May HDC Meeting Public Comments

My name is Maureen Kearns, I am a 29-year resident of Indian village, living at 1080 Iroquois, which is one of the unfortunate contemporary homes. I am a certified interior designer and my brother is an architect who designs many additions to historic homes for the truly wealthy on the eastern shore of Maryland.

There are many details of this home design that lend to its lack of suitability for this neighborhood. The roof lines create weight on the additions that do not match the main house and are not something that you would otherwise find in this neighborhood.

My brother's opinion is that the overall design lacks the Elegance that you would find in something designed for this neighborhood. The windows need to be larger and more grand. The roof slopes really need to be punctuated with Dormers of an appropriate size to reduce the weight.

The stated style of Colonial Revival, according to Wikipedia, spans a huge period from 1880 to the 1960s**. Cyril M. Harris's American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia** notes that "Colonial Revival houses are usually the result of a rather free interpretation of their prototypes; they tend to be larger, may differ significantly from the houses they seek to emulate, and often exaggerate architectural details." This design does differ significantly, yet is smaller than most in the neighborhood and has smaller details. It is a very free interpretation of homes in the neighborhood.

The windows are an example of this freedom, being divided in a cottage style when the shape of the main house is federal.

Additional concerns are that they intend to cut down one of our last remaining elms trees. As a previous owner of an elm that caught Dutch elm disease just a few years ago I will say that I am super sad to no longer have that Tree and my home has suffered from the lack of shade which caused me to have to replace my roof early.

There are no other historic homes in the neighborhood that have attached garages other than the one 2 doors down where the Commission allowed an addition that attached the garage.

As mentioned in the report, homes that do not conform to the standards should not be considered as precedence. A side entry to such a garage is also something that does not exist. The side entry to the garage is also why the tree would need to be cut down.

The egress windows on the front side of the house, added so that there can technically be more bedrooms upon resale, are going to create an odd look to the façade and plantings to conceal them will have to be more forward than most in the neighborhood. Walkways from the driveway to the center walk only exist at the Contemporary homes.

As mentioned in the staff report the materials are absolutely subpar and did not exist at the time the rest of the homes were built. If we start allowing cheap homes to be built, the neighborhood itself will become much less valued, similar to Barry subdivision where the proportion of contemporaries to historic homes is greater.

The reason that we have empty lots at this point in Indian village is because you just cannot match the materials, the size or stateliness. It is unfortunate that real estate agents that don’t live here or care continue to make money on empty lots. Please recall the Mcmansion on Seminole that was built not according to the plans submitted and do not allow this house plan to move forward.

Thank you for your time.

2nd Plan Review June

Very little has changed since the last iteration. The slopes of the single stories are even more like a ranch. The back now looks like a ranch with a large dormer. It is still not a wonderful addition to Indian Village.