

Docket Item #8  
BAR Case #2004-0008

BAR Meeting  
February 4, 2004

**ISSUE:** Rebuild rear masonry wall

**APPLICANT:** Dr. Lawrence Singer

**LOCATION:** 809 Cameron Street

**ZONE:** CD/Commercial

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application with the following conditions:

1. That the existing bricks be reused to the extent possible;
2. Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-838-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds; and,
3. The above statement must appear in the General Notes of the site plan so that on-site contractors are aware of the requirement.

NOTE:

Docket item #7 must be approved before this item can be considered.

DISCUSSION:

Applicant's Description of the Undertaking:

"The structural instability of the Northernmost (rear) wall requires that it be demolished & rebuilt."

Issue:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of appropriateness to rebuild the existing rear wall at 809 Cameron Street.

History and Analysis:

The Victorian townhouse now known as 809 Cameron Street was built as two separate but attached houses (809 & 807 Cameron Street) between 1877 and 1885, when the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps first documented this area. Between 1896 and 1902, a third floor addition was added to the westernmost building (809 Cameron Street).

Recently the Board approved alterations to the building including a third story addition to the east front of the building and alterations to the front, rear and sides of the building (BAR Case #2003-0234/235, 12/3/03). The recent approval included a two story rear porch which will obscure most of the rear ell.

The proposed alterations comply with zoning ordinance requirements.

The rear ell has been subject to numerous alterations of the fenestration over the years while still retaining integrity in terms of its basic massing. Staff believes that the reconstruction of the rear wall is acceptable in this case since the massing will not be altered.

Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that the existing brick be reused to the extent possible. Staff also notes the comments of Alexandria Archaeology and includes them as a condition of the approval.

## 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.
- C-4 Permission from adjacent property owners is required if access to the adjacent properties is required to complete the proposed construction. Otherwise, a plan shall be submitted to demonstrate the construction techniques utilized to keep construction solely on the referenced property.

### Historic Alexandria:

1. Save & re-use brick if possible?
2. Structural studies to show demolition is necessary?

### Alexandria Archaeology:

- F-1 Tax records indicate that two free African American households were present on this street face in 1850, but the exact addresses are not known. The Sanborn insurance map shows a house present on the lot by 1885. The property therefore has the potential to yield archaeological resources which could provide insight into domestic activities, perhaps relating to free blacks, in the nineteenth century.
- R-1 Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-838-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds.
- R-2 The above statement must appear in the General Notes of the site plan so that on-site contractors are aware of the requirement.