

City Council Staff Report

Meeting Date: May 7th, 2024

Item: Applicant Kenny Bittick requests a variance from Section 5-2.5(A)(8) to reduce the minimum heated floor area from 1,500 square feet to 728 square feet at 5224 West Mountain Street and 5232 West Mountain Street.

Department: Planning & Zoning

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Presented By: City Planner Edwards

Action Requested: Staff recommends approval with conditions.

Summary:

The applicant is requesting a variance to reduce the minimum heated square footage of a single-family home in the Traditional Residential (R-2) zoning district from 1,500 square feet to 728 square feet at 5224 West Mountain Street and 5232 West Mountain Street.

Background:

The applicant received final plat approval from the City of Stone Mountain Planning Commission on January 22, 2024. The applicant has submitted the final plat to DeKalb County for recording and obtaining new parcel numbers. The new addresses will be 5224 West Mountain Street and 5232 West Mountain Street, once the plat is officially processed by DeKalb County.

The applicant is requesting variances from Section 5-2.5(A)(8) to reduce the minimum heated floor area from 1,500 square feet to 728 square feet. The heated floor area is the area of the home that is heated and provides living area for the occupants. Typically, garages, carports, attics, and accessory structures are not included in the minimum heated floor area.

Staff reviewed the surrounding lots and obtained the "living area" square footage from the DeKalb County Tax Assessor's website. It appears that only one existing home within the area meets the current code requirements. These homes would be considered legal, non-conforming.

Address	"Living Area"
5238 West Mountain	1,184
5246 West Mountain	1,138
5254 West Mountain	1,324

5260 West Mountain	1,059
5266 West Mountain	1,353
5275 West Mountain	972
5283 West Mountain	986
5214 West Mountain	1,024
1000 Hill	1,453
1002 Hill	1,824
1016 Hill	1,054
1024 Hill	1,286

Analysis: Pursuant to Article II of the City of Stone Mountain Zoning Ordinance, Staff has reviewed the variance request in accordance with the required review criteria.

- A. There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular property in question because of its size, shape or topography. There are not any extraordinary or exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular property in question because of its size, shape or topography.
- **B.** The application of the zoning ordinance to the particular piece of property would create an unnecessary hardship. The strict application of the zoning ordinance would not create an unnecessary hardship.
- **C.** Such conditions are peculiar to the particular property involved. These conditions are not peculiar to this particular property.
- **D.** Such conditions are not the result of any actions of the property owner. This request is for new construction so this would create a condition as a result of the owner's desire to construct a "cottage style" development
- E. Relief, if granted, would not cause substantial detriment to the public good nor impair the purposes or intent of this zoning ordinance.
 It is not anticipated that the proposed use would cause detriment to the public good.

Comprehensive Plan:

The Comprehensive Plan calls for Single-Family Residential as the future land use designation. This land use type calls for single-family residential development. The needs assessment portion of the Comprehensive Plan does address the need for new housing options and the need for affordable and equitable development. This project could be more affordable and equitable than other new residential developments in the city.

This property also falls within the Traditional Residential Character Area within the Comprehensive Plan. This character area calls for primary land uses that include single-family detached residences, town houses, and park and recreation space. It also includes development of new single-family homes on ¼ acre lots or less. Further, it recommends promoting new single- family residential development with historic character.

Recommendation:

Pursuant to Article II of the City of Stone Mountain Zoning Ordinance, Staff has reviewed the request in accordance with the required review criteria and recommends **APPROVAL** of the variance from Section 5-2.5(A)(8) to reduce the minimum heated floor area from 1,500 square feet to 728 square feet with the following conditions:

- 1. The development shall be substantially in compliance with the site plan dated January 19, 2024.
- 2. The square footage of the home shall not be less than 728 square feet.
- 3. Short-term rentals shall be prohibited for both lots.
- 4. All parking shall be located in the side or rear yards.

