# MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 21 Grafton St., Chevy Chase Meeting Date: 10/28/2020

**Resource:** Contributing Resource **Report Date:** 10/21/2020

Chevy Chase Village Historic District

**Applicant:** Duane and Paula Gibson **Public Notice:** 10/14/2020

**Review:** HAWP **Tax Credit:** No

Case Number: 35/13-20BB (REVISION) Staff: Dan Bruechert

**PROPOSAL:** Front Stairs, Rear Patio, and Accessory Building Modifications (RETROACTIVE)

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the HPC **approve** the HAWP application:

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Contributing Resource within the Chevy Chase Historic District

STYLE: Dutch Colonial

DATE: c.1905



Figure 1: 21 Grafton St. near the edge of the Chevy Chase Village Historic District.

### **BACKGROUND**

On July 10, 2019, the HPC reviewed and approved a HAWP by consent for this building for a rear

addition and other alterations to the property.<sup>1</sup>

On September 9, 2020, the HPC approved a HAWP by consent for additional changes to the hardscape, fencing, and retaining walls by consent.<sup>2</sup>

### **PROPOSAL**

The applicant proposes to modify the previously approved front walkway retaining wall, construct a patio, and reduce the size of the garage. The work discussed in this HAWPfor the retaining walls and hardscape are is retroactive as the work has already been completed.

### 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.

### 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 ensure 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.

The following principles are not intended to cover all possible types of exterior alterations, changes, and/or additions. HAWP applications for other types of exterior alterations, changes, and/or additions should be reviewed in a manner that is consistent with tow paramount principles identified above – fostering the Village's shared commitment to evolving eclecticism while maintain its park-like character.

o <u>Garages and accessory buildings</u> which are detached from the main house should be subject to lenient scrutiny but should be compatible with the main building. If an existing garage or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Staff Report and application for the approved July 2020 HAWP can be found here: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/I.H-21-Grafton-Street-Chevy-Chase.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Staff Report and application for the approved September 9, 2020 HAWP hace be found here: <a href="https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/II.V-21-Grafton-Street-Chevy-Chase.pdf">https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/II.V-21-Grafton-Street-Chevy-Chase.pdf</a>.

accessory building has any common walls with, or attachment to, the main residence, then any addition to the garage or accessory building should be subject to review in accordance with the Guidelines applicable to "major additions." Any proposed garage or accessory building which is to have a common wall with or major attachment to the main residence should also be reviewed in accordance with the Guidelines applicable to "major additions."

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

#### 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.

#### STAFF DISCUSSION

The applicant seeks approval for work in three areas: modification to the previously approved front walkway retaining wall, the installation of a stone patio in the rear, and a reduction in size for the approved garages. All of the work in this HAWP has been completed. As a retroactive proposal, the HPC is to evaluate the proposal as though the work had not been carried out.

### **Front Walkway Replacement**

The existing front walkway, which runs from the sidewalk to the house and along the front of the house, is constructed out of bricks set in mortar. The applicant proposes to remove the existing walkway and install a walkway in matching dimensions using flagstones. The approved retaining wall at the intersection between the walkway and the sidewalk turned at right angles (see below).

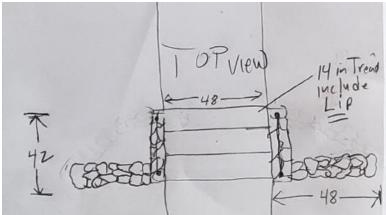


Figure 2: detail of September 9, 2020, approved front stair proposal.

The applicant now proposes to have the sides of the retaining wall extend in quarter rounds (see below). The change in shape will not require additional re-grading on the site.



Figure 3: Proposed front walk retaining wall.

Staff finds that stonework matches the treatment of the front porch piers and is an appropriate material. Staff further finds that while the proposed retaining wall will project further, its new form requires less alteration on-site, because no backfilling will be needed. Staff recommends the HPC approve the front walkway retaining wall alteration under the *Design Guidelines, Chapter 24A-8(b)(2) and (d)*.

### **Stone Patio**

In the rear of the building, between the house and the garage, the applicant proposes to install a flagstone patio. The approved hardscaping creates a very small green space between the driveway and walkway

from the garage to the house. The proposed small paved area will not impact any trees and is not visible from the public right-of-way.



Figure 4: new stone patio between the house and garage. Note, the stone walkway along the side of the house was previously approved.

Staff finds the proposed patio will not have a significant visual impact on the house or surrounding right-of-way. The *Design Guidelines state*, "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." The *Design Guidelines* also require the HPC to apply strict scrutiny to changes in lot coverage as it pertains to preserving the park-like setting of the district. This proposed work will not impact any trees or have an impact on the streetscape. Staff recommends the HPC approved the proposed patio.

#### **Garage Alterations**

The applicant proposes to change the overall dimensions of the previously approved garage. The approved garage measured 22' × 24' (twenty-two feet by twenty-four feet). The new proposal will narrow the garage by 2' (two feet) so it will measure 22' × 22' (twenty-two feet square). Staff finds this change is de minimis and won't have a significant impact on the overall character of the new building. Staff notes that this proposal would be approved by Staff under the pending regulation amendment authorizing Staff-Level approval. Staff recommends the HPC approve reducing the garage dimensions by 2' (two feet).

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b)(1),(2), and (d), having found that the proposal, is consistent with and compatible in character with the purposes of Chapter 24A; The Chevy Chase Village District Design Guidelines;

and with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2, 9, 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.



Edit 6/21/99

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301/563-3400

# APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

	Db25U9U@0	mail com	Contact Person: 1744LA	GIR SON
Contact Email: _	pbg5494@g	mull. Com	Daytime Phone No.: 301-3	35-2465
Tax Account No.:		···		
Name of Property Owner:	Duane & Paula	GIBSON	Daytime Phone No.: 301-6	93-7145
Address: 2   G1	rafton	CHEVY CH	ase md	20815 Ze Code
Contractor: VIA	Trunca	City		Zin Code
			Phone Ne.:	
Contractor Registration No		ΔΙΔ	Daytime Phone No.: (301)	Ш.І 1270
Agent for Owner. DOS	Agius Maaki,	7/1//	_ Daytime Phone No.: 1 3017	T66-1370
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SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

