

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2018

TO: CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE OLD AND HISTORIC
ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

FROM: HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF

SUBJECT: WINDOW POLICY REVISION

At the January 3, 2018 public hearing, the OHAD BAR directed staff to amend the BAR's Window Policy to permit administrative approval of aluminum clad wood, wood composite, and fiberglass simulated divided lite windows on buildings constructed after 1934. The policy previously only permitted these modern windows on structures constructed after 1965.

The BAR noted that they had consistently approved these windows on a case-by-case basis on mid-20th century buildings because buildings in this period incorporated mass produced materials that lacked significant hand craftsmanship and because they were generally set back from the street, limiting public view of the material. The BAR selected 1934 as a cutoff date because 1749-1934 is the end of the period of significance for the Old Town National Register Historic District. The majority of the BAR members agreed that there was little material or stylistic difference between buildings constructed between 1934 and 1965 in Old Town. These windows must continue to meet all other provisions of the Window Policy.

A copy of the BAR's window policy is attached. The changes are noted in section B item #4 with previous text struck thru and new text underlined. Please let staff know whether there are errors in the BAR's discussion represented in the minutes of the January 3, 2018 hearing or in the amended policy, dated 1/3/18.