

Town of Belmont Planning Board

APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT

Date: March 13, 2023

Planning Board Homer Municipal Building **19 Moore Street** Belmont, MA 02478

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 9, as amended, and the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Belmont, I/we the undersigned, being the owner(s) of a certain parcel of land (with the buildings thereon) Street/Road, hereby apply to your Board situated on 55 Munroe Street for a SPECIAL PERMIT for the erection or alteration on said premises or the use thereof under the applicable Section of the Zoning By-Law of said Town for _____ construction of 1- and 2-story additions

on the ground that the same will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of said Zoning By-Law.

Signature of Petitioner

Print Name

Mohit and Katherine Dilawari

Address 55 Munroe Street, Belmont MA

Daytime Telephone Number 617-694-5194

The following materials are attached in support of this application for a Special Permit to construct 1- and 2-story additions at 55 Munroe Street:

Materials Prepared by Applicant

- 1. Narrative Statement
- 2. Comparison of Proposed Addition Dimensions to our Neighbors
- 3. Map of Houses in Immediate Neighborhood Greater than 2300 sf

Materials Prepared by Licensed Surveyor

- 4. Certified Plot Plan
- 5. Zoning Compliance Checklist
- 6. Proposed Cellar Calculations

Architect's Plans

7. Drawing Set for Zoning

SPECIAL PERMIT NARRATIVE STATEMENT: 55 MUNROE STREET

Kate and Mohit Dilawari seek a special permit to increase the gross floor area of a non-conforming structure by more than 30%.

BACKGROUND

We purchased our home in 2013, at which time we made some initial cosmetic updates to the interior of the house, including modest updates to the kitchen and bathrooms. Just before our second child was born in 2015, we finished our cellar, so that our small 3-bedroom house would have some space to host visiting family.

Our kids are now 8 and 11 years old, and we love being a part of the Winn Brook community. Our Winn Brook streets are walkable, safe for navigation by our kids on foot and bikes to access their friends, our daughter's current elementary school, and someday soon, the new high school our kids will attend. We can easily access public transportation via the commuter rail and buses and the bike path to Alewife. We enjoy walking into Belmont Center and are frequent supporters of the wonderful small businesses in town. Over the years, several other families with kids close in age have moved in nearby, and on weekends and summer evenings the



Front view of existing house

kids all run in a pack from yard to yard. We hope to stay in Belmont for many years to come. This is a wonderful community in which to raise our kids.

However, our 3-bedroom home does not meet our space needs (as described further below) and needs substantial energy efficiency improvements. For a year and a half now, we have diligently searched for another home in Belmont that could meet our needs. We have considered dozens of houses, made offers on four, and have been outbid every time. We ultimately realized that we do not want to leave the Winn Brook neighborhood. We enjoy and value our neighbors and neighborhood. We have decided that the best option is to improve our current home.

REASONS FOR PROPOSED ALTERATIONS

We need more functional space and to upgrade our house for several reasons:

- We need functional home office space. Mohit works from home full time. For the past 2+ years, he has been working
 in the basement, which doubles as play space for our kids, with the constant hum of a dehumidifier in the background.
 While the finished cellar added some flex space, the cellar ceiling height is only 7 ft (with duct chases that further reduce
 head height), and there is very little natural light, so it is not a highly functional or comfortable living or working area.
 We propose a small office/ on the second floor for this reason.
- 2. We need space to care for aging parents. The basement is the only space we have for visiting family, but the stairs have become a challenge for our elderly parents. We anticipate needing to move elderly parents into the first floor of our house. Mohit's dad's health is declining, and we expect to need to move one or both of Mohit's parents here to be able to help them. We propose a bedroom/ office and a full bath on

the first floor for this reason.

3. We need to improve energy efficiency. Despite having added supplemental insulation through the Mass Save program, our pipes still freeze every time the temperature falls below zero. The rear one-story family room addition was constructed by the previous owners 40 years ago (in 1983). The 1983 addition and the crawl space below is so poorly insulated that it is the coldest room in the house, and we can even hear the wind whistling through the cracks in the walls on cold days. With our proposed addition and renovation work, we look forward to improving the insulation and windows throughout, selecting energy efficient appliances and heating and adding solar panels to the roof.



View of the front and southeast side of existing house showing the 1983 addition.

- 4. We need functional storage space. The attic can only be accessed by a hatch in the ceiling of the closet in our primary bedroom. This access is awkward and difficult; consequently, the attic is not functionally accessible for storage space, and it is a challenge to even get in there to change out the HVAC filters. We propose creating stairs to the attic so that we can use that space for accessible storage. We propose creating a mudroom; currently we have only one very tiny closet on the first floor that is too shallow to even fit our vacuum. Our kids have nowhere to store their backpacks, sports gear, and wet boots. We also propose creating basement space that can be used for woodworking and storage.
- 5. We need to be able to park a car in our garage. The garage is so narrow that it's not practical to park a car inside. Due to the inaccessible attic, the garage is our only storage space; this space is unheated and vulnerable to rodents. The garage foundation consists only of shallow cinder blocks, and we battle with rodents every fall and winter who burrow beneath the failing foundation and through the cracked floor to live in our garage. The proposed new garage will be within the same side setback as the existing garage but will reclaim about 3 ft of width from a former breezeway entry to the kitchen, allowing us to fit a car in our garage.



The proposed garage eliminates the existing breezeway to allow for a new garage width that will fit a parked car inside, while maintaining the existing garage setbacks.

DESIGN GOALS

We selected Yael Getz Schoen (YSG Design and Development) as our architect because she, too, resides in the Winn Brook neighborhood of Belmont and is intimately familiar with the character of this wonderful neighborhood.



Front and southeast side of proposed house. The altered mass will be perceived from the street as substantially similar to the existing house.

Our proposed alteration deliberately attempts to hide the mass of the addition, and the scale of the home as perceived from the street is very much in keeping with the neighborhood. This is accomplished by focusing the addition at the rear and honoring all setbacks with the new addition. The alterations maintain a front facade that is minimally impacted (with the exception of the new portico and dormer, which are minor additions that enhance the aesthetics and "curb appeal"). We propose to maintain the front window sizes and wood shutters to maintain the existing house character.

Similar to our rear abutting neighbors on Broad Street, our relatively deep lot is capable of supporting a larger home. In fact, many of the lots on Munroe, Broad, and Dean Streets are comparably deep, so this specific area represents a unique microcosm within the greater context of the Winn Brook neighborhood. These deeper lots have afforded several of our neighbors the ability to exist as larger homes while still fitting in with the style and scale of the greater neighborhood. These neighbors serve as excellent examples of larger homes (3,652 sf TLA at 23

Broad Street, 3,284 at 17 Broad Street, and 3,154 TLA at 19 Broad Street) that successfully respect the scale of the neighborhood. We feel that our proposed addition will also accomplish this.

Finally, our plans allow for the existing street tree and a very large maple tree in our backyard to be maintained. The existing landscaping includes hedge rows on either side which effectively screen our property. Our plan is to maintain or replace these in kind.

In summary, the overall effect will be in harmony with the architecture and scale of the neighborhood. The proposed design is in keeping with the intent of the Planning Board Special Permit criteria (Section 1.5.4.8) and is not substantially detrimental to the neighborhood.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration of our permit application.



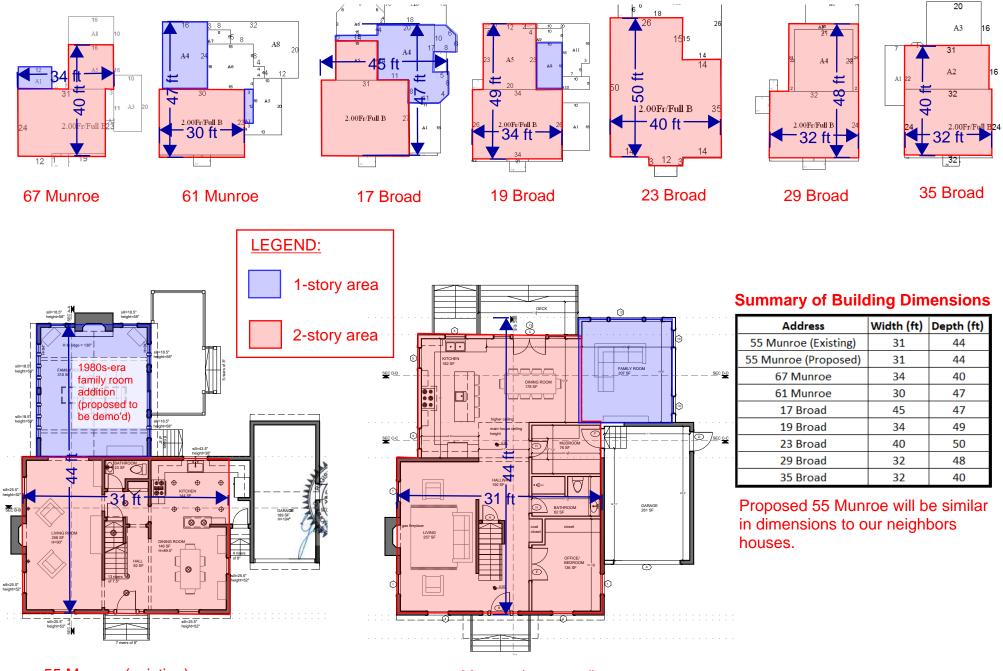
View of our neighborhood with nearby rear additions highlighted in red. The proposed addition at 55 Munroe will not protrude any deeper than the rear of nearby homes (67 Munroe and 61 Munroe) and is no larger in mass than the abutting homes on Broad Street which also have two-story rear additions (19, 23, 29 and 35 Broad).



Closer view of nearby homes on Munroe and Broad Street with rear additions of similar (or larger) scale to the one we are proposing at 55 Munroe.

Proposed addition is similar in scale to our neighbors

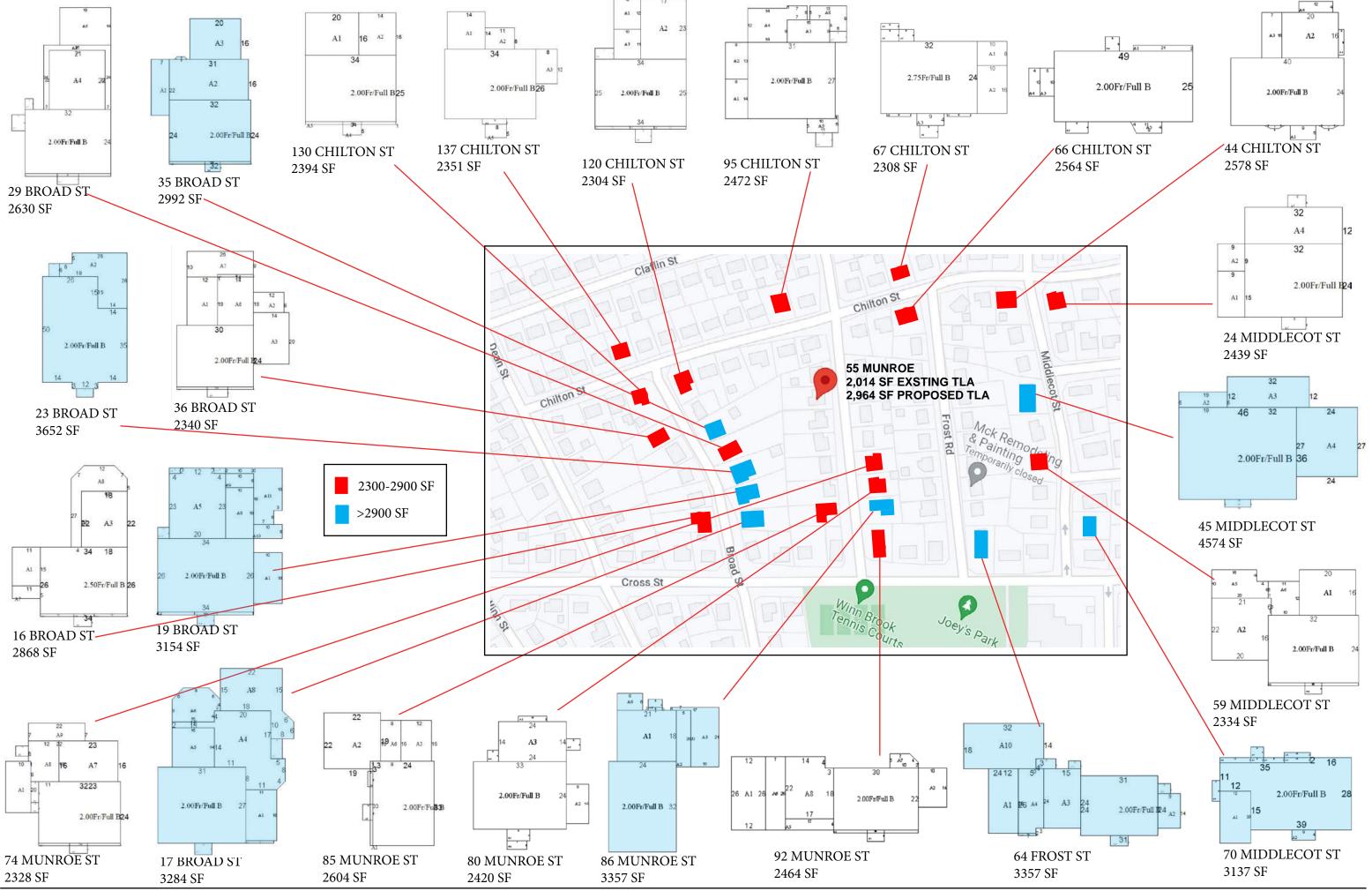
Neighbors' building information from Belmont Property Database (http://belmont.jfryan.net/)

