Preliminary Consultation MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 3930 Washington Street, Kensington Meeting Date: 7/12/2023

Resource: Primary Resource **Report Date:** 7/5/2023

Kensington Historic District

Public Notice: 6/28/2023

Applicant: John and Iris Schwabe (Jodi Longo, Architect)

Tax Credit: N/A

Review: Preliminary Consultation

Staff: John Liebertz

Permit Number: 1030006

PROPOSAL: Demolition of accessory structure and construction of a one-story addition,

construction of new shed, other alterations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the applicant make any changes recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and return for a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP).

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Primary Resource within the Kensington Historic District

STYLE: Shingle DATE: Ca. 1898



Figure 1: The subject property at 3930 Washington Street is located on the south side of the street. The red line is the boundary of the Master Plan Historic District and the yellow star is the location of the subject dwelling.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to: 1) demolish an existing deck and cellar access on the rear elevation of the house; 2) construct a one-story rear addition with a rear porch; 3) demolish the detached garage; and 4) install a shed (10' x 10) in the rear yard.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

The Historic Preservation Office and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) consult several documents when reviewing alterations and new construction within the Brookeville Historic District. These documents approved and adopted Brookeville Historic District Master Plan Amendment (Amendment), 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.

Master Plan Amendment

The Amendment notes that:

The district is architecturally significant as a collection of late 19th and early 20th century houses that 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.

Vision of Kensington

In accordance with Section 1.5 of the Historic Preservation Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures (Regulation No. 27-97), the Commission in developing its decision when reviewing a Historic Area Work Permit application for an undertaking involving a resource within the Kensington Historic District may use the Vision to determine the appropriateness of a proposal. The goal of the Vision "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."

In addition, the Vision provides a specific physical description of the district as it was at the time of the study (August, 1992), 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 and Spacing between Buildings
- Geographic and Landscape Features
- Scale and Building Height
- Directional Expression of Buildings
- Roof Forms and Materials
- Porches
- Dominant Building Material

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

Montgomery County Code, Chapter 24A-8

The following guidance which pertains to this project are as follows:

- (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
- (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

The Secretary of the Interior defines rehabilitation as "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values." The applicable *Standards* are as follows:

- 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.
- 5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- 10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

STAFF DISCUSSION

The subject property is a Primary Resource to the Kensington Historic District. The property features a distinctive two-story, Shingle Styled house with a cross Dutch gambrel roof. The wood-frame building rests on a stone foundation. The walls are clad with wood lap siding on the first story and wood shingles in the upper gambrel ends. The asphalt shingle-clad roof is pierced by an internal brick chimney at the intersection of the gambrel roofs. The façade (north elevation) features a character defining full width, recessed front porch supported by wood posts. Fenestration primarily consists of three-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Other significant architectural features are the oriel window on the west elevation and a bay window on the east elevation. These irregular projections provide a sense of visual interest typical of the style. The dwelling retains a high degree of integrity and there are no relevant Historic Area Work Permits (HAWP) recorded for the resource.



Figure 2: View of the façade (north) and east elevation of the subject house (left) and the 1950-1963 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (property outlined in red).

Source: Montgomery Planning and Sanborn Fire Insurance Company.

A small detached, one-story, one-car garage (*Figure 3*) is located to the southwest of the dwelling and accessed by a brick paver driveway. The non-historic, front-gable, wood-frame building rests on a concrete pad. The walls are clad with vertical wood siding on the south and north elevations and drop wood siding on the west and east elevations. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



Figure 3: Aerial view from the west of property (left) and view of the north and east elevation of the detached garage (right).

Source: ConnectExplorer and Montgomery Planning.



Figure 4: View of the rear elevation.

Demolition of Rear Porch and Cellar Access

The applicant proposes to demolish the small, non-historic, shedroof porch and a cellar accessed via a corrugated metal hatch on the western and eastern extents of the rear elevation, respectively (Figure 4). Staff finds that the request is consistent with the applicable guidelines as the porch is a non-historic addition and neither element is a character defining feature of the dwelling or district.

Preliminary Hearing #1 — Historic Preservation Commission, May 24, 2023

At the first meeting, the applicant proposed to construct a onestory with basement, wood-frame, rear addition. The addition consisted of a single-story, gable-roof hyphen that connected to the taller single-story, gable-roof section with a shed-roof rear

porch (*Figure 5*). Historic Preservation Staff found that the proposal complied with the applicable guidelines and recommended approval. The commission supported the demolition of a shed and construction of a rear addition, but found the proposed roof form to be incompatible with the historic house. Items recommended for further study included altering the addition's massing and form, offsetting the addition and turning it perpendicular to the house, increasing the length of the hyphen, and introduction of trim elements to separate the new construction from the historic house.

Members of the Kensington Local Advisory Panel (LAP) found that the proposal met regulatory compliance, but shared concerns about the lack of distinction between the new construction and historic house, width and depth of the hyphen, and the effect of a theoretical second story to the proposed one-story addition.

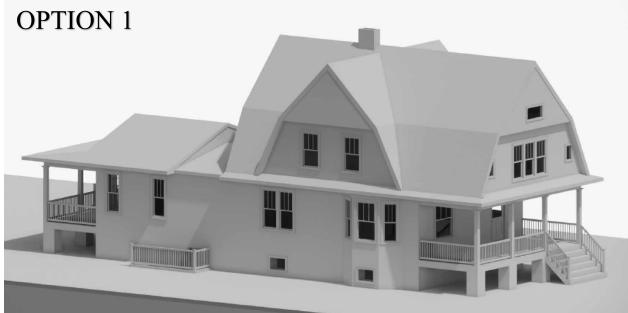


Figure 5: Model showing the proposed addition presented to the HPC at its May 26, 2023, hearing. Source: Applicant.

Description of Proposed Rear Addition

The applicant revised their application in response to the HPC's comments. The proposed addition remains a single-story with a basement, wood-frame, rear addition. The most significant change is to the addition's roof form. The addition now consists of a 6'-deep, gable-roof hyphen that connects to a one-story, gambrel roof addition (25'6" x 27'4") with a full width, hipped-roof, rear porch (9' x 27'4"). On the side elevations, the gable-roof hyphen is recessed approximately 2'6" from the original house and gambrel addition (*Figure 6*).

The materials remain consistent from the last application. This includes the cementitious fiberboard siding, polyvinyl chloride trim, aluminum-clad wood windows and doors, solid extruded polyvinyl chloride decking, composite railings, architectural asphalt shingles, and half-round copper gutters.

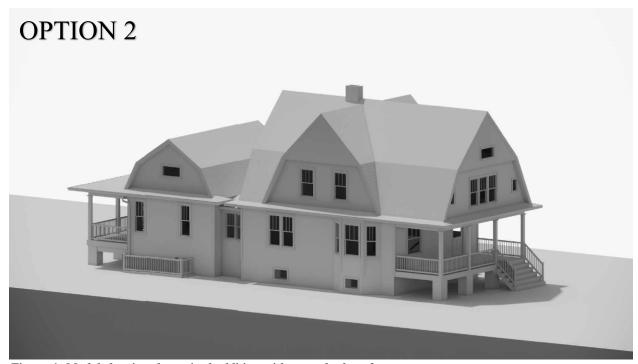


Figure 6: Model showing the revised addition with a gambrel roof. Source: Applicant.

Proposed Rear Addition - Concept, Scale, and Massing

The HPC should consider and discuss the applicant's overall conceptual approach to the addition. The architect utilized a 6'-deep, gable-roof hyphen to connect the side-gambrel addition to the historic house. The hyphen's lower right height allowed the entire second story of the original gambrel-roof house to remain intact. The revised 2'6" setback of the addition on both elevations helps distinguish the new construction from the historic house. Staff, however, finds that the depth of the hyphen is insufficient. The proximity of a side-gambrel addition of this scale to the historic front-gambrel house adversely effects the design of the resource and is incompatible with the character of the streetscape. The length of the hyphen would need to be increased to create an addition that coalesces with the historic house as it would provide greater relief from the rear elevation and separate the two overhanging roofs.



Figure 7: Example of a side-gambrel house with one-story wings. One of the wings is an infilled porch.

Staff recognizes the design challenges associated with a one-story rear addition to a two-story, front-gambrel house. Side-gambrel houses are more prevalent than front-gambrel houses and offer greater opportunities for additions (particularly one-story additions). Staff found numerous examples of small wings to the gambrel ends of such homes. In this example, the two-and-a-half-story, side-gambrel house is flanked by one-story, flat-roof wings (*Figure 7*).

