



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

31194

RESOLUTION

R3 – 2026

Introduced by the Administration on January 21, 2026

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts:

- 126-128 N 15th Street
- 521 N 6th Street

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, Certificates of Appropriateness are required under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania No. 167, June 13, 1961 (P.L. 282) and City of Allentown Ordinance No. 12314; and

WHEREAS, the following properties whose respective owners applied for and were granted approval by the Allentown Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) to undertake specific exterior alterations on said properties as indicated in the attached Final Review Reports, which form part of this resolution:

- 126-128 N 15th St. (Danny Pena, Owner) – Remove clay Terra Cotta tile and install engineered composite tile matching the original design.-Violation Correction
- 521 N 6th St. (Amanda Renaldi, Owner) – Remove and install new decorative paneling around second floor bay windows-Violation Correction

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2026, the Allentown HARB recommended approval of the above applications, or offered modifications which were subsequently accepted by the property owners, to City Council; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the attached final review reports, it is the opinion of City Council that the proposed work is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Allentown that Certificates of Appropriateness are hereby granted for the above referenced work.

	Yea	Nay
Candida Affa	X	
Jeremy Binder	X	
Ce-Ce Gerlach	X	
Cynthia Y. Mota	X	
Cristian Pungo	X	
Natalie Santos	X	
Santo Napoli, President	X	
TOTAL	7	0

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above copy of Resolution No. 31194 was adopted by the City Council of Allentown on the 21st day of January, 2026, and is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Michael P. Heck

City Clerk

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

HDC-2025-00086

Address: 126-128 N 15th Street

District: West Park Historic District

Owner: Danny Pena

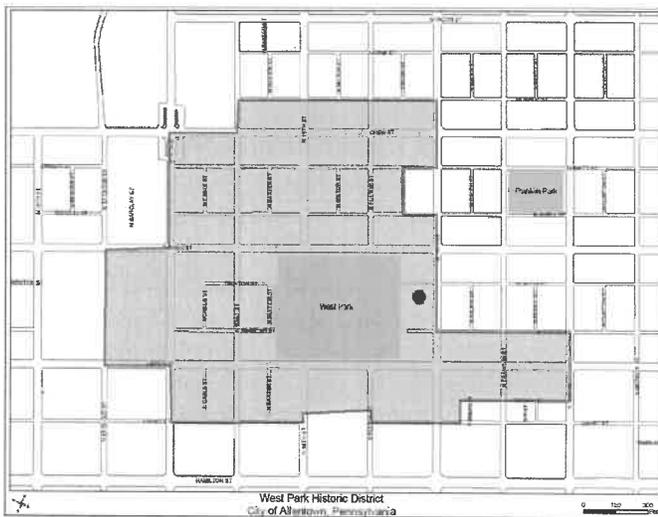
Applicant: Owner

Proposal: Roof Replacement (Violation Correction)

Building Description: This 2-story brick house, ca 1929 is a Colonial Revival house. The building has a gabled roof comprised of red Spanish tile. The windows are 1/1 sash with brick lintels. Two window boxes are fixed below the first story windows. The gutters are decorative half round made of copper with round down spouts.

Project Description:

Remove terra cotta clay tile roof and install engineered composite tile matching the original design.



Approximate Location (Applicant)



Block View (Source)



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

Previous Condition (Applicant)



