CITY OF ROCKWALL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD (HPAB) MEMO

	AGENDA DATE:	4/18/2013
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APPLICANT: Clayton McGowan

AGENDA ITEM: H2013-005; 304 Star Street

SUMMARY:

Hold a public hearing to discuss and consider a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from John Robinson and Clayton McGowan to permit the demolition of an existing structure on a Medium Contributing Property and the construction of two (2) single family homes situated within the Old Town Rockwall Historic District, the Historic Overlay (HO) District, and zoned Single Family-7 (SF-7) District, and take any action necessary. The subject property is located at 304 Star Street and is further identified as Lots 7 & 8, Block C of the Eppstein Addition, City of Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas.

DISCUSSION:

The applicants, John Robinson and Clayton McGowan have submitted a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to demolish the structure (detached garage) that currently exists on this property and to construct two (2) single family homes on lots 7 & 8 of the Eppstein Addition, also known as 304 Star Street. The subject properties are zoned Single Family- 7 (SF-7) District and the existing structure (detached garage) is considered to be a medium contributing property within the Historic District. Based on the plat records for the Eppstein Addition filed in 1892, the two (2) 50-ft X 140-ft lots were used to build a single family home with the detached garage (built years later) and was not platted as a single lot.

Shortly after purchasing the property, Mr. Robinson was granted a COA in July of 2008 to demolish the single family home that existed on this property based on years of neglect. Mr. Robinson had provided photo's of the interior as well as the exterior of the homes condition, thereby documenting the fact that the home had lost its value as a contributing property to the Historic District.

Mr. Robinson has indicated a desire to construct two (2) new single family "farmhouse" homes that will be complimentary to the Historic District in terms of style and layout. According the Unified Development Code (UDC), any new construction, in terms of scale, mass, volume, period and style, shall be compatible according to Appendix "D" - Historic Preservation Guidelines and requires a COA. The guidelines are included with this report for your review and consideration.

As a note, farmhouses draw their inspiration from the Colonial Revival era and are indicative of gables that face different directions. The homes will feature articulated elements of a "farmhouse" such as gabled and hip styled roof dormers on high pitched gabled roofs, oval and rectangular louvered vents as depicted, decorative brackets attached to the supporting columns at the porches, with a gable pediment (at roof pitch) and keystones above the windows (JR 1237 model), and chimney stacks for both homes. The exterior of the homes will incorporate a cementaceous siding (e.g. Hardy Board) product with a cedar plank appearance that will be complimentary to the district.

In 2008 the COA allowed for the detached garage to be enclosed and converted to a hobby shop/storage facility, and remains standing today centered on both lots. With the proposed new construction of the two (2) homes, the applicants are proposing to demolish the detached garage/structure, but will remain as storage for construction materials and a construction office during the building process (should the COA be approved). Since this is considered a medium contributing property, a COA will be required in order to demolish the structure.

According to the UDC, Appendix "D" – Historic Preservation Guidelines ...demolition of a structure would be allowed if:

• The building has lost its architectural and historical integrity and importance, and its removal will not result in a negative, less appropriate visual effect on the Historic District; or

• A structure does not contribute to the historical or architectural character and importance of the Historic District (such as a non-contributing structure), and its removal will result in a positive, appropriate visual effect on the Historic District; or

• There is an imminent threat to the health, safety and welfare to the surrounding residents and/or property because of an unsafe condition that constitutes an emergency (See Section VII, Demolition-by-Neglect).

The applicants request to demolish this structure does have merit given the fact it has been altered from its original design and use as a detached garage, detracting from its historical value. Also, with the fact that this property is platted as two (2) separate lots, the structure will create an encroachment upon both lots if it were to remain. Finally, based on the plans submitted and the characteristics present of the proposed homes for the lots, staff supports the applicants request for the COA to demolish the detached garage and construct the new homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness with the following condition:

1. Submittal and approval any necessary building and fence permits associated with both lots.

2. That the construction of the homes meet the intent of the Historic Preservation Guidelines as outlined in the UDC.

3. That a Specific Use Permit (SUP) for a guest quarters/secondary living unit and the height of the accessory structure be approved prior to construction.





City of Rockwall Planning & Zoning Department

Planning & Zoning Departn 385 S. Goliad Street Rockwall, Texas 75032 (P): (972) 771-7745 (W): www.rockwall.com The City of Rockwall GIS maps are continually under development and therefore subject to change without notice. While we endeavor to provide timely and accurate information, we make no guarantees. The City of Rockwall makes no warranty, express or implied, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Use of the information is the sole responsibility of the user.



March 27, 2013

John W. Robinson 1302 Laurence Dr. Heath, Texas 75087 972-971-0918

City Of Rockwall

Planning and Zoning Department

Attention Certificate of Appropriateness Process

385 South Goliad St

Rockwall, Texas 75087

To whom it may concern,

We are planning the construction of two single family homes on Lot 7&8 of Star St (reference old 304 Star). The homes are country/farmhouse style to compliment the historic nature of Rockwall's square. In 2008, I acquired 3 lots (6-8) with an old house which was designated medium contributing historic structure but later found to be of little or no value and demolished. The property still has a garage which was estimated to be built in 1950's but it sits on the lot line between 7&8. It will be used as a storage area and construction office during the construction phase. Upon completion, the garage will be demolished.

