HOEFLE, PHOENIX, GORMLEY & ROBERTS, PLLC

127 Parrott Avenue, P.O. Box 4480 | Portsmouth, NH, 03802-4480 Telephone: 603.436.0666 | Facsimile: 603.431.0879 | www.hpgrlaw.com

December 30, 2020

HAND DELIVERED

Peter Stith, Planner Izak Gilbo, Administrative Clerk Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment City Hall 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re: Zoning Relief

JJCM Realty, LLC & Top Notch Properties, LLC, Owners/Applicants

232 South Street
Tax Map 111/Lot 2

SRB Zone

Dear Mr. Stith, Mr. Gilbo & Zoning Board Members:

On behalf of Owners/Applicants JJCM Realty, LLC and Top Notch Properties, LLC, enclosed please find the following:

- See LU-20-254 for variance application packet to be uploaded.
- Owner's Authorization
- Memorandum in Support of Variance (original and 11 copies)

We look forward to presenting this the Zoning Board of Adjustment at its January 19, 2021 meeting.

Very truly yours,

R. Timothy Phoenix

Monica F. Kieser

Encl.

cc:

Gary Beaulieu, Top Notch Properties, LLC John Chagnon, Ambit Engineering, Inc. Lisa Destefano, Destefano|Maugel

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Hoefle, Phoenix, Gormley & Roberts, PLLC to execute the Application for Variances and to take any and all actions necessary throughout the Variance application and permitting process, including but not limited to attendance and presentation at public hearings regarding the property at 232 South Street, Tax Map 111, Lot 2.

Top Notch Properties, LLC

Gary Beanlieu, Member

MEMORANDUM

TO: Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment ("ZBA")

FROM: R. Timothy Phoenix, Esquire

DATE: December 30, 2020

RE: JJCM Realty LLC & Top Notch Properties, LLC Owners/Applicants

Project Location: 232 South Street

Tax Map 111/Lot 2

SRB Zone

Dear Chairman Rheaume and Zoning Board Members:

On behalf of JJCM Realty, LLC and Top Notch Properties, LLC ("Applicants"), we are pleased to submit this memorandum and attached exhibits in support of Zoning Relief to be considered by the Zoning Board of Adjustment ("ZBA") at its January 19, 2021 meeting.

I. Exhibits

- A. <u>Plan Set</u> issued by Ambit Engineering, Inc.
 - Standard Boundary Survey
 - Building Permit Application Plan
- B. <u>Architectural Plan Set</u> issued by Destefano|Maugel, LLC.
 - A0.00 Rendering/Front (West) Elevation
 - S1 North (Left) Elevation
 - S2 East (Rear) Elevation
 - S3 South (Right) Elevation
 - A1.00 Basement & First Floor Plans
 - A1.01 Second Floor & Loft Floor Plans¹
- C. Site Photographs.
- D. <u>Tax Map 111</u>.

II. Property/Project

232 South Street is a 7,805 sq. ft. nonconforming lot upon which exists a 2 ½-story nonconforming two-family dwelling occupying a footprint of 1,481 s.f. including decks, stairs, and porches. Each unit contains two bedrooms. Total impervious coverage is 2024 s.f. (25.9%). The house does not comply with the front yard setback. Applicants recently purchased the property, intending two targeted additions (28 s.f. and 169 s.f.) and a two-floor deck incorporating stairs and a spiral staircase for required secondary egress from each unit (the "Project"). The shed located at the rear of property near a wetland will be relocated closer to the home. The Project has received a Certificate of Approval from the Historic District Commission,

¹ Floor plans have not yet been revised to match Sheets 1-3 which relocated the first floor rear stairs from the right side to the left side.

and requires a pending Planning Board Conditional Use Permit due to wetlands off the property, and the instant variances, primarily for expansion of a nonconforming structure on a nonconforming lot.

III. Relief Required

- 1. <u>PZO §10.321 Expansion of a Nonconforming Structure To permit additions to the rear and right side of the existing home.</u>
- 2. <u>PZO §10.521 Table of Dimensional Requirements To permit a portion of the 28 s.f. addition 28 ft. from the front lot line where 30 ft. is required.</u>
- 3. <u>PZO §10.521 Table of Dimensional Requirements To permit building coverage of 22.9% where 20% is the limit and 19.4% exists.</u>

IV. Variance Requirements

- 1. The variances will not be contrary to the public interest.
- 2. The spirit of the ordinance is observed.

The first step in the ZBA's analysis is to determine whether granting a variance is not contrary to the public interest and is consistent with the spirit and intent of the ordinance, considered together pursuant to Malachy Glen Associates, Inc. v. Town of Chichester, 155 N.H. 102 (2007) and its progeny. Upon examination, it must be determined whether granting a variance "would unduly and to a marked degree conflict with the ordinance such that it violates the ordinance's basic zoning objectives". Id. "Mere conflict with the zoning ordinance is not enough". Id.

The Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance was enacted for the general purpose of promoting the health, safety, and welfare in accordance with the Master Plan by regulating:

- 1. The use of land, buildings and structures for business, industrial, residential and other purposes here no change in use is proposed, the structure will remain a two-family.
- 2. The intensity of land use, including lot sizes, building coverage, building height and bulk, yards and open space the slight increase in building coverage needed to improve interior layout and provide additional egress will not undermine these purposes as: the addition within the front yard setback will be unseen; side and rear setbacks will remain compliant; the rear addition in-fills" a rear "ell" and the rear setback will be improved through relocation of the existing shed.
- 3. The design of facilities for vehicular access, circulation, parking and loading the number of units (2) and parking remain unchanged.
- 4. The impacts on properties of outdoor lighting, noise, vibration, stormwater runoff and flooding these purposes are not undermined by the Project.
- 5. <u>The preservation and enhancement of the visual environment</u> the Project will enhance the appearance of the property.

6. The preservation of historic districts, and buildings and structures of historic or architectural interest — this objective has been addressed through the HDC process.

7. The protection of natural resources, including groundwater, surface water, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and air quality – At 74% open space will remain well above the required 40% minimum; the expansion is slight, the use will not change and any effect on the offsite wetland will be addressed in the Planning Board Conditional Use Permit Application Process.

In considering whether variances "in a marked degree conflict with the ordinance such that they violate the ordinance's basic zoning objectives". <u>Malachy Glen</u>, *supra*, also held:

One way to ascertain whether granting the variance would violate basic zoning objectives is to examine whether it would <u>alter the essential character of the locality</u>..... Another approach to [determine] whether granting the variance violates basic zoning objectives is to examine whether granting the variance would <u>threaten the public health</u>, <u>safety or welfare</u>. (emphasis added)

Here, the existing nonconforming structure, two-family use and compliant side setbacks will remain while the rear setback will be improved. The addition of rear decks for each unit provides outdoor living space and incorporates required secondary egress for each unit. The use of a spiral staircase from the second floor deck minimizes the footprint and bulk of the stairs reducing building coverage and visual impact. The expansion in the front setback will not be visible and the slight increase in building coverage will allow for code compliant renovation including improved additional egress. Accordingly, the Project will neither "alter the essential character of the locality nor threaten the public health, safety or welfare."

3. Granting the variance will not diminish surrounding property values.

The two-family nonconforming home already exists. The expansions comply with the side and rear yard requirements, are inset, thus not visible from the street. The large back yard will remain, improved by relocating the shed. Accordingly, granting the requested relief will not diminish surrounding property values.

4. Denial of the variances results in an unnecessary hardship.

a. Special conditions distinguish the property/project from others in the area.

The lot is small, burdened by a wetland buffer, and the existing home location at the front lot line combine to create special conditions, which drive the location of the proposed addition.

Any expansion of this nonconforming structure will require similar relief.

b. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance and its specific application in this instance.

Yard requirements and building coverage limits exist to maintain adequate air, light, space, prevent overcrowding/overbulking, and provide separation for stormwater treatment. Regulation of nonconforming structures ensures expansions are compatible with the surrounding environment. Here, the only nonconforming addition is a very small area within the front setback, inset within the existing façade, compliant with side setback; and not visible from the street. The rear addition complies with front, side and rear setbacks. The squared off in fill renders the structure only slightly noncompliant with building coverage limits. The minimal expansions inset within the existing home's facade will not change the use of the property. The open decks incorporate required secondary egress for each unit, including a spiral staircase for the second floor unit, which offers a smaller footprint and reduced visual impact compared to a traditional staircase. At 74%, open space will remain well above the 40% minimum.

Accordingly, the purposes of the nonconforming structural expansions limitations, yard setbacks, and building coverage requirements are met, so there is no reason to strictly apply these provisions of the Ordinance.

c. <u>The proposed use is reasonable.</u>

If the use is permitted, it is deemed reasonable. <u>Vigeant v. Hudson</u>, 151 N.H. 747 (2005). This is an unchanged residential use in a residential zone with expansions largely invisible from the street. Accordingly, the use is reasonable.

5. Substantial justice will be done by granting the variance.

If "there is no benefit to the public that would outweigh the hardship to the applicant" this factor is satisfied. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, L.L.C, 162 N.H. 508 (2011). That is, "any loss to the [applicant] that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice". Malachy Glen, supra at 109. The existing home at the front lot line of this small lot cannot be expanded without relief from the front yard and building coverage requirements. Rearward expansion would further encroach upon the wetland buffer. Together with facts that: the building already exists within the front yard; nearly all of the proposed expansions comply with yard setbacks and the most significant addition (deck/stairs/spiral staircase) are needed to provide code compliant egress, there is no benefit to the public from denying the requested variances. In comparison, the owner will suffer great harm as it would be unable to reasonably

expand the existing two-family home to improve living area and provide egress. Accordingly, there is no benefit to the public outweighing the hardship to the applicant if the variances are denied.

V. Conclusion

For all of the reasons stated, JJCM Realty, LLC and Top Notch Properties, LLC respectfully request that the Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment grant the requested variances.

