7417 Baltimore Ave. Prelim. Cons.
Takoma Park Historic District

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 7417 Baltimore Avenue Meeting Date: 9/28/94

Resource: Takoma Park Historic District Preliminary Consultation

Case Number: Not Applicable Tax Credit: No

Public Notice: 9/14/94 Report Date: 9/21/94

Applicant: William Calloway Staff: David Berg

PROPOSAL: Construct second story

addition, demolish garage and construct new garage.

RECOMMEND: Further study

BACKGROUND

The applicant's house is a one story Prairie style structure clad with stucco built around 1910. It is a contributing resource in the Takoma Park Historic District located at the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Cleveland Avenue. The surrounding houses are a mixture of Bungalows, Colonial Revivals, American Four-Square, and Craftsman style structures that are all contributing resources to the Takoma Park Historic District.

The applicant proposes to demolish the roof of the house and construct a full second story addition. The applicant plans to replicate the existing exterior wall and roof design using identical materials.

The rear of the proposed second story (as seen from the South Elevation) employs a bridge-like structure that extends out past the original footprint of the house, over a proposed deck and terminates above a carport.

The applicant also proposes to demolish an existing one car garage that is original to the house and replace it with a larger two car garage. The design and materials to be used on this garage have not yet been specified.

No trees would be removed in the existing proposal.

STAFF DISCUSSION

This is one of the few Prairie style structures in the Takoma Park Historic District. Therefore, with the understanding that the property is categorized as a contributing resource, staff considers the preservation of this resource of particular importance. The Prairie style is characterized by a low spreading eaves and a low

pitched roof that create a horizontal, low to the ground quality. Although Prairie style structures are often two story, the staff feels that the proposed addition is incompatible with the size, massing and scale of the historic resource.

From the Front or West Elevation, the addition as currently proposed does not differentiate from the historic fabric enough to be recognizable. Furthermore, the proposal destroys the horizontal emphasis of the resource and creates a vertical appearance that effectively changes the architecture of the house from the Prairie style to something reminiscent of an American Four-Square. The Guidelines for Contributing Resources as found in the Takoma Park Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation state:

changes to Contributing Resources should respect the predominant architectural style of the resource. . . the design review emphasis will be restricted to changes that are at all visible from the public right of way.

Because it is important to preserve the dominant architectural style of the historic resource and because the proposed changes are highly visible from the street, staff feels that the applicant should re-design the second story and strive for a more horizontal effect to conform to Prairie style architecture. This might be achieved if the addition was recessed from both the sides and front of the existing structure, thereby setting it back to preserve and reveal the historic roofline. This recessing of dormers and second stories is a common feature of Prairie style structures.

Staff feels that the bridge-like appearance of the proposed South Elevation is incompatible in massing with the original structure and destroys the intent of the Prairie style architecture, which is to create a low to the ground, horizontal feeling. The South Elevation directly faces Cleveland Avenue and is highly visible from the street. Staff recommends that the applicant re-design the addition to eliminate the bridge-like structure. Perhaps this can be done by extending this part of the addition to the ground. This, along with the recess of the addition on the front and sides would make the addition more compatible with the historic resource and with surrounding historic resources.

Staff feels that it is inappropriate to demolish the existing garage. The structure is of the same approximate age as the house and should be considered a part of the historic contributing resource. The garage is a one story, one car, frame garage with German siding and asphalt roof and is in need of only minor repair.

Staff feels that the extension of the proposed addition into the rear of the lot which bridges across ten feet of yard and then sits above a carport, along with the construction of a new two car garage behind the house, would leave little or no open space on the lot. This is especially true if the existing historic garage is preserved.

The Takoma Park Guidelines for Contributing Resources state:

all changes and additions should respect existing environmental settings, landscaping, and patterns of open space

In order to respect the existing patterns of open space in the Takoma Park Historic District, staff feels that the proposal needs to be changed to minimize the infilling of the lot's open space. Accordingly, staff questions whether both a carport and garage are necessary, and would suggest that the proposal for either the carport or garage be eliminated.

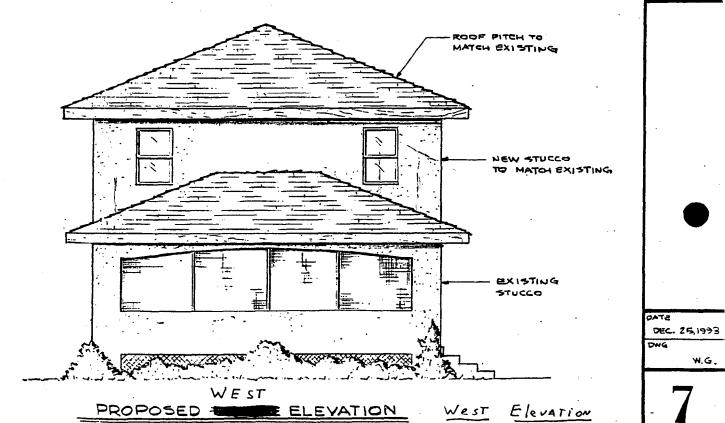
The applicant has been advised that attached garages are not generally considered acceptable in the Takoma Park Historic District since they are not compatible with the historic setting and do not respect the existing patterns of open space. This same reasoning applies to attached carports. A carport attached to the main dwelling by means of a living space above it is incompatible with the character of other carports within the Takoma Park Historic District. The applicant should eliminate the living space above the carport and keep the carport detached from the house.

While the Takoma Park Guidelines for Contributing Resources call for a more lenient level of review than for Outstanding Resources, the Guidelines are clear that all exterior alterations should preserve the predominant architectural features of the resource. The applicant is advised to keep in mind the horizontal emphasis of the Prairie Style architecture in any proposed changes to the historic resource. The applicant is further encouraged to have his architect make an appointment to meet with the historic preservation staff to discuss the project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, the staff finds that the proposal needs further study before proceeding to a Historic Area Work Permit. Staff recommends that the Commission request that following issues be addressed:

- 1) The addition should be re-designed to make it more compatible with the horizontal quality of the historic resource, possibly by recessing it and extending the overhead portion to the ground.
- 2) The applicant should not demolish the existing historic garage, but instead preserve the structure, and if necessary, find a new use for it such as a storage building.
- 3) Either the carport or garage should be eliminated.
- 4) Any new garage or carport should be detached from the house with ample space in between the structures.



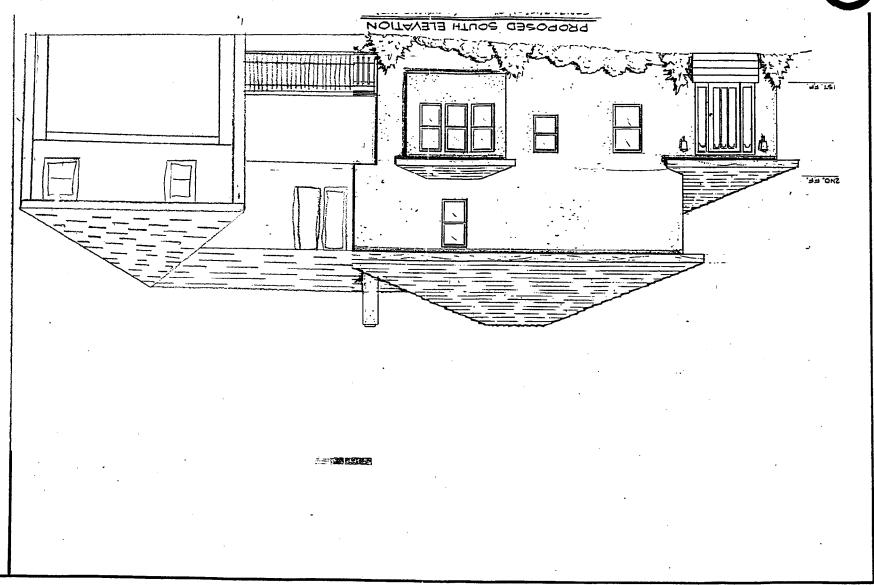
7417 BALTIMORE AVE

SCALE: 3/16" = 1-0"

