Address:	5813 Surrey St., Chevy Chase	Meeting Date:	3/27/2019
Resource:	Secondary (Post-1915) Resource (Somerset Historic District)	Report Date:	3/20/2019
Applicante	Dan & Aviva Rosenthal	Public Notice:	3/13/2019
Applicant:	(Tahani Share, Architect)	Tax Credit:	N/A
Review:	HAWP	Staff:	Michael Kyne
Case Number:	35/36-19C		
PROPOSAL:	RETROACTIVE site alterations and retaining v	vall removal	

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the HPC <u>deny</u> the HAWP application.

The applicants should submit a revised HAWP application for the following:

- Alterations to the unapproved/as-built driveway, with the revised driveway (including apron) not exceeding 16' at any point.
- Replacement of the retaining wall at the left () side of the driveway, with all dimensions and materials of the previously removed retaining wall and the new retaining wall specified.
- Replacement/construction of a matching retaining wall at the right (south) side of the driveway.
- Backfilling the front/right (southwest) side of the property, restoring the grade and thus the amount of exposed foundation wall on the patio to its previously approved condition.
- Partial removal and alteration of the rear (east) walkway, with the incompatible gravel expansions removed from the proposal.
- Revisions to the approved right (south) side patio, with all revisions (i.e., additional steps, design changes, railing installation, etc.) clearly specified.
- Installation of a metal handrail at the right (south) side of the new front steps/walkway, with all materials and dimensions specified.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE:	Secondary (Post-1915) Resource within the Somerset Historic District
STYLE:	Colonial Revival
DATE:	1937



Fig. 1: Subject property.

BACKGROUND

The applicants previously appeared before the Commission with a HAWP application for a side addition and hardscape alterations. The previous application, which was subject to two preliminary consultations before being approved at the December 6, 2017 HPC meeting, included widening the existing driveway from 8'-4" to 16' and relocating the existing retaining wall on the right side of the driveway.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes the following RETROACTIVE work items at the subject property:

- Removal of the retaining wall at the right (south) side of the driveway.
- Significant regrading at the front/right (southwest) side of the property.
- Removal of the retaining wall at the left (north) side of the driveway.
- Construction of a new retaining wall at the left (north) side of the driveway.
- Partial removal and alterations of the existing rear (east) walkway.
- Revisions to the previously approved right (south) side patio.
- Installation of a handrail at the new front steps/walkway.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

When reviewing alterations and new construction within the Somerset Historic District several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include *Montgomery County Code Chapter 24A* (*Chapter 24A*), and *the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards)*. The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8

(a) The commission shall instruct the director to deny a permit if it finds, based on the evidence and information presented to or before the commission that the alteration for which the permit is sought would be inappropriate, inconsistent with or detrimental to the preservation, enhancement or ultimate protection of the historic site or historic resource within an historic district, and to the purposes of this chapter.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

The Secretary of the Interior defines rehabilitation as "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values." The pertinent *Standards* for this case are as follows:

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

STAFF DISCUSSION

This is a <u>retroactive</u> application, and the proposed alterations have already been completed without an approved HAWP. As noted above, the proposal is to remove the retaining wall at the right (south) side of the driveway, to significantly regrade the front/right (southwest) side of the property, to remove the retaining wall at the left (north) side of the driveway, to construct a new retaining wall at the left (north) side of the driveway, to partially remove and alter the existing walkway at the rear (east) of the house, to make revisions to the previously approved right (south) side patio, and to install a handrail at the right (south) side of the new front steps/walkway.

When the applicants initially appeared before the Commission for a preliminary consultation regarding a right (south) side addition and hardscape alterations at the September 19, 2017 HPC meeting, they proposed to widen the 8'-4" driveway of the historic house to 20'. The Commission found that the proposed 20' driveway was too wide and incompatible with the existing driveways and streetscape of Surrey Street. The applicants returned for a second preliminary consultation at the October 25, 2017 HPC meeting, at which time they proposed to widen the driveway to 18', and the Commission still found the proposed driveway too wide. The Commission ultimately approved a 16' wide driveway as part of the applicants' HAWP at the December 6, 2017 HPC meeting. The applicants submitted a Staff Item Revision, seeking approval of an 18' wide driveway at the January 10, 2018 HPC meeting, but the Commission denied the revision.

According to the current application, the driveway has been enlarged to the approved 16'; however, staff visited the subject property on March 19, 2019 to measure the driveway and found the following:

- The new driveway apron is flared and measures 20'-1" adjacent to Surrey Street, reducing to 10'-1" at the sidewalk, with an additional 9" to 20" flagstone on dirt border at the right (south) side of the apron.
- The new driveway measures 19'-6" at the sidewalk, reducing to 16'-4" as it approaches the house, with an additional 9" to 19" flagstone on dirt border at the right (south) side of the driveway.

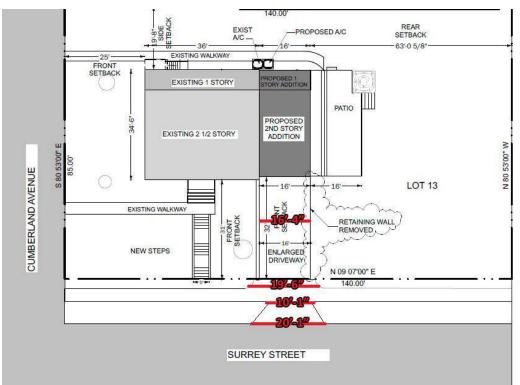


Fig. 2: As-built/unapproved driveway dimensions, as measured and prepared by staff.

As the Commission previously found, the existing driveway (and apron) is incompatible with character of the subject property, the surrounding streetscape, and the historic district, where it exceeds 16'.

