

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

September 07, 2022

HDRC CASE NO: 2022-453
ADDRESS: 228 BARRERA
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 717 BLK 14 LOT 7
ZONING: IDZ, H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
DISTRICT: Lavaca Historic District
APPLICANT: NICHOLAS MELDE/Architexas
OWNER: JS&WS HOLDINGS LLC
TYPE OF WORK: Construction of a 2-story residential structure
APPLICATION RECEIVED: August 19, 2022
60-DAY REVIEW: Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders
CASE MANAGER: Rachel Rettaliata

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting conceptual approval to construct a new 2-story, single-family residence totaling approximately 1,640 square feet with an attached carport.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 4, Guidelines for New Construction

1. Building and Entrance Orientation

A. FAÇADE ORIENTATION

i. *Setbacks*—Align front facades of new buildings with front facades of adjacent buildings where a consistent setback has been established along the street frontage. Use the median setback of buildings along the street frontage where a variety of setbacks exist. Refer to UDC Article 3, Division 2. Base Zoning Districts for applicable setback requirements.

ii. *Orientation*—Orient the front façade of new buildings to be consistent with the predominant orientation of historic buildings along the street frontage.

B. ENTRANCES

i. *Orientation*—Orient primary building entrances, porches, and landings to be consistent with those historically found along the street frontage. Typically, historic building entrances are oriented towards the primary street.

2. Building Massing and Form

A. SCALE AND MASS

i. *Similar height and scale*—Design new construction so that its height and overall scale are consistent with nearby historic buildings. In residential districts, the height and scale of new construction should not exceed that of the majority of historic buildings by more than one-story. In commercial districts, building height shall conform to the established pattern. If there is no more than a 50% variation in the scale of buildings on the adjacent block faces, then the height of the new building shall not exceed the tallest building on the adjacent block face by more than 10%.

ii. *Transitions*—Utilize step-downs in building height, wall-plane offsets, and other variations in building massing to provide a visual transition when the height of new construction exceeds that of adjacent historic buildings by more than one-half story.

iii. *Foundation and floor heights*—Align foundation and floor-to-floor heights (including porches and balconies) within one foot of floor-to-floor heights on adjacent historic structures.

B. ROOF FORM

i. *Similar roof forms*—Incorporate roof forms—pitch, overhangs, and orientation—that are consistent with those predominantly found on the block. Roof forms on residential building types are typically sloped, while roof forms on non-residential building types are more typically flat and screened by an ornamental parapet wall.

C. RELATIONSHIP OF SOLIDS TO VOIDS

i. *Window and door openings*—Incorporate window and door openings with a similar proportion of wall to window space as typical with nearby historic facades. Windows, doors, porches, entryways, dormers, bays, and pediments shall be considered similar if they are no larger than 25% in size and vary no more than 10% in height to width ratio from adjacent historic facades.

ii. *Façade configuration*—The primary façade of new commercial buildings should be in keeping with established patterns. Maintaining horizontal elements within adjacent cap, middle, and base precedents will establish a consistent street wall through the alignment of horizontal parts. Avoid blank walls, particularly on elevations visible from the street. No new façade should exceed 40 linear feet without being penetrated by windows, entryways, or other defined bays.

D. LOT COVERAGE

i. *Building to lot ratio*—New construction should be consistent with adjacent historic buildings in terms of the building to lot ratio. Limit the building footprint for new construction to no more than 50 percent of the total lot area, unless adjacent historic buildings establish a precedent with a greater building to lot ratio.

3. Materials and Textures

A. NEW MATERIALS

i. *Complementary materials*—Use materials that complement the type, color, and texture of materials traditionally found in the district. Materials should not be so dissimilar as to distract from the historic interpretation of the district. For example, corrugated metal siding would not be appropriate for a new structure in a district comprised of homes with wood siding.

ii. *Alternative use of traditional materials*—Consider using traditional materials, such as wood siding, in a new way to provide visual interest in new construction while still ensuring compatibility.

iii. *Roof materials*—Select roof materials that are similar in terms of form, color, and texture to traditionally used in the district.

iv. *Metal roofs*—Construct new metal roofs in a similar fashion as historic metal roofs. Refer to the Guidelines for Alterations and Maintenance section for additional specifications regarding metal roofs.

v. *Imitation or synthetic materials*—Do not use vinyl siding, plastic, or corrugated metal sheeting. Contemporary materials not traditionally used in the district, such as brick or simulated stone veneer and Hardie Board or other fiberboard siding, may be appropriate for new construction in some locations as long as new materials are visually similar to the traditional material in dimension, finish, and texture. EIFS is not recommended as a substitute for actual stucco.

B. REUSE OF HISTORIC MATERIALS

Salvaged materials—Incorporate salvaged historic materials where possible within the context of the overall design of the new structure.

4. Architectural Details

A. GENERAL

i. *Historic context*—Design new buildings to reflect their time while respecting the historic context. While new construction should not attempt to mirror or replicate historic features, new structures should not be so dissimilar as to distract from or diminish the historic interpretation of the district.

ii. *Architectural details*—Incorporate architectural details that are in keeping with the predominant architectural style along the block face or within the district when one exists. Details should be simple in design and should complement, but not visually compete with, the character of the adjacent historic structures or other historic structures within the district. Architectural details that are more ornate or elaborate than those found within the district are inappropriate.

iii. *Contemporary interpretations*—Consider integrating contemporary interpretations of traditional designs and details for new construction. Use of contemporary window moldings and door surroundings, for example, can provide visual interest while helping to convey the fact that the structure is new. Modern materials should be implemented in a way that does not distract from the historic structure.

5. Garages and Outbuildings

A. DESIGN AND CHARACTER

i. *Massing and form*—Design new garages and outbuildings to be visually subordinate to the principal historic structure in terms of their height, massing, and form.

ii. *Building size*—New outbuildings should be no larger in plan than 40 percent of the principal historic structure footprint.

- iii. *Character*—Relate new garages and outbuildings to the period of construction of the principal building on the lot through the use of complementary materials and simplified architectural details.
- iv. *Windows and doors*—Design window and door openings to be similar to those found on historic garages or outbuildings in the district or on the principle historic structure in terms of their spacing and proportions.
- v. *Garage doors*—Incorporate garage doors with similar proportions and materials as those traditionally found in the district.

B. SETBACKS AND ORIENTATION

- i. *Orientation*—Match the predominant garage orientation found along the block. Do not introduce front-loaded garages or garages attached to the primary structure on blocks where rear or alley-loaded garages were historically used.
- ii. *Setbacks*—Follow historic setback pattern of similar structures along the streetscape or district for new garages and outbuildings. Historic garages and outbuildings are most typically located at the rear of the lot, behind the principal building. In some instances, historic setbacks are not consistent with UDC requirements and a variance may be required.

6. Mechanical Equipment and Roof Appurtenances

A. LOCATION AND SITING

- i. *Visibility*—Do not locate utility boxes, air conditioners, rooftop mechanical equipment, skylights, satellite dishes, 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.

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.

