$\frac{\textbf{MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION}}{\textbf{STAFF REPORT}}$

Address: 10304 Montgomery Avenue, Kensington Meeting Date: 9/3/2025

Resource: Primary Resource Report Date: 8/27/2025

Kensington Historic District Public Notice: 8/20/2025

Applicant: Jeff and Gloria Capron

(Luke Olson, Architect)

Review: Historic Area Work Permit Tax Credit: No

Permit No.: 1060765 REVISION Staff: Laura DiPasquale

Proposal: Revisions to previously-approved rear deck

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) **approve** the HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE: Primary Resource within the Kensington Historic District

STYLE: Colonial Revival Four Square

DATE: c. 1904-1911

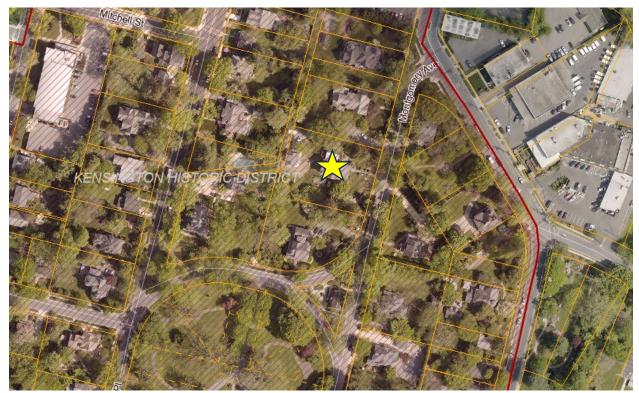


Figure 1: The subject property is located north of Warner Circle in the Kensington Historic District.



Figure 2: Front elevation of the subject property, August 2025 (Historic Preservation Office).

BACKGROUND

The current project proposes revisions to a new rear porch approved as part of a larger project by the HPC in 2024, which included fenestration alterations, new additions, hardscape alterations, and construction of a new detached garage. The HPC provided a preliminary consultation for the project at its September 6, 2023, meeting and was generally supportive.¹

At its March 20, 2024 meeting, the HPC approved the associated HAWP application (#1060765), which included fenestration alteration, new additions, hardscape alterations, and construction of new detached garage.

On June 12, 2024, the HPC approved a revision to the approved HAWP to enlarge the previously approved basement areaway and alter the fenestration on the right side of the historic house.²

The first HAWP and the subsequent revision contained seven (7) conditions of approval for the HAWP,. Those conditions were:

- 1. Applicant shall provide specifications for all features, including the masonry and flagstone steps and stairs, doors on the addition; light fixtures; and patio pavers.
- 2. Applicant shall specify all the proposed materials on the plans.
- 3. Applicant shall revise plans to correct any incorrect dimensions and labels.

https://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=18960b37-4d9f-11ee-ae13-0050569183fa

¹ The staff report for the preliminary consultation report is available here: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/II.B-10304-Montgomery-Avenue-Kensington.pdf

The minutes for the September 6, 2023, meeting are available here:

² The approval letter and stamped approval documents for the March 20, 2024 and June 12, 2024 approvals are available here: https://mcatlas.org/tiles6/06_HistoricPreservation_PhotoArchives/HAWP/HPC%202024-06-12/10304%20Montgomery%20Avenue,%20Kensington%20-%201060765%20-%20Approval%208.1.24.pdf

- 4. The front porch floor shall be replaced in-kind with wood that is painted and not a composite material.
- 5. The applicant shall provide a detail for the replacement materials on the side porch.
- 6. The applicant must provide specifications for all proposed features, including doors, railings, and windows.
- 7. The infill siding in the proposed door opening needs to be either salvaged from other cuts in the house or be new wood siding that matches the profile, material, and finish.

The building permit for the overall project was issued September 11, 2024.

On April 9, 2025, the HPC approved a second round of revisions to the previously-approved HAWP to convert the fenestration on the second floor rear elevation from two double-hung windows to two awning windows and change the approved full-light French doors on the rear elevation of the addition to ³/₄-light French doors.



Figure 3: Current condition of the approved rear addition from the driveway, August 2025 (Historic Preservation Office). The proposed stone-clad deck would extend from the rear of the addition.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to change the previously-approved wood-frame rear deck with composite decking to a poured concrete porch clad in stone with flagstone decking. No changes are proposed to the footprint of the deck or the railing.

