## MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 6 Primrose Street, Chevy Chase Meeting Date: 4/12/2023

**Resource:** Contributing Resource **Report Date:** 4/5/2023

**Chevy Chase Village Historic District** 

**Public Notice:** 3/29/2023

**Applicant:** Caitlin Steed

(Marci Bonner, Agent)

Tax Credit: N/A

**Review:** HAWP

**Staff:** Dan Bruechert

Permit Number: 1023924

**PROPOSAL:** Tree Removal, Hardscape Alteration, and Fence Installation

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the HPC <u>approve</u> the HAWP application with **three** (3) **conditions**:

- 1. The proposed driveway apron material shall match the approved driveway. Final plans showing this condition has been satisfied shall be submitted to Staff for review and approval before releasing the final approval documents.
- 2. This HAWP approval does not include the installation of a generator on the property.
- 3. The replacement fence along the east property boundary may not extend forward of the front wall plane. A revised site plan showing this condition has been satisfied shall be submitted to Staff for review and approval before releasing the approval documents. Any new fencing forward of the front wall plane will require either a revised HAWP or a new HAWP application.

#### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Contributing Resource within the Chevy Chase Village Historic District

STYLE: Colonial Revival

DATE: 1906



Figure 1: 6 Primrose Street.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the December 15, 2021 HPC meeting, the HPC approved a HAWP (#951380), to demolish a non-historic additional, construct a new addition, and alter the fenestration. The applicant returns seeking approval for additional site work.

#### **PROPOSAL**

The applicant proposes to remove a tree, alter the existing hardscape, and install sections of fencing.

#### 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.

#### Sec. 24A-8. Same-Criteria for issuance.

- (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.*)

#### 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 and compatibility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Staff Report for the 2021 HAWP approval is available here: <a href="https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/I.E-6-Primrose-Street-Chevy-Chase-975518.pdf">https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/I.E-6-Primrose-Street-Chevy-Chase-975518.pdf</a>.

"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 Guidelines state five basic policies that should be adhered to, including:

- o 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.

The *Guidelines* that pertain to this project are as follows:

- <u>Driveways</u> should be subject to strict scrutiny only with regard to their impact on landscaping, particularly mature trees. In all other respects, driveways should be subject to lenient scrutiny. Parking pads and other paving in front yards should be discouraged.
- o <u>Fences</u> should be subject to moderate scrutiny if they are visible from the public right-of-way, lenient scrutiny if they are not.
- o <u>Lot coverage</u> should be subject to strict scrutiny, in view of the critical importance of preserving the Village's open park-like character.
- o <u>Tree removal</u> should be subject to strict scrutiny and consistent with the Chevy Chase Village Urban Forest Ordinance.

#### 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 alterations of features, spaces, 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 proportion, 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 subject property is a large two-story Colonial Revival house with a gambrel roof and shed dormer in the attic. The applicant proposes to remove a single tree in the front yard, alter the existing hardscape, and install sections of fencing. Staff finds the proposed changes are in keeping with the character of the house and surrounding district and recommends the HPC approve the HAWP.

#### **Tree Removal**

In the front yard of the subject property, there is a 10" (ten-inch) d.b.h. cherry tree (the site plan mislabeled the tree as a Wisteria). The applicant proposes to remove this tree.

Staff finds the proposed tree is not a historically significant landscape feature. Under a strict scrutiny review Staff recommends the HPC approve its removal. Staff notes that while this tree removal may be approved by the HPC, a Chevy Chase Village Permit is required under the Village Urban Forest Ordinance.



Figure 2: The proposed tree is located to the right of the existing stone walk.

#### **Hardscape Alterations**

Several changes to the property's hardscape are proposed including removing and replacing the existing driveway, removing the existing retaining wall at the sidewalk edge, removing and replacing the front steps and walk from the sidewalk to the house, constructing a gravel walkway on the right side of the

house, constructing a stone walkway on the right side of the house, removing a retaining wall in the backyard, installing a stone landing adjacent to the existing garage, and fencing an area behind the existing garage. Staff finds the overall impact on the historic character will be minimal and recommends the HPC approve the hardscape changes.

In 2004, the driveway and curb cut on the right side of the property were removed.<sup>2</sup> To provide off-street parking, the applicant proposes to install a curb cut, ribbon driveway, with a 'parking court' to the left of the house. Details for the driveway apron were not included in the application, however, both the driveway ribbons and parking court will be constructed using an exposed aggregate concrete with a cobblestone border. Staff finds the proposed materials provide the desired texture to blend into the surrounding streetscape and recommends the HPC approve the new driveway. Staff recommends the HPC add a condition to this approval that the apron material matches the exposed aggregate driveaway.

