

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

5. **CAR No. 15-019** (F. Richardson) **1008 N. 25th Street
Union Hill Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Uncover storefront window
and install secure door**

Staff Contact: **W. Palmquist**

The applicant requests approval to restore the storefront and install a secure door at this commercial property in the Union Hill Old and Historic District. The top of the building's storefront has been covered over. The applicant wishes to remove this paneling and install glass. The applicant also wishes to install a new door which would consist of two glass layers with an iron security bar between. This would allow for visibility in and out of the space while also providing security. The applicant also wishes to repaint the storefront as follows: window trim to be black, overhead trim to be light gray, door to be gray. The rest of the building will remain red where it is currently painted.

Staff recommends approval of the project with conditions. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* supports the rehabilitation of storefronts where they have been previously enclosed. Regarding the proposed front door, the existing door is not original to the property. The proposed door is somewhat whimsical but simple enough in its design and materials used to be compatible within the district, while lending an identity to the business. The proposed paint colors also appear to be appropriate, and are color types found on the CAR paint color palette.

Staff recommends that approval be conditioned with the use of clear, non-tinted glass for both the storefront and front door. Staff also recommends that the applicant provide CAR staff with the specific paint colors to be used for administrative review and approval.

It is the assessment of staff that, with the conditions above, the application is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 114-930.7(b) of the City Code and with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.