



**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission  
Sunnyside in Sevier Park  
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Nashville, Tennessee 37204  
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**  
**3620 Westbrook Avenue**  
**December 19, 2012**

**Application:** New construction - addition  
**District:** Richland-West End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay  
**Council District:** 24  
**Map and Parcel Number:** 10405021800  
**Applicant:** Betsy Bergin, Architect  
**Project Lead:** Sean Alexander, sean.alexander@nashville.gov

<p><b>Description of Project:</b> The applicant is proposing to enlarge the structure with a ridge raise and a rear addition. The front slope of the roof will be extended upwards and back to raise the ridge two feet (2') in height, leaving two feet (2') of the existing ridge intact on each side. A rear addition will be constructed with a rear-facing gable intersecting the raised ridge, with side walls set in two feet (2') from the sides of the existing house. The length of the addition will be twenty-six feet, six inches (26'-6"), with a screened porch on the right side adding another twelve feet, nine inches (12'-9"). The exterior materials will be smooth-faced cement-fiber siding, wood windows and trim, a composite shingle roof, and a split-faced concrete block foundation. A chimney on the right side of the addition will be brick, matching a chimney on the historic house.</p> <p><b>Recommendation Summary:</b> Staff recommends approval of the ridge raise and rear addition, finding it to meet the guidelines for new construction and additions in the Richland-West End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.</p>	<p><b>Attachments</b> <b>A:</b> Photographs <b>B:</b> Site Plan <b>C:</b> Elevations</p>
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## Applicable Design Guidelines:

### II.B.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. Examples are a change in material, coursing or color.*

#### 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 reduce building setbacks and extend height limitations of the required underlying base zoning for new construction, additions and accessory structures (ordinance no. BL2007-45).*

*Appropriate setback reductions 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*

#### 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.I.F.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 minimum of a 5" reveal.*

*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.*

e. **R o o f S h a p e**

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. **O r i e n t a t i o n**

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

*New buildings shall 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.*

*For multi-unit developments, interior dwellings should be subordinate to those that front the street. Subordinate generally means the width and height of the buildings are less than those that front the street.*

*For multi-unit developments, direct pedestrian connections should be made between the street and any interior units. The entrances to those pedestrian connections generally should be wider than the typical spacing between buildings along the street.*

*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.*

*Generally, curb cuts should not be added.*

g. **P r o p o r t i o n a n d R h y t h m o f O p e n i n g s**

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. (Brick molding is only appropriate on masonry buildings.)*

*Brick molding is required around doors, windows and vents within masonry walls.*

## **h . Outbuildings**

1) A new garage or storage building should reflect the character of the period of the house to which the outbuilding will be related. The outbuilding should be compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with surrounding historic outbuildings in terms of height, scale, roof shape, materials, texture, and details.

*Historically, outbuildings were either very utilitarian in character, or (particularly with more extravagant houses) they repeated the roof forms and architectural details of the houses to which they related. Generally, either approach is appropriate for new outbuildings. Brick, weatherboard, and board - and -batten are typical siding materials. Outbuildings with weatherboard siding typically have wide cornerboards and window and door casings (trim). Generally, the minimum roof pitch appropriate for outbuildings is 12:4. Decorative raised panels on publicly visible garage doors are generally not appropriate. Publicly visible pedestrian doors must either be appropriate for the style of house to which the outbuilding relates or be flat with no panels. Publicly visible windows should be appropriate to the style of the house.*

### *Roof*

- *Generally, the eaves and roof ridge of any new accessory structure should not be higher than those of the existing house.*
- *Roof slopes on simple, utilitarian buildings do not have to match the roof slopes of the main structure, but must maintain at least a 4/12 pitch.*
- *The front face of any dormer must be set back at least 2' from the wall of the floor below.*

### *Windows and Doors*

- *Metal overhead doors are acceptable on garages when they are simple and devoid of overly decorative elements typical on high-style wooden doors.*
- *Publicly visible pedestrian doors must either be appropriate for the style of house to which the outbuilding relates or be flat with no panels.*
- *Publicly visible windows should be appropriate to the style of the house.*
- *Double-hung windows are generally twice as tall as they are wide and of the single-light sash variety.*
- *For street-facing facades, garages with more than one-bay should have multiple single doors rather than one large door to accommodate more than one bay.*
- *Decorative raised panels on publicly visible garage doors are generally not appropriate.*

