

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

November 18, 2015

Agenda Item No: 11

HDRC CASE NO: 2015-425
ADDRESS: 1008 DAWSON ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 1371 BLK 3 LOT E 41 FT OF 1, 2, & 3
ZONING: RM4 H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 2
DISTRICT: Dignowity Hill Historic District
APPLICANT: Pegy Brimhall/Rising Barn
OWNER: Devin Verdon Susie Hogan
TYPE OF WORK: Conceptual approval of new construction
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting conceptual approval to:

1. Construct a single family residence on the vacant lot at 1008 Dawson, at the corner of Dawson and Florence Alley.
2. Construct an accessory structure to feature a studio apartment to the rear of the primary structure.
3. Construct a garage with a single width garage door at the rear of the property with alley access.

The applicant has proposed materials cement board siding, a standing seam metal roof, composite metal windows with wood casing and metal siding.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 4, Guidelines for New Construction

1. Building and Entrance Orientation

A. FAÇADE ORIENTATION

- i. *Setbacks*—Align front facades of new buildings with front facades of adjacent buildings where a consistent setback has been established along the street frontage. Use the median setback of buildings along the street frontage where a variety of setbacks exist. Refer to UDC Article 3, Division 2. Base Zoning Districts for applicable setback requirements.
- ii. *Orientation*—Orient the front façade of new buildings to be consistent with the predominant orientation of historic buildings along the street frontage.

B. ENTRANCES

- i. *Orientation*—Orient primary building entrances, porches, and landings to be consistent with those historically found along the street frontage. Typically, historic building entrances are oriented towards the primary street.

2. Building Massing and Form

A. SCALE AND MASS

- i. *Similar height and scale*—Design new construction so that its height and overall scale are consistent with nearby historic buildings. In residential districts, the height and scale of new construction should not exceed that of the majority of historic buildings by more than one-story. In commercial districts, building height shall conform to the established pattern. If there is no more than a 50% variation in the scale of buildings on the adjacent block faces, then the height of the new building shall not exceed the tallest building on the adjacent block face by more than 10%.
- ii. *Transitions*—Utilize step-downs in building height, wall-plane offsets, and other variations in building massing to provide a visual transition when the height of new construction exceeds that of adjacent historic buildings by more than one-half story.
- iii. *Foundation and floor heights*—Align foundation and floor-to-floor heights (including porches and balconies) within one foot of floor-to-floor heights on adjacent historic structures.

B. ROOF FORM

i. *Similar roof forms*—Incorporate roof forms—pitch, overhangs, and orientation—that are consistent with those predominantly found on the block. Roof forms on residential building types are typically sloped, while roof forms on nonresidential building types are more typically flat and screened by an ornamental parapet wall.

C. RELATIONSHIP OF SOLIDS TO VOIDS

i. *Window and door openings*—Incorporate window and door openings with a similar proportion of wall to window space as typical with nearby historic facades. Windows, doors, porches, entryways, dormers, bays, and pediments shall be considered similar if they are no larger than 25% in size and vary no more than 10% in height to width ratio from adjacent historic facades.

ii. *Façade configuration*—The primary façade of new commercial buildings should be in keeping with established patterns. Maintaining horizontal elements within adjacent cap, middle, and base precedents will establish a consistent street wall through the alignment of horizontal parts. Avoid blank walls, particularly on elevations visible from the street. No new façade should exceed 40 linear feet without being penetrated by windows, entryways, or other defined bays.

D. LOT COVERAGE

i. *Building to lot ratio*—New construction should be consistent with adjacent historic buildings in terms of the building to lot ratio. Limit the building footprint for new construction to no more than 50 percent of the total lot area, unless adjacent historic buildings establish a precedent with a greater building to lot ratio.

3. Materials and Textures

A. NEW MATERIALS

i. *Complementary materials*—Use materials that complement the type, color, and texture of materials traditionally found in the district. Materials should not be so dissimilar as to distract from the historic interpretation of the district. For example, corrugated metal siding would not be appropriate for a new structure in a district comprised of homes with wood siding.

ii. *Alternative use of traditional materials*—Consider using traditional materials, such as wood siding, in a new way to provide visual interest in new construction while still ensuring compatibility.

iii. *Roof materials*—Select roof materials that are similar in terms of form, color, and texture to traditionally used in the district.

iv. *Metal roofs*—Construct new metal roofs in a similar fashion as historic metal roofs. Refer to the Guidelines for Alterations and Maintenance section for additional specifications regarding metal roofs.

v. *Imitation or synthetic materials*—Do not use vinyl siding, plastic, or corrugated metal sheeting. Contemporary materials not traditionally used in the district, such as brick or simulated stone veneer and Hardie Board or other fiberboard siding, may be appropriate for new construction in some locations as long as new materials are visually similar to the traditional material in dimension, finish, and texture. EIFS is not recommended as a substitute for actual stucco.

