HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION DECEMBER 16, 2013 NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT NRD-2013-0066 Clarksville 1607 W. 10th Street

PROPOSAL

Demolish a contributing house and construct a 2,100 sq. ft. two-story house.

RESEARCH

The existing house was constructed c. 1950 and its first occupants were Charlie Williams, a laborer and his wife Essie, who only lived in the house for one year. Next Charles Edward Baylor and his wife Mary Frances Freeman Baylor resided there for approximately 10 years starting in 1953. The Baylors moved next door to 1609 W. 10th Street in 1964, where they lived until the late 1990s.

From Texas State Historical Association: The Handbook of Texas, by R. Matt Abigail

"Mary Frances Freeman Baylor, African-American community organizer, director of the Clarksville Neighborhood Center in Austin, and founder of the Clarksville Community Development Corporation, only child of Gladys Y. Freeman and Will Freeman, was born in Austin, Texas, on August 9, 1929. She was raised by her mother in a section of West Austin known as Clarksville. She attended grade school there but later finished at Olive Street Elementary School, then attended Kealing Junior High School and L. C. Anderson High School. She also attended Tillotson College for a short time before marrying Charles Baylor in 1948. Together they had five children—Cynthia, Linda, Vicky, Ronnie, and Skip.

Baylor was a lifelong resident of the Clarksville neighborhood, and her ancestors were among the original settlers of Clarksville, which was one of the earliest freedmen's communities established west of the Mississippi River. Over time, the all-black community was incorporated into the city of Austin. However, in an era of rigid segregation, Clarksville was something of a geographical oddity. Essentially a closed, quasi-independent hamlet, it was surrounded on all sides by affluent, predominantly white neighborhoods and was isolated from the much larger, thriving African-American district in East Austin. Unfortunately, Clarksville's unique location meant that it was persistently neglected by city officials, who concentrated social services for blacks in East Austin. As a result, the area lacked many basic services. However, Baylor devoted her entire career to improving the impoverished community, which did not have developed schools, recreational facilities, sewers, or even paved roads until the 1970s.

After 1964 Baylor became an active supporter and volunteer in President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty program, and she began to petition the city of Austin to fund much needed improvements in Clarksville. Then, in 1968 she secured employment with the city of Austin's Health and Human Services Department, which appointed her director of the Clarksville Neighborhood Center (then known as the Human Opportunities Corporation)—a position she held for twenty-four years. Under her leadership, the center became a valuable resource for many of Clarksville's disadvantaged residents. It organized community volunteer and youth programs, hosted community meetings, provided food and clothing for the needy, and gave referrals to legal and medical resources. It also offered twenty-four-hour counseling services to assist residents with food stamp and welfare applications and to help them find employment and affordable housing.

In addition to her duties at the Clarksville Neighborhood Center, Baylor worked closely with the Clarksville Neighborhood Council, the Clarksville Advisory Board, and a host of other passionate volunteers to represent the political and economic interests of the disadvantaged community. From 1968 to 1970, she was a lead organizer in the protest against the construction of Texas Loop 1, colloquially known as the MoPac Expressway. The proposed route of the expressway threatened to demolish nearly one-third of Clarksville and displace dozens of needy minority families who had lived in the area for generations. Accordingly, Baylor and others recruited legal assistance and brought suit against the Texas Highway Department and the city of Austin. However, the lawsuit was unsuccessful and construction went ahead as planned. Despite this setback, the group managed to halt the construction of a cross-town expressway to connect MoPac and Interstate 35 in 1975—a project that would have further decimated what remained of Clarksville.

Following that success, Baylor and others convinced city officials to redirect federal funds toward basic infrastructure improvements for Clarksville. From 1975 to 1979, more than a million dollars were invested in order to repair dilapidated homes, pave roads and sidewalks, install street lights, traffic signals, storm drains, and sewers, and to construct a playground. Additionally, funds were provided to open a new community center, which was designed by architecture students at the University of Texas at Austin and built with volunteer labor recruited by Baylor.

