

Application for Special Valuation

STAFF REPORT OF FINDINGS

Historic Name: Fred and Winifred Wright House & Garage
Property Address: 507 W 14th Avenue
Applicant: Donna Punihaole
Date: Application submitted July of 2024

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT: The Fred and Winifred Wright House & Garage is pending listing on the Spokane Register (should be listed by City Council on 9/23/24) and does have a Management Agreement that covers the exterior of the house and garage.

DESCRIPTION OF REHABILITATION: The Wright House & Garage has undergone work to the roof and roof rafters/overhang, exterior paint, and interior improvements.

Exterior:

- Roof work that included extending and exposing the roof overhang to be more in line with what the house originally had before an owner cut back all of the home's eaves and added boxed soffits in the late 1940s. The garage roof had not been altered and was used as a model for the work on the main house.
- New roofing materials on both the house and garage.
- New paint on the house and garage.

Interior:

- Rehabilitation of the main floor bathroom including new tile, flooring, and fixtures.
- New kitchen faucet.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Authority to review the Special Valuation application: Under Ordinance No. C-31094, 6.05.100 (SMC 17D.100.310) the Landmarks Commission has the authority to "serve as the local review board for special valuation of historic property in Spokane" and to "approve or deny applications for special valuation."

Does the application meet the Special Valuation criteria set forth in RCW 84.26?

- The property must "be a historic property" and "fall within a class of historic property determined eligible for special valuation by the local legislative authority." RCW 84.26.030

Listed on Spokane Register?

The Fred and Winifred Wright House & Garage will be listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places on September 23, 2024.

YES

NO

- The property must “be rehabilitated at a cost which meets the definition set forth in RCW 84.26.020(2) (“at least 25% of the assessed valuation of the property, exclusive of the assessed value attributable to the land, prior to rehabilitation”) within twenty-four months prior to the application for special valuation.”

Rehab cost over 25% of the assessed valuation?

YES

NO

Rehab work within 24 months prior to application?

YES

NO

- The property must be protected by an agreement between the owner and the local review board as described in RCW 84.26.050(2).

Property owners entered into Management Agreement?

Yes

YES

NO

- The rehab work must meet the standards, “not be altered in a way which adversely affects those elements which qualify it as historically significant” RCW 84.26.050. The work must meet rehabilitation guidelines, as defined in WAC 254-20-030(10) as “the process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its architectural and cultural values.”

Certificates of Appropriateness issued for exterior work?

YES

NO

The Wright House was not listed on the Spokane Register at the time of the exterior work and therefore did not require a Certificate of Appropriateness.

- The application must be complete, as defined by WAC 254-20-090 (4) “applications shall include a legal description of the historic property. The owner shall also provide comprehensive exterior and interior photographs of the historic property before and after rehabilitation, architectural plans or other legible drawings depicting the completed rehabilitation work, and a notarized affidavit attesting to the actual cost of the rehabilitation work completed prior to the date of application and the period of time during which the work was performed.”

Completed application?

YES

NO

- The rehab costs must result from one or more of the following (WAC 254-20-030):
 - Improvements to an existing building located on or within the perimeters of the original structure;
 - Improvements outside of, but directly attached to the original structure which are necessary to make the building fully useable (not including rentable/habitable floor space attributable to new construction);
 - Architectural and engineering services attributable to the design of the improvements;
 - “qualified rehabilitation expenditures” as defined by the federal historic preservation investment tax credit.

As noted in “*Tax Aspects of Historic Preservation: Frequently Asked Questions & Answers*” (Mark Primoli, Internal Revenue Service), examples of expenses that do not qualify for the rehabilitation tax credit are acquisition costs, appliances, cabinets, carpeting (if tacked in place and not glued), decks (if not part of original building), demolition costs (removal of a building on property site),

enlargement costs (increase in total volume), fencing, feasibility studies, financing fees, furniture, landscaping, leasing expenses, moving (buildings) costs (if part of acquisition), outdoor lighting remote from building, parking lot, paving, planters, porches and porticos (not part of original building), retaining walls, sidewalks, signage, storm sewer construction costs, window treatments.”

Claimed expenses are allowable? Exception noted below: YES NO

Claimed expenses are allowable in the amount of \$120,049. Application was made in July of 2024, and value of the house at the beginning of the project (2022) was \$260,000.

REPORTS

Staff Report: The submitted application is complete.

Preservation Officer Review?	yes	Date:	9/3/2024
Special Valuation Committee Site Visit?	yes	Site Visit:	9/9/2024
Landmarks Commission Review?	pending	Meeting Date:	9/18/2024