

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139 2022 APR - I AM IC: 22

617-349-6100

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BZA Application Form

BZA Number: 168852

	<u>Gener</u>	al Information
The undersigne	d hereby petitions the Board of Zo	oning Appeal for the following:
Special Permit:	Variance:	Appeal:X
PETITIONER: D	aniel Anderson C/O Anderson Por	ter Design
PETITIONER'S A	DDRESS: 1972 Mass Ave, Cambrid	ge, MA 02140
LOCATION OF P	ROPERTY: <u>35 Webster Ave , Caml</u>	<u>oridge, MA</u>
TYPE OF OCCUP	PANCY: residential single family	ZONING DISTRICT: Residence C-1 Zone
REASON FOR PI	ETITION:	
/Additions/		
Appealing decis	OF PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL sion from ISD Commissioner dated spermitted second story additions	d 3/17/2022 that Section 8.22.1.h.1 of the Zoning to those that are horizontal extensions only.
Article: 5.000	Section: 5.31 (Table of Dimension	nal Requirements).
Article: 8.000 Article: 10.000	Section: 8.22.3 (Non-Conforming Section: 10.21 (Appeal of Determ	·
	Original Signature(s):	(Petitioner (s) / Owner)
		DWIEL P. LNDERSON
		(Print Name)
	Address:	1972 MASSAVE CAMBRIDGE 021 40
	Tel. No.	617 794 2371

Date: 3.31.22

E-Mail Address: dan@andersonporter.com

RE: 35 Webster - zoning ordinance interpretation



Singanayagam, Ranjit <ranjits@cambridgema.gov>

To 🔵 Dan Anderson

(i) You forwarded this message on 3/17/2022 1:01 PM.

Good Morning Dan,

The Section 8.22.1.h.1 reads as follows:

"A dormer or addition to the second story that does not extend beyond the vertical walls of the first story of the struics interpretation is that addition can made horizontally as long as it does not extend beyond the vertical walls of firs if you have any questions, please call or email.

Thanks

Ranjit

From: Dan Anderson < dan@andersonporter.com >

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 11:58 AM

To: Singanayagam, Ranjit < ranjits@cambridgema.gov>
Cc: Pacheco, Maria < mpacheco@cambridgema.gov>

Subject: FW: 35 Webster - zoning ordinance interpretation

Good morning Ranjit;

I have been assuming that I need your written interpretation in order to submit an application for appeal.

If this is not necessary I will get an application prepared as soon as possible to get on the next BZA hearing agenda.

Can you please confirm and/or provide your interpretation of Article 8 Section 8.22.1 h. 1.?

Best,

Dan

Daniel P. Anderson

AndersonPorterDesign

1972 Massachusetts Ävenue, 4th Floor Cambridge, MA 02140

o. 617 354 2501 ext. 111 m.617 794 2371

www.andersonporter.com









"Always design a thing by considering it in its larger context - a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an envirc

Appealing decision from ISD Commissioner dated 3/17/2022 that Section 8.22.1.h.1 of the Zoning Ordinance applies only to those second story additions that consist of horizontal extensions only, and that the addition sought at 35 Webster Street proposing an addition to the second story that increases the height of the second story (but not the horizontal width) cannot be allowed by issuance of a building permit under Section 8.22.1.h.1.

Section 8.22.1 allows for "alterations, reconstructions, extensions, and enlargements of nonconforming structures which do not result in a use for a substantially different purpose or for the same purpose in a substantially different manner or to a substantially greater extent than the existing use, or which are undertaken to accommodate a new conforming use" upon the "issuance of a building permit by the Superintendent of Buildings." The proposed second story addition to the existing nonconforming single-family structure at 35 Webster meets these prerequisites for an "as of right" building permit pursuant to this Section 8.22.1. No change, extension or alteration of a nonconforming use is proposed.

Subsection 8.22.1.h allows for "the construction of a dormer or an addition to a nonconforming one- or two-family dwelling which will further violate the yard and height requirements of Article 5, but no other requirements of Article 5 including FAR" in two scenarios. The proposed project involves the construction of an addition to a nonconforming single-family dwelling which will further violate the yard requirements of Article 5 (in the sense that the addition will occur within the side yard setback) but will not violate any other requirements of Article 5 including both FAR and height.

Subsection 8.22.1.h.1 allows for construction of "an addition to the second story that does not extend horizontally beyond the vertical walls of the existing first story of the structure." The proposed project at 35 Webster is to construct a second story addition that does not extend horizontally beyond the vertical walls of the existing first story of the structure.

The term "addition" is not specifically defined in Article 2 of the Ordinance. However, the preamble of Article 2 states that "definitions set forth in the State Building Code are also applicable, where appropriate, with respect to words and terms not defined herein." The State Building Code incorporates by reference Chapter 2 of the 2015 International Building Code, which defines an "addition" as "[a]n extension or an increase in floor area or height" (emphasis added). The proposed addition to the single-family structure at 35 Webster is an increase in the height of the second story of the structure, whereby the roof height is increased in order to provide for additional code compliant habitable living area at the second story of the structure.

Article 2 of the Ordinance defines a "story" as "that portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above." The existing second story of the structure currently has a low pitch roof with a maximum interior clear height of less than seven (7) feet at the peak. Although this second story contains existing living space and accounts for a Gross Floor Area of 246 sf, all of that GFA is less than seven feet in height and thus not meeting habitable room requirements of the State Building Code. The purpose of the addition in height is to create a State Building Code compliant full-height second story to the existing structure. The additional height proposed to the structure is not sufficient to create a third story to this structure now or in the future. The space under the pitch roof is open.

On this basis, we believe the proposed addition to the second floor fully conforms to the requirements of 8.22.1.h.1 and should be allowed by the issuance of a building permit. We are in agreement that any new or enlarged openings in the non-conforming yard would require an application for special permit as required by 8.22.2.d, and no such relief is requested at this time.

DIMENSIONAL INFORMATION

Applicant: . Daniel Anderson Present Use/Occupancy: residential single family

Location: 35 Webster Ave , Cambridge , MA Zone: Residence C-1 Zone

Phone: 617 794 2371 Requested Use/Occupancy: residential single family

		Existing Conditions	Requested Conditions	<u>Ordinance</u> <u>Requirements</u>	
TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA:		2637.31	3991.58	4017.75	(max.)
LOT AREA:		5357	5357	5000	(min.)
RATIO OF GROSS FLOOR AREA TO LOT AREA: ²		.50	.74	.75	
LOT AREA OF EACH DWELLING UNIT		2678.5	1785.7	1500	
SIZE OF LOT:	WIDTH	50	50	50	
	DEPTH	109.2	109.2	NA	
SETBACKS IN FEET:	FRONT	4.4	4.4	10	
	REAR	51.9	21.8	21.8	
	LEFT SIDE	3.4	3.4	7.5	1
-	RIGHT SIDE	1.6	1.6	7.5	
SIZE OF BUILDING:	HEIGHT	19.52	26.91	35	
	WIDTH	34.34	28.25	NA	
RATIO OF USABLE OPEN SPACE TO LOT AREA:		64	34	30	
NO, OF DWELLING UNITS:		2	3	3	
NO. OF PARKING SPACES:		0	3	3	
NO. OF LOADING AREAS:		0	0	0	
DISTANCE TO NEAREST BLDG. ON SAME LOT		7	11.5	10	

Describe where applicable, other occupancies on the same lot, the size of adjacent buildings on same lot, and type of construction proposed, e.g; wood frame, concrete, brick, steel, etc.:

#33 Existing Wood Frame 2.5 stories/ #37 Proposed Wood Frame 3 stories

- 1. SEE CAMBRIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 5.000, SECTION 5.30 (DISTRICT OF DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS).
- 2. TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA (INCLUDING BASEMENT 7'-0" IN HEIGHT AND ATTIC AREAS GREATER THAN 5') DIVIDED BY LOT AREA.
- 3. OPEN SPACE SHALL NOT INCLUDE PARKING AREAS, WALKWAYS OR DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM DIMENSION OF 15'.

May 2, 2022

Via Email

Board of Zoning Appeal City of Cambridge 831 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139

Attn: Mr. Constantine Alexander, Chair

Re: BZA Case No. 168852, Appeal of ISD Determination re 35 Webster Avenue, Cambridge, MA (the "Property")

Dear Mr. Alexander and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Petitioner, we respectfully request a continuance of the hearing of this appeal, currently scheduled for 6:30 p.m., May 5, 2022. The Petitioner has provided the Commissioner with information about the Property relevant to the matters of this appeal and awaits a response from the Commissioner as to his further interpretation of the applicability of Section 8.22.1.h.1.

Due to conflicting schedules, the Petitioner is requesting a continuance of the hearing of this matter until the evening of June 9th, 2022.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Like Rhatigan, Esq.

Enclosures

CC (via email):

Mr. Ranjit Singanayagam

Ms. Maria Pacheco Mr. Parviz Parvizi Mr. Dan Anderson



City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL

831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA. (617) 349-6100

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Board of Zoning Appeal Waiver Form

The Board of Zoning Appeal 831 Mass Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Case #_	BTA-16885Z
Address: 35 Webster Ave (Appea	35 Webster Ave (Appeal.)
□ Owner, □	Petitioner, or *Representative: Mah Phahigau, Esq. (Print Name)

hereby waives the required time limits for holding a public hearing as required by

Section 9 or Section 15 of the Zoning Act of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A. The Downer, Petitioner, or Decision by the Board of Zoning Appeal on the above referenced case within the time period as required by Section 9 or Section 15 of the Zoning Act of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, and/or Section 6409 of the federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, codified as 47 U.S.C.

§1455(a), or any other relevant state or federal regulation or law, until July 30, 2022.

Date: 5/22

Signature

SPECIAL PERMIT: 33, 35, 37 WEBSTER AVE.

DRAWING LIST

C-1

COVER SHEET

EXISTING CIVIL PLAN



CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VISIT THE PROJECT SITE PRIOR TO BIDDING TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS.

THE DRAWINGS SHALL BE WORKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS AND/OR PROJECT MANUAL. 3. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF WORK. NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT OF CHANGES IN DIMENSIONS OR CONDITIONS.

CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE ADEQUATE SHORING AND BRACING DURING DEMOLITION.

RECOGNIZED BY THE CONTRACTOR SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ARCHITECT FOR CLARIFICATION.

IO. CUTTING AND PATCHING SHALL BE PERFORMED BY EACH TRADE AS NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE AND INSTALLATION OF THEIR WORK. CUTTING AND PATCHING SHALL BE PERFORMED IN A WORKMANLIKE MANNER

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROTECT THE FACILITY FROM WEATHER AND MAINTAIN SECURITY DURING ALL CONSTRUCTION WORK

20. MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS AS SPECIFIED CONSTITUTE A STANDARD OF QUALITY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. EQUAL SUBSTITUTES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE ONLY WITH WRITTEN PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE ARCHITECT. 21. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PERFORM TESTS AT HIS/HER OWN EXPENSE, AS NECESSARY OR AS REQUIRED BY ANY INSPECTION AGENCY. TESTS SHALL BE MADE TO VERIFY WHETHER THE SYSTEM OR COMPONENTS INSTALLED

22. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL LEAVE THE WORK IN PROPER WORKING ORDER AND SHALL, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CHARGE, REPLACE ANY WORK, MATERIALS, OR EQUIPMENT FURNISHED AND INSTALLED UNDER THIS CONTRACT WHICH DEVELOPS DEFECTS, EXCEPT FROM ORDINARY WEAR AND TEAR, WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE BY THE OWNER.

DEMOLITION NOTES

THE DEMOLITION PLANS ARE DERIVED FROM EXISTING PLANS AND ARE INTENDED TO REASONABLY REPRESENT EXISTING CONDITIONS.

DEMOLITION NOTES ON THE DRAWINGS IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS OF WORK BUT MAY NOT BE COMPLETE IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF ALL REMOVALS. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ACTUAL CONDITIONS AND

COORDINATE THE DEMOLITION WITH NEW WORK SO THAT DEMOLITION IS COMPLETE

. REMOVE FROM THE JOBSITE, AS SOON AS PRACTICAL, DEMOLISHED MATERIALS, DEBRIS, AND RUBBISH. DO NOT ACCUMULATE DEBRIS ON THE FLOOR OR AT THE SITE.

. ALL REMOVALS AND SALVAGE, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY NOTED OR REQUESTED BY THE OWNER, SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CONTRACTOR. 10. REMOVE ONLY NON-LOAD-BEARING CONSTRUCTION AND PARTITIONS. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY, PRIOR TO REMOVAL, THAT NO STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS (I.E. BEARING WALLS, BEAMS, HEADERS, ETC.) SUPPORTING INTENT. CONTRACTOR'S NON-CONTACT OF ARCHITECT PRIOR TO REMOVAL OF ANY WORK INDICATES HIS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING THAT NO LOAD-BEARING OR STRUCTURAL WORK IS BEING ALTERED UNDER

11. ALL STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND SHALL BE OF SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO SUPPORT THE DESIGN LOADS AND TO RESIST THE DEFORMATION CAUSED BY SUCH LOADS.

12. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ANY TEMPORARY SHORING ASSOCIATED WITH ANY DEMOLITION WORK. 13. CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE EXISTING UTILITY DEMOLITION AND CREATING ANY NEW TEMPORARY SERVICE FOR TEMPORARY-USE ITEMS.

