Docket Item # 2 BZA Case #2016-0013

Board of Zoning Appeals January 12, 2017

**ADDRESS:** 408 EAST MONROE AVENUE **ZONE:** RB/RESIDENTIAL TOWNHOUSE

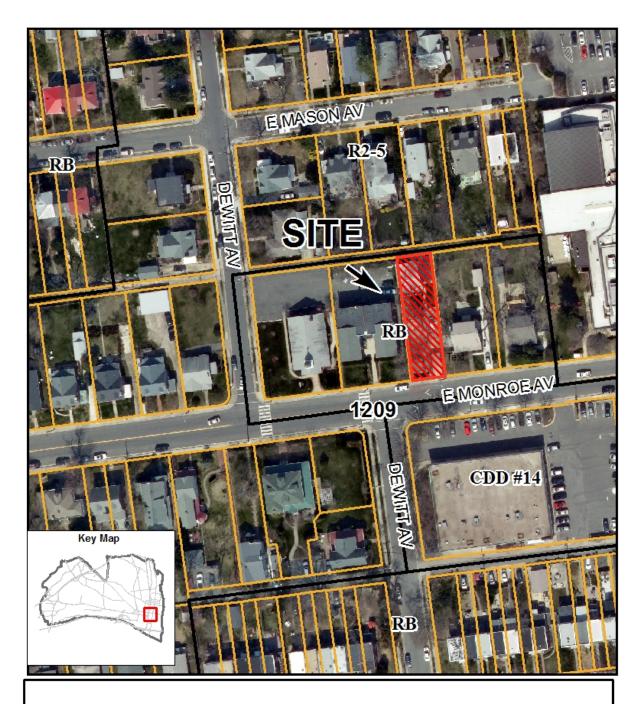
**APPLICANT:** MANDI CHAPMAN

**ISSUE:** Special exception to expand a noncomplying wall in the required east side

yard.

CODE	SUBJECT	CODE	APPLICANT	REQUESTED
SECTION		REQMT	PROPOSES	EXCEPTION
3-706(A)(2)(a)	Side Yard (East)	8.00 feet	2.20 feet	5.80 feet

If the Board decides to grant the requested special exception, it must comply with the code requirements under the department comments and the applicant must submit the following prior to the release of a Certificate of Occupancy: (1) a survey plat prepared by a licensed surveyor confirming building footprint, setbacks, and building height compliance from average preconstruction grade and (2) certification of floor area from a licensed architect or engineer. The special exception must also be recorded with the deed of the property in the City's Land Records Office prior to the release of the building permit.





BZA Case #2016-0013 408 E. Monroe Ave.



#### I. Issue

The applicant proposes a two-story addition at 408 East Monroe Avenue. The addition would increase the height and length of the plane established by the noncomplying east facing building wall. Increasing the height and length of this noncomplying wall in the required east side yard requires special exception approval.

#### II. Background

The subject property is an interior lot of record. It has 40.00 feet of frontage facing East Monroe Avenue and a depth of 142.00 feet. The property contains 5,679 square feet of lot area. The lot is substandard in terms of lot width. It abuts a 10' public alley in the rear.

The property contains a two story dwelling located 107.60 feet from the front property line, 8.70 feet from the rear property line, and 1.10 feet and 2.20 from the west and east side property lines, respectively. Real Estate assessment records indicate the house was constructed around 1930. According to building permit records, the house was substantially rebuilt in 1997.

#### III. <u>Description</u>

The applicant proposes to construct a second story addition on the east side of the house over an existing single-story portion. The addition would be located 108.70 feet from the front property line, 2.20 feet from the east side property line, and 8.30 feet from the rear property line. The height of the proposed addition would be 19.30 feet to the midpoint of the gabled roof as measured from average finished grade. The applicant proposes no change to pre-construction grade.

The addition would require side (east) and rear (north) setbacks of 8.00 feet and 12.50 feet, respectively. Special exception approval is required to increase the height and length of the east-facing, noncomplying building wall in the required side yard. This wall is located 2.20 feet from the east side property line.