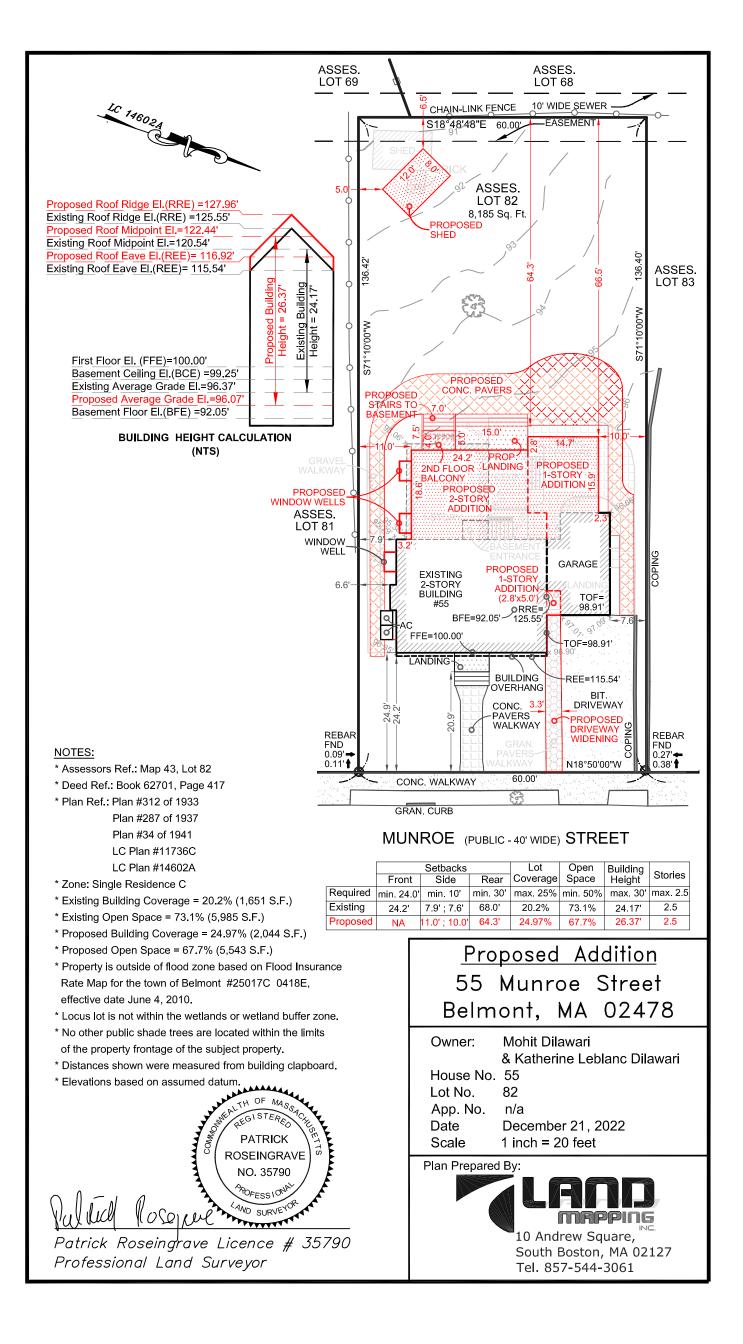


55 Munroe (existing)

55 Munroe (proposed)

+2300 SF HOUSES IN IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 55 MUNROE STREET



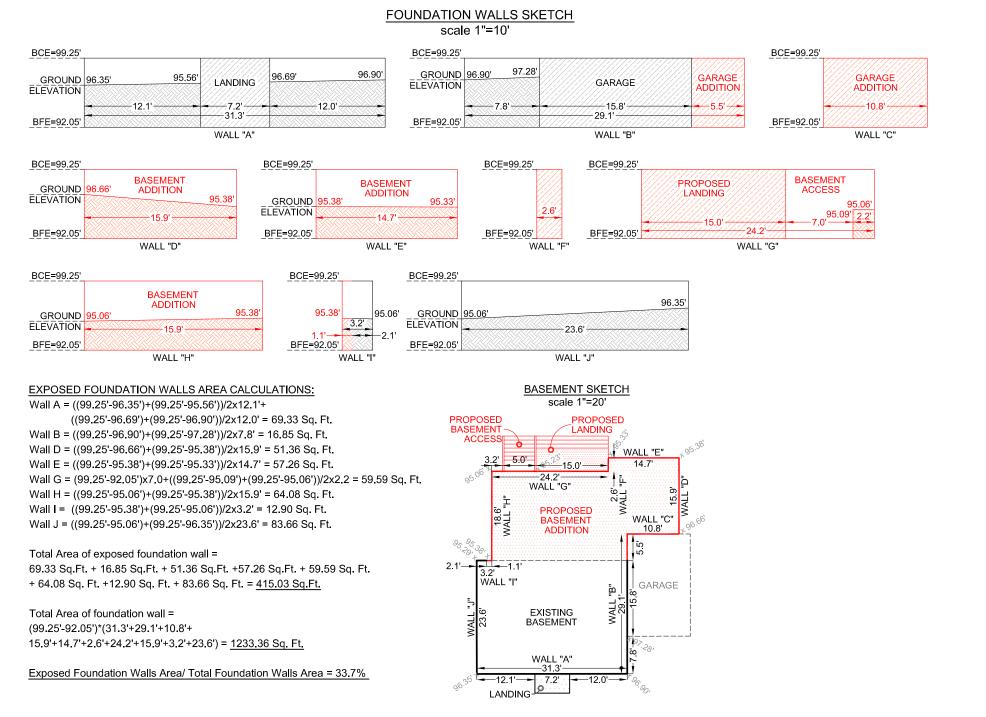


Zoning Compliance Check List (Registered Land Surveyor)

Property Address:	55 Munroe S	St., Belmont		Zone:	SR-C
Surveyor Signature	e and Stamp:	Pulitich	losopre	Date:	12/21/2022

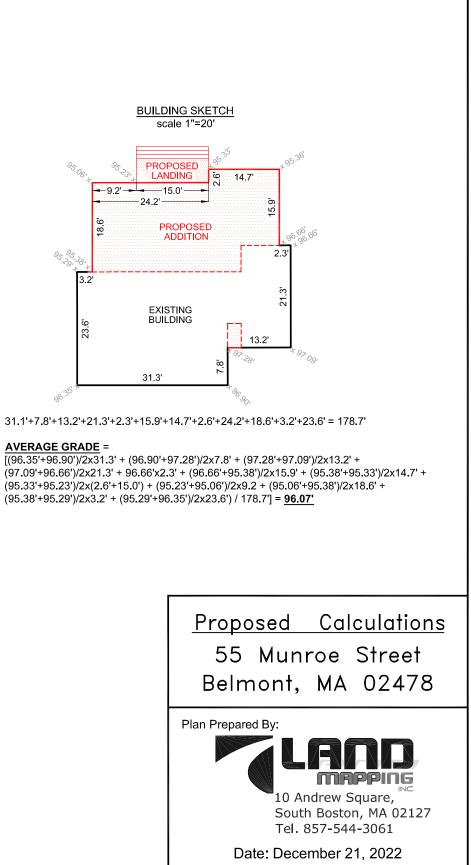
	REQUIRED	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Lot Area	min. 9,000 Sq. Ft.	8,185 Sq. Ft.	n/a
Lot Frontage	min. 75.0'	60.0'	n/a
Floor Area Ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lot Coverage	max. 25%	20.2% (1,651 S.F.)	24.97% (2,044 S.F.)
Open Space	min. 50%	73.1% (5,985 S.F.)	67.7% (5,543 S.F.)
Front Setback	min. 24.0'	24.2'	na
Side Setback	min. 10'	7.9'	11.0'
Side Setback	min. 10'	7.6'	10.0'
Rear Setback	min. 30'	68.0'	64.3'
Building Height	max. 30'	24.17'	26.37'
Stories	2.5	2.5	2.5
¹ / ₂ Story Calculation	1	1	1

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	AND SURVEYOR



95.95.3 3.2

AVERAGE GRADE =





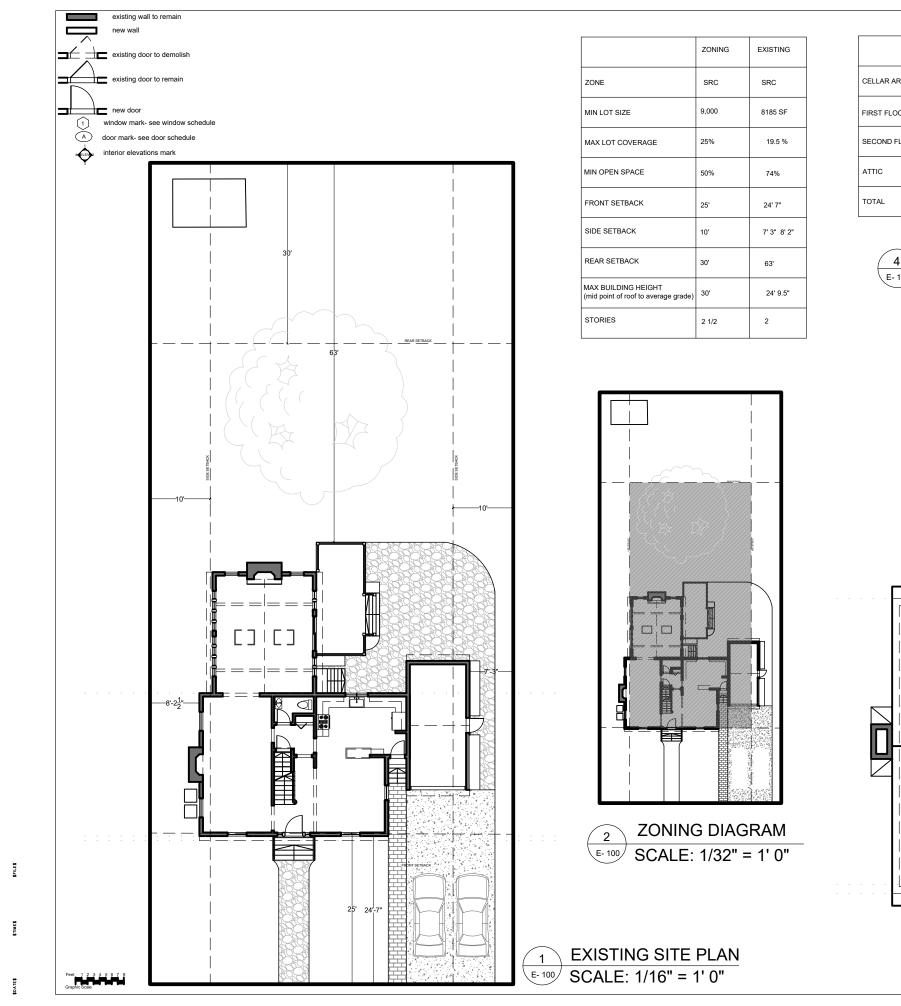
55 MUNROE STREET BELMONT, MA ADDITION AND RENOVATION DRAWING SET FOR ZONING

	DRAWING LIST										
PAGE	TITLE	SCALE									
E-100 E-101 E-102 E-103 E-104 E-105 E-106	EXISTING SITE, ZONING, AREA CALCULATIONS AND ROOF PLAN EXISTING BASEMENT AND FIRST FLOOR PLANS EXISTING SECOND AND ATTIC FLOORS PLANS EXISTING EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS 1 EXISTING EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS 2 EXISTING BUILDING SECTIONS A-A B-B EXISTING 3D IMAGES	VARIES 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0"									
A-100 A-101 A-102 A-103 A-104 A-105	PROPOSED SITE PLAN, ZONING, AREA CALCULATIONS PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN PROPOSED SECOND FLOOR PLAN PROPOSED BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN PROPOSED ATTIC FLOOR PLAN PROPOSED ROOF PLAN	VARIES 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0"									
A-110 A-111 A-112 A-113 A-113 A-114 A-115 A-116	PROPOSED FRONT EXTERIOR ELEVATION PROPOSED BACK EXTERIOR ELEVATION PROPOSED SOUTH EAST EXTERIOR ELEVATION PROPOSED NORTH WEST EXTERIOR ELEVATION PROPOSED BUILDING SECTIONS C-C PROPOSED BUILDING SECTIONS D-D PROPOSED BUILDING SECTIONS E-E	1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0"									
A-119 A-120 A-121 A-122 A-123	PROPOSED 3D IMAGES EXISTING TLA CALCULATION1 EXISTING TLA CALCULATION2 PROPOSED TLA CALCULATION1 PROPOSED TLA CALCULATION2	1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0" 1/8"= 1' 0"									

