

Docket Item # 3
BAR CASE # 2006-0284

BAR Meeting
January 3, 2007

ISSUE: Alterations
APPLICANT: Suzanne Quinlan
LOCATION: 123 Prince Street
ZONE: RM/Residential

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

(Insert sketch here)

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting a certificate of appropriateness for an arbor to be installed in the rear garden of the house at 123 Prince Street. The arbor will be located at the center of the back (north) wall of the property. It will be constructed of pressure treated wood and Azek, a cellular PVC product. The arbor will be 9' tall, 9' long and 4' wide. The arbor is planned as part of a larger garden and patio renovation project.

The rear garden of the house at 123 Prince Street is visible from Lee Street through a gap in between the houses at 120 and 124 Lee Street. The back of the garden where the arbor is to be located is minimally visible from this location. The arbor is not expected to be visible from the east-west alley off of Lee Street which runs behind the property as there is a garage between the rear garden and the alley and the garden is surrounded by a brick wall.

II. HISTORY:

According to Ethelyn Cox in Historic Alexandria, Virginia, Street by Street, the three bay wide, two story brick house at 123 Prince Street was constructed by Matthais Synder in 1827-1828, "replacing his frame warehouse, an oil and paint store, that burned in the January 1827 fire" (page 116). In 1988, the Board approved the walls at the rear of the property (BAR Case #88-180, 10/19/1988) and in 1989 approved the installation of three skylights in the rear of the house (BAR Case #89-56, 5/17/1989).

III. ANALYSIS:

Staff has no objection to the proposed arbor. Its design is compatible with the district and surrounding houses. Although the Design Guidelines discourage the use of synthetic materials, Staff believes that the use of Azek is acceptable in this case as the arbor will be so far removed from public access and only minimally visible. A sample of Azek was made available to the Board when it reviewed the addition to the Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church Parish Hall (BAR Case #2006-0170, 9/20/2006).

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 A construction Permit is required for this project.

Historic Alexandria:

No comments.