

Docket Item #3  
BAR CASE #2006-0084

BAR Meeting  
July 5, 2006

**ISSUE:** Alterations and accessibility modifications

**APPLICANT:** Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association by Ray Lewis, agent

**LOCATION:** 201 Prince Street

**ZONE:** RM/Residential

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

**BOARD ACTION, JUNE 21, 2006:** On a motion by Dr. Fitzgerald, seconded Mr. Keleher the Board approved the application with the following conditions:

1. Approval of the accessibility ramp;
2. Approval of the replacement transom with the conditions that the new muntin profile match that of the first floor windows flanking the front entryway and that, the existing glass in the transom be retained and maintained on site; and,
3. Approval of replacement stone pavers in the portico with the condition that the replacement stone be approved by the Historic Alexandria Restoration and Historic Preservation Commission prior to installation.

And deferred the selection of stone replacement pavers for addition information. The vote on the motion was 4-0.

**REASON:** The Board agreed with the Staff analysis and believed that additional information was needed on the replacement stone pavers.

**SPEAKERS:** Ray Lewis, project architect, spoke in support  
\_\_\_\_\_ Charles Trozzo, Chairman, Alexandria Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission, spoke in support  
Murney Keleher, President, Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, spoke in support  
Harry Mahon, First Vice-President, Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, spoke in support

**BOARD ACTION, MAY 17, 2006:** Deferred by Staff prior to the public hearing pending approval of the Alexandria Historic Restoration and Preservation Commission.

(Insert sketch here)

Update: At the last public hearing the Board approved the application for the alterations to the Athenaeum with the exception of the material for the new stone pavers under the portico. The applicant has done so.

**I. ISSUE:**

The Board instructed the applicant to investigate the possibility that the National Park Service has a cache of Seneca stone at Harper's Ferry National Historical Park that could be used for the new pavers. The applicant has contacted the Park and has ascertained that such a cache of stone does not exist, but indeed that the Park itself is seeking additional sources of Seneca stone. The applicant therefore wishes to utilize the reddish sandstone that is available from a quarry in Ohio that was discussed at the last public hearing for the replacement pavers.

**II. HISTORY:**

The Athenaeum was built c. 1851-52, and originally housed the Old Dominion Bank. The building is architecturally significant, as one of the few examples of the Greek Revival style in this district. The building was acquired by the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Commission in 1964.

The Historic Alexandria Restoration and Historic Preservation Commission (HARHPC) holds an open space and facade easement on this property.

**III. ANALYSIS:**

Staff has no objections to the proposed replacement stone for the pavers.

The stone is acceptable to the Historic Alexandria Restoration and Historic Preservation Commission.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

**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 Required exits and facilities shall be accessible for persons with disabilities.

Historic Alexandria

Originally the Old Dominion Bank built 1851-1852. Proposed plans for ADA accessibility seem appropriate. Consult with Archaeology as this is a site with potential to yield significant historical information.