

Docket Item # 4  
BAR CASE # 2007-0165

BAR Meeting  
September 5, 2007

**ISSUE:** Alterations  
**APPLICANT:** Susan Ragland Shaw  
**LOCATION:** 611 Queen Street  
**ZONE:** RM/Residential

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**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 residing the front and rear dormers with HardiPlank at the residential rowhouse at 611 Queen Street. The siding will be smooth and installed with a lap. The existing dormers are currently sheathed in aluminum siding.

**II. HISTORY:**

611 Queen Street is a two and a half story brick rowhouse dating constructed between 1807 and 1815 according to Ethelyn Cox in Historic Alexandria Street by Street.

There are no records of previous Board review of any alterations to this property.

**III. ANALYSIS:**

The proposed residing complies with the zoning ordinance.

With respect to the use of fiber cement siding such as HardiPlank the Boards have established the following policy:

1. That fiber cement siding not be installed on an historic structure;
2. That historic materials should not be removed to install fiber cement siding;
3. That fiber cement siding replace other artificial or composite siding;
4. That the nails not show in the installation of the siding; and,
5. That smooth siding be installed.
6. That BAR Staff may administratively approve the installation of fiber cement siding on *non-historic* buildings (those constructed in 1975 or later).

HardiPlank is proposed primarily to reduce maintenance costs.

While this is a historic residence, staff is willing to support a departure in part from the Board's established policy in this instance because the installation of synthetic siding on the dormers is far removed from the sidewalk and from a distance it is difficult to discern a difference between the HardiPlank brand siding and wood siding. Because of this, staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

**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 comments were received.