



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Adjustment
FROM: Daniel Word, Planner Principal, Residential Review
DATE: December 31, 2014
SUBJECT: Appeal of Building Permit Approval at 904 Jessie Street

Timeline

An application was submitted to Residential Review on September 24, 2014 proposing to construct a new two-story single-family residence. The construction plans (Attachment A) related to the permit application were approved on November 24, 2014 and the subsequent building permit was activated on the same day.

An appeal (Attachment B) of the building official's administrative decision to approve the permit request was received on December 12, 2014.

Arguments

The appeal raises two issues. Firstly, the appellant (Zilker Neighborhood Association) challenges the applicant's method for measuring gross floor area as defined in Title 25-2 Subchapter F Article 3.3. The appellant asserts that the approved plans show measurements taken to the outside edge of framing only and does not include the exterior finish.

Secondly, the appeal questions the application of the "carport exception" provided in Title 25-2 Subchapter F Article 3.3.2.A.3. as it relates to the requirement that the open sides of the carport be clear and unobstructed for at least 80% of the area measured below the top plate to the finished floor. This particular case proposes a carport that is bounded by six "sides" rather than four, referred to by the appellant as an "L-shaped" carport.

The appellant also takes issue with the location of a covered porch immediately adjacent to the carport structure. In this particular case, the appellant argues that placing the porch in the proposed location should disallow the adjacent "side" of the carport area to be used towards the required "open sides" necessary to obtain the exception from gross floor area.

Commentary

Related to the first issue, gross floor area is defined in the code under Title 25-1-21 (44) as the total enclosed area of all floors of a building, measured to the outside surface of the exterior walls. Subchapter F essentially adopts this same language, only making further provisions for parking areas, porches, attics, and basements. It appears that the applicant has taken measurements to the outside edge of the framing, which would align with the foundation edge. Such a method would ignore the thickness of the exterior finish material.

The second issue raised is a challenging subject. The code requires that the parking area be “open on two or more sides” and that the open sides are “clear and unobstructed for at least 80% of the area measured below the top of the wall plate to the finished floor of the carport”. This section of code is very specific regarding the vertical dimensions to be calculated, but is vague when describing the horizontal dimensions to be considered. The appellant outlines various possible interpretations and circumstances that can arise given the vagueness and lack of clarity or specificity in the code.

The Land Development Code offers no direction or definition as to what should constitute a “side” of a carport. The LDC defines a carport in Title 25-1-22 as “a roofed space used as shelter for a parked vehicle”. The International Residential Code (2012 IRC) simply defines a carport as being “open on at least two sides”. The Transportation Criteria Manual does provide minimum depths and widths for parking stalls. For residential 90° head-in, back-out parking, staff requires stalls to be a minimum of 8.5 feet in width and 17 feet in depth.

The location of the entry porch also creates a difficult assessment. The code exempts ground floor porches less than 200 square feet from the gross floor area calculation provided that they are not accessible by automobile and not connected to a driveway. In this case, the porch is not capable of being driven into by an automobile and does not connect to the driveway.

So while the question as to whether the porch itself is exempted from gross floor area is not being appealed, the location of the porch places the “carport” exemption in question. The 2012 IRC does provide for minimum widths for egress doors (R311.2) and hallways (R311.6). The porch area provides an egress door of 42 inches (32 inches minimum requirement) and a porch width of 67.5 inches. Were the porch area treated as a hallway under the IRC, the minimum width would be 36 inches.

Recommendation

Regarding the first issue, staff concurs with the position of the appellant that gross floor area measurements should be taken to the “outside surface of the exterior walls” as written in the code, which in the opinion of staff, should include exterior finishes, inclusive of masonry, siding, stucco or other materials. Staff respectfully requests the Board uphold the appeal and require the construction plans be corrected to comply with the interpretation of both staff and the appellant as it relates to the calculation of gross floor area.

Regarding the second issue, as a control to the potential absurdities created by the limited language in the code, staff suggests using the minimum stall width and depth requirements as a guide in determining a “side” of a carport. For instance, if an applicant is proposing a two-car carport, with parking stalls adjacent (side-by-side) to one another, such as is the case presented tonight, that no “side” used toward the minimum opening requirement be less than 17 feet in length.

The code does not openly prohibit porches from being located adjacent to carport areas provided that the porch cannot reasonably be used as additional parking space. This fact, coupled with the finding that the covered porch adjacent to the carport area meets the minimum dimensions for egress, landings, and hallways, staff suggests the porch area be analyzed independently of the carport area. Thus staff recommends that the Board deny the appeal and support the staff interpretation as it relates to the “carport exemption”.

NOT REVIEWED FOR TECHNICAL BUILDING CODE

- * ROOM NAMES ON PLANS AND IN DATA TABLES THIS SHEET HAVE THE LEVEL AS PART OF THE DESIGNATION.
- * THE "0" PREFIX REFERS TO "LEVEL-0"
- * THE "1" PREFIX REFERS TO "LEVEL-1"
- * THE "L" PREFIX REFERS TO "LEVEL-L"
- * THE "2" PREFIX REFERS TO "LEVEL-2"
- (THE UPPERMOST LEVEL - OR "HIGHEST ATTC." LEVEL)

A. FLOOD PLAINING LOCATION, OR CODE:
N/A
B. DRAINAGE AREA ON PROPERTY:
305
C. SOILS MAP / MATERIAL ON PRIVATE PROPERTY:
N/A
D. UNCHANGED WOODS:
N/A
E. UNCHANGED POOL BEDS:
N/A
F. ARI CHANGES POND:
19 SF (1 @ 6.25 SF EACH) (3562.5)
G. OTHER:
N/A

WATER SPREADS DRAINAGE AREA:
3224 SF FOR 41.7% OF SITE AREA
TOTAL SITE AREA:
7760 SF
WATER LC = 0.08 OF SITE AREA OR 304.62 SF

[illegible]

	REIN.	COL.	NO. OF
I. FIRST FLOOR:			
* 2412 SF			1893 SF
II. SECOND FLOOR:			
SEE ATMC		SEE ATMC	SEE ATMC
III. THIRD FLOOR:			
-			
IV. BASEMENT:			
* 970 SF		* 0 SF	970 SF
1111 716 SF		1111 716 SF	0 SF
V. PARKING STRUCTURE:			
426 SF		426 SF	0 SF
VI. ACCESSORY BUILDING:			

NEW CONSTRUCTION
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE
ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD
ZIPCODE: 78704
ZONING SF-3

CRAIG PARKER HOMES

[illegible]

Planning and Development Review Department
By SKZ Date 11-29-44

The granting of a permit by, or approval of, these plans and specifications shall not be construed to be a permit by, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of the current adopted building code or any other ordinance of the City of Austin.

