

L S ALAM S

Community Development—Planning

1000 Central Ave, Suite 150 Los Alamos, NM 87544 505.662.8120 planning@lacnm.us

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Title:	
Project Address:	
Description:	
Check all application types, if applicable:	
 Administrative Deviation \$25 Administrative Wireless Telecom \$250 Encroachment Permit \$25 Temporary Use Permit \$25 Comprehensive Plan Adoption & Amendment* \$250 Conditional Use Permit* \$300 County Landmark or Historic District Adoption/Amendment* \$250 Development Plan* \$250 Development Plan Amendment* \$500 Major Development Plan Amendment * \$500 Minor Development Plan Amendment \$250 Summary Plat \$100 plus \$25 lot; \$10 / acre for non-residential Sketch Plat, Subdivision* \$250 plus \$175/lot (1-10 lots) \$125/lot (11-30 lots) \$75/lot (30+ lots) \$125/lot (11-30 lots) \$125/lot (11-30 lots) \$125/lot (11-30 lots) \$125/lot (11-30 lots) \$175/lot (30+ lots) Final Plat, Subdivision* \$250 plus \$175/lot (30+ lots) Final Plat, Subdivision* \$250 plus \$175/lot (30+ lots) \$125/lot (11-30 lots) \$125/lot (30+ lots) Landscaping Plan\$500 Lighting Plan\$500 	 Site Plan* \$500 plus \$75 per/Million \$ estimated construction cost Estimated Construction Cost:
Lighting Plan\$500	e a pre-application meeting.

Los Alamos	NM State	87544			
Lot Size - Acres	s / Sq. Ft.: 0.80				
Lot Coverage:					
y					
Owner(s) Email: reed.figley@outlook.com; connie.figley@outlook.com					
21					
City	State	ZIP			
City	State	ZIP			
Case Number: N/A					
I hereby certify and affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the information I have provide in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. [NMSA 1978, §30-25-1]					
Date: 03/25/2	5				
Staff:					
Meeting Date:					
Payment – A	ccepted upon verific	ation of a complete			
	City Lot Size - Acres Lot Coverage: y ie.figley@outloc 21 city city city Date: 03/25/25 Staff: Meeting Date: Payment - A	City State Lot Size - Acres / Sq. Ft.: 0.80 Lot Coverage:			



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VARIANCE CHECKLIST

Applicants for all development application reviews must complete this checklist and submit it with the Development Application. Refer to the referenced code sections for additional information. Contact the Planning Division with questions regarding these requirements: <u>planning@lacnm.us</u>.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING	VARIANCE
Date Held:	
SITE PLAN	
 Scaled site plan at a minimum of 1" = 100' that illustrates the following: Graphic Scale and North Arrow Property Lines according to recorded survey Existing and proposed structures Existing and proposed easements Existing and proposed setbacks Existing and proposed utility lines 	Submit Application to Community Development Department (CDD)
ELEVATIONS	ଞ୍ଚ Public Notice by CDD
Elevation drawing(s) at a minimum scale of 1/8" = 1' that indicates: Height (above existing grade) of all four sides	Planning and Zoning Hearing
LOT COVERAGE	Appeal Period
Existing (%):	
Proposed (%):	1
ADDITIONAL SUBMITTALS	
Based on staff's review and Interdepartmental Review Committee's recommendation – additional submittals may be required and will be communicated to the applicant by the assigned Case Manager.	

See Reverse.

DECISION CRITERIA 16-74-(g)(3)

 Staff finds that this criterion has been met Staff finds that this criterion has been met Staff finds that this criterion has not been met - more information is needed The variance request will not undermine the intent of the Development Code, the applicable zone district, o County adopted policies or plans, or violate the Building Code. Explain. 	
 Staff finds that this criterion has not been met - more information is needed b. The variance request will not undermine the intent of the Development Code, the applicable zone district, or 	
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b. The variance request will not undermine the intent of the Development Code, the applicable zone district, or	
	other
Staff finds that this criterion has been met	
Staff finds that this criterion has not been met – more information is needed	
c. Granting of the variance will not cause an intrusion into any utility or other easements unless approved by owner of the easement. Explain.	y the
Staff finds that this criterion has been met	

DECISION CRITERIA 16-74-(g)(3)

d.	The variance request is caused by an unusual physical characteristic or hardship inherent in the lot or lot improvements and that the peculiarity or hardship is not self-imposed. Explain.				
-					
-					
-	Staff finds that this criterion has been met Staff finds that this criterion has not been met – more information is needed				
e.	The variance will not create any significant adverse impacts on properties within the vicinity. Explain.				
-					
-					
-	Staff finds that this criterion has been met				
-	Staff finds that this criterion has not been met – more information is needed				
f.	Granting of the approved variance is the minimum necessary easing of the Code requirements making possible the reasonable use of the land, structure, or building. Explain.				
-					
-					
-					
-	Staff finds that this criterion has been met Staff finds that this criterion has not been met – more information is needed				

Attach additional sheets, if needed.

