**ISSUE:** Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations

**APPLICANT:** Philip Saunders

**LOCATION:** Old and Historic Alexandria District

105 Franklin Street

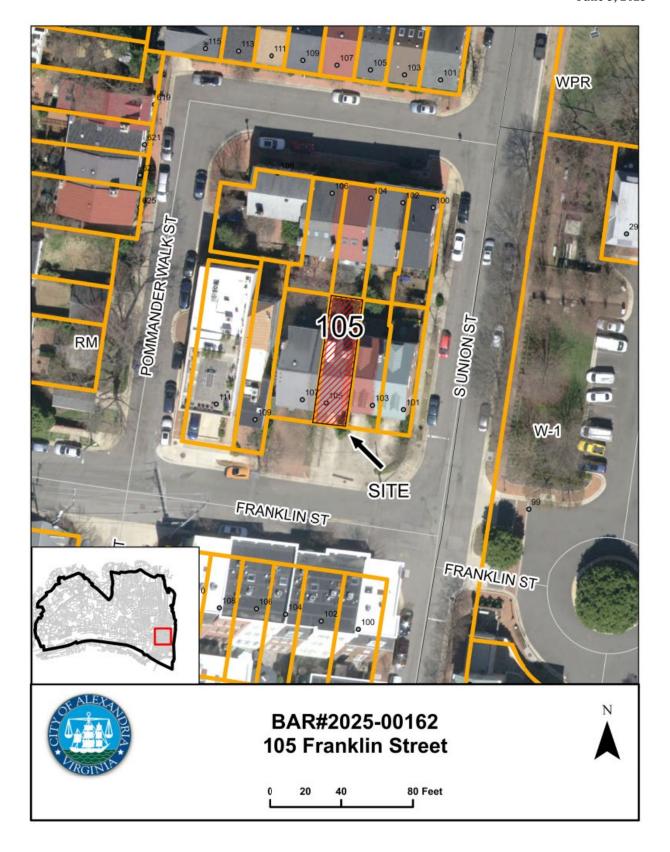
**ZONE:** RM / Townhouse Zone

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations, with the condition that the retaining wall be under 2 feet in height.

### **GENERAL NOTES TO THE APPLICANT**

- 1. APPEAL OF DECISION: In accordance with the Zoning Ordinance, if the Board of Architectural Review denies or approves an application in whole or in part, the applicant or opponent may appeal the Board's decision to City Council on or before 14 days after the decision of the Board.
- 2. COMPLIANCE WITH BAR POLICIES: All materials must comply with the BAR's adopted policies unless otherwise specifically approved.
- 3. BUILDING PERMITS: Most projects approved by the Board of Architectural Review require the issuance of one or more construction permits by Department of Code Administration (<u>including signs</u>). The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary construction permits after receiving Board of Architectural Review approval. Contact Code Administration, 703-746-4200 for further information.
- 4. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS AND PERMITS TO DEMOLISH: Applicants must obtain a copy of the Certificate of Appropriateness or Permit to Demolish PRIOR to applying for a building permit. Contact BAR Staff, Room 2100, City Hall, 703-746-3833, or preservation@alexandriava.gov for further information.
- EXPIRATION OF APPROVALS NOTE: In accordance with Sections 10-106(B), 10-206(B) and 10-307 of
  the Zoning Ordinance, any Board of Architectural Review approval will expire 12 months from the date of
  issuance if the work is not commenced and diligently and substantially pursued by the end of that 12-month
  period.
- 6. HISTORIC PROPERTY TAX CREDITS: Applicants performing extensive, certified rehabilitations of historic properties may separately be eligible for state and/or federal tax credits. Consult with the <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR)</u> prior to initiating any work to determine whether the proposed project may qualify for such credits.



# I. APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicant requests a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations to replace the concrete driveway and walkway with brick and install a new brick landing step in front of the entry door.

### Site context

The subject property is bound by Franklin Street to the south and private development on all other sides. The proposed alterations would primarily be visible from Franklin Street, but also to some degree from Potomac Street, South Union Street, and Pommander Walk Street. The property underwent a substantial renovation in 2023 in which the Board approved a new projecting bay window at the second story of the front elevation, replacement of windows on the third story of the front elevation, new dormers on the front elevation, and a new rear porch, deck, and doors on the rear elevation.

# II. <u>HISTORY</u>

The three-story, two-bay brick townhouse at 105 Franklin Street was constructed in **1971** as part of the Pommander Square subdivision. The project was approved in concept by the Board on March 31, 1971 and final details were approved on May 21, 1971. The architect for the subdivision was Henry S. Sliwka, AIA, of Springfield, Virginia.

