

ISSUE: Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations (after-the-fact)

APPLICANT: Van Soderberg and Megan Dolan

LOCATION: Parker-Gray District
1308 Oronoco Street

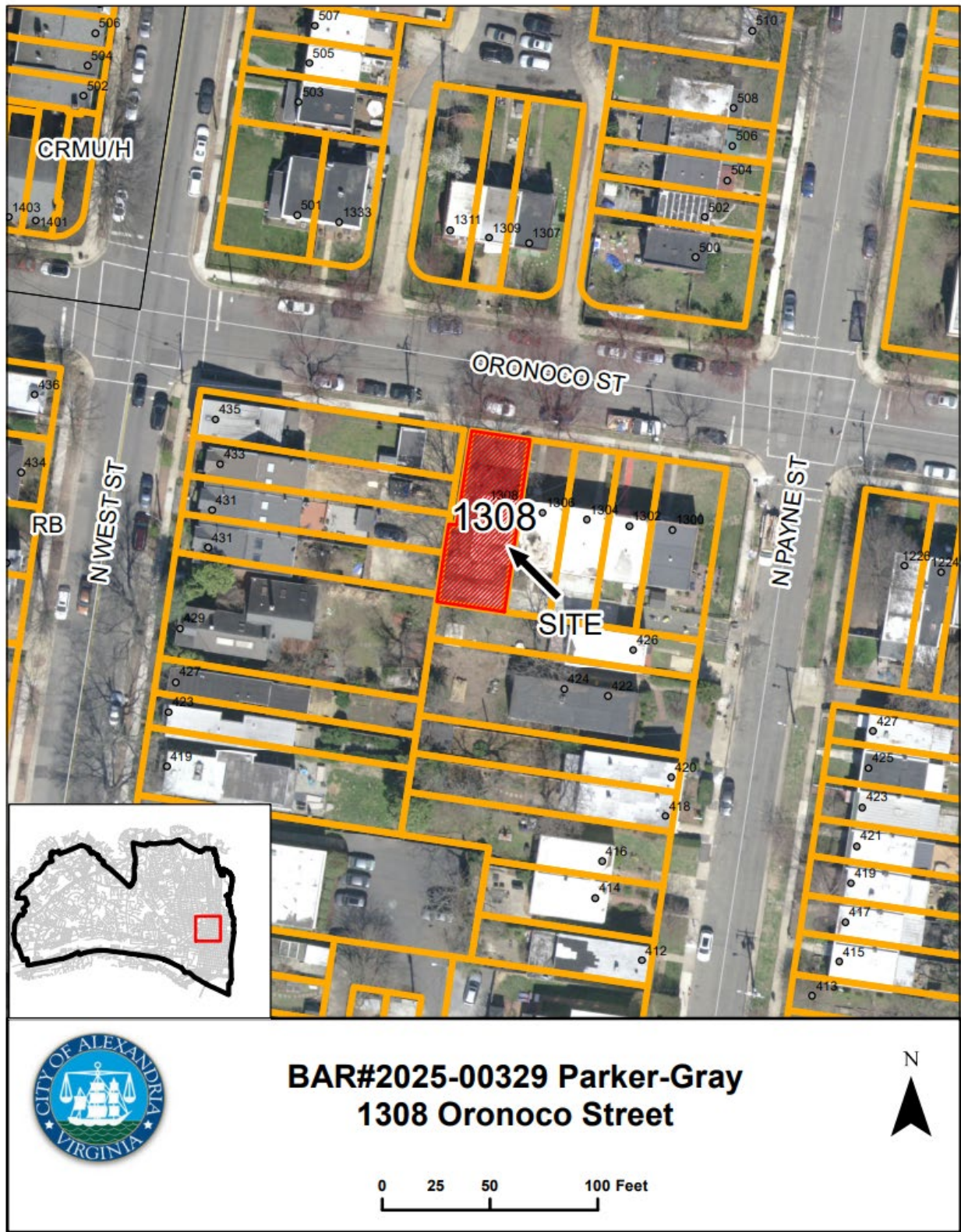
ZONE: RB

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **denial** of the Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations.

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, 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.



I. APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicant requests a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations (after-the-fact) to install a vinyl fence and gate enclosing the front yard.

Site context

The building is bound by Oronoco Street to the north and private development on all other sides. The fence is highly visible from Oronoco Street.

II. HISTORY

The two-story, two-bay, Colonial Revival style brick row house at 1308 Oronoco Street is the westernmost in a row of five matching houses and was built in **1961**, according to real estate records. It does not appear on the 1958 Sanborn Fire Insurance map but does appear on the 1965 Sanborn map. The five brick rowhouses on the 1300 block of Oronoco Street resemble their neighbors in the 1200 block of Oronoco Street, constructed in 1942, and are typical of the mid-20th century architectural language of solid, yet simple masonry rowhouse developments that were constructed to accommodate the population surges in the area during the mid-century.



Figure 1: This photo shows the south side of the 1300 block of Oronoco Street, looking west. The date is unknown but likely in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

On July 22, 2025, Staff received a complaint that an inappropriate fence had been installed at the subject property without BAR approval. Staff subsequently issued a violation letter to the property owner notifying them of the requirement to get BAR approval, and the applicant applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Previous BAR Approvals

None.

III. ANALYSIS

The applicant requests a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations (after-the-fact) to install a 4-foot-tall vinyl fence and gate enclosing the front yard.



Figure 2 (top): Photo taken by staff of vinyl fence at 1308 Oronoco Street.

Figure 3 (bottom): Photo taken by staff of metal chain-link fences on neighboring properties.

According to the Fences, Gates + Walls chapter of the Parker-Gray *Design Guidelines*, “Fences and walls should be made of wood, metal, and/or masonry. The Board discourages using poured-in-place concrete or synthetic materials such as fiberglass or vinyl.”

Additionally, according to §10-205(A)(2)(b)(3) of the Zoning Ordinance, in the Parker-Gray District, the BAR's review standards include "the compatibility of proposed alterations with other buildings on the block face or block face across the street, giving consideration to building size, shape, roofline, color, materials, texture, nature of openings, and architectural details." As such, staff visited the subject property to determine whether the vinyl fence is in keeping with the surrounding block face. Staff found that, on the south side of the 1300 block of Oronoco Street, all other properties had fences made of either metal or wood. On the north side of the street, there is one house with a vinyl fence, but notably it is located outside the boundaries of the historic district and is not subject to the same standards.

Based on the *Design Guidelines* and Zoning Ordinance review standards, staff finds that the vinyl fence uses an inappropriate material and is not in keeping with the surrounding block face. The use of vinyl as a fence material detracts from the architectural character of both the subject property and block, and if approved by the Board would set a negative precedent for the neighborhood. Staff therefore recommends **denial** of the Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations.

STAFF

Brendan Harris, 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 four-foot open fence will comply with zoning.

Code Administration

F-1 No permit is required for 4ft fence, except for enclosure of swimming pool.

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 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-2 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 All secondary utilities serving this site shall be placed underground. (Sec. 5-3-3) (T&ES)
- C-4 Any work within the right-of-way requires a separate permit from T&ES. (Sec. 5-2) (T&ES)
- C-5 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)
- C-6 An encroachment request will be required for projections into the public right of way unless allowable under City Code section 5-2-29. The property is in the Parker-Gray Historic District and fences at the height and location otherwise permitting in a front yard may be constructed in the public right-of-way. (T&ES)
- C-7 The owner shall obtain and maintain an encroachment permit and policy of general liability insurance in compliance with the permit requirements in Sec. 5-2-29(a)(3). See <https://www.alexandriava.gov/permits/right-of-way-administrative-encroachment-permit> for details. (T&ES)

Alexandria Archaeology

No archaeology comments.

V. ATTACHMENTS

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

BAR CASE#

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

ADDRESS OF PROJECT: 1308 Oronoco St Alexandria, VA 22314

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

TAX MAP AND PARCEL: 064.01-08-04 ZONING: RB

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: Van Soderberg and Megan Dolan

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

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

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

Legal Property Owner:

Name: Same as applicants, please see above.

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.*
 ☐ awning ☒ fence, gate or garden wall ☐ HVAC equipment ☐ shutters
 ☐ doors ☐ windows ☐ siding ☐ shed
 ☐ lighting ☐ pergola/trellis ☐ painting unpainted masonry
 ☐ other _____
☐ ADDITION
☐ DEMOLITION/ENCAPSULATION
☐ SIGNAGE

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

Please see attached page.

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.*

- N/A
- ☐ ☒ Survey plat showing the extent of the proposed demolition/encapsulation.
☐ ☒ Existing elevation drawings clearly showing all elements proposed for demolition/encapsulation.
☐ ☒ Clear and labeled photographs of all elevations of the building if the entire structure is proposed to be demolished.
☐ ☒ Description of the reason for demolition/encapsulation.
☐ ☒ Description of the alternatives to demolition/encapsulation and why such alternatives are not considered feasible.

BAR CASE# _____

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

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.