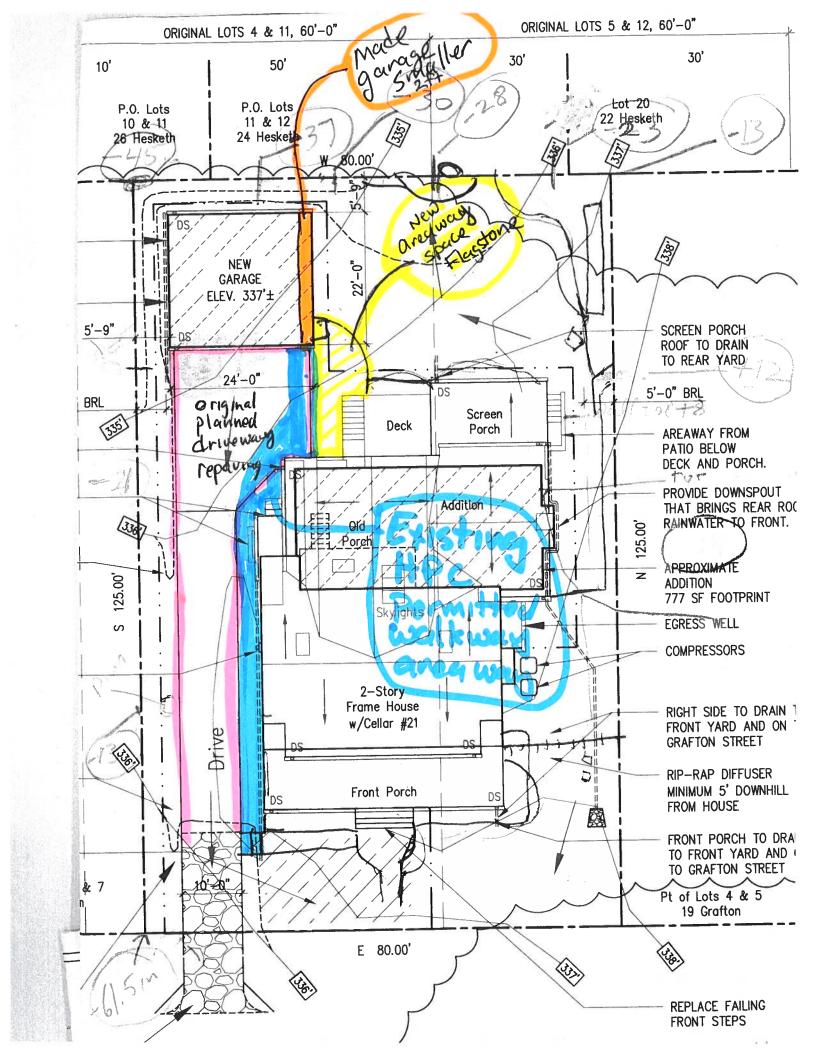
### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

	1. <u>W</u>	RITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT			
	ā.	Description of existing structure(s) and environmental setting, including their historical features and significance:  SEC affached			
	b,	General description of project and its effect on the historic resource(s), the environmental setting, and, where applicable, the historic district:  SCC affached			
2	<u> Şii</u>	<u>EPLAN</u>			
	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			
		site features such as walkways, driveways, fences, ponds, streams, trash dumpsters, mechanical equipment, and landscaping.			
3	PLA	NS 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	Schematic construction plans, with marked dimensions, indicating location, size and general type of walls, window and door openings, and othe ixed features of both the existing resource(s) and the proposed work.			
		levations (facades), with marked dimensions, clearly indicating proposed work in relation to existing construction and, when appropriate, context. Ill materials and fixtures proposed for the exterior must be noted on the elevations drawings. An existing and a proposed elevation drawing of each acade affected by the proposed work is required.			
4.	MAT	ERIALS SPECIFICATIONS			
	Gene desig	ral description of materials and manufactured items proposed for incorporation in the work of the project. This information may be included on your in drawings.			
5.	PHOT	TOGRAPHS			
	a. C	learly labeled photographic prints of each facade of existing resource, including details of the affected portions. All labels should be placed on the			
	b. Ci	learly 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 e front of photographs.			
5.	TREE	SURVEY			
	If you must f	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 file an accurate tree survey identifying the size, location, and species of each tree of at least that dimension.			
7.	ADDR	ESSES OF ADJACENT AND CONFRONTING PROPERTY OWNERS			
		L projects, provide an accurate list of adjacent and confronting property owners (not tenants), including names, addresses, and zip codes. This list 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 set/highway from the parcel in question.			

PLEASE PRINT (IN BLUE OR BLACK INK) OR TYPE THIS INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

# HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING

Owner's mailing address  Duane & Paula Gibson  21 Grafton St.  Chevy Chase MD 20815  Adjacent and confronting	Owner's Agent's mailing address  Douglas Mader  11307 Rokeby Ave.  Garrett Park MD 20896-0187  Property Owners mailing addresses
Howe/Pearson Residence	Dane Butswinkas
26 Hesketh St.	24 Hesketh St.
Chery Chase MD 20815	Chery Chase MD 20815
Bonnie Residence	The Ford Residence
19 Grafton St.	23 Grafton
Chery Chase MD 20815	Chery Chase MD 20815
Horwitz / Markman Residence	Ms. Nancy Crisman
30 Grafton St.	40 Grafton St.
Chery Chase MD 20815	Chery Chase MD 20815



