

Historic Preservation Commission

Staff Report

Meeting Date: August 12th, 2026

Case #: HPC-33-26

Site Address:	1014 Myrtlewood Drive
Parcel ID:	31-06-23-3-005-017.000
Applicant:	Theodore Trost
Owner:	Theodore Trost

Proposed Work:	Petition for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the removal and replacement of a rear deck with a change in materials and installation of a Juliet balcony on the rear of the primary structure on the property located at 1014 Myrtlewood Drive in the Myrtlewood Drive Historic District (Council District 4).
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Current Zoning:	SFR-3H
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Historic District:	Myrtlewood Historic District
Architectural Style:	English Cottage
Year Built:	1929
Contributing:	Yes
Historic Survey:	Myrtlewood Historic District Survey

Resource 3. 1014 Myrtlewood Drive. This house features a large gabled roof line with the house constructed of brick and stone. The stone is used for the gabled portico, it has a screened in porch and a small dormer emerges from roof. (polished field stone portico)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

The petitioner was approved for the removal of a tree that had been located in the middle of an existing rear deck during the February 2026 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Since receiving that approval, the petitioner has dismantled the existing wooden deck and screen and removed the tree.

The petitioner now proposes to construct a new balcony and lattice screen in the same location where the rear deck previously stood. The new 4 ft by 6 ft balcony will be built using painted 6x6 wooden posts consistent with those of the dismantled deck, along with wood and Trex (wood composite) decking. A steel railing, 3 ft 6 in tall, will be installed around the balcony. Copper-colored post caps will be added to the balcony's posts to match the adjacent rear porch.

The proposed wooden lattice screen will be constructed using painted 6x6 wood posts and will measure 11 ft tall and 8 ft wide.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The proposed balcony and screen will be constructed on the rear elevation of the primary structure and will not be visible from the street, which is consistent with the Design Guidelines.

APPLICABLE DESIGN GUIDELINES:

C. Standards for Rehabilitation and Alteration

The following standards shall be applied to all rehabilitation or alteration of contributing buildings and structures in the district:

1. Design Character

- Respect the original design character of the structure.
- Express the character of the structure—do not attempt to make it appear older or younger than it is.
- Do not obscure or confuse the essential form and character of the original structure.
- Do not allow alterations to hinder the ability to interpret the design character of the historic period of the district.

2. Repairing Original Features

- Avoid removing or altering any historic material or significant architectural features.
- Preserve original materials and details that contribute to the historic significance of the structure.
- Do not harm the historic character of the property or district.
- Protect and maintain existing significant stylistic elements.

- Minimize intervention with historic elements.
- Repair, rather than replace, deteriorated architectural features.
- Use like-kind materials, and utilize a substitute material only if its form and design conveys the visual appearance of the original.
- Disassemble historic elements only as necessary for rehabilitation, using methods that minimize damage to original materials, and use only methods of reassembly that assure a return to the original configuration.

3. Replacing Original Features

- Base replacement of missing architectural elements on accurate duplications of original features, substantiated by physical or pictorial evidence.
- Use materials similar to those employed historically, taking care to match design, color, texture, and other visual qualities.
- Employ new design that relates in style, size, scale and material wherever reconstruction of an element is not possible due to lack of historical evidence.

4. Existing Alterations

- Preserve older alterations that have achieved historic significance in themselves in the same manner as if they were an integral part of the original structure

5. Materials

- Maintain original materials and finishes.
- Retain and repair original siding, generally avoiding the use of synthetic siding. When replacement is required, use like-kind materials that conform to the original in profile and dimension, unless such materials are not available.

