

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

TO: Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB)

FROM: Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Planner

DATE: October 10, 2021

SUBJECT: 2133 North Taft Street, CoA 21-23, Dawson Terrace Historic District

Background Information

The Dawson-Bailey House is a stone dwelling located at Dawson Terrace Park that was designated as a Local Historic District (LHD) in 1998. The building and surrounding park property are owned by Arlington County. The house is sited towards the southwest corner of the property near the intersection of North Taft Street and 21st Road North. Arlington County constructed the adjoining community center to the rear of the building in 1963. The following site elements are in proximity to the house and recreation center: parking lot and playground areas to the north; an open lawn and recreational courts to the east; and landscaped open space to the south and west (fronting the public rights-of-ways).

In 2016, Arlington County completed a rehabilitation of the historic house (CoA 15-07 and CoA 15-23). The two-story dwelling features a wood shingled side-gable roof pierced by brick gable-end chimneys. The fenestration consists of single-leaf paneled doors and six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Recent architectural evaluations and archival investigations suggest that the first section of the building was constructed between 1792 and 1800. The County made improvements to the playground and recreation facilities on the site beginning in 2018 (CoA 16-28). Most recently the County's Department of Environmental Services (DES) added electronic card readers to three (3) entrances of the 1963 non-contributing addition at the rear of the historic Dawson-Bailey House (CoA 20-08). The card readers allow the Department of Parks and Recreation staff that manage the property to lock and unlock these entrances remotely.

There are no design guidelines specifically approved for this LHD; 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

On September 12, 2020, the Arlington County Board adopted an amendment to the Code of Arlington County, Virginia Chapter 13, Missiles, to add Title II Sections 13-11 through 13-15 "relating to firearms, to prohibit the possession, carrying or transportation of any firearms in County buildings, facilities and certain public rights of way." DES staff was tasked to add these signs to all County facilities, including four County-owned LHDs. The County Board report language states "the ordinance requires the County to post signs at the entrance(s) to all buildings, parks, and park facilities."

Per these guidelines, DES staff proposes to install six (6) 12"x18" signs: three (3) signs on 4"x4" white-painted wooden posts at the three walkways to the buildings and install three (3) signs on doors of the non-historic addition to the Dawson-Bailey House.

Design Review Committee Review

The Design Review Committee (DRC) heard this application at its October 6, 2021, virtual meeting. Since the proposed building signs are all on the non-historic addition to Dawson Terrace, the Committee did not request any changes to the application. However, the application is one of four coming forward from DES, one of which required discussion. Therefore, this item was placed on the discussion agenda of the October 20, 2021, HALRB meeting with the other three DES applications.

Recommendation

The Historic Preservation Program staff recommends approval of the installation of the proposed signs as they are required by County Ordinance, and they will increase safety in the historic building. As the signs are made to be visible and are required to be at every entrance, there are few unobtrusive solutions for sign placement on the historic buildings and at cultural landscapes. Staff understands that in this case, the signs will be more visible than they might be if they were being installed for a different use and could adhere to the visibility recommendations of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*.

However, in this case, the signs will be particularly appropriate because they will be installed on the non-historic addition to the Dawson-Bailey House. The proposal conforms with Rehabilitation Standard #10 specified in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* as it is an alteration to a non-historic site and 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.