

TOWN OF HARWICH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT AND  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION



RECEIVED

JUL 19 2022

BUILDING DEPT

Please submit this application to: Town of Harwich Building Department  
732 Main Street, Harwich, MA 02645  
Telephone: (508) 430-7506 Fax: (508) 430-4703

Application fee: \$55

Harwich General By-Laws, Chapter 131, Article II, §131-8.A, Notice of Intent to Demolish. Before any building constructed prior to one hundred years before the present calendar year is demolished in whole or in part, a Notice of Intent to do so will be filed with the Commission.

Application for Notice of Intent

I, Doug and Linda Gorham intend to demolish **in whole or in part** the structure located at  
(Print Owner/Applicant's Name) (circle one)

150 Gorham Rd. Harwich Port, 24 1 1 R-R  
(Street Number) (Street Name) (Village), (Assessor's Map) (Parcel #) (Zoning District(s))

Section 1 - Owner/Applicant Information (Note: A non-owner may apply, however written authorization of the owner is required at the time of submittal of this Application)

Legal Owner(s) B. Douglas + Linda Gorham Title \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address 19 Prospect Street Upton, MA 01568

Email Address BDGORHAM@GMAIL.COM Telephone 508.422.6335

Legal Owner's Authorization B Douglas Gorham Linda Gorham  
(Signature)

Applicant(s) (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2 - Determination of Historical Significance**

Date Building was Constructed 1870

Which records were used to establish this date? Town records - assessor and historical commission

Description of Structure(s) to be demolished (in whole or in part) Kitchen, breezeway, deck, 1<sup>st</sup> floor bedroom, 2nd floor bedroom

Reason for Demolition Update kitchen, add master bedroom, establish new entryway

Proposed Reuse Kitchen, master bedroom, entryway

Is the property on the Town's Inventory List: yes

Is the building listed on the National or Massachusetts Register of Historic Places? No

If yes, which register? \_\_\_\_\_

Original Owner, if known Unknown

Subsequent Owners, if known Since 1904 - various Gorham family members

What is known about the history of the property? Margaret Gorham purchased the property in 1904 and it has remained in the family since.

Further, has the property been associated with any noteworthy events or with the political, cultural, economic, or social history of the Town or Region? Please list: Not that we're aware of.

Type of Architectural Style: Colonial

Method of Construction: Unknown. May be balloon construction.

Type of Materials Used: Wood

Name(s) of Architect, Designer or Builder if known: Karen Kempton, architect  
Chuck Deluga / Betterwood Homes, builder

**Section 3 - Project Plan and Condition of Existing Structures**

Full Demolition  or Partial Demolition

For Partial Demolition, describe portion(s) to be demolished The back section of the house is to be expanded & renovated. Brezeway to be updated to connect to barn, add mudroom/entryway and stairway.

Age(s) of portion(s) to be demolished Based on family pictures, between 82-122 years

Describe how the remaining structure will be treated and renovated The main house will be left and maintained as is.

List reports detailing condition of structure and results of inspections conducted by certified engineer or other design professional None.

Is there room on the site to relocate the structure or integrate it with the new project? Yes  No

Describe what alternatives to demolition have been investigated many designs were looked at - including a complete gut of the existing house and a redesign of the interior. The character of the house would be lost and major changes required.

**Section 4 - Filing Requirements**

**One Certified Abutter List** – available from the Assessor’s Office for a fee.

**One (1) original and eight (8) copies of each of the following shall be submitted:**

1. Completed Application Form with Owner authorization
2. Certified Site Plan and Locus Map
3. Registered Professional(s) Stamped Reports of Inspection
4. Complete set of Photographs (of sufficient quality and number) showing **all:** exterior elevations, significant architectural details, and /or detailing existing conditions supporting claim of conditions
5. List and copies of appropriate references and documents consulted to determine age and historical significance of structure.
6. **For Partial Demolitions:** Plans and Drawings of existing areas to be demolished and final elevations of completed project.

*The application shall not be considered complete until the all the above requirements and information are provided and submitted with this application. Attach Authorization to represent/apply.*

B Douglas Gordon  
(Signature of Applicant/Representative)

7/18/2022  
(Date)

## A Brief History of the Gorhams of South Harwich (1813–2013)

The Gorhams of South Harwich trace their roots back to Captain John Gorham, who came from England in 1637. John married Desire Howland the second child born to the settlers in the Plymouth Colony. Her father John Howland and mother Elizabeth Tilley and Elizabeth's parents were on the initial voyage of the Mayflower in 1620. John Gorham moved to Barnstable in 1652 where he was very successful. In the 1670s he became a Captain commanding the Plymouth County troops in King Phillip's War and was killed in action in 1675.

Over the next century the Gorhams lived in Barnstable and Yarmouth. During this period many moved to Rhode Island, Connecticut and other parts of New England. Joseph Gorham was born in 1793. His father, also named Joseph Gorham, fought in the American Revolution.

In 1813 Joseph, age 20, moved from Yarmouth to South Harwich and married Sally Tripp. He was one of ten children and several of his sisters had moved to Harwich or Chatham before him. He built a house on the west side of what is now Gorham Road, near where Oliver Snow Road joins it. The house immediately to the south (now 147 Gorham Road) was built in 1740 and is possibly the oldest house on the street.

Joseph, described in various documents as a “mariner,” was a fisherman. The fishing industry dominated the area's economy at that time and Harwich had several important wharves. He and Sally lived the rest of their lives in the house he built (referred to as the “old homestead” in son Nathaniel's journal) and they had four sons and four daughters. The eldest son Samuel was lost at sea in 1852, when the schooner *Amasa* disappeared. Three of Joseph's children— Abigail (b. 1820), Nathaniel (b. 1823) and Benjamin (b. 1838)—remained in the area of South Harwich all of their lives. Even when they moved their families to Meridian St. in East Boston, they maintained homes in South Harwich either in the homestead or nearby.

In 1832 Joseph signed his nine-year old son, Nathaniel, as a cabin boy on the fishing vessel *Lucy* of Plymouth for the sum of \$6 per month. On his first voyage Nathaniel sailed from the wharf at Marshbank (now Bank Street) Harwich Port. He spent most of the next thirteen years sailing to many parts of the world. At age 22, after a few months working in Boston, Nathaniel returned to the homestead to study at the Pine Grove Seminary, a private high school in Harwich founded and operated by Sidney Brooks. He was worried about being too “old” for this but found he had some contemporaries doing the same thing.

