

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SPACE COMMITTEE**



March 17, 2023

Thomas Luebke, FAIA  
Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts  
401 F Street, NW Suite 312  
Washington, DC 20001  
[www.cfa.gov](http://www.cfa.gov)

RE: 3614 Prospect Street NW  
Tracking Number: 406963

Dear Mr. Luebke

3614 Prospect Street NW, tracking number 406963, is scheduled to be re-heard at the April 27, 2023, Public Space Committee hearing for the installation of statues and planters in public space. The Public Space Committee gives great weight to the decisions and recommendations that the Old Georgetown Board of the Commission of Fine Arts makes for applications in its purview. Therefore, the Public Space Committee is requesting the Old Georgetown Board provide review comments for this application submission in advance of the April 27, 2023, Public Space Committee hearing. We appreciate your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, I can be reached at the contact information listed below at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Courtney Williams  
Executive Secretary  
Public Space Committee  
o. 202-481-3493  
c. 202-615-4574  
e. [courtney.williams@dc.gov](mailto:courtney.williams@dc.gov)

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SPACE COMMITTEE**



December 20, 2022

Newton Howard  
3614 Prospect Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

RE: 3614 Prospect Street, NW  
Tracking Number: 406963

Dear Applicant:

On December 15, 2022, the District of Columbia Public Space Committee (PSC) **Tabled** your application for Fixtures: Planter Box on Sidewalk (Exception) and Two Transformer Statues in public space under the following conditions:

1. To allow the applicant to go back before the Old Georgetown Board for review and approval.
2. The applicant must notify the Mr. Courtney Williams, Executive Secretary of the status of the Old Georgetown Boards, OGB review and you have until April 30, 2023, to appear back before the PSC.
3. Courtney Williams contact information is [courtney.williams@dc.gov](mailto:courtney.williams@dc.gov) or at 202-615-4574.

If you require further assistance with the processing of this application, please schedule an appointment with your assigned Technician, Ms. Catrina Felder at 202-442-4960 or by email at [catrina.felder@dc.gov](mailto:catrina.felder@dc.gov).

Thank you for your commitment to improving the District of Columbia's Public Space!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Courtney Williams', is written over a horizontal line.