SITE PLAN
 NAT-SOAL (23x34): 1/0" = 1'
 NAT-SOAL (11x17): 1/16" = 1'

A0-1

[illegible]

REVIEWED FOR ZONING ONLY

NOT REVIEWED FOR TECHNICAL BUILDING CODE



1. 2-5' DOD MUST INDICATE FOR CLARITY.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS FROM EDGE OF CONCRETE OR FINISH OR OTHERS 2-4'
3. COORDINATE ALL DOOR OPERATIONS OF WINDOWS & DOORS WITH MANUFACTURER REQUIREMENTS.
4. WINDOWS ARE SET IN PLAYS IN WITH "HIDE" FINISH.
5. SET EXTERIOR ELEMENTS FOR ADOX 440
6. DOOR FINISH AS NOTED ON PLANS, DOOR HEIGHT SHALL BE 6'-7" @
7. TYPICAL FINISHES NOT INDICATED ON PLAN ELEMENTS OR SECTION

NOTE: REPAIR, DAMAGED

- * DOOR SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM CLEAR OPENING OF 30"
- * LUBRIC. 2nd LUBRIC. SHALL BE REINFORCED @ 3" A.F.F.
- * FLUSH WITH SLO DICES OF WALL
- * SEE PLAN FOR DAMAGED INFO THIS ELEVATION (REFERENCE-01.1)

NOTE: JISC ELECTRICAL APPOINTMENTS

- * ALL LIGHT SWITCHES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS THIS LEVEL, MUST BE NO HIGHER THAN 48" A.F.F.
- * ALL OUTLETS AND RECEPTACLES THIS LEVEL, MUST BE 15" A.F.F.

011 ASSESSMENT ROUTE. SEE VISUALIZATION NOTES, LEVEL 1 PLAN ONLY.

021 EXISTING GRADE AT PROPERTY LINE

022 EXISTING GRADE ADJACENT TO BUILDING

023 EXISTING GRADE TO BE ADAPTED FOR STORM DRAINAGE VLF

024 NEW FINISH GRADELINE FIELD-DETENTION

031 CONC FOUNDATION PER STRUCT.

032 CONC FOUNDATION PER STRUCT. SLOPED TO DRAIN AS NOTED

033 CONC FOUNDATION PER STRUCT. SLOPED TO DRAIN AS NOTED

034 CONC RETAINMENT WALL STRUCTURE. FIELD-VEGETY HICKIES

035 CONC DRAINAGE OR FLANORING. SLOPE TO DRAIN AS NOTED

NEW CONSTRUCTION
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE
ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD
ZIP CODE: 78704
ZONING: SF-3

CRAIG PARKER HOMES

A1.1

Attachment A (4)

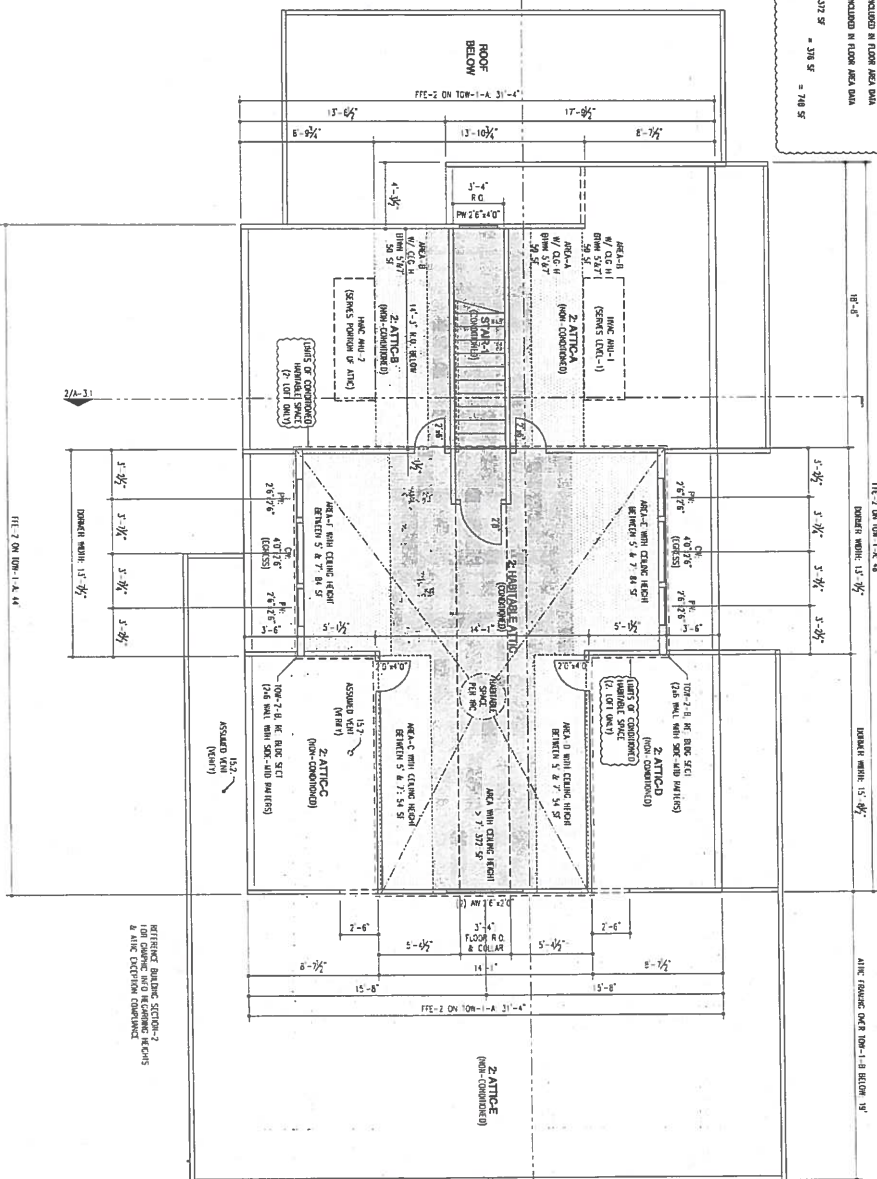
[illegible]

ATRIC EXCEPTION NOTES

1. ONLY 7" HORIZONTAL ATRIC IS CONSIDERED HORIZONTAL SPACE BY THE AREA-2012
2. AREAS THAT PLAY WITH A SOLID SHADE = AREAS WITH A CEILING HEIGHT OF 7' OR GREATER
3. AREAS THAT PLAY WITH A DOTTED HATCH = AREAS WITH A CEILING HEIGHT OF BETWEEN 5' & 7'
4. AREAS THAT PLAY WITHOUT A HATCH = AREAS WITH A CEILING HEIGHT OF 5' WHICH ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN CALCULATIONS
5. HORIZONTAL SPACE IS OBTAINED WITH A THIN DOTTED LINE

NOT REVIEWED FOR TECHNICAL BUILDING CODE

REVIEWED FOR ZONING ONLY



ATTIC EXCEPTION FLOOR DATA

TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF HORIZONTAL ATTIC (> 5' CEILING HEIGHT):	
748 SF	
100 %	
FLOOR AREA OF HORIZONTAL ATTIC WITH CEILING HEIGHT BETWEEN 5' & 7':	
374 SF	
50 %	
FLOOR AREA OF HORIZONTAL ATTIC WITH CEILING HEIGHT > 7':	
374 SF	
49 %	
REFERS TO BUILDING SECTION 1 FOR ADEQ. CHANGE INFO REGARDING REPORTS	

FLOOR PLAN NOTES

1. 3/4" STUD WALLS W/CHORD FOR CLAMET.
2. ALL OTHERS 2"X.
3. ALL EXTERIOR FINISH FLOOR OF CONCRETE OR FINISHING.
4. ALL INTERIOR FINISH OF SCHEDULED AREAS: TYP.
5. COORDINATE ALL DOOR OPENINGS OF WINDOWS & DOORS WITH MANUFACTURER'S REQUIREMENTS.
6. WINDOWS ARE SIZED ON PLANS IN NORTH - HEIGHT FORMULA.
7. SET EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS FOR ADJ. W/O.
8. DOOR HEIGHTS ARE NOTED ON PLANS; DOOR HEIGHTS SHALL BE 4'-0" & 4'-6" TYPICAL UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE ON PLAN ELEVATION OR SECTION.

