Executive Summary Conditional Use

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2011

1650 Mission St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Reception: 415.558.6378

Fax:

415.558.6409

Planning Information: 415.558.6377

Date: February 10, 2011 *Case No.:* **2009.1029C**

D : / A ! ! 10(0 I OMBARD C'

Project Address: 1268 LOMBARD STREET

Zoning: RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) District

40-X Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot: 0500/015

Project Sponsor: 1268 Lombard Street, LLC

2501 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94110 c/o Edward Toby Morris

Kerman Morris Architects, LLP

69A Water Street

San Francisco, CA 94133

Staff Contact: Glenn Cabreros – (415) 558-6169

glenn.cabreros@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Approval with Conditions

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant proposes new construction of a four-story, four-unit residential building. Due to the downsloping nature of the site, the proposed building would have a six-story rear wall. Three units may be developed as-of-right on the project site; however with a lot area of 4,727 square feet in the RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) Zoning Distrct, four units may be constructed at the project site with Conditional Use authorizing a dwelling unit density of up to one unit per 1,000 square feet of lot area.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT USE

The project is located on the north side of Lombard Street, Block 0500, Lot 015 with a lot area of 4, 727 square feet of lot area. The property is located within the RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) District and the 40-X Height and Bulk District. The property is a vacant lot that slopes steeply downhill from Lombard Street to the rear lot line.

SURROUNDING PROPERTIES AND NEIGHBORHOOD

The project site is located within the blockface of Lombard Street between Polk and Larkin Streets in the Russian Hill Neighborhood. Directly adjacent and west of the site is a three-story-plus-basement, 13-unit apartment building. Directly adjacent and east of the site are a three-story, two-unit building that faces

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Lombard Street and a tall two-story, three-unit building that fronts onto Culebra Terrace. This portion of Lombard Street slopes steeply uphill from Polk Street to Larkin Street. The immediate neighborhood is characterized by residential structures of various sizes and architectural styles. Along both sides of Lombard Street east of the project site are mostly lower density (one to three units), three-story buildings. West of the project site and towards the intersection of Lombard and Polk Street are taller, higher density buildings ranging from four to seven stories containing six to thirty-six units.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On January 13, 2011, the Project was determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as a Class 3 Categorical Exemption under CEQA as described in the determination contained in the Planning Department file, Case No. 2009.1029E.

HEARING NOTIFICATION

ТҮРЕ	REQUIRED PERIOD	REQUIRED NOTICE DATE	ACTUAL NOTICE DATE	ACTUAL PERIOD
Classified News Ad	20 days	December 31, 2010	December 29, 2010	22 days
Posted Notice	20 days	December 31, 2010	December 31, 2010	20 days
Mailed Notice	10 days	December 31, 2010	December 23, 2010	28 days

PUBLIC COMMENT

• The Department has received comments from at least eleven individuals adamantly opposed to the project. Many of the opponents would like the project limited to the scale and height of the building demolished in 2009 and that the demolished building be reconstructed.

ISSUES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

• Historical Preservation. An emergency demolition permit was issued on March 13, 2009 by the Department of Building Inspection to demolish the Victorian-era, two-unit, two-story cottage that was located at the subject property. The cottage was listed on the *Here Today* survey (p. 279) and was considered to be a historic resource per the Department's CEQA review procedures. Due to the strong interest shown by the HPC in the emergency demolition that took place at the property in March 2009, Planning Department Preservation staff brought the current new construction project to public hearings before the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the full HPC for review and comment on May 19, 2010 and July 7, 2010 respectively. Although not required by the Department's CEQA review procedures, the Review and Comment hearings were requested by the Department prior to issuance of a Historic Resource Evaluation Response Memo (HRER) under Case No. 2009.1029E.

Executive Summary
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REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

In order for the project to proceed, the Commission must grant conditional use authorization to allow four dwelling units to be constructed on the subject property at a density ratio up to one dwelling unit for each 1,000 square feet of lot area in the RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) District.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department believes this project is necessary and/or desirable under Section 303 of the Planning Code for the following reasons:

- The project proposes a dwelling unit density compatible with the neighborhood.
- The project is of a scale and mass that is compatible with other surrounding structures in the neighborhood, and therefore the new building is considered to be an appropriate in-fill project.
- The amount of units proposed is limited to four; therefore traffic associated with the project should not impact traffic or impede MUNI service.
- The proposed project meets all applicable requirements of the Planning Code and, on balance, meets the applicable Objectives and Policies of the General Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval with Conditions

Attachments: (also see attachment checklist) Parcel Map Sanborn Map

Aerial Photographs
Zoning Map
Categorical Exemption
Project Sponsor submittal
Reduced Plans

Attachment Checklist

	Executive Summary		Project sponsor submi	ttal
	Draft Motion		Drawings: Existing Co	onditions
	Environmental Determination		Check for legibili	ty (vacant lot)
	Parcel Map		Drawings: Proposed F	<u>Project</u>
	Height & Bulk Map		Check for legibility	y
	Sanborn Map			
	Zoning Map			
	Aerial Photo			
	Context Photos			
	Site Photos			
]	Exhibits above marked with an "X" are in	clude	d in this packet _	
				Planner's Initials

G:|Documents|2009|CU|1268 Lombard|1268 Lombard Commission Packet|2009.1029C - 1268 Lombard - Ex Summary.doc



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Subject to. (Select Only II applicable)	
☐ Inclusionary Housing (Sec. 315)	☐ First Source Hiring (Admin. Code)
☐ Jobs Housing Linkage Program (Sec. 313)	☐ Child Care Requirement (Sec. 314)

Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

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Planning Commission Draft Motion

□ Other

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Date: February 10, 2011
Case No.: **2009.1029C**

☐ Downtown Park Fee (Sec. 139)

Project Address: 1268 LOMBARD STREET

Zoning: RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) District

40-X Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot: 0500/015

Project Sponsor: 1268 Lombard Street, LLC

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ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATING TO THE APPROVAL OF CONDITIONAL USE AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 209.1 AND 303 OF THE PLANNING CODE TO ALLOW NEW CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR DWELLING UNITS AT LOT 015 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0500 AT A DENSITY RATIO UP TO ONE DWELLING UNIT FOR EACH 1,000 SQUARE FEET OF LOT AREA IN THE RH-3 (RESIDENTIAL, HOUSE, THREE-FAMILY) DISTRICT AND THE 40-X HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.

PREAMBLE

On November 17, 2009, Edward Toby Morris for 1268 Lombard Street, LLC (hereinafter "Project Sponsor") filed an application with the Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") for Conditional Use Authorization under Planning Code Sections 209.1 and 303 of the Planning Code to allow new construction of four dwelling units on Lot 015 in Assessor's Block 0500 at a density ratio up to one dwelling unit for each 1,000 square feet of lot area in the RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) District and the 40-X Height and Bulk District.

CASE NO. 2009.1029C 1268 Lombard Street

On January 20, 2011, the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Conditional Use Application No. 2009.1029C.

On January 13, 2011, the Project was determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as a Class 3 Categorical Exemption under CEQA as described in the determination contained in the Planning Department file, Case No. 2009.1029E.

The Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of the applicant, Department staff, and other interested parties.

MOVED, that the Commission hereby authorizes the Conditional Use requested in Application No. 2009.1029C, subject to the conditions contained in "EXHIBIT A" of this motion, based on the following findings:

FINDINGS

Having reviewed the materials identified in the preamble above, and having heard all testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

- 1. The above recitals are accurate and constitute findings of this Commission.
- 2. **Site Description and Present Use.** The project is located on the north side of Lombard Street, Block 0500, Lot 015 with a lot area of 4, 727 square feet of lot area. The property is located within the RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) District and the 40-X Height and Bulk District. The property is a vacant lot that slopes steeply downhill from Lombard Street to the rear lot line.
- 3. Surrounding Properties and Neighborhood. The project site is located within the blockface of Lombard Street between Polk and Larkin Streets in the Russian Hill Neighborhood. Directly adjacent and west of the site is a three-story-plus-basement, 13-unit apartment building. Directly adjacent and east of the site are a three-story, two-unit building that faces Lombard Street and a tall two-story, three-unit building that fronts onto Culebra Terrace. This portion of Lombard Street slopes steeply uphill from Polk Street to Larkin Street. The immediate neighborhood is characterized by residential structures of various sizes and architectural styles. Along both sides of Lombard Street east of the project site are mostly lower density (one to three units), three-story buildings. West of the project site and towards the intersection of Lombard and Polk Street are taller, higher density buildings ranging from four to seven stories containing six to thirty-six units.
- 4. **Project Description.** The applicant proposes new construction of a four-story, four-unit residential building. Due to the downsloping nature of the site, the proposed building would have a six-story rear wall. Three units may be developed as-of-right on the project site; however with a lot area of 4,727 square feet in the RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family) Zoning Distrct,

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four units may be constructed at the project site with Conditional Use authorizing a dwelling unit density of up to one unit per 1,000 square feet of lot area.

- 5. **Historical Preservation**. An emergency demolition permit was issued on March 13, 2009 by the Department of Building Inspection to demolish the Victorian-era, two-unit, two-story cottage that was located at the subject property. The cottage was listed on the *Here Today* survey (p. 279) and was considered to be a historic resource per the Department's CEQA review procedures. Due to the strong interest shown by the HPC in the emergency demolition that took place at the property in March 2009, Planning Department Preservation staff brought the current new construction project to public hearings before the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the full HPC for review and comment on May 19, 2010 and July 7, 2010 respectively. Although not required by the Department's CEQA review procedures, the Review and Comment hearings were requested by the Department prior to issuance of a Historic Resource Evaluation Response Memo (HRER) under Case No. 2009.1029E.
- 6. **Public Comment**. The Department has received comments from at least eleven individuals adamantly opposed to the project. Many of the opponents would like the project limited to the scale and height of the building demolished in 2009 and that the demolished building be reconstructed.
- 7. **Planning Code Compliance:** The Commission finds that the Project is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Planning Code in the following manner:
 - A. **Dwelling Unit Density.** Planning Code Section 209.1 states that the dwelling unit density of up to one dwelling unit per 1,000 square feet of lot area in the RH-3 District may be allowed with Conditional Use Authorization.

The Project Sponsor is seeking Conditional Use Authorization to construct 4 units on a 4,727 square foot lot at the project site.

B. **Height.** Planning Code Section 260 limits a building height to 40 feet within the 40-X Height and Bulk District.

The project is proposed to the 40-foot height limit. Per Section 260, the proposed stair and elevator penthouse is allowed to exceed the height limit by 10 and 16 feet, respectively, as features exempted from the height limit.

C. Rear Yard Requirement in the RH-3 District. Planning Code Section 134 states that the minimum rear yard depth shall be equal to 45-percent of the total depth. Section 134 also allows the use of the adjacent building depths to determine an averaged required rear yard depth, which can in no case be less than 25 percent of the lot depth or 15 feet, whichever is greater.

The project proposes an alternate method of rear yard averaging as allowed per Section 134. As such, the depth of the rear yard at the lowest level is equal to approximately 34 feet or 25 percent of the total lot depth.

D. **Parking**. Planning Section 151 of the Planning Code requires one off-street parking space per dwelling unit.

The project proposes four dwelling units, and four independently-accessible parking spaces are provided within an enclosed garage.

- 8. **Planning Code Section 303** establishes criteria for the Planning Commission to consider when reviewing applications for Conditional Use approval. On balance, the project does comply with said criteria in that:
 - A. The proposed new uses and building, at the size and intensity contemplated and at the proposed location, will provide a development that is necessary or desirable, and compatible with, the neighborhood or the community.

The proposed dwelling unit density and building massing are compatible with the neighborhood. The proposed four units are in keeping with the varied dwelling unit density per lot found throughout the neighborhood, which ranges from two units to 34 units per lot. The lot adjacent to the west of the project site and of similar lot size as that of the project site contains 13 units. The proposed building scale at the street is in keeping with adjacent buildings on the blockface and maintains the stepping pattern of front façades that mimics the sloped topography. The overall massing of the proposed building is such that the bulk of the building is designed against a blank façade of the longer adjacent building to the west, which also provides relief to the shorter building to the east. While tall rear facades are typical of buildings in the immediate vicinity due to the steep topography of the block, the rear façade at the project is stepped so as not to appear to be a massive wall. The project is necessary and desirable as it is an appropriate infill of a vacant lot that will contribute four units to the City's housing stock.

- B. The proposed project will not be detrimental to the health, safety, convenience or general welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity. There are no features of the project that could be detrimental to the health, safety or convenience of those residing or working the area, in that:
 - Nature of proposed site, including its size and shape, and the proposed size, shape and arrangement of structures;
 - The height and bulk of the project is designed to address the building's scale and massing as perceived from the public right-of-way as well as from the mid-block open space.
 - ii. The accessibility and traffic patterns for persons and vehicles, the type and volume of such traffic, and the adequacy of proposed off-street parking and loading;

The Planning Code requires one parking space per dwelling unit. Four parking spaces are proposed along with the four dwelling units.

iii. The safeguards afforded to prevent noxious or offensive emissions such as noise, glare, dust and odor;

The proposed use is a residential building. Noxious or offensive emissions are typically not associated with residential uses.

iv. Treatment given, as appropriate, to such aspects as landscaping, screening, open spaces, parking and loading areas, service areas, lighting and signs;

The proposed four parking spaces are contained within an enclosed garage, and therefore screened from the public right-of-way. The existing tree at the front of the property is proposed to be retained.

C. That the use as proposed will comply with the applicable provisions of the Planning Code and will not adversely affect the General Plan.

The Project complies with all relevant requirements and standards of the Planning Code and is consistent with objectives and policies of the General Plan as detailed below.

9. **General Plan Compliance.** The Project is, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

Objectives and Policies

OBJECTIVE 1:

EMPHASIS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC PATTERN WHICH GIVES TO THE CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AN IMAGE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND A MEANS OF ORIENTATION.

Policy 2:

Recognize, protect and reinforce the existing street pattern especially as it is related to topography.

Policy 3:

Recognize that buildings, when seen together, produce a total effect that characterizes the city and its districts.

The project proposes appropriate infill on a vacant lot. The proposed four-story building would benefit the neighborhood character by maintaining the built street wall along the blockface. The main front façade at the front property line is a three-story mass that is compatible with the building scale and mass on the blockface, particularly the adjacent buildings. As related to the topography of Lombard Street, the three-

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story front façade also maintains the stepping pattern of the existing buildings along the blockface. Furthermore, the four-story portion of the project is set back 15 feet from the main façade so that the fourth floor massing appears subordinate to the front façade. In response to topography, the proposed stair/elevator penthouse is located on the uphill side of the lot and set back over 23 feet from the main front façade.

HOUSING ELEMENT

Objectives and Policies

OBJECTIVE 1:

TO PROVIDE NEW HOUSING, ESPECIALLY PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING, IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS WHICH MEETS IDENTIFIED HOUSING NEEDS AND TAKES IN ACCOUNT THE DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREATED BY EMPLOYEMENT DEMAND.

Policy 1.4:

Locate in-fill housing on appropriate sites in established residential neighborhoods.

The project is an appropriate in-fill residential development. The proposed density for the project is also compatible with the existing, surrounding density patterns.

- 10. **Planning Code Section 101.1(b)** establishes eight priority-planning policies and requires review of permits for consistency with said policies. On balance, the project does comply with said policies in that:
 - A. That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses be enhanced.
 - Existing neighborhood-serving retail uses would not be adversely affected by the project, as the project is a residential use located within a residential zoning district.
 - B. That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods.
 - The existing neighborhood character would be conserved and protected as the project would appropriately infill a vacant lot along the blockface. The additional four units would provide new housing opportunities and economic diversity to the established neighborhood.
 - C. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced,

No affordable housing is removed for this Project.

D. That commuter traffic not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking.

The project is proposes to add four dwelling units and the project site is not located along a MUNI transit line. The vehicular traffic associated with the amount of dwelling units would not impede MUNI service. The project site is well served my MUNI lines (within one block distance on Polk Street and nearby Van Ness Avenue): MUNI #19, 30X, 47, 49 and 76.

E. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced.

The Project will not displace any service or industry establishment. The project will not affect industrial or service sector uses or related employment opportunities. Ownership of industrial or service sector businesses will not be affected by this project.

F. That the City achieves the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

The Project is designed and will be constructed to conform to the structural and seismic safety requirements of the City Building Code. This proposal will not impact the property's ability to withstand an earthquake.

G. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

A landmark or historic building does not occupy the Project site.

H. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development.

