# APPLICATION OF O'BRIEN FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST 3 MOEBUS TERRACE, PORTSMOUTH Map 207, Lot 21

### **APPLICANT'S NARRATIVE**

### I. **THE PROPERTY**:

The applicants, Kevin and Sandy O'Brien, acquired the property located at 3 Moebus Terrace, which consists of a single family dwelling with attached garage, last fall, after selling their previous home on Brigham Lane in Portsmouth, where they resided for over fifteen years. The property is in the SRB zone and is non-conforming as to lot area and lot area per dwelling unit. An existing elevated deck encroaches into the rear yard setback.

According to city tax records, the existing dwelling dates back to 1970. The dwelling is functionally obsolete. It has substandard insulation, unsafe and non-compliant windows, and mold. The existing dwelling is served by a private septic system in proximity to Little Harbor.

The O'Briens have considered carefully whether or not to renovate and remodel the existing structure to address these deficiencies, however, the cost to do so and appropriately modernize the dwelling would be prohibitive. Accordingly, we are proposing to raze the existing dwelling structure and replace it with a new dwelling which will meet all dimensional requirements under the zoning ordinance except for the pre-existing lot area deficiency, which cannot be remedied.

The existing elevated deck is approximately 8 feet high and encroaches into the 30 foot rear yard setback. By virtue of its height and the surrounding topography of the neighborhood, the deck significantly impacts the privacy of the property to the rear. The project will result in the deck being removed and the rear yard setback requirement being fully observed. The project will also result in the discontinuance of the existing septic system as the new home will be tied into city sewer.

The project requires relief from Section 10.521 – Table of Dimensional Standards, to permit lot area and lot area per dwelling of 10,823 square feet where 15,000 square feet is the minimum required. All other dimensional requirements of the ordinance are satisfied.<sup>1</sup>

We have submitted herewith a site plan and building plans which demonstrate the applicants' preferred building design elements. While the applicants are committed to this design, it remains possible that the exact location and dimensions of some of the proposed improvements may change slightly as the proposal moves forward. For example, as the site plan notes, the final configuration of the proposed patio and front

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The front yard setback is determined by averaging the existing alignments of the principal buildings on the abutting properties under section 10.516.10, which would work out to a required 26 foot front yard.

steps will be determined in the field. Nevertheless, the project will meet all applicable setback, height and lot coverage requirements.

### II. <u>CRITERIA</u>:

The applicants believe the within Application meets the criteria necessary for the Board to grant the requested variance.

Granting the requested variances will not be contrary to the spirit and intent of the ordinance nor will it be contrary to the public interest. The "public interest" and "spirit and intent" requirements are considered together pursuant to Malachy Glen Associates v. Chichester, 152 NH 102 (2007). The test for whether or not granting a variance would be contrary to the public interest or contrary to the spirit and intent of the ordinance is whether or not the variance being granted would substantially alter the characteristics of the neighborhood or threaten the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The essentially residential characteristics of the neighborhood would not be altered by this project. The existing structure and lot are already non-compliant with the lot area and the identical non-conformity resulting from this project will in no way compromise the neighborhood.

Were the variances to be granted, there would be no change in the essential characteristics of the neighborhood, nor would public health, safety or welfare be threatened in any way, but would, in fact, be enhanced as a result of the elimination of the existing septic system and the removal of the existing, non-compliant elevated deck.

Substantial justice would be done by granting the variance. Whether or not substantial justice will be done by granting a variance requires the Board to conduct a balancing test. If the hardship upon the owner/applicant outweighs any benefit to the general public in denying the variance, then substantial justice would be done by granting the variance. It is substantially just to allow a property owner the reasonable use of his or her property.

In this case, there is no benefit to the public in denying the variances that is not outweighed by the hardship upon the owner. There is no way for the applicants to comply with the lot area requirements given the size of the lot. Accordingly, the loss to the applicant clearly outweighs any gain to the public if the applicants were required to conform to the ordinance.

<u>The values of surrounding properties will not be diminished by granting the variance</u>. The proposal will result in a brand new, code-compliant dwelling. This will increase the value of the applicants' property and those around it. The property will become fully compliant with the rear yard setback by eliminating the raised deck facing the neighbor to the rear, which currently is the property most affected by the existing

setback nonconformities. The values of surrounding properties will not be negatively affected in any way.

There are special conditions associated with the property which prevent the proper enjoyment of the property under the strict terms of the zoning ordinance and thus constitute unnecessary hardship. The property is non-conforming as to lot area, lot area per dwelling, and rear yard setback. Any residential development of this property would require relief from the lot area requirements.

<u>The use is a reasonable use</u>. The proposal is a residential use in a residential zone.

There is no fair and substantial relationship between the purpose of the ordinance as it is applied to this particular property. The purpose of the lot area requirements is to prevent overcrowding of land. There has been a single family dwelling on this lot since at least 1970 without any negative impacts whatsoever.

Accordingly, the relief requested here would not in any way frustrate the purpose of the ordinance and there is no fair and substantial relationship between the purpose of the lot area requirements and their application to this property.