Respectfully submitted,

JJCM Realty, LLC and Top Notch Properties, LLC

By: R. Timothy Phoenix Monica F. Kieser

Hoefle, Phoenix, Gormley & Roberts, Pllc

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

127 Parrott Avenue, P.O. Box 4480 | Portsmouth, NH, 03802-4480 Telephone: 603.436.0666 | Facsimile: 603.431.0879 | www.hpgrlaw.com

January 12, 2021

David Rheaume, Chair Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment City Hall 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re:

Zoning Relief

JJCM Realty, LLC & Top Notch Properties, LLC, Owners/Applicants

232 South Street Tax Map 111/Lot 2

SRB Zone

Dear Mr. Rheaume and Zoning Board Members:

My recent Zoning Relief Application and Memorandum included a request for front setback relief, PZO§10.521 for a small, 28 s.f. addition at 28 ft. from the front lot line where 30 ft. is required. I have been advised by the Planning staff that we are entitled to determine the front setback by averaging the distances of homes on either side within 200 feet. Doing so results in an estimated average of about 9 ft. Accordingly, I have been advised that the front setback relief is not required.

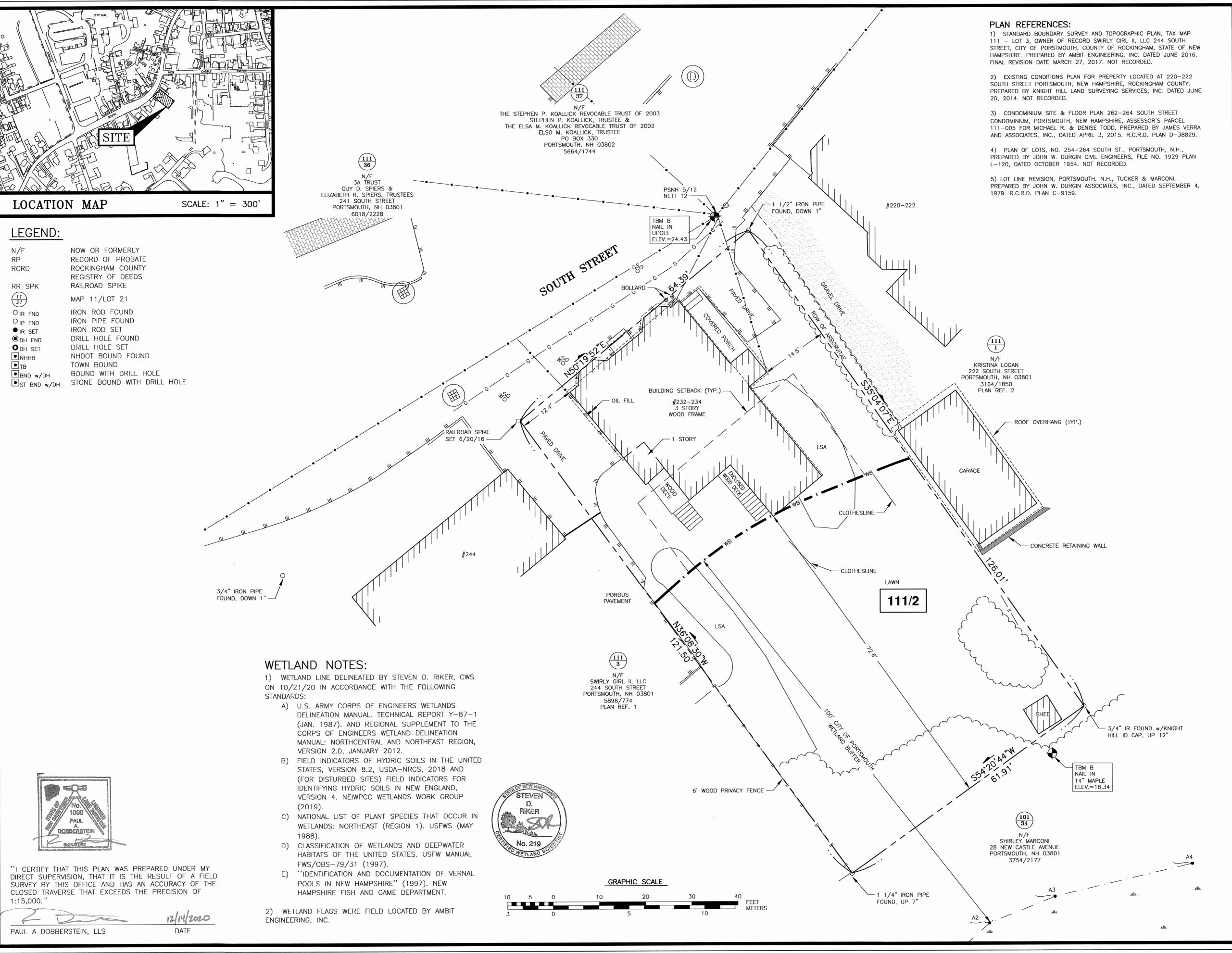
Very truly yours

R. Timothy Phoenix

RTP/msw

cc:

Gary Beaulieu, Top Notch Properties, LLC John Chagnon, Ambit Engineering, Inc. Lisa Destefano, Destefano|Maugel





AMBIT ENGINEERING, INC.
Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors

200 Griffin Road - Unit 3
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801-7114

NOTES:

1) PARCEL IS SHOWN ON THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH ASSESSOR'S MAP 111 AS LOT 2.

