

Docket Item # 10
BAR CASE # 2007-0073

BAR Meeting
August 1, 2007

ISSUE: Addition and alterations
APPLICANT: Larry Hirsch by Stephen Kulinski
LOCATION: 502 Duke Street
ZONE: RM/Residential

STAFF RECOMMENDATION, AUGUST 1, 2007: Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that that shutters not be installed on the front façade.

BOARD ACTION, JUNE 20, 2007: Deferred because the Permit to Demolish was deferred.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION, JUNE 20, 2007: Staff recommends:

1. Denial of the shutters on the windows of the front façade; and
2. Approval of the remainder of the application with the following conditions:
 - a. Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-838-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds; and,
 - b. The above statement must appear in the General Notes of all site plans and on all site plan sheets that involve demolition or ground disturbance (including sheeting and shoring and grading) so that on-site contractors are aware of the requirement.

BOARD ACTION, JUNE 6, 2007: Deferred due to lack of public notice.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION, JUNE 6, 2007: Staff recommends:

1. Denial of the shutters on the windows of the front façade; and
2. Approval of the remainder of the application with the following conditions:
 - a. Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-838-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds; and,

b. The above statement must appear in the General Notes of all site plans and on all site plan sheets that involve demolition or ground disturbance (including sheeting and shoring and grading) so that on-site contractors are aware of the requirement.

(Insert sketch here)

Update: Since the public hearing of June 20th the applicant has substantially revised the extent of the alterations and addition to this property.

Note: Docket item #9 must be approved before this docket item can be considered.

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations and additions to the residential rowhouse at 502 Duke Street. These consist include the following:

- **East wall of existing flounder and rear (south) wall of the main historic block**
A new flat roofed one story addition with a balcony will be constructed in this area. The addition will be approximately 7' in width and 11' in length with three ganged large multi-pane windows on the east elevation and a pair of similar windows on the south elevation both with pilasters and raised wood panels below. The addition will have a Chinese Chippendale style railing around the balcony and access to the balcony will be from a new multi-light wood door on east elevation which will be converted from an existing window.

- **East wall of existing flounder**
On the first level two existing windows will be altered to accommodate interior configurations.

- **Rear (south) wall of the existing flounder ell and rear porch**
The windows on this elevation will be altered and made symmetrical on both levels with new six-over-six simulated divided light wood window.

- **Alterations to main historic block**
New shutters will be installed on the windows of the front façade. These are proposed to be operable wood shutters also with one half louvered and one half paneled.

The existing windows on the first level of the main historic block will be replaced with new true divided light windows.

At the raised basement level the window openings currently infilled with brick will be opened and new windows placed in the historic openings will have new metal grillwork.

- **Other alterations**
The existing brick stairs will be replaced with new smooth finished concrete steps with decorative curved metal railings.

A new brick arch is proposed to be built over the existing iron gate and brick piers at the pedestrian alley on the east side of the house.

All of the windows for the additions and alterations are proposed to be Lincoln brand true divided light wood windows.

II. HISTORY:

The house at 502 Duke Street is a three story rowhouse with a painted brick façade. According to Ethelyn Cox in *Alexandria Street by Street* it dates from the early 19th century. However, by the mid-19th century it had been modernized in the Greek Revival manner similar to a number of other rowhouses on the south side of Duke Street in the 400 and 500 blocks. The exterior of the house is largely unaltered.

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed alterations and additions comply with the zoning ordinance requirements.

This is an early 19th residential structure that is significant for its architectural contributions to the patrimony of the historic district.

In general, staff believes that the additions and alterations are sympathetic to the overall scale and massing of the historic house. The one story addition on the east side will project no further than the plane of the historic main block. The elements of this addition are clearly of a different material and contemporary and will not be confused with the historic brick massing of the house.

Staff believes that the alterations to the windows on the east elevation of the existing flounder are relatively minor and will be largely visually obscured from the public right-of-way

Staff is also of the opinion that shutters are inappropriate on façades of Greek Revival style residences. Shutters substantially detract from the visual composition of the façade of this style of building where the windows decrease in size on each level in order to emphasize the vertical proportion. While the applicant points out that there is evidence of previous shutter dogs on the façade, staff does not believe that such remnants of early alterations should dictate continuation of inappropriate façade alterations.

Staff has no objection to opening the basement level windows and placing iron bars over these new windows or to the new brick arch at the walkway entrance.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that that shutters not be installed on the front façade.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

- C-1 All exterior walls within 5 feet from an interior property line shall have a fire resistance rating of 1 hour, from both sides of the wall. As alternative, a 2 hour fire wall may be provided. This condition is also applicable to skylights within setback distance. Openings in exterior walls between 3 and 5 feet shall not exceed 25% of the area of the entire wall surface (This shall include bay windows). Openings shall not be permitted in exterior walls within 3 feet of an interior lot line.
- C-2 Prior to the issuance of a demolition permit or land disturbance permit, a rodent abatement plan shall be submitted to Code Enforcement that will outline the steps that will taken to prevent the spread of rodents from the construction site to the surrounding community and sewers.
- C-3 Roof drainage systems must be installed so as neither to impact upon, nor cause erosion/damage to adjacent property.
- C-4 A soils report must be submitted with the building permit application.
- C-5 New construction must comply with the current edition of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).
- C-6 Alterations to the existing structure must comply with the current edition of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).
- C-7 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-8 Permission from adjacent property owners is required if access to the adjacent properties is required to complete the proposed construction. Otherwise, a plan shall be submitted to demonstrate the construction techniques utilized to keep construction solely on the referenced property.

Historic Alexandria:

No comments received.

Alexandria Archaeology:

- F-1 According to Ethelyn Cox's *Historic Alexandria, Street by Street, A Survey of Existing Early Buildings*, the house on this lot was constructed in the early 19th century. The property therefore has the potential to yield archaeological resources that could provide insight into residential activities in the early 19th-century town.

- R-1 Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-838-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds.
- R-2 The above statement must appear in the General Notes of all site plans and on all site plan sheets that involve demolition or ground disturbance (including sheeting and shoring and grading) so that on-site contractors are aware of the requirement.

Transportation & Environmental Services:

No comments.