

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
1917 Holly Street
September 16, 2020

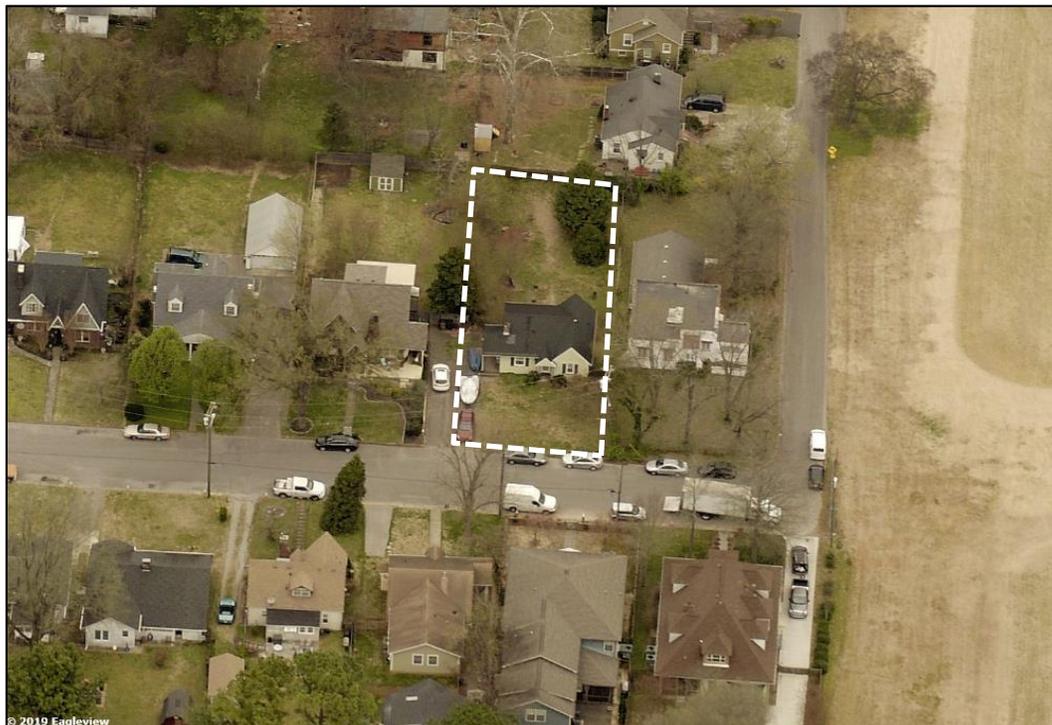
Application: New Construction—Infill
District: Lockeland Springs-East End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay
Council District: 06
Base Zoning: R6
Map and Parcel Number: 08314002300
Applicant: Zoie Babb; Builder Assist, LLC
Project Lead: Sean Alexander, sean.alexander@nashville.gov

<p>Description of Project: A proposal to construct a new house, replacing a structure that was demolished by the tornado on March 3rd. The new building will be one story tall.</p> <p>Recommendation Summary: Staff recommends approval of the proposed infill and outbuilding at 1917 Holly Street with conditions that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The finished floor height shall be consistent with the finished floor heights of the adjacent historic houses, to be verified by MHZC staff in the field; 2. The front setback shall be consistent with the setbacks of the adjacent historic houses, to be verified by MHZC staff in the field; 3. The porch columns shall have minimal bases and capitals; and 4. Windows in multiple sets shall have a four-inch (4”) mullion between them; 5. The window and door selections shall be approved by MHZC Staff; 6. The roof color shall be approved by MHZC Staff; and 7. A concrete front walkway shall be added connecting the front porch to the street. <p>With those conditions met, Staff finds that the project will meet the design guidelines for new construction in the Lockeland Springs East-End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.</p>	<p>Attachments A: Context Photographs B: Site Plan C: Elevations</p>
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Vicinity Map:



Aerial Map:



Applicable Design Guidelines:

II.B. New Construction

1. Height

New buildings must be constructed to the same number of stories and to a height which is compatible with the height of adjacent buildings.

