

**Notice of APPEAL of Condition Number 5 in File #15-034 decision made  
6/25/15  
1373 Summit Avenue**

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

We are writing to appeal a recent decision on 6/25/15 from the Heritage Preservation Committee on a proposed renovation and addition to our house.

Specifically we are appealing Condition Number 5 which states "The new addition roof shingles shall be a medium to dark gray color."

We worked closely with the committee at all stages to get to an acceptable plan and are willing to accept all the conditions of our approved application except this last condition because it means that our main house would have 2 different colors of roof shingles which will look funny.

1. Our house has had the same lighter gray roof color for at least 70 years and possibly longer. Based on criteria from the Heritage Preservation Committee, this time span (over 50 years) means that our current roof color has acquired its own historical significance. Furthermore, the current existing light gray roof does not need to be replaced for at least another 10 years.
2. A new garage structure that we built that was approved by the HPC in 2008 has the same light gray roof color and material as the main house as does an older garage on the property dating from 1921. Therefore all three structures on our property currently have the same lighter gray shingles creating a cohesive, uniform appearance.
3. The HPC is requiring us to make the proposed new addition to the main house structure have a different roof color material than what is currently on the rest of the house. The reasoning is that in 1890 the original house may have had darker shingles possibly "dipped in creosote" on it. However, the exact details of the original house roof color are in fact unknown. The original permit from 1890 just states the roof will be covered with "shingles"; no color is specified and there is no mention of creosote.

We wish to appeal this roof shingle color decision on several grounds:

Firstly it seems to us very undesirable to have two different roof colors on a house. If the purpose is to have an attractive avenue and preserve the houses then we think this would not only be an eyesore but frankly look bizarre. This was a point agreed upon by members of the HPC at the hearing but unfortunately not enough of them to strike down this point.

The HPC is being inconsistent in that they permitted us to use a roof color on our garage that matches the house but now a few years later is changing their mind.

When building our new garage we were not allowed to replace the old one as it had "acquired its own historical significance" even though it was not original to the house. We feel that the same standard should be applied to our roof color given how long it has been in place.

We find it hard to believe any homeowner would want a roof with two different materials on it nor that this beautiful house would be improved by such an appearance. We are not in a financial position to replace the entire roof which does not currently need to be replaced.

As stated in the HPC documents these are guidelines not requirements and we would ask that the city council please allow us to use the same roofing material on the new construction as is already on the house and our garages to maintain the look of a normal house.

Thank you for your consideration,



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