#### HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

## February 01, 2017 Agenda Item No: 7

HDRC CASE NO: 2017-042 **ADDRESS:** 130 WICKES NCB 931 BLK 1 LOT 29 **LEGAL DESCRIPTION: ZONING:** RM-4,H,HL **CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 1 King William Historic District **DISTRICT:** McDonald Rent House LANDMARK: **APPLICANT:** Manuel Vost **OWNER:** Manuel Vost **TYPE OF WORK:** Front yard landscaping and hardscaping

#### **REQUEST:**

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to perform landscaping and hardscaping at 130 Wickes. This request includes the following proposals:

- 1. Install a gravel walkway where a mulched flower bed currently exists.
- 2. Install various plantings within the front yard.
- 3. Remove a portion of the front yard lawn and install ground ivy.

#### **APPLICABLE CITATIONS:**

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Guidelines for Site Elements

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.

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.

## **FINDINGS:**

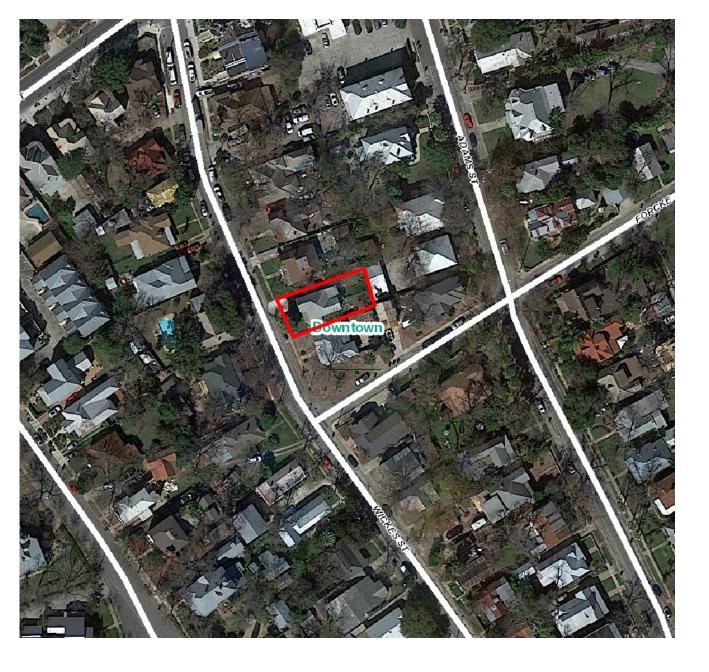
- a. The structure at 130 Wickes was constructed circa 1905 and features Folk Victorian architectural elements. The structure was rehabilitated in the summer of 2016, and in that rehabilitation, site work was also completed. This site work includes the removal of a front yard palm tree, the installation of a ribbon strip driveway, the installation of various planting materials, the re-sodding of the front yard and the repair of the existing concrete sidewalks.
- b. GRAVEL WALKWAYS The applicant has proposed to replace an existing mulched area at the front of the primary historic structure with small gravel, to feature sizes ranging from half an inch to an inch in diameter. The proposed walkway is to extend from the side yard driveway on the north side of the property to the side yard on the south side of the property at the privacy fence's gate. Staff finds this location for a gravel walkway appropriate.
- c. GRAVEL WALKWAYS The applicant has proposed a second gravel walkway to extend from the privacy fence's gate, along the property line on the south side of the property to the sideway at the public right of way. Per the Guidelines for Site Elements 5.A.iii., the historic alignment, configuration and width of sidewalks and walkways should be followed. Along this block of Wickes and throughout the King William Historic District, front yard walkways and sidewalks are typically the only walkway leading from the primary historic structure to the public right of way, feature concrete and are typically centered within the lot. This is the historic example set and should be maintained. Staff finds this proposed walkway to be neither appropriate nor consistent with the Guidelines.
- d. FRONT YARD PLANTINGS The applicant has proposed to install a number of front yard plantings which include a retama tree, fishhook barrel cactus, thornless prickly cactus, stool, marginata yucca, red yucca, small succulents, sage, agave, Spanish dagger, fero cactus, red yucca and rosemary. Some of these plantings will be located between the historic structure's foundation skirting and the proposed front yard gravel walkways. Other plantings will be proposed in an existing landscaped area near the public right of way as well as an additional tree on the right hand side (east) of the front yard. Staff finds the proposed installations and their locations appropriate.
- e. LAWN REMOVAL The applicant has proposed to remove a portion of the front on the west side of the front yard and install ground ivy. The Guidelines for Site Elements 3.A.ii. states that traditional lawn areas should not be reduced by more than fifty (50) percent of their traditional area. The applicant's proposal is consistent with the Guidelines.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of items #1 and #3 based on findings a through e.

