

### AGENDA ITEM 17 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

455 Mountain Village Blvd. Mountain Village, CO 81435 (970) 728-1392

TO: Mountain Village Town Council

**FROM:** Drew Nelson, Senior Planner

**FOR:** Town Council Regular Meeting; November 21, 2024

**DATE:** November 12, 2024

**RE:** Staff Memo – Conceptual Worksession Discussion of a Potential Height

Variance and Vested Property Rights for Lot 98, Pursuant to Section 17.4.6

of the Community Development Code

#### **BACKGROUND**

The owners of Lot 98, through their representative Ron Bercovitz, are seeking feedback on proposed conceptual height variance for a future single-family residence on the property. The applicants have indicated that the height variance is necessary due to the height of the adjacent Four Seasons project that is slated to begin construction soon. The applicant has provided preliminary designs that show a structure with shed roofs, which allow for a 35-foot height limit in the Single Family zone district. The applicants have proposed maximum roof heights of 56' – 6", exceeding the height limit by 21' – 6".

Section 17.4.16.D of the Community Development Code provides the following criteria for the review authority to consider in order to approve a variance:

- a. The strict development application of the CDC regulations would result in exceptional and undue hardship upon the property owner in the development of property lot because of special circumstances applicable to the lot such as size, shape, topography or other extraordinary or exceptional physical conditions;
- b. The variance can be granted without substantial detriment to the public health, safety and welfare;
- c. The variance can be granted without substantial impairment of the intent of the
- d. Granting the variance does not constitute a grant of special privilege in excess of that enjoyed by other property owners in the same zoning district, such as without limitation, allowing for a larger home size or building height than those found in the same zone district:
- Reasonable use of the property is not otherwise available without granting of a variance, and the variance being granted is the minimum necessary to allow for reasonable use;
- f. The lot for which the variance is being granted was not created in violation of Town regulations or Colorado State Statutes in effect at the time the lot was created;
- g. The variance is not solely based on economic hardship alone; and

h. The proposed variance meets all applicable Town regulations and standards unless a variance is sought for such regulations or standards.

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

In reviewing the floor plans and elevations, the applicant is proposing a structure with approximately 7,507 square feet of habitable space. The proposed home would have a two-story profile from Mountain Village Boulevard which appears to meet the height limits in the CDC; however, this is only accomplished through the addition of significant fill to the existing site to raise the structure higher. Based on existing grade, the front of the home off of Mountain Village Boulevard would be approximately 38 feet in height, exceeding CDC limits. It appears possible that the structure could be reconfigured to step down the lot to reduce the height variance required, but it may require reducing the overall square footage below the 7,507 square feet proposed.

There was a height variance granted in 1996 for 4 feet of additional roof height on Lot 94, 741 Mountain Village Boulevard, which is located uphill and across the street from the subject site. It appears the variance was granted due to the way the roadway was constructed as well as the adjacency of the gondola easement.

The applicant is also proposing to apply for a vested right to the variance of a period of up to ten years, which is significantly longer than the three years specified in the CDC; however, the Town Council can approve a longer vesting period based on the scale of the development or other unique circumstances. A vesting period longer than three years may be appropriate for larger developments (such as the Four Seasons), but it would be rare to include a longer period for single-family residences.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

A conceptual work session is a process that allows the Town Council to provide an informal, non-binding review of a conceptual development proposal. The Town Council should evaluate the concept based on the applicable criteria for decision in the future. Any comments or general direction given by the Town Council shall not be considered binding or represent any warranties or guarantees of approval of any kind. No formal action is taken by the Town Council on conceptual work sessions.

Staff recommends the Town Council review and evaluate the proposed concept plans based on the applicable criteria for decision on the future development application and provide nonbinding feedback and direction to the applicant regarding the proposed height variance.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Exhibit A: Project Narrative Exhibit B: Schematic Design

#### **DEVELOPMENT NARRATIVE:**

HEIGHT VARIANCE - LOT 98 Owners: Frost and Martha Prioleau

Architect/Applicant: Bercovitz Design, Architects

Submittal Date: 9-26-24

#### Purpose:

We have submitted a compliant Worksession application with the intention to hear from the Town Council members about their willingness to grant our request of a height variance for a period of not less than 10 years. The Council's comments will be taken into account when finalizing a design to present to the DRB.

