

Staff Report

Infill Housing Design Review Committee

File Number: 10-C-24-IH

Meeting:	10/16/2024								
Applicant:	Raj Paul Cheema								
Owner:	Raj Paul Cheema								
Property Information									
Location:	1219 New York Ave.	Parcel ID	81 O B 015						
Zoning:	RN-2 (Single-Family Residential Neighborhood)								

Description of Work

District:

Level III New Primary Structure

Lonsdale Infill Housing Overlay District

New primary structure fronting New York Ave. New duplex will measure 35'-4" wide by 50' deep and will be set 22.8' from the front property line. The duplex features a side gable roof (pitch not clarified) with a projecting double front-gable massing and one-story gable-roof entry stoops on the outside bays on the façade. The building will feature an asphalt shingle roof, an exterior of lap siding, and a concrete block foundation that measures approximately 3' tall.

The façade (southeast) is four bays wide, featuring recessed full-light doors below entry stoops on the outside bays, and two bays of double-hung windows on the central projecting front-gable roof massings. The side elevations feature three windows on the first story and two on the second.

Applicable Design Guidelines

Heart of Knoxville Infill Housing Design Guidelines

10. Multi-Unit Housing

- Multi-unit housing (where permitted by zoning) should have similar front yard space to that of the traditional single-family houses along the street.

- In zoning districts where multi-unit housing is permitted, the height of the new housing should be similar to the original houses along the street.

- Multi-unit housing should be designed to continue the architectural rhythm of the block. In addition to the same build-to line, porches, bays and breaks in the front façade should be created to mimic the look of older homes when looking down the block. This should be done by dividing

the building into separate sections that are proportionally similar to original houses on the block.

- Parking should be provided behind apartments with access from the alley.

- Landscaping, including shade trees, should be planted in both front and back yards.

1. Front Yards

- Consistent front yard space should be created along the street with the setback of a new house matching the older houses on the block.

- A walkway should be provided from the sidewalk or street to the front door. Along grid streets, the walk should be

perpendicular to the street.

- Healthy trees that are outside the building footprint should be preserved. The root area should be marked and protected during construction.

2. Housing Orientation

- New housing should be proportional to the dimensions of the lot and other houses on the block.

On corner lots, side yard setbacks should be handled traditionally (that is, closer to the side street). The zoning requirement to treat corner lots as having two frontages should not apply in Heart of Knoxville neighborhoods.
Side yard setbacks should be similar to older houses on the block, keeping the rhythm of spacing between houses consistent.

3. Alleys, Parking, and Services

- Parking should not be in front yards.

- Alley access should be used for garage or parking pad locations. On level ground, pea gravel or similar material may be used as a parking pad off alleys.

- Garages which are perpendicular to the alley should be about 18 feet from the center line of the alley pavement, allowing a comfortable turning radius for a driver to enter a garage.

- Alley-oriented parking pads, garbage collection points, and utility boxes should be screened with a combination of landscaping and fencing.

- On those streets which have alleys, driveways should not be permitted from the front of the house.

- On corner lots, a driveway to the garage may be provided off the side street.

4. Scale, Mass, and Foundation Height

- The front elevation should be designed to be similar in scale to other houses along the street.

- The front façade of new houses should be about the same width as original houses on the block.

- New foundations should be about the same height as the original houses in the neighborhood.

- If greater height is to be created (with new construction or an addition), that portion of the house should be located toward the side or rear of the property.

5. Porches and Stoops

- Porches should be part of the housing design in those neighborhoods where porches were commonplace.

- Porches should be proportional to original porches on the block, extending about 8-12 feet toward the street from the habitable portion of the house.

- Porches should extend into the front yard setback, if necessary, to maintain consistency with similarly sited porches along the street.

- Porch posts and railings should be like those used in the historic era of the neighborhood's development. Wrought iron columns and other materials that were not used in the early 1900's should not be used.

- Small stoops centered on entry and no more than 5 feet deep are appropriate on blocks where porches were not traditional.

6. Windows and Doors

- When constructing new houses, the window and door styles should be similar to the original or historic houses on the block.

- To respect the privacy of adjacent properties, consider the placement of side windows and doors.

- The windows and doors on the front facade of an infill house should be located in similar proportion and position as the original houses on the block.

- Attention should be paid to window placement and the ratio of solid (the wall) to void (the window and door openings).

- Contemporary windows such as "picture windows" should not be used in pre-World War II neighborhoods.

7. Roof Shapes and Materials

- New roofs should be designed to have a similar pitch to original housing on the block

- More complex roofs, such as hipped roofs and dormers, should be part of new housing designs when such forms were historically used on the block.