14. PATCH ALL FINISHES TO MATCH EXISTING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: GYPSUM BOARD, PLASTER, ACOUSTIC SYSTEMS, WOOD TRIM, COVERS, BASE, PANELS, AND RAILS. VERIFY MATCH OF NEW FINISH MATERIALS TO EXISTING IN: COLOR, TEXTURE, THICKNESS, AND CUT TO SATISFACTION OF OWNER PRIOR TO INSTALLATIONS. PROVIDE OTHER MATERIALS TO MATCH EXISTING WHEN REQUIRED - TO BE APPROVED BY ARCHITECT

5. PATCH EXISTING WALLS, GYPSUM BOARD, OR PLASTER TO MATCH EXISTING OF SUFFICIENT THICKNESS TO MAINTAIN UNIFORM WALL THICKNESS. ALL EXPOSED PORTIONS OF WALL SHALL BE FINISHED WITH THREE (3) COATS OF SPACKLING, SANDED, AND LEFT IN A PAINT-READY CONDITION.



	ABBREVIATIONS	SITE LOCATION
	AFF CJ CJ CONTROL JOINT CLG CLEAR CO CLEAR CO CLEAN OUT COL COLUMN CONC CONCETE CONT CONTINUOUS DN DOWN EJ EVAPANSION JOINT EL ELEC ELECTRICAL EQ EQ EQUAL EXIST FIN FIN FIN FIN FIN FIN FIN FIL FL FL FO GL	CONTACTS ARCHITECT Anderson Porter Design 1972 Massachusetts Ave, 4th Floor Cambridge MA 02139 Dan Anderson 617.354.2501 dan@andersonporter.com
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.1	PROPOSED SITE PLAN	ZONING DIS
.1	ZONING COMPLIANCE	
.2	ZONING COMPLIANCE	PROJECT DES
(1.1	EXISTING PLANS - UNIT 33	CILL DTED O D
(1.2	EXISTING PLANS - UNIT 33	CHAPTER 3 - B SECTION R302
(2.1	EXISTING ELEVATIONS - UNIT 33	R302.3
(1.3	EXISTING PLANS - UNIT 35	R302.7
(2.2	EXISTING ELEVATION - UNIT 35	
1.1	PROPOSED PLANS - UNIT 33	R302.11
2.1	PROPOSED ELEVATIONS - UNIT 33	SECTION R303 R303.3
1.2	PROPOSED PLANS - UNIT 35	R303.10
2.2	PROPOSED ELEVATIONS - UNIT 35	SECTION R304
1.3	PROPOSED PLAN - UNIT 37	
2.3	PROPOSED ELEVATIONS - UNIT 37	SECTION 305
3.5	PROPOSED SITE SECTION	R305.1
9.1	PERSPECTIVES	SECTION 306
9.2	PERSPECTIVES	
9.3	PERSPECTIVES	
9.4	EXISTING CONDITIONS	SECTION 307
(1.0	existing shadow study	SECTION 308
(2.0	PROPOSED SHADOW STUDY	32011011 000
		SECTION 309
		SECTION 310
		SECTION 311 R311.1
		R311.2.1
		R311 7 5

COI	DE SU	JMMARY				
PROPE	ZONING DISTRICT: Residence C-1		35 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRID MA 02141	OGE,		
ZONIN			Residence C-1	ce C-1		
PROJE			nd 35. New Construction of Unit 37			
		LDING PLANNING		SECTION 316	FOAM PLASTIC	
R30	N R302 02.3 02.7	FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION Dwelling units shall be separated by a Enclosed space under stairs that is acc		SECTION 317	GC shall verify that any foam plastics used shall comply with code. PROTECTION OF WOOD AND WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS AGAINST GC shall verify that construction complies with code.	
	02.11	shall be covered with 1/2" gypsum boo Fireblocking shall be provided per cod	ard.	SECTION 318	PROTECTION AGAINST SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES	
SECTIO	N R303 03.3	LIGHT, VENTILATION AND HEATING Mechanical ventilation shall be provide		SECTION 319	GC shall verify that construction complies with code. SITE ADDRESS	
I	03.10	Dwelling units shall be provided with re		SECTION 320	This section of the code is not applicable to the proposed design. ACCESSIBILITY	
SECTIO		All habitable room areas shall comply CEILING HEIGHT	with code.	SECTION 321	This section is not applicable to the proposed design. ELEVATORS AND PLATFORM LIFTS	
	05.1	Ceiling heights shall be equal to, or gr	reater than, minimum	SECTION 322	This section is not applicable to the proposed design. FLOOD-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION	
SECTIO	N 306	requirements. SANITATION Toilet fixtures, kitchens, sewage dispose	al, and water supply to fixtures	SECTION 323	The basement shall be constructed to anticipate the estimated seasonal high ground water level. STORM SHELTERS	
SECTIO	N 307	shall be provided. TOILET, BATH AND SHOWER SPACES		SECTION 324	This section is not applicable to the proposed design. SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS	
SECTIO	N 308	Toilet, baths, and showers spaces shal GLAZING	I comply with code.	SECTION 325	This section is not applicable to the proposed design. MEZZANINES	
SECTIO	N 309	All glazing shall comply with code. GARAGES AND CARPORTS		SECTION 326	This section is not applicable to the proposed design. SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS	
SECTIO	N 310	This section of the code is not applicate EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE (OPENINGS .	SECTION 327	This section is not applicable to the proposed design. STATIONARY STORAGE BATTERY SYSTEMS	
SECTIO	N 311	This section of the code is not applicate MEANS OF EGRESS	ole to the proposed design.	CHAPTER 4 - FC	This section is not applicable to the proposed design.	
R3	11.1	Each dwelling unit shall be provided w means of egress with clear widths that		CHAPTER 5 - FLO	GC shall verify that construction complies with code.	
R3	11.2.1	All interior doors shall have nominal w			GC shall verify that construction complies with code. ALL CONSTRUCTION	
R3	11.7.5.1-2	2 Riser heights shall not be more than 8 less than 9". Winder treads shall have at any point.		CHAPTER 7 - WA	GC shall verify that construction complies with code. ALL COVERING	
SECTIO	N 312	GUARDS AND WINDOW FALL PROTE Guard locations and heights, and wind		CHAPTER 8 - RC	GC shall verify that construction complies with code. OOF-CEILING CONSTRUCTION GC shall verify that construction complies with code.	
SECTIO		shall comply with code. AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM		CHAPTER 9 - RC	OOF ASSEMBLIES GC shall verify that construction complies with code.	
	13.2	The proposed design does not have an 14,400 square feet.	n aggregate area greater than	CHAPTER 10 - C	CHIMNEY AND FIREPLACES This section of the code is not applicable to the proposed design	
SECTIO	14.3	SMOKE ALARMS Smoke alarms shall be provided and to CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS Carbon monoxide alarms shall be pro-	·	CHAPTER 11 - E	This section of the code is not applicable to the proposed design This section of the code is not applicable to the proposed design	

of Unit 37	
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fy that any foam plastics used shall comply with code.	
n of wood and wood-based products against decay	
fy that construction complies with code.	
N AGAINST SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES	
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of the code is not applicable to the proposed design.	
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AND PLATFORM LIFTS	
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S	AndersonPorterDesign
s not applicable to the proposed design.	Andersoni oner Design
POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS	1070 Marris In the Arm Alle Flore
s not applicable to the proposed design.	1972 Massachusetts Ave, 4th Floor
Y STORAGE BATTERY SYSTEMS	Cambridge, MA 02140
s not applicable to the proposed design.	Tel. 617.354.2501 Fax. 617.354.2509
and applicable to the property assign.	
fy that construction complies with code.	Project:
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fy that construction complies with code.	Address:
<u>CTION</u>	35 WEBSTER AVENUE
fy that construction complies with code.	CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141
	CAMIDRIDGE, IMA UZTAT
fy that construction complies with code.	
CONSTRUCTION	Title:
fy that construction complies with code.	COVER SHEET
es	COVER SHEET
<u> </u>	-

Drawn by: AR.S,R.B,A.S,D.A

SPECIAL PERMIT

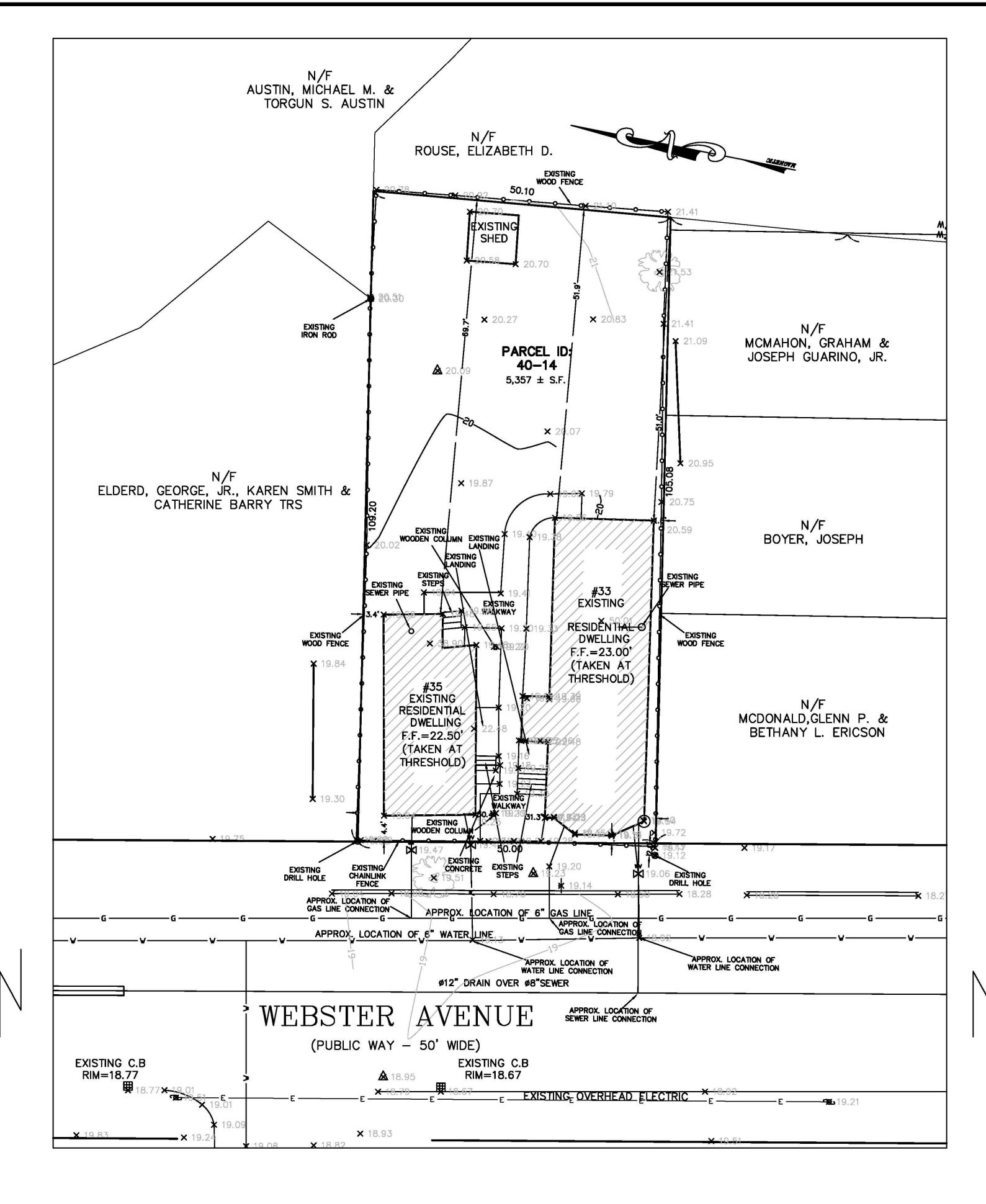
REVISIONS

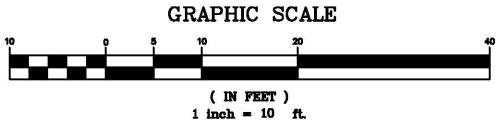
ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN 11/24/2021 1/4" = 1'-0"

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	LEGEND	
⊡	BOUND	
•	IRON PIN/PIPE	
0	STONE POST	
	TREE	
Pl	TREE STUMP	
6	SHRUBS/FLOWERS	
6	SIGN	
0	BOLLARD	
S	SEWER MANHOLE	
0	DRAIN MANHOLE	
	CATCH BASIN	
W	WATER MANHOLE	
₩ ×	WATER VALVE	
**	HYDRANT	
**************************************	GAS VALVE	
Ē	ELECTRIC MANHOLE	
<u>n</u>	ELECTRIC HANDHOLE	
д	UTILITY POLE	
\$	LIGHT POLE	
W	MANHOLE	
X 148.00	SPOT GRADE	
TW	TOP OF WALL	
BW	BOTTOM OF WALL	
11/1//	EXISTING BUILDING	
	RETAINING WALL	
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	STONE WALL	
0	FENCE	
ww	TREE LINE	
S	SEWER LINE	
D	DRAIN LINE	
	WATER LINE	
G	GAS LINE	
E	UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE	
—— он <b>w</b> ——	OVERHEAD WIRES	
145	CONTOUR LINE (MJR)	
146_	CONTOUR LINE (MNR)	

EXISTING S.D.M.H.

