Zoning Board of Appeals December 4, 2019 Regular Meeting

STAFF REPORT

Subject: ZBA19-031; 614 Soule Boulevard

Summary:

Forward Design Build, representing the property owners, are requesting a 16 foot 11" variance from Table 5.17-1 Single-Family Residential Zoning District Dimensions. The property is zoned R1D and has a 20 foot rear yard setback requirement. The owners are proposing construction of a new one car garage and mudroom on the first floor and a master bedroom and bathroom on the second floor.

Background:

The subject property is located on a corner lot at the intersection of Soule Boulevard and Lutz Avenue. The home was built in 1926 and is approximately 1,332 square feet in size.

Description:

The proposed addition will replace their existing detached garage and mudroom to construct a new attached addition to the home. The new first floor area will consist of a mudroom, expanded kitchen and garage that total 613 square feet. The second story addition will contain a new master bedroom, bathroom and walk-in closet. The second story addition creates an additional 390 square feet of living area. The unfinished basement excavation is 224 square feet.

Standards for Approval- Variance

The Zoning Board of Appeals has all the power granted by State law and by Section 5.29.12, Application of the Variance Power from the UDC. The following criteria shall apply:

(a). That the practical difficulties are exceptional and peculiar to the property of the person requesting the variance, and result from conditions which do not exist generally throughout the City.

The applicant has listed corner lot location, existing nonconforming mudroom, site layout constraints, out dated home and limited floor area as reasons a variance is being requested.

(b). That the practical difficulties will result from a failure to grant the variance, include substantially more than mere inconvenience, inability to attain a higher financial return, or both.

The petitioner desires to live at the property long term and are making a long term commitment to the neighborhood. The applicant states the property meets the minimum lot size requirements for the R1D district, but the double front setbacks of a corner lot presents difficulties in expanding the home. Relocation of the addition would detract from the neighborhood fabric.

(c). That allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being done, considering the public benefits intended to be secured by this Chapter, the individual hardships that will be suffered by a failure of the Board to grant a variance, and the rights of others whose property would be affected by the allowance of the variance.

The applicants states the demolition of a detached garage and the attachment of a new addition will improve the physical appearance of the home. The new design of the planned addition increases the distance to the rear property line by one foot from the location of the existing nonconforming detached garage structure. If the addition was relocated to the buildable area on the south side of the property it would interfere with existing sight lines of neighboring properties.

(d). That the conditions and circumstances on which the variance request is based shall not be a self- imposed hardship or practical difficulty.

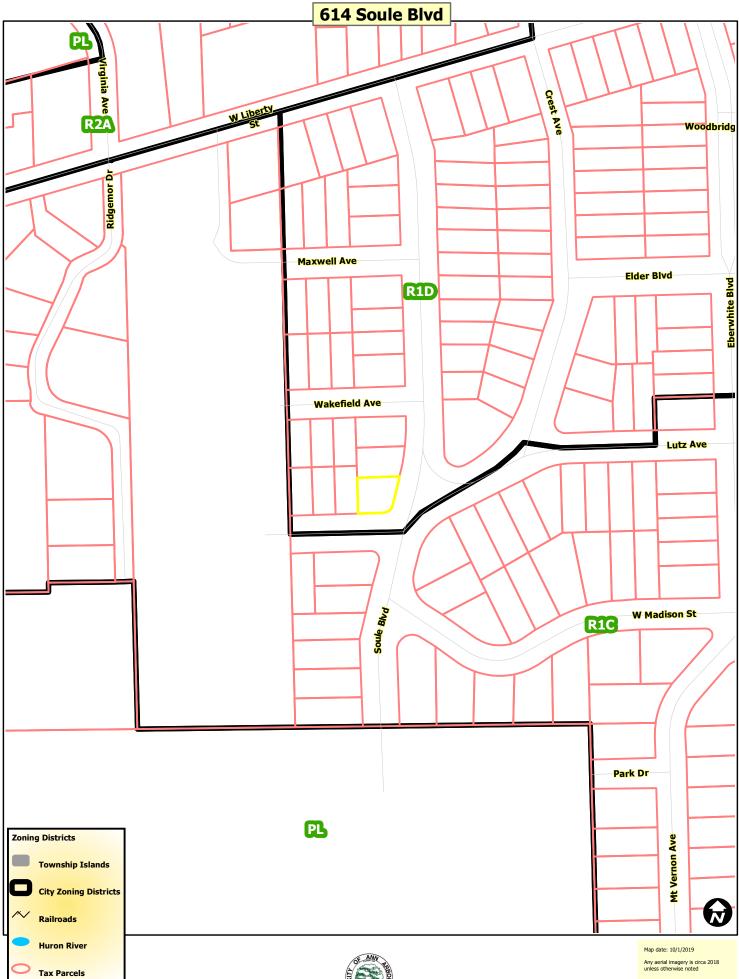
According to the applicant, the location of the attached garage is necessary in the proposed location as the home faces Soule Boulevard but has driveway access from Lutz Avenue. The two front yards are currently being used as outdoor space to enjoy, changing the location of the addition would create a backyard that would not be useable next to the neighbor's driveway and side of their home.

(e). A variance approved shall be the minimum variance that will make possible a reasonable use of the land or structure.

The intersection of the three streets in this neighborhood has created a tree-lined street and park-like characteristic for the area. The siting of the addition allows the preservation of the trees and vegetation in the front yard, which mirrors the other corner lots in the neighborhood.