KEYNOTES LEGEND[illegible]

FLOOR PLAN: LEVEL-2 (HABITABLE ATTIC)
 FULL-SCALE (22.54) $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1'
 HALF-SCALE (11.17) $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'



A1.2

904 JESSIE STREET

NEW CONSTRUCTION
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE
ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD
ZIP CODE 78704
ZONING SF-3

CRAIG PARKER HOMES

BORÉN

©2009 WARDLICKS.COM

DATE: 31 OCT 2014

PROJECT: _____

AS NOTED

Staff:

Y

904 JESSIE STREET
NEW CONSTRUCTION
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE
ZILKER NEIGHBORHOOD
ZIP CODE 78704
ZONING SF-3
CRAIG PARKER HOMES

[illegible]

BUILDING SECTION - 1

904 JESSI STREET

NEW CONSTRUCTION
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE
ZUKER NEIGHBORHOOD
ZIP CODE 78704
ZONING SF-1

BOREN ARCHITECTS
3000 DOWNS
DALLAS, TEXAS 75219
214.742.1111

DATE: 31 OCT 2014
ISSUE: 2 FOR PRELIMINARY REVIEW
PROJECT: 1424
TITLE: AS NOTED
SCALE: DRN

A3.1

A. TOTAL BUILDING COVERED ON LOT
1550 SF

B. DRAINAGE AREA ON PROPERTY
250

C. SEPTIC TANKS, WELLS OR FILLAGE
N/A

D. UNCOVERED PAVING
N/A

E. UNCOVERED ROAD RIGHTS
N/A

F. ARE COVERED PAVES
19.5' (3 @ 6.5' x EACH) (25,252)

G. OTHER
N/A

TOTAL PAVEMENT COVERED AREA
2294 SF FOR 44.4% OF SITE AREA

TOTAL SITE AREA
5166 SF

100% PAVEMENT = 42% OF SITE AREA ON 2294 SF

A. FIRST FLOOR CORRIDORED AREAS	
B. SECOND FLOOR CORRIDORED AREAS	
C. THIRD FLOOR CORRIDORED AREAS	
D. EXISTING CORRIDORED AREAS	979 SF
E. COVERED PARKING	CARPORT
F. COVERED PLAZAS	DECKS & PORCHES
G. EXISTING PLAZAS	217 SF
H. EXISTING PORCH	1. EXISTING PORCH
I. TOTAL	443 SF
J. EXISTING	443 SF
K. OTHER	
L. NOT APPLICABLE	
TOTAL	4444 SF
TOTAL LEASING CONFIRMED:	2860 SF
33% OF SITE AREA	1331 SF
(TOTAL AREA = 12500 SF)	

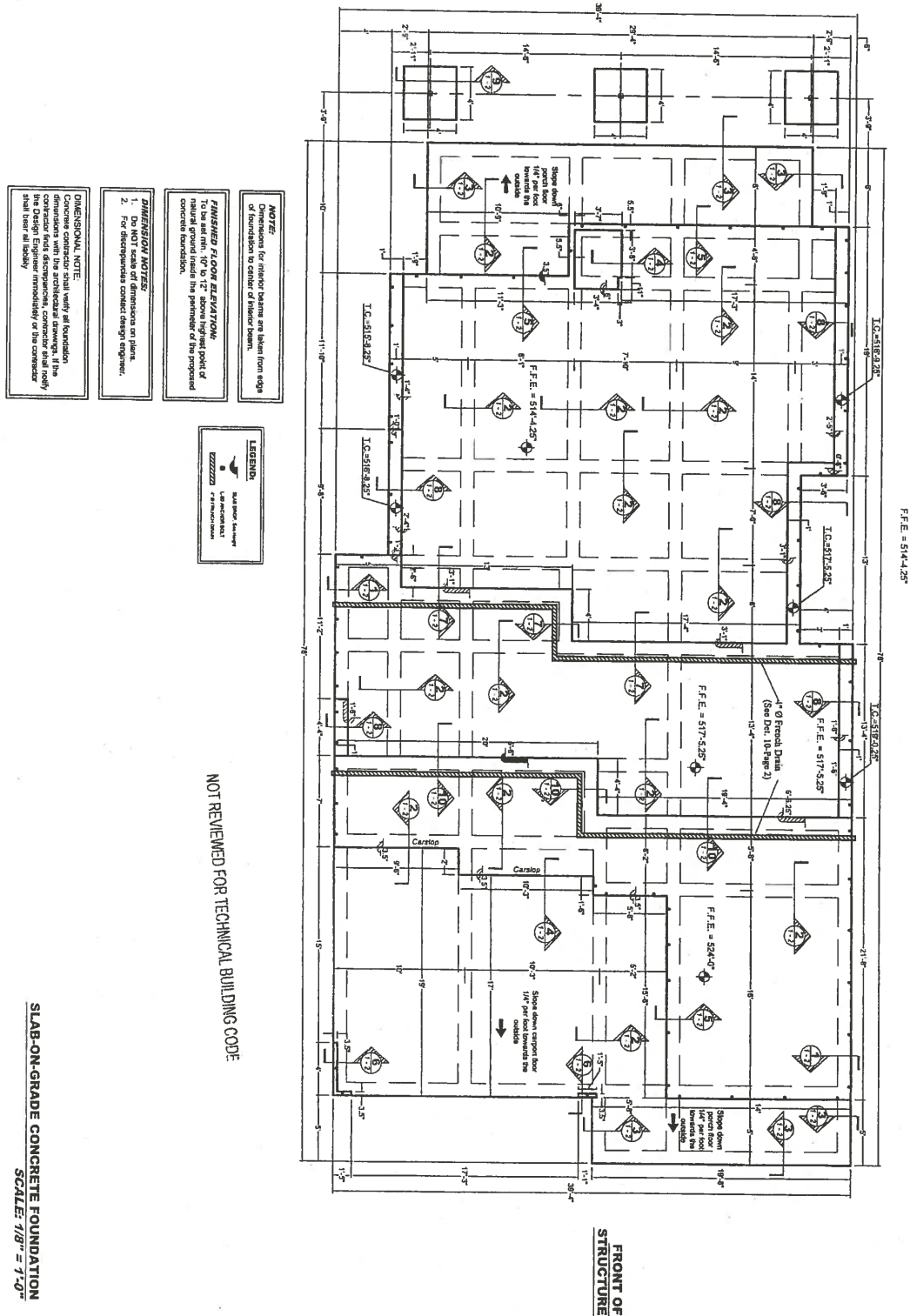
	NET
I FIRST FLOOR	* 2412 SF
II SECOND FLOOR	SF. AIRC
III THIRD FLOOR	SF
IV BASEMENT	*** 1187 SF
V ATRC	807 SF
VI PLUMBING STRUCTURE	438 SF
VII ACCESSORY BUILDING	-

