

NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION
DINARDO-DUPUIS HOUSE
NH STATE NO. 696

- Location:** 24 Wight Street, Berlin, Coos County, New Hampshire
- USGS Berlin Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: Z19 4926650N 325990E
- Present Owner:** State of New Hampshire
- Present Occupant:** Vacant
- Present Use:** Vacant
- Construction/
Renovation Date:** c.1915, with commercial wing added c.1940
- Significance:** This house contributes to the Berlin Heights Addition Historic District under Criterion A. Its occupancy over the years by immigrant families of Italian and French Canadian descent illustrates the mix of ethnicities which lived in the neighborhood. It is also an example of the practice of hosting business uses on residential properties.
- Project Info.:** Project personnel included Lisa Mausolf, Historian, and Charley Freiberg, Photographer. Existing Conditions Surveys, Inc. prepared the plans. This documentation is mitigation for the relocation of NH Route 110 through the Berlin Heights Neighborhood Addition Historic District. This document draws extensively from earlier documentation prepared by Preservation Company including The Avenues/Berlin Heights Addition Historic District Area Form 2004 and the 2008 addendum. The large format photographs were taken in November 2010 and July 2011 and the report was finalized in August 2015. The building was demolished in Fall 2012.

Description:

The DiNardo-Dupuis House at 24 Wight Street is a modest 3 x 2-bay house with an exaggerated kneewall, set with its broad side close to the street, facing west-southwest. The house is presently sheathed in vinyl siding which extends nearly to the ground; there appears to be evidence of an under layer of wood shingles in a few areas as well as some asbestos shingles on the rear elevation. The foundation on the original block appears to be rubble. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and there is a brick stove chimney centered on the ridge. The eaves overhang slightly and end in returns on the gable ends. As originally constructed, a single-story porch spanned the full façade and extended along the south end as well. The side porch was removed when the off-set, single-story, flat-roofed wing was added to the south between 1928 and 1950 (probably in the 1940s). The front porch was removed sometime after 1950. The slightly off-center entrance is now sheltered by a c.1970 gable-roofed porch supported by plain square posts above wooden steps. The front door has a modern glass-and-metal unit. All of the windows on the house are modern. The entrance is flanked by an 8/8 replacement sash to the north and a 6/6 window to the south. Most of the other windows on the main house and wing contain 1/1 replacement sash. Nearly all of the windows are fitted with vinyl shutters. The addition to the south has a central entrance containing a metal door with upper glass. It is sheltered by a curved, cantilevered canopy added after 1950. The addition is set on a concrete foundation and is also sheathed in siding.

The rear (east) elevation of the original house is fronted by a single-story porch addition with plain wooden porch posts. Centered on the rear elevation is a back door providing access to the first floor apartment as well as a set of two steps leading up to another doorway in the northernmost bay. This entrance leads to the second floor apartment. Attached to the rear of the c.1940 store addition is a single-story storage shed.

The property consists of a rectangular lot measuring just 0.08 acre which is bordered on the east by the railroad right-of-way. The house is set close to the front property line with a narrow strip of grass between the façade and sidewalk. A gravel driveway along the south side of the wing leads to a parking area behind the building. There are some mature trees along the rear property line; the rest of the lot is open with natural ground cover.

Interior Description:

The interior of 24 Wight Street has seen extensive alterations and is currently in poor condition. There are few, if any, historic features remaining on the first floor. On the first floor of the main block, most of the walls are covered in paneling, the ceilings have acoustical tiles and the floors are covered in linoleum. The northwest room has plaster walls and simple surrounds. An archway separates the kitchen from the front living room. There is a single bedroom, a living area, kitchen and bathroom in this unit. The southern portion of the first floor, which at one time housed a commercial use, is connected to the main block by a doorway in the south wall of the living room. It is this area which has seen extensive water damage. The ceilings have fallen and been removed, leaving exposed electrical wiring. The front room has been reduced to studs and in the back areas the flooring and paneled walls are also damaged. The southeast corner of the first floor also displays some limited fire damage.

