

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Address:	3944 Baltimore Street, Kensington	Meeting Date:	11/18/2020
Resource:	Primary Resource Kensington Historic District	Report Date:	11/11/2020
Applicant:	Meredith Sharp	Public Notice:	11/4/2020
Review:	HAWP	Staff:	Dan Bruechert
Case Number:	31/06-200	Tax Credit:	n/a
Proposal:	Building Addition		

RECOMMENDATION

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

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Primary Resource to the Kensington Historic District
STYLE: Colonial Revival/Queen Anne
DATE: c. 1898

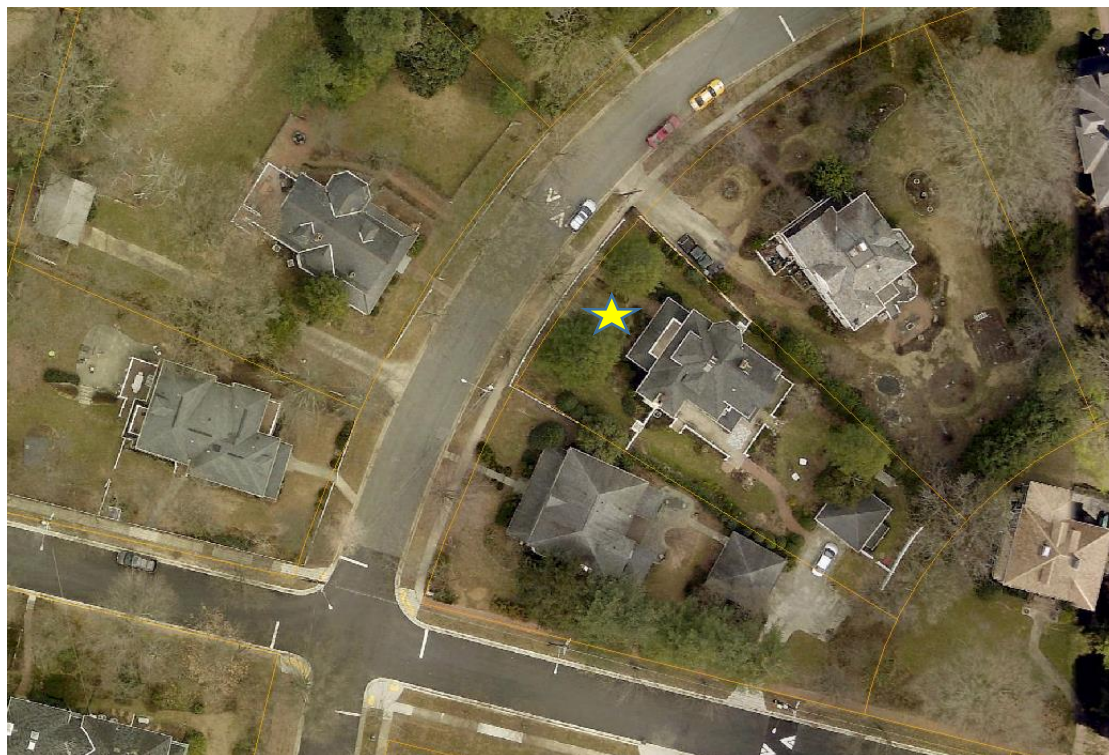


Figure 1: The property at 3944 Baltimore St. is a wedge-shaped lot.

BACKGROUND

The HPC held a preliminary consultation for the subject property on March 3, 2020.¹ The HPC was generally supportive of the proposal and found the size and scale of the proposal appropriate, although, many Commissioners voiced that they found the 1st floor rear gable was oversized, the Commissioners acknowledged that this feature was on the rear and would not be visible from the right-of-way. The applicant has made minor design revisions and seeks HAWP approval.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to construct an addition to the rear and side of the house and to expand the rear deck.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

Kensington Historic District Guidelines

When reviewing alterations and new construction within the Kensington Historic District several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include the *Approved & Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Kensington Historic District, Atlas #31/6 (Amendment)*, *Vision of Kensington: A Long-Range Preservation Plan (Vision)*, *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.

Vision of Kensington: A Long-Range Preservation Plan

The HPC formally adopted the planning study, *Vision of Kensington: A Long-Range Preservation Plan*, and is directed by the Executive Regulations, which were approved by the County Council, to use this plan when considering changes and alterations to the Kensington Historic District. The goal of this preservation plan "was to establish a sound database of information from, which to produce a document that would serve the HPC, M-NCPPC, their staff and the community in wrestling with the protection of historic districts amidst the pressures of life in the 21st century." (page 1). The plan provides a specific physical description of the district as it is; an analysis of character-defining features of the district; a discussion of the challenges facing the district; and a discussion of proposed strategies for maintaining the character of the district while allowing for appropriate growth and change.

The *Vision* identifies the following, as those features that help define the character of Kensington's built environment:

- Building Setbacks: Residential and Commercial Patterns
- Rhythm of Spacing between Buildings
- Geographic and Landscape Features
- Scale and Building Height
- Directional Expression of Building
- Roof Forms and Material

¹ The Staff Report from the March 3, 2020 Preliminary Consultation is available here: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/II.C-3944-Baltimore-Street-Kensington.pdf> and the audio recording of the meeting is available here: http://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=158f9cd6-6480-11ea-99b9-0050569183fa.

- Porches
- Dominant Building Material
- Outbuildings
- Integrity of Form, Building Condition, and Threats
- Architectural Style

The *Amendment* notes that:

The district is architecturally significant as a collection of late 19th and early 20th century houses exhibit a variety of architectural styles popular during the Victorian period including Queen Anne, Shingle, Eastlake, and Colonial Revival. The houses share a uniformity of scale, setbacks, and construction materials that contribute to the cohesiveness of the district's streetscapes. This uniformity, coupled with the dominant design inherent in Warner's original plan of subdivision, conveys a strong sense of both time and place, that of a Victorian garden suburb.

Montgomery County Code, Chapter 24A Historic Resources Preservation

(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;

(c) It is not the intent of this chapter to limit new construction, alteration or repairs to any 1 period or architectural style.

(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:

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, space and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportions, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will 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 to construct a rear addition to the house at 3944 Baltimore St. The historic house was previously expanded at the rear, (see the Sanborn map below in *Figure 2*), and the proposed addition will add on to this later construction. On the first floor, the additions consist of a mudroom/pantry in the

southwest corner of the house and an extension of the rear wall. The rear/side deck will also be expanded. On the second floor, the applicant proposes installing a new bathroom in the southwest corner. A third-floor exterior wall will be relocated, which alters the roofline. All work will occur to the rear/rear corner of the house and will only have a minimal impact on the surrounding streetscape. The addition will be sided to match the existing and the roof will be covered in architectural shingles to match the existing roof. The windows and doors in the proposed addition will be wood throughout.

Staff's research demonstrates that the current configuration of the house has been altered from its historic configuration, as shown in the Sanborn map (below). The rear of the house was given a three-story rear addition. The large side/rear porch was also constructed in the latter part of the 20th century.

