AGENDA

BIRMINGHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MUNICIPAL BUILDING-COMMISSION ROOM-151 MARTIN STREET WEDNESDAY –December 5, 2018

**************7:00 <u>PM</u>*********

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Approval of the HDC Minutes of November 7, 2018
- 3) Historic Design Review
 - 539 S. Old Woodward (applicant has requested to be postponed to January 2, 2019)
 - 361 E. Maple Hawthorne Building
- 4) Study Session
- 5) Miscellaneous Business and Communication
 - A. Staff Reports
 - Administrative Approvals
 - Violation Notices
 - Demolition Applications
 - B. Communications
 - Commissioners Comments
- 6) Adjournment

<u>Notice:</u> Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 at least on day in advance of the public meeting.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

A PERSON DESIGNATED WITH THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

BIRMINGHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Municipal Building Commission Room 151 Martin, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission ("HDC") held Wednesday, November 7, 2018. Vice-Chairman Keith Deyer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Vice-Chairman Keith Deyer, Board Members Doug Burley, Michael

Willoughby Alternate Member Kevin Filthaut,

Absent: Chairman John Henke: Board Member Natalia Dukas: Alternate

Board Member Dulce Fuller; Student representatives Grace Donati,

Ava Wells

Administration: Matthew Baka, Sr. Planner

Carole Salutes, Recording Secretary

11-45-18

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES HDC Minutes of October 3, 2018

Motion by Mr. Willoughby Seconded by Mr. Burley to approve the HDC minutes of October 3, 2018 as presented.

Motion carried, 4-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Willoughby Burley, Deyer, Filthaut

Nays: None

Absent: Dukas, Henke, Fuller

11-46-18

HDC Minutes of October 17, 2018

Motion by Mr. Willoughby

Seconded by Mr. Burley to approve the HDC minutes of October 17, 2018 as presented.

Motion carried, 4-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Willoughby Burley, Deyer, Filthaut

Navs: None

Absent: Dukas, Henke, Fuller

11-47-18

3) PUBLIC HEARING

Sign Ordinance Amendment - Elimination of overlay sign standards and addition of window signage standards

The public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m.

Overlay Sign Standards

Mr. Baka provided background information. The City of Birmingham has two sets of standards that are used to regulate signage throughout the City. There is the Standard Sign Ordinance which governs most of the City, and there is the Overlay Sign Ordinance which regulates signage on buildings that were constructed under the Downtown Overlay development standards.

The amount of signage permitted by the Standard Sign Ordinance provisions is based on the amount of building frontage. The width of the building determines the amount of square footage that can be used for signage. The allowable signage can be divided among any of the building tenants regardless of which floor they are located on, provided that they meet all other provisions of the Sign Ordinance.

In contrast to the Standard Sign Ordinance, the Overlay Sign Regulations do not limit the amount of signage or number of signs. Instead the number of signs permitted is dictated by the number of entrances and only tenants whose primary square footage is located on the first floor may have a sign. In addition to the differing restrictions listed above, there are also subtle differences between the two ordinances which make interpretation confusing for business owners and sign companies.

Issue:

<u>Overlay</u>: Over the past year the Board of Zoning Appeals has heard several variance requests for exceptions from the Overlay Signage Standards. The primary cause of these requests has resulted from the difference between what is permitted by the Standard Sign Ordinance and the Overlay Sign Ordinance.

The two provisions of the Overlay Sign Ordinance that have initiated the majority of the variance requests are the following:

- The number of signs permitted determined by the number of entrances;
- Signage for upper floor commercial tenants is prohibited.

The commercial tenants on the upper floors of buildings developed under the Overlay are not currently permitted signage as they otherwise would be if they were located in a building governed by the Standard Ordinance. In addition, the limitation of one sign per entry does not take into consideration businesses that occupy a corner space.

Discussion:

Overlay: The Standard Sign Ordinance regulates signage by the size and location of the building and allows tenants/property owners to divide the allowable signage between tenants as they see fit. The successful variance requests that have been heard recently have argued that it is a hardship for the signage options to be limited in ways that are afforded to the majority of properties in the City.

On June 18, 2018 at the City Commission/Planning Board joint meeting the City Commission and Planning Board discussed this issue. There was consensus that the Sign Ordinance should be studied and amended as deemed appropriate.

Window Signage

Window signage in the City of Birmingham is currently limited to 12 sq. ft. per linear frontage or 18 sq. ft. per linear frontage on Woodward Ave.

The window signage throughout town is inconsistent and often exceeds the allowable amounts permitted by ordinance. While Code Enforcement is sent out periodically to cite specific complaints and the Planning Division sends out literature to all businesses in town on a regular basis, the problem persists.

On June 18, 2018 at the joint meeting the City Commission and Planning Board discussed the issue of window signage. There was consensus at that time that the Sign Ordinance should be studied and amended as deemed appropriate.

On October 3, 2018 the HDC set a public hearing date for November 7, 2018.

Motion by Mr. Willoughby

Seconded by Mr. Filthaut to recommend APPROVAL to the City Commission of the proposed amendments to the Birmingham Sign Ordinance eliminating the Overlay Signage Standards and adding regulations regarding the application and maintenance of window signage.

Motion carried, 4-0.

Historic District Commission Minutes of November 7, 2018 Page 4 of 6

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Willoughby, Filthaut, Burley, Deyer

Nays: None

Absent: Dukas, Fuller, Henke

The public hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

11-48-18

4) HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW

539 S. Bates

United Presbyterian Parsonage (postponed from the meeting of October 17, 2018 and requested by the applicant to further postpone)

Motion by Mr. Willoughby Seconded by Mr. Filthaut to POSTPONE the Historic Design Review for 539 S. Bates, United Presbyterian Parsonage to December 5, 2018.

Motion carried, 4-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Willoughby, Filthaut, Burley, Deyer

Nays: None

Absent: Dukas, Fuller, Henke

11-49-18

361 E. Maple Rd. Hawthorne Building

Applicant has requested postponement to reconsider their plans.

Mr. Baka noted the plans presented do not meet the recommendations of the National Park Service. The applicant is basically eliminating the historic storefront and adding four stories without stepping back from the facade of the historic resource.

Vice Chairman Deyer thought the roof-top terrace is out of character and makes the building taller than its neighbors. He further commented that once you start tearing things down, it's hard to stop tearing down. Then the whole issue of historic preservation goes out the window.

Motion by Mr. Filthaut

Seconded by Mr. Burley to POSTPONE the Historic Design Review for 361 E. Maple Rd., Hawthorne Building, to December 5, 2018.

Motion carried, 4-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Filthaut, Burley, Deyer, Willoughby

Navs: None

Absent: Dukas, Fuller, Henke

5) STUDY SESSION (no discussion)

11-50-18

6) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Staff Reports

- -- Administrative Approvals
- ➤ 166 W. Maple Rd.- Adding "a" above the front door and a blade sign west of entrance.
 - Small cube type sign with characters on the sign:
 - Small blade sign with "Caruso Caruso" on the face.
- 205 E. Maple Rd. Exterior painting.
- ➤ 211 W. Brown Replacing flat roofs with TPO, tear off and re-roof shingled roofs with no change in color.
- ➤ 286 W. Maple Rd., Kybun Joya Internally illuminated wall sign with routed face and push-thru acrylic letters with opaque faces. Light to project through the sides of each letter.
- > 539 Bates Change to exposed aggregate; minor dimensional revisions
 - -- Violation Notices (none)
 - -- Demolition Applications
- > 1743 Derby
- > 1066 Chapin
- 2113 Yorkshire
- > 1636 Derby

> 1773 Washington

B. Communications

-- Commissioners' Comments

11-51-18

ADJOURNMENT

No further business being evident, the Commissioners motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Matthew Baka Sr. Planner



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

Date: October 31, 2018

To: Historic District Commission Members

From: Matthew Baka, Senior Planner

RE: Historic Design Review – 361 E. Maple, The Hawthorne Building

Zoning: B-4, Business-Residential

Existing Use: Commercial

Background

This small one story store front with red brick and limestone trim was built in 1927. It represents a fine example of an original commercial storefront in Birmingham that has not been altered. During the 1940's it housed the Bell telephone company. It has been well kept and changed very little over the years. It is decorated with a sign band that is defined by a patterned brick and limestone. The parapet has a small pediment and limestone urns at the party walls. It is believed that the pressed metal store front is original.

