

CITY OF ALLENTOWN

30681 RESOLUTION R130 – 2023

Introduced by the Administration on August 2, 2023

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts:

- 246 N. 11th St.
- 347 N. 8th St.
- 44 N. West St.

- 449 N. 10th St.
- 745-47 W. Turner St.

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:

- 246 N. 11th St. (Ramon Mateo, Owner)

 Replace vinyl fence with wood fence
 (violation correction)
- 347 N. 8th St. (347 N. 8th Street LLC, Owner) – Install surface-applied window signage at storefront
- 44 N. West St. (Thomas Yuracka, Owner) – Construct masonry wall in side yard

- 449 N. 10th St. (Hawk & Shaws PA Investments LLC, Owner) – Install signage at storefront
- 745-47 W. Turner St. (Cola Realty LP, Owner) – Legalize lintel repair (violation correction)

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2023, 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	Х	
Ce-Ce Gerlach	Х	
Daryl Hendricks	Х	
Santo Napoli	Х	
Natalie Santos	Х	
Ed Zucal	Х	
Cynthia Y. Mota, President	Х	
TOTAL	7	0

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above copy of Resolution No. 30681 was adopted by the City Council of Allentown on the 2nd day of August, 2023, and is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

City Clerk

HDC-2023-00029

Address: 246 N. 11th Street

District: Old Allentown Historic District Applicant: Dulce Rodriguez, owner

Proposal: Replace vinyl fence with wood fence (violation correction)

Building Description:

This 2½-story brick end-of-row house, ca 1890, is Eastlake in style. The gable roof has 2 dormers, a bracketed cornice, asphalt shingles and a double chimney. The windows are 2/2 sash with Eastlake incised. lintels and there are 2 basement windows visible on the front façade and 3 basement windows on the side façade. The main entry is a double door with a transom and a concrete stoop with pipe railing. There is a cinder block garage in rear of the property.

Project Description:

On May 12, 2023, staff issued a notice of violation for the installation of a vinyl fence where a historic wrought iron and wood privacy fence were previously located. In speaking with the property owner, staff learned that the historic wrought iron fence was stolen at some point in the past. To address the violation, the owner is proposing to remove the vinyl fence and install a 6-foot tall wood privacy fence.

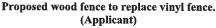


Front and side façades of 246 N. 11th Street, 2019. (Google StreetView)



Detail of wrought iron and wood fencing, 2014. (Google StreetView)







Vinyl fence installed without permits. (HARB files)

Chapter 3.12 – Fences & Streetscape Features

- **3.12.2** Replace historic fences in kind if repair is not feasible. New fences should match the original as closely as possible in materials, profile, appearance, and height. The proportion of fence components relative to each other and the transparency of the fence should be replicated. Avoid reducing the visibility of a historic building through the fence or infilling sections with opaque materials.
- **3.12.3** If in-kind replacement is not possible, alternative replacement designs and materials may be acceptable. Alternatives should match the original in size, profile, transparency, and exterior finish as closely as possible.
- **3.12.4** For new fences at primary or highly visible facades, select designs that complement the architectural style of the building. Appropriate fence types include picket, capped picket, and spindle. Spindle fences may be wood or metal (wrought iron is the most historically appropriate metal; steel or painted aluminum may be considered as well). Ornate metal balusters with twists, scrollwork, or cast iron details are only appropriate if such designs are original to the building. Simple and discreet designs are preferred when the original fence appearance is unknown.
- **3.12.5** For new privacy fences or screening for mechanical equipment, select simple designs that respect the primacy of the historic building. Allow for transparency whenever possible and minimize the amount of opaque areas. Appropriate fence types include capped flat board, lattice, and flat board with lattice panels. Wood is the most appropriate material.
- **3.12.6** Avoid chain-link fences, PVC (vinyl or plastic) fences, split-rail or ranch-rail fences, shaped metal rod fences from modern stock profiles, or similar non-historic alternate materials and styles.

- 3.12.7 Match the height of new fences to the height of nearby fences. Primary façade fences should be low and should not obscure the view of the building. Avoid excessive height that negatively impacts the pedestrian experience on the sidewalk and is out of proportion with the rest of the neighborhood.
- **3.12.8** For non-original or previously-altered fences, consider restoring the original fence appearance (if documented) or replacement with a simple appropriate design. In-kind replacement of non-historic vinyl fences is not encouraged.

