Step by Step
How to survey a home

Roof mount with attic access

Take photos of the front of the house

including the address

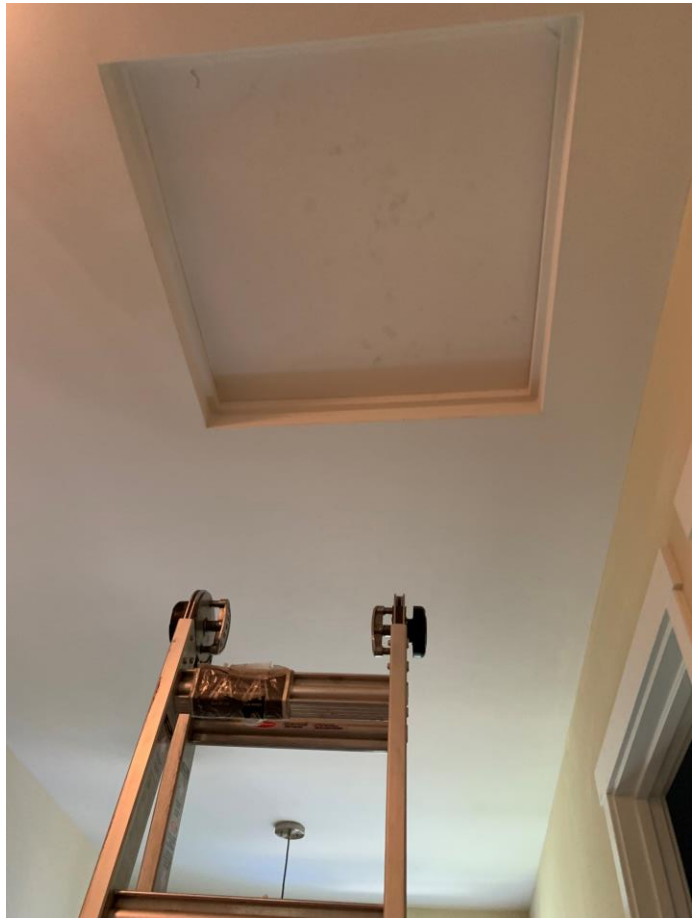




Interior Attic Photos

- Photo of the attic hatch
- Photos of the rafters supporting the solar roof
- Photo showing the plywood supporting the roof material
- Photos of a tape measure next to the rafters showing the size
- Photo of a tape measure measuring the spacing between the rafters
- Detailed drawing and notes shoing the measurements of the rafter supports (Purlins, joists, struts, collars, ect)

