VARIANCE:

V-2019-009

CITY OF SUWANEE VARIANCE ANALYSIS

CASE NUMBER: V-2019-009

REQUEST: REDUCE SETBACKS FOR A SUBSTANDARD

LOT OF RECORD

APPLICABLE SECTION: SECTION 501

LOCATION: 551 JACKSON STREET

PARCEL: 7-236-034

ZONING: R-100 (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY)

OWNER: STEVEN CHAPMAN

5710 CANTRELL CIRCLE CUMMING, GA 30041

APPLICANT: RICHARD STEVENS

680 TRINITY PLACE SUWANEE, GA 30024

CONTACT: RICK STEVENS

CONTACT PHONE: 770-366-1658

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS

ANALYSIS:

The applicant seeks a variance from Section 501 of the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to allow for a reduction of the front and rear setbacks on a substandard lot of record in order to allow for the construction of a 2,700 square foot home and an accessory structure. The subject property is approximately 0.266 acres and located at 551 Jackson Street. The property is zoned R-100 (Residential Single Family), but is a substandard lot of record. This means that construction of a home on the lot would be legal even though the lot is smaller than current standards would allow. The lot was created prior to the adoption of zoning.

Section 501.C of the Zoning Ordinance sets forth the district development standards for property zoned R-100. The minimum size of a sewered R-100 lot is 18,500 square feet and 22,000 square feet for a septic tank lot. The minimum yard abutting a public street is 35 feet when abutting a subdivision street and 50 feet when abutting all other streets. Jackson Street is not a subdivision street, as such, a 50-foot setback is required. The minimum rear yard for a R-100 lot is 40 feet.

The applicant is seeking to locate the proposed 2,700 square foot home approximately 35 feet from the Jackson Street right-of-way and 22 feet from the rear property line, as such a variance is required. The lot is 11,600 square feet, less than two-thirds the minimum size for a sewered lot in the R-100 Zoning District.

It is important to note that the ordinance specifically allows for building on substandard lots of record and allows for variances to be granted in order to allow for construction of homes on substandard lots of record. Section 611.B specifically allows for variances to be granted on side yards. However, in this case, a variance for the front and rear yard makes more sense. At the shallowest portion of the lot there is only 12 feet of buildable space on the lot.

The subject parcel fronts Jackson Street and has an irregular shape, with the rear lot line angling down from west to east. The western property line is approximately 135-feet long and the eastern property line is approximately 102-feet long. The R-100 district requires a 50-foot front setback, a 40-foot rear setback, and 10-foot side setbacks. The setbacks for a substandard lot, such as this one, create a buildable space that does not allow for the use of the property without variances to deviate from setback requirements.

The subject property is surrounded by residentially zoned properties in all directions. To the north, east, and south, are properties zoned R-100 (Residential Single Family) with single family residences on them. To the west of the subject property, the same side of Jackson Street, is an undeveloped lot zoned R-100 that is the subject of V-2019-010 (different property owner, different applicant, same issue). Further southwest of the subject property are three C-1 (neighborhood commercial) parcels.

The City of Suwanee's Zoning Ordinance grants the Zoning Board of Appeals the authority to grant variances. According to Section 2006 of the Ordinance, the Board is authorized to grant variances when literal enforcement of the Ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship to a property owner. A variance may be granted if the conditions are unique to the property and/or are unlikely to cause substantial detriment to the public good or if the variance will not undermine the intent of the zoning ordinance. In addition, a variance may be granted when such conditions are not the result of any actions of the property owner.

It does appear that the property is impacted by the R-100 setbacks. The setbacks significantly reduce the usability of the property. A normal rectangular R-100 lot would have 185 feet of depth. With a 50-foot front setback and a 40-foot rear setback, a standard R-100 lot would leave 95 feet of depth to build on. The proposed 2,700 square foot home is not exceptionally large. The home appears to be approximately 60 deep which is not particularly deep. Other homes in the Historic Old Town area have front setbacks that range from approximately 7 feet to 43 feet. Reducing the front setback to 25 feet and the rear setback to 15 feet would allow the subject property to have 62 to 95 feet of depth for a single-family home. This would allow for a buildable area comparable (but still less than) a standard R-100 lot and it would allow for setbacks that are consistent with the setbacks of existing homes in the area.

