

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
May 24, 2016 Meeting**

16. CAR No. 16-079 (F. Cava)

**2808 East Leigh Street
Church Hill North Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

**Remove existing asphalt cladding,
install HardiPlank siding, replace porch
decking, and paint elements of the structure.**

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to rehabilitate the exterior of home in the Church Hill North Old and Historic District. The applicant proposes to remove all existing asphalt faux brick cladding from the exterior of the home and install smooth HardiPlank siding in Timber Bark which is similar in color to #54 (Umber) on the Commission's paint palette. The applicant proposes to repair or replace in-kind the porch decking and paint it Online (SW7072) which is similar in color to #5 (Colonial Revival Gray) on the Commission's paint palette. The existing porch ceiling will be repaired and painted Buoyant Blue (SW6483). The columns, trim, and rails will be painted white. The existing front door will be stained Walnut (Minwax #224) and all concrete will be painted Online (SW7072).

Staff recommends approval of the project with a condition. In general, the proposed rehabilitation meets the Commission's guidelines for rehabilitation found on page 55 of the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* as the applicant is proposing to remove the inappropriate asphalt cladding and will repair damaged pieces and replace in-kind elements that have been damaged beyond the point of repair. The Guidelines note that fiber cement siding is a product with limited applications which includes being used on secondary elevations with limited visibility from the public right of way (pg 56). The applicant has removed portions of the asphalt cladding from the structure to reveal the siding below. Staff recommends the condition of the wood siding beneath the asphalt cladding be assessed and if possible, a sufficient amount of existing wood siding be salvaged and installed with the historic reveals on the front façade. As the rear of the home is not visible from the public right of way because there is no adjacent alley and visibility of the side elevations is limited due the proximity to the existing house and a proposed house at 2808 ½ E. Leigh Street, staff supports the installation of fiber cement siding on the secondary elevations with the conditions that the siding be installed with a reveal consistent with the historic reveal and be smooth and unbeaded. Staff supports the proposed paint scheme with the gray/brown siding and white trim as it is an appropriate color scheme for the Colonial Revival home.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the above noted conditions, is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation in Section 30-930.7(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.