Proposal

The applicant is proposing to construct a four (4) story addition to the existing one story Hawthorne Building located at 361 E. Maple. The applicant was recently denied their request to remove the historic designation of the building which would have allowed them to demolish the building and construct an all new structure on the site. As a result, the applicant has submitted a very similar building to their previous proposal with portions of the existing façade to remain.

Design

Historic Facade

The existing façade is a one story red-brick commercial storefront with a single bay tenant space. The applicant is proposing to remove the glass storefront system and kneewall to open the front façade to the elements and create a recessed entry area that allows access to a small retail space, an elevator lobby and the stairway. In addition, the pressed metal storefront above the windows is proposed to be removed and replaced with metal and glass canopy.

Addition

The applicant is proposing to use a variety of materials for the construction of the four-story mixed use addition to the building. Limestone veneer and glass windows with painted aluminum frames will comprise the majority of the front façade above the first floor. They are also proposing a painted steel railing along the rooftop terrace and fourth floor window and a decorative metal and glass clock.

The sides of the building are proposed to be painted stucco with several windows proposed for the west elevation.

The rear façade of the building is proposed to be red brick. There is an overhead door at ground level to access the residential parking spaces and several aluminum and glass windows

at the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors and a painted steel and glass balcony at the 5th floor.

Sec. 127-11. Design review standards and guidelines.

- (a) In reviewing plans, the commission shall follow the U.S. secretary of the interior's standards for rehabilitation and guidelines for rehabilitating historic buildings as set forth in 36 C.F.R. part 67. Design review standards and guidelines that address special design characteristics of historic districts administered by the commission may be followed if they are equivalent in guidance to the secretary of interior's standards and guidelines and are established or approved by the state historic preservation office of the Michigan Historical Center.
 - (b) In reviewing plans, the commission shall also consider all of the following:
- (1) The historic or architectural value and significance of the resource and its relationship to the historic value of the surrounding area.
- (2) The relationship of any architectural features of the resource to the rest of the resource and to the surrounding area.
- (3) The general compatibility of the design, arrangement, texture, and materials proposed to be used.
 - (4) Other factors, such as aesthetic value, that the commission finds relevant.

RECOMMENDATION

When analyzing the proposed addition to the historic resource, the guidelines provided by the National Park Service are used to provide guidance for approvals. These guidelines are intended to be flexible to some extent and provide guidance for approvals. However, there should be a general amount of compliance with the guidelines. Preservation Brief 14 (attached) is the main document published by the NPS on this subject. As illustrated below, the proposal does not conform to the guidelines in any meaningful way. (Staff comments in red)

The National Park Service, in Preservation Brief 14, **New Exterior Additions to Historic Buildings: Preservation Concerns,** states the following guidance should be applied to help in designing a compatible new addition that that will meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*:

- A new addition should be simple and unobtrusive in design, and should be distinguished
 from the historic building—a recessed connector can help to differentiate the new from
 the old. The 4-story addition dominates the single story historic resource through its
 obtrusive mass and form. The design of the addition is also more ornate than the
 simple design of the historic resource.
- A new addition should not be highly visible from the public right of way; a rear or other secondary elevation is usually the best location for a new addition. The addition is clearly visible from the public right of way and is not setback to off-set its mass.
- The construction materials and the color of the new addition should be harmonious with the historic building materials. There is a stark contrast between the historic resource and the addition in regards to color and materials.
- The new addition should be smaller than the historic building—it should be subordinate in both size and design to the historic building. The addition is approximately four (4) times the size of the historic resource.

The same guidance should be applied when designing a compatible **rooftop** addition, plus the following:

- A rooftop addition is generally not appropriate for a one, two or three-story building and often is not appropriate for taller buildings. This is a one story historic building.
- A rooftop addition should be minimally visible. The addition is highly visible.
- Generally, a rooftop addition must be set back at least one full bay from the primary elevation of the building, as well as from the other elevations if the building is freestanding or highly visible. The addition is setback 12" from the front façade.
- Generally, a rooftop addition should not be more than one story in height. The addition is four (4) stories.
- Generally, a rooftop addition is more likely to be compatible on a building that is adjacent to similarly-sized or taller buildings. There are taller buildings in the immediate vicinity, which could lend some flexibility in design.

The proposed addition does not conform to the guidelines provided by the National Park Service. The Planning Division feels that this proposal exceeds what is acceptable for an addition to this historic building. In addition, the proposed changes to the façade of the historic building dramatically change the character by eliminating the storefront window system and pressed metal storefront.

Accordingly, the Planning Division recommends that the Commission POSTPONE the historic design review application for 361 E. Maple to allow the applicant to revise the proposal to be more compatible with the historic resource. The work **does not** meet The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, standard number 9, "New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment." Or standard number 2, "The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided."

WORDING FOR MOTIONS

I move that the Commission issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for The work as proposed meets "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" standard number
I move that the Commission issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for, provided the following conditions are met: (List Conditions). "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" standard number will be met upon fulfillment of condition(s).
I move that the Commission deny the historicapplication for Because of the work does not meet 'The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation' standard number "THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION AND
CHIDELINES FOR REHABILITATING HISTORIC BUILDINGS"

- The U. S. secretary of the interior standards for rehabilitation are as follows:
- (1) A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
- (2) The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
- (3) Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
- (4) Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- (5) Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
- (6) Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
- (7) Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
- (8) Significant archaeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
- (9) New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- (10) New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Notice To Proceed	
I move the Commission issue a Notice to Proceed for number	The work is not
appropriate, however the following condition prevails:and the	e proposed application
will materially correct the condition.	

Choose from one of these conditions:

The resource constitutes hazard to the safety of the public or the structure's occupants.

The resource is a deterrent to a major improvement program that will be of substantial benefit to the community and the applicant proposing the work has obtained all necessary planning and zoning approvals, financing, and environmental clearances.

Retaining the resource will cause undue financial hardship to the owner when a governmental action, an act of God, or other events beyond the owner's control created the hardship, and all feasible alternatives to eliminate the financial hardship, which may include offering the resource for sale at its fair market value or moving the resource to a vacant site within the historic district. have been attempted and exhausted by the owner.

d) Retaining the resource is not in the best of the majority of the community.



Preliminary or Final Historic Sign/Design Review Application Historic District Commission **Planning Division**

1.	Applicant Name:	2.	Property Owner Name: Address: Address: Phone Number: Fax Number: Email address: AND PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY
3.	Applicants Attorney/Contact Person Name:Address: Phone Number: Fax Number: Email address:	4.	Project Designer/Developer Name: Address: Addres
5.	 Required Attachments Required fee (see Fee Schedule for applicable amount) Two (2) folded copies of scaled plans including color elevations showing all materials and an itemized list of all changes for which approval is requested with changes marked in color. Certified land survey Landscape plan showing all existing and proposed elements Photographs of existing site and/or building. Current aerial photos of the subject site, including all adjacent properties within 200 ft. 		 Warranty Deed with legal description of property. Samples of all materials to be used Catalog sheets for all proposed lighting, mechanical equipment and outdoor furniture. Completed Checklist. Digital copy of plans. Any new structures or additions will require a signed letter from DTE approving the location of all electrical transformers and electrical equipment. Additional information as required.
6.	Project Information Address/Location of the property: Name of development: Sidwell #: Current Use: Proposed Use: Area of Site in Acres: Current zoning: Zoning of Adjacent Properties: Name of Historic District Site is Located in: Date of Application for Preliminary Historic Design Review:		Date of Preliminary Historic Design Review Approval: Date of Planning Board Approval: Date of Application for Preliminary Site Plan: Date of Preliminary Site Plan Approval: Date of Application for Final Site Plan: Date of Final Site Plan Approval: Will proposed project require the division of platted lots? Will proposed project require the combination of platted lots?

