

NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION
FERRANTI-LANDRY HOUSE
NH STATE NO. 697

- Location:** 26 Wight Street, Berlin, Coos County, New Hampshire
- USGS Berlin Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: Z19 4926680N 325990E
- Present Owner:** State of New Hampshire
- Present Occupant:** Vacant
- Present Use:** Vacant
- Construction/
Renovation Date:** c.1900. Front porch enclosed and rear wing expanded by large addition post 1950.
- 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 who lived in the neighborhood.
- 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 Ferranti-Landry House at 26 Wight Street is a small, 1 ½-story sidehall or end house.¹ The house is oriented with its gable-front facing west-southwest, set above a rubble foundation. The thick mortar on the face of the stones has a projecting grapevine joint that is highlighted to simulate a formal ashlar pattern. The exterior walls are currently clad in asbestos shingles laid over earlier “brick”-patterned asphalt siding with some original clapboards visible underneath the current siding in the front gable. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The eaves display a slight overhang and are flared at the ends. A brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge and there are two modern skylights on the north roof slope. All of the windows are modern units and include casements and double-hung 1/1 sash. The house was originally fronted by a single-story porch. As seen today the hip-roofed former porch area is enclosed with painted plywood panels. Access to the interior is through a storm door on the south end.

As originally constructed there was a small, single-story wing aligned with the north elevation of the main block and a porch along its south wall. Sometime after 1950 this was expanded by a large, shed-roofed addition with enclosed porch on the south side, extending beyond the south elevation of the main block. The enclosed porch features tiers of awning (jalousie) windows. The rear elevation of the wing and addition is sheathed in a combination of asbestos shingles and T1-11 siding above a concrete foundation. The roof has a long, asymmetrical gable profile and the windows are all modern units.

The house occupies a small (0.1 acre), level lot. The small back yard extends to the railroad right-of-way to the east. A wooden picket fence is set close to the front property line to the north of the house and continuing to the adjacent property at 38 Wight Street. To the south of the house a short asphalt driveway terminates at a detached, one car garage set on a concrete block foundation. The building was constructed in the late 20th century and is sheathed in a wooden novelty siding. It is oriented with its gable with modern overhead garage door to the street. Other fenestration on the garage includes a small single pane window on the north wall and a raised panel door with aluminum storm door in the rear.

¹ End house is a 19th century term used in some building contracts to describe side-hall houses. Jack Larkin, *The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840* (New York: Harper & Row, 1988), 119.

Interior Description:

The interior of the house has been completely renovated in recent years and there are no historic finishes evident. The original entry has been replaced by a small enclosed vestibule entrance inside the former porch with an outer storm door to the south and a modern wooden door with oval glass leading inside. Any partitions which once existed on the first floor have been removed in favor of an "open" floor plan although a north-south exposed beam may indicate the location of a previous wall. The original brick chimney has been left exposed near the center of the room and faced with decorative brick. The floor near the entrance is tiled and the rest of the living room is carpeted. The walls are covered with false wood paneling and linoleum and tiles cover the ceiling. The kitchen is located in what was originally the rear wing. It has modern oak cabinets, vinyl floor, tile ceiling, panel walls and a casement window over the sink on the north wall. To the south of the kitchen is a step-down dining room located in the later addition. The sliding glass door in the dining room leads to the enclosed porch. Beyond (to the east of) the kitchen, the addition contains a bedroom and bathroom.

In the northeast corner of the main house block is a steep, two-flight staircase leading to the second level which is divided into two spaces with large closets. Only the front room has a door. The walls upstairs feature a lower wallpapered wall topped by pine tongue-in-groove boards covering the upper wall and ceilings. There is a half wall between the staircase and the back space.

The basement displays a concrete floor and painted stone walls corresponding to the plan of the original house block and small wing. In the southeast corner of the wing, the foundation wall was broken to allow passage into the basement under the later addition. The basement of the addition has concrete walls and a concrete floor.

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History:

This small house was built as a single-family dwelling in the early 20th century. The current parcel includes Lot number 9 in Block 50 (Plan E) of the Berlin Heights Addition (Coos County Registry of Deeds Book 64, Page 400) as well as a strip of land six feet wide which was part of the adjacent lot 8. The house was definitely standing by 1908 when Nathan Abramson mortgaged land and buildings (Book 139, Page 354). Abramson sold to Ulric Duval of Berlin and Bernard Fisher of Stratford the following year (Book 144, Page 241).