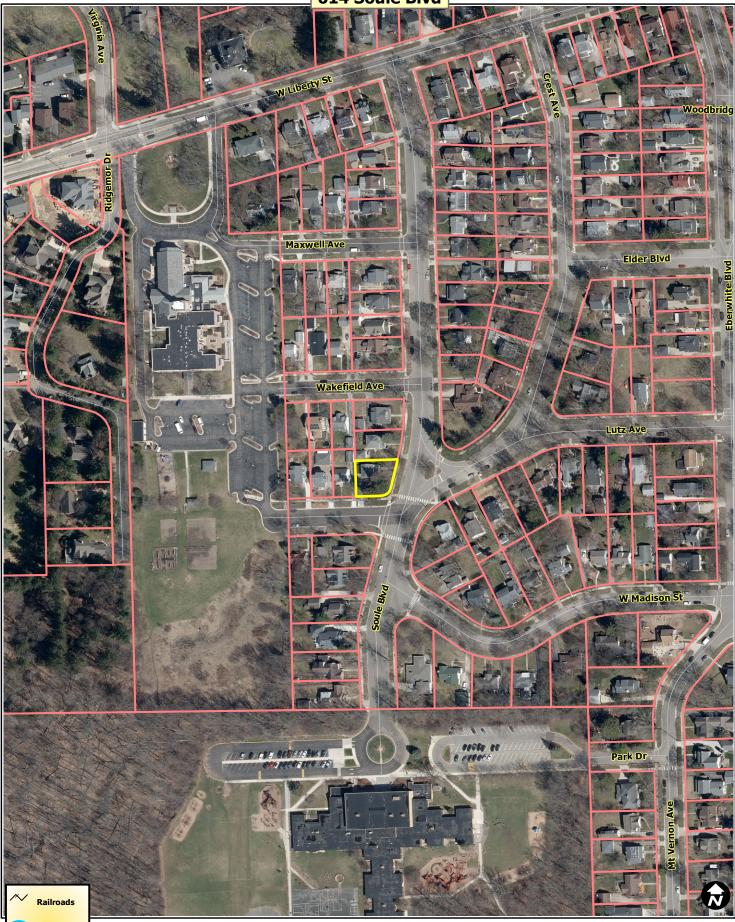
Respectfully submitted,

Jon Barrett Zoning Coordinator



Terms of use: www.a2gov.org/terms

614 Soule Blvd

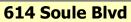


Huron River

Tax Parcels



Map date: 10/1/2019 Any aerial imagery is circa 2018 unless otherwise noted Terms of use: www.a2gov.org/terms





Huron River

Tax Parcels



Map date: 10/1/2019 Any aerial imagery is circa 2018 unless otherwise noted Terms of use: www.a2gov.org/terms

City of Ann Arbor Planning Services City Hall: 301 E Huron Street Ann Arbor, MI 48107 Phone: 734-794-6265 Fax: 734-794-8460 Email	7-8647
PROPERTY INFORMATION	
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY 614 Soule Blvd., Ann Arbor	ZIP CODE 48103
ZONING CLASSIFICATION NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER*If di, owner must be provided Miche	fifferent than applicant, a letter of authorization from the property elle Segar & Jeff Horowitz
	NNER EMAIL ADDRESS
APPLICANT INFORMATION	
NAME Forward Design Build Remodel	
6087 Jackson Rd. Suite 100	CITY STATE ZIP CODE Ann Arbor MI 48103
EMAIL tim@planforward.net	рноле (734)761-8403
Design / Builid Company	
REQUEST INFORMATION	
VARIANCE REQUEST Complete Section 1 of this application	REQUEST TO ALTER A NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE Complete Section 2 of this application
REQUIRED MATERIALS	OFFICE USE ONLY
One hard copy application complete will all required attachments r be submitted. Digital copies of supportive materials included in the	
submitted hard copy will only be accepted in PDF format by email of accompanying the hard copy application on a USB flash drive. Required Attachments:	LIALESTAMP
Boundary Survey of the property including all existing and proper structures, dimensions of property, and area of property.	NUV U O ZUIA
 Building floor plans showing interior rooms, including dimension Photographs of the property and any existing buildings involved request. 	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
All information and materials submitted with this applicatio	on are true and correct.
Permission is granted to City of Ann Arbor Planning Services access the subject property for the purpose of reviewing the	e variance request.
Property Owner Signature :	Date: 9/17/19
Michelle Segar 054E7406D2AA4E8 Page 1	egar 11/6/2019 V4 6-28-2019

V4 6-28-2019

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK AND REASON FOR VARIANCE:

Oh behalf of our clients, Michelle Segar & Jeff Horowitz, we are proposing an addition in the rear setback of their property at 614 Soule Blvd. Their property is a corner lot, located at the intersection of Soule Blvd. and Lutz Ave., which requires them to have two 25' front setbacks, one 3' side setback and a 20' rear setback. While the front of their home faces Soule, their driveway access is off of Lutz Ave. which leads to their existing detached garage and mudroom on the west side of the property. We are requesting a variance to the rear setback of 20' to 3'-1" which would improve the current location of the existing garage by 1', moving it further away from the property line.

The proposed addition would replace their existing garage and mudroom to accomodate a new attached single car garage and mudroom on the first floor and master bedroom and bathroom on the second floor. This design is being proposed because it's the most practical layout for this home, while also being the least intrusive on the rest of the site / neighborhood.

The City of Ann Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals has the powers granted by State law and City Code Chapter 55, Section 5:29. A variance may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals only in cases involving practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships when all of the following statements are found to be true. Please provide a complete response to each of the statements below.

The alleged hardships or practical difficulties, or both, are exceptional and peculiar to the property of the person requesting the variance, and result from conditions which do not exist generally throughout the city.

- Corner Lot: This is a corner lot with limited buildable area based on the setback requirements (2 fronts, rear, and side)
- Nonconforming Residence: The existing mudroom and 4" of the west side of house are not within the rear setback requirements making the house already a nonconforming structure.
- Site Layout: Having a driveway off of Lutz Ave. and a front entry on Soule Blvd. also contributes to the limited buildable area of the site
- Home Orientation: Michelle & Jeff would like to maintain the east-west orientation of their home to enjoy the natural light and open area at the south side of their property. The new design proposes access from their dining room so they can utilize this space even more.
- Age of House: House was built in 1926. This 93 year old home is antiquated and the homeowners are looking to improve their existing inadequate amenities while preserving the historic character of the home. Their 100 SqFt kitchen is very limited, as it lacks storage and usability for a single family. Also, as the current layout shows, "bedroom 3" does not have a closet and therefore is not considered a bedroom. The proposed additional square footage provides an increase in storage and brings the house up to date.

