

Docket Item #7
BAR CASE #2004-0013

BAR Meeting
October 20, 2004

ISSUE: After-the-fact replacement door

APPLICANT: David & Heather Bowser

LOCATION: 1302 Michigan Avenue

ZONE: RB/Residential

BOARD ACTION, FEBRUARY 18, 2004: On a motion by Dr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Smeallie the Board deferred the application for restudy. The vote on the motion was 5-1 (Mr. Keleher was opposed).

REASON: The Board agreed with the Staff analysis. Members believed that the door was attractive but that it was not appropriate for this style of house. The Board noted that most of the houses in the subdivision had retained their original doors.

SPEAKER: David Bowser, homeowner, spoke in support

UPDATE:

No changes have been made to this application since the February 18, 2004 hearing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends deferral of the application for restudy.

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the after-the-fact installation of a replacement door at 1302 Michigan Avenue. The replacement door has a single pane of decorative glass.

II. HISTORY:

1302 Michigan Avenue is a stone and brick residential rowhouse dating from circa 1939. This area of Michigan Avenue was included within the original boundaries of the 1946 historic district in order to protect the George Washington Memorial Parkway. However, this row of houses is currently visually screened from the Parkway by the Mason Hall Apartments on West Abingdon Drive which were constructed in 1951.

III. ANALYSIS:

Exterior doors and storm doors are prominent features of a building. The majority of the houses in this development have retained their original doors. Staff does not believe that the proposed decorative door is an appropriate style for the neighborhood or the historic district.

The applicant has indicated that a new stained glass storm door is also proposed to be installed. The *Design Guidelines* state that storm doors should be plain and not obscure historic doors (Doors -Page 1). A stained glass storm door is clearly inappropriate in the historic district and will obscure views to the door beyond.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends deferral of the application for restudy.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

No comments.

Office of Historic Alexandria:

“No comment”