



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: August 9, 2022
SUBJECT: 5711 4th Street South, CoA 21-09A, Carlin Hall Historic District

Background Information

Carlin Hall is a one-story, late Victorian style cross-plan community hall. Twin entrances flank a set of five double-hung sash windows. It features a wooden cornice that extends fully around the building and a gable roof with a four-sided wooden cupola. In 1892, the Carlin Hall Association was chartered as a stock corporation. The Hall was used for Episcopal church services from 1892 until 1910, then served as an elementary school from the early-1920s until 1950. During its early years, Carlin Hall was the most important building in Glencarlyn — Arlington’s first planned suburban subdivision. From the time it was completed in 1892, the new hall quickly became a popular community gathering place. It was the meeting space for the newly formed civic association and the Episcopal Church congregation, as well as a venue for dances, plays, holiday festivities, and a variety of other community social events. The meeting hall occupies the center of the building. There is an entryway, a second room, bathrooms and a shed-roofed kitchen addition, built sometime before the early-1920s. Behind the building are a playground and a wooden storage shed.

Carlin Hall underwent a complete interior and exterior structural renovation in 2012. Historically accurate windows were installed, the roof was replaced as part of the reconstruction of the entire roof framing system, the cupola was restored, new wood siding was installed, the foundation and framing were reinforced, and new covered entrance porticos were designed and constructed as part of the project.

Carlin Hall was designated as a local historic district in 1978 and as such uses the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation* to guide rehabilitation work.

The Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, which manages the property, came forward to install three white AXIS security cameras in 2021 in response to some vandalism.

Proposal

The applicant is requesting retroactive approval to install a white wifi antenna in the rear gable of the property, installed to aid in the operation of the security cameras approved in 2021.

Design Review Committee Review

The DRC heard this case at its August 3, 2022, virtual meeting. The DRC had no comment and placed this item on the consent agenda for the August 17, 2022, HALRB virtual hearing.

Recommendation

The Historic Preservation staff recommends approval of the subject application. The wifi antenna is inobtrusive and the color matches the building, which allows it to blend with its surroundings. Further, it is not visible from the public right-of-way. The addition is necessary for the operation of the building as a structure with modern needs, and most importantly, if it were removed in the future, the historic building would not be damaged, and its character would remain intact. Thus, the proposal abides by Standards #9 and #10 of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*:

Standard #9: New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

Standard #10: New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall 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.