ADDRESS: 257 S 4TH ST

Proposal: Remove addition; construct wall and garage; add windows and doors

Review Requested: Review In Concept

Owner: M Dwell Two, LLC

Applicant: Judith Robinson and Jane Ahn History: 1810; three-story rear addition in 1981

Individual Designation: 4/30/1957

District Designation: Society Hill Historic District, Significant, 3/10/1999

Staff Contact: Alex Till, <u>alexander.till@phila.gov</u>

BACKGROUND:

This application proposes to remove a non-historic three-story rear addition on a Federal rowhouse that is both individually designated and listed as a significant resource in the Society Hill Historic District. The newly exposed western wall will feature three large openings set with a combination of windows and French doors and Juliett balconies on the upper stories. It also proposes to construct a brick wall and live-roof garage structure on the rear yard of the property. Additionally, it proposes to add one skylight to the rear slope of the roof, add one window and one set of French doors with guardrail to the exposed north side façade of the house and add windows and doors to a small historic rear ell. The building was constructed c. 1810 and is three-and-a-half stories tall with a gable roof and brick façade. The three-story addition proposed for removal is located behind the main block of the building and dates to 1981. The current front façade, north façade, and roof were reconstructed to their current forms in 1963. Prior to 1963, the front façade had a first-floor storefront, and the north wall of the building was covered by a neighboring garage. Upon removal of that garage, the owner, in consultation with the Historical Commission and Redevelopment Authority, reconstructed that facade with a new brick veneer, added the current windows with shutters, and rebuilt the chimneys and side roofline to match the rest of the row. The newly exposed rear wall, rear roof, and north side will all be at least partially visible from some surrounding public pedestrian walkways including S. 4th Street, St. James Place and St. Joseph's Way.

The applicants presented a similar design but with an added roof deck for an in-concept review to the Architectural Committee in April 2025. At that time, the Committee was receptive to all of the changes other than the roof deck.

SCOPE OF WORK:

- Remove a three-story non-historic rear addition; add windows and doors to rear wall;
- Construct a brick wall and a live-roof garage structure around the rear yard; and,
- Add a window and French door to the north façade; add windows and doors to rear ell.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW:

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines include:

- Standard 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.
 - The proposed live roof and garage structure for the rear yard satisfies Standard 9. It does not affect any historic materials and is compatible with the massing, size, and scale of the historic building.

- The proposed addition of a window to the north wall is compatible with Standard 9. While an end wall like this one would likely not have had any windows in it if it were original, the wall as it currently stands with existing windows was reconstructed in 1963 with the approval of the Historical Commission. The addition of one more window does not further impair the architectural features of this property. However, the proposed addition of the French doors with guardrail to the north wall does not meet Standard 9 as it is too specific and distinctive a feature to be compatible with the historic design of the building.
- The proposed addition of new windows and doors to the rear wall and rear ell may satisfy Standard 9. New openings in general are compatible with the historic features of the building, but the proposed arrangements and extent of new windows and doors may alter the appearance to too large an extent to be compatible with the historic design features of the building.
- Standard 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 and its environment would be unimpaired.
 - The removal of the 1981 rear addition satisfies Standard 10. It is itself a non-historic addition that was reviewed and approved by the Historical Commission in 1981. Its removal will not impair the essential form or integrity of the historic building.
- Roofs Guideline | Recommended: Designing rooftop additions, elevator or stair towers, decks or terraces, dormers, or skylights when required by a new or continuing use so that they are inconspicuous and minimally visible on the site and from the public right-of-way and do not damage or obscure character-defining historic features.
 - The proposed new skylight satisfies the Roofs Guideline. It will be small and minimally visible from surrounding public rights-of-way.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of all aspects of the application except the addition of the French doors with guardrail to the north wall, pursuant to Standards 9 and 10.

IMAGES:

Figure 1: 1895, G. W. Bromley Atlas. Property outlined in red.

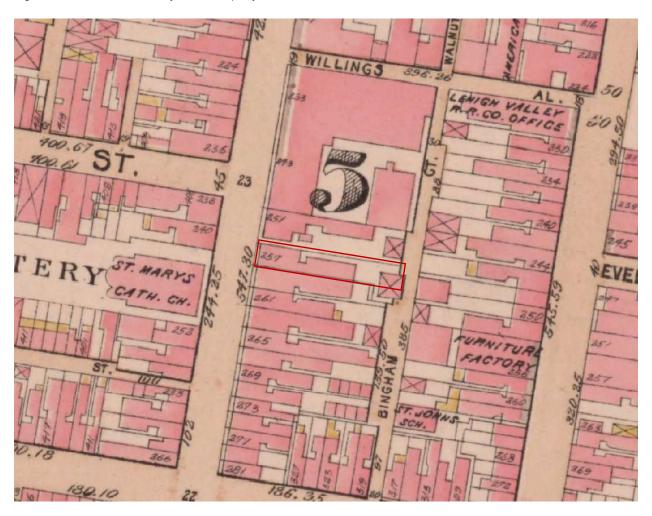


Figure 2: 1962 WPA Land Use map. Location of property outlined in red. Note the attached neighboring garage.