B. Decks, Porches, and Railings

1. Decks

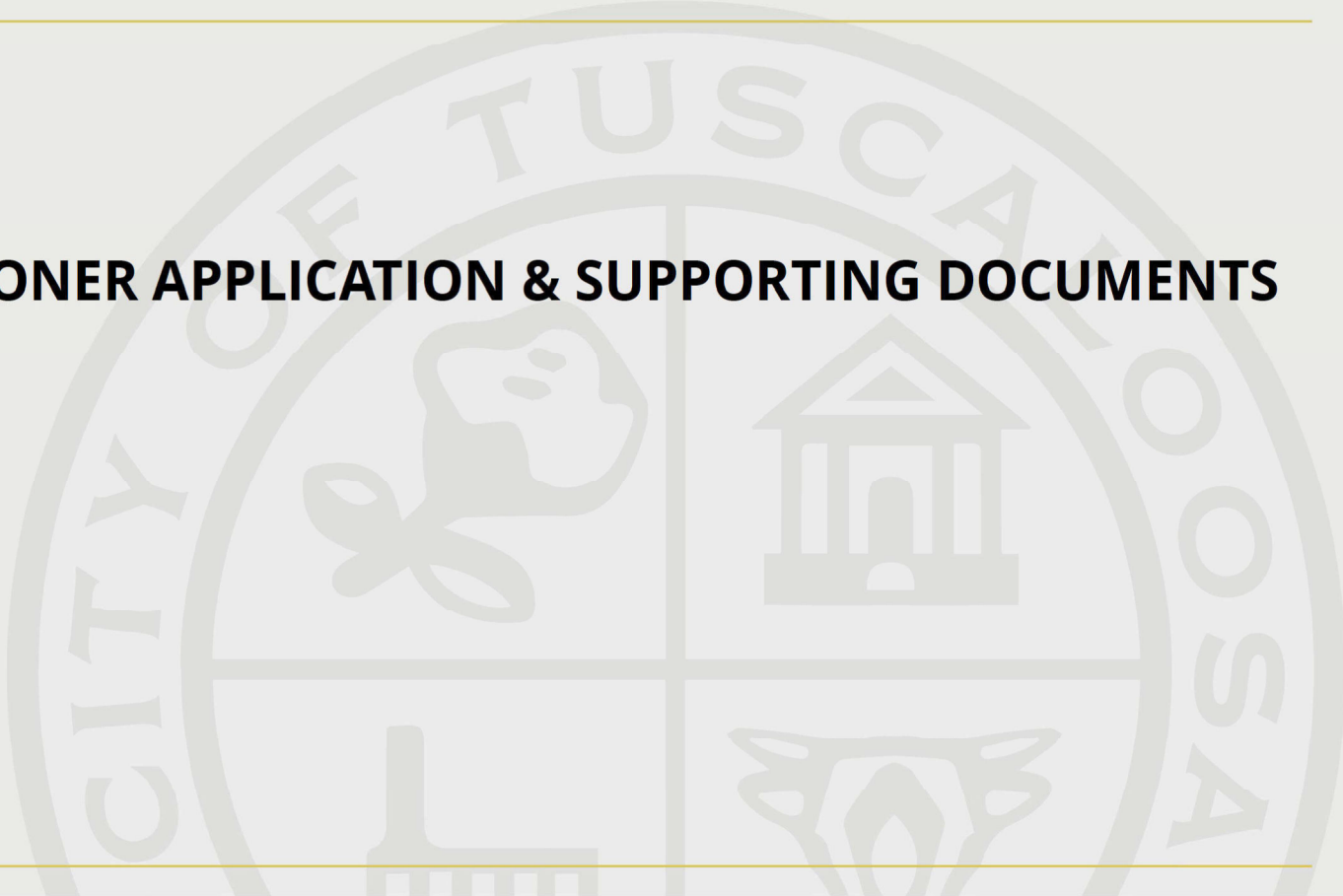
- Locate and construct decks so that the historic fabric of the structure and its character-defining features and details are not damaged or obscured. Install decks so that they are structurally self-supporting and may be removed in the future without damage to the historic structure
- Introduce decks in inconspicuous locations, usually on the building's rear elevation and inset from the rear corners, where they are not visible from the street.
- Design and detail decks and associated railings and steps to reflect the, scale and proportions of the building. Materials for decks should be compatible with the building. Deck and deck railing designs should be coordinated with existing elements wherever possible.

- In rare occasions where it is appropriate to site a deck in a location visible to the public right-of-way (i.e. the side of a building), it should be treated in a more formally architectural way. Careful attention should be paid to details and finishes, including painting or staining the deck's rails and structural support elements in colors compatible with the colors of the building.
- Align decks generally with the height of the building's first-floor level. Visually tie the deck to the building by screening with compatible foundation materials such as skirtboards, lattice, masonry panels, and dense evergreen foundation plantings.
- It is not appropriate to introduce a deck if doing so will require removal of a significant building element or site feature such as a porch or a mature tree.
- It is not appropriate to introduce a deck if the deck will detract from the overall historic character of the building or the site.
- It is not appropriate to construct a deck that significantly changes the proportion of built area to open space for a specific property.