PRIMROSE

Figure 3: 1927 Sanborn Map showing the subject property without an accessory structure in the rear.

Next, the applicant proposes to remove the front retaining wall along the sidewalk. This retaining wall was installed in 2004 as part of the approved HAWP identified above. The front of the property will be re-graded with new plantings. Staff finds this will return the property to its pre-2004 appearance and finds the change is consistent with the historic character of the site and surrounding district and recommends the HPC approve this change.

Additionally, the applicant proposes to remove the existing front steps and front walk and re-construct them, using the existing material if possible and with matching stone if reusing the material is not feasible. Staff finds this work is in-kind and does not require the HPC's approval.

On the right side of the house, the applicant proposes to remove the non-historic, stepping stone walk and install a gravel walkway in its place. The walk will extend from the existing fence and gate to the existing garage. Staff finds the proposed gravel walk will have little visible impact on the character of the site and surrounding district, as it is at grade toward the rear of the property. Staff additionally finds the porous gravel surface will not add to the impervious paving on the site. Because this feature is not readily visible from the public right-of-way, Staff finds the change should be approved under the very lenient review prescribed by the *Design Guidelines*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The HAWP application and Staff Report for the 2004 hardscaping and fencing work is available here: <a href="https://mcatlas.org/tiles/06">https://mcatlas.org/tiles/06</a> HistoricPreservation PhotoArchives/Padlock/HAR60640007/Box058/35-13-04P Chevy%20Chase%20Historic%20District 6%20Primrose%20Street 05-27-2004.pdf.

Behind the proposed parking court, the applicant proposes to construct a stone walkway connecting the parking court to the rear of the covered porch. The stone walk will match the appearance of the front walkway and stairs discussed above. Staff finds the proposed stone is compatible with the character of the site and surrounding district. This new feature will not be readily visible from the right-of-way and should be given a very lenient review, per the *Design Guidelines*. Staff recommends the HPC approve the new stone walkway.

In the rear of the property, there is a retaining wall that was installed in 2004, associated with a since-removed swimming pool. The applicant proposes to remove this retaining wall and re-grade the backyard. Staff finds the retaining wall is not a historic feature and its removal will return the property to its pre-2004 appearance and recommends the HPC approve its removal.

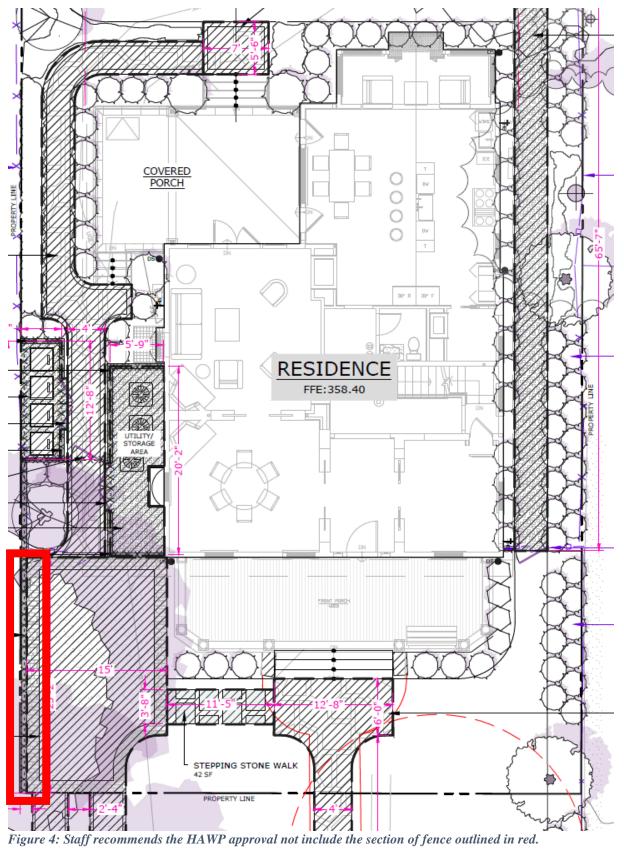
Next, the applicant proposes to construct a stone landing, measuring  $11' \times 10'$  6" (eleven feet by ten feet, six inches), in front of the existing garage. The proposed stone surface matches the walkways and stairs discussed above. Staff finds this is a compatible material and recommends the HPC approve the garage landing.

