

DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, August 18, 2025- 6:00 P.M.

Staff Report

Consent Agenda

D. 1783 Ridgewood Drive, Nora Douglas. Install a gravel path and replace roofing, siding, and patio on a nonhistoric house and accessory structure. **1247714.**

Built in 1948 - Nonhistoric (18 004 17 008)

This property is in the University Park-Emory Highlands-Emory Estates National Register Historic District and Character Area.

10-01 1783 Ridgewood Drive (DH), Donald L. Davis. Install retaining wall in backyard. **Approved.**

Summary

The applicant proposes the following work:

1. Replace roofing on house and accessory structure. The existing asphalt shingle roofing on the house and accessory structure will be replaced in-kind with new asphalt shingle roofing.
2. Install gravel pathway. A gravel pathway will be installed from the concrete parking pad in the backyard to the Peavine Creek that runs along the rear property line.
3. Replace siding. Portions of the exterior shake siding on the nonhistoric house will be replaced in-kind as needed due to damage. The brick exterior of the accessory structure will be replaced with siding.
4. Re-paint house. The currently painted exterior of the house will be repainted.
5. Replace patio and stairs to accessory structure. The existing patio and stairs leading to the nonhistoric accessory structure will be removed and replaced with a solid wood framing landing and stairs. There will be no change to the location, size, or orientation of the patio and stairs.

Recommendation

Approve. These proposed changes do not appear to have a substantial adverse effect on the district. This application appears to meet the guidelines and the staff recommends approval.

Relevant Guidelines

5.0 Design Review Objective (p45) - When making a material change to a structure that is in view from a public right-of-way, a higher standard is required to ensure that design changes are compatible with the architectural style of the structure and retain character-defining features. When a proposed material change to a structure is not in view from the public-right-way, the Preservation Commission may review the project with a less strict standard so as to allow the owner more flexibility. Such changes, however, shall not have a substantial adverse effect on the overall architectural character of the structure.

11.0 Nonhistoric Properties (p93) Guideline - In reviewing an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a material change to a nonhistoric building, the Preservation Commission should evaluate the change for its potential impacts to any historic development (architecture and natural and cultural landscapes) in the area of influence of the nonhistoric property. Guidelines presented in *Section 7.0: Additions and new Construction* are relevant to such evaluations.

Chief Executive Officer
Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Interim Director
Cedric W. Hudson, MCRP

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness

Date submitted: _____

Date Received: _____

Address of Subject Property: _____

Applicant: _____ E-Mail: _____

Applicant Mailing Address: _____

Applicant Phone: _____

Applicant's relationship to the owner: Owner ☐ Architect ☐ Contractor/Builder ☐ Other ☐

Owner(s): _____ Email: _____

Owner(s): _____ Email: _____

Owner(s) Mailing Address: _____

Owner(s) Telephone Number: _____

Approximate date of construction of the primary structure on the property and any other structures affected by this project: _____

Nature of work (check all that apply):

New construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Accessory Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Building Changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demolition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Environmental Changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fence/Wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving a Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign Installation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Description of Work:

This form must be completed in its entirety and be accompanied by supporting documents, such as plans, list of materials, color samples, photographs, etc. **All documents should be in PDF format, except for photographs, which may be in JPEG format. Email the application and supporting material to plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov and pvjennings@dekalbcountyga.gov. An incomplete application will not be accepted.**

Signature of Applicant: _____



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: _____

being owner(s) of the property at: _____

hereby delegate authority to: _____

to file an application for a certificate of appropriateness in my/our behalf.

