

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

**Application Date:** October 29, 2014

**Applicant:** Kevin Walton, Robert Sanders Homes, for Jeffery & Jessika Smith, owner

**Property:** 1232 Arlington Street, Lot 21, Block 190, Houston Heights Subdivision, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a 1½-story, 2,135 square foot residence situated on a 6,600 square foot (50' x 132') interior lot.

**Significance:** Contributing Queen Anne Cottage-style residence, constructed circa 1906, located in the Houston Heights Historic District East.

**Proposal:** Alteration – Remove an existing rear addition and construct a two-story 1,860 square foot addition with a 29' ridge height at the rear of a contributing structure. A previous Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for a two-story addition was conditionally approved in October 2013. In addition to the proposed addition, the applicant proposes to:

- Alter the roof pitch of the existing pop-up addition
- Reclad the existing pop-up addition with smooth cementitious siding
- Remove existing chimney and fireplace
- Add front porch railing

See enclosed application materials and detailed project description on p. 5-16 for further details.

**Public Comment:** Six in favor and One who has expressed no objection. See Attachment A.

**Civic Association:** No comment received.

**Recommendation:** Approval

**HAHC Action:** Approved

*All materials in exterior walls, including windows, siding, framing lumber, and interior shiplap must be retained except where removal or replacement has been explicitly approved by HAHC. Shiplap is an integral structural component of the exterior wall assembly in balloon framed structures and its removal can cause torqueing, twisting and collapse of exterior walls. Shiplap may be carefully shored and removed in small portions to insulate, run wire or plumbing, and should be replaced when the work is complete. Maintenance and minor in-kind repairs of exterior materials may be undertaken without HAHC approval, but if extensive damage of any exterior wall element is encountered during construction, contact staff before removing or replacing the materials. A revised COA may be required.*

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

**Basis for Issuance:** HAHC Approval  
**Effective:** November 20, 2014



**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

COA valid for one year from effective date. COA is in addition to any other permits or approvals required by municipal, state and federal law. Permit plans must be stamped by Planning & Development Department for COA compliance prior to submitting for building or sign permits. Any revisions to the approved project scope may require a new COA.

**APPROVAL CRITERIA**

**ALTERATIONS, REHABILITATIONS, RESTORATIONS AND ADDITIONS**

Sec. 33-241(a): HAHC shall issue a certificate of appropriateness for the alteration, rehabilitation, restoration or addition of an exterior feature of (i) any landmark or protected landmark, (ii) any building, structure or object that is contributing to an historic district, or (iii) any building, structure or object that is part of an archaeological site, upon finding that the application satisfies the following criteria, as applicable:

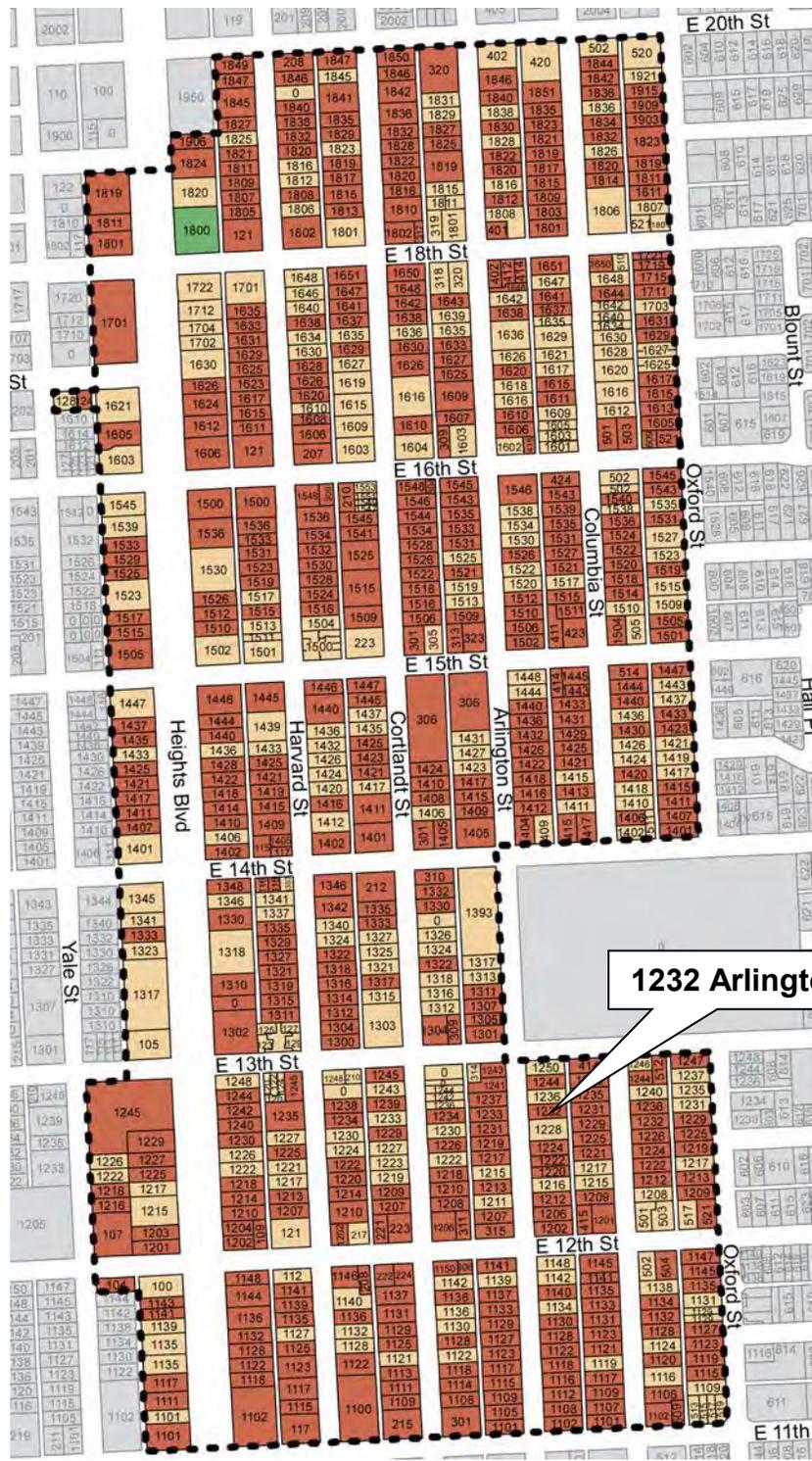
- | <b>S</b>                            | <b>D</b>                 | <b>NA</b>                           |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
|                                     |                          |                                     | <b>S - satisfies    D - does not satisfy    NA - not applicable</b>   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (1) The proposed activity must retain and preserve the historical character of the property;  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (2) The proposed activity must contribute to the continued availability of the property for a contemporary use;   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (3) The proposed activity must recognize the building, structure, object or site as a product of its own time and avoid alterations that seek to create an earlier or later appearance;   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (4) The proposed activity must preserve the distinguishing qualities or character of the building, structure, object or site and its environment;   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (5) The proposed activity must maintain or replicate distinctive stylistic exterior features or examples of skilled craftsmanship that characterize the building, structure, object or site;  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (6) New materials to be used for any exterior feature excluding what is visible from public alleys must be visually compatible with, but not necessarily the same as, the materials being replaced in form, design, texture, dimension and scale;   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (7) The proposed replacement of missing exterior features, if any, should be based on an accurate duplication of features, substantiated by available historical, physical or pictorial evidence, where that evidence is available, rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other structures; |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (8) Proposed additions or alterations must be done in a manner that, if removed in the future, would leave unimpaired the essential form and integrity of the building, structure, object or site;  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (9) The proposed design for any exterior alterations or addition must not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material and must be compatible with the size, scale, material and character of the property and the area in which it is located;   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (10) The setback of any proposed construction or alteration must be compatible with existing setbacks along the blockface and facing blockface(s);  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (11) The proposed activity will comply with any applicable deed restrictions.   |



