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IN RE: PETITION FOR ADMIN. VARIANCE \*

NE/S Circle Road, W of the c/l

Ruxton Road

(1813 Circle Road)

9<sup>th</sup> Election District

2<sup>nd</sup> Council District

Gregory G. Heard, et ux Petitioners BEFORE THE

\* ZONING COMMISSIONER

\* OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

Case No. 06-329-A

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### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

This matter comes before the Zoning Commissioner for consideration of a Petition for Administrative Variance filed by the owners of the subject property, Gregory G. Heard, and his wife, Jill C. Heard. The Petitioners request variance relief from Sections 400.1 and 400.3 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.Z.R.) to permit a proposed accessory structure (detached garage) to be located in the front yard in lieu of the required rear yard, with a height of 17 feet in lieu of the maximum allowed 15 feet. In addition, the Petitioners request approval of an existing shed partially located in the side yard in lieu of the required rear yard. The subject property and requested relief are more particularly described on the site plan submitted which was accepted into evidence and marked as Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

The Petition was filed through the administrative variance process, pursuant to Section 32-3-303 of the Baltimore County Code. That Section allows an individual to seek variance relief for an owner-occupied residential property without the need for a public hearing. Under the Code, the property in question is posted for a period of 15 days during which time any property owner residing within 1,000 feet of the property may demand a public hearing for a determination as to the merits of the request. Additionally, the Zoning Commissioner/Deputy Zoning Commissioner can schedule the matter for a public hearing if deemed appropriate. In this regard, William Neill, III and his wife, Henrietta Neill, adjacent property owners, requested that a public hearing be held, and thus the matter was scheduled for a hearing before the undersigned on March 8, 2006.

Appearing at the hearing on behalf of the Petitioners was L. J. Link, Jr., a Board Certified Architect and Land Planning consultant, who prepared the site plan for this property and building elevation drawings of the proposed garage. The issues presented in this case generated significant community interest and a number of individuals who reside in the area appeared in opposition to the request. They included William and Henrietta Neill, Marvin Tenbury, Kimberly Warren, Arthur and Margaret Wheeler, and Nancy Horst, President of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association (RRLRAIA).

On behalf of the Petitioners, Mr. Link presented the site plan and testified regarding the proposal. Testimony disclosed that the subject property is a roughly square-shaped parcel, located on the northeast side of Circle Road, west of Ruxton Road in Ruxton. The property contains a gross area of 0.750 acres (32,670 sq.ft.), more or less, zoned D.R.1, and is improved with a 1½-story dwelling, and a one-story shed. Mr. Link testified that he has experience in designing projects in historic districts and that he was retained by the Petitioners to design a two-car garage that would be in keeping with the character of the existing dwelling and surrounding locale. As evidenced by correspondence contained within the case file, the Petitioners have been working on developing a design plan for over two years. Originally they planned to construct an addition to the house that would feature a garage with a master suite above; however, decided that this would dramatically change the feel of their home and the character of neighborhood. Thus, they decided to construct a detached garage in the front portion of the property, immediately adjacent to an existing private driveway. The garage was designed in keeping with the character of the surrounding locale and with a roof pitch to match that of the existing dwelling. However, in order to proceed as proposed the requested variance relief is necessary.

In support of the request, Mr. Link noted that the southeast portion of the property along Circle Road is steeply sloped and contains a large drainage easement. Moreover, an accessory shed in the western portion of the site prevents development in that area of the property. He argued that strict compliance with the regulation would prevent construction of the garage in any location on the property without the need for variance relief, given the unique configuration

of the property and the site constraints associated therewith. Moreover, he noted the orientation of the dwelling. In this regard, the dwelling sits at an angle on the property such that the rear of the house faces Circle Road.

As noted above, several residents from the surrounding community appeared in opposition to the request. Mr. & Mrs. Neill reside immediately across from the proposed location of the garage and strenuously object to the Petitioners' proposal to locate the garage in the front yard. Ms. Horst on behalf of the RRLRAIA expressed concerns about the increase in impervious surface on the property. Mr. Wheeler, who resides immediately across Circle Road to the southeast of the subject site, expressed concern about the location of the garage, noting that a large, mature tree would have to be removed in order to accommodate the proposed construction.

In response to those concerns, Mr. Link noted that given the topography of the property, the proposed garage will be built into a hill and thus will not be as visible to the neighbors as they perceive it will be. He also indicated that he could shift the garage approximately 10 feet further to the southeast in order to eliminate removal of the large tree. However, this would bring the structure out into the open and more into Mr. & Mrs. Neill's line of sight. Thus, there is no other practical location on the property to site the garage.

After due consideration of the testimony and evidence presented, I am persuaded to grant the requested variance. In this regard, I must consider the request in accordance with the mandate of Cromwell v. Ward, 102 Md. 691 (1995) and Section 307 of the B.C.Z.R. The Court interpreted the regulation to require that two tests be met in order for variance relief to be granted. First, it must be shown that the property is unique in some manner and that this uniqueness drives the need for variance relief. In this instance, the uniqueness of the property is the orientation of the dwelling, which faces the rear of portion of the lot, and the site constraints associated with this particular lot. Secondly, upon the determination that the property is unique, then it must be considered whether compliance with the regulation would cause a practical difficulty upon the property owner and be unnecessarily burdensome. In my opinion, any construction on the subject property would necessitate variance relief, given its unique configuration, the location of existing

improvements and the site constraints associated therewith. Moreover, I find that the proposed garage has been designed to be compatible with the historic character and nature of the surrounding community and that strict compliance with the regulation would result in a practical difficulty and unreasonable hardship upon the Petitioners. Finally, there were no adverse Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments submitted by any County reviewing agency. Thus, I am persuaded that the relief requested is appropriate in this instance and should therefore be granted.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property and public hearing on this Petition held, and for the reasons set forth above, the relief requested shall be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2006 that the Petition for Administrative Variance seeking relief from Sections 400.1 and 400.3 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.Z.R.) to permit a detached accessory structure (garage) to be located in the front yard in lieu of the required rear yard, with a height of 17 feet in lieu of the maximum allowed 15 feet, in accordance with Petitioner's Exhibit 1, be and is hereby GRANTED, subject to the following restrictions:

- 1) The Petitioners may apply for their building permit and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, the Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until the 30-day appeal period from the date of this Order has expired. If an appeal is filed and this Order is reversed, the relief granted herein shall be rescinded.
- 2) The garage shall be limited to uses accessory to the residential use of the property. It shall not be used for commercial or business purposes. Moreover, the Petitioners shall not allow or cause the garage to be converted to a second dwelling unit and/or apartments. There shall be no living quarters contained therein, and no kitchen or bathroom facilities.

3) When applying for any permits, the site plan filed must reference this case and set forth and address the restrictions of this Order.

WJW;bjs

The second of th

WILLIAM JAMSEMAN, III Zoning Commissioner

for Baltimore County



JAMES T. SMITH, JR. County Executive

March 17, 2006

WILLIAM J. WISEMAN III

Zoning Commissioner

J.WISEMAN III

Zoning Commissioner

for Baltimore County

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory G. Heard 1813 Circle Road Ruxton, Maryland 21204

RE: PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE NE/S Circle Road, W of the c/l Ruxton Road (1813 Circle Road) 9<sup>th</sup> Election District — 2<sup>nd</sup> Council District Gregory G. Heard, et ux - Petitioners Case No. 06-329-A

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Heard:

Enclosed please find a copy of the decision rendered in the above-captioned matter. The Petition for Administrative Variance has been granted, 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 the Department of Permits and Development Management office at 887-3391.

