

Date Application Received: 1/4/17

Total Fees Due: \$ 187.50/375 1HD
Date Paid: 12/8/16

Application for Ordinance Amendment City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

www.harrisonburgva.gov/zoning-applications

Application Fee: \$375.00

Section 1. Application Information

Applicant's Name: Northeast Neighborhood Association

Street Address: 158 East Johnson Street Email: hburgnena@gmail.com

City: Harrisonburg State: VA Zip: 22802

Telephone: Work 540-434-3026 Fax _____ Mobile 540-434-3026

Applicant's Representative: Karen Thomas

Street Address: 158 East Johnson Street Email: taya_va@yahoo.com

City: Harrisonburg State: VA Zip: 22802

Telephone: Work _____ Fax _____ Mobile 540-421-5135

Section 2. Description of Amendment

Zoning Ordinance Section: Section 10-3-40 (5) of the R-2 District and Section 10-3-24 Definitions

Proposed Text (if additional space needed, attached as separate sheet)

See attached.

Section 3: Certification

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

Signature: 
Applicant Signature

Section 4. Required Attachments

Letter explaining reasons for seeking Ordinance Amendment



NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Northeast Neighborhood Association 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 192 Kelley Street for the following reasons:

Using this building will promote a sense of community as well as a sense of pride in the northeast community. Historically the residents of this home have provided an educational tenure and a sense of attainment and accomplishment despite the odds. Knowing the history of this home and the family that once lived there will prove to be a catalyst for the creation and attainment of community goals; further it will create a sense of belonging or attachment to a neighborhood and hence produce pride in the area and thus revitalize the struggling community. Studies suggest that whenever an uplifting force comes into a community, property value rises by 1/3- the acquisition of this home and the planned library/museum will prove to be an asset. Neighbors will come together who might not otherwise come into contact with each other thus promoting neighborhood cultural diversity. One final benefit is that this home with varying programs will reduce neighborhood crime and delinquency.

1.) Specific uses will not be permitted in the building:

- a. There will not be any overnight stays.

2.) Specific uses planned in the near and long term future:

Our plans include collecting artifacts, letters, papers, photographs, etc. from an earlier period in time up to the present to display. We plan to furnish the home as it was in the late 1800's. We plan an outreach for the community in which people can come to get information on various programs available to citizens of Harrisonburg. There will be a meeting room for specific events. The Northeast Neighborhood Association will have an office in the home. NENA has grown much over the last ten years and needs space for its files. There will be a community meeting room for gatherings; churches, non-profits, students studying about the community.

3.) Anticipated hours of operation:

The hours will be part-time in the beginning, ex :(10:00am – 2:00pm) and/or by appointment for meetings/events. In the future we anticipate Monday through Friday business hours ex: (8:00am – 5:00pm) and occasional evening events.

Date Application Received: 12/29/16

Total Fees Due: \$ 187.5 / 375 THD
Date Paid: 12/8/16
paid with previous appl.

Application for Ordinance Amendment City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

www.harrisonburgva.gov/zoning-applications

Application Fee: \$375.00

Section 1. Application Information

Applicant's Name: Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project
Street Address: 281 N Mason St #1538 Email: robinlyttle@valleyblackheritage.org
City: Harrisonburg State: VA Zip: 22802
Telephone: Work 540-908-1020 Fax _____ Mobile 540-908-1020

Applicant's Representative: Robin Lyttle
Street Address: 281 N Mason St #1538 Email: _____
City: Harrisonburg State: VA Zip: 22802
Telephone: Work 540-908-1020 Fax _____ Mobile 540-908-1020

Section 2. Description of Amendment

Zoning Ordinance Section: Section 10-3-40 (5) of the R-2 District and Section 10-3-24 Definitions
Proposed Text (if additional space needed, attached as separate sheet)
See attached.

Section 3: Certification

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

Signature: *Robin Lyttle*
Applicant Signature

Section 4. Required Attachments

Letter explaining reasons for seeking Ordinance Amendment

Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project
281 N. Mason St. #1538
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
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.

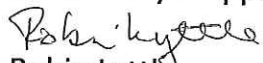
Our use of the house will be limited to daytime hours. We anticipate using the house three – four days a week for up to four hours a day. These hours will be used for our private genealogy sessions, our youth research programs and meetings with interested individuals.

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

Attachment to Application

Proposed text:

Section 10-3-24, Definitions, is amended as shown:

Building, community: A building for social, educational, cultural, and recreational activities for a neighborhood or community, provided any such use is not operated for commercial gain.

Section 10-3-40 (5), Uses permitted only by special use permit,

(5) ~~Community buildings and facilities used for recreational, social educational and cultural activities which are intended to benefit the residents of the subdivision.~~