The addition's increased height would comply with the required rear setback because of how the roof is oriented. Based on the proposed addition's height of 12.50 feet, measured from grade to the roof eave facing the rear yard, a setback of 12.50 feet is required. Zoning ordinance section 7-1003 allows half the width of the alley to be "credited" toward the required rear yard setback.

The proposed second-story addition would accommodate an additional bedroom and bathroom. Upon completion of the work, the proposed structure would comply with height, floor area ratio and open space requirements.

There have been no variances or special exceptions previously granted for the subject property.

RB Zone	Required	Existing	Proposed
Lot Area	1,980 Sq. Ft.	5,679 Sq. Ft.	5,679 Sq. Ft.
Lot Width/Frontage	50 Ft.	40.00 Ft.	40.00 Ft.
Front Yard (South)	Average Prevailing	107.6 Ft.	107.6 Ft.
Side Yard (East)	8.00 Ft. (height to setback ratio – 1:3 w/ 8 Ft. minimum)	2.20 Ft.	2.20 Ft.
Side Yard (West)	8.00 Ft. (height to setback ratio – 1:3 w/ 8 Ft minimum)	1.10 Ft.	1.10 Ft.
Rear Yard (North)	14.80 Ft. (existing structure) 12.50 Ft. (proposed addition) (height to setback ratio – 1:1 w/8 Ft. minimum)	13.30 Ft.*	13.30 Ft. (existing structure) 12.50 Ft. (proposed addition)
<b>Building Height</b>	25.00 Ft.	19.80 Ft.	19.80 Ft.
Net FAR	4,259 Sq. Ft. (.75)	1,541 Sq. Ft.	2,123 Sq. Ft.

<sup>\*</sup> Per section 7-1003: whenever any public or private alley occurs in any zone, one-half of the width of such alley shall be considered in the determination of the rear yard setback ratio requirement of any lot abutting on such alley.

#### IV. Master Plan/Zoning

The subject property is zoned RB and has been so zoned since adoption of the Third Revised Zoning Map in 1951. The site is identified for residential land use in the Potomac West Small Area Plan.

#### V. Requested Special Exception

3-706(A)(2)(a) Side Yard (East)

The applicants request a special exception of 5.80 feet from the required minimum 8.00 foot side yard setback to construct the second story addition 2.20 feet from the east side property line.

#### VI. Noncomplying Structure/ Substandard Lot

The existing building is a noncomplying structure with respect to the following:

Requirement Rear Yard (North)	Required 14.80 Ft.	Existing 13.30 Ft.	Noncompliance 1.50 Ft.
Real Taid (Notui)	14.00 14.	13.30 14.	1.50 Ft.
Side Yard (West)	8.00 Ft.	1.10 Ft.	6.90 Ft.
Side Yard (East)	8.00 Ft.	2.20 Ft.	5.80 Ft.

Width/Frontage 50.00 Ft. 40.00 Ft. 10.00 Ft.

#### VII. Special Exception Standards

Per Section 11-1304 of the zoning ordinance, the Board of Zoning Appeals "must find that the strict application of the ordinance creates an unreasonable burden on the use and enjoyment of the property which outweighs the material zoning purpose for which the specific provision of the ordinance at issue was designed."

Section 11-1304 also states that the Board of Zoning Appeals "shall consider and weigh the following issues, as applicable:"

1) Whether approval of the special exception will be detrimental to the public welfare, to the neighborhood or to the adjacent properties.

Because the existing house is located over 100 feet from the front property line, and the proposed addition would be located almost entirely within the existing footprint, it would have little perceivable impact to the neighborhood and other adjacent properties. There would be no impact on public welfare. The proposed addition has a low roof height at the rear to maintain its required rear yard setback, and it would be a great distance from the dwelling on the adjacent due to the unusual positioning of this dwelling on its lot.

2) Whether approval of the special exception will impair an adequate supply of light and air to the adjacent property, or cause or substantially increase traffic congestion or increase the danger of fire or the spread of fire, or endanger the public safety.

The addition would not significantly reduce supply of light and air to the adjacent property because it would be located almost entirely within the footprint of the existing house. The addition would not be taller than any portion of the existing house. There would be no anticipated impacts to traffic, fire risk or public safety.