Courtney Williams  
Executive Secretary, PSC  
ANC-2E05

3614 Prospect St., NW  
Washington, DC 20007

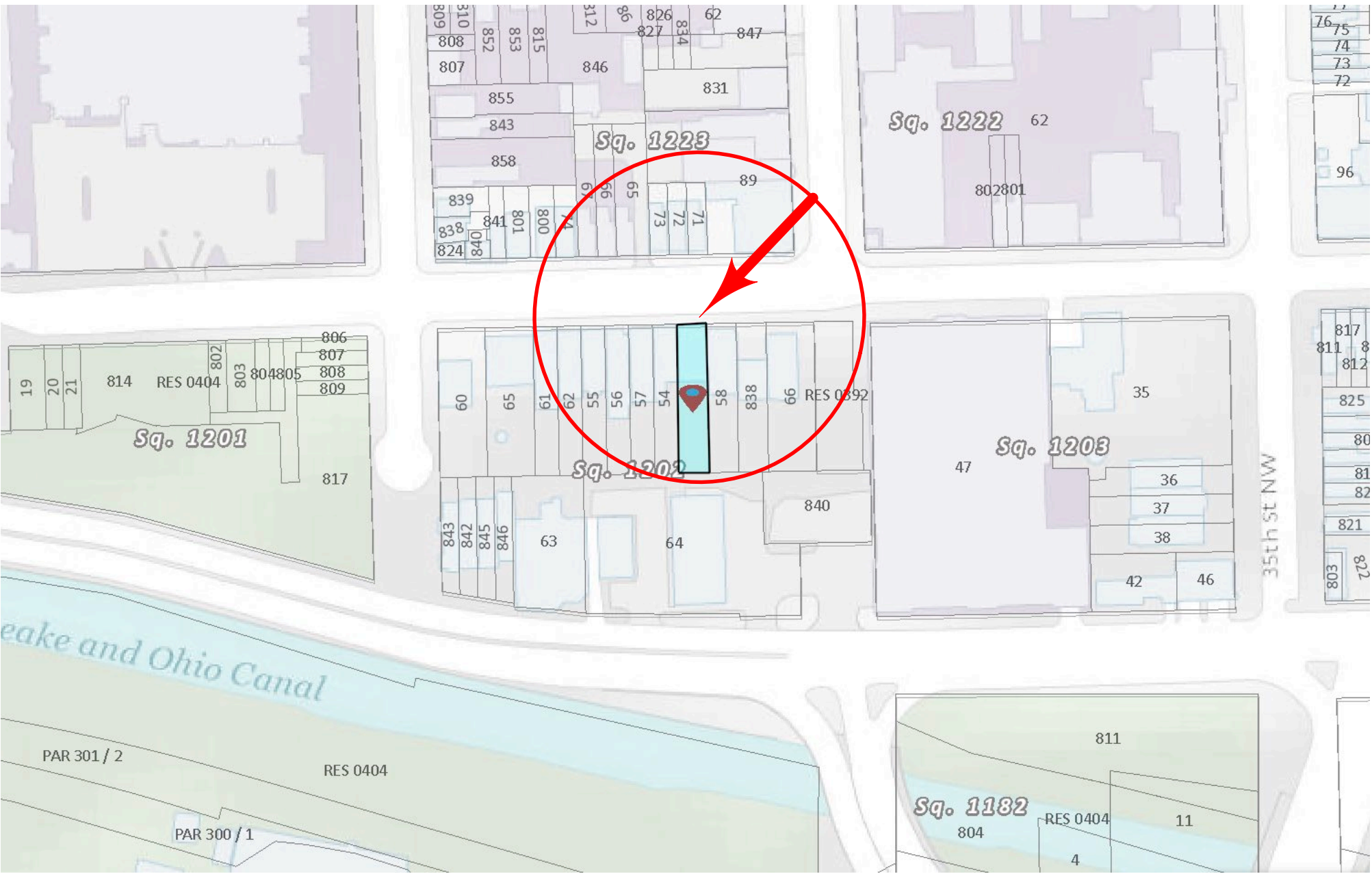
ZONING HPRB CONSULTANT

John Patrick Brown, Jr., Esq.  
Greenstein DeLorme & Luchs, P.C.  
801 17th Street, N.W.  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20006

TWO STATUES IN  
PUBLIC SPACE

OWNER

DR. NEWTON HOWARD  
3614 PROSPECT ST NW  
WASHINGTON, DC. 20007



TO PLACE  
TWO SCULPTURES OF TRANSFORMERS,  
HERO CHARACTERS FROM THE TRANSFORMER MOVIES,  
IN PUBLIC SPACE

PROJECT NARRATIVE

building information

Lot/square Zone LOT(S): 0059 SQ: 1202  
R-20  
Historic District GEORGETOWN FINE ARTS  
Construction Type III  
Use Group R-3  
Occupancy  
Basement:  
Cellar:  
1st:  
2nd:  
3rd:  
4th:  
Total UNKNOWN

Occupancy Load:

Applicable Codes

Building: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (IBC)  
DCMR 12A 2017 BUILDING CODE SUPPLEMENT  
Existing Building: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE (IEBC)  
DCMR 12J 2017 EXISTING BUILDING CODE SUPPLEMENT  
Mechanical: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE (IMC)  
DCMR 12E 2017 MECHANICAL CODE SUPPLEMENT  
Plumbing: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE (IPC)  
DCMR 12F 2017 PLUMBING CODE SUPPLEMENT  
Electrical: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE NFPA NEC 2005 (IEC)  
DCMR 12C 2017 ELECTRICAL CODE SUPPLEMENT  
Fire: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (IFC)  
DCMR 12H 2017 FIRE CODE SUPPLEMENT  
Energy: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (IECC)  
DCMR 12I 2017 ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE SUPPLEMENT  
Fuel Gas: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE (IFUGC)  
DCMR 12D 2017 ENERGY FUEL GAS CODE SUPPLEMENT  
ADA: 2015 ICC INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (IBC) // ANSI A117.1 2009  
Zoning: DCMR 12A 2017 SUPPLEMENT  
DC ZR 16

Building Suppressed  
Alarm System UNKNOWN  
UNKNOWN

Building Height 40' ±

Building Areas

Basement:  
1st:  
2nd:  
Attic:  
Total Gross Sq Ft: UNKNOWN

Lot Area 3100 SQ FT  
Suite No. NA

Structural System

Load Bearing System: MASONRY, WOOD  
Floors: WOOD JOISTS  
Walls: CONCRETE, WOOD  
Roof: WOOD RAFTERS  
Interior stairs: WOOD