City of Ann Arbor Planning Services – Zoning Board of Appeals Application

• Floor Area: This is a 1300 SF home with 1 bathroom. Michelle & Jeff would like to expand their home to meet the needs of their family. Michelle also works from home and the current floor plan does not allow for a dedicated office space for her. Increasing the square footage of the home alleviates the contention of sharing one bathroom and working in a hallway.

The alleged hardships are practical difficulties, or both, which will result from a failure to grant the variance, include substantially more than mere inconvenience, inability to attain a higher financial return, or both.

 This family desires to live in this house long term and therefore are making a long term commitment to the neighborhood. Although they have sufficient lot size for the R1-D zoning district, the setbacks of their corner lot present them with a practical difficulty to expand their home. Given the current setbacks they are unable to meet their needs without detracting from the current neighborhood fabric.

Allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being done, considering the public benefits intended to be secured by this chapter, the individual hardships that will be suffered by a failure of the board to grant a variance, and the rights of others whose property would be affected by the allowance of the variance.

- We are proposing this addition on the west side of the home because it will take the place of the existing garage and mudroom, thus reducing the impact on the neighbors whose garages are also located in this corner on their properties.
- This new design, which better balances the existing structure by tying in the garage with the rest of the home, will not only keep, but improve the physical characteristics of the house and the neighborhood.
- The new design, increases the distance from the property line an additional foot from where the current non-conforming structure is placed.
- Alternatively, if an addition were proposed in the buildable area on the south side of the property, this would have more of an intrusive effect on the neighbors because it would project past the front of the homes on Lutz Ave. and obstruct more sightlines between the three streets.
- The existing intersection of the three streets, creates a park-like feel to the neighborhood. The new design allows us to preserve the vegetation and trees on site, which mirrors corner lots within the neighborhood.

City of Ann Arbor Planning Services – Zoning Board of Appeals Application

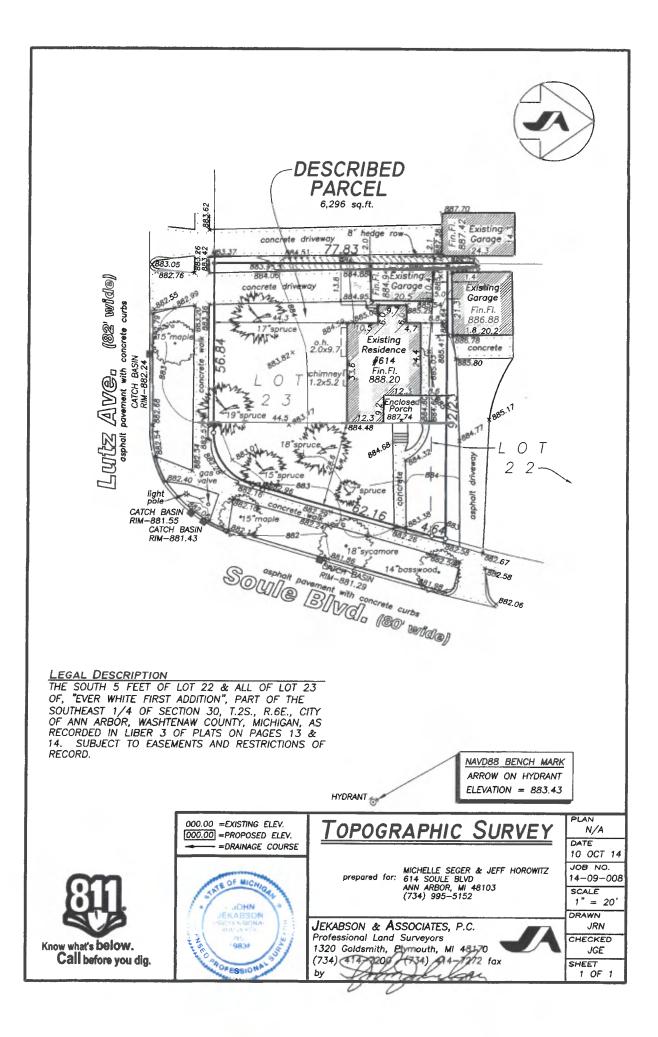
The conditions and circumstances on which the variance request is based shall not be a self-imposed hardship or practical difficulty.

- This property is a corner lot with two 25' front setbacks, one 3' side setback and one 20' rear setback.
- The current west elevation of the home does not meet the 20' setback requirement making these walls nonconforming.
- The home faces Soule Blvd. but has driveway access from Lutz Ave.
- While it may appear there is buildable area to the south side of the site, this space does
 not lend itself to a proper attached garage addition because of the existing layout of the
 driveway nor does it allow for a new second floor bedroom and bathroom given the
 home's existing bedroom layout.
- The family also utilizes the existing outdoor space with having two front yards and changing this would create an unusable backyard right next to their neighbors driveway and side of their house.

A variance approved shall be the minimum variance that will make possible a reasonable use of the land or structure.

A variance approval of a 3'-1" rear setback will allow us to maintain the existing look of the neighborhood by keeping Michelle & Jeff's garage and mudroom addition on the west side of their home. Due to the limitations of their corner lot and existing layout of the neighboring homes and garages, we feel this is the best use of space that will have the least amount of impact on the neighborhood.







