

JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission  
Sunnyside in Sevier Park  
3000 Granny White Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204  
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**2618 Barton Avenue**

**June 16, 2021**

**Application:** New Construction—Addition; Setback Determination  
**District:** Hillsboro-West End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay  
**Council District:** 18  
**Base Zoning:** RS7.5  
**Map and Parcel Number:** 10411016300  
**Applicant:** Blaine Bonadies, Architect  
**Project Lead:** Sean Alexander, sean.alexander@nashville.gov

**Description of Project:** A proposal to construct a rear addition to an historic house. The addition will match the height of the historic house and will match the width of an existing rear addition. A setback determination is required on the left side of the addition, where the historic house currently sits less than five feet (5') from the property line.

**Recommendation Summary:** Staff recommends approval of the proposed addition with the reduced left-side setback with the following conditions:

1. The brick selection is approved prior to purchase construction; and
2. The window and door selections are approved prior to purchase and construction.

With these conditions, staff finds that the proposal will meet the design guidelines for new construction in the Hillsboro-West End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.

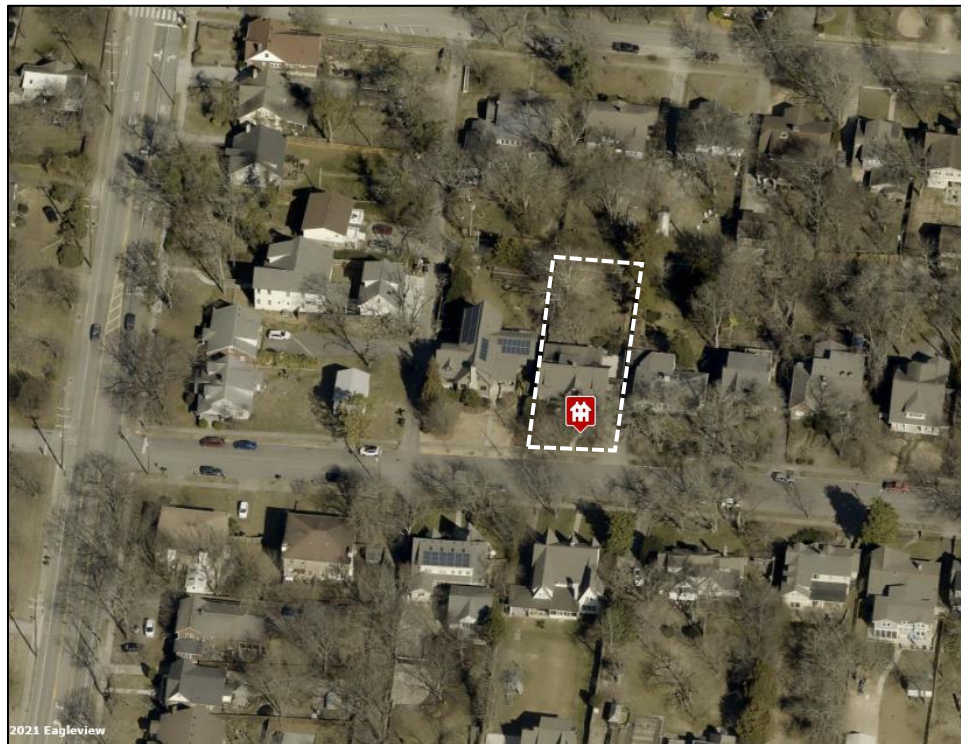
**Attachments**

- A:** Site Plan
- B:** Floorplans
- C:** Elevations

**Vicinity Map:**



**Aerial Map:**



## **Applicable Design Guidelines:**

### **II.B. GUIDELINES**

#### **1. NEW CONSTRUCTION**

##### **a. Height**

The height of the foundation wall, porch roof(s), and main roof(s) of a new building shall be compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with those of surrounding historic buildings.

##### **b. Scale**

The size of a new building and its mass in relation to open spaces shall be compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with surrounding historic buildings.

*Foundation lines should be visually distinct from the predominant exterior wall material. This is typically accomplished with a change in material.*

##### **c. Setback and Rhythm of Spacing**

The setback from front and side yard property lines established by adjacent historic buildings should be maintained. Generally, a dominant rhythm along a street is established by uniform lot and building width. Infill buildings should maintain that rhythm.

