



Agenda Item #5

Application 2025-18-CA

DETAILS

Location:

61 N. Reed Avenue

Summary of Request:

Replace two front porch columns with fiberglass columns

Applicant (as applicable):

Amanda Edwards

Property Owner:

Same

Historic District:

Old Dauphin Way

Classification:

Contributing

Summary of Analysis:

- The proposed replacement columns would match the existing in profile and dimensions
- The Board has previously approved fiberglass columns when the columns match the existing both in profile and dimensions

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PROPERTY AND APPLICATION HISTORY

Old Dauphin Way Historic District was initially listed in the National Register in 1984 under Criterion C for significant architecture and community planning. The district includes most nineteenth-century architectural styles and shows adaptations of middle-class domestic designs of the nineteenth century to the regional, Gulf Coast climate. It includes “fine examples of commercial, institutional, and religious structures as well as 20th-century apartments.”

The property at 6 N. Reed Avenue is a two-story frame hipped roof dwelling built in the American Foursquare form with classical detailing. Tax assessments and Sanborn Insurance Maps determine that the house was built c. 1908 by a H. Morton Butler. Aerial photographs suggest that the rear porch was added sometime in the 1980s. A rear deck was constructed in 2001.

According to Historic Development files, this property has never appeared before the Architectural Review Board (ARB).

SCOPE OF WORK

Remove center paired wood columns on front porch. Install fiberglass replacements.

- a. The proposed replacement columns would retain the Tuscan profile of the existing columns, including the base and capital.
- b. The new columns would match the dimensions of the existing porch columns.
- c. The proposed new columns would each sit on a square base which would measure 1' – 1 3/8" wide by 5 1/4" high. The shaft would have a diameter of 10" at the bottom and taper to 8 1/2" at the top. The column height, including base and capital, would measure 8' – 5".
- d. The new columns would be painted to match existing.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS (*Design Review Guidelines for Mobile's Historic Districts*)

1. **5.17** Preserve historic stylistic and architectural details and ornamentation.
 - Preserve storefronts, cornices, turned columns, brackets, exposed rafter tails, jigsaw ornaments and other key architectural features that are in good condition.
 - Retain historic details and ornamentation intact.
 - Retain and treat exterior stylistic features and examples of skilled craftsmanship with sensitivity.
 - Repair historic details and ornamentation that are deteriorated.
 - Employ preventive maintenance measures such as rust removal, caulking and repainting.
 - Minimize damage to historic architectural details when repairs are necessary.
 - Document the location of a historic feature that must be removed and repaired so it may be repositioned accurately.
 - Patch, piece-in, splice, consolidate or otherwise upgrade deteriorated features using recognized preservation methods.
 - Stabilize or fix isolated areas of damage using consolidants. Epoxies and resins may be considered for wood repair.
 - Protect significant features that are adjacent to the area being worked on
2. **5.19** Where repair is impossible, replace details and ornamentation accurately.
 - When replacing historic details, match the original in profile, dimension, and material.
 - A substitute material may be considered if it appears similar in character and finish to the original.
 - A measured drawing may be required in these instances to recreate missing historic details from photographs.
 - Do not apply architectural details that were not part of the original structure. For example, decorative mill work should not be added to a building if it was not an original feature. Doing so would convey a false history.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The property under review is a contributing structure the Old Dauphin Way Historic District. The subject application seeks approval to replace two round wood tapered columns on the front porch with two new fiberglass columns.

The *Guidelines* state that historic architectural features and elements should be preserved, and repairs should be carried out to deteriorated or damaged areas, in preference to replacement. However, they specify that when repair is not possible, replacement features should match the original in profile, dimension, and material. The applicant previously received a COA to replace the larger wood base on which the subject paired columns rest. When the columns were removed to carry out the base replacement, significant deterioration was discovered near the base of the columns. The proposed replacement columns would match the dimensions and the tapered Tuscan profile expressed by the existing columns. (5.17, 5.19)

Although the *Guidelines* discuss replacing architectural details such as columns with those that match in material, they further stipulate that a substitute material may be considered if it appears similar in character and finish to the original. The use of fiberglass for the replacement columns could be deemed similar in character and finish. The Board has previously approved fiberglass replacement columns (one example is at 1555 Dauphin), when the columns match the profile and dimensions of the original. (5.17)

Site Location – 61 N. REED AVENUE

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD VICINITY MAP



APPLICATION NUMBER 5 DATE 4/16/2025

APPLICANT Amanda Edwards

PROJECT Install fiberglass columns



Site Photos – 61 N. REED AVENUE



1. View of property, looking NE



2. Location of removed columns, looking E



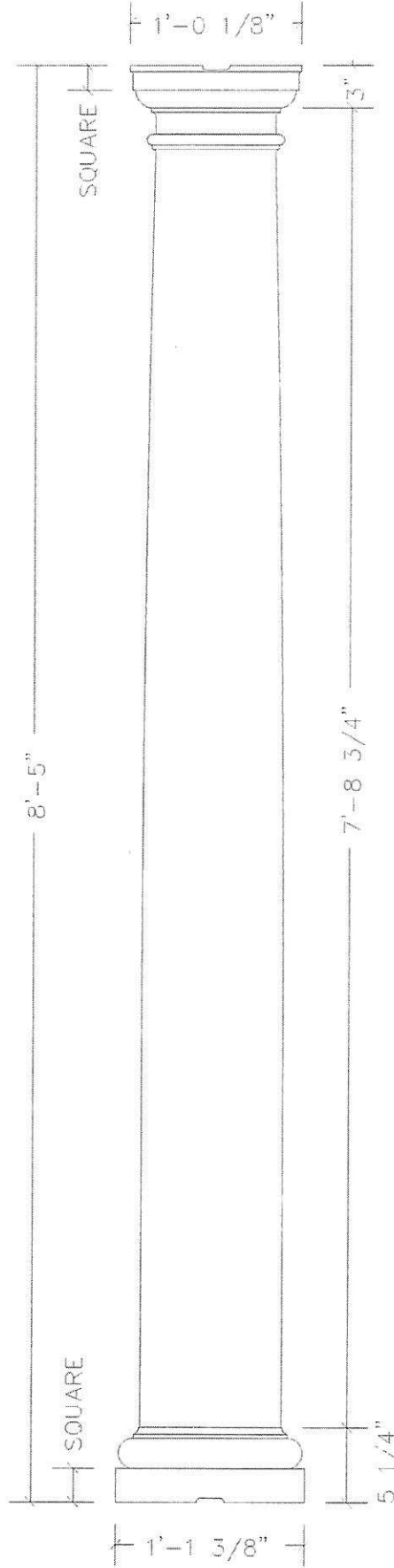
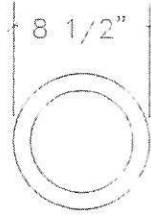
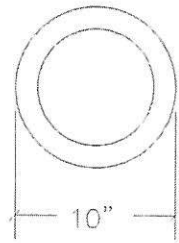
3. Existing paired columns



4. Detail of deteriorated column 1



5. Detail of deteriorated column 2



**PACIFIC
COLUMNS
INC.**

**Tuscan Column
10" x 101" Round, Arch. Taper**

Note: Any drawings of ornamental capitals are artistic renderings only. Details, and dimensions may differ from drawing.

DRAWING #: AQ75791
SHAFT MATERIAL: Pine
CAP MATERIAL: Poly
BASE MATERIAL: Poly
DATE: 2/14/2025
SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"
www.pacificcolumns.com