

Olmsted County Planning Department

May 3, 2021

Oronoco Town Board/Board of Adjustment

Prepared by: Olmsted County Planning Department Staff

- Request: Oronoco Township Variance Request OR2021-001VAR by Jake Kostel. The request is for a proposed addition to the existing dwelling to encroach the 30 ft front yard setback.
- Location: The property is located in the northwest ¹/₄ of the northwest ¹/₄ of Section 2 in Oronoco Township.
- Zoning: R-1 Low Density Residential

ACTION ITEMS

The applicant requests approval for the	Based on the findings of fact planning staff	
variance to allow an addition to encroach the	to encroach the recommend denial of the variance to build an	
required front yard setback.	addition that encroaches into the required	
	front yard setback.	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Background:

The property is zoned R-1 Low Density Residential District. The property is in shoreland district of the Zumbro River. The applicant would like to build an addition onto the dwelling (front porch) that would encroach into the 30 ft front yard setback. The applicant volunteered to have a survey conducted to ensure they were, in fact, encroaching into the 30 ft front yard setback as the porch would encroach by approximately 1.2 ft (the covered stairway encroaches by 1.2 ft and the NE corner of the porch encroaches by 0.7 ft). The applicant is requesting a variance to encroach the front yard setback by 2.5 ft.

Referral Comments:

No referral comments of note were submitted.

The applicant requests the following:

The applicant is requesting a variance to allow an addition on a dwelling to encroach the 30 ft front yard setback.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Staff Findings:

According to Section 4.08 Subdivision in the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance, a variance from a provision of this zoning ordinance may be granted by the Board of Adjustment in those cases where the zoning ordinance is found to impose unnecessary hardship to a property owner. The Board of Adjustment may not permit as a variance any use that is not permitted for the property in the district where the affected person's land is located.

- A. Criteria for Granting a Variance: A variance may be granted only when the applicant for the variance establishes that there are practical difficulties in complying with the official control. Economic considerations do not constitute practical difficulties. The Oronoco Board of Adjustment must find evidence that all of the following facts and conditions exist:
 - 1. There are extraordinary conditions or circumstances, such as irregularity, narrowness, or shallowness of the lot or exceptional topographical or physical conditions which are peculiar to the property and do not apply to other lands within the neighborhood or the same class of zoning district;

The existing house was built prior to shoreland regulations. Though the lot could be determined to be irregularly narrow and shallow, there is still room for the dwelling to be expanded/remodeled. Though the proposed remodel encroaches into the 30 ft front yard setback, there exist alternatives to prevent this from occurring. For instance, the applicant could forego a covered stairway and choose an uncovered stairway. Additionally, the applicant could pull back the NE corner of the porch by 0.7 ft.

2. The extraordinary conditions or circumstances are due to circumstances unique to the property not created by the landowner;

The extraordinary conditions or circumstance are not created by the landowner. The dwelling was built prior to the shoreland regulations were enacted. Yet, despite these conditions, there exist options for the property owner to remodel/expand without encroaching into the front yard setback. For instance, the applicant could forego a covered stairway and choose an uncovered stairway. Additionally, the applicant could pull back the NE corner of the porch by 0.7 ft.

3. The variance is necessary to overcome practical difficulties in complying with the zoning ordinance so that the property can be used in a reasonable manner not permitted by the ordinance;

There exist no practical difficulties in complying with the zoning ordinance.

4. The variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or materially injurious to other property in the area, and will not alter the essential character of the locality;

The granting of this variance request would not be of substantial detriment to adjacent properties and does not appear to be detrimental to the public welfare.

5. The variance is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this ordinance; and

The request is not in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the ordinance as it is written and interpreted as it contradicts the language used to delineate the appropriate setbacks for all properties within the R-1 Low Density Residential District.

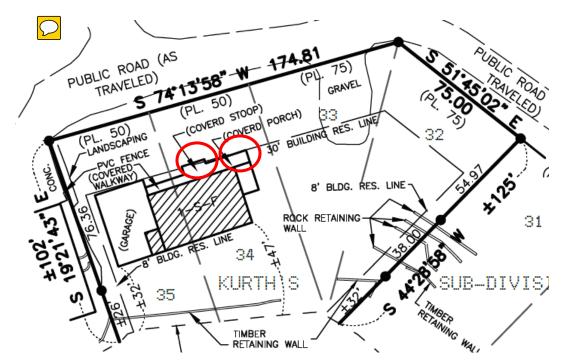


Exhibit A: Two portions of the porch that encroach into the 30 ft front yard setback.