The upstairs unit is in a better state of repair and consists of one bedroom, a living area and a large bathroom. The walls include a mix of plaster and paneling and the ceilings are covered in fiberboard. Floor finishes include linoleum and carpeting. There is simple baseboard trim in the bedroom and several two-panel doors. The small kitchen area has open shelves over a sink/counter set above a wooden-doored cabinet.

History:

This small house was built as a single-family dwelling in the early 20th century. The current parcel consists of part of Lot number 8 in Block 50 (Plan E) of the Berlin Heights Addition (Coos County Registry of Deeds Book 64, Page 400).

The earliest identified owner was James (Vicenzo) DiNardo (1888-1967) who emigrated from Italy about 1911. His wife, Philomene (Florema) Nicolai, came to this country in 1912 on a ship from Naples with a two-year old son, Anthony. Philomene (aka Phyllis) was born in Lettampello, Italy. The couple was living here by the time of the 1920 Census; the address of the building was then 946 Third Avenue. James DiNardo was a laborer at the water works. The couple had nine children born between 1910 and 1927. By 1930 they had moved to Western Avenue (Census 1930).

In 1921 James DiNardo sold the property to William Hall (Book 206, Page 391). Hall worked as a boxmaker. Hall was granted a building permit for additions and/or repairs to the Wight Street property in 1923 (1924 Annual City Report, p. 57). This work appears to have been converting the building to a two-family residence. William Hall occupied half of the house, renting an apartment to Joseph Dube, followed by Joseph Beaudoin and Elmer Ducharme (Directory 1923, 1927).

William Hall sold the house to Napoleon Dupuis in September 1930 (Book 259, Page 23). At the time it was valued at \$3,000 (1930 Census). Dupuis (1886-1972) was born in Canada and worked at the Burgess Sulphite Fibre Company. He and his wife Mary (Turgeon) had eight children born between 1913 and 1931. Mrs. Dupuis kept a grocery store here in the early 1930s. The store apparently operated in a small detached building which at one time stood to the northwest of the house. Their daughter Florence (b. 1914) operated Florence's Beauty Shop here in the early 1940s (Directory 1932, 1941). She married Arthur Massey and they lived with her parents. Arthur worked for Brown Company and Florence kept the beauty shop. Stanley Roy rented the apartment. In 1946 Napoleon Dupuis sold the property to Lawrence Massey who operated Larry's Market here (Directory 1948, 1950, 1953). The apartment in 1948 was rented to Harvey Fontaine. The 1950 Sanborn map shows that the property then included two commercial spaces – the detached building to the northwest (26A Wight Street) and an additional store on the east end of the house (22 Wight Street).

Larry Massey lived here until his death in 1961 although at some point he closed the store. The property was deeded to Florence Dupuis from the estate of Lawrence Massey in 1961 (Book 464, Page 397). In 1969 only one unit was occupied, rented by Marcel Bernard (Directory 1969). Florence conveyed the property to Raymond and Elsie Dupuis in 1982 (Book 558, Page 132). It was sold by them to the R & D Realty Trust in 1987 (Book 715, Page 203). Most recently the building served as a single-family dwelling.

Bibliography

Ancestry.com

Berlin Directories, various dates.

