

Docket Item #4
BAR CASE #2006-0225

BAR Meeting
October 18, 2006

ISSUE: Gate
APPLICANT: Janice Cronin
LOCATION: 623 South Fairfax Street
ZONE: RM/Residential

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

(Insert sketch here)

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new front yard gate to be constructed with brick piers and iron pickets to match the existing fence. The proposed gate will extend across the existing driveway at the north end of the lot for the freestanding residential house at 623 South Fairfax and will be approximately 4'4" in height. The existing brick piers will be painted white to match the proposed color of the rehabilitated house.

II. HISTORY:

623 South Fairfax Street is a freestanding two and a half story Greek Revival style frame residence which dates from the mid-19th century according to Ethelyn Cox in *Alexandria Street by Street* (p.51). The enclosed porch at the south west corner is an early 20th century addition.

Last year the Board approved alterations and an addition to the house (BAR 2005-0085, 5/4/05).

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed gate is higher than allowed by the zoning ordinance for front yard fences. However, the zoning ordinance allows the Board to waive the height of fences in required yards if it deems the fence architecturally appropriate.

In this instance the proposed gate matches in design and height the existing iron fence with brick piers and Staff has no objection to the continuation of the fence design. Similarly, Staff has no objection to the painting of the brick piers to match the color of the house. The brick work of the current fence is a late 20th century running bond and Staff believes that painting of the brick piers will serve to tie the design of the fence and house together.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

No comments.

Historic Alexandria:

No comments were received.