Throughout the entire process – from the first preliminary consultation to the Staff Item Revision – the proposed driveway enlargement included the relocation of the existing retaining wall on the right (south) side of the driveway and preservation of the consistent grading on both sides of the driveway. The proposal did not call for removal or replacement of the retaining wall on either side of the driveway; however, the right (south) side retaining wall has been removed and the front/right (southwest) side of the property has been significantly regraded. The result is inconsistent grading on either side of the driveway. This is incompatible with the character of the streetscape along Surrey Street, where the existing hardscaping – for both front walkways and driveways – is bound by consistent grading on either side. This is also incompatible with the historic character of the subject property, where the driveway was clearly delineated by the retaining walls and bound by consistent grading on either side.

Altering the grade in this manner has also resulted in nearly 8' of exposed concrete foundation wall for the new patio, which directly faces Surrey Street (See *Figures 4* and 6). The approved drawings (*Figure 5*) showed at most 18" to 2' of exposed concrete wall for the patio. Flattening out the grade in this large section of the front and side yard has two negative consequences: 1) it has altered the consistent grading and character of the landscape of the historic property, which are character defining features; and 2) the now exposed 8' high by 16' wide concrete foundation has altered the appearance of the previously approved patio addition to such a large degree that the patio is of questionable compatibility with the historic house.

Although the applicants did not include it in their current HAWP application, staff has compared before and after photographs of the subject property, and it appears that the retaining wall at the left (north) side of the driveway has been removed (or significantly altered), and a new retaining wall has been constructed in its place. This was not part of the December 6, 2017 HAWP application, and the HPC has

not reviewed or approved this alteration. The style and material of the new retaining wall at the left (north) side of the driveway are generally compatible with the subject property and surrounding streetscape, but this alteration has not been approved and is currently in violation of the applicants approved HAWP.



Fig. 3: Subject property driveway, before.



Fig. 4: Subject property driveway, after.

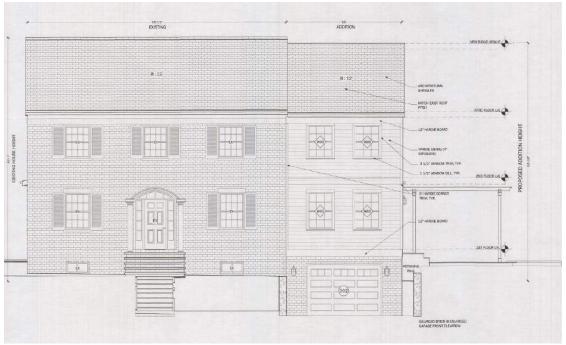
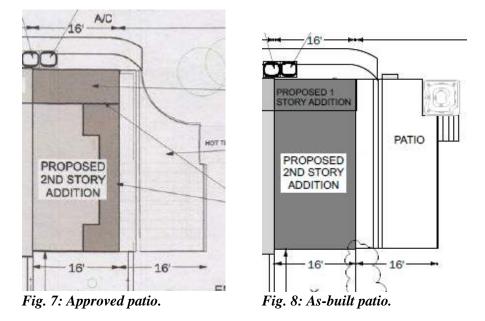


Fig. 5: Approved front elevation, showing proposed driveway, retaining walls, and grading.

Staff has also compared the approved and as-built site plans and found that the footprint of the as-built right (south) side patio has slightly increased. Whereas the rear (east) edge of the patio was curvilinear in the approved site plan, the as-built patio is rectilinear. As depicted in staff's photograph below, a high-tension cable railing has also been installed on the patio. This was not reviewed or approved by the HPC and was likely added to satisfy code requirements, since the unapproved grade changes at the front/right (southwest) side of the property increased the height of the patio to more than 36", and the approved patio was at grade. An additional step has been added from the house to the patio, and three steps have been added from the patio to grade. The applicants' approval also called for a pergola to be constructed on the patio, which has not been completed. The proposed patio revisions are generally compatible, but they have not been approved and are currently in violation of the applicants approved HAWP.



Fig. 6: As-built patio with high-tension cable railing.



During staff's March 19, 2019 site visit, staff also found that the walkway at the rear (east) of the house has been altered without the HPC's approval. The southernmost part of the walkway has been removed, and the northernmost part has been replaced and altered. A landing has been added at the rear (east) entry to the house and a gravel expansion bordered by railroad ties has been added to either side of the walkway where it meets the sidewalk along Cumberland Avenue. While the walkway alterations are generally compatible, the gravel expansions on either side of the walkway where it meets Cumberland Avenue make the width of the walkway inconsistent with the surrounding streetscape and with the historic district, where the average walkway is 5' wide or less.



Fig. 9: Rear (east) walkway, before.



Fig. 10: Rear (east) walkway, after.

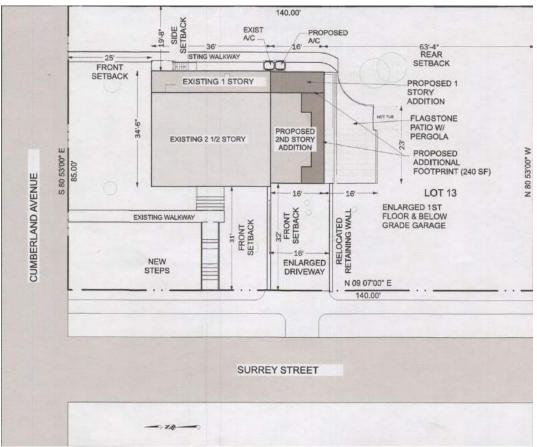


Fig. 11: Approved site plan.

Staff also found that a metal handrail has been installed at the right (south) side of the new front steps/walkway. While the front walkway was approved as part of the applicants' December 6, 2017 HAWP application, the handrail has not been reviewed or approved by the HPC. The handrail is generally compatible with historic character of the subject property, but it is currently in violation of the applicants approved HAWP.



