MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 12 E. Lenox St., Chevy Chase Meeting Date: 12/4/2019

Resource: Contributing Resource **Report Date:** 11/27/2019

Chevy Chase Village Historic District

Applicant: Justin and Elizabeth Bausch **Public Notice:** 11/20/2019

(Ben Van Dusen, Architect)

Review: HAWP **Tax Credit:** n/a

Case Number: 35/13-19TT Staff: Dan Bruechert

PROPOSAL: Porch Modifications

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the HPC **approve with one** (1) **condition** the HAWP application:

1. The stair risers, treads, and decking need to be constructed out of wood. The HPC delegates final approval authority to Staff to confirm this condition has been met.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Contributing Resource within the Chevy Chase Historic District

STYLE: Colonial Revival

DATE: 1908

The subject property is a Colonial Revival house, three bays wide, with a hipped roof and broad overhangs. There is a large cantelevered bay to the east and a tall privacy fence along Brookville Rd.



 $Figure\ 1:\ Photo\ of\ the\ house\ c.1910s\ showing\ its\ historic\ appearance.$



Figure 2: 12 E. Lenox is at the corner of Lenox and Brookeville Rd. near the edge of the Chevy Chase Village Historic District.

BACKGROUND

The HPC held a preliminary consultation focused on the proposed porch modifications and a side-projecting addition and swimming pool at the March 27, 2019 HPC. While the HPC recommended significant revisions regarding the size and placement of the addition, they were generally supportive of the porch modifications.

The applicant returns for a Historic Area Work Permit only for work on the front porch.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to remove the non-code compliant front stairs and to replace the columns and install a new railing.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

When reviewing alterations and new construction within the Chevy Chase Village 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*), the *Chevy Chase Historic District Design Guidelines* (*Guidelines*), and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* (*Standards*). The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.

¹ The previous Staff Report can be found here: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/II.A-12-E.-Lenox-Street-Chevy-Chase.pdf, with audio of the hearing here: http://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish id=c6796337-56ea-11e9-aee3-0050569183fa.

Chevy Chase Village Historic District Guidelines

The *Guidelines* break down specific projects into three levels of review - Lenient, Moderate and Strict Scrutiny.

"Lenient Scrutiny" means that the emphasis of the review should be on issues of general massing and scale, and compatibility with the surrounding streetscape, and should allow for a very liberal interpretation of preservation rules. Most changes should be permitted unless there are major problems with massing, scale or compatibility.

"Moderate Scrutiny" involves a higher standard of review than "lenient scrutiny." Besides issues of massing, scale and compatibility, preserving the integrity of the resource is taken into account. Alterations should be designed so that the altered structure still contributes to the district. Use of compatible new materials, rather than the original building materials, should be permitted. Planned changes should be compatible with the structure's existing design, but should not be required to replicate its architectural style.

"**Strict Scrutiny**" means that the planned changes should be reviewed to insure that the integrity of the significant exterior architectural or landscaping features and details is not compromised. However, strict scrutiny should not be "strict in theory but fatal in fact" i.e. it does not mean that there can be no changes but simply that the proposed changes should be reviewed with extra care.

- o <u>Balconies</u> should be subject to moderate scrutiny if they are visible from the public right-of-way, lenient scrutiny if they are not.
- o <u>Decks</u> should be subject to moderate scrutiny if they are visible from the public right-of-way, lenient scrutiny if they are not
- Exterior trim (such as moldings on doors and windows) on contributing resources should be subject to moderate scrutiny if it is visible from the public right-of-way, lenient scrutiny if it is not. Exterior trim on Outstanding resources should be subject to strict scrutiny if it is visible from the public right-of-way.
- o <u>Lot coverage</u> should be subject to strict scrutiny, in view of the critical importance of preserving the Village's open park-like character.
- Porches should be subject to moderate scrutiny if they are visible from the public right-ofway, lenient scrutiny if they are not. Enclosures of existing side and rear porches have occurred throughout the Village with little or no adverse impact on its character, and they should be permitted where compatibly designed.
- o <u>Siding</u> should be subject to moderate scrutiny if it is visible from the public right-of-way, lenient scrutiny if it is not.
- The *Guidelines* state five basic policies that should be adhered to, including:
 - Preserving the integrity of the Chevy Chase Village Historic District. Any alterations should, at a minimum, perpetuate the ability to perceive the sense of time and place portrayed by the district.
 - o Preserving the integrity of contributing structures. Alterations to should be designed in such a way that the altered structure still contributes to the district.
 - o Maintaining the variety of architectural styles and the tradition of architectural excellence.
 - o Design review emphasis should be restricted to changes that will be visible from the front or side public right-of-way, or that would be visible in the absence of vegetation or landscaping.
 - Alterations to the portion of a property that are not visible from the public-right-of-way should be subject to a very lenient review. Most changes to the rear of the properties should be approved as a matter of course.