Tel (603) 430-9282

Fax (603) 436-2315

2) OWNER OF RECORD:

JJCM REALTY, LLC & TOP NOTCH PROPERTIES, LLC

9 PASTURE LANE

BEDFORD, NH 03110

6198/478

3) PARCEL IS NOT IN A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS SHOWN ON FIRM PANEL 33015C0259E. EFFECTIVE DATE MAY 17, 2005.

4) EXISTING LOT AREA: 7,805 S.F. 0.1792 ACRES

5) PARCEL IS LOCATED IN THE SINGLE RESIDENCE B (SRB) ZONING DISTRICT.

6) DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

MIN. LOT AREA: FRONTAGE: SETBACKS:

SETBACKS: FRONT 30 FEET SIDE 10 FEET REAR 30 FEET MAXIMUM STRUCTURE HEIGHT: 35 FEET MAXIMUM BUILDING COVERAGE: 20% MINIMUM OPEN SPACE: 40%

15,000 S.F.

100 FEET

7) THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN IS TO SHOW THE RESULTS OF A STANDARD BOUNDARY SURVEY OF ASSESSOR'S MAP 111 LOT 2 IN THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH.



REVISIONS		
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
0	ISSUED FOR COMMENT	12/11/20

STANDARD BOUNDARY SURVEY TAX MAP 111 - LOT 2

OWNERS:

JJCM REALTY, LLC & TOP NOTCH PROPERTIES, LLC

PROPERTY LOCATED AT:

232-234 SOUTH STREET

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

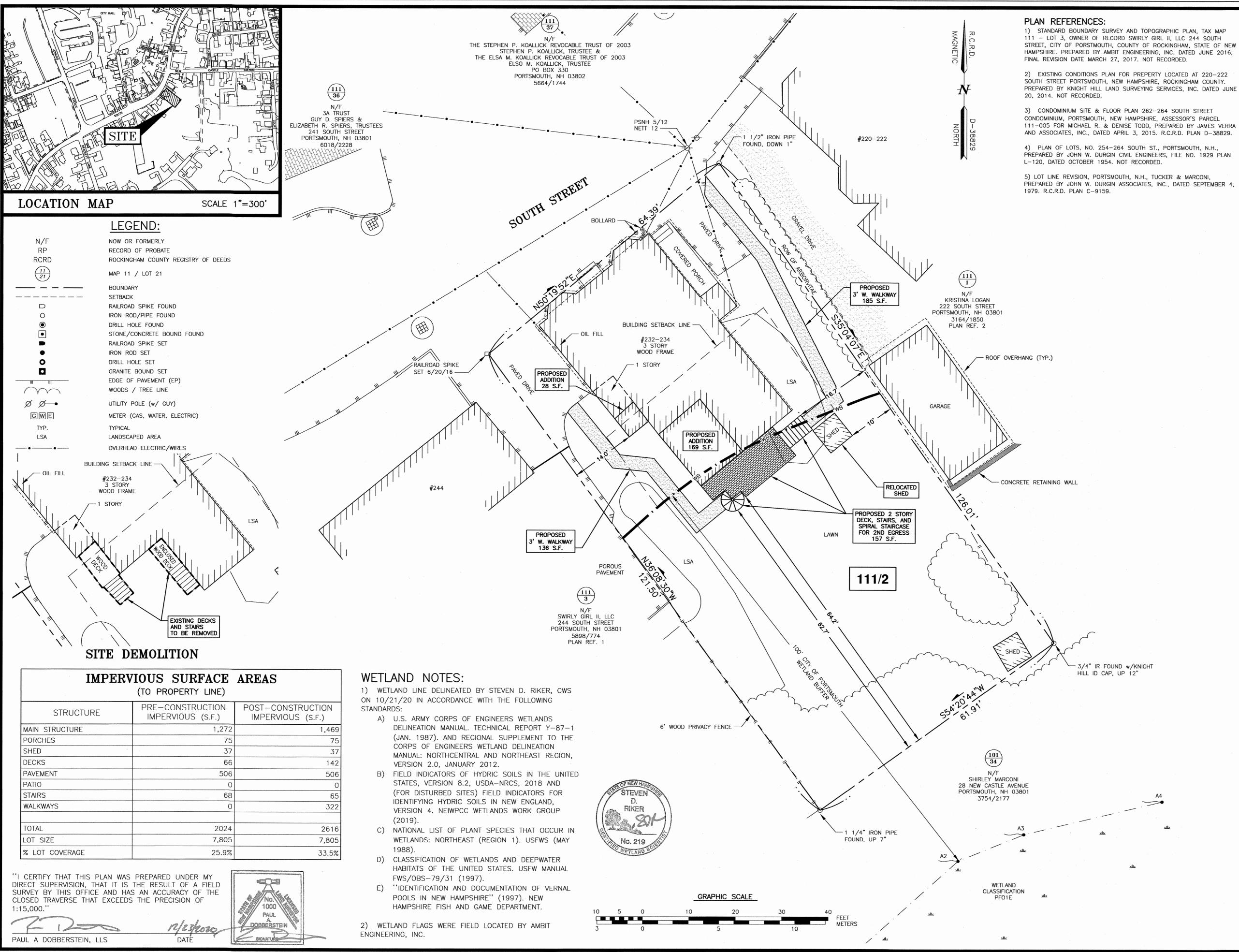
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SCALE: 1" = 10'

FB 332 PG 53

DECEMBER 2020



AMBIT ENGINEERING, INC.

Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors 200 Griffin Road - Unit 3 Portsmouth, N.H. 03801-7114

NOTES:

1) PARCEL IS SHOWN ON THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH ASSESSOR'S MAP 111 AS LOT 2.

Tel (603) 430-9282

Fax (603) 436-2315

2) OWNER OF RECORD:

JJCM REALTY LLC & TOP NOTCH PROPERTIES, LLC 9 PASTURE LANE BEDFORD, NH 03110 6198/478

3) PARCEL IS NOT IN A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS SHOWN ON FIRM PANEL 33015C0259E. EFFECTIVE DATE MAY 17, 2005.

4) EXISTING LOT AREA: 7,805 S.F. 0.1792 ACRES

5) PARCEL IS LOCATED IN THE SINGLE RESIDENCE B (SRB) ZONING DISTRICT.

6) DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

MIN. LOT AREA: 15,000 S.F. FRONTAGE: 100 FEET FRONT 30 FEET SETBACKS: 10 FEET REAR 30 FEET MAXIMUM STRUCTURE HEIGHT: 35 FEET MAXIMUM BUILDING COVERAGE: 20% MINIMUM OPEN SPACE: 40%

7) THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN IS TO SHOW THE PROPOSED ADDITION & OTHER APPURTENANT FEATURES ON ASSESSOR'S MAP 111 LOT 2 IN THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH FOR REVIEW AND PERMITTING.

8) PROPOSED ADDITION AND OTHER BUILDING INFORMATION FROM PLANS BY DESTEFANO MAUGEL ARCHITECTS DATED OCTOBER 22, 2020.

9) BUILDING COVERAGE:

EXISTING: 1,518 S.F. 1,518 S.F./7,805 = 19.4% PROPOSED: 1,788 S.F. 1,788 S.F./7,805 = 22.9%.

PROPOSED OPEN SPACE: 74%

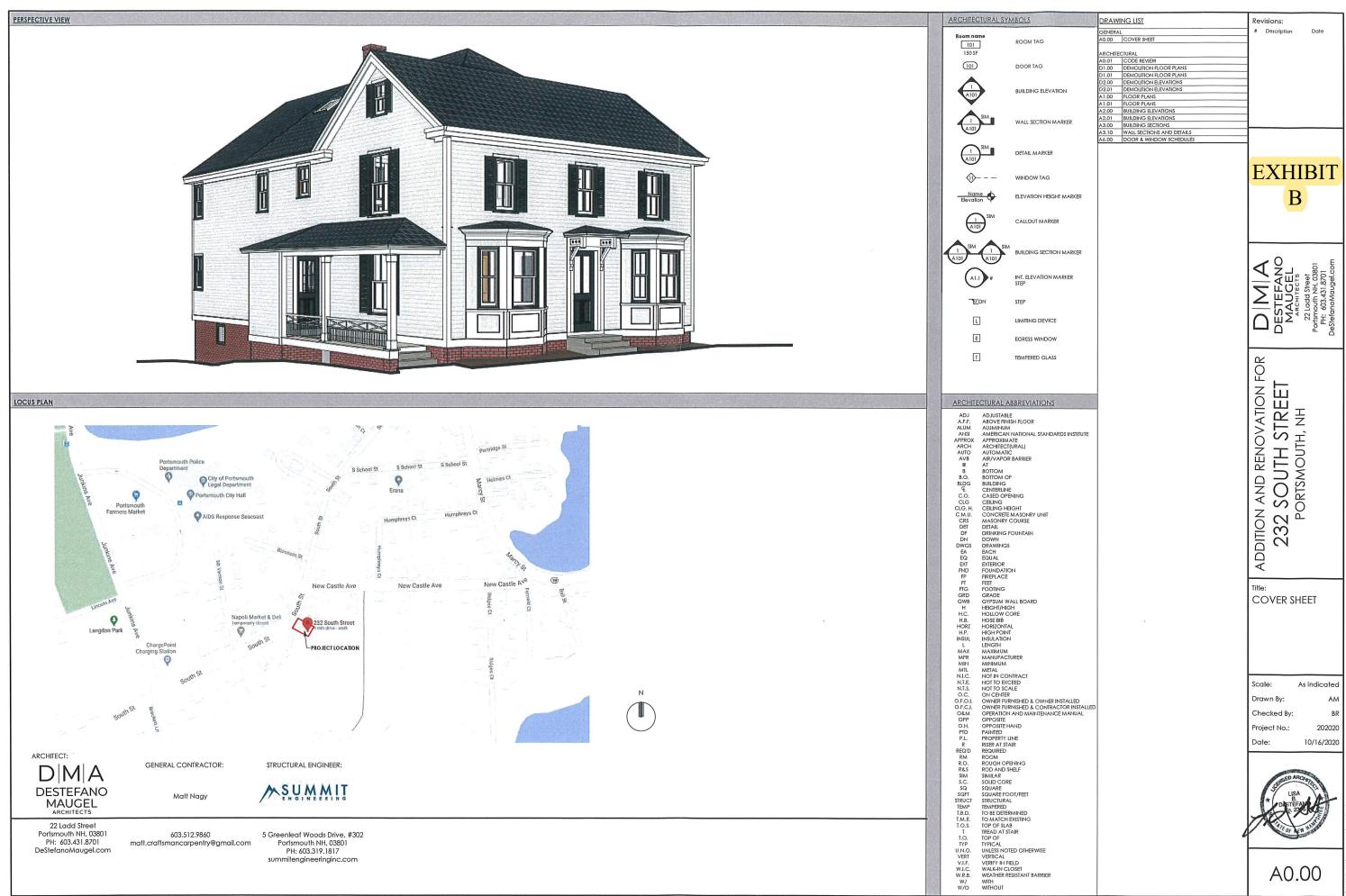
BUILDING ADDITION JJCM REALTY, LLC & TOP NOTCH PROPERTIES, LLC 232 SOUTH STREET PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