Handicapped Accessible Space Bldg. NO

Name STEPHEN DUPONT, JR. NCARB

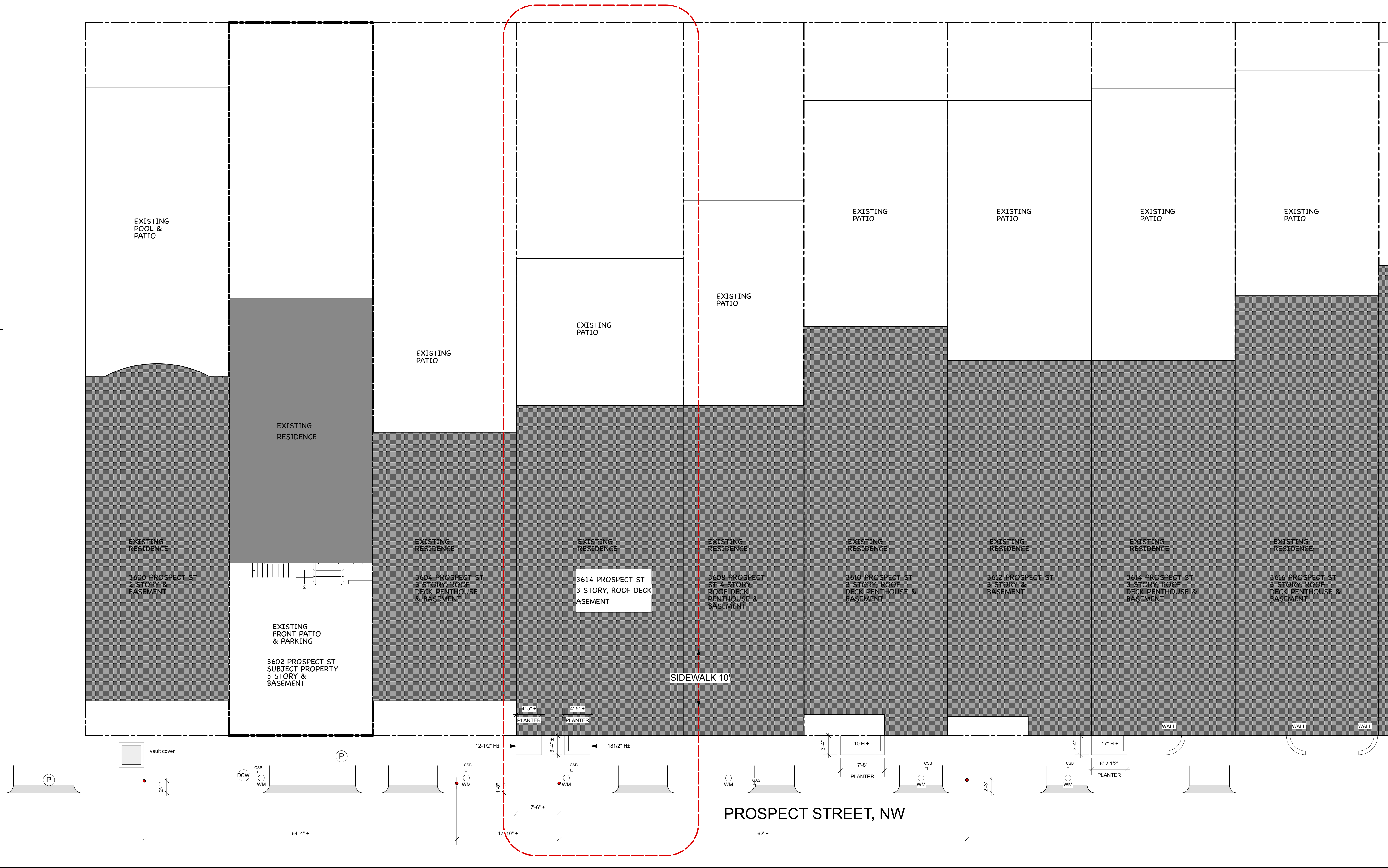
Signature



- SIGNPOST
- CSB CURB STOP BOX
- DCW DC WATER MANHOLE
- WM WATER METER
- GAS GAS VALVE
- Ⓟ PEPCO MANHOLE



SUBJECT PROPERTY



DCRA

STATUARY IN  
PUBLIC SPACE

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Washington, DC. 20007

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The drawings and specifications and the ideas, designs and arrangements represented thereby are and shall remain the property of the architect, Stephen duPont, Jr., RA. No part thereof shall be copied, disclosed to others or used in connection with any work or project or by any other person for any purpose other than for the specific project for which they have been prepared and developed without the written consent of the Architect. Visual contact with these drawings or specifications shall constitute conclusive evidence of acceptance of these restrictions.

sdpra@earthlink.net



STEPHEN DUPONT, JR. RA  
ARCHITECTS  
5159 Fulton St., NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
(202) 487-0500

Engineer

Seal

1 1/26/21 CD/Set up file-dDOT app

Mark Date Issue Note

Title  
Site / Location

Proj 3614  
Revision  
Proj Date 19 NOV 2019  
Dwn JS  
Ck  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