The project will have no negative impact on existing parks and open spaces. The Project does not have an impact on open spaces.

- 11. The Project is consistent with and would promote the general and specific purposes of the Code provided under Section 101.1(b) in that, as designed, the Project would contribute to the character and stability of the neighborhood and would constitute a beneficial development.
- 12. The Commission hereby finds that approval of the Conditional Use authorization would promote the health, safety and welfare of the City.

DECISION

That based upon the Record, the submissions by the Applicant, the staff of the Department and other interested parties, the oral testimony presented to this Commission at the public hearings, and all other written materials submitted by all parties, the Commission hereby **APPROVES Conditional Use Application No. 2009.1029C** subject to the following conditions attached hereto as "EXHIBIT A" in general conformance with plans filed with the Application as received on December 3, 2010 and stamped "EXHIBIT B", which is incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

APPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOTION: Any aggrieved person may appeal this Conditional Use Authorization to the Board of Supervisors within thirty (30) days after the date of this Motion No. _______. The effective date of this Motion shall be the date of this Motion if not appealed (After the 30-day period has expired) OR the date of the decision of the Board of Supervisors if appealed to the Board of Supervisors. For further information, please contact the Board of Supervisors at (415) 554-5184, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

I hereby certify that the Planning Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on February 17, 2011.

Linda D. Avery Commission Secretary

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: February 17, 2011

CASE NO. 2009.1029C 1268 Lombard Street

EXHIBIT A

AUTHORIZATION

1. This authorization is for a conditional use to allow four dwelling units located at 1268 Lombard Street, Block 0500, and Lot 015 pursuant to Planning Code Sections 209.1 and 303 within the RH-3 (Residential House, Three-Family) District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District; in general conformance with plans, dated December 3, 2010, and stamped "EXHIBIT B" included in the docket for Case No. 2009.1029C and subject to conditions of approval reviewed and approved by the Commission on January 20, 2011 under Motion No _______. This authorization and the conditions contained herein run with the property and not with a particular Project Sponsor, business, or operator.

RECORDATION OF CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

2. Prior to the issuance of the building permit or commencement of use for the Project the Zoning Administrator shall approve and order the recordation of a Notice in the Official Records of the Recorder of the City and County of San Francisco for the subject property. This Notice shall state that the project is subject to the conditions of approval contained herein and reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission on January 20, 2011 under Motion No _______.

PRINTING OF CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL ON PLANS

3. The conditions of approval under the 'Exhibit A' of this Planning Commission Motion No. ______ shall be reproduced on the Index Sheet of construction plans submitted with the Site or Building permit application for the Project. The Index Sheet of the construction plans shall reference to the Conditional Use authorization and any subsequent amendments or modifications.

SEVERABILITY

4. The Project shall comply with all applicable City codes and requirements. If any clause, sentence, section or any part of these conditions of approval is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair other remaining clauses, sentences, or sections of these conditions. This decision conveys no right to construct, or to receive a building permit. "Project Sponsor" shall include any subsequent responsible party.

CHANGES AND MODIFICATIONS

5. Changes to the approved plans may be approved administratively by the Zoning Administrator. Significant changes and modifications of conditions shall require Planning Commission approval of a new Conditional Use authorization.

Conditions of Approval, Compliance, Monitoring, and Reporting

PERFORMANCE

6. Validity and Expiration. The authorization and right vested by virtue of this action is valid for three years from the effective date of the Motion. A building permit from the Department of Building Inspection to construct the project and/or commence the approved use must be issued as this Conditional Use authorization is only an approval of the proposed project and conveys no independent right to construct the project or to commence the approved use. The Planning Commission may, in a public hearing, consider the revocation of the approvals granted if a site or building permit has not been obtained within three (3) years of the date of the Motion approving the Project. Once a site or building permit has been issued, construction must commence within the timeframe required by the Department of Building Inspection and be continued diligently to completion. The Commission may also consider revoking the approvals if a permit for the Project has been issued but is allowed to expire and more than three (3) years have passed since the Motion was approved.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, <u>www.sf-planning.org</u>.

DESIGN

- 7. **Final Materials.** The Project Sponsor shall continue to work with Planning Department on the building design. Final materials, glazing, color, texture, landscaping, and detailing shall be subject to Department staff review and approval. The architectural addenda shall be reviewed and approved by the Planning Department prior to issuance.
- 8. The garage door shall be limited to 10-feet in width.
- 9. The windows that face the public right-of-way shall be painted wood windows.

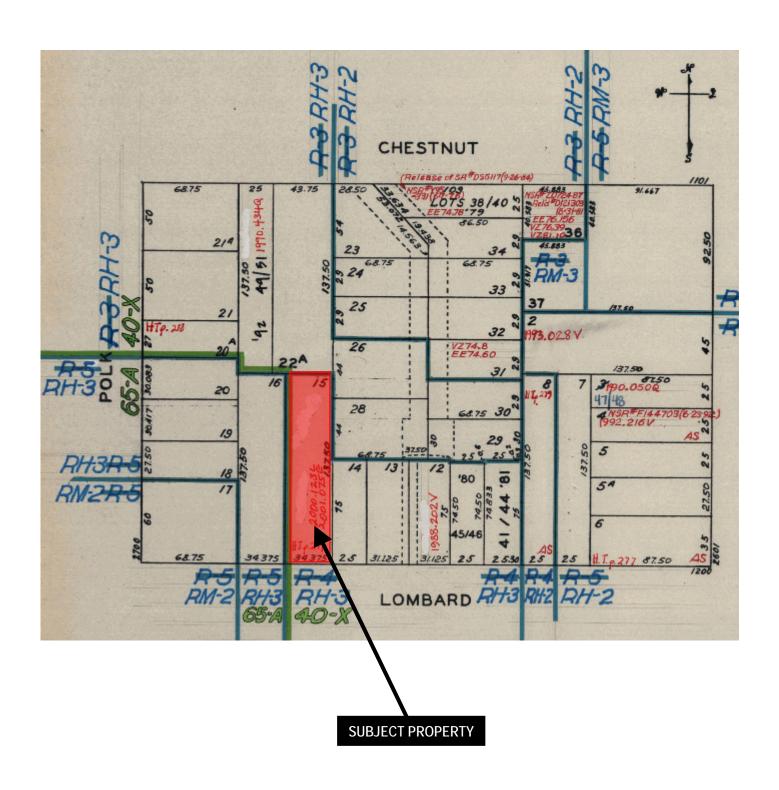
For information about compliance, contact the Case Planner, Planning Department at 415-558-6378, <u>www.sf-planning.org</u>.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

10. **Parking Requirement.** Pursuant to Planning Code Section 151, the Project shall provide four (4) independently accessible off-street parking spaces.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, <u>www.sf-planning.org</u>.

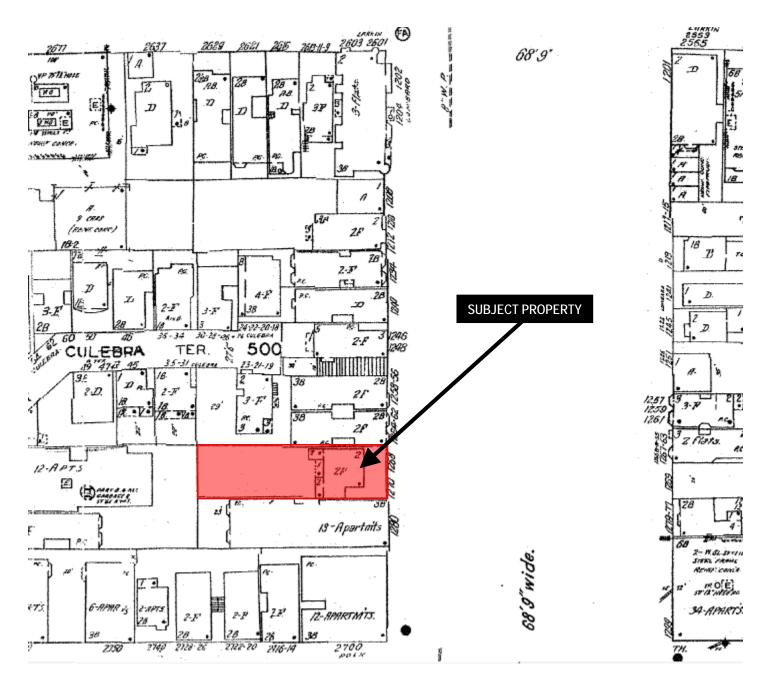
Parcel Map





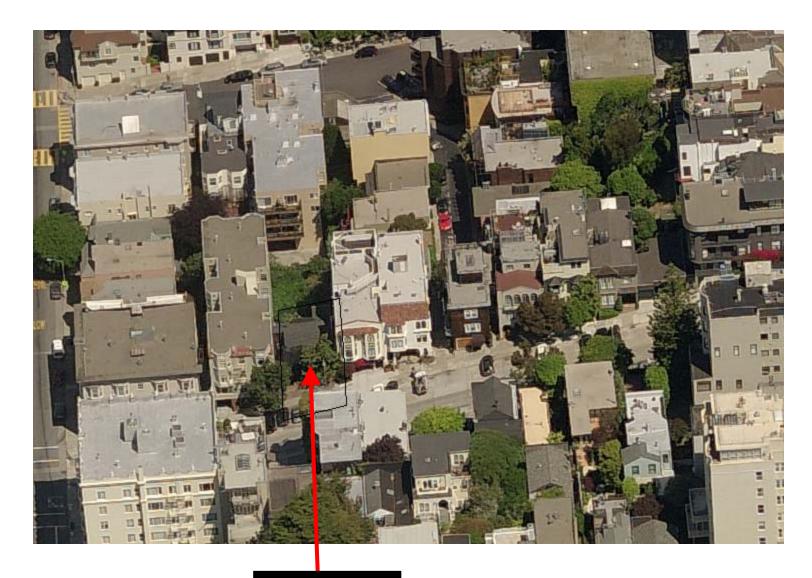
Conditional Use Hearing
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Sanborn Map*



^{*}The Sanborn Maps in San Francisco have not been updated since 1998, and this map may not accurately reflect existing conditions.





SUBJECT PROPERTY



Conditional Use Hearing
Case Number 2009.1029C
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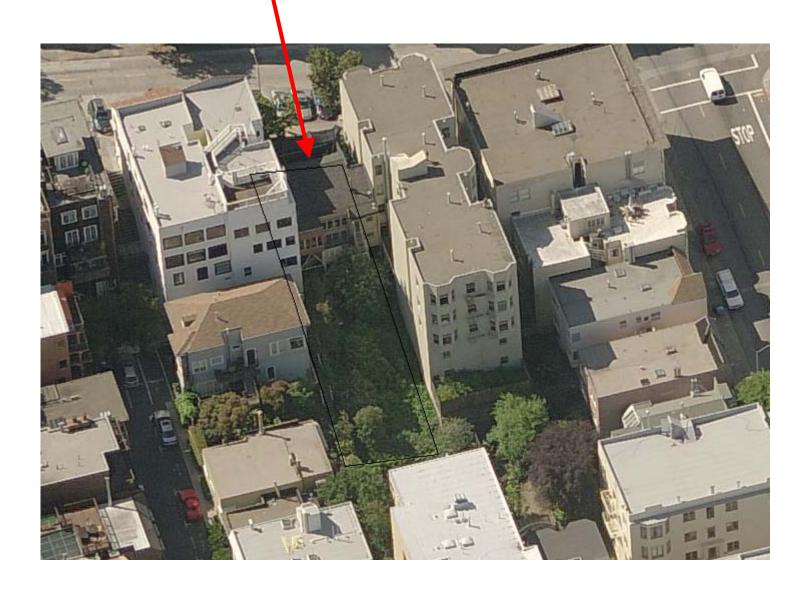


SUBJECT PROPERTY



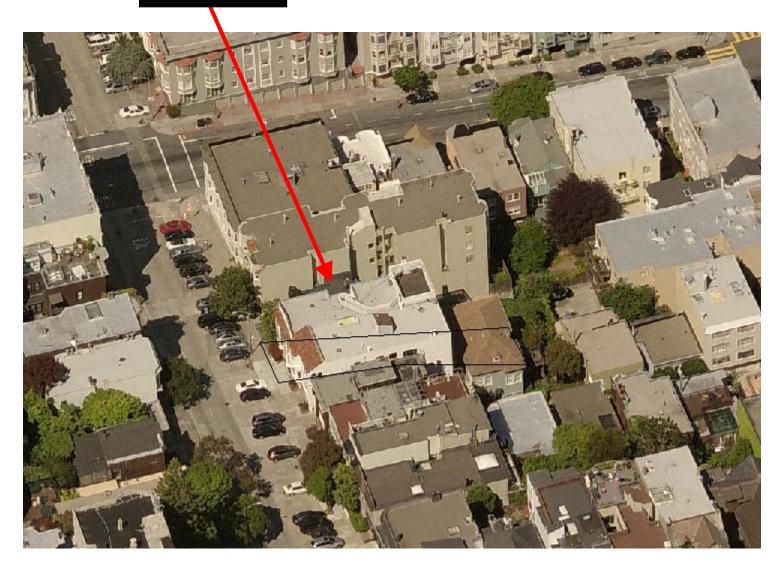
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SUBJECT PROPERTY

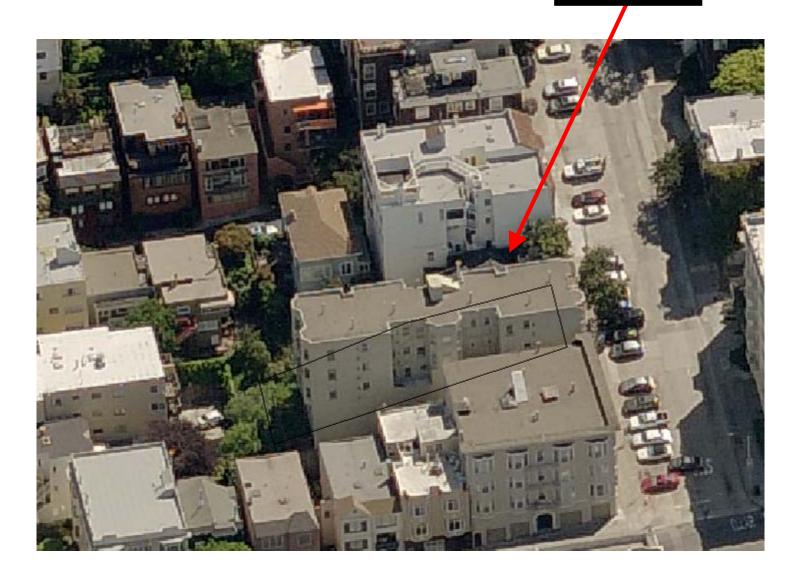




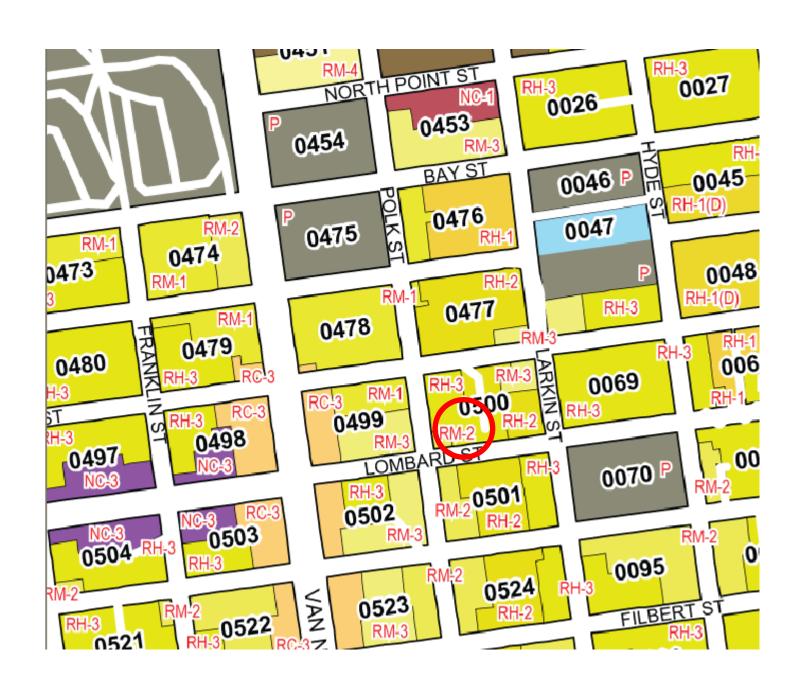
SUBJECT PROPERTY



SUBJECT PROPERTY



Zoning Map





Conditional Use Hearing
Case Number 2009.1029C
1268 Lombard Street
Hearing Date: February 17, 2011



Certificate of Determination Exemption from Environmental Review

1650 Mission St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

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Fax:

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Planning Information:

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2009.1029E

Project Title:

1268 Lombard Street

Zoning:

Case No.:

RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family)

40-X Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot:

0500/015

Lot Size:

4,726 square feet

Project Sponsor:

Toby Morris, Kerman / Morris Architects

(415) 749-0302

Staff Contact:

Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625

shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project involves construction of a new 4-unit, 5-story, 13,243-square-foot residential building on a vacant lot. The building would measure approximately 40' tall and 103' deep. The project site is located on a block bounded by Chestnut Street, Lombard Street, Larkin Street, and Polk Street. The proposed project requires Conditional Use Authorization per San Francisco Planning Code Sections 209.1 and 303.

