

8 NORTH ELEVATION — BUILDING V A3 scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



THE ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

600 North Fairfax Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Capital Improvements At One Public Housing Community

> VA 4-3c&d Samuel Madden Homes

# KEY NOTES

- 1 PATCH AND REPAIR ALL LARGE CRACKS, MISSING BRICK AND/OR MORTAR @ EXTERIOR MASONRY WALLS. 100 SF. (TOTI) OF REPAIR AND 200 LF (TOTAL) OF CRACK REPAIR. CONTRACTOR TO FIELD VERIFY EXACT LOCATION.
- 2 NEW LOCATION OF EXTERIOR WALL MOUNTED ENTRANCE LIGHT FIXTURE.
- RELOCATE DOWNSPOUT FOR INSTALLATION OF SHUTTER.
- [4] NEW HANDRAIL AND GUARD RAIL TYPICAL @ EXTERIOR STAIR WHERE NUMBER OF RISERS ARE THREE OR MORE AND 30" ABOVE GRADE, RESPECTIVELY. REFER TO DETAIL 8/A9.
- REMOVE EXISTING DOWNSPOUT AND PROVIDE NEW DOWNSPOUT TO ACCOMMODATE NEW SHUTTERS.

### GENERAL NOTES

- REMOVE ALL EXISTING SCREEN DOORS (45 .TOTAL). CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY EXACT QUANTITY AT FIELD. SCREEN DOORS NOT SHOWN FOR CLARITY.
- 2. REMOVE EXISTING EXTERIOR WALL MOUNTED ENTRANCE LIGHT AND REPLACE WITH NEW LIGHT FIXTURE TYPICAL @ EACH ENTRANCE. INSTALL @ ORIGINAL LOCATION. U.O.N. DUE TO CONFLICT WITH SHUTTERS. REFER TO ELECTRICAL DRAWINGS.
- REMOVE ALL ADDRESS PLATES AND REPLACE WITH NEW ADDRESS PLATES. INSTALL DIRECTLY BELOW NEW ENTRANCE LIGHT FIXTURE.

# LEGEND

EXTERIOR MASONRY WALL TO BE PATCHED AND REPAIRED

Rev Number Description

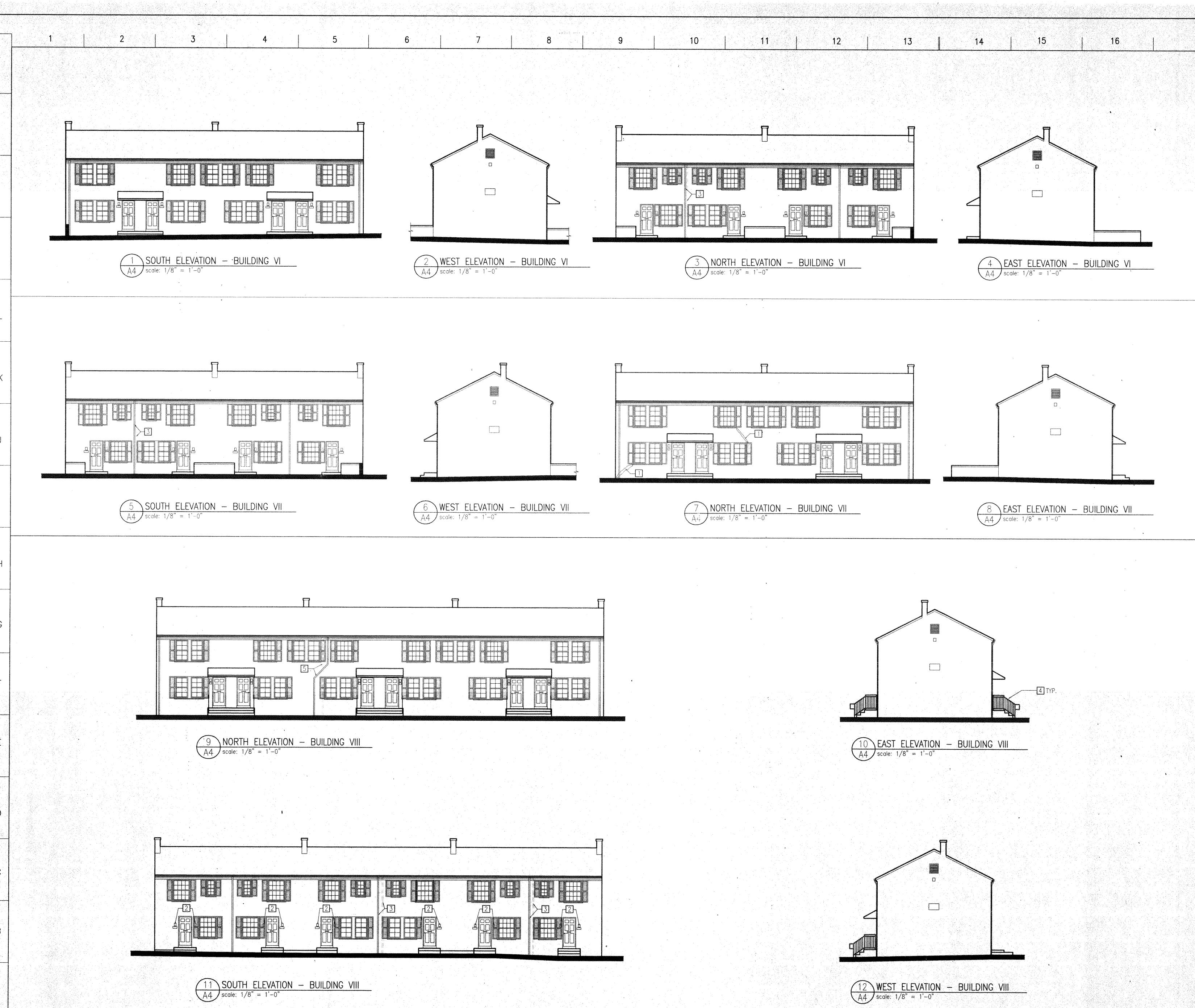
SORG AND ASSOCIATES, P.C. 1500 K Street, N.W. Suite 610 Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 393-6445 Fax (202) 393-6497