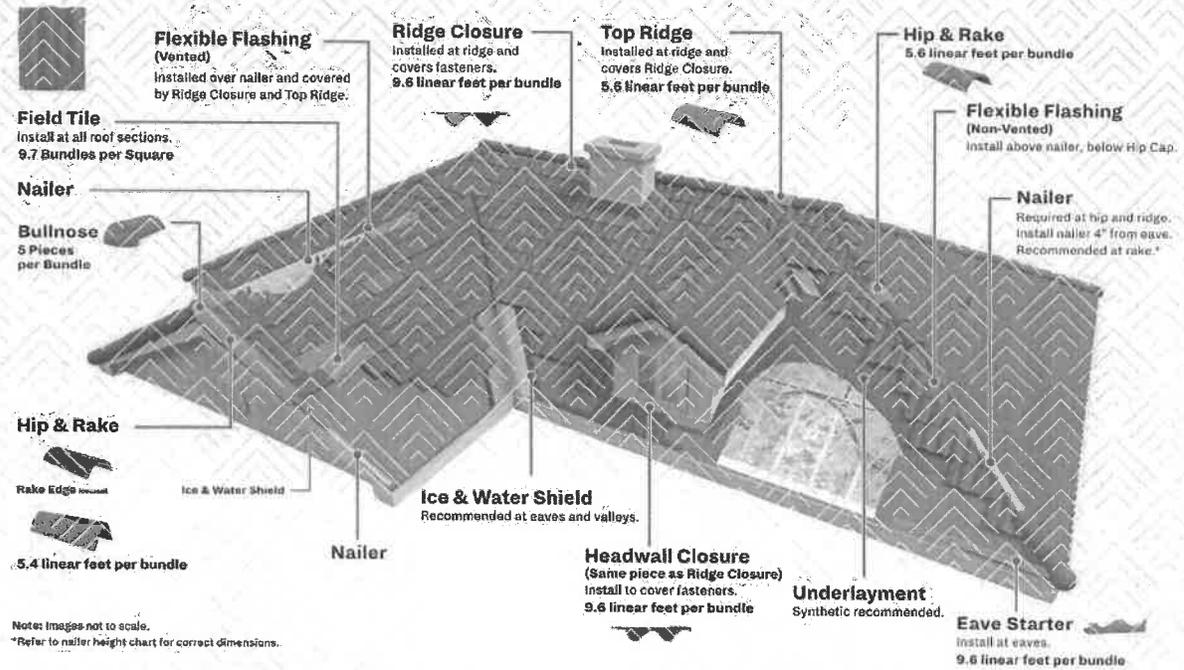
Current Condition (Applicant)

Current Condition (Applicant)

