARRANTY DEED	30407 / 00638
01/25/2018	407,500	0 - Valid Sale FMV	HOOMAN YASAMIN	SINGLETERRY DARELL JR	LW - LIMITEDWARRANTY DEED	26721 / 00358
05/18/2015	0	HA - Sales from Bank - Appeal Value	HAYDEN PATRICK LANCE	HAYDEN PATRICK LANCE	WD - WARRANTY DEED	24963 / 00105
05/18/2015	200,000	HA - Sales from Bank - Appeal Value	GEORGIA OWN CREDIT UNION	HAYDEN PATRICK LANCE	LW - LIMITEDWARRANTY DEED	24963 / 00087
01/06/2015	0	F - Foreclosure or Bankruptcy	DENNARD MICHAEL E	GEORGIAS OWEN CREDIT UNION	DP - DEED UNDER POWER	24742 / 00723
02/28/1991	135,000	0 - Valid Sale FMV	LOWENDICK H DURANCE	DENNARD MICHAEL E	WD - WARRANTY DEED	06899 / 00634
12/01/1987	135,000	0 - Valid Sale FMV	LOWENDICK CAROLYN K	LOWENDICK H DURANCE	WD - WARRANTY DEED	06020 / 00186
05/12/1987	0	5 - Old Code No Longer Used	KENNEDY LILA A	LOWENDICK CAROLYN K	EX - EXECUTORS DEED	05842 / 00310
06/02/1978	0	0 - Valid Sale FMV			AD - ADMINISTRATORS DEED	03813 / 00436

Sale Details 1 of 9 Sale Date 06/16/2022

Price \$0 Deed Book 30407 Deed Page 00638

Plat Book

Plat Page 100 1 DOG

Buyer 1 SINGLETERRY DARELL JOHNSON Buyer 2 SINGLETERRY NAOMI JOHNSON

Seller 1 SINGLETERRY JR DARELL

Seller 2 JOHNSON NAOMI S



# **Property Tax Information Results**

Any errors or omissions should be reported for investigation. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for the data herein, its use, or its interpretation.



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Back

18 052 05 001 Pin Number 0910180

Property Address 1925 RIDGEWOOD DR NE

Property Type Real Estate

Tax District 04 - UNINCORPORATED

Jan. 1 st Owner

Last Name, First Name HARTLEY RANDALL

Co-Owner

Current Owner HARTLEY RANDALL

Co-Owner Owner Address

1925 RIDGEWOOD DR NE ATLANTA GA 30307-1160

Care of Information

# \*\* CHANGE MAILING ADDRESS \*\*

H1F - BASIC **Exemption Type EXEMPTION WITH** 

**FREEZE** 

Tax Exempt Amount \$7,578.14

Exemption Type

Deed Book/Page

Value Exemption Amount \$0.00

WARRANTY DEED Deed Type

Plat Book/Page / 10 0

NBHD Code 0931

Zoning Type R75 - SF RES DIST Improvement Type 15-TRADITIONAL

Year Built 2017 Condition Code **AVERAGE** Quality Grade VERY GOOD

Air Conditioning YES Fireplaces 1 Stories 1.7

Square Footage 4,237 Sq. Ft. Basement Area 1,764 Sq. Ft. % Bsmt Finished 0 Sq. Ft. Bedrooms Bathrooms 4.5

8/11/2017 Last Deed Date Last Deed Amount \$995,000.00

Click here to view property map

26432 / 00211

Taxable Year	2022
Millage Rate	0.04389
1 <sup>st</sup> Installment Amount	\$7,169.66
2 <sup>nd</sup> Installment Amount	\$6,829.38
DeKalb County Taxes Billed	\$13,999.04
DeKalb County Taxes Paid	\$0.00
DeKalb County Taxes Due	\$13,999.04
Total Taxes Billed	\$13,999.04
Total Taxes Paid	(\$0.00)
Total Taxes Due	\$13,999.04

Tax Bill Details

-- Choose a Tax Year -- V

Get Tax Payoff Info.

