

September 5, 2022

RE: MHRB 2022-0001

Mendocino County

SEP 08 2022

Planning & Building Services

MHRB Members,

The shed you are reviewing stands on a developed property dating back to 1885, and is obviously an historic building, probably used as a workshop or a barn. These types of structures were traditionally made of wood and were unpainted.

Such outbuildings contribute to the character of the Historic District because they help tell a story about how people lived in Mendocino in the past and what happened on the land surrounding the residence.

Can this shed be preserved? Can some of its original material be saved and utilized for the project? These are questions that merit Review Board deliberation.

It is understandable that Ms. Shepard wishes to use the building for a new purpose. "Adaptive Re-use" is an acceptable historic preservation method. Her plan to keep the original shape and roofline of the old building supports this practice, but painting it does not.

Although painting this structure to match the residence would be pretty, it would be a loss of historic character to do so. It would further gentrify the town. Many past MHRB permits for outbuildings have required natural redwood siding with applied staining or sealant. (One example is currently being constructed on William Street.) An unpainted structure would be the best choice for preserving the character of the Town, one of your primary functions.

Thank you for your consideration and for your volunteer service.

Kathleen Cameron