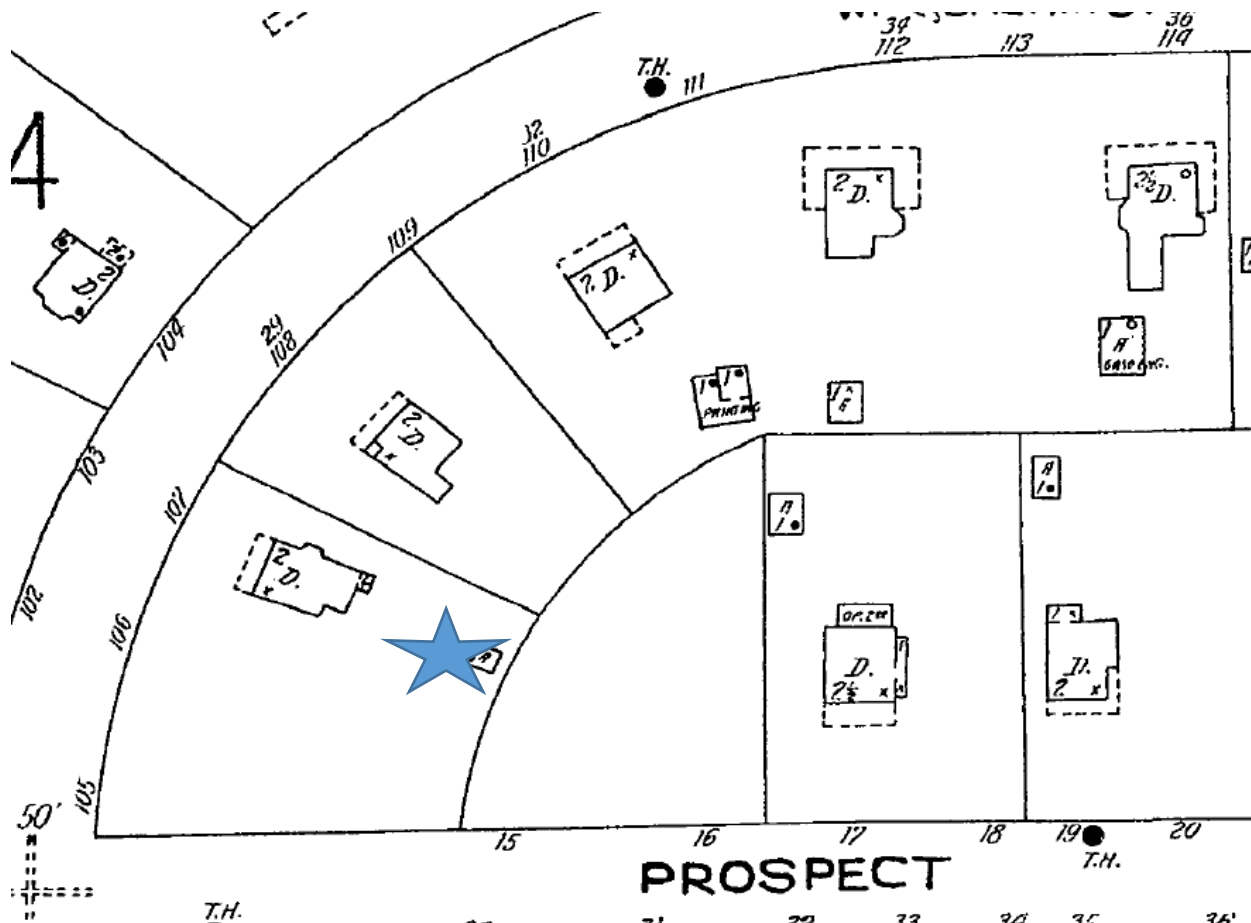


Figure 2: 1924 Sanborn map showing a rectangular house shape that has been altered by non-historic, rear additions.

First Floor Alterations

On the first floor, the applicant proposes to expand the house to the rear and to construct a new mudroom/pantry in the southwest corner. All of this work will be at the rear of the house and will not be visible from the public right-of-way due to the right (south) projecting L. The proposed change that will be visible from the right-of-way is the expansion of the side porch. The existing porch is co-planer with the right side-L.

The south wall in the proposal presented at the Preliminary Consultation, projected approximately 3' (three feet). The south wall of the revised proposal is now co-planer with the historic wall plane and the

proposed screened-in porch. Staff finds that the revised proposal will have less visual impact on the surrounding streetscape than the prior proposal. Staff additionally finds the screened-in porch provides a sufficient visual break between the historic construction and the new.

Staff finds that the proposed rear addition and deck will not impact the historic character of the house or the surrounding district when viewed from the right of way.

Second Floor Alterations

The applicant proposes to construct a bathroom in the southwest corner of the second floor. The bathroom will have two casement windows in the south and west elevations. Due to the shape of the house and placement of this room, this change will only be visible from Prospect Street through the neighboring property. Staff finds that this change will not have a significant impact on the size and scale of the house and is generally appropriate. Both the Staff and HPC agreed that this feature was in keeping with the character of the house and its placement was appropriate under the requisite guidance.

Third Floor Alteration

On the third floor, the applicant proposes to reconfigure a closet in the southwest corner, which will require an alteration to the roofline in this corner. No windows are proposed for this reconfiguration and only roof shingles will cover this new structure. Staff finds that this work will not be visible from the public right-of-way and will not impact the historic character of the house and will only have a minimal impact on the massing of this section.

Staff finds that, overall, the size of the project does not overwhelm the historic house and is compatible in size, design, and materials with the historic. Staff recommends the HPC approve the proposal under 24A-8(b)(2) and (d) and Standards 2, 9, and 10.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

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 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;

and with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2, 9, and 10*;

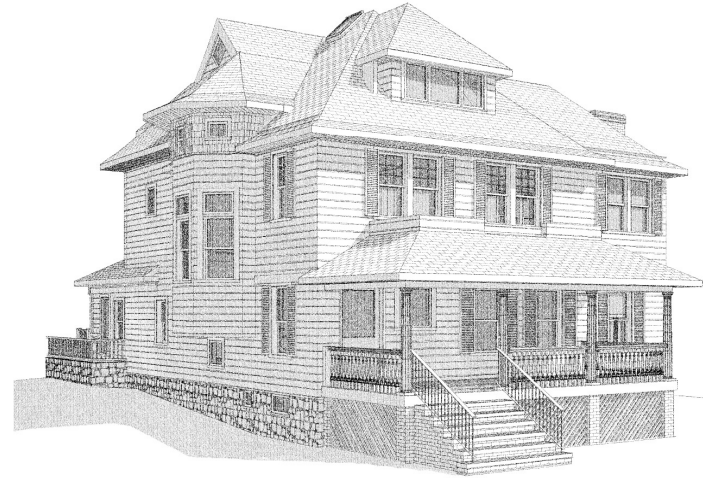
and with the general condition that the applicant shall present the **3 permit sets of drawings, if applicable, to Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) staff for review and stamping** prior to submission for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) building permits;

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.



Front Left Perspective Existing



Front Left Perspective Proposed



Front Right Perspective Existing



Front Right Perspective Proposed

Rear Left Perspective- Existing

Rear Left Perspective- Proposed

Rear Left Perspective- Existing

Rear Left Perspective- Proposed

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final

ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20

DRAWN BY: VGL



Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895

MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.