In 1914 Ulric Duval sold the property to Camille (or Camillo) and Antonia (Dyquette) Ferrante (Ferranti) who had come from Italy in 1911 (Book 170, Page 137; Directory 1920, Census 1920). Mrs. Ferranti may have been a sister to Phyllis (Philomene) Dinardo who lived next door at 24 Wight Street. Camillo Ferranti was a mill laborer. Their first daughter was born in 1910 before they left Italy; they arrived in the United States in 1911. Three more daughters and a son were born between 1912 and 1917. The family lived here about ten years (Directory 1920, 1923).

In the 1920s the house had a series of tenants including Thomas and Alice Roderick and Thomas Derlito (Directory 1924, 1927). Dennis Metivier, a 50 year old French Canadian laborer was renting the house in 1930 for \$25/month. He lived here with his wife Roseanna and four children between the ages of 6 and 16. By 1936 this was the home of Arthur and Eva Landry. Arthur was born in Berlin and Eva in Massachusetts, both to French Canadian immigrants. Arthur Landry (1888-1965) worked for the Brown Company. They had four children between 1925 and 1929 and more born after they moved from Pleasant Street. In the early 1940s the family moved to 729 Second Avenue (Census 1930, Directory 1932, 1941; WWII Draft Card).

Lucien Lessard, owner of the property, was living here in 1950. The property was purchased by Albert and Lorraine (Gagne) Dinardo in 1958 (Book 441, Page 365). The couple had married in 1949. Albert (1927-2007) was born in Berlin and was a World War II veteran who later worked in the paper mill. They lived here ten years before selling the property to Leon Landry (1939-1988) and his wife Elizabeth (b. 1925) in 1968 (Book 510, Page 268). Mrs. Landry lived here until about 2005. Later owners included Raymond Pelchat from 2006 to 2009 (Book 1178, Page 539) and David Poulin from 2009 to 2011 (Book 1272, Page 607).

Bibliography

Ancestry.com

Berlin Directories, various dates.

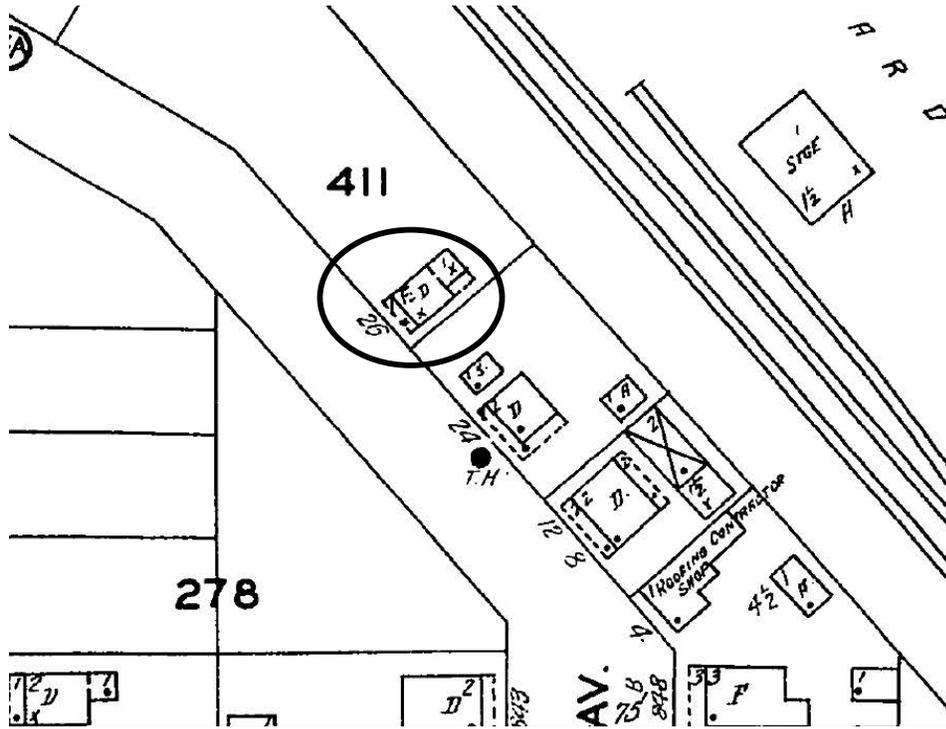
Coos County Registry of Deeds, Lancaster, NH.

