MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 10902 Seven Locks Road, Potomac Meeting Date: 2/2/2022

Resource: Master Plan Site #29/15 **Report Date:** 1/26/2022

(Scotland African M/E Zion Church)

Public Notice: 1/19/2022

Applicant: Scotland African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

(Desmond Grimball, Agent) Tax Credit: N/A

Review: HAWP Staff: Michael Kyne

Permit Number: 961430 REVISION

PROPOSAL: Revision of previous approved HAWP for alterations to grade and tree removal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

SIGNIFICANCE: Master Plan Site #29/15, Scotland African M/E Zion Church

DATE: c. 1915 w/ 1967 Front Addition

Excerpt from *Places from the Past*:

Scotland African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church stands as a pillar of continuity, representing the early days of this post-Civil War black settlement. The congregation was organized in 1906 in a nearby house. Construction of the original church was begun in 1915 on land acquired from Otho Simms. The Scotland community dates from the post-Civil War era. A school for black children, known as Scotland School, had been built near the church site in 1874. The Scotland name originated with land patents to Scottish settlers in the 1700s.

Like Tobytown, the Scotland community, consisting of small one to four room houses, was identified for urban renewal in the 1960s due to its substandard living conditions. New housing units, in the form of townhouses, and sewer and water service drastically improved daily life for Scotland residents, but also changed the physical environment dramatically.

The church building dates from two periods. Construction of the original section, now a rear wing, was begun in 1915 and completed in 1924. An addition, completed in 1967, was built in front of the original church. The original section is frame with German siding and has pedimented windows with stained glass panes. The main front section, constructed of concrete block, was built in the 1960s. The first service was held in November 1967, and the cornerstone was laid in February 1968. The structure has been in continuous use as a religious meeting place since its construction.

The church and site are also critically important local sites that highlight the history of mid-century urban renewal and community resistance and resilience. The histories of Geneva Mason, Joyce Siegel, and the Save Our Scotland coalition of residents, neighbors, and faith groups, met, worshipped, and planned for the future of the Scotland Community from this building. For more information on Save Our Scotland and

the 20th century history if this community, Montgomery History has a compiled photo archive and online story gallery chronicling these events that is available at this link: https://montgomeryhistory.org/african-american-online-exhibits/.

Montgomery County recently honored the historic contributions of the Scotland community by renaming three county streets after Save Our Scotland co-founder Geneva Mason and Scotland elder William Dove.



Fig. 1: Subject property.

BACKGROUND:

The applicant previously appeared before the Commission at the August 18, 2021 HPC meeting for a preliminary consultation.¹ After that meeting the Church experienced a second round of extreme flooding that filled the basement with water and damaged the site. The project team cleaned the site and mitigated that damage; however, the event demonstrated that the historic site remains vulnerable from flooding and stormwater management deficiencies that this project seeks to remedy.

The applicant returned with a HAWP, which was reviewed and approved by the Commission at the September 22, 2021 HPC meeting.²

Revisions that included changing the approved wood exterior wall cladding and wood vertical fins/light modulators for the new addition to wood-look aluminum were approved as a Staff Item at the December 15, 2021 HPC meeting.

¹ Link to August 18, 2021 preliminary consultation staff report: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/II.A-10902-Seven-Locks-Road-Potomac-Preliminary-Consultation.pdf
Link to August 18, 2021 HPC meeting audio/video transcript:

 $[\]underline{http://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=9787973c-0415-11ec-9f1e-0050569183fa}$

² Link to September 22, 2021 HAWP staff report: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/I.C-10902-Seven-Locks-Road-Potomac-961430.pdf

Link to September 22, 2021 HPC meeting audio/video transcript: http://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=f2012302-1ca1-11ec-9f1e-0050569183fa

PROPOSAL:

The applicant proposes to revise their previously approved HAWP for alterations to grade.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES:

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

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8

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

Secretary of the 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.
- 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.

