ANN ARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Staff Report

ADDRESS: 548 S First Street Application Number HDC24-0006

DISTRICT: Old West Side Historic District

REPORT DATE: February 8, 2024

REPORT PREPARED BY: Jill Thacher, Historic Preservation Coordinator

REVIEW COMMITTEE DATE: February 5, 2024

OWNER APPLICANT

Name: Jill Johnson Ryan Kratz

Kratz Designs, LLC 548 S First St 1840 Coronada Dr

Ann Arbor, MI 48103 Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Phone: (734) 646-4239

Address:

BACKGROUND: This house is listed in 1894 city directories and may have been present in 1883 or earlier. Mrs. Schneider is the first listed occupant of 98 S First Street in 1894, and she lived there until at least 1910. The house's first appearance on a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map was 1916. At that time the house had a wrap-around front porch and a covered rear porch. By 1931 the rear porch had been replaced by a one-story addition (which is a 1 ½ story addition today). The one-story side wing is shown in both years.

The Sanborns do not indicate that the house is brick or brick veneer (while the brick house to the south does). Since the purpose of Sanborn Maps was to support fire insurance policies and claims, it seems unlikely that this detail would be missed on the 1916 and 1931 editions. A 1980 file photo shows the house similar to the way it looks today. It therefore seems likely that the brick veneer was added. During that same period the wrap-around front porch was removed and a much smaller porch added at the front door. A large picture window was also added to the first floor, facing the street. The roof over the side addition was also extended to the front corner of the house to make a covered porch. The single-story rear addition appears on 1947 aerials with a pitched roof and the porch work appears to have been completed.

LOCATION: The house is located on the west side of South First Street, south of West Jefferson and north of West Madison.

APPLICATION: The applicant seeks HDC approval to add a 199 square foot rear addition off the southwest corner of the house, behind an existing side wing.

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS:

From the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (other SOI Standards may also apply):

- (2) The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- (5) Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
- (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 will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property will be unimpaired.

From the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (other SOI Guidelines may also apply):

Building Site

<u>Not Recommended:</u> Introducing new construction onto the building site which is visually incompatible in terms of size, scale, design, materials, color and texture or which destroys historic relationships on the site.

Additions

<u>Recommended</u>: Constructing a new addition so that there is the least possible loss of historic materials and so that character-defining features are not obscured, damaged, or destroyed.

Locating the attached exterior addition at the rear or on an inconspicuous side of a historic building; and limiting its size and scale in relationship to the historic building.

Designing new additions in a manner that makes clear what is historic and what is new.

<u>Not Recommended</u>: Designing a new addition so that its size and scale in relation to the historic building are out of proportion, thus diminishing the historic character.

Designing and constructing new additions that result in the diminution or loss of the historic character of the resource, including its design, materials, workmanship, location, or setting.

Roofs

<u>Recommended:</u> Retaining and preserving roofs—and their functional decorative features—that are important in defining the overall historic character of the building. This includes the roof's shape, decorative features such as chimneys, and roofing material.

From the Ann Arbor Historic District Design Guidelines (other Guidelines may also apply):

All Additions

<u>Appropriate</u>: Locating a required addition on the least character-defining elevation and keeping it subordinate in volume to the historic building.

Placing a new addition on a non-character defining or inconspicuous elevation and limiting the size and scale in relationship to the historic property.

Locating and designing a new addition so that significant site features, including mature trees and landmark status trees, are not lost or damaged.

Designing the addition so it is compatible in terms of massing, materials, relationship of solids to voids, and proportion of openings.

Designing a new addition in a manner that makes clear what is historic and what is new.

Limiting the size and scale of the addition in relationship to the historic building so that it does not diminish or visually overpower the building or the district. The addition's footprint should not exceed half of the original building's footprint, or half of the original building's total floor area.

<u>Not Appropriate</u>: Designing an addition that requires the removal of significant building elements or site features.

Constructing an addition that significantly changes the proportion of built mass to open space on the individual site.

Additions to Historic Residential Structures

<u>Appropriate</u>: Placing new walls in a different plane from the historic structure in a subordinate position to the historic fabric.

Not Appropriate: Designing an addition that overpowers or dramatically alters the original building through size or height.

Historic District Design Guidelines for Roofs

<u>Appropriate:</u> Retaining and maintaining original historic roofing materials, roof shape, dormers, cupolas, chimneys, and built-in or decorative gutters & downspouts.

