

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

[BUILDING MOUNTED]

OLD AND HISTORIC DISTRICT

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



Docket Item #17

BAR Review Levels

These levels of review are applicable in most cases. Please note that during the administrative review process, Staff may determine that a project requires Board review. Contact Staff at 703.746.3833 to confirm which level of review is required for your project. Also, contact Code Administration at 703.746.4200 to confirm building permit requirements.

NO BAR REVIEW

Installation or replacement of solar energy systems not visible from the public right-of-way

ADMINISTRATIVE (STAFF) REVIEW

Not applicable

BOARD REVIEW

Installation or replacement of solar energy systems

Introduction

Since the mid-1970s, the use of solar energy systems has increased across the country. However, when inappropriately mounted on historic structures, these systems can detract from the building's historic architectural character. The Board supports sustainable design and the use of solar energy within the historic districts, but such features must be carefully balanced with the architectural character of both the individual structure and the district as a whole.

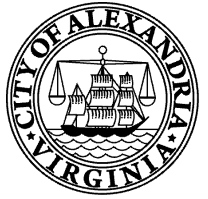
Guidelines

- o Solar energy systems should not damage historic building materials.
- o Solar energy systems should be minimally visible from the public right-of-way.
- o Roof-mounted solar energy systems should be low-profile and mounted at an angle which is as close to the adjacent roof slope as possible.
- o If the roof will be replaced, an architecturally compatible and appropriate color replacement material should be used so that the solar panels visually blend in with the roof.
- o The Board encourages solar energy systems on non-primary structures where feasible. Refer to chapter on accessory structures.

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Additional Information

- o Solar energy systems must meet all the building height, front, rear, and sideyard setback requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.

Example of a minimally visible roof mounted solar panel.