#### History:

About two years ago, approval was granted for a 25 foot height variance for the hotel project on Lot 161CR. This project will likely start construction soon, and with its height, it will block the main mountain peak views that Lot 98 faces, unless we are allowed to build higher than the design regulations allow.

#### Description:

By building up the base grade of our building site, our current design appears to be similar to other height compliant single family homes in the Mountain Village. No homes on adjacent lots will be hampered by the additional height, since no lots are located directly behind it. The uppermost natural grade of the lot is about 10 feet below the road - the road was constructed 10 feet above the uppermost grade of the lot. From the street, the proposed house appears to be two modest levels above the street. The house is being located as high as possible on the lot to assist in obtaining a clear view over the proposed hotel. **Our proposed maximum building height is 56"-6", which is 21'-6" higher than the maximum allowed height in the CDC.** However, when assessing the building height by taking height intervals using the final grade, the design is compliant.

#### Timing:

Although we don't have plans to build on lot 98 in the immediate future, it is important we gain acknowledgement of the negative impact that the hotel project will have on our right to light and views, and enable the current Town Council to mitigate the damage to the light and view rights of the property owners that was caused by the approval of significant height variances for the hotel. A separate vested rights application will be submitted in the future with the DRB plans and height variance to enable and extended approval period. The CDC notes that an approval period beyond three years can be approved by the Town Council (per 17.4.17.E.5 "Duration)

#### Impact:

No homes on adjacent lots will be hampered by the additional height, since no lots are located directly behind it or located such that views will be impacted. The resulting structure will be as accessible as other similar single family structures for maintenance and for emergency (fire fighting) access. Snow shedding from the roof has been designed to enable snow to fall outside vehicular and pedestrian areas. Should there be an objection from a nearby lot, such objection can be heard and addressed at the hearing for approval

#### Demonstrated Economic Hardship:

Without the additional height requested, views from the future home will be severely restricted. This view blockage will result in a home value much lower than a home on the lot as it existed prior to the hotel height variance was granted.

#### Public Benefit:

The public benefit of this project is the mitigation of the "right-to views" damage caused to Lot 98 by the approval of significant height variances that have been granted to entice the developer to move forward with the hotel project. The public benefits cited for the hotel project were significant and well documented. The proposed height variance for Lot 98 should be considered as a fair trade for enabling the hotel's public benefits.

#### **DEVELOPMENT NARRATIVE:**

HEIGHT VARIANCE - LOT 98 Owners: Frost and Martha Prioleau

Architect/Applicant: Bercovitz Design, Architects

Submittal Date: 9-26-24

#### Purpose:

We have submitted a compliant Worksession application with the intention to hear from the Town Council members about their willingness to grant our request of a height variance for a period of not less than 10 years. The Council's comments will be taken into account when finalizing a design to present to the DRB.

#### History:

About two years ago, approval was granted for a 25 foot height variance for the hotel project on Lot 161CR. This project will likely start construction soon, and with its height, it will block the main mountain peak views that Lot 98 faces, unless we are allowed to build higher than the design regulations allow.

#### Description:

By building up the base grade of our building site, our current design appears to be similar to other height compliant single family homes in the Mountain Village. No homes on adjacent lots will be hampered by the additional height, since no lots are located directly behind it. The uppermost natural grade of the lot is about 10 feet below the road - the road was constructed 10 feet above the uppermost grade of the lot. From the street, the proposed house appears to be two modest levels above the street. The house is being located as high as possible on the lot to assist in obtaining a clear view over the proposed hotel. **Our proposed maximum building height is 56"-6", which is 21'-6" higher than the maximum allowed height in the CDC.** However, when assessing the building height by taking height intervals using the final grade, the design is compliant.