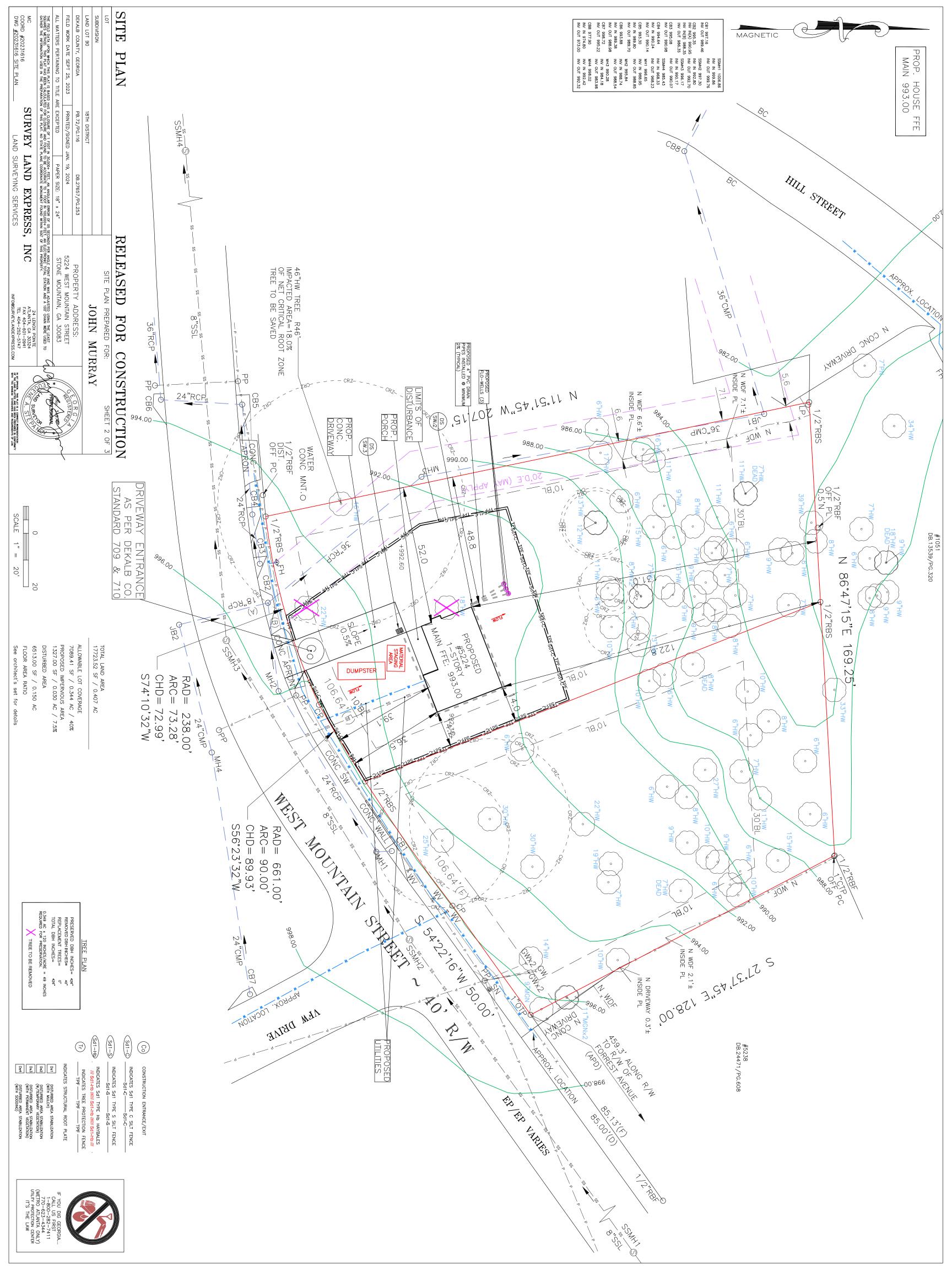
On March 18, 2024, the Planning Commission recommended **APPROVAL** of Section 5-2.5(A)(8) to reduce the minimum heated floor area with the following conditions:

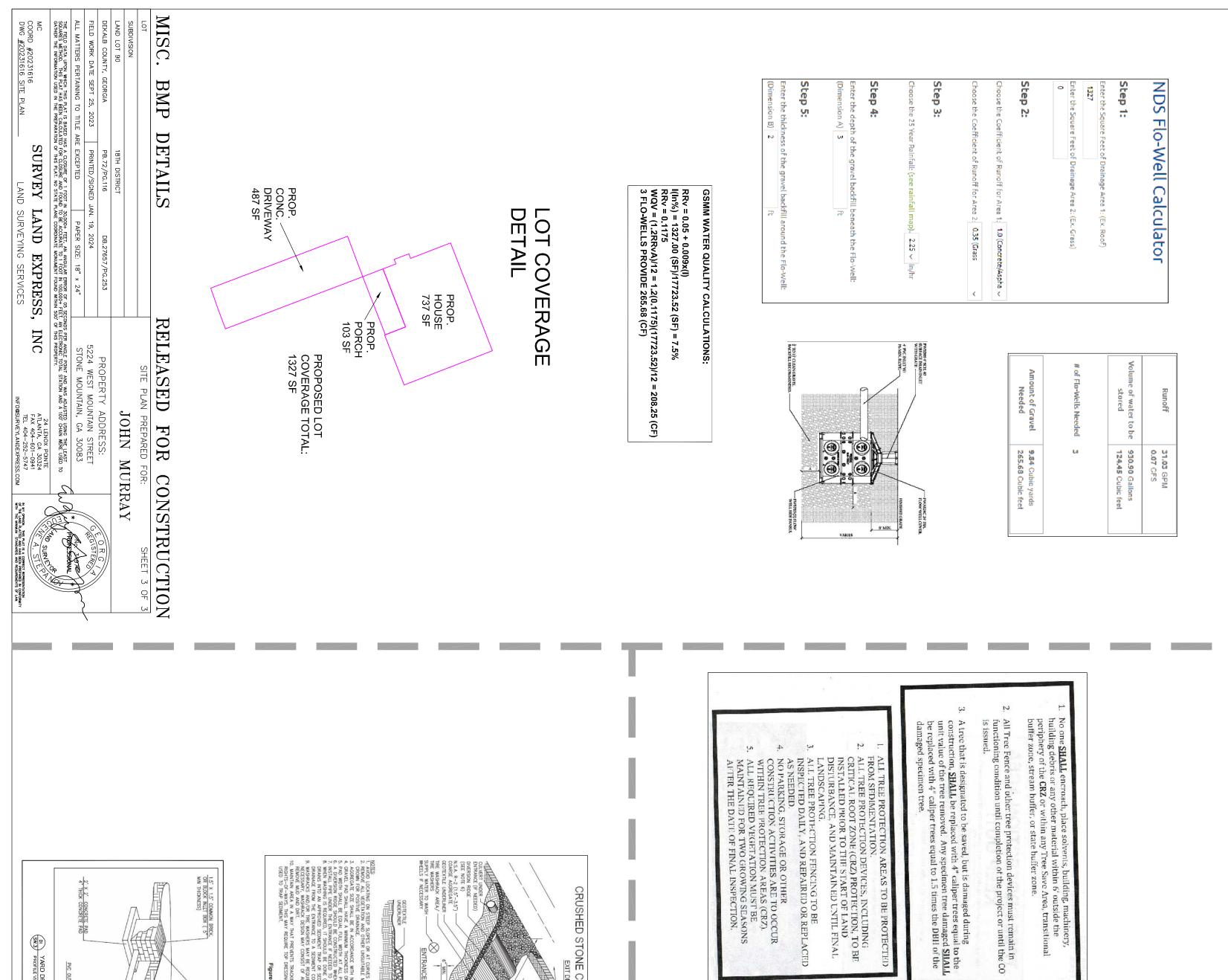
- 1. The development shall be substantially in compliance with the site plan dated January 19, 2024.
- 2. The square footage of the home shall not be less than 972 square feet.
- 3. Short-term rentals shall be prohibited for both lots.
- 4. All parking shall be located in the side or rear yards.

