

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

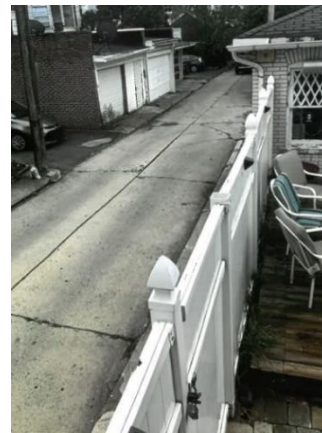
**FINAL REVIEW**

**Address:** 114 N. West Street –

**Proposed alterations:** To install a gazebo in the rear yard. The proposed gazebo is 12' (W)x 14' (D) x 10' (H) and will be made of cedar posts and framing. The roof is a standing seam panelized metal roof. The gazebo is proposed to be located close to the garage and almost abutted to the fence along the side street.

<b>Property Owner:</b>	Ernesto Colon	<b>Owner Address:</b>	114 N West St, Allentown, PA 18102
<b>Applicant:</b>		<b>Applicant's Address:</b>	Same
<b>Historic District:</b>	West Park	<b>Case #</b>	HDC-2020-00006
<b>HARB Meeting date:</b>	July 6, 2020 (Agenda Item #1)		

**Building description, period, style defining features:** This structure is a 3 story, brick and stone end of row house with gambrel roof with bracketed eave, front dormer with triple windows and gambrel roof, a second floor oriel window with bracketed roof eave, full front porch with stone knee walls, Ionic columns, and bracketed eave. There are stain glass transoms at the front first and second floor windows; most of the remaining windows are 1 over 1 double hung. The house dates from c. 1910 and is Colonial Revival in style. The side of the house is bricktoted and the rear garage is also bricktoted. The rear yard is enclosed with a vinyl fence. The house has a high level of historic integrity.



**Staff Approvals:** N/A

**Violations:**

Background: Violation letter sent May 18/12 for installing a PVC pipe from side of house to front yard and installing a wire sheet between the porch columns.

- ABATED on June 4/12 via HARB review.
- COA issued on June 26/12.

**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:** The Design Guidelines allows decks and patios to be constructed at secondary facades. Wood is an appropriate material. This gazebo is to be constructed of cedar and have cedar framing and braces. The roof is to be a panelized standing seam metal which is an appropriate material. The height of the roof is to be 10'. Assuming the existing fence is about 6' tall, about 4' of the gazebo will be visible above the fence if the gazebo is located close to the fence. If possible, the gazebo should be constructed on the other side of the rear yard so that it is less visible from the street.

**Discussion:** The applicant clarified the dimensions of the proposed gazebo and the size of the yard. The yard is 15' wide. The distance between the house and the garage is 20'. The proposed gazebo is 12' x 14'. The space between the gazebo and the neighbor's fence would be only 3' if the gazebo placed against the fence at the sidewalk. Likewise there would be only 3' between the gazebo and the house and the gazebo and the garage if it were centered in the yard. HARB members agreed that gazebo was too large for the yard. There was also concern about water being directed to the neighboring yard, but the applicant said he would be installing a gutter. The HARB also pointed out that zoning review would be needed and that it might not meet zoning regulations. The applicant said he was aware of this. He then confessed that he already purchased the gazebo from Home Depot (or Lowes?). Ms. Olsen said these stores have good return policies.

**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 a gazebo in the rear yard at 114 N West Street was represented by Ernesto Colon.
2. The proposed gazebo is 12' (W)x 14' (D) x 10' (H) and would be made of cedar posts and framing. The roof is a standing seam panelized metal roof.
3. The gazebo is proposed to be located close to the garage and almost abutted to the fence along the side street.
4. The size of the yard is 15' x 20'
5. The structure is inappropriately large and would cover approximately the entire yard.
6. The gazebo was purchased without approvals.

**HARB Action:** The proposal to DENY a COA for the reasons outlined in the discussions above, and was unanimously approved. (6-0; motion carried: Sell, Brobst, Fillman, Huber, Olson, Roberts).