Signature of Owner(s): _____

Date: _____

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 via email. 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.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

How to Obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness

1. Contact the DeKalb County Department of Planning and Sustainability for an application form. You may make your request by emailing **plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov** AND **pvjennings@dekalbcountyga.gov**.
2. Complete and submit the application via email. Please provide as much supporting material as possible, (plans, material, color samples, photos, etc.). All documents must be in PDF format except for photographs, which may be in JPEG format. Applications are accepted for a 10-day period each month. See page 3(HPC Calendar). **Email the application and supporting documents to plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov AND pvjennings@dekalbcountyga.gov**. If all documents are not provided the application will not be complete and will not be accepted.
3. Once the application has been received, the Administrative Specialist for the Department of Planning and Sustainability will provide a sign template and instructions on how to post the required signage on the property at least ten days before the preservation commission meeting. If the applicant does not post the required signage and provide evidence of posting within ten days before the preservation commission meeting, their application may be deferred or denied due to improper public notification.
4. The Preservation Planner may visit the property as part of their review. The commission members may view the property from the right-of-way.
5. Applications will be reviewed by the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission at its monthly meeting. The Historic Preservation Commission meets on the third Monday at 6 p.m., via Zoom. In unusual circumstances meeting dates and location may be changed.
6. The Historic Preservation Commission may approve, approve with modifications or deny an application. The applicant or any affected person as defined by county code may appeal the decision to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners. Please contact the Department of Planning and Sustainability if you wish to file an appeal. The Historic Preservation Commission is required to make a decision on an application within 45 days of the date of filing, although this time can be extended if the applicant agrees to a deferral.
7. Although not required, applicants are encouraged to attend the Historic Preservation Commission meetings. Applicants may make a presentation, but presentations are not required. The commissioners may have questions for the applicant.
8. Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness does not release the recipient from compliance with all other county, state and federal regulations.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Design Checklist for a Certificate of Appropriateness

This checklist was created to help applicants prepare a complete application. Omissions and inaccurate information can lead to deferrals and/or denials of applications. Please review the checklist with the project's architect, designer, or builder. All items will not be applicable to all projects. New construction will involve all categories. One copy of drawings at scale (plus nine reduced sets) should be submitted.

Please address questions regarding applicability to your project to the DeKalb County Preservation Planner at 404-687-3945 or via e-mail at pvjennings@dekalbcountyga.gov.

Applicants are also referred to the DeKalb County website, <http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/planning-and-sustainability/planning-sustainability>.

I have reviewed the "Design Manual for the Druid Hills Local Historic District".

I have reviewed the DeKalb County Tree Ordinance.

I have reviewed applicable zoning codes regarding lot coverage, garage sizes, stream buffers.

1. General

- a. Label all drawings with the address of the site, owners' name, and contact phone number.
- b. Number all drawings.
- c. Include a graphic scale on reductions.
- d. Date all revisions.
- e. Indicate all unverified numbers with +/- signs
- f. Include photos of the existing condition of the property.

2. Site Plan (existing and proposed) to include:

- a. Topographical plan with significant trees sized and located;
- b. Setback compared to adjacent houses (ask surveyor to show corners of adjacent houses);
- c. Distance between houses;
- d. Façade width to finished face of material;
- e. Grading and elevations across site;
- f. Dirt removal or regrading if more than 18";
- g. Tree protection plan;
- h. Tree removal and replacement plan

3. Driveways and Walkways

- a. Location and relationship to house;
- b. Width;
- c. Material;
- d. Curb cut and apron width

4. Fences & Retaining Walls

- a. Placement on lot;
- b. Height of fence or wall. If retaining wall, height on both sides;
- c. Material;
- d. Railing if necessary

5. Elevations and Floor Plans: <<Indicate all unverified numbers with +/- signs>>

- a. Plans for all floors (drawn to scale, 1/4"=1' preferred);
- b. House orientation on site plan;
- c. Scalable elevations for front, rear, left, right;
- d. Height, grade to ridge;
- e. Streetscape comparison showing heights of two flanking houses on each side;
- f. Height from grade to first floor level at all four corners;
- g. Height from grade or finished floor line to eaves at all four corners;
- h. Ceiling heights of each floor, indicating if rough or finished;
- i. Height of space between the ceiling and finished floor above;
- j. Two people of 5'-6" and 6' height shown;
- k. Landscaping plan

