

IN RE: PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE
 N/S Dorsey Avenue, 200' +/-
 NE of Woodward Avenue
 (608 Dorsey Avenue)
 15th Election District
 5th Councilmanic District

BEFORE THE
 DEPUTY ZONING COMMISSIONER
 OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
 Case No. 90-203-A

Eugene F. O'Connor, Jr., et ux
 Petitioners

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Petitioners herein request a variance to permit an accessory structure (garage) with a height of 24 feet in lieu of the maximum permitted 15 feet in accordance with Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

The Petitioners appeared and testified. Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Crouch appeared and testified as Protestants.

Testimony indicated that the subject property, known as 608 Dorsey Avenue, consists of .33 acres zoned D.R. 5.5 and is improved with a single family cape cod style dwelling which has been Petitioners' residence since May, 1989. Petitioners testified the dwelling was built in 1917 with one bedroom, bathroom, living room, kitchen and dining room on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor. Petitioners are desirous of constructing a two story garage to provide much needed storage space and protection for their vehicles as the dwelling has no usable attic space and only 5 feet of headroom in the 1/2 basement. Testimony indicated that the height of the proposed garage is necessary to provide enough storage space for their personal belongings as well as a boat, canoe and an antique car. Petitioners testified that to deny the relief requested will result in unreasonable hardship and practical difficulty without any benefit to the community.

The Protestants testified in opposition to the proposed garage height. Testimony indicated the Protestants fear the Petitioners will use the property for commercial repair and storage of vehicles. In support of their testimony, the Protestants introduced a Petition Against the Variance which had been signed by numerous residents of the area. The Protestants acknowledged the improvements made to the property by Petitioners and stated they were not opposed to the building of a detached garage if used strictly for residential purposes.

An area variance may be granted where strict application of the zoning regulations would cause practical difficulty to the Petitioner and his property. *McLean v. Soley*, 270 Md. 208 (1973). To prove practical difficulty for an area variance, the Petitioner must meet the following:

- 1) whether strict compliance with requirement would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for a permitted purpose or render conformance unnecessarily burdensome;
- 2) whether the grant would do substantial injustice to applicant as well as other property owners in the district or whether a lesser relaxation than that applied for would give substantial relief; and
- 3) whether relief can be granted in such fashion that the spirit of the ordinance will be observed and public safety and welfare secured.

Anderson v. Bd. of Appeals, Town of Chesapeake Beach, 22 Md. App. 28 (1974).

After due consideration of the testimony and evidence presented, it is the opinion of the Deputy Zoning Commissioner that if the variance is granted, as hereinafter modified and subject to restrictions, such use as proposed would not be contrary to the spirit of the P. Z.R. and would not result in substantial detriment to the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing on this petition held, and for the reasons given above, the relief requested as modified should be granted.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Deputy Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County this 15th day of December, 1989 that a variance to permit an accessory structure (garage) with a height of 18 feet in lieu of the maximum permitted 15 feet, be approved, and as such, the Petition for Zoning Variance is hereby GRANTED, subject, however, to the following restrictions which are conditions precedent to the relief granted:

- 1) The Petitioners may apply for their building permit and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until such time as the 30-day appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, the Petitioners would be required to return, and be responsible for returning, said property to its original condition.
- 2) The variance granted herein is limited to a garage height of 18 feet for residential purposes only.
- 3) Petitioners shall not allow or cause the accessory structure (garage) to be converted to a second dwelling unit and/or apartments. The garage shall contain no living or sleeping quarters, and no kitchen or bathroom facilities.
- 4) Upon request and reasonable notice, Petitioners shall permit a representative of the Zoning Enforcement Division to make an inspection of the subject property and inside the proposed accessory structure (garage) to insure compliance with this Order.