In 1839 Abigail was married to Amasa Nickerson Jr., the son of a highly successful sea captain and ship owner and one of South Harwich's leading citizens. They were married in the South Harwich Methodist Church, which was had been founded by Amasa Sr. three years earlier during a thriving period of growth for the town of Harwich and South Harwich. (Harwich had approximately 1400 people of whom 75 lived in South Harwich.) In his journal Nathaniel remembers the church fondly, attending services there in his younger days and witnessing Abigail's wedding. He was active in Methodist churches and close to their pastors all his adult life both in Boston and South Harwich.<sup>1</sup>

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1 Both the journal and newspaper clippings refer to numerous burials at the church cemetery which has two large monuments, one for the Nathaniel family and one the Benjamin family, each surrounded by several individual markers including for their parents Joseph and Sally. Not too far away is the Arthur Gorham family area. Abigail and Amasa Jr. are in the Nickerson family plot nearby.

After a successful career in the wool trade—wintering in Wellesley and summering at 150 Gorham Rd., Arthur died in 1957 leaving his widow Anne, four children (Benjamin, William, Linda, and Arthur Jr), and several grandchildren. For the next 48 years Anne (aka Gram Gorham) lived in the house with an ever-expanding number of grandchildren, in-laws, and great grandchildren. Under her leadership the house became a magnet for a family that had grown to 50 people by the time of her death in 2005 at age 100.

Bill built a house next door south of Poonpit in 1970, and in 2001 granddaughter Nancy Gorham Morris built a house at the corner of Oliver Snow Road and Gorham Road. After Anne's death granddaughter Susan Gorham Chorey bought the house across the street from Bill in 2006 and Linda Gorham Harvey bought the property next to Bill in 2010 and built a new house.

### **Gorham Road**

In 1688 a piece of land which now contains all of Gorham Road was transferred by “Old Humphrey, Indian and his son Zachariah” to Caleb Lumbert. This parcel ran from what is now Wychmere Harbor, along the seashore to the Andrews River, northerly along the Andrews River to a place called Poonpit then westerly to Grassy Pond, called Wonkapit meaning a crooked pond, then southerly back to Wychmere Harbor. After this land became developed over the next 150 years the portion of what is now Gorham Road running from Bank Street to the 90 degree bend was formally laid out by the town in 1841. The other portion of the road running to Main Street (Route 28) existed as an old cart way or merely a town road. Early maps don't give the street a name. 1905 and 1910 maps call the Bank Street end of the street Deer Island Road and the other end Oak Grove Street. The name “Gorham Road” seems to have been adopted in or shortly before 1920, as the first reference to the street by that name in the *Harwich Independent* was in February 1921.

### **Poonpit**

“Poonpit” is the name of a location where the headwaters of the Andrews River rise somewhat southeast of the junctions of Oliver Snow, Long, and Chatham Roads. It is used as a land boundary marker in the transfer mentioned above. The name also appears on two charts in Josiah Paine's History of Harwich, first printed in 1937. These charts show the Quason Purchase in 1713-1714 and an early map of Harwich, Brewster, Chatham and South Orleans. The “pit” part of the name seems to mean pond, and the “poon” is undoubtedly an Indian word referring to something in nature. An early reference to Poonpit as a part of the 150 Gorham Road area can be found in a November 1918 invitation to “Gorham's Gang” to join a celebration of the end of World War I: the invitation referred to all invitees as the “Poon Pit Community” and was signed by a man over the title of “Poon Pit Town Officer.” The envelope bore a handmade “Poon Pit State Postage” stamp. Over the last 70 years, at least, the Poonpit name has attached itself to the house and barn at 150 Gorham Road.

Doug and Linda Gorham  
150 Gorham Road  
Harwich Port, MA 02646

July 11, 2022

Harwich Historical Commission  
Harwich Town Hall  
732 Main Street  
Harwich, MA 02645

Dear Harwich Historical Commission,

We are applying for approval to proceed with renovations to our home located at 150 Gorham Road.

#### Background

The main part of our house was constructed (per town records) in 1870 and has been owned by various Gorham family members since 1904. We bought 150 Gorham Road from the Gorham Family Trust in 2014, with plans to continue the tradition of hosting large family gatherings and eventually make this home our year-round residence. Due to limited insulation and heat, the house is currently used primarily in the spring and summer months with perhaps an occasional brief stay during the fall. Over the last 2 years, we've met with builders to review ideas, designs, and updates to make this a four-season home with minimal impact to the existing structure.

We are committed to maintaining the character of the old homestead while incorporating some of the modern conveniences available today. We have also worked with several different architects before finding one who could help us accomplish this goal. We're excited about our plans and feel they will create a comfortable home with minimal disruption to the character of the main house as well as the street side view of the house.

#### Project goals

The primary goal of this project is to update the house and make it more efficient for year round use. Major updates include:

- Updating the kitchen
- Adding a master bedroom and bath
- Enclosing the breezeway to create a mudroom/entryway and staircase to the new bedroom

#### Summary of changes

- Add a 12' x 21' addition to the back of the house for the kitchen area on the first floor and master bedroom on the second floor.
- Convert the breezeway to an entryway/mudroom with a staircase to the master bedroom.
- Add a shed dormer off the back of the entryway/mudroom to accommodate the new staircase (see rear elevation drawing).
- Modify the roof line and add a shed dormer on the north side of the house to allow room for the master bedroom staircase (see left elevation drawing).
- Add a shed dormer on the south side of the house in the master bedroom (see right elevation drawing).

- Renovate upstairs bedroom to be used as part of the master bedroom.
- Reconfigure access to the first-floor bathroom in the main part of the house.
- Install brick façade to sections of foundation visible from street to match the main house foundation.

**Demolition (partial)**

- Remove and replace the roof over the back section of the house to create more usable space in the second floor of the proposed addition (see side elevation drawings).
- Remove the existing porch/breezeway and replace with a year-round entryway with full foundation.
- Remove and replace the existing deck in the rear of the house with a deck of a similar configuration and size.
- Remove the back exterior wall to accommodate the addition.