B. REUSE OF HISTORIC MATERIALS

i. *Salvaged materials*—Incorporate salvaged historic materials where possible within the context of the overall design of the new structure.

4. Architectural Details

A. GENERAL

i. *Historic context*—Design new buildings to reflect their time while respecting the historic context. While new construction should not attempt to mirror or replicate historic features, new structures should not be so dissimilar as to distract from or diminish the historic interpretation of the district.

ii. *Architectural details*—Incorporate architectural details that are in keeping with the predominant architectural style along the block face or within the district when one exists. Details should be simple in design and should complement, but not visually compete with, the character of the adjacent historic structures or other historic structures within the district. Architectural details that are more ornate or elaborate than those found within the district are inappropriate.

iii. *Contemporary interpretations*—Consider integrating contemporary interpretations of traditional designs and details for new construction. Use of contemporary window moldings and door surroundings, for example, can provide visual interest while helping to convey the fact that the structure is new. Modern materials should be implemented in a way that does not distract from the historic structure.

5. Garages and Outbuildings

A. DESIGN AND CHARACTER

- i. *Massing and form*—Design new garages and outbuildings to be visually subordinate to the principal historic structure in terms of their height, massing, and form.
- ii. *Building size*—New outbuildings should be no larger in plan than 40 percent of the principal historic structure footprint.
- iii. *Character*—Relate new garages and outbuildings to the period of construction of the principal building on the lot through the use of complementary materials and simplified architectural details.
- iv. *Windows and doors*—Design window and door openings to be similar to those found on historic garages or outbuildings in the district or on the principal historic structure in terms of their spacing and proportions.
- v. *Garage doors*—Incorporate garage doors with similar proportions and materials as those traditionally found in the district.

B. SETBACKS AND ORIENTATION

- i. *Orientation*—Match the predominant garage orientation found along the block. Do not introduce front-loaded garages or garages attached to the primary structure on blocks where rear or alley-loaded garages were historically used.
- ii. *Setbacks*—Follow historic setback pattern of similar structures along the streetscape or district for new garages and outbuildings. Historic garages and outbuildings are most typically located at the rear of the lot, behind the principal building. In some instances, historic setbacks are not consistent with UDC requirements and a variance may be required.

6. Mechanical Equipment and Roof Appurtenances

A. LOCATION AND SITING

- i. *Visibility*—Do not locate utility boxes, air conditioners, rooftop mechanical equipment, skylights, satellite dishes, and other roof appurtenances on primary facades, front-facing roof slopes, in front yards, or in other locations that are clearly visible from the public right-of-way.
- ii. *Service Areas*—Locate service areas towards the rear of the site to minimize visibility from the public right-of-way.

B. SCREENING

- i. *Building-mounted equipment*—Paint devices mounted on secondary facades and other exposed hardware, frames, and piping to match the color scheme of the primary structure or screen them with landscaping.
- ii. *Freestanding equipment*—Screen service areas, air conditioning units, and other mechanical equipment from public view using a fence, hedge, or other enclosure.
- iii. *Roof-mounted equipment*—Screen and set back devices mounted on the roof to avoid view from public right-of-way.