### *Siding and Trim*

- *Brick, weatherboard, and board-and-batten are typical siding materials. Outbuildings with weatherboard siding typically have wide cornerboards and window and door casings (trim).*
- *Exterior siding may match the existing contributing building's original siding; otherwise, siding should be wood or smooth cement-fiberboard lap siding with a maximum exposure of five inches (5"), wood or smooth cement-fiberboard board-and-batten or masonry.*
- *Four inch (4") (nominal) corner-boards are required at the face of each exposed corner.*
- *Stud wall lumber and embossed wood grain are prohibited.*
- *Four inch (4") (nominal) casings are required around doors, windows, and vents within clapboard walls. (Brick molding is not appropriate on non-masonry clad buildings.)*

- *Brick molding is required around doors, windows, and vents within masonry walls.*
- 2) Outbuildings should be situated on a lot as is historically typical for surrounding historic buildings.

*Generally new garages should be placed close to the alley, at the rear of the lot, or in the original location of an historic accessory structure.*

*Lots without rear alleys may have garages located closer to the primary structure. The appropriate location is one that matches the neighborhood or can be documented by historic maps. Generally, attached garages are not appropriate; however, instances where they may be are:*

1. *where they are a typical feature of the neighborhood*
2. *When the location of the attached garage is in the general location of an historic accessory building, the new garage is located in the basement level, and the vehicular access is on the rear elevation.*

*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.*

**II.B.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.

*Additions normally not recommended on historic structures may be appropriate for non-historic structures. 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 the existing structure.*
- *Additions should be physically distinguished from the historic building and generally fit within the shadow line of the existing building.*
- *Connections to additions should, as much as possible, use existing window and door openings rather than remove significant amounts of rear wall material.*
- *Generally rear additions should inset one foot, for each story, from the side wall.*

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

*When an addition needs to be taller:*

*Whenever possible, additions should not be taller than the historic building; however, when a taller addition is the only option, additions to single story structures may rise as high as 4' above the shadow line of the existing building at a distance of 40' from the front edge of the existing building. In this instance, the side walls and roof of the addition must set in as is typical for all additions. The portion of the roof that can be seen should have a hipped, side gable or clipped gable roof to help decrease the visual mass of the addition.*

#### *Ridge raises*

*Ridge raises are most appropriate for one-story, side-gable buildings, (without clipped gables) and that require more finished height in the attic. The purpose of a ridge raise is to allow for conditioned space in the attic and to discourage large rear or side additions. The raised portion must sit in a minimum of 2' from each side wall and can be raised no more than 2' of total vertical height within the same plane as the front roof slope.*

#### *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) since the change in materials will allow 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. Examples are a change in materials or a change in masonry coursing, etc.*

#### *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.)*

**Background:** 3620 Westbrook Avenue is a wood-framed Craftsman style bungalow, constructed circa 1925. Because of the age of the structure and the significance of the Craftsman style to the area, the house is considered to be contributing to the historic character of the district.

**Analysis and Findings:** The applicant is proposing to enlarge the house with a ridge raise and rear addition.

#### Height and Scale

The front slope of the existing roof will be extended up and toward the rear raising the ridge two feet (2') higher, leaving two feet (2') of the existing ridge unaltered on each side of the house. This type of addition has been found by the Commission to be appropriate for side-gabled houses.

A two-story rear addition will be constructed with the side walls setting in two feet (2') from the sides of the house on each side, with a gabled roof intersecting the raised ridge at a "T."

The addition will extend twenty-two feet (22') to the rear on the left side, and twenty-six feet, six inches (26'-6") on the right, which will be subordinate to the historic house. The house is forty-five feet (45') deep, including the front porch. A one story screened porch will further extend the length of the addition twelve-feet, nine inches (12'-9") along the right side. The foundation height and floor levels of the addition will match those of the historic house. Because the addition sets in from the sides of the historic house and will be no taller than the raised ridge, it will not disturb the form of the historic house and will not have a significant impact on its appearance from the right of way. Staff finds the height and scale of the addition to meet guidelines II.B.1.a. and II.B.1.b.

Because the sides of the addition set in from those of the historic house, it will not disturb the rhythm of spacing established by existing buildings. The addition will also meet the setbacks required by the bulk zoning regulations, and will meet guideline II.B.1.c.

#### Materials

The exterior of the addition will be clad with smooth-faced cement-fiber siding matching the exposure of the siding on the house. The windows, window casings, and other trim will be wood. The foundation will be split-faced concrete block and the roof will be gray composite shingles. There will be a brick chimney on the left side, matching a brick chimney on the historic house. Staff finds these materials to be compatible with those of the house and to meet guideline II.B.1.d.

