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To: Chairman Burdette and Planning and Zoning Commission

From: Joe Boyer, Building and Zoning Coordinator
Jon Oliphant, Planning and Development Director

Subject: Public Hearing – Request by Robert Gaul for a 6-Foot Front Yard Setback Variance at 2230 Northridge Lane.

Date: August 28, 2025

Zoning: R-1 (Single Family Residential)

Comprehensive Plan: Single- and Two-Family Residential

Summary: Robert E. Gaul has submitted a 6-foot front yard setback variance application to allow for the construction of a covered porch at 2230 Northridge Lane (PIN 02-02-020-301-020). The property is zoned R-1 (Single-and Two-Family Residential).

Background: The Zoning Code requires a 25-foot front yard setback in an R-1 district. The existing building is 25 feet from property line. The proposed front porch would protrude six feet from the residence, leaving a setback of 19 feet. Staff is comfortable with approving the variance as approval would not “open the floodgates” for others to construct porches within the 25’ setback.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed variance.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their meeting on September 3, 2025.

Joe Boyer
Building and Zoning Coordinator

CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE

To have a complete application for a variance, you must submit the following:

- Signed and completed application
- Plat showing subject property and proposed site improvements
- Ownership documentation (lease, deed, mortgage, etc.)
- Application fee of \$100 payable to the City of Washington

Name(s) of Applicant(s): Robert E. Gaul

Applicant Phone Number: [REDACTED] Property ID Number (PIN): 02 02 20 301 020

Applicant Address: 2230 Northridge Lane, Washington IL 61571

Property Owner: Robert E. Gaul

Owner Address: 2230 Northridge Lane, Washington IL 61571

I would like to receive correspondence by: ☐ Mail ☒ Email Email Address: [REDACTED]

Current zoning classification of the property: Residential Current use of the property: Primary Residence

Describe the nature of the variation you are requesting (*attach dimensioned site plan*): Update the existing structure with a covered concrete porch. The depth of the porch will be 6' which is 1'3" less than the existing concrete stoop and sidewalk (currently 7'3"), the length would be extended to incorporate the entire front of the house. Additionally the roof structure would change to provide cover to the new porch area.

Describe how your property cannot yield a reasonable return, if it is required to be used only under the general conditions of your zoning classification: The addition would enhance the look of the property and increase the value.

To the best of your knowledge, can you affirm that the hardship described above was not created by an action of anyone having property interests in the land after the Zoning Ordinance became law? Yes ☒ No ☐

If "no," explain why the hardship should not be regarded as self-imposed. (Self-imposed hardships are NOT entitled to variations.)

Describe how your situation is unique or different from any other property: The main difference from my design is that it spans the entire front of the house where other similar structures in the neighborhood generally span half of the house.

Describe the alteration or change, if any, in the basic character of the neighborhood the variation, if granted, would make: The change would blend in well with the neighborhood as it is not gaudy. It would enhance the look of the current structure and make the home more appealing.

PUBLIC HEARING: Your case will be referred with staff's recommendation to the next regularly scheduled Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting for a public hearing. The PZC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Five Points Washington at 360 N. Wilmor Road. At the PZC meeting, you will present your request. A variance cannot be granted by the PZC unless the PZC finds, based upon the application and evidence presented at the public hearing, that a strict application of the terms of the Zoning Ordinance imposes practical difficulties or particular hardship. The following are examples of variances that can be granted:

1. To permit the extension of a district where the boundary line of a district divides a lot in single ownership as shown of record.
2. To permit the reconstruction of a nonconforming building which has been destroyed or damaged to an extent of more than fifty percent (50%) of its value, by fire or act of God, or the public enemy, where the PZC shall find some compelling public necessity requiring a continuance of the nonconforming use, but in no case shall such a permit be issued if its primary function is to continue a monopoly.
3. To make a variance, by reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness or shape of a specific piece of property of record, or by reason of exceptional topographical conditions the strict application of any provision of this chapter would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties or particular hardship upon the owner of such property, and amount to a practical confiscation of property, as distinguished from a mere inconvenience to such owner, provided such relief can be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the general purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan as established by the regulations and provisions contained in the Zoning Ordinance.
4. To interpret the provisions of this chapter where the street layout actually on the ground varies from the street layout as shown on the district map fixing the several districts.
5. To waive the parking requirements in the business or industrial districts whenever the character or use of the building is such as to make unnecessary the full provision of parking facilities or where such regulations would impose an unreasonable hardship upon the use of the lot, as contrasted with merely granting an advantage or convenience.
6. To permit a building to be erected, reconstructed, altered, or enlarged so that the building lines would extend beyond the distance specific in this chapter into side yards or into front yards; provided that such variance may not be granted:
 - a. Unless there is a building in the block that extends beyond the distance from the front street line specified in this chapter, in which case the building line may be permitted to extend as near to the front street line as such nonconforming building;
 - b. Unless the lot is irregular in shape, topography, or size; or
 - c. Unless the street line of the lot is directly opposite the street line of a lot which is irregular in shape, topography, or size.
7. To permit in any district such modifications of the requirements of the regulations of this chapter as the Board may deem necessary to secure all appropriate development of a lot where adjacent to such lot on two or more sides there are buildings that do not conform to the regulations of the district.