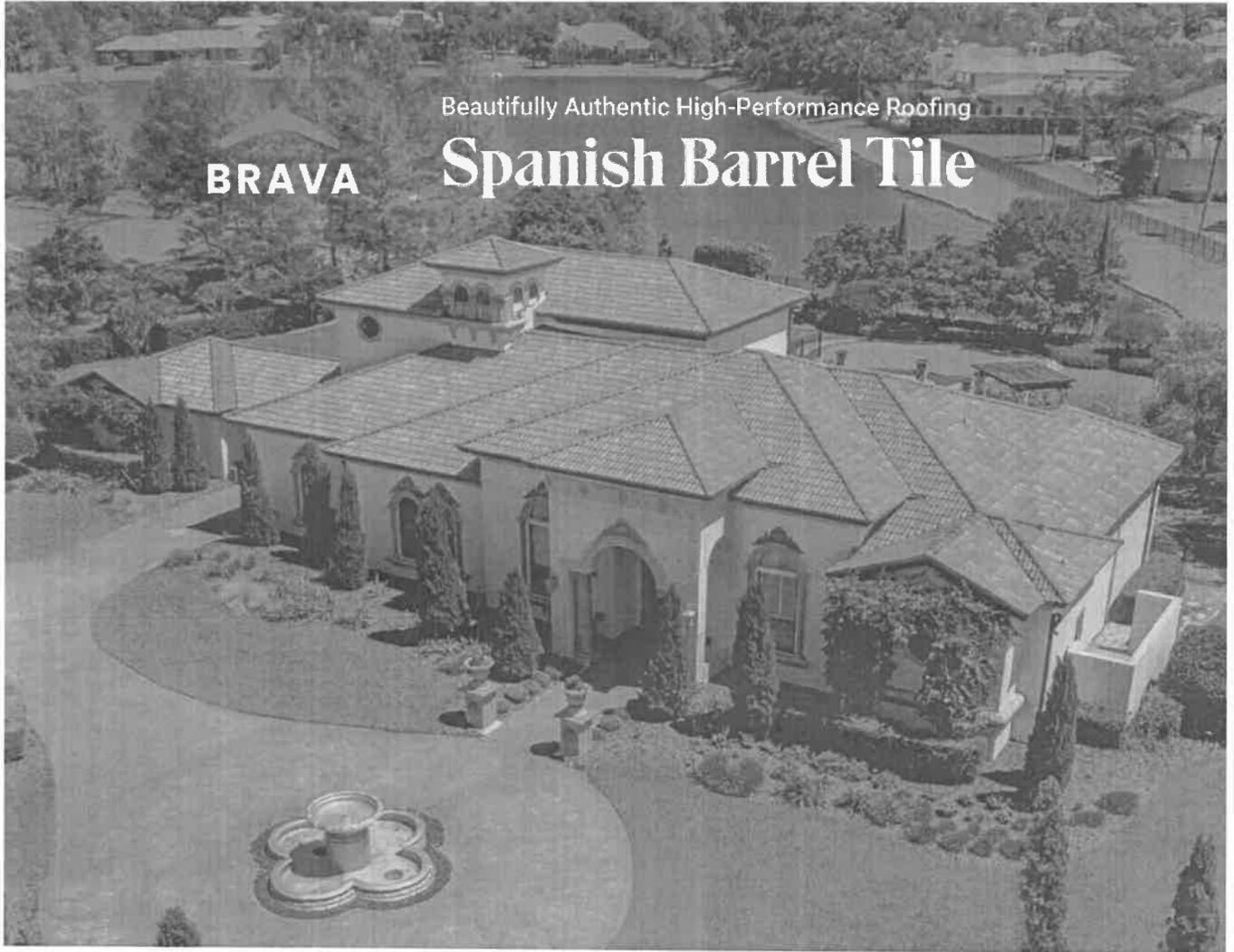


Current Material on Roof (Applicant)