### III. Conclusion.

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants respectfully request the Board grant the variances as requested and advertised.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 26, 2024

John X. Bosen

Letter K. Bosen

John K. Bosen, Esquire



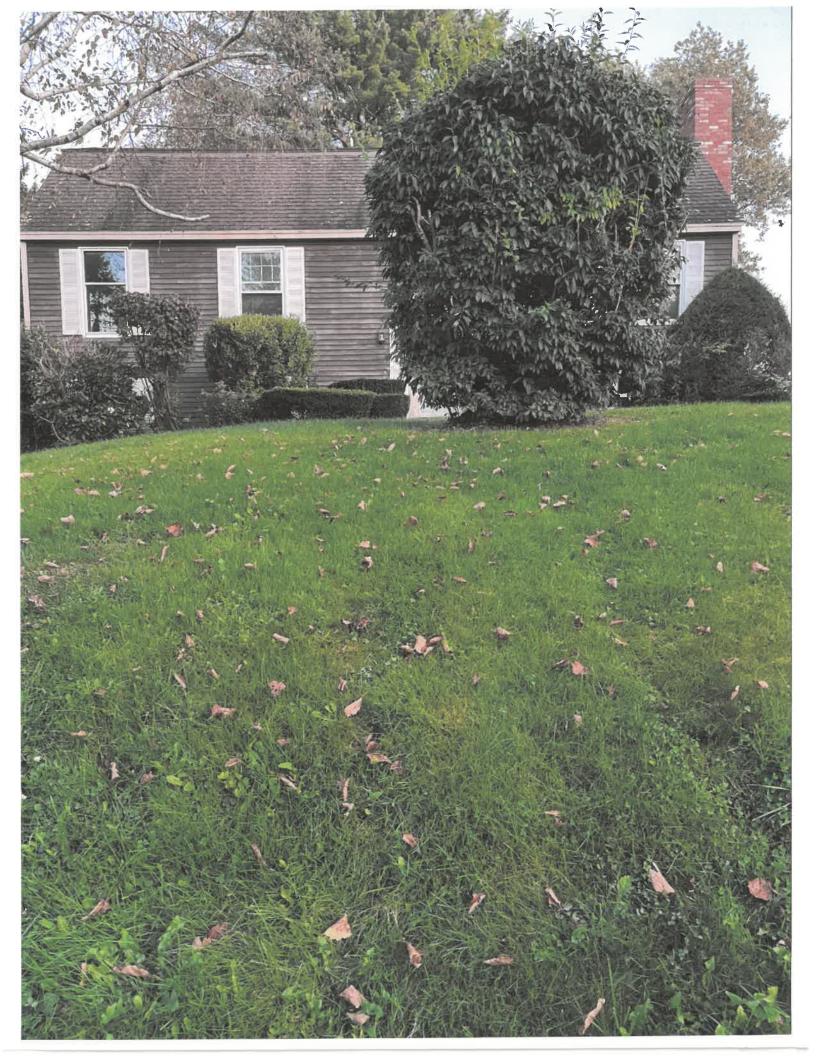


# MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

City of Portsmouth, NH makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

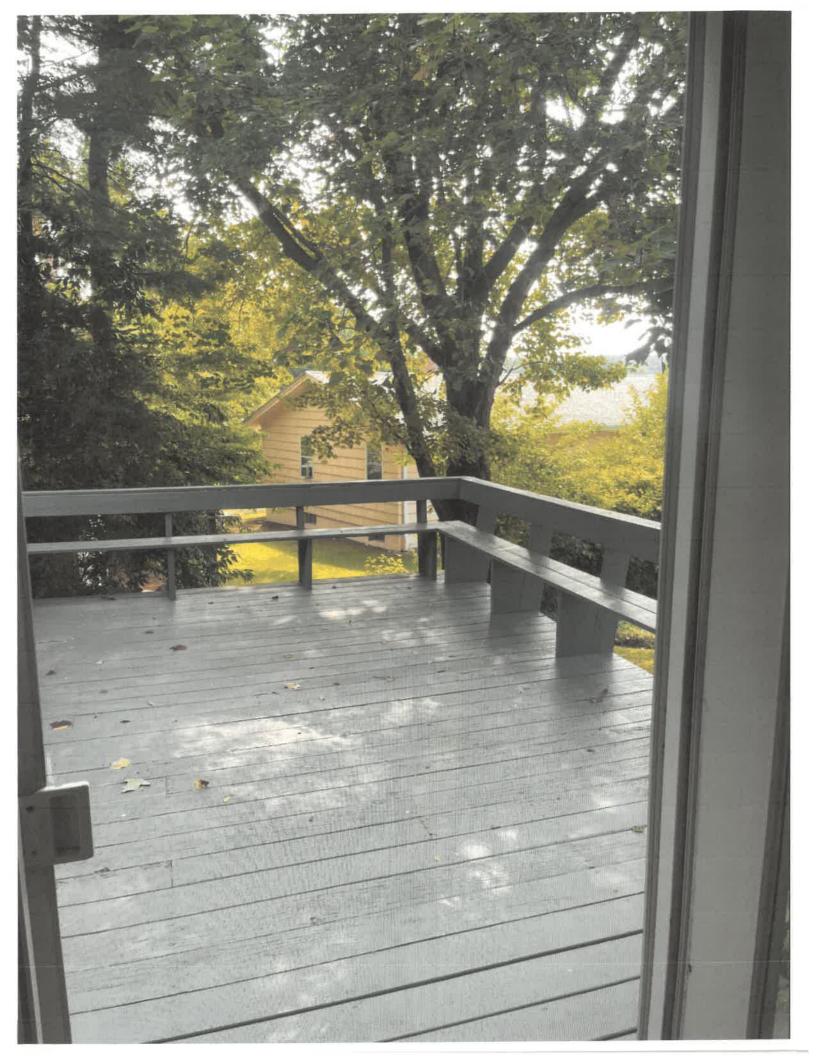
Geometry updated 08/24/2023 Data updated 3/9/2022 Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.











