

Historic Preservation Services

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REPORT OF ALTERATIONS TO DESIGNATED RESOURCE Site Number/Address: 418 E. Oak Street Laurel School National Register Historic District ISSUED: December 14, 2021

Shelley & Gregor Crausbay 418 E Oak St Fort Collins, CO 80524

Dear Property Owner:

This report is to document proposed alterations to the Carl and Nellia Brannaman Residence at 418 E. Oak Street, pursuant to Fort Collins Municipal Code Chapter 14, <u>Article IV</u>. A copy of this report may be forwarded to the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

The alterations include:

- 1. Demolition of existing/historic rear porch
- 2. Construction of a new 220 ft^2 rear porch addition
- 3. Basement finish to include two egress windows with window wells on west elevation

Our staff review of the proposed work finds the alterations do meet the <u>SOI Standards for</u> <u>Treatment of Historic Properties</u>. A summary is provided below:

Applicable Code Standard	Summary of Code Requirement and Analysis (Rehabilitation)	Standard Met (Y/N)
SOI #1	A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships; The house will remain in residential use.	Y
SOI #2	The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.	Y
	The Brannaman property was built in c.1907 based on Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps for the area and city directories, although no building permit could be located providing a specific date of construction. The first mention of the home in	

available records is the 1907 city directory, noting John T. Graham as the first occupant, who was single at the time and worked as a salesman at the Fort Collins Buggy Company at 310 Jefferson Street, just a few blocks away. There is also a news article in the October 7, 1908 *Weekly Courier* noting that Mr. Graham had married his wife Florence by that time. By 1909, Carl & Nellie Branaman are listed as residents, with Nellie working at the same Fort Collins Buggy Company, although they moved to 324 S. Loomis Avenue by the following year. In 1910, an E.A. Bessey lived at the property, and in 1911, Arnold and Marie Thormann lived there, Arnold being a druggist at a shop at 227-229 Walnut Street (the Whitton Block).

The building is a strong example of an Edwardian cottage, including a typical hipped roof with a dominant gablet on its south facade, which has decorative fishscale shingles and a small square window into the building's attic. A nearly full-width porch includes simple Doric style columns, a wood panel halve wall, and a Classical railing, with a frieze between the columns and the porch roof. Windows are a combination of four- and three-over-one configurations and may be replacements (not confirmed, but this configuration is more common in later Artsand-Crafts era homes). The building is predominantly red brick with painted wood features elsewhere, although it has few decorative features beyond the shingles and porch columns. Side windows include brick arches, stone lintels, and what appear to be wood one-over-one sash windows. The foundation of the main house, and front and rear porches appears to be cut sandstone. A small frame mud porch extends from the building's rear elevation.

The project will remove the existing rear porch and replace it with a new one as designed in the attached plans. The new addition will construct a hipped-roof extension onto the rear with simple fixed/casement windows and wood siding. Concrete basement windows and light wells will also be added along both side elevations to allow for daylighting and egress into the basement.

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	The existing rear porch appears to be original to the house,	
	appearing in the 1909 Sanborn map shown above (highlighted in red). While it is always encouraged to retain rear porches like	
	this, this feature does not appear to be character-defining and its	
	removal is not inconsistent with this Standard. The new porch retains the historic spatial relationships of a rear porch with	
	differentiated materials (in this case wood lapboard siding). The addition of egress window/light wells on the basement level is a	
	common adaptation for modernizing homes of this type. This project meets this Standard.	
SOI #3	Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time,	Y
	place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical	
	development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from	
	other historic properties, will not be undertaken.	
	The new addition and the addition of light wells/window wells in	
	the basement both use modern materials in a compatible	
	manner to differentiate new construction from historic features.	
	This project meets this Standard. While preservation of the rear mud parch would be encouraged, its demolition is not	
	mud porch would be encouraged, its demolition is not	