Fig. 12: Unapproved handrail at new front steps/walkway.

Utilizing the *Standards* to evaluate the proposal, staff finds the following:

• The proposal alters features and spaces that characterize the subject property and surrounding historic district. By altering these character-defining features and spaces, the proposal detracts from the streetscape and negatively affects the way that the historic house and surrounding historic district are experienced from the public right-of-way.

Accordingly, staff finds that the proposal is inappropriate, inconsistent with, and detrimental to the preservation, enhancement, and ultimate protection of the historic resource within historic district, per Chapter 24A-8(a). Staff recommends that the HPC deny the HAWP application and that the applicants take to the appropriate actions to bring the subject property into compliance with their previously approved HAWP.

The applicants should submit a revised HAWP application for the following:

- Alterations to the unapproved/as-built driveway, with the revised driveway (including apron) not exceeding 16' at any point.
- Replacement of the retaining wall at the left (north) side of the driveway, with all dimensions and materials of the previously removed retaining wall and the new retaining wall specified.
- Replacement/construction of a matching retaining wall at the right (south) side of the driveway.

- Backfilling the front/right (southwest) side of the property, restoring the grade and thus the amount of exposed foundation wall on the patio to its previously approved condition.
- Partial removal and alteration of the rear (east) walkway, with the incompatible gravel expansions removed from the proposal.
- Revisions to the approved right (south) side patio, with all revisions (i.e., additional steps, design changes, railing installation, etc.) clearly specified.
- Installation of a metal handrail at the right (south) side of the new front steps/walkway, with all materials and dimensions specified.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission <u>deny</u> the HAWP application under the Criteria for Denial in Chapter 24A-8(a), having found that the proposal will substantially alter the exterior features of the resource and is incompatible in character with the resource and the purposes of Chapter 24A and with the *Secretary* of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.





HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301/563-3400

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

Contact Person: Tahani Share

contact mail: Tahani@landisconstruction.com Deytime Phone No.: ____202-370-3410-

Tax Account No.:

Name of Property Owner: ____ Dan and Aviva Rosenthal _____ Daytime Phone No.: _

Address: ___5813 Surrey St.____Chevy Chase MD 20815__

Contineum: __LandisArchitectsBuilders_____ Phone No.: __202-370-3410-___

Edit 6/21/99

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SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

Revised HAWP

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

1. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

a. Description of existing structure(s) and environmental setting, including their historical features and significance:

<u>A proposed addition and some alterations to the property at 5312 Surrey Street were approved by the</u> <u>Commission. The proposed work included a front-facing side addition, enlarging an existing driveway</u> and some hardscape elements. The proposal showed two existing retaining walls with one being relocated to make way for the enlarged driveway and to retain what appeared to be a high grade on the right side. During construction and after the removal of existing small trees and vegetation, the site revealed a much less grade than anticipated which eliminated the need for the retaining wall. Therefore, we are asking for a revised HAWP to approve the removal of that retaining wall.</u>

b. General description of project and its effect on the historic resource(s), the environmental setting, and, where applicable, the historic district:

Picture (1) below shows the existing property before the addition. Some lines were added to illustrate the existing width of the driveway and the proposed enlargement and its location on the site. This illustration shows that the enlargement of the driveway is at a low grade level. Picture (2) shows the property after the addition and what the existing grade looks like. It's worth mentioning here that the two pictures were taken at different times of the year. The newer picture shows no vegetation or any plants present at the site. The homeowners appreciate any input or recommendations that the Commission may have.

2. SITE PLAN

Site and environmental setting, drawn to scale. You may use your plat. Your site plan must include:

- a. the scale, north arrow, and date;
- b. dimensions of all existing and proposed structures; and
- c. site features such as walkways, driveways, fences, ponds, streams, trash dumpsters, mechanical equipment, and landscaping.

3. PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

You must submit 2 copies of plans and elevations in a format no larger than 11" x 17". Plans on 8 1/2" x 11" paper are preferred.

- a. Schemetic construction plans, with marked dimensions, indicating location, size and general type of walls, window and door openings, and other fixed features of both the existing resource(s) and the proposed work.
- b. Elevations (facades), with marked dimensions, clearly indicating proposed work in relation to existing construction and, when appropriate, context. All materials and fixtures proposed for the exterior must be noted on the elevations drawings. An existing and a proposed elevation drawing of each facade affected by the proposed work is required.

4. MATERIALS SPECIFICATIONS

General description of materials and manufactured items proposed for incorporation in the work of the project. This information may be included on your design drawings.

5. PHOTOGRAPHS

- Clearly labeled photographic prints of each facade of existing resource, including details of the affected portions. All labels should be placed on the front of photographs.
- b. Clearly label photographic prints of the resource as viewed from the public right-of-way and of the adjoining properties. All labels should be placed on the front of photographs.

6. TREE SURVEY

If you are proposing construction adjacent to or within the dripline of any tree 6° or larger in diameter (at approximately 4 feet above the ground), you must file an accurate tree survey identifying the size, location, and species of each tree of at least that dimension.

7. ADDRESSES OF ADJACENT AND CONFRONTING PROPERTY OWNERS

For <u>ALL</u> projects, provide an accurate list of adjacent and confronting property owners (not tenants), including names, addresses, and zip codes. This list should include the owners of all lots or parcels which adjoin the parcel in question, as well as the owner(s) of lot(s) or parcel(s) which lie directly across the street/highway from the parcel in question.