PROPERTY LOCATION  
HOUSTON HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT EAST

Building Classification

- Contributing
- Non-Contributing
- Park



1232 Arlington

INVENTORY PHOTO



**WEST ELEVATION – FRONT FACING ARLINGTON STREET**

**EXISTING**



**EXISTING WEST ELEVATION**

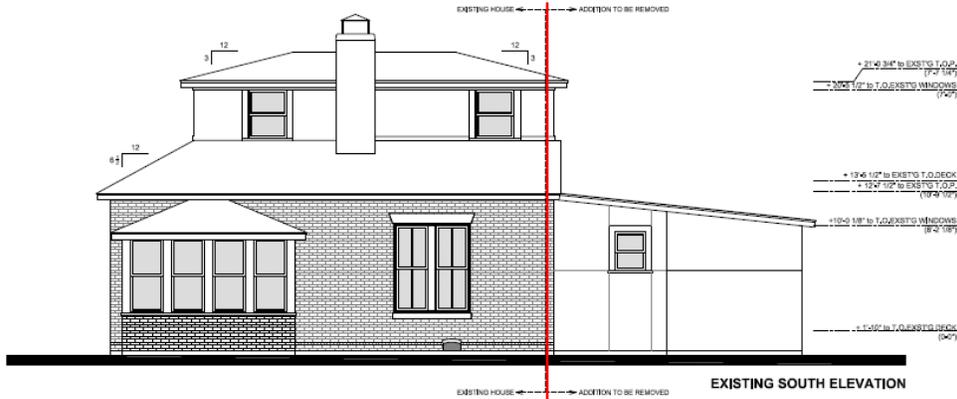
**PROPOSED**



**PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION**

**SOUTH SIDE ELEVATION**

**EXISTING**



**PROPOSED**



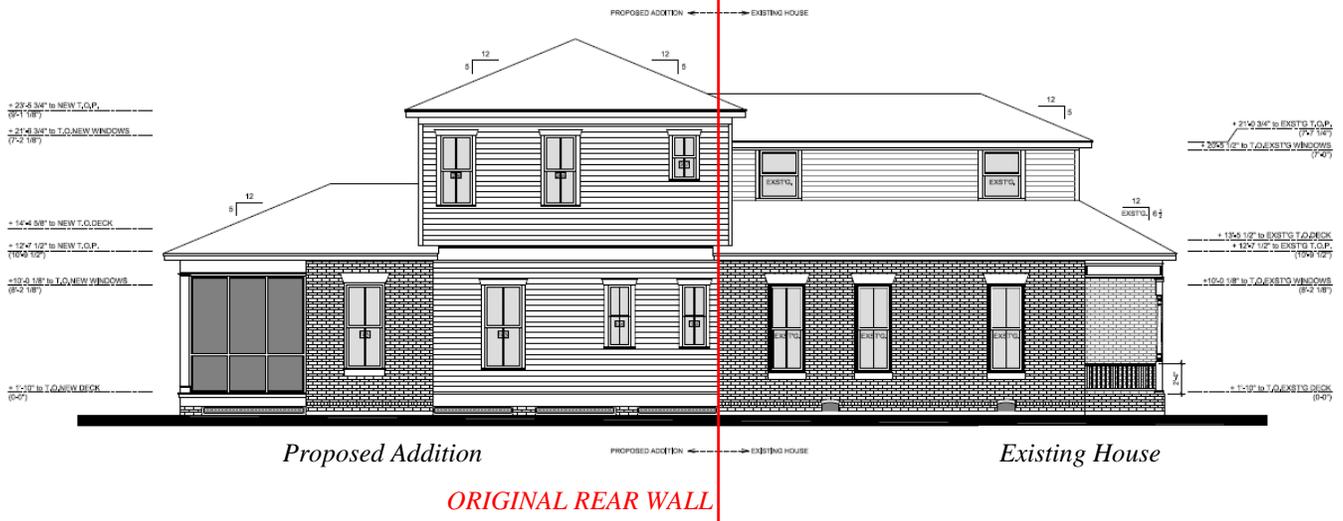
**NORTH SIDE ELEVATION**

**EXISTING**



**EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION**

**PROPOSED**



*Proposed Addition*

*Existing House*

**ORIGINAL REAR WALL**

EAST (REAR) ELEVATION

EXISTING



EXISTING EAST ELEVATION

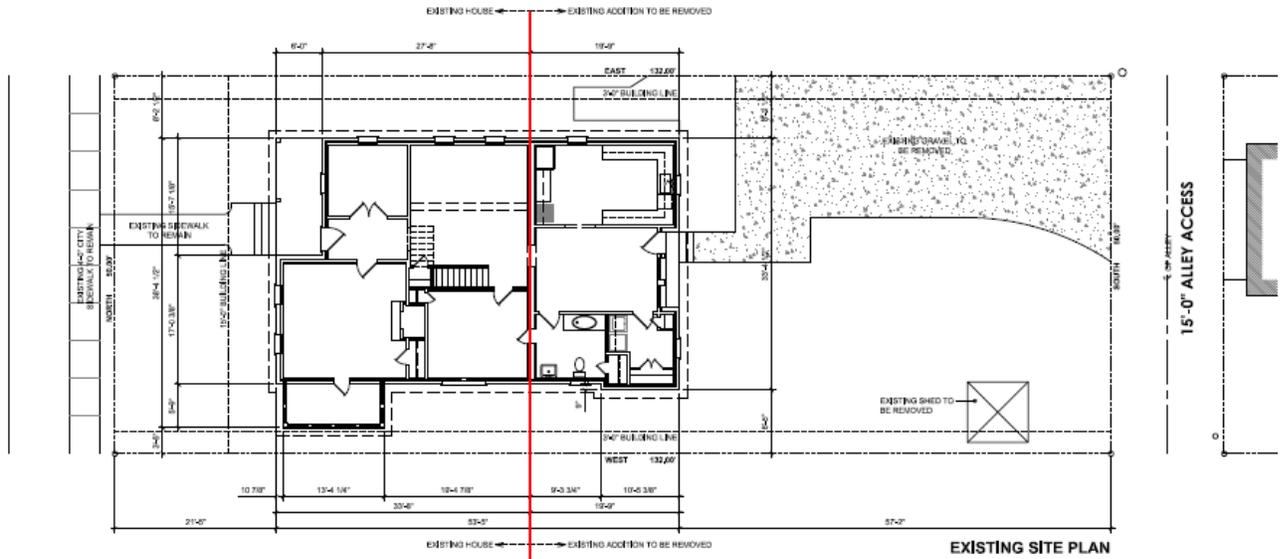
PROPOSED



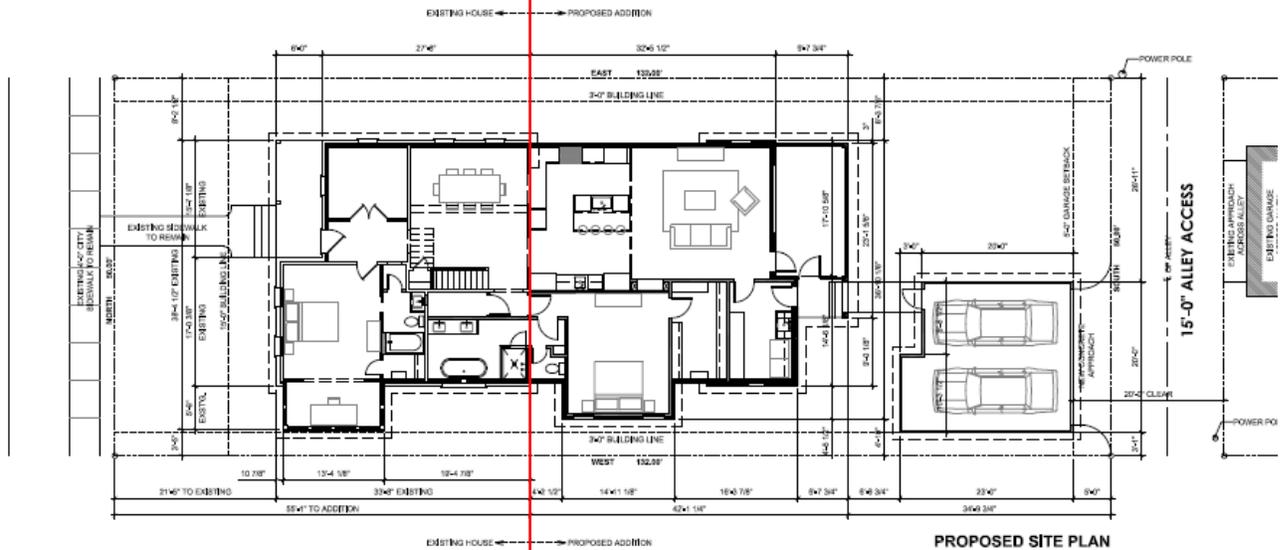
PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION



**SITE PLAN  
 EXISTING**



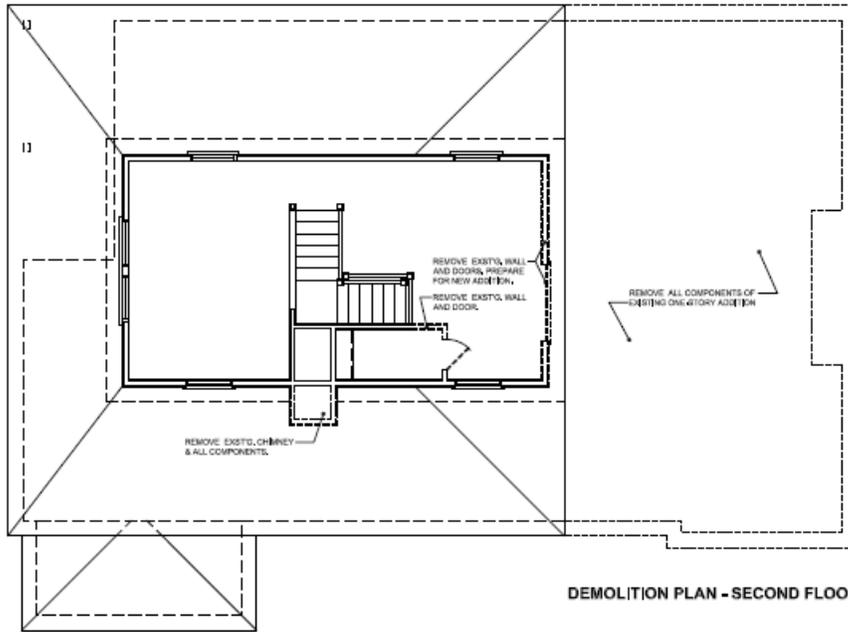
**PROPOSED**



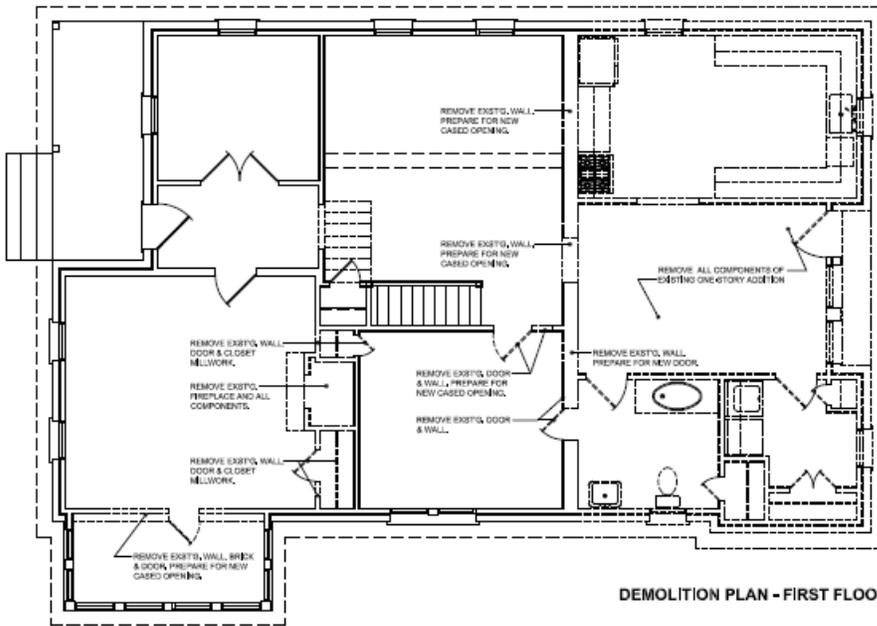
*ORIGINAL REAR WALL*



### DEMOLITION PLAN



DEMOLITION PLAN - SECOND FLOOR



DEMOLITION PLAN - FIRST FLOOR

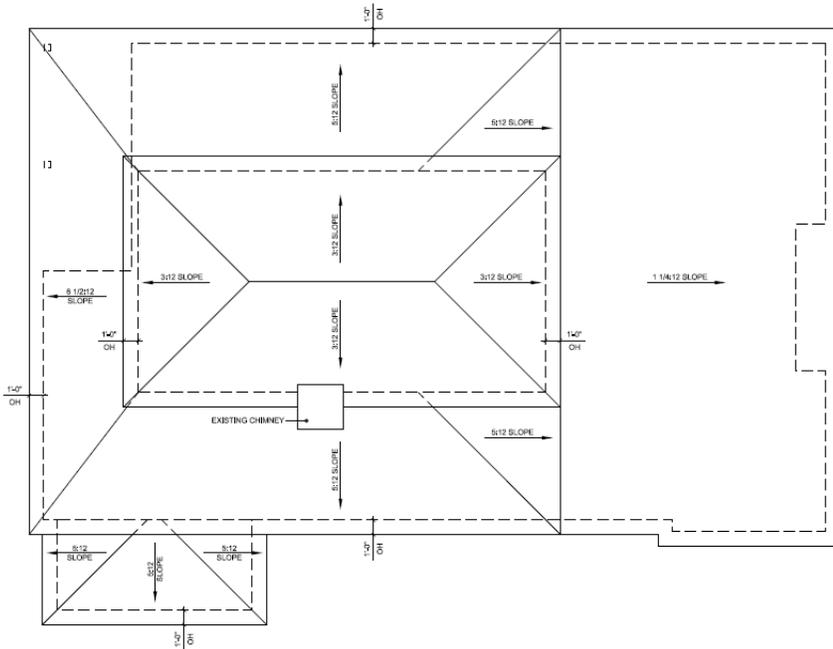
#### KEY NOTES

- WALLS TO BE DEMOLISHED
- EXISTING WALL TO REMAIN

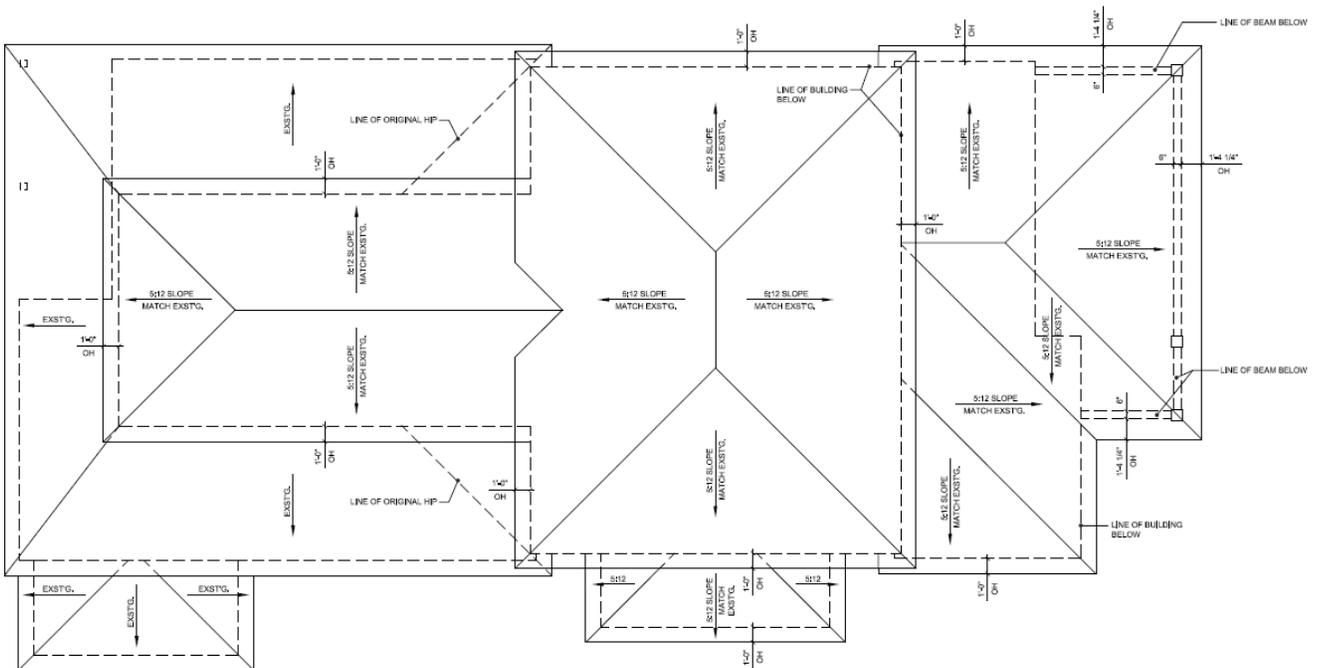


ROOF PLAN

EXISTING

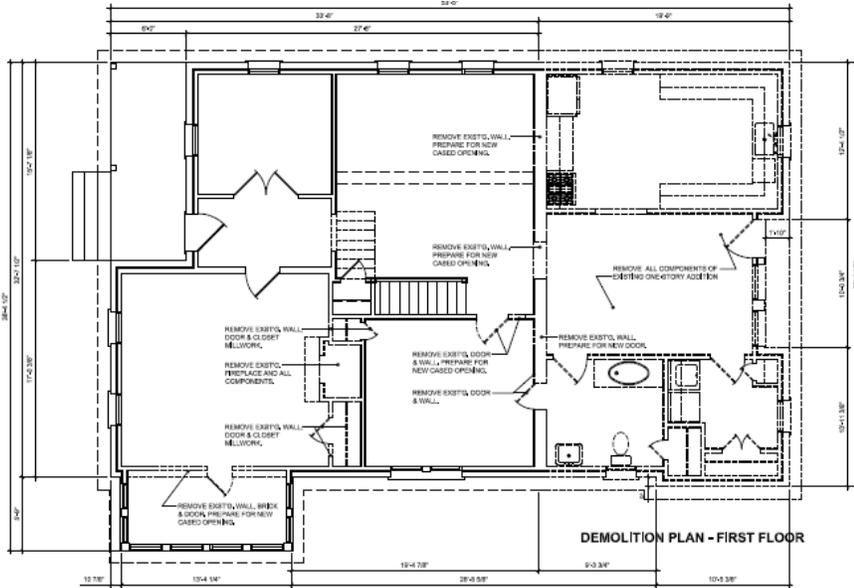


PROPOSED



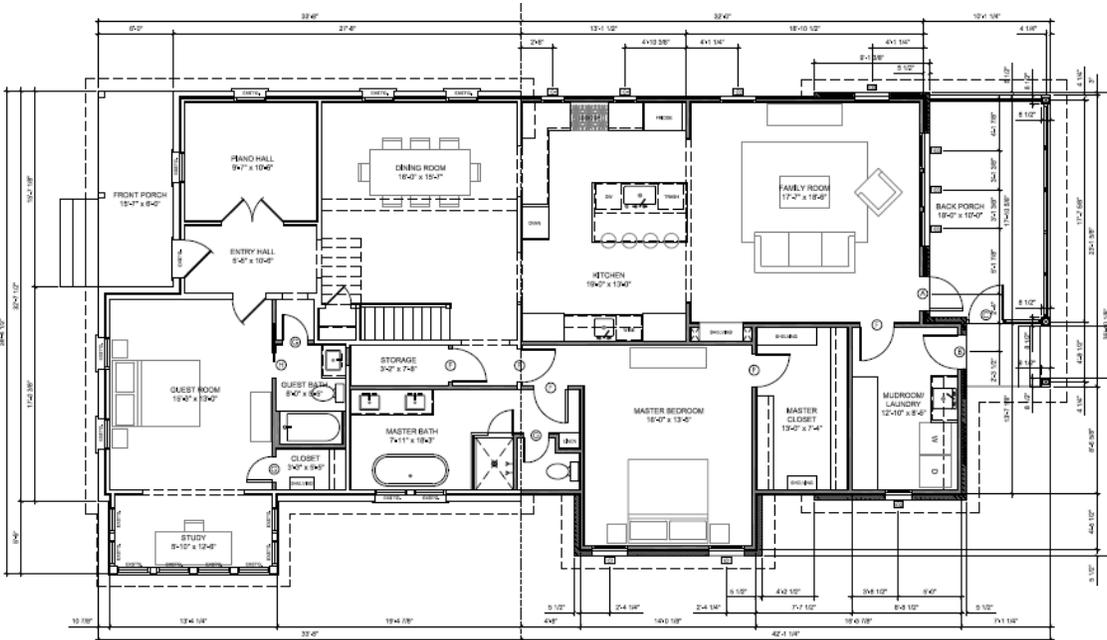


**FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 EXISTING**



DEMOLITION PLAN - FIRST FLOOR

**PROPOSED**



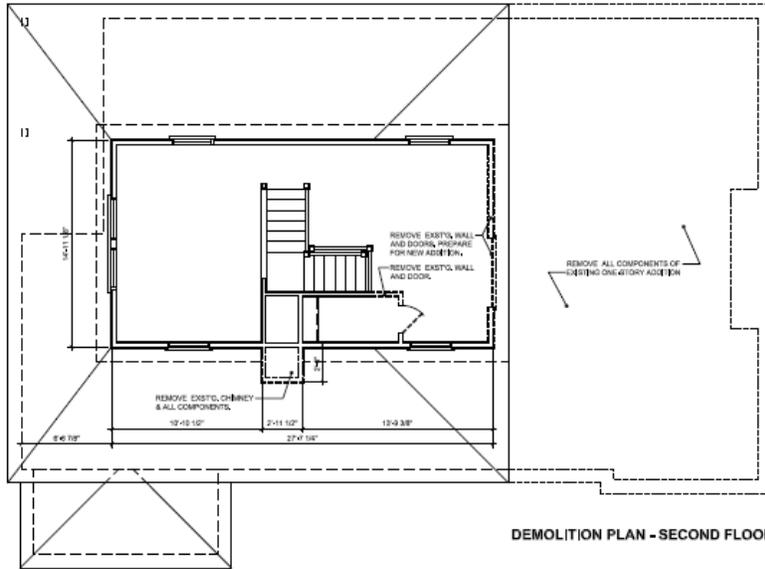
**KEY NOTES**

- ===== PROPOSED WALL
- ===== EXISTING WALL TO BE REMAIN

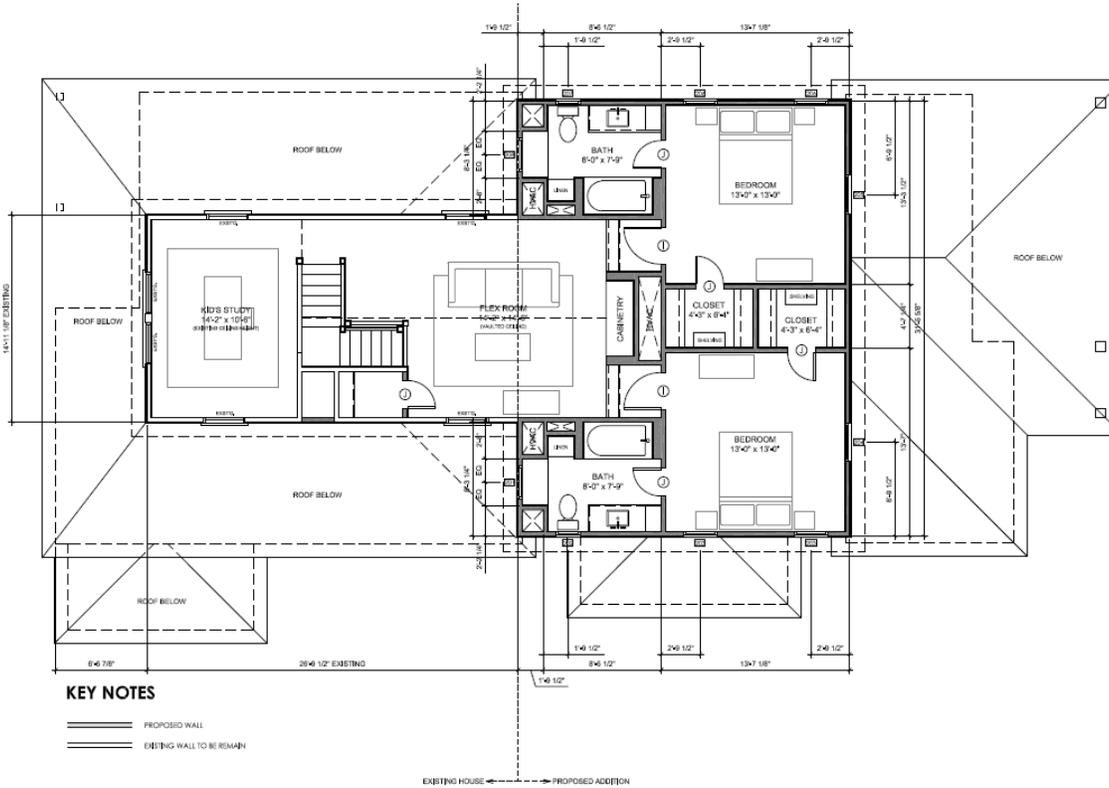
EXISTING HOUSE ----- PROPOSED ADDITION



**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**  
**EXISTING**



**PROPOSED**



**WINDOW / DOOR SCHEDULE**

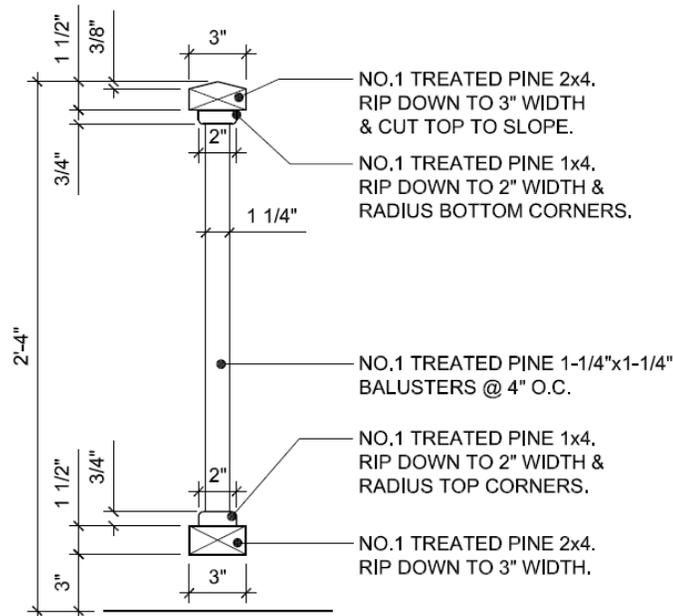
**WINDOW SCHEDULE**

WINDOW LABEL	MODEL #	QUANTITY	JAMB	FRAME SIZE	ROUGH OPENING	GLAZING	U-FACTOR	SHGC	NOTES
<b>FIRST FLOOR</b>									
101	TWD3376	2	4-9/16"	33-3/8" x 76-1/2"	34-1/8" x 77-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	EGRESS