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Guidelines for Site Elements

2. Fences and Walls

B. NEW FENCES AND WALLS

- i. *Design*—New fences and walls should appear similar to those used historically within the district in terms of their scale, transparency, and character. Design of fence should respond to the design and materials of the house or main structure.
- ii. *Location*—Avoid installing a fence or wall in a location where one did not historically exist, particularly within the front yard. The appropriateness of a front yard fence or wall is dependent on conditions within a specific historic district. New front yard fences or wall should not be introduced within historic districts that have not historically had them.
- iii. *Height*—Limit the height of new fences and walls within the front yard to a maximum of four feet. The

appropriateness of a front yard fence is dependent on conditions within a specific historic district. New front yard fences should not be introduced within historic districts that have not historically had them. If a taller fence or wall existed historically, additional height may be considered. The height of a new retaining wall should not exceed the height of the slope it retains.

iv. *Prohibited materials*—Do not use exposed concrete masonry units (CMU), Keystone or similar interlocking retaining wall systems, concrete block, vinyl fencing, or chain link fencing.

v. *Appropriate materials*—Construct new fences or walls of materials similar to fence materials historically used in the district. Select materials that are similar in scale, texture, color, and form as those historically used in the district, and that are compatible with the main structure. Screening incompatible uses—Review alternative fence heights and materials for appropriateness where residential properties are adjacent to commercial or other potentially incompatible uses.

3. Landscape Design

A. PLANTINGS

i. *Historic Gardens*—Maintain front yard gardens when appropriate within a specific historic district.

ii. *Historic Lawns*—Do not fully remove and replace traditional lawn areas with impervious hardscape. Limit the removal of lawn areas to mulched planting beds or pervious hardscapes in locations where they would historically be found, such as along fences, walkways, or drives. Low-growing plantings should be used in historic lawn areas; invasive or large-scale species should be avoided. Historic lawn areas should never be reduced by more than 50%.

iii. *Native xeric plant materials*—Select native and/or xeric plants that thrive in local conditions and reduce watering usage. See UDC Appendix E: San Antonio Recommended Plant List—All Suited to Xeriscape Planting Methods, for a list of appropriate materials and planting methods. Select plant materials with a similar character, growth habit, and light requirements as those being replaced.

iv. *Plant palettes*—If a varied plant palette is used, incorporate species of taller heights, such informal elements should be restrained to small areas of the front yard or to the rear or side yard so as not to obstruct views of or otherwise distract from the historic structure.

v. *Maintenance*—Maintain existing landscape features. Do not introduce landscape elements that will obscure the historic structure or are located as to retain moisture on walls or foundations (e.g., dense foundation plantings or vines) or as to cause damage.

B. ROCKS OR HARDSCAPE

i. *Impervious surfaces*—Do not introduce large pavers, asphalt, or other impervious surfaces where they were not historically located.

ii. *Pervious and semi-pervious surfaces*—New pervious hardscapes should be limited to areas that are not highly visible, and should not be used as wholesale replacement for plantings. If used, small plantings should be incorporated into the design.

iii. *Rock mulch and gravel* - Do not use rock mulch or gravel as a wholesale replacement for lawn area. If used, plantings should be incorporated into the design.

4. Residential Streetscapes

A. PLANTING STRIPS

i. *Street trees*—Protect and encourage healthy street trees in planting strips. Replace damaged or dead trees with trees of a similar species, size, and growth habit as recommended by the City Arborist.

ii. *Lawns*—Maintain the use of traditional lawn in planting strips or low plantings where a consistent pattern has been retained along the block frontage. If mulch or gravel beds are used, low-growing plantings should be incorporated into the design.

iii. *Alternative materials*—Do not introduce impervious hardscape, raised planting beds, or other materials into planting strips where they were not historically found.

5. Sidewalks, Walkways, Driveways, and Curbing

A. SIDEWALKS AND WALKWAYS

i. *Maintenance*—Repair minor cracking, settling, or jamming along sidewalks to prevent uneven surfaces. Retain and

repair historic sidewalk and walkway paving materials—often brick or concrete—in place.

ii. *Replacement materials*—Replace those portions of sidewalks or walkways that are deteriorated beyond repair. Every effort should be made to match existing sidewalk color and material.

iii. *Width and alignment*—Follow the historic alignment, configuration, and width of sidewalks and walkways. Alter the historic width or alignment only where absolutely necessary to accommodate the preservation of a significant tree.

iv. *Stamped concrete*—Preserve stamped street names, business insignias, or other historic elements of sidewalks and walkways when replacement is necessary.

v. *ADA compliance*—Limit removal of historic sidewalk materials to the immediate intersection when ramps are added to address ADA requirements.

