MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address:	13 Grafton Street, Chevy Chase	Meeting Date:	9/9/2020
Resource:	Contributing Resource Chevy Chase Village Historic District	Report Date:	9/2/2020
Applicant:	Norah & Diogo Coelho (Doug Mader, Architect)	Public Notice:	8/26/2020
Review:	Preliminary Consultation	Staff:	Dan Bruechert
PROPOSAL:	Porch Alterations, Building Addition		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the applicants make any revisions based upon the HPC's comments and return with a HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE:Contributing Resource to the Chevy Chase Village Historic DistrictSTYLE:PrairieDATE:c.1892-1916



Fig. 1: 13 Grafton Street with its twin located to the left at 15 Grafton St.

PROPOSAL

The applicants propose to construct a two-story addition at the rear.

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 the historic preservation review guidelines in the approved and adopted amendment for the *Chevy Chase Village Historic District (Guidelines), 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.

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 and 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 intergrity 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.

The Guidelines state three basic policies that should be adhered to, including:

Preserving the integrity of the contributing structures in the district. Alterations to contributing structures should be designed in such a way that the altered structure still contributes to the district.

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 very lenient review. Most changes to rear of the properties should be approved as a matter of course.

The Guidelines that pertain to this project are as follows:

- *Fences* should be subject to moderate scrutiny if they are visible from the public right-ofway, lenient scrutiny if they are not.
- <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.

- <u>*Major additions*</u> should, where feasible, be placed to the rear of the existing structure so that they are less visible from the public right-of-way.
- <u>*Porches*</u> 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.
- <u>Roofing materials</u> should be subject to moderate scrutiny if they are visible from the public right-of-way, lenient scrutiny if they are not. In general, materials differing from the original should be approved for contributing resources. These guidelines recognize that for outstanding resources replacement in kind is always advocated.
- <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.
- <u>*Tree removal*</u> should be subject to strict scrutiny and consistent with the Chevy Chase Village Urban Forest Ordinance.

Additional basic policies that should be adhered to include:

- 1. Preserving the integrity of the proposed 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.
- 2. Preserving the integrity of contributing structures in the district. Alterations to contributing structures should be designed in such a way that the altered structure still contributes to the district.
- 3. Maintaining the variety of architectural styles and the tradition of architectural excellence.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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
 - (3) The proposal would enhance or aid in the protection, preservation and public or private utilization of the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district in a manner compatible with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural value of the historic site or historic district in which an historic resource is located; or
 - (4) The proposal is necessary in order that unsafe conditions or health hazards be remedied; or
 - (5) The proposal is necessary in order that the owner of the subject property not be deprived of reasonable use of the property or suffer undue hardship; or
 - (6) In balancing the interests of the public in preserving the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district, with the interests of the public from the use and benefit of the alternative proposal, the general public welfare is better served by granting the permit.

(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. (Ord. No. 9-4, § 1; Ord. No. 11-59.)

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." Standards 2, 9, and 10 most directly apply to the application before the commission:

#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.

#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 subject property is a two-story, Prairie house with a shallow hipped roof and a large overhang. The house retains many of its historic features including stucco siding and multi-lite sash windows. There is a small, open side porch on the left elevation. In the northeast corner of the house, there are filled-in openings on the first and second floors. The Sanborn maps show this corner of the house is "Open" but provides no additional detail. This was likely a sleeping porch. The subject property has a twin at 15 Grafton, which has been altered from its historic configuration.



Figure 2: Front elevation of 13 Grafton Street.

Building Addition

The applicant proposes construction a two-story addition at the rear, 22' 5" (twenty-two feet, five inches) deep and inset from the historic wall planes by 1' (one foot). The exterior of the addition will be pebble dash stucco to match the historic and will utilize one-over-one sash windows throughout. The addition's roof will match the pitch of the historic hipped roof, with a slight inset from the historic roof plane. The applicant proposes to install a first-floor mudroom that will project to the left beyond the historic wall plane, but this addition would be largely obscured by the side porch. As part of the proposed alterations, the applicant proposes replacing the plywood panels in the northeast corner with stucco to match the historic wall.

Staff finds that while the addition is large, it is not out of scale with the existing building or the surrounding district. The *Design Guidelines* do not dictate that building additions be differentiated from the historic construction in the way that the Standards do. However, Staff finds that the proposal to utilize one-over-one windows will successfully differentiate the new from the historic. Several materials specifications were not included with the submission. Staff requests the HPC provides recommendations for appropriate materials including:

- Windows
- Doors
- Porch details
- Clapboard/fiber cement siding

Finally, Staff notes that the notations on the proposed roof plan are not what is shown in the drawings and that the discrepancy needs to be resolved in a HAWP submission. Staff request HPC feedback on:

- The size and massing of the proposal;
- Recommended materials specifications;

- The appropriateness of the side-projecting mudroom addition;
- The appropriateness of filling in the plywood openings; and
- Any other design recommendations.

Front Porch Alteration

The existing front porch has a low-pitched hipped roof with Tudor arches and stucco siding. The porch only covers the front door. The applicant proposes extending the porch so that it becomes a full-width front porch. (This house at 15 Grafton St. extended its porch to cover the full width of the front elevation prior to the District's designation.)

The proposed porch structure will be covered in stucco with a hipped roof to match the existing. The description of the work says the porch extension is shallower by 1' 2" (one foot, two inches) from the original porch, though that does not appear to be reflected in the drawings.

Staff requests the HPC's feedback on:

- Is the historic design and configuration of this front porch a character-defining feature that should be preserved;
- The appropriateness of extending the existing, historic porch and, if appropriate;
- If it is appropriate, the configuration of the altered porch.

Side Porch Enclosure

The applicant proposes to enclose the side porch with multi-lite casement windows. The *Design Guidelines* state that side porches have been successfully enclosed and are approvable if compatibly designed. Based on the drawings, Staff cannot determine how much the existing porch openings will be reduced as part of the proposal, but Staff notes the distinctive Tudor arch would be eliminated from the front elevation of the side porch. Staff recommends this feature be retained to be considered a compatible design.

Staff requests the HPC provide feedback on the proposed side porch enclosure.

Rear Porch/Deck

Finally, the applicant proposes to install a wrap-around porch at the rear. To the rear of the addition, the porch will be screened-in with a low-sloped roof. The portion of the rear porch/deck that wraps around the northwest corner of the house will be open with a side-loading set of stairs. The stairs will project beyond the historic side roof.

Staff finds that the proposed rear porch is compatible in concept, but that the proposal lacks sufficient material specifications to provide more feedback. Staff requests the HPC provide feedback as to the appropriateness of the proposed porch and make any material recommendations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the applicants make any revisions based upon the HPC's comments and return with a HAWP application.

TT THE	For Staff only: HAWP#
APPLICATION	DATE ASSIGNED
HISTORIC AREA WOF HISTORIC PRESERVATION CO 301.563.3400	RK PERMIT
APPLICANT:	
Name: Norah & Diogo Coelho E-r	nail: _diogocoelho@icloud.com
Address: <u>13 Grafton St</u> Cit	y: <u>Chevy Chase, MD</u> Zip: 20815
Daytime Phone: (202) 570-7035 Ta	x Account No.:
AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable):	
Name: Douglas Mader, AIA E-r	nail: <u>dmaderaia@aol.com</u>
Address: 11307 Rokeby Avenue Cit	y: Bethesda, MD Zip: 20896
Daytime Phone: (301) 466-1378 Co	ntractor Registration No.:
LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE: MIHP # of Historic Pr	operty35/13
Is the Property Located within an Historic District?	District Name Chevy Chase Village
Is there an Historic Preservation/Land Trust/Environmenta map of the easement, and documentation from the Easem	
Are other Planning and/or Hearing Examiner Approvals /Re (Conditional Use, Variance, Record Plat, etc.?) If YES, includ supplemental information.	
Building Number: <u>13</u> Street: <u>Grafton</u>	St
Town/City: Chevy Chase Nearest Cross St	reet: Cedar Parkway
Lot: <u>1 & 19</u> Block: <u>24</u> Subdivision:	Parcel:
TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: See the checklist on Page for proposed work are submitted with this application	
be accepted for review. Check all that apply:	Shed/Garage/Accessory Structure
□ New Construction □ Deck/Porch ✓ Addition □ Fence	 Solar Tree removal/planting
Demolition Hardscape/Landscap	
Grading/Excavation Roof	Other:
I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foreg and accurate and that the construction will comply with pl agencies and hereby acknowledge and accept this to be a	ans reviewed and approved by all necessary
Signature of owner or authorized agent	Date 7

