

Docket Item # 2
BAR CASE #2010-0317

BAR Meeting
December 1, 2010

ISSUE: Alterations (Light Installation)

APPLICANT: Carole Susan Horne

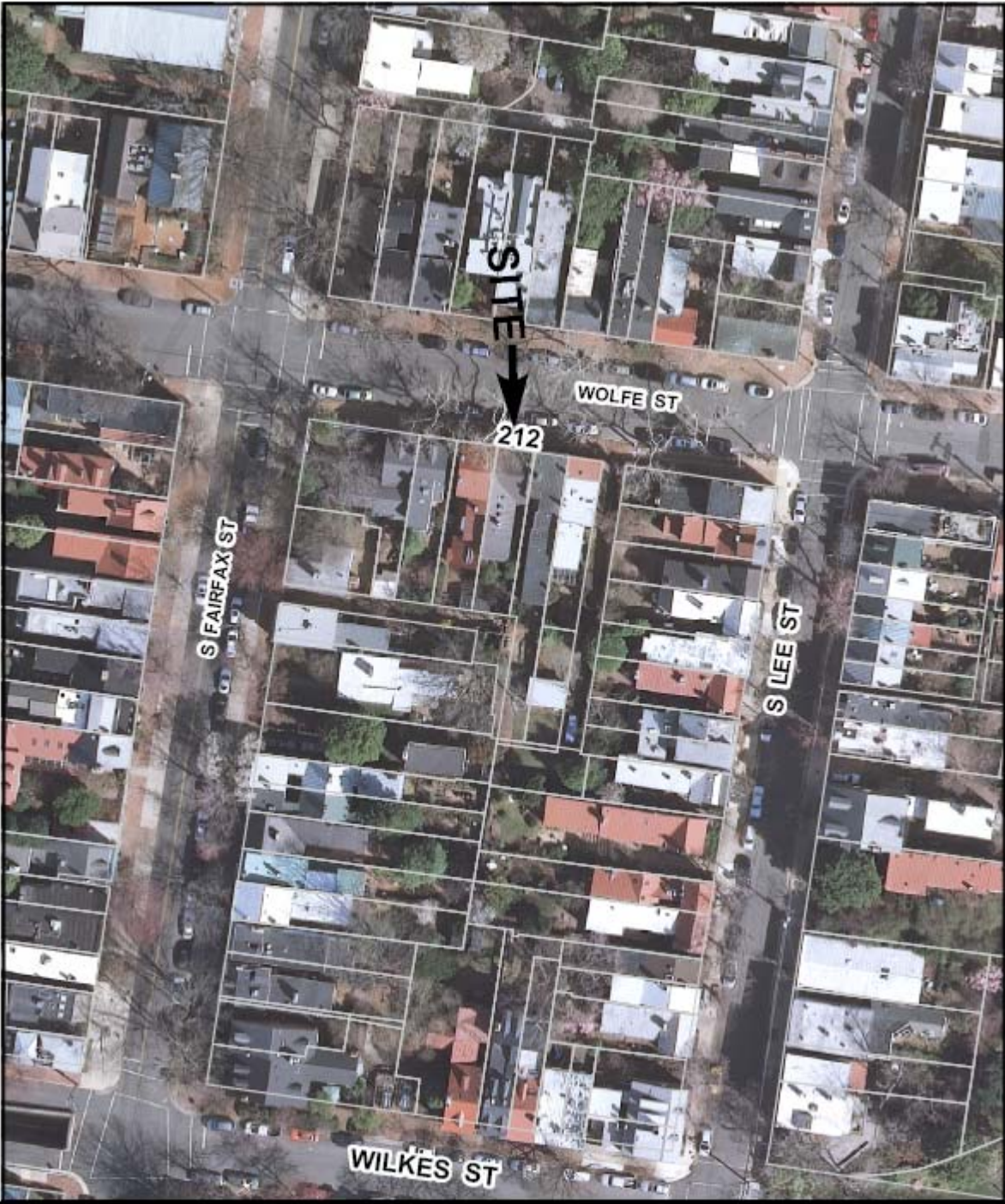
LOCATION: 212 Wolfe Street

ZONE: RM/Residential

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

****EXPIRATION OF APPROVALS NOTE:** In accordance with Sections 10-106(B) and 10-206(B) of the Zoning Ordinance, any official Board of Architectural Review approval will expire 12 months from the date of final approval if the work is not commenced and diligently and substantially pursued by the end of that 12-month period.

****BUILDING PERMIT NOTE:** Most projects approved by the Board of Architectural Review require the issuance of one or more construction permits by Building and Fire Code Administration (including signs). The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary construction permits after receiving Board of Architectural Review approval. Contact Code Administration, Room 4200, City Hall, 703-746-4200 for further information.



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I. ISSUE

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a light fixture at 212 Wolfe Street. The polished brass light will measure 6 ¾ inches wide and 14 ¾ inches high. The light will be located to the east of the front door approximately 6 feet above the brick landing, and centered between the door and the adjacent shutter. 212 Wolfe Street is one of the few houses on the block which does not have a light to illuminate the entrance to the house.

II. HISTORY

The two-story, three-bay brick townhouse at 212 Wolfe Street was built between **1845 and 1851** according to Ethelyn Cox in *Alexandria Street by Street* (p.196). The house has had a number of additions since the building's construction, most recently a rear addition in 2004. The BAR approved a Permit to Demolish to allow for the construction of the addition, which is not visible from a public right-of-way and did not require approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness, on October 20, 2004 (BAR # 2004-0217). On January 4, 2005, the BAR also approved black iron railings for the front stoop (BAR Case #2005-0295).

III. ANALYSIS

The proposed alterations comply with Zoning Ordinance requirements.

The *Design Guidelines* recommend that light fixtures be sympathetic to the style and scale of the building, while not distracting from the architectural character of the building. There are a variety of different light fixtures on the 200 block of Wolfe Street, including one nearly identical to the fixture proposed by the applicant. In the opinion of Staff, the proposed light fixture is stylistically appropriate and meets the recommendations contained in the *Guidelines*.

As the Board is aware, Staff can administratively approve the replacement of an existing light fixture with a historically appropriate fixture under Zoning Ordinance Sec. 10-109. However, where no light fixture exists, the applicant must spend additional time and money to obtain BAR approval for a new light fixture. Since the Board's adoption of the roof materials policy and windows policy on October 20, 2010, Staff has begun to work on the development of an additional policy to incorporate some of the small, but common, alterations in the historic districts, including the installation of new light fixtures. Staff is hopeful that a policy can be adopted which establishes clear guidelines for the appropriate style, material and scale of new light fixtures. As with the other policies, the goal of this next policy is to help clarify and streamline the Certificate of Appropriateness and Administrative Approval process.

STAFF

Stephanie Sample, Historic Preservation Planner, Planning & Zoning
Al Cox, FAIA, Historic Preservation Manager, Planning & Zoning

IV. IMAGES



Figure 1: Photo of 212 Wolfe Street.



Figure 2: Photo of light fixture.