

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
December 13, 2016, Meeting**

4. **CAR No. 16-176** (J. Keys) **2600 East Franklin Street
St. John's Church Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Installation of hardscaping in the front yard.**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to install a pebble pathway in the front yard of a home in the St. John's Church Old and Historic District. This application was the result of enforcement activity as the white stones were installed without receiving approval from the Commission of Architectural Review.

Staff recommends approval of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that site improvements should reinforce the overall historic character of the district and that simple paving designs that utilize materials found in the District should be used (pg. 72). As the applicant has provided evidence that stones such as those installed are found in landscaping throughout the District, staff supports the installation of the pebble pathway at this location.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is consistent with the Standards for Site Improvements outlined in Section 30-930.7(e) 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.