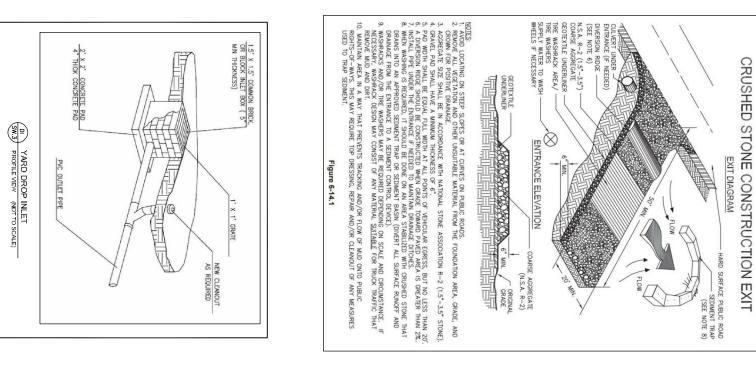
Fiscal Impact: N/A

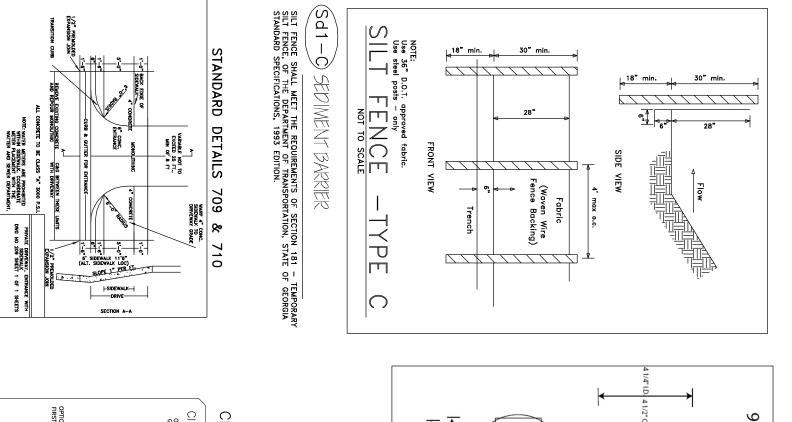
Attachments/Exhibits: (1) Site Plan (2) Variance Application (3) Applicant Statement (4) Applicant Presentation

