

Historic Preservation Commission

Staff Report

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026

Case #: HPC-61-26

Site Address:	651 20 th Ave
Parcel ID:	31-05-22-1-112-011.000
Applicant:	Jonathan McLelland
Owner:	Easty Lambert-Brown

Proposed Work:	Petition for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of a ramp on the property located at 651 20th Avenue in the Druid City Historic District (Council District 4)
Current Zoning:	DHE-H

Historic District:	Druid City Historic District
Architectural Style:	Commercial
Year Built:	1975
Contributing:	No
Historic Survey:	Druid City Historic Survey

Resource 49a. Circa 1975, two story, brick veneer commercial building (address is 651 20th Avenue but it is part of the 1928 7th Street parcel) with hip roof of asphalt shingles, second floor façade with five 9/9 double hung sash windows, first floor façade with central double leaf metal door, flanking five 9/9 double hung sash windows. The outbuilding was built outside the period of significance.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

The petitioner proposes building a ramp at the entrance of the principal structure. Currently, there is a small brick landing and steps with a metal railing. The landing will remain, and the proposed ramp will be placed to the left side of it. The ramp will be constructed using

wood-composite decking and handrails, and the petitioner also proposes adding a painted 36" steel guardrail atop the stoop.

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

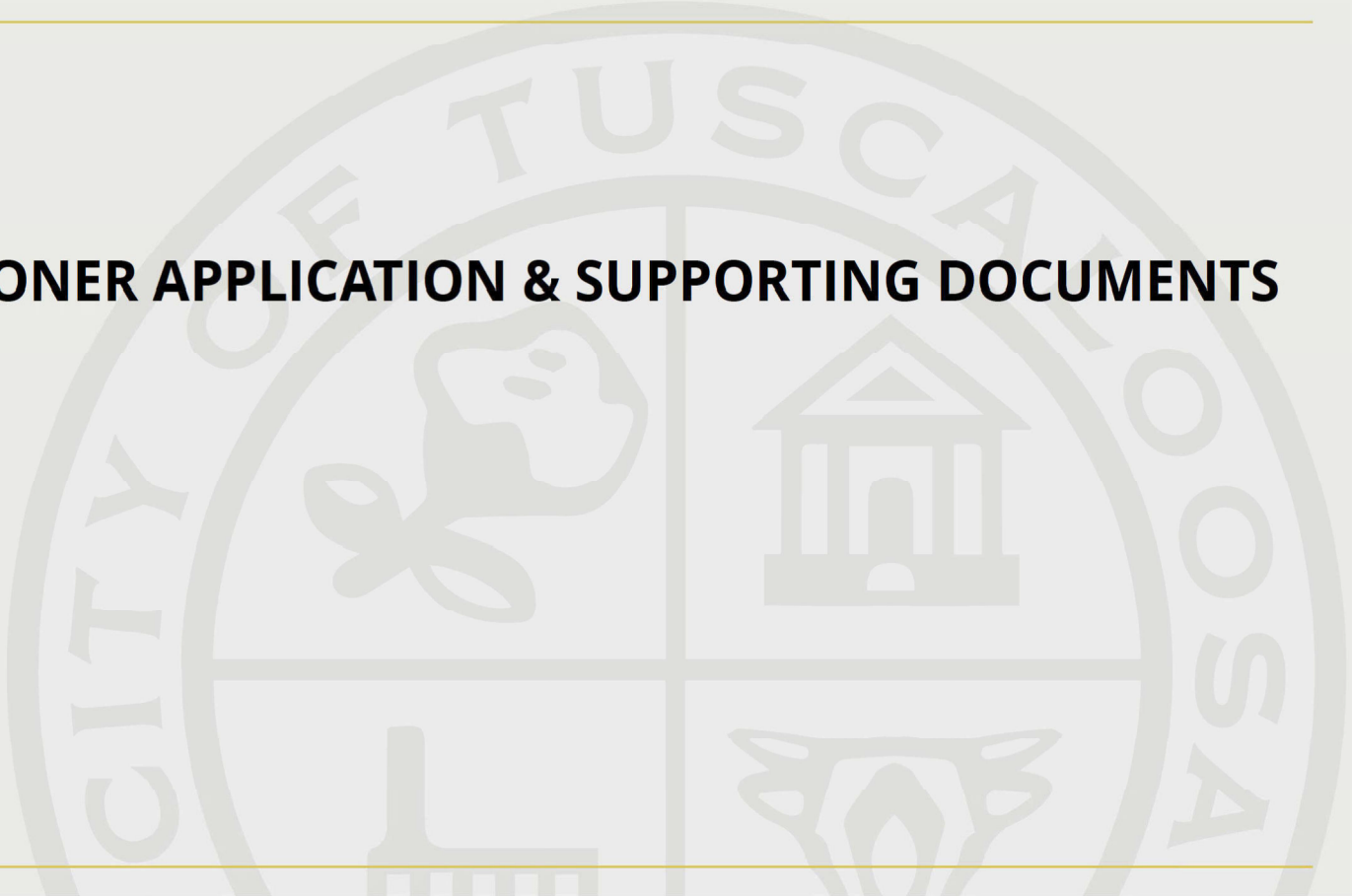
5. Materials

- 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.

K. Wheelchair Ramps

- Consider locations which will have the least visual impact on the historic building and setting. On some buildings, ramps can be integrated into existing stairs or porches with little visual impact.
- Materials for ramps and railings should be compatible with the building: wooden ramps are often appropriate for frame buildings and converted residences, while concrete or brick ramps may be best for masonry buildings. Ramp and railing designs should be coordinated with existing elements wherever possible.
- Wooden ramp surfaces can be punted with a sanded punt for slip resistance. In some cases, altering grade levels to accommodate a very shallow ramp slope can alleviate the requirement for railings. Ramps can be concealed with landscaping.

PETITIONER APPLICATION & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



