

## MEMORANDUM

TO: VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE: COMMITTEE TO AMEND THE  
AGRICULTURAL SPECIAL USE CODE

FROM: JOHN EMRICH

DATE: JULY 7, 2011

IN RE: PROPOSED CHICKEN COOP PLACEMENT

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Attached please find detailed descriptions of the size, location and appearance of the chicken coop as I envision it on my lot. Please also find my thoughts on what most ordinances try to address when amending code to allow for backyard chickens.

### **Chicken Coop - Location and Construction:**

As can be seen from the aerial photograph (courtesy of Google Earth), our lot is triangular in shape, and bordered by acres of conservancy to the east, and two contiguous neighbors, one each on the north and south sides of the lot. As such, the proposed chicken coop would be approximately 115' from the closest neighbor's property line (to the north). That particular neighbor already has a wall of evergreen trees along our shared property line, and I have spent an additional \$30,000 landscaping the north and south boundaries of our lot to add additional privacy to all three parties. A separate aerial photograph, accompanied by drawings and an invoice from the landscaper, shows where the landscaping went in and what went into it. Consistent with the Village of Long Grove Comprehensive Plan, we planted 11 trees, including three prized native species: white oak (the state tree of Illinois), dogwood and American elm. There were 3-5" DBH and connected with native prairie grasses (big bluestem, little bluestem) and other flowers (phlox, etc) along one continuous bed on each side of the house. We also planted a crabapple tree and a Japanese maple.

The coop is being constructed by my brother, Commander Brian Emrich, USCG Retired. He is a brilliant engineer and skilled craftsman; his architectural drawings are attached. In keeping with the rural character of the Village and architectural motif of the Historic Business District, the coop design has a gambrel roof to resemble a miniature farmhouse. It stands about 6' high and 8' by 4' on the ground. The footprint of the coop is a small fraction of a Rainbow play set and similar to some of the back-up generators in use in the Prairie Trails development. The coop has real siding and a shingled roof, vented at the top for fresh air.

## **Code Concepts**

Municipal codes allowing for backyard chickens generally address four main issues: location of coop relative to a neighbors yard, the number of chickens that can be kept, roosters, and general nuisance laws.

**Location of Coop** – In the case of a city like Chicago, there is no code dictating where a coop is located on the property largely due to the lack of flexibility offered by small city lots. In other urban and residential areas, regulations for backyard chickens vary and include lot size, setbacks and site placement. Most ordinances use a graduated approach to clarify lot size and setback restrictions based on animal type or number.<sup>1</sup> Lot sizes are frequently graduated based on animal sizes – small animals and chickens have smaller lot size restrictions than medium or large animals. “Setbacks” are used alternatively or in conjunction with lot sizes to ensure minimum distance from neighboring properties or structures. For small animals such as chickens, the setbacks (where there are any restrictions) tend to range from 25 to 100 feet.

**Number of Chickens** – Once again, the number of animals, when restricted at all, can be graduated according to lot sizes and setbacks. In Cook County, the limits range from two (2) in Oak Park to no limit in the city of Chicago. As the chicken is a social animal and the birds use each other for warmth during the winter, it would be in the best interest of the animal to allow for at least four hens. Four hens would produce about 20 eggs per week in total.

**Roosters** – As roosters produce noise that could be heard easily by neighbors, roosters are generally prohibited in residential neighborhoods.

**General Nuisance Laws** – Though usually already in place, municipal codes allowing for backyard chickens often make specific reference to cleanliness and odor. Hens are not particularly noisy (especially when compared to a dog), and when properly cared for their waste and food needs can be handled in ways that do not lead to pestilence or odor problems (the litter can be put directly into a compost pile or bin and is highly valued for that purpose by gardeners). The coop itself should be constructed in a way that is safe for the chickens, to protect them from predators and the elements.

## **Summary**

In summary, cities and towns deal with the question of how to manage urban or suburban chickens with one or more site level tools. Many cities limit the total number of chickens allowed and have few if any setback and lot size restrictions. Others do not limit the number of chickens at all, but establish lot size or setback restrictions.