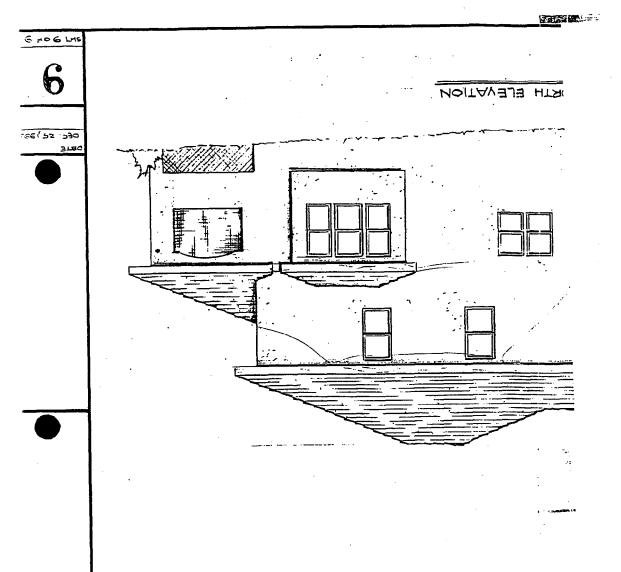
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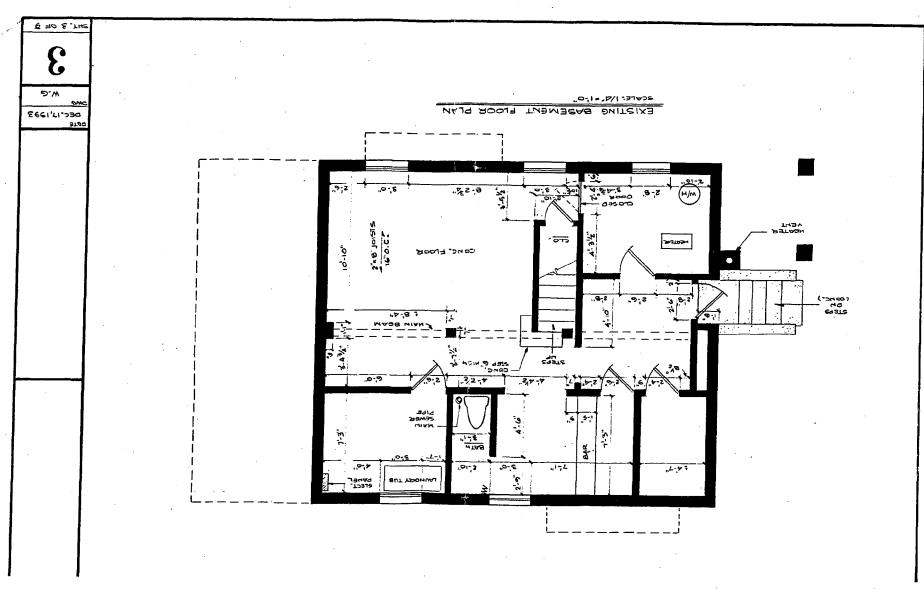


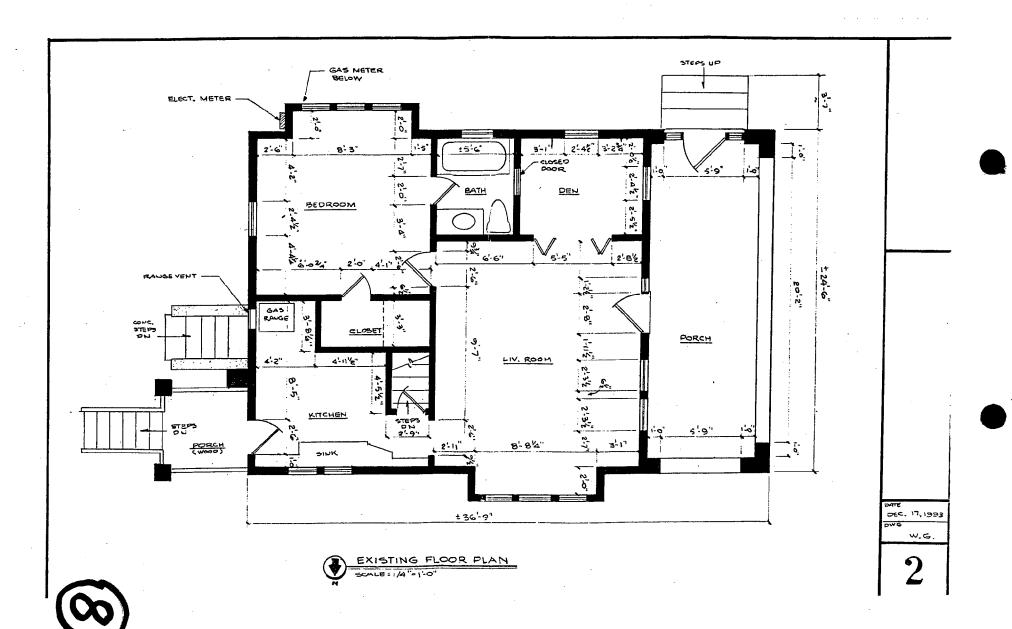
Proposed North Elevation

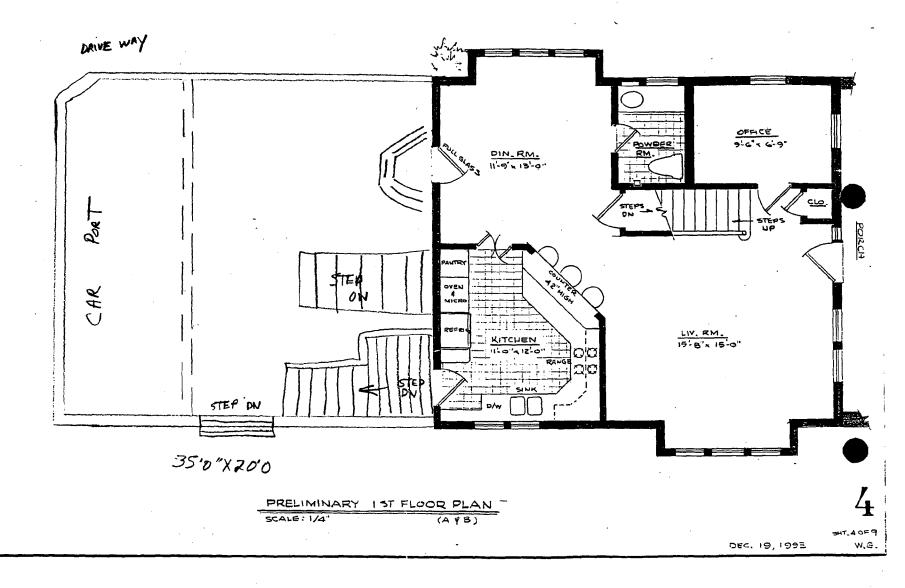




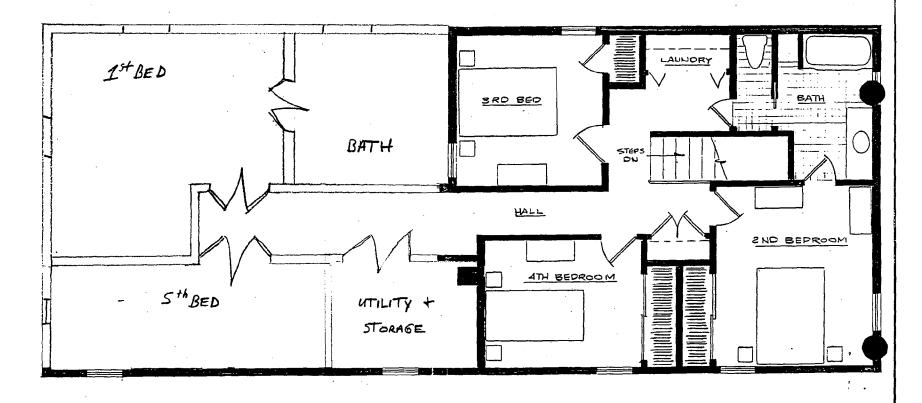












PRELIMINARY 2ND FLOOR PLAN
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TAKOMA PARK Histoic District Guidelines For Contributing Resources

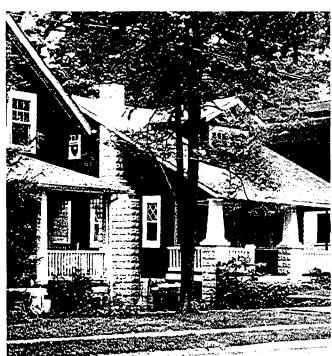
Specifically, some of the factors to be considered in reviewing HAWPs on Outstanding Resources:

- plans for all alterations should be compatible with the resource's original design; additions, specifically, should be sympathetic to existing architectural character, including massing, height, setbacks, and materials
- so emphasize placement of major additions to the rear of existing structures so that they are less visible from the public right-of-way
- while additions should be compatible, they are not required to be replicative of earlier architectural styles
- preservation of original and distinctive architectural features, such as porches, dormers, decorative details, shutters, etc. is encouraged
- preservation of original windows and doors, particularly those with specific architectural importance, and of original size and shape of openings is encouraged
- preservation of original building materials and use of appropriate, compatible new materials is encouraged
- all changes and additions should respect existing environmental settings, landscaping, and patterns of open space

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES-RESIDENTIAL

A majority of structures in the Takoma Park Historic District have been assessed as being "Contributing Resources". While these structures may not have the same level of architectural or historical significance as Outstanding Resources or may have lost some degree of integrity, collectively, they are the basic building blocks of the Takoma Park district. However, they are more important to the overall character of the district and the streetscape due to their size, scale, and architectural character, rather than for their particular architectural features.

Contributing Resources should receive a more lenient level of design review than those structures that have been classified as Outstanding. This design review should emphasize the importance of the resource to the overall streetscape and its compatibility with exist-



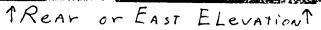
Contributing resources on Hickory Avenue

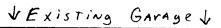
ing patterns rather than focusing on a close scrutiny of architectural detailing. In general, however, changes to Contributing Resources should respect the predominant architectural style of the resource. As stated above, the design review emphasis will be restricted to changes that are at all visible from the public right-of-way, irrespective of landscaping or vegetation (it is expected that the majority of new additions will be reviewed for their impact on the overall district).



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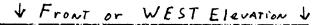


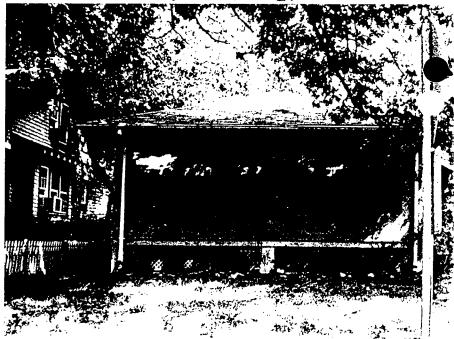


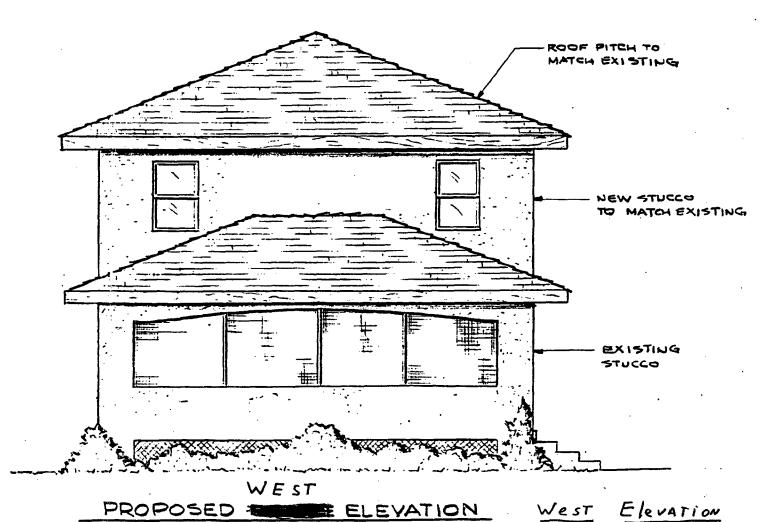




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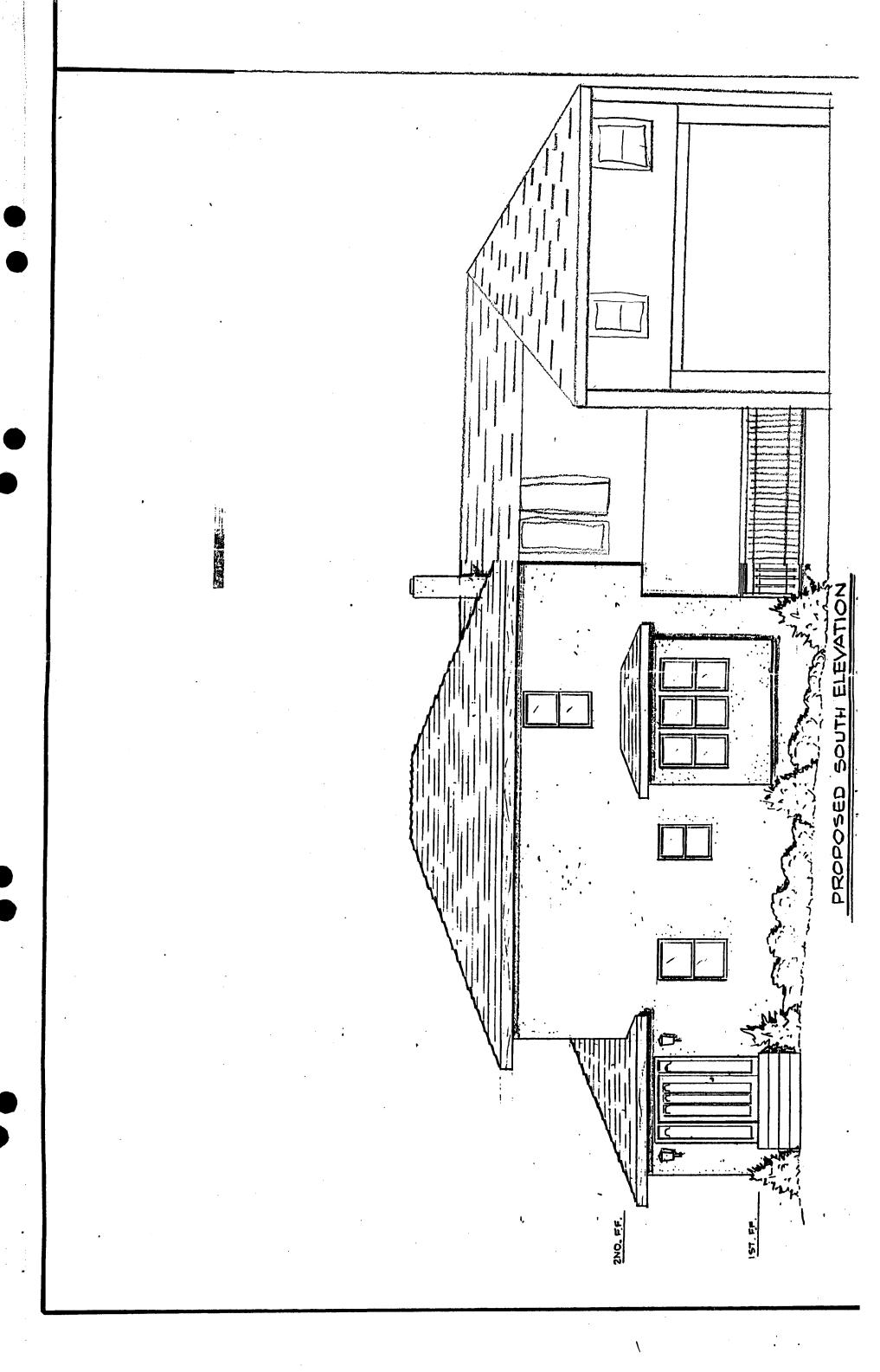