7. 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 property at 228 Barrera is currently vacant, but previously featured a 1-story commercial structure and a 2-story residence and auto structure that first appear on the 1951 Sanborn Map. The property was vacant on the 1912 Sanborn Map. The block consists of 1-story and 2-story single-family and multi-family residences and infill construction. The lot at 228 Barrera is located beside a contemporary 2-story residential structure and a 1-story historic structure. The property is contributing to the Lavaca Historic District.
- 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 or final approval.
- c. CASE HISTORY – The applicant's previous proposal was conceptually reviewed by the HDRC on April 20, 2022, and the request was referred to a Design Review Committee meeting. The DRC met on April 26, 2022, and discussed simplifying the rooflines, reconsidering the hierarchy of the proposed carport, and the human scale of rear elevation. The applicant has returned to the HDRC for conceptual approval of the revised proposal.
- d. SETBACK & ORIENTATION – According to the Guidelines for New Construction, the front facades of new buildings should align with the front facades of adjacent buildings where a consistent setback has been established along the street frontage. Additionally, the orientation of new construction should be consistent with the historic examples found on the block. The applicant has proposed to construct a 2-story, single family residence. The frontage of the residence will be oriented to the north and will face Barrera. The existing properties along Barrera are oriented toward Barrera. The applicant has proposed a front porch setback of 6' and the proposed setback for the carport volume is 19'-10". The proposed setbacks are behind the setbacks of the adjacent structures, which are set back 2' and 5'-3" from the property line. Staff finds the proposal consistent with the Guidelines.
- e. SCALE AND MASSING – The applicant has proposed to construct a 2-story residential structure with a second-story extension to accommodate a row of clerestory windows. According to Guideline 2.A.i for New Construction, new structures should feature a height and massing that is similar to historic structures in the vicinity. In residential districts, the height and scale of new construction should not exceed that of the majority of historic buildings by more than one story. The block within the Lavaca Historic District features 1-story and 2-story historic structures and 2-story units of new construction. The block to the east of Indianola features 2-story infill. The applicant has submitted foundation heights of 1'-6." Staff finds that the proposed scale and massing of the structure appears generally appropriate.
- f. ROOF FORM – The applicant has proposed a shed roof and a flat roof form. According to Guideline 2.B.i

for New Construction, new construction should feature roof forms that are consistent with those predominantly found on the block. The adjacent structures on Barrera feature front gable, cross gable, pyramidal, hip, flat, and shed roof forms. The neighboring contemporary structure features a shed roof form paired with a front gable roof form. Staff finds the proposal consistent with the Guidelines.

- g. LOT COVERAGE – Guideline 2.D.i for New Construction stipulates that building to lot ratio for new construction should be consistent with adjacent historic buildings. Limit the building footprint for new construction to no more than 50 percent of the total lot area, unless adjacent historic buildings establish a precedent with a greater building to lot ratio. The applicant has provided a total square footage of 1,930 square feet including the second story. As the proposed second story is cantilevered, the square footage of the footprint is 750 square feet. The total square footage for the lot is 2,348 square feet and the total proposed lot coverage is less than 50 percent. Staff finds the proposal consistent with the Guidelines.
- h. MATERIALS AND TEXTURES – The applicant has proposed to construct the residence with 3-coat, color-integrated stucco cladding and wood lap siding with a double-ogee waterfall profile with a semi-transparent stain, a galvalume standing seam metal shed roof on the primary volume and TPO low-sloped roofing over the secondary volume with an 8-inch-tall parapet, aluminum-clad wood windows and doors, wood front porch posts and framing, and a metal balcony railing. Guideline 3.A.i for New Construction stipulates that new construction should use materials that complement the type, color, and texture of materials traditionally found in the district. Materials should not be so dissimilar as to distract from the historic interpretation of the district. For example, corrugated metal siding would not be appropriate for a new structure in a district comprised of homes with wood siding. Consider using traditional materials, such as wood siding, in a new way to provide visual interest in new construction while still ensuring compatibility. Staff finds the proposed materials to be generally appropriate.
- i. WINDOW MATERIALS – The applicant has proposed to install aluminum-clad wood fixed, transom, and one-over-one windows. The aluminum-clad wood windows should feature an inset of two (2) inches within facades and should feature profiles that are found historically within the immediate vicinity. An alternative window material may be proposed, provided that the window features meeting rails that are no taller than 1.25” and stiles no wider than 2.25”. White manufacturer’s color is not allowed, and color selection must be presented to staff. 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. Faux divided lites are not permitted. Staff finds that all windows installed should feature traditional operations and that the applicant should submit product specifications for review prior to returning to the HDRC.
- j. RELATIONSHIP OF SOLIDS TO VOIDS – Guideline 2.C.i for New Construction stipulates that new construction should incorporate window and door openings with a similar proportion of wall to window space as typical with nearby historic facades. Windows, doors, porches, entryways, dormers, bays, and pediments shall be considered similar if they are no larger than 25% in size and vary no more than 10% in height to width ratio from adjacent historic facades. Staff finds the proposal generally consistent with the Guidelines.
- k. ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS – Guideline 4.A.i for New Construction states that new buildings should be designed to reflect their time while respecting the historic context. While new construction should not attempt to mirror or replicate historic features, new structures should not be so dissimilar as to distract from or diminish the historic interpretation of the district. Additionally, architectural details should be complementary in nature and should not detract from nearby historic structures. Staff finds that the proposed new construction features architectural forms that are complementary to the architecture found historically in the district.
- l. CARPORT – The applicant has proposed to construct an attached front-facing, single-bay carport on the west side of the property. Guideline 5.A.i for New Construction states that new garages and outbuildings should be designed to be visually subordinate to the principal historic structure in terms of their height, massing, and form. The carport is proposed as a distinct volume that is set back 8’-10” from the front façade wall plane of the main volume. According to Guideline 5.B.i for New Construction, the predominant garage orientation found along the block should be matched. Do not introduce front-loaded garages or garages attached to the primary structure on blocks where rear or alley-loaded garages were

historically used. Traditionally, residential structures in the Lavaca Historic District featured a primary structure along the street and a rear detached accessory structure accessed either from a service alley or by a driveway from the street. The historic residential properties along Barrera generally follow this pattern. Staff finds the proposal generally consistent with the predominant rear accessory setback along this block of Barrera.

- m. DRIVEWAYS – Guideline 5.B.i for Site Elements notes that new driveways should be similar to those found historically within the district in regard to their materials, width, and design. Additionally, the Guidelines note that driveways should not exceed ten (10) feet in width. The property currently features concrete driveway aprons and curb cuts on the east and west ends of the property without a driveway. The applicant has proposed to install a 10-foot-wide Grasscrete driveway at the existing apron on the west side of the property and remove the secondary curb cut and driveway apron. Staff finds the proposal consistent with the Guidelines.
- n. SITE WORK – The Guidelines for Site Elements note that front yard walkways and site work should appear similar to those found historically within the district in regard to their materials, width, alignment and configuration. The applicant has proposed to install a 6’–8” wide, fully concrete front walkway from the existing sidewalk to the front porch, aligned with the interior of the front porch columns. Staff finds the proposal generally appropriate.
- o. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT – Per Guideline 6.B.ii for New Construction, all mechanical equipment should be screened from view at the public right-of-way.
- p. LANDSCAPING PLAN – The applicant has proposed to install additional trees and a front planting bed. The property currently features front and rear fencing. The applicant has proposed to install a front driveway gate and to modify the front yard fence to feature a pedestrian gate. Adjacent properties currently feature front driveway gates. Staff finds that the applicant should submit a final landscaping plan with planting bed details and material specifications for the driveway and pedestrian gates prior to returning to the HDRC.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

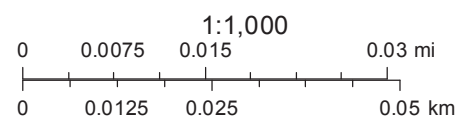
- i. That the applicant submits window specifications to staff for review prior to returning to the HDRC based on finding i. Wood or aluminum-clad wood windows are recommended. Windows should feature traditional operations, an inset of two (2) inches within facades, and profiles that are found historically within the immediate vicinity. White manufacturer’s color is not allowed, and color selection must be presented to staff. 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 architecturally appropriate sill detail. Window track components must be painted to match the window trim or concealed by a wood window screen set within the opening.
- ii. That the applicant submits a final landscaping plan with planting bed details and material specifications for the driveway and pedestrian gates prior to returning to the HDRC as noted in finding p.

