



HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

TO: Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB)
FROM: Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Planner
DATE: May 8, 2022
SUBJECT: 3550 Wilson Boulevard, CoA 22-10, Clarendon School Historic District

Background Information

The three-and-one-half-story Clarendon School was built in 1910 in the Classical Revival style and is the work of noted school architect Charles M. Robinson of Richmond. The design illustrates the architectural fashions of the period with projecting front bays capped by enclosed pediments, Palladian windows, limestone keystones, beveled stringcourses, and a prominent wood frame portico with paired Tuscan columns. A rear addition was constructed in 2002, and the historic building underwent a full rehabilitation. The former classrooms and hallways have been converted to gallery and studio spaces for the Arlington Arts Center (AAC). The building became a Local Historic District (LHD) in 1984 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

In October 2021, the HALRB approved CoA 21-20 for the installation of entrance signs banning firearms. There are no design guidelines specifically approved for this LHD except those for exterior temporary art exhibitions; therefore, the HALRB refers to *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to evaluate any alterations to the building and grounds.

Proposal

The AAC is applying to install four (4) Axis security cameras, one at the main entrance at the northwest, one on either side of the entrances in the hyphen connection of the addition and original building, and one at the rear of the addition. The M3115-LVA outdoor cameras are 4" x 3.7" and would be installed under the eaves of the entranceways. Only one would be installed on the historic brick façade. The camera would be mounted to the mortar between the bricks with a cable piped through the wall so that there would be no exterior wires.

Design Review Committee Review

The Design Review Committee (DRC) heard this application at its May 4, 2022, virtual meeting. Ms. Gwin asked about the location of the cameras and any visible wires. Rhe'a Roland, facilities manager for AAC, explained that the cameras would be located under the eaves, and said she would check where the wires would be run. Based on the understanding that the conduit would not be visible, the DRC placed this item on the consent agenda for the May 18, 2022, HALRB public hearing.

Recommendation

The Historic Preservation Program staff recommends approval of the installation of the proposed security cameras. The applicant has made every effort to make the cameras inobtrusive while retaining their functionality, and only one camera will be installed on the historic portion of the building. Furthermore, the proposal conforms with Rehabilitation Standard #10 specified in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* as it is an alteration which could easily be reversed without an adverse effect to the property.

Standard #10: New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.