

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
September 27, 2016 Meeting**

6. **CAR No. 16-130** (K. Orfalea)

**300 West Clay Street
Jackson Ward Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

**Paint the window box trim and
unpainted masonry navy blue.**

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to paint the window box trim which is currently painted green and the masonry walls of a two story Queen Anne corner commercial structure in the Jackson Ward Street Old and Historic District. The applicant proposes to paint these elements the color Naval which is a navy blue color on the Commission's paint palette. The majority of the existing masonry wall is unpainted buff colored, iron-spotted brick. Limited portions of the brick including a rear wall and the portion under the storefront windows have been painted a buff color similar to White Hyacinth, #42 on the Commission's paint palette. The applicant has stated he wishes to paint the structure the blue color as the property is frequently subject to graffiti which has been difficult to remove from the unpainted brick. Currently, the window boxes are constructed of wood and painted cream with green trim. The applicant proposed to paint the green trim on the first and second stories Naval.

Staff recommends partial approval of the project. Staff recommends approval of painting the wooden trim elements Naval as the color is appropriate for the wooden trim of a Queen Anne style structure. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that historic brick that has not been painted should not be painted (pg. 59, Historic Masonry #1). For this reason, staff recommends denial of the painting of the unpainted masonry. As the limited portions of the brick elevations have been painted or are stained, the Commission may wish to consider if the brick can be painted a natural brick color similar to the existing brick color rather than the proposed blue color as the Guidelines note that when painting previously painted masonry the colors of natural brick are strongly encouraged and are preferred over less appropriate colors such as blue (pg. 59, Historic Masonry #3).

It is the assessment of staff that the application is partially 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.