These improvements could not have come any sooner. In fact, prior to the construction of an adequate drainage system, the community's sewage flowed into narrow, open ditches that periodically overflowed and flooded nearby homes. However, the enhanced infrastructure soon attracted real estate investors and commercial enterprises looking to redevelop the area. Afraid that gentrification would mar the neighborhood's historic character, raise taxes, and drive out low-income residents, Baylor responded. In 1978 she founded the Clarksville Community Development Corporation (CCDC) with the expressed goals of preserving and repairing historic structures and ensuring the availability of affordable housing for the indigent. The CCDC, which was among the first non-profit community development corporations in the country, recruited legal assistance to halt unwanted developers, raised funds to repair rather than demolish older homes, and even convinced the city of Austin to construct the Clarksville Health Clinic in 1982. The CCDC's crowning achievement, though, was the construction of eighteen new homes for Clarksville's neediest families.

Baylor retired as director of the Clarksville Neighborhood Center in 1992 but continued to be closely involved with the community. She was a lifelong member of the Sweethome Missionary Baptist Church, which formed the nucleus of Clarksville society for more than 100 years, and she acted as church clerk from 1989 to 1997. Additionally, from 1991 to 1997, she served on the board of the McAuley Institute. Founded in 1983 by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, this organization provided financial support and organizational assistance to community development organizations nationwide, with a specific focus on helping underprivileged women and children.

Baylor died from a heart attack in Austin, on March 16, 1997, and was buried in Austin's historic Oakwood Cemetery. She was survived by her husband, five children, and five grandchildren. In her memory, the Seventy-fifth Texas Legislature passed a resolution to commemorate her achievements on behalf of the city of Austin and the community of Clarksville. Likewise, the city of Austin named a Clarksville-area park in her honor.

Forever remembered as Clarksville's "problem solver," she was eulogized by Rev. W. B. Southerland of Sweethome Missionary Baptist Church, who credited Baylor as "the primary instrument in bringing Clarksville from rocks and mud to paved streets and sod around the houses."

Charles Edward Baylor worked as a porter for the Missouri Pacific (MoPac) Railroad and for TCC Continuum Computer Company, from which he retired. He survived Mary, and died March 12, 2010 at the age of 80.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The existing c. 1950 house is a 528 sq. ft., one-story cottage with a side gable roof and centered, projecting, covered porch with a front facing gabled roof supported by squared columns with simple capitals. The house is clad with narrow horizontal siding, with wide siding in the gable ends. The windows are 4:4, double hung, wood sash.

The applicant proposes to demolish the house and construct an approximately 2,000 sq. ft. two-story house. The house will have a multi-pitch roof and horizontal siding. There will be a centered front entry with a small porch with gabled roof supported by columns salvaged from the existing house that will sit on masonry piers. The new porch gable, although narrower, will have similar proportions to the porch on the original house. To one side of the entry will be a pair of double-hung windows with four-lite windows above. Other windows will be predominately double-hung with 1:1 sash. To the other side of the entry will be an inset carport under a second story projecting gable. The corner of the carport will be supported with a column that matches the salvaged porch columns.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The existing property is contributing to the Clarksville National Register Historic District. Applicable general design review guidelines state:

- The distinguishing original qualities or character of a property and its environment shall not be destroyed. Removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided.
- All properties shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations which
 have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance shall be
 discouraged.
- Changes which have taken place in the course of time may have acquired significance in their own right, and shall be recognized and respected.
- Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a property shall be treated with sensitivity.
- Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced whenever
 possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the
 material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual
 qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on
 accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historical, physical, or pictorial
 evidence.
- Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties are

appropriate when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historic, architectural, or cultural material and are compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.

Whenever, possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such
a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the
essential form and integrity of the structure would not be impaired.

The demolition of the existing house will render the property no longer contributing to the National Register Historic District so does not meet the general design guidelines. Although Mary Frances Freeman made significant contributions to the Clarksville community and the City of Austin and lived at 1607 W. 10th Street from 1952 to 1963, the period during which she made those contributions appears to have be from 1964 to 1997, at which time she was living at 1609 W. 10th Street.