The applicant's request to reduce the front setback from 50 feet to 25 feet will be consistent with surrounding and nearby properties and is unlikely to negatively impact nearby properties.

Approval would allow construction of a single-family home that is consistent with and compatible with current and anticipated development in the surrounding area.

The property owner does appear to have a hardship as a result of setbacks placed on the property with the adoption of the Zoning Ordinance. Application of the regulations in this case could deprive the property owner of a reasonable economic use of the property. Therefore, staff recommends **APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS** of V-2019-009.

Standards for Consideration

Pursuant to Section 2009A of the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance, the City finds the following standards are relevant in considering all applications for a Variance.

A. Will approval of the variances unreasonably increase the congestion in public streets?

Approval of the variance would not increase the congestion in public streets.

B. Will approval increase the danger of fire or endanger public safety?

Approval of the variance would not increase the danger of fire or endanger public safety.

C. Will approval unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area?

Approval of the variance would not unreasonably diminish or impair property values within the surrounding area.

D. Will approval in any other aspect impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of the City?

Approval of the variance would not impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of the City.

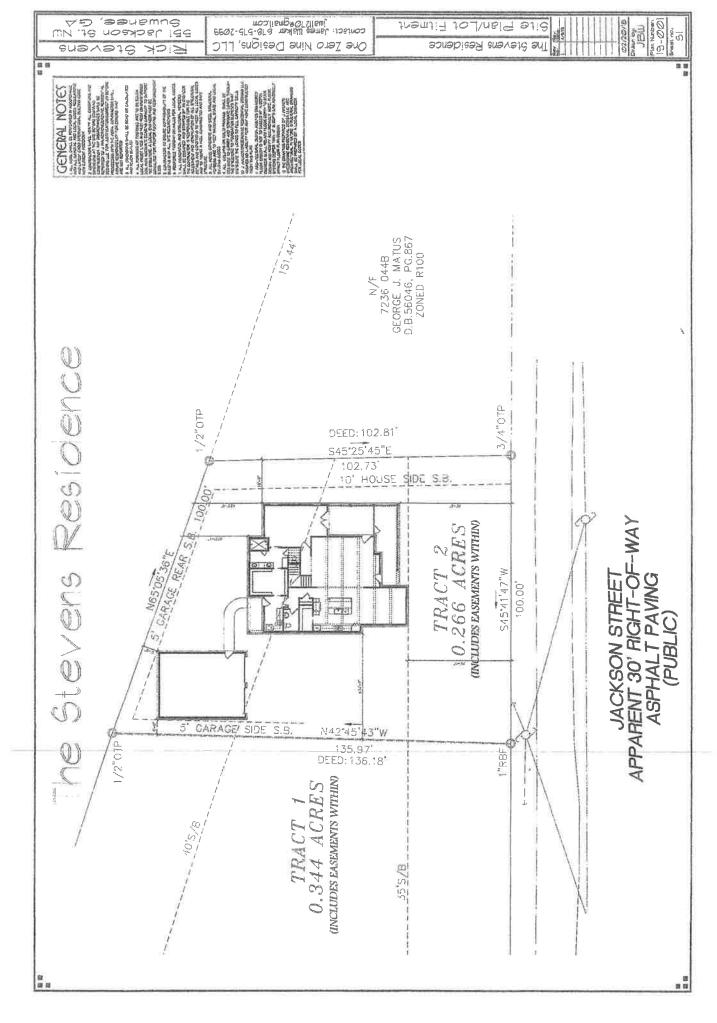
APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE FROM THE CITY OF SUWANEE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Please complete this application and submit with all necessary attachments as stated on the Variance Information Form (please type or print)

