The Guidelines were developed in conjunction with the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB). The HARB reviews Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications for proposed exterior alterations to properties within the Central Bethlehem Historic District that are visible from a public way. The applicant is responsible for complying with the provisions of the Zoning and Building Codes at the time of application. The applicant must obtain a COA as well as all necessary permits prior to proceeding with any work. For more information, to clarify whether a proposed project requires HARB review, or to obtain applications, please call the Bureau of Code Enforcement at City Hall at (610) 865-7091.

Additional Guidelines addressing other historic building topics are available at City Hall and on the City’s website at www.bethlehem-pa.gov. Please review this information during the early stages of planning your project. Familiarity with this material can assist in moving a project quickly through the approval process, saving applicants both time and money.

NORTH SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Bethlehem Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) has the responsibility to implement the City’s historic preservation regulations and activities as related to the Central Bethlehem Historic District. The principal role of the HARB is to review and provide a recommendation to City Council regarding any erection, alteration, demolition, relocation, adaptive use or new construction project within the bounds of the Central Bethlehem Historic District that is visible from a public street or public right-of-way based on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.