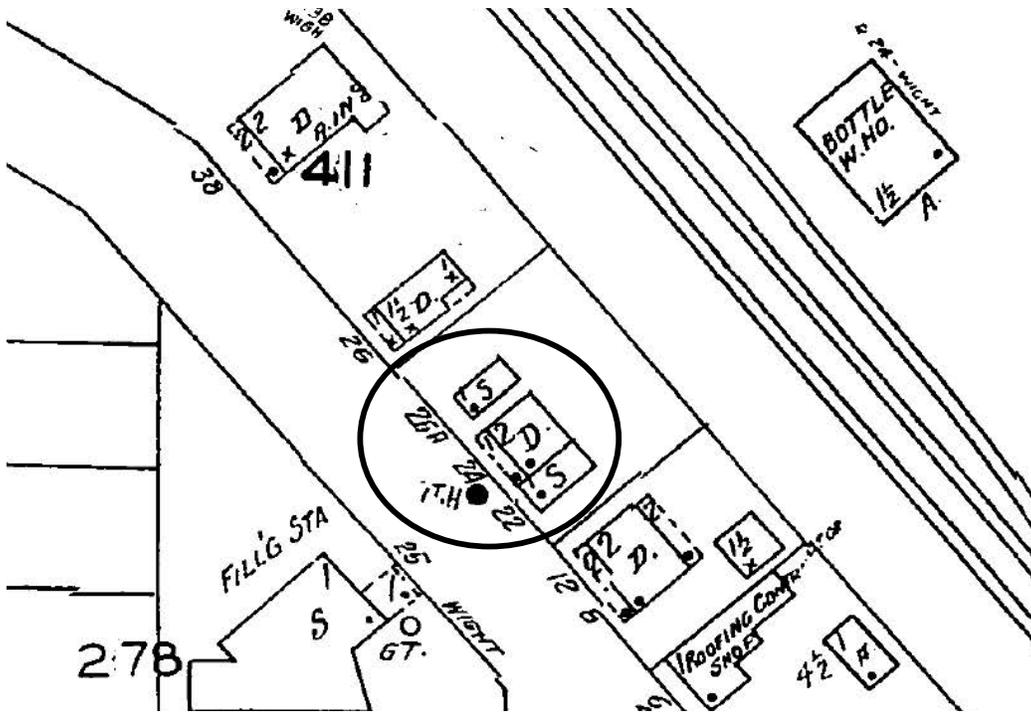
Coos County Registry of Deeds, Lancaster, NH.

Preservation Company. Area Form for the Avenues/Berlin Heights Addition Historic District, 2008 Addendum. [On file at the NH Division of Historical Resources, Concord].

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1909, 1914, 1920, 1928, 1950, 1955.

U.S. Census, 1900-1930.