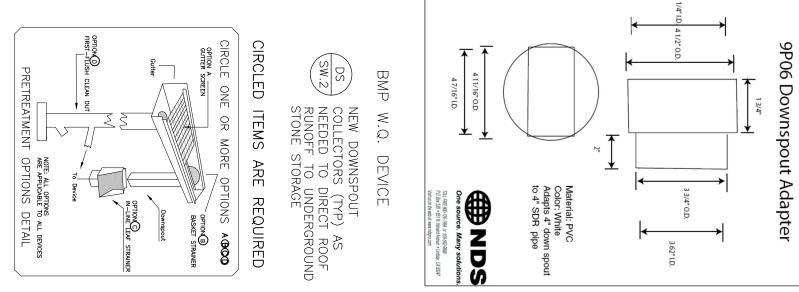
CONSTRUCTION 24 HOUR CONTACT: Renny Bittick (478) 225-7319 Renny Bittick (478) 225-7319 Renny Bittick (478) 225-7319 Regen A Stepanov Lugene A Stepanov 1080 Realm Lane Able Quality Constructional Mutual Water Stepanov Numbritick1@gmail.com Lugene A Stepanov 10006554 Owner Info: John G Murray Numbritick1@gmail.com Numbritics 1127/2024 Events: 01/27/2024 1127/2024 Dohn G Murray Lieb Construction Numer 00006549 1127/2024 Dohn G Murray 162 Chadwick Lake Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Numer 10006554 Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Numer 1127/2024 Events: 01/27/2024 Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Construction Lieb Constructio	
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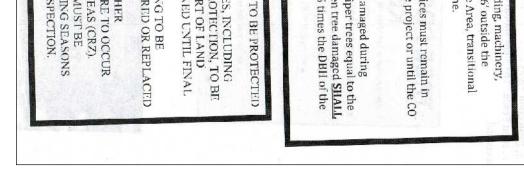




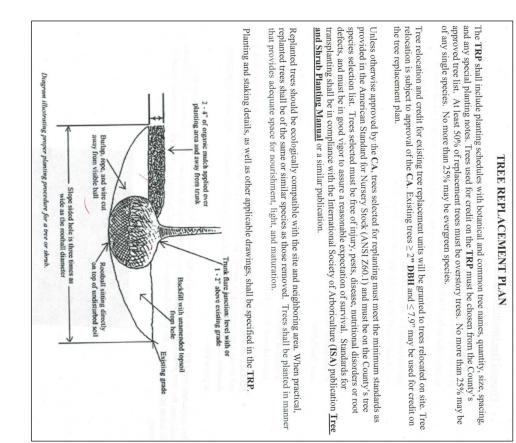












IT'S THE LAW	I awrenceville GA 30043			24 LENOX POINTE ATLANTA, GA 30324 FAX 404-601-0941 TEL 404-252-5747	MC SURVEY LAND EXPRESS, INC COORD #20231616	MC
IF YOU DIG GEORGIA CALL US FIRST 1-800-282-7411 770-623-4344 (METRO ATLANTA ONLY) UTILITY PROTECTION CENTER	er Info: G Murray	CERTIFICATION NUMBER 0000065549	(478) 225-7319 kennybittick1@gmail.com	IOUNTAIN STREET	DRK DATE SEPT 25, 2023 PRINTED/SIGNED JAN. 19, 2024 TERS PERTAINING TO TITLE ARE EXCEPTED PROT NO WHOL THIS PLAT IS BASED HAS A COUSURE OF 1 FOOT IN 30.000 - FEET, AN USO ON OF THIS PLAT. IS BASED HAS A COUSURE OF 1 FOOT IN 30.000 - FEET, AN USO ON OF THIS PLAT. HAS BEEN CAULANTED FOUND STATE PLANE COORDINATE NOUNDED TO THUM WHIN 500' OF ENCOUND IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAT. NO STATE PLANE COORDINATE NOUNDED TO THUM WHIN 500' OF ENCOUND	FIELD ALL N THE FIE SQUARE GATHER
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MC COORD #20231616 DWG #20231616 SITE PLAN