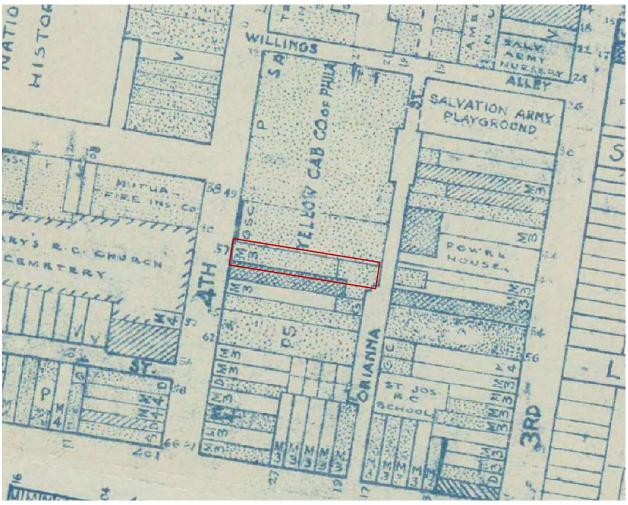


Figure 3: View of front of 257 S 4th St looking down the side of its north façade from 4th St:



Figure 4: View of the of 257 S 4th St looking west from St. Joseph's Way:



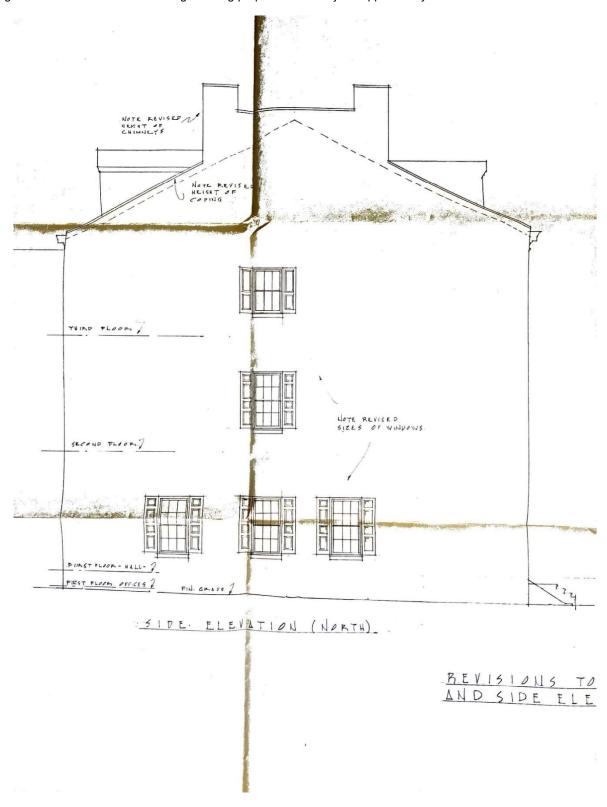
Figure 5: Aerial view of 257 S 4th St, looking southwest:



Figure 6: 1957 Photo of 257 S 4^{th} St showing condition before 1963 restoration work. Note first floor storefront and abutting garage building.



Figure 7: 1963 Architectural drawing showing proposed north façade approved by Historical Commission at that time:





November 17, 2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission 1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19102

Re: 257 S 4th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

RP-2025-011857

The Owner of the above referenced 4-story single family residence plans to renovate the existing blighted building into a four-bedroom, four-bathroom home with residential elevator. The renovation will include a new interior layout and finishes: a new kitchen, new bathrooms and powder rooms, new interior partitions, stairs, and some new windows to bring additional daylight into the home.

The 3-story addition at the rear that was added in the 1980's will be removed to return the home to its previously existing footprint and create a rear yard outdoor space.

The existing openings in the east facing façade have been repeatedly modified over the years (see attached photos). The renovation proposes openings of a consistent width, based on the existing width of the third floor opening and aligning each opening floor to floor-- similar to the neighbor to the south.

Per suggestions from PHC at the preliminary meeting, juliette-style balconies have been added in a few locations to create a feeling of outdoor space, in lieu of the roof deck initially proposed.

Thank you for taking the time to review our application for building permit.

Sincerely,

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Judy Robinson, Architect
Continuum Architecture & Design PC

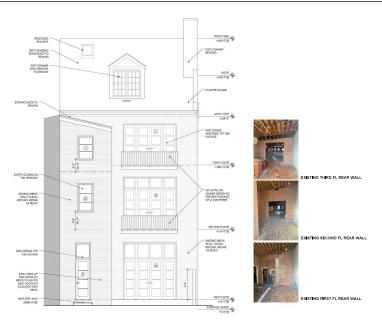
AERIAL VIEW OF PROPERTY



4TH STREET FACADES



REAR FACADES



257 S 4TH STREET CONTEXT AND PROPOSAL

PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION



Δ





GENERAL NOTES

- COMPLY WITH CODEs: All work shall comply with 2018 RC, and Philadelphia Building Code.
 NAZARDUS MATERIALS Whater no circumstances shall the handing removed, or disposal of hazardous materials (including, but not limited to asbeta) be undertaken as part of the work of this control. Ability hower immediately do ny hazardous materials reconsidered and proceed only when and as disclosed by the Owner.
 PRISMIS: The Controlor shall be responsible for assing that of increasing permit no posted on she and that of explained inspections are completed. The Controlor shall be DOSCEPRICIOS: When controls exist within the between part of the construction downers and applicate translation, and ardiances the more stingent, or high quality requirements shall apply. Large scale dawings that lake precedence over small scale drawings, figured dimensions on the drawings over scaled dimensions, and noted material or graphic representations. Control Architect for collicition of a disrepancy is fortuned in an artificial process.
 DIMINISTORS: Dimensions are to finitived face and rounded to require which includes the control of the districtions and the redictionaries of the rew work to the existing construction and report any discrepancies to the SIBMISTORS. Dimensions are to finitived face and rounded to be dimensions and the declinations of the rew work to the existing construction and report any discrepancies to the
- Architect in advance of fabrication of the affected work.

 FIRST QUALITY WORK: All work shall conform to standards of the industry for first quality workmanship and materials and shall strictly comply with manufacturer's recommendations and
- specification.

