Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

23-34 - Rear Yard and Rear Yard Equivalent Requirements

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23-34 - Rear Yard and Rear Yard Equivalent Requirements

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

23-341 - Permitted obstructions in required rear yards or rear yard equivalents

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

(a) In all #Residence Districts#, the obstructions set forth in Sections 23-311 and 23-312, as well as the following obstructions shall be permitted within any required #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#. These allowances are generally common to #Residence#, #Commercial# and #Manufacturing Districts#.

(1) Breezeways;

(2) Fire escapes;

(3) Greenhouses, non-commercial, #accessory#, limited to one #story# or 15 feet in height above adjoining grade, whichever is less, and limited to an area not exceeding 25 percent of a required #rear yard#;

(4) Recreational or drying yard equipment;

(5) Sheds, tool rooms or other similar #accessory# #buildings or other structures# for domestic or agricultural storage, with a height not exceeding 10 feet above the level of the #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#;

(6) Solar energy systems, #accessory# or as part of an #energy infrastructure equipment#:

(i) on the roof of a #building# permitted as an obstruction to such #yard#, up to four feet in height as measured perpendicular to the roof surface; however, limited to 18 inches in height as measured perpendicular to the roof surface when located above a #detached# #accessory# #building or other structure#, or on any roof with a slope greater than 20 degrees; or

(ii) affixed to solar canopies and located over any otherwise unenclosed #accessory# off-street parking space, provided that the height shall not exceed 15 feet above the level of the adjoining grade;

(7) Water-conserving devices required in connection with air conditioning or refrigeration systems in #buildings# existing prior to May 20, 1966, if located not less than eight feet from any #lot line#.

(b) In all #Residence Districts#, the obstructions set forth in Sections 23-311 and 23-312, as well as the following obstructions shall be permitted within any required #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#.

(1) Balconies, unenclosed, subject to the provisions of Section 23-62;

(2) Parking spaces, off-street, #accessory#, for automobiles or bicycles, provided that:

(i) if #accessory# to a #single-# or #two-family residence#, the height of a #building# containing such parking spaces shall not exceed 10 feet in height above the adjoining grade and such #building# shall be #detached# from such #residence#. Parking spaces shall also be permitted in #buildings# allowed as permitted obstructions pursuant to paragraph (b)(4) of this Section, provided that the portion allocated to parking spaces does not exceed 10 feet in height;

(ii) if #accessory# to any other kind of #building# containing #residences#, the height of a #building#, or portion thereof, containing such parking spaces within the #rear yard#, shall not exceed 15 feet above #base plane#. In addition, decks, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs, and weirs, as set forth in Section 23-41 (Permitted Obstructions), inclusive, limited to 18 inches in height, as measured perpendicular to the roof surface, shall be permitted upon the roof of such #accessory# #building# within the #rear yard#;

(iii) enclosed #accessory# parking spaces for bicycles shall be #accessory# to a #residence# other than a #single-# or #two-family residence#, attached to a #building#, and the area dedicated to such spaces shall not exceed the area of bicycle parking spaces permitted to be excluded from #floor area# pursuant to Section 25-85 (Floor Area Exemption);

(3) any portion of a #building# used for #residential uses# other than #dwelling units# in #buildings# containing #qualifying senior housing#, provided that:

(i) such #zoning lot# is located in an R6 through R12 Districts other than R6B, R7B or R8B Districts;

(ii) such #building# portion is located within 100 feet of a #wide street#;

(iii) the height of such #building# portion does not exceed one #story#, or 15 feet above the adjoining grade, whichever is less; and

(iv) such space shall be accessible to all residents of the #building#.

In addition, decks, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs and weirs, as set forth in Section 23-41 (Permitted Obstructions), inclusive, limited to 18 inches in height, as measured perpendicular to the roof surface, shall be permitted upon the roof of such portion of a #building# within the #rear yard#.