#### Timing:

Although we don't have plans to build on lot 98 in the immediate future, it is important we gain acknowledgement of the negative impact that the hotel project will have on our right to light and views, and enable the current Town Council to mitigate the damage to the light and view rights of the property owners that was caused by the approval of significant height variances for the hotel. A separate vested rights application will be submitted in the future with the DRB plans and height variance to enable and extended approval period. The CDC notes that an approval period beyond three years can be approved by the Town Council (per 17.4.17.E.5 "Duration)

#### Impact:

No homes on adjacent lots will be hampered by the additional height, since no lots are located directly behind it or located such that views will be impacted. The resulting structure will be as accessible as other similar single family structures for maintenance and for emergency (fire fighting) access. Snow shedding from the roof has been designed to enable snow to fall outside vehicular and pedestrian areas. Should there be an objection from a nearby lot, such objection can be heard and addressed at the hearing for approval

#### Demonstrated Economic Hardship:

Without the additional height requested, views from the future home will be severely restricted. This view blockage will result in a home value much lower than a home on the lot as it existed prior to the hotel height variance was granted.

#### Public Benefit:

The public benefit of this project is the mitigation of the "right-to views" damage caused to Lot 98 by the approval of significant height variances that have been granted to entice the developer to move forward with the hotel project. The public benefits cited for the hotel project were significant and well documented. The proposed height variance for Lot 98 should be considered as a fair trade for enabling the hotel's public benefits.

# **Lot 98**

## MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, COLORADO

Schematic Design 09-27-2024



**DATE:** 09-27-2024

86 LOT

**MECHANICAL ENGINEER:** 

SURVEYOR: **Foley Associates** 

ARCHITECT:

P.O. Box 2709

Telluride CO, 81435 (970) 728 - 4555

Bercovitz Design Architects

201 W. Colorado Ave., Suite 205

Contact: Ron Bercovitz, AIA

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:** 

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER:

**CIVIL ENGINEER:** 

0.1 COVER 0.3 PERSPECTIVES 0.4 PERSPECTIVES

1.1 SITE PLAN
3.1 FLOOR PLANS
4.1 ELEVATIONS
5.1 SECTIONS
S SURVEY

DRAWING SCALE STONE VENEER CONCRETE MASONRY UNIT **DETAIL, SECTION, OR ELEVATION VIEW** RIGID INSULATION **CROSS REFERENCE KEY** SPRAY FOAM INSULATION BATT INSULATION / BLOWN - IN X SECTION # -WOOD - ROUGH X.X SHEET # X.X WOOD - FINISH DOOR TAG WINDOW TAG DETAIL MARKER **ELEVATION** 

**ABBREVIATIONS** 

ANCHOR BOLT
ACOUSTICAL CEILING TIL
ABOVE FINISH FLOOR
ALTERNATE
APPROXIMATE
ARCHITECTURAL

DET/DTL DETAIL
DIA DIAMETER
DIAG DIAGONAL
DIM DIMENSION
DN DOWN
DS DOWNSPOUT
DW DISHWASHER
DWG/DWGS DRAWING / DRAWINGS

DRAWING TITLE KEY

A.B. ANCHOR BOLT
A.C.T. ACOUSTICAL CEILING TILE
AFF ABOVE FINISH FLOOR
A.L.T. ALTERNATE
APPX APPROXIMATE
ARCH ARCHITECTURAL
BD BOARD
BLDG BUILDING
BLK BLOCK
BLKG BLOCKING
BM BEAM
B.O. BOTTOM OF
BTM BOTTOM
BTWN BETWEEN
B.W. BOTH WAYS
C.J. CONTROL JOINT
C.L. CENTER LINE
CLOS. CLOSET
CLG CEILING
CLKG CAULKING
CLK CLEAR
CMU CONCRETE MASONRY UNIT
CONC CONCRETE
CONT CONSTRUCTION
CONSTR CONSTRUCTION
CONT CONSTRUCTION
CONT CONTINUOUS
C.T. CERAMIC TILE

