

Docket Item # 4
BAR CASE # 2006-0289

BAR Meeting
January 17, 2006

ISSUE: Alterations
APPLICANT: Brad Garrett
LOCATION: 624 S Pitt 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 to change the existing arched wooden gate in the brick wall at the front of the property to an arched ornamental metal gate. The wall at the front of 624 South Pitt Street also extends across 624 ½ South Pitt Street. It is approximately 6' high and screens the houses from the parking areas located at the front of the property. The gate in front of 624 ½ South Pitt Street is an arched wooden gate matching the current gate at 624 ½ South Pitt Street. The new gate at 624 South Pitt will be located in the existing opening. It will be made of aluminum and will have a black finish. The design of the open metal gate includes a diamond pattern section at the bottom third and a foliate pattern on the top two thirds.

II. HISTORY:

The two story brick clad house at 624 South Pitt Street was constructed as a twin with 624 ½ South Pitt Street in 1974. The plans, which included the brick wall across the front of the two houses, were approved by the Board on July 19, 1973. The Board approved alterations to the rear of 624 South Pitt Street in 2003 (BAR Case #2003-0020, 3/5/2003). Prior to that, in 1990, the Board approved a replacement fence at the rear of 624 and 624 ½ South Pitt Street (BAR Case #90-131, 6/20/1990).

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed replacement gate is in compliance with the zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff has no objection to the proposed alteration. The gate is similar in material and design to other historic and modern gates found in the historic district and conforms to the recommendations for gates in the Design Guidelines (Fences – Pages 1-2). Although the proposed new gate will not be in the same neo-Federal vocabulary as the house, Staff believes it is acceptable as the house is not historic and the new gate design is not overly ornate. Furthermore, the gate is not highly noticeable due its location well back from the public right-of-way and the presence of parked vehicles in front of it.

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:

“No comments.”

Historic Alexandria:

No comment.