**An Integrated System to Keep You Safe & Dry
Spanish Barrel Tile Roof System**

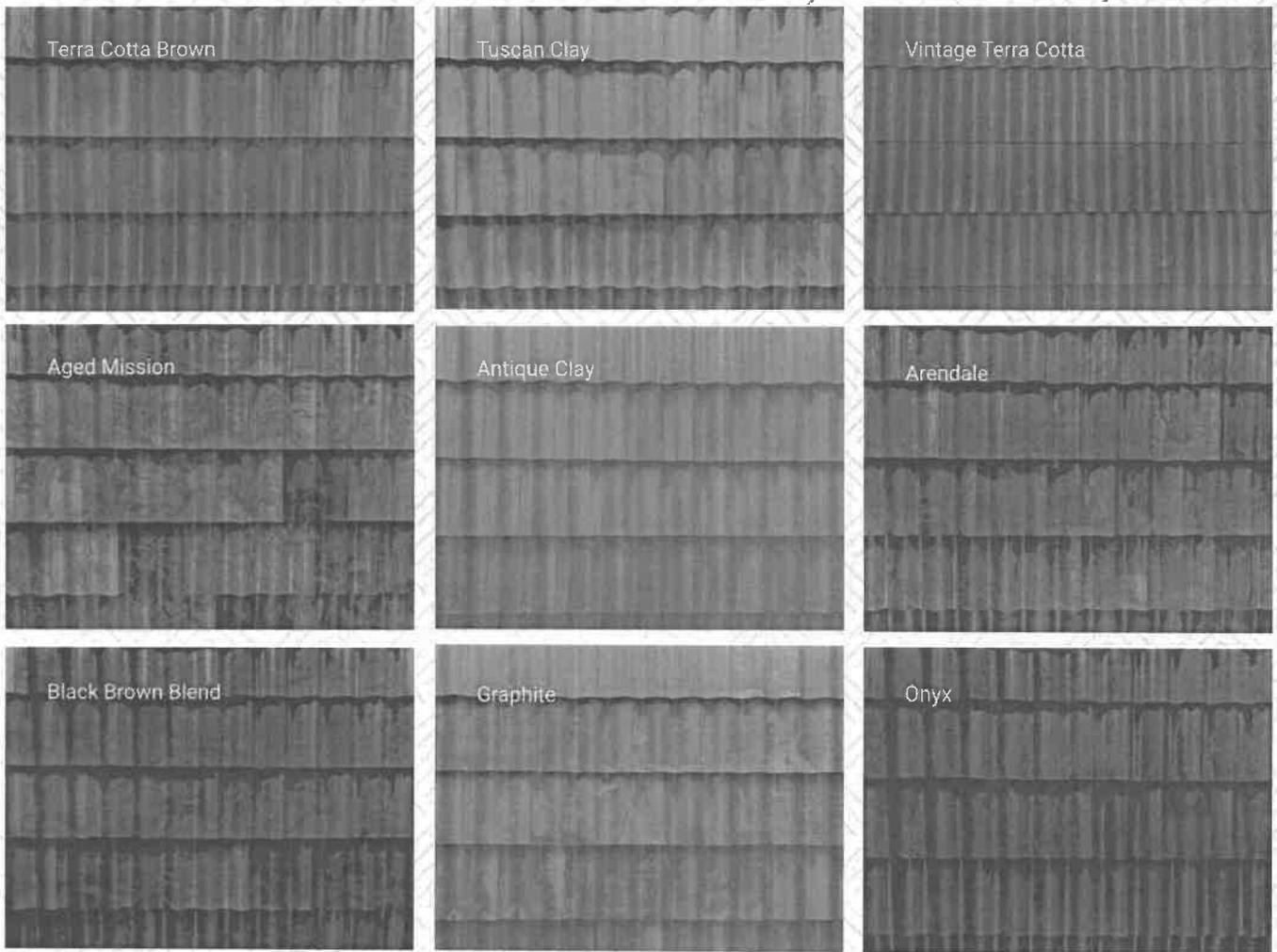


Proposed Material (Applicant)



Proposed Material (Applicant)

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Color Options (Applicant)

Applicable Guidelines:

Section 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.

3.1.4 Repair and replace deteriorated flashing or fasteners with materials that are compatible with the roofing material. Roof problems are often caused by failure of these components rather than the historic roofing material.

3.1.5 Preserve architectural features that give the roof its unique and building-specific character—such as dormers, turrets, chimneys, cornices, rolled ridge flashing, cresting, and finials. Repair and restore features; replace in-kind only when necessary.

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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.

3.1.8 Replace non-historic roofing materials in-kind or with recommended alternates. If the original material is documented, restoration of the original material is also an appropriate option but is not required. Original roofs may have been replaced long ago, yet asphalt shingles and similar alterations are still considered impacts to the overall appearance. Replacement materials should match the existing in color, pattern, shape, and profile. Greater flexibility is possible with non-historic roofing and using durable high-quality replacements is recommended.

3.1.9 Consider roof ventilation alternatives carefully. Ventilation options are approved on a case by case basis and can include ridge vents, louvered vents, or soffit vents. Proper ventilation may extend the life of a roofing system, but in some cases it can lead to condensation problems with long-term effects on the roofing materials and structural components. Refer to Chapter 3.8 Mechanical and Utility Equipment for related guidelines about roof vents.

3.1.36 Repair and restore gutters whenever possible. Types of repairs include repainting wood or metal surface, installing new fasteners, sealing or soldering cracks and open seams, and relining built-in box gutters with new copper sheet metal.

3.1.37 Replace existing gutters in-kind when replacement is necessary due to severe deterioration. Replicate the original construction method of a historic gutter if feasible.

3.1.38 Replace existing downspouts, scuppers, collection boxes, and other drainage elements in-kind. Appropriate alternates to in-kind replacement are round or rectangular downspouts. Smooth surfaces are encouraged over corrugated metal. In the case of decorative scuppers, replicate the profile and details as closely as possible.

3.1.39 Consider alternate materials for gutters in locations that are difficult to access for maintenance or where original materials have demonstrated a pattern of deterioration over time. A fiberglass gutter is an acceptable replacement material for a wood built-in box gutter if it matches the original in profile, size, appearance, and finish.

3.1.40 Avoid vinyl gutters due to poor durability and non-historic appearance.

3.1.41 Install new downspouts in locations that are sensitive to the architecture and will be minimally visible. Run downspouts at secondary facades and along building or porch corners when possible.

3.1.42 Paint gutters and downspouts to blend in with the building exterior. Matching the existing building trim is usually the most appropriate color selection. Copper and terne-coated stainless steel systems should be left unpainted because they weather naturally and develop a protective patina.

Observations & Comments: The original roof of 126-128 N 15 Street was Spanish barrel terra cotta clay tile. It appears that the original roofing materials have been completely removed at the main roof areas, and replacement with a red shake style architectural asphalt shingle was begun until work was stopped. The applicant has submitted an alternate material for review: Brava's Spanish Barrel Tile, a synthetic material that matches the original clay tile. This product appears to be an appropriate alternate material, as color options, profile, and appearance are consistent with the original historic clay. No specific color was proposed by the applicant. From the color chart, Antique Clay appears to be the closest match to the original clay; the applicant may obtain samples and submit photos to Staff showing the sample and the remaining original tile for final color selection.

