

# Commission for Architectural Review Application for Certificate of Appropriateness

900 E. Broad Street, Room 510
Richmond, VA 23219 | (804)-646-7550
www.rva.gov/planning-development-review/commission-architectural-review



Property (location of work)

Address: 618, 620 Chamberlayne Parkway, Richr	mond VA
Historic District: Jackson Ward	
Applicant Information	Owner Information Billing Contact
Name: Forrest Frazier	☐Same as Applicant
Email: forrest@twostreet.com	Name: Alex Lugovoy
Phone: 646.285.7192	Email: alex@dobrinproperties.com
Company: Two Street Studio	Phone: 917.301.6641
Mailing Address: 311 N 2nd St, Richmond, VA 23219	Company: 1309 Claiborne LLC
	Mailing Address: 304 E Main St, Richmond, VA 2321
Applicant Type: Owner Agent Lessee	
☐ Architect ☐ Contractor ☐ Other (specify):	
Architect	**Owner must sign at the bottom of this page**
Project Information	
Project Type: Alteration Demolition [	New Construction (Conceptual Review Required)
Description (attach additional sheets if needed):	
Acknowledgement of Responsibility	
Compliance: If granted, you agree to comply with all condi- Revisions to approved work require staff review and may r Commission of Architectural Review (CAR). Failure to com- delays or legal action. The COA is valid for one (1) year and request and payment of associated fee.	require a new application and approval from the apply with the conditions of the COA may result in project
Requirements: A complete application includes all applicate CAR website to provide a complete and accurate description payments of the application fee. Applications proposing mounty staff to review the application and requirements prior and signature is required. Late or incomplete applications of the application and requirements of the applications of the application and the applications of the applica	on of existing and proposed conditions, as well as ajor new construction, including additions, should meet to submitting an application. Owner contact information
Zoning Requirements: Prior to Commission review, it is the approval is required and application materials should be pr	e <u>responsibility of the applicant</u> to determine if zoning repared in compliance with zoning.
Signature of Owner <u>Alex huy</u>	Date 1/10/22

## TWO STREET STUDIO

Forrest Frazier, AIA 311 N 2nd Street Richmond, VA 23219 (o) 804 774 7180 (m) 646 285 7192

January 10, 2022

## **Commission of Architectural Review**

900 E. Broad St. Room 510 Richmond, VA 23219 804.646.7550

Re: 618, 620 Chamberlayne Parkway

Dear CAR Commissioners and Staff,

This memorandum is the applicant's written description as part of the application for the properties located at 618 and 620 Chamberlayne, to be reviewed by the Commission of Architectural Review (CAR) for the proposed construction of two new attached double houses on the properties known as 618 and 620 Chamberlayne Parkway ("Chamberlayne Row"). An application for this property was previously submitted by the applicant and reviewed by CAR in February 25, 2021. Since then, Two Street Studio initiated a new design for this application from scratch.

Chamberlayne Row is located on the east side of Chamberlayne Parkway subtending Jackson and Price Street in the Historic Jackson Ward. Jackson Ward is a neighborhood composed "[predominantly] of brick row houses" with "shallow set-backs, usually 10 feet of less" composed of "excellent examples of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne style houses throughout the District." Although Jackson Ward remains "one of the least altered residential neighborhoods in the City," Chamberlayne Row is located in close proximity to Interstate I-95 / I-64 Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike, an interstate that razed and bisected the northern portion of Jackson Ward in the 1950s. The Site is adjacent to many vacant lots and a tattered urban fabric resulting from the construction of that Interstate.

The owner of the Site proposes constructing two attached double houses, three stories with the third floor set back 14' from the front facade. Each dwelling contains three bedrooms and four and half bathrooms in approximately 1,988 sf of finished floor area. The design of the homes is contemporary and contextual in its siting, materials, massing and form.

Jackson Ward is largely dominated by a rational, orthogonal grid that expands into several downtown Richmond neighborhoods. Only Brook Road and Chamberlayne Parkway intersect the grid at an incongruous angle, creating idiosyncratic lots. From this geometric disruption emerge some of the neighborhood's most dynamic and unique architecture. 618 and 620 Chamberlayne are highly irregular five sided lots that have a prominent side elevation atypical for a mid-block lot. The design of Chamberlayne addresses the primary and side elevations by contextually orienting the traditional "front" of the building within 3' of the front lot line<sup>3</sup> and carefully considering the side elevation. While the middle two dwelling units' front doors face Chamberlayne, the entry to the northern and southern most units is along the side elevation, adding ambiguity to the otherwise simple hierarchy of front and side facades.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> City of Richmond, Department of Planning and Development Review. *Old & Historic Districts of Richmond, Virginia: Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*. Published Online, October 2017,

https://www.rva.gov/sites/default/files/Planning/PDFDocuments/PlanningPreservation/CAR/Old\_Historic\_District\_Guidelines.pdf. p 24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 46.

