

# HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

August 18, 2021

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2021-381  
**ADDRESS:** 112 SOLEDAD ST  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 106 BLK LOT 8A  
**ZONING:** D, H, RIO-3  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 1  
**DISTRICT:** Main/Military Plaza Historic District  
**APPLICANT:** Davis Sprinkle/Sprinkle & Co. Architects  
**OWNER:** Derek Rosson/RS Merit  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Repair and maintenance, roof top addition, rear addition, river level wall modifications, site and landscaping modifications  
**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** July 30, 2021  
**60-DAY REVIEW:** Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders  
**CASE MANAGER:** Edward Hall  
**REQUEST:**

The applicant is requesting conceptual approval for approval to:

1. Modify the street level, street facing façade of the historic structure.
2. Construct a 1-story, rooftop addition to the historic structure.
3. Construct a 3-story, rear addition on the river side of the site.
4. Modify the historic stone wall at the river level.
5. Perform site and landscaping modifications at the river level.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

*Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 2, Guidelines for Additions*

### 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.

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

Consistent with the Historic Design Guidelines, the following recommendations are made for windows to be used in new construction:

- **GENERAL:** 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.

- **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. All windows should be supplied in a block frame and exclude nailing fins which limit the ability to sufficiently recess the windows.
- **TRIM:** Window trim must feature traditional dimensions and architecturally appropriate casing and sloped sill detail.
- **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 true, exterior muntins.
- **COLOR:** Wood windows should feature a painted finish. If a clad or non-wood product is approved, white or metallic manufacturer's color is not allowed and color selection must be presented to staff.

*UDC Section 35-672. – Neighborhood Wide Design Standards*

(a) Pedestrian Circulation. Pedestrian access shall be provided among properties to integrate neighborhoods.

(1) Provide sidewalks that link with existing sidewalks on adjoining properties. If no sidewalk currently exists on an adjoining property, the applicant will have discretion in the placement of the sidewalk provided the following criteria

are met:

A. Provide a sidewalk connection from one (1) side of the applicant's property to the other, parallel to the public

right-of way, on the street sides of the property in all river improvement overlay districts

B. Provide a connection from the street level sidewalk to the Riverwalk at cross streets and bridges and other designated access points. This requirement may be waived if there is already a public connection from the street

level to the Riverwalk.

C. In order to preserve the rural character of "RIO-6," the HPO, in coordination with the development services department, may waive the requirement of sidewalks.

• In "RIO-3," the width of the pathway along the river shall match those widths established in the historic

Hugman drawings. If there are no sidewalks in the Hugman drawings, the path will not exceed eight (8) feet in width.

(2) Link the various functions and spaces on a site with sidewalks in a coordinated system.

Provide pedestrian sidewalks between buildings, parking areas and built features such as outdoor plazas and courtyards.

(3) Paving materials. Paving materials for pedestrian pathways shall use visually and texturally different materials than those used for parking spaces and automobile traffic.

A. Paving materials for pedestrian pathways shall be either:

i. Broom-finished, scored, sandblasted or dyed concrete;

ii. Rough or honed finished stone;

iii. Brick or concrete pavers; or

iv. Other materials that meet the performance standards of the above materials.

B. Asphalt is permitted for pedestrian pathways that also are designated as multi-use paths by the City of San Antonio. The public works department will maintain the designated multi-use path locations.

(4) Street Connections to River. Retain the interesting and unique situations where streets dead-end at the river, creating both visual and physical access to the river for the public.

(5) Pedestrian Access Along the Riverwalk Pathway Shall Not Be Blocked.

A. Queuing is prohibited on the Riverwalk pathway.

B. Hostess stations shall be located away from the Riverwalk pathway so as to not inhibit pedestrian flow on the

Riverwalk pathway. That is, the hostess station shall not be located in such a manner to cause a patron who has stopped at the hostess stand to be standing on the Riverwalk pathway. Pedestrian flow shall be considered "inhibited" if a pedestrian walking along the pathway has to swerve, dodge, change direction or come to a complete stop to avoid a patron engaged at the hostess stand.

C. Tables and chairs shall be located a sufficient distance from the Riverwalk pathway so that normal dining and service shall not inhibit the flow of pedestrian traffic. See inhibited definition in subsection B. above.

(b) Automobile Access and Parking. Automobile circulation should be efficient, and conflicts with pedestrians minimized. Entry points for automobiles should be clearly defined and connections to auto circulation on adjoining properties are encouraged to facilitate access and reduce traffic on abutting public streets.

(1) Curb Cuts.

A. Limit curb cuts to two (2) on parking areas or structures facing only one (1) street, and one (1) for each additional street face. The prohibition of additional curb cuts may be waived by the HDRC where the intent of the standards are clearly met and specific site circulation patterns require an additional curb cut, such as on

long parcels or at nodes.

B. Curb cuts may be no larger than twenty-five (25) feet zero (0) inches. Continuous curb cuts are prohibited.

C. Sharing curb cuts between adjacent properties, such as providing cross property access easements, is permitted.

(2) Location of Parking Areas. Automobile parking in new developments must be balanced with the requirements of

active environments. Large expanses of surface parking lots have a negative impact on street activity and the pedestrian experience. New commercial and residential structures can accommodate parking needs and contribute to a

pedestrian-friendly streetscape.

A. Locate parking areas, that is any off-street, ground level surface used to park cars or any parking structure, toward the interior of the site or to the side or rear of a building.

B. The extent of parking area that may be located along the street edge or riverside shall be limited to a percentage of the lot line as per Table 672-1 as measured in a lineal direction parallel to the lot line. All parking within a thirty-foot setback from the above mentioned lot line shall comply with the requirements of the table. Where parking is located on corner sites only one (1) lot line has to meet the requirements of the table.

C. Parking lots should be avoided as a primary land use. Parking lots as a primary use are prohibited in RIO-3 and for all properties that fall within one hundred (100) feet of the river right-of-way in all RIO districts.

(3) Screen or Buffer Parking Areas From View of Public Streets, the River or Adjacent Residential Uses. (see Figure

672-2). Parking lots shall be screened with a landscape buffer as per the illustrations of bufferyards and Table 510-2 if

the parking area meets one (1) of the following conditions:

A. Within a fifty-foot setback from the edge of the river ROW use, at a minimum, type E; or

B. Within a twenty-foot setback from a property line adjacent to a street use, at a minimum, type B; or

C. Within a twenty-foot setback of commercial or industrial property that abuts a residential property use, at a minimum, type C.

(4) Parking Structures Shall Be Compatible With Buildings in the Surrounding Area. Parking garages should have retail space on the ground floor of a parking structure provided the retail space has at least fifty (50) percent of its linear street frontage as display windows. Parking structures may be made visually appealing with a mural or public

art component approved by the HDRC on the parking structure. A parking garage will be considered compatible if:

A. It does not vary in height by more than thirty (30) percent from another building on the same block face; and  
B. It uses materials that can be found on other buildings within the block face, or in the block face across the street.

(5) Parking Structures Shall Provide Clearly Defined Pedestrian Access. Pedestrian entrances and exits shall be



accentuated with directional signage, lighting or architectural features so that pedestrians can readily discern the appropriate path of travel to avoid pedestrian/auto conflicts.

(6) Parking lots, structures, and hardscape shall not drain directly into the river without installation of appropriate water quality best management practices (WQ BMPs). Acequias shall not be used for any type of drainage.

(c) Views. The river's course (both natural and manmade), and San Antonio's street pattern, creates unique views of certain properties from the public ROW. These properties often occur at prominent curves in the river or where a street changes direction and a property appears to be a terminus at the end of a street.

(1) Architectural Focal Point. When a property is situated in such a manner as to appear to be the terminus at the end of the street or at a prominent curve in the river, the building shall incorporate into its design an architectural feature that will provide a focal point at the end of the view. (see Figure 672-3) An architectural feature will be considered to be a focal point through any of the following methods, but not limited to:

A. Additional height.

B. Creation of a tower.

C. Variation in roof shape.

D. Change of color or materials.

E. Addition of a design enhancement feature such as:

i. Embellished entrance areas.

ii. Articulated corners, especially when entrance is at corner, rounded or chamfered corners ease the transitions from one street facade to the adjoining facade.

iii. Recessed or projecting balconies and entrances.

Billboards, advertising and signage are expressly prohibited as appropriate focal points.

#### UDC Section 35-673. – Site Design Standards

(a) Solar Access. The intent of providing and maintaining solar access to the San Antonio River is to protect the river's specific ecoclimate. The river has a special microclimate of natural and planted vegetation that requires certain levels and balanced amounts of sunlight, space and water. Development must be designed to respect and protect those natural requirements, keeping them in balance and not crowding or altering them so that vegetation does not receive more or less space and water, but particularly sunlight, than is required for normal expected growth.

(1) Building Massing to Provide Solar Access to the River. Building massing shall be so designed as to provide direct

sunlight to vegetation in the river channel as defined:

A. The area to be measured for solar access shall be a thirty-foot setback from the river's edge or from the

edge to the building face, which ever is lesser, parallel to the river for the length of the property.

B. The solar calculations shall be measured exclusive to the applicant's property; that is, shades and shadows of other buildings shall not be included in the calculations. The solar calculations shall only measure the impact of new construction and additions. The shading impact of historic buildings on the site may be excluded from the calculations.

C. The defined area shall receive a minimum of 5.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the winter solstice, and

7.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the summer solstice.

D. Those properties located on the south side of the river (whose north face is adjacent to the river) shall only be

required to measure the sunlight in the 30-foot setback on the opposite bank of the river.

E. Those properties within the river improvement overlay district not directly adjacent to the river are still subject

to the provisions of this section. To determine the solar access effect of these buildings on the river the applicant

must measure the nearest point to the river of an area defined by a thirty-foot setback from the river's edge, parallel to the river for the length of their property that would be affected by their building. For those buildings on the south side of the river, the 30-foot setback shall be measured only on the opposite bank.

F. However, in those cases where the above conditions cannot be met due to the natural configuration of the river, existing street patterns, or existing buildings, the HDRC may approve a buildings mass and height as allowed by table 674-2.

G. If there is a conflict with this section and another section of this chapter this section shall prevail.

(2) Prohibition of Structures, Buildings, Roofs or Skywalks Over the River Channel. No structure, building, roof or skywalk may be constructed over the river channel, or by-pass channel with the exception of structures for flood control purposes, open air pedestrian bridges at ground or river level, and street bridges. The river channel is the natural course of the river as modified for flood control purposes and the Pershing-Catalpa ditch.

(b) Building Orientation. Buildings should be sited to help define active spaces for area users, provide pedestrian connections between sites, help animate the street scene and define street edges. Consideration to both the street and riverside should be given. The placement of a building on a site should therefore be considered within the context of the block, as well as how the structure will support the broader design goals for the area.

(1) Two or More Buildings on a Site.

A. Cluster buildings to create active open spaces such as courtyards along the street and river edges. Site plazas

and courtyards, if possible, so that they are shaded in the summer and are sunny in the winter.

(2) Primary and Secondary Entrances

A. Orient a building's primary entrance toward the street with subordinate entrances located on the riverside and/or the interior of the property. On a major thoroughfare street it is acceptable to provide the primary entrance through a common courtyard and then to a street.

B. The primary entrance shall be distinguished by architectural features such as, but not limited to: an entry portal; change in material or color; change in scale of other openings; addition of columns, lintels or canopies.

C. Secondary entrances shall have architectural features that are subordinate to the primary entrance in scale

and detail. For purposes of this division subordinate means that the entrance is smaller in height and width, and

has fewer or simpler architectural elements.