 8. IECCRISC, Contractor is responsible for installation of all blocking of areas which have milwork, shelving, and Owner supplied items requiring support.

 8. IECCRISC, Contractor is responsible for installation of all blocking of areas which have milwork, shelving, and Owner supplied items requiring support.

 9. IECCRISC, Contractor is responsible for installation of a contraction of a contract

- Fig. REACED ANTERNALS Where the contractions crossrscore or the project leaves in an instance, is a second of the project leaves in an instance is a second of the project leaves in the project leave

MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING CODE INFORMATION 2018 International Residential Code

Proise: Description:

Benemode of one existing 3.5-story single family home including (600 and pill) removed of existing 3-story addition to create a rear yard; new stors, partitions, littlehen and boths; partial green roof over existing parking. See Zoning Permit# ZP-2025-001649

- Fire Resistant Construction (Table ENZI III):

 Elleria valit with the supportation distance less than 5ft to be
 Projections not closed where fire separation distance is less than
 2ft organization to be 1 has fire raised from undeside when fire
 2ft organization to be 1 has fire raised from undeside when fire
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 less than 3ft where separation distance is 35°-35′ clowed 25%
 unfined.

 Fire relations in wide with fire separation distance less than 3ft
 and comply with 850°-4.

- Automatic Sprinkler Systems (R313.1):

 The existing building is not provided with a residential sprinkler system and a prinkler system in on proposed.

 Per exception: An automatic residential fire sprinkler system shall not be required where additions or alterations are made to existing townhouses that do not have an automatic residential fire sprinkler system installed.

Smake Alarms (R314): Smake Alarms shall be provided and installed in accordance

- Smoke Adarms shall be provided and installed in accordance with R314.
 Smoke Adarms shall be installed in each sleeping room; outside
- Smoke Alarms shall be installed in each sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedroom; on each story of the dwelling including basements. Smoke Alarms shall be installed not less than 3 see the harizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke dorm as outlined above.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms (R315): Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall be provided and installed in

- Carboth Monolabe Alalms shall be provided and installed in accordance with 831s.
 Carboth Monolabe Alalms shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedroom Combination Carboth Monolabe and Smoke Alarms shall be permitted to be used in fleu of Carbon Monolabe Alarms.

IECC TABLE 402.1.2 - CLIMATE ZONE 4a		
FENESTRATION U-FACTOR	0.32	
SKYLIGHT U-FACTOR	0.55	
GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC	.40	
CEILING R-VALUE	49	
WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE	20 or 13+5	
MASS WALL VALUE	8/13	
FLOOR R-VALUE	19	
BASEMENT WALL R-VALUE	10/13	
SLAB R-VALUE and DEPTH	10, 2ft	
CRAWL SPACE WALL R-VALUE	10/13	

PESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE INFORMATION

IECC 2018

new construction without requiring the unaftered portion of the existing building or building system to comply with this code.

DOCUMENT INDEX		
DWG#	DWG DESCRIPTION	ISSUE DATE
A-0.0 A-1.0 A-1.1 A-1.2 A-1.3 A-2.1 A-2.2 A-2.3 A-2.4 A-2.5 A-2.6	SITE PLAN. CODE INFORMATION and NOTES REMOVAL FRANKS FLOOR PLANS FLOOR PLANS FLOOR PLANS BUILDING ELECTRON BUILDING ELECTRON BUILDING ELECTRON BUILDING SECTIONS BUILDING SECT	10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25
S-1 S-2 S-3 S-4	STRUCTURAL- NOTES STRUCTURAL- FOUNDATION and FRAMING PLANS STRUCTURAL- FRAMING PLANS and SECTIONS STRUCTURAL- FRAMING PLANS and SECTIONS	10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25 10-22-25

CONTINUUM ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN, INC. STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS TO BE INCLUDED AS DOCUMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT. CONTACT ARCHITECT FOR A DIGITAL COPY OF THE STANDARD SPECIFICATION.





Owner:

M Dwell Two, LLC. 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Project Name & Location

Existing Single Family Home Remodel 257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

SITE PLAN, CODE INFORMATION and NOTES

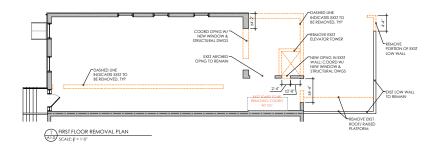


ISSUED FOR BLDG PMT 10-22-25

A0.0

O CELLAR REMOVAL PLAN

A1.0 SCALE: § = 1:0'

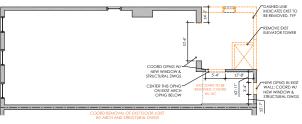


AS-10 CORES THE SHOOK OF EST HOOK OFFE SHOOK OFFE SHOOK

SECOND FLOOR REMOVAL PLAN

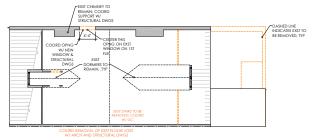
SCALE:

\$' = 1':0'



3 THIRD FLOOR REMOVAL PLAN

A1.0 SCALE: # = 1'-0"



4).0 SCALE: 8" = 1"-0"