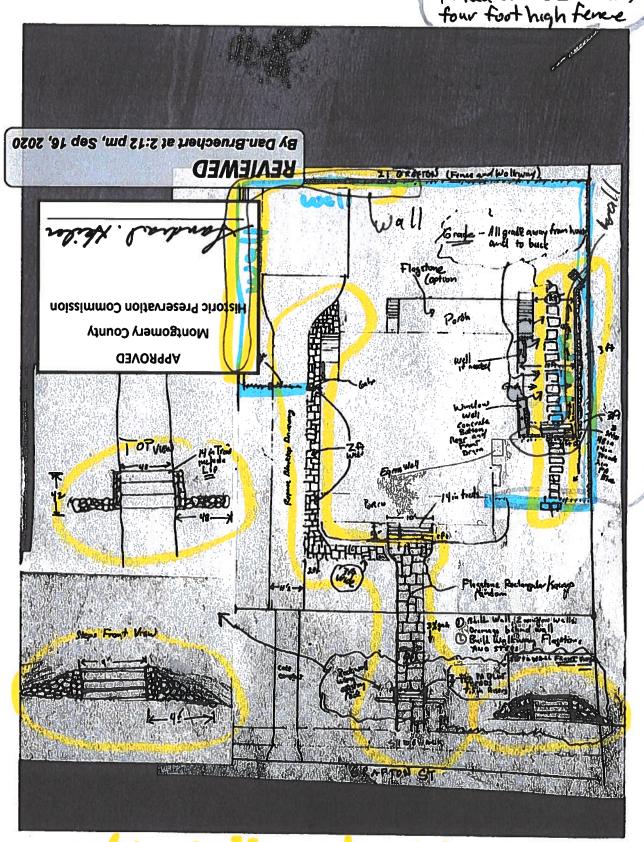








Modifical 9-14-20 in Red Circle Indicates four foothigh fence



Blue Line: Fence is removed from this application

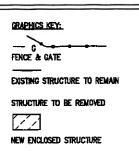
### **Design Development**

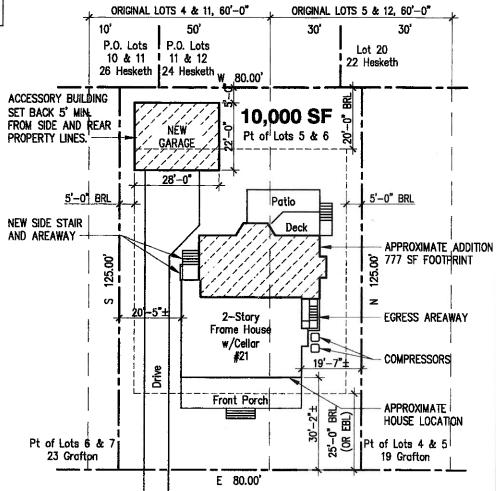
dd1 of 11	Architectural Site Plan
dd2 of 11	Lower Level Plan
dd3 of 11	First Floor Plan
dd4 of 11	Second Floor Plan
dd5 of 11	Third Floor Plan
dd6 of 11	Building Section A-A
dd7 of 11	Building Section B-B
dd8 of 11	Front Élevation
dd9 of 11	Right Side Elevation
dd10 of 11	Rear Elevation
dd11 of 11	Left Side Elevation

# For Homeonwers, Paula & Duane Gibson

PROJECT IS INTENDED TO PASS HISTORIC COMMISSION GUIDELINES.

PROPOSED LOT COVERAGE: 2,555 SF (1,939 SF HOUSE + 616 SF GARAGE)





### **Grafton Street**

SITE INFORMATION TAKEN FROM 1909 PLAT PLAN #106, CURRENT TAX RECORDS, AND MARCH 2019 SURVEY BY GOODE SURVEYS, LLC.

Block 24 Part of Lots 5 & 6

### **CHEVY CHASE**

Chevy Chase, MD Montgomery County

# **ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN**

**9CALE:** 1" = 30'

0 15' 30'



# Douglas Mader, AIA

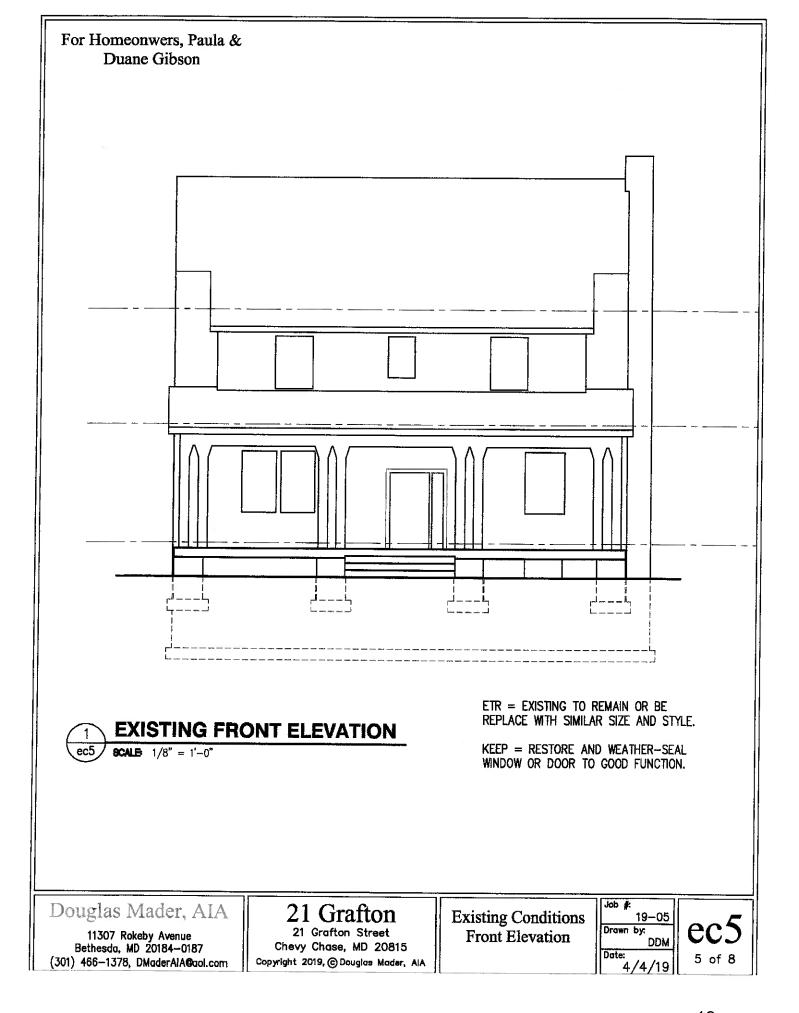
11307 Rokeby Avenue Garrett Park, MD 20896-0187 (301) 466-1378, DMaderAlA@aol.com