The applicant, in response to neighborhood, staff and Historic Landmark Commission comments, has made significant changes to the proposed design for new construction in an effort to be more compatible with the character of the neighborhood. The design as currently proposed uses columns salvaged from the original house, has a front porch with a similar gable form to the historic house, and has a more simple roof form than was originally proposed, making it more compatible with the character of the neighborhood.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit with the recommendation that the applicant consider a design that allows for the adaptive reuse of the existing house, and require a City of Austin documentation package be submitted prior to release of the demolition permit.

PHOTOS



1607 W. 10th Street



 $1609~\mathrm{W}.~10^{\mathrm{th}}~\mathrm{Street-Home}$ to the Mary Frances Freeman Baylor 1964-1997

Properties adjacent to and across from 1607 W. $10^{\rm th}$ Street:







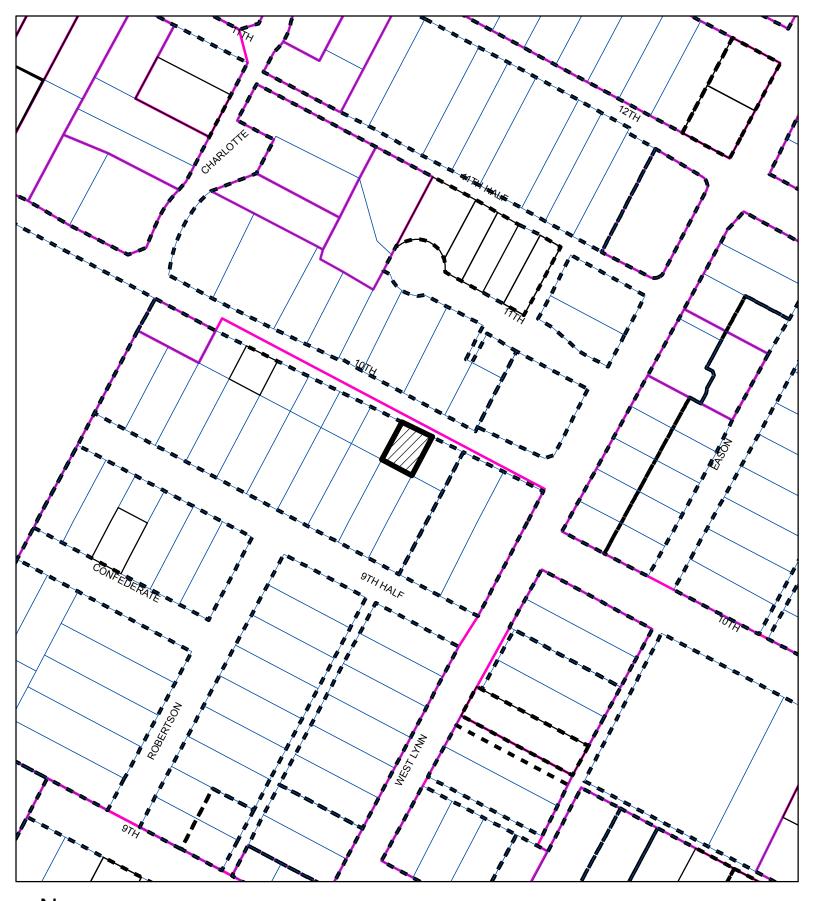


OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1607 W. 10th Street

From City Directories, Austin History Center

City of Austin Historic Preservation Office August 2013

1973	Nancy Chambers, widow of Mart Chambers, retired
1969	Nancy Chambers, widow of Mart Chambers, retired
1966	Nancy Chambers, not listed in names directory
1964	Note: Charles E. Baylor and Mary F. Baylor listed at 1609 W. $10^{\rm th}$ Street
1963	Charles E. Baylor, Porter, Missouri & Pacific & Mary F., no occupation listed
1961	Charles E. Baylor, Porter, Missouri & Pacific & Mary F., no occupation listed
1959	Charles E. Baylor, Porter, Missouri & Pacific & Mary F. , no occupation listed
1957	Charles E. Baylor, Trucker, Missouri & Pacific Lines & Mary F. , no occupation listed
1955	Charles E. Baylor, Trucker, Missouri & Pacific Lines & Mary F. , no occupation listed
1953	Charles E. Baylor, porter & Mary F. , no occupation listed
1952	Charlie Williams, laborer & Essie, no occupation listed
	Note: Charles and Mary Baylor are listed at 1606 W. 10 th Street
1949	No listing for 1607 W. 10 th Street