PLEASE PRINT (IN BLUE OR BLACK INK) OR TYPE THIS INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE. PLEASE STAY WITHIN THE GUIDES OF THE TEMPLATE, AS THIS WILL BE PHOTOCOPIED DIRECTLY ONTO MAILING LABELY

HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING

[Owner, Owner's Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners]

Owner's mailing address	Owner's Agent's mailing address
Dan and Aviva Rosenthal 5813 Surrey St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815	Landis Architects Builders 7059 Blair Road NW Washington, DC 20012
Adjacent and confronting	Property Owners mailing addresses

Existing Property Condition Photographs (duplicate as needed)



Picture (1) The existing property before the addition. Some lines were added to illustrate the Detail: <u>existing width of the driveway</u> and the proposed enlargement and its location on the site. This illustration shows that the enlargement of the driveway is at a low grade level.



Detail: Picture (2) The property after the addition and what the existing grade looks like. The two pictures were taken at different times of the year.

Applicant:_____

ROSENTHAL RESIDENCE

5813 Surrey Street Chevy Chase, MD



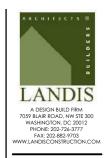


Pictures of the property that shows grade after the addition.

This pictures shows the existing property before the addition. The added red lines illustrate the existing width of the driveway and the proposed enlargement and its location on the site. The picture shows that the edge of the enlarged driveway is at a lower grade level.

The design proposal showed two existing retaining walls with one being relocated to allow for the enlarged driveway and to retain what appeared to be a high grade on the right side . During construction and after the removal of existing small trees and vegetation, the site revealed a much less grade level than anticipated which eliminated the need for the retaining wall.





Professional Certification I certify that these documents were prepared or approved by me, and that I am a duly licensed architect under the laws of the State of Maryland, license number 13660, expiration date October 22, 2018.

Approvals	
Chris Landis	
Paul Gaiser	
Client	

Project Team	
Project Designer	Tahani Share
Project Manager	Andrew Kerr
Team Leader	Chris Landis

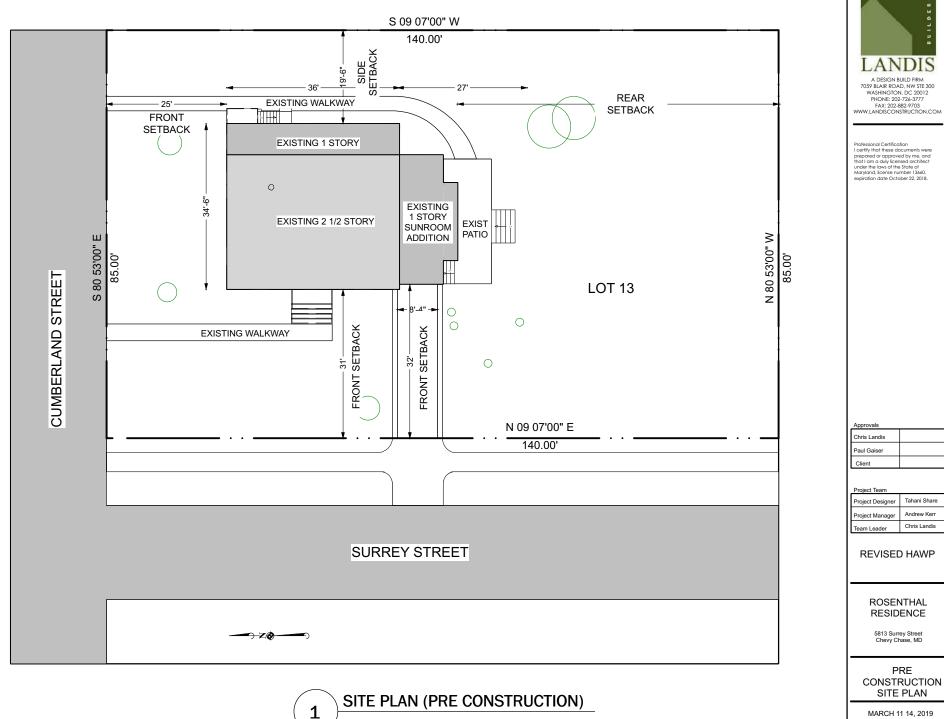
REVISED HAWP

ROSENTHAL RESIDENCE

5813 Surrey Street Chevy Chase, MD

PHOTOS OF BEFORE & AFTER

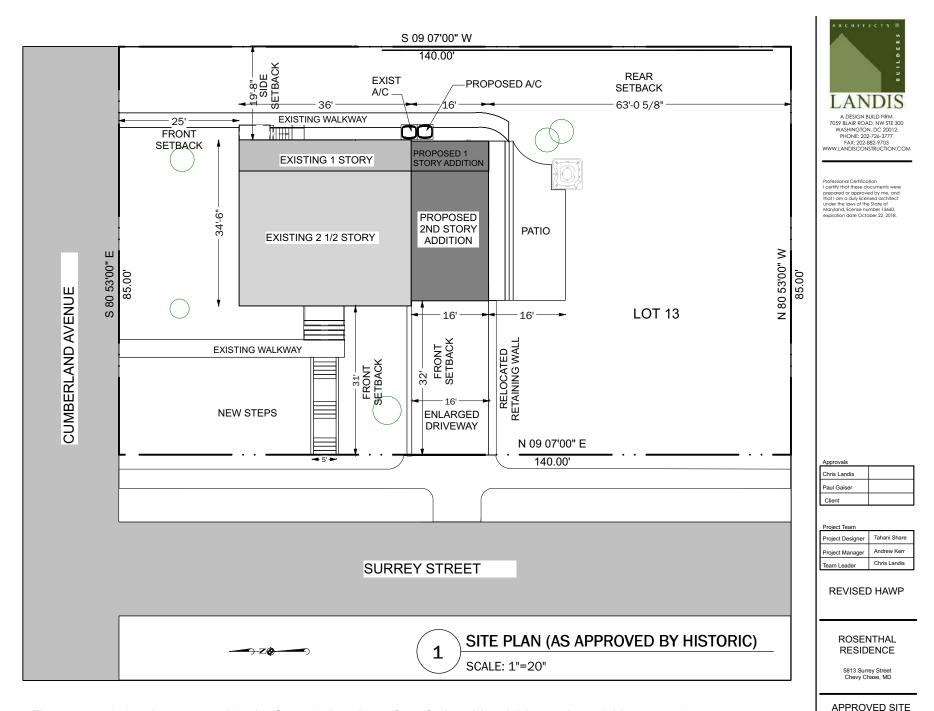
MARCH 11 14, 2019



MARCH 11 14, 2019

SCALE: 1"=20"