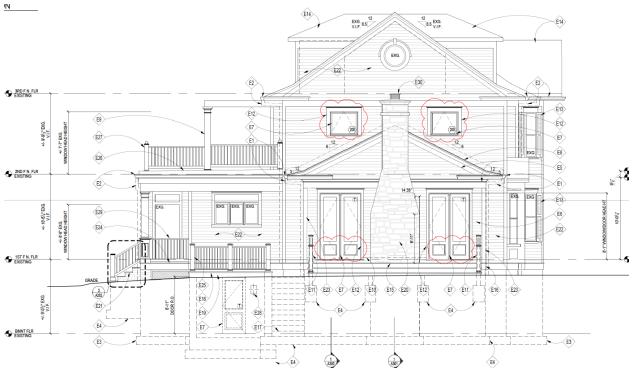


Figure 4: Rear elevation revisions approved at the April 9, 2025 HPC meeting.

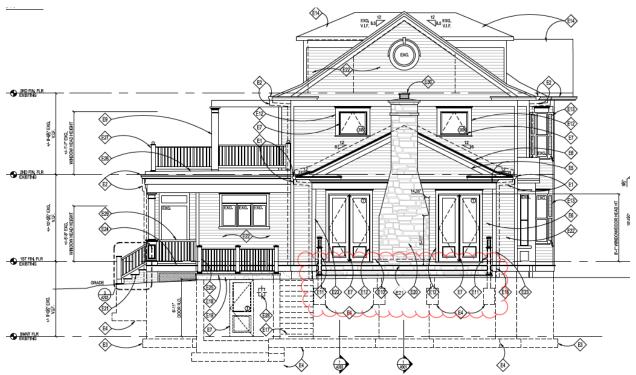


Figure 5: Currently-proposed rear elevation.

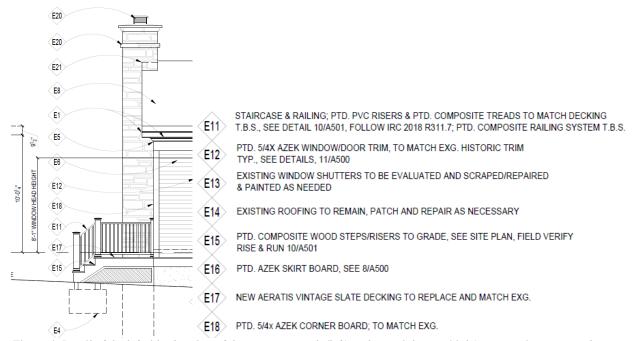


Figure 6: Detail of the left side elevation of the new rear porch (left) and material notes (right), per previous approval documents stamped August 1, 2024.

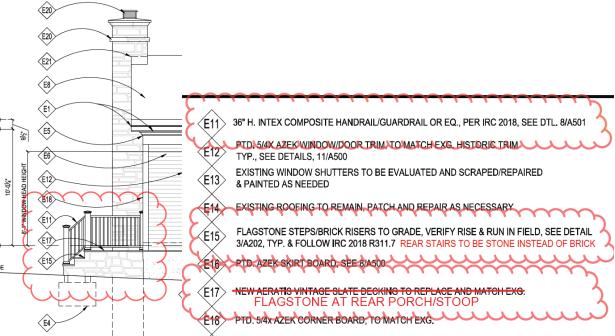


Figure 7: Current, revised left side elevation rear porch detail (left) and material notes (right).

APPLICABLE 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), and Policy No. 24-01, the Policy for the Appropriateness of Substitute Materials for Porch and Deck Flooring. The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.*

Approved & Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Kensington Historic District, Atlas #31/6

The Amendment notes:

The district is architecturally significant as a collection of late 19th and early 20th Century houses exhibiting 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, set backs 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: 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 as noted on Page 1 "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." 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.

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
- (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 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.

