# **Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of Adjustment** October 23, 2024

File: A/073/24

Address: 70 Babcombe Drive, Markham (Thornhill)
Applicant: Huis Design Studios (Kurtis Van Keulen)

Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

The following comments are provided on behalf of the West Team:

The Applicant is requesting relief from the following requirements of By-law 2024-19, RES-ENLR, as amended, as it relates to a proposed ground floor and second storey addition to the existing one-storey residential dwelling and a proposed pool cabana accessory structure in the rear yard. The variances requested are to permit:

- a) By-law 2024-19, Section 6.3.2.2(c): a maximum main building coverage of 20.8 percent (290.34 square metres) for the second storey, whereas the by-law permits a maximum main building coverage of 20 percent (278.71 square metres) of the lot area for any storey above the first;
- b) By-law 2024-19, Section 6.3.2.2(e): a maximum distance of the main building from the established line for the storey above the first storey of 16.05 metres, whereas the by-law permits a maximum distance of 14.5 metres for any storey above the first from the established building line;
- c) By-law 2024-19, Section 6.3.2.2(i): a minimum combined interior side yard on both sides of 6.54 metres, whereas the by-law requires a minimum combined interior side yard on both sides of 25 percent (7.62 metres) of the lot width;
- d) By-law 2024-19, Section 6.3.2.2(j): a maximum outside wall height of 7.69 metres, whereas the by-law permits a maximum outside wall height of 7.0 metres; d
- e) By-law 2024-19, Section 6.3.2, Special Standards(xiv): a maximum combined main building coverage of 577.06 square metres, whereas the by-law permits a maximum combined main building coverage of 500 square metres;
- f) By-law 2024-19, Section 4.8.8 (b)(i): a maximum south interior side yard architectural feature/roof overhang encroachment of 1.07 metres, whereas the by-law permits a maximum encroachment into the required interior side yard of 0.45 metres;
- g) **By-law 2024-19, Section 4.8.8(b)(i):** a maximum north interior side yard eave/roof overhang encroachment of 0.61 metres, whereas the by-law permits a maximum encroachment into the required interior side yard of 0.45 metres:

- h) **By-law 2024-19, Section 4.8.8(c)(i):** a maximum second storey rear main wall balcony projection of 1.98 metres, whereas the by-law permits a maximum projection of any balcony from the main wall of 1.8 metres;
- i) By-law 2024-19, Section 4.8.10.1(a): a minimum depth of 1.27 metres for the floor of a porch located in the front yard, whereas the by-law requires the floor of a porch located in the front yard to have a minimum depth of 1.8 metres; and
- j) <u>By-law 2024-19</u>, <u>Section 6.2.1(b)</u>: a roof projection of 1.52 metres above the maximum outside wall height, whereas the by-law permits a roof structure with a pitch of less than 25 degrees to project only a maximum of 1.0 metre above the maximum outside wall height;

### **BACKGROUND**

**Property Description** 

The 1,393.50 m² (15,000 ft²) Subject Lands are located north of Babcombe Drive, east of Laureleaf Road, and generally south of the Metrolinx Rail corridor (refer to Appendix "A"). The property is located within an established residential neighbourhood comprised of one and two-storey detached dwellings. The surrounding area is undergoing a transition with newer dwellings being developed as infill developments.

There is an existing one-storey detached dwelling on the Subject Lands, which according to assessment records, was constructed in 1965. Mature vegetation exists on the property including a mix of large and medium sized trees in the rear yard.

# Proposal

The Applicant is proposing the construction of a second-storey addition to the existing one storey dwelling as well as a proposed pool cabana accessory structure. The proposed gross floor area is 477.68 m<sup>2</sup> (5,141 ft<sup>2</sup>), as shown in Appendix "B".

# Official Plan and Zoning

Official Plan 2014 (partially approved on November 24, 2017, and updated on April 9, 2018)

The Official Plan designates the Subject Lands "Residential Low Rise", which provides for low-rise housing forms including single detached dwellings. Section 8.2.3.5 of the Official Plan outlines infill development criteria for the "Residential Low Rise" designation with respect to height, massing, and setbacks. These criteria are established to ensure that infill developments are appropriate for the site and generally consistent with the zoning requirements for adjacent properties and properties along the same street, while accommodating a diversity of building styles. In considering applications for development approval in a "Residential Low Rise" area, which includes variances, development is required to meet the general intent of the above noted development criteria. In addition,

regard shall be had for the retention of existing trees and vegetation. Planning Staff have had regard for the requirements of the infill development criteria in the preparation of the comments provided below.

### Zoning By-Law 2024-19, as amended

The Subject Lands are zoned "Residential Established Neighbourhood Low Rise (RES-ENLR) zone requirements of By-law 2024-19, as amended, as it relates to a proposed second-storey addition and pool cabana accessory structure. The proposed development does not comply with By-law 2024-19 with respect to the maximum main building coverage, maximum distance of the main building from the established line for the storey above the first storey, minimum combined interior side yard, maximum outside wall height, maximum south interior side yard architectural feature/roof overhang encroachment, maximum north interior side yard eave/roof overhang encroachment, maximum second storey rear main wall balcony projection, minimum depth, and maximum roof projection.

## **Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) Undertaken**

The Applicant has completed a Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) on June 25, 2024 to confirm the variances required for the proposed development.

#### COMMENTS

The *Planning Act* states that four tests must be met in order for a variance to be granted by the Committee of Adjustment:

- a) The variance must be minor in nature:
- The variance must be desirable, in the opinion of the Committee of Adjustment, for the appropriate development or use of land, building or structure;
- c) The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law must be maintained;
- d) The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan must be maintained.

# Increased Maximum Main Building Coverage for the Second Storey Variance

The Applicant is requesting relief for a maximum main building coverage of 20.8% (290.34 m²), whereas By-law 2024-19 permits a maximum main building coverage of 20% (278.71 m²) for any storey above the first. The intent of the maximum building coverage requirements include but are not limited to ensuring appropriate angular planes and to maintain the built form and character of the neighbourhood.