6. Additions

- a. Placement shown on elevations and floor plan;
- b. Visibility from rights-of-way and paths;
- c. Photos of all facades;
- d. Design proportioned to main house;
- e. Landscaping plan;
- f. Materials and their combinations

7. Roof Plan

- a. Shape and pitch of roof;
- b. Roofing material;
- c. Overhang;
- d. Louvers and vents;
- e. Chimney height and material

8. Dormers

- a. Construction details provided;
- b. Shape and size of dormer (show dimensions on drawings);
- c. Overhang;
- d. Size of window(s), with nominal size of sash (show dimensions on drawings)

9. Skylights

- a. Profile;
- b. Visibility from right-of-way;
- c. Material (plastic lens or glass);
- d. Shown in plan and elevation to scale

10. Façade

- a. Consistency in style;
- b. Materials and their combinations
 - brick size and color
 - stone type and color
 - fiber-cement (e.g., Hardie-plank) or wood siding
 - shake or shingle
 - other
- c. Height of foundation at corners;
- d. Ceiling heights comparable to area of influence: basement, first floor, second floor;
- e. Detailing: soldier course, brackets, fascia board; water table;
- f. Height from grade to roof ridge;
- g. Dimensions, proportions and placement of windows, doors

11. Entrance

- a. Height and width of door;
- b. Design of door (e.g., 6-panel, craftsman);
- c. Material of door;
- d. Overhang;
- e. Portico height;
- f. Size and height of columns or posts;
- g. Railing

12. Windows

- a. Consistent with original as well as the area of influence;
- b. Size and proportion similar to original;
- c. Pane orientation and size similar to original;
- d. Type (e.g., double hung, casement);
- e. Fenestration on walls visible from right-of-way;
- f. Simulated divided light (SDL) or true divided light (TDL): location of muntins between the glass, behind the glass or permanently affixed on exterior;
- g. Material of window and any cladding;
- h. Width of muntins compared to original (show dimensions on drawings);
- i. Shutters or canopies
- j. Dimensions of windows and doors.

13. Materials

- a. Show all materials and label them on drawings;
- b. Provide samples of brick or stone;
- c. Provide samples if new or unusual materials

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

14. Garages / Accessory Buildings

- a. Visibility from street;
- b. Placement on site;
- c. Scale, style appropriate for house;
- d. Show dimensions on drawings;
- e. Materials;
- f. Square footage appropriate for lot size;
- g. Garage door size and design
- h. Show height from grade to eaves and to top of roof

15. Demolitions

- a. Provide documentation from engineer concerning feasibility of rehabilitation;
- b. Provide photographs of structure to be demolished;
- c. Provide plan for proposed redevelopment

Application Process Checklist

This checklist is to ensure that applicants understand the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application process from beginning to end. Please verify that you have read over the process shown below and understand the procedures and timeline that will be followed for all submitted COA applications.

- Applications may only be submitted during the period specified on the calendar for each month. Once the filing deadline has passed and that period has expired, **no new applications will be accepted** to be heard at that month's commission meeting. If an application has not been submitted before the filing deadline, it cannot be submitted again until the next period for applications has opened.
- Additional materials submitted after the staff's report have been finalized and posted to the public will not be taken into consideration for the staff report. Staff reports will not be edited once finalized and published – any new materials may be submitted for the record for the commission but will not affect the staff's report for the application.
- Any additional materials submitted after the staff's report has been finalized and posted to the public may be added to the record for the historic preservation commission to review as supplemental materials for the submitted application. Supplemental materials includes:
 - Representative photos
 - Letters of support/opposition
 - Architectural drawings
 - Updated site plans

Supplemental materials **do not** include documents for new work to be added to the already submitted application. Any materials that propose new work that was not included in the original application, will not be added to the record. Any proposed new work that was not included in the original application will need to be included in a new application to be submitted for next month's commission meeting.

