7315 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Park HPC Case No 37103-08 QQ Takoma Park Historic District

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Isiah Leggett County Executive Jef Fuller Chairperson

Date: July 24, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Carla Reid, Director
	Department of Permitting Services

FROM: Rachel Kennedy, Senior Planner *TK* Historic Preservation Section Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

SUBJECT: Historic Area Work Permit #489158, Repairs and replacement on fire-damaged house

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has reviewed the attached application for a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP). This application was approved at the July 23, 2008 meeting.

THE BUILDING PERMIT FOR THIS PROJECT SHALL BE ISSUED CONDITIONAL UPON ADHERENCE TO THE ABOVE APPROVED HAWP CONDITIONS AND MAY REQUIRE APPROVAL BY DPS OR ANOTHER LOCAL OFFICE BEFORE WORK CAN BEGIN.

Applicant: Henry J. and K. Fulton. Rick Vitullo, architect.

Address: 7315 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Park

This HAWP approval is subject to the general condition that the applicant will obtain all other applicable Montgomery County or local government agency permits. After the issuance of these permits, the applicant must contact this Historic Preservation Office if any changes to the approved plan are made.



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THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

I. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

a: Description of existing structure(s) and environmental setting, including their historical features and significance: RESOURCE OUTSTANDING ANNE EAGN 18957 woop

b. General description of project and its affect on the historic resource(s), the anvironmental setting, and, where applicable, the historic district:

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2. SITE PLAN

Site and anvironmental setting, drawn to scale. You may use your plat. Your site plan must include:

- a. the scale, north arrow, and date;
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- c. site features such as welkways, driveways, fences, punds, streams, trash dumpeters, mechanical equipment, and landscaping,

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PLEASE PRINT IN BLUE OR BLACK INKI OR TYPE THIS INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE. PLEASE STAY WITHIN THE GUIDES OF THE TEMPLATE. AS THIS WILL BE PHOTOCOPIED DIRECTLY ONTO MAILING LABELS.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address:	7315 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Park	Meeting Date:	7.23.2008
Resource:	Outstanding Resource Takoma Park Historic District	Report Date:	7.16.2008
Applicant:	Harry J. and K. Fulton	Public Notice:	7.9.2008
Review:	Rick Vitullo, architect HAWP	Tax Credit:	Partial
Case Number:	37/03-08QQ	Staff:	Rachel Kennedy
PROPOSAL:	Repairs and replacement on fire-damaged house		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is recommending that the HPC **approve** this HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURALDESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE:	Outstanding Resource Within The Takoma Park Historic District
STYLE:	Queen Anne
DATE:	c1887

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Takoma Park is historically significant as both an early railroad suburb and a streetcar community. It was the one of the earliest railroad suburbs of Washington. The community was given new lifeblood in the early-20th century with the opening of streetcar lines, which led to the development of new subdivisions in Takoma Park.

Before 1883, the area that became Takoma Park was used for farming and vacation homes for Washingtonians. A few houses from this period still exist.

Benjamin Franklin Gilbert was the developer of Takoma Park, which he promoted for its natural environment and healthy setting. The site offered fresh water, trees, and a high elevation to escape the malaria-ridden District of Columbia. In 1883, Gilbert purchased a 90-acre farm and platted a subdivision with picturesque, winding streets named for native trees, including Sycamore, Chestnut, Hickory, and Oak. Equally reflective of Gilbert's promotion of the natural setting is the use of the Native American "Takoma", meaning "exalted" or "near heaven." Later he added the "Park" appellation to draw attention to its healthy environment.

Takoma Park houses built between 1883 and 1900 were fandful, turreted, multi-gabled affairs of Queen Anne, Stick Style, and Shingle Style influence. The substantial houses had spacious settings, with deep,

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narrow lots of 50 feet by 200-300 feet, with 40-foot setback requirements. Extensive numbers of these houses (built from 1883 to 1900) remain, particularly concentrated along Maple, Cedar, and Holly Avenues. The earliest houses were built on Cedar Avenue (originally known as Oak Avenue). Gilbert was more than just the developer of the community - he was a resident and civic leader. He built one of the first houses in the new community for himself and later became the town's first mayor. By 1886, Takoma Park had a post office and a new railroad station. Fifteen trains a day ran between Washington and Takoma Park and the population had reached 100.

By 1893, the town's population quadrupled. Four subdivisions had expanded the town, which was incorporated in 1890. Takoma Avenue, Pine Avenue, and Holly Avenue were among the streets to develop during this period.

The first multi-family buildings in Montgomery County were built in Takoma Park. The earliest documented multi-family dwelling is the *Ford House* at 7137-39 Maple Avenue. Brothers Byron and Seth Ford built this large, elaborate, frame double-house in 1885 for their families. The next multi-family dwellings to be built in the county were not constructed until 1907.

The start of streetcar service along Carroll Avenue in 1897, operated by the Baltimore and Washington Transit Company, made the adjacent areas more attractive for residential development, leading to new subdivisions. This line, supplemented in 1910 by the Washington and Maryland line (1910-27), led to the creation of eight additional subdivisions extending out from the trolley lines. The inexpensive electric streetcar, the availability of low-cost house plans and kit houses in combination with smaller lot sizes made home ownership in Takoma Park possible for individuals of more modest income levels than during the previous period. By 1922, the population soared to 4,144, making Takoma Park the tenth largest incorporated town in Maryland. Among the streets, which developed during the 1910s and 1920s in response to the establishment of streetcar lines are Willow, Park, Philadelphia, and Carroll Avenues.