The proposed second-storey building coverage includes the second-storey balcony which adds approximately 23.56 m² (253.50 ft²) to the overall second-storey building coverage area. The accessible area of the second-storey balcony is limited to 1.98 m (6.50 ft) from the rear building wall. Excluding the rear second-storey balcony, the proposed second-storey building lot coverage is approximately 266.78 m² which complies with what the By-law permits.

The proposed second-storey building coverage will not extend significantly beyond the building footprint and there remains a generous rear yard setback (~58 feet or 17.7 metres). Staff are of the opinion that the requested variance is minor in nature as the proposed increase in the second-storey building coverage will not significantly add to the scale and massing of the dwelling.

Increased Maximum Distance from Established Building Line Variance
The Applicant is requesting to permit a maximum distance of the main building
from the established building line for any storey above the first storey of 16.05
metres (52.68 feet), whereas the By-law permits a maximum distance of 14.5
metres (47.57 feet). This represents an increase of 1.55 metres (5.09 feet).

The intent of the maximum distance from the established building line for any storey above the first includes considerations for sunlight, shadowing, and the built form and character of the neighborhood. Staff are of the opinion that the proposed extension to a distance of 16.05 metres (52.68 feet) for the second storey will have limited impact on the streetscape and neighboring properties, as the setbacks are generally maintained and the two-storey scale is consistent with other infill developments in the area.

### Minimum Combined Interior Side Yard Setback Variance

The Applicant is requesting relief to permit a minimum combined interior side yard of 6.54 metres, whereas By-law 2024-19 requires a minimum combined interior side yard on both sides of 7.62 metres (25 percent of the lot width). This represents a reduction of 1.08 metres (3.54 feet). The intent of the minimum combined interior side yard requirement is to ensure adequate separation between adjacent properties, for access and safety.

Staff are of the opinion that the proposed combined side yard of 6.54 metres will not negatively impact the neighboring properties, and consider the requested variance to be consistent with similar developments in the area that have reduced side yard setbacks.

## **Increased Maximum Outside Wall Height Variance**

The Applicant is requesting relief to permit a maximum outside wall height of 7.69 metres (25.23 feet), whereas By-law 2024-19 permits a maximum outside wall height of 7.0 metres (22.97 feet). This represents an increase of 0.69 metres (2.26 feet). By-law 2024-19 calculates outside wall height as the vertical distance from established grade to the highest top plate of the outside wall of the upper most floor or storey.

Staff are of the opinion that the proposed maximum outside wall height will not significantly impact the visual appearance of the property or the surrounding area and that the requested variance is minor in nature.

## **Increased Maximum Main Building Coverage Variance**

The Applicant is requesting to permit a maximum combined main building coverage of 577.06 m<sup>2</sup> (6,206.67 ft<sup>2</sup>), whereas By-law 2024-19 permits a maximum combined main building coverage of 500 m<sup>2</sup> (5,382.28 ft<sup>2</sup>). This represents an increase of 77.06 m<sup>2</sup> (829.39 ft<sup>2</sup>).

The intent of the maximum permitted building coverage provision in the By-law includes but is not limited to ensuring appropriate proportions of the dwelling to the lot size, and within the context of the surrounding neighbourhood.

The proposed coverage includes the second-storey balcony/rear unenclosed canopy which adds approximately 47.13 m² (507 ft²) to the overall building coverage area. Excluding the rear unenclosed canopy, the proposed combined building coverage is approximately 529.93 m² (5,704 ft²), which is approximately 6 percent greater than what the Bylaw permits.

Given that the proposed building coverage does not extend significantly beyond the building footprint and there remains a generous rear yard setback (~58 feet or 17.7 metres), the proposed increase in the building coverage will not significantly add to the scale and massing of the dwelling. Staff have reviewed the proposed coverage and are of the opinion that the increase will not negatively impact the character of the neighborhood or the amenity areas of adjacent properties.

# Increased Maximum South and North Interior Side Yard Encroachment Variances

The Applicant is requesting relief for a maximum south interior side yard architectural feature/roof overhang encroachment of 1.07 metres, whereas Bylaw 2024-19 permits a maximum encroachment into the required interior side yard of 0.45 metres. This represents an increase of 0.62 metres (2.03 feet). The Applicant is also requesting relief for a maximum north interior side yard eave/roof overhang encroachment of 0.61 metres, whereas By-law 2024-19 permits a maximum encroachment into the required interior side yard of 0.45 metres. This represents an increase of 0.16 metres (0.52 feet).

The intent of the maximum encroachment requirement is to maintain adequate spacing between structures and access for adjacent dwellings. Staff are of the opinion that the proposed encroachment will not negatively impact the adjacent dwelling(s).

Staff find that the increase in south and north interior side yard encroachment is compatible with the character of the neighborhood, and therefore have no objections to the requested variance.

# Increased Maximum Second Storey Rear Main Wall Balcony Projection Variance

The Applicant is requesting relief for a maximum second storey rear main wall balcony projection of 1.98 metres, whereas By-law 2024-19 permits a maximum projection of any balcony from the main wall of 1.8 metres. This represents an increase of 0.18 metres (0.59 feet).

Staff are of the opinion that the proposed balcony projection is reasonable, does not significantly impact the adjacent dwellings and the variance request is minor in nature.

### **Reduced Minimum Porch Depth Variance**

The Applicant is seeking relief for a minimum porch depth of 1.27 metres in the front yard, whereas By-law 2024-19 requires a minimum depth of 1.8 metres. This represents a shortfall of 0.53 metres (1.74 feet).

Staff find that the requested reduction in porch depth is minor in nature and compatible with the existing development patterns, supporting the application for this variance.

### Increase in Roof Projection Above Maximum Outside Wall Height

The Applicant is requesting relief for a roof projection of 1.52 metres above the maximum outside wall height, whereas By-law 2024-19 permits a roof structure with a pitch of less than 25 degrees to project only a maximum of 1.0 metre above the maximum outside wall height. This represents an increase of 0.52 metres (1.71 feet).