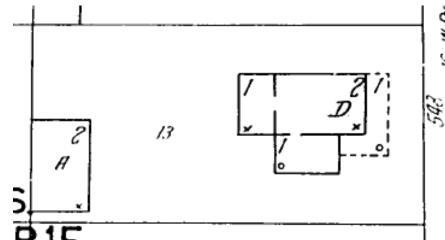
STAFF FINDINGS:

- 1. The 199 square foot addition would infill a space between the side wing and the rear addition. The addition is inset 5" from the existing corners of the house. It continues the plane of the roof that current covers the front screen porch and side wing to the back of the house. Two historic wood windows and a glass block window would be lost to the addition.
- 2. The house is currently 1,794 square feet (not including the basement) per the City Assessor. All of this floor area is believed to have built before 1945. The proposed addition adds 199 square feet, for an increase of 11%. The Assessor lists the footprint as 1,164 square feet, so the addition would be an increase of 17%.
- 3. The addition's cladding is standard size brick veneer on the bottom 4', below 6" vertical TruExterior poly ash. Per their website, TruExterior products are made of fly-ash (a coal combustion by-product) combined with polymers. New windows on the addition are Jeld-Wen wood double-hung. They are 2" shorter than other first floor windows on the south elevation. The windows have a false "lintel" made from a painted 6" trim board on edge. Like the existing, the roof will be standing seam metal.
- 4. Though this house is a historical puzzle, the addition is discreet, small, and as inconspicuous as possible. Staff recommends approval.

POSSIBLE MOTIONS: (Note that the motion supports staff findings and is only a suggestion. The Review Committee, consisting of staff and at least two Commissioners, will meet with the applicant on site and then make a recommendation at the meeting.)

I move that the Commission issue a certificate of appropriateness for the application at 548 South First Street, a contributing property in the Old West Side Historic District, to add 199 square foot rear addition. As proposed, the work is compatible in exterior design, arrangement, texture, material and relationship to the rest of the building and the surrounding area and meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, in particular standards 2, 5, 9, and 10 and the guidelines for building site, additions and roofs, as well as the *Ann Arbor Historic District Design Guidelines* for all additions, residential additions, and roofs.

ATTACHMENTS: photos, drawings, materials information



548 S First Street (1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map)

1980 City Survey card

	VESTSIDE	SURVEY DATE	11-2-80	BY C. 5. \$ J.C	ν.	_
ADDRESS 54%	5. FIRST					
HISTORIC NAME		CURR	ENT NAME			
LOCATION	SECTION /35	BLOCK	PARCEL	BUILDING		
TYPE US	SE PRIMARY O.F.	SECONDARY S.F	ORIGINA	L ZONING		
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Johnson Residence

- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 **A 1** 01/19/2024







Johnson Residence

- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A2
01/19/2024







Johnson Residence

- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A3
01/19/2024

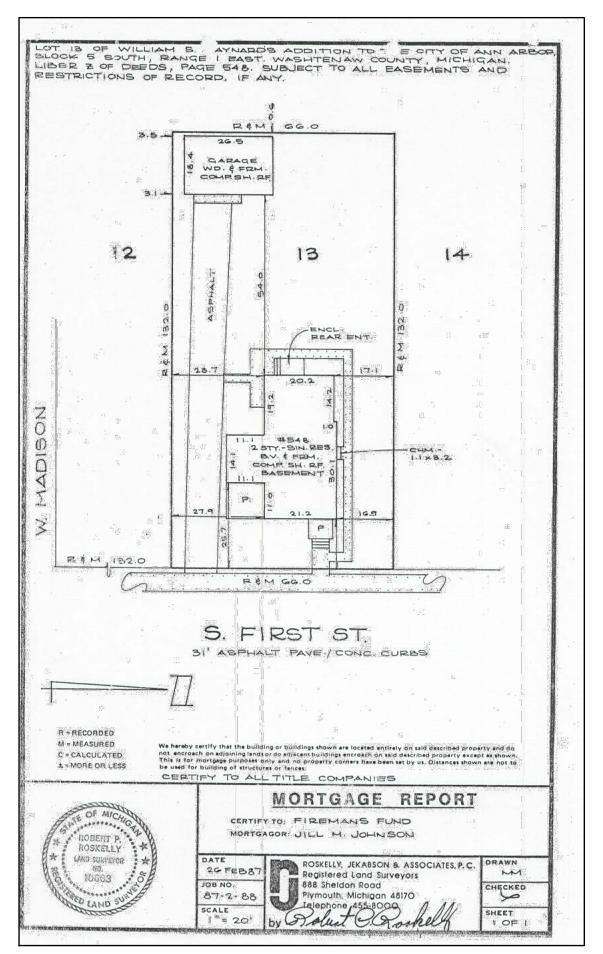




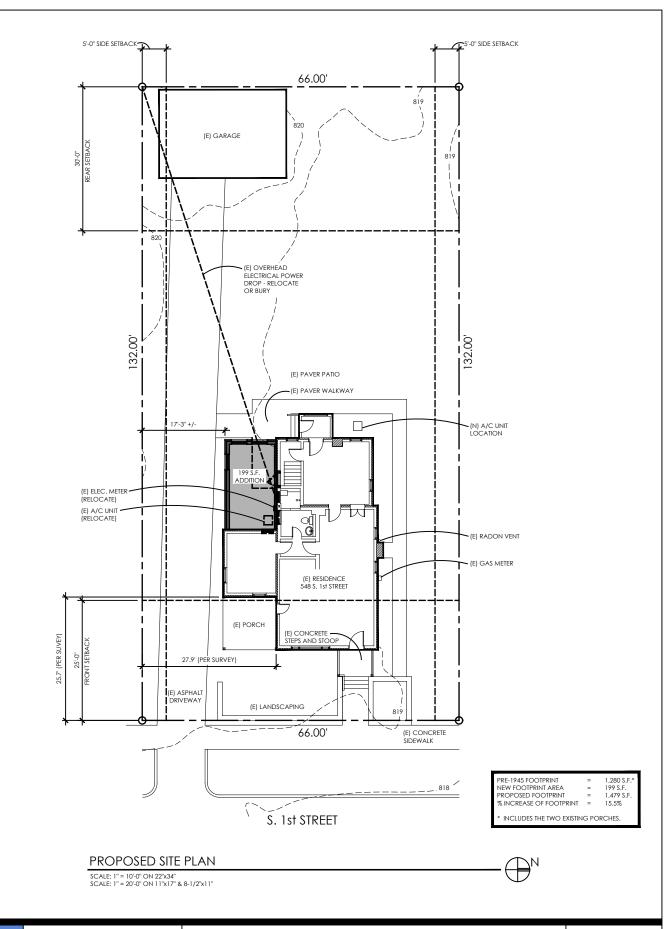


Johnson Residence

- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A4
01/19/2024



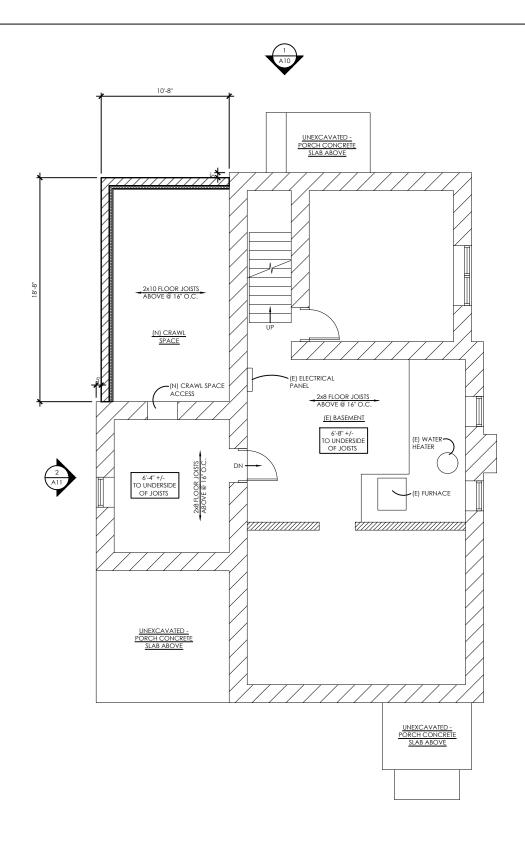






Johnson Residence

- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A6



PROPOSED BASEMENT PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" ON 22"x34" SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" ON 11"x17"

