

ANN ARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Staff Report

ADDRESS: 108 Koch Ave, Application Number HDC21-180

DISTRICT: Old West Side Historic District

REPORT DATE: December 9, 2021

REPORT PREPARED BY: Jill Thacher, Historic Preservation Coordinator

REVIEW COMMITTEE DATE: December 6, 2021

OWNER

Name: Harutyunyan Armen
108 Koch Ave
Address: Ann Arbor, MI

Phone:

APPLICANT

DTE Energy
Rijvana Patel
14270 Schaefer Hwy
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 409-4034

BACKGROUND: This one-and-three-quarter-story gable-fronter features a full-width front porch, a second floor triple-window facing the street, eave returns, and a gabled wall dormer facing east. It was the first new house built on John K Avenue, in 1916. The street name was changed to Koch in 1928. The first occupant of the home was decorator Carl W. Linck.

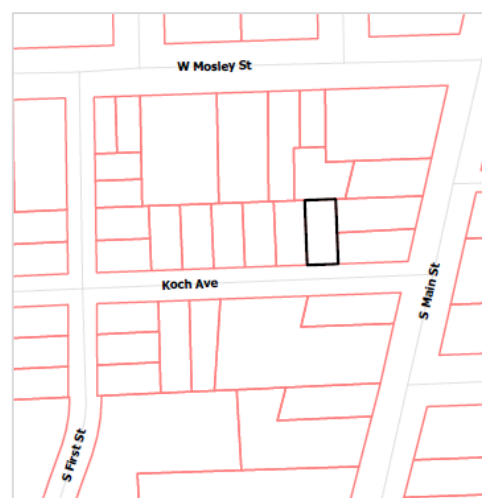
LOCATION: The house is one house west of the northwest corner of Koch Avenue and South Main Street.

APPLICATION: The applicant seeks HDC approval to install a gas meter on the east (side) elevation, one foot north of the southeast corner of the home.

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS:

From the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

- (2) The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- (9) New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.



- (10) New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

From the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (other SOI Guidelines may also apply):

Mechanical Systems

Recommended: Installing a completely new mechanical system if required for the new use so that it causes the least alteration possible to the building's floor plan, the exterior elevations, and the least damage to the historic building material.

From the Ann Arbor Historic District Design Guidelines:

Mechanical Equipment

Appropriate: Installing new air conditioning units and mechanical equipment in such a manner that historic materials and features are not damaged or obscured.

Using compatible screening around outdoor mechanical equipment such as vegetation and fencing.

Attaching mechanical equipment so historic fabric is not damaged or destroyed.

Installing mechanical equipment and wiring in locations on the roof, rear elevations, or in alleys, so they are not visible from the street.

Painting mechanical equipment to blend with the historic building.

Not Appropriate: Installing new mechanical equipment systems or wiring in locations that change or destroy character-defining features and materials.

STAFF FINDINGS

1. The application states that the installer is unable to move the meter further back due to the current fuel line location and that the meter manifold will have minimal visibility from the street due to existing shrubs.
2. The north side of the house is screened from view by existing large bushes. The north elevation is the logical place to locate the meter, though farther from the street would be more appropriate.
3. DTE is undergoing a construction project to move all gas meters in basements to exteriors of houses. In this work the damage to historic materials in meter installations is minimal – there is typically one penetration through the wall above the foundation, and the meters themselves can be mounted on small posts to avoid touching historic materials. A meter on or near the front of a house is visibly undesirable, however, and detracts from the historic integrity of the home. For this reason, staff may not approve new meters or other mechanical units on or near the fronts of buildings.

4. The application includes a photo of a post mounted meter. The post mount is appropriate because it does not touch historic materials the way a bracket (the alternative) installed on the house does.
5. The meter work is assumed to be necessary and post mounted meters appear to not destroy historic materials. The commission must weigh the proposal against the SOI standards, SOI guidelines, and Ann Arbor design guidelines. Questions to consider include:
 - a. Does the work cause the least alteration possible to the building's floor plan, the exterior elevations, and the least damage to the historic building material?
 - b. Does it damage, destroy or obscure historic materials or features?
 - c. Is there visual screening by vegetation or fencing?