The intent of the maximum roof projection is to generally maintain a consistent roofline and prevent excessive height that may negatively impact the surrounding adjacent dwellings. Staff are of the opinion that the proposed roof projection is consistent with the design of the building and will not create any adverse impacts to neighboring properties.

### **Metrolinx Comments**

Metrolinx provided advisory comments on this application on September 26, 2024 (Appendix D), requiring the implementation of mitigation measures to attenuate the impact generated by the railway located north of the Subject Lands.

### **PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY**

No written submissions were received as of October 23, 2024. It is noted that additional information may be received after the writing of the report, and the Secretary-Treasurer will provide information on this at the meeting.

### CONCLUSION

Planning Staff have reviewed the application with respect to Section 45(1) of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended, and are of the opinion that the

request variances meet the four tests of the *Planning Act* and have no objection. Staff recommend that the Committee consider public input in reaching a decision.

The onus is ultimately on the Applicant to demonstrate why they should be granted relief from the requirements of the zoning by-law, and how they satisfy the tests of the *Planning Act* required for the granting of minor variances.

Please refer to Appendix "C" for conditions to be attached to any approval of this application.

PREPARED BY:

Nohannad

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Hussnain Mohammad, Planner 1, Development Facilitation Office

**REVIEWED BY:** 

Rick Cefaratti, MCIP RPP, Senior Planner, West District

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix "A" – Aerial Context Photo