	inconsistent with the Standard since it does not appear to be a character-defining feature.	
SOI #4	<i>Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.</i>	Y
	The property appears to have experienced little in the way of alterations since its 1907 construction:	
	 1945 – remodel barn to serve as a garage 1945 – reshingle house 	
	 2000 - reroof 2003 - reroof 2003 - front store verbood 	
	- 2003 – front steps replaced	
	Again, it would certainly be encouraged to retain the rear porch since it appears to be an original feature. However, it is not a character-defining feature and its loss is not inconsistent with this Standard.	
SOI #5	Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.	Y
	Modifications are limited to modification of the basement level to accommodate egress and light wells, and the removal of the historic rear porch for a small addition. The key characteristics of the homes distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques are being retained, including the brick walls, wood frame Classical porch on the front, the distinctive gablet, and few changes to window openings.	
SOI #6	Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.	Y
	While it is encouraged to retain features like the slightly deteriorated rear porch, no character-defining features are proposed for replacement.	
SOI #7	Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.	N/A
SOI #8	Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.	Y
	Excavation is a component of extending the existing basement to the rear/north. However, this area is already significantly disturbed and the likelihood of discovering diagnostic artifacts	

	of significance is low. It is encouraged that any discoveries made during excavation be noted and Preservation staff is available to coordinate any potential salvage with the Museum of Discovery's Local History Archive.	
SOI #9	New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.	Y
	This Standard calls for new additions to be compatible, distinguishable, and subordinate to the historic building. The new rear porch is compatible, as it is on the rear, continues the standard pattern of rear additions being of a different material than the main house, and avoids removing any character- defining features. It is distinguishable as new construction through its use of lapboard siding and simplified casement window configurations instead of the historic sash. It is subordinate since it is on the rear of the house and roofline is below that of the historic house, with the addition set in from the	
SOI #10	historic sidewall planes.New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.This Standard calls for new additions to be reversible. From submitted plans, demolition of the rear brick wall to accommodate the new addition appears to be minimal/non- existent, making the removal or modification of the new addition in the future possible without large-scale reconstruction.	Y

The property is expected to remain a contributing property to the Laurel School Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, after this project is complete. It should remain eligible for available state and federal tax incentives to support repair and upkeep.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me. I may be reached at <u>jbertolini@fcgov.com</u> or at 970-416-4250.