**Thank you so much for your time and consideration, and I look forward to working with you in any way you would find beneficial.**

**Regards,**

**John Emrich**

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**<sup>1</sup> Butler, W.H. (2011). Welcoming Animals Back to the City: Navigating Public Health Tensions of Urban Livestock to Achieve Healthy and Resilient Communities. Florida State University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning.**

LOCATION



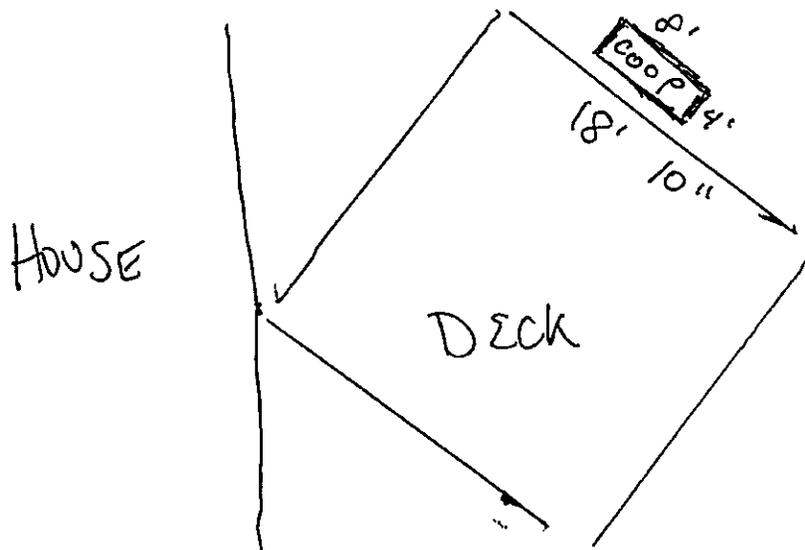
4979 Wild Rose Ln, Long Grove, IL 60067

© 2011 Google

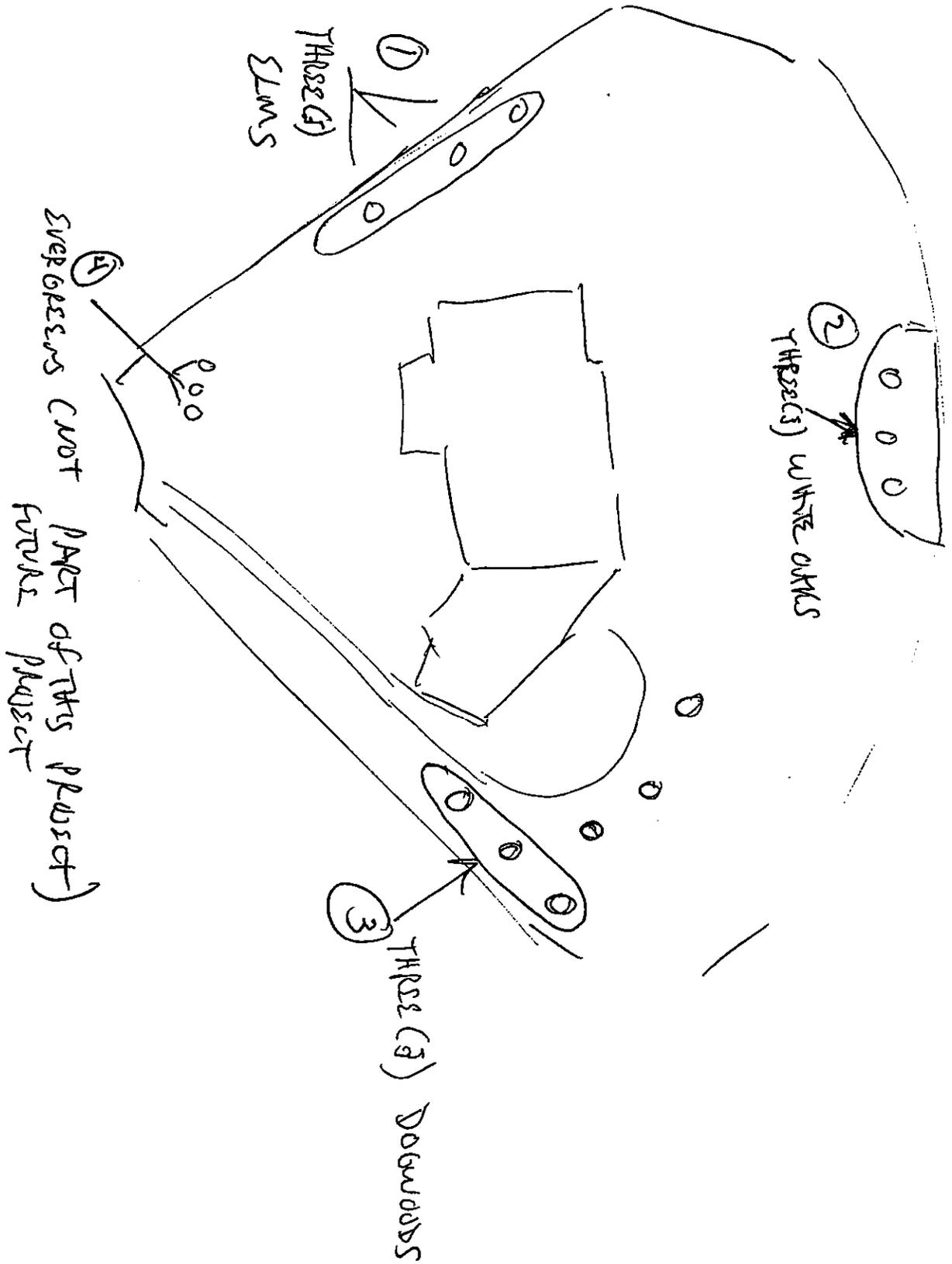
Google

Imagery Date: 5/27/2010 42°12'18.85" N 88°00'48.02" W elev 229 m

Eye alt 295 m



# LANDSCAPING



LANDSCAPING



4979 Wild Rose Ln, Long Gr

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Google

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CARIBBEAN LANDSCAPE  
 23084 N PRAIRIE LN  
 LINCOLNSHIRE, ILL 60069  
 847)883-8402/ 847)561-7753

# Invoice

<b>DATE</b>	<b>INVOICE #</b>
05/25/11	3910

**BILL TO:**

KRISTA EMRICH  
 4979 WILDROSE  
 LONG GROVE ,ILL 60047

<b>P.O. NUMBER</b>	<b>TERMS</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
	LANDSCAPE WORK	0.00	0.00
3	PLANTING TREE- ELEM 5"	680.00	2,040.00
3	PLANTING TREE- WHITE OAK	650.00	1,950.00
3	PLANTING TREE-DOG WOOD FLOWERING	460.00	1,380.00
1	PLANTING TREE- CRABAPPLE FIRE	250.00	250.00
5	STONE WORK- BOULDERS	550.00	2,750.00
40	TOP SOIL	55.00	2,200.00
30	COMPOST DIRT	45.00	1,350.00