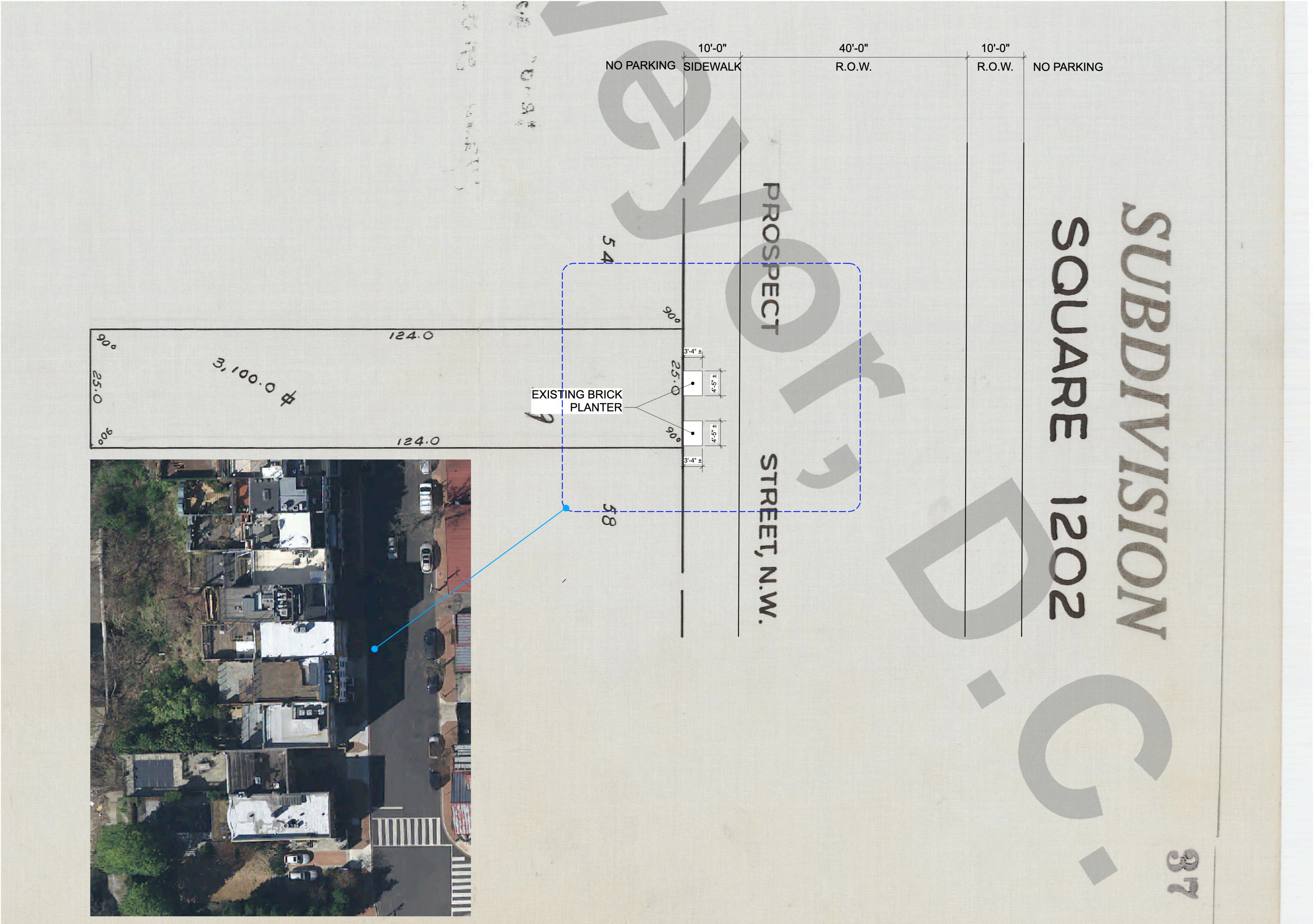
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20016  
(202) 487-0500

Engineer

Seal

2	3/23/21	CD/Update per OGB comments
1	1/26/21	CD/Set up file-dDOT app.

Mark Date Issue Note

Title  
Plan- ROW

Proj 3614  
Revision Revision  
Proj Date 19 NOV 2019  
Dwn JS  
Ck  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