In addition, the Kensington LAP raised valid concerns in response to the applicant's first proposal about the potential for a second story constructed by a future homeowner. Staff considered various

massing alternatives for the applicant and the HPC to consider that could be compatible with the historic resource and character of the streetscape. The HPC should provide the applicant with clear guidance on the massing, scale, and composition of the addition.

Staff's first option utilizes the above-mentioned scheme of a one-story, flat roof with balustrade, wing on a gambrel end. While the size of the proposed addition (approximately 24' x 24' to accommodate the existing floorplan) is considerably larger than a typical wing, the visibility of the addition would be partially diminished from the public rights-of-way due to existing viewsheds. Furthermore, the addition would setup the location for a future second story addition which could consist of a telescoping (inset) gambrel roof (*Figure 8*). This final roof form would be compatible with the historic house and streetscape.

STAFF OPTION 1

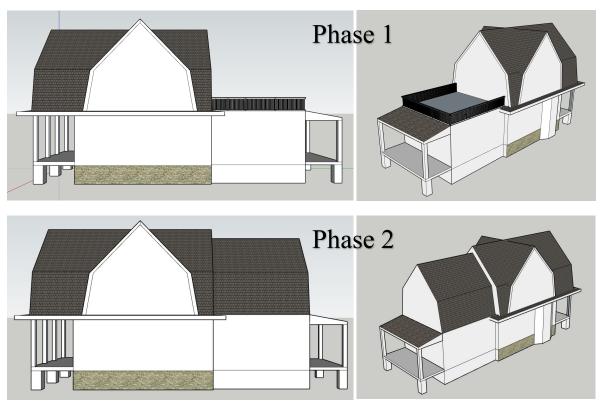


Figure 8: Staff Option #1, massing model of a hypothetical flat roof addition with balustrade. The top images shows the first phase while the bottom images depicts a potential future second story addition.

Staff's second option utilizes the applicant's existing scheme, but offsets and alters the dimensions of the hyphen. Recently, in a similar case, the HPC supported an addition to a side-gambrel house at 7216 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park (*Figure 9*). The applicant in that case proposed an offset, 16'-long, two-story, gable-roof hyphen attached to a two-story, side-gambrel massing. This separation allowed for a distinct and compatible addition to the historic house.

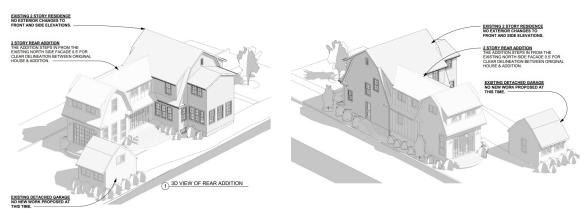
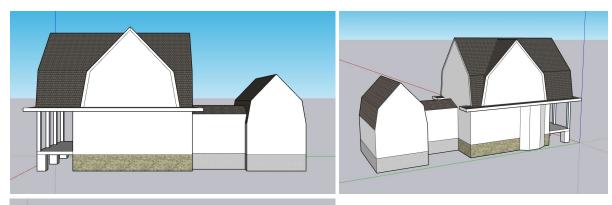
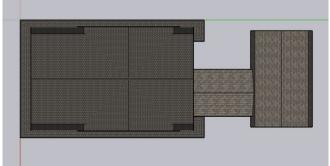


Figure 9: Model of the addition at 7216 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. Source: Applicant.

Staff suggests that the addition at 3930 Washington Street could be approached in a similar fashion. Members of the HPC recommended this design scheme as a potential solution at the May 26, 2023, hearing. The model below illustrates an offset, 16'-long, gable-roof hyphen that connects to a side-gambrel addition (*Figure 10*). The recessed portion on the side elevation could accommodate a porch in lieu of the rear porch presently proposed.





STAFF OPTION 2

Figure 10: Staff Option #2, model of a hypothetical addition at 3930 Washington Street, Kensington. Source: Montgomery Planning.

¹ For more information, see https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/II.B-7216-Maple-Avenue-Takoma-Park-1022993.pdf.

Staff recommends the HPC take one of the following actions: 1) return to the original design scheme; 2) explore the proposed staff options; or 3) recommend specific building forms and roof types that would be compatible with the house and streetscape.

Proposed Rear Addition – Materials

Staff finds that the proposed materials (submitted to date) to be compatible with the historic house and surrounding district. The HPC regularly approves the use of cementitious fiberboard siding and polyvinyl chloride trim on addition to Primary Resources in the Kensington Historic District. Staff recommends additional study of the proposed siding based on the final massing scheme. In addition, the applicant should include specifications sheets for the siding in future applications.

Staff finds that the solid extruded polyvinyl chloride porch flooring to be consistent with the applicable guidelines and precedent established by the HPC. The guidelines do not permit the use of composite railings for Primary Resources in the Kensington Historic District. Staff recommends switching to the polyvinyl chloride railing (available from TimberTech).

The application is missing specification for the following items: 1) foundation of the addition and porch (piers); 2) soffit; 3) posts supporting the rear porch roof; 4) hardscaping (if applicable); and 5) exterior lighting (if applicable).

Proposed Shed

The application includes a photograph of the proposed shed but no other details. All drawings and material specifications should be submitted as part of the HAWP application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the applicant make any changes suggested by the HPC and return for a preliminary consultation with the requested information.



APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301.563.3400

DATE ASSIGNED____

Date

FOR STAFF ONLY:

HAWP#_

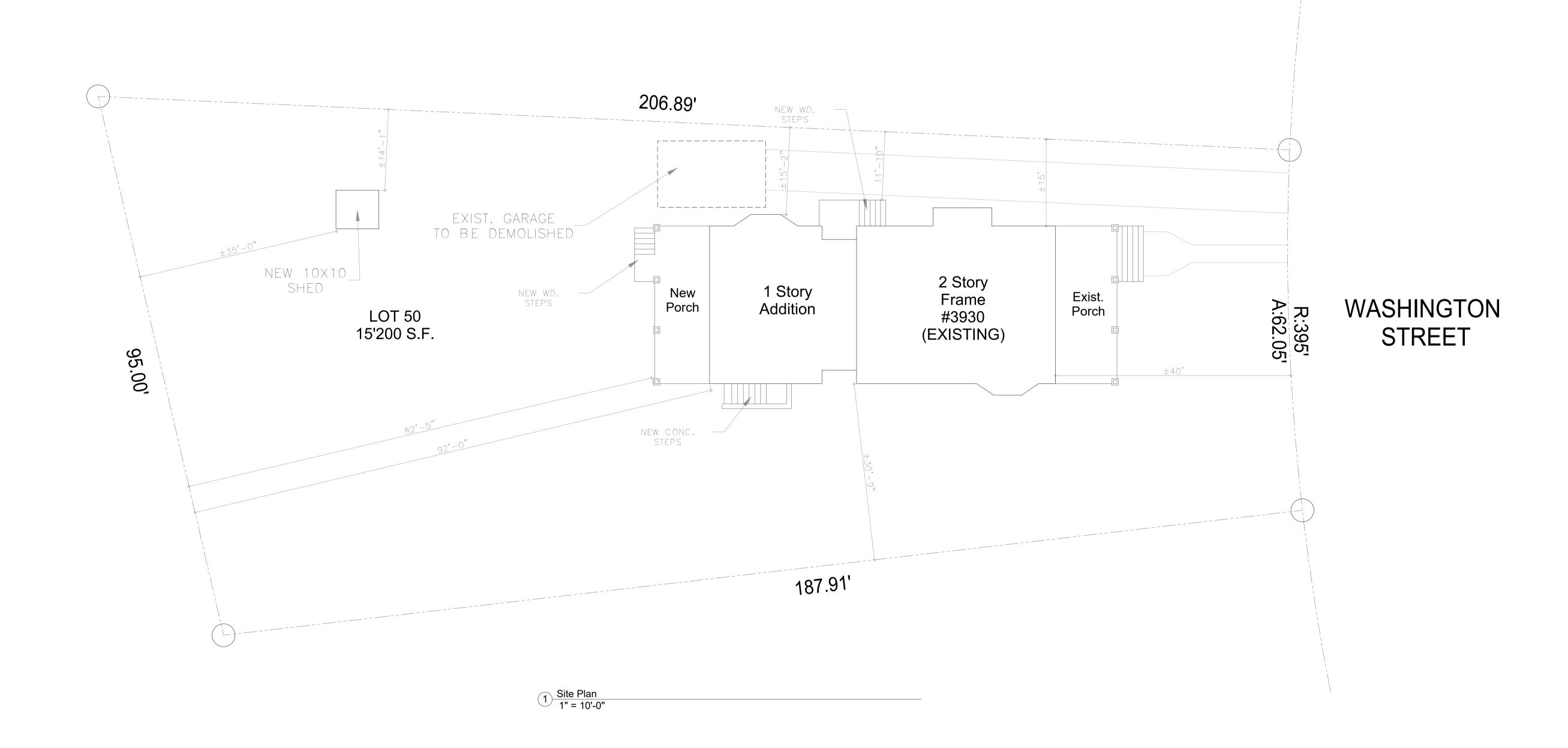
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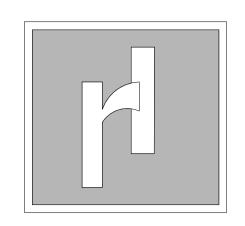
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Signature of owner or authorized agent

