

**From:** Scala, Mary Joy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 10:52 AM  
**To:** 'Robert Nichols'  
**Subject:** BAR Actions - May 19, 2015 - 550 E Water Street

May 27, 2015

Water Tower, LLC  
100 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE Ste 200  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

**Special Use Permit Recommendation**

550 East Water Street  
Tax Parcel 530162300  
Water Tower LLC, Owner/ Robert Nichols, Applicant  
Request for additional height

Dear Applicant,

The above referenced project was discussed before a meeting of the City of Charlottesville Board of Architectural Review (BAR) on May 19, 2015. The following action was taken:

**The BAR discussed, but made no recommendation on the special use permit. The applicant asked to defer the vote until their June meeting because they are still working on the design. Mohr asked to see more context in terms of massing; Schwarz asked how building height is defined; and expressed interest in lowering the minimum height to the level of the King Building; Keesecker asked the applicant to show the existing 800 foot black fence; and to consider lobby references to the King building height; Question: Should guidelines be used to judge impact on ADC district? Neighbors asked about loading space requirements.**

This item is on the BAR's June 16, 2015 agenda. Please submit revised drawings no later than Tuesday June 2, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 434-970-3130 or [scala@charlottesville.org](mailto:scala@charlottesville.org).

Sincerely yours,

Mary Joy Scala, AICP  
Preservation and Design Planner

**Mary Joy Scala, AICP**  
Preservation and Design Planner  
City of Charlottesville  
Department of Neighborhood Development Services  
City Hall – 610 East Market Street  
P.O. Box 911  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
Ph 434.970.3130 FAX 434.970.3359  
[scala@charlottesville.org](mailto:scala@charlottesville.org)

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE  
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW  
STAFF REPORT  
May 19, 2015**



**Special Use Permit Recommendation**

550 East Water Street  
Tax Parcel 530162300  
Water Tower LLC, Owner/ Robert Nichols, Applicant  
Request for additional height

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**Background**

550 East Water Street is a vacant parcel, currently used as a parking lot, which was subdivided from the former C&O Depot property. It is located between the former C&O Depot building and the former King Warehouse Building.

600 East Water Street (the former C&O Depot) is a contributing structure in the Downtown ADC District. It was built in 1905 and refurbished in 1991 for offices.

**NOTE:**

- The BAR approved in concept in May 2009 a 9-story structure on this site. Following that approval, the zoning of the site was changed from *Downtown Corridor* to *Water Street District Corridor*. In 2009, based on an opinion from the City Attorney, a new plan for a 5-story building was reviewed and approved under the prior zoning.
- In December of 2010, the BAR approved the application for a new 4-story building on the same site, with consideration of Sec 34- 872(b)(3) of the Zoning Ordinance, which requires screening of all mechanical equipment.

January 15, 2008 – The BAR discussed a preliminary request. In general, most liked the proposed building. BAR members said that the massing is generally OK, a nice response to site; some preferred red not yellow brick; some said tan brick would be OK with tan windows; glass balcony piece is weird; should enter stores from street; base needs articulation; need double hung windows; need 1 type of window, not 2-3; west elevation doesn't go with the rest of vocabulary; balconies are anomalous in 1920's design revival; decorate spandrels in tower? Consider a low resolution between vertical and long piece; concern with blank garage wall on street; one member said this is too conventional a solution for the site; discussion whether or not to simplify the tower given the context; suggested doing the warehouse look on the 2-story part, treating like a separate building? The BAR wants to see the roofscape; want the transformer moved from the visible location.

May 20, 2008 – The BAR approved (8-0) the design in concept for massing, height, openings, and scale. Details as they relate to its materials and construction are to come back to BAR (including guard rails, cornices, wall section through window sill and head, roofscape, and depth of niche defining the two separate building elements.)

September 15, 2009 – The BAR made preliminary comments. The BAR preferred the version in their packet to the version submitted at the meeting.

November 17, 2009 - The BAR approved (6-1 with Wall against) the application for massing, height, openings, scale, and materials as submitted, with the applicant's modification for exterior [vehicle driveway] pavement (pavers, not concrete) and retaining wall material (brick, not stacked block). Details as they relate to balconies and protection for secondary entrances shall come back to the BAR for review.

December 21, 2010 - The BAR approved (7-0) the application for massing, height, openings, scale, and materials as submitted. The BAR noted that the applicant should consider Sec 34- 872(b)(3) of the Zoning Ordinance, which requires screening of all mechanical equipment.

September 17, 2013 - The BAR accepted the applicant's request for deferral (8-0). The BAR found the ADA entrance to the rear too isolating, the design overall too complicated for the size of the building, and that the applicant should appear to present an overall plan for the entire site, including possible future phases. This property is located in the Downtown ADC District. The site is currently used for parking. A building used by the City Department of Parks and Recreation recently burned and was removed.

## **Application**

The BAR is being asked to make a recommendation regarding the proposed special use permit (SUP), and to make preliminary comments on the building and site design. Water Tower, LLC has requested a special use permit for the development of 550 E Water Street into a mixed use development that includes additional building height (from 70 feet to 101 feet).

Relevant Code Section: Sec. 34-157(7). *When the property that is the subject of the application for a special use permit is within a design control district, city council shall refer the application to the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) or Entrance Corridor Review Board (ERB), as may be applicable, for recommendations as to **whether the proposed use will have an adverse impact on the district, and for recommendations as to reasonable conditions which, if imposed, that would mitigate any such impacts.** The BAR or ERB, as applicable, shall return a written report of its recommendations to the city council.*

The joint public hearing on the SUP with Planning Commission and City Council will take place on June 9. If the SUP is approved by City Council (potentially in July), then the applicant will return to the BAR for preliminary and final BAR review, and ultimately, approval of a certificate of appropriateness (COA). The site plan will be reviewed concurrently by staff, and will be approved following the BAR approval of a COA.

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## **Zoning District Regulations**

The property is currently zoned Water Street Corridor (WSD) mixed use zoning district with ADC historic district overlay.

Minimum height: 40 feet; maximum 70 feet, **with up to 101 feet allowed with SUP.**

Density: Residential density shall not exceed **forty-three (43) DUA**; however, up to two hundred forty (240) DUA may be allowed by special use permit. The minimum density required for multifamily developments (new construction only) shall be twenty-one (21) DUA.

Stepback: For properties with frontage on the north side of South Street between Ridge Street and 2nd Street SW, the maximum height of the streetwall of any building or structure shall be forty-five (45) feet. After forty-five (45) feet, there shall be a minimum stepback of twenty-five (25) feet along the length of such street wall.