We invite members of the Historical Commission to come view the house at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug & Linda Gorham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

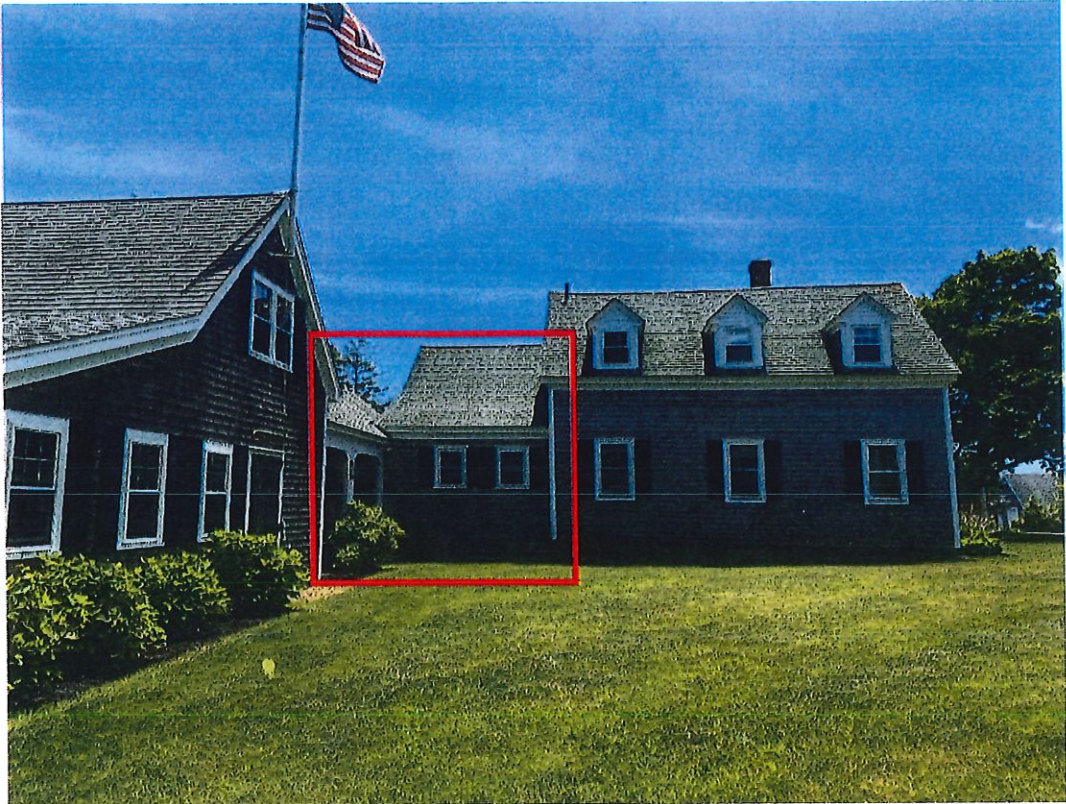
Doug and Linda Gorham

# 150 Gorham Road, Harwich Port

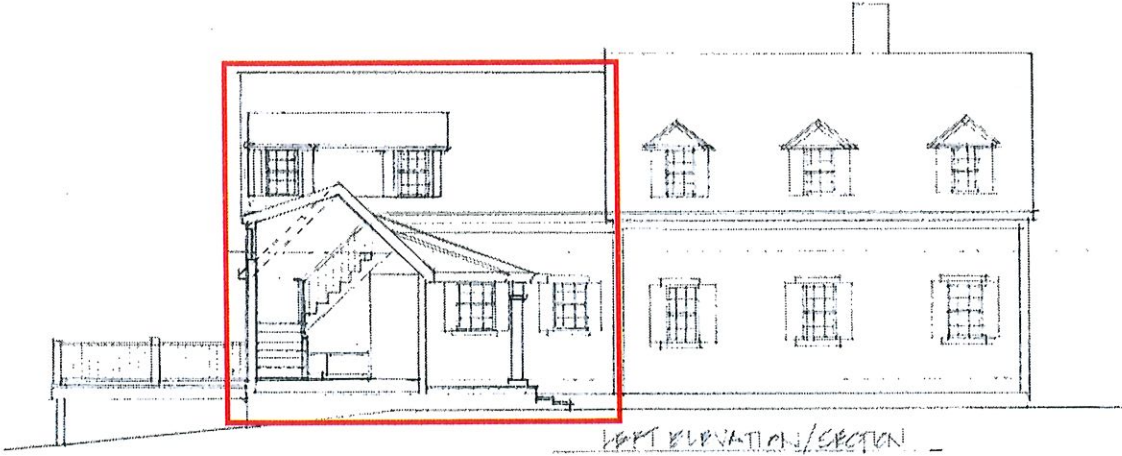




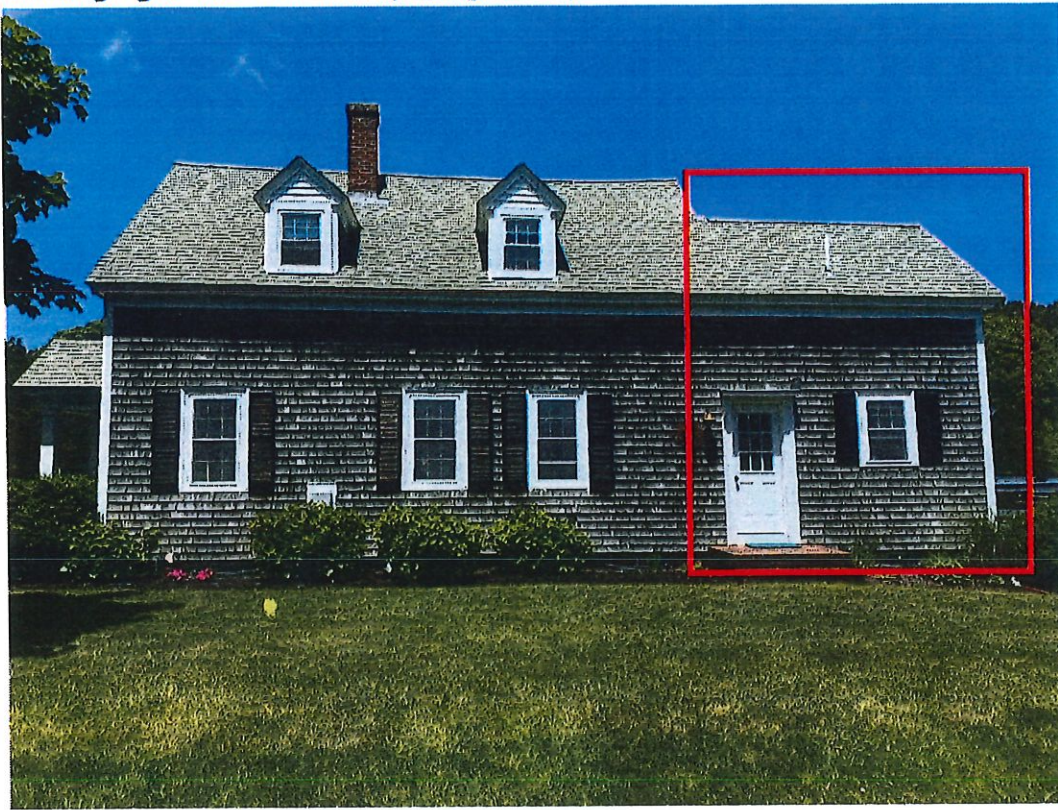
Existing left side elevation (facing north). Area of work highlighted.



