

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF OXFORD

Minutes – August 17, 2017

MEMBERS: Dr. Melvin Baker, Chair; Mr. J P Godfrey, Mr. Jeff Wearing, and Mr. Tom Johnson. Ms. Sarah Davis and Ms. Kendra Mayfield were absent.

STAFF: Matthew Pepper, assistant city manager.

GUESTS: Mike Ready, councilmember; Todd Cain, Associate Director of Operations for Oxford College (proxy for Ms. Mayfield).

OPENING: At 6:08 PM, Dr. Baker called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Wearing, seconded by Mr. Godfrey, the minutes for the meeting of July 27, 2017 were adopted. The vote was 4-0.

HISTORIC EVALUATION OF THE PROPERTIES: The Committee members reviewed the history of the Yarbrough House (107 W. Clark) and the Bloodworth House (6153 Emory Street). They determined that the Bloodworth House lacked any apparent historical significance. So, it was decided that Dr. Baker will visit the county courthouse to seek out additional information about the Bloodworth House. As for the Yarbrough House, the Committee members attributed its historical significance to the Yarbrough Oak, and that it was the former residence of Reverend Yarbrough, the father-in-law of Atticus Haygood.

PHYSICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROPERTIES: The Committee members reviewed the physical condition of the two properties. They determined that the Bloodworth House is in poor physical condition. They cited that the house has a warped roof, inadequate trusses, unstable porch, average foundation, and problems with fleas and lice on one side of the duplex. Lastly, they discussed hiring a salvage company to assess whether or not any of the materials from the house can be repurposed. As for the Yarbrough House, the Committee members determined that it would require some major repairs to the roof, ceiling, and certain areas of the floor.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESERVE/PROTECT THE PROPERTIES: Dr. Baker distributed copies of a list describing possible uses for the two properties. The Committee members briefly reviewed the list. It was decided that they would discuss the list in greater detail at the next meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Wearing, seconded by Mr. Godfrey, the Historic Preservation Committee recommends that the house at 6153 Emory Street (Bloodworth House) be demolished. The vote was 4-0.

Upon motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wearing, the Historic Preservation Committee deems that the house at 107 W. Clark Street (Yarbrough House) has historical significance. The vote was 4-0.

Upon motion of Mr. Wearing, seconded by Mr. Godfrey, the Historic Preservation Committee recommends the preservation and restoration of 107 W. Clark Street for adaptive reuse with the

roof getting immediate priority, pending inspection by an independent certified housing inspector. The vote was 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel Baker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melvin Baker, Chair