

# HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

August 18, 2021

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2021-387  
**ADDRESS:** 612 LEIGH ST  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 2739 BLK LOT A10  
**ZONING:** R-5,H  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 1  
**DISTRICT:** Lavaca Historic District  
**APPLICANT:** Robert Silva/Ironman Construction  
**OWNER:** Gabriel Gonzales/ALLEN LARRY & KRISTY  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Construction of a 2-story rear addition  
**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** July 30, 2021  
**60-DAY REVIEW:** Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders  
**CASE MANAGER:** Stephanie Phillips  
**REQUEST:**

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to construct a 2-story rear addition.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

*Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 3, Guidelines for Additions*

### 1. Massing and Form of Residential Additions

#### A. GENERAL

- i. *Minimize visual impact*—Site residential additions at the side or rear of the building whenever possible to minimize views of the addition from the public right-of-way. An addition to the front of a building would be inappropriate.
- ii. *Historic context*—Design new residential additions to be in keeping with the existing, historic context of the block. For example, a large, two-story addition on a block comprised of single-story homes would not be appropriate.
- iii. *Similar roof form*—Utilize a similar roof pitch, form, overhang, and orientation as the historic structure for additions.
- iv. *Transitions between old and new*—Utilize a setback or recessed area and a small change in detailing at the seam of the historic structure and new addition to provide a clear visual distinction between old and new building forms.

#### B. SCALE, MASSING, AND FORM

- i. *Subordinate to principal facade*—Design residential additions, including porches and balconies, to be subordinate to the principal façade of the original structure in terms of their scale and mass.
- ii. *Rooftop additions*—Limit rooftop additions to rear facades to preserve the historic scale and form of the building from the street level and minimize visibility from the public right-of-way. Full-floor second story additions that obscure the form of the original structure are not appropriate.
- iii. *Dormers*—Ensure dormers are compatible in size, scale, proportion, placement, and detail with the style of the house. Locate dormers only on non-primary facades (those not facing the public right-of-way) if not historically found within the district.
- iv. *Footprint*—The building footprint should respond to the size of the lot. An appropriate yard to building ratio should be maintained for consistency within historic districts. Residential additions should not be so large as to double the existing building footprint, regardless of lot size.
- v. *Height*—Generally, the height of new additions should be consistent with the height of the existing structure. The maximum height of new additions should be determined by examining the line-of-sight or visibility from the street. Addition height should never be so contrasting as to overwhelm or distract from the existing structure.

### 2. Massing and Form of Non-Residential and Mixed-Use Additions

#### A. GENERAL

- i. *Historic context*—Design new additions to be in keeping with the existing, historic context of the block. For example, additions should not fundamentally alter the scale and character of the block when viewed from the public right-of-way.
- ii. *Preferred location*—Place additions at the side or rear of the building whenever possible to minimize the visual impact on the original structure from the public right of way. An addition to the front of a building is inappropriate.

- iii. *Similar roof form*—Utilize a similar roof pitch, form, and orientation as the principal structure for additions, particularly for those that are visible from the public right-of-way.
- iv. *Subordinate to principal facade*—Design additions to historic buildings to be subordinate to the principal façade of the original structure in terms of their scale and mass.
- v. *Transitions between old and new*—Distinguish additions as new without distracting from the original structure. For example, rooftop additions should be appropriately set back to minimize visibility from the public right-of-way. For side or rear additions utilize setbacks, a small change in detailing, or a recessed area at the seam of the historic structure and new addition to provide a clear visual distinction between old and new building forms.

## B. SCALE, MASSING, AND FORM

- i. *Height*—Limit the height of side or rear additions to the height of the original structure. Limit the height of rooftop additions to no more than 40 percent of the height of original structure.
- ii. *Total addition footprint*—New additions should never result in the doubling of the historic building footprint. Full-floor rooftop additions that obscure the form of the original structure are not appropriate.

## 3. Materials and Textures

### A. COMPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

- i. *Complementary materials*—Use materials that match in type, color, and texture and include an offset or reveal to distinguish the addition from the historic structure whenever possible. Any new materials introduced to the site as a result of an addition must be compatible with the architectural style and materials of the original structure.
- ii. *Metal roofs*—Construct new metal roofs in a similar fashion as historic metal roofs. Refer to the Guidelines for Alternations and Maintenance section for additional specifications regarding metal roofs.
- iii. *Other roofing materials*—Match original roofs in terms of form and materials. For example, when adding on to a building with a clay tile roof, the addition should have a roof that is clay tile, synthetic clay tile, or a material that appears similar in color and dimension to the existing clay tile.

### B. INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS

- i. *Imitation or synthetic materials*—Do not use imitation or synthetic materials, such as vinyl siding, brick or simulated stone veneer, plastic, or other materials not compatible with the architectural style and materials of the original structure.