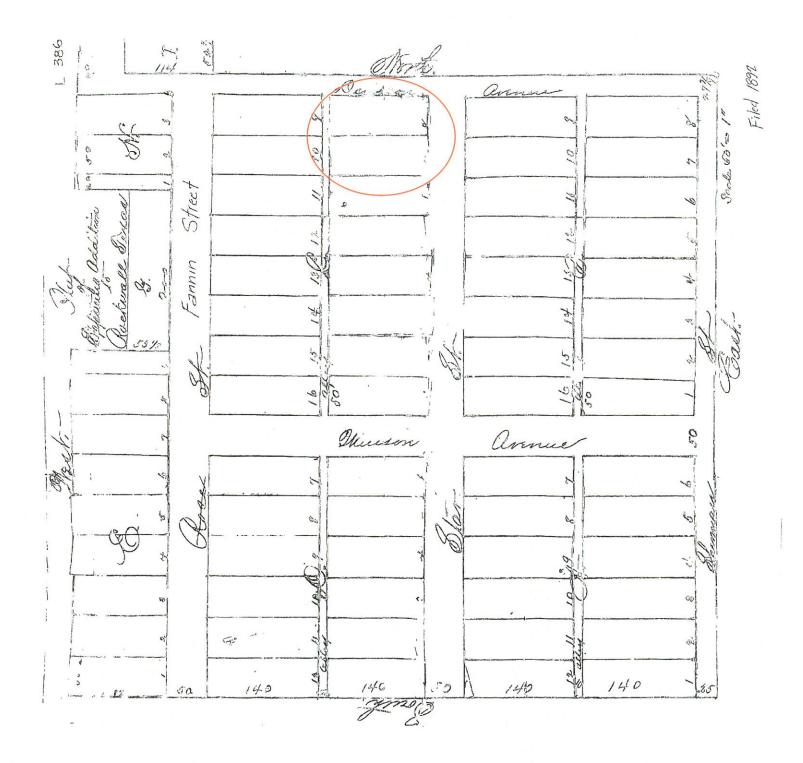
Both houses will be built with using concrete siding (Hardy Board as example) with a cedar plank look. Lot 8 will be a grayish blue in color with white trim and lot 7 will be yellowish tan with white trim. All flooring will be hand scraped hardwood or composite to resemble hand scraped hardwood floors. Wet areas including Kitchen and entry ways will be tiled using neutral ceramic tiles. Modern energy efficient appliances will compliment the antiqued looking cabinets.

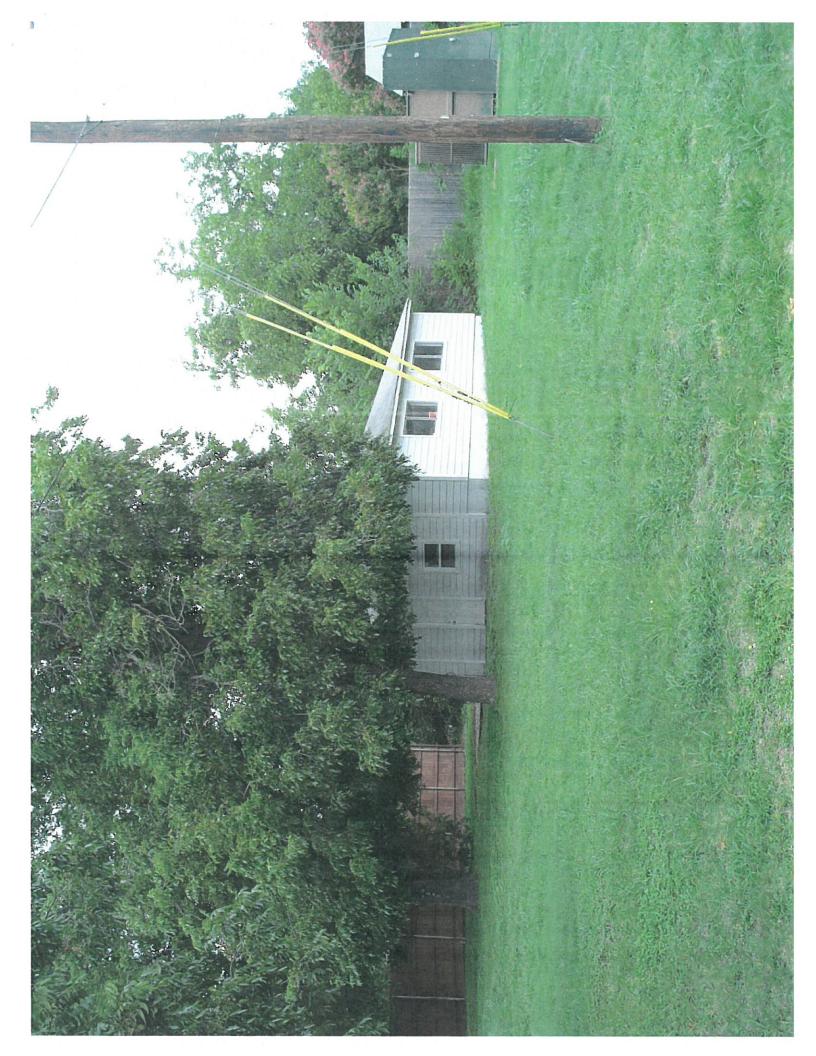
The back yards will be fenced with 3 rail fence except for area around lot 8 where Oncor has a utility easement in which case an 8' privacy fence on two sides (60 linear feet) will hide the structure from back view of homes and limit the humming noise from the transformer.