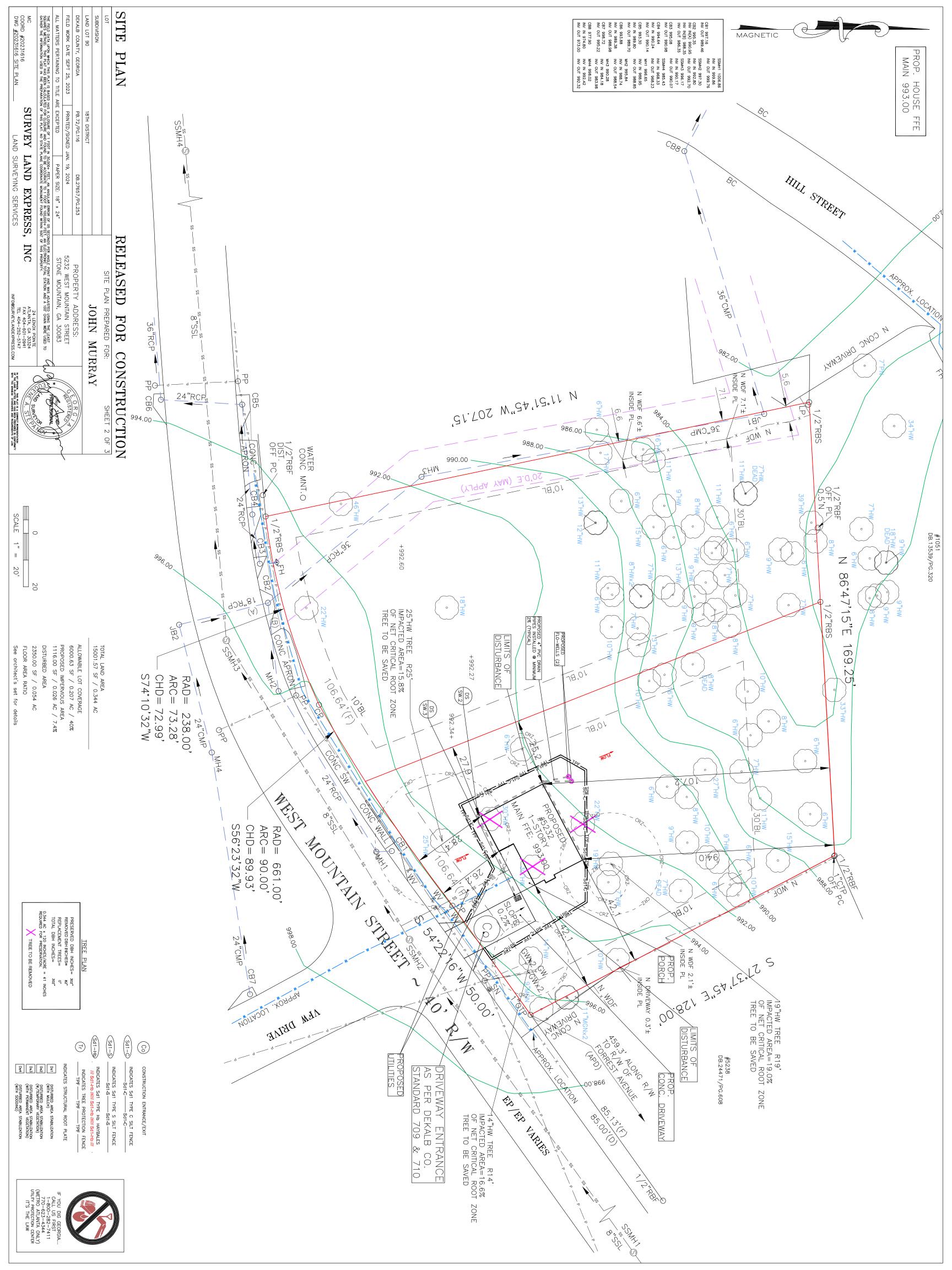
SURVEY LAND EXPRESS, INC

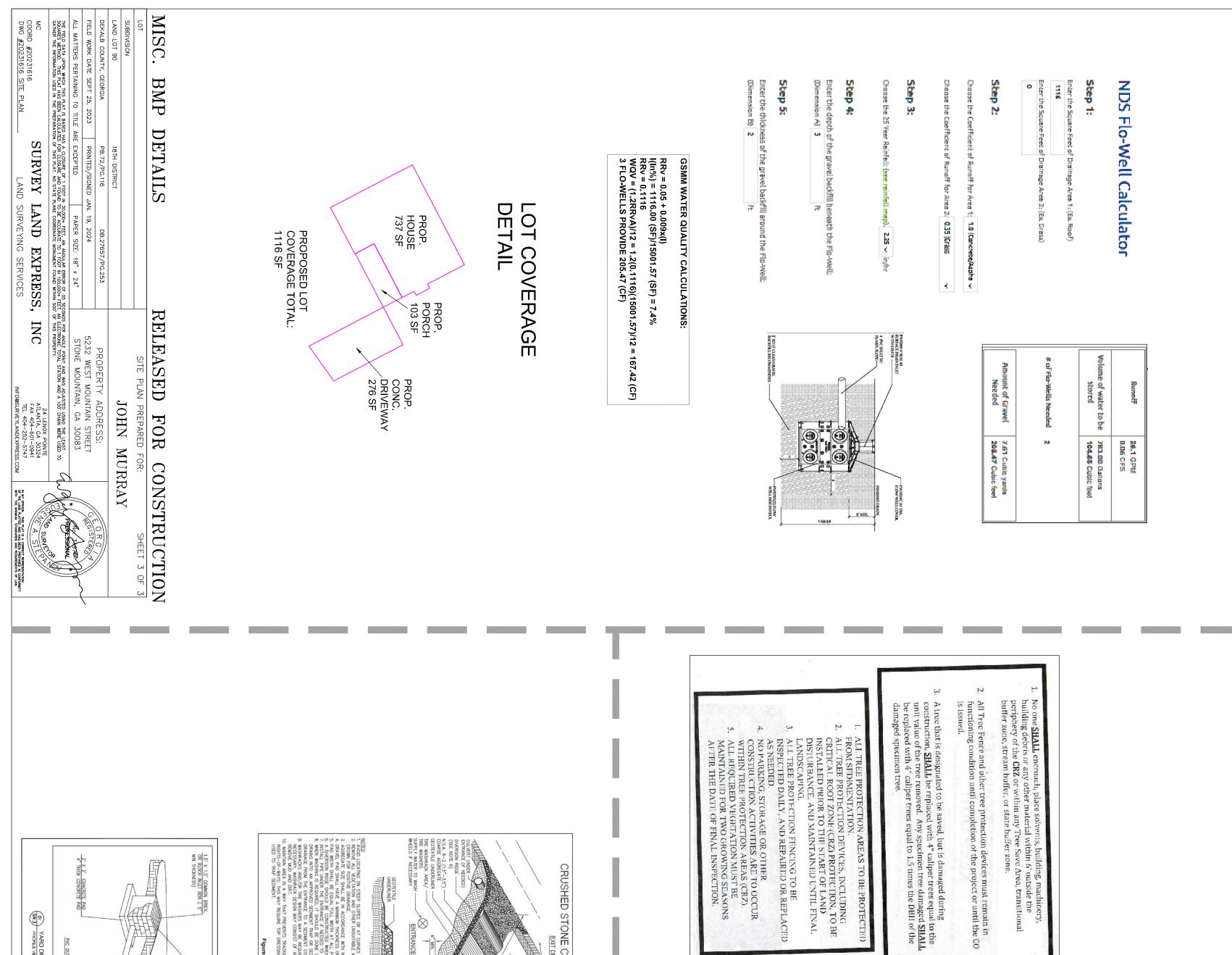
24 LENOX POINTE ATLANTA, GA 30324 FAX 404-601-0941 TEL 404-252-5747 INFO@SURVEYLANDEXPRESS.COM