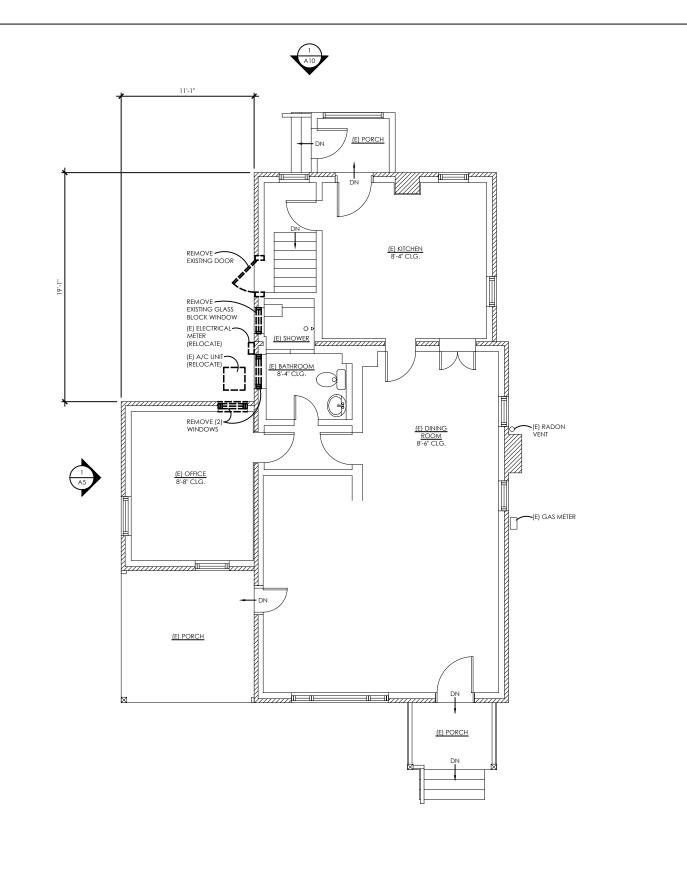




1840 Coronada Dr. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 734-219-4877

Johnson Residence

- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 **A**/



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" ON 22"x34" SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" ON 11"x17" & 8-1/2"x11"

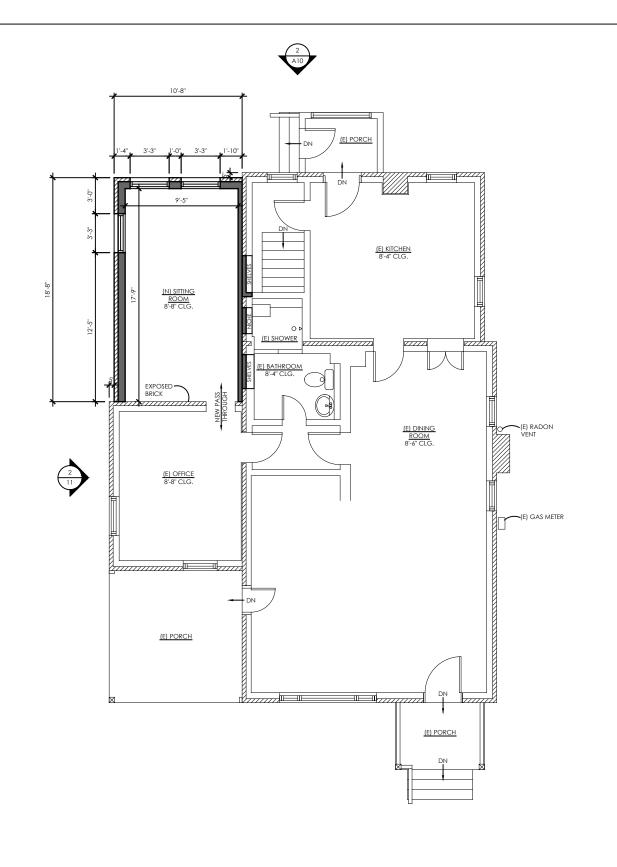




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Johnson Residence

- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A8
01/19/2024



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" ON 22"x34" SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" ON 11"x17" & 8-1/2"x11"