Note: Applicant responses in italics.

DESCRIPTION

The homeowners request permission to encroach upon the required interior lot line setback in order to add a new bathroom onto a corner of the house. The encroachment would place the corner of the house approximately 2' -2" into the required 10' - 0" setback, and the eave of the house in that location 4'-2" into the setback.

DECISION CRITERIA 16-74-(G)(3)

a. The variance will not be contrary to the public safety, health, or welfare.

There is currently approximately 22'-11" between the next-door neighbor's house to the north and the closest existing corner of our house. This distance will be reduced to approximately 19'-10" upon approval of the variance, which exceeds the requirement for 10 feet between structures for access of fire department. See plan submittal. (<u>Without reference</u>)



b. The variance request will not undermine the intent of the Development Code, the applicable zone district, other County adopted policies or plans, or violate the Building Code.

Granting the requested variance will promote the aims of the LA County development code set out in Article 1, Division 4. Specific sections that apply are:

(c) Provide adequate privacy, light, and air, and otherwise mitigate adverse impacts associated with development that occurs in the county;

The variance will not impact the adjoining neighbor's privacy. In fact, the addition will remove a window in the adjacent bedroom that faces the neighbor's house. The plan for the bathroom does not include any windows on that side of the home. See photo for d.

(f) Conserve the value of buildings and land pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 3-21-5.B, and to encourage the most appropriate use of land throughout the county;

If granted, this variance will increase the value of our home by adding a muchneeded convenience.

(I) Preserve the natural beauty, vegetation, and topography, and prevent the pollution of air, water, and the general environment;

The plan does not require any alteration of the existing vegetation or topography. The planned addition will be finished in harmony with the existing building materials.

(m) Ensure adequate drainage and availability of utility resources and facilities;

The planned addition will require a very slight alteration in the path that rain water moves around the structure, but this will be suitably and responsibly controlled. See response to e.

Design and Construction of the addition will be permitted and inspected by the County in compliance with Part II, Chapter 16 of the Los Alamos County Code of Ordinances.

c. Granting of the variance will not cause an intrusion into any utility or other easements unless approved by the owner of the easement.

There are no utility or other easements on the side of the home for which the variance is required. The existing electrical overhead service drop will be relocated to the corner of the house, which will be coordinated with a planned upgrade to the electrical service from 150 Amps to 200 Amps. The new meter and panel will be located and installed working with the County utility to ensure a safe and compliant installation.

All other utility services are located in areas not impacted by the planned construction. See plan submittal.

d. The variance request is caused by an unusual physical characteristic or hardship inherent in the lot or lot improvements and that the peculiarity or hardship is not self-imposed.

The home was built in 1961 by Angelo Georgi, a chemist at LANL, and his wife Elizabeth. They occupied the home until 2019, when Mrs. Georgi passed away. We bought the home from the Georgi's estate in 2020. With the exception of a kitchen remodel we undertook in 2021, the house exists is as it was originally designed and constructed.

The homesite slopes from front to back. Thus, the main floor of the home is lower than the street elevation, and was built over a walk-out basement. The original architect needed to adapt the distinctive mid-century modern style floor plan of this house to these conditions while meeting the setback constraints imposed on the lot at the time. The notched-out corner of the building that we wish to build into was most likely created by the architect in an attempt to:

- 1) place the building as close to the front of the lot as possible
- 2) maintain a 12' clearance on the south side (for access to the back yard)
- 3) not encroach on the 10' setback on the north side of the lot
- 4) maintain a reasonable slope on the driveway

Had the area of the proposed addition been used in the original floor plan, we have used CAD to determine that the house would need to be about 5' further back on the lot in order to stay within the 10' setback. Given the slope of the lot, the home would have been even lower from the street elevation, making the driveway steeper and difficult to navigate in the winter.



e. The variance will not create any significant adverse impacts on properties within the vicinity.

Rain water that currently flows westward between the houses to the back yard does not intercept the footprint of the proposed addition, as the natural topography provides for a wide trough that is more or less centered between the structures. We do not anticipate any substantial change to this characteristic.