Observations & Comments:

The previously installed wood privacy fence had been in place behind the historic wrought iron fence for approximately ten years. The 2014 photo shows both fences, and staff notes that a large section of the wrought iron fencing was missing at that time. While the design guidelines advocate for in-kind replacement of historic fences, they also allow for wood shadow box or picket fences, provided primary or highly visible facades are not obscured. In this case, the fence encloses a side yard and does not significantly impact the building's facades. Staff finds the proposed wood privacy fence to be acceptable, provided it is painted, since much of the historic wrought iron fence has been missing for approximately ten years.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval, provided the fence is painted and with the staff to review details, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.12 Fences & Streetscape Features.

HARB Discussion:

The HARB recommended following the guidelines as closely as possible and suggested changing the vinyl fence to either a picket fence or shadow box fence. The HARB discussed the proposed wood stockade fence and agreed it would be acceptable with the pointed ends either placed in the ground or squared off at the top. The HARB agreed that the fence should be painted to meet the guidelines.

Action:

Mr. Lichtenwalner moved to approve the application presented on 7/10/2023 for the installation of a wood fence at 246 N. 11th Street, with the staff to review details, provided the fence is painted and top is squared off, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.12 Fences & Streetscape Features. Mr. Encelewski seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous support.

HDC-2023-00043

Address: 347 N. 8th Street

District: Old Allentown Historic District Applicant: Nidia Manzueta, tenant

Proposal: Install surface-applied window signage at storefront

Building Description:

This 3-story painted brick row corner house, ca 1873, is Italianate in style. The 1st floor is a store, and the 2nd & 3rd floors are residential. It has a flat roof with projecting eaves and a double chimney. It has flat lintels on the 3rd floor with 1/1 sash windows, Italianate lintels on the 2nd floor with 2/2 sash windows and carved very ornate brackets on the cornice. There is a fire escape in the rear of the property.

The windows on the 1st floor are flat store front windows. There are six small windows above the door and on the front façade. There is a large awning over the sidewalk in front. There are painted iron grilles on the side of the 1st floor windows which have no glass and are boarded up.

Project Description:

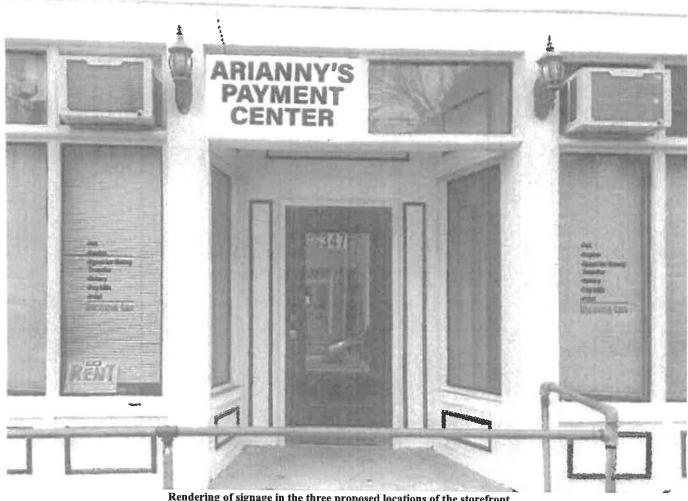
This application proposes to install window signage in three locations within the storefront. Two vinyl decals would be installed on the windows flanking the entrance, and a larger vinyl decal would be installed within the transom.