The height of the foundation wall, porch roof, and main roofs should all be compatible with those of surrounding historic buildings.

Infill construction on the 1400 -1600 blocks of Boscobel Street may be up to two-stories.

For those lots located within the Five Points Subdistrict of the Five Points Redevelopment District new buildings shall not exceed 2 stories and 30' in height. A third story and 15' may be added provided that is for residential use only and is compatible with existing adjacent historic structures. The third story must be stepped back at least 10' from façade planes facing a residential subdistrict, an existing house (regardless of use), and public streets. All front and side building walls shall be a minimum of 20' in height. For multi-story buildings, the minimum first floor height shall be 14' from finished floor to finished floor. Exception: buildings with first floor residential use, minimum first floor height shall be 12'.

For those lots located within the Corner Commercial Subdistrict of the Five Points Redevelopment District new buildings shall not exceed 2 stories and 30' in height. An additional story may be added to a building provided that, where it is adjacent to a detached house or a residential subdistrict, it is set back a minimum of 25' from the building wall or 50' from the property line. Three story building height shall not exceed 45'. All front and side buildings walls shall be a minimum of 16' in height and at the build-to line. For multi-story buildings, the minimum first floor height shall be 14' from finished floor to finished floor.

For those lots located within the Residential Subdistrict of the Five Points Redevelopment District shall not exceed 3 stories .

2. Scale

The size of a new building and its mass in relation to open spaces; and its windows, doors, openings, and porches should be visually compatible 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.

3. Setback and Rhythm of Spacing

4. Since construction in an historic district has usually taken place continuously from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a variety of building types and styles result which demonstrate the changes in building tastes and technology over the years. New buildings should continue this tradition while complementing and being compatible with other buildings in the area.

In Lockeland Springs-East End, historic buildings were constructed between 1880 and 1950. New buildings should be compatible with surrounding houses from this period.

5. Reconstruction may be appropriate when it reproduces facades of a building which no longer exists and which was located in the historic district if: (1) the building would have contributed to the

historical and architectural character of the area; (2) if it will be compatible in terms of style, height, scale, massing, and materials with the buildings immediately surrounding the lot on which the reproduction will be built; and (3) if it is accurately based on pictorial documentation.

6. Because new buildings usually relate to an established pattern and rhythm of existing buildings, both on the same and opposite sides of a street, the dominance of that pattern and rhythm must be respected and not disrupted.

7. New construction should be consistent with existing buildings along a street in terms of height, scale, setback, and rhythm; relationship of materials, texture, details, and color; roof shape; orientation; and proportion and rhythm of openings.

The setback from front and side yard property lines established by adjacent historic buildings must be maintained. When a definite rhythm along a street is established by uniform lot and building width, infill new 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. 17.40.410).

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*

Infill construction on the 1400 - 1600 blocks of Boscobel Street may have widths up to 40'.

4. Relationship of Materials, Textures, Details, and Material Colors

The relationship and use of materials, textures, details, and material color of a new building's public facades shall be visually compatible with and similar to those of adjacent buildings, or shall not contrast conspicuously.

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. Primary entrances should be 1/2 to full-light doors. Faux leaded glass is inappropriate. Generally front doors should be 1/2 to full-light. Faux leaded glass is inappropriate.

5. Roof Shape

The roofs of new buildings shall be visually compatible, by not contrasting greatly, with the roof shape and orientation of surrounding 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.

Infill construction on the 1400-1600 blocks of Boscobel Street may have flat roofs or roofs with a minimal slope.

6. Orientation

The site orientation of new buildings shall be consistent with that of adjacent buildings and shall be visually compatible. Directional expression shall be compatible with surrounding buildings, whether that expression is vertical, horizontal, or non-directional.

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.

Duplexes

Infill duplexes shall have one or two doors facing the street, as seen on historic duplexes. In the case of corner lots, an entrance facing the side street is possible as long as it is designed to look like a secondary entrance.

In the case of duplexes, vehicular access for both units should be from the alley, where an alley exists. A new shared curb cut may be added, if no alley and no driveway exists, but the driveway should be no more than 12' wide from the street to the rear of the home. Driveways should use concrete strips where they are typical of the historic context. Front yard parking or driveways which end at the front of the house are not consistent with the character of the historic neighborhoods.