Norah & Diogo Coelho 13 Grafton St Chevy Chase, MD 20815 Adjacent and confronting P	Douglas Mader 11307 Rokeby Avenue Garrett Park, MD 20896
Adjacent and confronting P	
	roperty Owners mailing addresses
Bowdy Train / Georgina Sanger 11 Grafton St Chevy Chase, MD 20815	David & Jocelyn Cox 15 Grafton St Chevy Chase, MD 20815
John Davis / P.A. Murphy 7 Hesketh St Chevy Chase, MD 20815	Paul Berman / Laura Dickinson 9 Hesketh St Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures, landscape features, or other significant features of the property:

13 Grafton St, built in 1908, is a 2,448 sqft, two-storey house with a low-pitched roof, squared in shape, pebble dash stucco finish with an in-ground basement and a front & side porch. The house is Prairie Style with large window openings, painted wood shutters, deep roof overhang and asphalt flat roof. 13 Grafton St originally had a corrugated iron garage in the back garden, per the Sanborn Map and Historic District Map, but only the foundations are remaining and visible in the backyard. 13 Grafton St and 15 Grafton St were built as twin houses, looking identical, however 15 Grafton St had the front porch roof extended and an addition added c. 25 years ago. The lot size is 8,750 square feet, with steps leading from the street up to the front lawn and from the lawn up to the front door and a gravel narrow driveway that extends to the back of the home. Approximately 20 years ago when owned by prior owners, following a fire, the kitchen was extended into an enclosed back porch and a powder room added on the first floor and a laundry room added to an enclosed balcony on the second floor. In 2009 a packaged AC unit was added to the top of the roof. The house is a 'contributing resource' to Chevy Chase Village.

Description of Work Proposed: Please give an overview of the work to be undertaken:

The proposed work includes a basement, main level, and second level addition to the rear of the historic house, inset 1' from both sides of the historic house, adding a 797 sq ft footprint. The material of the addition is also pebble dash stucco finish as the historic house. The windows in the addition will be a combination of six-over-one sash, fixed and awning windows in the basement.

The improvements also include:

- The construction of a first floor rear screened porch and wrap-around rear / side deck and under deck area.

- Removal of the concrete slab foundation of the original garage from the backyard.

- Replacement of the narrow driveway by two shorter driveways in the front with low retaining walls, in line with both side neighbors, and allowing for simultaneous charging of 2 Electric Vehicles and easier access to the house. The paving material of the driveways is Permeable Pavers.

- Replacement of the current asphalt membrane of the flat roof for new TPO membrane, including Soffit and Fascia repairs.

- Enclose the side porch keeping the current porch footprint by adding casement windows to the porch openings.

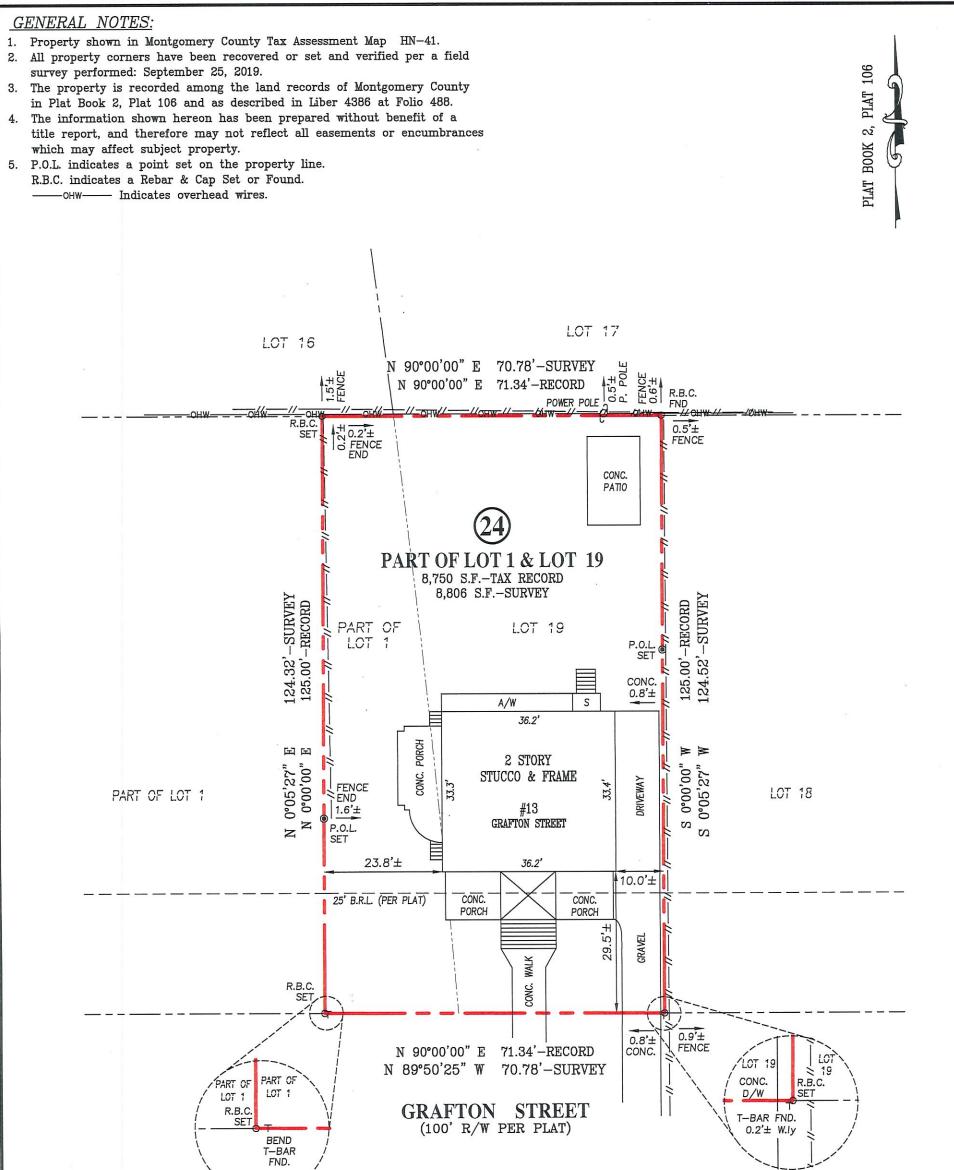
- The extension of the roof of the front porch to the sides, keeping the same style to pay homage to the original design, reducing solar exposure to the interior of the house and improving energy efficiency. The porch roof extension is shallower by 1'2" foot from the original porch.

Work Item 1: New Addition	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work: New 2-Story addition with wrap- around porch in the rear
Work Item 2: <u>Removal of concrete for</u> Description of Current Condition: <u>Existing concrete foundation</u> was part of an original corrugated metal garage	Proposed Work: Removal of both existing concrete foundation and driveway and replace it with garden and vegetation. Add 2 short driveways in the front with low retaining walls and to enable Electric Vehicle charging.

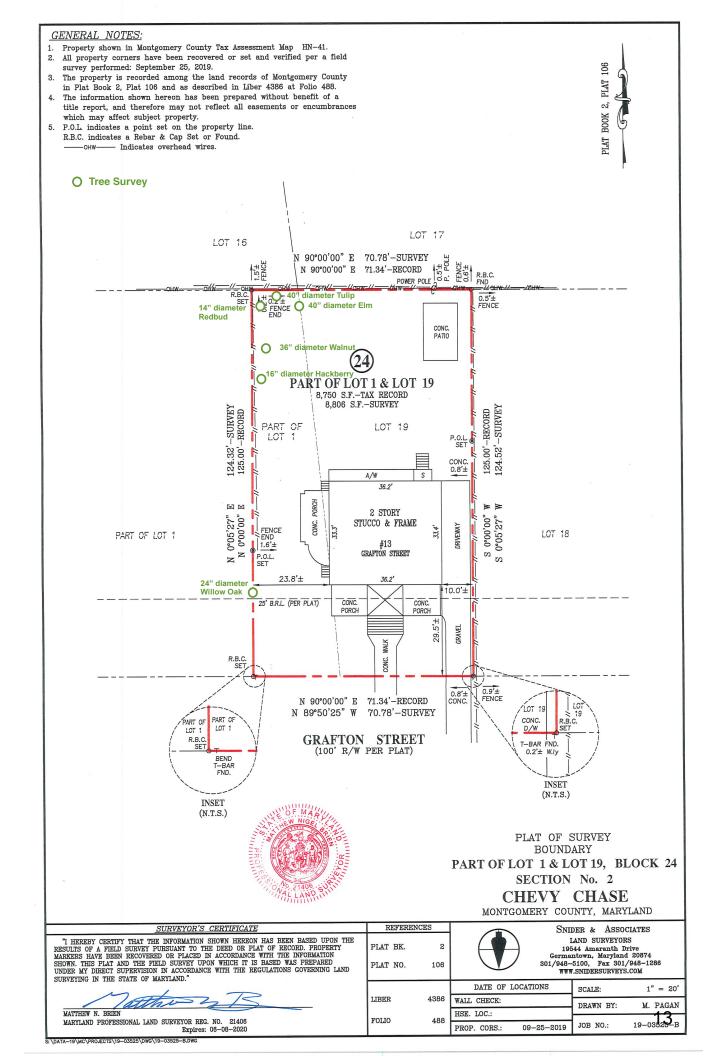
Work Item 3: Side Porch Enclosure					
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:				
Open porch with concrete slab and flat roof	- Enclose the side porch keeping the current porch footprint by adding casement windows to the porch openings.				