### Setbacks:

(1) *Primary and linking street frontage.* At least seventy-five (75) percent of the streetwall of a building must be built to the property line adjacent to a primary street. For the remaining portion of streetwall (i.e., twenty-five (25) percent), the maximum permitted setback is five (5) feet; however, (i) if streetscape trees are provided to the standards set forth in section 34-870, or (ii) pursuant to a special use permit granted by city council up to fifty (50) percent of the streetwall of a building may be set back twenty (20) feet.

(2) *Setback, Water Street:* **A minimum setback of five (5) feet shall be required for all buildings located on Water Street.**

Other mixed use regulations:

(1) No ground floor residential uses may front on a primary street, unless a building fronts on more than one primary street, in which case ground floor residential uses may front on one primary street. **Under no circumstances, however, shall any ground floor residential uses front on Main Street, Market Street or Water Street.**

(2) **All entrances shall be sheltered from the weather, and lighted.**

(3) Where any building or development occupies one or more parcels constituting an entire city block, courtyards shall be provided (subject to the street wall requirements set forth, above, within this division). Such courtyards shall be accessible from adjacent streets.

(4) **Off-street loading areas may not face public right-of-way.**

Parking: Non-residential developments in the *Parking Modified Zone* shall provide 50% of the required parking; residential developments shall provide 1 space per unit. Parking requirements may be fulfilled by the property owner or developer through several alternatives outlined in the code. Affordable dwelling units do not require parking.

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For context, nearby building heights include:

The Holsinger Building is 5 stories.

Waterhouse (World Stride) has a SUP for 82.6 feet (7 stories).

The Landmark Hotel (under construction) has 101 feet height (9 stories) plus an appurtenance level.

The Water Street parking garage is 4 stories.

The proposed Market Plaza Building has an SUP for 101 feet.

The rear of Jefferson Theater, Live Arts and the Terraces are all 4-5 stories.

### **Criteria, Standards and Guidelines**

#### **Review Criteria Generally**

*Sec. 34-284(b) of the City Code states that,*

*In considering a particular application the BAR shall approve the application unless it finds:*

- (1) That the proposal does not meet specific standards set forth within this division or applicable provisions of the Design Guidelines established by the board pursuant to Sec.34-288(6); and*
- (2) The proposal is incompatible with the historic, cultural or architectural character of the district in which the property is located or the protected property that is the subject of the application.*

#### **Pertinent Standards for Review of Construction and Alterations**

- (1) Whether the material, texture, color, height, scale, mass and placement of the proposed addition, modification or construction are visually and architecturally compatible with the site and the applicable design control district;*
- (2) The harmony of the proposed change in terms of overall proportion and the size and placement of entrances, windows, awnings, exterior stairs and signs;*
- (3) The Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation set forth within the Code of Federal Regulations (36 C.F.R. §67.7(b)), as may be relevant;*
- (4) The effect of the proposed change on the historic district neighborhood;*
- (5) The impact of the proposed change on other protected features on the property, such as gardens, landscaping, fences, walls and walks;*
- (6) Whether the proposed method of construction, renovation or restoration could have an adverse impact on the structure or site, or adjacent buildings or structures;*
- (8) Any applicable provisions of the City's Design Guidelines.*

#### **Pertinent Design Review Guidelines for New Construction**

##### **A. Introduction**



### **3. Building Types**

#### *e. Multi-lot*

*Often new commercial, office, or multiuse buildings will be constructed on sites much larger than the traditionally sized lots 25 to 40 feet wide. Many sites for such structures are located on West Main Street and in the 14th and 15th Street area of Venable neighborhood. These assembled parcels can translate into new structures whose scale and mass may overwhelm neighboring existing structures. Therefore, while this building type may need to respond to the various building conditions of the site, it also should employ design techniques to reduce its visual presence. These could include varying façade wall planes, differing materials, stepped-back upper levels, and irregular massing.*

#### **B.Setback**

- 1. Construct new commercial buildings with a minimal or no setback in order to reinforce the traditional street wall.*
- 2. Use a minimal setback if the desire is to create a strong street wall or setback consistent with the surrounding area.*
- 3. Modify setback as necessary for sub-areas that do not have well-defined street walls.*
- 4. Avoid deep setbacks or open corner plazas on corner buildings in the downtown in order to maintain the traditional grid of the commercial district.*
- 5. In the West Main Street corridor, construct new buildings with a minimal (up to 15 feet according to the zoning ordinance) or no setback in order to reinforce the street wall. If the site adjoins historic buildings, consider a setback consistent with these buildings.*
- 6. On corners of the West Main Street corridor, avoid deep setbacks or open corner plazas unless the design contributes to the pedestrian experience or improves the transition to an adjacent residential area.*
- 7. New buildings, particularly in the West Main Street corridor, should relate to any neighborhoods adjoining them. Buffer areas should be considered to include any screening and landscaping requirements of the zoning ordinance.*
- 8. At transitional sites between two distinctive areas of setback, for instance between new commercial and historic commercial, consider using setbacks in the new construction that reinforce and relate to setbacks of the historic buildings.*

#### **C. Spacing**

- 2. Commercial and office buildings in areas that have a well-defined street wall should have minimal spacing between them.*
- 3. In areas that do not have consistent spacing, consider limiting or creating a more uniform spacing in order to establish an overall rhythm.*
- 4. Multi-lot buildings should be designed using techniques to incorporate and respect the existing spacing on a residential street.*

#### **P. 3.6 Massing & Footprint**

- 1. New commercial infill buildings' footprints will be limited by the size of the existing lot in the downtown or along the West Main Street corridor. Their massing in most cases should be simple rectangles like neighboring buildings.*
- 2. New infill construction in residential sub-areas should relate in footprint and massing to the majority of surrounding historic dwellings.*
- 3. Neighborhood transitional buildings should have small building footprints similar to nearby dwellings.*
  - a. If the footprint is larger, their massing should be reduced to relate to the smaller-scaled forms of residential structures.*
  - b. Techniques to reduce massing could include stepping back upper levels, adding residential roof and porch forms, and using sympathetic materials.*
- 4. Institutional and multi-lot buildings by their nature will have large footprints, particularly along the West Main Street corridor and in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street area of the Venable neighborhood.*
  - a. The massing of such a large scale structure should not overpower the traditional scale of the majority of nearby buildings in the district in which it is located.*

*b. Techniques could include varying the surface planes of the buildings, stepping back the buildings as the structure increases in height, and breaking up the roof line with different elements to create smaller compositions.*