*The Commission has the ability to determine appropriate building setbacks and extend height limitations of the required underlying base zoning for new construction, additions and accessory structures (ordinance no. 17.40.410).*

*Appropriate setbacks will be determined based on:*

- The existing setback of the contributing primary buildings and accessory structures found in the immediate vicinity;*
- Setbacks of like structures historically found on the site as determined by historic maps, site plans or photographs;*
- Shape of lot;*
- Alley access or lack thereof;*
- Proximity of adjoining structures; and*
- Property lines.*

*Appropriate height limitations will be based on:*

- Heights of historic buildings in the immediate vicinity*
- Existing or planned slope and grade*

*In most cases, an infill duplex should be one building, as seen historically in order to maintain the rhythm of the street. Detached infill duplexes may be appropriate in the following instances:*

- There is not enough square footage to legally subdivide the lot but there is enough frontage and width to the lot to accommodate two single-family dwellings in a manner that meets the design guidelines;*
- The second unit follows the requirements of a Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit; or*
- An existing non-historic building sits so far back on the lot that a building may be constructed in front of it in a manner that meets the rhythm of the street and the established setbacks.*

##### **d. Materials, Texture, Details, and Material Color**

The materials, texture, details, and material color of a new building's public facades shall be visually compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with surrounding historic buildings. Vinyl and aluminum siding

are not appropriate.

*T-1-11- type building panels, "permastone", E.F.I.S. and other artificial siding materials are generally not appropriate. However, pre-cast stone and cement fiberboard siding are approvable cladding materials for new construction; but pre-cast stone should be of a compatible color and texture to existing historic stone clad structures in the district; and cement fiberboard siding, when used for lapped siding, should be smooth and not stamped or embossed and have a maximum of a 5" reveal. The reveal for lap siding should not exceed 5". Larger reveals may be possible but should not exceed 8" and shall have mitered corners.*

*Shingle siding should exhibit a straight-line course pattern and exhibit a maximum exposure of seven inches (7").*

*Four inch (4") nominal corner boards are required at the face of each exposed corner.*

*Stud wall lumber and embossed wood grain are prohibited.*

*Belt courses or a change in materials from one story to another are often encouraged for large two-story buildings to break up the massing.*

*When different materials are used, it is most appropriate to have the change happen at floor lines.*

*Clapboard sided chimneys are generally not appropriate. Masonry or stucco is appropriate.*

*Texture and tooling of mortar on new construction should be similar to historic examples.*

*Asphalt shingle is an appropriate roof material for most buildings. Generally, roofing should not have strong simulated shadows in the granule colors which results in a rough, pitted appearance; faux shadow lines; strongly variegated colors; colors that are too light (e.g.: tan, white, light green); wavy or deep color/texture used to simulate split shake shingles or slate; excessive flared form in the shingle tabs; uneven or sculpted bottom edges that emphasize tab width or edges, unless matching the original roof.*

*Generally primary entrances should have full to half-lite doors. Faux leaded-glass is inappropriate.*

#### **e. Roof Shape**

The roof(s) of a new building shall be visually compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with the roof shape, orientation, and pitch of surrounding historic buildings.

*Roof pitches should be similar to the pitches found in the district. Historic roofs are generally between 6/12 and 12/12.*

*Roof pitches for porch roofs are typically less steep, approximately in the 3-4/12 range.*

*Generally, two-story residential buildings have hipped roofs.*

*Generally, dormers should be located on the roof. Wall dormers are not typical in the historic context and accentuate height so they should be used minimally and generally only on secondary facades. When they are appropriate they should be no wider than the typical window openings and should not project beyond the main wall.*

#### **f. Orientation**

The orientation of a new building's front facade shall be visually consistent with surrounding historic buildings.