- Darker shades of shingle were often used and should be chosen in roofing houses in Heart of Knoxville neighborhoods.

8. Siding Material

- Clapboard-like materials (such as cement fiberboard) should be used in constructing new housing where painted wood siding was traditionally used.

- Brick, wood shingle, and other less common material may be appropriate in some older neighborhoods, particularly those with a mix of architectural styles.

- Faced stone, vertical siding, and other non-historic materials should not be used in building new houses. In 1930-1950 era neighborhoods, faced stone may be appropriate (see Section 12).

11. Landscape and Other Considerations

- One native or naturalized shade tree should be planted in the front and rear yards of in fill lots with 25 feet or more in depth to front of house.

Comments

1. The applicant intends to use Section 4.6 of the zoning code, the Middle Housing standards, which are "intended to promote the development of neighborhood-scale housing forms which are compatible with existing housing in the surrounding area," and "may allow more flexible development of land than is possible under the base district zoning regulations," subject to additional dimensional, design, and parking standards. Middle Housing review occurs separately through Planning staff; the DRB review focuses on how the project meets the Infill Housing design guidelines. However, some elements of Middle Housing review may trigger site plan and building elevation revisions, which would require additional review by the DRB.

2. The building is proposed to be set 22.8' from the front property line. The average front setback of the blockface is 21'. The proposed front setback will maintain a consistent streetscape with the block.

3. The guidelines for multi-unit housing recommend that "new multi-family buildings be designed in scale and context with the early architectural features of the neighborhood." The block to receive new construction is characterized by one-story Craftsman houses, modified Queen Anne cottages, and some infill construction. The house is proportional to the dimensions of the lot and features consistent side setbacks. It does not incorporate many details which align with the architectural context. Additional design elements are also required by the Middle Housing standards.

4. The proposed parking meets the Infill Housing design guidelines as it is located behind the primary structure and accessed from the alley. Revisions may be necessary to the site plan to meet City Engineering standards.

5. The 35'-4" wide duplex is compatible in façade width with original houses on the street and meets the maximum building width requirements in Article 4.6, Middle Housing standards, for a side-by-side duplex. Guidelines also recommend that multi-unit housing be similar in height to original houses on the street. The two-story building is taller than most of the historic houses on the block. The designs include a 3' tall foundation, which is significantly taller than the context, and reducing the foundation height would allow the duplex to be more aligned with the context. The side elevations are large in scale with little architectural variation. The building is within the maximum depth for a side-by-side duplex in the Middle Housing Standards.

6. While the proposed entry stoops are not 8' deep per the guidelines, similarly-designed entry stoops have been approved for multi-unit buildings in the Infill Housing overlay. The entry stoops are relatively small in scale and would benefit from additional architectural detail to connect with historic houses in the neighborhood.

7. At least a 6/12 roof pitch is required in the Middle Housing standards to fill the "steep" category of roofline; 6/12 is also the minimum pitch approved by the Infill Housing guidelines. The applicant should confirm the roof pitch. The large building may also benefit from additional variations in roofline, particularly on the larger side elevations.

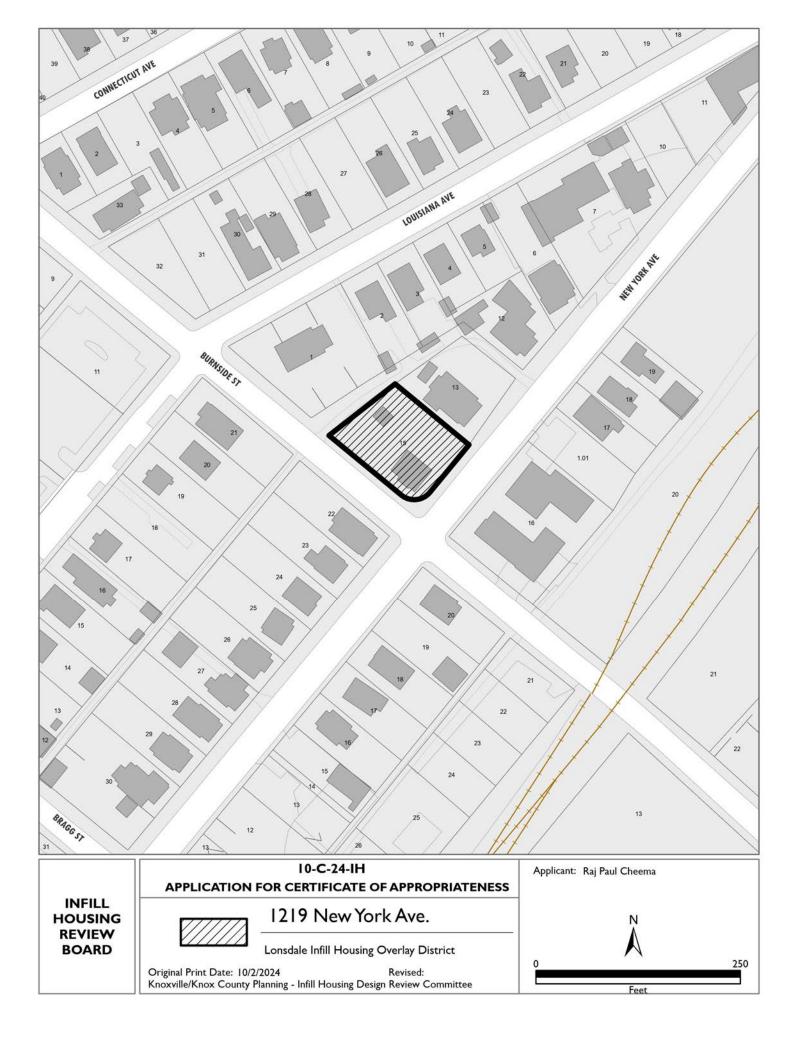
8. Guidelines recommend window and door styles be similar to historic houses on the block, with similar placement and ratio of solid to void. While all four elevations feature sufficient transparency for the historic context, some revisions may be necessary to better align the buildings with the historic context (including the irregular placement of windows on the side elevation and the paired window on the second-story, rightmost bay).

