MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

DATE:

October 31, 2011

TO:

Board of Adjustment

FROM:

Eric Feldt, Planner II, CFM

Community Development Department

FILE NO.:

VAR2011-0023

PROPOSAL:

A Variance to allow a triplex to be built within the street side yard

setback from Douglas Highway.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant:

David Blommer

Property Owner:

Roscoe Bicknell

Property Address:

Creek Street

Legal Description:

Lot 7 Hamdy Acres

Parcel Code Number:

2-D05-0-B03-007-0

Site Size:

7,510 sq ft (0.17 Acres)

Zoning:

D-18.

Utilities:

City Water & Sewer

Access:

Creek Street

Existing Land Use:

Vacant

Surrounding Land Use: North - D-18; Lawson Creek

South - D-18; 4-plex Multifamily; Creek Street

East

- D-18; Douglas Highway ROW & Multifamily; Douglas Hwy

West

- D-18; 4-plex Multifamily; Creek Street



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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A Vicinity Map
Attachment B Site Plan
Attachment C Building Plans
Attachment D Topographic Plan

Attachment E Site Photographs taken 10/21/11

Attachment F Project Narrative

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant seeks a variance to build a triplex 5 feet away from the Douglas Highway right-of-way (ROW) instead of the required 13-foot street side yard setback. Due to the steep topography and the 50-foot streamside setback from Lawson Creek, the amount of flat, buildable land is limited. The site is identified in Attachment A, and the location and exterior designs of the triplex are shown in Attachments B & C. Contours of the site are shown under Attachment D.

BACKGROUND

Creek Street is a short dead-end, gravel road having several multifamily buildings flanking its sides. The subject site is located at the northern corner of Douglas Highway and Creek Street. This vacant site has been accumulating litter and junk vehicles over the years. Pictures of the site are provided under Attachment E.

Creek Street and adjacent streets are located in high density zoning districts, and the built environment reflects this, as well as high automobile traffic. This traffic frequently adds to congestion along Douglas Highway. Multimodal transportation facilities exist along Douglas Highway, near Creek Street, such as sidewalks, bicycle shoulders, and Capital Transit bus stops. Future development along the Douglas Highway corridor does not have to rely on personal automobiles for transportation into downtown Juneau or beyond.

ANALYSIS

The applicant seeks to maximize the density allowed on the site as permitted in the D-18 district with a triplex. This building will have similar façade elements as a townhome with individual entrances facing the street. The density will be similar to existing multifamily buildings in the neighborhood.

As proposed the triplex will encroach 8 feet into the 13-foot street side yard setback from Douglas Highway ROW. No parts of the building will be in the ROW. The roof eaves along this side of the building will project 2.5 feet from the building, leaving a distance of 2.5 feet to the ROW line. Encroachment into the street side yard setback is the only non-compliant element of the project.

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Buildings must comply with yard setbacks to preserve the movement of light, air, on-site drainage, line-of-sight along driveways, fire separations between buildings, etc. Driveways are typically constructed within the front or street side yard setbacks. These two setbacks tend to be fairly large to provide open views of on-coming vehicles and pedestrians along the road. The following are the required yard setbacks on the site:

- Front yard: 20 feet (along Creek Street ROW)
- Street Side Yard: 13 feet (along Douglas Highway ROW)
- Side Yard: 5 feet (Southeast property line)
- Rear Yard: 10 feet (opposite of Front yard)
- Streamside Yard: 50 feet (measured from Lawson Creek into the site; along Rear yard)

Since the front yard setback can only be met along Creek Street with the proposed footprint, the street side yard setback will be measured from Douglas Highway ROW. Staff notes that applicants may choose which ROW to dedicate as the front and the street side yard. These setback areas are indentified on the site plan.

Roof eaves are allowed to encroach into yard setback 4 inches per foot of setback, according to the Land Use Code. Using the 13-foot street side yard setback distance, the roof eave may encroach 52 inches (4 x 13) or 4 feet 4 inches without a variance, leaving a remaining distance of 8 feet 8 inches to the ROW. As proposed the roof eave will encroach 10 feet 6 inches; therefore, the eaves will be covered by the subject variance. The Code also allows carports and garages to encroach into yard setbacks if it can meet specific findings, such as topography making construction a hardship. The carports shown in the attached plans and the existing topography satisfy these findings.

A patio and deck are designed along the subject wall that will encroach into the setback. These structures are shown in attachment C. Though in specific circumstances the Land Use Code allows these types of structures to encroach into yard setbacks, in this case they will also be beyond the allowance and will be covered in the subject variance.

The applicant indicates in the attached narrative (Attachment F) that a narrower building that complies with the 13-foot street side yard setback will be insufficient for a triplex. Further, the distance between the eastern side of the proposed building and the edge of pavement of Douglas Highway is approximately 65 feet. Thus, traffic on the highway would not be close to the triplex and the setback would feel more like 65 feet, not 5 feet. Staff notes that yard setbacks are measured from the ROW line, not edge of pavement or sidewalk. However, in this case, due to the topography there is a significant distance between the edge of the building and traveling vehicles.

Staff notes that the applicant may redesign the height of the building to three stories to narrow the overall width of the building. The maximum height limit in the D-18 district is 35 feet. The height of the building is designed at approximately 24 feet. Though additional heights are permitted, views from an adjacent dwelling may be reduced.

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Staff requested comments from the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) since the triplex would be built near their ROW. At the date of this memorandum, staff had not received any comments from this department.