WJW:bjs

Mr. L. J. Link, Jr., 2201 Old Court Road, Baltimore, Md. 21208
Mr. & Mrs. William Neill, III, 1809 Circle Road, Ruxton, Md. 21204
Mr. & Mrs. Margaret Wheeler, 1812 Circle Road, Ruxton, Md. 21204
Ms. Nancy Horst, RRLRAIA, P.O. Box 204, Riderwood, Md. 21139
Ms. Kimberly Warren, 405 Meadowridge Road, Baltimore, Md. 21204
Mr. Marvin Tenbury, 12206 Boxer Hill Road, Cockeysville, Md. 21030
People's Counsel; Case File



# Petition for Administrative Variance

to the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County

for the property located at 1813 will 24.	
which is presently zoned D2.1	

owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimor	partment of Permits and Development Management. The undersigned, legal re County and which is described in the description and plat attached hereto and
made a part hereof, hereby petition for a V	40) I Oh D COO > DO DORMIT
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of the required rear yas	L and 15 fti-height, and to approve an existing
shed he located in the	side/rear yards in lieu of the required
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of the zoning regulations of Baltimore Court of this petition form	nty, to the zoning law of Baltimore County, for the reasons indicated on the back
Property is to be posted and advertised as i, or we, agree to pay expenses of above Varia regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County	prescribed by the zoning regulations.  nce, advertising, posting, etc. and further agree to and are to be bounded by the zoning adopted pursuant to the zoning law for Baltimore County.
o vivia and via and vi	
	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/Lessee:	Legal Owner(s):
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City	Zip Code Signature
Attorney For Petitioner:	Address Telephone No
	Agrees Telephone No
Name - Type or Print	City State Zip Code
Signature	Representative to be Contacted:
	L. I. Link
≧ Company	Name Of A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
Address	Telephone No Address Telephone No
State	Zip Code City V.a. 4(200).  Zip Code City
Public Hearing having been termally demanded that it day of that it gylations of Baltimore County and that the property to	and/or found to be required, it is ordered by the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, he subject matter of this petition be set for a public hearing, advertised as required by the zoning be reposted.
AN COMPANY	
上のなり	Zoneig Commissioner of Baltenoie Courty
E CASE NO	Reviewed By 13/4 Date 1/4/04
REV 10/25/01	Estimated Posting Date ///// 66

# Affidavit in Support of Administrative Variance

The undersigned hereby affirms under the penalties of perjury to the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, as follows: That the information herein given is within the personal knowledge of the Affiant(s) and that Affiant(s) is/are competent to testify thereto in the event that a public hearing is scheduled in the future with regard thereto.

That the Affiant(s) does/do presently reside at 1913 Curson (2005)

That the Affiant(s) does/do presently reside at	13 CMC 10000.
Addre	State Zip Code
Variance at the above address (indicate hardship or pr	are the facts upon which I/we base the request for an Administrative ractical difficulty):
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advertising fee and may be required to provide addition	demand is filed, Affiant(s) will be required to pay a reposting and hal information.
Signature	Signature
Gregory Gitteatrd  Name - Type of Print	Name - Type or Print
	, ; 
STATE OF MARYLAND, COUNTY OF BALTIMORE,  I HEREBY CERTIFY, this day of Maryland, in and for the County aforesaid, personal	2005, before me, a Notary Public of the State
the Affiant(s) herein, personally known or satisfactorily	* . <u>*</u>
AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal	
	Notary Public
LAWRENCE JOSEPH LINK, JR NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND	My Commission Expires

**Baltimore County** 

My Commission Expires May 1, 2009

REV 10/25/01

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Jax AC Nº. 090747.1440.

L.J.Link Jr., Inc. Architect Box 727 Rockland Grist Mill Brooklandville, Md. 21022 410. 337. 9528 fac 410. 369, 6601

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RECEIVED

FEB 13 2006

Per O

# FORMAL DEMAND FOR HEARING

<u></u>
Address: 1813 CIRCLE RD.
Petitioner(s): HEARD
TO THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY:
IWe Mr. + Mrs. William Neill Name - Type or Print
( ) Legal Owner OR ( ) Resident of
1809 CIRCLE RD. Address
$\frac{10x+60}{\text{City}} \qquad \frac{110}{\text{State}} \qquad \frac{21204}{\text{Zip Code}}$
<u>+10-823.4827</u>
Telephone Number
which is leasted at the second
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property, which is the subject of the above petition, do hereby formally demand that a public hearing be set in this matter.  ATTACHED IS THE REQUIRED PROCESSING FEE FOR THIS
formally demand that a public hearing be set in this matter.  ATTACHED IS THE REQUIRED PROCESSING FEE FOR THIS  DEMAND.  Signature

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## MULLE OF MARKE HEATING

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows: Case: #06-329-A

1813 Circle Road

East side of Circle Road, 3600 Feet west Lake Roland Drive

9th Election District — 2nd Councilmanic District

Legal Owner(s): Jill C. and Gregory Heard

Variance: to permit a proposed garage be located in the front yard with a height of 17 feet in lieu of the required rear yard and 15 foot height and to approve an existing shed to be located in the side/rear yard in lieu of the

required rear yard. Hearing: Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Bosley Avenue, Towson 21294.

WILLIAM J. WISEMAN, III

Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County

NOTES: (1) Hearings are Handicapped Accessible; for special accommodations Please Contact the Zoning Commissioner's Office at (410) 887-3868.

(2) For information concerning the File and/or Hearing, Contact the Zoning Review Office at (410) 887-3391. 85088 JT 2/682 Feb. 21

## CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

223,2006
THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisement was published
n the following weekly newspaper published in Baltimore County, Md.,
once in each ofsuccessive weeks, the first publication appearing
m <u>221</u> ,2006.
The Jeffersonian
☐ Arbutus Times
☐ Catonsville Times
☐ Towson Times
☐ Owings Mills Times
☐ NE Booster/Reporter
☐ North County News
S. Wilkings-

LEGAL ADVERTISING

## CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

RE: Case No: 06-329-4

tioner Developer: Jill C GREGORY HEARD
Of Hearing/Closing: 3/8/06
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21, 2006 n, Day, Year)
ncerely,  Mattagle 2/21/00  The of sign Poster and Date)
<u> Iartin Ogle</u>
sign Poster alix Court

im000584 (1152x864x24b jpeg)



29 active agle 2/21/06

## CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

RE: Case No: 06 -329-4

	Petitioner Developer: Inc &  GREGOLI HEARD
	Date Of Hearing/Closing: 2/13/06
Baltimore County Department of Permits and Development Mana County Office Building, Room 111 West Chesapeake Avenue	agement
Attention:	
Ladies and Gentlemen:	
sign(s) required by law were pos	e penalties of perjury that the necessary sted conspicuously on the property  3 CIRCLE ZOAD
This sign(s) were posted on	Month, Day, Year)
	Sincerely,  (Signature of sign Poster and Date)
	Martin Ogle Sign Poster  16 Salix Court
	Address (443-629 3411)

im000570 (1152x864x24b jpeg)



matter ale 1/29/06

TO:

PATUXENT PUBLISHING COMPANY

Tuesday, February 21, 2006 Issue - Jeffersonian

Please forward billing to:

L. J. Link, Jr. (410-337-9528)

2201 Old Court Road Baltimore, MD 21208

#### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 06-329-A

1813 Circle Road

East side of Circle Road, 3600 Feet west Lake Roland Drive

9th Election District—2nd Councilmanic District

Legal Owners: Jill C. and Gregory Heard

Variance to permit a proposed garage be located in the front yard with a height of 17 feet in lieu of the required rear yard and 15 foot height and to approve an existing shed to be located in the side/rear yard in lieu of the required rear yard.

Hearing: Wednesday, March 8, 2006 @ 11:00 a.m., Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Bosley Avenue, Towson 21204.

WILLIAM J. WISEMAN, III

ZONING COMMISSIONER FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

NOTES: (1) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ZONING COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AT 410-887-3868.

> (2) FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THE ZONING REVIEW OFFICE AT 410-887-3391.

## Department of Permits and Development Management

Director's Office County Office Building 111 W Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204 Tel: 410-887-3353 • Fax. 410-887-5708



## Baltimore County

James T Smith, Jr, County Executive
Timothy M Kotroco, Director

February 14, 2006

#### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 06-329-A

1813 Circle Road
East side of Circle Road, 3600 Feet west Lake Roland Drive
9th Election District— 2nd Councilmanic District
Legal Owners: Jill C. and Gregory Heard

Variance to permit a proposed garage be located in the front yard with a height of 17 feet in lieu of the required rear yard and 15 foot height and to approve an existing shed to be located in the side/rear yard in lieu of the required rear yard.

Hearing: Wednesday, March 8, 2006 @ 11:00 a.m., Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Bosley Avenue, Towson 21204.