In all the homes represent modern construction with energy efficiency yet with yesteryears look. These homes will be a fine compliment to the Rockwall area and excellent homes for young families or retired couples.

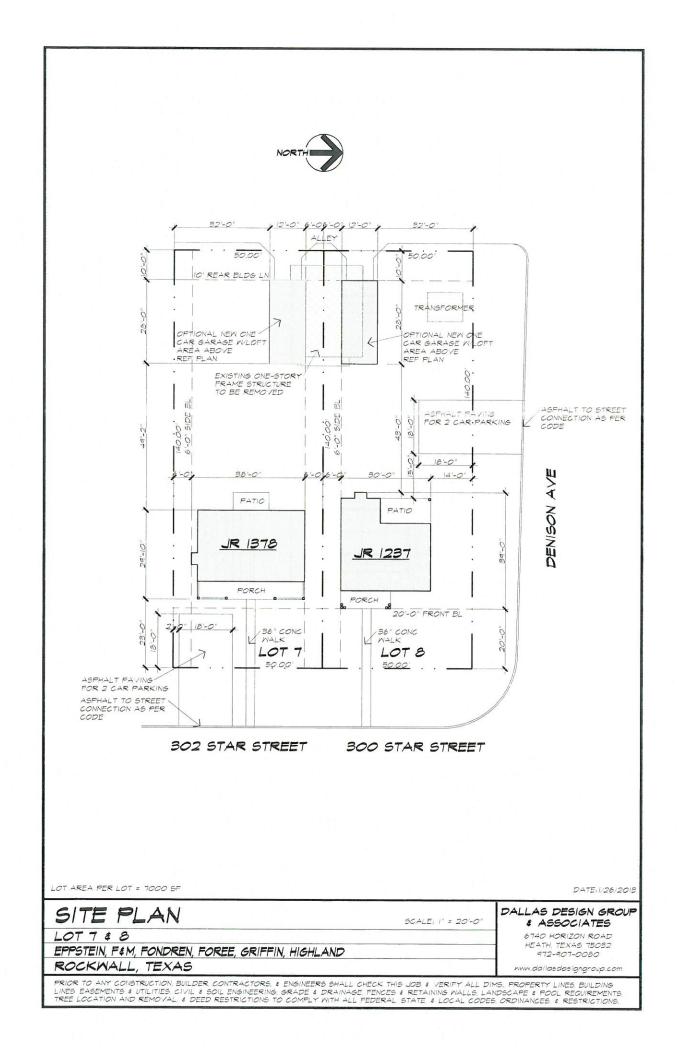
All the best,

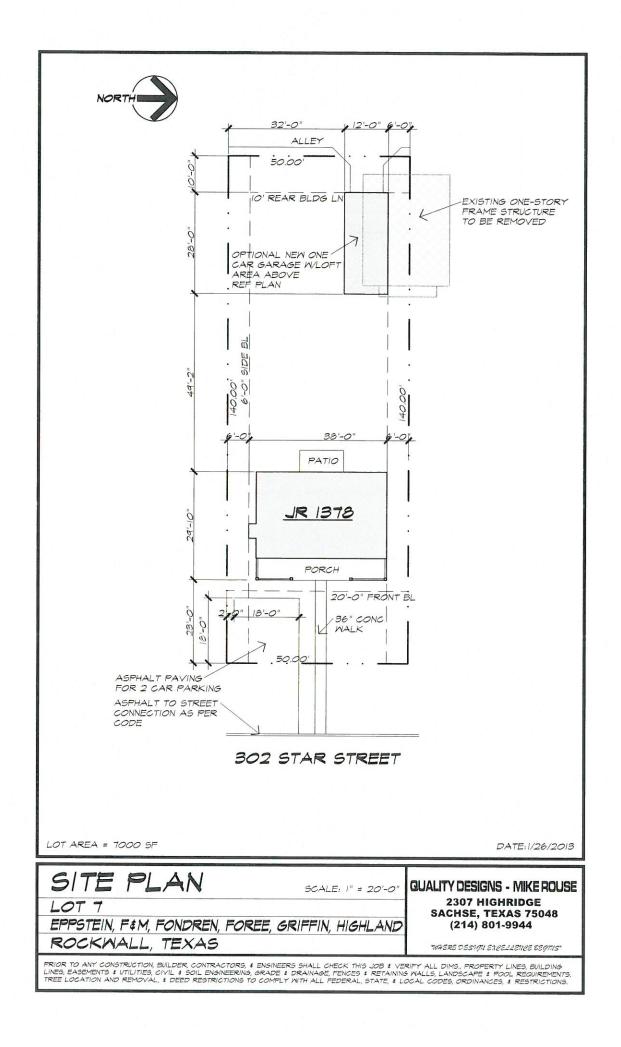
John Robinson

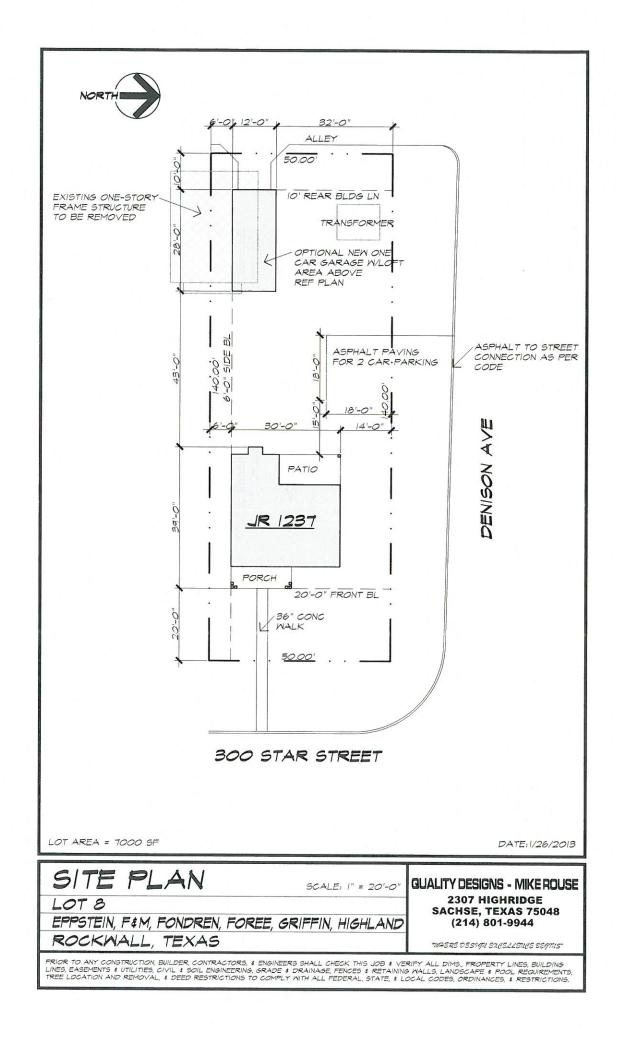