Although there is none at present (the effect of which has not created erosion), a new gutter will be added to the eaves of the roof on the north side to direct runoff in a controlled manner into the existing drainage area. See detail on plan submittal.

As there are no plans to add windows on the north wall of the new bathroom, the next-door neighbor will not be exposed to any additional lighting. In fact, the addition will eliminate a window in the existing bedroom currently facing their property.

There are no trees or vegetation that will be impacted by the enlargement into the space. It is mainly dirt and rock. The mature evergreen trees in the area are outside of the footprint of the proposed addition.

The owner of the property next door has already stated to us that he has no objections to the terms of the variance we are requesting.

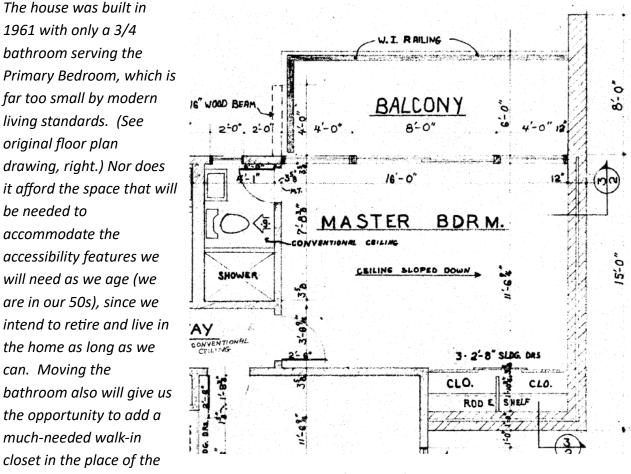


f. Granting of the approved variance is the minimum necessary easing of the Code requirements making possible the reasonable use of the land, structure, or building.

be needed to

existing bathroom.

The proposed addition reduces the minimum distance from the building corner to the lot line by a maximum of 2'-10", or 28% of the minimum interior side setback required by SFR-2 zoning. *The eave of the building projects approximately 2'-4" from the wall. The height of the eave* above finished grade will be approximately 13'-6".



Architectural floor plan from 1961 Building Permit

From the sustainability angle, the current bathroom is outfitted with a 6-gallon per flush wallmounted toilet that cannot be readily replaced with a modern water-saving fixture because of the antiquated propriety design of the mounting bracket/drain pipe assembly built into the wall.

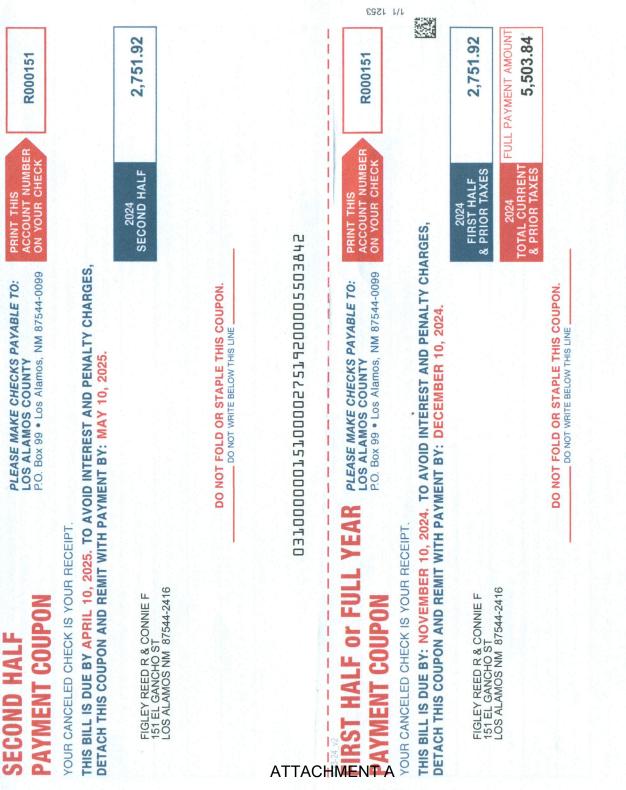
Because the lot slopes significantly from the front to the back, adding a new bathroom off the back side of the house would require enlarging the footprint of the walk-out basement below at