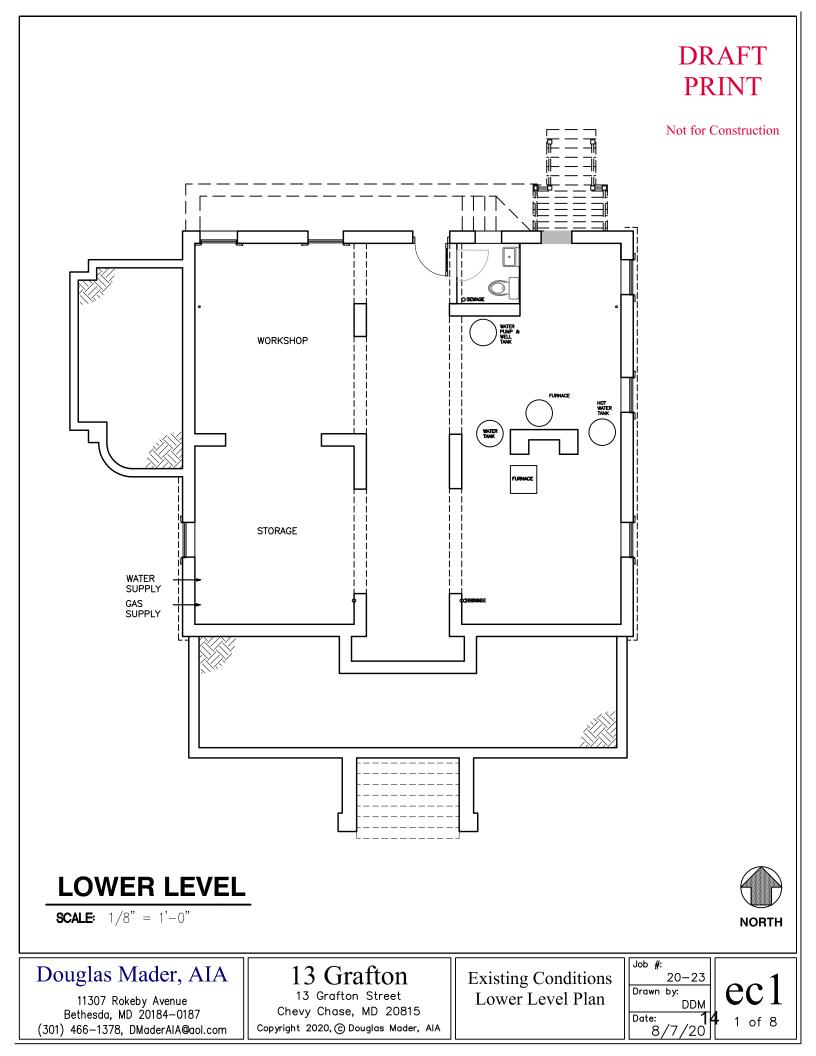
Work Item 4: Extension of the roof of Front Porch						
Description of Current Condition: Original porch is only covered in the center of the house with both sides not covered. Since the front of the house is South facing it significantly exposes the house to the Sun.	Proposed Work: Extension of the roof of the front porch to the sides, keeping the same style to pay homage to the original design, reducing solar exposure to the interior of the house and improving energy efficiency. The porch roof extension is shallower by 1'2" foot from the original porch.					
Work Item 5:						
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:					

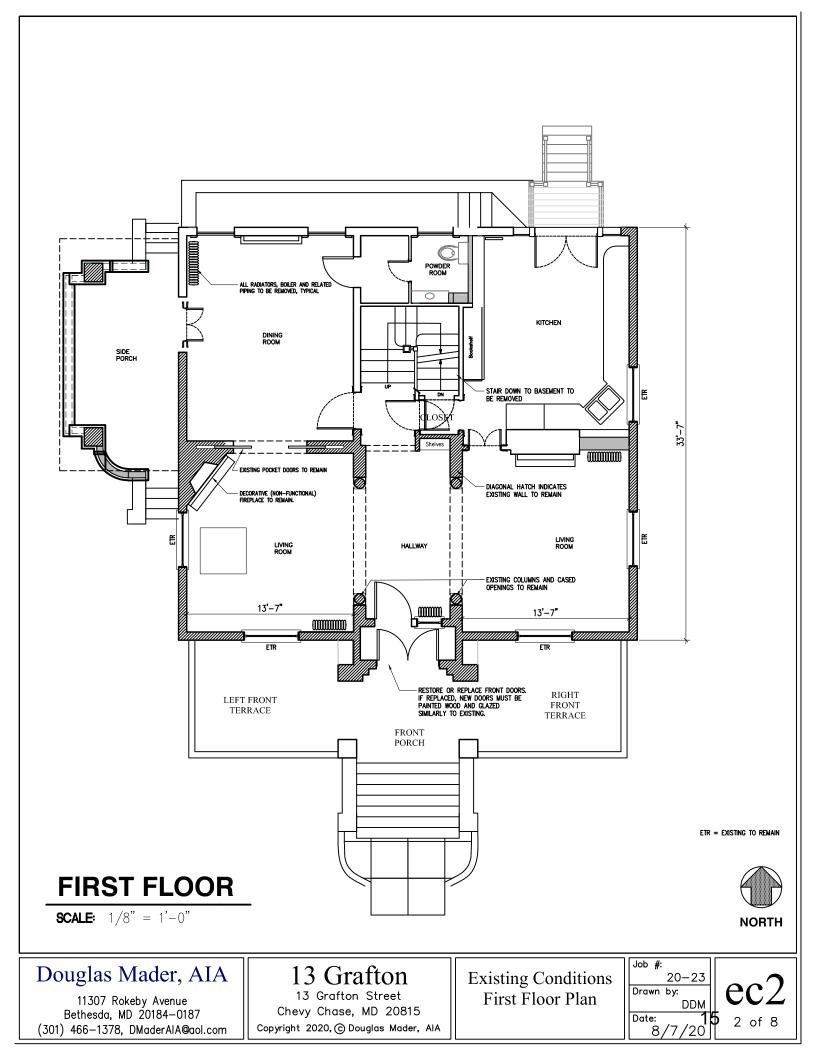
Work Item 6:	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:



INSET (N.T.S.)	INSET (N.T.S.)				
PROPERTY OF THE REAL PROPERTY			PLAT OF S BOUND PART OF LOT 1 & L SECTION CHEVY MONTGOMERY COU	ARY OT 19, BLOCK 24 No. 2 CHASE	
<u>SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE</u> "I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON HAS BEEN BASED UPON THE RESULTS OF A FIELD SURVEY PURSUANT TO THE DEED OR PLAT OF RECORD. PROPERTY MARKERS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED OR PLACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INFORMATION SHOWN. THIS PLAT AND THE FIELD SURVEY UPON WHICH IT IS BASED WAS PREPARED UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING LAND SURVEYING IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND."	REFERENCES PLAT BK. PLAT NO.	2 106	SNIDER & ASSOCIATES LAND SURVEYORS 19544 Amaranth Drive Germantown, Maryland 20874 301/948-5100, Fax 301/948-1286 WWW.SNIDERSURVEYS.COM		
Maton TP	LIBER 4	386	DATE OF LOCATIONS WALL CHECK:	SCALE: 1" = 20'	
MATTHEW N. BRIEN			HSE. LOC.:	DRAWN BY: M. PAGAN	
MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR REG. NO. 21406 Expires: 06-08-2020	FOLIO	488	PROP. CORS.: 09-25-2019	JOB NO.: 19-03525-B	