(c) Topography and Drainage. The natural contours of occasional hillsides and riverbanks contribute to the distinct character of the San Antonio River and shall be considered in site designs for new development. Site plans shall minimize the need for cut and fill. It should be considered as an opportunity for positive enhancements through the creative use of terraces and retaining walls.

(1) Visual Impacts of Cut and Fill. Divide a grade change of more than ten (10) vertical feet into a series of benches and terraces. Terrace steep slopes following site contours. When creating site benches, using sloped "transitional areas" as part of the required landscaping is appropriate.

(2) Minimize the Potential for Erosion at the Riverbank. Grade slopes at a stable angle not to exceed four to one

(4:1)

and provide plant material that will stabilize the soil such as vigorous ground covers, vines or turf planting that are native and noninvasive species as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department. Use of stabilizing materials such as geo-web or geo-grid is permitted as long as plant material is used

to conceal the grid.

Use of terraced walls is permitted when there is a slope of more than four to one (4:1).

(3) Retaining Walls. Limit the height of a retaining wall to less than six (6) feet. If the retaining wall must exceed

six (6) feet, a series of six-foot terrace walls is acceptable. Walls at dams and locks are excluded from this requirement.

If

in the opinion of the historic preservation officer a higher wall is consistent with the adopted conceptual plan of the river, a higher wall (not to exceed twelve (12) feet) is allowed. Materials used for the walls may include limestone, stucco, brick, clay, tile, timber, or textured concrete. (see Figure 673-2)

(4) Enhance or Incorporate Acequias Into The Landscape Design and Drainage Scheme of the Site. Where archeological evidence indicates a site contains or has contained a Spanish colonial acequia, incorporate the original path of the acequia as a natural drainageway or a landscape feature of the site by including it as part of the open space plan, and a feature of the landscape design.

(5) Design of Stormwater Management Facilities to be a Landscape Amenity. Where above ground stormwater management facilities are required, such facilities shall be multi-purpose amenities. For example, water quality features can be included as part of the site landscaping and detention facilities can be included as part of a hardscape

patio. Using an open concrete basin as a detention pond is prohibited.

(6) Walls and Fences at Detention Areas.

A. When the topography of the site exceeds a four to one (4:1) slope and it becomes necessary to use a masonry

wall as part of the detention area, use a textured surface and incorporate plant materials, from the plant list maintained by the parks department, that will drape over the edge to soften the appearance of the structure.

B. The use of solid board or chain link fence with or without slats is prohibited. A welded wire, tubular steel, wrought iron or garden loop is permitted.

(7) Roof Drainage into the River.

A. All roof drainage and other run-off drainage shall conform to public works department standards so that they

drain into sewer and storm drains rather than the river. Drainage of this type shall not be piped into the river unless the outlet is below the normal waterline of the river at normal flow rates.

B. All downspouts or gutters draining water from roofs or parapets shall be extended underground under walks and patios to the San Antonio River's edge or stormwater detention facility so that such drainage will not erode

or

otherwise damage the Riverwalk, landscaping or river retaining walls.

C. All piping and air-conditioning wastewater systems shall be kept in good repair. Water to be drained

purposely

from these systems, after being tested and adjudged free from pollution, shall be drained in the same manner prescribed in subsection (7)A. above.

(d) Riverside Setbacks. Riverside setbacks for both buildings and accessory structures are established to reinforce the defined character of the specific river improvement overlay district and help to define an edge at the river pathway that is varied according to the relationship of the river and the street. In the more urban areas, buildings should align closer to the river edge, while in more rural areas the buildings should be set farther away.

(1) Minimum setback requirements are per the following Table 673-1.

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Riverside Setback	20 FT	15 FT	0 FT	20 FT	50 ft	100 FT

(2) Designation of a development node district provides for a minimum riverside setback of zero (0) feet.

(e) Landscape Design. Lush and varied landscapes are part of the tradition of the San Antonio River. These design standards apply to landscaping within an individual site. Additional standards follow that provide more specific standards for the public pathway along the river and street edges.

(1) Provide Variety in Landscape Design. Provide variety in the landscape experience along the river by varying landscape designs between properties. No more than seventy-five (75) percent of the landscape materials, including plants, shall be the same as those on adjacent properties. (see Figure 673-4).

(2) Planting Requirements in Open Space Abutting the River. On publicly-owned land leased by the adjoining property owner, if applicable, and/or within privately owned setbacks adjacent to the river, a minimum percentage

of

the open space, excluding building footprint, lease space under bridges and parking requirements, are required to be planted according to Table 673-2.

A. Planting requirements in RIO-4, RIO-5, and RIO-6 should continue the restoration landscape efforts along the river banks. Planting in these RIO districts is to be less formal so as to maintain the rural setting of the

river.

B. In "RIO-3," if existing conditions don't meet the standards as set out in Table 673-2, the owner or lessee

will

not have to remove paving to add landscaping in order to meet the standards until there is a substantial remodeling of the outdoor area. Substantial remodeling will include replacement of seventy-five (75) percent

of

the paving materials, or replacement of balcony and stair structures.

(f) Plant Materials. A number of soil conditions converge in the San Antonio area to create unique vegetation ecosystems. Along the route of the San Antonio River, the soil conditions vary greatly from the northern boundary near Hildebrand to the city limits near Mission San Francisco de la Espada (Mission Espada) and therefore native and indigenous plants will vary accordingly. Landscaping should reflect the unique soil characteristics of the specific site.

(1) Incorporate Existing Vegetation. Extend the use of landscape materials, including plants, shrubs and trees that are

used in the public areas of the river onto adjacent private areas to form a cohesive design.

(2) Use indigenous and noninvasive species characteristic of the specific site as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department or the Unified Development Code Plant List found in Appendix

E. In "RIO-3," plantings of tropical and semi-tropical plants with perennial background is permitted.

(3) Install Trees to Provide Shade and to Separate Pedestrians From Automobile Traffic. Install street trees along the property line or in the ROW abutting all streets according to minimum requirement standards established in subsection 35-512(b), except where this conflicts with existing downtown Tri-Party improvements in "RIO-3." In "RIO-3" the owner has the option of placing trees at the property line, or along the street edge.

(g) Paving Materials. An important San Antonio landscape tradition is the use of decorative surfaces for paving and other landscape structures. Paving materials and patterns should be carefully chosen to preserve and enhance the pedestrian experience.

(1) Vary Walkway, Patio and Courtyard Paving to Add Visual Interest on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the River. Pervious paving is encouraged where feasible and appropriate to the site.

A. A maximum of six hundred (600) square feet is allowed for a single paving material before the paving material must be divided or separated with a paving material that is different in texture, pattern, color or material. A separation using a different material must be a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches wide, the full width of the pathway.

B. A maximum of one hundred (100) lineal feet is allowed in a walkway before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-2," "RIO-3," and "RIO-4." A maximum of five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet is

allowed before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-1," "RIO-5" and "RIO-6." The change of material at five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet will define and delineate one-tenth-mile markers.

C. In "RIO-3," the Riverwalk pathway shall be delineated by using a separate material that is clearly distinguished from the adjacent patio paving materials. If the historic Hugman drawings indicate a sidewalk width and pattern on the site, that paving pattern and material shall be replicated.

(h) Site Walls and Fences. Site walls and fences are used to help divide spaces, screen unsightly objects and provide privacy. However, the character of the San Antonio River is such that walls shall not be erected in such a way as to block views of the river from public spaces.

(1) Use of Site Walls to Define Outdoor Spaces.

A. Use of low scale walls (twenty-four (24) inches to forty-eight (48) inches) to divide space, create a variety in landscaping and define edges is permitted.

B. Solid walls (up to seventy-two (72) inches) are permitted to: screen mechanical equipment, garbage receptacles and other unsightly areas; and provide privacy at the back of lots up to the front building face.

(2) Site Wall and Fence Materials.

A. On properties abutting the river, site walls and fence materials may be constructed of: stone, block, tile, stucco, wrought iron, tubular steel, welded wire or a combination of masonry and metal, cedar posts and welded wire or garden loop or other materials having similar characteristics. All other properties, not abutting the river may use the above listed materials plus wood fencing.

B. All chain link fences are prohibited for properties abutting the river. For properties that do not abut the river, chain link is only allowed in the rear yard if not readily visible from the right-of-way. Barbed wire, razor wire, and concertina are prohibited in all RIO districts.

(i) Street Furnishings. Street furnishings are exterior amenities, including but not limited to, tables, chairs, umbrellas, landscape pots, wait stations, valet stations, bicycle racks, planters, benches, bus shelters, kiosks, waste receptacles and similar items that help to define pedestrian use areas. Handcrafted street furnishings are particularly important in San Antonio, and therefore this tradition of craftsmanship and of providing street furniture is encouraged.

(1) Prohibited Street Furnishings in Riverwalk Area. The following street furnishings are prohibited within the publicly owned portion of the Riverwalk area, whether or not the property is leased, and on the exterior of the riverside of buildings directly adjacent to the publicly owned portion of the river:

A. Vending machines.

B. Automatic teller machines.

C. Pay phones.

D. Photo booths.

E. Automated machines such as, but not limited to, penny crunching machines, blood pressure machines, fortune-telling machines, video games, animated characters and other machines that are internally illuminated,

or have moving parts, or make noise, or have flashing lights.

F. Inanimate figures such as horses, kangaroos, bears, gorillas, mannequins or any such animal, cartoon or human figure. This section does not affect public art as defined in Appendix "A" of this chapter.

G. Monitors (i.e., television screens, computer screens).

H. Speakers.

(2) Street Furnishing Materials.

A. Street furnishings shall be made of wood, metal, stone, terra cotta, cast stone, hand-sculpted concrete, or solid surfacing material, such as Corian or Surell.

B. Inexpensive plastic resin furnishings are prohibited.

(3) Advertising on Street Furnishings.

A. No commercial logos, trademarks, decals, product names whether specific or generic, or names of businesses and organizations shall be allowed on street furnishings.

B. Product or business advertising is prohibited on all street furnishings.

C. Notwithstanding the restrictions above, applications may be approved for purposes of donor or non-profit recognition.

(4) Street furnishings, such as tables and chairs may not be stored (other than overnight storage) in such a way as to be visible from the river pathway.

(j) Lighting. Site lighting should be considered an integral element of the landscape design of a property. It should help define activity areas and provide interest at night. At the same time, lighting should facilitate safe and convenient circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Overspill of light and light pollution should be avoided.

(1) Site Lighting. Site lighting shall be shielded by permanent attachments to light fixtures so that the light sources are not visible from a public way and any offsite glare is prevented.

A. Site lighting shall include illumination of parking areas, buildings, pedestrian routes, dining areas, design features and public ways.

B. Outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way shall have average ambient light levels of between one (1) and three (3) foot-candles with a minimum of 0.5-foot candles and a maximum of six (6)

foot-

candles at any point measured on the ground plane. Interior spaces visible from the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level shall use light sources with no more than the equivalent lumens of a one hundred-watt incandescent bulb. Exterior balconies, porches and canopies adjoining and visible from the

river

right-of-way shall use light sources with the equivalent lumens of a sixty-watt incandescent bulb with average ambient light levels no greater than the lumen output of a one hundred-watt incandescent light bulb as long

as

average foot candle standards are not exceeded. Accent lighting of landscape or building features including specimen plants, gates, entries, water features, art work, stairs, and ramps may exceed these standards by a multiple of 2.5. Recreational fields and activity areas that require higher light levels shall be screened from

the

river hike and bike pathways with a landscape buffer.

C. Exterior light fixtures that use the equivalent of more than one hundred-watt incandescent bulbs shall not emit a significant amount of the fixture's total output above a vertical cut-off angle of ninety (90) degrees.

Any

structural part of the fixture providing this cut-off angle must be permanently affixed.

