

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW  
STAFF REPORT  
August 25, 2015 Meeting**

21. CAR No. 15-115 (N. Smith)

**314 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Shockoe Valley Old and Historic District**

**Project Description:**

**Reconstruct front porch**

**Staff Contact:**

**K. Chen**

The applicant requests approval to reconstruct the front porch on a dwelling located in the Shockoe Valley Old and Historic District. The application is the result of enforcement activity.

The applicant proposes to reconstruct the porch to its original dimensions with a shed roof clad with metal. There will be 4x4 square posts and modern corbels. A 1977 photograph, the two adjacent houses and the photograph submitted by the applicant show a hipped roof porch with a box cornice with dentils, and turned posts with elongated brackets. There are at least two styles of turned columns shown in the photograph submitted by the applicant. The two engaged columns and the column on the front left appear to be original. The thinner columns in the center appear to be replacements because they are narrower than the brackets.

The applicant has submitted paint colors for the house and the porch. Sherwin Williams (SW) Downing Stone has been selected for the body of the house, SW Sage Green Light for the trim, and two accent colors SW Roycroft Bronze Green and Classic Light Buff. These colors are all on or similar to colors shown on the palette, pages 60-61 of the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*.

The *Guidelines for Porches, Entrances and Doors*, page 67, of *The Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* states that the entire porch should only be replaced if it is too deteriorated to repair or is completely missing; replacements should match the original as much as possible. The hipped configuration of the roof, the denticulated box cornice, elongated brackets and turned posts are major character defining features of the porch and should be matched as closely as possible. If any original materials were salvaged from the porch they should be reused or replicated.

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**Staff recommends approval of the project as submitted with the conditions that:**

- A hipped roof, as seen in photographs, clad with either flat lock metal or dark membrane be installed,

- A box cornice with dentils, as seen in photographs, be installed,
- New, repaired or replicated elongated brackets, similar to those seen in photographs, be installed, and
- Turned columns similar to those seen in the photographs of the same width as the brackets

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*, specifically the page cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.