BOREN
ARCHITECTS
512.554.5477
DAVID@BOREN
BORENARCHITECTS.COM

NOTES	DISCOUNTS
* INCLUDES 1 BALCONY & 1 ENTRY PORCH	YES PARKING EXEMPTION?
** 1 BALCONY + 1 ENTRY PORCH	YES GARAGE FLOOR PORCH EXEMPTION?
0, BASED ON + 0 CHALKED FLOOR PORCH	NO BASEMENT EXEMPTION?
*** GARAGE FLOOR PORCH EXCEPTION BELOW	YES WALKWAY ATN. EXEMPTION?
	NO SEWAGE ANNUALIZATION REQUIRED?
	NO SEWAGE PLANT PROTRUSION?

A0.1

Attachment A (9)



NOT REVIEWED FOR TECHNICAL BUILDING CODE

SLAB-ON-GRADE CONCRETE FOUNDATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

GENERAL NOTES:

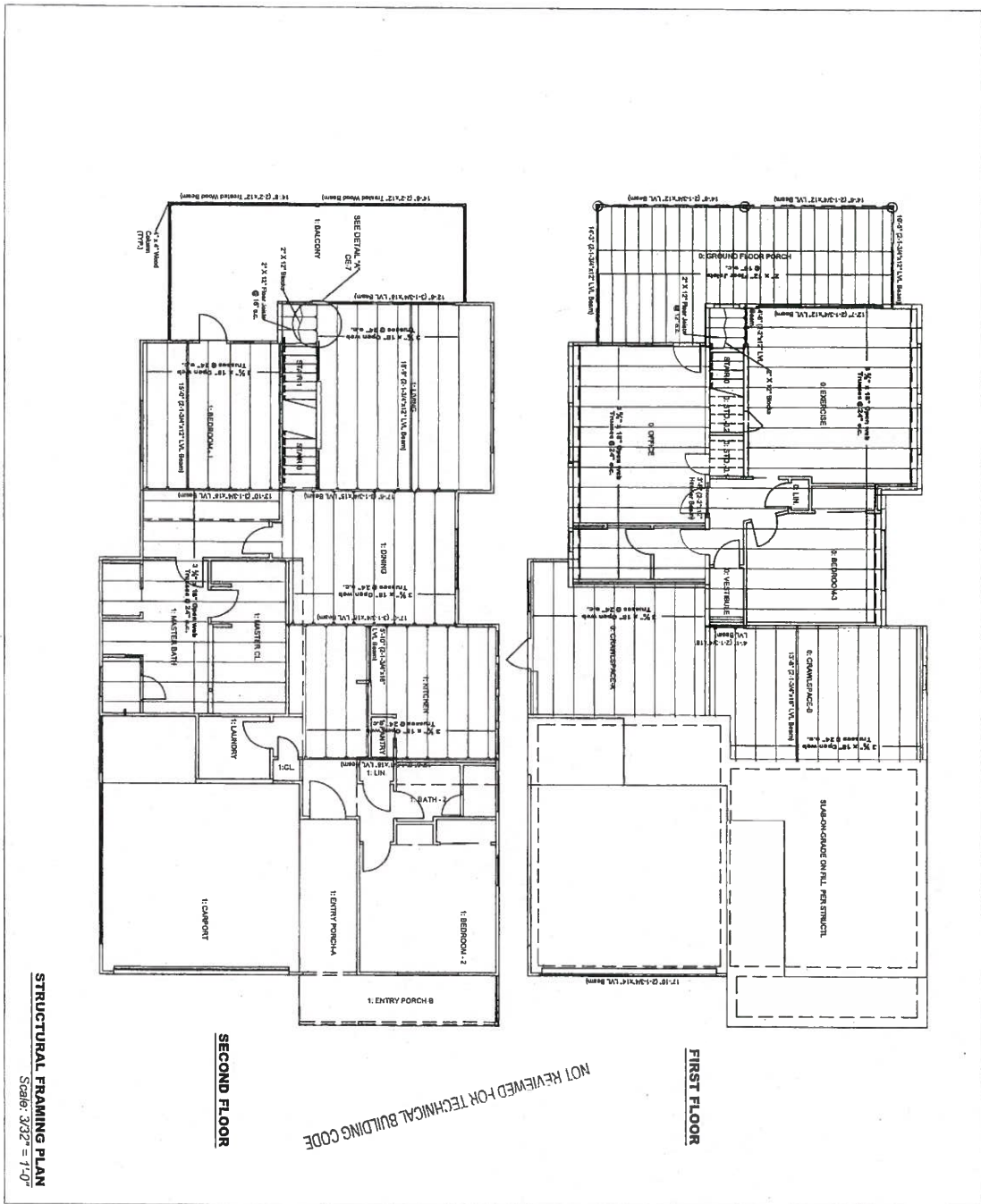
- The design of this project is the property of Genesis Engineering Co. Any copies without prior written permission is not allowed.
- Any field changes or modifications shall be reflected in the design engineer's stamp.
- All proposed plans shall be submitted to the City of Austin, TX for review and approval.
- Field notes shall be retained in the construction file.
- The site and building shall be designed to meet the requirements of the City of Austin, TX.

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION AND STRUCTURAL FRAMING PLANS

GENESIS ENGINEERING COMPANY
1001 S. 10th St., Suite 100
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 899-2200 Fax
gengene@austin.rr.com

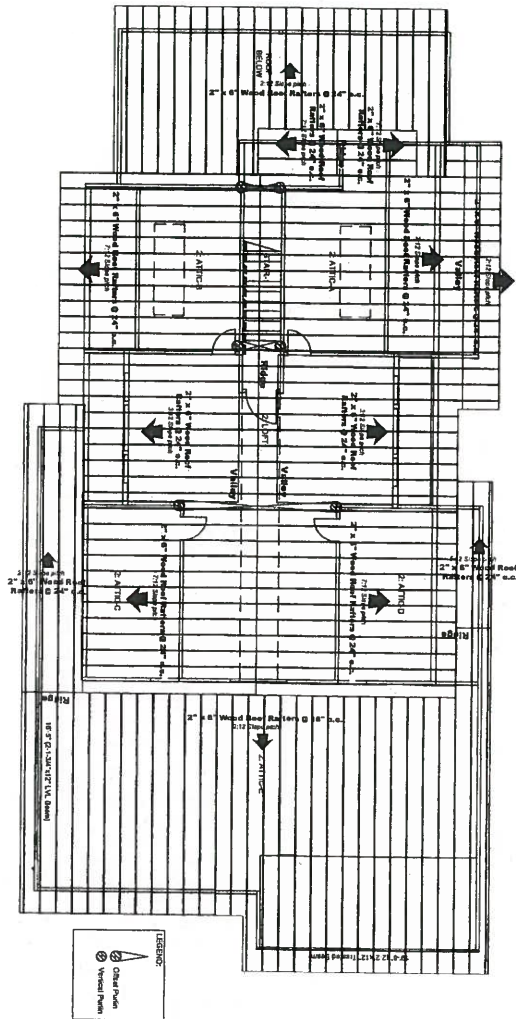
DATE: 11-14-39
BY: CE 1
OF 7

Attachment A (11)