Previous BAR Approvals
October 15, 1975
BAR #2023-00390 & #2023-00391
Alterations (north/rear dormer)
Alterations (see above)

## III. ANALYSIS

The applicant requests a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations to replace the concrete driveway and walkway with brick and install a new brick landing step in front of the entry door (Figures 1-2). The applicant proposes to use Belden Belcrest 550 brick with grey mortar and a horizontal running bond pattern, to most closely match the appearance and brick pattern of the neighboring properties. The small strip of grass between the walkway and driveway will be removed and replaced with brick. Lastly, there will be a new brick retaining wall on the right side of the driveway, near 103 Franklin Street.

101 and 103 Franklin Street received Board approval to (BAR #2019-00260 & BAR #2019-00261). These cases both passed on the consent calendar. Staff notes that part of the driveway is located on the subject property and part is in the public right-of-way, including the driveway apron. The Board's purview is limited to the portion on the subject property and the applicant will need to work with Transportation & Environmental Services to get a separate permit for the portion that is in the public right-of-way, as noted in the department comments.



Figure 1. View of 101-107 Franklin Street, showing that 105 Franklin Street is the only property on the block face with a concrete driveway.



Figure 2. Proposed alterations to 105 Franklin Street.

Docket Item #3 BAR #2025-00162 Old and Historic Alexandria District June 5, 2025

The *Design Guidelines* state that paving material for driveways is an important element in the overall visual composition of the historic districts and the Board reviews and approves all hard surface paving material for alleys, drives or parking to ensure that the material is appropriate and does not detract from the historic character of the district. Staff has no objection to the proposed repaving of the existing concrete driveway with brick pavers and the construction of a new brick step because the selected material is appropriate and will improve the consistency on the block face by creating a unified appearance. The applicant did not specify a height for the proposed brick retaining wall, but the *BAR Policies for Administrative Approval* state that retaining walls under 2 feet in height do not require BAR approval. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations, with the condition that the retaining wall be under 2 feet in height.

### **STAFF**

Brendan Harris, Historic Preservation Planner, Planning & Zoning Tony LaColla, AICP, Land Use Services Division Chief, Planning & Zoning

# IV. <u>CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS</u>

Legend: C- code requirement R- recommendation S- suggestion F- finding

# **Zoning**

No comments.

# **Code Administration**

No comments.

### **Transportation and Environmental Services**

- R-1 The building permit must be approved and issued prior to the issuance of any permit for demolition, if a separate demolition permit is required. (T&ES)
- R-2 Applicant shall be responsible for repairs to the adjacent city right-of-way if damaged during construction activity. (T&ES)
- R-3 No permanent structure may be constructed over any existing private and/or public utility easements. It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify any and all existing easements on the plan. (T&ES)
- R-4 The existing driveway apron and existing City sidewalk shall remain in place. Any changes these improvements will require a separate permit from T&ES and shall conform to City standards. (T&ES)
- F-1 After review of the information provided, an approved grading plan is not required at this time. Please note that if any changes are made to the plan it is suggested that T&ES be included in the review. (T&ES)
- C-1 The applicant shall comply with the City of Alexandria's Solid Waste Control, Title 5, Chapter 1, which sets forth the requirements for the recycling of materials (Sec. 5-1-99).

(T&ES)

- C-2 The applicant shall comply with the City of Alexandria's Noise Control Code, Title 11, Chapter 5, which sets the maximum permissible noise level as measured at the property line. (T&ES)
- C-3 Roof, surface and sub-surface drains be connected to the public storm sewer system, if available, by continuous underground pipe. Where storm sewer is not available applicant must provide a design to mitigate impact of stormwater drainage onto adjacent properties and to the satisfaction of the Director of Transportation & Environmental Services. (Sec.5-6-224) (T&ES)
- C-4 All secondary utilities serving this site shall be placed underground. (Sec. 5-3-3) (T&ES)
- C-5 Any work within the right-of-way requires a separate permit from T&ES. (Sec. 5-2) (T&ES)
- C-6 All improvements to the city right-of-way such as curbing, sidewalk, driveway aprons, etc. must be city standard design. (Sec. 5-2-1) (T&ES)

# **Alexandria Archaeology**

No archaeology comments.

