

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

10. **CAR No. 15-151** (B. Blair)

**2615 East Broad Street
St. John's Church Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

**Paint a mural on a wall
of an existing carriage house**

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to paint a mural on the western wall of an existing brick carriage house in the St. John's Church Old and Historic District. The carriage house wall is the eastern border of the Mann-Netherwood courtyard and is visible from the alley though the view is partially obscured by vegetation. The wall is currently unpainted brick with cement fillers and exposed mounting joints. The applicant is proposing to paint a mural that will cover the entire façade using colors from the paint palette in the Commission's Guidelines.

Staff recommends denial of the project as submitted. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* state that historic brick that has not been painted should not be painted (pg. 59). Further, the Mural Guidelines state that murals are allowed on commercial buildings, as defined by current zoning (pg. 71). The proposed mural is located on a residential outbuilding on a residentially zoned (R-6) lot that is currently being used for a residential purpose (single family housing). Though the applicant is proposing to paint the mural on a non-primary façade and in colors appropriate for the historic district; as the historic masonry was originally unpainted and the building is not a commercial building, staff cannot recommend approval of this project.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is not consistent with the Standards for Signage in Section 30-930.7(f) of the City Code, as well as 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.