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8

- (b) The commission shall instruct the director to issue a permit, or issue a permit subject to such conditions as are found to be necessary to insure conformity with the purposes and requirements of this chapter, if it finds that:
 - (1) The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of an historic site or historic resource within an historic district; or
 - (2) The proposal is compatible in character and nature with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural features of the historic site or the historic district in which an historic resource is located and would not be detrimental thereto or to the achievement of the purposes of this chapter; or
- (d) In the case of an application for work on an historic resource located within an historic district, the commission shall be lenient in its judgment of plans for structures of little historical or design significance or for plans involving new construction, unless such plans would seriously impair the historic or architectural value of surrounding historic resources or would impair the character of the historic district.

Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

- 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.
- 5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- 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.
- 10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

STAFF DISCUSSION

The applicant proposes remove the existing front stairs and install new, code-compliant stairs, new columns, and a new railing.

The original front porch had a bowed front with a brick wall and side-loading stairs. This configuration can be seen in the historic photo shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3. The porch columns had embellished bases and were supported by square pediments. The porch was changed to its current appearance sometime prior to 1927 (see the Sanborn Map in Fig. 3).

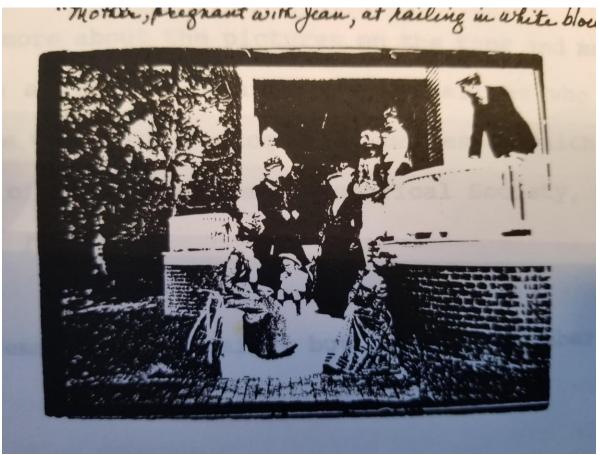


Figure 3: Historic photo showing the front porch in its historic configuration.

The existing front porch steps are wood and are too steep to meet current code. The applicant proposes a new set of code-compliant steps, which will add an additional riser and will project an additional 1' (one foot) into the front yard. The applicant proposes to construct the stair risers and treads in Azek composite. The first step will be constructed out of brick to match the existing porch piers. The applicant proposes to install new full-height, wood ionic columns in place of the existing wood tapered columns on wood pedestals. The column spacing will match the current configuration. The last proposed change is the replacement of the existing wood railing with a code-compliant wood railing in the porch and a balustrade above. Staff finds the proposed work is compatible with the Chapter 24A and the *Design Guidelines* and recommends approval.

Staff finds that as the existing steps are not original to the house, they may be removed and replaced. Staff finds the current configuration is appropriate or the character of the house and the extension of the stairs by 1' (one foot) will not substantially alter the appearance of the house. The applicant proposes to remove the wood in the stairs and porch decking and replace them with Azek composite. Azek is millable and paintable and has been approved in limited circumstances in the Chevy Chase Village Historic District. Usually, these materials have been allowed for trim work or elements where the visual character is paramount, and the physical characteristics are less important. In this instance, the treads, risers, and decking are evaluated for their visual *and* physical character, because they will be touched on a regular basis. Staff does not find Azek to be physically compatible with wood due to its inability to wear and develop a patina. Staff recommends the HPC add a condition for approval that the stair risers, tread, and decking needs to be wood which would be compatible with 24A-8(b)(2). Staff recommends the HPC delegates final approval authority to Staff to determine this condition has been met.