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption, Class 3 (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15303(b)

REMARKS:

See next page.

DETERMINATION:

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.

Environmental Review Officer

Toby Morris, Project Sponsor

1268 Lombard Street LLC, Property Owner

Brett Bollinger, MEA Division

Shelley Caltagirone, Preservation Planner

Supervisor Farrell, District 2

Virna Byrd, M.D.F.

Distribution List

Historic Preservation Distribution List

ung 132010

REMARKS (continued):

In evaluating whether the proposed project would be exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Planning Department determined that the subject property is not a historical resource. The property is a vacant parcel and contains no historic buildings, structures, or objects. The site is considered a "Category B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) property for the purposes of the Planning Department's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review procedures due to the parcel's proximity to a potential California Register-eligible historic district. As described in the Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE) Memorandum¹ (attached), the 1268 Lombard Street property appears to be located within the setting of a potential California Registereligible historic district. The subject property is adjacent to (across the street from and three lots west of) the boundary of the potential historic district. The district appears to be eligible for listing under Criterion 1 (Event) and Criterion 3 (Architecture) as a collection of pre- and post-1906 residential architecture containing a wide yet cohesive range of turn-of-the-century styles (Italianate, Stick East-Lake, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Shingle, and Spanish Revival) with "fine detailing and traditional compositions." The district is also noted for the theme of Shingle-style houses and flats and the addition of shingles to 19th century houses. The period of significance is identified as 1876-1928, a period representing the changing aesthetics in residential architecture of this portion of Russian Hill at the turn-of-the-century. Because the subject property no longer retains a building or structure that would contribute to the district, the site does not appear to contribute to the district. As such, the property is not considered a historic resource for the purposes of CEQA.

Since the property was determined to be located within the setting of a potential California Registereligible historic district, the Planning Department assessed whether the proposed project would materially impair the district. The Department concurs with the analysis presented in architectural historian William Kostura's *Study of the Effect of the proposed New Building at 1268 Lombard Street on a Nearby Potential Historic District* that the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on off-site historical resources, including the adjacent historic district. The design of the new construction would be compatible with the architectural character of the potential district, thereby preserving the setting and feeling of these resources. Specifically, the project design would be compatible with the character of the neighborhood for the following reasons:

- The height of the proposed building at the street wall would be in keeping with the heights of the adjacent properties, retaining a stepping pattern of buildings along the north side of Lombard Street.
- The setback at the east side of the building would reduce the mass of the new structure as viewed
 from Lombard Street so that the relative size of the building would be perceived as similar to the
 surrounding buildings.

¹ Memorandum from Shelley Caltagirone, Preservation Technical Specialist, to Brett Bollinger, Planner, Major Environmental Analysis, December 15, 2010.

- The proposed painted wood cladding, wood trim/fascia, and wood-framed windows and doors would be in keeping with the traditional materials found on the block and within the historic district.
- The fenestration pattern includes a rectangular projecting bay element and paired window units with narrow lights that would relate well to the traditional fenestration patterns found on the block.
- The projecting cornice element and frieze are a contemporary interpretation of the cornices found on the Victorian-era buildings on the block, which would help to relate the new building to its context.
- The proposed new design would employ a level of ornamentation (including the trim-work, pent-roofed entrance, metal picket railing, and tile-work) that is comparable but more subdued than that found in the historic buildings on the block. This would create an appropriate subordinate relationship between the new building and the historic buildings that would allow the district contributors to stand out more prominently in the streetscape.

For these reasons, the proposed project would have no adverse effect on the potential historic district located in the vicinity of the project site.

The proposed project would involve the construction of a new 4-unit, 5-story, 13,243-square-foot residential building. CEQA State Guidelines Section 15303(b), or Class 3, provides for new construction of multi-family residential structures totaling no more than four dwelling units on a single parcel. In urbanized areas, this exemption applies to apartments, duplexes, and similar structures designed for not more than six dwelling units. The proposed project would create four dwelling units on a single parcel. The proposed project therefore meets the criteria of Class 3.

CEQA State Guidelines Section 15300.2 states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Section 15300.2(f) specifically states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource. As described above, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of the historical resource under Section 15300.2(f). Given this fact and the nature of the proposed project, the exemption provided for in CEQA State Guidelines Section 15301(e), or Class 1, may be used. There are no other unusual circumstances surrounding the proposed project that would suggest a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental effect. The project would be exempt under the above-cited classification. For the above reasons, the proposed project is appropriately exempt from environmental review.

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SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMO

Historic Resource Evaluation Response

MEA Planner:

Brett Bollinger

Project Address:

1268 Lombard Street

Block/Lot:

0500/015

Case No.:

2009.1029E

Date of Review:

December 14, 2010

Planning Dept. Reviewer: Shelley Caltagirone

(415) 558-6625 | shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org

1650 Mission St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Reception:

415.558.6378 Fax:

415.558.6409

Planning Information: 415.558.6377

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Alteration

New Construction

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project involves construction of a new 4-unit, 5-story, 13,243-square-foot residential building. The building would measure approximately 40' tall and 103' deep. Please see plans dated December 3, 2010 for details.¹

PRE-EXISTING HISTORIC RATING / SURVEY

The property is a vacant lot and contains no historic buildings, structures, or objects. The site is considered a "Category B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) property for the purposes of the Planning Department's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review procedures due to the lot's proximity to a potential California Register-eligible historic district.²

HISTORIC DISTRICT / NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

The subject property (1268 Lombard Street, Assessor's Block 0500, Lot 015) is a 34' x 137.5' vacant lot located on the north side of Lombard Street between Polk and Larkin Streets in a portion of the Russian Hill neighborhood referred to as the West Slope in William Kostura's *Russian Hill the Summit*.³ The site is zoned RH-3 (Residential, House District, Three-Family) and is in as 40-X Height and Bulk District. The lot is located on a block that was largely spared from the destruction of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, resulting in a collection of buildings dating from the mid-19th century through the present. In general, the West Slope of Russian Hill is composed of a mixture of single and multi-family residences dating predominantly from the post-1906 period.

¹ An emergency demolition permit was issued on March 13, 2009 by the Department of Building Inspection to demolish a Victorian-era, two-unit, two-story cottage located at the subject property. The project under review by the Department is limited to the review of the new construction project as the emergency demolition project was exempt from further environmental review.

² This environmental review considers the existing conditions of the site at the time of the application. Therefore, the historic resource status of the demolished building is not pertinent to the current review.

³ Kostura, William. Russian Hill the Summit; 1853-1906. Aerie Publications: San Francisco, 1997.

Kostura has identified the West Slope of Russian Hill as a potential historic district comprised of most of the properties within Assessor's Block 0501 and the six properties located at the east end of Lombard Street within Assessor's Block 0500.4 The district appears to be significant as a collection of pre- and post-1906 residential architecture containing a wide yet cohesive range of turn-of-the-century styles (Italianate, Stick East-Lake, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Shingle, and Spanish Revival) with "fine detailing and traditional compositions." The district is also noted for the theme of Shingle-style houses and flats and the addition of shingles to 19th century houses. The period of significance is identified as 1876-1928, a period representing the changing aesthetics in residential architecture of this portion of Russian Hill at the turn-of-the-century.

1.		iteria of Significance: Note, a building may be an historical resource if it
	meets any of the Californ	ia Register criteria listed below. If more information is needed to make such
	a determination please s	pecify what information is needed. (This determination for California Register
	Eligibility is made based o	n existing data and research provided to the Planning Department by the above
	2	t and other parties. Key pages of report and a photograph of the subject building are
	attached.)	
	Event: or	Yes No Unable to determine
	Persons: or	Yes No Unable to determine
	Architecture: or	Yes No Unable to determine
MODEL .	Information Potential:	Further investigation recommended.
	District or Context:	Yes, may contribute to a potential district or significant context
	If Yes; Period of signific	ance:

The subject property located at 1268 Lombard Street appears to be located within the setting of a potential California Register-eligible historic district. The district appears to be eligible for listing under Criterion 1 (Event) and Criterion 3 (Architecture) for the reasons discussed above. Because the property no longer retains a building or structure that would contribute to the district, the site does not appear to contribute to the district. Below is a brief description of the subject property's historical significance per the criteria for inclusion on the California Register. This summary is based upon William Kostura's Study of the Effect of the Proposed New Building at 1268 Lombard Street on a Nearby Potential Historic District, dated November 2, 2009 (attached). Staff concurs fully with the findings of the Kostura report.

Criterion 1: It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States;

The subject lot, without the original cottage building, does not retain sufficient character-defining features to convey the property's association with pre- and post-1906 development in this area of Russian Hill. The single remaining feature of the site which conveys an association with the pre-1906

⁴ Kostura, William. The West Slope of Russian Hill: A Historical Context and Inventory of Historic Resources for Residential Buildings around Lombard and Larkin Streets. San Francisco, CA. Adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission in October 2009, and on file at the San Francisco Planning Department located at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103.

development in this area is the slope at the front of the lot, which likely resulted from the change in grade that occurred along Lombard Street in the 1890s. When the cottage was extant, a bridge spanned this sloped area to give access to the main level of the cottage. This single landscape feature is not a sufficiently strong association with the past to qualify under this criterion.

Criterion 2: It is associated with the lives of persons important in our local, regional or national past;

The subject property is associated with a line of blue collar and clerical tenants and owners who lived in the cottage between the early 1860s and the 1930s. None of these persons can be considered to be individually significant in our local, regional, or national past. However, in William Kostura's DPR form for the property dated November 2000, he argues that the property's association with several generations of people representing an important economic and social class in the history of San Francisco should qualify the property for listing under this criterion. This association with the lives of blue color and clerical workers is no longer conveyed by the property without the cottage in which they lived. Therefore, the property does qualify under this criterion.

Criterion 3: It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values;

The house that previously occupied the site was constructed in 1861 for Robert Price, a laborer. It was a one-story-plus-basement Italianate cottage that had been covered with wooden shingles at a later date. An emergency demolition permit was issued on March 13, 2009 by the Department of Building Inspection to demolish a Victorian-era cottage. Without the building, the property does not retain sufficient historical integrity to qualify under this criterion.

Criterion 4: It yields, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history; It does not appear that the subject property is likely to yield information important to a better understanding of prehistory or history.

2.	Integrity is the ability of a CEQA, a property must not out also must have integrity.	only be shown t To retain histor	to be signifi ric integrity	cant und 7 a prope	ler the Califor erty will alwa	nia Register lys possess s	criteria, but several, and
	usually most, of the aspects.	The subject pr	operty has	retained	or lacks integ	grity from th	e period of
	significance noted above:	•					
	<u> </u>				5 7	FT .	
	Location: Ketains	Lacks	Se	tting:	Ketains	Lacks	
٠.	Association: Retains	Lacks	Fe	eling:	Retains	🔀 Lacks	
	Design: Retains	🛛 Lacks	M.	aterials:	Retains	🔀 Lacks	
	Workmanship: Retains	🔀 Lacks	-	` .	· .		
					•		
	There are no remaining buil	ldings, structur	es, or objec	ts locate	d at the prop	erty to conv	ey the site's

historic relationship to the adjacent potential historic district. The site's location and setting are the

⁵ Kostura, p. 13.

3.	
<i>.</i>	Determination of whether the property is an "historical resource" for purposes of CEQA.
	No Resource Present (Go to 6 below.) Historical Resource Present (Continue to 4.)
4.	If the property appears to be an historical resource, whether the proposed project would materially impair the resource (i.e. alter in an adverse manner those physical characteristics which justify the property's inclusion in any registry to which it belongs).
	The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of the resource such that the significance of the resource would be materially impaired. (<i>Continue to 5 if the project is an alteration.</i>)
	The project is a significant impact as proposed. (<i>Continue to 5 if the project is an alteration</i> .)
SACEP AS THE	significant adverse effect by the project, presently or cumulatively, as modifications to the project to reduce or avoid impacts. Please recommend conditions of approval that may be desirable to mitigate the project's adverse effects.
6.	Whether the proposed project may have an adverse effect on off-site historical resources, such as adjacent historic properties.
	Yes No Unable to determine
5	Staff concurs with the analysis presented in William Kostura's study that the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on off-site historical resources. The subject property is adjacent to (across the street from and three lots west of) a potential historic district and alterations to the site may affect the setting of that district. The design of the new construction would be compatible with the architectural character of the potential district, thereby preserving the setting and feeling of these resources. Specifically, the project design is compatible with the character of the neighborhood for the following reasons:
	 The height of the proposed building at the street wall would be in keeping with the heights

⁶ Please note that the project has been revised since the November 2009 analysis to further improve the new building's compatibility with the district.

Date: //1/2011

- The setback at the east side of the building will reduce the mass of the new structure as viewed from Lombard Street so that the relative size of the building will be perceived as similar to the surrounding buildings.
- The proposed painted wood cladding, wood trim/fascia, and wood-framed windows and doors will be in keeping with the traditional materials found on the block and within the historic district.
- The fenestration pattern includes a rectangular projecting bay element and paired window units with narrow lights that relate well to the traditional fenestration patterns found on the block.
- The projecting cornice element and frieze are a contemporary interpretation of the cornices found on the Victorian-era buildings on the block, which help to relate the new building to its context.
- The proposed new design employs a level of ornamentation (including the trim-work, pent-roofed entrance, metal picket railing, and tile-work) that is comparable but more subdued than that found in the historic buildings on the block. This creates an appropriate subordinate relationship between the new building and the historic buildings that allows them to stand out more prominently in the streetscape.

For these reasons, the proposed project will have no adverse effect on the potential historic district located in the vicinity of the project site.