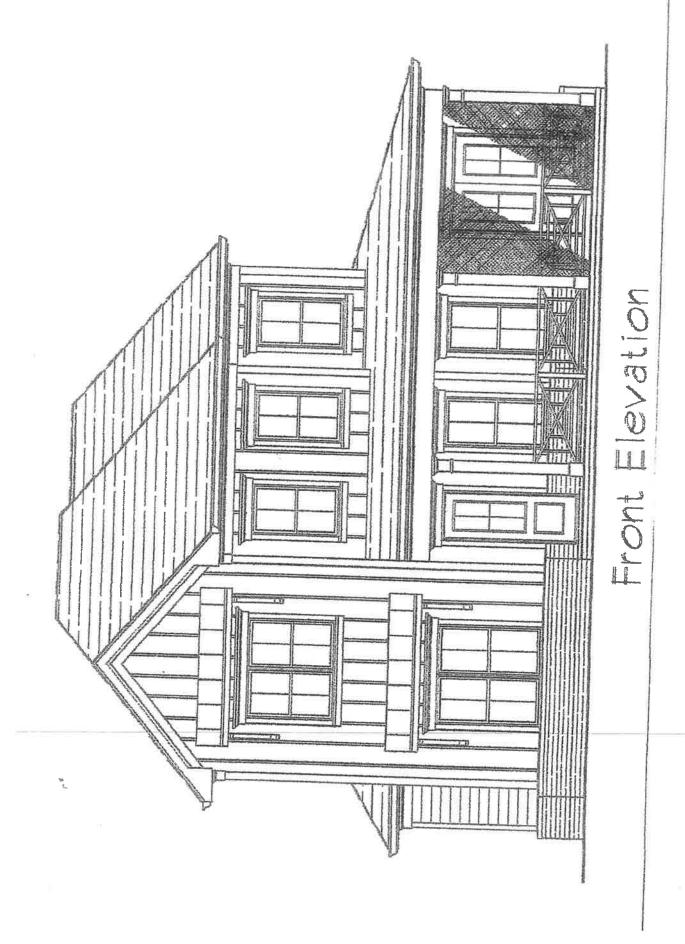
APPLICANT INFORMATION	OWNER INFORMATION
Name: Richard Stevens	Name Steven Chasman
Address: 680 TRINITY Pl. City: SUNANCE, 30024	Address 5710 CANTRELL Cia
City: Sunance 30024	City: Cumming GA. 30041
State: GA.	State GA.
Phone: 170 366-1658	Phone:
E-mail address: // CKS feveus @ Charter	
CONTACT PERSON: Lick Stevens	PHONE: 110 366-1658
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY SSI JACKSON 57.	
LAND DISTRICT 7 th LAND LOT 236	PARCEL 7236 LOT 034
SUBDIVISION OR PROJECT NAME (IF APPLICABLE)	
ZONING R-100	
VARIANCE REQUESTED Section 501. C. Front SET BACK NOT to Exceed 25 feet. REAR SET BACK NOT to Exceed 19 feet.	
to Exceed 25 feet. REAT SET BACK NOT to Exceed	
19 feet.	
NEED FOR VARIANCE SUBSTANDARD LOT Size of Second.	
Lot Size SMAller Yhan Requireo.	

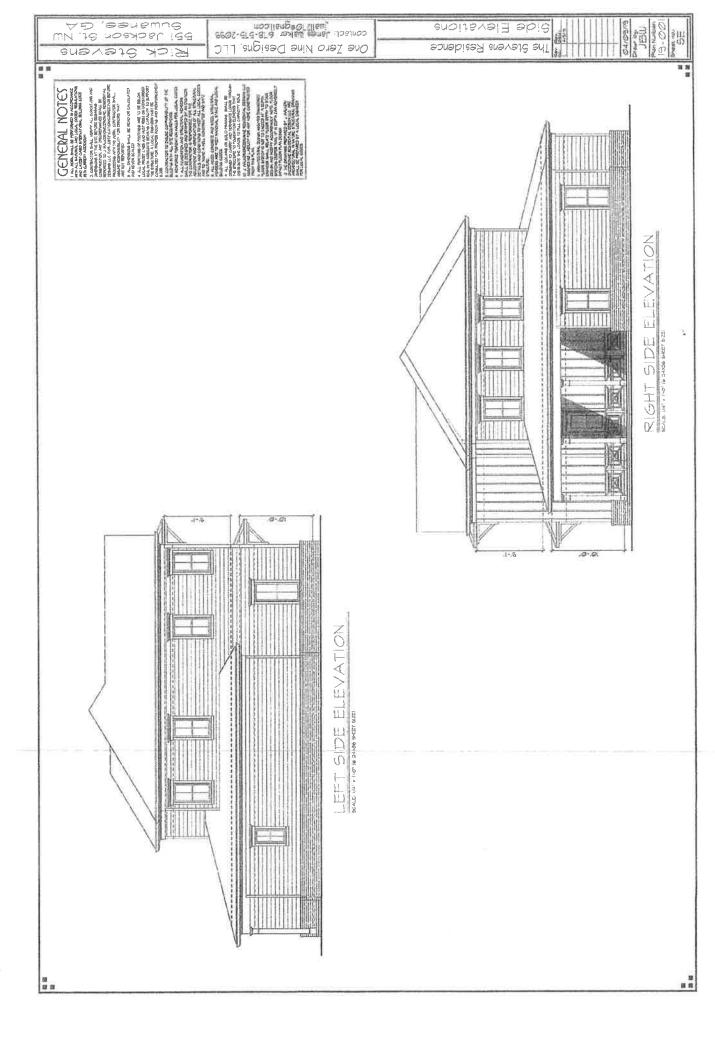
^{*}A VARIANCE FROM A CONDITION OF ZONING CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. SECTION 2007, APPLICANT AND/OR A REPRESENTATIVE.