The appearance today of much of the Takoma Park historic district is formed by the large numbers of dwellings constructed from 1900 into the 1920s. The houses built in Takoma Park during this period reveal changing American tastes in house design from the elaborate ornamentation of the late 19th century dwellings to more practical, simplified designs. Many of these early twentieth century houses reflect the aesthetics of the Arts and Crafts Movement, which emphasized the inherent nature of the building materials and structural elements for ornamentation. Residences put up in the American Four Square, Craftsman, Bungalow, and Colonial Revival designs continued the pattern of suburban development previously established - detached, wood frame single-family residences with uniform setbacks from the streets, though at a smaller scale. Entire streetscapes of these houses, particularly the Bungalow and Craftsman designs, are found along Willow, Park, Philadelphia, and Westmoreland Avenues. Scores of Bungalows, and Craftsman-style houses and catalog-order houses were built in this era.

Takoma Park continues to thrive today, with a population of 20,000. Though the train no longer stops there, the town's close relationship with mass transportation continues. The Metro enables residents to continue the tradition, started with the railroad and extended with the streetcars, of living in the suburbs and commuting to the District using mass transit. Two sections of the Montgomery County portion of Takoma Park have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Takoma Park Historic District since 1976.

PROPOSAL:

The applicants are proposing to repair fire and subsequent water damage that occurred after a blaze that started on the rear upper story of the house. Other than accomplishing repair in-kind that does not require a HAWP, such as slate roof repair, replacement in-kind of aluminum clad skylights or replacing the window glass in the front door, the applicant is proposing to:

• Replace seventeen damaged and missing sash on the second floor of the structure with custom-built wood true divided light two over two double-hung sash based upon the first story undamaged sash in place. Window frames are intact on the second story and will remain.

• Restore window on front façade second from the right side of the structure that was covered over with siding in the past (see detailed drawings). The window will be the same as the other second story replacements.

• Rebuild damaged projecting gable dormer on second story rear that was essentially destroyed by the fire. Scalloped shingles are to be replaced with cedar shingles with the same dimensions.

APPLICABLE GUIDEUNES:

When reviewing alterations and new construction within the Takoma Park Historic District several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include the historic preservation review guidelines in the approved and adopted amendment for the *Takoma Park Historic District (Guidelines), Montgomery County Code Chapter 24A (Chapter 4A),* and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards).* The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.

Takoma Park Historic District Guidelines

Outstanding Resources have the highest level of architectural and/or historical significance. While they will receive the most detailed level of design review, it is permissible to make sympathetic alterations, changes and additions to Outstanding Resources.

The Guidelines that pertain to this project are as follows:

- 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.
- 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.

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A

The Commission shall instruct the director to deny a permit if it finds, based on the evidence and

information presented to or before the commission that the alteration for which the permit is sought would be inappropriate, inconsistent with or detrimental to the preservation, enhancement or ultimate protection of the historic site or historic resource within an historic district, and to the purposes of this chapter.

The Commission shall instruct the director to issue a permit, or issue a permit subject to such conditions as are found to be necessary to insure conformity with the purposes and requirements of this chapter, if it finds that:

- 1. The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of a historic site or historic resource within a historic district; or
- The proposal is compatible in character and nature with the historical archaeological, architectural or cultural features of the historic site or the historic district in which a historic resource is located and would not be detrimental thereto of to the achievement of the purposes of this chapter; or

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

- #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.
- #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.

STAFF DISCUSSION

Staff is recommending that the Commission <u>approve</u> the HAWP application as being consistent with the *Guidelines* and *Standards*. The proposed work is respectful of the remaining historic fabric and the approach toward integrating new fabric is in keeping with guidelines for an outstanding resource. The house will be restored to its appearance before the fire and most of the work falls into the category of repair and replacement in-kind.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission <u>approve</u> the HAWP application as being consistent with Chapter 24A-8(b)(1) & (2) with the condition listed on page one above;

and with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall present the **3 permit sets of drawings to Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) staff for review and stamping**prior to submission for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) building permits;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall notify the Historic Preservation Staff if they propose to make **any alterations** to the approved plans.

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HAWP APPLICATION: MAILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING [Owner, Owner's Agent, Adjacent and Confronting Property Owners]			
Owner's mailing address	Owner's Agent's mailing address		
HARPY J. +K. FULTON	RICHARD J.NOTULIO ANA		
7315 PINER BRONCH RD. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912	TOIL WOODLAND AVE. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912		
Adjacent and confronting	Property Owners mailing addresses		
CONSTANCE MARER 7311 PIHEY BRANCH KD. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912	HARNEY SOLOMON 7316 PINEY BRANCH-RA. TAFOMA PARK, MO 2011		
EUIZABETH CURTZ 7309 PINEY BRANKH RD. TAKIMA PARK, MD 20912			
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Site and environmental setting, drawn to scale. You may use your plat. Your site plan must include:

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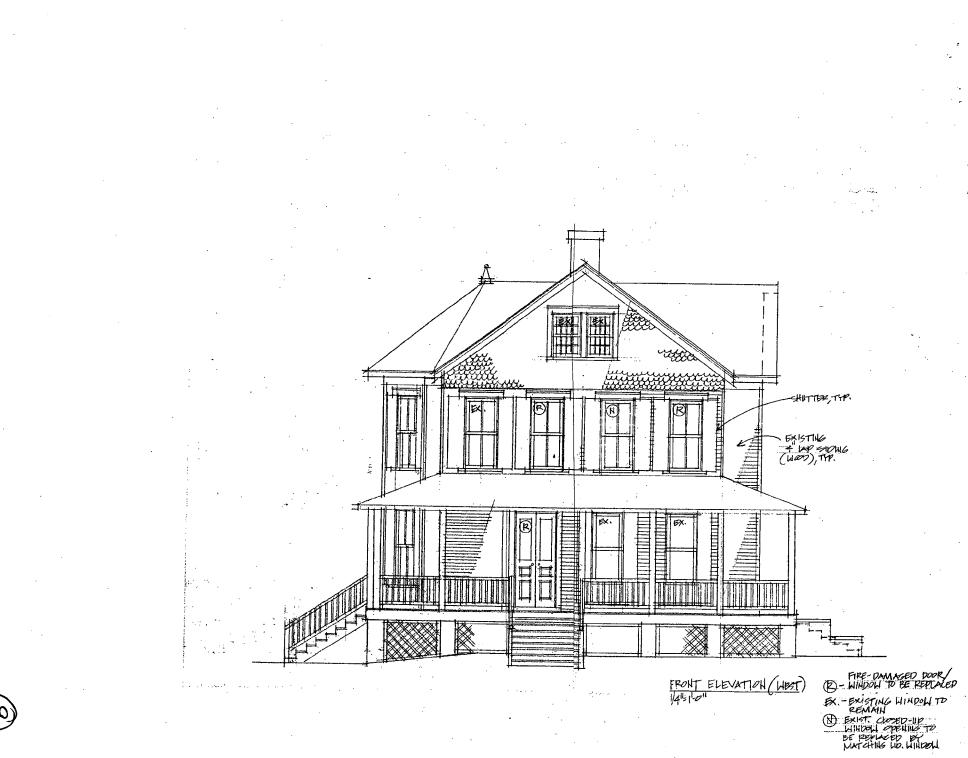
6. TREE SURVEY

