

DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, September 15, 2025- 6:00 P.M.

Staff Report

Consent Agenda

E. 1715 East Clifton Road, Sherrill Abbott. Modify a previous COA for the construction of a tool shed on the rear of property, replace rear door, install a concrete pad in backyard, and install railing along steps in backyard. **1247759**

Built in 1950 - Nonhistoric (18 003 04 048)

This property is in the Druid Hills Character Area #2 and the Druid Hills National Register Historic District.

08-25 1715 East Clifton Road, Sherrill Abbott. Remove and install fencing in backyard, remove parking pad, install side stairs and railing, and replace windows, doors, and shutters on a nonhistoric house. 1247713. **Approved.**

Summary

The applicant proposes the following modifications to a COA application approved in August of 2025 for work on the rear of a nonhistoric property:

1. Replace door on rear façade of a nonhistoric house. The existing basement door on the rear façade of the house will be replaced with an 80"x36" clear nine-lite fiberglass exterior door with a pet door.
2. Install a concrete pad on the rear of a nonhistoric house. A 12'x12' concrete pad will be installed at the rear of the house, leading out from the basement door to the backyard. The concrete pad will be covered with wood interlocking deck tiles which can be removed in the future if needed.
3. Modify the placement of a previously approved tool shed in the backyard of the property. The applicant proposes moving the previously approved tool shed from its approved location on the rear façade of the nonhistoric house to the rear-East corner of the property in the backyard. The shed will be constructed with pressure treated panel siding, a shingle gable roof, and will measure 8' in height from roof ridge to grade.
4. Install metal railing to steps in the backyard. Wrought iron railing will be installed along the rear façade of the nonhistoric house to a set of existing stairs in the backyard.

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.

- 9.6 *Accessory Buildings* (p91) Guideline - New accessory buildings, such as garages and storage houses, are to be located in rear yard spaces and visually buffered from adjacent property owners and the public right-of-way. Accessory buildings that complement the architecture of the adjacent residence do not require the same level of buffering and may remain more visible within the local district. If the new building will be visible from the street, it should respect the established setbacks and orientations of the historic buildings in the area.
- 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: July 28, 2025

Date Received: _____

Address of Subject Property: 1715 E. Clifton Road, NE Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Applicant: Sherrill Abbott E-Mail: sherrill.abbott@apsk12.org

Applicant Mailing Address: 1266 Woodland Ave, SE Atlanta, Georgia 30316

Applicant Phone: 404-217-2232

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

Owner(s): Sherrill Abbott Email: sherrill.abbott@apsk12.org

Owner(s): Martha Abbott-Shim Email: martha.abbottshim@gmail.com

Owner(s) Mailing Address: 1266 Woodland Ave, SE Atlanta, Georgia 30316

Owner(s) Telephone Number: 404-217-2232

Approximate date of construction of the primary structure on the property and any other structures affected by this project: September, 2025

Nature of work (check all that apply):

New construction	☐	New Accessory Building	☐	Other Building Changes	☒
Demolition	☐	Landscaping	☐	Other Environmental Changes	☒
Addition	☐	Fence/Wall	☐	Other	☐
Moving a Building	☐	Sign Installation	☐		

Description of Work:

I would like permission to replace the basement door, add a 12x12 concrete pad outside the basement door, change the placement of the tool shed which was approved at the August 18th meeting, and add metal railing to the existing steps in the backyard.

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 pjennings@dekalbcountyga.gov. An incomplete application will not be accepted.

Signature of Applicant: Sherrill Abbott & Martha Abbott Shim, August 25, 2025

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.

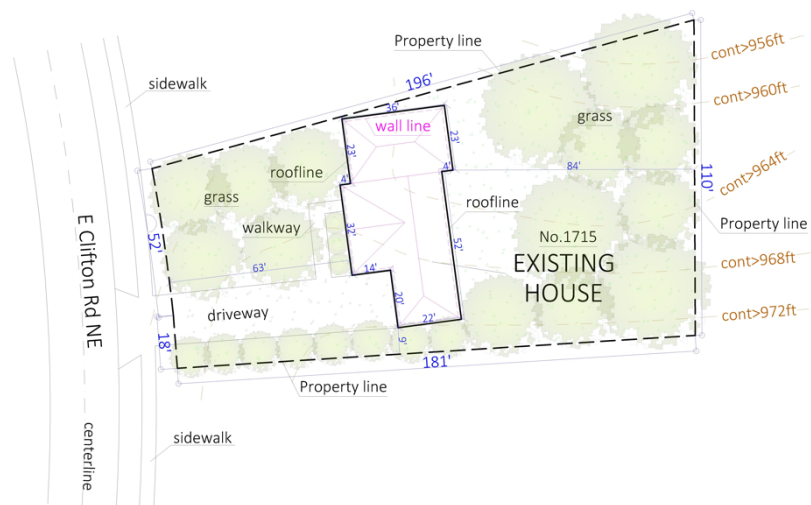
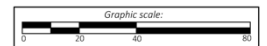
1. General & 2. Site Plan

Description of the Work: I would like permission to replace the basement door, add a 12x12 concrete pad outside the basement door, and add a metal railing to the existing steps in the backyard.

