

ISSUE: Permit to Demolish/Capsulate (full) and Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations

APPLICANT: Russell and Michelle Shearer

LOCATION: Old and Historic Alexandria District
609 Queen Street

ZONE: RM/Residential Townhouse Zone

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **approval** of the Permit to Demolish/Capsulate (full) and Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations, as submitted, the following conditions:

1. Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-746-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease temporarily in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds. The language noted above shall be included on all final site plan sheets involving any ground disturbing activities.
2. The applicant shall not allow any metal detection and/or artifact collection to be conducted on the property, unless authorized by Alexandria Archaeology. Failure to comply shall result in project delays. The language noted above shall be included on all final site plan sheets involving any ground disturbing activities.
3. All required archaeological preservation measures shall be completed in compliance with Section 11-411 of the Zoning Ordinance.

GENERAL NOTES TO THE APPLICANT

1. **APPEAL OF DECISION:** In accordance with the Zoning Ordinance, if the Board of Architectural Review denies or approves an application in whole or in part, the applicant or opponent may appeal the Board's decision to City Council on or before 14 days after the decision of the Board.
2. **COMPLIANCE WITH BAR POLICIES:** All materials must comply with the BAR's adopted policies unless otherwise specifically approved.
3. **BUILDING PERMITS:** Most projects approved by the Board of Architectural Review require the issuance of one or more construction permits by Department of Code Administration (including signs). The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary construction permits after receiving Board of Architectural Review approval. Contact Code Administration, Permit Center, 4850 Mark Center Drive, Suite 2015, 703-746-4200 for further information.
4. **ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS AND PERMITS TO DEMOLISH:** Applicants must obtain a copy of the Certificate of Appropriateness or Permit to Demolish PRIOR to applying for a building permit. Contact BAR Staff, Room 2100, City Hall, 703-746-3833, or preservation@alexandriava.gov for further information.
5. **EXPIRATION OF APPROVALS NOTE:** In accordance with Sections 10-106(B), 10-206(B) and 10-307 of the Zoning Ordinance, any Board of Architectural Review approval will expire 12 months from the date of issuance if the work is not commenced and diligently and substantially pursued by the end of that 12-month period.
6. **HISTORIC PROPERTY TAX CREDITS:** Applicants performing extensive, certified rehabilitations of historic properties may separately be eligible for state and/or federal tax credits. Consult with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) prior to initiating any work to determine whether the proposed project may qualify for such credits.



0 20 40 80 Feet

Note: Staff coupled the applications for a Permit to Demolish (BAR #2025-00194) and Certificate of Appropriateness (BAR #2025-00193) for clarity and brevity. The Permit to Demolish requires a roll call vote.

I. APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicant requests a Permit to Demolish/Capsulate (full) and Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations to demolish an existing 5' tall brick garden wall and replace it with a new 6'3" tall wall with a gate and a light fixture, at 609 Queen Street.

Permit to Demolish/Capsulate

The existing wall to be demolished encompasses 105 square feet.

Certificate of Appropriateness

The 8" brick proposed for the new wall will match the brick on the existing wall. The proposed light fixture is a Bevelo French Quarter light which will be suspended from a metal frame arch.

Site context

The alley to the north and behind the subject property, Brocketts Alley, is split between private and public. The southernmost half of the alley, immediately adjacent to the rear of the properties on Queen Street, is private. The northernmost half is public. The proposed wall will border the alley and therefore be visible from a public right of way.

II. HISTORY

Ethelyn Cox, in her book *Historic Alexandria Virginia Street by Street*, indicates that Andrew Schofield built the house at 609 Queen **around 1810**. Per a report by Richard Bierce, Historic Architecture and Preservation Consultant, the kitchen addition at the rear of the house dates from the mid-20th century.