Since the proposed building will be so close to the property line, staff is recommending a condition of approval requiring an as-built survey prior to a Certificate of Occupancy.

Variance Requirements

Under CBJ §49.20.250 where hardship and practical difficulties result from an extraordinary situation or unique physical feature affecting only a specific parcel of property or structures lawfully existing thereon and render it difficult to carry out the provisions of Title 49, the Board of Adjustment may grant a Variance in harmony with the general purpose and intent of Title 49. A Variance may vary any requirement or regulation of Title 49 concerning dimensional and other design standards, but not those concerning the use of land or structures, housing density, lot coverage, or those establishing construction standards. A Variance may be granted after the prescribed hearing and after the Board of Adjustment has determined:

1. That the relaxation applied for or a lesser relaxation specified by the Board of Adjustment would give substantial relief to the owner of the property involved and be more consistent with justice to other property owners.

Relaxing the 13-foot street side yard setback to 5 feet would give substantial relief to the owner of the property as it would enable the site to be developed with a 2-story triplex instead of a 3-story triplex or duplex if the relaxation was less or none at all.

The applicant believes that constructing a triplex is more consistent with justice to other property owners in the neighborhood than a duplex because all other development is denser than a duplex. Further, other multifamily buildings along Creek Street do not have the topographic challenges limiting the buildable area forcing encroachments into yard setbacks. Therefore, constructing a triplex would be more consistent with justice to other high density development in the neighborhood. This criterion is met.

2. That relief can be granted in such a fashion that the intent of this title will be observed and the public safety and welfare be preserved.

As stated earlier, the intent of yard setbacks is to preserve the movement of light, air, on-site drainage, line-of-sight along driveways, fire separations between buildings, etc. Reducing the street side yard setback along Douglas Highway ROW from 13 feet to 5 feet will not infringe on the movement of vehicles, line-of-site for driveway egress/ ingress, drainage, or the movement of light and air. Therefore, this criterion is met.

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3. That the authorization of the Variance will not injure nearby property.

The encroached yard setback is near Douglas Highway ROW, and the distance to the travel way from the proposed building is 65 feet. Therefore, nearby property will not by injured with the approval of this variance. This criterion is met.

4. That the Variance does not authorize uses not allowed in the district involved.

The proposed triplex is permitted on the site based on lot size and zoning. Therefore, this criterion is met.

- 5. That compliance with the existing standards would:
 - (A) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property for a permissible principal use;

Denying this application would still allow the applicant to construct a 3-story triplex, duplex or single family dwelling. Therefore, this criterion is not met.

(B) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property in a manner which is consistent as to scale, amenities, appearance or features, with existing development in the neighborhood of the subject property;

Denying this variance would still allow the applicant to build a 3-story triplex multifamily building that would be consistent with existing development in the neighborhood. Therefore, this criterion is not met.

(C) Be unnecessarily burdensome because unique physical features of the property render compliance with the standards unreasonably expensive;

Due to the steep topography and streamside yard setback, compliance with yard setbacks would result in expensive construction methods and engineering. Therefore, this criterion is met.

or

(D) Because of preexisting nonconforming conditions on the subject parcel the grant of the Variance would not result in a net decrease in overall compliance with the Land Use Code, CBJ Title 49, or the building code, CBJ Title 19, or both.

There are no pre-existing nonconforming conditions on the site. Therefore, this criterion is not met.

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6. That a grant of the Variance would result in more benefits than detriments to the neighborhood.

The applicant indicates that the site has been used as a dumping site for junk cars and unauthorized automobile storage. Granting the variance would allow the applicant to develop the site as proposed and would reduce or eliminate junk from accumulating on the site. Therefore, granting this variance would be a benefit to the neighborhood. Therefore, this criterion is met.

FINDINGS

- 1. Is the application for the requested Variance complete?
- **Yes.** We find the application contains the information necessary to conduct full review of the proposed operations. The application submittal by the applicant, including the appropriate fees, substantially conforms to the requirements of CBJ Chapter 49.15.

Per CBJ §49.70.900 (b)(3), General Provisions, the Director makes the following Juneau Coastal Management Program consistency determination:

- 2. Will the proposed development comply with the Juneau Coastal Management Programs?
- **Yes.** The development will avoid encroaching into the 50-foot streamside yard setback. No other habitat issues of the Juneau Coastal Management Program apply.
- 3. Does the variance as requested, meet the criteria of Section 49.20.250, Grounds for Variances?

Yes. Based on the analysis above, staff finds that the proposal does meet the criteria of CBJ §49.20.250, *Grounds for Variance*.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Adjustment adopt the Director's analysis and findings and grant the requested Variance, VAR2011-23. The Variance permit would allow for a triplex to be 5 feet from the Douglas Highway right-of-way line and eaves that will be 2.5 feet from the same line with the following condition:

1. An as-built survey shall be required to be submitted to the Community Development Department prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

