

January 9, 2018

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- Michael D. Zarin # Also admitted in D.C.
- Also admitted in CT A Also admitted in NJ

### By Hand Delivery

Hon. Kathy Sullivan Chairperson of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Planning Board and Members of the Planning Board Hastings-on-Hudson Municipal Building 7 Maple Avenue Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

> PTG Development, LLC Re:

> > Application for Site Plan and Steep Slopes Approval for the

Proposed Townhomes at Woodbank

0 Warburton Avenue (aka Nodine Street) (the "Project")

Section 4.10, Block 94, Lots 7 & 8 (the "Property")

Dear Chairperson Sullivan and Members of the Planning Board:

As you know, this firm, in coordination with the architectural and engineering firms Christina Griffin Architects and Cronin Engineering, represent PTG Development, LLC ("PTG"), owner of the above-referenced Property in connection with its Application for Site Plan and Steep Slopes Approval. We are pleased to make this submission in advance of your Board's January 18th Meeting to conclude the SEQRA review of the Project.

As you will recall, the final outstanding item of the Board's SEQRA review is its response to Question 9 on Part 2 of the Environmental Assessment Form relating to impact on aesthetic resources. To address the Board's remaining concerns regarding the potential impact of the Project on aesthetic resources, enclosed please find the (i) letter from Steve Oakes of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation stating that State Parks has no objections to the Project; (ii) two (2) letters from Link Land Surveyors ("Link") explaining the difference between the Hudson 154 Monument Datum used by Link and the NAVD88 Datum used by Westchester County GIS; (iii) revised Site Plan, Floor Plans, Elevation and Section Drawings showing further articulation of the rear of the Townhomes (Sheets S-1, S-2, A-1 to A-5); (iv)

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revised 3-D Simulation of the proposed Townhomes; (v) revised rendering of Project when viewed from the OCA (Sheet VP-14); and (vi) expanded video to demonstrate the experience of the Townhomes while walking on the Old Croton Aqueduct ("OCA") Trail.

### Letter from NYS Parks

At the conclusion of the last meeting, your Board reached out to Steve Oakes, Manager of Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park to request a review of the revised plans for the proposed Townhomes. In his January 2, 2018 letter in response, Steve Oakes acknowledged that Christina Griffin Architect has taken the issues raised in his March 2017 letter seriously, and that the Project, as revised, "addresses the issues of massing, height, coverage and construction protection of the Aqueduct." In concluding that State Parks has no objections to the Project, Steve Oakes commended the Board and Developer, stating "[t]he Board and the developer deserve credit for addressing these and other concerns, and thereby improving the project for the benefit of village residents and visitors." (emphasis added).

#### Letter from Link Land Surveyors: Village Datum & NAVD 88

At the December 21 Meeting, the Board asked PTG to clarify the difference between the Hudson 154 Monument Datum used by Link and the NAVD 88 Datum from the Westchester County GIS website. We appreciate the Board pointing out the difference between the two sets of datum so that this can be clarified.

As set forth in the attached letters from Link, there are various datums that surveyors use to prepare topographic surveys in Westchester County. Two of these datums are the Hudson 154 Monument Datum used by Link and the NAVD 88 Datum used by Westchester County GIS. Both datum are verifiable and accurate and the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson does not require that a particular datum is used. Once a particular datum is chosen, all other points similarly correspond to that datum. Therefore, utilizing a particular datum does not result in different conclusions than if a different datum was used.

All of the drawings and the 3-D Simulation provided to the Board have consistently used the Hudson 154 Monument Datum, which was provided to us by Link. The Hudson 154 Monument Datum is consistently approximately 7.8' +/- higher than the NAVD 88 Datum. As set forth by Link, the Link Survey accurately depicts the elevations of the Project based on the Hudson 154 Monument Datum.

#### Revised Plans With Articulated Rear

While the proposed Townhomes are *below* the OCA Trail, the second and third floor of the Townhomes are partially visible from the OCA. To achieve an attractive exterior and to address the Board's concerns about an alleged "flatness" of the rear of the building, Christina Griffin Architect has added further articulation to the rear of the Townhomes to create the appearance of individual units. This includes separating the first-floor level at the rear of the building with a roof overhang and unified siding, while treating the façade at the second and third floor as individual townhomes with a visual width of 16'-18', a common module for older homes

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in the neighborhood. Bay windows, also a common architectural feature in the area, have been introduced to enhance the individual townhouse look, as well as provide visual interest. The units have been jogged by 2' in areas to break the length of wall at the building. The units are further articulated by jogging the 2-story components on both ends of each of the buildings and treating these walls with a different siding material. A reveal at the elevator wall has been introduced to provide a strong vertical at the façade, which together with the varying wall elevations and roof planes provides rhythm and interest at the rear of the building.

Additionally, the front wall of the center roof terrace has been further recessed another 2.0' for a total setback from the front wall of the building of 4.0.' The rear wall of the center roof terrace has been recessed a total of 4.0' from the rear wall of the building. These changes reduce the massing of the Townhomes and further enhance the appearance of the Townhomes as two separate buildings.

In order to achieve this articulation, PTG had to make a portion of the third-floor rear wall flush with the second-floor rear wall, moving a portion of the third-floor roof line 1'-6' closer to the OCA. Even with this minor change to the third-floor rear wall, the height of the Townhomes remains at the same elevation, below the OCA, and the Site Lines from the OCA to the Hudson River and Palisades clear the building as demonstrated on the Section Drawing (See Sheet S-1). The 37% lot coverage for the proposed Townhomes also remains unchanged.

### **Updated 3-D Simulation and Visual Representations**

As per the Board's request, PTG has provided an updated 3-D Simulation of the Project. The updated 3-D Simulation contains a cropped as opposed to wide-angle view to demonstrate the "human" view of the Townhomes from the OCA. The 3-D Simulation also shows the Hudson River and Palisades in the foreground as opposed to the default horizon view. This walk-through shows the attractive articulation that has been added to the rear of the Townhomes and further demonstrates that the Townhomes blend in and complement the surrounding multifamily buildings.

PTG has also provided an updated rear rendering of the Project and updated videos to demonstrate that the proposed Townhomes fit in with the "real" experience of walking on the OCA Trail. The rear rendering shows the 3-D model of the proposed Townhomes superimposed on a photograph of the Property from the OCA. PTG has also recorded videos at the eye level of an average female with a diagonal view walking north and south on the OCA Trail from Washington Avenue to Pinecrest Drive. As you pass the Property, the mock-up poles show the position of the proposed Townhomes. These visual representations demonstrate that the Proposed Townhomes are consistent with the surrounding land uses and have small to no aesthetic impact on the OCA.