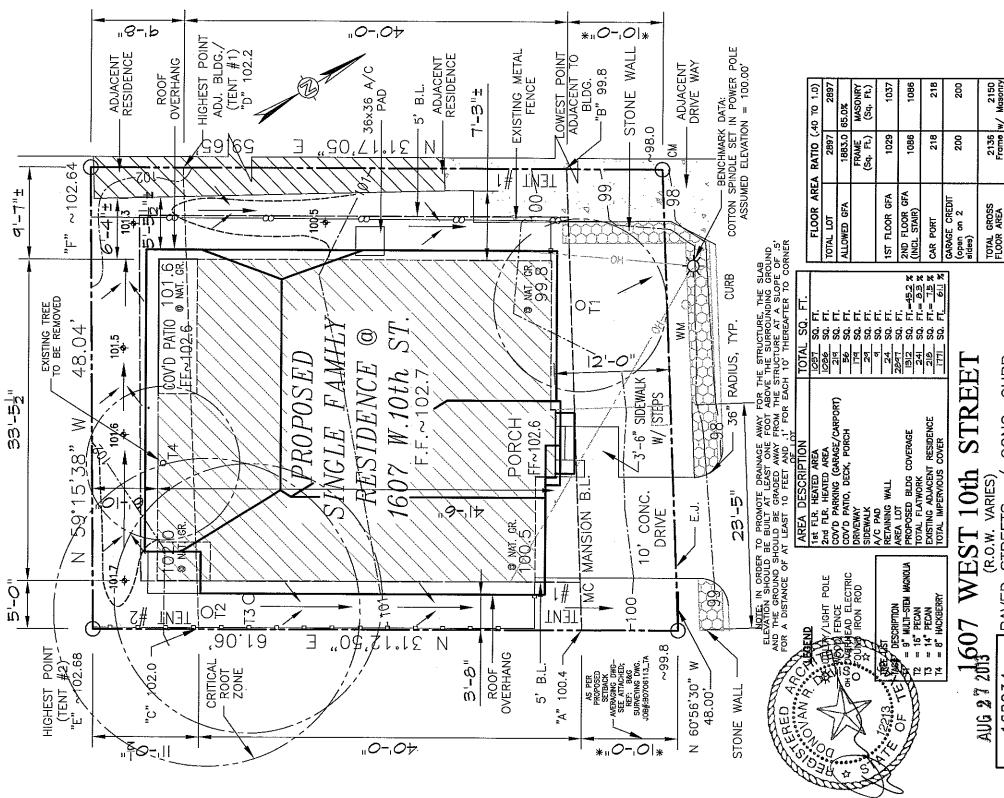
CASE#: NRD-2013-0066 LOCATION: 1607 W 10th Street



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

78703 TEXAS AUSTIN, Street 10th WEST 607

A SUBDIVISION OF RECORD IN VOLUME 2, PAGE 214B OF THE PLAT TO CHARLES DOUGLAS WALKER IN DOCUMENT NUMBER 200608921 UNIY, TEXAS; SAVE AND EXCEPT A PORTION OF A 559 SQUARE FOOTHE DEED RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS; SAD 0.067 OF AN AS SHOWN IN EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART BEING A 0.067 OF AN ACRE PORTION OF LOT 21, BLOCK 1, WESTRIDGE SUBDIVISION, A RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING THAT SAME TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED ZOOGOB9217, AND 2006OB9218, ALL OF THE OFFICAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO THE CITY OF AUSTIN IN VOLUME 6351, PAGE 1410 OF THACKE TRACT OF LAND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS A HEREOF.