Timothy Kotroco Director

TK: raj

C: Jill C. & Gregory Heard, 1813 Circle Road, Ruxton, MD 21204 L. J. Link, Jr., 2201 Old Court Road, Baltimore, MD 21208 Henrietta & William Neill, III, 1809 Circle Road, Towson, MD 21204 Office of People's Counsel

- NOTES: (1) THE PETITIONERS MUST HAVE THE ZONING NOTICE SIGN POSTED BY AN APPROVED POSTER ON THE PROPERTY BY TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2006.
  - (2) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE CALL THE ZONING COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AT 410-887-3868.
  - (3) FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THE ZONING REVIEW OFFICE AT 410-887-3391.

# DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT ZONING REVIEW

# ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The <u>Baltimore County Zoning Regulations</u> (BCZR) require that notice be given to the general public/neighboring property owners relative to property which is the subject of an upcoming zoning hearing. For those petitions which require a public hearing, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on the property (responsibility of the petitioner) and placement of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County, both at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing.

Zoning Review will ensure that the legal requirements for advertising are satisfied. However, the petitioner is responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. The newspaper will bill the person listed below for the advertising. This advertising is due upon receipt and should be remitted directly to the newspaper.

OPINIONS MAY NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL ALL ADVERTISING COSTS ARE PAID.

For Newspaper Advertising:
Item Number or Case Number: 06 - 329- A
Petitioner: Jill & Gregon Heard.
Address or Location: 1813 (mel 121. 21203.
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:  Name:
Address: 2201. Old. Court Rd. Balto. Md. 21208.
Telephone Number: 410-337-9528

## ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE INFORMATION SHEET AND DATES

Case Number 06	329	-A	Address	1813	Circle	RD.	
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# Department of Permits and Development Management

Development Processing County Office Building 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204



## **Baltimore County**

James T Smith, Jr, County Executive Timothy M Kotroco, Director

January 30, 2006

Gregory Heard Jill C. Heard 1813 Circle Road Ruxton, Maryland 21204

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heard:

RE: Case Number: 06-329-A, 1813 Circle Road

The above referenced petition was accepted for processing by the Bureau of Zoning Review, Department of Permits and Development Management (PDM) on January 5, 2006.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC), which consists of representatives from several approval agencies, has reviewed the plans that were submitted with your petition. All comments submitted thus far from the members of the ZAC are attached. These comments are not intended to indicate the appropriateness of the zoning action requested, but to ensure that all parties (zoning commissioner, attorney, petitioner, etc.) are made aware of plans or problems with regard to the proposed improvements that may have a bearing on this case. All comments will be placed in the permanent case file.

If you need further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the commenting agency.

Very truly yours, U. Call Rillall D

W. Carl Richards, Jr. Supervisor, Zoning Review

WCR: clb

Enclosures

c: People's Counsel LJ Link, Jr. 2201 Old Court Road Baltimore 21208



Visit the County's Website at www.baltimorecountyonline.info



Office of the Fire Marshal 700 East Joppa Road Towson, Maryland 21286-5500 410-887-4880

County Office Building, Room 111 Mail Stop #1105 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204

JANUARY 20,2006

ATTENTION: Zoning Review planners

Distribution Meeting of: January 16,2006

Item

No.:

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334,

335

1. The Fire Marshal's Office has no comments a: this time.

Acting Lt. David Heath Fire Marshal's Office (0)410-887-4381 MS-1102F

cc: File

### BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Timothy M. Kotroco, Director

**DATE:** January 31, 2006

Department of Permits & Development

Management

FROM:

Dennis A. Kennedy, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

For January 23, 2006

Item Nos. 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, and 335

The Bureau of Development Plans Review has reviewed the subject zoning items, and we have no comments.

DAK:CEN:clw cc: File ZAC-NO COMMENTS-01312006 doc

## BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

### INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

**DATE:** January 31, 2006

TO:

Timothy M. Kotroco, Director

Department of Permits and Development Management

FROM:

Arnold F. 'Pat' Keller, III

Director, Office of Planning

SUBJECT: Zoning Advisory Petition(s): Case(s) 6-329- Administrative Variance

The Office of Planning has reviewed the above referenced case(s) and has no comments to offer.

For further questions or additional information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Diana Itter in the Office of Planning at 410-887-3480.

Prepared By

**Division Chief:** 

CM/LL



Robert L. Flanagan, Secretary Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator

Maryland Department of Transportation

Date: 1.17.276

Iem No.

RE:

Ms. Kristen Matthews
Baltimore County Office of
Permits and Development Management
County Office Building, Room 109
Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear. Ms. Matthews:

This office has reviewed the referenced item and we have no objection to approval as it does not access a State roadway and is not affected by any State Highway Administration projects.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Larry Gredlein at 410-545-5606 or by E-mail at (lgredlein@sha.state.md.us).

Very truly yours,

Steven D. Foster, Chief

1. 1. Doell

Engineering Access Permits Division

# Department of Permits and Development Management

Development Processing County Office Building 111 W' Chesapeake Avenue Towson. Maryland 21204



## **Baltimore County**

James T Smith, Jr, County Executive Timothy M Kotroco, Director

February 14, 2006

Gregory Heard Jill C. Heard 1813 Circle Road Ruxton, Maryland 21204

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heard:

RE: Demand for Public Hearing, Administrative Variance, Case Number: 06-329-A

The purpose of this letter is to officially notify you that your administrative posting procedure has been superceded by a timely public hearing demand or the zoning commissioner is requiring a public hearing concerning the above proposed administrative procedure.

As soon as the hearing has been scheduled, you will receive a notice of public hearing indicating the date, time and location of the hearing. This notice will also contain the date that the sign must be reposted with the hearing information.

The property must be reposted with the hearing date, time and location. This notification will be published in the Jeffersonian and you will be billed directly by Patuxent Publishing for this.

If you need any further explanation or additional information, please feel free to contact Bruno Ruditis at 410-887-3391.

Very truly yours,

W. Carl Richards Jr.

W. Carl Richards, Jr. Supervisor Zoning Review

WCR:amf

C: People's Counsel

LJ Link, Jr. 2201 Old Court Road Baltimore 21208



Visit the County's Website at www baltimorecountyonline info

### Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County - Towson, Maryland

Opposition to Request for Variance Reference: Case Number 06-329-A

Address: 1813 Circle Road - Ruxton, Maryland 21204

**Owner: Gregory & Jill Heard** 

We, the undersigned, long time residents of Circle Road, in close proximity to the subject property, find it necessary to strongly oppose the requested variance by Mr. & Mrs. Heard to build a 30 x 25 foot 2-car garage in the front yard of the DR-! zoned small-sized lot (0.75 acres).

Zoning Article 4, Section 400.1 states that accessory buildings in residence zones, shall be located only in the rear yard.

Circle Road is a unique residential area known for its historically unspoiled character. The natural beauty of this area with old growth trees has made it an extremely desirable location. The existing zoning restrictions have made it possible for properties to retain their rural atmosphere and their monetary value.

February 13,2006

Hurutta Frank Neell - 1809 Circle Rd.

MAR I TON

Reference: Case Number 06-329-A

Address: 1813 Circle Road - Ruxton, Maryland 21204

Owner: Gregory & Jill Heard

1809 Circle Road Ruxton, Maryland 21204 March 15, 2006

Baltimore County Zoning Commissioner's Office 401 Bosley Avenue, Room 405 Towson, Maryland 21204 Attn: William J. Wiseman, III

Dear Mr. Wiseman:

Our neighborhood association has long sought to retain the historically unspoiled nature of Ruxton, Riderwood, and other Lake Roland areas in the face of intensifying development. Our reason for protesting the Heard's request for three changes in zoning is our effort to preserve the ever-diminishing open space in our neighborhood. If we succeed in convincing you to reject the request for variances, not only will we benefit but the entire neighborhood will benefit.

The Heard's request is to erect an oversized double garage with an adjacent six-foot porch in the front yard of their undersized (3/4 acre) DR-1 lot. The six families who occupied the house prior to the Heards did not have a hardship without a garage. The Heards should have realized before they purchased the home that they could not put the garage in the rear because of the septic system and steep grade and zoning prohibits a garage in the front of the house. We should note that while the original plat submitted by the Heards indicated the property was served by a sewer, all properties in our area are on septic systems.