## **E. Height and Width**

- 1. Respect the directional expression of the majority of surrounding buildings. In commercial areas, respect the expression of any adjacent historic buildings, which generally will have a more vertical expression.*
- 2. Attempt to keep the height and width of new buildings within a maximum of 200 percent of the prevailing height and width in the surrounding sub-area.*
- 3. In commercial areas at street front, the height should be within 130 percent of the prevailing average of both sides of the block. Along West Main Street, heights should relate to any adjacent contributing buildings. Additional stories should be stepped back so that the additional height is not readily visible from the street.*
- 4. When the primary façade of a new building in a commercial area, such as downtown, West Main Street, or the Corner, is wider than the surrounding historic buildings or the traditional lot size, consider modulating it with bays or varying planes.*
- 5. Reinforce the human scale of the historic districts by including elements such as porches, entrances, storefronts, and decorative features depending on the character of the particular sub-area.*
- 6. In the West Main Street corridor, regardless of surrounding buildings, new construction should use elements at the street level, such as cornices, entrances, and display windows, to reinforce the human scale.*

## **F. Scale**

- 1. Provide features on new construction that reinforce the scale and character of the surrounding area, whether human or monumental. Include elements such as storefronts, vertical and horizontal divisions, upper story windows, and decorative features.*
- 2. As an exception, new institutional or governmental buildings may be more appropriate on a monumental scale depending on their function and their site conditions.*

## **G. Roof**

### *Roof Forms and Pitches*

- a. The roof design of new downtown or West Main Street commercial infill buildings generally should be flat or sloped behind a parapet wall.*
- b. Neighborhood transitional buildings should use roof forms that relate to the neighboring residential forms instead of the flat or sloping commercial form.*
- c. Institutional buildings that are freestanding may have a gable or hipped roof with variations.*
- d. Large-scale, multi-lot buildings should have a varied roof line to break up the mass of the design using gable and/or hipped forms.*
- e. Shallow pitched roofs and flat roofs may be appropriate in historic residential areas on a contemporary designed building.*
- f. Do not use mansard-type roofs on commercial buildings; they were not used historically in Charlottesville's downtown area, nor are they appropriate on West Main Street.*

## **H. Orientation**

- 1. New commercial construction should orient its façade in the same direction as adjacent historic buildings, that is, to the street.*
- 2. Front elevations oriented to side streets or to the interior of lots should be discouraged.*

## **I. Windows and Doors**

- 1. The rhythm, patterns, and ratio of solids (walls) and voids (windows and doors) of new buildings should relate to and be compatible with adjacent historic facades.*
  - a. The majority of existing buildings in Charlottesville's historic districts have a higher proportion of wall area than void area except at the storefront level.*
  - b. In the West Main Street corridor in particular, new buildings should reinforce this traditional proportion.*
- 2. The size and proportion, or the ratio of width to height, of window and door openings on new buildings' primary facades should be similar and compatible with those on surrounding historic facades.*

- a. The proportions of the upper floor windows of most of Charlottesville's historic buildings are more vertical than horizontal.*
- b. Glass storefronts would generally have more horizontal proportions than upper floor openings.*
- 3. Traditionally designed openings generally are recessed on masonry buildings and have a raised surround on frame buildings. New construction should follow these methods in the historic districts as opposed to designing openings that are flush with the rest of the wall.*
- 4. Many entrances of Charlottesville's historic buildings have special features such as transoms, sidelights, and decorative elements framing the openings. Consideration should be given to incorporating such elements in new construction.*
- 5. Darkly tinted mirrored glass is not an appropriate material for windows in new buildings within the historic districts.*
- 6. If small-paned windows are used, they should have true divided lights or simulated divided lights with permanently affixed interior and exterior muntin bars and integral spacer bars between the panes of glass.*
- 7. Avoid designing false windows in new construction.*
- 8. Appropriate material for new windows depends upon the context of the building within a historic district, and the design of the proposed building. Sustainable materials such as wood, aluminum-clad wood, solid fiberglass, and metal windows are preferred for new construction. Vinyl windows are discouraged.*
- 9. Glass shall be clear. Opaque spandrel glass or translucent glass may be approved by the BAR for specific applications.*

#### **K. Street level Design**

- 1. Street level facades of all building types, whether commercial, office, or institutional, should not have blank walls; they should provide visual interest to the passing pedestrian.*
- 2. When designing new storefronts or elements for storefronts, conform to the general configuration of traditional storefronts depending on the context of the sub-area. New structures do offer the opportunity for more contemporary storefront designs.*
- 3. Keep the ground level facades(s) of new retail commercial buildings at least eighty percent transparent up to a level of ten feet.*
- 4. Include doors in all storefronts to reinforce street level vitality.*
- 5. Articulate the bays of institutional or office buildings to provide visual interest.*
- 6. Institutional buildings, such as city halls, libraries, and post offices, generally do not have storefronts, but their street levels should provide visual interest and display space or first floor windows should be integrated into the design.*
- 7. Office buildings should provide windows or other visual interest at street level.*
- 8. Neighborhood transitional buildings in general should not have transparent first floors, and the design and size of their façade openings should relate more to neighboring residential structures.*
- 9. Along West Main Street, secondary (rear) facades should also include features to relate appropriately to any adjacent residential areas.*
- 10. Any parking structures facing on important streets or on pedestrian routes must have storefronts, display windows, or other forms of visual relief on the first floors of these elevations.*
- 11. A parking garage vehicular entrance/exit opening should be diminished in scale, and located off to the side to the degree possible.*

#### **L. Foundation and Cornice**

- 1. Distinguish the foundation from the rest of the structure through the use of different materials, patterns, or textures.*
- 2. Respect the height, contrast of materials, and textures of foundations on surrounding historic buildings.*
- 3. If used, cornices should be in proportion to the rest of the building.*
- 4. Wood or metal cornices are preferred. The use of fypon may be appropriate where the location is not immediately adjacent to pedestrians.*

#### **M. Materials and Textures**

- 1. The selection of materials and textures for a new building should be compatible with and complementary to neighboring buildings.*

2. In order to strengthen the traditional image of the residential areas of the historic districts, brick, stucco, and wood siding are the most appropriate materials for new buildings.
3. In commercial/office areas, brick is generally the most appropriate material for new structures. "Thin set" brick is not permitted. Stone is more commonly used for site walls than buildings.
4. Large-scale, multi-lot buildings, whose primary facades have been divided into different bays and planes to relate to existing neighboring buildings, can have varied materials, shades, and textures.
5. Synthetic siding and trim, including, vinyl and aluminum, are not historic cladding materials in the historic districts, and their use should be avoided.
6. Cementitious siding, such as HardiPlank boards and panels, are appropriate.
7. Concrete or metal panels may be appropriate.
8. Metal storefronts in clear or bronze are appropriate.
9. The use of Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) is discouraged but may be approved on items such as gables where it cannot be seen or damaged. It requires careful design of the location of control joints.
10. The use of fiberglass-reinforced plastic is discouraged. If used, it must be painted.
11. All exterior trim woodwork, decking and flooring must be painted, or may be stained solid if not visible from public right-of-way.