2. Porches and Railings

- Maintain and repair historic porches to reflect their historic period and the relationship to the structure.
- Use materials that blend with the style of the structure or other structures in the district. Balustrades of stairs and ramps should match the design and materials of the porch or be unobtrusive.
- Do not permit enclosure of front porches. Where rear or side porches are to be enclosed, the enclosure shall preserve the original configuration of columns, handrails and other important architectural elements.

PETITIONER APPLICATION & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



HPC Revisions (Including Expedited Review)

Use this form to submit revisions/missing documents from a previously submitted HPC application or Historic Expedited Review application.

Property Information:

Original Application Type:

Historic Expedited Review Form

Site Address:

1014 Myrtlewood Dr, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name:

Theodore Trost

Supporting Documents:

Response to request for additional information:

As a result of our previous petition (invoice number 26-00308), we received permission to remove two trees from our property. Tree #2 (see item 1) was successfully removed on March 24. Removal of tree #1, however, was halted because we realized we needed to change our plans (see item 2). We discovered that the supports to the deck were in worse shape than we thought (see items #a, b, c). Therefore, pending permission of the Historical Commission, we would like to do the following:

1. Complete the removal of tree 1
2. Dismantle the deck and attached screen
3. Replace the deck with a Juliet balcony (fuller description below)
4. Replace the lattice screen with a new screen (also described below)

PHASE 1 Tree, Screen, and Deck Removal

To more easily remove the tree without damage to the Trax board—which we want to preserve in order to build the new Balcony—we seek first to dismantle the deck and the attached lattice screen. This has become necessary because of the deterioration of some of the wood upon which the current construction is supported (items 3a, b, c).

The rest of tree 1 will then be removed. With the deck and screen dismantled, the roots that had grown close to the foundation of the house can be more easily attended to—as discussed in the previous petition.

PHASE 2 Balcony and New Lattice Screen

We would like to replace the deck with a small Juliet balcony that would provide an exterior overlook to the back yard (item 6). The proposed structure would be 6 1/2 feet long and 3 1/2 feet wide and would be 3 feet, 5 3/4 inches above the ground—the same height as the current deck (item 4). The structure will have two wooden posts on the outside corners that are set into concrete in the ground. It will have Trax decking with metal handrails and spindles. In addition, a new lattice screen made of wood will replace the existing one parallel to the south wall of the house. The screen will have the same design as the current structure

(a partial view in item 2; see also item 5). It will be 11 feet high, but will only extend eight feet from the house (the current structure is 16 feet long). The wooden screen will be stained brown and the metal rail and spindles will be painted black.

Thank you for taking this proposal into consideration.

Sincerely,

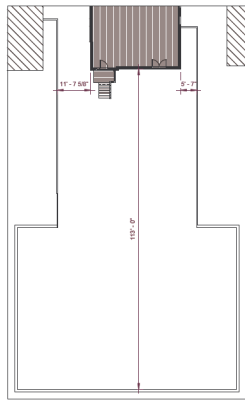
Theo. Trost and Catherine Roach

List of illustrations

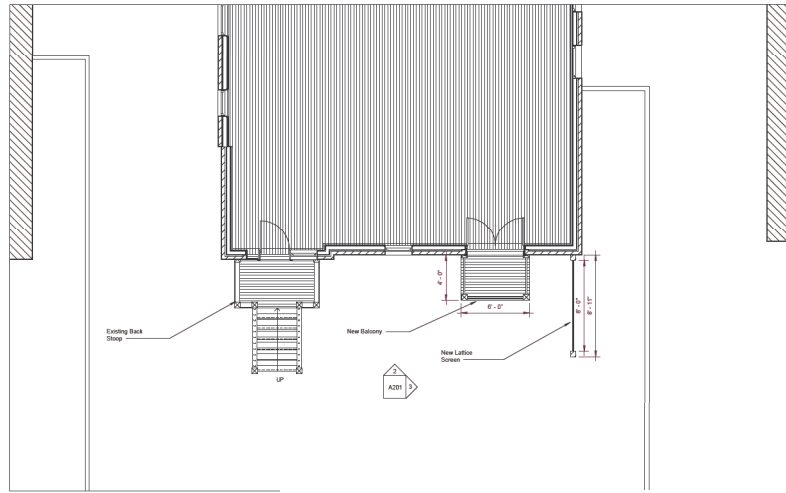
- 1 Tree removal map from previous petition. Showing Tree #1 and the deck in question.
- 2 The tree and the deck
- 3a Deck bench deterioration
- 3b Deck support beam deterioration
- 3c Lattice support beam deterioration
- 4 Sketch of proposed balcony and lattice to replace existing structures
- 5 Existing lattice screen that the new screen will resemble
- 6 View of back yard
- 7 Certificate of Appropriateness HPC 04-26