3	BUILD GARDEN BED	650.00	1,950.00
1	SOD INSTALL	1,200.00	1,200.00

Thank you for your business.	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,070.00</b>
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 23084 N PRAIRIE LN  
 LINCOLNSHIRE, ILL 60069  
 847)883-8402/ 847)561-7753

# Invoice

DATE	INVOICE #
06/09/11	4003

**BILL TO:**

KRISTA EMRICH  
 4979 WILDROSE  
 LONG GROVE ,ILL 60047

P.O. NUMBER	TERMS	PROJECT

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
40	GRASS-GRASS KARL FOSTER	17.00	680.00
10	GRASS-GRASS FESTUCA ELIJAH BLUE	13.00	130.00
10	GRASSES-FOUNTAIN GRASS	15.00	150.00
20	GRASSES-MINCANTUS VARIEGATUS	18.00	360.00
20	PERENNIAL-HIBISCUS PLUM CRAZY	27.00	540.00
20	HUBICUS PERENNIALS SWEET CAROLINA PINK	27.00	540.00
20	HUBICUS PERENNIALS - KOPERKING PINK WHITE EYE RED	27.00	540.00
30	KNOCKOUT ROSES	44.00	1,320.00
25	HYDRANGEA ENDLESS SUMMER	52.00	1,300.00
20	CORAL BELLS HECHERA PALACE PURPLE	17.00	340.00
10	CAMPANULA JOAN ELLIOT BLUE PURPLE	18.00	180.00
20	PHLOX LAURA PINK	17.00	340.00
10	PHLOX DAVID WHITE	17.00	170.00
20	ASTILBES WHITE	14.00	280.00
20	ASTILBES RED	14.00	280.00
20	ASTILBES PINK	12.00	240.00
20	CONE FLOWERS PUPLE	14.00	280.00
20	BLACK EYE SUNSAN	14.00	280.00
15	GRASSES-FOUNTAIN	17.00	255.00
20	SEDUM AUTUMM JOY	13.00	260.00
20	SEDUM AUTUMM BRILLIANT	13.00	260.00
8	SEDUM VARIEGATUM	13.00	104.00
50	IRIS GERMANICA	18.00	900.00
10	IRIS PURPLE	18.00	180.00
10	IRIS WHITE	18.00	180.00
7	SPIRAEA GOLD MOUND	45.00	315.00