BUILDING ELEVATIONS BLDS. IV & V @ VA. 4-3d

Scale Phase Scale Scale Phase Scale Scale Phase Scale Scale

16

38



ARHA

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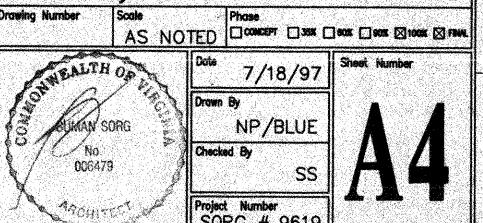
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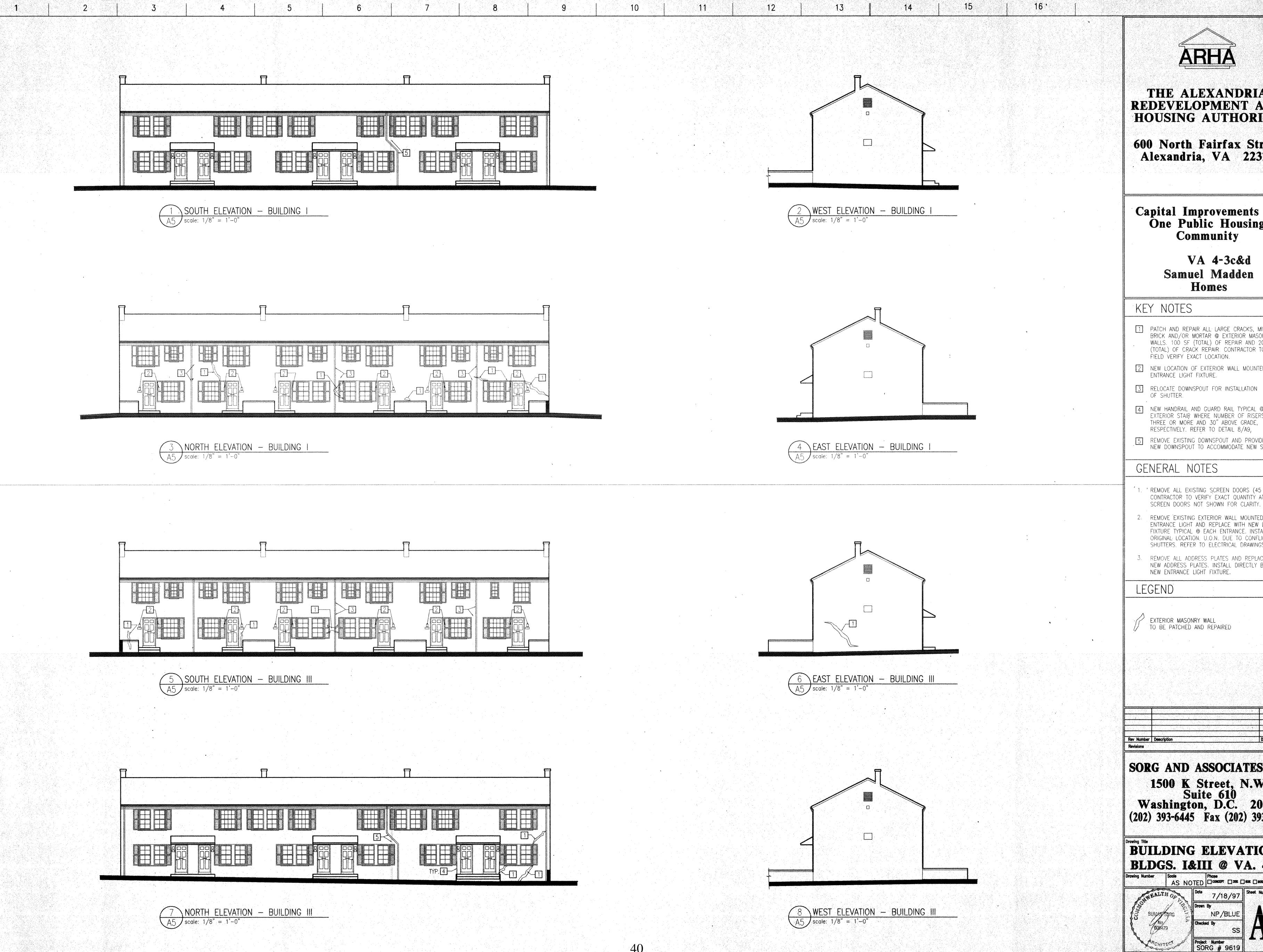
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BUILDING ELEVATIONS
BLD.VI,VII &VIII@VA 4-3d B





