#### CONCEPT SUBDIVISION PLAN REPORT to the Carroll County Planning and Zoning Commission October 15, 2024

## Prepared by Kierstin Marple, Bureau of Development Review

SUBJECT:	P-22-0042 – Harvest Creek
LOCATION:	7020 Ridge Road, Marriottsville MD, 21104, C.D. 5
<b>OWNER:</b>	Juanita Zabel & Jeanette Birger EtAl, 6933 Ridge Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104
<b>DEVELOPER:</b>	Elm Street Development, 5074 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042
SURVEYOR:	Development Design Consultants Inc, 192 E Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157
ZONING:	Residential-40,000 (R-40) & Conservation
ACREAGE:	148.86 acres
WATERSHED:	South Branch Patapsco
NO. OF LOTS:	137
FIRE DISTRICT:	Sykesville-Freedom
MASTER PLAN:	Residential Medium- 2018 Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan
PRIORITY FUNDING AREA:	Outside
DESIGNATED GROWTH AREA:	Freedom

#### **\*** Action Required:

The plan is before the Planning and Zoning Commission per Chapter 155 of the Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances of Carroll County for consideration of a concept major subdivision plan. **No action is required.** 

### **\*** Existing Conditions:

The subject property is located in the southeastern portion of the County near the Baltimore and Howard County borders, on the south side of Ridge Road and to the west of Marriottsville Rd Number 2. It consists of two parcels that are under common ownership, amounting to a collective total of 148.86 acres. The majority of the property is zoned Residential-40,000 (R-40) and the remaining 17.26 acres, located at the property's southernmost point, is zoned Conservation.

The area to the east of the site is also zoned R-40, the region to the south shares the conservation zoning district, and the region to the north and west are zoned Residential-20,000 (R-20). The property to the immediate northwest contains a farm and a produce stand, and all other surrounding properties are developed as established subdivisions containing single family dwellings.

The subject property is presently used as a crop farm. There are multiple streams and areas of steep slopes throughout the central and southern portions of the property, and there are wooded areas in the southwestern portion. A vacant dwelling and associated outbuildings are located centrally within the property, with access to Ridge Road to the north via a single-user private driveway. In addition to Ridge Road, the property is situated for access to three other public roads that have planned road connections to this property.

The property is within the Freedom designated Growth Area and is outside of Priority Funding Areas. The R-40 zoned area of the property is within priority water and sewer service areas, and the properties to the north and west are presently served by public water and sewer systems. The Conservation zoned area of the property and the adjacent properties to the east and south are outside of the service areas and utilize private wells and septic systems.

### Plan Review:

The developer proposes to subdivide the property into 137 residential lots for single family dwellings. Both the Conservation and R-40 zoned areas of the property are proposed to contain subdivision lots. Four of the proposed lots are located within the Conservation zoned area and the remainder are within the R-40 district.

The subdivision is designed as a cluster subdivision per section 155.095 of the County Code, which allows the lots to be smaller than the typical minimum lot size and allocates the difference in size as development-restricted open space areas. The entire development is proposed to be developed as a cohesive cluster subdivision, thus the requirements applicable within each zoning district are calculated within that district, and minimums can be met within the subdivision as a whole. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) authorized the pursuit of the subdivision as a cluster plan on June 20, 2023, as detailed later in this report.

The plans show a full-movement access point with acceleration/deceleration lanes on Ridge Road, and three additional public road connections via an extension of Prothero Road to the southwest, Road E which is intended to connect to Forest Hills Road to the east, and an extension of Lazy Morning Way to the south. These three planned connections are shown on the respective subdivision's plats/plans, attached. The Prothero Road connection includes two new stream crossings. Two additional areas of future road connections are shown, including the realignment of the Ridge Road/Marriottsville Road 2 intersection, however these are future connections and will not be constructed as a part of this project.

Due to the topography and environmental features of the property, the 137 lots are located in three distinct areas within the property. The majority of the subdivision is connected internally by 5 new County maintained roads which will vary between 22' and 30' in width and will all have sidewalks on both sides of the roads. 107 of the lots are located in the northwestern portion of the property and are largely accessed with private single-use drives directly from this public road network. The exception are six two-lot shared use-in-common driveways (UIC) and two UIC driveways that will serve three or more lots. 26 lots are clustered in the southeast area of Harvest Creek, along the cul-de-sac terminus of proposed Road D as well as three separate UIC driveways on the North side of that road. The four lots in the Conservation-zoned area of the property are located at the southernmost portion of the community, which is divided by a stream, and would be accessed from a new UIC driveway at the end of Lazy Morning Way.

The layout of the open space parcels creates buffers around the existing natural resources on the property. Many of these environmental features will be protected by specific conservation and protection easements such as Water Resource Management Easements and Forest Conservation Easements in addition to being located within the open space parcels. These easements will be shown in detail on the preliminary plan.

On June 10, 2022, a concept cluster subdivision plan was submitted to the Bureau of Development Review and distributed to the technical review agencies for review.

The plan was subject to citizen involvement during the July 25, 2022 Technical Review Committee meeting. Six citizens were in attendance at the meeting and the County also received phone calls and emails from the public, as included in the previous special report. Comments and concerns included a desire to add landscaping buffers where the property adjoins existing neighborhoods, and concerns about stormwater runoff and soil erosion as well as school capacity issues.