Documents (if applicable):

- 1 Tree removal map copy.jpeg
- 2 tree and deck.jpeg
- 3a deck bench.jpeg
- 3b deck support beam.jpeg
- 3c lattice support beam.jpeg
- 4 proposed balcony and screen.jpeg
- 5 existing lattice screen.jpeg
- 6 scenic overlook.jpeg
- 7 Certificate of Appropriateness HPC04-26.jpeg



① Back Yard Plan
1/16" = 1'-0"



② Rear Entry and Porch Plan
1/16" = 1'-0"

MCLA
McLELLAND
ARCHITECTURE

1810 Azusa Place
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Phone (205) 752-3838
info@mclellandarchitecture.com
www.mclellandarchitecture.com



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Trost-Roach House

1014 Myrtlewood Drive
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

No.	Description	Date

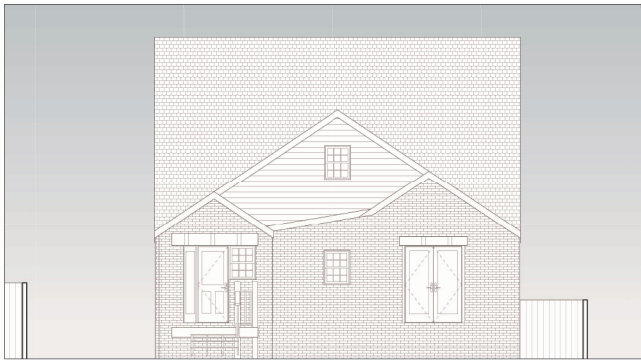
Trost-Roach House

Back Yard Plans

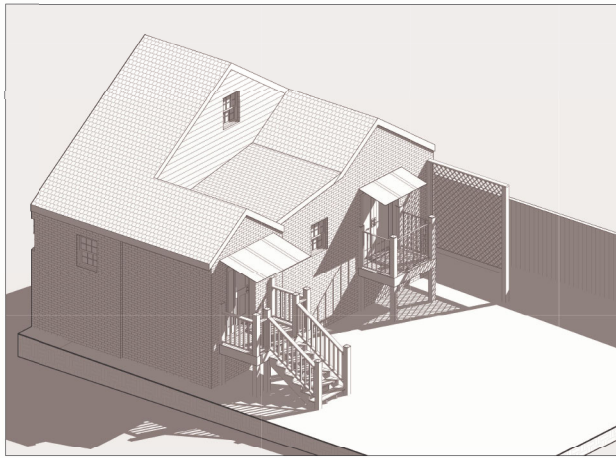
Project number: 2503
Date: July 10, 2026
Drawn by: JRM

Checked by: **A101**

Scale: As Indicated



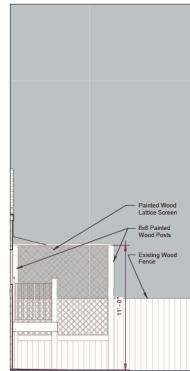
1 West Elevation, Existing
1/4" = 1'-0"



4 Rear Isometric 1



2 West Elevation, Phase 1
1/4" = 1'-0"



3 New Porch North Elevation
1/4" = 1'-0"

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www.mclellandarchitecture.com