# **CURRENT YEAR PAYMENTS**

DeKalb County Tax Commissioner Collections Division PO Box 117545 Atlanta, GA 30368-7545 **PRIOR YEAR PAYMENTS** DeKalb County Tax Commissioner Collections Division PO Box 100004

Decatur, GA 30031-7004

Adjusted Bill

Due Date

Prior Years Tax

\*\*\* Please note that payment posting information may be delayed due to batch processing \*\*\*

DeKalb County Tax

<u>laxYear</u>	<u>Total Owed</u>	<u>Total Paid</u>	<u>Total Due</u>
2022	\$13,999.04	\$0.00	\$13,999.04
2021	\$13,999.18	\$13,999.18	\$0.00
2020	\$13,666.66	\$13,666.66	\$0.00
2019	\$14,516.20	\$14,516.20	\$0.00
2018	\$12,667.78	\$12,667.78	\$0.00
2017	\$11,396.45	\$11,396.45	\$0.00
2016	\$6,535.52	\$6,535.52	\$0.00
2015	\$6,104.46	\$6,104.46	\$0.00

Tax Sale File Number FiFa-GED Book/Page

Levy Date Sale Date

Delinquent Amount Due

#### Additional Property Information

Property View Silling Assessment

Taxable Year 2022 Land Value \$220,000 **Building Value** \$963,500 Misc. Improvement Value \$0 Total Value \$1,183,500 40% Taxable Assessment \$473,400

Information as of 10/28/2022

For additional information on the data above, contact the Property Appraisal Department at 404-371-2471

https://dekalbtax.org/property-information



# **Property Tax Information Results**

Any errors or omissions should be reported for investigation. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for the data herein, its use, or its interpretation.

Attention:

Our records indicate that a mortgage company or tax service is scheduled to pay the taxes for 2022. Would you like to continue with this payment?



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Back

Parcel ID Pin Number Property Address Property Type	18 052 05 002 0910198 1917 RIDGEWOOD DR Real Estate 04 - UNINCORPORATED
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> Owner Co-Owner Current Owner	Last Name, First Name ZYGLIS MICHELLE ZYGLIS JASON ZYGLIS MICHELLE ZYGLIS JASON
Owner Address  Care of Information	1917 RIDGEWOOD DR ATLANTA GA 30307
** CHANGE	MAILING ADDRESS **
Exemption Type	H1F - BASIC EXEMPTION WITH FREEZE
Tax Exempt Amount	\$5,293.89
Exemption Type Value Exemption Am	sount \$0.00

Value Exemption Amount	\$0.00
<u>Deed Type</u>	LIMITEDWARRANTY DEED
Deed Book/Page	26469 / 00417
Plat Book/Page	/ 100 1
NBHD Code	0931
Zoning Type	R75 - SF RES DIST
Improvement Type	15-TRADITIONAL
<u>Year Built</u>	2017
Condition Code	AVERAGE
Quality Grade	VERY GOOD
Air Conditioning	YES
Fireplaces	1
Stories	2
Square Footage	3,938 Sq. Ft.
Basement Area	1,842 Sq. Ft.

0 Sq. Ft.

		0.04389 \$7,375.03 \$14,750.06 \$7,375.03 \$7,375.03
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		\$7,375.03
		\$7,375.03
alb County Ta	xes	
		9/17/2022
		\$7,375.03
		9/17/2022
		\$7,375.03
7		
	Tax Bill	Details
	PRIOR YEAR PAYMENTS DeKalb County Tax Commissioner Collections Division PO Box 100004	
	Decatur, GA	30031-7004
ent posting in	formation ma	ay be delayed
T	T. 15	Adjusted Bill
	lotal Due	<u>Due Date</u>
	\$7,375.03	
\$1,983.81	\$0.00	
\$1,952.30	\$0.00	
• •		
learness Toxe		
	Fig. 22.3. Fig. 3. Fig	Get Tax Payor  Francisco  Francisco  Commission  Collections   PO Box 100  Decatur, GA  Francisco  Total Paid  Francisco  Francisco