Historic Preservation Commission Policy No. 24-01: Policy for the Appropriateness of Substitute Materials for Porch and Deck Flooring

WHEREAS, Section 24A-8(b) of the Montgomery County Code identifies seven criteria to evaluate approvable HAWPs for properties designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation or properties that are in a historic district designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation;

WHEREAS, nothing in this policy may supersede Council-adopted Design Guidelines for Historic Districts or Sites that already specify the use of certain materials and finishes;

WHEREAS, porches and decks are identified as character-defining features of historic buildings;

WHEREAS, if the HPC determines the porch flooring/decking has deteriorated beyond repair, it shall be the policy of the Historic Preservation Commission that:

- Sites listed on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation are properties that have been
 designated to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation based on their individual historic
 significance, including architectural significance. Because of the significance of these sites,
 preserving its historic character is of paramount concern. Wood is the appropriate material to
 maintain the historic appearance, materials, and construction methods at Master Plan sites.
 The HPC does not evaluate wood and species. The finish applied needs to be compatible
 with the species selected.
- 2. Historic districts are comprised of groups of cohesive historic resources that collectively contribute to the county's historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural values. Resources in many districts are categorized as 'Outstanding,' 'Contributing,' or 'Non-Contributing' and the treatment of these resources varies based on their categorization.
- 3. Outstanding Resources/Primary These resources have the highest level of architectural or historical significance in the historic district and the objective for Outstanding/Primary resources is to preserve the historic and architectural character to the greatest extent possible. Wood should be used on all porches and decks for Outstanding/Primary resources. The wood should be painted and installed in a historically appropriate method. Porches on building additions and new construction to Outstanding/Primary resources will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. As with Master Plan Sites, the HPC does not evaluate wood species and the applied finish needs to be appropriate for the material selected.
- 4. Contributing Resources These are significant for their contribution to the district as a whole and prioritize retaining the architectural style, overall volume, and size. Porch floors on 'Contributing' resources may be a compatible substitute material (discussed below), provided the material matches the building's historic character and construction methods. Historic rear porches for 'Contributing' resources may be constructed using a compatible substitute material. Non-historic porches and decks on 'Contributing' resources that are not visible from the public right-of-way may be constructed using substitute materials.
- 5. Non-Contributing Resources/Secondary/Spatial These were constructed after the district's period of significance or have been so heavily modified that they no longer contribute to the

- historic district's character. These resources do not need to use traditional materials. New porch flooring/decking materials for these resources need to satisfy the criteria for compatible substitute material.
- 6. Compatible substitute materials for replacement porch flooring/decking On buildings where a substitute material is acceptable under this policy, the material must satisfy the following criteria:
 - It must match the dimensions and installation method (i.e.) of the existing material or a historically appropriate porch flooring, (e.g., boards must run perpendicular to the house for porches);
 - It must be millable;
 - It can be painted without voiding the product warranty; or,
 - Has a uniform appearance consistent with painted wood;
 - It has a minimal (or no) stamped or embossed texture on the surface; and,
 - It has a finished edge that appears as a cut solid board.

STAFF DISCUSSION

Staff supports the proposed material changes for the proposed rear deck and recommends approval. Staff finds this revision is a de minimis change that will not impact the massing of the proposed addition or the character of the house or surrounding district, per Chapter 24A-8(b)(1). Staff finds that, as a Primary resource, *Policy No. 24-01* allows for case-by-case evaluation of the appropriate porch and deck material on a building addition. Staff finds that the HPC previously approved construction of the new rear deck with compatible substitute materials—Azek and Aeratis. Staff finds that the change to a poured concrete structure clad with stone risers, cheek walls, and flagstone decking, is compatible with the resource and district for use on a non-historic rear addition. Staff finds these changes will be minimally visible or invisible from the public right-of-way, will not impact the historic fabric or the historic character of the house and will be compatible with the resource and district, per Chapter 24A-8(b)(2) and *Standards* 2 and 9.



Figure 8: View of the right side elevation without tree cover, December 2024 (Google Streetview). The new addition is located behind the side projection and white stair visible on the right in this image.



Figure 9: Proposed stone riser veneer and flagstone decking.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission <u>approve</u> the revisions to this HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b)(1) and (2), having found that the proposal is consistent with the *Vision of Kensington*, 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 Vision of Kensington: A Long-Range Preservation Plan;

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

and with the *Historic Preservation Commission Policy No. 24-01: Policy for the Appropriateness of Substitute Materials for Porch and Deck Flooring*;

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 301-495-2167 or laura.dipasquale@montgomeryplanning.org to schedule a follow-up site visit.



APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 301.563.3400

FOR STAFF ONLY: HAWP#<u>1060765</u> DATE ASSIGNED____

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APPLICANI:	gcidesign@gloriacapron.com			
Name:Jeff and Gloria Capron	E-mail: jeffcapron5504@gmail.com			
Address:10304 Montgomery Ave	City: Kensington Zip: 20895			
Daytime Phone:	Tax Account No.: 01018853			
AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable):				
Name: LUKE OLSON	E-mail: LOLSON@GTMARCHITECTS.COM			
Address: 7735 OLD GEORGETOWN RD STE 700	City: BETHESDA Zip: 20814			
Daytime Phone: 240-333-2021	Contractor Registration No.:			
LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE: MIHP # of Histor	ric Property			
Is the Property Located within an Historic District? X— Is there an Historic Preservation/Land Trust/Environm map of the easement, and documentation from the Eater Office Planning and/or Hearing Examiner Approval (Conditional Use, Variance, Record Plat, etc.?) If YES, i supplemental information.	_No/Individual Site Name nental Easement on the Property? If YES, include a asement Holder supporting this application. Is /Reviews Required as part of this Application?			
Building Number: 10304 Street: Mo	ontgomery Ave			
Town/City: Kensington Nearest Cro				
TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: See the checklist on Information for proposed work are submitted with this applicable accepted for review. Check all that apply: New Construction New Construction New Construction Hereby Construction Roof I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the fand accurate and that the construction will comply we	Shed/Garage/Accessory Structure Solar Tree removal/planting Sscape Window/Door X Other: DRIVEWAY MODIFICATION foregoing application, that the application is correct			

HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING

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

Own	er's	mailing	address
O 11 EE	~ ~	**********	

JEFF & GLORIA CAPRON 10304 MONTGOMERY AVE KENSINGTON, MD 20895

Owner's Agent's mailing address

Luke Olson 7735 Old Georgetown Rd Ste 700 Bethesda, MD 20814

Adjacent and confronting Property Owners mailing addresses

JAMES & CAROL SHARP 10226 CARROLL PL KENSINGTON MD 20895 MICHAEL & DEBRA MCCURRY 10313 FAWCETT ST KENSINGTON MD 20895

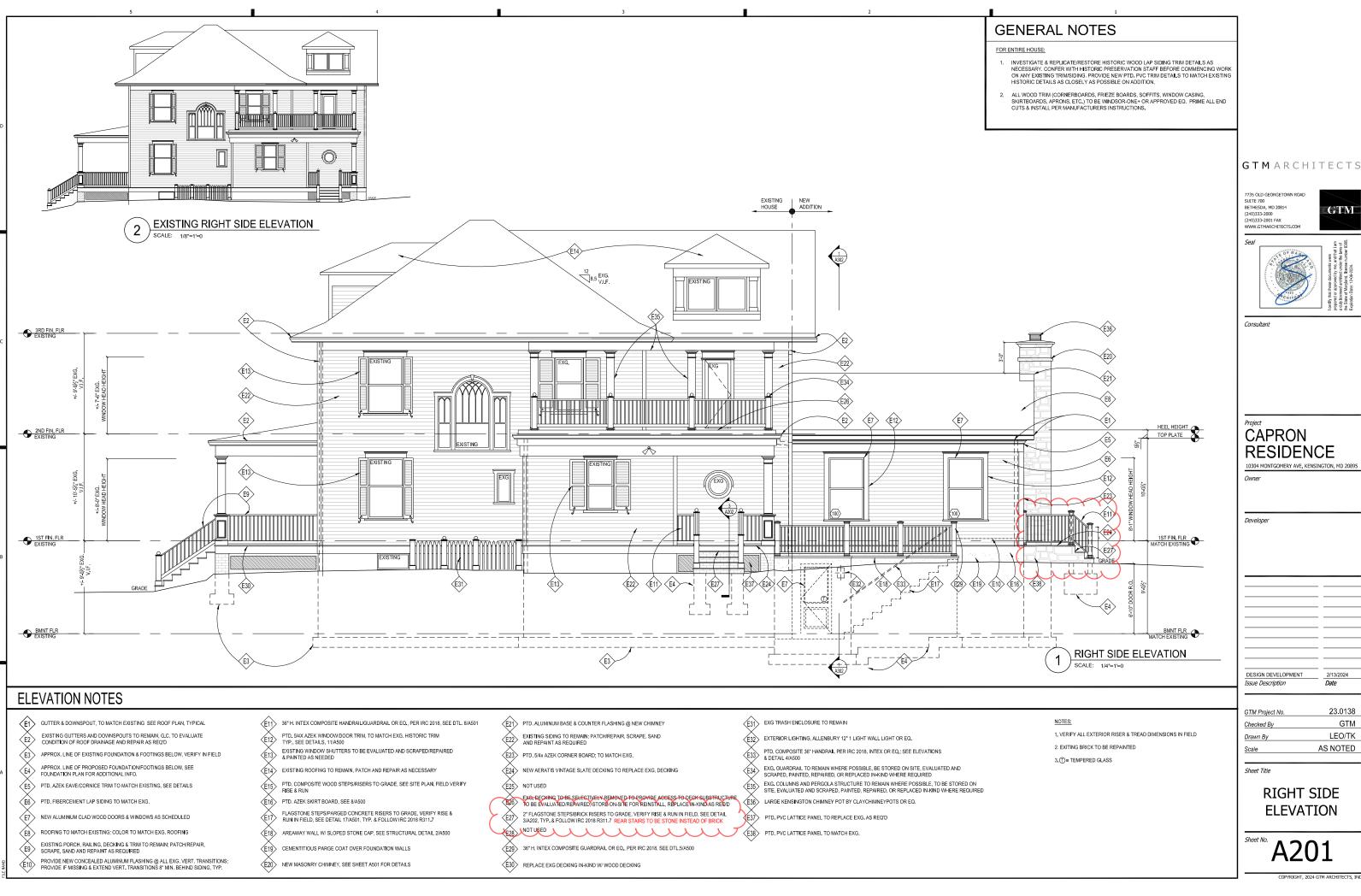
NICHOLAS & CARRIE STORER 10234 CARROLL PL KENSINGTON MD 20895 DENNIS & ANGELA KILCULLEN 10308 MONTGOMERY AVE KENSINGTON MD 20895