The building's materials further this dialogue between the primary and side facades. The design proposes the front facade facing Chamberlayne be of a more machined brick similar to the pressed brick facades that dominate the neighborhood. The side facade switches to a more handmade "common brick," typical of historic townhomes. Other masonry details pay homage to traditional construction methods while expressing the contemporary condition of masonry as a curtain wall or veneer. For example, header courses project from the face of the wall, creating relief and shadows, while tie-back bricks turn inside out and protrude from the facade.

The massing and form of the Chamberlayne Row are deliberately contextual yet expressive of its contemporary program. The two lots comprising Chamberlayne Row occupy just over one third of the lot. Modular bays delineate each residence, while the block of four dwelling units read as a singular work of architecture. Although the lot to either side of Chamberlayne Row is vacant, a two story street wall with a similar height as its neighbors is employed along Chamberlayne. The buildings face the most prominent street, Chamberlayne Parkway, and are human scale. The contemporary layout of an open plan on the first floor with five bedrooms in the floors above creates a more atypical side elevation, with a brick volume anchoring and defining the setback third floor.

Exterior cladding, doors and windows, foundation and roofing are noted on the attached drawings. The selection of each is consistent with the *Old and Historic Districts of Richmond Virginia: Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* and nearby structures. A finish schedule including doors and windows is provided in the attached drawings.

Urban landscapes are often referred to as fabrics, but at Two Street Studio we take the analogy further, conceptualizing each neighborhood as a quilt. Chamberlayne Row would not only add a compatible patch to Jackson Ward, but would also in part mend a tattered edge. We welcome any additional discussion or recommendations from the Commissioners or Staff to that end.

#### REVISIONS FROM NOVEMBER MEETING OF CAR

The design has been revised such that the entry into each townhouse is now along the primary facade facing Chamberlayne Street. Furthermore, a porch further pronounces each entry and the proportion and arrangement of the windows along the primary facade are reconfigured. More detail has been provided on the facade brickwork (A2 & D13 on A301) and the common brick along the side elevations (H10 on A302). Furthermore, the HVAC units and trash enclosure have been screened along the rear facade.

### REVISIONS FROM DECEMBER MEETING OF CAR

The design has been revised so that the entire of the facade facing Chamberlayne Ave is brick. The brick reveals have been revised such that 16" recessed brick divide each townhouse, and a 4" brick reveal runs the center of each townhouse. All windows on the facade are now single hung. The massing of the side elevations has been revised such that the center side bay no longer runs to the roof, but rather the 3rd floor, reducing the massing of the secondary side elevation.

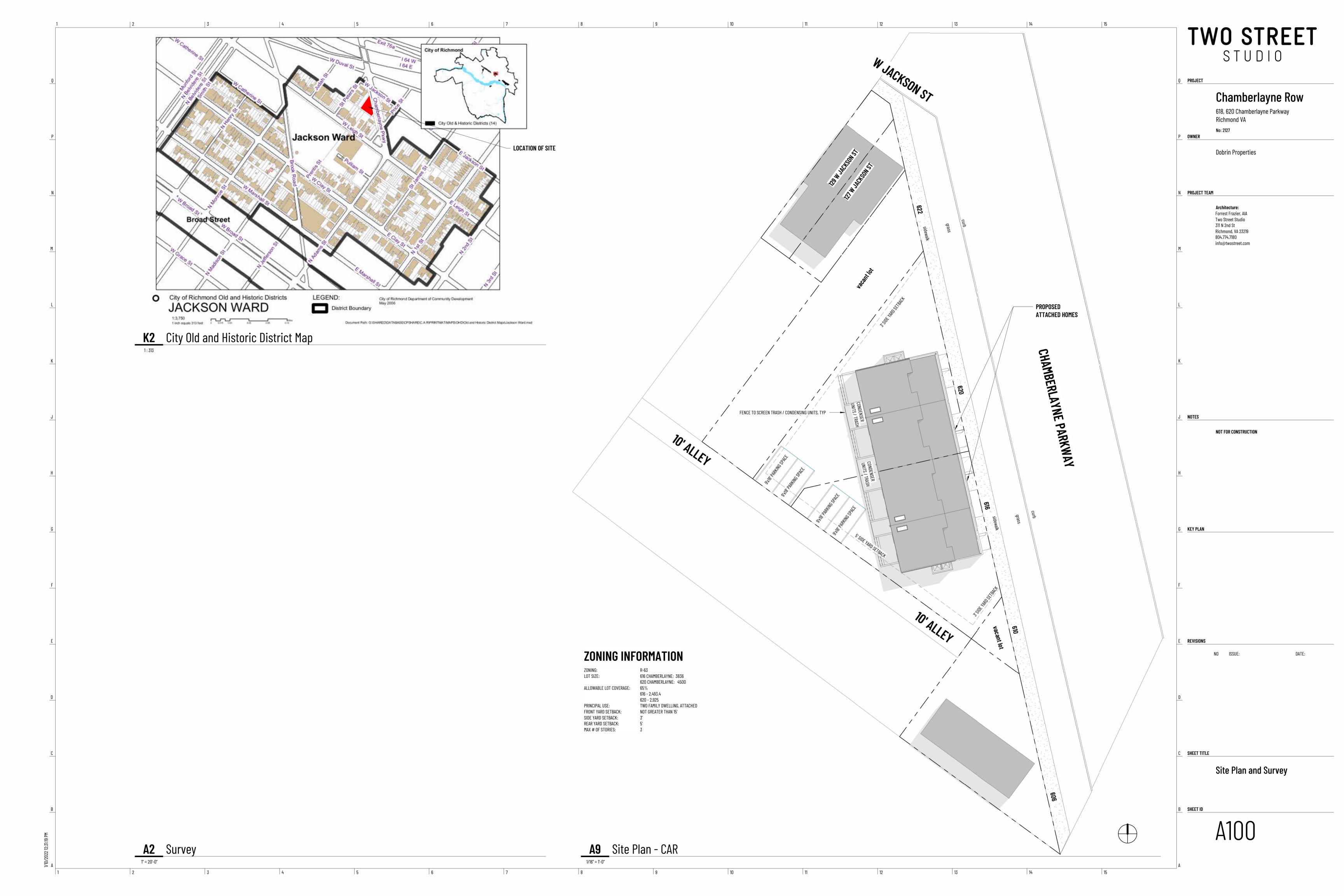
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Forrest Frazier		
Sincerely,		

