City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 19, 2014

TO: CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

OLD AND HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

FROM: HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF

SUBJECT: 220 SOUTH UNION STREET

BAR CASE #2014-0037 and 2013-0321

I. UPDATE

Following City Council approval of DSUP2012-0019 on January 25, 2014 for a five-story, 120 room hotel for the site at 220 South Union Street, the Old and Historic Alexandria District Board of Architectural Review (BAR) considered the application for a Permit to Demolish and a Certificate of Appropriateness at a public hearing on March 5, 2014. The applicant gave a presentation with additional information and schemes prepared in response to comments raised in the staff report. The BAR also heard testimony from the public on the project. Recognizing that the BAR members needed extensive time to discuss and consider the proposal and revisions, the BAR voted to defer the application for further study and requested a work session with the applicant as soon as possible.

On March 12, 2014, the BAR had a work session with the applicant to review the updated materials and specific areas of concern. The BAR took no action on the project but provided feedback on several items. This memo will only address these remaining outstanding issues.

II. STAFF ANALYSIS

The design of this building has been an iterative and community-oriented process that has been reviewed and commented upon by citizens, multiple public bodies and staff over the past 20 months. The BAR has reviewed this project in concept at three public hearings and for a Permit to Demolish and a Certificate of appropriate at a public hearing and at a work session. What follows is an analysis of the most recent revisions and a recommendation based on the most current submission.

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):

- (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?
- (2) Is the building or structure of such interest that it could be made into a historic house?
- (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?
- (4) Would retention of the building or structure help preserve the memorial character of the George Washington Memorial Parkway?
- (5) Would retention of the building or structure help preserve and protect an historic place or area of historic interest in the city?
- (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?

Staff finds the existing warehouse does **not** meet any of the criteria listed above and recommends demolition. The mid-20th century, flat roofed brick warehouse structure is not of old, unusual or uncommon design, texture or material and could be reproduced with ease. This severely utilitarian structure does not preserve or protect a historic place or promote the general welfare and its demolition would not be detrimental to the public interest. Staff recommends **approval** of the Permit to Demolish.

Certificate of Appropriateness for New Construction

What follows is an analysis of revisions made to the overall design at the BAR's March 12th work session. In response to the Board's comments at the work session the applicant has made the following changes.

Two Building Scheme

In the continuing effort to simplify the overall design, the project is now a clear two building configuration, as opposed to the previous three building scheme. The design retains the three-story red brick building element on South Union Street and combines what had previously been identified as buildings 2 and 3. Previously, building 3 was not well connected with the overall scheme and it was challenging to reconcile how it fit into the overall scheme. Adding a third brick color for that element resulted in a less harmonious and unnecessarily complex design.

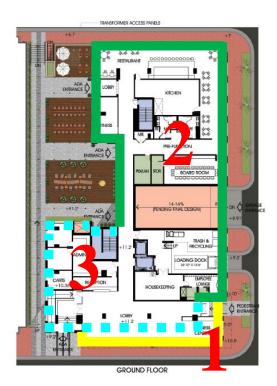




Figure 1. PREVIOUS three building scheme (L) and CURRENT two building scheme (R)

Building 1: South Union Street (Dark red extruded brick)

Building 2: Main Warehouse (Light color brick)

Building 3: Background Warehouse

Rooftop HVAC Screening

Many Board members and the public expressed concern with a 7' continuous metal panel screen on the roof, noting that screening often is more visually obtrusive than the rooftop mechanical units themselves. The east gable end was already functioning as screening. The tan brick elevator penthouse wall will now be enlarged 8' to 9' to provide screening on the west and south elevations. The roof plan shows that the remainder of the units will be positioned so that they will be minimally visible and the applicant requests a partial waiver of the rooftop HVAC screening requirement for those areas.

<u>Larger Paned First Story Windows</u>

The previous schemes featured a small-paned, early 20th century factory-style, light configuration that was not stylistically appropriate to the warehouse vocabulary and obscured the first floor public spaces. The applicant presented two alternatives at the work session. The Board generally preferred a large-paned, more modern design for the first floor of the South Union Street building (Building 1). A medium-paned 12 light scheme was preferred for the main warehouse building (Building 2). The current scheme reflects the Board's preferences.

Wall Section on Duke Street and Details of Cornices and Corbelling

The wall section for Duke Street shows that the pitched roof will clearly be set back from the façade behind a cornice and gutter to allow the building to read as a four-story building with a clearly defined frieze at the 4th story and a pitched roof with shallow roof windows above. The details and sections of the cornice and corbelling indicate a depth and projection consistent with historic elements. Staff is satisfied that these building wall sections and masonry details ensure a well-proportioned, high-quality, appropriately detailed building and recommends approval.

<u>Refinement of The Strand Elevation</u>

The Board has always focused on this elevation due to its prominence and visibility from the Potomac River and the future waterfront park. The applicant has been encouraged to showcase this elevation and promote a dialogue between the hotel and the park in this location. This elevation is an opportunity for operable windows, architectural lighting and innovative signage. The applicant studied the use of French doors for all the upper stories, with glass or metal railings, however their preference, stated at the work session, was for a two-story grouping of windows with spandrels between and only to have French doors with glass railings at the first floor. The Board members supported this design. In addition, the top of the lanterns (3rd story) will now have glass guardrails, as opposed to the previously shown metal pipe railings. The current scheme reflects the Board's work session comments.

Wall Section of "Lanterns"

The lanterns have always been envisioned as modern, light-filled elements and have been refined many times. In order to ensure that these elements, some of which are hotel rooms, remain light and transparent, a building section showing that large bulkheads or soffits would not intrude in the space was requested. The applicant explained the building's mechanical and structural systems at the work session and provided a section illustrating that there were no intrusions that would negatively affect the transparency of these elements. The Board accepted the clarification and supported this lantern design.

Comprehensive Sign Plan and Lighting Plan

The applicant will return at a later date with a comprehensive sign plan. Staff encourages architecturally integrated signage, similar to the letters above the canopy shown on the renderings, for the entire project, including for the restaurant. Based on previous Board sign approvals in this area, such as those at the Virtue Feed and Grain restaurant, it is expected that the signs will all be externally illuminated.

The applicant has provided a conceptual lighting plan indicating the general location of light fixtures. The Board did not find the wall mounted carriage-style lights to be appropriate and encouraged more contemporary and stylistically appropriate selections. The Board generally supported the building lighting plan and the courtyard lighting at the work session but recommended that the applicant return at a future date for approval of the remainder of the decorative lighting fixtures. The City Council also required the applicant to coordinate architectural lighting with the adjacent park lighting and this design must be approved by the BAR as well.

Materials: Brick & Mortar Colors

As a result of the two building scheme, only two bricks colors are necessary. Several Board members expressed concern that the smaller building on South Union Street (Building 1) was potentially too dark and lifeless, due to the use of dark red brick with a dark red mortar. They specifically requested that the red brick feature a greater range of color and that a lighter mortar color be used. Material samples will be submitted for confirmation at the March 19th hearing. The Board also wanted to explore the possible use of a medium gray mortar or natural stone, such as slate, at the base of this building. The applicant will provide these samples, as well, at the hearing. Staff notes that the DSUP requires that a wall mock-up panel be constructed by the applicant and approved by both Development and BAR staff prior to ordering materials, to insure that the materials reflect the quality and character represented in the renderings.

Exterior Vents

The applicant proposes to install two small vents on the Duke Street elevation. The vents will have metal perforated grilles. The garage exhaust vent will be located on the interior courtyard. Staff supports the very limited amount of vents proposed on street-facing elevations.

