



**Staff Report**  
**City of Richmond, Virginia**



**Commission of Architectural Review**

13.COA-155642-2024	Conceptual Review	Meeting Date: 11/26/2024
Applicant/Petitioner	Will Gillette, Baker Development Resources	
Project Description	Construct a two-story detached building.	
Project Location		
Address: 2611 East Marshall Street		
Historic District: Church Hill North		
<p><b>High-Level Details:</b></p> <p>The applicant proposes to construct a building on a vacant lot. The new building will be rectangular in form, three bays wide, have a pitched main roof with a center shed dormer, and a single-story, full width, covered front porch.</p> <p>The original building located here was demolished in April 1979.</p> <p>Behind the front pitched roof will be a long projection with a low loped shed roof.</p> <p>The building will be clad in horizontal siding.</p>		
Staff Recommendation	Conceptual Review	
Staff Contact	Alex Dandridge, alex.dandridge@rva.gov, (804) 646-6569	
Previous Reviews	None.	
Staff Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The roof form of the proposed building either feature a flat or low-sloped roof above the second story, and that the roof does not feature a dormer. In addition, a faux mansard roof could also be a compatible roof form in the context of the district and based on photographic documentation.</li> <li>The new building match the setback of the neighboring historic building located at 2605 East Marshall Street, and that no portion of the proposed building be proud of 2605 East Marshall Street.</li> <li>The front porch feature a hipped or low sloped/flat roof to be more in-keeping with roof forms within the district</li> <li>Applicant submit a context elevation drawing that labels the height of the neighboring historic buildings at 2605 &amp; 2603 East Marshall Street and the proposed height of the new building.</li> <li>If necessary, a foundation drawing be submitted that shows any grade change on the site and how that may impact the height of the foundation height.</li> </ul>	

## Staff Analysis

Guideline Reference	Reference Text	Analysis
<b>Standards For New Construction, page 46</b>	<i>All new residential and commercial construction, whether in the form of additions or entire buildings should be compatible with the historic features that characterize the setting and context. To protect the context of the surrounding historic district, new construction should reference the materials, features, size, scale, proportions, and massing of the existing historic buildings in its setting.</i>	<p>The surrounding block context consists of residential and institutional buildings. There is a large masonry, gothic style church with pointed arch windows and a square corner steeple with castellations and pinnacles at the corner of East Marshall and North 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets. There are masonry and frame residential building on the north and south sides of east Marshall Street. Residential buildings are mostly Italianate and Greek Revival in Style. While widths look to vary slightly amongst residential buildings on the block, most are three bays wide with vertically aligned windows, flat or low sloped roofs with pronounced cornices, and have single-story, full width, covered front porches that address the street.</p> <p>There is one especially notable building across East Marshall Street to the north of the subject site. The house at 2606 East Marshall Street, built in 1814, is a three-bay, two-and-half story brick Federal house with a single dormer, making this dwelling one of the oldest in the district.</p> <p>The proposed building will be like the surrounding context in that it will be three bays wide and will feature a full width covered front porch.</p> <p>The new building will differ in that it will feature a steeply pitch gable roof on the front with a center shed dormer, and rear projection with a low sloped shed roof. Except for the Federal house located at 2606 East Marshall Street, steeply pitch gable roofs with a dormer are not common in within the context of the block.</p> <p><u>To be more compatible with the surrounding context, Staff recommends that the roof form of the proposed building either feature a flat or low-sloped roof above the second story, and that the roof not feature a dormer. In addition, a faux mansard roof could also be a compatible roof form in the context of the district and based on photographic documentation.</u></p> <p>Staff finds that the overall width, height, and front porch are in-keeping with the surrounding context.</p>
<b>Standards For New Construction: Siting, page 46</b>	<i>2. New residential infill construction should respect the prevailing front and side yard setback patterns of the surrounding block. The minimum setbacks evident in most districts reinforce the traditional street wall.</i>	<p>A site plan submitted by the applicant indicates that proposed building will have a front yard setback of 11'4". The building footprint appears to align with the setback of the neighboring semi-attached, frame, Italianate buildings to the west at 2605 &amp; 2603 East Marshall Street. <u>Staff recommends that the new building match the setback of the neighboring historic building located at 2605 East Marshall Street, and that no portion of the proposed building be proud of 2605 East Marshall Street.</u></p>