#### CONCLUSION

While PTG continues to collaborate with your Board, we hope the Board recognizes that PTG has gone above and beyond to address each and every question or concern the Board has raised at significant time and expense. PTG seeks to design a desirable and attractive building that fits in with the unique character of the Hastings-on-Hudson community. PTG is confident that the most recent set of revisions to the exterior of the Townhomes and updated visual representations will address the Board's remaining concerns and allow the Board to find the Project has small to no impact on aesthetic resources so that it may conclude the SEQRA process by issuing a Negative Declaration.

We look forward to appearing before the Planning Board at the January 18 Meeting. Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

ZARIN & STEINMETZ

By:

David S. Steinmetz Katelyn E. Ciolino

Encls.

Cc:

PTG Development, LLC (by email)

Christina Griffin (by email)

Linda Whitehead, Esq. (by email) Charles Minozzi, Jr. (by email)



# Parks. Recreation and Historic Preservation

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> Rose Harvey Commissioner

Linda G. Cooper Regional Director **Taconic Commission** 

Lucy R. Waletzky State Council, Chair Taconic Region, Chair

Randall Fleischer Arthur L. Gellert **Edgar Masters** Ralph Odell Frederick Osborn III

James Chisholm Ex Officio Chair of Westchester County Parks Commission

January 2, 2018

Honorable Kathy Sullivan Chairperson of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Planning Board and Members of the Planning Board Hastings on Hudson Municipal Building 7 Maple Avenue Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

Re: Townhomes at Woodbank, aka Nodine Street project

Dear Chairperson Sullivan and Members of the Planning Board:

Thank you for soliciting State Parks' comments on the development of the Nodine Street parcel. Although local land use decisions are generally under the purview of the municipalities along the trail, the Old Croton Aqueduct is an important amenity and its protection is of value to those municipalities as well as to the Park's visitors.

State Parks' concerns with the first iteration of the Woodbank project, as detailed in my letter of March 2017, were threefold. They were (1) the height of the structures, which would negatively impact the views of the Hudson River and Palisades from the Aqueduct trail; (2) the lot coverage, which combined with the height led to a substantial impact of the views noted above, and: (3) the infringement of the parking garage, some of it visible, into the setback zone along the Aqueduct. The State's Office of Historic Preservation separately noted its concern about the integrity of the slope to the west of the existing stone retaining walls and its importance to those walls, and suggested a 15-foot 'no construction zone' west from the Aqueduct property line.

The Architect evidently took these concerns seriously and re-worked the plans in such a way that the project, as currently depicted, addresses the issues of massing, height, coverage and construction protection of the Aqueduct. The new iteration also hides the subterranean parking garage, making this element no longer of concern to Parks.

These issues being resolved, State Parks accordingly has no objections to the project.

The Board and the developer deserve credit for addressing these and other concerns, and thereby improving the project for the benefit of village residents and visitors.

Steve Oakes

Manager, Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park

State Parks and Historic Sites in the Counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester

#### LINK LAND SURVEYORS

# New York State Licensed Land Surveyors

21 Clark Place, Suite 1-B Mahopac, New York 10541 Phone 845-628-5857 Fax 845-621-0013

MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS WESTCHESTER PUTNAM ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

## **Elevations: Village Datum & NAVD 88**

To the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson,

Our firm prepared the topographic survey for the property located on Nodine Street , Tax Lot Designation Section 4.100, Block 94, Lots 7 & 8, for Pacific Transglobal, The vertical datum used for the topographic survey is based on datum obtained from the village of Hastings-on-Hudson (Hudson 154 Monument Elevation 14.35). The datum was used for the project known as Quarry Road Project, in which our firm prepared a topographic survey for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson back on June 20, 2007. Both the Nodine Street project and the Quarry Road project are in the village datum.

Now the village datum which we used for those two projects differs from what is known today as the N.A.V.D. 88 datum, the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, the vertical control datum of orthometric height established for vertical control surveying in the United States of America.

The County of Westchester has flown the entire county for the geographic information system (GIS), in which they have adapted the NAVD 88 datum.

Our firm prepares today topographic surveys in various datum's, NAVD 88, City/Town & Village datum's, and even arbitrary datum's (usually finished floor assumed as elevation 100), whatever the project R.F.P (request for proposal) is called for. If the town has no requirements then one of the three is chosen.

Datum's fluctuate through-out Westchester County, depending on what the individual municipality still uses. Some municipalities have years of information in there data base in which it would be too complicated to change to NAVD 88 datum, so they just use a conversion factor.

Based on GPS work done by our firm we know that the village datum differs from the NAVD 88 datum by 7.46 feet.

#### So for example:

Hudson Monument 154 which our firm found and the village has on record being elevation 14.35 feet that same point would have an elevation of 6.89 feet, in the NAVD 88 datum.

So in conclusion, there are all different elevations datum's, and there is no right or wrong datum, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is different from its neighboring municipalities Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh & Yonkers, but all of them have conversions to the NAVD 88 datum which ties them all together as one global geographic information system (GIS)

rk State Licersed Land Surveyor (050542)

#### LINK LAND SURVEYORS

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MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS WESTCHESTER PUTNAM ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

To the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson,

Our firm prepared the topographic survey for the property located on Nodine Street , Tax Lot Designation Section 4.100, Block 94, Lots 7 & 8, for Pacific Transglobal, (see attached pdf). The datum which we used for this project differs from what is known today as the NAVD 88 datum, the North American Vertical Datum of 1988.

Based on GPS work done by our firm for a project prepared for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson known as Quarry Park, Tax Lot Designation 4.70-58-1, prepared March 12, 2009 (see attached pdf). The general elevation of the aqueduct in the area in question is approximately elevation is 143.3 +/- in NAVD 88 datum.

