

**CITY OF ALLENTOWN  
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD  
FINAL REVIEW SHEET  
August 6, 2018**

**ITEM #4 – Case #HDC-2018-00030–** Proposal to install a permanent awning on the front porch

**Property located at:** 1106 W. Liberty St.

**Agenda # 4**

**Historic District:** Old Allentown

**Case #** HDC-2018-00027

**Meeting date:** August 6, 2018

**Property Owner:** Jose Maria

**Owners Address:** 1106 W. Liberty St.

**Applicant:** Nataly Lopez

**Applicant's Address:** Same

**Building description, period, style, defining features:** This structure is a 3 story attached brick mixed use dwelling with Mansard roof, large gable-fronted dormer, second floor oriel windows, and full front porch with Doric columns and unusual projecting floor deck to the side of the entry steps (although it is matched on the house at the end of the row). The projecting porch deck has a replacement railing and most of the building's wood trim has been clad in aluminum except for the first floor porch. The house dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is Queen Anne in style.



**Proposed alterations:** It is proposed to install a permanent awning on the front porch. The awning is to be fabricated of Sunbrella or Recacril canvas type material and will project 4'. There will be no signage or lettering on the awning. The color, pattern, binding and edge detail have not been indicated in the proposal.

**Staff Approvals:** n/a

**Background:** n/a

**Violations:** n/a

**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\*, 11.Signs\***

**Evaluation, effect on historic district, recommendations:** Although not specifically addressed in the Guidelines for Historic Districts, the proposed permanent awning will cover most of the remaining visible architectural features of the building which is not historically appropriate. There is also great concern that the capitals of the Doric columns will be damaged

by the installation of the permanent structural framework. Reducing the awning to be just over the porch projection and to be between the capitals of the porch columns, and, in addition, reducing its projection to 3' maximum might be modifications the HARB could consider to reduce the visual impact on the architectural features of the porch and to protect the projecting floor deck of the porch. Protecting the projecting wood porch deck is the unusual circumstance of this case that might be the basis for an approval of a modified awning proposal. Other details of the awning proposal should be defined – color and valance edge detail in particular. The color should be compatible with the building's colors. Scalloped or straight valances are historically appropriate.

**Discussion:** The discussion focused on the size of the awning and final details. The applicant explained they get a lot of water on the porch in rain storms and wanted to protect the porch with the awning. The HARB explained in detail what the Historic Consultant had recommended to be sure the applicant understood. The applicant hadn't understood exactly, but agreed with the recommendation when she realized what was proposed. It was verified that the color of the awning would be as shown in the rendering. The applicant said she would like the scalloped edge detail, and they would be careful not have the historic architecture damaged when the frame installed. Mr. Fillman asked that the awning company provide shop drawings for the Historic Consultant to review.

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

1. The proposal to install a permanent awning on the front porch at 1106 W. Liberty Street was presented by Jose Maria.
2. The width of the new awning will be reduced to be between the column capitals of the porch columns on either side of the porch projection. The awning will not be located over the steps.
3. The projection of the awning will be reduced to 3'.
4. The awning will be fabricated of Subrella or Recacril canvas-type material
5. The awning will have brick color in stripes and a scalloped bottom edge detail.
6. There will be no signage or lettering on the awning.
7. Shop drawings for the framing must be submitted for review by City Staff.

The proposal to recommend a COA was unanimously approved. (5-0; motion carried; Brobst, Fillman, Huber, Olson, Roberts)