#### Window Rhythm

The window patterns on the sides of the addition will maintain the rhythm of openings on the historic house, with windows compatible in proportion to those on the house as well. The addition will meet guideline II.B.1.g.

#### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of the ridge raise and rear addition, finding it to meet the guidelines for new construction and additions in the Richland-West End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.



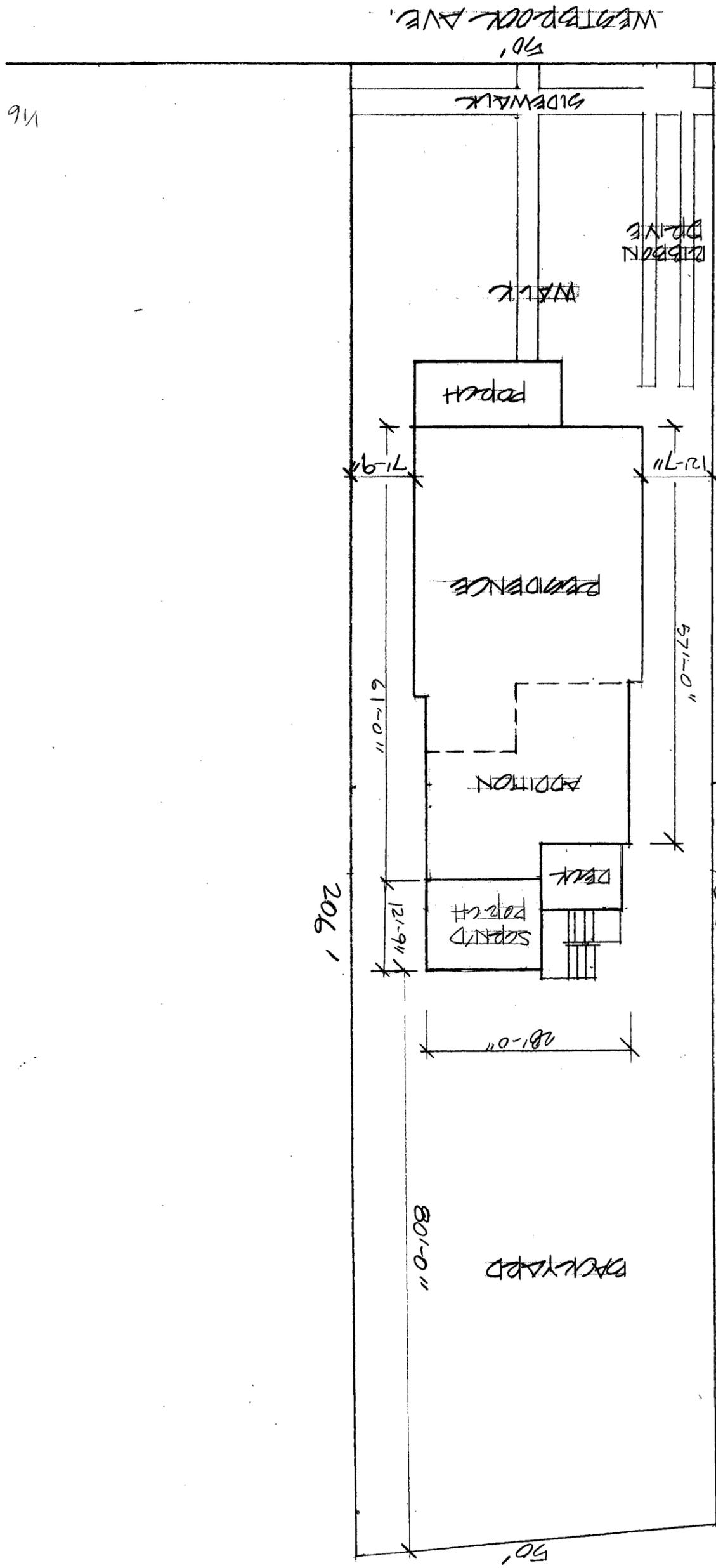
3620 Westbrook Avenue, front.



3620 Westbrook Avenue, rear.

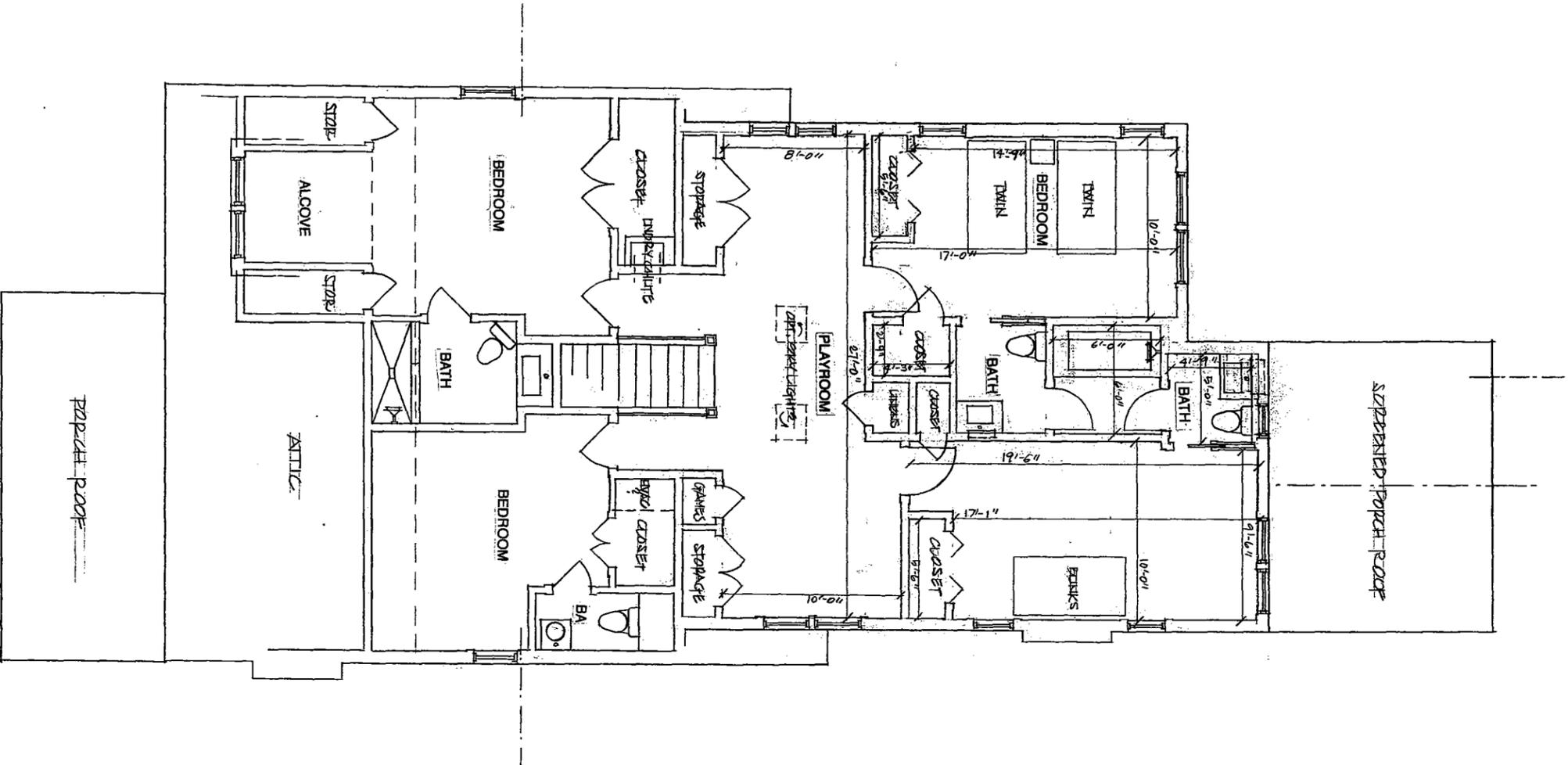
# BRADBURY RESIDENCE

SITE PLAN  
DATE: 11-01-2011  
DEC. 2012



1/6



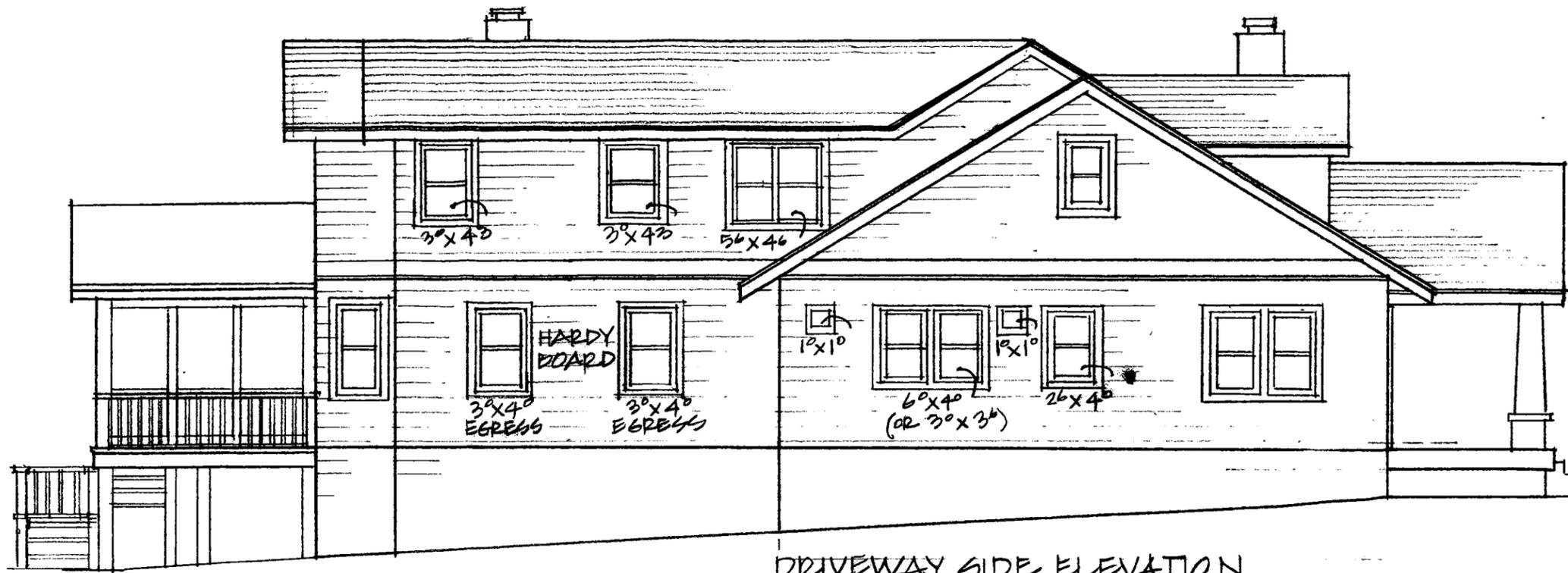


**BRADBURY RESIDENCE**  
 SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
 REVISED: NOV. 29

SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$   
 BETSY BERGIN STUDIO 616.419.7574