RIM=20.56 INV=10.70 INV=8.50

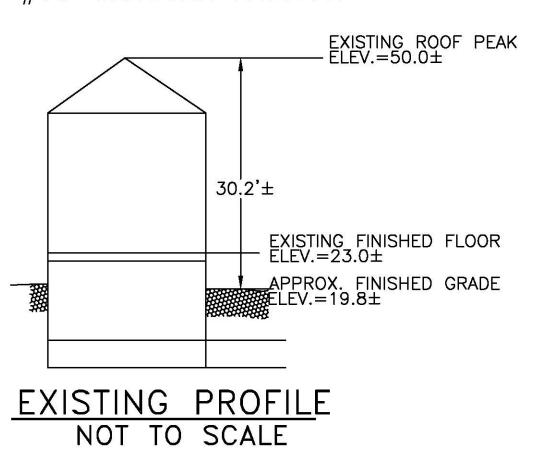




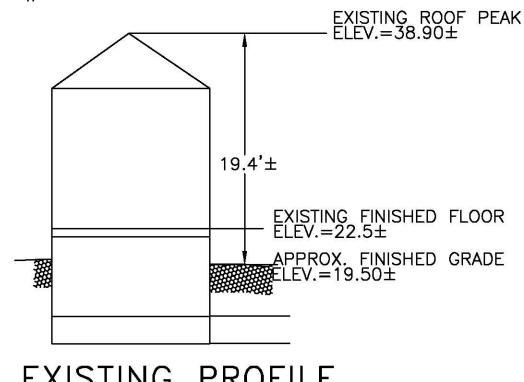
## NOTES:

- 1. INFORMATION SHOWN ON THIS PLAN IS THE RESULT OF A FIELD SURVEY PERFORMED BY SPRUHAN ENGINEERING, P.C. AS OF 05/27/2021.
- 2. DEED REFERENCE: BOOK 1323, PAGE 116, PLAN REFERENCE: PLAN 829 PG 62(139817) MIDDILESEX COUNTY DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS
- 3. THIS PLAN IS NOT INTENDED TO BE RECORDED.
- 4. I CERTIFY THAT THE DWELLING SHOWN IS NOT LOCATED WITHIN A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD ZONE. IT IS LOCATED IN ZONE X, ON FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP NUMBER 25017C0577E, COMMUNITY NUMBER 250186, PANEL NUMBER 0557E, DATED 06/04/2010.
- 5. THIS PLAN DOES NOT SHOW ANY UNRECORDED OR UNWRITTEN EASEMENTS WHICH MAY EXIST. A REASONABLE AND DILIGENT ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO OBSERVE ANY APPARENT USES OF THE LAND; HOWEVER THIS NOT CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE THAT NO SUCH EASEMENTS EXIST.
- 6. FIRST FLOOR ELEVATIONS ARE TAKEN AT THRESHOLD.
- 7. NO RESPONSIBILITY IS TAKEN FOR ZONING TABLE AS SPRUHAN ENGINEERING, P.C. ARE NOT ZONING EXPERTS. TABLE IS TAKEN FROM TABLE PROVIDED BY LOCAL ZONING ORDINANCE. CLIENT AND/OR ARCHITECT TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF ZONING ANALYSIS.
- 8. THE ELEVATIONS SHOWN ARE BASED ON CITY OF CAMBRIDGE DATUM.
- 9. ZONING INFORMATION: RESIDENCE C-1

## #33 WEBSTER AVENUE



# #35 WEBSTER AVENUE



EXISTING PROFILE NOT TO SCALE

EXISTING M.H. RIM=18.85 INV=11.60

.72 INV=9.91

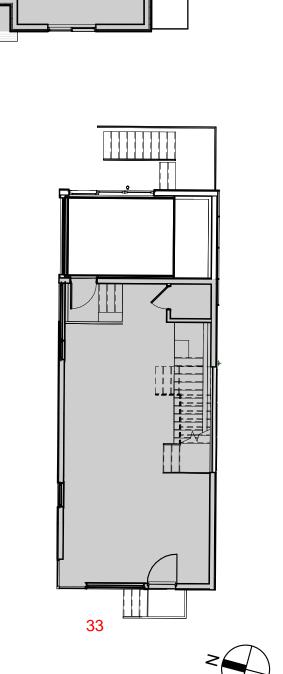
SCALE					
1"=10'					
DATE					
06/07/2021	REV	DATE	REVISION	BY	
SHEET		14	33-35 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE		
PLAN NO. 1 OF 1			MASSACHUSETTS		
CLIENT:			EXISTING CONDITIONS		SHEET NO.
DRAWN BY E.S		DI	TER NOLAN & ASSOCIATES LL		
CHKD BY PJN		<u> </u>	ND SURVEYORS/CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTAN		
APPD BY PJN		PHONE E M /	80 JEWETT STREET, SUITE 2, NEWTON MA 02458 : 857 891 7478/617 782 1533 FAX: 617 202 56 AIL: pnolan@pnasurveyors.coi	591 Th	

LOT SIZE:	ALLOWED / REQUIRED	EXISTING	PROPOSED	COMPLIANCE
ZONE	C1 ZONE	C1 ZONE	C1 ZONE	COMPLIES
USE	residential/ multi-family.	residential/ multi-family.	residential/ multi-family.	COMPLIES
MIN LOT SIZE	5,000 S.F.	5,357 +/- S.F.	5,357 +/- S.F.	COMPLIES
MIN LOT AREA PER DWELLING	1,500 S.F.	2,678.5 S.F.	1,785.7 S.F.	COMPLIES
MAX FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR)	0.75	0.50	0.74	COMPLIES
MAX BUILDING HEIGHT	3 ST   35'	3 ST   31'	3 ST   35'	COMPLIES
MIN. YARD SETBACKS (UNITS 33 - 35) FRONT LEFT SIDE RIGHT SIDE REAR	$(H+L) / 6 \mid MIN 10'$ (H+L) / 7 >= 7.5', (H+L) / 7 >= 7.5', $(H+L) / 6 \mid MIN 20'$	1.3' 3.4' 1.6' 51.9'	4.1' 3.4' 1.6' 21.8'	EXISTING NON CONFORMING EXISTING NON CONFORMING EXISTING NON CONFORMING COMPLIES
MIN. YARD SETBACKS (UNITS 37)				
LEFT SIDE	(H+L) / 7 >= 7.5',	N/A	8.5'	COMPLIES
RIGHT SIDE	(H+L) / 7 >= 7.5',	N/A	8.5'	COMPLIES
REAR	(H+L) / 6   <b>+</b> 1' per 4'>100' 21.8'	N/A	21.8'	COMPLIES
MIN LOT WIDTH	50'	50'	50'	COMPLIES
PARKING REQUIREMENTS	ONE PER DWELLING UNIT	0 PARKING SPACES	3 PARKING SPACES	COMPLIES
OPEN SPACE, MIN % OF LOT	30% OF TOTAL LOT AREA = 1607.10 SF	64% = 3450 +/- SF	34% = 1828.49 SF	COMPLIES
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE	50% OF TOTAL OPEN SPACE = 803.55 SF	95% = 3279.06 S.F.	66% = 1064.99 S.F.	COMPLIES
PERMEABLE OPEN SPACE	50% OF TOTAL OPEN SPACE = 803.55 SF	100% = 3450.00 S.F.	123% = 1969.19 S.F.	COMPLIES
BICYCLE PARKING	0 SPACES	0 SPACES	0 SPACES	COMPLIES

AREA CALCULATIONS	EXISTING	PROPOSED
BASEMENT UNIT 33 (N/A)	N/A	N/A
FIRST FLOOR UNIT 33	834.94	527.73
SECOND FLOOR UNIT 33	819.24	464.78
THIRD FLOOR UNIT 33	252.80	515.28
TOTAL (UNIT 33)	1906.94	1507.85
BASEMENT UNIT 35 (N/A)	N/A	N/A
FIRST FLOOR UNIT 35	484.37	432.81
SECOND FLOOR UNIT 35	246.00	237.65
TOTAL (UNIT 35)	730.37	670.46
BASEMENT UNIT 37 (N/A)	N/A	N/A
FIRST FLOOR UNIT 37	N/A	463.73
SECOND FLOOR UNIT 37	N/A	751.22
THIRD FLOOR UNIT 37	N/A	598.32
TOTAL (UNIT 37)	N/A	1813.27
GRAND TOTAL	2637.31	3991.58

N/A; BASEMENT AREA IS EXCLUDED FROM GROSS FLOOR AREA PER ARTICLE 2.



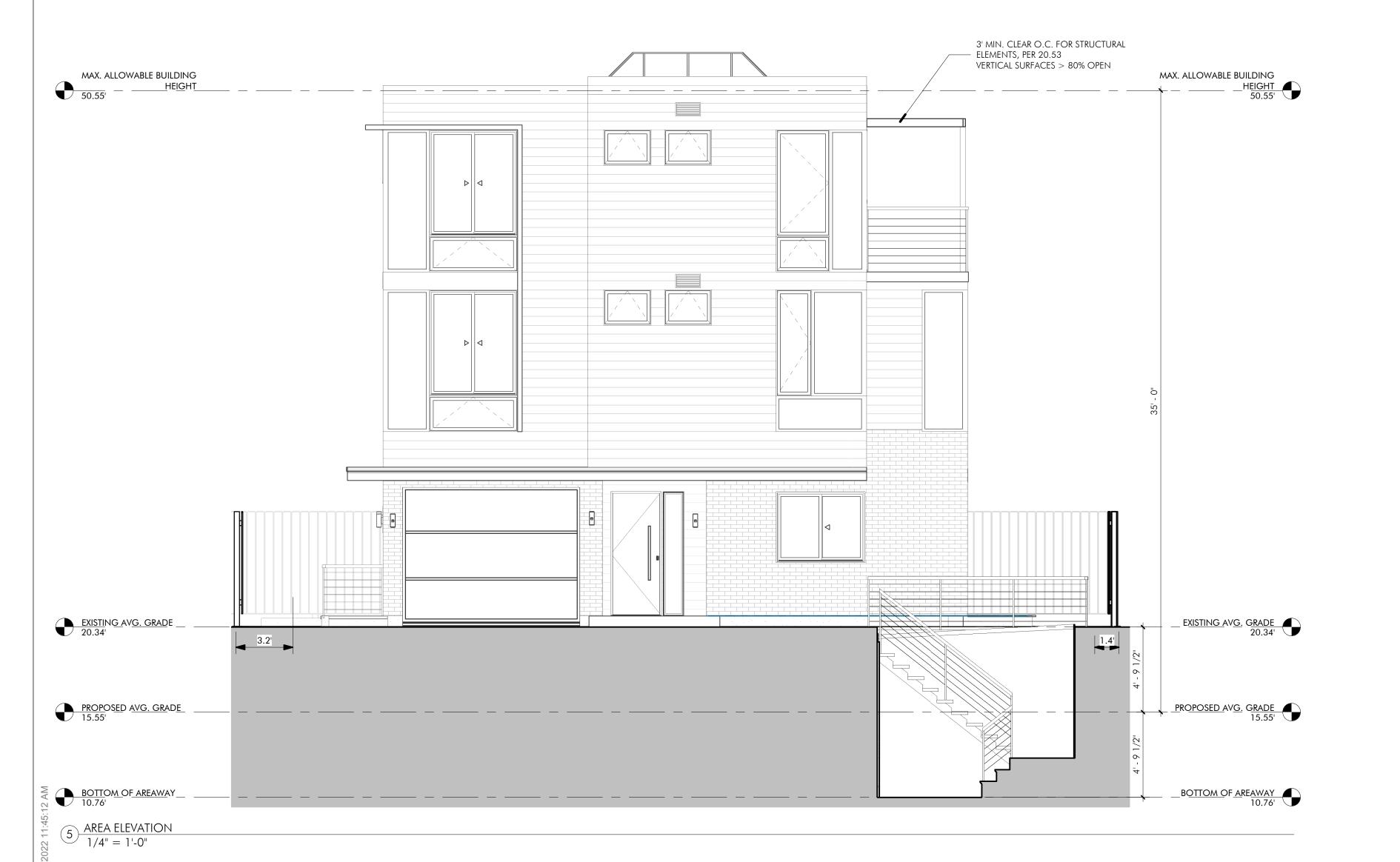


33

# **FOOTNOTES:**

Identifying rear yard set back

Min. distance between buildings: Sum of Heights/6 or 10'-0", whichever is greater.





 $3 \frac{\text{ZONING-THIRD FLOOR}}{1" = 10'-0"}$ 

33

2 ZONING-SECOND FLOOR 1" = 10'-0"

# SPECIAL PERMIT

	REVISIONS	
No.	Description	Date

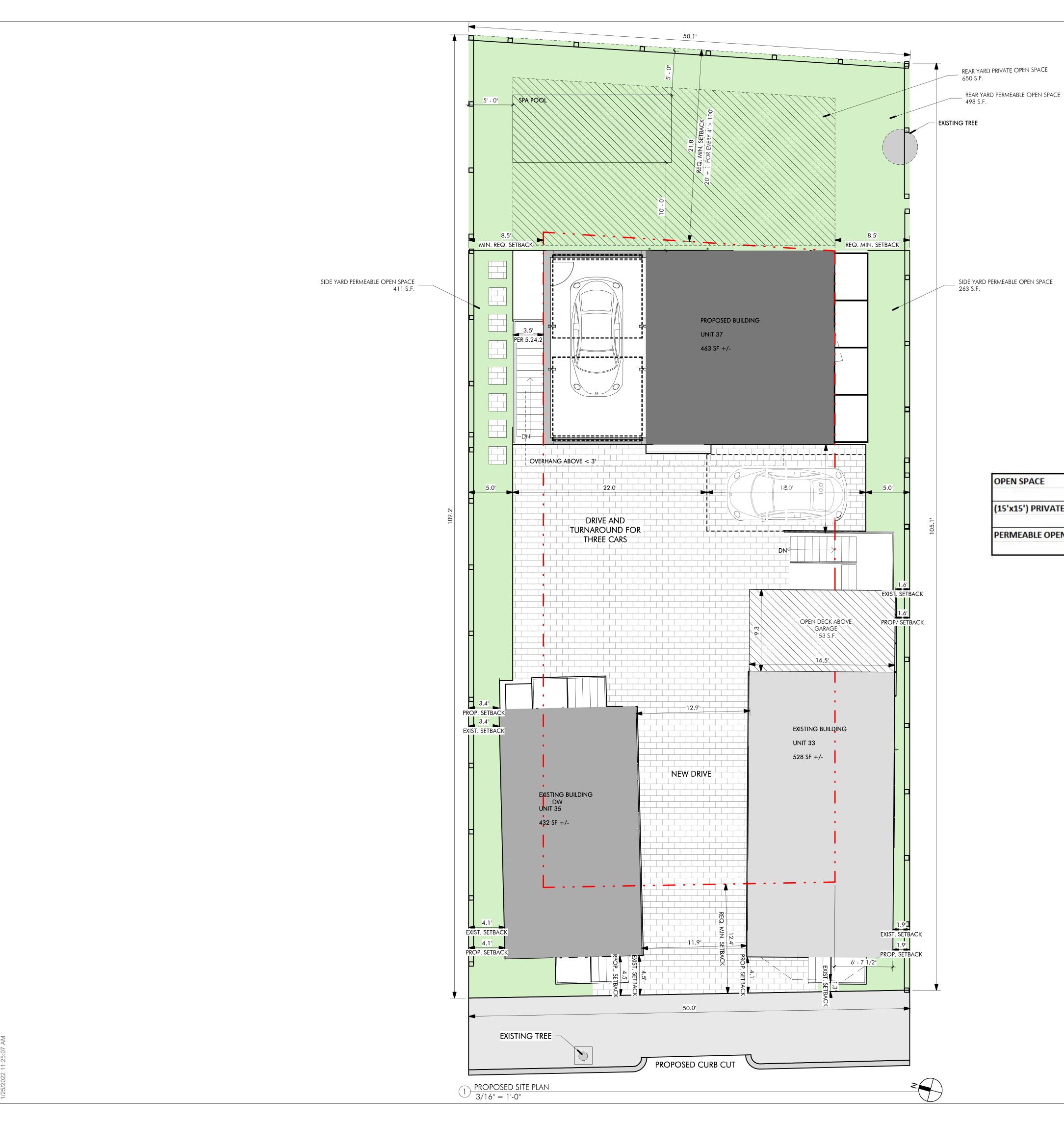
AndersonPorterDesign 1972 Massachusetts Ave, 4th Floor Cambridge, MA 02140 Tel. 617.354.2501 Fax. 617.354.2509