Ann M. Nastarowicz
 ANN M. NASTAROWICZ
 Deputy Zoning Commissioner
 for Baltimore County

Baltimore County
 Zoning Commissioner
 Office of Planning & Zoning
 Towson, Maryland 21284
 (410) 887-5353

December 15, 1989

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene F. O'Connor, Jr.
 608 Dorsey Avenue
 Baltimore, Maryland 21221

RE: PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE
 N/S Dorsey Avenue, 200' NE of Woodward Avenue
 15th Election District - 5th Councilmanic District
 Eugene F. O'Connor, Jr., et ux - Petitioners
 Case No. 90-203-A

Dear Mr. & Mrs. O'Connor:

Enclosed please find a copy of the decision rendered in the above-captioned matter. The Petition for Zoning Variance has been granted, in part, in accordance with the attached Order.

In the event any party finds the decision rendered is unfavorable, any party may file an appeal to the County Board of Appeals within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. For further information on filing an appeal, please contact Ms. Charlotta Radcliffe at 887-3391.

Very truly yours,
Ann M. Nastarowicz

ANN M. NASTAROWICZ
 Deputy Zoning Commissioner
 for Baltimore County

AMN:bjs
 cc: Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Crouch
 622 Dorsey Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21221

People's Counsel
 File

ORDER RECEIVED FOR FILING
 Date 12/15/89
 By J. Robert Hines

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PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE

TO THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY: 90-203-A

The undersigned, legal owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plat attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for a Variance from Section 400.3 To permit an accessory structure (garage) with a height of 24 ft. in lieu of the required 15 feet/

of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to the Zoning Law of Baltimore County; for the following reasons: (Indicate hardship or practical difficulty)
 WE NEED 24' HEIGHT ON THE GARAGE FOR ADDITIONAL STORAGE. THE DWELLING HAS NO USABLE ATTIC SPACE AND A 1/2 BASEMENT WITH ONLY 5' OF HEADROOM WHICH SEVERELY LIMITS STORAGE OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. ALSO WE HAVE A BOAT, CANOE, AN ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE AND ACCESSORIES AND WE NEED STORAGE SPACE.

Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by Zoning Regulations.

I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above Variance advertising, posting, etc. upon filing of this petition, and further agree to and are to be bound by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the Zoning Law For Baltimore County.

I/We do solemnly declare and affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that I/we are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this Petition.

Contract Purchaser: _____
 (Type or Print Name)

Signature: *Eugene F. O'Connor Jr.*

 (Type or Print Name)

Address: 608 Dorsey Avenue

 City and State: Baltimore, MD 21221

Legal Owner(s): EUGENE F. O'CONNOR JR.
 (Type or Print Name) DATE 9-2-89

Signature: *Eugene F. O'Connor Jr.*

 (Type or Print Name)

Address: 608 Dorsey Avenue

 City and State: Baltimore, MD 21221

Attorney for Petitioner: 608 Dorsey Avenue

 (Type or Print Name) Phone No. (301) 574-7625

Signature: _____
 (Type or Print Name)

Address: _____
 City and State: _____

Attorney's Telephone No.: _____

ORDERED By The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, this 28 day of Sept 1989 that the subject matter of this petition be advertised, as required by the Zoning Law of Baltimore County, in two newspapers of general circulation through out Baltimore County, that property be posted, and that the public hearing be had before the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County in Room 106, County Office Building in Towson, Baltimore County, on the 29 day of NOV 1989, at 2 o'clock P.M.

J. Robert Hines
 Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County.

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BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
 OFFICE OF FINANCE - REVENUE DIVISION
 MISCELLANEOUS CASH RECEIPT

DATE 9/17/89 ACCOUNT 90-05

AMOUNT \$ 35.00

RECEIVED FROM EUGENE O'CONNOR JR.