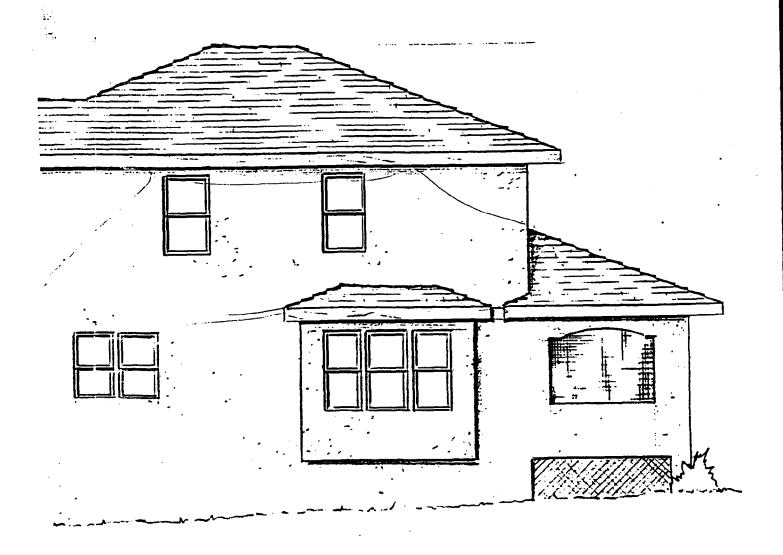




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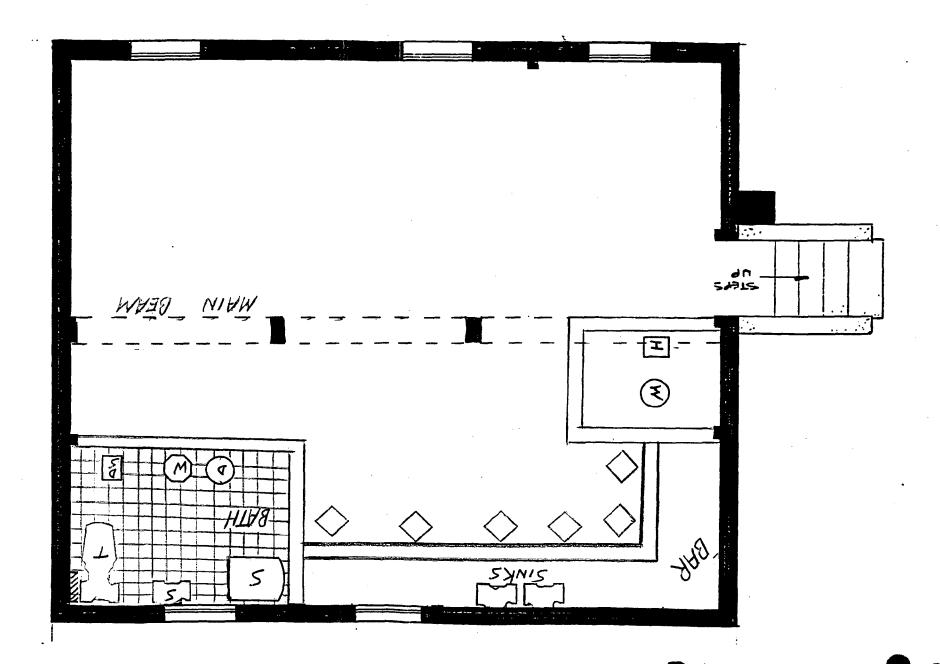
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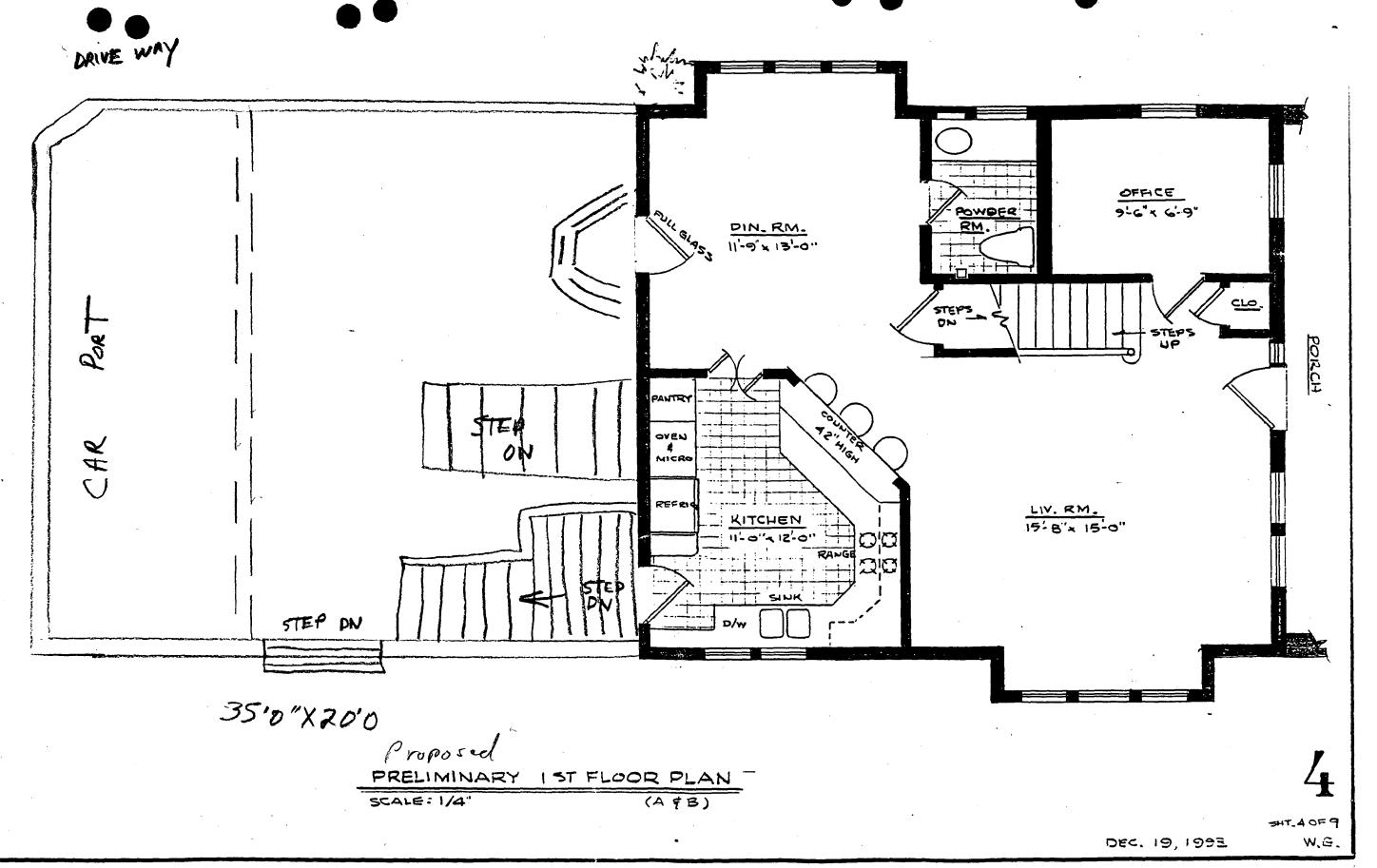
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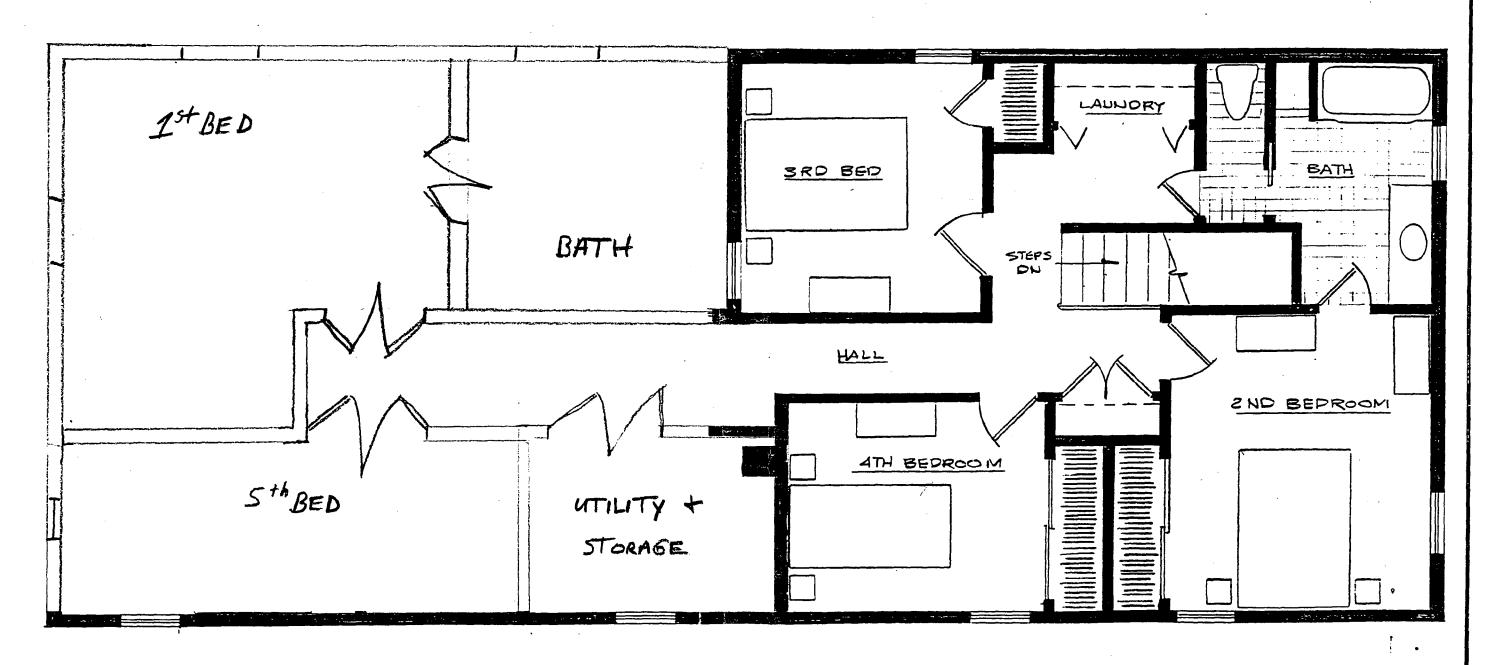
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PRELIMINARY BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN SCHLE: 1/4"=16" (A # 8)