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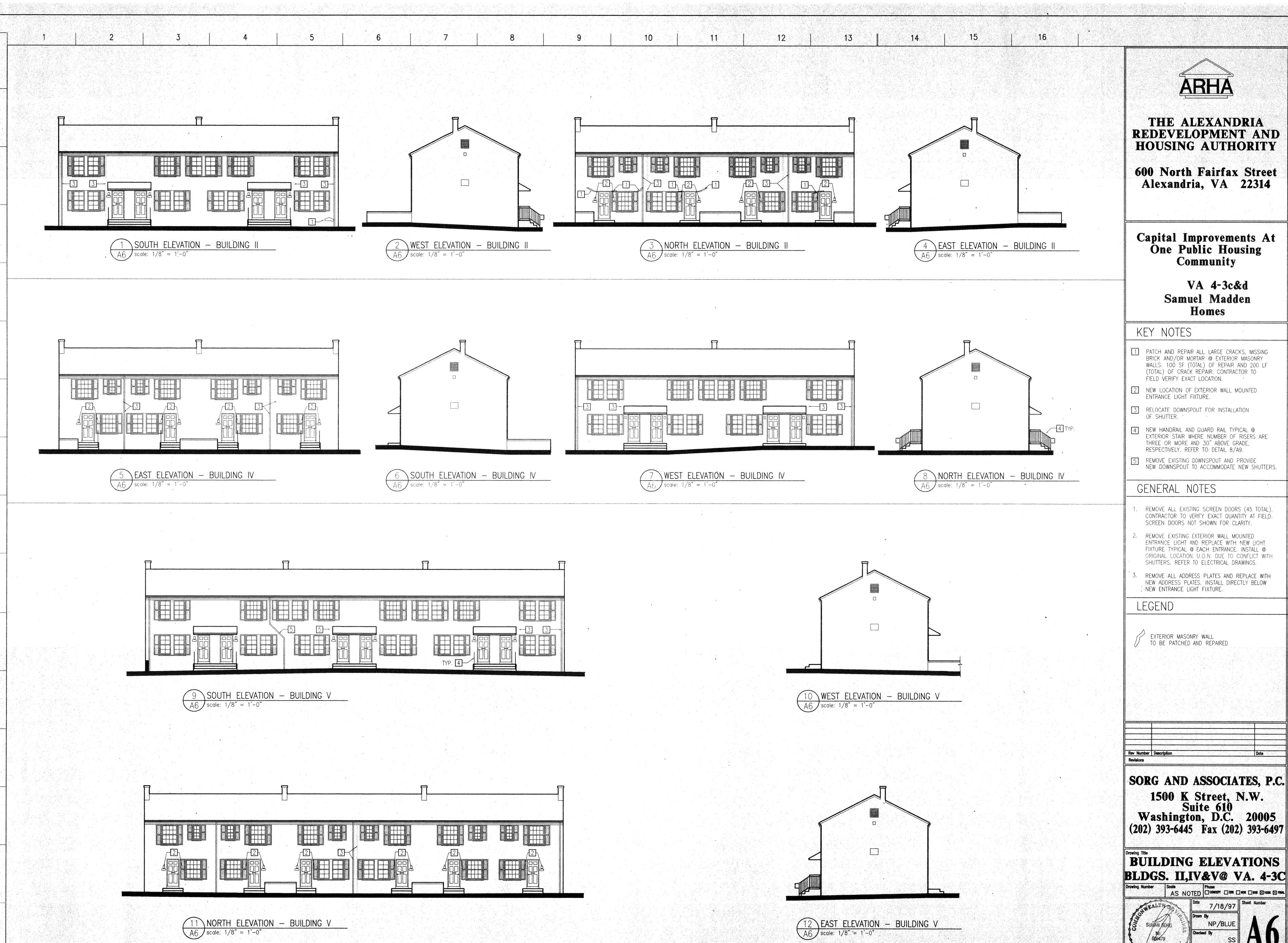
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BUILDING ELEVATIONS BLDGS. I&III @ VA. 4-3c

Scale Phase Scale AS NOTED CONCEPT 350% Sec 360% Sec 160% FRANCE



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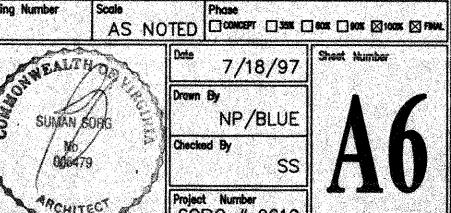
# Capital Improvements At One Public Housing

VA 4-3c&d Samuel Madden

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BUILDING ELEVATIONS BLDGS. II,IV&V@ VA. 4-3C B



Samuel Madden Homes City of Alexandria Board of Architectural Review May 18, 2022 Meeting Notes/Follow-up

#### **Laser Scanning**

**Comment:** Suggested laser scanning including not only the buildings but the site as well. That will

capture the context including the paths and spaces around the site.

**Response:** The development team is investigating options for laser scanning per the BAR's

recommendation. Would like to clarify options for laser scanning considering the repetitive nature of the buildings. Should the laser scan include the exterior of only one

building – or all the buildings? There is mixed success laser scanning landscape, especially if 3D. Any scans will pick up plantings and walkways, as well as fencing, personal items, cars, and other items on the site. A measured 2D site plan would likely

be the most successful way to document the existing landscape and landscape features

without including unrelated objects.

#### **Documentation**

**Comment:** HABS and Potentially HALS documentation with formal submittals to the Library of

Congress. This was a problem with Ramsey.

Response: EHT Traceries will complete Historic American Buildings Survey documentation with a

formal submittal to Library of Congress with copies to the Alexandria Barrett Branch Library Local History/Special Collections, the City of Alexandria Archives and Records

Center, and others as may be appropriate.

Traceries will complete the HABS outline format documentation, which includes documentation of the site and setting, including a description of the historic landscape design (layout, character, plantings, and walks of original or historic landscape treatments). Given the simplicity of the original landscape, HALS documentation is not recommended.

A HABS photographer will take large format 4x5 pictures of interiors, exteriors, and the site. Historic drawings will also be included in the HABS submittal. New drawings generated from the laser scan may also be included.