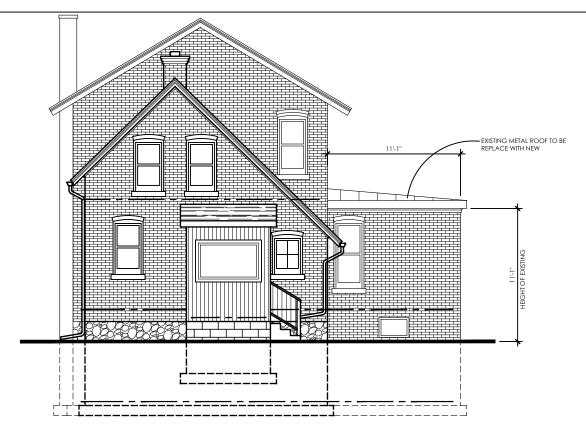




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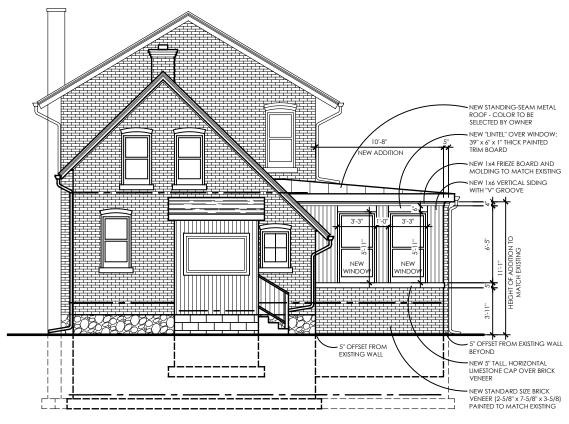
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- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A9
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EXISTING WEST ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" ON 22"x34" SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" ON 11"x17" & 8-1/2"x11"



PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION

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

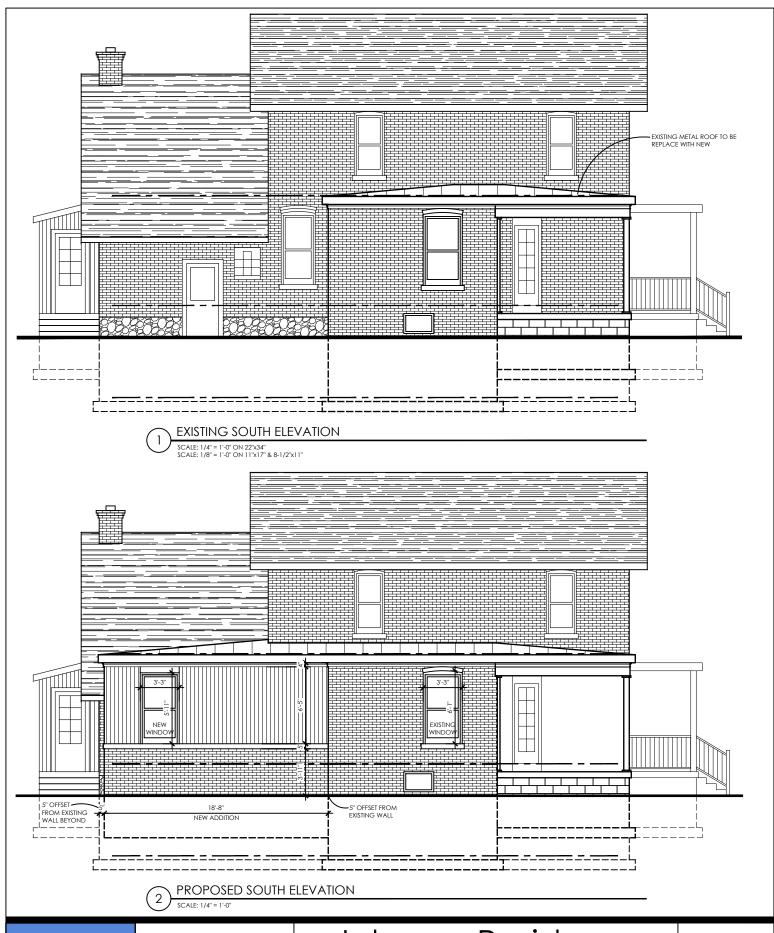
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



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- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A10

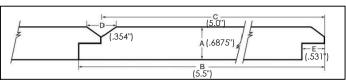




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- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A11
01/19/2024





PROFILE OF NEW VERTICAL SIDING TRU-EXTERIOR 1x6 V-RUSTIC SIDING (POLY-ASH)

EXISTING DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOW





NEW WINDOW INFORMATION:

JELD-WEN
CUSTOM WOOD WINDOW
DOUBLE-HUNG
(3) TOTAL WINDOWS
3'-3" WIDE x 6'-1" TALL
MASONRY OPENING
ACTUAL WINDOW SIZE:
3'-0" WIDE x 5'-8" TALL
EXTERIOR MATERIAL:
AURALAST PINE (TO BE
PAINTED USING COLOR
SELECTED BY OWNER)
LOW-E INSULATING GLASS

EXTERIOR PROFILE OF NEW ~ WINDOWS



Kratz DESIGNS

1840 Coronada Dr. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 734-219-4877

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- Addition -548 S. 1st Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103 A12