

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

4. **CAR No. 15-107** (Dorsey Holdings Inc.) **211 N. 36th Street**
Chimborazo Park Old and Historic District

Project Description: **Enclose existing rear 2nd story porch**

Staff Contact: **K. Chen**

The applicant requests approval to enclose an existing rear porch on the 2nd story of a dwelling located in the Chimborazo Park Old and Historic District. The applicant is proposing to enclose the 2nd story porch on the northeast corner of the house that has limited visibility from North 36th and East Broad streets, and from a partial alley to the south.

The porch, set over a 1 story brick wing, will be enclosed below the existing box beam. Eight inch pilasters set above a bead-board base with a bottom rail and top cap will be constructed. The area between the pilasters will be in-filled with *Jeld-Wen Siteline* wood awnings windows that extend the full width, and the area below the windows will receive flat Hardie board panels. The entire composition will be painted SW #0050 Classic Light Buff.

Staff recommends approval of the porch enclosure. *The Richmond Old and Historic District Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that solid materials are not recommended for use in enclosure projects since they radically alter the historic appearance of a porch. Glass enclosures which reveal decorative porch elements are strongly preferred (pg. 67). This is a utilitarian rear porch the character of which is derived from the square posts, heavy box beam, and Richmond rail balustrade. The use of the full width awning windows with solid panels below, the retention of the box beam, the heavy pilasters, and the beaded base convey the character of original structure. The treatment is also compatible with the historic enclosed porch on the first story at the rear of the property.

It is the assessment of staff that the application to construct the enclosure of the rear porch, is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 114-930.7(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.