Staff Recommendation

Staff findings support denial for the variance to build an addition which encroaches into the 30 ft front yard setback.

ATTACHMENTS

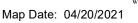
- 1. Site Location Map
- 2. Notification Map
- 3. Applicant Submittals

Aerial Map of

Oronoco Township Variance #OR2021-001VAR by Chris Kurth Construction Inc., on behalf of Jake Kostel. The request is for a variance to the front yard setback to allow for a front porch to encroach the required 30 ft. setback. The property is located in the NW 1/2 of the NW 1/2 of Section 2, Oronoco Township at 12 Kurth's Bay Ct NE.

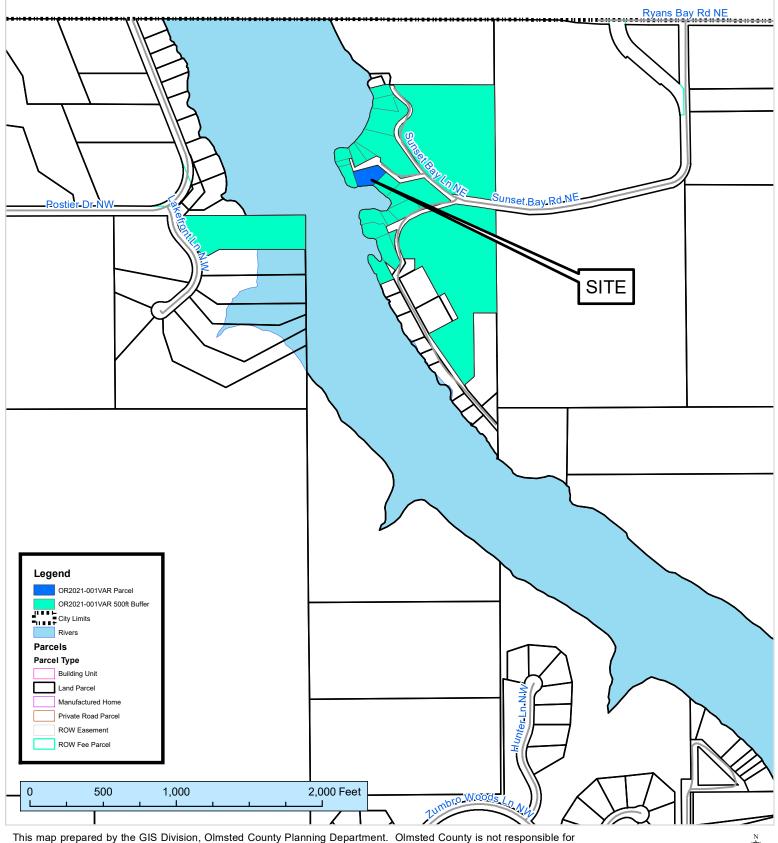


This map prepared by the GIS Division, Olmsted County Planning Department. Olmsted County is not responsible for omissions or errors contained herein. If discrepancies are found within this map, please notify the GIS Division, Olmsted County Planning Department, 2122 Campus Drive SE Rochester MN 55904 (507) 328-7100.