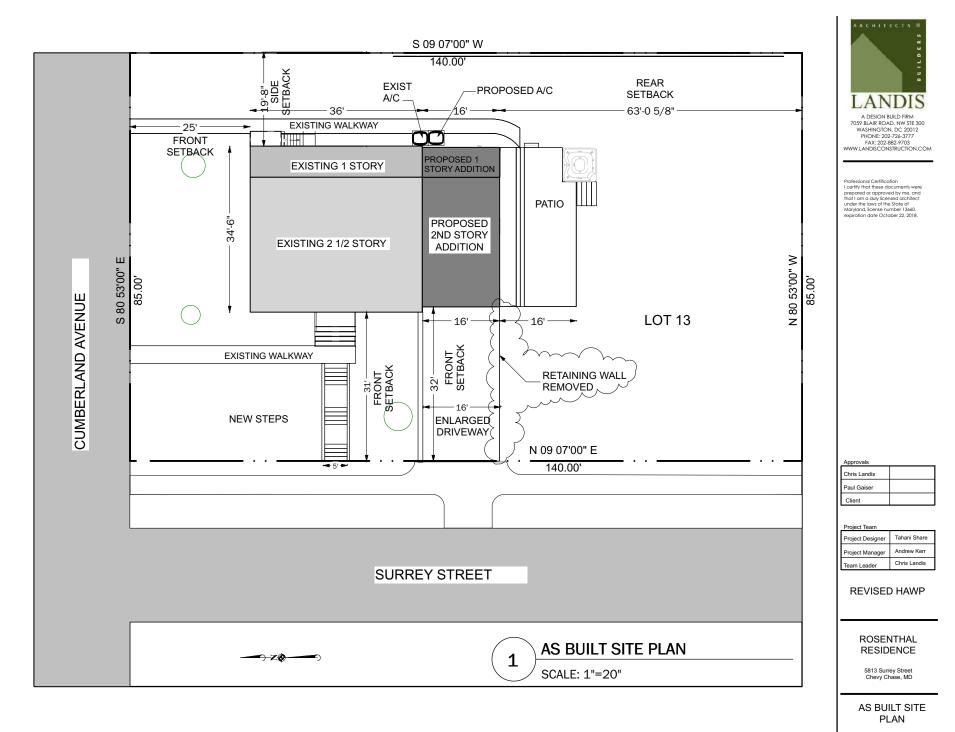
A102



The proposed site plan approved by the Commission shows front-facing side addition, enlarged driveway and some hardscape elements. The proposal showed two existing retaining walls with one being relocated to allow for the enlarged driveway and to retain what appeared to be a high grade on the right side .

