



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:** September 15, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** 3550 Wilson Boulevard, CoA 22-10B, 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. Prior to installation, the AAC determined that the approved camera locations were inappropriate given that the originally proposed locations would not allow the cameras to have complete visibility of the entrances. Thus, the applicant returned in July for HALRB review and approval of alternative locations in CoA 22-10A.

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**

Due to COVID-19 material shortages, the AAC is applying for retroactive approval of a different brand of security camera (with a similar profile) and an amended location for the rear southeast facing camera on the non-historic addition to the Clarendon School.

### **Design Review Committee Review**

The Design Review Committee (DRC) heard this application at its September 7, 2022, hybrid meeting. The members had no questions and placed this item on the consent agenda for the September 21, 2022, HALRB hybrid public hearing.

## **Recommendation**

The Historic Preservation Program staff recommends approval of the alternate camera brand as the design is similar to the brand previously approved and equally low-profile in design. Staff also recommends approval of the amended location for the security camera on the non-historic addition as the location is unobtrusive. 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.