

Docket Item # 1
BAR CASE # 2015-00384

BAR Meeting
January 6, 2016

ISSUE: Certificate of Appropriateness - Signage

APPLICANT: Union Street Public House, LLC

LOCATION: 121 South Union Street

ZONE: CD / Commercial Zone

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness application, as submitted.

GENERAL NOTES TO THE APPLICANT

1. **ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS AND PERMITS TO DEMOLISH:** Applicants must obtain a stamped 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.
2. **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.
3. **COMPLIANCE WITH BAR POLICIES:** All materials must comply with the BAR's adopted policies unless otherwise specifically approved.
4. **BUILDING PERMITS:** Most projects approved by the Board of Architectural Review require the issuance of one or more construction permits by Building and Fire Code Administration (including signs). The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary construction permits after receiving Board of Architectural Review approval. Contact Code Administration, Room 4200, City Hall, 703-838-4360 for further information.
5. **EXPIRATION OF APPROVALS NOTE:** In accordance with Sections 10-106(B) and 10-206(B) of the Zoning Ordinance, any official 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 Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) prior to initiating any work to determine whether the proposed project may qualify for such credits.



BAR2015-00384



I. ISSUE

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a blade sign displaying the company's logo, affixed to the wall above the second entrance to the building on Union Street. The blade sign measures 24" x 36" and is double-sided, painted wood (6 sq. ft. total.) The blade sign will be lit by two existing gooseneck lights which are currently affixed to the wall.

The existing signs on the building are the pin mounted wall sign and a matching blade sign over the primary entrance at the north end of the building.

II. HISTORY

This site was originally the home of W.S. Moore's Machine Shop in the **mid-19th century**. Until World War II, when all the buildings on the site were demolished, the site housed a box manufacturing plant, a hardware store, an oyster house, and a junk and scrap yard.¹

During the early **1970s**, a two-story infill building was constructed, which integrated the first floor of the brick wall which surrounded the historic scrap yard. This infill building, as significantly renovated in the late 1980s into the current building.



Site Photo 1971, prior to 1986 Renovations



Site Photo 1986, prior to Current Renovation

Previous Approvals

BAR2014-00255 (8/5/14) Administrative approval of relocation of existing hanging sign with mini-spots over main (south) entry.

III. ANALYSIS

The *Criteria & Standards for Administrative Approval for Signs within the Historic Districts* generally allows for the administrative approval of two signs on mid-block buildings and three signs for a corner building. The Board has also frequently approved three or more signs for a business, especially a business on a corner lot. This building is considered a corner building for sign purposes because it is adjacent to an alley. The *Standards* specify that if three signs are

¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885-1958.

being installed, two signs should be placed on one elevation and the third should be located on the secondary elevation. Due to the large storefront of this business, as well as the Board's approval of multiple signs for nearby businesses of similar scale, Staff believes that the proposed additional hanging sign is modest and appropriate. Staff reminds the applicant that the City Code requires the bottom of any projecting hanging, or blade, sign to be at least eight feet (8') above sidewalk grade. Staff finds the proposed size and location of the proposed hanging sign to be appropriate and pedestrian scaled and recommends approval, as submitted.

STAFF

Michele Oaks, Historic Preservation Planner, Planning & Zoning
Al Cox, FAIA, Historic Preservation Manager, Planning & Zoning

IV. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Zoning Comments

C-1 Need all existing signs documented; window, wall, and hanging – *submitted by applicant on 12/29/15.*

Code Administration

No Comments Received.

Transportation and Environmental Services

- R-1 Applicant shall be responsible for repairs to the adjacent city right-of-way if damaged during construction activity. (T&ES)
- C-1 Any work within the right-of-way requires a separate permit from T&ES. (Sec. 5-2) (T&ES)
- C-2 A sign may be erected or displayed flat against a building wall or at an angle thereto, so long as the sign does not project more than four feet from the building wall or within one foot of an established curb line and the bottom of the sign is at least eight feet above a sidewalk or parking area and at least 14.5 feet above any alley. (Sec. 5-2-29(c)) (T&ES)
- C-3 If any portion of the signage encroaches in the right of way, the owner shall obtain and maintain a policy of general liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 which will indemnify the owner (and all successors in interest); and the city as an additional named insured. (Sec. 5-29 (h)(1)) (T&ES)
- C-4 The owner shall obtain and maintain a policy of general liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 which will indemnify the owner (and all successors in interest); and the City as an Additional Insured, against claims, demands, suits and related costs, including attorneys' fees, arising from any bodily injury or property damage which may occur as a result of the encroachment. (Sec. 5-29 (h)(1)) (T&ES)

Please submit Insurance Certificate:
City of Alexandria
T&ES / Permit Section
Attn: Kimberly Merritt
301 King Street, Room 4130
Alexandria, VA 22314

- C-5 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-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

- F-1 No action required.