### CASE MANAGER:

Edward Hall





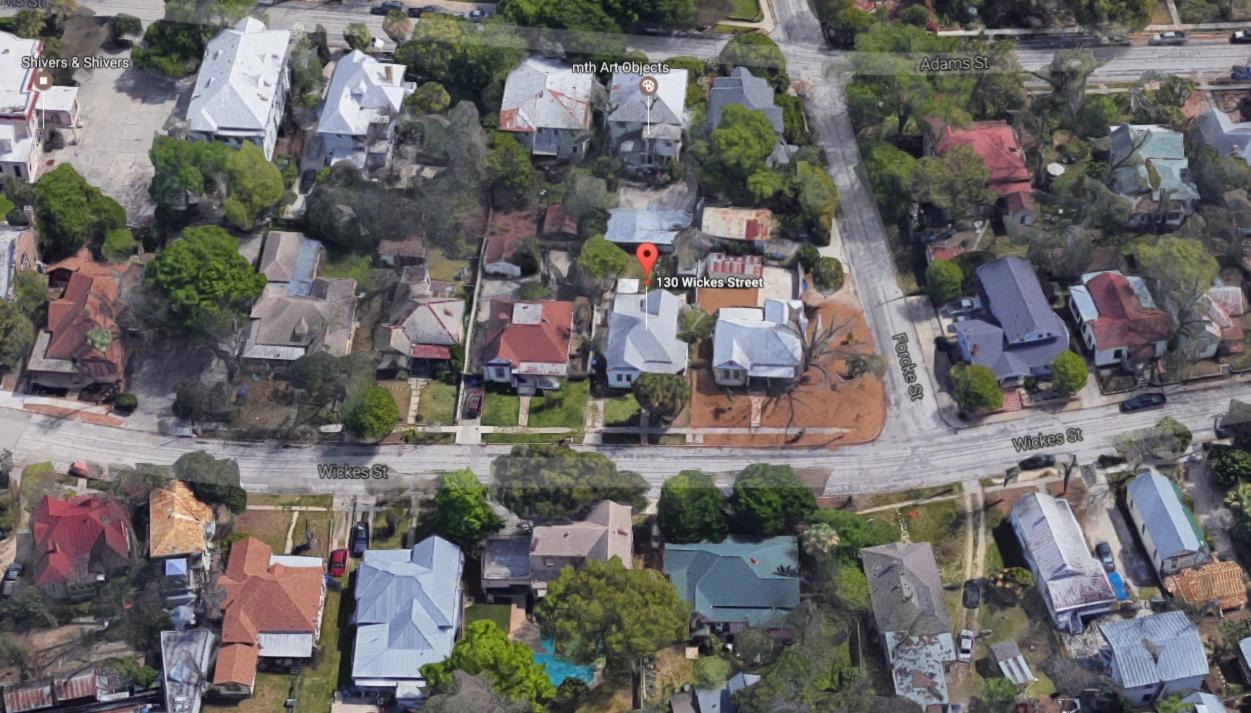
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Add gravel walking path in front of porch flowerbed and along front right property line, with same existing gravel as seen on left front path in front of mulch flower bed.

Left front lawn: Plant Retama tree, add ground ivy and line walkway to house with Baby Gem boxwood

