

Docket Item # 5  
BAR CASE # 2008-0094

BAR Meeting  
September 17, 2008

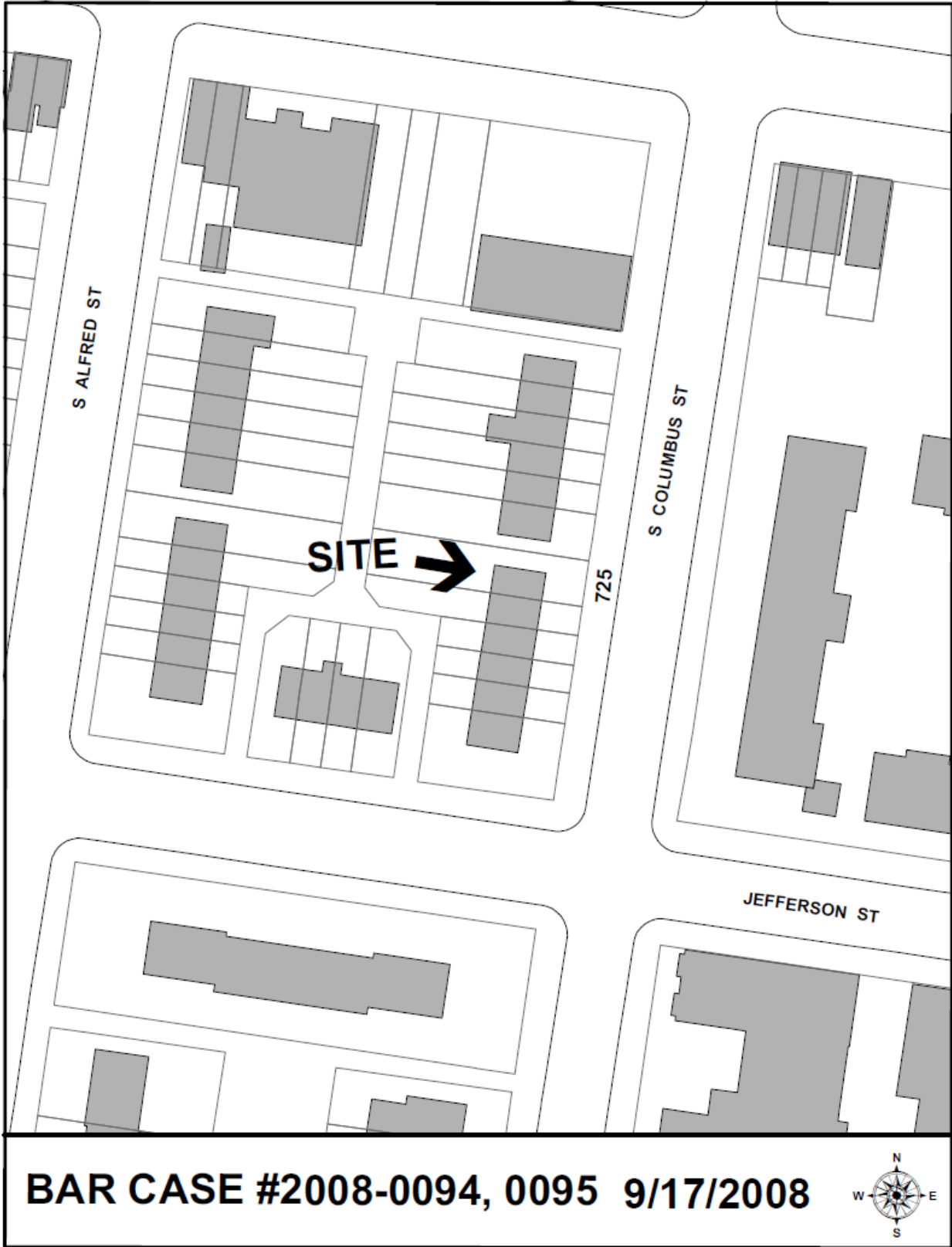
**ISSUE:** Demolition/Encapsulation  
**APPLICANT:** Stephanie Dimond  
**LOCATION:** 725 South Columbus Street  
**ZONE:** RM/Residential

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the Permit to Demolish/Encapsulate as submitted.

**BOARD ACTION, JULY 9, 2008:** On a motion by Ms. Neihardt, seconded by Mr. Spencer, the Board deferred the application for restudy. The vote on the motion was 4-0.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the Permit to Demolish/Encapsulate as submitted.



Note: This item requires a roll call vote.

Update: At the July 9, 2008 BAR hearing, the Board expressed concerns with the mass of the proposed addition and the lack of articulation on the addition's south elevation, and asked the applicant to explore ways to address these concerns. The applicant has submitted additional information which shows the articulation of the south elevation of the addition with recessed faux windows. In addition, the materials include a further justification of the size and mass of the addition as it relates to the surrounding neighborhood.

**I. ISSUE:**

The applicant is requesting approval of a Permit to Demolish/Encapsulate in order to construct a rear addition at 725 South Columbus Street. The rear elevation of the existing townhouse will be demolished in order to construct the new addition.

**II. HISTORY:**

The two-story, end unit brick townhouse at 725 South Columbus Street was constructed in c. 1941 as part of the Patrick Henry Homes subdivision, according to the City's real estate records. Staff could find no previous Board approvals for this house.