3) Whether approval of the special exception will alter the essential character of the area or zone.

The addition would not alter the essential character of the area or zone. The proposed construction is similar in scale (height and mass) to many surrounding two-story structures.

4) Whether the proposal will be compatible with the development in the surrounding neighborhood.

The addition would be consistent with the design guidelines for additions found in the Del Ray Neighborhood Residential Pattern Book because it would be subordinate to the main body of the house, would not extend above the roofline of the existing building and it would be set back from the existing front building wall.

5) Whether the proposed development represents the only reasonable means and location on the lot to accommodate the proposed structure given the natural constraints of the lot or the existing development of the lot.

Staff met with the applicants several times to discuss design alternatives. A previous design alternative that required variance approval was originally docketed for the December 2016 hearing. A variance would have been required because the proposed addition would not meet the side or rear setback requirements. The narrowness of the lot and the configuration of the existing dwelling on the lot severely limits where an addition could be constructed in compliance with zoning regulations. Comparably sized alternatives that could comply with zoning regulations would reduce open space on the lot and could have a greater impact on light and air supply to the adjacent property.

#### **VIII. Staff Conclusion**

#### Neighborhood Impact

The surrounding neighborhood has a varied character with many two-story homes. This second story addition would be compatible with the mass and height of other homes in the neighborhood. The development of this block of East Monroe Avenue, bounded by Dewitt and Leslie Avenues, is particularly mixed; containing two single-family dwellings, a garden-style apartment building, a church, and the YMCA.

#### Light and Air

The proposed addition would be located in line with the existing north and east building walls. It is unlikely that light or air to adjacent properties would be negatively impacted by this addition. The addition is no taller than the existing dwelling.

#### **Lot Constraints**

The lot is substandard in width. As such, this limits potential additions on each side of the existing structure. The house is also constructed at the very back of the lot; just 8.30 feet from the rear property line.

#### Alternatives

Staff has met with the applicants on several occasions to discuss alternatives. Additions to the rear and sides are not feasible without variance approval. An addition in the front

yard could be constructed by-right but would require near-complete demolition of the existing façade and a full reconfiguration of the home's existing floorplan. The front addition would also reduce open space on the lot.

#### **Staff Conclusion**

As outlined above, staff believes the application meets the criteria for a special exception and **recommends approval** of the request.

#### STAFF:

Sam Shelby, Urban Planner,
Mary Christesen, Zoning Manager,
Alex Dambach, Division Chief,

sam.shelby@alexandriava.gov
mary.christesen@alexandriava.gov
alex.dambach@alexandriava.gov

#### **DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS**

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

\* The applicant is advised that if the special exception is approved the following additional comments apply.

#### Transportation and Environmental Services:

- R-1 The building permit must be approved and issued prior to the issuance of any permit for demolition. (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 located at the rear of 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)

#### Code Administration:

C-1 A building permit, plan review and inspection is required to construct a two story addition prior to the start of construction.

#### Recreation (City Arborist):

F-1 No trees are affected by the proposed special exception.

#### Historic Alexandria (Archaeology):

- R-1 There is low potential for significant archaeological resources to be disturbed by this project. No archaeological action is required.
- F-1 According to an 1878 map of the area, a home owned by T. B. Pin was located quite close to the footprint of the current dwelling on the lot. A later map in 1898 depicts a vacant lot on the property, suggesting that the Pin dwelling no longer stood. However, as designed the proposed project will have no impact on archaeological resources, and therefore we are requiring no archaeological action at this time.