D. Lighting spillover to the publicly owned areas of the river or across property lines shall not exceed one-

half

(½) of one (1) foot-candle measured at any point ten (10) feet beyond the property line.

(2) Provide Lighting for Pedestrian Ways That is Low Scaled for Walking. The position of a lamp in a pedestrian-way light shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height above the ground.

(3) Light Temperature and Color.

A. Light temperature and color shall be between 2500° K and 3500° K with a color rendition index (CRI) of eighty (80) or higher, respectively. This restriction is limited to all outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way and from the interior spaces adjoining the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level. Levels shall be determined by product specifications.

(4) Minimize the Visual Impacts of Exterior Building Lighting.

A. All security lighting shall be shielded so that the light sources are not visible from a public way.

be  
B. Lighting (uplighting and downlighting) that is positioned to highlight a building or outdoor artwork shall  
aimed at the object to be illuminated, not pointed into the sky.  
C. Fixtures shall not distract from, or obscure important architectural features of the building. Lighting  
fixtures  
shall be a subordinate feature on the building unless they are incorporated into the over-all design scheme of  
the  
building.

(5) Prohibited Lighting on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the River.

- A. Flashing lights.
- B. Rotating lights.
- C. Chaser lights.
- D. Exposed neon.
- E. Seasonal decorating lights such as festoon, string or rope lights, except between November 20 and January 10.
- F. Flood lamps.

(6) Minimize the visual impacts of lighting in parking areas in order to enhance the perception of the nighttime sky and to prevent glare onto adjacent properties. Parking lot light poles are limited to thirty (30) feet in height, shall have  
a 90° cutoff angle so as to not emit light above the horizontal plane.

(k) Curbs and Gutters.

(1) Construct Curb and Gutter Along the Street Edge of a Property.

- A. Install curbs and gutter along the street edge at the time of improving a parcel.
- B. In order to preserve the rural character of RIO-5 and RIO-6, the HPO in coordination with public works

and

the development services department may waive the requirement of curbs and gutters.

(l) Access to Public Pathway Along the River. These requirements are specifically for those properties adjacent to the river to provide a connection to the publicly owned pathway along the river. The connections are to stimulate and enhance urban activity, provide path connections in an urban context, enliven street activity, and protect the ambiance and character of the river area.

(1) A stair, ramp or elevator connecting the publicly owned pathway at the river to private property along the river is

allowed by right at the following locations:

- A. At all street and vehicular bridge crossings over the river.
- B. Where publicly owned streets dead end into the river.
- C. Where the pedestrian pathway in the Riverwalk area is located at the top of bank and there is a two-foot or less grade change between the private property and the pathway.

(2) If there is a grade change greater than two (2) feet between the private property and the publicly owned pathway

at the river then the following conditions apply:

A. Access to the publicly owned pathway is limited to one (1) connection per property, with the exception that connections are always allowed at street and vehicular bridge crossings. For example if one (1) property

extends

the entire block face from street crossing to street crossing the owner would be allowed three (3) access points

if

the distance requirements were met.

B. The minimum distance between access points shall be ninety-five (95) feet. Only street and vehicular  
bridge

connections are exempted. Mid-block access points must meet this requirement.

C. Reciprocal access agreements between property owners are permitted.

(3) Clearly define a key pedestrian gateway into the site from the publicly owned pathway at the river with distinctive architectural or landscape elements.

A. The primary gateway from a development to the publicly owned pathway at the river shall be defined by an architectural or landscape element made of stone, brick, tile, metal, rough hewn cedar or hand-formed concrete or through the use of distinctive plantings or planting beds.

(m) Buffering and Screening. The manner in which screening and buffering elements are designed on a site greatly affects the character of the river districts. In general, service areas shall be screened or buffered. "Buffers" are considered to be landscaped berms, planters or planting beds; whereas, more solid "screens" include fences and walls. When site development creates an unavoidable negative visual impact on abutting properties or to the public right-of-way, it shall be mitigated with a landscape design that will buffer or screen it.

(1) Landscape Buffers Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances: To buffer the edges of a parking lot from pedestrian ways and outdoor use areas, (such as patios, and courtyards), and as an option to screening in order to buffer service areas, garbage disposal areas, mechanical equipment, storage areas, maintenance yards, equipment storage areas and other similar activities that by their nature create unsightly views from pedestrian ways, streets, public ROWs and adjoining property.

(2) Screening Elements Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances: To screen service areas, storage areas, or garbage areas from pedestrian ways.

(3) Exceptions for Site Constraints. Due to site constraints, in all RIOs and specifically for "RIO-3" where there is less than ten (10) feet to provide for the minimum landscape berm, a screen may be used in conjunction with plantings to meet the intent of these standards. For example a low site wall may be combined with plant materials

to

create a buffer with a lesser cross sectional width.

(4) Applicable Bufferyard Types. Table 510-2 establishes minimum plant materials required for each bufferyard type. For purposes of this section, type C shall be the acceptable minimum type.

(5) Applicable Screening Fence and Wall Types. Screening fences and walls shall be subject to conditions of subsection 35-673(h), Walls and Fences.

(n) Service Areas and Mechanical Equipment. Service areas and mechanical equipment should be visually unobtrusive and should be integrated with the design of the site and building. Noise generated from mechanical equipment shall not exceed city noise regulations.

(1) Locate service entrances, waste disposal areas and other similar uses adjacent to service lanes and away from major streets and the river.

A. Position utility boxes so that they cannot be seen from the public Riverwalk path, or from major streets, by locating them on the sides of buildings and away from pedestrian and vehicular routes. Locating them within interior building corners, at building offsets or other similar locations where the building mass acts as a shield from public view is preferred.

B. Orient the door to a trash enclosure to face away from the street when feasible.

C. Air intake and exhaust systems, or other mechanical equipment that generates noise, smoke or odors, shall not be located at the pedestrian level.

(2) Screening of service entrance shall be compatible with the buildings on the block face.

A. When it would be visible from a public way, a service area shall be visually compatible with the buildings

on

the block face.

B. A wall will be considered compatible if it uses the same material as other buildings on the block, or is

painted

a neutral color such as beige, gray or dark green or if it is in keeping with the color scheme of the adjacent building.

(o) Bicycle Parking. On-site bicycle parking helps promote a long term sustainable strategy for development in RIO districts. Bicycle parking shall be placed in a well lit and accessible area. UDC bicycle parking requirements in UDC 35-526 can be met through indoor bicycle storage facilities in lieu of outdoor bike rack fixtures.

## Sec. 35-674. Building Design Principles

(a) Architectural Character. A basic objective for architectural design in the river improvement overlay districts is to encourage the reuse of existing buildings and construction of new, innovative designs that enhance the area, and help to establish distinct identities for each of the zone districts. At the same time, these new buildings should reinforce established building traditions and respect the contexts of neighborhoods.

When a new building is constructed, it shall be designed in a manner that reinforces the basic character-defining features of the area. Such features include the way in which a building is located on its site, the manner in which it faces the street and its orientation to the river. When these design variables are arranged in a new building to be similar to those seen traditionally, visual compatibility results.

(b) Mass and Scale. A building shall appear to have a "human scale." In general, this scale can be accomplished by using familiar forms and elements interpreted in human dimensions. Exterior wall designs shall help pedestrians establish a sense of scale with relation to each building. Articulating the number of floors in a building can help to establish a building's scale, for example, and prevent larger buildings from dwarfing the pedestrian.

(1) Express facade components in ways that will help to establish building scale.

A. Treatment of architectural facades shall contain a discernible pattern of mass to void, or windows and doors to solid mass. Openings shall appear in a regular pattern, or be clustered to form a cohesive design.

Architectural

elements such as columns, lintels, sills, canopies, windows and doors should align with other architectural features on the adjacent facades.

(2) Align horizontal building elements with others in the blockface to establish building scale.

A. Align at least one (1) horizontal building element with another horizontal building element on the same block

face. It will be considered to be within alignment if it is within three (3) feet, measured vertically, of the

existing

architectural element.

(3) Express the distinction between upper and lower floors.

A. Develop the first floor as primarily transparent. The building facade facing a major street shall have at least fifty (50) percent of the street level facade area devoted to display windows and/or windows affording some view into the interior areas. Multi-family residential buildings with no retail or office space are exempt from

this

requirement.

(4) Where a building facade faces the street or river and exceeds the maximum facade length allowed in Table 674-

1

divide the facade of building into modules that express traditional dimensions.

A. The maximum length of an individual wall plane that faces a street or the river shall be as shown in Table 674-1.

Table 674-1

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Maximum Facade Length	50 ft.	50 ft.	30 ft.	75 ft.	75 ft.	50 ft.

B. If a building wall plane facing the street or river and exceeds the length allowed in Table 674-1, employ at least two (2) of the following techniques to reduce the perceived mass:

- Change materials with each building module to reduce its perceived mass; or
- Change the height with each building module of a wall plane. The change in height shall be at least ten

(10)

percent of the vertical height; or

- Change the roof form of each building module to help express the different modules of the building mass; or
- Change the arrangement of windows and other facade articulation features, such as, columns, pilasters or strap work, which divides large planes into smaller components.

(5) Organize the Mass of a Building to Provide Solar Access to the River.

A. One (1) method of doing so is to step the building down toward the river to meet the solar access requirements of subsection 35-673(a).

B. Another method is to set the building back from the river a distance sufficient to meet the solar access requirements of subsection 35-673(a).

(c) Height. Building heights vary along the river corridor, from one-story houses to high-rise hotels and apartments. This diversity of building heights is expected to continue. However, within each zone, a general similarity in building heights should be encouraged in order to help establish a sense of visual continuity. In addition, building heights shall be configured such that a comfortable human scale is established along the edges of properties and views to the river and other significant landmarks are provided while allowing the appropriate density for an area.

(1) The maximum building height shall be as defined in Table 674-2.

A. Solar access standards subsection 35-673(a), and massing standards subsection 35-674(b) also will affect building heights.



Table 674-2

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Maximum # of Stories	5	10	None	7	5	4
Maximum Height in Feet	60 ft.	120 ft.	None	84 ft.	60 ft.	50 ft.

(3) On the street-side, the building facade shall appear similar in height to those of other buildings found traditionally in the area.

If fifty (50) percent of the building facades within a block face are predominantly lower than the maximum height allowed, the new building facade on the street-side shall align with the average height of those lower buildings within

the block face, or with a particular building that falls within the fifty (50) percent range. However, the remainder of the building may obtain its maximum height by stepping back fifteen (15) feet from the building face.

(4) Designation of a development node provides for the ability to increase the building height by fifty (50) percent from the requirements set out in article VI.

(d) Materials and Finishes. Masonry materials are well established as primary features along the river corridor and their use should be continued. Stucco that is detailed to provide a texture and pattern, which conveys a human scale, is also part of the tradition. In general, materials and finishes that provide a sense of human scale, reduce the perceived mass of a building and appear to blend with the natural setting of the river shall be used, especially on major structures.

(1) Use indigenous materials and traditional building materials for primary wall surfaces. A minimum of seventy-five

(75) percent of walls (excluding window fenestrations) shall be composed of the following:

A. Modular masonry materials including brick, stone, and rusticated masonry block, tile, terra-cotta, structural clay tile and cast stone. Concrete masonry units (CMU) are not allowed.

B. Other new materials that convey the texture, scale, and finish similar to traditional building materials.

C. Stucco and painted concrete when detailed to express visual interest and convey a sense of scale.

D. Painted or stained wood in a lap or shingle pattern.

(2) The following materials are not permitted as primary building materials and may be used as a secondary material

only:

A. Large expanses of high gloss or shiny metal panels.

B. Mirror glass panels. Glass curtain wall buildings are allowed in RIO-3 as long as the river and street levels comply with 35-674(d)(1) above.

(3) Paint or Finish Colors.

