

Docket Item #3
BAR CASE #2003-0220

BAR Meeting
September 24, 2003

ISSUE: Sign
APPLICANT: Steve Nearman
LOCATION: 1005 Cameron Street
ZONE: CL Commercial

****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 issuance 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 the Code Enforcement Bureau (including signs). The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary construction permits after receiving Board of Architectural Review approval. Contact Code Enforcement, Room 4200, City Hall, 703-838-4360 for further information.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application with the condition that the sign be anchored through the mortar joints rather than directly into the brick itself.

DISCUSSION:

Applicant s Description of Undertaking:

Replace company sign and number plate affixed to front of office.

Issue:

The applicant is requesting a certificate of appropriateness to install a small wall plaque on the front of the two story, brick rowhouse building at 1005 North Henry Street. The 10" by 16" sign will be of bronze with a pebbled finish. Raised bronze lettering will read, Nearman Financial Consulting, Inc. The firm s arrow shaped logo will also be depicted on the plaque. The sign will replace the existing sign on the front bay and will be in the same location. In addition, the applicant wishes to install a 5" by 12.5" bronze plaque with the raised bronze numerals, 1005" to identify address of the property. This sign will replace the present address sign and will be in the same location, beside the front door. The Board does not typically review street number signage.

History and Analysis:

The row of three, two story, brick buildings at 1001 through 1005 Cameron Street was constructed between 1896 and 1902, replacing earlier dwellings. These fine examples of Victorian townhouses have projecting square bays with chamfered corners, ornate brickwork and decorative rooflines. The building at 1005 Cameron Street is virtually unaltered. There is no record of Board of Architectural Review for 1005 Cameron Street.

The proposed wall plaque complies with the zoning ordinance requirements. The subject building has a width of 13.5' allowing a maximum sign area of 13.5'. The proposed sign is just over 1 square feet.

The proposed sign will be extremely modest in size and appearance. In fact, it is just slightly over the 1 square foot size that triggers Board review. This simple and discrete sign will leave the spotlight on the handsome brick Victorian building. Staff notes that the *Design Guidelines* call for signs to be anchored through the mortar joints rather than directly into the brick itself and recommends that this be included this as a condition of the approval.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

C-1 A construction permit may be required for the proposed project. The applicant shall contact the Code Enforcement Bureau to determine the scope of the permit.

Historic Alexandria:

No comment.