COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW STAFF REPORT August 23, 2016 Meeting

3. CAR No. 16-119 (C. Field)

607 North 23rd Street Union Hill Old and Historic District

Project Description: Construct a covered gate at the rear of the property.

Staff Contact: M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to construct a covered gate at the rear of a property that is currently developed with a garden and a two story garage in the Union Hill Old and Historic District. At the front of the lot, there is a wooden and wire fence and a wooden arbor gate. At the rear of the property, there is a fence constructed of various fencing materials including horizontal wooden boards, wire fencing, and concrete blocks; and a wooden and wire gate. The applicant is proposing to install two wooden gates constructed of pressure treated lumber with a metal gable roof. The proposed structure will be 9'-4 3/4" in height to the roof ridge. The gates will span 9'-9" and the roof will project past the edge of the gates by 2'- 1/4" on each side.

Staff recommends approval of the project with conditions. The Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines state that new fences and gates should be constructed using materials and designs appropriate to the Old and Historic District and that rear-yard privacy fences should mimic traditional fence designs (pg. 74, #4, #7). Though the proposed gate is constructed of wood which is a material found throughout the District in the construction of fences and gates, the proposed metal gable roof is not a building element found on gates in the District. Staff recommends the gate design be modified to not include a metal roof and include an arbor similar in design to the gate at the front of the property and other pergolas found throughout the Old and Historic District. Staff also recommends that details of the proposed fence at the rear be provided for staff review and administrative approval.

It is the assessment of staff that the application, with the above noted conditions, is consistent with the Standards for Site Improvements in Sections 30-930.7(e) 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.