The background of the page features a large, faint watermark of the Tuscaloosa City Seal. The seal is circular and divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a plow, the top-right shows a classical building with columns, the bottom-left shows a factory with smoking chimneys, and the bottom-right shows a sheaf of wheat. The words "CITY OF TUSCALOOSA" are written around the perimeter of the seal.

Certificate of Appropriateness Application

Property Information:

Site Address:

651 20th Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Historic District:

Druid City

Estimated Cost of Construction:

20000

Detailed Description of the Proposed Work:

See uploaded narrative

Detailed Description of the Proposed Materials:

See uploaded narrative

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name:

Jonathan McLelland

Is the applicant also the property owner?

No

Property Owner Information:

Owner 1

Property Owner Name:

Easty Lambert-Brown

Supporting Documents:

Site Plan:

H-101.pdf

Elevation Drawings:

H-102.pdf

Proposed Materials Documents:

2610 Ernest & Hadley Annex Ramp HPC Narrative.pages.pdf

Additional Documents:

H-103.pdf

Once submitted, a staff member will contact the applicant using the email provided on this form. If more documents are required, the staff member will clarify what is required in that email. By submitting this application, you recognize the city will send public notification and place a sign on the property with information for the public.



September 23, 2026

2610 Ernest & Hadley Annex Ramp
651 20th Avenue
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Project Narrative

Cynthia,

Ernest & Hadley Booksellers has recently taken over the former furniture warehouse at 651 20th Avenue for use as a used-book annex. The annex is located behind their primary shop, which sits at 1928 7th Street.

The entrance to the existing building, which is non-contributing and appears to date from the 1990s, is from a raised brick stoop which is not handicapped-accessible. In order to be in compliance with the ADA accessibility mandate, the owners must add a ramp to the front entrance. The design we propose will have a painted wood structure with composite Trex (or equivalent) decking and handrails. We also propose to add a painted steel guardrail atop the stoop.

If you have any questions after reviewing the attached drawings, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