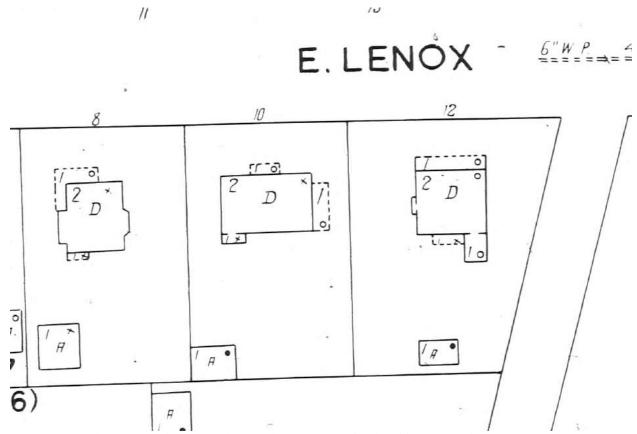


Figure 4: Detail of 1927 Sanborn map showing the reconfigured full-width front porch on 12 E. Lenox.

The existing columns are not original to the house, though their dimensions appear to be relatively consistent with the dimensions shown in the historic photograph (Fig. 1). The railing for the front porch aligns with the 24" (twenty-four inch) height of the pedestals. This dimension is a full 12" (twelve inches) lower than what is required by code. The applicant proposes replacing the existing columns and railings and replacing them with new wood columns and a traditionally designed wood railing. The property owner, the architect, and Staff worked through a number of design permutations to determine the best appearance for this new configuration (the designs can be seen in last page of the application). Three different design schemes were evaluated. Scheme A retained the columns and pedestals but installed new a code-complaint railing. This created the appearance of the top rail hanging 12" (twelve inches) in the air. Because this scheme retained the pedestals and columns Staff would have supported approval of Scheme A. Scheme B replaced the existing pedestals and installed new 36" (thirty-six inch) tall pedestals that matched the height of the new railing. Staff determined that enlarging the pedestals would shrink the column height and would make the porch appear 'squatter;' and did not find this to be as compatible as the other schemes. Scheme C, would install full-height columns with the 36" (thirty-six inch) railing engaged directly into the columns. Staff found that this scheme would best accentuate the vertical proportions of the porch while integrating the railing. Staff supports approval of the proposed replacement wood columns and railings shown in drawings 2, 3, and 4.

Above the porch, the applicant proposes installing a 28" (twenty-eight inch) tall wood balustrade, with pedestals spaced above the porch columns. The historic photograph, Fig. 1, shows that there was a historic balustrade in this location. The original balustrade had some type of corner finial (possibly be pinecones or acorns or urns), but there isn't sufficient detail to make a determination. This balustrade was

removed but we do not have a date for that removal. Staff finds that there is a historical precedent for a balustrade in this location, and finds the materials and design are compatible with the period of construction and with the design of the house. Staff supports approval under 24A-8(b)(2), the *Design Guidelines*.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission **approve with one (1) condition** the HAWP application:

1. The stair risers, treads, and decking need to be constructed out of wood. The HPC delegates final approval authority to Staff to confirm this condition has been met; under the Criteria for Issuance in *Chapter 24A-8(b)(2)*, having found that the proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of the historic resource and is compatible in character with the district and the purposes of *Chapter 24A*; the *Design* Guidelines; and with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2 and #10*,

and with the general condition that the applicant shall present the **3 permit sets of drawings**, **if applicable**, **to Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) staff for review and stamping** prior to submission for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) building permits;

and with the general condition that final project design details, not specifically delineated by the Commission, shall be approved by HPC staff or brought back to the Commission as a revised HAWP application at staff's discretion;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall notify the Historic Preservation Staff if they propose to make **any alterations** to the approved plans. Once the work is completed the applicant will contact the staff person assigned to this application at 301-563-3400 or dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org to schedule a follow-up site visit.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301/563-3400