The plan was further subject to citizen involvement when it was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) on June 20, 2023 as a special report. This report's purpose was to seek authorization to process the plan as a cluster subdivision, as it had been sufficiently demonstrated that the clustering requirements were addressed. The PZC authorized the project to proceed as a cluster subdivision.

The County received many phone calls and emails regarding the plan at this time, including an email from a representative of the Freedom District Citizens Association. Comments included concerns about additional traffic, particularly at the Ridge Road/ Marriottsville Road 2 intersection which was noted to have frequent speeding issues and automotive accidents which cause a lack of alternative routes of out the Forest Hills community; school capacity issues; the potential presence of grave sites; a desire for the intersection of Ridge Road and Marriottsville 2 to be rerouted, as is included in the Master Plan; not wanting Prothero Road to be extended to connect to Ridge Road, which is also an alignment shown on the Master Plan; a desire for larger houses on larger lots; and a desire to reduce the number of lots that would be accessed via Lazy Morning Way.

Since this meeting, the developer has been in communication with members of the community. Some aspects of the plan have been reconfigured in response to a number of these comments. Changes include reducing the number of lots that would be accessed via Lazy Morning Way from 10 lots to 4 lots, enlargement of the lots within the Conservation zoning district, and a reconfiguration of some open space areas to create buffers between new and existing lots.

As a cluster subdivision, the total area of the open space parcels must equal, at minimum, the cumulative difference between the acreage of the proposed lots versus the acreage that the same number of lots would contain if developed according to their districts minimum lot sizes.

The plan shows a total of 61 acres of open space allocated throughout the development. This total exceeds the minimum of 59.3 acres of open space required for the subdivision. This acreage is arranged throughout the site in multiple areas and within 8 separate parcels.

Chapter 155.095 of the Code also specifies certain requirements regarding the conditions of the R-40 districts open space allocations. Section (A)(4)(b) requires that at least 10% of R-40 district's minimum acreage requirement for open space be suitable for and designated as active/recreational open space, which equates to a minimum of 5.9 acres. Additionally, Section (A)(5)(a) sets a maximum of 50% of the required area can consist of steep slopes and floodplain areas. Both of these requirements are met, with 6.2 acres within the open space parcels designated as active open space and 27.5 acres of the open space being within steep slopes, floodplains, and water areas.

The active open space areas are located within the eastern and southeastern portions of the property. All active open space parcels are adjacent to and accessible through public right of ways. An access drive with a seven-space parking lot is located at the end of Road D, which provides the 133 R-40 zoned lots with access to the largest active open space area that is near the four Conservation zoned lots in the south of the community. No additional features or pedestrian paths are proposed in these open space parcels, and the pedestrian access from Road D terminates before reaching the UIC driveway off of Lazy Morning Way.

Comprehensive Planning has determined that the current plans are consistent with the 2018 Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan and has requested that a note be added regarding the "Planned Major Street: Ridge Road Relocated" from the 2014 Carroll County Master Plan (2019 Amended). This realignment of the Ridge Road and Marriottsville Rd 2 intersection is outlined on the plans and is intended to be constructed by the County at such time that the remaining land acquisition and funding is secured in the future.

A Traffic Impact Study (TIS) was reviewed by both the County and the State Highway Administration, and all intersections and movements were found to be adequate and the TIS was approved. The study was based on the 143 single family dwellings shown on the original subdivision plan submitted in 2022, which has since been reduced to 137 single family dwellings. Engineering Review's primary comments have been addressed and their review will continue through the remainder of the process. SHA has reviewed the plan and both has issued approval for the plan.

Utilities has approved the concept plan, and additional comments must be addressed on the preliminary and final plans. These additional comments include requiring details about the proposed sewage pump station, and the inclusion of additional water lines to provide redundancy in the system to better serve all users. The plans show that 133 of the proposed lots will connect to both public water and sewer, and the 4 lots that are larger than 1 acre in size and will have their own private septic systems. The Health Department has approved the concept plan and will participate in the review of the preliminary and final plans as well.

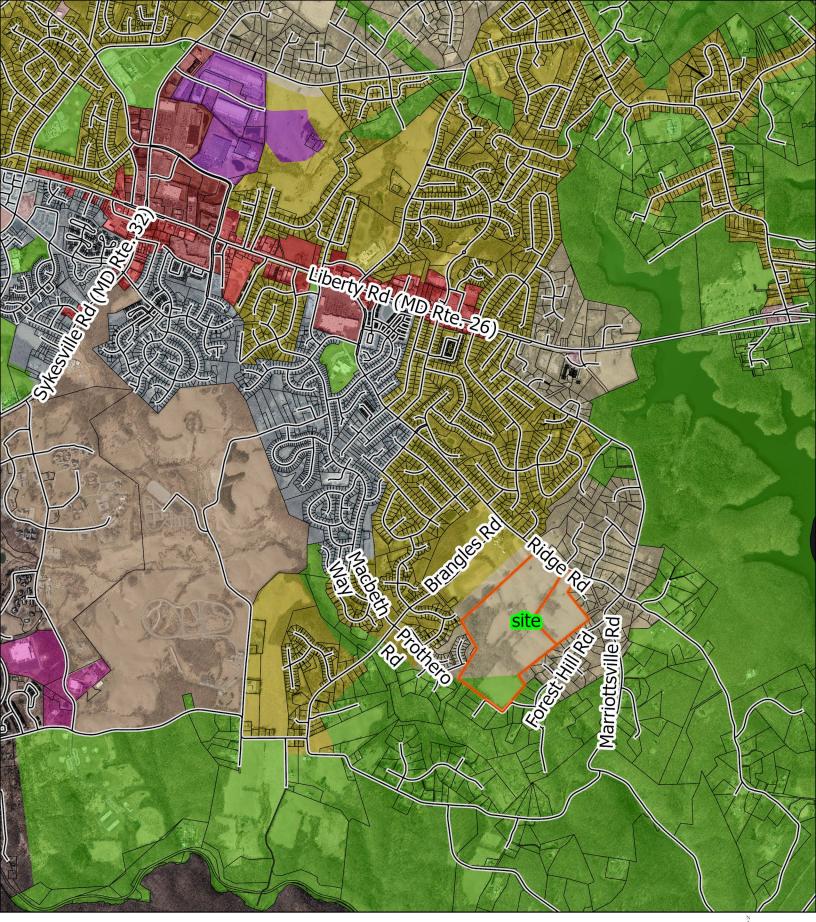
Emergency Services has approved the plan, having made a note that the extension of Prothero Road from its current terminus to connect to the new road network is a condition of approval.