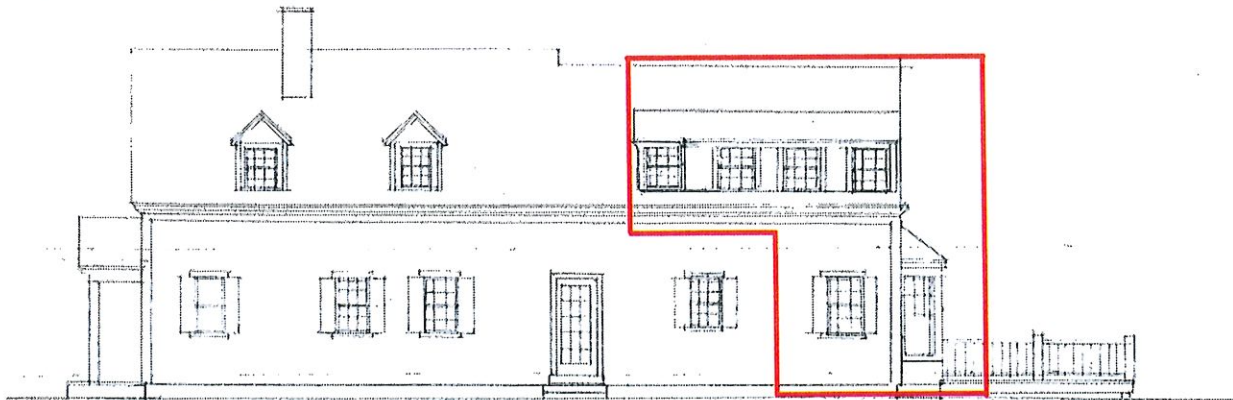
Proposed changes to left side elevation



Existing right side elevation (facing south)

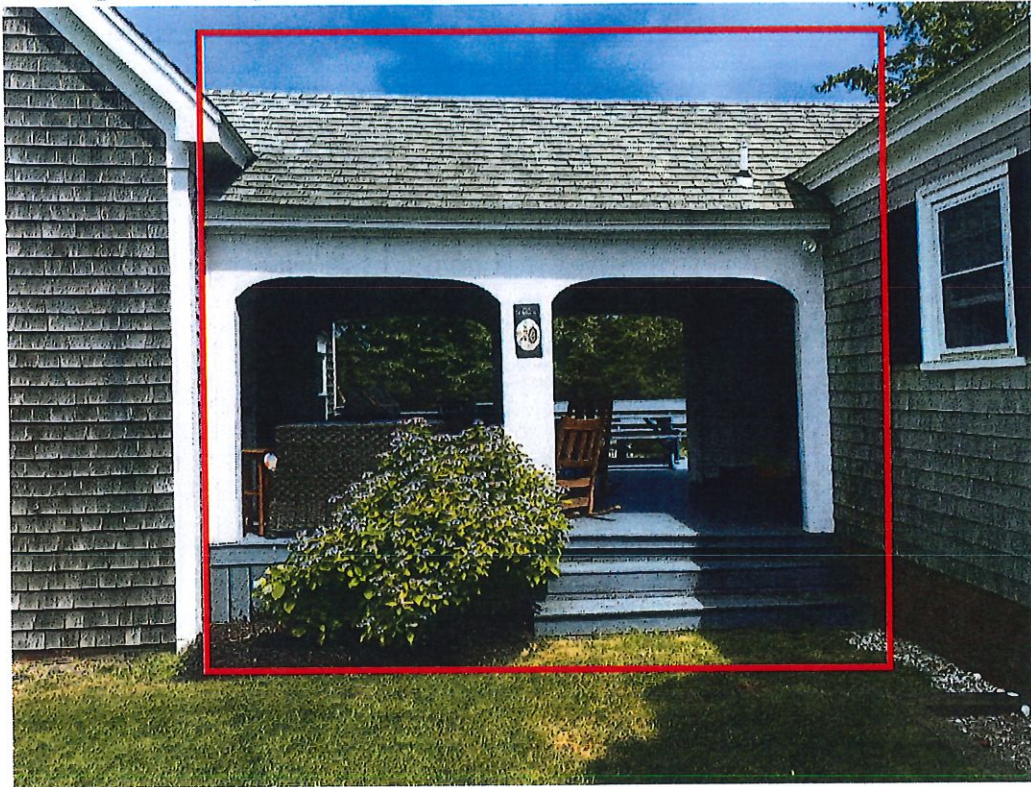


Proposed changes to right side elevation

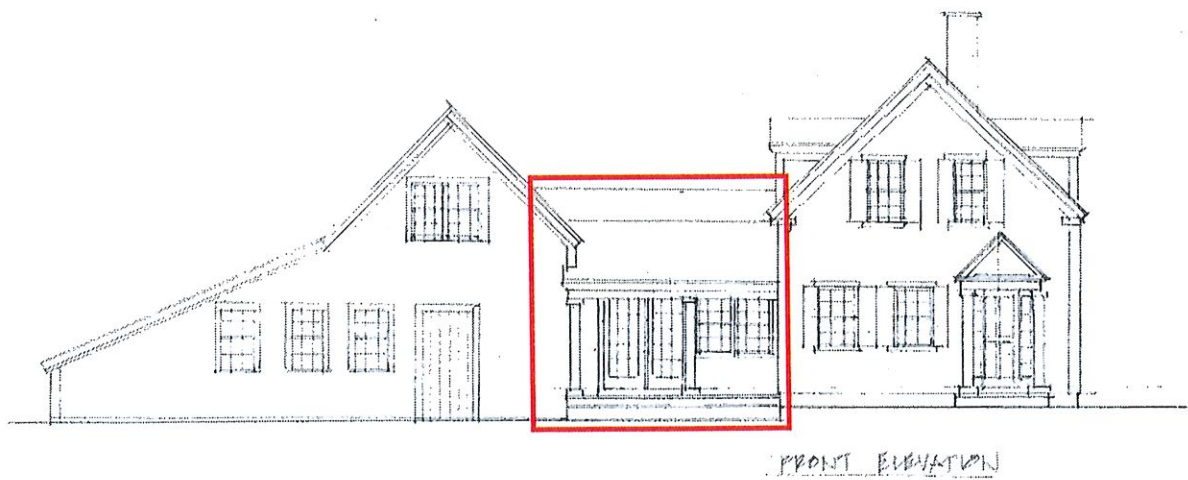


10/11/15 10/11/15

Existing breezeway area (facing west)