102	TWD2576	1	4-9/16"	25-3/8" x 76-1/2"	26-1/8" x 77-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	-
103	TWD3376	5	4-9/16"	33-3/8" x 76-1/2"	34-1/8" x 77-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	-
104	TWD2156	2	4-9/16"	21-3/8" x 56-1/2"	22-1/8" x 57-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	-
<b>SECOND FLOOR</b>									
201	TWD2964	1	4-9/16"	29-3/8" x 64-1/2"	30-1/8" x 65-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	WINDOW OPENING CONTROL DEVICE
202	TWD2140	1	4-9/16"	21-3/8" x 40-1/2"	22-1/8" x 41-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	-
203	TWD2964	2	4-9/16"	29-3/8" x 64-1/2"	30-1/8" x 65-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	EGRESS, WINDOW OPENING CONTROL DEVICE
204	TWD3352	1	4-9/16"	33-3/8" x 52-1/2"	34-1/8" x 53-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	-
205	TWD3352	1	4-9/16"	33-3/8" x 52-1/2"	34-1/8" x 53-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	-
206	TWD2964	2	4-9/16"	29-3/8" x 64-1/2"	30-1/8" x 65-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	EGRESS, WINDOW OPENING CONTROL DEVICE
207	TWD2140	1	4-9/16"	21-3/8" x 40-1/2"	22-1/8" x 41-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	-
208	TWD2964	1	4-9/16"	29-3/8" x 64-1/2"	30-1/8" x 65-1/4"	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	WINDOW OPENING CONTROL DEVICE

**EXTERIOR DOOR SCHEDULE**

DOOR LABEL	DOOR SIZE	ROUGH OPENING	THICKNESS	JAMB	MATERIAL	FINISH	GLAZING	U-FACTOR	SHGC	NOTES
A	32" x 96"	34-1/2 x 99"	1-3/4"	4-5/8"	FIBERGLASS	PAINT	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	FULL-LITE, FLUSH GLAZED
B	32" x 96"	34-1/2 x 99"	1-3/4"	4-5/8"	FIBERGLASS	PAINT	LOW-E 270 W/ ARGON	-	-	FULL-LITE, FLUSH GLAZED
C	TBD	TBD	1-3/4"	-	WOOD	PAINT	INSECT SCREEN	-	-	CUSTOM BUILT SCREEN DOOR
D	32" x 80"	34-1/2" x 83"	1-3/4"	4-5/8"	FIBERGLASS	PAINT	-	-	-	TWO-PANEL, SQUARE-TOP
E	16'-0" x 7'-0"	16'-3" x 7'-1 1/2"	-	-	METAL	PAINT	-	-	-	-

**PROPOSED PORCH RAILING DETAIL**



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**PROJECT DETAILS**

**Shape/Mass:** The existing 2,023 square foot 1½-story residence has a total width of 38'-4¼" and a total depth of 53'-3". The original structure has a width of 31'-7½" and a depth of 33'-8". The residence has a ridge height of 23'-3¾" to the top of the existing pop-up.