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

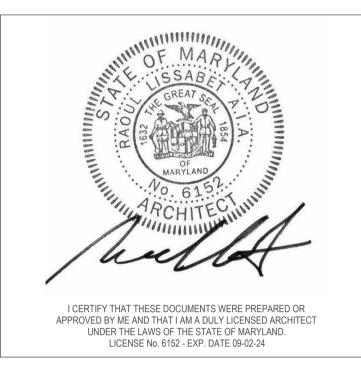
Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures, landscape features, or other significant features of the property:
Description of Work Proposed: Please give an overview of the work to be undertaken:





RAOUL LISSABET, A.I.A. ARCHITECTS, LLC

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MR. & MRS. SCHWABE

Location:

3930 WASHINGTON ST KENSINGTON, MD 20895

Proj

RESIDENCE ADDITION

Drawing Title:

Site Plan

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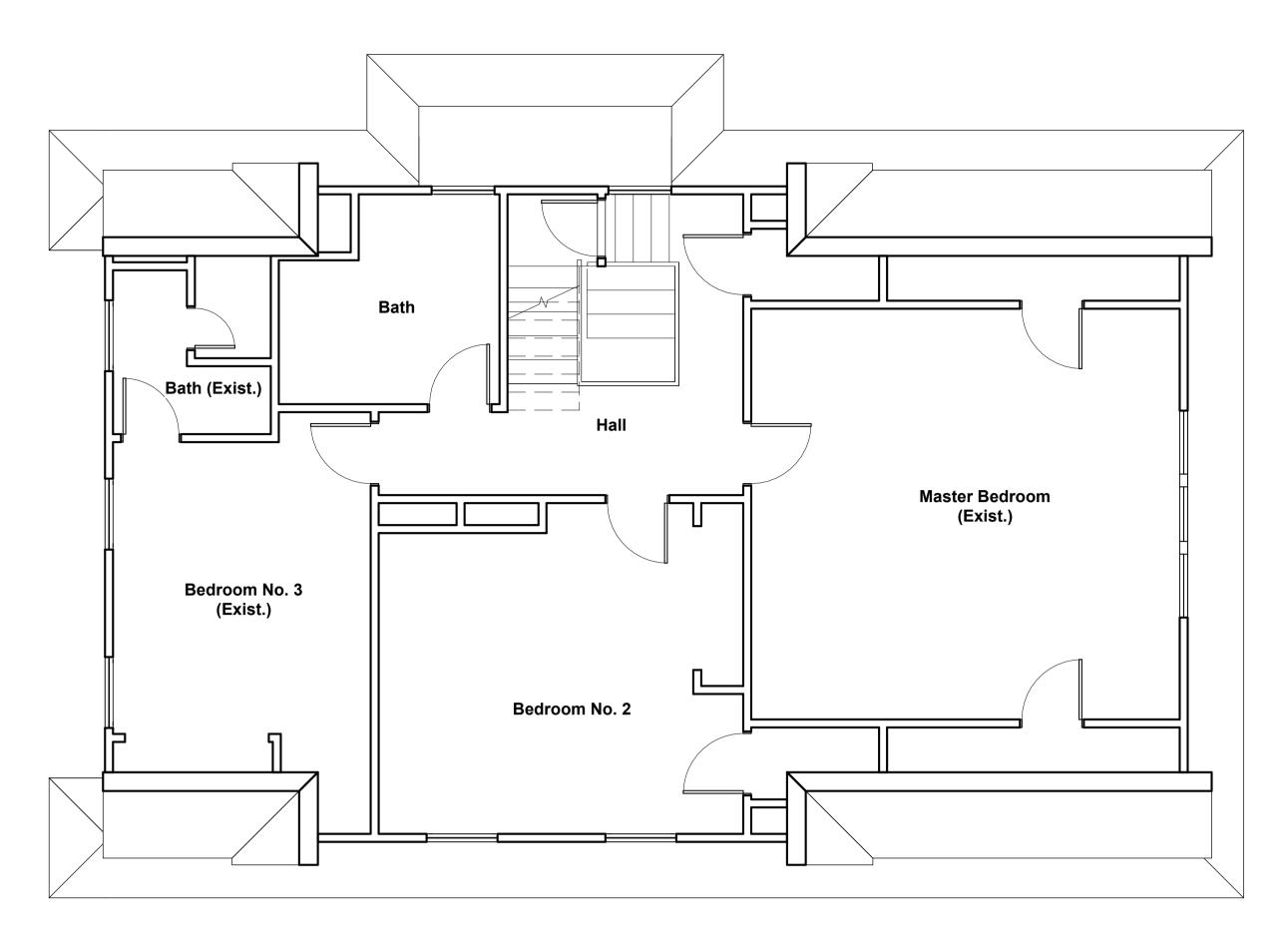
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Project No. 110522-E2

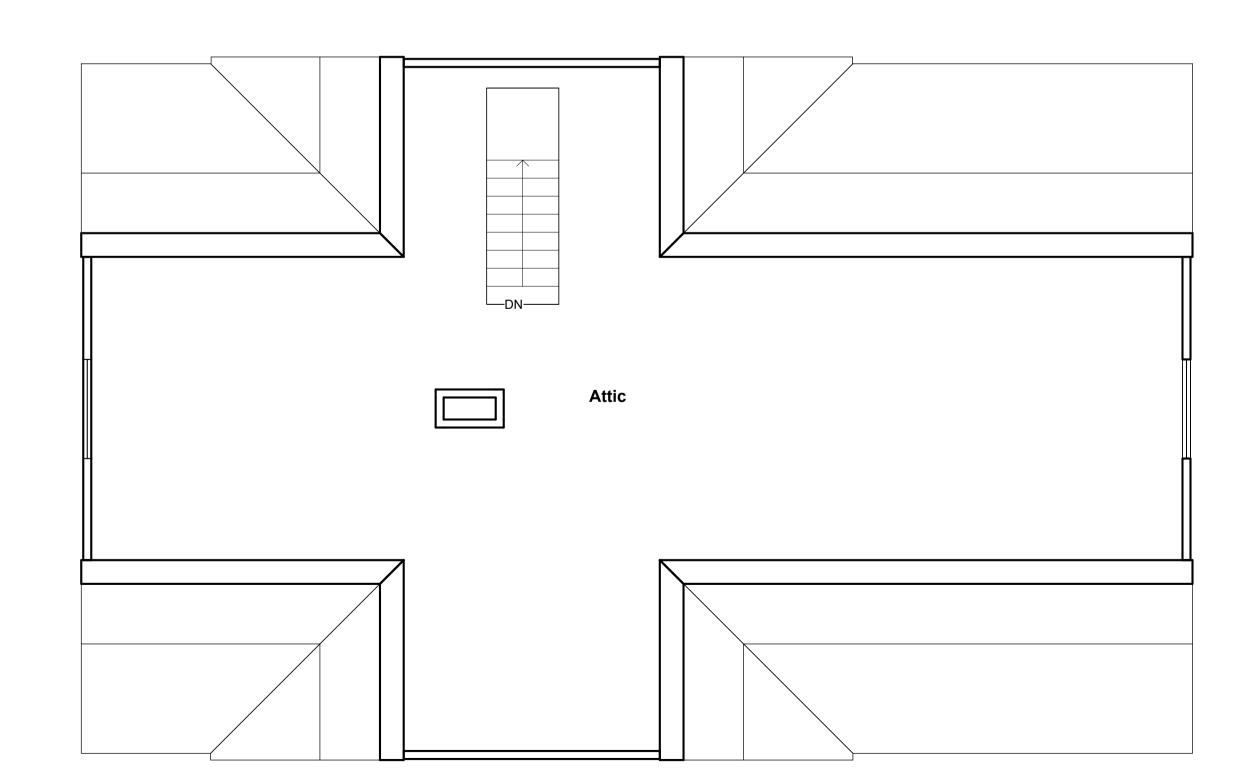
HPC SUBMISISON (06/21/2023)