Take photos of the attic hatch before you enter the attic








Take photos of the rafter supporting the roof solar will be installed on









Here are some additional photos showing all supports and structure

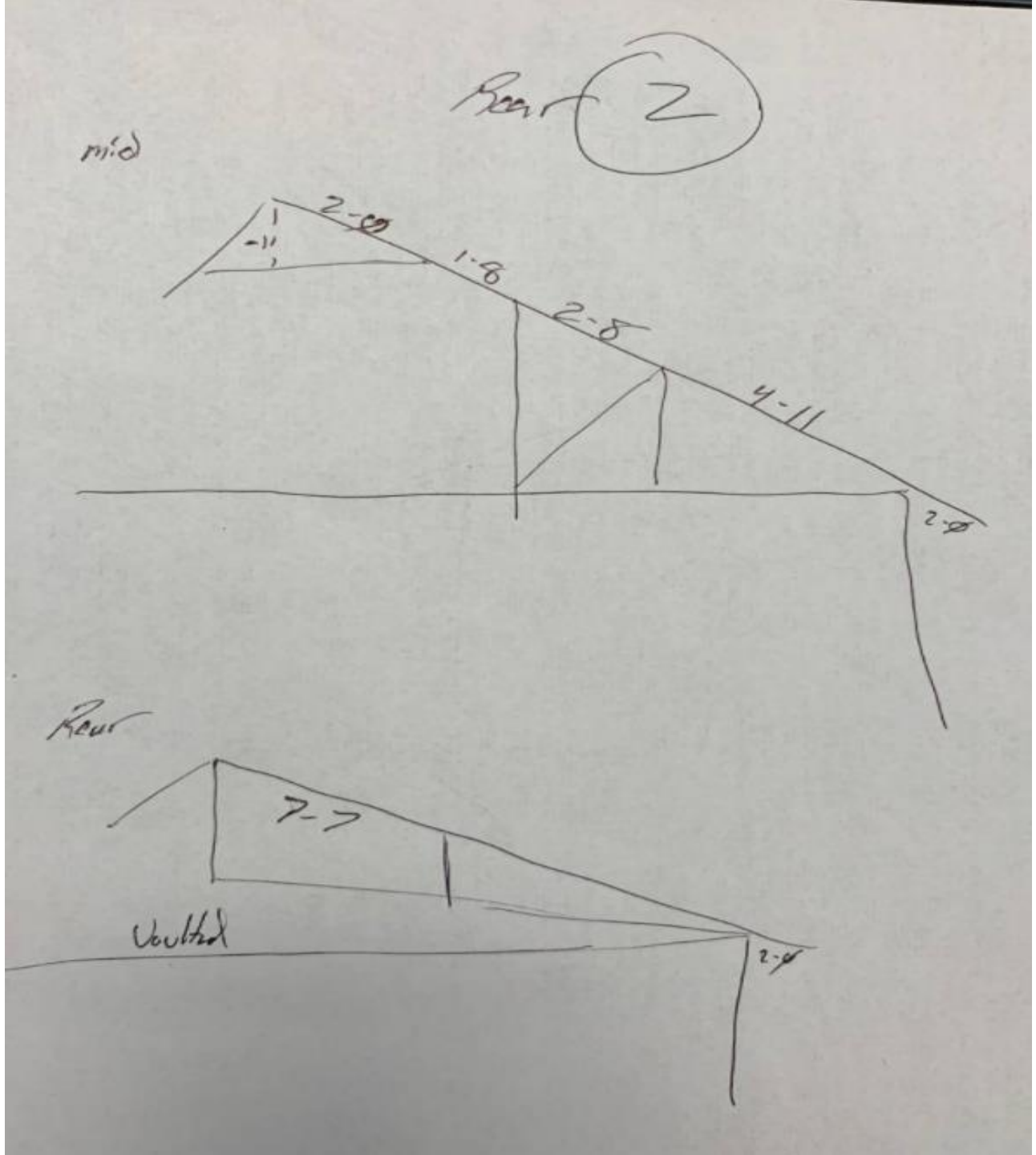
Clear photo showing plywood or the lack of plywood under the roofing material



Take a photo with a tape measure against the rafter showing its size.
Take a photo showing the spacing between the rafters