STAFF DISCUSSION:

The applicant previously appeared before the Commission for a preliminary consultation at the August 18, 2021 HPC meeting. The applicant subsequently returned with HAWP application, which was approved by the Commission at the September 22, 2021 HPC meeting. The approved HAWP included:

- Lifting the existing building (both the c. 1915 building and 1967 front addition) to address the issues with water runoff and the resulting flooding and structural hazards.
- Cladding the exposed foundation of the lifted building with stone.
- Parking area and access re-grading to be in line with the existing building.
- Cladding the 1967 front addition with 8.25" horizontal fiber cement siding with a modern joint detail and replacing the windows in the 1967 front addition with decorative windows similar to or to match the existing.
- Restoring features of c. 1915 section, as necessary.
- Construction of a new addition and hyphen/connector at the west side (rear, as experienced from the public right-of-way of Seven Locks Road) of the existing building.
- Conversion of two existing windows on the west side of the 1967 front addition to doors, providing access to the proposed hyphen and new addition.
- Creation of 34 tandem parking spaces in the existing parking area.
- Flood mitigation measures, including the construction of retaining walls throughout the site, some
 excavation of the slope at the west side of the property, installation of below grade storm piping
 at the west side of the property, and creation of a bioretention area at the north side of the
 property.
- Installation of a new church/address sign at the southwest side of the property (near the driveway entrance).
- Removal of four trees in preparation for the proposed new construction and site alterations. The trees to be removed included one (1) 20" dbh black walnut (good condition, but with a heavy lean), one (1) 7" dbh American hornbeam (poor condition), one (1) 37" dbh white oak (poor condition), and one (1) 36" dbh tulip poplar (moderate condition, but with failure likely, posing a hazard to the historic church building).

Staff note that revisions, changing the approved wood exterior wall cladding and wood vertical fins/light modulators for the new addition to wood-look aluminum were approved as a Staff Item at the December 15, 2021 HPC meeting.

The currently proposed revisions include:

- Filling/lifting the grade at the front of the existing building (in lieu of maintaining the existing grade).
- Transitioning from the proposed lifted grade to the existing/maintained grade of the burial area at the north side (right side, as viewed from the public right-of-way of Seven Locks Road) of the property with a berm (in lieu of the previously approved retaining wall with guardrail on top).
- Relocating the previously approved egress path at the rear/north side of the property to the lifted grade at the front of the existing building (in lieu of running it further north along the existing grading).
- The removal of one 40" dbh sycamore tree at the front of the property to accommodate the proposed infill site grading, if necessary.

Staff remains supportive of the applicant's proposal, finding that the proposed revisions will address flooding issues at the subject property while reducing the amount of new hardscaping. Additionally, staff finds that the proposed revisions will not remove or alter character-defining materials or features of the

subject property, in accordance with Standards #2 and #9.

After full and fair consideration of the applicant's submission, staff finds the proposal consistent with the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-(b) 1 and 2, having found it consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2* and *#9* as outlined above.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission <u>approve</u> the HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b) (1), and (2), having found that the proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of the historic resource and is compatible in character with the purposes of Chapter 24A;

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

and with the general condition that the applicant shall present an electronic set 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 michael.kyne@montgomeryplanning.org to schedule a follow-up site visit.





APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

301.563.3400

IPPLICA	NT: SCOTLAND AFF						
Name:	EPISCOPAL Z ATTN: REV. DR		ł <u>JGGINS, </u> PASTOR _I	EVAL E-mail: <u>PEH</u> l	.INA45@GMAI JGGINS@BEN	L.COM; MOREAMEZ.ORG	
\ddress: _	10902 SEVEN LOC	CKS ROAD		City: POTOM/	AC, MD	Zip: 20854	_
Daytime F	Phone: <u>301-980-87</u>	93		Гах Account	No.: 0228542	21	
AGENT/C	ONTACT (if appli	cable):					
Name:	ANTUNOVICH ASS (ATTN: DESMOND			E-mail: <u>DGR</u>	IMBALL@ANT	UNOVICH.COM	_
\ddress: _	1144 THIRD STRE	ET NE		City: WASHIN	GTON, DC	Zip: 20002	
)aytime F	Phone: <u>202-540-11</u>	71		Contractor R	egistration N	o.: N/A	
.OCATIOI	N OF BUILDING/I	PREMISE: M	IIHP # of Historic	Property	ESOURCE #2	9/015	
nap of th NOT A	e easement, and o	documentat	rust/Environmen	tal Easemen ement Holde	t on the Prop r supporting		de a
Condition	Planning and/or hal Use, Variance, ental information.	Record Plat, YES: ZON	etc.?) If YES, incl	ude informa R REAR SETE	tion on these BACK & TANDI		n?
Building N	lumber: <u>10902</u>		Street:	•	•	OAD	
own/City	y: POTOMA	C, MD	Nearest Cross	Street: BEI	LS MILL ROA	D	
ot: <u>N/A</u>	Block:	N/A	_ Subdivision: _	<mark>I/A Parce</mark>	el: <u>N829</u>		
	WORK PROPOSE osed work are si				=	10 101	
-	ted for review. C w Construction		t apply: eck/Porch		Shed/Gara	ge/Accessory Stru	cture
<u> </u>	w Construction dition		ence	X	Tree remov	al/planting	
Dei	molition	X Ha	ardscape/Landsc	ape 🔀	Window/Do	· ·	
	ading/Excavation	☐ Ro	oof	X	Other: SIG	SNAGE	
-	-					he application is c	
		wledge and	• •	a condition	for the issua	oved by all necess nce of this permit /11/2022	-
	/	A DESIMO	IND MONET GRIME		<u> </u>	111/2022	

HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING

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

Owner's Agent's mailing address								
ANTUNOVICH ASSOCIATES ATTN: DESMOND GRIMBALL 1144 THIRD STREET NE WASHINGTON, DC 20002								
Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses								
RAMI & MELANIE KANDEL 7907 LAKENHEATH WAY POTOMAC, MD 20854-2735								
DAVID C. & J. S. NEARPASS 7900 LAKENHEATH WAY ROCKVILLE, MD 20854-2735								
RASHID & LISA LEVIEDDIN 7929 LAKENHEATH WAY ROCKVILLE, MD 20854-2735								
SIQIAN HE & XIN WANG 7904 LAKENHEATH WAY ROCKVILLE, MD 20854								

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	*	*	*	*	*		*

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

SINGLE-STORY HISTORIC CHURCH BUILDING WITH BASEMENT ROUGHLY CENTERED ON THE LONG NARROW HISTORIC PROPERTY. ORIGINAL STRUCTURE IS LIMITED TO THE WOOD-FRAMED WOOD-CLAD PORTION ON THE BACK OF THE BUILDING WITH THE ORIGINAL ORNATE HUNG WINDOWS AND GABLE ROOF. A PREVIOUS ADDITION, BUILT IN THE 1960'S, IS LIMITED TO THE CURRENT FRONT OF THE BUILDING. IN CONTRAST TO THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE, THE PREVIOUS ADDITION IS COMPRISED OF PAINTED CMU, COMPLEMENTARY GABLE ROOF, AND LESS ORNATE HUNG WINDOWS. ALSO PRESENT ON THE PREVIOUS ADDITION IS A SMALL VESTIBLE AND MODEST METAL-CLAD SPIRE.

