ADDRESS: 1629-37 S 28TH ST

Proposal: Remove stained glass windows; install new windows

Review Requested: Final Approval Owner: 1629-37 S 28th Street, LLC

Applicant: Raymond Rola, Raymond F. Rola, Architect

History: 1902; John Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church; T.P. Lonsdale, architect

Individual Designation: 7/6/1972 District Designation: None

Staff Contact: Alex Till, alexander.till@phila.gov

Overview: This application proposes to remove the stained-glass windows on the north, east, and south elevations of the church building at 1629-37 S. 28th Street and install new aluminum framed windows in their places. The new windows will fill the existing masonry openings and be comprised of various combinations of fixed pane, sash, and awning windows all with clear glass. New wood brickmolds that will approximate the general proportions and appearance of the historic ones will also be installed. Located at the southwest corner of S. 28th Street and Morris Street, the former John Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church historically featured woodframed, stained-glass windows with Gothic arches and tracery. In July 2025, the historic stained-glass windows were removed from the side elevations of the church as part of a project to convert it into apartments as the windows were deteriorated and not compatible with the new intended use of the building. This removal occurred without review by the Historical Commission. Historic stained-glass windows with wood brickmolds and gothic tracery remain in the rear elevation openings, though in a deteriorated condition.

In addition, historic stained-glass windows were also removed from the front façade of the property in approximately 2014 without the Historical Commission's review or approval and were replaced with a combination of inappropriate new vinyl windows and infill panels. The Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I) issued a violation for that work in 2017 at the request of the Historical Commission. The violation remained unresolved, and records indicate that L&I closed it in January 2025 owing to its age, though no attempts were ever made to correct the incompatible windows and infill. The current building owner did not own the property in 2017 when the violation was issued but did purchase the property in 2022, when the violation was still open. Property certificates PC-2022-017337 and PC-2024-009874, issued in 2022 and 2024 respectively, did document the open violations for the illegal windows and infill. The current application does not address the non-compliant front windows and infill panels.

SCOPE OF WORK:

- Remove historic stained-glass windows
- Install new windows

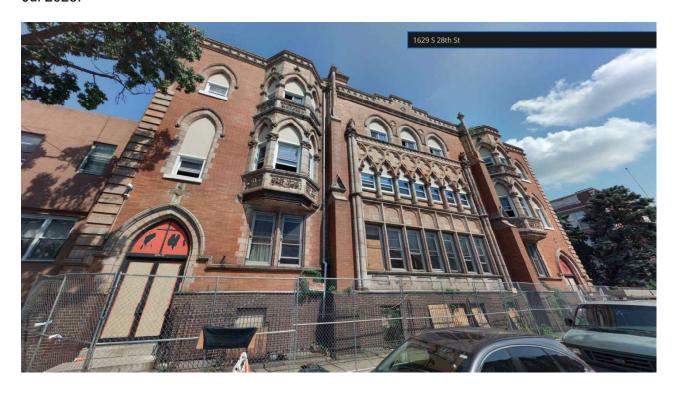
STANDARDS FOR REVIEW:

- Standard 6: Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
 - The new windows fit the existing masonry openings, and the arches will be filled with fixed pane arched windows to match, but the proposed arrangement of sashes and panes does not closely match the design of the historic windows. The new windows could satisfy Standard 6, provided the design of the panes is simplified and more closely aligns with that of the historic windows and new brickmolds are made to match the surviving ones in the rear openings. In addition, the surviving stained-

- glass windows should be salvaged and stored in a safe location and, if possible, one window with brickmolds and tracery should be restored and left in place.
- Standard 9: New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
 - The new windows are differentiated from the old and are compatible with the materials, features, size, scale, and proportions of the historic building, satisfying Standard 9.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the application, provided that the details are updated to more closely align with the historic design, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Standards 6 and 9. An approval of this application will not legalize the non-compliant windows at the front section of the building.

Current front (west) façade facing S 28th St, windows date to approximately 2014, photo from Jul 2025:



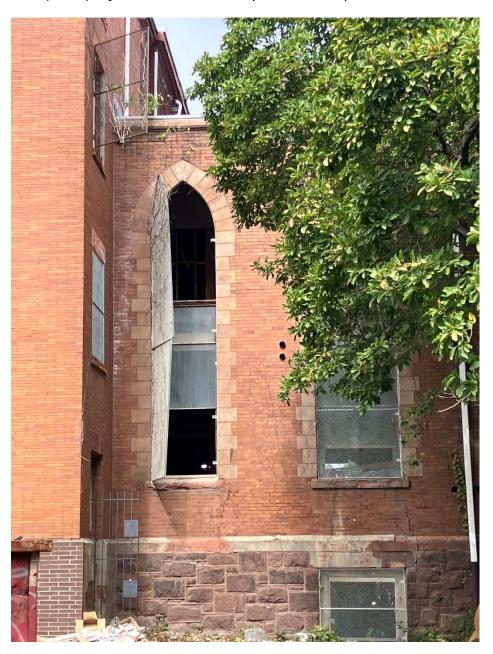
Side (south) façade facing Morris St, photo from Dec 2021:



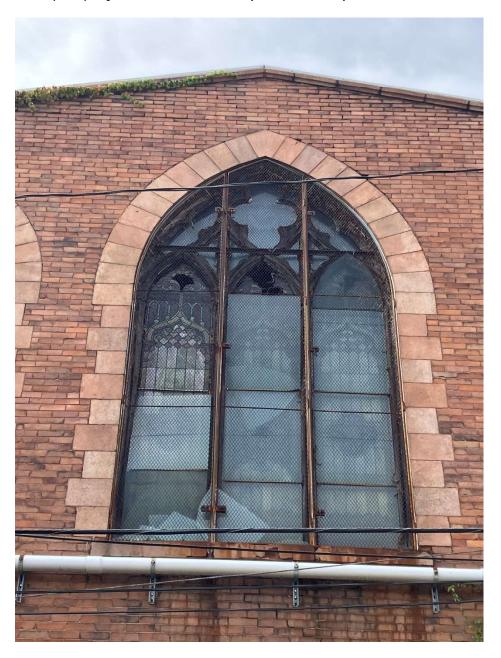
Portion of rear (east) façade facing S Marston St, PHC staff photo from Sept 2025:



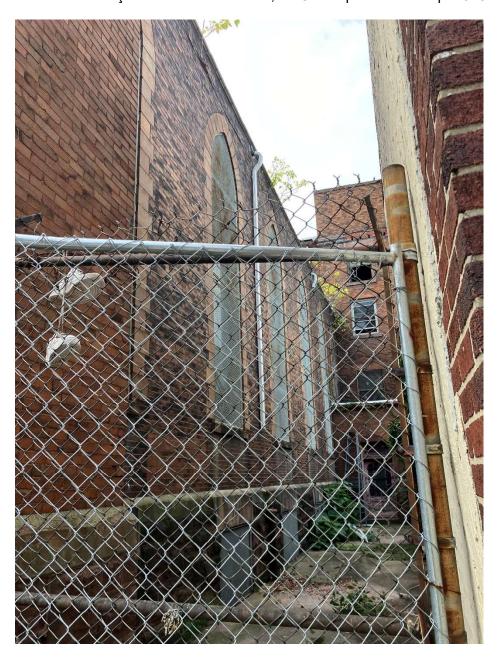
Side (south) façade detail, PHC staff photo from Sept 2025:



Rear (east) façade detail, PHC staff photo from Sept 2025:



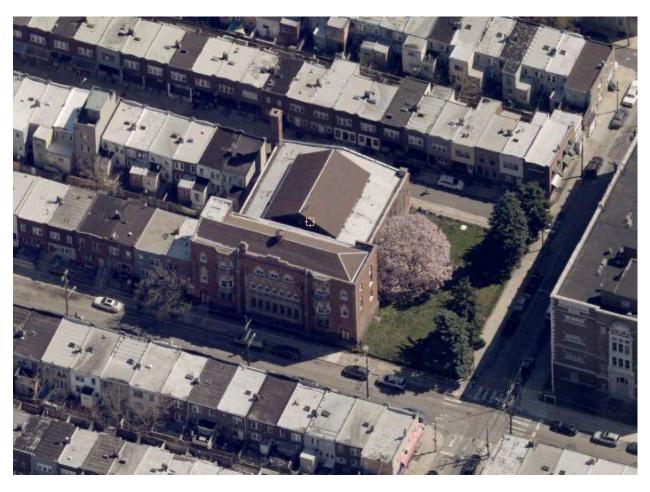
View of north façade form S Marston St, PHC staff photo from Sept 2025:



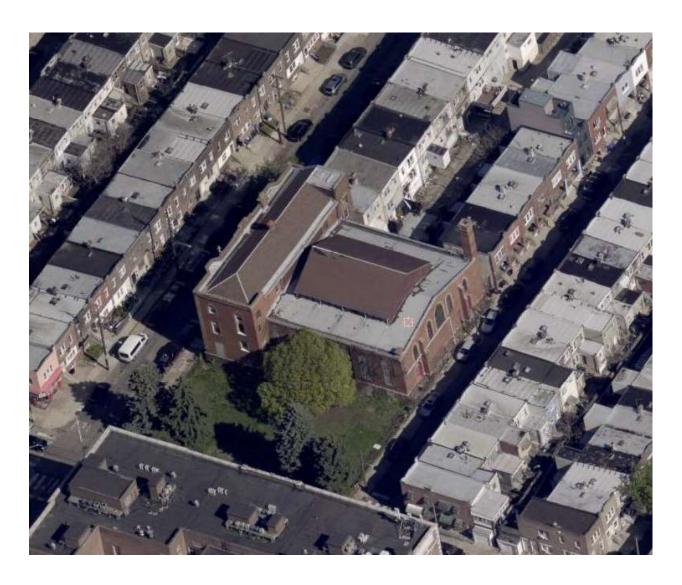
Historic photos from PHC file, c. 1966:



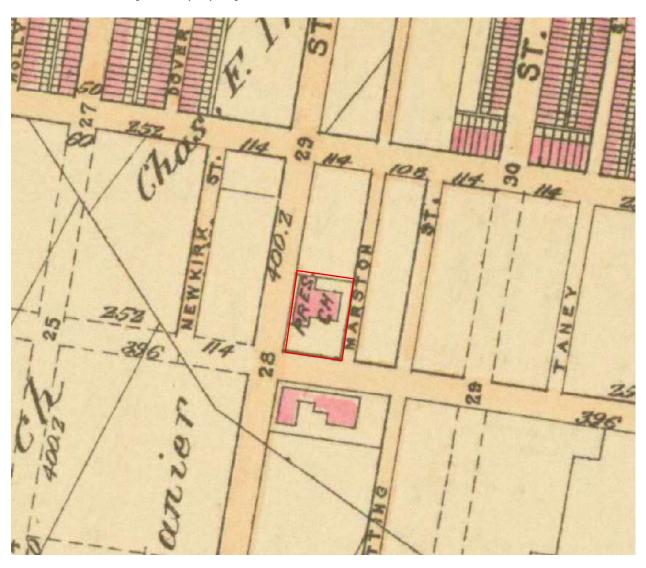
Aerial view facing east, Mar 2024:



Aerial view facing north, Apr 2024:



1910 G. W. Bromley Atlas, property outlined in red:



REPORT OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 REMOTE MEETING ON ZOOM DAN MCCOUBREY, CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

START TIME IN AUDIO RECORDING: 00:00:00

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following Committee members joined him:

Committee Member	Present	Absent	Comment
Dan McCoubrey, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, Chair	X		
John Cluver, AIA, LEED AP	X		
Rudy D'Alessandro		Χ	
Justin Detwiler	X		
Nan Gutterman, FAIA	X		
Allison Lukachik	X		
Amy Stein, AIA, LEED AP	X		

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom video and audio-conferencing software.

The following staff members were present:

Jonathan Farnham, Executive Director

Kim Chantry, Historic Preservation Planner III

Heather Hendrickson, Historic Preservation Planner II

Ted Maust, Historic Preservation Planner II

Allyson Mehley, Historic Preservation Planner III

Joshua Schroeder, Historic Preservation Planner I

Dan Shachar-Krasnoff, Historic Preservation Planner II

Alex Till, Historic Preservation Planner II

The following persons were present:

Caleb Munson

David Traub, Save Our Sites

Derek Spencer, Gnome Architects

Evan Litvin

Hanna Stark, Preservation Alliance

Jay Farrell

Jeffrey Pond

John Sofio

Justin Bright

Ken Acquaviva

Markus Weidner

Matt Fromboluti

May Chang

Qinghua Wang

ADDRESS: 1629-37 S 28TH ST

Proposal: Legalize removal of and remove remaining stained-glass windows; install windows

Review Requested: Final Approval Owner: 1629-37 S 28th Street, LLC

Applicant: Raymond Rola, Raymond F. Rola, Architect

History: 1902; John Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church; T.P. Lonsdale, architect

Individual Designation: 7/6/1972 District Designation: None

Staff Contact: Alex Till, alexander.till@phila.gov

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SCOPE OF WORK:

- Remove historic stained-glass windows
- Install new windows

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW:

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 Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the
 new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible,
 materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary
 and physical evidence.
 - The new windows will fit the existing masonry openings, and the arches will be filled with fixed pane arched windows to match, but the proposed arrangement of sashes and panes does not closely match the design of the historic windows. The new windows could satisfy Standard 6, provided the design of the panes is simplified and more closely aligns with that of the historic windows and new

- brickmolds are made to match the surviving ones in the rear openings. In addition, the surviving stained-glass windows should be salvaged and stored in a safe location and, if possible, one window with brickmolds and tracery should be restored and left in place.
- Standard 9: New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
 - The new windows will be differentiated from the old and are compatible with the materials, features, size, scale, and proportions of the historic building, satisfying Standard 9

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval, provided that the details are updated to more closely align with the historic design, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Standards 6 and 9. Approval of this application will not legalize the non-compliant windows at the front section of the building.

START TIME OF DISCUSSION IN ZOOM RECORDING: 00:40:51

PRESENTERS:

- Mr. Till presented the application to the Architectural Committee.
- Architect Raymond Rola represented the application.

DISCUSSION:

- Mr. Rola commented that the front facade windows had already been replaced when the current owners purchased the property. He added that the building has a lot of different window forms and types and the submitted drawings are based on drawings he did on the existing window conditions. When he first surveyed the windows, the stained glass was still extant in the side sanctuary windows in a variety of different conditions. In order to reuse the building for residences, the stained glass needed to be removed. Some of the original windows will be retained in areas where they do not need to be operable. He also added that he had surveyed the condition of the jambs on the side sanctuary windows, and the proposed new moldings reflect that and new brickmolds will be added in wood with the aluminum window system installed behind them.
- Mr. Cluver asked about the installation details. He pointed out the addition of an extra sill and a taller proposed bottom rail. He asked if those elements were aiming to match existing conditions.
 - Mr. Rola responded that the old sills and bottom rails were no longer fully extant when he made his drawings, so he cannot say whether they would match exactly, but they definitely will need to add some blocking on top of the wood sills to install the aluminum windows.
 - Mr. Cluver acknowledged the need to change out the old stained-glass windows to be able to reuse the building but noted that he is concerned that the details on the new windows are done well, especially with regard to the sizes and proportions of the stiles, rails and other window elements. Often, when new window systems are inserted into buildings like this one, they look a little bigger and "chunkier" than the originals. He emphasized aiming to keep as much clear window area as possible.

- o Mr. Rola responded that there are two situations with frame thickness with this project. Where they are proposing a fixed pane, the framing can be thinner than where they are proposing operable panels or double-hung windows. In addition, the general installation plan requires nailing an aluminum flange to the blocking to create a seal and then installing the jamb molding over that.
- Mr. Cluver suggested that the window manufacturer can likely provide clever solutions to details like the ones being discussed.
- Mr. Detwiler agreed with Mr. Cluver regarding trying to keep the new windows as thin as possible.
- Mr. Cluver additionally pointed out one of the existing windows as recorded on the drawings and questioned its arrangement and framing.
- Mr. McCoubrey inquired about the staff recommendation and its concern about the proposed new window light configuration compared to the original window patterns.
 - Mr. Till responded that the arrangements of panes on the original windows were difficult to fully make out both because some of them were already removed and the extant windows are covered with a metal protecting grating, making current conditions difficult to observe. That part of the staff recommendation was intended to ensure that the new arrangement of fixed pane, double-hung, and awning windows will match the historic windows as closely as possible.
 - o Mr. McCoubrey agreed that it is important to get the details right on this project.
 - Mr. Cluver suggested that it would be good to get some photographs of the window details with the metal grates removed submitted for the Historical Commission's records.
- Ms. Lukachik asked about the front-facade windows that were replaced by an earlier owner and whether the Historical Commission is pursuing enforcement efforts.
 - o Mr. Rola responded that they are not in the scope of work for this application.
 - o Mr. Farnham explained that this application is not proposing to legalize the front windows and that this application should be reviewed on its own merits. In addition, the Historical Commission's staff is looking into whether enforcement for the front windows will be possible given the amount of time that has passed since the first violation was issued and the change in ownership.
- Mr. Cluver commented that he is happy to see this building being put back to use.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS:

The Architectural Committee found that:

- The historic stained-glass windows are incompatible with a new residential use of the property.
- Some of the original stained-glass windows have already been removed, while others remain.
- The details of the new windows should be based on the proportions and design of the historic windows.
- Historic stained-glass windows were removed from the front façade in the past by a
 previous owner and this application will not legalize any violations related to those
 windows.