POSSIBLE MOTIONS: (Note that the motion below is only a suggestion. The Review Committee, consisting of staff and at least two Commissioners, will meet with the applicant on site and then make a recommendation at the meeting.)

I move that the Commission issue a certificate of appropriateness for the application at 108 Koch Avenue, a contributing property in the Old West Side Historic District, to install a gas meter on a north elevation, one foot from the front corner of the house, as shown in the application. As proposed, the work is compatible in exterior design, arrangement, materials, and relationship to the building and the surrounding area and meets *The City of Ann Arbor Historic District Design Guidelines* for mechanical equipment, and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, in particular standards 2, 9 and 10, and the guidelines for mechanical systems.

MOTION WORKSHEET

I move that the Commission issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the work at 108 Koch Avenue in the Old West Side Historic District

_____ Provided the following condition(S) is (ARE) met: 1) STATE CONDITION(s)

The work is generally compatible with the size, scale, massing, and materials and meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, standard(S) number(S) (*circle all that apply*): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

ATTACHMENTS: application, footprint drawing, photos

108 Koch Ave (November 2020 Google Street View)





HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

City Hall: 301 E. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6120
 Mailing: P.O. Box 8647, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647
 Phone: 734.794.6265 ext. 42608 jthacher@a2gov.org
 Fax: 734.994.8460

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Permit Number	HDC# _____
	BLDG# _____
DATE STAMP	

APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY

PROPERTY LOCATION/OWNER INFORMATION

NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER HARUTYUNYAN ARMEN		HISTORIC DISTRICT OLD WEST SIDE	
PROPERTY ADDRESS 108 KOCH AVE			CITY ANN ARBOR
ZIPCODE 48103	DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER ()	EMAIL ADDRESS	
PROPERTY OWNER'S ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)		CITY	STATE, ZIP

PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE

SIGN HERE	PRINT NAME	DATE
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APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME OF APPLICANT (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) DTE (Rijvana Patel)			
ADDRESS OF APPLICANT			CITY
STATE	ZIPCODE	PHONE / CELL # (313) 409-4034	FAX No ()
EMAIL ADDRESS			

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE (if different from Property Owner)

SIGN HERE	PRINT NAME x Man's Arthurs	DATE 7/28/21
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BUILDING USE – CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SINGLE FAMILY	<input type="checkbox"/> DUPLEX	<input type="checkbox"/> RENTAL	<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE FAMILY	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL
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PROPOSED WORK

Describe in detail each proposed exterior alteration, improvement and/or repair (use additional paper, if necessary).

Relocate inside meter to outside. Install meter 1' North of the South building wall on the East side of home.

DESCRIBE CONDITIONS THAT JUSTIFY THE PROPOSED CHANGES:

Unable to move further back due to current fuel line location. Meter manifold will have minimal visibility from the street due to existing shrubs.

For Further Assistance With Required Attachments, please visit www.a2gov.org/hdc



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION APPLICATION

FEE CHART

DESCRIPTION	
STAFF REVIEW FEES	
Application for Staff Approval	\$35.00
Work started without approvals	Additional \$50.00
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION FEES	
All other proposed work not listed below	\$100.00
Work started without approvals	Additional \$250.00
RESIDENTIAL – Single and 2-story Structure	
Addition: single story	\$300.00
Addition: taller than single story	\$550.00
New Structure - Accessory	\$100.00
New Structure – Principal	\$850.00
Replacement of single and 2-family window(s)	\$100 + \$25/window
COMMERCIAL – includes multi-family (3 or more unit) structures	
Additions	\$700.00
Replacement of multi-family and commercial window (s)	\$100 + \$50/window
Replacement of commercial storefront	\$250.00
DEMOLITION and RELOCATION	
Demolition of a contributing structure	\$1000.0
Demolition of a non-contributing structure	\$250.00
Relocation of a contributing structure	\$750.00
Relocation of a non-contributing structure	\$250.00

FOR COMMISSION REVIEWS:

- Application withdrawals made before public notice is published will qualify for a 50% refund of the application fee.
- Application withdrawals made after public notice is sent but before the public hearing will qualify for a 25% refund of the application fee.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

All HDC applications must be signed by the property owner and the applicant, if different, with the exception of staff approvals, which may be signed by only the applicant.