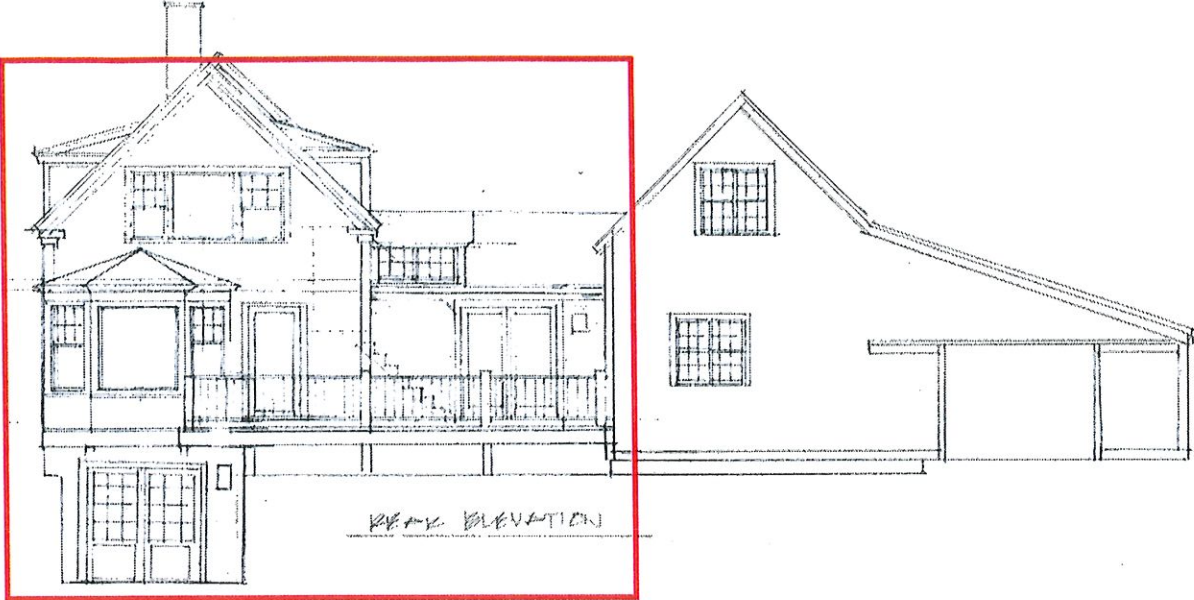
Proposed changes to breezeway area



Existing rear elevations (facing east)

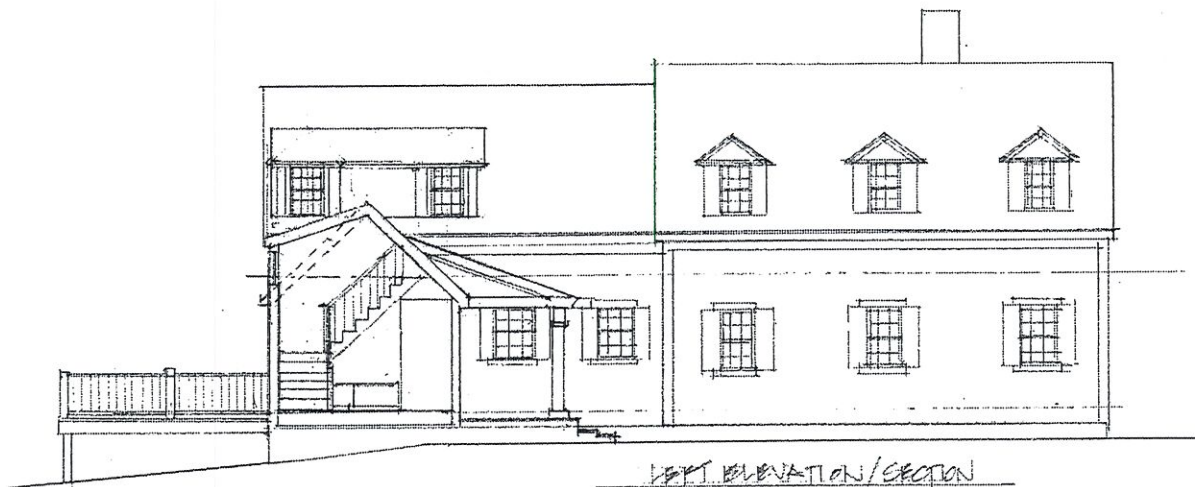


Proposed changes to rear elevation





FRONT ELEVATION



LEFT ELEVATION/SECTION

KAREN B. KEMPTON AIA  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 40 ANGELES WAY  
 WEST BARNSTABLE, MA 02888  
 (508) 362-3447 (508) 362-1234 FAX  
 karenbkemp@comcast.net