Front façade of 347 N. 8th Street, 2022. (Google StreetView)



Front and side facades of 347 N. 8th Street, 2022. (Google StreetView)



Rendering of signage in the three proposed locations of the storefront. (Applicant)

Applicable Guidelines:

Chapter 3.13 - Commercial Storefronts

- **3.13.12** Locate new signs in historically appropriate locations, such as the sign band directly below a cornice or the ends of a façade at the second story.
- **3.13.13** Reuse existing hardware, supports, and brackets if possible to reduce the number of new holes created in exterior walls. Patch and repair holes or similar damage caused by previous sign installations.
- **3.13.14** Attach signs in a method that does not damage historic materials. For signs attached to a masonry façade, anchors should be placed in mortar joints, not in the masonry unit. Installations should be reversible and should only require minor repairs or patches if removed in the future.
- **3.13.15** Scale signs to be compatible with the proportions and scale of the storefront and building. Compatible proportions should minimize the visual impact of the sign when looking at the building or streetscape. Small signs are usually the most appropriate. The size of signs and lettering should prioritize pedestrians rather than vehicles. Text heights between 6 and 12 inches is generally recommended.
- 3.13.18 For window signs (surface-applied or painted), maintain the transparency of the window by using lettering and/or logos without a solid background. High transparency lettering and window-applied signage helps to minimize the

visual impact to the building and street. Solid backgrounds are not encouraged but are not prohibited. An advantage to windows signs is that they are easily reversible and do not damage historic materials.

3.13.23 Avoid covering or obscuring architecturally significant or distinctive features. Removing or destroying historic elements for the purpose of installing a sign is not appropriate.

Observations & Comments:

The design guidelines support the installation of surface-applied window signage with transparent backgrounds, because the signage type does not damage historic materials. Staff questions whether the sign in the transom includes an opaque background and suggests that no background color be included. Provided none of the signage includes opaque backgrounds, staff finds the application complies with the design guidelines for commercial storefronts, and more specifically with Guideline 3.13.18.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval, provided no signage contains an opaque background, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.13 Commercial Storefronts.

HARB Discussion:

The HARB discussed the appropriateness of the proposed signage and inquired whether the sign in the transom would have a transparent or opaque background. Ms. Manzueta confirmed that the sign would have only letters and would include no background. The HARB requested that the lettering be centered across the transom and not contained on one pane of glass so that it was more symmetrical. Ms. Manzueta agreed to the request. The HARB found that the signage complies with the design guidelines.

Actions:

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the application presented on 7/10/2023 for the installation of surface-applied window signage at the storefront of 347 N. 8th Street, with the staff to review details, provided the lettering is centered across both transom lites and the background is transparent, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.13 Commercial Storefronts. Mr. Lichtenwalner seconded the motion, which passed with unanimous support.

HDC-2023-00042

Address: 44 N. West Street

District: West Park Historic District Applicant: Thomas Yuracka, owner

Proposal: Construct masonry wall in side yard

Building Description:

This 3-story Colonial Revival twin brick house with tan accents and stucco, a 2-story ell and is in good condition. The gambrel roof has dormers and a combination of asphalt and wood shingles with 2 single chimneys. The windows are 1/1 sash (4), 8/1 sash (13), a bay window. The enclosed stoop has a single door.

Project Description:

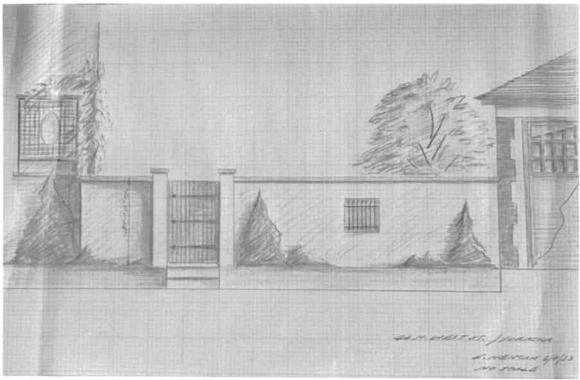
This application proposes to construct a masonry wall clad in stucco along Linden Street where a non-historic wood fence currently exists. The wall would be between 5-feet 4-inches and 6-feet in height and would be located at the rear of the house, terminating at the garage.



Front façade of 44 N. West Street, 2019. (Google StreetView)



Side façade of 44 N. West Street, 2014. (Google StreetView)



Rendering of proposed site wall. (Applicant)

Chapter 3.12 - Fences & Streetscape Features

3.12.7 Match the height of new fences to the height of nearby fences. Primary façade fences should be low and should not obscure the view of the building. Avoid excessive height that negatively impacts the pedestrian experience on the sidewalk and is out of proportion with the rest of the neighborhood.

