

Date Application Received: 1/4/17

Total Fees Due: \$ 405  
Date Paid: 12/9/16

## Application for Special Use Permit City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

[www.harrisonburgva.gov/zoning-applications](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/zoning-applications)

**Application Fee: \$375.00 plus \$30.00 per acre**

### Section 1: Property Owner's Information

Property Owner's Name: Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project

Street Address: 281 N. Main Street #1538 Email: robinlyttle@valleyblackheritage.org

City: Harrisonburg State: VA Zip: 22802

Telephone: Work: 540-908-1020 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile/Home: 540-908-1020

### Section 2: Owner's Representative Information

Owner's Representative: Robin Lyttle

Street Address: 281 N. Main Street #1538 Email: robinlyttle@valleyblackheritage.org

City: Harrisonburg State: VA Zip: 22802

Telephone: Work: 540-908-1020 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile/Home: 540-908-1020

### Section 3: Description of Property

Location (Street Address): 425 Hill Street

Tax Map Number Sheet: 33 Block: K Lot: 11 Lot Area: 4,364 sf

Existing Zoning Classification: R-2

Special Use being requested: Section 10-3-40 (5) of the R-2 District, as amended in separate Zoning Ordinance Amendment application

Provide a detailed description of the proposed (attach additional pages or separate letter if necessary):  
See attached

### Section 4: Certification

*I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate.*

Signature: Robin Lyttle  
Property Owner

### Section 5: Required Attachments

Survey of Property or Site Map

NOTE: If applying for a Wireless Telecommunications Facility allowed only by SUP, then also submit a wireless telecommunications facility application.

Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project  
281 N. Mason St. #1538  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
[www.valleyblackheritage.org](http://www.valleyblackheritage.org)

Ref: Reason for Application for Ordinance Amendment and Special Use Permit

Location: 425 Hill St., Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Date: Nov. 16, 2016

The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project is seeking ordinance amendments to Zoning Ordinance Section, 10-3-24, Definitions and Section 10-3-40, Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit in the R-2, Residential District. We are asking for amendments related to "community buildings". If the ordinance amendment is approved, we are seeking approval for a special use permit to allow "community buildings" at 425 Hill Street.

The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project started in 2012 and became a 501(c)3 organization in March of 2016. Our mission is to learn, share and illuminate the rich African-American history of the valley. We have monthly history programs at the Lucy F. Simms Center. Since our beginning, we have called Harrisonburg our home, as it has been such an important part of the African-American community.

Our research has included collaborative projects with James Madison University and the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of Coming to the Table. We are looking forward to new and continuing work with them and the Belle Grove Plantation and the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County School Systems.

In addition to our research and programs we help families with their genealogy. As a service, we provide free ancestry trees and help with DNA testing. This part of our work is done privately and is only made public with the permission of the participants. Since we started this part of our project we have helped over 30 valley families learn about their ancestors.

We have a small library of research and local author's books but most of our work is online. We are in need of a space to conduct our genealogy work and house our small library. The little house, 425 Hill Street, is the perfect location (next to the historic Newtown Cemetery). It was given to our non-profit for this proposed use. Due to its size we are able to support financially. It is also within walking distance of many of our advisory board members.

Several computers have been donated to us. With these we will be starting a teaching/mentor program. We will engage two – three local high school students, at a time, and teach them how to research online and how to use local resources. They will then be included in one of research projects so they can be a part of the history recovery, writing and publishing process.

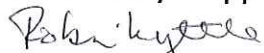
Our use of the house will be limited to daytime hours. We anticipate using the house three – four days a week for up to four hours a day. These hours will be used for our private genealogy sessions, our youth research programs and meetings with interested individuals.

This house is 576 square feet. It has several small rooms which will lend itself to our use. There is no space for gatherings. Most of our meetings will involve 2 – 5 people. Due to the size and small numbers of people using the house we therefore, believe that our non-profit will have not cause any noticeable increase in traffic or noise in the residential neighborhood.

We hope this heritage center brings together individuals to share and learn about this rich history for years to come. We help people connect to a past they had not explored. They share this with their loved ones and the effects are long reaching.

We are uncovering history that is not divisive but is inclusive. Encouraging our local school systems to include local black history into their curriculums. Identifying the men and women who have contributed so much to our community before and after the civil war. Helping young and old local authors who are writing about this history. All of this will help us all understand one another and make for a better tomorrow.

We hope you will agree to this amendment. Your support for our project and community is appreciated.



Robin Lyttle

Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project  
540 908-1020



**425 Hill Street**