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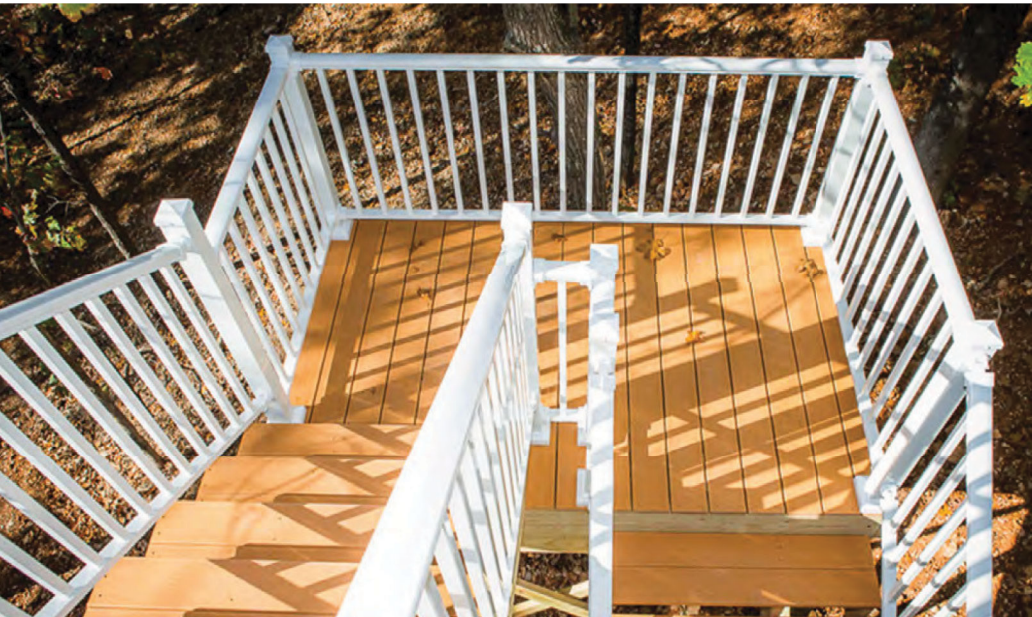
Trost-Roach House

1014 Myrtlewood Drive
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

No.	Description	Date

Trost-Roach House
Exterior Elevations &
Isometric

Project number 2663
Date July 18, 2020
Drawn by JMM
Checked by
A201
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



Picket Railing

Handsome and substantial, picket railing honors tradition with this updated aluminum presentation.

1" square pickets promise security and curb appeal.

Picket railing kits are powder-coated in beautiful, long-lasting colors to enrich and protect your home or business.

Picket railing kits and posts are available in residential or commercial height.

Picket railing kits contain all components to assemble 72" or 95.25" railing width.

Kits install between existing posts or with matching purchased posts, sold separately.

For interior or exterior use.

For residential & commercial use.

International Building Code Compliant.

Custom Posts Available.



All Items available through Special Order
at your local Home Depot Pro Desk

www.ezhandrail.com
573.365.7040



How to order

By following these instructions, you'll be guaranteed to have a beautiful and functional deck and stairs in no time.



1 Choose your color. Replace X with Color Code

			
White W	Charcoal Bronze BZ	Clay DT	Hammered Black HB

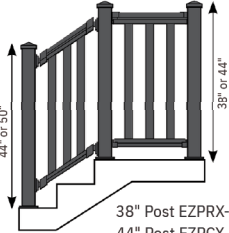
2 Choose your installed height of your railing.
(Check with your local building code for specific requirements)

RESIDENTIAL 36"	COMMERCIAL 42"
EZ6RX EZ8RX	EZ6CX EZ8CX

3 Do you need Posts?
(Base covers sold separately)

4 Choose your post height.

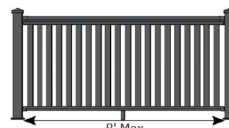
- 38" posts for 36" railing level railing
- 44" posts for 42" railing level railing
- 44" post for 36" stairs run
- 50" post for 42" Stair run



38" Post EZPRX-W
44" Post EZPCX-W
50" Post EZP50X-W

72" and 95.25" posts available also!

5 Figure your post count.
8 feet max. between posts
(Check with your local building code for specific requirements)



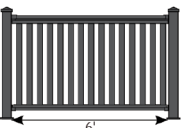
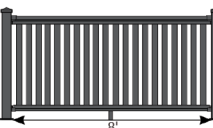
8' Max

6 Would you like base covers to cover the post fasteners and create a finished look?

Low-Profile
EZBCX-LP



7 Do you need 6' or 8' railing sections?

	
6'	8'
EZ6RX EZ8RX	EZ6CX EZ8CX

(Check with your local building code or specific requirements.)