PLAN

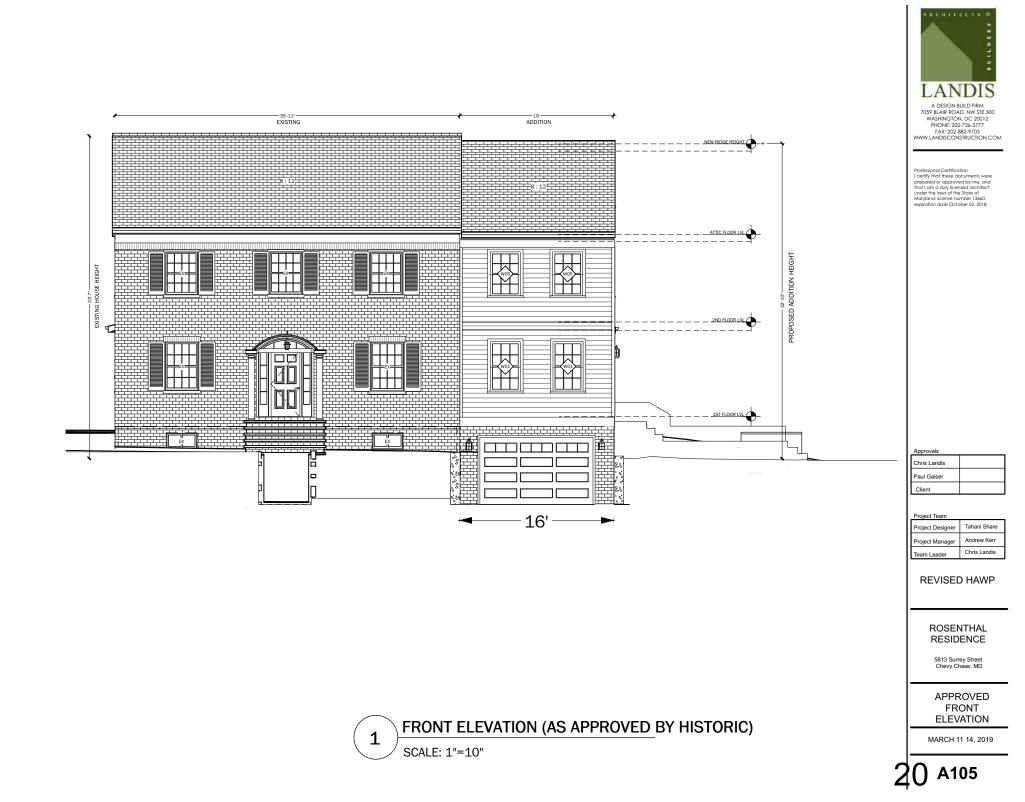
MARCH 11 14, 2019

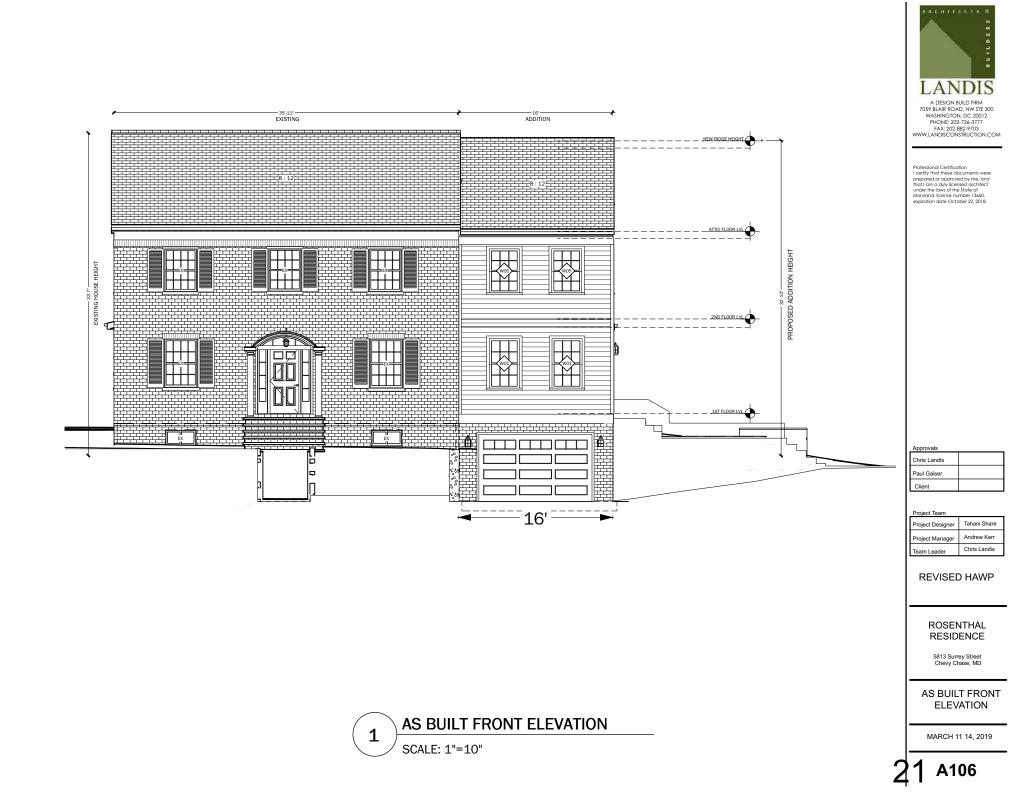


During construction and after the removal of existing small trees and vegetation, the site revealed a much less grade than anticipated which eliminated the need for the retaining wall.

