

**Historical Architectural Review Board  
COA Preliminary Review Sheet**

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**HDC-2025-000112**

**Address: 202 N 8th Street**

**District: Old Allentown Historic District**

**Owner: Jen Will**

**Applicant: Jen Will**

**Proposal: Replace door with historical appropriate wooden door**

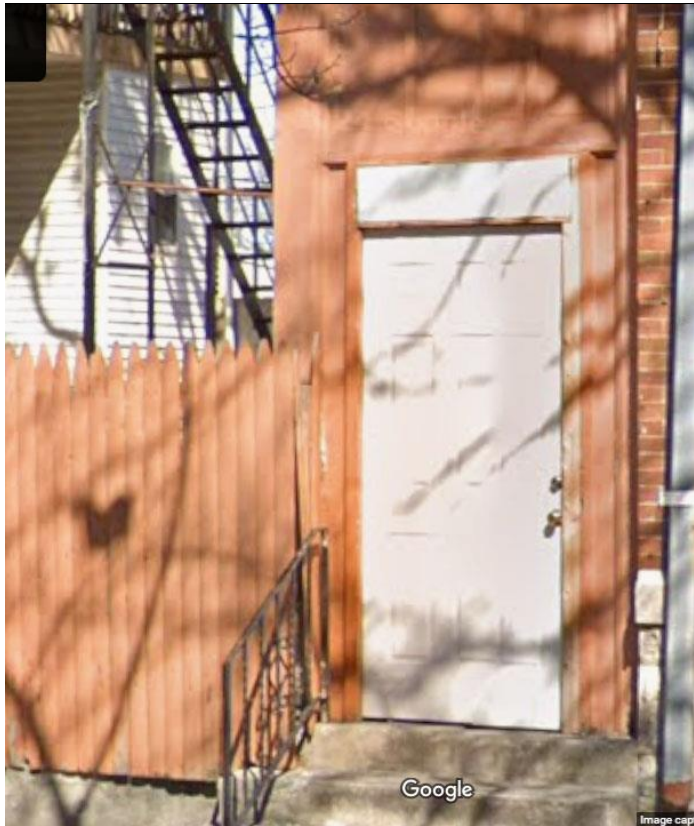
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**Building Description:** This 2½-story stonecote row house, ca 1875 is a Federal/Victorian style. The gable roof has slate shingles, snow catchers, a single dormer with a 2/2 sash window and a single chimney with drip ledges. The windows are 1/1 sash with shutters on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor has a picture window with a transom. There is one basement window grille visible.

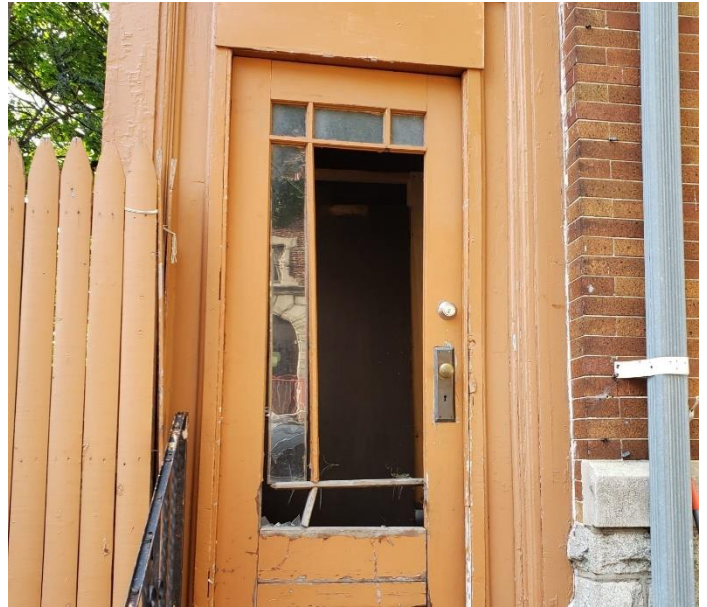
The grocer's alley door is a solid panel door with transom and a half circle above the transom. There is a concrete porch with pipe railing, a visible basement window grille and an Allentown Porch Roof. The roof profile is a cyma-curve, with simple wood brackets, asphalt shingles and squared ended rafters. The main entry is a single ¾-glazed period door with a transom. There is a 1-story garage at the rear of the property and an iron fence.

