

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

TO: HALRB

FROM: Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Planner

DATE: October 10, 2021

SUBJECT: 3900 Langston Boulevard, CoA 21-25, Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House Historic District

Background Information

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House, located at 3900 Langston Boulevard (formerly Lee Highway), was constructed in 1919. The Colonial Revival style building is characterized by an asphalt-clad hipped roof, gabled dormers, belt courses, and jack-arched lintels. The slightly polygonal-shaped building is two-and-one-half stories in height, set on a brick foundation, and is three bays wide by six bays deep. The masonry-constructed building is veneered in brick, laid in five-course American bond on the side and rear elevations. The façade has been faced with a veneer of all-stretcher bond brick, ornamented with belt courses. The walls of the building are pierced by segmentally arched window openings, a large garage door, and a commercial-style entry. The second story of the façade is pierced by three equally spaced, segmentally arched openings. The openings contain 6/1 double-hung, wood sash windows with brick sills. A granite cornerstone, set at the northeast corner, has been engraved with "C.V.F.D. A.D. 1919." A granite nameplate, reading "VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT," has been placed between the first and second stories of the facade. The roof is detailed with an overhanging eave, exposed rafters, and gabled dormers. Projecting from the roof are two slender interior brick chimneys with corbeling.

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House became a Local Historic District in 1995. That same year it also was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2003, the fire house was listed as a contributing resource to the Cherrydale National Register Historic District.

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House received HALRB approval to replace its existing building sign and add door signage celebrating its centennial in 2019 (CoA 19-17).

Proposal

The applicant is requesting to install three (3) 1'x1' signs on the masonry next to each of the doors of the operating firehouse directing visitors to the social hall doorway in the rear. The proposed signage would be installed, per Historic Preservation Program guidance, with the least impact to the historic brick.

DRC Review

The Design Review Committee (DRC) reviewed this application at its October 6, 2021, virtual meeting and found that the proposed signage could be appropriate for the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House

Historic District. The DRC requested that the applicant submit updated drawings indicating that the overall installed heights of the signs would be accessible per ADA guidelines. Provided receipt of these additional materials, the DRC recommended that this application be placed on the consent agenda for the October 20, 2021, HALRB hearing.

Recommendation

Given the dual operation of the building as a volunteer firehouse and a community gathering place, staff finds it appropriate for the building to have signage directing visitors away from the operational firehouse space for safety purposes. Given the installation guidance that the applicant plans to use, the installation should not have a negative impact on the historic building, provided that drilling into the brick is minimized. The Historic Preservation Program staff recommends approval of the application as the proposal meets the intent of Standards #9 and #10 of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*:

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

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.