8 Are you cutting a 6' or 8' railing section down to create multiple smaller sections?
You will need to order 1 additional level bracket kit per smaller section.

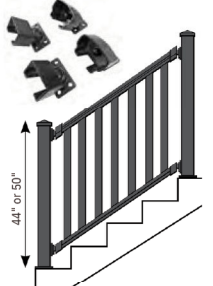


EZTBPM2X

9 Do you have stairs?

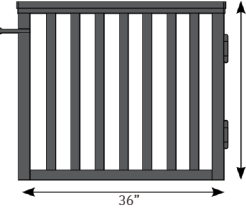
- Use taller posts for stairs and longer railing sections to cover the slope.
- You will need 1 straight railing kit and 1 pivot bracket kit per stair section.

EZPMX



10 Do you need a gate?

Our gates are 36" wide. We offer both heights 36" & 42" installed height. Compatible with self-closing hinges and latches, sold separately.



Available in 36" or 42" installed height

Rough opening should be 1" greater than gate.

36" Installed Height EZGRX
42" Installed Height EZGCX

Railing Section Assembly Required

support@ezhandrail.com
573.365.7040





COMPOSITE DECKING
TREX SIGNATURE®
Date: 05-20-25

Part 1 General

1.1 Section Includes

- A. Composite Decking - Trex Signature®

1.2 Related Sections

- A. Section 06-1100 – Wood Framing

1.3 References

- A. ASTM D7032: Standard Specification for Establishing Performance Ratings for Wood-Plastic Composite Deck Boards and Guardrail Systems (Guards or Handrails), ASTM International.
- B. ASTM D7031: Standard Guide for Evaluating Mechanical and Physical Properties of Wood-Plastic Composite Products, ASTM International
- C. ASTM E84: Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, ASTM International.
- D. ASTM D570: Water Absorption of Plastics
- E. ASTM D1761: Mechanical Fasteners in Wood
- F. ASTM D1413: Test method for Wood Preservatives by Laboratory Soil-block Cultures

1.4 Design/Performance Requirements

- A. Structural Performance:
 - a. 1x: Uniform Load – An allowable span of 16 in. on-center and 100 lbf/sq.ft.
 - b. Tread of Stairs 1x: Concentrated Load: An allowable span of 12 in. on-center, and 750 lbf-, and 1/8" max. deflection, with a concentrated load of 300 lbf on area of 4 sq. in.
- B. Fire-Test Response Characteristics per ASTM E84.
 - a. Flame Spread Index– Class C

1.5 Submittals

- A. Product Data Indicate sizes, profiles, surface style, and performance characteristics.
- B. Samples: For each product specified, one sample representing actual product color, size, and finish.

1.6 Delivery, Storage, and Handling

- A. Store Trex products on a flat and level surface. Support bundles on supplied dunnage.
- B. Keep material covered using the provided bundle cover until time of installation.
- C. For detailed storage recommendations: [Trex Literature](#)

1.7 Warranty

- A. Specific terms for warranties can be found at: [Trex Literature](#)

Part 2 Products

2.1 Manufacturers

- A. Contract Documents are based on products supplied by; Trex Company, Inc., 2500 Trex Way, Winchester, VA 22601.
- B. Substitutions: Not permitted under Division 01

2.2 Applications/Scope

A. Wood-Plastic Composite Lumber:

- a. Material Description: Trex Signature® Composite Decking consisting of recycled Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) and recycled wood. The product is extruded into shapes and sizes as follows:
 - i. Nominal Dimensions 1" x 5.5", Square and Grooved Edge
 - ii. Lengths – 12, 16, and 20 feet
 - iii. Color – To be specified by owner from Trex's list of colors.
- b. Physical and Mechanical Properties as follows:

Test	Test Method	Value
Flame Spread Index	ASTM E84	Class C
Thermal Expansion	ASTM D1037	1.9×10^{-5} inch/inch/degreeF
Moisture Absorption	ASTM D1037	< 1%
Screw Head Pull-Through	ASTM D1761	161 lbf per screw**
Fungus Resistance	ASTM D1413	Rating - no decay
Termite Resistance	AWPA E1-72	Rating = 9.6

** Fastener used in testing: #8 x 2.5 in. approved Stainless Steel Screw

2.2 Accessories

A. Fasteners:

- a. Trex Universal Hideaway Hidden Fasteners
- b. Other recommended fasteners: [Trex Literature](#)