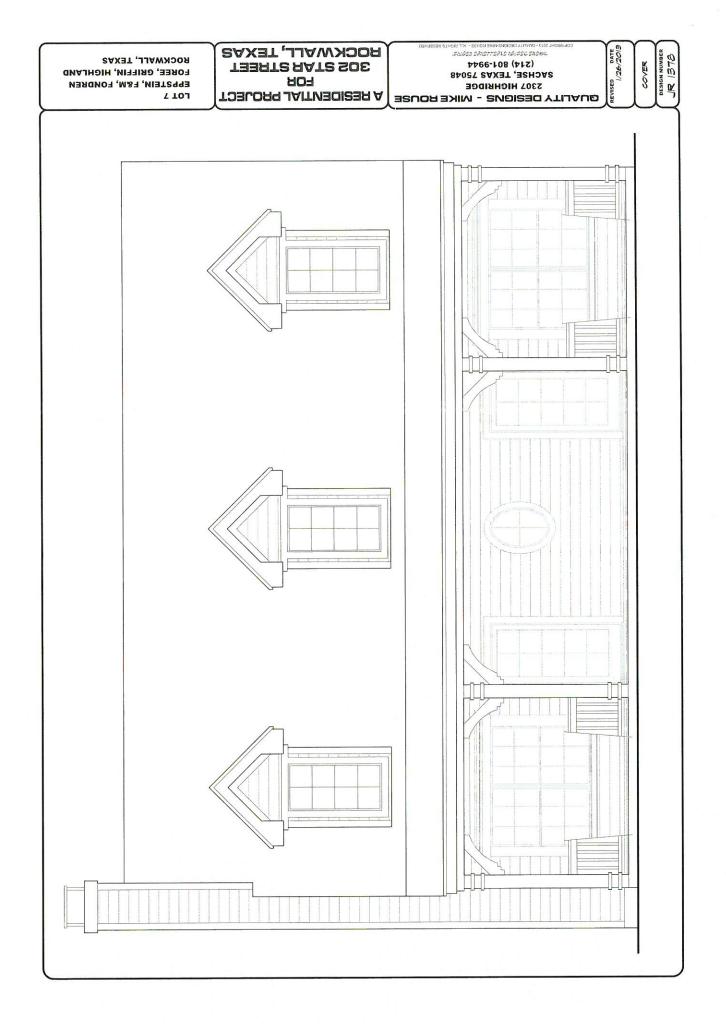


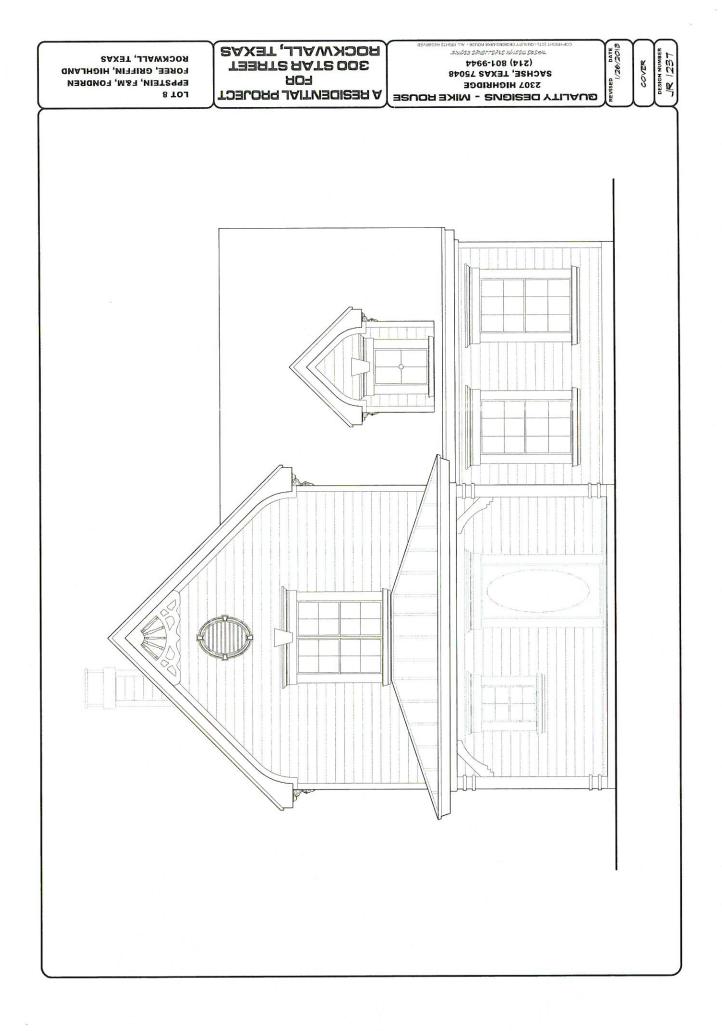


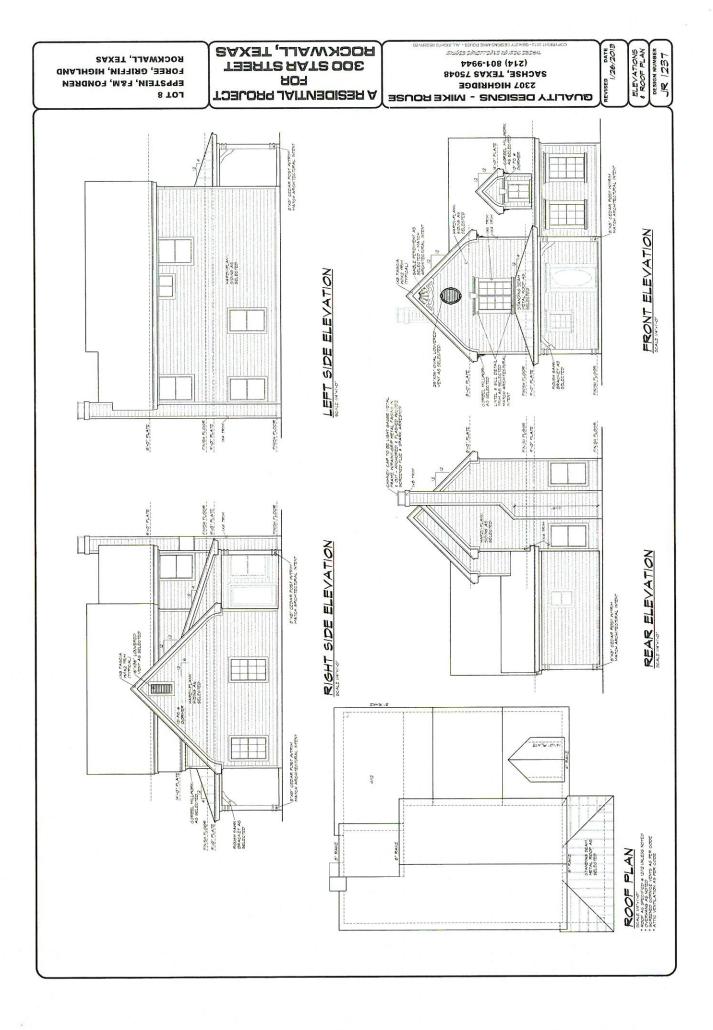


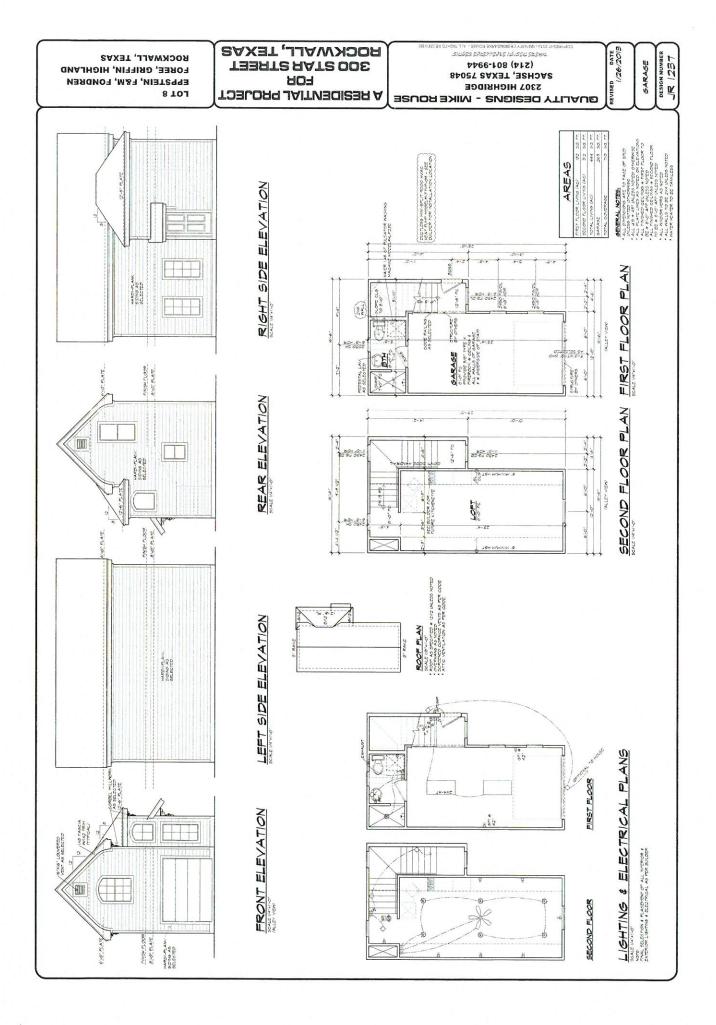


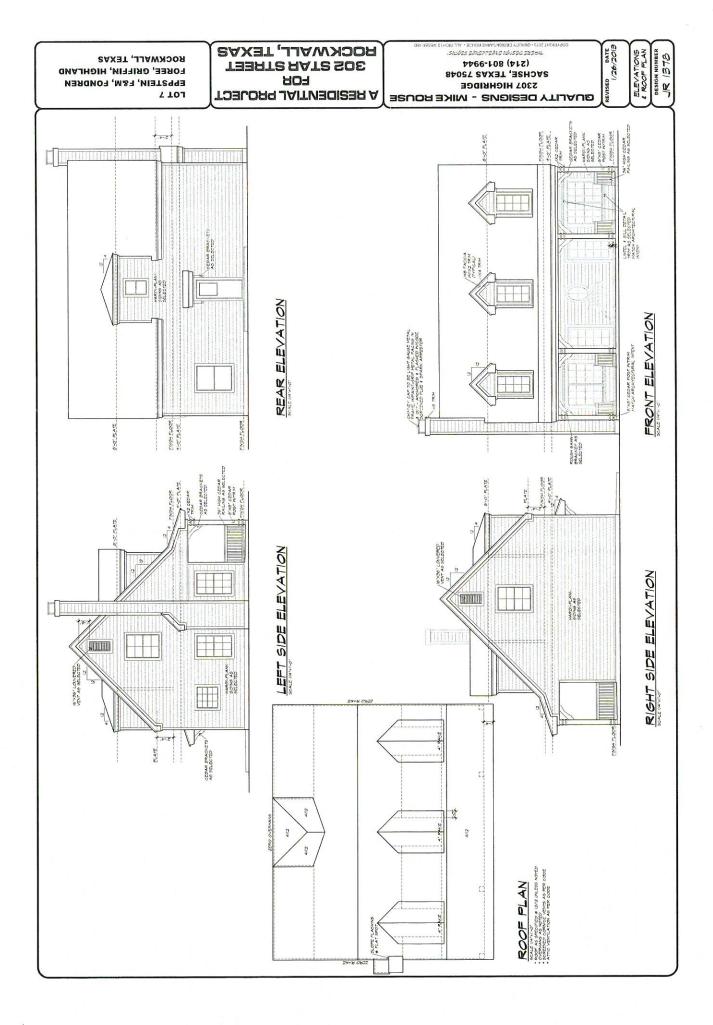


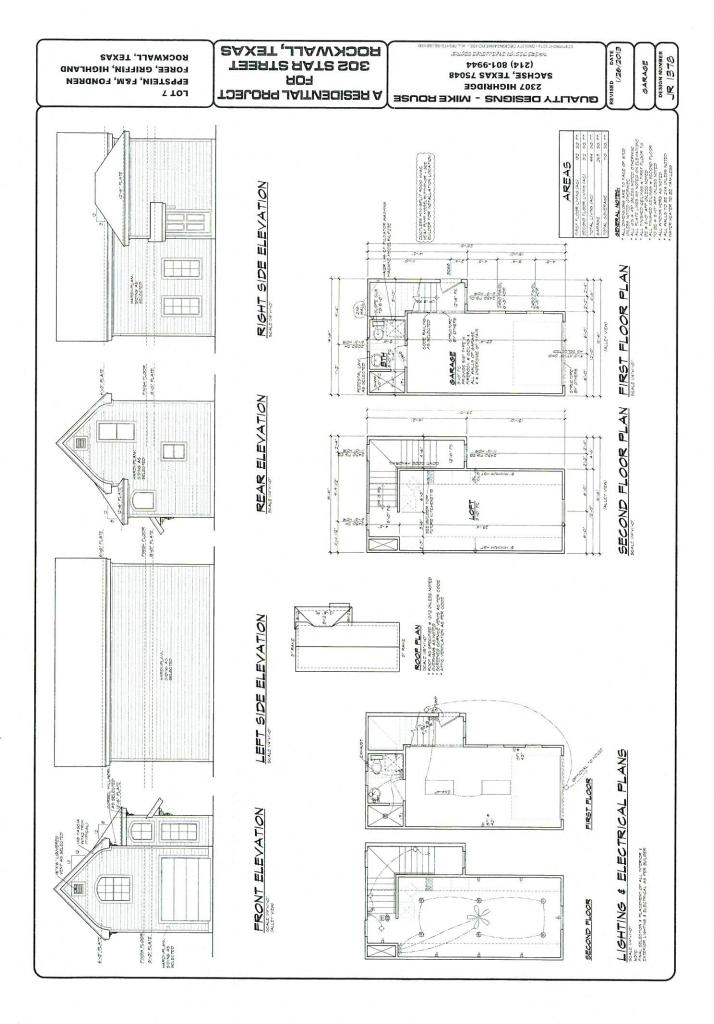


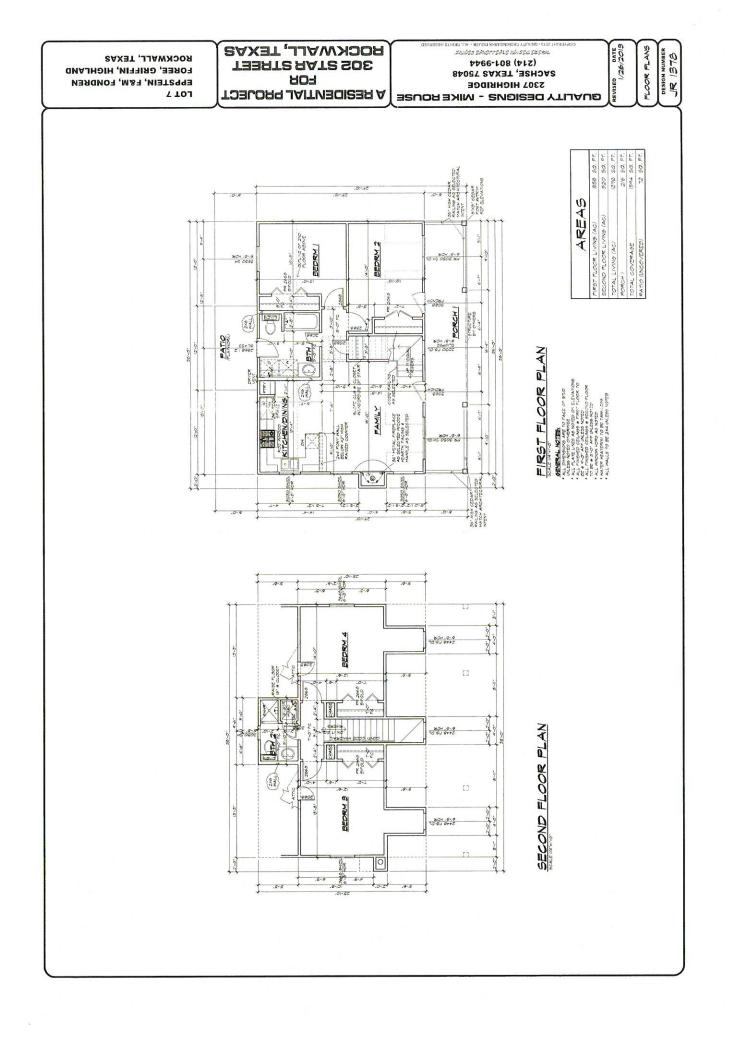


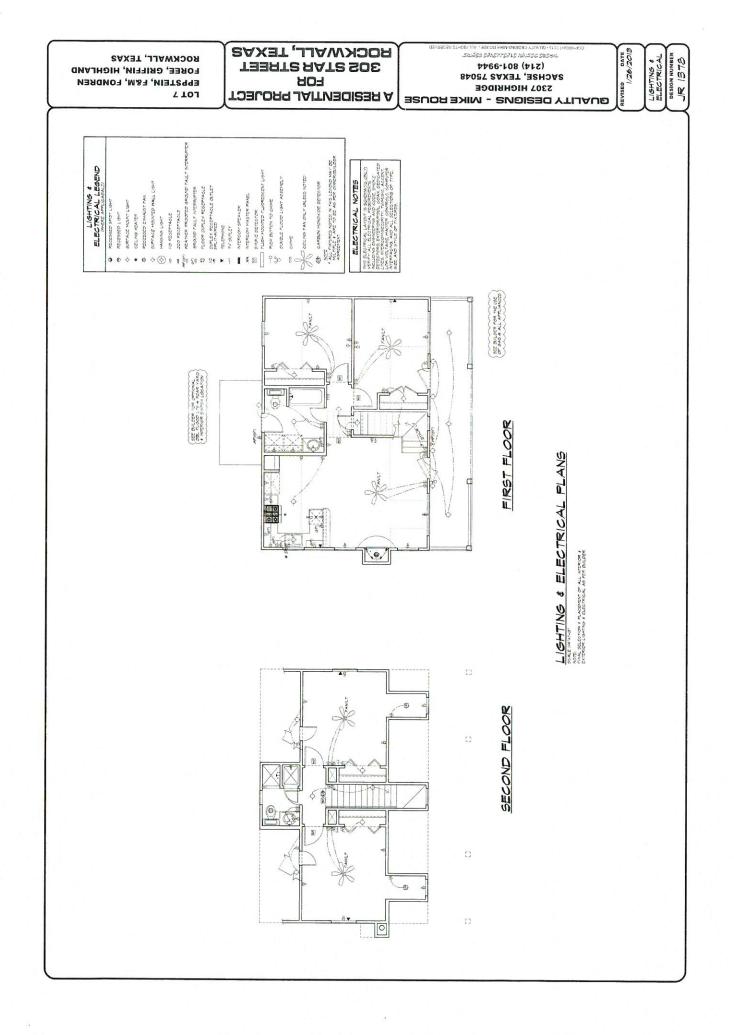