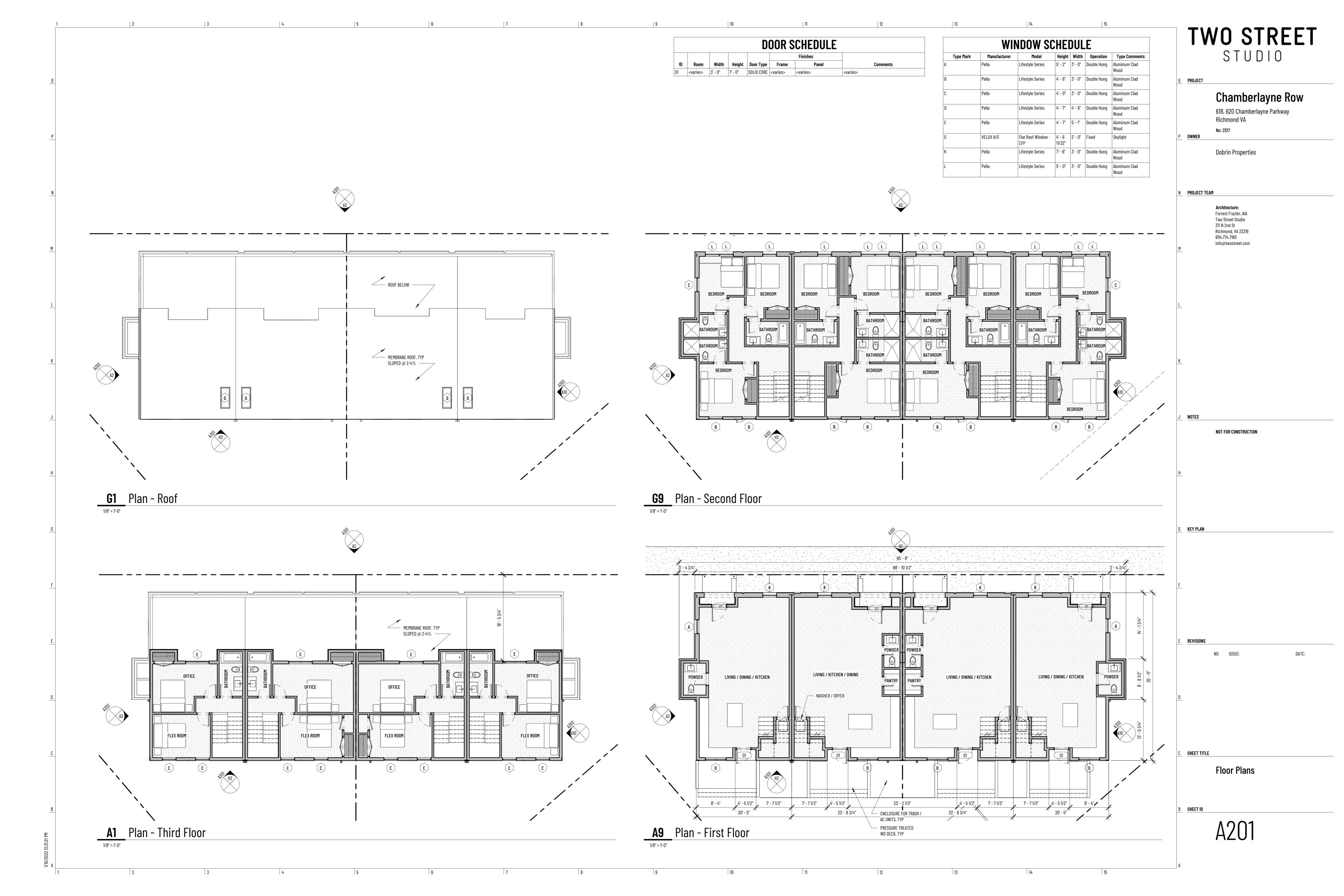
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 46.