7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

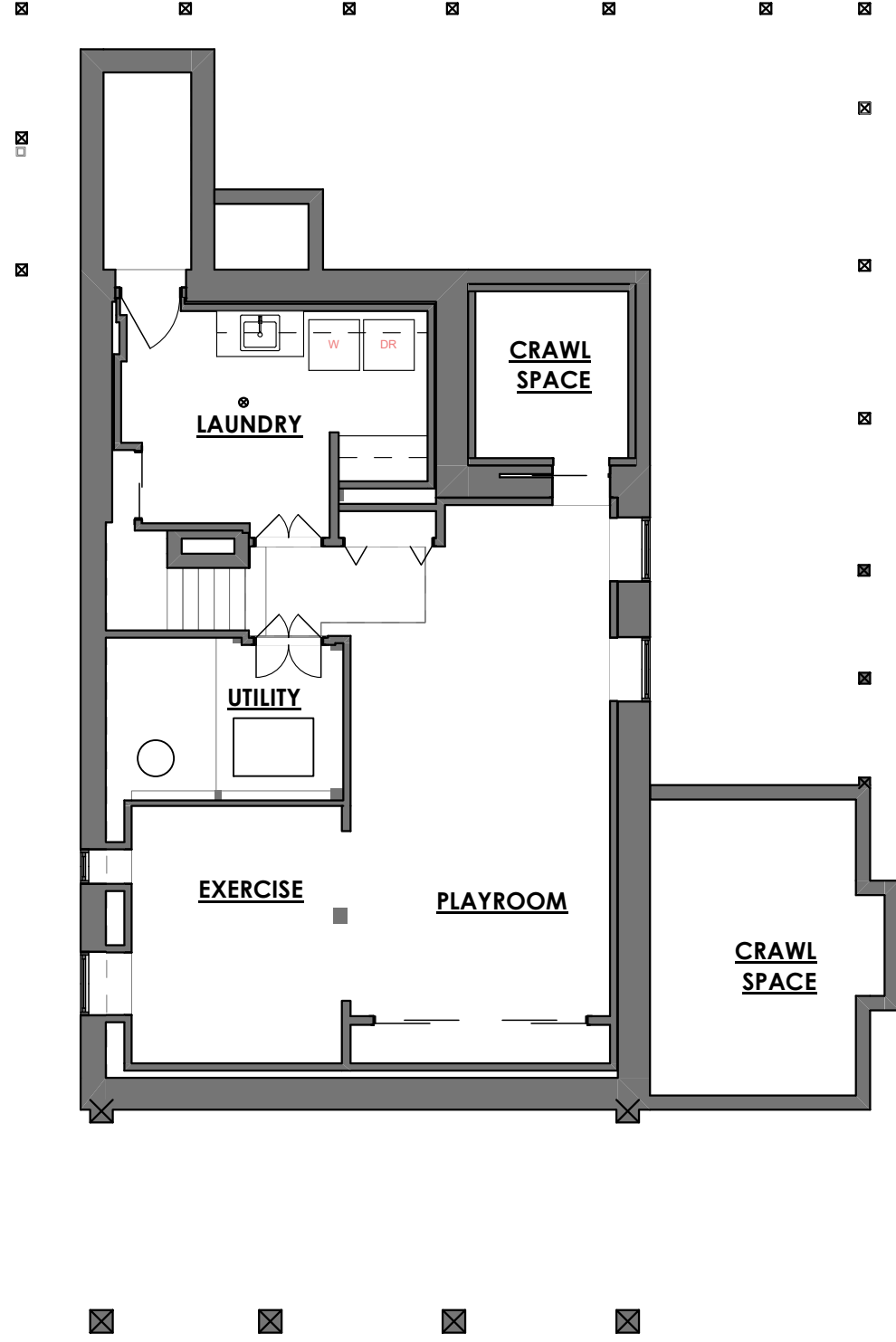
3D Views

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

1
H.1.3

Basement Floor - Existing

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Prelim. Scheme Historic Review

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final

ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20

DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
 3944 Baltimore St
 Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
 7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816

T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

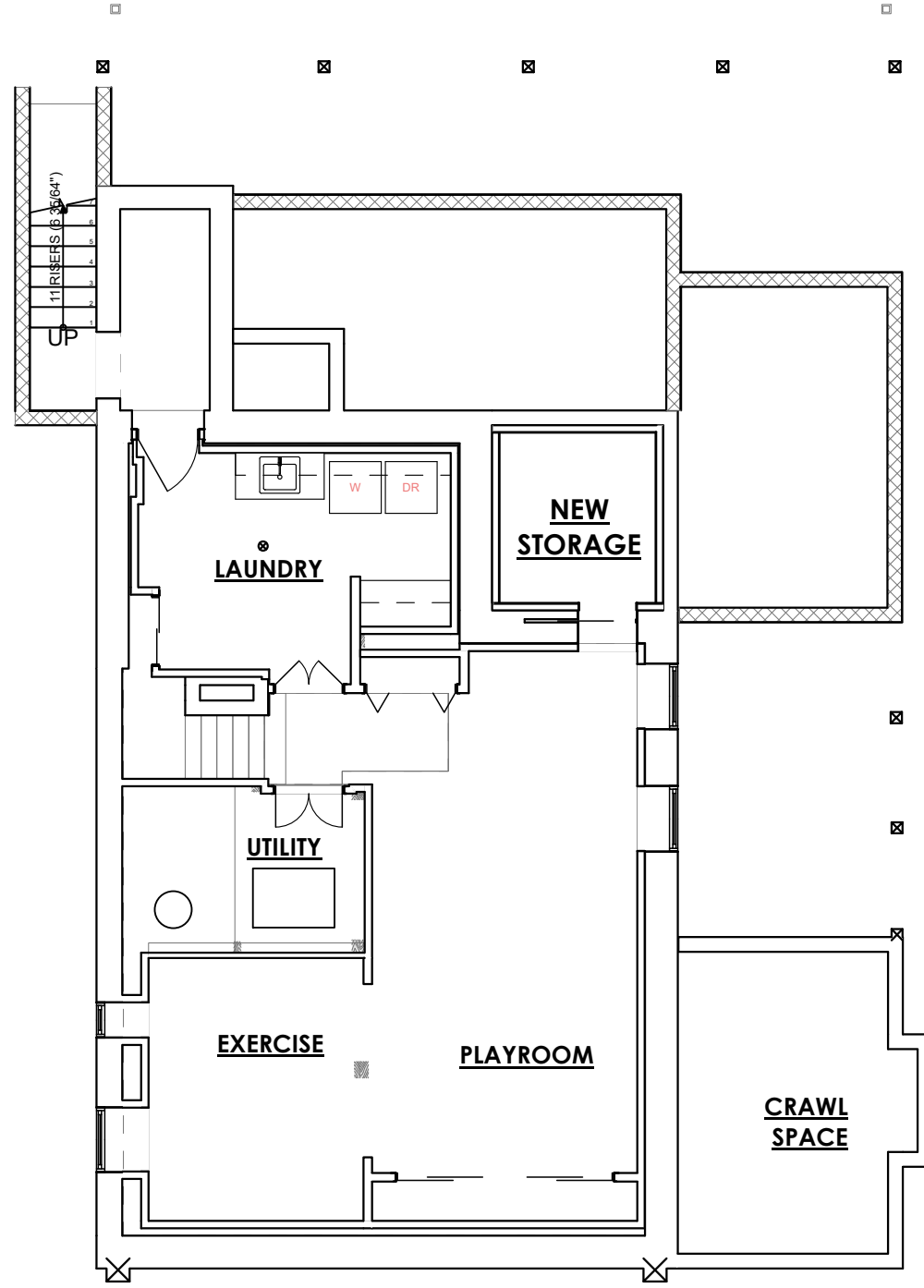
Basement Floor Plan - Existing

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

1
H.1.4

Basement Floor-Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
 ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
 DRAWN BY: VGL