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.

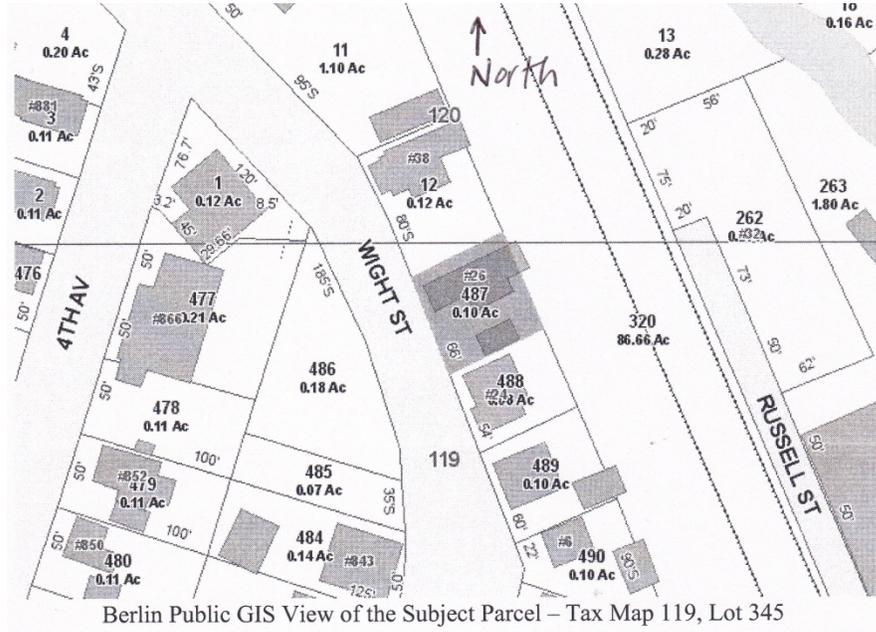
U.S. Census, 1900-1930.

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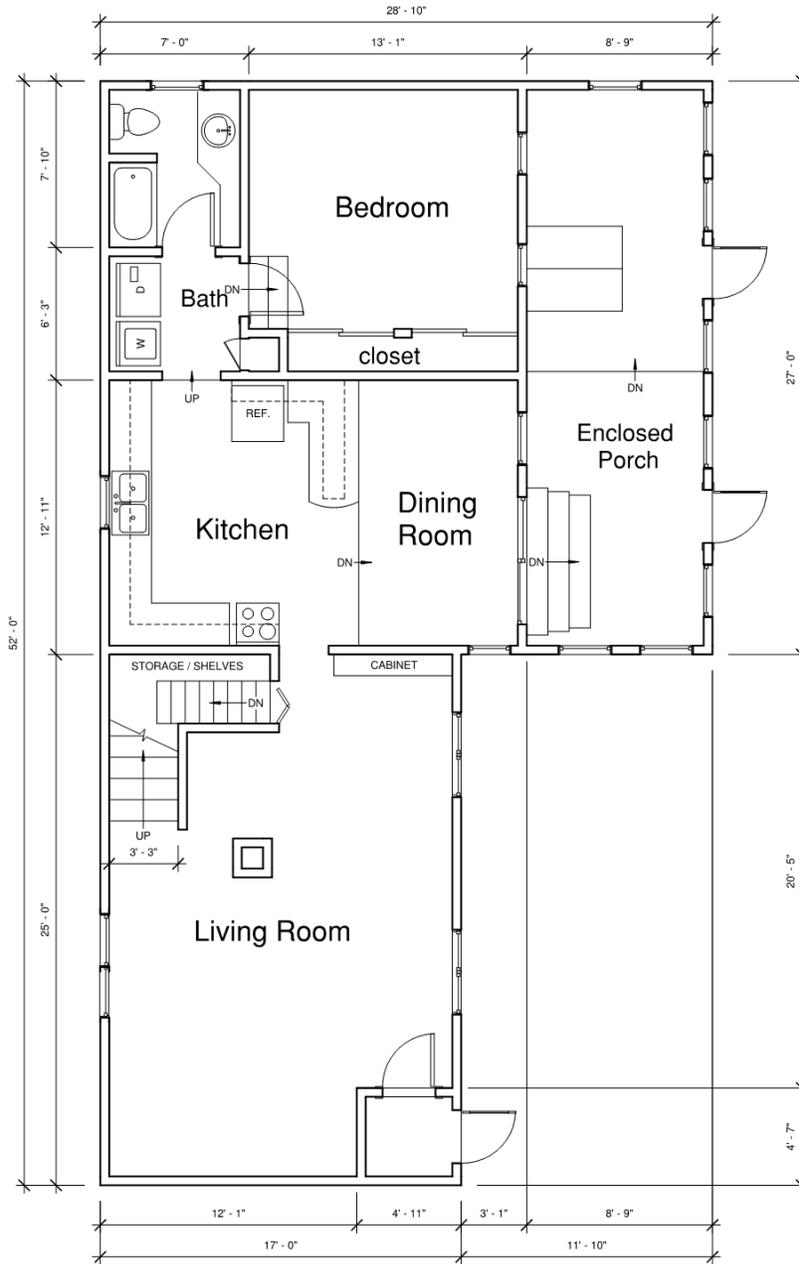