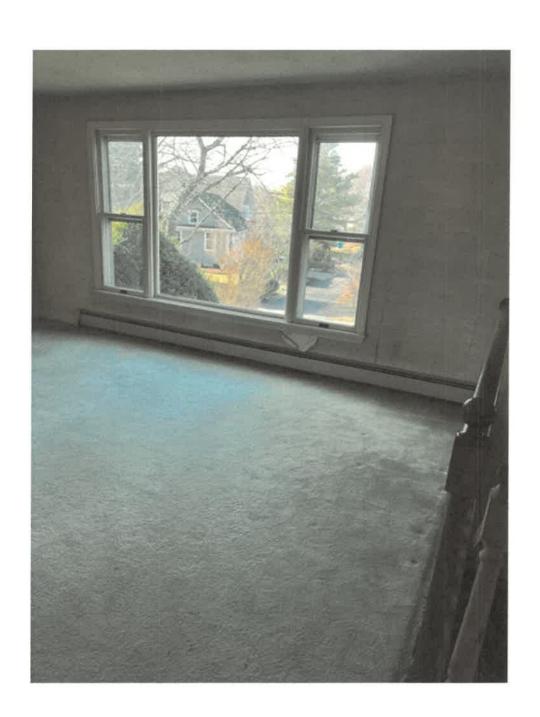


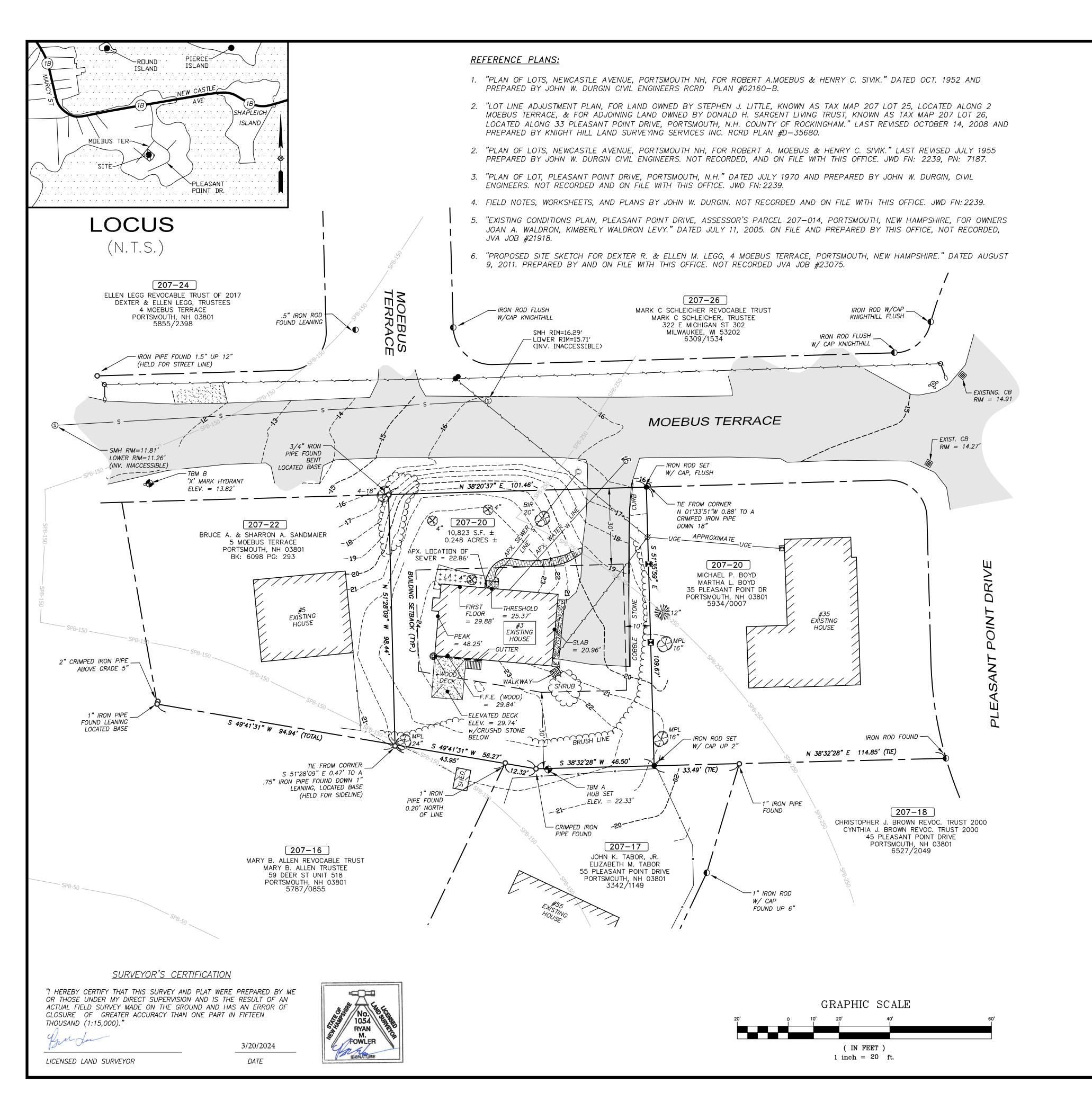










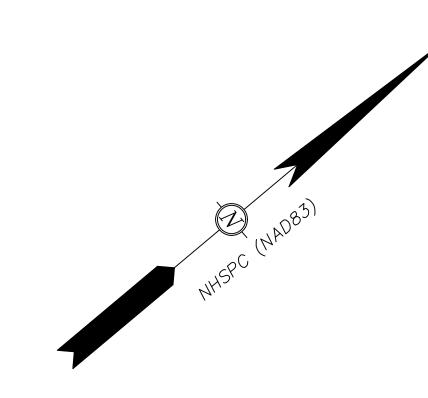


### NOTES:

- 1. OWNER OF RECORD.. O'BRIEN FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST OF 2018 PAUL K. & SANDRA C. O'BRIEN TRUSTEES ADDRESS... .20 BRIGHAM LANE PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 DEED REFERENCE. .BK: 6510 PG: 2487 TAX SHEET / LOT.... ..207/21
- 2. ZONED: ...... ..SINGLE RESIDENCE B (SRB)

MINIMUM LOT AREA ......15,000 S.F. FRONT YARD SETBACK .....30' SIDE YARD SETBACK ......10' FRONTAGE .... REAR YARD SETBACK .....30' SLOPED ROOF HEIGHT ...35' BUILDING COVERAGE .....20%

- 3. THE LOCATION OF ALL UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN HEREON ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE BASED UPON THE FIELD LOCATION OF ALL ABOVE GROUND VISIBLE STRUCTURES (IE CATCH BASINS, MANHOLES, WATER GATES ETC.) AND INFORMATION COMPILED FROM PLANS PROVIDED BY UTILITY COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES. ALL CONTRACTORS SHOULD NOTIFY, IN WRITING, SAID AGENCIES PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION WORK AND CALL DIG-SAFE @ 1-888-DIG-SAFE. THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH DOES NOT HAVE MUCH INFORMATION ON MOEBUS TERRACE, AND WAS UNABLE TO PROVED ANY CERTAINTY TO THE EXISTING LINES.