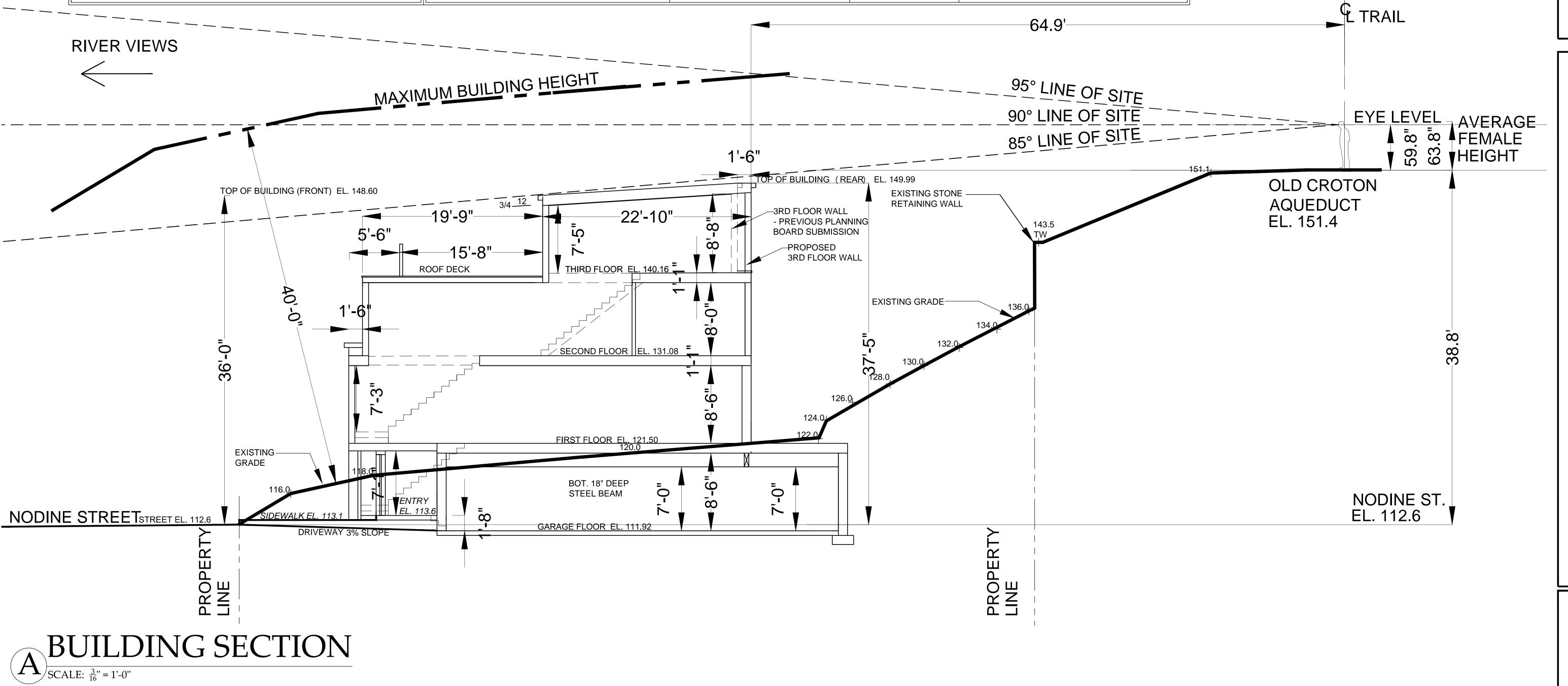
Elevations shown on the topographic survey prepared for Pacific Transglobal, yes do differ in elevation, reason being the basis for the job comes from a different elevation datum which we used on several other projects in the area on Warburton Avenue.

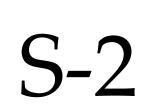
Topographic survey for the Nodine project shows a nail set in the road with an elevation of 111.9. That nail would be 104.1 in the NAVD 88 datum

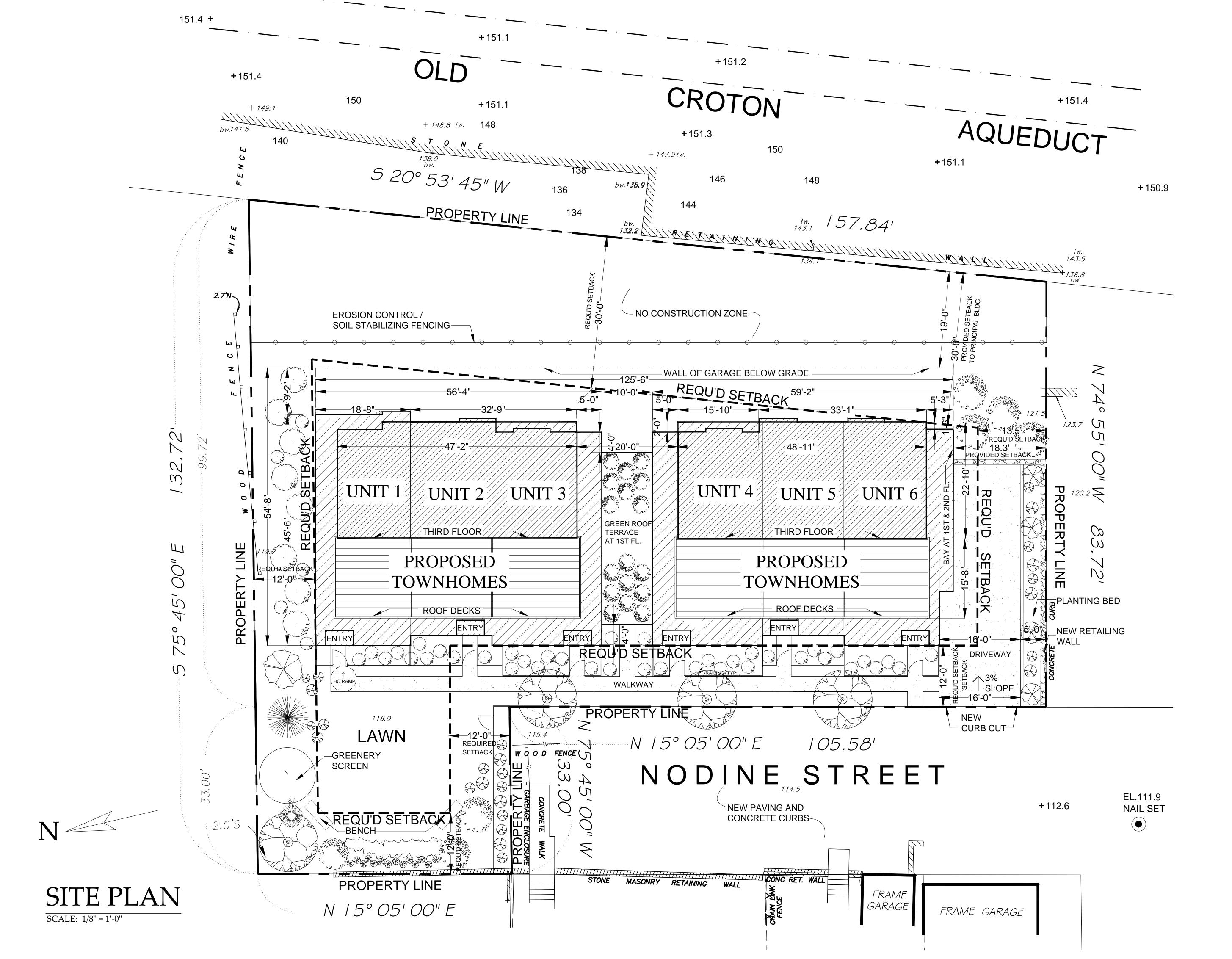
The approximate difference between the NAVD 88 datum and the project for Pacific Transglobal is approximately 7.8 +/-, thus the NAVD 88 datum is lower.