Sanborn Map, May 1928 (26 Wight is circled)

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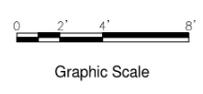
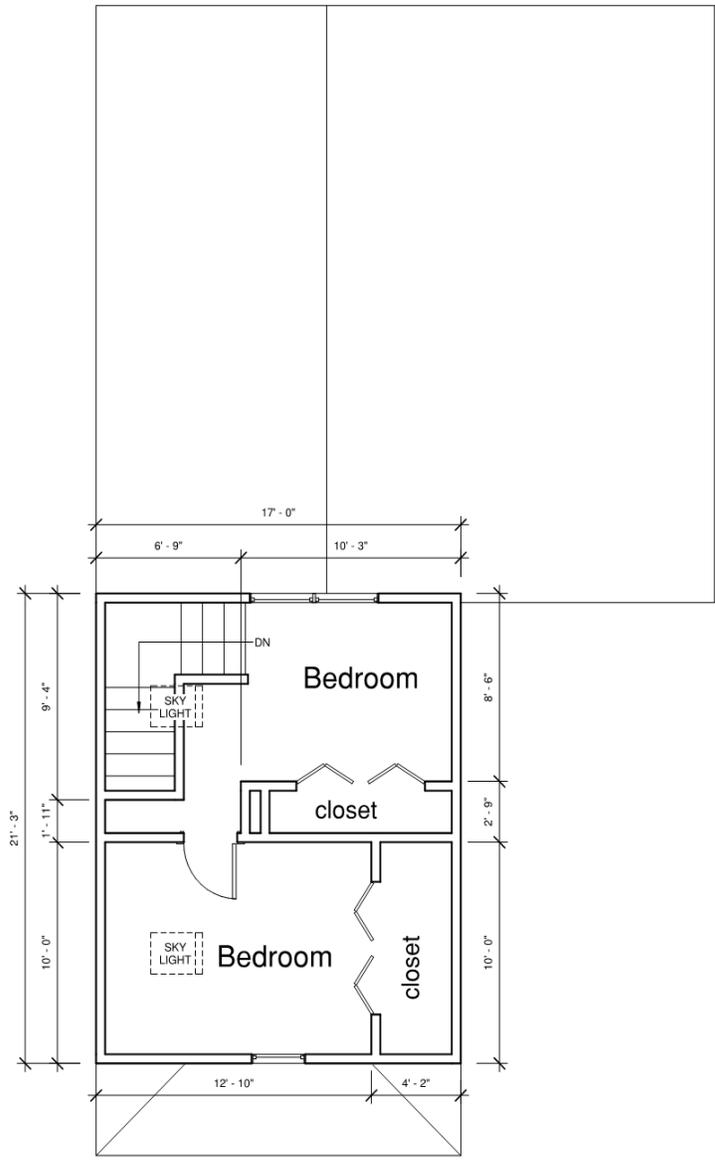