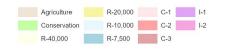
Stormwater Management concept approval has been achieved. The plans address stormwater in a variety of manners, including drywells within all the lots and micro-bioretention facilities and submerged gravel wetlands within separate parcels that will be owned by the County. Storm drains will be installed throughout the road network as well which will discharge into the County-maintained facilities.

Floodplain Review approved the concept plan and will require a flood study and easements to be assessed in the preliminary review stage. Water Resource Management review's main comments have been addressed by inclusion of the buffers/easements along the streams and wetland areas.

The Grading office and Soil Conservation have reviewed and approved the concept plan. Forest Conservation and landscaping requirements will be detailed on the preliminary plan.

The project is subject to the provisions of Concurrency Management, Chapter 156 of the Code, and will be tested prior to presentation of the plan to the Commission for approval of the preliminary plan. At the concept stage, Freedom Elementary School is considered inadequate. An expansion of the school is funded in the Community Investment Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2025 - 2030, which is anticipated to alleviate this inadequacy in the 2027-28 school year.

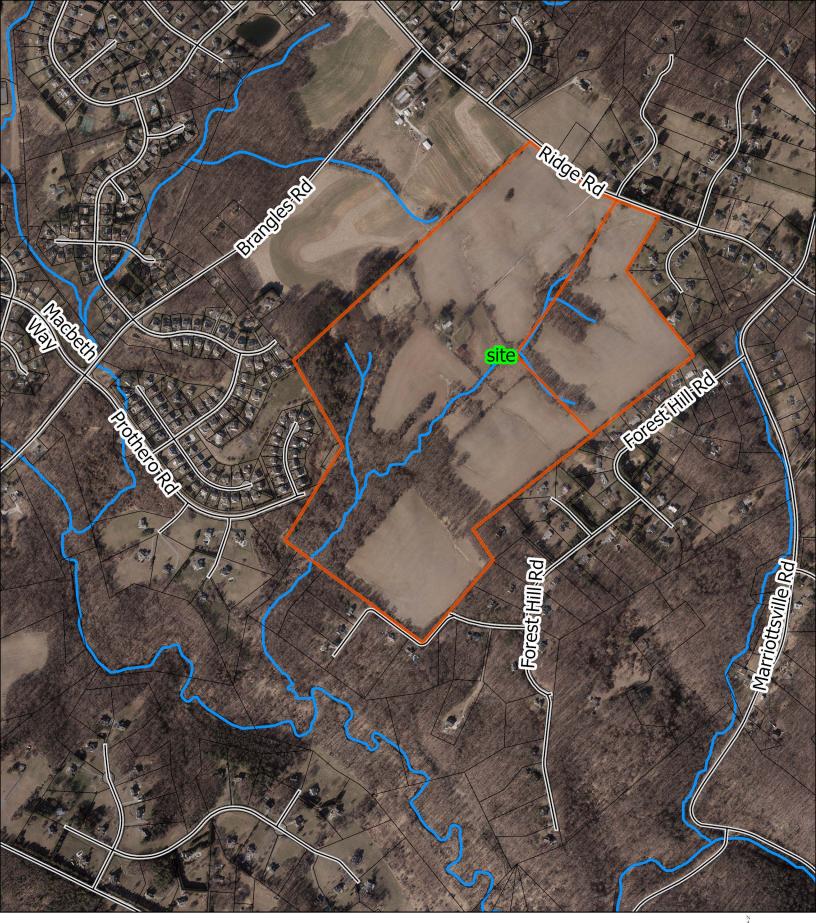




Harvest Creek P-22-0042



Property line shown hereon are from tax maps and therefore are approximate and are shown for illustrative reference only. Photograph date: Spring 2020