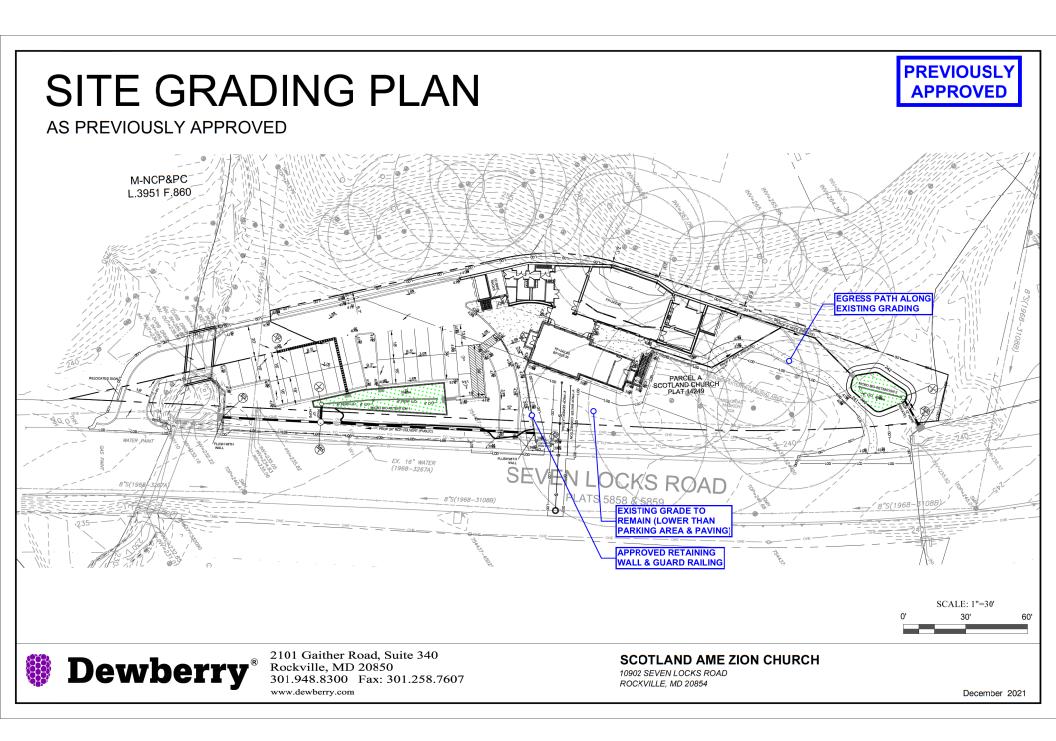
THE PROPERTY IS SURROUNDED ON THE WEST BY HEAVILY-WOODED AND HEAVILY-SLOPED ADJACENT PROPERTIES. LANDSCAPING IS LIMITED TO SHRUBBERY AROUND THE BUILDING, GRASSES THROUGHOUT, AND AN ASSORTMENT OF TREES. SITE PAVING IS LIMITED TO WALKWAY PAVERS AND THE DRIVEWAY (PREVIOUSLY THE ORIGINAL SEVEN LOCKS ROAD) RUNNING ALONG THE WEST OF THE BUILDING. THE CURRENT SEVEN LOCKS ROAD WAS RELOCATED