Graphic Scale



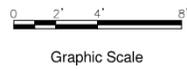
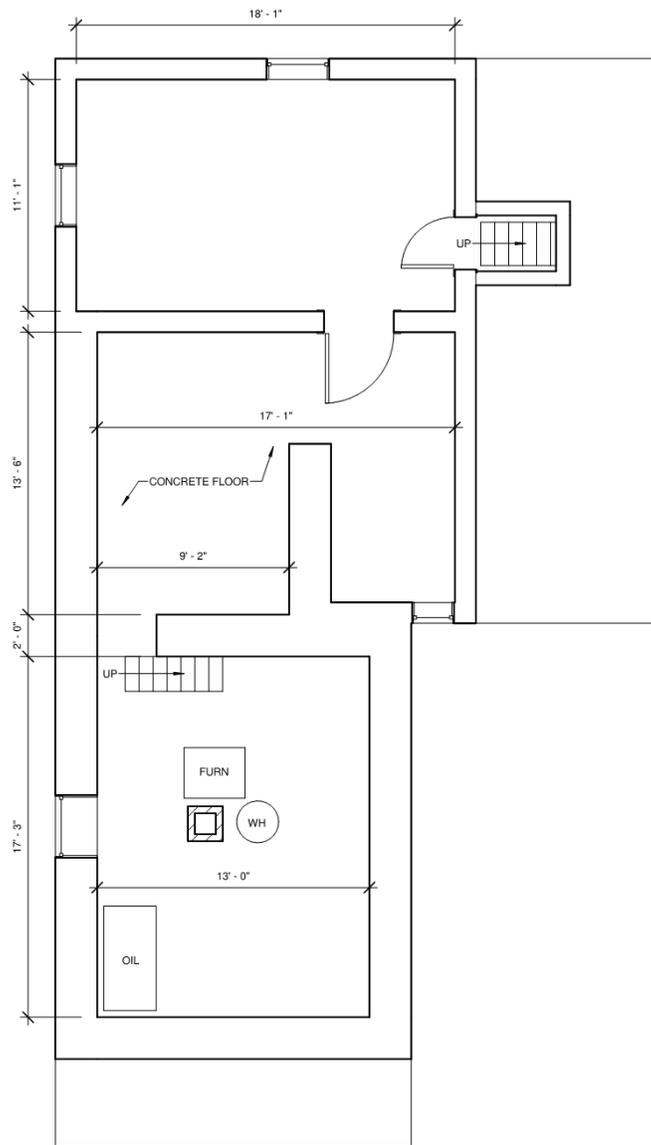
FIRST FLOOR 1/18

Existing Floor Plan – First Floor



SECOND FLOOR 2
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Existing Floor Plan – Second Floor



BASEMENT 0/18

Existing Floor Plan – Basement

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Photographer:

Charley Freiberg

- NH State No. 697-1 View looking northeast at west (façade) and south elevations with 38 Wight Street visible at left. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 697-2 View looking north-northeast showing west (façade) and south elevations. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 697-3 View looking southeast showing north and west (façade) elevations. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 697-4 View looking south showing east (rear) and north elevations. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 697-5 View looking west at east (rear) elevation. [November 2010]
- NH State No. 697-6 Interior view, looking northeast from entrance at first floor living room showing exposed chimney and open floor plan. Stairway to upstairs at left. [July 2011]
- NH State No. 697-7 Interior view, first floor, looking southeast from dining room into enclosed porch. [July 2011]
- NH State No. 697-8 Interior view, second floor, looking east toward rear gable window. [July 2011]