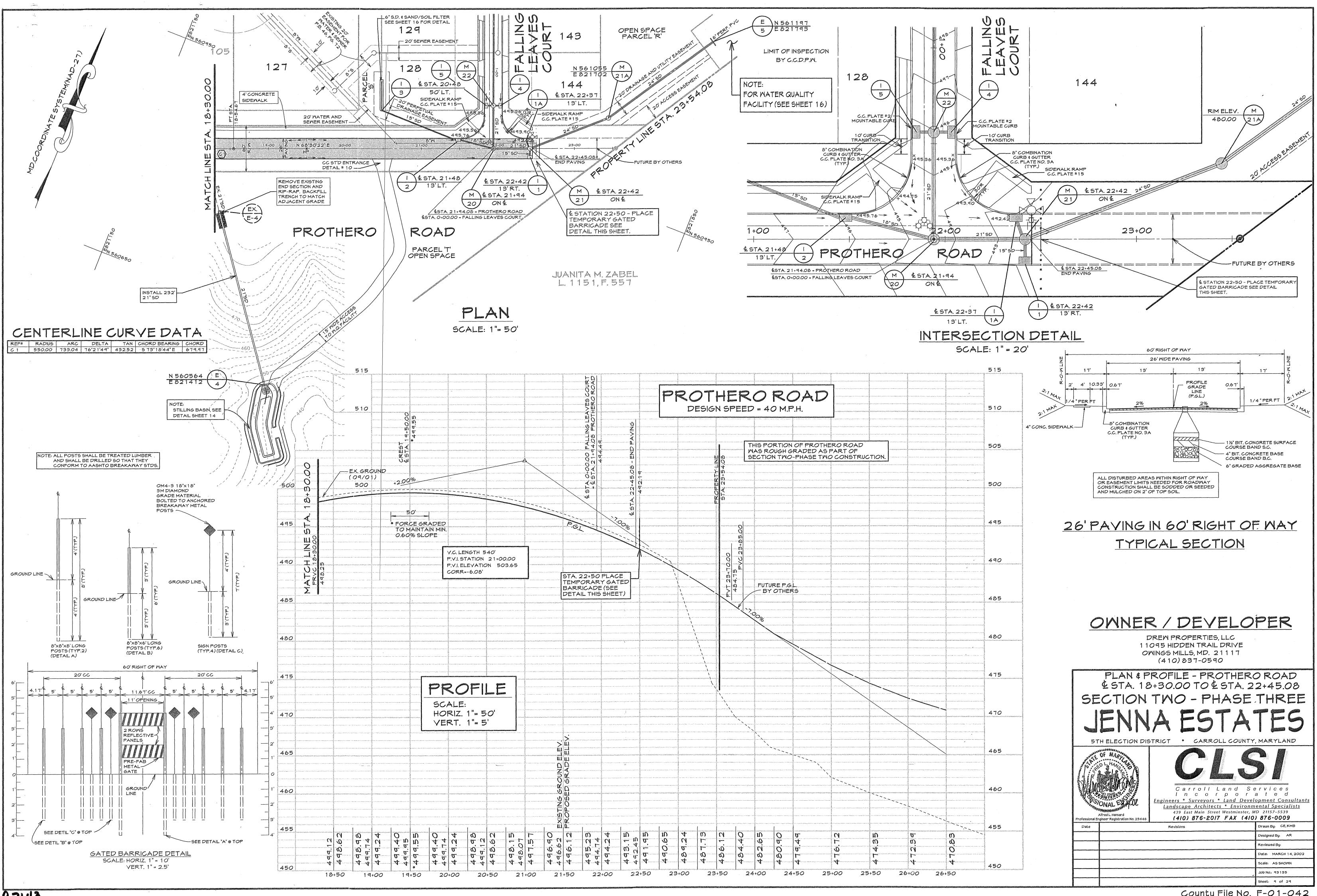


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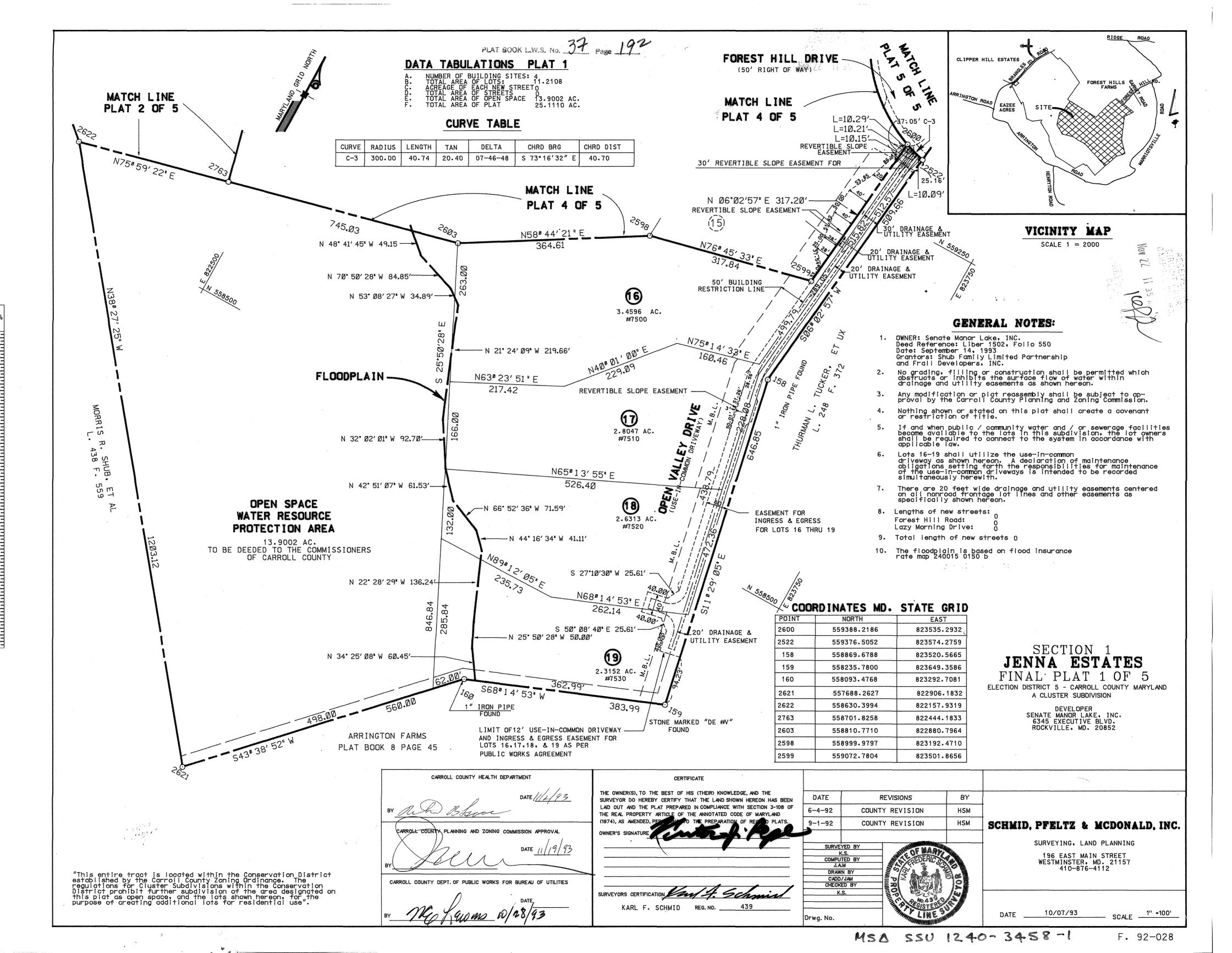