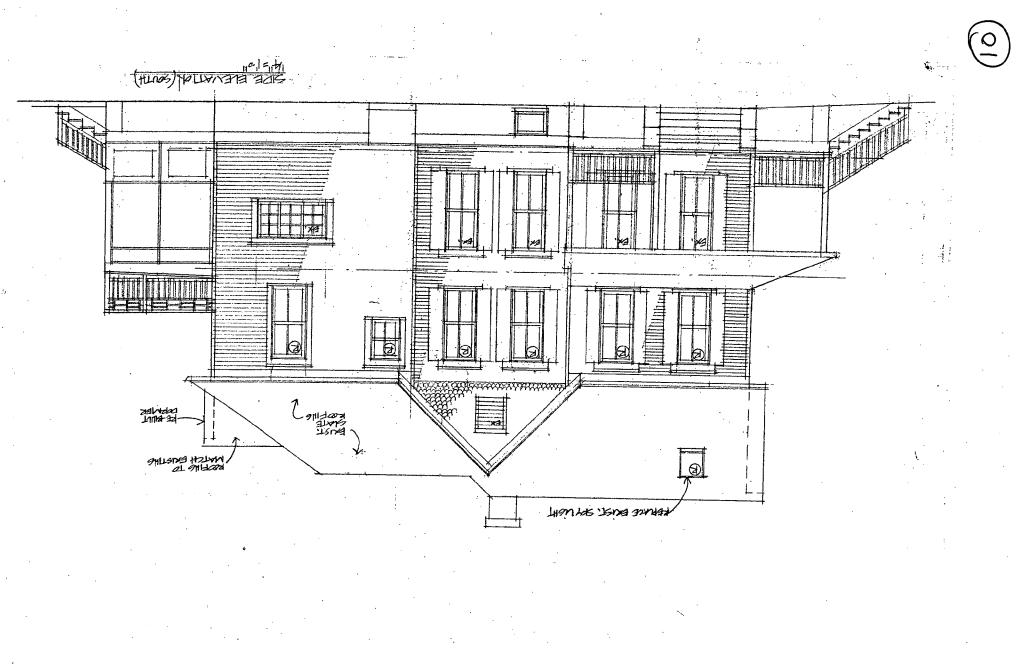
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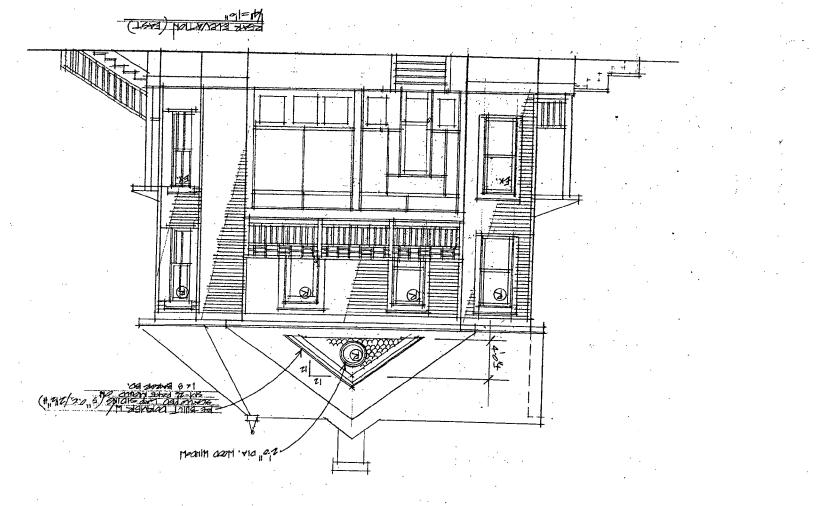
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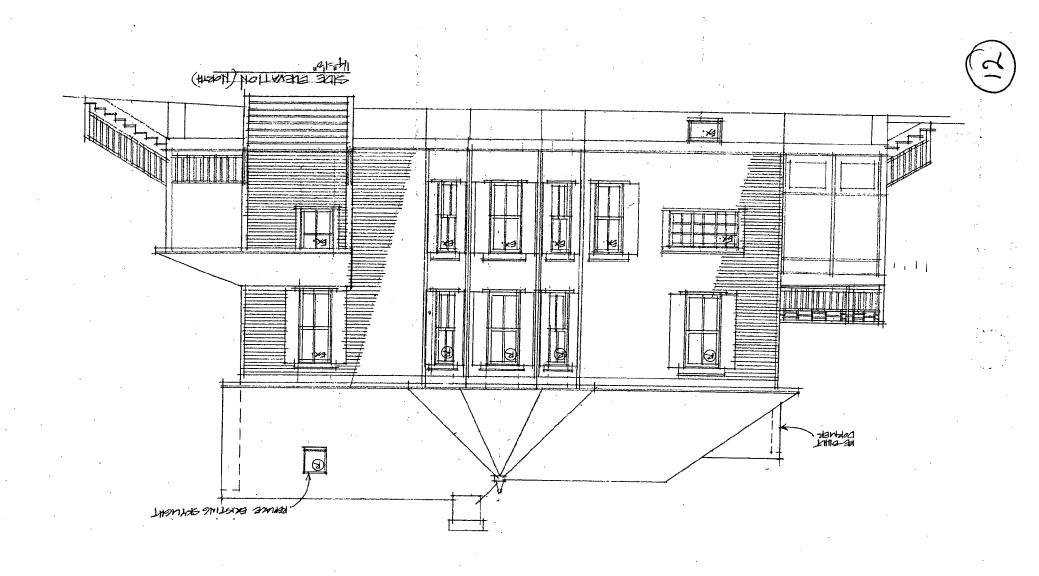




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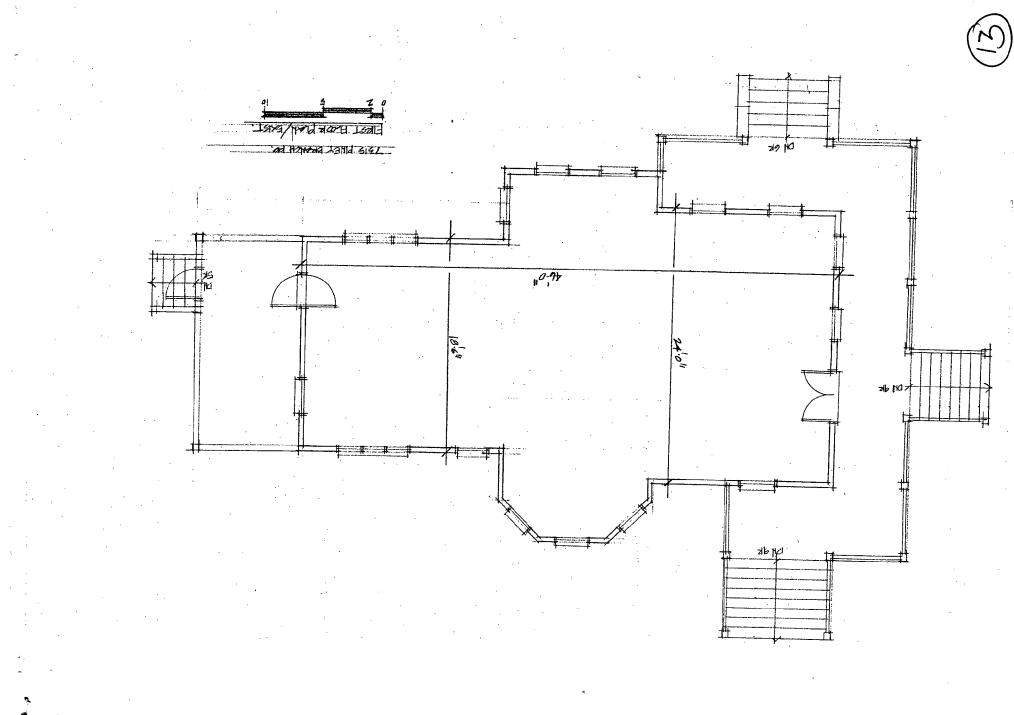