Behind the garage, the applicant proposes to install a "utility/storage area" measuring  $12' 10" \times 15' 4"$  (twelve feet, ten inches by fifteen feet, four inches). The proposed area will be covered in gravel with a 4' (four-foot tall) wood solid board fence. The drawings note a location for a possible generator in the enclosure. The proposed area is located behind both the house and garage and will not be visible from the right of way. Staff finds the proposed fence material and design are compatible with the character of the site and surrounding district. Staff recommends the HPC approve the proposed enclosure, but that the approval does not extend to include installing a generator in this location. If the applicant wishes to install a generator, this work requires a separate HAWP at a future date.

#### **Fencing Installation**

In addition to the fencing around the storage/utility area, discussed above, the applicant proposes additional fencing to the left of the house. Immediately to the left of the house, the applicant proposes to construct a 4' (four foot) tall solid board enclosure around the existing HVAC units and a basement window well with a gate. Adjacent to this enclosure, the applicant proposes to construct an enclosure for trash and recycling. The fence surrounding this enclosure matches the design, materials, and height of the other enclosures proposed. Finally, the applicant proposes to remove a section of existing 6' (six foot) tall solid board fencing and install 48' 3" (forty-eight feet, three inches) of 6' (six foot) tall solid board fencing. This fence comes 25' 2" (twenty-five feet, two inches) forward of the house front wall plane.

Staff finds the proposed screening fences and gates are appropriate heights and materials for the house and recommends the HPC approve them. However, Staff does not find the full length of the proposed 6' (six-foot) tall fence to be appropriate. The general requirement for fences in the Chevy Chase Village Historic District in front of the rear wall plane is that they need to be no taller than 48" (forty-eight inches), constructed out of traditional materials, and have an open (i.e. picket) design. This requirement helps to preserve the Village's open, park-like setting, and objective identified in the 'Lot Coverage' guideline. The existing 6' (six foot) tall fence was approved by the HPC, in part, to enclose the rear yard and comply with the code requirements for the since-removed swimming pool. Replacing the fencing in its current location is an in-kind replacement that does not require a HAWP. Staff finds removing and replacing the existing fence appropriate. Staff also finds that the fencing proposed in front of the house front wall plane (see below) would be detrimental to the district's open park-like setting and recommends the HPC include a condition to the HAWP approval that this section of the fence not be approved.



#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the HAWP application with three (3) conditions:

- 1. The proposed driveway apron material shall match the approved driveway. Final plans showing this condition has been satisfied shall be submitted to Staff for review and approval before releasing the final approval documents.
- 2. This HAWP approval does not include the installation of a generator on the property.
- 3. The replacement fence along the east property boundary may not extend forward of the front wall plane. A revised site plan showing this condition has been satisfied shall be submitted to Staff for review and approval before releasing the approval documents. Any new fencing forward of the front wall plane will require either a revised HAWP or a new HAWP application;

under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b)(1), (2), and (d), having found that the proposal is consistent with the *Chevy Chase Village Historic District Guidelines* identified above, and therefore 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 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 <a href="mailto:dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org">dan.bruechert@montgomeryplanning.org</a> to schedule a follow-up site visit.



# **APPLICATION FOR** HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301.563.3400

HAWP#\_ DATE ASSIGNED\_\_\_\_

FOR STAFF ONLY:

#### **APPLICANT:**

Name:	E-mail: _	E-mail:			
Address:	City:	Zip:			
Daytime Phone:	Tax Acco	Tax Account No.:			
AGENT/CONTACT (if applica	ble):				
Name:	E-mail: _	E-mail:			
Address:	City:	Zip:			
Daytime Phone:	Contract	or Registration No.:			
LOCATION OF BUILDING/PR	EMISE: MIHP # of Historic Property	у			
map of the easement, and do	cumentation from the Easement Ho aring Examiner Approvals / Reviews cord Plat, etc.?) If YES, include info	s Required as part of this Application?			
Lot: Block:	Subdivision: P	Parcel:			
for proposed work are substance be accepted for review. Che New Construction Addition Demolition Grading/Excavation  I hereby certify that I have the and accurate and that the co	Deck/Porch Fence Hardscape/Landscape Roof e authority to make the foregoing a				

# HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING [Owner, Owner's Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners] Owner's mailing address Owner's Agent's mailing address Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses

Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures are considered as the control of the contr	uctures
landscape features, or other significant features of the property:	
Description of Work Proposed: Please give an overview of the work to be undertaken:	

Work Item 1:	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:
Work Item 2:	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:
Work Item 3:	
Description of Current Condition:	Proposed Work:

# 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	*	*	*	*	*		*

### PROJECT NARRATIVE

- PROPOSED SCREENING FENCE

POSSIBLE GENERATOR LOCATION

- PROPOSED GATE

- GRAVEL PAVING (

— EX GATE TO REMAIN

- PROPOSED STONE LANDING

EX FENCING TO REMAIN

— EX PLANTING TO REMAIN

— EX FENCING AND GATE TO REMAIN

EX PLANTING TO REMAIN

STONE WALKWAY AND LANDING REUSE EX STONE WHERE POSSIBLE, 190 SF

- EX STONE LEAD WALK TO BE

REMOVED AND REUSED

- EX TREE TO BE REMOVED

— EX RETAINING WALLS TO BE REMOVED

- STONE STEPS

- EX STONE STEPS TO BE REMOVED AND REUSED

REUSE EX STONE WHERE POSSIBLE

- STEPPING STONE WALK

4' HT, WOOD

EX. GARAGE FFE:353.5

PROPOSED STONE LANDING
40 SF

FFE:358.40

- STEPPING STONE WALK

THE PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FEATURES AT 6 PRIMROSE STREET INCLUDES:

- REMOVAL OF EXISTING DETERIORATING STONE RETAINING WALLS ALONG FRONT SIDEWALK AND IN MIDDLE OF REAR YARD
- REMOVAL OF EXISTING STONE WALKWAYS (REUSE EX. STONE MATERIAL IF POSSIBLE) REMOVAL OF EXISTING STONE STEPS (REUSE EX. STONE MATERIAL IF POSSIBLE)
- REMOVAL OF EXISTING CHERRY TREE IN FRONT YARD

THE PROPOSED DESIGN SCOPE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

• ADDITION OF A DECORATIVE DRIVEWAY (EXPOSED AGGREGATE FIELD WITH COBBLESTONE BORDER AND GRASS MEDIAN)

- ADDITION OF STONE WALKWAYS AND LANDINGS
- ADDITION OF GRAVEL PATHS AND GRAVEL PAVING AT UTILITY/STORAGE AREAS
- ADDITION OF 4' HT WOOD UTILITY SCREEN FENCING WITH ACCESS GATES ADDITION OF 6.5' HT MAX. WOOD PRIVACY FENCING TO MATCH AND TIE INTO EXISTING FENCING



VIEW FROM FRONT LEFT CORNER OF HOUSE TOWARDS BACKYARD

VIEW FROM BACK OF HOUSE TOWARD EXISTING GARAGE







HOUSE ALONG RIGHT PROPERTY LINE

VIEW FROM BACK RIGHT CORNER OF VIEW OF FRONT OF FRONT YARD FROM PRIMROSE STREET







EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE DRIVEWAY AND PARKING COURT WITH COBBLESTONE BORDER

EXISTING GATES (TO REMAIN)

WOOD PRIVACY FENCE (TO MATCH EXISTING)







GRAVEL PAVING AND PATHWAYS

STEPPING STONE WALK

SCREENING FENCE AND GATES





STONE STEPS

IRREGULAR STONE WALKWAY AND LANDINGS

Y — X — X EX FENCING TO REMAIN — X

EX CRAPE MYRTLES TO REMAIN -

EX RETAINING WALLS —

EX FENCING TO REMAIN —

PROPOSED STONE WALKWAY -

PROPOSED SCREENING FENCE —

WOOD, 4' HT, 16 LF

GRAVEL PAVING

WOOD, 4' HT, 8.5 LF PROPOSED GATE -

WOOD, 4' HT, 11 LF

MATCH EXISTING

WOOD, 4' HT

WOOD, 4' HT

PROPOSED DOUBLE GATE —

PROPOSED DOUBLE GATE -

PROPOSED SCREENING FENCE -

PROPOSED PRIVACY FENCING TO -

EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE
WITH COBBLESTONE BORDER, 350 SF