6. 910-Y MIXED UPE BUILDING.	
. Buildings and Structures	
Number of Buildings on Site:	Use of Buildings: Height of Rooftop Mechanical Equipment:
Number of Buildings on Site: Height of Buildings & # of Stories: 10/5 9101129.	Height of Rooftop Mechanical Equipment:
. Additions (in Square Feet)	
Proposed Use: Number of Floors:	Retail Space: Assembly Space: Office Space: Industrial Space:
Number of Floors:	Assembly Space:
Number of Sq. Ft. on Each Floor:	Office Space: 4,400 %
	Industrial Space:
Height: Total Floor Area:	Seating Capacity:
0. Required and Proposed Parking	
Required number of parking spaces:	Proposed number of parking spaces:
Typical angle of parking spaces:	Typical size of parking spaces:
Typical width of maneuvering lanes: Location of parking on site:	Number of spaces <180 sq. ft.:
Location of parking on site:	Number of handicap spaces:
Location of parking off site:	Shared parking agreement?
Number of light standards in parking area:	Height of light standards in parking area:
Screenwall material:	Height of screenwall:
1. Landscaping	Developed to developed to the second to the
Location of landscape areas:	Proposed landscape material:
2. Building Lighting	
Number of light standards on building:	Type of light standards on building:
Size of light fixtures (L•W•H):	
Maximum wattage per fixture:	Height from grade:
Light level at each property line:	Proposed wattage per fixture:
3. Maximum Signage Allowance Calculation	
Duilding Frontage (in fact):	Maximum Sign Area = 1 square foot (1.5 for Woodward
Dunding Frontage (in feet).	addresses) per each linear foot of principal building frontage
Building Frontage (in feet): Maximum Sign Area Allowed:	addresses) ber each inteat toot of brincipal outland notice

5. Number of Sign(s)	
Wall:	Canopy:
Ground:	Building Name:
Projecting (Blade):	Post-Mounted Projecting:
. Sign Size, Material & Content	
Sign #1	
Type of Sign:	Projection from Wall:
Width:	Sign Reads: "
Depth:	
Height:	Sign Materials:
Total Square Feet:	
Height of Lettering:	Sign Color(s) (including PMS color #):
Height from Grade:	
Sign #2	
Type of Sign:	Projection from Wall:
Width:	
Width:	"
Depth:	Sign Materials:
Height: Total Square Feet:	Depas aranvesans.
Total Square Feet:	Sign Color(s) (including PMS color #):
Height of Lettering:Height from Grade:	
Sign #3	D
Type of Sign:	Projection from Wall:
Width:	Sign Reads: "
Depth:	
Height:	Sign Materials:
Total Square Feet:	
Height of Lettering:	Sign Color(s) (including PMS color #):
Height from Grade:	
. Existing Signs Located on Property	
Number of Signs:	Square Feet per Sign:
Sign Type(s):	
Sign Type(s):	
. Sign Lighting	Number Proposed
Type of Lighting Proposed:	
Size of Light Fixtures (LxWxH):	Lighting Height from Grade:
Maximum Wattage per Fixture:	Proposed Wattage per Fixture:
Location:	Style (include specifications):
. Landscaping (ground signs only)	
Location of Landscape Areas:	Proposed Landscape Material:

Ä

The undersigned states the above information is true and correct, and understands that it is the responsibility of the applicant to advise the Planning Division and / or Building Division of any additional changes made to an approved site plan. The undersigned further states that they have reviewed the procedures and guidelines for site plan review in Birmingham, and have complied with same. The undersigned will be in attendance at the Planning Board meeting when this application will be discussed.

Signature of Owner:	Vann	Date: _	10.16.18
Print Name:	VIGTOP- 91MON		
Signature of Applicant:		Date:	10.10.18.
Print Name:	VICTOR SIMON		
Signature of Architect:	C/bragn.	Date:	10.6.18.
Print Name:	Striggrain Longe		
	Office Use Only		
Application #:	Date Received:	Fee:	
Date of Approval:	Date of Denial:	Accepted by:	



CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNER

, VIOTOR GIMON	, OF THE STATE OF MOTION AND
(Name of property owner) COUNTY OFS	STATE THE FOLLOWING:
1. That I am the owner of the real	l estate located at <u>% EAST MALE</u> . (Address of affected property)
2. That I have read and examined by: NE INE INVESTMEN (Name of applic	
That I have no objections to, ar Application made to the City of	nd consent to the request(s) described in the Birmingham.
14.1.	
Dated:[0. 6. 8	
VICTOP 9MAN.	
Owner's Name (Please Print)	
Owner's Signature	

3 6 1 EAST MAPLE BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009

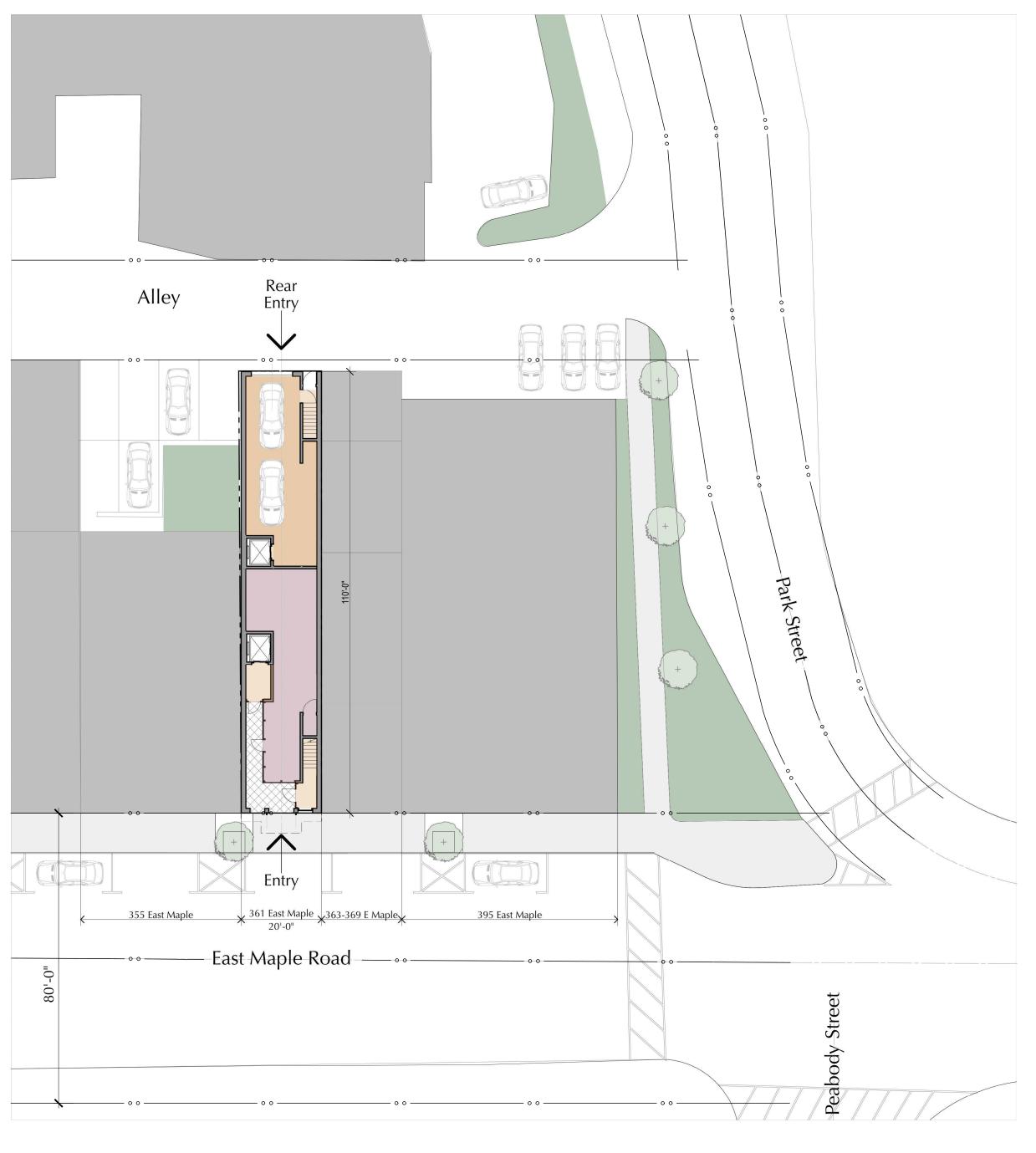


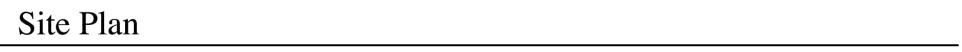
East Maple View (looking north)