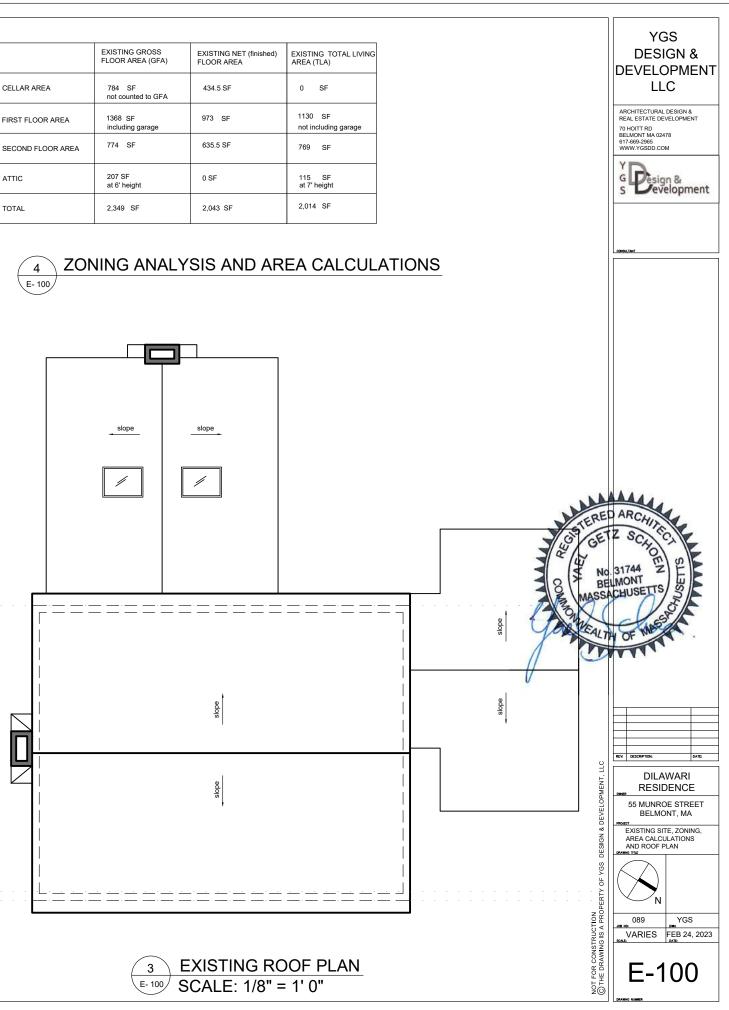
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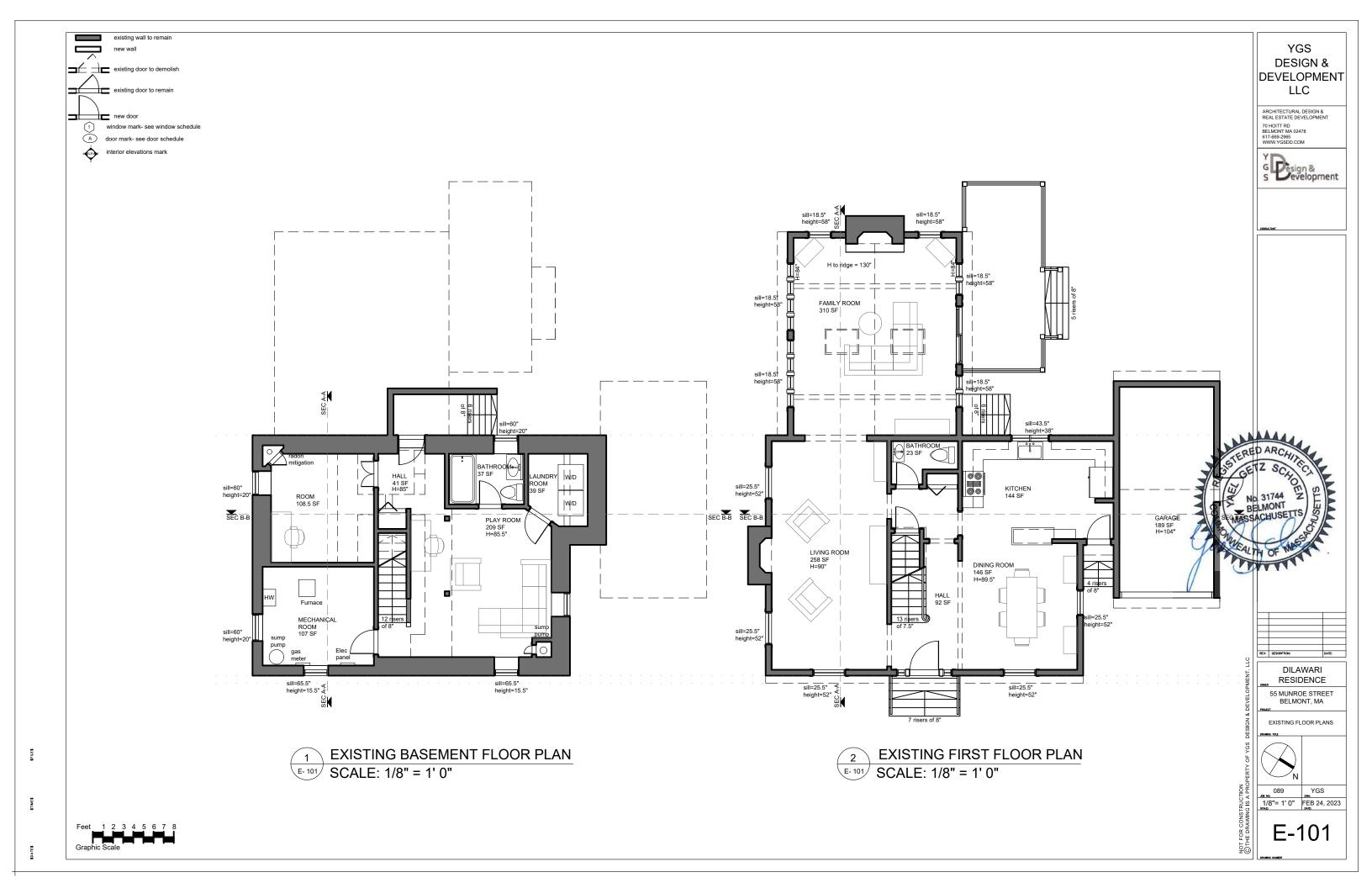
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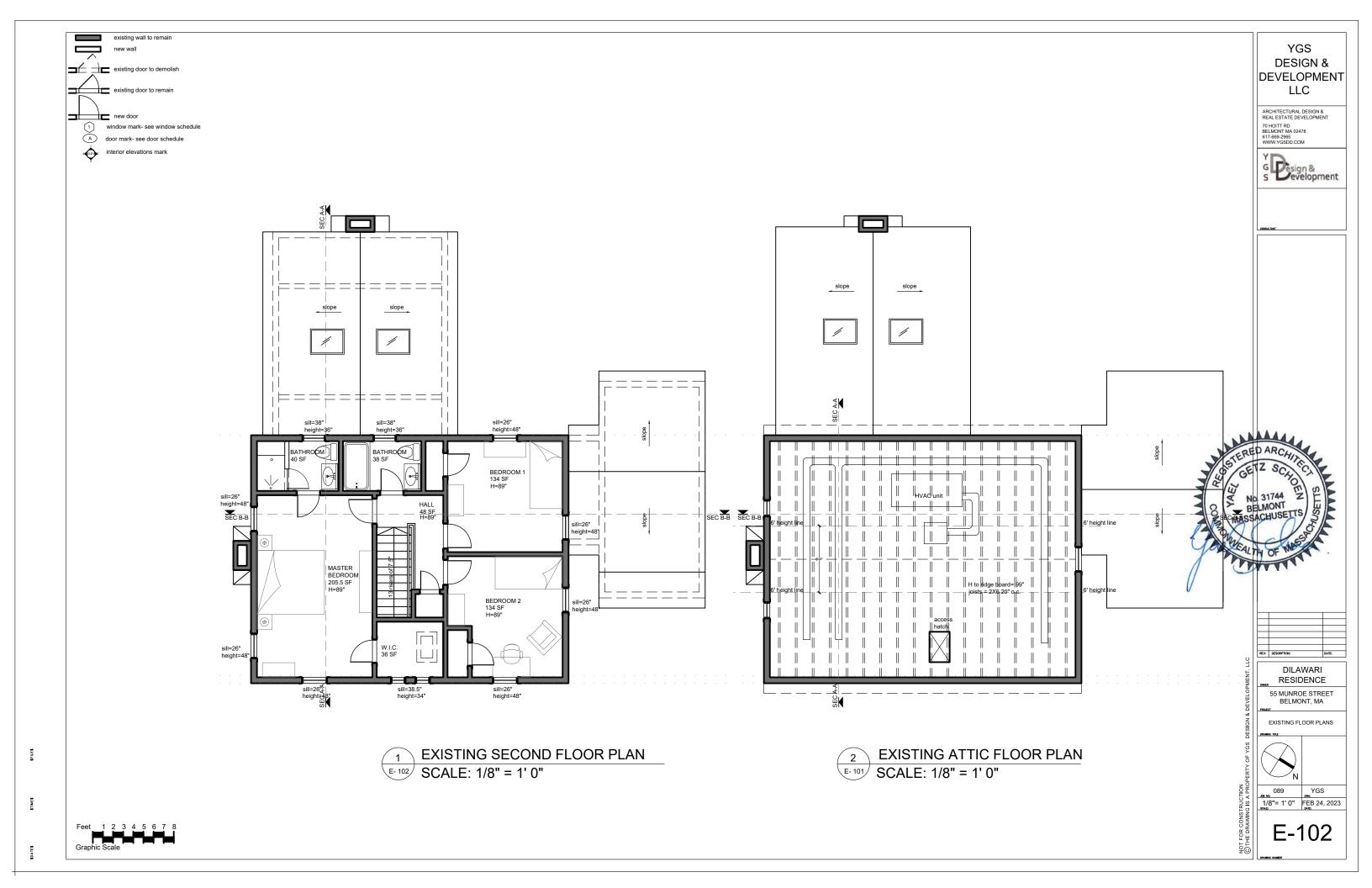


