

Docket Item #4
BAR CASE# 2004-0082

BAR Meeting
May 19, 2004

ISSUE: Sign
APPLICANT: Matuli A. Faustin
LOCATION: 300 North Fayette 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 as submitted.

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a wall sign for the new business at 300 North Fayette Street. The proposed MDO sign measures 2' by 10' and reads "Eurostar Market, International Foods, European and American." The sign has a white background with blue lettering and a simple blue line border. The proposed sign will be installed above the retail entrance.

II. HISTORY:

The two-story, frame, Italianate commercial building was probably constructed shortly before 1895. At that time the property was occupied by the saloon of George Baier, a German immigrant and former employee of the Robert Portner Brewing Company. By 1903, Benjamin Lucas, an African American barber, had his shop there. Since 1939 the building has been clad in a succession of non-wood siding materials.

III. ANALYSIS:

Recently, the Board approved window lettering for Calhoun Tax & Financial Services on the Queen Street elevation of the building (BAR Case #2003-0221, 9/24/03).

On May 27, 1998 the Board approved a wall-mounted sign for Jimmy's Wear, located in the Fayette Street side of the building (BAR Case #98-0078). On January 13, 1999, the Board approved a window sign for Infopage, another business in the same location as Jimmy's Wear (BAR Case #98-00211).

According to Sanborn maps, the building width of 300 North Fayette Street is approximately 25'; maximum sign area allowed is 25 square feet. The proposed wall sign complies with zoning ordinance requirements.

Staff believes that the wall sign meets the recommendations of the *Design Guidelines* and is appropriate to the building and the historic district.

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:

C- 1 Wall letters / signs must comply with USBC [H103-H111].

C- 2 A construction permit is required for the proposed project.

Office of Historic Alexandria:

“No comment.”