



# CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS PLACARD

for Raleigh Historic Resources

**Project Description:**

Prune tree; plant replacement tree

904 Dorothea Dr

Address

Boylan Heights

Historic District

Historic Property

COA-0045-2025

Certificate Number

4/14/2025

Date of Issue

10/14/2025

Expiration Date

*This card must be kept posted in a location within public view until all phases of the described project are complete. The work must conform with the code of the City of Raleigh and laws of the state of North Carolina. When your project is complete, you are required to ask for a final zoning inspection in a historic district area. Telephone the RHDC office at 832-7238 and commission staff will coordinate the inspection with the inspections Department. If you do not call for this final inspection, your Certificate of Appropriateness is null and void.*

Signature, \_\_\_\_\_

*Collette K*

Raleigh Historic Development Commission

*Pending the resolution of appeals, commencement of work is at your own risk.*

Type or print the following:

Applicant name:

Mailing address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Date:

Daytime phone #:

Email address:

Applicant signature:

*Joseph Huberman*

Minor work (staff review) – one copy

Major work (COA committee review) – ten copies

Additions > 25% of building sq. footage

New buildings

Demolition of building or structure

All other

Post approval re-review of conditions of approval

**Office Use Only**

Transaction #: \_\_\_\_\_

File #: **COA-0045-2025**

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Received date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Property street address:

Historic district:

Historic property/Landmark name (if applicable):

Owner name:

Owner mailing address:

**For applications that require review by the COA Committee (major work), provide addressed and stamped envelopes for owners for all properties with 100 feet on all sides of the property, as well as the property owner.**

Property Owner Name & Address

Property Owner Name & Address

Property Owner Name & Address	Property Owner Name & Address

I understand that all major work applications that require review by the Raleigh Historic Development Commission's COA Committee must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the date of the application deadline; otherwise, consideration will be delayed until the following committee meeting. An incomplete application will not be accepted.

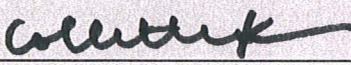
<p>Will you be applying for rehabilitation tax credits for this project?          Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Did you consult with staff prior to filing the application?          Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Office Use Only</p> <p>Type of work: <u>74, 80</u></p> <hr/>
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Design Guidelines: please cite the applicable sections of the design guidelines ( <a href="http://www.rhdc.org">www.rhdc.org</a> ).		
Section/Page	Topic	Brief description of work (attach additional sheets as needed).

**Minor Work Approval (office use only)**

Upon being signed and dated below by the Planning Director or designee, this application becomes the Minor Work Certificate of Appropriateness. It is valid until 10/14/25.

Please post the enclosed placard form of the certificate as indicated at the bottom of the card. Issuance of a Minor Work Certificate shall not relieve the applicant, contractor, tenant, or property owner from obtaining any other permit required by City Code or any law. Minor Works are subject to an appeals period of 30 days from the date of approval.

Signature (City of Raleigh)  Date 04/14/25

# 904 Dorothea Drive, Raleigh NC

## Prune Dead Trunk from Tree

I would like to remove the dead trunk from a fur tree with 5 well developed healthy trunks. The center trunk has completely died. There have been no live branches on it for several years. The surrounding trunks are in good health and the largest remaining trunk is almost as large. The tree as a whole is thriving. If I leave the dead tree as a snag I am afraid it will fall or drop branches onto the sidewalk, road, and power lines.