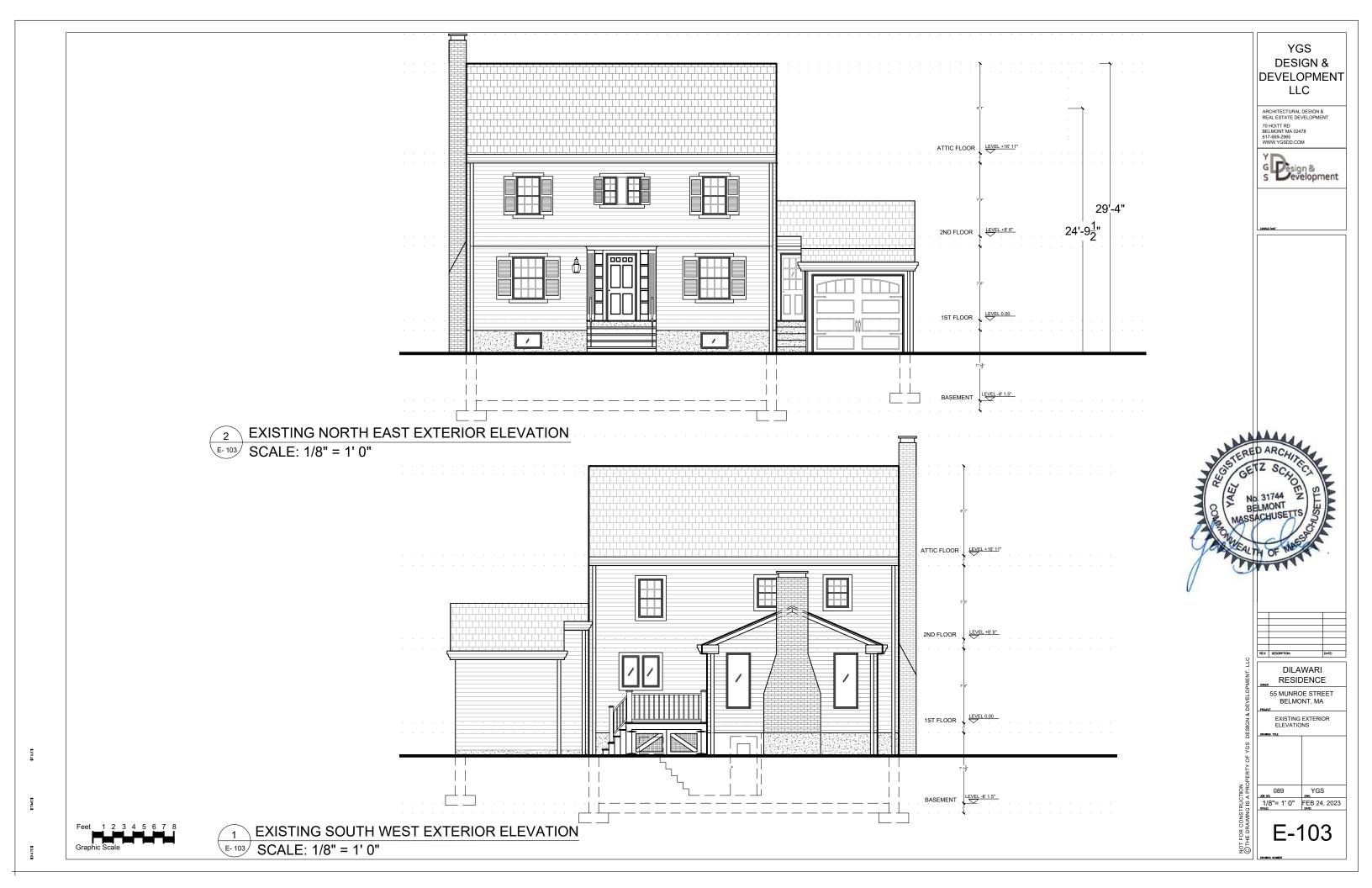


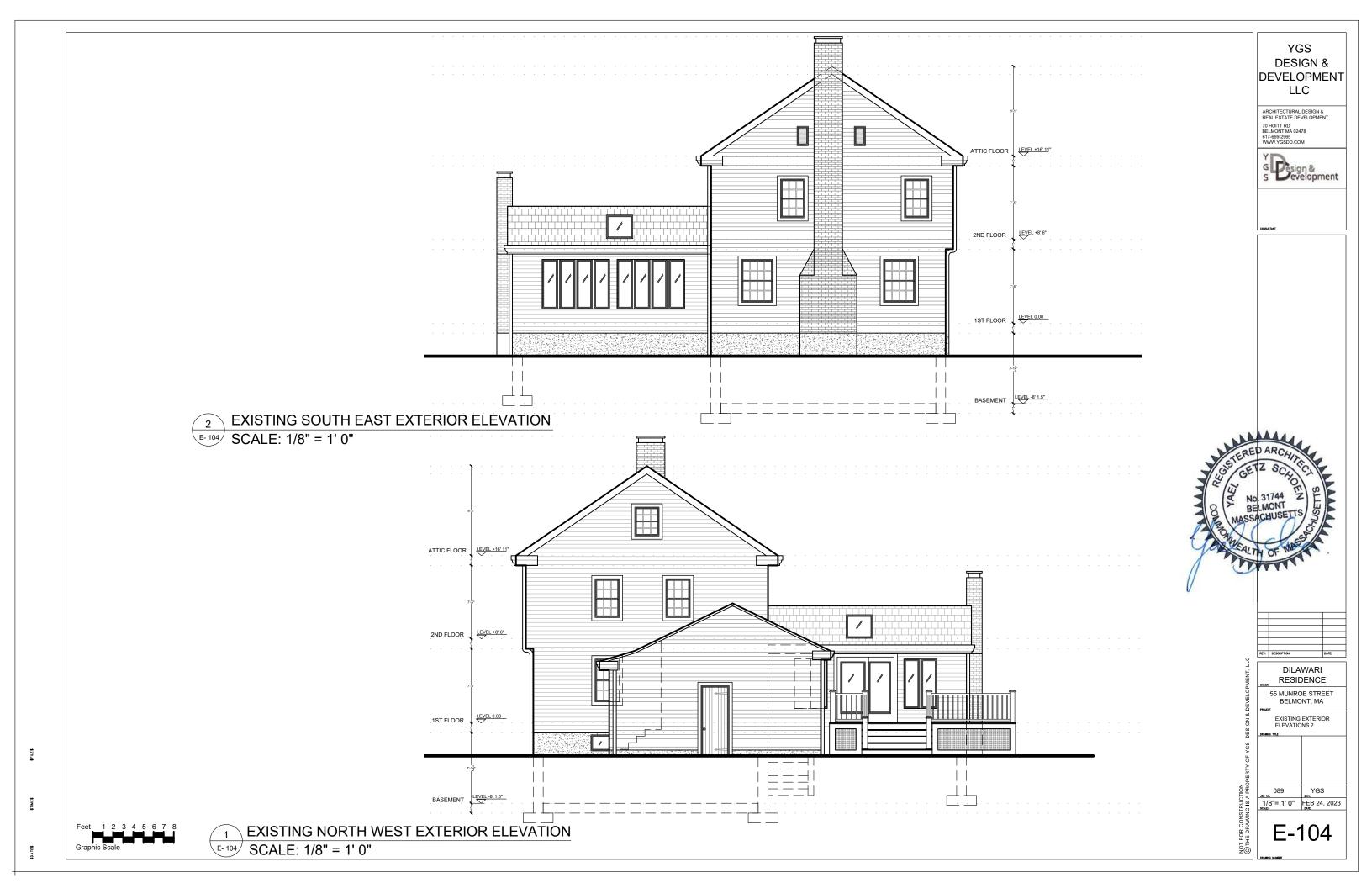
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FIRST FLOOR AREA	1368 SF including garage	973 SF	1130 S not inclue
SECOND FLOOR AREA	774 SF	635.5 SF	769 S
ATTIC	207 SF at 6' height	0 SF	115 S at 7' heig
TOTAL	2,349 SF	2,043 SF	2,014 S

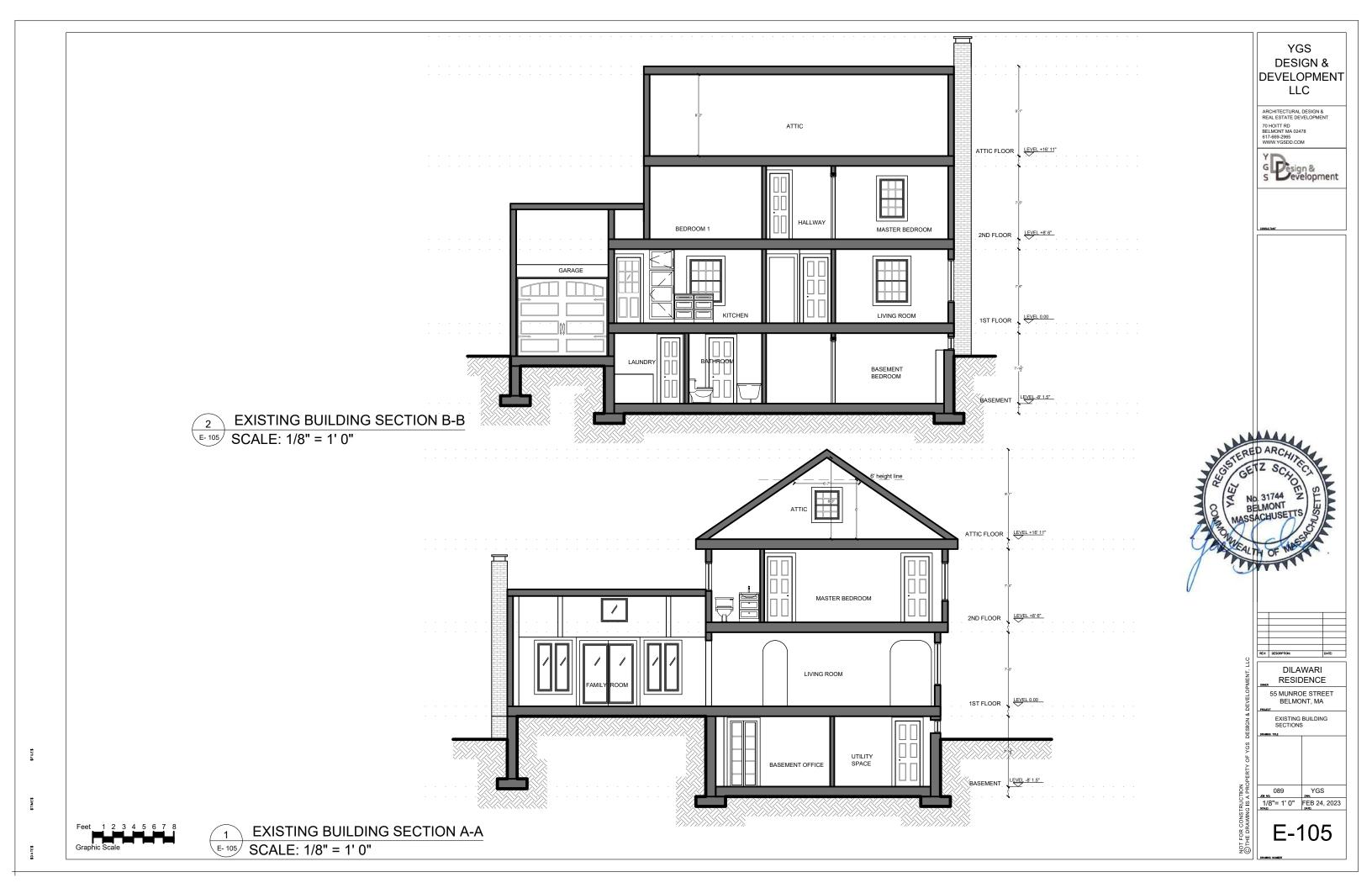














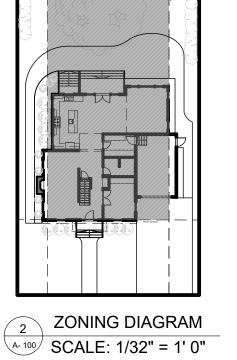




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										YGS DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT LLC
										ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT 70 HOITT RD BELMONT MA 02478 617-680-2965 WWW, YGSDD.COM
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FIRST FLOOR AREA	1368 SF including garage	973 SF		1130 SF		1739 SF including garage	•	1248 SF	1457 SF	
SECOND FLOOR AREA	774 SF	635.5 SF		769 SF		1230 SF		1030 SF	1230 SF	
ATTIC	207 SF at 6' height	0 SF		115 SF at 7' height		376 SF at 6' height		0 SF	277 SF at 7' height	
TOTAL	2,349 SF	2,043 SF		2,014 SF		3,345 SF		2,278 SF	2,964 SF	
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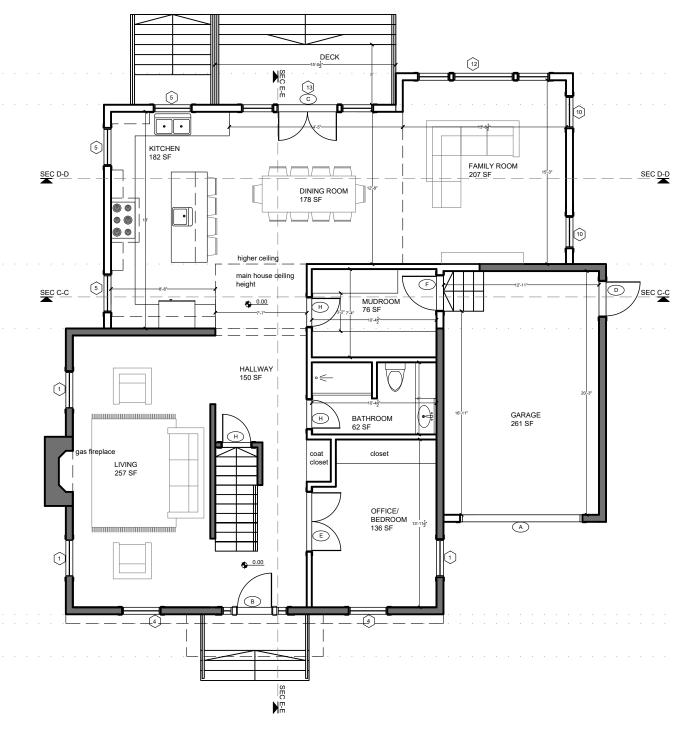