9. The elevation drawings feature horizontal siding (no materials provided) and an exposed CMU foundation. The siding should feature a horizontal overlap similar to wood siding instead of Dutch lap or flush panels, and the CMU foundation should be reduced in height and clad in stucco or parge-coated.

10. The final site plan should incorporate native or naturalized shade trees in the front and rear yards.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Certificate 10-C-24-IH, subject to the following conditions: 1) final site plan to meet City Engineering standards; 2) incorporation of additional design elements to meet Middle Housing standards; 3) reduction of foundation height to be comparable to historic houses on the block and reduce overall building height; 4) revision to façade and side elevation window placement; 5) meeting all relevant standards of Article 4.6.





DESIGN REVIEW REQUEST

□ DOWNTOWN DESIGN (DK)

□ HISTORIC ZONING (H)

■ INFILL HOUSING (IH)

Steven W. Abbott Jr.

Applicant		
9/25/24	10/16/24	
Date Filed	Meeting Date (if applicable)	File Number(s)

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence related to this application should be directed to the approved contact listed below.

Owner	Contractor	Engineer	Architect/Landscape Architect
0 111101	00110100001	LIBUICCI	, a office of Larrasoupe , a office of

Raj Paul Cheema

Name	Company			
1219 New York Ave	Knoxville	TN	37917	
Address		City	State	Zip
865.466.7240 rajpaulcheema@gmail.co		com		
Phone	Email			

CURRENT PROPERTY INFO

Raj Paul Cheema	1219 New York Ave	1219 New York Ave	
Owner Name (if different from applicant)	Owner Address		Owner Phone
1219 New York Ave		081B015	
Property Address		Parcel ID	
Lonsdale Neighborhood Association		RN-2	
Neighborhood		Zoning	

AUTHORIZATION

Staff Signature

Please Print

Date



Raj Paul Cheema

9/25/24

Applicant Signature

Please Print

Date

REQUEST

DOWNTOWN DESIGN	Level 1: Signs Alteration of an existing building/structure Level 2: Addition to an existing building/structure Level 3: Construction of new building/structure See required Downtown Design attachment for more details. Brief description of work:
HISTORIC ZONING	Level 1: Signs Routine repair of siding, windows, roof, or other features, in-kind; Installation of gutters, storm windows/doors Level 2: Major repair, removal, or replacement of architectural elements or materials Additions and accessory structures Level 3: Construction of a new primary building Level 4: Demolition of a contributing structure See required Historic Zoning attachment for more details. Brief description of work:
INFILL HOUSING	Level 1: Driveways, parking pads, access point, garages or similar facilities Subdivisions Level 2: Additions visible from the primary street Changes to porches visible from the primary street Level 3: New primary structure Site built Modular Multi-Sectional See required Infill Housing attachment for more details. Brief description of work: Plans for new duplex

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USE ONLY	 Historic Zoning Design Checklist Infill Housing Design Checklist 	FEE 2:	
STAFF (ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS Property Owners / Option Holders Level 1: \$50 • Level 2: \$100 • Level 3: \$250 • Level 4: \$500	FEE 3:	