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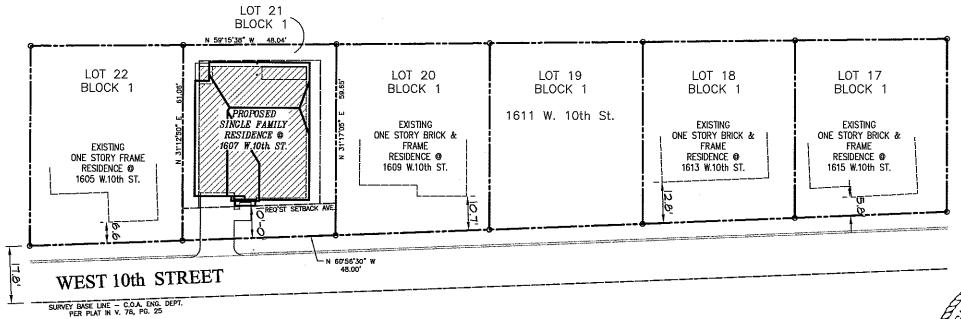
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DAVIS ARCHITECTS, Inc.

PROPOSED SETBACK AVERAGE @ 1607 WEST 10th Street AUSTIN, TEXAS 78703



* SETBACK AVERAGING OF 4 NEAREST STRUCTURES ON SAME BLOCK FACE PER SUBCHAPTER F, SECTION 2.3 *

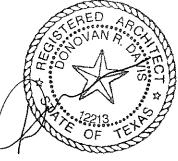
1605 W. 10th. St.-LOT 22 BLK 1= 6.6' 1609 W. 10th. St.-LOT 20 BLK 1=10.7' 1613 W. 10th. St.-LOT 18 BLK 1=12.8' 1615 W. 10th. St.-LOT 17 BLK 1= 5.8' =35.9' / 4 AVERAGE SETBACK = 8.9'

PROPOSED AVERAGE SETBACK = 10.0'

GRAPHIC SCALE: 1° INCH = 30' FT.