Proposed

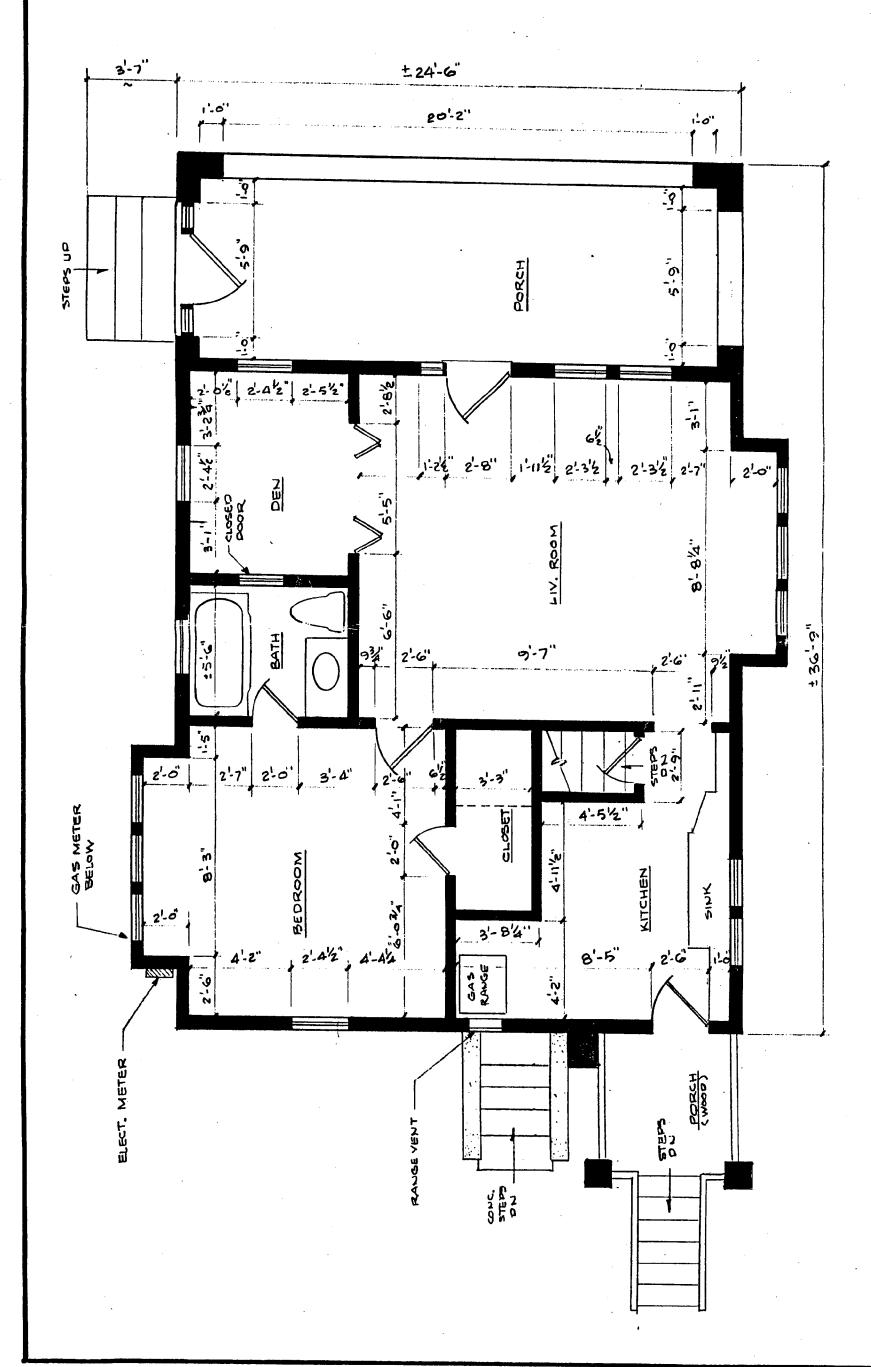
PRELIMINARY 2ND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

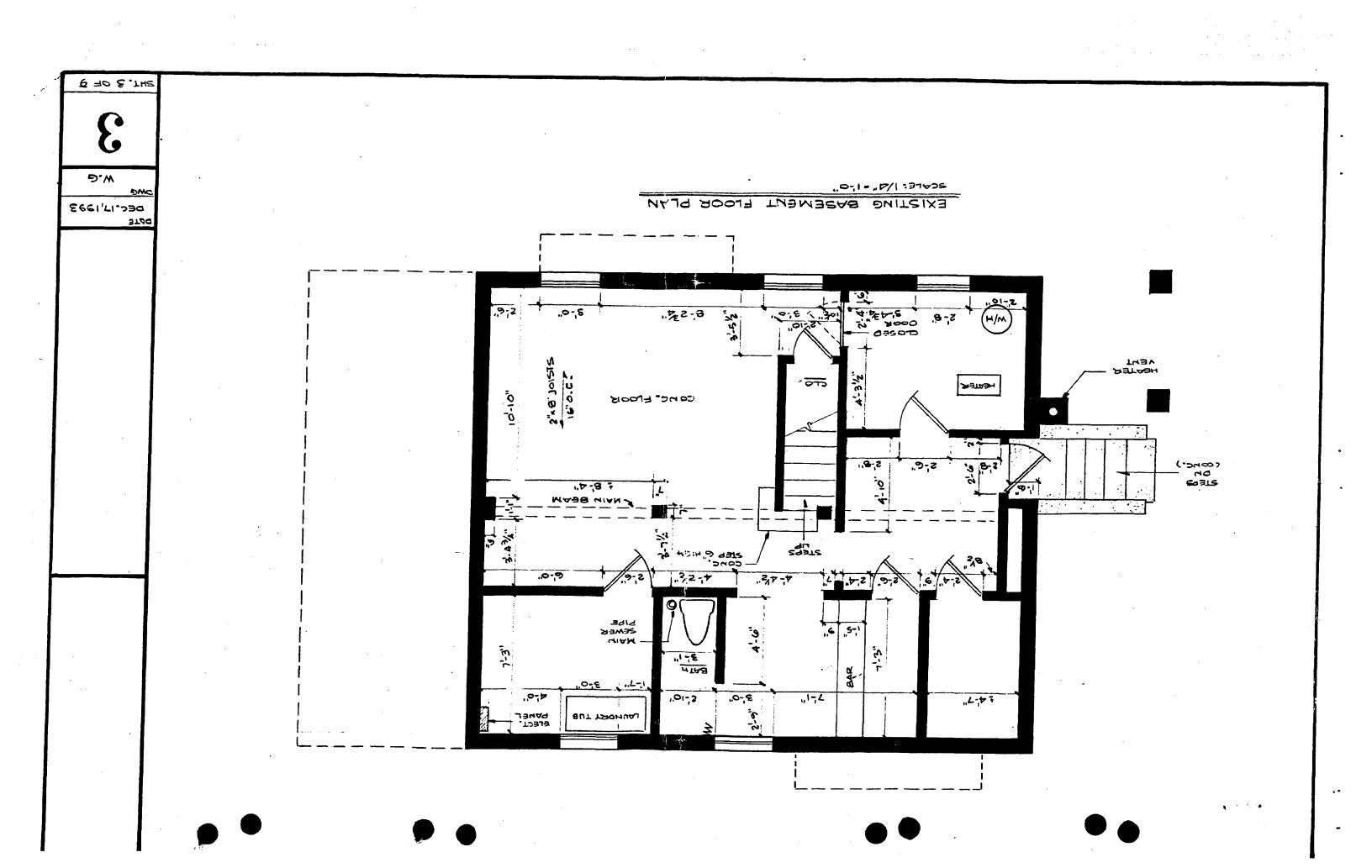
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EXISTING FLOOR PLAN