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NOTES FOR BIDDING: -SPRAY FOAM INSULATION ON ATTIC CEILING -MIN R-20 INSULATION ON EXPOSED EXISTING WALLS -ZIP SYSTEM EXTERIOR SHEATHING -SOUND PROOFING INSULATION BETWEEN FLOORS





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interior elevations mark

new wall

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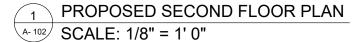


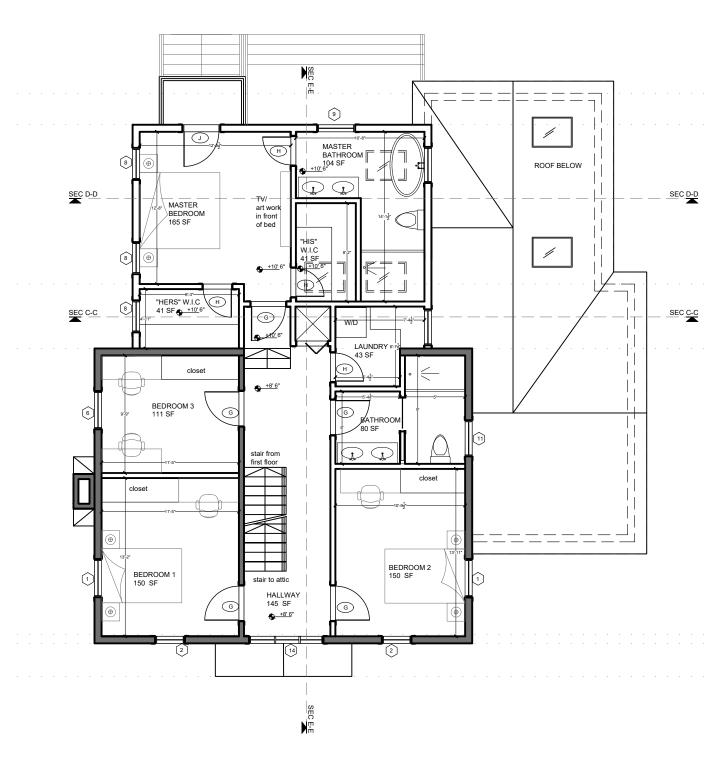


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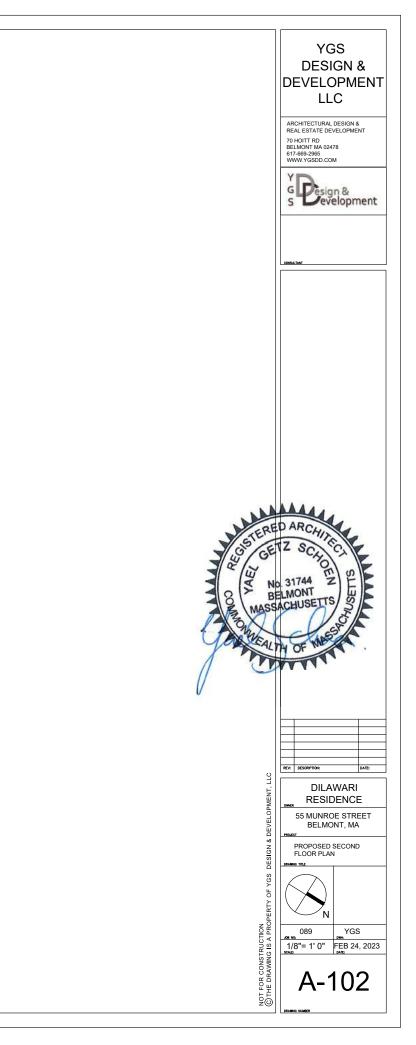


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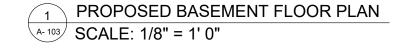


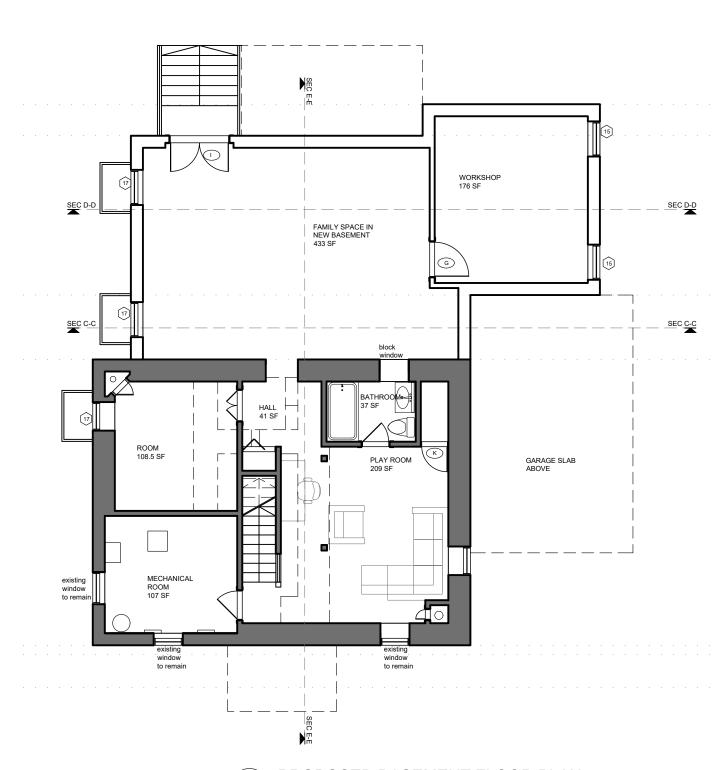


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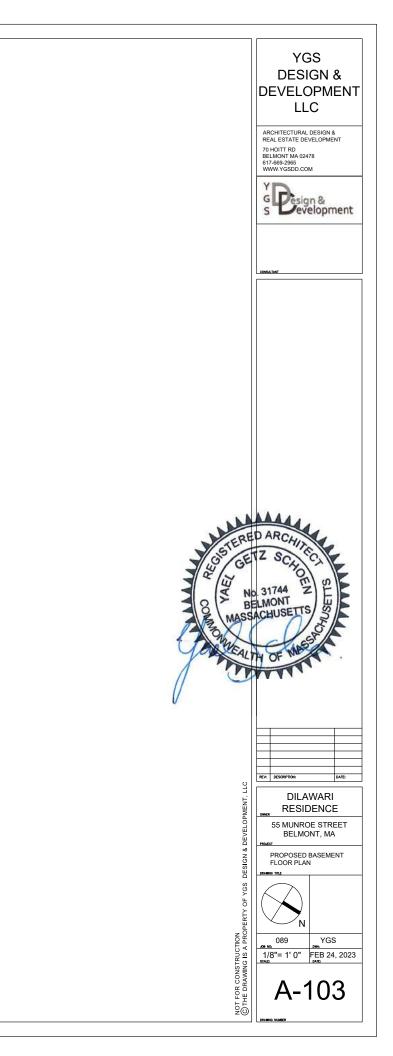


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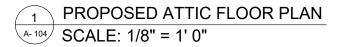


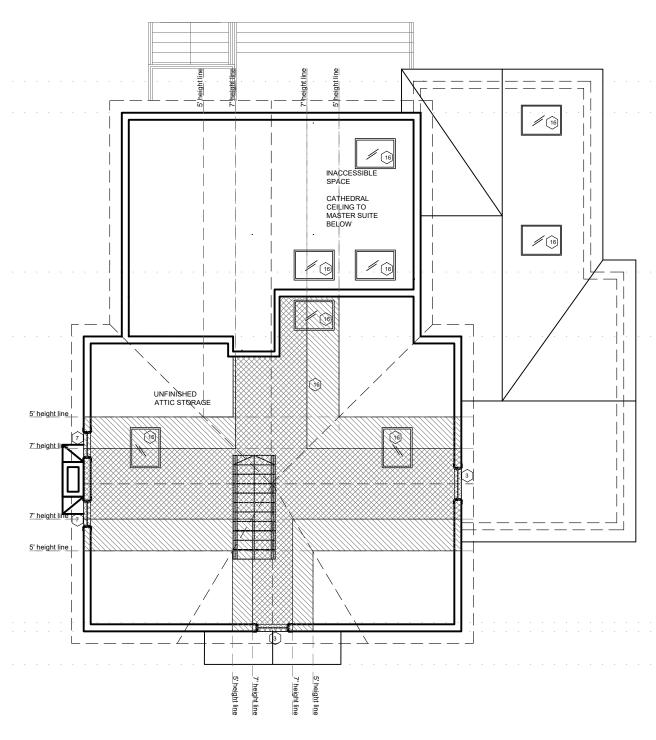


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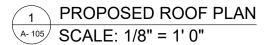


