

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

HDC-2026-00009

Address: 1515 Linden Street

District: West Park Historic District

Owner: City of Allentown

Applicant: Brynne Heffner

Proposal: Remove and replace 5 single doors on the bandshell.

Building Description: This structure is the West Park Band Shell building. It is a 2-story detached structure with a flat roof with semi-spherical roof over the stage, deep classical cornice, stucco front with pilasters and arched proscenium, wood siding on the remaining facades, four doors of various styles, 6-over-6 wood double hung windows on the sides and rear. The structure dates from the early 20th century and is Classical in style.

Project Description:

Remove five single doors on the Band Shell and install four mahogany doors at the stage level and one metal door on the ground floor. The two front-facing stage doors will be solid 3-panel doors and the two side doors will have a 6-pane lite. The replacement metal door at the ground floor will match the existing and be a plain flush door.



Right Side door (L) and ground floor door (R) (Applicant)



Front right stage door (Applicant)

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

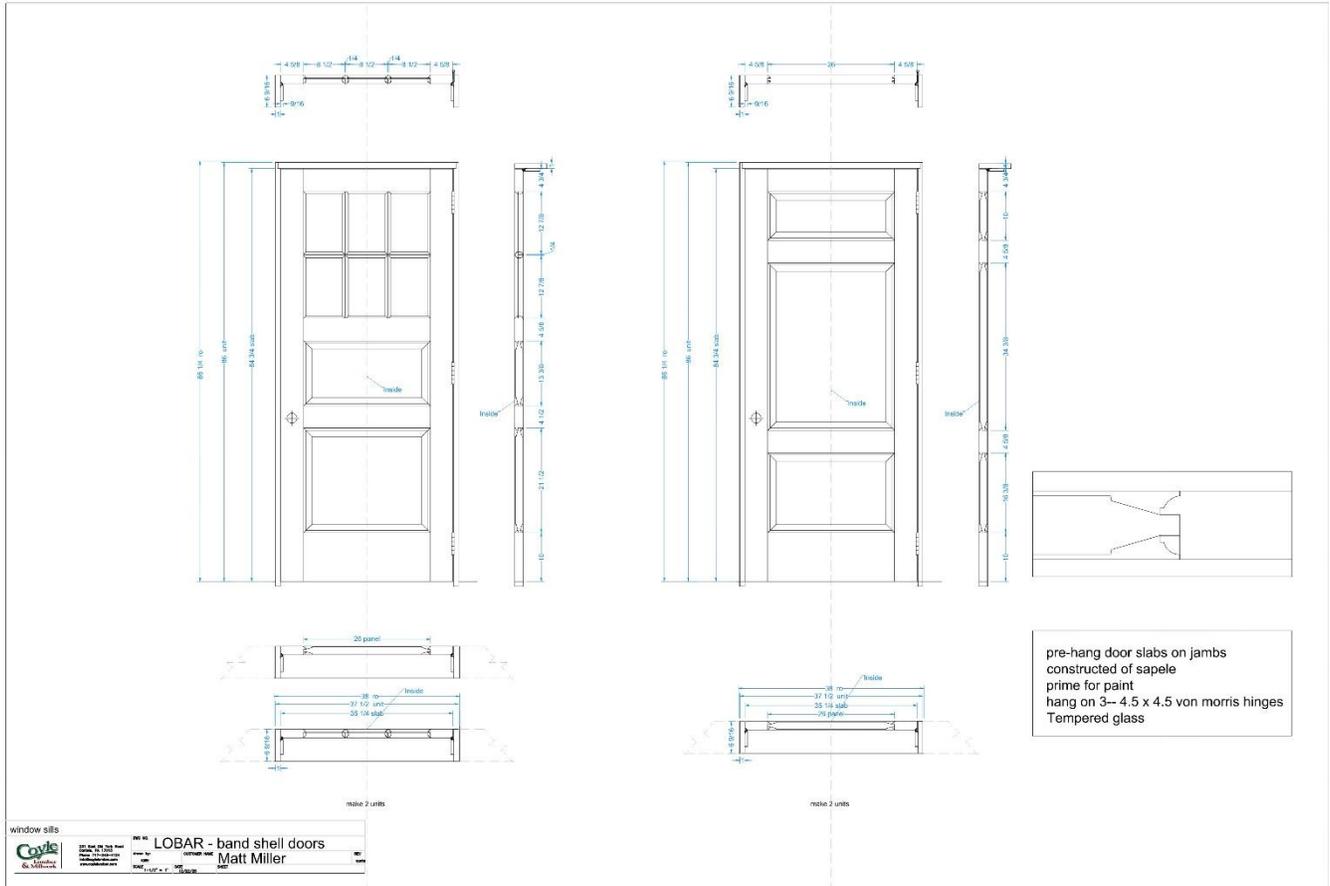


Front left stage door (Applicant)