All completed HDC applications and their attachments may be submitted to Planning and Development Services by mail, in person (paper or digital), faxed, or via email to building@a2gov.org.

We accept CASH, CHECK, and all major credit cards. Checks should be made payable to "City of Ann Arbor"

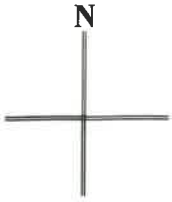
HDC applications that are incomplete or not submitted with the required documentation or payment will not be processed or approved.

APPLICATION EXPIRATION

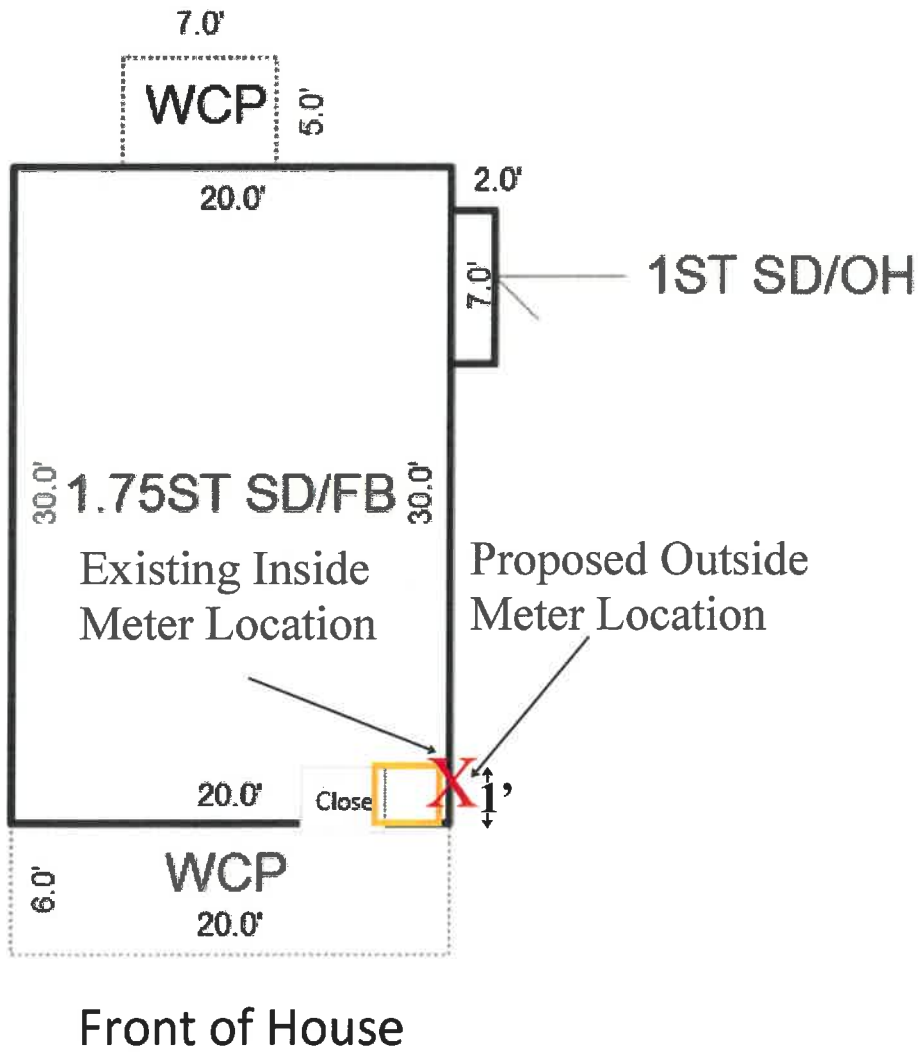
HDC applications expire three (3) years after the date of approval.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date of Hearing:		
Action	<input type="checkbox"/> HDC COA	<input type="checkbox"/> HDC Denial
	<input type="checkbox"/> HDC NTP	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff COA
Staff Signature		
Comments		
Fee:	\$ _____	
Payment Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Check: # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card	



108 Koch Ave









**METER
LOCATION**



POST
EXAMPLE