Previous BAR Approvals

- Nov 6, 1991, BAR-91-201: approval of a two-story rear addition.
- Jan 15, 1992, BAR-92-94: approval of cedar shingles on new addition.
- Feb 18, 2022, BAR2022-00082: administrative approval to repoint/repair a chimney.
- Sep 4, 2022, BAR2002-00199: approval to add wooden gate between 607 and 609 Queen.
- Oct 15, 2024, BAR2024-00341 and 2024-00342: approval to add a new window and window well to the front/south elevation, new doors and lighting to the rear/north elevation, the modification of a window and door on the east elevation, and the addition of cellar-level doors and a new window on the east elevation.

III. ANALYSIS

Permit to Demolish/Capsulate

In considering a Permit to Demolish/Capsulate, the Board must consider the following criteria set forth in the Zoning Ordinance, §10-105(B), which relate only to the subject property and not to neighboring properties. The Board has purview of the proposed demolition/capsulation regardless of visibility.

Standard	Description of Standard	Standard Met?
(1)	Is the building or structure of such architectural or historical interest that its moving, removing, capsulating or razing would be to the detriment of the public interest?	No
(2)	Is the building or structure of such interest that it could be made into a historic shrine?	No
(3)	Is the building or structure of such old and unusual or uncommon design, texture and material that it could not be reproduced or be reproduced only with great difficulty?	No
(4)	Would retention of the building or structure help preserve the memorial character of the George Washington Memorial Parkway?	N/A
(5)	Would retention of the building or structure help preserve and protect an historic place or area of historic interest in the city?	No
(6)	Would retention of the building or structure promote the general welfare by maintaining and increasing real estate values, generating business, creating new positions, attracting tourists, students, writers, historians, artists and artisans, attracting new residents, encouraging study and interest in American history, stimulating interest and study in architecture and design, educating citizens in American culture and heritage, and making the city a more attractive and desirable place in which to live?	No

In the opinion of staff, none of the criteria for demolition and capsulation are met and the Permit to Demolish/Capsulate should be granted. The wall proposed for demolition/capsulation is not of unusual or uncommon design and can easily be replicated. The seven-course American bond brick pattern is very common throughout the country.

Certificate of Appropriateness

The *Design Guidelines* state that “Fences, garden walls and gates should be appropriate in materials, design and scale to the period and character of the structure they surround.” The

proposed wall fully complies with these guidelines. See Figure 1 for the existing wall and Figure 2 for the proposed new wall. See also Figure 3 for the wall at 611 Queen, which has a brick arch over the gate.



