

Porch Renovation
Chris Costello
2 Church Lane

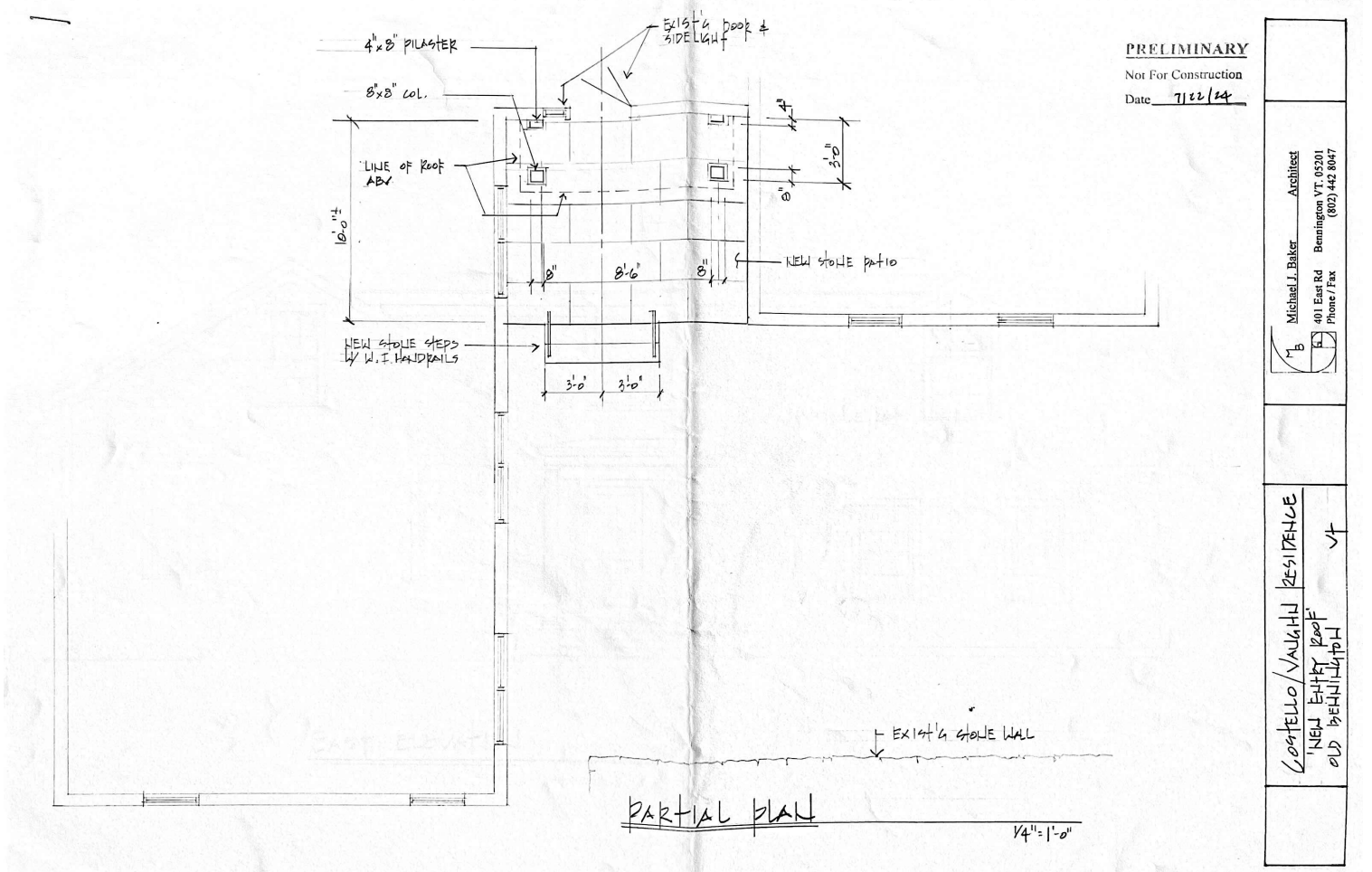
Currently, the entry porch to our house looks like the photos below. Note the rotting wood on the left, above and below, the deteriorated mortar and brick, and loose slate. The metal rail is also quite wobbly and not safe. Also note the odd design and placement of the door relative to the window above it, the two different heights of roof line on either side, and the window to the right of the porch, which prohibits making a porch roof any wider than 3 feet. The position of the door cannot be changed due to an interior wall.







This was a design challenge beyond my skills, so I called on Mike Baker, architect, for help. After much discussion we arrived at a compromise I could live with. This included creating a long, columned membrane-surfaced rain roof, moving the stairs to disguise the asymmetry of the door with the window, and a replacing the slate patio with bluestone, in the same dimensions.



However, after observing the porch over the seasons, I realized that a full stone porch would have the same problems as the current slate one: ice buildup on either side from roof runoff in the winter, making it unsafe. Also, it would never be a comfortable place to sit in the summer, due to the harsh west sun in the afternoon (the time I like to sit outside).



As a consequence, I have made some modifications of Mike's design. The porch roof will remain about the same length. The Dutch door and side window will be replaced with a single energy-efficient door with windows in it. The porch will be approximately 4 feet deep, constructed of wood. The columns will remain. There will be a small gap and gravel trench on either side of the porch and along the sides of the house to allow for runoff. Plantings and a stone path will fill the area between the house walls where the porch originally extended.

See revised drawings below. Note that the side window on the door will be removed and replaced with clapboard and a half-column.