SENIOR PRESERVATION PLANNER REVIEW

Signature: <u>Yna Oam</u>

Tina Tam, Senior Preservation Planner

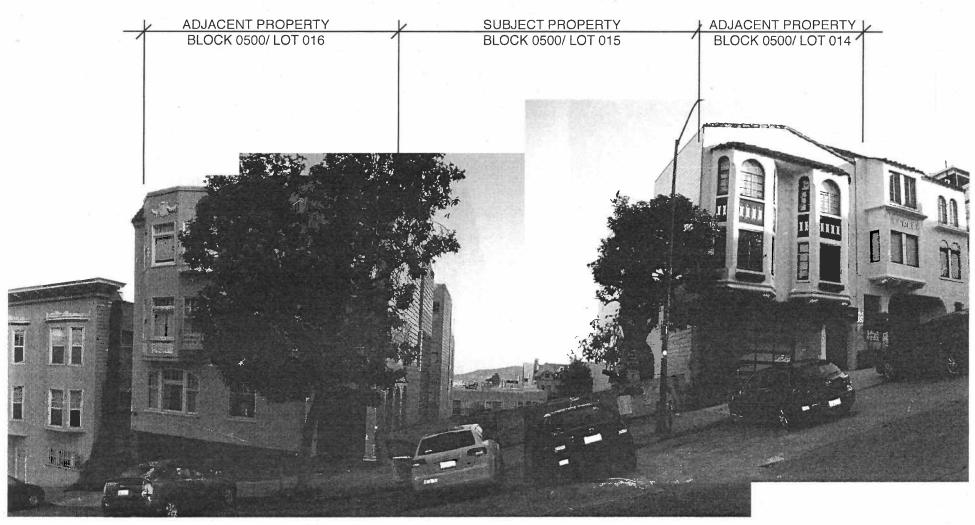
Linda Avery, Recording Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission

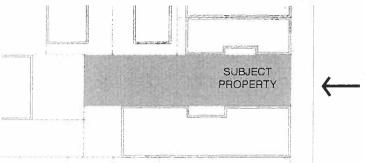
Virnaliza Byrd / Historic Resource Impact Review File

Glenn Cabreros, Neighborhood Planner

 $SC: G: \label{lower} Cases \\ \cite{CEQA} \\ HRER \\ \cite{Lombard} \\ \cite$

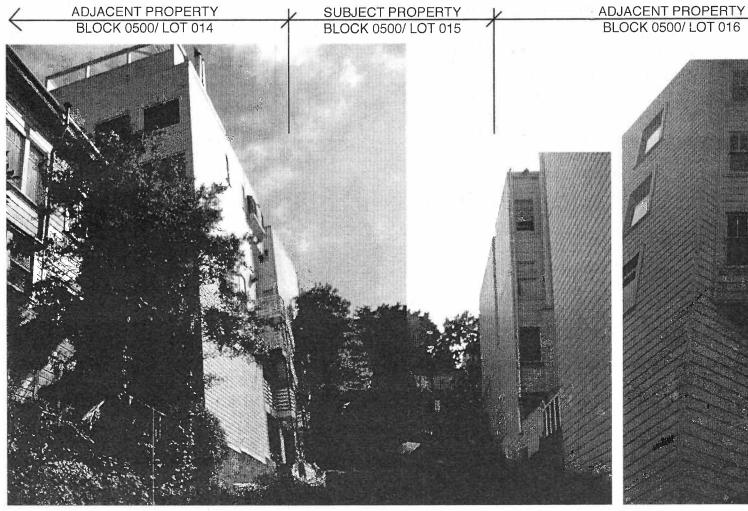
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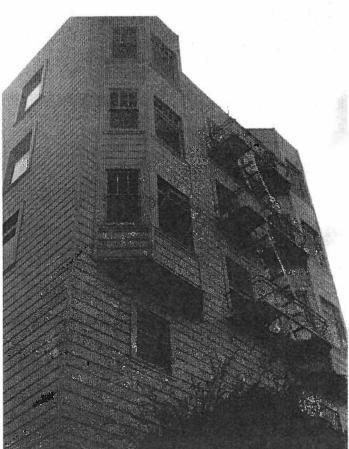


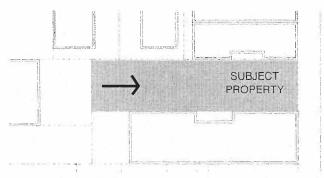


SUBJECT PROPERTY: 1268 LOMBARD STREET

BUILDINGS ON SAME BLOCK









PRESIDENT

Tina Moylan VICE PRESIDENT Marvin Frankel Lydia Pugliese SECRETARY Kalon Gutierrez TREASURER Harold Wong PAST PRESIDENT

To: Chairman and Members of the Planning Commission:

Re: Proposed Project at 1268 Lombard Street, San Francisco

Bernie Burke DIRECTORS

Steve Kendrick Carol Ann Rogers Laurie Petipas Alison Collins Sarah Taber Geoff Barneby Richard Cardello

Russian Hill Neighbors ("RHN") is an organization whose goal is to improve the quality of life on the hill.

RHN met Monday, February 7, 2011, to review the current proposed project.

We are a collaborative organization that works with the community, but after

agreed that we are opposed to the current proposal for the following reasons:

meeting with both the neighbors and project sponsors, RHN unanimously

1. The current project is not in scale with the neighborhood.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Design, Zoning, and Land Use Marvin Frankel History Al Greening

Communications & Marketing

Safety/NERT/AWARE Deborah Garofalo Nominating Bernie Burke Social Michele Borges

Helen Wills Playground

Alison Collins Sterling Park Phoebe Douglass Membership Kris Anderson **CSFN** Robert D'Arcy

2. This project would not be a positive addition to the neighborhood. specifically:

- a. The height of the building, exceeds the average of the two heights of its neighboring buildings.
- b. The penthouses and roof decks negatively affect the immediate neighbors.
- c. The request for a conditional use permit for a fourth unit will negatively impact our neighborhood which is already severely impacted by tourist traffic that uses this residential street to get to the "crookedest Street" which begins just west of the project site.

No additional density should be allowed for this site on a conditional use basis due to the already major impacts our neighborhood experiences from the tourists.

ADVISORS

Lucretia Rauh, Chair Dian Blomquist Tim Covington Jovanne Reilly Judy Junghans Robert D'Arcy Karen Donovan Helen Doyle

Tina Moylan,

Stephen & Victoria Berezin 1262 Lombard St. San Francisco, CA 94109

February, 9, 2011

RE: 1268 Lombard St, "CUP"

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Planning Commission:

My wife Victoria and I are the owners of the apartment building immediately adjacent to the east side of the proposed project at 1268 Lombard Street. We are the former owners of the site, our family having owned it for many decades when it had a cottage on it that has recently been demolished and removed by the current owners and applicant.

Before we sold the property, we had done preliminary plans to develop the property ourselves and had commissioned plans from Jerry Kler, Architect, for three condominium units, the design of which incorporated protections for the air, light and views from our adjoining property. We sold the property to the current owners with the express understanding that through their LLC they planned to develop the property "by constructing at least three (3) condominium units thereon in accordance with the plans ...from Jerry Kler Architects dated October 7, 2000..." A set of the plans was provided the applicant as part of purchase.

The current proposal is a completely new set of plans by a different architect that pushes the allowable constraints of the property to the absolute maximum. Specifically, it adversely impacts our adjoining property by blocking the windows on the west side from access to air, light and views in a way that vitiates the careful protections incorporated in the Kler plans. In September, 2009, the applicant held a neighborhood meeting at the site to discuss their proposal. I told the architect that it was not the plan originally contemplated in the letter agreement referred to above and that further I would oppose the plan as drawn. He suggested there could be changes and he offered to keep me apprised of the plans for the project. I heard nothing from either the project sponsor or the architect until a notice of hearing was posted on the site on December 24,2010. I personally was not aware of the posting until the first week in January, 2011. I called the architect on January 11 to ask for the latest plan. which was just then delivered to the Planning Department. The sponsors finally asked for a meeting on or about Feb 1 which we of course agreed to.. They finally invited us to meet with them on February 8, 2011 at which time we told them of the incredible adverse impact on our property that their design would have and of our resulting opposition to what they are proposing.

At the hearing, I will have our architect, Jerry Kler, present to demonstrate how he was able to design an economically viable three (3) unit project that was protective of and mitigated the impacts to our adjoining property. We request that you require the applicant to redesign its plans so as to eliminate its blockage of the windows on the west side of our property and to revise their plans for the

Stephen & Victoria Berezin 1262 Lombard St. San Francisco, CA 94109

rooftop so as to not impact the views from the adjacent properties. The current proposal is clearly too massive in scale for the site and has serious adverse impacts, as noted above, on our and other properties in the neighborhood.

The Commission should consider imposing on the site a Notice of Special Restriction to guide this developer or any future developer as to the number of units and scale of project that would be required before your approval would be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Berezin

Romano, Sal

Subject: : 1268 Lombard Demolition, Development proposal

From: sal.romano@wellsfargo.com

Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:18 PM

Glenn cabreros

Subject: 1268 Demolition and proposed development

Dear Commissioners and Mr.. Cabreros My name is Salvatore Romano.

My wife and I live/own 1242 Lombard street, a few doors up from the proposed development at 1268 Lombard We as neighbors are "very opposed" to this development for the following reasons:

1- This project replaces an historic cottage "Demolished By Emergency Order" with an approx 13,000 sq ft,, 4 unit building ,

which is not at all in keeping with the character of our community.

2-Our block of Lombard Street buildings are approx of 30000 -4500 sq ft
Our block consists of 2 - 3 unit buildings each one stepping up the hill as you go east up Lombard street
.This is a 4 unit complex of over 13,000 sq feet which is too big and looms over the Culebra Street corridor

3- This building viewed form the street is higher then the uphill neighbors buildings ,not in keeping with the character of the community.

And blocks light and air of the uphill neighbors.

4- -Also, this development goes back into the Culebra Street corridor and as viewed form Culebra street looking west.

will be a massive structure parallel to the cottages on culebra street.

Again, not at all in keeping with the character of the community and overwhelming light and air as viewed from the east looking west from Culebra.

We as neighbors ,are not opposed to a reasonable development which respects the character of the 1200 block Lombard and especially of the Culebra Street corridor.

Unfortunately ,this development does not show a respect for the character of the neighborhood , and we look to you to give some direction to the developer

5- MOST IMPORTANTLY

The Berezin family sold this cottage in November 2007.

At that time this cottage was "Structurally Sound" when sold to the current owners and developers. The attached newspaper article brings some very disturbing issues to light please review it

It states that re the building (,After the sale) in March 2008,

a neighbor complained that the building had been "Left Open" to the elements.

The inspector ordered Cassidy(the current owner) to board up the building .He said he did several times but that intruders reopened it.

Debra Walker, A building inspector, who toured the building said "it appeared to have been left open to the elements to hasten its demise. in order to get a demolition permit"

Cassidy and Nunermacher (the new owners)denied doing that.

They got a demolition permit and demolished the cottage

Supervisor Chiu, in the interests of San Francisco then drafts a measure to:

"Require vacant building owners to Register them, so city officials can better monitor them, and PROTECT HISTORIC RESOUCES.

Unfortunately this was After the demolition of the 1268 cottage.

Fast forward 2010 January:

Mr. Cassidy and Nunemacher Propse to erect an: approx 13,000 sq ft 4 unit development on this lot in a neighborhood of 2-3 unit buildings.of 3000 -4500sq ft

Insult goes to great potential injury!

I respectfully ask that our commissioners redirect Mr. Cassidy and Numamacher to look at the community and build something which reflects the character and to pull this massive structure in further to the south ,thereby protecting the loveliness of Culebra terrace looking west.

Respectfully Salvatore and Claudia Romano

536 t.T.

SAN FRANCISCO

How bureaucracy doomed house

By Seth Rosenfeld

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The historic Russian Hill house that was razed last month never received a mandatory review by preservation officials because San Francisco's Department of Building Inspection improperly issued a construction permit two years ago, a Chronicle investigation has found.

The proposed permit to work on the exterior of the Victorian residence at 1268 Lombard St. should have been sent to the Planning Department, where it would have been closely reviewed by a preservation expert and could

have drawn additional official scrutiny to the deterioration of a historic house.

Instead, a building inspection official issued the permit without sending it to planning. That allowed workers to open up the outside of the building. Subsequently, the building's interior was left open to the elements, causing further decay. A city commissioner later said it looked like the building was left to rot on purpose so that it could be demolished.

The home, which withstood the 1906 earthquake and fire, was torn down March 16 because city officials agreed with the owners that the building was in imminent danger of collapse. Preservationists, however, argued that it could have been refurbished.

But officials and preservationists agree on one thing: This glitch and others in the recent history of the 148-year: old house illustrate larger problems in the city's building inspection process, "I am gravely concerned that permits to alter or demolish historic resources are slipping through the cracks," said Cyrithia Servetnick, a member of the San Francisco Preservation Consortium, which advocates for preserving historic resources.

Built in 1861, the house was bought in 1945 by John B. Molinari, who became a state Supreme Court justice. He passed it to a family trust, and it was later officially listed as a historic resource. In 1999, their contractors discovered a crack in the retaining wall and dry rot and deemed the building structurally unsound, the family said in a letter to the city.

Son John L. Molinari, a former supervisor, sought a permit to demolish the home and replace it with a three-story building. But the Planning Department denied his application in 2002, saying the

Demolition continues on B2



Lacy Atkins / The Chronicle

Crews from Granite Excavation and Demolition go to work on the 19th century Russian Hill home demolished last month.

ALAMEDA

Glitches in permit process sent historic home to its doom

Demolition from page B1

building was listed as a historic resource.

On Nov. 1, 2007, the Molinari family sold the small, vacant home for \$1.3 million to James Nunemacher, a principal with Vanguard Properties, and Michael Cassidy, a developer.

Yet little more than a month after the sale, Molinari received a notice of violation from the Building Inspection Department ordering him to stop work at the house. The notice surprised him, he said, because he no longer owned it and had taken out no permit.

It turned out that three months earlier — while Molinari still owned the house — a company called West Coast Inc. had taken out the permit to open the building and repair the dry rot by opening up the facade. Permit records variously list the firm as a "lessee" and "agent," with a post office box for an address. However, postal authorities told The Chronicle that the box number does not exist.

Molinari said he was astonished that anyone could receive a permit to work on his home without him knowing of it. "That sure is lax," he said.

But not unheard of. Ed Sweeney, a deputy director of the Building Inspection Department, acknowledged that in recent years some applicants have obtained building permits without the owners' authorization.

William Strawn, a spokesman for the building department, confirmed the permit error. Lawrence Badiner, Planning Department zoning administrator, said, "If it wasn't routed to us, it was a The then-owner, former Supervisor John L. Molinari, said he was astonished anyone could receive a permit to work on his home without him knowing of it. "That sure is lax," he said

glitch," he said.

Strawn said the inspector who issued the dry rot permit apparently believed the applicant had the owner's permission. He noted that state law was changed in January to require further proof that the building owner wants a construction permit.

But that wasn't the only way the system failed.

A building inspector was supposed to have checked a computer list of historic houses before granting the permit. Applications for permits to work on the facades of historic homes were supposed to be sent to planning before approval.

In such cases, planning officials are supposed to closely review construction plans to enforce preservation rules.

But building inspector Joseph Yu approved the permit without doing so, records show. Yu declined to comment.

In two interviews, Cassidy denied knowing about the dry rot permit or West Coast Inc. The Chronicle later obtained a receipt that showed Cassidy paid \$234.15 in cash for the permit.

When told about the receipt, Cassidy said he didn't recall the matter, but might have taken out the permit and listed West Coast as a potential contractor for the work. He denied he had tried to hide his role in the permit.

There were more problems. In March 2008, a neighbor complained that the building had been left open to the elements and intruders. An inspector ordered Cassidy to board up the building. He did several times, he said, but trespassers reopened it.

Earlier this month, Cassidy and Nunemacher sought an emergency demolition permit, saying the building was in imminent danger of collapse. A city engineer concurred.

Yet Debra Walker, a building inspection commissioner who toured the building, said it appeared to have been intentionally left open to the elements to hasten its demise in an effort to get the demolition permit. Cassidy and Nunemacher denied doing that.

An emergency permit allows owners to demolish a building without the rigorous Planning Department review that had blocked the Molinaris from demolishing it.

Supervisors President David Chiu is drafting a measure requiring owners of vacant properties to register them so city officials can better monitor them, prevent safety hazards and protect historic resources.

F. Joseph Butler, an architect who opposed demolishing the house and contended it could have been saved, hailed the proposed measure. But he said official lapses could undermine even the most rigorous rules. "It's absolutely about enforcement," he said.

E-mail Seth Rosenfeld at srosenfeld@sfchronicle.com.

F. JOSEPH BUTLER 11 January 2011 ARCHITECT

Ron Miguel, President San Francisco Planning Commission 1650 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94103

324 Chestnut Street San Francisco California 94133 Re: 1268 Lombard Street Conditional Use Hearing 20 January 2011

415 533 1048 fjosephbutler@hotmail.com Dear President Miguel and fellow Commissioners:

The site of the Robert Price Residence, built in 1861, when Abraham Lincoln was President and concerned with the great issues of this Nation, is gone now.

C assidy demolished the historic resource for an

O versized proposal;

N unemacher finessed and financed?

D emolition due to

I mminent danger? No, due to

T ricks that were

I ntentional. Sponsors went

O verboard, risking neighbors' homes and lives.

N o longer

A

L andmark. They are

U nscrupulous, but are they

S uccessful?

E ach of you will decide.

?

This case boils down to one of public policy, do we as a City need market rate housing so badly that we should sacrifice historic resources to provide it? In 1999, the neighbors thought that the question had been answered. Shortly after Edie Marwadel, a senior citizen and long time

tenant, was evicted for "her own safety " by John Molinari, he then applied for a demolition permit. That application was rejected by Planning Staff, when the owners refused to produce an EIR. The Robert Price House was a National Register and California Register eligible Landmark, one of the ten oldest buildings in San Francisco.

The new owners and current project sponsors, a realtor and the owner of a demolition contracting company bought the home from Molinari in a private sale. They pulled a dry rot repair permit, then opened doors and windows allowing squatters and weather to do their insidious work, hoping for some disaster or other (fire, collapse?) to befall the house.