The application does not indicate if the original clay tile at the projecting eaves at the first floor and the gable ends are intended to remain or be replaced with the other roof areas. If these areas are in sound condition, they should be

Historical Architectural Review Board COA Preliminary Review Sheet

maintained or repaired where required. If they are intended to be removed, evidence of the condition of these areas should be submitted for review prior to any material removal. Evidence includes detailed photographs that show damage or deteriorated conditions.

The application has been made for roofing material only and does not include other elements of the roof system, including downspouts and gutters. If modifications or changes are to be made to elements besides the roofing material itself, a separate application should be made to review those items.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend approval with the following conditions:

- The original clay tile at the projecting eaves at the first floor and gable ends are maintained and not replaced
- Proposed changes to any other roof-related elements such as gutters or downspouts are submitted in a separate application.
- Final color is approved by Staff

Presenters:

- Amy Ahn Baade presented the application
- Andrea Zalamea represented the application

Discussion:

The applicant confirmed that the clay tile has been completely removed from the main roof areas and the materials are stored on site. The Board suggested the applicant coordinate with the Allentown Preservation League, who would be open to salvaging tiles for use at other properties throughout the city. The applicant was happy to accommodate that. The applicant provided physical samples of Brava product; she noted that the samples show the Slate line, and not the Spanish barrel tile that is proposed for the project. The HARB reviewed the samples and product information and generally agreed that the Brava synthetic Spanish barrel tile appears to be an appropriate alternate material. The applicant noted that the bands of clay tile above the first floor level and at the gable ends are to remain, as are the existing gutters and downspouts.

The Board discussed roof detail areas, including hips, rakes, and ridges. Mr. Knee noted that these elements should be consistent across the roof. Mr. Hart noted that those elements are included in the manufacturer's product information. The applicant stated that all elements for the roof will be from the same manufacturer. Mr. Huber noted that the original valleys appeared to be open and copper. The applicant was unsure how the roofer would be detailing the valleys. The Board discussed that multiple approaches can be included in conditions. Mr. Knee noted that the valleys could be open or closed. Mr. Huber expressed that if the valleys were open, they should be copper to stay in keeping with the original material.

Action:

Mr. Hart moved to approve with conditions the application presented on 1/5/2026 for the replacement of roofing at 126-128 N. 15th Street with the following conditions agreed to by the applicant, and found compliance with Guidelines for Historic Districts: Chapter 3, Section 3.1 Roofs and found no circumstances unique to the property:

- Samples of the barrel configuration with colors closest to the existing color is submitted to staff for color approval. Photos submitted should show the samples next to the existing/original clay roof tile.
- The hips, rakes, and ridges are consistent in design throughout the roof and submitted to staff for approval.
- Detail for valleys to be submitted to staff for approval; if valleys are open they are to be copper, or the valleys can be closed as suggested in the manufacturer's documentations.
- The existing gutters and downspouts are maintained.
- If there are any other changes to roof components, a separate application will be made.

Mr. Encelewski seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with no abstentions.

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

HDC-2025-00102

Address: 521 N 6th Street

District: Old Fairgrounds Historic District

Owner: Amanda Renaldi

Applicant: Benedicto A Bandera

Proposal: Remove and install new decorative paneling around second floor bay window (Violation Correction)

Building Description: This 3-story brick row house, ca 1892 is a porch house. The mansard roof has roll roofing, dormer, spire, turret and a single chimney. The windows are 1/1 sash with flat lintels. The main entry is a double-glazed door on a concrete porch with stone railing.

Project Description:

From application: The existing exterior window panels and surrounding wood components exhibit deterioration, including rot in multiple locations. In addition, sections of the soffit board are missing, leaving the assembly exposed and vulnerable to further damage.

The scope of work includes the careful removal of all deteriorated and damaged wood elements around the affected window areas and soffits. Any unsound material will be replaced with new pressure-treated lumber where structural integrity or moisture exposure is a concern.