9 A104

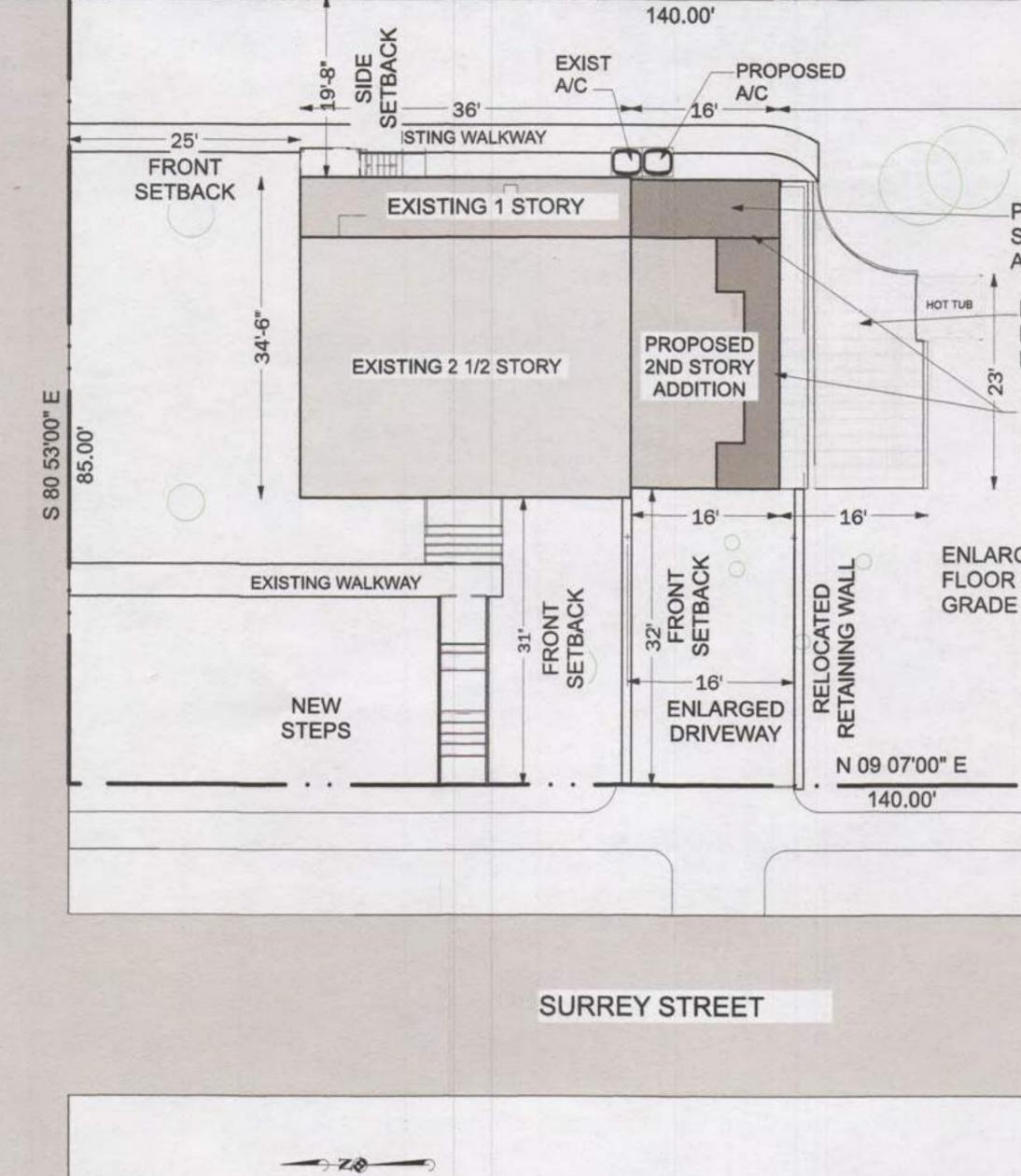
MARCH 11 14, 2019





APPROVED PLANS

Reviewed and Approved at the December 6, 2017 HPC Meeting



CUMBERLAND AVENUE

63'-4" REAR SETBACK

PROPOSED 1 STORY ADDITION

FLAGSTONE PATIO W/ PERGOLA

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL FOOTPRINT (240 SF) N 80 53'00" W

23

LOT 13

ENLARGED 1ST FLOOR & BELOW GRADE GARAGE

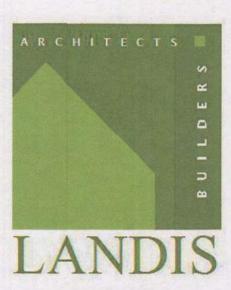


EXISTING SIDE NORTH ELEVATION 3 SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

EXISTING REAR ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

4



A DESIGN BUILD FIRM 7059 BLAIR ROAD, NW STE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20012 PHONE: 202-726-3777 FAX: 202-882-9703 WWW.LANDISCONSTRUCTION.COM

Professional Certification I certify that these documents were prepared or approved by me, and that I am a duly licensed architect under the laws of the State of Maryland, license number 13660, expiration date October 22, 2018.

Approvals	
Chris Landis	The shall
Paul Gaiser	
Client	

Project Team	
Project Designer	Tahani Share
Project Manager	Andrew Kerr
Team Leader	Chris Landis