## **O. Details and Decorations**

1. Building detail and ornamentation should be consistent with and related to the architecture of the surrounding context and district.
2. The mass of larger buildings may be reduced using articulated design details.
3. Pedestrian scale may be reinforced with details.

## **Discussion and Recommendations**

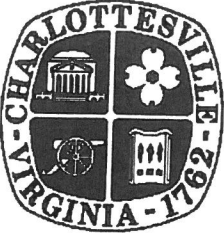
Before City Council takes action to permit the proposed special use permit for additional height, they must consider the BAR's opinion whether there are any adverse impacts to the Downtown ADC district that could be mitigated with conditions. A special use permit is an important zoning tool that allows City Council to impose reasonable conditions to make a use more acceptable in a specific location, and to "protect the welfare, safety and convenience of the public." Suggested motions are listed below.

A preliminary discussion is required prior to consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness for new construction. That preliminary discussion generally takes place *following* the City Council approval of the SUP, so that all conditions of the SUP, which may be imposed by City Council, are known. However, the BAR is welcome to provide constructive comments at this time. The BAR should consider the ADC Design Guidelines in making preliminary comments regarding the proposed design.

## **Alternate Motions Regarding the SUP**

I move to find that the proposed special use permit to allow additional building height (from 70 feet to 101 feet), for the development of 550 E Water Street into a mixed use development, **will not** have an adverse impact on the Downtown Architectural Design Control (ADC) District, and the BAR recommends approval of the Special Use Permit, subject to the usual BAR review.

I move to find that the proposed special use permit to allow additional building height (from 70 feet to 101 feet), for the development of 550 E Water Street into a mixed use development, **will** have an adverse impact on the Downtown Architectural Design Control (ADC) District, and the BAR recommends the following conditions to mitigate the adverse impacts....



## SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Please Return To: City of Charlottesville  
Department of Neighborhood Development Services  
Post Office Box 911, City Hall  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902  
Telephone (434) 970-3182 Fax (434) 970-3359

RECEIVED

APR 21 2015

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

For Non-Residential and Mixed Use projects, please include \$1,500 application fee. For Residential projects, please include \$1,800 application fee; checks payable to the City of Charlottesville. All petitioners must pay \$1.00 per required mail notice to property owners, plus the cost of the required newspaper notice. Petitioners will receive an invoice for these notices and approval is not final until the invoice has been paid.

I (we) the undersigned property owner(s), contract purchaser(s) or owner's agent(s) do hereby petition the Charlottesville City Council for a special permit to use the property located at: 550 E. Water St. (address), zoned: WSD, for: additional height (1017).

A. **Property Information** – Please note on the back of this form any applicable deed restrictions.

1. 202 feet of frontage on E. Water St (name of street)
2. Approximate property dimensions: 245 feet by 35 feet.
3. Property size: .28 (square feet or acres)
4. Present Owner: Water Tower LLC (Name) as evidenced by deed recorded in Deed Book Number 2010 Page 2628, with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.
5. Mailing Address of Present Owner: 100 10th St. NE Ste 200 Charlottesville, VA 22902
6. City Real Property Tax Map Number 53 Parcel(s) 1423; Lot(s): \_\_\_\_\_

B. **Adjacent Property Owners' Addresses** (Use the back of this form if necessary.)

- | Property Owner Name                 | Mailing Address                   | 22903 City Tax Map and Parcel # |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Charlottesville East Inc</u>  | <u>503 Faulconer Dr. # 5</u>      | <u>28-6013</u>                  |
| 2. <u>Sansonich Development LLC</u> | <u>2325 Grey Heron Rd. Kewick</u> | <u>53-1621</u>                  |
| 3. _____                            | <u>22947</u>                      | _____                           |
| 4. _____                            | _____                             | _____                           |

C. **Applicant Information** – Please note that if the applicant is not the owner, proof of status as contract purchaser or owner's agent must be furnished. (Office Use: Proof Furnished \_\_\_\_\_)

Applicant's Name Core Real Estate & Development  
Mailing Address 95 Riverbend Dr. Charlottesville, VA 22902  
Applicant's Phone Number(s): 434 979 8181 Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature [Signature]

D. **Attachments Submitted by the Applicant**

1. A required site plan was previously submitted on 4/21/15 (Date) with the required fee, for a pre-application review conference on TBD (Date). This site plan was prepared by:  
Name: Shimp Engineering  
Address: 201 E. Main St. Ste. M.  
Phone: 434 227-5190
2. Other attachments as required by Section 34-158 of the City Code (Office Use: Submitted \_\_\_\_\_).
3. The correct application fee (see above).

### For Office Use Only

I certify that the sign(s) as required by Section 34-44 of the City Code as amended has been posted on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Zoning Administrator)

Amt. Paid 1500.00 Date Paid 4/21/15 Cash/Check # 2260 Received by O. Eubank

Sp15-00002





**RECEIVED**  
APR 28 2015  
NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

## **550 WATER STREET MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW  
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