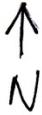
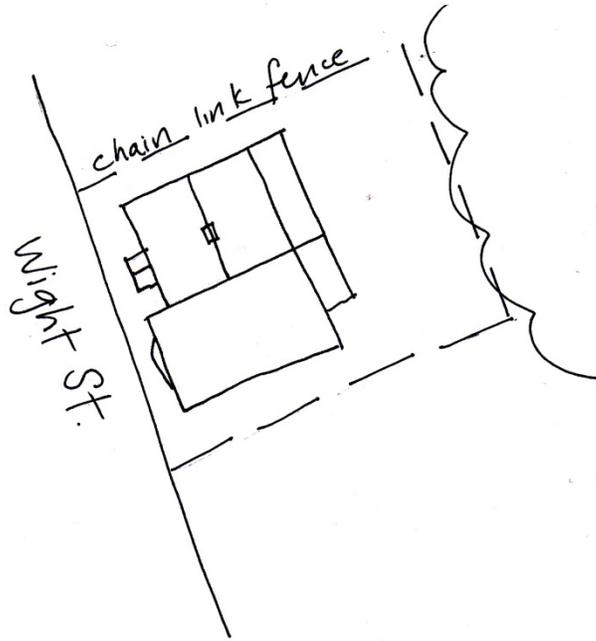
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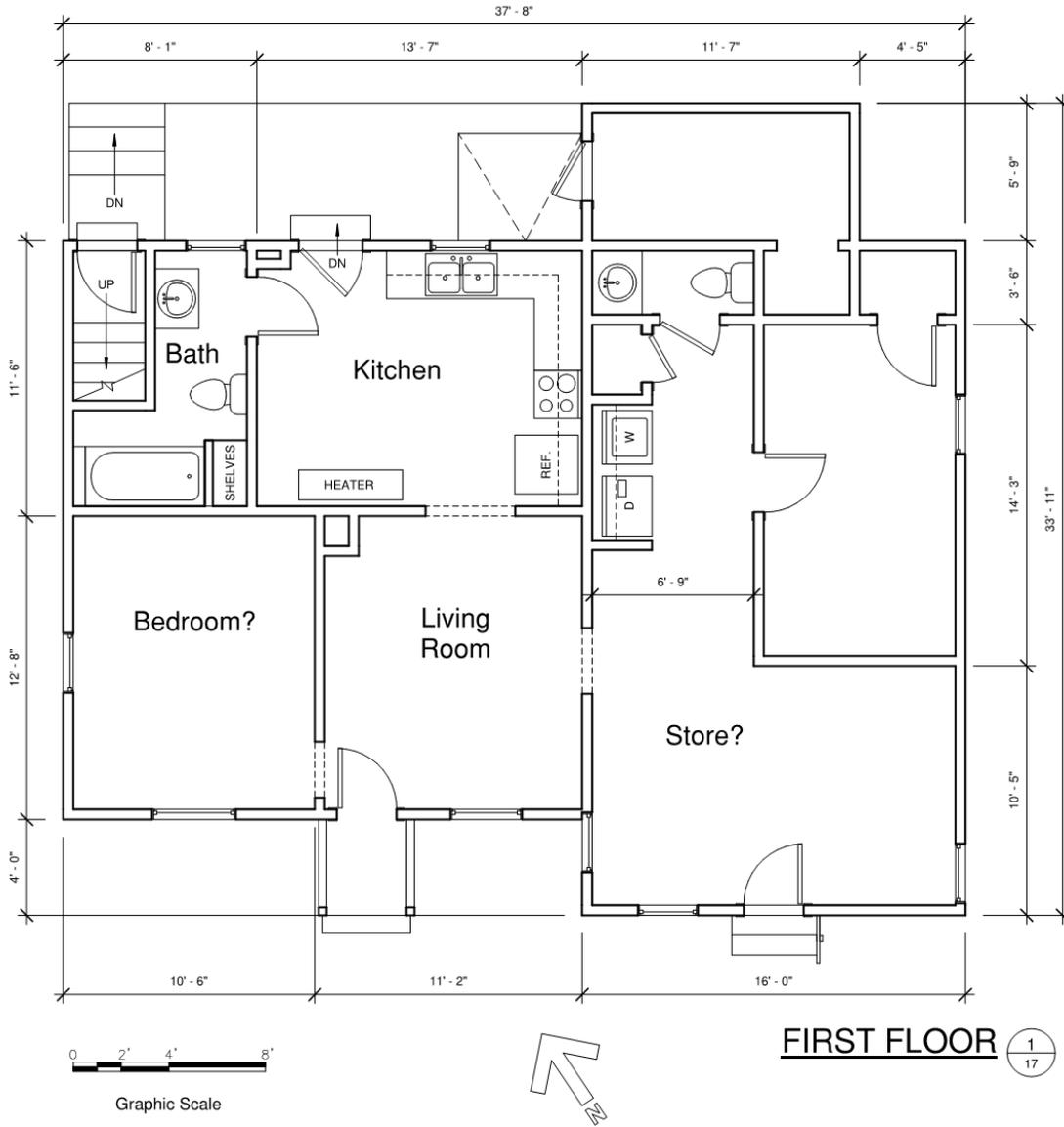
Sanborn Map, June 1950

24 Wight is circled; note new store to south

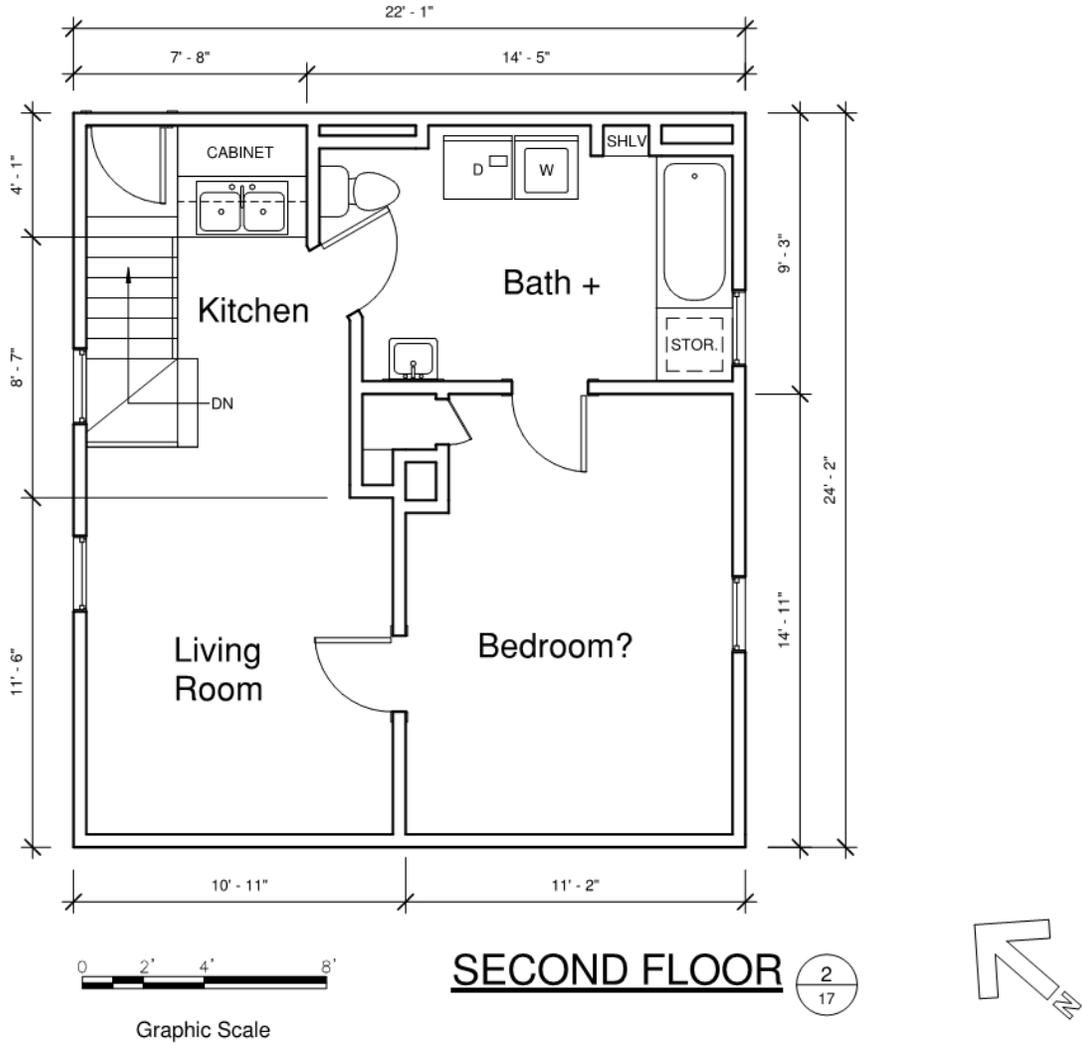
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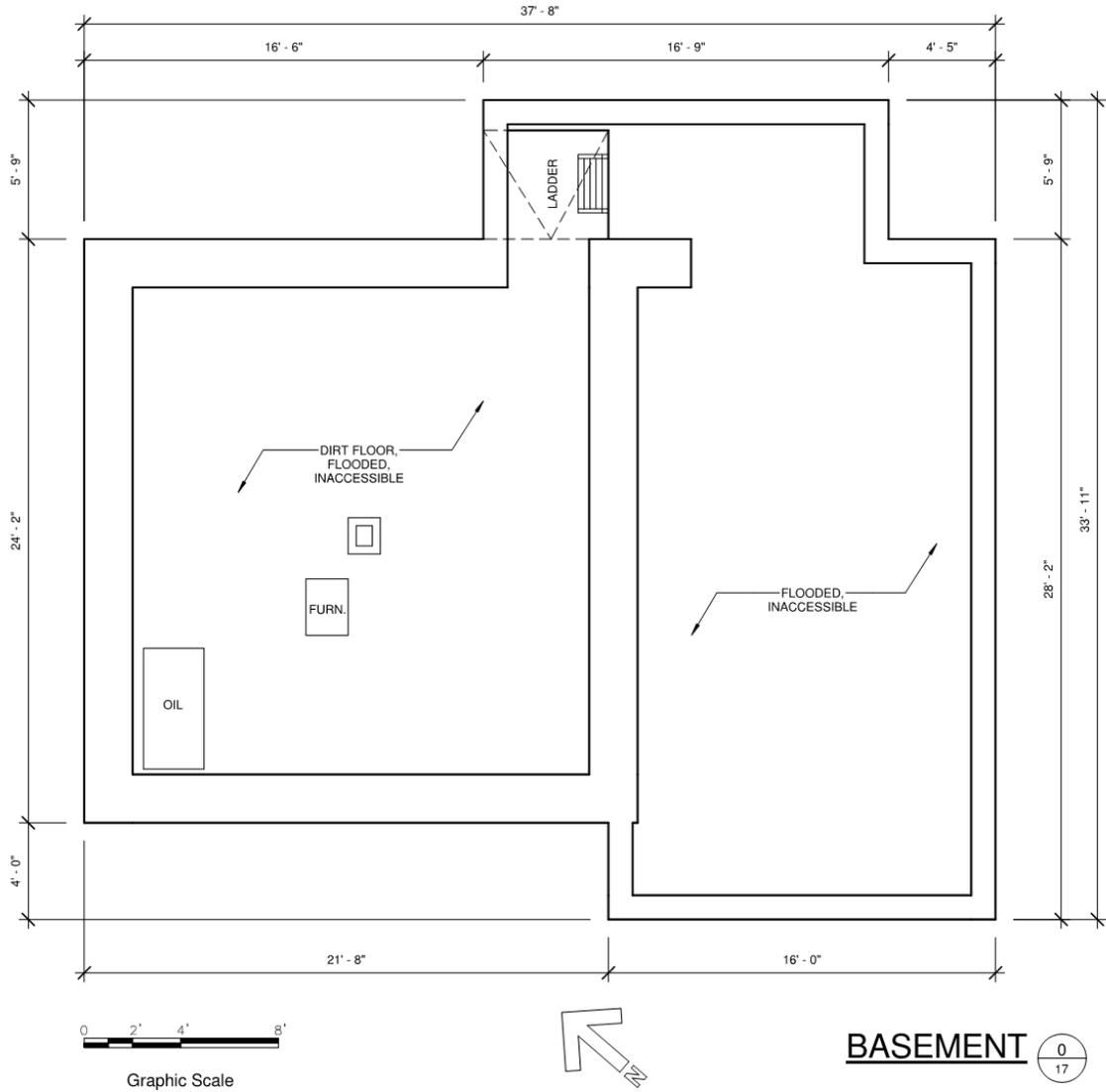
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Existing Floor Plan – First Floor