The Architectural Committee concluded that:

• The new windows will satisfy Standard 6, provided the details of their design are

- adjusted to more closely align with those of the historic windows.
- The new windows are differentiated from the old and are compatible with the materials, features, size, scale, and proportions of the historic building, satisfying Standard 9.

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Architectural Committee voted to recommend approval, provided the details of the windows are adjusted to more closely align with the historic design and that photographs of the surviving window details taken after the grates are removed are submitted to the Historical Commission, with the staff to review details, pursuant to Standards 6 and 9.

ITEM: 1629-37 S 28th St MOTION: Approval MOVED BY: Cluver SECONDED BY: Detwiler					
		VOTE			
Committee Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Dan McCoubrey	X				
John Cluver	X				
Rudy D'Alessandro					Х
Justin Detwiler	X				
Nan Gutterman	X				
Allison Lukachik	X				
Amy Stein	X				

ADDRESS: 1830 RITTENHOUSE SQ, UNIT 1A

Total

Proposal: Replace windows

Review Requested: Final Approval Owner: London Real Estate, LLC Applicant: Lea Litvin, Lo Design

History: 1913; Wetherill Apartment House; Frederick Webber, architect

Individual Designation: None

District Designation: Rittenhouse Fitler Historic District, Significant, 2/8/1995 Staff Contact: Dan Shachar-Krasnoff, daniel.shachar-krasnoff@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: The owner of Unit 1A on the first floor of this condominium building proposes to replace the windows by removing three historic casement windows with large wood mullions and replacing them with undivided picture windows. One window is on the Rittenhouse Square façade and two are on the S. 19th Street façade.

Since the building was designated, the staff has approved nine applications for replacement of windows at 1930 Rittenhouse that match the original in design, materials and dimensions. In 1995 the Historical Commission denied installation of a picture window in Unit 14A. In 2002, the Architectural Committee recommended denial of a picture window that was part of a larger application at Unit 15A. While reviewing that application, the Historical Commission initially voted to approve the project, including the picture window, but then sought to revise the motion and deny the picture window, the Commission's legal counsel advised against reversing the decision. Several units in the building have picture windows. Most were installed before the



September 16, 2025

Philadelphia Historic Commission 1515 Arch Street 13th Floor Philadelphia, Pa 19102

Re: Proposed Alterations to 1629 S. 28th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Owner/Client: 1629-37 S 28th Street, LLC 1744 Federal St. First Floor Philadelphia, PA 19146

To whom it may concern,

This submission is for final approval of window alterations to 1629-37 S. 28th Street, also known as The John Chambers Memorial Church. This church building was built in 1901 in the Gothic Revival style. Work is currently progressing under an approved building permit #CP-2023-001936 that includes interior alterations of the existing building to create Thirty-Seven (37) dwelling units, with interior bicycle storage. The current approved Building Permit did not include any work regarding the existing window fenestration.

The 28th Street fenestration and part of the Morris Street fenestration had been significantly altered prior to the building being purchased by the current owner. It is not known when these alterations took place. The existing stained-glass windows at the sides and rear of the sanctuary and at the balcony level did exist when the building was purchased by the current owner. Many of these windows, although very beautiful, were damaged. They also could not be used as the primary windows in the new plan for multi-family units. The windows were removed by a salvage company for restoration and circulation in the antique and historical artifacts marketplace.

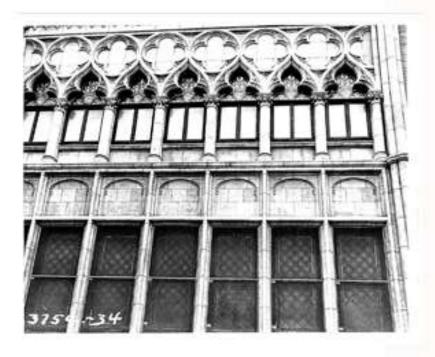
Included in this submission is an inventory of all the existing window openings as well as the shop drawings for proposed new windows.

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Rola, AIA



HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH

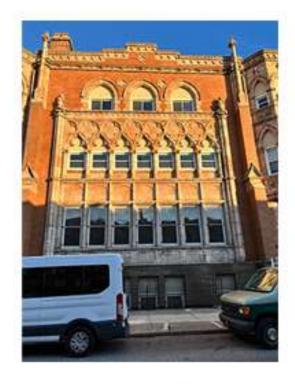


HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH



RECENT PHOTOGRAPH 1629 S. 28TH STREET













RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS
1629 S. 28TH STREET

APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

APPLICATION # ___

(Please complete all information below and print clearly)



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING - CONCOURSE 1401 JOHN F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102
For more information visit us at www.phila.gov

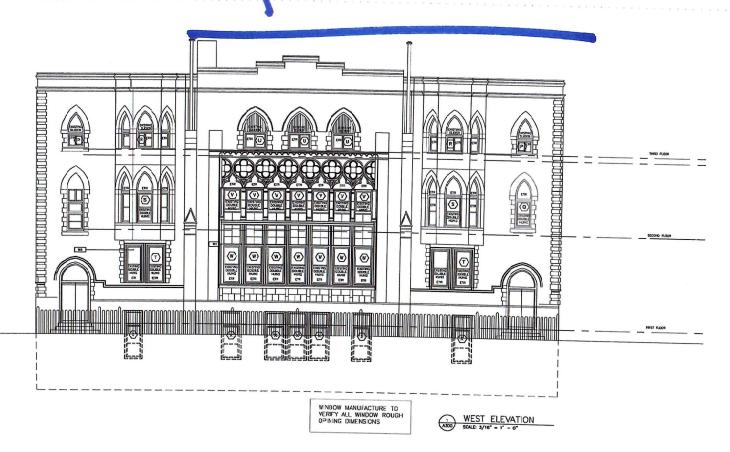
ADDRESS OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

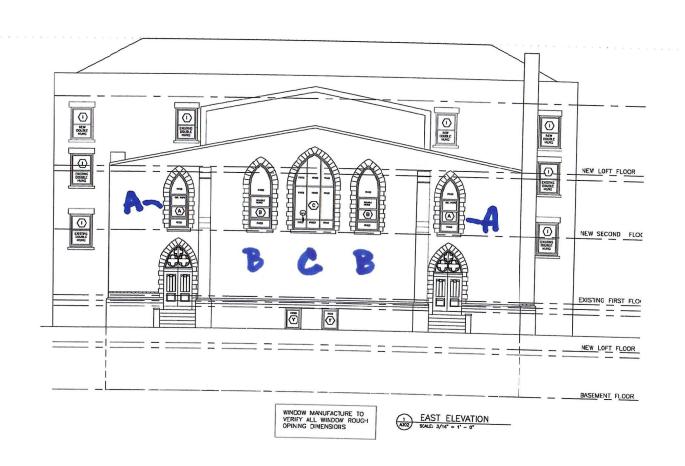
1629-37 S. 28th	
APPLICANT: Keith Yaller	APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 1901 Hazzard st
COMPANY NAME: Architectural Window Corp.	Philadelphia , Pa 19125
PHONE # 215-292-7505 FAX #	LICENSE #42428 E-MAIL:
PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Finch Development LLC Meir Badush	PROPERTY OWNER'S ADDRESS:
722 406 0202	1629-37 S 28 th st
PHONE # 732-490-0303 FAX # ARCHITECT / ENGINEER IN RESPONSIBLE CHARGE:	Philadelphia, Pa 19145 ARCHITECT / ENGINEERING FIRM ADDRESS:
	ARCHITECT / ENGINEERING FIRM ADDRESS:
ARCHITECT / ENGINEERING FIRM:	
PHONE #267-212-6200 FAX #	LICENSE # E-MAIL:
Mike Morton	CONTRACTING COMPANY ADDRESS:
CONTRACTING COMPANY:	1901 Hazzard St
Architectural Window Corp.	Phila, pa 19125
PHONE # 877-286-1881 FAX #	LICENSE #5550 E-MAIL:
USE OF BUILDING / SPACE:	ESTIMATED COST OF WORK
	s 155,200.00
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORK:	
Supply and Install New Aluminum w	indows: Into Existing Openings
Historic Casing Trim to be installed of	on windows
Per Drawings	
TOTAL AREA UNDERGOING CONSTRUC	oqual creat
COMPLETE THESE ITEMS IF APPLICABLE TO THIS APPLICATION	ON:
# OF NEW SPRINKLER HEADS (suppression system permits only):	LOCATION OF SPRINKLERS:
# OF NEW REGISTERS / DIFFUSERS (have / ductwork permits only):	LOCATION OF STANDPIPES:
IS THIS APPLICATION IN RESPONSE TO A VIOLATION? NO	YES VIOLATION #:
All provisions of the building code and other City ordinances will be complied with, wheth application. I hereby certify that the statements contained herein are true and correct to the make the foregoing application, and that, before I accept my permit for which this application that if I knowingly make any false statement berein I am subject to such penalties as may	ne best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that I am authorized by the owner to on is made, the owner shall be made aware of all conditions of the permit. I understand y be prescribed by law or ordinance.
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE	DATE: 8, 19, 25