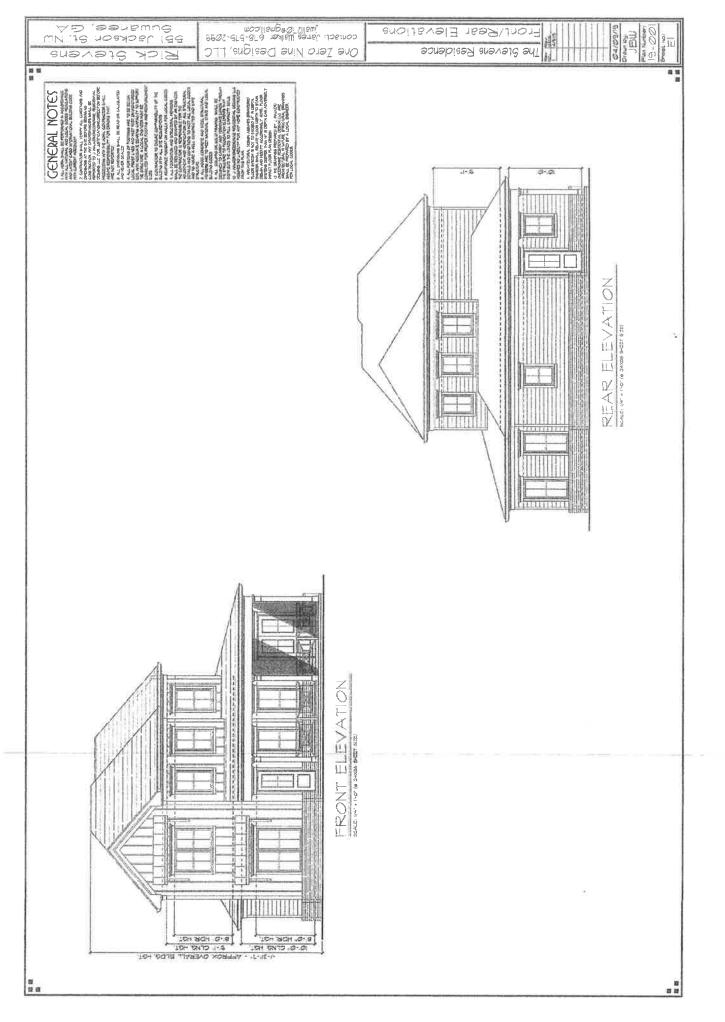
^{***}The property owner, applicant and /or a representative thereof shall be present at all meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission and/or Mayor and Council at which official action is requested on any variance or application for amendment. The failure of the property owner, applicant and/or a representative to attend such meetings shall result in the denial of said variance or application for amendment.