- 4. HORIZONTAL DATUM: NAD83, VERTICAL DATUM: NAVD88. ESTABLISHED BY SURVEY GRADE GPS OBSERVATION AND PROCESSED BY OPUS.
- 5. THE PARCEL SHOWN HEREON LIES WITHIN ZONE X (AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD) AS IDENTIFIED ON FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAP NUMBER 33015C0278F, EFFECTIVE DATE 1/29/2021 BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.
- 6. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY SITE BENCHMARKS BY LEVELING BETWEEN 2 BENCHMARKS PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY GRADES OR ELEVATIONS. DISCREPANCIES ARE TO BE REPORTED TO JAMES VERRA AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
- 7. SHORELAND PROTECTION BUFFER SHOWN BASED ON AERIEL PHOTOGRAPHY FROM GRANIT, AND IS NOT THE RESULT OF A FIELD SURVEY BY THIS OFFICE.



# LEGEND:

.IRON REBAR SET .IRON ROD FOUND .IRON PIPE FOUND —□—— WOOD FENCE BRICK . CONCRETE ..UTILITY POLE .GUY .OVERHEAD WIRES ..UTILITY POLE WITH ARM & LIGHT ..ELECTRIC METER ROCKINGHAM COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS RCRD. 101-03 .TAX SHEET / LOT NO. LANDSCAPED AREA ..CATCH BASIN .SEWER MANHOLE WATER SEWER .WATER SHINFT OFF VALVE .HYDRANT .DECIDUOUS TREE ..CONIFEROUS TREE STONE WALL ... TEMPORARY BENCHMARK · TREE LINE ... SHRUB ₩ .....

. CLEANOUT

. BIRCH

.. MAPLE

UGE ......UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC

MPL .....