GENERAL REMOVAL NOTES

- GOVERNING CODES: All work shall comply with codes and authorities having juisdiction over the project. Comply with governing EPA notification regulations before beginning selective removal. Comply with hauling and disposal regulations of authorities having juridaction.
- 2. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Under no circumstances shall the handling, removal, or disposal of hazardous malerials (including but not limited to abstessloj be undertaken so part of the work of this contract. Nolify Owner immediately of any hazardous madelals encountered and proceed only when and as directed by the Owner
- EXISTING CONDITIONS: The Contractor shall verify on the job site all dimensions and the relationships of the new work to the existing construction being removed and report any discrepancies to the Architect in advance of removal work.
- 4. DISCREPBNCIES: Where conflicts exist within or between parts of the documents and applicable standards, codes, and ordinances, the more stringent or high qualify requirements shall apply. Large scale drawings shall take precedence over small scale drawings, figured dimensions on the drawings over scaled dimensions, and noted material over graphic representations.
- S. MATERIAS OWNESSHIP: Except for items or materials indicated to be reused, solvoged, reinstalled, or otherwise indicated to remain Owner's properly, demolished underlaids shall become Contractor's property and shall be removed from the project site.
- OCCUPIED PROPERIES: If adjacent properties are occupied, or if Owner will occupy portions of the building immediately adjacent to removal area, conduct removal so adjacent property will not be diffected or Owner's operations will not be disupted. Provide not less than 72 hours notice to Owner of activities that will affect adjacent property or Owner's operations.
- ACCESS: Maintain access to existing walkways, conidors, and othe adjacent occupied or used facilities, UNO.
- opc.em couped or even during, unco.

 B. EAMANIONE before starting work, verify that utilities have been disconnected and capped. Survey estiting conditions and correlate with requirement inscircted to determine either of starting the removed with requirement inscircted to determine either of starting the removed and reinfalled and items to be removed and shallowed. When unanticiposted mechanical, deschool, on all ruthural elements that contill with the riterated function or design are encounteed. Prompty submit or within report to the Architect. Preferran sureps as the voix progresses to detect hazards resulting from selective removal activities.
- BLRFORMY ROUSE(DN: Provide termorary baricades and other profession required to prevent injury to people and administration of the profession and provide provide the provided provi
- GENERAL SELECTIVE REMOVAL: Demolish and remove existing construction only to the extent required by new construction and as indicated. Use methods required to complete the Work within limitations of governing regulations.
- EXISTING ITEMS TO REMAIN OR BE SALVAGED Protect construction indicated to remain or be salvaged against damage and soing during selective removal. Coordinate with Owner the location of protective storage for items to be salvaged.
- 12. REPAIRS: Promptly repair damage to adjacent construction caused by removal operations. Where repairs to existing surfaces are required, patch to produce surfaces suitable for new materials. The contractor shall close all breaches and voids in party walls with like materials.
- DISPOSAL OF REMOVED MATERIALS: Promptly dispose of removed materials. Do not allow removed materials to accumulate on-site. Do not burn removed materials. Transport removed materials off Owner's property and legally dispose of them.
- PARTY WALLS: The Contractor shall maintain the integrity of party walls and shall provide any and all shoring and bracing required for liheir support.
- ADJACENT FOUNDATION WALLS: Foundation walls enclosing interior space that become exposed to earth as a result of demosition shall be damp-proofed in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Building Code prior to back-filing.
- 16. ADJACENT BILLIDING WALLS Interior walls that become exterior walls as a result of demolfation that comply with applicable standards and structural performance. The expense partial of the wall to be temporarily protected from weather damage by largoulars, waltergood papers, or other temporary means approved for use by code official for maximum period of 80 days, Such temporary protection shall be a markinated in exemble profession.
- BEARING WALLS: Verify that walls scheduled to be removed are NOT bearing. If during demolition, walls scheduled to be removed are discovered to be bearing and not noted as such, DO NOT remove and contact the Architect immediately.





Owner:

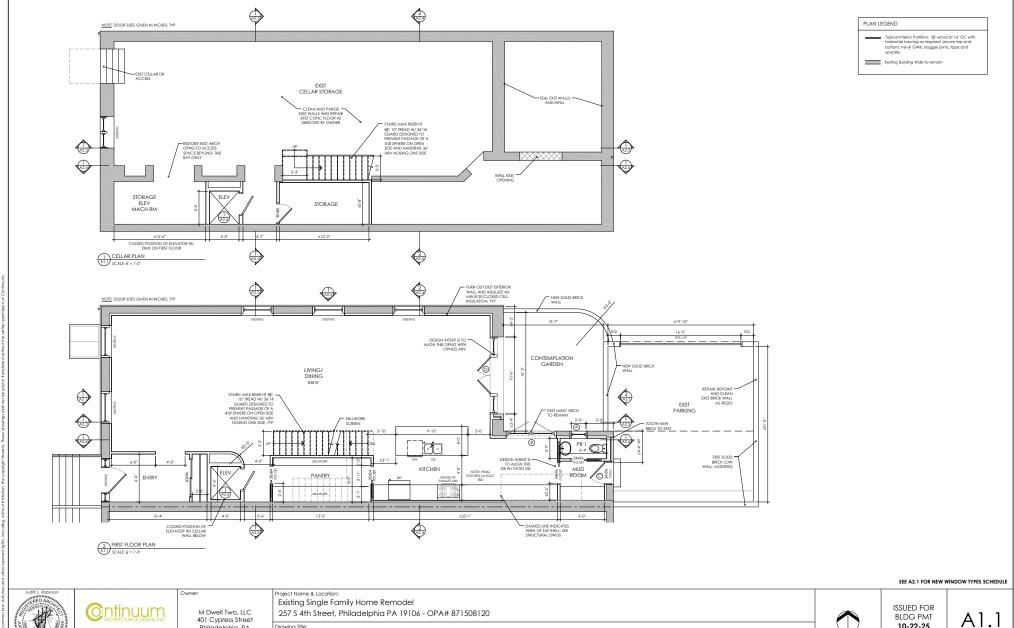
M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 Project Name & Location:
Existing Single Family Home Remodel
257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