A100

COVER SHEET

TITLE

2019



SEGAR / HOROWITZ RESIDENCE 614 SOULE BLVD., ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

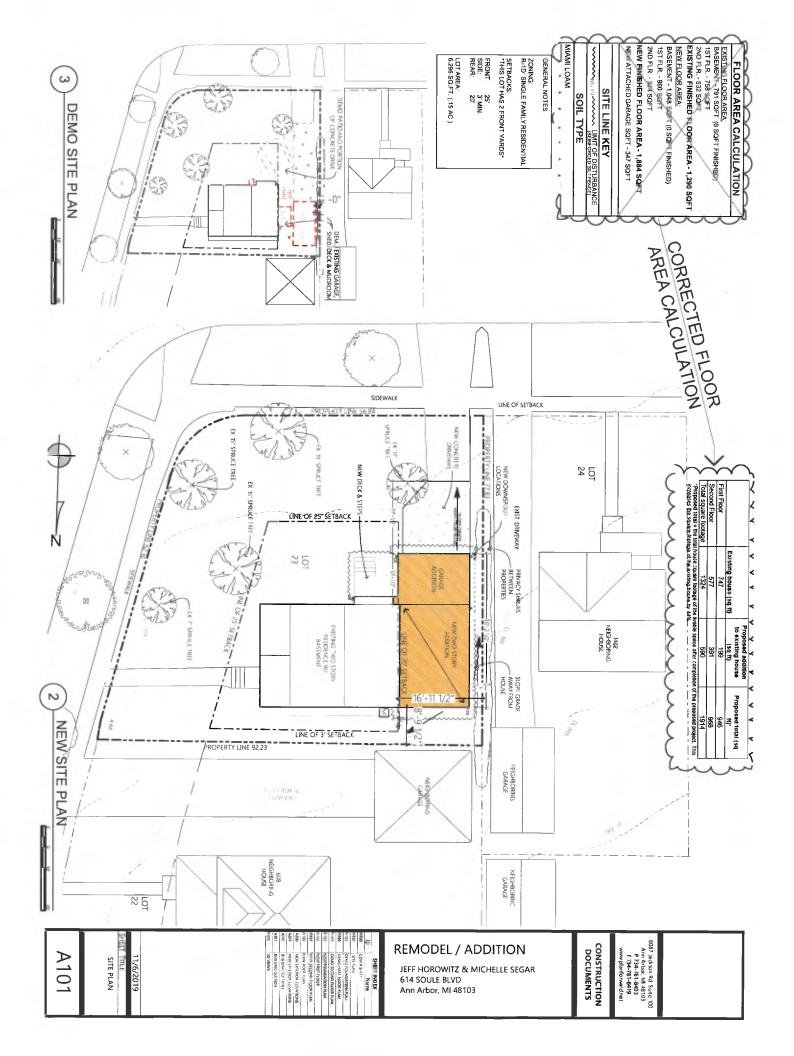


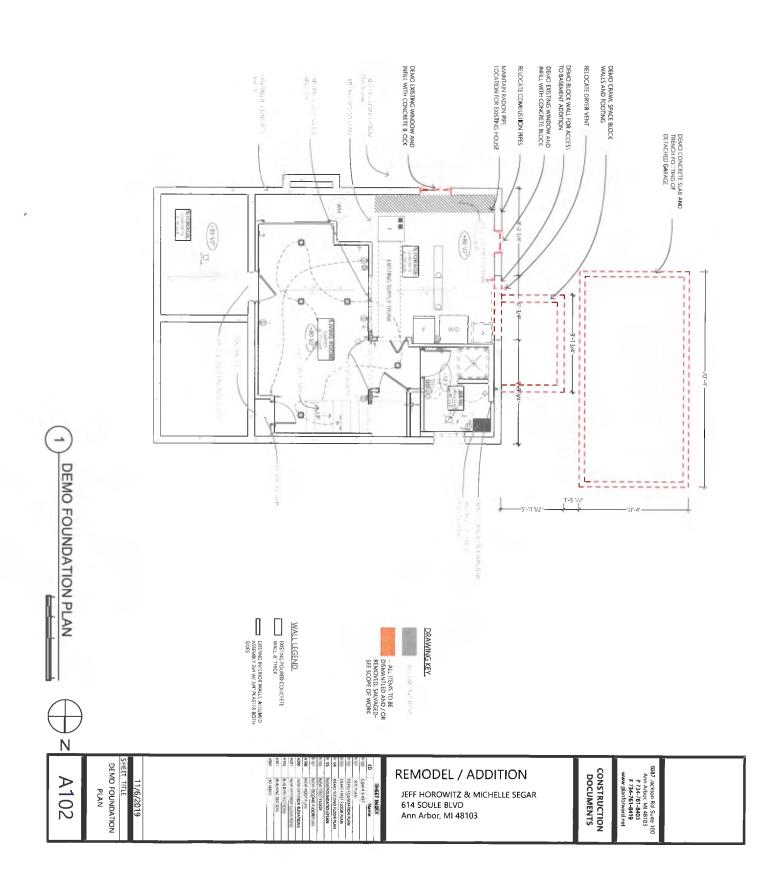
BEFORE PHOTO

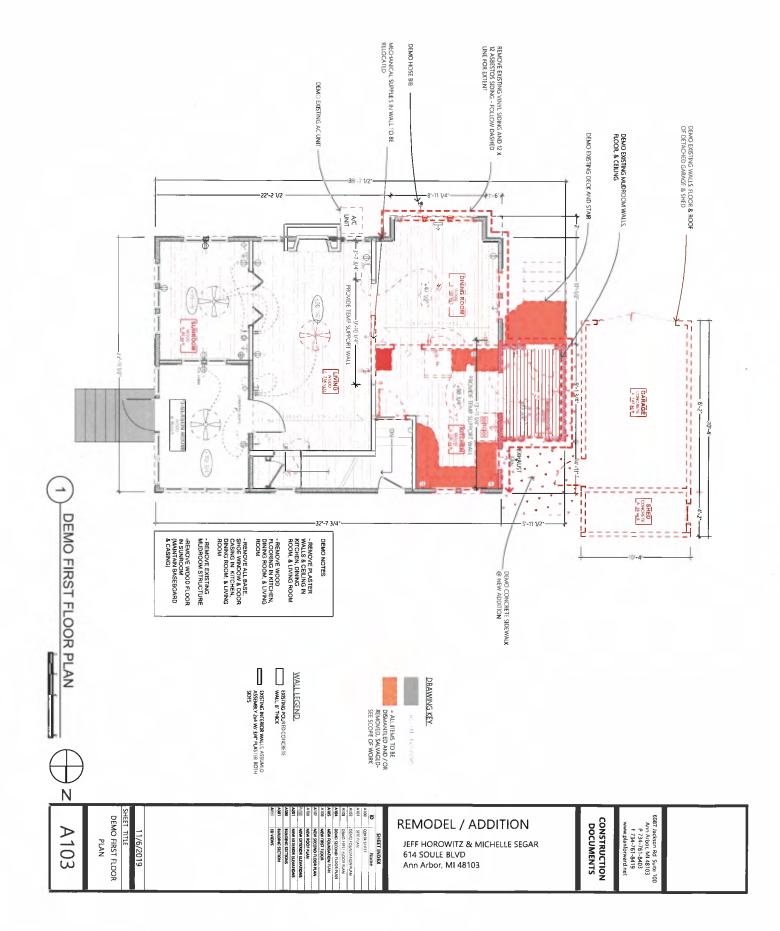
6687 Jackson Rd Suite 100 Ann Arbor, MI 48103 F 734-761-8403 www.planforward.net DOCUMENTS