Existing Floor Plan – Second Floor



Existing Floor Plan - Basement

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Photographer:

Charley Freiberg

- NH State No. 696-1 View looking east at west (façade) elevation with 26 Wight Street visible at left. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 696-2 View looking southeast showing north and west (façade) elevations. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 696-3 View looking northeast showing west (façade) and south elevations. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 696-4 View looking northwest showing south and east (rear) elevations. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 696-5 Interior view, first floor, looking east from living room into kitchen. [July 2011]
- NH State No. 696-6 Interior view, first floor, looking east toward rear of building. [July 2011]
- NH State No. 696-7 Interior view, first floor, looking southwest toward front door of former store. [July 2011]
- NH State No. 696-8 Interior view, second floor, looking northeast at kitchen with back door visible at left. [July 2011]
- NH State No. 696-9 Interior view, second floor, looking east in bedroom with bathroom visible at left. [July 2011]

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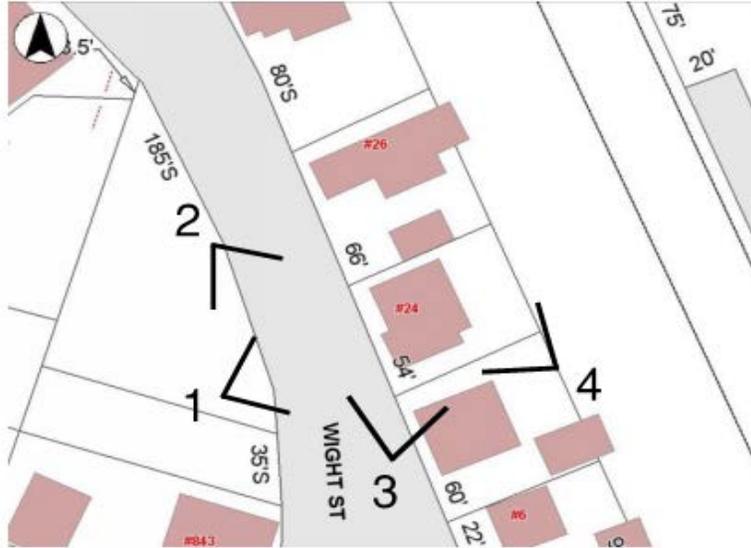