As part of the proposal, 588 square feet of a non-original rear addition will be removed and a 2-story 1,863 will be constructed at the original rear wall. The roof of the pop-up will be removed and replaced with a steeper roof (to allow for mechanicals). The proposed ridge of the altered pop-up will be 24'-9". The addition will be constructed at the original rear wall of the house and will have a ridge height of 29'. The existing chimney will be removed and not replaced. The proposed addition will be delineated from the existing structure by a change in material (from brick veneer to cementitious siding). See photos and drawings for more detail.

**Setbacks:** The existing residence has a front (west) setback of 21'-5"; a south side setback of 3'-5"; a north side setback of 8'-2½"; and a rear (east) setback of 57'-2".

With the proposed addition, the front setback will be maintained while the north side setback will be 8'-4", the south side setback will be 4'- 5½", and the rear setback will be 34'-10". See drawings for more detail.

**Foundation:** The existing structure has a pier and beam foundation with a finished floor height of 1'-10". The proposed addition will have a pier and beam foundation with a finished floor height of 1'-10" to match existing. See drawings for more detail.

**Windows/Doors:** The existing residence features tall wood 2-over-2 double hung wood windows. The pop-up and small side addition feature 1-over-1 double hung wood windows. All existing windows on the original structure will be retained. The existing front door will be retained.

The proposed addition will have 2-over-2 wood windows of varying dimensions. See window/door schedule and drawings for more detail.

**Exterior Materials:** The existing structure features brick veneer on the original portion, while the rear addition and pop-up addition is clad in synthetic stucco panels.

The existing brick veneer will be maintained while the synthetic stucco on the pop-up will be removed and replaced with 4" reveal smooth cementitious lap siding. The proposed two-story addition will be clad in smooth cementitious lap siding with a 4" reveal. A 2'-4" tall railing system will be installed on the front porch. See drawings for more detail.

**Roof:** The existing residence has a hipped composition shingle roof with a pitch of 5:12. The existing hipped pop-up addition has a pitch of 3:12. The existing residence has an eave height of 11'-11¼" (pop-up eave height is 20'-7").

The existing roof of the pop-up will be replaced with a new roof with a 5:12 pitch to match the roof of the original structure. The proposed addition will have hipped composition shingle roof with a pitch of 5:12. See drawings for more detail.

**Front Elevation:  
(West)**

The existing front elevation features two bays. The northern bay features a 16'-1" wide porch which is inset 6'-1". The porch is supported by two turned columns and a decorative wooden cornice. Behind the porch, the northern half of the bay has a 26"x66" wood 2-over-2 window while the southern half has a 30"x60" front door. The southern bay consists of a 16'-1" wide front wall and features two 26"x68" wood 2-over-2 windows. To the south of the second bay is part of a historic addition which has a pair of 1-over-1 wood 21"x52" windows and a hipped roof. The first two bays are topped with a hipped roof. Built upon the rear wall of the porch, and centered in the roof, is part of a historic pop-up addition. This addition features a pair of wood 1-over-1 windows and is topped by a hipped roof. A chimney rises along the south side of the addition.

As part of the proposal, the existing pop-up addition roof will be removed and reconstructed at a steeper pitch. A railing will be installed between the existing porch columns. A portion of the one-story addition will be visible behind the southern previously constructed addition. The two-story addition will begin at the rear wall of the existing structure, behind the existing pop-up addition. The second-story of the addition will have a single 2-over-2 window on either side of the existing pop-up addition and will be topped by a hipped roof. The chimney will be removed. See drawings for more detail.

**Side Elevation:  
(South)**

The western portion of the first-story of the south elevation features the one-story historic addition consisting of four 1-over-1 wood windows and a hipped roof followed by a pair of 26"x66" wood 2-over-2 windows. To the east is a previously constructed one-story addition topped by a shed roof featuring a small 1-over-1 window. The second-story features the historic addition with two 1-over-1 windows and a centered chimney. The pop-up addition is topped by a hipped roof.

As part of the proposal, the existing pop-up addition roof will be removed and reconstructed at a steeper pitch. The existing rear addition will be removed and replaced by a two-story addition. The addition will begin at the rear wall of the existing brick veneer structure. The first-story of the addition will feature a brick veneer bump-out with two 2-over-2 windows. To the east, at the rear, a brick one-story portion of the addition will include a single 2-over-2 window. The rear of the addition will be a screened in porch. The second story will include three 2-over-2 windows and will be topped by a hipped roof. See drawings for more detail.

**Side Elevation:  
(North)**

The existing first-story of north elevation features the profile of the inset porch and front wall to the west and three 26"x66" wood 2-over-2 windows. To the east, a fourth 26"x66" window is located in a previously constructed one-story addition topped by a shed roof. The second story consists of the historic pop-up addition and features two 1-over-1 windows. The second story pop-up addition is topped by a hipped roof.

As part of the proposal, the existing pop-up addition roof will be removed and reconstructed at a steeper pitch. The existing rear addition will be removed and replaced by a two-story addition. The first-story of the addition will include three 2-over-2 windows in the center portion, clad in cementitious siding, and an addition 2-over-2 window located in a rear one-story, brick veneer portion of the addition. The rear of the addition will be a screened in porch. The second story will include three 2-over-2 windows and will be topped by a hipped roof. See drawings for more detail.

**Rear Elevation:  
(East)**

The rear is not visible from the public Right-of-Way. See elevation drawings for more detail.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
Public Comment**Houston Heights East Historic District Development Review Committee (ad-hoc)****Monthly Review Report**

The DRC report for Certificate of Appropriateness Applications is as follows:

Month: Nov-14

Date of Report: 17-Nov-14

HAHC Action	Site Address	APPLICANT	COMPANY	PROPOSED ACTIVITY	DRC Response	DRC Vote
B22	1301 Arlington	Aaron Mendias	Cusimano Arch	Construct rear second story addition - Replace 8 non-orig single lite windows	Support No Object Object	4 2
B23	1548 Cortlandt	Sam Gianukos	Creole Design LLC	Relocate existing house Change roof, raise foundation add 2 story and garage	Support No Object Object	2 4
B24	1431 Columbia (G)	Brett Zamore	Brett Zamore Design	New 1 1/2 story garage at rear of lot	Support No Object Object	5
B25	1214 Harvard	Brie Kellman (abstained from vote)		New 2-story addition to side of existing house 2 story addition to rear replace windows	Support No Object Object	2 1 2
B26	1535 Arlington (G)	Jos & C Wright		New 2 story garage at rear of lot	Support No Object Object	5 1
B27	1535 Arlington (A)	Jos & C Wright		Raise exist foundation add 2 story to rear of exist house	Support No Object Object	4 2
B28	1232 Arlington (A)	Kevin Walton	Rob Sanders Homes	Remove exist sec story add const new 2 story rear add add porch rail - remove exist chimney/fire place	Support No Object Object	5 1
B29	1232 Arlington (G)	Kevin Walton	Rob Sanders Homes	Const new 1 story detached garage	Support No Object Object	5 1
B30	1226 Heights Blvd	Ali Afshari	Persepolis Homes	Const new front door stoop	Support No Object Object	2 2
B41	1815 Cortlandt	Alex Ridgeway	Brick Moon Design	Rev CofA for different window locations and sizes	Support No Object Object	2 2 2

See Attached Detailed Response

**From:** Mark R. Williamson  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 4:55 PM  
**To:** Kent Marsh  
**Subject:** Re: November HAHC Meeting

Kent,

That's a lot to wade through.