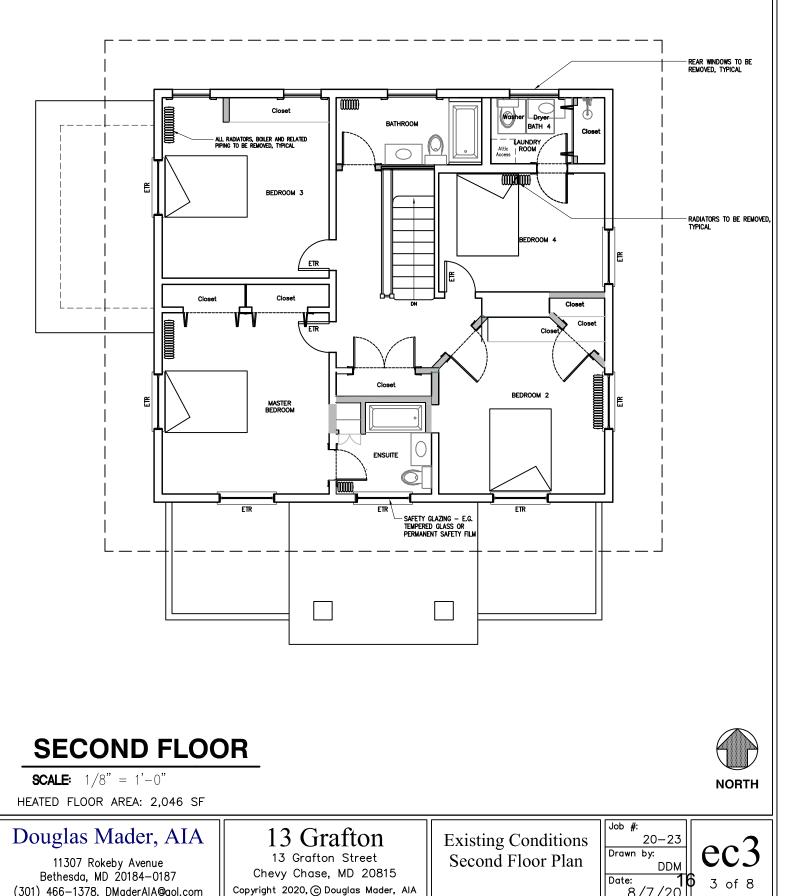




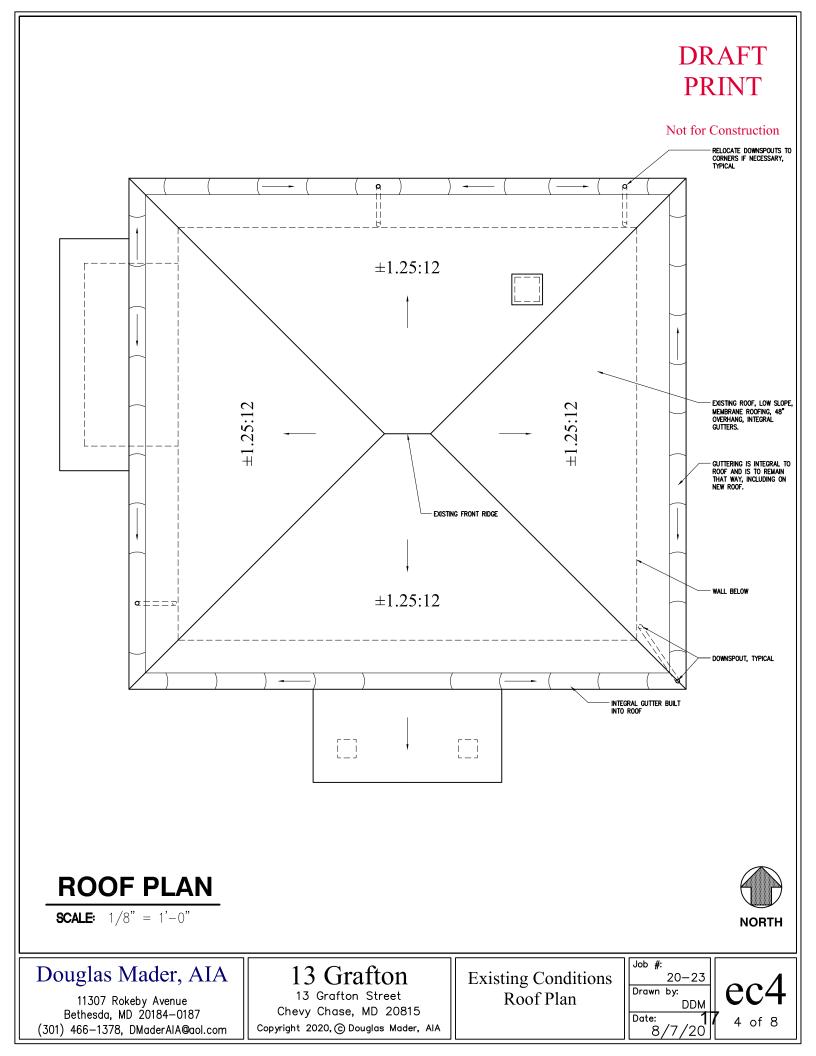


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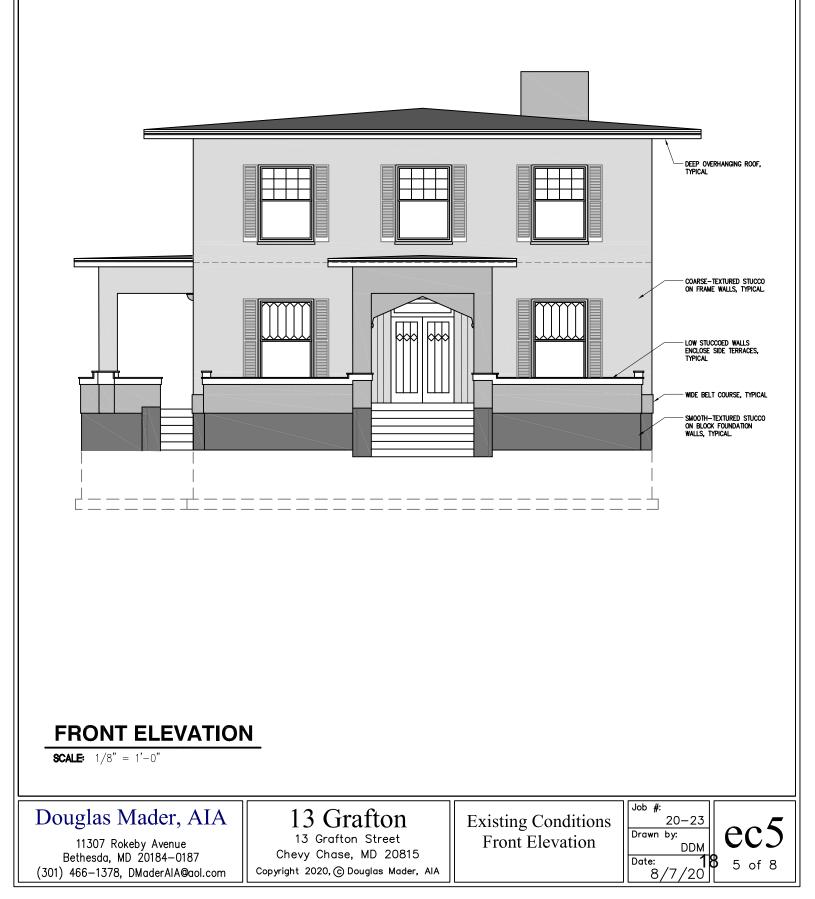
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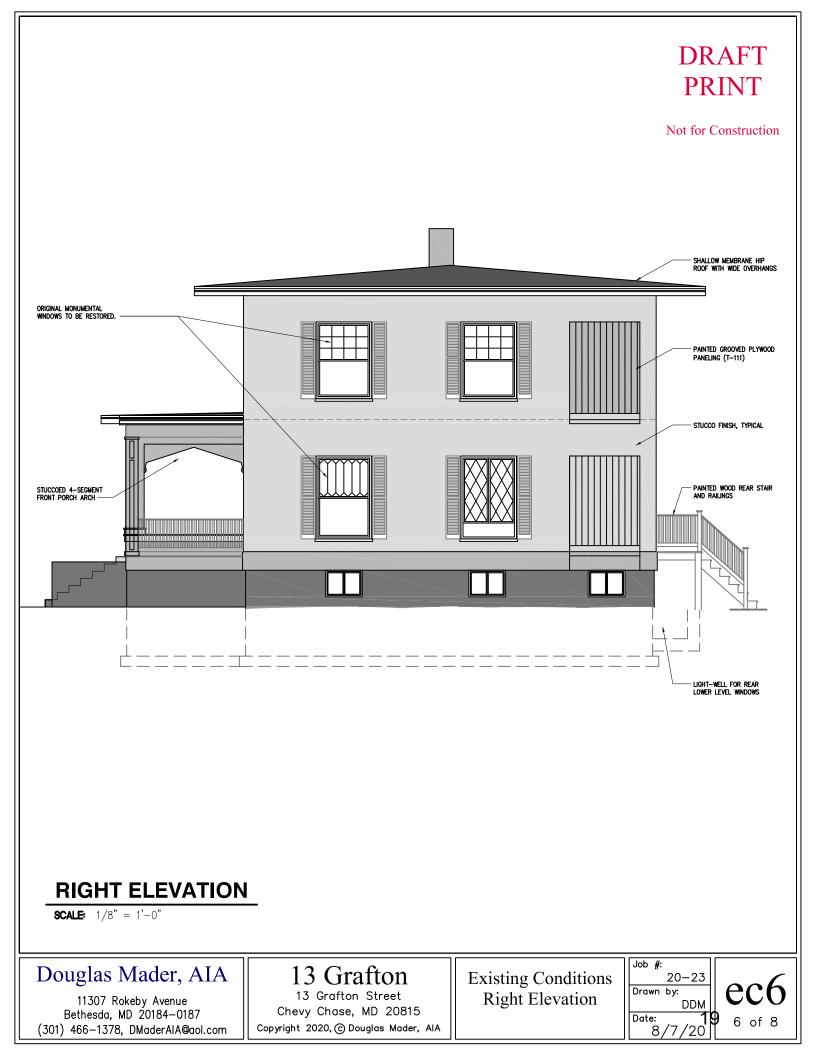


