

Docket Item #7
BAR CASE# 2004-0137

BAR Meeting
July 21, 2004

ISSUE: Gate
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond
LOCATION: 408 Duke Street
ZONE: RM\Residential

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for new gate to be installed at the alley at the rear of the existing house at 408 Duke Street. The gate will be constructed of wood with a solid lower section and wood pickets above and attached to brick piers. The gate will be approximately 12' in width and no more than 6' in height and has a center swag. The gate will be painted white.

II. HISTORY:

408 Duke Street is a freestanding, three and a half story, three bay brick residence. It is one of the most important buildings in the Old and Historic Alexandria District for its associative values with prominent citizens in Alexandria history. The house built by Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick in 1795. Dr. Dick was George Washington's personal physician and attended him at the time of his death in 1799. The house was acquired by Kate Waller Barrett in 1896 and remained in her family until 1969. The Queen Street Library was named in honor of Kate Waller Barrett. She was the co-founder of the Florence Crittenden Homes and served as the President of the American Legion Auxiliary. She was also the first woman to be honored by lowering the flag at the United States Capitol to half staff at the time of her death in 1925.

The building was constructed as a one story brick residence in 1795 and was enlarged to its present height of three stories in 1826. It is a simple, well proportioned residence for which the windows are the central character defining feature.

Substantial additions to the east side and rear elevations were added by the Barretts in the late 19th century. The present configuration of the building is the result of demolition work carried out by a previous owner of the building since the time of his purchase of the structure in 1969.

In 2002 the Board approved the conversion of an existing window on the east side of the house into a new entryway to permit access to the house directly from the street (BAR Case #2002-0181, 7/17/02).

III. ANALYSIS:

Proposed gates comply with zoning ordinance requirements.

The gate will be minimally visible from the public right-of-way along the 300 block of South Pitt Street. The gates are very similar to those approved by the Board for the side of the property at 213 South Pitt Street in 2001 (BAR Case #2002-205, 9/5/01). Staff believes that the gate is appropriate and in keeping with the character of the area and the existing house.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the gate as submitted.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

C-1 Construction permits may be required for the proposed project. The applicant shall submit a set of plans to Code Enforcement for review prior to commencing any construction. The information and detail of the project submitted will determine whether a permit is required

Office of Historic Alexandria:

No comment.