VARIANCE APPLICATION

	Project Number	Project Name (15 c	haracters)		Case Number	Date Received
	TYPE OF VARIAN	ICE REQUEST	FD.	-		
	Variance t	Variance to the Sign Standard		Variance to Dimensional Standards Variance to Parking Requirements		(VDS)
	Variance to Habitat Setbacks ✓ Variance to Setback Requirements		(VHB)			(VPK)
			(VSB)			
	DESCRIPTION OF Construction of a setback		•		E: g extends into the stree	et sideyard
WOMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT	Previous Variance Previous Case Number Was the Variance Gran	r(s):	?	√ no	Date of Filing:	
ВУ	UNIQUE CHARAC	CTERISTICS O	F LAND OR BU	ILDING(S):		
31E	The property is a c	orner lot so it h	as different setb	ack requireme	nts than a normal lot	The property is
MPL					opography of the land	makes it the
3	land without first bu	Jilding a retainii	ng wall to make	the land adeq	late to build on	
TO BE	UTILITIES AVAILA	ABLE: w.	ATER: ✓ Public	On Site	SEWER: ✓ Public	On Site
	WHY WOULD A V	ARIANCE BE	NEEDED FOR	THIS PROPER	RTY REGARDLESS O	F THE
	OWNER?	ny makas tha nr	onerty veny diffi	cult to build on	. Being a corner lot, th	e additional
	setbacks makes it	difficult to build	on without the	change to the	street side yard setbac	k. Without the
					Vith the variance, it wo	
	65% unusable.					
	The site had a buil	ding designed f would have to b	or the property and completely re	assuming a 5' edesigned. Th	RE NOT GRANTED? setback. If the variance e size of the rental unit of the lot.	e is not granted, s would result
	For more information regarding the permitting process and the submittals required for a complete application,		VARIANCE FEES Application Fees	Fees s <u>400.0</u> 0	Check No. Receipt	Date
	please see the reverse	∍ side.	Adjustment	\$		- 1.0
	If you need any assisthis form, please concenter at 586-0770.		Total Fee	<u> </u>	Voudit comi	12 <u>10(14)</u> 1

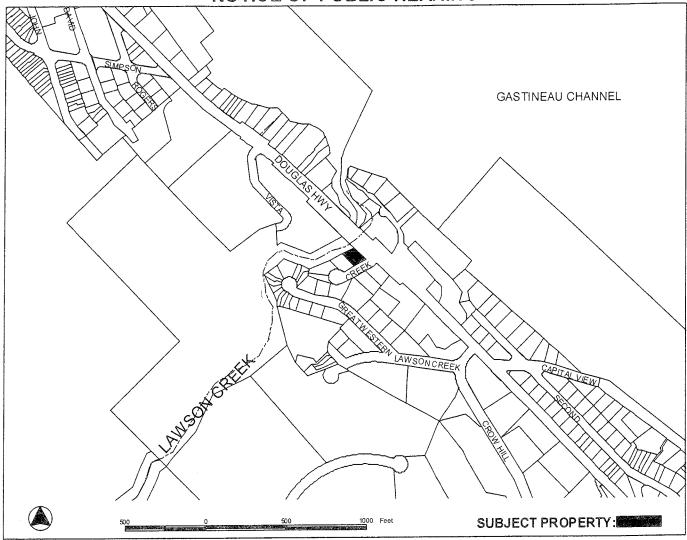
NOTE: MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Project N	umber	CITY and BOROUGH of JUNEAU Date Received:			
Project N (City Staff to	ame o Assign Name)				
	Project Description Construction of Tri-plex on Creek S	St. This project will require a setback variance.			
FORMATION	PROPERTY LOCATION Street Address Creek St Legal Description(s) of Parcel(s) (HAMDY ACRES L 7	Subdivision, Survey, Block, Tract, Lot)	City/Zip Juneau, AK 99801		
M M	Assessor's Parcel Number(s) 2D050B030070				
NFOR	Property Owner's Name Roscoe Bicknell Mailing Address		Contact Person: Roscoe Home Phone:	Work Phone: 9077895727 Fax Number:	
	PO Box 33517 Juneau, Ak E-mail Address sales@bicknellinc.com		Other Contact Phone Number	9077892644 er(s):	
APPLICANT	A This application for a land	s) of the property subject to this application and I (we) or duse or activity review for development on my (our) propro officials and employees of the City and Borough of Jur	onsent as follows: perty is made with my complete	understanding and permission.	
/ <u>L</u>	Landowner/Lessee Signature NOTICE: The City and Borough of Juneau staff may need access to the subject property during regular business hours and will attempt to contact the landowner in addition to the formal consent given above. Further, members of the Planning Commission may visit the property before the scheduled public hearing date.				
S	APPLICANT IF	the same as OWNER, write "SAME" and sign and date	at X below		
PROJE	Applicant's Name David Blommer Mailing Address		Contact Person: David Home Phone:	Work Phone: 9077895727 Fax Number:	
Д.	PO Box 33517 Juneau, AK 9 E-mail Address dblommer@bicknellinc.com		Other Contact Phone Number	9077892644 er(s):	
	X Applidant Signature		Date of) - 9 - Application	
		OFFICE USE ONLY BELOW THIS LI	NE		
	Permit Type	sign Date	Received App	plication Number(s)	

············	OFFICE USE ONLY I	BELOW.	THIS LINE				
4	Permit Type	***SIGN	Date Received	Application Number(s)			
	Building/Grading						
	Permit City/State Project Review and City Land Action						
n.	Inquiry Case (Fee In Lieu, Letter of ZC, Use Not Listed)						
AL	Mining Case (Small, Large, Rural, Extraction, Exploration)						
>	Sign Approval (If more than one, fill in all applicable permit #'s)						
0∠ ∥	Subdivision (Minor, Major, PUD, St. Vacation, St. Name Change)						
d	Use Approval (Allowable, Conditional, Cottage Housing, Mobile Home Parks, Accessory Apartment)						
▼ ✓	Variance Case (De Minimis and all other Variance case types)		15-19-11	VH4261 0033			
<u>+</u>	Wetlands Permits						
₹	Zone Change Application						
S	Other (Describe)						
	***Public Notice Sign Form filled out and in the file.						
Ace	According to narrative, variance request is to recluse Permit Intake Initials. The 5 treet Side yard reflect from 13' to 5'.						
1 1 Wes	TIME TIME THE MOTO KATOUR LOD	79 1		IKK			