B. DRIVEWAYS

i. *Driveway configuration*—Retain and repair in place historic driveway configurations, such as ribbon drives. Incorporate a similar driveway configuration—materials, width, and design—to that historically found on the site. Historic driveways are typically no wider than 10 feet. Pervious paving surfaces may be considered where replacement is necessary to increase stormwater infiltration.

ii. *Curb cuts and ramps*—Maintain the width and configuration of original curb cuts when replacing historic driveways. Avoid introducing new curb cuts where not historically found.

C. CURBING

i. *Historic curbing*—Retain historic curbing wherever possible. Historic curbing in San Antonio is typically constructed of concrete with a curved or angular profile.

ii. *Replacement curbing*—Replace curbing in-kind when deteriorated beyond repair. Where in-kind replacement is not be feasible, use a comparable substitute that duplicates the color, texture, durability, and profile of the original. Retaining walls and curbing should not be added to the sidewalk design unless absolutely necessary.

FINDINGS:

- a. Conceptual approval is the review of general design ideas and principles (such as scale and setback). Specific design details reviewed at this stage are not binding and may only be approved through a Certificate of Appropriateness for final approval.
- b. This case was heard by the Historic and Design Review Commission on October 13, 2015, where committee members noted that the scale, size and footprint of the proposed construction is appropriate, that the proposed roof form should relate to the historic roof forms of the neighborhood, that front porch columns would be appropriate and that the applicant should provide both precedent and existing examples of alley windows throughout the neighborhood and their fenestration patterns.
- c. The Dignowity Hill Historic District was originally developed between 1877 and 1940 and features a number of traditional architectural styles including Folk Victorian, Queen Anne and Craftsman among others. Each of these architectural styles feature character defining elements that are both unique to Dignowity Hill and San Antonio. Size, scale and form, along with materials contribute to the consistency and appropriateness of a design when considering its construction in one of San Antonio's Historic Districts.
- d. The applicant has proposed to construct three structures on the vacant lot at 1008 Dawson. The applicant has proposed for the primary structure, a single family home to feature a setback and orientation that is consistent with those of the structures to both the east and west. This is consistent with the Guidelines for New Construction 1.A.
- e. According to the Guidelines for New Construction 1.B.i., primary building entrances should be oriented toward the street. The applicant's proposal is consistent with the Guidelines.
- f. Regarding height, the Guidelines for New Construction, new construction in historic districts should feature a height and scale similar to those found throughout the district. The applicant has proposed a structure with a height that is generally consistent with the predominant building height in the vicinity. This is consistent with the Guidelines.
- g. Per the provided architectural elevations, the applicant has proposed a foundation height that is consistent with the precedent set throughout the district. This is consistent with the Guidelines for New Construction 2.A.iii.
- h. New construction in historic districts should include a similar roof form to those found historically throughout the district. The applicant has proposed a single sloping roof for both the primary structure and the accessory structure which the applicant has positioned to appear a single front gable roof. Front gable roofs as well as side gable roofs are prominent throughout Dignowity Hill, both of which present side sloping roofs similar to that in the applicant's

proposal. Staff finds that this contemporary interpretation to an original roof form is appropriate, however, the applicant should ensure that roof pitches are consistent with those found throughout the neighborhood as well as potentially reducing the amount of space between each structure to accommodate a closer incorporation of the two roofs. For the proposed garage structure, the applicant has proposed a flat roof. There is no precedent for a flat roof in Dignowity Hill, however, staff finds given the location of the proposed garage, the lack of its visibility from Dawson and its lack of height at only eight (8) feet, a flat roof would not negatively impact this property nor the surrounding historic character.