DET/IDTL DETAIL

(E) EXISTING
EA EACH
E.J. EXPANSION JOINT
EIFS EXTERIOR INSULATION
EL/ELEV ELEVATION
ELEC ELECTRICAL
ENCL ENCLOSURE
EQ EQUAL
EQUIP EQUIPMENT
EXT EXTERIOR
EXIST EXISTING
EXIST EXIST
EXIST EXIST
EXIST
EXIST EXIST
EXIST
EXIST
EXIST
EXIST
EXIST
EXIST
EXIST
EXIST
E

E) EXISTING
EA EACH
E.J. EXPANSION JOINT
EIFS EXTERIOR INSULATION
AND FINISH SYSTEM
EL/ELEV ELEVATION
ELEC ELECTRICAL
ENCL ENCLOSURE
EQ EQUAL
EQUIP EQUIPMENT
EXT EXTERIOR
EXIST EXISTING
E.W. EACH WAY
EXP. EXPANSION
EXT EXTERIOR

GAUGE
GALVANZIED
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
GLASS
GLU-LAM BEAM
GYPSUM
GYPSUM WALL BOARD

H.B. HOSE BIBB
H/C HANDICAPPED
HD HEAD
HDWD HARDWOOD
HORIZ HORIZONTAL
HT HEIGHT

MAX MAXIMUM
MECH MECHANICAL
MFG/MFR MANUFACTURER
MIN MINIMUM
MISC MISCELLANEOUS
MTL METAL

NOT APPLICABLE NOT TO SCALE

REFRIGERATOR REINFORCED / REINFORCIN REQUIRED ROOM ROUGH OPENING

INSIDE DIAMETER INSULATION INTERIOR

VERTICAL VERIFY VERIFY IN FIELD

WITHOUT WATERCLOSET WATERPROOF WOOD

**GRAPHIC SYMBOLS LEGEND** 

CONCRETE WALL - NEW