**Project Description:**

This application proposes replacing the Linden Street door of the residence with an appropriate permitted wooden door. The applicant would like direction from the Board as to the appropriate design and size of the door to install.



**CURRENT CONDITION OF DOOR**



**ORIGINAL DOOR**

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### PROPOSED DOOR

#### Applicable Guidelines:

#### Section 3.6 – Doors

**3.6.5** Repair and restore historic doors whenever possible rather than replace them. Historic doors include front doors, rear doors, and grocer's alley doors. Original materials should not be discarded. If repair and reuse is not possible, salvage may be an option and the existing feature used as a template for replication.

**3.6.6** Repair, restore, and reuse existing door frames, jambs, threshold, fixed transoms, and similar components. Existing components are usually historic wood. Replace in-kind if existing materials are severely deteriorated. Replicate the profile and width of door frames, jambs, and transoms in order to preserve the solid-to-void ratio of the entrance.

**3.6.7** Repair, restore, and reuse hardware whenever possible. Replace hardware in-kind if necessary. New hardware should match the original hardware as closely as possible if the original hardware remains. If not, hardware that is compatible with the era of construction and style of the building is recommended. Avoid replacing historic hardware with digital locks, combination locks, keypads, or similar technology.

**3.6.8** Replace doors in-kind if repair is not feasible. Replacement doors should duplicate the original in material, design, size, profile, and operation. Original doors may be used as a template for replication. Wood is the most appropriate

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material for residential doors. Paneled wood doors should have the same number, size, and profile of panels as the historic door. If the original design is unknown, the building's style and date of construction should inform the appropriate replacement.

**3.6.9** Replace with durable alternate materials if in-kind replacement is not feasible. Composite wood doors and fiberglass doors are acceptable replacements if new doors match the original in size, style, configuration, detail, and appearance. However, these products are not recommended from a sustainability perspective. They have shorter lifespan and deteriorate when exposed to moisture, weathering, and temperature variation. For replacement doors, avoid metal doors (including metal doors that imitate paneled wood), as they do not have the same appearance and texture of historic wood. Avoid pre-hung doors (doors that are purchased already installed in a frame) when replacing a door, because these require the removal of historic fabric and can change the size of the opening.

**3.6.10** Preserve the size of the existing door opening. New doors should be custom sized if necessary. Avoid enlarging or filling in original door openings to fit new stock sizes. This alteration will impact the historic character of the building. This action will also require a Building Permit because it changes the amount of enclosed space on a façade.

**3.6.11** Consider replacement of a previously altered door with a historically appropriate wood door.

**3.6.12** Avoid replacing of a historic door solely for the purpose of improving thermal performance. This intervention is not appropriate for historic material. Install weatherproofing or a storm door prior to replacement.

**3.6.13** Avoid creating new door openings on the primary façade. New side or rear doors should be minimally visible from the street. The size and location of new openings should be compatible with the rest of the façade. This type of work will also require a Building Permit.

**Observations & Comments:** Staff observed that a door was installed along Linden Street that is not permitted in the historical district. It appears that the door opening has been altered to accommodate the size of the door that is currently installed

**Staff Recommendation:** It is recommended to deny

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#### **Discussion:**

The applicant is seeking to replace a side/rear entry door. The previous door was damaged, and a tenant replaced the door with a non-appropriate style door. The applicant presented a salvaged single lite wood door. Door hardware was not included in the application materials; Mr. Hart noted that door hardware contributes to the historic visual aesthetic of the building.

The HARB discussed the proposed door, and potential appropriate configurations. Google Maps imagery from 2016 indicate that the previous door was not the original; a 6-pane door was in place at that time. The previous door, and the 2016 door were both complementary styles to the building.

Mr. Jordan noted that door hardware can be submitted to City Staff for approval.

#### **Actions:**

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the application presented on May 5, 2025, for the legalization of the side entry door at 202 N. 8th Street with the following conditions agreed to by the applicant, following sections of the Guidelines for Historic Districts: Chapter 3, 3.6 Doors and found that there are no circumstances unique to the property:

- The replacement door is of historic material, meeting historic dimensions, sized to the original dimensions
- That the lite dimension is 4, 6, 9, or 15 lites
- The hardware is in keeping with historic guidelines
- All modifications approved by staff prior to installation

Mr. Huber seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous support and no abstentions.