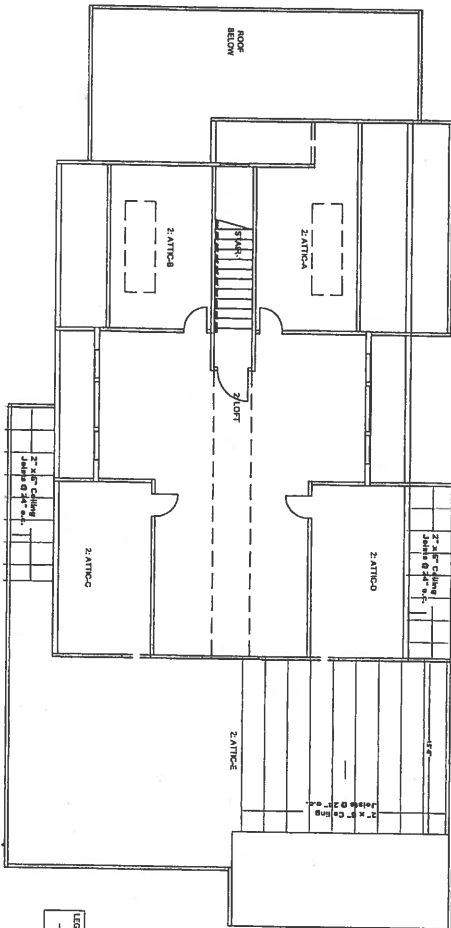


GENERAL NOTES: 1. The design of this project is the property of Gensert Engineering Co. Any design or construction shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Building Code (TBC) and the International Building Code (IBC) and the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Manual. 2. Any field changes or corrections shall be made by the engineer and shall be signed and dated by the engineer. 3. All work shall be done in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Building Code (TBC) and the International Building Code (IBC) and the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Manual. 4. All construction and materials shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Building Code (TBC) and the International Building Code (IBC) and the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Manual. 5. The engineer shall be held responsible for the design and construction of the project. 6. The engineer shall be held responsible for the design and construction of the project. 7. The engineer shall be held responsible for the design and construction of the project. 8. The engineer shall be held responsible for the design and construction of the project. 9. The engineer shall be held responsible for the design and construction of the project. 10. The engineer shall be held responsible for the design and construction of the project.	
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION FRAMING PLANS 904 JESSIE ST AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704	
G/E Gensert Engineering Company 4404 S. First Street, Suite 102, Austin, TX 78746 (512) 893-2246 gensert@gensertengineering.com	
Date: 11/05/14 Drawn: CE 3 Check: CE 3 Title: AS Shown	No. 1 Description/Amount 5040

Attachment A (12)



ROOF FRAMING PLAN
Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"



CEILING FRAMING PLAN
Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

NOT REVIEWED FOR TECHNICAL BUILDING CODE

- GENERAL NOTES:**
1. The design of this project is the property of the engineer and shall not be reproduced without prior written permission of the engineer.
 2. The design is based on the information provided by the owner and the engineer. The engineer is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided by the owner.
 3. The design is based on the information provided by the owner and the engineer. The engineer is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided by the owner.
 4. All construction and alterations shall be in accordance with the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 11, and the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 12.
 5. The site shall be cleared of all vegetation and the building shall be designed to meet the requirements of the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 11, and the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 12.
 6. The site and building shall be designed to meet the requirements of the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 11, and the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 12.
 7. The site and building shall be designed to meet the requirements of the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 11, and the City of Austin, TX Building Code, Chapter 12.



No.	Revision/Notes	Date
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

G/E
General Engineering Company
600 S. First Street, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78704
(512) 979-1234
gengr@ge.com

FOUNDATION AND STRUCTURAL FRAMING PLANS
594 JESSIE ST
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704

Project: AU-14-139
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"
Sheet: CE 4
OF 7
As Shown

NOT REVIEWED FOR TECHNICAL BUILDING CODE

THIRD LEVEL WALL BRACING PLAN
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

The diagram is a structural floor plan for the third level, specifically focusing on wall bracing. It shows a rectangular building footprint with various internal walls and bracing elements. Key features include:

- Dimensions:** The overall width is 31'-4" and the overall depth is 13'-7". Internal dimensions are marked as 18'-0", 13'-0", and 15'-0".
- Bracing Elements:** Labeled as "CS-WSP" (Cross-Sectional Wall Bracing), these are shown as dashed lines within the walls.
- Attic Spaces:** Labeled as "2 ATTIC-A", "2 ATTIC-B", "2 ATTIC-C", and "2 ATTIC-E".
- Roof Area:** Labeled as "ROOF BELOW".
- Staircase:** Labeled as "2 LOFT" and "2 ATTIC-B".
- Walls:** Labeled as "WALL BRACE 1", "WALL BRACE 2", and "WALL BRACE 3".
- Other Labels:** "2 ATTIC-D", "2 ATTIC-F", "2 ATTIC-G", "2 ATTIC-H", "2 ATTIC-I", "2 ATTIC-J", "2 ATTIC-K", "2 ATTIC-L", "2 ATTIC-M", "2 ATTIC-N", "2 ATTIC-O", "2 ATTIC-P", "2 ATTIC-Q", "2 ATTIC-R", "2 ATTIC-S", "2 ATTIC-T", "2 ATTIC-U", "2 ATTIC-V", "2 ATTIC-W", "2 ATTIC-X", "2 ATTIC-Y", "2 ATTIC-Z".

NOT REVIEWED FOR TECHNICAL BUILDING CODE

Received	AU-14-339	Issued	CE 7
Version	2.00		OF 7
Date			
Serial	AS SHOWTEL		

Attachment B

NOTICE OF APPEAL INFORMATION

Austin City Code ARTICLE 7. APPEALS, VARIANCES, SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS, AND ADJUSTMENTS.