STUD WALL - NEW

CONSTRI

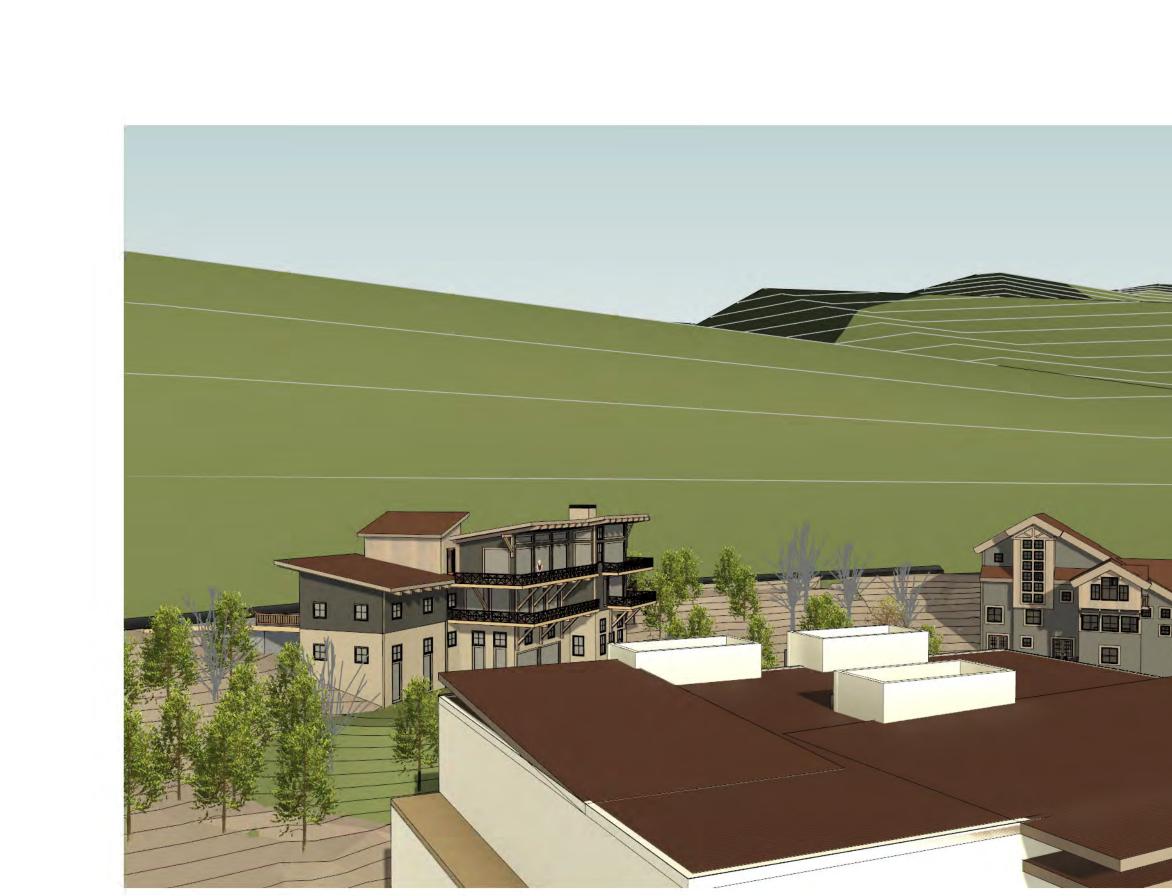
**LON** 





















MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, COLORADO **FOT 98** 

BERCOV A R C H















VIEW FROM LOT 97



VIEW OF LOT SHOWING RETAINING WALL



VIEW OF HOUSE TO THE NORTH



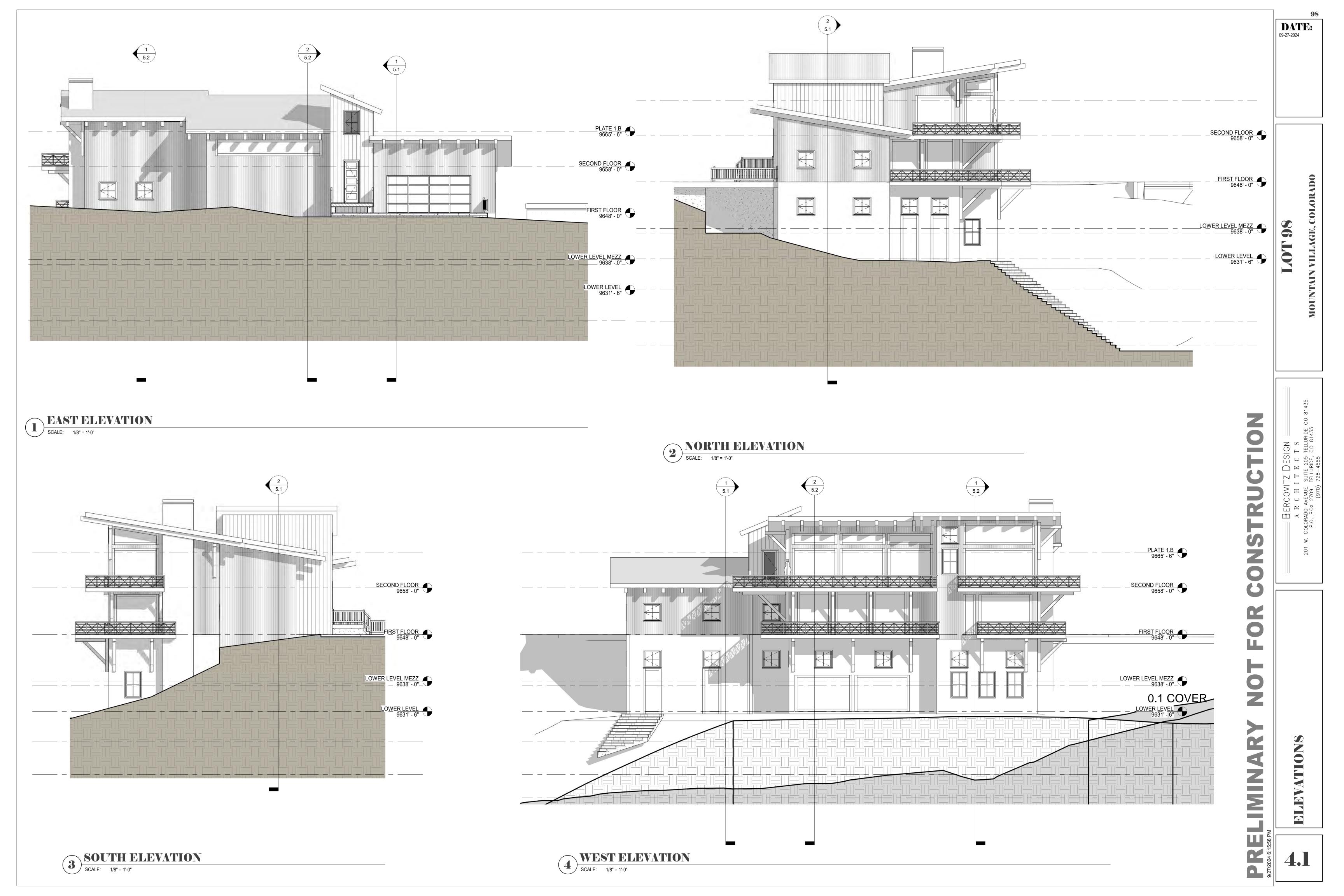
