

Docket Item # 7  
BAR CASE #2008-0051

BAR Meeting  
April 23, 2008

**ISSUE:** Alterations  
**APPLICANT:** Fatima & Omer A. Assebbane  
**LOCATION:** 1112 Princess Street  
**ZONE:** CL/Commercial

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the application with the following conditions:

1. That the applicant selects a door with no decorative ornamentation.
2. That the applicant submits a specifications sheet of the new door for Staff review and approval.
3. That the security door be painted the same color as the front door.

**\*\*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.

Insert Sketch Map here

**I. ISSUE:**

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a security door to be installed on the exterior of the existing front door that faces Princess Street. The proposed door will be constructed of 16-gauge welded steel and tempered safety glass. The door proposed by the applicant contains a high level of ornamentation applied to both the vertical pickets and the horizontal casting. It will be standard black and white in color.

**II. HISTORY:**

Based on historic map research, the two story, two bay wide frame house with mansard roof appears to have been constructed between 1907 and 1912. A one story concrete block kitchen addition was added to the rear of the house in 1972 (Permit #8930, 3/13/72). The construction date of the one story metal sided shed at the rear of the property is unknown, but is certainly 20<sup>th</sup> century. Unlike the other houses on this block, 1112 Princess Street is set well back from the front property line. The modest, vernacular Second Empire building is similar to numerous working class dwellings constructed throughout the Parker-Gray District at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1990, the Board approved a Permit to Demolish the rear addition (BAR Case #90-28PG, 8/22/90). The associated case, alterations and rear additions at 1112 and 1114 Princess Street, was deferred twice and does not appear to have been heard by the Board (BAR Case #90-29, 8/22/90 and 9/26/90). In 1998, the Board approved the brick wall and iron fence on the front lot line at 1112 Princess Street (BAR Case #98-143PG, 9/23/1998). In 2002, the Board approved a certificate of appropriateness (BAR Case #2002-0101, 0102) for a two story addition extending behind the main block approximately 20 feet and across its full width, in addition to alterations to the main block.

**III. ANALYSIS:**

Proposed security door complies with Zoning Ordinance requirements.

According to the design guidelines, “Security devices should be located so as to cause minimal visual disruption of a prominent or architecturally important façade of a structure.” While the design guidelines do not specifically discuss the installation of security doors, it is in Staff’s opinion that in the same vein as a storm door, security doors should be “very simple and open.”

While the use of security doors in the Parker-Gray Historic District has decreased considerably in recent years, especially on residential structures, Staff acknowledges that a neighboring house at 1116 ½ Princess Street has a very simply designed security door that appears appropriate and visually unobtrusive. Therefore, Staff can support the applicant’s request for a similar door to meet the desired need for safety, with the conditions that the applicant selects a security door with no decorative ornamentation, to be reviewed and approved by staff, and that the security door be painted the same color as the existing front door.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted with the following conditions:

1. That the applicant selects a door with no decorative ornamentation.
2. That the applicant submits a specifications sheet of the new door for Staff review and approval.
3. That the security door be painted the same color as the front door.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Enforcement:

No Comments received.

Office of Historic Alexandria:

S – Suggest new wood or white power coated metal door with plain glazed panel to highlight existing front door.