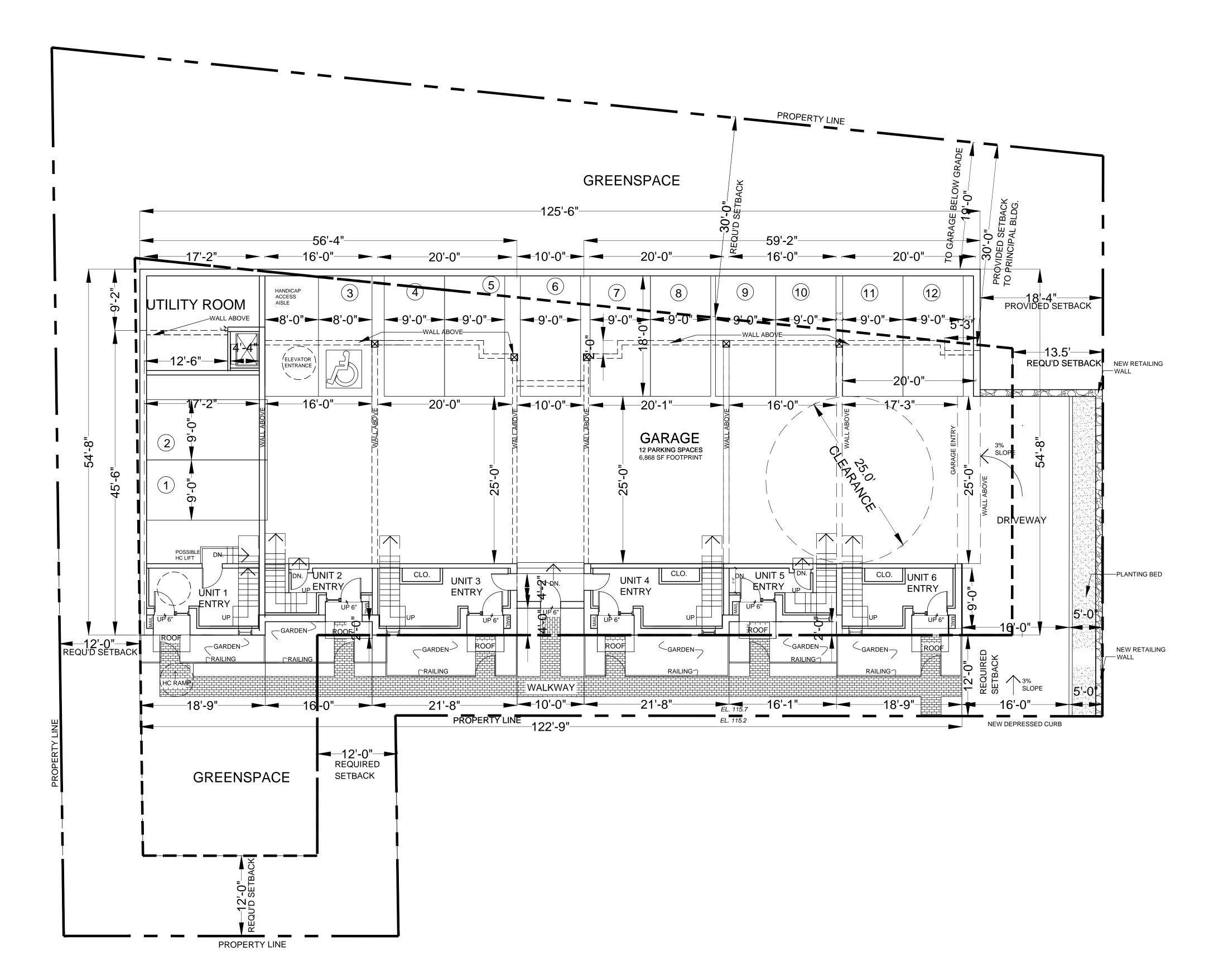
lew York State Licensed Land Surveyor (050542)

COVERAGE CALCULATIONS		TABLE of ZONING DATA	ZONING DISTRICT: MR 1.5	TAX DESIGNATION: SECTION 4.1000, BLOCK 94, LOTS 7 & 8	
LOT AREA	15,978 SF / 0.40 AC		REQUIRED	EXISTING	PROPOSED
		LOT AREA	1,500 SF / .034 AC	15,978 SF / 0.4 AC	15,978 SF / 0.4 AC
WALLS	+/- 70 SF (TO BE DETERMINED)	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS	10	0	6
		MINIMUM LOT AREA PER DWELLING UNIT (DENSITY)	1,500 SF PER UNIT	N/A	2,663 SF PER UNIT
		MAXIMUM COVERAGE	15% / 2,397 SF	N/A	37% / 5,942 SF VARIANCE REQUIRED
SIDEWALKS	523 SF				
DDIVENAN (OVED 000 05)		MINIMUM LOT WIDTH FRONTAGE	50 FT	105.6 FT	105.6 FT
DRIVEWAY (OVER 960 SF) TOTAL DRIVEWAY AREA IS 766 SF	NOT INCLUDED	MAXIMUM BUILDING LENGTH	160 FT	N/A	125.6 FT
		MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT	3 STORIES / 40 FT	N/A	3 STORIES / 37.4 FT (36.0 FT AT FRONT OF BLD
PRINCIPAL BUILDING FOOTPRINT	5,349 SF	MAXIMUM DRIVEWAY SLOPE	3% W/I 30 FT OF PROPERTY LINE	N/A	3%
		MAXIMUM CURB CUT	24.0 FT	N/A	16.0 FT
		FRONT YARD SETBACK	12 FT	N/A	12.0 FT
		REAR YARD SETBACK	30.0 FT	N/A	30.0 FT
TOTAL COVERAGE	5,942 SF (37%)	SIDE ONE	12.0 FT	N/A	12.0 FT
		SIDE TWO	13.5 FT	N/A	18.3 FT
		TOTAL OF TWO SIDES	25.5 FT	N/A	30.3 FT
		FRONT PARKING SETBACK	10 FT	N/A	12.0 FT (TO GARAGE)
		REAR PARKING SETBACK	5 FT	N/A	30.0 FT (TO GARAGE ABOVE GRADE)
		SIDE PARKING SETBACK	5 FT	N/A	18.3 FT (TO GARAGE)
SIDE 1 YARD CALCULATION	FRONT YARD CALCULATION	PARKING SUMMARY - TOTAL SPACES PROVIDED	12 SPACES	N/A	12 SPACES
15.6 FT = WALL HT. FROM AVG. EXIST. GRADE	21.8 FT = WALL HT. FROM AVG. EXIST. GRADE	OPEN SPACE	3,000 SF	+/-13,402 SF	9,294 SF
15.6 / 2 = 7.8 FT (MIN. 12'-0" REQUIRED SIDE YARD SETBACK)  SIDE 2 YARD CALCULATION 27.0 FT = WALL HT. FROM AVG. EXIST. GRADE  27.0 / 2 = 13.5 FT (REQUIRED SIDE YARD SETBACK)	21.8 / 2 = 10.9 FT (MIN. 12'-0" REQUIRED FRONT YARD SETBACK)		PER ZONING CODE (295-71A), OPEN SPACE IS CALCULATED 200 SF FOR EACH BEDROOM. (6) TOWNHOUSES: (3) 3-BEDROOM UNITS + (3) 2-BEDROOM UNITS = 15 BEDROOMS X 200 = 3000 SF		









# GARAGE PLAN

2ND FL. 3RD FL.