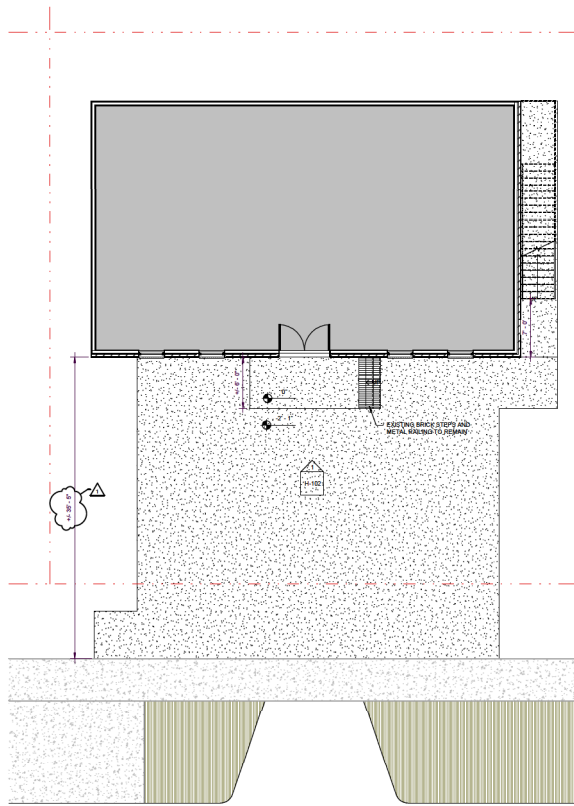
Best,



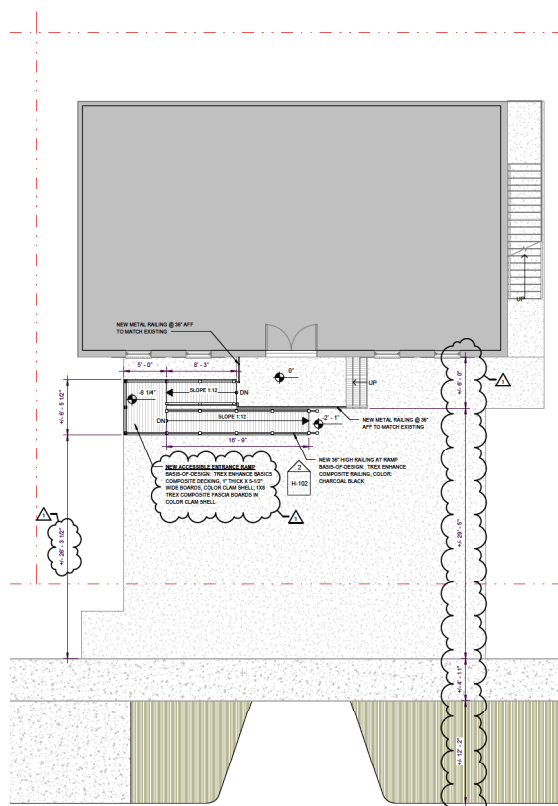
Jon McLelland



Scale	3/16" = 1'-0"
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① ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN - EXISTING
3/16" = 1'-0"



② ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN - PROPOSED
3/16" = 1'-0"

MCLA
MCLELLAND
ARCHITECTURE

1610 Alaca Place
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Phone (205) 792-3838
info@mclellandarchitecture.com
www.mclellandarchitecture.com



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**ERNEST & HADLEY
ANNEX - RAMP**

651 20th Avenue
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

No.	Description	Date
1	ADDENDUM NO. 1	PROPOSED

ERNEST & HADLEY
ANNEX - RAMP

HISTORIC FLOOR PLANS
EXISTING & PROPOSED

Project number 2310
Date September 23, 2020
Drawn by NJGBHY
Checked by JBM

H-101

Scale 3/16" = 1'-0"



② PERSPECTIVE LOOKING SOUTHEAST



① PERSPECTIVE FROM 20TH AVENUE

MCLA

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ARCHITECTURE

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www.mclellandarchitecture.com



STATE OF ALABAMA
JONATHAN M. McLELLAND
No. 10000
Exp. 12/31/2024
PRELIMINARY

Copyright Jonathan McLelland 2020

**ERNEST & HADLEY
ANNEX - RAMP**

651 20th Avenue
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

No.	Description	Date

ERNEST & HADLEY
ANNEX - RAMP

HISTORIC -
PERSPECTIVES

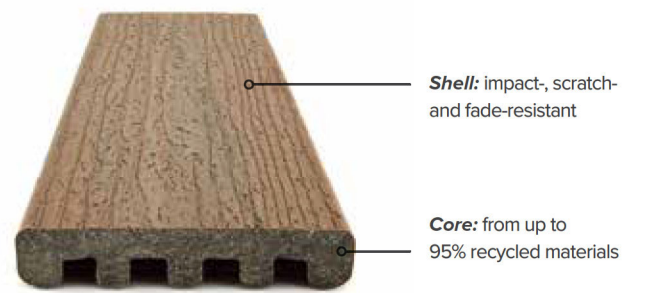
Project number 2310
Date September 23, 2020
Drawn by BHV
Checked by JMM