Appendix "B" - Plans

Appendix "C" – A/073/24 Conditions of Approval

Appendix "D" – Metrolinx Advisory Comments



# A/073/24 - 70 Babcombe Drive Map







TRCA Regulation Limit 2023 Aerial 2023

Red: Band\_1

Green: Band\_2

Blue: Band\_3

Parcel

Park Facility

Parks

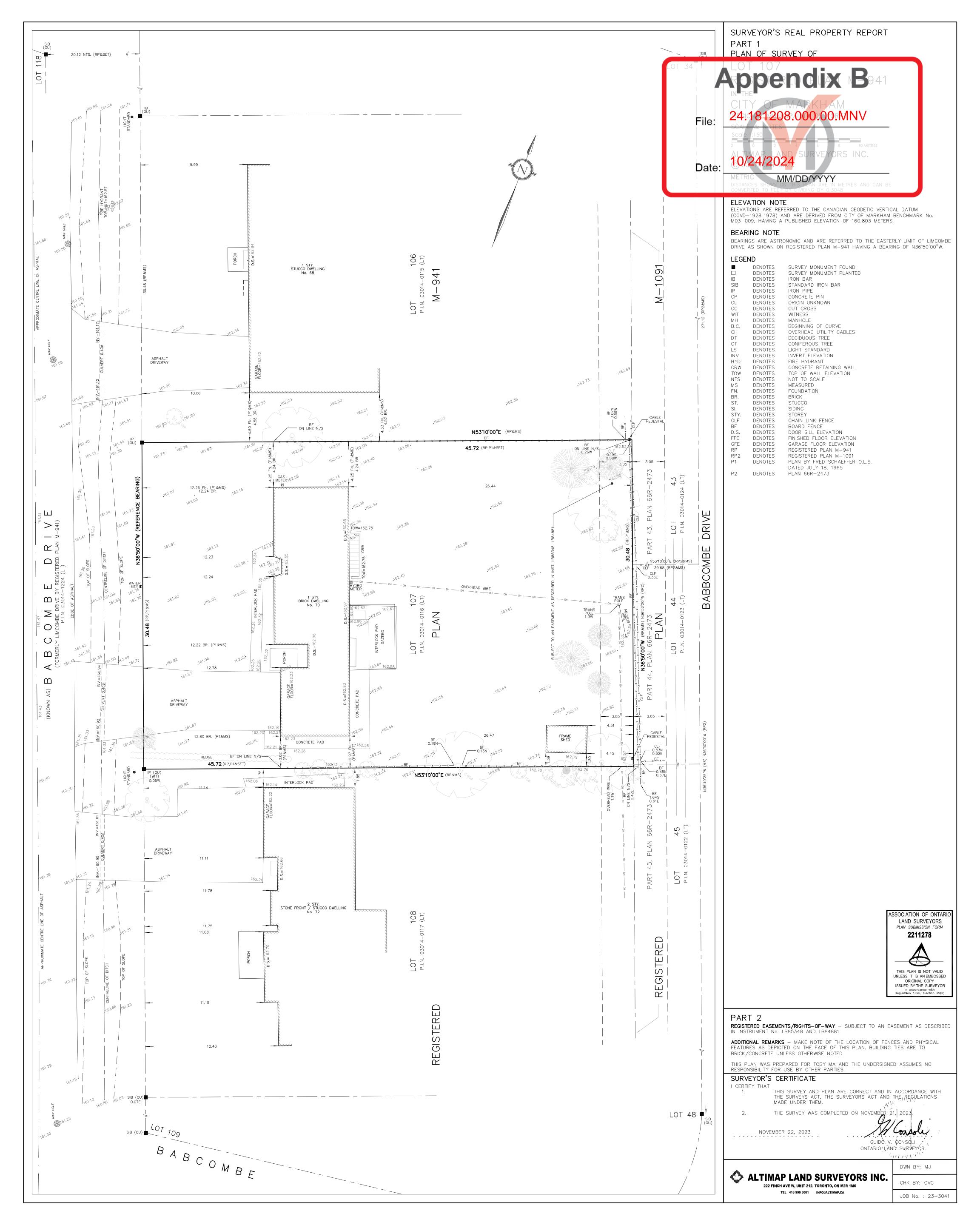
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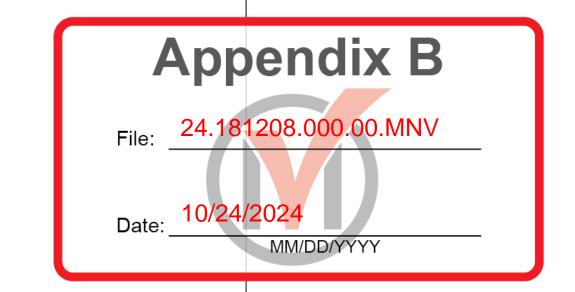
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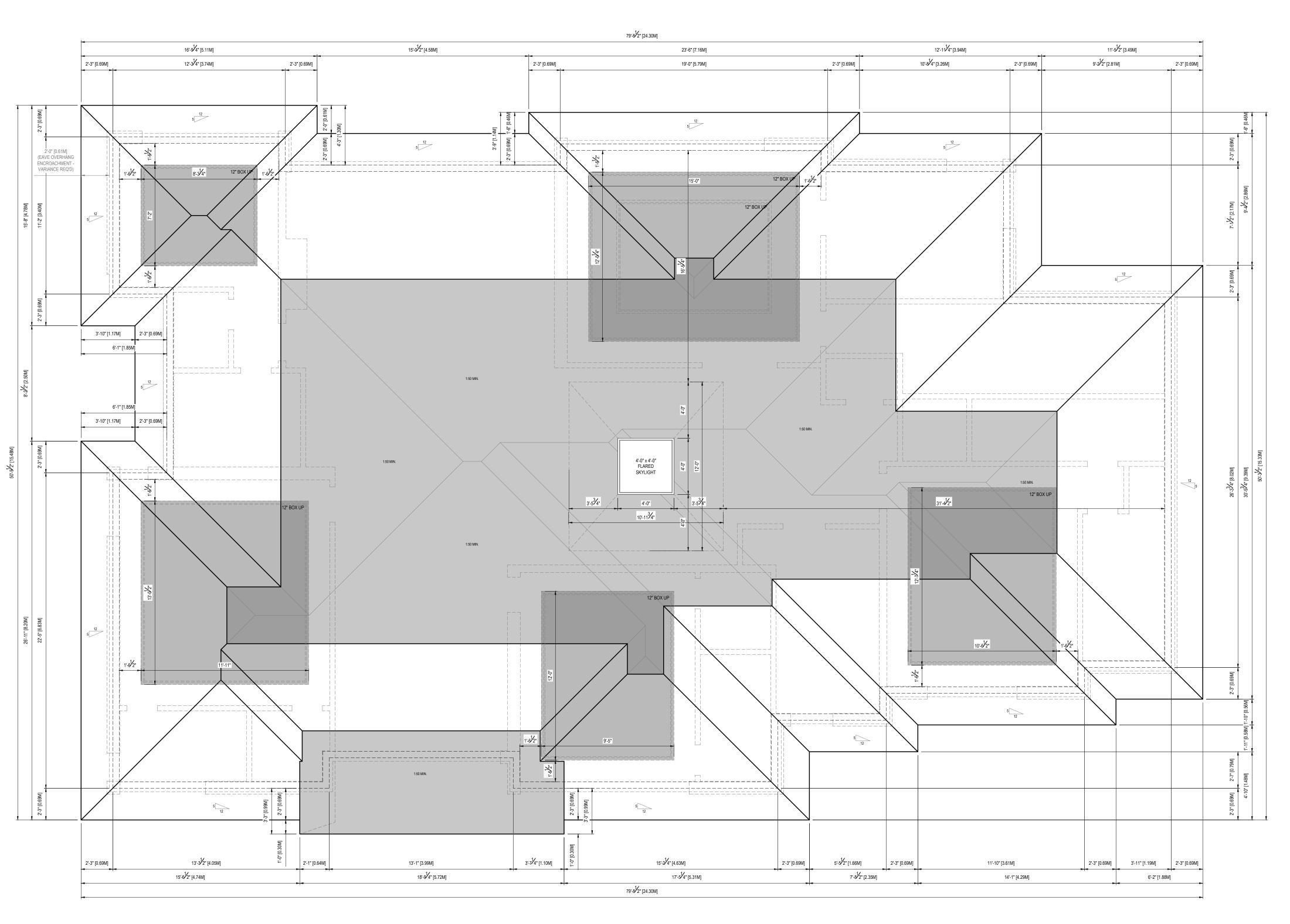
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relied upon for making financial, survey, legal or other commitments. If you have questions or comments regarding the data displayed on this map, please email cgis@markham.ca and you will be directed to the appropriate department.

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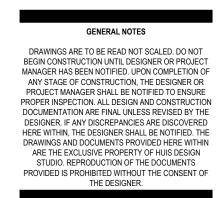






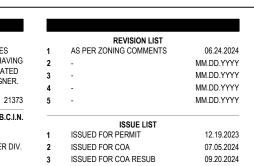
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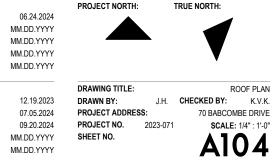