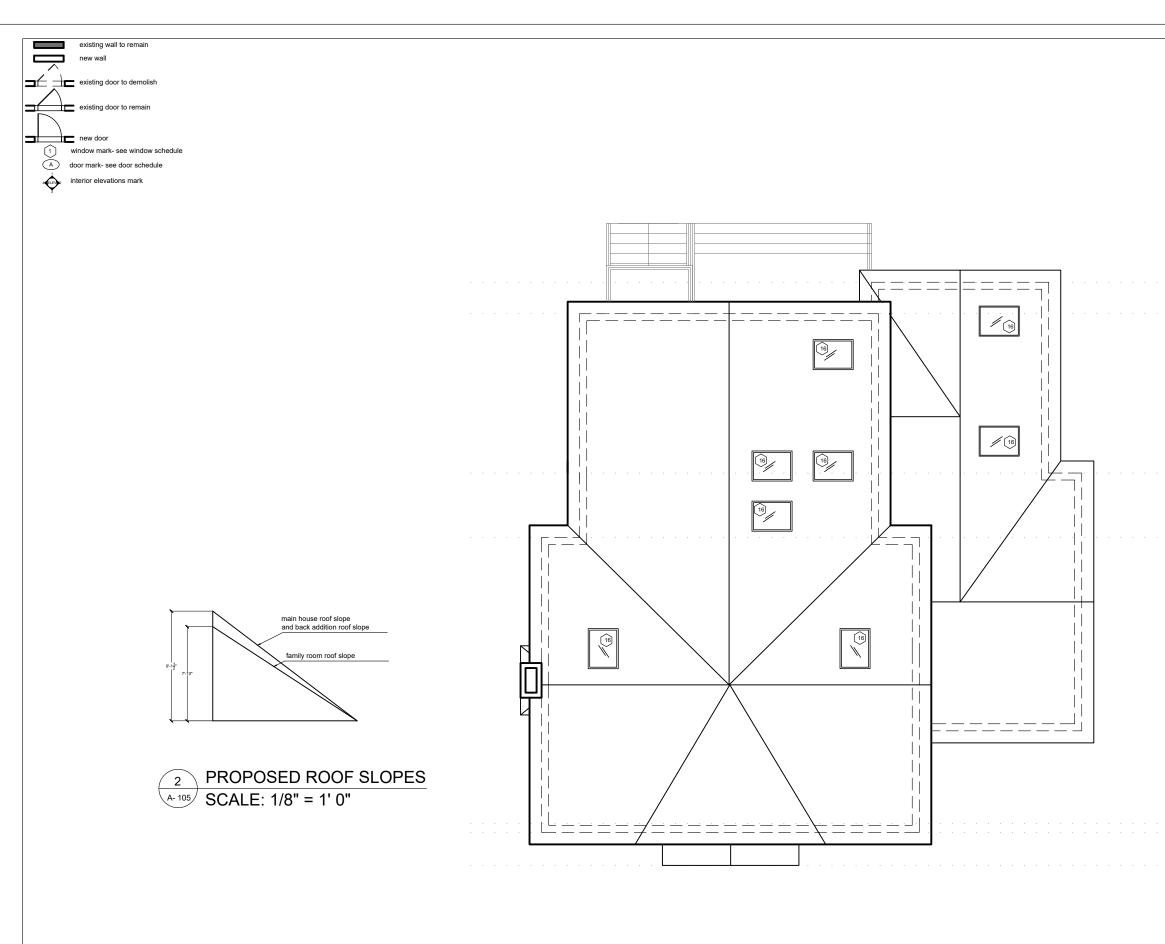


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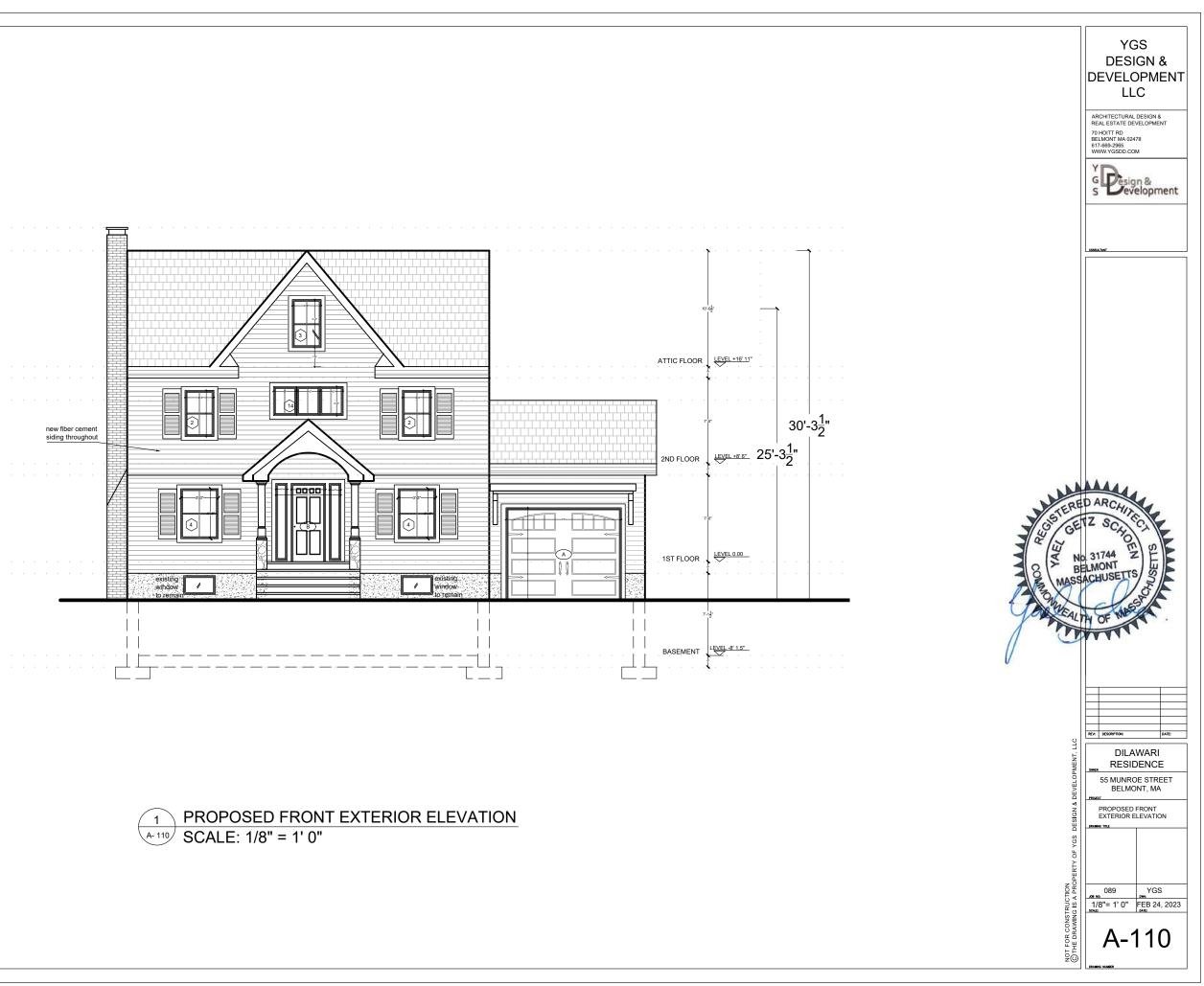
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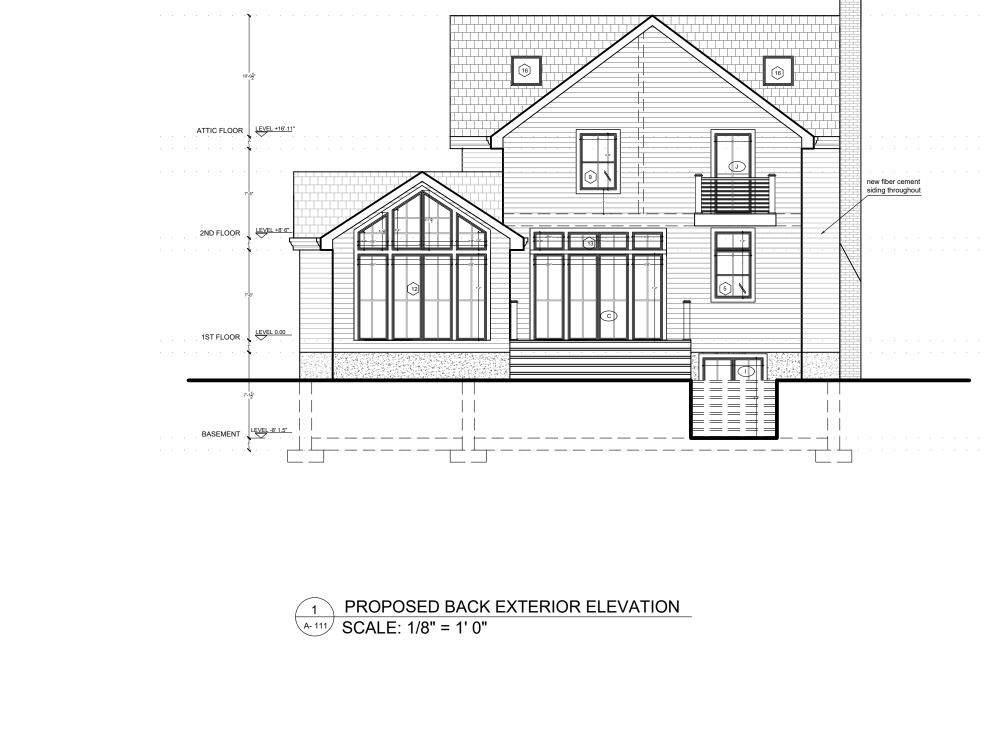






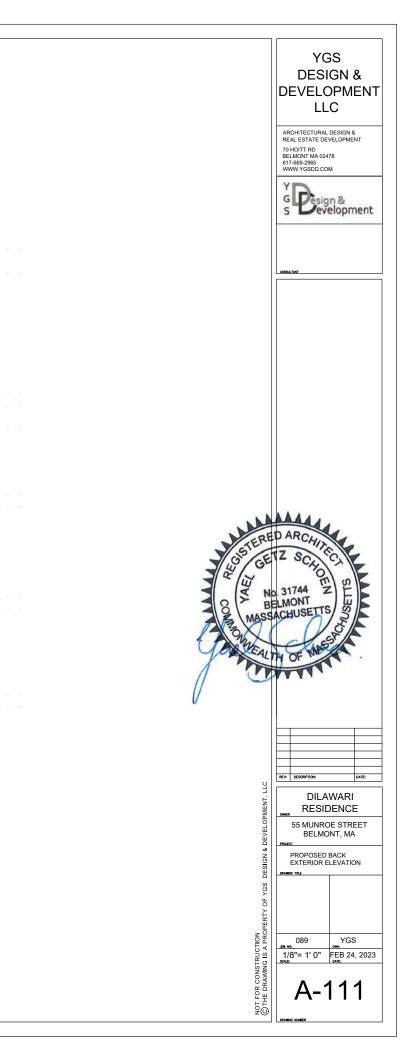


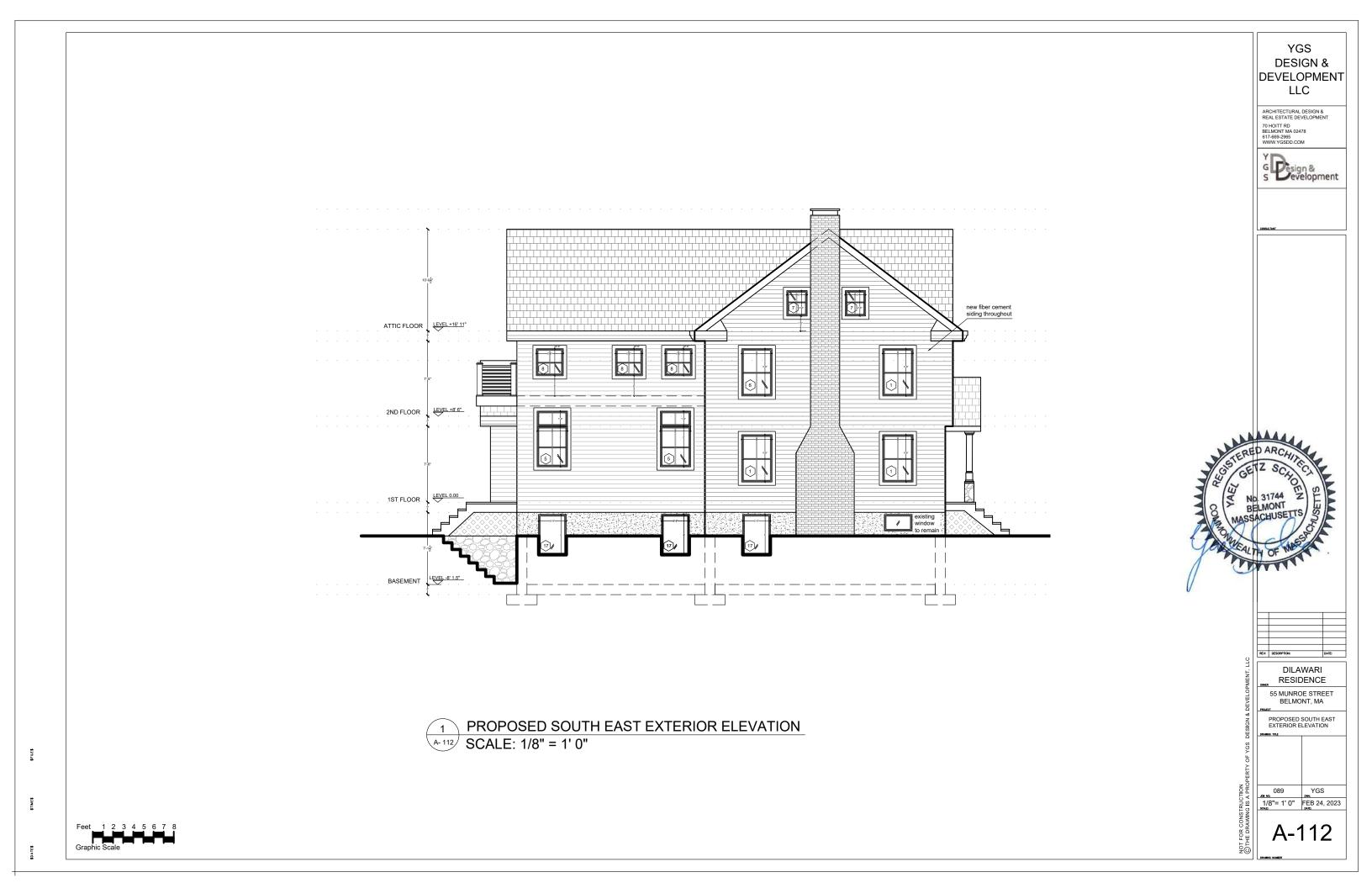
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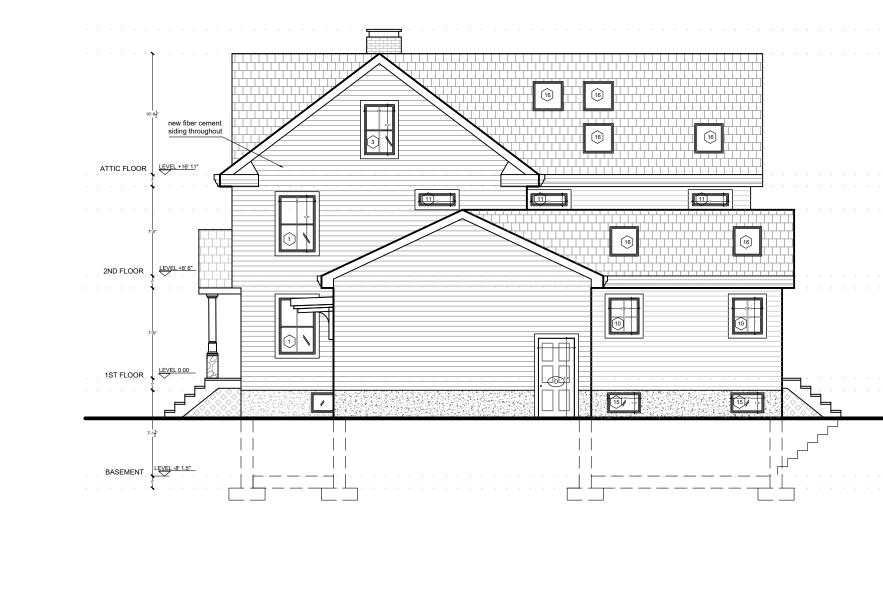