**III. ANALYSIS:**

In considering a Permit to Demolish/Encapsulate, the Board must consider the following criteria set forth in the Zoning Ordinance, §10-105(B):

- (1) Is the building or structure of such architectural or historical interest that its moving, removing, capsulating or razing would be to the detriment of the public interest?
- (2) Is the building or structure of such interest that it could be made into a historic house?
- (3) Is the building or structure of such old and unusual or uncommon design, texture and material that it could not be reproduced or be reproduced only with great difficulty?
- (4) Would retention of the building or structure help preserve the memorial character of the George Washington Memorial Parkway?
- (5) Would retention of the building or structure help preserve and protect an historic place or area of historic interest in the city?
- (6) Would retention of the building or structure promote the general welfare by maintaining and increasing real estate values, generating business, creating new positions, attracting tourists, students, writers, historians, artists and artisans, attracting new residents, encouraging study and interest in American history, stimulating interest and study in architecture and design, educating citizens in American culture and heritage, and making the city a more attractive and desirable place in which to live?

In the opinion of Staff, none of the above criteria are met. This is an end unit, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century townhouse. Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the Permit to Demolish/Encapsulate as submitted.

**V. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS**

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

Code Enforcement:

- C-1 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-2 Roof drainage systems must be installed so as neither to impact upon, nor cause erosion/damage to adjacent property.
- C-3 A soils report must be submitted with the building permit application.
- C-4 New construction must comply with the current edition of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).
- C-5 Alterations to the existing structure must comply with the current edition of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC).
- C-6 Alterations to the existing structure and/or installation and/or altering of equipment therein requires a building permit. Five sets of plans, bearing the signature and seal of a design professional registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia, must accompany the written application. The plans must include all dimensions, construction alterations details, kitchen equipment, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical layouts and schematics.
- C-7 Construction permits are required for this project. Plans shall accompany the permit application that fully details 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.
- C-9 A wall location plat prepared by a land surveyor is required to be submitted to this office prior to requesting any framing inspection.

Historic Alexandria:

- F-1 No Comment.

VI. IMAGES

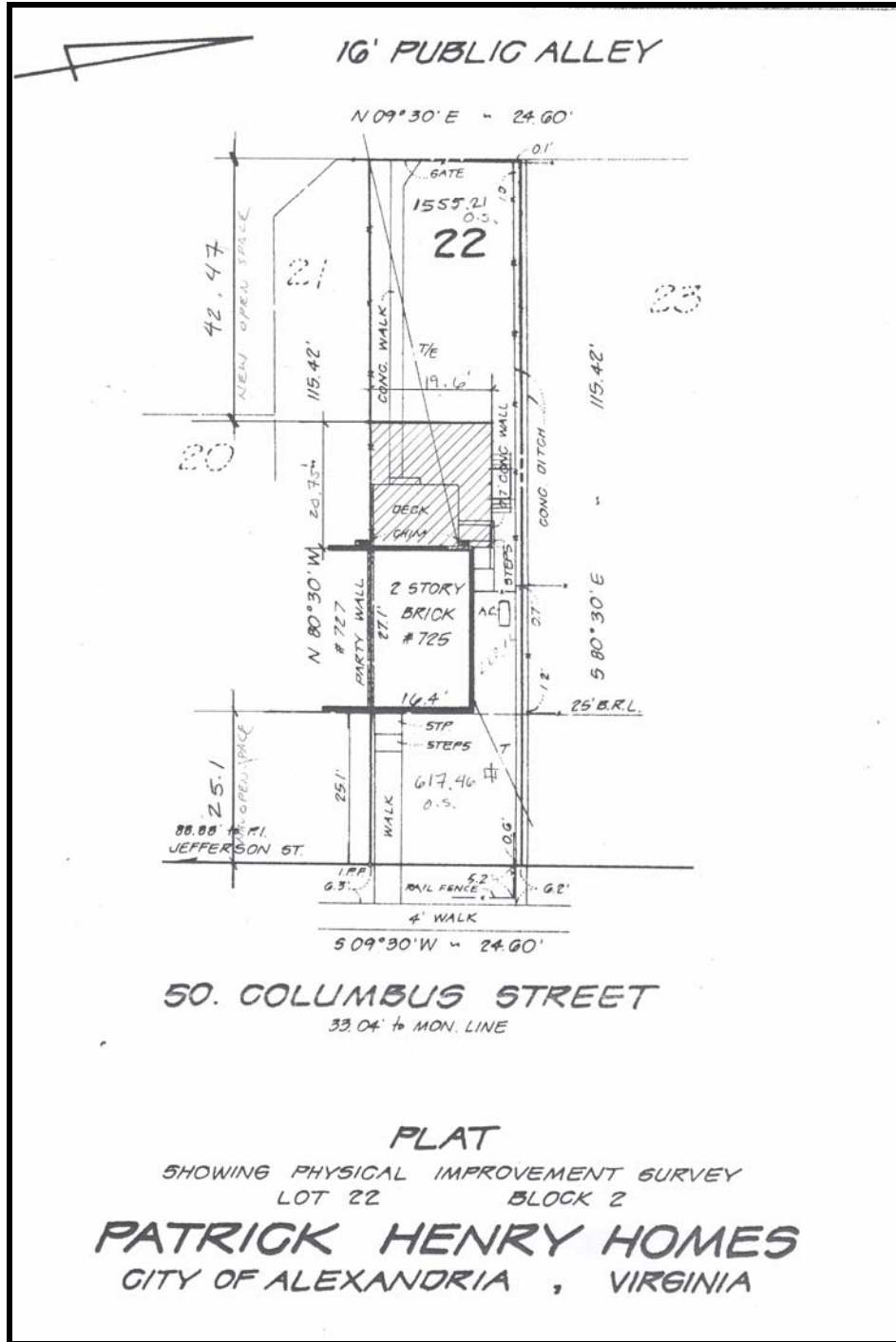


Figure 1: Plat showing area of demolition/addition



Figure 2: Photo of rear elevation