We want to reemphasize key issues we tried to bring out at the hearing as noted below:

Aesthetics and Property Value - The garage would be directly in our view from our living room window across the Tate's driveway. The garage not only impacts the aesthetics of our view but we are certain it will negatively impact the value of our property. The enclosed pictures may be helpful but cannot fully show the significant impact of the large garage and added macadam.

Environment – To build the garage, at least one magnificent very large, very old oak tree will be destroyed. The headwaters of the Roland Run Watershed originates on their little piece of land and is directly affected by the water run off of their sloping lot. The added hard surface entrance to the garage off the existing enormous driveway and the garage itself will add in excess of an estimated 2,300 square feet of impervious surface, further adding to runoff problems.

Shed Reclassification Variance Request – We wondered about the rationale for the requested reclassification of the shed's location. On the surface it seems relatively insignificant. However, we believe one possibility is that if the reclassification is approved it could imply that the requested location of the garage would then be on the side of the house rather than the front and then no variance would even be required when applying for a building permit Therefore, we request that you not approve this variance request.

Win or lose, we sincerely believe our opposition to the Heard's variance requests is the right thing to do for us and our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Stuart Neill

William Neill III

Reperence Case No.# 06. 329-A MRS. WILLIAM NEILL III 1809 CIRCLE ROAD RUXTON, MARYLAND 21204 epril 20,20% Dealer 2 lever. Weseman We wish to receen a recondideration of Ville reclience of March 20 regarding bariace telease on the aconte acaepieal Pregret of Mes & 1000 Gregory Heard at 1813 Cércle Rd., Russon. We would like to take istue with a unmer of state. ments regarding the homeowners need for a veriance and their hærdship without a variance. We tried to point one as The hearing and en der letters to egon that the petiteoner reasons for variance were ours exactly. Lor objection. The Heards Should have purchased a proporty Jærage en boeigkt one with The practical difficulties with property were well Jewown oned six previous avnées en our time have not had undasonable tradskip without a garage. We feel that grantery the variouse eine

We feel that granting the various seine with the seid with of the seid sperit weed with of the seid sperit will certainly withing the seid sperit will certainly wing in the seid when we have we live "

MRS. WILLIAM NEILL III
1809 CIRCLE ROAD
RUXTON, MARYLAND 21204

Sadly, we do feel that bariances were greated for flucky ressand there hope you will reconsider them.

We are available to discuss the matter hay phone or the person.

Scicerely, Vecertete 5 Neele William Nill in



May 9, 2006

JAMES T. SMITH, JR.

County Executive Mr. & Mrs. William Neill, III 1809 Circle Road Ruxton, Maryland 21204

WILLIAM J. WISEMAN III Zoning Commissioner

PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE RE:

NE/S Circle Road, W of the c/l Ruxton Road

(1813 Circle Road)

9<sup>th</sup> Election District – 2<sup>nd</sup> Council District Gregory G. Heard, et ux - Petitioners

Case No. 06-329-A

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Neill:

In response to your letter of April 20, 2006 concerning the above-captioned matter, the following comments are offered.

Your letter has been accepted as a Motion for Reconsideration of the decision rendered by my Opinion and Ordered dated March 20, 2006. I have considered the representations made in your letter and understand your position. The answer simply rests upon the premise or question as to whether there is a public interest which justifies a serious restriction on the rights of the referenced property owners to the reasonable use of their property. I considered the differing views presented in this case. Albeit, while the facts rendered the decision a difficult one to make, requiring a site visit, there is simply nothing new presented here to justify a reconsideration of the zoning relief granted. The Petitioners purchase of the property, knowing that a variance from the zoning regulations would be required in order to build a garage, does not create a self-created hardship. See Roeser v. Anne Arundel County 368 Md. 294 (2002). Additionally, a property owner has a common law right to use his property in a manner so as to realize its highest and best use. Aspen Hill Venture v. Montgomery County Council 265 Md. 303 (1972). A garage is a reasonable accessory use to a residence.

Therefore, your Motion for Reconsideration is respectfully denied. This letter shall be considered an Order denying same and any appeal from this decision must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date hereof. I am sorry I could not respond more favorably.

Very truly yours

for Baltimore County

WJW:dlw

OH FILING

ALCEIVED F

Mr. L. J. Link, Jr., 2201 Old Court Road, Baltimore, Md. 21208 Mr. & Mrs. Margaret Wheeler, 1812 Circle Road, Ruxton, Md. 21204 Ms. Nancy Horst, RRLRAIA, P.O. Box 204, Riderwood, Md. 21139 Ms. Kimberly Warren, 405 Meadowridge Road, Baltimore, Md. 21204

Mr Marvin Tenbury, 12206 Boxer Hill Road, Cockeysville, Md. 21030

People's Counsel, Case Pile

Mr.W. Wizeman Lower Commission o Good Warmen. . With regards the above mentioned case. I wish to restate un cleants position as to his desine to construit à détached gaverge in the trait yourd of his property. As stated, i) the propered goroge represents an upværent to the house & grounds. 2) the addition of a garage functionally meets the needs of my client, 3) the side restricts Tocation of the govorge arento the food yourd due to environe Lal conscilerations & 1) my clint wishes to exercise his property vigets to improve his tropenty in a susitive mamer as not to be a detrument testure o blow consideration with regards

L.J.Link Jr., Inc. Architect Box 727 Rockland Grist Mill Brooklandville, Md. 21022 410. 337. 9528 fac 410. 369, 6601

# L.J. LINK JR. ARCHITECT

### (SIGN IN SHEETS – OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN) - (RECORDER)

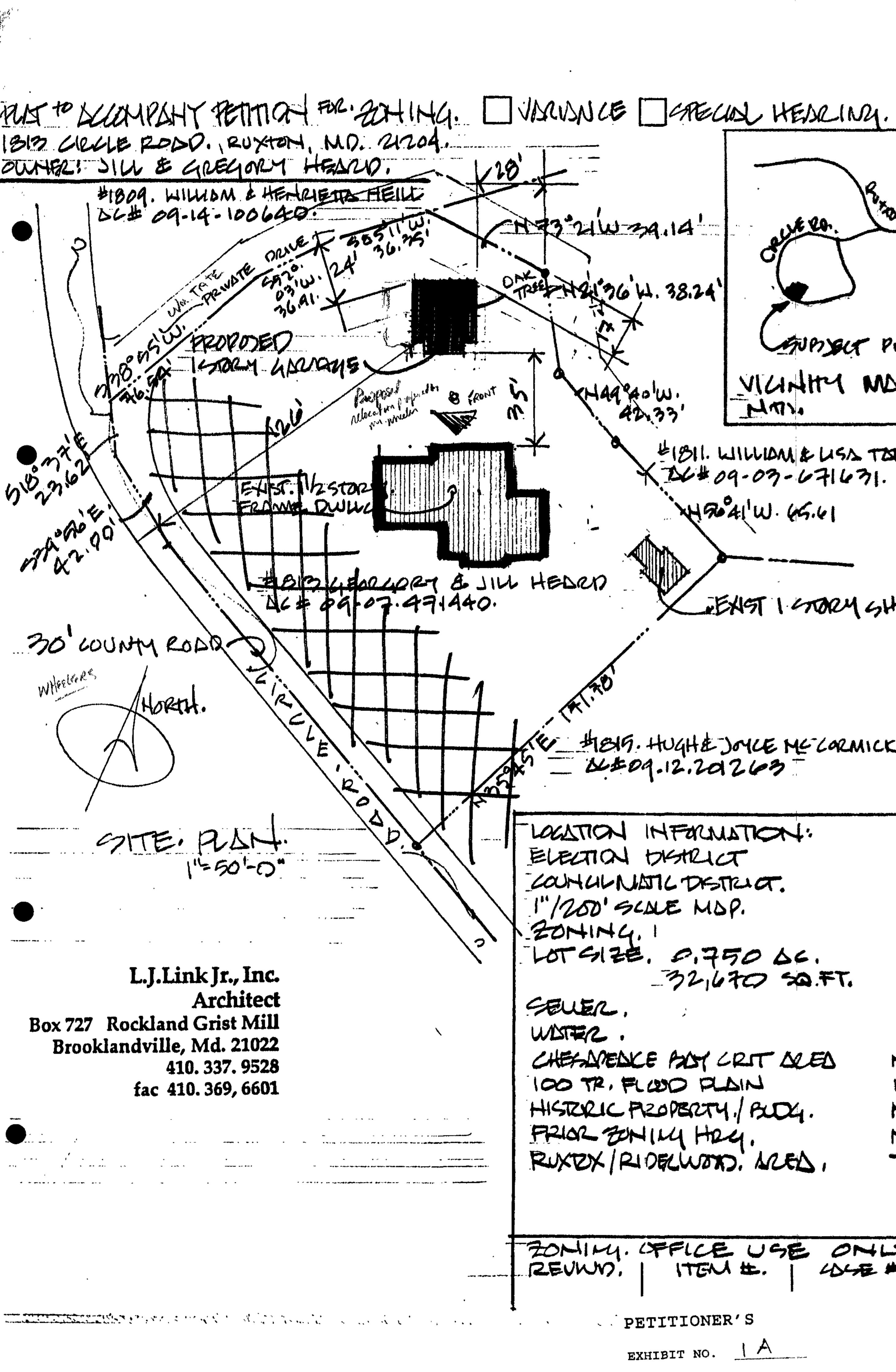
Good Morning – My name is Bill Wiseman, I am the Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County and I've been assigned to hear your case pursuant to Art. 32 of the Baltimore County Code. THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE BEING RECORDED