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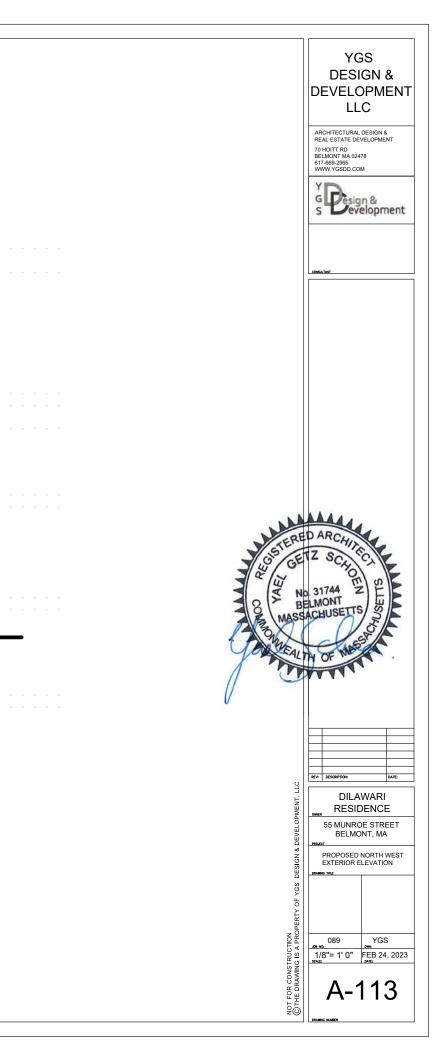


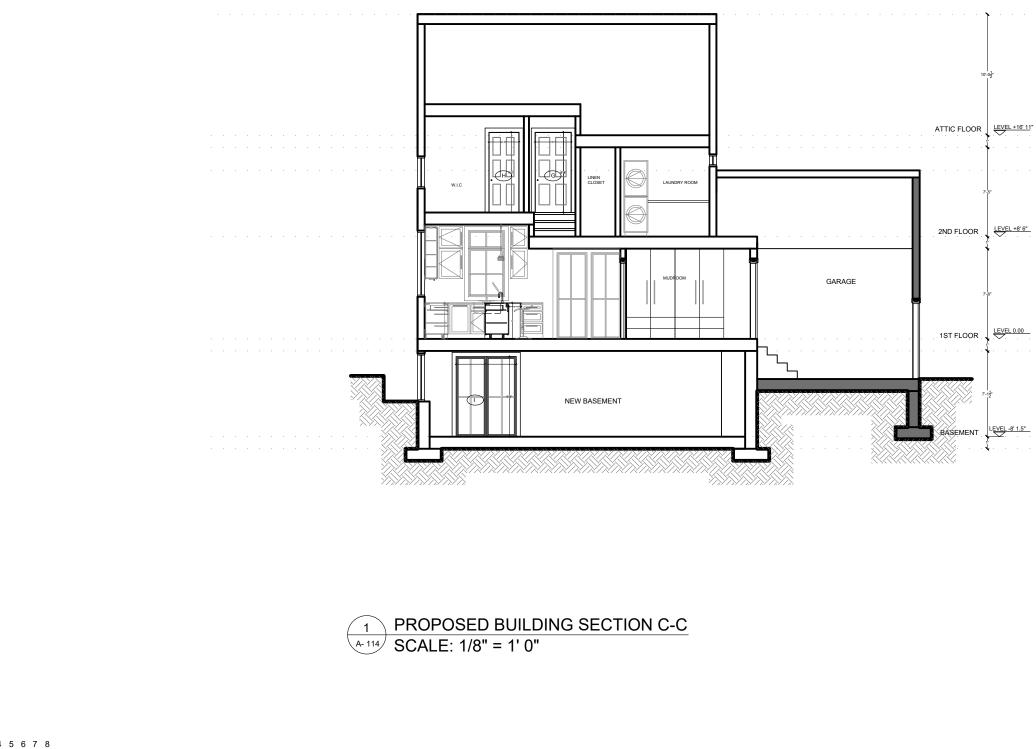






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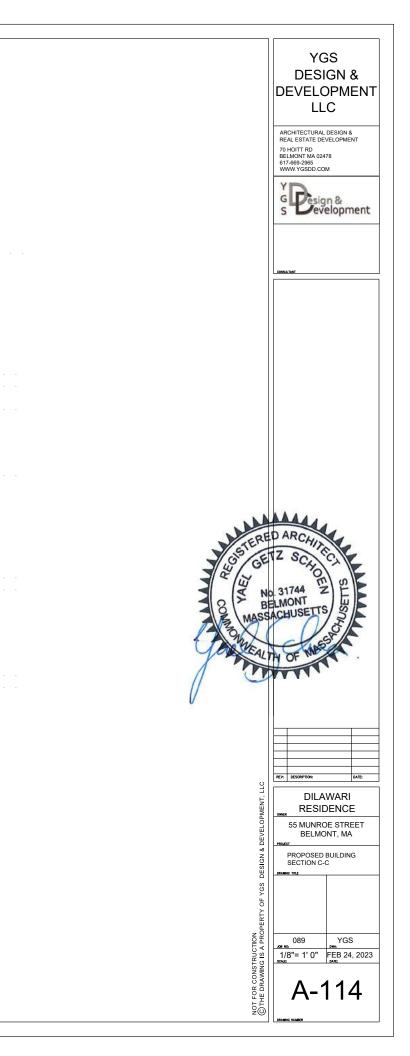




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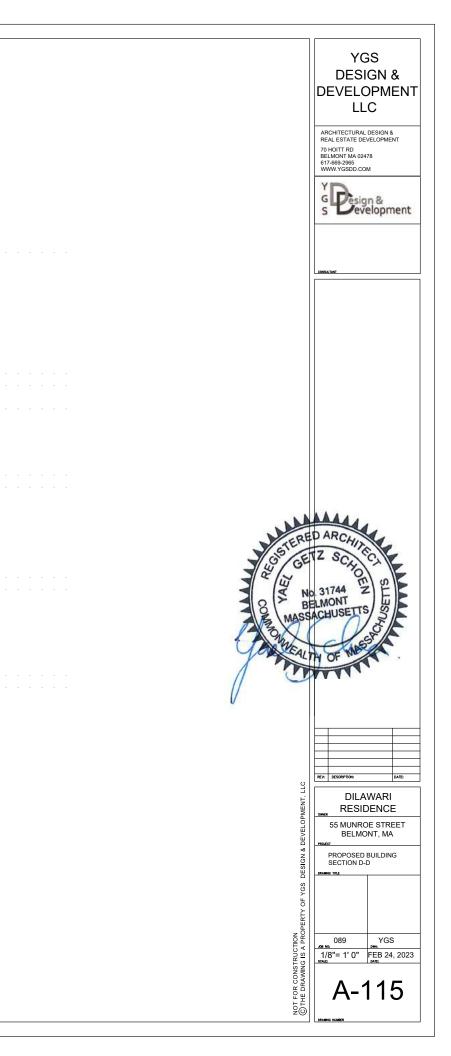