When after a year that plan had failed, and with absolutely no concern for the neighboring properties, or the life safety issues involved, I am told that several different neighbors observed water under high pressure gushing out of the lower stories of the dwelling. Not even the subsequent February 2009 crawl space collapse was enough however, as the 148 year old dwelling stood for more than three weeks, even though it was reported to be 'in imminent danger of collapse". Finally, an EMERGENCY ORDER DEMOLITION was issued 13 March 2009, and on Saint Patricks' Day the Sponsors celebrated with a demolition and began to plan for the bonanza they want you now to approve.

I could tell you a tale of their harassment and perjury in their getting a restraining order which was later "excused without prejudice" by Judge Bush, and of an attempted fraudulent Worker's Compensation Claim, but I digress.

At issue today is whether your Commission will provide a new path to an otherwise prohibited demolition for project sponsors who will buy and leave to rot, vacant, historic buildings. If the City rewards this behavior, it may seal the fate of dozens of vacant buildings in San Francisco that the new vacant building ordinance cannot seem to protect.

The new ordinance came out of this fiasco, but can't possibly outweigh the temptations of current and future owners of historic resources if you approve 14,000 square feet of new construction on five stories for this site. Look how long the vacant building list is, those owners await your vote in this case.

Who cares?

These projects steal our heritage as San Franciscans. This building told a story of the earliest post Franciscan settlement on this part of Russian Hill. It was a survivor. The Fire that followed the 06 Quake was extinguished in this corner of the City thanks to barrels of vinegar from the grocery at Larkin and Greenwich Streets. Who cares?

We should all care. Let's stop demolishing the most affordable housing in established neighborhoods until all that vacant land in Mission Bay and India Basin/Hunter's Point is built upon. Let's actively protect the heritage we should all proudly share as San Franciscans.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau should care as tourism is our largest industry in San Francisco, but with the one by one removal of historic buildings no one seems to notice. Maybe not until the Postcard Row comes down.

What can be done?

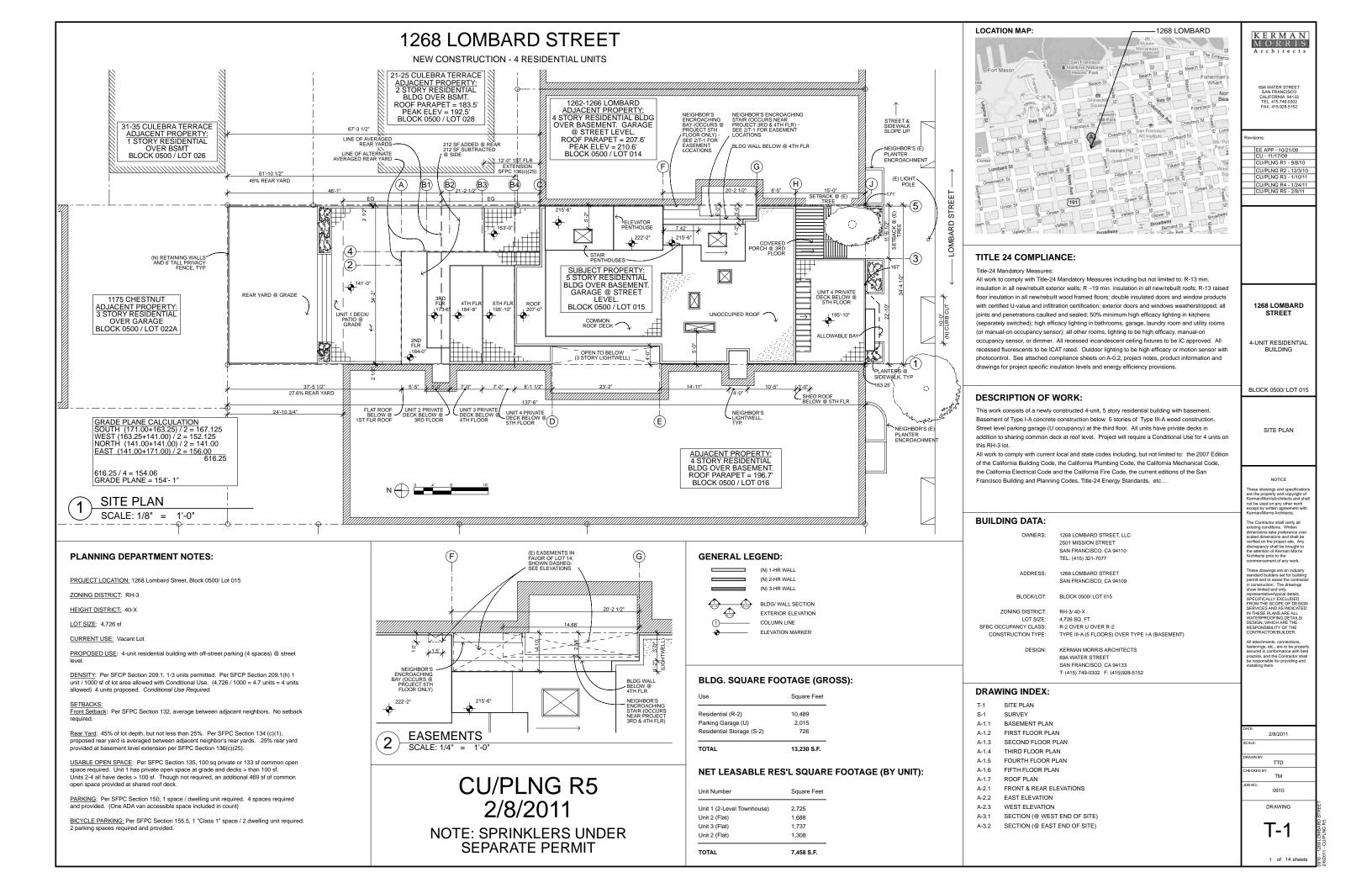
Deny this Conditional Use application. Let the Sponsor know that you will only approve a replacement building here that rebuilds the Robert Price House to the "Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Reconstruction of Historic Buildings." In return they can build a more modest 3 story home at the rear of the lot, whose proceeds would fund the Reconstruction. This site can be nearly whole again.

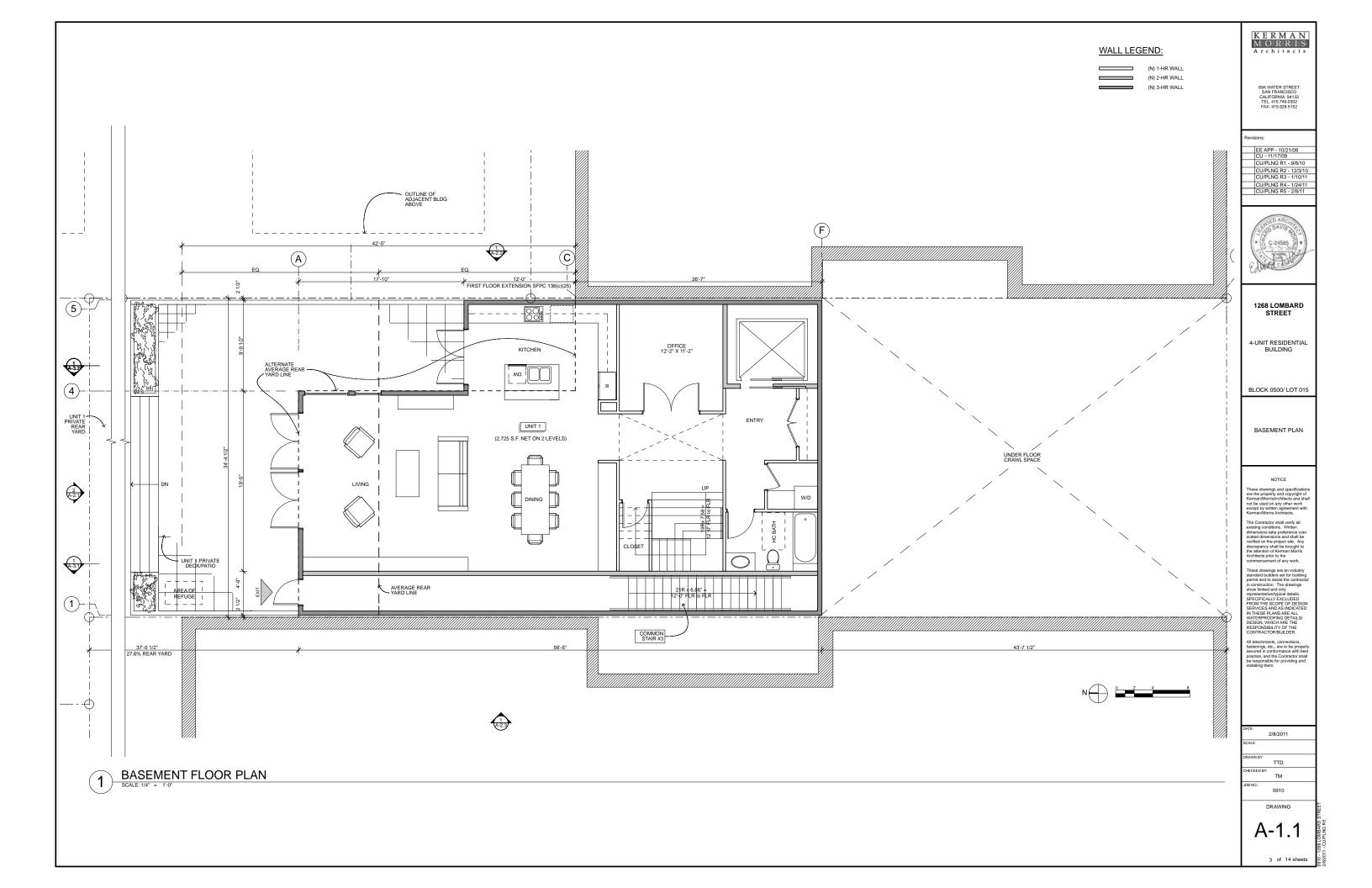
The cliff at the sidewalk, the setback of the original house and its Magnolia tree are all features of this historic site to be preserved. With a reconstructed dwelling one would still see the evidence of the 1880's regrading of Polk and Lombard Streets that put the lower floor of this dwelling below the street level, and allowed the development of the Polk Street Commercial District and the balance of Lombard and Greenwich Street properties, including those which predate the Earthquake and Fire of 1906.

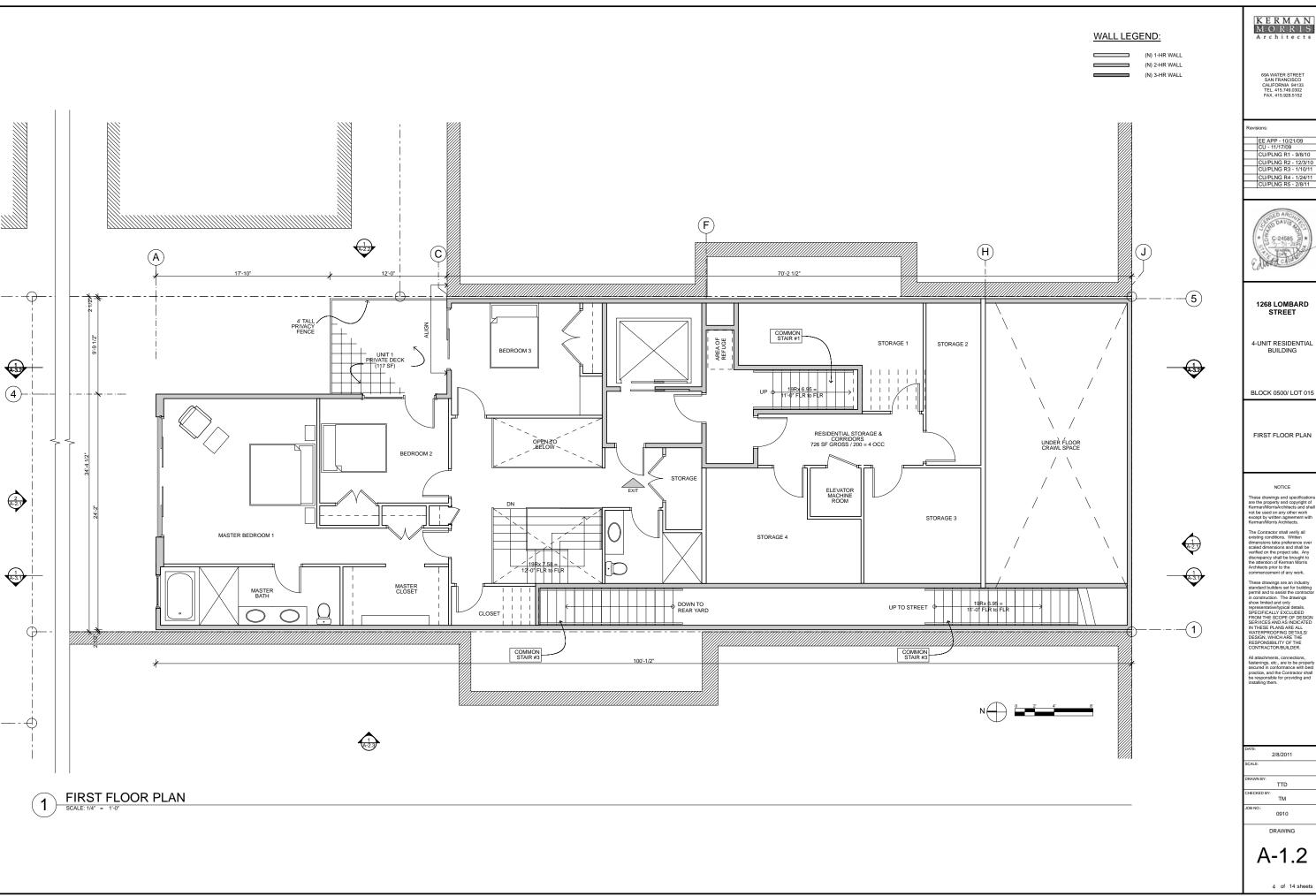
> That would be a public policy decision that could prevent the vacant building list from growing.

Sincerely.

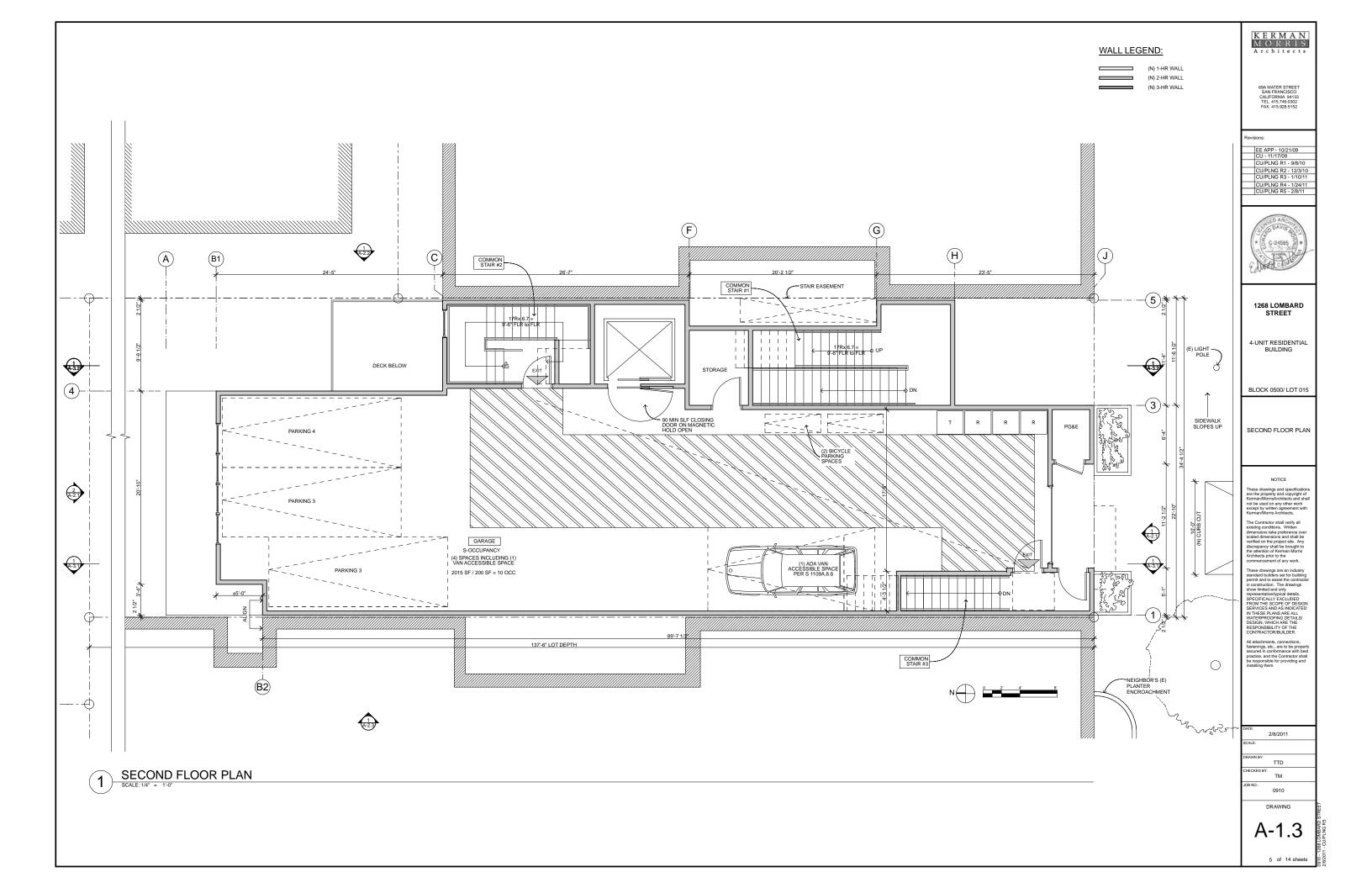
F. Joseph Butler, AIA Little House Committee