GOREHAM RESIDENCE  
 150 GOREHAM ROAD  
 HAVENHILL, MA

DATE: 6/20/2022

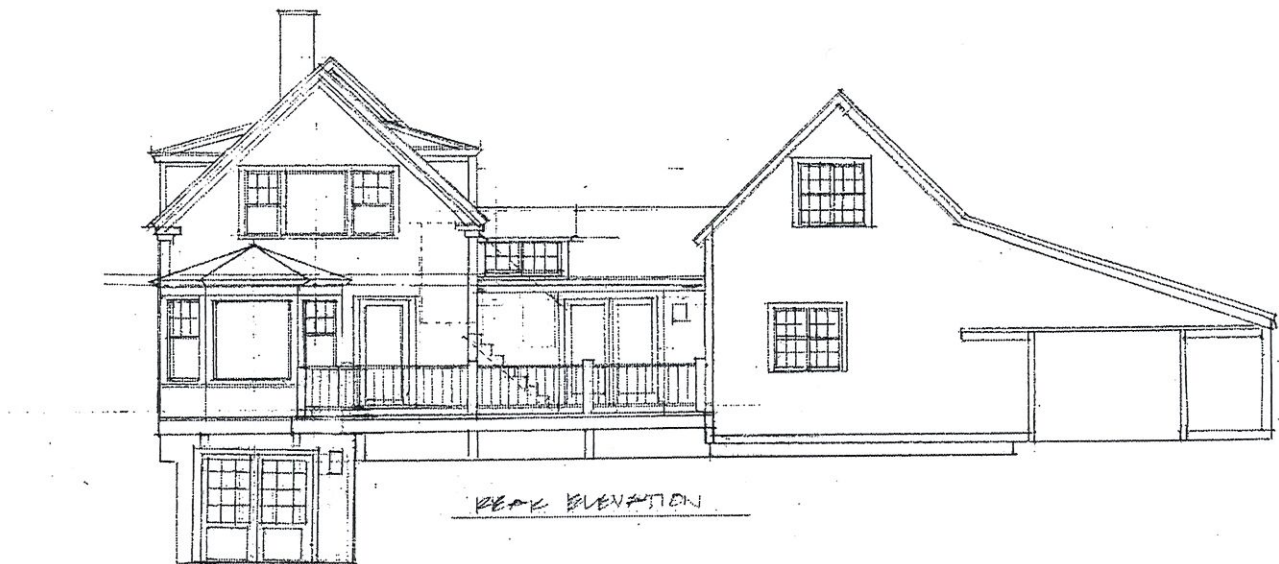
REVISIONS:

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

ELEVATIONS

A-1



REAR ELEVATION



FRONT ELEVATION

KAREN B. KEMPTON AIA  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 43 ARDELLA WAY  
 WEST HAINSTABLE MA 02609  
 (508) 882-2147 (508) 882-1209 FAX  
 karenkemp@comcast.net

GEORGE RESIDENCE  
 150 OGDENHAM ROAD  
 HAYWICH, MA

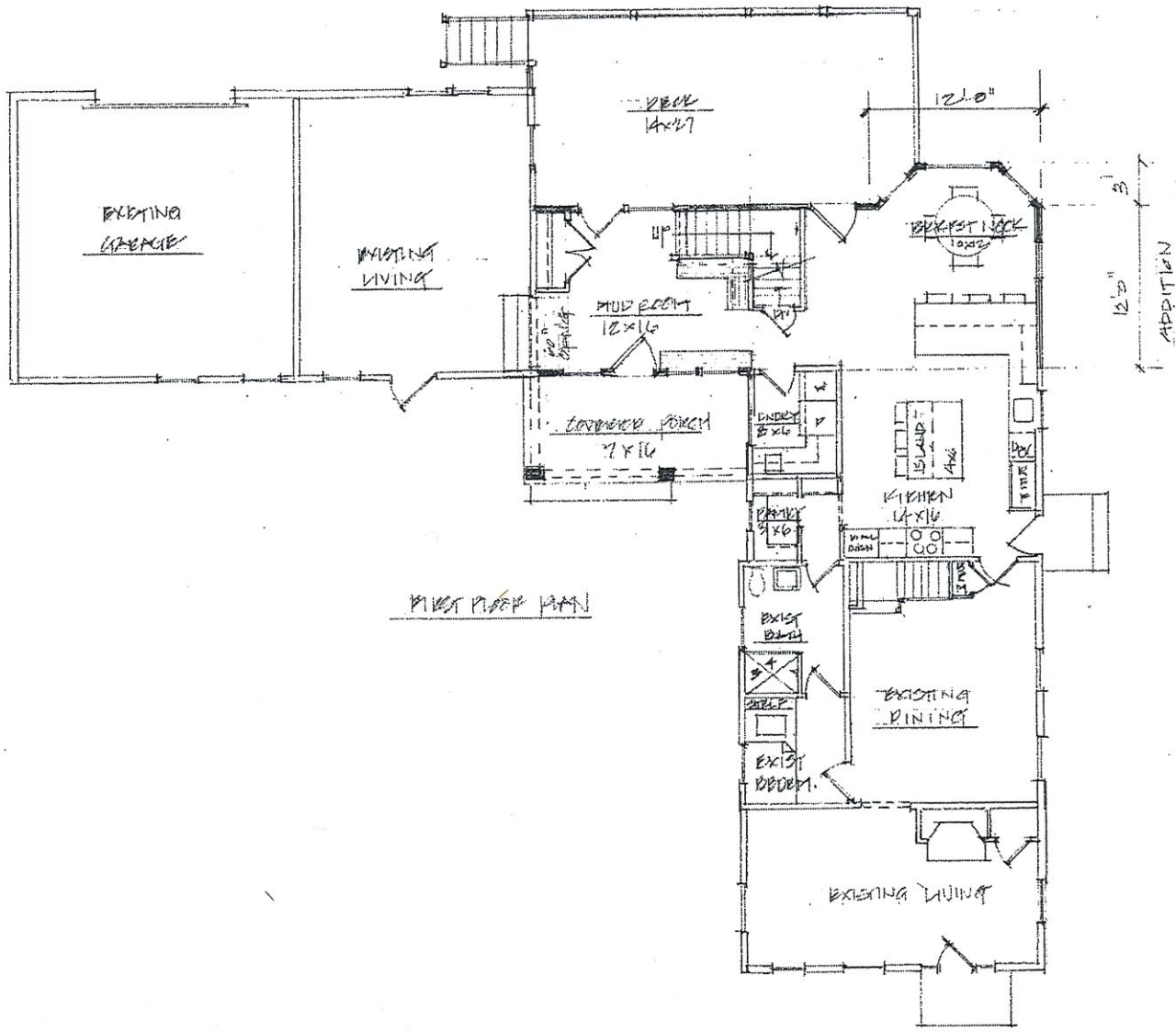
DATE: 6/20/2022

REVISIONS:

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

ELEVATIONS

A-2



KAREN B. KEMPTON AIA  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 43 ANGELA WAY  
 WEST BARNSTABLE, MA 02888  
 (508) 362-3147 (508) 362-1268 FAX  
 karen@kempston.com karenaia.com