#### **Interpretive Signage**

**Comment:** Interpretive signage: ensure oversight and be respectful of the site and its history.

**Response:** EHT Traceries will prepare interpretive signage based on documentation from the

historic research and archaeological investigations. Traceries will submit draft and final signage for review by the City of Alexandria staff to include comments on text, images selected, and layout. Full-scale mockups of the signage will also be submitted for review

prior to the fabrication of signage on site.

Traceries has prepared numerous interpretive signs over the years. We work closely with staff to ensure products have been reviewed and edited prior to fabrication. The resulting interpretive panels are informative, well-designed, and well-written. Depending on subject matter and audience these signs have been mostly graphic in nature or been text heavy – we will work with staff to formulate signs that are visually interesting and informative.

Below is an example of a sign we developed at National Harbor. Additional examples will be shared at the meeting.



#### **Oral History**

**Comment:** Oral histories with early residents when neighborhood was called Uptown. Gets to

aspects of social history of the neighborhood.

**Response:** EHT Traceries will assist the developer in identifying potential long-term residents of the

Homes and Uptown to better understand the social history of the neighborhood. The team will consult with city staff and will build upon the oral histories completed as part of the Ramsey Homes redevelopment project. This may also include interviews with relatives or associates of architect Joseph Saunders to provide a fuller understanding of

Saunder's career and the architecture of the Samuel Madden Homes.

#### Joseph Saunders, Jr.

**Comment:** Are other buildings by Joseph Saunders protected. How many other buildings did

Saunders design and when do the Madden Houses become really significant?

**Response:** EHT Traceries is currently preparing a report documenting the history of the site and the

Samuel Madden Homes and will also be preparing HABS documentation. As part of this work, we are undertaking more in-depth research of the life and career of architect

Joseph Saunders, Jr. to provide a better understanding of where the Samuel Madden Homes fit within the context of his career.

Based on preliminary findings, we know that Joseph H. Saunders, Jr. practiced independently and in partnership with other firms and designed a range of building types during his career that included public housing, institutional buildings, schools, churches, and commercial developments. Within the overall context of Joseph Saunders' career, the Samuel Madden Homes represents one of his earlier projects in Alexandria and demonstrates the modest and cost-effective interpretation of the Colonial Revival Style that marked his other wartime government projects, such as the prefabricated school building at Old Glebe Road (1943, demolished) and the community center at Chinquapin Village (1943, demolished). Despite their traditional form and use of brick cladding, the buildings are modern and functional, lacking excessive historicist ornamentation, and the site planning is in keeping with the Garden City approach that influenced other public housing projects of the era. After the war, Saunders began to explore the modernist aesthetic through celebrated private sector and institutional commissions such as the Church of St. Clement in Alexandria (1949) and the National Education Association headquarters in Washington (1958).

#### **Impact on the Historic District**

**Comment:** 13 buildings – 66 units – how does the removal of these buildings impact the integrity of

the historic district and historic landscape. How many acres are involved?

**Response:** The proposed project involves demolition of the Samuel Madden Homes, including 13

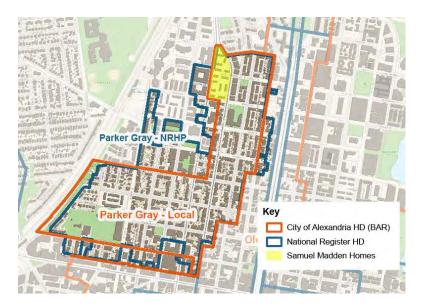
buildings on 3.44 acres. The buildings are contributing resources to the Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and is a designated City of Alexandria Historic District (local). The boundaries of the NRHP and local historic districts vary slightly. The NRHP Historic District encompasses 201.6 acres and includes a total of 984 contributing buildings and 325 non-contributing buildings. The local historic district is slightly smaller, encompassing approximately 40

blocks and including 1,210 buildings.

The period of significance of the NRHP historic district extends from circa 1810 to 1959. According to the City of Alexandria Parker-Gray Design Guidelines, the Period of Significance for the local historic district is 1810 to 1931. Buildings constructed before 1931 are considered "early" buildings while those constructed in 1932 or later are considered "late" buildings. The Samuel Madden Homes are classified as "late"

buildings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/planning/info/historic=preservation/policies/adopted-pg-5.25.16-how-to.pdf



As seen in the above map, the Samuel Madden Homes are located at the northwestern most boundary line of the local historic district. The property is surrounded by new large-scale development including the redeveloped James Bland Homes site (Old Town Commons) to the east and new multi-family developments to the west outside the local historic district. The Charles Houston Recreation center and a mix of low-scale contributing and non-contributing buildings are located to the south of the development area.