. SHORELAND PROTECTION BUFFER

101 SHATTUCK WAY, SUITE 8, NEWINGTON, N.H., 03801-7876 *603–436–3557* 

JOB NO: 23-2099

**ENGINEER:** 



**ISSUED FOR:** 

ZBA SUBMITTAL

ISSUE DATE:

3/20/24

DATE

**REVISIONS** NO. DESCRIPTION

TAW/RMF DRAWN BY: RMF APPROVED BY 23-2099EXCON.DW0 DRAWING FILE:

 $22" \times 34" - 1" = 20"$  $11" \times 17" - 1" = 40"$ 

# **APPLICANT:**

SCALE:

O'BRIEN FAMILY TRUST OF 2018 TRUSTEES PAUL K. & SANDRA C. O'BRIEN 20 BRIGHAM LANE PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

## **OWNER:**

O'BRIEN FAMILY TRUST OF 2018 TRUSTEES PAUL K. & SANDRA C. O'BRIEN 20 BRIGHAM LANE PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

# PROJECT:

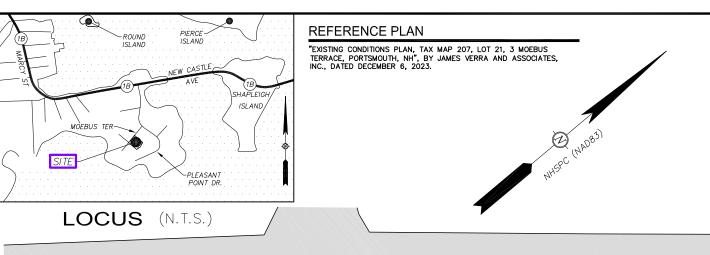
3 MOEBUS **TERRACE** TAX MAP 207 LOT 21 PORTSMOUTH, NH

TITLE:

**EXISTING** CONDITIONS PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:

5-



#### **ZONING SUMMARY**

ZONE: SRB (SINGLE RESIDENCE B) - EXISTING RESIDENCE TO BE REPLACED WITH SAME EXISTING LOT AREA: 0.248 AC  $\pm$  (10,823 S.F.  $\pm$ )

BE RELOCATED FURTHER FROM THE PROPERTY LINE

PROPOSED ROOF OVERHANG

207-20

MICHAEL P. BOYD

MARTHA L. BOYD

35 PLEASANT POINT DR PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

(NOT TO EXCEED 30")

- 35.8'± (EX.)

#### DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

	REQUIRED	EXISTING	PROPOSED
MIN. LOT AREA:	15,000 S.F.	10,823 S.F. ±	10,823 S.F. ±
MIN. LOT AREA PER DWELLING UNIT:	15,000 S.F.	10,823 S.F. ±	10,823 S.F. ± **
DWELLING UNITS:	_	1	1
MIN. STREET FRONTAGE:	100'	101'+	101'+
MIN. LOT DEPTH:	100'	103.5' ± (AVERAGE)	103.5' ± (AVERAGE)
FRONT SETBACK: *	<i>30' (25.7')</i>	35.7' ±	28.4' ± (NEW STEPS)
SIDE SETBACK (LEFT):	10'	35.8' ±	14.1' ±
SIDE SETBACK (RIGHT):	10'	14.9' ±	18.4' ±
REAR SETBACK:	<i>30</i> '	20.8' ±	33.5' ±
MAX. HEIGHT (SLOPED ROOF):	<i>35</i> '	<35'	<35' (PROP.)
MAX. BUILDING COVERAGE:	20 %	$14.3\% \pm (INCL. DECK)$	19.8 % $\pm$ (INCL. DECK, PORCH, STEPS)
MIN. OPEN SPACE:	40 %	67.9 % ±	62.2 % ±

\* FRONT SETBACK CAN BE THE AVERAGE OF ABUTTING PROPERTIES (29.6 $^{\prime}$  + 22.1 $^{\prime}$  / 2 = 25.7 $^{\prime}$ ) "STEPS/DECK" ARE ALLOWED 5' INTO THE FRONT SETBACK. THÈ PROP. STEPS MEET THIS REQ. WITH ADJUSTED SETBACK



ENGINEER:

133 Court Street (603) 433-2335

APPROVAL

Portsmouth, NH 03801

www.altus-eng.con

ISSUE DATE:

MARCH 25, 2024

REVISIONS
NO. DESCRIPTION BY DATE
0 INITIAL SUBMISSION EDW 03/25/24

RLH EDW PPROVED BY: 5503.DWG DRAWING FILE:

 $22" \times 34" - 1" = 10"$  $11" \times 17" - 1" = 20'$ 

#### APPLICANT:

O'BRIEN FAMILY TRUST OF 2018 TRUSTEES

PAUL K. & SANDRA C. O'BRIEN 20 BRIGHAM LANE PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

#### OWNER:

O'BRIEN FAMILY TRUST OF 2018 TRUSTEES PAUL K. & SANDRA C. O'BRIEN 20 BRIGHAM LANE PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

#### PROJECT:

3 MOEBUS **TERRACE** TAX MAP 207 LOT 21 PORTSMOUTH, NH

TITLE:

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** SITE PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:

### NOTES:

THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN IS TO OBTAIN A BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT SITE PLAN APPROVAL TO REPLACE THE EXISTING RESIDENCE WITH A SLIGHTLY LARGER RESIDENCE WHILE CORRECTING

