

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT**

**APPLICATION NUMBER**..... COA-2025-09-1826

**DATE**..... October 15, 2025

**PETITIONER**..... Russell Edwards

**REQUEST**..... Retractable Gate

**LOCATION**..... 121 E. Clayton Street

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**..... Tax Parcel # 171B5 A003, Downtown, C-D

**RECOMMENDATION**..... Denial

**REQUEST**

Approval is sought for the use of a retractable gate at the west entrance to the structure.

**BACKGROUND**

Parcel Status: The property is considered contributing to the Downtown Historic District. This means that changes on the property are reviewed for their impact on the district and with concern for historic character on the subject property.

Parcel History: Several previous applications are on file related to storefront modification in 2015 and 2016. A 2017 application to modify the storefront reflects the current condition. Other approvals on file include staff approval of signage in 2017 and 2025. Sanborn Maps including the area of the Downtown Historic District date back to 1885, at which time the existing structure was already shown in place.

Lot Features: The subject property is located on the northern side of East Clayton Street between Lumpkin Street and College Avenue. The property is the third to face Clayton Street from the Lumpkin Street intersection. The existing structure is listed as contributing in the Downtown Historic District designation report which suggests a construction date of about 1885, a 2-part commercial block form and alterations to the original storefront.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Approval is sought for the use of a retractable security gate with a galvanized finish at the western building entry which accesses the upper floor of the building. The gate has already been installed without the benefit of review.

The applicant indicates that the gate was installed to try to control the access and therefore the urine smell in the entryway.

\*The applicant has included photos of several other security gates downtown. Staff has not found permitting for these and will work with Code Enforcement on these cases.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Review of this application would follow the Downtown set of Design Guidelines. As a contributing property Chapter 3 regarding the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties would apply.

	Met?	Comments
3.16 Maintain Recessed Entries	No	This northern block of Clayton Street has 18 doorways. Of these, 12 are recessed entries including both primary and secondary entrances. None of the other recessed entries include security gates. The gate is also made more intrusive by the reflective finish.

Staff finds the proposal for utilizing a security gate does not meet the Downtown Design Guidelines. Staff recommends that the project be **denied**.

This recommendation is made to address the design guidelines noted above, as well as Section 8-5-5 D (1) of the Athens-Clarke County Historic Preservation Ordinance regarding Acceptable Historic Preservation Commission Reaction to an Application for Certificate of Appropriateness.

REPORT FOR:	121 E. Clayton Street	
In evaluating the attached report, the following standards, which are checked, were considered in making a recommendation. Items that are not applicable are marked as such. More detailed descriptions of each item are included in the attached report.		
REVIEWED	NOT APPLICABLE	
X		1. HISTORIC USES OF PROPERTY
X		2. NECESSITY OF PROPOSED CHANGES
X		3. INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC RESOURCE
		4. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CHANGE WILL AFFECT:
X		A. INTEGRITY OF THE BUILDING
X		B. INTEGRITY OF THE AREA
X		5. ORIGINAL AND CURRENT USES

### 121 E. Clayton Street Review Worksheet

	Met?	Comments
3.16 Maintain Recessed Entries	N/A	