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BEFORE



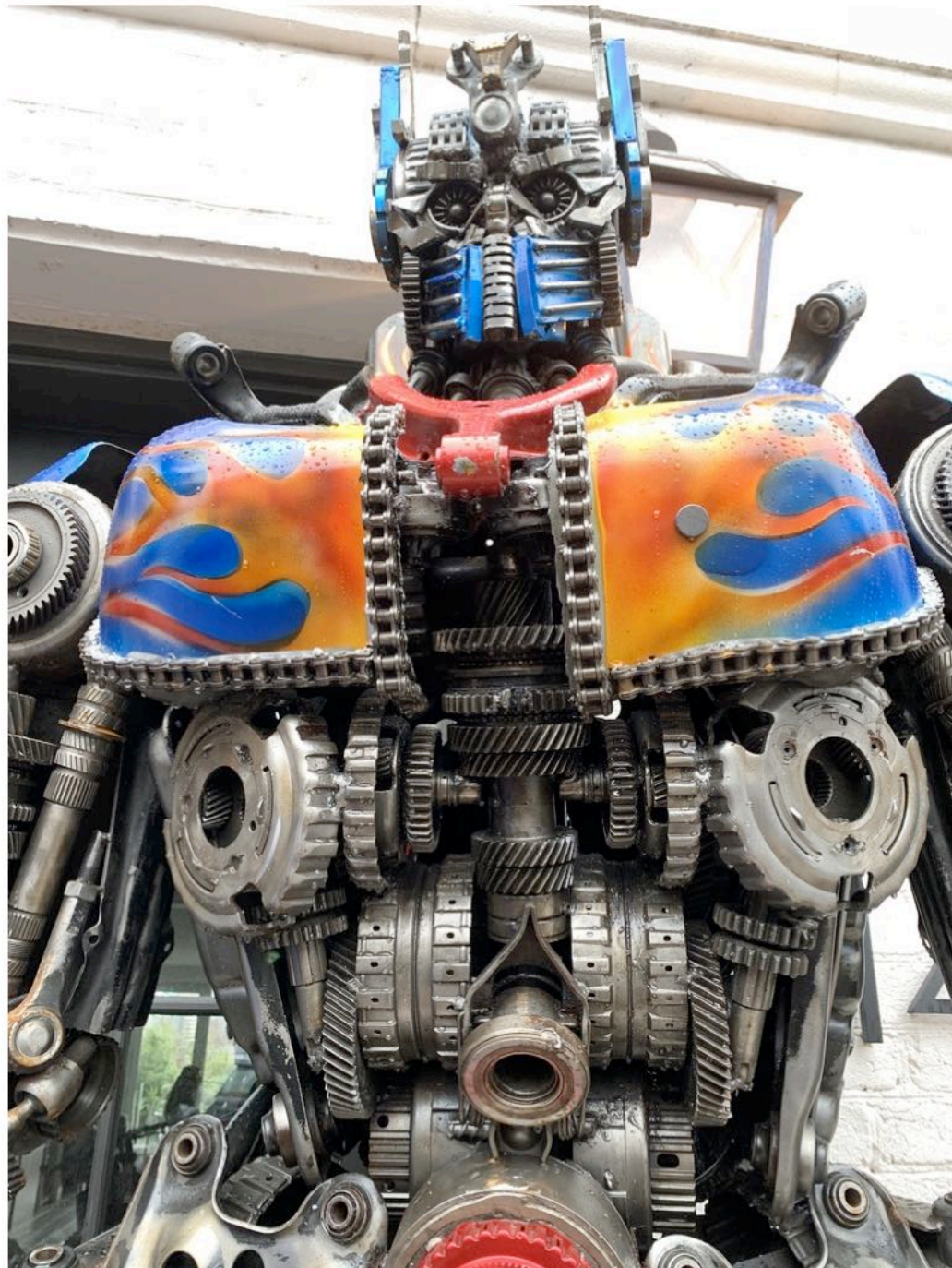