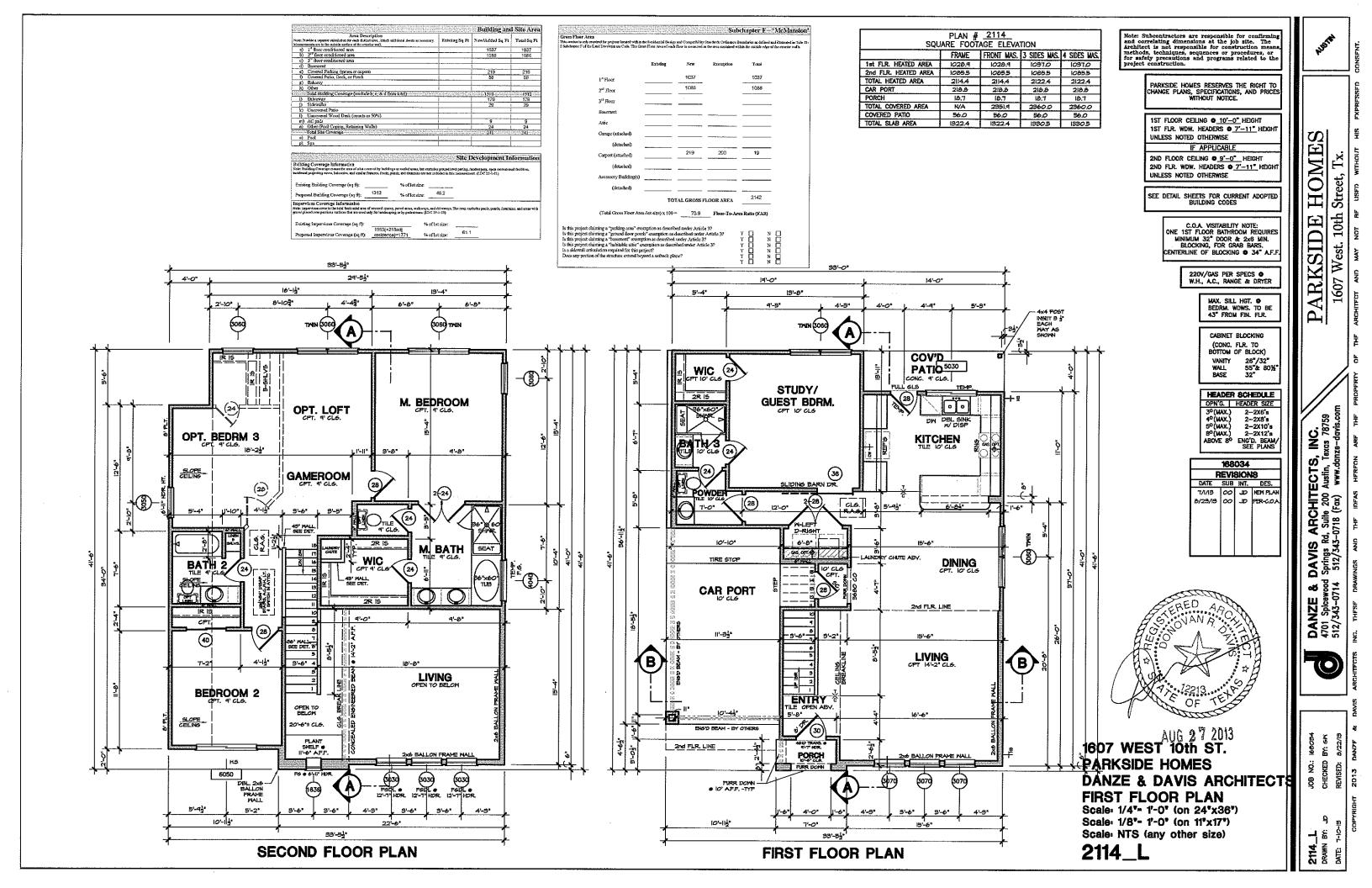


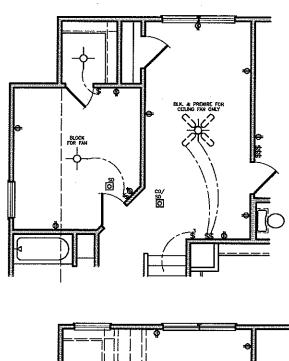
SCALE: 1" = 30'

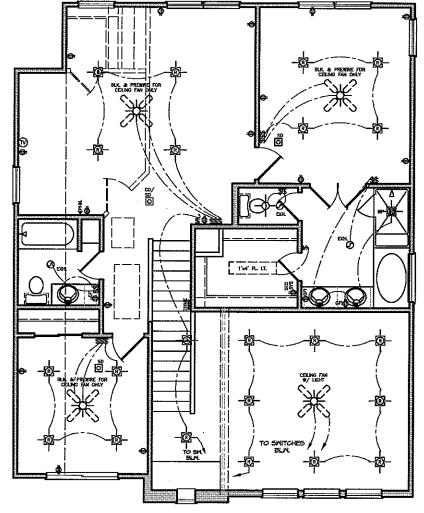


AUG 27 2013

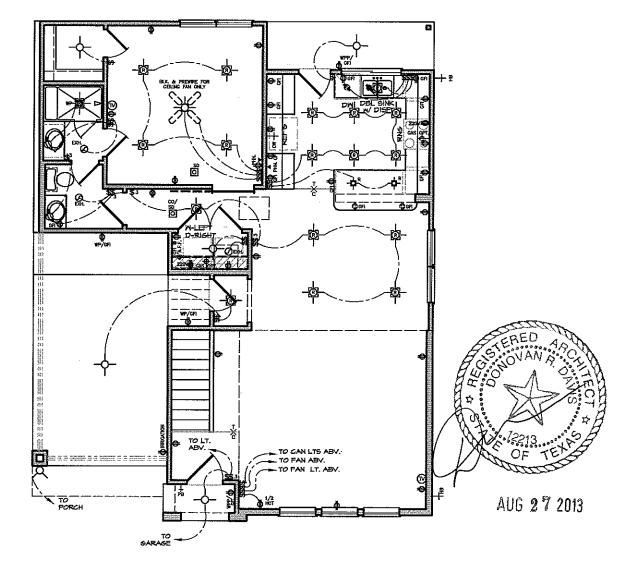
PROPOSED SETBACK Scale: 1"- 30' (8 1/2"x14") Scale: NTS (any other size) 2114_L