Thank you for your business.	<b>TOTAL</b>
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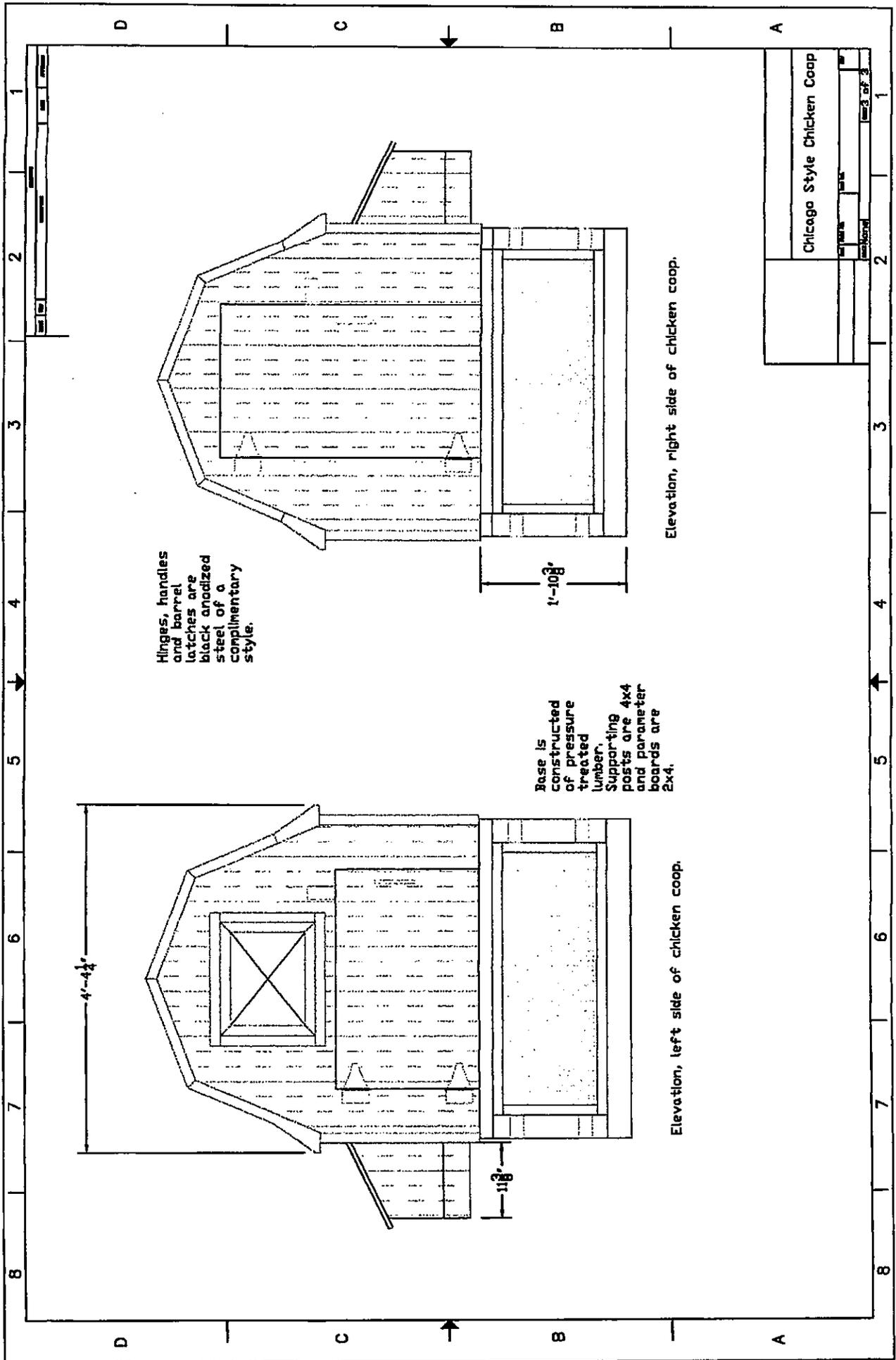
**BILL TO:**

KRISTA EMRICH  
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 LONG GROVE ,ILL 60047

<b>P.O. NUMBER</b>	<b>TERMS</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
4	SPIRAEA GOLD FLAME	45.00	180.00
1	JAPANESE TREE	450.00	450.00
12	MULCH CHOCOLATE- PREMM	80.00	960.00
1	CUTTING TREES BY SWING SET CLEAR WEEDS	420.00	420.00
12	SWING SET PLAY MULCH	85.00	1,020.00
6	WATER SYSTEM-SWITCH HEADS GRASS TO GARDENS	45.00	270.00
	WATER SITEM HEAD-MOVE HEAD OVER BACK YARD BY 3 NEW WHITE OAKS	0.00	0.00
4	WATER SYSTEM - ADD 4 ZONES	650.00	2,600.00

Thank you for your business.	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$16,304.00
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Hinges, handles and barrel latches are black anodized steel of a complimentary style.