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PLANS NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

MR. WILLIAM CALLOWAY & PAMILY
7417 BALTIMORE AVE.
TAKOMA PARK, MD.
301-588-5679

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Res. Construction 4503 ROMLOM ST. BELTSVILLE, MD. 301-890-1001 Oavid (allow Ay
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Old Plans

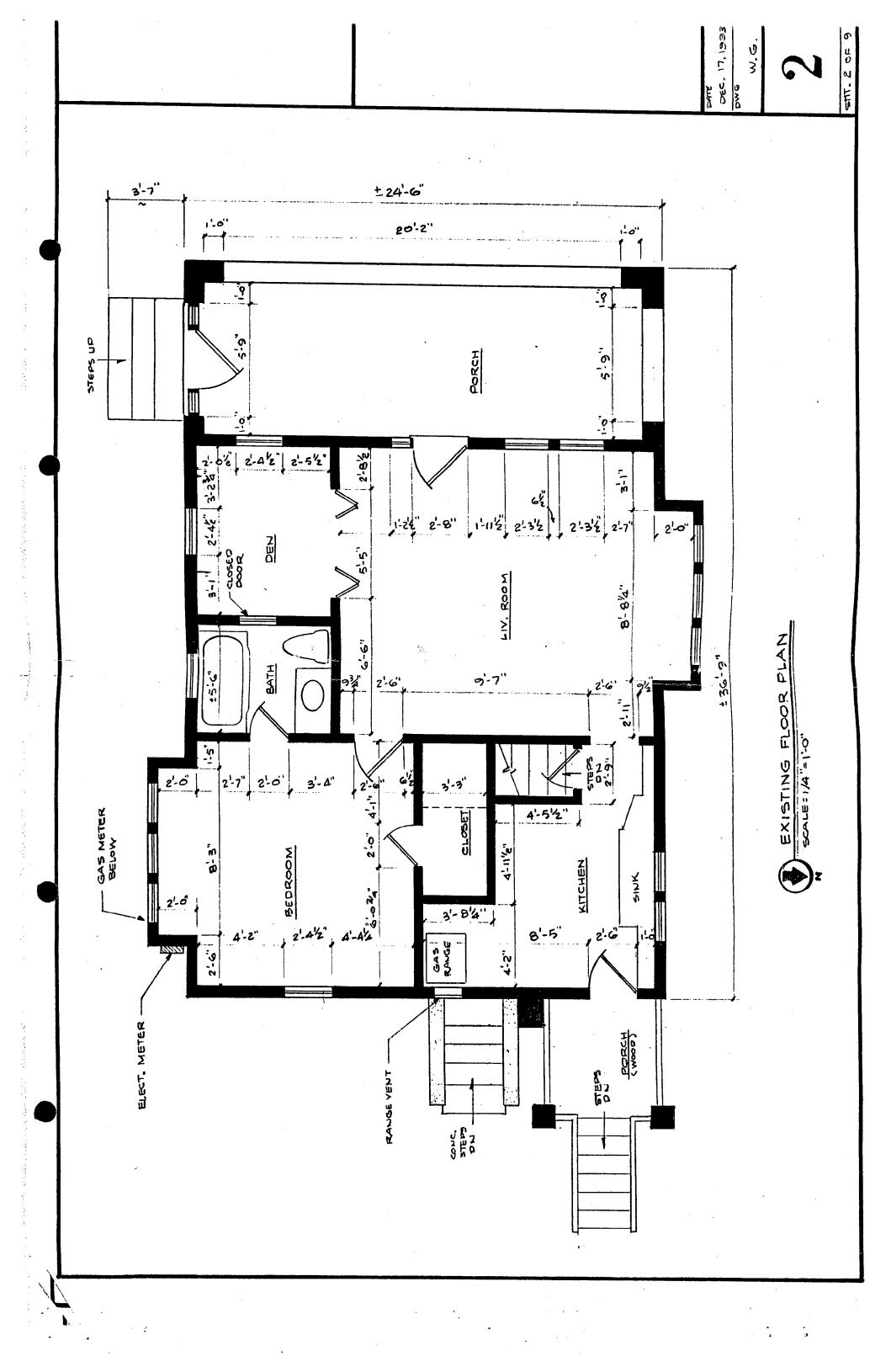
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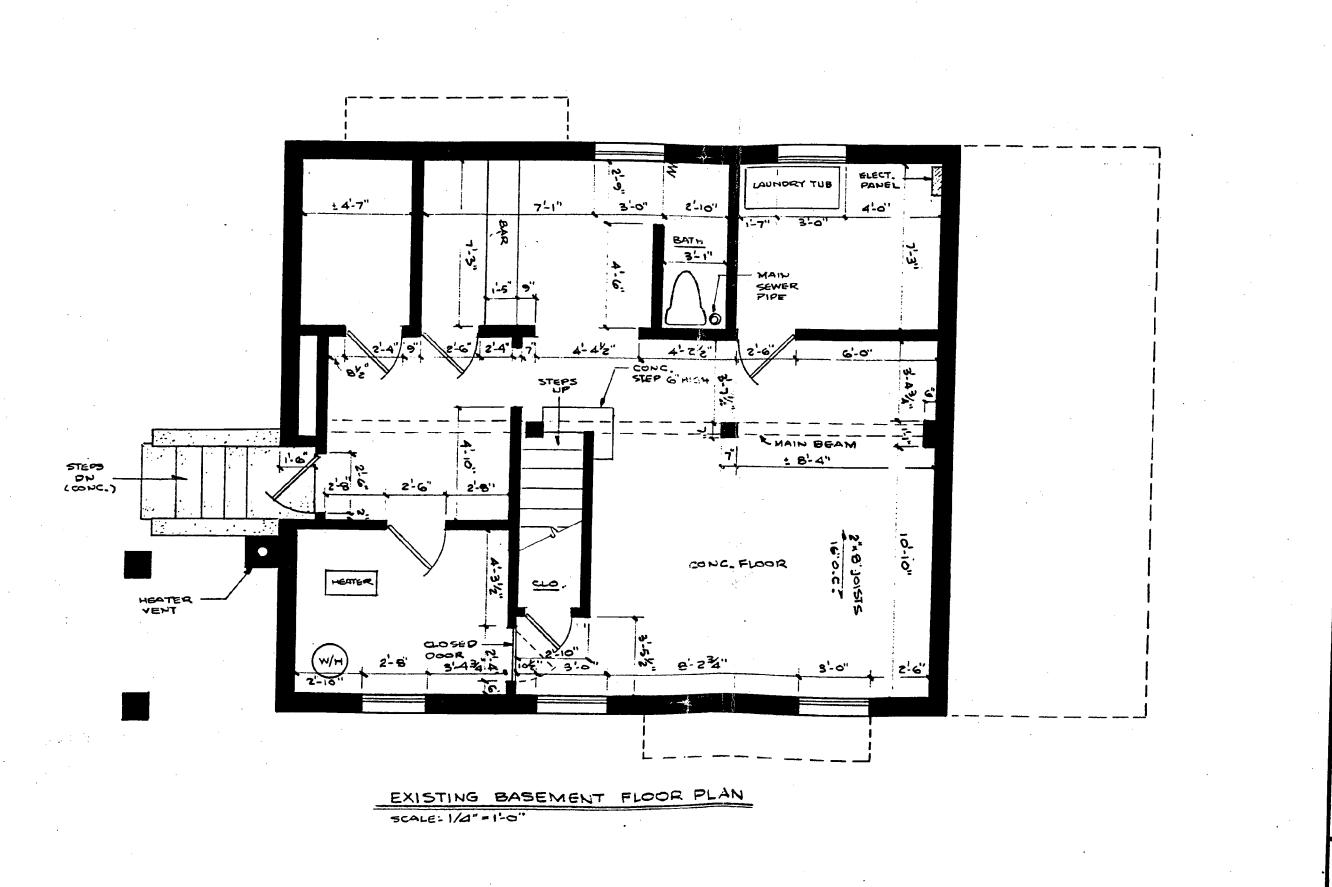
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PLANS NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