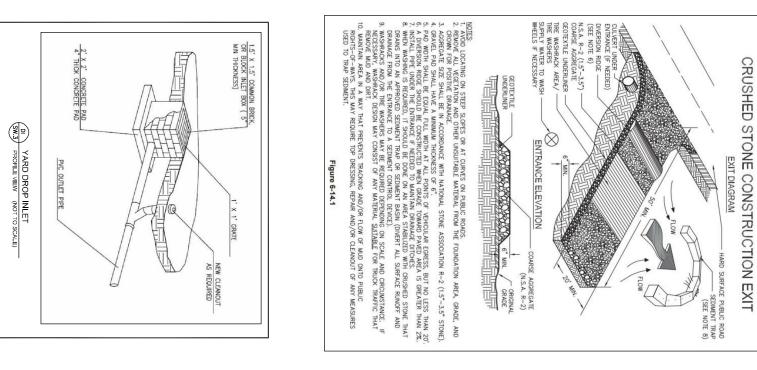
IN MY OPINON, THIS PLAT IS A CORRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE LAND PLATED AND HAS BEEN REEVARED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MINIMAN STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF LAW.

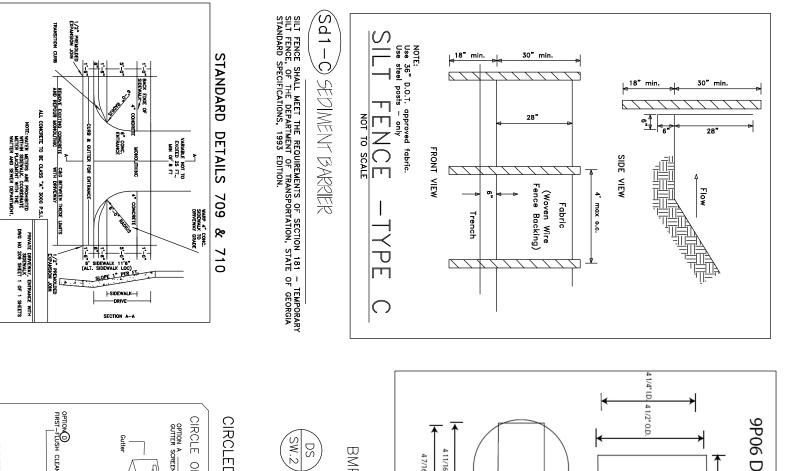
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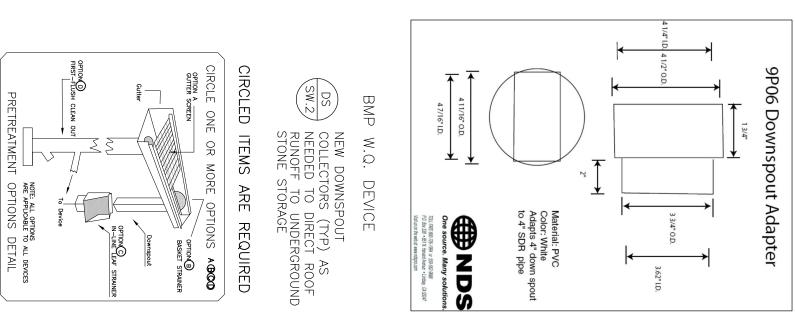
John G Murray 1162 Chadwick Lake Drive Lawrenceville,GA 30043