A. Use natural colors of indigenous building materials for properties that abut the Riverwalk area.

B. Use matte finishes instead of high glossy finishes on wall surfaces. Wood trim and metal trim may be painted with gloss enamel.

C. Bright colors may highlight entrances or architectural features.

(e) Facade Composition. Traditionally, many commercial and multi-family buildings in the core of San Antonio have had facade designs that are organized into three (3) distinct segments: First, a "base" exists, which establishes a scale at the street level; second a "mid-section," or shaft is used, which may include several floors. Finally a "cap" finishes the composition. The cap may take the form of an ornamental roof form or decorative molding and may also include the top floors of the building. This organization helps to give a sense of scale to a building and its use should be encouraged.

In order to maintain the sense of scale, buildings should have the same setback as surrounding buildings so as to maintain the street-wall pattern, if clearly established.

In contrast, the traditional treatment of facades along the riverside has been more modest. This treatment is largely a result of the fact that the riverside was a utilitarian edge and was not oriented to the public. Today, even though orienting buildings to the river is a high priority objective, it is appropriate that these river-oriented facades be simpler in character than those facing the street.

(1) Street Facade. Buildings that are taller than the street-wall (sixty (60) feet) shall be articulated at the stop of the street wall or stepped back in order to maintain the rhythm of the street wall. Buildings should be composed to include a base, a middle and a cap.

A. High rise buildings, more than one hundred (100) feet tall, shall terminate with a distinctive top or cap. This can be accomplished by:

- i. Reducing the bulk of the top twenty (20) percent of the building by ten (10) percent.
- ii. By stepping back the top twenty (20) percent of the building.
- iii. Changing the material of the cap.

B. Roof forms shall be used to conceal all mechanical equipment and to add architectural interest to the structure.

C. Roof surfaces should include strategies to reduce heat island effects such as use of green roofs, photo voltaic panels, and/or the use of roof materials with high solar reflectivity.

(2) Fenestration. Windows help provide a human scale and so shall be proportioned accordingly.

D. Curtain wall systems shall be designed with modulating features such as projecting horizontal and/or vertical mullions.

(3) Entrances. Entrances shall be easy to find, be a special feature of the building, and be appropriately scaled.

A. Entrances shall be the most prominent on the street side and less prominent on the river side.

B. Entrances shall be placed so as to be highly visible.

C. The scale of the entrance is determined by the prominence of the function and or the amount of use.

D. Entrances shall have a change in material and/or wall plane.

E. Entrances should not use excessive storefront systems.

(4) Riverside facade. The riverside facade of a building shall have simpler detailing and composition than the street facade.

A. Architectural details such as cornices, sills, lintels, door surrounds, water tables and other similar details should use simple curves and handcrafted detailing.

B. Stone detailing shall be rough hewn, and chiseled faced. Smooth faced stone is not permitted as the primary building material, but can be used as accent pieces.

C. Facades on the riverside shall be asymmetrical, pedestrian scale, and give the appearance of the back of a building. That is, in traditional building along the river, the backs of building were designed with simpler details,

and appear less formal than the street facades.

(g) Awnings, Canopies and Arcades. (See Figure 674-2) The tradition of sheltering sidewalks with awnings, canopies and arcades on commercial and multi-family buildings is well established in San Antonio and is a practice that should be continued. They offer shade from the hot summer sun and shelter from rainstorms, thereby facilitating pedestrian activity. They also establish a sense of scale for a building, especially at the ground level. Awnings and canopies are appropriate locations for signage. Awnings with signage shall comply with any master signage plan on file with the historic preservation officer for the property. Awnings and canopies installed at street level within the public right-of-way require licensing with the city's capital improvements management services (CIMS) department. Canopies, balconies and awnings installed at river level within the public right-of-way require licensing with the city's downtown operations department.

(1) If awnings, arcades and canopies are to be used they should accentuate the character-defining features of a building.

A. The awning, arcade or canopy shall be located in relationship to the openings of a building. That is, if there are

a series of awnings or canopies, they shall be located at the window or door openings. However awnings, canopies and arcades may extend the length of building to provide shade at the first floor for the pedestrian.

B. Awnings, arcades and canopies shall be mounted to highlight architectural features such as moldings that may be found above the storefront.

C. They should match the shape of the opening.

D. Simple shed shapes are appropriate for rectangular openings.

E. Odd shapes and bubble awnings are prohibited except where the shape of an opening requires a bubble awning, or historic precedent shows they have been previously used on the building.

F. Canopies, awnings and arcades shall not conflict with the building's proportions or with the shape of the openings that the awning or canopy covers.

G. Historic canopies shall be repaired or replaced with in-kind materials.

(2) Materials and Color.

A. Awnings and canopies may be constructed of metal, wood or fabric. Certain vinyl is allowed if it has the appearance of natural fiber as approved by the HDRC.

light B. Awning color shall coordinate with the building. Natural and earth tone colors are encouraged. Fluorescent colors are not allowed. When used for signage it is appropriate to choose a dark color for the canopy and use lettering for signage.

- (3) Incorporating lighting into the design of a canopy is appropriate.
  - A. Lights that illuminate the pedestrian way beneath the awning are appropriate.
  - B. Lights that illuminate the storefront are appropriate.
  - C. Internally illuminated awnings that glow are prohibited.

#### UDC Section. 35-675. Archaeology.

When an HDRC application is submitted for commercial development projects within a river improvement overlay district the city archeologist shall review the project application to determine if there is potential of containing intact archaeological deposits utilizing the following documents/methods:

- (1) The Texas Sites Atlas for known/recorded sites, site data in the files of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission;
- (2) USGS maps;
- (3) Soil Survey maps;
- (4) Distance to water;
- (5) Topographical data;
- (6) Predictive settlement patterns;
- (7) Archival research and historic maps;
- (8) Data on file at the office of historic preservation.

If after review the city archeologist determines there is potential of containing intact archaeological deposits, an archaeological survey report shall be prepared and submitted. If, after review by the city archeologist, a determination is made that the site has little to no potential of containing intact archaeological deposits, the requirement for an archaeological survey report may be waived.

Upon completion of a survey, owners of property containing inventoried archaeological sites are encouraged to educate the public regarding archaeological components of the site and shall coordinate any efforts with the office of historic preservation.

#### **FINDINGS:**

- a. The historic structure located at 112 Soledad was constructed circa 1877. The structure has been modified from its original design and includes a modified front façade with non-original brick. The structure features historic limestone material and is found on various Sanborn Maps.
- b. **CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL** – Conceptual approval is the review of general design ideas and principles (such as scale and setback). Specific design details reviewed at this stage are not binding and may only be approved through a Certificate of Appropriateness for final approval.
- c. **DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE** – The request was reviewed by the Design Review Committee on August 10, 2021. At that meeting, committee members recommended that additional fenestration and façade separating elements be added to the proposed rear addition, and that the opening within the rear wall be modified to feature a more organic, traditional opening, rather than an opening that is dictated by the new construction.
- d. **FAÇADE MODIFICATIONS** – The applicant has proposed to perform modifications to the street level of the street facing façade. The current façade features non-original materials and a non-original profile, consistent with storefront modifications from the 1950's. The applicant has proposed to remove all, non-original stucco, re-introduce transom windows, install a new street canopy, and install a new storefront system. Generally, staff finds the proposed scope of work to be appropriate and consistent with the Guidelines for Exterior Maintenance and Alterations. Staff finds that the applicant should develop all rehabilitative and reconstructive scopes of work to be architecturally consistent in form and profile with those elements found historically in the immediate vicinity, to include canopies, transom window openings and profiles, and storefront system profiles.
- e. **ROOFTOP ADDITION** – The applicant has proposed to construct a rooftop addition to feature 1-story in height. The Guidelines for Additions 2.A. notes that new additions should be designed to be in keeping with the

existing, historic context of the block, should be placed to minimize the visual impact on the original structure from the public right of way, should utilize a similar roof form, should be subordinate to the primary historic structure in regards to massing and scale and should feature a setback from the front façade of the primary historic structure. Generally, staff finds that the proposed additional is consistent with the Guidelines.

- f. ROOFTOP ADDITION (Height and Massing) – The Guidelines for Additions 2.B. note that rooftop additions should be limited in height to no more than forty (40) percent of the height of the original structure. Additionally, the Guidelines for New Construction note that rooftop additions should not obscure the form of the original structure. Staff finds that the overall height and massing of the proposed addition are consistent with the Guidelines.
- g. ROOFTOP ADDITION (Materials) – The applicant has noted primary façade materials consisting of stucco for the proposed addition. Additionally, the applicant has noted the installation of aluminum clad wood windows. Generally, staff finds the proposed materials to be appropriate and consistent with the Guidelines. The proposed aluminum clad wood windows should be consistent with staff’s standards for windows in new construction and additions.
- h. REAR ADDITION – The applicant has proposed to construct a rear addition to feature 3-stories in height at the rear of the historic structure at 112 Soledad. The proposed rear addition will connect to the proposed rooftop addition. Additionally, the rear addition will feature a side stair and elevator tower as well as rear massing that will extend past the historic side façade of the original structure. The Guidelines for Additions 2.A. notes that new additions should be designed to be in keeping with the existing, historic context of the block, should be placed to minimize the visual impact on the original structure from the public right of way, should utilize a similar roof form, should be subordinate to the primary historic structure in regards to massing and scale and should feature a setback from the front façade of the primary historic structure. Generally, staff finds that the proposed additional is consistent with the Guidelines. Staff finds that the proposed side massing to be appropriate as it is setback from the front façade.
- i. REAR ADDITION (Height and Massing) – The Guidelines for Additions 2.B. note that the height of side or rear additions should be limited to the height of the original structure and that the construction of an addition should never double the historic building footprint. While the proposed addition features three stories in height, staff finds that it includes significant setbacks from the primary façade of the historic structure. Staff finds the proposed addition to be appropriate.
- j. REAR ADDITION (Materials) – The applicant has noted primary façade materials consisting of stucco for the proposed addition. Additionally, the applicant has noted the installation of aluminum clad wood windows. Generally, staff finds the proposed materials to be appropriate and consistent with the Guidelines. The proposed aluminum clad wood windows should be consistent with staff’s standards for windows in new construction and additions.
- k. REAR ADDITION (Architectural Details) – The applicant has proposed for the rear addition to feature a south elevation that is currently void of façade separating elements or fenestration. Staff finds that window openings and other façade separating elements should be incorporated into the south elevation of the addition.
- l. STONE WALL – A stone wall currently exists at the river level. OHP staff has found plats from 1877 noting the existence of the stone wall. The wall extends approximately forty-five (45) feet along the property line at 112 Soledad. At this time, the applicant has proposed to remove twenty-five (25) feet of the existing wall to provide pedestrian access into the site from the River Walk as well as remove a portion of the wall on the north end of the site to accommodate additional pedestrian seating at the river level. The applicant has proposed to re-use the stone from the removed wall portions on site to construct low walls and steps in the patio area. Generally, staff finds modifications to the wall to be appropriate; however, staff finds that as the design of the rear façade and patio progresses that the applicant should provide documentation and a detailed plan for disassembly, on site storage and reassembly as part of the incorporated design. Additionally, staff finds that the wall should be reconstructed in a manner that feature traditional wall openings, and not those that are influenced by the new construction.
- m. RIVER LEVEL MODIFICATIONS – The applicant has proposed to modify the existing site and landscaping at the river level. The applicant has proposed an outdoor dining space as well as hardscaping where landscaping currently exists. Generally, staff finds the proposed modifications to be appropriate; however, staff finds that a detailed landscaping and river level site plan should be submitted noting paving materials and finishes and patio furniture. Additionally, staff finds that the applicant should coordinate with the Center City Development & Operations Department regarding the proposed site modifications and lease agreements.
- n. ARCHAEOLOGY – The project area is within a River Improvement Overlay District, Main and Military Plazas Local Historic District, Main and Military Plazas Historic District National Register of Historic Places District,

and is a designated Local Historic Landmark. Furthermore, the property is adjacent to the historical alignment of the San Antonio River, an area known to contain significant historic and prehistoric archaeological deposits. In addition, the project area is in close proximity to previously recorded archaeological site 41BX2165. Furthermore, a review of historical archival documents identifies a building within or adjacent to the property as early as 1767. Therefore, an archaeological investigation is required. The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