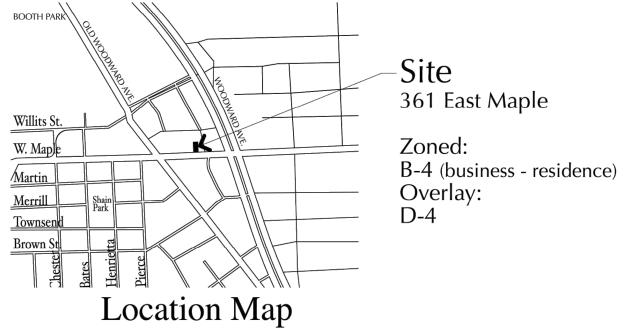
Site



Alley View (looking south)









Alley (looking west)



East Maple (looking west)



3 6 1 EAST MAPLE BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009



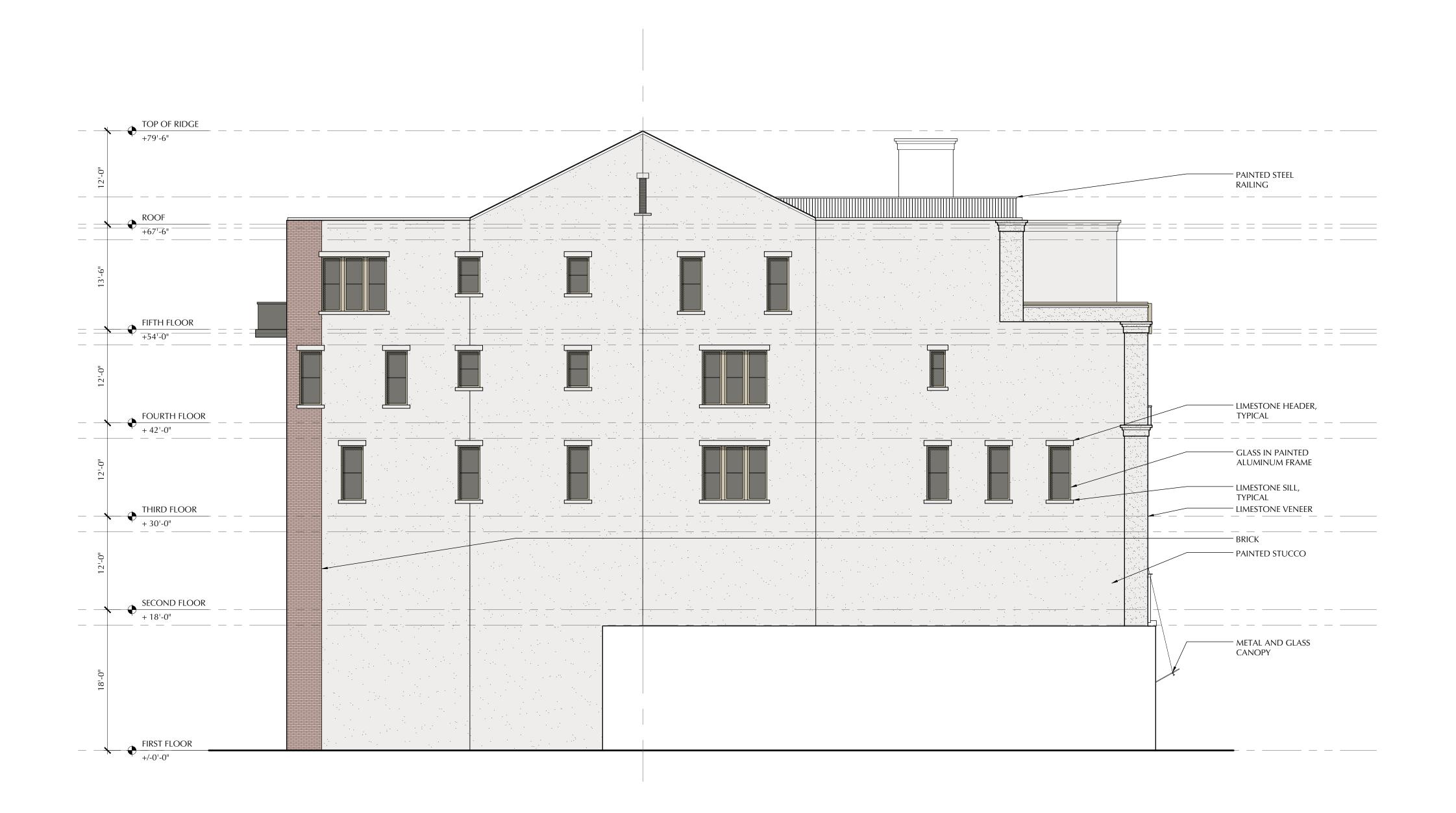
PROPOSED EAST MAPLE STREETSCAPE

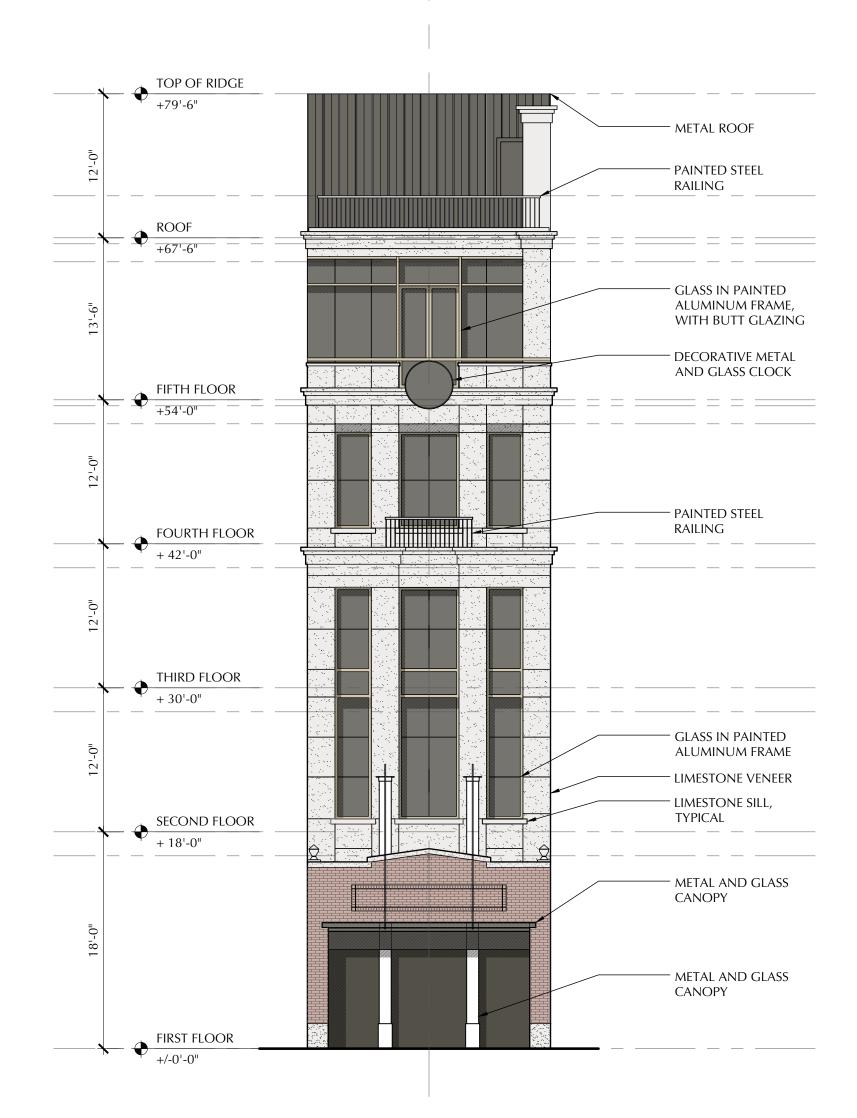


EXISTING EAST MAPLE STREETSCAPE

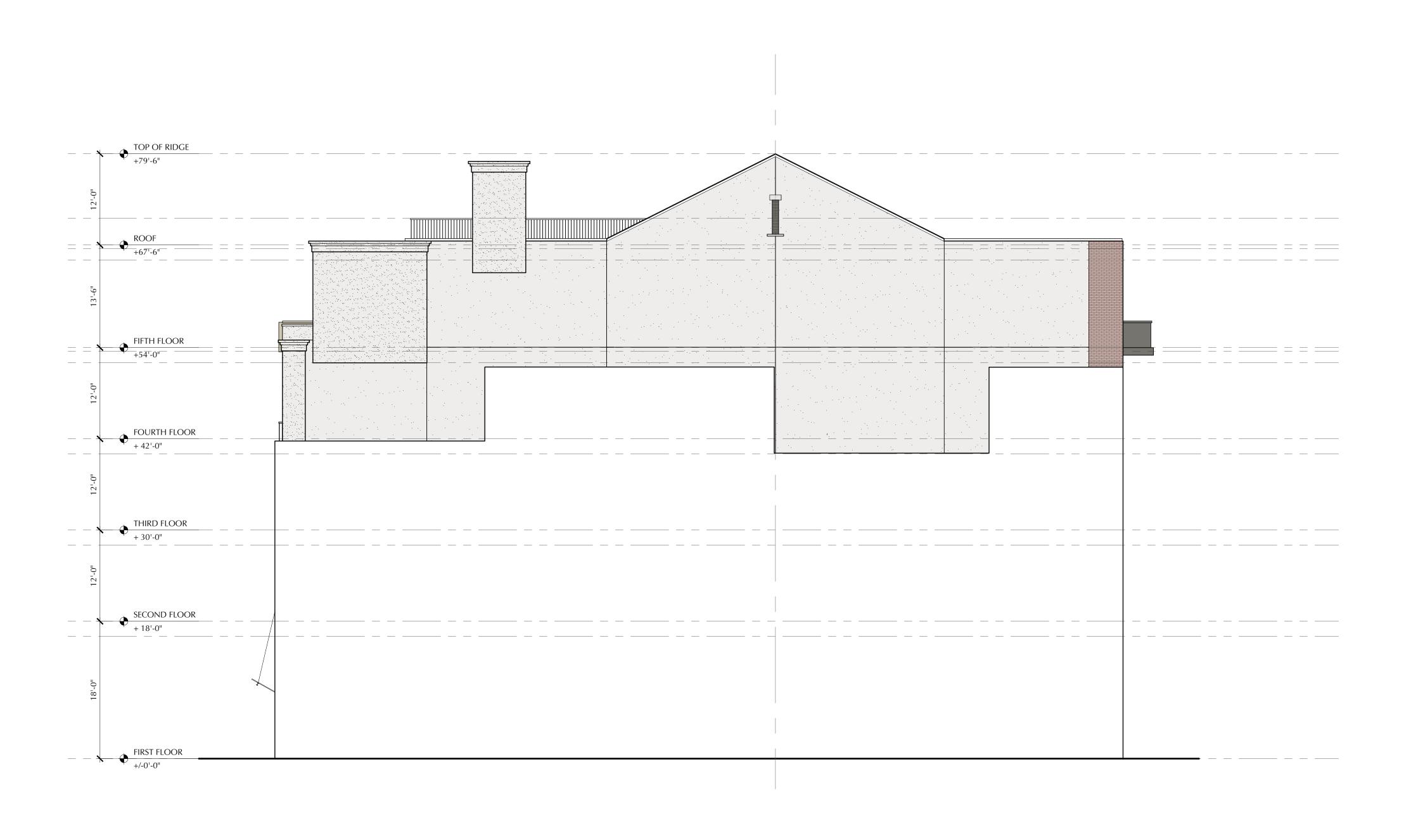
CHRISTOPHER J LONGE A I A
A R C H I T E C T U R E
I N T E R I O R S

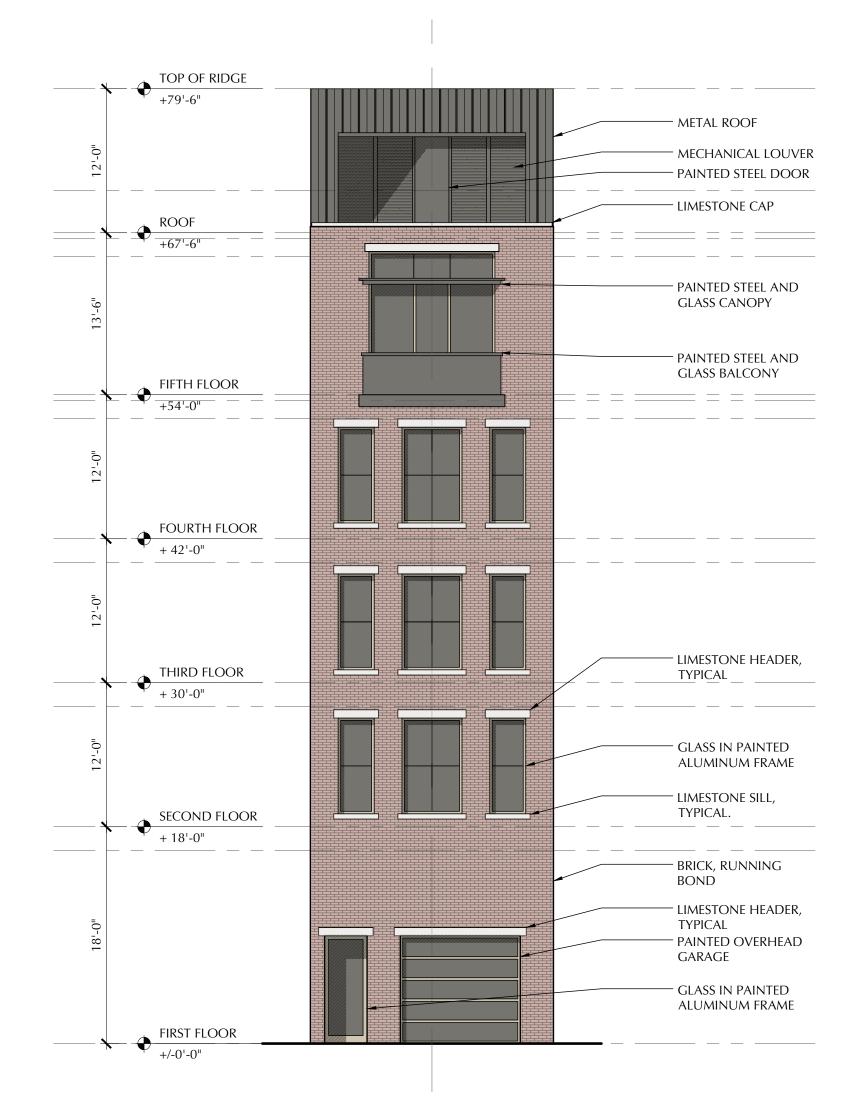
124 Peabody, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 248.258.6940





WEST ELEVATION SOUTH ELEVATION





EAST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

3 6 1 EAST MAPLE BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009



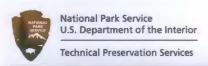


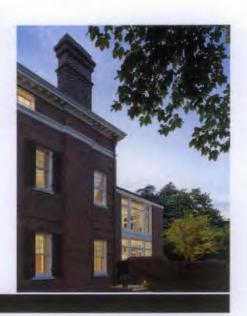
STREET VIEWS

14 PRESERVATION BRIEFS

New Exterior Additions to Historic Buildings: Preservation Concerns

Anne E. Grimmer and Kay D. Weeks





A new exterior addition to a historic building should be considered in a rehabilitation project only after determining that requirements for the new or adaptive use cannot be successfully met by altering nonsignificant interior spaces. If the new use cannot be accommodated in this way, then an exterior addition may be an acceptable alternative. Rehabilitation as a treatment "is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values."

