

Docket Item # 7  
BAR CASE #2003-0306

BAR Meeting  
January 7, 2003

**ISSUE:** Awnings & Signage  
**APPLICANT:** Charles Erwin/Jack Stone Sign Co.  
**LOCATION:** 325 South Washington Street  
**ZONE:** CD/Commercial

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### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the replacement awnings and the wall sign with the condition that the wall sign be located next to the North Washington Street entrance.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Applicant's Description of the Undertaking:

“Recover (3) existing awnings and install Riggs graphics. Install (1) non-illuminated front wall sign. (1) non-illuminated projecting sign on existing post.”

#### Issue:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for new signage for Riggs Bank at 325 South Washington Street.

#### **Awnings**

Replacement awnings are proposed for both the South Washington Street (2) as well as the Wolfe Street (1) elevations of the building. The awnings will be blue canvas with the eagle logo and the name of the bank, Riggs, in 7 1/2" high white letters.

#### **Wall sign**

The applicant is proposing to install a 17" by 24 1/2" aluminum wall sign on the northern corner of the South Washington Street elevation. The sign will be located in the location of a former night deposit box. The raised eagle logo and lettering will be surface mounted to the sign.

#### History and Analysis:

325 South Washington Street was constructed in 1953 as the Nancye Fleming Dress Shop and was designed by Joseph Saunders. In 1971, the Board approved a sign for Nancye Fleming (4/21/71). At the public hearing of October 6, 1999, the Board approved demolition of portions of the buildings as well as alterations for conversion of the building to Wachovia Bank (BAR Case #99-0175). Also in 1999, the Board approved signs for Wachovia (BAR 99-0197, 11/17/99).

Per the applicant, the subject building has a width of 43.5 feet facing South Washington Street and 54.9 feet facing Wolfe Street. Therefore, the maximum sign area allowed is 43.5 square feet and 54.9 square feet respectively.

The applicant has proposed a new 24" by 17" sign to replace an existing sign at the northern corner of the North Washington Street elevation. However, Staff notes that this location was previously used as a night deposit box for Wachovia, not a sign. Staff believes that the proposed sign would be more appropriate if located next to the bank entrance. Staff notes that the Board approved a similar sized bronze plaque for Wachovia next to the North Washington Street entrance (BAR 99-197, 11/17/99).

A freestanding sign is proposed for the parking lot entrance on Wolfe Street, reading “Riggs, Customer Parking Only.” However, the proposed free standing sign facing Wolfe Street is

within 200 feet of Washington Street and is prohibited under section 9-302(F) of the zoning ordinance.

Staff has no objection to the replacement awnings. Therefore Staff recommends approval of the replacement awnings and the wall sign with the condition that the wall sign be located next to the North Washington Street entrance.

## CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

### Code Enforcement:

- C-1 Fixed awnings must be designed and constructed to withstand wind or other lateral loads and live loads required by the USBC. Structural members must be protected to prevent deterioration (USBC).
- C-2 Construction permits are required for the proposed project.
- C-3 Projecting, hanging signs must comply with USBC [H103-H107, H112] for type of materials, maximum projection, vertical clearance below all parts of the sign, and additional loads.

### Office of Historic Alexandria:

“No comment.”