BZA Case # 2014 . DODB



## **APPLICATION**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

## SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR ADDITIONS

RTA
Applicant:   Owner   Contract Purchaser   Agent
Name Mandi Chapman
Address 408 E Monroe Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
Daytime Phone 202-994-5502
Email Address mandiprattchapman@gmail.com
Property Location 408 E Monroe Ave, Alexandria VA 22301
Assessment Map # 0004.01 Block 01 Lot 13 Zone RB/Twonhouse
201 201 201

#### 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
<sup>1</sup> Mandi Chapman	408 E. Monroe Ave. Alexandria VA 22301	100%
<sup>2</sup> Mandi Chapman		
<sup>3</sup> Mandi Chapman		

2. Property. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an
interest in the property located at408 E Monroe Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301 (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
<sup>1</sup> Mandi Chapman	408 E. Monroe Ave. Alexandria VA 22301	100%
<sup>2</sup> Mandi Chapman		
<sup>3.</sup> Mandi Chapman		

3. Business or Financial Relationships. Each person or entity indicated above in sections 1 and 2, with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property are require 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 the12-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. All fields must be filled out completely. Do not leave blank. (If there are no relationships please indicated each person or entity and "None" in the corresponding fields).

For a list of current council, commission and board members, as well as the definition of business and financial relationship, click here.

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.)
<sup>1</sup> Mandi Chapman	None	999999
<sup>2</sup> Mandi Chapman		
<sup>3.</sup> Mandi Chapman		

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.

11/28/2016	Mandi Pratt Chapman	Mandi Louise Pratt Chapman	işini ayarış ilmi sanı ilm inşanı Derilmi ayarış ilmi sanı aşalı maradı, mişandı, madı adılı im Girel denir ilmiyeti
Date	Printed Name	Signature	

### BZA Case # 2016 - 00013

5. Describe request briefly:  I request approval to complete the second story of our hor	me with an addition as per the p	proposed design plans	
6. If property owner or applicant such as an attorney, realtor of compensation, does this agent of a business license to operate in N/A [] Yes — Provide proof of [] [] No — Said agent shall be application.	or other person or the business in the City of Alexan current City busin	for which there which they are endria, Virginia? ess license.	is a form of nployed have
THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ATTES the site plan, building elevations, prospective accurate. The undersigned further understand action taken by the Board based on such inform grants the City of Alexandria permission to po Section 11-301(B) of the 1992 Alexandria City is this application. The applicant, if other than the permission from the property owner to make this APPLICANT OR AUTHORIZED AGENT:	e drawings of the place of that, should such mation may be invaliced a control of the property owner.	projects, etc., are true information be found dated. The undersign is required by Article in the property which is	ie, correct and incorrect, any ned also hereby XI, Division A,
Mandi Pratt Chapman	Mandi Louise Pratt Chapman	Display algreed by Mandi Lasino Pridl Chapman Dit creditated Lasino Pridl Chapman, s. os., andi-movel/pretichamore/gerest perm, os-US Dain: 270 st. 12 oktos; 15 oktos 15 oktos pridle pridle p	
Print Name	Signature		,
202-994-5502 or 571-213-2558	11/28/2016		
Telephone	Date		

Pursuant to Section 13-3-2 of the City Code, the use of a document containing false information may constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor and may result in a punishment of a year in jail or \$2,500 or both. It may also constitute grounds to revoke the permit applied for with such information.

<b>BZA</b> Case	#	2016-	51000
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NOTE TO APPLICANT: Only one special exception per dwelling shall be approved under the provisions of Section 11-1302(B)(4).

#### **PART B** (SECTION 11-1304)

APPLICANT MUST EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING:

(Please use additional pages where necessary.)

1.	Explain how the special exception for the proposed addition, if granted					
	meets the applicant's needs.					
Currently, the second story of our home is built over only a portion of the first floor. I wish to add functional space to my home.						
Specifica	ally, I wish to build out the master suite to include a bathroom, walk-in closet and study area.					
2.	Explain if the special exception, if granted, will harm adjoining properties					
	or impact the neighborhood in any way.					
No. My o	closest neighbors have indicated that they are supportive of the modification to the house. The homes surrounding					
mine are	closer to the front of their lots, so my renovation would not have a direct impact other than improving aesthetics					
	eighborhood more generally.					
	Explain how the proposed addition will affect the light and air to any					
	adjacent property.					
The home	s surrounding ours are closer to the front of their lots and and away from hour home and property lanes, so our addition					
will no affe	ect the light and air of any adjacent property.					