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REAR

FRONT

7315 PINEY BRANCH RD. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912

Vitulio Architecture Studio, PC 7016 Woodland Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301)920-0737



REAR (DURING FIRE) SHOWING PORMER

7315 PINEY BRANCH RD. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912

Vitullo Architecture Studio, PC 7016 Woodland Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301)920-0737



7315 Piney Branch Rd, Front (West) Elevation.

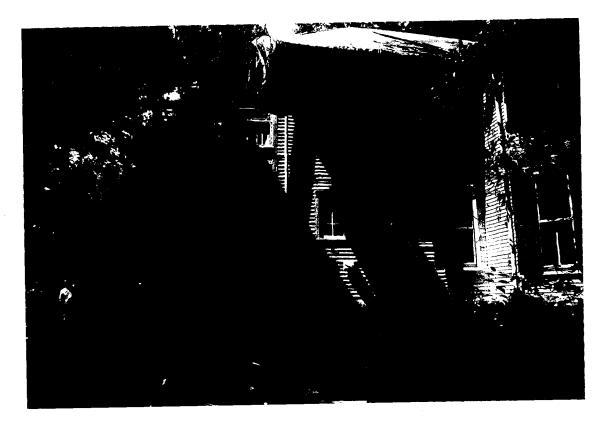


7315 Piney Branch Rd, South Elevation.





7315 Piney Branch Road, North Elavation.

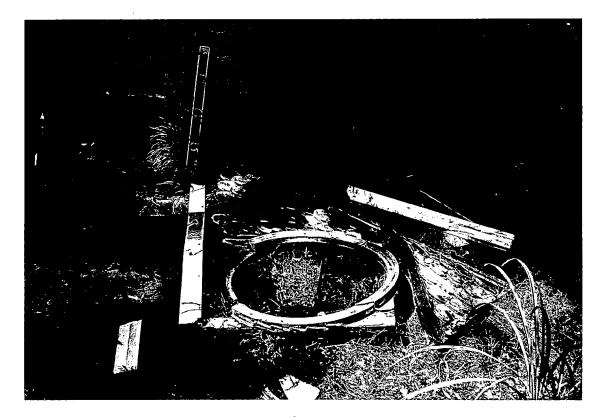


7315 Pinney Branch Rd, Detail of rear of North Elevation.



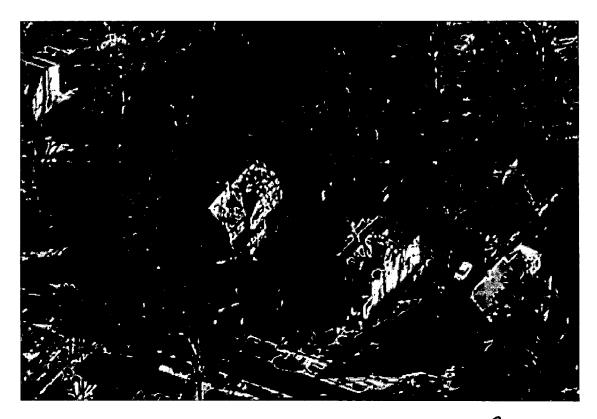


7315 Piney Branch Rd. Rear Facade.



7315 Piney Branch Road, Remains of rear projecting Sable dormen to be used for restoration preconstruction.



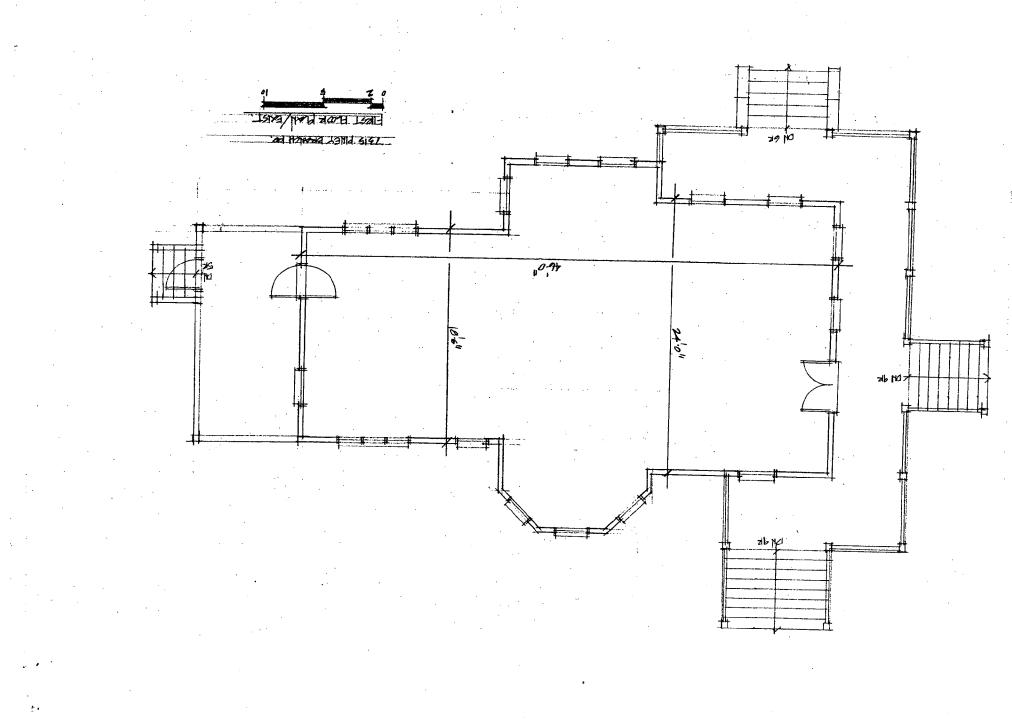


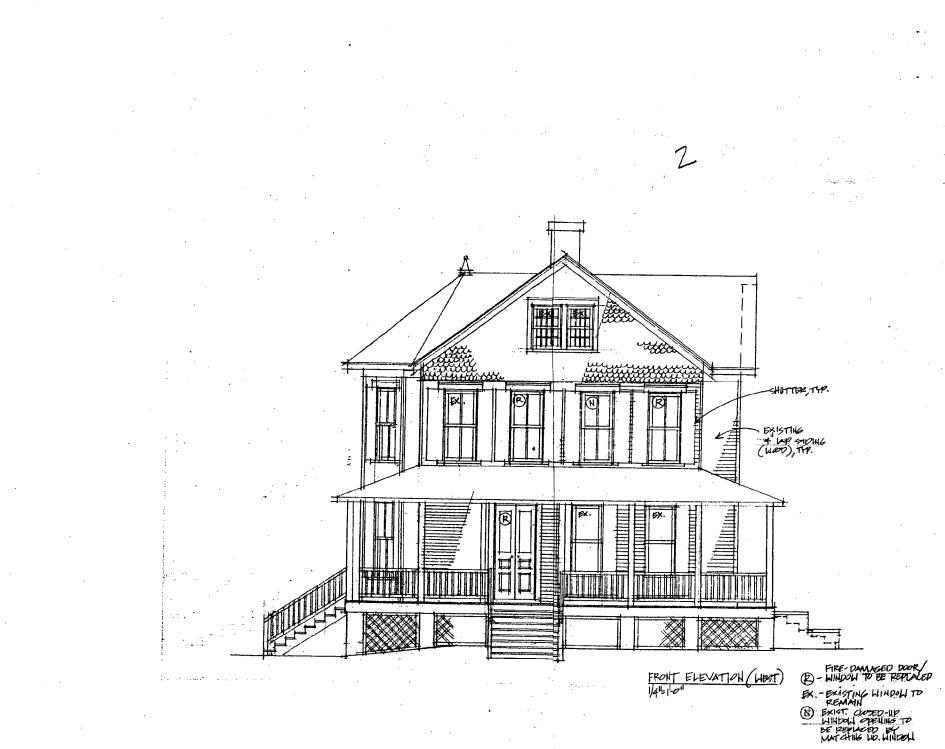
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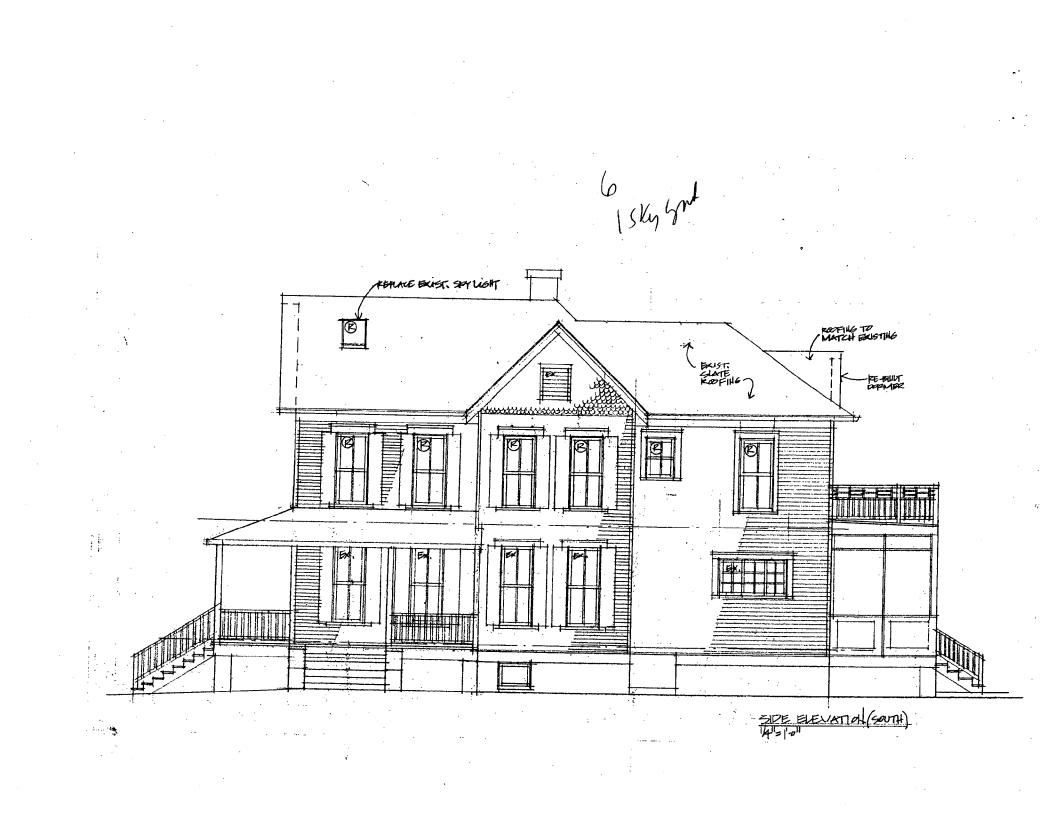