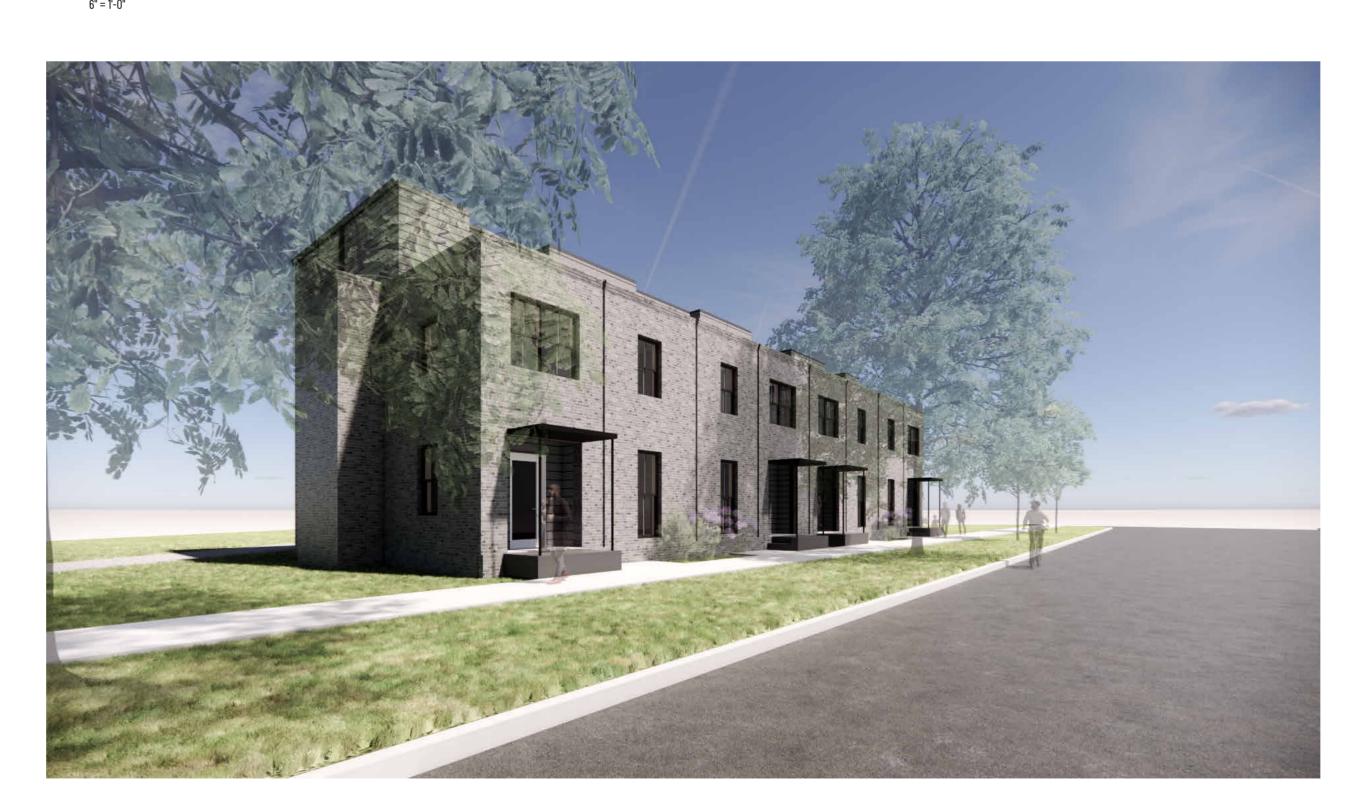








**G9** Front Elevation



A10 Rendering from Street Looking North

TWO STREET STUDIO

Q PROJ

Chamberlayne Row 618, 620 Chamberlayne Parkway Richmond VA

N. 0107

**Dobrin Properties** 

N PROJECT TEAM

Architecture:
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NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

KEY PLAN

ISSUE:

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**Perspectives** 

SHEET ID

008A