Division 1. Appeals

(see page 2 of 2 for appeal process)



Planning and Development Review Department

Address of Property in Question

904 Jessie St

Permit Number

2014-102999 PR

Appellant Filing Appeal

Zilker Neighborhood Association

Relationship to Property

subject property is within the neighborhood boundaries

Appellant's status as Interested Party

neighborhood association in which subject property is located

Appellant Contact Information

Name

David King, President, ZNA

Street

1808 Kerr Street

City

Austin

State

TX

Zip

78704

Telephone

(512) 415-6016

E-Mail

dking@austin.rr.com

Permit Holder Contact Information

Name

Homes By Parker (Darrell C. Parker)

Street

P. O. Box 162942

City

Austin

State

TX

Zip

78716

Telephone

(512) 327-2877

E-Mail

info@craigparkerhomes.com

Date of Decision Being Appealed:

24 Nov 2014

Date Appeal is Filed:

12 Dec 2014

Decision being appealed: (use additional paper as required)

issuance of building permit 2014-102999 PR for 904 Jessie St

Reason the appellant believes the decision does not comply with the requirements of the Land Development Code (Title 25)

The applicant has 1) failed to measure McMansion FAR to the outside surface of the exterior walls and 2) has not complied with the requirements of the carport exemption. As a result, the house does not comply with the McMansion ordinance which requires that the FAR not exceed 40%.

See attached details.

BELOW FOR CITY USE ONLY

Hearing Date:

Board or Commission:

Action on Appeal:

Date of Action

Form Bldg 101 Page 1 of 2

The applicant must complete page 2 of 2 and sign before this application of appeal is complete. The application will not be processed unless the applicant reads and signs page 2 of 2.

Attachment B (2)

Page 2 of 2

Appeal Process

You may appeal by following the Land Development Code requirements below. You must complete the form with all required information.

ARTICLE 7. APPEALS, VARIANCES, SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS, AND ADJUSTMENTS.

Division 1. Appeals.

§ 25-1-181 STANDING TO APPEAL.

- (A) A person has standing to appeal a decision if:
 - (1) the person is an interested party; and
 - (2) a provision of this title identifies the decision as one that may be appealed by that person.
- (B) A body holding a public hearing on an appeal shall determine whether a person has standing to appeal the decision.

Source: Section 13-1-250; Ord. 990225-70; Ord. 030828-65; Ord. 031211-11.

§ 25-1-182 INITIATING AN APPEAL.

An interested party may initiate an appeal by filing a notice of appeal with the responsible director or building official, as applicable, not later than:

- (1) the 14th day after the date of the decision of a board or commission; or
- (2) the 20th day after an administrative decision.

Source: Section 13-1-251(a); Ord. 990225-70; Ord. 031211-11.

Attachment B (3)

904 JESSIE STREET (PERMIT NUMBER 2014-102999 PR)

Reasons the Decision Does Not Comply with the Requirements of the Land Development Code:

- 1) The Land Development Code (LDC) requires that the gross floor area be measured to the outside surface of the exterior walls:

SUBCHAPTER F: RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AND COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS

§ 3.3. GROSS FLOOR AREA.

In this Subchapter, GROSS FLOOR AREA has the meaning assigned by Section 25-1-21 (Definitions), with the following modifications:

3.3.1. In this Subchapter, GROSS FLOOR AREA means all enclosed space, regardless of its dimensions, that is not exempted under subsections 3.3.2, 3.3.3, or 3.3.4.

§ 25-1-21 DEFINITIONS.

(44) GROSS FLOOR AREA means the total enclosed area of all floors in a building with a clear height of more than six feet, measured to the outside surface of the exterior walls. The term includes loading docks and excludes atria airspace, parking facilities, driveways, and enclosed loading berths and off-street maneuvering areas.

The architectural plans of the first and second floor appear to be drawn to the outer edge of the wood framing and not to the "outside surface of the exterior walls" which is demonstrated by the fact that the first floor plan dimensions match the foundation plan dimensions. Normally, the edge of the framing is aligned with the foundation edge. When sheathing and siding are added, this dimension is typically increased by more than an inch on all sides. Since the criteria for calculating the McMansion FAR is measurement to the "outside surface of the exterior walls", the McMansion FAR is not calculated correctly. If one assumes a ½" sheathing and ¾" siding, the first floor area is increased 22.9 sq ft and the basement floor area is increased by 10.3 sq ft. This is an additional 33.2 sq ft that must be added to the McMansion FAR calculation. Using AutoCAD and the applicant's dimensions, ZNA calculated an area of 1,893.0 sq ft for the first floor and 968.9 sq ft for the basement floor as measured to the edge of framing, for a total of 2,861.9 sq ft. Adding the additional 33.2 sq ft for the area from the edge of framing to the outside surface of the exterior wall makes the total FAR 2,895.1 sq ft. This is 40.17% or 12.7 sq ft over the maximum limit of 40%. The gross floor area contained in the floor plans must be reduced to comply with the LDC.

For the record, please note that the applicant's math and the total gross floor area shown on the McMansion calculation sheet on page 3 of the application are in error (1893 sq ft + 970 sq ft = 2,863 sq ft, not 2,880 sq ft).

Attachment B (4)

- 2) For the record, please note that this project is claiming a "parking area" exemption even though the checkbox is not correctly checked on page 3 of the application. The Land Development Code (LDC) requires that the carport (parking area) be open 80% on at least two sides to be exempted from gross area floor calculations:

SUBCHAPTER F: RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AND COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS

§ 3.3. GROSS FLOOR AREA.

In this Subchapter, GROSS FLOOR AREA has the meaning assigned by Section 25-1-21 (Definitions), with the following modifications:

...

3.3.2. Subject to the limitations in paragraph C below, the following parking areas and structures are excluded from gross floor area for purposes of this Subchapter:

A. Up to 450 square feet of:

...

3. A parking area that is open on two or more sides, if:

i. it does not have habitable space above it; and

ii. the open sides are clear and unobstructed for at least 80% of the area measured below the top of the wall plate to the finished floor of the carport.

ZNA believes the applicant does not meet this requirement because the applicant's calculation of the carport opening on the north side is a) not greater than 80% and b) not clear and unobstructed.

- a) The applicant is utilizing an L-shaped carport, which creates issues in calculating the percentage of the opening on the north side of the carport. ZNA believes utilizing an L-shaped carport allows one to misinterpret the intent of the ordinance and circumvent it. There is no real question as to the length of the opening. However, there is a difference of interpretation with respect to the overall length of the wall to be used in calculating the percentage of the opening. There are three ways one might calculate the overall length of the north wall as shown in Exhibit A. The applicant is utilizing Method 2 although some applicants are even arguing for the use of Method 3. ZNA believes Method 1 is the correct way to calculate the opening. Using this method, the opening is only 59.3%. Using Method 2, the opening is almost exactly 80%. Please note that in using Method 2, the applicant calculates the opening percentage to be 81.3% as shown in Drawing A3.1. This is because the applicant incorrectly uses an overall length of 18'-8½" instead of the actual 19' as shown on the first floor plan in Drawing A1.1.

ZNA believes it is a misinterpretation of the ordinance to not require the overall measurement along the full length of the entire carport. The problem associated with using Method 2 is illustrated more fully in Examples 1 through 6 of Exhibit B. As part of

Attachment B (5)

the internal carport wall shifts from Example 1 to Example 6, it becomes more and more apparent that the overall length of the wall opening should be measured using Method 1. If one were to accept the use of Method 2, then it must be decided at which point (from Example 1 to Example 6) the measurement of the overall length should be switched to Method 1 from Method 2.

