BZA Application No. 21200

2915-2917 Dumbarton Street, NW 2915 Dumbarton St NW, LLC December 4, 2024



Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.21200
EXHIBIT NO.29

Requested Relief & Agency/Community Support

- The Property is located in the R-3/GT zone and currently consists of two single-family dwellings.
- The previous owner, Ms. Marilyn Melkonian, had intended to consolidate the two existing buildings into a single-family residence. The initial step in this process was the creation of a new record lot, which combined the tax lots in July 2023. Unfortunately, Ms. Melkonian passed away in February 2024 before the work could commence.
- The Applicant is proposing to subdivide the lot back into its historical condition two nonconforming (in terms of lot dimension) lots.
- Accordingly, the Applicant seeks variance relief from the minimum lot dimension requirements of Section D-202.1 of the Zoning Regulations.
- The Office of Planning recommends approval.
- ANC 2E voted unanimously in support.

History of the Property & The Proposed Project

- The creation of the new record lot in 2023 resulted in a nonconforming condition, as it left two separate buildings on a single record lot. Technically, such a subdivision should not have been allowed, as it created this noncompliant zoning condition.
- Typically, the Zoning Administrator would not approve a plat that creates a nonconforming condition, but in this instance, the subdivision and the intended combination of the buildings could not occur simultaneously. Consequently, the approval of the subdivision by the OZA was contingent upon the subsequent unification of the two buildings into one structure, thereby rectifying the nonconformity. However, due to Ms. Melkonian's passing, this contingency was not fulfilled, leaving the existing nonconforming condition.
- The Applicant now seeks to maintain the two separate dwellings in their historical use and configuration. The problem with subdividing Lot 139 back to its historical condition is that the previously existing lots were nonconforming in terms of lot dimensions, and therefore, variance relief is required to restore the lots to that historical condition. The historical lot dimensions for each of the two proposed lots are 15 feet in width and 1,800 square feet in area.



The Application Satisfies the Requirements for Area Variance Relief				
Criteria	Project			
Extraordinary or Exceptional Condition affecting the Subject Property	The Property is unique due to its history regarding the subdivision that took place in 2023 and the subsequent passing of the property owner before she could satisfy a condition subsequent to the approved record lot subdivision recorded in 2023.			
Practical Difficulty if the Zoning Regulations were Strictly Enforced.	Given the current configuration of the Property as two separate single-family dwellings, enforcing strict compliance with the zoning regulations would result in significant practical difficulties, including (i) forcing the property owner to combine the two homes into one; (ii) causing the disruptive and expensive reconfiguration of the interior, including relocating rooms and eliminating a kitchen. One can see how such a renovation would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. This would also eliminate one of the two dwelling units, resulting in an excessively large home that is out of character with the surrounding homes. Ms. Melkonian's choice to undertake such a consolidation was a personal preference. It would not be fair to her estate or a subsequent purchaser to force them to follow Ms. Melkonian's personal preference, and lose a housing unit in the process.			

that should have never been approved in the first place.

the homes in 1881.

aligning with the intent of the regulation.

an owner to combine two separate homes would be unprecedented regulatory action to correct a non-compliance

The restoration of the historic lot dimensions, while technically non-compliant by current standards, resolves the

more recent non-compliance of having two buildings on a single record lot. The existing minimum lot dimension

nonconformity is a legitimate, historically recognized condition, and is consistent with the original construction of

Title 11, Subtitle A-303.1 of the DC Zoning Regulations underscores the principle that nonconforming structures when modified, should ideally be brought into greater conformity with current zoning standards or, at the very

least, should not exacerbate the nonconformance. This provision supports the merit of approving the subdivision,

as it would restore the original, historically nonconforming condition, thereby preventing further nonconformity and

Granting relief improves the compliance situation with the Property, as approval just keeps the Property status quo and restores the long-existing legally nonconforming lot dimension condition while immediately eliminating the current violation of Section A-301.3 of the Zoning Regulations – having two buildings on a single record lot. Finally, the overall situation is so unique as to preclude the possibility of an approval granting any detriment to the

integrity of the Regulations; i.e. there is no chance of an unfavorable precedent being set by an approval.

Relief Can be

Granted

without Substantial

Detriment to

the Public

Good and without Impairing the

Intent,

Purpose, and Integrity of the

Zone Plan.









DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR

I hereby certify that on this plat on which the Office of the Surveyor

has drawn the dimensions of this lot, I have accurately and

1) all existing buildings and improvements - including parking

spaces, covered porches, decks and retaining walls over four feet

above grade, and any existing face-on-line or party wall labeled as such, well as projections and improvements in public space - with

2) all proposed demolition or raze of existing buildings duly labeled

feet above grade, any existing face-on-line or party wall labeled as such, as well as projections and improvements in public space and

the improvements used to satisfy pervious surface or green area ratio

as such; all proposed buildings and improvements - including parking spaces, covered porches, decks and retaining walls over four

requirements - with complete and accurate dimensions, in conformity with the plans submitted with building permit

3) any existing chimney or vent on an adjacent property that is

1) my depiction on this plat, as detailed above, is accurate and

2) there is no elevation change exceeding ten feet measured between

lot lines; or if so, this elevation change is depicted on a site plan

3) I have have not (circle one) filed a subdivision application with

4) I have have not (circle one) filed a subdivision application with

SHEET 1 OF 2

complete as of the date of my signature hereon;

submitted with the plans for this permit application;

completely depicted and labeled the following:

complete and accurate dimensions;

located within 10 feet of this lot.