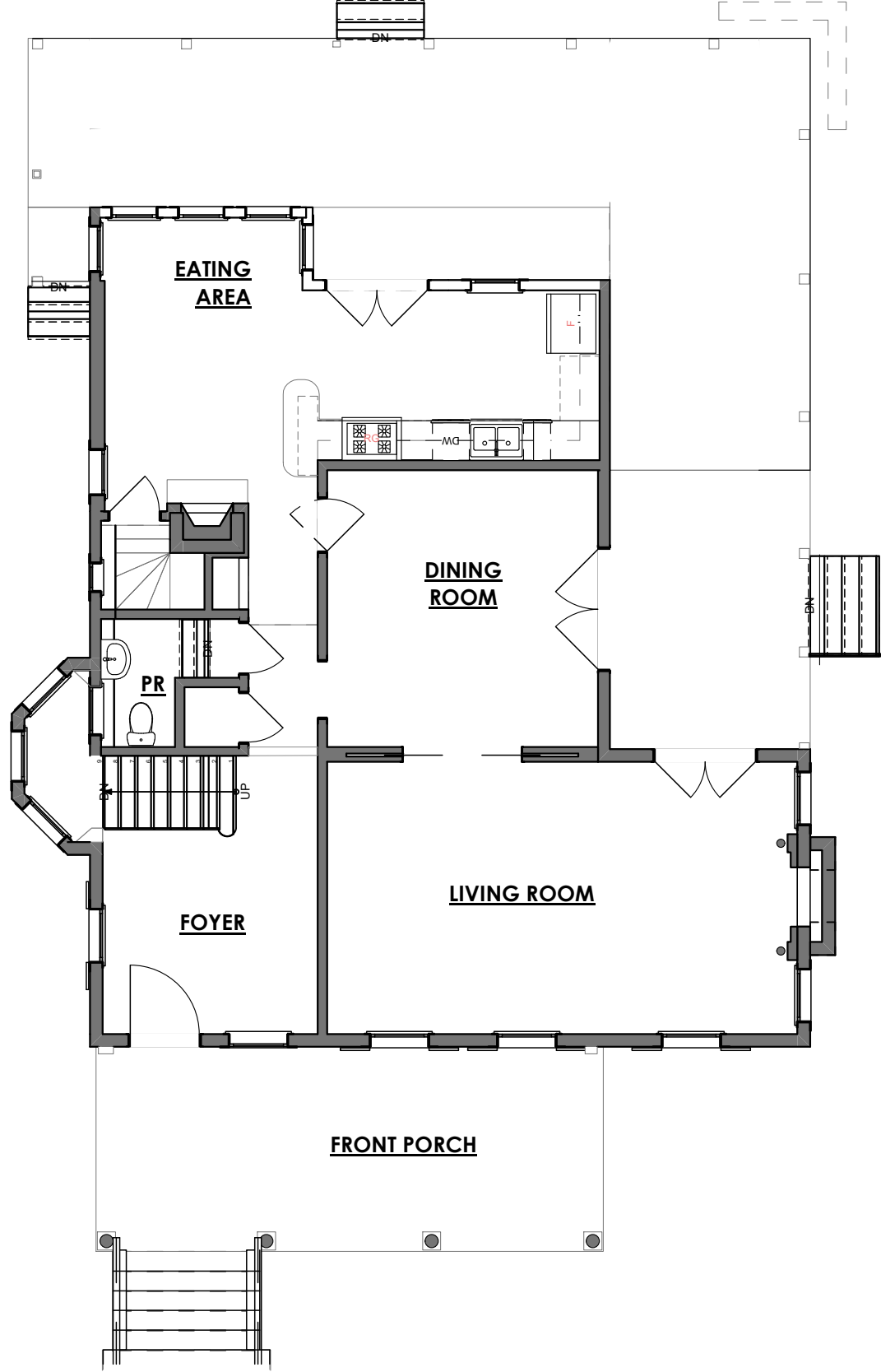
Sharp Residence
 3944 Baltimore St
 Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
 7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
 T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

Basement Floor Plan - Proposed

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



1
H.1.5

First Floor (Existing)

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

**Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

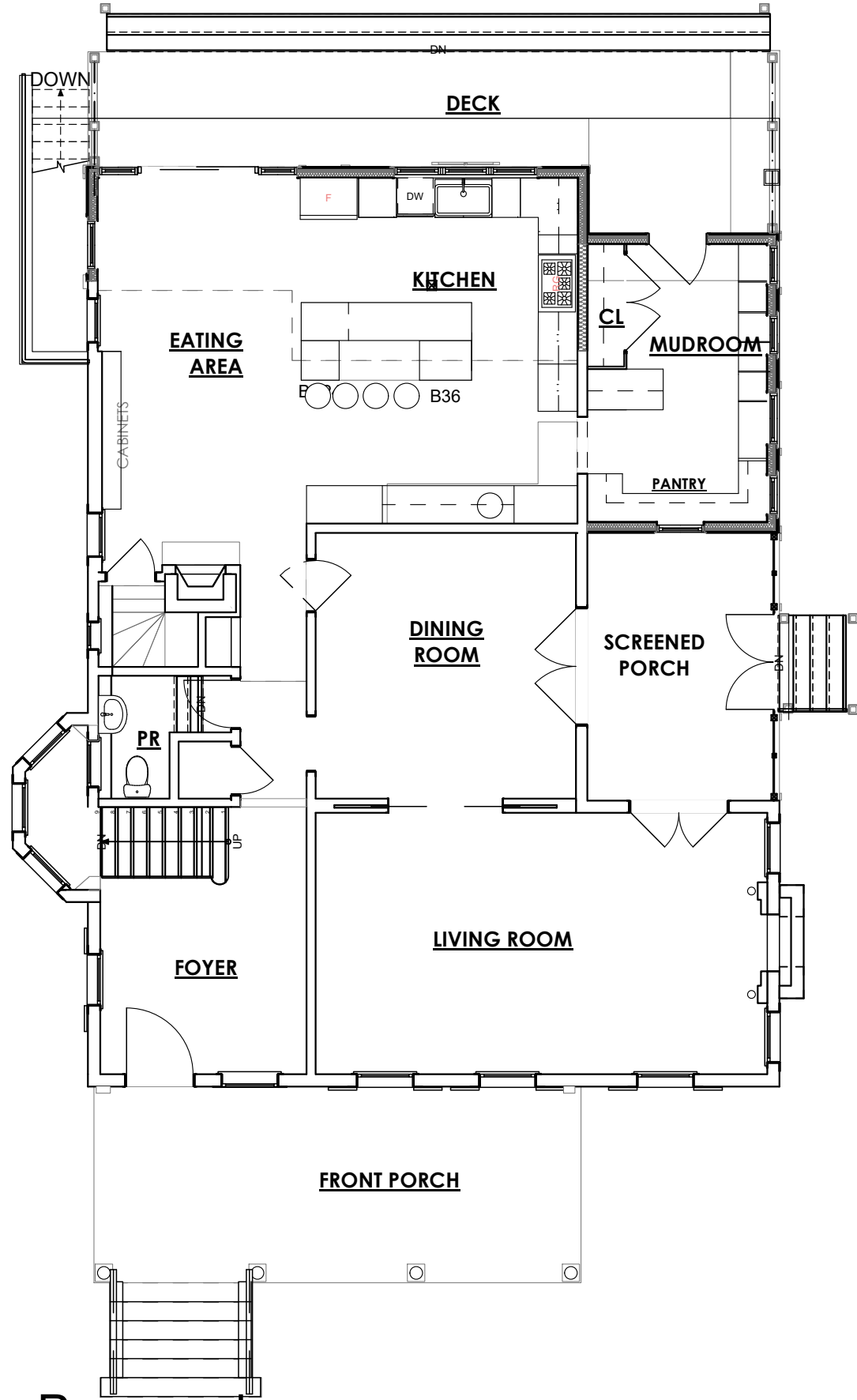
Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

