

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

June 15, 2022

HDRC CASE NO: 2022-313
ADDRESS: 2033 W GRAMERCY PLACE
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 1932 BLK 39 LOT 9
ZONING: R-6, H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 7
DISTRICT: Monticello Park Historic District
APPLICANT: Lucia Martinez/MARTINEZ LUCIA HERNANDEZ & MARTINEZ ROBERT R
OWNER: Lucia Martinez/MARTINEZ LUCIA HERNANDEZ & MARTINEZ ROBERT R
TYPE OF WORK: Driveway modifications, rear concrete patio
APPLICATION RECEIVED: May 14, 2022
60-DAY REVIEW: Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders
CASE MANAGER: Hannah Leighner
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to:

1. Replace the existing ribbon driveway with a poured concrete driveway.
2. Pour a 15 square foot concrete pad in the rear yard.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Guidelines for Site Elements

3. Landscape Design

A. PLANTINGS

- i. *Historic Gardens*—Maintain front yard gardens when appropriate within a specific historic district.
- ii. *Historic Lawns*—Do not fully remove and replace traditional lawn areas with impervious hardscape. Limit the removal of lawn areas to mulched planting beds or pervious hardscapes in locations where they would historically be found, such as along fences, walkways, or drives. Low-growing plantings should be used in historic lawn areas; invasive or large-scale species should be avoided. Historic lawn areas should never be reduced by more than 50%.
- iii. *Native xeric plant materials*—Select native and/or xeric plants that thrive in local conditions and reduce watering usage. See UDC Appendix E: San Antonio Recommended Plant List—All Suited to Xeriscape Planting Methods, for a list of appropriate materials and planting methods. Select plant materials with a similar character, growth habit, and light requirements as those being replaced.
- iv. *Plant palettes*—If a varied plant palette is used, incorporate species of taller heights, such informal elements should be restrained to small areas of the front yard or to the rear or side yard so as not to obstruct views of or otherwise distract from the historic structure.
- v. *Maintenance*—Maintain existing landscape features. Do not introduce landscape elements that will obscure the historic structure or are located as to retain moisture on walls or foundations (e.g., dense foundation plantings or vines) or as to cause damage.

B. ROCKS OR HARDSCAPE

- i. *Impervious surfaces*—Do not introduce large pavers, asphalt, or other impervious surfaces where they were not historically located.
- ii. *Pervious and semi-pervious surfaces*—New pervious hardscapes should be limited to areas that are not highly visible, and should not be used as wholesale replacement for plantings. If used, small plantings should be incorporated into the design.
- iii. *Rock mulch and gravel* - Do not use rock mulch or gravel as a wholesale replacement for lawn area. If used, plantings should be incorporated into the design.

C. MULCH

Organic mulch – Organic mulch should not be used as a wholesale replacement for plant material. Organic mulch with appropriate plantings should be incorporated in areas where appropriate such as beneath a tree canopy.

- i. *Inorganic mulch* – Inorganic mulch should not be used in highly-visible areas and should never be used as a wholesale replacement for plant material. Inorganic mulch with appropriate plantings should be incorporated in areas where appropriate such as along a foundation wall where moisture retention is discouraged.

D. TREES

- i. *Preservation*—Preserve and protect from damage existing mature trees and heritage trees. See UDC Section 35-523 (Tree Preservation) for specific requirements.
- ii. *New Trees* – Select new trees based on site conditions. Avoid planting new trees in locations that could potentially cause damage to a historic structure or other historic elements. Species selection and planting procedure should be done in accordance with guidance from the City Arborist.
- iii. *Maintenance* – Proper pruning encourages healthy growth and can extend the lifespan of trees. Avoid unnecessary or harmful pruning. A certified, licensed arborist is recommended for the pruning of mature trees and heritage trees.