H-103

Scale

LOW-COST, HIGH-PERFORMANCE DECKING & FASCIA

Trex Enhance® decking and Trex® Fascia are wood thermoplastic composite lumber (WTCL) boards with an integrated shell that covers the boards on the top surface and sides. The integrated shell consists of a proprietary surface formulation that produces a natural, wood-like grain pattern finish. An alternative to naturally durable hardwood lumber, Enhance Decking and Fascia are ICC-ES SAVE-certified to be a minimum of 95.4% recycled content of wood fiber and polyethylene by weight.



DECKING



FASCIA



FEATURES	DECKING BOARDS	FASCIA BOARDS	
	1" x 6"	8"	12"
Actual Dimensions – Standard	.94" x 5.5"	.56" x 7.25"	.56" x 11.375"
Actual Dimensions – Metric	24 mm x 140 mm	14 mm x 184 mm	14 mm x 288 mm
Available Lengths – Standard	12', 16', 20'	12'	12'
Available Lengths – Metric	365 cm, 487 cm, 609 cm	365 cm	365 cm
Grooved Edge	X		
Square Edge	X	X	X
Weight per Lineal Foot	1.9 lbs	2.0 lbs	3.3 lbs

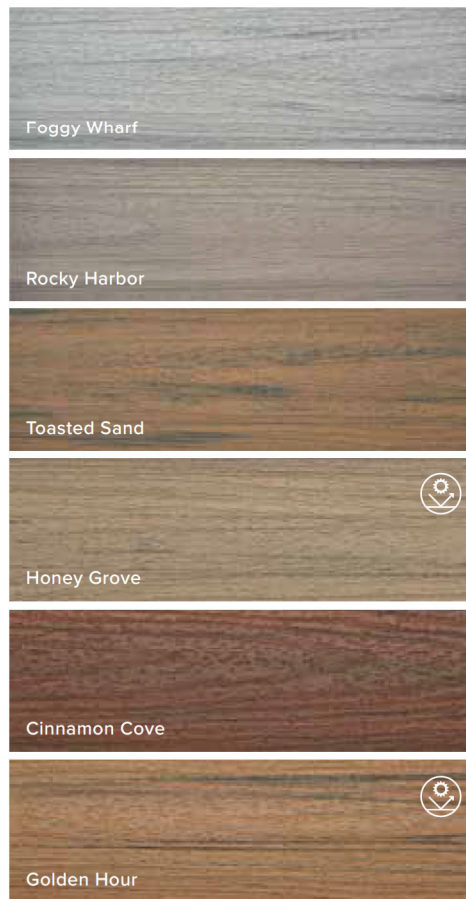
PHYSICAL & MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

TEST	TEST METHOD	VALUE
Flame Spread	ASTM E 84	Class C
Thermal Expansion	ASTM D 1037	1.9×10^{-5} in/in/°F
Moisture Absorption	ASTM D 1037	< 1%
Screw Head Pull-Through	ASTM D1761	161 lbf/screw*
Fungus Resistance	ASTM D1413	Rating – no decay
Termite Resistance	AWPAE1-72	Rating = 9.6

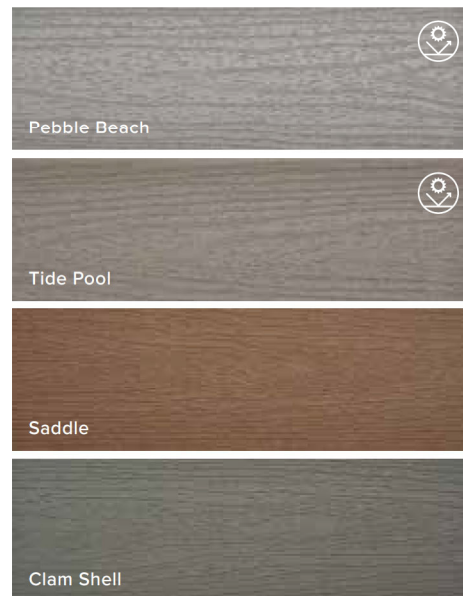
*Fastener used in testing: #8 x 2.5" approved stainless steel screw

COLORS

Naturals (multi-tonal)



Basics (monochromatic)



INDICATES
SUNCOMFORTABLE™
PRODUCTS

*Our SunComfortable™ products with heat-mitigating technology are designed to be cooler than most other composite decking products of a similar color. Although engineered to be more comfortable, they can still get hot to the touch when direct sunlight and high temperatures converge for extended periods of time. On such days, care should be taken.