### C. REUSE OF HISTORIC MATERIALS

- i. *Salvage*—Salvage and reuse historic materials, where possible, that will be covered or removed as a result of an addition.

## 4. Architectural Details

### A. GENERAL

- i. *Historic context*—Design additions to reflect their time while respecting the historic context. Consider character-defining features and details of the original structure in the design of additions. These architectural details include roof form, porches, porticos, cornices, lintels, arches, quoins, chimneys, projecting bays, and the shapes of window and door openings.
- ii. *Architectural details*—Incorporate architectural details that are in keeping with the architectural style of the original structure. Details should be simple in design and compliment the character of the original structure. Architectural details that are more ornate or elaborate than those found on the original structure should not be used to avoid drawing undue attention to the addition.
- iii. *Contemporary interpretations*—Consider integrating contemporary interpretations of traditional designs and details for additions. Use of contemporary window moldings and door surroundings, for example, can provide visual interest while helping to convey the fact that the addition is new.

## 5. Mechanical Equipment and Roof Appurtenances

### A. LOCATION AND SITING

- i. *Visibility*—Do not locate utility boxes, air conditioners, rooftop mechanical equipment, skylights, satellite dishes, cable lines, and other roof appurtenances on primary facades, front-facing roof slopes, in front yards, or in other locations that are clearly visible from the public right-of-way.
- ii. *Service Areas*—Locate service areas towards the rear of the site to minimize visibility from the public right-of-way. Where service areas cannot be located at the rear of the property, compatible screens or buffers will be required.

## B. SCREENING

- i. *Building-mounted equipment*—Paint devices mounted on secondary facades and other exposed hardware, frames, and piping to match the color scheme of the primary structure or screen them with landscaping.
- ii. *Freestanding equipment*—Screen service areas, air conditioning units, and other mechanical equipment from public view using a fence, hedge, or other enclosure.
- iii. *Roof-mounted equipment*—Screen and set back devices mounted on the roof to avoid view from public right-of-way.

## 6. Designing for Energy Efficiency

### A. BUILDING DESIGN

- i. *Energy efficiency*—Design additions and new construction to maximize energy efficiency.
- ii. *Materials*—Utilize green building materials, such as recycled, locally-sourced, and low maintenance materials whenever possible.
- iii. *Building elements*—Incorporate building features that allow for natural environmental control – such as operable windows for cross ventilation.
- iv. *Roof slopes*—Orient roof slopes to maximize solar access for the installation of future solar collectors where compatible with typical roof slopes and orientations found in the surrounding historic district.

### B. SITE DESIGN

- i. *Building orientation*—Orient new buildings and additions with consideration for solar and wind exposure in all seasons to the extent possible within the context of the surrounding district.
- ii. *Solar access*—Avoid or minimize the impact of new construction on solar access for adjoining properties.

### C. SOLAR COLLECTORS

- i. *Location*—Locate solar collectors on side or rear roof pitch of the primary historic structure to the maximum extent feasible to minimize visibility from the public right-of-way while maximizing solar access. Alternatively, locate solar collectors on a garage or outbuilding or consider a ground-mount system where solar access to the primary structure is limited.
- ii. *Mounting (sloped roof surfaces)*—Mount solar collectors flush with the surface of a sloped roof. Select collectors that are similar in color to the roof surface to reduce visibility.
- iii. *Mounting (flat roof surfaces)*—Mount solar collectors flush with the surface of a flat roof to the maximum extent feasible. Where solar access limitations preclude a flush mount, locate panels towards the rear of the roof where visibility from the public right-of-way will be minimized.

### *Standard Specifications for Windows in Additions and New Construction*

- GENERAL: New windows on additions should relate to the windows of the primary historic structure in terms of materiality and overall appearance. Windows used in new construction should be similar in appearance to those commonly found within the district in terms of size, profile, and configuration. While no material is expressly prohibited by the Historic Design Guidelines, a high-quality wood or aluminum-clad wood window product often meets the Guidelines with the stipulations listed below. Whole window systems should match the size of historic windows on property unless otherwise approved.
- SIZE: Windows should feature traditional dimensions and proportions as found within the district.
- SASH: Meeting rails must be no taller than 1.25". Stiles must be no wider than 2.25". Top and bottom sashes must be equal in size unless otherwise approved.
- DEPTH: There should be a minimum of 2" in depth between the front face of the window trim and the front face of the top window sash.
  - This must be accomplished by recessing the window sufficiently within the opening or with the installation of additional window trim to add thickness.
- TRIM: Window trim must feature traditional dimensions and architecturally appropriate casing and sloped sill detail. Window track components such as jamb liners must be painted to match the window trim or concealed by a wood window screen set within the opening.
- GLAZING: Windows should feature clear glass. Low-e or reflective coatings are not recommended for replacements. The glazing should not feature faux divided lights with an interior grille. If approved to match a historic window configuration, the window should feature real exterior muntins.
- COLOR: Wood windows should feature a painted finish. If a clad product is approved, white or metallic manufacturer's color is not allowed, and color selection must be presented to staff.
- INSTALLATION: Wood windows should be supplied in a block frame and exclude nailing fins. Window opening sizes should not be altered to accommodate stock sizes prior to approval.