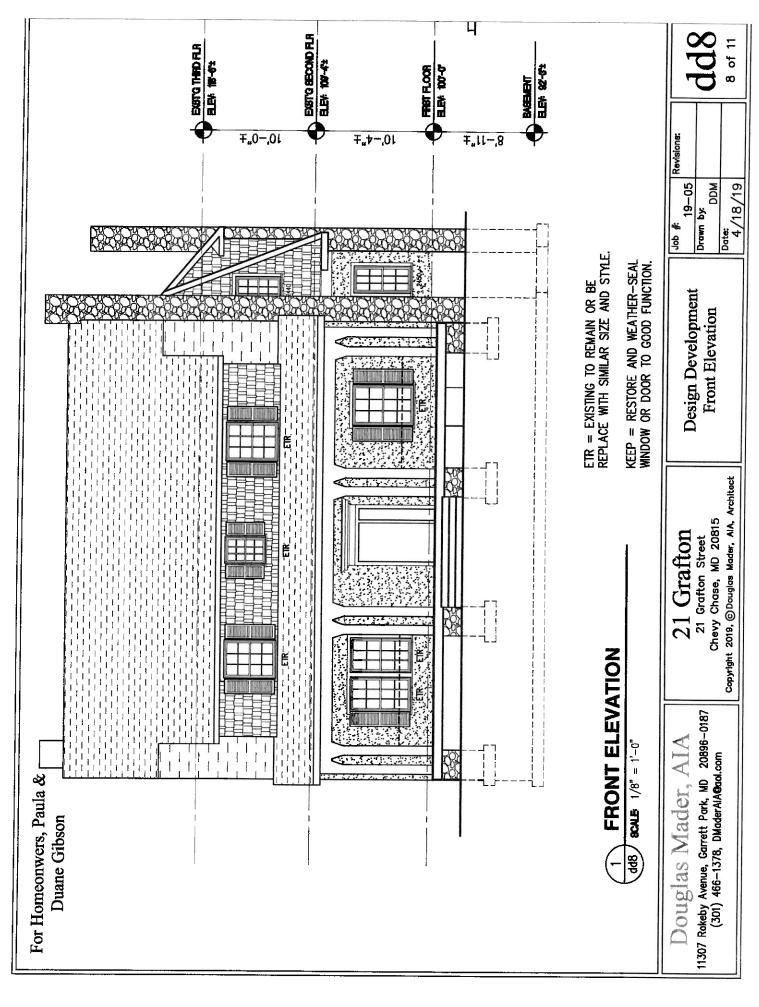
# 21 Grafton

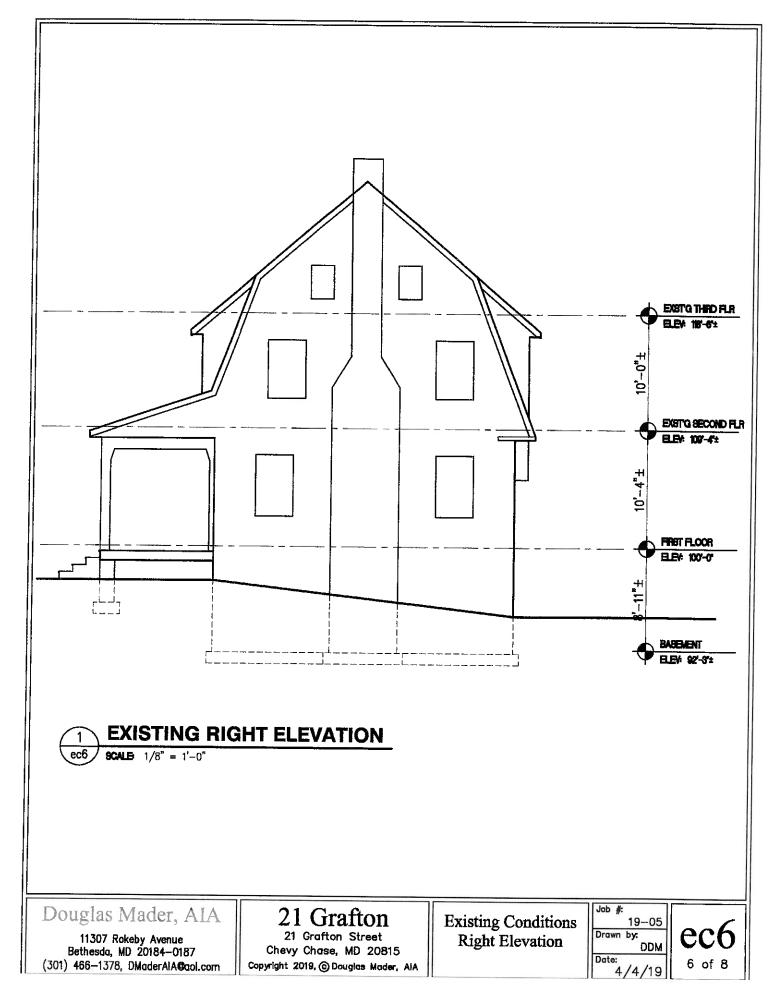
21 Grafton Street Chevy Chase, MD 20815 Copyright 2018, © Douglas Mader, AIA Design Development Architectural Site Plan

