

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS (COA) 08.27.2021

Building address 415 High St Bethlehem Pa 18018
 Owner of building Mary Louise Briou Phone: [REDACTED]
 Owner's email & mailing address [REDACTED] 415 High St Bethlehem
 Applicant Lehigh Valley Paper Co Phone: [REDACTED]
 Applicant's email & mailing address [REDACTED]

Street and Number 6587 Jacksonville Rd City Beth State Pa Zip Code 18014-9939

APPLICANT MUST ATTEND MEETING FOR CASE TO BE HEARD.

USE THE CHECKLIST ON THE BACK OF THIS APPLICATION TO ENSURE YOUR SUBMISSION IS COMPLETE.

Application form, photographs, and drawings must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the regular scheduled meeting in order to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

1. PHOTOGRAPHS - Photographs of your building and neighboring buildings **must accompany** your application.

2. TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED - Check all that apply. Please bring any samples or manufactures specifications for products you will use in this project.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trim and decorative woodwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Skylights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Siding and Masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roofing, gutter and downspout | <input type="checkbox"/> Light fixtures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows, doors, and associated hardware | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm windows and storm doors | <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters and associated hardware | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Fence replacement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint (Submit color chips - HARB only) | |

3. DRAWINGS OF PROPOSED WORK - Required drawings **must accompany** your application. Please submit **ONE ORIGINAL AND TEN (10) COPIES OF DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, APPLICATION FORM, AND ANY SPECIFICATIONS**

- Alteration, renovation, restoration (1/4 or 1/8"=1'0" scale drawings required IF walls or openings altered.)
- New addition (1/4" or 1/8"=1'0" scale drawings: elevations, floor plans, site plan)
- New building or structure (1/4" or 1/8"=1'0" scale drawings: elevations, floor plans, site plan)
- Demolition, removal of building features or building (1/4" or 1/8"=1'0" scale drawings: elevation of remaining site and site plan)
- A scale drawing, with an elevation view, is required for all sign submittals

4. DESCRIBE PROJECT - Describe any work checked in #2 and #3 above. Attach additional sheets as needed.

*Replace an old wood fence with an earth tone vinyl fence
 Old fence is 7 ft tall. New fence to be 6 ft tall.*

5. APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE [Signature] DATE: 8-26-21

OWNER'S SIGNATURE Mary Louise Briou DATE: 8-26-2021

Fence replacement for:
Mary Louise Brion
415 High St.
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018



6587 Jacksonville Road
Bath, PA 18014
610 837-7007
570 424-2822
FAX: 610 837-7290

Email: lvfenceco@gmail.com

Dear Historic Review Board and Commission;

Mrs. Brion has an old cedar basketweave fence that can no longer be repaired. She is interested in a maintenance free, earth tone PVC fence that can come close to matching the color of the existing fence.

We had not been recommending darker color PVC fences until we saw Certainteed's product, which was introduced in 2019. It has a textured wood grain and a 30 year fade resistant warranty. And it is strong. The boards are triple ribbed, tongue and groove design and the rails are steel reinforced. The 5"x5" posts are heavy wall design and are set in 36" deep, concrete footers.

We have installed numerous cedar and pressure treated wood fences in Bethlehem's historic district. I understand and respect the desire to maintain the integrity of historic Bethlehem and those wood fences that are well maintained are a pleasure to view, however the majority of wood fences have been left to weather naturally with little maintenance and even cedar no longer endures as well as it once did. The old growth cedar forests are either gone or protected and cedar posts in particular have a tendency to rot after only 8-10 years. There are a number of fences comprised of cedar sections and pressure treated posts: pressure treated (southern yellow pine) posts have better longevity in the ground but they have a higher tendency to twist, bow and check. On average, four out of every seven posts will do this after just a short time, and they can be unsightly. No lumber mill or supplier will guarantee against this or take responsibility for their replacement...and some disposal sites are now refusing pressure treated lumber.

At this point in time, premium grade cedar boards (D and better clear) have doubled in cost and, owing to the pandemic, are unavailable until next year. The Certagrain PVC fence that is planned for Mrs. Brion's yard is actually lower priced than cedar and it is a very high end product.

I imagine one question is: will a smartly designed PVC fence detract from or contribute to the ambiance of the historic district? I think so. I have viewed homes in Cape May and recognized that well kept, painted wood fences complement the homes while older, untended wood fences detract from their appearance. Many years ago the Sun Inn fence along Main St. was replaced via a grant from the state and the state's architect designed it....it didn't last very long, primarily because it wasn't maintained, but the design was not in keeping with the inn anyway. We offered to replace it with a square open style picket fence; I commented that a proper paint selection will make it shine and allow it to coordinate with the Sun Inn. Your response was, the fence would not be painted because the original Sun Inn fence was not painted back in the day...we were allowed to treat it with a clear wood preserver for the ensuing 5 - 6 years to slow down the weathering, which eventually could not be prevented, but that unpainted fence along Main St in the business district never did anything to compliment and was always a contrast to its surroundings. That fence has since been replaced; the new fence is painted....which suggests there is flexibility in how fences may be considered.

The picket style for the Sun Inn fence mirrors the picket fence we installed many years ago for the Reverend Caldwell, on Church St. That fence, all cedar, was beautiful but wasn't kept up periodically and needed a fair amount of maintenance over the years, and most of it needed to be replaced.

Which leads to a second question: upkeep on wood fences is ongoing and no longer cheap. Cedar fences as well as pressure treated fences should be treated at least every 3 – 4 years. Aluminum fences are allowed in the historic district in lieu of wrought iron, which has gotten to be too expensive and in need of constant maintenance because it will rust no matter how it is coated. Maintenance is the operative word here. If high end vinyl fences can contribute to the feel of the historic area, would home owners prefer them over wood fences?