711 SF 275 SF

630 SF 348 SF

794 SF | 300 SF

794 SF 300 SF

639 SF | 632 SF | 348 SF

803 SF | 794 SF | 320 SF

1ST FL.

751 SF

837 SF

837 SF

148 SF

TOTAL FINISHED FLOOR AREA

UNIT 2

UNIT 4

TOTAL FIN.

FLOOR AREA

1,857 SF

1,698 SF

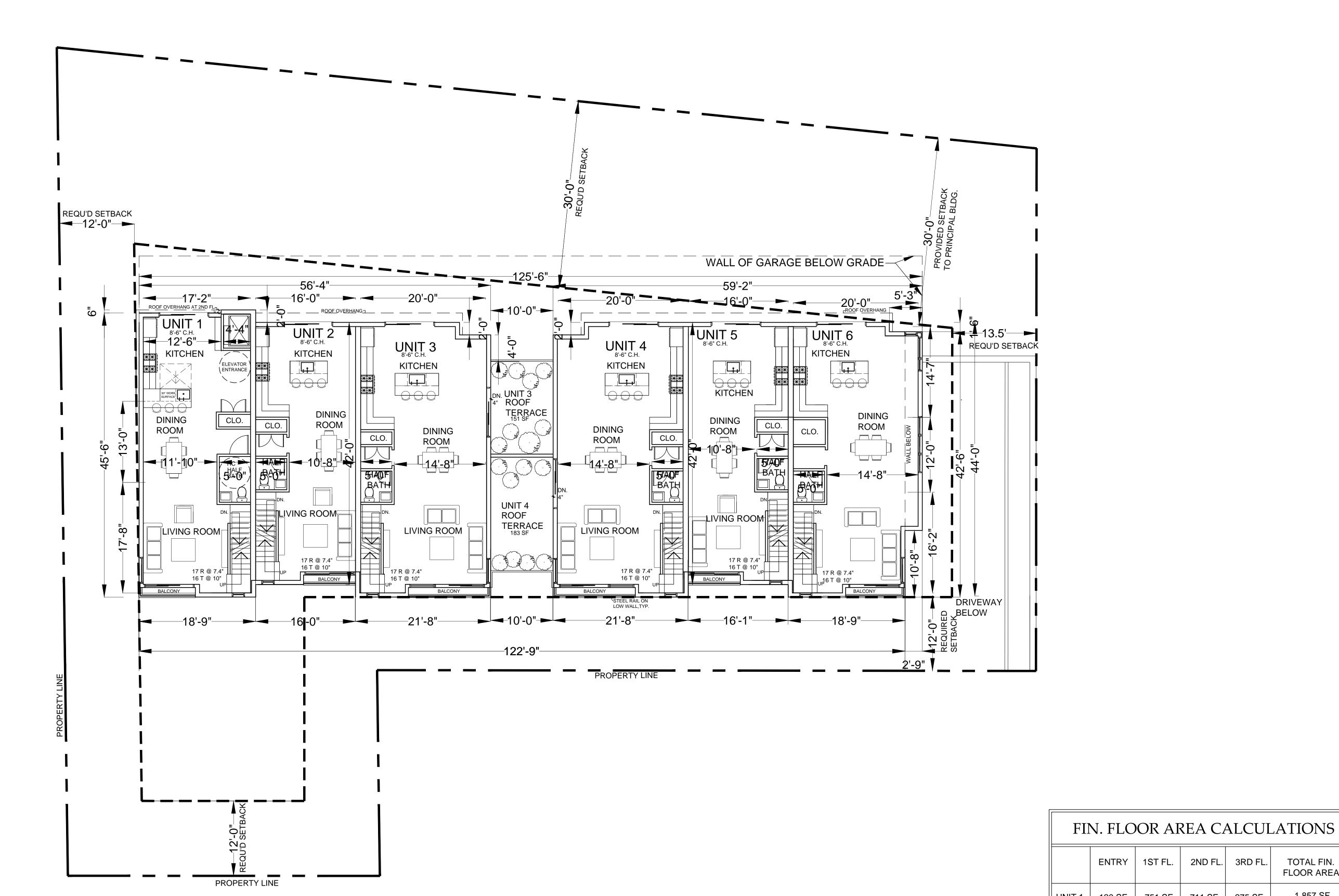
2,079 SF

2,079 SF

1,701 SF

2,039 SF

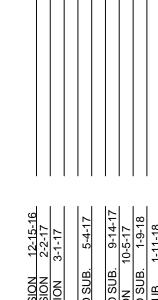
11,453 SF

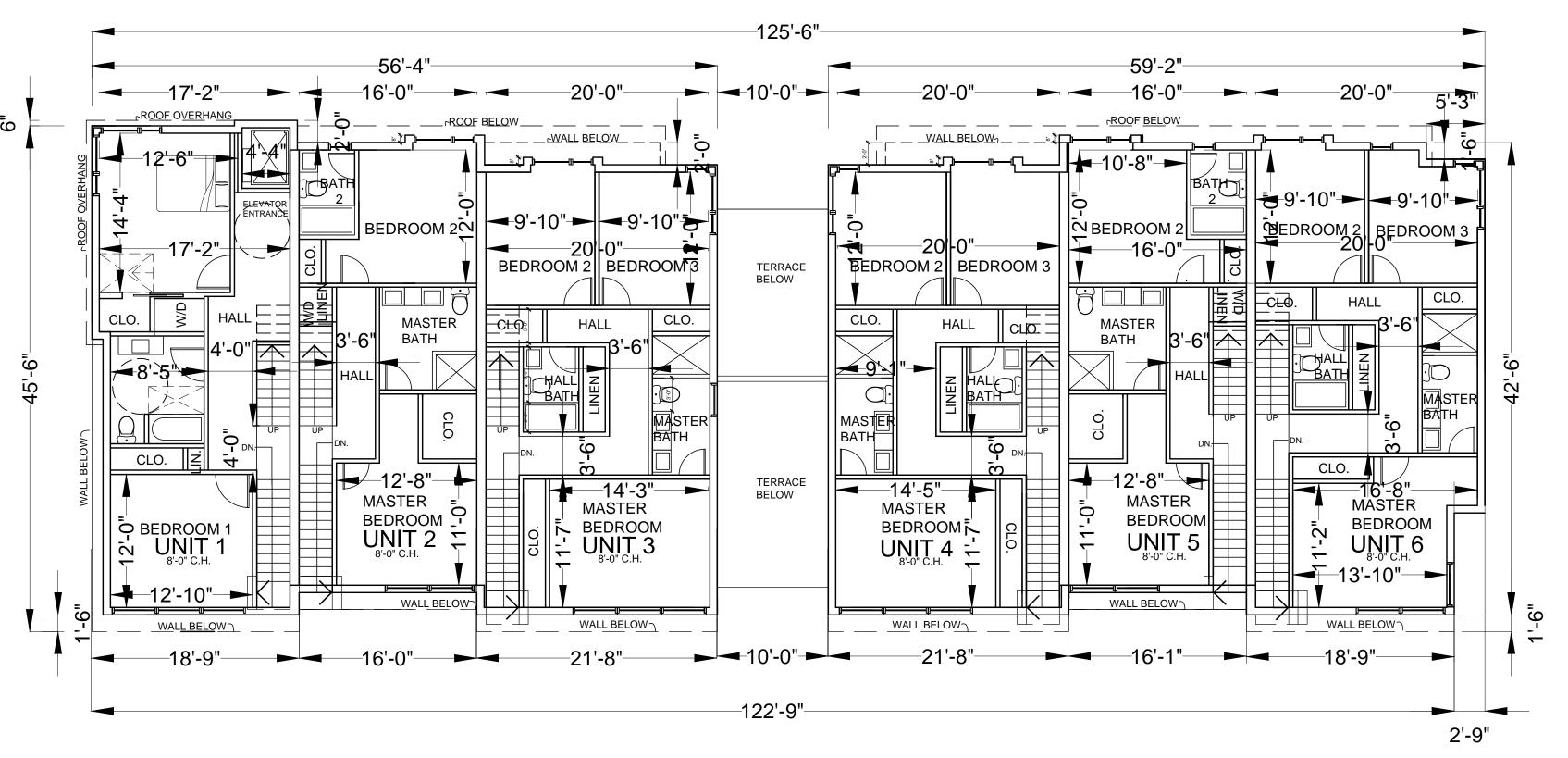


# FIRST FLOOR PLAN

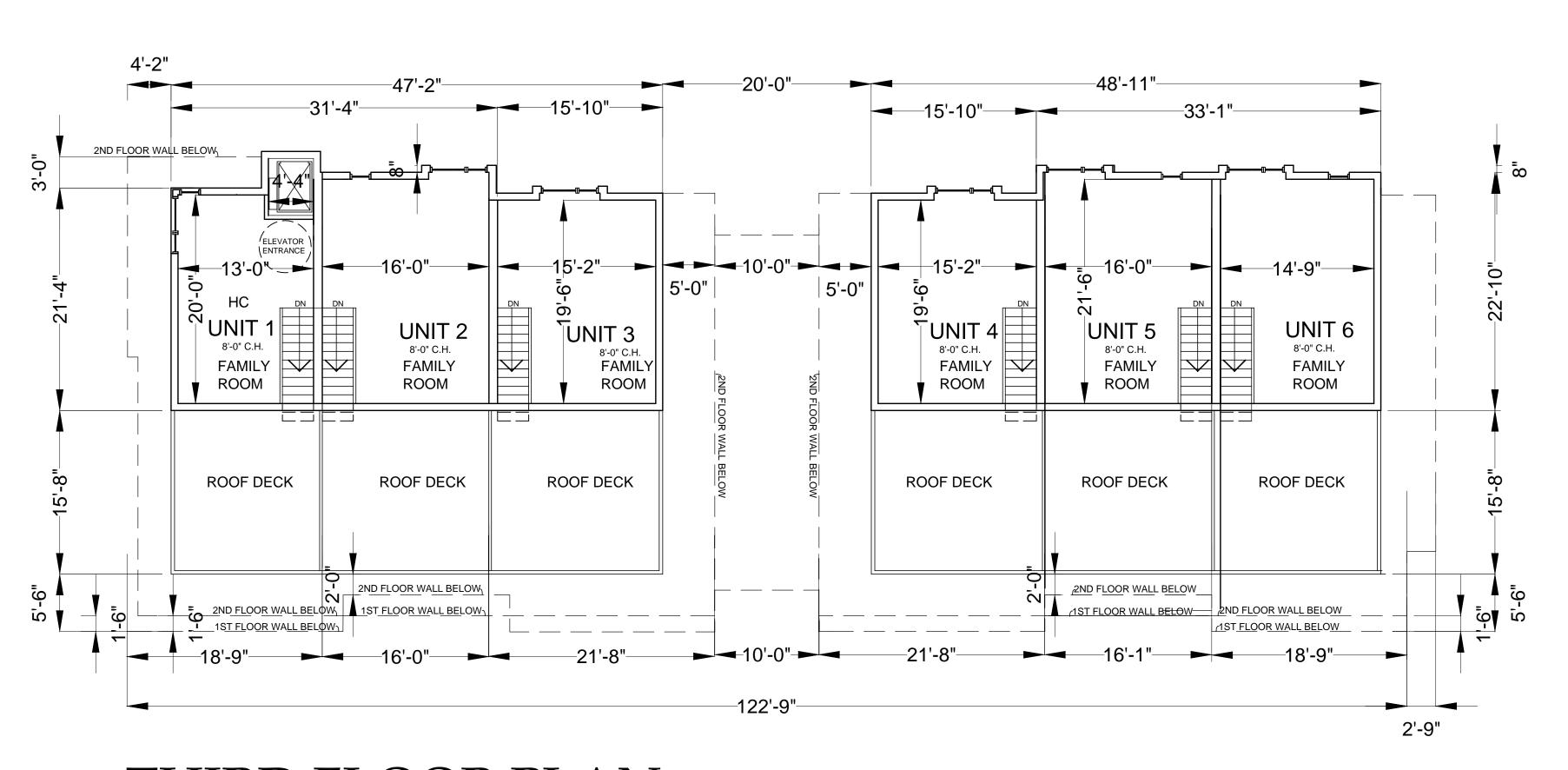