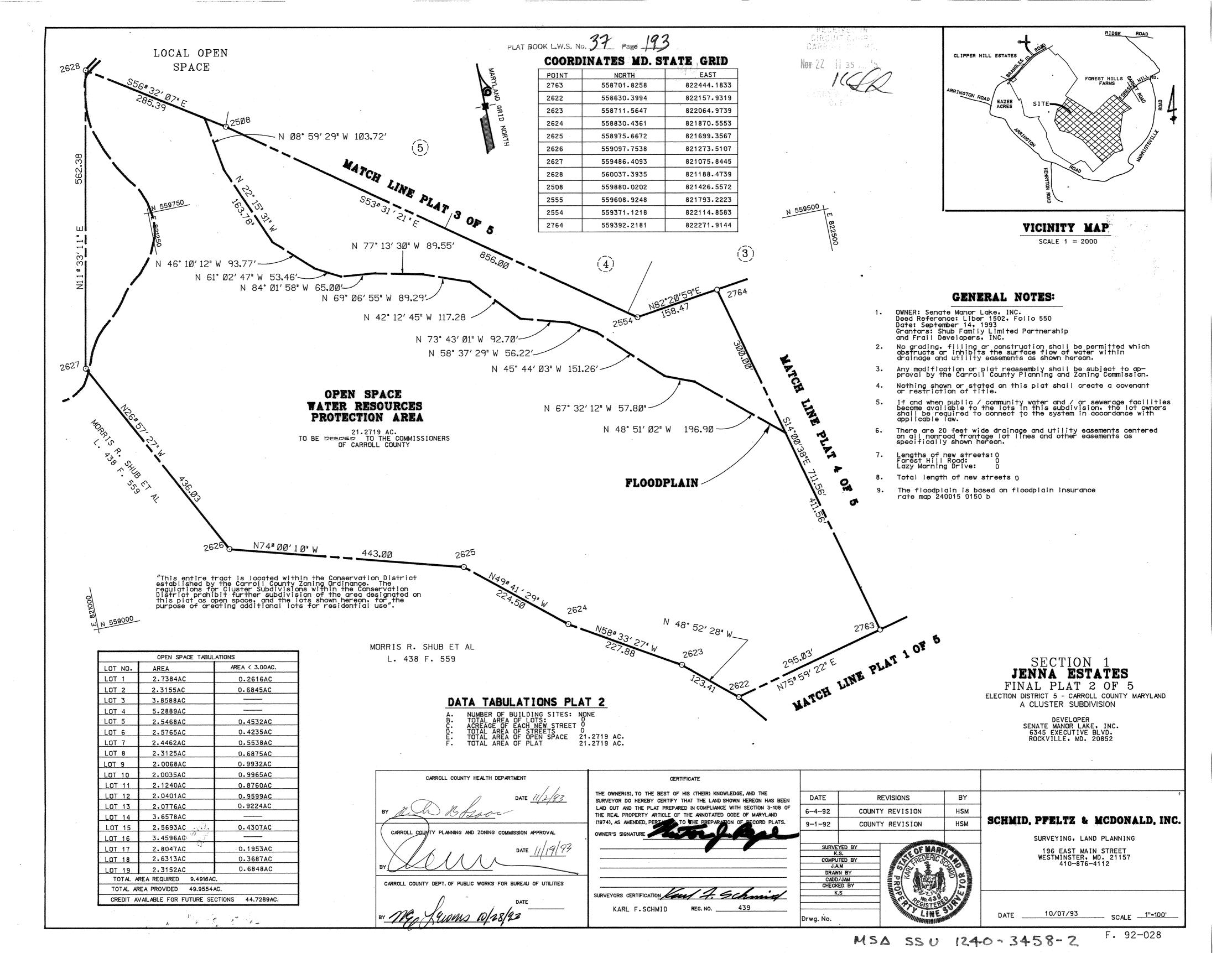
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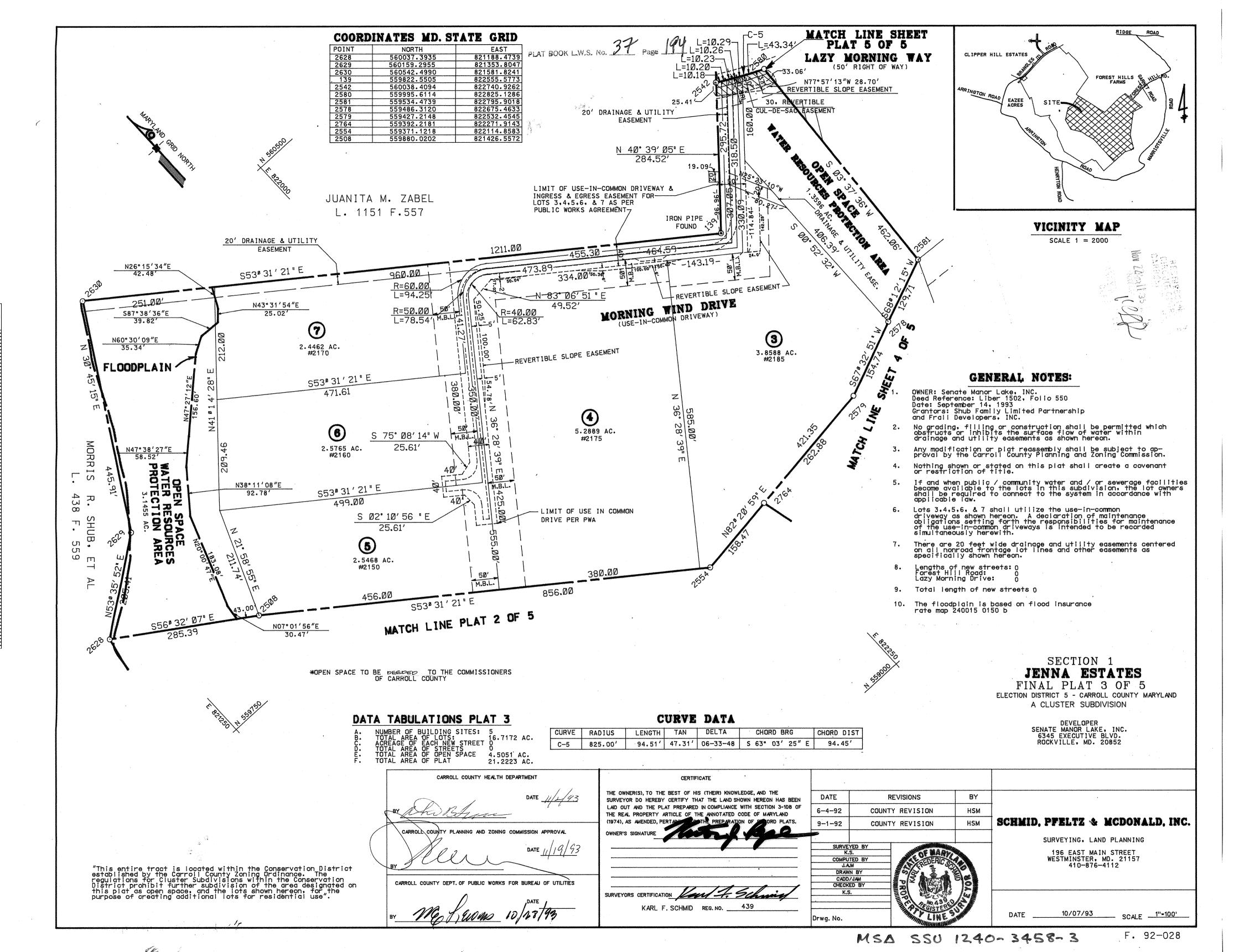