##### *Porches*

*New buildings should incorporate at least one front street-related porch that is accessible from the front street.*

*Side porches or porte cocheres may also be appropriate as a secondary entrance, but the primary entrance should address the front.*

*Front porches generally should be a minimum of 6' deep, have porch racks that are 1'-3' tall and have posts that include bases and capitals.*

##### *Parking areas and Driveways*

*Generally, curb cuts should not be added.*

*Where a new driveway is appropriate it should be two concrete strips with a central grassy median.*

*Shared driveways should be a single lane, not just two driveways next to each other. Sometimes this may be accomplished with a single lane curb cut that widens to a double lane deeper into the lot.*

## **g. Proportion and Rhythm of Openings**

The relationship of width to height of windows and doors, and the rhythm of solids (walls) to voids (door and window openings) in a new building shall be compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with surrounding historic buildings.

*Window openings on the primary street-related or front façade of new construction should be representative of the window patterns of similarly massed historic structures within the district. In most cases, every 8-13 horizontal feet of flat wall surface should have an opening (window or door) of at least 4 square feet. More leniencies can be given to minimally visible side or rear walls. Double-hung windows should exhibit a height to width ratio of at least 2:1. Windows on upper floors should not be taller than windows on the main floor since historically first floors have higher ceilings than upper floors and so windows were typically taller on the first floor. Single-light sashes are appropriate for new construction. If using multi-light sashes, muntins should be fully simulated and bonded to the glass, and exhibit an interior bar, exterior bar, as well as a spacer between glass panes. Four inch (nominal) casings are required around doors, windows and vents on non-masonry buildings. Trim should be thick enough to extend beyond the clapboard. Double or triple windows should have a 4" to 6" mullion in between. Brick molding is required around doors, windows and vents within masonry walls but is not appropriate on non-masonry buildings.*

## **i. Utilities**

*Utility connections such as gas meters, electric meters, phone, cable, and HVAC condenser units should be located so as to minimize their visibility from the street. Generally, utility connections should be placed no closer to the street than the mid point of the structure. Power lines should be placed underground if they are carried from the street and not from the rear or an alley.*

## **j. Public Spaces**

*Landscaping, sidewalks, signage, lighting, street furniture and other work undertaken in public spaces by any individual, group or agency shall be presented to the MHZC for review of compatibility with the character of the district. Generally, mailboxes should be attached to the front wall of the house or a porch post. In most cases, street-side mailboxes are inappropriate.*

## **2. ADDITIONS**

a. Generally, an addition should be situated at the rear of a building in such a way that it will not disturb either front or side facades. To distinguish between the historic structure and an addition, it is desirable to set the addition in from the building side wall or for the addition to have a different exterior cladding. Additions normally not recommended on historic structures may be appropriate for non-historic structures in Hillsboro-West End. Front or side alterations to non-historic buildings that increase habitable space or change exterior height should be compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with the adjacent historic buildings.

### *Placement*

*Additions should be located at the rear of an existing structure. Connections to additions should, as much as possible, use existing window and door openings rather than remove significant amounts of rear wall material. Generally, one-story rear additions should inset one foot, for each story, from the side wall.*

*Additions should be physically distinguished from the historic building and generally fit within the shadow line of the existing building.*

*Additions that tie into the existing roof should be at least 6" off the existing ridge.*

*In order to assure than an addition has achieved proper scale, the addition should:*

- No matter its use, an addition should not be larger than the existing house, not including non-historic additions, in order to achieve compatibility in scale. This will allow for the retention of small and medium size homes in the neighborhood. The diversity of housing type and size is a character defining feature of the historic districts.*
  - Additions which are essentially a house-behind-a-house with a long narrow connector are not appropriate, as the form does not exist historically. Short or minimal connections that do not require the removal of the entire back wall of a historic building are preferred.*
  - Additions should generally be shorter and thinner than the existing building. Exceptions may be made when unusual constraints make these parameters unreasonable, such as:*
    - An extreme grade change*
    - Atypical lot parcel shape or size*
- In these cases, an addition may rise above or extend wider than the existing building; however, generally the addition should not higher and extend wider.*

#### *Foundation*

*Foundation walls should set in from the existing foundation at the back edge of the existing structure by one foot for each story or half story. Exception: When an addition is a small one-room deep (12' deep or less) addition that spans the width of the structure, and the existing structure is masonry with the addition to be wood (or appropriate substitute siding). The change in material from masonry to wood allows for a minimum of a four inch (4") inset.*