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



PROPOSAL: A Variance to allow a triplex to encroach into the 13-foot street side yard setback of Douglas Highway

FILE NO: VAR2011 0023

TO: Adjacent Property Owners

HEARING DATE: November 8, 2011

HEARING TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

Municipal Building 155 South Seward St Juneau, Alaska 99801 APPLICANT: DAVID BLOMMER

Property PCN: 2-D05-0-B03-007-0

Owner: Roscoe Gibbs Bicknell IV & Sara Jo Johnson

Bicknell Alaska Community Property Trust

Size: 7,510 sq ft

Zoned: D-18

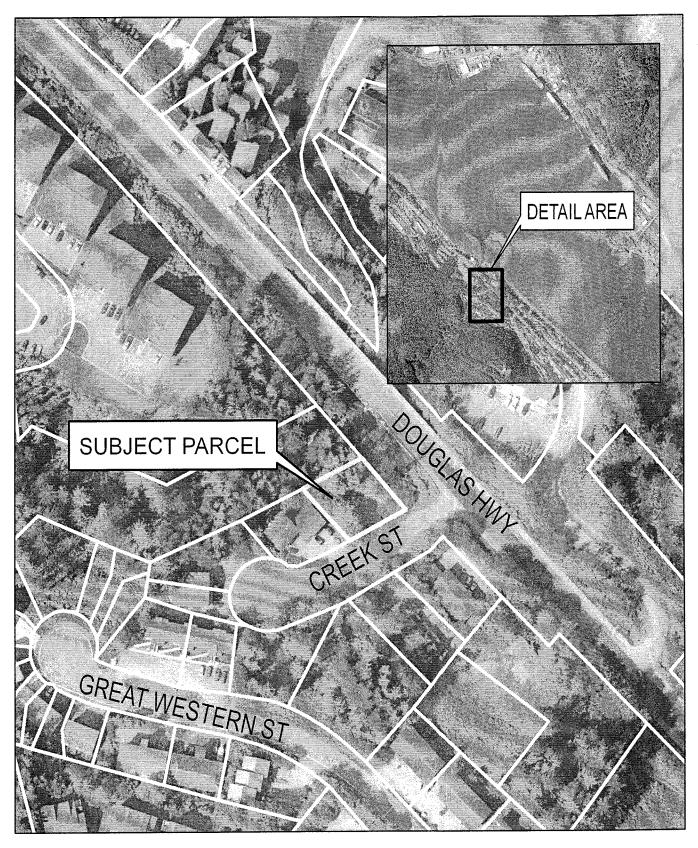
Site Address: Creek Street

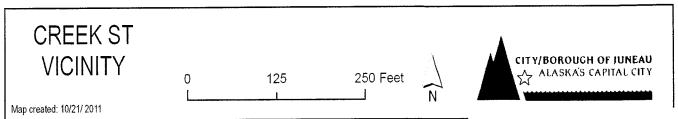
PROPERTY OWNERS PLEASE NOTE:

You are invited to attend this Public Hearing and present oral testimony. The Planning Commission will also consider written testimony. You are encouraged to submit written material to the Community Development Department no later than 8:30 A.M. on the Wednesday preceding the Public Hearing. Materials received by this deadline are included in the information packet given to the Planning Commission a few days before the Public Hearing. Written material received after the deadline will be provided to the Planning Commission at the Public Hearing.

If you have questions, please contact Eric Feldt at (907)586-0764 or e-mail: eric_feldt@ci.juneau.ak.us

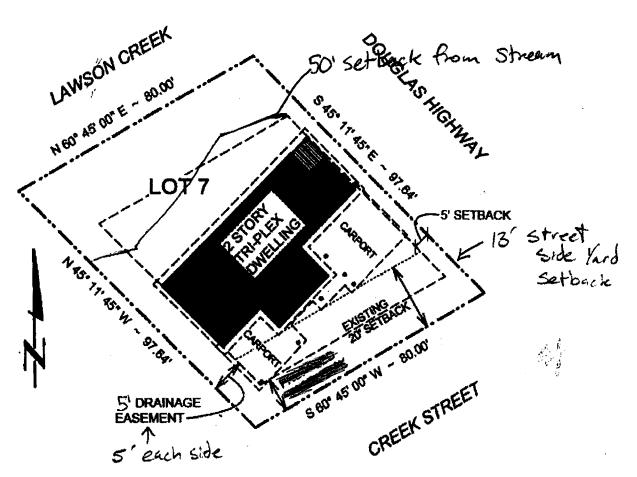
Planning Commission Agendas, Staff Reports and Meeting Results can be viewed at www.juneau.org/plancomm.





