

Docket Item #5
BAR CASE #2003-0222

BAR Meeting
October 1, 2003

ISSUE: ATM

APPLICANT: Virginia Commerce Bank

LOCATION: 506 King Street

ZONE: CD/Commercial

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed new ATM and associated signage with either black and white option.

DISCUSSION:

Applicant s Description of the Undertaking:

Replace existing ATM with one that meets the historical district maximum size of 8 square feet. (Exterior)

Issue:

The applicant is requesting a certificate of appropriateness for the installation of a new ATM machine and associated signage in the east wall of the courtyard of the Courthouse Square building at 506 King Street. The new machine will replace an existing machine in the same location and is being installed to comply with the zoning ordinance requirements for ATMs within the historic districts (Section 7-1800). The proposed NCR 5685 machine will have an exterior dimension of 32.6 inches wide by 27.7 inches tall for a total of 6.27 square feet. There will be no surround. A bank identification sign will be located along the top of the machine. The sign will be 32.6 inches wide and 10.5 inches tall. It will be of aluminum with vinyl letters reading, Virginia Commerce Bank . Under the lettering will be a line of logos. The sign will either have either a black background with white lettering or a white background with black lettering. The applicant has no preference as to which option is used. The logos will be in gray scale, as is required by the zoning ordinance. The sign will not be lit, nor is any new area lighting included in the application.

As the proposed new ATM is considerably smaller than the existing ATM, the wall around the new ATM will be infilled with brickwork to match the surrounding wall. The deposit drop box located next to the existing ATM will remain.

History and Analysis:

The five story brick Colonial Revival office building, known as Courthouse Square, was constructed in 1981.

The Board approved the existing ATM along with signage and alterations in 1999 (BAR Case #99-0070, 6/2/1999). Over the years, the Board has approved numerous signs for the Courthouse Square building: signage for Songbird Hearing Health at 526 King Street on June 18, 2003 (BAR Case #2003-0117); a sign package for La Madeleine on March 2, 1994 (BAR Case #94-139) and Starbucks on February 3, 1993 (BAR Case #92-215).

The ATM replacement complies with the zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff believes the proposed new ATM is appropriate. In every respect, it meets the new zoning ordinance requirements enacted in 2002. It is smaller and less obtrusive than the existing machine. The proposed black and white and gray scale sign is as unobtrusive as possible. Staff inquired whether the applicant would like a green and white sign to match the existing Virginia

Commerce sign over the door to the bank, facing King Street. However, the applicant feels that the proposed black and white color scheme will coordinate better with the required gray scale logos. Staff has no preference as to black on white or white on black. To conclude, Staff recommends approval of the proposed new ATM and associated signage with either black and white option.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F - finding

Code Enforcement:

- C-1 New construction must comply with the current edition of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).
- C-2 Alterations to the existing structure must comply with the current edition of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).
- C-3 Construction permits are required for this project. Plans shall accompany the permit application that fully detail the construction as well as layouts and schematics of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

Office of Historic Alexandria:

No Comment.