I also hereby certify that:

the Office of the Surveyor;

the Office of Tax & Revenue; and

application

Washington, D.C., July 30, 2024

Plat for Building Permit of :

SQUARE 1241 LOT 139

Scale: 1 inch = 20 feet

Recorded in Book 221 Page 139

Receipt No. 24-04593

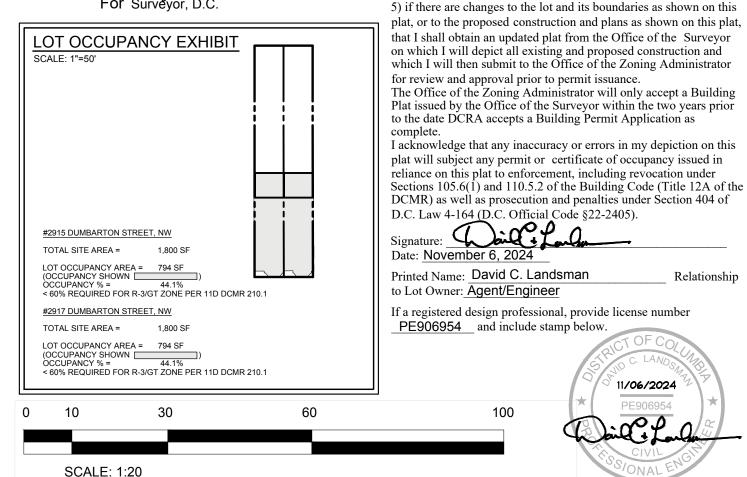
Drawn by: A.S.

SR-24-04593(2024)

Furnished to: COBA PROPERTIES

"I hereby certify that the dimensions and configuration of the lot(s) hereon depicted are consistent with the records of the Office of the Surveyor unless otherwise noted, but may not reflect actual field measurements. The dimensions and configuration of A&T lots are provided by the Office of Tax and Revenue and may not necessarily agree with the deed description(s)."





- All proposed demolition or raze of existing buildings is omitted for clarity, refer to Sheet CIV100 and CIV101 for additional details
- Existing chimneys and/or vents on adjacent properties within 10 feet of the subject property are not shown. Not applicable to project scope or reviews, and/or these locations are inaccessible
- Existing conditions shown hereon are based upon a Location Survey prepared by Duley & Associates, Inc.,dated August, 2024.

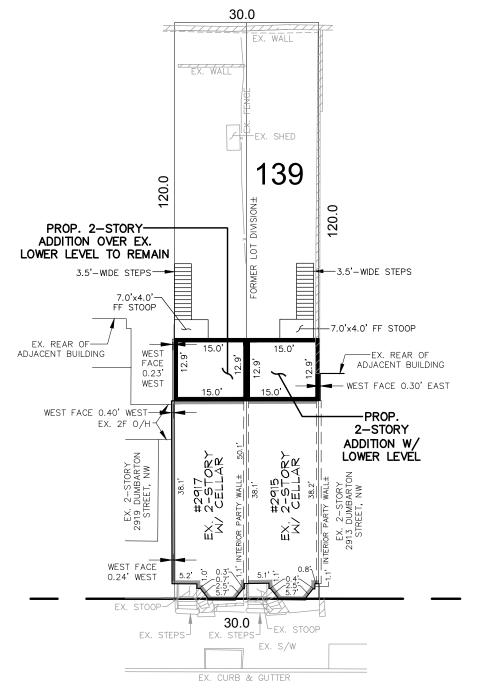
SQUARE 1241

LEGEND: 2F = SECOND FLOOR EX. = EXISTINGFF = FIRST FLOOR

O/H = OVERHEAD S/W = SIDEWALK

W/ = WITH

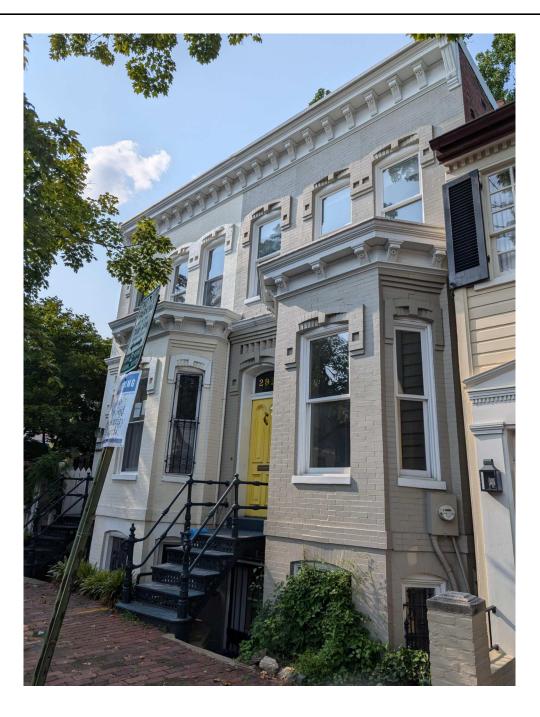
= RETAINING WALL



DUMBARTON STREET, N.W.

Board of Zoning Adjustment District of Columbia **CASE NO.21200 EXHIBIT NO.25C**

SR-24-04593(2024) SHEET 2 OF 2



LOCATION MAP



NORTH

SCOPE OF WORK

TWO INDIVIDUAL DWELLINGS:

- RENOVATE EXISTING TWO ROWHOMES AS INDIVIDUAL UNITS ADDITION AT REAR FACADE. TWO STORY OVER EXISTING FOOTPRINT AT 2917. TWO-STORY ADDITION W/BASEMENT AT 2915 - RESTORATION OF FRONT FACADE WINDOWS AND EXTERIOR DOORS
- RESTORE/REPAIR FRONT STOOP, BASEMENT STEPS AS NEEDED - NEW CEDAR/WOOD FENCE

ONE DWELLING UNIT:

- RENOVATE EXISTING TWO ROWHOMES AS ONE DWELLING UNIT - ADDITION AT REAR FACADE. TWO STORY OVER EXISTING
- ADDITION AT REAR FACADE. TWO STORY OVER EXISTING
 FOOTPRINT AT 2917. TWO-STORY ADDITION W/BASEMENT AT 2915
 RESTORATION OF FRONT FACADE WINDOWS AND EXTERIOR DOORS
 RESTORE/REPAIR FRONT STOOP, BASEMENT STEPS AS NEEDED
 NEW CEDAR/WOOD FENCE

NOTE: 2915 & 2917 WERE PREVIOUSLY CONVERTED INTO A SINGLE LOT, BUT NO CONSTRUCTION WORK HAD TAKEN PLACE.