RESIDENCE WITH A SLIGHTLY LARGER RESIDENCE WHILE CORRECTING A SETBACK DEFICIENCY (DECK TO BE REMOVED). THERE ARE NO WETLANDS ON THE PROPERTY. THE MAJORITY OF THE PARCEL IS LOCATED IN THE 150-FOOT TO 250-FOOT PORTION OF THE NHDES SHORELAND PROTECTION BUFFER. BUILDING COVERAGE CALCULATIONS: EX. RESIDENCE (1,325 SF±) + EX. DECK (225 SF±) = 1,550 SF± 1,550 SF ± / 10,823 SF = 14.3% ±

JOSE 1 (10,623 = 14.3% = 17.4%)

PROP. RESIDENCE (1,805 SF±) + PROP. FR. PORCH & STAIRS (130 SF±) + PROP. SCREEN PORCH (205 SF±) = 2,140 SF±

2,140 SF± / 10,823 SF = 19.8% ± (FLEXIBILITY OF 25 SF)

IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE/OPEN SPACE CALCULATIONS:

EX. BLDG/DECK (1,550 SF  $\pm$ ) + DRIVEWAY (1,700 SF $\pm$ ) + FRONT WALK & STEP (120 SF $\pm$ ) + COBBLESTONE CURB (30 SF $\pm$ ) + EX. WALK & CONCRETE SLAB (72 SF $\pm$ ) = 3,472 SF $\pm$  = 32.1% THEREFORE OPEN SPACE IS 67.9%

PROP. BLDG/DECK/PORCHES (2,140 SF $\pm$ ) + PROP. DRIVEWAY (1,265 SF $\pm$ ) + PROP. PATIO (500 SF $\pm$ ) + CONC. HVAC PADS (20 SF $\pm$ ) + RETAINING WALL/STONE/PAVER STEPS (150 SF $\pm$ ) = 4,075 SF $\pm$  = 37.8% ±
THEREFORE 62.2% ± OPEN SPACE

### LEGEND:

DIRON ROD FOUND	
•IRON PIPE FOUND	
WOOD FENCE	
BRICK	
CONCRETE	
RCRD ROCKINGHAM COUNTY REGISTRY OF 101-03 TAX SHEET / LOT NO.	DEED
LALANDSCAPED AREA	
€ DECIDUOUS TREE	
*CONIFEROUS TREE	
**************************************	
SPB SHORELAND PROTECTION BUFFER	
BIR BIRCH	

.. MAPLE

PROPERTY LINE

EXISTING BUILDING (TBR)

PROPOSED PATIO NOT TO EXCEED 500 SF MAX.

BASED ON AVERAGE ADJACENT FRONT SETBACKS \*\* EXISTING LOT OF RECORD MOEBUS TERRACE PROPOSED LANDSCAPE WALL PROPOSED LANDSCAPE STEPS. FINAL CONFIGURATION 15' TO BE DETERMINED IN FIELD. -BIR 20' PROPOSED DRIVEWAY TO

10,823 S.F. ± 0.248 ACRES  $\pm$ BUILDING SETBACK (TYP. PROPOSED STONE DRIP EDGE (6" BEYOND OVERHANG) 18.4°± PROPOSED\_-BEDROOM