# SECOND FLOOR PLAN

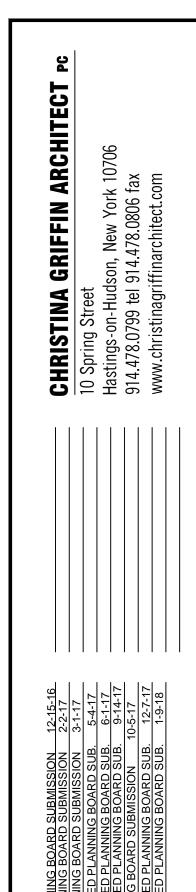


# THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



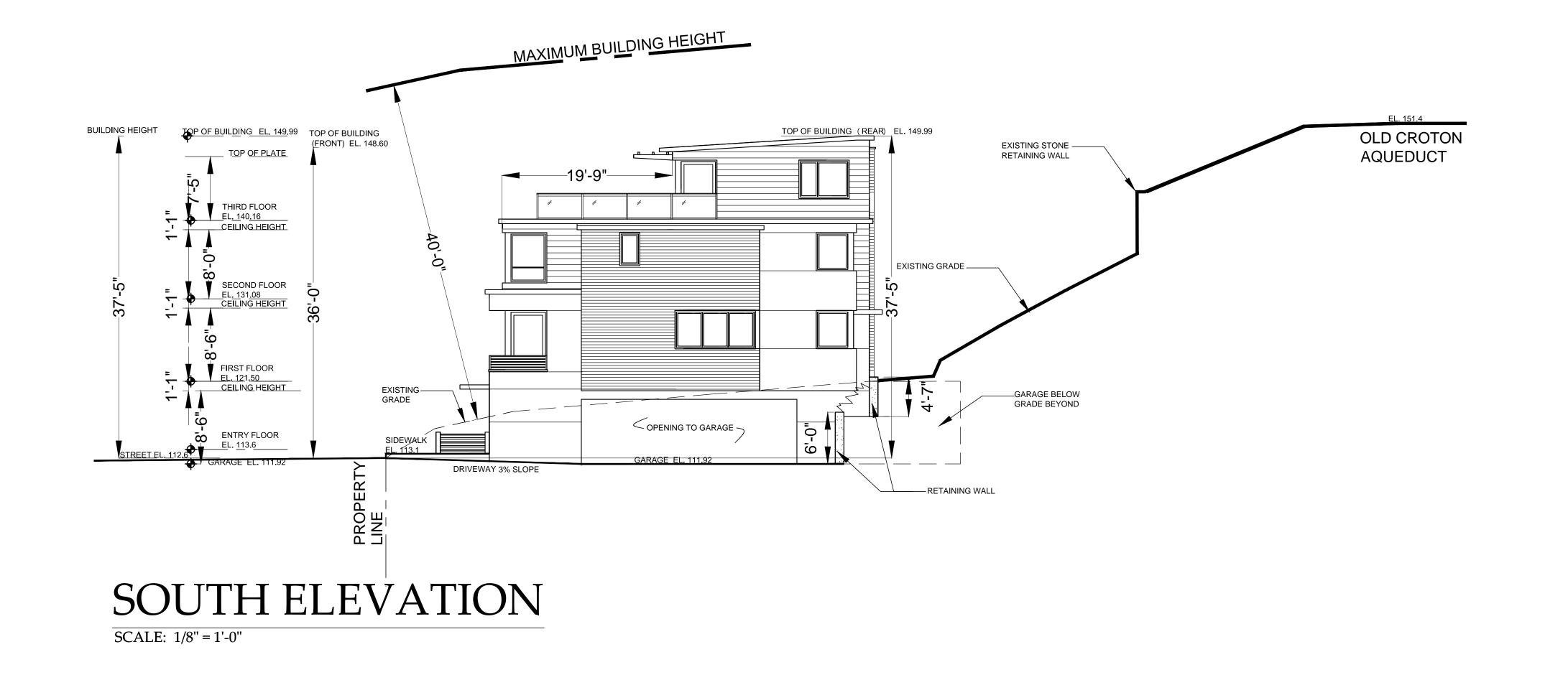


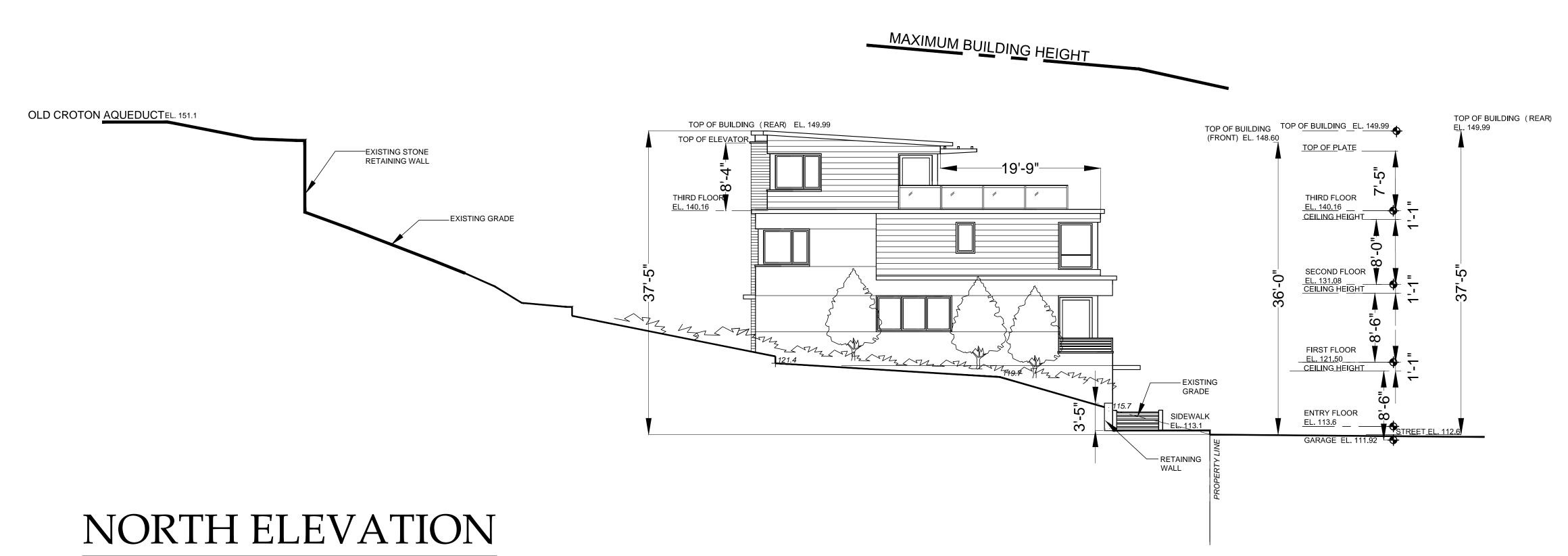