(4) for #single-# or #two- family residences#, any portion of a #building# used for #residential uses#, provided that:

(i) for any #ancillary dwelling unit# associated with a #detached#, #zero lot line# or #semi-detached# #building#, the height, at any level, shall be limited to one #story#, not to exceed 15 feet. However, where an #accessory# parking space is provided below a portion of a #building# containing an #ancillary dwelling unit#, the height of such #building#, and an associated #ancillary dwelling unit#, shall not exceed two #stories# or 25 feet in height above adjoining grade, whichever is less, including the apex of a pitched roof;

(ii) for #detached# and #zero lot line# #buildings#, the height of all other portions of #buildings# not containing an #ancillary dwelling unit# shall be limited to two #stories# or 25 feet in height above adjoining grade, whichever is less, including the apex of a pitched roof;

(iii) the size shall be limited to an area not exceeding one-third of the #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#; and

(iv) where such #building# is free-standing from other existing #buildings# on the #zoning lot#, it shall not be closer than five feet to a #rear lot line# or #side lot line#.

In addition, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs and weirs, as set forth in Section 23-41 (Permitted Obstructions), inclusive, limited to 18 inches in height, as measured perpendicular to the roof surface, shall be permitted upon the roof of such portion of a #building# within the #rear yard#.

However, no portion of a #rear yard equivalent# which is also a required #front yard# or required #side yard# may contain any obstructions not permitted in such #front yard# or #side yard#.

23-342 - Rear yard requirements

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, #rear yards# shall be provided on #interior lots# in accordance with this Section., except as otherwise provided pursuant to the provisions of Section 23-34, inclusive.

(a) Standard lots

In the districts indicated, a #rear yard# shall be provided as follows:

(1) For #detached# and #zero lot line buildings#, for #buildings# or portions thereof at or below a height of 75 feet, as measured from #base plane#, a #rear yard# with a depth of not less than 20 feet shall be provided at every #rear lot line# on any #zoning lot#, and for portions above 75 feet, where permitted, a #rear yard# with a depth of 30 feet shall be provided; and

(2) For #semi-detached# and #attached# #buildings#:

(i) for #zoning lots# with a #lot width# of less than 40 feet, a #rear yard# with a depth of not less than 30 feet shall be provided at every #rear lot line# on any #zoning lot#; and

(ii) for #zoning lots# with a #lot width# of 40 feet or greater, for #buildings# or portions thereof at or below a height of 75 feet, as measured from #base plane#, a #rear yard# with a depth of not less than 20 feet shall be provided at every #rear lot line# on any #zoning lot#, and for portions above 75 feet, where permitted, a #rear yard# with a depth of 30 feet shall be provided.

(b) Shallow lots

In the districts indicated, the provisions of this Section may be modified where an #interior lot# is less than 95 feet deep at any point, and the shallow lot condition was in existence on December 15, 1961, and, subsequently, such shallow lot condition has neither increased nor decreased in depth.

For such shallow #interior lots#, or portions thereof, the depth of a required #rear yard# set forth for standard lots may be reduced by six inches for each foot by which the depth of a #zoning lot#, or portion thereof, is less than 95 feet. However, in no event shall the minimum depth of a #required yard#, or portion thereof, be reduced to less than 10 feet.

23-343 - Rear yard equivalent requirements

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, #rear yard equivalents# shall be provided on #through lots# in accordance with this Section, except as otherwise provided pursuant to the provisions of Section 23-34, inclusive.

(a) Exceptions

No #rear yard equivalent# regulations shall apply:

(1) to any #through lots# that extend less than 110 feet in maximum depth from #street# to #street#;

(2) to #large sites#;

(3) to any #zoning lot# that includes a #through lot# portion that is contiguous on one side to two #corner lot# portions and such #zoning lot# occupies the entire #block# frontage of a #street#; or

(4) to any #zoning lot# occupying an entire #block#.

(b) Depth requirement

(1) For standard lots

On any #through lot# that is 190 feet or more in maximum depth from #street# to #street#, for #buildings# or portions thereof at or below a height of 75 feet, a #rear yard equivalent# consisting of an open area with a minimum depth of 40 feet shall be provided, and above a height of 75 feet, where permitted, a #rear yard equivalent# of 60 feet shall be provided.