The topic of new additions, including rooftop additions, to historic buildings comes up frequently, especially as it

relates to rehabilitation projects. It is often discussed and it is the subject of concern, consternation, considerable disagreement and confusion. Can, in certain instances, a historic building be enlarged for a new use without destroying its historic character? And, just what is significant about each particular historic building that should be preserved? Finally, what kind of new construction is appropriate to the historic building?

The vast amount of literature on the subject of additions to historic buildings reflects widespread interest as well as divergence of opinion. New additions have been discussed by historians within a social and political framework; by architects and architectural historians in terms of construction technology and style; and

by urban planners as successful or unsuccessful contextual design. However, within the historic preservation and rehabilitation programs of the National Park Service, the focus on new additions is to ensure that they preserve the character of historic buildings.

Most historic districts or neighborhoods are listed in the National Register of Historic Places for their significance within a particular time frame. This period of significance of historic districts as well as individually-listed properties may sometimes lead to a misunderstanding that inclusion in the National Register may prohibit any physical change outside of a certain historical period-particularly in the form of exterior additions. National Register listing does not mean that a building or district is frozen in time and that no change can be made without compromising the historical significance. It does mean, however, that a new addition to a historic building should preserve its historic character.



Figure 1. The addition to the right with its connecting hyphen is compatible with the Collegiate Gothic-style library. The addition is set back from the front of the library and uses the same materials and a simplified design that references, but does not copy, the historic building. Photo: David Wakely Photography.



Figure 2. The new section on the right is appropriately scaled and reflects the design of the historic Art Deco-style hotel. The apparent separation created by the recessed connector also enables the addition to be viewed as an individual building.

Guidance on New Additions

To meet Standard 1 of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which states that "a property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment," it must be determined whether a historic building can accommodate a new addition. Before expanding the building's footprint, consideration should first be given to incorporating changes—such as code upgrades or spatial needs for a new use—within secondary areas of the historic building. However, this is not always possible and, after such an evaluation, the conclusion may be that an addition is required, particularly if it is needed to avoid modifications to character-defining interior spaces. An addition should be designed to be compatible with the historic character of the building and, thus, meet the Standards for Rehabilitation. Standards 9 and 10 apply specifically to new additions:

- (9) "New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment."
- (10) "New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired."

The subject of new additions is important because a new addition to a historic building has the potential to change its historic character as well as to damage and destroy significant historic materials and features. A new addition also has the potential to confuse the public and to make it difficult or impossible to differentiate the old from the new or to recognize what part of the historic building is genuinely historic.

The intent of this Preservation Brief is to provide guidance to owners, architects and developers on how to design a compatible new addition, including a rooftop addition, to a historic building. A new addition to a historic building should preserve the building's historic character. To accomplish this and meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, a new addition should:

- Preserve significant historic materials, features and form;
- · Be compatible; and
- Be differentiated from the historic building.

Every historic building is different and each rehabilitation project is unique. Therefore, the guidance offered here is not specific, but general, so that it can be applied to a wide variety of building types and situations. To assist in interpreting this guidance, illustrations of a variety of new additions are provided. Good examples, as well as some that do not meet the Standards, are included to further help explain and clarify what is a compatible new addition that preserves the character of the historic building.



Figure 3. The red and buff-colored parking addition with a rooftop playground is compatible with the early-20th century school as well as with the neighborhood in which it also serves as infill in the urban setting.

Preserve Significant Historic Materials, Features and Form

Attaching a new exterior addition usually involves some degree of material loss to an external wall of a historic building, but it should be minimized. Damaging or destroying significant materials and craftsmanship should be avoided, as much as possible.

Generally speaking, preservation of historic buildings inherently implies minimal change to primary or "public" elevations and, of course, interior features as well. Exterior features that distinguish one historic building or a row of buildings and which can be seen from a public right of way, such as a street or sidewalk, are most likely to be the most significant. These can include many different elements, such as: window patterns, window hoods or shutters; porticoes, entrances and doorways; roof shapes, cornices and decorative moldings; or commercial storefronts with their special detailing, signs and glazing patterns. Beyond a single building, entire blocks of urban or residential structures are often closely related architecturally by their materials, detailing, form and alignment. Because significant materials and features should be preserved, not damaged or hidden, the first place to consider placing a new addition is in a location where the least amount of historic material and character-defining features will be lost. In most cases, this will be on a secondary side or rear elevation.

One way to reduce overall material

loss when constructing a new addition is simply to keep the addition smaller in proportion to the size of the historic building. Limiting the size and number of openings between old and new by utilizing existing doors or enlarging windows also helps to minimize loss. An often successful way to accomplish this is to link the addition to the historic building by means of a hyphen or connector. A connector provides a physical link while visually separating the old and new, and the connecting passageway penetrates and removes only a small portion of the historic wall. A new addition that will abut the historic building along an entire elevation or wrap around a side and rear elevation, will likely integrate the historic and the new interiors, and thus result in a high degree of loss of form and exterior walls, as well as significant alteration of interior spaces and features, and will not meet the Standards.





Figure 4. This glass and brick structure is a harmonious addition set back and connected to the rear of the Colonial Revival-style brick house. Cunningham/Quill Architects.

Photos: © Maxwell MacKenzie.

Compatible but Differentiated Design

In accordance with the Standards, a new addition must preserve the building's historic character and, in order to do that, it must be differentiated, but compatible, with the historic building. A new addition must retain the essential form and integrity of the historic property. Keeping the addition smaller, limiting the removal of historic materials by linking the addition with a hyphen, and locating the new addition at the rear or on an inconspicuous side elevation of a historic building are techniques discussed previously that can help to accomplish this.

Rather than differentiating between old and new, it might seem more in keeping with the historic character

simply to repeat the historic form, material, features and detailing in a new addition. However, when the new work is highly replicative and indistinguishable from the old in appearance, it may no longer be possible to identify the "real" historic building. Conversely, the treatment of the addition should not be so different that it becomes the primary focus. The difference may be subtle, but it must be clear. A new addition to a historic building should protect those visual qualities that make the building eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service policy concerning new additions to historic buildings, which was adopted in 1967, is not unique. It is an outgrowth and continuation of a general philosophical approach to change first expressed by John Ruskin in England in the 1850s, formalized by William Morris in the founding of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 1877, expanded by the Society in 1924 and, finally, reiterated in the 1964 Venice Charter-a document that continues to be followed by the national committees of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The 1967 Administrative Policies for Historical Areas of the National Park System direct that "...a modern addition should be readily distinguishable from the older work; however, the new work should be harmonious with the old in scale, proportion, materials, and color. Such additions should be as inconspicuous as possible from the public view." As a logical evolution from these Policies specifically for National Park Service-owned historic structures, the 1977 Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which may be applied to all historic buildings listed in, or eligible for listing in the National Register, also state that "the new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment."

Preserve Historic Character

The goal, of course, is a new addition that preserves the building's historic character. The historic character of each building may be different, but the methodology of establishing it remains the same. Knowing the uses and functions a building has served over time will assist in making what is essentially a physical evaluation. But, while written and pictorial documentation can provide a framework for establishing the building's history, to a large extent the historic character is embodied in the physical aspects of the historic building itself—shape, materials, features, craftsmanship, window arrangements, colors, setting and interiors. Thus, it is important to identify the historic character before making decisions about the extent—or limitations—of change that can be made.

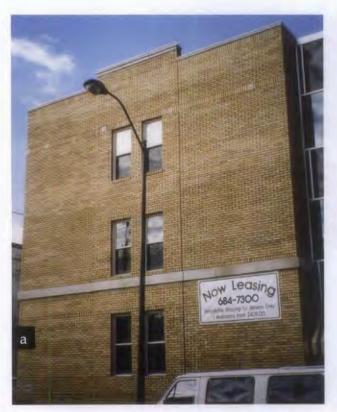


Figure 5. This addition (a) is constructed of matching brick and attached by a recessed connector (b) to the 1914 apartment building (c). The design is compatible and the addition is smaller and subordinate to the historic building (d).











Figure 6. A new addition (left) is connected to the garage which separates it from the main block of the c. 1910 former florist shop (right). The addition is traditional in style, yet sufficiently restrained in design to distinguish it from the historic building.