4th Story Windows on Duke Street Elevation

The Duke Street elevation has been studied extensively through this process to create a well-designed façade that also was in conformance with zoning ordinance requirements dictating a visual transition above a basic thirty foot wall height. The current scheme features a strong clerestory element in the frieze band at the fourth floor—a row of windows grouped in threes, separated by brick piers, recalling historic clerestory windows. This scheme very successfully lightens this portion of the wall and provides a marked contrast with the fenestration below. At the work session, the Board generally supported this scheme. This element also occurs on a portion of the courtyard elevation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **approval** of the Permit to Demolish and the Certificate of Appropriateness for new construction, with a partial waiver of the rooftop HVAC screening requirement, with the following conditions:

- 1. That the proposed red brick on the South Union Street building contain a greater range of color and have a lighter mortar color; and that a lighter colored mortar brick or natural cut stone for the water table base of this building be selected and approved at the hearing.
- 2. That the applicant return to the BAR for approval of all decorative, building-mounted light fixtures and any architectural lighting on The Strand elevation, following coordination with the adjacent park lighting plan.
- 3. That all proposed exterior materials, including windows and doors, be in conformance with the Board's adopted policies and specifications with final approval by staff during building permit review.

Attachment #1

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW APPLICATION

HEARING DATE: MARCH 19, 2014

DRAWING LIST

- C4.00 EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
- C4.10 DEMOLITION PLAN
- C5.00 PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN
- A1 BUILDING STATISTICS
- A2 EXISTING SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- A3 EXISTING ADJACENT PROPERTIES
- A4 PROPOSED BASEMENT (PARKING) AND GROUND FLOOR PLANS
- A4.1 PROPOSED SITE LIGHTING PLAN
- PROPOSED SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR PLANS
- A6 PROPOSED FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOOR PLANS
- A7 PROPOSED ROOF PLAN
- A8 PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION SOUTH UNION STREET
- A9 PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION DUKE STREET
- A9.1 DUKE STREET WALL SECTION AT MANSARD ROOF
- NO PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION STRAND STREET
- A10.1 STRAND STREET WALL SECITON AT "LANTERN"
- A11 PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION COURTYARD
- A12 3RD FLOOR BRICK CORNICE DETAIL
- A13 5TH FLOOR BRICK CORNICE DETAIL
- A14 5TH FLOOR BRICK CORNICE DETAIL AT MANSARD ROOF
- 15 GROUND FLOOR CANOPY DETAIL AT MAIN ENTRY
- GARAGE AND LOADING DOCK DOOR DETAILS