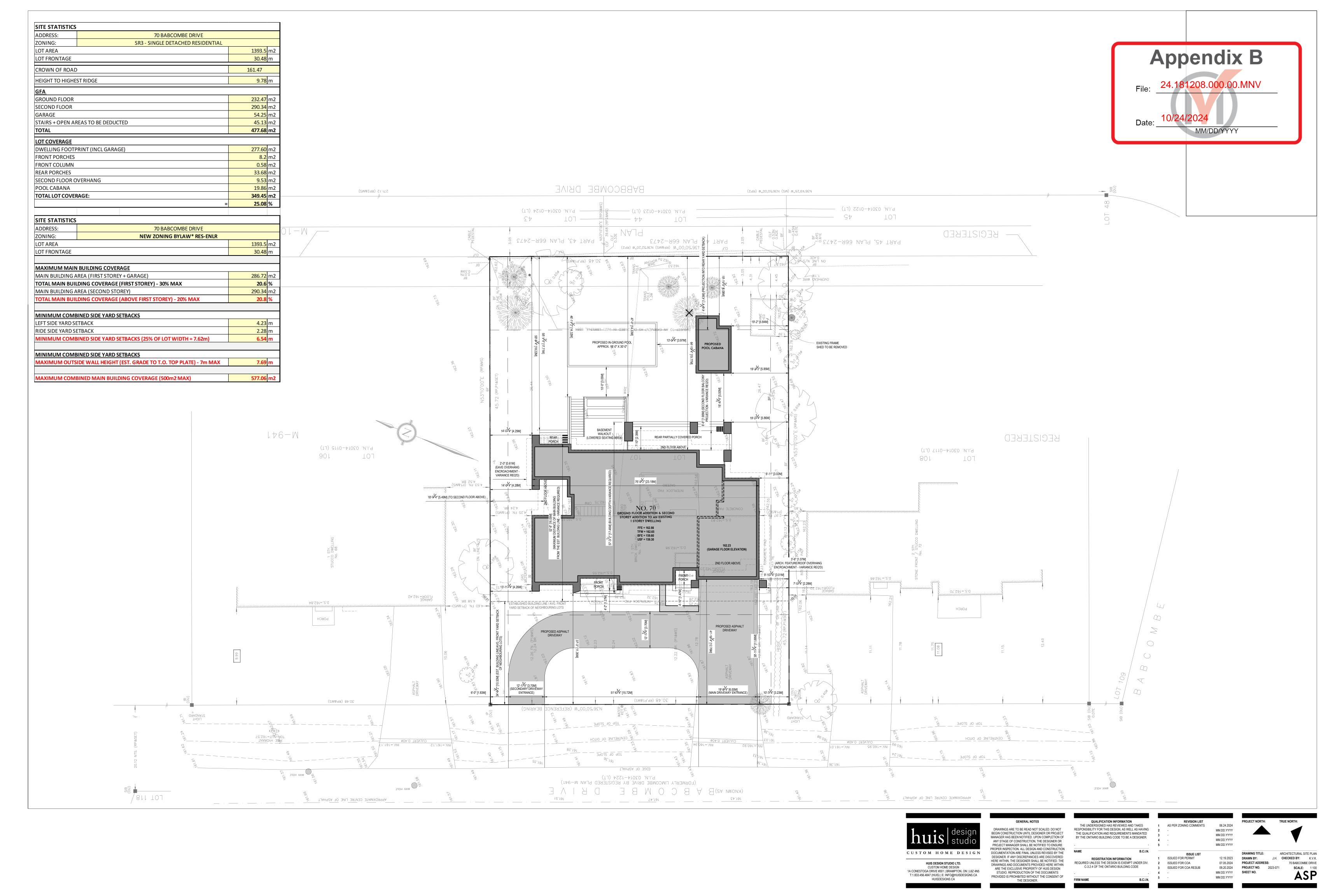


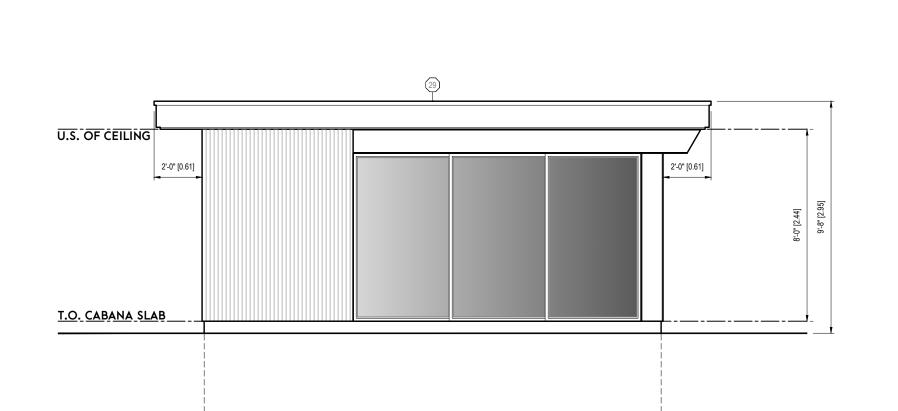
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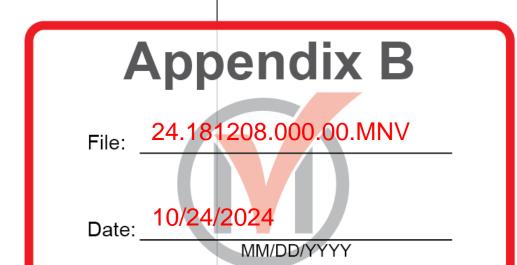
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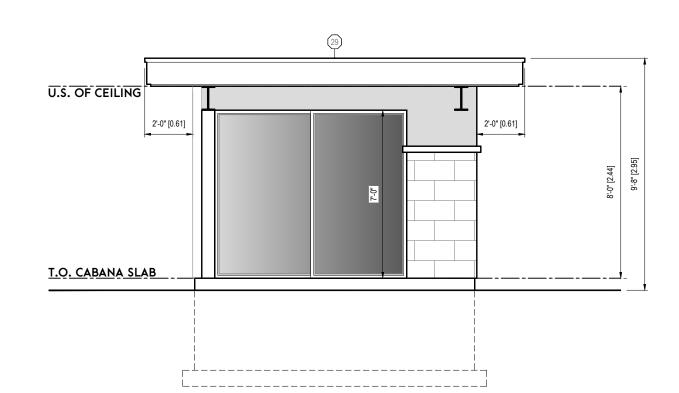