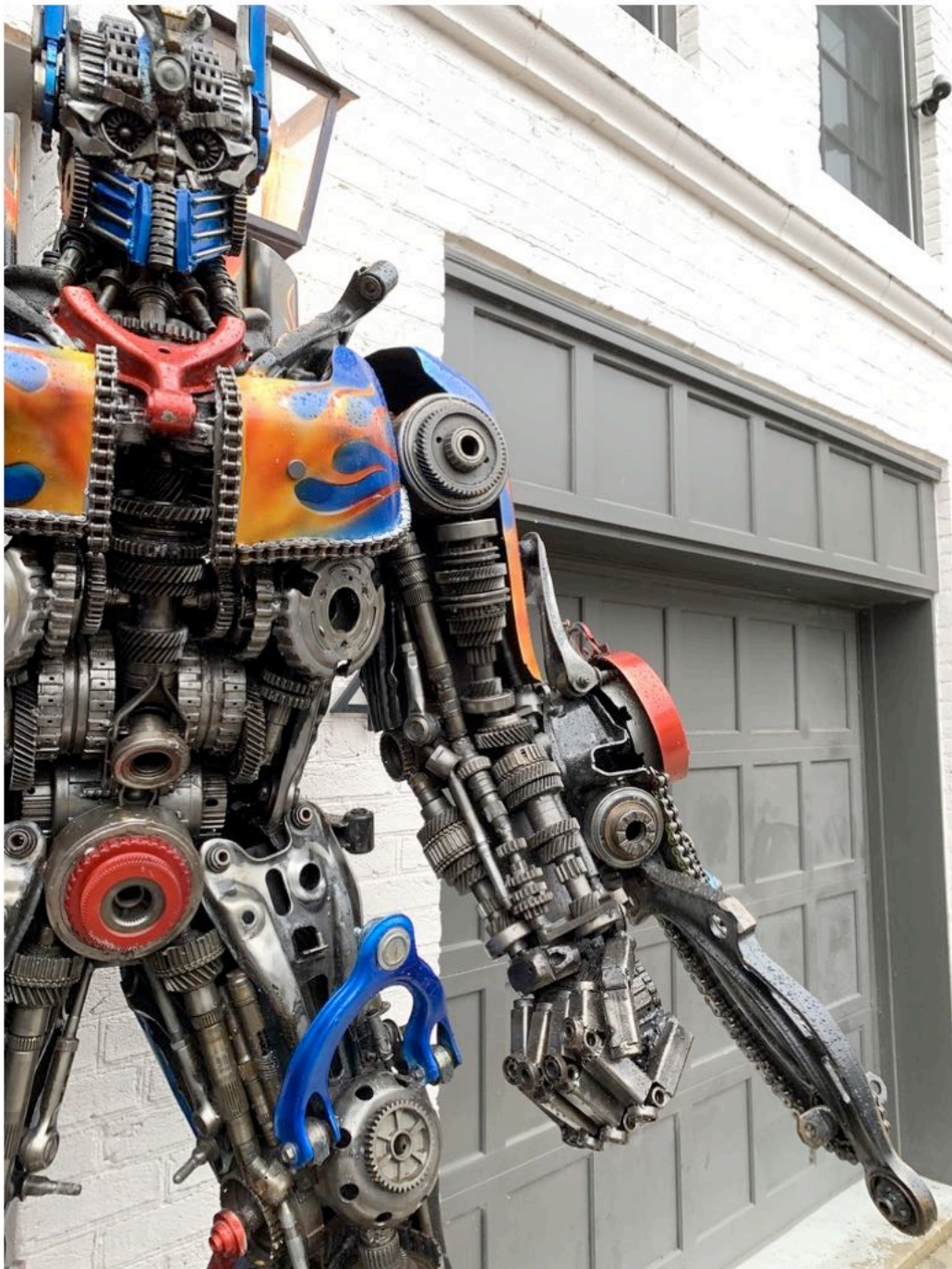
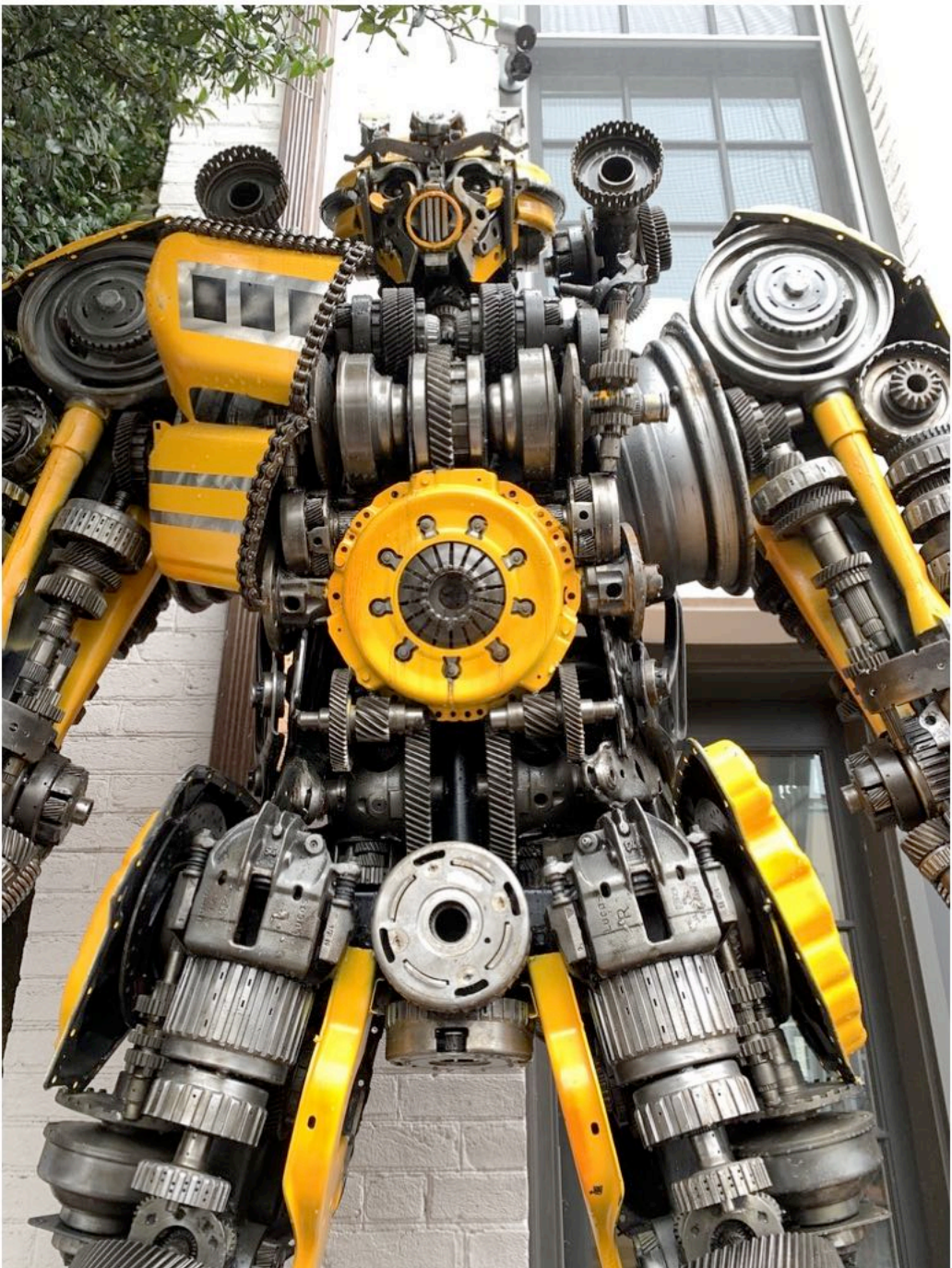
AFTER