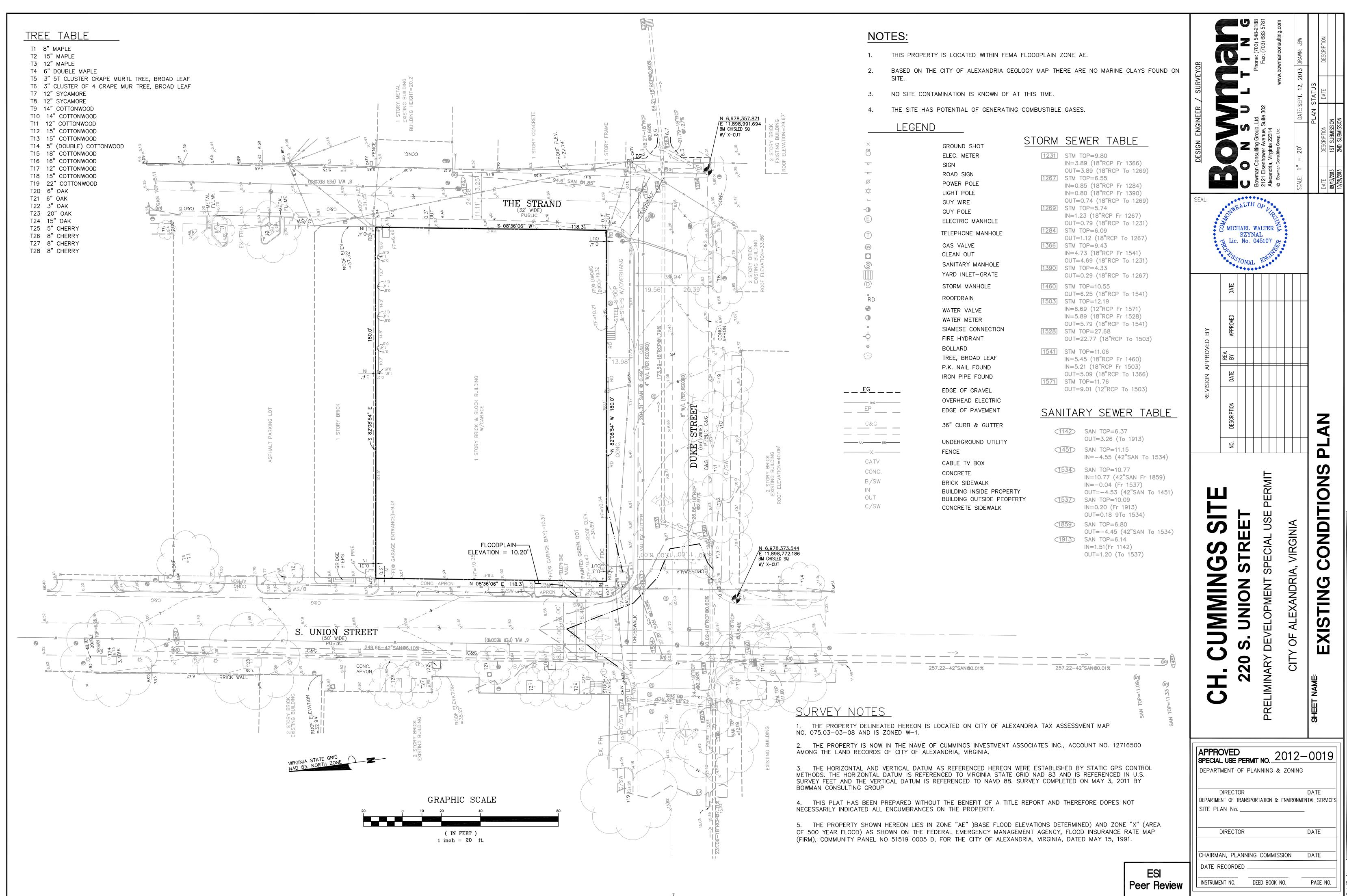


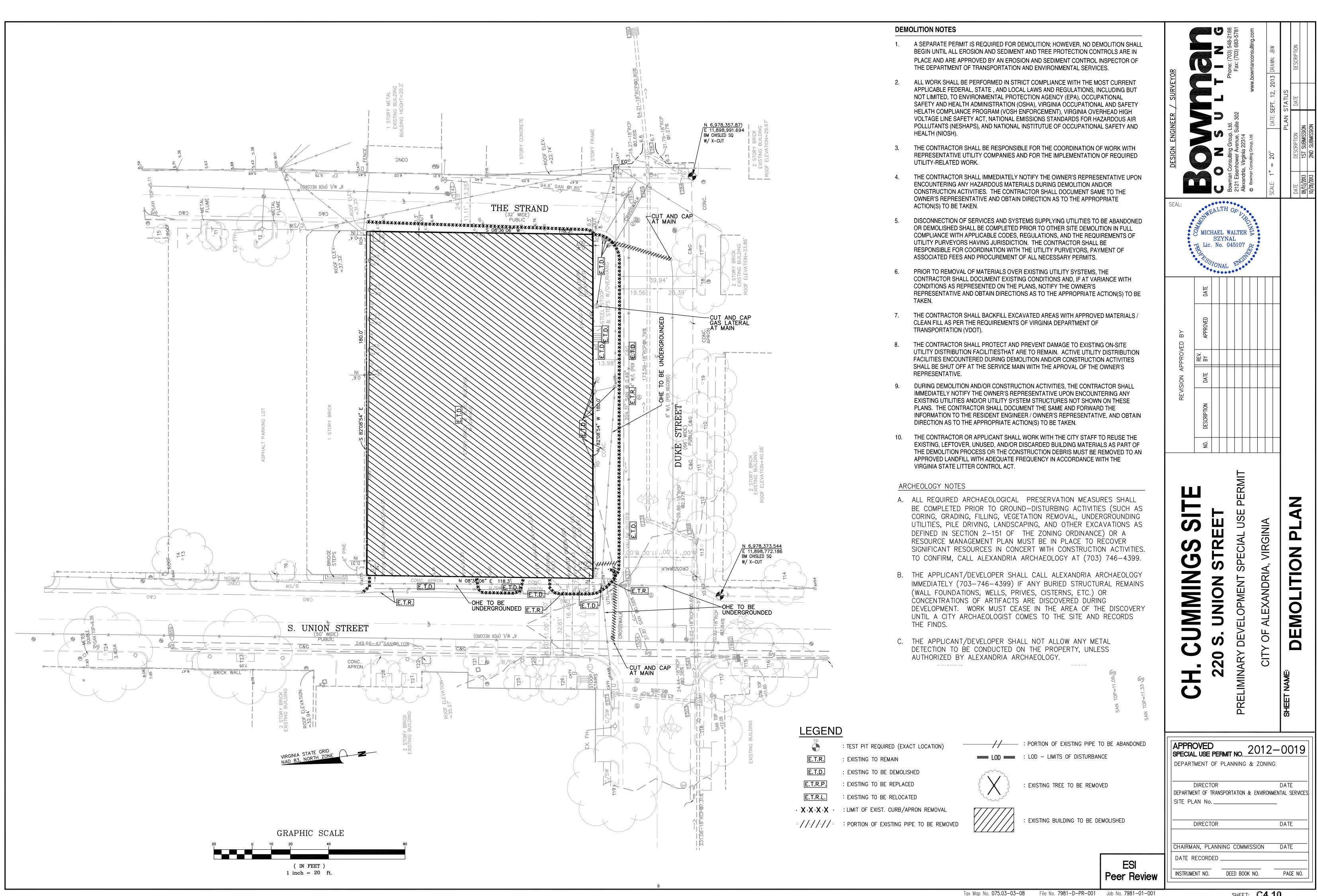


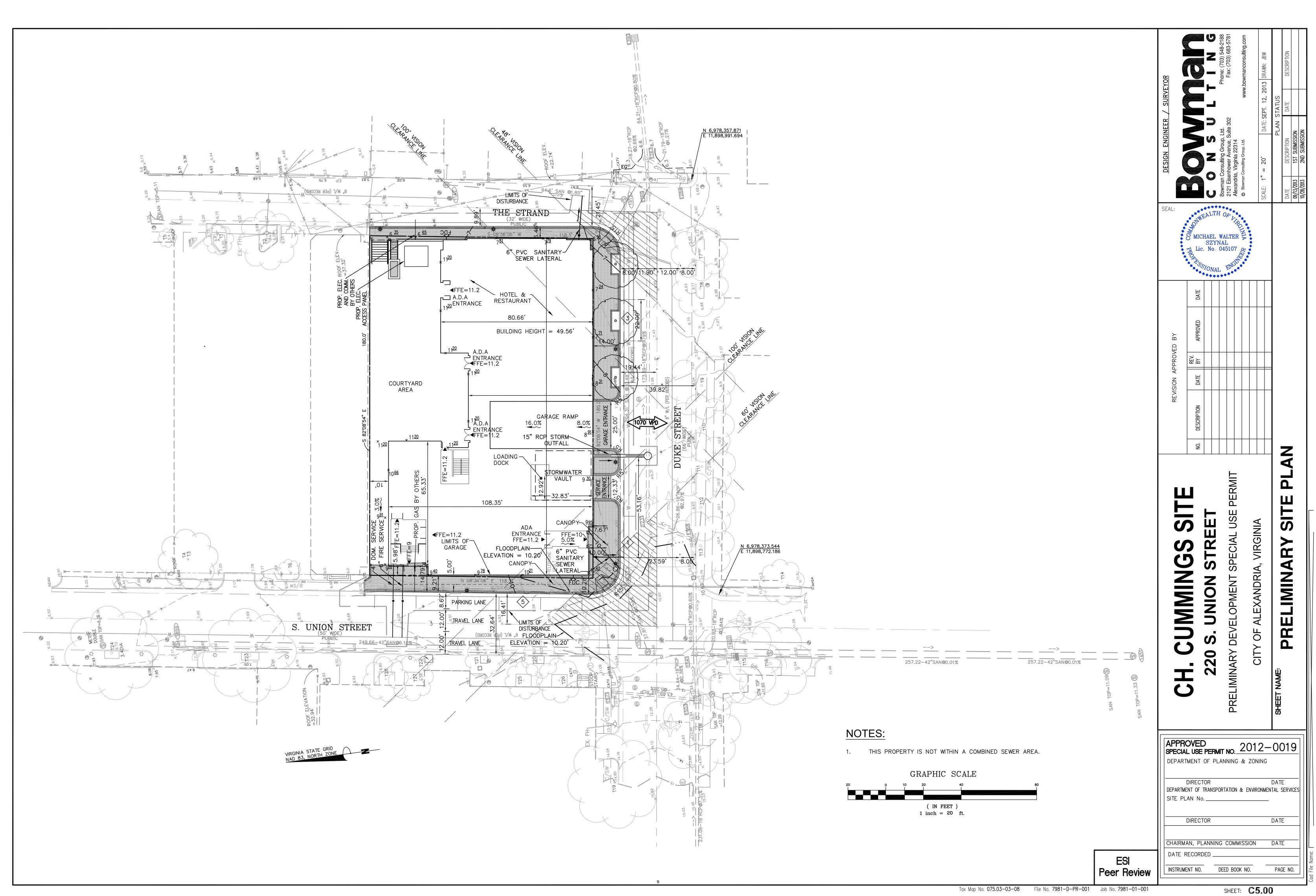
220 SOUTH UNION STREET HOTEL

CUMMINGS SITE









Tax Map No. 075.03-03-08 File No. 7981-D-PR-001 Job No. 7981-01-001

	F	FLOOR AREA RATIO			
	Proposed Gross	Proposed Gross Allowable Proposed Net			
	Floor Area	Exclusions	Floor Area		
Basement	21,037	-21,037	0		
Ground Floor	15,584	-2,823	12,761		
2nd Floor	15,404	-2,898	12,506		
3rd Floor	15,404	-2,651	12,753		
4th Floor	14,673	-2,815	11,858		
5th Floor	14,673	-3,485	11,188		
TOTAL	96,775	-35,709	61,066		

Lot Area	21,299 sf
Hotel Area Above Grade	61,066 sf
FAR Area Allowed (3.0)	63,897 sf
Total Net Building Area	61,066 sf
FAR	2.87