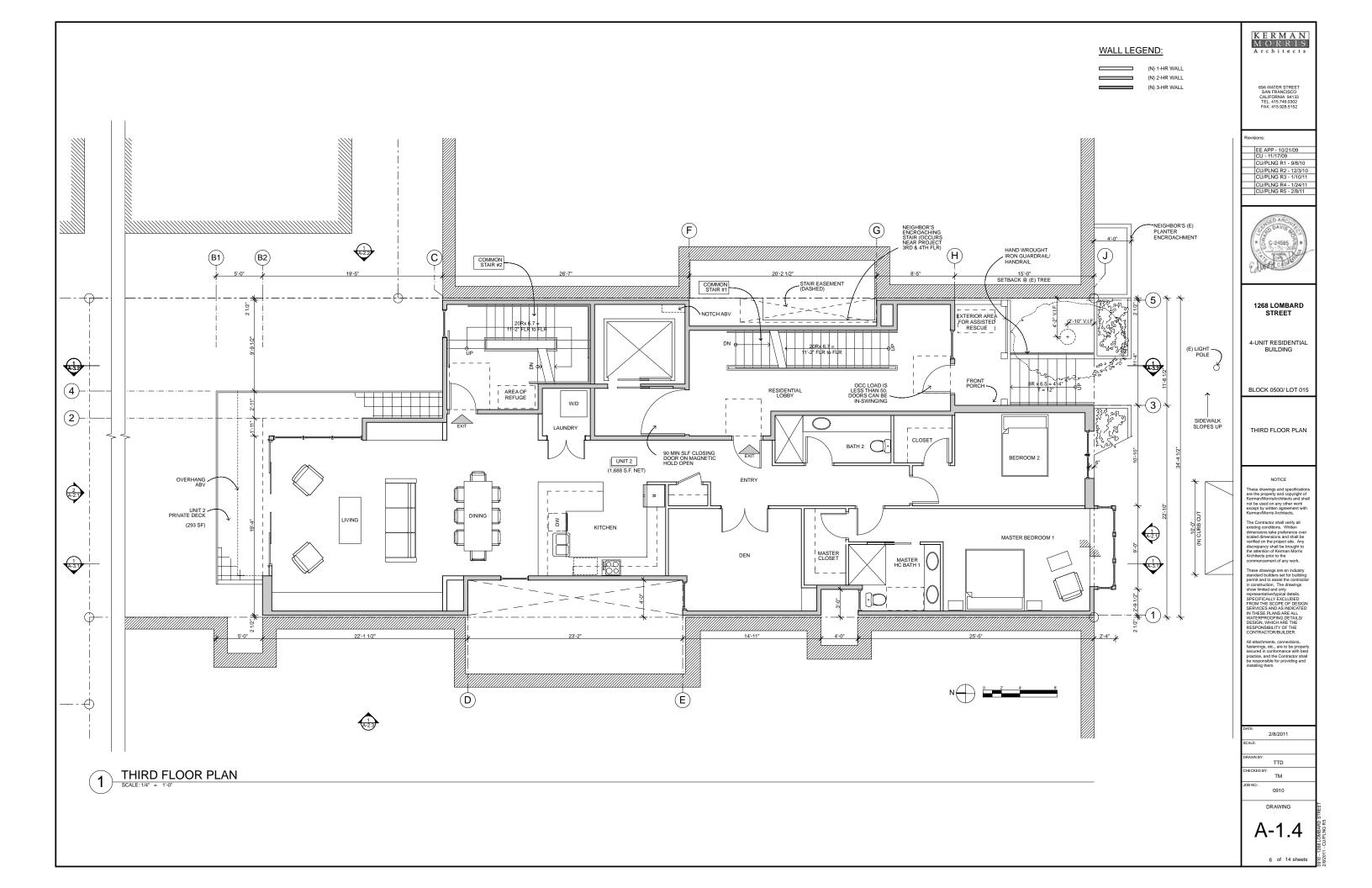


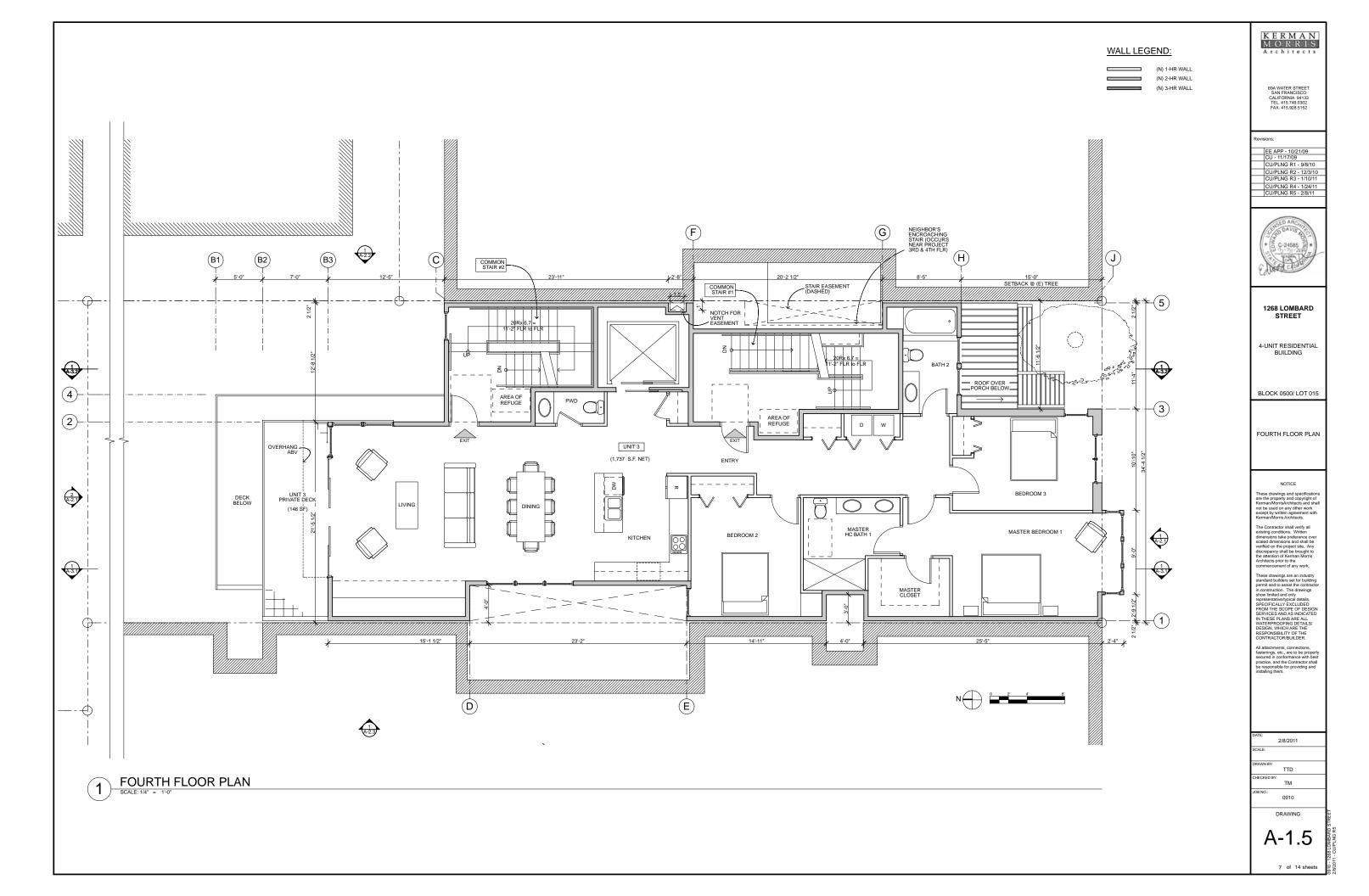


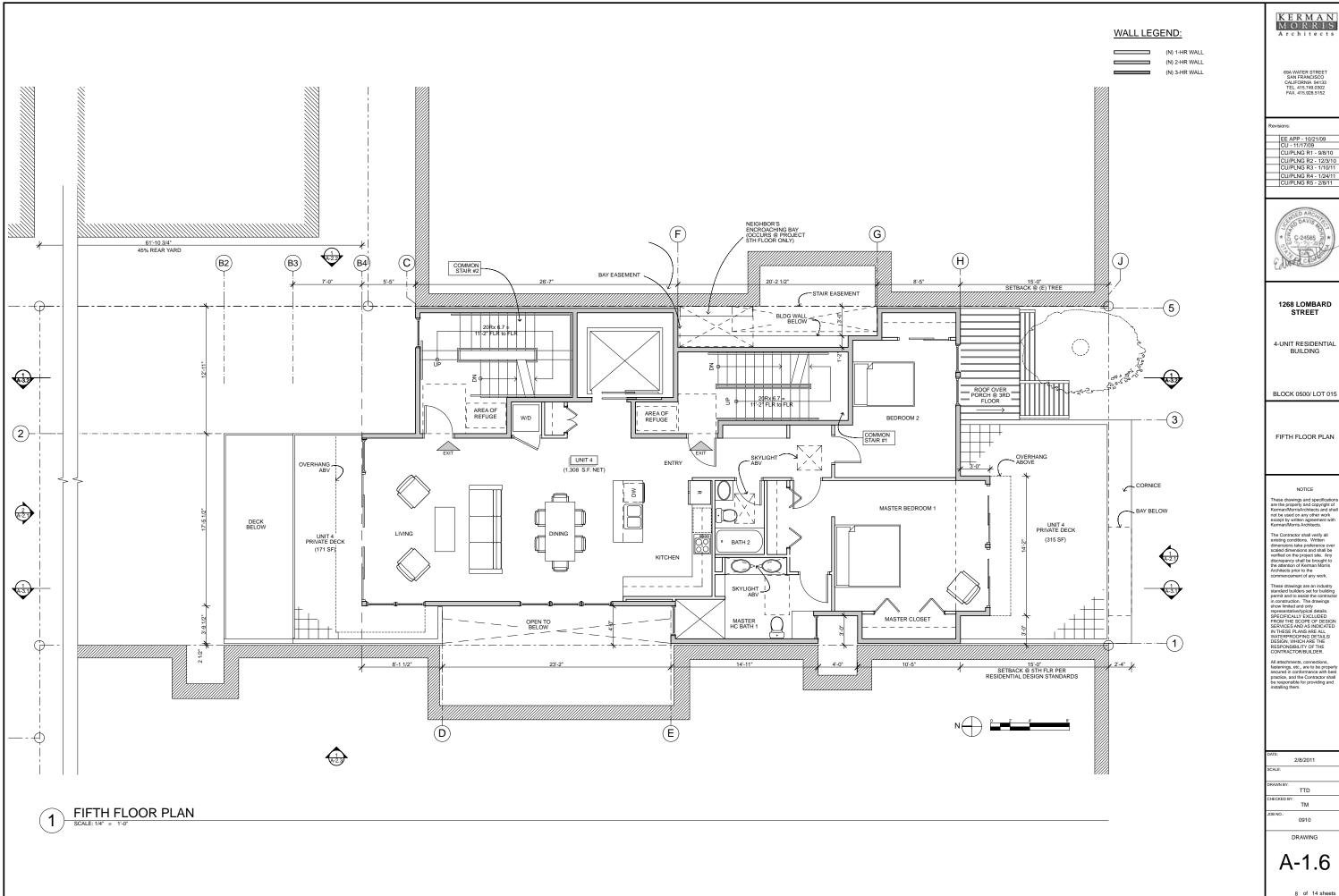












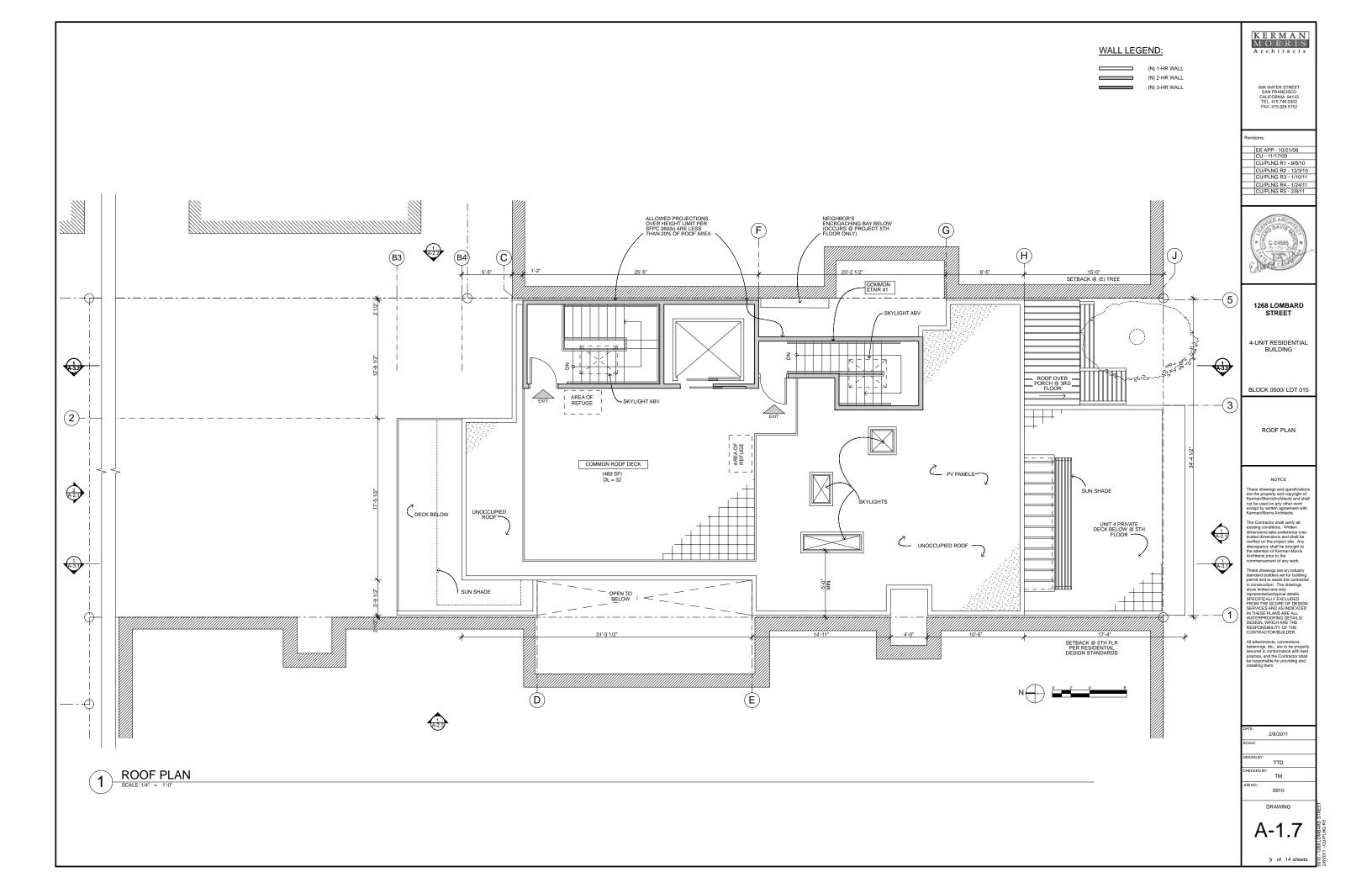
EE APP - 10/21/09 CU - 11/17/09 CU/PLNG R1 - 9/8/10