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

benveva	ndusenarch	narchitects.com		Contact Person: BEN VAN DUSEN		
Contact Email:				202-33		
Tax Account No.:			Deydine Finding No.			
Name of Property Owner: JU	CTIN TELIZABI	TH RAUSCH	Ocadima Phone No :			
Address: 12 E.					20815	
			-		Zip Code	
Contractor: N/A			Phone No.:			
Contractor Registration No.:					- 40	
Agent for Owner: BEN	AND DOZEN		_ Daytime Phone No.:	202-33	2-3890	
COCATION OF BUILDING						
House Number: 12. Town/City: GHEYY G		Street	E. LEIN	ox St.		
Town/City: GHEYY G	HASE VILLAGE	Nearest Cross Street:	BROOKV	ILLE RO		
Lot: 17 - PARTS OF Block	: 36 Subdivision	on: GREVY GN	ase Villag	E		
Liber: Folia	: Parc	# PLAT P	eference	: 2/10	6	
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1B. Construction cost estimate	E \$					
1C. If this is a revision of a pre-	viously approved active permi	L see Permit #				
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2B. Type of water supply:		02 🗆 Well				
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3B. Indicate whether the fenc	line Lentirely or					
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I hereby cartify that I have the	authority to make the foregoing	ng application, that the ap	plication is correct, an	d that the construction	n will comply with plans	
approved by all agencies listed	and I hereby acknowledge a	and accept this to be a co	ndition for the issuance	of this permit.		
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CUMA JOH	of owner or suthorized egent		_	2/27/	19	
Signature	or owner or surranged egen				Date	
Approved:		For Chairne	rson Historic Presence	tion Commission		
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THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

1. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

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

12 E. LENOX ST IN CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE, BUILT IN 1899,

ELTS AT THE SM CORNER OF BROOKVILLE RD. SITING OF THE

HOUSE IS SIGNIED EAST AND NORTH, LEAVING GENEROUS

WEST AND SOUTH (REAR) YARDS. COLONIAL REVIVAL IN CTYCE

WHIP ROOF AND REGAD OVERHANDS. DISTINGTIVE FEATURES

INCLUDE THE COVERED FRONT PORGH, ORIGINAL DOUBLE, HUNGS

INCLUDE THE COVERED FRONT PORGH, ORIGINAL DOUBLE, HUNGS

INCLUDE THE COVERED FACTOR OF SANTILEVERED BAY AT THE

EAST ELEVATION. A SUBSTANTIAL 2-STORY ADDITION WAS ADDED

REHOVATION	OF THE	historic resource(s), the environmental setting, and, where applicable, the	AL FMANT
STEPS FOR	SAFETY	FRONT POPOH & REBUILDING .	VI VI

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.

- Schematic 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 meterials 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.

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.
- 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 ALL projects, provide an accurate list of adjacent and confronting property owners (not tenants), including named, 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 LABELS.

Owner's Mailing Address

Justin & Elizabeth Bausch 12 E. Lenox St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Adjacent & Confronting Neighbors:

Marjorie Zapruder 10 E. Lenox St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Anna Niceta & Thomas Lloyd 15 E. Lenox St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Sam Lawrence 100 E. Lenox St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Britt & Kelleen Snider 11 E. Lenox St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kail 101 E. Lenox St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Chris & Kathleen Matthews 11 E. Kirke St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Chris & Kathleen Matthews (or Neighbor) 9 E. Kirke St. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