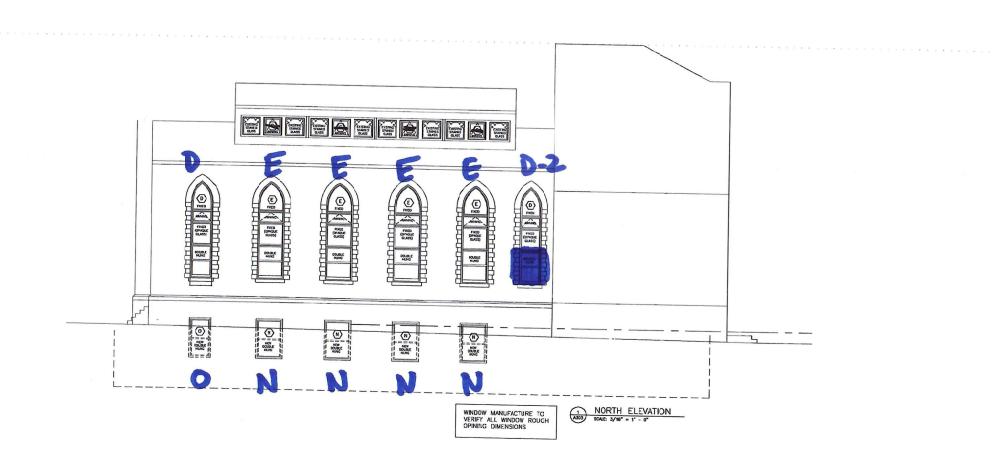
81-3 (Rev. 11/18)

	PRE-R	REQUISITE A	PPROVALS FOR:	
ADDRESS: APPLICATION #:			PLICATION #:	
√ IF REQ'D	AGENCY	INITIALS	DATE	DEMARKS
	ART COMMISSION	INTIALO	DAIL	REMARKS
	13 TH FLOOR - 1515 ARCH STREET CITY PLANNING COMMISSION			
	13TH FLOOR - 1515 ARCH STREET			
	HISTORICAL COMMISSION 13TH FLOOR - 1515 ARCH STREET			
	FAIRMOUNT PARK COMMISSION			
	☐ CITY ☐ STATE			
	AIR MANAGEMENT / HEALTH DEPARTMENT STREETS DEPARTMENT			
	ROOM 940 - M.S.B. WATER DEPARTMENT			
	2ND FLOOR - 1101 MARKET STREET			
	EMERGENCY SERVICES & ABATEMENT UNIT ROOM 1140 - M.S.B.			
	ZONING			
	N FOR WORK WITHOUT A PERMIT?	NO YES (I	NSPECTION FEE MUST B	E ADDED TO PERMIT FEE)
IOLATION#_				

