

Docket Item #11  
BAR CASE #2005-0063

BAR Meeting  
April 6, 2005

**ISSUE:** Alterations

**APPLICANT:** Robert Bentley Adams & Assoc.

**LOCATION:** 711 South Fairfax Street

**ZONE:** RM/Residential

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends deferral for restudy.

**I. ISSUE:**

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a change out of the existing front doorway surround at the house at 711 South Fairfax Street. The current surround is a Colonial Revival fanlight style and is proposed to be changed to an Italianate style surround with a six panel wood door, bracketed cornice, corbels and chamfered pilasters. The existing six panel, wood front door will remain. No colors have been specified.

**II. HISTORY:**

The two story, frame house at 711 South Fairfax Street was constructed ca. 1900. It has been heavily Colonialized with wood clapboard, six-over-six wood windows, six panel door and the door surround.

**III. ANALYSIS:**

The proposed alteration complies with the zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff is somewhat conflicted by this application. On the one hand, a Victorian style door surround is appropriate to the original era of construction of the house and the proposed surround is attractive. On the other hand, the exterior features of the house have been so heavily modified that it has assumed an entirely different identity - that of a center hall, five bay Colonial style house, a style not found in the historic architecture of Alexandria. Thus, grafting a relatively elaborate Victorian era style door surround onto the house creates an anomalous accumulation of architectural parts. One could argue, however, that the different architectural eras represented on the facade represent the differing changes in architectural fashions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nevertheless, Staff believes that the application should be deferred for restudy for a new surround that is more harmonious with the Colonial appearance of the rest of the house, as it exists today.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Therefore, Staff recommends deferral of the application for restudy.

## CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

### Code Enforcement:

C-1 A construction permit is required for the proposed project.

### Historic Alexandria:

What is the source for the historically replicated wood corbel, and door surround? Alexandria origin, period?