

What's the value of a Historic Conservation District?

The Bethlehem Gadfly 404 E. 3rd St. April 8, 2021

 Latest in a series of posts on 404 E. 3rd St 

That's the very first question in the South Bethlehem Historic Conservation Commission **design guidelines**:

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

The South Bethlehem Historic Conservation Commission (SBHCC) encourages the economic development and revitalization of the South Bethlehem Historic Conservation District while attempting to minimize the burden on long-term residents. Although each property owner can define the benefits of the Historic Conservation District based upon personal experience, historic districts have been found to:

- Increase neighborhood stability and property values, foster economic development, increase business district investment, and revitalize older commercial areas by attracting new customers*
- Provide funding opportunities to property owners with grants and financial incentives to improve their historic buildings and structures*
- Preserve the physical history of the area and promote an appreciation of the physical environment*
- Foster community pride and self-image, increase the awareness and appreciation of local history and tourism.*

The proposed new construction at 404 E. 3rd St. that we just posted on gives us a shorthand way of answering that basic question for visual learners:

[What's the value of a Historic Conservation District?](#)

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