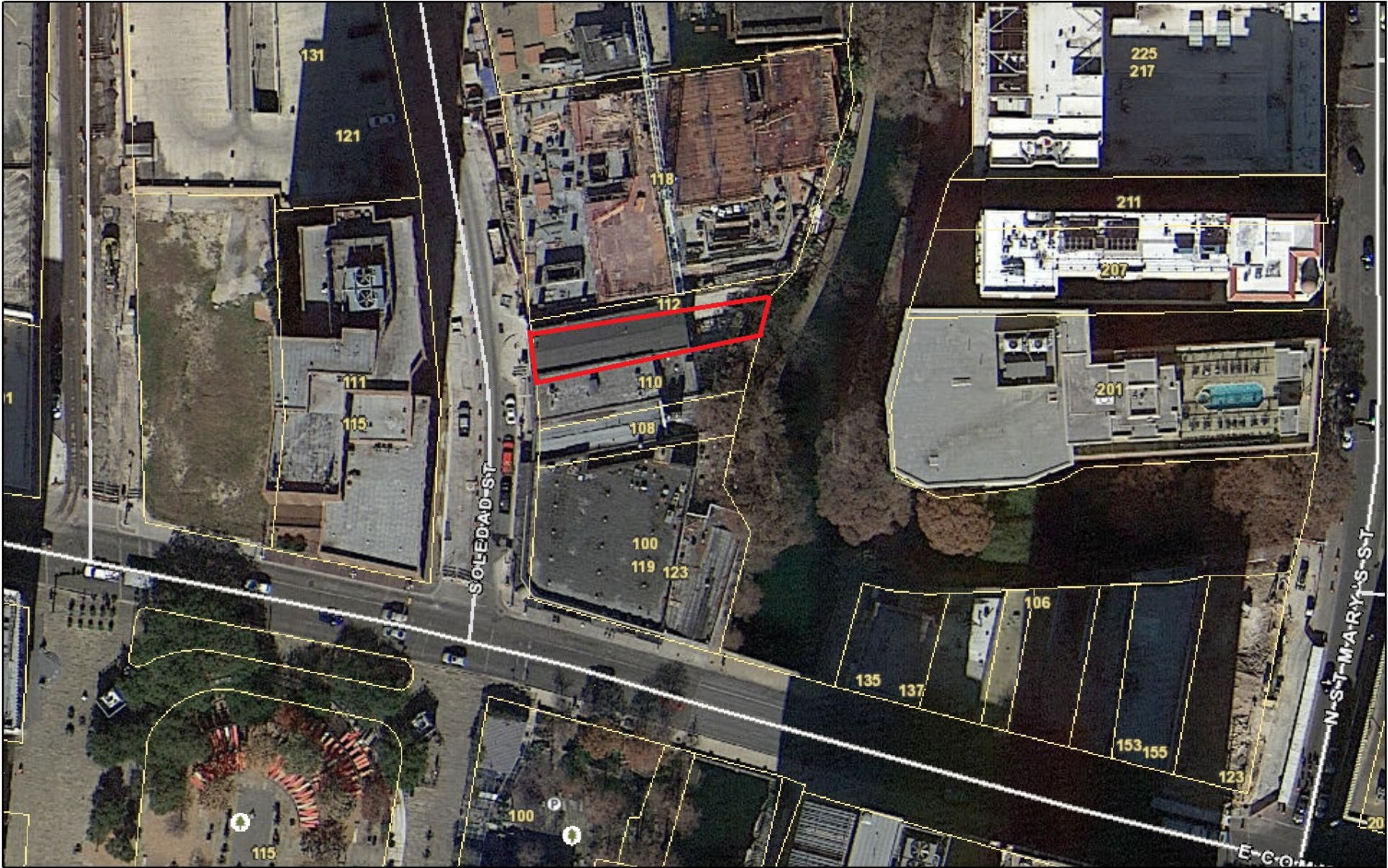
#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Staff recommends approval of item #1, modifications to the street level, street facing façade based on finding d with the stipulation that the applicant develop all rehabilitative and reconstructive scopes of work to be architecturally consistent in form and profile with those elements found historically in the immediate vicinity, to include canopies, transom window openings and profiles, and storefront system profiles. Additionally, staff finds that the proposed new canopy should be reduced in profile.
2. Staff recommends approval of item #2, the construction of a rooftop addition based on findings e through g with the stipulation that proposed aluminum clad wood windows be consistent with staff's standards for windows in new construction and additions.
3. Staff recommends approval of item #3, the construction of a rear addition based on findings h through k with the stipulation that that proposed aluminum clad wood windows be consistent with staff's standards for windows in new construction and additions and that window openings and other façade separating elements should be incorporated into the south elevation of the addition.
4. Staff recommends approval of item #4, modifications to the rear stone wall based on finding k with the stipulation that as the design of the rear façade and patio progresses that the applicant should provide documentation and a detailed plan for disassembly, on site storage and reassembly as part of the incorporated design and that the wall be reconstructed in a manner that features smaller, punched wall openings which generally maintains the historic appearance of the wall.
5. Staff recommends approval of item #5, modifications to the rear level site and landscaping with the stipulation that a detailed landscaping and river level site plan should be submitted noting paving materials and finishes and patio furniture. Additionally, staff recommends that the applicant coordinate with the Center City Development & Operations Department regarding the proposed site modifications and lease agreements.

**ARCHAEOLOGY** – An archaeological investigation is required. The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.



City of San Antonio One Stop



August 12, 2021







CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**OFFICE OF HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION**

**Historic and Design Review Commission**  
***Design Review Committee Report***

DATE: August 10, 2021

HDRC Case #:

Address: 112 Soledad

Meeting Location: Webex

APPLICANT: Davis Sprinkle

DRC Members present: Jeff Fetzer, Monica Savino (Conservation Society)

Staff Present: Edward Hall, Cory Edwards

Others present:

**REQUEST: Rehabilitation, construction of a rooftop addition, a 3-story rear addition, river wall modifications**

**COMMENTS/CONCERNS:**

DS: Overview of proposed additions, rehab and wall modifications

JF: Finds the setbacks of the additions to be appropriate.

JF: The canopy profile looks a bit large, consider reducing the profile (to be thinner).

JF: The proposed river side terrace needs more development. More planting and vegetative elements are needed.

MS: The scale of the project (Additions) is very appropriate.

MS: How will additional height and projection impact shade/shadows on the River Walk

DS: If windows need to be replaced, they would be replaced with matching, wood windows.

JF: Consider adding fenestration or façade separating elements to south façade

JF: Add more stone to wall opening to appear as punched openings rather than created openings.

**OVERALL COMMENTS:**

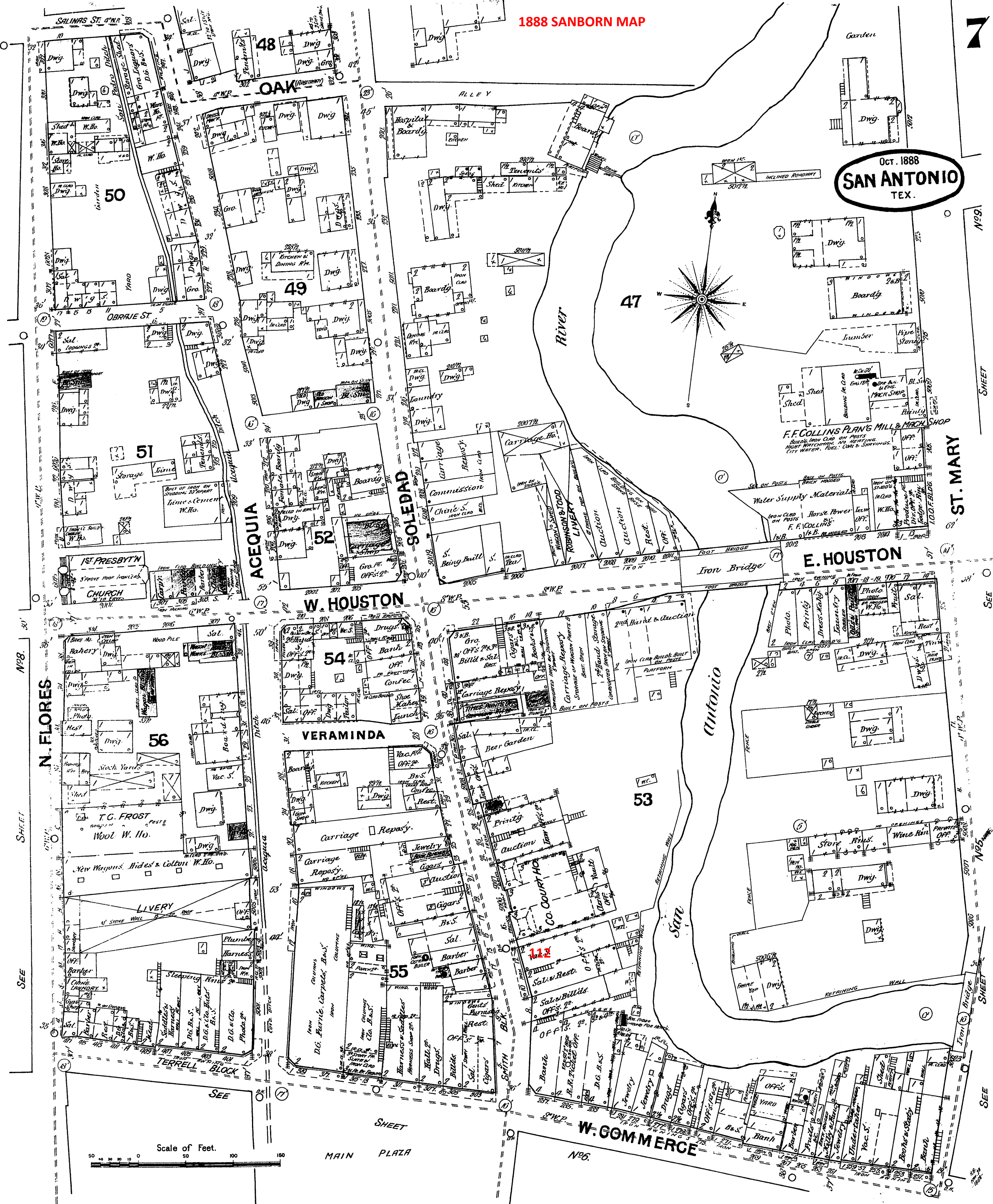
40' PER INCH  
R. 9° 45' E.



AUG 4, 1877



OCT. 1888  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
TEX.



Scale of Feet.  
0 50 100 150

MAIN PLAZA

W. COMMERCE

ST. MARY

E. HOUSTON

W. HOUSTON

VERAMINDA

N. FLORES

San Antonio

LIVERY

Carriage Repas.

CO. COURT HO.

Store Rms.

T.C. FROST

New Wagons, Bides & Cotton W. Ho.

Di. Furn. Carped. Bous

Sal. & Rest.

Store Rms.

TERRELL BLOCK

Di. Furn. Carped. Bous

Sal. & Rest.

Store Rms.

TERRELL BLOCK

Di. Furn. Carped. Bous

Sal. & Rest.