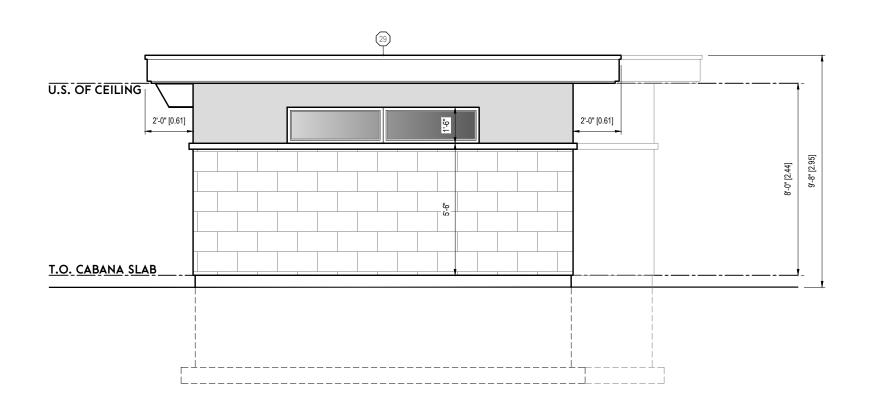




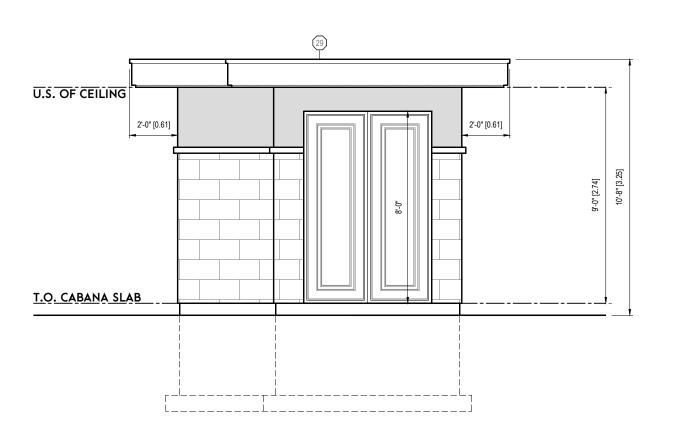


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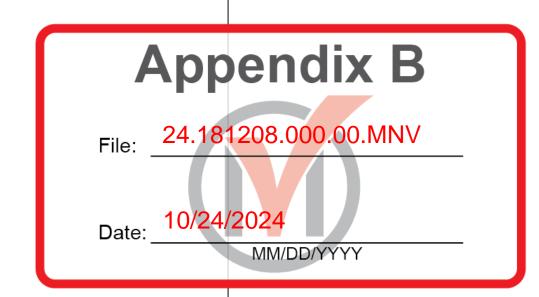
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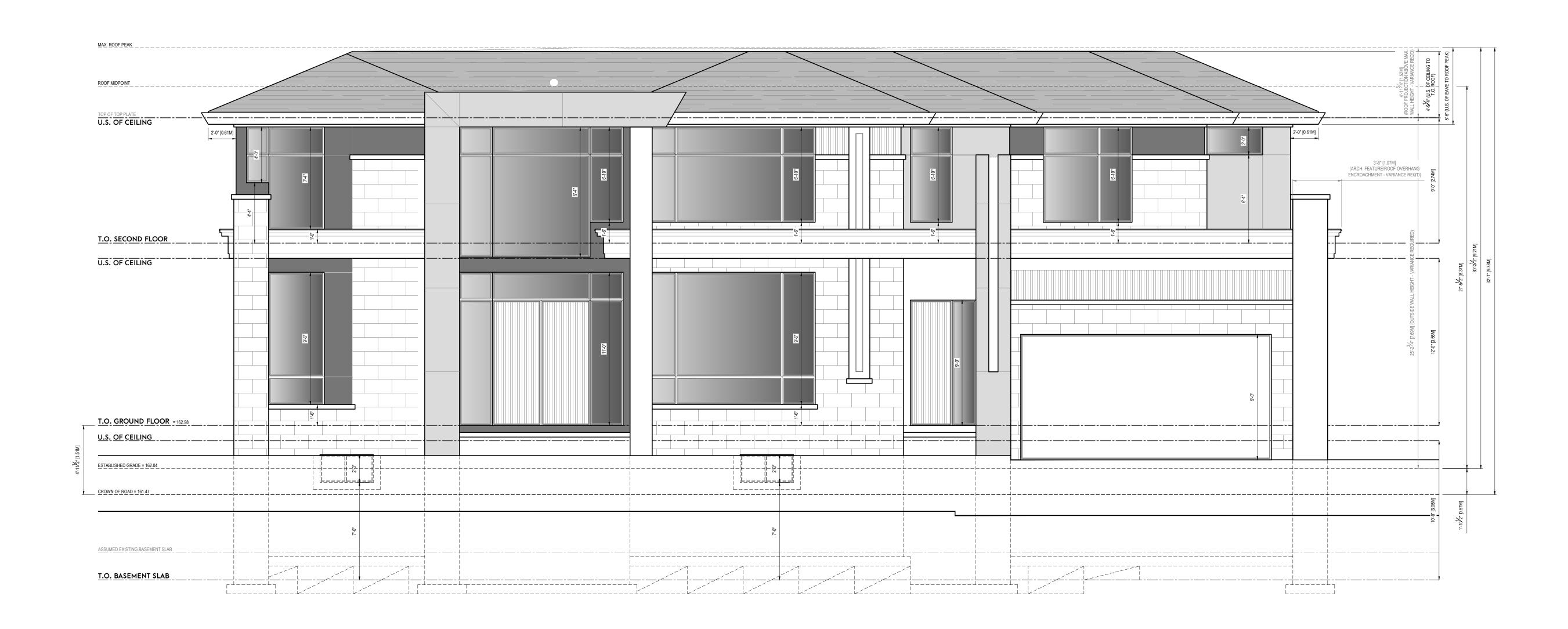
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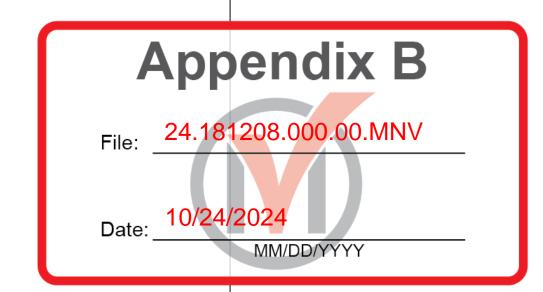
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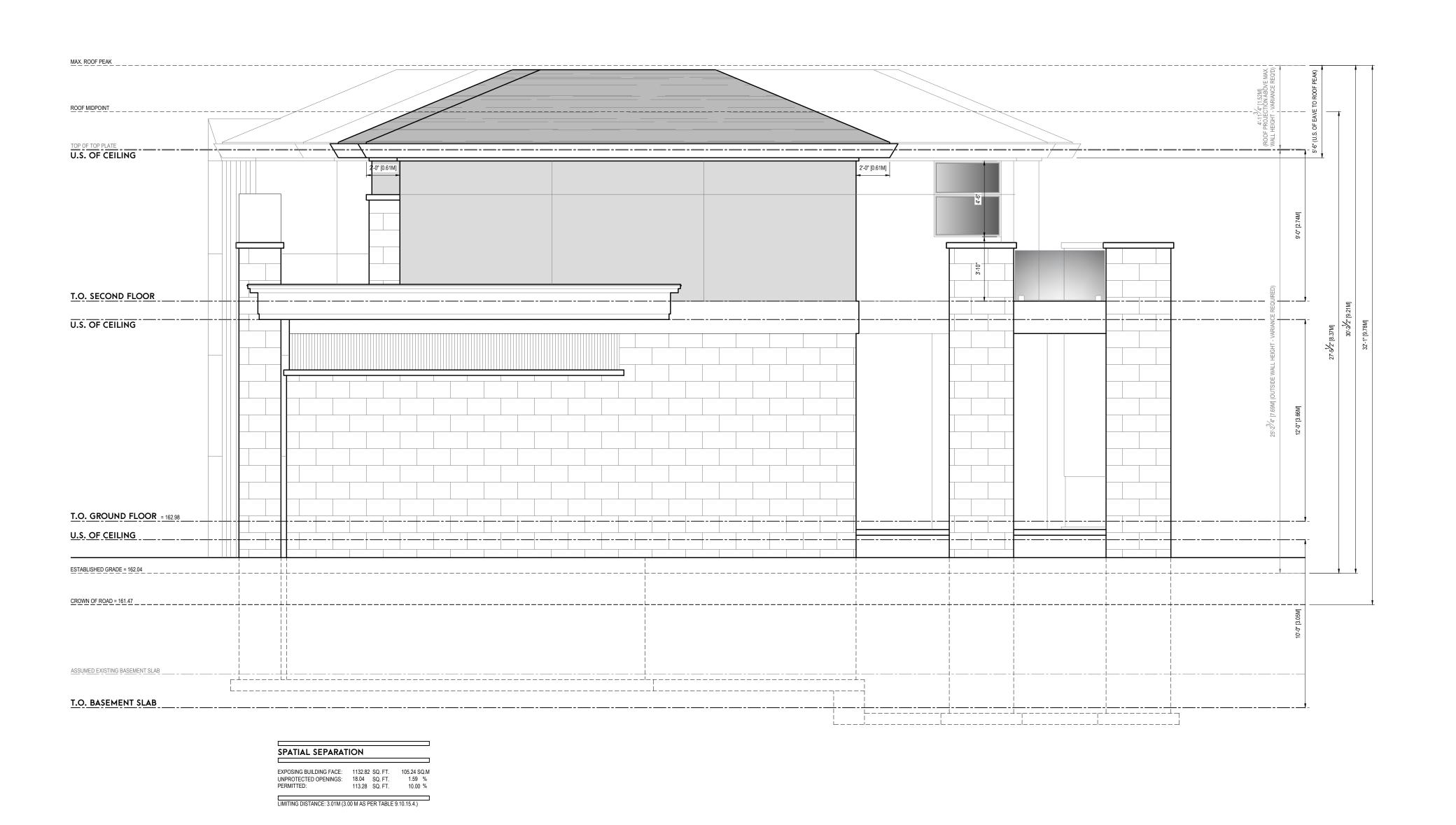