DRIVEWAY EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE WITH

EX RETAINING WALLS — TO BE REMOVED

CONCRETE APRON SPECIFICATIONS

– REPAIR EX BRICK 🗀 SIDEWALK

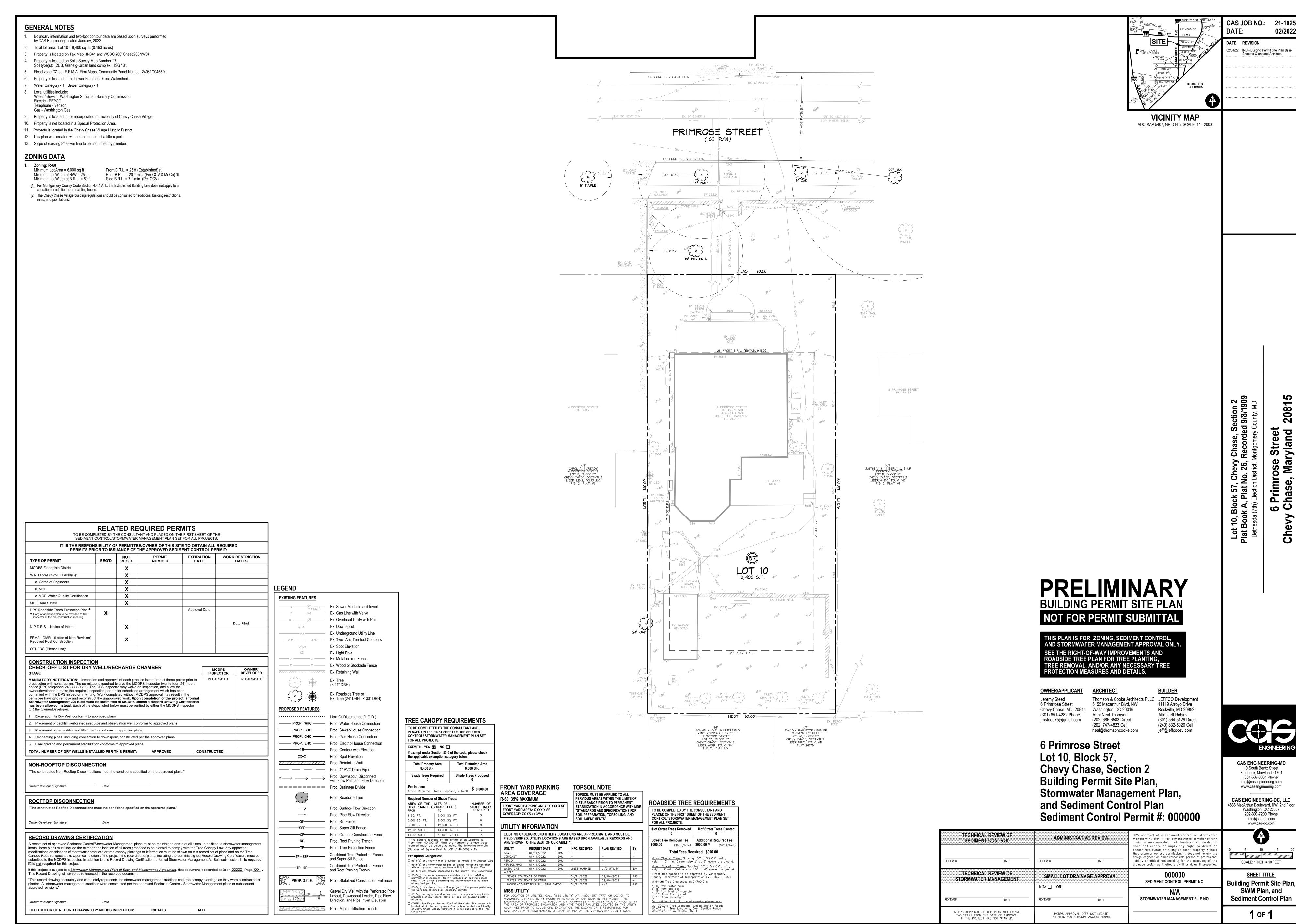
COBBLESTONE BORDER AND GRASS MEDIAN, 200 SF

CONNECT TO EX. FENCE, 6.5' MAX HEIGHT, 48 LF

PROPOSED SCREENING FENCE

PROPOSED SCREENING FENCE

TO BE REMOVED



P:\2021\211025\_\_6 Primrose Street\6 drawings\211025\_TO.dwg, 2/4/2022 2:10:51 PM, PJS, © 2022 CAS Engineering and CAS Engineering-DC, LLC



#### DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Rabbiah Sabbakhan *Director* 

#### HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT APPLICATION

Application Date: 3/8/2023

Application No: 1023924

AP Type: HISTORIC Customer No: 1459421

#### **Comments**

Property currently has HAWP 975518 - Building addition and other alterations.

#### Affidavit Acknowledgement

The Contractor is the Primary applicant authorized by the property owner This application does not violate any covenants and deed restrictions

#### **Primary Applicant Information**

Address 6 PRIMROSE ST

CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

Othercontact Bonner (Primary)

#### **Historic Area Work Permit Details**

Work Type CONST

Scope of Work Addition of driveway and stone hardscapes. Addition of fencing. Removal of tree.