33,35 & 37 WEBSTER 35 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

ZONING COMPLIANCE

rawing Issued By:	anderson	PORTER DESIGN
oject #:	2112	Drawn No.
ate: 11	/24/2021	711
ale: As	indicated	<u> </u>

Drawn by: AS,DA,RB,AS





PROPOSED 33 WEBSTER

PROPOSED 35 WEBSTER

PROPOSED 37 WEBSTER

PERMEABLE LANDSCAPE

PRIVATE OPEN SPACE

PERMEABLE PAVERS

This plan is for informational and illustrative purposes only. The preparer of this plan makes no claim to its accuracy. This plan shall not be used or relied upon in any circumstance. A certified Land Surveyor shall provide an official certified plot plan.

REQUIRED MINIMUM SETBACKS

 $\frac{\text{ZONING}}{1/4" = 1'-0"}$ 

LANDSCAPE NOTES TOTAL LOT AREA = 5,357 SF OPEN SPACE AREA = 1,969.00 SF PERMEABLE OPEN SPACE = 1,166.00 SF SIDE YARD PERMEABLE OPEN SPACE = 411 S.F. SIDE YARD PERMEABLE OPEN SPACE = 263 S.F. REAR YARD PERMEABLE OPEN SPACE = 498 S.F. (15'x15') PRIVATE OPEN SPACE = 803.55 SF REAR YARD PRIVATE OPEN SPACE = 650 S.F. DECK ABOVE GARAGE = 153 S.F.

OPEN SPACE	%	EXISTING	%	PROPOSED	%
1,607.10	30%	3,450.00	64%	1,969.00	37%
(15'x15') PRIVATE OPEN SPACE	%	EXISTING	%	PROPOSED	%
803.55	50%	3,279.06	204%	803.55	50%
PERMEABLE OPEN SPACE	%	EXISTING	%	PROPOSED	%
803.55	50%	3,300.00	205%	1,166.00	73%

SPECIAL PERMIT

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33,35 & 37 WEBSTER

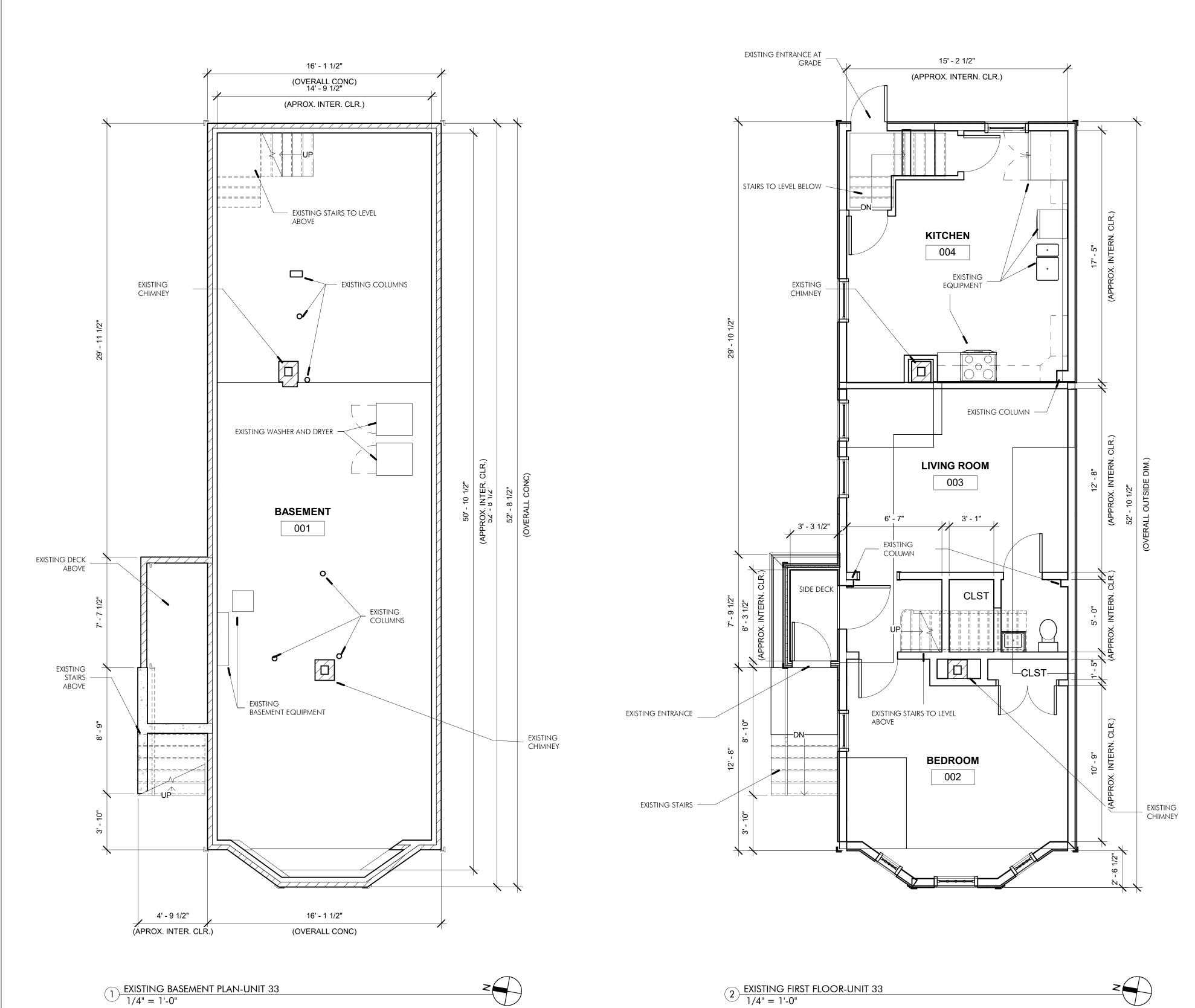
35 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

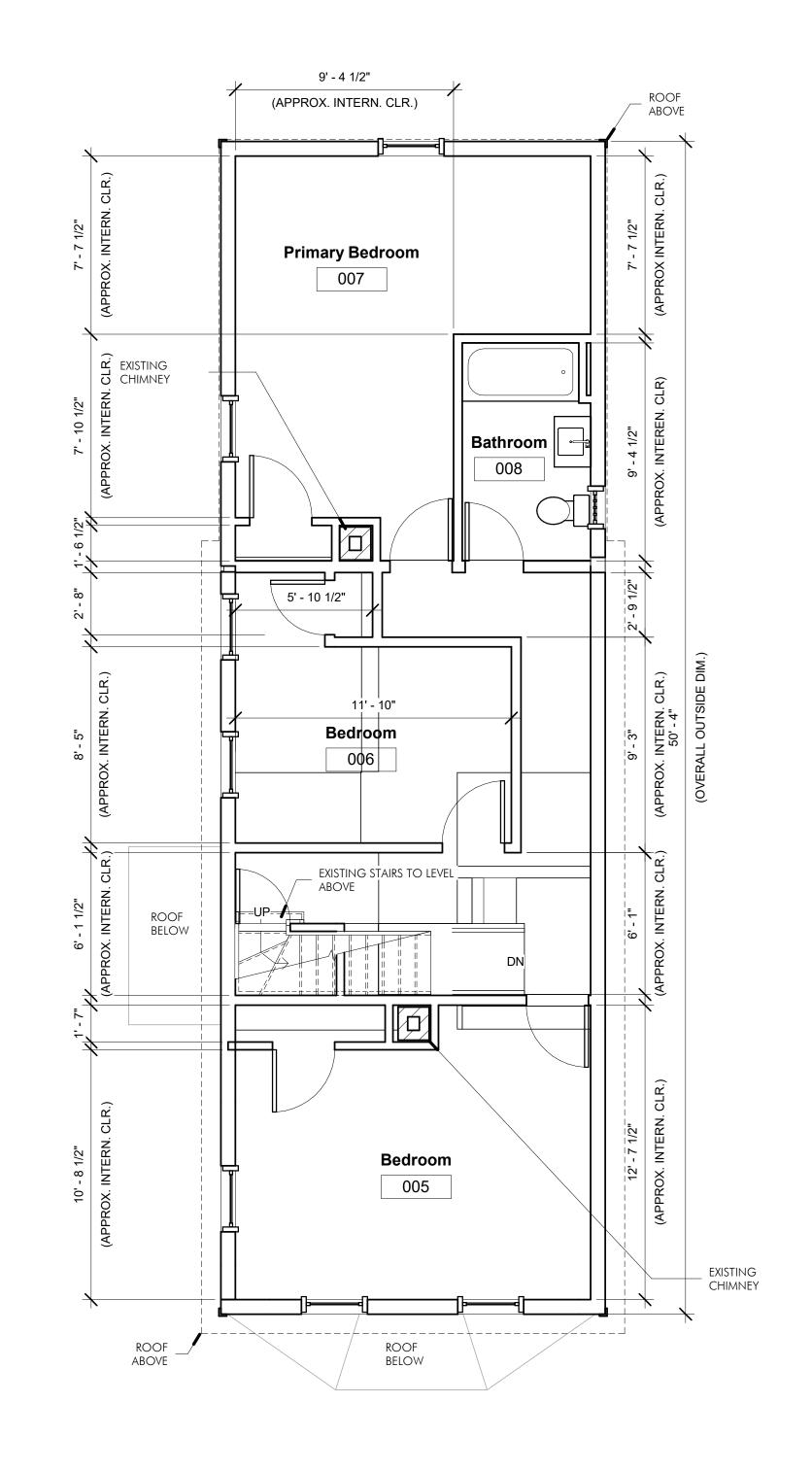
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN 2112 Drawn No. 11/24/2021

As indicated AR.S., R.B.