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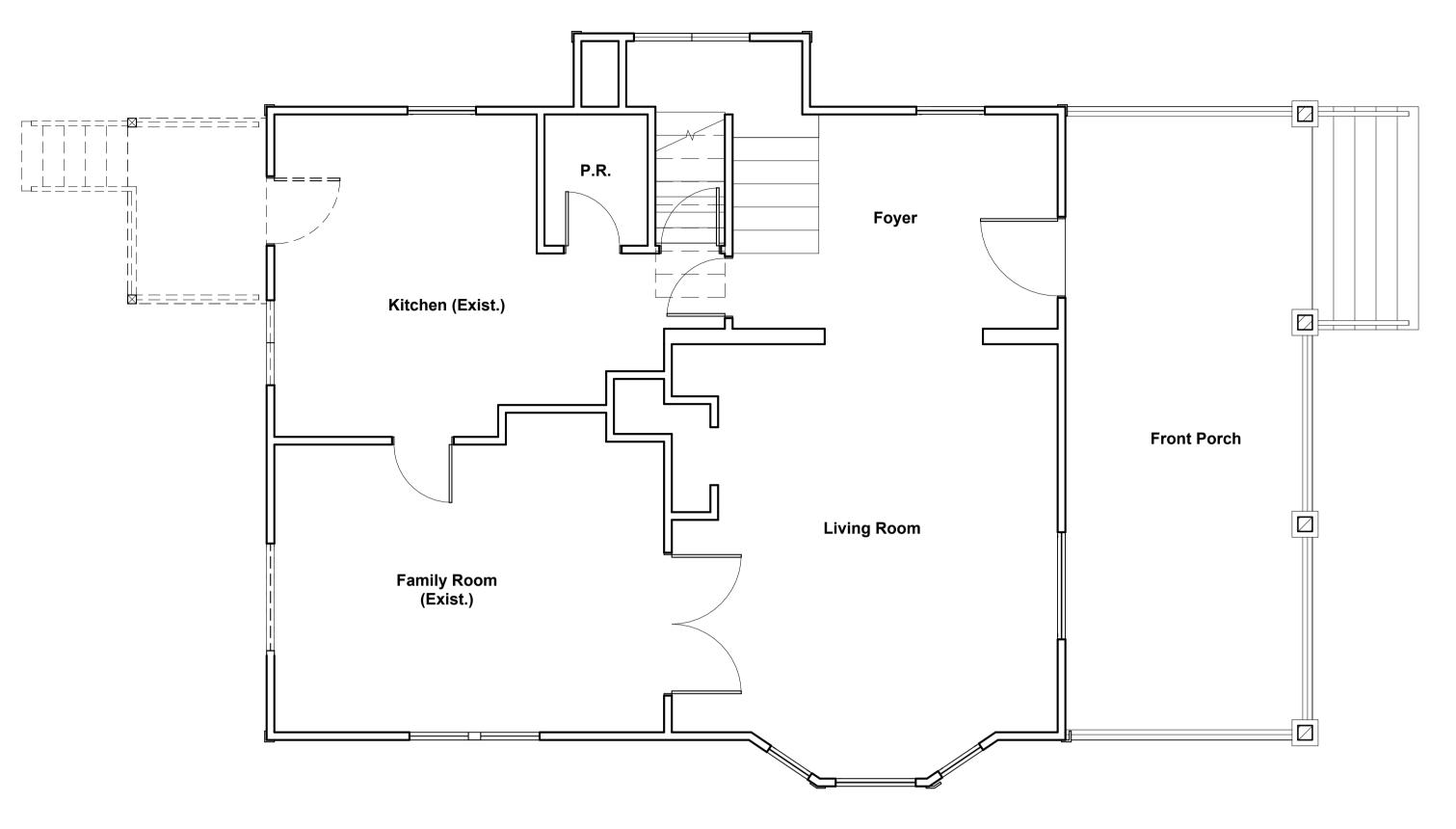
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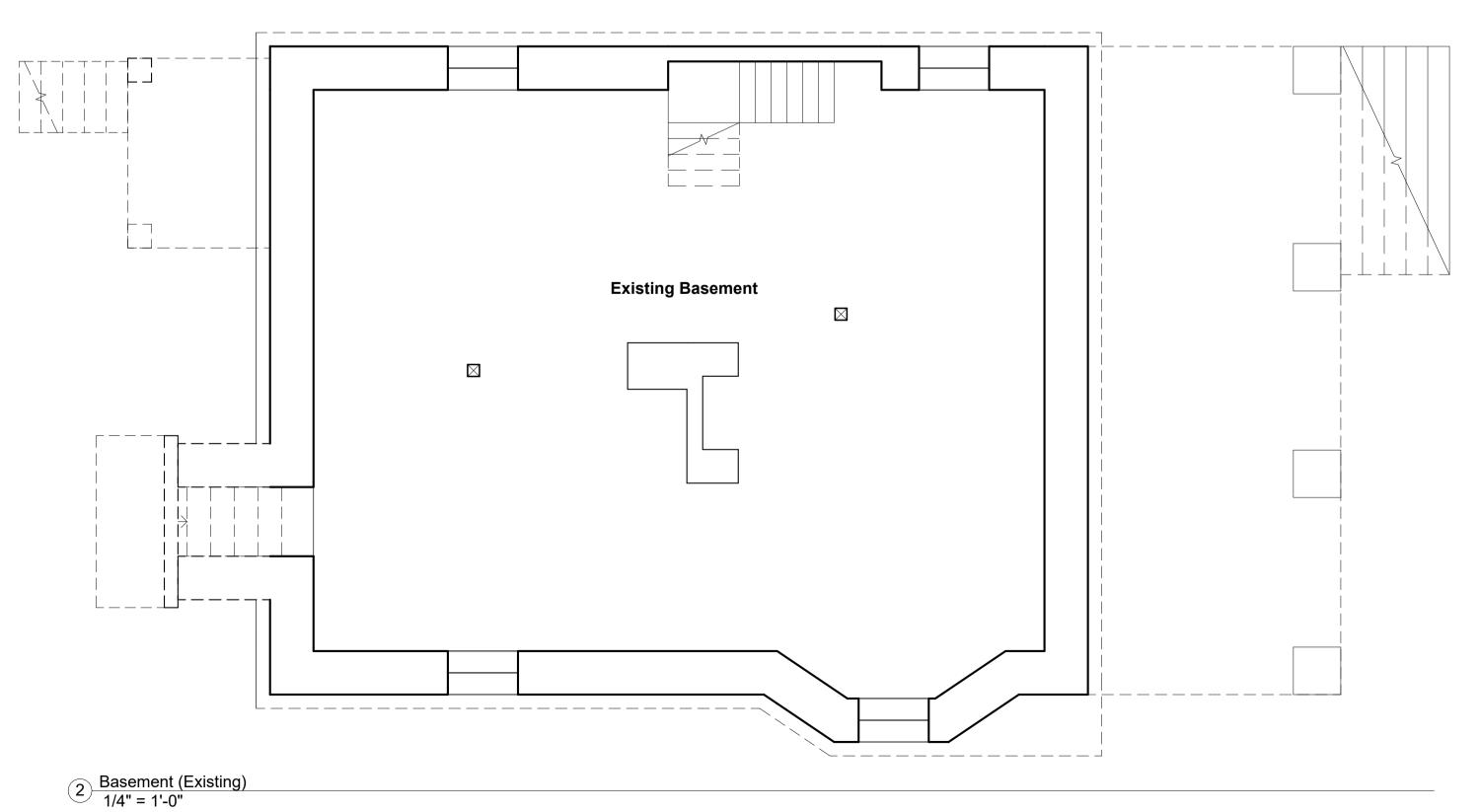
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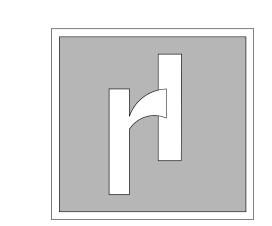


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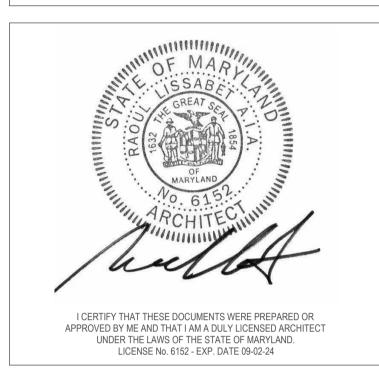
3 First Floor (Existing) 1/4" = 1'-0"





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#	Date	

MR. & MRS. SCHWABE

3930 WASHINGTON ST KENSINGTON, MD 20895

Drawing Title:

RESIDENCE ADDITION

Floor Plans (Existing & Demo)

C.G.