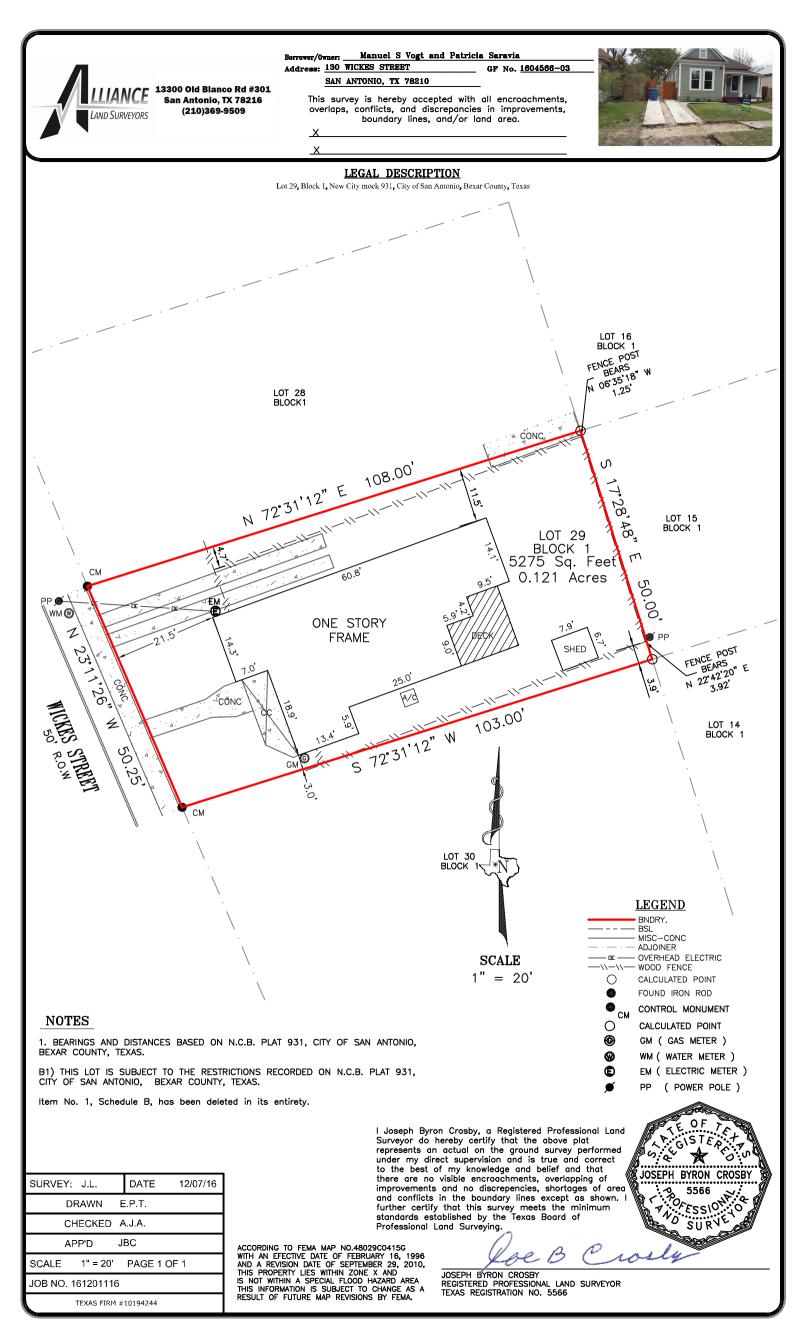
Right front lawn: Add Baby Gem boxwoods to line right side of walkway up to house. Plant ground ivy (ex. Asiatic Jasmine) in lawn area.