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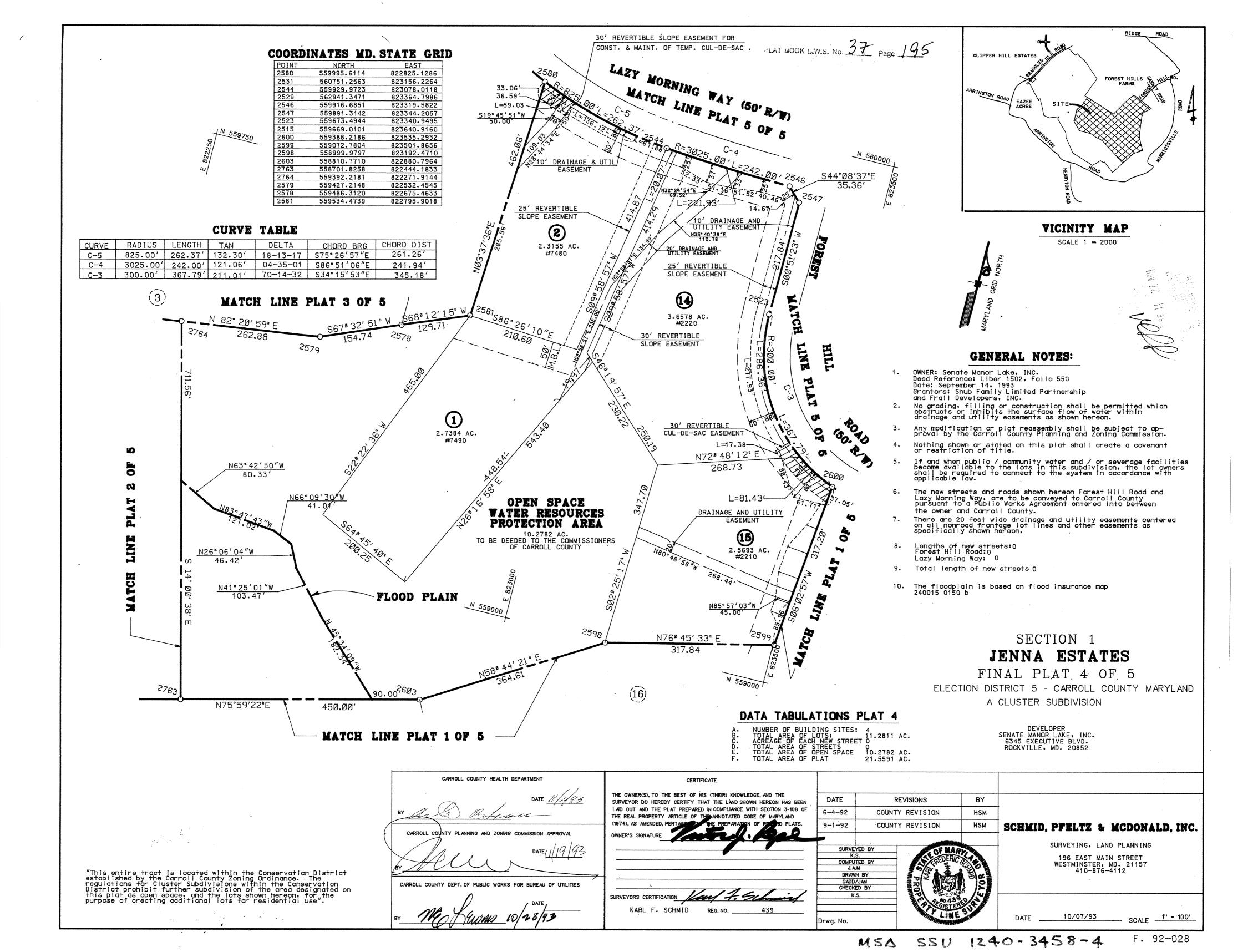