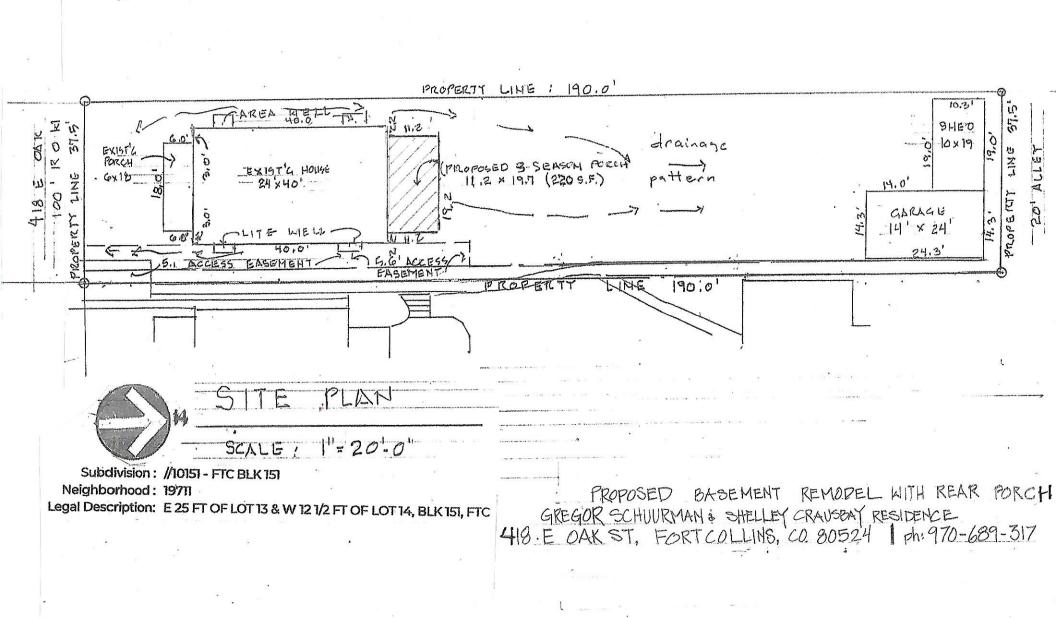
Sincerely,

Jim Bertolini Historic Preservation Planner