(2) For shallow lots

The depth of a #rear yard equivalent# may be reduced where a #through lot# is less than 190 feet deep at any point, and the shallow lot condition was in existence on December 15, 1961, and, subsequently, such shallow lot condition has neither increased nor decreased in depth.

For such shallow #through lots#, or portions thereof, the depth of a required #rear yard equivalent# set forth for standard #through lots# in this Section, may be reduced by one foot by which the depth of a #zoning lot#, or portion thereof, is less than 190 feet. However, in no event shall the minimum depth of a #required yard#, or portion thereof, be reduced to less than 20 feet.

(c) Location requirement

(1) Standard location

A #rear yard equivalent# shall be provided midway, or within 10 feet of being midway, between the two #street lines# upon which such #through lot# fronts.

(2) Alternative location allowances

Alternatively, for #zoning lots# utilizing the height and setback provisions for eligible sites in Section 23-434, the tower regulations of Section 23-435, or other height and setback provisions of this Resolution that modify or supersede the underlying provisions for R10 Districts without a letter suffix, or for shallow lots eligible for the provisions of paragraph (b)(2) of this Section, the following options may be applied:

(i) open areas adjoining and extending along the full length of either or both #street lines#, where the combined depth of such open areas is equivalent to the depth of the required #rear yard equivalent#;

(ii) open areas adjoining and extending along the full length of each #side lot line# with a minimum width equivalent to half of the required #rear yard equivalent#, as measured perpendicular from each #side lot line#. However, the width of such open area along one #side lot line# may be decreased provided that a corresponding increase in width is made along the other #side lot line# and further provided that any open area shall have a minimum width of five feet. The allowances for permitted obstructions in any #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# set forth in Sections 23-311 and 23-312 shall be permitted in such open areas.

Any such #rear yard equivalent# shall be unobstructed from its lowest level to the sky, except as provided in Section 23-341 (Permitted obstructions in required yards or rear yard equivalents).

23-344 - Additional rear yard modifications

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the #rear yard# requirements set forth in Section 23-342 (Rear yard requirements) and the #rear yard equivalent# requirements of Section 23-343 (Rear yard equivalent requirements) shall be modified as set forth in this Section.

(a) Within one hundred feet of corners

In the districts indicated, no #rear yard# shall be required within 100 feet of the point of intersection of two #street lines# intersecting at an angle of 135 degrees or less.