March 19, 2014

RUST ORLING

ARCHITECTURE



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING FLOOR AREA RATIO AND OPEN SPACE CALCULATIONS

A1. Street Address 22	to 5 Union Street, Alexand	na, vA		Zone W-1	
A2. 0.489 AC - 21,299 SF		X _ ^{3.0}		= 63,897	
Total Lot Area		Floor Area Ratio Allo	wed by Zone	Maximum Allowable Floor Area	
Existing Gross F	loor Area			_	
Existing Gros	s Area*	Allowable Exc	lusions	1 .,	
Basement		Basement**		B1. Existing Gross Floor Area * Sq. Ft.	
First Floor		Stairways**		B2. Allowable Floor Exclusions**	
Second Floor		Mechanical**		Sq. Ft. B3. Existing Floor Area minus Exclusions	
Third Floor		Other**		Sq. Ft. (subtract B2 from B1)	
Porches/ Other		Total Exclusions		,	
Total Gross *		Ì		-	
5					
		does not include ex		7	
Proposed Gr	1	Allowable Ex	1	-	
Basement	21,037	Basement**	21,037	C1. Proposed Gross Floor Area * 96,775 Sq. Ft.	
First Floor	15,584	Stairways**	3,232	C2. Allowable Floor Exclusions** 35,709 Sq. Ft.	
Second Floor	15,404	Mechanical**	2,230	C3. Proposed Floor Area minus	
Third Floor	44,673	Other**	9,210	Exclusions 61,066 Sq. Ft. (subtract C2 from C1)	
Porches/ Other		Total Exclusions	35,709	(casact of nem e t)	
Total Gross *	61,066				
. Existing + Propo D1. Total Floor Area (ad D2. Total Floor Area All	dd B3 and C3)	ea Sq. Ft. 2) 63,897 Sq. Ft.	areas u exterior sheds, accesso ** Refer and co regardir	floor area is the sum of all gross horizontal under roof, measured from the face of walls, including basements, garages, gazebos, guest buildings and other pory buildings. In to the zoning ordinance (Section2-145(B)) with zoning staff for information and allowable exclusions. If exclusions other than basements, floor	
. Open Space Cald	ulations			plans with excluded areas must be submitted for review. Sections may also be required for some	
Existing Open Space 0.000 AC -		- 0 SF	exclusio	ggaggae nedekki kankakkata - kiakkae - wikik - kiakkakkakkaki - kakka - kakka - kakka - kakka - kakka - kakka -	
D 6 /6	Required Open Space N/A				
Required Open Space	Proposed Open Space 0.121 AC - 5,269 SF				
	0.121 AC	5 - 5,269 SF			
	0.121 AC	5 - 5,269 SF			
Proposed Open Space			his/her knowle	dge, the above computations are true and	
Proposed Open Space	certifies and at	tests that, to the best of	his/her knowle	dge, the above computations are true and	

Updated July 10, 2008

BUILDING STATISTICS

CUMMINGS SITE











The Developer is proposing a new hotel for this site. The existing warehouse structure is not only incompatible with the proposed development, but would render required sub-surface parking unfeasible if it were not demolished.