I have reviewed the information above and understand the Certificate of Appropriateness process.

I have reviewed the HPC calendar.

From: [Nora Douglas](#)
To: [Paige V. Jennings](#); [Plansustain](#)
Subject: Delivery: Application for CoA with HPC 1783 Ridgewood Dr
Date: Sunday, July 27, 2025 6:32:09 PM
Attachments: [COA Application Packet Fillable 2025 Updated.pdf](#)

Hi,

Thanks for considering my application for the following exterior work:

- 1) replacing roofs on main house & carriage house with asphalt shingle
- 2) trimming trees away from electric lines along perimeter of property, laying down a gravel pathway from the concrete slab to the creek at back of property, trimming overgrowth
- 3) replace a couple pieces of external panelling and repainting exterior of main house in original color
- 4) replacing the patio & stairs leading to the carriage house upper unit with a solid wood framing and landing

Attached is the completed application, a zip file containing labeled photos of existing condition of property, along with desired landscaping. Roofing specs are below:

Main house roof:

- a. Shape and pitch of roof; gable shape, pitch is 8/12
- b. Roofing material: asphalt shingles
- c. Overhang: 16 inch
- d. Louvers and vents: gable vents (2)
- e. Chimney height and material: 15 ft; material: wood siding

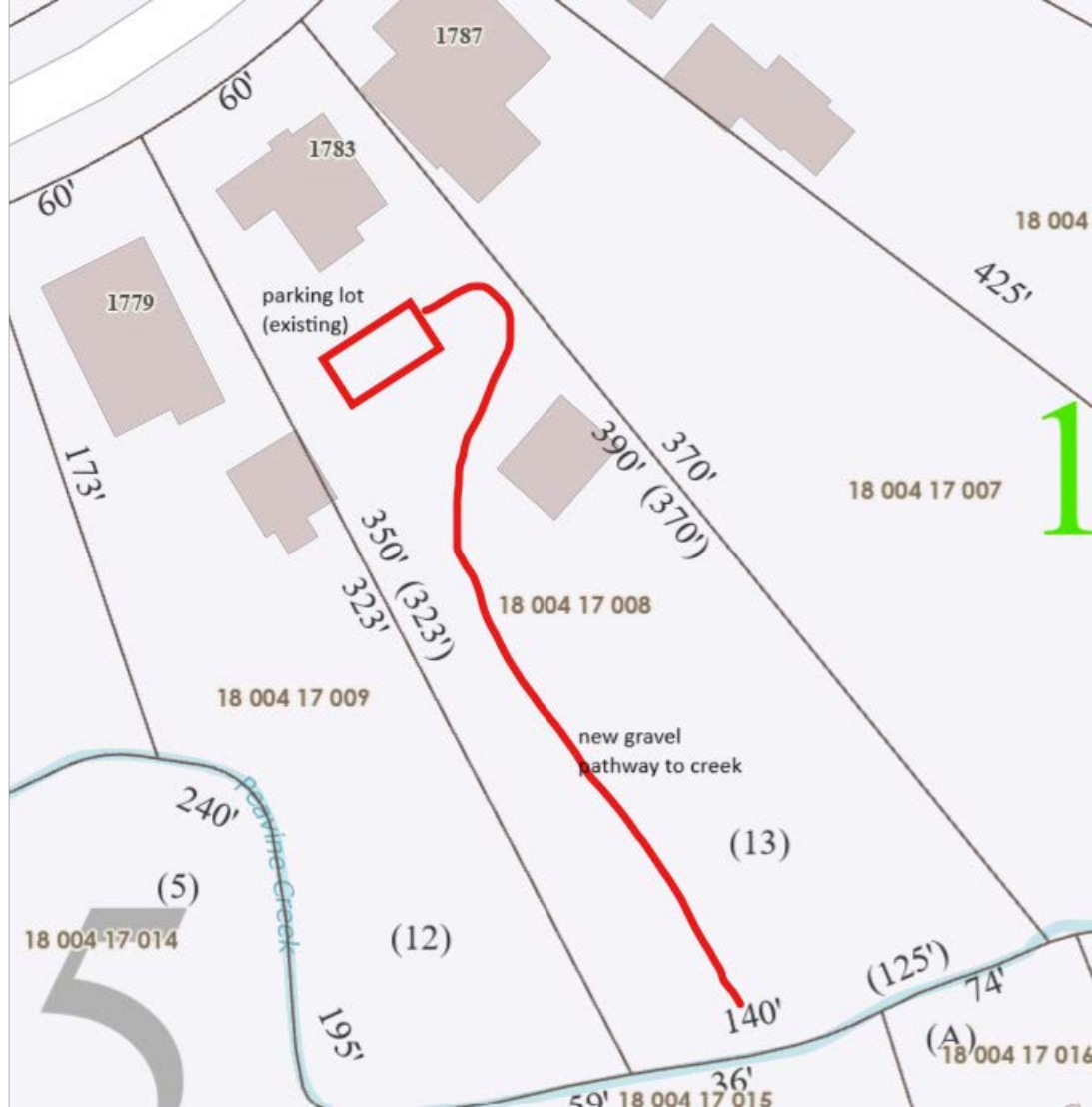
Carriage house roof:

- a. Shape and pitch of roof; gable shape, pitch is 6/12
- b. Roofing material: asphalt shingles
- c. Overhang: 16 inches
- d. Louvers and vents: gable vents (2)
- e. Chimney height and material: N/A

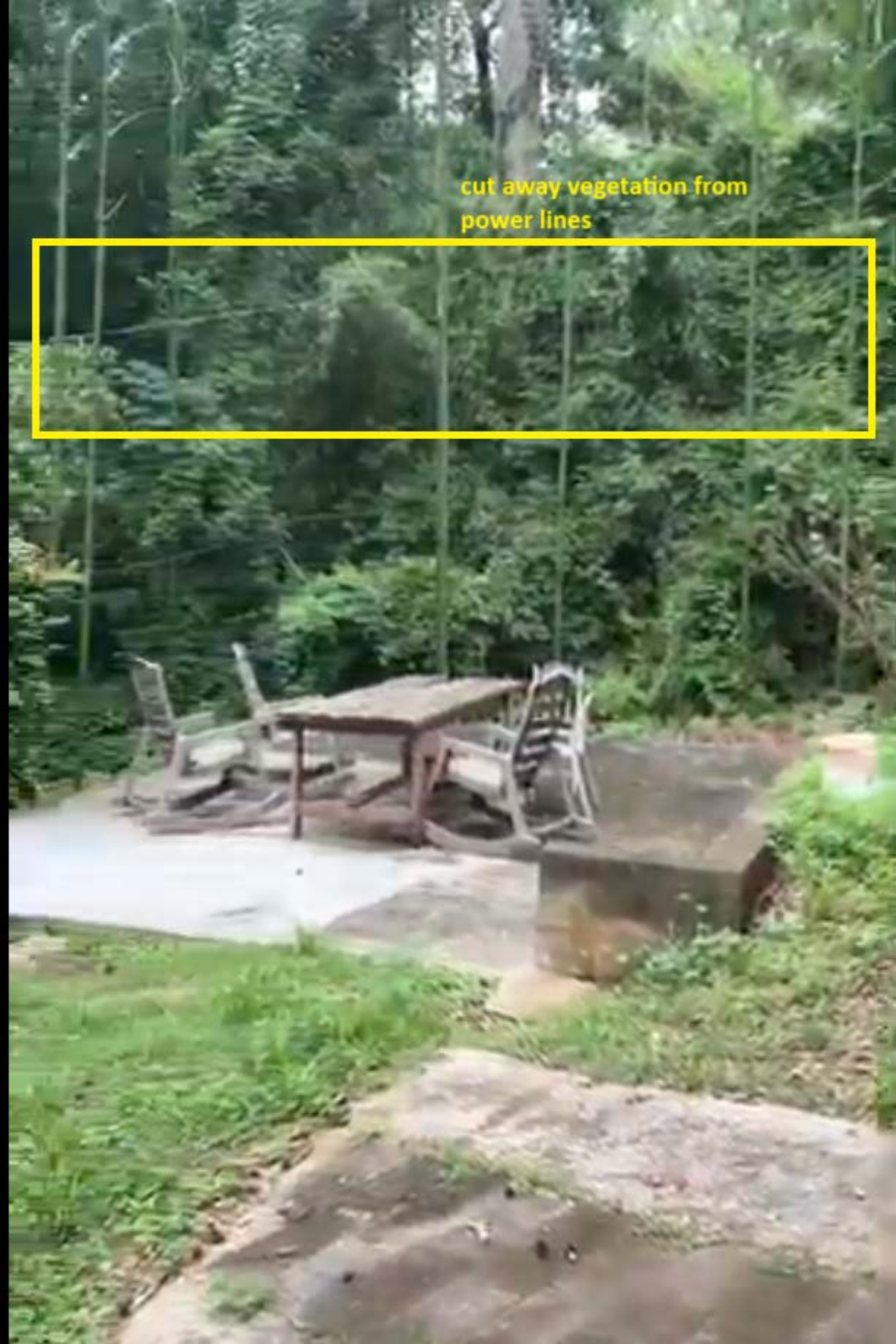



Videos-20250727T222456Z-1-001.zip

Thanks!