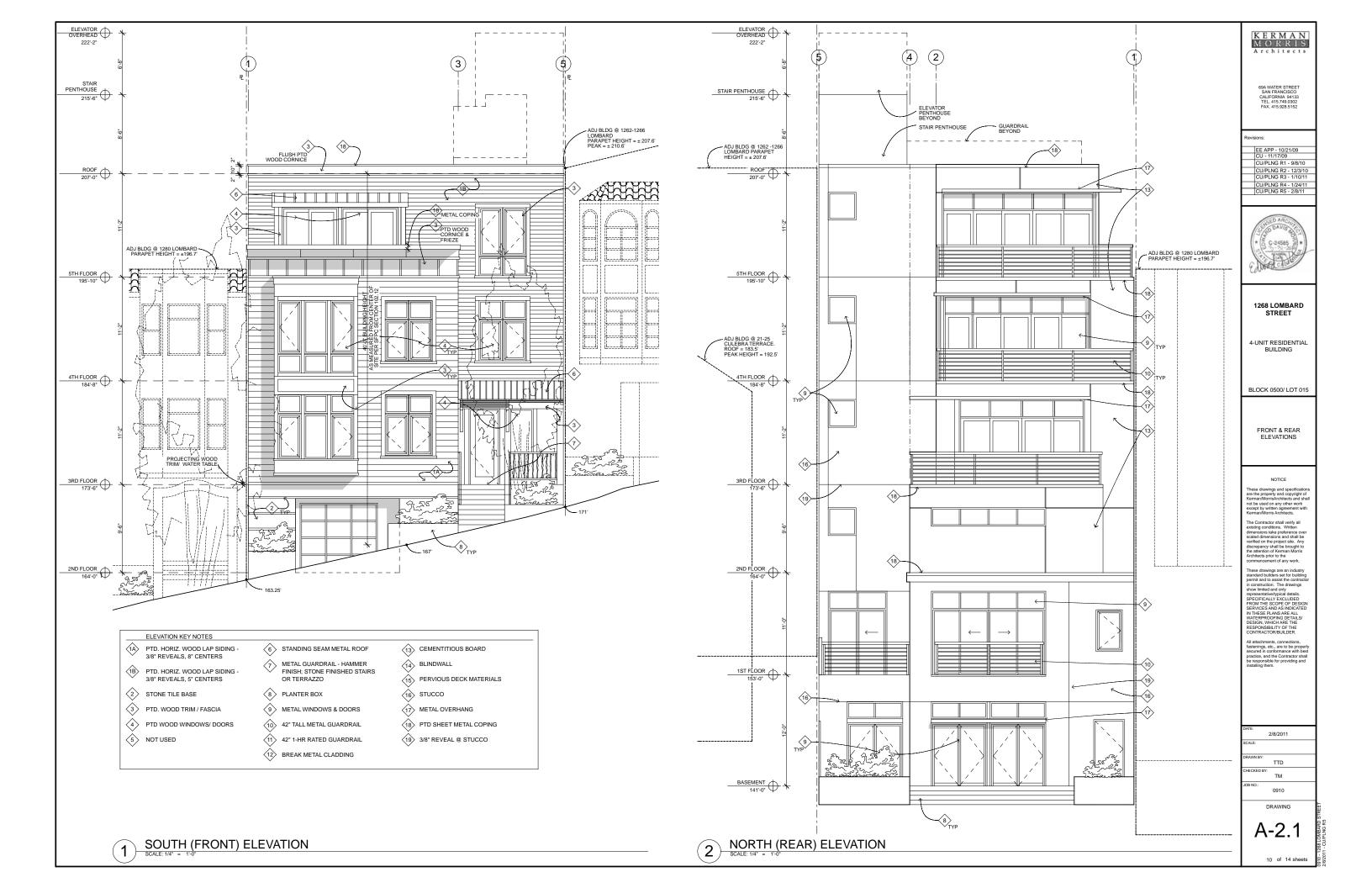


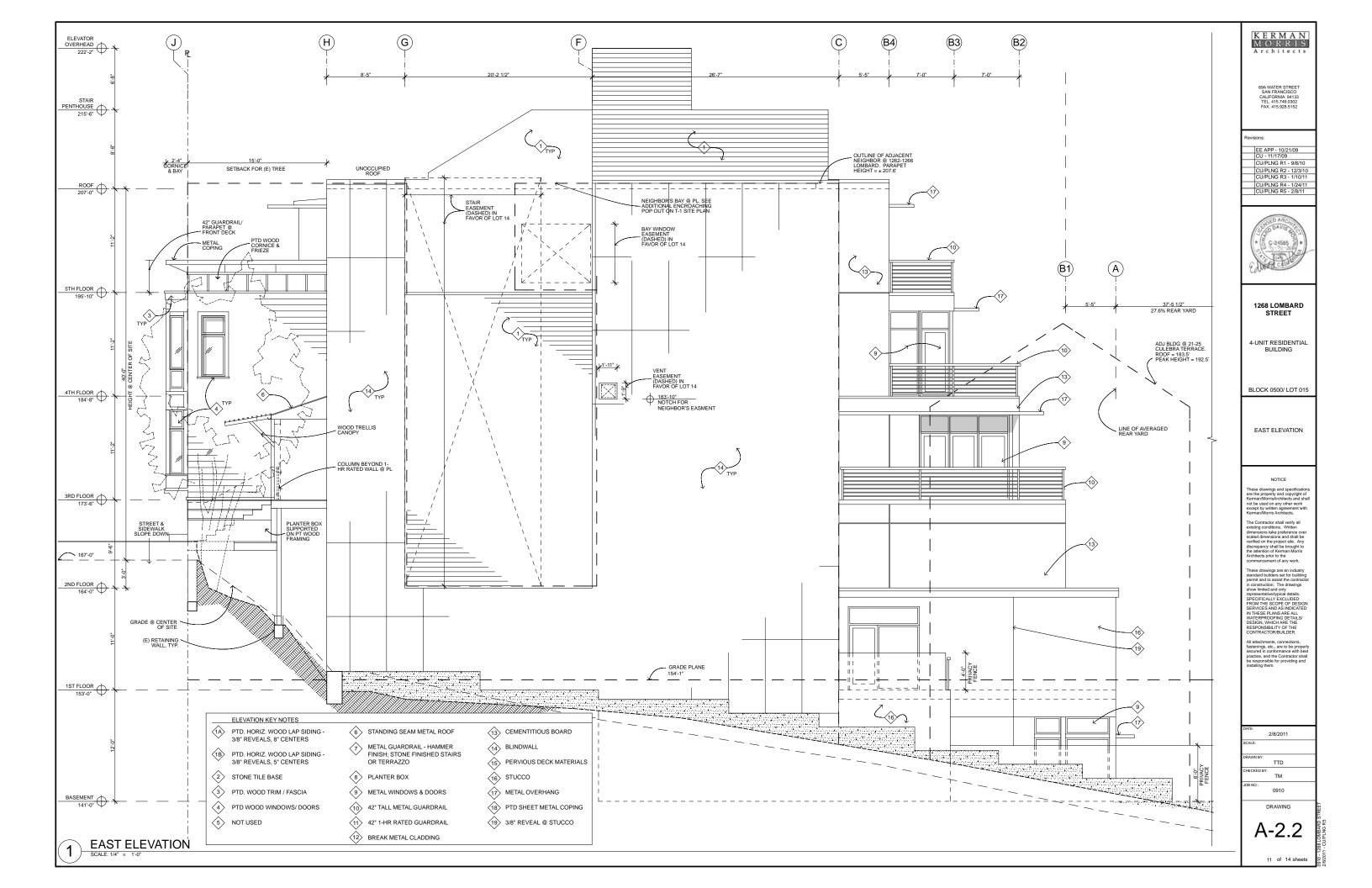
FIFTH FLOOR PLAN

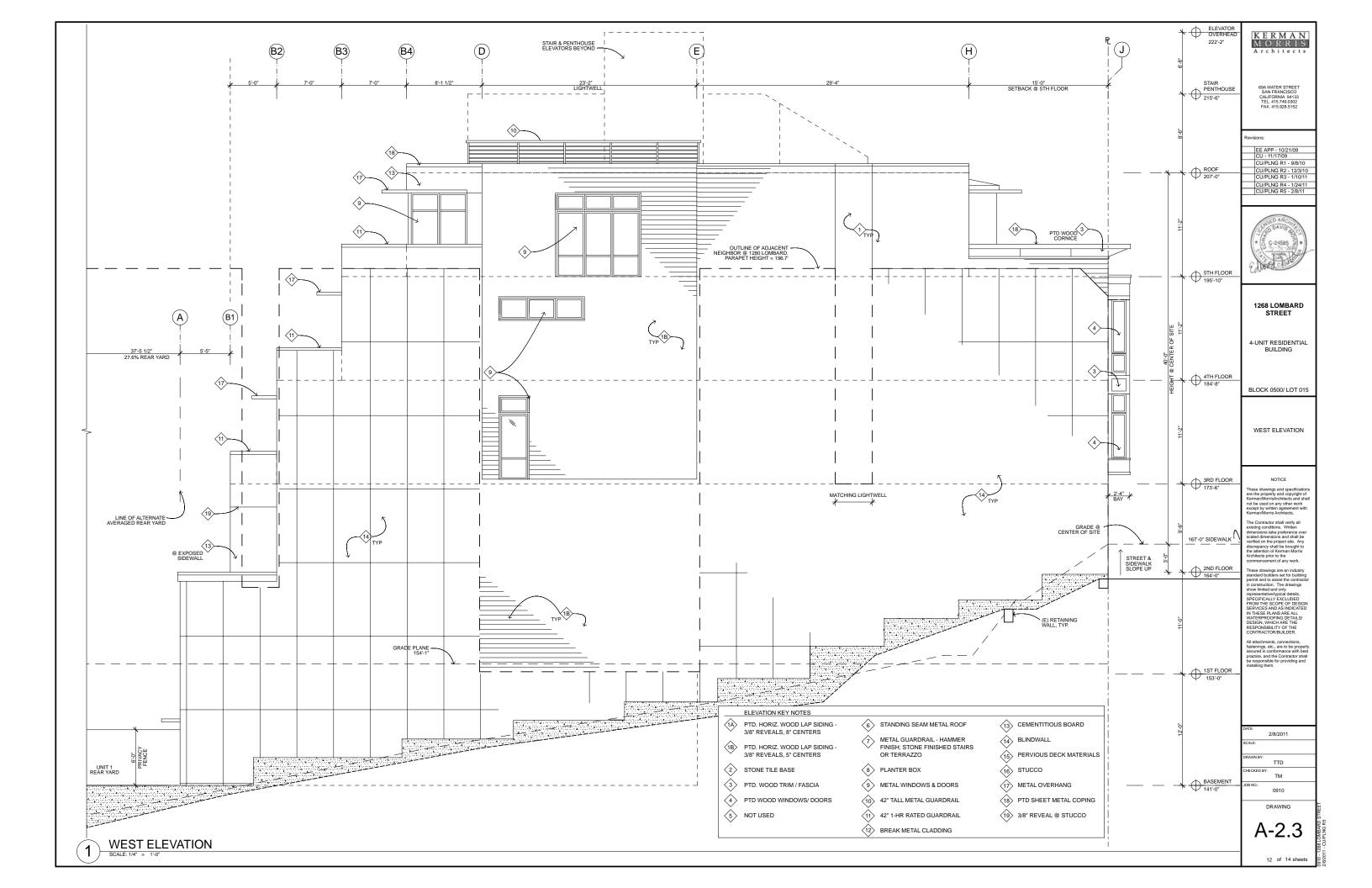
A-1.6

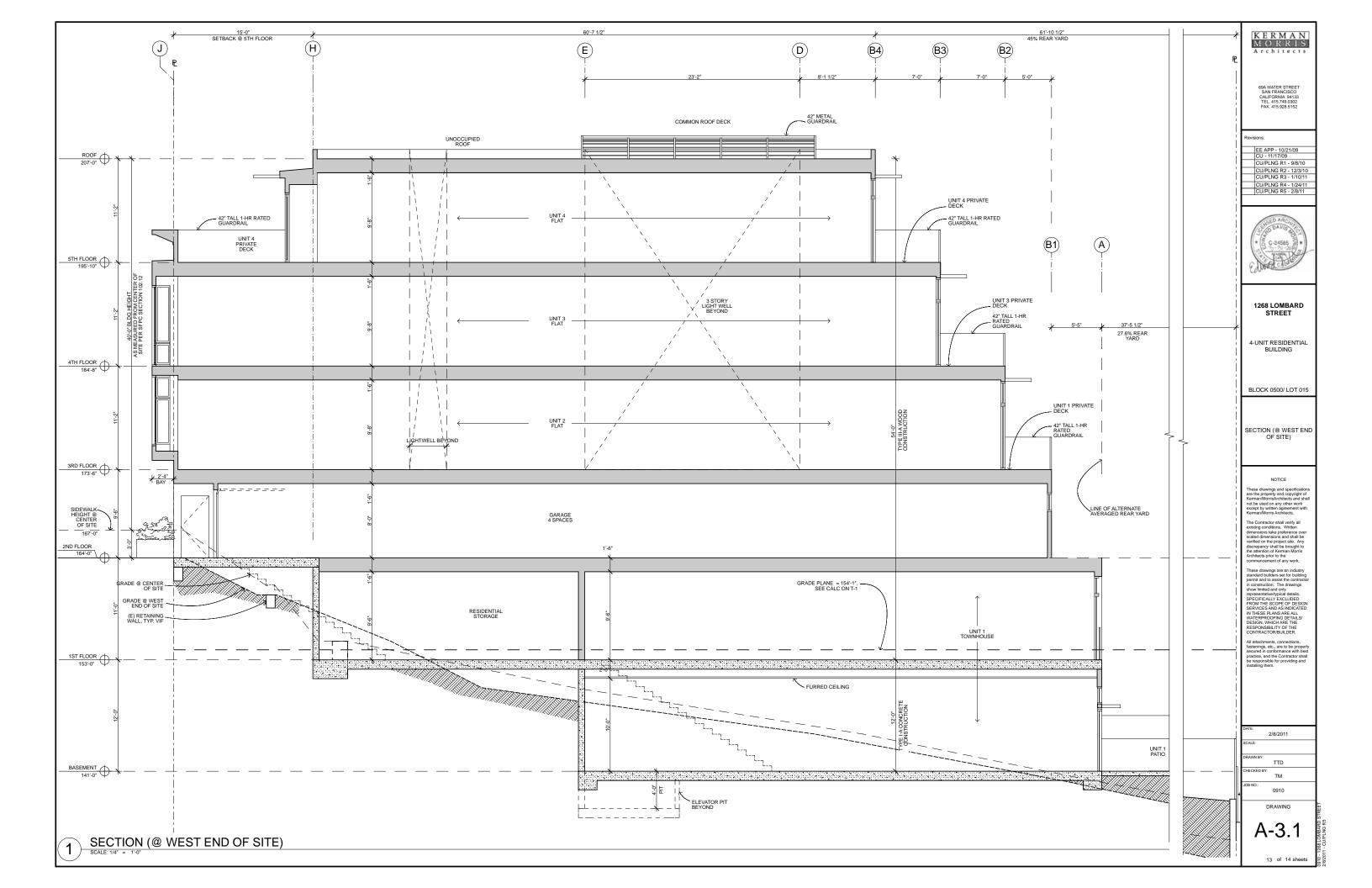
8 of 14 sheets

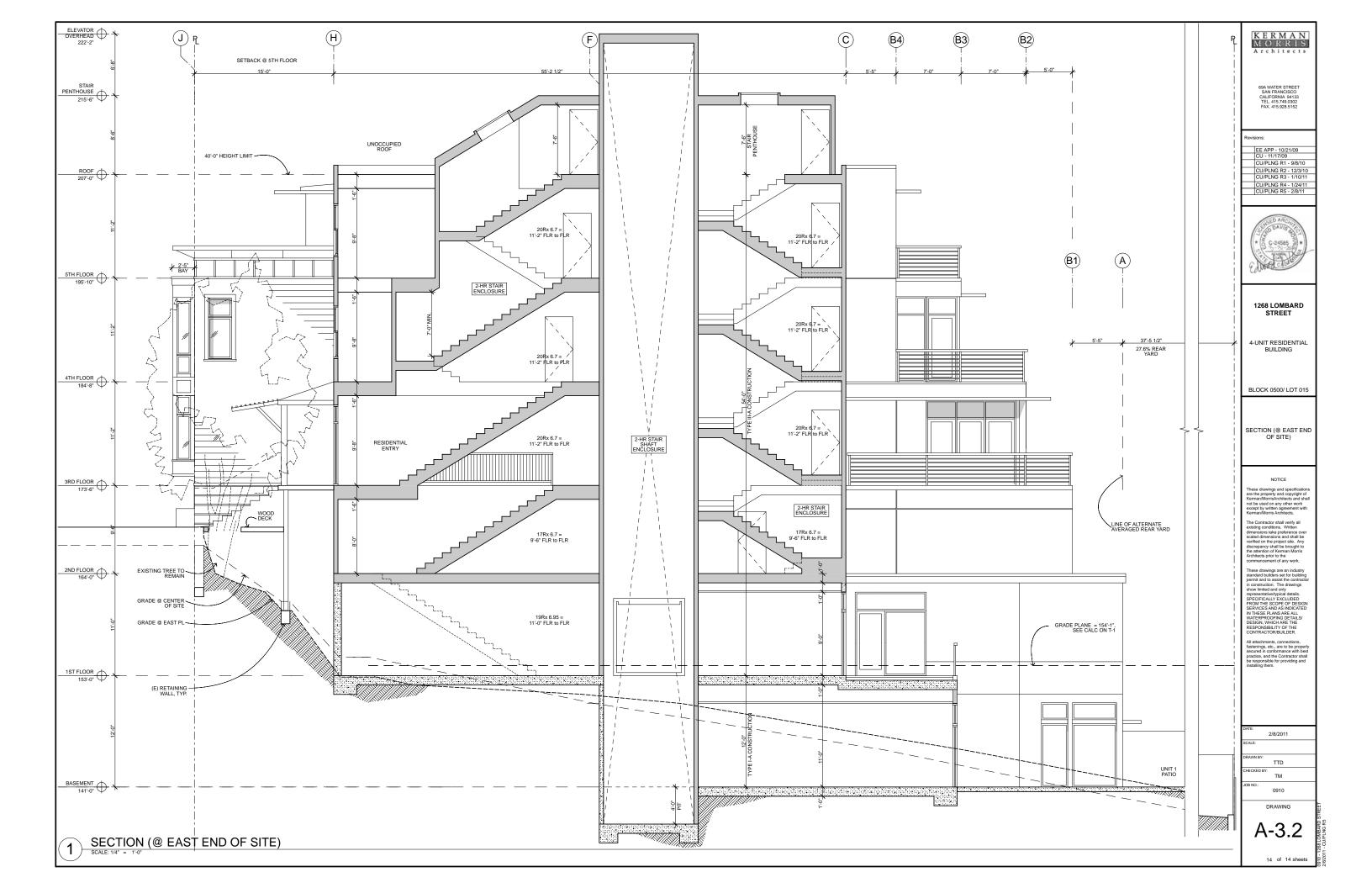












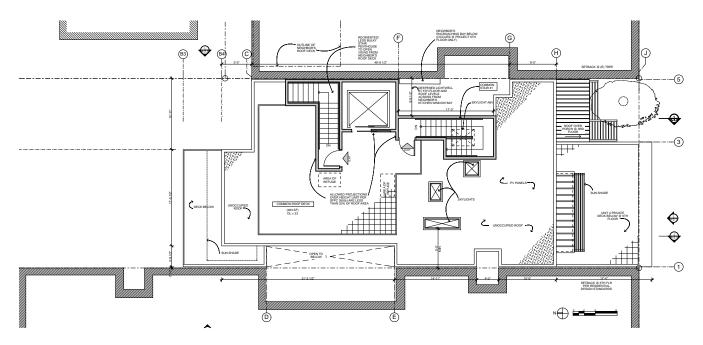


NOTE: THIS MODFICATION WAS PRESENTED ON 2-8-11 TO STEVE BEREZIN (1262-66 LOMBARD), HIS ARCHITECT AND ATTORNEY AS A COMPROMISE TO ADDRESS SOME OF HIS CONCERNS. IT

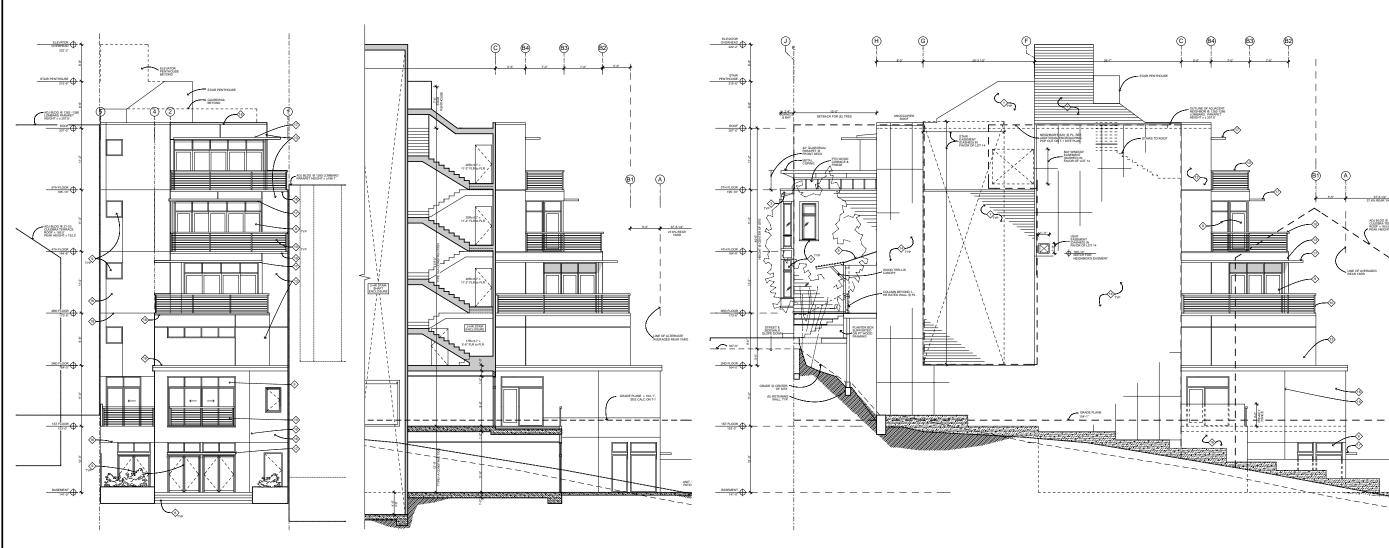
1) REDUCES THE SIZE OF THE REAR PENTHOUSE ENABLING VIEWS FROM MR. BEREZINS ROOF DECK TO BE PRESERVED, AND

2) DEEPENS THE LIGHTWELL ACROSS FROM HIS ENCROACHING KITCHEN BAY TO INCREASE LIGHT ACCESS TO HIS UNIT.

THIS PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DOES NOT PROVIDE LIGHT AND VIEWS FROM TWO EXISTING PROPERTY LINE WINDOWS AT A DINING ROOM OF THE TOP FLOOR OF 1262-66 LOMBARD. THESE WINDOWS WILL BE COVERED OVER BY THE ELEVATOR AT THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, WHICH ENABLES CODE REQUIRED DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COMMON ROOF DECK.



1 ROOF PLAN
| SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



4 NORTH (REAR) ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

3 SECTION (@ EAST END OF SITE)
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

2 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

KERMAN MORRIS

> 69A WATER STREE SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94133 TEL. 415.749.0302 FAX. 415.928.5152

evisions:



1268 LOMBARD STREET

4-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

BLOCK 0500/ LOT 015

STAIR PENTHOUSE ALT

NO

These drawings and specifications are the property and copyright of Kerman/MorrisArchitects and shall not be used on any other work except by written agreement with

The Contractor shall verify all existing conditions. Written dimensions take preference ove scaled dimensions and shall be verified on the project site. Any discrepancy shall be brought to the attention of Kerman Morris Architects prior to the commencement of any work.

These drawings are an industry standard builders set for building permit and to assist the contraction in construction. The drawings show limited and only details. SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE SCOPE OF DESIGN SERVICES AND AS INDICATED IN THESE PLANS ARE ALL WATERPROOFING DETAILS/DESIGN, WHICH ARE THE CONTRACTOR ARE THE CONTRACTOR BUILDER.

All attachments, connections, fastenings, etc., are to be proper secured in conformance with be practice, and the Contractor shabe responsible for providing and

2/8/2011

WN BY:
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CKED BY:

TM 0.:

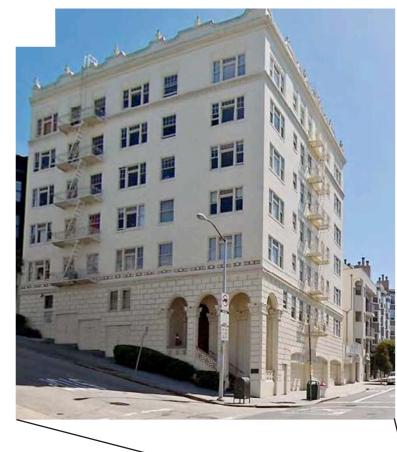
DRAWING

SK-1

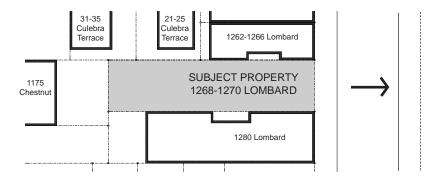




SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOMBARD AND POLK







BUILDINGS ACROSS THE STREET



ACROSS STREET

1269 LOMBARD

BLOCK 0501/ LOT 024 BLOCK 0501/ LOT 023

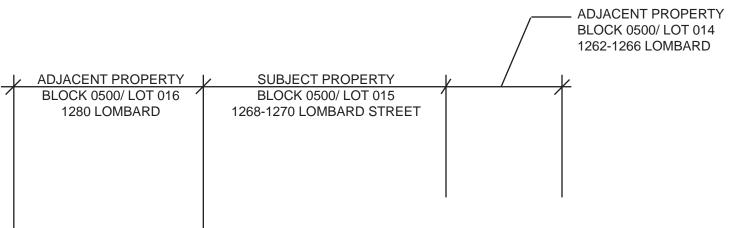
ACROSS STREET

1271-1275 LOMBARD

BLOCK 0501/ LOT 071 1

ACROSS STREET

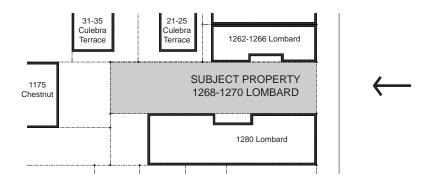
1263-1267 LOMBARD





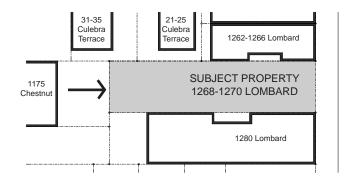


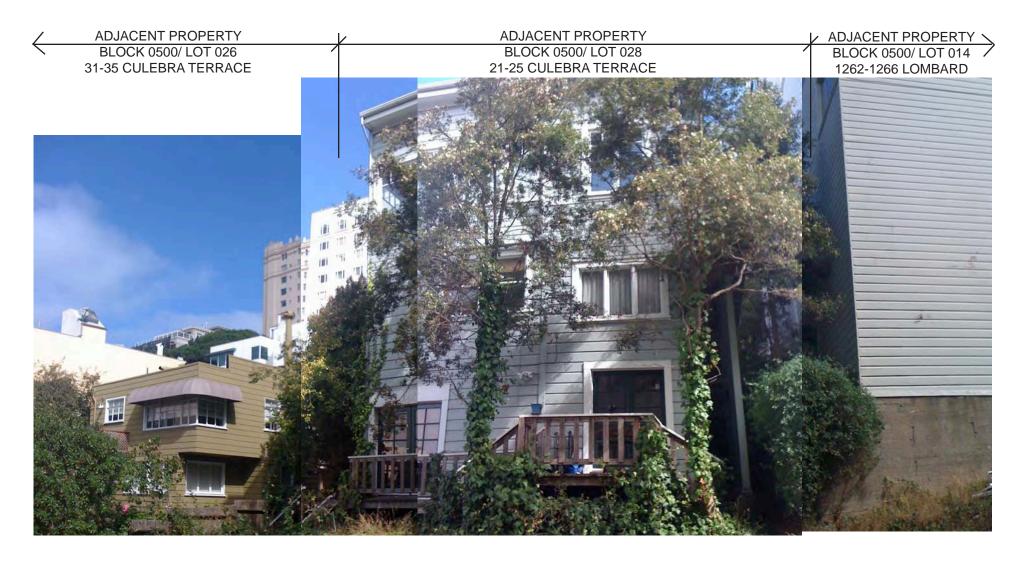
BUILDINGS ON SAME BLOCK



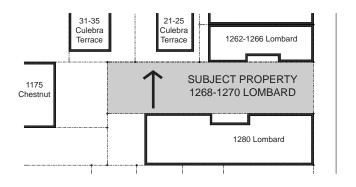


REAR VIEW



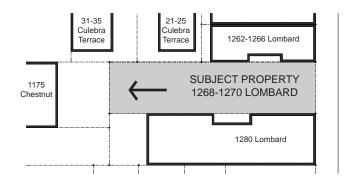


SIDE VIEW