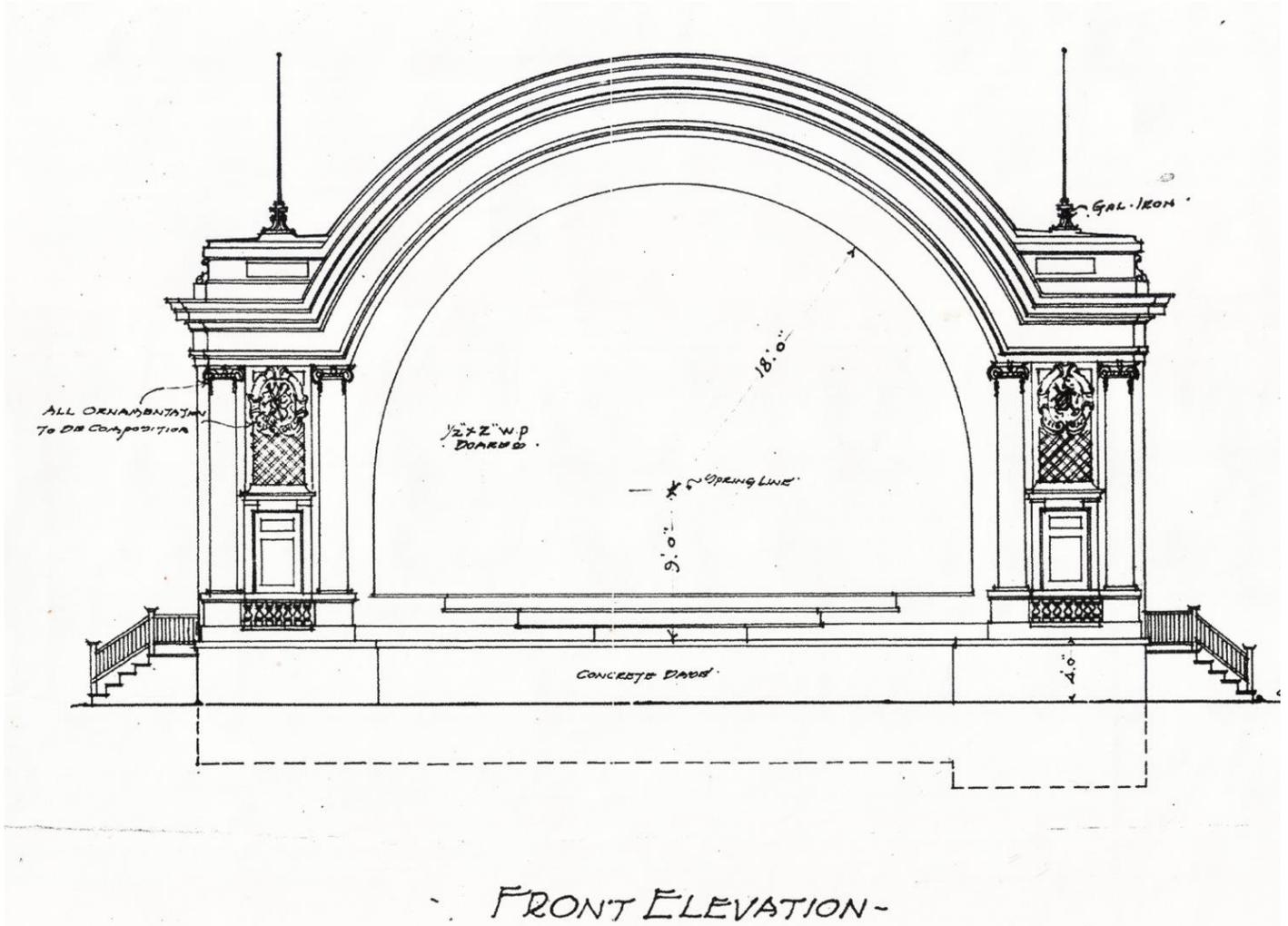


Left Side door (Applicant)