Part 3 Execution

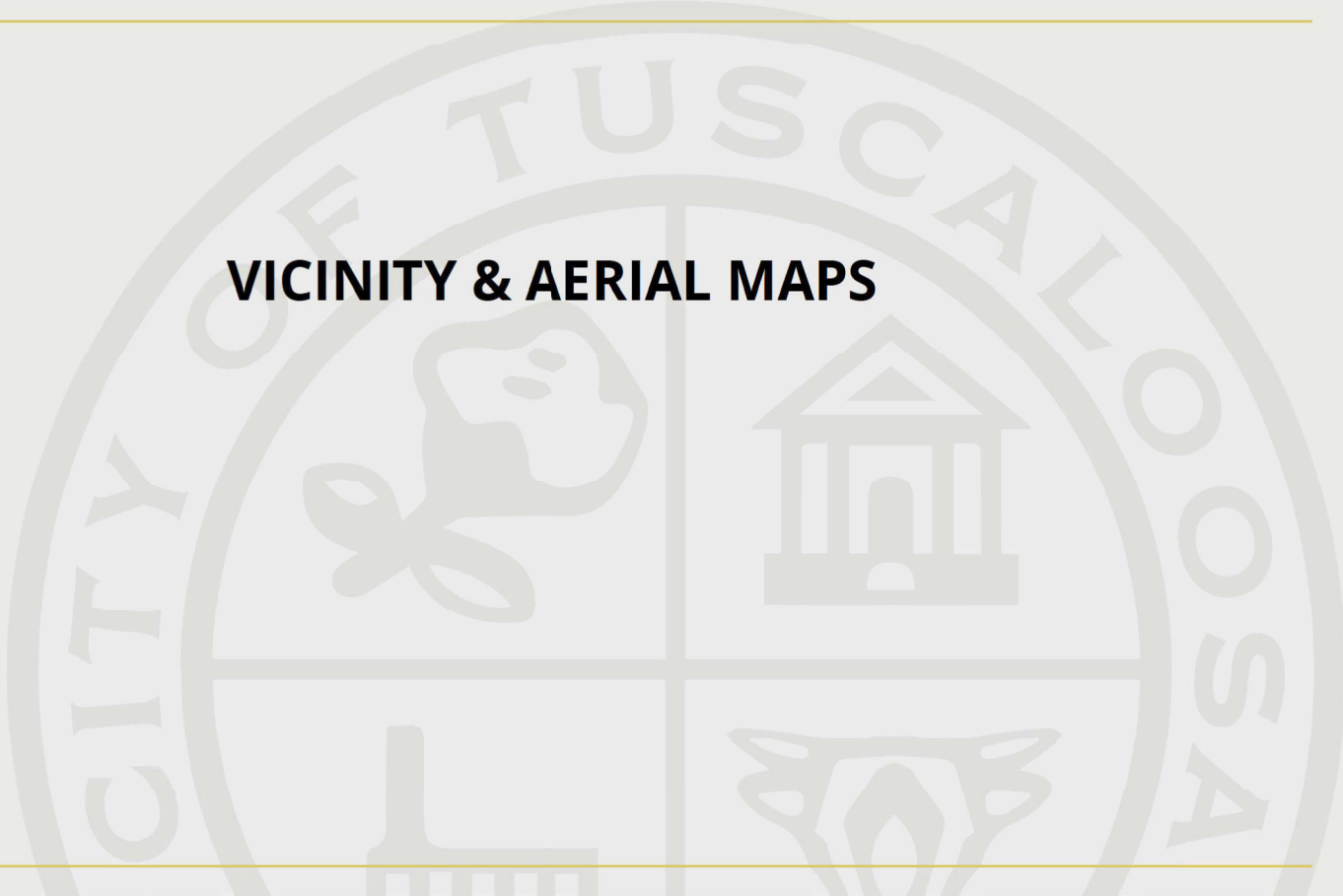
3.1 Installation

- A. Install according to Trex installation guidelines: [Trex Literature](#)
- B. Cut, drill, and rout using carbide tipped blades.
- C. Do not use composite wood material for structural applications.

