

**STAFF REPORT
for
September 4, 2019 HRC MEETING**

Case #: COA2019-089
Staff: Michelle M. McCullough

Applicant: L. Robbie King
Owner: North Carolina Society of Colonial Dames of America

LOCATION

District: Old Salem Historic District
Street: 438 South Main Street
Buildings: Fourth House
Local Historic
Landmarks#: 3

REQUEST(S)

- After-the-fact installation of a camera-equipped door bell and a motion activated camera/light and electrical outlet

APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

Forsyth County Design Review Guidelines for Local Historic Landmarks and Old Salem Historic District Guide to the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Process and Design Review Guidelines
(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

Old Salem has been established as a Historic District, a museum-quality district. However, since its establishment, there have been occasions that modern features; such as door bells, exterior lighting, heating and air units, just to name a few, have been allowed in the District. The Commission is to ensure that when such features are required or added that they do not compromise the special character of the individual property or the District as a whole.

STAFF FINDINGS

Commission staff finds that the work is not incongruous with the character of the Local Historic Landmark #3 and the Old Salem Historic District because:

- 1) The installed motion activated camera and light is a 2 ¾" wide x 4 ¾" high x 3" diameter unit that is black and white and located behind the gutter at the southeast corner of the building. The installed electrical outlet has been attached to a rake board that is not original to the house, but was installed in 1966. A two-foot long weather board that matches the existing rake board in material, width, and color was installed over the electrical outlet as screening. The camera and light unit is attached to the concealing board. The camera and light is made of modern materials and design, however, the color and location makes the camera and light unit unobtrusive and minimizes the visual impact on to the historic building. The character-defining features and historic fabric of the property are preserved, while allowing this modern accessory necessary at this location on the building. The installation does not compromise the special character of this individual property and District as a whole. (*Lighting*, Old Salem Guideline 6, *Accessory Features*, Old Salem Guideline 9 and *Exterior Lighting*, Landmark Guidelines 6 and 7, *Utilities and Energy Retrofit*, Landmark Guideline 7)

- 2) The installed camera-equipped door bell is 2 ¼" wide x 4 ¾" high x 1" in diameter and replaced an existing illuminated doorbell in the same location. The new door bell is black in color and the illumination has been minimized by black paint. The doorbell is made of modern materials and design, however, the color makes the doorbell as unobtrusive as feasible. The character-defining features of the property are preserved and the installation does not compromise the special character of this individual property and District as a whole. (*Accessory Features*, Old Salem Guideline 9 and *Utilities and Energy Retrofit*, Landmark Guideline 7)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the preceding findings, staff recommends that the Commission approve COA2019-089 at the Fourth House, located at 438 South Main Street, Local Historic Landmark #3, within the Old Salem Historic District (PIN# 6835-23-8822), with the following conditions:

- 1) The blue illumination shall be screened in perpetuity;
- 2) The applicant shall receive, prior to commencement of the work, all other required permits or permissions from governmental agencies;
- 3) 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