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

**8. CAR No. 15-148** (C. Kiniry)

225 West Broad Street
Broad Street Old and Historic District

Project Description: Install a vehicle charging station in a parking lot

Staff Contact: M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to install a double head electric car charging station in an existing parking lot within the Broad Street Old and Historic District at the southeast corner of North Madison and West Broad streets. The existing parking lot is surrounded by an approximately 6 feet tall brick pier and metal fence. The parking lot is screened on the Broad street elevation with trees and shrubs and on the Madison Street elevation with smaller shrubs. This parking lot with the fence and vegetative screening was approved by the Commission in 1998. Currently, there is an electrical meter and panel on Broad Street near the corner that is screened from view from Broad Street by the existing vegetation. The applicant is proposing to install two electric charges on one pedestal on the Madison Street elevation between the fourth and the fifth brick pier from the corner. It appears that the pedestals will be located parallel to the existing lighting. The pedestals will be 56.5" in height and 15" wide.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed project as submitted. The Richmond Old and Historic District Handbook and Design Review Guidelines acknowledges that the changing needs of residents call for technologies that enrich modern life including this type of mechanical equipment, but the visual impact of new mechanical equipment should be minimized to protect the historic character of the district (pg. 64). Due to the existing fence, vegetation, and light fixtures, the proposed chargers will be minimally visible from both West Broad and North Madison streets. Though a location near the alley would limit the visual impact on West Broad Street, the proposed location allows the applicant to easily connect to the existing power supply. For these reasons, staff recommends approval of the project as submitted.

It is the assessment of staff that the application as submitted is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 30.930.7(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 code.