

Docket Item # 12  
BAR CASE #2008-0082

BAR Meeting  
June 18, 2008

**ISSUE:** Signage

**APPLICANT:** Washington Street United Methodist Church

**LOCATION:** 115 South Washington Street

**ZONE:** CD/Commercial

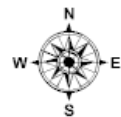
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that the preschool sign is deleted.



**BAR CASE #2008-0082**

**6/18/2008**



**I. ISSUE:**

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for three hanging signs at 115 South Washington Street. The signs will be installed on the education and administration building which is adjacent to the Washington Street United Methodist Church.

Two of the hanging signs will identify the church and will measure 1.5' by 4.' The signs will be located on either side of the building's main entrance between the elevated first floor and the second floor. The signs will contain the church logo and the words SINCE 1949 and WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. The signs will have a black background with white lettering, and the church image will be cream and rust colored.

The other hanging sign will identify the church's preschool program and will also have a black background with white lettering. It will include an abstracted image of three children in green and yellow and the words PRESCHOOL and WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. The preschool sign will be located between the two northern most windows on the raised first floor.

All of the signs will be constructed of wood and hang from black metal scroll brackets.

**II. HISTORY:**

The two story with a raised basement, Colonial Revival education building at 115 South Washington Street dates from c. 1942, according to the City's real estate records. The brick building has a pedimented entrance and two story Doric columns facing Washington Street.

According to Ethelyn Cox in *Historic Alexandria Virginia Street by Street*, the adjacent church was constructed in 1851, and the Greek Revival façade was added in 1875 (p. 178).

Staff could find no Board approvals for 115 South Washington Street.

**III: ANALYSIS:**

The proposed signs comply with zoning ordinance requirements.

The Board is particularly concerned with the maintenance and memorial character of the George Washington Memorial Parkway which passes through Alexandria as Washington Street. Therefore, requests for signage on Washington Street must be compatible with the memorial nature of the parkway.

The *Design Guidelines* recommend only one sign per business as appropriate. In this particular case, Staff believes that two hanging signs would be appropriate because the education building is devoid of any identifying signage and it does not stylistically appear to have a direct relationship to the church next door. After consulting with staff, the applicant has stated a preference to retain the two signs identifying the church. Staff believes that the proposed church

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signs will be compatible with the memorial character of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and recommends approval of the application with the condition that the preschool sign be deleted.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that the preschool sign is deleted.

**V. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS**

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

Code Enforcement:

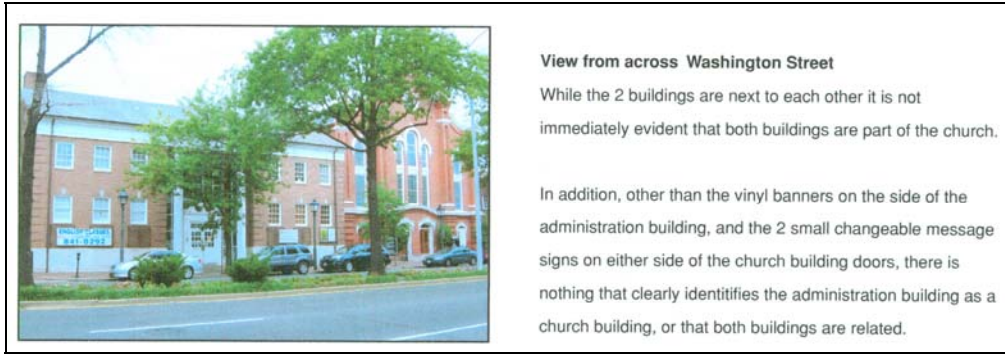
F-1 The applicant shall obtain a sign permit for the proposed sign and/ or wall lettering.

C-2 Projecting, hanging signs must comply with USBC [H103-H107, H112] for type of materials, maximum projection, vertical clearance below all parts of the sign, and additional loads.

Office of Historic Alexandria:

No comments received.

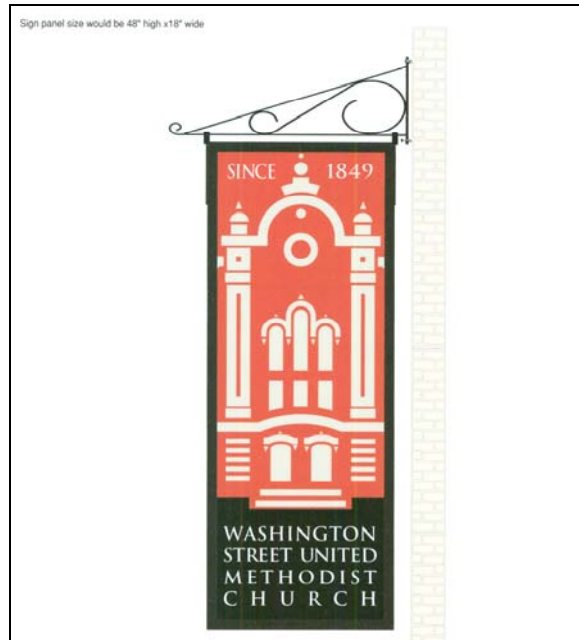
**VI. IMAGES**



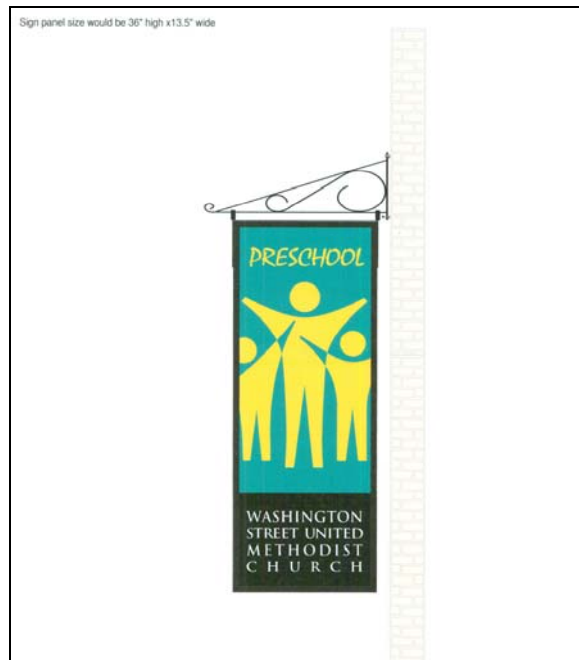
**Figure 1. View from Washington Street.**



**Figure 2. Street view of proposed signage.**



**Figure 3. Proposed signage for church.**



**Figure 4. Proposed signage for preschool.**