7. 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.

9. Appurtenances

Appurtenances related to new buildings, including driveways, sidewalks, lighting, fences, and walls, shall be visually compatible with the environment of the existing buildings and sites to which they relate.

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.

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.

Background: On March 3, 2020, a tornado hit Nashville, causing significant damage across the city. Holly and Russell Streets in the Lockeland Springs and East End neighborhoods were hit particularly hard.

The building at 1917 Holly Street was severely damaged. MHZC staff issued an emergency demolition permit under the Rules of Order and Procedure VI.C.2.c, which allow for administrative issuance of demo permits for any structure that has become a major life-safety hazard.

The building was a one-story Minimal Traditional house, with some elements of the Tudor Revival style.



Figure 1: Previous structure at 1901 Holly Street



Figure 2: House after storm.

Analysis and Findings: The applicant proposes to construct a new house on the lot.

Height & Scale: The new principal building will be one-story tall, with a roof-ridge height of twenty feet (20') from grade and an eave height ten feet (10') from grade, with a foundation height of one foot (1'). The historic context on this block is composed of one-story and one and one-half story houses, ranging from thirteen feet (13') to thirty-five feet (35') tall. Staff finds that the height of the proposed new building is compatible with the surrounding context.

The new building will be thirty-three feet (33') wide and will have a primary depth of thirty-one feet (31'). The house will have a recessed partial-width porch on the front of the house, twenty-one feet (21') wide and six feet (6') deep. Historic houses on the block range from twenty-eight feet (28') to forty feet (40') wide, with similar porch depths and overall depths to the current proposal.

With a condition that the finished floor level is compatible with the historic houses on the block, to be verified at the start of construction, staff finds that the height, width, and massing of the proposed new buildings is appropriate and the proposal meets sections II.B.1 and II.B.2 of the design guidelines.

Setback & Rhythm of Spacing: The front edge of the building is proposed to be forty-two feet (42') from the front of the lot, matching the front setback of the previous building. The building's side setbacks will be fourteen feet (14') on the right side and thirteen feet (13') on the left. This meets bulk zoning requirements and is consistent with the rhythm of spacing in the historic context.

With a condition that Staff shall verify the front setback at the start of construction, Staff finds that the front and side setbacks will meet section II.B.3 of the design guidelines.

Roof form: The primary roof of the building will have a side-gabled form with a pitch of 6/12, with a front projecting accent gable on the right side. This roof form and pitch is typical of roofs on historic houses nearby. The roof includes solar panels on the rear slope. Solar panels have been routinely approved, especially when located in a minimally visible location like the proposed.

Staff finds the roofs of the proposed building to be compatible with surrounding houses and finds that the project will meet section II.B.5 of the design guidelines.

Materials:

	Proposed	Color/Texture/Make/Manufacturer	Approved Previously or Typical	Requires Additional Review
Foundation	Concrete Block	Split-Faced, Typical	Yes	
Primary Cladding	Cement-Fiber Clapboard	Smooth-Faced, 5" Reveal	Yes	
Trim	Cement-Fiber, Wood	Smooth-Faced	Yes	
Front Porch floor/steps	Poured Concrete	Typical	Yes	
Front Porch Columns	Round Steel Tube	Selections Need Approval	No	
Rear Porch Railing	Wood	Horizontal Slat	Yes	
Windows	Single Light Casement	Selections Need Approval	Yes	X
Front Door	Full Light	Selection Needs Approval	Yes	X
Roofing	Asphalt Shingles	Color Needs Approval	Yes	X
Walkway	Concrete	Typical	Yes	

Round steel tubes are not a common material for porch columns. The tubes are paired, which together help to provide the width typically seen of a single porch column. Staff

finds that the pair could be a modern interpretation of a historic post if a contemporary cap and base is added to the pair. Historically, paired porch columns would sit upon a shared plinth, or would have individual minimal bases and capitals.

