

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
December 15, 2015 Meeting**

5. **CAR No. 15-145 (J. Jureldini)** **106 E. Clay Street**
Jackson Ward Old and Historic District

Project Description: **Modification to previously approved plans to changes the porch piers to chamfered wood piers.**

Staff Contact: **M. Pitts**

The applicant requests approval to modify previously approved plans for the enclosure of an existing two-story side porch located in the Jackson Ward Old and Historic District. The primary structure on the property is an attached two-story over a raised basement, brick, Italianate-style dwelling constructed ca. 1880. On August 25, 2015, the Commission approved plans for the porch enclosure which include the replacement of modern wood posts with new brick piers to support the porch construction above. With this application, the applicant is seeking approval to replace the approved brick piers with chamfered wood which would cover structural steel columns.

Currently, there is not a privacy fence around the rear of the property. At which time a privacy fence is installed, the subject piers will not be visible from the public right of way and, therefore, not under the purview of the Commission. Though the application notes the intent to apply to construct a privacy fence, an application has not been filed.

Staff recommends denial of the proposed change in materials. *The Richmond Old and Historic District Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that when replacing missing features, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture and other visual qualities, and, where possible, materials (pg. 5). As noted in the approved application, the existing wood posts were not the original piers supporting the porch. The piers were likely brick as is seen in other brick structures throughout the district. For this reason, staff cannot support this change in materials

It is the assessment of staff that this application is not consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation 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.