



[EXTERNAL]Public comment BAR2025-00540 / BAR2025-00541 602 N Alfred Street

From Kathryn Hartka <katie.hartka@gmail.com>

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To Luke Cowan <luke.cowan@alexandriava.gov>

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Dear Members of the Board,

As a nearby resident in the Parker-Gray Historic District, I am writing regarding the after-the-fact application for 602 North Alfred Street. I appreciate the applicant's effort to bring this work before the Board for review. However, I am concerned that the current porch design is not consistent with the historic character and detailing of the 600 N Alfred block and that the staff recommendation to paint the beams does not adequately address these issues.

The newly built porch causes the house to appear modern and out of scale with the other houses on the block with open porches. The square posts extend forward and hang off the edge of the porch deck, rather than sitting recessed under the beam as is typical of the other porches. This design flattens the façade and disrupts the uniform rhythm of the street. The posts and beams also lack the traditional trim and molding profiles that give the early 20th-century porches their depth and proportion. Lastly, the use of synthetic materials is also not in line with the historic materials typical of this district.

I urge the Board to consider the precedent this decision will set. Approving an unpermitted alteration with only cosmetic adjustments risks signaling that property owners can alter historic façades first and seek forgiveness later. Requiring proportionally correct columns, historically appropriate trim, and structural alignment of the posts with the porch deck would not only correct this and provide alignment with other houses on the block but reinforce the integrity of the City's preservation process.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work protecting the architectural character of the Parker-Gray District.

Kathryn Hartka

Resident of 600 Block N Alfred St

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