Project No.

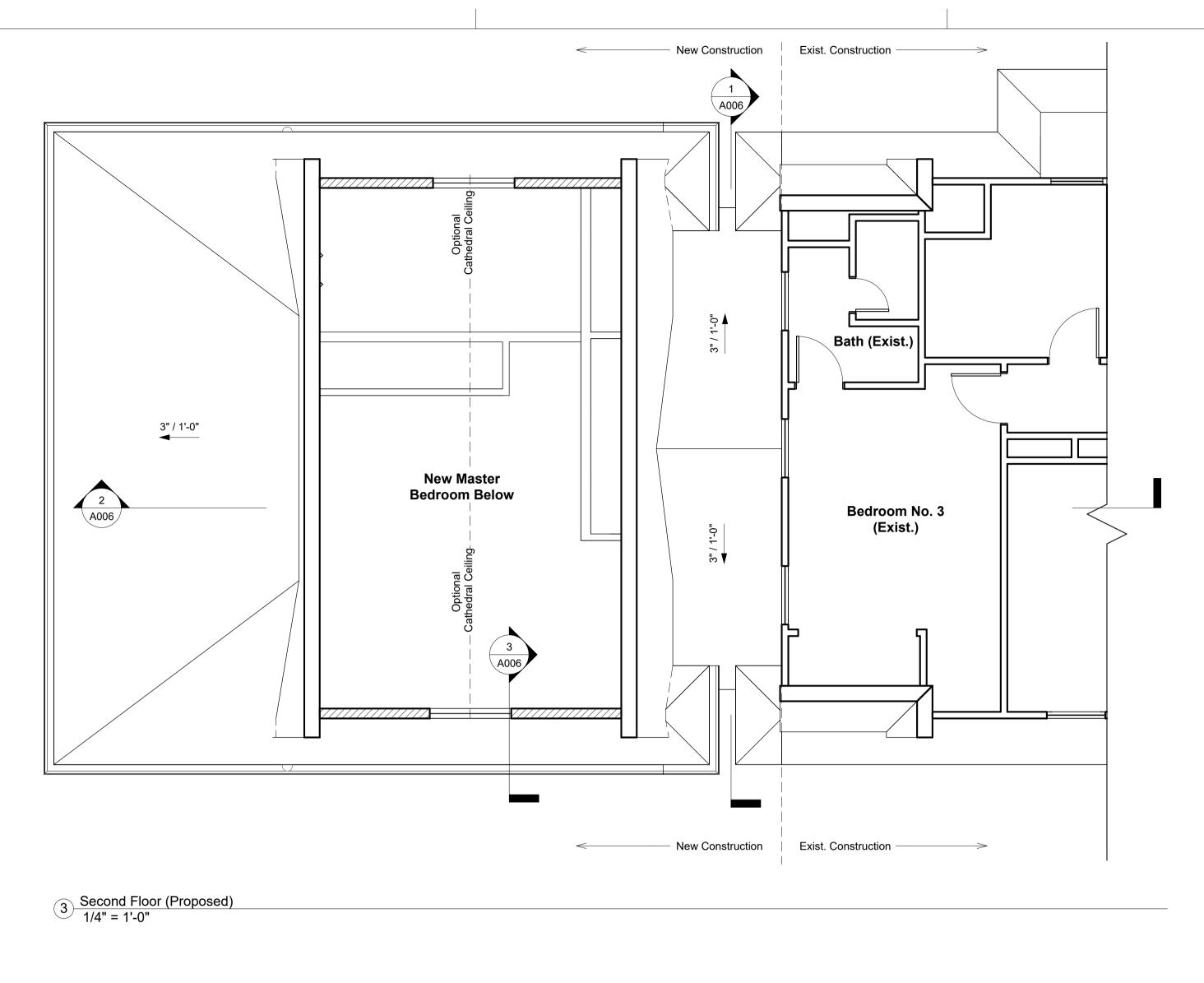
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HPC SUBMISISON (06/21/2023)

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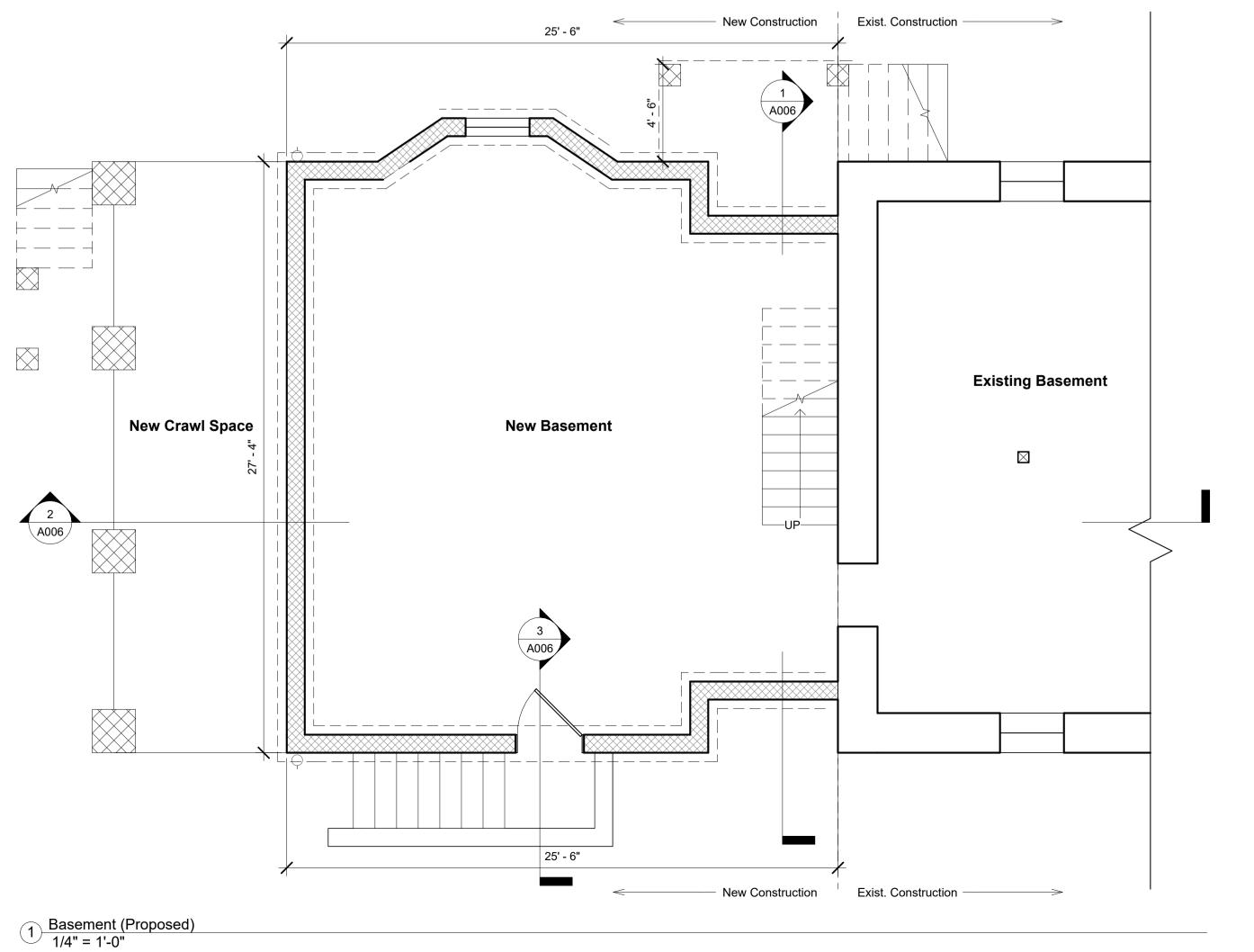
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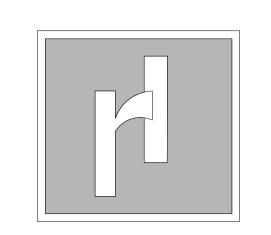