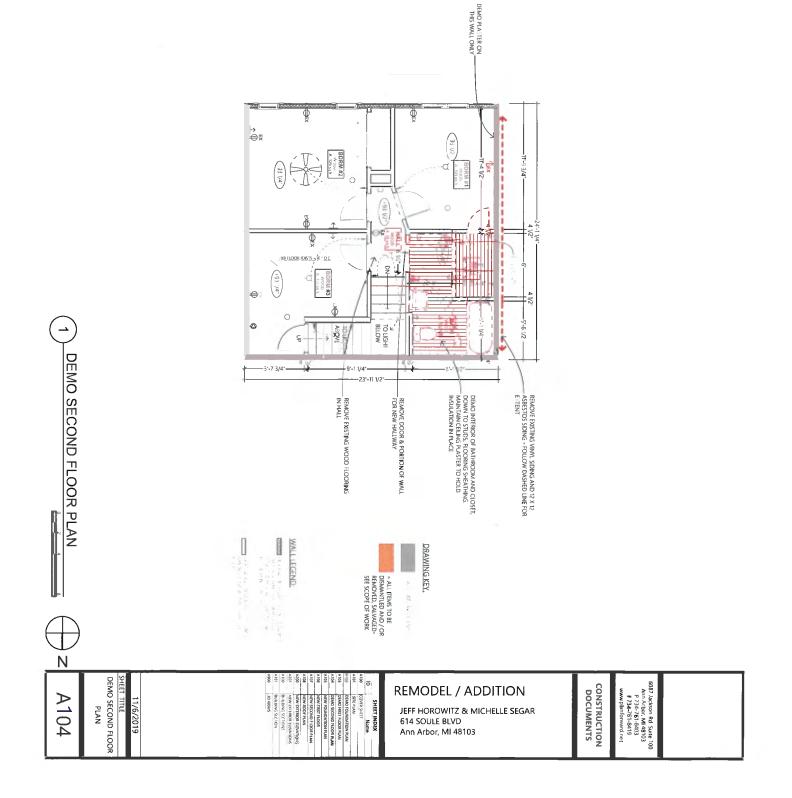
A900	A301	2014	A201	No.	A108	A107	901 V	A105	A104	A103	A102	A101	No.	5		REM
3D VIEWS	BUILDING SECTION	BUILDING SECTIONS	NEW EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS	NEW EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS	NEW ROOF PLAN	NEW SECOND FLOOR PLAN	MEW FIRST FLOOR	NEW FOUNDATION PLAN	DEMO SECOND FLOOR PLAN	DEMO FIRST FLOOR PLAN	DEMO FOUNDATION PLAN	SITE PLAN	COVER SHEET	Name	SHEET INDEX	JEFF I 614 S Ann A