### V. ATTACHMENTS

- Application Materials
- Completed application
- Plans
- Material specifications
- Scaled survey plat if applicable
- Photographs
- Public comment
- Any other supporting documentation

**BAR CASE#** (OFFICE USE ONLY) ADDRESS OF PROJECT: 105 Franklin Street DISTRICT: ■ Old & Historic Alexandria □ Parker – Gray □ 100 Year Old Building TAX MAP AND PARCEL: 081.02-02-40 ZONING: RM **APPLICATION FOR:** (Please check all that apply) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS □ PERMIT TO MOVE, REMOVE, ENCAPSULATE OR DEMOLISH (Required if more than 25 square feet of a structure is to be demolished/impacted) □ WAIVER OF VISION CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT and/or YARD REQUIREMENTS IN A VISION CLEARANCE AREA (Section 7-802, Alexandria 1992 Zoning Ordinance) ■ WAIVER OF ROOFTOP HVAC SCREENING REQUIREMENT (Section 6-403(B)(3), Alexandria 1992 Zoning Ordinance) **Applicant:** Property Owner Business (Please provide business name & contact person) Philip Saunders Name: Address City: State: Zip: Phone: E-mail: **Authorized Agent** (if applicable): Attorney Architect Name: Phone: E-mail: **Legal Property Owner:** 

Philip Saunders / Fereshteh O'Brien Address State: City: Zip: Phone: E-mail:

BAR CASE# BAR2025-00162
(OFFICE USE ONLY)

NATURE OF PROPOSED WORK: Please check all that apply
NEW CONSTRUCTION  EXTERIOR ALTERATION: Please check all that apply.  awning fence, gate or garden wall HVAC equipment shutters  doors windows siding shed  lighting pergola/trellis painting unpainted masonry  other resurface driveway  ADDITION  DEMOLITION/ENCAPSULATION  SIGNAGE
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK:</b> Please describe the proposed work in detail (Additional pages may be attached).
Project Scope: - Replace the concrete driveway and walkway at 105 Franklin with brick
to match the neighboring properties. Brick (Belden Belcrest 550), mortar (grey), and
brick pattern (running bond) selected to match neighbors. Landscaping updates include
replacing leaning tree, narrowing natural area for better access, and new brick landing.
BAR is only approving the portion of this project on private property (10 feet in front of house.) A seperate application and approval with Transportation & Environmental
Services is being made for the work on the driveway apron in the public right of way,
removal of small rounded curb to remove tripping hazard, and the extension of the
brick sidewalk in front of 101, 103 and 105.
SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:  Check this box if there is a homeowner's association for this property. If so, you must attach a
copy of the letter approving the project.
Items listed below comprise the <b>minimum supporting materials</b> for BAR applications. Staff may request additional information during application review. Please refer to the relevant section of the <i>Design Guidelines</i> for further information on appropriate treatments.
Applicants must use the checklist below to ensure the application is complete. Include all information and material that are necessary to thoroughly describe the project. Incomplete applications will delay the docketing of the application for review. Pre-application meetings are required for all proposed additions. All applicants are encouraged to meet with staff prior to submission of a completed application.
<b>Demolition/Encapsulation:</b> All applicants requesting 25 square feet or more of demolition/encapsulation must complete this section. Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.
N/A  Survey plat showing the extent of the proposed demolition/encapsulation.  Existing elevation drawings clearly showing all elements proposed for demolition/encapsulation.  Clear and labeled photographs of all elevations of the building if the entire structure is proposed to be demolished.
<ul> <li>Description of the reason for demolition/encapsulation.</li> <li>Description of the alternatives to demolition/encapsulation and why such alternatives are not considered feasible.</li> </ul>

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

**Additions & New Construction:** Drawings must be to scale and should not exceed 11" x 17" unless approved by staff. Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.

