

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
CITY OF ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
July 6, 2020**

FINAL REVIEW

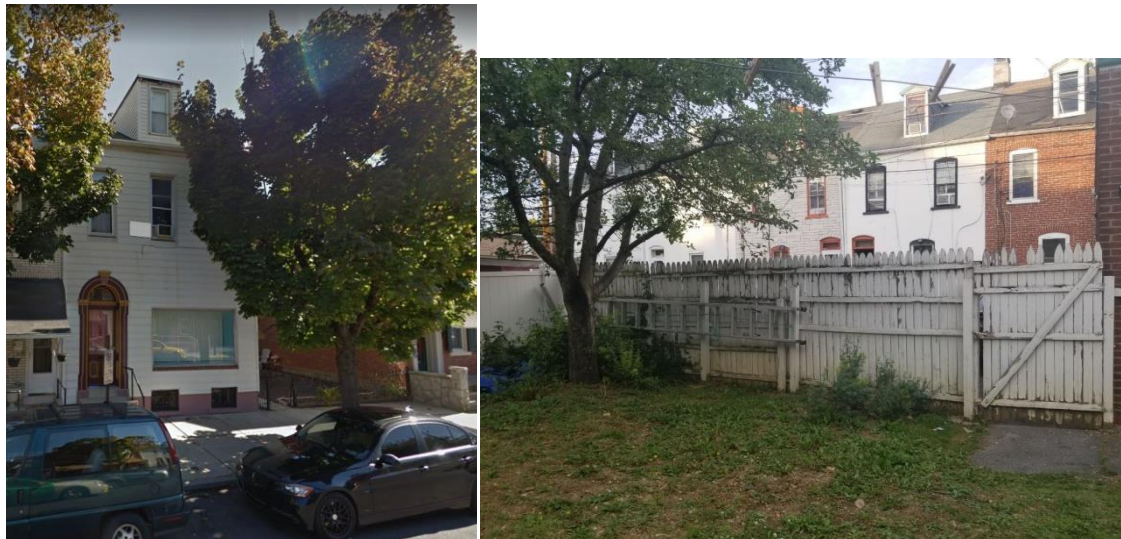
Address: 217 N 11th Street

Proposed alterations: Replace existing wooden fence in the backyard of the property with vinyl fencing. Wood fence has been replaced two times and continues to become deteriorated.

Property Owner:	Ramona Suriel	Owner Address:	217 N 11 th St, Allentown, PA 18102
Applicant:	Joanna Suriel	Applicant's Address:	217 N 11 th St, Allentown, PA 18102
Historic District:	Old Allentown	Case #	HDC-2020-00013
HARB Meeting date:	July 6, 2020 (Agenda Item #7)		

Building description, period, style defining features: This structure is a 2 ½ story semi-detached dwelling with gable roof, single dormer, mostly 1 over 1 windows, a modern large picture window on the first floor, a round arch front door surround with historic door, and aluminum siding over historic brick. The house dates from c 1887 and is Italianate in style.

There is a brick garage at the rear, along with a wood stockade type fence at rear and side of the property.



Staff Approvals: N/A

Violations: N/A

Background: 1984 – Approved COA for to replace windows in rear façade

1993 – Approved COA for the following

PROPOSAL: To rebuild second floor side porch. The structure of the existing porch is failing. A sketch has been submitted.

APPLICANT AMENDMENTS: Decorative spindles, brackets and finials above and behind the porch roof will remain.

HARB AMENDMENTS: Original porch elements should remain.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND: This two and a half story rowhouse was built circa 1887. A gabled dormer projects from the gable roof. Siding clads the structure. Windows are 1/1 with a very large picture window on the first floor. The second floor side porch has an asphalt single shed roof and is constructed of straight, lumber. The porch is a later modification to the house. It overlooks an open side yard.

1998 – Approved COA for the following:

Approved Alterations: Replacement of red asphalt shingle with smooth texture, double 4" vinyl siding on the third story dormer of the front gable of the home.

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 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 **Allentown Guidelines for Historic Districts: 5.1.11 Guidelines for Existing Buildings and Structures, 1. Repairs, Replacement and Alternative Materials, 10. Streetscapes and Outdoor Features**

Evaluation, effect on historic district, recommendations: Vinyl fencing is not supported in the design guidelines. Wood fences are recommended. The rear street is fronted by a row of housing with some historic integrity. There is what appears to be white vinyl siding on properties to the north. In this case perhaps a non-shiny vinyl fence might be permitted. Timber Tech is one company that supplies non-shiny vinyl fencing

Discussion: The applicant appealed to the HARB to be allowed to install a non-wood fence. She had replaced the wood fence with wood before and it did not last. She needs a more durable fence. A quick search during the meeting found a company that made composite type fences with vertical boards. The HARB thought they could approve a composite material fence since they had a precedent of approving composite materials for porch floors and windows. The applicant agreed to this recommendation. The fence would be 6' tall.

Submitted fence specification to HARB for staff approval before purchasing.

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 replace existing wooden fence in the backyard of the property with vinyl fencing at 217 N 11th Street was represented by Joanna Suriel.
2. The new fence will be 6' high made with a composite material (Timber Tech or similar) with vertical boards.
3. The specification information must be submitted to HARB for staff approval before purchasing.

HARB Action: The proposal to issue a COA was unanimously approved. (6-0; motion carried: Brobst, Fillman, Huber, Olson, Sell, Roberts).