JEFF HOROWITZ & MICHELLE SEGAR 614 SOULE BLVD Ann Arbor, MI 48103

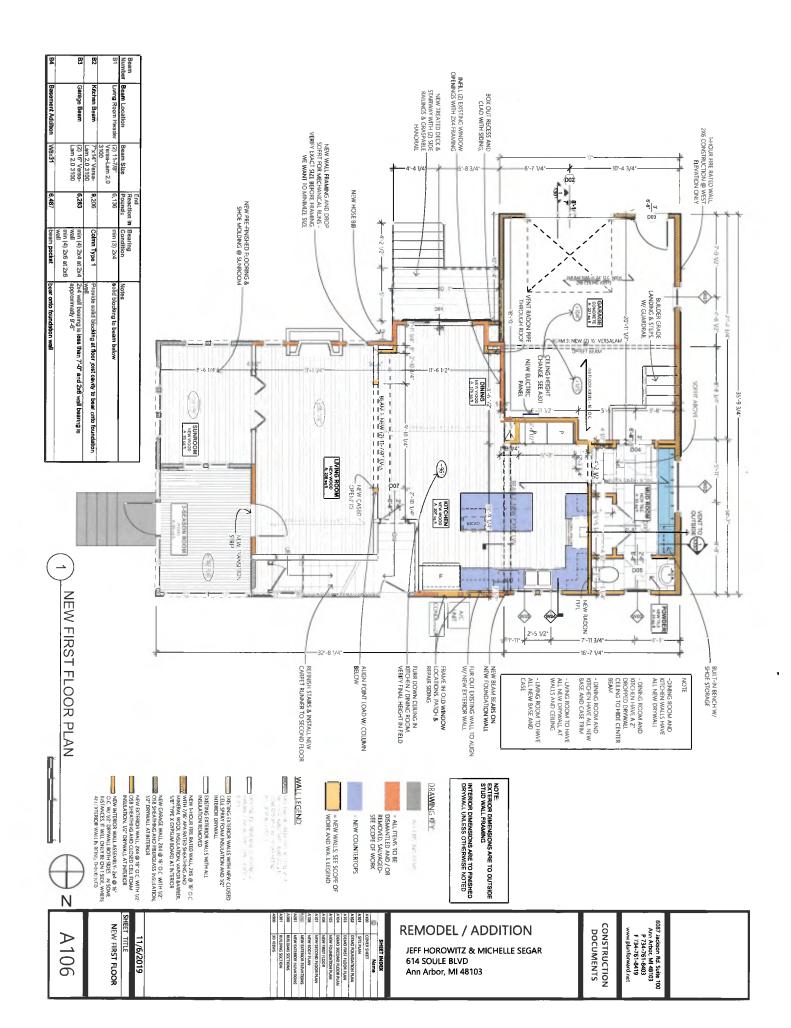


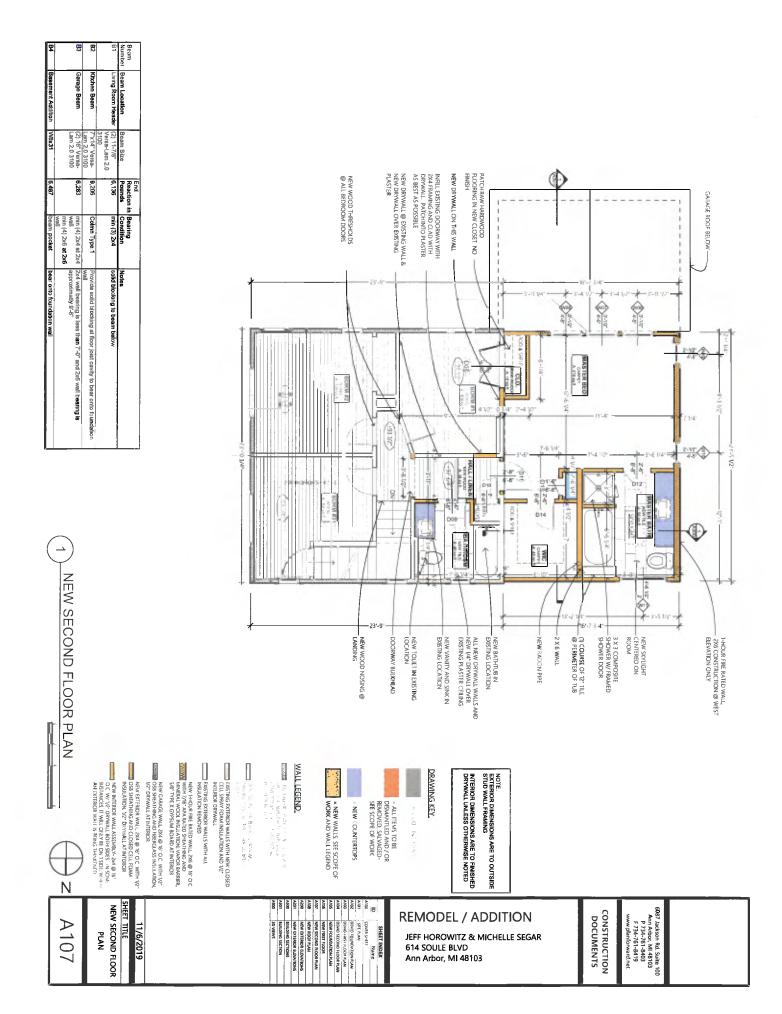


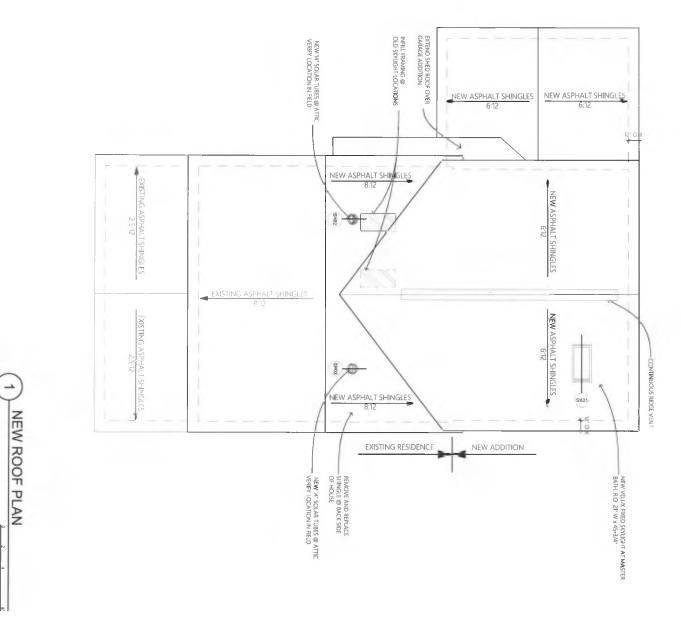




	CORE FILL BLOCK A1 POINT LOADS 21 - 21 - 21 - 21 - 21 - 21 - 21 - 21 -
Market Mittage Marke	