City of San Antonio One Stop



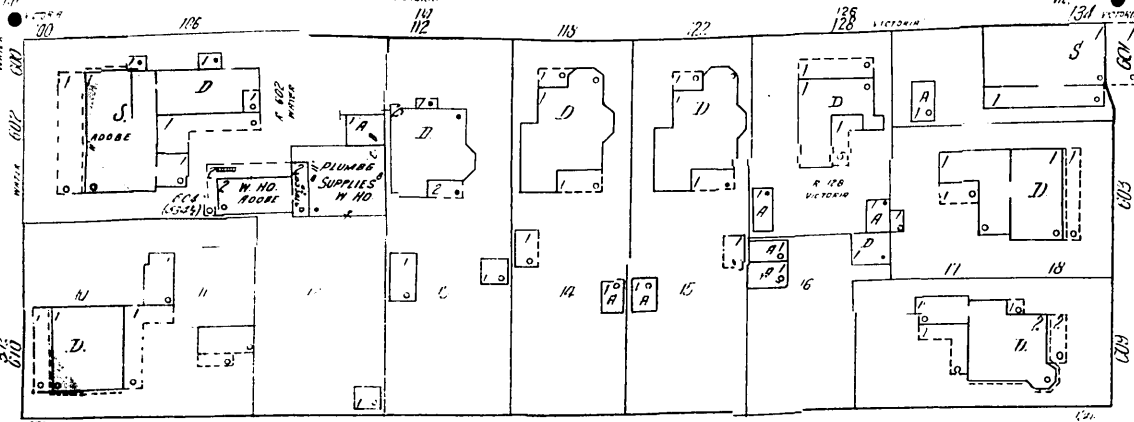
April 14, 2022

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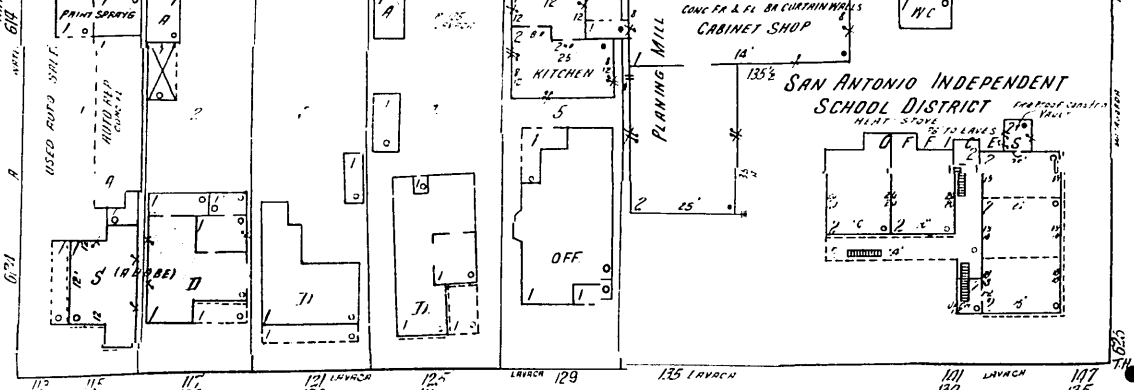
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VICTORIA