FiFa-GED Book/Page

Delinquent Amount Due

Levy Date

Sale Date

% Bsmt Finished

Bedrooms

Bathrooms

<u>Last Deed Date</u> 8/31/2017 Last Deed Amount \$999,000.00

Click here to view property map

Additional Property Information

Property Value, Billing Assessment

 Taxable Year
 2022

 Land Value
 \$220,000

 Building Value
 \$902,700

 Misc. Improvement Value
 \$0

 Total Value
 \$1,122,700

 40% Taxable Assessment
 \$449,080

Information as of 10/28/2022

For additional information on the data above, contact the Property Appraisal Department at 404-371-2471

https://dekalbtax.org/property-information



# **Property Tax Information Results**

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Back

Parcel ID Pin Number Property Address Property Type Tax District	18 052 05 036 0910457 <u>526 EMORY CIR NE</u> Real Estate 04 - UNINCORPORATED
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> Owner Current Owner Co-Owner	Last Name, First Name NELSON RENEE V NELSON RENEE V
Owner Address  Care of Information	90 FAIRLIE ST NW 902 ATLANTA GA 30303

## \*\* CHANGE MAILING ADDRESS \*\*

milliosibud Exambion

Exemption Type H1F - BASIC EXEMPTION WITH FREEZE

Tax Exempt Amount \$4,905.02

Close Examples (Artification)

Exemption Type

Value Exemption Amount \$0.00

Designation

 Deed Type
 QUIT CLAIM DEED

 Deed Book/Page
 26894 / 00775

 Plat Book/Page
 0 / 0

Агариту Станашенату

NBHD Code 0931

Zoning Type R75 - SF RES DIST Improvement Type 15-TRADITIONAL

Year Built 1925
Condition Code VERY GOOD
Quality Grade GOOD
Air Conditioning YES
Fireplaces 0
Stories 2

Square Footage 2,674 Sq. Ft.
Basement Area 1,260 Sq. Ft.
% Bsmt Finished 0 Sq. Ft.
Bedrooms 4

Bathrooms 3

Last Deed Date 3/17/2018 Last Deed Amount \$0.00

Click here to view property map

	AM TAIGLOGERS, SHAREN	
I	Taxable Year	2022
	Millage Rate	0.04389
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Installment Amount	\$4,284.66
	DeKalb County Taxes Billed	\$8,569.32
	DeKalb County Taxes Paid	\$4,284.66
	DeKalb County Taxes Due	\$4,284.66
	Total Taxes Billed	\$8,569.32
	Total Taxes Paid	\$4,284.66
	Total Taxes Due	\$4,284.66
	Dollally County Tayon	
	DeKalb County Taxes	
	First Payment Date	9/17/2022
	First Payment Amount	\$4,284.66
I	Last Payment Date	9/17/2022
	Last Payment Amount	\$4,284.66

-- Choose a Tax Year -- 🗸

Tax Paid Receipt

Get Tax Payoff Info.

Tax Bill Details

Adjusted Bill Due Date

CURRENT YEAR PAYMENTSPRIOR YEAR PAYMENTSDeKalb County TaxDeKalb County TaxCommissionerCommissionerCollections DivisionCollections Division

PO Box 117545 PO Box 100004 Atlanta, GA 30368-7545 Decatur, GA 30031-7004

Prior Years Tax

\*\*\* Please note that payment posting information may be delayed due to batch processing\*\*\*

DeKalb County Tax

<u>TaxYear</u>	Total Owed	Total Paid	Total Due
2022	\$8,569.32	\$4,284.66	\$4,284.66
2021	\$8,569.48	\$8,569.48	\$0.00
2020	\$7,396.88	\$7,396.88	\$0.00
2019	\$7,336.56	\$7,336.56	\$0.00
2018	\$7,331.08	\$7,331.08	\$0.00
2017	\$6,920.50	\$6,920.50	\$0.00
2016	\$6,791.94	\$6,791.94	\$0.00
2015	\$6,991.36	\$6,991.36	\$0.00