- b) The applicant is claiming that the north side of the carport is clear and unobstructed. ZNA believes that an assertion that a carport opening is clear and unobstructed when it is immediately adjacent to an enclosed and covered entry way is not only inconsistent with the plain wording of the ordinance, it is completely inconsistent with the intent of the ordinance. Since the ordinance grants only a 200 sq ft exemption for an enclosed parking area, we believe that the clear and unobstructed wall openings required for a carport were specifically intended to prevent the additional mass that would be created by constructing an enclosed parking area (i.e., a garage) to the front of a house. The idea was that an open carport could qualify for the larger 450 sq ft exemption because this type of parking area would not seem so massive. The applicant for 904 Jessie, as well as other applicants, are attempting to use the carport exemption to essentially allow construction of something that very closely resembles an enclosed garage. ZNA does not believe the carport exemption was ever intended to allow garage doors on carports. However, the ordinance does seem to permit this as the current project demonstrates. What the ordinance does not permit, and should not be interpreted to permit, is for the "carport" to become even more similar to a garage by allowing one side of it to be completely enclosed with an entry way that is itself also enclosed and covered.

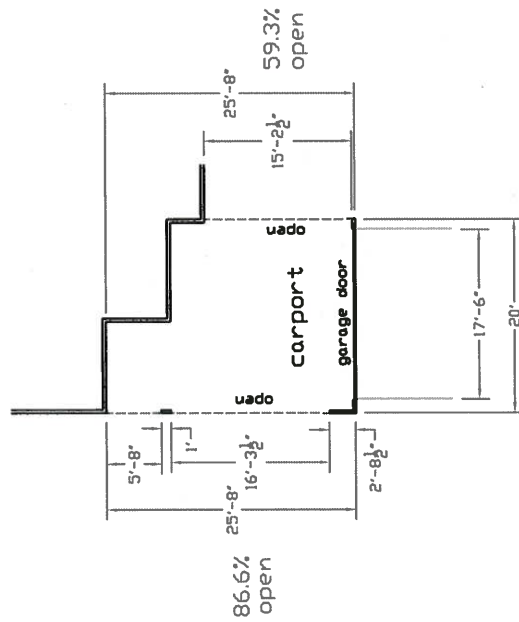
Exhibit B illustrates possible examples of parking areas that are adjacent to covered and enclosed entry ways. ZNA believes that Examples 1 through 6 are instances where the carport opening is not clear and unobstructed. We believe Examples 7 and 8 are acceptable under the current wording of the ordinance.

Under what ZNA believes is the correct interpretation of the LDC, the applicant should only be entitled to a 200 sq ft exemption for the attached parking area. With only a 200 sq ft exemption, another 238 sq ft must be added to the McMansion FAR. This pushes the FAR percentage well over the 40% requirement.

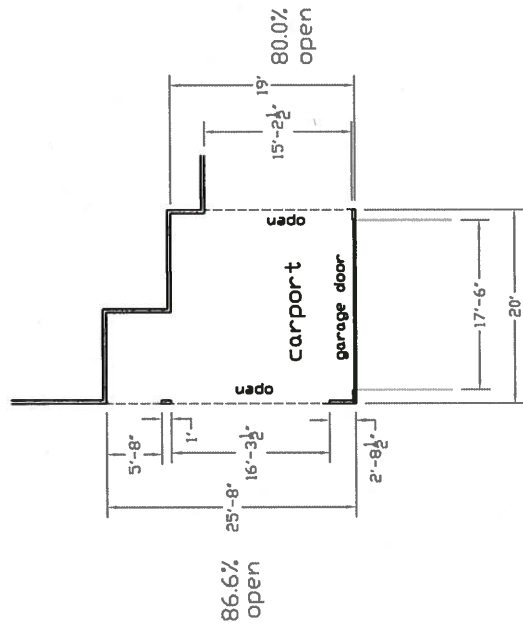
EXHIBIT A

Attachment B (6)

