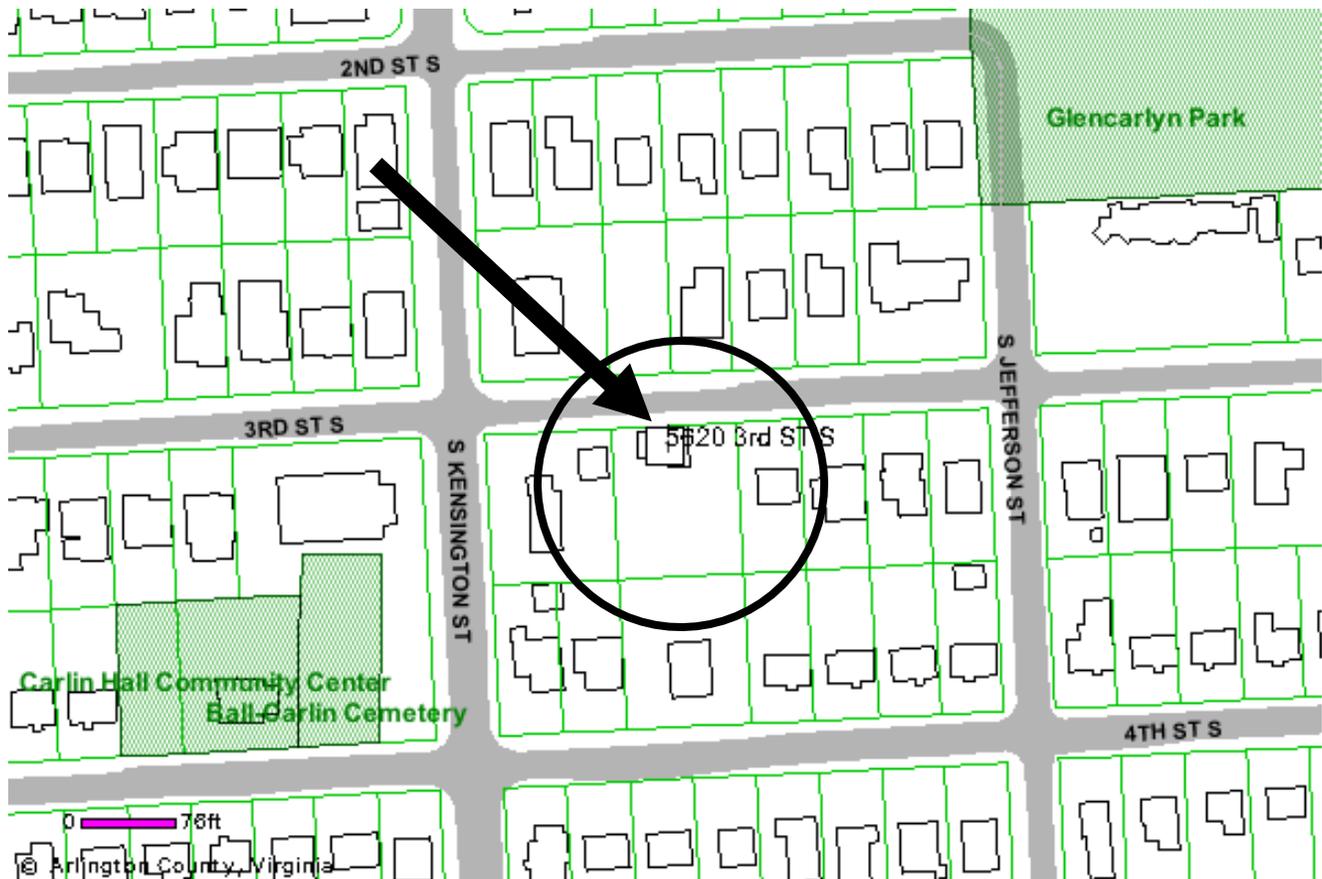


Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board

Arlington County, Virginia

HALRB Case 12-09 (HP1200008)



A request by the Arlington Historic Society, owners of the property at 5620 3rd Street South in the Ball-Sellers House Historic District, to install a forged iron stair handrail at the front entrance.