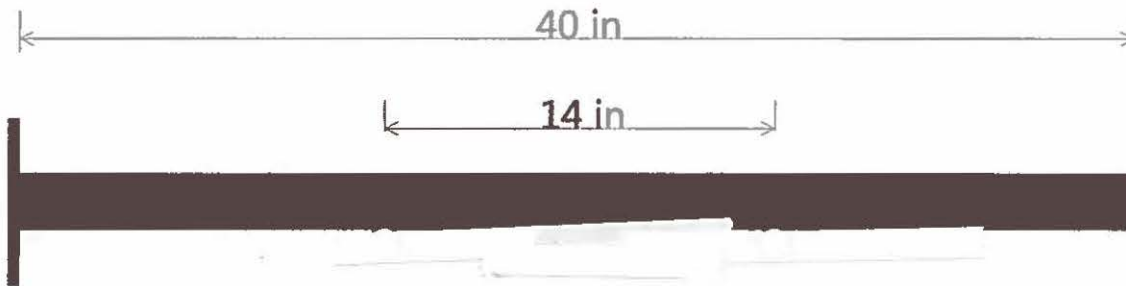
V. ATTACHMENTS

1 – Supplemental Materials

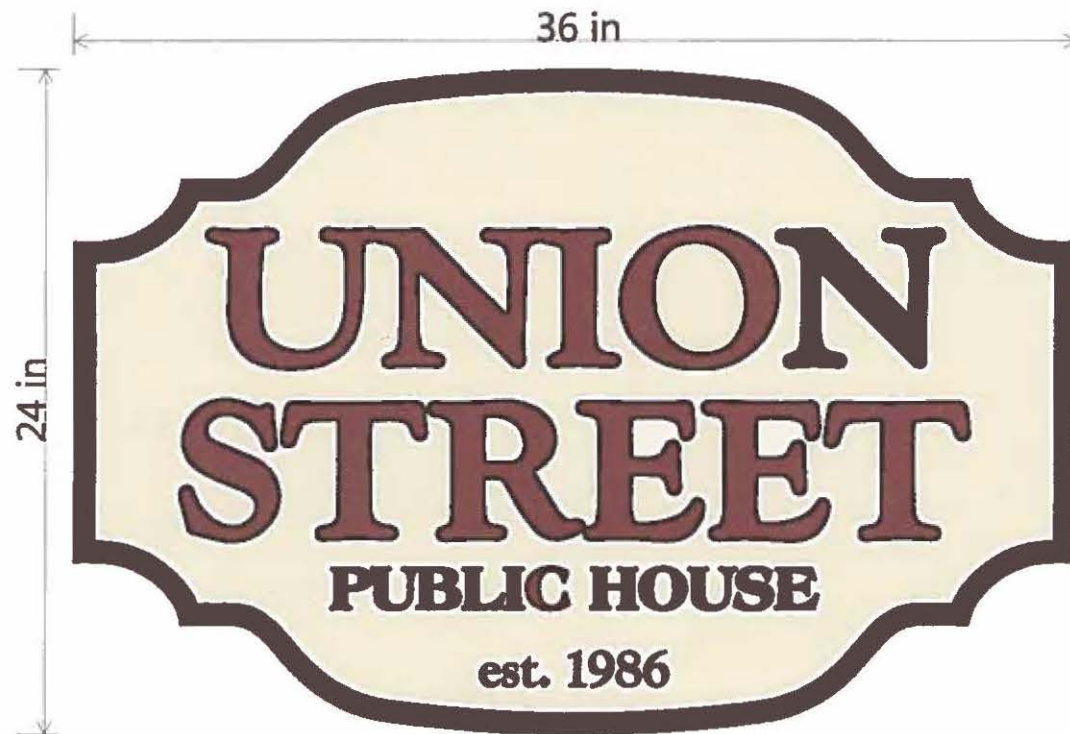
2 – Application for BAR2015-00384: 121 S Union Street