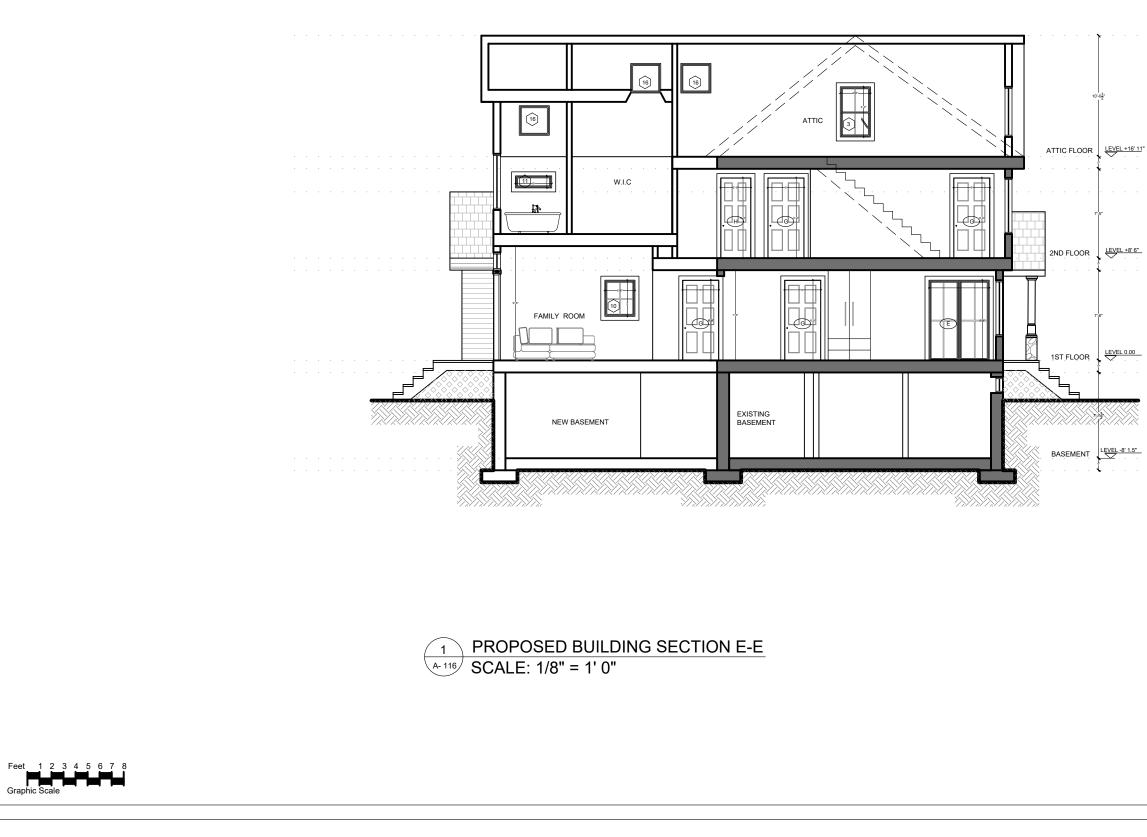


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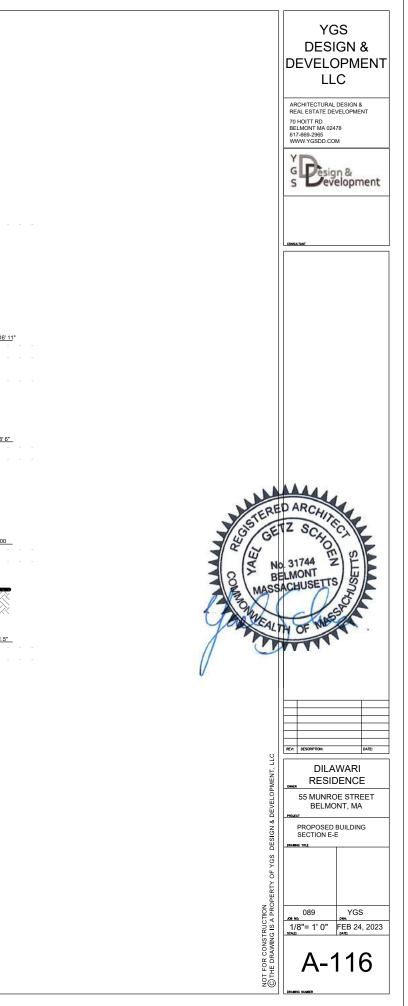
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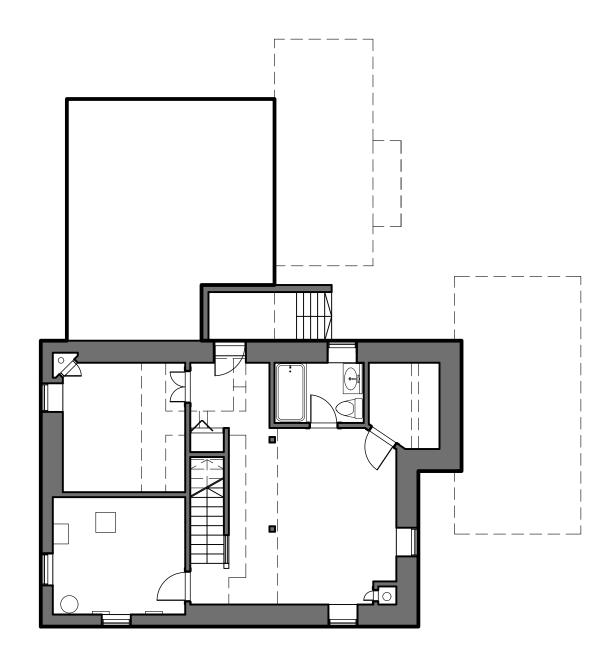


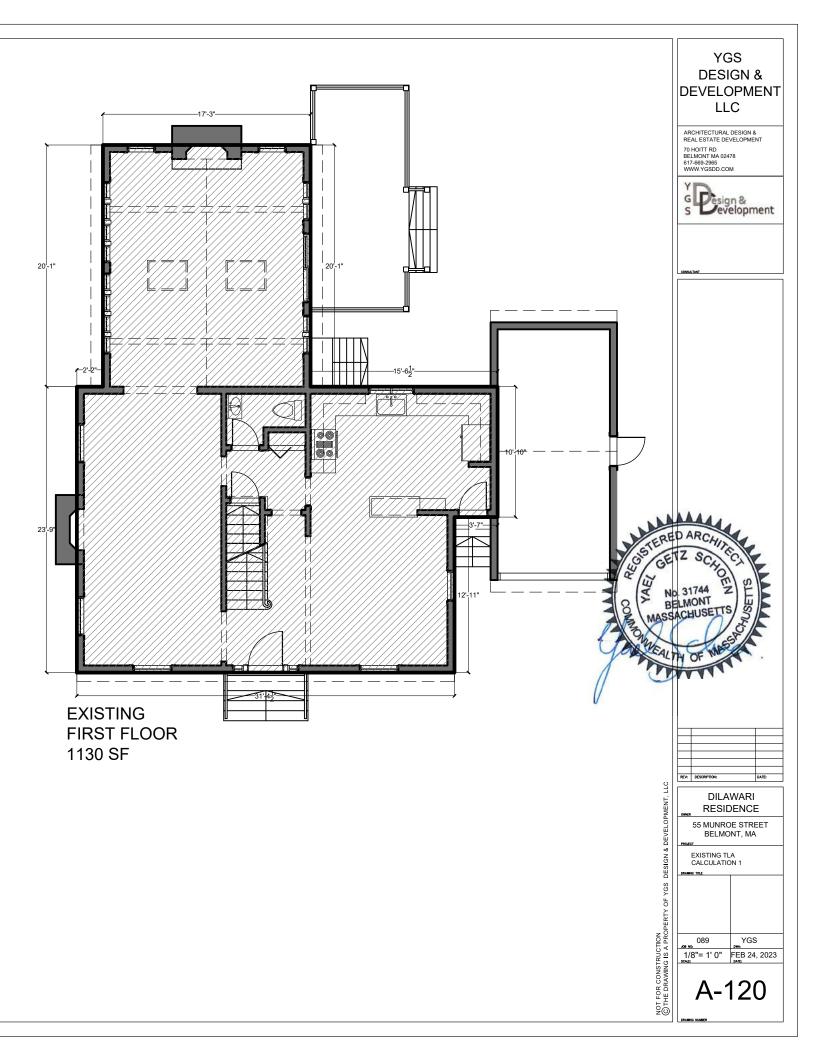






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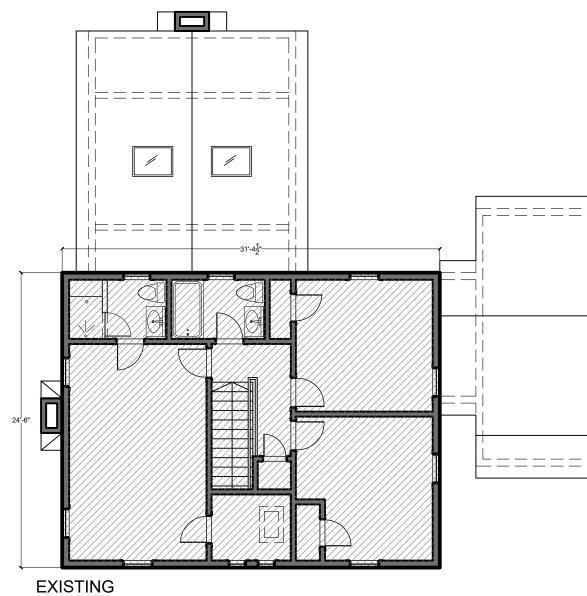


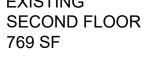
EXISTING CELLAR FLOOR 0 SF

Feet 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

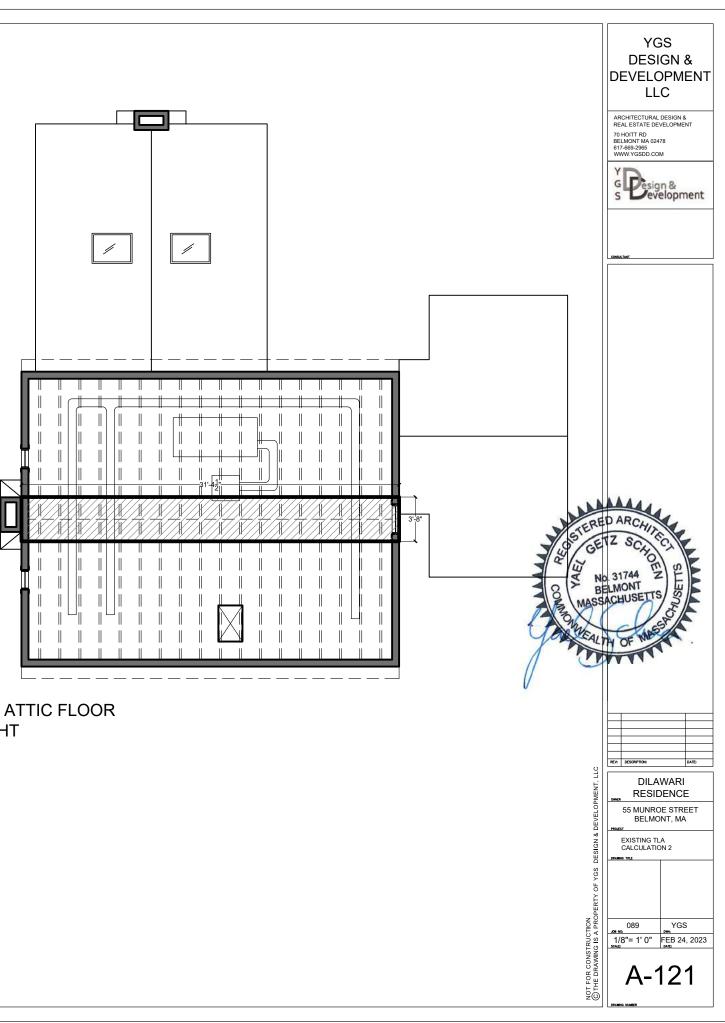
\$FILE\$

\$TIME\$





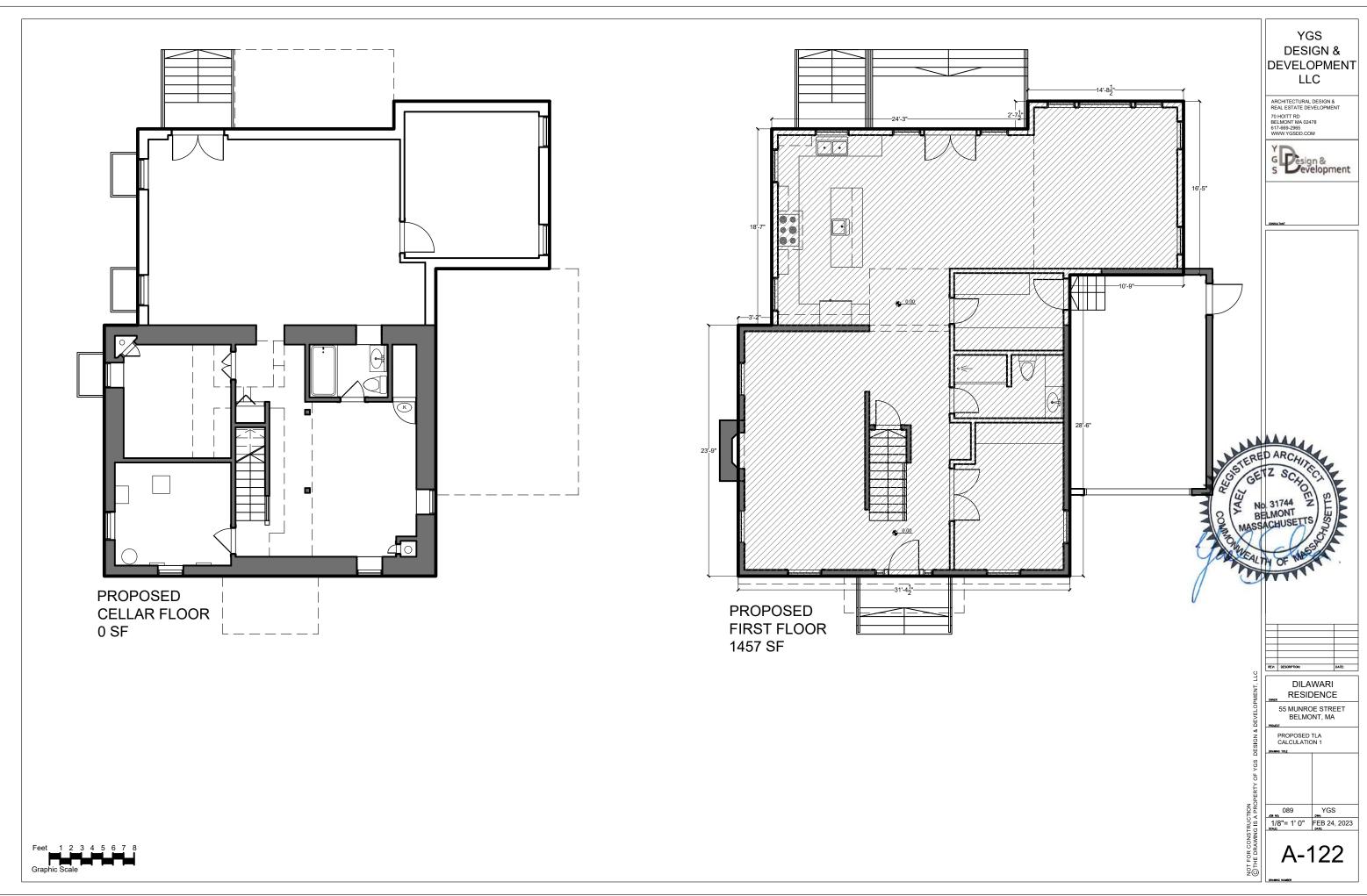
EXISTING ATTIC FLOOR @7' HEIGHT 115 SF



Graphic

\$FILE\$

\$TIME\$





\$TIME\$