5. Sidewalks, Walkways, Driveways, and Curbing

A. SIDEWALKS AND WALKWAYS

- i. *Maintenance*—Repair minor cracking, settling, or jamming along sidewalks to prevent uneven surfaces. Retain and repair historic sidewalk and walkway paving materials—often brick or concrete—in place.
- ii. *Replacement materials*—Replace those portions of sidewalks or walkways that are deteriorated beyond repair. Every effort should be made to match existing sidewalk color and material.
- iii. *Width and alignment*— Follow the historic alignment, configuration, and width of sidewalks and walkways. Alter the historic width or alignment only where absolutely necessary to accommodate the preservation of a significant tree.
- iv. *Stamped concrete*—Preserve stamped street names, business insignias, or other historic elements of sidewalks and walkways when replacement is necessary.
- v. *ADA compliance*—Limit removal of historic sidewalk materials to the immediate intersection when ramps are added to address ADA requirements.

B. DRIVEWAYS

- i. *Driveway configuration*—Retain and repair in place historic driveway configurations, such as ribbon drives. Incorporate a similar driveway configuration—materials, width, and design—to that historically found on the site. Historic driveways are typically no wider than 10 feet. Pervious paving surfaces may be considered where replacement is necessary to increase stormwater infiltration.
- ii. *Curb cuts and ramps*—Maintain the width and configuration of original curb cuts when replacing historic driveways. Avoid introducing new curb cuts where not historically found.

C. CURBING

- i. *Historic curbing*—Retain historic curbing wherever possible. Historic curbing in San Antonio is typically constructed of concrete with a curved or angular profile.
- ii. *Replacement curbing*—Replace curbing in-kind when deteriorated beyond repair. Where in-kind replacement is not be feasible, use a comparable substitute that duplicates the color, texture, durability, and profile of the original. Retaining walls and curbing should not be added to the sidewalk design unless absolutely necessary.

7. Off-Street Parking

A. LOCATION

- i. *Preferred location*—Place parking areas for non-residential and mixed-use structures at the rear of the site, behind primary structures to hide them from the public right-of-way. On corner lots, place parking areas behind the primary structure and set them back as far as possible from the side streets. Parking areas to the side of the primary structure are acceptable when location behind the structure is not feasible. See UDC Section 35-310 for district-specific standards.
- ii. *Front*—Do not add off-street parking areas within the front yard setback as to not disrupt the continuity of the streetscape.
- iii. *Access*—Design off-street parking areas to be accessed from alleys or secondary streets rather than from principal streets whenever possible.

B. DESIGN

- i. *Screening*—Screen off-street parking areas with a landscape buffer, wall, or ornamental fence two to four feet high—or a combination of these methods. Landscape buffers are preferred due to their ability to absorb carbon dioxide. See UDC Section 35-510 for buffer requirements.
- ii. *Materials*—Use permeable parking surfaces when possible to reduce run-off and flooding. See UDC Section 35-526(j) for specific standards.
- iii. *Parking structures*—Design new parking structures to be similar in scale, materials, and rhythm of the surrounding historic district when new parking structures are necessary.