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: Van A. SoderbergDate: 8/13/2025

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. Van Soderberg		50%
2. Megan Dolan		50%
3.		

2. Property. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the property located at 1308 Orange St (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. Van Soderberg		50%
2. Megan Dolan		50%
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.		
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.

8/13/2025 Van Soderberg 
 Date Printed Name Signature

Product **Dimensions**



WamBam

Product **Dimensions**



WamBam

Features and Benefits

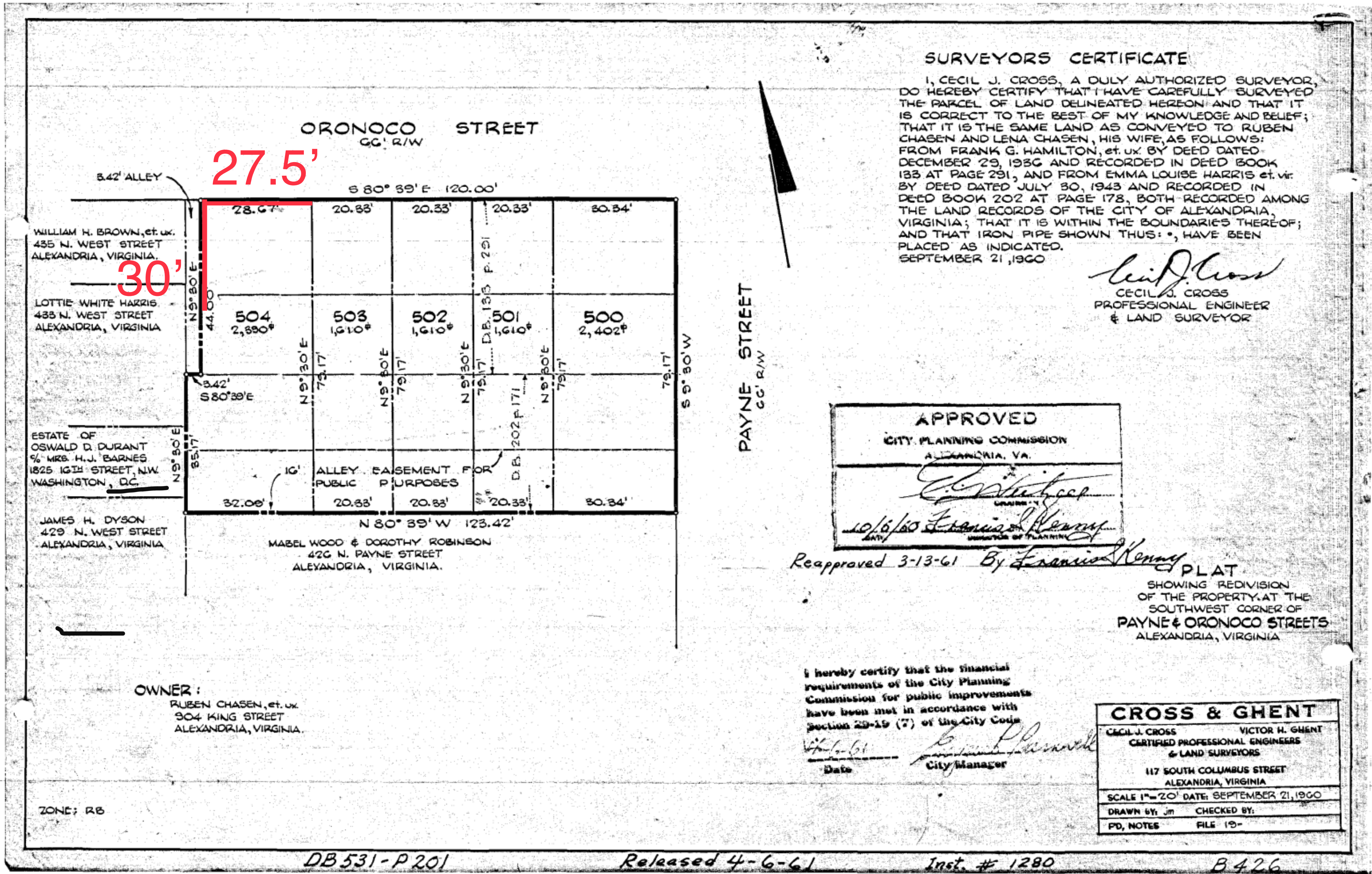
Virtually **maintenance-free**

Strong and
durable

UV resistant

No-dig
steel pipe

**Premium
grade
vinyl**



DRAWING NUMBER
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