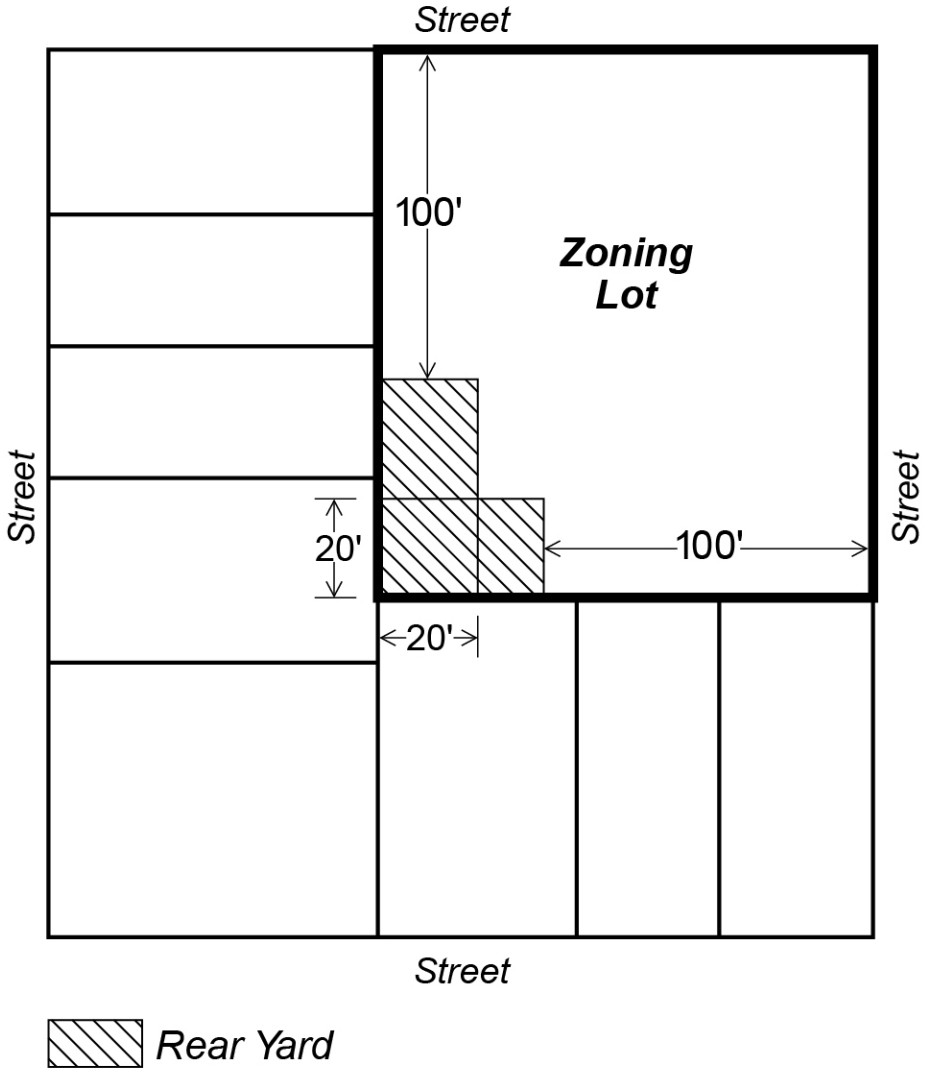
(b) Along #short dimension of a block#

In the districts indicated, whenever a #front lot line# of a #zoning lot# coincides with the #street line# of the #short dimension of a block#, no #rear yard# shall be required within 100 feet of such #street line#

(c) Beyond one hundred feet of a #street line#

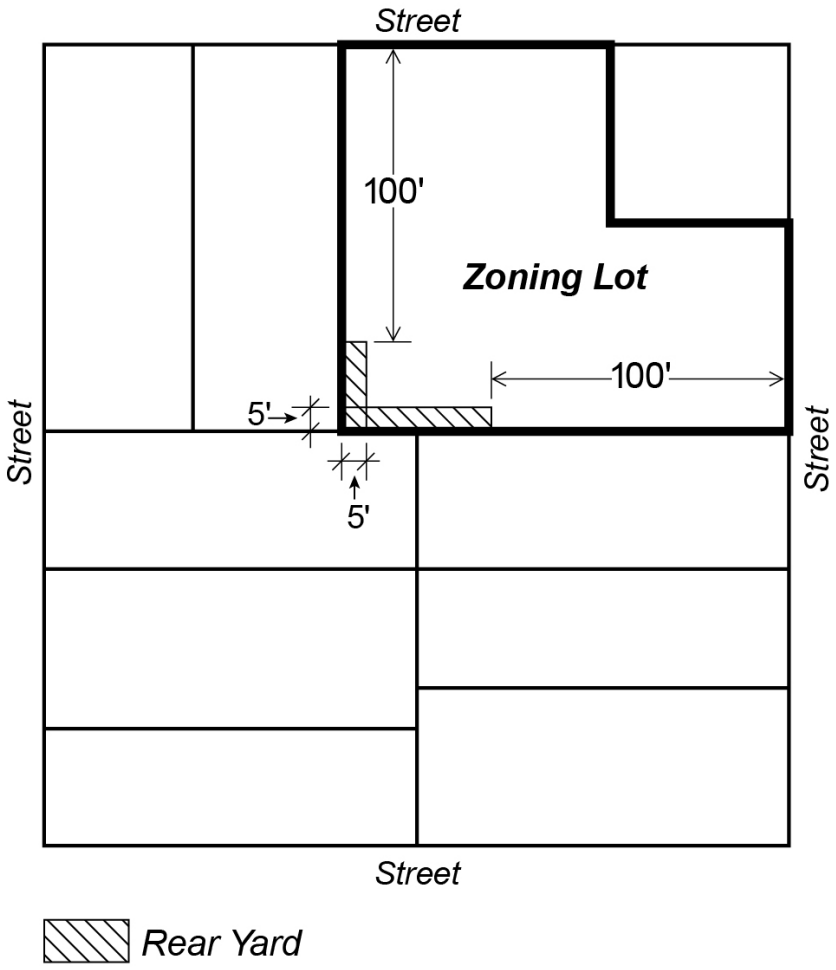
In all districts, as indicated, for #interior# or #through lot# portions of #corner lots#, and for #zoning lots# bounded by two or more #streets# that are neither #corner lots# nor #through lots#, the portion of a #side lot line# beyond 100 feet of the #street line# that it intersects shall be considered a #rear lot line# and the following rules shall apply along such #rear lot line#:

(1) In all districts, a #rear yard# shall be provided in accordance with Section 23-342 (Rear yard requirements), where such #rear lot line# coincides with a #rear lot line# of an



(2) In R1 through R5 Districts, a #rear yard# with a minimum depth of five feet shall be provided where such #rear lot line# coincides with a #side lot line# of an adjoining #zoning lot#.

ZONING LOT BOUNDED BY TWO OR MORE STREETS
(NEITHER A CORNER LOT NOR A THROUGH LOT)

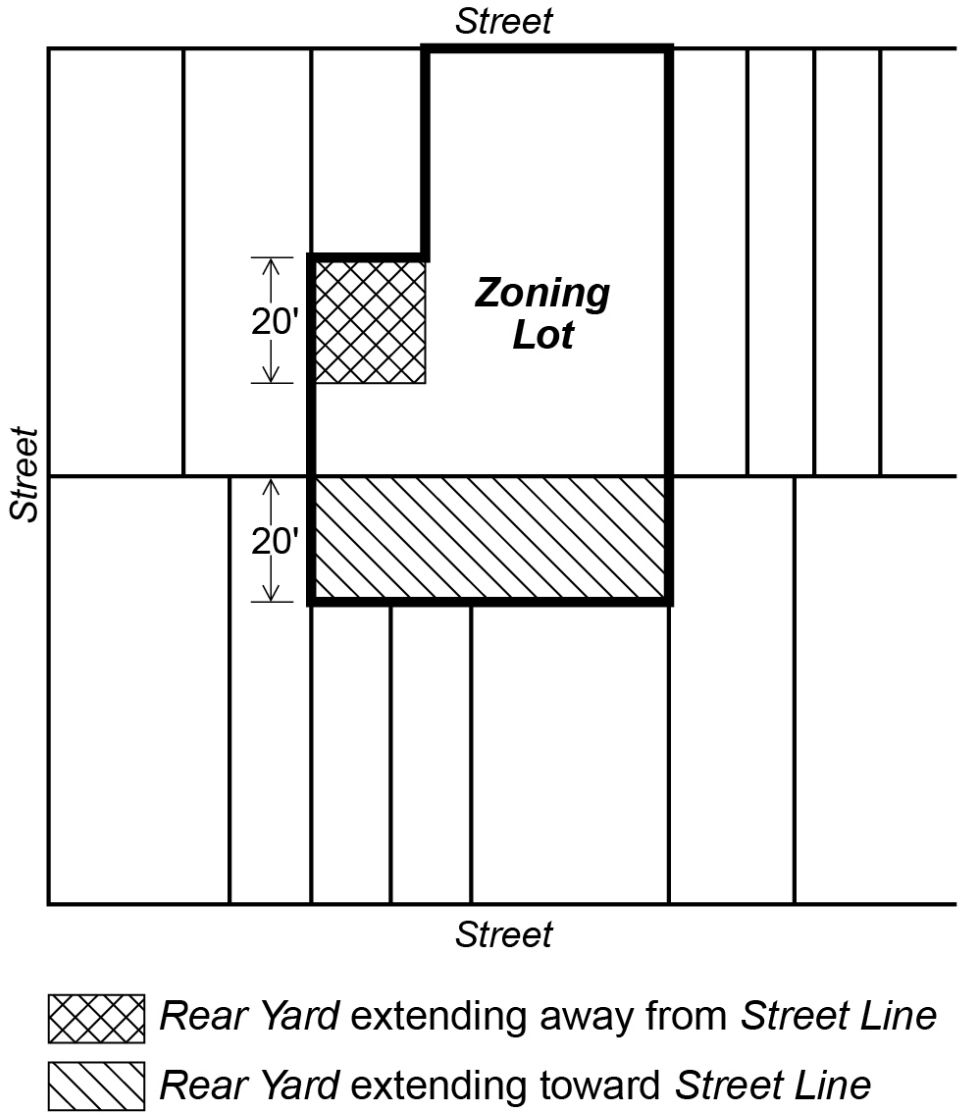


(3) In R6 through R12 Districts, no #rear yard# shall be required where such #rear lot line# coincides with a #side lot line# of an adjoining #zoning lot#.

(d) For zoning lots with multiple #rear lot lines#

In all districts, as indicated, for #zoning lots# with multiple #rear lot lines#, if a #rear yard# extends from a #rear lot line# away from the #street line# which is used to determine such #rear lot line#, the following rules shall apply along such #rear lot line#:

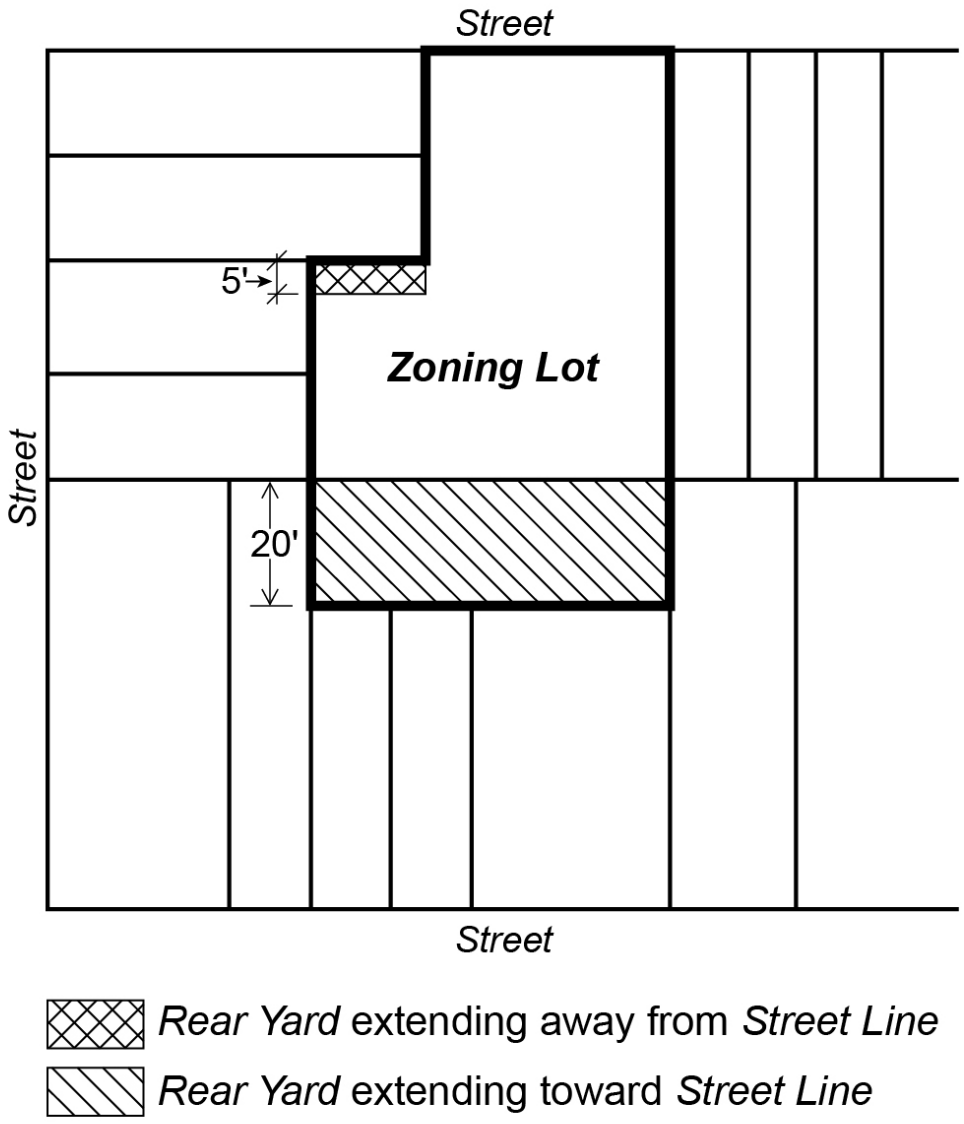
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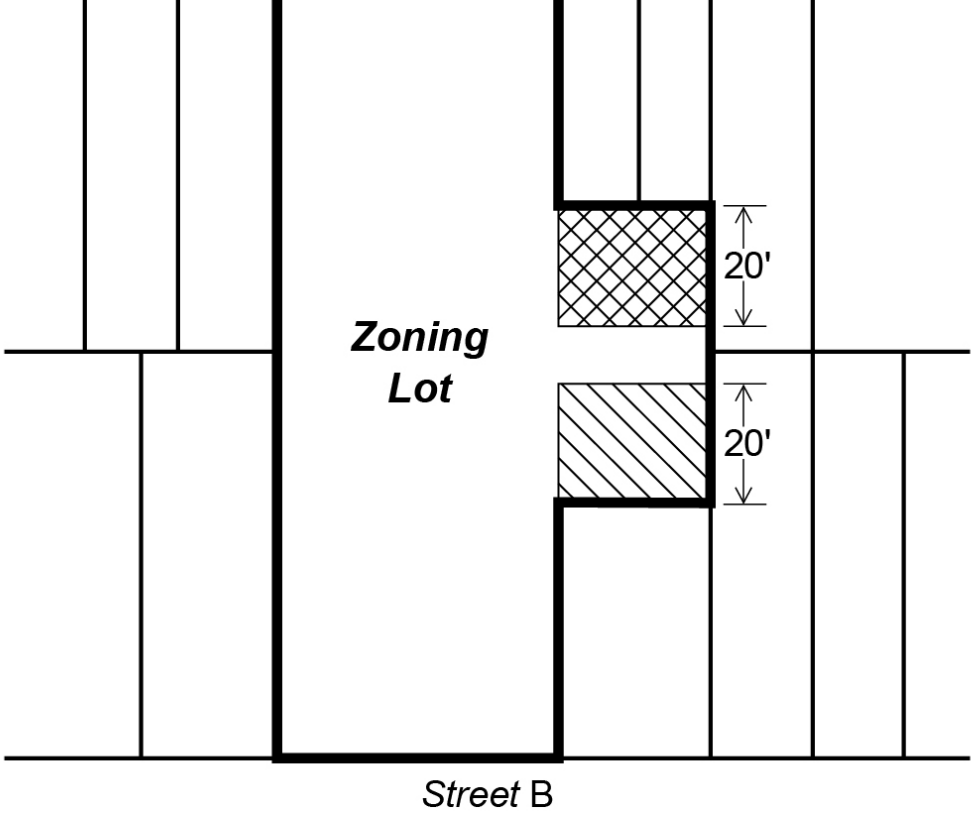
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(2) In R1 through R5 Districts, a #rear yard# with a minimum depth of five feet shall be provided where such #rear lot line# coincides with a #side lot line# of an adjoining #zoning lot#.



(3) In R6 through R12 Districts, no #rear yard# shall be required where such #rear lot line# coincides with a #side lot line# of an adjoining #zoning lot#.

(4) In all districts, for portions of #through lots# that have multiple #rear lot lines# and such portions are not subject to #interior lot# regulations, the #street line# bounding the #zoning lot# closest to such #rear lot line# shall be used to determine compliance with this Section.



Rear Yard extending away from *Street* A

Rear Yard extending away from *Street* B