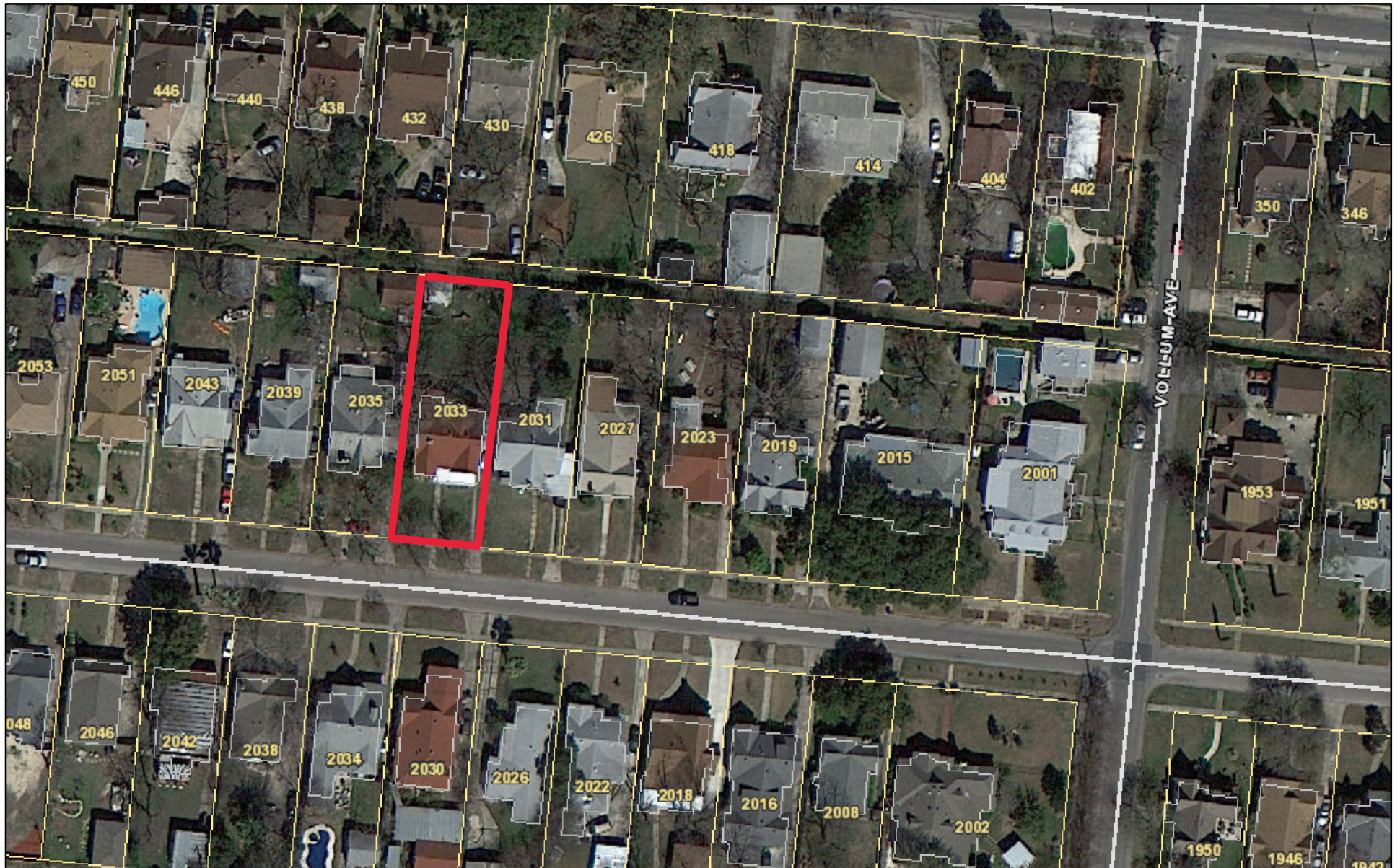
FINDINGS:

- a. The structure located at 2033 W Gramercy is a traditional-style brick bungalow with two, symmetrical, front-facing gables, rounded Romanesque window and door openings, a red shingle roof, and a front porch. The structure contributes to the Monticello Park Historic District.
- b. DRIVEWAY MODIFICATION – the applicant is requesting to replace the existing, degraded, concrete ribbon driveway with a solid, poured concrete driveway. Historic Design Guideline 5..B.i for Site Elements advises to retain and repair in place historic driveway configurations, such as ribbon drives, and to incorporate a similar driveway configuration—materials, width, and design—to that historically found on the site. Historic driveways are typically no wider than 10 feet. Staff does not find the request to be consistent with this guideline. Repair and maintenance of the existing ribbon driveway, to match the original material, width, and design, would be appropriate.
- c. HARDSCAPING INSTALLATION – The applicant is requesting to install a 15-foot by 15-foot concrete pad at the rear of the house. The Historic Design Guidelines for Site Elements 3.B.ii states that new hardscaping should be limited to areas that are not highly visible, and should not be used as wholesale replacement for plantings, and that, if used, small plantings should be incorporated into the design. Staff finds that the placement and footprint of the poured patio are appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

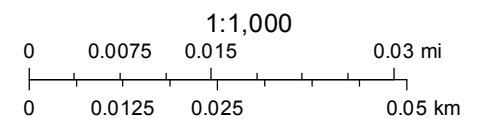
1. Staff does not recommend approval of item 1, replacement of the existing driveway with a poured concrete driveway, based on finding b. Staff recommends that the existing driveway be repaired in-kind to match the original in material, width, profile, and design. Installation of pavers between repaired ribbons may be appropriate; the applicant is required to submit material specifications to staff if this modification is requested.
2. Staff recommends approval of item 2, installation of a concrete patio at the rear of the house, based on finding c, with the stipulation that the applicant incorporate landscaping around the concrete slab.

