LETTER OF INTENT / ANSWER TO COMMENTS

After our first presentation and having listened to the concerns of the board, we would like to first make it clear that both the owner and the team in charge of the project are completely aware of the historical value that 826 Meridian Avenue represents and that our premise is to maintain its historical value, but at the same time all of us, Architects and Historic Preservation Board also share the responsibility to observe the needs of the residents of these valuable properties. From our position and in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Planning Dpt. Staff we have analyzed in depth all the available data in relation to the structure under discussion and it is our intention to inform you of the conclusions we have reached.

1 - We would like to address the comment about the proposed new structure being created for short-term rental use.

The owners of the property, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley's family is formed by two sons, one of which have four young children who will be taking the two rooms on the first floor. The rooms on the second level are destined to their parents and to the second son and his wife. The rooms in the proposed guest house are planned to accommodate exclusively family members. By looking at the floor plan it's easy to appreciate that each level shares a full bathroom and there is no living area, kitchen, or any other additional services since family members will be using the facilities in the main house, which counts with only two bedrooms, one for Mr. Wiley and the other one for Mrs. Wiley.

The Wiley family travels to Miami Beach several times a year for business, holidays and vacation and as described above, the proposed building is expected to provide the necessary comfort and privacy for each family group.

Furthermore, Mr. Wiley is a well-known businessman, founder of SKY Leasing, an aviation company with \$15 billion in equity capital and \$20 billion in aircraft transactions with significant presence in the United States and Ireland. Realistically, Mr. Wiley does not need the extra income that an Airbnb business could generate. It is not reasonable to think that the important investment that is envisioned to be performed in this property is intended to accommodate tourists at any time of the year.

2 - **Regarding the application for reclassification** and demolition of the garage structure, our request is based on the lack of historic characteristic of the structure due to the following reasons:

a - **The original structure**, of which there are no graphic documentation showing its original architectural characteristics or year of construction was transformed from a garage to a residential unit between 1944 and 1963 as deduced from the Permit Cards #17349 and #43865 respectively. (Exhibit 1)

Further proof of said remodeling appears on a demolition detail that is part of a remodeling plan permitted by the Building Department in 2005 that designates the habitable space as existing. (Exhibits 2 and 2B)

In 2005, as shown on plans approved by Miami Beach Building Department by permit # B0504618 dated May 2005, (Exhibit 3) the facade towards the alley was modified by demolishing one door and one window which were replaced by a modern window.

This fact alone proves that the project was reviewed and approved for remodeling by the building department and the commission in charge of historical conservation at that time, indicating that the building was considered non-contributing back then.

b – **The current appearance** of the structure not only does not reflect the architectural style of the main house, (Exhibit 4) but was grossly altered as can be seen from the attached stone accents and added modern style windows.

c – **Other factors** that lead us to propose the demolition of the structure are:

- The existing habitable unit's finish floor elevation is below flood level and lower than the main house finish floor elevation.
- Gas meter and Electrical Power meter are located outside the property line due to the structure's façade sitting right on top of the rear property line creating a significant risk to pedestrians and vehicular circulation through the alley. (Exhibit 4)
- Interior water lines are obstructed, and they should be entirely replaced.
- The structure shows damage and moisture coming from the foundation and upper structure.

3 - **Regarding height** of the proposed building and view obstruction to the neighbors, the buildings surrounding 826 Meridian Ave are three story high, with windows overlooking our courtyard, condition that adversely impacts the privacy of the property's outdoor area which by the way is the only green internal area in the whole block and that the proposed project plans on expanding.

The height of the proposed structure does not affect neighboring buildings in a different way than neighboring buildings affect our property, with the difference that in consideration of precisely this problem the proposed structure provides larger setbacks than required by the code, additionally to the rear setback of 3'-6" which was created with the intention of providing additional green buffer to a portion of the alley.