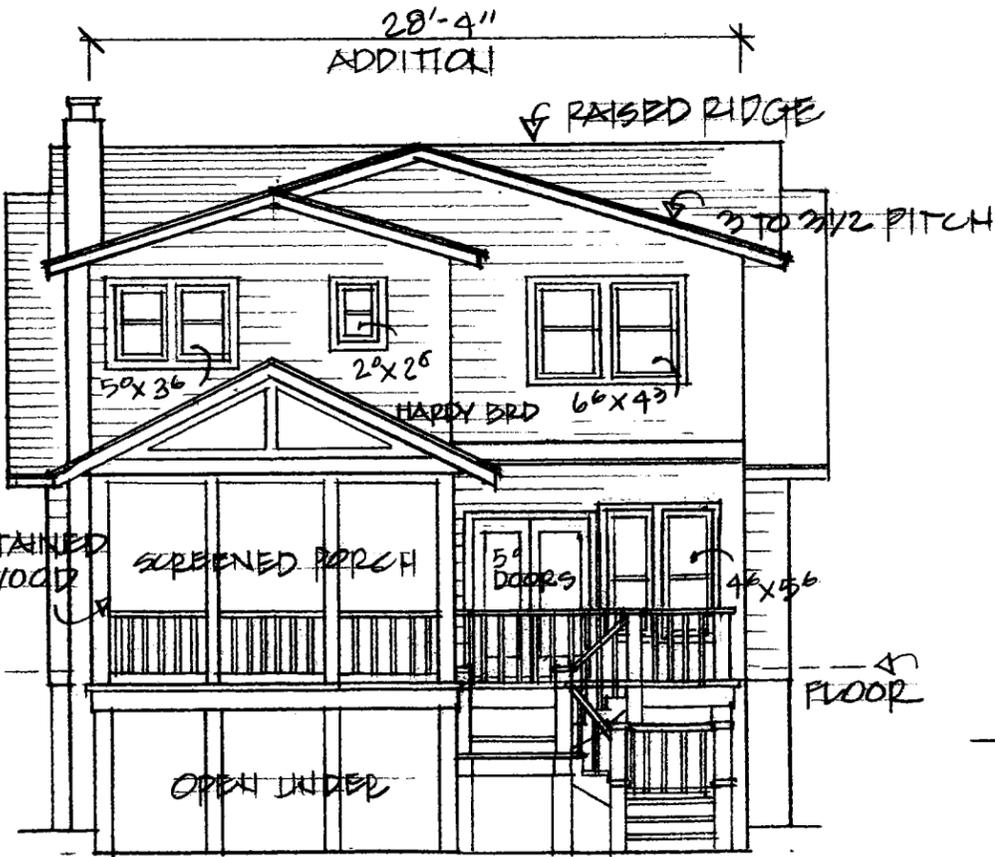


FRONT ELEVATION

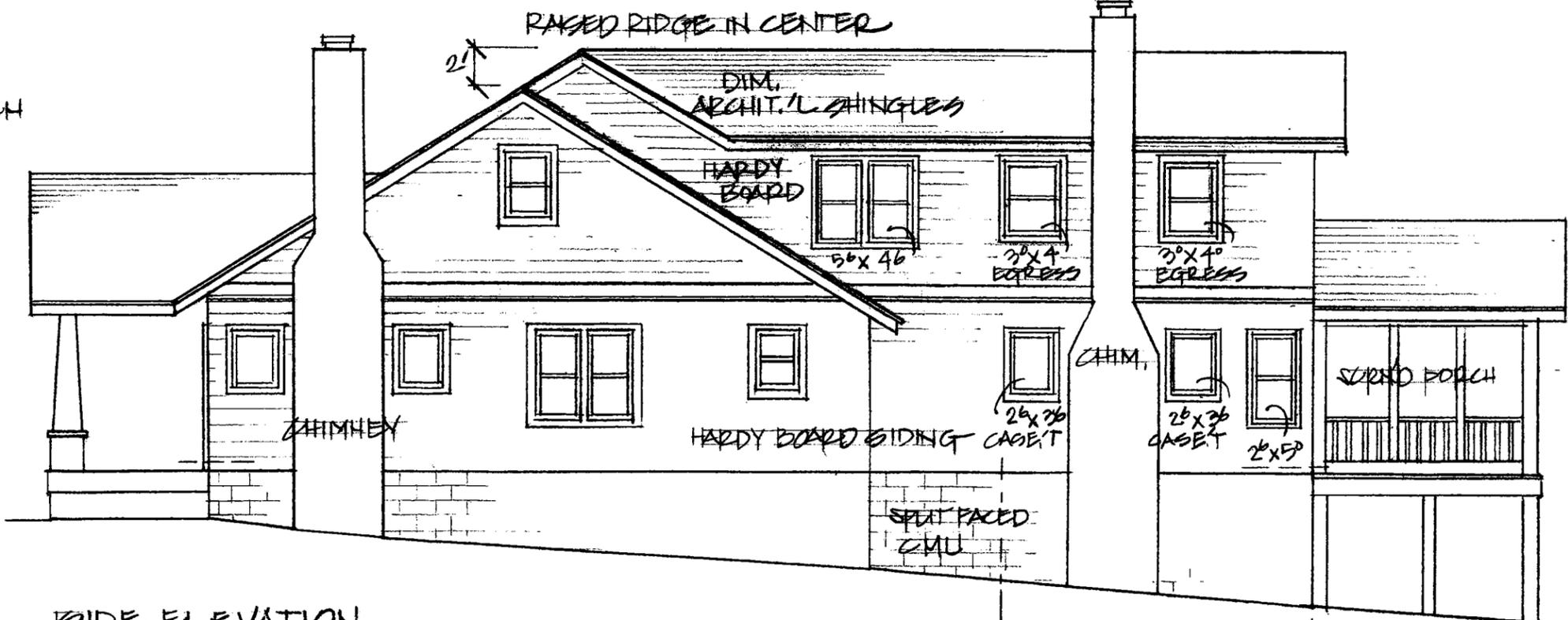


DRIVEWAY SIDE ELEVATION

4'-6" ADD'N. 22'-0" ADDITION



REAR ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

17'-4" ADDITION 12'-9" SCREENED PORCH

BRADBLURY RESIDENCE