Setbacks

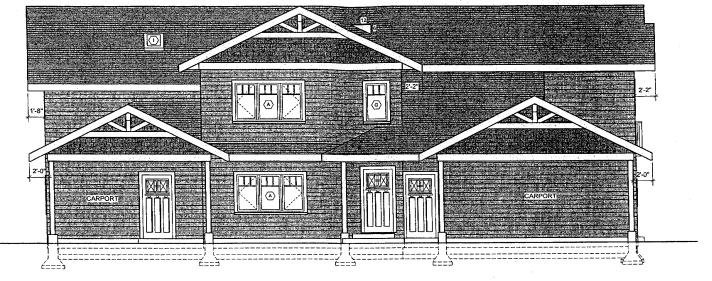
20' - Front Yard (ROW)
13' - Street side Yard (ROW)



SITE PLAN

LOT 7 "HAM DY" ACRES SUBDIVISION WITHIN TRACTS B & B2, CROW HILL SUBDIVISION A FRACTION OF MINERAL SURVEY 340 & 341A SCALE: 1" = 30'

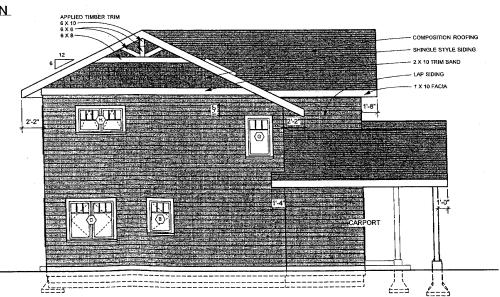
Bicknell Construction



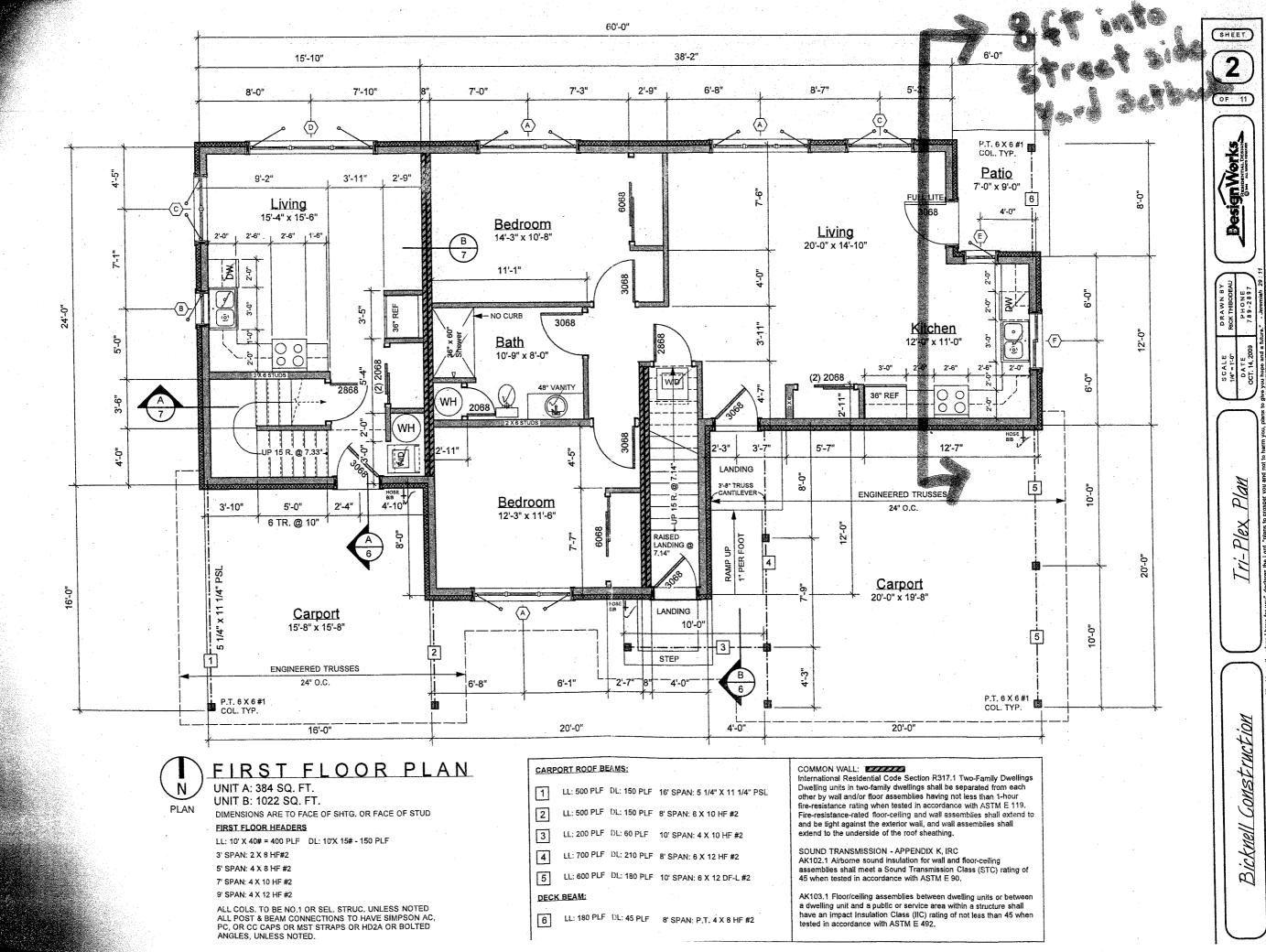


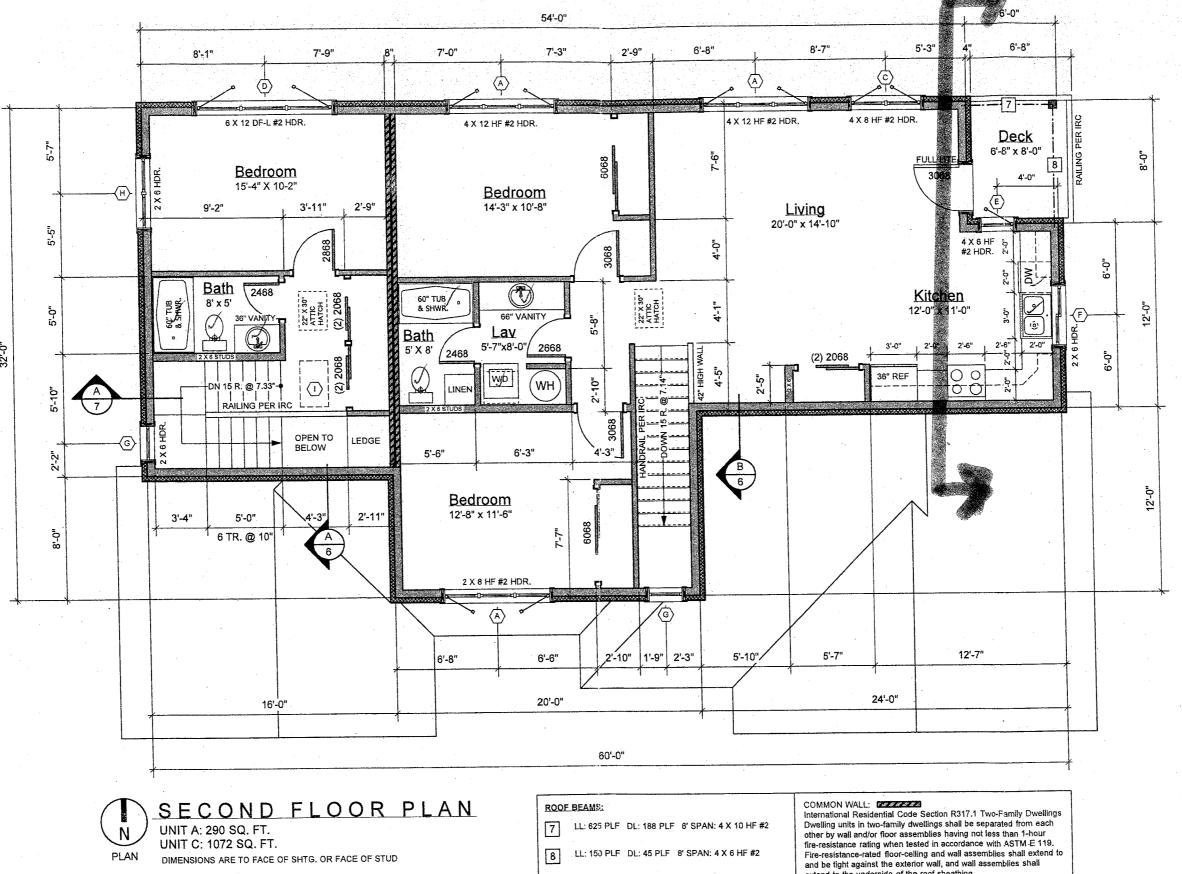
WINDOW SCHEDULE					
MARK	QTY.	WINDOW TYPE	DIMENSIONS	NOTES	
A	6	TRIPLE CASEMENT	7-0" X 4'-0"	1	
В	1	CASEMENT	2'-4" X 3'-4"		
С	3	DOUBLE CASEMENT	4'-8" X 4'-0"		
D	2	TRIPLE CASEMENT	9'-0" X 4'-6"	. 1	
E	2	CASEMENT	2'-4" X 4'-0"	2	
F	2	HORIZONTAL SLIDER	4'-0" X 3'-4"	1	
G	2	FIXED	2'-4" X 4'-0"		
н	1	DOUBLE AWNING	4'-8" X 2'-6"		
1	1	SKYLIGHT	1'-10" X 3'-0"		

WINDOW TO MEET EGRESS REQUIREMENTS
 SAFETY GLAZING IS REQUIRED IN WINDOWS ADJACENT TO A DOOR WHERE THE MEAREST VERTICAL EDGE IS WITHIN A 24" ARC OF THE DOOR IN A CLOSED POSITION AND WHOSE BOTTOM EDGE IS LESS THAN 80" ABOVE THE FLOOR OR WALKING SURFACE.



WEST ELEVATION





SECOND FLOOR HEADERS

LL: 12.5' X 50# = 625 PLF DL: 12.5'X 15# - 188 PLF

3' SPAN: 4 X 6 HF#2

5' SPAN: 4 X 8 HF #2

7' SPAN: 4 X 12 HF #2

9' SPAN: 6 X 12 DF-L #2

extend to the underside of the roof sheathing.

SOUND TRANSMISSION - APPENDIX K, IRC AK102.1 Airborne sound insulation for wall and floor-ceiling assemblies shall meet a Sound Transmission Class (STC) rating of 45 when tested in accordance with ASTM E 90.