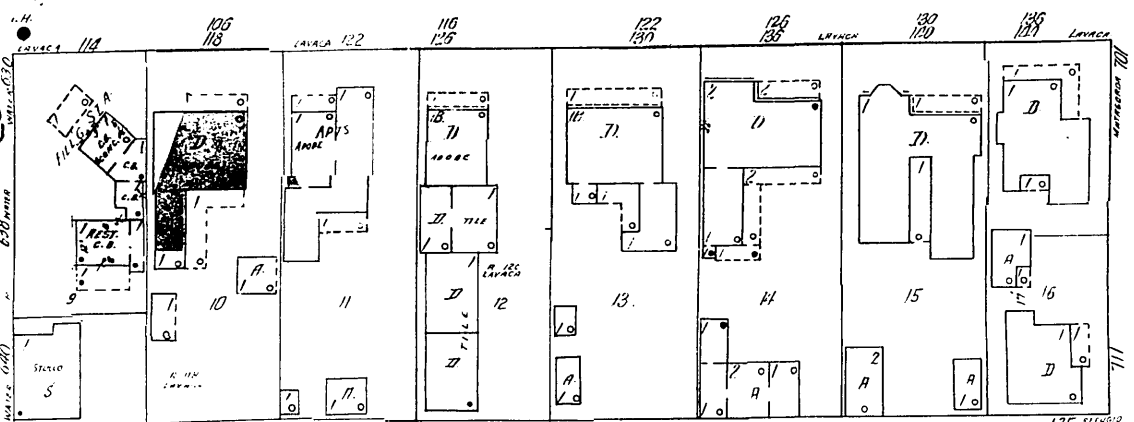


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GARFIELD

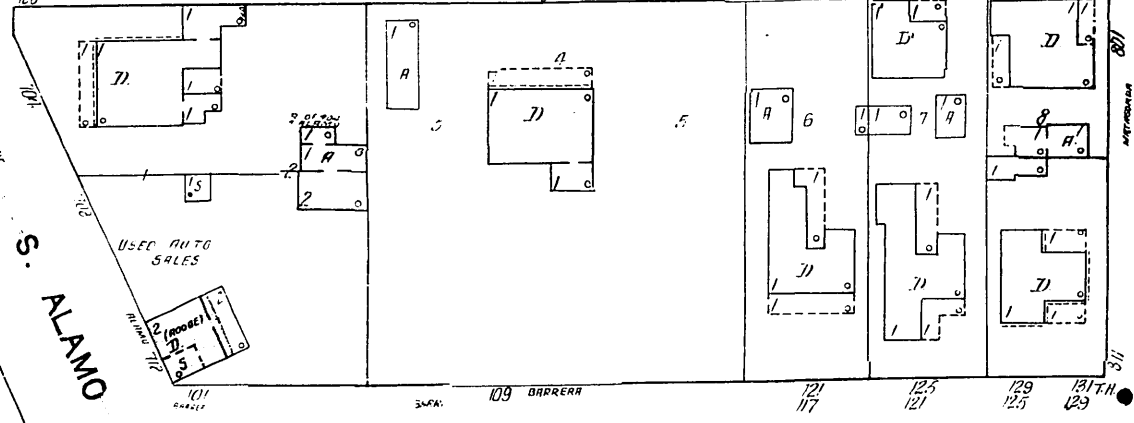


LAVACA

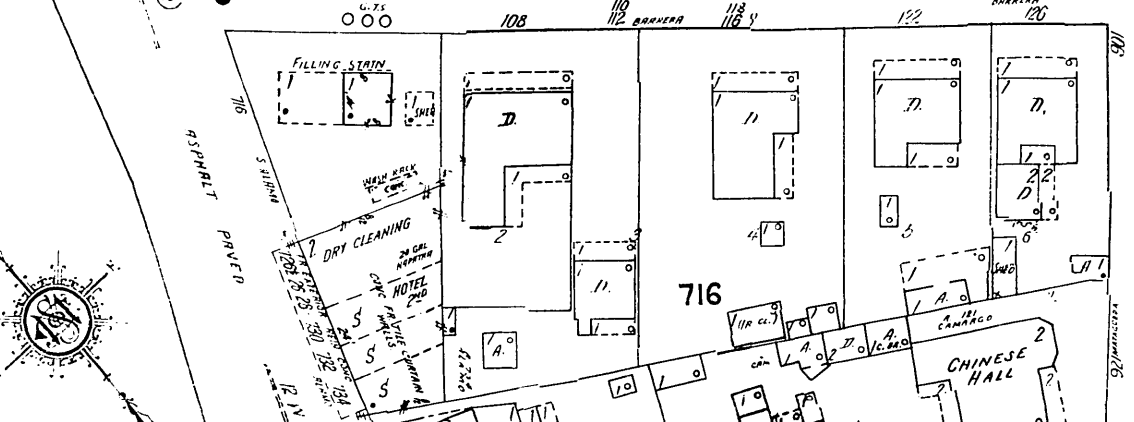


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REFUGIO

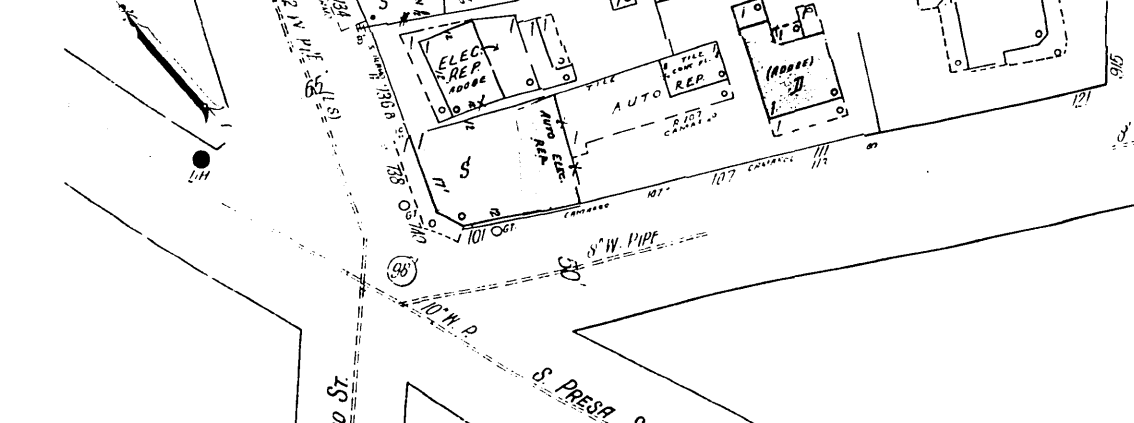


BARRERA

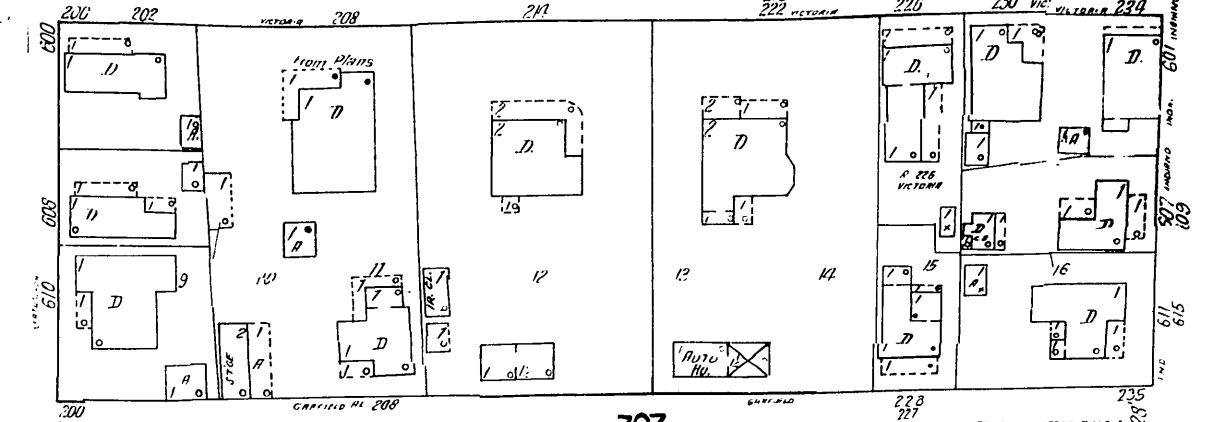