 New Construction Exist. Construction -25' - 6" 11' - 1" P.R. **Breakfast** Kitchen (Exist.) _CL._ _ _ _ _ 10' - 11" 3' - 8" Bath **New Rear Porch** 14' - 10" 5' - 10" __3' - 6"__ A006 **New Master** Bedroom Family Room (Exist.) 3 A006 18' - 6" 6' - 0" 25' - 6" New Construction Exist. Construction

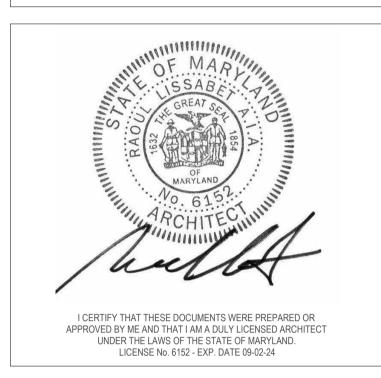
2 First Floor (Proposed) 1/4" = 1'-0"





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MR. & MRS. SCHWABE

3930 WASHINGTON ST KENSINGTON, MD 20895

RESIDENCE ADDITION

Floor Plans (Proposed)

Drawing Title:

C.G.

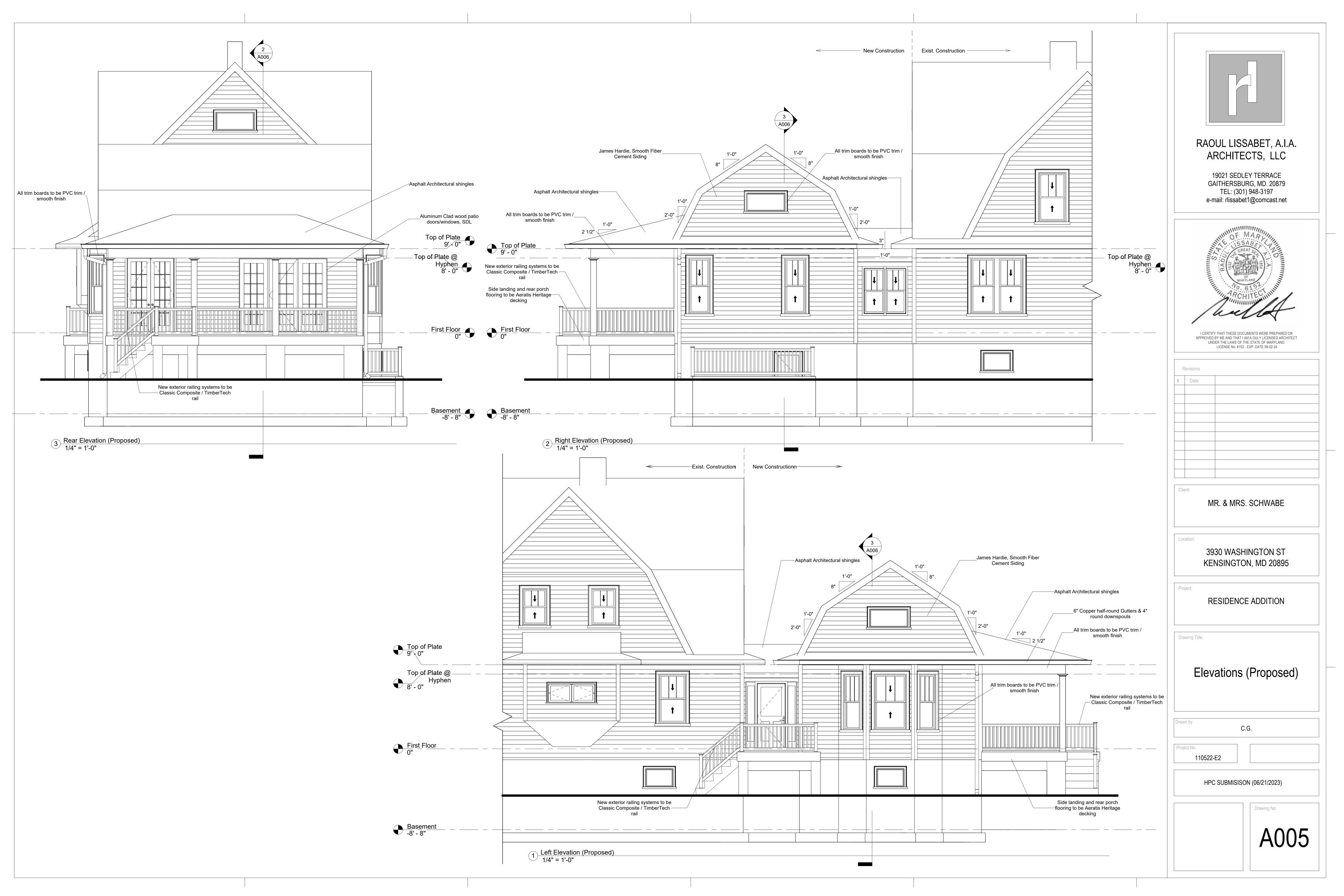
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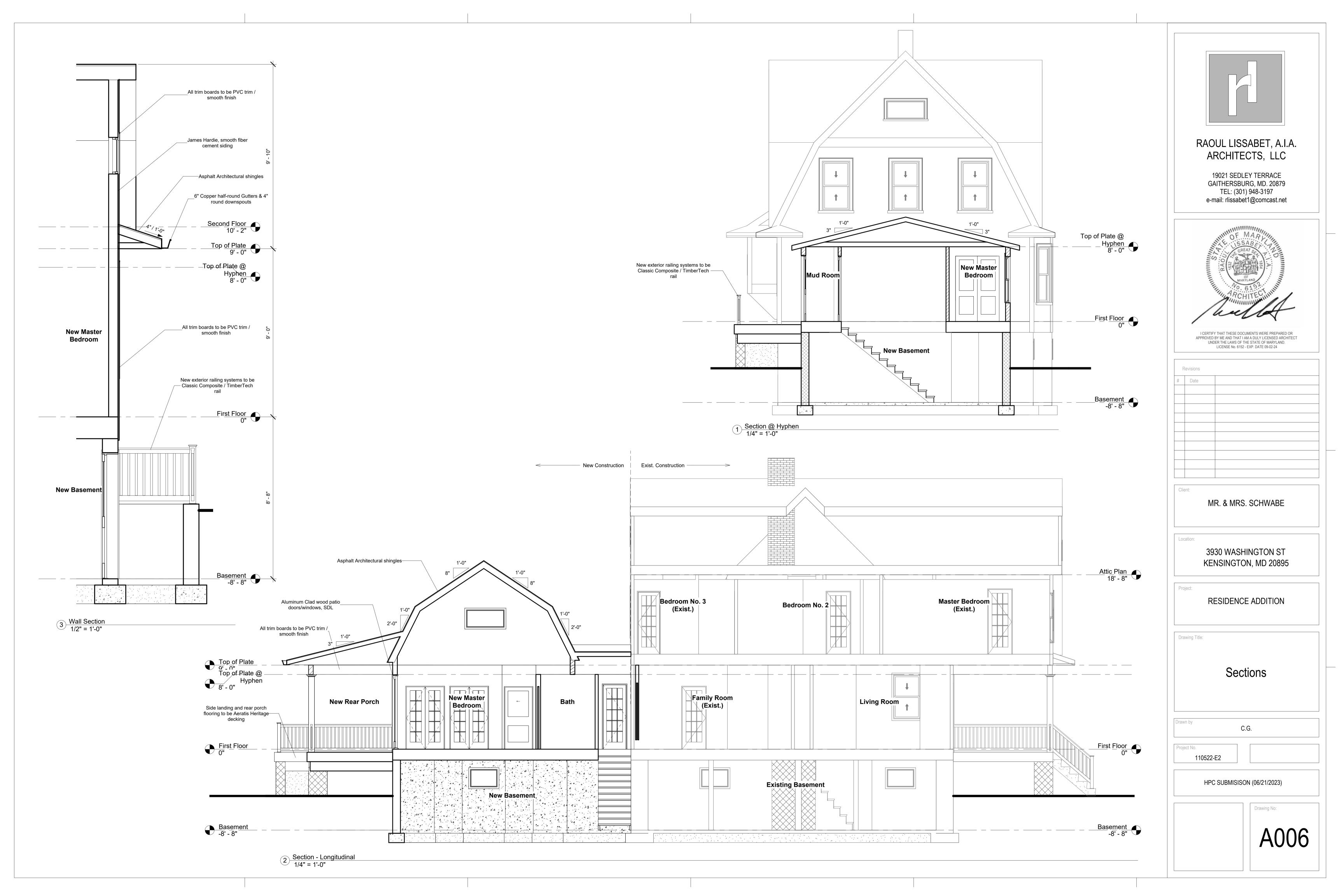
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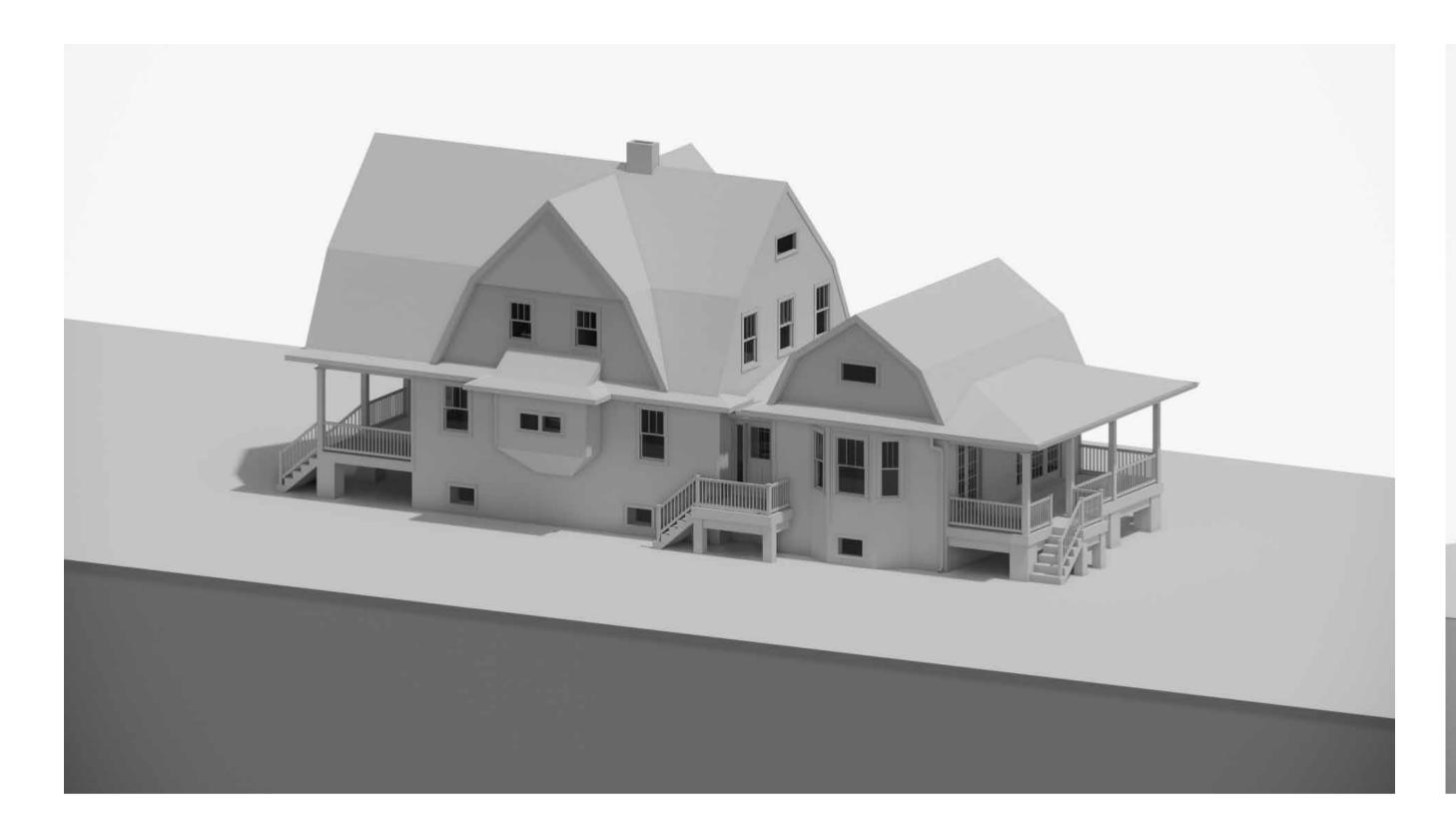
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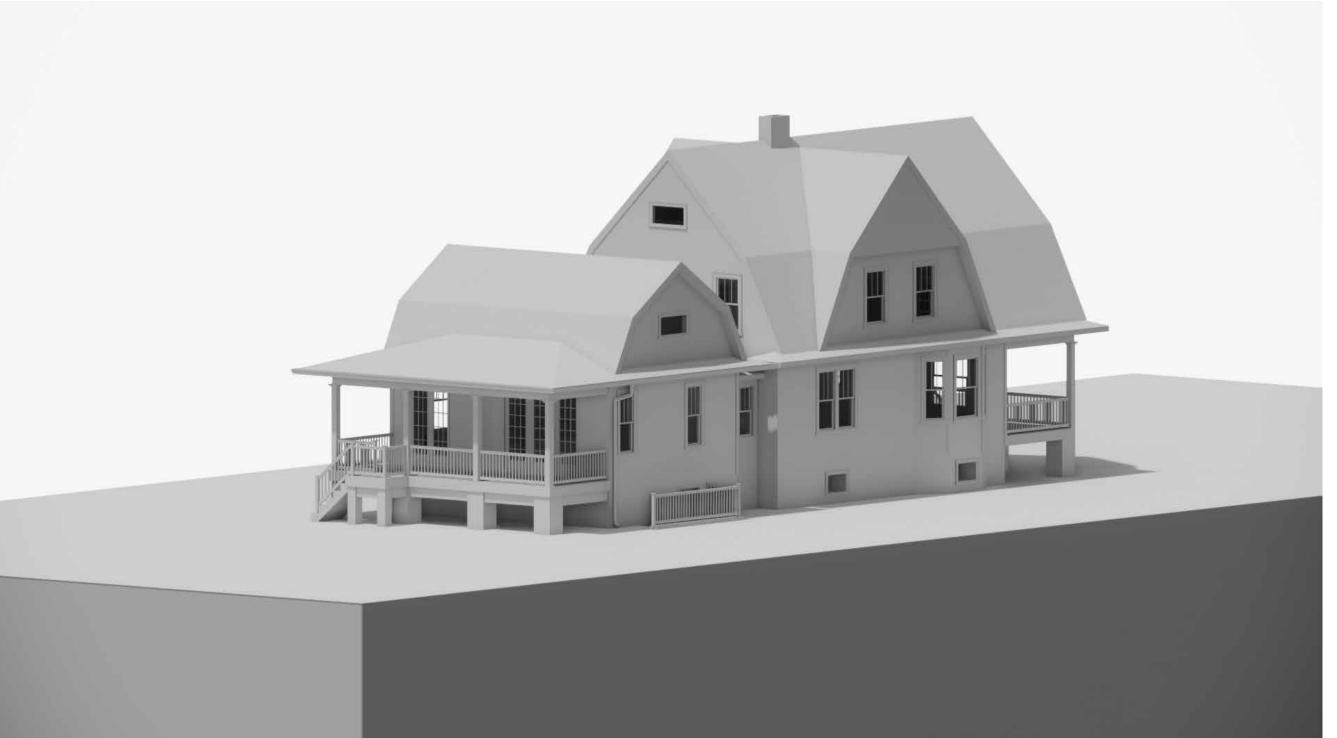
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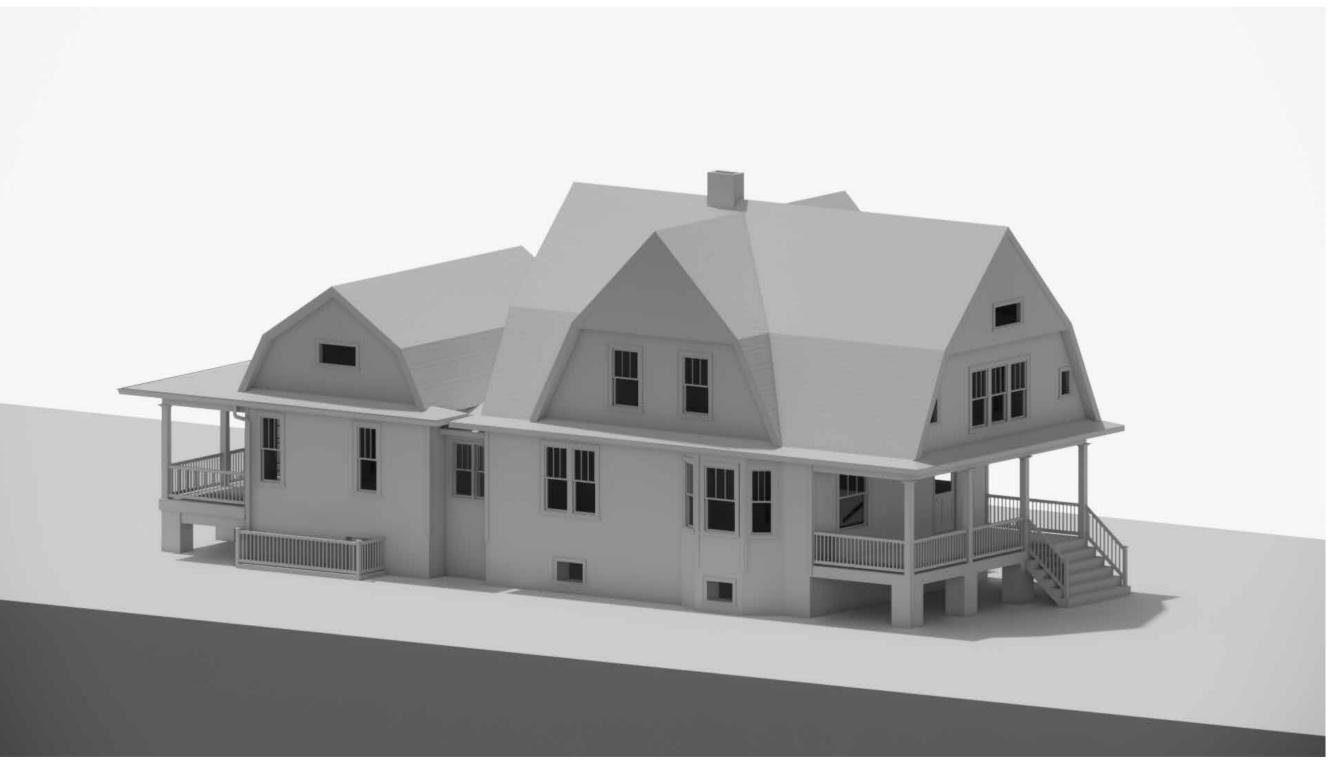