Base is constructed of pressure treated lumber. Supporting posts are 4x4 and parameter boards are 2x4.

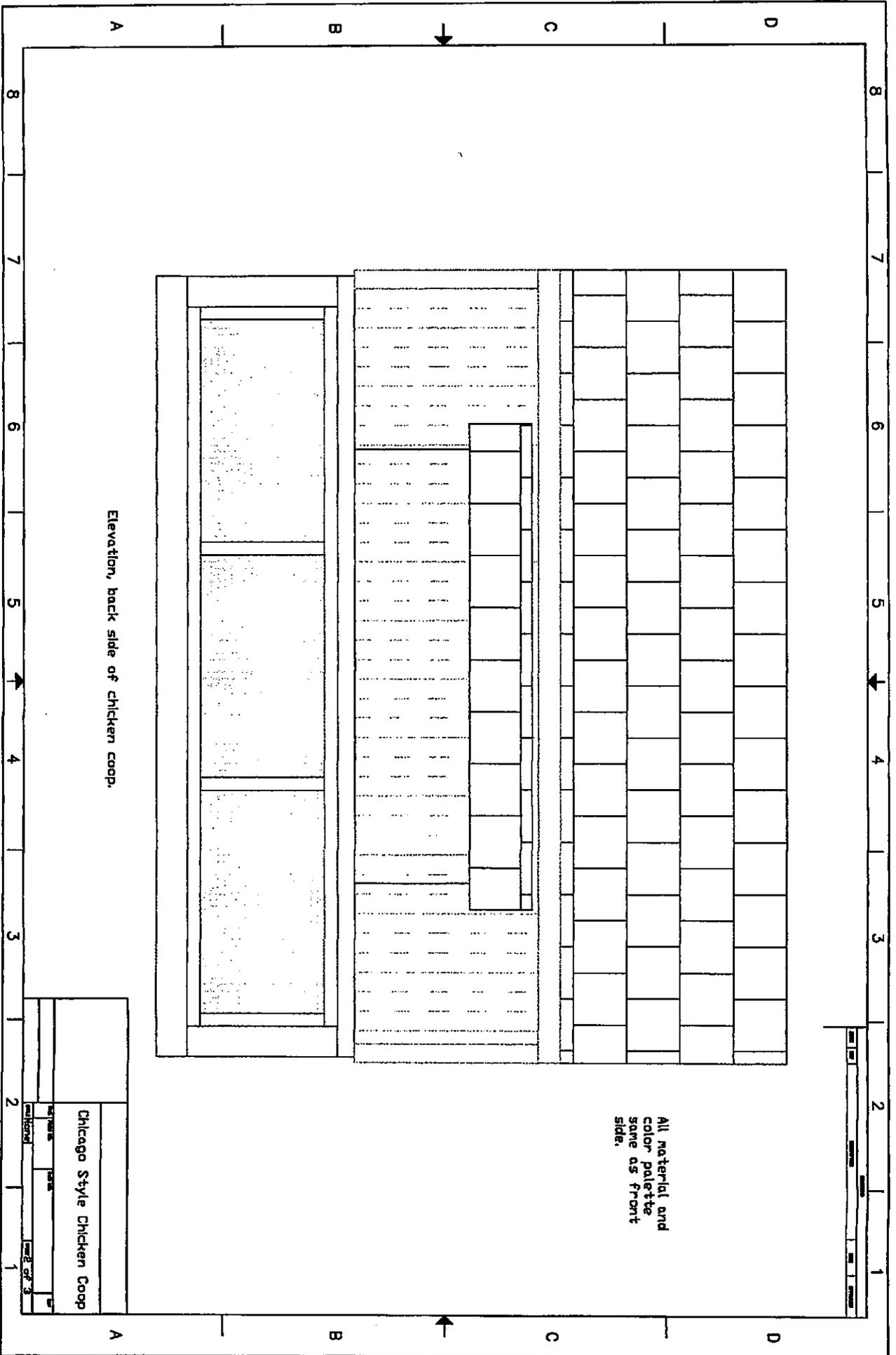
Elevation, right side of chicken coop.

Elevation, left side of chicken coop.

Chicago Style Chicken Coop

Sheet 3 of 3





Elevation, back side of chicken coop.

All material and color palette same as front side.

Chicago Style Chicken Coop	
DATE	
BY	
Sheet 2 of 3	