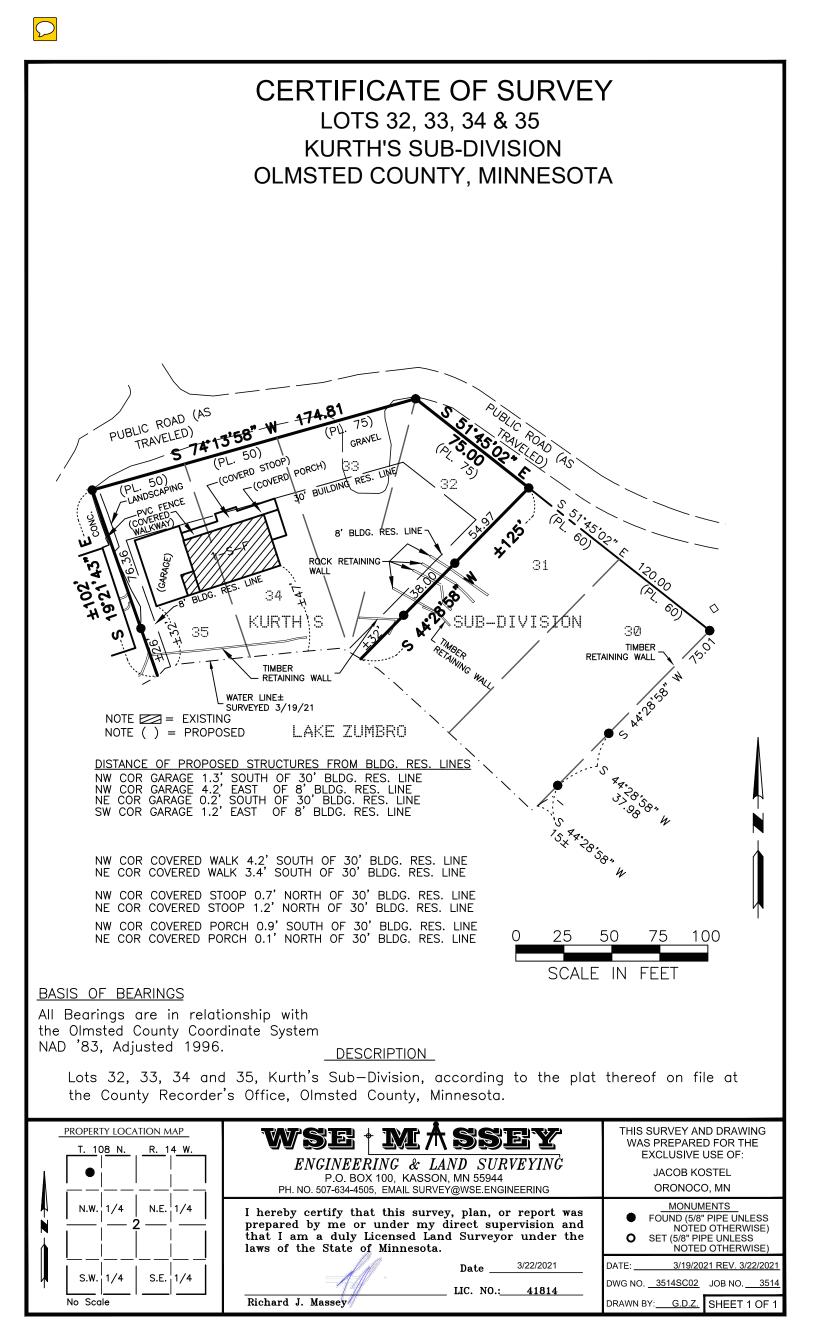


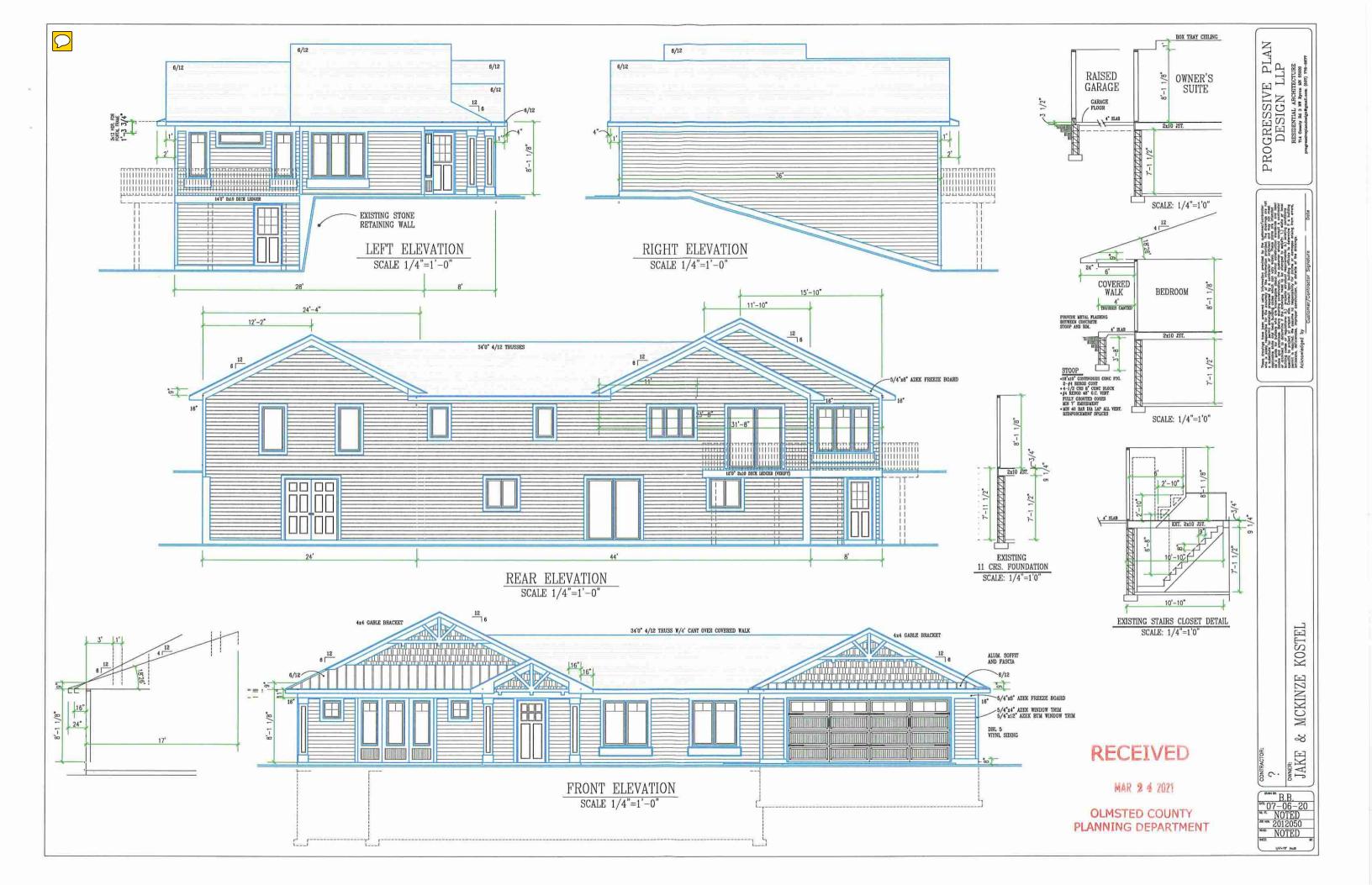
