

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
February 24, 2015 Meeting**

9. **CAR No. 15-011** (C. Early)

**514 West 21st Street
Springhill Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

Replace front, side and back doors

Staff Contact:

J. Hill

The applicant requests approval for the replacement of the front, side, and back doors at this residential property in the Springhill Old and Historic District. The applicant states that the existing front and side doors are not original and that the back door has sustained damage that cannot be repaired.

Staff recommends approval of the project with a condition. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* states, "Do not remove original doors. Replacement doors and door surrounds with stamped or molded faux paneling or leaded, beveled, or etched glass are strongly discouraged and rarely permitted" (pg. 67 No. 14). Therefore, staff cannot recommend approval of the proposed side and back doors, which appear to feature molded fiberglass paneling (both doors) and leaded, beveled, or etched glass (Belleville Oak). The Commission could consider whether the front door could be steel, rather than wood, if the painted appearance would be that of wood. Staff recommends either a six-panel door or 6-Lite Craftsman style door as more appropriate in style than the 1-Lite Craftsman proposed. The *Guidelines* indicate that replacement doors should be in the same material (wood) as the original doors (page 55, No. 7). Staff recommends approval of the application if the applicant were willing to use either a wood six-panel door or wood 6-Lite Craftsman door.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the applicant's acceptance of the conditions above (the installation of wood doors, either six-panel or 6-Lite Craftsman in style), is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 114-930.7(b) 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.