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CHINESE HALL

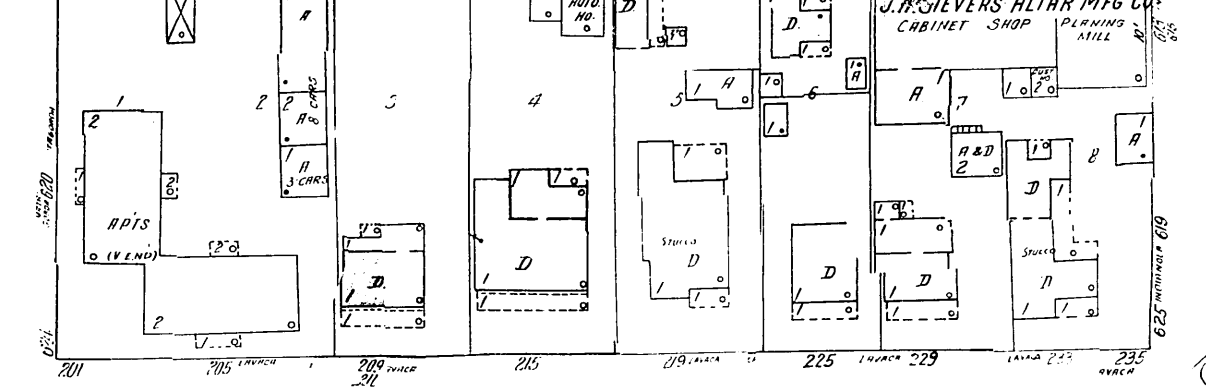


6" W. PIPE

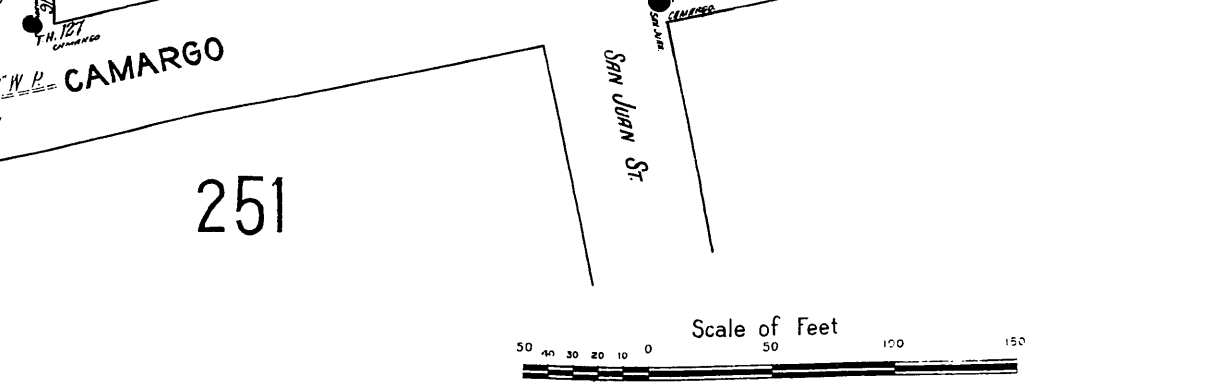
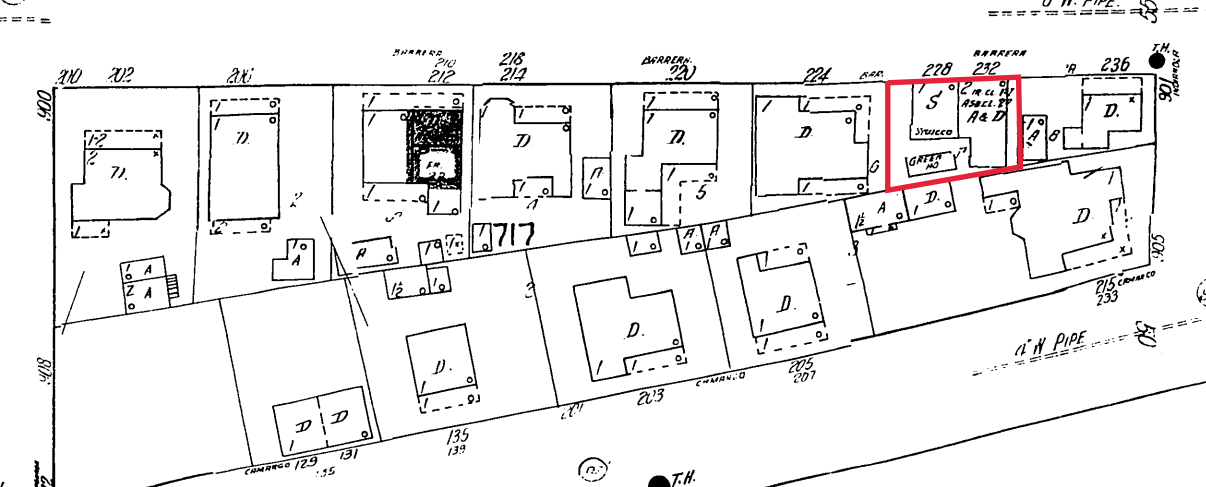
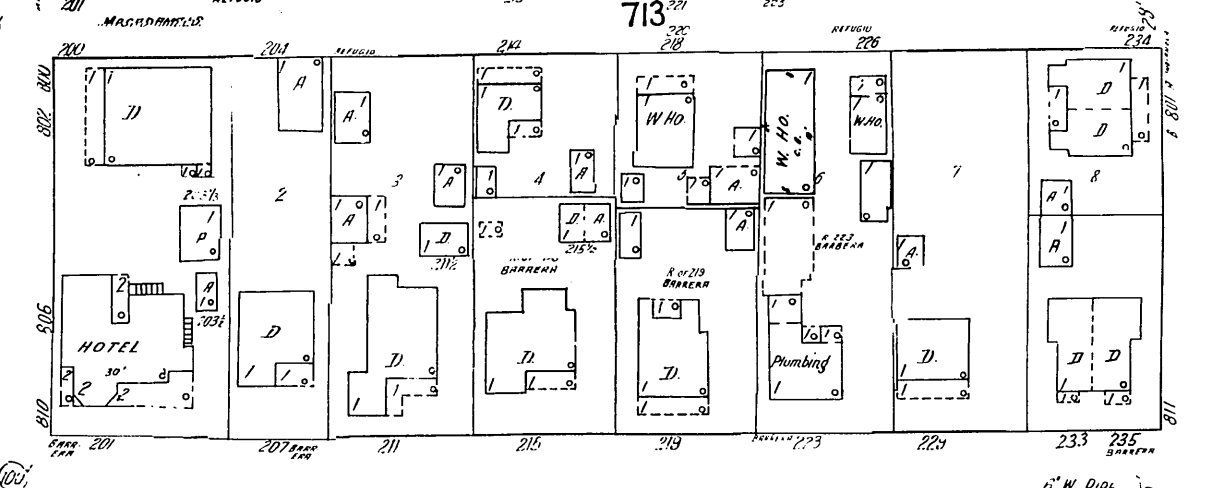
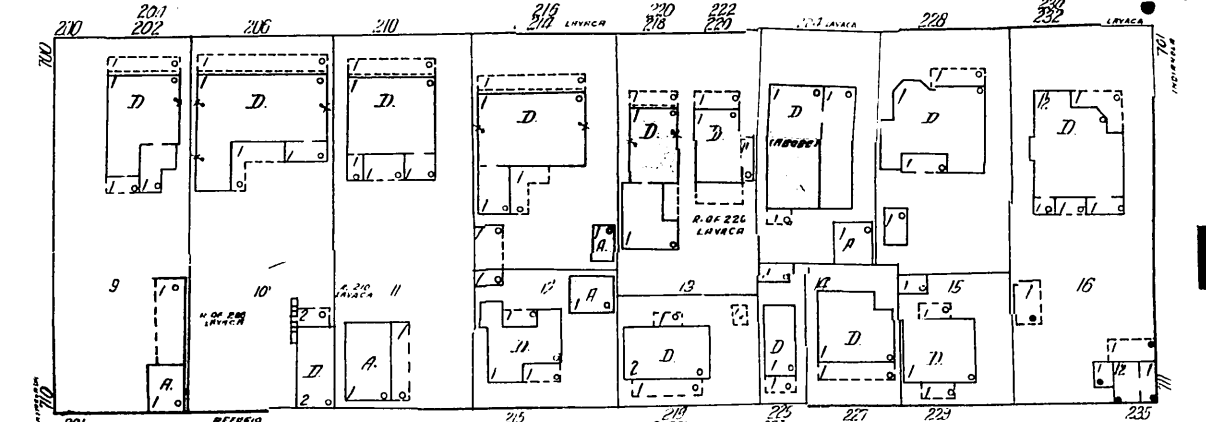


ALLEY

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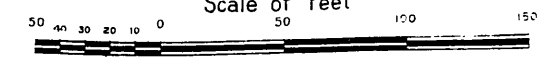