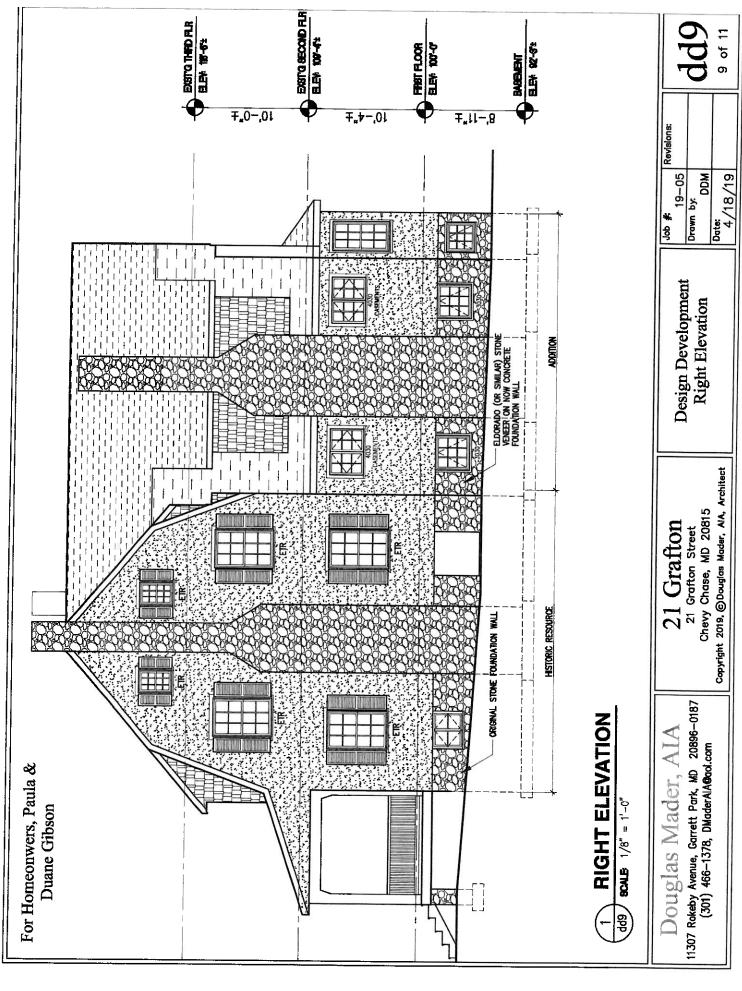
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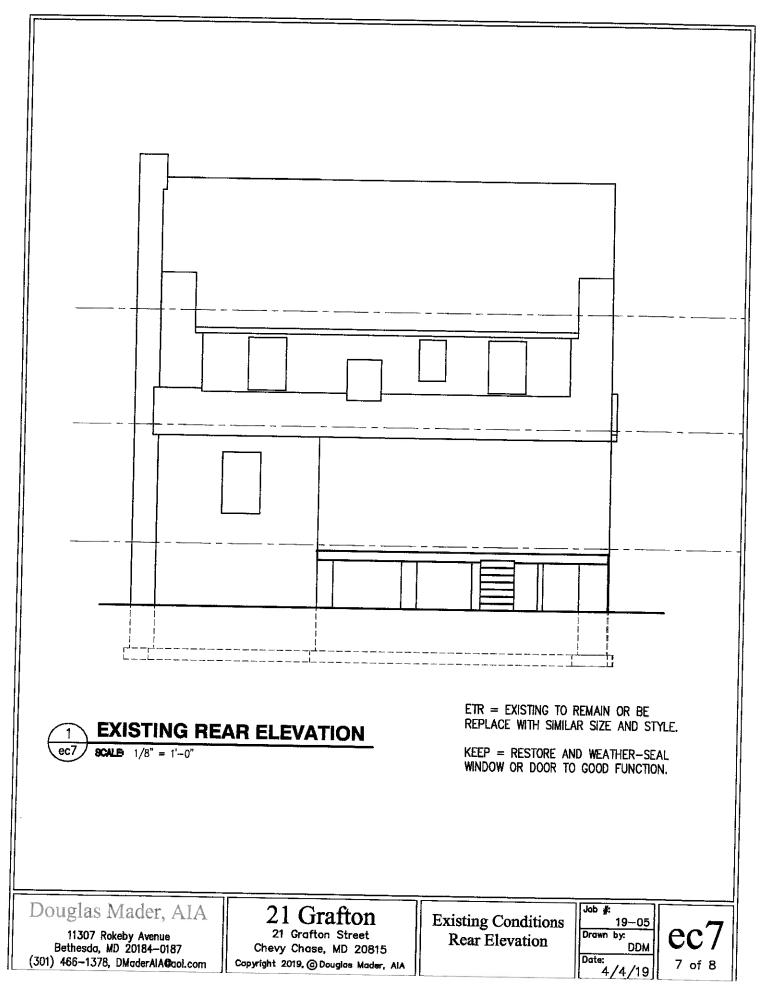
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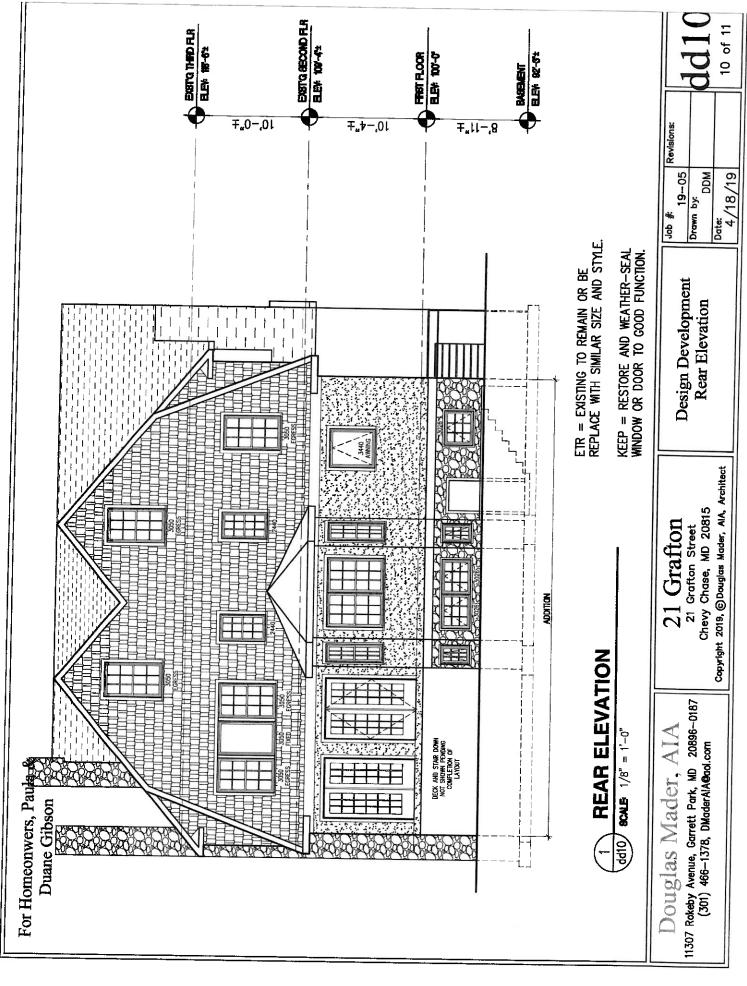