Figure 1: Existing garden wall and gate

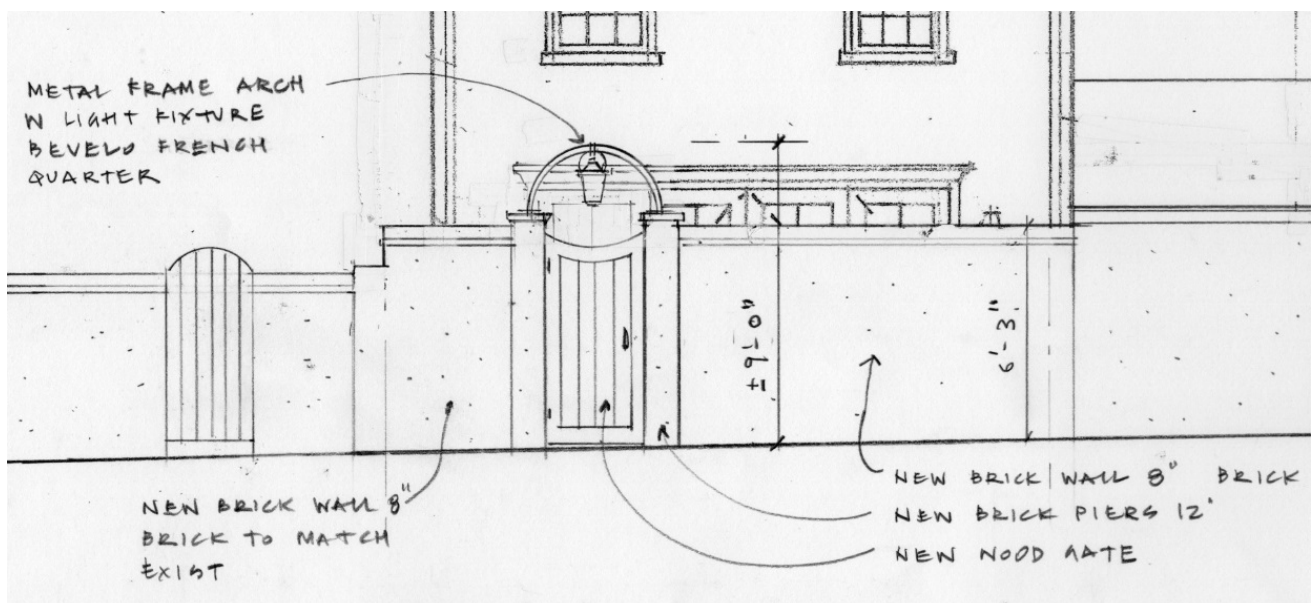


Figure 2: Proposed garden wall and gate



Figure 3: 611 Queen wall with brick arch over gate

Staff finds the proposed wall, gate, and lighting wholly appropriate for this property, noting that the neighboring property at 611 Queen Street has a brick arch over the gate. The simple design does not overwhelm or detract from the appearance of the rear/north elevation of the house. The height of the proposed wall will better correspond to the height of the adjacent shed. The wall harmonizes with those of the other properties along the alley, and the proposed gate and light fixture provide a welcoming appearance to this entry to the property. Staff therefore recommends approval of the project, as submitted.

STAFF

Susan Hellman, Historic Preservation Planner, Planning & Zoning

Tony LaColla, AICP, Land Use Services Division Chief, Planning & Zoning

IV. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C- code requirement R- recommendation S- suggestion F- finding

Zoning

C-1 Proposed rear wall and light fixture above the wall will comply with Zoning.

Code Administration

C-1 A permit is required.

- C-2 Per VCC sec. 108.2.6 Concrete or masonry walls, provided such walls do not exceed 6 feet (1829 mm) in height above the finished grade, are exempt from permit application.

Transportation and Environmental Services

- R-1 The building permit must be approved and issued prior to the issuance of any permit for demolition, if a separate demolition permit is required. (T&ES)
- R-2 Applicant shall be responsible for repairs to the adjacent city right-of-way if damaged during construction activity. (T&ES)
- R-3 No permanent structure may be constructed over any existing private and/or public utility easements. It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify any and all existing easements on the plan. (T&ES)
- F-1 The proposed wall should be rebuilt within the applicant's property lines. (T&ES)
- F-2 After review of the information provided, an approved grading plan is not required at this time. Please note that if any changes are made to the plan it is suggested that T&ES be included in the review. (T&ES)
- F-3 If the alley adjacent to the parcel is to be used at any point of the construction process, the following will be required:
For a Public Alley - The applicant shall contact T&ES, Construction Permitting & Inspections at (703) 746-4035 to discuss any permits and accommodation requirements that will be required.
For a Private Alley - The applicant must provide proof, in the form of an affidavit at a minimum, from owner of the alley granting permission of use. (T&ES)
- C-1 The applicant shall comply with the City of Alexandria's Solid Waste Control, Title 5, Chapter 1, which sets forth the requirements for the recycling of materials (Sec. 5-1-99). (T&ES)
- C-2 The applicant shall comply with the City of Alexandria's Noise Control Code, Title 11, Chapter 5, which sets the maximum permissible noise level as measured at the property line. (T&ES)
- C-3 Roof, surface and sub-surface drains be connected to the public storm sewer system, if available, by continuous underground pipe. Where storm sewer is not available applicant must provide a design to mitigate impact of stormwater drainage onto adjacent properties and to the satisfaction of the Director of Transportation & Environmental Services. (Sec.5-6-224) (T&ES)
- C-4 All secondary utilities serving this site shall be placed underground. (Sec. 5-3-3) (T&ES)