- FINAL APPROVAL: If the proposed window does not meet the aforementioned stipulations, then the applicant must submit updated window specifications to staff for review, prior to purchase and installation. For more assistance, the applicant may request the window supplier to coordinate with staff directly for verification.

## **FINDINGS:**

- a. The primary structure located at 612 Leigh is a 1-story residential structure constructed circa 1915 in the Folk Victorian style with various modifications over time. The home features a stucco façade, a prominent projecting front porch, and front dormers. The structure is contributing to the Lavaca Historic District.
- b. DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE – The applicant met with the Design Review Committee (DRC) on June 22, 2021, to review a prior version of the requested addition. The prior version featured a steeply sloping shed roofline and more contemporary window locations and sizes, materials, and details. Feedback from the DRC included separating the addition mass from the primary structure via a connector element to minimize its visual and structural impact; modifying the roofline to be more in keeping with historic precedents in the district for rear additions and rear accessory structures; and modifying the proposed fenestration pattern and window configurations to be more consistent with the Guidelines. The DRC found a 2-story rear addition to be appropriate for the structure, site, block, and vicinity.
- c. FOOTPRINT – The applicant as proposed to construct a new 2-story addition to the primary structure totaling approximately 1,066 square feet. The existing primary structure's square footage is approximately 1,639 square feet. The Historic Design Guidelines for Additions stipulate that new additions should not double the footprint of the primary structure in plan. Staff finds that the proposal generally meets this guideline.
- d. ORIENTATION AND SETBACK – The applicant has proposed to construct an addition to the rear of the structure. Per the Guidelines, additions should be located at the rear of the structure whenever possible and should be inset behind the front façade to minimize the impact on the public streetscape. Staff finds the orientation and setback generally consistent.
- e. SCALE – The proposed addition is 2-story and will be similar in height to the primary historic structure's tallest ridge and will be separated from the primary structure by a 1-story connector element to minimize structural and exterior impacts on the primary structure. The Historic Design Guidelines state that new construction should be consistent with the height and overall scale of nearby historic buildings. Staff finds that a 2-story addition is acceptable for this particular property due to the surrounding context of the block and vicinity, as well as the slope of the site that limits the visibility of the addition from the right-of-way.
- f. FENESTRATION – According to the Historic Design Guidelines, openings in new construction should use traditional dimensions and profiles found on the primary structure or within the historic district. Based on the submitted elevations, the applicant is requesting window sizes and proportions that are generally consistent with the guidelines overall. However, there are no windows on the upper level of the rear elevation, which results in a continuous wall plane. Staff finds that windows or openings should be added to this elevation to be consistent with the Guidelines. Staff also finds that all windows should meet the stipulations listed in the recommendation.
- g. MATERIALITY – The applicant has proposed to use board and batten siding, cedar posts, and a standing seam metal roof. The window and door materials are not indicated. Staff finds the material generally appropriate with the stipulations listed in the recommendation.
- h. ROOF FORM – The proposed 2-story rear addition will utilize a gable roof form. While the ridge height is not indicated on the drawings, it appears to eclipse 20 feet at its tallest point. According to the Guidelines, roof forms on additions should respond to the roof form of the primary structure and predominant roof forms used historically in the district. Staff finds that the proposed roof form is consistent with the primary structure and roof forms found historically in the district.
- i. ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS - According to the Guidelines for Additions, new additions should feature architectural details that are in keeping with the architectural style of the original structure. Details should be simple in design and compliment the character of the original structure. Architectural details that are more ornate or elaborate than those found on the original structure should not be used to avoid drawing undue attention to the addition. Staff finds the proposal consistent with these guidelines.



## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval based on findings a through h with the following stipulations:

- i. That the applicant installs a window on the second floor of the rear elevation to be more consistent with the Guidelines as noted in finding f. An updated elevation is required to be submitted to staff prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.
- ii. That the applicant submits final window specifications to staff for review and approval. Windows should be fully wood or aluminum clad wood and feature an inset of two (2) inches within facades and should feature profiles that are found historically within the immediate vicinity. White color is not allowed, and color selection should be presented to staff. Meeting rails must be no taller than 1.25” and stiles no wider than 2.25”. There should be a minimum of two inches in depth between the front face of the window trim and the front face of the top window sash. This must be accomplished by recessing the window sufficiently within the opening or with the installation of additional window trim to add thickness. Window trim must feature traditional dimensions and an architecturally appropriate sill detail. Window track components must be painted to match the window trim or be concealed by a wood window screen set within the opening.
- iii. That the applicant installs a standing seam metal roof featuring panels that are 18 to 21 inches wide, seams that are 1 to 2 inches high, a crimped ridge seam, and a standard galvalume finish. Panels should be smooth without striation or corrugation. Ridges are to feature a double-munch or crimped ridge configuration; no vented ridge caps or end caps are allowed. An on-site inspection must be scheduled with OHP staff prior to the start of work to verify that the roofing material matches the approved specifications. All chimney, flue, and related existing roof details must be preserved.

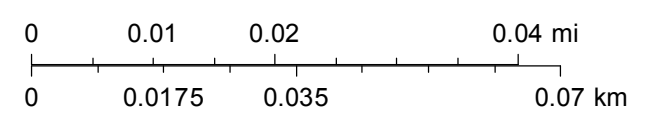


# City of San Antonio One Stop



August 11, 2021

1:1,000













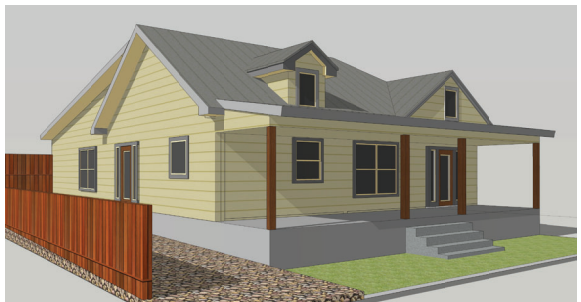
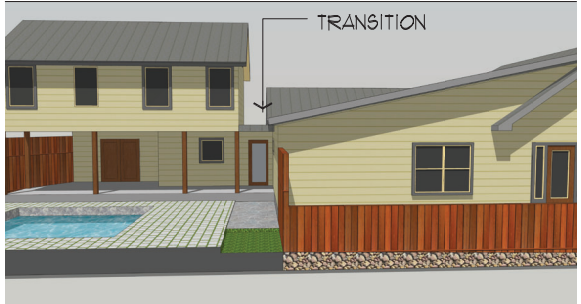
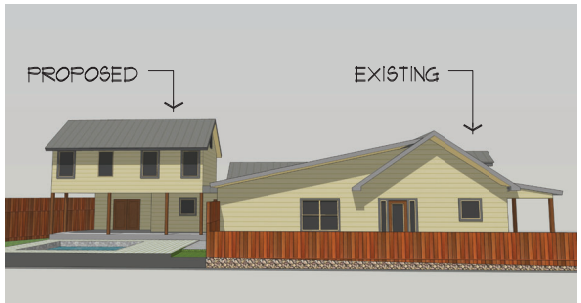
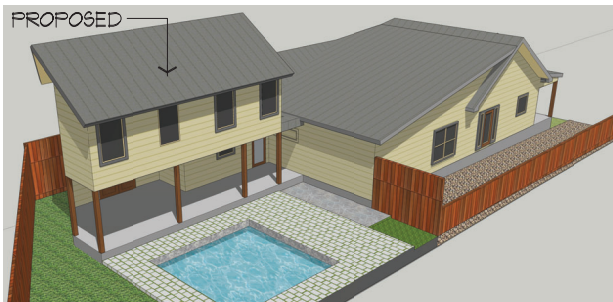
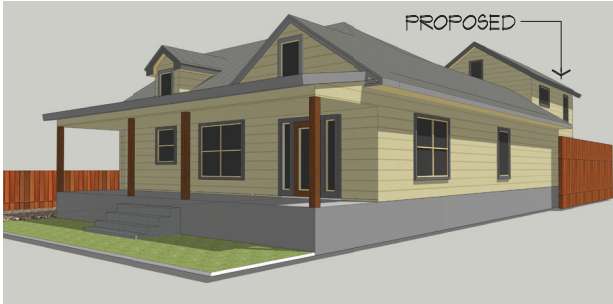
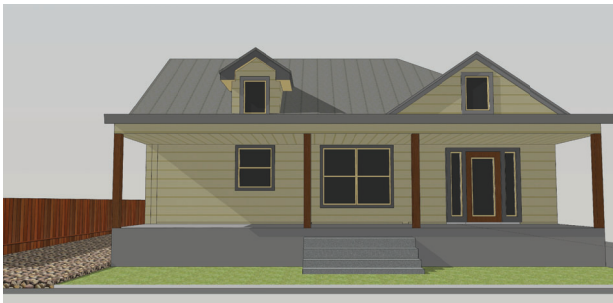