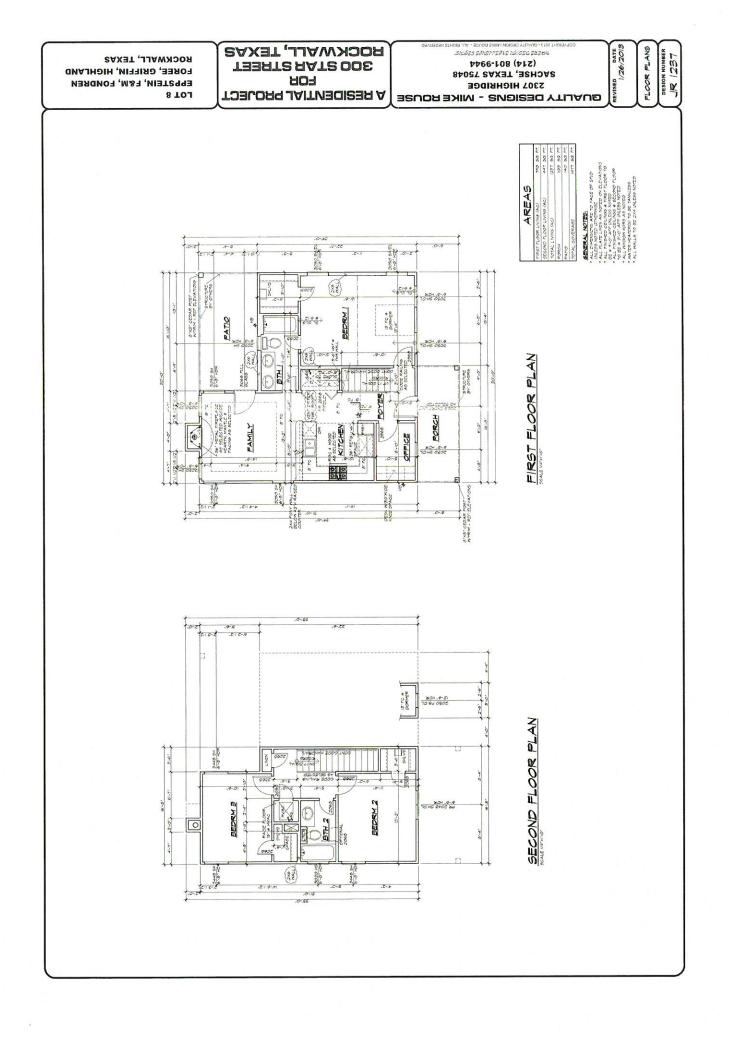












Cost approved in July & 2008 304 Star Update H2008-004

John Robinson

Background

- I purchased in late Jan 2008
- House has been abandoned for over two years
- House was last inhabited by nephew of previous owner for short time
- House was last fully inhabited by elderly couple in capable of making repairs/improvements