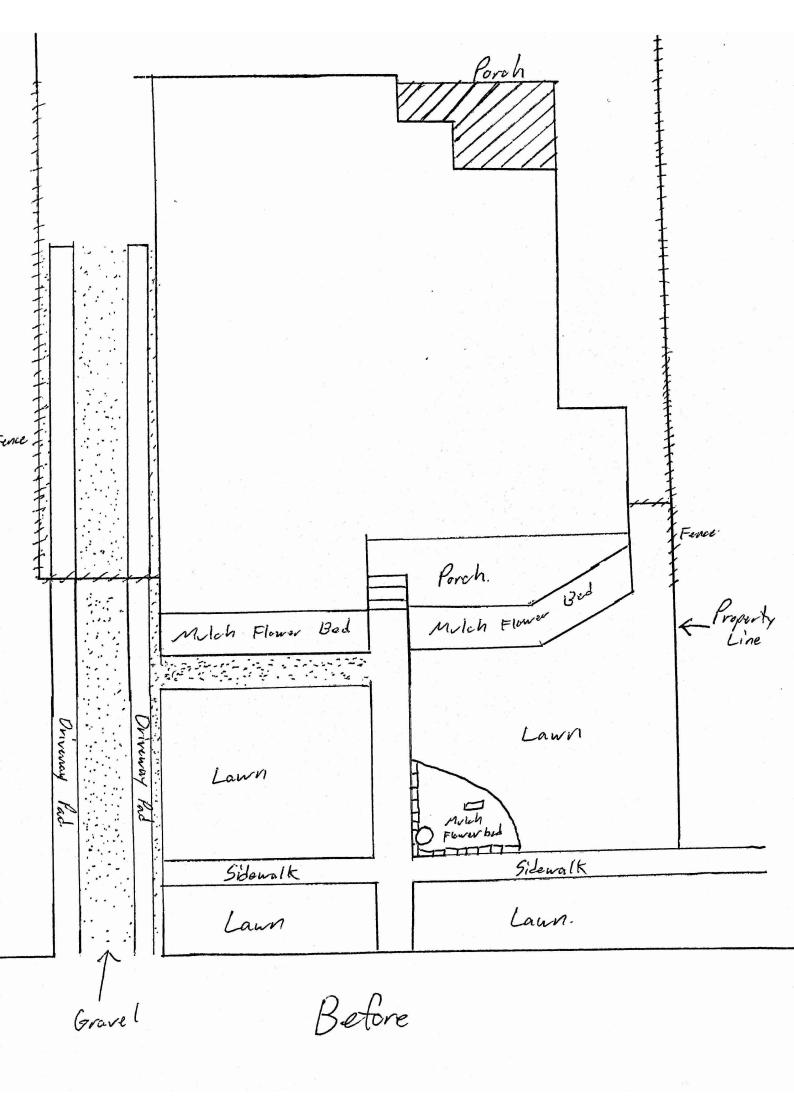
Right front mulch flowerbed containing palm tree: Add Fishhook barrel cactus, thornless prickly cactus, sotol, Marginata yucca and red yucca as well as small succulents

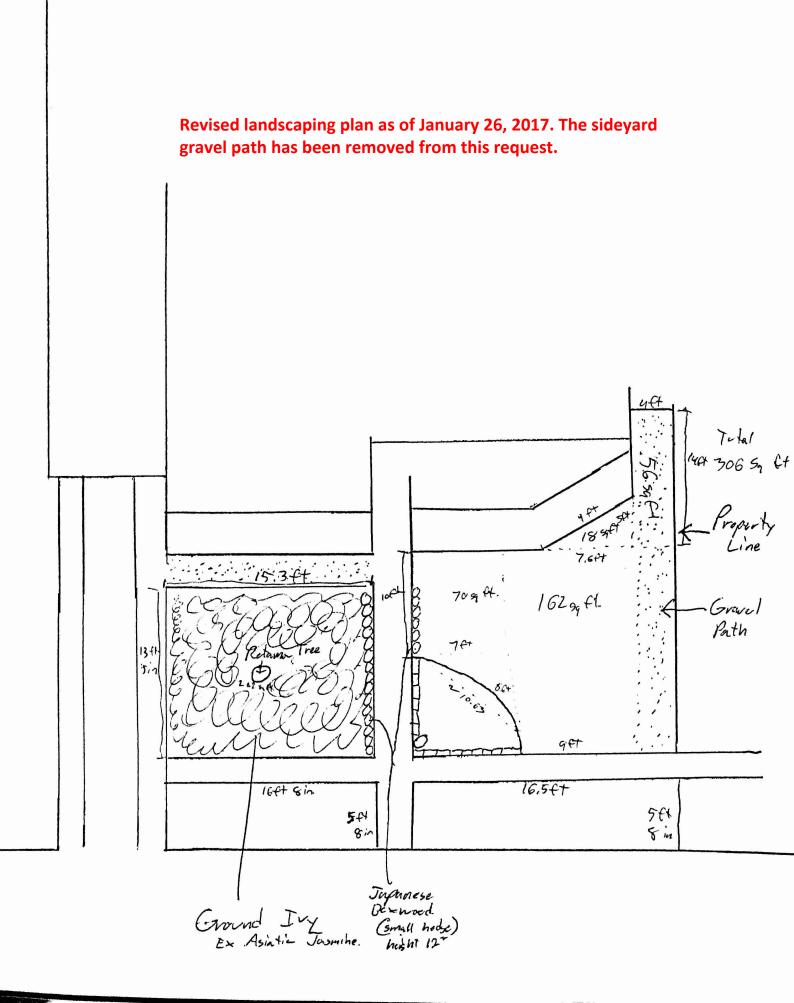
Right mulch flowerbed in front of porch: Add Sage, agave and Spanish dagger