(301) 466-1378, DMaderAIA@aol.com



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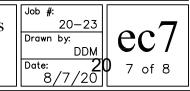
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Douglas Mader, AIA

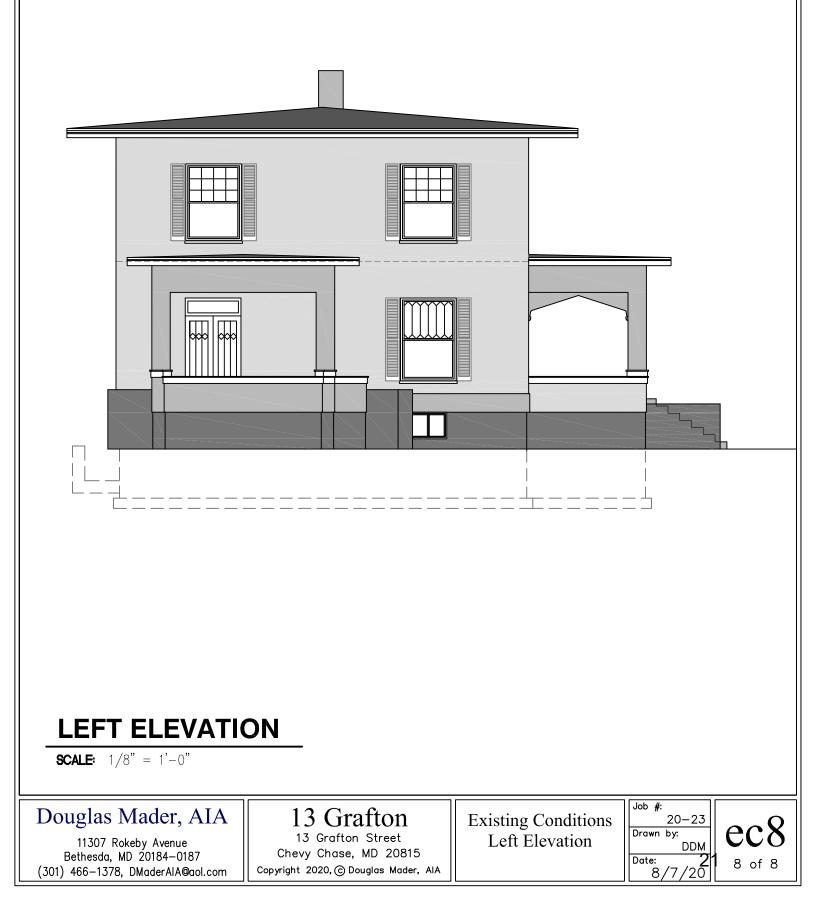
11307 Rokeby Avenue Bethesda, MD 20184–0187 (301) 466–1378, DMaderAlA@aol.com