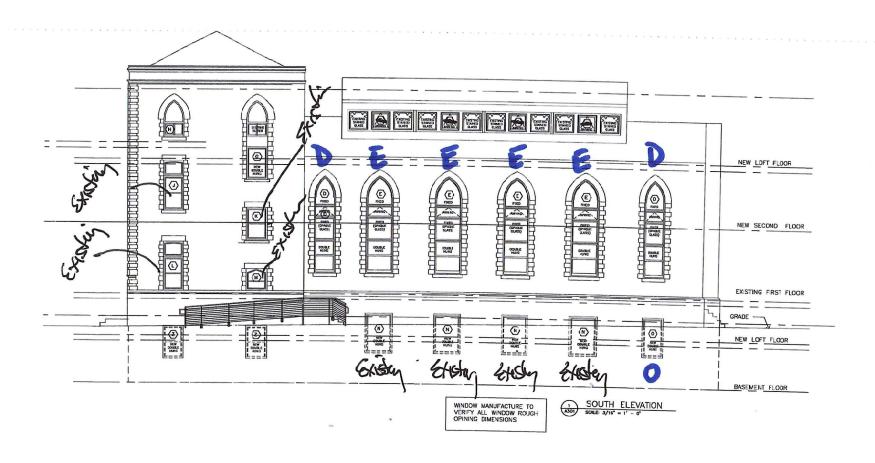
Nothing of Front Elevation



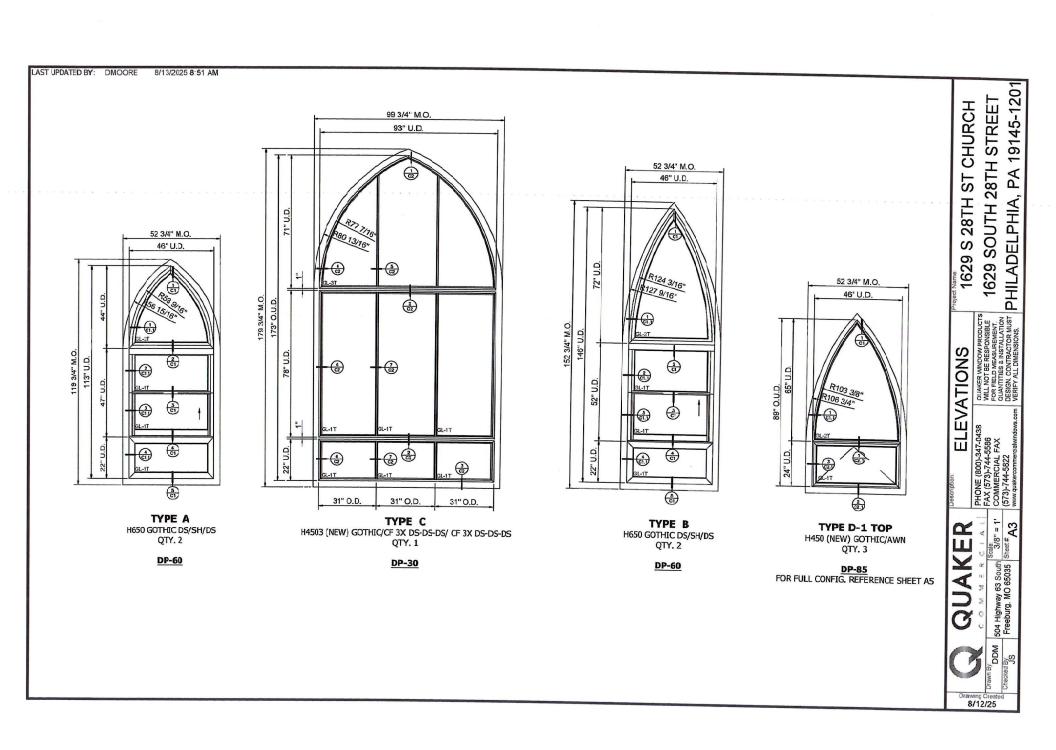


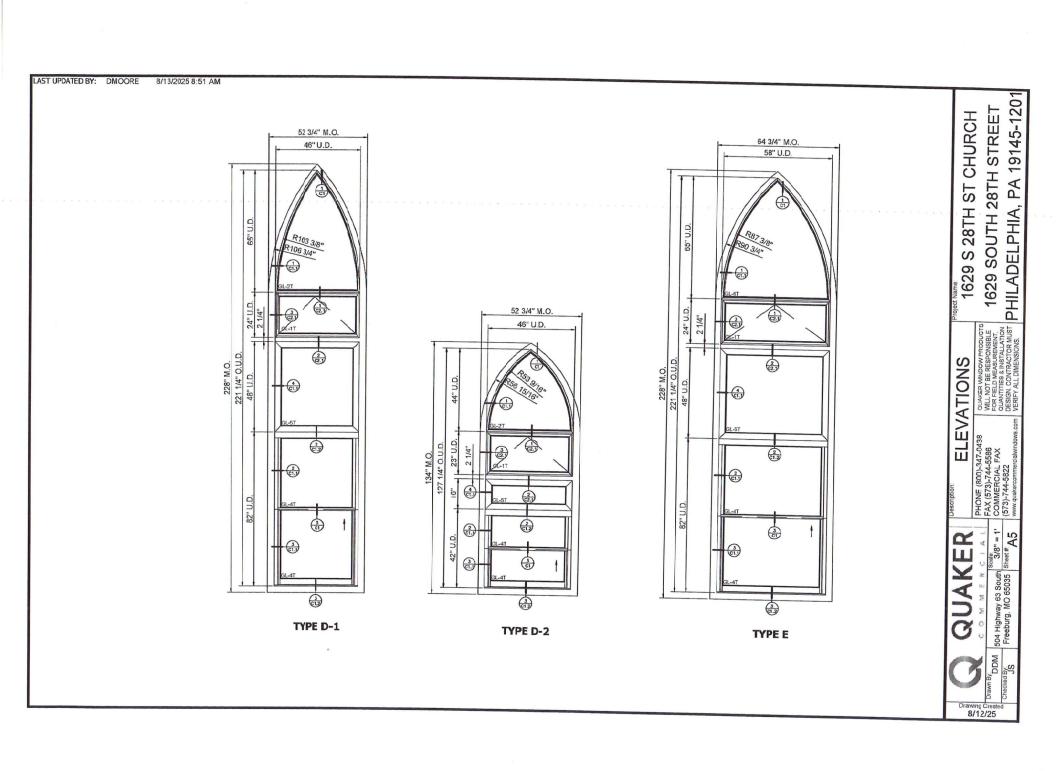


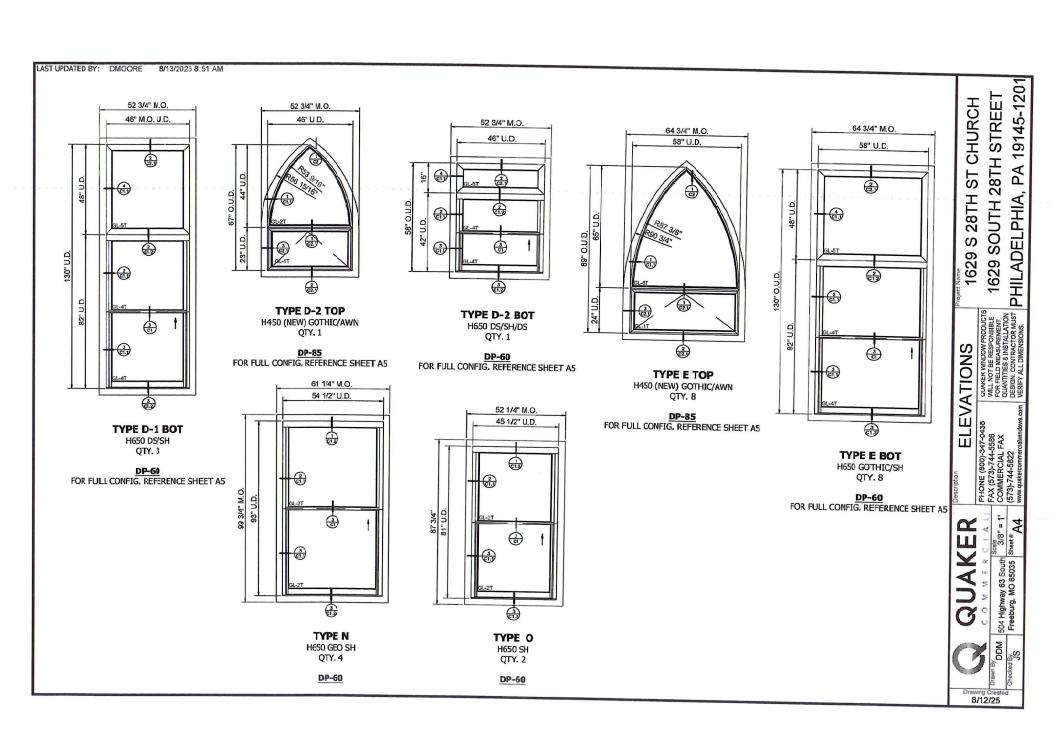
A303



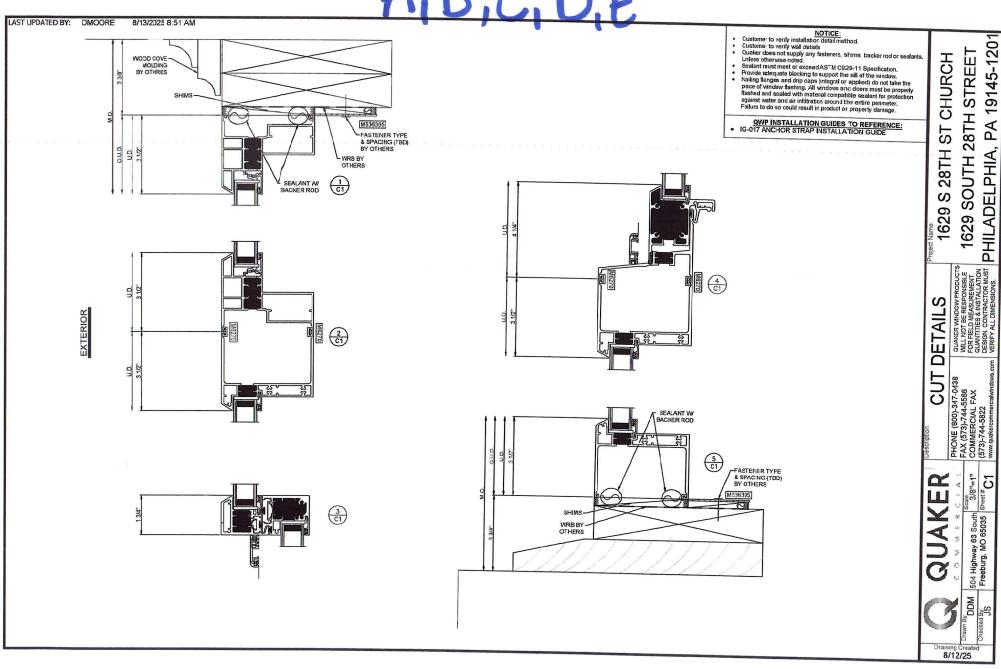
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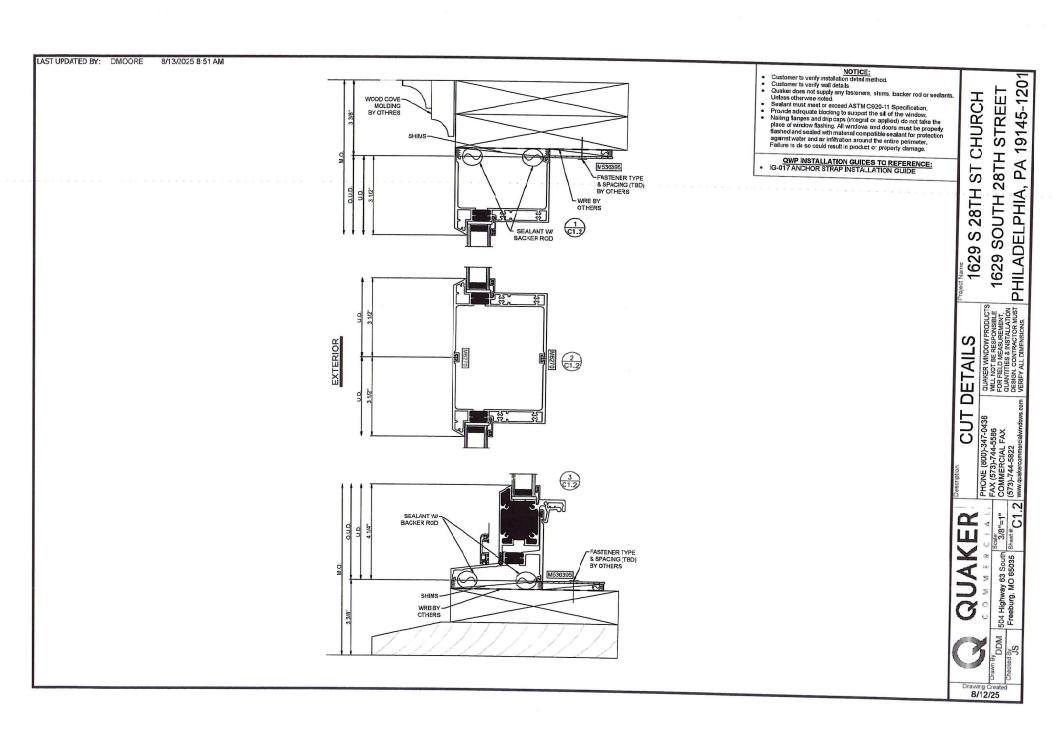