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	ILING ADDRESSES FOR NOTIFING cent and Confronting Property Owners]
Owner's mailing address	Owner's Agent's mailing address
HARRY J. +K. PULTON	RICHARD J.NOTULIO ATA
7315 PINEY BRANCH RD.	TOKE WOODLAND AVE.
TAKO MA PARK, MD 20912	TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912
Adjacent and confronting	Property Owners mailing addresses
CONSTANCE MAYER 7311 PINEY BRANCH RD. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912	HARNER SOLOMON 7366 PINEY BRANCH-RP. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912
EUIZABETH CURTZ	
7309 PINEY BRANKH RD. TAKIMA PARK, MD 20912	
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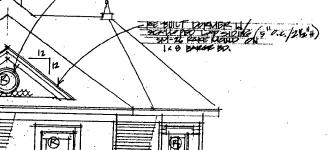


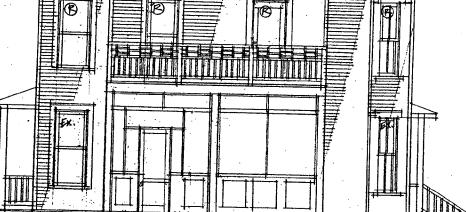




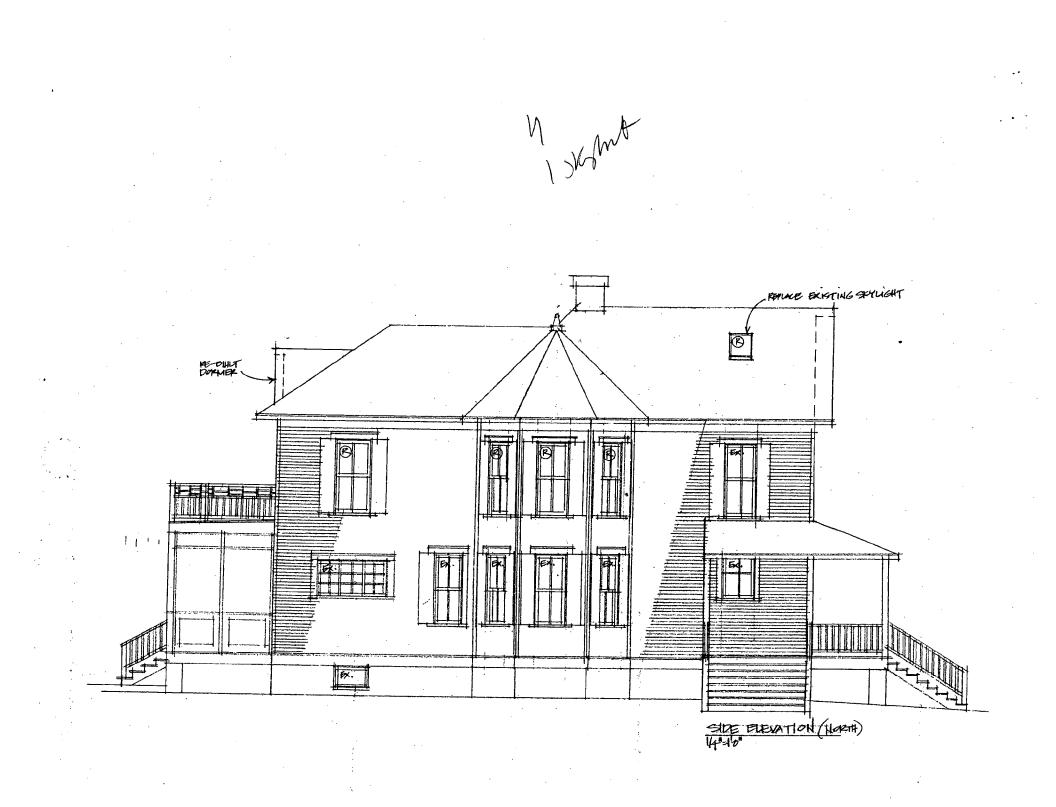
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ELECTRON (EAST)





REAR



7315 PINEY BRANCH RD. TAROMA PARK, MD 20912 Vitullo Architecture Studio, PC 7016 Woodland Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301)920-0737



REAR (DURING FIRE) SHOWING DORMER

7315 PINEY BRANCH RD. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912

Vitullo Architecture Studio, PC 7016 Woodland Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301)920-0737

Kennedy, Rachel

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From: Sent: To: Subject: Kennedy, Rachel Thursday, July 10, 2008 10:37 AM 'vitullostudio@earthlink.net' RE: 7315 Piney Branch Road

Also neg

Hi Again Rick,

Re my phone message today. I need to talk with you about the following issues and make sure get some information before I send your report to the HPC on Tuesday.