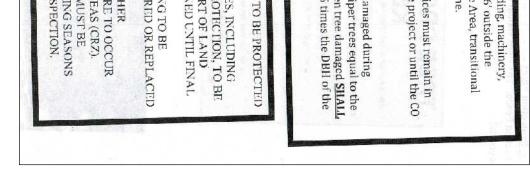




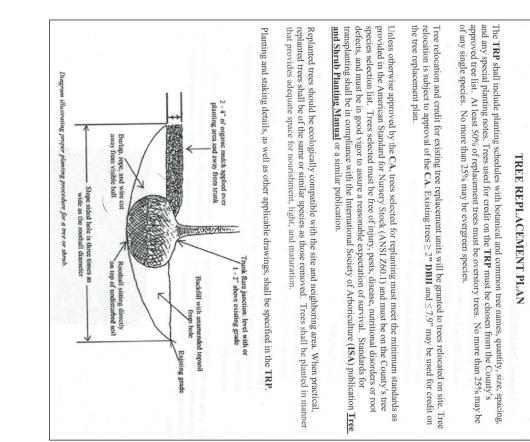












12/2/08 Rev. 04

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE(S) Bitticu APPLICANT'S NAME: KUNNY 110 Lake Tup G APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: Roswell STATE: GA ZIP: 30076 CITY: - CELL #: 478-225-7319 OFFICE #: HOME #: Kenny bittich 1@ gmail.com EMAIL ADDRESS: + 5232 West Mountain Street ADDRESS OF PARCEL FOR VARIANCE(S): 5224 CITY: Store Mtn STATE: 6A ZIP: 30083 CURRENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: **R2** PROPOSED ZONING CLASSIFICATION: **R2** LAND USE CLASSIFICATION AS SHOWN ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT MAP: Kesidential family Simple hom 2023 2/1 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT THE INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED IF THE OWNER(S) OF THE PROPERTY IS DIFFERENT FROM THE APPLICANT. THE PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE BELOW AUTHORIZES THE APPLICANT TO APPLY FOR A VARIANCE(S) AS INDICATED ABOVE. IF THE PROPERTY HAS MORE THAN ONE OWNER, THE NOTARIZED SIGNATURE OF ALL PROPERTY OWNERS SHALL BE REQUIRED (USE PAGE 3 FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES) REAM PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: ChADW: le ADDRESS: CITY: LAWRENCE MILE 3804 STATE: ZIP: 5.3367 **BUSINESS** # HOME #: EMAIL ADDRESS: Gmail 2023 IGNATURE OF PROPERTY OWNER in SIGNATURE OF NOTARY 08/17/ 2024 COMMISSION EXPIRES Page 2 of 5

Variance for 5224 and 5232 West Mountain Street

We are seeking to build a 2bd/ 1bath cottage on each lot. We are seeking a variance for the minimum sqft build size and for the carport/garage space. The city code says a new construction must be 1500 sqft minimum but out cottage will be 780sqft. We will are also requesting a variance as city code says a new construction must have a 2 car carport/garage. We are wanting to keep the look consistent with the neighbors and only have driveway parking.

The Cottages at West Mountain

By Kenny Bittick & John Murray

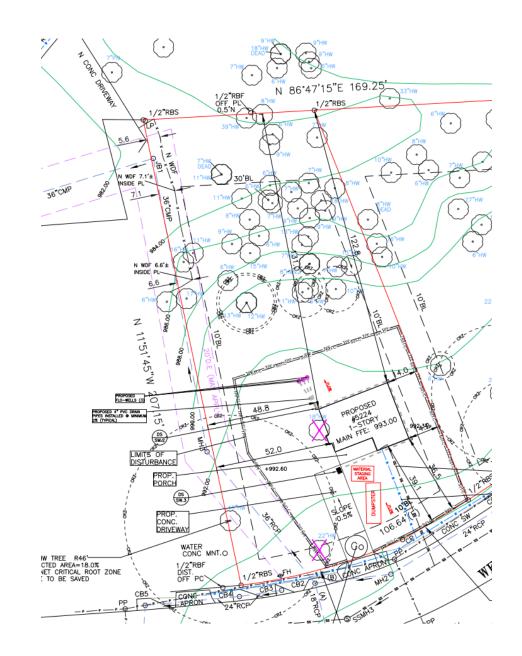




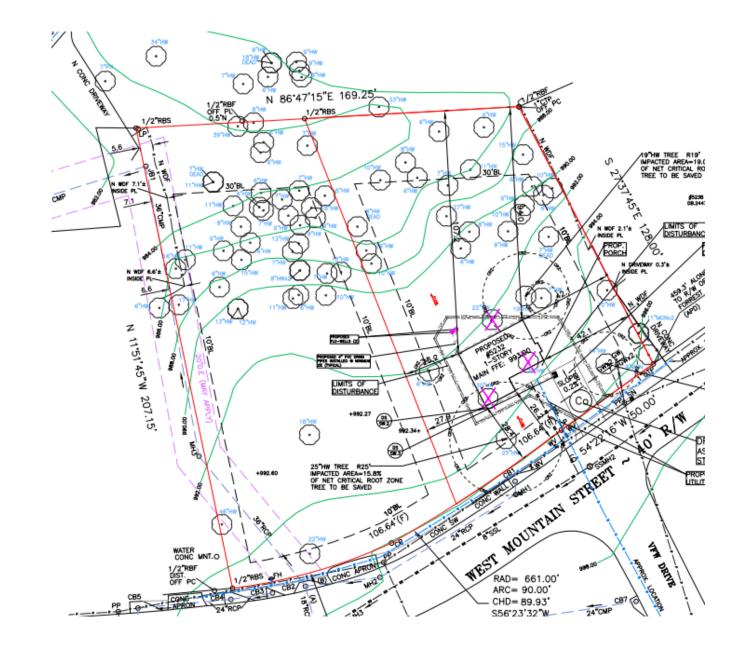
Start with Why?