*Foundation height should match or be lower than the existing structure.*

*Foundation lines should be visually distinct from the predominant exterior wall material. This is generally accomplished with a change in materials.*

#### *Roof*

*The height of the addition's roof and eaves must be less than or equal to the existing structure.*

*Visually evident roof slopes should match the roof slopes of the existing structure, and roof planes should set in accordingly for rear additions.*

*Skylights should not be located on the front-facing slope of the roof. Skylights should be flat (no bubble lenses) with a low profile (no more than six inches tall) and only be installed behind the midpoint of the building).*

#### *Rear & Side Dormers*

*Dormer additions are appropriate for some historic buildings as they are a traditional way of adding ventilation and light to upper stories.*

*The addition of a dormer that would require the removal of historic features such as an existing dormer, chimneys, cupolas or decorative feature is not appropriate.*

*Rear dormers should be inset from the side walls of the building by a minimum of two feet. The top of a rear dormer may attach just below the ridge of the main roof or lower.*

#### *Side Additions*

- b. *When a lot width exceeds 60 feet or the standard lot width on the block, it may be appropriate to add a side addition to a historic structure. The addition should set back from the face of the historic structure and should be subservient in height, width and massing to the historic structure.*

*The addition should set back from the face of the historic structure (at or beyond the midpoint of the building) and should be subservient in height, width and massing to the historic structure.*

*Side additions should be narrower than half of the historic building width and exhibit a height of at least 2' shorter than the historic building.*

*To deemphasize a side addition, the roofing form should generally be a hip or side-gable roof form.*

c. The creation of an addition through enclosure of a front porch is not appropriate. The creation of an addition through the enclosure of a side porch may be appropriate if the addition is constructed in such a way that original form and openings on the porch remain visible and undisturbed.

*Side porch additions may be appropriate for corner building lots or lots more than 60' wide.*

d. Contemporary designs for additions to existing properties are not discouraged when such additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural, or cultural material; and when such design is compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.

e. A new addition should be constructed in such a manner that if the addition were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the original structure would be unimpaired.

*Connections should, as much as possible, use existing window and door openings rather than remove significant amounts of rear wall material.*

### **III.B.1 Demolition is Not Appropriate**

- a. if a building, or major portion of a building, is of such architectural or historical interest and value that its removal would be detrimental to the public interest; or
- b. if a building, or major portion of a building, is of such old or unusual or uncommon design and materials that it could not be reproduced or be reproduced without great difficulty and expense.

### **III.B.2 Demolition is Appropriate**

- a. if a building, or major portion of a building, has irretrievably lost its architectural and historical integrity and significance and its removal will result in a more historically appropriate visual effect on the district;
- b. if a building, or major portion of a building, does not contribute to the historical and architectural character and significance of the district and its removal will result in a more historically appropriate visual effect on the district; or
- c. if the denial of the demolition will result in an economic hardship on the applicant as determined by the MHZC in accordance with section 17.40.420 D of the historic zoning ordinance.

**Background:** The structure at 2618 Barton Avenue is a one and one-half-story house, with Craftsman and Tudor Revival features. The house was constructed circa 1930. The house is contributing to the historic character of the district because of its age and architectural character.

The house is shifted toward the left side of a sixty-foot (6') wide lot, sitting approximately two feet, six inches (2'-6") from the left side property line.



Figure 1: 2618 Barton Avenue

**Analysis and Findings:** The applicant proposes to enlarge the house with a rear addition. The addition will not be taller or wider than the historic house, but a setback

determination is required because the existing house is less than five feet (5') from the left side property line.

Demolition: Portions of an earlier rear porch addition and a portion of the rear roof slope of the house will be removed to accommodate the new rear addition. These portions of the building do not contribute to the historic character of the house.

Staff finds that the project meets Section V.B.2 for appropriate partial demolition.

Location & Removability: The existing rear porch addition will be enclosed, and the footprint will be extended three feet (3') to the rear. The addition will not be stepped in from the left side of the house, but the material of the addition will be different than that of the historic house. Staff finds this to be appropriate because the existing addition is already not stepped in on the left side, and because the change in materials will help to differentiate the addition from the historic house. The footprint of the exiting addition steps in six feet (6') from the historic house on the right side, and this portion of the footprint will not be altered.