MACKIE BARCH & JACQUELINE FORTI 10303 MONTGOMERY AVE KENSINGTON MD 20895 JENNIFER BRUSH 10312 MONTGOMERY AVE KENSINGTON MD 20895 Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures, landscape features, or other significant features of the property:

EXISTING 2-STORY COLONIAL REVIVAL HOUSE WITH CLAPBOARD SIDING AND ASPHALT SHINGLE ROOF CIRCA 1893 WITH 2-STORY DETACHED ACCESSORY STRUCTURE IN REAR YARD.

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

We have previously received approval for our Historic Area Work Permit application. We would like to make a revision to change the rear porch from a wood-frame porch with composite decking to a poured conc. porch clad in stone with flagstone decking.



GTMARCHITECTS

7735 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD SUITE 700 BETHESDA, MD 20814 240)333-2000

(240)333-2001 FAX WWW.GTMARCHITECTS.COM



CAPRON

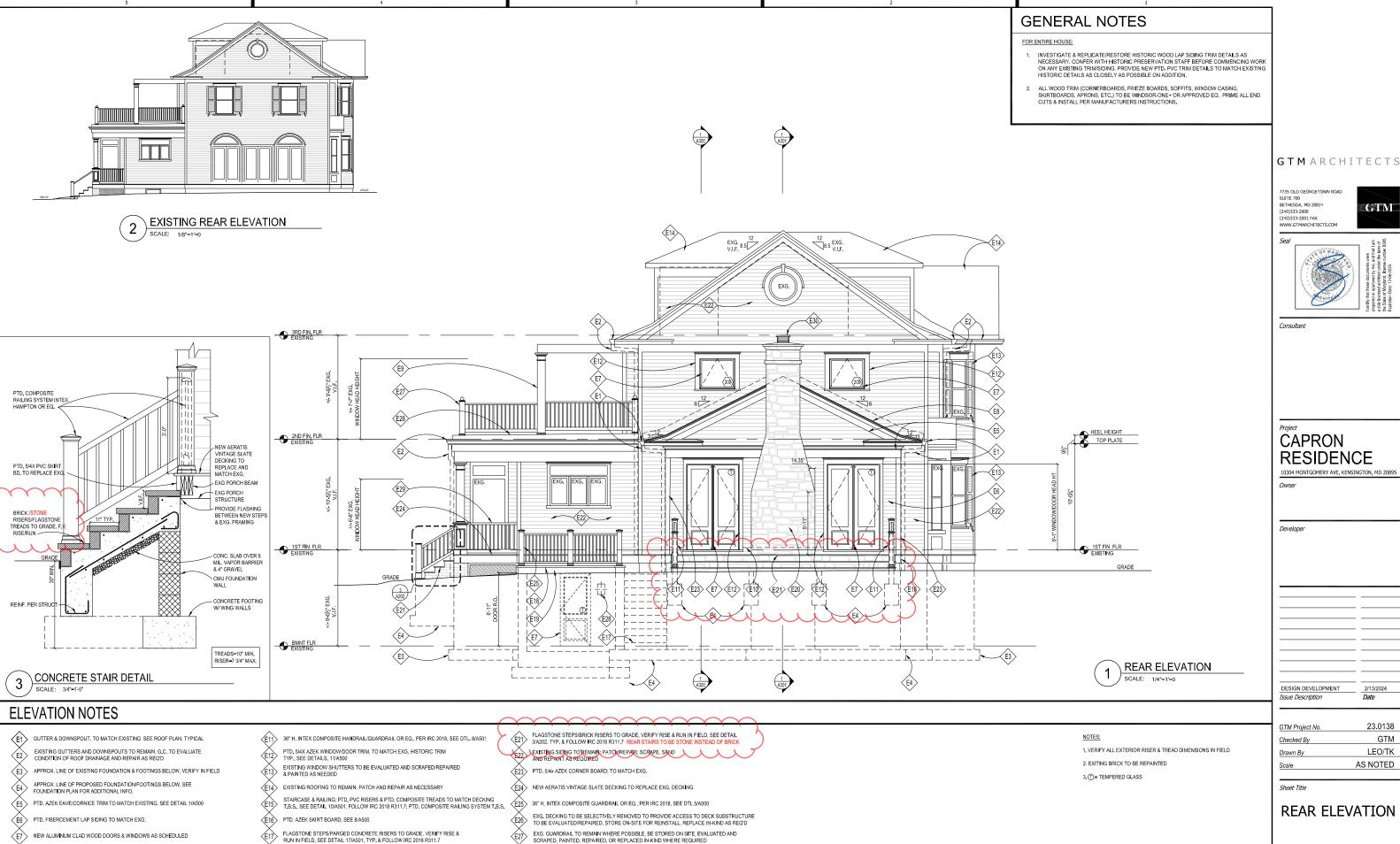
RESIDENCE

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT 2/13/2024 Issue Description

23.0138 GTM LEO/TK AS NOTED

RIGHT SIDE **ELEVATION**