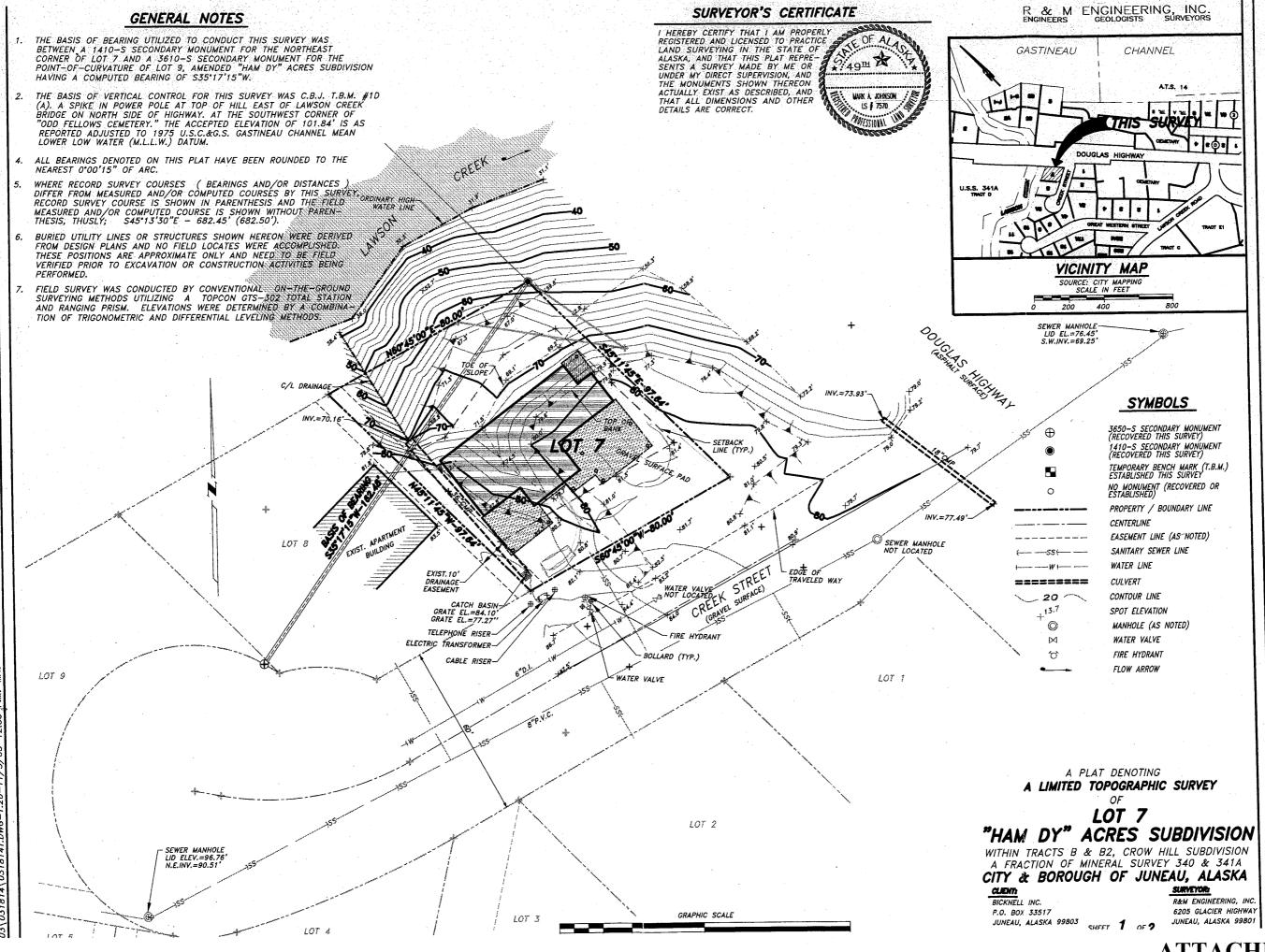
AK103.1 Floor/ceiling assemblies between dwelling units or between a dwelling unit and a public or service area within a structure shall have an Impact Insulation Class (IIC) rating of not less than 45 when tested in accordance with ASTM E 492.

SHEET

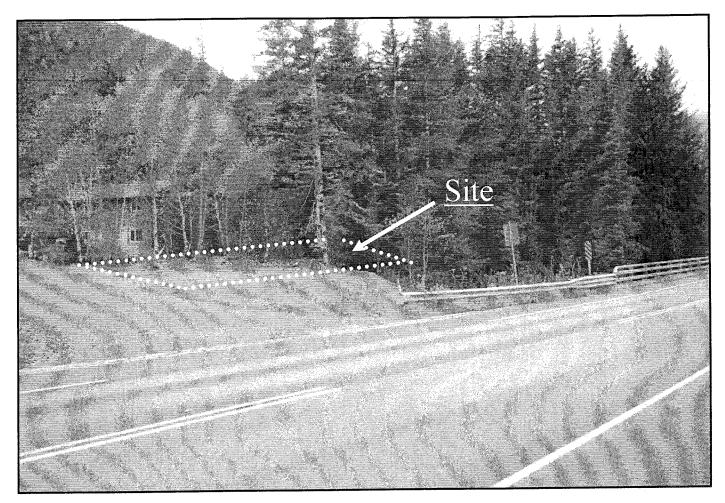
BesignWorks.