BZA Case # 2016-00013

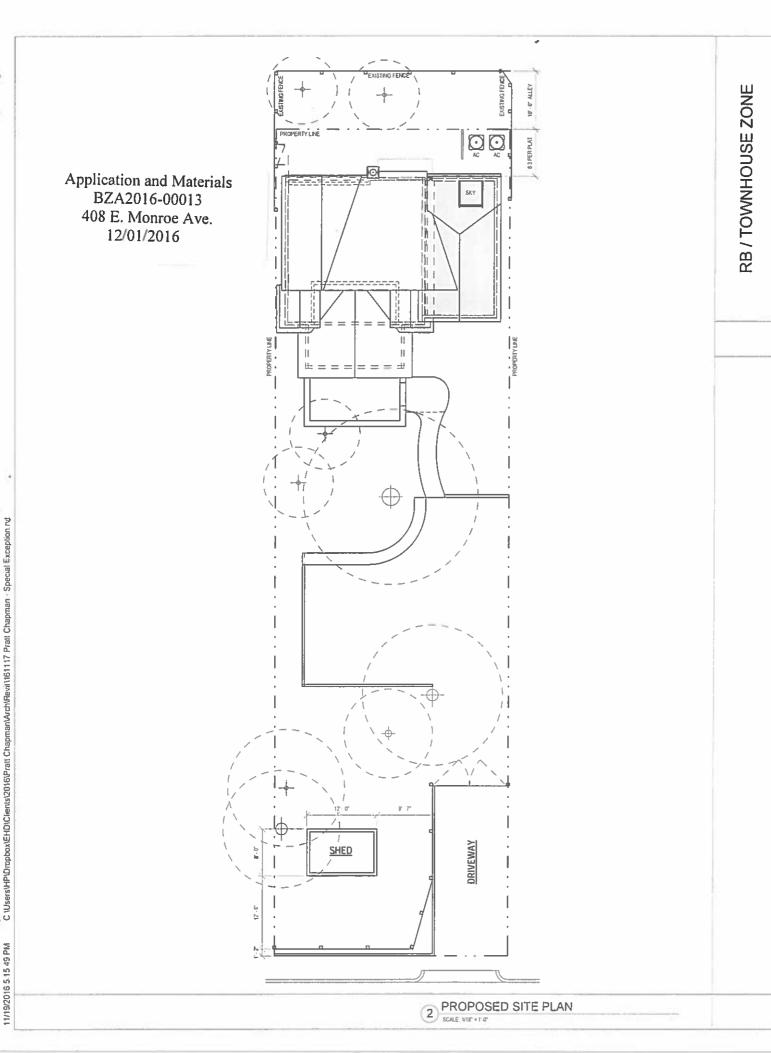
4.	Explain how the proposed addition is compatible with other properties in the neighborhood and the character of the neighborhood as a whole.
The p	proposed addition is compatible with other properties in the neighborhood, because it completes the second second story
over	the existing flat roof on the side the our two stories home. This addition of the second story of our home will fit better with
	haracter of the neighborhood as a whole.
5.	How is the proposed construction similar to other buildings in the immediate area?
Trie tr	additional style of the addition complements the existing character of the rest of our house; it has a welcoming front porch and
two s	symmetrical small front dormers, similar to other two story homes in the immediate area.
<b>6.</b> This ol	Explain how this plan represents the only reasonable location on the lot to build the proposed addition.
a large	an represents the only reasonable location on the lot to build the proposed addition. The original home was initially built on
ines a	r lot that got subdivided into smaller lots; as a consequence, our home ended up very close to the rear and side propery
eet had	nd not according to the minimum setbacks of the current Zoning Ordinance. This proposed additions addresses the rear
old hor	k set back restrictions, and completes the shape of our existing second floor keeping the integrity and character of our
310 1101	
7. /es - t	Has the applicant shown the plans to the most affected property owners? Have any neighbors objected to the proposed special exception, or have any neighbors written letters of support? If so, please attach the letter. he two property owner closest to me on E. Monroe have indicated no objection to the proposal.