Definiquent Taxes/

Tax Sale File Number FiFa-GED Book/Page

Levy Date Sale Date

Delinquent Amount Due

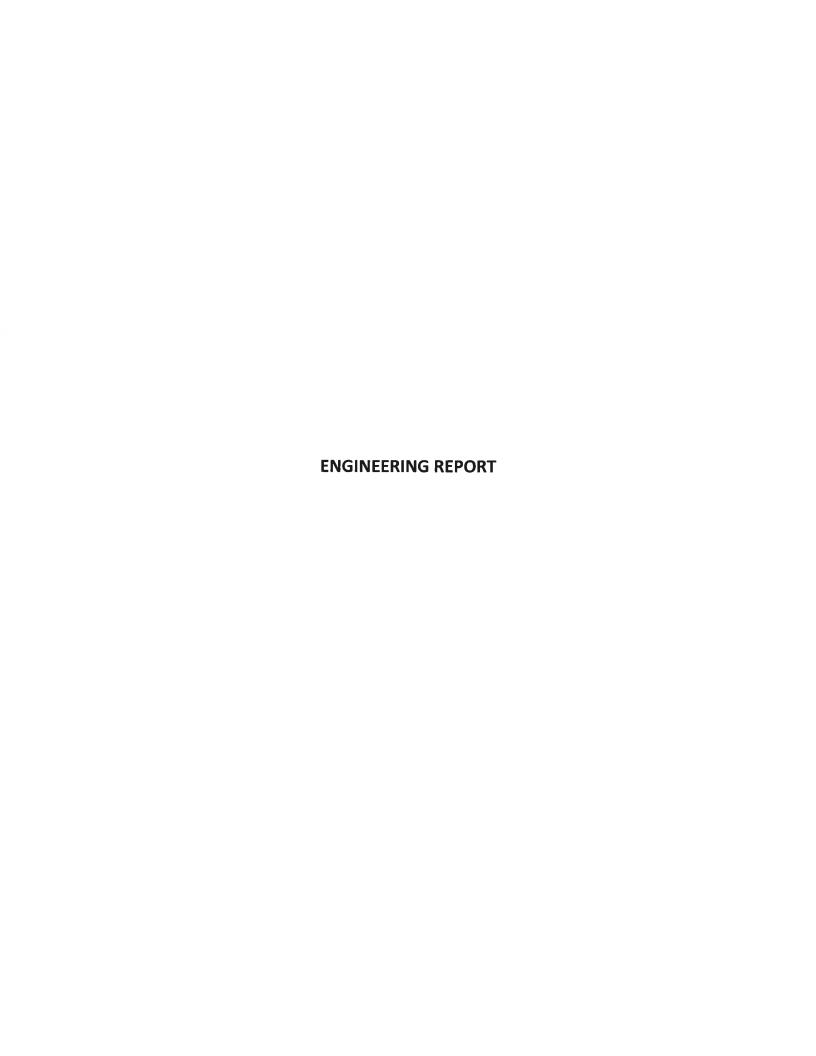
## Additional Property Information

Property Villae/Billing Assessment

Taxable Year 2022 Land Value **Building Value** \$626,473 Misc. Improvement Value \$0 Total Value \$745,800 40% Taxable Assessment \$298,320

For additional information on the data above, contact the Property Appraisal Department at 404-371-2471

Information as of 10/28/2022



# **Harrington Engineers**

4615 Jailette Trace. Atlanta, Ga. 30349

# FIELD INSPECTION REPORT

**September 29, 2022** 

Location: 1853 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, Ga. Building Type: Single Family Dwelling

By: B.W. Harrington, Jr., P.E.

# Description:

The building sits on a site that slopes down from the street, allowing the basement level to exit directly to grade at the rear. The site levels out in the rear for about 40ft. and then slopes down to a lower level.

The building on the lot is a 2 story wood framed single family dwelling with a partial basement. I understand it was originally constructed in 1941. All of the wood framing members appear to have been from that period. We were able to access the basement area to inspect the existing conditions. It should be noted that some construction practices, especially for single family homes form that period, the 1940's, would not be acceptable today.

The exterior foundation walls, and the interior basement walls, are constructed of brick. The brick walls appear to be two wythes of un-reinforced and un-grouted brick, which was typical for the 1940 time frame. The transverse interior basement walls are also brick and probably constructed the same as the exterior foundation walls described above. Most of the basement area has been finished to create a habitable space with a very low ceiling height. All of the exterior and interior brick foundation walls do not have footings supporting them. They are all erected off a 2" to 3" thick unreinforced concrete leveling slabs.

There is a diagonal, stair-stepped, crack in the driveway side exterior foundation wall that extends down from a small window to the end of the house. This crack has migrated thru the wall and is visible from the interior and exterior near the junction of the driveway foundation wall and the rear foundation wall. If no remedial action is taken to correct this, these cracks will continue to migrate and enlarge in width. This could lead to settlement of the structure and cause significant damage to the structure above.