ALONG THE EAST OF THE BUILDING IN THE LATE-1950'S/EARLY 1960'S.

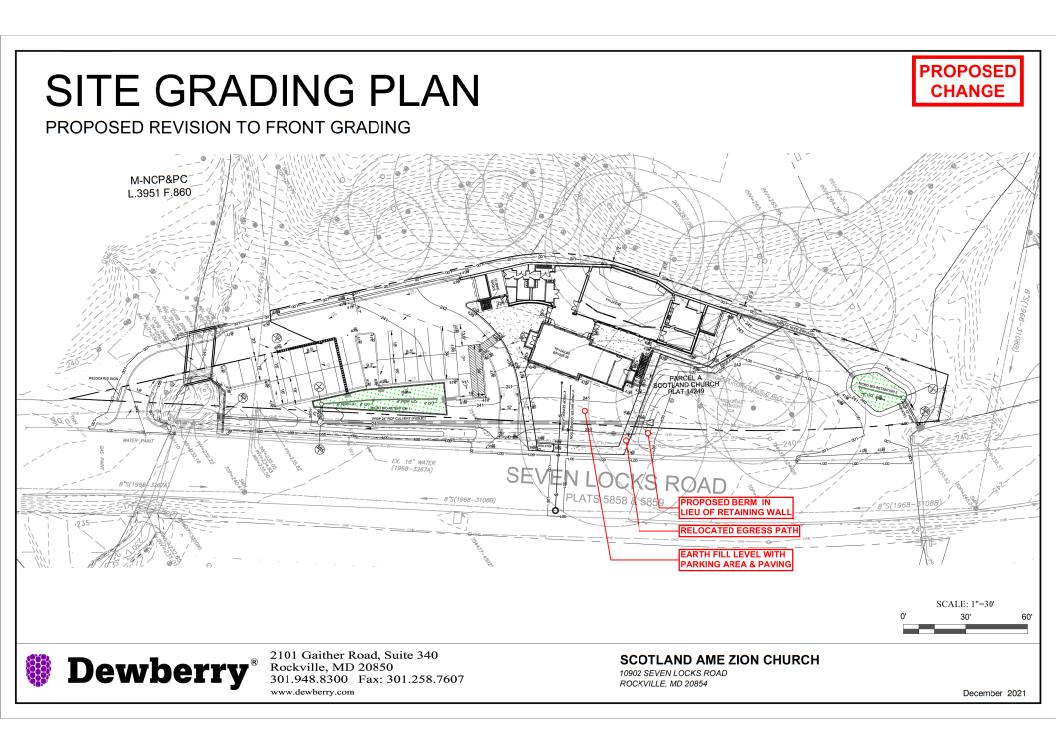
CURRENT SEVEN LOCKS ROAD WAS BUILT SUCH THAT THE THE ELEVATION OF THE STREET WAS HIGHER THAN THE ELEVATION OF THE CHURCH. AS A RESULT THE BUILDING SITS WITHIN A VALLEY BETWEEN THE STREET AND ADJACENT HILL, AND HAS SUBSEQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED FOUNDATION DAMAGE DUE TO RAIN EVENTS.