City of San Antonio One Stop



June 23, 2022

— User drawn lines







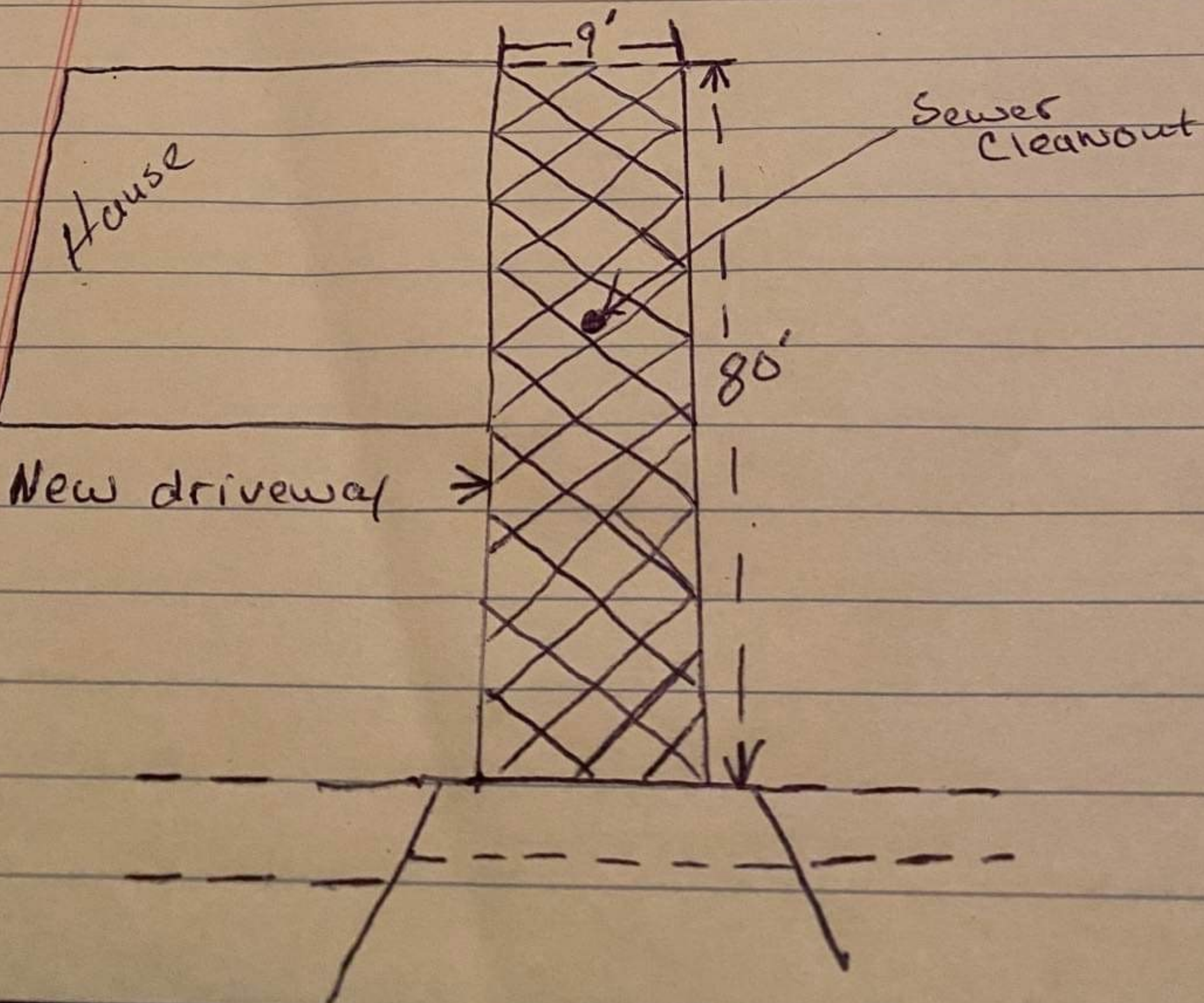