500 ft. Notification Area of

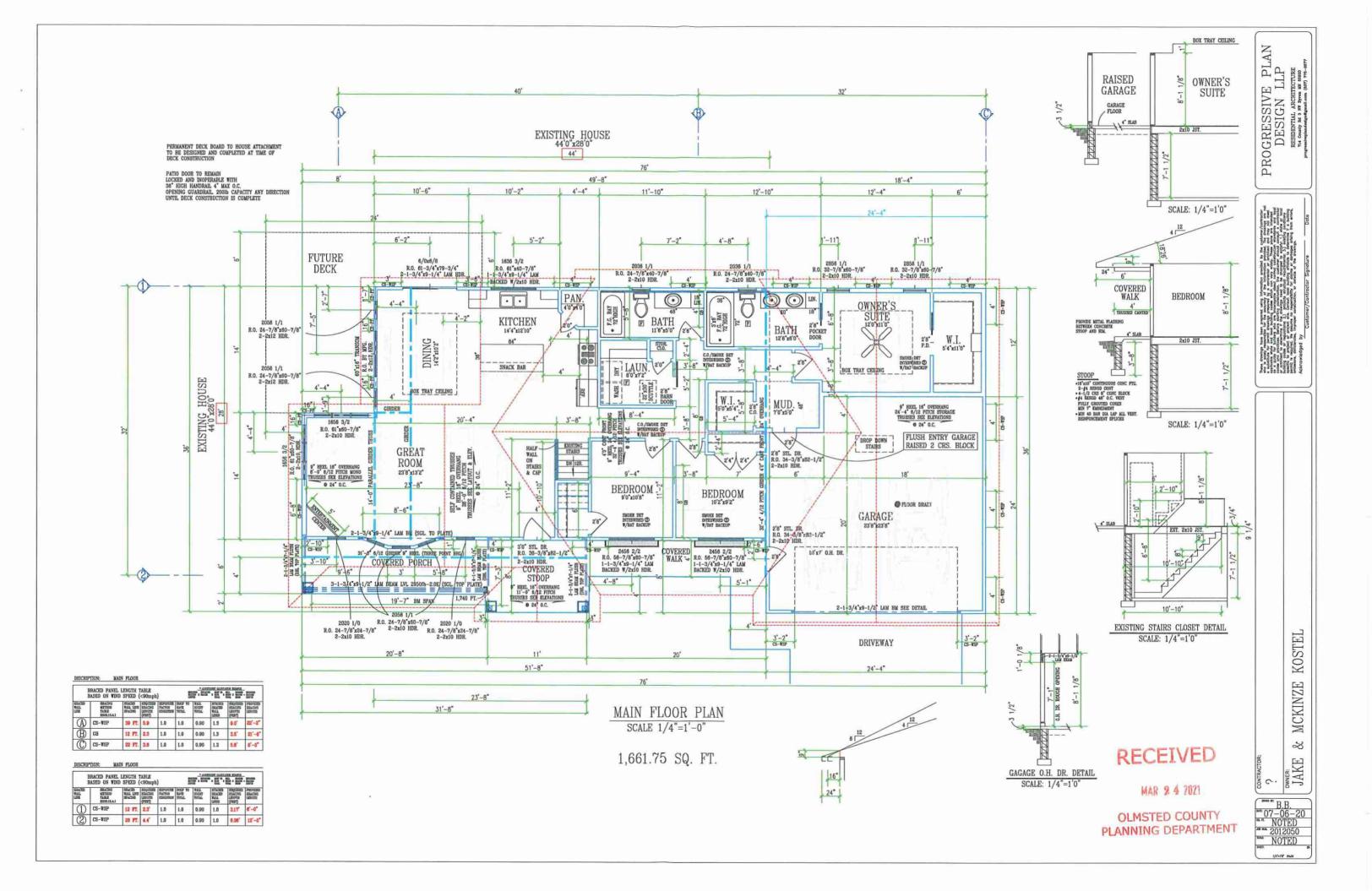