- i. The Guidelines for New Construction 2.C.i. states that window and door openings of new construction should feature a similar proportion to those of historic structures found throughout the district. As previously mentioned, Dignowity Hill features a number of Folk Victorian, Queen Anne and Craftsman homes. The applicant has proposed window and door openings on the street facing façade that staff finds are appropriate, however, staff finds that the applicant should address the lack of fenestration on the west elevations of both the primary structure and accessory structure as well as the east elevation of the primary structure.
- j. According to the Guidelines for New Construction 3.D.i., new construction should be consistent with adjacent historic buildings in terms of the building to lot ratio. The applicant's proposal is consistent with the Guidelines.
- k. The applicant has proposed materials which include cement board siding, a standing seam metal roof and metal windows with wood casing. The applicant's proposed siding and roof materials are consistent with the Guidelines for New Construction, however, staff recommends that the applicant install wood windows featuring profiles consistent with those that historically are found throughout the district rather than metal casement windows. New metal roofs should be constructed in a similar fashion to metal roofs containing use panels that are 18 to 21 inches in width, ensure that seams are an appropriate height (1 to 2 inches), use a crimped ridge seam that is consistent with the historic application, use a low profile ridge cap and use a galvalume finish.
- l. New construction in historic districts should be designed to reflect their time while representing the historic context of the neighborhood. The applicant has proposed a number of contemporary interpretations of historic architectural elements that staff finds appropriate, however, staff finds that more attention to and the incorporation of existing fenestration patterns throughout the neighborhood would positively impact this project.
- m. The applicant has proposed a front porch that while contemporary in form features many architectural elements that are of historic nature. Per the provided floor plan, the applicant has incorporated front porch design that is consistent with the front porch configurations of many historic homes throughout the district, particularly in depth and a side, front door. Staff finds this an appropriate approach to front porch design and consistent with the Guidelines regarding contemporary interpretations.
- n. Regarding site elements, the applicant has noted that a cattle panel fence will be constructed per both the side plan and rendered elevation. The applicant's proposal is consistent with the Guidelines.
- o. Regarding landscaping, the applicant has not provided a specific landscaping plan at this time. The applicant is responsible for complying with the Guidelines for Site Elements regarding landscape design.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends conceptual approval of the applicant's proposed site plan, building placement and materials.

Staff recommends that the applicant address the proposed roof form as noted in finding h as well as the proposed fenestration patterns and window materials as noted in findings i and k.

CASE COMMENT:

The final construction height of an approved fence may not exceed the maximum height as approved by the HDRC at any portion of the fence. Additionally, all fences must be permitted and meet the development standards outlined in UDC Section 35-514.

CASE MANAGER:

Edward Hall





Flex Viewer

Powered by ArcGIS Server

Printed: Oct 27, 2015

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↑ backyard, neighbor's metal shed

↑ neighbor's studio

↑ neighbor's home & trellis

↑ neighbor's home

Existing View toward Dawson St., from Studio



Front and Side Elevations



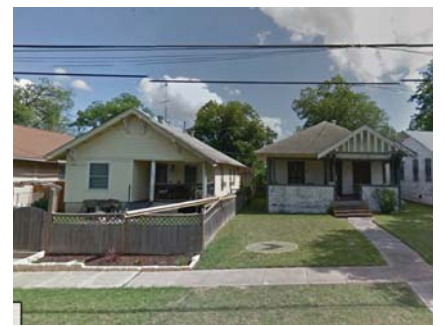
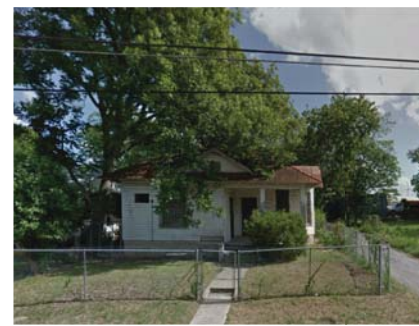
Dignowity Inspiration - Side Elevations