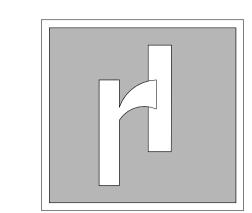






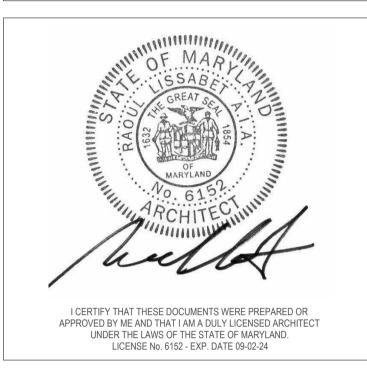






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MR. & MRS. SCHWABE

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3930 WASHINGTON ST KENSINGTON, MD 20895

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RESIDENCE ADDITION

Drawing Title:

3D Views

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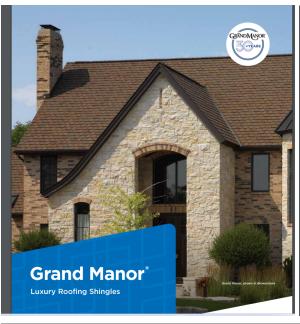
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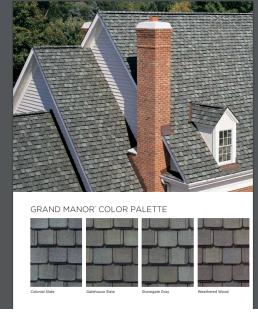
Project No. 110522-E2

HPC SUBMISISON (06/21/2023)

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Drawing No:







The Peak of Perfection

Some roofs say more. About you. About your style. About the home that uniquely showcases your life.

Grand Manor says it all with a style and grace that is exceptional from every angle. The luxurious multi-layered laminated shingle replicates the look of slate with the confidence backed by a lifetime warranty.

Your home becomes your castle with one of the heaviest shingles we've ever made. CertainTeed developed Grand Manor to endure all types of weather and always look its best, even on the steepest slopes.

STRIKING LOOKS

Deep shadows and random tabs are the secrets behind the design genius in Grand Manor. The result is a shingle with the incredibly authentic depth and dimension of slate.

LASTING BEAUTY

Our exclusive Super Shangle' construction design results in a shingle that, once installed, offers virtually five layers of protection. Made of the industry's most durable roofing materials, you'll have a roof with unsurpassed defense against the elements.

StreakFighter* PROTECTION

The ultimate in stain protection. CertainTeed's StreakFighter technology uses the power of science to repel algae before it can take hold and spread. StreakFighter's granular blend includes naturally algae-resistant copper to combat the ugly black streaking caused by algae and help your roof maintain its beauty for years to come.

With Grand Manor on your home, you'll have the assurance of being protected by one of CertainTeed's finest, most durable luxury shingles—and the confidence of knowing that whenever you look up at your roof, you'll see something beautiful.

3

Roofing - Certainteed Grand Manor Architectural asphalt shingles

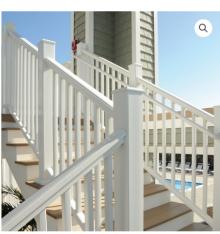
PROPOSED Exterior railing system

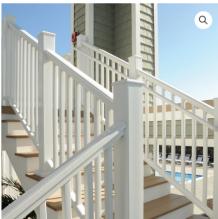


Home > Products > Railing > Classic Composite Series









COMPOSITE RAILING

Classic Composite Series

High Performance & Design Versatility

Made from a mix of recycled wood and plastic fibers, TimberTech composite railing boasts superior durability to wood, while being extremely low maintenance. With the most customization options, from traditional milled-woodinspired looks to sleek, contemporary designs, mixing and matching components $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($ is a breeze.

Choose from multiple top rail design, infill options, and other accessories to customize your railing. See options.

TOP RAIL SHAPE Premier Rail



COLOR Matte White



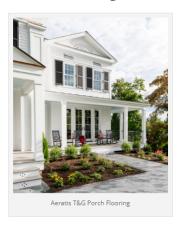


LANDING and REAR PORCH DECKING

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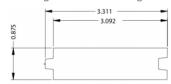


Aeratis Heritage is a true double-sided tongue and groove porch plank that comes in three pre-finished colors, Battleship Gray, Weathered Wood and Vintage Slate. These colored boards are made with slight color variation along with subtle, random streaking to match the richness and depth of natural wood. Heritage, like all the other Aeratis products, can be painted or stained any color, any time in the future, by following the steps within the Traditions paint instructions.

The Heritage line of products are ADA slip complaint and carry a Class "B" fire rating (more flame resistant than any other competitors' product). This double-sided board offers a finished ceiling look from the underside of a porch floor that is visible from underneath.

Aeratis Heritage T&G porch flooring board dimensions are 3-1/8" x 7/8" and are available in 12', 16' and 20' lengths and come 1" longer than published length. As seen above from left to right: Battleship Gray, Weathered Wood and Vintage Slate. The Aeratis products have the appearance of wood and natural color variation.

Aeratis Heritage T&G Porch Flooring Dimensions



Lengths: 12', 16', or 20' Width: 3-1/8" (3.092) Thickness: 7/8"



PVC - Exterior Trim Boards









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WINDOWS - Wood Clad Andersen 200 series



PRODUCT OVERVIEW



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200 Series gliding windows feature low-maintenance exteriors and real wood interiors. They have a single sash that glides horizontally to allow for full top to bottom ventilation and are an excellent choice for rooms that face walkways, porches or decks because the sash do not open outward.



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Proposed Shed - 10 x 14