VIEWED FROM EAST



VIEWED FROM WEST



THE WORKSMANSHIP AND SELECTION OF COMPONENTS

DCRA

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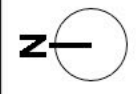
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Mark Date Issue Note

Title

Photos

Proj Revision 3614  
Proj Date 19 NOV 2019  
Dwn JS  
Ck  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



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3614 21 0126 statues.vwx

Drawing No.

A003

of Total Sheets



# THE TRANSFORMERS

The permit application sheets are not a good presentation of context and character as must be considered in any review for a Fine Arts District. Almost by definition, Fine Arts are entirely a subjective category. The following information is to provide some more nuanced context for this installation, and also a little about the reactions of the audience, and in fact about who the audience is.

We provide some information about who the Transformers are.

The first two images are from the internet. These are a toy and a media image promoting the movies and characters. The third photo is of one of the actual sculptures, in this case also of Bumblebee. The statue to be placed on Prospect Street is an interpretation of the movie hero. The artist has made him up out of hundreds of automotive parts.

I also include several more images that demonstrate the original characters' *raison-d'être*- each of the figures is able to transform from some more earthly object into their hero mode, ie from car, truck, plane into Action.





WHAT ARE TRANSFORMERS



## CONTEXT

The second set of pics show how the statues occupy their place in the sidewalk. They encroach no more than the boxwoods did. The planters are just like the others down the rest of the block.





LOOKING EAST



LOOKING WEST



PLANTERS AT WEST OF 3614



FURTHER WEST



PLANTERS AT 3614

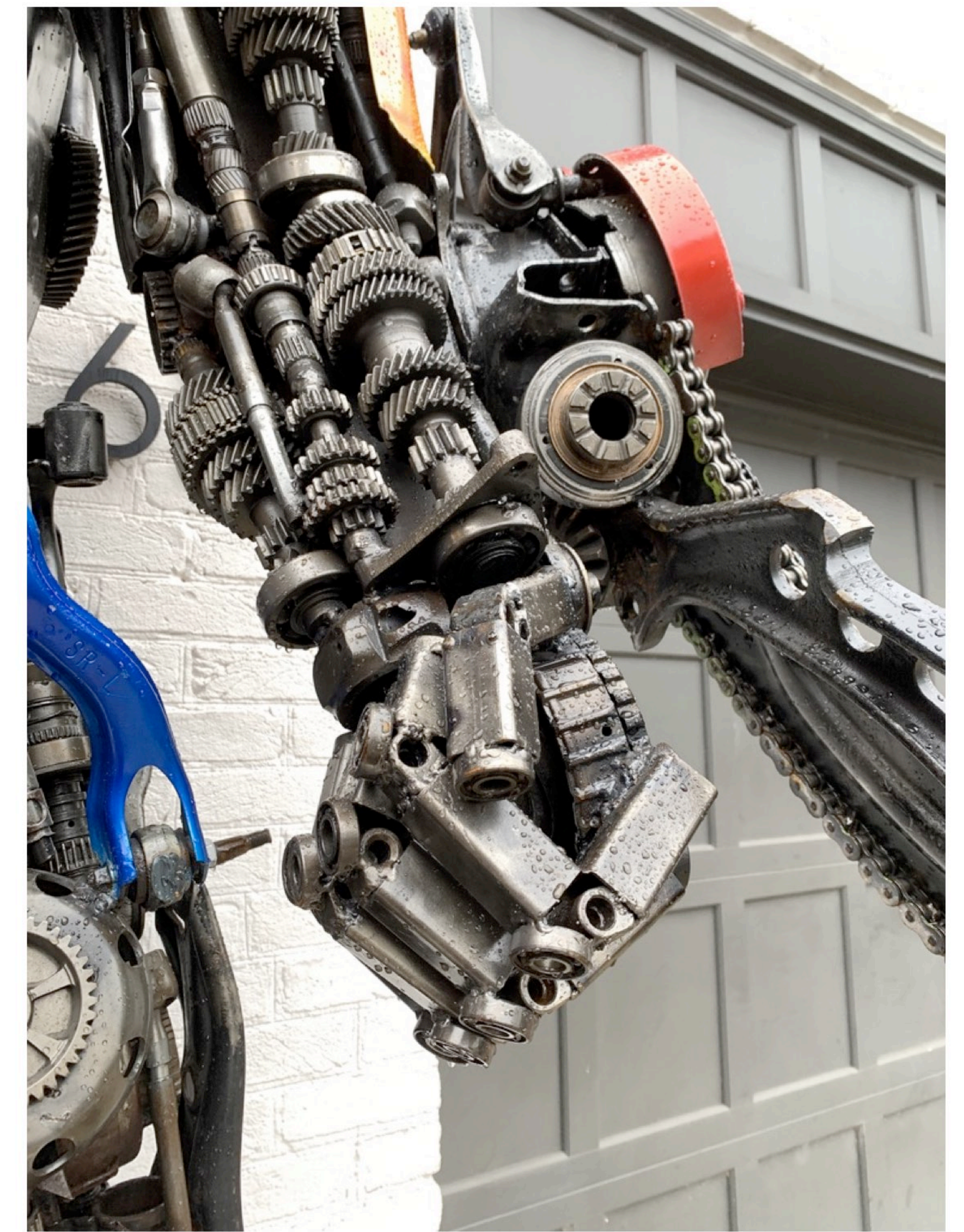
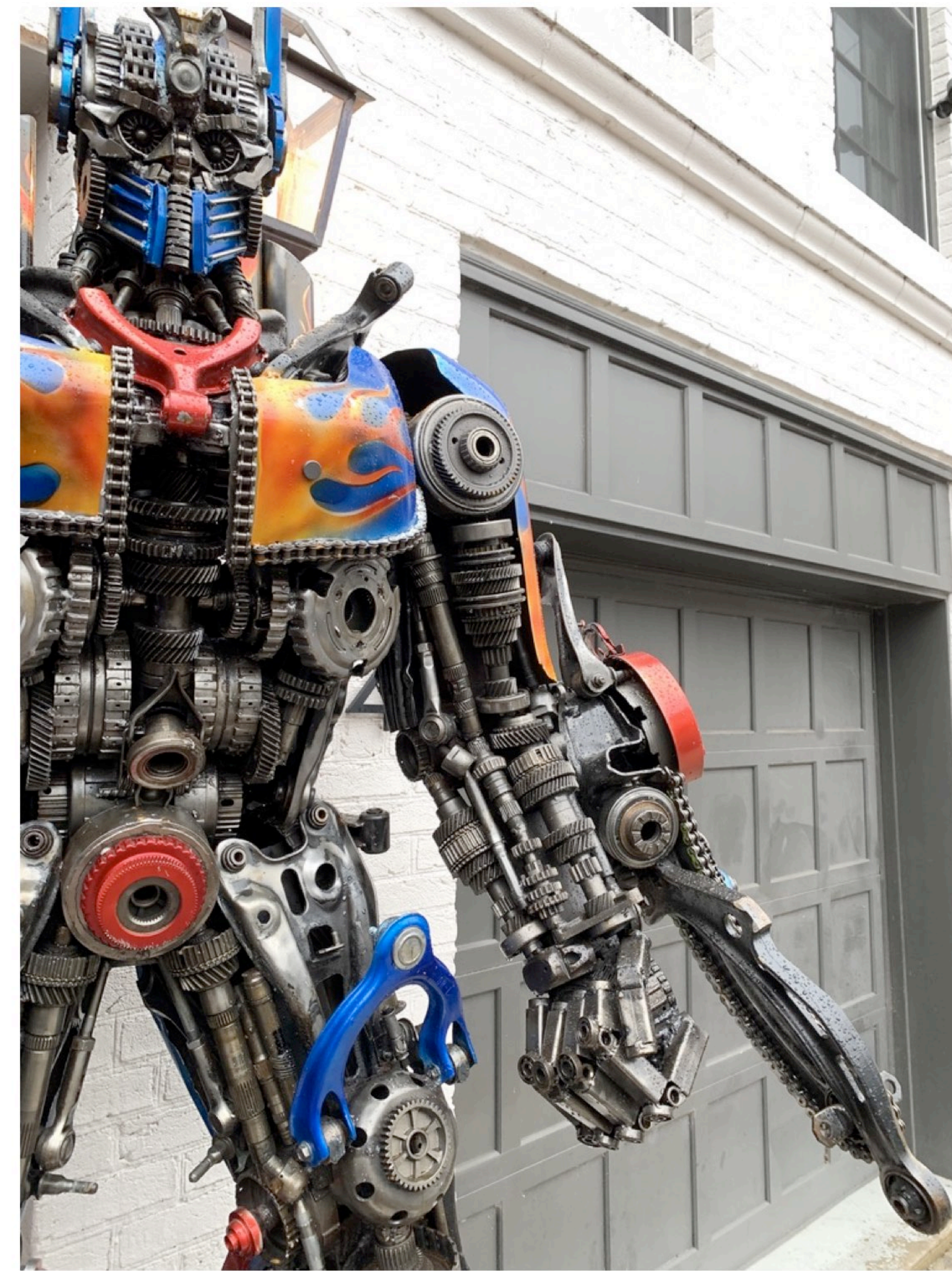
# CONTEXT