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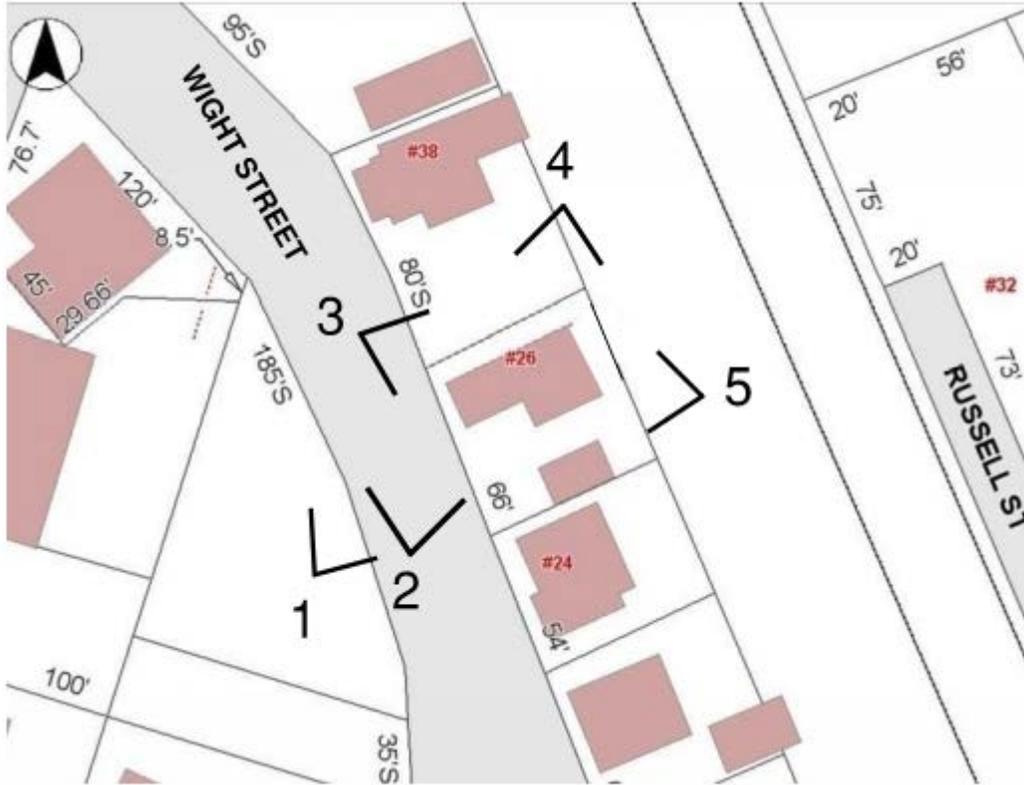
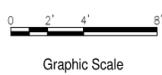
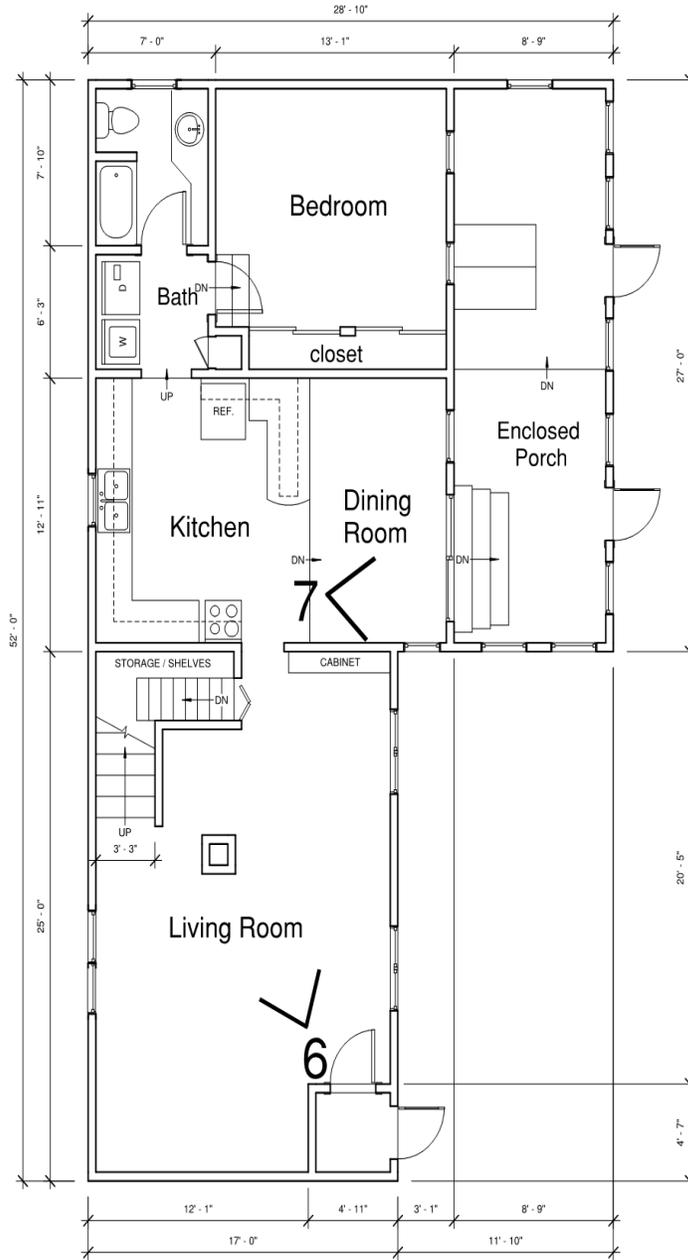


