

## Scottsville Architectural Review Board

### 2 February 2012 Meeting Notes

Attending: Jeffrey Plank, Chair; Steven Meeks, Fred Schneider; Not attending: Ruth Klippstein, Craig Stratton

At 7:07 pm Jeffrey Plank called the meeting to order, established a quorum, and the Board agreed on the agenda.

Plank reported that, before the start of the meeting Dustin Caster reported that the James River Brewery would repair the stucco and retain the current paint color on the stucco on the ground floor façade. At the January ARB meeting Caster and Chris Kyle discussed possible changes to the stucco paint color. For now, they will retain the current green color.

Spencer Marshall presented proposals for the corner entrance at 280 Valley Street: addition of 1 inch thick brick pavers to the entrance stair treads, slate facing for the stair risers, and, because the new material would add height to the stairs and exceed code requirements, raising the adjacent sidewalk. According to Marshall, the existing concrete steps and landing have deteriorated, and the tile on the landing was damaged during renovation. The Board agreed that slate facing the risers would be a good choice; it would continue the horizontal use of slate from the Valley Street facade base to another horizontal building feature. With Marshall the Board discussed the pros and cons of different materials for safety, including slate. We also discussed the impact of different materials, colors, and scale on the entry area. We noted that using brick pavers on the horizontal surfaces would (1) introduce a new material and color on the horizontal surface and (2) that because brick is used on the building walls, using it on the floors and stairs would reduce the distinction to the eye of the various elements. In addition, the scale of the pavers would make the entrance surfaces very busy. We suggested that Marshall consider using materials that would preserve the monolithic character of the steps and landing so that the principal features of the column and door would be clearly distinguished and that the entrance area would “read” distinctly in relation to the building walls. If not slate, we suggested concrete pavers at a larger scale than brick. Finally, Steven Meeks suggested that parging the existing concrete surfaces might be an inexpensive alternative that would retain the original building appearance and eliminate the need for changing the sidewalk grade. Fred Schneider recommended that Marshall contact a mason with historic preservation experience; he suggested Tom Woods and gave Marshall Woods’ contact information.

Marshall also presented preliminary plans for west façade renovations that would convert the second floor porch into an office. Schneider noted this is a new element in the building renovation plan and that a “piece meal” approach to the building made it difficult for the ARB to evaluate and/or provide advice on any one part. We discussed Marshall’s plans for each façade and agreed that we would review the whole project on-site at our earliest mutual convenience.

For the second-story office, Schneider suggested that Marshall consider treating it as a porch enclosure and treat posts as columns and use horizontal elements to divide large panels of glass, even using the divided window openings to insert operable windows for ventilation. We suggested that Marshall look at the porch enclosure at 581 Harrison, where the large original screened panels were replaced with fixed or

operable windows (above) and operable windows or wood panels (below). We noted that for wide vertical expanses vertical board and batten is ok, but for narrow spaces—either vertical or horizontal—simple, flat casing or trim is better. For the office door, we recommended a glass panel door to match the transparency of the window treatments.

Marshall also requested ARB discussion of building lighting options, including gas fixtures on the south side patio. For the NE entrance Marshall suggested a metal fixture with a broad flat metal round “hat” and light below. Schneider suggested a globe or “schoolhouse” fixture that would illuminate the pressed tin entrance ceiling. We noted that carriage lamps are inappropriate for the building (out of period) and that simpler, more modern fixtures would be appropriate for the east façade entrance (now closed) and the NE corner entrance. We agreed to send sample suggestions asap, including gas fixtures for use on the south façade patio. Marshall thanked the ARB for the full discussion and said he’d welcome the information about fixture options.

So that the ARB could better understand plans for each of the four facades, we agreed to meet on-site early next week. Clark will facilitate scheduling the meeting and distributing information about fixtures in advance.

At 8:20 Schneider moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey Plank (filling in for Ruth Klippstein)