

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
October 24, 2017, Meeting**

6. **COA-024476-2017** (J. Williams) **2200 East Broad Street
St. John's Church Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Replace second story front door.**

Staff Contact: **C. Jeffries**

The applicant requests approval to replace the second story front door and transom of this two-story brick home in the St. John's Church Old and Historic District. The applicant is proposing to install a wood half lite door and solid transom, trimming the door opening by 5 inches on each side.



2200 East Broad Street, date unknown

Staff recommends approval of the project, with conditions. The application states that the existing second story door is beyond repair due to weathering and poor maintenance. The current door opening is 46"x93" and appears to have been modified with the installation of a window sash as a transom. The structure itself has also experienced extensive modifications.

The *Guidelines* note that entrances important in defining the building's character should not be removed or radically changed (pg. 69, #4). Staff has concerns that the proposed replacement door will radically alter the appearance of the second story entrance as it will require substantially resizing the opening. As

photographic evidence of the historic door and transom exist, the replacement door and transom should be reconstructed to match the historic photographs submitted by the applicant. In addition, the proportions of the existing first story door appear to match the original second story door seen in the historic photographs. Specifically, staff recommends the new transom match the proportions of the original transom seen in the historic photographs and the replacement door fit the existing opening without requiring any modification to the size of the opening. In addition, as the *Guidelines* recommend reusing original locks and hardware (pg. 69, #2), staff recommends the hardware on the existing door be reused.

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 Sections 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.