

## 4. COA-033435-2018

PUBLIC HEARING DATE

November 27, 2018

PROPERTY ADDRESS

5-9 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street

DISTRICT

Second Presbyterian Church

# Commission of Architectural Review

## STAFF REPORT



APPLICANT

Second Presbyterian Church

STAFF CONTACT

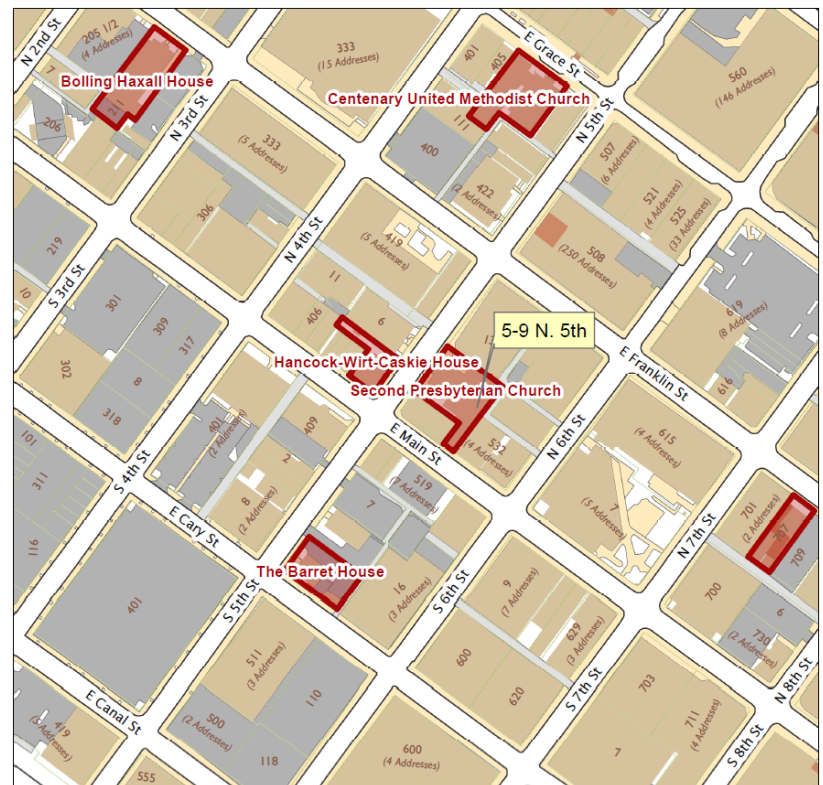
Carey L. Jones

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Enlarge existing glass atrium.**

### PROJECT DETAILS

- The Second Presbyterian Church, completed in 1848 from plans designed by Minard Lafever, is the first Gothic style church built in the City of Richmond.
- The applicant requests permission to reconfigure the existing curtain wall to be approximately three feet from the corner of the church building.
- The applicant also plans to install a glazed awning over the new entry door.
- The applicant has already received approval for the applicant from VDHR as part of a rehabilitation tax credit project.



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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS**

### PREVIOUS REVIEWS

The Commission previously reviewed this application at the April 24, 2018 meeting. At that time, the applicant proposed to modify the existing glass atrium to increase the internal space by 88 square feet. The applicant proposed to reconfigure the existing curtain wall to attach to the front corner of the church and to install a glass awning above the new door. They also proposed to relocate an existing fountain. During the meeting, staff expressed concerns about the atrium obscuring the corner of the historic church and how the addition will attach to the historic masonry exterior. The Commission agreed and voted to defer the application to allow the applicant the opportunity to revise the plans to respond to the concerns raised in the staff report.

The applicant has since taken Commission feedback and revised the project plans. The applicant now proposes to reconfigure a portion of the existing curtain wall in order to gain an additional 60 square feet for visitors. The existing curtain wall will be approximately three feet behind the corner of the church building. The applicant also

proposes to install a glazed awning over the new entry door. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has reviewed these changes to the application and on October 8, 2018 approved the Part II application for historic rehabilitation tax credits.

**STAFF RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS**

- Any future changes imposed by DHR or the National Park Service be submitted to staff for administrative review and approval.

**STAFF ANALYSIS**

<i>Standards for New Construction, Materials and Colors, pg. 47 #1</i>	<i>Additions should not obscure or destroy original architectural elements.</i>	Staff finds the relocated curtain wall no longer obscures a historic feature of the church building.
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<i>Standards for New Construction, Siting, pg. 52#1</i>	<i>Additions should be subordinate in size to their main buildings and as inconspicuous as possible. Locating additions at the rear or on the least visible side of a building is preferred.</i>	Staff finds the addition is located on a side elevation and does not block any important, character-defining features of the historic church building.
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It is the assessment of staff that, with the conditions above, the application is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation and New Construction outlined in Section 30-930.7 (b) and (c) of the City Code, as well as with the Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines, specifically the pages cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.

## IMAGES

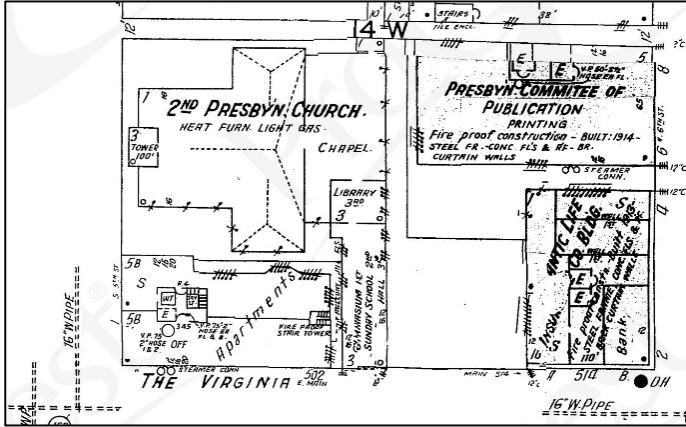


Figure 1. Sanborn Map, 1950.



Figure 2. Existing Glass Atrium and Church Corner, April 2018.



Figure 3. Existing Glass Atrium and Church Corner Detail, April 2018.