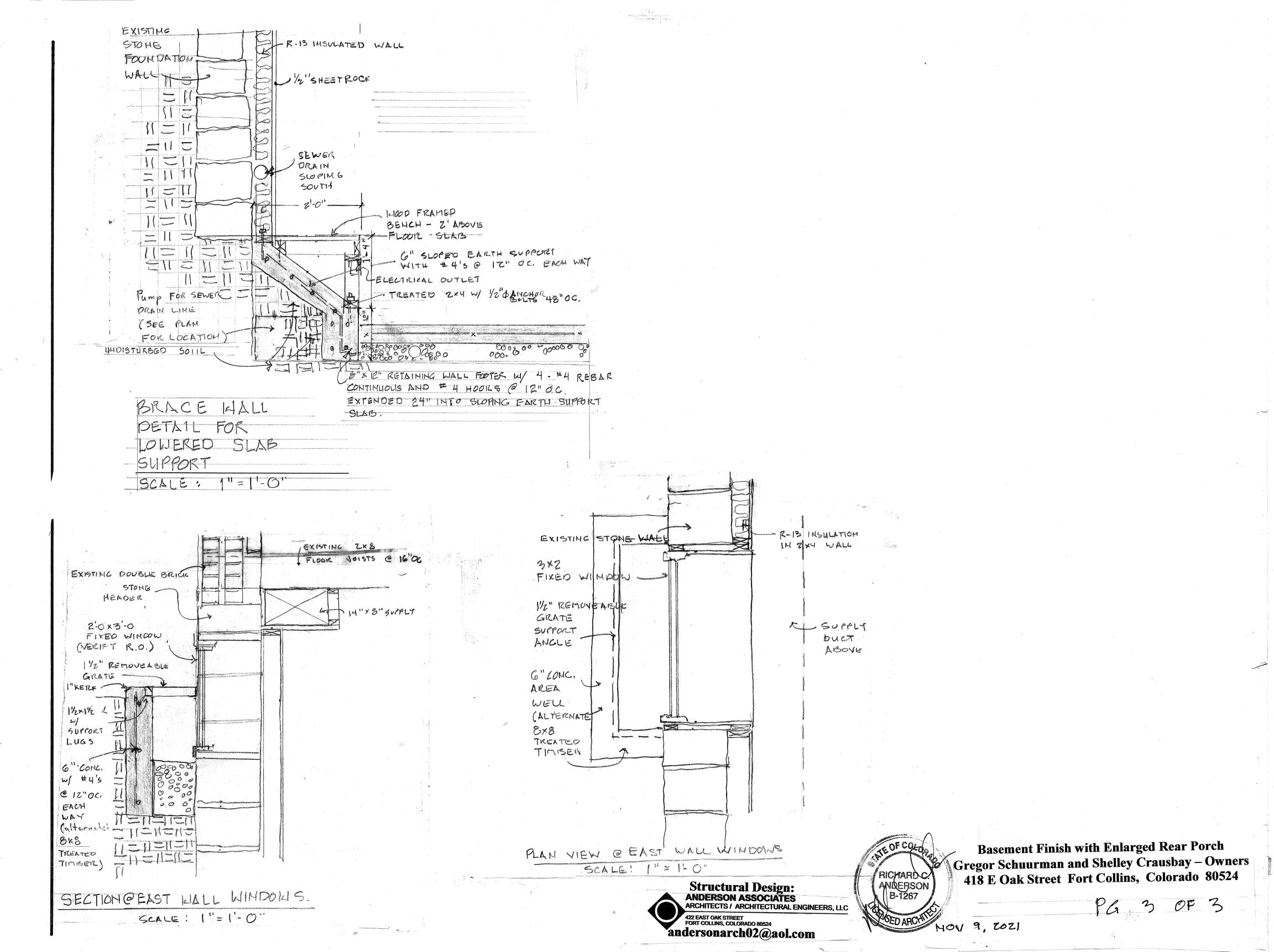


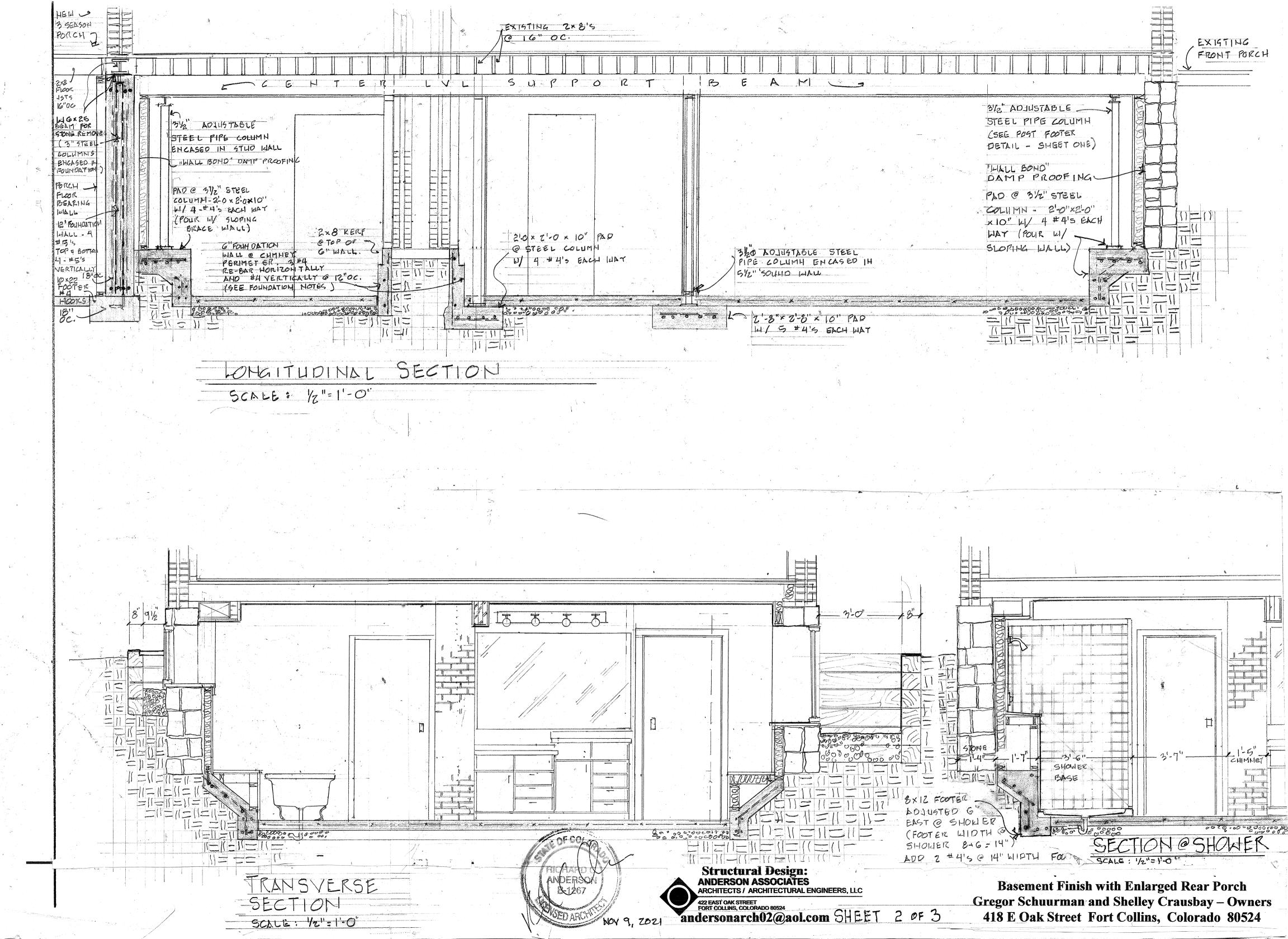