PERMIT SET

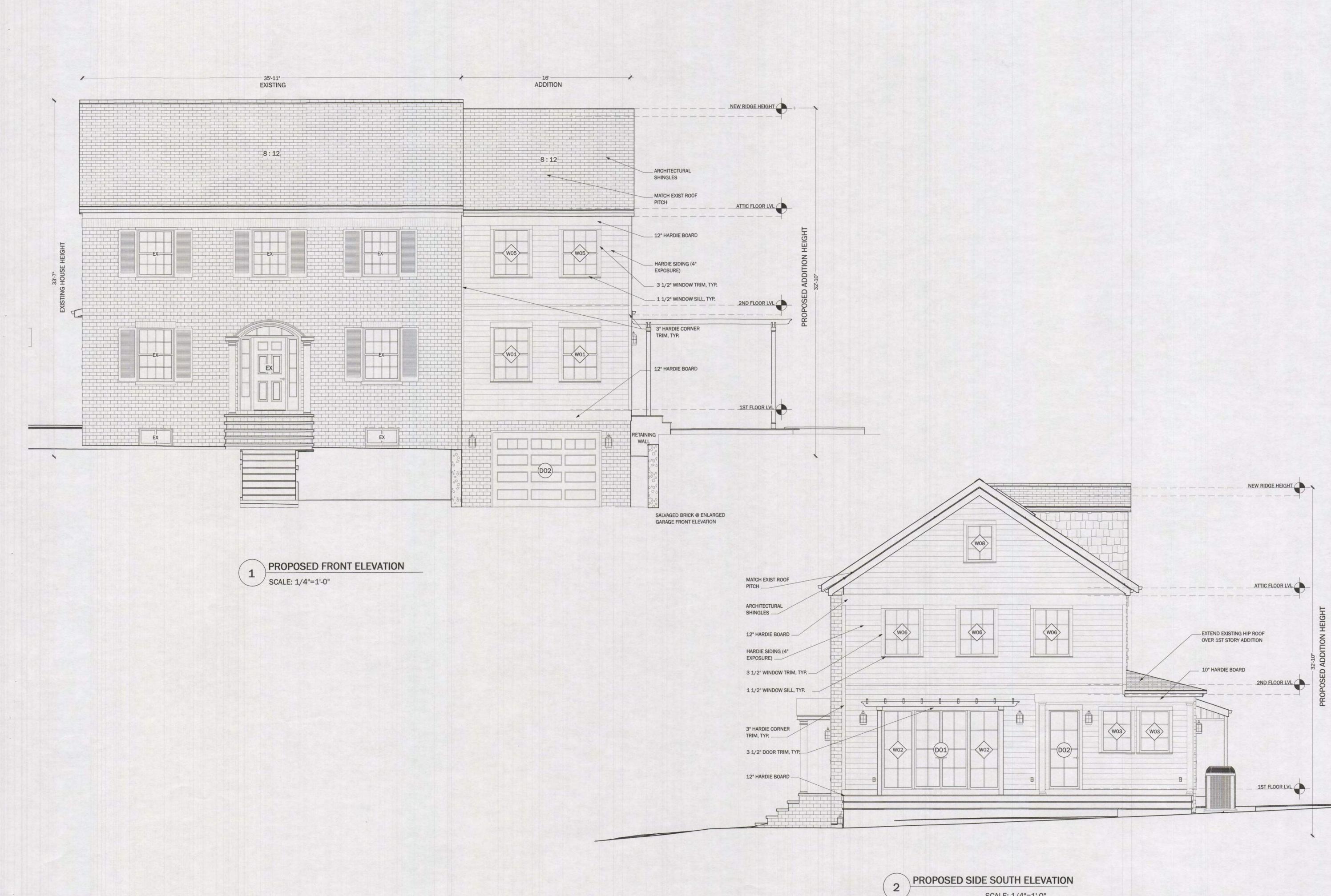
ROSENTHAL

RESIDENCE 5813 Surrey Street Chevy Chase, MD

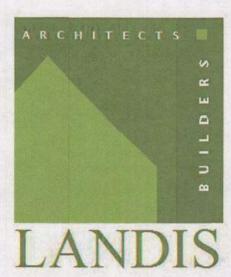
EXISTING ELEVATIONS

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

A005



SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

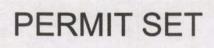


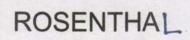
A DESIGN BUILD FIRM 7059 BLAIR ROAD, NW STE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20012 PHONE: 202-726-3777 FAX: 202-882-9703 WWW.LANDISCONSTRUCTION.COM

Professional Certification I certify that these documents were prepared or approved by me, and that I am a duly licensed architect under the laws of the State of Maryland, license number 13660, expiration date October 22, 2018.

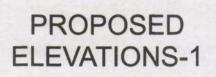
Approvals	
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Team Leader	Chris Landis



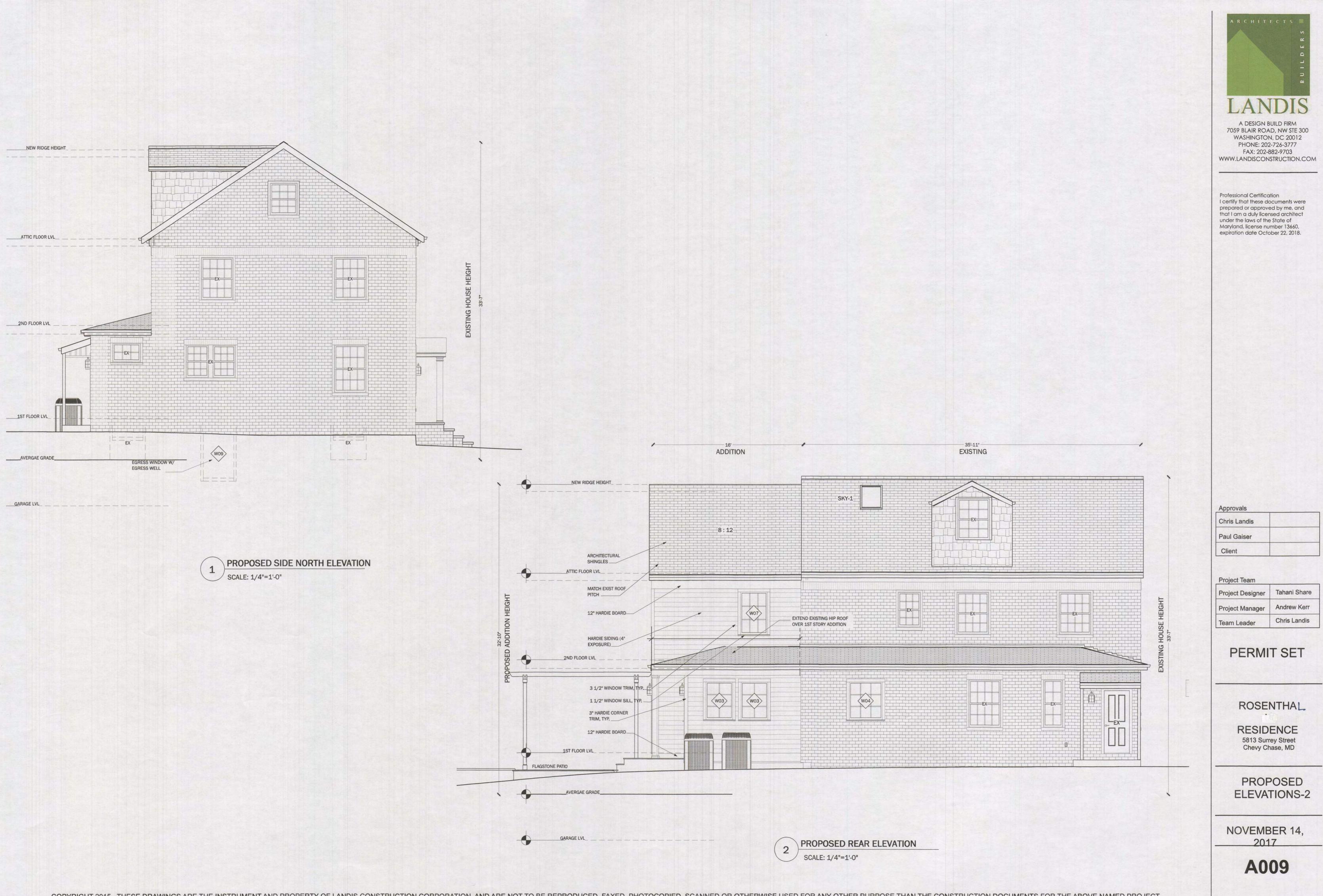


RESIDENCE 5813 Surrey Street Chevy Chase, MD



NOVEMBER 14, 2017

A008



BEFORE PHOTOS

























































AFTER PHOTOS





























































