The proposed addition also includes an upperstory component. The upperstory will be stepped in four feet (4') from the historic house on the left side and six feet (6') on the right. These insets help to minimize the visibility and impact of the addition on the historic house.

The roof of the addition will tie into the existing roof at the ridge with a rear-facing gable, and a shed dormer will meet the rear slope approximately six inches (6") below the ridge.

Staff finds that the location and attachment of the addition meets Sections II.B.2.a and II.B.2.e. of the design guidelines for additions.

Design: The character of the addition is compatible to the historic house in its detailing, with a similar roof shape and eave profile, vertically oriented, divided-light windows, and matching exterior materials. The form of the addition will be distinguished from the original building by a change in materials on the left side, and stepping in from the side walls on the upperstory.

Staff finds that the character of the addition does not contrast with the historic house, therefore it meets Sections II.B.2.a and II.B.2.d. of the design guidelines.

Height & Scale: The first story of the addition will enclose an existing porch and extend a portion of the footprint three feet (3') to the rear, but the width of the existing addition will not change. Behind the addition there will be an uncovered rear deck (for clarity the deck is not shown on the plans). The upperstory of the addition will tie into the ridge of the existing house and will be narrower than the historic house and not taller.



Staff finds the height and width of the proposed addition to be subordinate and to meet Sections II.B.1.a. and II.B.1.b. of the design guidelines.

Setback & Rhythm of Spacing: The existing house sits approximately two feet, six inches (2'-6") from the left-side property line. The addition will match the width of the house on the left side, which results in the addition also being (2'-6") from the left-side property line. Staff finds this setback to be appropriate because of the location of the historic house. The uncovered deck behind the addition will step in to meet the five foot (5') side setback. The right side of the existing addition, which is stepped in six feet (6') from the side of the historic house is more than fifteen feet (15') from the right side property line. The footprint on the right side will not be altered.

Staff finds that the setbacks of the proposed addition are appropriate and meet Section II.B.1.c. of the design guidelines.

Materials:

	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Color/Texture/ Make/Manufacturer</b>	<b>Approved Previously or Typical</b>	<b>Requires Additional Review</b>
<b>Foundation</b>	Brick Piers	Selection Needs Approval	Yes	X
<b>Primary Cladding</b>	Cement-Fiber Clapboard	Match Existing	Yes	
<b>Trim</b>	Material Not Indicated	Selection Needs Approval	Yes	
<b>Roof</b>	Asphalt Shingle	Match Existing	Yes	
<b>Chimney</b>	Stucco	Typical	Yes	
<b>Windows</b>	Double Hung, Casement	Selection Needs Approval		X
<b>Doors</b>	Not Indicated	Selection Needs Approval		X
<b>Rear Deck, Stairs</b>	Wood	Typical	Yes	

Additional information about the materials, including the brick selection and windows and doors is needed.

With a condition that these materials are reviewed and approved by Staff prior to construction, Staff finds that the proposal meets section II.B.1.d. of the guidelines.

Roof form: The upperstory roof of the addition will comprise a rear-oriented gable matching the 12/12 pitch and form of the historic house's roof, and a shed dormer with a 4/12 pitch. The first story roof will be a rear-facing shed with a 3/12 pitch..

Staff finds that the roofs of the proposed addition are compatible with the roof of the historic house and meet section II.B.1.e. of the design guidelines.

Proportion and Rhythm of Openings: The windows on the sides of the proposed addition will be consistent with the pattern and proportions of windows on the historic house.