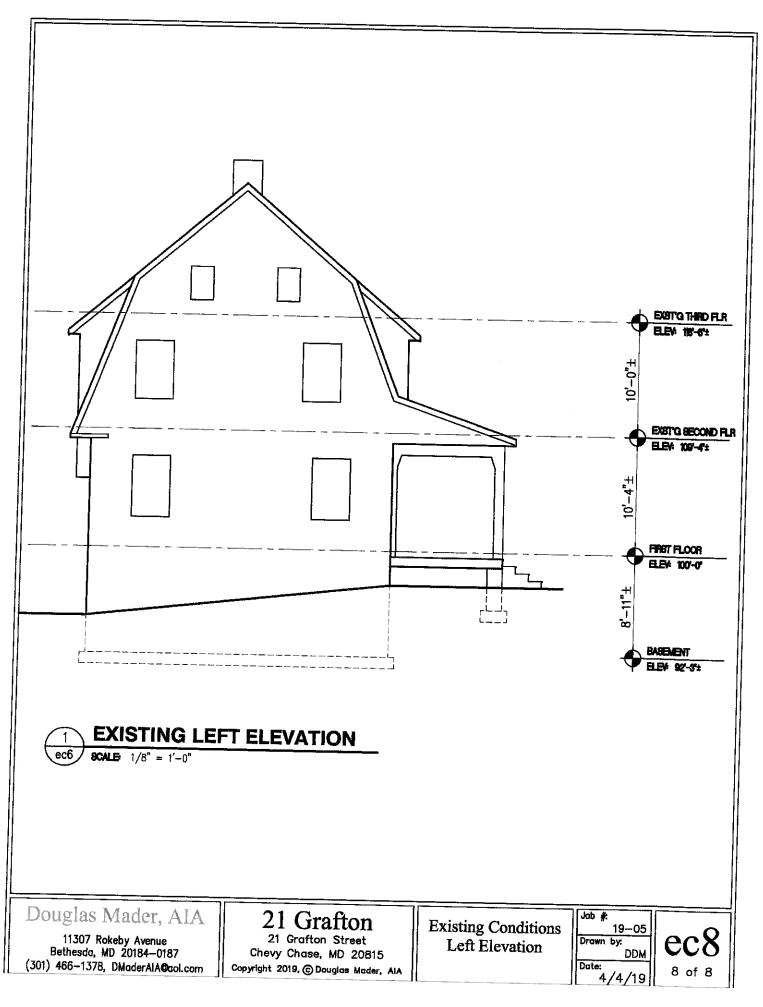


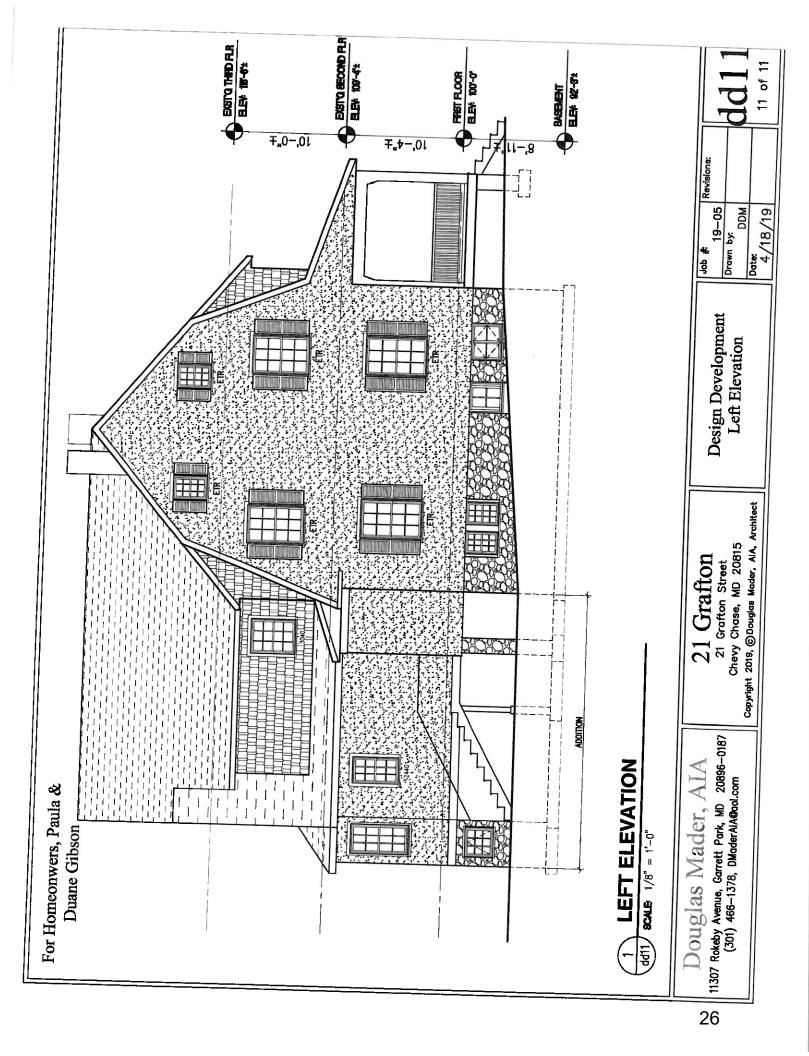


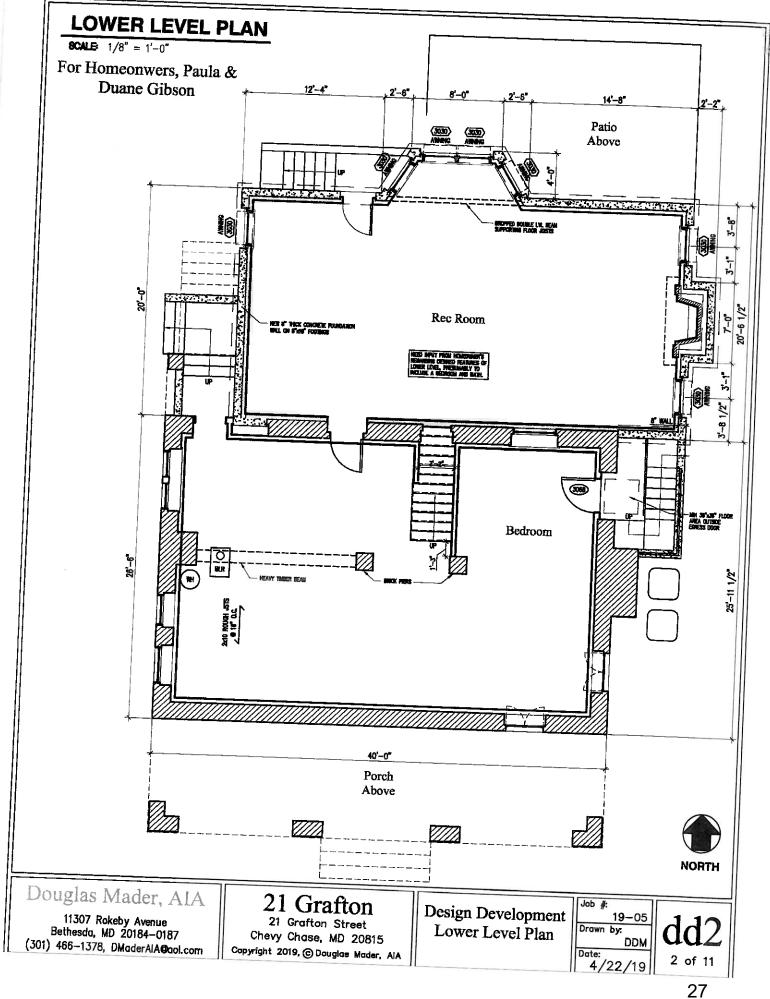


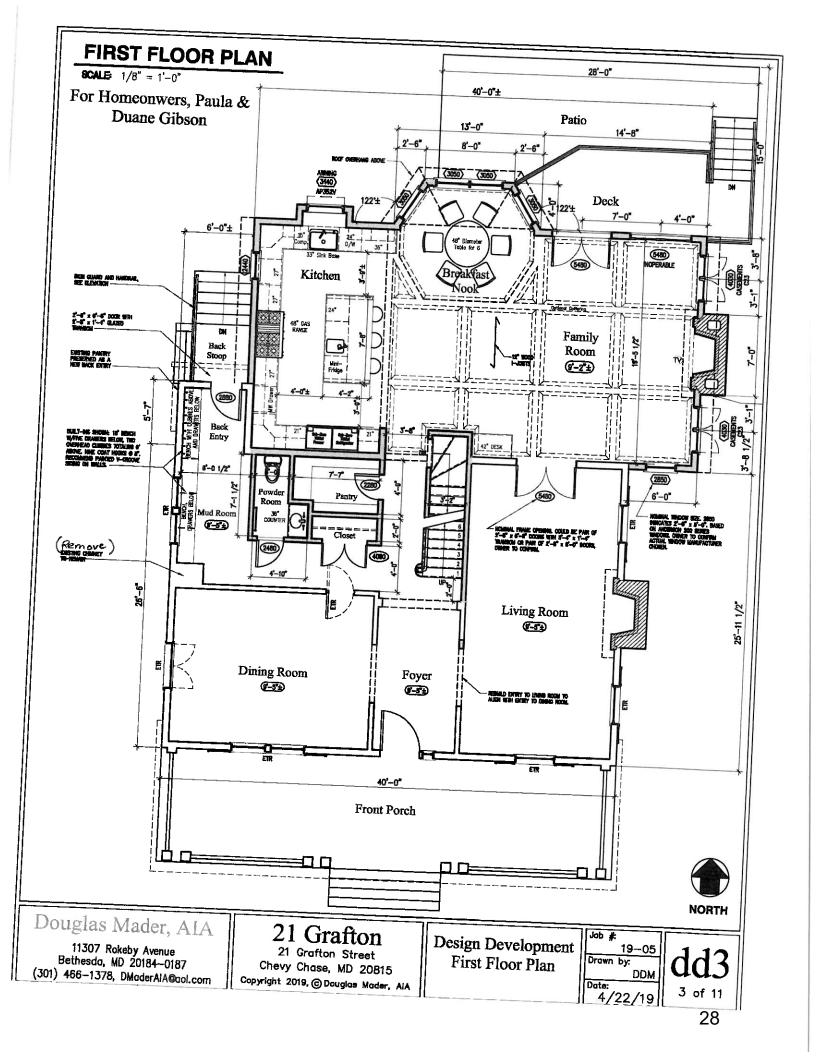


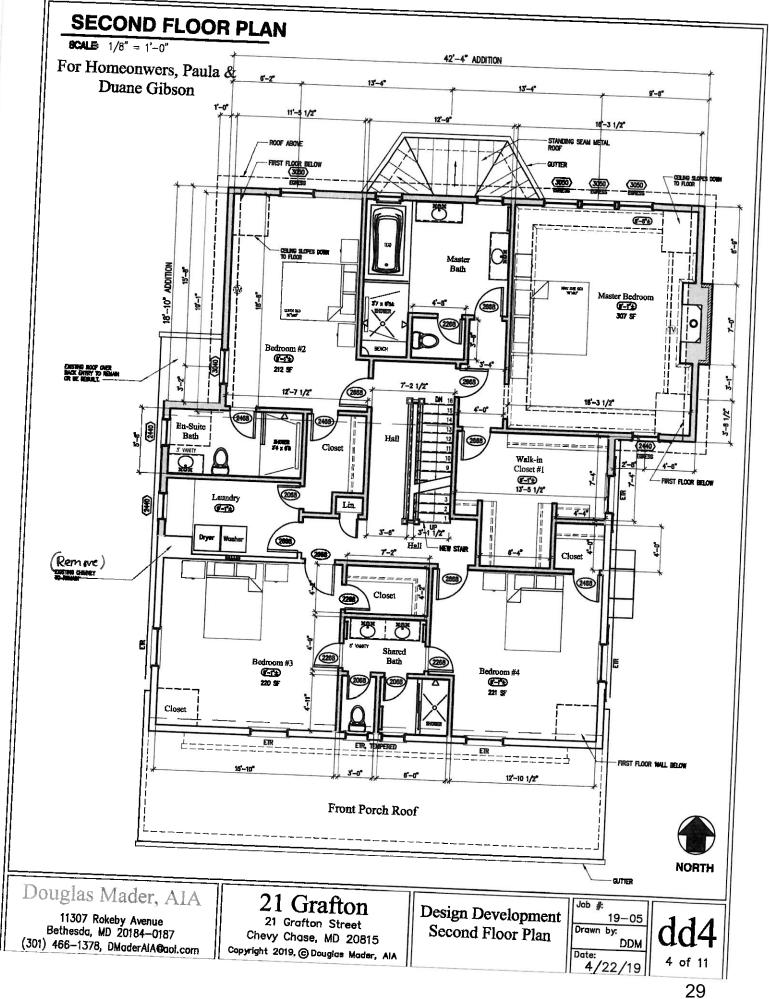


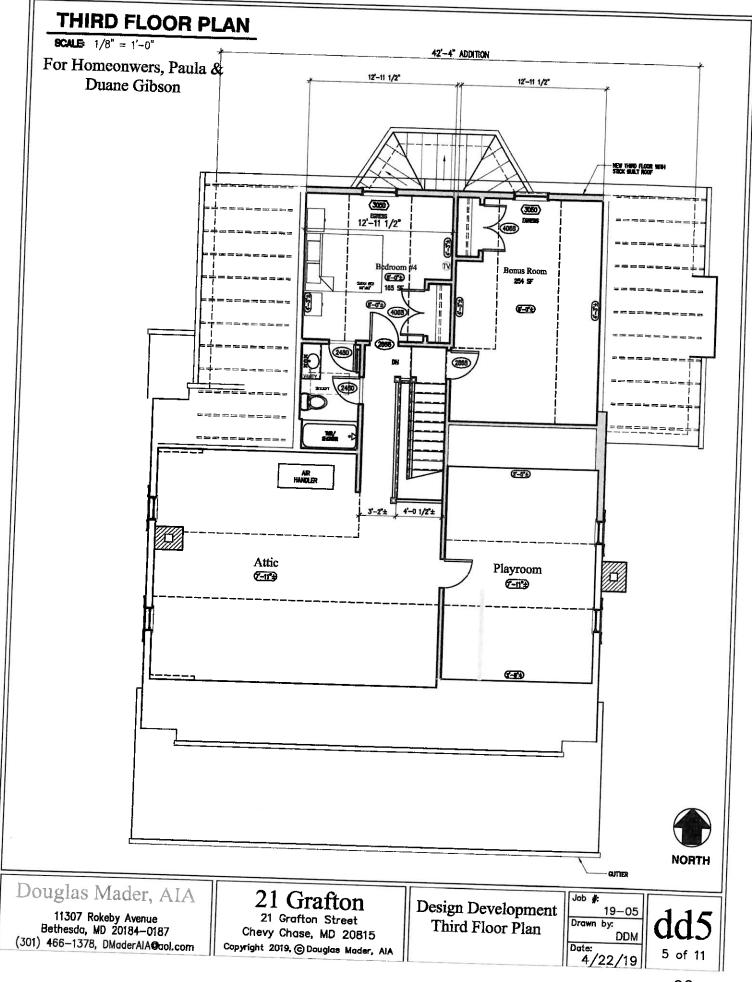












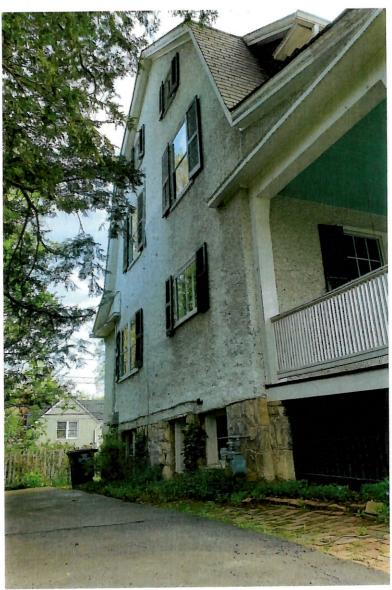
### Existing Property Condition Photographs (duplicate as needed)



FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION

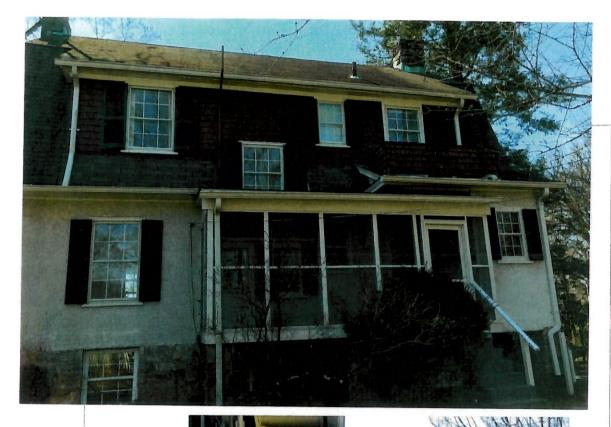


← WEST ELEVATION (LEFT SIDE)





Applicant: GIBSON



Detail:\_

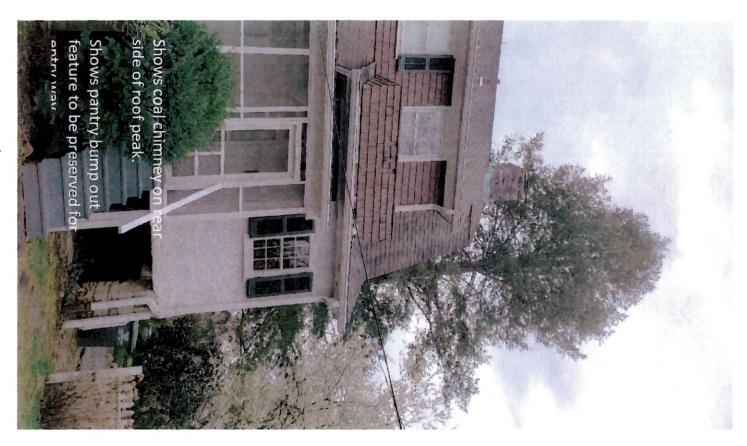


← 1977 porch addition (to be removed)

Detail:\_

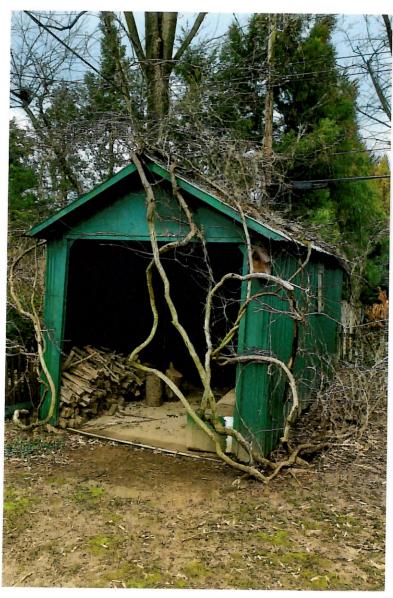
Applicant: GIBSON

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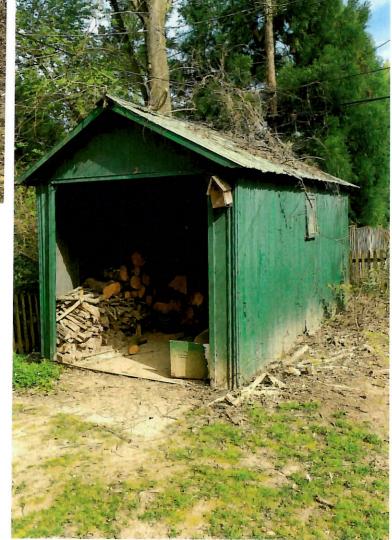