3 EXISTING SECOND FLOOR -UNIT 33 1/4" = 1'-0"

2 AndersonPorterDesign

1972 Massachusetts Ave, 4th Floor Cambridge, MA 02140 Tel. 617.354.2501 Fax. 617.354.2509 33 WEBSTER

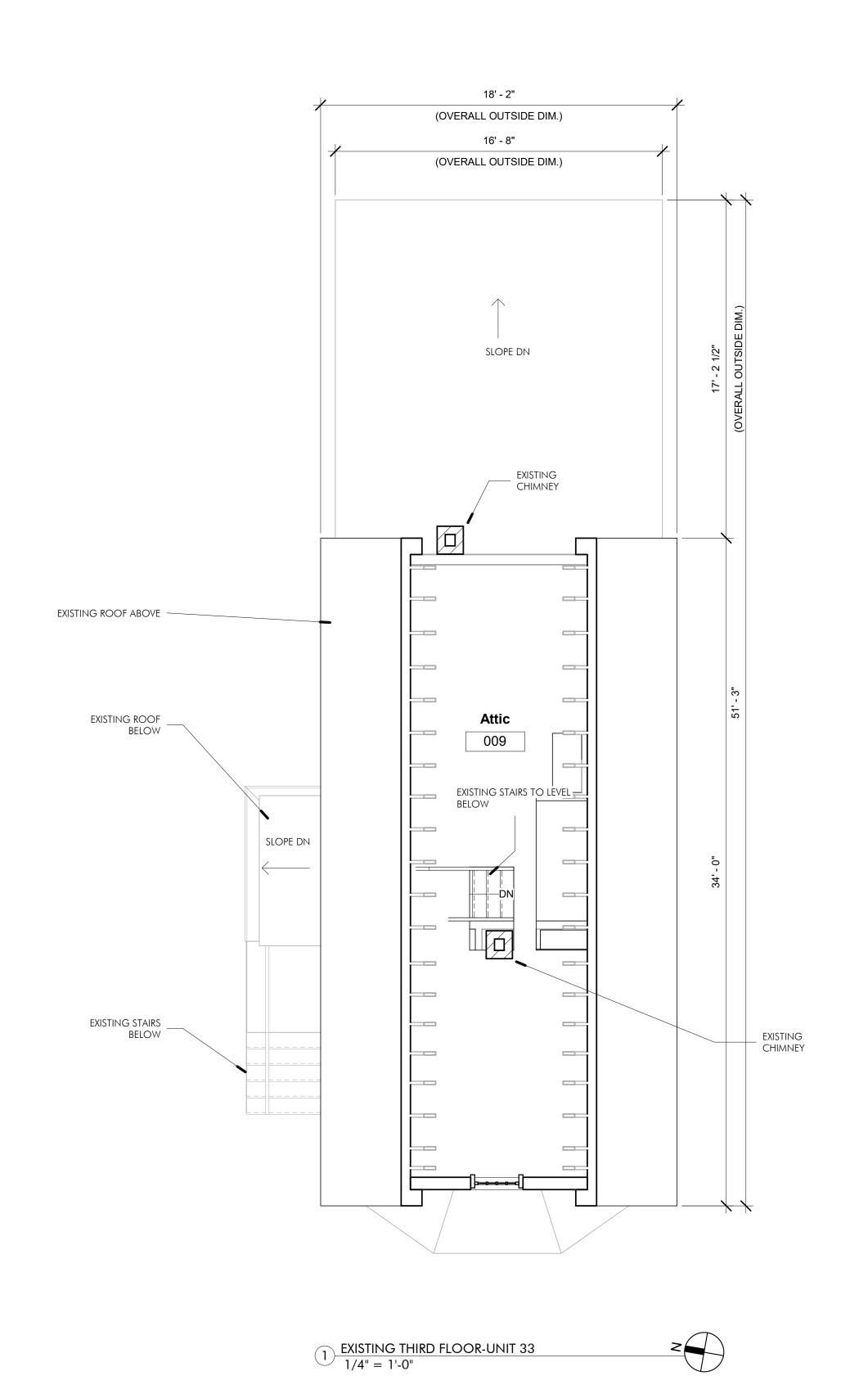
SPECIAL PERMIT

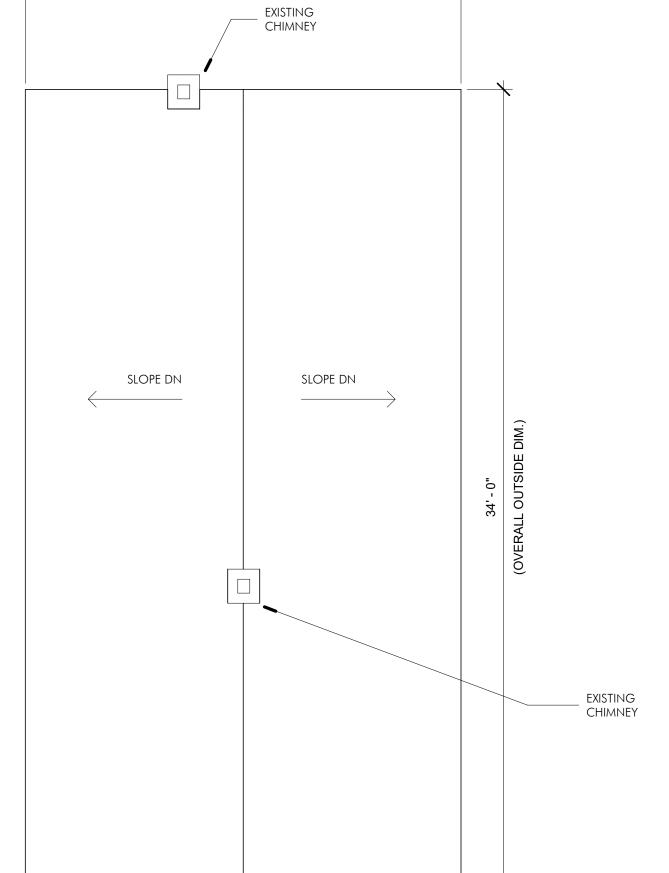
REVISIONS Description

33 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

EXISTING FLOOR PLANS - UNIT

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN 11/24/2021 1/4" = 1'-0" **AX1.1** 





18' - 2" (OVERALL OUTSIDE DIM.)

SPECIAL PERMIT

REVISIONS

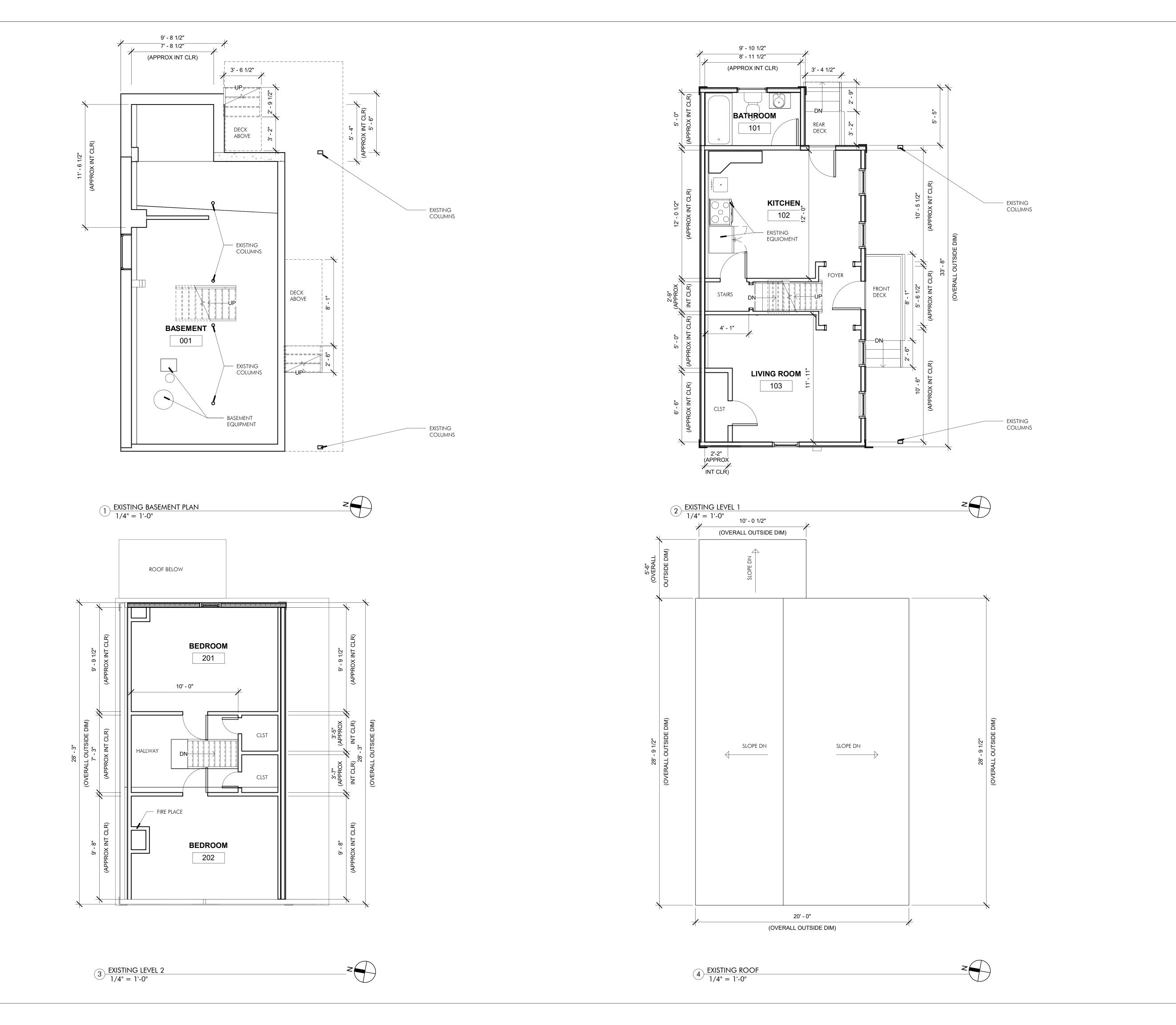
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33 WEBSTER 33 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

EXISTING FLOOR PLANS - UNIT

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN 11/24/2021  $\frac{11/24/2021}{1/4" = 1' - 0"} AX1.2$ 





ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN

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Description

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Cambridge, MA 02140
Tel. 617.354.2501 Fax. 617.354.2509

35 WEBSTER

ddress:

35 WEBSTER AVENUE

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

EXISTING PLANS - UNIT 35

 Drawing Issued By:
 ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN

 Project #:
 2112

 Date:
 11/24/2021

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

AX1.3



REVISIONS Description

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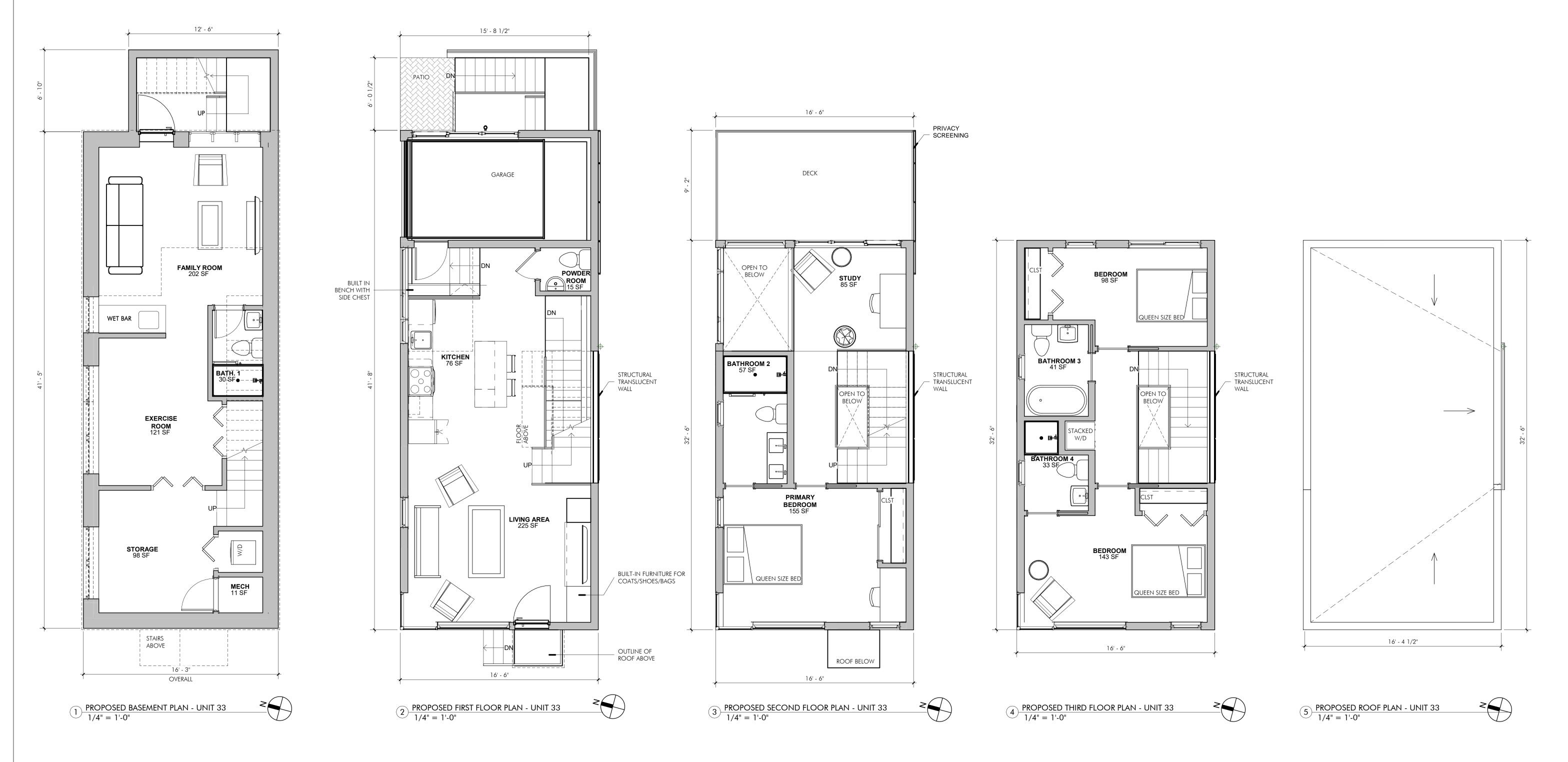
35 WEBSTER 35 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

EXISTING ELEVATIONS - UNIT

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN 2112 Drawn No. 11/24/2021

1/4" = 1'-0" AX2.2 DA/RB/AS





REVISIONS Description

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33 WEBSTER 33 WEBSTER AVENUE

PROPOSED PLANS - UNIT 33

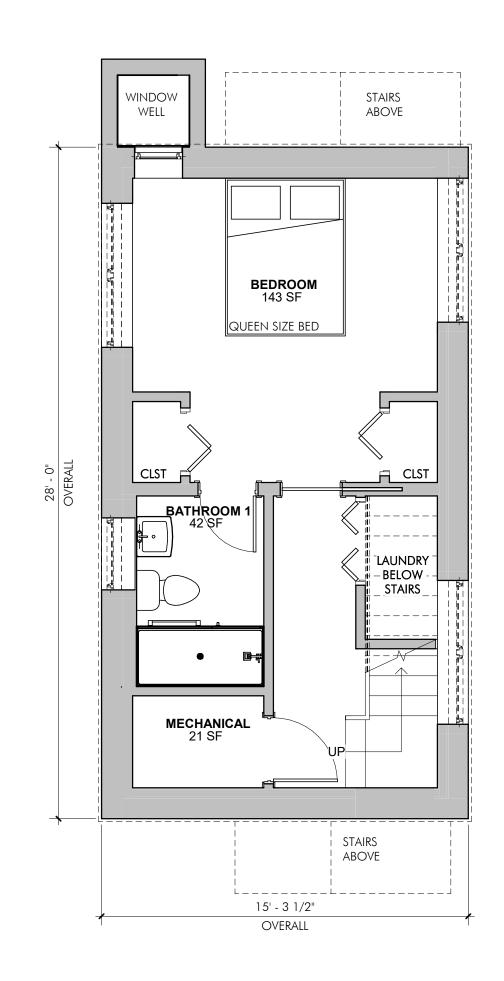
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN 2112 Drawn No. 11/24/2021 1/4" = 1'-0" A1.1

