

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW  
STAFF REPORT  
March 22, 2016, Meeting**

9. **CAR No. 16-038** (A. & I. Cotterell) **2716 Monument Avenue  
Monument Avenue Old and Historic District**

**Project Description:** **Construct a pergola at the rear of the property**

**Staff Contact:** **K. Chen**

The applicant requests approval to construct a wooden pergola and other landscaping and paving improvements at the rear of a home in the Monument Avenue Old and Historic District.

The pergola and other site improvements will be located at the rear of the property and are enclosed by a 6'-0" brick wall and garage. The new paving will be marginally visible through the metal gate on the west side of the property and is compatible with the existing cobble stone driveway. The pergola will be no more than 10' in height and will be constructed of cedar. The structure will be partially visible over the 6'-0" brick wall from the adjacent alley.

**Staff recommends approval of the project with a condition.** The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* offer very little guidance about freestanding structures such as arbors and pergolas. It does, however, note that auxiliary structures should be compatible with the design of the major buildings on the site, and respect the materials and colors of the main structure (pg. 48, Outbuildings 1-4). The *Guidelines* also suggests that new auxiliary structures should be located to the rear or side of the property to emphasize that they are secondary to the main residence. The proposed pergola is subordinate to the house on the site, and the proposed design and materials of the pergola complement the residence and the adjacent patio and driveway. Staff recommends that the structure be painted or stained a neutral color that complements one or more of the colors found on the main structure or be treated with a water repellent sealer to preserve the natural character of the wood.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is consistent, with the above condition, with the Standards for New Construction outlined in Section 30-930.7(c) of the City Code, as well as with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically the page cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.