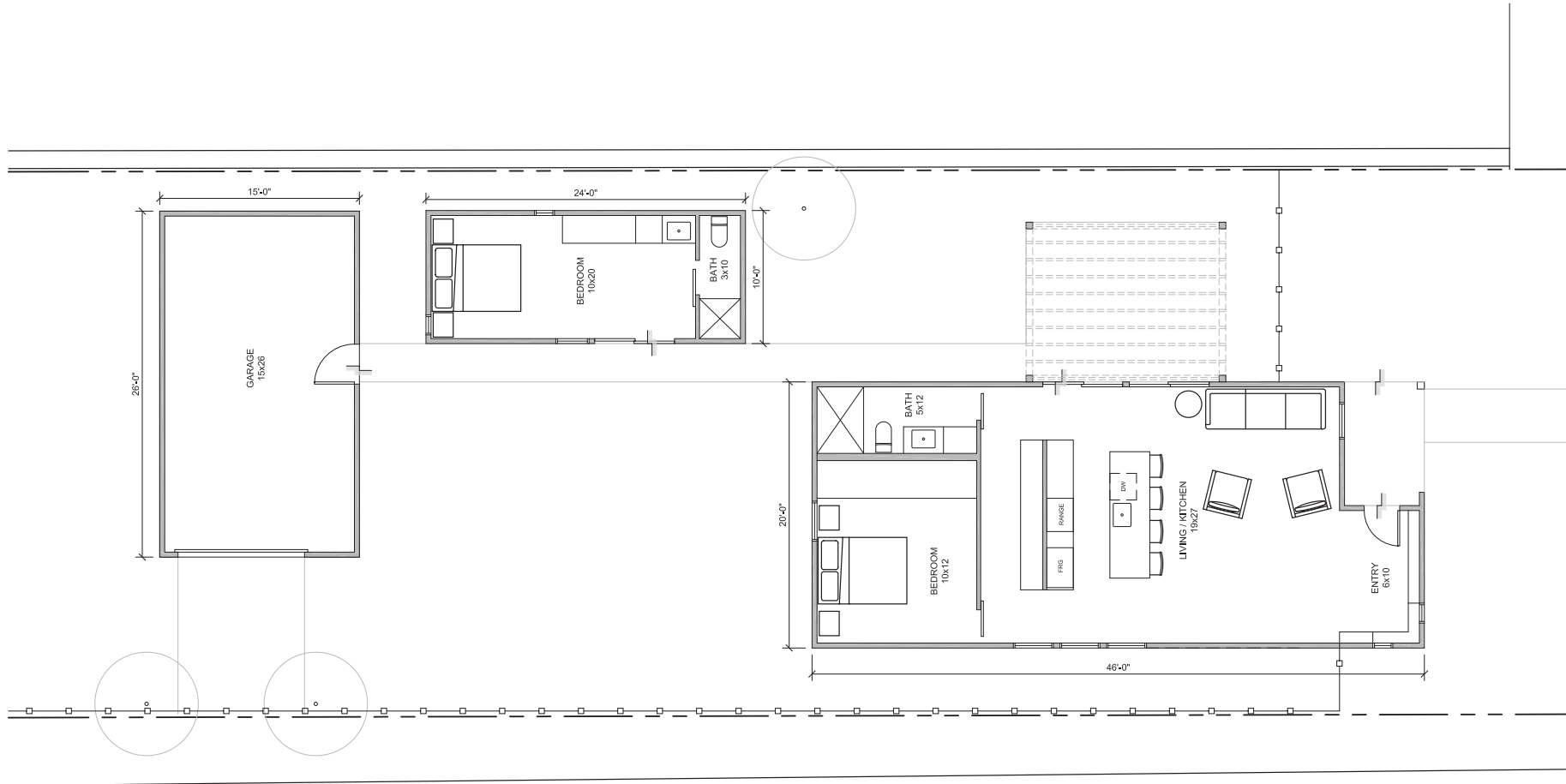
Dignowity Inspiration - Facades



Dawson Street Precendence, 1000 Block



Dawson Street Precendence, 1000 Block



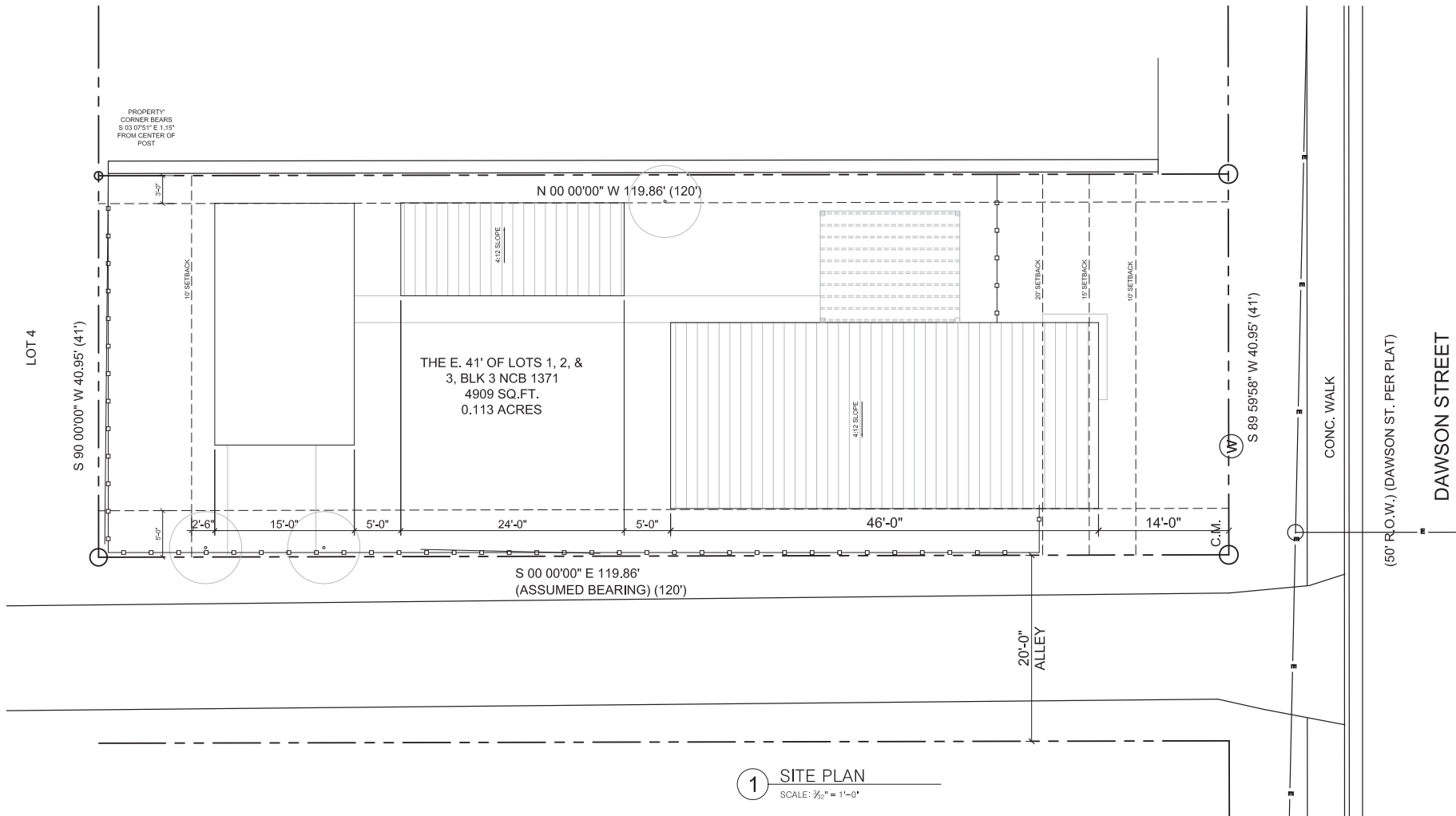
1 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

DRAWING NAME

FLOOR PLAN