MR. WILLIAM CALLOWAY & FAMILY
7417 BALTIMORE AVE.
TAKOMA PARK, MD.
301-588-5679

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Res.
CONSTRUCTION
45.03 ROMLOM ST.
BELTSVILLE, MD.
301-890-1001



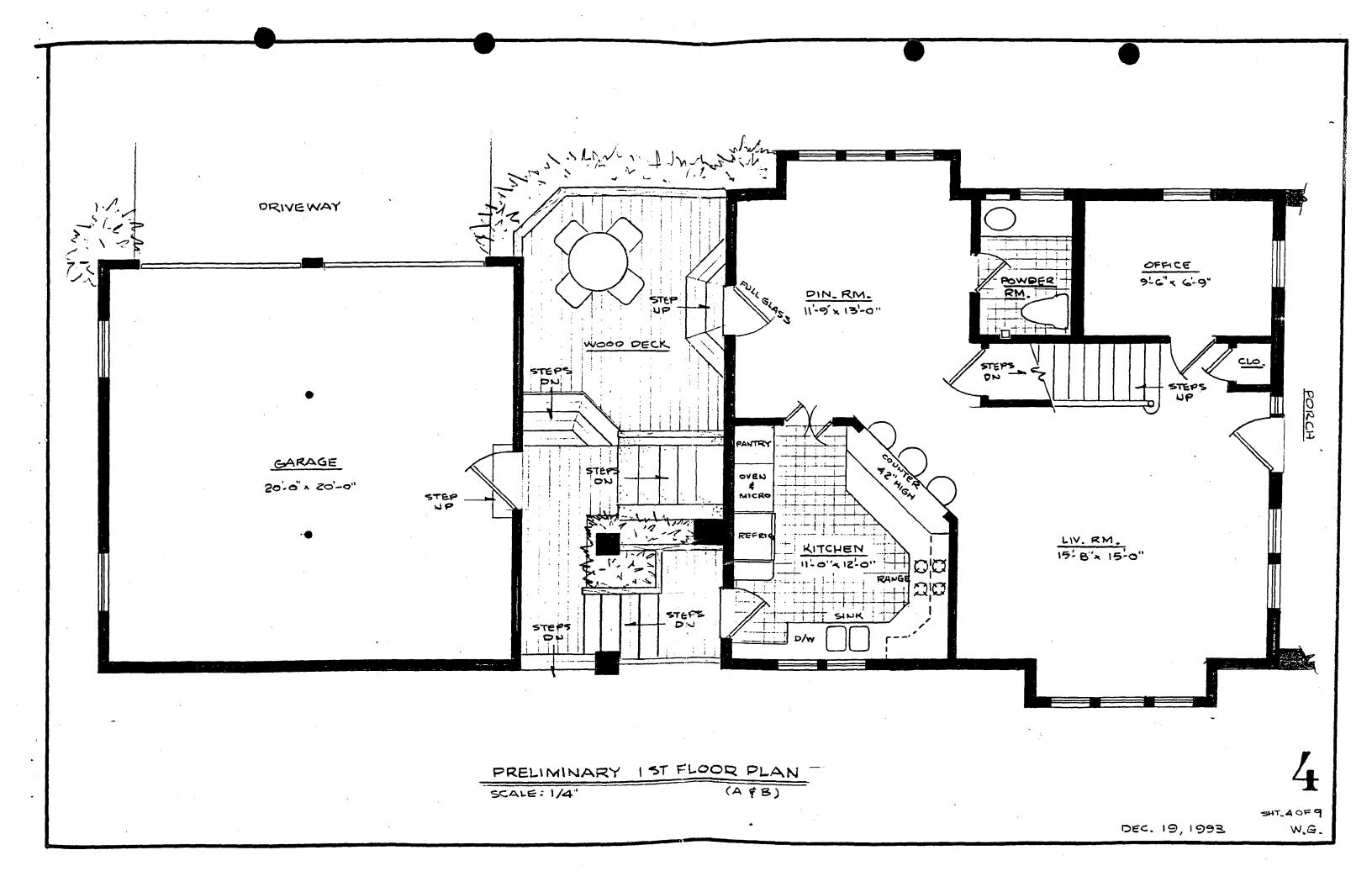


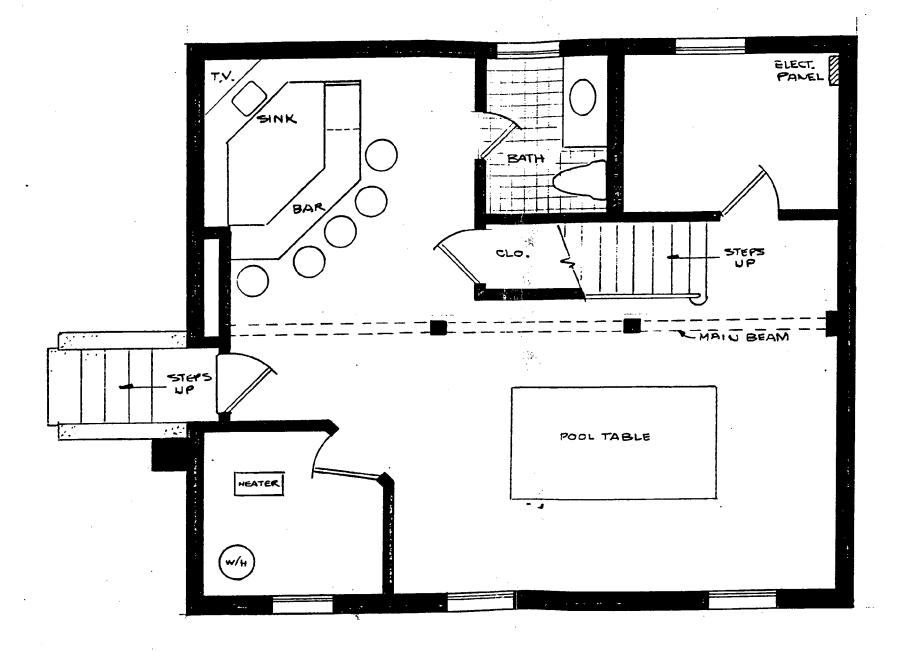
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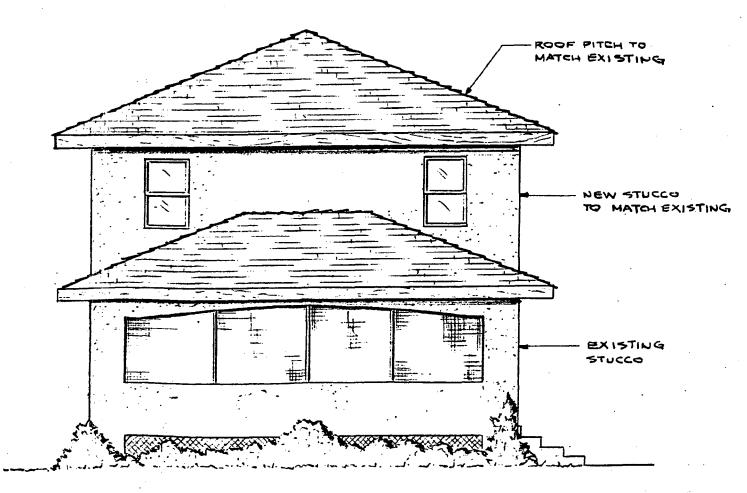


PRELIMINARY BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN SCALE: 1/4"=1'0"