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

THE ENCLOSED OUTLINES PROPOSED LIMITED REVISION TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED HAWP #961430. SCOPE MODIFICATION IS LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. WE PROPOSE TO FILL/LIFT THE GRADE OF THE FRONT YARD OF THE EXISTING BUILDING (IN LIEU OF MAINTAINING THE EXISTING GRADE AS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED).
- 2. WE PROPOSE TO TRANSITION FROM THE LIFTED GRADE TO THE EXISTING-TO-REMAIN LOWER GRADE OF THE BURIAL AREA WITH A BERM (IN LIEU OF THE RETAINING WALL AS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED).
- 3. WE PROPOSE TO RELOCATE THE REAR/NORTH EGRESS PATH ALONG THE LIFTED FRONT YARD (IN LIEU OF RUNNING IT FURTHER NORTH ALONG THE EXISTING GRADING).

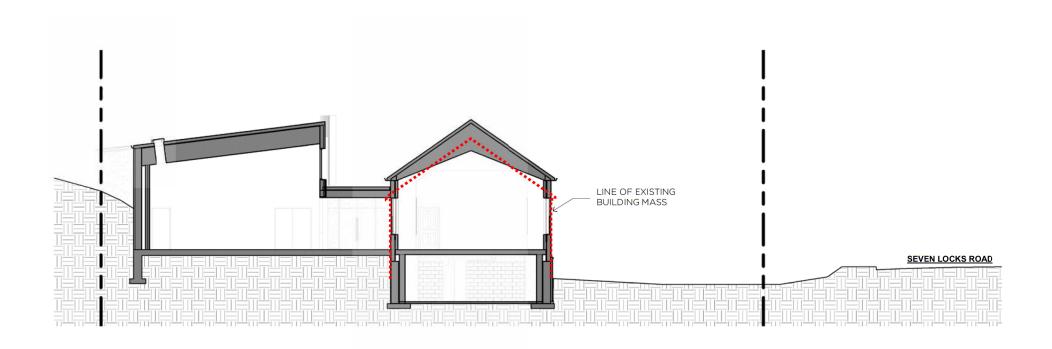




SECTION - NORTH THRU ALTERATION



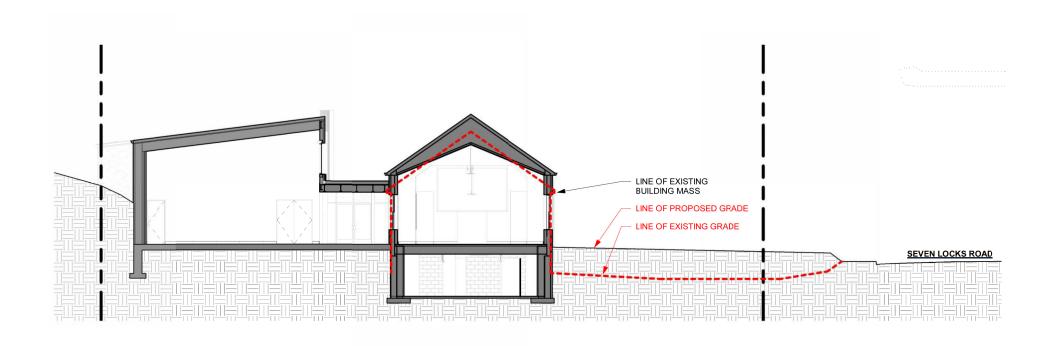
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



SECTION - NORTH THRU ALTERATION



SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



NORTHWARD VIEW





NORTHWARD VIEW





SOUTHWARD VIEW





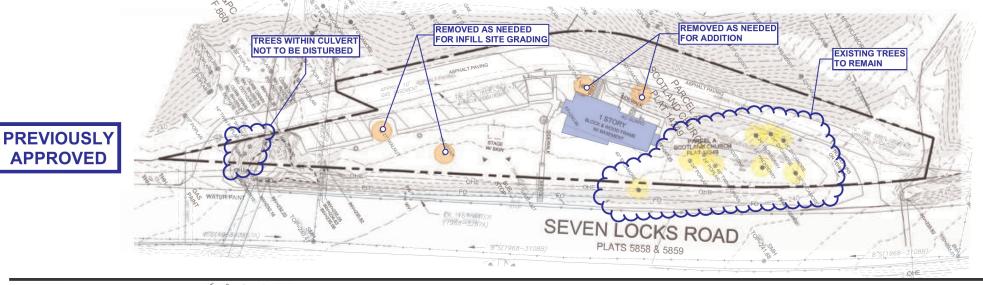
CONCEPT RENDERINGS POTOMAC MD • SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

SOUTHWARD VIEW

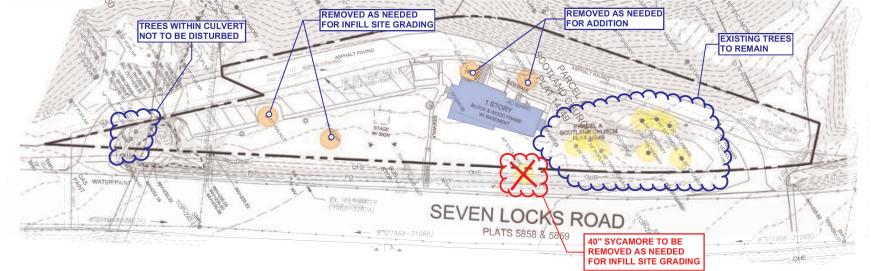




TREE REMOVAL









EXISTING AND PROPOSED SITE PLAN

POTOMAC MD • JANUARY 12, 2022

Existing Property Condition Photographs (duplicate as needed)



BUILDING/FAÇADE TO BE LIFTED FOR FLOOD MITIGATION AND Detail: RECLAD TO MATCH ORIGINAL(REAR) STRUCTURE



BUILDING/FAÇADE TO BE LIFTED FOR FLOOD MITIGATION, CMU

Detail:_(FRONT) TO BE RECLAD TO MATCH ORIGINAL(REAR) STRUCTURE, AND ____
WATER-DAMAGED FOUNDATION AREA TO BE REPAIRED/REPLACED

Existing Property Condition Photographs (duplicate as needed)