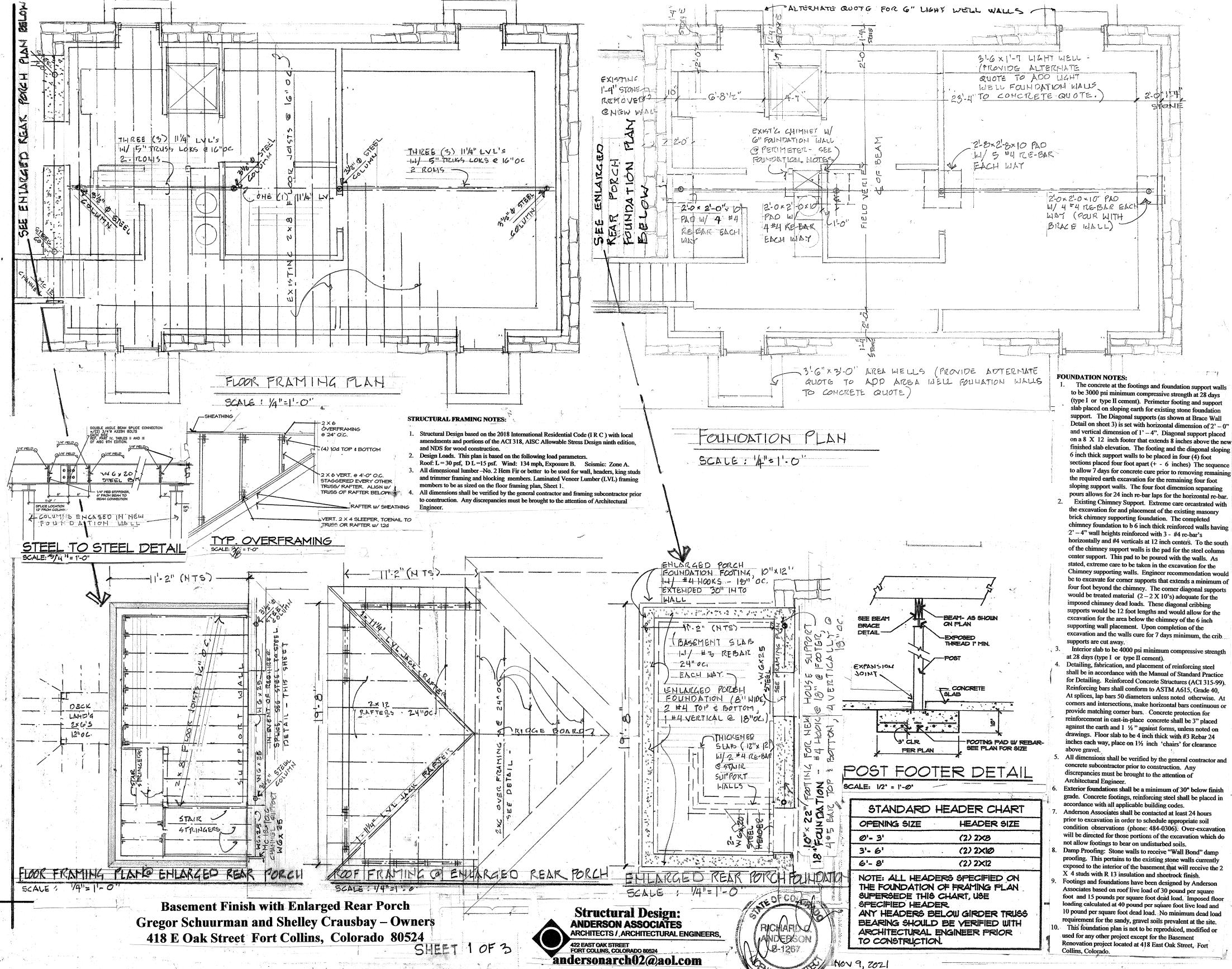




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