FASTENERS

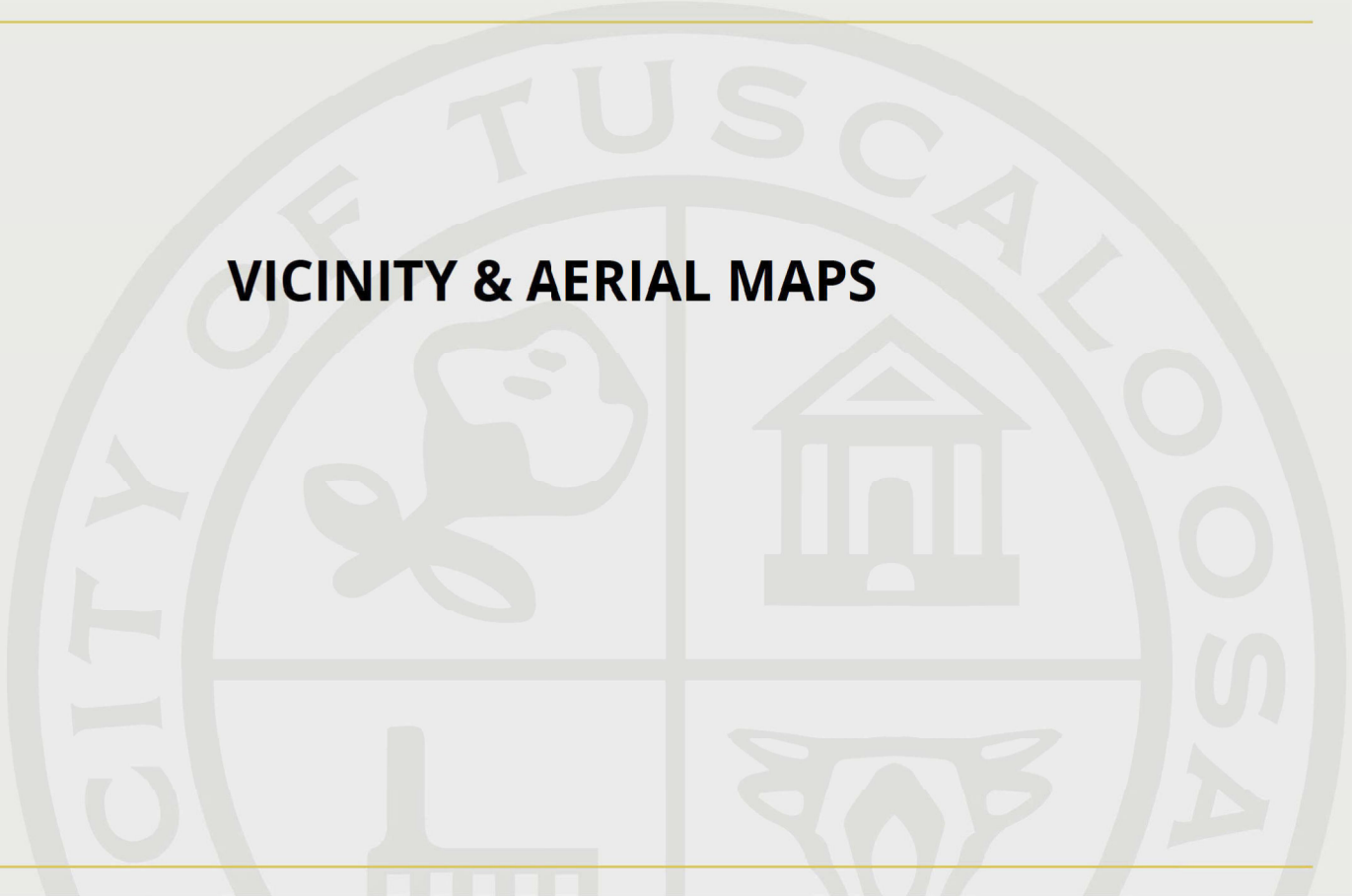
Trex Hideaway® Hidden Fastening Collection

Self-gapping, glass-filled nylon fastener with 304 grade stainless steel, sharp point screw for wood framing. Other approved fasteners include, color-matched composite deck screws, matching composite plugs with composite screws, color-coordinated fascia screws and uncoated stainless steel fascia screws.

