



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION

R94 - 2023

*Introduced by the Administration on May 17, 2023*

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Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 828-30 W. Turner Street

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***Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That***

**WHEREAS** a Certificate of Appropriateness is required under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania No.167, June 13, 1961 (P.L.282) known as the Pennsylvania Historic District Act; and City of Allentown has adopted a Historic District Ordinance, Article 1391, under the provisions allowed in the Pennsylvania Historic District Act; and

**WHEREAS** the applicant, Gary Newman, applied to the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) for a Certificate of Appropriateness for complete demolition of the building, as described in the attached final report; and

**WHEREAS** the HARB held a meeting on said matter on May 1, 2023, where a representative for the applicant was in attendance; and

**WHEREAS** based on the statements and evidence presented, the HARB made the following findings of fact, as detailed in the attached case report:

1. The application does not provide sufficient evidence to support the need for demolition and does not comply with Chapter 3, Section 3.15 Demolition.
2. If City Council approves the application, the HARB requests that the applicant provide mitigation in the following forms:
  - a. As defined in Guideline 3.15.14, mitigation should include the salvaging of building features and historic materials that are suitable for reuse. Architectural salvage is a responsible environmental practice and is encouraged so that historic materials could be reused at other historic buildings. Demolition work must comply with all applicable codes and health and safety regulations.
  - b. As defined in Guideline 3.15.15, the building should be thoroughly documented prior to demolition. Photographs and measured drawings (plans, elevations, sections, and details of unique features) or similar documentation should be submitted to staff for inclusion in the property file.
  - c. The applicant should make a financial contribution to a fund to support preservation efforts elsewhere in the city. Specifically, city staff have identified several blocks of Hamilton Street as containing the city's most significant historic resources which are under the greatest threat of demolition. Staff intends to work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to pursue a National Register historic district along Hamilton Street that would allow property owners to apply for Federal tax credits when rehabilitating historic properties. While National Register districts do not impose any additional restrictions on private property owners, they do provide financial incentives for preservation. A contribution to a preservation fund would support the preparation of a nomination for the district.

**WHEREAS**, based on the above findings of fact, the HARB agreed on the motion not to allow the complete demolition of the building as proposed, and recommended to City Council denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition as detailed in the attached case report.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Allentown that a Certificate of Appropriateness is hereby denied for the above referenced exterior alteration.