

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
June 28, 2016 Meeting**

5. **CAR No. 16-090** (W. Daniel)

**3012 Monument Avenue
Monument Avenue Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

**Install rooftop cellular antennas
in a faux chimney structure.**

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to install a rooftop wireless facility on a three story apartment building in the Monument Avenue Old and Historic District. The applicant proposes to install an antenna array in a faux chimney located on the south corner of the roof. The proposed faux chimney will extend 3.2' from the top of the existing parapet wall. The associated mechanical equipment will be located in the basement and will connect to the antennas via coax cables which will run along the eastern side elevation of the structure. The proposed cables will be painted to match the existing structure.

Staff recommends approval of the project with condition. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that the visual impact of new mechanical equipment should be minimized to protect the historic character of the district (pg. 64). Specifically in regards to communication equipment, the *Guidelines* note that equipment should not be located at the front of a building and should be located in the least visually obstructive location on the property (pg. 64, Communications Equipment #1, #2). Though an attempt has been made to screen the equipment, the proposed location is at the front of the building and will be visible from the front and side of the structure approaching west on Monument Avenue. As the proposed location alters the appearance of the primary façade of a contributing structure, staff recommends the proposed antennas be located in the least visually obtrusive location near the center of the building roof.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the above noted condition, 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.