A new addition should always be subordinate to the historic building; it should not compete in size, scale or design with the historic building. An addition that bears no relationship to the proportions and massing of the historic building—in other words, one that overpowers the historic form and changes the scale will usually compromise the historic character as well. The appropriate size for a new addition varies from building to building; it could never be stated in a square or cubic footage ratio, but the historic building's existing proportions, site and setting can help set some general parameters for enlargement. Although even a small addition that is poorly designed can have an adverse impact, to some extent, there is a predictable relationship between the size of the historic resource and what is an appropriate size for a compatible new addition.

Generally, constructing the new addition on a secondary side or rear elevation—in addition to material preservation—will also preserve the historic character. Not only will the addition be less visible, but because a secondary elevation is usually simpler and less distinctive, the addition will have less of a physical and visual impact on the historic building. Such placement will help to preserve the building's historic form and relationship to its site and setting.

Historic landscape features, including distinctive grade variations, also need to be respected. Any new landscape features, including plants and trees, should be kept at a scale and density that will not interfere with understanding of the historic resource itself. A traditionally landscaped

property should not be covered with large paved areas for parking which would drastically change the character of the site.

Despite the fact that in most cases it is recommended that the new addition be attached to a secondary elevation, sometimes this is not possible. There simply may not be a secondary elevation—some important freestanding buildings have significant materials and features on all sides. A structure or group of structures together with its setting (for example, a college campus) may be of such significance that any new addition would not only damage materials, but alter the buildings' relationship to each other and the setting. An addition attached to a highly-visible elevation of a historic building can radically alter the historic form or obscure features such as a decorative cornice or window ornamentation. Similarly, an addition that fills



Figure 7. A vacant side lot was the only place a new stair tower could be built when this 1903 theater was rehabilitated as a performing arts center. Constructed with matching materials, the stair tower is set back with a recessed connector and, despite its prominent location, it is clearly subordinate and differentiated from the historic theater.





Figure 8. The rehabilitation of this large, early-20th century warehouse (left) into affordable artists' lofts included the addition of a compatible glass and brick elevator/stair tower at the back (right).



Figure 9. A simple, brick stair tower replaced two non-historic additions at the rear of this 1879 school building when it was rehabilitated as a women's and children's shelter. The addition is set back and it is not visible from the front of the school.



Figure 10. The small size and the use of matching materials ensures that the new addition on the left is compatible with the historic Romanesque Revival-style building.

in a planned void on a highly-visible elevation (such as a U-shaped plan or a feature such as a porch) will also alter the historic form and, as a result, change the historic character. Under these circumstances, an addition would have too much of a negative impact on the historic building and it would not meet the Standards. Such situations may best be handled by constructing a separate building in a location where it will not adversely affect the historic structure and its setting.

In other instances, particularly in urban areas, there may be no other place but adjacent to the primary façade to locate an addition needed for the new use. It may be possible to design a lateral addition attached on the side that is compatible with the historic building, even though it is a highly-visible new element. Certain types of historic structures, such as government buildings, metropolitan museums, churches or libraries, may be so massive in size that a relatively largescale addition may not compromise the historic character, provided, of course, the addition is smaller than the historic building. Occasionally, the visible size of an addition can be reduced by placing some of the spaces or support systems in a part of the structure that is underground. Large new additions may sometimes be successful if they read as a separate volume, rather than as an extension of the historic structure, although the scale, massing and proportions of the addition still need to be compatible with the historic building. However, similar expansion of smaller buildings would be dramatically out of scale. In summary, where any new addition is proposed, correctly assessing the relationship between actual size and relative scale will be a key to preserving the character of the historic building.



Figure 11. The addition to this early-20th century Gothic Revival-style church provides space for offices, a great hall for gatherings and an accessible entrance (left). The stucco finish, metal roof, narrow gables and the Gothic-arched entrance complement the architecture of the historic church. Placing the addition in back where the ground slopes away ensures that it is subordinate and minimizes its impact on the church (below).

Design Guidance for Compatible New Additions to Historic Buildings

There is no formula or prescription for designing a new addition that meets the Standards. A new addition to a historic building that meets the Standards can be any architectural style—traditional, contemporary or a simplified version of the historic building. However, there must be a balance between differentiation and compatibility in order to maintain the historic character and the identity of the building being enlarged. New additions that too closely resemble the historic building or are in extreme contrast to it fall short of this balance. Inherent in all of the guidance is the concept that an addition needs to be subordinate to the historic building.

A new addition must preserve significant historic materials, features and form, and it must be compatible but differentiated from the historic building. To achieve this, it is necessary to carefully consider the placement or location of the new addition, and its size, scale and massing when planning a new addition. To preserve a property's historic character, a new addition must be visually distinguishable from the historic building. This does not mean that the addition and the historic building should be glaringly different in terms of design, materials and other visual qualities. Instead, the new addition should take its design cues from, but not copy, the historic building.



A variety of design techniques can be effective ways to differentiate the new construction from the old, while respecting the architectural qualities and vocabulary of the historic building, including the following:

- Incorporate a simple, recessed, small-scale hyphen to physically separate the old and the new volumes or set the addition back from the wall plane(s) of the historic building.
- Avoid designs that unify the two volumes into a single architectural whole. The new addition may include simplified architectural features that reflect, but do not duplicate, similar features on the historic building. This approach will not impair the existing building's historic character as long as the new structure is subordinate in size and clearly differentiated and distinguishable so that the identity of the historic structure is not lost in a new and larger composition. The historic building must be clearly identifiable and its physical integrity must not be compromised by the new addition.





Figure 12. This 1954 synagogue (left) is accessed through a monumental entrance to the right. The new education wing (far right) added to it features the same vertical elements and color and, even though it is quite large, its smaller scale and height ensure that it is secondary to the historic resource.



Figure 13. A glass and metal structure was constructed in the courtyard as a restaurant when this 1839 building was converted to a hotel. Although such an addition might not be appropriate in a more public location, it is compatible here in the courtyard of this historic building.



Figure 14. This glass addition was erected at the back of an 1895 former brewery during rehabilitation to provide another entrance. The addition is compatible with the plain character of this secondary elevation.

- Use building materials in the same color range or value as those of the historic building.
 The materials need not be the same as those on the historic building, but they should be harmonious; they should not be so different that they stand out or distract from the historic building. (Even clear glass can be as prominent as a less transparent material.
 Generally, glass may be most appropriate for small-scale additions, such as an entrance on a secondary elevation or a connector between an addition and the historic building.)
- Base the size, rhythm and alignment of the new addition's window and door openings on those of the historic building.
- Respect the architectural expression of the historic building type. For example, an addition to an institutional building should maintain the architectural character associated with this building type rather than using details and elements typical of residential or other building types.

These techniques are merely examples of ways to differentiate a new addition from the historic building while ensuring that the addition is compatible with it. Other ways of differentiating a new addition from the historic building may be used as long as they maintain the primacy of the historic building. Working within these basic principles still allows for a broad range of architectural expression that can range from stylistic similarity to contemporary distinction. The recommended design approach for an addition is one that neither copies the historic building exactly nor stands in stark contrast to it.

Revising an Incompatible Design for a New Addition to Meet the Standards



Figure 15. The rehabilitation of a c. 1930 high school auditorium for a clinic and offices proposed two additions: a one-story entrance and reception area on this elevation (a); and a four-story elevator and stair tower on another side (b). The gabled entrance (c) first proposed was not compatible with the flat-roofed auditorium and the design of the proposed stair tower (d) was also incompatible and overwhelmed the historic building. The designs were revised (e-f) resulting in new additions that meet the Standards (g-h).

Incompatible New Additions to Historic Buildings

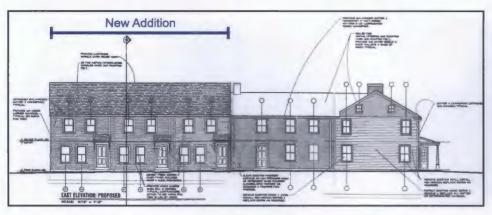


Figure 16. The proposal to add three row houses to the rear ell of this early-19th century residential property doubles its size and does not meet the Standards..



Figure 17. The small addition on the left is starkly different and it is not compatible with the eclectic, late-19th century house.