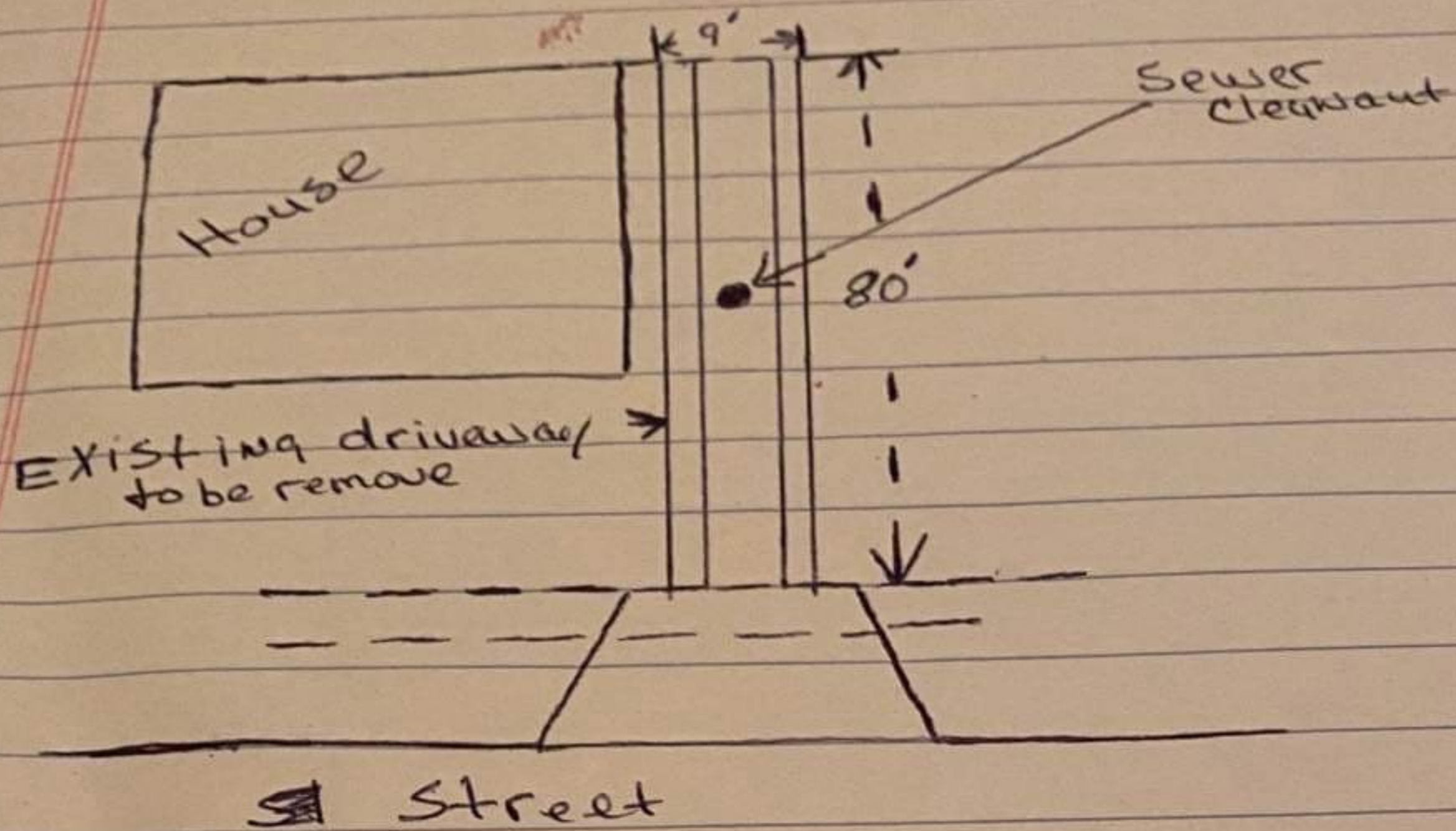








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