SCALE AND MASSING SUBMISSION  
APRIL 28, 2015

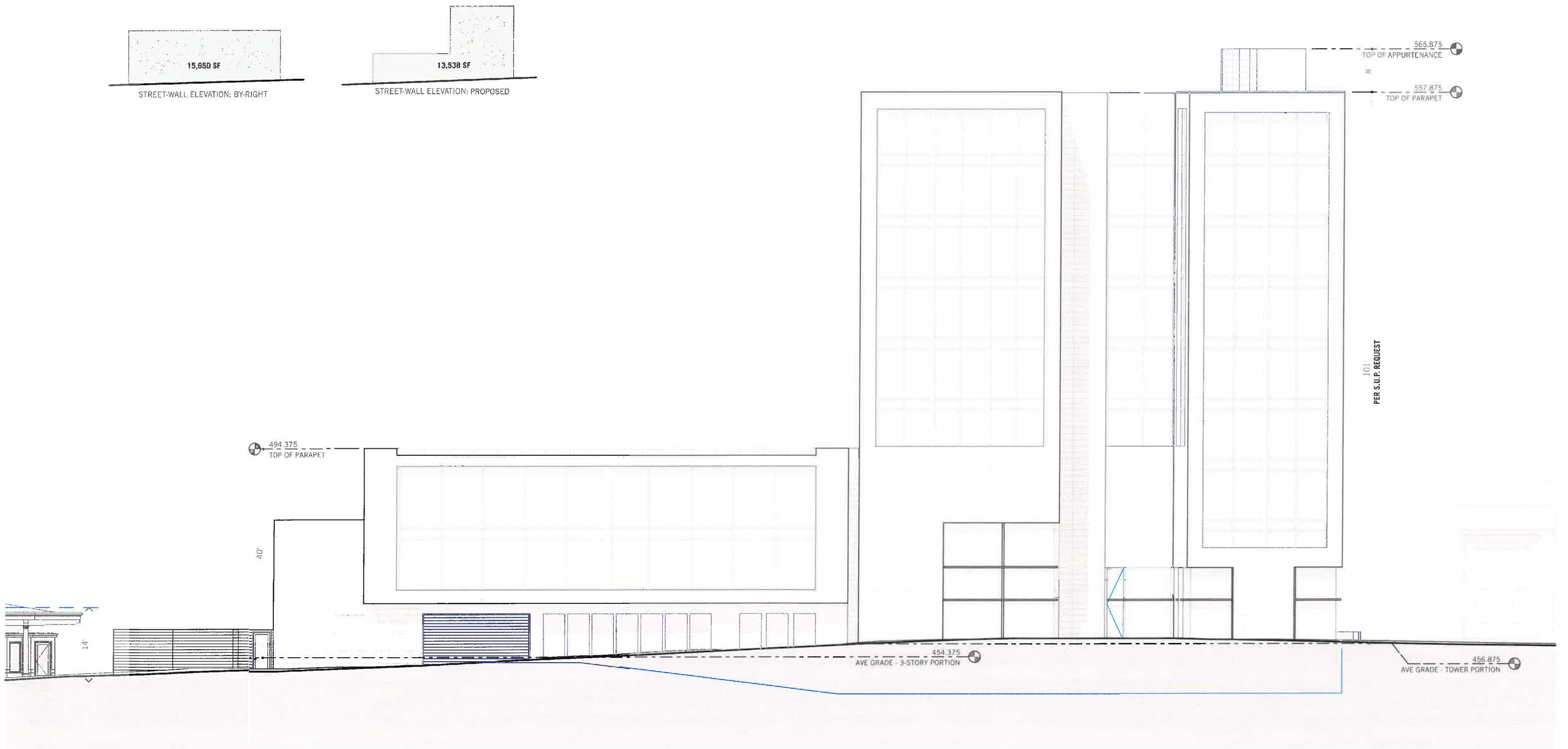




**550 WATER ST MIXED-USE VICINITY PLAN**

4/28/15

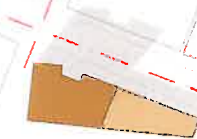
FORMWORK DESIGN, LLC 620 FARISH ST CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902 434.296.2223