-Drawings of gabled dormer on rear to be used for reconstruction. Are you planning to reuse any of the old material or just build all new based exactly on what was there?

-Drawings of windows that will be used to replicate the second story windows (based on the first story windows). This is the plan, right?

-What exactly are you replacing on the front door? It seems that you are just replacing the window glass. Is that correct?

-Specifications on selected scalloped shingles that you will use on gable dormer on rear.

Please get back with me as soon as you can, so I can move your report to the HPC forward. I would like to get them all this info before they hear the case, so they will be comfortable with approval. It might also get your case expedited. Tuesday, 15 July is the target date. Hope to talk to you soon, Rachel

From: Kennedy, Rachel Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 1:18 PM To: 'vitullostudio@earthlink.net' Subject: RE: 7315 Piney Branch Road

Hi Rick,

It was a pleasure to meet you today and tour the house. It is a darn good thing that the neighbors spotted the fire and saved it from further destruction!!

I am enclosing some information about the Montgomery County preservation tax credit and the state tax credit from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). The owners will need to contact MHT to discuss the state credit. I am the go-to person for the county credit and can answer any questions. Basically, any repairs that are done in-kind can be applied for with next year's round of credits (2008 expenses are reimbursed in 2009). Also, any reconstruction based upon historic photos or images (or forensic work) can also be applied for, as long as they are restoring some historic element on the property. New additions, new windows and doors are not generally eligible, unless they fall into the category of restoration of a historic feature long lost (i.e. removing vinyl windows and replacing them with wood windows based upon what was originally there). <u>http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/taxcr.html</u>

Anyway, the county credit returns ten percent of rehab costs to the pocket of the property owner. You may have the owners go ahead and take a look at the old application. We will be creating a new application this summer, so the old one will not be applicable—however, it will give them an idea about what types of receipts to save and etc. http://www.mc-mncppc.org/historic/instructions/taxcredit.shtm

I am looking forward to getting information about the scalloped wood shakes and the custom-built windows. It would also be good to get drawings of the reconstruction of that rear dormer window. Will you be doing a drawing of that anyway?

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Thanks, Rachel

Rachel Kennedy Senior Planner Countywide Planning | Historic Preservation Section Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission 301-563-3400 phone | 301-563-3412 fax 1109 Spring Street, Suite 801 Silver Spring, MD 20910 rachel.kennedy@mncppc-mc.org, <u>http://www.mc-mncppc.org/historic/</u> Mailing Address: 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910

From: Richard J. Vitullo [mailto:vitullostudio@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 5:29 PM
To: Kennedy, Rachel
Subject: RE: 7315 Piney Branch Road

I can meet you there at 10:30am tomorrow (Tuesday). Let me know.

Rick

Vitullo Architecture Studio, P.C.

7016 Woodland Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 920-0737 (301) 806-6447 cell E-mail: <u>RJV@VitulloStudio.com</u> Website: www.VitulloStudio.com

> -----Original Message-----From: Kennedy, Rachel [mailto:Rachel.Kennedy@mncppc-mc.org] Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 1:12 PM To: vitullostudio@earthlink.net Subject: FW: 7315 Piney Branch Road

Hi Mr. Vitullo,

I just left you a phone message about 7315 Piney Branch Rd. I am hoping to take a look at it this week and get started with the staff report for 23 July's meeting. Just let me know if Tuesday, 8 July (any time) or Wednesday, 9 July (Wednesday between 11 am and 2 pm) will work for you. Thanks, Rachel

Rachel Kennedy Senior Planner Countywide Planning | Historic Preservation Section Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission 301-563-3400 phone | 301-563-3412 fax 1109 Spring Street, Suite 801 Silver Spring, MD 20910 rachel.kennedy@mncppc-mc.org, <u>http://www.mc-mncppc.org/historic/</u> Mailing Address: 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910

From: Richard J. Vitullo [mailto:vitullostudio@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2008 3:59 PM
To: Fothergill, Anne
Cc: 'RICK LEONARD'; hfulton@pdsdc.org; 'Kathleen Fulton'
Subject: RE: 7315 Piney Branch Road

Thanks, Anne.

Vitullo Architecture Studio, P.C.

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Website: www.VitulloStudio.com

-----Original Message----- **From:** Fothergill, Anne [mailto:Anne.Fothergill@mncppc-mc.org] **Sent:** Thursday, July 03, 2008 2:55 PM **To:** vitullostudio@earthlink.net **Subject:** RE: 7315 Piney Branch Road

The application is here and will be on the July 23rd agenda. Once a staff person has been assigned to the application they will be in touch with you.

thanks, Anne

From: Richard J. Vitullo [mailto:vitullostudio@earthlink.net] Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 12:50 PM To: Fothergill, Anne Subject: 7315 Piney Branch Road

Hi Anne:

Has this project been picked up yet from DPS and/or has it been scheduled yet for a hearing? I sent it over to DPS about 10 days ago. Thanks.

Rick

Vitullo Architecture Studio, P.C.

7016 Woodland Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 920-0737 (301) 806-6447 cell E-mail: <u>RJV@VitulloStudio.com</u> Website: <u>www.vitullostudio.com</u>