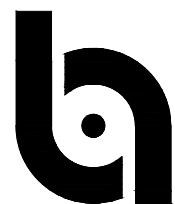
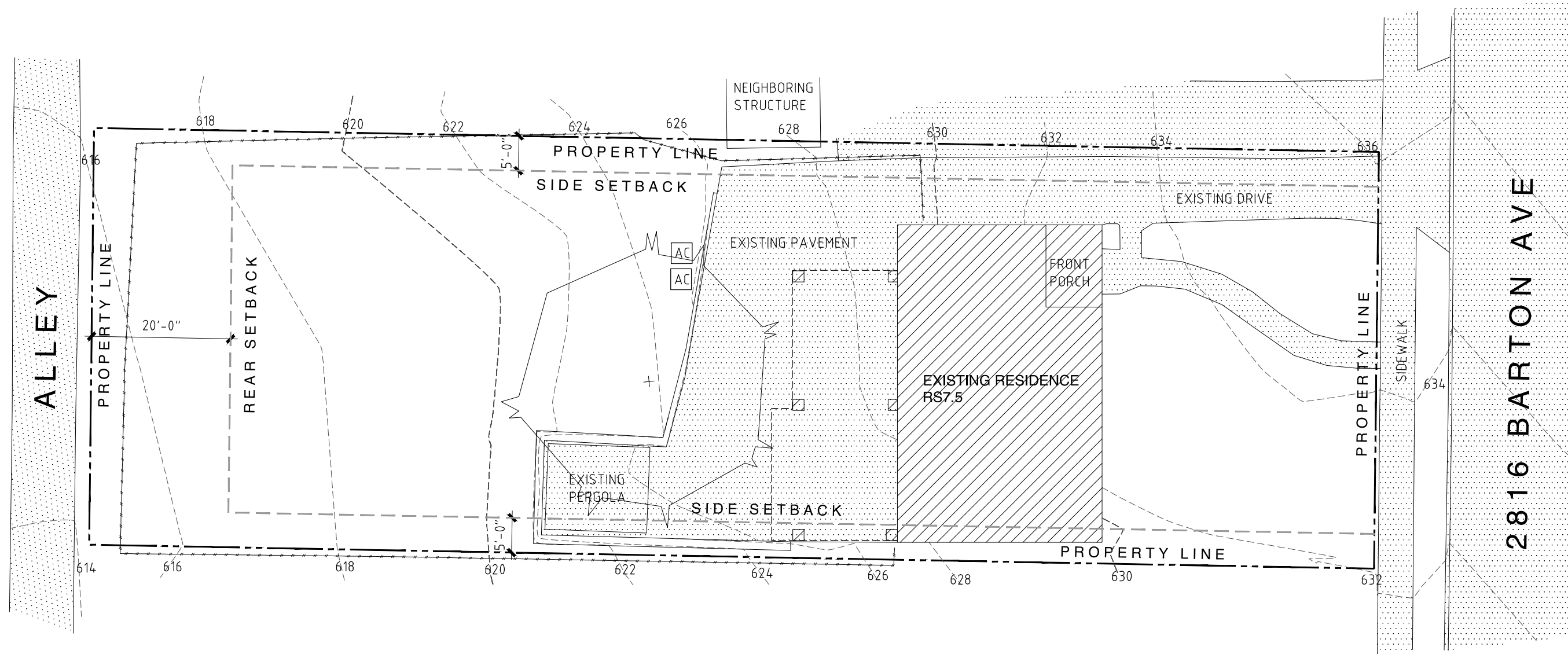
Staff finds the project's proportion and rhythm of openings is compatible with the historic house, meeting Section II.B.1.g. of the design guidelines.

Appurtenances & Utilities: The HVAC units are currently in the rear yard, and are not indicated as needing to be moved.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the proposed addition with the reduced left-side setback with the following conditions:

1. The brick selection is approved prior to purchase construction; and
2. The window and door selections are approved prior to purchase and construction.

With these conditions, staff finds that the proposal will meet the design guidelines for new construction in the Hillsboro-West End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.