cut away vegetation from
power lines



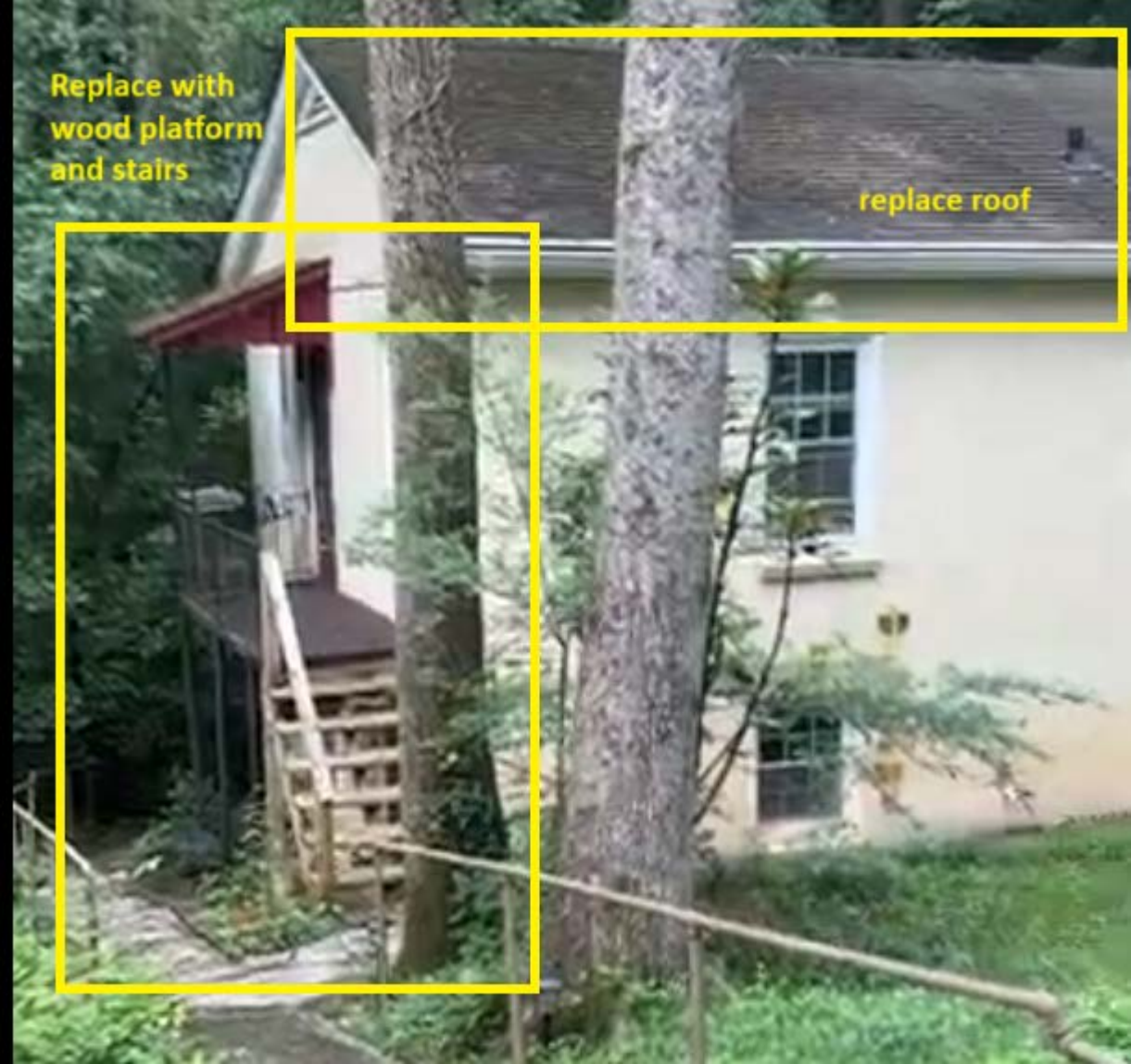


trim vegetation
away from power
lines

trim this vegetation and put down
a gravel pathway

Replace with
wood platform
and stairs

replace roof



From: [Nora Douglas](#)
To: [Paige V. Jennings](#)
Subject: Re: Questions Regarding Application - 1783 Ridgewood Drive
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 10:25:47 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning!

Looking forward to the meeting.

Replies below:

1. Where on the house or accessory structure will siding be replaced? What is the current siding material and what material will it be replaced with?

A few existing panels on the main house that are broken will be replaced - they are in various places, some in the back and a couple in the front of the house. Id also like to place new siding on the accessory structure which currently is just a brick facade. That will cover the whole structure.

1. Will the location, size, or orientation of the patio and stairs to the accessory structure be changed or modified? If so, how?

The location, size and orientation of patio and stairs will not be modified. Only the materials will be replaced due to age.

Thank you

On Fri, Aug 15, 2025 at 07:30 Paige V. Jennings <pvjennings@dekalbcountyga.gov> wrote:

Good Morning,

Hope that this email finds you well!

We are finalizing our staff reviews for the upcoming HPC meeting scheduled for Monday, August 18th. Before finalizing our report on the application for 1783 Ridgewood Drive, could you please provide information for the following questions?

1. Where on the house or accessory structure will siding be replaced? What is the current siding material and what material will it be replaced with?
2. Will the location, size, or orientation of the patio and stairs to the accessory structure be changed or modified? If so, how?

Please provide all information that you can as soon as possible. Our reports will be completed and sent out along with the agenda for the meeting to applicants before the end of the day. If we receive a response after our reports have been completed, your response will be saved to the record for the Commission to review prior to the meeting along with your application.

Thank You,

Paige

Paige V. Jennings (they/them)

Senior Planner, Historic Preservation

DeKalb County Government | Department of Planning & Sustainability

Current Planning | Zoning Division

Government Services Center| [178 Sams Street | Decatur, GA 30030](#)

Email: pvjennings@dekalbcountyga.gov

County Cell: 470-829-7341



Click here for **Permit Status** [DeKalb County Permit Tracker](#)

Click here for **Permit Guide** https://app.oncamino.com/dekalb_county/

Click here for **Zoning Map** [DeKalb County Parcel Viewer](#)