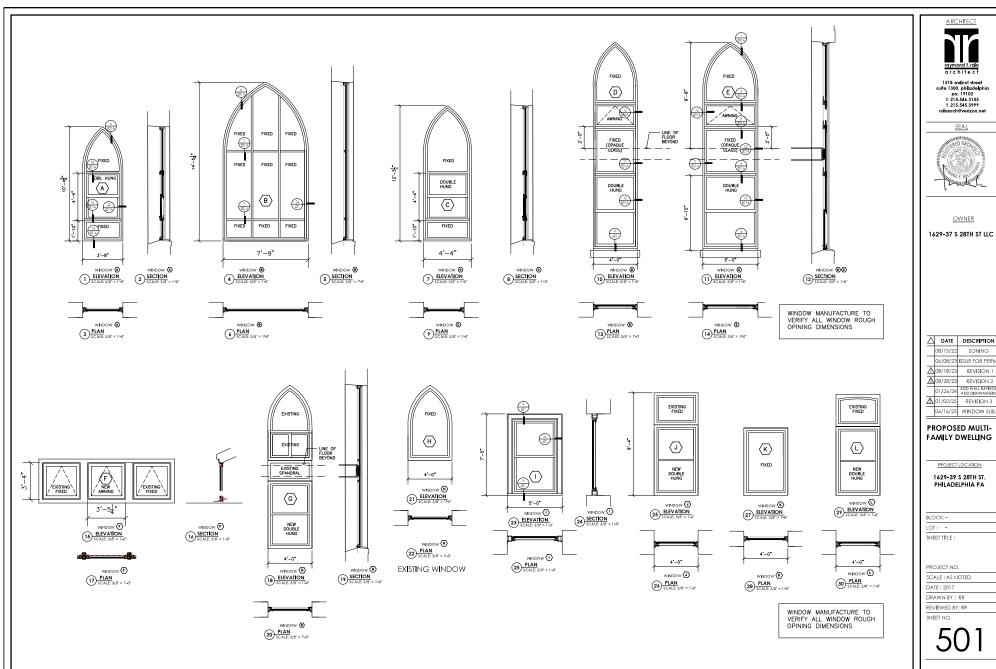




A,B,C,D,E





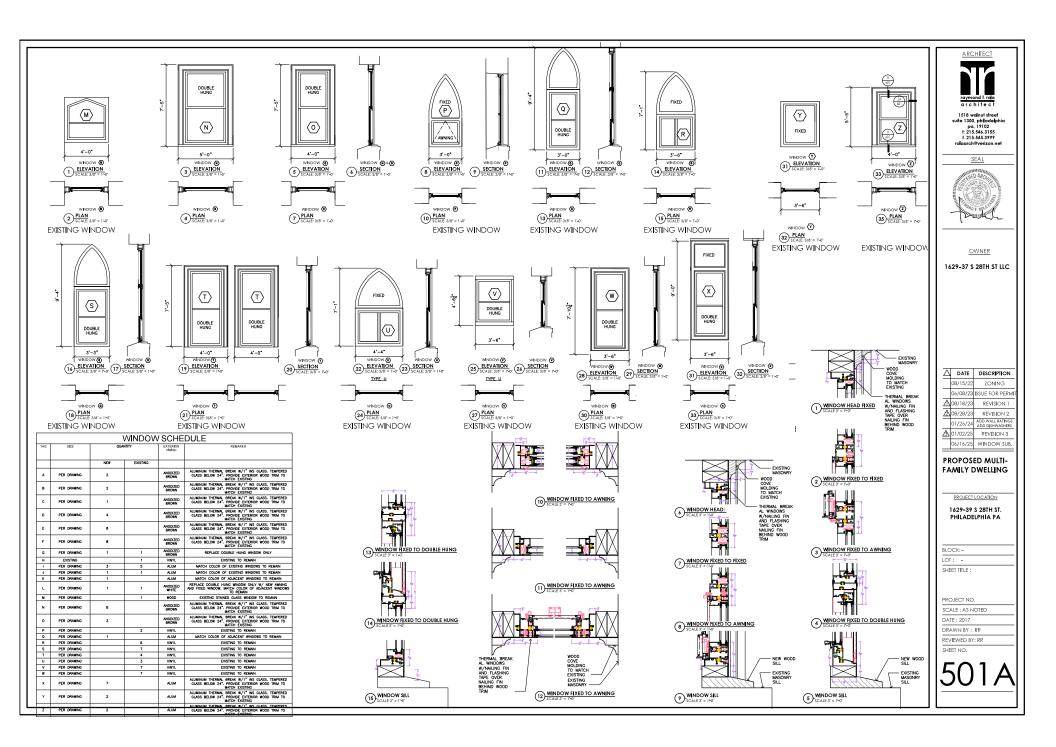


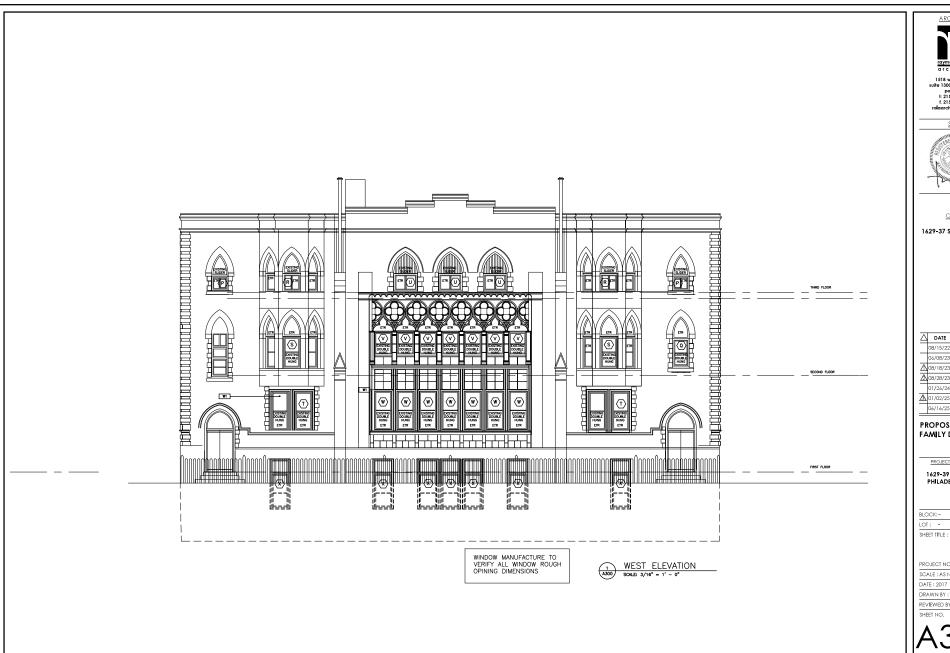




Δ	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	08/15/22	ZONING
	06/08/23	ISSUE FOR PERMIT
$\overline{\mathbb{A}}$	08/18/23	REVISION 1
Δ	08/28/23	REVISION 2
	01/26/24	ADD WALL RATINGS ADD DISHWASHERS
A	01/02/25	REVISION 3
	06/16/25	WINDOW SUB.

