

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.

NO BAR REVIEW

Installation of new awnings that are retractable, located on non-street-facing elevations, **and no greater than X square feet in area**

Replacement in-kind of awning materials that comply with these guidelines

Removal of awnings

ADMINISTRATIVE (STAFF) REVIEW

Changing design, material, or signage text of an existing awning cover

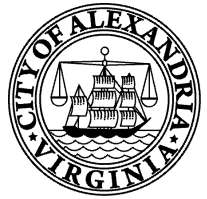
BOARD REVIEW

Installation of new awnings on street-facing elevations

Installation of awnings **greater than X square feet in area**

Introduction

Awnings and canopies are roof projections made of fabric or solid material, typically suspended or cantilevered from a building's wall, entrance, or windows. They provide protection from the elements and serves as a decorative feature. Awnings have been used on commercial buildings in the historic district since the 19th Century and were historically retractable sloped or shed type, usually with valances. Awnings became common on residential properties in the 20th Century, offering shade before air conditioning became widespread. Awnings on residential buildings were also generally of the shed type and retractable for the same reason. As the functional need for awnings has changed, their general configuration has changed as well. Today, most awnings on commercial buildings are constructed on fixed or rigid frames, used to attract attention to a business. Awnings should be sympathetic to and not detract from the architecture of buildings. The building's style, ornamentation, materials, color, and texture are the primary visual elements, while awnings, like signs, should play a secondary role.



Guidelines

- o Awnings and canopies should be designed in styles and materials that are appropriate and sympathetic to the age and architectural style of the building.
- o On Early buildings, the Board encourages retractable, not rigid frame, awnings because they are easily removable and, when retracted, are minimally visible and do not obscure architectural details above doors and windows.
- o Retractable awnings should be retracted when not in use.
- o Rigid frame awnings are more appropriate on Later buildings or over residential entrances.
- o On masonry buildings, all awning hardware should be installed into the mortar joints to avoid damage to the brick or stone.
- o Awnings and canopies should not obscure the architectural or decorative features of a building.
- o Awnings and canopies should be sized to fit the door/window openings.
- o Awning signage should be limited to the valance of the awning.
- o The Board discourages awnings made of plastic or vinyl.
- o The Board discourages awnings with ground supports.
- o The Board discourages internally illuminated awnings.

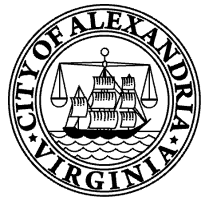
Additional Information

- o A permit is required from Code Administration for all awning installations.

Zoning Regulations

- o The area of any sign hung, placed, painted or displayed on a marquee or awning shall be included in determining the total area of signs erected or displayed.
- o Awnings are permitted to encroach into a required yard provided they do not project more than five feet in depth from the existing building face. Refer to [§ 7-202](#) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- o According to [§ 5-2-29](#) of the City Code, canopies, awnings and marquees suspended from a building or structure with no ground supports, having a clearance of at least eight feet above a sidewalk, extending no more than four feet beyond the front property line, and extending to no more than one foot from the established curb line, may be erected.
- o Awnings that project into the public right-of-way may require an encroachment ordinance.

AWNINGS + CANOPIES



Docket Item #19

AWNING AND CANOPY TYPES



^ RETRACTABLE



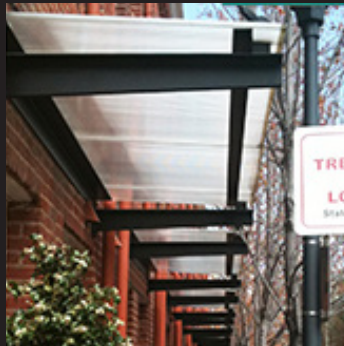
^ RIGID CANOPY



^ FIXED FRAME



^ FIXED FRAME



^ RIGID CANOPY



^ ROOF HOOD



^ FIXED FRAME



^ RETRACTABLE

^ FIXED FRAME

AWNINGS + CANOPIES

PARKER - GRAY DISTRICT
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



Docket Item #19

Additional Resources

[National Park Service Preservation Brief #44: The Use of Awnings on Historic Buildings: Repair, Replacement, and New Design](#)