Several of these bring up problems that I have with the existing ordinance even if I cannot base an objection within that ordinance.

- 1232 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition -- no objection
- 1232 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage -- no objection
- 1301 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition -- no objection
- 1535 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition -- no objection
- 1535 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage -- support design, except confused about vehicle access paths
- 1431 Columbia St, New Construction-Garage -- support (adjacent neighbor)
- 1548 Cortlandt St, Alteration-Relocation/Addition -- object (hugely out of scale on 16th Street side)
- 1815 Cortlandt St, New Construction-Residence, *Revision* -- no objection
- 1214 Harvard St, Alteration-Addition -- no comment
- 1226 Heights Blvd, New Construction-Residence, *Revision* -- no information posted (pulled??); no opinion

**From:** Zucker, Jim  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 10:23 AM  
**To:** Kent Marsh; Mark R. Williamson; Jonathan Smulian; Bart Truxillo; Brie Kelman  
**Subject:** RE: Historic District - posting of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

Here are my votes and comments on the applications:

1232 Arlington—Support

The Smiths have been trying to get through this process for more than a year now. They had staff approval for all but a dormer, including the removal of the pop-up, which was added after the period of significance. Then Anna Mod decided that the pop-up itself was significant because it reflected a WWII or post-war attempt at expanding a bungalow (imagine that—additions can themselves become historically significant even when they alter the original structure!!! So much for the argument that additions should start 100% back so there is a clear distinction between the original structure and the addition so some future generation could remove the addition, at which time they will be told it is historically significant in its own right and cannot be removed). As with all of their previous proposals, this one satisfies the ordinance and should be approved post haste.

1301 Arlington—Support

1535 Arlington—Support.

I think this would look much better if there were windows on the street-facing side of the second-story addition. It looks closed and disconnected without those windows.

1548 Cortlandt—Support.

This small size of the existing house means any addition will affect the existing structure. As I read the staff report, it would essentially not permit any addition, which I think is not in keeping with the ordinance. I think the planned house will fit with the neighborhood and is a good use of space.

1815 Cortlandt—Support.

I still do not think the design of this house is in keeping with the character of the neighborhood, but the ordinance certainly allows you to do what you want with the windows.

1214 Harvard—Support.

This is the house directly across from my house at 1213 Harvard Street. I fully support this addition. My wife and I looked at this house when it was on the market and the second story presented incredible challenges. It had four rooms, but only two with closets. The side bump out is necessary to allow enough room for closets and is minimal. The second-story connector to the existing garage apartment makes a lot of sense as a way to add space without anyone being able to see it from the street. The overall space added is minimal, but necessary, and it satisfies the ordinance. This addition will fit with the street and should be approved. It should be noted that none of the exterior materials are original. The siding and windows were replaced in the 1990s.

1226 Heights—No objection.

This was a terrible design from the beginning, but Staff recommended approval. Blocking the full porch only makes a bad design worse. We are cutting off our noses to spite our faces.

From: Brie Kelman  
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:32 PM  
To: Kent Marsh  
Subject: Re: FW: Historic District - posting of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

22. 1301 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition  

- Support

23. 1548 Cortlandt St, Alteration-Relocation/Addition  

- Support

24. 1431 Columbia St, New Construction-Garage  

- Support

25. 1214 Harvard St, Alteration-Addition/Windows  

- Abstain as I am helping this neighbor.

26. 1535 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage  

- Support

27. 1535 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition  

- Support

28. 1232 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition  

- Support

29. 1232 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage  

- Support

30. 1226 Heights Blvd, New Construction-Residence, *Resubmittal* 

- Support - would look a lot better with a 6' porch. I cannot believe they are being forced to do a stoop instead of a porch.

41. 1815 Cortlandt St, New Construction-Residence, *Revision* 

- Support

**From:** Jonathan Smulian  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2014 10:39 AM  
**To:** Kent Marsh; 'Mark R. Williamson'; 'Bart Truxillo';  
'Brie Kelman'; 'Zucker, Jim'  
**Subject:** RE: Historic District - posting of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

General Comment :

I am deeply concerned about the current pattern of excessive site coverage resulting from the large rear additions so typical in recent applications for COAs in the Heights. This leads to diminished open and garden space , less permeable land causing increased run-off to the bayous and potential street flooding as well as the demolition of the mature tree cover so important to quality of life and character in the Heights . This s trend of overdevelopment is already having and will eventually have a major negative impact on the special historic character of the neighborhood..

1232 Arlington –support -This proposal represents a great improvement over the existing two additions that were ill conceived and poorly constructed ,

- 1232 Arlington -new garage -. support
- 1535 Arlington –garage -no objection
- 1535 Arlington –addition –no objection
- 1431 Columbia -support
- 1548 Cortlandt –object- Over development of a 5000-square foot site .-see general comment above
- 1815 Cortlandt –no objection
- 1214 Harvard –object .- window openings and new fenestration proposed is atypical and incompatible with proportions and type of existing fenestration . Historic character of original house would be better preserved if new link between it and the existing garage block could be clearly demarcated by being set back and not seen from the right of way as a continuation of the north facade of the existing house . . .
- 1226 Heights Blvd,- no objection
- 1301 Arlington-no objection

**From:** Charlie  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 9:29 AM  
**To:** Kent Marsh  
**Subject:** Re: November HAHC Meeting

1232 Arlington - Approved  
garage - Approved

1301 Arlington - Approved

1535 Arlington - Approved  
garage - Approved

1431 Columbia Garage - Approved

1548 Cortlandt - Really, Really BIG - but Approved

1815 Cortlandt - NOT Approved

1214 Harvard - Approved

1226 Heights - No Application as of 11.13.14

Charlie

## November 2014 HAHC Meeting

### Comments Regarding Certificate of Appropriateness Applications Submitted for the Houston Heights East Historic District

Agenda Item #22 - 1301 Arlington – I **support** this application. This property is not deed restricted. The proposed addition replaces the same footprint as the existing addition and while the proposed addition is now two stories rather than the original addition of one story, the location of the addition is at the rear of the structure. The proposed addition is no greater in height than the original structure as seen from the front of the property (Arlington).

