

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

1. **CAR No. 16-072** (A. Ball)

**2719 East Broad Street
St. John's Church Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Install a wooden privacy fence.**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to install a wooden privacy fence around the rear yard of a home in the St. John's Church Old and Historic District. The proposed fence will be 6.5 in height. Along the alley, the applicant proposes to construct the fence with alternating 1 3/16" wood pickets of 78" and 46", each with a pointed top, and a 42" gate. On the eastern property line, the applicant proposes to install 1 3/16" wood pickets of 38" in height with a separation of 1 3/16" atop an existing 40" brick wall. The applicant proposes to leave the wood unstained.

Staff recommends approval of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that new fences should be constructed using materials and designs appropriate to the Old and Historic District and that rear-yard privacy fences should mimic traditional fence designs (pg. 74, #4, #7). The proposed fence is constructed of wood which is a material found throughout the District in the construction of privacy fences. Along the alley, the applicant is proposing to mimic a design found on the privacy fence at 2219 East Broad Street which was designed based on the fence that previously stood at the rear of 2302 East Grace Street. The Guidelines also note that existing brick walls should not be removed and replaced with contemporary features. Staff supports the applicants proposed addition to the existing brick wall as it maintains the brick wall and incorporates a fence design appropriate for the historic district.

It is the assessment of staff that the application 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.