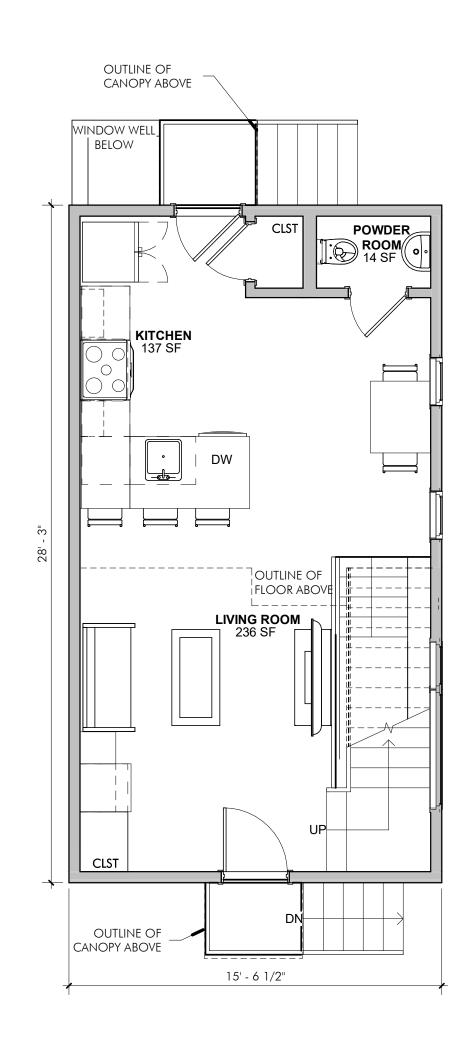
AR.S





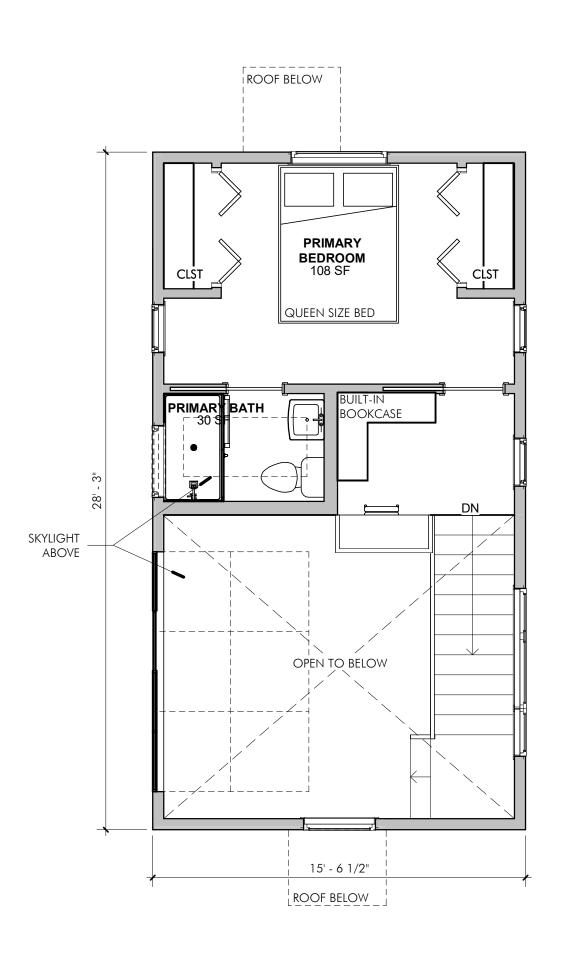






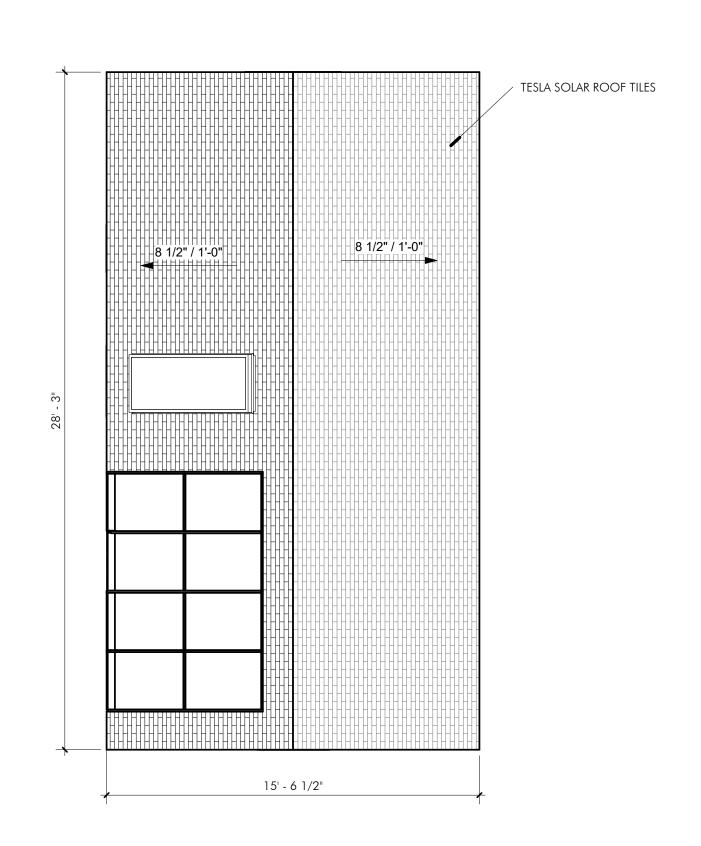
PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR - UNIT 35

1/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED SECOND FLOOR - UNIT 35

1/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED ROOF - UNIT 35

1/4" = 1'-0"



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35 WEBSTER 35 WEBSTER AVENUE

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141 PROPOSED PLANS - UNIT 35

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN 2112 Drawn No. 11/24/2021 1/4" = 1'-0" A1.2

AR.S













No.	Description	Date	
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Project: 33,35 & 37 WEBSTER
Address:

35 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

PERSPECTIVES

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN

Drawn by: AR.S., R.B.

11/24/2021

A9.1





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33,35 & 37 WEBSTER 35 WEBSTER AVENUE

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

PERSPECTIVES

	Drawing Issued By:	ANDERSON	PORTER DESIGN
	Project #:	2112	Drawn No.
	Date: 11/	24/2021	۸٥
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A9.2 Drawn by: AR.S., R.B.



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33,35 & 37 WEBSTER 35 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

PERSPECTIVES

Drawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN Date: 11/24/2021

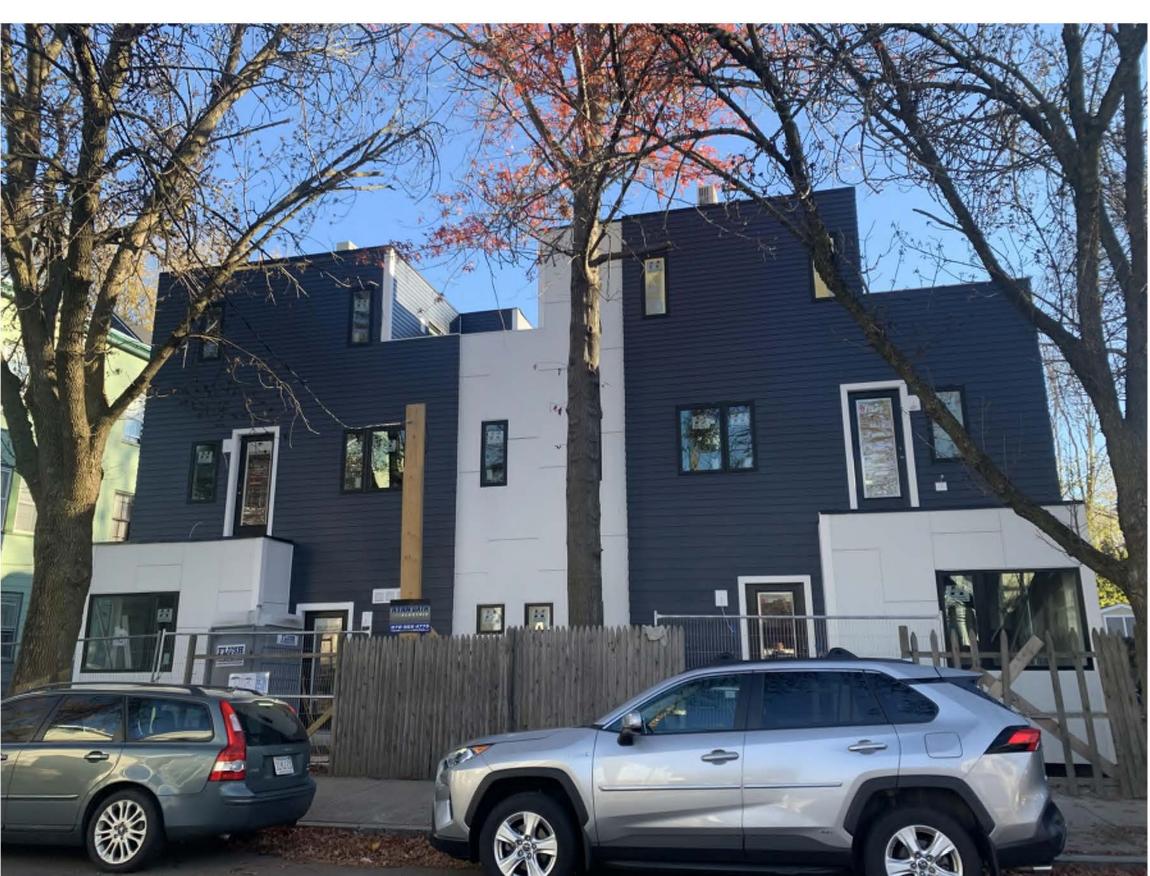
A9.3 AR.S.







33 - 35 WEBSTER - EXISTING CONDITION



41 WEBSTER - EXISTING CONDITION



33 - 35 WEBSTER PERSPECTIVE VIEW - EXISTING CONDITION

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33,35 & 37 WEBSTER 35 WEBSTER AVENUE

**EXISTING CONDITIONS** 

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

Prawing Issued By: ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN

A9.4

MORNING (7 AM)

NOON (12 PM)

AFTERNOON (5 PM)



















 Project:
 33,35 & 37 WEBSTER

 Drawing:
 EXISTING SHADOW STUDY

 Date:
 11/24/2021

 Scale:
 1/32" = 1'-0"

1972 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140 Tel: 617.354.2501

# MORNING (7 AM)

# NOON (12 PM)

AFTERNOON (5 PM)



















 Project:
 33,35 & 37 WEBSTER

 Drawing:
 PROPOSED SHADOW STUDY

 Date:
 11/24/2021

 Scale:
 1/32" = 1'-0"

SK2.0

1972 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140 Tel: 617.354.2501

Appealing decision from ISD Commissioner dated 3/17/2022 that Section 8.22.1.h.1 of the Zoning Ordinance applies only to those second story additions that consist of horizontal extensions only, and that the addition sought at 35 Webster Street proposing an addition to the second story that increases the height of the second story (but not the horizontal width) cannot be allowed by issuance of a building permit under Section 8.22.1.h.1.

Section 8.22.1 allows for "alterations, reconstructions, extensions, and enlargements of nonconforming structures which do not result in a use for a substantially different purpose or for the same purpose in a substantially different manner or to a substantially greater extent than the existing use, or which are undertaken to accommodate a new conforming use" upon the "issuance of a building permit by the Superintendent of Buildings." The proposed second story addition to the existing nonconforming single-family structure at 35 Webster meets these prerequisites for an "as of right" building permit pursuant to this Section 8.22.1. No change, extension or alteration of a nonconforming use is proposed.

Subsection 8.22.1.h allows for "the construction of a dormer or an addition to a nonconforming one- or two-family dwelling which will further violate the yard and height requirements of Article 5, but no other requirements of Article 5 including FAR" in two scenarios. The proposed project involves the construction of an addition to a nonconforming single-family dwelling which will further violate the yard requirements of Article 5 (in the sense that the addition will occur within the side yard setback) but will not violate any other requirements of Article 5 including both FAR and height.

Subsection 8.22.1.h.1 allows for construction of "an addition to the second story that does not extend horizontally beyond the vertical walls of the existing first story of the structure." The proposed project at 35 Webster is to construct a second story addition that does not extend horizontally beyond the vertical walls of the existing first story of the structure.

The term "addition" is not specifically defined in Article 2 of the Ordinance. However, the preamble of Article 2 states that "definitions set forth in the State Building Code are also applicable, where appropriate, with respect to words and terms not defined herein." The State Building Code incorporates by reference Chapter 2 of the 2015 International Building Code, which defines an "addition" as "[a]n extension or an increase in floor area or height" (emphasis added). The proposed addition to the single-family structure at 35 Webster is an increase in the height of the second story of the structure, whereby the roof height is increased in order to provide for additional code compliant habitable living area at the second story of the structure.

Article 2 of the Ordinance defines a "story" as "that portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above." The existing second story of the structure currently has a low pitch roof with a maximum interior clear height of less than seven (7) feet at the peak. Although this second story contains existing living space and accounts for a Gross Floor Area of 246 sf, all of that GFA is less than seven feet in height and thus not meeting habitable room requirements of the State Building Code. The purpose of the addition in height is to create a State Building Code compliant full-height second story to the existing structure. The additional height proposed to the structure is not sufficient to create a third story to this structure now or in the future. The space under the pitch roof is open.