With the intention of explaining how minimal the proposed intervention is, Exhibit 5 shows the typical character of the block conformed by buildings topping their F.A.R. in contraposition with our project that keeps larger setbacks and a generous courtyard with very reduced occupied land area.

4 – **The rear elevation** had been re-designed to remove the screen that was going to allow green vines to climb up. Now the rear front counts with a simpler solution keeping just an architectural feature that breaks the façade and ground level landscape with palms running above the fence (Exhibit 6).

Hoping that this letter helps to clarify the board's doubts and to better understand the intention of our proposal, we remain at your disposal to answer any questions.

Ricardo Muñiz, A.I.A.

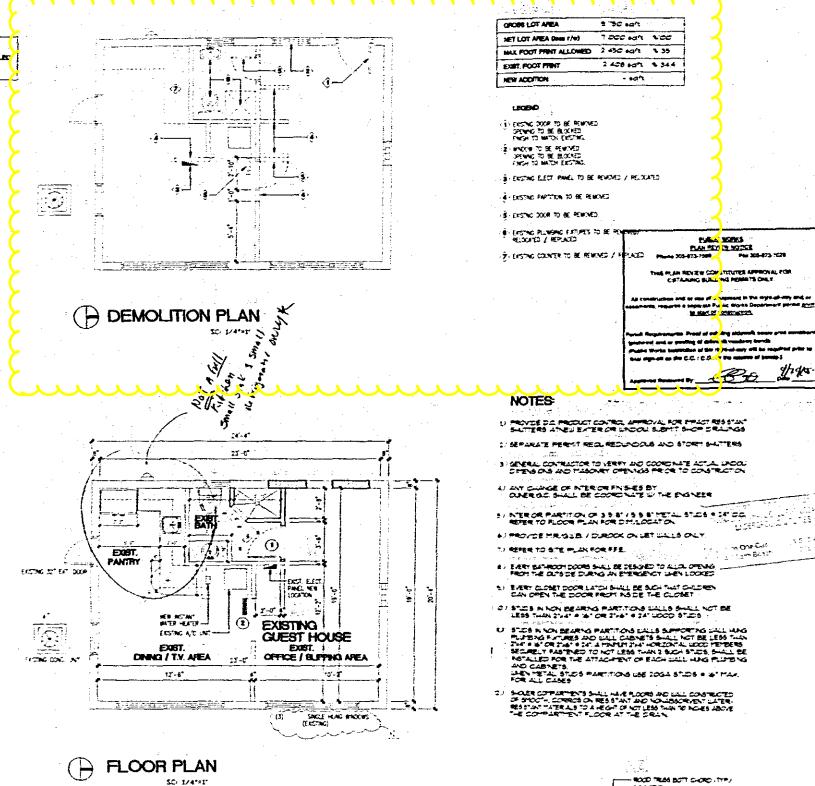
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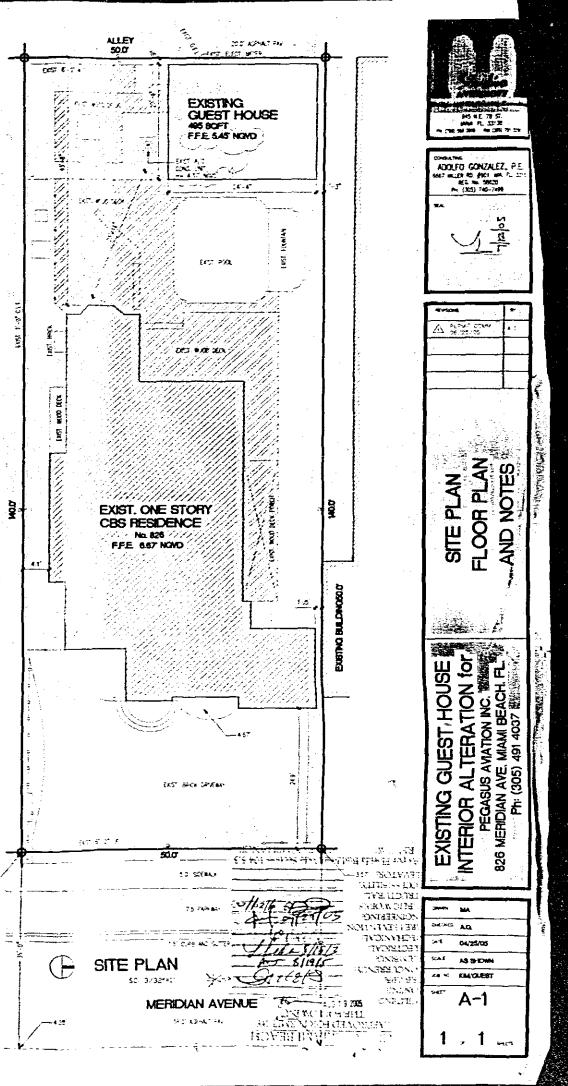
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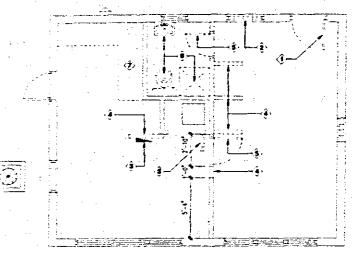
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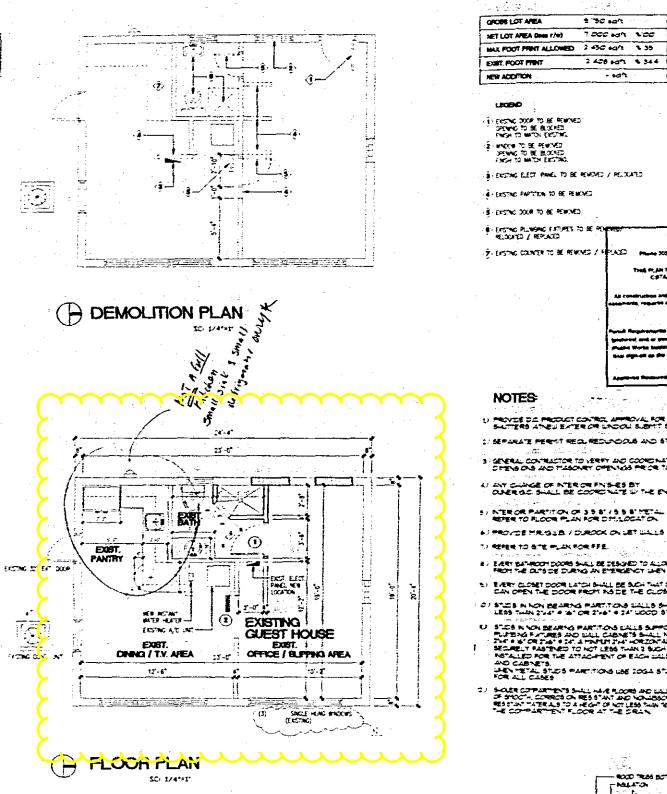
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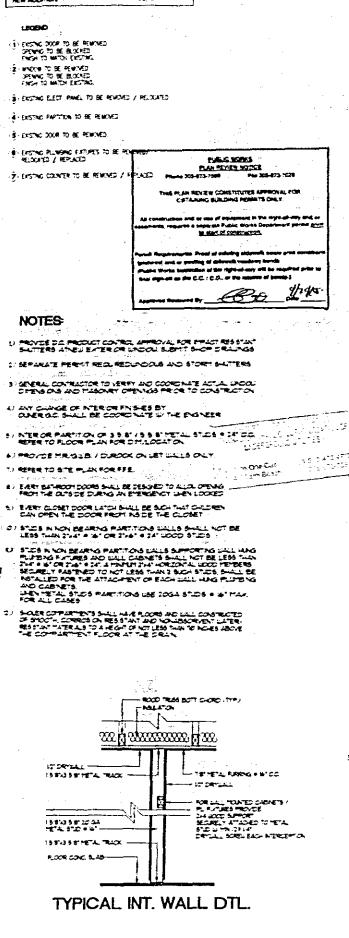
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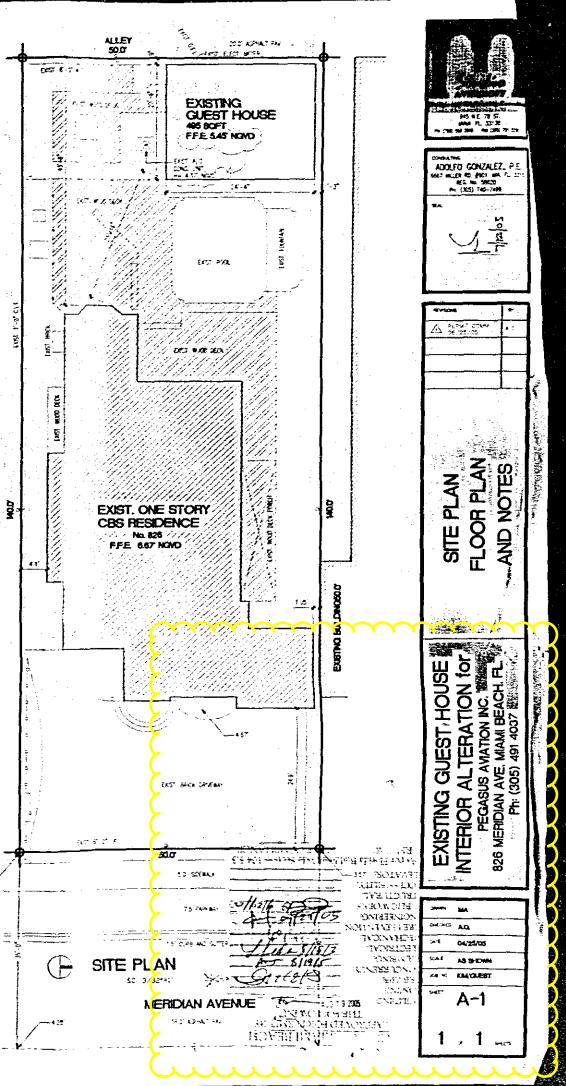