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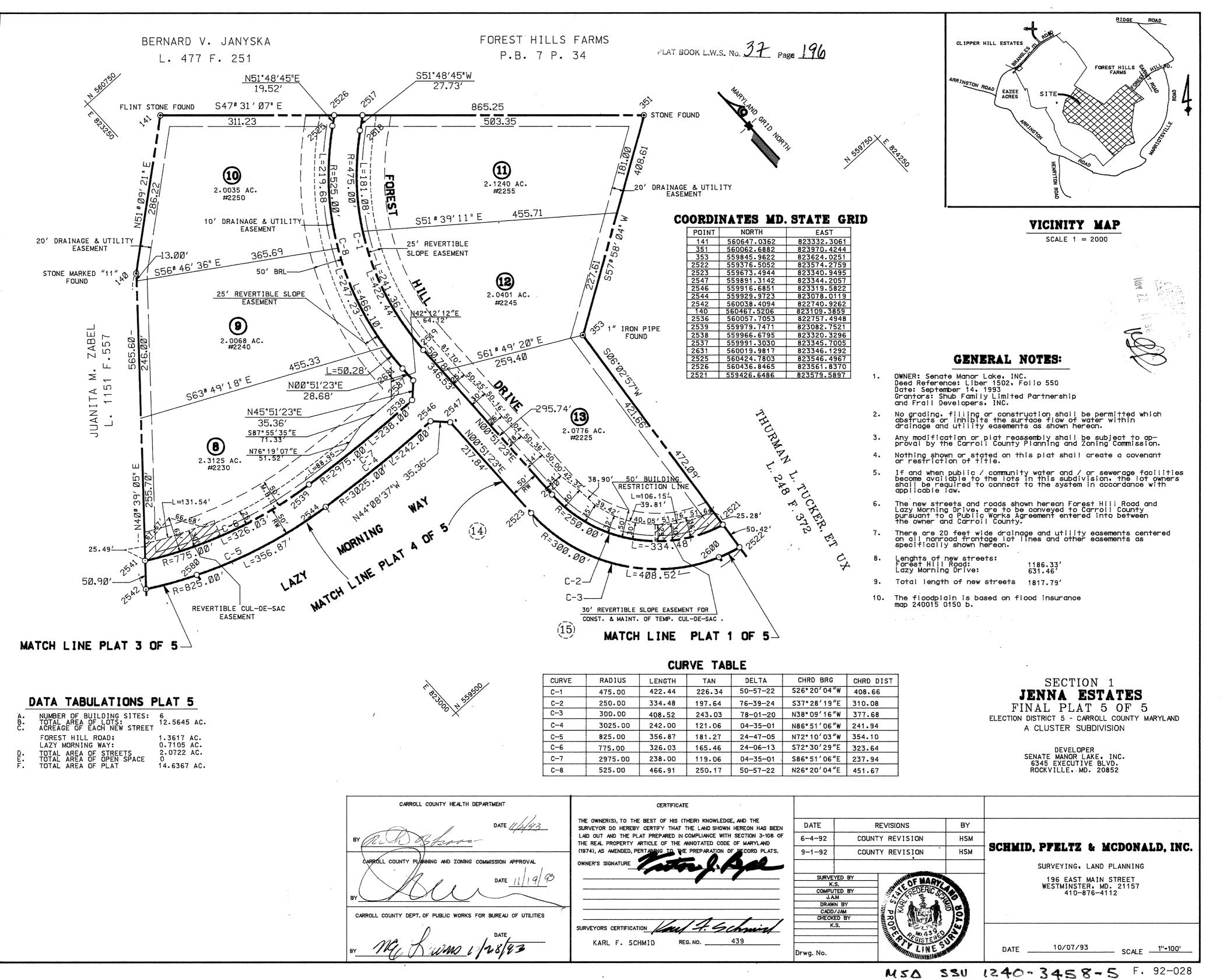