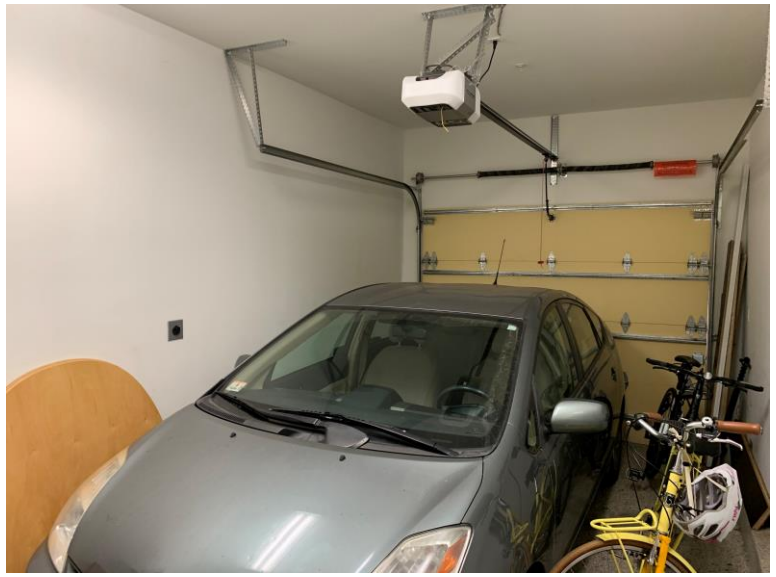


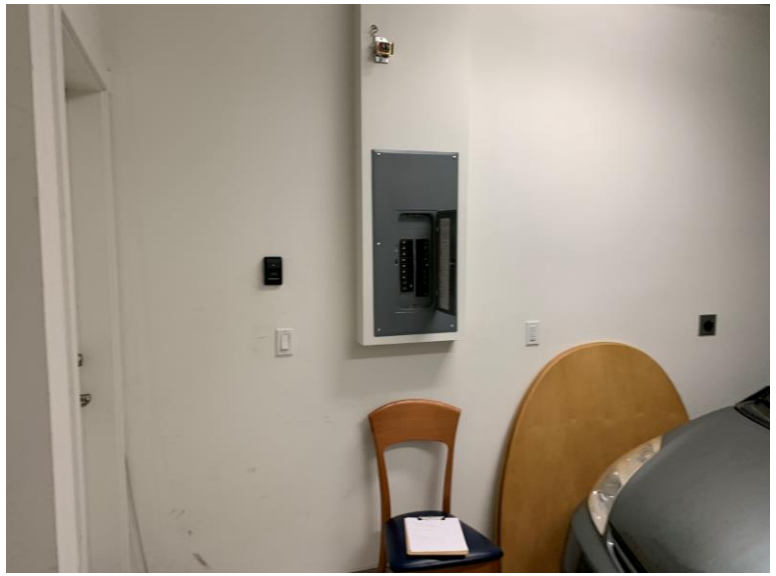


Notes taken of the rafters and spacing

Interior Electrical Panels

- Take photos showing the surrounding location of the interior electrical panel or subpanel
- Take photos of the breakers in the panel
- Take clear and legible photos showing the label or the area where the label was located Emphasizing on the Amperage (AMP) rating
- Remove the dead-front and take photos of the wiring and any labels inside the electrical panel
- Close everything up and take a photos of the area the way you left it






Take photos showing the surrounding location of the interior electrical panel or subpanel