There are quality PVC fences, both earth tone and white, that can replace old, painted wood fences with a positive outcome...there are also low end PVC fences that would be detrimental to the area and must be disallowed.

Mrs. Brion has selected an appealing color blend for her fence and her neighbor is in agreement with her choice of style and color. She lives on the fringe of the historic district (we didn't even know she was in it). We can build her a (more expensive) cedar fence that matches the vinyl fence design and will be beautiful when it is first installed....but the vinyl fence will look better five years down the road.

Best regards,
Fran Gotzon

Brion residence

415 High St

Bethlehem, Pa 18018



6587 Jacksonville Road

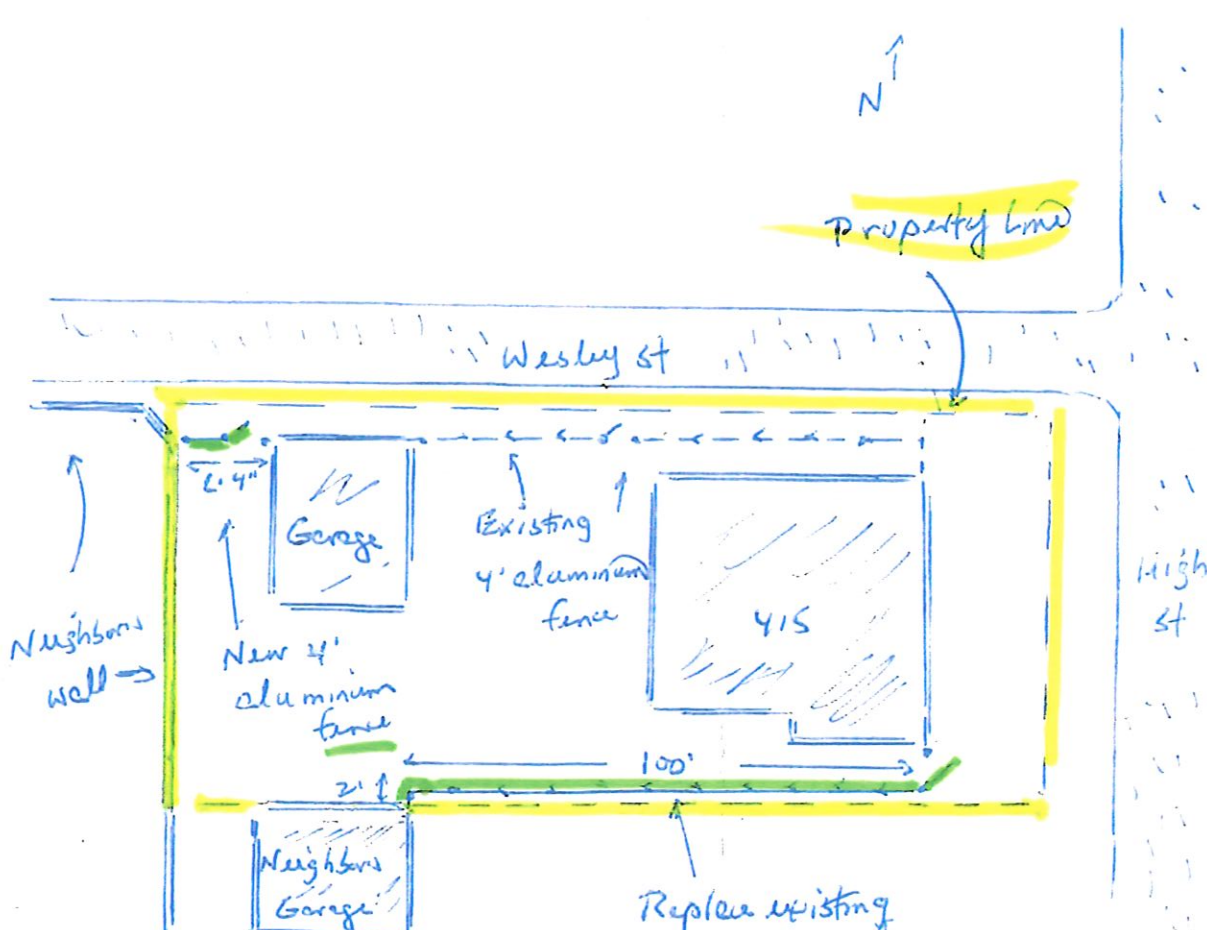
Bath, PA 18014

610 837-7007

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Replace existing
6' wood fence
with a new 6'
wood/grain PVC fence
(extend new fence to
front of house)



415 High st



405 High st



423 High St



415 High st right side



↑ 415 High st Left side
Fence to be replaced



405 High st

415 High st





Chesterfield CertaGrain® Texture



White

Almond

Natural
Clay

Weathered
Blend

Timber
Blend

Frontier
Blend

Arbor
Blend

Arctic
Blend

Brazilian
Blend

Sierra
Blend

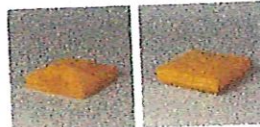
Chesterfield CertaGrain® Texture

Bufftech's authentic woodgrain texture and "multi-chromatic" color blends recreate the natural beauty of stained wood in an easy-to-maintain vinyl design. Top rails in ColorLast® colors feature reinforcement for added strength and durability.

Heights: 4', 5' & 6'

Picket Style: 7/8" x 7" Tongue & Groove
Steel Reinforced Bottom Rail

Cap Styles (shown in Sierra Blend)



Textured
Flat Top External

Textured
New England