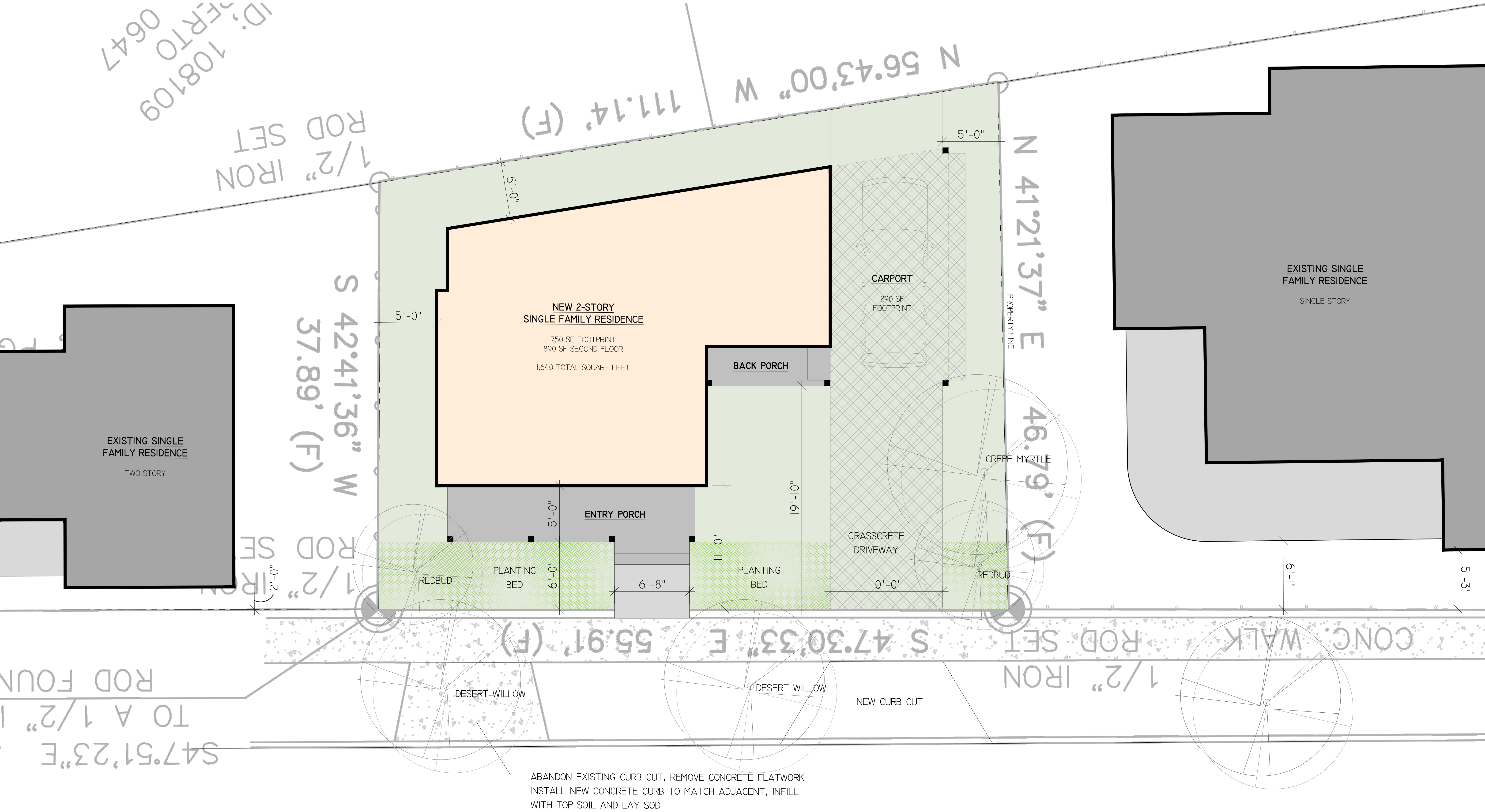
6" W. PIPE



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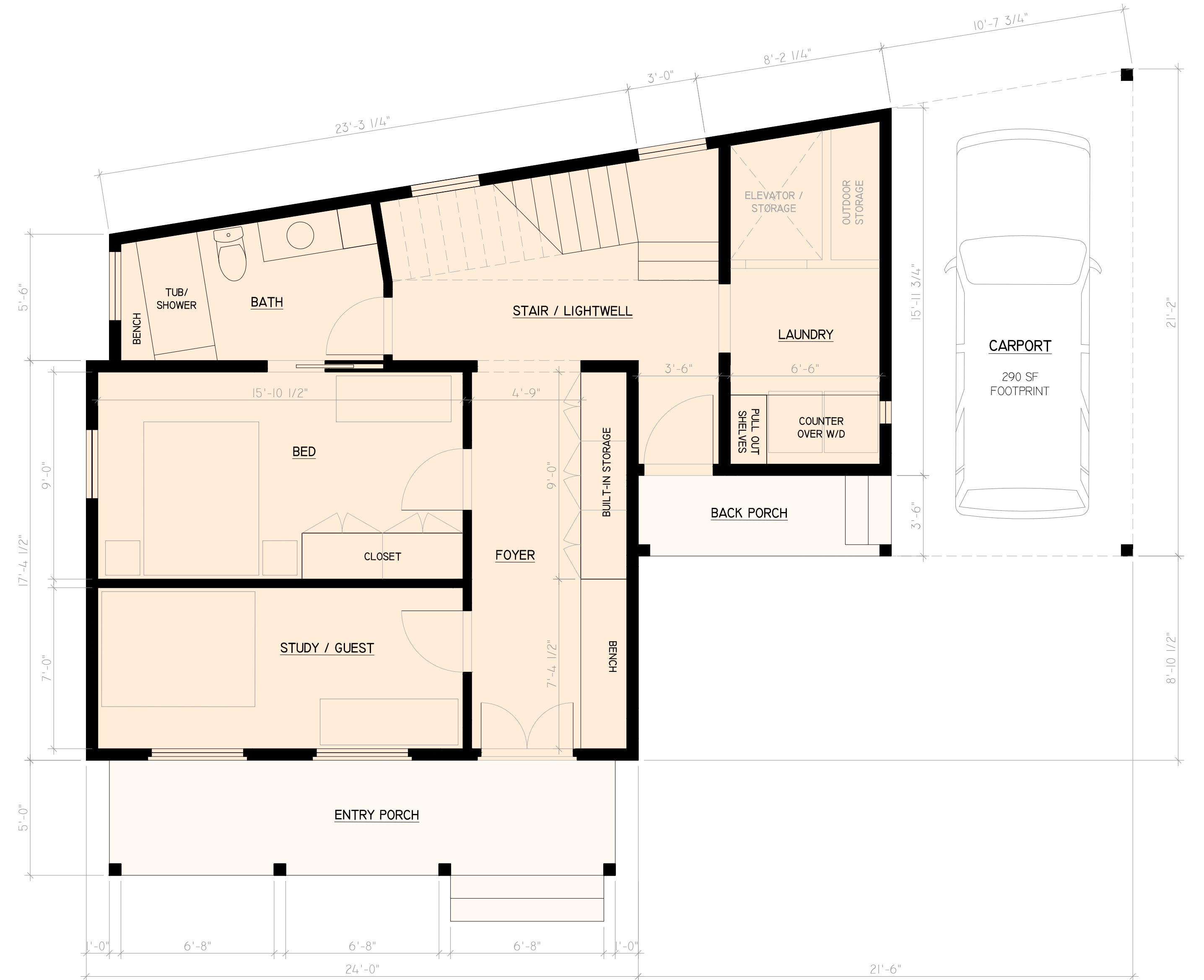
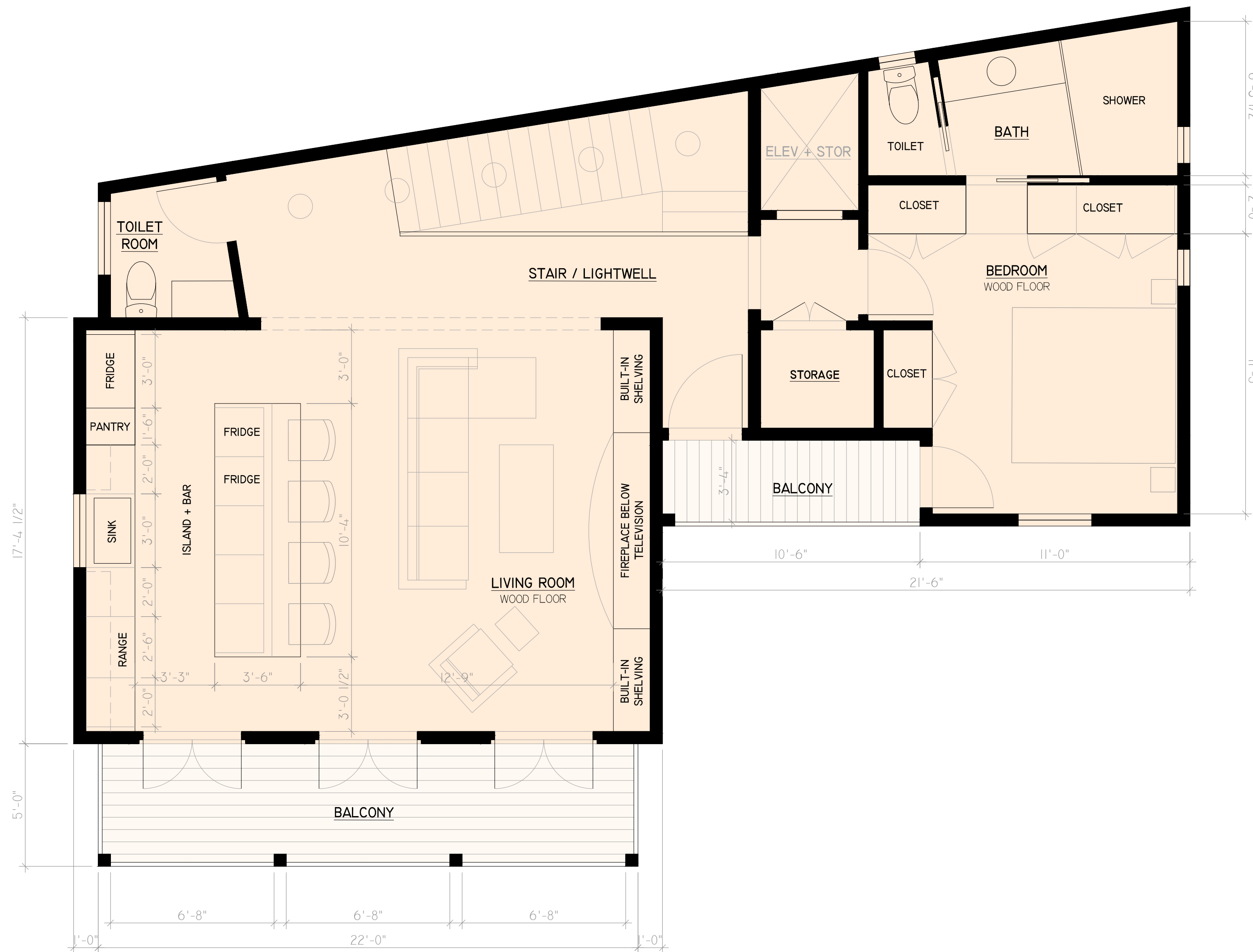
Scale of Feet