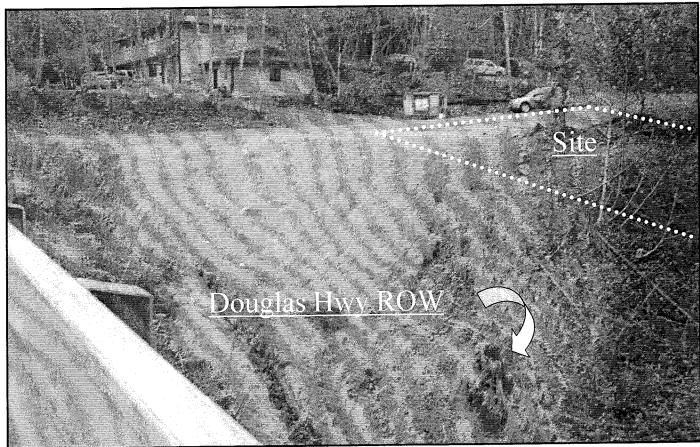
Second

Construction Bicknell

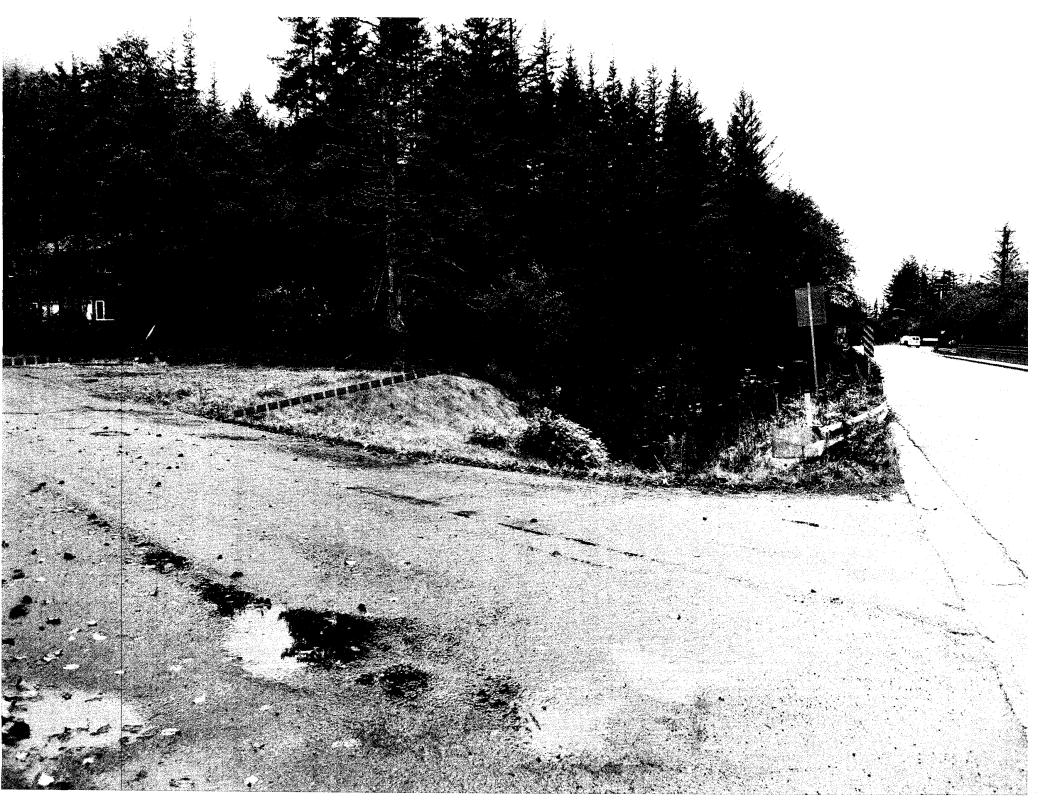


Photographs of subject site taken by staff on Friday October 21, 2011





ATTACHMENT E



Bicknell Inc. PO Box 33517 Juneau, AK 99803

Dear CBJ Staff,

We are planning to build a Triplex on Lot 7 in the Hamdy Acres subdivision. When we started the project, we had the land surveyed to show the topography of the land and the setbacks. We used this survey to have a building designed to fit on the property. To our surprise, when trying to permit the building, we found out that the street side yard setback was incorrectly shown on the survey. We have tried to move and modify the building to fit within the setbacks, but it isn't possible because of the design of the building and the tight requirements for the setbacks. Reducing the size of the building to meet the setbacks will require building a duplex not a triplex. Since the lot is so expensive to develop, building a duplex would not be cost effective. Therefore, we are applying for a variance to relax the 13' street side yard setback to a 5' setback. The following will address the criteria that must be met for a variance to be granted.

- (1) The relaxation would give substantial relief to the owner by allowing us to build the building that we have designed to fit on the lot and that would fit the return to investment ratio. If the relaxation were not granted, the building would have to be completely redesigned and a triplex would likely no longer fit and a duplex would not be cost effective. This triplex would be consistent with the style of multifamily development in the neighborhood.
- (2) The property is located on a corner lot, so it is required that it has a front yard setback and a street yard setback. This to insure that there is plenty of room from the corner so that the building does not interfere with the line of sight from the street. This is also to allow plenty of light and air to the building. Both will easily be accomplished because the property sits back 60' from Douglas Highway so it makes the actual setback of the building 65' from the road. Also, the distance from the front of the property to the edge of traveled way is 25'. This makes the actual relief to the traveled way to the carport 45'. Additionally, the carport is open which makes the front of the solid house 65' from the traveled way. These distances from the road allow more than enough line of sight from the road and plenty of light and air onto the property.
- (3) The variance would not injure nearby property because the property that adjacent to the side in question is the ROW. There is a 60' section of land between the property and the ROW so this would have no effect on the nearby property.
- (4) The variance does not allow a use that is not already allowed.
- (5) (C) Because of the site topography and the adjacent stream, 73% of the property is unusable because of the setbacks. Since the remaining portion is so small, a retaining wall will have to be constructed to maximize the potential development area. Since these costs need to be defrayed, it is necessary to build a triplex in order for the project to pencil out. Anything less will result in no development on this unused portion of land.

(6) Recently, this parcel has been used for junk car and automobile storage and has been an eyesore. It is a constant effort for the owner to keep vehicles and unauthorized dumping of trash and debris from occurring. Developing this parcel responsibly will result in an attractive building, as well as much needed housing for the community.

Sincerely,

David Blomme Bicknell Inc.

Dblommer@bicknellinc.com

907-789-5727