THE PROJECT SITE OCCUPIES THE  
SOUTHEASTERN-MOST INTERSECTION  
OF THE DOWNTOWN STREET GRID

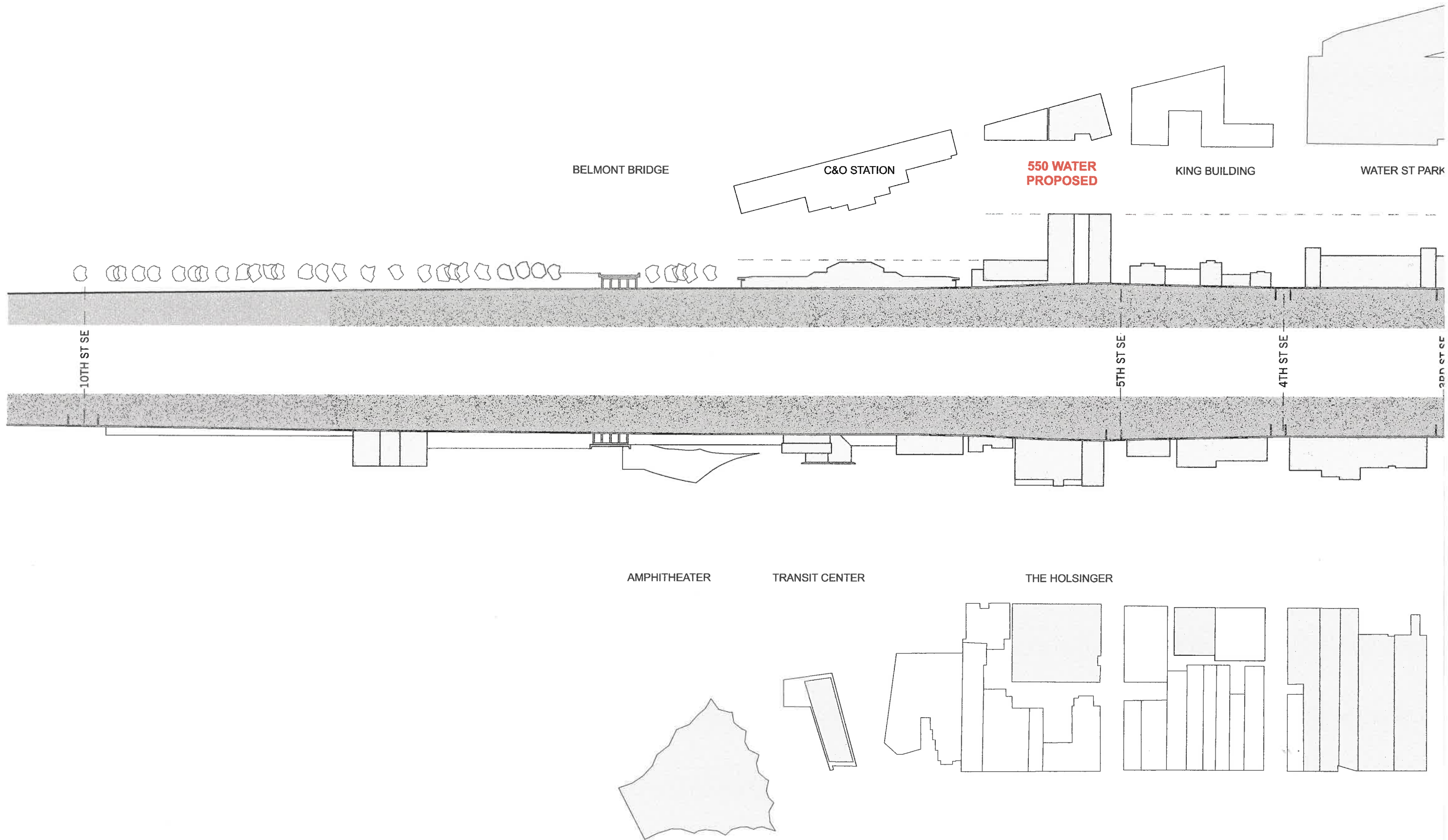
THE TOWER PORTION OF THE PROJECT  
REINFORCES THE URBAN ORDER OF THE  
GRID

THE LOWER WING OF THE PROJECT  
REFLECTS THE LOWER, MORE  
IRREGULAR FORMS COMMON BEYOND  
THE LIMITS OF THE GRID

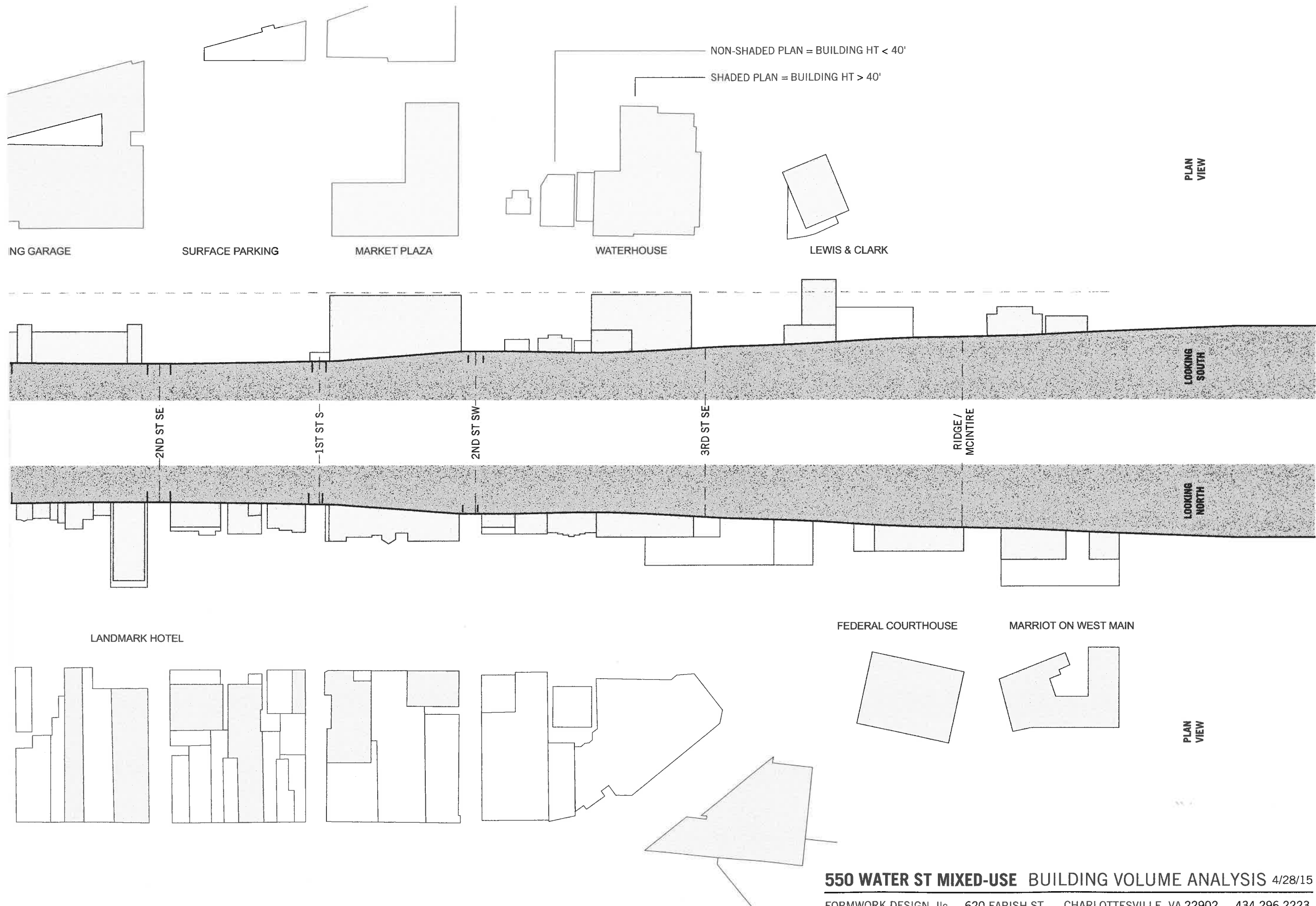


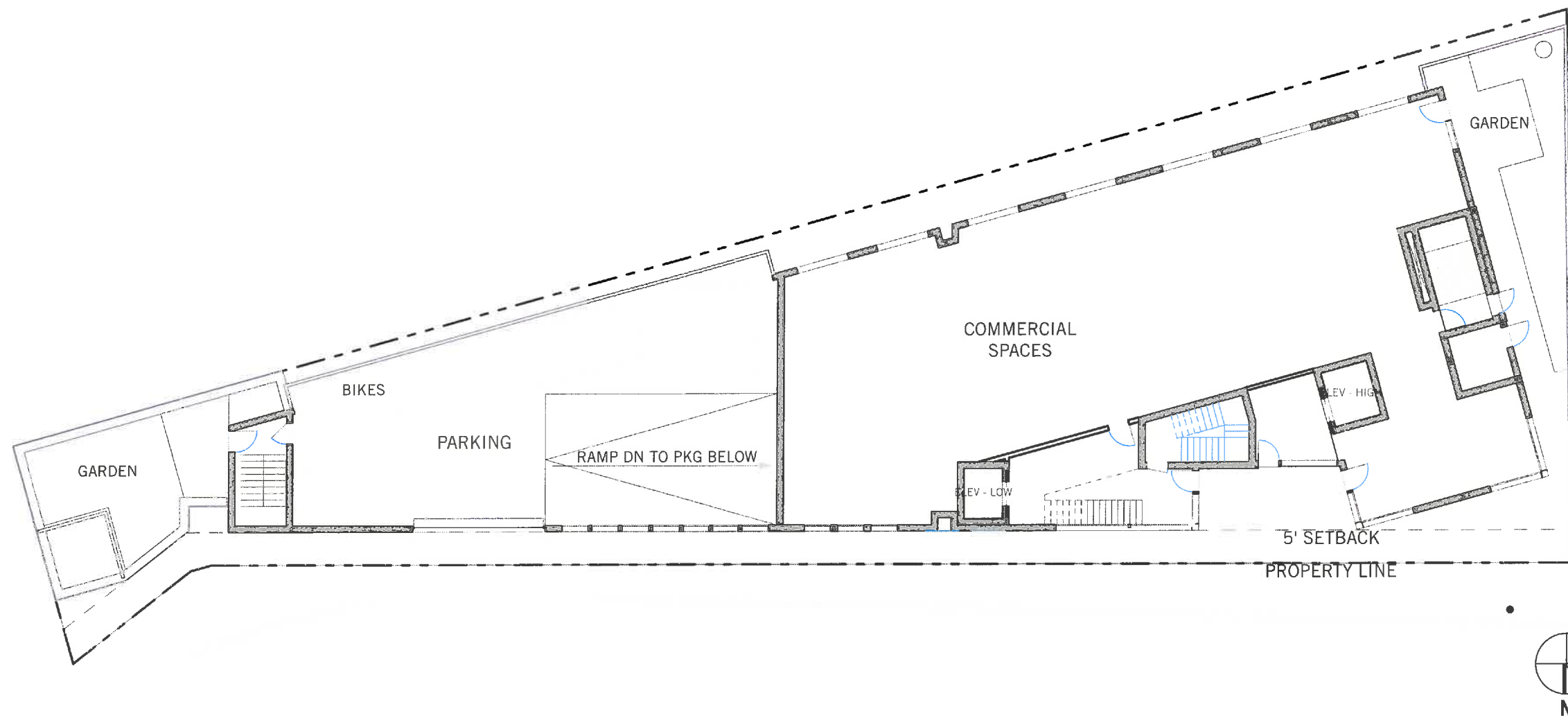
## 550 WATER ST MIXED-USE GRID PLAN

4/28/15





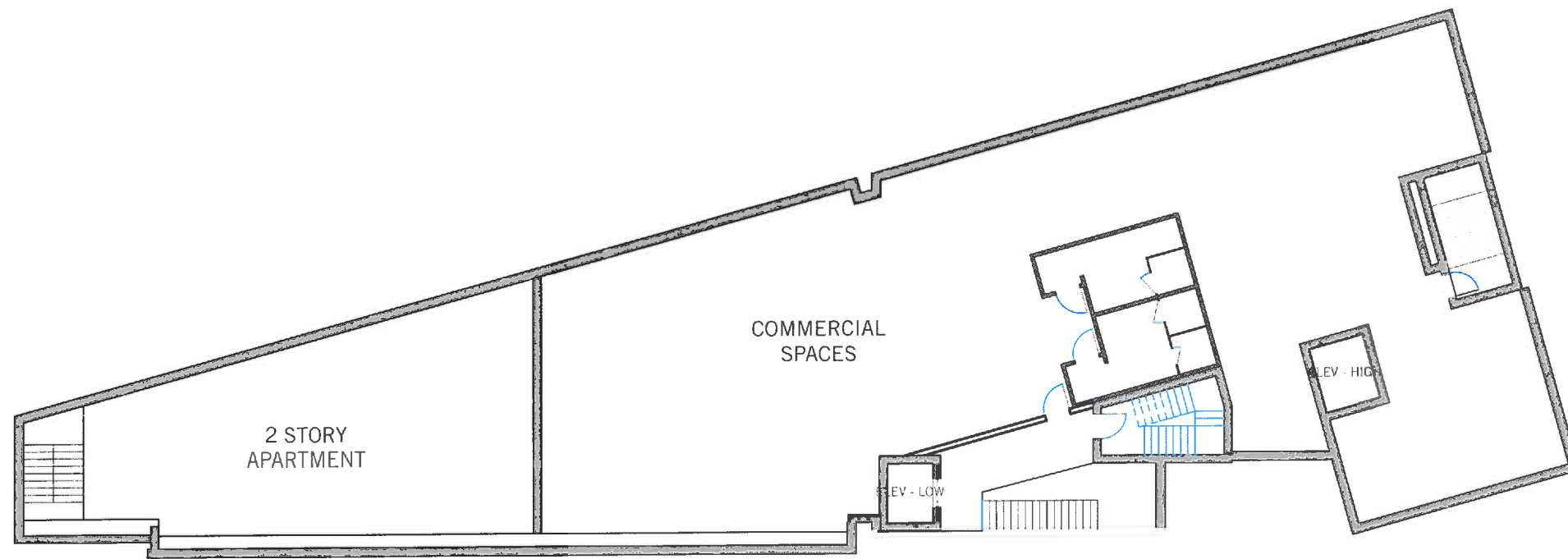


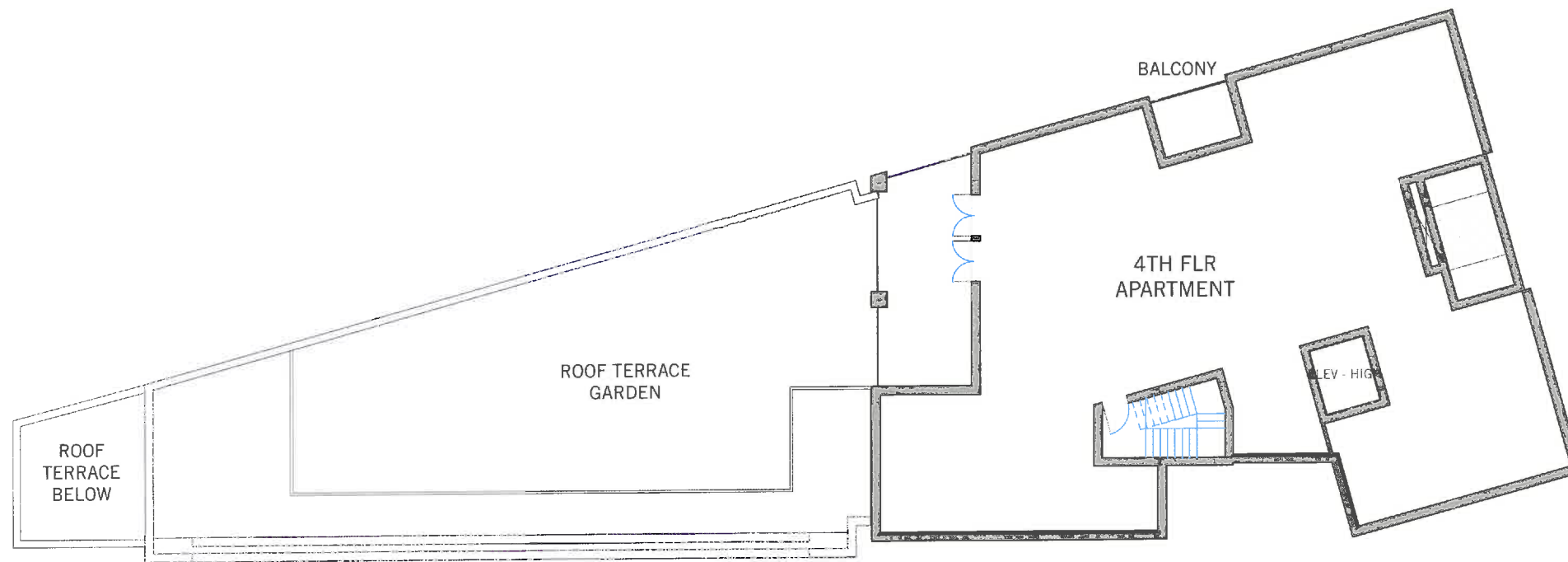


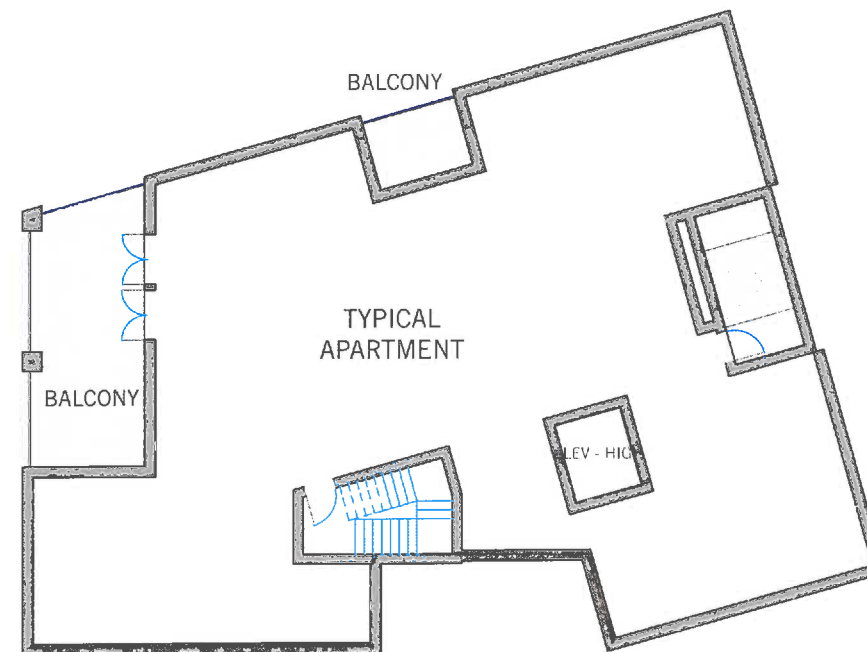
# 550 WATER ST MIXED-USE STREET LEVEL

4/28/15











**550 WATER ST MIXED-USE VIEW FROM EAST**

4/28/15

FORMWORK DESIGN, LLC 620 FARISH ST CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902 434.296.2223



**550 WATER ST MIXED-USE VIEW FROM WEST**

4/28/15





**550 WATER ST MIXED-USE VIEW FROM NORTH**

4/28/15



Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 10:25 AM

To: DeLoachDesigns@aol.com ; earnst.emma@gmail.com ; Whit@evergreenbuilds.com ; kkeesecker@brw-architects.com ; lknott@johnmilnerassociates.com ; melanie@houseofmillers.com ; tmohr@tmdarch.com ; Justin.sarafin@alumni.virginia.edu ; caschwarz83@gmail.com ; Scala MJ ; Haluska B  
Subject: 550 East Water Street – BAR Special Use Permit Recommendation

Dear Members of the Board of Architectural Review, and City Staff,

As neighboring residents and/or property owners, we have serious concerns about the proposed 550 East Water Street project and the related Special Use Permit request to increase allowable height to 101 feet.

The height, scale, mass and placement of this project are visually and architecturally incompatible with the site and the adjacent historic buildings. The project, which is in the Downtown Architectural Design Control District, also would have significant adverse effects on the historic district neighborhood. It is unclear whether these problems could be mitigated through imposition of conditions.