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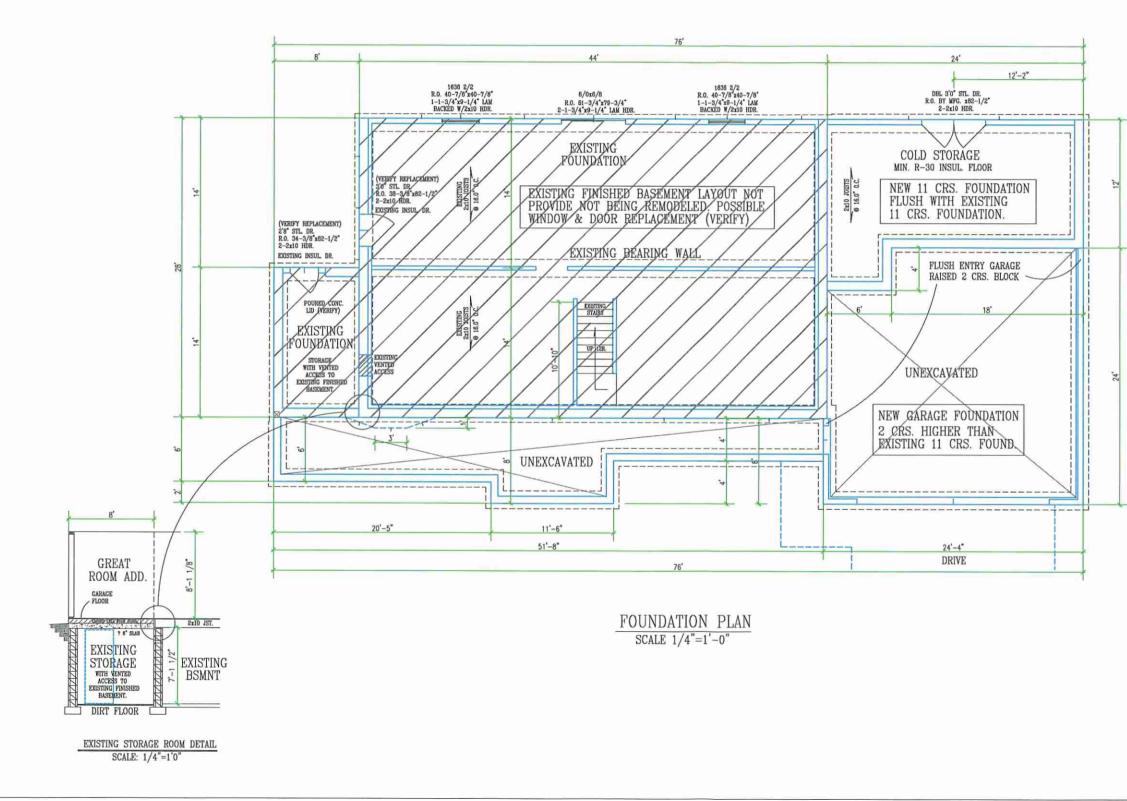