1	ISSUED FOR APPROVAL	12/22/20	
0	ISSUED FOR COMMENT	12/11/20	
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	
REVISIONS			

SCALE 1"=10'

OCTOBER 2020

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION PLAN





PREVIOUSLY APPROVED NORTH ELEVATION 2

PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION
1/8" = 1'-0"

232 SOUTH STREET

PROPOSED ELEVATIONS

1/8" = 1'-0"

SHEET 1 OF 3

6 JANUARY, 2021



PORTSMOUTH, NH



PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SOUTH ELEVATION 1/8" = 1'-0"

PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION

202020

DMA

DESTEFANO MAUGEL

OF 3

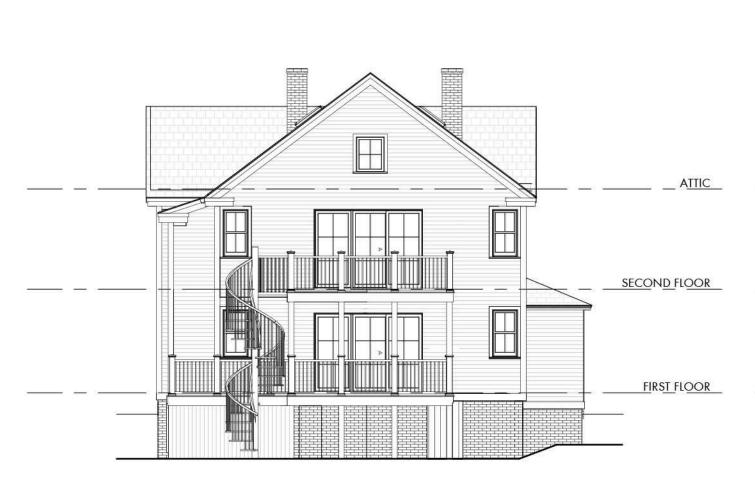
SHEET 2 6 JANUARY, 2021

232 SOUTH STREET

1/8" = 1'-0"

PROPOSED ELEVATIONS

PORTSMOUTH, NH





PREVIOUSLY APPROVED EAST ELEVATION

1/8" = 1'-0"

2

PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION

1/8" = 1'-0"