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EXTERIOR LIGHTING, ALLENBURY 12" 1 LIGHT WALL LIGHT OR EQ.

LARGE KENSINGTON CHIMNEY POT BY CLAYCHIMNEYPOTS OR EQ.

(E29)

PTD. COMPOSITE 36" HANDRAIL/GAURDRAIL PER IRC 2018, INTEX OR EQ.; SEE ELEVATIONS & DETAIL 10/A501

ROOFING TO MATCH EXISTING: COLOR TO MATCH EXG. ROOFING

(E9)

EXG. COLUMNS AND PERGOLA STRUCTURE TO REMAIN WHERE POSSIBLE, TO BE STORED ON SITE, EVALUATED AND SCRAPED, PAINTED, REPAIRED, OR REPLACED IN-KIND WHERE REQUIRED

PROVIDE NEW CONCEALED ALUMINUM FLASHING @ ALL EXG. VERT. TRANSITIONS;

PROVIDE IF MISSING & EXTEND VERT, TRANSITIONS 8" MIN. BEHIND SIDING, TYP

AREAWAY WALL W/ SLOPED STONE CAP, SEE STRUCTURAL DETAILS

CEMENTITIOUS PARGE COAT OVER FOUNDATION WALLS

E20 NEW MASONRY CHIMNEY, SEE SHEET A501 FOR DETAILS

GTMARCHITECTS

7735 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD SUITE 700 BETHESDA, MD 20814 240)333-2000 (240)333-2001 FAX





Consultant

CAPRON RESIDENCE

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT 2/13/2024 Issue Description

23.0138 Checked By GTM LEO/TK Drawn By AS NOTED

Sheet Title

REAR ELEVATION