 - l intended to develop all three lots over time
- Currently I am being recalled to Active Duty
- No time to work on property-selling lots
 - Mr. Soto represents me

State of House

- House Facts:
- It is the only frame home on this block of Star
- It is the only frame home on this block not built after 1940-50's
- It has no historical value
- Offered to historic museum for free Including relocation(refused)
- House is composed of various construction materials I
 - No architectural value (see photos)
- Neighbors and community support removal/demo
- Land is partially leased to Oncor
- Plans to expand presence

Exterior Condition



Ext. Condition Cont.

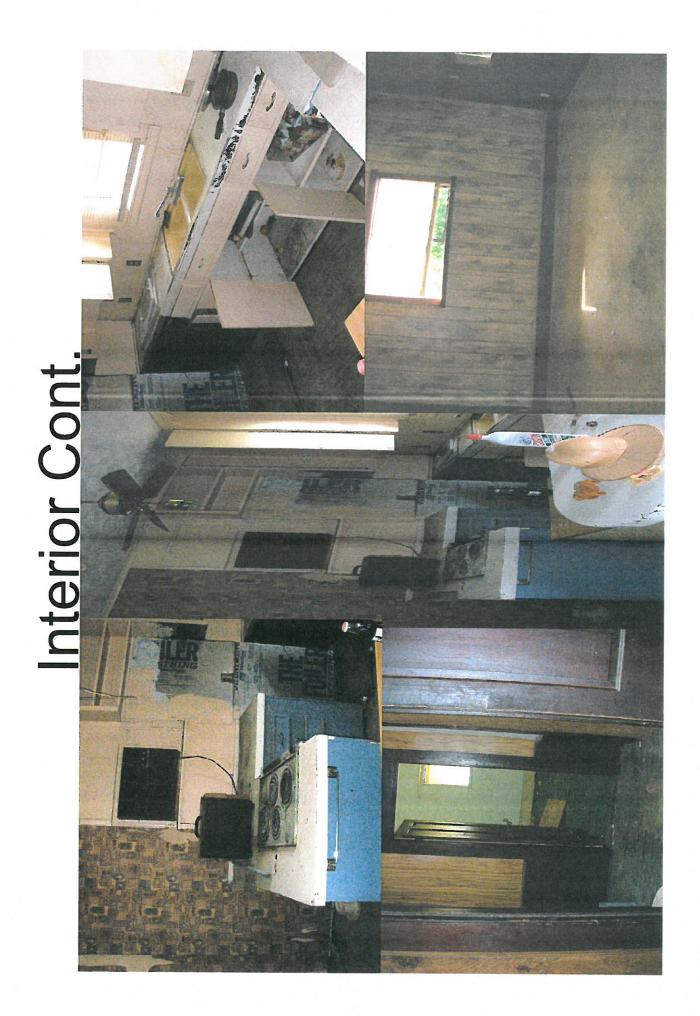




Interior

Interior Cont.





Conclusion

- Recommend Demo
- Build modern structures that resemble
- Americana designs similar to existing design
 - Safety
- Property values
- Alternatives
- Offer house for free to anyone willing to move
- Move house fully onto lot 8
- New owner to repair

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