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

DAWSON HOME
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

A2.0

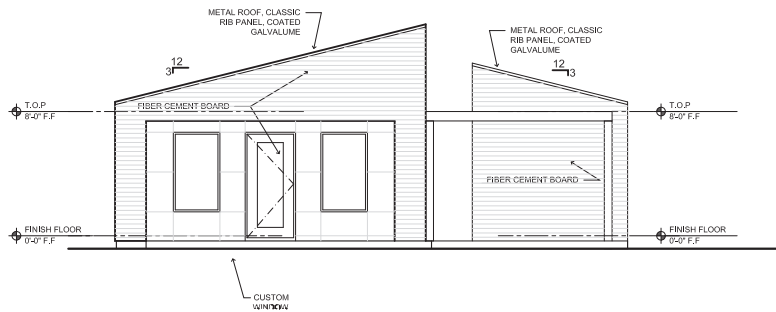


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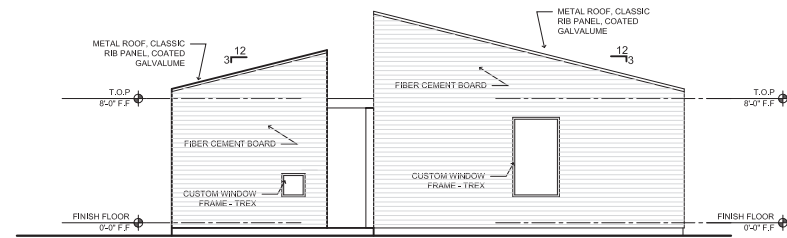
SITE PLAN
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