Certification: *To the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein, and on the attachments, is true, accurate, and correct, and substantially represents the existing features and proposed features. Any error, misstatement, or misrepresentation of material fact or expression of material fact, with or without intention, shall constitute sufficient grounds for the revocation or denial of the proposed Variance.*



Signature of Applicant

8/01/2025

Date

Signature of Owner (if different)

Date

After receiving a completed application, the City Clerk will file notice of your request with the local newspaper and with the adjoining property owners. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Boyer, Building & Zoning Coordinator, at (309) 444-1122.

ArcGIS Web Map



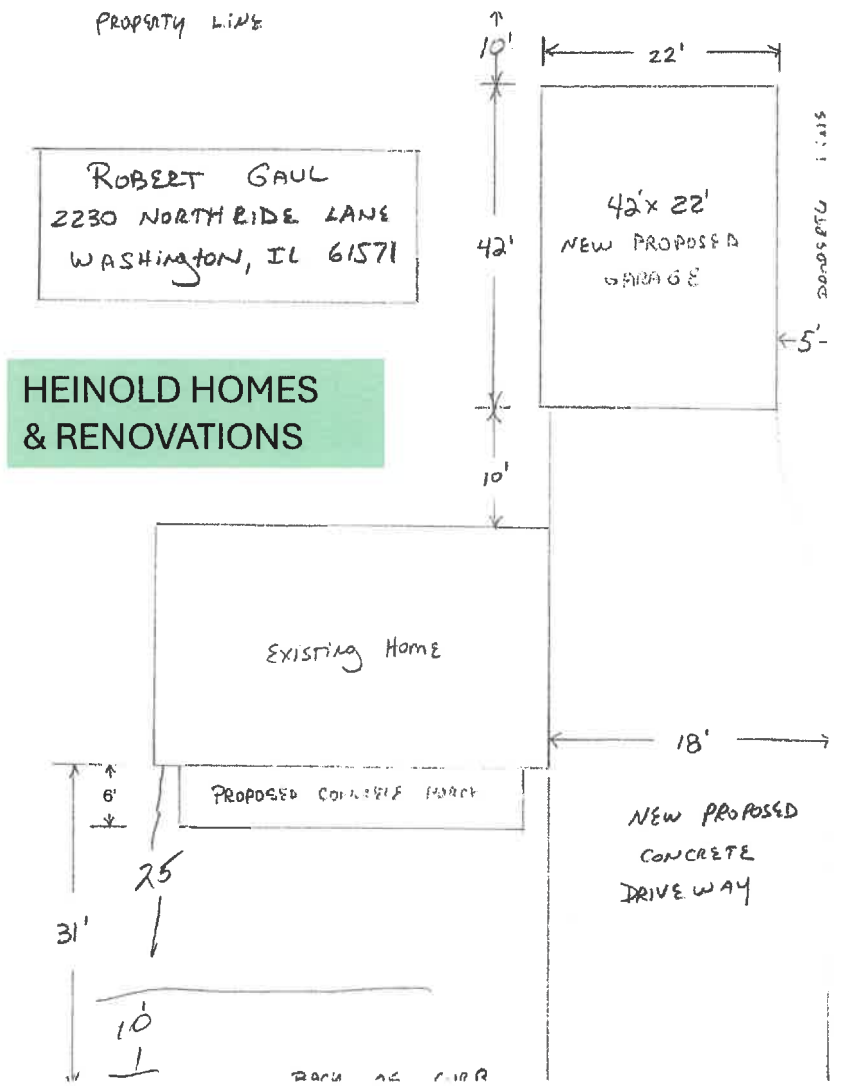
- | | | | |
|-------|---------|------------------|---------------|
| I-155 | IL 98 | Sections | Lots |
| I-474 | US 150 | OwnershipParcels | Red: Band_1 |
| I-74 | US 24 | Blocks | Green: Band_2 |
| IL 29 | Streets | ROW | Blue: Band_3 |

Tazewell County GIS parcel and map records contained herein are for property tax purposes only. This information has been compiled from the most accurate source data from the public records of Tazewell County. This information must be accepted and used with the understanding that the data was collected primarily for the use and purpose of creating a Property Tax Roll per Illinois Statute. The information contained herein is for reference purposes only, and should not be relied upon as a substitute for a title search. Any reliance on the information contained herein is at the user's own risk. The Tazewell County GIS assumes no responsibility for any use of the information contained herein or any loss resulting therefrom. Users of Tazewell County GIS site assume all risk and liability when accessing any third-party site linked to this site. All data is subject to change.



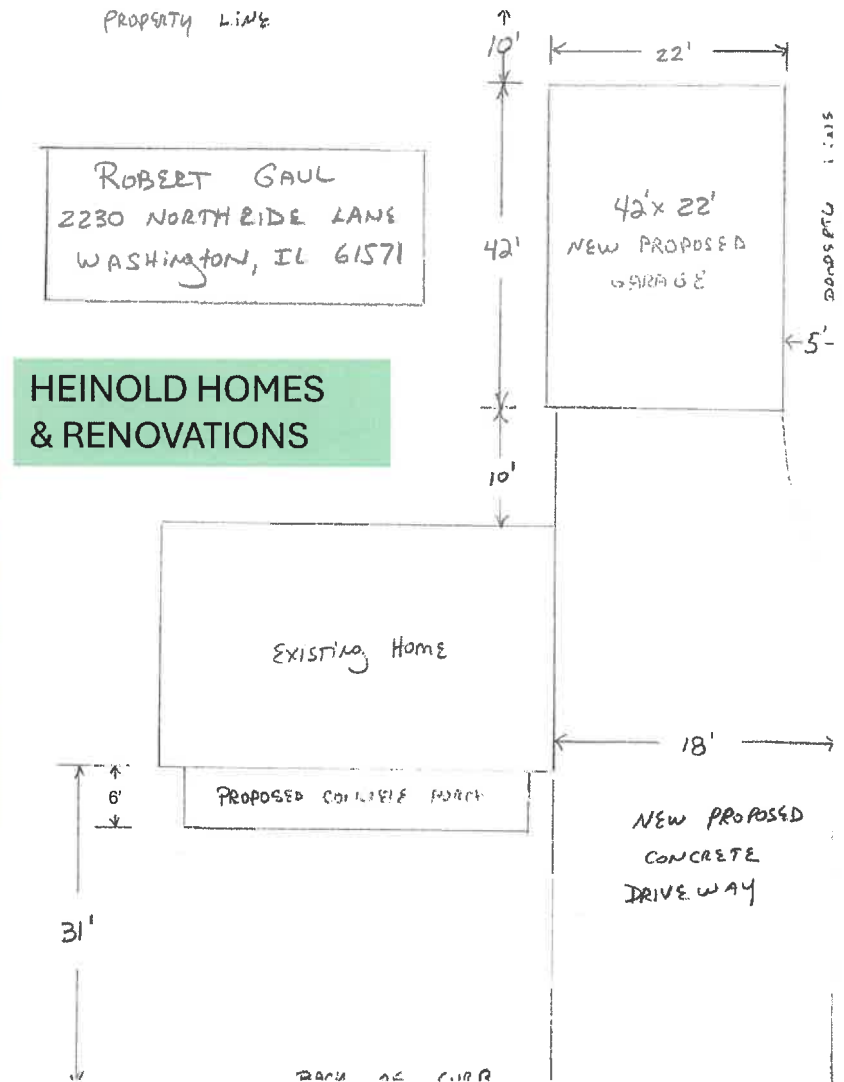
1:1,275

0 0.01 0.03 0.05 mi





House to current sidewalk = 7'3"
Proposed new concrete porch would be 6' from house





Project B –
Front Porch, Concrete Slab with
Entrance on the Driveway Side.
New Concrete Driveway.