SHEET TITLE	SHEET NUM.
Cover Sheet	A1.0
Existing Floor Plans	A1.1
Existing Elevations	A1.2
Existing Elevations	A1.3
Two Individual Dwellings - Proposed Plans	A2.1
Two Individual Dwellings - Proposed Elevations	A2.2
Two Individual Dwelings - Proposed Elevations	A2.3
Two Individual Dwellings - Site Plans	A2.4

DRAWING LIST

One Dwelling Unit - Proposed Plans	A3.1
One Dwelling Unit - Proposed Elevations	A3.2
One Dwelling Unit - Proposed Elevations	A3.3
One Dwelling Unit - Site Plans	A3.4

Existing Photos - Front	P.1
Existing Photos - Rear	P.2

Existing Conditions Site Plan	CIV100

CONTACT INFORMATION

OWNER:

2915 DUMBARTON ST NW LLC

1716 14TH ST NW STE 300 WASHINGTON DC, 20009-7831

ARCHITECT:

MCD STUDIO, LLC

4948 ST. ELMO AVENUE, SUITE 304 BETHESDA, MD 20814 CONTACT: MATT MCDONALD PHONE: 301-215-7277

Rowhome

mcdstudio

Renovation/Addition

24-048 Project Number: Client Name: Owner

As Built Conditions ☐ Preliminary Design Design Development

Project Status:

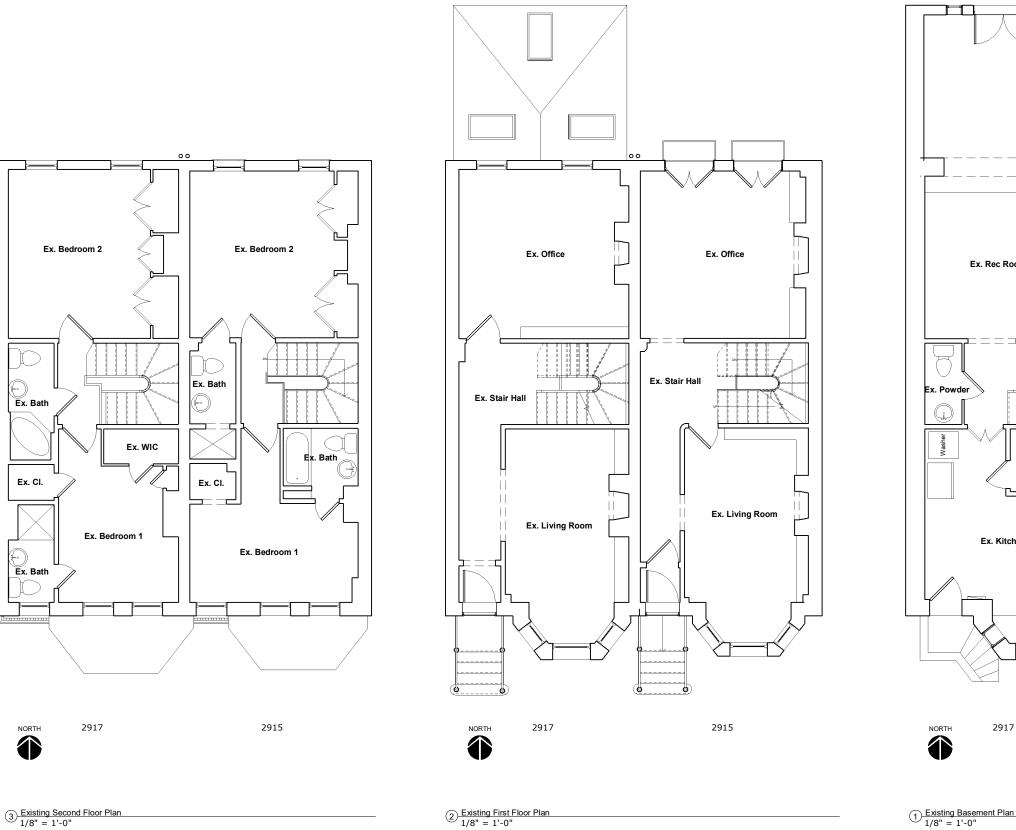
Permit Submission
Construction Documents Construction Administration
Historic Concept Review

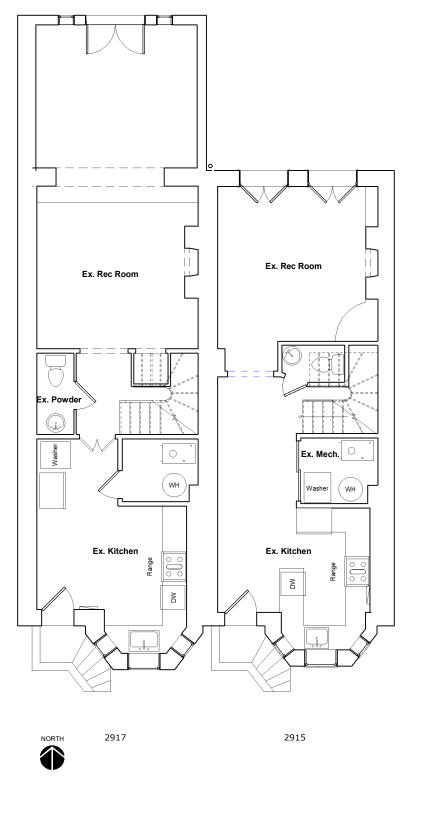
Drawing Issue Date:

Checked by:

Cover Sheet







Renovation/Addition 2915 & 2917 Dumbarton Street NW Washington, DC 20007 Rowhome

Project Number: Client Name:

Owner Project Status:

mcdstudio
4948 St. Elmo Ave, Suite 304
Bethesda, MD 20814
P: (301) 215-7277
www.mcdstudio.com

Project Status:

As Built Conditions
Preliminary Design
Design Development
Permit Submission
Construction Documents
Construction Administration
Historic Concept Review Drawing Issue Date: 10/17/2024

24-048

Drawn by: Checked by: Scale: Sheet Name: MCD 1/4" = 1'-0"

Existing Floor Plans



- EXSTG. CLG. 2 20' - 2 3/4" EXSTG. FLR. 2 11' - 1 1/2" EXSTG. CLG. 1 10' - 1 1/2" EXSTG. FLR. 1 0' - 0" EXSTG. BSMT. CLG. 2917 2915 EXSTG. BSMT. -8' - 11 1/2"

2 Existing Rear Elevation
1/8" = 1'=0"

1/8" = 1'=0"

Renovation/Addition Rowhome 2915 & 2917 Dumbarton Street Washington, DC 20007

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www.mcdstudio.com

24-048 Project Number: Client Name: Owner Project Status:

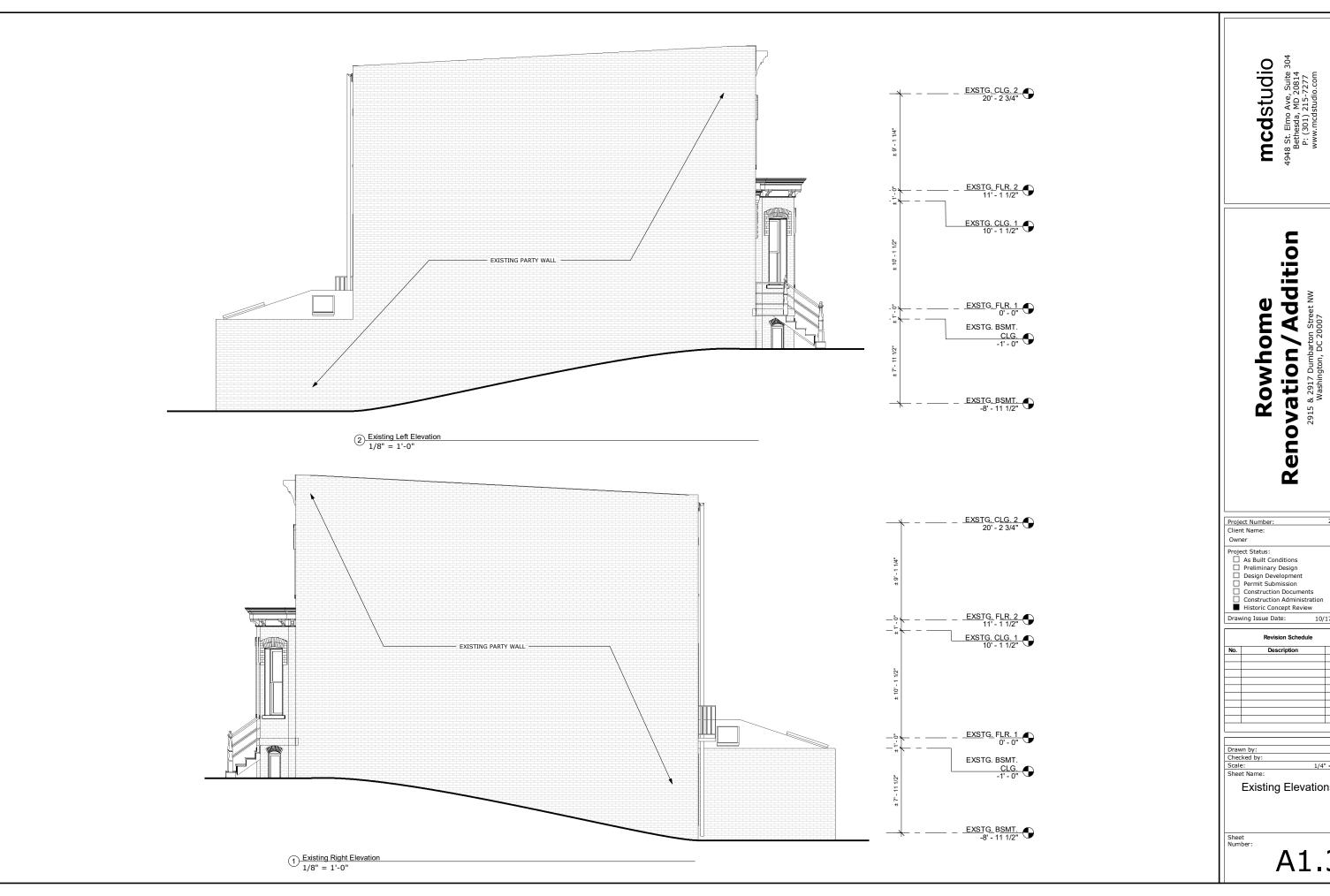
Construction Administration
Historic Concept Review Drawing Issue Date: 10/17/2024

Revision Schedule

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Existing Elevations

A1.2



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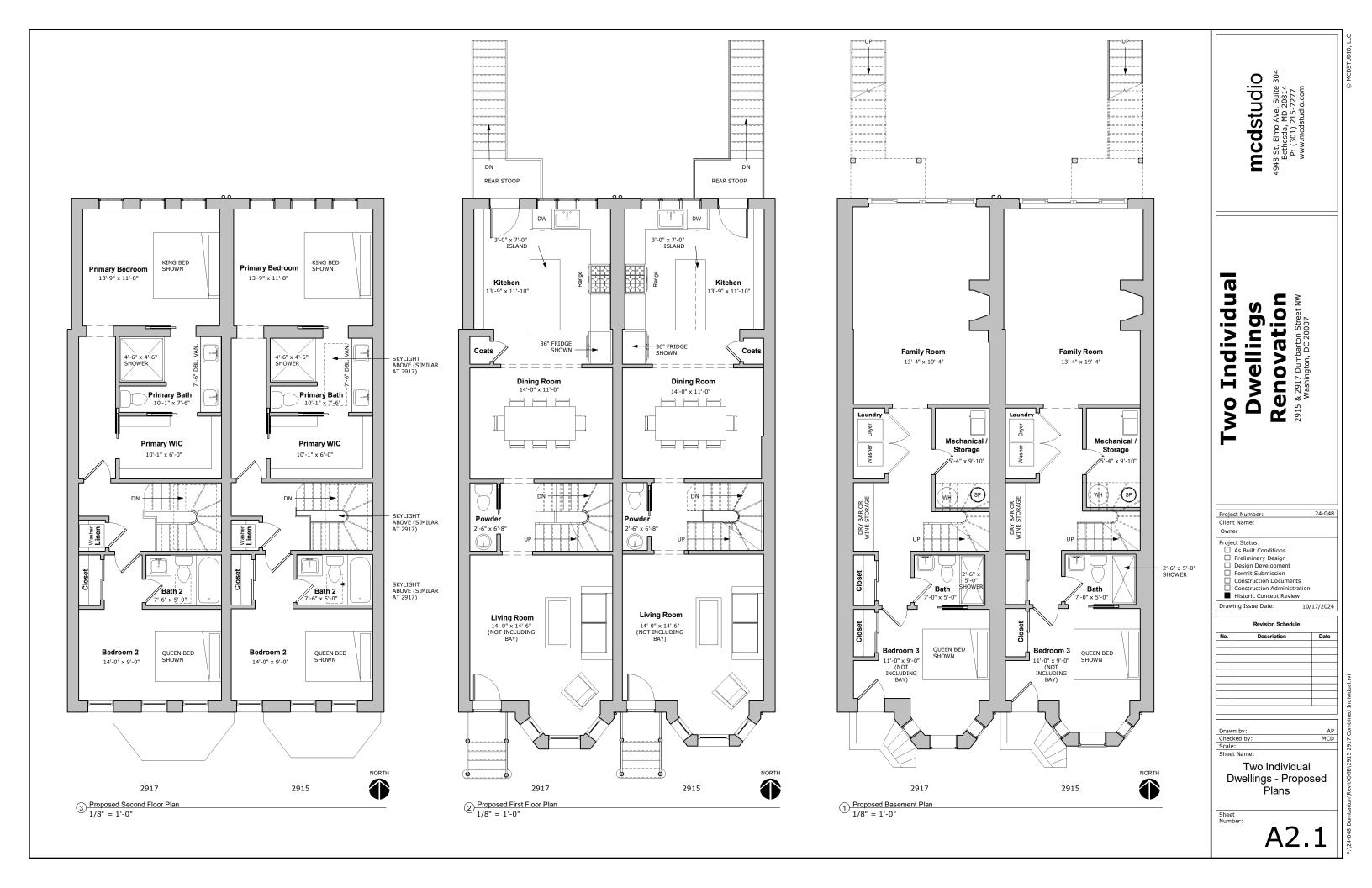
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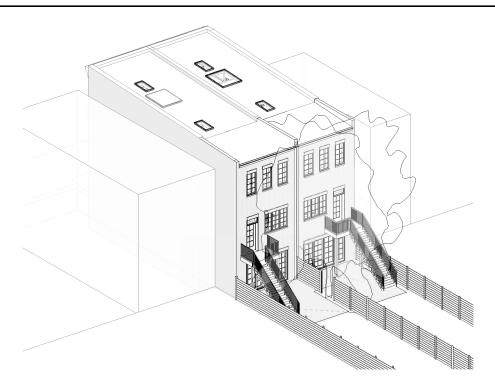
24-048

MCD 1/4" = 1'-0"

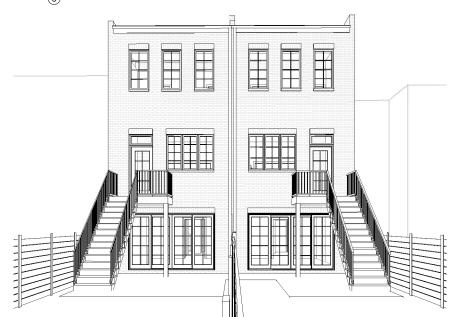
Existing Elevations

A1.3





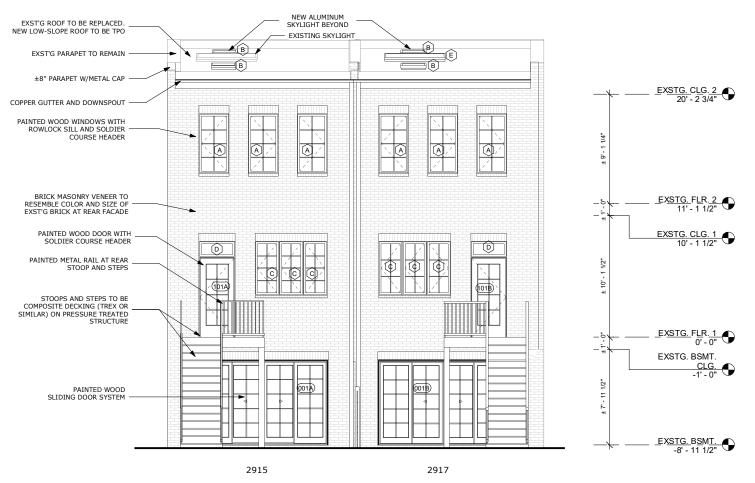




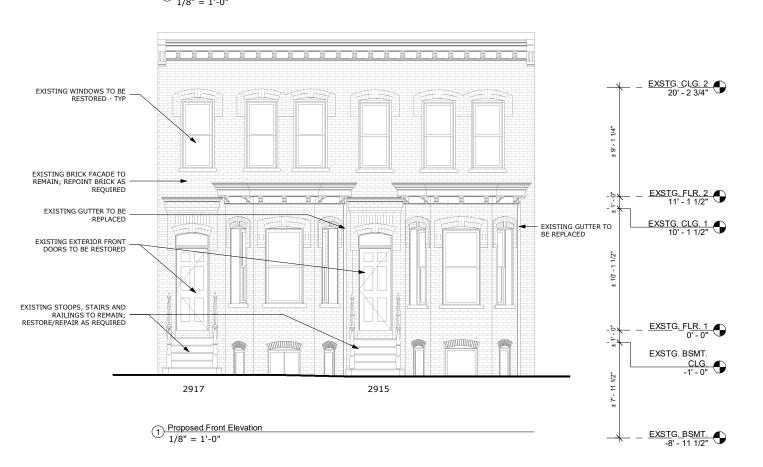
(4) Proposed Rear View

				Window Schedule	
Type		Rough O	pening		
Mark	Count	Width	Height	Description	Comments
		•		•	
Α	6	2' - 6"	5' - 0"	CASEMENT	
В	4	2' - 0"	4' - 0"	SKYLIGHT	
С	6	2' - 0"	4' - 6"	CASEMENT	
D	2	3' - 0"	1' - 4"	TRANSOM	
E	1	6' - 0"	5' - 0"	SKYLIGHT	
Total: 19	9				

	New Door Schedule					
Door Number	Width	Height	Description	Comments		
	•	•	•			
001A	10' - 8"	7' - 0"	4 PANEL SLIDING DOOR SYSTEM			
001B	10' - 8"	7' - 0"	4 PANEL SLIDING DOOR SYSTEM			
101A	3' - 0"	6' - 8"	EXTERIOR SINGLE FRENCH DOOR			
101B	3' - 0"	6' - 8"	EXTERIOR SINGLE FRENCH DOOR			
Total: 4						



Proposed Rear Elevation
1/8" = 1'-0"



Two Individual Dwellings Renovation

2915 & 2917 Dumbarton Street Washington, DC 20007

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Project Number: 24-048

Client Name:
Owner

Project Status:

As Built Conditions
Preliminary Design
Design Development
Permit Submission
Construction Documents
Construction Administration
Historic Concept Review
Drawing Issue Date: 10/17/2024

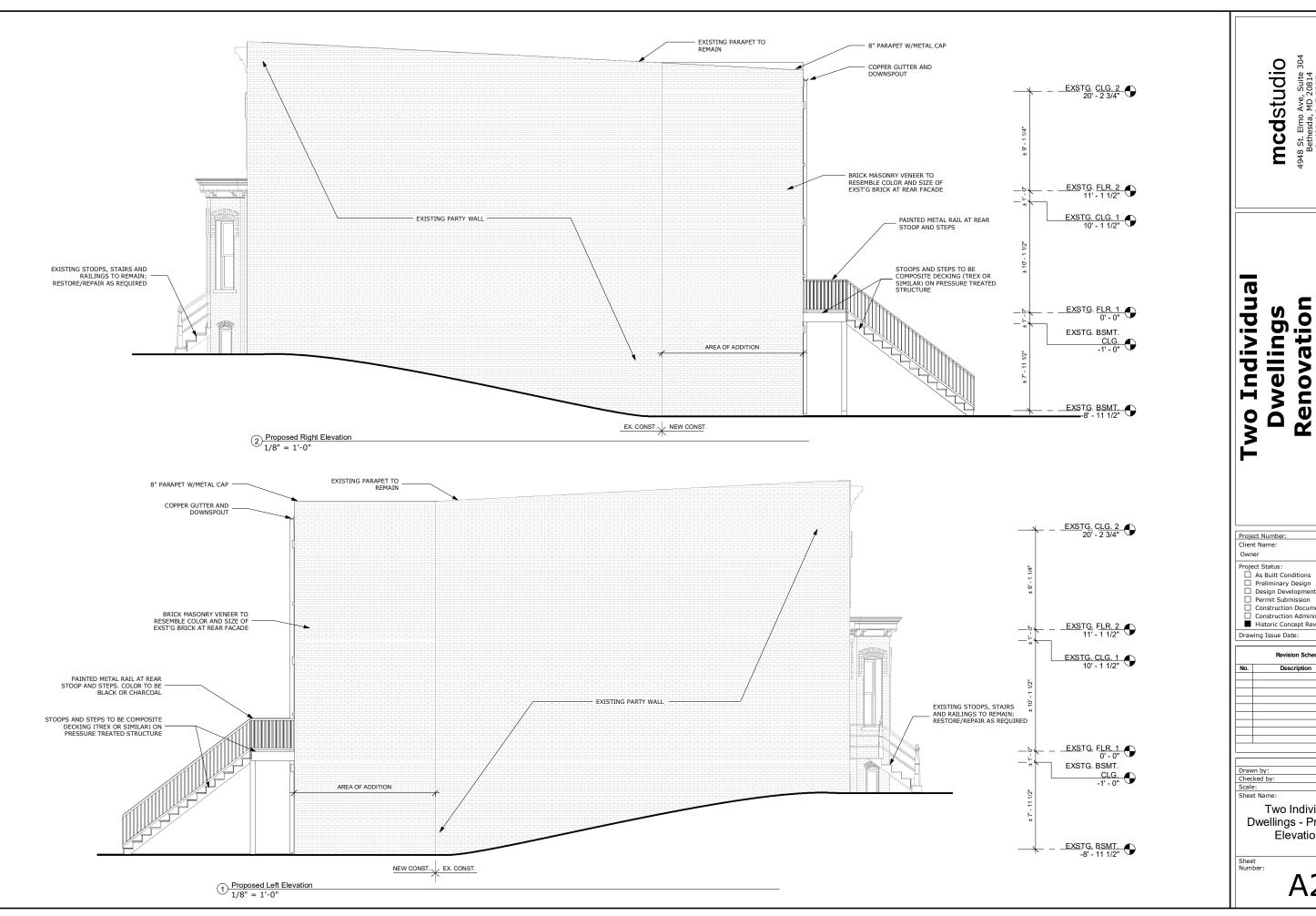
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No. Description Date

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Checked by: MCD
Scale:
Sheet Name:
Two Individual

Dwellings - Proposed
Elevations

Sheet

A2.2



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Renovation

2915 & 2917 Dumbarton Street Washington, DC 20007

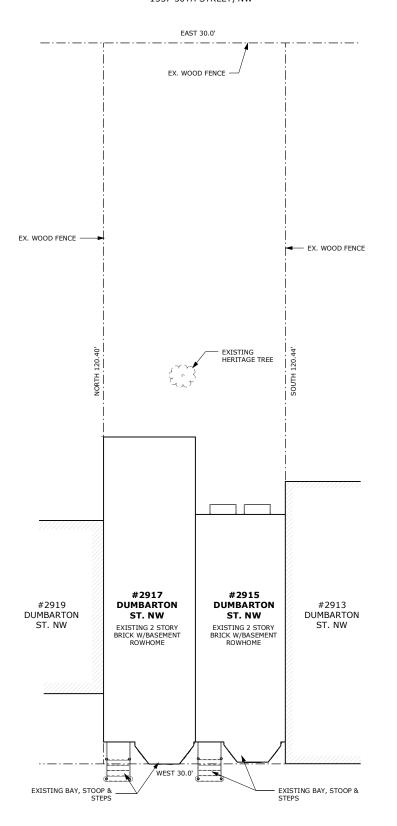
24-048

Permit Submission
Construction Documents Construction Administration
Historic Concept Review Drawing Issue Date: 10/17/2024 Revision Schedule

MCD

Two Individual **Dwellings - Proposed** Elevations

2 Proposed SitePlan 1/8" = 1'-0" 1337 30TH STREET, NW



1 Existing Site Plan
1/8" = 1'-0"

Two Individual Dwellings Renovation

2915 & 2917 Dumbarton Street Washington, DC 20007

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Project Number: 24-048
Client Name:
Owner
Project Status:

☐ Preliminary Design
☐ Design Development
☐ Permit Submission
☐ Construction Documents
☐ Construction Administration
☐ Historic Concept Review

Drawing Issue Date: 10/17/2024

Revision Schedule

Description Date

 Drawn by:
 AP

 Checked by:
 MCD

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

 Sheet Name:
 1/8" = 1'-0"

Two Individual Dwellings - Site Plans

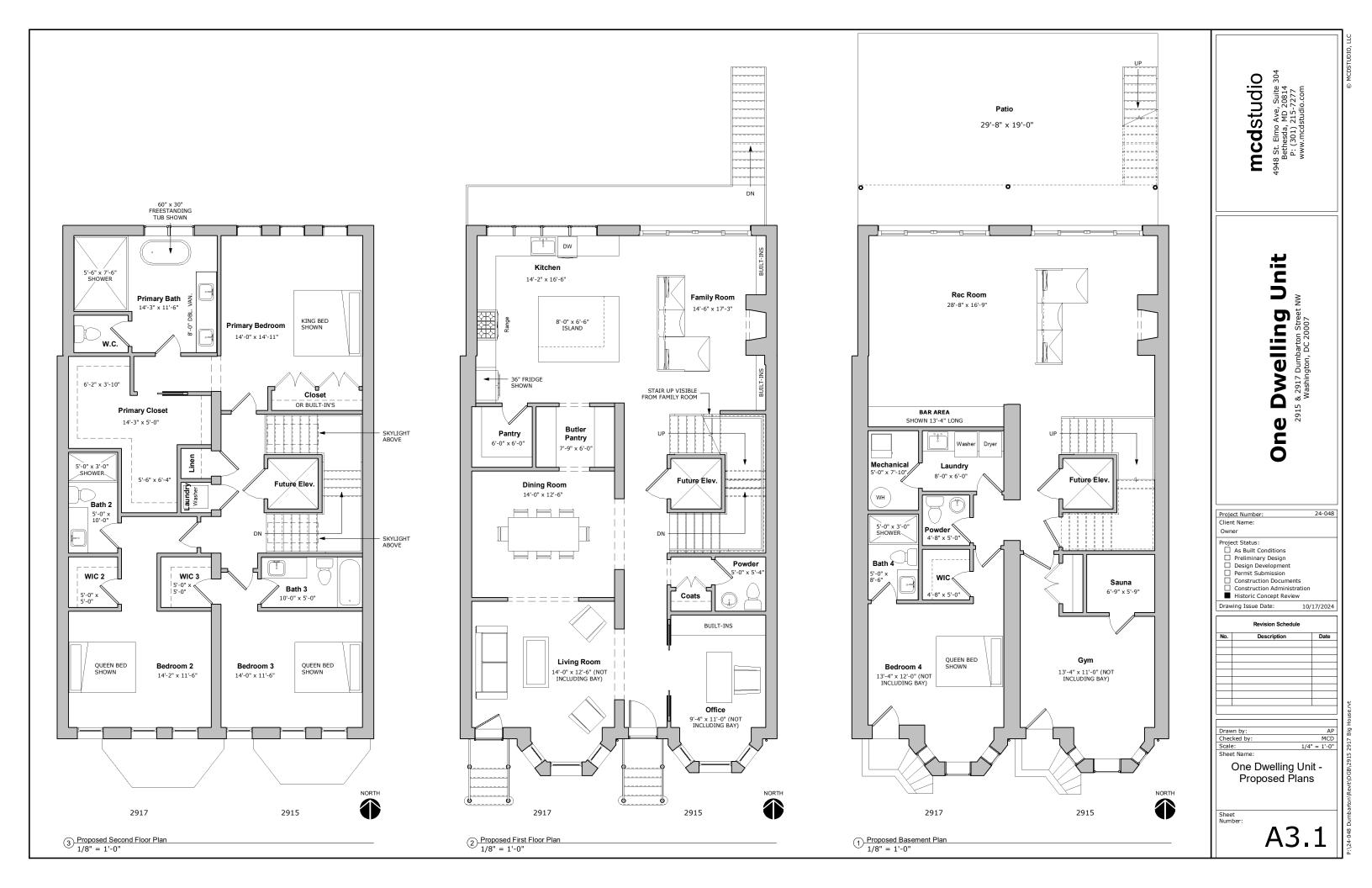
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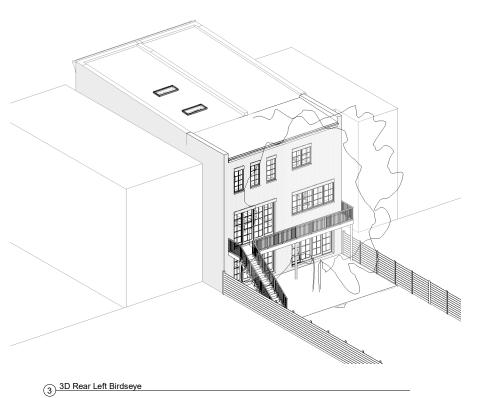
A2.4

1/8" = 1'-0"

ual

Plans







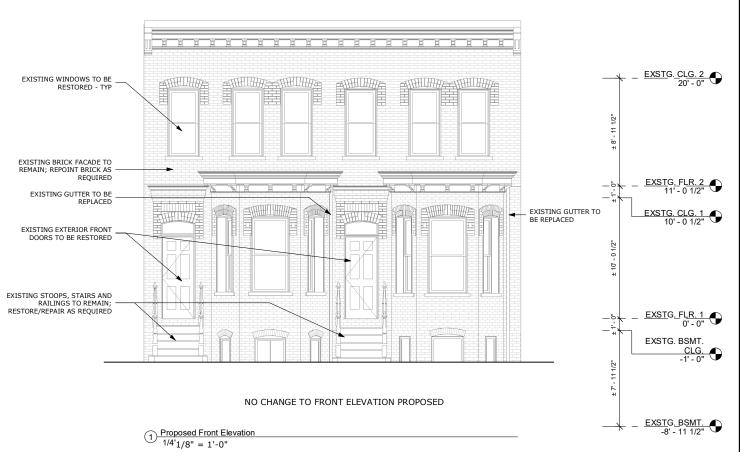
	Window Schedule					
Туре		Rough Opening				
Mark	Count	Width	Height	Description	Comments	
Α	3	2' - 6"	5' - 0"	CASEMENT		
В	4	2' - 9"	4' - 6"	CASEMENT		
С	2	2' - 6"	4' - 0"	CASEMENT		
D	2	2' - 0"	5' - 0"	SKYLIGHT		
Total: 11	Total: 11					

