

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
February 23, 2016, Meeting**

4. **CAR No. 16-021** (T. Peters)

**506 North 23rd Street
Union Hill Old and Historic District**

Project Description: **Construct a trellis at the rear of the property**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to construct a wooden pergola at the rear of a home in the Union Hill Old and Historic District. This application is the result of enforcement activity as the triangular structure which is abutting the existing deck was constructed without a Certificate of Appropriateness or a building permit.

Though the trellis is located at the rear of the property, it is visible from the public right of way. The structure can be seen from the adjacent alley and East Leigh Street.

The applicant has not provide a site plan for the structure. For this reason, zoning staff was unable to provide guidance as to whether the structure meets the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.

Staff recommends approval of the project with a condition. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* offer very little guidance about small, freestanding structures such as arbors and pergolas. It does, however, note that auxiliary structures should be compatible with the design of the major buildings on the site, and respect the materials and colors of the main structure (pg. 48, Outbuildings 1-4). The *Guidelines* also suggests that new auxiliary structures should be located to the rear or side of the property to emphasize that they are secondary to the main residence. The proposed pergola is subordinate to the house on the site, and the proposed design and materials of the pergola complement the residence and the adjacent deck. Staff recommends that the structure be painted or stained a neutral color that complements one or more of the colors found on the main structure.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is consistent, with the above condition, with the Standards for New Construction outlined in Section 30-930.7(c) of the City Code, as well as 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.