- C-5 Any work within the right-of-way requires a separate permit from T&ES. (Sec. 5-2) (T&ES)
- C-6 All improvements to the city right-of-way such as curbing, sidewalk, driveway aprons, etc. must be city standard design. (Sec. 5-2-1) (T&ES)

Alexandria Archaeology

- F-1 According to Ethelyn Cox's *Historic Alexandria, Street by Street, A Survey of Existing Early Buildings*, the original core of this house on this lot was built in the first decade of the 19th century. Given the early date of construction, the property could contain significant archaeological remains that pertain to the early development of Old Town Alexandria.
- R-1 Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-746-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease temporarily in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds. The language noted above shall be included on all final site plan sheets involving any ground disturbing activities.
- R-2 The applicant shall not allow any metal detection and/or artifact collection to be conducted on the property, unless authorized by Alexandria Archaeology. Failure to comply shall result in project delays. The language noted above shall be included on all final site plan sheets involving any ground disturbing activities.
- C-1 All required archaeological preservation measures shall be completed in compliance with Section 11-411 of the Zoning Ordinance.

V. ATTACHMENTS

- 1 – Application Materials
- Completed application
 - Plans
 - Material specifications
 - Scaled survey plat if applicable
 - Photographs
- 2 – Supplemental Materials
- Public comment
 - Any other supporting documentation

BAR CASE# _____
(OFFICE USE ONLY)

ADDRESS OF PROJECT: 609 QUEEN ST

DISTRICT: ☒ Old & Historic Alexandria ☐ Parker – Gray ☐ 100 Year Old Building

TAX MAP AND PARCEL: 64.04-11-06 ZONING: RM

APPLICATION FOR: (Please check all that apply)

☒ CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

☒ PERMIT TO MOVE, REMOVE, ENCAPSULATE OR DEMOLISH
(Required if more than 25 square feet of a structure is to be demolished/impacted)

☐ WAIVER OF VISION CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT and/or YARD REQUIREMENTS IN A VISION
CLEARANCE AREA (Section 7-802, Alexandria 1992 Zoning Ordinance)

☐ WAIVER OF ROOFTOP HVAC SCREENING REQUIREMENT
(Section 6-403(B)(3), Alexandria 1992 Zoning Ordinance)

Applicant: ☒ Property Owner ☐ Business (Please provide business name & contact person)

Name: RUSSELL & MICHELLE SHEARER

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Authorized Agent (if applicable): ☐ Attorney ☐ Architect ☐ _____

Name: PATRICK CAMUS Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Legal Property Owner:

Name: SAME

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

NATURE OF PROPOSED WORK: Please check all that apply

- ☐ NEW CONSTRUCTION
- ☐ EXTERIOR ALTERATION: Please check all that apply.
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> awning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fence, gate or garden wall | <input type="checkbox"/> HVAC equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> shutters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> doors | <input type="checkbox"/> windows | <input type="checkbox"/> siding | <input type="checkbox"/> shed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> pergola/trellis | <input type="checkbox"/> painting unpainted masonry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | | | |
- ☐ ADDITION
- ☒ DEMOLITION/ENCAPSULATION
- ☐ SIGNAGE

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: Please describe the proposed work in detail (Additional pages may be attached).

REQUEST APPROVAL TO DEMOLISH EXIST REAR
BRICK GARDEN WALL & REBUILD W/ NEW GATE
AND LIGHT FIXTURE TO 6'-3" H

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- ☐ Check this box if there is a homeowner's association for this property. If so, you must attach a copy of the letter approving the project.

Items listed below comprise the **minimum supporting materials** for BAR applications. Staff may request additional information during application review. Please refer to the relevant section of the *Design Guidelines* for further information on appropriate treatments.