3.12.12 Construct new retaining walls that are visible from a public right-of-way with masonry materials that are compatible in size, color, and appearance to the historic building and the surrounding streetscape. Simple constructions are the most appropriate.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

Standard 9 New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

Standard 10 New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Observations & Comments:

The design guidelines provide regulations for fences and retaining walls, but do not explicitly provide regulations for masonry site walls. Staff's review of the application references guidelines from Chapter 3, Section 3.12 Fences & Streetscapes, but provides additional reference to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which may be more appropriate in reviewing the proposed work.

Staff finds the proposed work satisfies the intent of the design guidelines since the masonry wall would match the height of the existing fence and other nearby fences along West Street, complying with Guideline 3.12.7. The wall would be low enough, at a maximum height of 6-feet, so as not to obscure views of the building and would have no impact on the primary façade. The site wall would also comply with Guideline 3.12.12, since it would be constructed of masonry materials and finished to match the historic structure.

The work also complies with Standard 9 of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, which requires exterior alterations and related new construction not to destroy historic materials that characterize a property. The wall would not cause the loss of any historic fabric. The work also complies with Standard 10, since it would not impact the form or integrity of the historic property and would not impair the environment if it were to be removed in the future.

The proposed gate is illustrated as being wood with metal strap hinges and is appropriate in material and design.

For final approval, staff recommends that the applicant submit specs and/or cut sheets on the stucco/finish of the wall, cap, and gate.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.12 Fences & Streetscape Features and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

HARB Discussion:

The HARB agreed that the proposed masonry wall meets the intent of Section 3.12 of the historic district guidelines and supported the project.

Action:

Mr. Encelewski moved to approve the application presented on 7/10/2023 for the construction of a masonry wall in the side yard of the property at 44 N. West Street, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.12 Fences & Streetscape Features and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Mr. Huber seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Hart recused.

HDC-2023-00045

Address: 449 N. 10th Street

District: Old Allentown Historic District Applicant: Muhammad Aqib Zafar, owner Proposal: Install signage at storefront

Building Description:

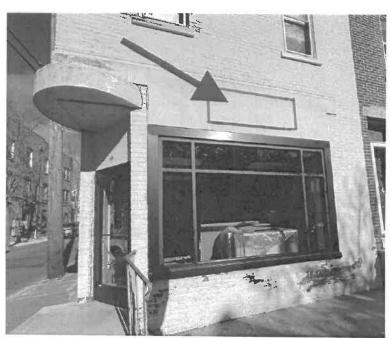
The building is a two-and-a-half-story, mixed-use corner row house. It was constructed ca. 1885 and is late Federal in style with Eastlake-influenced details. The building is painted brick laid in running bond and has a side-gable roof with a prominent single dormer. The roof and dormer are clad in asphalt shingles, and there is a bracketed cornice with low-relief decorative frieze panels. There is a side chimney along the Liberty Street façade. The windows are 1/1 sash at the second and attic stories, with a ground-story storefront window. Second story windows have projecting sills and rectangular lintels with incised carving. The main commercial entry has been inserted at the corner and features a paneled door with an infilled transom. The Liberty Street façade features a storefront window, and the remainder of the elevation contains many one-over-one single and tripartite windows. The first-story contains two sets of stairs and three door openings.

Project Description:

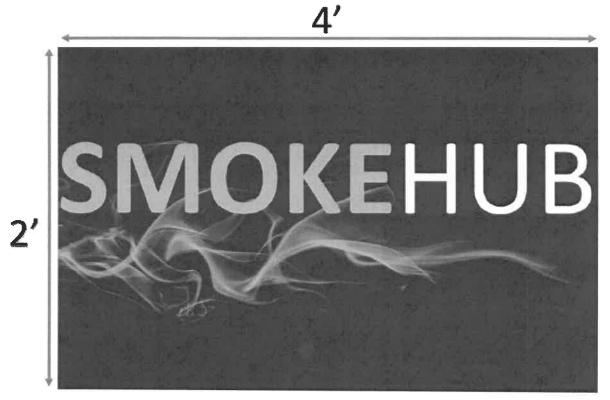
This application proposes to install two non-illuminated 2-foot by 4-foot vinyl signs above the storefront windows of the property at 449 N. 10th Street.