Photo Key – Exterior Photos

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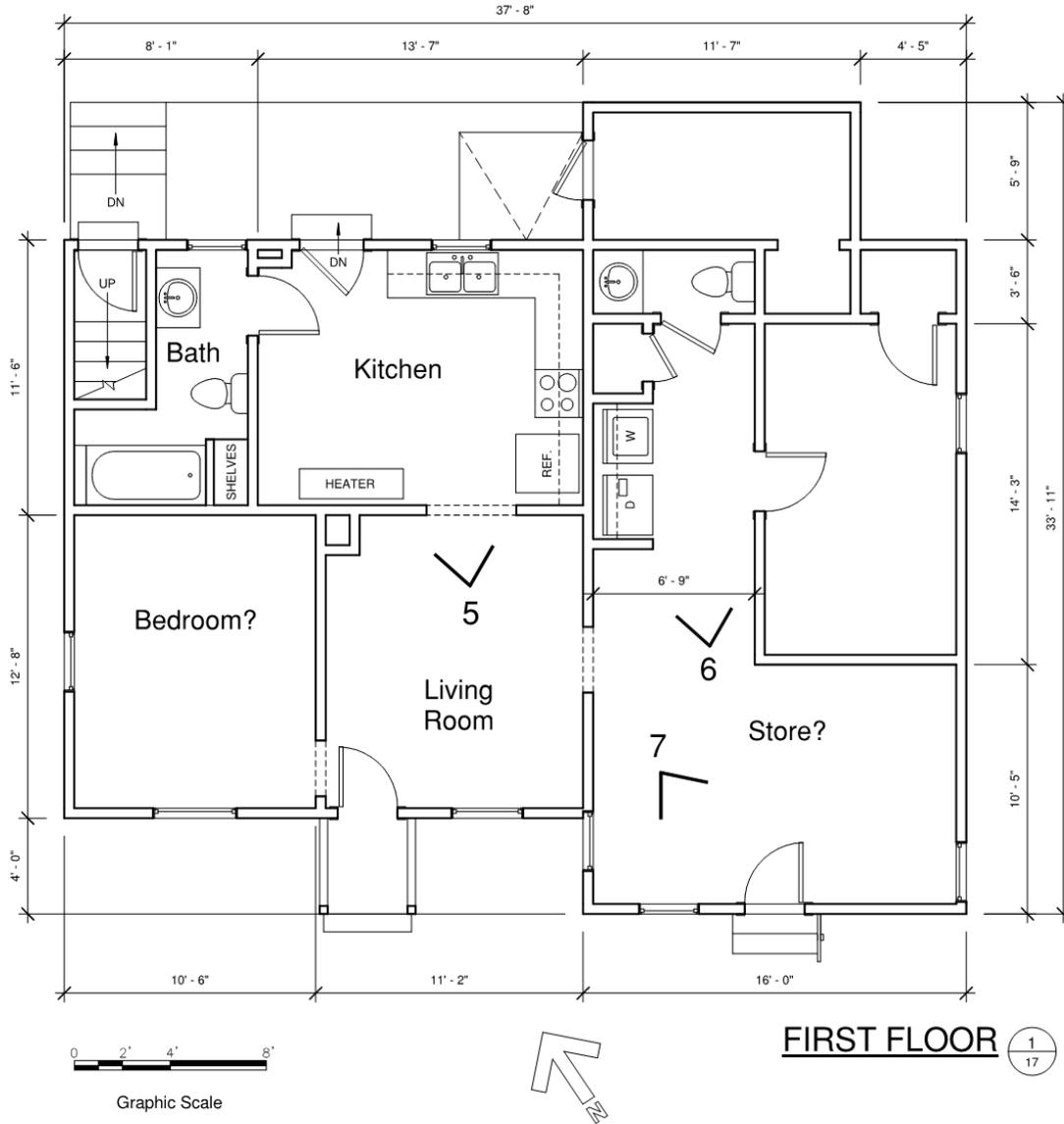