- The project is gravely inharmonious with the character of the surrounding historic area. It would tower over and diminish nearby important properties, including the historic King Building and the old C&O Railway Station.
- It massively overburdens its tiny and shallow 1/4 acre lot. This could be remedied by variance (Code Sec. 34-136), which is expressly designed for situations like this.
- The exterior surfaces and design features of the project are likely to be incompatible with those of the adjacent and other nearby historic structures.
- It presents serious traffic, parking, off-street loading, and other practical issues, at the expense of the local community.
- The proposed building is unaesthetic, especially in its looming height, expansive and monolithic facade, and in the unfortunate pedestrian experience it would cause for its portion of Water Street. There is little or no open space, trees, etc. No elements of public friendliness.
- It would block neighboring residents' views, light and sky, cast shadows on 5th Street and up to the Downtown Mall, and significantly reduce quality of life.
- It would encroach on sightlines from every direction.
- Its proximity to the new Transit Center would cause issues of congestion and safety for the many Transit Center users who come and go along Water Street. Bus traffic regularly pulls in and out from the curb just a block from the project's proposed parking garage ramp onto Water Street, posing further congestion in the area for our mass transit system. (See attached photos.) This soon will be worsened, when the new City Walk street is opened and cut-through traffic from Belmont and beyond is added to Water Street.

The proposed project's site is very near the heart of our beautiful and beloved City. Any development there should reflect Charlottesville's special character and charm. That is, it should be open, landscaped, pedestrian-friendly, architecturally and aesthetically in harmony with its surroundings, and human-scale rather than massive and monolithic.