## THE ARTISTRY

Several photos zoom in on the actual fabrication of these works. Each is made of hundreds of automotive parts, selected for their size, texture and in many cases their functional resonance. Gears, springs, shocks, wheels all suggest movement and function.





ARTISTRY



## THE AUDIENCE

Prospect Street is a somewhat unique venue in Georgetown and DC. It feels somewhat formal and it seems to be a bit off the beaten path. Yet it is also a place where people of greatly varied ilk pass every day. There are tourists who have strayed from M St, there are students and their families, there are lots of contractors, and there are people from the neighborhood.

As you can see from the last group of photos, passers-by may be surprised by this unexpected encounter, but they are apparently delighted! Even if not very familiar with the Heros, like me they know generally who or what the statues represent. And so these figures grab ones' attention, create conversation, and of course require the inevitable selfie!

I hope I have been able to inject a little context. The Transformers were never a draw for me, notwithstanding my interest in most things automotive. Nevertheless, I now have an appreciation for this moment in our media culture that I did not before. And I certainly appreciate the workmanship, the selection of components and the gesture the artist was able to bring to each of these figures. While a bit startled at first, even skeptical, I now firmly believe these benevolent giants have found a good place to rest for a while.





AUDIENCE



Statue L  
10' H x 5' L x 3'5" W



Planter L  
12 1/2" H x 4'5" L x 3'4" W

Statue R  
10' 2" H x 5' L x 3'5" W

Planter R  
18 1/2" H x 4'5" L x 3'4" W