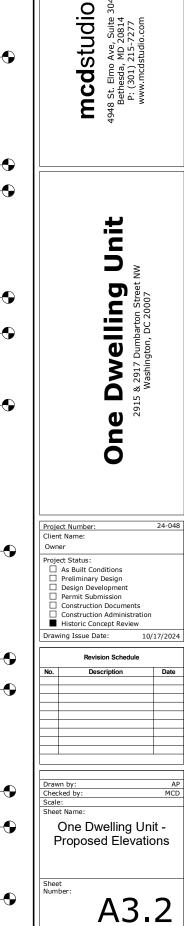
(4) Proposed Rear View

			New Doo	r Schedule	
Door					
Number	Width	Height	Description	า	Comments
001	11' - 0"	7' - 0"	4 PANEL SLIDING DOOR SYSTEM	oor 4 Panel Clac	
002	11' - 0"	7' - 0"	4 PANEL SLIDING DOOR SYSTEM	oor 4 Panel Clac	
101	11' - 0"	8' - 0"	4 PANEL SLIDING DOOR SYSTEM	oor 4 Panel Clac	
101 Total: 3	11' - 0"	8' - 0"		oor 4 Panel Clac	

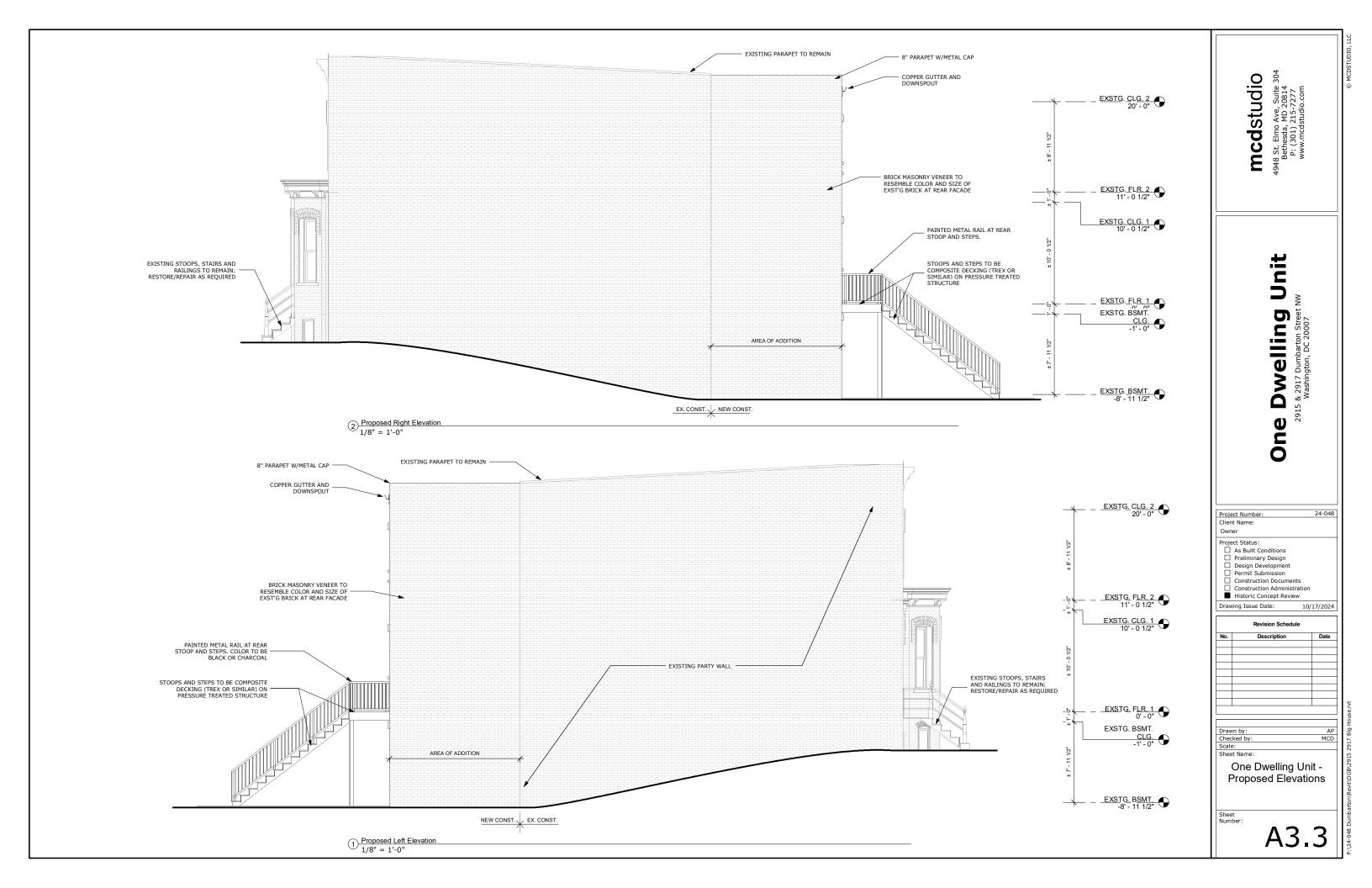


Proposed Rear Elevation
1/4'1/8" = 1'-0"





oarton\Revit\OGB\Z915_2917 Big House.rvt



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Unit

Dwelling & 2917 Dumbarton Stree Washington, DC 20007 One

П				
	Project Number: 24-048			
	Client Name:			
	Owner			
	Project Status:			
	☐ As Built Conditions			
	☐ Preliminary Design			
	☐ Design Development			
	☐ Permit Submission			
	☐ Construction Documents			
	☐ Construction Administration			
	Historic Concept Review			
	Drawing Issue Date: 10/	17/2024		

Revision Schedule					
No. Description Dat					
	Revision Schedule Description				

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Checked by:	MCD
Scale:	1/8" = 1'-0"
Sheet Name:	

One Dwelling Unit - Site Plans