

Commission of Architectural Review Guidelines for Administrative Approval of Rear Yard Hardscaping

Introduction: Landscaping is an essential component of any well-designed urban area, and is an important complement to the preservation of historic buildings. Residential properties across the city have parking areas off of the alleys; an adaptation of a historic urban street pattern to a modern use. Hardscaping or paving materials may be appropriate in City Old and Historic Districts in rear yards to accommodate parking.

A. Items delegated for staff review

The Rear Yard Hardscaping guidelines below, through adoption by the Commission, shall constitute items delegated by the Commission of Architectural Review for administrative review to Commission staff in accordance with Sec. 30-930.6(h) of the Code of the City of Richmond. Unless the Commission Secretary deems it desirable, for particular reasons, to present the items listed below to the Commission for review, Commission staff may approve them administratively. All such approvals shall be reported monthly to the Commission in accordance with Sec. 30-930.6(h). These guidelines shall serve as a supplement to and be deemed consistent with the *Old and Historic District Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*. Administrative approvals may be granted for Rear Yard Hardscaping as follows:

1. Rear Yard Hardscaping

The installation of hardscaping or paving materials in rear yards may be approved administratively if the following criteria are met:

- Hardscape areas are built of common building materials found throughout the City Old and Historic District. Brick or granite pavers are examples of appropriate materials. The color of proposed paving materials should also be appropriate for the area. The proposed materials are included on or are similar to materials included on the list of acceptable materials, below.
- No more than two paving materials are proposed.
- Existing granite curbing is retained.
- Hardscaped-areas on corner lots are screened along the street.

2. Materials

The following hardscaping materials are acceptable in City Old and Historic Districts:

- Brick
- Granite
- Gravel

B. Adoption and Effect

These administrative approval guidelines were adopted by the Commission of Architectural Review on 08/28/2018. The adoption and implementation of these guidelines shall be consistent with Sec. 30-930.6(h) of the Code of the City of Richmond. These guidelines are deemed to be consistent with and a supplement to the *Old and Historic District Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*. These guidelines shall be in full effect and force until amended or rescinded by the Commission.