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PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION

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7417 BALTIMORE AVE

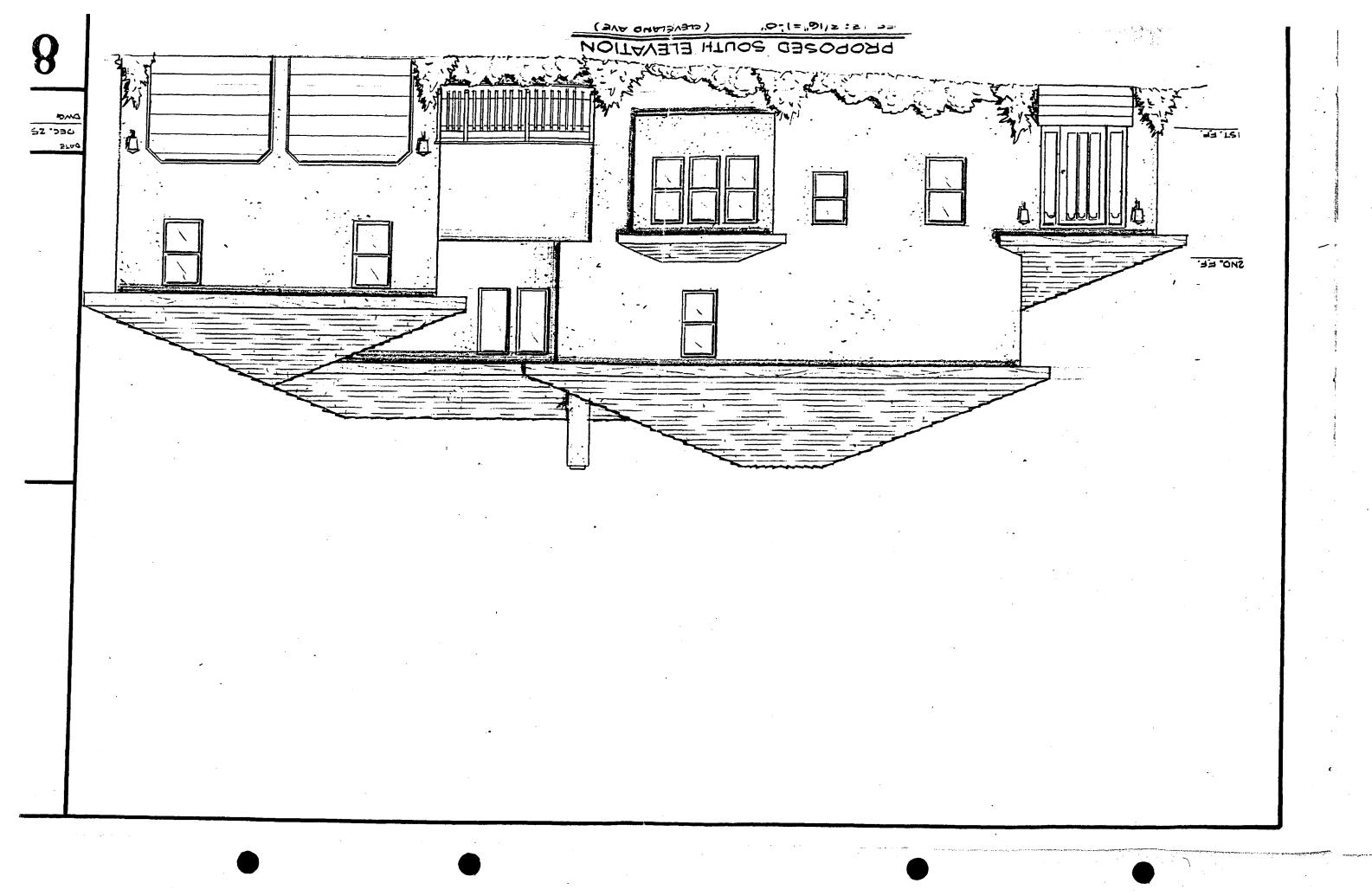
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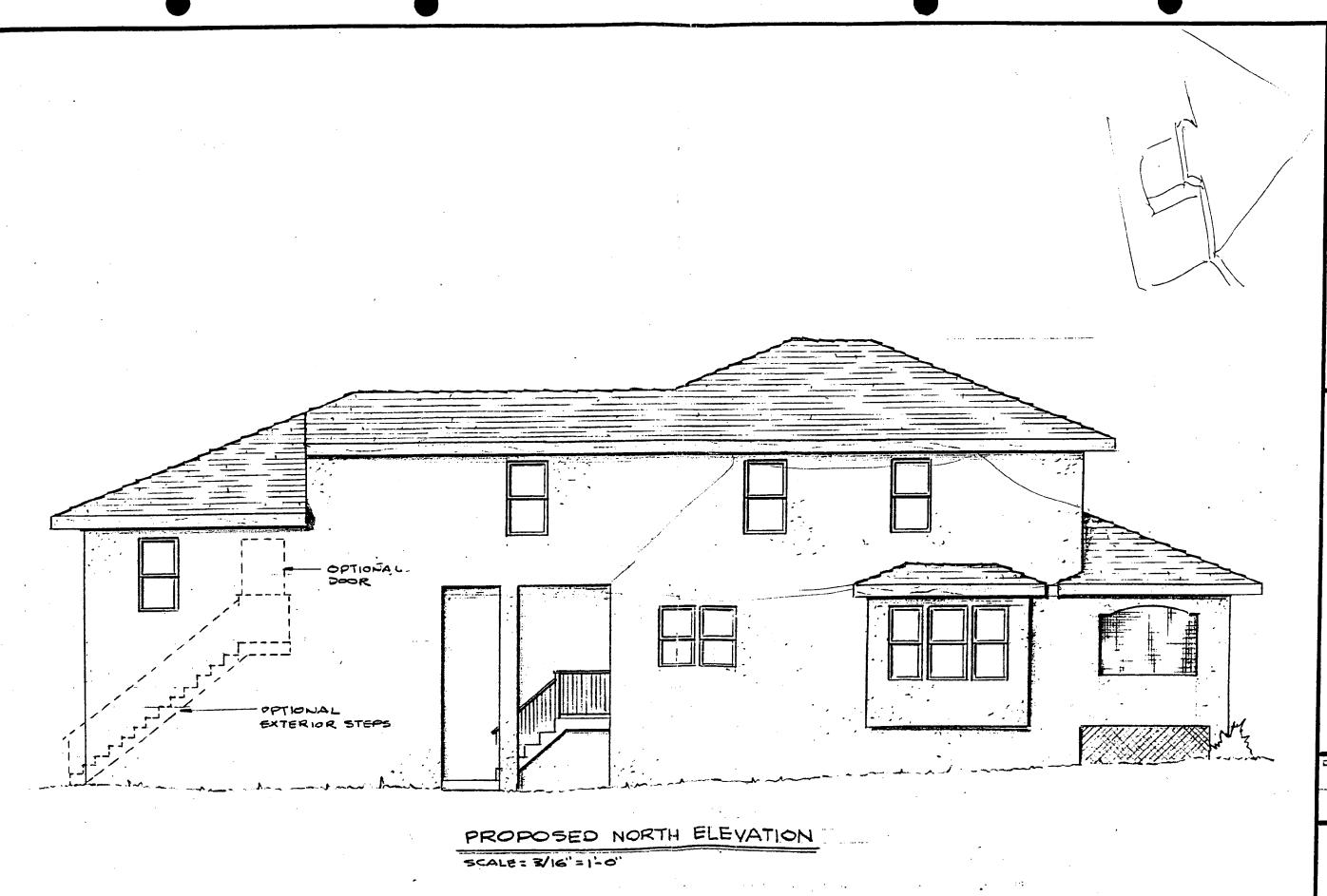
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FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

DATE	•	11/3/94/
TO	÷	David Berg
DEPT	:	Hio Pres.
FAX #	:	495-1307
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FROM	:	TED KOWALUK
DEPT	.•	DHCD
FAX #	•	(301) 270-8794
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This trans	missio	on is 5 pages including the cover page. If you do not
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PHONE:		(301) 270-5900 Ext. 23 /

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TELEPHONE 301-270-5900



_<u>To:</u>

7500 MAPLE AVENUE TAKOMA PARK. MO. 20912