On this basis, we believe the proposed addition to the second floor fully conforms to the requirements of 8.22.1.h.1 and should be allowed by the issuance of a building permit. We are in agreement that any new or enlarged openings in the non-conforming yard would require an application for special permit as required by 8.22.2.d, and no such relief is requested at this time.

## RE: 35 Webster - zoning ordinance interpretation



Singanayagam, Ranjit <ranjits@cambridgema.gov>

To Dan Anderson

(i) You forwarded this message on 3/17/2022 1:01 PM.

## Good Morning Dan,

The Section 8.22.1.h.1 reads as follows:

"A dormer or addition to the second story that does not extend beyond the vertical walls of the first story of the structure" ISD interpretation is that addition can made horizontally as long as it does not extend beyond the vertical walls of first story and conforms to GFA. If you have any questions, please call or email.

Thanks

Ranjit

From: Dan Anderson < dan@andersonporter.com >

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 11:58 AM

To: Singanayagam, Ranjit < ranjits@cambridgema.gov>

Cc: Pacheco, Maria <mpacheco@cambridgema.gov>

Subject: FW: 35 Webster - zoning ordinance interpretation

### Good morning Ranjit;

I have been assuming that I need your written interpretation in order to submit an application for appeal.

If this is not necessary I will get an application prepared as soon as possible to get on the next BZA hearing agenda.

Can you please confirm and/or provide your interpretation of Article 8 Section 8.22.1 h. 1.?

Best, Dan

Daniel P. Anderson

## AndersonPorter Design

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o. 617 354 2501 ext. 111 m.617 794 2371

## www.andersonporter.com



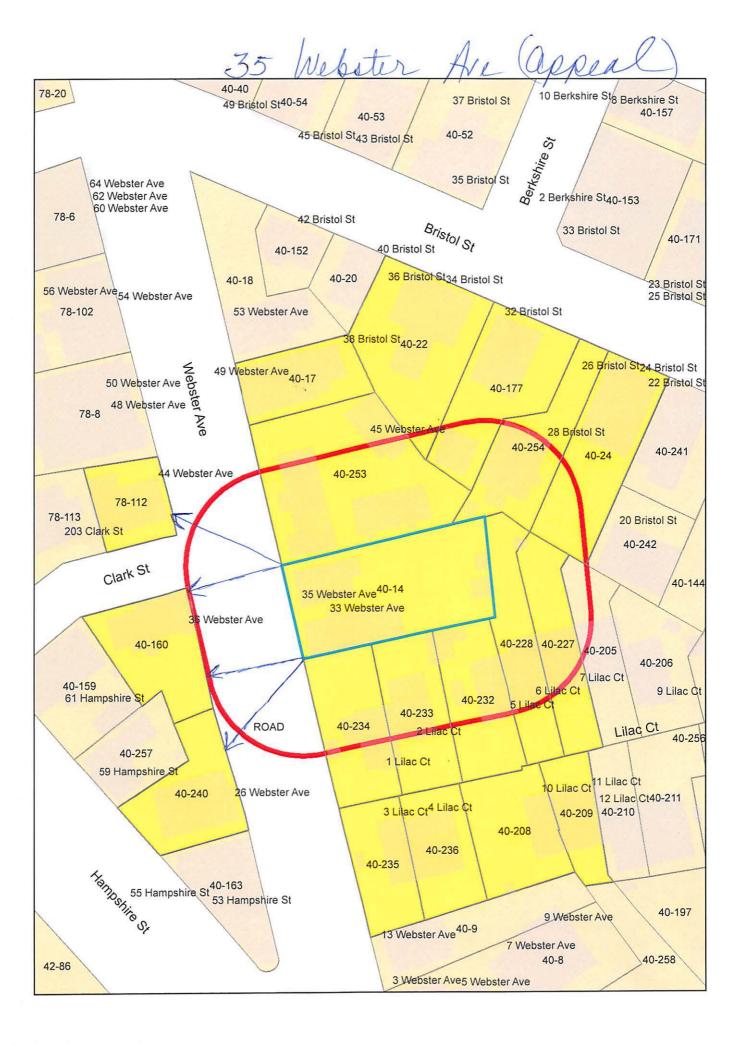






"Always design a thing by considering it in its larger context - a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, an environment in a city plan."





35 Webster Arc

78-112 EVERETT, MARGARET 44 WEBSTER AVE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

40-177 KATZ, WARREN JAY 20 FAIRFIELD ST BOSTON, MA 02116

40-240 SINGH, SWARN JIT 26 WEBSTER AVE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

40-208 COTTON, LAURENCE F. & THUAN TIN COTTON C/O TIN COTTON 3564 NE KNOTT PORTLAND, OR 97212

40-227 SPRINGER, SARAH & DOMINIC PEDULLA 30 VOLUNTEER WAY LEXINGTON, MA 02420

40-253 39-45 WEBSTER AVENUE LLC 1979 MASSACHUSETTS AVE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02140

40-233 BOYER, JOSEPH 2 LILAC COURT CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141-1911 40-22

CHUANG, GEORGE C.& IRENE C. KUAN, TRUSTEES OF CHUANG FAMILY NOM TR. 29 GOOSE POND RD LINCOLN, MA 01773

40-232 MCMAHON, GRAHAM & JOSEPH GUARINO, JR. 5 LILAC CT CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141-1911

40-160 HALL, JOHN W. & VIRGINIA ROHAN HALL 36 WEBSTER AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141-1327

40-209 LANGDO, THOMAS A. & JUNE F. CHENG 11 LILAC CT CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

40-234 MCDONALD,GLENN P. & BETHANY L. ERICSON 1 LILAC CT CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

40-235 KUCSKO GEORG DHANDE MEHAK 3 LILAC CT CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

40-17
PACHECO, JOSE
TR. OF THE PACHECO FAMILY LEGACY TRUST
11 COMET RD
METHUEN, MA 01844

ANDERSON PORTER DESIGN C/O DAN ANDERSON 1972 MASS AVE - #4B CAMBRIDGE, MA 02140

40-14 PARVIZI PARVIZ 33 WEBSTER AVE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

40-254 AUSTIN, MICHAEL M. & TORGUN S. AUSTIN 28 BRISTOL ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

40-236 DESROCHES, ALEXANDER S. 94-1051 MAWAHO ST. WAIPAHU , HI 96797

40-24 FREITAS, MARIA Z. & NATALIE COSTA 34 SEAVIEW AVE MARLBEHEAD, MA 01945

40-228 WANG ZI SUN YULIANG LEON 6 LILAC CT CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

## Pacheco, Maria

From:

Sarah Rhatigan <sarah@trilogylaw.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 11:35 AM

To:

Singanayagam, Ranjit

Cc:

Pacheco, Maria; Parviz Parvizi; Dan Anderson; Adam Sitterly

Subject:

35 Webster Avenue, Cambridge - w/r/t BZA Appeal, Case No. 168852-2022

**Attachments:** 

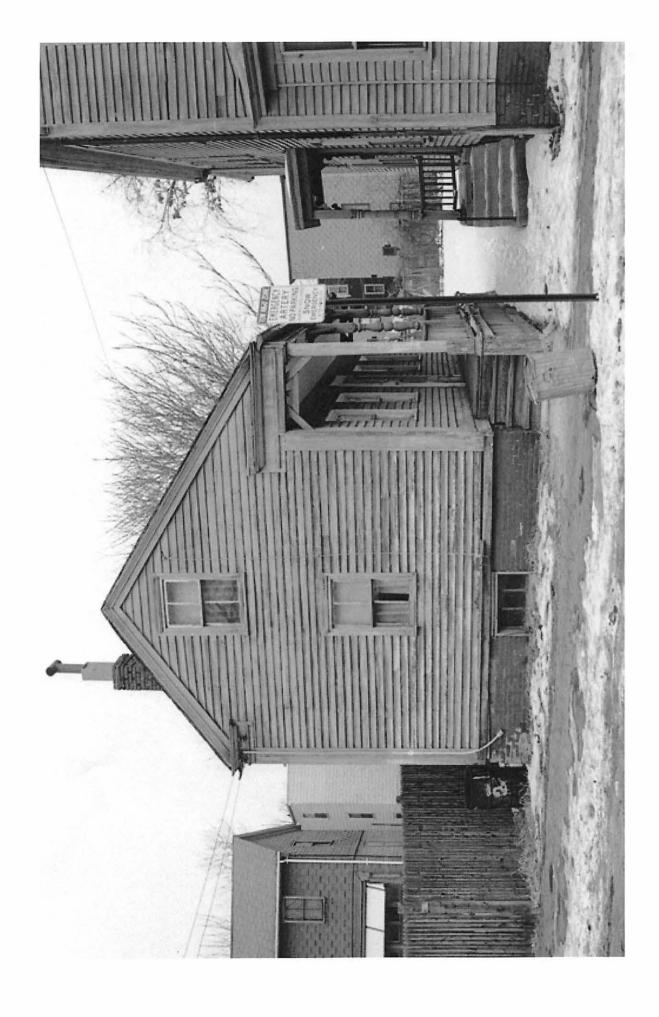
Ltr to Mr. Singanayagam (4.13.22).pdf; 35 Webster Affidavit Executed - Gus Leddy.pdf

Hello Mr. Singanayagam —

Following up on our meeting the other day, we have some additional information and an affidavit that we would like to share with you about the history of the use of the second story of this house. Please see the attached Letter, Affidavit and photo (circa 1970).

Once you have had a chance to review, we would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss sometime during the week of April 25th.

Thank you for your time and consideration, -Sarah



#### April 13, 2022

## Via Email and 1st Class Mail

Mr. Ranjit Singanayagam Commissioner of Inspectional Services City of Cambridge 831 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: <u>BZA Case No. 168852</u>, <u>Appeal of Determination of ISD Commissioner re Interpretation of CZO Section 8.22.1.h.1 to Proposed Addition to 35 Webster Avenue</u>, Cambridge, MA (the "Property")

Dear Mr. Singanayagam:

I am writing to provide you with information, including the enclosed Affidavit of a Prior Owner documenting the history of the use of this Property, as well as photo dated from 1970 from the Cambridge Historical Commission's files, which we believe may be relevant to this Appeal.

The Applicant has filed this Appeal to your determination that Section 8.22.1.h.1 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance should apply only to horizontal additions to a second story of a preexisting nonconforming structure; and your conclusion that this provision should not allow ("as of right") the proposed addition to 35 Webster Avenue that extends vertically the second level of this house. The Applicant is seeking to convert what is now a low-ceilinged second floor of the home to a full-height, State Sanitary Code compliant second floor.

When we met last week, you indicated a concern that the existing second floor may not legally be considered a "second story" (under 8.22.1.h.1) since the ceiling heights were lower than the State Building Code allows, rendering this area not legally "livable space." You also mentioned your concern about precedent if Section 8.22.1.h.1 were used by an applicant who wanted to convert an attic space (possibly illegally finished) or even a crawl space above a first floor to a full-height, two-story structure.

As we discussed, the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance's definition of a "story" does not require certain ceiling heights nor require habitability or code compliance. Article 2 of the Ordinance defines a "story" as "that portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above."

Nonetheless, appreciating your concern, we investigated the history of the use of the second floor of this 1840's home in order to confirm that indeed it has been used as living and sleeping space for at least (and likely more than) 70 years.

The prior owner of 35 Webster Avenue – Mr. Augustine Leddy - provided us with an affidavit (attached here) describing the fascinating history of the use of the second floor of this home. Mr. Leddy describes that his seven-member family (parents and siblings) resided at 35 Webster Avenue from 1960 and, that during that time, he and his family slept in the two upstairs bedrooms (3 in each upstairs bedroom and his uncle on the first-floor couch). The family went on to purchase the property in 1971. From their initial residence through their purchase and up through the sale to Mr. Parviz Parvizi, the Applicant, Mr. Leddy states that the two bedrooms on the second story have continuously been used as sleeping and living space. Furthermore, Mr. Leddy's uncle had rented and lived at 35 Webster Avenue since the mid-1950's using the upstairs rooms as bedrooms.

The enclosed photo of the Property taken in 1970 shows the upstairs window had a curtain and blind, further supporting the conclusion that this floor was used as living space at the time. It is clear from the historical record that the second floor of this home has been used as sleeping and living space, albeit with lower-than-ideal ceiling heights, since at least the mid-1950s and quite likely before this time.

With this additional information, we hope that you will agree that this establishes that the structure indeed has two "stories," that the second floor constitutes legally preexisting nonconforming (as to the State Building Code), livable space, and further that the Applicant's proposed addition to extend the ceiling heights up to full-height should be allowed "as of right" pursuant to CZO Section 8.22.1.h.1.

This Appeal has been scheduled for a hearing on May 5th, 2022. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter before the hearing in hopes that we can answer any questions you may have and hopefully reach a consensus.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Like Rhatigan, Esq.

Enclosures

CC (via email):

Mr. Parviz Parvizi Mr. Dan Anderson

IVII. Dan I macroo

#### **AFFIDAVIT OF PRIOR OWNER**

Re: 35 Webster Avenue, Cambridge, MA

- I, Augustine (Gus) Leddy, do hereby state the following under oath:
- 1. My family lived at 35 Webster Avenue when we immigrated to the United States from Ireland in 1960. My parents subsequently purchased 33-35 Webster Avenue in 1971. In 2006, my three siblings and I were added as owners of the property alongside our parents. In June 2021, my family sold 33-35 Webster Avenue to Parviz Parvizi.
- 2. When my family took up residence at 35 Webster Avenue in 1960, seven of us lived in the home. I, along with two of my siblings, slept in one of the bedrooms on the second story. My parents, along with a fourth sibling, slept in the second bedroom on the second story. My uncle slept on a couch in the living room on the first story.
- 3. Prior to our arrival in the United States in 1960, my uncle rented and lived in 35 Webster Avenue since the mid-1950s. My uncle used the two bedrooms on the second story as sleeping and living space. The second story and the bedrooms on it had been used in such a manner as sleeping and living space as far back as anyone could remember.
- 4. Since the mid-1950s through 2021 a period that covered my uncle's time of residence in the mid-1950s, my family's initial residence in 1960, the 1971 purchase of the home by my parents, and the sale of the property in 2021 the second story of 35 Webster Avenue has continuously been used as sleeping and living space with two bedrooms that each had their own entry doors off of the main second story hallway.