FOR RV cost of Item # 70

Signature: *Eugene F. O'Connor Jr.*

 (Type or Print Name)

Address: 608 Dorsey Avenue

 City and State: Baltimore, MD 21221

Legal Owner(s): EUGENE F. O'CONNOR JR.
 (Type or Print Name) DATE 9-2-89

Signature: *Eugene F. O'Connor Jr.*

 (Type or Print Name)

Address: 608 Dorsey Avenue

 City and State: Baltimore, MD 21221

Attorney for Petitioner: 608 Dorsey Avenue

 (Type or Print Name) Phone No. (301) 574-7625

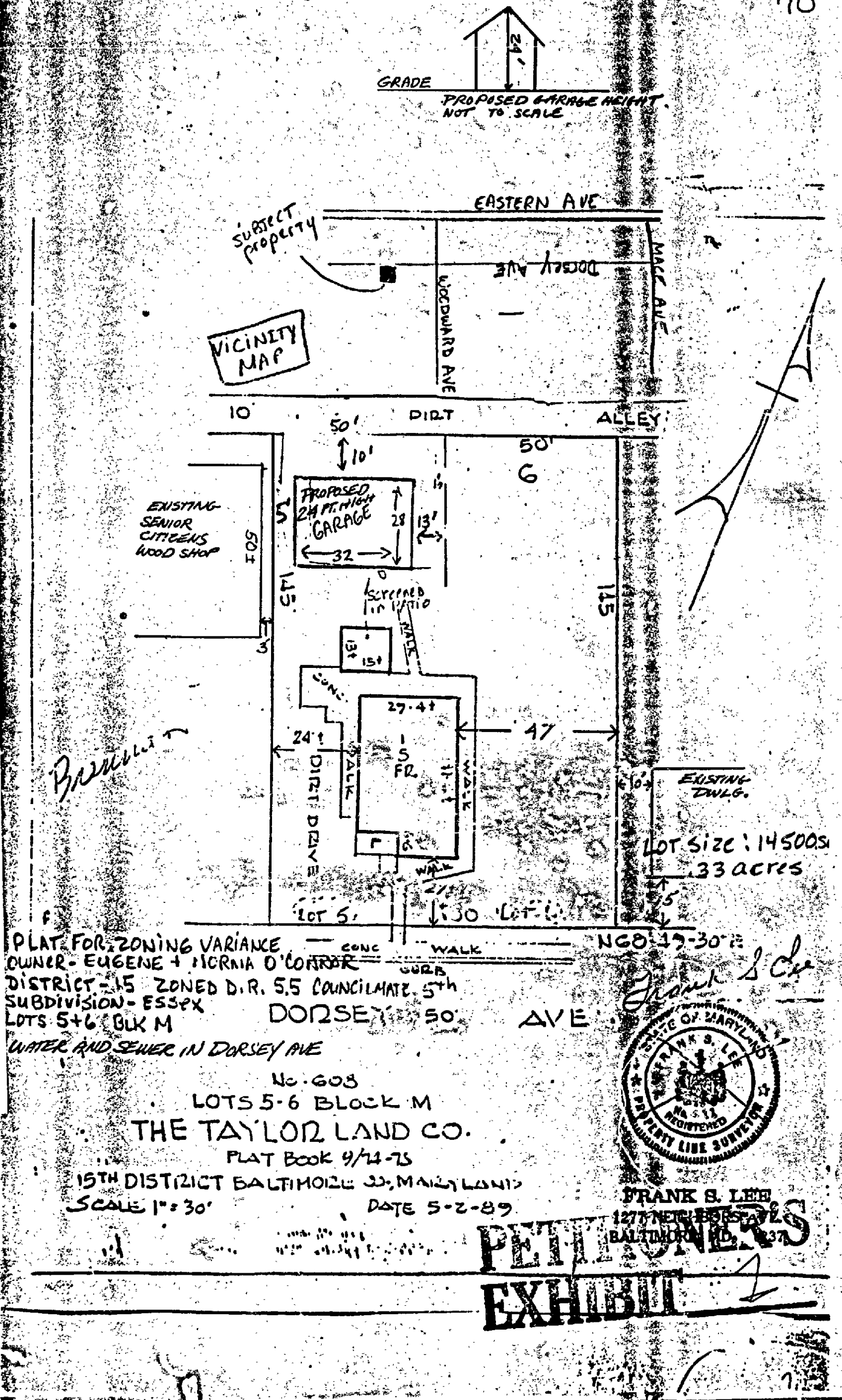
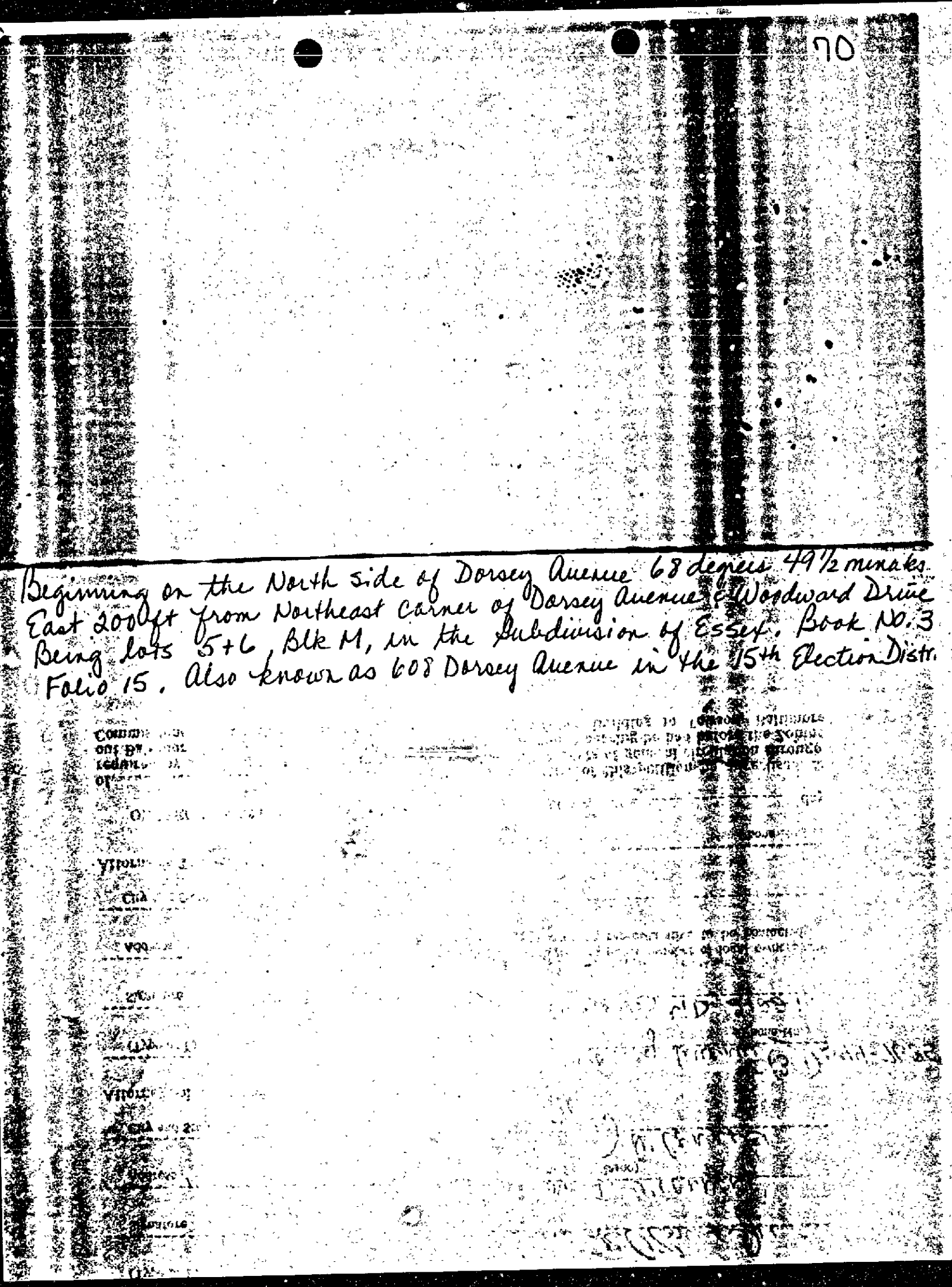
Signature: _____
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Address: _____
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