With a condition that the steel tube columns have bases and capitals and that staff shall approve the window and door selections as well as the roof color and brick selection, staff finds that the proposal would meet section II.B.4 of the design guidelines.

Orientation: The new building will have a primary entrance inside the recessed partial-width front porch. This configuration is compatible with nearby buildings.

Staff finds that the orientation of the project meets section II.B.6 of the design guidelines.

Proportion and Rhythm of Openings: There will be four bays on the front façade of the house, with a door in the center. Staff finds that additional windows are compatible with the historic context. Both of the side elevations will have two-bays, evenly spaced but not matching. There will be two paired sets of windows on the front and another paired set on the left side. Staff recommends that there shall be a four inch (4”) mullion between paired windows, as is typical of windows on historic houses.

With a condition that four inch (4”) mullions are added between abutted windows, staff finds that the proposal will be compatible with the surrounding context and that the project will meet section II.B.7 of the design guidelines.

Appurtenances & Utilities: A front walkway will connect the front steps to the front of the lot. An existing shared driveway on the left side of the lot will be retained, with an extension to the rear of the lot alongside the house. The HVAC units are shown to be located on the right side of the house at the midpoint.

Staff finds the appurtenances will be compatible with surrounding historic properties and will meet section II.B.9 of the design guidelines.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the proposed infill and outbuilding at 1917 Holly Street with conditions that:

1. The finished floor height shall be consistent with the finished floor heights of the adjacent historic houses, to be verified by MHZC staff in the field;
2. The front setback shall be consistent with the setbacks of the adjacent historic houses, to be verified by MHZC staff in the field;
3. The porch columns have minimal bases and capitals; and
4. Windows in multiple sets shall have a four-inch (4”) mullion between them;
5. The window and door selections shall be approved by MHZC Staff;
6. The roof color shall be approved by MHZC Staff.

With those conditions met, Staff finds that the project will meet the design guidelines for new construction in the Lockeland Springs East-End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.

ATTACHMENT A: CONTEXT PHOTOGRAPHS



Historic houses at 1913, 1915, and 1917 Holly Street before the March 3rd tornado.



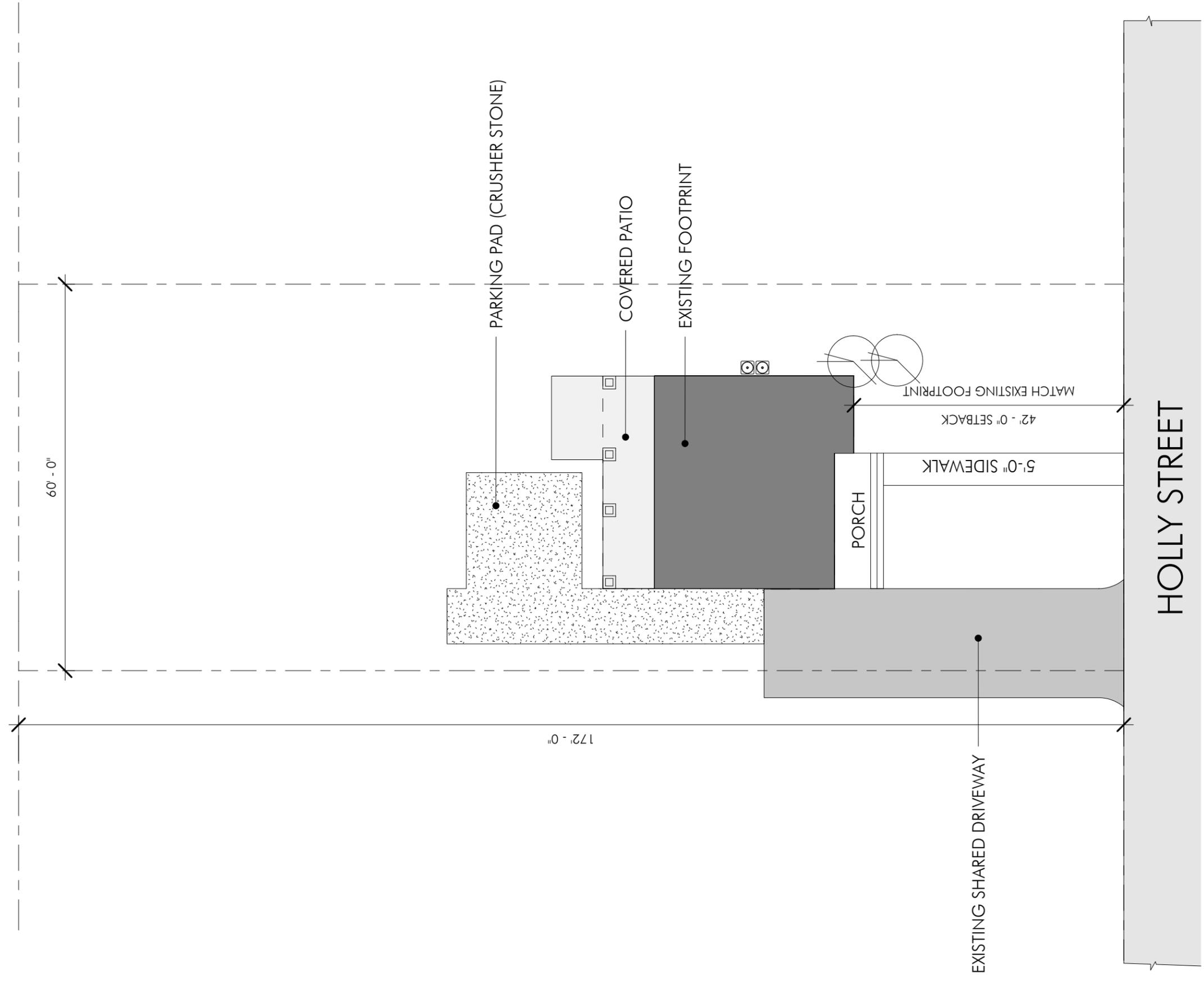
Historic houses at 1915, 1917, and 1919 Holly Street before the March 3rd tornado.