207-21

RESIDENCE FF ELEV. = 26.0 BASEMENT FF ELEV.=17.0

14.9'±

ò

207-22 BRUCE A. & SHARRON A. SANDMAIER 5 MOEBUS TERRACE PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

FXISTING

HOUSE

BK: 6098 PG: 293

4-18

GRAPHIC SCALE

1 inch = 10 ft

PATIO

PROPOSED

GARAGE

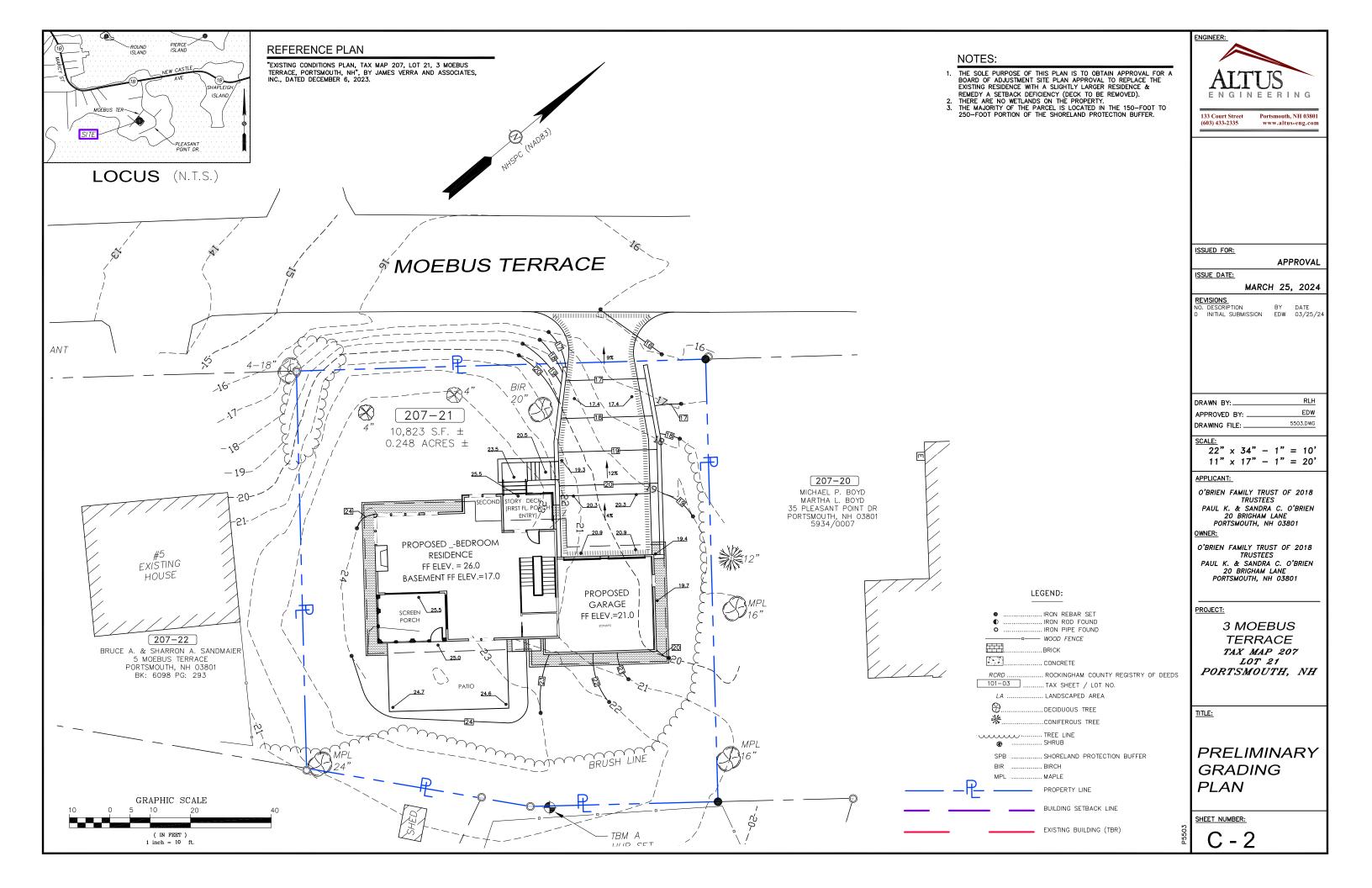
FF ELEV.=21.0

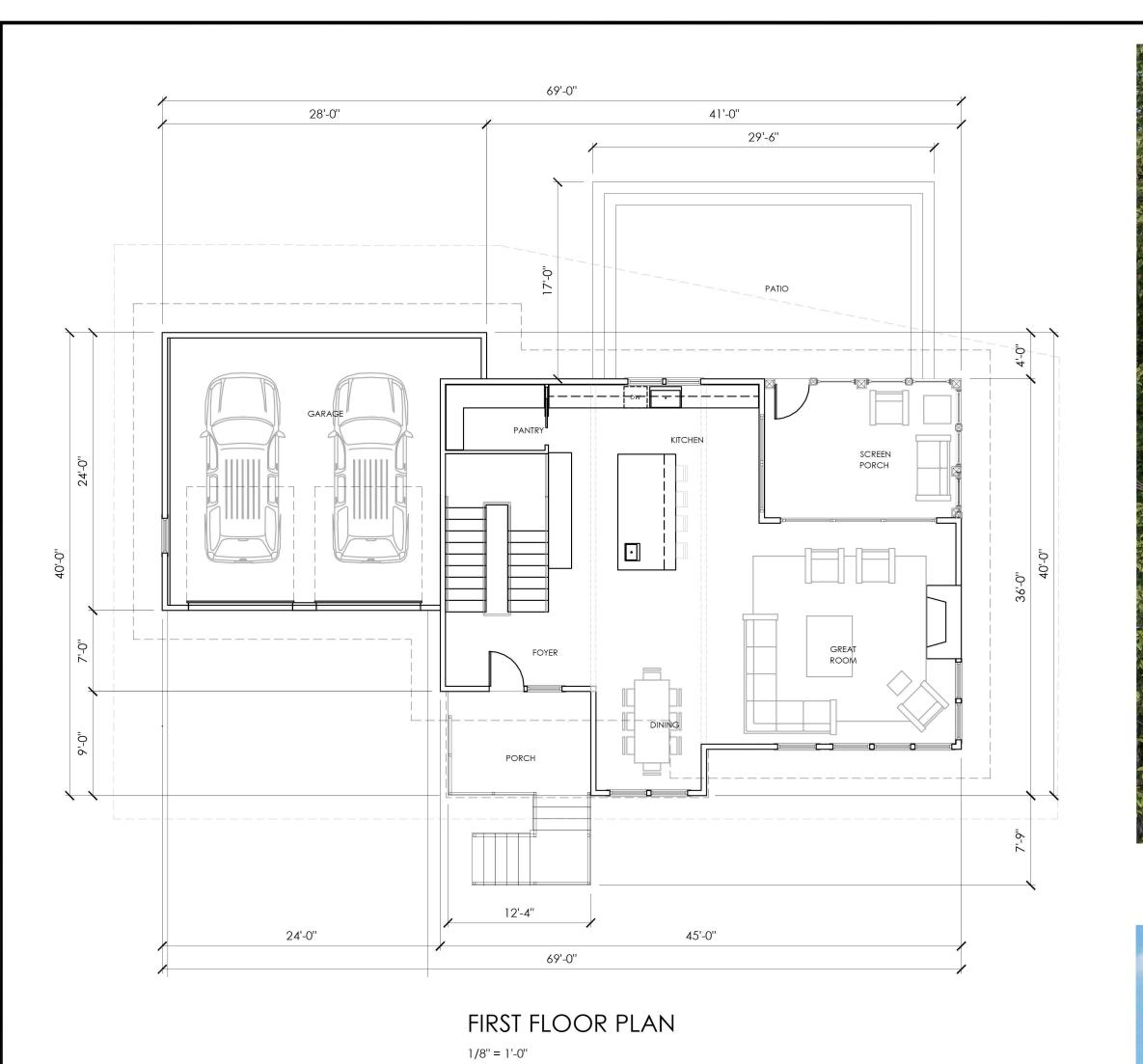
PROPOSED MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT CONCRETE