On top of the pressure-treated substrate, new exterior trim boards will be custom carved and installed to match the existing architectural pattern and profile, ensuring visual continuity with the original design. All replacement components will be securely fastened, properly aligned, and prepared for exterior finishing.

All work will be performed in accordance with standard construction practices to restore durability, weather resistance, and architectural appearance.

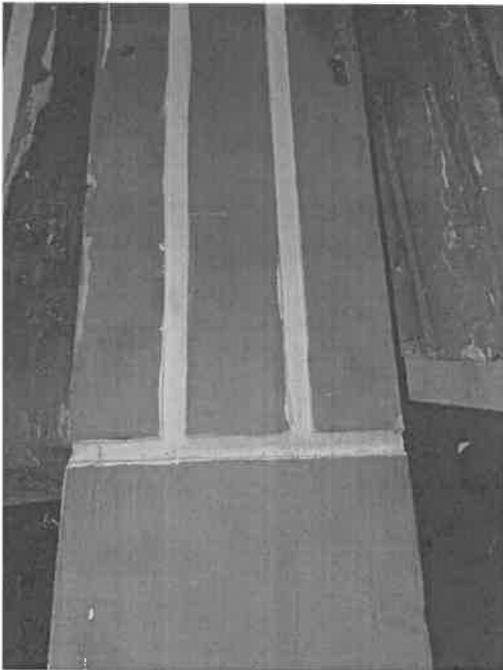
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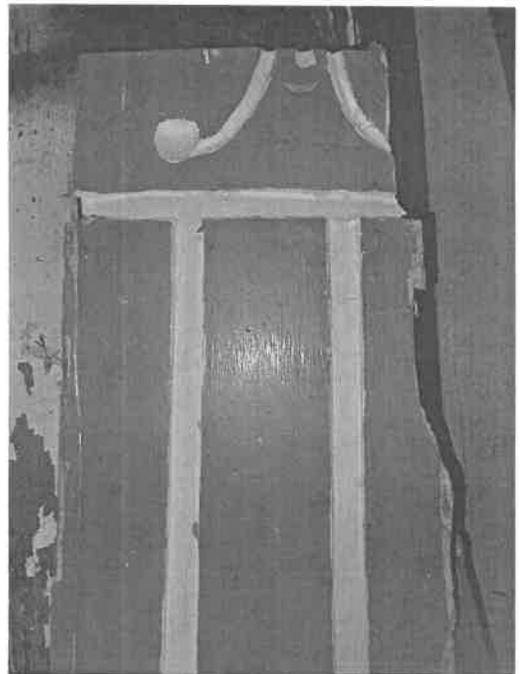
Front Elevation, July 2024 (Google Maps)



Current Condition (Applicant)



Original Panel Design (Applicant)



Original Panel Design (Applicant)

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Original Panel Design (Applicant)



Original Panel Design (Applicant)



Original Condition, c. July 2024 (Google Maps)



Wood Removal (Applicant)



Wood Replacement/Current Condition (Applicant)

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Applicable Guidelines:

Section 3.2 Wood Siding and Trim

3.2.1 Clean exterior surfaces periodically using the gentlest methods possible. Avoid using high pressure power washing and any abrasive cleaning or stripping methods that can damage the historic wood siding and detailing. Conduct cleaning tests in a small, non-visible area of the building to determine the most appropriate method.

3.2.2 Provide proper drainage so that water does not stand on flat, horizontal surfaces or accumulate in decorative features. Inspecting a building after rain is an easy way to detect standing water or drainage blocks.

3.2.3 Keep wood surfaces well-painted. Paint layers help protect wood from moisture, biological growth, and ultraviolet light. Paint removal should be considered only where there is paint surface deterioration and as part of an overall maintenance program which involves repainting or applying other appropriate protective coatings.

3.2.4 Repair and restore wood siding, cladding, and trim whenever possible. Preserve wood features such as cornices, brackets, window and door moldings, and bay windows. Trim work is an essential part of a building's architectural character. Unique features of a building should be preserved. Repair historic wood features by patching, piecing-in, or Dutchman repairs, consolidating or otherwise reinforcing the wood using recognized preservation methods. Repair may also include limited replacement in-kind of extensively deteriorated or missing parts of wood features.