Front façade of 449 N. 10th Street, 2019. (Google StreetView)



Proposed location of signage. (Applicant)



Proposed signage. (Applicant)

Chapter 3.13 – Commercial Storefronts

- 3.13.12 Locate new signs in historically appropriate locations, such as the sign band directly below a cornice or the ends of a façade at the second story.
- **3.13.14** Attach signs in a method that does not damage historic materials. For signs attached to a masonry façade, anchors should be placed in mortar joints, not in the masonry unit. Installations should be reversible and should only require minor repairs or patches if removed in the future.
- **3.13.15** Scale signs to be compatible with the proportions and scale of the storefront and building. Compatible proportions should minimize the visual impact of the sign when looking at the building or streetscape. Small signs are usually the most appropriate. The size of signs and lettering should prioritize pedestrians rather than vehicles. Text heights between 6 and 12 inches is generally recommended.
- **3.13.16** For wall or projecting signs, use simple shapes and profiles such as ovals and rectangles. Shaped signs that relate to the business use may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis but are usually not recommended.
- **3.13.18** For window signs (surface-applied or painted), maintain the transparency of the window by using lettering and/or logos without a solid background. High transparency lettering and window-applied signage helps to minimize the visual impact to the building and street. Solid backgrounds are not encouraged but are not prohibited. An advantage to windows signs is that they are easily reversible and do not damage historic materials.
- **3.13.21** Use high-quality and durable materials. Wood was the most common material historically for signs, especially projecting and hanging signs, and is appropriate. Metal brackets and hardware are appropriate. Metal lettering and signs,

pigmented glass, and painted lettering are also appropriate. Box signs are not recommended, and internally-illuminated box signs are not permitted by the Zoning Ordinance. Avoid vinyl and plastic lettering and signs.

Observations & Comments:

At its June 21, 2023 meeting, City Council adopted the HARB's recommendation to legalize the storefront windows and door, and to require a phased replacement program of the vinyl windows at the Liberty Street façade. The applicant is returning to get approval for signage to be installed above the storefront window at the N. 10th Street façade.

The proposed signs comply with Guidelines 3.13.12, 3.13.14, 3.13.15, and 3.13.16, because they would appropriately located above the storefront windows, would be easily reversible with no damage to historic fabric, and are of a size and scale that are appropriate for the building. However, the signs, proposed to be vinyl stickers, do not comply with Guideline 3.13.21, which recommends a high-quality and durable material. However, the guidelines do allow for surface-applied window signs with high transparency in a material similar to what is proposed. Staff recommends one of the following to comply with the design guidelines:

- 1. Print or paint the signs on wood or metal; or
- 2. Install surface-applied signs within the transom of the storefront windows.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval, provided the signs are metal or wood, or the proposed signs are installed within the transom of the storefront windows, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.13 Commercial Storefronts.

HARB Discussion:

The HARB discussed where the signage should be installed. Mr. Jordan suggested limiting the signage to the space below the former lintel. Mr. Huber stated that the signage could be installed within the upper pane of glass within the storefront window or on a wood sign above. Mr. Jordan read the staff recommendation, stating that the HARB seemed to be in agreement with the staff, but added that the sign should be centered above the storefront windows but below the former lintel. The applicant agreed to the HARB's comments and presented a revised signage plan that satisfies the design guidelines.

Action:

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the application presented on 7/10/2023 for the installation of signage at the storefront of 449 N. 10th Street, with the staff to review details, pursuant to chapter 3, Section 3.13 Commercial Storefronts, with the following conditions agreed to by the applicant:

- Install surface-applied signs within the transom of the storefront windows; or
- Print or paint signs on wood or metal and center the sign vertically and horizontally within the space below the former lintel line between the first and second stories.

Mr. Hart seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous support.

HDC-2023-00040

Address: 745-47 W. Turner Street District: Old Allentown Historic District Applicant: Cola Realty LP, owner

Proposal: Legalize removal of decorative lintels and installation of capping (violation correction)

Building Description:

This 3-story brick row house, c. 1901 is an Edwardian house. The mansard roof has asphalt shingles, spires and dentilated cornice. The 1st floor has a picture window with beveled glass above, the 2nd floor has a bay window with stained glass transom and the 3rd floor windows are 1/1 with a wrought iron railing above the second-floor bay. All windows have Eastlake lintels. The main entry is a single glazed door with a concrete porch.