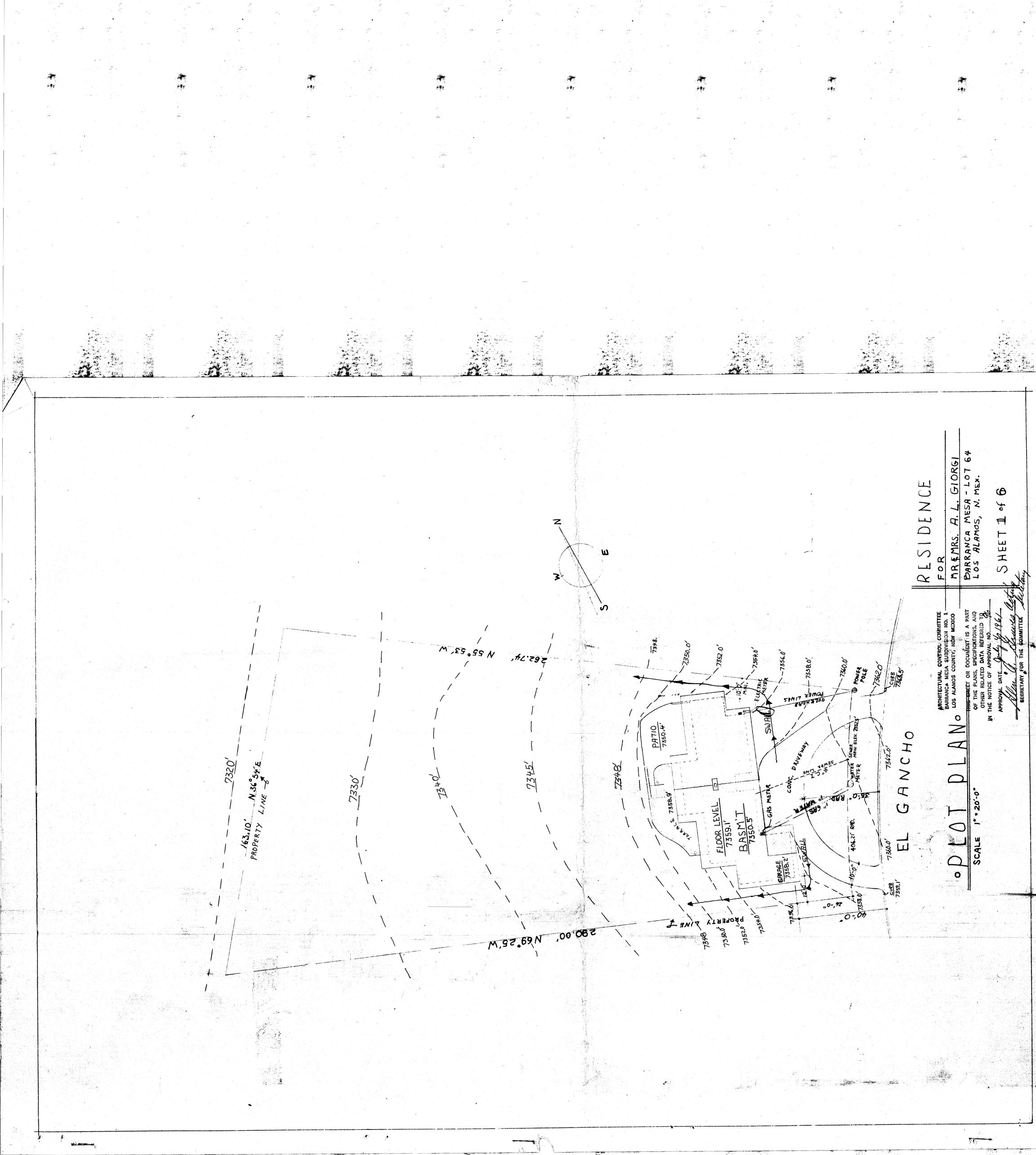
substantial cost, and would obstruct views of the Jemez Mountains from the primary bedroom, eliminating a very desirable feature and subtracting significant value from the home.

Without the approval for this deviation, we would either be forced to live in the house with the attendant inconvenience of the tiny primary bathroom until we could no longer make use of the existing facilities, or alternatively, to extensively remodel and add on to the back side of the house, at considerably higher expense and inconvenience.

As we have explained, we believe this is a reasonable accommodation in order to make the house more useable for us and future owners. Filling in the unoccupied 'notch' in the corner of the house is, we feel, the most convenient and cost-effective use of the allotted space, with little, if any, impact to our neighbor or the neighborhood.

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f this bill and envelope with	Please read reverse side of this bill and enclose payment coupon in envelope with your check or money order.	LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO 87544-0099 TAXPAYER'S COPY Payment Inquiries (505) 662-8333 Valuation and Assessment Inquiries (505) 662-8030
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