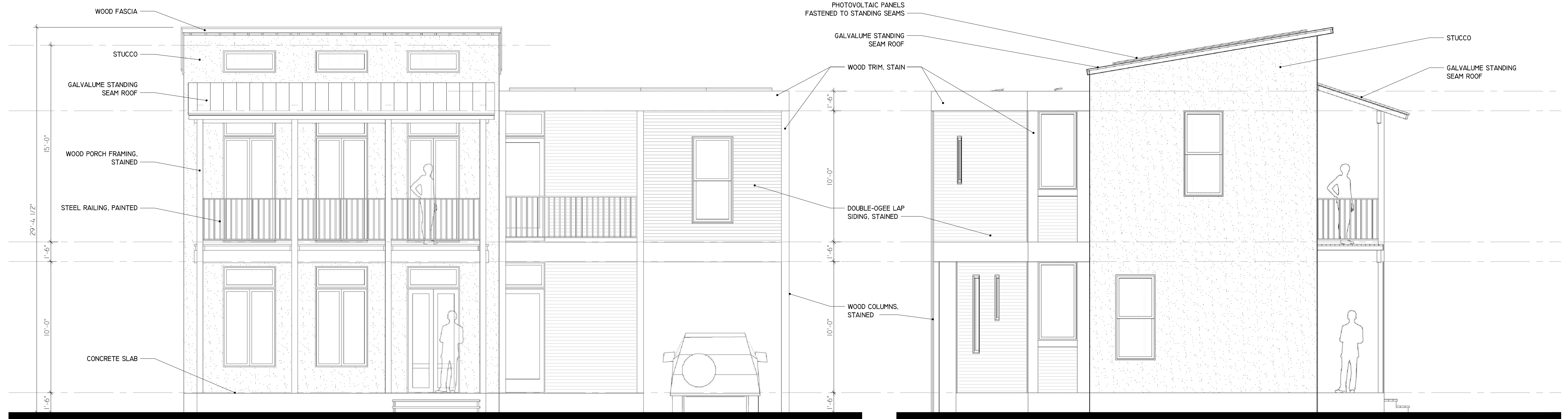




 **SITE PLAN**
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

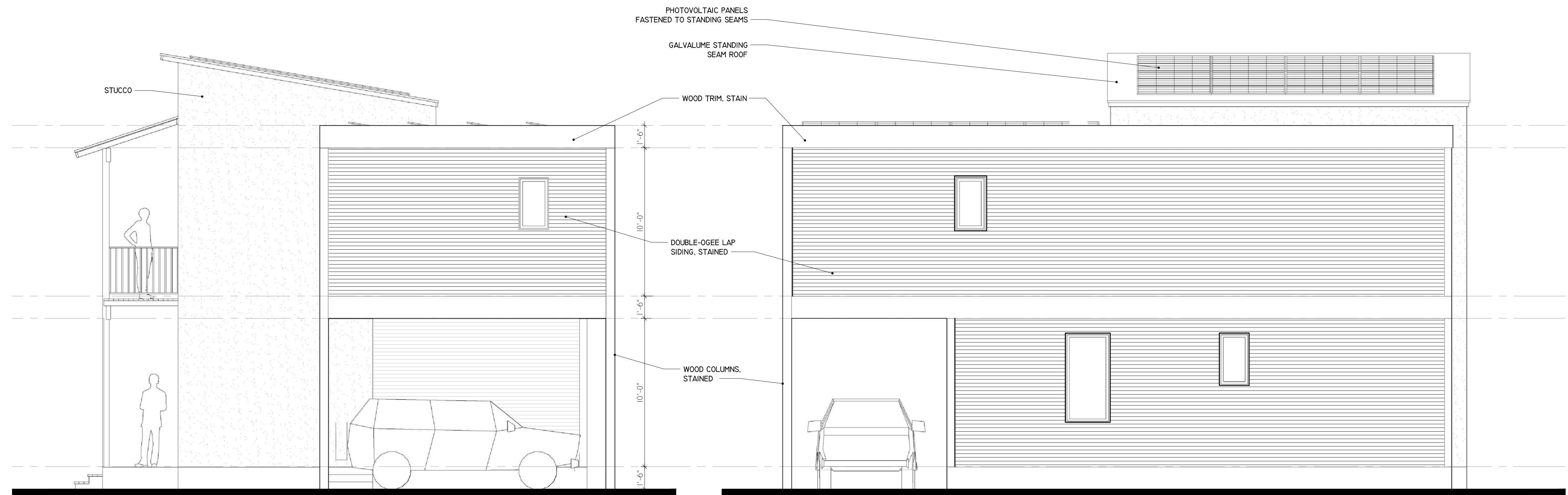
BARRERA STREET





NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

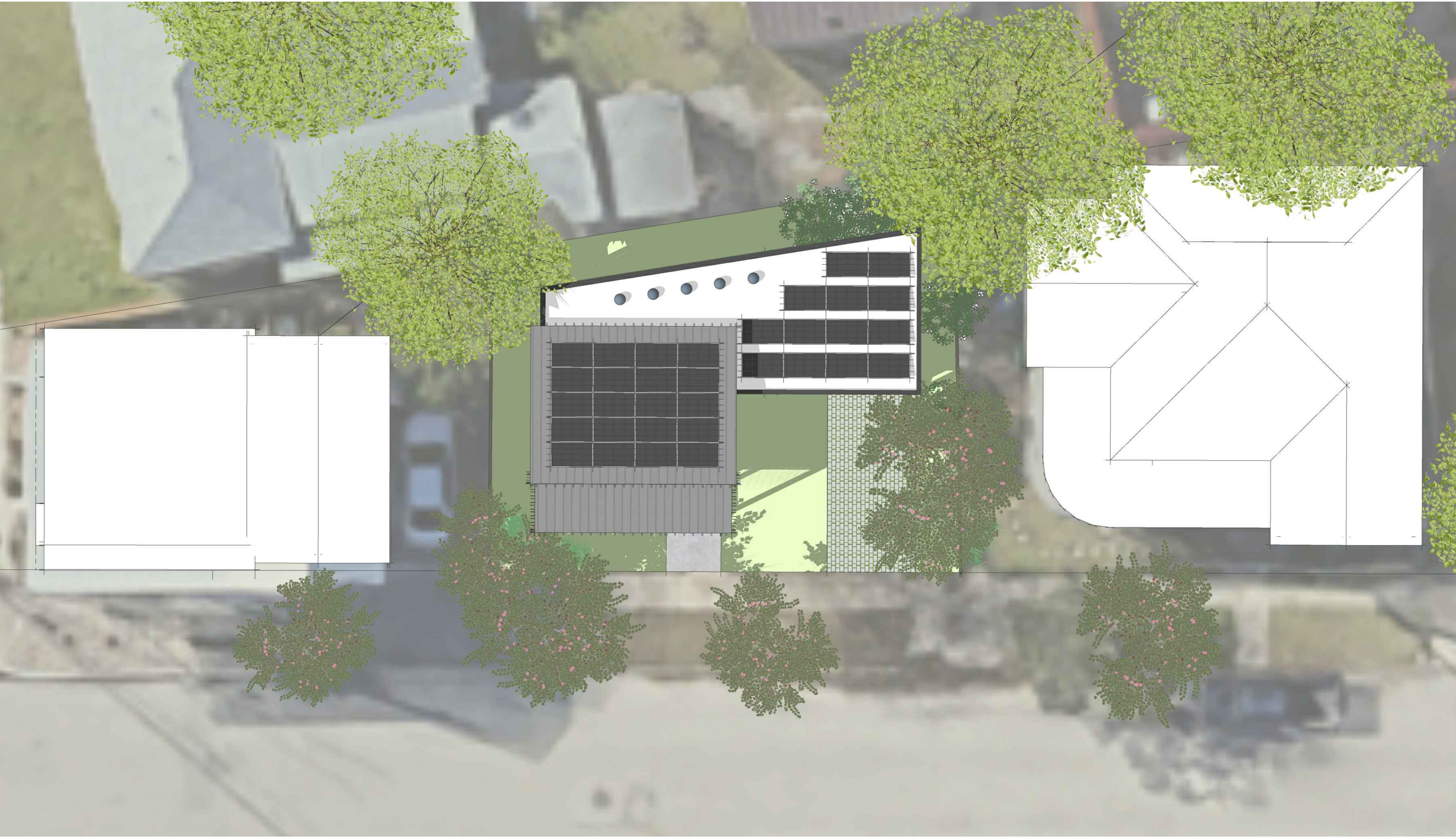














CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**OFFICE OF HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Historic and Design Review Commission
Design Review Committee Report

DATE: April 26, 2022

HDRC Case #:

Address: 228 Barrera

Meeting Location: Webex

APPLICANT: Nick Melde/Architexas

DRC Members present: Monica Savino, Roland Mazuca, Lisa Garza (Conservation Society)

Staff Present: Edward Hall, Hannah Leighner

Others present:

REQUEST: Construction of a 2-story residential structure

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

NM: Overview of design intent

MS: Comments on roof form – utilize a roof form more common with those found historically within the district.

ALL: Discussion regarding roof forms; gables in context in Lavaca.