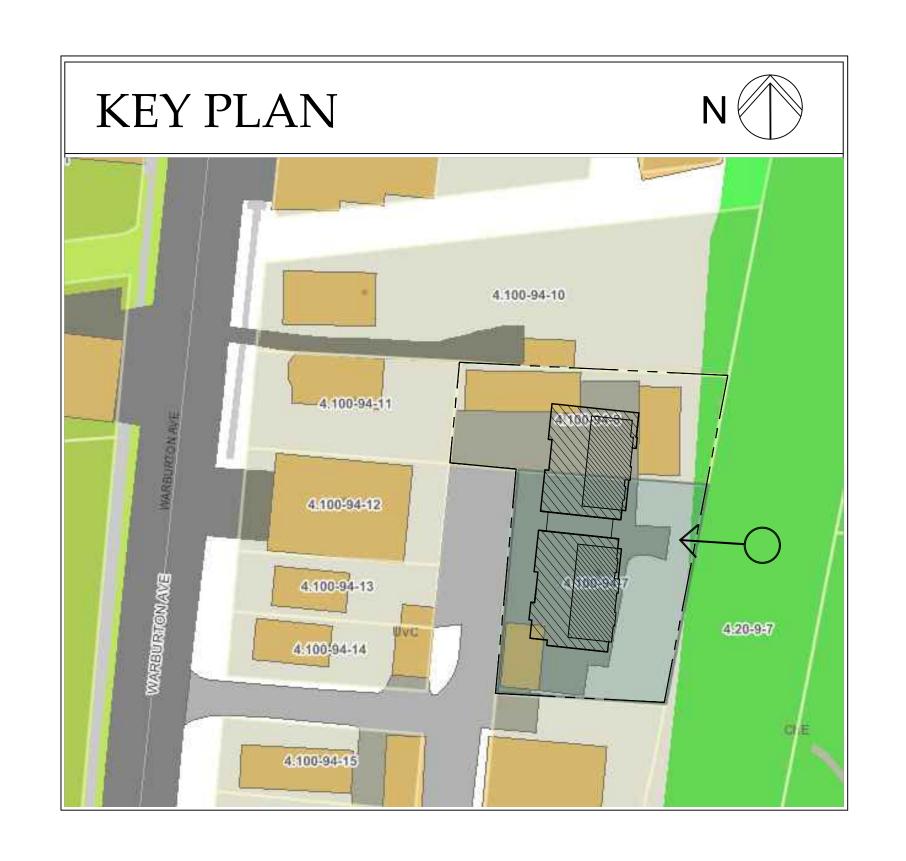


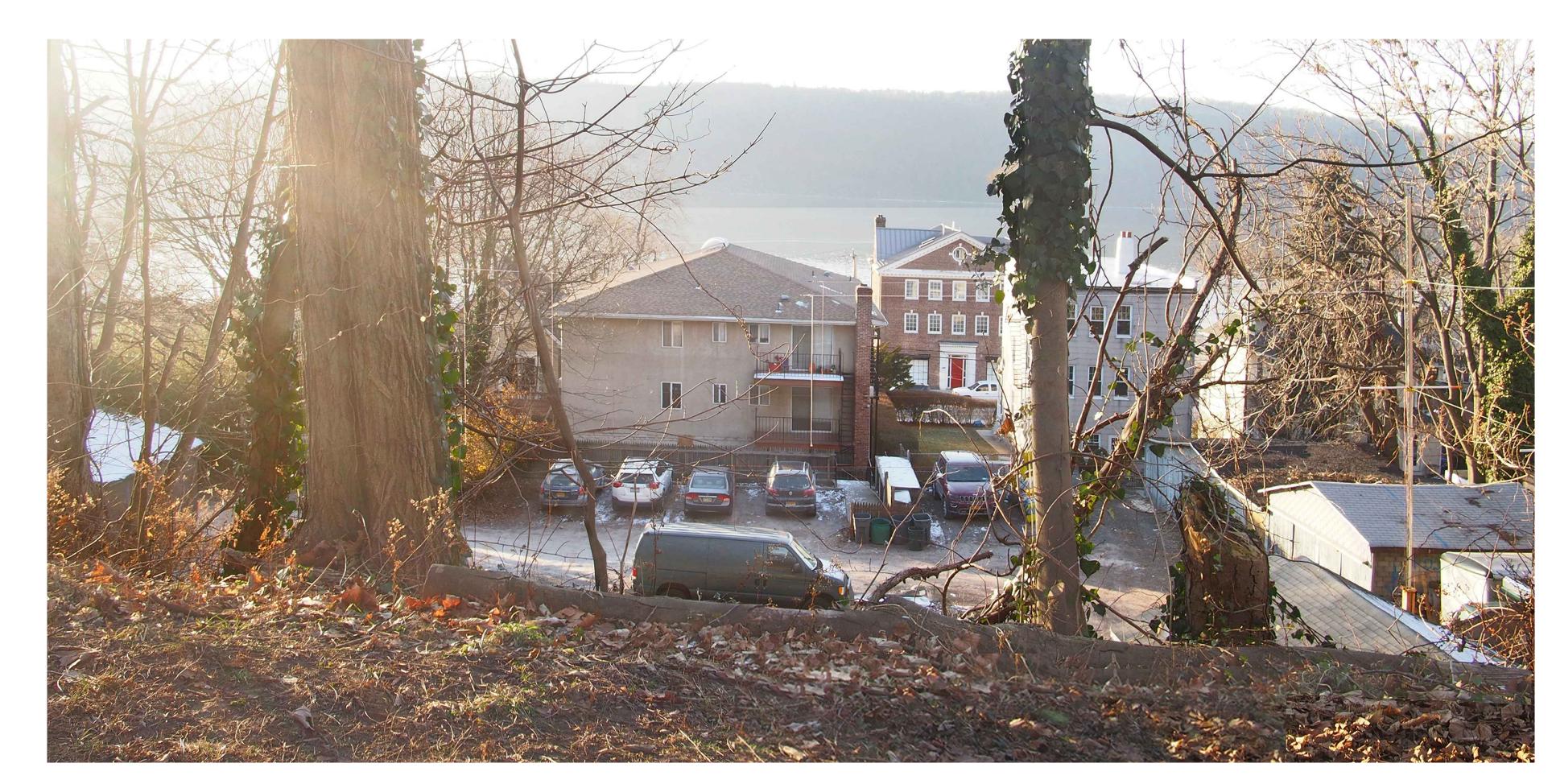
A-5











EXISTING VIEW WITH MOCK-UP OF BUILDING



VIEW OF PROPOSED BUILDING FROM OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT