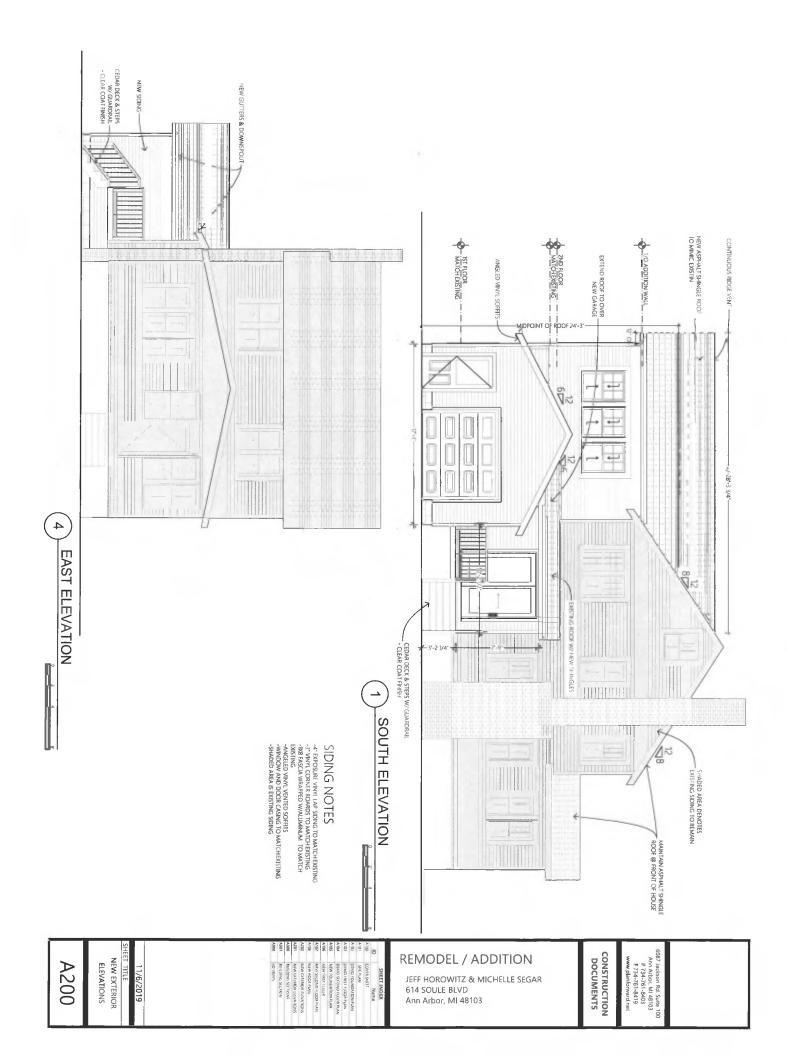
iD ID NEW ROOF PLAN A MARCHART CO D ELCORPANN A MARCHART COND FLAM MARK FOLD FLAM MARK A108 COVER SHEET SITE PUAN SHIDLT INDEX Name 1/6/2019

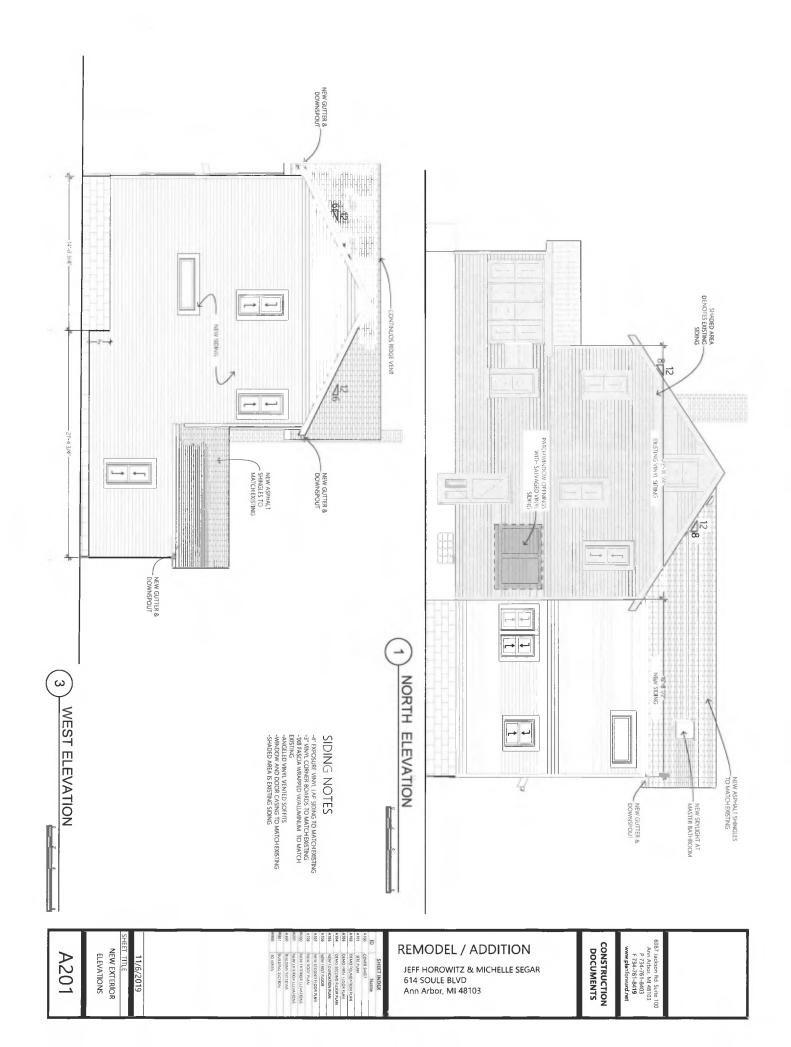
REMODEL / ADDITION

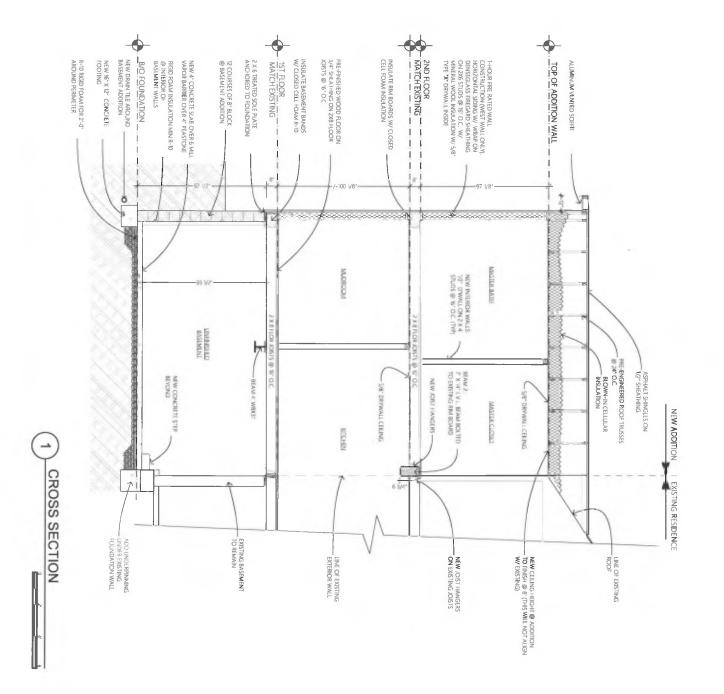
JEFF HOROWITZ & MICHELLE SEGAR 614 SOULE 8LVD Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Ann Arbor, MI 48103 P 734-761-8403 F 734-761-8419 www.planfonward.net

	DOCUMENT	www.planforward.ne	F 734-761-8419	P 734-761-8403	Ann Arbor, MI 4810	DUG/ JACKSON RO. SUITE







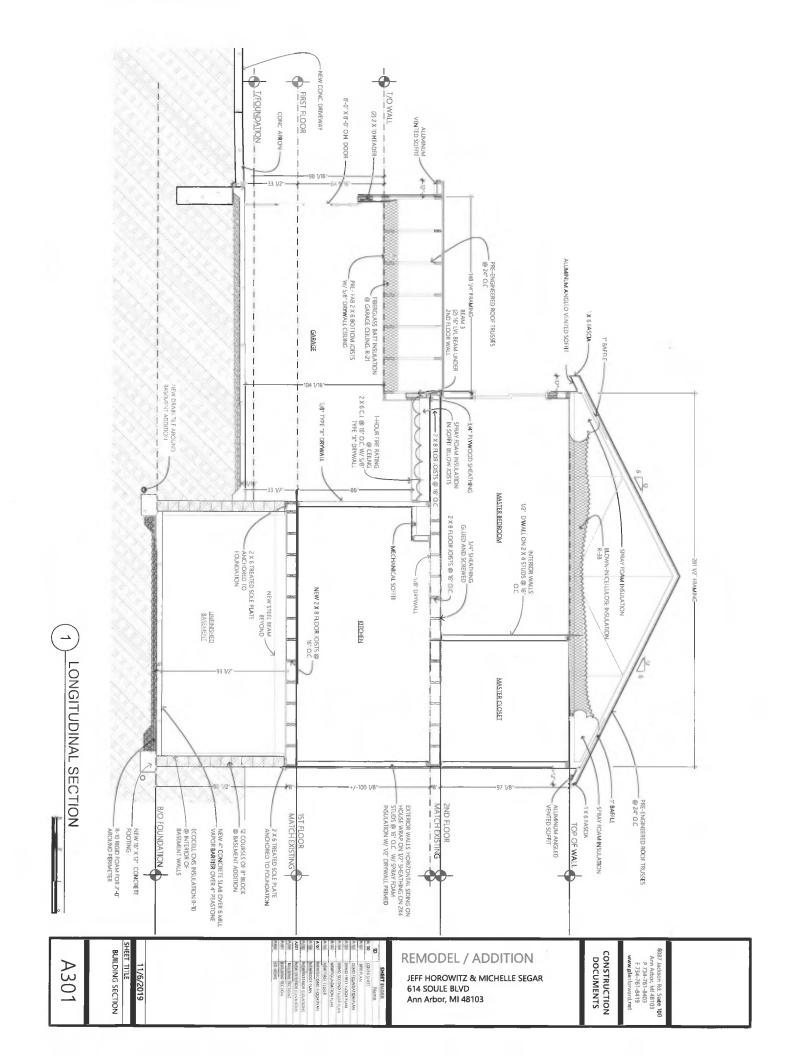
A 104 A 104 A 105 6 107 08 A301 BUILDING SECTIONS A300 NEW SECOND FLOOR PLAN NEW ROOF FLAN NEW EXTERIOR ET NEW EXTERIOR ET BUILDING SECTIO COVES SHEET SITE PLAN BEACD FOUNDATION PLAN DEMO STCOND FLODE PLAN NEW FOUNDATION PLAN NEW FIEST FLOUR 3D MEW SHEET INDED

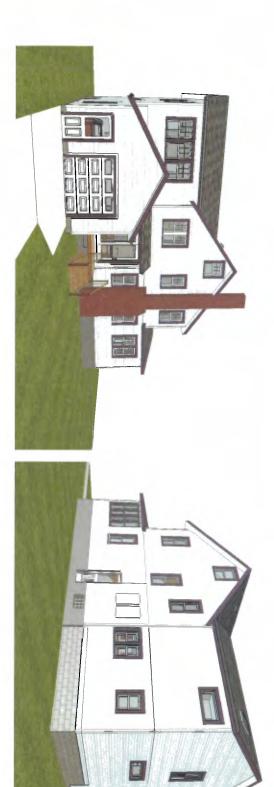
REMODEL / ADDITION

JEFF HOROWITZ & MICHELLE SEGAR 614 SOULE BLVD Ann Arbor, MI 48103

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

	 _
6087 Jackson Rd. Suite 100 Ann Arbor, MI 48103 P 734-761-8403 F 734-761-8419 www.planforward.net	









REMODEL / ADDITION

JEFF HOROWITZ & MICHELLE SEGAR 614 SOULE BLVD Ann Arbor, MI 48103

6087 Jackson Rd. Suite 100 Ann Arbor, MI 48103 P 734-761-8403 F 734-761-8419 www.planforward.net

A900	3D VIEWS

1

SHEET

11/6/20⁻ TITLE

AD UNLING SECTOR MULTING SECT					A900 3D VIEWS
--	--	--	--	--	---------------



Front entry on Soule Blvd.



Front of house showing neighboring house on 608 Soule Blvd. and relationship to neighboring house & garage.



Front setback on Lutz Ave. showing relationship to road and neighboring house at 1402 Lutz Ave.



Elevation from Lutz Ave. showing existing garage, driveway and mudroom.



Driveway off of Lutz Ave. showing existing relationship to neighboring garage, driveway and house at 1402 Lutz Ave.



Existing side of house, mudroom, garage and driveway.



Corner of property



Corner of property persepective from opposite side of street



Existing Kitchen. Approx. 100 SF.



LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

9-17-2019

To whom it may concern,

We hereby authorize, Forward Design Build Remodel, to act on our behalf in all matters relating to the application(s) of the building permit and/or zoning variance, including signing of all documents relating to these matters. Any and all acts carried out by Forward Design Build shall have the same effects as acts of our own.

This authorization is valid until further written notice from Forward Design Build Remodel.

Sincerely,

(Michelle Segar)

(Jef

date

date