1715 E Clifton Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30316
Parcel ID: 18 003 04 048
Lot area: 0.38 Acres
Paper Size: 11"x17"



scale 1"=30'



VICINITY MAP

Disclaimer

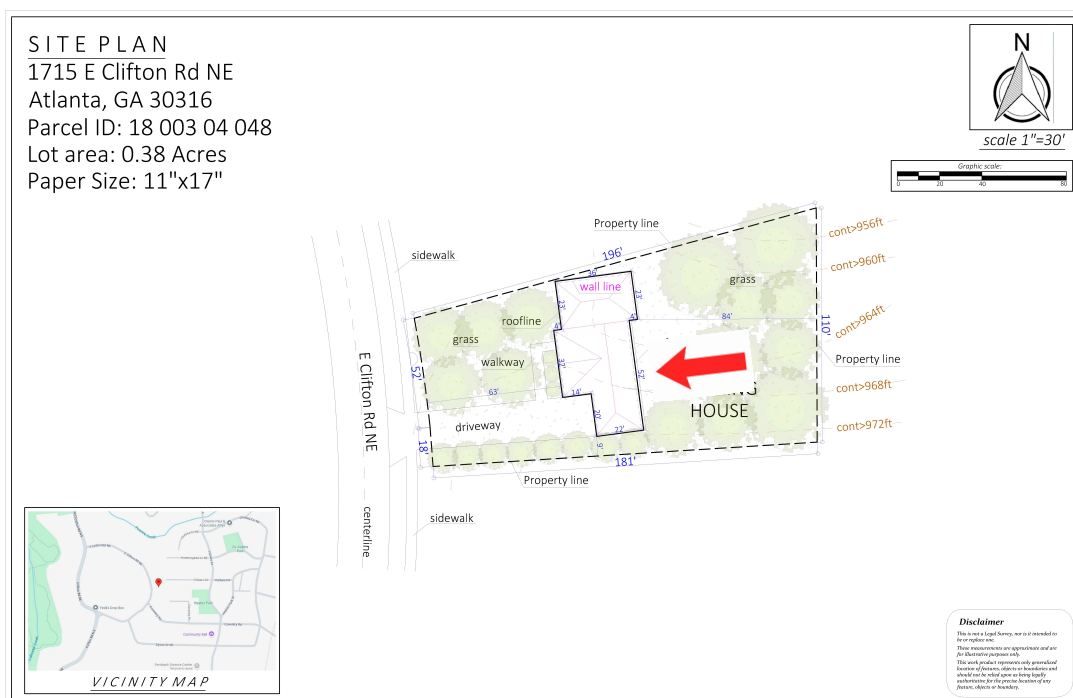
This is not a Legal Survey, nor is it intended to be or replace one.
These measurements are approximate and are for illustrative purposes only.
This work product represents only generalized location of features, objects or boundaries and should not be relied upon as being legally authoritative for the precise location of any feature, object or boundary.





10. Handrail for Backyard Stairs Stairs

A. A metal handrail will be added to the existing stairs in the backyard. The railing will be on west side of the stairs, closest to the house.

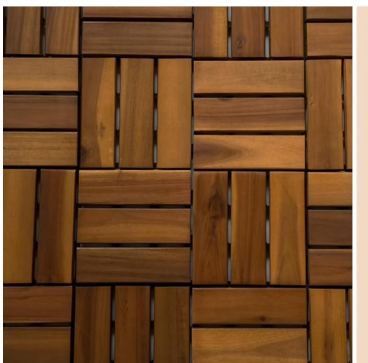


1715 E. Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta
30307
Sherrill Abbott & Martha Abbott
Shim
404-217-2232
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Hand Rails for Outdoor Steps, Wrought Iron Railing, Porch and Stair Railing"



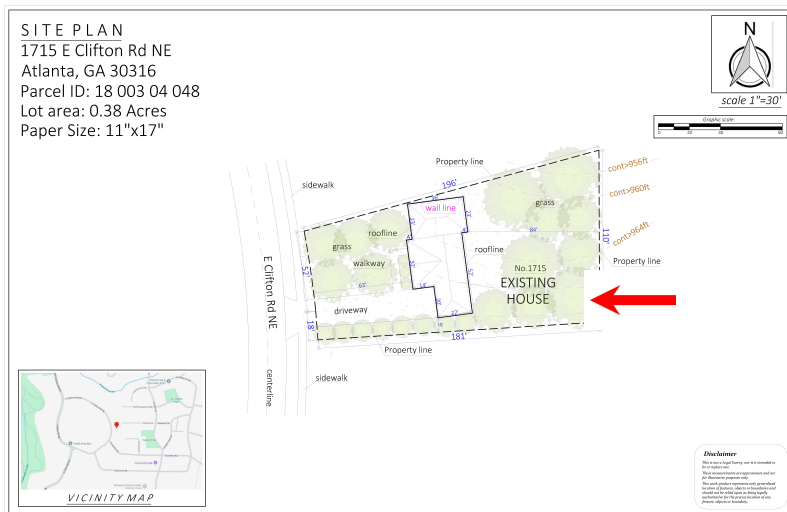
B. A 12x12 concrete pad will be added outside the basement door. The concrete will be covered with Acacia Wood Interlocking Decking Tiles which are temporary deck flooring that can be removed as needed.



11A. The basement door will be replaced with a 80x36 inch Clear 9-Lite White Primed Fiberglass Exterior Door with Pet Door. The door will be painted to match the front door with Indigo Dye by Sherwin Williams.



14. The shed which was previously approved, was going to be placed in the location of the current shed. Due to potential problems with rot and wildlife, I would like permission to build the shed in the back east side of the property.



The shed will be made of 4x8 pressure treated panels. The color will match as closely as possible the original color of the house. The shingles on the roof will match the shingles on the house. The sides will be 6'4" and the highest point of the pitch will be 8 feet. This is an approximate picture of what the shed will look like.