First Floor - Existing

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



1
H.1.6

First Floor- Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

**Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

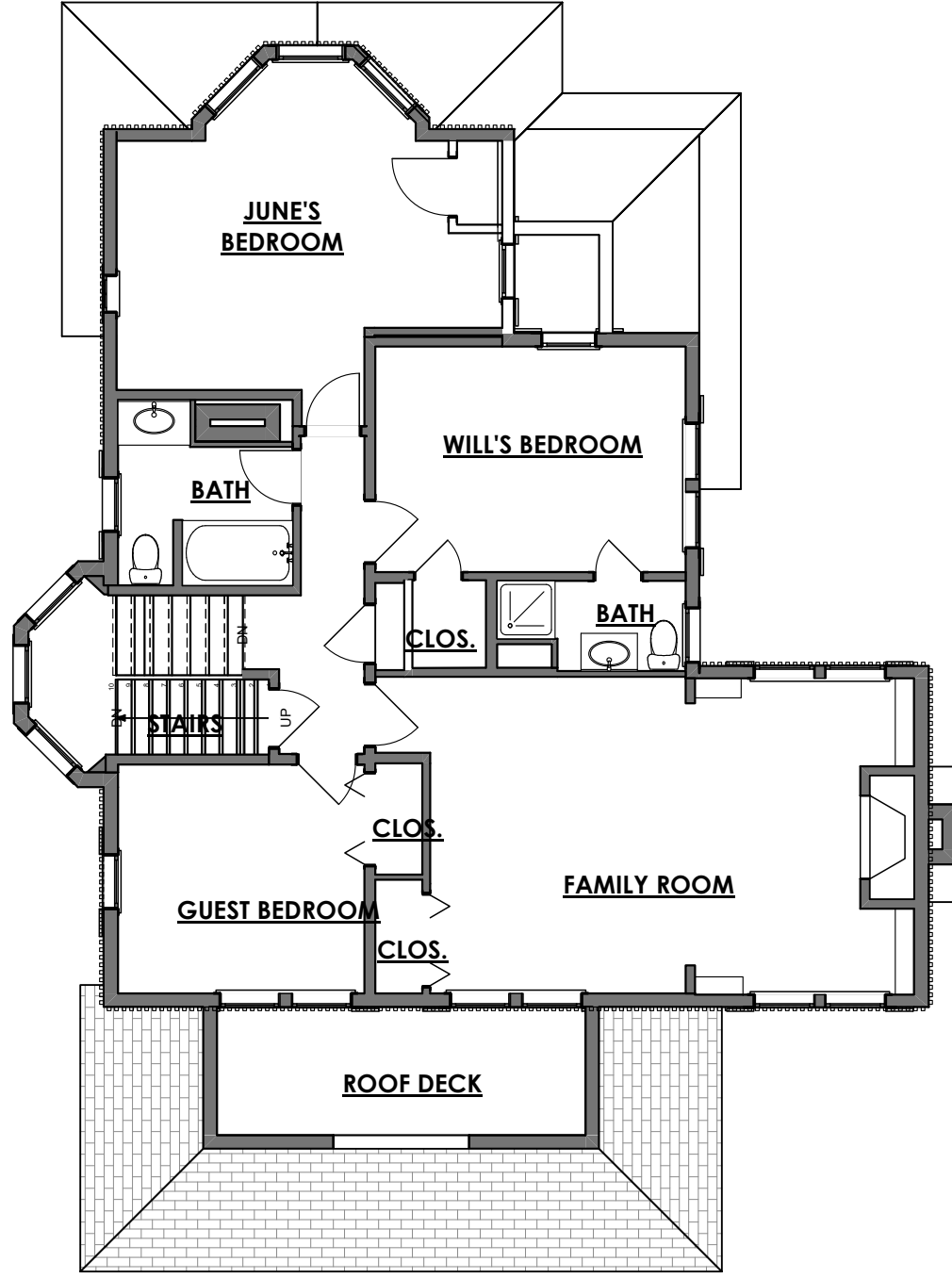
Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

First Floor-Proposed

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



1
H.1.7

Second Floor - Existing

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final

ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20

DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895

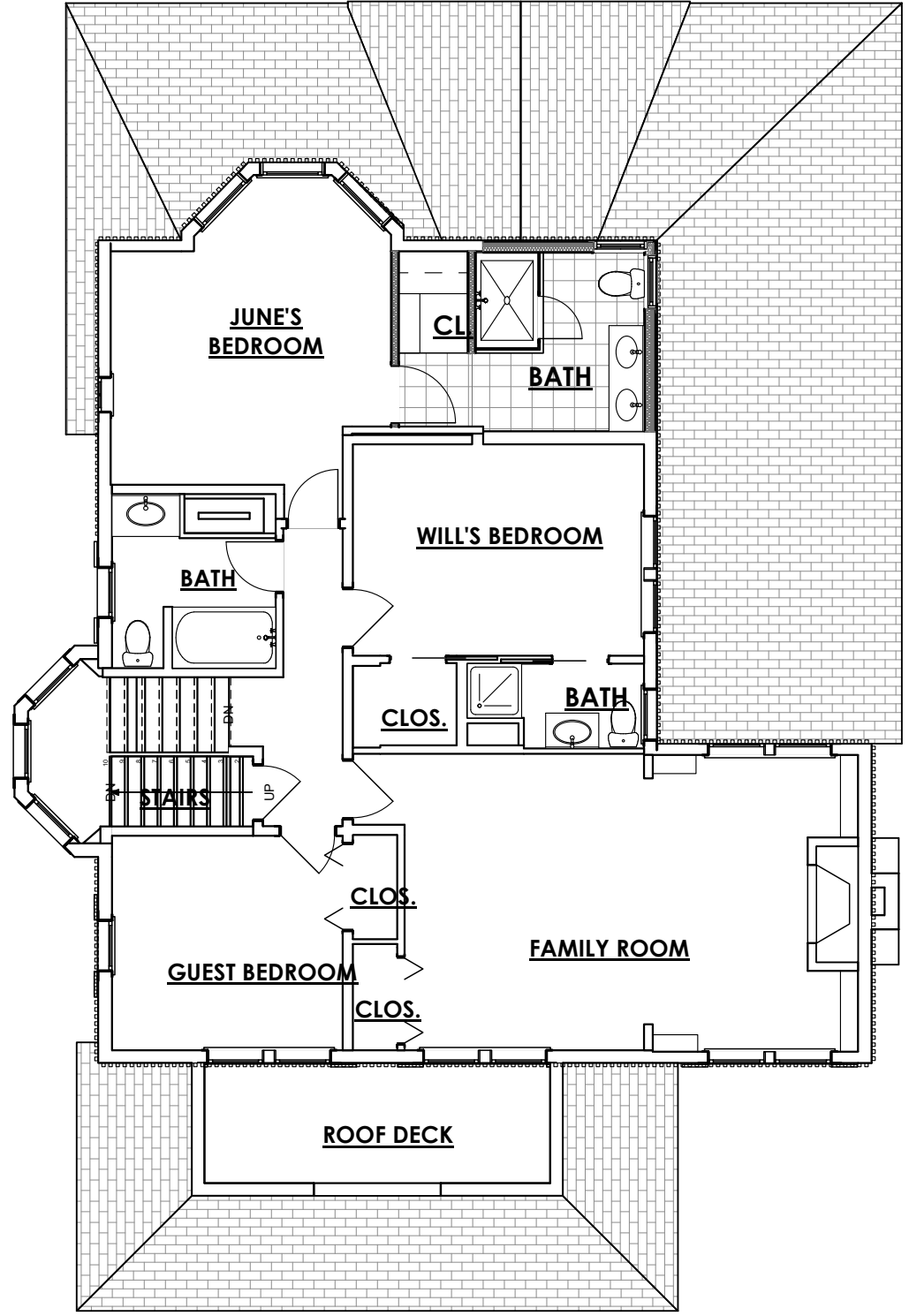
Second Floor - Existing



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.