EXISTING SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

March 19, 2014









S. UNION STREET - EAST







S. UNION STREET - WEST



DUKE STREET - NORTH



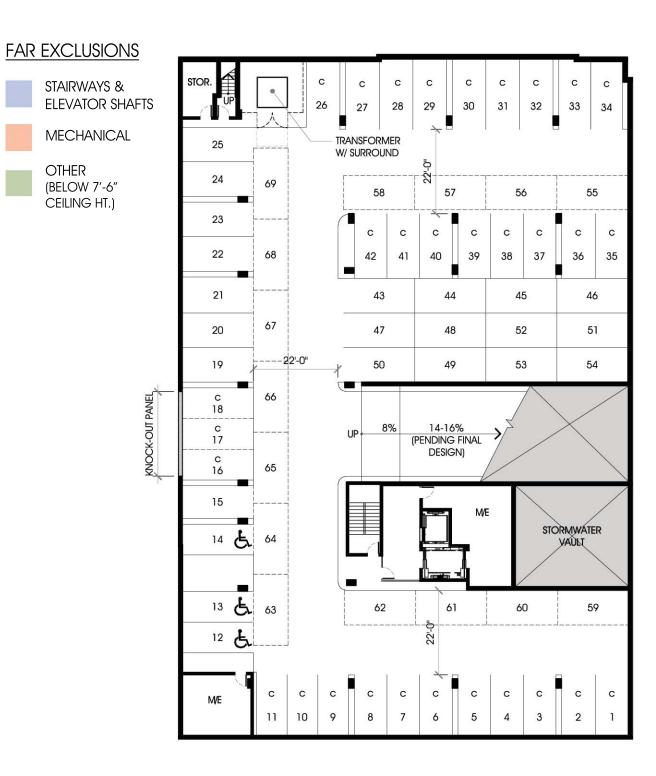




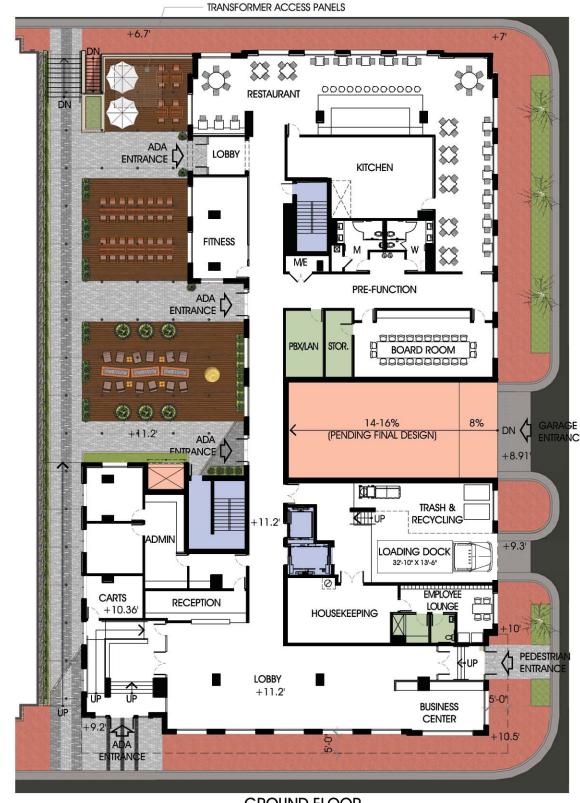


STRAND STREET - WEST





BASEMENT (PARKING) LEVEL



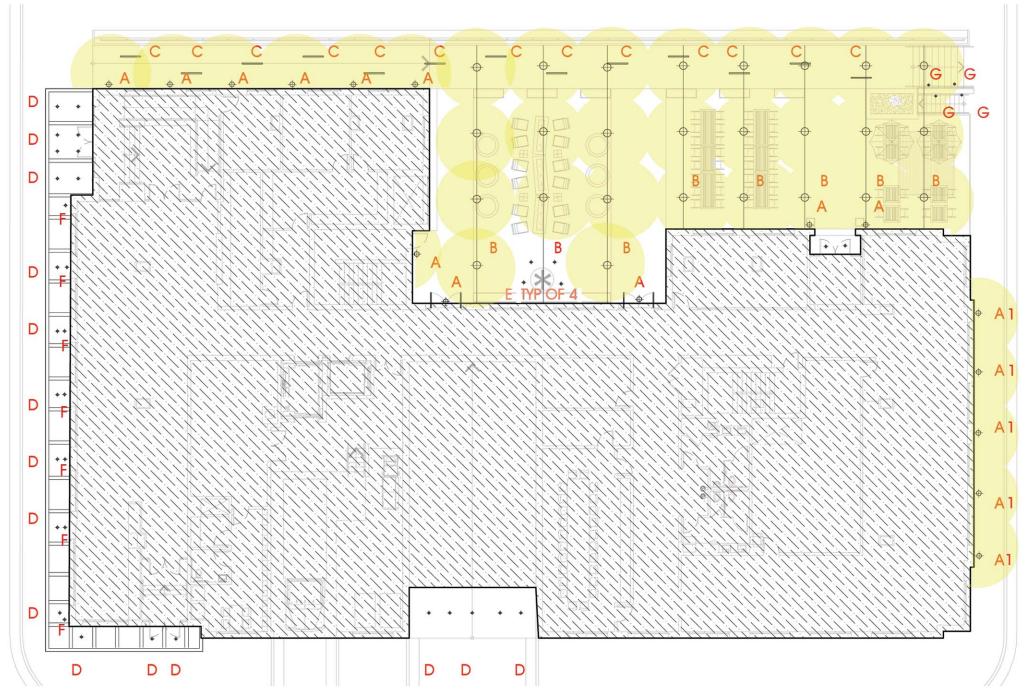
GROUND FLOOR



PROPOSED BASEMENT (PARKING) AND GROUND FLOOR PLANS



March 19, 2014 RUST ORLING ARCHITECTURE



MARK	TYPE	MFR.	LAMPING	COMMENTS
Α	WALL MOUNTED	BLG	32W PL	
A1	WALL MOUNTED	TBD	32W PL	UP/DOWN LIGHT; GLASS TOP FIXTURE
В	CATENARY	BEGA	42W PL	
С	PAVER LIGHT	FELIX	LED	DECORATIVE
D	DOWNLIGHT	TBD	LED	RECESS MOUNTED IN SOFFITS AND CANOPY
Ε	GROUND ART SPOT	TBD	TBD	
F	UPLIGHT	TBD	LED	AT MASONRY PIERS ABOVE CANOPY
G	RECESSED STEP LIGHT	TBD	LED	RECESSED ON STAIRWAY WALLS









Technical Description: Linear line of light for outdoor and indoor use. Stainless steel housing with flush tempered glass lens for seamless integration into floor surface. Driveover rated.

Installation: Floor installation requires stainless steel outer casing.

Wiring: Standard cable length 1m, 24V with remote driver.

LED Color: 3000K, 4000K, Blue, RGB, other LED colors available on request.

NOTE: STANDARD GATSBY STREET LIGHTS TO BE LOCATED PER T&ES REQUIREMENTS.

March 19, 2014

RUST ORLING
ARCHITECTURE

CARR

CITY CENTERS

PROPOSED SITE LIGHTING PLAN

1" = 25'

FAR EXCLUSIONS

STAIRWAYS, ELEVATOR SHAFTS & LAUNDRY CHUTE

MECHANICAL (PLUMBING CHASES NOT SHOWN)

OTHER (BELOW 7'-6" CEILING HT.)







SECOND FLOOR THIRD FLOOR



PROPOSED SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR PLANS



FAR EXCLUSIONS

STAIRWAYS, ELEVATOR SHAFTS & LAUNDRY CHUTE

MECHANICAL (PLUMBING CHASES NOT SHOWN)

OTHER (BELOW 7'-6" CEILING HT.)



FOURTH FLOOR



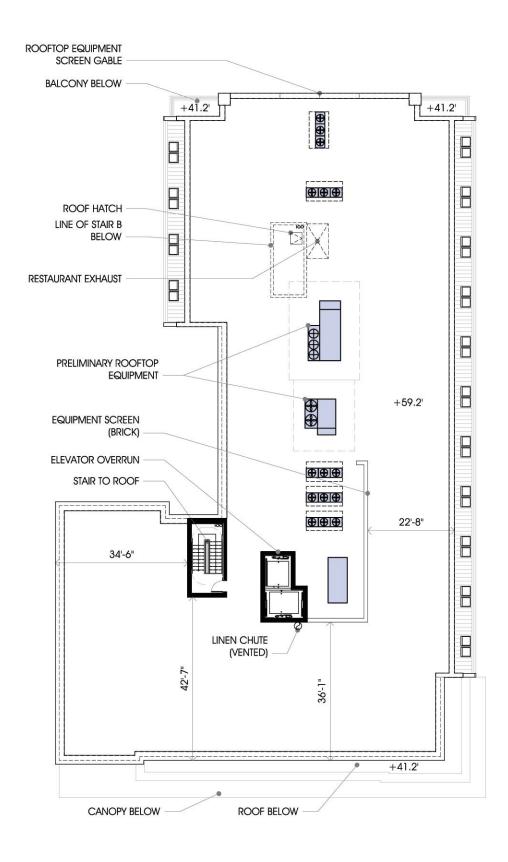


FIFTH FLOOR



PROPOSED FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOOR PLANS











BRICK CORNICES



BRICK DETAIL AT MAIN ENTRY



PROPOSED BUILDING MATERIALS

Mate	Materials		Doo	Doors & Windows	
B1	Brick 1	Buff	D1	Glass entry doors	
B2	Brick 2	Red	D2	Garage Doors - Sectional with applied detail	
В3	Brick 3	Dark	W1	Storefront - aluminum SDL	
S 1	Stone	Stone veneer	W2	Rooms 1 - aluminum frame; single; fixed	
M1	Roofing	Standing seam metal roof; painted	W3	Rooms 2 - aluminum frame; pair; operable sash	
M2	Canopy	Suspended metal with coffered soffit	W4	Sky Window - aluminum frame; low-profile; fixed (Velux)	
G1	Guardrail	Clear tempered glass guardrail			



PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION - SOUTH UNION STREET

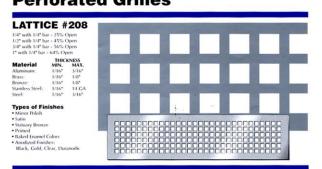
3/64" = 1'-0"







Perforated Grilles





BRICK CORNICE

PROPOSED BUILDING MATERIALS

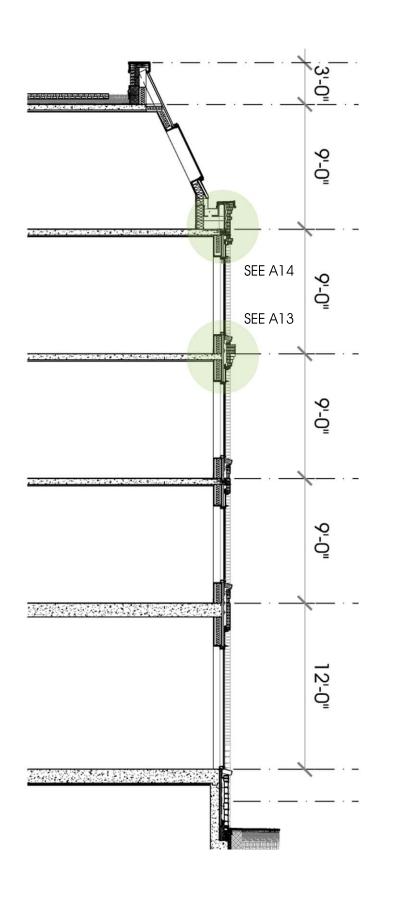
Mate	erials		Door	rs & Windows
B1	Brick 1	Buff	D1	Glass entry doors
B2	Brick 2	Red	D2	Garage Doors - Sectional with applied detail
В3	Brick 3	Dark	W1	Storefront - aluminum SDL
S1	Stone	Stone veneer	W2	Rooms 1 - aluminum frame; single; fixed
M1	Roofing	Standing seam metal roof; painted	W3	Rooms 2 - aluminum frame; pair; operable sash
M2	Canopy	Suspended metal with coffered soffit	W4	Sky Window - aluminum frame; low-profile; fixed (Velux)
G1	Guardrail	Clear tempered alass avardrail		



PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION - DUKE STREET

3/64'' = 1'-0''









DUKE STREET - WALL SECTION AT MANSARD ROOF







GREEN SCREEN





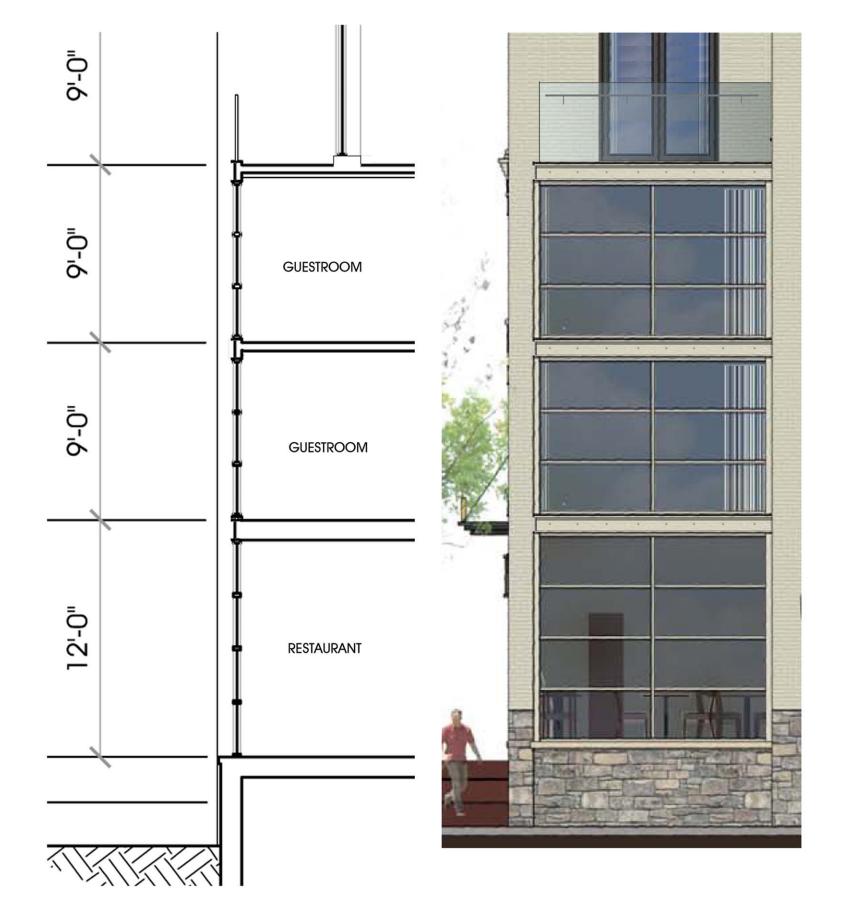
PROPOSED BUILDING MATERIALS

Materials		Doo	Doors & Windows	
B1	Brick 1	Buff	Dl	Glass entry doors
B2	Brick 2	Red	D2	Garage Doors - Sectional with applied detail
В3	Brick 3	Dark	W1	Storefront - aluminum SDL
S 1	Stone	Stone veneer	W2	Rooms 1 - aluminum frame; single; fixed
M1	Roofing	Standing seam metal roof; painted	W3	Rooms 2 - aluminum frame; pair; operable sash
M2	Canopy	Suspended metal with coffered soffit	W4	Sky Window - aluminum frame; low-profile; fixed (Velux)
G1	Guardrail	Clear tempered glass guardrail		

PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION - STRAND STREET

3/64'' = 1'-0''





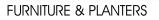


STRAND STREET - WALL SECTION AT "LANTERN"











CATENARY LIGHTING

PROPOSED BUILDING MATERIALS

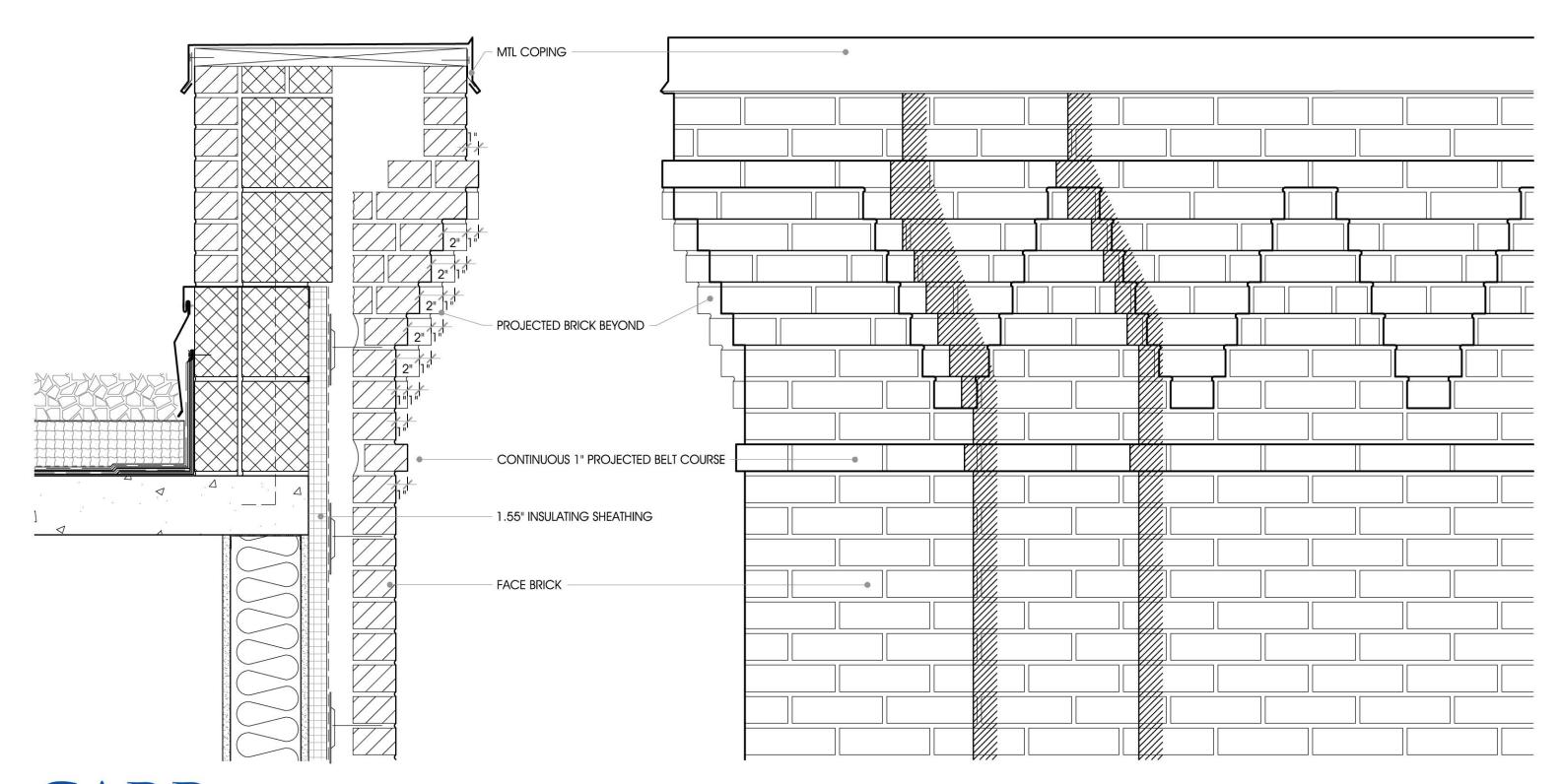
Materials		Doo	Doors & Windows	
B1	Brick 1	Buff	D1	Glass entry doors
B2	Brick 2	Red	D2	Garage Doors - Sectional with applied detail
В3	Brick 3	Dark	W1	Storefront - aluminum SDL
S 1	Stone	Stone veneer	W2	Rooms 1 - aluminum frame; single; fixed
M1	Roofing	Standing seam metal roof; painted	W3	Rooms 2 - aluminum frame; pair; operable sash
M2	Canopy	Suspended metal with coffered soffit	W4	Sky Window - aluminum frame; low-profile; fixed (Velux)
G1	Guardrail	Clear tempered glass guardrail		



PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION - COURTYARD

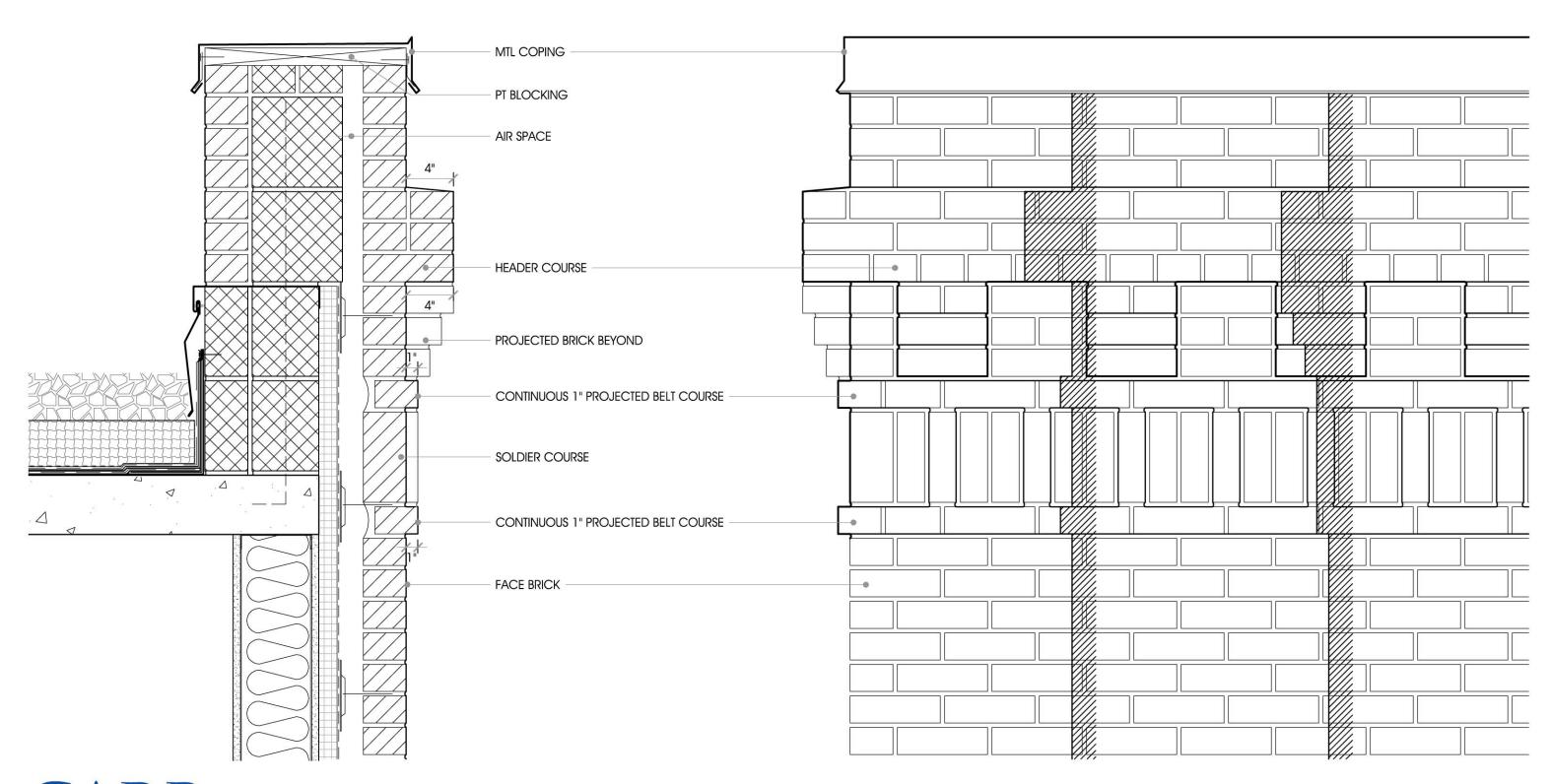
3/64'' = 1'-0''





