

STAFF REPORT
for
APRIL 3, 2019 HRC MEETING

Case #: COA2019-022
Staff: Heather M. Bratland

Applicant: Robbie King, Old Salem, Inc.
Owner: National Society of Colonial Dames of America

LOCATION

District: Old Salem Historic District Lot #50
Building: Fourth House, Contributing
Street: 438 South Main Street
Local Historic
Landmark#: 3

REQUEST(S)

- Installation of an electric lantern-style fixture at the entry door

APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

Old Salem Historic District Guide to the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Process and Design Review Guidelines and Forsyth County Design Review Guidelines for Local Historic Landmarks
(Please refer to the applicable sections of the *Guidelines*, as detailed in the staff comments.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/ELEMENTS

Please refer to the information provided with the application.

STAFF COMMENTS

The property at 438 South Main Street was built in 1768 and is the oldest structure in Old Salem. It was moved back to its current location – the original location – and restored by Old Salem, Inc. after their lease began in 1965. It is a rare example of Germanic half-timber construction with brick and clay infill. There is currently a non-original, un-electrified lantern fixture to the left side of the entry door, which is hanging from an iron rod attached to the underside of the eave. The electrified light will replace the un-electrified fixture.

The application requests approval for the following item:

- 1) Installation of an electric lantern-style light fixture in a rubbed copper finish with clear glass panes to the left of the entry door. The lantern will hang from a handhewn oak peg inserted into the wall on the horizontal timber at head height. It will be lit with two candelabra-style bulbs.

STAFF FINDINGS

Commission staff finds that the work is not incongruous with the character of the Old Salem Historic District and Local Historic Landmark because:

- 1) The proposed lantern-style light fixture is hand-made and has an 18th century Colonial appearance appropriate to the period of construction of the Fourth House. It is compatible in appearance, location, design, material, finish, and scale to the Fourth House and the Old Salem Historic District. (*Exterior Lighting*, Landmark Guideline 4; *Lighting*, Old Salem Guideline 3)

- 2) The proposed fixture will be “hung” from its hand ring on a hand-hewn oak peg, as a lantern might have been hung historically in the Old Salem Historic District. It will be lit with two 60W (or less) candelabra-style light bulbs, which will provide illumination at the entry door and increase security without over-illuminating the façade of the Fourth House. The installation will not diminish the historic character of the Fourth House. (*Exterior Lighting*, Landmark Guidelines 5-7)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the preceding findings, staff recommends that the Commission approve COA2019-022 at the Fourth House, Local Historic Landmark #3, located at 438 South Main Street within the Old Salem Historic District (PIN#: 6835-23-8822.00), with the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant shall receive, prior to commencement of the work, all other required permits or permissions from governmental agencies;
- 2) Commission staff shall review and approve any revisions or deviations to any portion of the as-submitted work, that qualifies as a minor work, prior to commencement of that portion of the project; and
- 3) The applicant shall submit the *Certificate of Appropriateness Request for Certification of Completed Work* and photo documentation of the completed project to HRC staff within ten (10) days of its completion.