Applicants must use the checklist below to ensure the application is complete. Include all information and material that are necessary to thoroughly describe the project. Incomplete applications will delay the docketing of the application for review. Pre-application meetings are required for all proposed additions. All applicants are encouraged to meet with staff prior to submission of a completed application.

Demolition/Encapsulation : All applicants requesting 25 square feet or more of demolition/encapsulation must complete this section. Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Survey plat showing the extent of the proposed demolition/encapsulation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Existing elevation drawings clearly showing all elements proposed for demolition/encapsulation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Clear and labeled photographs of all elevations of the building if the entire structure is proposed to be demolished. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Description of the reason for demolition/encapsulation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Description of the alternatives to demolition/encapsulation and why such alternatives are not considered feasible. |

Additions & New Construction: Drawings must be to scale and should not exceed 11" x 17" unless approved by staff. Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.

- ☐ ☒ N/A Scaled survey plat showing dimensions of lot and location of existing building and other structures on the lot, location of proposed structure or addition, dimensions of existing structure(s), proposed addition or new construction, and all exterior, ground and roof mounted equipment.
- ☐ ☐ FAR & Open Space calculation form.
- ☐ ☐ Clear and labeled photographs of the site, surrounding properties and existing structures, if applicable.
- ☐ ☐ Existing elevations must be scaled and include dimensions.
- ☐ ☐ Proposed elevations must be scaled and include dimensions. Include the relationship to adjacent structures in plan and elevations.
- ☐ ☐ Materials and colors to be used must be specified and delineated on the drawings. Actual samples may be provided or required.
- ☐ ☐ Manufacturer's specifications for materials to include, but not limited to: roofing, siding, windows, doors, lighting, fencing, HVAC equipment and walls.
- ☐ ☐ For development site plan projects, a model showing mass relationships to adjacent properties and structures.

Signs & Awnings: One sign per building under one square foot does not require BAR approval unless illuminated. All other signs including window signs require BAR approval. Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.

- ☐ ☒ N/A Linear feet of building: Front: _____ Secondary front (if corner lot): _____
- ☐ ☐ Square feet of existing signs to remain: _____
- ☐ ☐ Photograph of building showing existing conditions.
- ☐ ☐ Dimensioned drawings of proposed sign identifying materials, color, lettering style and text.
- ☐ ☐ Location of sign (show exact location on building including the height above sidewalk).
- ☐ ☐ Means of attachment (drawing or manufacturer's cut sheet of bracket if applicable).
- ☐ ☐ Description of lighting (if applicable). Include manufacturer's cut sheet for any new lighting fixtures and information detailing how it will be attached to the building's facade.

Alterations: Check N/A if an item in this section does not apply to your project.

- ☐ ☒ N/A Clear and labeled photographs of the site, especially the area being impacted by the alterations, all sides of the building and any pertinent details.
- ☐ ☐ Manufacturer's specifications for materials to include, but not limited to: roofing, siding, windows, doors, lighting, fencing, HVAC equipment and walls.
- ☐ ☐ Drawings accurately representing the changes to the proposed structure, including materials and overall dimensions. Drawings must be to scale.
- ☐ ☐ An official survey plat showing the proposed locations of HVAC units, fences, and sheds.
- ☐ ☐ Historic elevations or photographs should accompany any request to return a structure to an earlier appearance.

BAR CASE# _____

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

ALL APPLICATIONS: *Please read and check that you have read and understand the following items:*

- ☒ I understand that after reviewing the proposed alterations, BAR staff will invoice the appropriate filing fee in APEX. The application will not be processed until the fee is paid online.
- ☒ I understand the notice requirements and will return a copy of the three respective notice forms to BAR staff at least five days prior to the hearing. If I am unsure to whom I should send notice I will contact Planning and Zoning staff for assistance in identifying adjacent parcels.
- ☒ I, the applicant, or an authorized representative will be present at the public hearing.
- ☒ I understand that any revisions to this initial application submission (including applications deferred for restudy) must be accompanied by the BAR Supplemental form and revised materials.