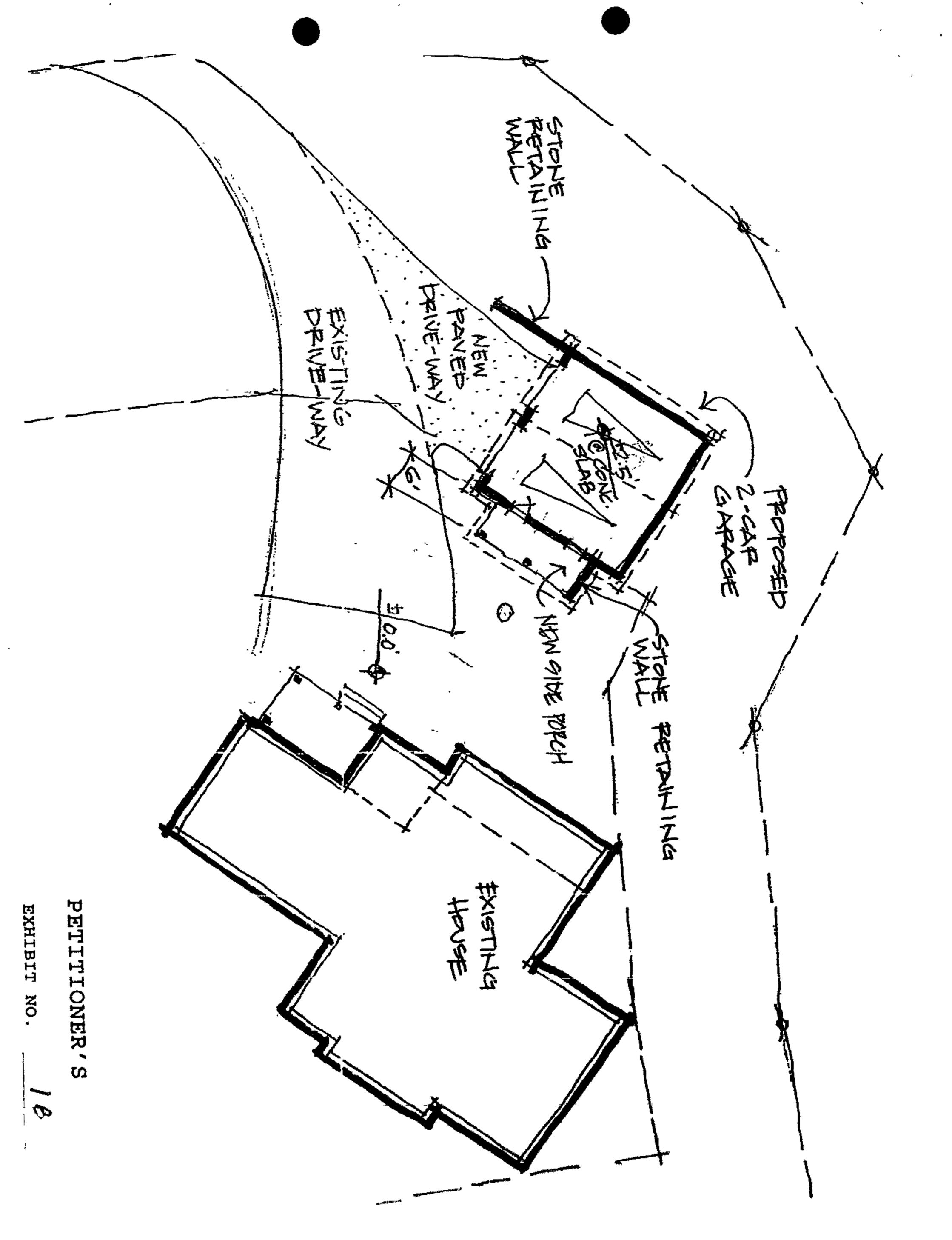
Code. THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE BEING REC	
FOR THE RECORD, THIS IS A PUBLIC HEARING	G ON case number 06-329-A
This is a Petition for Var	iance
	cial Hearing
	cial Exception
filed by JILL & GREGORY HEARD	for property located at
filed by JILL & GREGORY HEARD Spe- 1813 CIRCLE RD	and zoned DR.
"Read language from file"	
The Code requires that notice of today's hearings be parties by the posting of a sign on the property for at was posted $2 - 21 - 06$ by $MAG$	least 15 days prior to the hearing. The sign
an approved sign poster and shows the time, date, pla	ce and subject matter of the hearing.
The Code further requires that notice be placed in a necessary case the Jeffersonian, and the file contains the requisi	ewspaper of general circulation, in this te certification of publication.
I THEREFORE FIND THAT THE POSTING AN BEEN SATISFIED	D NOTICE REQUIREMENTS HAVE
IF ATTORNEYS PRESENT, HAVE THEM IDEN THERE ARE ANY PRELIMINARY MATTERS	TIFY THEMSELVES; ASK IF
LOOK AROUND ROOM – AND ASK – IS ANYO OPPOSITION TO THE REQUEST?	NE HERE APPEARING IN
NO PROTESTANTS: For the record, no one is here , since there is no incompand evidence.  INFORMAL PROFFER of the testimony and evidence.	no opposition, if you want to make AN
wareness as a sever a more of the secretarity and eviden	mee, you re welcome to do so.
IF PROTESTANTS: This is your opportunity to con	me forward and have a scat at the table.
You will be able to see and hear better, so come forward	
to sign so that we can mail you a copy of the decision	The state of the s

NANCY HORST - Executive DIRECTOR Russian Ridenwood - OK 1809 aide RD - WILLIAM & HENRIEHA NEILL - OPPOSE