EDITHA PRADENNY  
 150 GORHAM ROAD  
 HARTFORD, MA

DATE: 6-20-2022

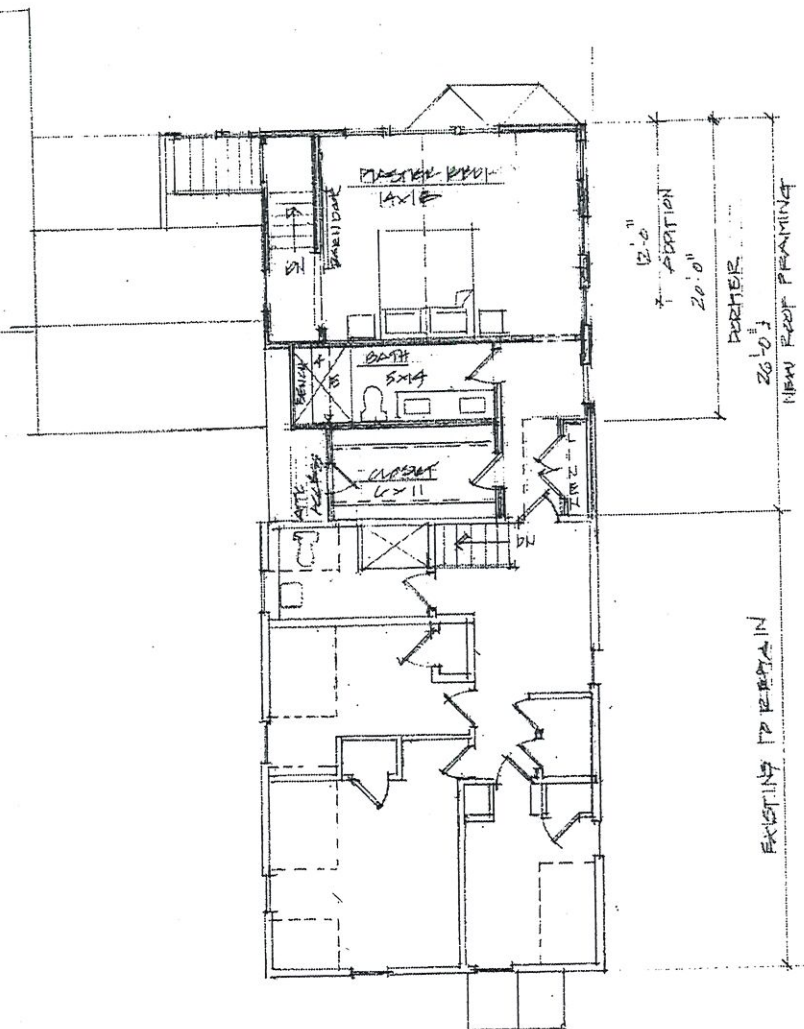
REVISIONS:

SCALE: V&E

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

A-3





KAREN B. KEMPTON AIA  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 118 ANGLIA WAY  
 WEST BARESTABLE, MA 02008  
 (508) 882-3147 (508) 382-1254 FAX  
 karen@kempston.com karen@aia.org

GORDHAM RESIDENCE  
 150 GORDHAM ROAD  
 HARTWICH, MA.

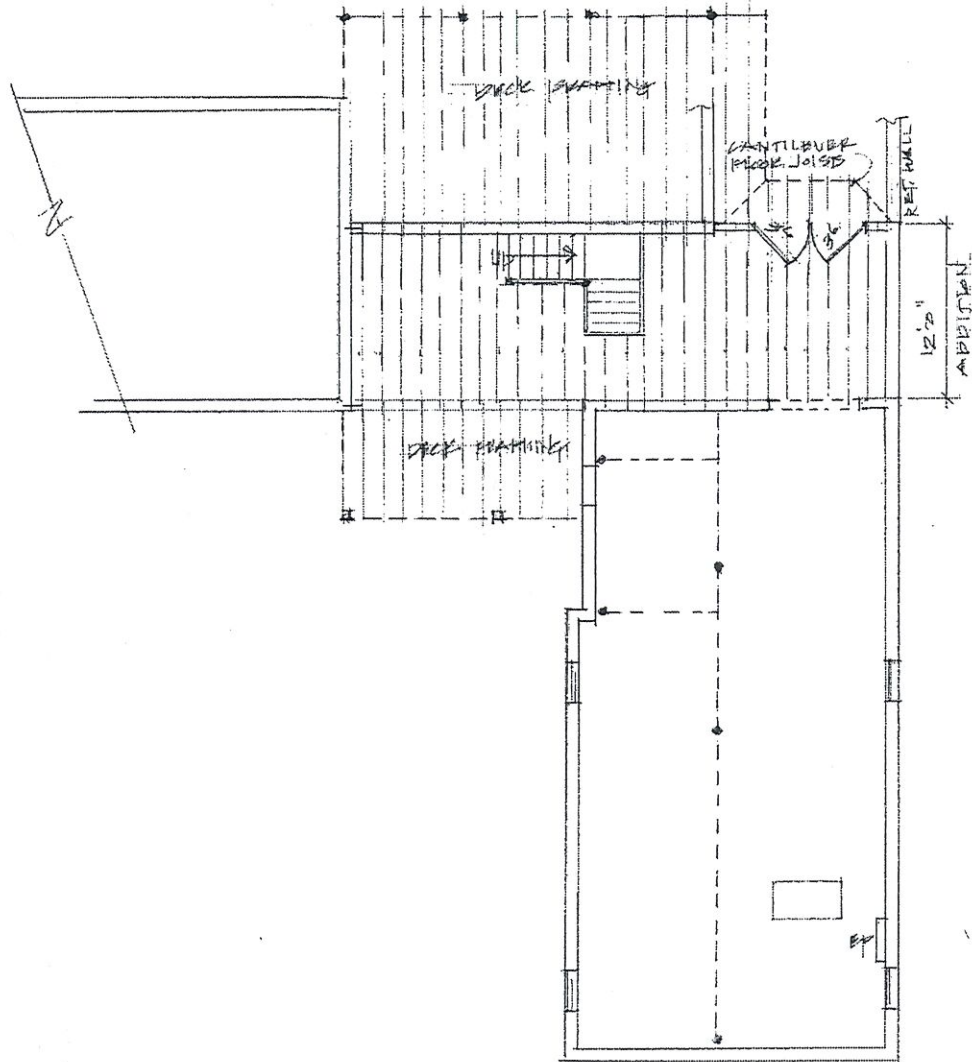
DATE: 6-20-2022

REVISIONS:

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

SECOND FLOOR  
 PLAN

A-7



KAREN B. KEMPTON AIA  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 43 ANGELA WAY  
 WEST HANSTEADLE MA 02008  
 (508) 882-3147 (508) 882-1256 FAX  
 karenkemp@comcast.net

GONHATA RESIDENCE  
 150 GONHATA ROAD  
 BRANFORD, MA

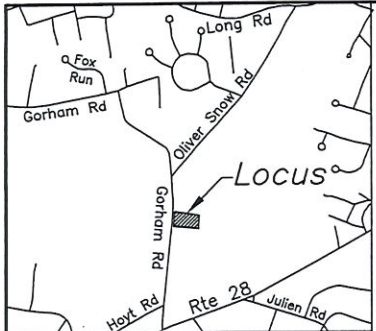
DATE 6/20/2022

REVISIONS:

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

FOUNDATION  
 PLAN

A-5



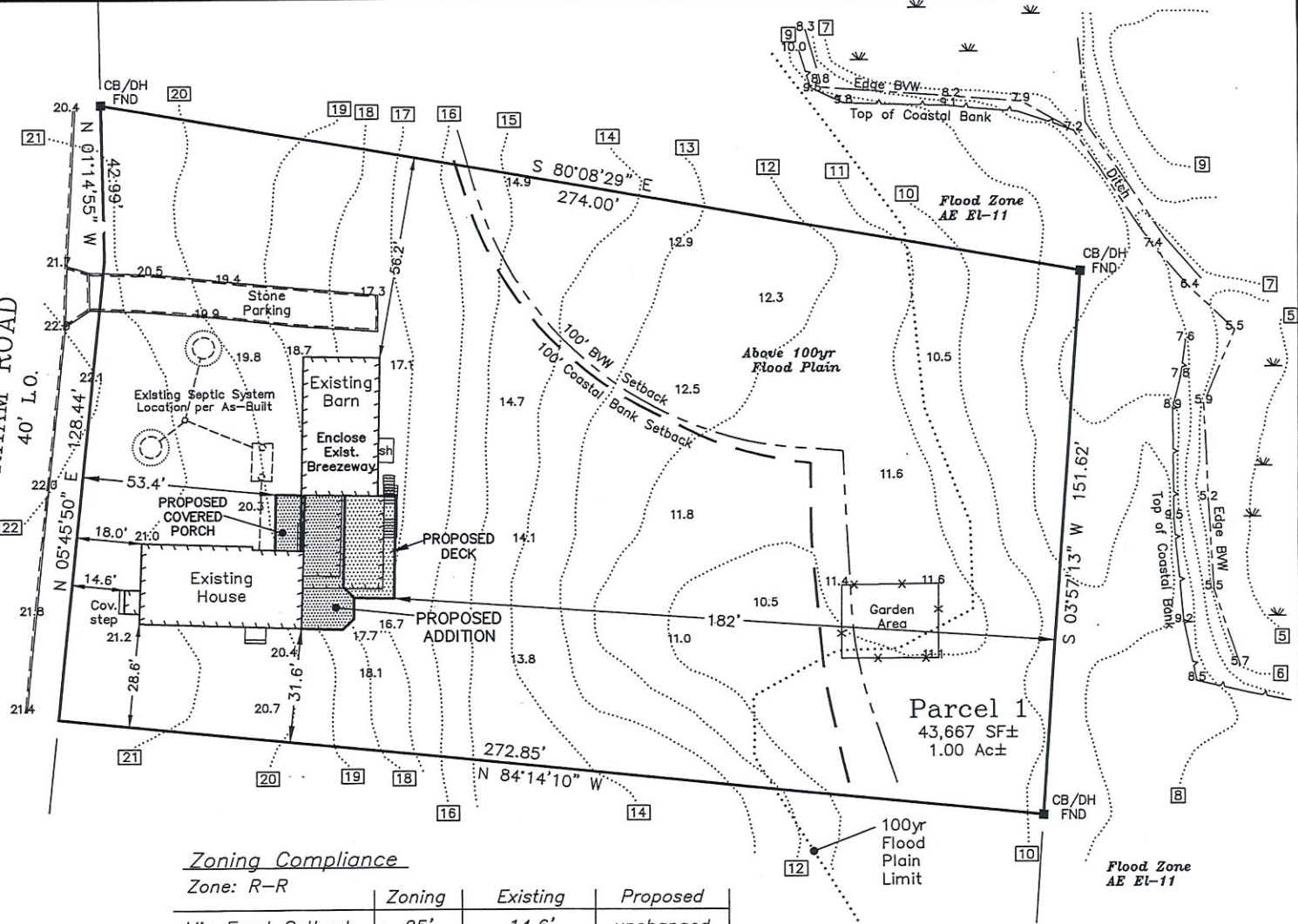
**LOCATION MAP**  
 Parcel ID: 24-P1  
 Deed Bk.28302, Pg.278  
 Plan Bk.223, Pg.103(2), Parcel 1

**LEGEND**

- Existing Structure
- Proposed Addition
- Edge Drive/Pvmnt
- Existing Contour
- Existing Spot Elevation
- Existing Septic
- Edge of Wetland
- Top of Coastal Bank
- Buffer Offset
- Floodplain Limit
- Garden Fence

N  
 PI.223/103(2)

GORHAM ROAD  
 40' L.O.



**NOTE:**  
 \* This property is partially located within a Special Flood Hazard Area.  
 \*\* This property is not located within a Zone II, Drinking Water Protection District

Zoning Compliance

	Zoning	Existing	Proposed
Zone: R-R			
Min Front Setback	25'	14.6'	unchanged
Min Side Setback	20'	28.6'/56.2'	unchanged
Min Rear Setback	20'	183.2'	182'
Building Coverage	(6550sf) 15%max	(2063sf) 4.7%	(2402sf) 5.5%
Site Coverage	(10916sf) 25%max	(3505sf) 8.0%	(3675sf) 8.5%

**MORAN ENGINEERING ASSOC., LLC**  
 508-432-2878 941 MAIN STREET (RTE 28), HARWICH, MA

**PROPOSED CONDITIONS PLOT PLAN**  
 Prepared For: Douglas Gorham  
 150 GORHAM ROAD HARWICH PORT, MA  
 PROJECT: 21-256 DATE: 7/14/2022