3.2 Cleaning

- A. Following cleaning recommendations as found in Trex installation guide at: [Trex Literature](#)

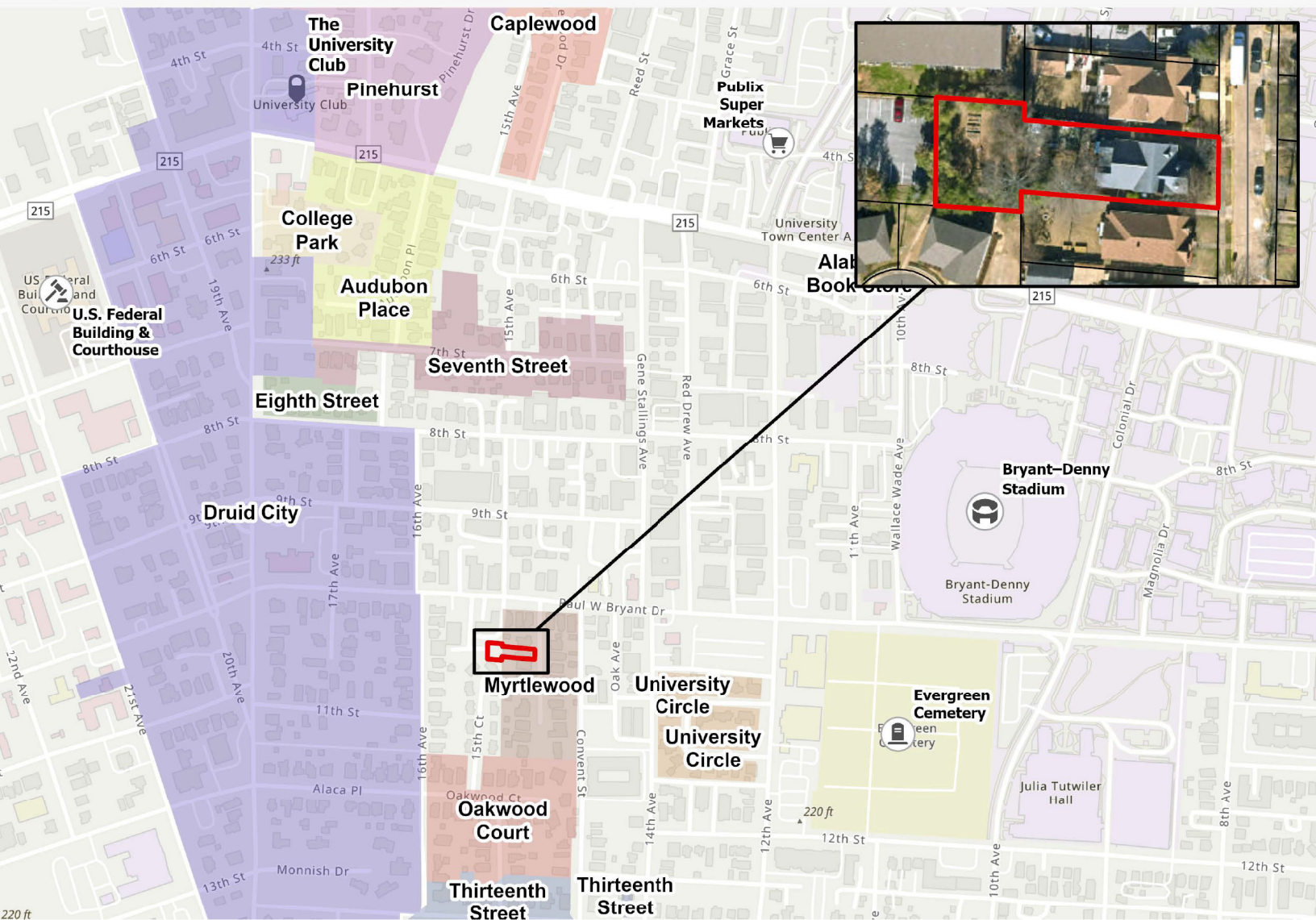
VICINITY & AERIAL MAPS





1014 Myrtlewood Drive

1 inch = 500 feet
0 250 500 750 1,000 Feet





1014 Myrtlewood Drive

1 inch = 50 feet
0 25 50 75 100 Feet



ADDITIONAL STAFF PHOTOS OF SUBJECT PROPERTY





STAFF PHOTOS OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES