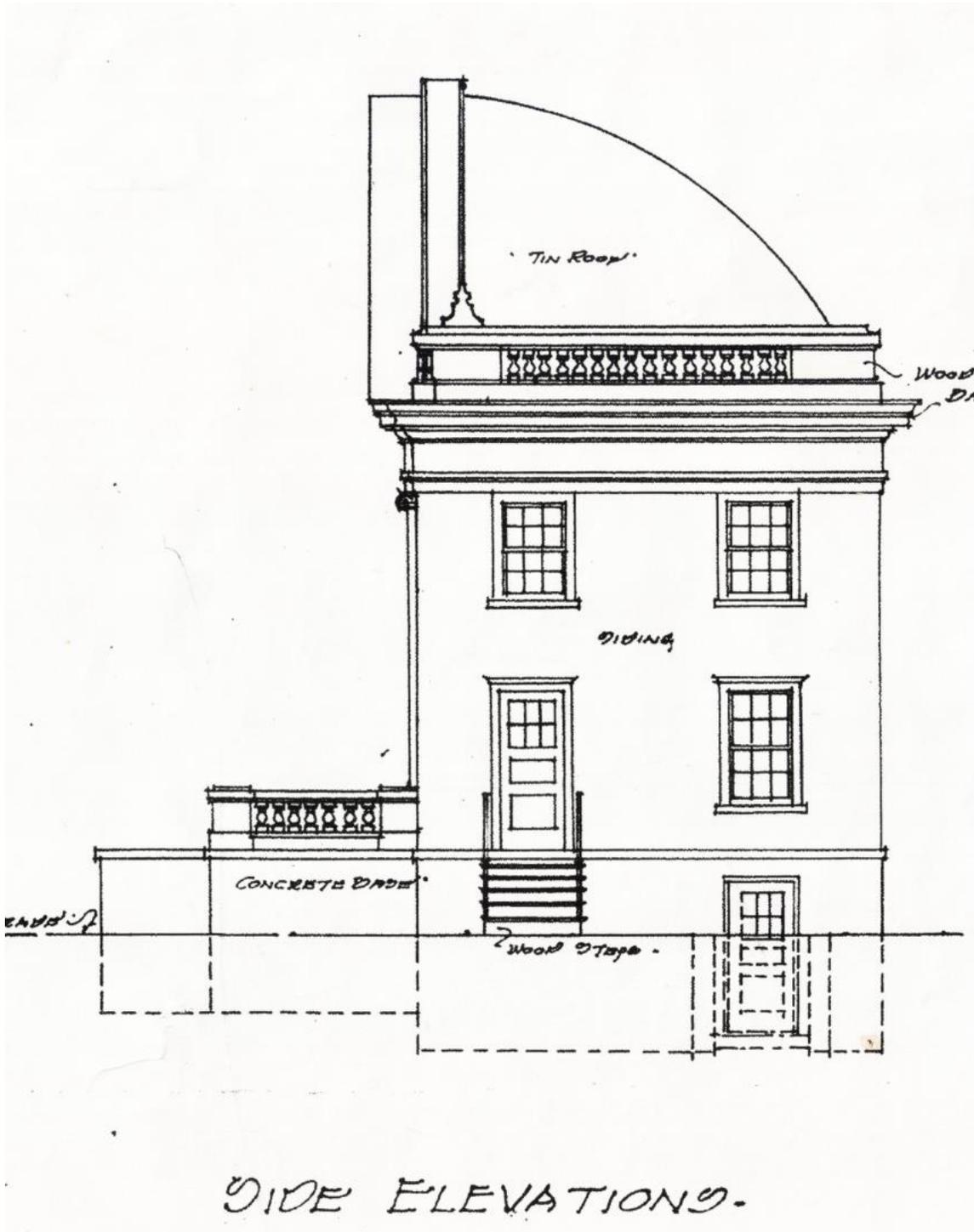
Historical Architectural Review Board COA Preliminary Review Sheet



Shop Drawings (Applicant)



Original Drawing - Front Elevation (City of Allentown)



Original Drawing – Side Elevation (City of Allentown)

Applicable Guidelines:

Section 3.6 – Doors

Historical Architectural Review Board COA Preliminary Review Sheet

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 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: The application drawings indicate that the proposed stage doors are constructed of sapele mahogany and are to be painted. The door configuration for the front and side stage-level doors are consistent with the design and configuration of the original doors as seen in existing conditions and original building drawings. The ground floor door is currently a painted plain metal flush door; replacing to match current configuration is appropriate.

Some of the original doors remain in various states of disrepair. Given the significance of the band shell structure, original materials should be salvaged.

While color is not regulated by the HARB, staff suggest matching the existing door colors.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommend approval with the condition that original doors are salvaged.

Historical Architectural Review Board COA Preliminary Review Sheet

Presenters:

- Amy Ahn Baade presented the application
- Bryne Heffner-Bair represented the application

Discussion:

Ms. Heffner-Bair noted that the City worked with a contractor to propose solid wood doors to match the original doors that exist and/or are depicted on the original building drawings. Tom Yuracka and Adam Bond from the **West Park Civic Association** expressed support for the door replacement as proposed, as the doors matched the original configuration. The Board acknowledged the City's effort to address security and maintenance issues while following the Guidelines and spoke in support of the project.

Action:

Mr. Hart moved to approve the application presented on 3/2/2026 for door replacement at 1515 Linden Street as submitted and found compliance with Guidelines for Historic Districts: Chapter 3, 3.6- Doors and found no circumstances unique to the property.