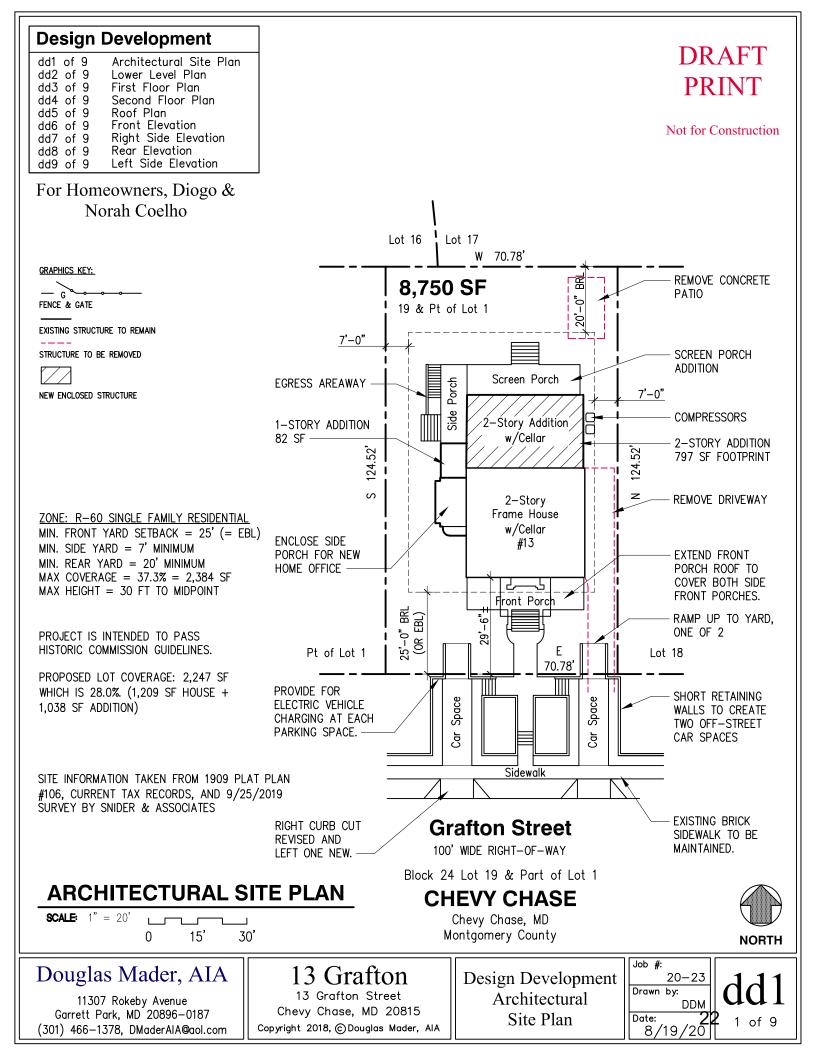
13 Grafton Street

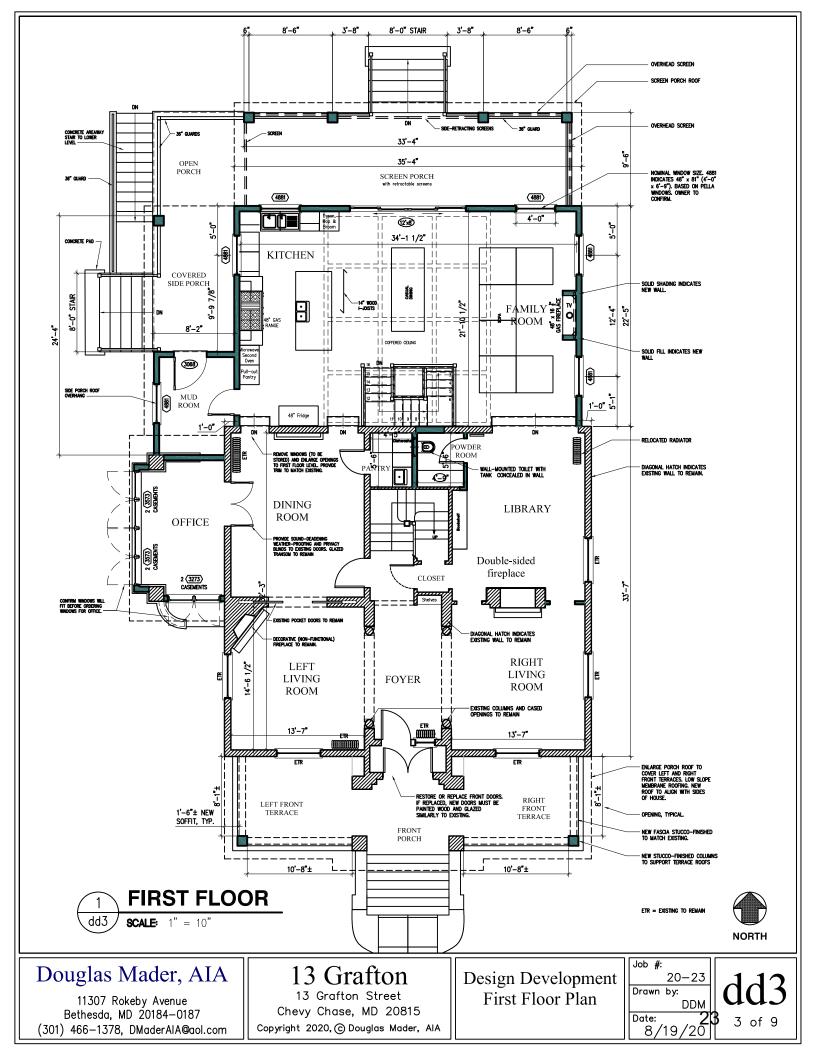
Chevy Chase, MD 20815 Copyright 2020, © Douglas Mader, AIA Existing Conditions Rear Elevation

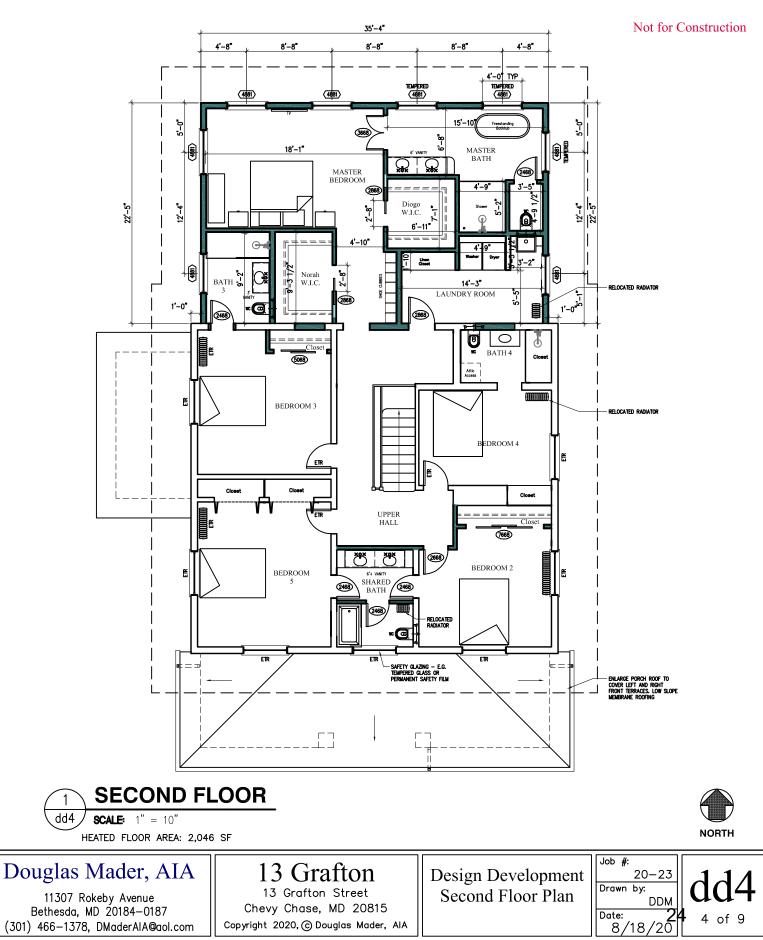


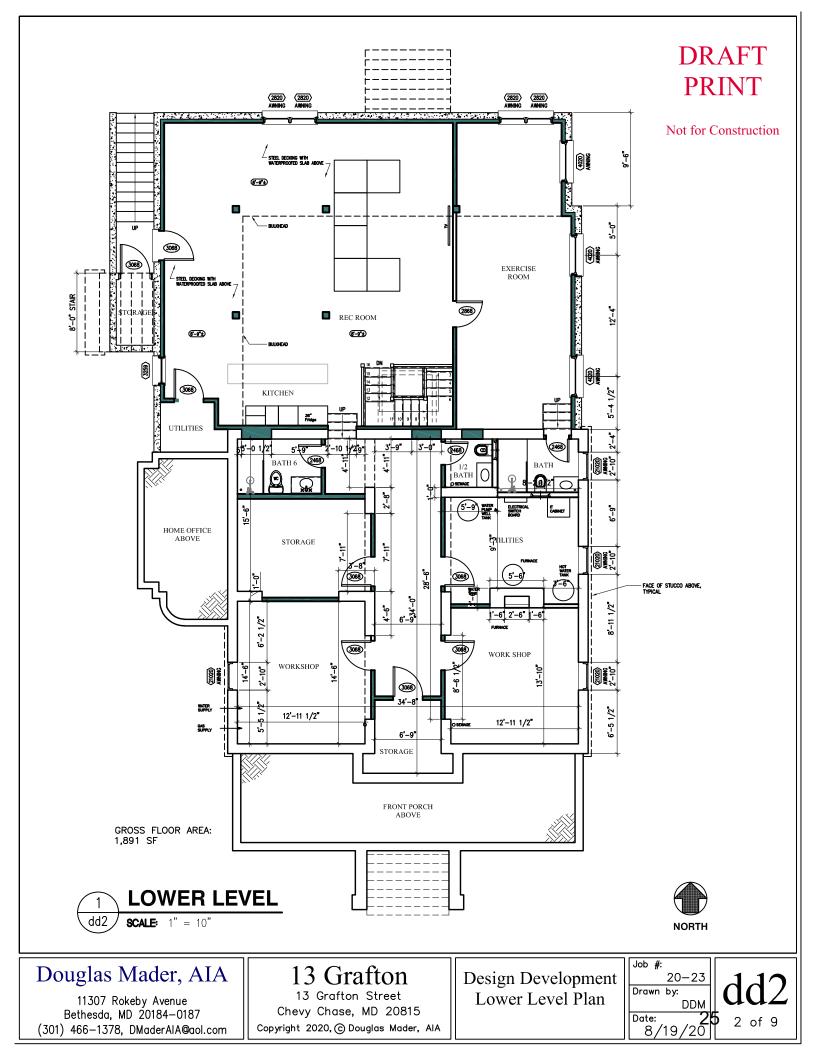
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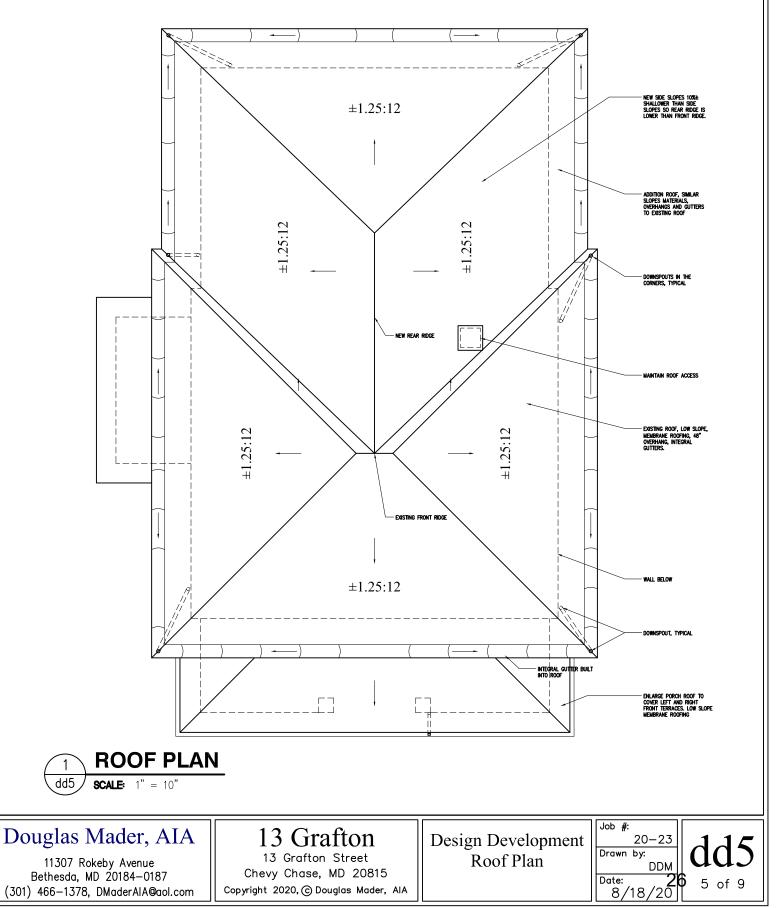


