

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD  
CITY OF ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

**May 3, 2021  
FINAL REVIEW**

**Case # HDC-2021-00013**

**Property Address:** 337 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St.

**Proposal:** New handrail on one side of front steps and new full view, single pane storm door for rear entrance

**Historic District:** Old Allentown

**Property Owner/Applicant:** Christina Nemes

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**Building description, period, style defining features:**

This 2½-story painted brick Federal/Victorian row house with Italianate influences, ca 1875 is in excellent condition. The gable roof has asphalt shingles with snow catchers, a bullet dormer, denticulated cornice and a single chimney.

The windows are 2/2 sash with Italianate eyebrow lintels on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor has 3 windows with flat lintels and stained-glass transoms displaying tulips. The main entry has a stoop with a single door that has a transom; there is a projecting molding that spans the top of the door and the large set of windows. There are projected moldings that frame the door and windows on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. There is a slatted grocer's alley door with a stained-glass transom with a flat lintel and basement window grille.



**Proposed Alterations:**

1. Installation of new handrail on one side of existing stoop.
2. Installation of new full light storm door for rear entry door.

### **Evaluation of Proposed Project:**

The proposed installation of a new handrail is appropriate and will not impact the building's architectural character. Based on the submitted photograph and material description as wrought iron, the simple metal railing is appropriate for a building of this style and period. The applicant is encouraged to submit more specific product data or manufacturer information about the proposed railing to be used. The proposed railing is compliant with the Design Guidelines' general stoops and steps section.

The application does not specify the side of the stoop on which the handrail will be installed. The existing stone steps do not appear to have holes or physical evidence of a prior railing and the 2013 county assessor photo does not show a prior railing. There is no known documentation of a part railing for the purpose of replication. It is recommended to install the handrail on the left side to be consistent with neighboring building 335 N. 8th Street and others on the block. However, installation on either side of the stoop would be appropriate and not impact the building's character.

The proposed installation of a new full light storm door at the rear entry is appropriate and consistent with the Guidelines. The rear entry door is only partially visible from the rear alley (N. Silk Street) and will not impact the building's architectural character. The full light storm door will have a minimal visual impact.

### **Historic District Impact:**

The proposed project will not negatively impact the surrounding historic district. The attached rowhouses on this block of N. 8th Street have a dynamic mix of architectural detailing in similar, though not matching, styles. Most buildings on either side of the block have a single- or double-sided iron railing at the stoop. Many have simple narrow balusters, and a few have scroll details. The proposed new railing will blend with the surrounding buildings. The proposed storm door will be located on a rear façade and will not impact the district.

### **HARB Discussion**

Board unanimously agreed the proposed handrail and full light storm door as proposed in location and photographs are appropriate.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The proposed project is recommended to be approved as submitted with the recommendation that the new handrail be installed on the left side of the stoop. The applicant is encouraged to submit product data information sheets, drawings, or cut sheets for the proposed railing and door products for record-keeping purposes and to confirm that the installed products will match the supplied photographs.

### **Action**

Motion to approve the application as submitted was made by HARB member Ellen Roberts, motion was seconded by HARB Chair David Huber. Motion carried with unanimous support.