

Staff Report

Infill Housing Design Review Committee

File Number: 2-G-25-IH

Meeting: 2/19/2025

Applicant: Dave Madden

Owner: Antares LLC

Property Information

Location: 3335 Divide St. Parcel ID 81 P B 003

Zoning: RN-2 (Single-Family Residential Neighborhood)

District: Lonsdale Infill Housing Overlay District

Description of Work

Level III New Primary Structure

New primary structure fronting Divide Street. Two story residence features a hipped roof (6/12 pitch), an exterior of horizontal vinyl siding, and a foundation of an unspecified material that appears to be a concrete slab. The house is 28' wide by 27'-2" deep, and the front setback is unspecified. It features a 6'-8" wide, 4'-4" deep front porch recessed under a front-gable roof and supported by two square wood posts. Parking is a 10' wide (depth unspecified) concrete driveway in front of the house and is accessed from Divide Street.

The façade (northeast) features three bays, with the front porch and a paneled door flanked by sidelights in the left bay, two 4/4 single-hung windows with shutters on each story in the middle bay, and a swath of siding with the profile of a projecting massing on the right elevation in the right bay. The side elevations each feature one 4/4 single-hung window on each story, which are not organized into bays. The right elevation also features a one-story, 4' wide by 1'-4" deep projecting massing with a front-gable roof. The rear elevation features a projecting hipped roof massing with two 4/4 single-hung windows on each story, and the left bay features an uncovered secondary entrance and stoop with a glass sliding door and one window on the second story.

Applicable Design Guidelines

Heart of Knoxville Infill Housing Design Guidelines

- 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.
- On streets without alleys, garages or parking pads should be at least 20 feet behind the front façade of the infill house with access limited to one lane between the street and the front façade.
- 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 front setback of the house is not specified. The final site plan should be revised so that the front walkway connects to both the street and the driveway.
- 2. The block to receive new construction lacks significant context, as almost all the houses on the street are infill construction, interspersed with Minimal Traditionals and vacant lots . The 28' wide by 27'-2" deep house is not proportionate to the other houses on the block. The infill houses are rectangular in plan and are approximately 28' wide and 40' deep or 44' wide and 28' deep, and most nearby houses on 40' wide lots range in width from 16'-25.' The house also does not meet the minimum side setbacks required by the base zoning, so a variance would be required if this plan moves forward, and the rear setback requirements would allow for a house with a narrower width and larger depth.
- 3. Infill Housing design guidelines recommend that on lots without alleys, new driveways should be at least 20' behind the front façade of the infill house with access limited to one lane between the street and the front façade. Parking is a concrete pad located in front of the house and accessed via a driveway from Divide Street. Parking should be revised to avoid the front yard.
- 4. The two-story, three-bay façade is not similar in scale and height to the context, which almost exclusively features one-story houses with balanced façades.
- 5. The house features a 6'-8" wide, 4'-4" deep front porch recessed under a front-gable roof and supported by two square wood posts. Guidelines state that front porches should be proportional to other houses on the block and at least 8' deep. The porch depth should be revised to at least 8', and the porch width should be increased to be proportional to the other houses on the block.
- 6. Guidelines recommend window and door styles be similar to historic houses on the block, with similar placement and ratio of solid to void. The façade should be revised to avoid the half-shutter on the left first story window. The 4/4 single-hung windows are compatible with the 6/6 single-hung windows on most houses in the block, and the façade and rear elevations feature a sufficient ratio of solid to void. However, the house features five different window sizes, and the windows are placed at different heights on the side elevations, leaving large swaths of siding. The window sizes and placement should be revised to be more cohesive. The paneled door flanked with sidelights is appropriate.
- 7. The 6/12 roof pitch is the minimum typically approved for Infill Housing.
- 8. The asphalt shingles and horizontal vinyl siding meet the design guidelines, but the siding should be clapboard-style with an overlap instead of Dutch lap or flush panel siding. The foundation appears to be a concrete slab, which should be clad in stucco or parge-coated to meet the design guidelines.

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9. The final site plan should be revised to include a native or naturalized shade tree in the front and back yards.

Recommendation

Staff recommends postponement of Certificate 2-G-25-IH to allow the applicant to select another plan which more clearly meets the design guidelines (specifically, requirements of the base zoning, building width and depth, porch, parking, and window placement).

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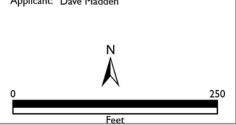


HOUSING REVIEW BOARD



Lonsdale Infill Housing Overlay District

Original Print Date: 2/10/2025 Revised: Knoxville/Knox County Planning - Infill Housing Design Review Committee





DESIGN REVIEW REQUEST

☐ DOWNTOWN DESIGN (DK)

☐ HISTORIC ZONING (H)

KNOXVILLE KNOX COUNTY	INFILL HOUSING (IH)		
Kelsey Chambers			
Applicant			
1/20/25	February 19, 2025	2-G-2	5-IH
Date Filed			mber(s)
CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence related to this application Owner Contractor Engineer		act listed below.	
Dave Madden	Dave Madden, Architect		
Name	Company	, Architect	
3735 Parker Harrison Way	Knoxville	TN	37924
Address	City	State	Zip
865-770-9496	madden.dave56@gmail.com		
Phone	Email		
CURRENT PROPERTY INFO ANTARES LLC	3701 N BROADWAY ST KNOXVII	LLE,TN 37917	865-770-9097
Owner Name (if different from applicant)	Owner Address		Owner Phone
3335 Divide Street, Knoxville, TN 37921	081P	B003	
Property Address	Parce	IID	
	RN-2		
Neighborhood	Zonin	g	
AUTHORIZATION			
Lindsay Lanois	Lindsay Lanois		
Staff Signatur	Please Print		Date
KChambers	Kelsey Chambers		1/20/25
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 ☐ Site design, parking, plazas, lands are 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: Relocation of a contributing structure Demolition of a contributing structure See required Historic Zoning attachment for more details. Brief description of work:				
INFILL HOUSING					
STAFF USE ONLY	ATTACHMENTS Downtown Design Checklist Historic Zoning Design Checklist Infill Housing Design Checklist ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS Property Owners / Option Holders Level 1: \$50 • Level 2: \$100 • Level 3: \$250 • Level 4: \$500	FEE 1: \$250.00 FEE 2: FEE 3:	TOTAL: \$250.00		