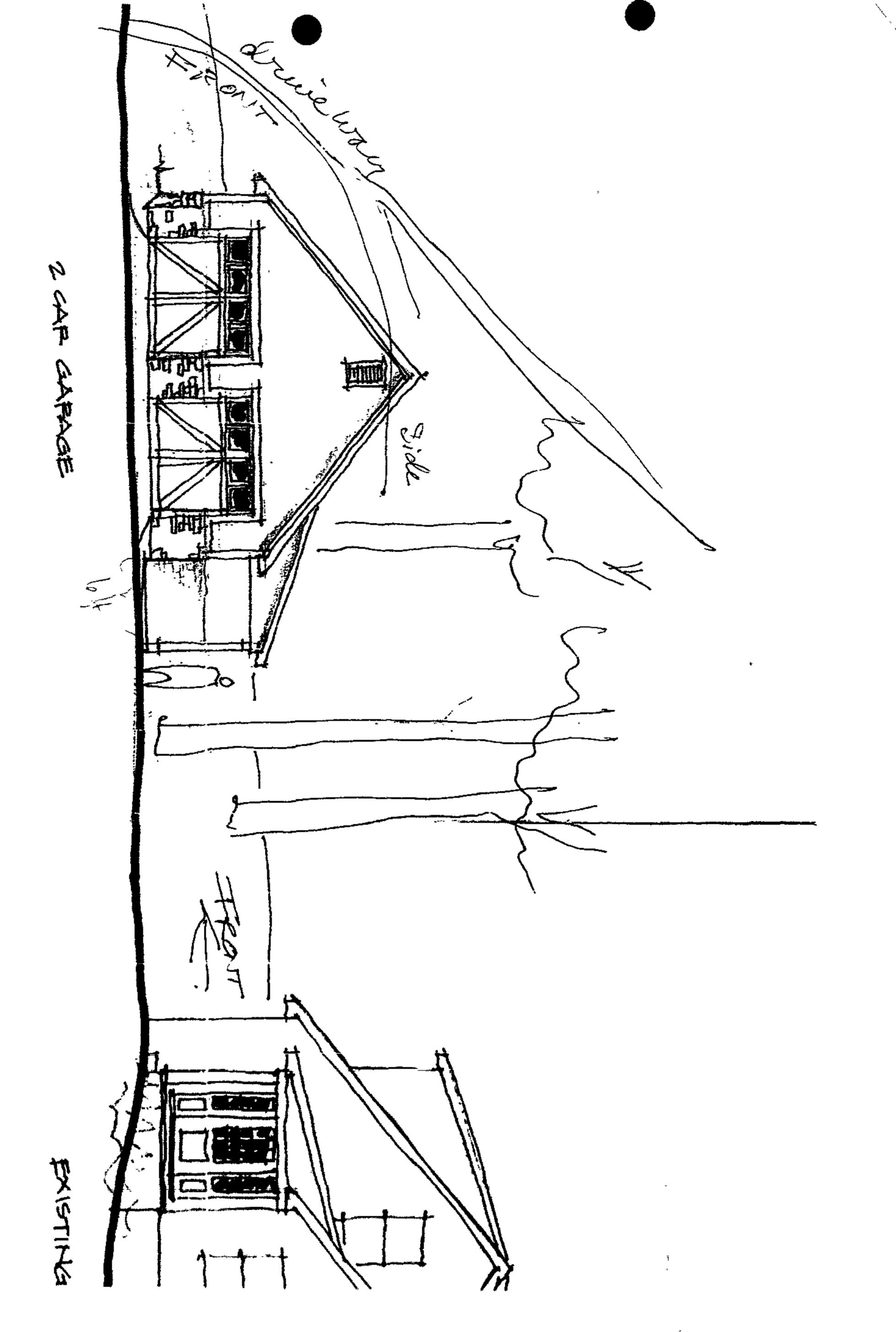
## **EXPLAIN PROCESS:**

First the owner of the property will have an opportunity to present testimony and evidence regarding the request for the property at
Listen carefully, if you have any questions that you want to ask of any witness who testifies, I'll give you an opportunity to do so.
Once Petitioner is finished putting forward their testimony, and you've had an opportunity to ask questions, you will be given an opportunity to present testimony and evidence for me to consider in this request. I'll tell you when it's appropriate to ask questions and when it's appropriate to testify – help you along as we proceed.
PRESENT CASE
SWEAR WITNESS – NAME AND ADDRESS – HAVE A SEAT
All right Mr./Ms, please proceed with your case:
TO PROTESTANTS: Do you have any questions about the testimony that Mr./Ms.  just gave? I don't want to hear any testimony from you at this point, but if you would like to ask him/her any questions go ahead.
CLOSE OF PETIONERS CASE: This is your opportunity to tell me why you might be opposed to this Where do you live? How long have you lived there? What is it about the that bothers you/or what would you like to tell me about this case.
CONCLUSION: ALRIGHT – THANK YOU. THIS WILL CONCLUDE THE MATTER. THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING
I'm not prepared to make a decision here and now.
I want some time to think about the evidence presented - might want to look at the property
Hopefully, within a few weeks, I'll issue a written decision in the case
If you do not like my decision, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO APPEAL TO THE Board of Appeals. This must be done within 30 days from date of my Order.





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3/8 - @ 11:00 AM 3/8 06-329 A

Dill.

Endosedfind support letters

e wails from. Renton (Riderwood
Arroz. in support It the vanzanice
on 1813 Civile Road.

Hearts.

Lawrey.

L.J.Link Jr., Inc. Architect Box 727 Rockland Grist Mill Brooklandville, Md. 21022 410. 337. 9528 fac 410. 369, 6601

# . Department of Permits and Development Management

Director's Office
County Office Building
111 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
Tel: 410-887-3353 • Fax: 410-887-5708



## **Baltimore County**

James T Smith, Jr, County Executive Timothy M. Kotroco, Director

February 14, 2006

### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 06-329-A

1813 Circle Road
East side of Circle Road, 3600 Feet west Lake Roland Drive
9th Election District— 2nd Councilmanic District
Legal Owners: Jill C. and Gregory Heard

Variance to permit a proposed garage be located in the front yard with a height of 17 feet in lieu of the required rear yard and 15 foot height and to approve an existing shed to be located in the side/rear yard in lieu of the required rear yard.

Hearing: Wednesday, March 8, 2006 @ 11:00 a.m., Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Bosley Avenue, Towson 21204.

Timothy Kotroco Director

TK: raj

C: Jill C. & Gregory Heard, 1813 Circle Road, Ruxton, MD 21204

L. J. Link, Jr., 2201 Old Court Road, Baltimore, MD 21208

Henrietta & William Neill, III, 1809 Circle Road, Towson, MD 21204

Office of People's Counsel

- NOTES: (1) THE PETITIONERS MUST HAVE THE ZONING NOTICE SIGN POSTED BY AN APPROVED POSTER ON THE PROPERTY BY TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2006.
  - (2) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE CALL THE ZONING COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AT 410-887-3868.
  - (3) FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THE ZONING REVIEW OFFICE AT 410-887-3391.

# Greg Heard

From:

Jill Heard [Jheard@sheltergrp.com]

Sent:

Tuesday, January 31, 2006 2:01 PM

To: Cc: HOME Greg Heard

Subject:

FW: Administrative Variance - 1813 circle road

For the files

Jill Heard
Development Associate
410.385.8404
jheard@sheltergrp.com

----Original Message----

From: ruxrider [mailto:ruxrider@bcpl.net] Sent: Monday, January 23, 2006 12:10 PM

To: Jill Heard

Subject: RE: Administrative Variance - 1813 circle road

Jill - You're quite welcome. My husband and I walked by your house over the weekend, and we can see why you need to put the garage in the 'front' yard.

Love what you're doing with your house!

Nancy W. Horst

Nancy Worden Horst Executive Director RRLRAIA 410/494-7757

>===== Original Message From "Jill Heard" <Jheard@sheltergrp.com> ===== >H1 Nancy -

>Just wanted to thank you for the weekend hold on the email/postcard >notice. For the direct neighbors that we were not able to speak with, >we left them a note with a brief description of our project with the >elevation drawings attached.

> > It was nice speaking with you - please don't hesitate to call if you > have any other questions.

>Jill >

>Jill Heard

>Development Associate

>410.385.8404

>jheard@sheltergrp.com

MAR U 2006

1048

William J. Wiseman, III

Marak 2, 2006

Opposition to Request for Variance Reference: Case Number 06-329-A

Address: 1813 Circle Road - Ruxton, Maryland 21204

**Owner: Gregory & Jill Heard** 

We are long time residents of Circle Road, living adjacent to the subject property, find it necessary to strongly oppose the requested variance by Mr. & Mrs. Heard to construct an oversized 2-car garage  $30 \times 26 \times 17$  feet high with a porch in the front yard of the DR-! zoned undersized lot (0.75 acres).

We believe the regulation was set forth to protect neighbors from construction that would adversely impact the desirability of their homes and believe the restriction should apply in this case.

Circle Road is a unique residential area known for its historically unspoiled character. The natural beauty of this area with old growth trees has made it an extremely desirable location. The existing zoning restrictions have made it possible for properties to retain their rural atmosphere and their monetary value.

We are concerned that zoning approval of the requested variance will set a precedent for overgrowth.