Proposed design for the Gonzales family, located on 612 Leigh Street in San Antonio, Texas.  
The Gonzales family wishes to add to their existing home a structure that includes sleeping quarters and a covered patio.  
The proposed structure preserves the existing materials of the existing home as well as the features and forms.  
Columns will match existing porch wood type and dimension, roof pitch used in the addition remains the same as the existing structure.  
There is no change to the public elevation of the existing home and the addition will use the same materials, textures and building techniques.  
The location of the addition is at the rear elevation where an opening already exists. The proposed added volume is only attached at the point where this opening exists.  
In order to be compatible but still differentiate the new from the existing we have allowed a relief in the volumes where the two attach.  
The two volumes do not unify into a single architectural whole but reflect each other with materials and building methods.



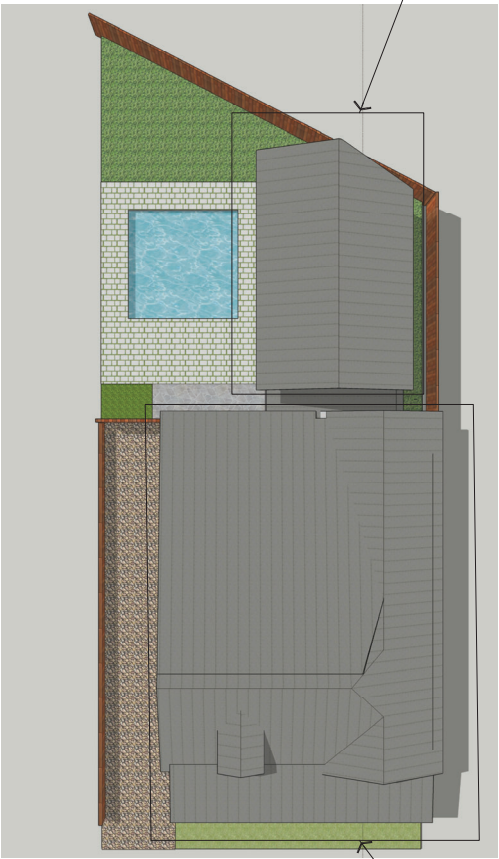
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GONZALES FAMILY ADDITION  
612 LEIGH STREET

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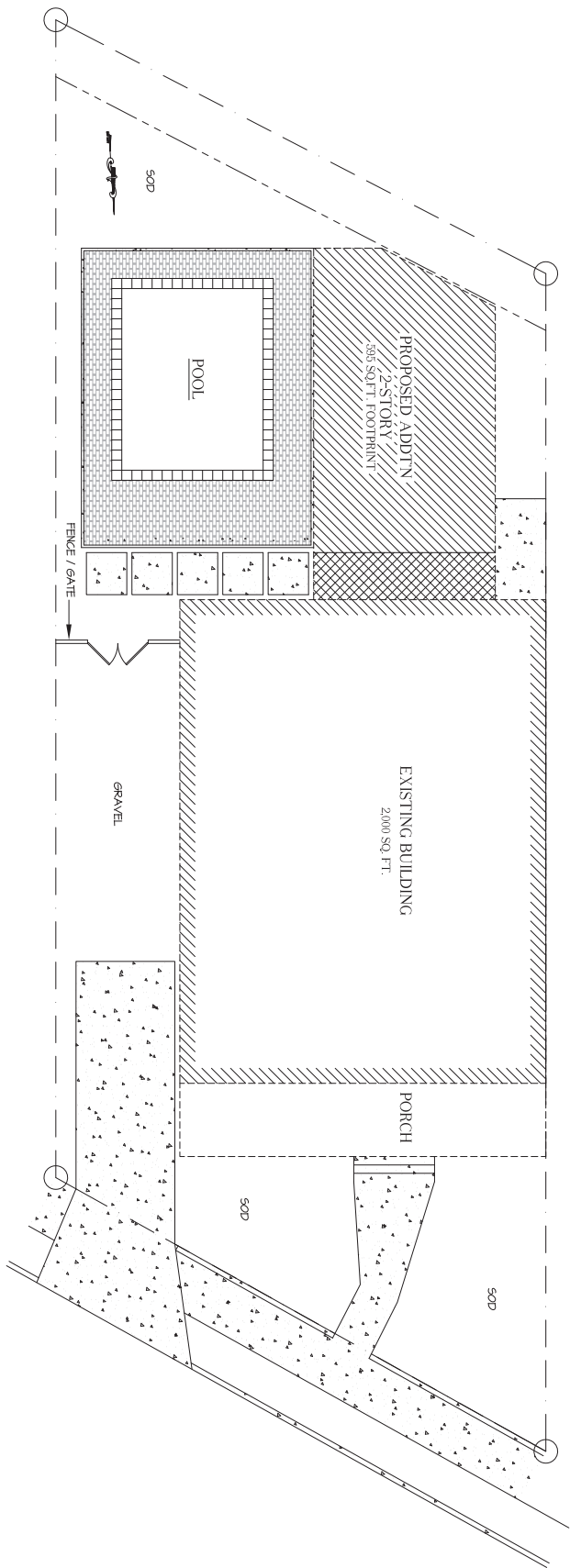
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1 OF 5



PROPOSED

EXISTING



EXISTING / PROPOSED AREAS

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

**GONZALES & ASSOCIATES**  
BUILDING DESIGNERS & CONSULTANTS

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612 LEIGH STREET

LOT A-10  
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AFRISO VILCHIS

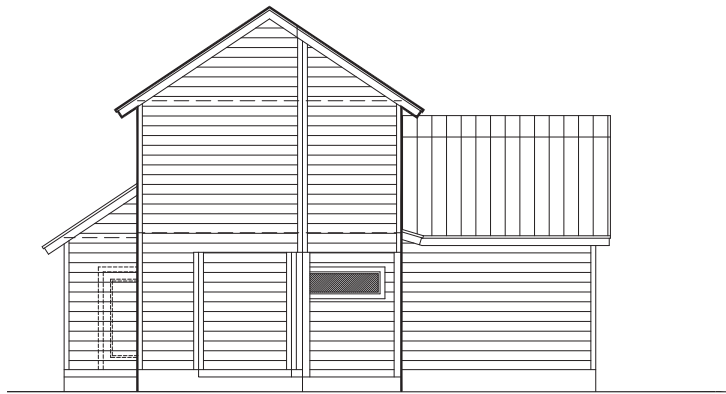
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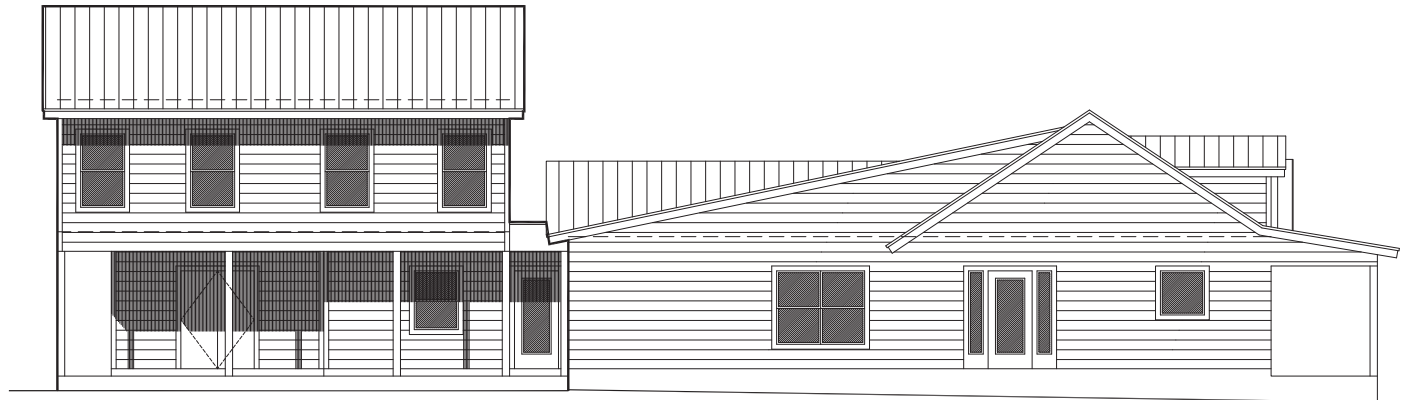
REAR ELEVATION

SCALE: NTS



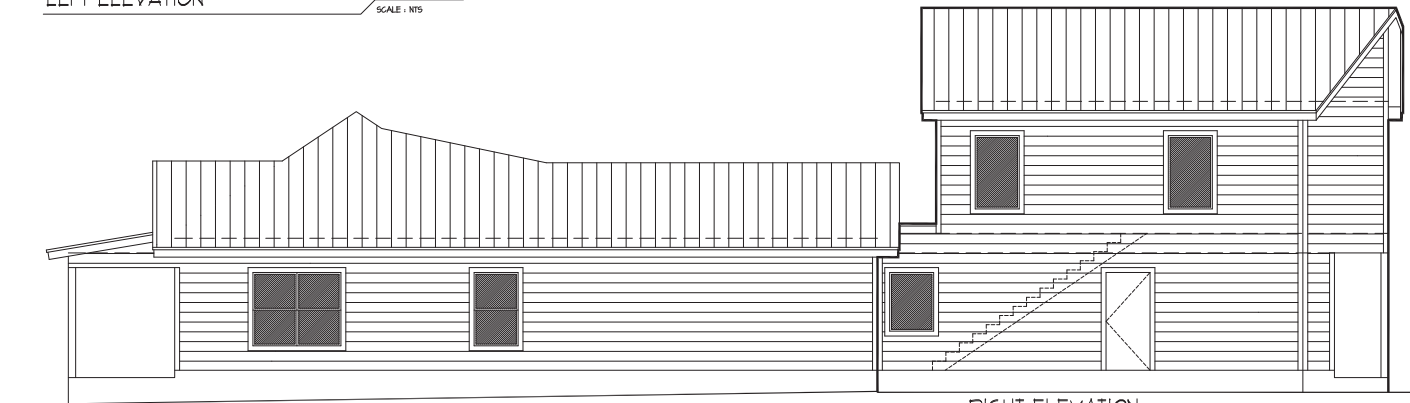
FRONT ELEVATION

SCALE: NTS



LEFT ELEVATION

SCALE: NTS



RIGHT ELEVATION

SCALE: NTS

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612 LEIGH STREET

LOT A-10  
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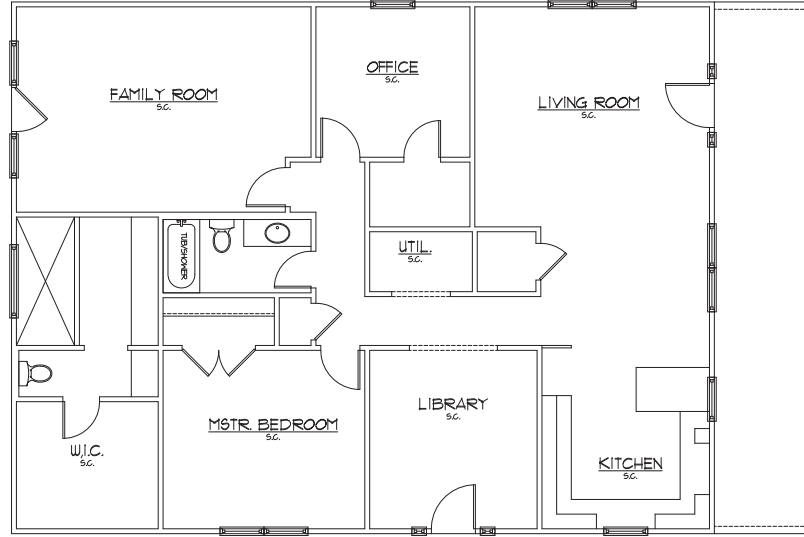
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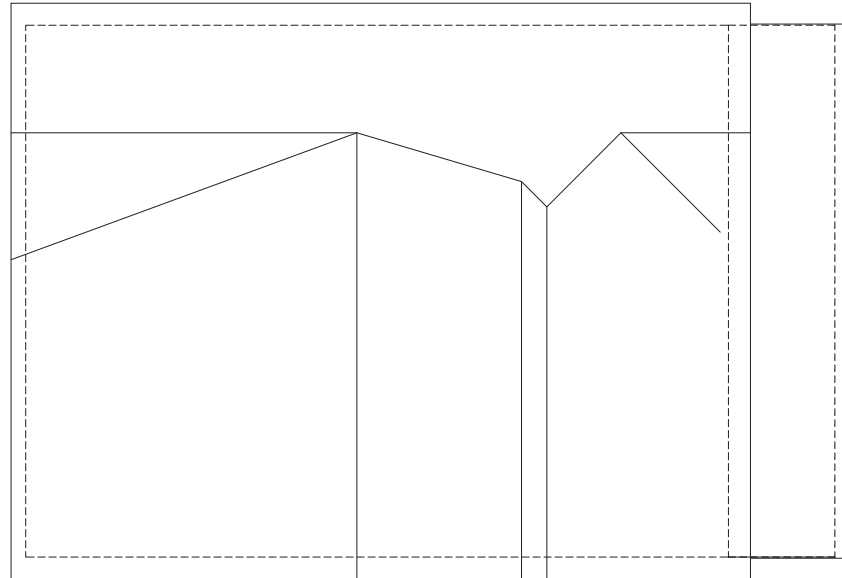
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EXISTING HOME