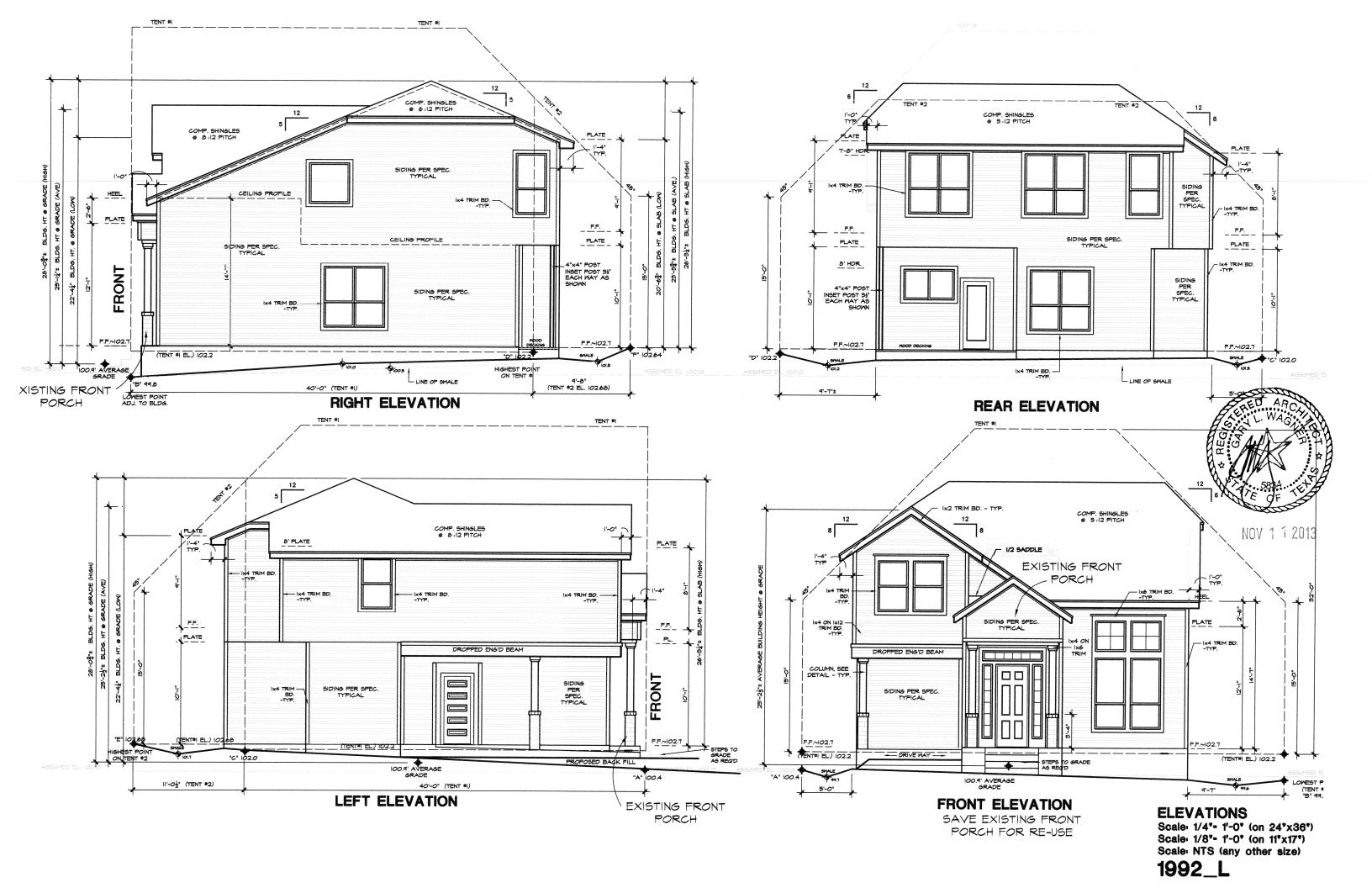


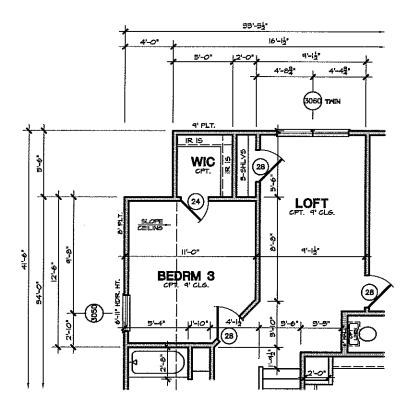
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
Scale: 1/4"- 1'-0" (on 24"x36")
Scale: 1/8"- 1'-0" (on 11"x17")
Scale: NTS (any other size)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Scale: 1/4"- 1'-0" (on 24"x36")
Scale: 1/8"- 1'-0" (on 11"x17") Scale: NTS (any other size)

ELECTRICAL PLAN
Scale: 1/4"- 1'-0" (on 24"x36")
Scale: 1/8"- 1'-0" (on 11"x17")
Scale: NTS (any other size) 2114_L





BEDROOM 3 OPTION Scale: 1/4"= 1'-0" (on 24"x36") Scale: 1/8"= 1'-0" (on 11"x17") Scale: NTS (any other size)

GENERAL MECHANICAL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

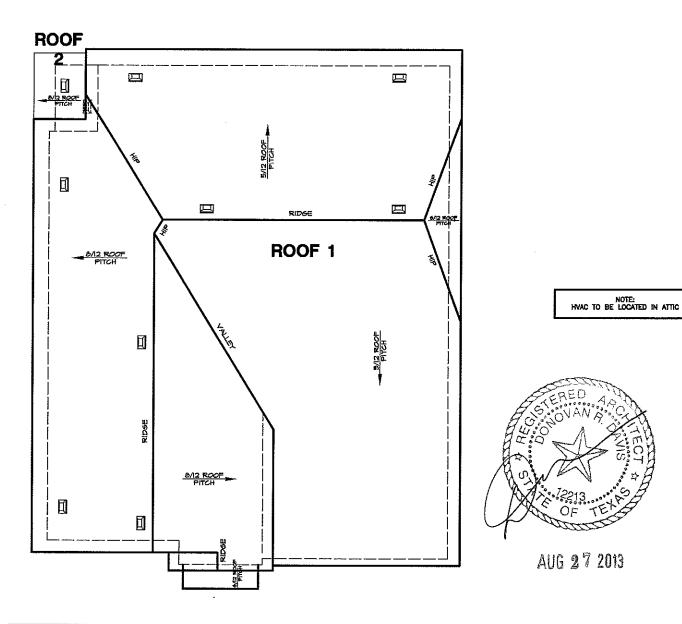
M1305.1.3 Appliances in attics. Attics containing appliances shall be provided with an opening and a clear and unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance, but not less than 30 inches (762 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide and not more than 20 feet (6098 mm) long measured along the centerline of the pessageway from the opening to the appliance. The passage way shall have continuous solid flooring in accordance with Chapter 5 not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide. A level service space at least 30 inches (762 mm) deep and 30 inches (762 mm) wide shall be present along all sides of the appliance where access is required. The leas access so pening dimensions shall be a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), and large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance. Exceptions:

1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the appliance can be serviced and removed through the required opening.

2. where the passageway is unobstructed and ont less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide for its entire length, the

less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide for its entire length, the passageway shall be not more than 50 feet (15 250 mm) long.

M1895.15.1 Electrical requirements. A luminaire controlled by a switch located at the required passageway opening and a receptacle outlet shall be installed at one are the appliance location in accordance with Chapter 39.



1607 W. 10th	-	A	Reof 2 - ALL OPTS	19.00		9.12		4.56		4.56	i
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					65.00		Tall Car		Required 12° Air		Pennised 12" Air

ROOF PLAN Scale: 1/4"= 1'-0" (on 24"x36") Scale: 1/8"- 1'-0" (on 11"x17") Scale: NTS (any other size) 2114_L