For a full list of approved fasteners, download our Installation Guide at [trex.com/literature](https://www.trex.com/literature)



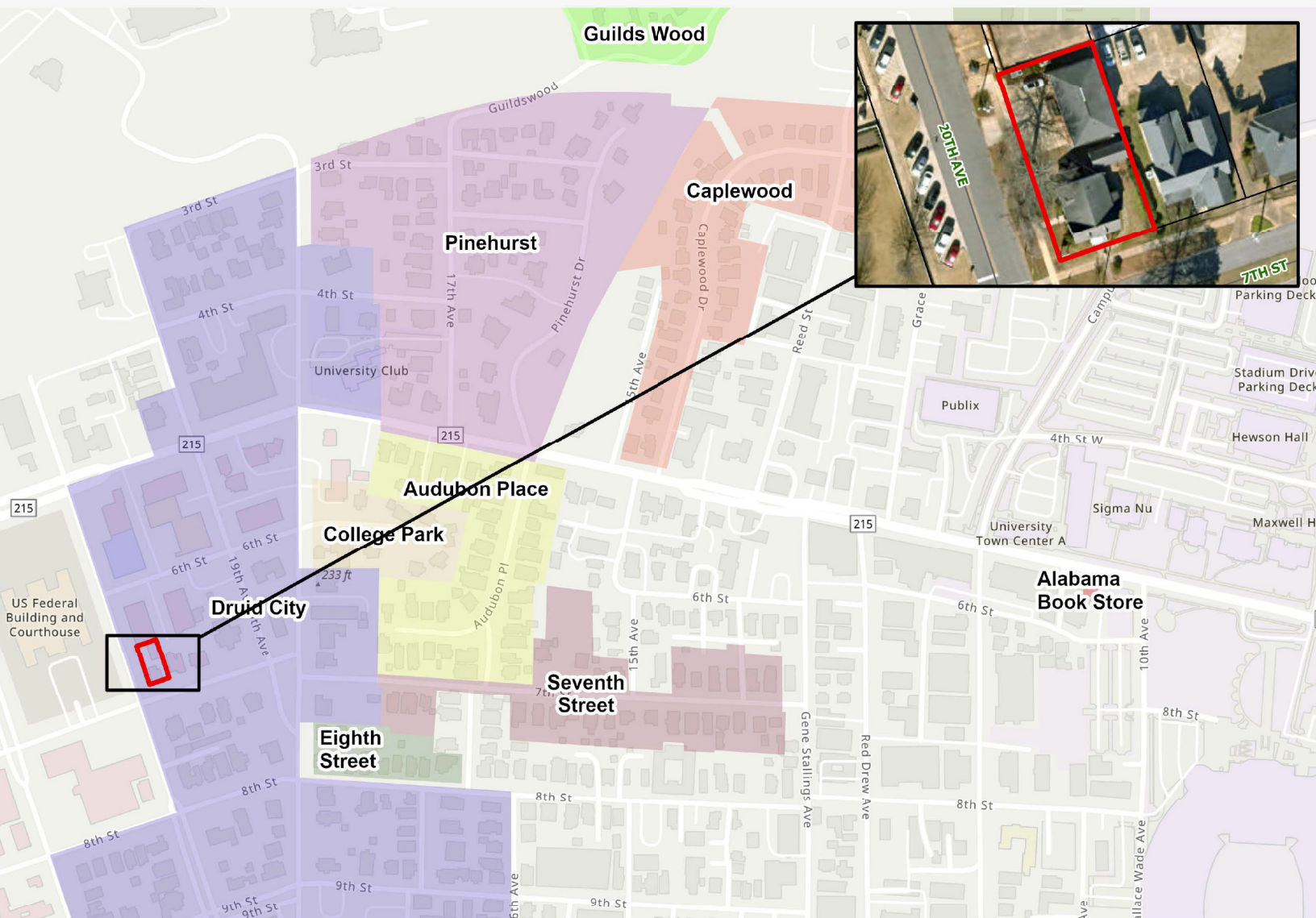
VICINITY & AERIAL MAPS





651 20th Avenue

1 inch = 384 feet