PROPOSED MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING







1518 walnut street suite 1300, philadelphia pa, 19102 t: 215.546.3155 f. 215.545.3999 rolaarch@verizon.net

SEAL



<u>OWNER</u>

1629-37 S 28TH ST LLC

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PROPOSED MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING

PROJECT LOCATION

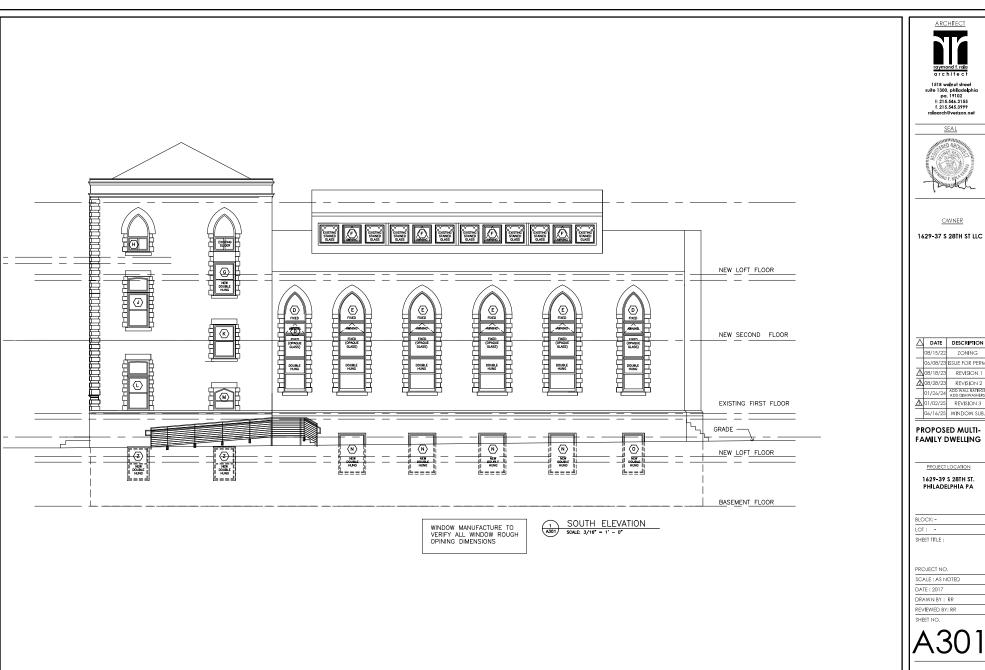
1629-39 S 28TH ST. PHILADELPHIA PA

BLOCK: -LOT: -

SCALE : AS NOTED

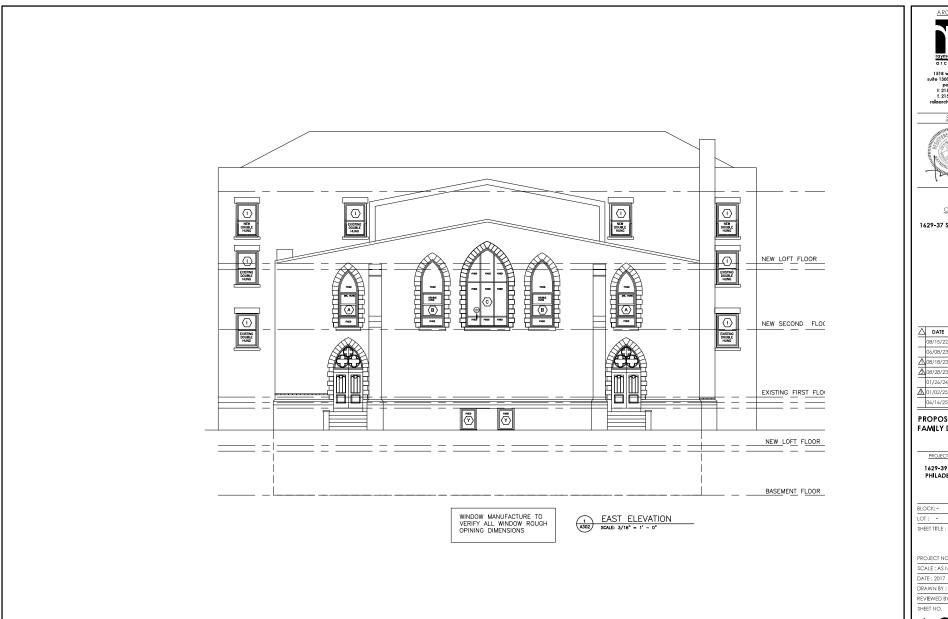
DRAWN BY : RR

REVIEWED BY: RR





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1518 walnut street suite 1300, philadelphia pa, 19102 t: 215.546.3155 f. 215.545.3999 rolaarch@verizon.net

SEAL



<u>OWNER</u>

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PROPOSED MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING

PROJECT LOCATION

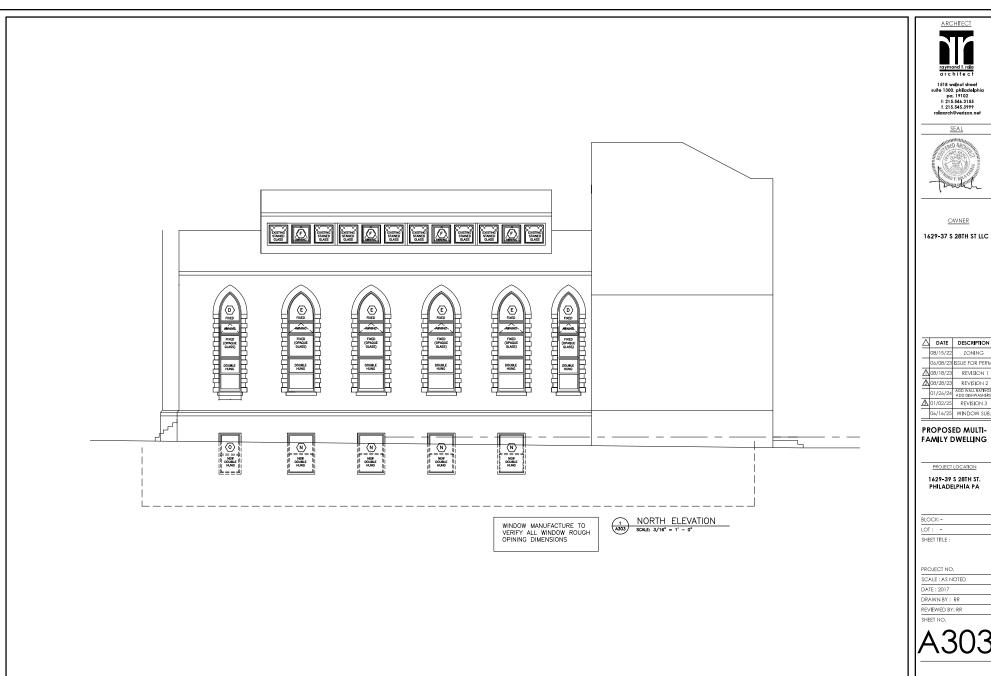
1629-39 S 28TH ST. PHILADELPHIA PA

LOT: -

PROJECT NO. SCALE : AS NOTED

DATE: 2017 DRAWN BY : RR

REVIEWED BY: RR





1518 walnut street suite 1300, philadelphia pa, 19102 t: 215.546.3155 f. 215.545.3999 rolaarch@verizon.net



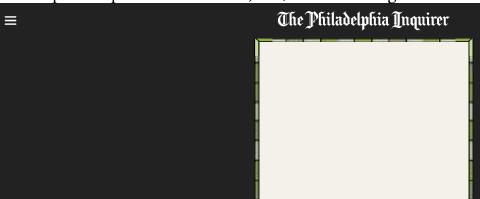
<u>OWNER</u>

_		
Δ	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	08/15/22	ZONING
	06/08/23	ISSUE FOR PERMIT
$\overline{\mathbb{A}}$	08/18/23	REVISION 1
Δ	08/28/23	REVISION 2
	01/26/24	ADD WALL RATINGS ADD DISHWASHERS
A	01/02/25	REVISION 3
	06/16/25	WINDOW SUB.

FAMILY DWELLING

PROJECT LOCATION

PHILADELPHIA PA



The easure Hunter

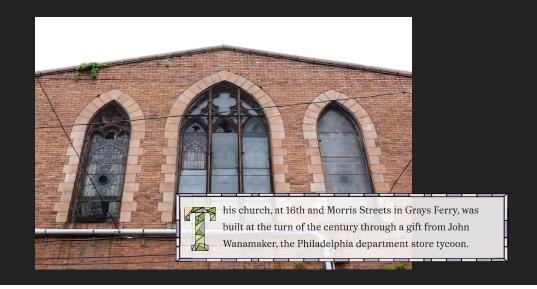
Paul Brown salvages stained glass windows, rusty signs, and century-old pews from Philadelphia buildings, searching for treasure.

By Zoe Greenberg and Charmaine Runes Published Jul 8, 2025

Copy gift link 🏗



See what he finds.

