



Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission



Opinion 2011-3

Mr. John Hostetler & Ms. Beth Morley
309 Stockton Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

Dear Mr. Hostetler & Ms. Morley,

Thank you for contacting the Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission, (HHPC) about your plans to replace your siding and insulate your house. This is a large project that will disrupt your lives for a time, and we respect your dedication to your historic house. As per your email, the following work will take place:

"We are taking off the horrible aluminum siding and removing the underlying clapboard. The house will be insulated then we are putting on James Hardie [cement siding] plank to replace and look like the old clapboard with the same reveal and surface. The house will actually look like it did upon construction in 1889. No change in trim unless we uncover some rot, in which case we will replace with like materials. The color, although I know this is irrelevant is going to be iron grey, (slate grey). trim will be a muted color, white or the like.

While our house is not an historic landmark, and thus permits can be issued without an HPC opinion on our choice of siding, my wife and I want you guys to know that we have every intention of bringing the house back to its original glory outside of wasting money for inefficient siding, i.e. painting old wood, alum or vinyl. The Hardie plank will look like the original clapboard and be energy efficient and allow a tax break from the feds for improving efficiency.

Bottom line, this is a private property, owned by conscientious people aware of the historic nature of the district. The HPC cannot stop any renovation, but you ask anyone doing such to go to the HPC and ask for an opinion [to help educate all involved parties]."

Your application was discussed at our May 19, 2011 meeting with the following commissioners: Brown, Buriak, Carney, Ely, Keith, Pratt and Smith. Our opinion is that this work will be a welcome improvement to the Stockton Street Historic District. Please take pictures before, during and after. We would like to showcase the positives of the Opinion process.

Sincerely,

Richard Harlan Pratt, AIA
Chairman - HHPC

cc:

HHPC
George Chin – Hightstown Building Department

148 North Main Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520

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