7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



1
H.1.8

Second Floor -Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

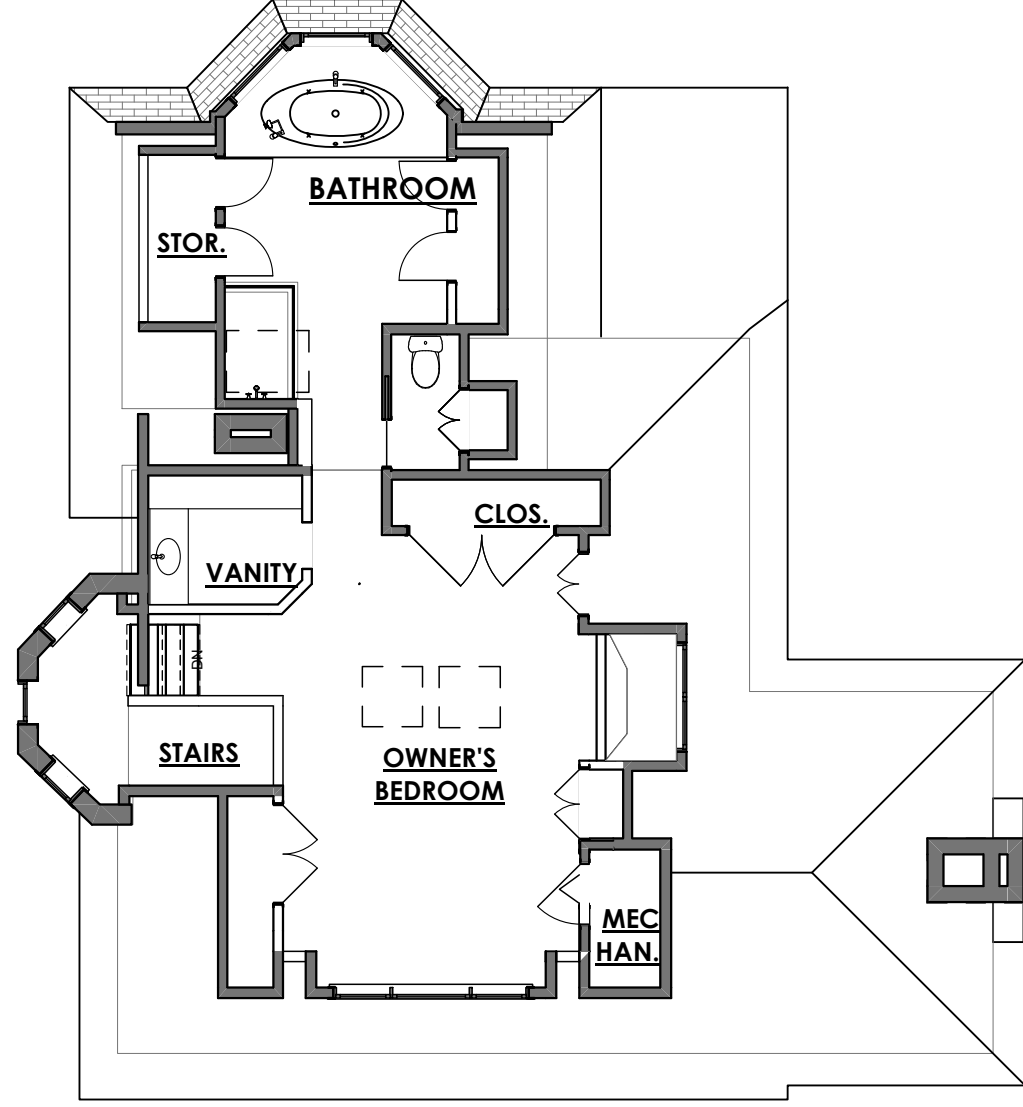
Second Floor - Proposed

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

1
H.1.9

Third Floor- Existing

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Prelim. Scheme Historic Review

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
 ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
 DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
 3944 Baltimore St
 Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
 7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
 T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

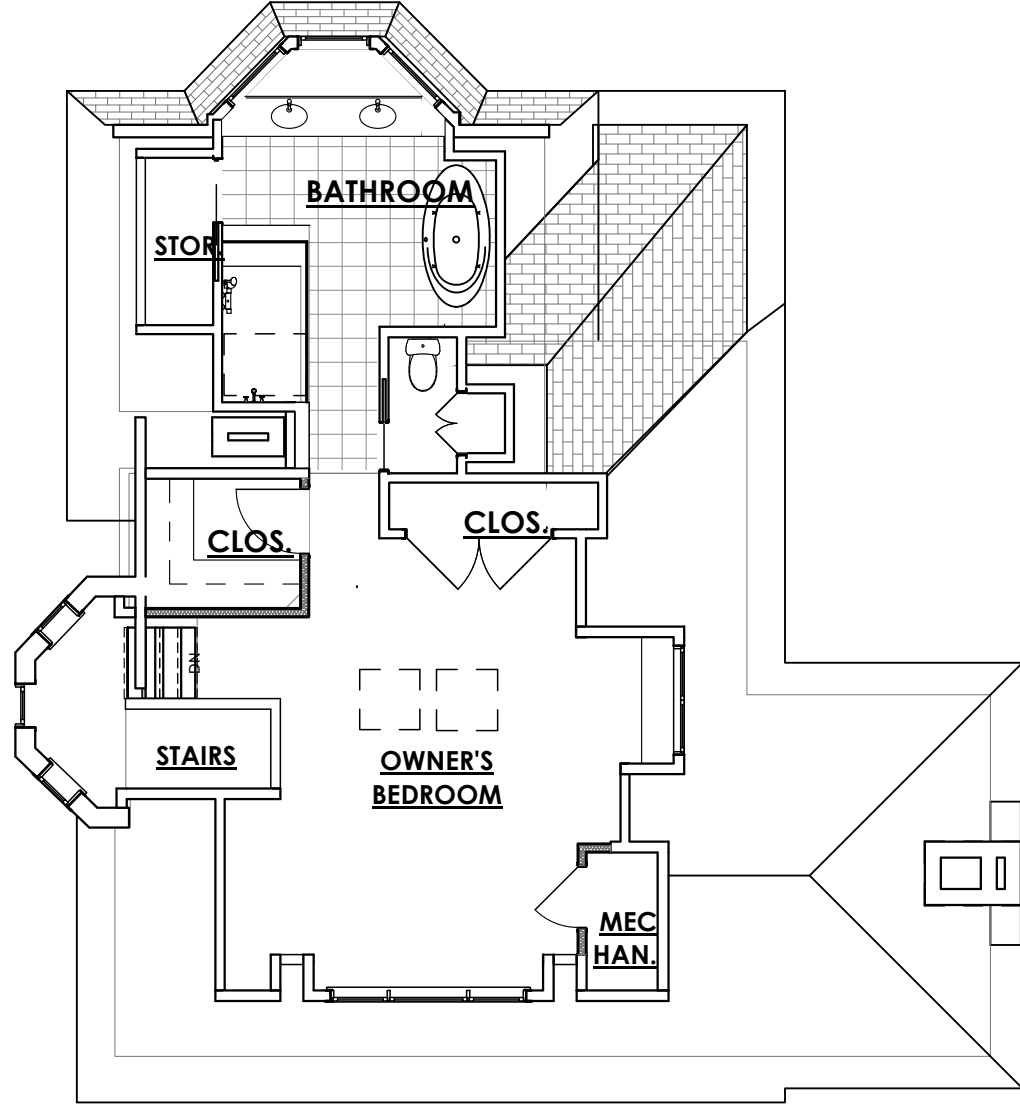
Third Floor - Existing

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

1
H.1.10

Third Floor- Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Prelim. Scheme Historic Review

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
 ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
 DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
 3944 Baltimore St
 Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
 7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
 T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