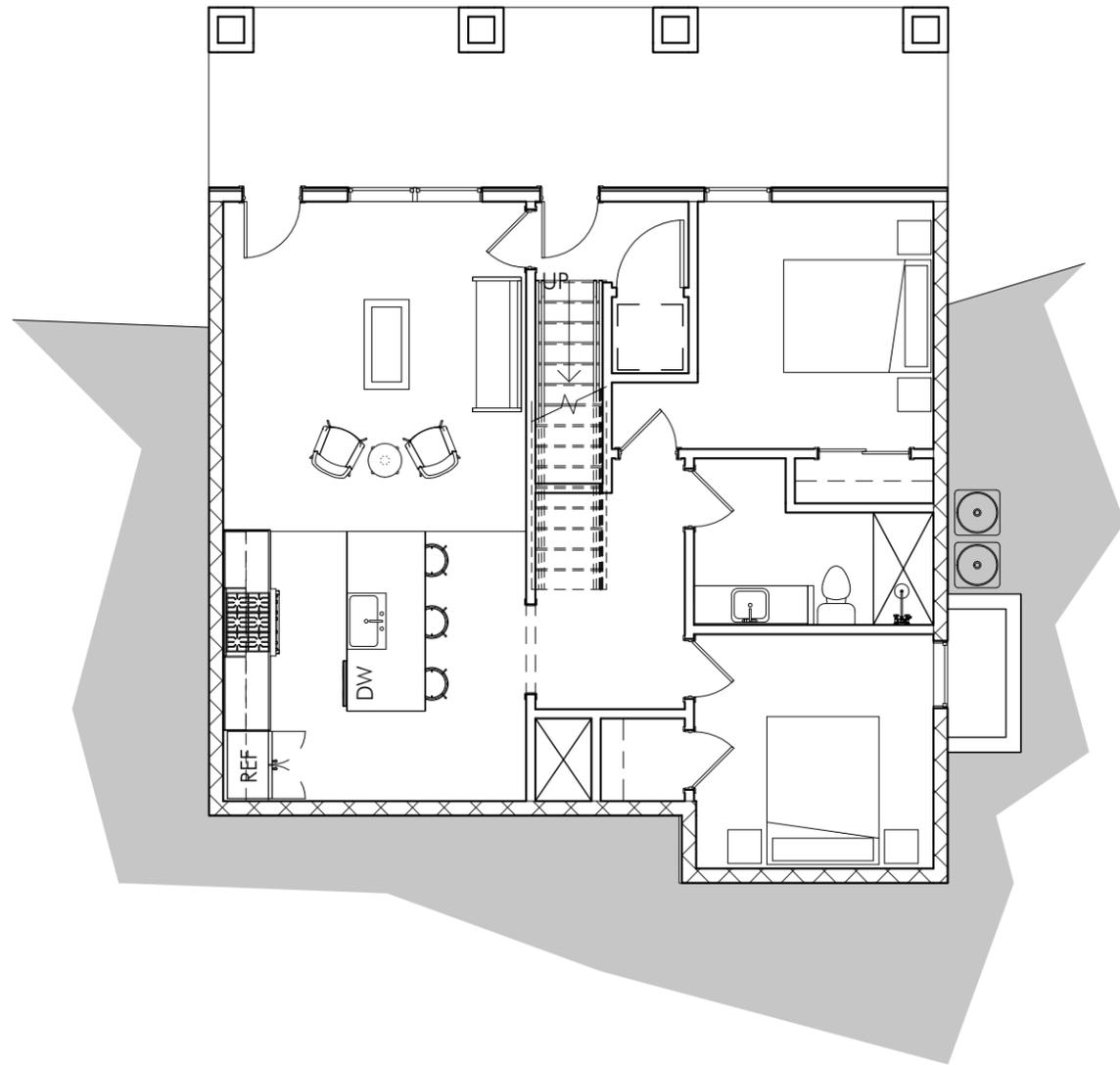
Previous building at 1917 Holly Street, circa 1985.