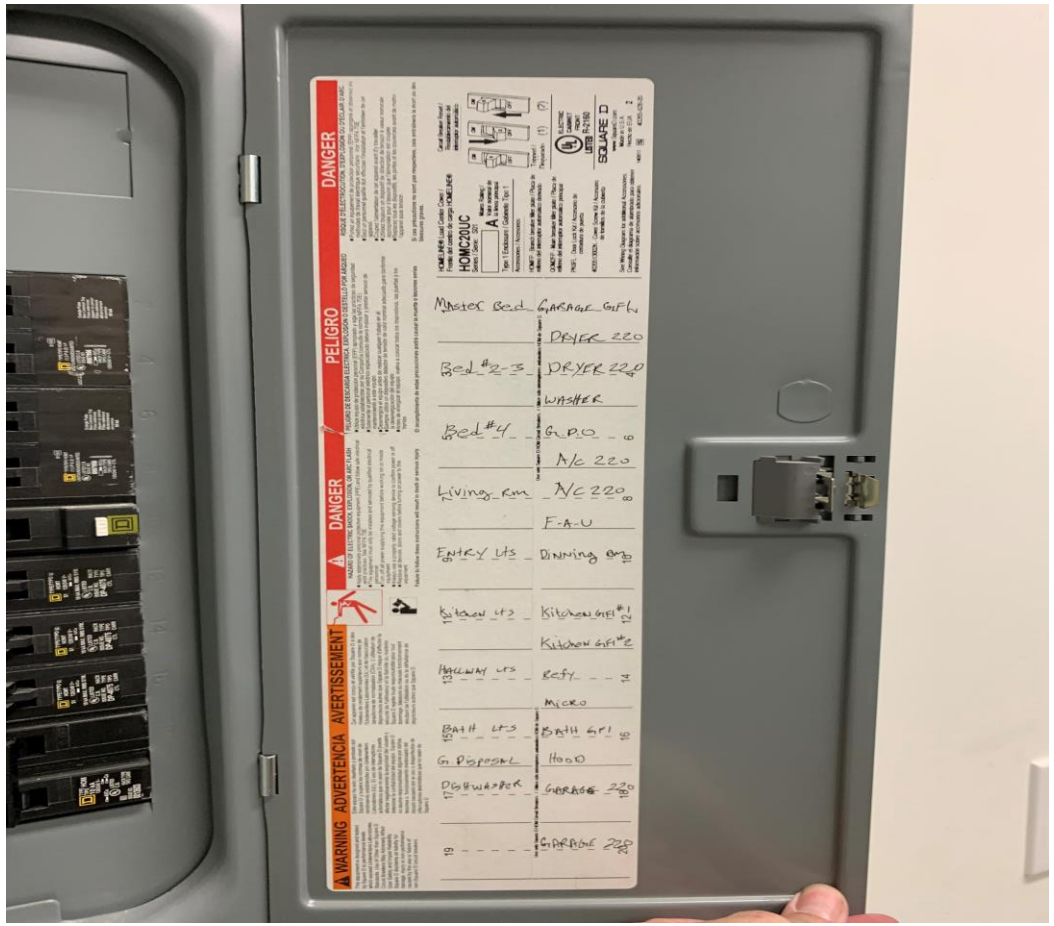


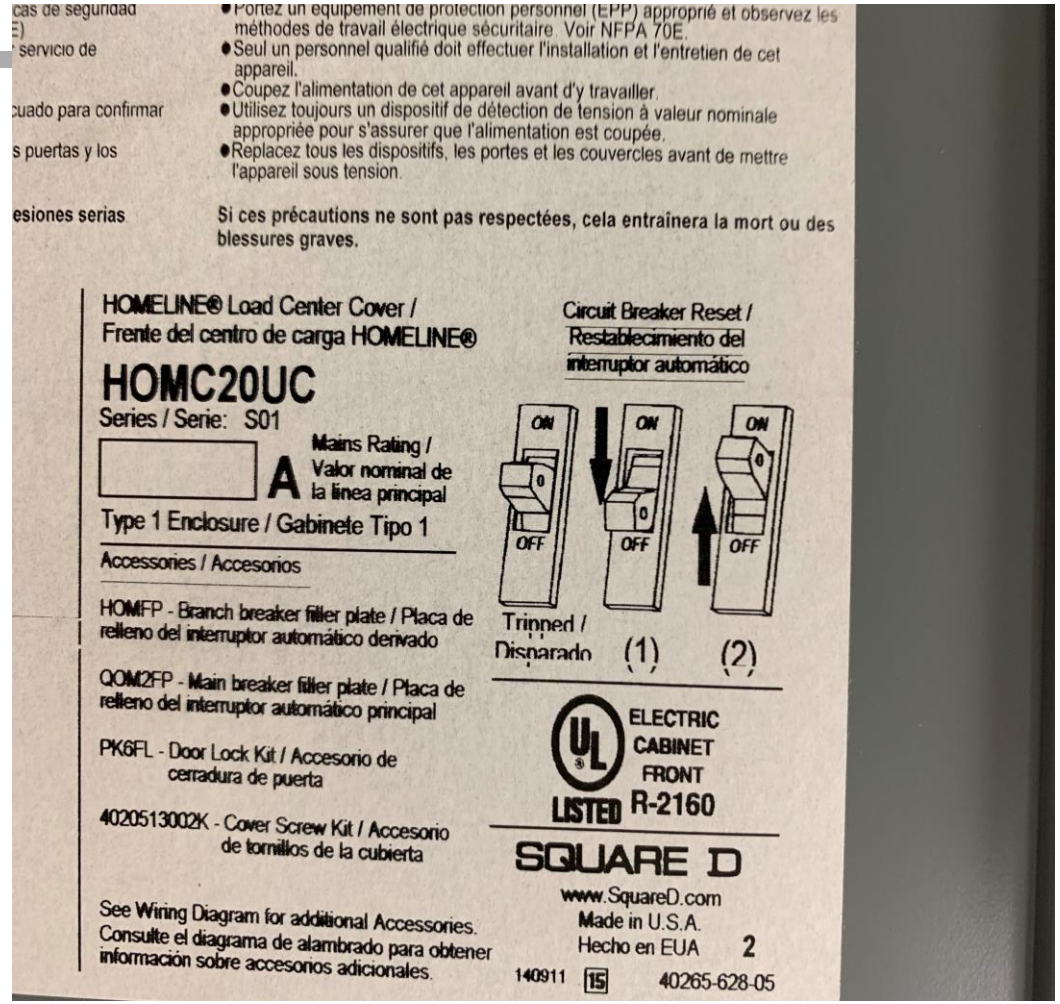


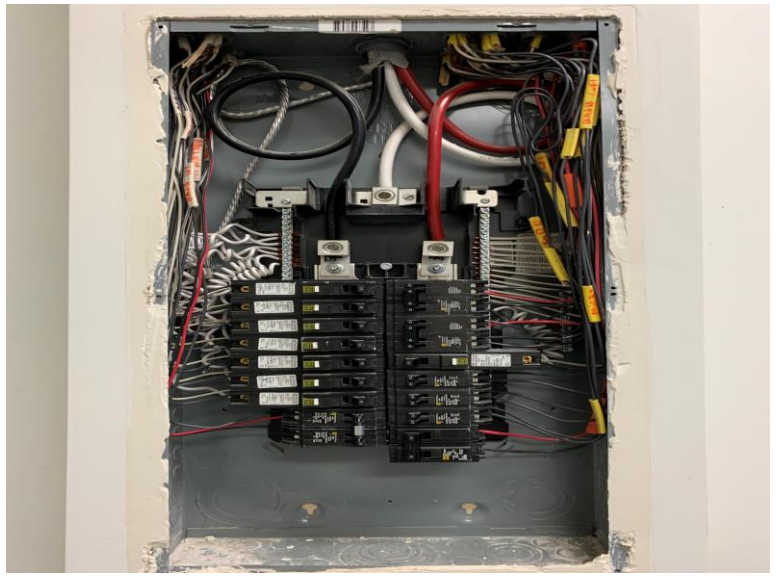
Take photos of the breakers in the panel