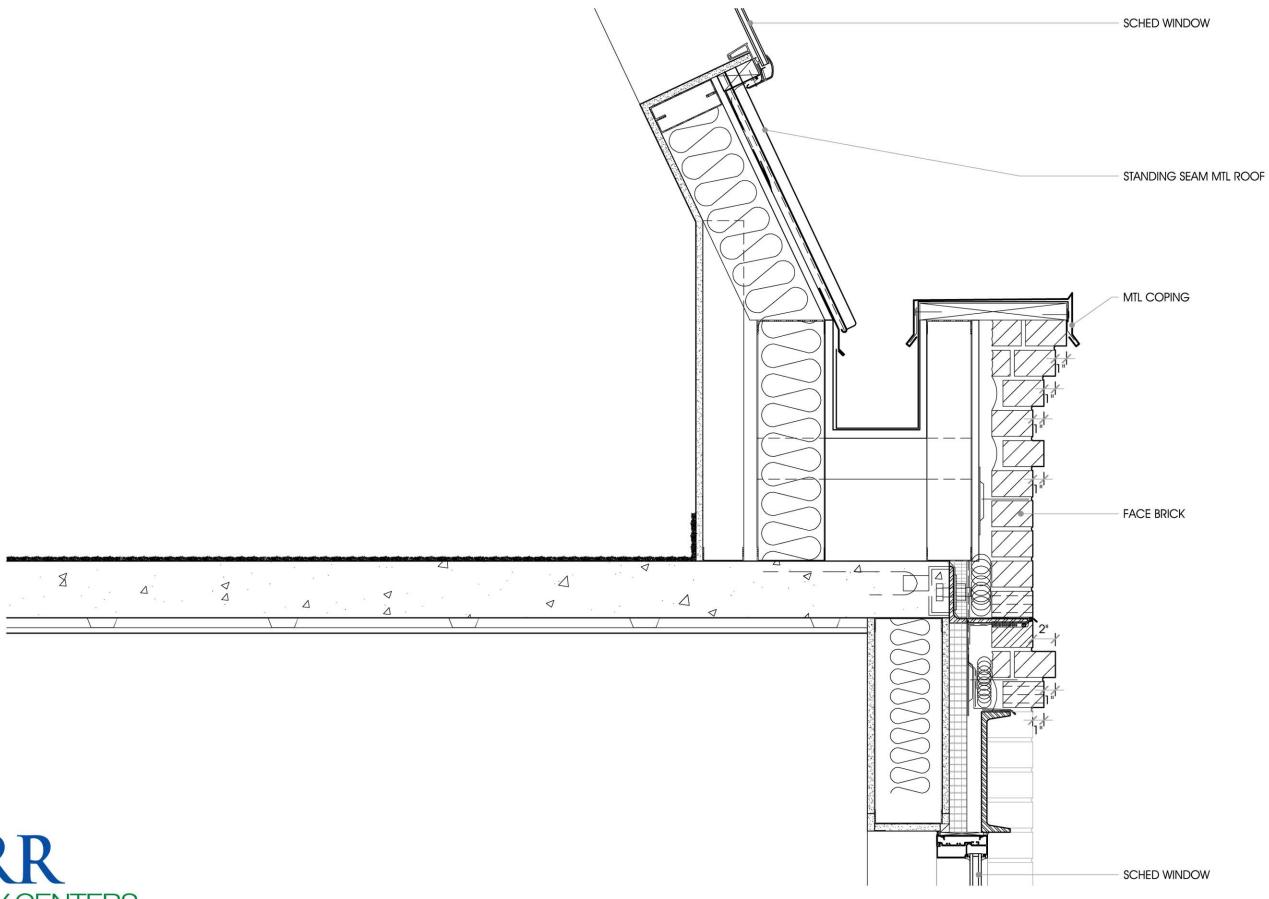


3RD FLOOR BRICK CORNICE DETAIL



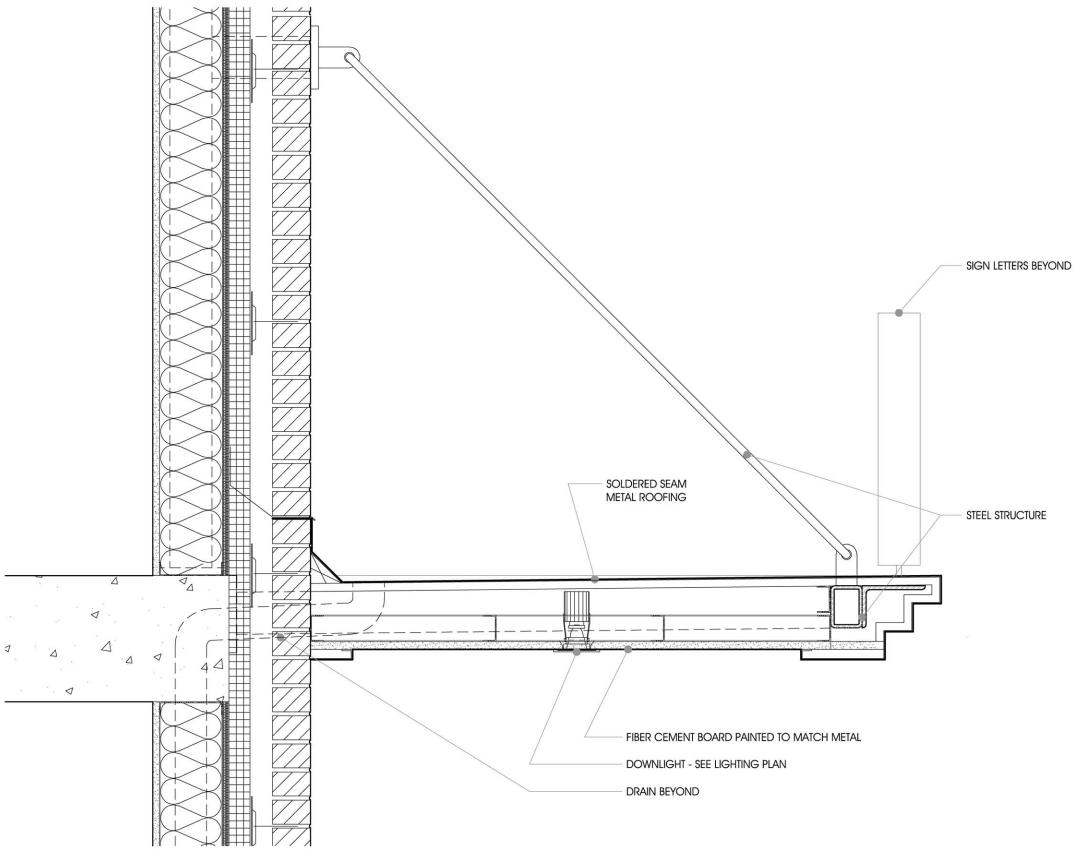


5TH FLOOR BRICK CORNICE DETAIL





5TH FLOOR CORNICE DETAIL AT MANSARD ROOF

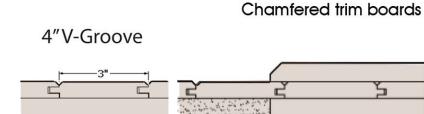




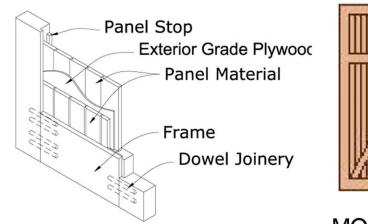
GROUND FLOOR CANOPY DETAIL AT MAIN ENTRY

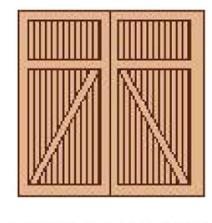


Swing Look
The Swing Look is reminiscent of swing out doors from turn-of-the century carriage houses,



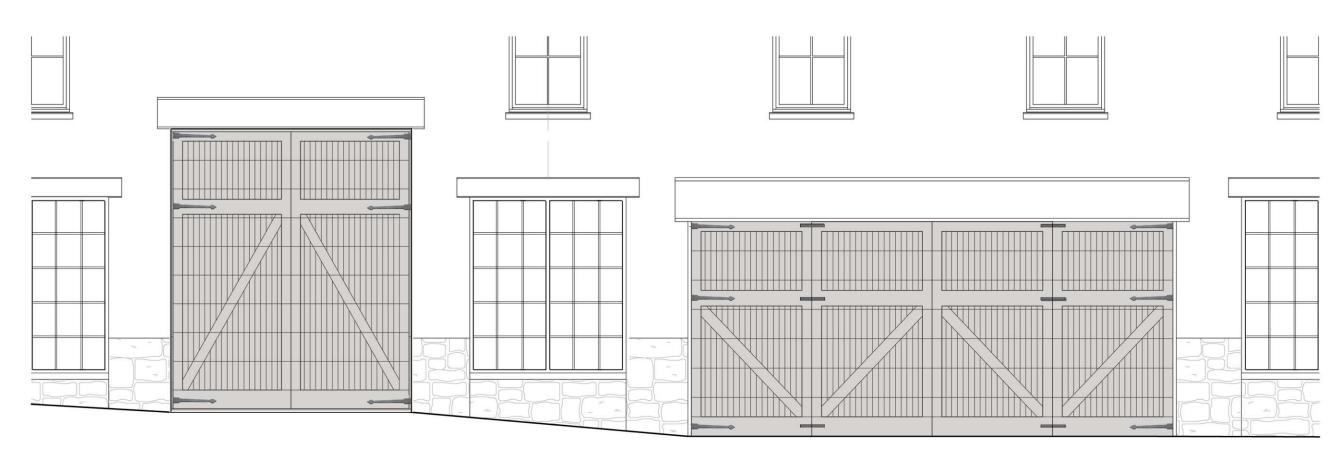






MODEL B S V H-00SC







GARAGE AND LOADING DOCK DOOR DETAILS