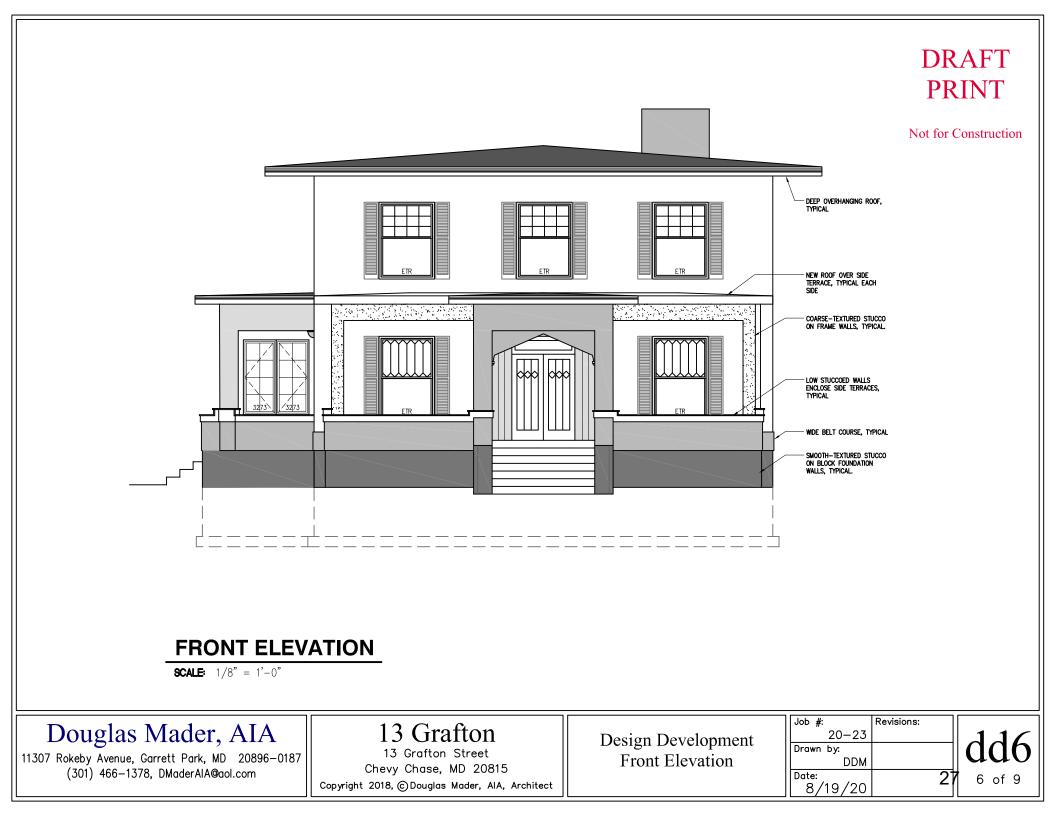


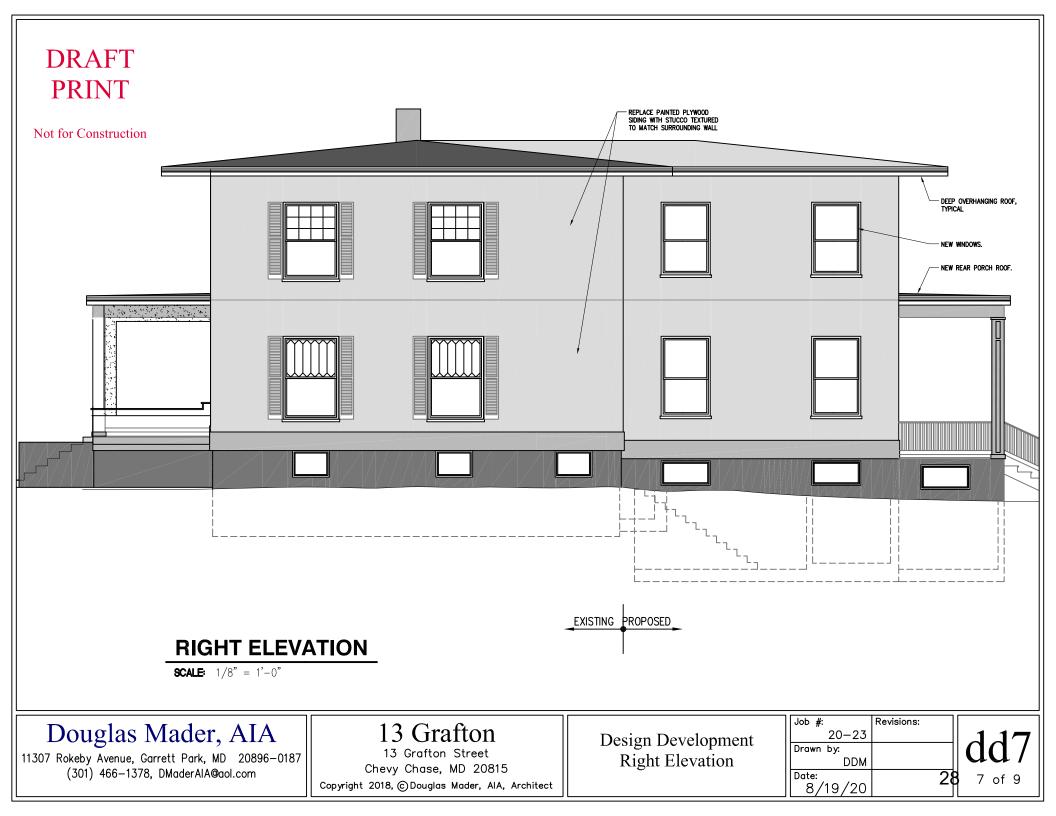


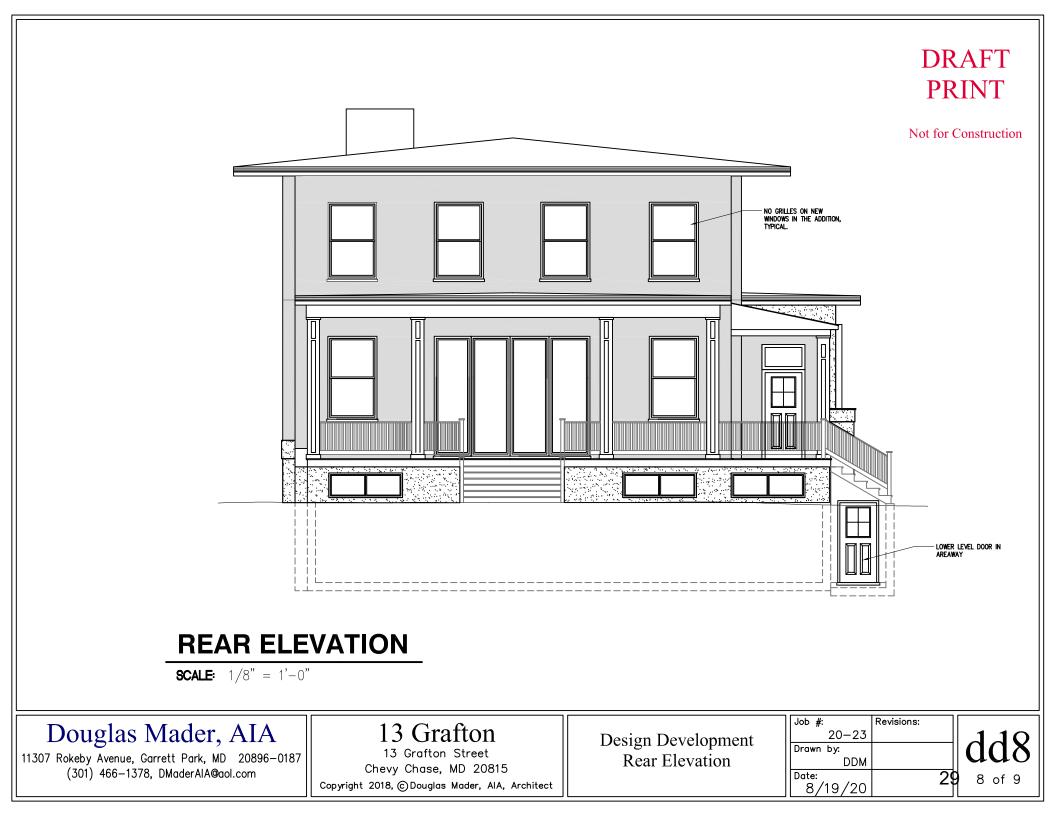


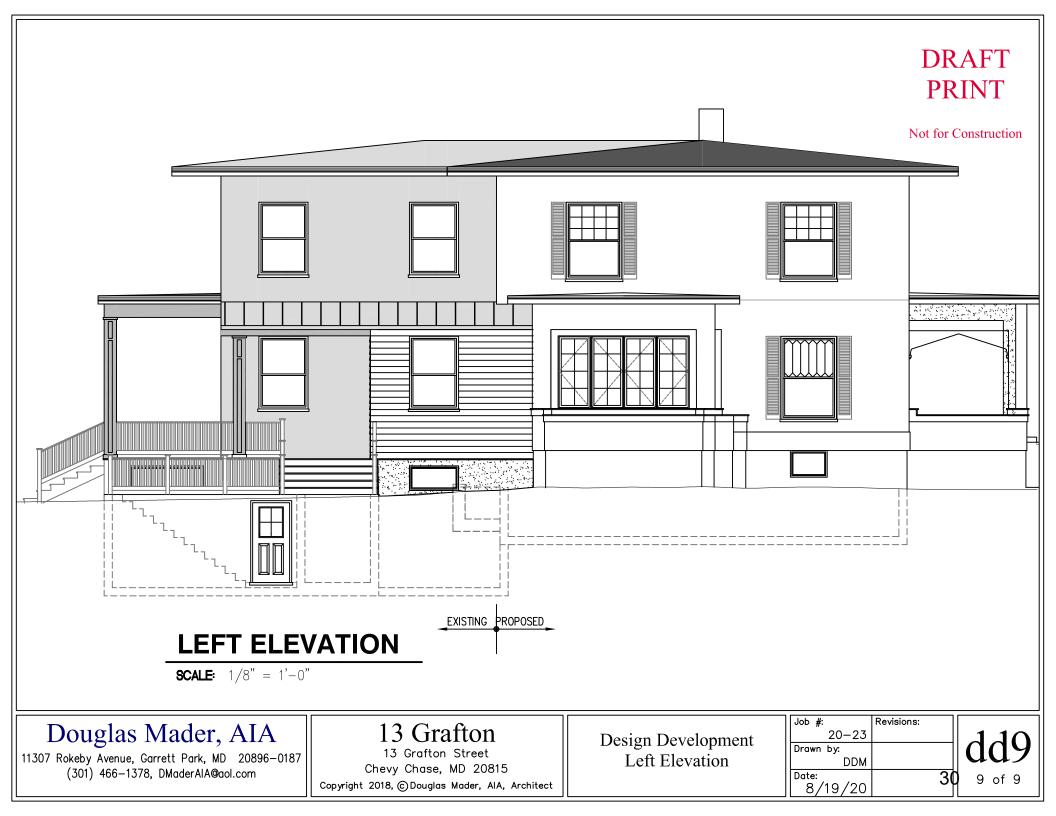












HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

	Required Attachments						
Proposed Work	I. Written Description	2. Site Plan	3. Plans/ Elevations	4. Material Specifications	5. Photographs	6. Tree Survey	7. Property Owner Addresses
New Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Additions/ Alterations	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Demolition	*	*	*		*		*