Standards For New Construction: Form, page 46	<i>1. New construction should use a building form compatible with that found elsewhere in the historic district. Building form refers to the specific combination of massing, size, symmetry, proportions, projections, and roof shapes that lend identity to a building.</i>	Staff finds that the proposed building's massing, size, symmetry, proportions, and projections are compatible with the context of the subject block; however, finds that the roof form is atypical of the district.
Standards For New Construction: Form, page 46	<i>2. New residential construction should maintain the existing human scale of nearby historic, residential construction in the district.</i>	The proposed building will maintain the existing human scale having a full width covered front porch that addressed East Marshall Street. The porch will be slightly raised and supported by masonry piers. It will have a simple railing design and square columns with minimal detailing. The porch will be covered with a standing seam metal shed roof with side gable returns.  <u>Staff recommends that the front porch feature a hipped or low sloped/flat roof to be more in-keeping with roof forms within the district.</u> The porch will be covered with a standing seam metal hipped roof.
Standards for New Construction: Height, Width, Proportion & Massing, page 47	<i>1. New residential construction should respect the typical height of surrounding residential buildings.</i>  <i>2. New residential construction should respect the vertical orientation typical of other residential properties in surrounding historic districts. New designs that call for wide massing should look to the project's local district for precedent. For example, full-block-long row house compositions are rare in Richmond. New residential buildings that occupy more than one third of a block face should still employ bays as an organizational device, but the new building should read as a single piece of architecture.</i>  <i>3. The cornice height should be compatible with that of adjacent historic buildings.</i>	<u>Staff recommends that the applicant submit a context elevation drawing that shows labels the height of the neighboring historic buildings at 2605 &amp; 2603 East Marshall Street and the proposed height of the new building.</u>  <u>Staff recommends that a foundation drawing be submitted that shows any grade change on the site and how that may impact the height of the foundation.</u>
Standards for New Construction: Materials & Colors, page 47	<i>2. Materials used in new residential construction should be visually compatible with original materials used throughout the district.</i>	The new construction will be clad in horizontal lap fiber cement siding. The main roof will be faux slate/shingles and the porch roof and dormer will be standing seam metal. The foundation appears to have a smooth exterior finish.  <u>Staff recommend that the exterior of the foundation either be brick veneer or a smooth, parged finished.</u>  <u>Material specifications were not submitted with this application. Staff recommend that material specifications be submitted with the final review.</u>

<p><i>Standards For New Construction: Doors and Windows, page 56</i></p>	<p><i>2. The size, proportion and spacing patterns of door and window openings on free-standing new construction should be compatible with patterns established in the district.</i></p>	<p>The windows and doors to be vertically aligned, which is a fenestration pattern that is common in the district.</p> <p>The windows are drawn in the plans as being four-over-one windows, which are not common within the district. <u>Staff recommends that the windows be either one-over-one or two-over-two and constructed of wood or aluminum clad wood. Final window specifications to be included with the final review.</u></p>
<p><i>Standards for New Construction, Residential, Fences &amp; Walls, pg. 51</i></p>	<p><i>1. Fence, wall, and gate designs should reflect the scale of the historic structures they surround, as well as the character of nearby fences, walls, and gates.</i></p> <p><i>2. Fence, wall, or gate materials should relate to building materials commonly found in the neighborhood.</i></p> <p><i>3. Privacy fences along the side and rear of a property should be constructed of wood of an appropriate design. Privacy fences are not appropriate in front of a historic building.</i></p>	<p><u>Staff recommends that any fencing be included in the final review or submitted later for administrative review and approval.</u></p>

*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 Section 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.*

## Figures

Figure 1. Subject lots.



Figure 2. 2603 & 2605 E. Marshall Street.





Figure 4. 2610 & 2612 East Marshall Street.

Figure 3. Church located at 2600 East Marshall St.



Figure 5. Federal House located at 2608 East Marshall Street circa 1814.



Figure 6. Looking west down north side East Marshall Street.



Figure 7. South side of the 2600 Block of East Marshall Street. **Top:** 2018 **Bottom:** 1950s

