

Docket Item #14
BAR CASE #2006-0137

BAR Meeting
July 19, 2006

ISSUE: Alterations

APPLICANT: Ann Korky by Dominion Design Associates

LOCATION: 508 Gibbon Street

ZONE: RM/Residential

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval with the following conditions:

1. That the historic wood siding be retained to the greatest extent possible, using the proposed German yellow pine siding for repairs or in-kind replacement as needed; and
2. That the new shutters on the front elevation be wood, operable, and sized to fit the windows.

(Insert sketch here)

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations, including removing the existing Masonite siding and replacing with new German siding in yellow pine wood where needed on the side and front of the house, adding operable shutters, replacing the front door with a new six panel wood door, restoring a transom over the front door, and matching the molding around the front door to original cornice work.

Exterior work is proposed for both 508 and 510 Gibbon Streets, which are connected rowhouses.

II. HISTORY:

508 Gibbon Street is a two-story semi-detached rowhouse. 508 Gibbon Street first appears on the 1891 Sanborn map but not on the 1885 map.

The Board approved the application of bricktex siding to both 508 and 510 Gibbon Street in 1952. Masonite siding was approved by the Board in 1975. Other Board approvals include rear additions for both 508 and 510 Gibbon Street also in 1975, and the enclosing of a balcony in 1979.

Staff could not locate any further approvals by the Board for 510 Gibbon Street.

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed alterations (siding, shutters, front door moldings, cornice) comply with the zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff met with the applicant on site to look at the condition of the wood siding underneath the Masonite and bricktex once sections had been removed. In staff's opinion, the historic wood siding appeared to be in good condition. Staff would recommend that the existing historic wood siding be retained to the greatest extent possible and that the proposed new German yellow pine siding be used for repairs and in-kind replacement where needed.

Staff commends the applicant for retaining features such as the existing cornice, the existing stoop, and the stairs and handrails. In staff's opinion, the new casings around the windows and the new door surround are appropriate to the style and era of the house, and compliment the existing cornice. The proposed new six panel door and glass transom are also appropriate. Once the Masonite was removed, the ghost of a transom over the door was revealed.

However, staff is concerned about the proposed new wood shutters. From the submitted elevations, the new shutters appear to be larger than the windows. Staff recommends that the new shutters be wood, operable, and sized to fit the existing windows. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the application with the following conditions:

1. That the historic wood siding be retained to the greatest extent possible, using the proposed German yellow pine siding for repairs or in-kind replacement as needed; and
2. That the new shutters on the front elevation be wood, operable, and sized to fit the windows.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval with the following conditions:

1. That the historic wood siding be retained to the greatest extent possible, using the proposed German yellow pine siding for repairs or in-kind replacement as needed; and
2. That the new shutters on the front elevation be wood, operable, and sized to fit the windows.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

No comments.

Historic Alexandria:

The request seems appropriate except for the shutters which are too wide for the house, especially in the upper stories.