DAWSON HOME
 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

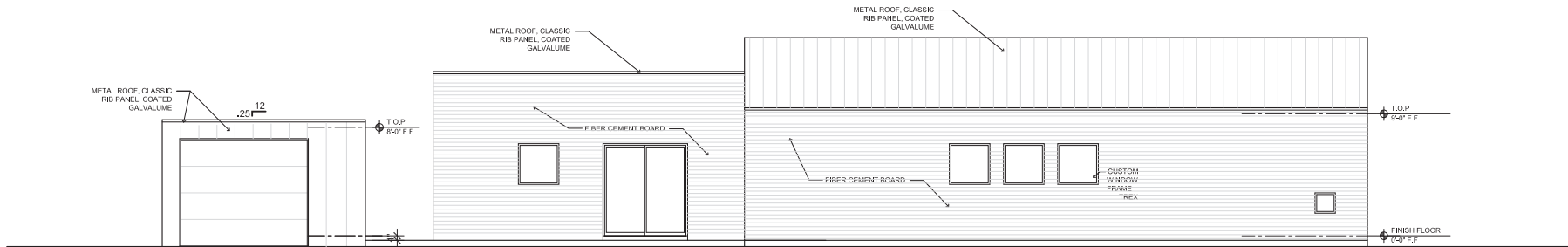
A1.0



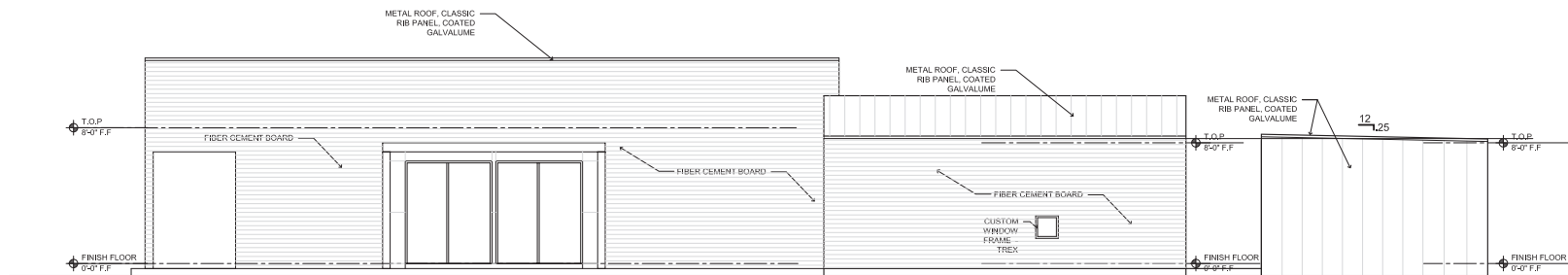
1 NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$



1 SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$



2 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$



3 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'-0"$

DRAWING NAME

ELEVATIONS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

DAWSON HOME
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

A3.0



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

Historic and Design Review Commission
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
REPORT + RECOMMENDATION

DATE: 10/13/2015 HDRC Case#

ADDRESS: 1008 DAWSON Meeting Location: 1901 S ALAMO - LONE STAR

APPLICANT: PEGY BRIMHALL/RISING BARN

DDC Members present: MICHAEL GUARINO

Staff present: EDWARD HALL, LAUREN SAGE

Others present:

REQUEST: NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE, ALLEGORY
STRUCTURE AND DETACHED GARAGE

COMMENTS/CONCERNS: MG: SCALE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION IS
APPROPRIATE. POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED ROOF FORM,
ROOF SHOULD RELATE TO THOSE FOUND HISTORICALLY THROUGHOUT
THE NEIGHBORHOOD. INTRODUCTION OF FRONT PORCH COLUMNS WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE - POTENTIALLY THREE BAYS. FOOTPRINTS, SIZE AND
SCALE ALL APPROPRIATE. SHOW PRECEDENT/EXISTING EXAMPLES
FOR PROPOSED ALLEY WINDOWS. QUESTIONS ON LANDSCAPING -

FRONT YARD LAWN, PAVEMENT, ETC. RECOMMENDS APPLICANT ADDRESS
CURRENT ROOFLINE - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ - POSSIBLE GABLE AT FRONT THEN TRANSLATE TO
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE [] DISAPPROVE [] HIP.

APPROVE WITH COMMENTS/STIPULATIONS:

REVISE STREET ELEVATION

OR PIA LYNOL STRUCTURE

Committee Chair Signature (or representative)

10/13/15
Date