There has been some remedial work done to the existing transverse brick basement walls that support the vertical cut in the soil that created the basement. Approximately half of this transverse wall, which is brick, has been sistered with a concrete masonry block wall at the interior face. The wall is now leaning, which is caused by the lateral pressure from the retained soil, and that there is no footing supporting these walls which help to resist the overturning forces from the retained soil. Over time the soil pressures will cause the wall to deflect, or lean, more which will negatively impact the existing structure. Since the floor framing is supported by these wall, a portion of these soil forces are transferred into the floor above. If these forces are not adequately resisted they can cause the floor to move in the direction of the forces, i.e., toward the rear of the house, push the structure out of alignment from its original position. I have seen similar cases where these forces have pushed the upper floors of the house as much as 2" to 3" out from their original position. The original transverse interior brick basement wall also has a slight lean to it.

It should also be noted that there are several permanent and temporary shores in various locations providing additional support for the original floor framing. The basic floor framing consist of 2x8's @16, which in most cases are too shallow to provide a safe and functional floor with the original spans. The original floor joist, 2x8 @16, exceed the allowable spans in most cases within the building, which is apparently why all the temporary shoring elements are in the basement level.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

It is my understanding that it is proposed to expand the building area and upgrade the infrastructure of the building to today's standards and requirements of the current building code. In order to accomplish this, there are three possible alternatives:

- 1. Demolish the existing structure and rebuild a new building with the spaces and infrastructure that would meet current codes, or:
- 2. Renovate the existing structure and add to it get the space desired.
- 3. Do nothing and leave as is.

Alternative 1 is pretty straight forward and will achieve the owner's goals in part. However, Alternative 2 would retain the exterior appearance but it will require major alterations to the existing structure. Based on my experience and attempting to adhere to the current Building Code, I would anticipate the following work would be required:

- The exterior unreinforced and un-grouted brick foundation walls, as well as the interior brick foundation walls, do not have footings to support them, which is required by current Building Codes. New concrete footings for all of these walls will be required. This will require extensive shoring of the existing exterior wood frame walls and floors and removal of the existing brick foundation wall. New footings should be poured and new foundation walls rebuilt.
- 2. The 1<sup>st</sup> level floor joist will require new permanent supports to shorten the spans or deeper joist added to them so they can safely span to their original permanent supports. We would recommend that deeper or additional joist be added to safely span to the original supports so the temporary shoring can be removed. This will ensure continuous load paths to the foundations for the loads generated by the roof and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> floors.
- 3. The interior brick basement walls that are retaining approximately 5 to 6 feet of earth will have to be re-structured to function as conventional retaining walls. Currently, these walls do not have footings beneath them, nor are they reinforced. Based on their current construction, there is no way we can justify the structural integrity of these walls to retain the earth or support the building loads above. We recommend that new cantilevered masonry retaining walls and footings be constructed flush with the face of the existing brick walls; or construct masonry piers and footings perpendicular to the existing brick wall at approximately 4ft. on center.
- 4. The existing finished basement area is on two levels. Access between the levels is by a short stair, approximate 2-3 treads that each are about a foot high. Access to this stair is restricted by a kitchen counter constructed about 12" from the last tread. All of this area should be re-arranged to be more easily accessible.
- 5. The current ceiling height on both levels of the basement is very close to the minimum allowed by Building codes. The current ceiling height appears to be approximately 6'-6". It probably should be a minimum of 7ft everywhere in order to conform to the current building codes.
- 6. All of the electrical and mechanical systems will have to be brought up to current Code standards. However, any plumbing or electrical penetrating the existing joists will have to be removed in total, and rerouted, for the required new joist additions.

Alternative 3, If selected, will leave a building that will continue to deteriorate over the next few years and probably not be able to be sold to a new buyer. If the owner cannot implement the recommendations above and only renovates the interior, It is my opinion that the continuing settling and lateral movement of the foundations will cause structural problems that will require extensive work to repair in the future.

In summary, there are two major issues that need to be resolved before this structure can be accepted as conforming to the local building codes: 1) its non-conforming foundation system, i.e no footings under the foundation walls and unsafe interior brick retaining walls, and 2) the over spanned floor joist at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Even though the house may visually appear to be functioning alright now, the deficiencies noted above still exist and should be addressed. We offered 3 alternatives; 1)Demolish and rebuild, 2)perform major renovation and rehabilitation, and 3)Do nothing. Due to the extensive work required by Alternative 2 to rehabilitate the building, and the fact that Alternative 3 does not benefit anyone, my recommendation is to select Alternative 1, demolish and rebuild, I think this is the most realistic and viable solution.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please call.