The Samuel Madden Homes are essentially located on an island within the historic district, surrounded by contemporary large developments that do not contribute to the historic district. The integrity of this area of the historic district, particularly its setting, is diminished. The demolition and redevelopment of the Samuel Madden Homes will have minimal negative impacts on the integrity of the historic district as a whole, impacting only 13 of the 1,210 buildings located within the local historic district.

The NRHP Historic District documentation identifies four groups of public housing developments within the Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District including the Samuel Madden Homes (1944), the James Bland Homes (1954, demolished), the Ramsey Homes (1942, demolished), and Jefferson Village (1988). Perhaps the best extant example in Alexandria is the remaining George W. Parker Homes (1942), located outside of the Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District on two blocks bounded by Princess, Pendleton, Royal, and Fairfax Streets. While a limited resource type within the Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District, many examples of World War II-era public and workforce housing developments are extant and protected within the region. During World War II, the National Housing Agency and FHPA strove to remedy the shortfall of worker housing in the Washington area, seen at the time as an emergency with implications for the overall effectiveness of the war effort. These developments were usually designed in keeping with the Garden City approach, including buildings set in a park like setting, and many were designed in the Colonial Revival Style promoted by the FHA. All developments were segregated by race. Additional research is being performed to identify extant

World War II-era housing developments for African Americans. A few examples of comparable and protected housing developments constructed for African Americans in the World War II-era in the region include:

- Mayfair Mansions, Washington, DC (1946)
- Langston Terrace Dwellings, Washington, DC (1938)
- Aberdeen Gardens, Hampton, VA (1934)
- St. James Mutual Homes, Washington, DC (1939)
- Turner Station, Baltimore County, MD
  - o Day Village, Dundalk, MD (1944)
  - o Ernest Lyon Homes, Baltimore County, MD (1942)
- Barry Far, Washington, DC (1942) (NRHP listing pending)

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Others that are not currently protected include the partially extant George W. Parker Homes in Alexandria (1942), Frederick Douglass Homes (DC, 1940), James Creek Houses (DC, 1942), and Kelly Miller Homes (DC, 1941).

#### **Alternatives**

Prior to the issuance of the RFP for selecting a redevelopment partner in 2020, ARHA performed an analysis of options for the redevelopment of the Samuel Madden Homes. As part of its analysis, ARHA reviewed the amount of capital funds expended, the number of maintenance calls received, and other funds expended on the property over the previous five-year period. ARHA came to the conclusion that given (1) the age of the buildings and their systems, (2) the unit design as compared to the building codes, and (3) a certain threshold level of comfort and livability, that it would be more economical and financially feasible to demolish the buildings and build completely new structures. Specifically, the cost of preserving and renovating the existing buildings and bringing them up to then-current code requirements was prohibitively expensive as compared to new construction.

In addition, in order to rebuild the number of existing units that are affordable to households earning at or below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), the density of the site must be increased to the extent where the demolition of the existing buildings is the only viable path. Furthermore, in order to achieve the levels of affordability desired by ARHA and other local stakeholders (to both double the number of units affordable at or below 30% AMI, and where the combination of any new units would target roughly one-third at or below 30% AMI, one-third affordable between 50-60% AMI, and one-third market), redevelopment of the entire site is needed to accommodate the necessary density.

The existing Samuel Madden Homes built between 1944 and 1945 as thirteen two-story brick apartment buildings over two blocks were developed during a period of urban renewal in north Alexandria that saw the construction of other public housing complexes, such as John Roberts Homes (1942), George Parker Homes (1942), Ramsey Homes (1942), and James Bland Homes (1954, 1959). Samuel Madden Homes was designed in accordance with Garden City site planning principles, which was seen in residential apartment design beginning in the 1920s, and is often associated with Colonial Revival in the D.C. area. The demolition of the existing thirteen buildings would represent a relatively small number out of the remaining buildings originally designed in the Garden City style in Alexandria and the rest of the D.C. area.