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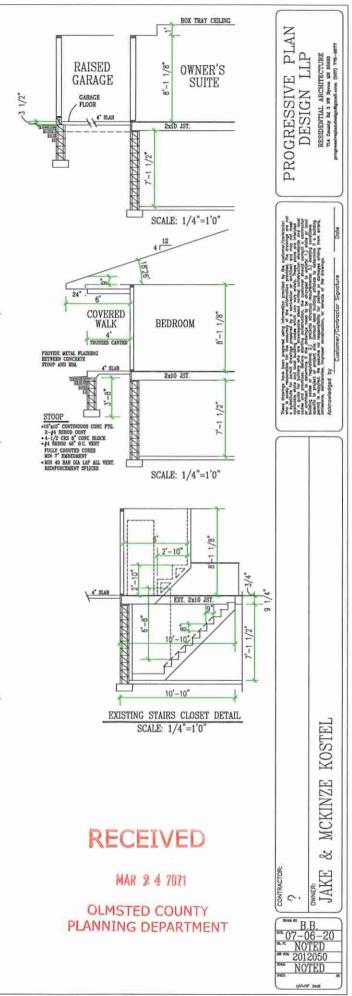


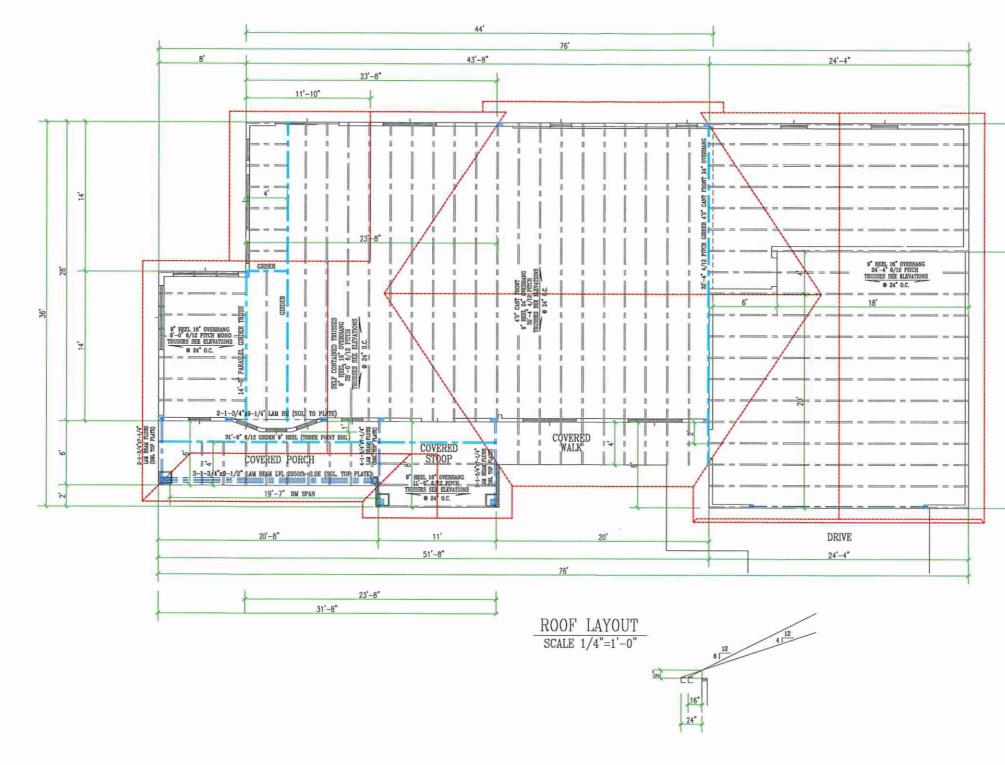






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