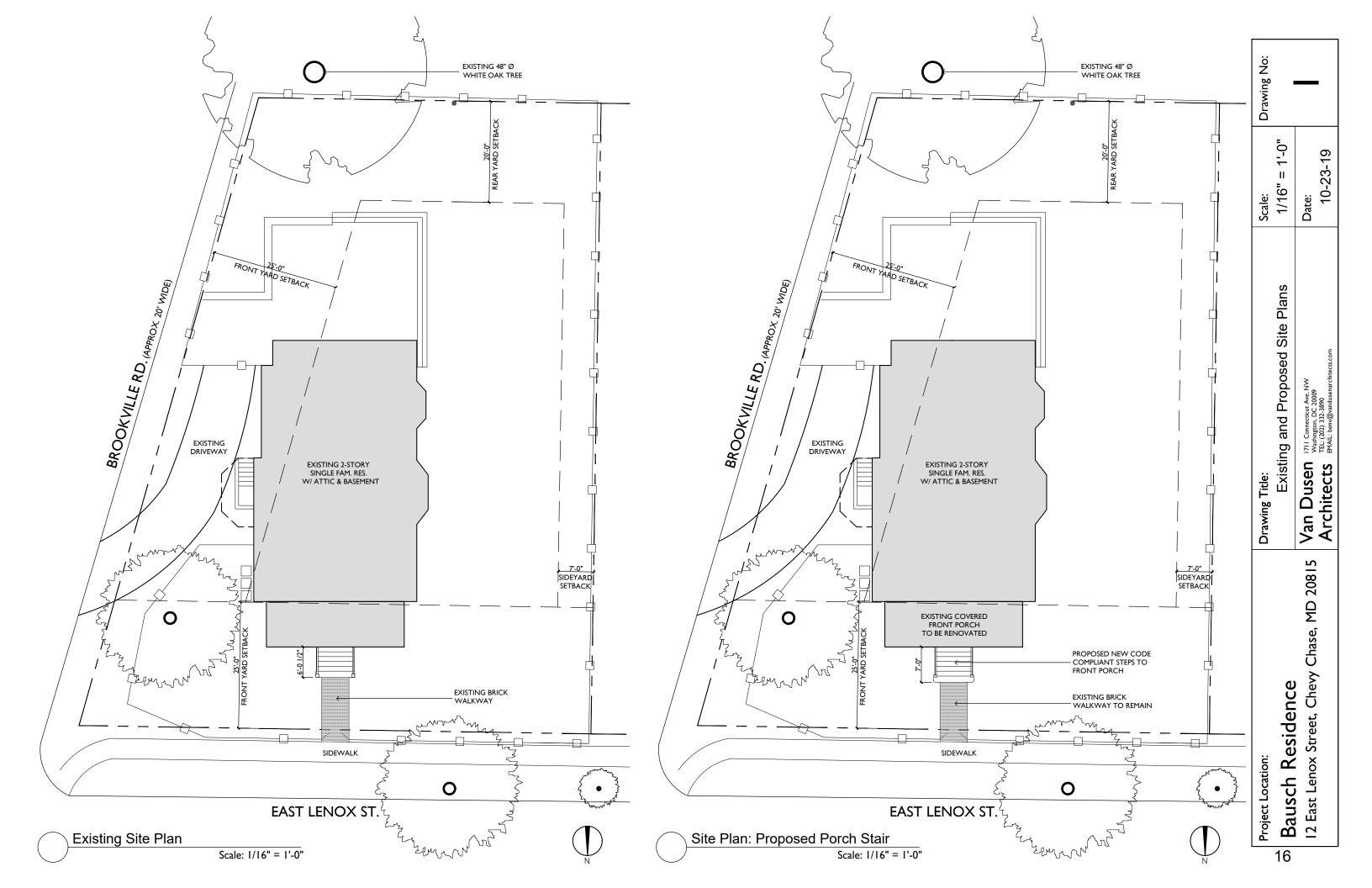


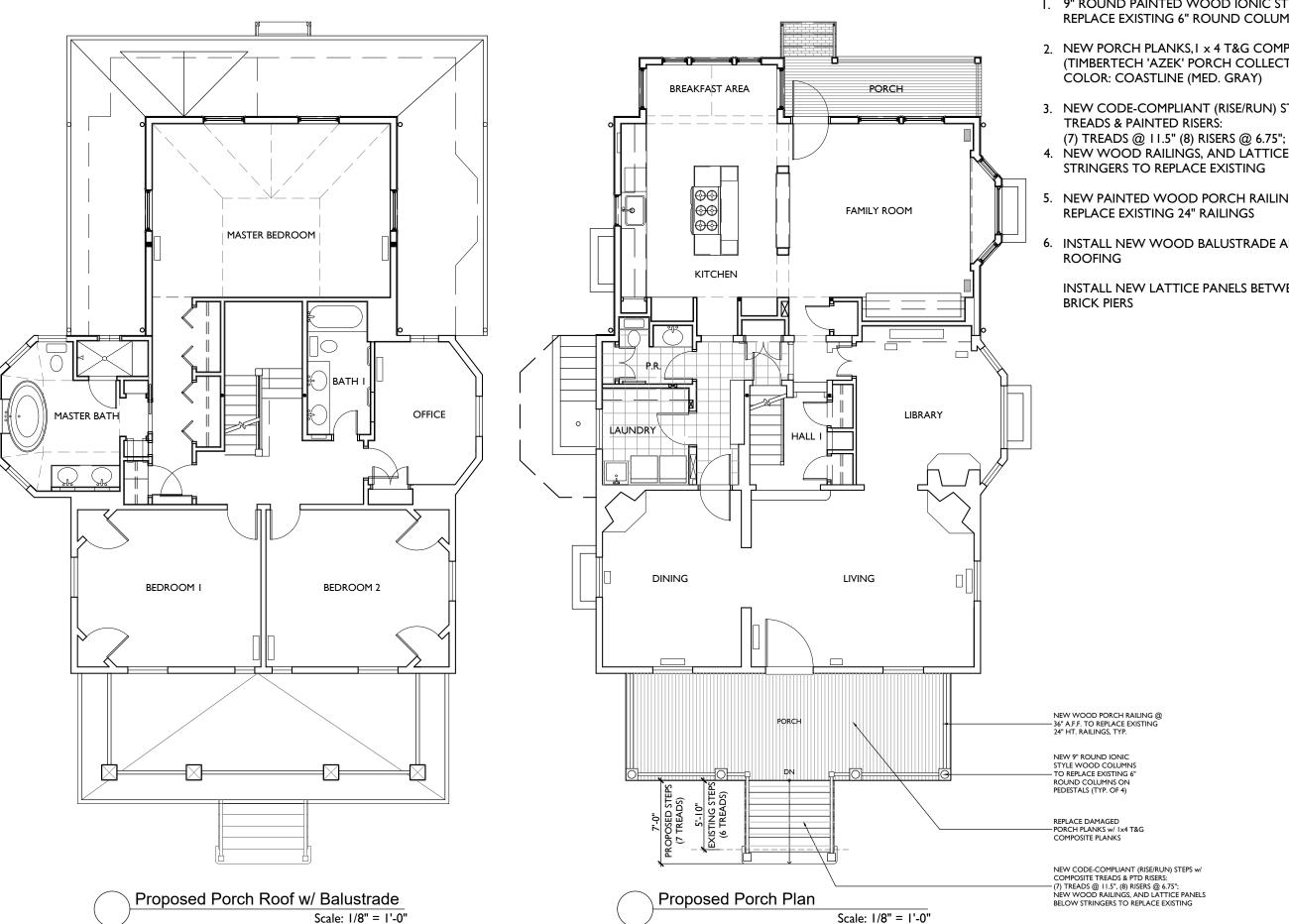












FRONT PORCH RENOVATION:

- I. 9" ROUND PAINTED WOOD IONIC STYLE COLUMNS TO REPLACE EXISTING 6" ROUND COLUMNS ON PEDESTALS
- 2. NEW PORCH PLANKS, I x 4 T&G COMPOSITE PLANKS (TIMBERTECH 'AZEK' PORCH COLLECTION; COLOR: COASTLINE (MED. GRAY)
- 3. NEW CODE-COMPLIANT (RISE/RUN) STEPS w/ COMPOSITE TREADS & PAINTED RISERS:
- 4. NEW WOOD RAILINGS, AND LATTICE PANELS BELOW STRINGERS TO REPLACE EXISTING
- 5. NEW PAINTED WOOD PORCH RAILINGS @ 36" A.F.F. TO **REPLACE EXISTING 24" RAILINGS**
- INSTALL NEW WOOD BALUSTRADE AND NEW METAL

INSTALL NEW LATTICE PANELS BETWEEN EXISTING

Drawing No: 1-0 Scale: 1/8" Drawing Title: Front Porch Plans (Proposed) Van Dusen Architects MD 20815 Chase, East Lenox Street, Chevy Bausch Residence 7



