

**Historical Architectural Review Board
COA Final Review Sheet**

HDC-2023-00070

Address: 918 W. Chew Street

District: Old Allentown Historic District

Applicant: Francisco Lopez, Contractor

Proposal: Remove slate shingles; install asphalt shingles

Building Description:

This 2½-story brick row house, c. 1879, is a Federal style house. The slate gable roof has a single dormer, a double brick chimney with drip ledges and snow catchers on the roof. All the windows are 2/2 sash and the brickote has covered the lintels. The main entry is a single glazed door with a double-glazed transom.

The front porch across the entire breadth of the house has a gently curved Allentown Porch roof. The porch is wooden with wooden railings and square wooden posts. A ventilated area under the porch is screened and accessible. Case #90-54 approved the screens to be replaced with tongue and groove wood panels. There is a wooden slatted grocer's alley door next to the porch.

The Allentown Porch roof has a concave profile, covers full width of house, it is 1 of 3 adjoining Allentown Porch roofs, there are simple wood brackets with hidden rafters and asbestos shingles.

Project Description:

This application proposes to replace the historic roofing at the property at 918 W. Chew Street. The property retains its historic slate at the main roof, dormer roofs, and dormer cheek walls. The applicant proposes to install GAF Slateline asphalt shingles in antique slate.



**Front façade of 918 W. Chew Street, 2023.
(Google StreetView)**



**Detail of roof, 2023.
(Applicant)**

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**Rear roof of 918 W. Chew Street, 2023.
(Applicant)**



**Condition of rear roof, 2023.
(Applicant)**

Applicable Guidelines:

Chapter 3.1 – Roofs

3.1.3 Repair and restore original and historic roofing materials whenever possible. Evaluate the condition and cost of repair of original materials before removing and replacing them. Targeted areas of repair or localized in-kind replacement may be the most effective and low-cost solution.

3.1.6 Replace historic roofing materials in-kind whenever possible if severe deterioration makes a full replacement necessary. Replacement material should match the original in material, dimension, shape, profile, color, pattern, exposure, and overall appearance.

3.1.7 If in-kind replacement is not feasible, replace historic roofing materials with alternate materials that resemble the original as closely as possible. Roof replacement should be sensitive to the original appearance. Replacement materials should match roof slopes or shape.

Observations & Comments:

The applicant contends that the existing slate roof is failing and in poor condition. Photographs show that there are displaced shingles throughout the roof. The applicant has temporarily tarped the roof to prevent water infiltration.

The application proposes to install GAF Slateline shingles, which are an appropriate alternate that generally matches the existing slate in dimension, shape, profile, color, exposure, and overall appearance. Staff finds that the proposed shingle complies with the guidelines in Section 3.1 Roofs.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.1 Roofs.

HARB Discussion:

The HARB discussed the shape of the proposed GAF Slateline asphalt shingles and what appeared to be an exaggerated taper, which the design guidelines discourage. However, the HARB agreed that previous approvals had been given to similar applications for the same shingle and that the shingle is an appropriate replacement for historic slate. would need to be removed to correct the violation. Mr. Huber agreed with Mr. Lichtenwalner's suggestion, adding that the applicant would need to purchase a top and bottom rail, and then insert the existing spindles into them.

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Action:

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the application presented on 10/2/2023 for removing slate shingles and installing asphalt shingles at 918 W. Chew Street, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.1 Roofs. Mr. Huber seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous support.