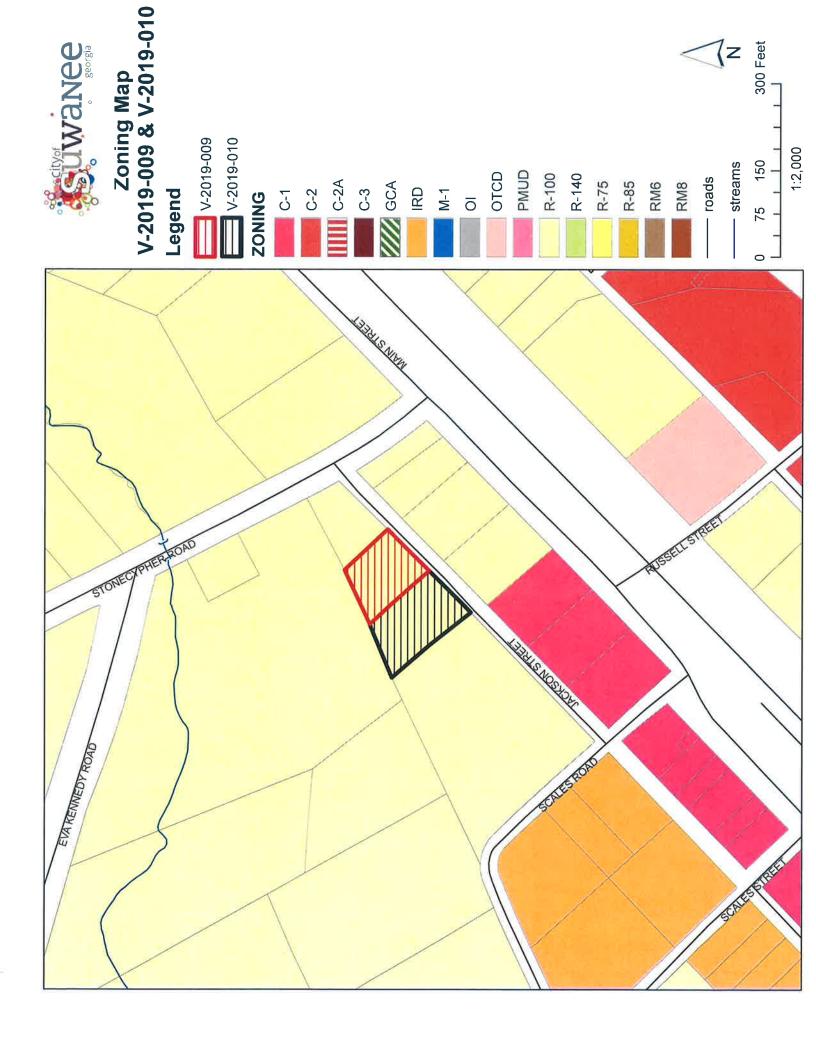
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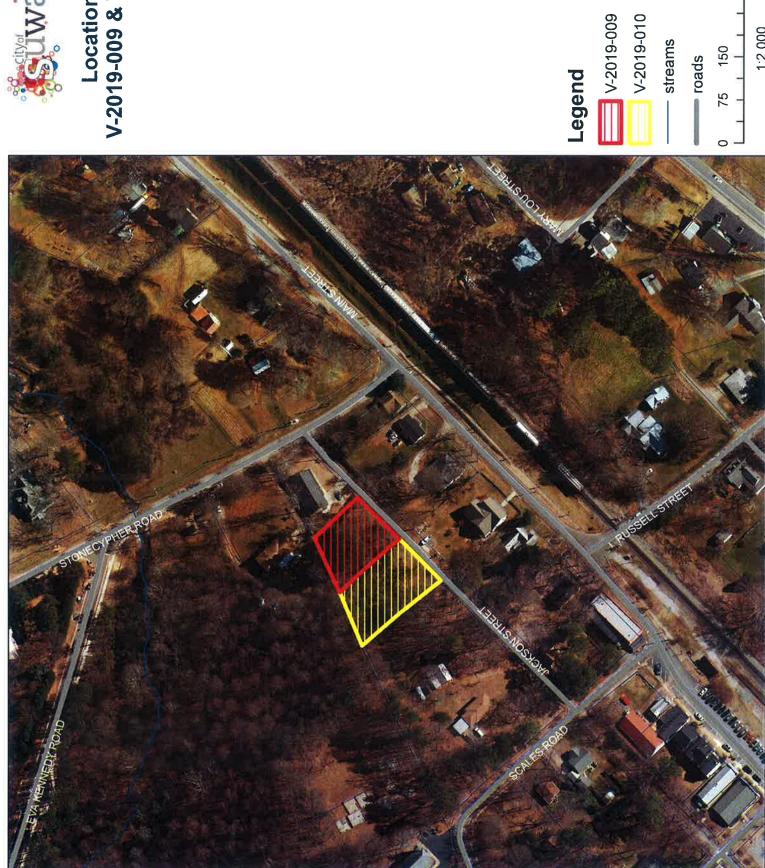


1-20/9-009





Location Map V-2019-009 & V-2019-010



1:2,000

150

- streams

- roads