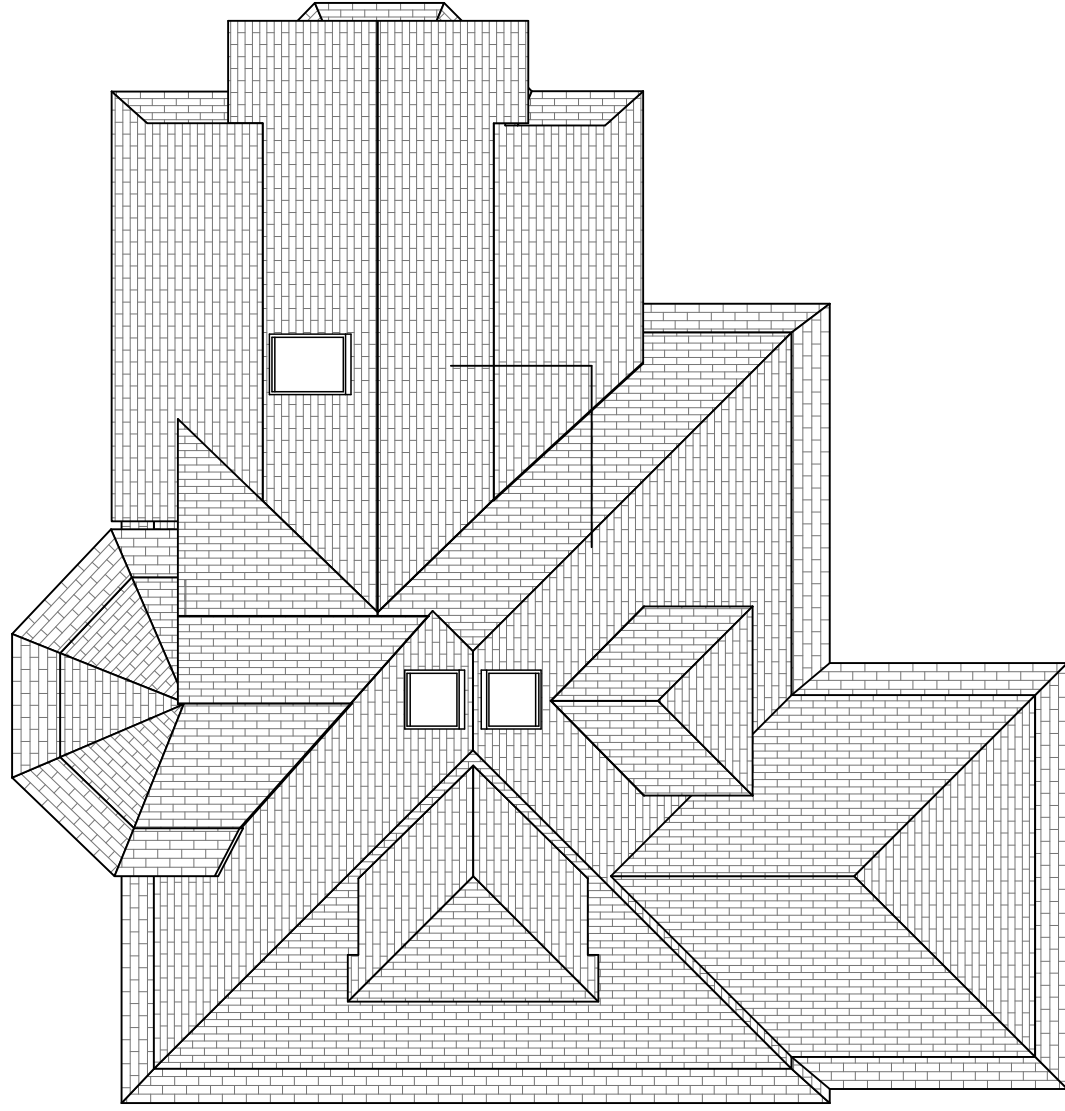
Third Floor - Proposed

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

1
H.1.11

Roof Plan- Existing

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Prelim. Scheme Historic Review

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

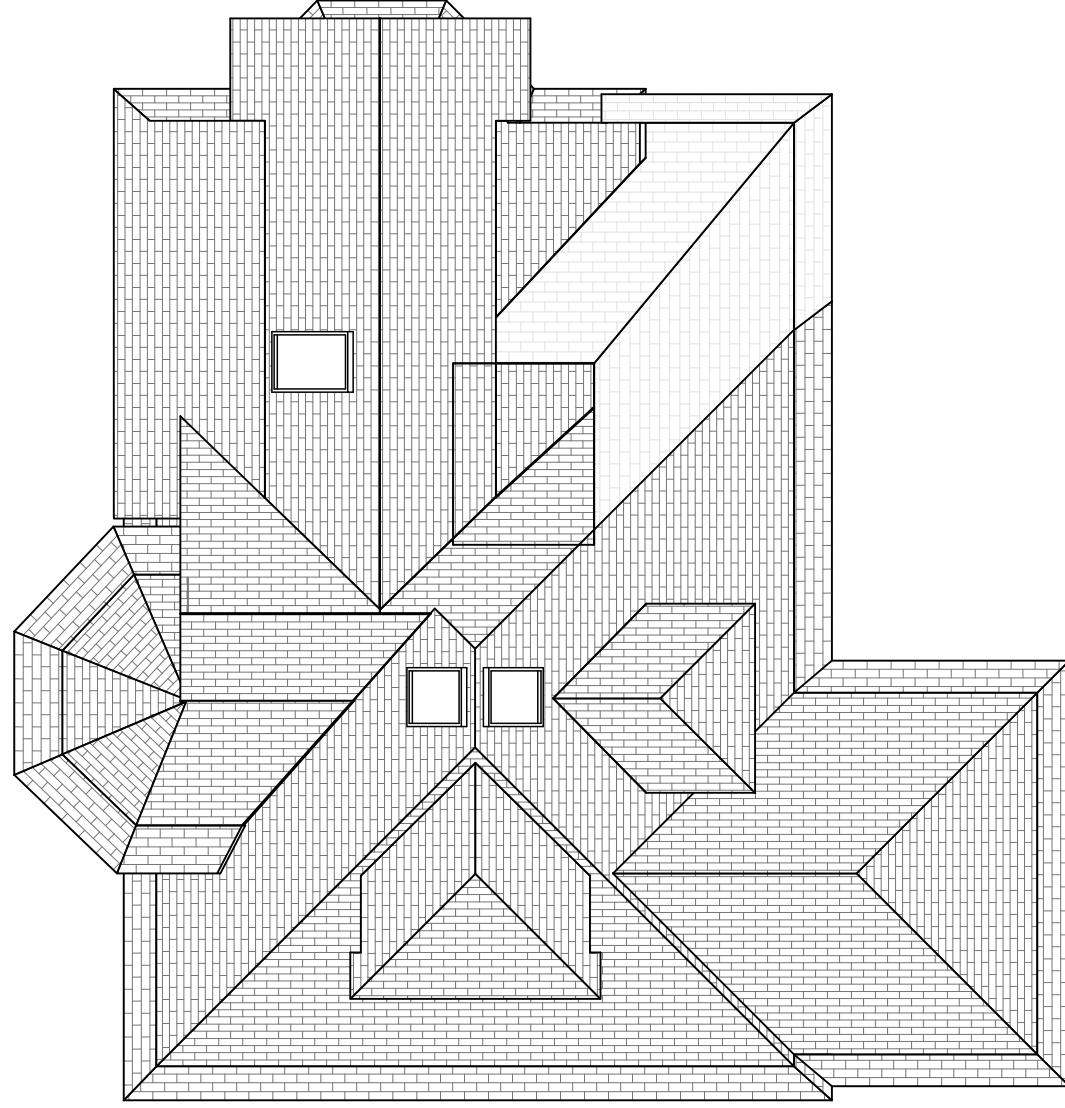
Roof Plan- Existing

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

1
H.1.12

Roof Plan- Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
 ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
 DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
 3944 Baltimore St
 Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
 7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
 T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

Roof Plan- Proposed

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

M:\Projects\Sharp\Design (SD and DD)\Sharp_20_10-14_DD 7.pln



1
H.1.13

Front Elevation- Existing

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



2
H.1.13

Front Elevation- Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

Front Elevations

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

M:\Projects\Sharp\Design (SD and DD)\Sharp_20_10-14_DD 7.pln

Third Floor
+19'-1"

Second Floor
+10'-2 1/4"

First Floor
±0"



1
H.1.14

Right Elevation- Existing

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Third Floor
+19'-1"

Second Floor
+10'-2 1/4"

First Floor
±0"



Third Floor
+19'-1"

Second Floor
+10'-2 1/4"

First Floor
±0"