Take clear and legible photos showing the label or the area where the label was located

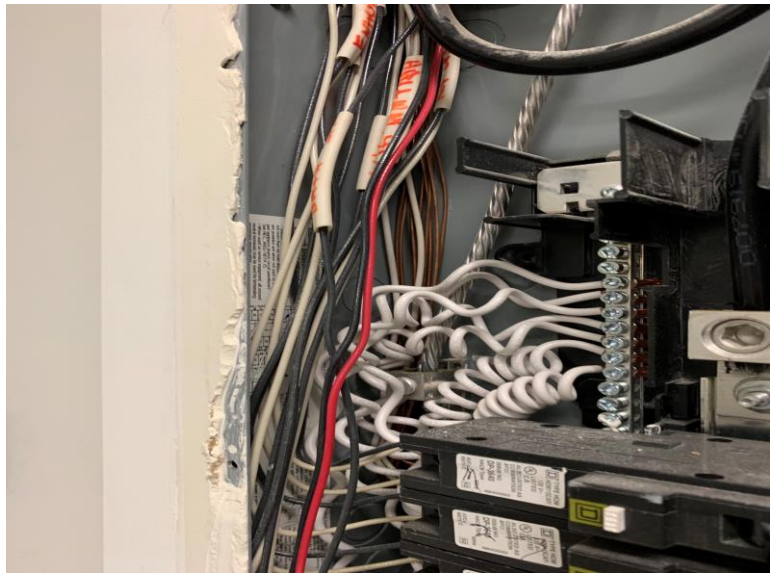
Emphasizing on the Amperage (AMP) rating