Photo Log – Exterior Photos

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FIRST FLOOR 1/18

Photo Log – First Floor Photos

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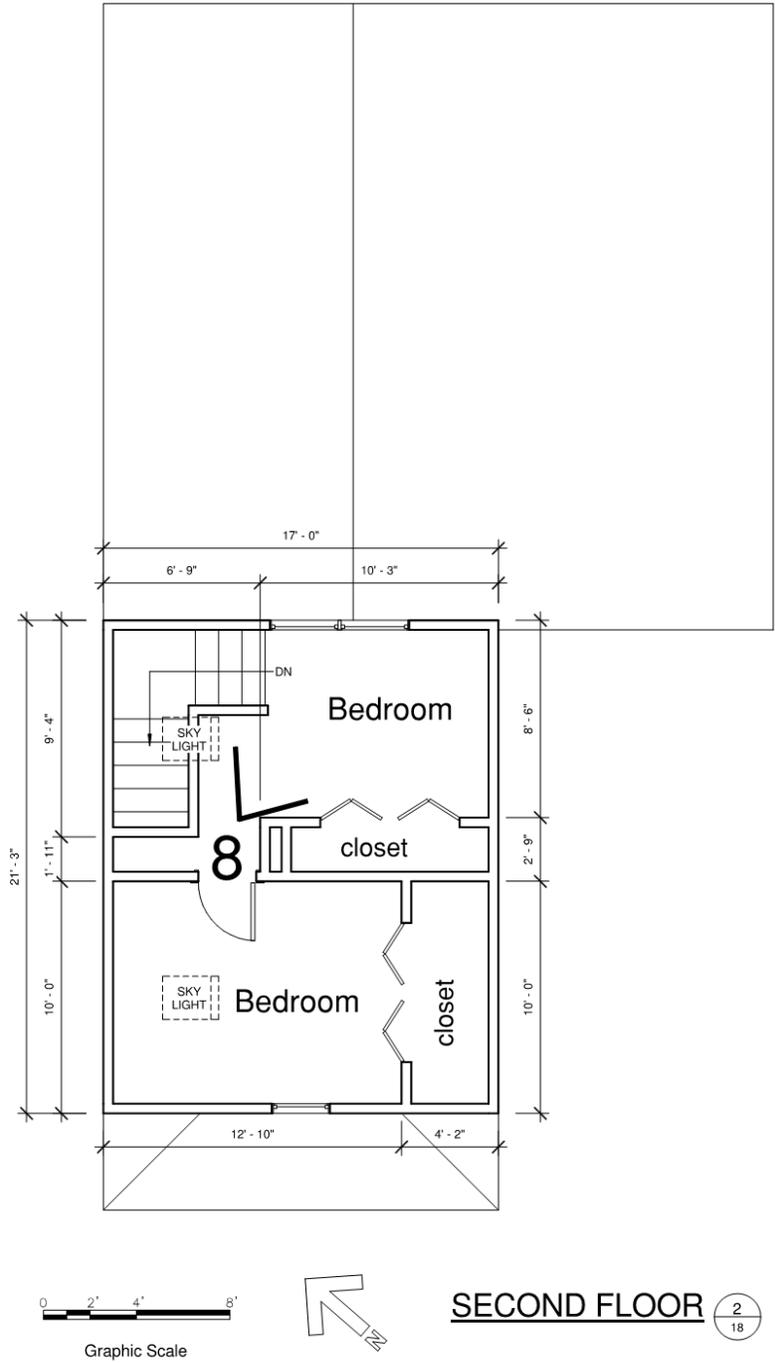


Photo Log – Second Floor Photos