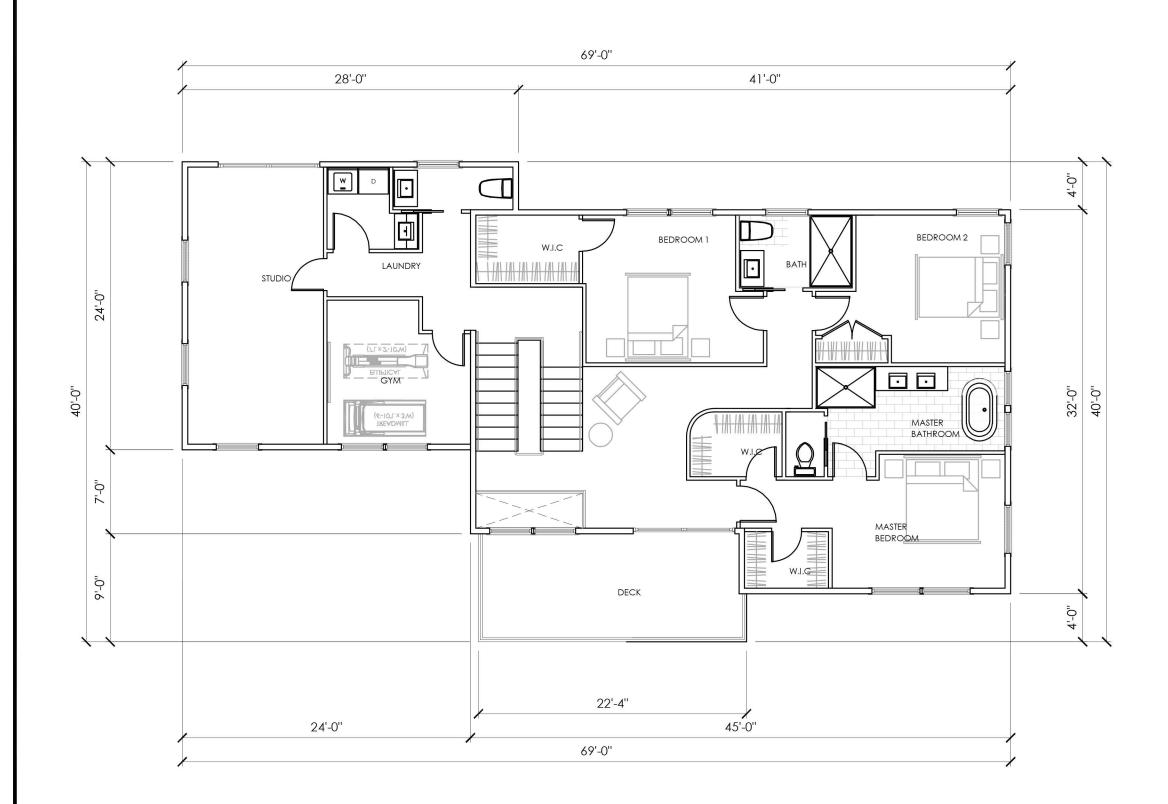
BRUSH LINE

FINAL CONFIGURATION TO BE DETERMINED IN THE

14.1'±







SECOND FLOOR PLAN 1/8" = 1'-0"





RIGHT ELEVATION 1/8" = 1'-0"





LEFT ELEVATION 1/8" = 1'-0"

BACK ELEVATION 1/8" = 1'-0"

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



CJ ARCHITECTS 233 VAUGHAN STREET SUITE 101 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

(603) 431-2808 www.cjarchitects.net

04/16/2024 DRAWN BY: RLD APPROVED BY: CJG JOB NUMBER: 22308

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