Agenda Item #23 - 1548 Cortlandt – I **object** to the granting of this CofA. The existing contributing house should not be moved. Moving an existing historical house, even within the same original lot, changes the historical context of the site relationship. While it seems that many of the porches on the houses on the east side of the 1500 block of Cortlandt have been enclosed, the original front wall structure of almost all of the existing structures on the existing block face are located generally in line with the current location of the existing house at 1548 Cortlandt. Visual evidence indicates the rear extension of the existing structure to be a part of the original house and not a later addition. The north side siding and roof eave structure seem to be original. Removal of this rear extension should not be allowed as it is a part of the original historic structure. The proposed addition enlarges the scale of the structure to the point that it would no longer be compatible with the existing scale of the general area. Other recent new construction to the north of the subject tract included a one-story street side addition to gradually reduce the scale of the new two-story construction. This type of scale reduction should be considered for any addition on the subject property. The original 132 feet deep lot was reduced to 100 feet by the sale of the eastern portion of the original lot many years ago. The current owner purchased the reduced lot depth with full knowledge of its smaller-than-typical size. The building mass-to-site relationship will naturally be impacted as a result of the reduced lot depth. The amount of allowable new mass should keep this same context. Otherwise, the scale of the proposed addition will be too great for the location which is even more important for this corner lot condition. Additionally, the proposed replacement of existing eave returns would remove existing historical material and is not necessary.

Agenda Item # 24 - 1431 Columbia (Garage) – I **support** this application. This property is deed restricted. The proposed garage is to be located at the rear of the property in conformance with the deed restrictions and seems to be in a location that may have had a garage structure at one time in the past. The existing sheet metal shed does not seem to be contributing to the historic character of the district and can be demolished without a negative impact.

Agenda Item #25 - 1214 Harvard – I **object** to the granting of this CofA. This property is deed restricted. My objection is based on two major concerns. First, the existing historical structure will be negatively impacted by the cumulative changes proposed on the existing structure. Window changes, door relocations, porch additions, and 2-story extensions from the existing structure (that will require

removal of existing historical material – see/compare existing residence right elevation and proposed right elevation), all visible from the public street right-of-way, will significantly change the existing historic character of the existing structure. Second, the resulting mass form of the proposed in-fill connection between the existing residence and the existing garage with a 2-story structure and porch will be significantly greater than the existing mass form and will not be in context with typical mass relationships for contributing structures in the HHEHD. This proposal will significantly reduce the visual priority generally afforded the existing historical structure and relegate the existing structure to a blend of multiple elements both existing and proposed. This proposal does not satisfy criteria #1, #4, and #9. I respectfully recommend this application for a Certificate of Appropriateness be denied and certainly should not be considered a “Shall Approve” submission. The significant amount of original structural material and the original form of the structure should be retained, even if the siding and windows are no longer original and further degradation of the 1910 Queen Anne style home should not be allowed.

Agenda Item #26 - 1535 Arlington (Garage) – I **support** this application. This property does not have an existing garage and the proposed garage is to be located at the rear of the property in conformance with the deed restrictions. As this proposal has vehicular access from the front street, I do not object to the 3 foot placement from the rear property line and I have alerted the new owners that the garage door proposed on the alley side will not be usable for vehicular access. This is similar to conditions evident just to the north, in that the alley garage door is only used for shop ventilation.

Agenda Item #27 - 1535 Arlington (Addition) – I **support** this application. This property is deed restricted and within a Minimum Lot Size and Minimum Building Setback area. The frontal plane of the proposed addition is slightly larger than the frontal plane of the existing structure. However, the different width of the first and second floor addition provides a visual split and reduction of the impact of the greater frontal plane area and is, therefore, an acceptable design. The windowless wall of the new second story addition does not create a visual conflict with the visual higher-priority one story historical bungalow and creates an appropriate backdrop for the one-story existing bungalow in front of the new two-story addition. The addition of windows on the street side of the new addition would introduce visual competition with the existing historical structure and should not be supported. This house is located directly across the street from my home so I have taken a particularly keen interest on this proposal. I have talked to the new owners several times and I am comfortable they will do their best to preserve the existing historic bungalow while at the same providing an addition that is a reasonable amount of additional floor area when compared to the floor area of the existing house. I support the removal of the additional column on the front porch as the original column spacing with only 4 columns and 3 spaces is typical of this one-story bungalow building type in the HHEHD. I would recommend that consideration be given to the replacement of the non-original front door with one that is more in line with the original period of construction.

Agenda Item # 28 – 1232 Arlington (Addition) – I **support** this application. This property is deed restricted and seems to conform to the restrictions. The frontal plane surface area of the proposed addition is not greater than the frontal surface area of the existing structure (including the second story addition). The existing second floor structure remains with the addition of a slightly greater pitched

roof. The remainder of the addition occurs at the rear of the existing structure with the connection point having different siding materials to indicate the addition from the existing structure.

Agenda Item #29 - 1232 Arlington (Garage) – I **support** this application. This garage is proposed to be detached and at the rear of the property as is typical in the district. Note the proposed 20-foot clearance, noted on the site plan, at the rear of the property between the garage door and the far side of the 15-foot wide alley is not sufficient for vehicular ingress/egress with the garage.

Agenda Item #30 – 1226 Heights Blvd. (Residence – Resubmittal) – I **support** this application. The allowance of a front door stoop in the front of the incorrectly located structure is an acceptable solution that does not compromise the 25-foot front setback and does not provide an unusable front porch. It's unfortunate it has taken the builder such a long time to get to this point. Front door stoops are a typical condition found on contributing structures in the HHEHD.

Agenda Item #41 - 1815 Cortlandt – I **object** to the granting of this CofA revision. This property is not deed restricted. Typically in the HHEHD, windows nearest to the end of an outside wall have a remaining wall width at least the same width as the window. The most recent approved Cof A adheres to this desired relationship but the proposed revision does not. Also, adding a window type not typically found (square windows) in the HHEHD dilutes the historical fabric of the district. The design of exterior window locations should not be strictly governed by changes in interior conditions.

J. Kent Marsh, AICP CUD  
1538 Arlington, Houston Heights East Historic District

**From:** Joy Tober  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:53 PM  
**To:** DuCroz, Diana - PD; Kent Marsh  
**Subject:** Thoughts/Comments November HAHC Meeting

Diana, here are my thoughts and comments regarding the COA agenda items for the Houston Heights East Historic District.

1301 Arlington – No objection

1548 Cortlandt – Object.

This largely out of scale proposed addition on a highly visible corner lot is not compatible with the historic character of the district. The proposed new relocation on the lot is not in keeping with the existing historic setbacks along that street which are currently intact. The proposed addition is out of scale and proportion to the district. Ironically, the applicant shows in the Line of Sight image the visual impact of the addition from Cortlandt Street, but that same image also accurately shows the overwhelming and inappropriate visual impact from 16<sup>th</sup> street. This proposed addition also encroaches on a significant portion of the original historic home therefore forever destroying historic character and materials.

1431 Columbia St – Support

1214 Harvard – Object.

The proposed changes to this contributing structure will drastically alter the original footprint and character of this home as well as destroy existing historic materials. Additions should be subordinate to the original structure and should strive to have as little impact on the original as possible. This proposed addition significantly changes the original scale of the home, effectively creating a new “type” that never existed and destroys a large portion of the south side of the original structure. Attaching a large addition to the garage creates a mass and scale that are not in keeping with the character of the district.

Fenestration is an important architectural characteristic and the proposed resizing and relocating of original window openings not only remove original material but seeks to create an appearance that never existed when the home was built. Also, there does not appear to be any historical evidence to show the home ever had 3/1 windows therefore they should not be allowed.

1535 Arlington (Garage) – Support

1535 Arlington (Addition) – No objection.

Although the location of the addition is in keeping with preservation standards, I feel some more consideration should be given to the impact of the size of the addition in relation to the original structure.

1232 Arlington – Support

1226 Heights – Support

This type of stoop is typical within the district and is a good solution to this unfortunate situation.

1815 Cortlandt – Object.

The proposed new window locations do not follow the same fenestration pattern as seen on contributing structures. The original approved plans were more in keeping with the character of the district.

Thank you

Joy Tober