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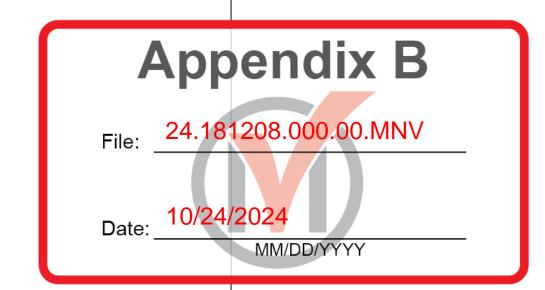
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09.20.2024 PROJECT NO. 2023-071 SCALE: 1/4": 1'-0"
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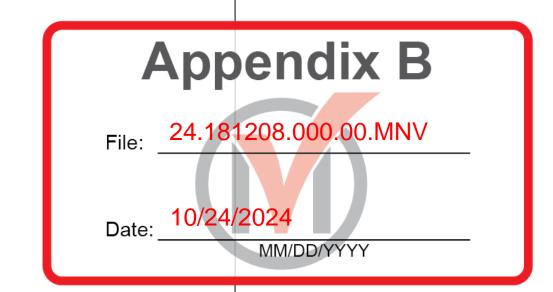
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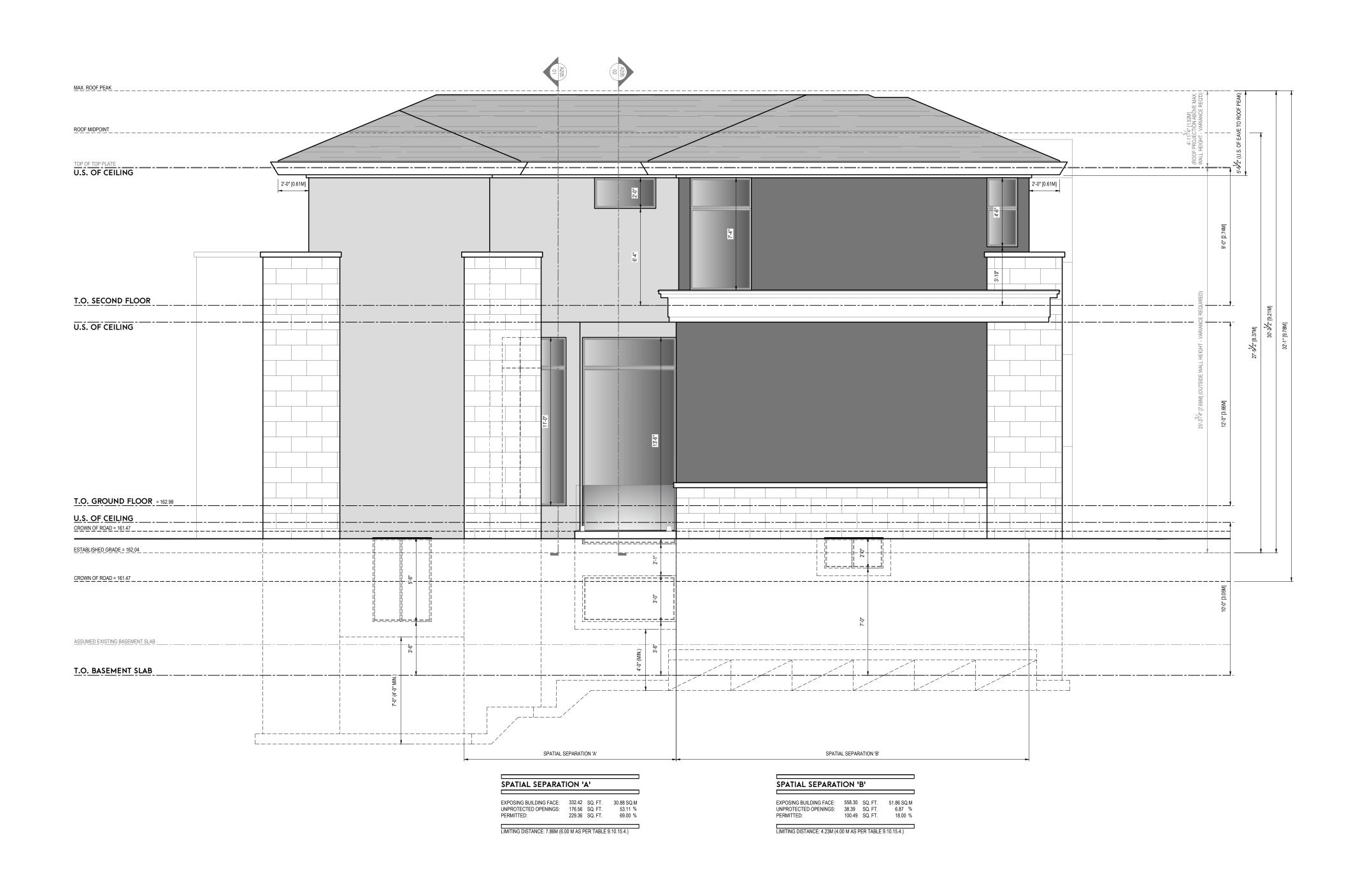
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# APPENDIX "C" - A/073/24 Conditions of Approval

### CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/073/24

- **1.** The variances apply only to the proposed development as long as it remains; and
- 2. That the variances apply only to the proposed development, in substantial conformity with the plans attached as Appendix "B" to this Staff Report, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Supervisor of the Committee of Adjustment or designate that this condition has been fulfilled to their satisfaction.
- 3. Submission of a Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan, prepared by a Qualified Tree Expert in accordance with the City's Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan (TAPP) Requirements (2024) as amended, to be reviewed and approved by the City, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Tree Preservation By-law Administrator that this condition has been fulfilled to his/her satisfaction, and that any detailed Siting, Lot Grading and Servicing Plan required as a condition of approval reflects the Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan.
- **4.** That prior to the commencement of construction or demolition, tree protection is erected and maintained around all trees on site, neighbouring properties, and street trees, in accordance with the City's Streetscape Manual (2009) as amended, and inspected by City Staff to the satisfaction of the Tree Preservation By-law Administrator.

CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

Mohamad

Hussnain Mohammad, Planner 1, Development Facilitation Office





TO: Shawna Houser, Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment, City of Markham

DATE: September 26, 2024

**RE:** Adjacent Development Review: A/073/24

70 Babcombe Dr, Markham, ON

Minor Variance

Dear Committee of Adjustment,

Metrolinx is in receipt of the Minor Variance application for 70 Babcombe Drive, Markham, to request relief from the requirements of By-law 2024-19, as amended, as circulated on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and to be heard by the Committee as early as Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Metrolinx's comments on the subject application are noted below:

• The subject property is located within 300m of the Metrolinx Bala Subdivision which carries Metrolinx's Richmond Hill GO Train service.

#### **GO/HEAVY-RAIL - ADVISORY COMMENTS**

- The Proponent is advised of the following:
  - Warning: The Applicant is advised that the subject land is located within Metrolinx's 300 metres railway corridor zone of influence and as such is advised that Metrolinx and its assigns and successors in interest has or have a right-of-way within 300 metres from the subject land. The Applicant is further advised that there may be alterations to or expansions of the rail or other transit facilities on such right-of-way in the future including the possibility that Metrolinx or any railway entering into an agreement with Metrolinx to use the right-of-way or their assigns or successors as aforesaid may expand or alter their operations, which expansion or alteration may affect the environment of the occupants in the vicinity, notwithstanding the inclusion of any noise and vibration attenuating measures in the design of the development and individual lots, blocks or units.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact <u>jenna.auger@metrolinx.com</u>.

Best Regards, **Jenna Auger** Third Party Project Review Metrolinx | 10 Bay Street | Toronto | Ontario | M5J 2S3 T: (416) 881-0579