William Well in House Stars Needle

1809 Circle Road Ruxton, Maryland 21204 March 2, 2006

Baltimore County
Zoning Commissioner's Office
401 Bosley Avenue, Room 405
Towson, Maryland 21204
Attn: William J. Wiseman, III

Refrence Case # 06-329-A

Dear Mr. Wiseman:

We want to give you a short history of the once small home at 1813 Circle Road. At one time the little house was home for the farmer on the premises of the home now belonging to Mr. & Mrs. Tate (1811) at the top of the driveway shown on the old map. Over the years the property was sold and divided into smaller plots. The asparagus fields are gone and now Circle Road has perhaps some fifty residences.

The 1813 lot with the little house is 0.75 acres, sold off long before there were zoning specifications. The house has changed owners six times in the many years we have lived on Circle Road. The house has been enlarged on both ends, front, and back. The present owners, the Heards, are in the process of closing in the front porch facing our house (across the Tate's driveway). They have closed off the front doorway and moved the door 90 degrees to face Circle Road. We wonder if they are requesting the variance for the existing shed behind the house to be reclassified "in the side/rear" as they perhaps plan to plead hardship regarding the location of the garage. Mr. Heard's schematic drawing shows the house facing Circle Road. Turning the front door does not turn the house – the front of the house still faces our house.

It would have been wise and considerate, it seems to us, if Mr. Heard had asked for the variance before he incurred considerable expense with an architect. He has advised us that at least one of the large oaks on the front lawn will be cut down much to our distress. Springs and surface water problems have always plagued their property. The macadam needed for entrance to the garage will increase the already large driveway plus the garage itself will result in an estimated 2,000 square feet of additional impervious surface causing even more runoff.

We hope the Zoning Board will deny the variance and help preserve the distinct character of our little part of the world.

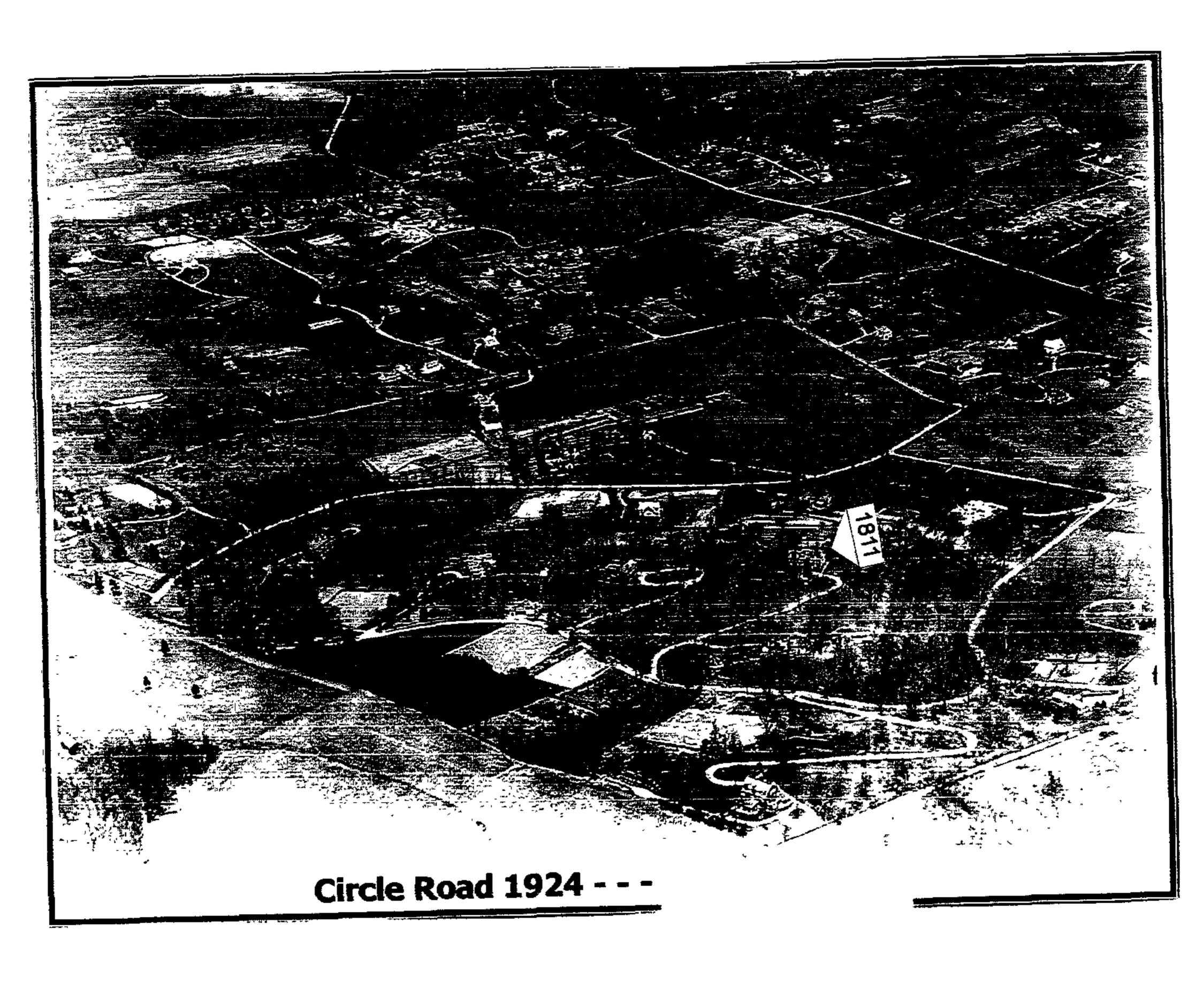
Sincerely.