Photo Key – First Floor Photos

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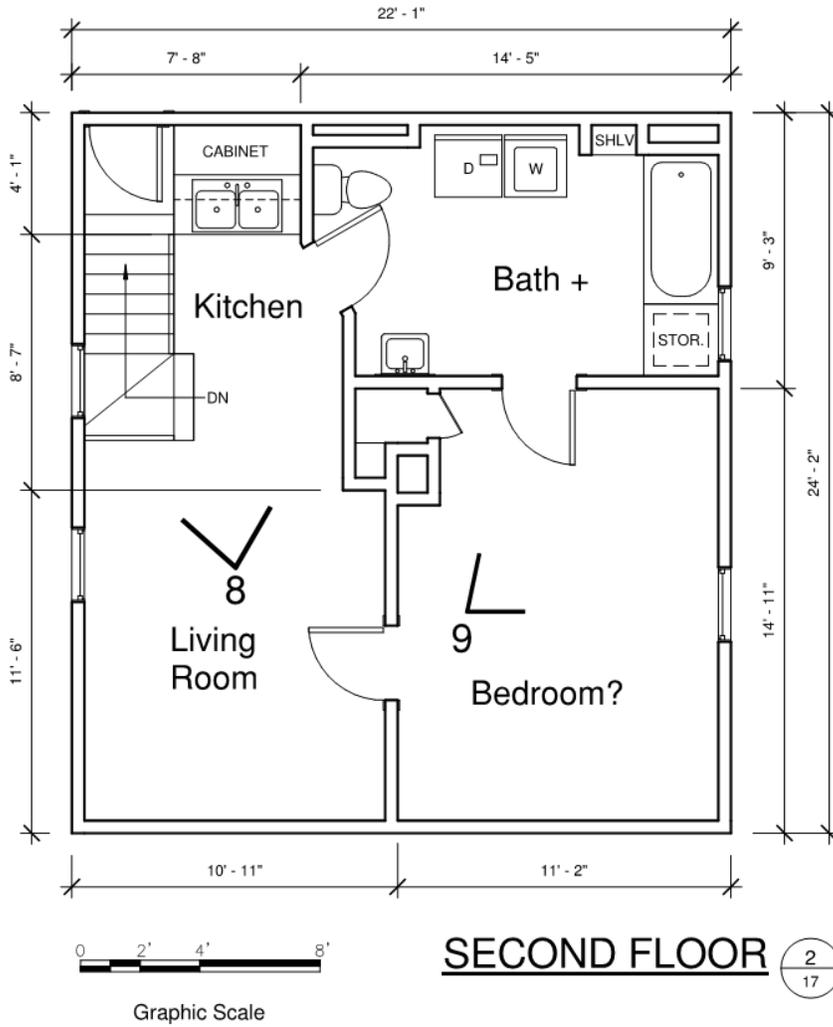


Photo Key – Second Floor Photos



24 Wight Street - photo 1



24 Wight Street - photo 2



24 Wight Street - photo 3



24 Wight Street - photo 4



24 Wight Street - photo 5



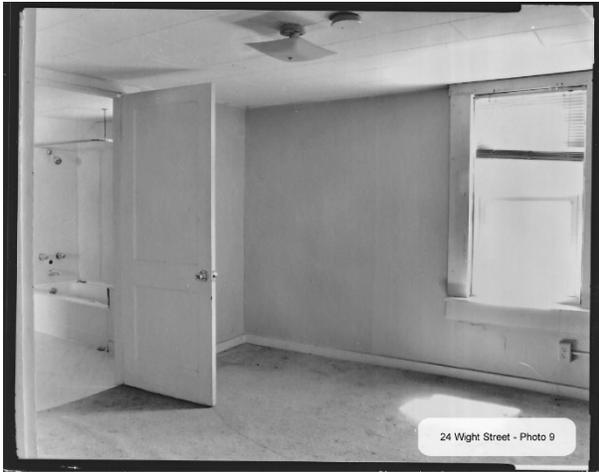
24 Wight Street - photo 6



24 Wight Street - Photo 7



24 Wight Street - photo 8



24 Wight Street - Photo 9