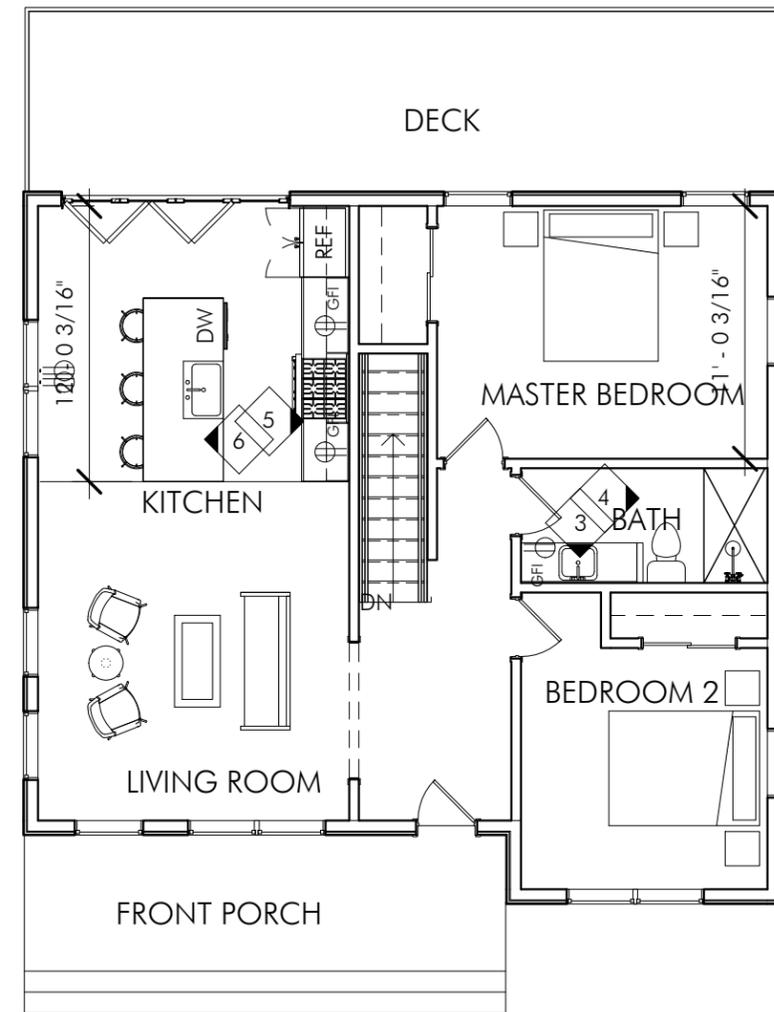
Surviving historic house on adjacent lot to the left, 1915 Holly Street, circa 1985.