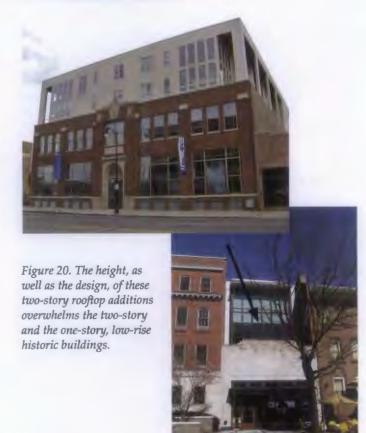




Figure 18. The expansion of a one- and one-half story historic bungalow (left) with a large two-story rear addition (right) has greatly altered and obscured its distinctive shape and form.



Figure 19. The upper two floors of this early-20th century office building were part of the original design, but were not built. During rehabilitation, the two stories were finally constructed. This treatment does not meet the Standards because the addition has given the building an appearance it never had historically.



New Additions in Densely-Built Environments

In built-up urban areas, locating a new addition on a less visible side or rear elevation may not be possible simply because there is no available space. In this instance, there may be alternative ways to help preserve the historic character. One approach when connecting a new addition to a historic building on a primary elevation is to use a hyphen to separate them. A subtle variation in material, detailing and color may also provide the degree of differentiation necessary to avoid changing the essential proportions and character of the historic building.

A densely-built neighborhood such as a downtown commercial core offers a particular opportunity to design an addition that will have a minimal impact on the historic building. Often the site for such an addition is a vacant lot where another building formerly stood. Treating the addition as a separate or infill building may be the best approach when designing an addition that will have the least impact on the historic building and the district. In these instances there may be no need for a direct visual link to the historic building. Height and setback from the street should generally be consistent with those of the historic building and other surrounding buildings in the district. Thus, in most urban commercial areas the addition should not be set back from the façade of the historic building. A tight urban setting may sometimes even accommodate a larger addition if the primary elevation is designed to give the appearance of being several buildings by breaking up the facade into elements that are consistent with the scale of the historic building and adjacent buildings.







Figure 21. Both wings of this historic L-shaped building (top), which fronts on two city streets, adjoined vacant lots. A two-story addition was constructed on one lot (above, left) and a six-story addition was built on the other (above, right). Like the historic building, which has two different facades, the compatible new additions are also different and appear to be separate structures rather than part of the historic building.

New Addition



Figure 22. The proposed new addition is compatible with the historic buildings that remain on the block. Its design with multiple storefronts helps break up the mass.



Rooftop Additions

The guidance provided on designing a compatible new addition to a historic building applies equally to new rooftop additions. A rooftop addition should preserve the character of a historic building by preserving historic materials, features and form; and it should be compatible but differentiated from the historic building.

However, there are several other design principles that apply specifically to rooftop additions. Generally, a rooftop addition should not be more than one story in height to minimize its visibility and its impact on the proportion and profile of the historic building. A rooftop addition should almost always be set back at least one full bay from the primary elevation of the building, as well as from the other elevations if the building is free-standing or highly visible.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to minimize the impact of adding an entire new floor to relatively low buildings, such as small-scale residential or commercial structures, even if the new addition is set back from the plane of the façade. Constructing another floor on top of a small, one, two or three-story building is seldom appropriate for buildings of this size as it would measurably alter the building's proportions and profile, and negatively impact its historic character. On the other hand, a rooftop addition on an eight-story building, for example, in a historic district consisting primarily of tall buildings might not affect the historic character because the new construction may blend in with the surrounding buildings and be only minimally visible within the district. A rooftop addition in a densely-built urban area is more likely to be compatible on a building that is adjacent to similarly-sized or taller buildings.

A number of methods may be used to help evaluate the effect of a proposed rooftop addition on a historic building and district, including pedestrian sight lines, three-dimensional schematics and computer-generated design. However, drawings generally do not provide a true "picture" of the appearance and visibility of a proposed rooftop addition. For this reason, it is often necessary to construct a rough, temporary, full-size or skeletal mock up of a portion of the proposed addition, which can then be photographed and evaluated from critical vantage points on surrounding streets.







Figure 23. Colored flags marking the location of a proposed penthouse addition (a) were placed on the roof to help evaluate the impact and visibility of an addition planned for this historic furniture store (b). Based on this evaluation, the addition was constructed as proposed. It is minimally visible and compatible with the 1912 structure (c). The tall parapet wall conceals the addition from the street below (d).

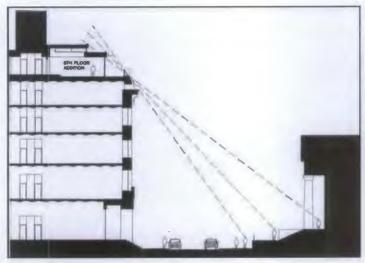


Figure 24. How to Evaluate a Proposed Rooftop Addition.
A sight-line study (above) only factors in views from directly across the street, which can be very restrictive and does not illustrate the full effect of an addition from other public rights of way. A mock up (above, right) or a mock up enhanced by a computer-generated rendering (below, right) is essential to evaluate the impact of a proposed rooftop addition on the historic building.



Figure 25. It was possible to add a compatible, three-story, penthouse addition to the roof of this five-story, historic bank building because the addition is set far back, it is surrounded by taller buildings and a deep parapet conceals almost all of the addition from below.





Figure 26. A rooftop addition would have negatively impacted the character of the primary facade (right) of this mid-19th century, four-story structure and the low-rise historic district. However, a third floor was successfully added on the two-story rear portion (below) of the same building with little impact to the building or the district because it blends in with the height of the adjacent building.







Figure 27. Although the new brick stair/elevator tower (left) is not visible from the front (right), it is on a prominent side elevation of this 1890 stone bank. The compatible addition is set back and does not compete with the historic building. Photos: Chadd Gossmann, Aurora Photography, LLC.

Designing a New Exterior Addition to a Historic Building

This guidance should be applied to help in designing a compatible new addition that that will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

- A new addition should be simple and unobtrusive in design, and should be distinguished from the historic building—a recessed connector can help to differentiate the new from the old.
- A new addition should not be highly visible from the public right of way; a rear or other secondary elevation is usually the best location for a new addition.
- The construction materials and the color of the new addition should be harmonious with the historic building materials.
- The new addition should be smaller than the historic building—it should be subordinate in both size and design to the historic building.

The same guidance should be applied when designing a compatible **rooftop** addition, plus the following:

- A rooftop addition is generally not appropriate for a one, two or three-story building—and often is not appropriate for taller buildings.
- A rooftop addition should be minimally visible.
- Generally, a rooftop addition must be set back at least one full bay from the primary elevation of the building, as well as from the other elevations if the building is freestanding or highly visible.
- Generally, a rooftop addition should not be more than one story in height.
- Generally, a rooftop addition is more likely to be compatible on a building that is adjacent to similarly-sized or taller buildings.





Figure 28. A small addition (left) was constructed when this 1880s train station was converted for office use. The paired doors with transoms and arched windows on the compatible addition reflect, but do not replicate, the historic building (right).





Figure 29. This simple glass and brick entrance (left) added to a secondary elevation of a 1920s school building (right) is compatible with the original structure.

Summary

Because a new exterior addition to a historic building can damage or destroy significant materials and can change the building's character, an addition should be considered only after it has been determined that the new use cannot be met by altering non-significant, or secondary, interior spaces. If the new use cannot be met in this way, then an attached addition may be an acceptable alternative if carefully planned and designed. A new addition to a historic building should be constructed in a manner that preserves significant materials, features and form, and preserves the building's historic character. Finally, an addition should be differentiated from the historic building so that the new work is compatible with—and does not detract from—the historic building, and cannot itself be confused as historic.

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Figure 30. The small addition on the right of this late-19th century commercial structure is clearly secondary and compatible in size, materials and design with the historic building.



Figure 31. An elevator/stair tower was added at the back of this Richardsonian Romanesque-style theater when it was rehabilitated. Rough-cut stone and simple cut-out openings ensure that the addition is compatible and subordinate to the historic building. Photo: Chuck Liddy, AIA.

Acknowledgements

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