Deck/Porch	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fence/Wall	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Driveway/ Parking Area	*	*		*	*	*	*
Grading/Exc avation/Land scaing	*	*		*	*	*	*
Tree Removal	*	*		*	*	*	*
Siding/ Roof Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Window/ Door Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Masonry Repair/ Repoint	*	*	*	*	*		*
Signs	*	*	*	*	*		*

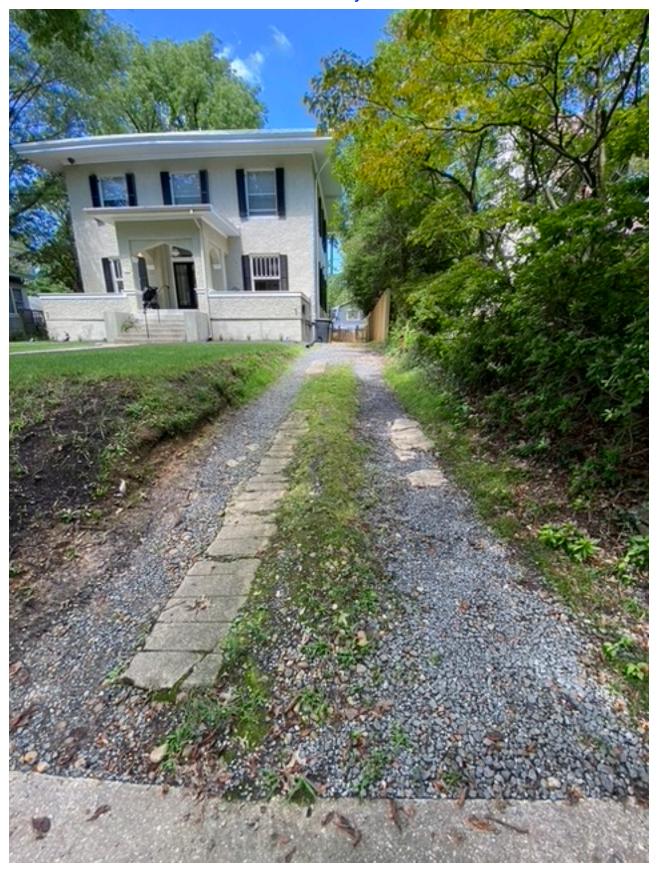
South Façade



South Façade & Front Lawn



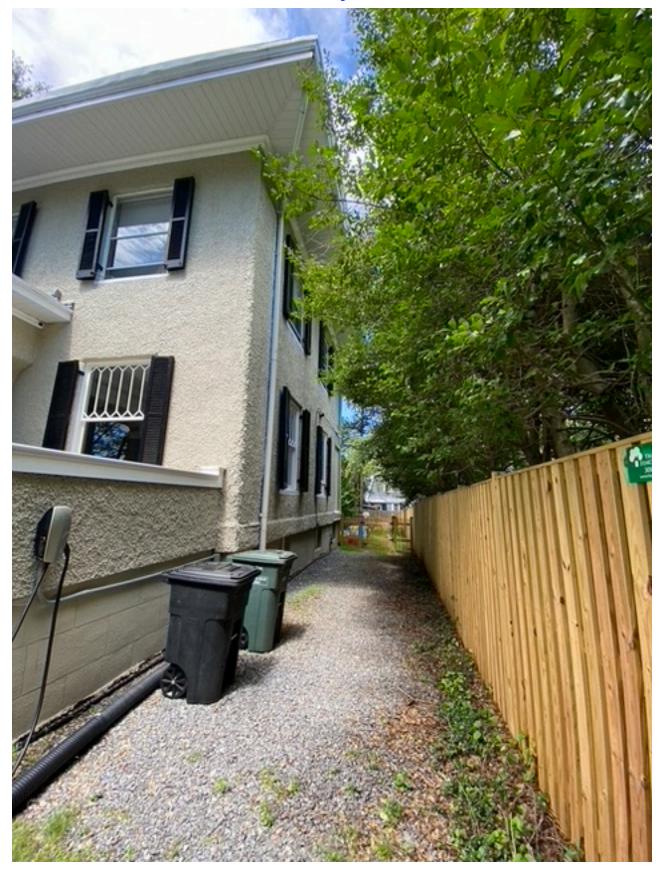
Driveway



13 Grafton St and its twin house, 15 Grafton St



East Façade



North Façade



Concrete foundation in backyard



West Façade



Front Porch



Front Porch



Roof