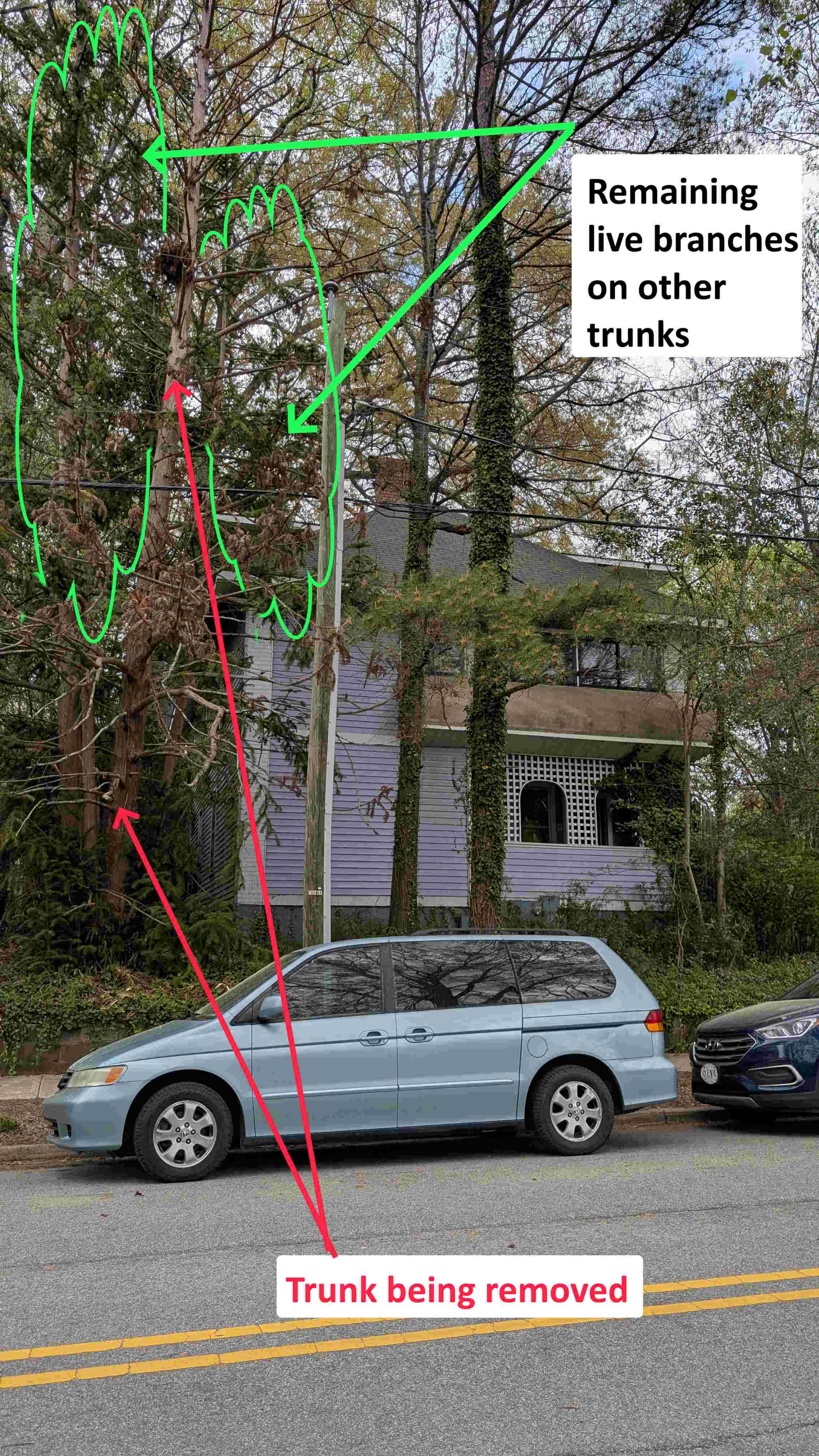
I planted an Oak tree in the yard ~10 years ago to prepare for other trees dying. Replacement trees need to be planted long before mature trees are going to die or be removed. The oak is doing quite well. We also are growing two new Redbuds in the front yard near the fur tree. A more appropriate tree for the location.



This is the dead trunk  
The others are healthys

**Remaining  
live branches  
on other  
trunks**

**Trunk being removed**





Dead Trunk

Dead branches  
attached to  
Trunk

There are no dead branches  
on the healthy trunks.



**2 of 4 trunks  
that will remain**

**2 new redbuds**





**New Oak  
Tree**

904 Dorothea Dr

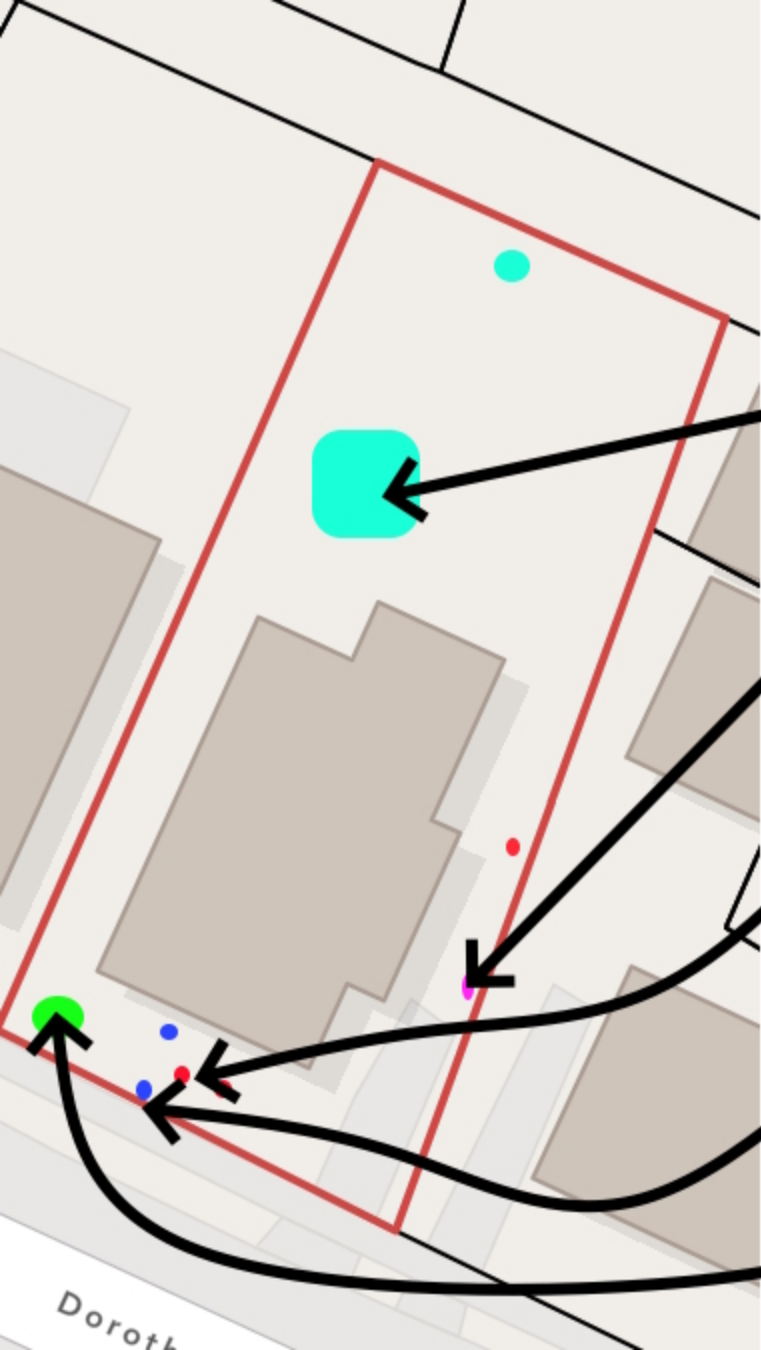
Huge Oak

New 10yr Oak

3 yr Redbuds

2 Mature Pines

Tree to be pruned



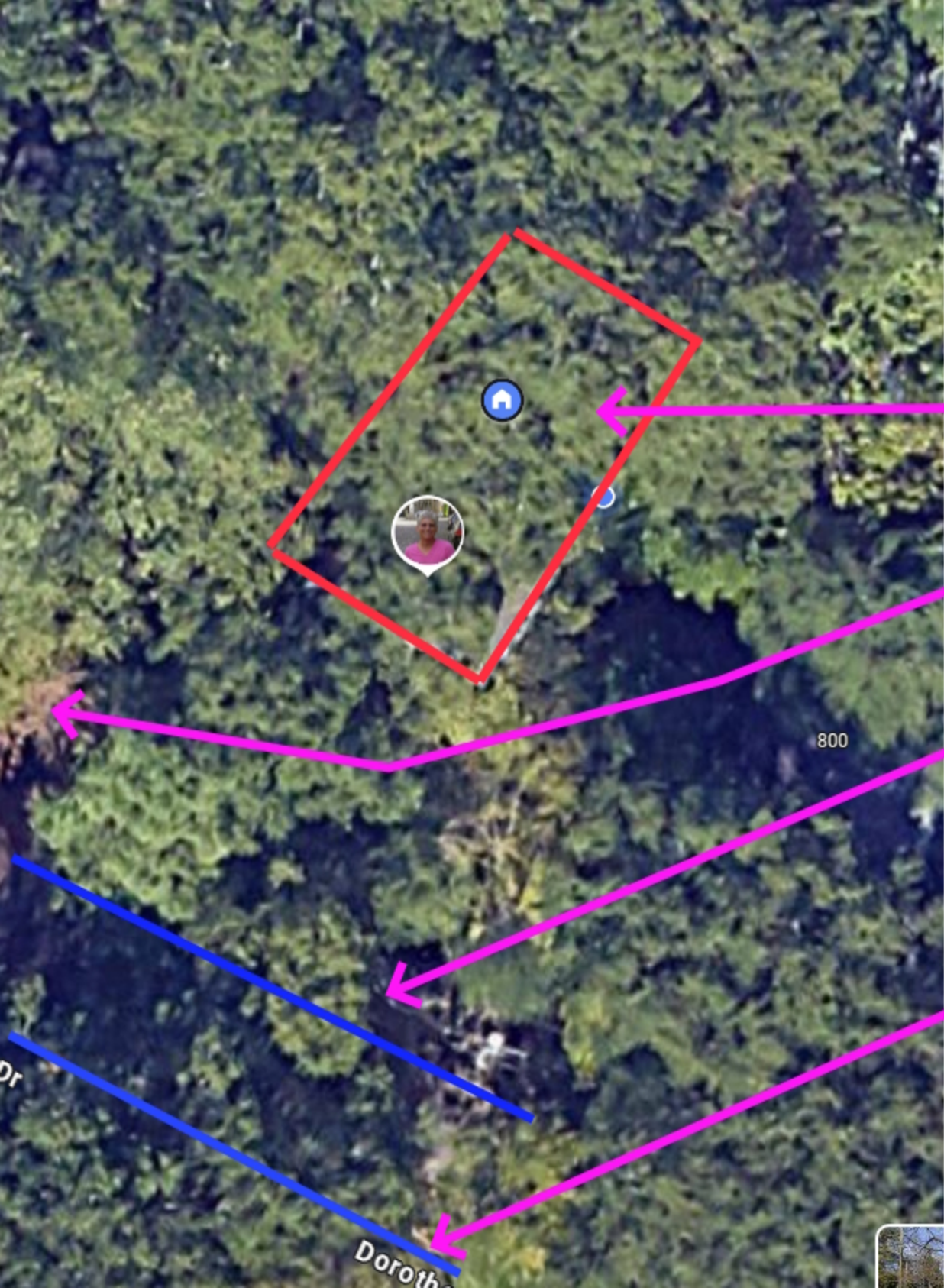
904 Dorothea Dr  
current tree  
cover

Aprox  
location of  
house

top of dead  
trunk

Aprox  
sidewalk  
line

Aprox curb  
line



800

Dorothea





**Dead trunk  
to be  
removed**

**Largest of  
healthy trunks  
to remain**

# Philip Bernard, LLC

Landscape Design and Consultation  
221 Glascock Street Raleigh NC 27604  
[jpbernard@earthlink.net](mailto:jpbernard@earthlink.net) 919-247-8794

April 9, 2025

Joseph Huberman  
904 Dorothea Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Mr. Huberman,

Thank you for contacting me to evaluate the necessity for a major pruning of the mature Chinese Fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*) tree in your front yard adjacent to Dorothea Drive.

As you indicated, the central leader and main trunk of the tree has died while leaving the healthy auxiliary or secondary trunks intact. As the central leader has died, it does pose a safety concern and should be removed. From an aesthetic view, pruning out the central leader should not greatly affect the appearance of the tree as long as the cut is not made too close to the current base. It is difficult to determine why the central leader died and the rest of the tree remains healthy, but this pruning should be done and should not affect the overall health of the tree.

I agree with your plan to climb the central leader removing the branches on the way up, and then cut chunks on the way down so that there will be no damage to the rest of the tree by trying to fell it. Also, I think it is wise to leave about 8 ft standing and do not risk cutting into any live wood. That way, there won't be a possibility of damaging the base by trying to cut it low.

As mentioned, I received my B.S. in Landscape Horticulture from Virginia Tech and have been in private practice as a residential landscape designer and consultant in Raleigh since 2008.

Good luck with the pruning and I hope that the Chinese Fir continues to flourish as it is a fine specimen and one of the largest ones I've seen in the area.

Sincerely,

Philip Bernard,

Philip Bernard, LLC