Drawing Title

REMOVAL PLANS



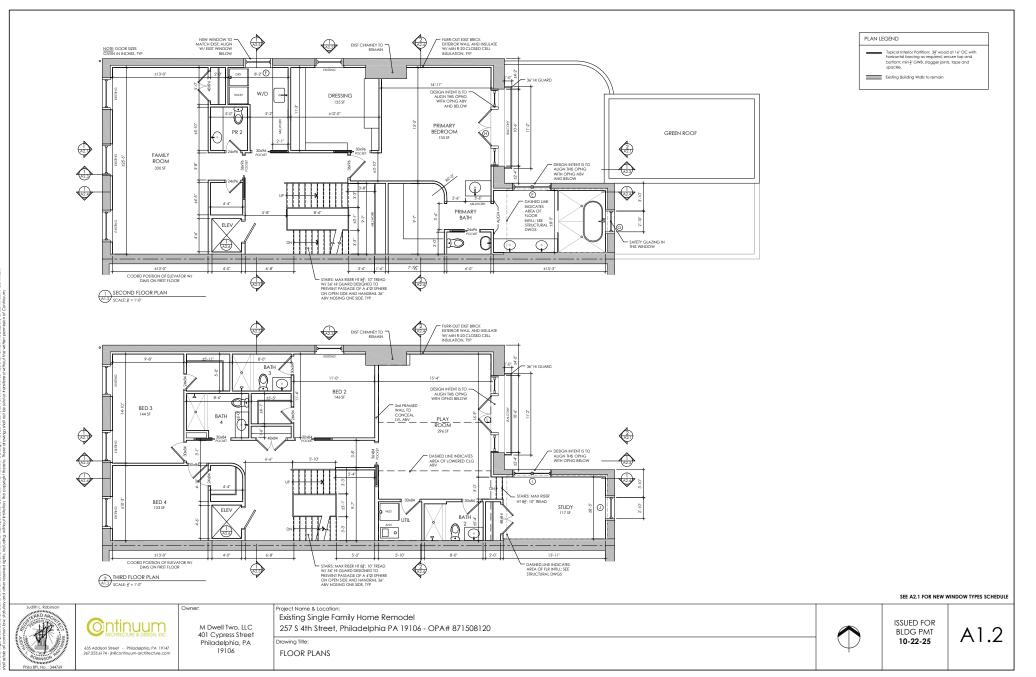
ISSUED FOR BLDG PMT 10-22-25 A1.0

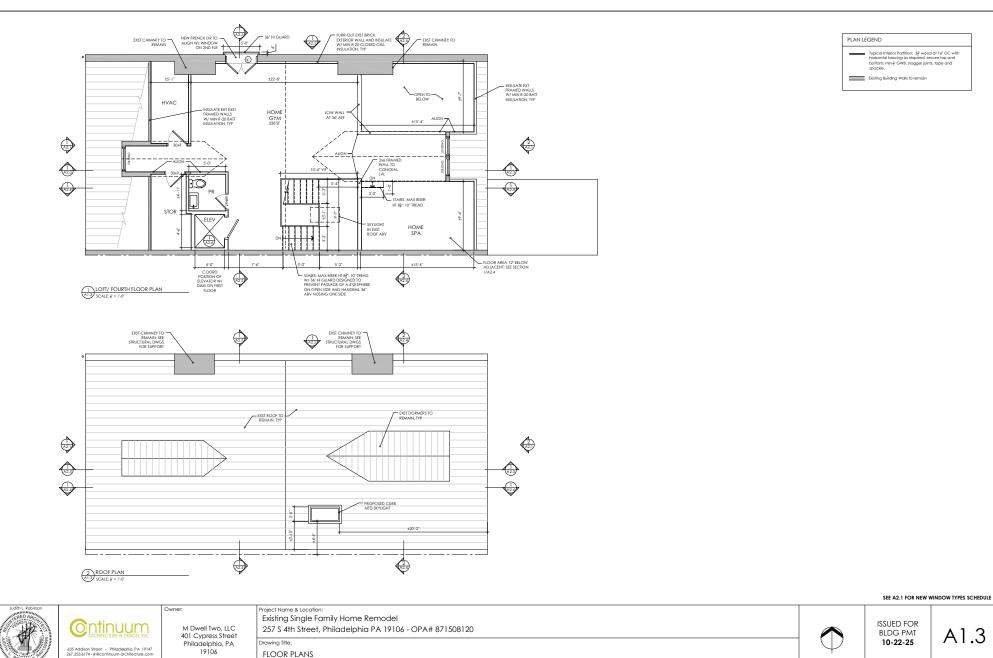


10-22-25

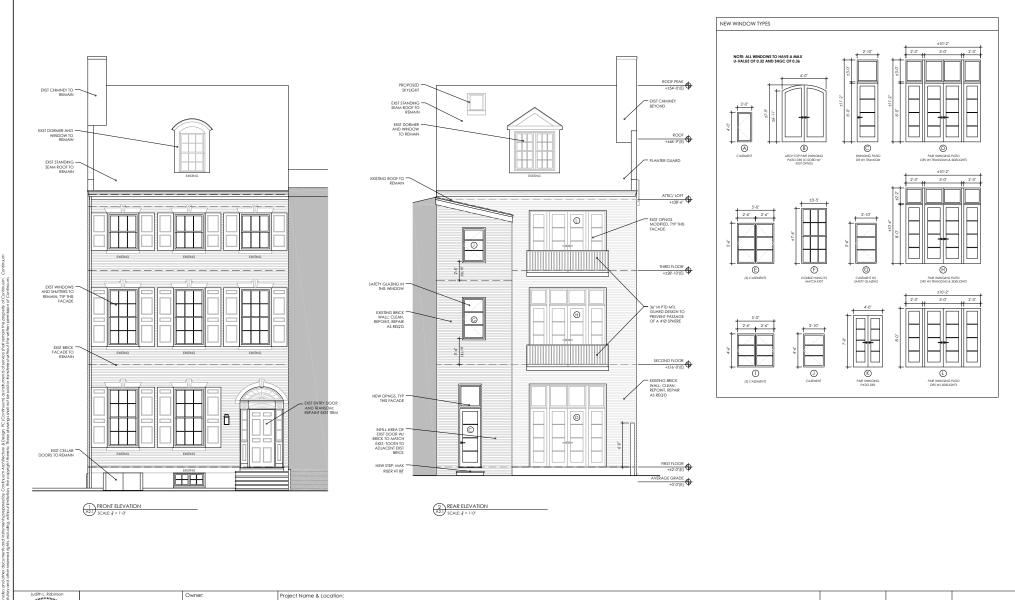
Philadelphia, PA 19106

FLOOR PLANS





A1.3



ISSUED FOR

BLDG PMT 10-22-25 A2.1

Existing Single Family Home Remodel

257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS and NEW WINDOW TYPES SCHEDULE

