

**CITY OF ALLENTOWN
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
FINAL REVIEW SHEET
June 4, 2018**

Case # HDC-2018-00018– Proposal to continue the installation of vinyl fence on side of property

Property located at: 25 N 15th St.

Agenda # 1

Historic District: West Park

Case # HDC-2018-00018

Meeting date: June 4, 2018

Property Owner: Wilfredo Paniagua

Owners Address: 25 N 15th St, Allentown, PA 18102

Applicant: same

Applicant's Address: same

Building description, period, style, defining features: This structure is a 2 1/2 story, semidetached brick dwelling with hipped roof, a large, shared, front facing gable, corner porch with setback entry, balcony above the corner porch, cantilevered side balcony, 1 over 1 windows with front third floor window with arched transom with tracery, Doric columns on stone porch knee wall and piers, and siding covering the upper levels and rear. The house dates from c. 1910 and is Free Classic Queen Anne in style. Although the house has been altered with siding over the parts of the brick facades, it retains integrity. At the side of the property is a character defining wrought iron fence.





Proposed alterations: It is proposed to continue the installation of vinyl fence on side of property. The vinyl fence has been installed by attaching to the historic wrought iron fence and installing a chain link fence gate in place of the wrought iron gate.

Staff Approvals: n/a

Background: n/a

Violations: February 15, 2018 - Installed vinyl fence along side yard in rear of property.

Guideline Citation: SIS 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment. **Allentown Guidelines for Historic Districts:** 5. Guidelines for Existing Buildings and Structures, 1. Repairs, Replacement and Alternate Materials: 10. Streetscapes and Outdoor Features

Evaluation, effect on historic district, recommendations: The installed fence is not historically appropriate, nor does it appear to be safely erected. Vinyl fencing is not permitted in the historic district nor is the chain-link gate. As noted in the guidelines:

"If additional privacy is desired in a rear or side yard and an ornamental iron fence already exists, a wood fence may be installed behind the ornamental iron fence.

Split rail, chain-link and plastic or vinyl fences are not compatible with the intent of historic districts and are generally not acceptable."

A wood vertical board fence, professionally installed with proper wood gate would be historically appropriate. Proper concrete footings and foundations would be necessary to support the fence. It is suggested that the fence be set back from the historic fence by approximately 3' (or more) so that it would meet with the neighboring building without a return, or perhaps be placed inward of the basement bilco type door. This set back might also allow the wrought iron fence gate to be reinstalled. The wood fence would also have a gate so there would be added distance and protection for the dog and passersby. A new fence should be stained and finished to better resist weather. The existing concrete paving would be visible between the two fences.

Discussion: The applicant said he did not realize he was in an historic district and after discussions with Mr. Kimmerly he understood that the vinyl fence was not acceptable. The type of wood fence that would be acceptable was addressed when Mr. Kimmerly pointed out that the design guidelines do not permit solid wood fences on a primary street. It was decided that a solid wood fence would be acceptable in this side street location due to its relatively low visibility and because the guidelines do allow solid board fences in rear or side yard situations. The HARB agreed with the Historic Consultant's suggested placement of the fence 3' or so behind the ornamental iron fence, and a sketch was created for the applicant to address the Bilco-type basement entrance. The applicant said he still had the ornamental fence gate, and Ms. Jackson informed the applicant that it would need to be reinstalled. The details of the wood fence, the height, and time to replace the vinyl fence were reviewed.

Motion: The HARB upon motion by Mr. Renaut and seconded by Ms. Jackson adopted the proposal that City Council issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed work described herein:

1. The proposal to continue the installation of vinyl fence on side of property at 125 N 15th Street was presented by Wilfredo Paniagua.
2. The vinyl fence must be replaced with a dog-eared wood fence no more than 6' high with proper foundations. It is recommended that the fence be stained to resist weather.
3. The fence will be set back approximately 3' from the existing historic ornamental iron fence. A site visit will be done by Mr. Kimmerly and Historic Consultant (if needed) to determine the exact placement of the fence around the basement door.
4. The original gate must be reinstalled.
5. The vinyl fence must be replaced within 3 months of the date of the HARB meeting or September 4, 2018.

The proposal to recommend a COA was unanimously approved. (7-0; motion carried; Fillman, Huber, Jackson, Olson, Renault, Sell)