

Statement of Justification

For a porch to be added to the Old Schoolhouse in Lincoln Va.

The building in question is one of the oldest African American landmarks in the county and was featured on the cover of the recent survey of African American structures in Loudoun. That picture was taken in the 1930s when the building had fallen into disrepair. Built originally in or about 1862 by the local Quakers as a school for freed slaves, it had been used as a school for many years before it ceased to function as a school. Bought by the Gregg family, it was modernized into a residence after WW II with three bedrooms upstairs, one and a half baths, and all electric heating. The main room downstairs was divided by creating a study out of one quarter of the space leaving an L shape living and dining area. (See plat). It is primarily stone but vinyl siding covers the upper third. I do not know why. There was a fire there in the 1940s, and the siding may have been added then.

In 2006, I bought the place from the family of Sue and Holmes Gregg with the expectation that the Lincoln Preservation Committee, which had recently acquired the old Methodist church up the hill, would purchase it from me in a year when a grant they were expecting came through. It never came through, and then the housing market collapsed. I have been renting it out since then, but the rent does not cover the mortgage and the value has dropped well below what I paid for it. I have to sell it. Adding a porch with access from the main room will give the house at least a feeling of having more livable space, so that it will be closer to today's expectations and hence more salable.

As you can see from the drawing I had done, the porch will be similar to other such porches on 19th century homes in Lincoln as pictured in the Historical Committee's guidelines for the Goose Creek district. It will have a metal seamed roof to match the one on the house. It will be made out of whatever type of wood the historical committee deems appropriate. It will be as simple and straightforward as a Quaker school should be. There is plenty of land on that side of the house with a gentle slope down to a babbling creek. My hope is that this will enhance my chances of selling the building and not losing too much money. Keeping this house as a residence is the best way to protect it and preserve it. So despite the fact that this will change the outside of the building somewhat, it is in the best interest of its long term preservation.

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