2
H.1.14

Right Elevation- Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895

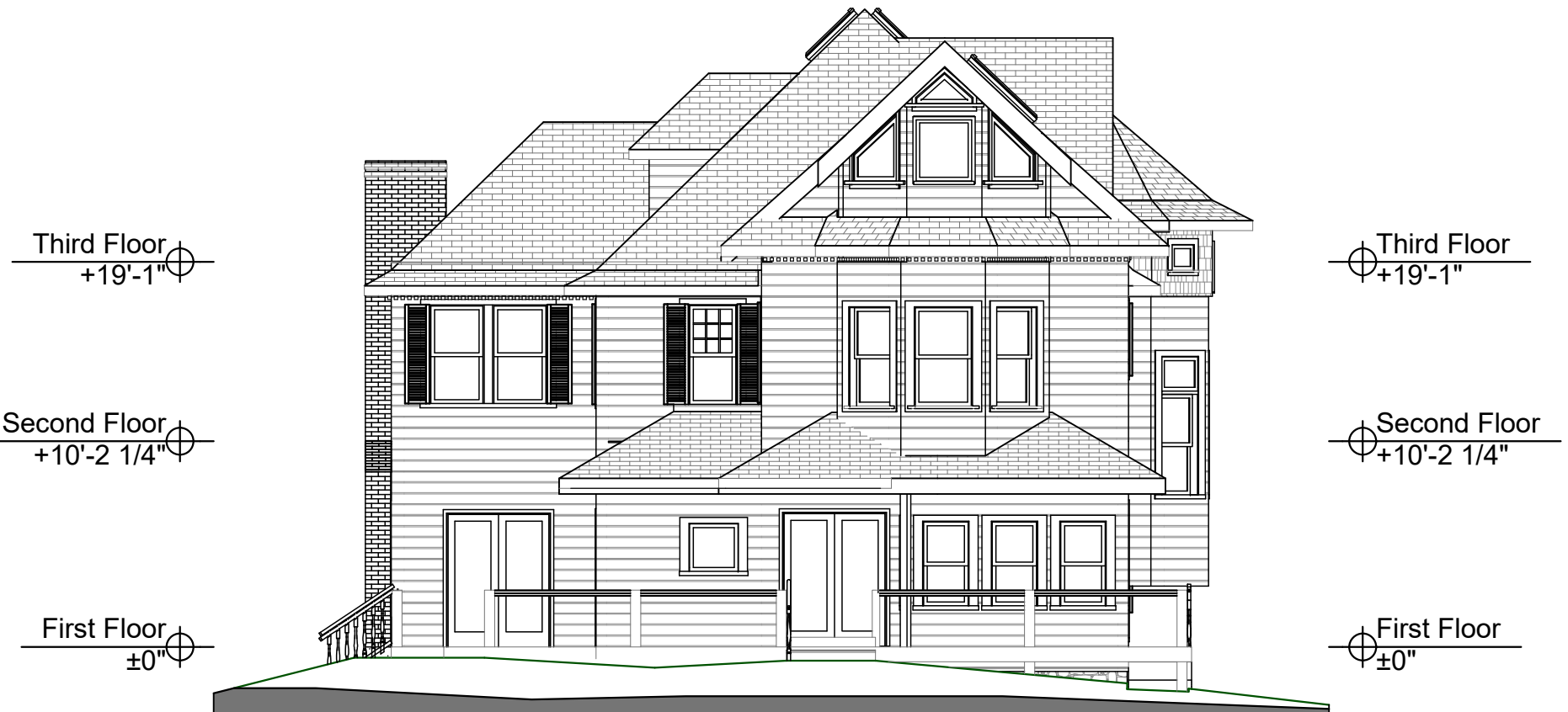


MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

Right Side Elevations

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

M:\Projects\Sharp\Design (SD and DD)\Sharp_20_10-14_DD 7.pln



1
H.1.15

Rear Elevation-Existing

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



2
H.1.15

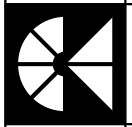
Rear Elevation- Proposed

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

Rear Elevations

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

M:\Projects\Sharp\Design (SD and DD)\Sharp_20_10-14_DD 7.pln

Third Floor
+19'-1"

Second Floor
+10'-2 1/4"

First Floor
±0"

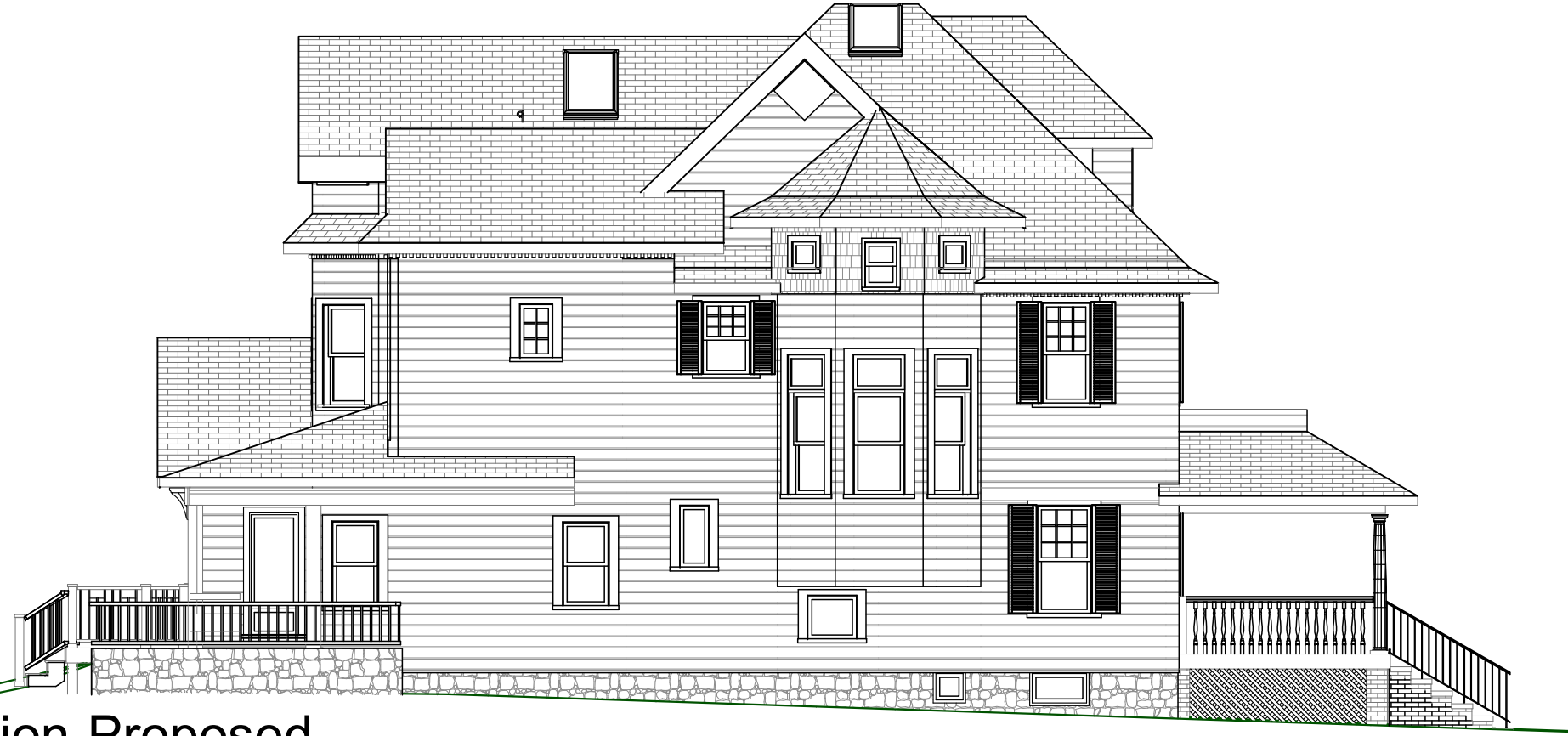


1
H.1.16 Left Elevation-Existing
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Third Floor
+19'-1"

Second Floor
+10'-2 1/4"

First Floor
±0"



2
H.1.16 Left Elevation-Proposed
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Prelim. Scheme Historic Review
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCHEME: Final
ISSUE DATE: 10/14/20
DRAWN BY: VGL

Sharp Residence
3944 Baltimore St
Kensington, MD 20895



MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.
7307 MacArthur Blvd, Ste. 216, Bethesda, Maryland 20816
T:301.229.7000 F:301.229.7171 www.manionandassociates.com

Left Elevations

COPYRIGHT © 2019 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFYING
 [Owner, Owner's Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners]

<p>Owner's mailing address Meredith & Jess Sharp 3944 Baltimore Street Kensington, MD 20895</p>	<p>Owner's Agent's mailing address Manion & Assoc. Architects 7307 MacArthur Blvd, #216 Bethesda, MD 20816</p>
<p align="center">Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses</p>	
<p>Nathan & Kristine Oleson 3948 Baltimore St. Kensington, MD 20895 (right side)</p>	<p>Alan Speelman 3940 Baltimore St. Kensington, MD 20895 (left side)</p>
<p>Peter Cappadona 3929 Prospect St. Kensington, MD 20895 (rear)</p>	<p>Michael & Brett Bagshaw 3947 Baltimore St. Kensington, MD 20895 (front) across st)</p>
<p>Joseph Mesmer 3941 Baltimore St. Kensington, MD 20895 (front - right)</p>	