The undersigned hereby attests that all of the information herein provided including the site plan, building elevations, prospective drawings of the project, and written descriptive information are true, correct and accurate. The undersigned further understands that, should such information be found incorrect, any action taken by the Board based on such information may be invalidated. The undersigned also hereby grants the City of Alexandria permission to post placard notice as required by Article XI, Division A, Section 11-301(B) of the 1992 Alexandria City Zoning Ordinance, on the property which is the subject of this application. The undersigned also hereby authorizes the City staff and members of the BAR to inspect this site as necessary in the course of research and evaluating the application. The applicant, if other than the property owner, also attests that he/she has obtained permission from the property owner to make this application.

APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

PATRICK CAMUS

Date: _____

8 MAY 2025

OWNERSHIP AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Use additional sheets if necessary

1. Applicant. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the applicant, unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than three percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1. RUSSELL & MICHELE SHEARER	[REDACTED]	100 %
2.		
3.		

2. Property. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the property located at 609 QUEEN (address), unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than three percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
1. RUSSELL & MICHELE SHEARER	[REDACTED]	100 %
2.		
3.		

3. Business or Financial Relationships. Each person or entity listed above (1 and 2), with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property is required to disclose any business or financial relationship, as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance, existing at the time of this application, or within the 12-month period prior to the submission of this application with any member of the Alexandria City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals or either Boards of Architectural Review.

Name of person or entity	Relationship as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance	Member of the Approving Body (i.e. City Council, Planning Commission, etc.)
1. RUSSELL & MICHELE SHEARER	N/A	N/A
2.		
3.		

NOTE: Business or financial relationships of the type described in Sec. 11-350 that arise after the filing of this application and before each public hearing must be disclosed prior to the public hearings.

As the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent, I hereby attest to the best of my ability that the information provided above is true and correct.

