

**STAFF REPORT  
for  
NOVEMBER 4, 2020 HRC MEETING**

**Case #:** COA2020-113  
**Staff:** Michelle M. McCullough

**Applicant:** Mary Tribble

**LOCATION**

District: Old Salem Historic District #20  
Streets: 813 South Church Street  
Buildings: Philip Reich House  
Status: Contributing  
Local Historic  
Landmark#: 21

**REQUEST(S)**

- Rear landscaping including new planting beds, fences, and paver pads; and the installation of a new door on the fallout shelter

**APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS**

*Forsyth County Design Review Guidelines for Local Historic Landmarks and Old Salem Historic District Guide to the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Process and Design Review Guidelines (Please refer to the applicable sections of the **Guidelines**, as detailed in the staff comments.)*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION/ELEMENTS**

*Please refer to the information provided with the application.*

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Item 1-3 of the application are routine maintenance items and will not be discussed in the findings below.

**STAFF FINDINGS**

Commission staff finds that the work is not incongruous with the character of the Landmark and District because:

- 1) The proposed work includes installing a picket fence in the rear yard. The proposed fence will be a 42" tall, rough sawn wood fence with cut nails. The dimension of the pickets is ¾" thick, and the rails will be 1' ½" thick. The house was built in 1824, and the yard is terraced. The yard would not have been a heavy agricultural area; therefore, the picket style is appropriate. The location and configuration do not obscure, damage, or destroy any original or significant building or structure features and are compatible with the landmark building and site. Height and materials are consistent with the heights of other historic fences on the landmark site and the District. (*Fences*, District Guidelines #5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 and *Fences and Walls*, Landmark Guidelines #7 and 8)
- 2) The proposed planting bed will be installed in the rear of the property with plants of appropriate species found in Old Salem. The rear yard directly behind the house would have historically included planting beds with herbs and flowers, as proposed. The scale, placement, and configuration of the new vegetation is compatible with the Landmark and the District. (*Significant Landscape Features*, District Guideline #3 and *Site Features and Plantings*, Landmark Guideline #8)

- 3) The proposed project adds new bluestone paver pads and steppingstones on the lower terrace, in front of the entrance wall to the fallout shelter. Both new features are in a location not visible from Church Street. The new design is compatible in location, spacing, configuration, dimension, scale, texture, and material with the character of the structure and the District. Stone is an appropriate material for walks in Old Salem. The new paver pads and steppingstones are in an unobtrusive area and are in a location, configuration, material, and scale that are compatible with the Landmark site and the District. (*Walkways and Steps*, District Guideline #3 and *Walkways, Driveways and On-Site Parking*, Landmark, Guidelines #7 and 8)
- 4) The proposed new door at the fallout shelter entrance will be a six panel, wood door. The fallout shelter is a noncontributing feature and not visible from Church Street. It is located below the rear yard on a terrace. The design is compatible in design, location, size, pattern, panel configuration, detail and style with the Landmark and the District. (*Doors*, District Guideline #4 and *Windows and Doors*, Landmark Guideline #5)

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the preceding findings, staff recommends that the Commission approve COA2020-113 at the Philip Reich House, located at 813 South Church Street, Local Historic Landmark #21, in the Old Salem Historic District (PIN#6835-32-4240.00), with the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant shall receive, prior to commencement of the work, all other required permits or permissions from governmental agencies;
- 2) Commission staff shall review and approve any revisions or deviations to any portion of the as-submitted work, that qualifies as a minor work, prior to commencement of that portion of the project; and,
- 3) The applicant shall submit the Certificate of Appropriateness Request for Certification of Completed Work form and photo documentation of the completed project to HRC staff within ten (10) days of its completion.