APPLICATION MATERIALS
BAR2015-00384
121 S Union St.
12/10/2015



1x
straight bracket
mounted to brick building
w/ 5" lag bolts



1x
36" x 24"
wood sign
double-sided
hanging from bracket

APPLICATION MATERIALS
BAR2015-00384
121 S Union St.
12/10/2015

121
UNION STREET
PUBLIC HOUSE

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA, VA



APPLICATION MATERIALS
BAR2015-00384
121 S Union St.
12/10/2015

BAR Case # 2015-00384ADDRESS OF PROJECT: 121 South Union StreetTAX MAP AND PARCEL: 075.01-06-15 ZONING: CD

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)Name: Union Street Public HouseAddress: 121 South Union StreetCity: Alexandria State: VA Zip: 22314Phone: (703) 548-1785 E-mail: INFO@UNIONSTREETPUBLICHOUSE.COMAuthorized Agent (if applicable): ☐ Attorney ☐ Architect ☒ MANAGING PARTNERName: ROBERT TESTPhone: (703) 819-472E-mail: RJTESTLAN@gmail.com

Legal Property Owner:

Name: 121 SOUTH UNION STREET LLCAddress: 811 MARSHALL LANECity: ALEXANDRIA State: VA Zip: 22302

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- ☐ Yes ☒ No Is there an historic preservation easement on this property?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, has the easement holder agreed to the proposed alterations?
☐ Yes ☒ No Is there a homeowner's association for this property?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, has the homeowner's association approved the proposed alterations?

If you answered yes to any of the above, please attach a copy of the letter approving the project.

NATURE OF PROPOSED WORK: *Please check all that apply*

- ☐ NEW CONSTRUCTION
- ☐ EXTERIOR ALTERATION: *Please check all that apply.*
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> awning | <input type="checkbox"/> fence, gate or garden wall | <input type="checkbox"/> HVAC equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> shutters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> doors | <input type="checkbox"/> windows | <input type="checkbox"/> siding | <input type="checkbox"/> shed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> pergola/trellis | <input type="checkbox"/> painting unpainted masonry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | | | |
- ☐ ADDITION
- ☐ DEMOLITION/ENCAPSULATION
- ☒ SIGNAGE

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: *Please describe the proposed work in detail (Additional pages may be attached)*

ADD NEW SIGN OVER FRONT DOOR

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

Items listed below comprise the **minimum supporting materials** for BAR applications. Staff may request additional information during application review. Please refer to the relevant section of the *Design Guidelines* 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.

Electronic copies of submission materials should be submitted whenever possible.

Demolition/Encapsulation : *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.
- ☐ ☐ Description of the reason for demolition/encapsulation.
- ☐ ☐ Description of the alternatives to demolition/encapsulation and why such alternatives are not considered feasible.

Additions & New Construction: Drawings must be to scale and should not exceed 11" x 17" unless approved by staff. All plans must be folded and collated into 5 complete 8 1/2" x 11" sets. Additional copies may be requested by staff for large-scale development projects or projects fronting Washington Street. 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.

Signs & Awnings: One sign per building under one square foot does not require BAR approval unless illuminated. All other signs including window signs require BAR approval. Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.

- ☐ ☐ N/A
- ☐ ☒ Linear feet of building: Front: 80 Secondary front (if corner lot): _____
- ☐ ☒ Square feet of existing signs to remain: 71.36
- ☐ ☒ 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.

Alterations: Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.

- ☐ ☐ 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.

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

- ☒ I have submitted a filing fee with this application. (Checks should be made payable to the City of Alexandria. Please contact staff for assistance in determining the appropriate fee.)
- ☒ 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 5 sets of 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:Signature: Printed Name: ROBERT TESTDate: Dec 7, 2015

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 ten 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. JAMES MATTHEWS	121 S. Union ST	50%
2. Jan TEST	121 S. Union ST	16.66%
3. Julie Howard	121 S. Union ST	16.66%

JOAN MATTHEWS 121 S. Union ST 16.66%
2. Property. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the property located at 121 S. Union ST (address), unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than ten 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. VICKI WARDEN	811 MARSHALL RD	100%
2.		
3.		

3. Business or Financial Relationships. Each person or entity indicated above in sections 1 and 2, with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property are 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 the 12-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. All fields must be filled out completely. Do not leave blank. (If there are no relationships please indicate each person or entity and "None" in the corresponding fields).

For a list of current council, commission and board members, as well as the definition of business and financial relationship, [click here](#).

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. All in Sec 1	NONE	
2. Union St. Publics	NONE	
3. Joan Mac Brown Inc	NONE	

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.

As the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent, I hereby attest to the best of my ability that the information provided above is true and correct.

12/7/2015
Date

ROBERT TEST
Printed Name


Signature