- Targeting niche populations: young professionals, empty nesters looking to downsize, singles.
- Bring back budget friendly housing
- Emphasis on intentionally built homes.
- Well developed landscaping being in harmony with its surroundings
- 2 bd, 1 bath
- 737 sqft

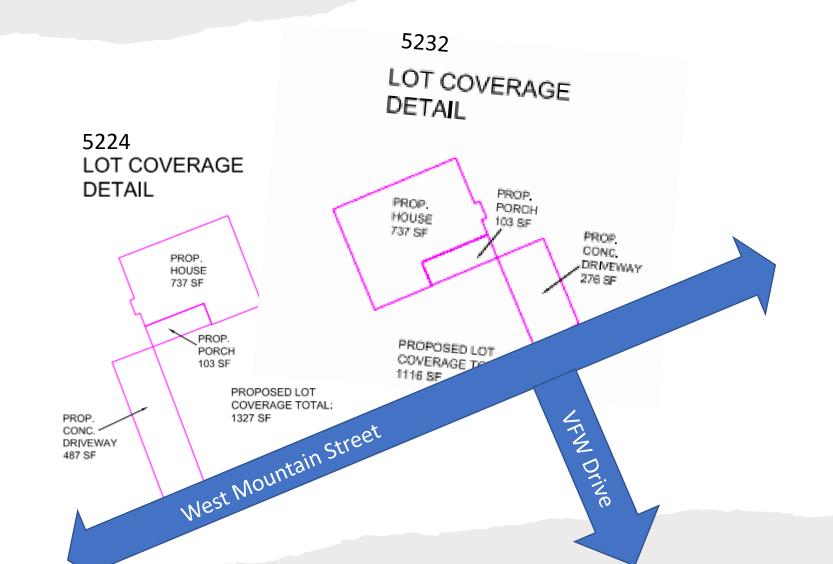
5224 West Mountain Street Cottage



5232 West Mountain Street Cottage



How The Cottages sit on the lots



Variance Requests

- Driveway but no garage/carport
- 2. Less than 1500 sqft



Variance Request #1 No Garage or Carport

Immediate neighborhood stats

• 24 existing houses

Majority of existing homes do no have a Garage OR a Carport

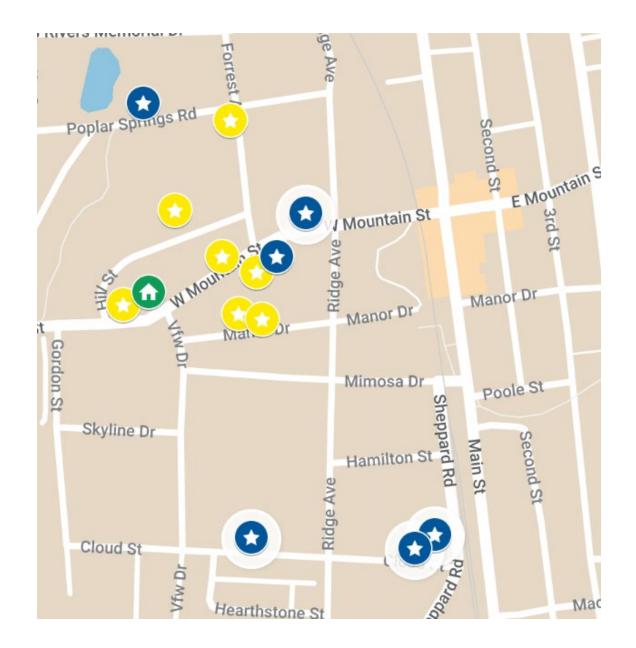
54% have no garage/no carport 25% have a garage 21% have a carport



- **Green Checks** Houses with no carports/garages
- **Yellow Circles** Houses with 1 or 2 car carport
- Red X- Houses with Garages

Variance Request #2 Less than 1500sqft

- Houses next door well below sq ft requirement (1184 and 1052sqft)
- Green House- West Mountain Cottages
- Yellow Stars- Between 1100-1000 sqft
- Blue Stars- Below 1000sqft



Small House, High Value

- Our target price for each cottage is \$230,000 which works out to be \$315 per square foot.
- The average price per sqft sold over past 2 years was \$182.54.
- Even though the cottages are small, they won't drag down home prices.



A new path to Home Ownership

 According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 56% of adults in the US would consider living in a home that is less than 600 square feet.

 A new Dekalb County ordinance was passed unanimously at the Dec. 12 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting. It will allow for independent homes that can be as small as 350 square feet.



Questions and Comments