Bausch Residence

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Van Dusen Architects

Chase, MD 20815

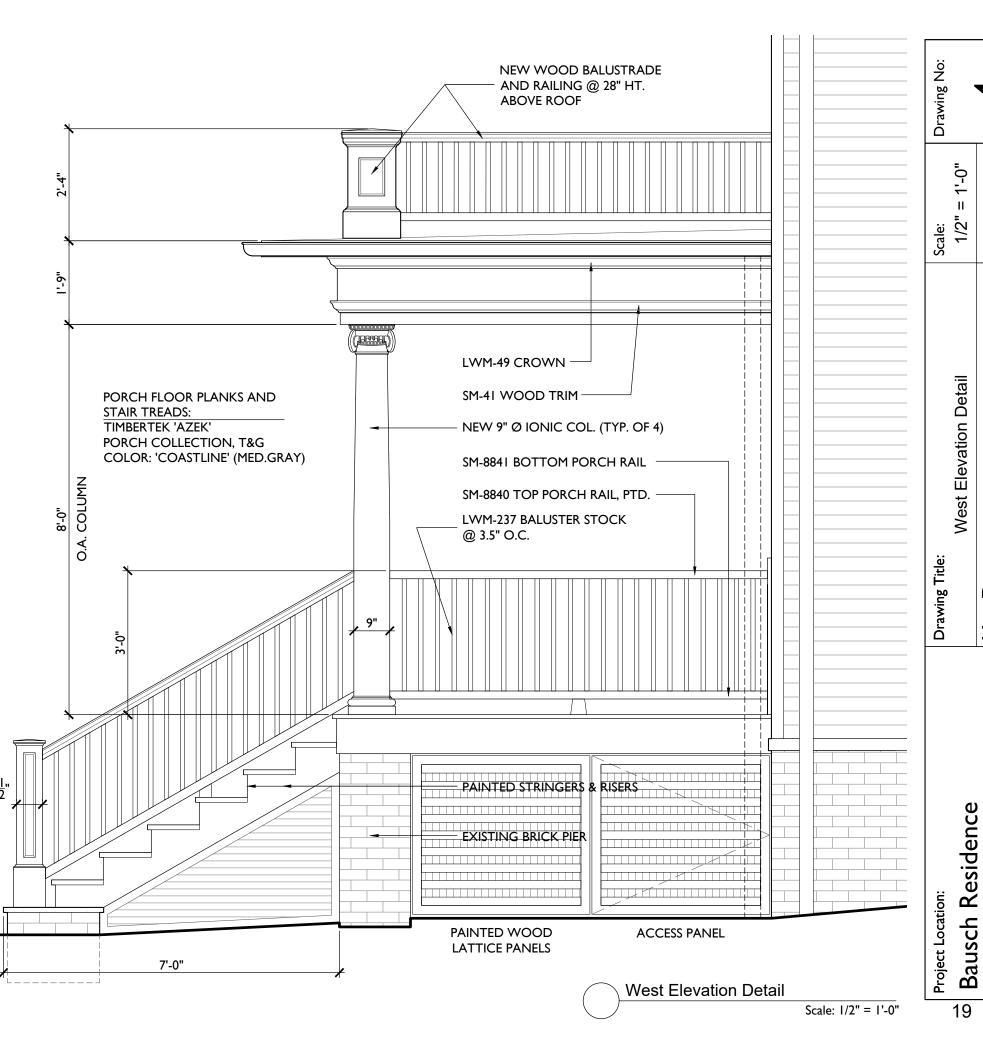
East Lenox Street, Chevy

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FRONT PORCH RENOVATION:

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- 2. NEW PORCH PLANKS, I x 4 T&G COMPOSITE PLANKS (TIMBERTECH 'AZEK' PORCH COLLECTION; COLOR: COASTLINE (MED. GRAY)
- NEW CODE-COMPLIANT (RISE/RUN) STEPS w/ COMPOSITE TREADS & PAINTED RISERS:
 (7) TREADS @ 11.5" (8) RISERS @ 6.75";
- 4. NEW WOOD RAILINGS, AND LATTICE PANELS BELOW STRINGERS TO REPLACE EXISTING
- 5. NEW PAINTED WOOD PORCH RAILINGS @ 36" A.F.F. TO REPLACE EXISTING 24" RAILINGS
- 6. INSTALL NEW WOOD BALUSTRADE AND NEW METAL ROOFING

INSTALL NEW LATTICE PANELS BETWEEN EXISTING BRICK PIERS



Van Dusen Architects

Chase, MD 20815

Street, Chevy

East Lenox

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Existing North (Front) Elevation



Scheme 'B'
(New Columns and 36" ht. Pedestals & Rail)



Scheme 'A' (Existing Columns and Pedestals W/ 36" ht. Rail)



Scheme 'C' (New Full Height Columns w/ 36" ht. Rail)