Project Description:

On May 12, 2023, staff issued a notice of violation for the removal of brick lintels and installation of capping at the third-story front façade windows of 745-47 W. Turner Street. This application seeks to legalize the work.



Front façade of 745-47 W. Turner Street, 2021. (Google StreetView)



Photo showing the temporary lintel repair at 747 and the fallen brick at the lintel of 745 W. Turner Street, 2022.
(HARB files)



Photo showing the capping installed over the lintels, 2023. (HARB files)

Chapter 3.2 - Wood Siding & Trim

- 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.

Chapter 3.3 - Masonry

- 3.3.2 Repair and restore existing brick masonry whenever possible. Attempt to repair deteriorated or damaged areas prior to replacement. Appropriate repairs include repointing (repairing mortar joints), crack repair, brick stitching, and select area replacement. Avoid removing excess material or a larger area than is required to complete the repair. New bricks should match the existing in color, profile, dimension, surface texture, and composition and physical properties.
- **3.3.5** Replace or rebuild exterior masonry walls or features with in-kind materials if repair is not feasible. Replacement masonry units should match the existing in color, profile, dimension, surface texture, and composition and physical properties. Replicate the existing brick bond (how the bricks are laid).
- **3.3.6** Preserve and restore decorative masonry elements that are important character-defining features, such as brick corbels and patterned brick courses. Avoid altering, concealing or covering, or removing decorative masonry.

Chapter 3.5 – Windows

3.5.15 Replace deteriorated window trim or decorative elements only as necessary to match the size, profile, and material of the original elements. For window lintels or hoods that project from the façade plane and are vulnerable to water collection, consider installing of metal drip edges to shed water away from windows. Copper is recommended and should be left to weather naturally; aluminum is acceptable and should be painted to match surrounding materials. Avoid encasing wood sills with metal or vinyl, as this will trap moisture and may cause more damage.

Observations & Comments:

The staff issued notices of violation on multiple occasions for the failing brick at the third-story lintels since 2021. In 2021, first and second notices of violation were issued, followed by a court filing in November. Because the court was unable to serve the owner, the court dismissed the case. City staff attempted to reopen the violation by issuing new notices in March and July 2022 and again in May 2023.

The lintels were historically comprised of a decorative carved wood lintel below an arched soldier course of brick. A crown molding separated the lintel from the turret cornice. While the crown molding remains, the brick collapsed and was removed. The owner temporarily inserted plywood above the carved wood lintel at 747 W. Turner Street, and staff questions whether the wood portion of the lintel remains behind the current metal capping. At 745 W. Turner Street, the carved wood lintel appears to have collapsed with the brick, and the lintel has also been capped.

The removal of the brick and wood lintels and installation of metal capping does not comply with the design guidelines. The guidelines recommend in-kind replacement and advocate against installing any type of capping, per Guideline 3.2.6.

Staff Recommendation:

Denial, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.2 Wood Siding & Trim, Section 3.3 Masonry, and Section 3.5 Windows.

HARB Discussion:

The HARB discussed Guideline 3.2.5, stating that the guideline requires replacement features to be replicated as closely as possible in material composition, size, profile, shape, pattern, and appearance. The HARB noted that the wood lintel would need to be curved and that the incised design would need to be replicated. The HARB also noted that the lintels failed at both buildings because of the arch and suggested that the mason investigate a method to properly install the brick and wood lintels to avoid a future collapse.

The owner agreed to reinstall the brick and carved wooden lintel over the third-floor windows.

Actions:

Mr. Encelewski moved to approve the application presented on 7/10/2023 for the legalization of the removal of the brick and wood third-story front façade window lintels and replacement of the lintels in-kind at the property at 745-47 W. Turner Street, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 3.2 Wood Siding & Trim, Section 3.3 Masonry, and Section 3.5 Windows, with the following conditions as agreed to by the owner:

• The brick and wood lintels will match the historic in material composition, size, profile, shape, pattern, and appearance.

Mr. Lichtenwalner seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous support.