

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** HALRB  
**FROM:** Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Planner  
**DATE:** October 11, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** 1005 South Quinn St., CoA 21-26, Harry Gray House Historic District

**Background Information**

Built in the Italianate style in 1881, the Harry Gray House is a freestanding rowhouse constructed of five-course American-bond brick with a rectangular footprint. It is two stories tall, has a solid brick foundation, a standing-seam metal shallow-pitched shed roof, and features 2/2 wood windows, two interior-end brick chimneys, and a full-width one-story porch. Located in Gray's subdivision of the Arlington View neighborhood, the house sits on a sloping lot with a grassy yard, brick driveway, and landscaping. The house has had minor exterior alterations since its construction.

A unique Arlington property, the Harry Gray House was built by formerly enslaved man Harry W. Gray. It is a rare example of the brick rowhouse in the Italianate style and is the only surviving building of its type in Arlington. The Harry Gray House represents the monumental shift from slavery to middle-class citizenship for African Americans in the decades following the Civil War.

**Proposal**

The applicants recently bought the property and are applying to make minor landscaping changes. They are requesting to install flagstone stepping-stones along the east side of the property with ground cover in between.

**DRC Review**

The Design Review Committee (DRC) reviewed this application at its October 6, 2021, virtual meeting and found that the proposed pavers were appropriate for the property. The DRC recommended that this application be placed on the consent agenda for the October 20, 2021, HALRB hearing.

**Recommendation**

The Historic Preservation Program staff recommends approval of the application as the pavers will increase the usability of the yard space. Furthermore, the landscaping will not affect the integrity of the historic house and will complement the cultural landscape. Given that this Local Historic District does not have its own design guidelines, the proposal meets the intent of Standards #9 and #10 of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*:

Standard #9: New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

Standard #10: New additions and adjacent or related new construction will 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.