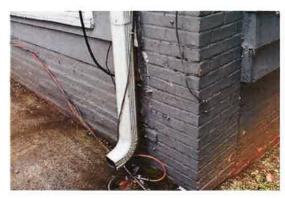
Cracking within the brick cavity stem wall indicate disproportionate settling throughout the foundation due to movement in the soil over time and a lack of footings to properly disperse the weight of the structure above.

Cracking is also seen in the concrete slab of the former screen room, another indication of movement within the foundation structure. This visual indicator reveals movement within the entire rear third of the structure.



















Existing brick cavity stem walls throughout show multiple attempts to point, patch and stabilize settling damage. Attempts as late as 3 years ago are already showing signs of failure.

Extensive cracking in the poured concrete floor of the crawlspace show further settling and soil instability below due to the 15%+ grade and long-term drainage issues.





2x8 Floor joists are over spanned 36" average. Sagging entry level floors have been supported via multiple screw jacks in the Crawl/basement. However, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor joists would require removal of all ceilings, electrical and plumbing to facilitate 'sistering' of all joists.

In an effort to preserve and reinforce the existing structure, the owners had multiple screw jacks installed in addition to CMU walls to counteract the failure of the existing foundation system.

The photo to the right indicates persistent water intrusion under the original cavity stem walls and thru. the new CMU retaining wall













Retrofit steel bracing is supporting over-spanned floor joists, inadequate beams, and a suspended concrete slab. This level is rendered effectively unusable although the bracing employed is still insufficient.

The CMU wall installed three years ago is already showing signs of failure (leaning) and continued water intrusion.



The pillars are showing cracking and signs of settling and unsupported movement.

Terrace level Ceilings are showing deflection from the over spanned floor joists above



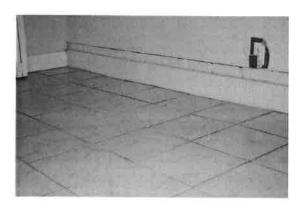


The tile flooring in the terrace level is uneven due to movement in the grade slab below.

Metal columns have been installed in an effort to support the entry level above. It is unclear if footing were installed to support the columns.









Within the scope of supporting the structure, the homeowners also performed cosmetic repairs throughout the interior of the home. Within 3 years the entry level walls show cracking in the drywall/plaster in numerous areas of the ceiling and wall surfaces, illustrating further movement of the structure post-repair.

In addition to cracking of drywall/plaster, extensive damage can be seen in the tile flooring of the kitchen, and separation within the hardwood flooring due to structure movement.

Uneven floor joists can be seen and felt throughout the entry level.



Walls on the upper-level present cracks over doorways, windows, and throughout walls in every room. Baseboard trim illustrates the movement of the floor joists below via gapping. Bathroom floor tiles have separated, unable to withstand the fluctuation of the over spanned floor joists below. Patching measures can be seen throughout that have already separated significantly in 3 years alone.







# PROJECT SCOPE & ESTIMATE

Location: 1853 N. Decatur Road Atlanta, GA 30307

**Scope:** Replace non-conforming foundation system and over spanned floor system at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. I have reviewed the attached Harrington Report and based upon the report the following work needs to be done in order to renovate the structure per the recommendations contained in Alternative #2 and these renovations would be required before any addition to the house could be safely made.

- Erosion control site management.
- Excavation of area necessary to access existing foundation to replace exterior
  walls, footings, deteriorated and compromised concrete floors. Removal of
  driveway and walkways are needed to access these areas. Extracted dirt to be
  stored offsite and returned once walls have been replaced.
- Additional footings and piers to secure shoring of the existing frame walls and floor system.
- Remove and re-route mechanical systems to allow for new joist additions.
- Waterproof and add new drain system, backfill foundation walls, landscape all disturbed areas back to pre-construction conditions.
- Paint renovated areas to match existing structure.
   \*Estimate is subject to change upon hidden or concealed conditions

Potal Estimate: \$267,220.00

Dennis Brown, CEO