Store Rms.

TERRELL BLOCK

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TERRELL BLOCK

Di. Furn. Carped. Bous

Sal. & Rest.

Store Rms.

TERRELL BLOCK

Di. Furn. Carped. Bous

Sal. & Rest.

Store Rms.

## 112 Soledad - Project Description

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205

### Project Description

#### 112 Soledad- Hotel/Restaurant Development- San Antonio Texas - 7/29/2021

The applicant is seeking conceptual approval for the renovation and additions to the building at 112 Soledad.

The original (approx. 7,000 sq ft) limestone structure at 112 Soledad was built in 1877 and around 1920 the front building façade was cut back substantially to widen the street and a new brick façade was built which is present today. The first-floor area of the façade was rebuilt later, and it is not in keeping with the remaining upper portion from the 1920s facade. The attached drawings illustrate the new proposed lower façade design. This will be the main entry to the hotel and to the building elevator.

The existing 2- story building and basement will be completely renovated and there will be a third-floor addition on the roof of the existing building as well as a 3-story hotel addition at the back of the building facing the San Antonio River Walk. The river level entry into the development will be through a new opening in the existing rubble stone retaining wall. A steel entry trellis element will be placed in the opening of the stone wall. The stone that is removed from the wall will be reused at the outdoor dining patio area along the Riverwalk. Above the trellis and the new opening, the guest rooms facing the river will all have continuous balconies that are set into the new façade.

The primary use for the building will be an 11-room spa hotel. There will be a river level restaurant and a rooftop bar to compliment the hotel. Many of the existing interior features (tin ceilings, wood floors) will be maintained in the project. Two new fire stairs are required by code for this project, and it is proposed that the front fire stairs be placed 35 ft back from the front façade and it will be enclosed with a minimal steel frame with welded wire mesh infill along the Soledad side to help the stair visually recede and to give it a lighter more transparent feel. The third-floor addition will also be placed 35 ft back from the front façade along Soledad.

The river level area between the new building and the river walk sidewalk will be paved and used for outdoor dining. A chair lift tucked in the corner of this area will provide ADA access from the Riverwalk to the rest of the development. Steps up to the main Riverwalk level will be curvilinear and built of re-used limestone blocks as referenced above. The design of this area is meant to evoke H.H. Hugman's early river walk design esthetic.

The rooftop bar will have a minimal steel column /beam grid design with shade fabric panels stretched inside of each open grid. The guard rails will be frameless glass. Modular rooftop pavers will be utilized.

New exterior wall surfaces for the addition will be primarily stucco. Windows and doors will be wood clad in metal. Exterior paving at the river will be limestone and new rock salt finish concrete. The front facade on Soledad will have new brick as a part of the repair of the lower portion. (New transoms and a cantilevered entry canopy are included.)



## 112 Soledad Existing Conditions



East Elevation facing the Riverwalk.



South Elevation facing the Mexican Manhattan



West Elevation and adjacent structures on Soledad Street.



## 112 Soledad Existing Conditions

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



East Elevation from across the Riverwalk.



East Elevation and retaining wall at Riverwalk.



West Elevation and adjacent structures on Soledad Street.



## 112 Soledad Existing Conditions

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



East Elevation



East Elevation

## 112 Soledad Proposed Work

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



View looking North on Soledad St.



View looking South on Soledad St.



## 112 Soledad Proposed Work

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



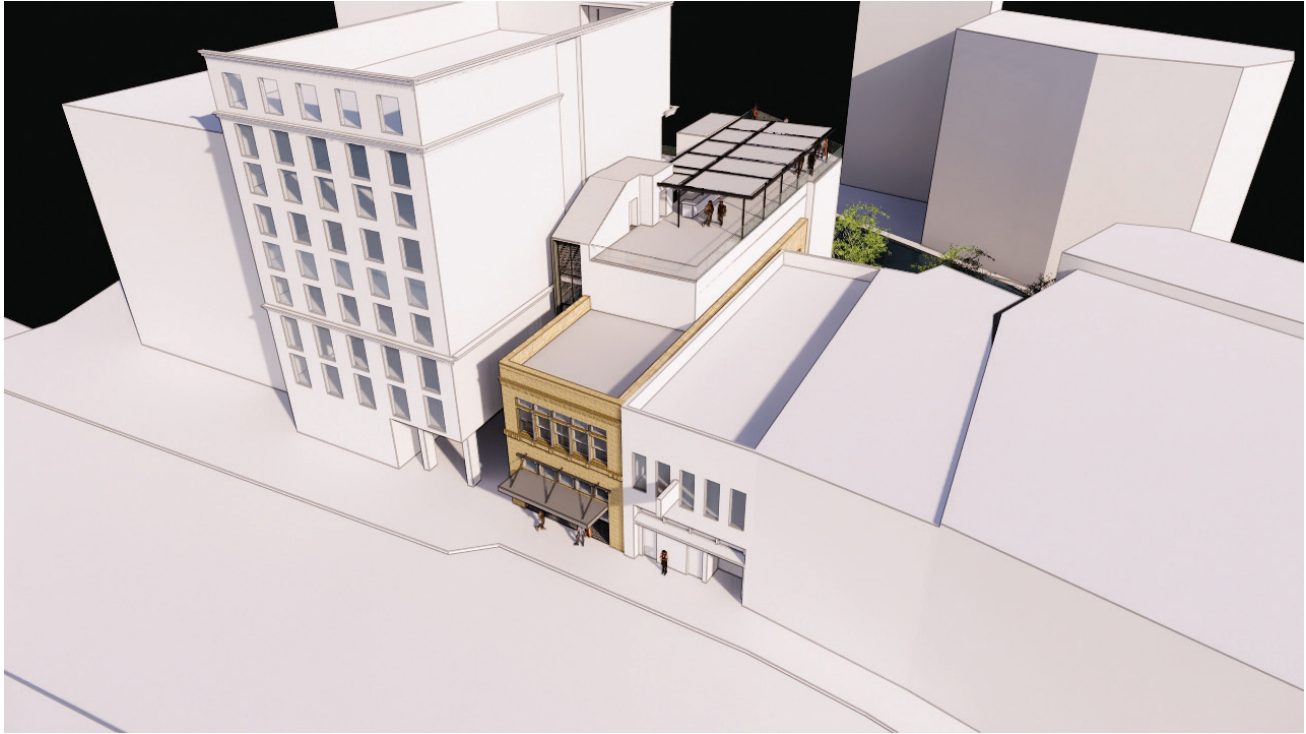
View of Exterior Fire Stair and Front Entry.



Front view of Main Entry

## 112 Soledad Proposed Work

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



Axon of the Front Facade



Axon View from the Riverwalk side.



## 112 Soledad Proposed Work

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



View from across the Riverwalk



View looking South on the Riverwalk



## 112 Soledad Proposed Work

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



View of Riverwalk Entry

Espinoza House showing the new kitchen to the left and expansion to the rear.



WEST ELEVATION - ALONG SOLEDAD ST.  
1/16" = 1'-0"