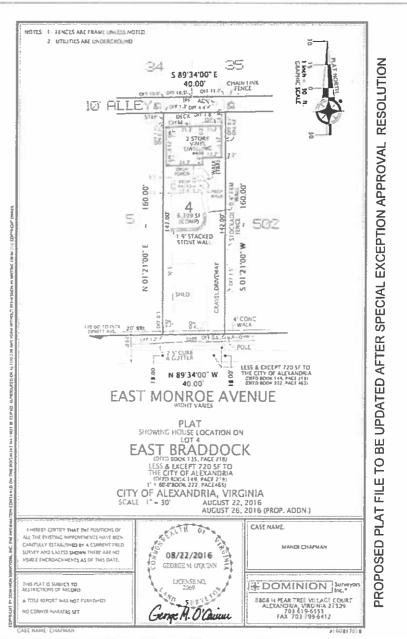
# DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING FLOOR AREA RATIO AND OPEN SPACE CALCULATIONS FOR SINGLE AND TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL OUTSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICTS

A1. Street Addre	8SS 408 E. Mor	Woe Ave. Alexand	Irla VA 22301			Zone RB/Townhouse /Zane
A2. 5679			χ 1/5			= 8,518.5
Total Lot Area			Floor Area Ratio Allowed by Zone		/ Zone	Maximum Allowable Floor Area
B. Existing Gre	oss Floo	r Area				
Existing Gross Area*			Allowable Exclusions			
Basement	sement N/A		Basement**		<del></del> :	B1. Existing Gross Floor Area *
First Floor	879		Stairways**			B2. Allowable Floor Exclusions**
Second Floor	732		Mechanical**	<del>                                     </del>		Sg. Ft.
Third Floor	N/A		Porch/Garage**	<u> </u>		B3. Existing Floor Area minus Exclusion Sq. Ft. (subtract B2 from B1)
Porches/Other	218		Attic less than 5'**			
Total Gross*	1829		Total Exclusions			
Proposed Gross Area*  Basement N/A			Allowable Exclusions  Basement**			C4 Departed On the same
. Proposed G	ross Flo	or Area	(does not include	existin	g area	)
Proposed Gross Area*			Allowable Exclusions			
irst Floor						C1. Proposed Gross Floor Area *  Sq. Ft.
Second Floor	42		Stairways**			C2. Allowable Floor Exclusions** Sq. Ft.
hird Floor	295		Mechanicai**			C3. Proposed Floor Area minus
	N/A		Porch/Garage**			Exclusions 337 Sq. Ft. (subtract C2 from C1)
Porches/Other	N/A		Attic less than 5'**			, i
otal Gross*	337		Total Exclusions			
Den Space	ea (add B3 ea Allowed	3 and C3) I by Zone ( <i>i</i>	2166 SQ A2) 8518.5 SQ	j. Ft. j. Ft.	family 5, RI locate areas walls. ** Rei and	es floor area for residential single and two- or dwellings in the R-20, R-12, R-8, R-5, R-2- B and RA zones (not including properties and within a Historic District) is the sum of all under roof of a lot, measured from exterior for the zoning ordinance (Section2-145(A)) consult with zoning staff for information
Open Space Calculations Requesting Open Space 4582			direct ill ton at KB Zories		regan	ding allowable exclusions. Ing exclusions other than basements, floor
Required Open Spa		N/A			plans	with excluded areas illustrated must be
Proposed Open Spa		4540			submitted for review. Sections may also be required for some exclusions.	
		4040				
1000			tests that, to the best	t of his/he	r know	ledge, the above computations are true and
nature.		Bank (	We   10 m   10 m			Date: 11/28/2016



Lot Area 6399 SF (Comp) Less and except City of Alex 720 SF **Total Lot Area** 5679 SF **Existing 1st Floor** 879 SF Existing 2nd Floor 732 SF **Existing Porch** 122 SF Existing Shed 96 SF **Existing Total Gross** 1829 SF Proposed 1st Floor 42 SF Proposed 2nd Floor 295 SF **Proposed Total Gross** 337 SF Existing + Proposed Total Gross 2166 SF Proposed Open Space 4540 SF (Total Lot Area - Existing 1st Floor - Prop 1st Floor - Porch - Shed)

Proposed Gross Floor Areas



Construction for 00 esign Δ

EnviroHomeDesign

Project Name: PRATT CHAPMAN RESIDENCE- VARIANCE Project Project Type

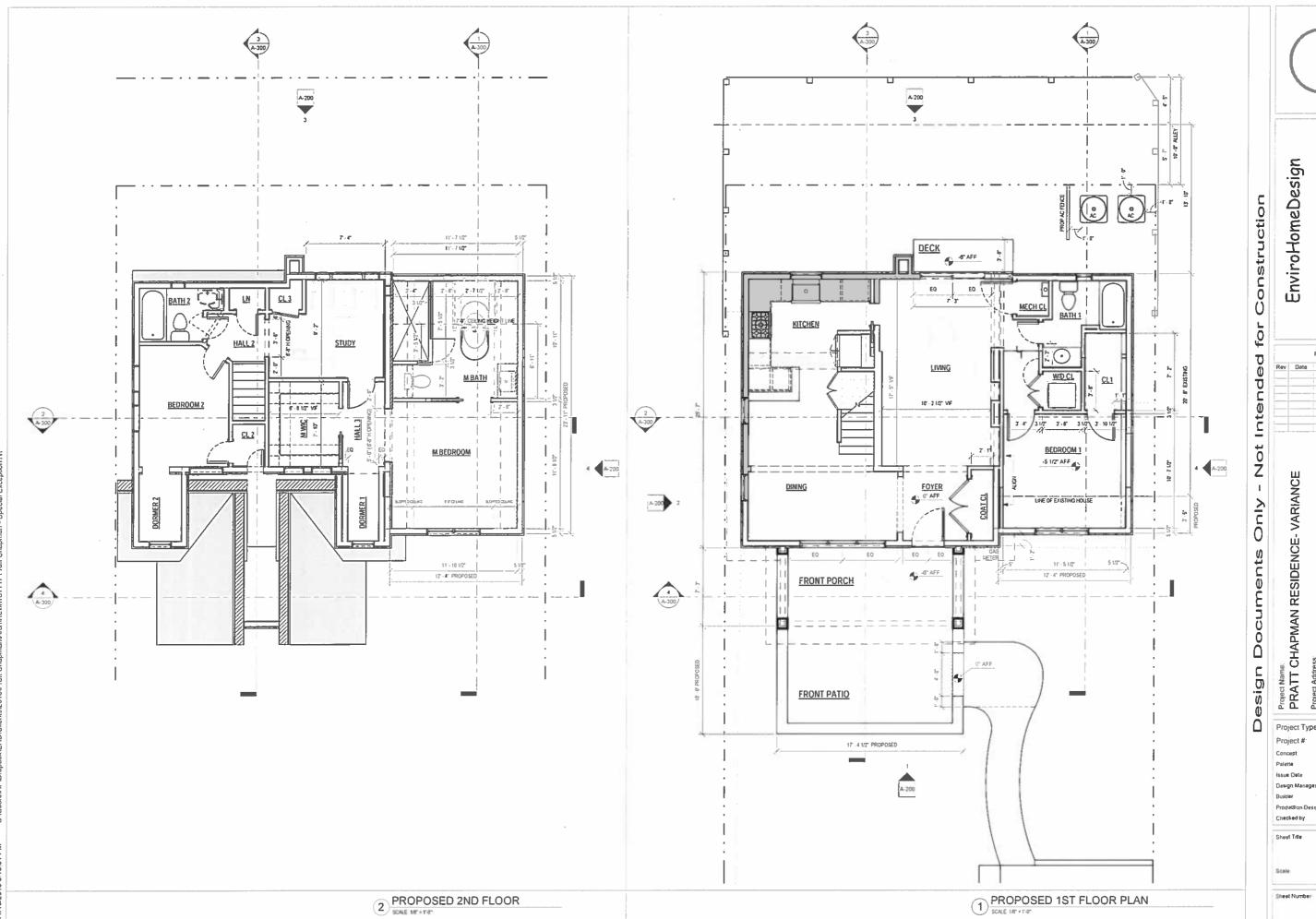
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Proposed Plans

A-100

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PROPOSED PLAT FILE

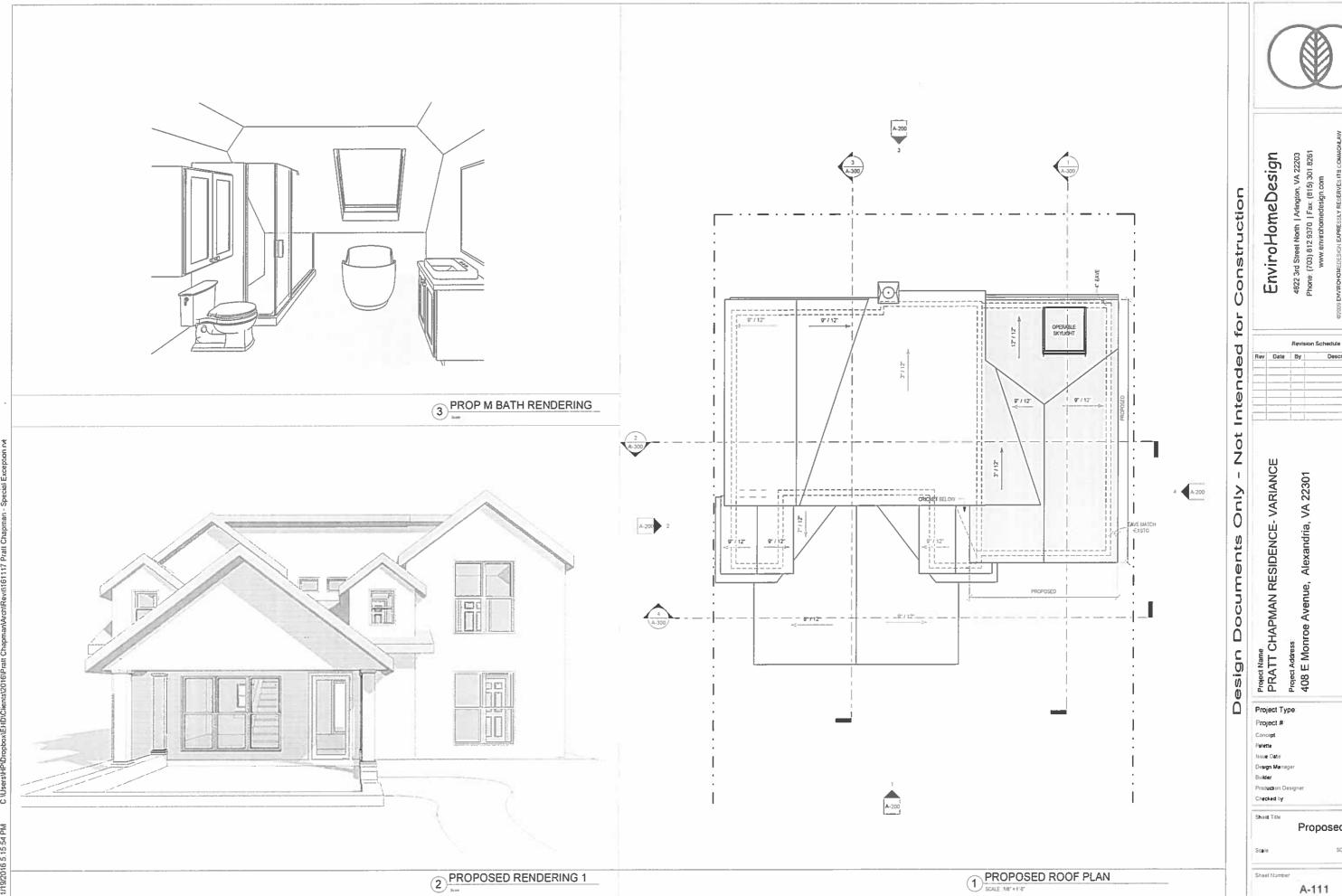




Proposed Plans SCALE 18" - 1'-0"

Sheet Number A-110

Project Address: 408 E. Monroe Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301





Proposed Plans