Henrietta Stuart Neill

Nexes De Street Neill

William Neill III

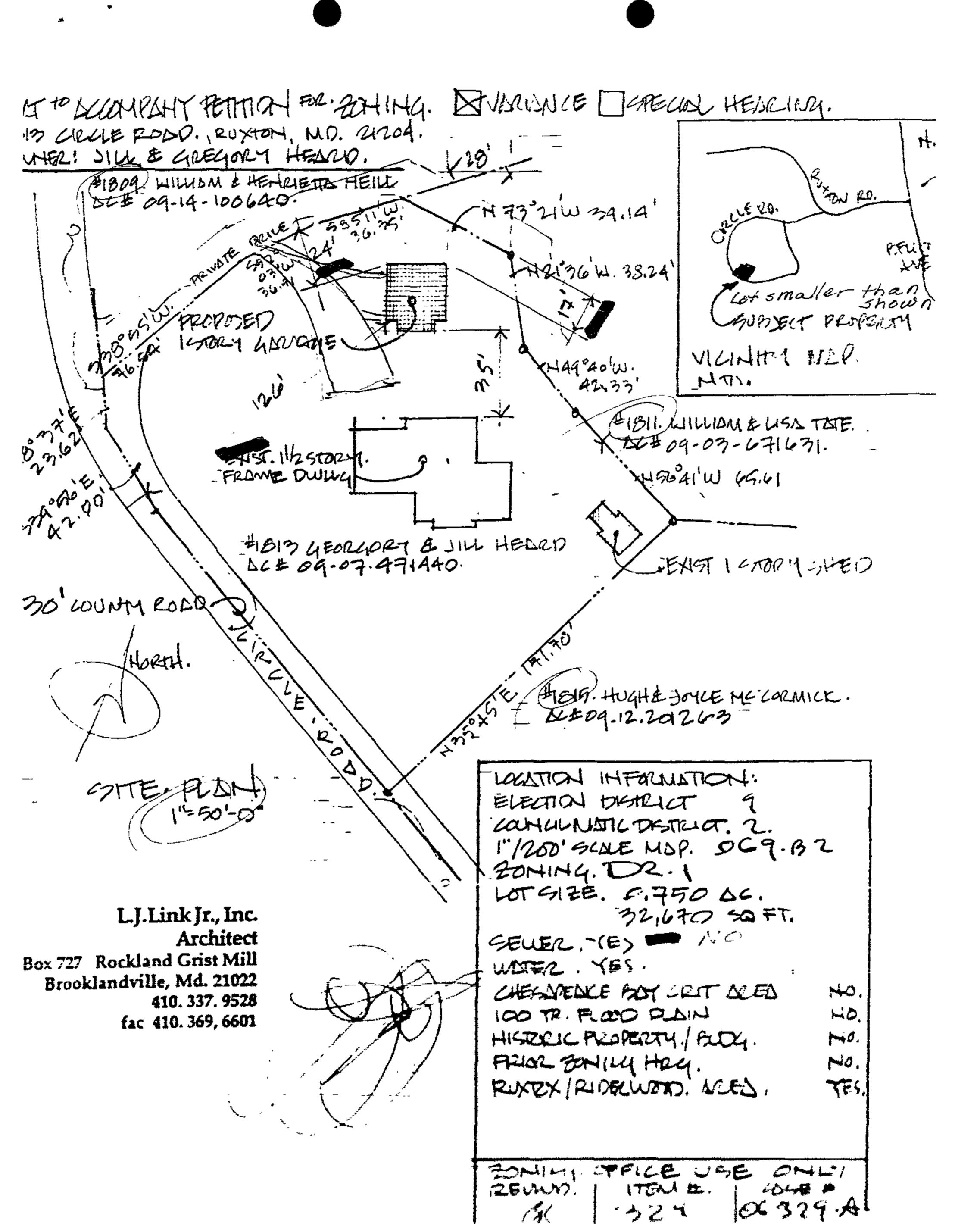
1) Deall in



# Baltimore County - My Neighborhood



# Baltimore County - My Neighborhood Con-graff: DOS Batteres Course Marsiant



### **Art Wheeler**

From:

"Ruxton Riderwood Improvement Association" <ruxrider@bcpl.net>

To: Sent: "Ruxton Riderwood Improvement Association" <ruxrider@bcpl.net>

Sent: Subject: Monday, January 23, 2006 5:02 PM Variance for 1813 Circle Road

Dear Neighbor:

Re: Case #06-329-A

Address: Owner: Gregory & Jill Heard

As a service to our residents, we attempt to notify residents when there is a zoning issue in their neighborhood. The owners of the property noted above have requested an Administrative Variance to permit a proposed garage to be located in the front yard with a height of 17 feet in lieu of the required rear yard and 15 foot height, and to approve an existing shed in the side/rear yard in lieu of the required rear yard. (Information is also provided on the sign posted in front of this property.)

At this time, RRLRAIA has no reason to oppose this variance request; we are merely bringing it to your attention. If you have question, you may wish to speak to the owners of the property; call Baltimore County Zoning (410-887-3391); or contact our office (410-494-7757; email: ruxrider@bcpl.net). You may also review the file at the County Office Building, Room 111, 111 West Chesapeake Ave.

Public meetings are not currently planned for this request. Pursuant to Section 26-127 (B) (1), Baltimore County Code, an eligible individual or group may request a public hearing concerning the proposed variance if it is filed **before 4:30 PM on January 30, 2006** at the Zoning Review Office, Baltimore County Office Building, Room 111, 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204. There is a \$50 fee to demand a hearing.

Nancy Worden Horst - Executive Director

January 22, 2006

Dear Art & Mickey;

In the coming days, you will be receiving a postcard from the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Association notifying you of our application for an administrative variance. We wanted to provide you with a pre-emptive notice of our plans for a two-car garage.

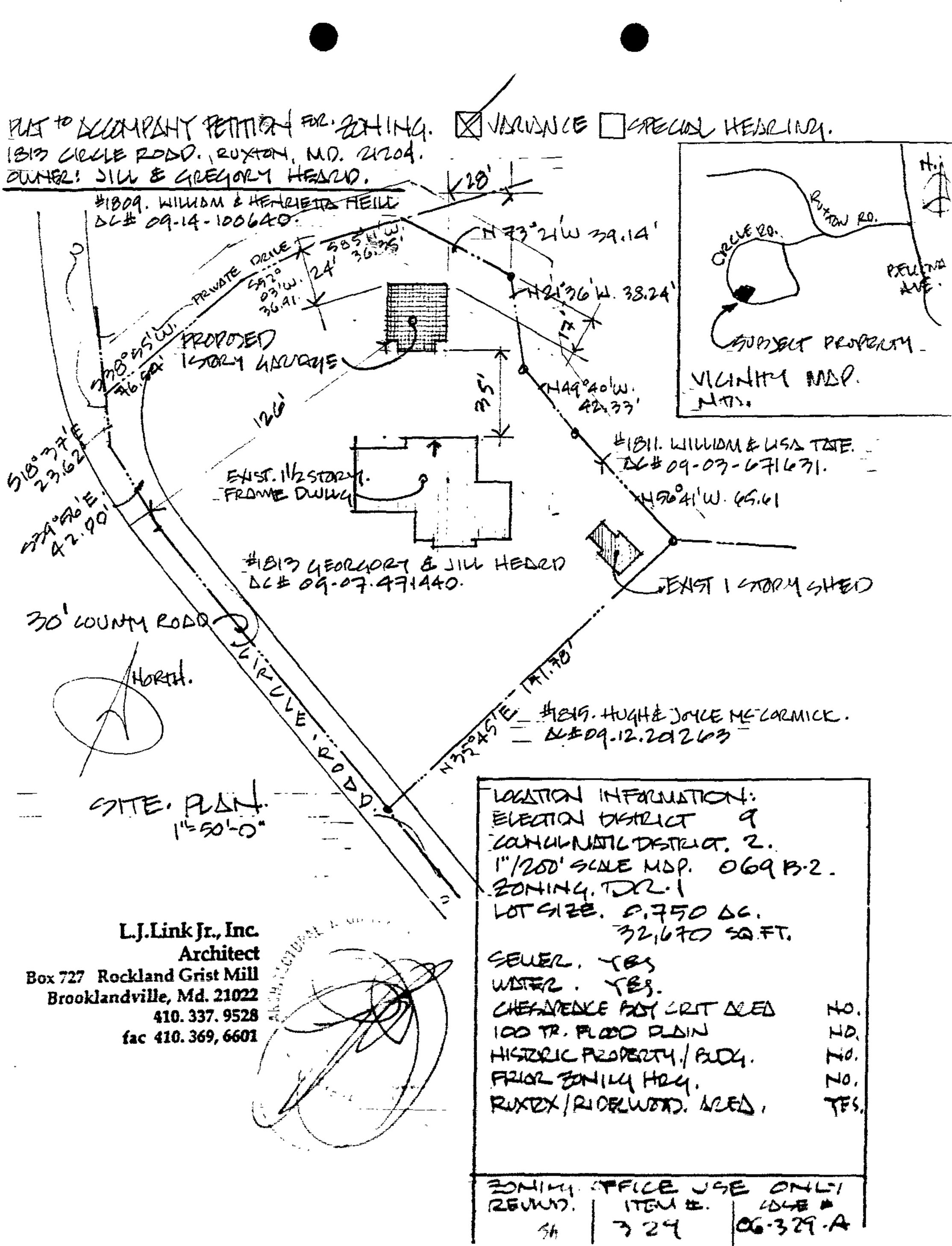
We have been working with architects for over 2 years. Originally, we were going to expand our home through the addition of an attached garage with a master suite above. We decided that plan would too dramatically change the feel of our home and did not fit with the character of the neighborhood. We believe that the current design creates a structure that will look as if it was part of the property forever.

We have attached a schematic drawing of the plans. As you look at our property from Circle Road, the garage will be located on the farside of our driveway. It will be set into our hill at a distance of at least 25 feet from the Tate/McCormick driveways that pass to the rear and side.

We hope that you will support our variance request. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 410.825.3065.

Thanks,

Greg & fill Heard



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CASE NAME
CASE NUMBER 06-324
DATE
IN SHEET

PETITIONER'S SIGN-IN SHEET

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CASE NAME CASE NUMBER DATE

# CITIZEN'S SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP	E- MAIL
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arvin lander	12206 Boxer Hill Rdi	Cochaysulle, Md 24:32	
* HYSE	20.Bx 204	Richard Ann Start	Pariden Colonial
ころがというという	405 Mendowarden Rd	Backhone Wh 21 221	Kinbuly Warren 2 20 1.0m
Kond Takelle	1872 GIRCLE KD	Townson MO 21204	WHELD OF BLINET
THE LEVE	1812 CIRCLE / LD	25 Cm	WHEED BURLINGT
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