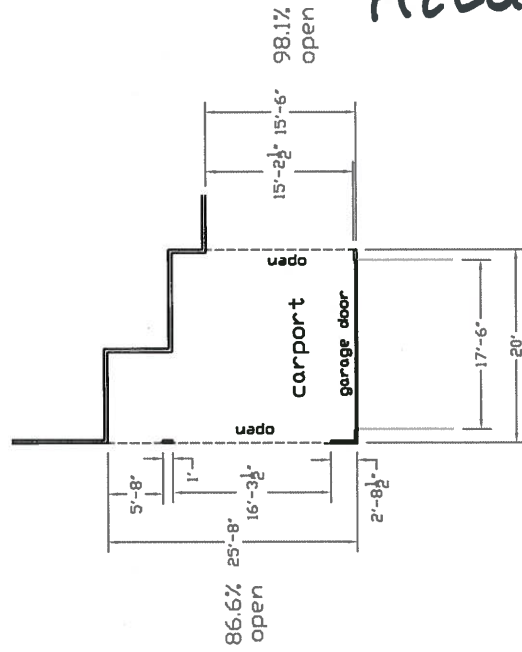
Method 1



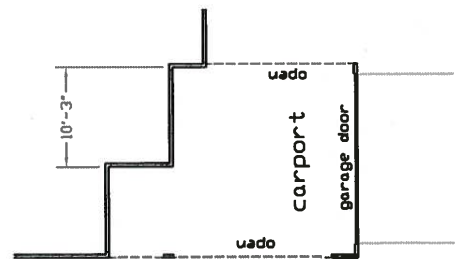
Method 2



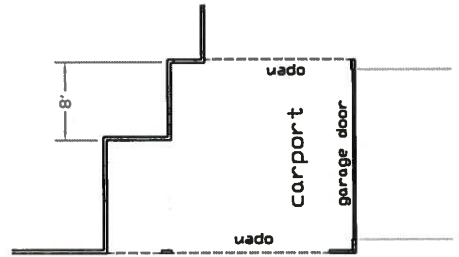
Method 3



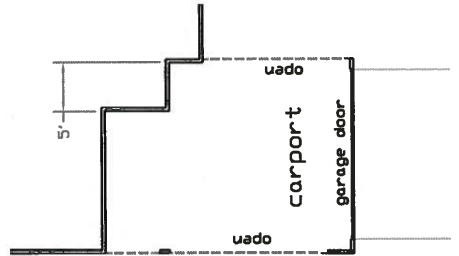
Example 1



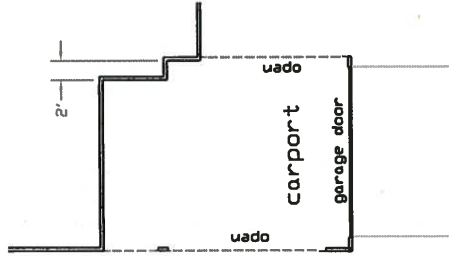
Example 2



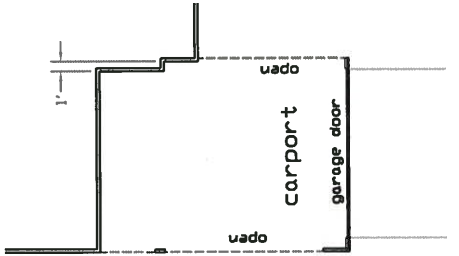
Example 3



Example 4



Example 5



Example 6

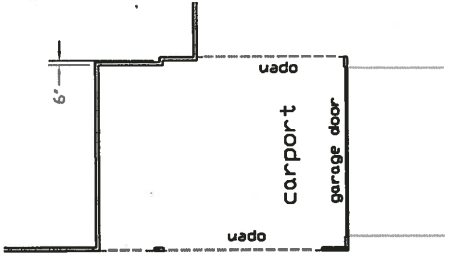
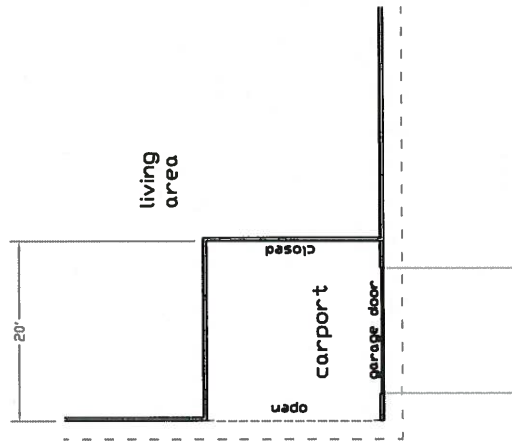


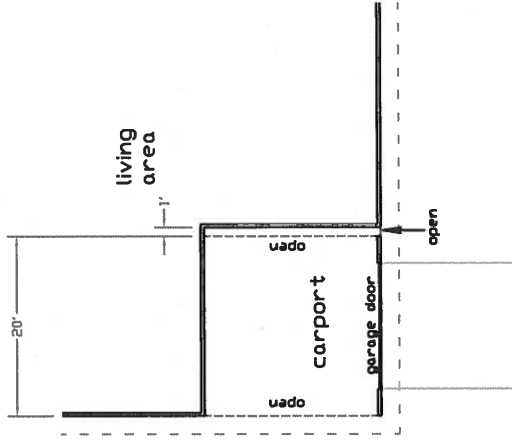
EXHIBIT B

Attachment B (7)

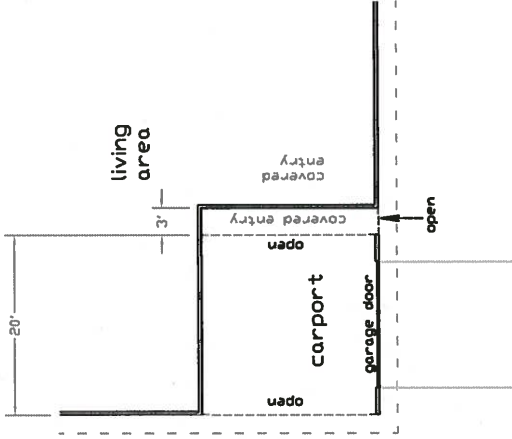
Example 1



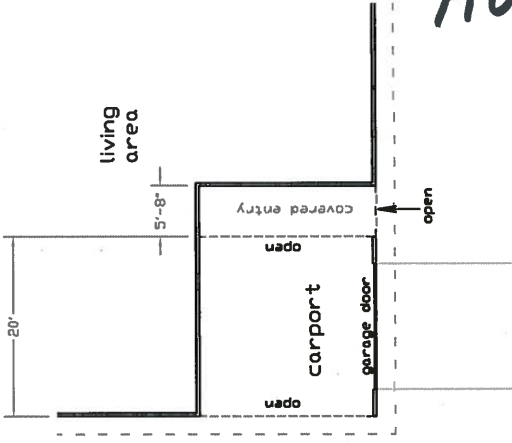
Example 2



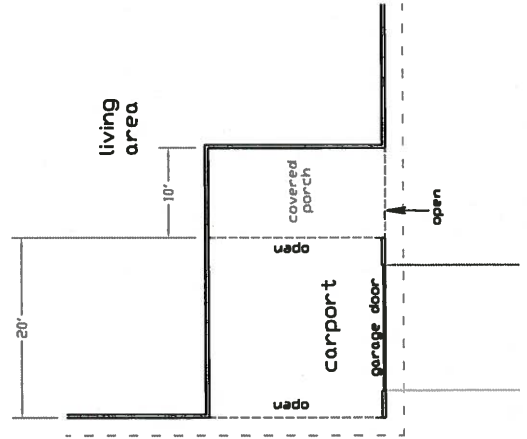
Example 3



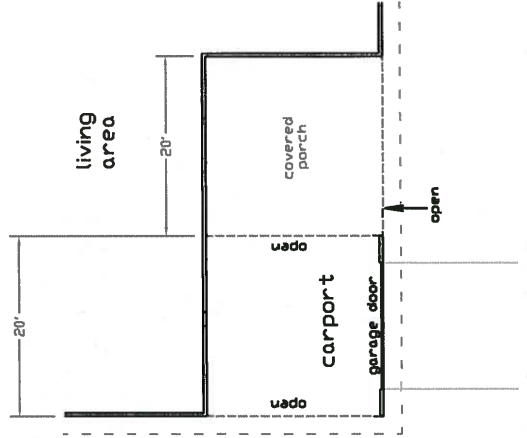
Example 4



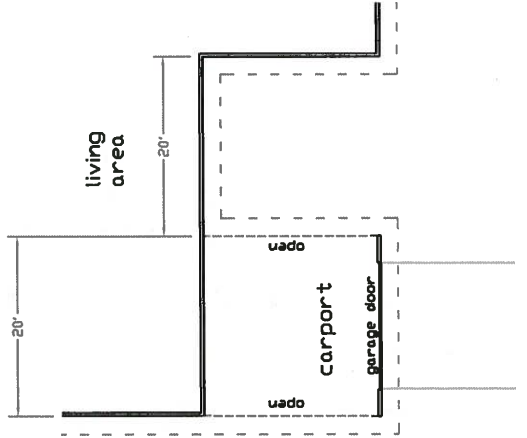
Example 5



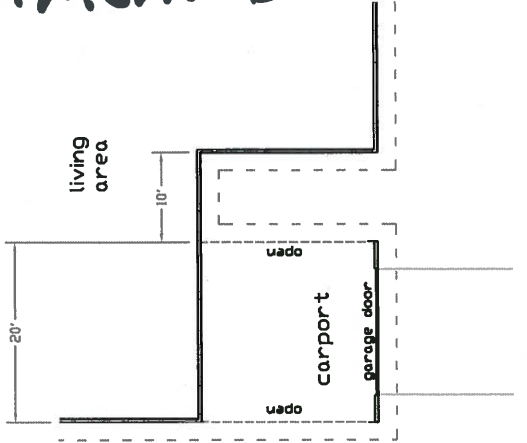
Example 6



Example 7



Example 8



solid wall

roofline

opening underneath roof

driveway