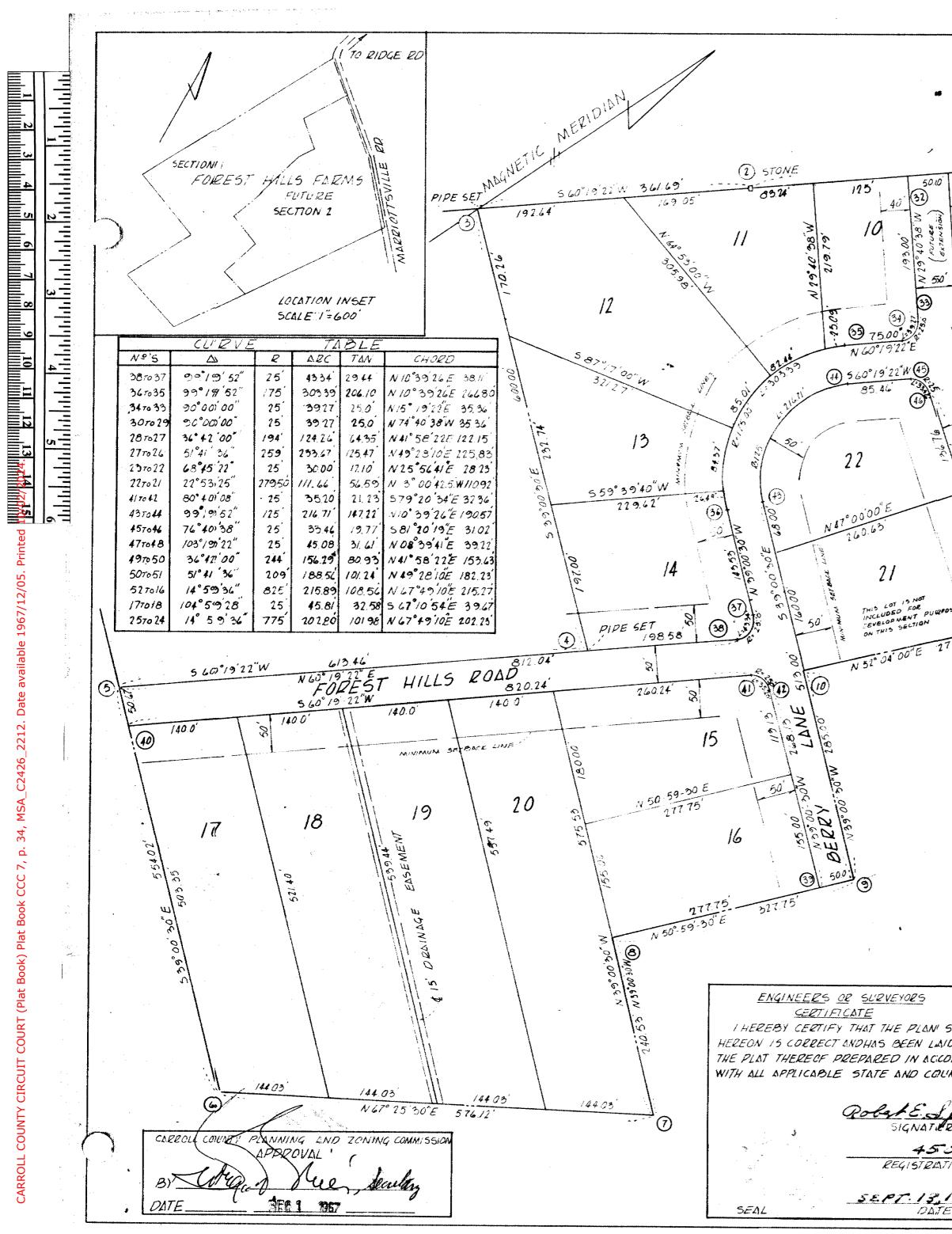


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