232 SOUTH STREET

PORTSMOUTH, NH

PROPOSED ELEVATIONS

6 JANUARY, 2021

OF 3

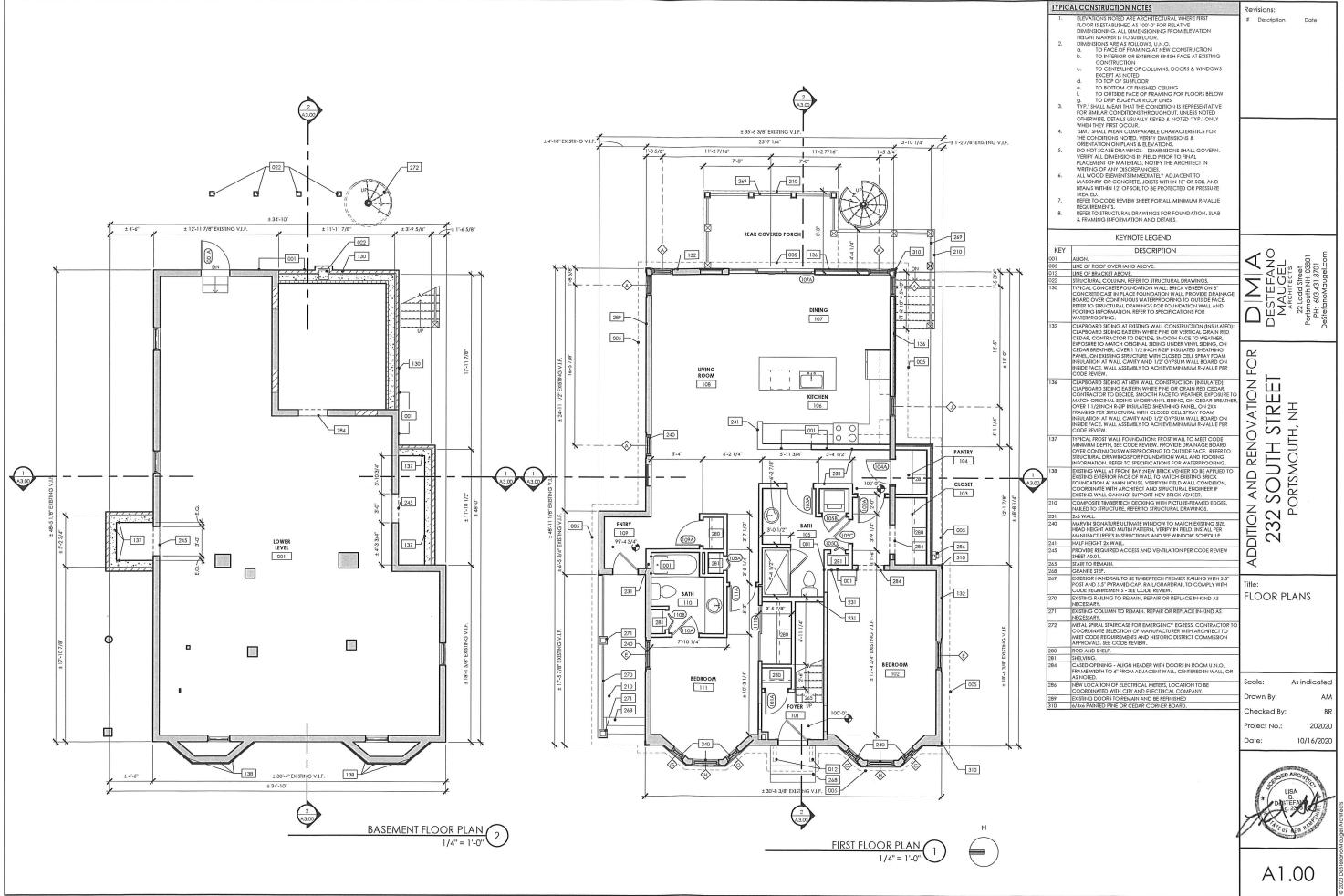
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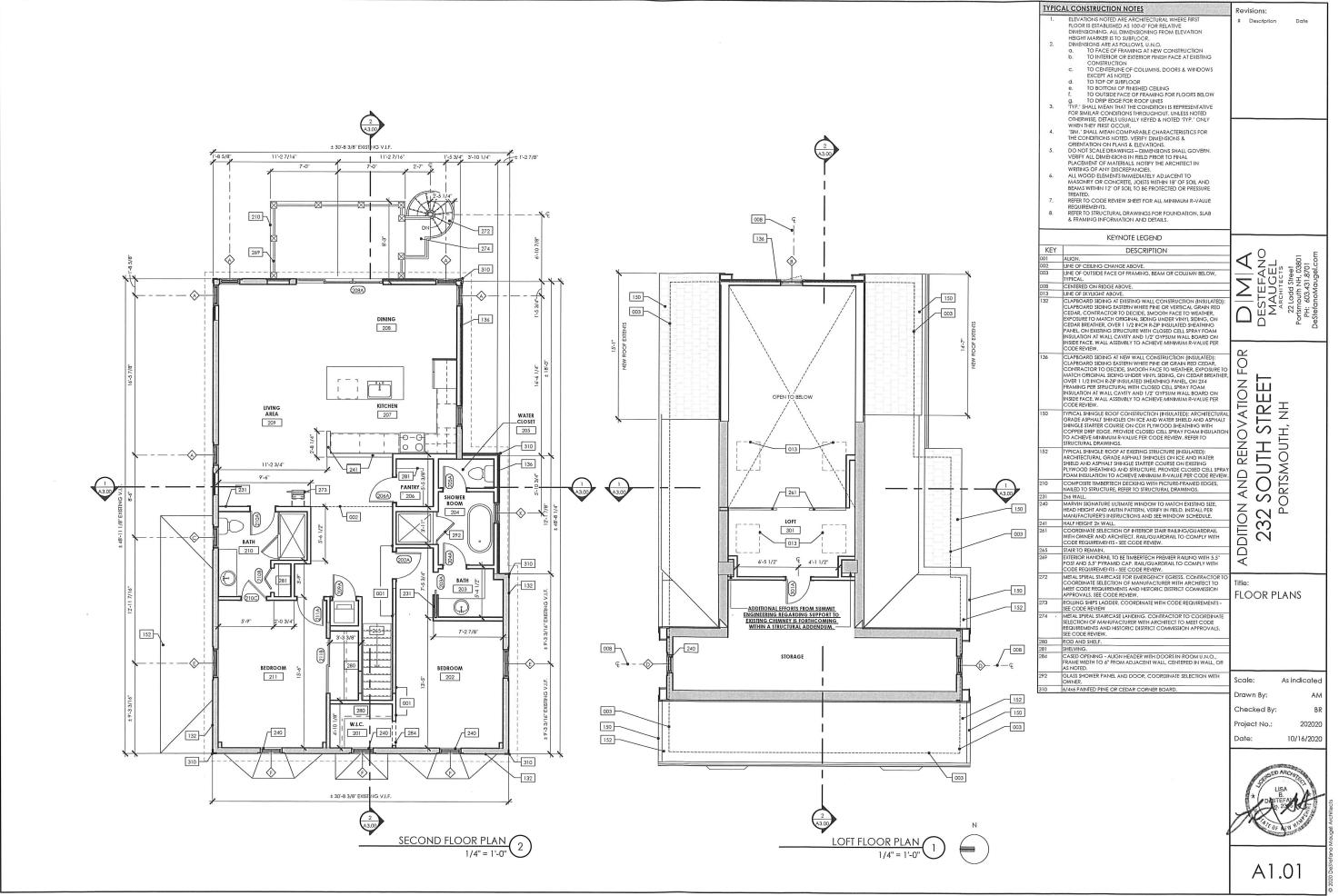
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DESTEFANO