8 MAY 25 PATRICK CAMUS
Date Printed Name

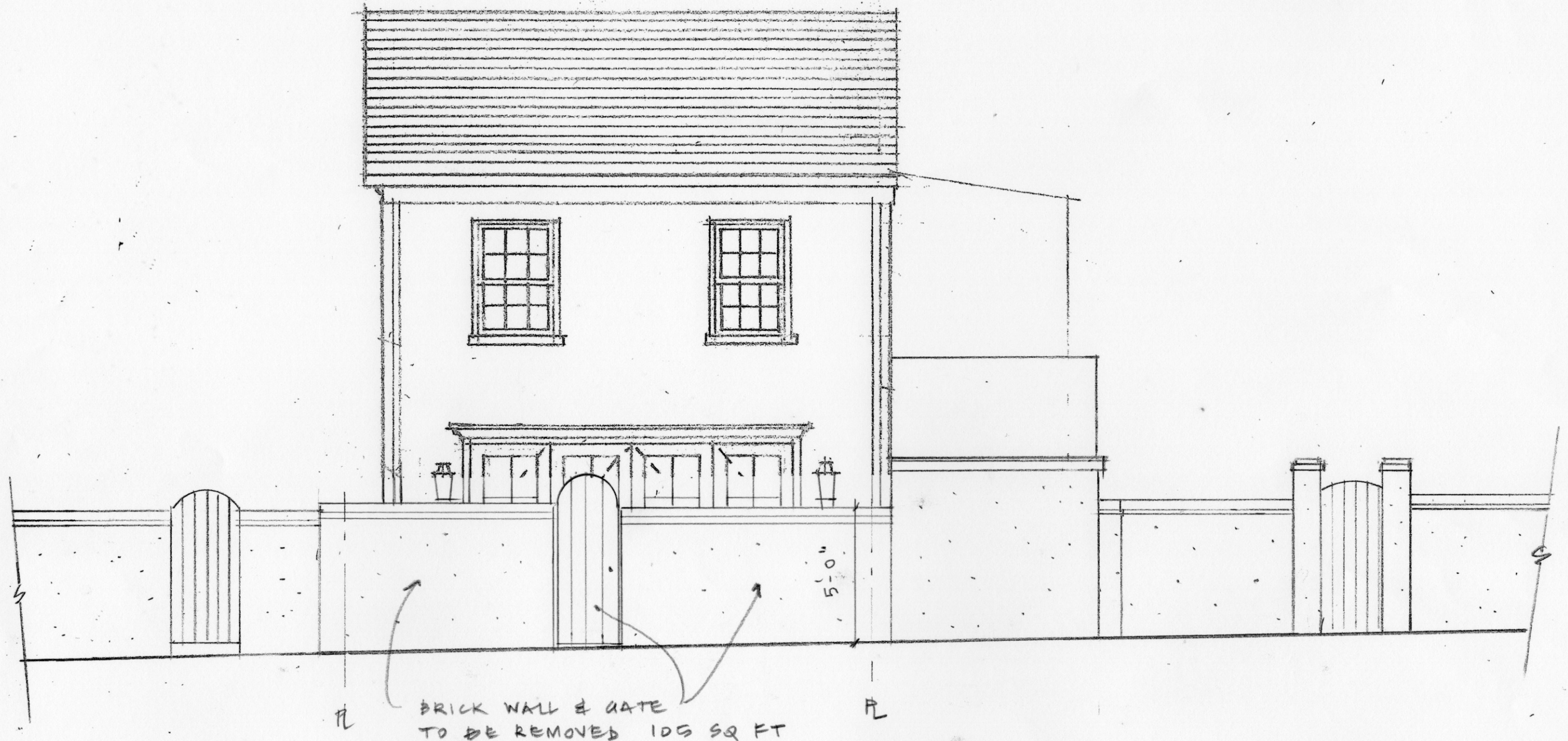

Signature

[illegible]

607 QUEEN

609 QUEEN

611 QUEEN



1 ALLEY ELEVATION — EXIST & DEMOLITION



STUDIO CAMUS LLC
225 North Pitt Street Alexandria Virginia 22314
studiocamus@comcast.net
Lynnette 703 989 3777 Patrick 703 626 1984

Proposed Modifications to the
SHEARER RESIDENCE
16 609 Queen Street Alexandria Virginia

