

Docket Item #10  
BAR CASE #2006-0010

BAR Meeting  
February 1, 2006

**ISSUE:** Awning and alterations

**APPLICANT:** Michael Ross

**LOCATION:** 1003 Cameron Street

**ZONE:** KR/King Street Urban Retail

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends:

1. Approval of the gold leafing of sections of the railing; and,
2. Deferral of the awnings to consider alternative methods of identification.

### **I. ISSUE:**

1003 King Street is one of a row of three recently renovated rowhouses. All three properties (1001, 1003 and 1005 King Street) are before the Board for similar alterations (see docket #s 9 & 11).

At 1003 King Street, the applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following:

#### Awning

The applicant is proposing the installation of an awning or canopy at the front entrance facing King Street. The shed style awning will be of a maroon colored canvas type material. It will be 5'9-3/4" wide and 2' high, will project 3'4" and will have a 1' valance. It will have the street number in 8" tall white lettering on the valance.

#### Alterations

The applicant proposes to highlight in gold leaf the balls at the top of the posts and the small, crown-shaped pieces at the top and bottom of each of the star-shaped forms in the railings at the front steps.

These railings were installed as part of the recent renovation of the building.

### **II. HISTORY:**

1003 King Street is a series of three buildings that are of contiguous construction, designed as a single composition. They reflect Second Empire influences and were constructed between 1902 and 1907. The buildings were originally constructed as separate residential dwellings. They were consolidated into one building in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and until recently served as a Second Genesis drug rehabilitation facility. The three buildings were renovated in 2004, restored to their original configurations as three separate structures and converted to commercial use. The Board approved the demolition and alterations for this project in 2004 (BAR Case #2004-0009, 2/18/2004, & BAR Case #2004-0010, 3/3/2004).

### **III. ANALYSIS:**

The proposed awnings comply with the zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff has reservations about the proposed gold leafing of portions of the railings, believing that it is an overly ornate treatment for a building of this type. While Staff believes the existing all over black finish of the metal railings is appropriate to the building and would prefer that portions of the railings *not* be gold leafed, Staff will not object to the proposed alteration as the gold leafing is confined to small sections of the railings and is a reversible treatment. Staff does object to the awning. Staff believes the awning is out of character with the historic building and obscures significant architectural elements such as the door and window headers. According to the *Design*

*Guidelines:* “[a]wnings should not overwhelm or obscure the architecture and decorative features of historic buildings.” (Awnings - Page 3) Staff recommends that the awnings be eliminated. If desired, the address numerals could be applied in gold leaf to the transoms over the doors.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends:

1. Approval of the gold leafing of sections of the railing; and,
2. Deferral of the awnings to consider alternative methods of identification.

## CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

### Code Enforcement:

- C-1 A construction permit is required for this project.
- C-2 Awnings must comply with all applicable requirements of USBC 3105 and 3202. Fixed awnings must have a minimum 7 foot clearance form a sidewalk to the lowest part of the framework.
- C-3 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 3105.2).

### Historic Alexandria:

- F-1 The awning detracts from architectural details and obscures architectural details above the transom and lintel over adjacent window. The railing details should not be gold leafed.