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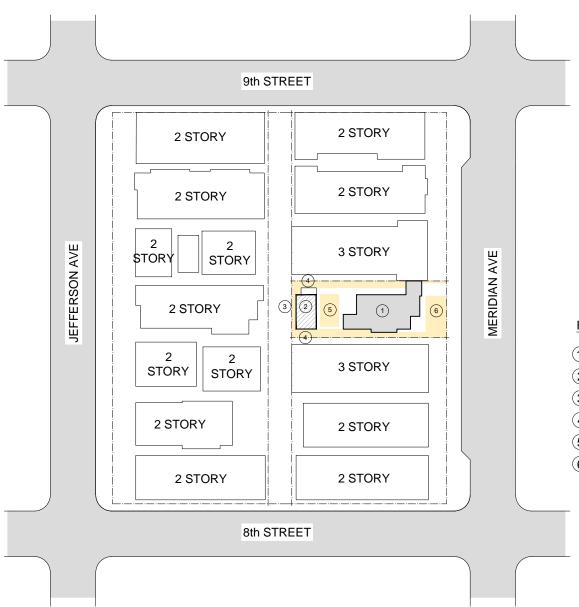


Existing West Façade - Rear View



Gas and electrical equipment on ROW

826 MERIDIAN AVENUE - BLOCK CHARACTERSTICS



REFERENCES

- (1) EXISTING ONE-STORY HISTORICAL HOUSE
- (2) PROPOSED TWO-STORY STRUCTURE
- (3) GREEN BUFFER TO ALLEY
- (4) OVERSIZED SIDE SETBACKS
- (5) GREEN COURTYARD
- 6 RECOVERED GREEN AREA



West Façade - Rear View