SCALE: NTS



EXISTING ROOF PLAN

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612 LEIGH STREET

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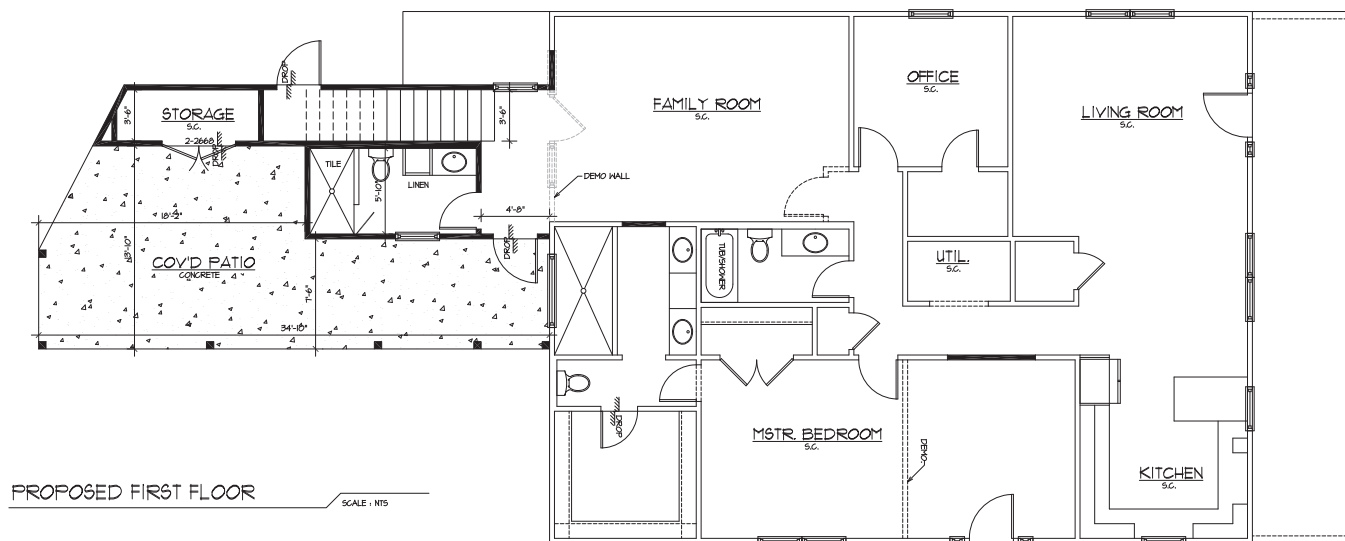
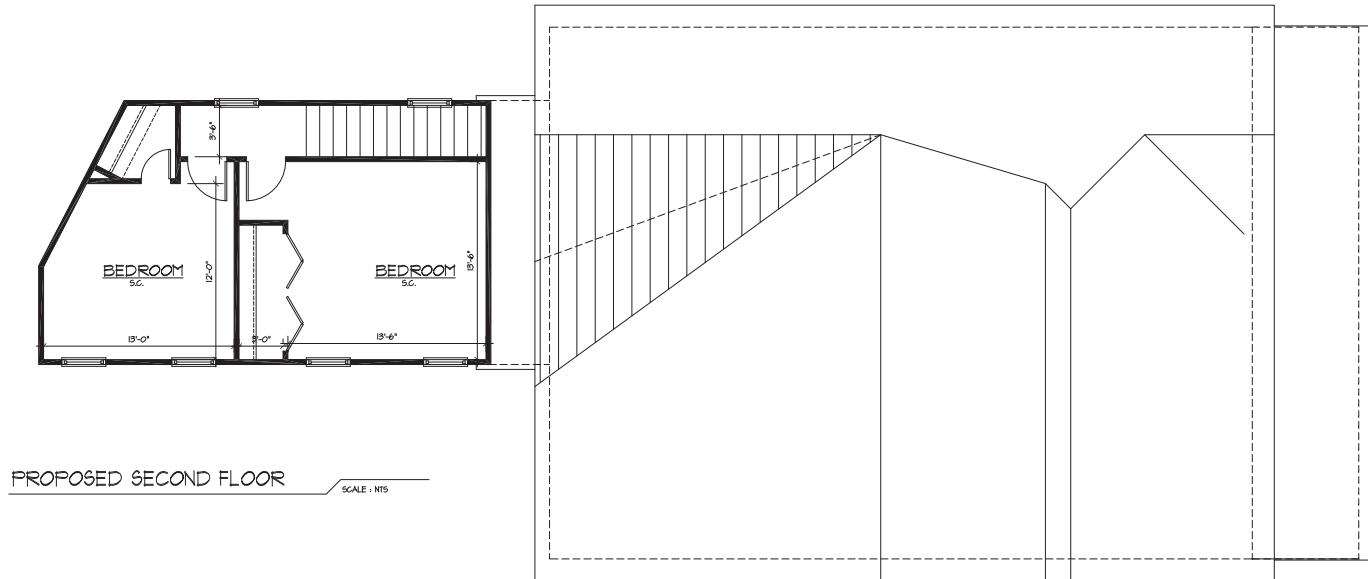
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