



HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD  
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB)  
**FROM:** Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Planner  
**DATE:** July 11, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** 3550 Wilson Boulevard, CoA 22-10A, Clarendon School Local Historic District

### **Background Information**

The three-and-one-half-story Clarendon School was built in 1910 in the Classical Revival style and is the work of noted school architect Charles M. Robinson of Richmond. The design illustrates the architectural fashions of the period with projecting front bays capped by enclosed pediments, Palladian windows, limestone keystones, beveled stringcourses, and a prominent wood frame portico with paired Tuscan columns. A rear addition was constructed in 2002, and the historic building underwent a full rehabilitation. The former classrooms and hallways have been converted to gallery and studio spaces for the Arlington Arts Center (AAC). The building became a Local Historic District (LHD) in 1984 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

In May 2022, the HALRB approved CoA 22-10 for the installation of four Axis security cameras above the building entrances. There are no design guidelines specifically approved for this LHD except those for exterior temporary art exhibitions; therefore, the HALRB refers to *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to evaluate any alterations to the building and grounds.

### **Proposal**

The AAC is applying to move three of the four previously approved Axis security cameras, all on the non-historic addition, one on either side of the entrances in the hyphen connection of the addition and original building, and one at the rear of the addition. Installation in the original locations, which would have required the applicant to drill through the glass above the door, is not possible. Therefore, the applicant is requesting to move the cameras to the closest adjacent wall. The cameras will be mounted to the mortar between the bricks with a cable piped through the wall so that there would be no exterior wires.

### **Design Review Committee Review**

The Design Review Committee (DRC) heard this application at its July 6, 2022, virtual meeting. Mr. Davis reiterated a question from the first review cycle about whether the cameras were available in a less conspicuous color such as brick red or taupe. Ms. Bolliger agreed to check. Mr. Davis stated that the

answer to this question would not prevent the item from being placed on the consent agenda, so the DRC placed this item on the consent agenda for the July 20, 2022, HALRB virtual public hearing.

### **Recommendation**

The Historic Preservation Program staff recommends approval of the amended locations for the security cameras. The applicant has made every effort to make the cameras inobtrusive while retaining their functionality. It has been confirmed that the cameras are only produced in white. They will be installed through the mortar, which is a sacrificial material and can be repaired. Furthermore, the proposal conforms with Rehabilitation Standard #10 specified in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* as it is an alteration which could easily be reversed without an adverse effect to the property.

Standard #10: New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.