NM: Questions regarding the appropriateness of a linear light monitor to act as a transom.

ALL: Discussion regarding materials.

LG: More flexibility may be provided for areas of the construction that is not visible from the street. The design could be revised to better conform with the Guidelines and style of historic structures and still feature elements to not appear historic.

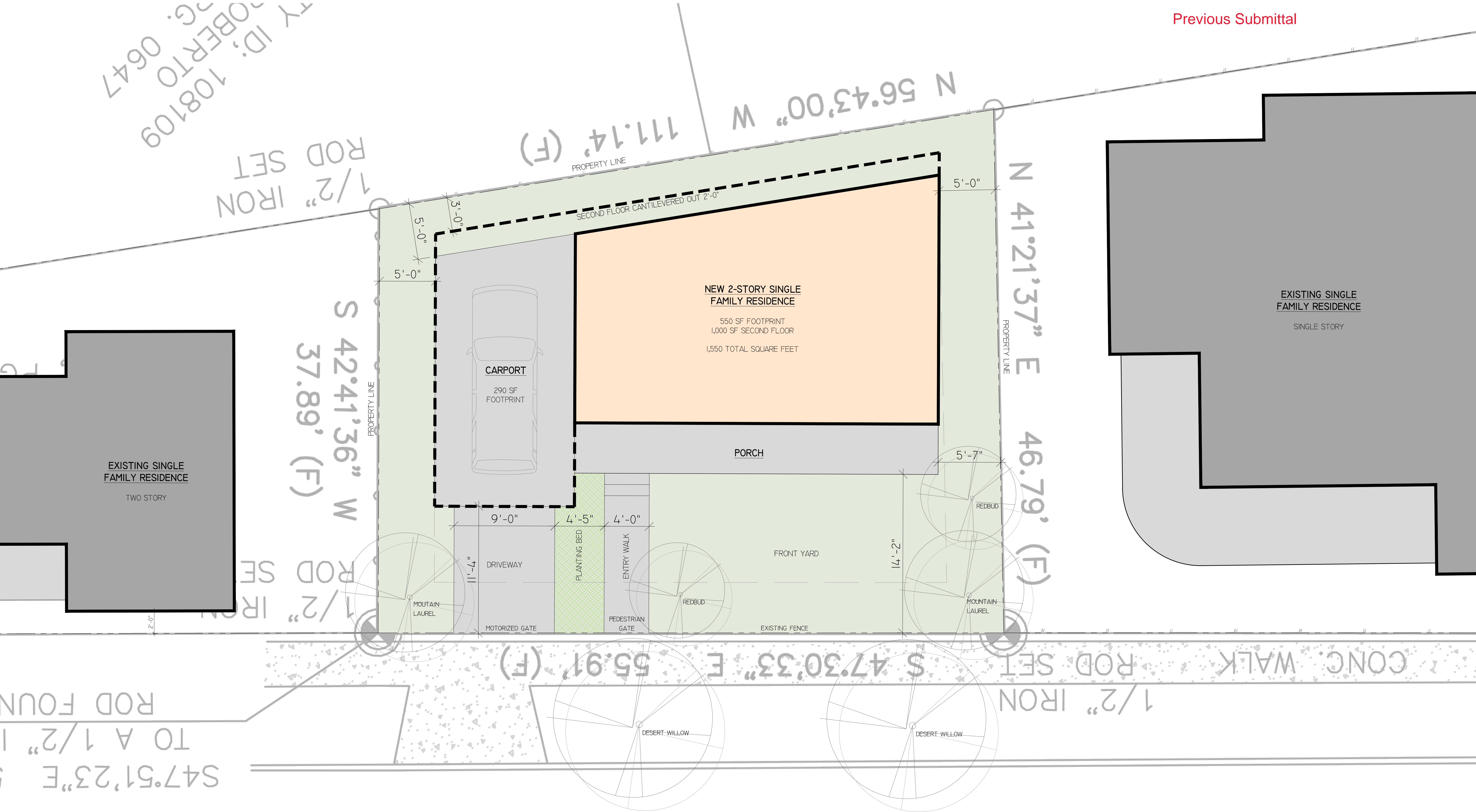
NM: Goal in the carport design was to marry to carport massing element and the primary volume of the house; similar to direction given to previous new construction.

MS: Reconsider the hierarchy of forms that make up the massing of the house – maybe shift the house forward and the garage back some. Also address human scale on gallery element on the back. Revise the roof form.

LG: Propose a more traditional roof form.

LG: Consider a simplification of materials or use them to unify the design.

OVERALL COMMENTS:



 **SITE PLAN**
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

