

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

13. **CAR No. 15-106 (M. Agnew)** **2301 W. Grace Street
West Grace Street Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Replace existing garage doors with overhead
Carriage House-style garage doors**

Staff Contact: **K. Chen**

The applicant requests approval to replace existing sliding garage doors with overhead Carriage-House-style garage doors at a property located in the West Grace Street Old and Historic District. The garage faces Strawberry Street.

The historic wood doors are composed of tongue-and-groove panels with solid stiles, and top, intermediate, and bottom rails, and diagonal cross members. The proposed new doors are stamped steel with an embossed wood grain finish. The proposed style is composed of a five rows of eight “tongue and groove” panels per row. There are applied accent hinges and handles.

Staff recommends approval of the garage door replacements with a condition. *The Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* recommend retaining all fundamental architectural features (pg. 54, #9). The visual continuity established by the existing doors should be maintained. Staff recommends that a new door that more closely replicates the existing carriage style doors be installed. The new doors should also fit the opening and not require the removal or alteration of historic fabric.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the condition noted above, 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 pages cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.