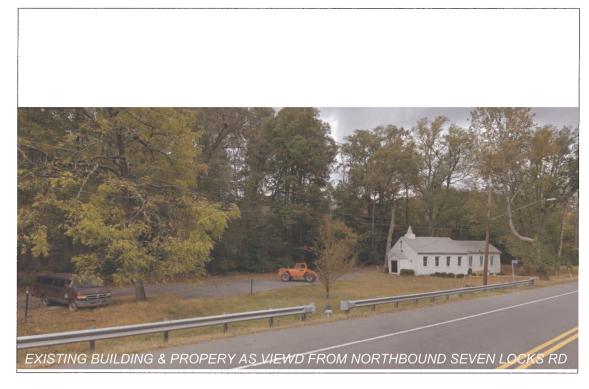


Detail: BUILDING/FAÇADE TO BE LIFTED FOR FLOOD MITIGATION

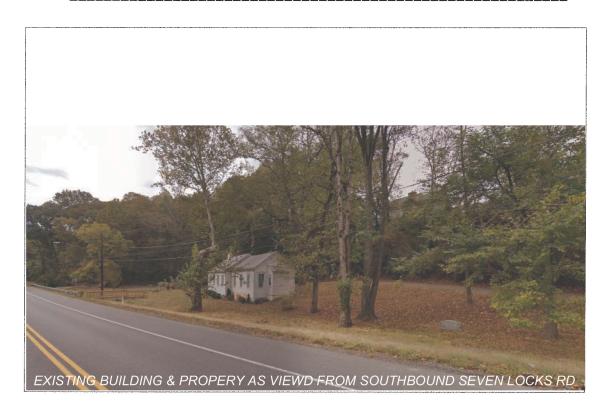


BUILDING/FAÇADE TO BE LIFTED FOR FLOOD MITIGATION, CMU Detail: (FRONT) TO BE RECLAD TO MATCH ORIGINAL(REAR) STRUCTURE

Existing Property Condition Photographs (duplicate as needed)



Detail: BUILDING & PARKING AREA TO BE LIFTED FOR FLOOD MITIGATION



Detail: EXISTING BURIAL AREA TO REMAIN UNDISTURBED

Applicant:_____

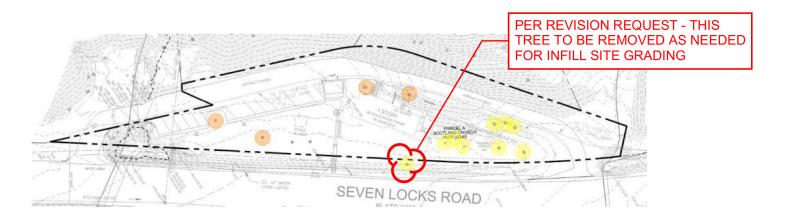
Glenstone

Scotland African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Tree Health Evaluation

Michael Burke

ISA Certified Arborist # PD - 1910A



The following tree health report consists of information and photos gathered on 8/23/2021 at 10902 Seven Locks Rd, Potomac MD. Tree health will be detailed for trees proposed for removal in preparation for construction. Trees proposed for removal are shown in orange on the plan (above) and will be detailed in order (as shown) from left to right.

Glenstone Museum (301) 983–5001 12002 Glen Road Potomac, Maryland 20854

Tree 1: 20" dbh Black Walnut

Based on visual observation, the above ground portion of this tree appears to be in good condition. The tree has a heavy lean in the direction of Seven Locks Rd. The root flare of this tree is buried which has likely negatively impacted overall tree health and anchorage. The parking lot location is poor for this species due to the nuisance caused by the large and numerous walnuts it produces. My overall impression of this tree is that removal is warranted.



Tree 2: 7" dbh American Hornbeam

Based on visual observation, the above ground portion of this tree appears to be in poor condition. There is a large pocket of decay which runs from ground level and extends throughout the upper portion of the canopy. Dieback is present in the upper portion of the canopy. My overall impression of this tree is that removal is warranted.



Tree 3: 37" dbh White Oak

Based on visual observation, the above ground portion of this tree appears to be in poor condition. The canopy is unbalanced as a result heavy pruning, likely for clearance to the building. The tree has a heavy lean towards the church. The root flare of this tree is buried which has likely negatively impacted overall tree health and anchorage. My overall impression of this tree is that removal is warranted.



Tree 4: 36" dbh Tulip Poplar

Based on visual observation, the above ground portion of this tree appears to be in moderate condition. Sooty mold was present on the foliage as a result of tulip tree aphid infestation. Large co-dominant stems are present which create an increased likelihood of failure with the church being a direct target. My overall impression of this tree is that removal is warranted.