SAN ANTONIO RIVER

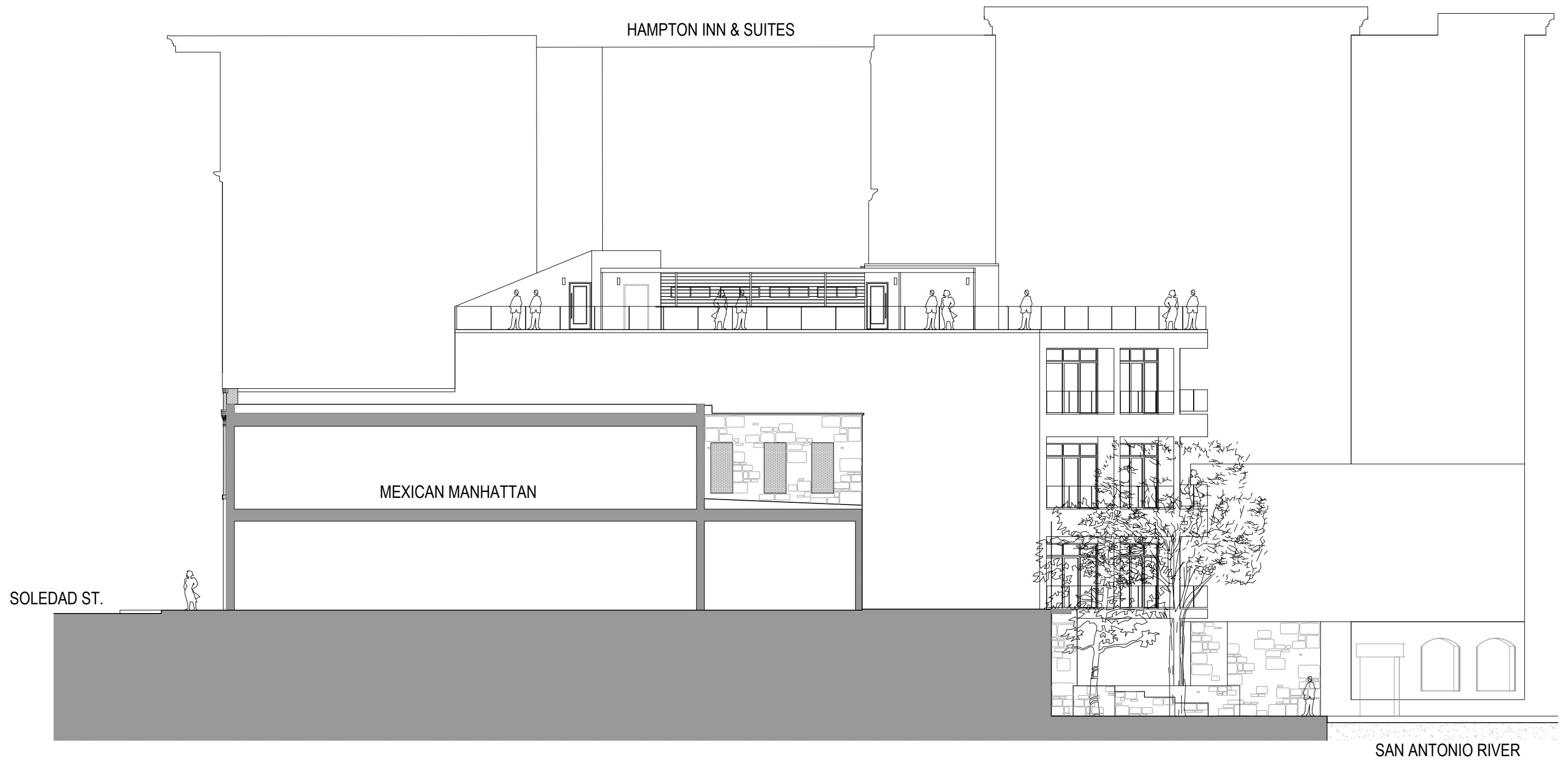
NORTH ELEVATION

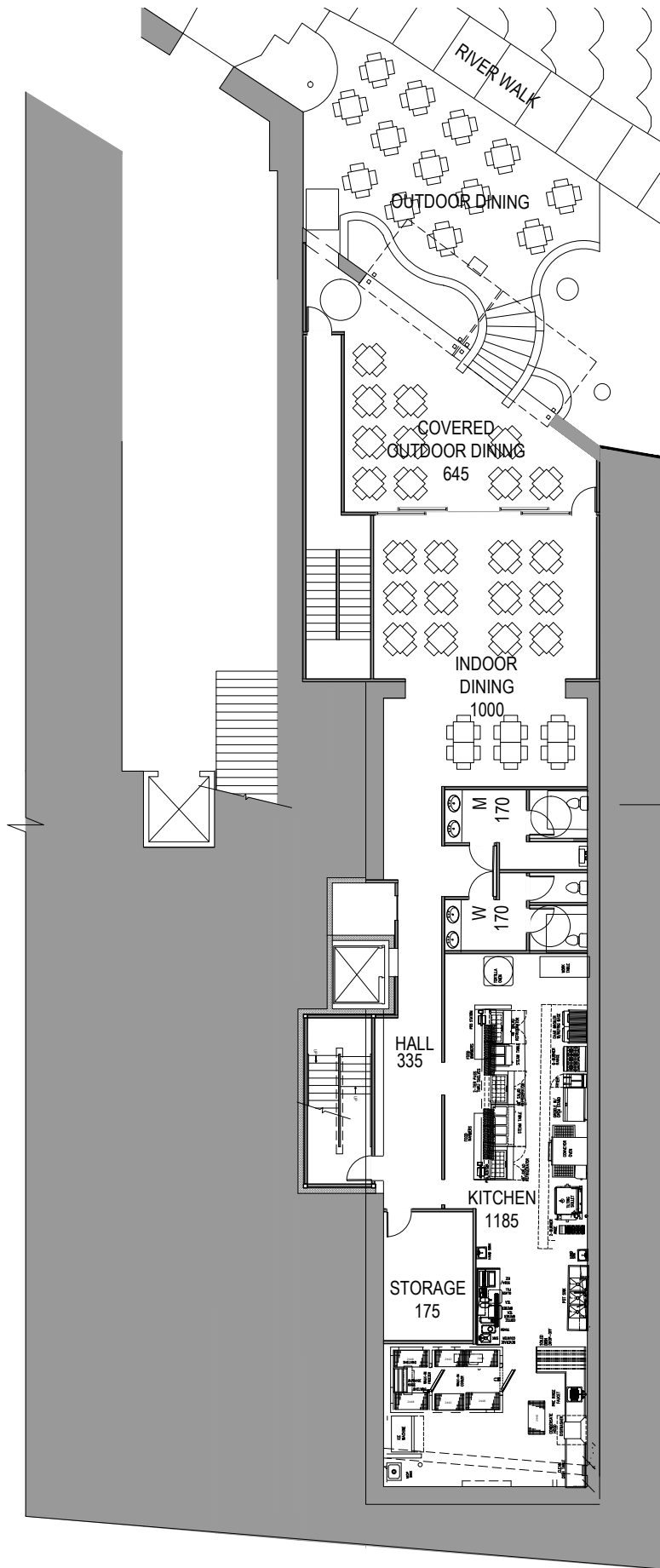
1/16" = 1'-0"

SPRINKLE & CO. ARCHITECTS

7-30-21





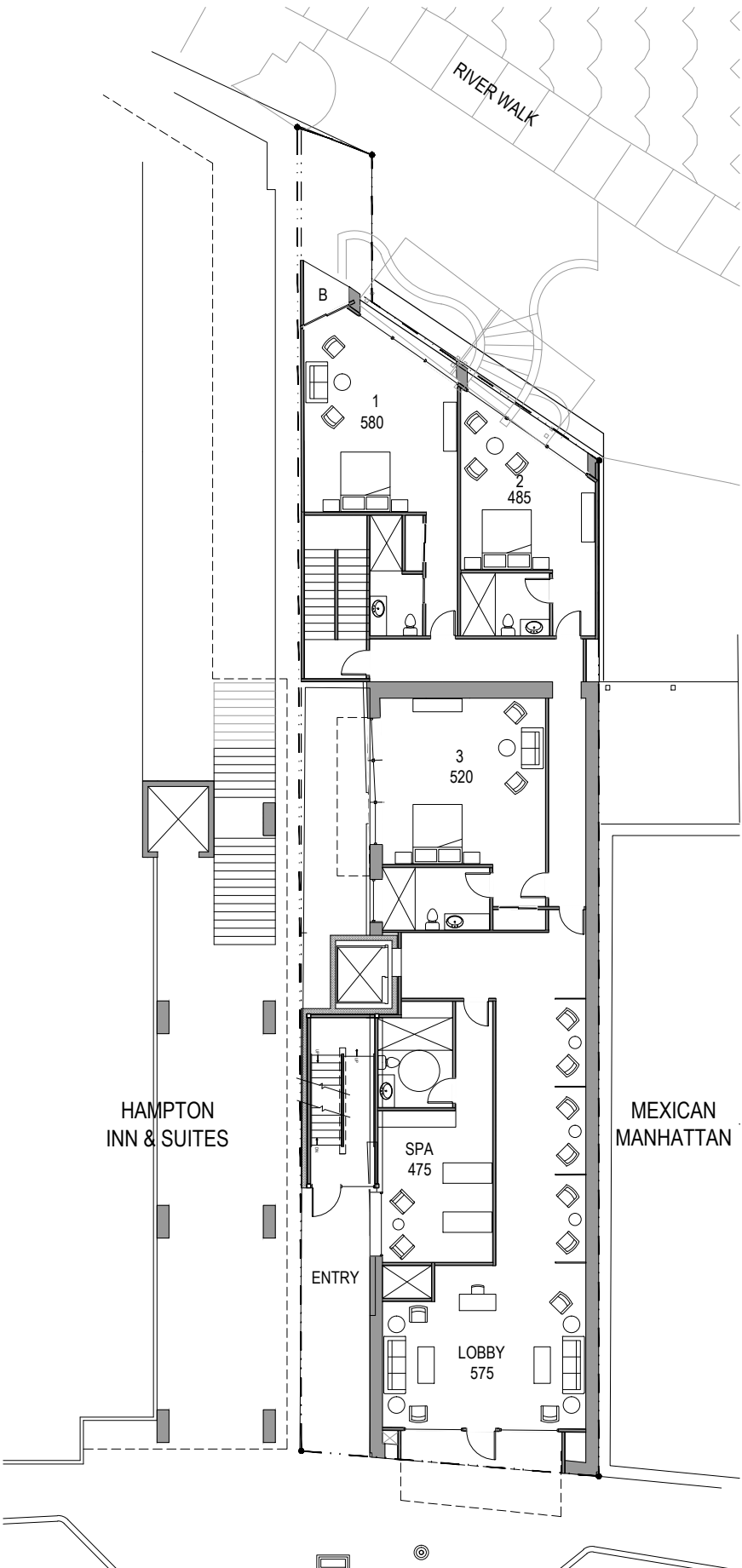


# BASEMENT

4590 SQFT.

112 SOLEDAD

1:20 = 1'-0"