3.2.5 Replace deteriorated materials in-kind if repair is infeasible. New materials should replicate the original as closely as possible in material composition, size, profile, shape, pattern, and appearance. If historic wood siding or trim was an identifiable or visually distinctive species, it is recommended that the same species be used for the replacement.

3.2.6 Avoid installation of aluminum, vinyl, or synthetic materials that were unavailable when a building was constructed. Aluminum, vinyl, fiber-cement, or other synthetic cladding are not appropriate for historic properties because of their visual impact and because their installation can cause other deterioration problems. It is not appropriate to cap or cover existing wood with these types of materials. It is not appropriate to remove original wood cladding or trim features and replace them with aluminum vinyl, fiber-cement, or synthetic materials.

3.2.7 Consider removal of existing aluminum, vinyl, or synthetic cladding over building features. Historic materials sometimes remain intact below this type of cladding and can be restored. In-kind replacement of existing non-historic siding that was in place before the historic district was designated may be allowed in some cases. Consult with Staff and HARB during early project planning stages. Provide photographs or documentation of existing conditions and wall materials below non-historic siding to help determine the appropriate treatment.

3.2.8 Inspect painted wood thoroughly to determine whether repainting is necessary or if cleaning is all that is required.

3.2.9 Remove peeling, flaking, or failing paint to the next sound layer of paint using the gentlest methods possible to protect the integrity of the historic wood surface. Acceptable methods for paint removal include hand-scraping and hand-sanding, and when necessary, mild chemical strippers or gentle micro-abrasion methods. Sand blasting, high pressure power washing, and mechanical grinders should not be used to remove paint from any surface. Evaluate the condition of the wood surface (also referred to as the substrate) and address any moisture infiltration and deterioration issues before priming and repainting.

3.2.10 Paint once the surface is clean and dry. Use a paint type that will adhere properly to the wood surface, such as oil-based paint. Marine grade paints are also recommended because they will perform well over long periods of time in wet climates.

3.2.11 Recommendation Only: Repaint with the existing colors, appropriate to the building's period of significance, and compatible with the historic character of the district. Paint color is not reviewed by HARB but it is recommended to select colors sensitive to the historic surroundings.

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Observations & Comments: The applicant offered a descriptive approach to the treatment of deteriorated wood elements at window panels and soffits. The photographs submitted focus on the second-floor projecting bay window. More information would be helpful to understand the extent of the work area- i.e., confirming that the work only at the second-floor projecting bay window, or if other areas of the façade are included. Generally, it is appropriate for the exterior face of the wood trim to be scribed to match the original wood trim detailing. All wood surfaces should be painted.

The proposed scope calls for adding new scribed trim onto replaced substrate. Based on the submitted photos, it appears that replacement wood is in plane with original scribed trim. More information would be helpful to understand how a consistent finished plane will be achieved; ensuring that edges align appropriately to adjacent elements, such as other trim and window sills.

Staff Recommendation: Staff request more information on the extent of the work area and the approach for achieving a consistent plane of the trim's surface. Generally, the proposed approach to replacing the wood trim is appropriate. All exposed wood surfaces should be painted.

Presenters:

- Amy Ahn Baade presented the application
- Benedicto Bandera represents the application

Discussion:

The applicant stated that his company was hired to replace the deteriorated wood panels; many were severely rotted in a poor condition. The rotted wood was removed and replacement wood added to create a sound, weathertight condition. The applicant proposed taking a physical tracing of the original panels as a basis for recreating the trim. The Board discussed a few options for how that could be achieved, such as using a router, a CNC machine, or handcarving. Mr. Hart suggested that the means of creating the panels is up to the contractor; the goal is for the panels to be visually similar to the original ones.

The applicant noted that the new carved piece would be affixed to the new wood framing, and that it would be done in a way to maintain drip edges and continuity. He noted that the wood window sills are existing to remain, and confirmed that the work is only at the second floor bay window.

Action:

Mr. Encelewski moved to approve with conditions the application presented on 1/5/2026 for the replacement of window trim panels at 521 N. 6th Street with the following conditions agreed to by the applicant, and found compliance with the following section of the Guidelines for Historic Districts: Chapter 3, Section 3.2 – Wood Siding and Trim and found that there were not circumstances unique to the property:

- Wood trim replacement material would be cedar, cypress, or mahogany. Final material to be submitted to staff