VIEW TOWARDS REAR PROPERTY LINE



1268 Lombard: Summary of Neighborhood Outreach

Kerman/Morris Architects: Prepared 2/9/11

9/21/09: Pre-Application Meeting held on site with neighbors. About 15 attendees. Most neighbor concerns relate to if and how the proposed project may affect neighbors' views.

9/09 and 10/09: Several phone conversations and face to face meetings held with abutting neighbors Bill Hutcheson (21/25 Culebra Terrace) and Steve Berezin (1262/66 Lombard) to learn of their concerns (massing, light and views).

3/17/10: Meeting on site with Planners Glenn Cabreros, Shelley Caltagirone, neighbor Bill Hutcheson, architect Toby Morris (KMA) and project sponsors to discuss massing.

4/10 to 1/11: Revisions of the drawings (reductions to massing at rear and façade modifications) per input from Planning Department (Residential Design Team) and Historic Preservation Commission.

1/7/11: Marvin Frankel of Russian Hills Neighbors Association (RHN) calls to request a copy of our plans to review.

1/11/11: KMA emails our latest plans to Mr. Berezin and Mr. Frankel (RHN).

1/18/11: SF Planning Dept. suggests continuance of our scheduled 1/20/11 Planning Commission Hearing on the CU to 2/3/11, due missed deadline for signed Categorical Exemption.

1/18-1/20/11: Several phone conversations and emails exchanged between KMA and neighbors (Steve Berezin of 1262/66 Lombard, Sal Romano of 1242 Lombard) who request a continuance to 2/17/11 to allow for more neighborhood discussions and review.

1/20/11: Toby Morris (KMA) requests continuance to 2/17/11 at Planning Commission to allow additional time to meet with neighbors. Continuance granted.

1/24/11: Toby Morris (KMA) presents the project to the Russian Hills Neighbors Association (RHN). Approximately 20 attendees. Issues raised by neighbors are height, bulk and density.

1/25/11: Phone conversations with Mr. Romano and Mr. Frankel about the project. Primary objections appear to be our stair and elevator penthouses which neighbors fear will block views from their roof decks and homes.

1/31/11: Phone call with Mr. Romano who suggests we remove our penthouses and lower the building a few feet. He also suggests we reach out to Jeff Glavan (1256 Lombard) to hear his issues.

1/31/11: Toby Morris (KMA) emails Mr. Berezin to suggest a face to face meeting to look at possible modifications we could make to the proposed building. Toby Morris also phones Jerry Kler (Steve Berezin's Architect) who supports such a meeting.

2/1/11: Phone conversation with Mr. Glavan (1256 Lombard) who is concerned about views from his roof.

2/8/11: Meeting held with Mr. Berezin, his architect and attorney, the project sponsors of 1268 Lombard and architect Toby Morris (KMA). Modifications are proposed by Kerman/Morris Architects which reduce the rear stair penthouse and open up views from Mr. Berezin's roof deck, as well as increase the size of the light well providing light to his kitchen bay window. The proposal is rejected, as it does not address Mr. Berezin's requirement that his property line windows' light and views be honored (these windows are against our elevator and stair shafts).

2/8/11: Russian Hills Neighbors' Association meets and sends Kerman/Morris Architects an email stating that they cannot support the project as designed. They object to the four units on the site, the building height, stair and elevator penthouses and roof deck.