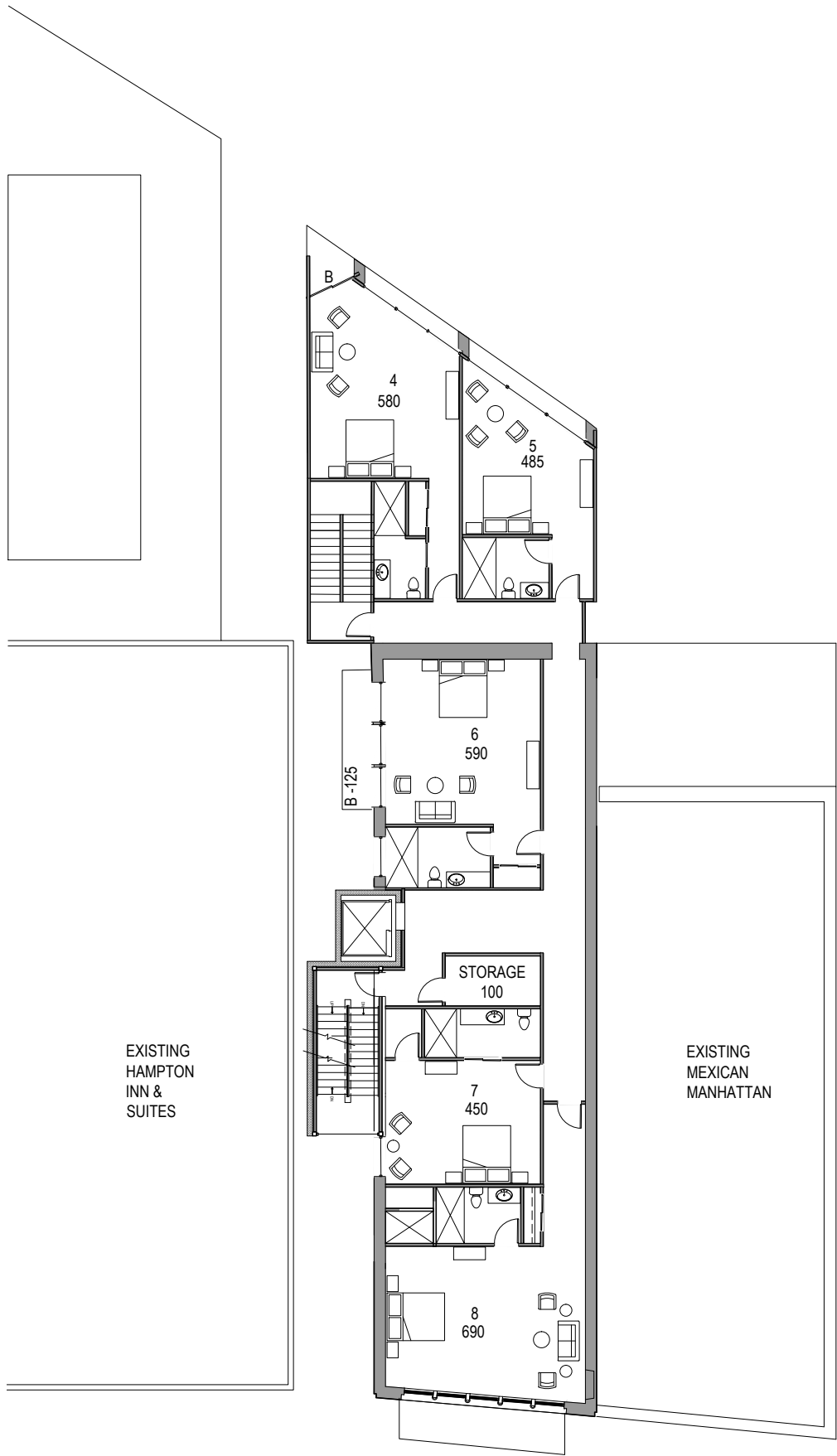


# 1ST FLOOR

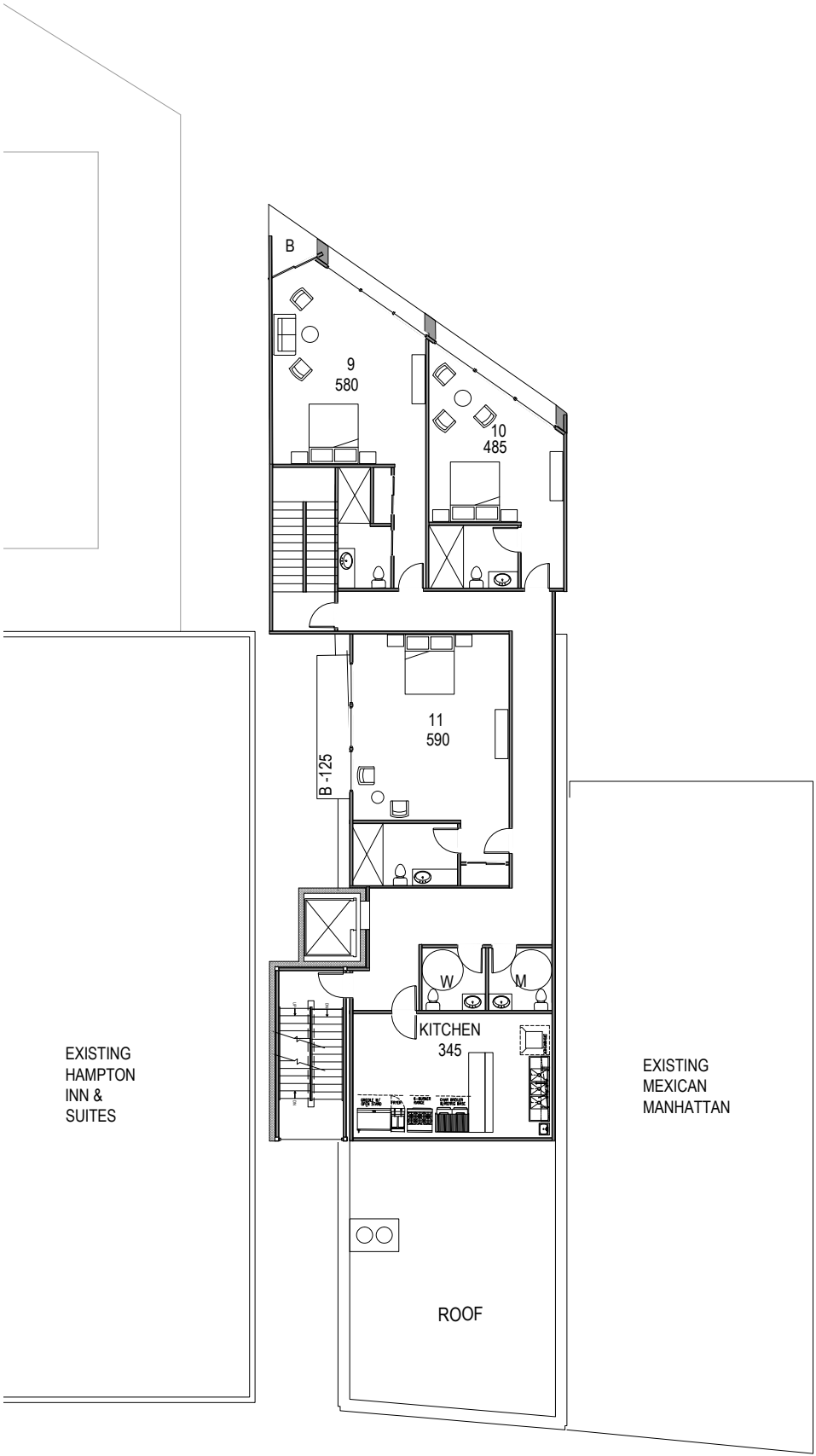
4420 SQFT.

SPRINKLE CO & ARCHITECTS

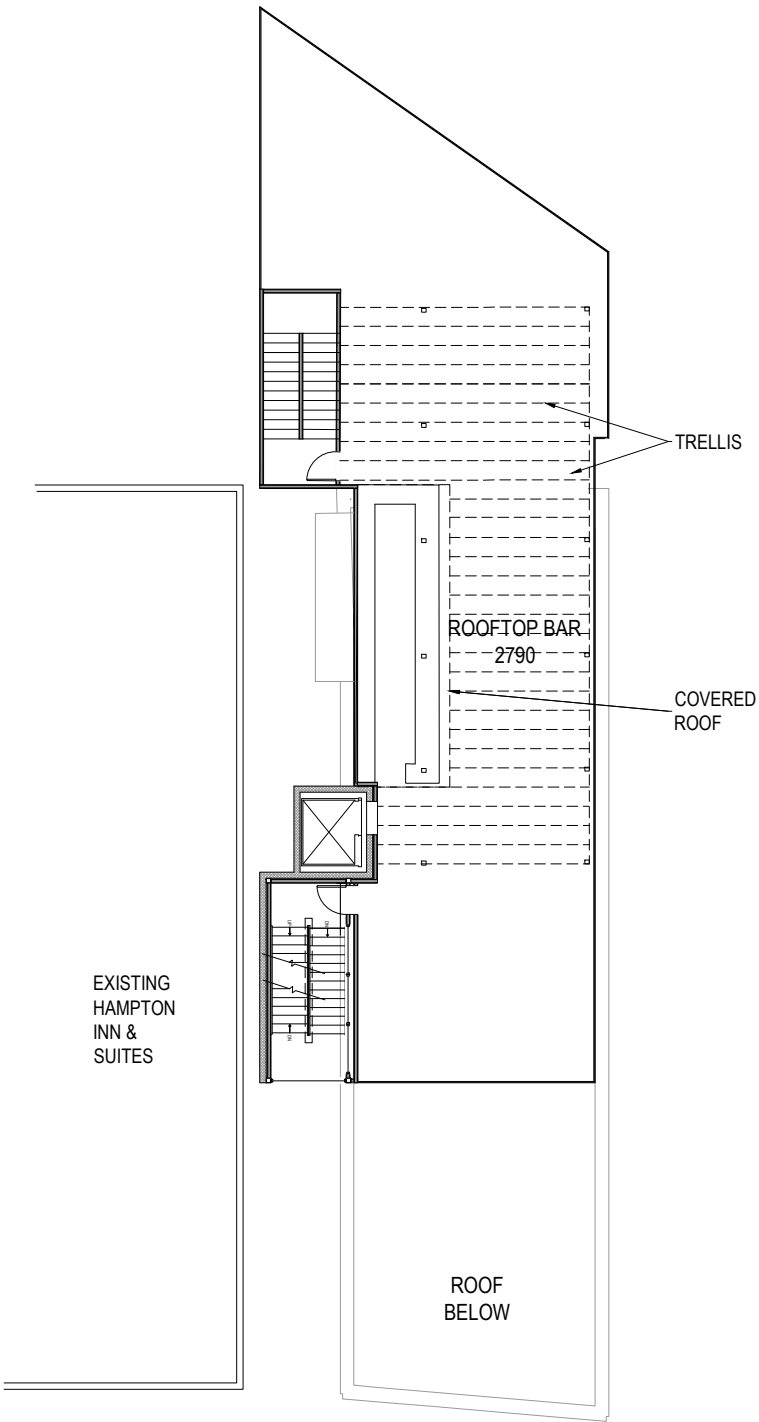
7-30-21



**2ND FLOOR**  
4420 SQFT.



**3RD FLOOR**  
3150 SQFT.

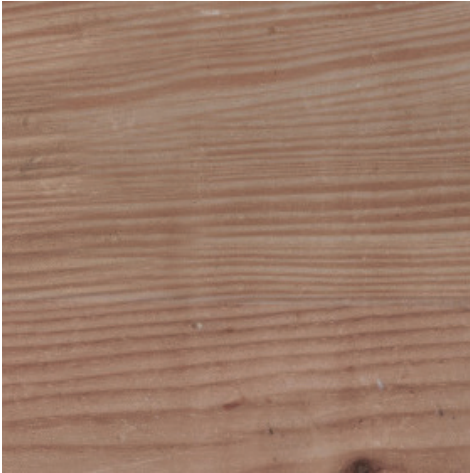


**ROOF**  
3150 SQFT.



## 112 Soledad Material Palette

112 Soledad. San Antonio, Tx. 78205



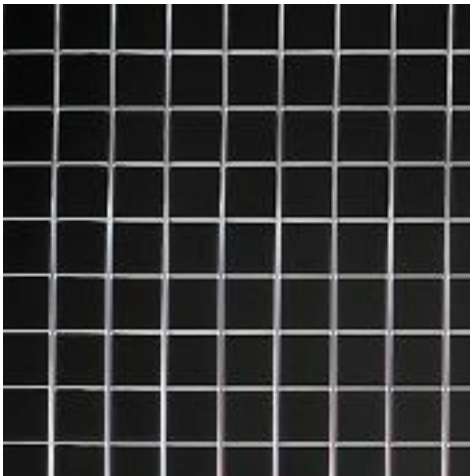
Wood - Cedar



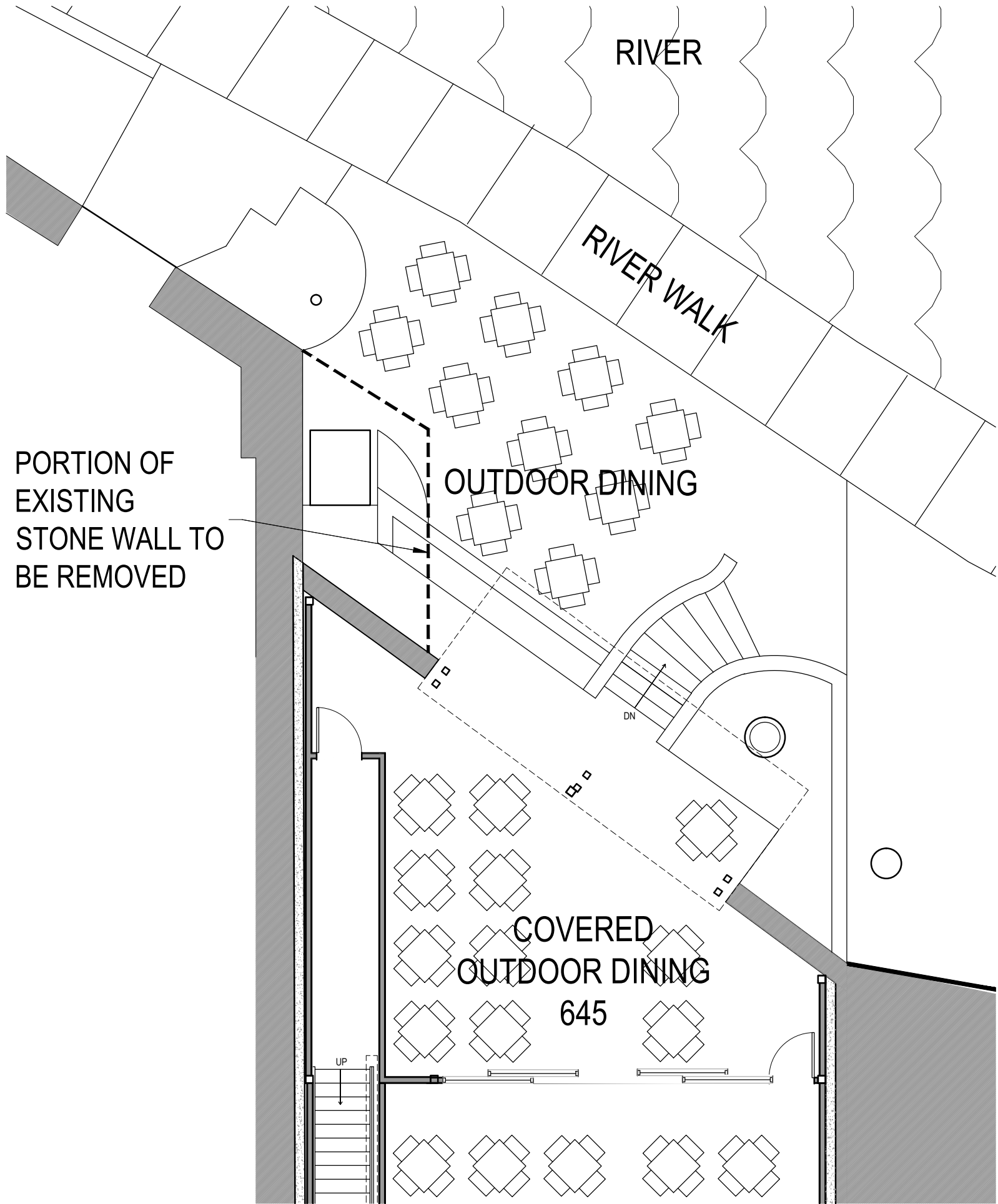
Stucco



Steel



Metal Mesh



RIVER LEVEL

4590 SQFT.

112 SOLEDAD

1/8" = 1'-0"

SPRINKLE CO & ARCHITECTS

8-10-21









































