

**CITY OF ALLENTOWN
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
FINAL REVIEW SHEET
June 25, 2018**

Case #HDC-2018-00019— Proposal to install 3 security cameras

Property located at: 245 N 9th Street

Agenda #2

Historic District: Old Allentown

Case # HDC-2018-00019

Meeting date: June 4, 2018

Property Owner: Chew Investor LLC

Address: 245 N 9th St, Allentown, PA
18102

Applicant: same

Applicant's Address: same

Building description, period, style, defining features: This structure is a large 3 story, semi-detached, brick, multifamily building with flat roof, projecting bracketed cornice, long side façade, two, front, double story oriel windows, and 1 over 1 double hung windows with a mix of segmental arches and flat lintels. The building dates from the early 20th century (c. 1916) and is Classical Revival in style with some Queen Anne details. The building retains a high level of historic integrity.



Proposed alterations: It is proposed to install 3 security cameras: one on the front façade to the right of the southernmost door and one on either end of the side façade. The appearance of the security cameras is not clearly conveyed.

Staff Approvals: n/a

Background: HDC-2016-00011: Façade Improvement Project. a. The existing wood windows must be retained, repaired, and painted. New, energy efficient aluminum storm windows may be installed to increase thermal efficiency and protect the historic wood windows.

b. The existing doors will be replaced with new wood and glass doors. The narrower door opening will receive a single $\frac{3}{4}$ light wood door, and the wider opening will receive a pair of $\frac{3}{4}$ light doors.

c. A new paneled wood door will be installed on the bakers' alley opening.

d. The brick will be cleaned and repointed as needed, in particular on the side of the building. Brick will be repointed with a high lime-content mortar and in accordance with Preservation Brief #2 concerning brick repair and repointing.

e. A new exterior architectural lighting plan will be implemented using moderate sized up and down lights located approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ the height of the building up from the sidewalk. Specifications for the lighting to be installed will be submitted to the City for approval. Approved by City Council July 20, 2016.

2003-45 HARB approved December 1, 2003; City Council approval December 17, 2003

Approved alterations: (1) Custom made full length wrought iron gate for the grocer's alley opening. (2) Motion detector light in the grocer's alley. (3) Carriage lights to be mounted by the side of the doors.

1982-97 – Applicant proposes to place 8", double 4" or 5" vinyl siding (slightly textured) on the rear of the property (fire escape and porch area) and on the Chew Street wall. Application WITHDRAWN 11/30/82.

1982-68 -- HARB meeting Sept. 1, 1982; City Council meeting Sept. 15, 1982

Proposed: stucco the north wall and the east wall using the "thermax" system underneath.

HARB Approved: stuccoing the east wall since the stucco is obscured by the large metal fire escapes and denied stuccoing the north wall. CITY COUNCIL: DENIED the application

1981-84 – Applicant proposes to apply insulation, then stucco over the entire wall – Chew Street elevation

WITHDRAWN by HARB 11/9/81 – no new information presented.

1981-63 – HARB meeting Sept. 2, 1981; City Council meeting Sept. 16, 1981

Proposed: Applicant proposes to stucco/brickote the north wall and the rear walls.

HARB - proposed work is inappropriate. Brick should remain in order to retain its historical architectural character of the building and the building as it relates to the streetscape. CITY COUNCIL: DENIED the application

1981-11 – Applicant proposes to place aluminum siding under the third floor porch roof in the rear. WITHDRAWN 3/5/1981

1980-30 – HARB approved May 12, 1980; City Council approval May 21, 1980

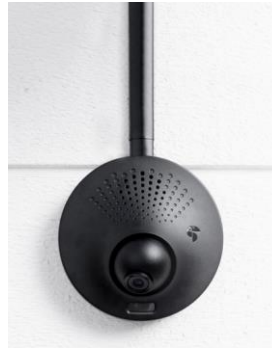
Applicant proposed: To remove the existing rear porches and reconstruct with metal as a fire escape. It was noted that the fire escape is required by BOCA since dwelling units will be located on the third floor. Noted: 3" x 3" x 5/16" steel posts will be used with 4" x 4" balustrades.

Violations: November 10, 2009 – three satellite dishes installed on front of house. Abated

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: 15. Mechanical, Electrical and Communications

Evaluation, effect on historic district, recommendations: The proposed security cameras could be historically appropriate given more detail on the exact model and installation method. It appears a suggestion of disguising the camera with some sort of decoration is proposed; this should be confirmed, and addressed as to whether this is an appropriate way to 'hide' a camera that is otherwise in plain view. There are some products out there that better hide cameras utilizing outdoor lighting, though their effectiveness for a multi-family rental may be complicated by the fact that many of these products rely on apps and cell phones, but it could be worth looking into. Specifically, the company Kuna has several options, including cameras already

incorporated with wall lights, or cameras that can be hooked into existing light fixtures:
<https://getkuna.com/pages/smart-security-light>



Discussion: Discussion of this project was difficult without the attendance of the applicant for the second month and without sufficient information to understand what was proposed for the security camera installation. One of the images in the application showed security cameras camouflaged with an eagle and mounted between shutters. It was determined that this was not on the applicant's building. The consensus of the HARB was this was not an appropriate installation. One of the HARB members said some cameras had been installed on buildings at the rear of the property already. They had exposed conduit above windows. The HARB agreed that wiring with exposed conduit did not meet the Design Guidelines and was not appropriate. It was concluded that the project would need to be denied because of insufficient information about the type, appearance, and locations of the cameras and the lack of information on how they would be wired and mounted.

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

1. The proposal to install 3 security cameras at 245 N 9th Street was not represented.
2. The case was denied due to the lack of representation and lack of information
3. The information missing in the application includes the type, appearance, and exact locations of the cameras and how they will be wired and installed on the facades
4. According the Design Guidelines for the Historic District security cameras should be mounted on secondary facades in an unobtrusive location or painted to minimize their visual impact.

The proposal to DENY a COA was unanimously approved. (6-0; motion carried; Brobst, Fillman, Huber, Jackson, Roberts, Sell.)