Left mulch flowerbed: Add Fero cactus, red yucca and rosemary

Paint front porch concrete: Currently red color. Would like to repaint in Downing Stone and Front steps in Roycroft Mist Gray







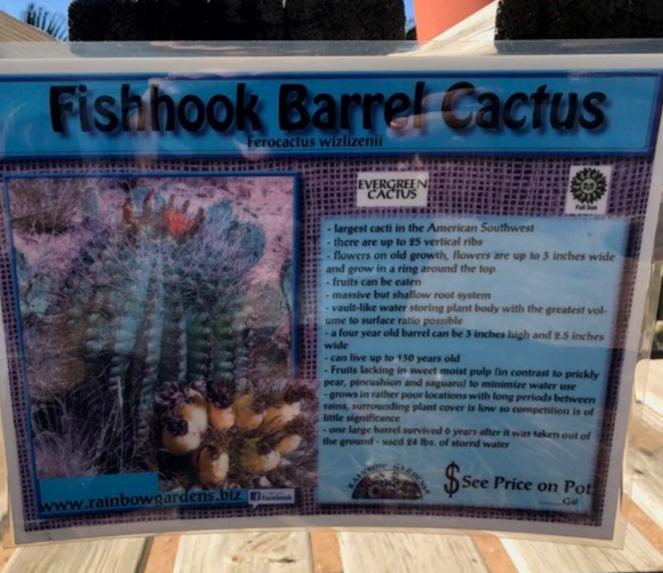






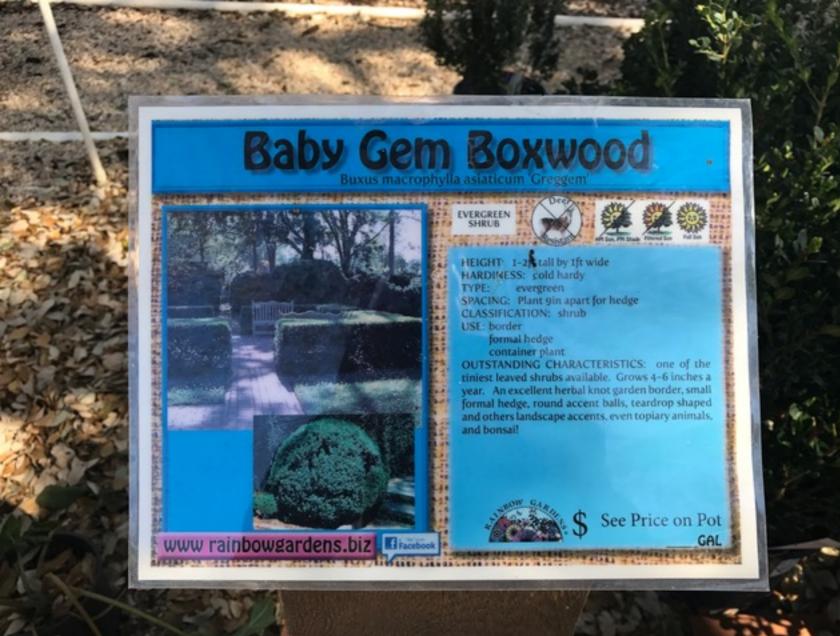






















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# RYTREES

# Retama Parkinsonia aculeata

Yellow flowers and green twigs and branches highlight this fast growing, drought tolerant Texas native. The unique leaves of this tree create a wonderful dappled shade that works well in our landscapes.





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> HEIGHT: 2ft tall by 2ft wide HARDINESS: cold hardy TYPE: evergreen SPACING: Plant 3-4ft apart CLASSIFICATION: shrub USE: rock gardens OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS: each spring 4 foot spikes of bright red flowers rise above the swordlike leaves for a dramatic display. Completely care free once established. A West Texas native. SOIL PREPARATION: none necessary. Plant in a well drained area.

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