For DRC (*circle those present*): **Robert Dudka, Charles Craig, Charles Matta, Darren Hannabass,**

For Arlington County (*circle those present*): **Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Rebecca Ballo**

Case #12 - 9 Agenda Item # No 1

Application Complete

Application Incomplete

Applicant(s): AHS

For Applicant(s): Gerald Laporte

(See attached application for applicant, address, name of property and property description, drawings, photographs, and proposed scope of work.)

Design Recommendations:

1. Show all dimensions—risers, treads, etc.
2. Prefer scroll end.
3. Staff to confirm that rail meets Code.
- 4.

Findings:

Return to next DRC meeting

Send to HALRB (see below for recommended actions)

If sent to HALRB, recommended action is:

Place on consent agenda

Place on discussion agenda:

Recommend approval of CoA, with DRC design recommendations and/or additional information provided

Recommend deferral of ruling on CoA (explanation):

Recommend denial of CoA (explanation):

No recommendation.

For DRC (*circle those present*): **Robert Dudka, Charles Craig, Charles Matta, Darren Hannabass,**

For Arlington County (*circle those present*): **Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Rebecca Ballo**

Case #12 - 9 Agenda Item # No 4

Application Complete

Application Incomplete

Applicant(s):

For Applicant(s):

(See attached application for applicant, address, name of property and property description, drawings, photographs, and proposed scope of work.)

Design Recommendations:

1. Confirm that the railing will meet needs of the building code.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Findings:

Return to next DRC meeting

Send to HALRB (see below for recommended actions)

If sent to HALRB, recommended action is:

Place on consent agenda

Place on discussion agenda:

Recommend approval of CoA, with DRC design recommendations and/or additional information provided

Recommend deferral of ruling on CoA (explanation):

Recommend denial of CoA (explanation):

No recommendation.



CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

TO: HALRB
FROM: Rebecca Ballo
DATE: May 7, 2012
SUBJECT: 5620 3rd Street South, Case 12-09, Ball-Sellers House Historic District

This is a request to install a custom-made, forged iron stair rail on the right side of the main entrance door of the Ball-Sellers House. It should be noted that this request refers to the historic front door, which is located in the rear of the property, and not the elevation facing 3rd Street South. The applicants are the Arlington Historical Society (AHS), owners and stewards of the Ball-Sellers House, constructed circa 1760. The intent is to make the interior of the house museum more accessible for guests and visitors, without compromising the historic integrity of the facade. To that end, AHS has engaged a local craftsman, skilled in the art of iron forging and blacksmithing, to create a handrail that is appropriate in design and execution for this important historic district. The top of the gripping surface of the handrail will be set at a consistent height between 34 and 38 inches above the stair treads. The gripping surface will be approximately 1½” wide and will be attached to a 1” x 1” forged chamfered baluster at the bottom and with two 2½” lag bolts at the top of the stair flight. The end of the rail will be finished with a lambs tongue scroll, or with a similar scrolled detail.

This case appeared before the DRC at their April and May 2012 meetings. Because a building permit will be required from the County’s Inspection Services Division, the handrail needs to meet the requirements of the Building Code. The DRC and staff have been working to make sure that the specifications of the handrail meet both the Code requirements and the aesthetic and use requirements of the AHS. The design as presented meets both these needs. In addition, the installation of the handrail will not irreparably damage historic fabric, it is easily removable in the future, and is being designed so as to be compatible with the historic property while also being somewhat visually unobtrusive. While this is not a long term solution for ADA access, it will meet the needs of AHS and visitors to the historic property in the near term.

The DRC recommended approval of this application. The DRC asked that this case be placed on the consent agenda for the May 16, 2012, HALRB meeting. Since there are no specific design guidelines for this historic district, staff finds that the request meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation #9 and #10 and recommends approval:

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

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.