

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
August 26, 2014 Meeting**

13. **CAR No. 14-092** (F. McKeone)

**420 N. 1st Street
Jackson Ward Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Paint previously painted brick house**

Staff Contact: **W. Palmquist**

The applicant requests approval to paint a previously-painted brick building located in the Jackson Ward Old and Historic District. All of the historic masonry on the building has been previously painted. The applicant proposes painting the body of the building Coventry Gray, and the trim and crown of the building White-Distant Gray. The applicant has supplied a photograph from circa 1950 that indicates that the building was previously painted a light color. There are also numerous brick buildings in the vicinity which are painted lighter colors.

Staff recommends approval of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* notes that paint colors associated with the colors of natural brick are, “strongly encouraged and preferred over less appropriate colors” when repainting previously-painted masonry (pg. 55). However, the *Guidelines* also notes that pictorial, historical, or physical documentation can be helpful when rehabilitating historic properties (pg. 51), and the applicant has supplied a photograph of the building that depicts it with a light color similar to that proposed. The documentation supplied by the applicant, coupled with the presence of masonry buildings in the immediate area which are painted lighter colors, makes a compelling argument for allowing the applicant to use the lighter-colored paint for the building.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is consistent with the Standards for New Construction outlined in Section 114-930.7 (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.