Members of the Water Street community will seek adequate time to fully understand the ramifications of the 550 Water Street proposal, and appreciate that the Board of Architectural Review will hear our concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerard Alexander  
Dr. Bruce Campbell  
Ms. Marcia Hellman  
Dr. Samuel Hellman  
Ms. Lisa Hogan  
Ms. Emilie Johnson

Mr. Gregory Ledford  
Ms. Nancy Ledford  
Mr. Wayne Lee  
Ms. Hillary Lee  
Dr. Carol Mershon  
Mr. David Myatt

Ms. Patty Myatt  
Mrs. Dana Palmer  
Mr. Kevin Palmer  
Ms. Lee Randall  
Mr. Peter Randall  
Mr. Derek Wheeler

## Scala, Mary Joy

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**From:** Myatt <yomyatt@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2015 10:26 AM  
**To:** DeLoach, Candace; Earnst, Emma; Graves, Whit; kkeesecker@brw-architects.com; Knott, Laura; Miller, Melanie; Mohr, Tim; Sarafin, Justin; Schwarz, Carl; Scala, Mary Joy; Haluska, Brian  
**Subject:** 550 East Water Street – BAR Special Use Permit Recommendation  
**Attachments:** Water Street-traffic1.jpg; Water Street-traffic2.jpg

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Mr. David Myatt  
Ms. Patty Myatt  
Mrs. Dana Palmer  
Mr. Kevin Palmer  
Ms. Lee Randall  
Mr. Peter Randall  
Mr. Derek Wheeler

## Scala, Mary Joy

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**From:** Francis Johnson <francis.johnson@feltongroup.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015 9:37 AM  
**To:** Miller, Melanie; Scala, Mary Joy; Haluska, Brian  
**Cc:** Myatt; William Foshay  
**Subject:** 550 Water Street project  
**Attachments:** 550 E Water - comments to BAR.PDF

Dear Members of the BAR and City Staff,

On behalf of Jaffray and Merrill Woodruff, I write to you in support of the attached email that was sent out yesterday, May 18 2015. Jaffray and Merrill strongly agree with the points made in the letter. Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,  
Francis Johnson

Francis Johnson  
Felton Group, LLC  
Zero Court Square  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
Office: 434-220-3177  
Direct: 434-270-8925  
Fax: 434-220-3179