	N/A	Scaled survey plat showing dimensions of lot and location of existing building and other structures on the lot, location of proposed structure or addition, dimensions of existing structure(s), proposed addition or new construction, and all exterior, ground and roof mounted equipment.
		FAR & Open Space calculation form.  Clear and labeled photographs of the site, surrounding properties and existing structures, if applicable.
		Existing elevations must be scaled and include dimensions.  Proposed elevations must be scaled and include dimensions. Include the relationship to adjacent structures in plan and elevations.
		Materials and colors to be used must be specified and delineated on the drawings. Actual samples may be provided or required.
		Manufacturer's specifications for materials to include, but not limited to: roofing, siding, windows, doors, lighting, fencing, HVAC equipment and walls.
		For development site plan projects, a model showing mass relationships to adjacent properties and structures.
illun	ninate	<b>&amp; Awnings:</b> One sign per building under one square foot does not require BAR approval unless ed. All other signs including window signs require BAR approval. Check N/A if an item in this section does to your project.
		Linear feet of building: Front:Secondary front (if corner lot):  Square feet of existing signs to remain:  Photograph of building showing existing conditions.  Dimensioned drawings of proposed sign identifying materials, color, lettering style and text.  Location of sign (show exact location on building including the height above sidewalk).  Means of attachment (drawing or manufacturer's cut sheet of bracket if applicable).  Description of lighting (if applicable). Include manufacturer's cut sheet for any new lighting fixtures and information detailing how it will be attached to the building's facade.
Alt	erat	ions: Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.
X	N/A	Clear and labeled photographs of the site, especially the area being impacted by the alterations,
		all sides of the building and any pertinent details.  Manufacturer's specifications for materials to include, but not limited to: roofing, siding, windows,
		doors, lighting, fencing, HVAC equipment and walls.  Drawings accurately representing the changes to the proposed structure, including materials and overall dimensions. Drawings must be to scale.
		An official survey plat showing the proposed locations of HVAC units, fences, and sheds. Historic elevations or photographs should accompany any request to return a structure to an earlier appearance.

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

# **ALL APPLICATIONS:** Please read and check that you have read and understand the following items:

- I understand that after reviewing the proposed alterations, BAR staff will invoice the appropriate filing fee in APEX. The application will not be processed until the fee is paid online.
- I understand the notice requirements and will return a copy of the three respective notice forms to BAR staff at least five days prior to the hearing. If I am unsure to whom I should send notice I will contact Planning and Zoning staff for assistance in identifying adjacent parcels.
- I, the applicant, or an authorized representative will be present at the public hearing.
- I understand that any revisions to this initial application submission (including applications deferred for restudy) must be accompanied by the BAR Supplemental form and revised materials.

The undersigned hereby attests that all of the information herein provided including the site plan, building elevations, prospective drawings of the project, and written descriptive information are true, correct and accurate. The undersigned further understands that, should such information be found incorrect, any action taken by the Board based on such information may be invalidated. The undersigned also hereby grants the City of Alexandria permission to post placard notice as required by Article XI, Division A, Section 11-301(B) of the 1992 Alexandria City Zoning Ordinance, on the property which is the subject of this application. The undersigned also hereby authorizes the City staff and members of the BAR to inspect this site as necessary in the course of research and evaluating the application. The applicant, if other than the property owner, also attests that he/she has obtained permission from the property owner to make this application.

### APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Signatu	re: Phil	ip W Saunders	
Printed	Name:	Philip W Saunders	
Date:	4/23/2	025	

# OWNERSHIP AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Use additional sheets if necessary

1. Applicant. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the applicant, unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than three percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1. Philip W Saunders		50
<sup>2.</sup> Fereshteh S O'Brien		t 50
3.		

2. <u>Property.</u> State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the property located at 105 Franklin Street (address), unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than three percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1. Philip W Saunders		50
<sup>2.</sup> Fereshteh S O'Brien		50
3.		

3. <u>Business or Financial Relationships.</u> Each person or entity listed above (1 and 2), with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property is required to disclose **any** business or financial relationship, as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance, existing at the time of this application, or within the12-month period prior to the submission of this application with any member of the Alexandria City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals or either Boards of Architectural Review.

Name of person or entity	Relationship as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance	Member of the Approving Body (i.e. City Council, Planning Commission, etc.)
1.		
2.		
3.		

NOTE: Business or financial relationships of the type described in Sec. 11-350 that arise after the filing of this application and before each public hearing must be disclosed prior to the public hearings.

the information	ant or the applicant's authorized agent, on provided above is true and correct.	I hereby attest to the best of my ability that
1/5/25	Philip W. Saunders	least some
'Date	Printed Name	Signature

### **Application to the Alexandria Board of Architecture Review**

**Submitted by:** Faye O'Brien and Phil Saunders

Property Address: 105 Franklin Street

**Project Scope:** Application to apply brick to the driveway at 105 Franklin Street.

# **Project Overview**

The primary objectives of this project are to:

- Enhance the visual appeal and cohesiveness of 105 Franklin Street and the surrounding block.
- Address functional issues related to the existing hardscapes.
- Align with the broader design goals of Old Town Alexandria.