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ADCILITECTI IDE & DESIGN, INC.

M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA

19106







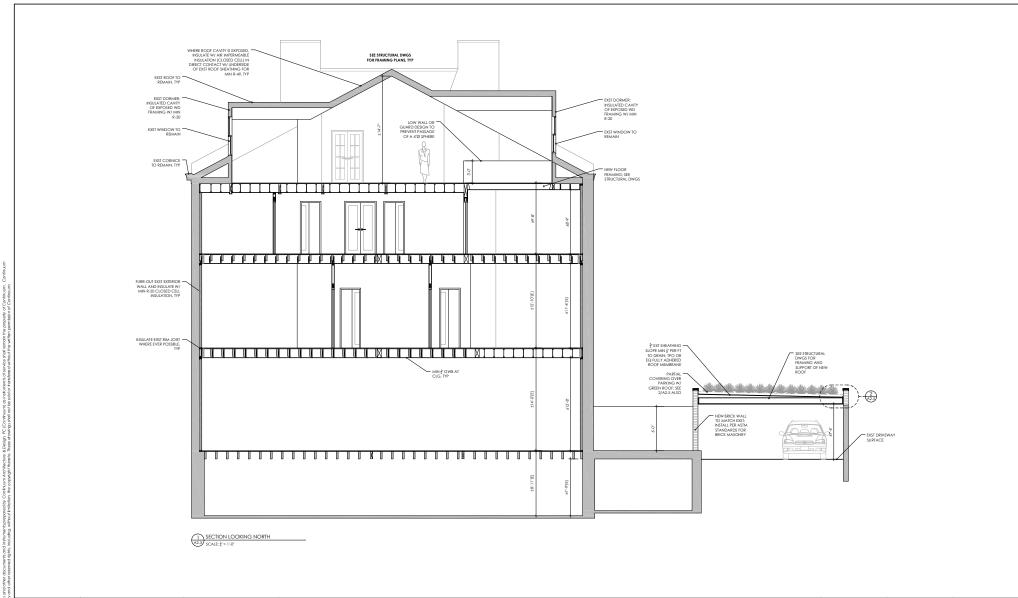
Owner:

M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Project Name & Location: Existing Single Family Home Remodel 257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS

ISSUED FOR BLDG PMT 10-22-25







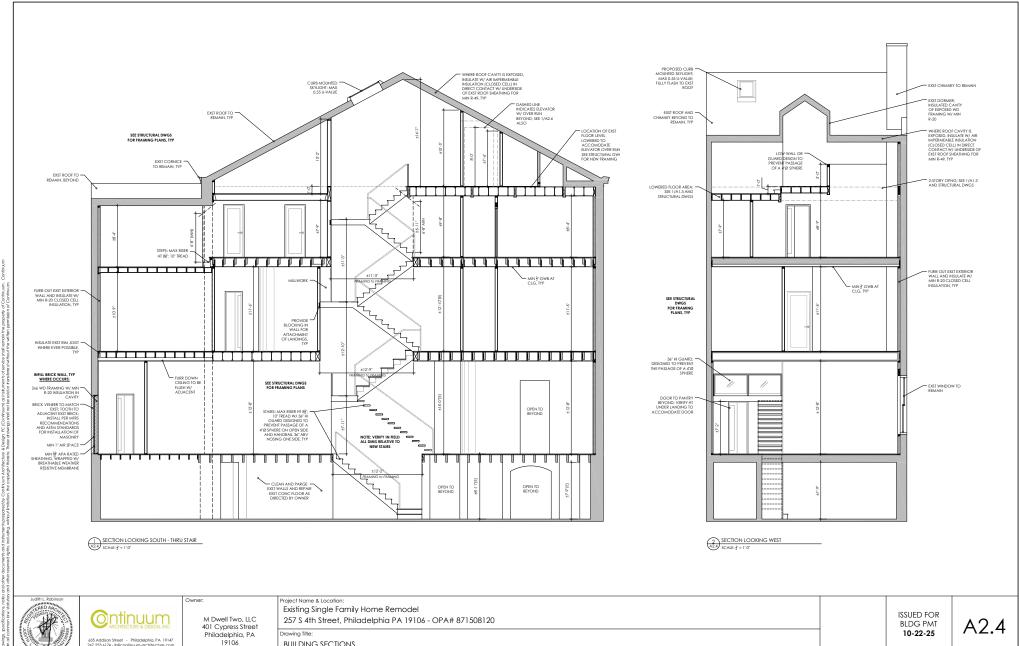
Owner:

M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

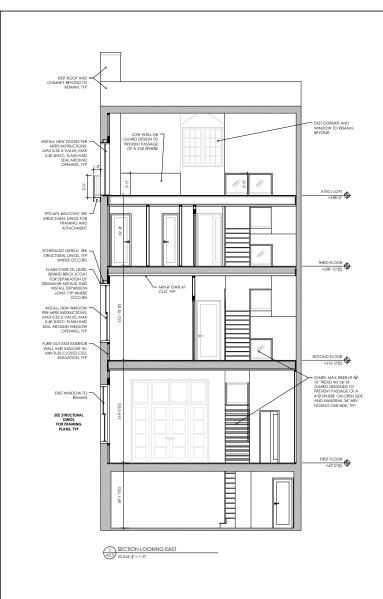
Project Name & Location: Existing Single Family Home Remodel 257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

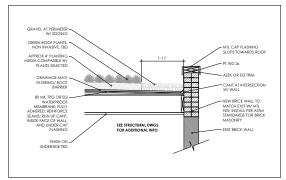
BUILDING SECTIONS

ISSUED FOR BLDG PMT 10-22-25



BUILDING SECTIONS





2 DETAIL AT PARKING GREEN ROOF 8CALE: 2" = 1":0"



ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN, INC
635 Addison Street - Philadelphia, PA 19147
267 253.4174 - jrillecontinuum-architecture.com

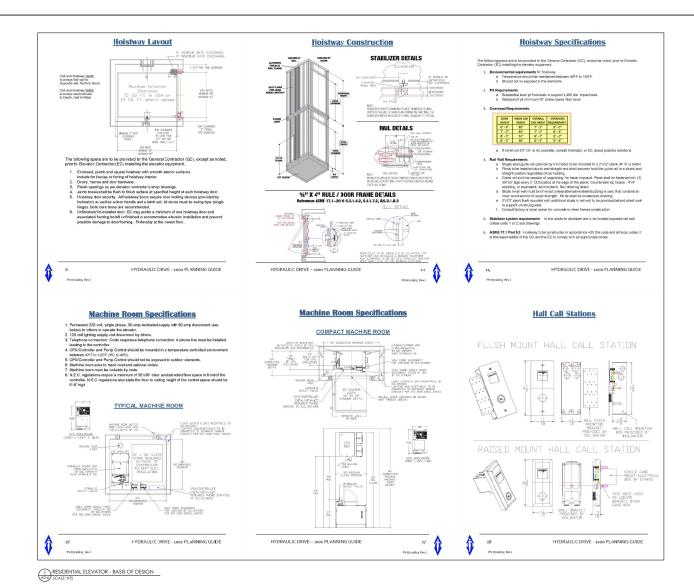
Owner:

M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 Project Name & Location:
Existing Single Family Home Remodel
257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

Drawing Title

BUILDING SECTIONS and DETAILS

ISSUED FOR BLDG PMT 10-22-25







Owner:

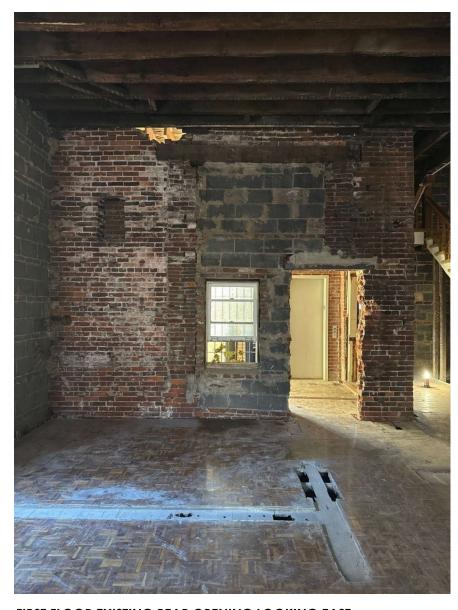
M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 Project Name & Location

Existing Single Family Home Remodel 257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

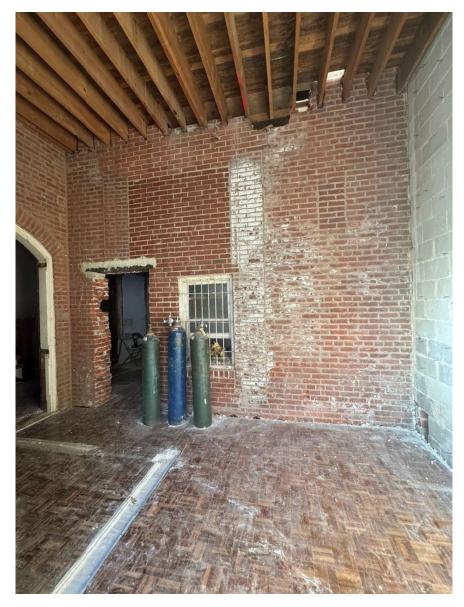
awing Title:

RESIDENTIAL ELEVATOR - BASIS of DESIGN

ISSUED FOR BLDG PMT 10-22-25



FIRST FLOOR EXISTING REAR OPENING LOOKING EAST



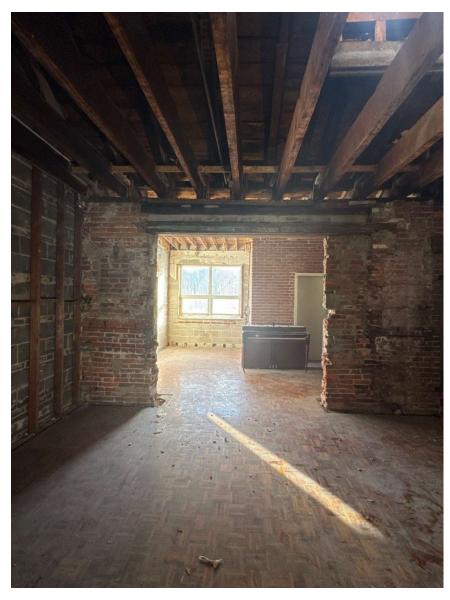
FIRST FLOOR EXISTING REAR OPENING LOOKING WEST



SECOND FLOOR EXISTING REAR OPENING LOOKING EAST



SECOND FLOOR EXISTING REAR OPENING LOOKING WEST



THIRD FLOOR EXISTING REAR OPENING LOOKING EAST



THIRD FLOOR EXISTING REAR OPENING LOOKING WEST

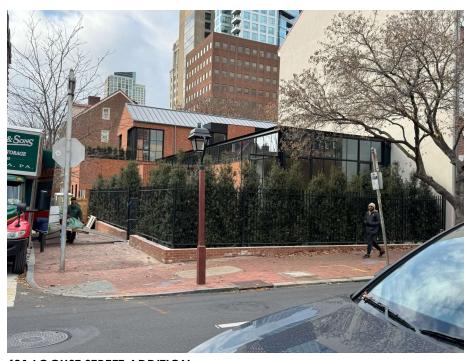


PROPOSED SIMILAR TO NEIGHBOR

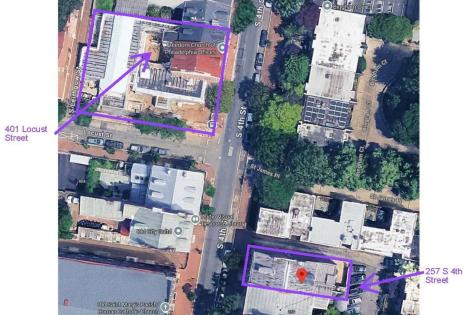
AERIAL VIEW OF REAR OF EXISTING BUILDING and NEIGHBORING PROPERTY



PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION



401 LOCUST STREET ADDITION



AERIAL MAP



401 LOCUST STREET REAR WINDOW CONFIGURATION



EAR FACADE SHOWING THE 1981 3-STORY ADDITION (PROPOSED FOR REMOVAL)



GROUND FLOOR SHOWING
THE INTERIOR OF
THE 1981 ADDITION
(PROPOSED TO
BECOME A GARDEN)



ARCHED OPENING INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE 1981 ADDITION (OPENING TO BE PRESERVED)



LOFT FLOOR SHOWING EXISTING REAR DORMER AND CHIMENY (LOCATION FOR ROOFTOP GARDEN)

NORTH WALL AND FRONT FACADE ALONG 4TH STREET

PROPERTY SURROUNDINGS AND INTERIOR CONDITIONS



M Design Collaborative

CIVIL ENGINEER:

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER



CLIENT NAME / PROJECT NAME & ADDRESS
JANE AHN

257 S 4TH STREET





n.a.

PEDESTRIAN VIEWS OF THE PROPERTY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



VIEW FROM THE EAST SIDE OF 4TH STREET

VIEW FROM THE WEST SIDE OF 4TH STREET







ROOFTOP GARDEN INSPIRATIONS FROM WASHINGTON SQUARE



Original design with deck







TIOI.

M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 Project Name & Location: Existing Single Family Home Remodel 257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

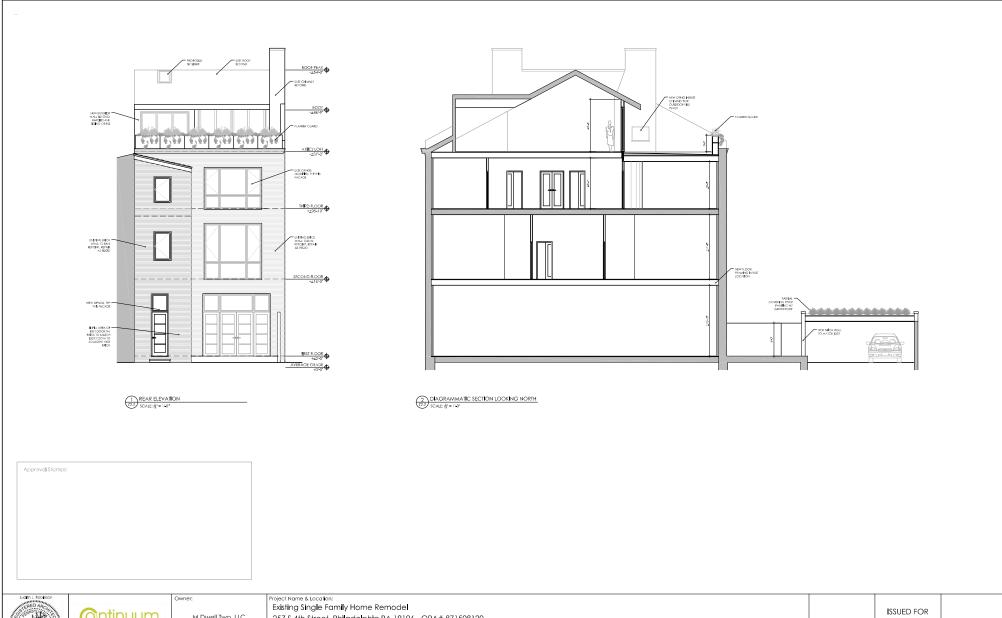
Drawing Title:

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS

ISSUED FOR ZONING PERMIT 02-20-25

Z2.1

Original design with deck







M Dwell Two, LLC 401 Cypress Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

257 S 4th Street, Philadelphia PA 19106 - OPA# 871508120

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS and DIAGRAMMATIC SECTION