Executed under pains and penalties of periury on April 6. 2022.

**Augustine Leddy** 

Witness to the same:

Name: Nelson Dilloway

## BZA APPLICATION FORM - OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

To be completed by OWNER, signed before a notary and returned to The Secretary of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

I/We	Parviz Parvizi	
	(OWNER)	
Address:	33-35 Webster Ave., Cambridge, MA 02141	
State that	I/We own the property located at 33-35 Webster Ave (Cambridge, MA)	
which is t	the subject of this zoning application.	
The record	d title of this property is in the name of Parviz Parvizi	
	to a deed of duly recorded in the date, Middlesex South	
	gistry of Deeds at Book, Page; or	
	Registry District of Land Court, Certificate No. 276648	
Book15/	75 Page61	
	SIGNATURE BY LAND OWNER OR AUTHORIZED TRUSTEE, OFFICER OR AGENT*	
*Written evidence of Agent's standing to represent petitioner may be requested.		
Commonweal	th of Massachusetts, County of Middlesex	
The above-	-name Parviz Pavizi personally appeared before me,	
this 13th	of Nov, 2021, and made path that the above statement is true.	
My commiss	Sion expires 5/26/28 (Notary Seal).  MICHAEL E. POWING Mary Public, Commonwealth of Mas My Commission Expires May 26,	ERS sachusef 2028

 If ownership is not shown in recorded deed, e.g. if by court order, recent deed, or inheritance, please include documentation.

#### Pacheco, Maria

From:

Graham McMahon <grahammcmahon@hotmail.com>

Sent: To: Thursday, April 28, 2022 5:33 PM

Subject:

Pacheco, Maria; Singanayagam, Ranjit comments on BZA-168852: may 5th

Hi Maria and Ranjit,

Joe and I own 5 Lilac Ct which is contiguous with the 33-35 Webster project that is the subject of this upcoming appeal. We are substantially affected by Mr. Parviz's plan to extend the vertical height of the property at 35 Webster Ave. Allowing Mr. Parviz to add vertical height would not only establish new precedent in Cambridge, but also affect the neighbors access to light and privacy. The planned increased height of the structure would allow overlook into our gardens and living rooms in ways that would meaningfully disrupt all of us. We have been outspoken about our extensive objections to the current design of the property. The applicants appear to be resistant to the instruction to work with the neighbors to develop a property that fits within the surrounding structures without disruption. We hope the committee looks again at the extensive commentary the neighbors have already provided in written and verbal testimony before making a determination.

We also ask to be heard at the appeals meeting which several of us neighbors plan to join.

#### Graham

## Pacheco, Maria

From:

Yuliang Sun <yuliangleonsun@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, April 29, 2022 4:31 PM

To:

Pacheco, Maria

Subject:

Public comment on BZA-168852

Dear Ms. Pacheco,

We are Zi Wang and Yuliang Sun, owners and residents at 6 Lilac Court. We are substantially affected by Mr. Parviz's plan to extend the vertical height of the property at 35 Webster Ave (BZA-168852). We write in support of the board's original determination to deny Mr. Parviz's plan and to uphold this decision in the upcoming May 5th appeals hearing.

Allowing Mr. Parviz to add vertical height would not only establish a consequential precedent in Cambridge, but also affect the neighbors' access to light and privacy. The planned increased height of the structure would allow overlook into our north-facing garden and living room in ways that would be intrusive to privacy and meaningfully disrupt the neighbors.

As concerned neighbors, we, as well as others in the lilac court/webster ave community have been outspoken about our extensive objections to the current design of the property. Unfortunately, the applicants appear to be resistant to the instruction to work with the neighbors to develop a property that fits within the surrounding structures without disruption. We hope the committee looks again at the extensive commentary the neighbors have already provided in written and verbal testimony across multiple hearings before making a determination.

Regards,

Yuliang Leon Sun Zi Wang Owners, 6 Lilac Court, Cambridge

## Pacheco, Maria

From:

Lin Yang <a519522@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, May 2, 2022 11:04 AM

To:

Pacheco, Maria; Ratay, Olivia; Singanayagam, Ranjit

Cc:

Sixian You

Subject:

Opposition letter for BZA-168852 (35 Webster Avenue)

Attachments:

Third opposition letter for BZA-155115 (35 Webster Avenue).pdf

Hello Ms. Pacheco, Ms. Ratay and Mr. Singanayagam,

We are Sixian You (cc-ed here) and Lin Yang, the owners of 41 Webster Avenue. I have attached our opposition letter for BZA-168852 (35 Webster Avenue) to this email where we:

- 1. Point out the application failed to mention that section 8.22.1.h.1 also requires "the addition will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing nonconforming structure or use".
- 2. Explain in detail how the petition is substantially more detrimental than the current non-conforming structure to our living.
- 3. Corrected a few misleading information from the applicants from the previous hearing.

Also, since the original hearing on 01/27/2022, the petitioners have not reached out to us to discuss their new plan nor address our concerns. We hope the committee looks again at the extensive commentary the neighbors have already provided in written and verbal testimony before making a determination.

Please let us know if you need any documents or further information.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely, Lin and Sixian

# Third opposition letter for BZA-168852 (35 Webster) Sixian You and Lin Yang

## **Background**

Previously in BZA-155115, the applicant asked the Board of Zoning Appeal (BZA) to grant a special permit for increasing the height of the building which **further** violates setback. While the special permit application is still pending. The applicant submitted BZA-168852 to appeal the decision from ISD Commissioner that denied the same change under a different section 8.22.1.h.1.

We, Sixian You and Lin Yang, as the owners of 41 Webster Avenue write this letter to express our strongest **opposition** to the application.

The application BZA-168852 is substantially more detrimental than the current non-conforming structure to the neighborhood (which is also required for 8.22.1.h.1); will set wrong precedent which will damages the purpose of the zoning ordinance. In the following sections, we explain these points in detail.

During the original hearing on 01/27/2022, the applicants presented some misleading information which we are worried they might give the board some wrong impressions. We will provide some clarifications in this letter.

Also, since the hearing on 01/27/2022, the petitioners have not reached out to us to discuss their new plan nor address our concerns.

As of the current version of the petition, we respectfully urge the board to deny this petition. As a direct abutter with standing, we reserve full legal rights to challenge this appeal in court.

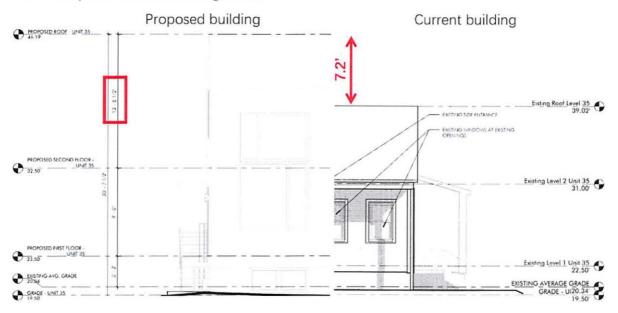
## Set wrong precedent for the ordinance

As mentioned by the board member from the original hearing, "Using the Zoning Board or a variance as a vehicle to enhance that initial investment is really not part of our charge, nor should it be part of our consideration".

In BZA-168852, the applicant failed to mention the section 8.22.1.h.1 also requires non-detrimental to the neighborhood as quoted below from the zoning ordinance: "Such a permit, either a building permit in the case of the construction authorized in Section 8.22.1 or a special permit in the case of construction authorized in Section

8.22.2. may be granted only if the permit granting authority specified below finds that such change, extension, or alteration **will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood** than the existing nonconforming structure or use".

The current interpretation that the applicant is pursuing would allow the height of non-conforming second floor to be arbitrarily increased until the overall building height reached 35 feet. This is also reflected in the applicant's plan, as they are aiming to increase the height of the building by **7.2 feet** which contains a **13.7 feet** tall second floor as shown below. This is far more than necessary to the applicant's claim for a "code compliant habitable living area".



If the board accepts this petition, it sets the wrong precedent to the public. Future buyers could use this precedent as their rationale to hunt for existing non-conforming properties and abuse non-conformities to maximize profits. This is clearly nullifying the intent of the ordinance. This directly violates the purpose of the ordinance to preserve the property rights of others. It also violates the Equal Protection under the 14th Amendment where the law requires the permit issuing authority to conduct a fair process and provide equal protections to all petitioners and abutters.

We urge the board to set a sustainable standard for characterization of "detrimental" to avoid a future where people would seek after non-conforming properties for profit. An existing non-conformity does not grant license to arbitrarily extend that non-conformity.

## Substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood

We strongly disagree with the applicants that the new design will have little negative impact on our home. This section highlights two examples of how the petition will be substantially detrimental to our living.

## Impact on our basement bedroom:

We sympathize with the applicant that buying a home in Cambridge is expensive and difficult. But this difficulty is not only experienced by the applicants, but also current and future residents in Cambridge. We also sympathize with the applicant on his intention of having parents move in.

We are planning to do the same. We are planning to have kids within 1~2 years, and with both our parents, we inevitably need to use the basement as a bedroom. We all know that the basement is not a great place to be a bedroom, but, currently in our home, there is a large basement window which has some sunlight for around half of a year which makes it a little less depressing.

In the petition, the application is aiming to increase the height of 35 Webster by 7.17' (nearly the height of one story). By our calculation from solar angles and height, this will reduce the current half of a year sunlight to around 4 month. This will lead to significant reduction in our quality of lives.

#### Yard:

We have been garden enthusiasts for a long time and have always been growing plants on the windowsill because we don't have a garden. After so many years, we finally own a garden (where Lin has spent weeks designing all the tiny little details) and then we learnt about the petition which effectively vaporized the usefulness of it to grow any plants that need partial to full sunlight (since the new height in the petition additionally blocks sunlight in April and August which is the time for seeding and harvest). This not only reduces our property values but also breaks our dream to grow beautiful flowers/veggies/fruits in our garden.





Garden design for our new home



## Correction of misleading information from original hearing

Note that the content in this section is only for the impact to our home (41 Webster), there may be other misleading information impacting other neighbors which is not included here.

## (1) The applicants said they are actively working with us.

We quote the applicants' statement from the original hearing "We do have some opposition from new owners at number 41, and Parviz had tried to be as engaging on that front as possible." But in fact, we have not received a single communication from the applicants after the original hearing, despite our contacts being made available for them from our opposition letter from the original hearing.

- (2) The applicants sugar-coated the negative impact of shadow on our home. The applicants made many statements to sugar-coat the negative impact of shadow on our home. We quote them here and add the actual facts.
  - (a) The first one we quote is "So that increase of height does increase shadows predominantly in the solstice -- I'm sorry, the equinox -- and obviously in the winter solstice. The impacts, however, in terms of our assessment are that they predominantly impact, obviously, the yard, which is going to be impacting in those seasons pretty much anyway."

In fact, by further increasing the height in the non-conforming setback, our already precious 6-month sunlight will be reduced to 4 months. And the new sunlight blockage in April and August will post significant damage for gardening as those are the time for seeding and harvest.

More specifically, the attitude of the sun is 48 degree on fall equinox (around mid september) and decreases to 24 degree in winter solstice (around mid december) and then come back to 48 degree in spring equinox (around mid march). As the applicants acknowledged, the current non-conforming struture already blocks the sunlight for half a year. By further increasing the height by 7.17' in the non-conforming set back, this blockage will extend to mid-march to mid april and mid-august to mid september.

Also the statement "which is going to be impacting in those seasons pretty much anyway" is quite ill-posed. We found it bewildering for the applicant to have this sentiment as the justification — we are already in a bad shape due to previous non-conformities so making it worse is ok.

(b) The second one we quote is "According to our sun shadow studies, which we believe Parviz distributed, there's no shadow impact on that deck area. So there's I believe a door, or a glass door and two windows on that side, which would be impacted after the fall equinox and really the kind of later and earlier parts of the day"

Our home is a small footprint townhouse and consists of 4 floors (including basement). We want to emphasize that the two windows in their statement are actually on the second floor. So the proposed new height will block nearly all our south facing windows except the deck on the top floor.

The applicant's also mentioned "the impact will be after the fall equinox and really the kind of later and earlier parts of the day". But in fact, the impact will range from fall equinox to spring equinox which is half a year. And from our revised shadow study (in the appendix), the impact will last for almost the entire day from 7am to 4pm.

Affecting sunlight everyday for half a year for nearly all our rooms will definitely reduce our quality of life and reduce the property's value.

(3) The applicants coated the petition into improving living standards, but didn't make clear the extent of unnecessary luxurious/design statements.

After increasing the non-conforming structure height by 7.17' (nearly the height of one story), the second floor of 35 Webster even reduces to a single bedroom (originally two bedrooms) but with luxurious windows and height. The ceiling height for their proposed second floor is 13.7 feet! Considering the damage it does to our unit (affecting sunlight for four rooms and yard), this excessive luxury ceiling height is quite unjustified.

There are many ways to improve living standards of 35 Webster without significantly damaging our home. For example, flattening the south side of the roof and adding a dormer on the north side without raising the height of the building. But the applicants choose to go to the extreme. This shows the flavor of the application is more for profit than addressing hardships and the negative impact to the neighbors is severely understated, under-researched.

## Privacy concerns

The addition of new openings in non-conforming wall setback also poses privacy concerns as they are directly facing our second floor bedroom windows.

## **Appendix**

Corrected shadow study of the proposed structure (red boxes indicate correct building locations)