VIEW OF LOT LOOKING SOUTH

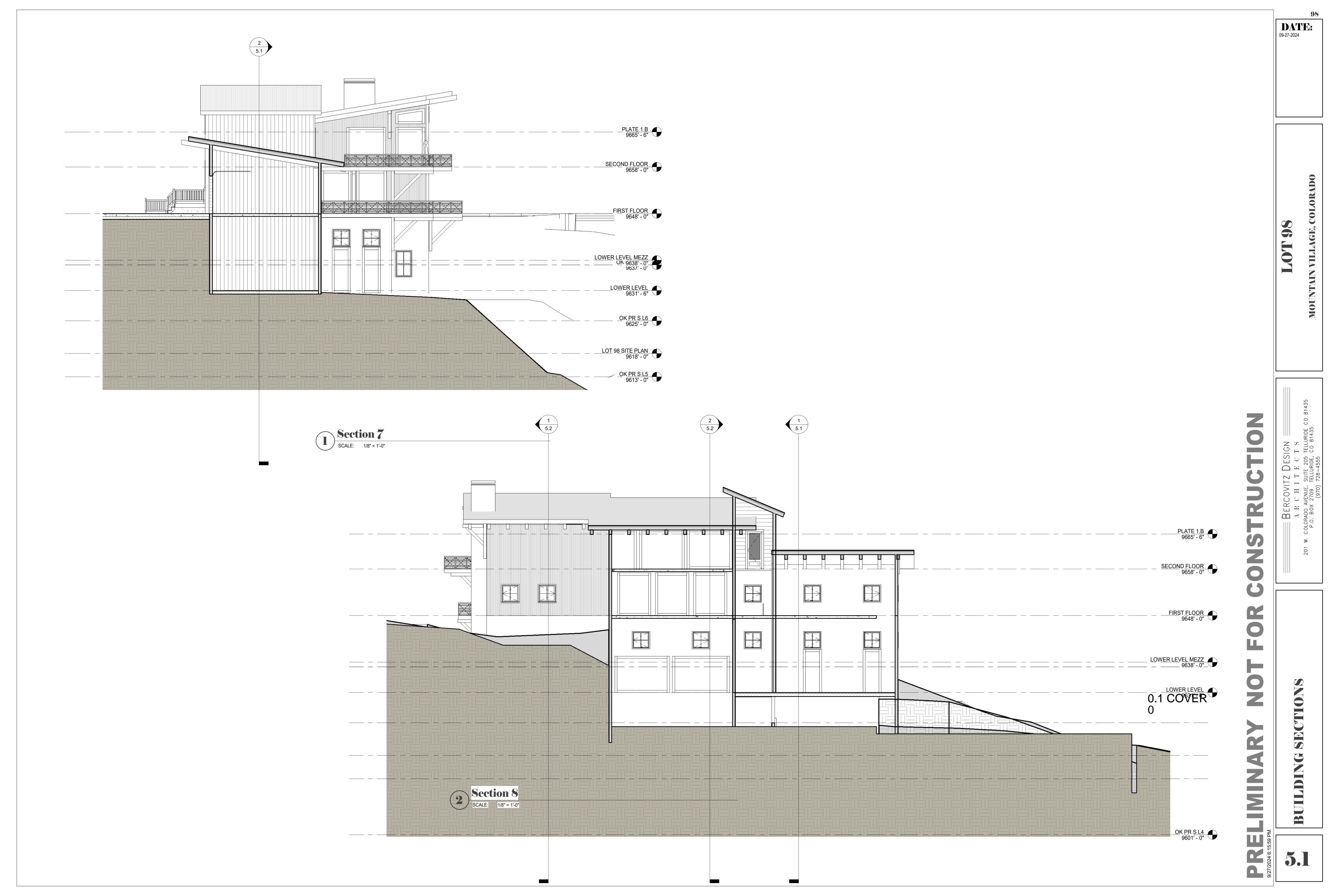


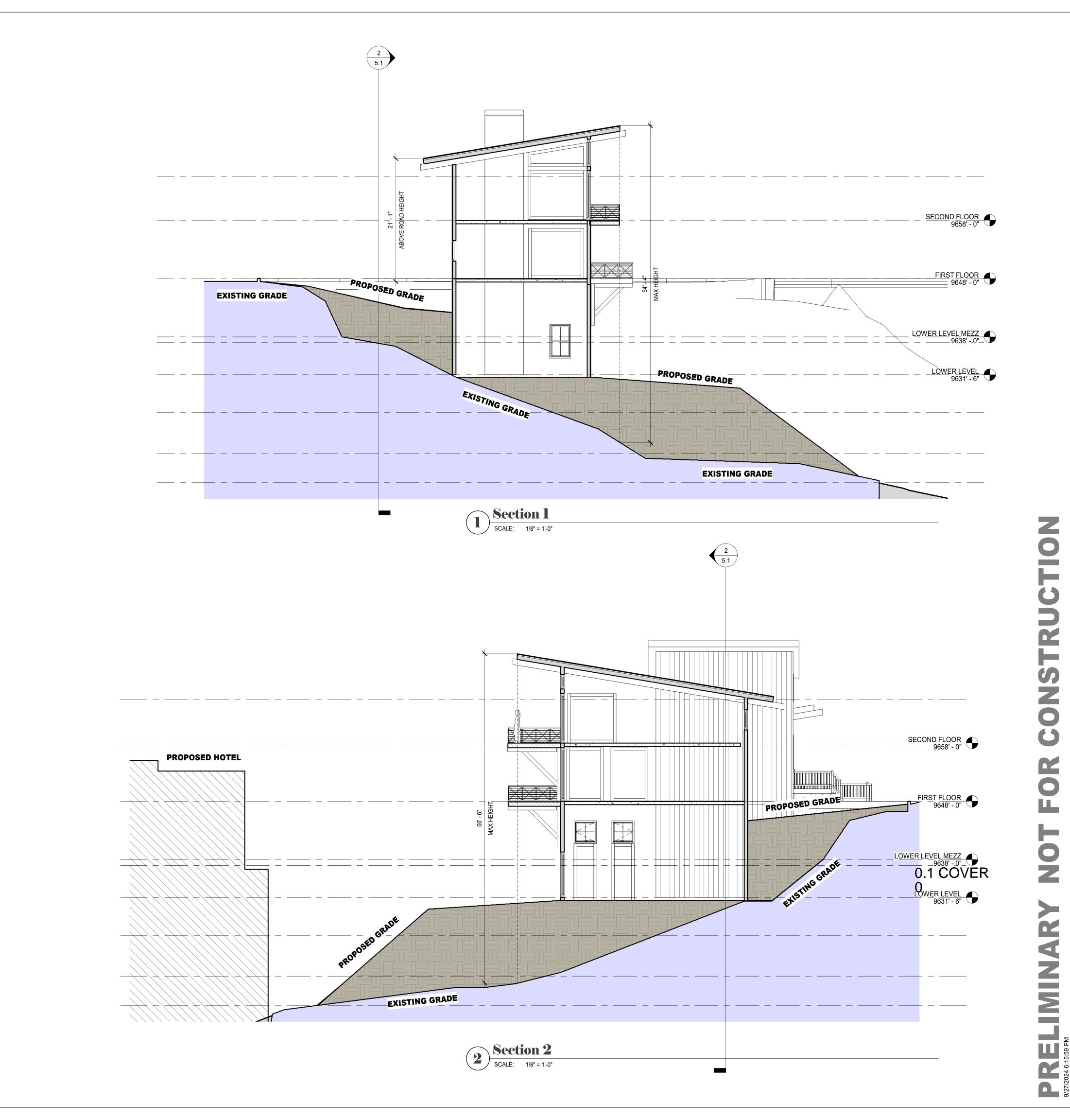


**DATE:** 09-27-2024

**TOT 98** 



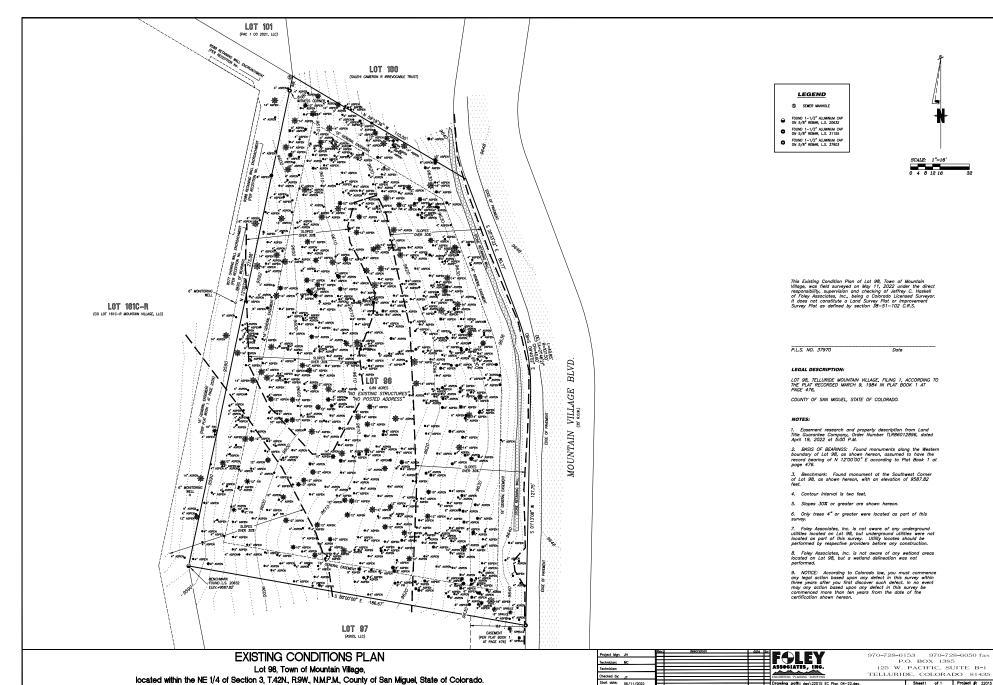




MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, COLORADO **TOT 98** 

**DATE:** 09-27-2024

BUILDING SECTIONS



Sheet1 of 1 Project #: 22015