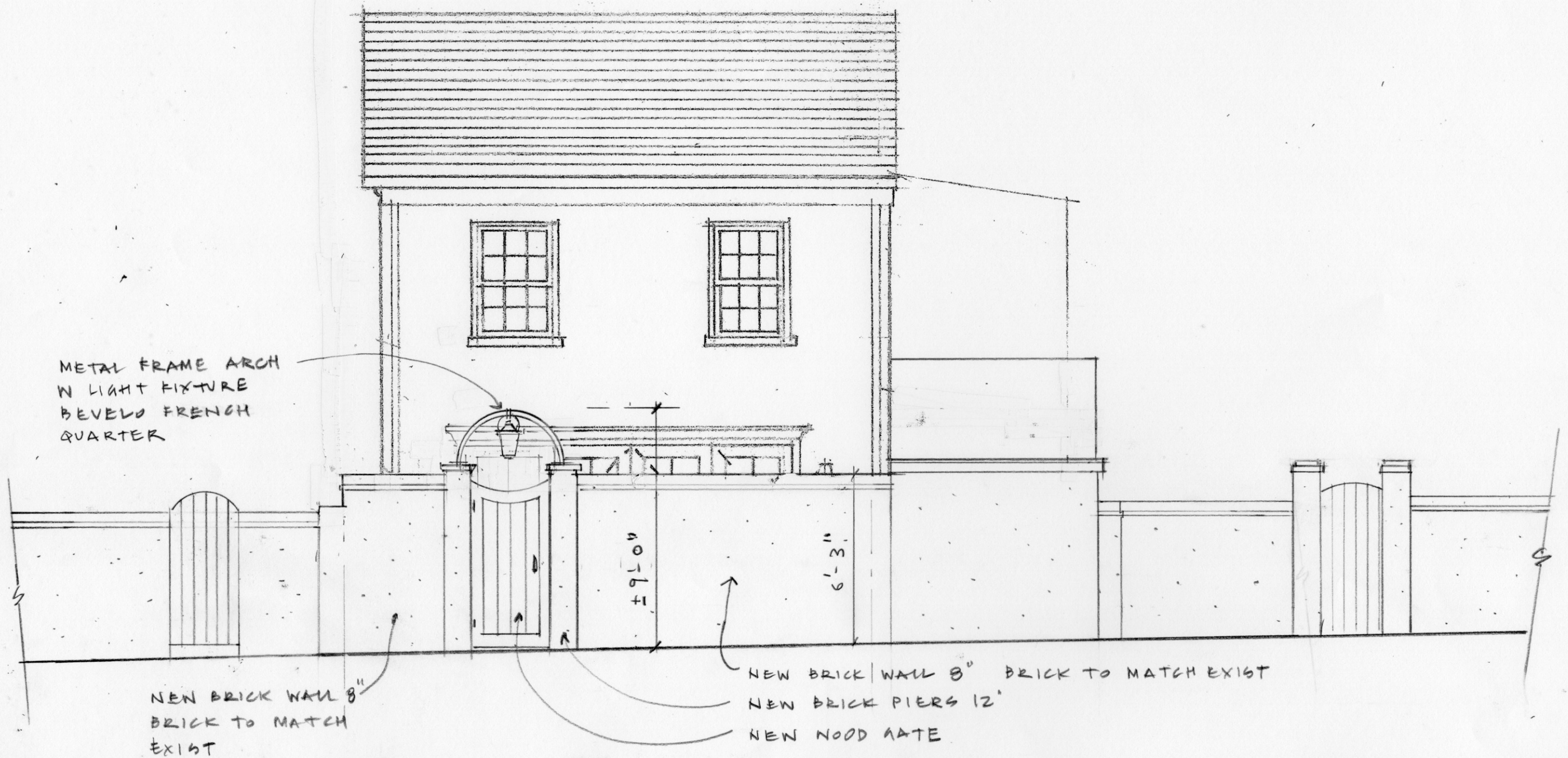
DATE
8 MAY 25
SCALE
1/4" = 1'-0"

SHEET
A1

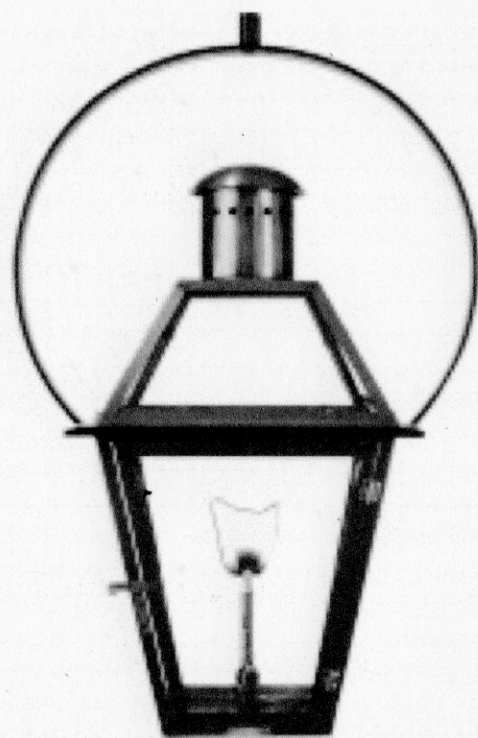
607 QUEEN

609 QUEEN

611 QUEEN



1 ALLEY ELEVATION — PROPOSED



Bevelo French Quarter
with Yoke 14" H