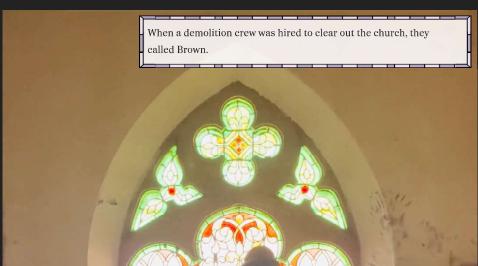


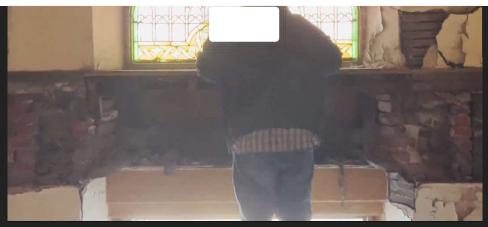


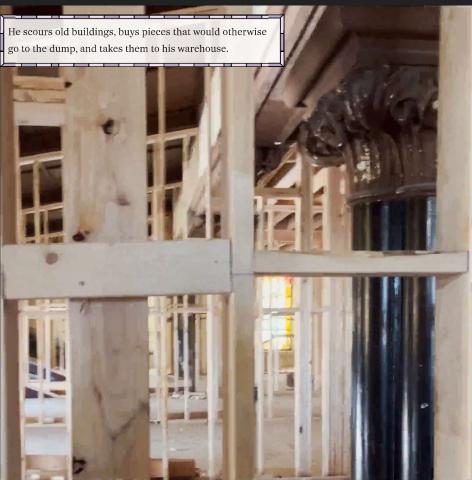


ADVEDTICEMENT





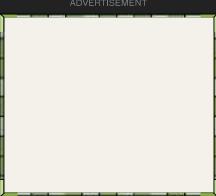




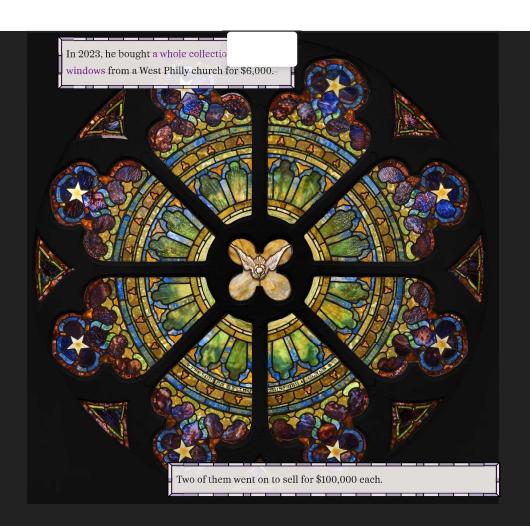


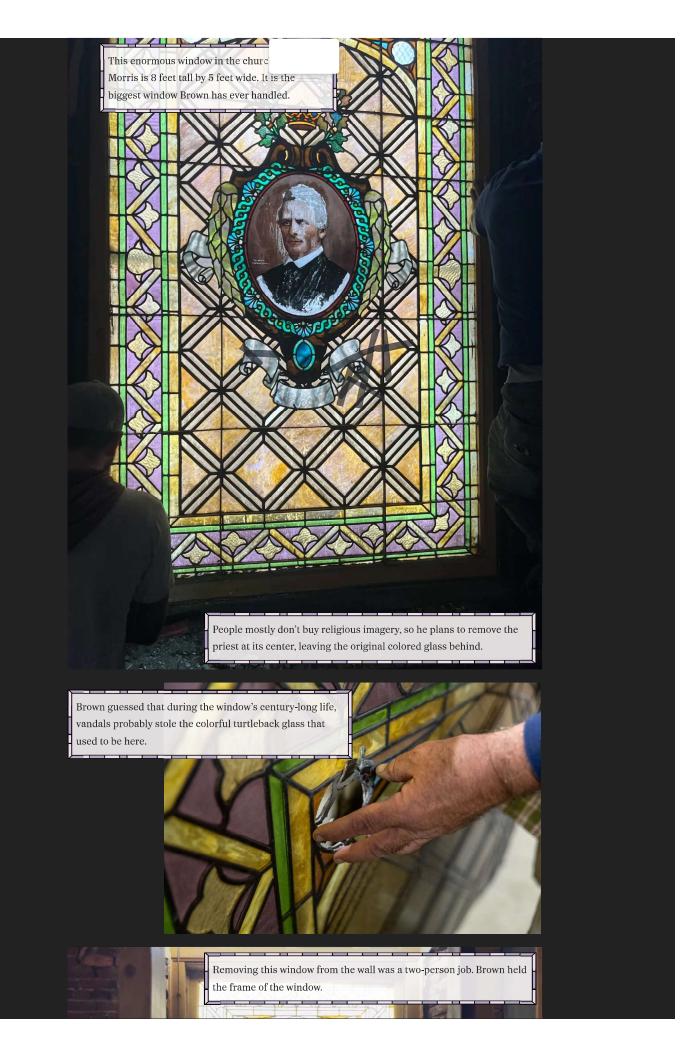


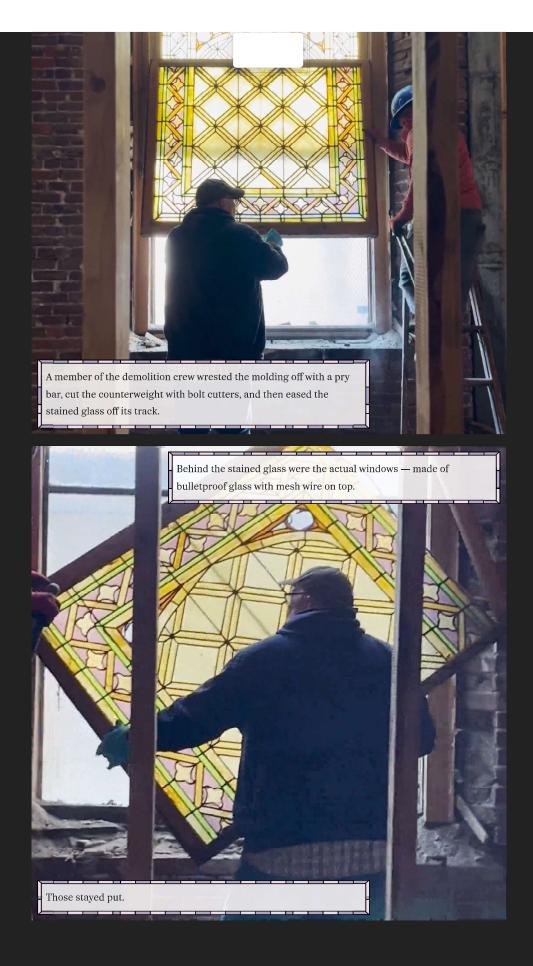
ADVEDTICEMENT





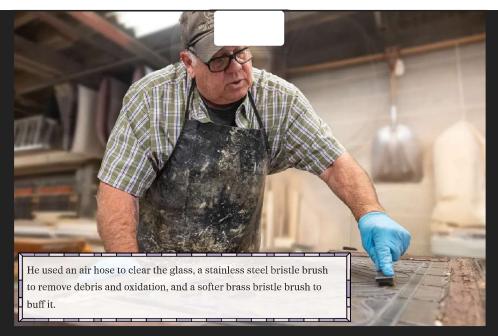






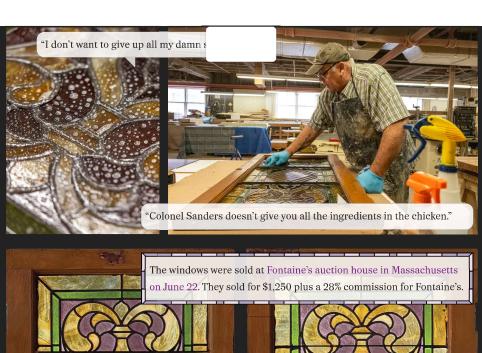


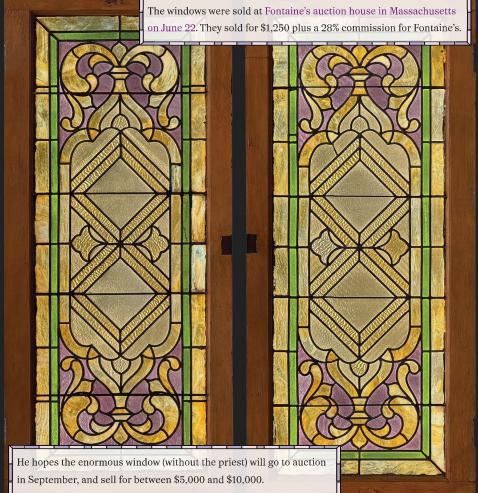


















After Brown removed, prepped, and polished them, they sold for \$134,355 total, including the buyer's commission, in a May auction at Fontaine's. "Where [else] do you get a chance to go back in time," he asked, "to salvage a piece of history?"

Staff Contributors

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