0 190 380 570 760 Feet

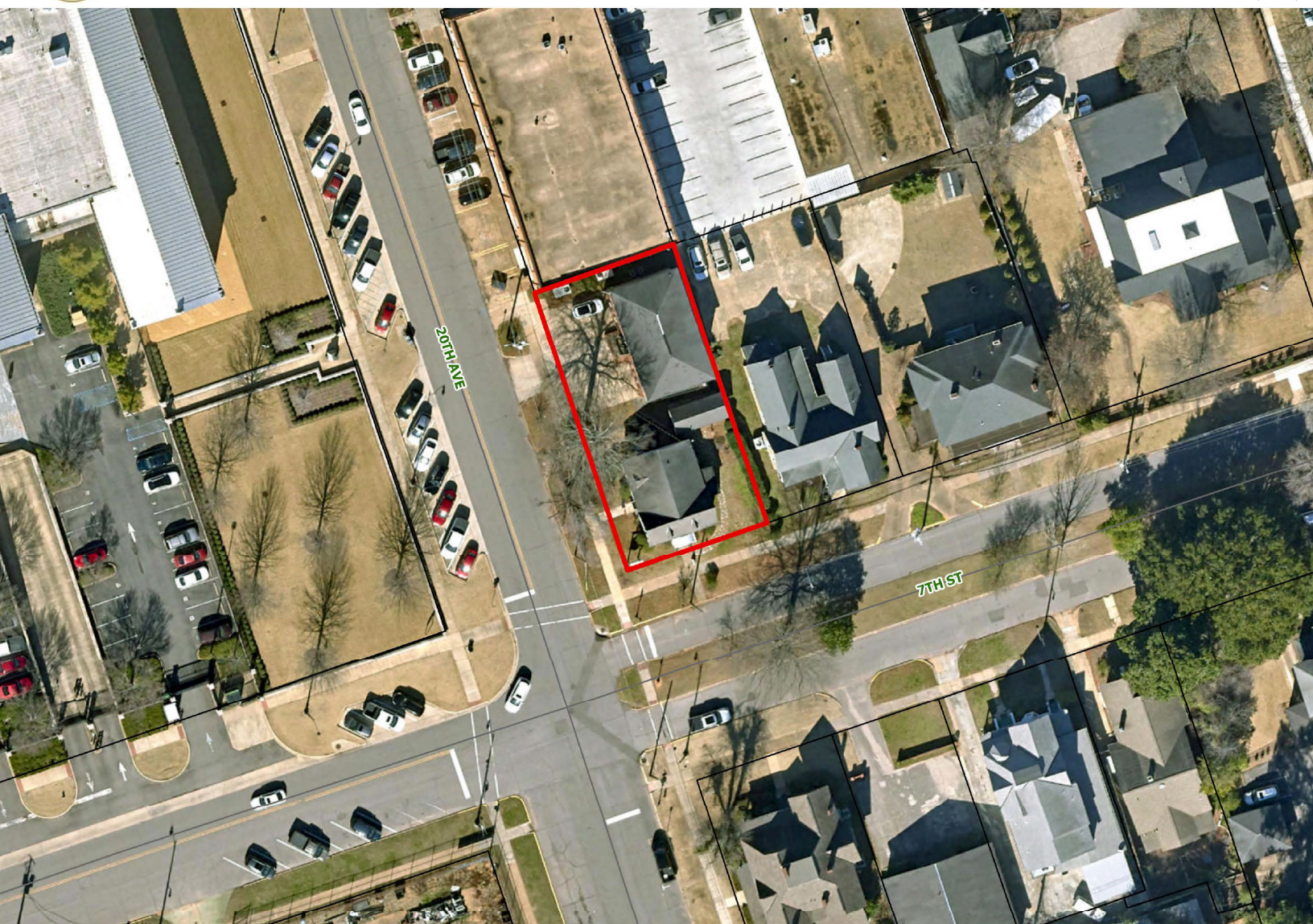




651 20th Avenue

1 inch = 54 feet

0 30 60 90 120 Feet



ADDITIONAL STAFF PHOTOS OF SUBJECT PROPERTY





STAFF PHOTOS OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES