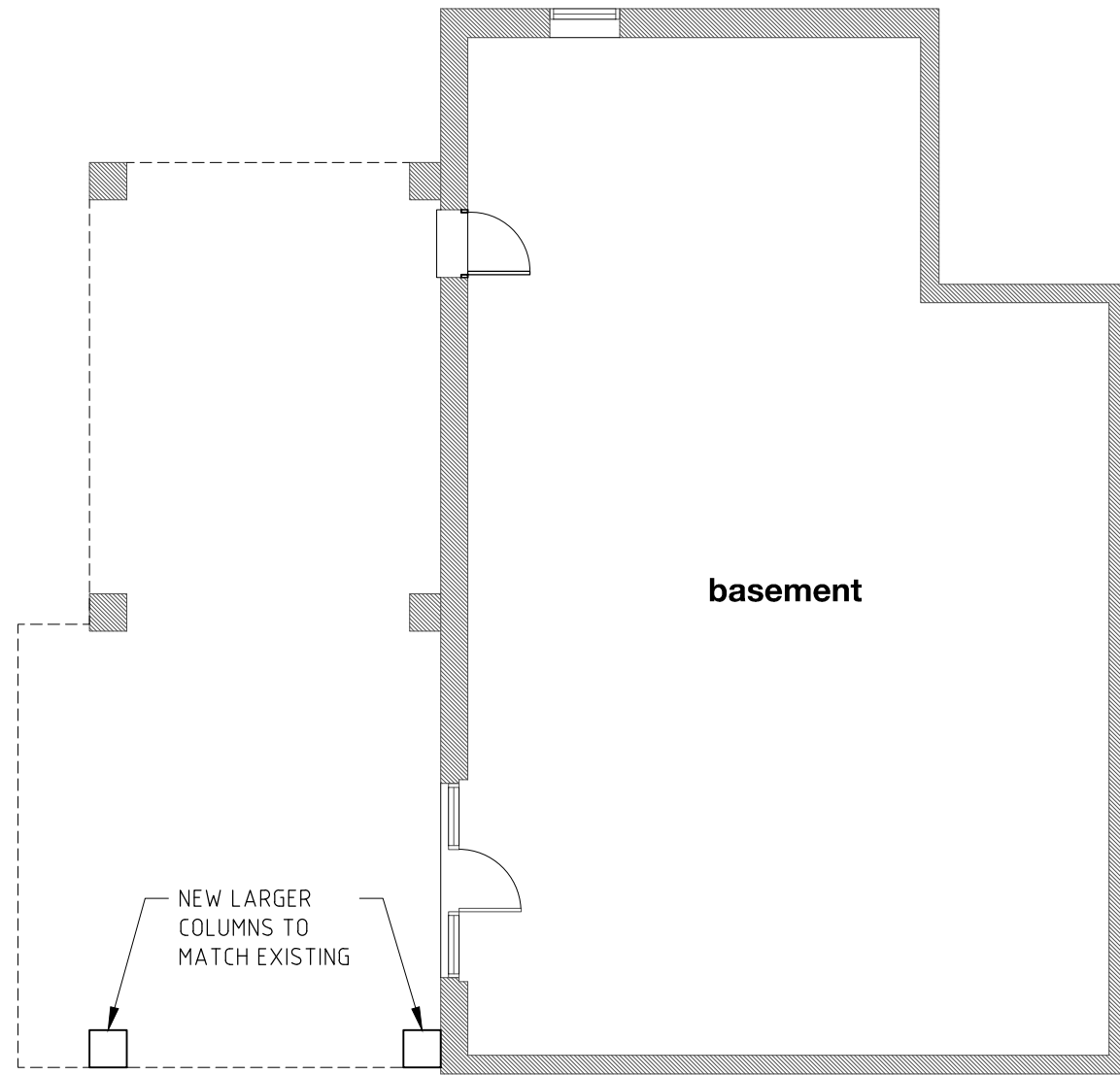
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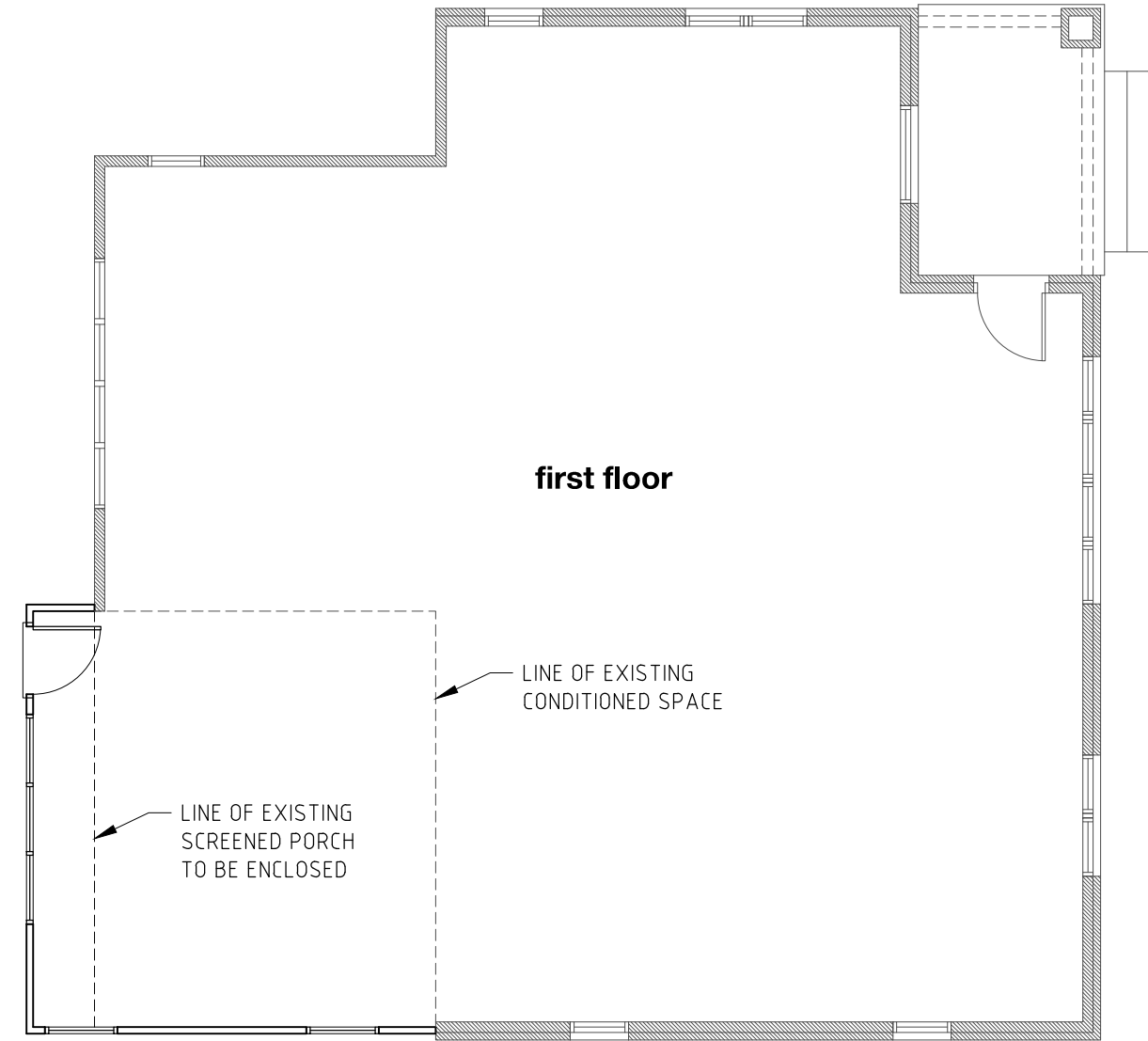
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**peetz residence**

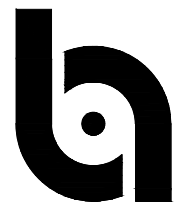
2816 barton ave



**1** basement plan  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



**2** first floor plan  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



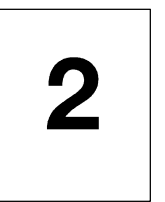
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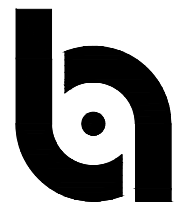
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**1** second floor plan  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



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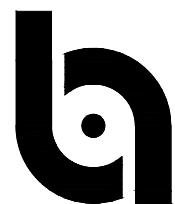
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**1** unchanged front elevation  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



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**4**



**1** existing right elevation  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



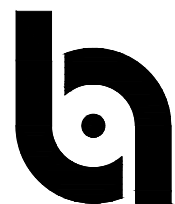
**2** proposed right elevation  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



**1** existing rear elevation  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



**2** proposed rear elevation  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



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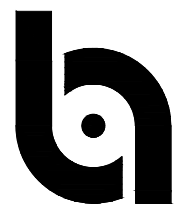




**1** existing left elevation  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



**2** proposed left elevation  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



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