# **Background**

In 2019, the current owners of 101 and 103 Franklin (Mark Eisenhower and Amy Fries, Chris Opie and Joanna Allegretti) received BAR approval to replace their concrete driveways with brick. At the time, the prior owner of 105 Franklin did not participate in the project, leaving one of the four driveways as concrete. In October 2024, Faye O'Brien and Phil Saunders purchased 105 Franklin and now seek to address the inconsistency in driveway and sidewalk materials through this project.

The private properties in this block only extend 10 feet in front of the houses, leaving the remainder of the driveway apron and sidewalk in the public right of way. This means that BAR is reviewing the portion of this project on private property and Transportation & Environmental Services is reviewing the remainder of this project in a separate application. However, we are including the scope of the full project in this document to provide full transparency.

The plat at the end of this document shows which portion of the work is approved by BAR and which by T&ES, and it includes annotations with notes from this document – ex **(plat #6)** 

# **Driveway Modifications**

(plat #6) The driveway and walkway at 105 Franklin will be converted from concrete (see pictures of the current deteriorated surface with multiple cracks) to brick. The selected brick (Belden Belcrest 550) and mortar color (grey) have been chosen to closely match those of the neighboring properties. The brick pattern will be running bond, horizontal across the face of the house, with a soldier border. This is the same pattern that exists in

the 103 and 101 Franklin shared driveway today. The sidewalk will be running bond with a soldier border.

Three existing natural areas in the space will be modified as follows:

- Right-side natural area (facing the house): The existing tree and root will be removed (the tree is leaning and unstable), a brick retaining wall will be added for aesthetic and structural purposes, and a replacement tree (Hornbeam) will be planted. (plat #1)
- 2) Left-side natural area (facing the house): This area will be narrowed by extending the new brick surface to the property line, except for a cutout area around the existing crepe myrtle tree, which will remain. (plat #9) This narrowing of the natural area aims to improve accessibility for walking and driving and discourage pet waste accumulation. (plat #2)
- 3) **Small strip between the walkway and driveway:** This strip will be removed and replaced with brick for a more cohesive appearance.

# **Property Lines**

As confirmed by Brendan Harris (Historic staff), who also confirmed with Zoning review of plats, the property line monuments for the houses on this block are the middle of the party wall. The width of 105 Franklin is 18 feet, so the corridor extending 18 feet wide in front of 105 will be changed to brick.

George O'Quinn at Dominion Survey has confirmed the measurements from the included plat to establish the border between 105 and 107 at the house. Either measure 0.2 feet from the edge of 107 stoop or measure 18.4 feet (width of 105 plus half width of party wall) from the right corner of 105. (plat #3)

At the border between 105 and 103, the new brick work will abut the existing brickwork at 103.

# **Entry Door Landing**

A new brick landing step will be installed in front of the entry door at 105 Franklin, aligning with the design of the other four houses on the block. (plat #5)

# **Contractor and Design**

The project will be executed by Mt Diablo Landscaping. Additional supporting materials, including design specifications, photos and PLAT information are attached for review.

(Note: the remaining scope below will be reviewed by T&ES, and is not part of this BAR application.)

### Sidewalk Enhancements

Currently, the sidewalk area in front of 107 Franklin is bricked and extends into the areas in front of 105 and 109 Franklin. This project proposes to extend the brick sidewalk fully across the driveways of 101, 103, and 105 Franklin, creating a unified appearance and reinforcing the historic character of Old Town Alexandria. (plat #8)

Additionally, the small, rounded curb area in front of the natural area at 105 Franklin will be removed. (plat #7) This change will:

- Create a seamless transition between the driveways.
- Improve pedestrian safety by eliminating a tripping hazard.
- Prevent vehicles from mistakenly parking in front of the driveways (see pictures).
- Facilitate easier vehicle access in and out of 105 Franklin.

The same brick material used for the driveway at 105 Franklin will be used for the sidewalk extension. The choice of sidewalk brick was based on matching existing 101 and 103 bricks, and has been approved by those owners. The pattern will be running bond.

At the street, the border between 105 and 107 will be established by measuring 18 feet from the edge of the brick at 103. (plat #4) The new sidewalk brickwork will begin at this measurement and will extend to the existing concrete pad joint near the driveway opening at 101 Franklin. As part of this work, a few layers of existing brick in front of the natural area will be replaced to ensure a consistent match with the new brick, within the 18 foot wide corridor in front of 105. (plat #4)

I have reviewed these plans with Kim Merrit and another colleague in the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, as they control the sidewalk area. They agree with this overall plan and approach, and I will submit the permits with their team, along with the BAR application.