1 SITE PLAN
1/16" = 1'-0"



② BASEMENT LEVEL
1/8" = 1'-0"



① MAIN FLOOR
1/8" = 1'-0"



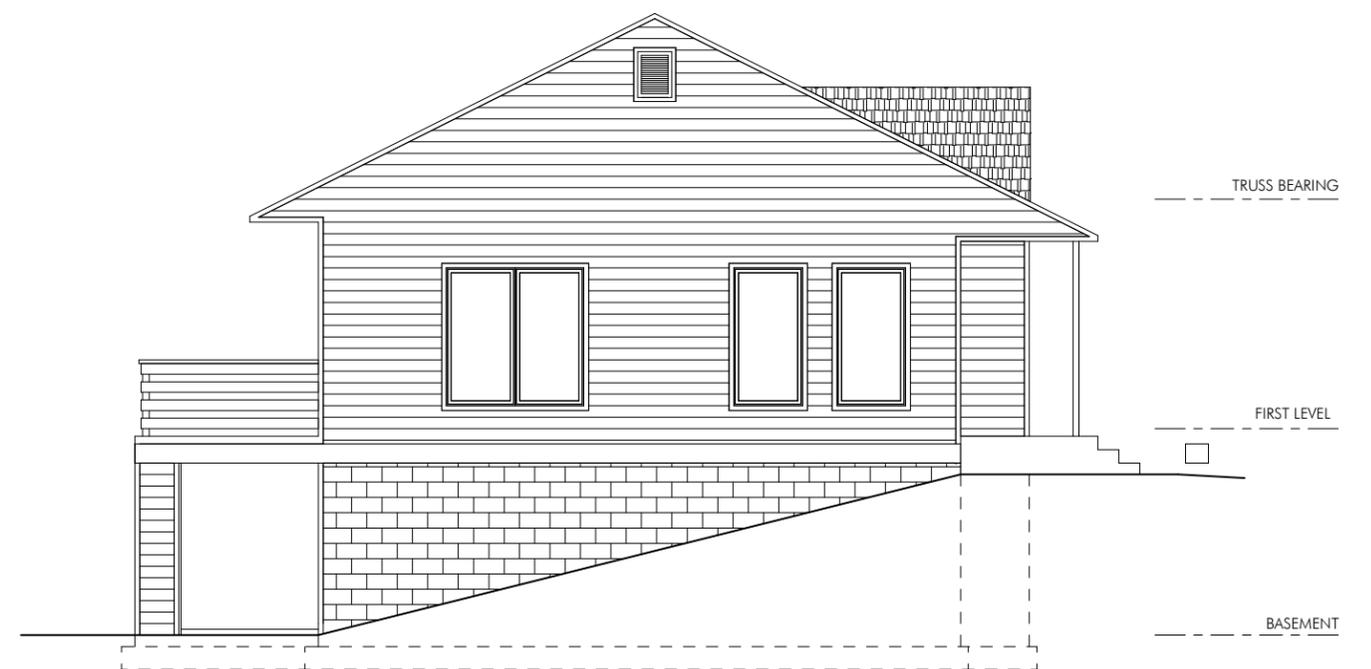
HOLLY STREET ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION



RIGHT ELEVATION



LEFT ELEVATION

ELEVATION MATERIAL LEGEND	
	CMU - SPLIT FACE (COLOR: GREY)
	LAP SIDING - SMOOTH FINISH FIBER CEMENT BOARDS (COLOR: PAINTED TBD)
	SHINGLED ROOF - GAF TIMBERLINE HDZ (COLOR: PEWTER GREY)
	GLAZING (COLOR: LOW-E TINTED)