Rear Chimney shown via back/west elevation (left side)





EXISTING METAL GARAGE/SHED FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

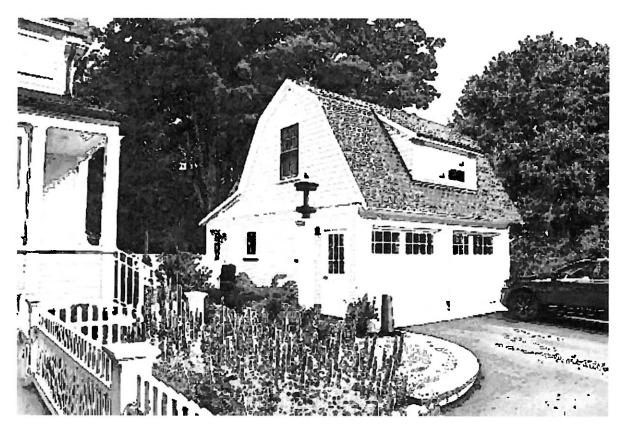


← Rotting & Deteriorating Metal Shed/garage (BACK SIDE)

Varying fence heights

of reighboring yards

Deteriorating Right Side of Sted /garage



POSSIBLE SHED/GARAGE DESIGN



Rear yard-note close locations of additions, garages, and homes