MAUGEL

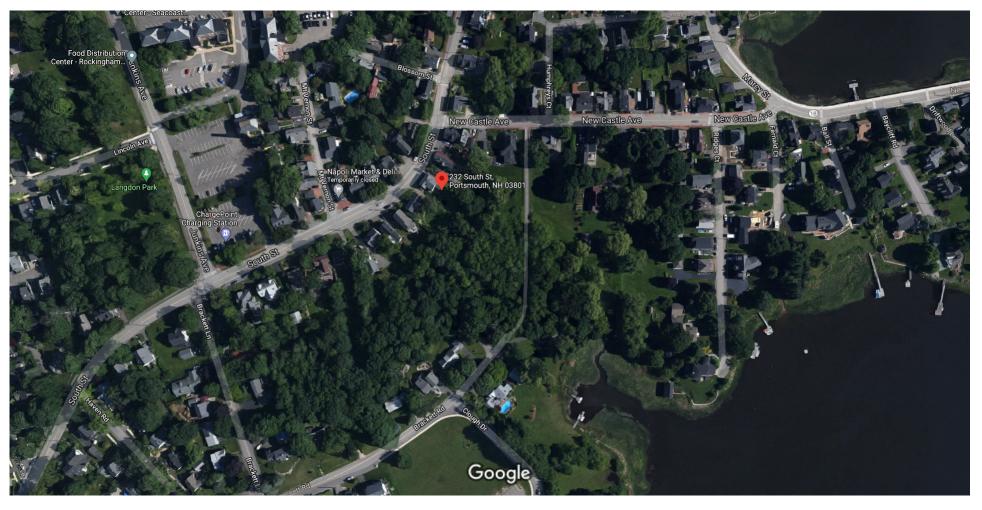
ARCHITECTS





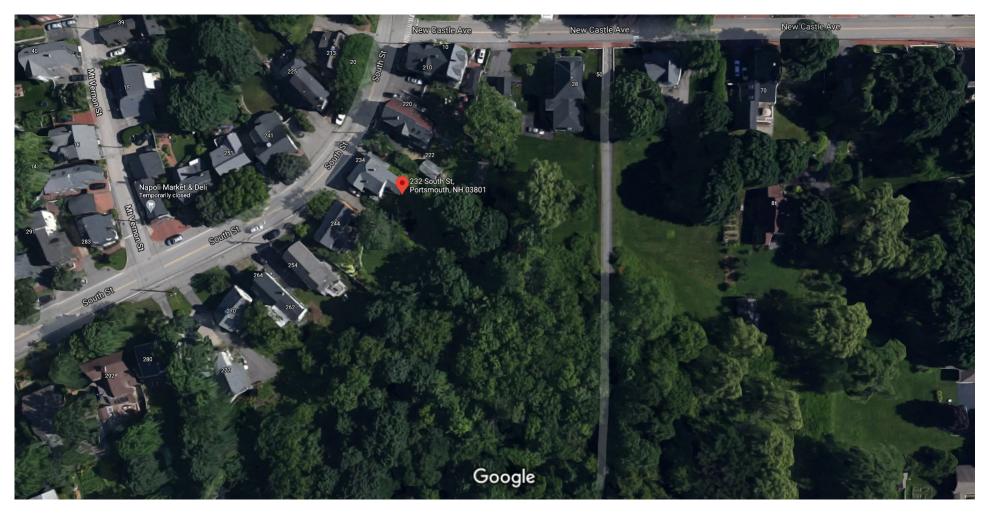


Google Maps 232 South St



Imagery ©2020 Google, Imagery ©2020 Maine GeoLibrary, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA Farm Service Agency, Map data ©2020 100 ft

Google Maps 232 South St



Imagery ©2020 Google, Imagery ©2020 Maine GeoLibrary, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, Map data ©2020 50 ft ∟

234 South St



Image capture: Sep 2017 © 2020 Google

Portsmouth, New Hampshire



Street View

Google Maps 241 South St



Image capture: Sep 2017 © 2020 Google

Portsmouth, New Hampshire



Street View

Google Maps 222 South St



Image capture: Sep 2017 © 2020 Google

Portsmouth, New Hampshire



Street View