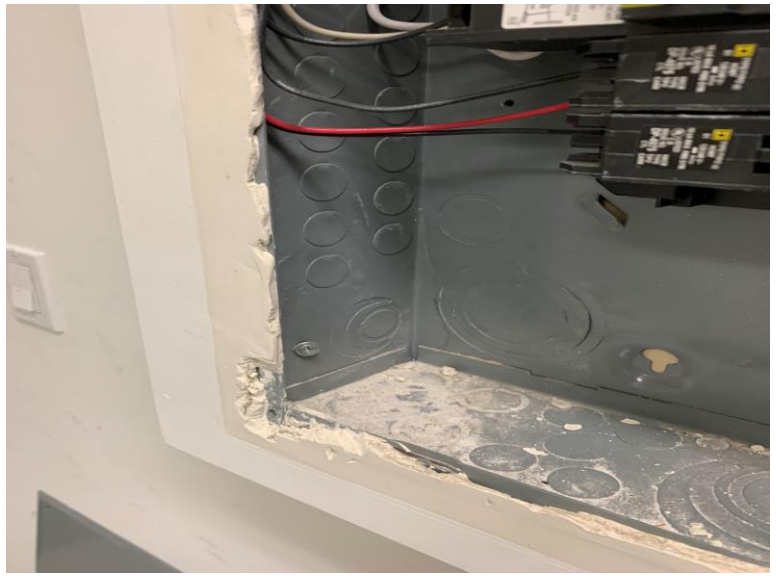


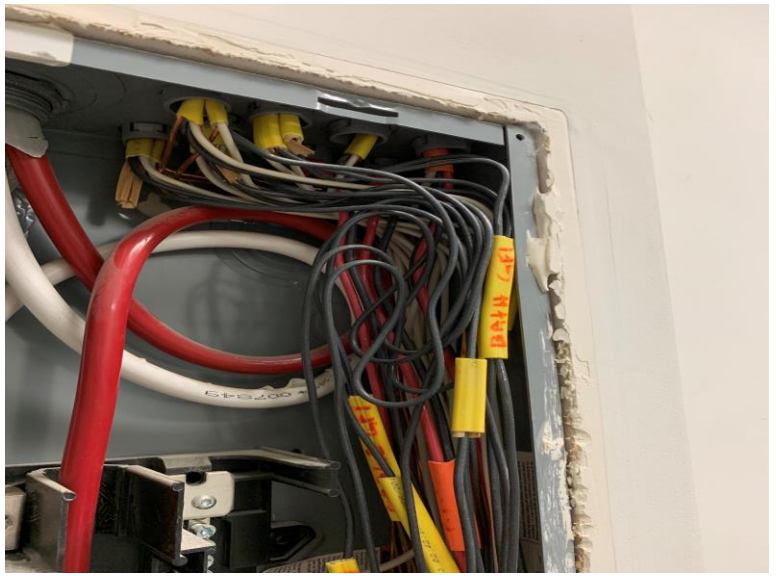




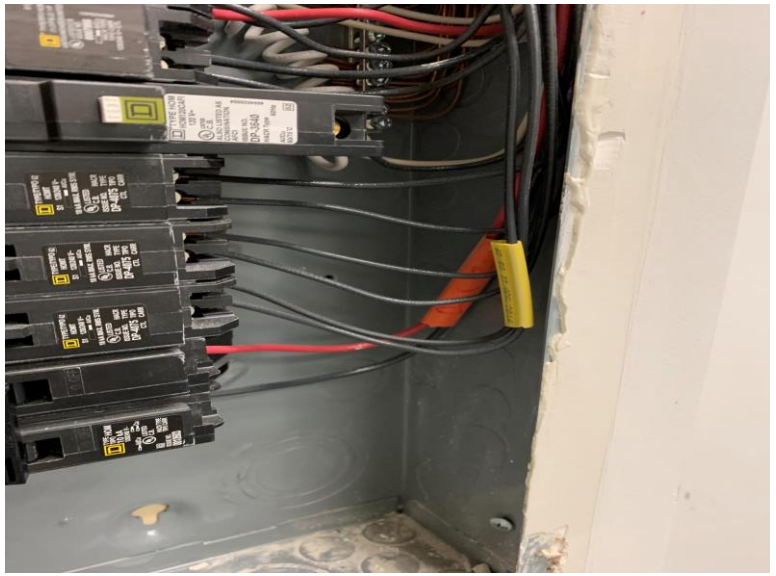


Remove the dead-front and take photos of the wiring and any labels inside the electrical panel

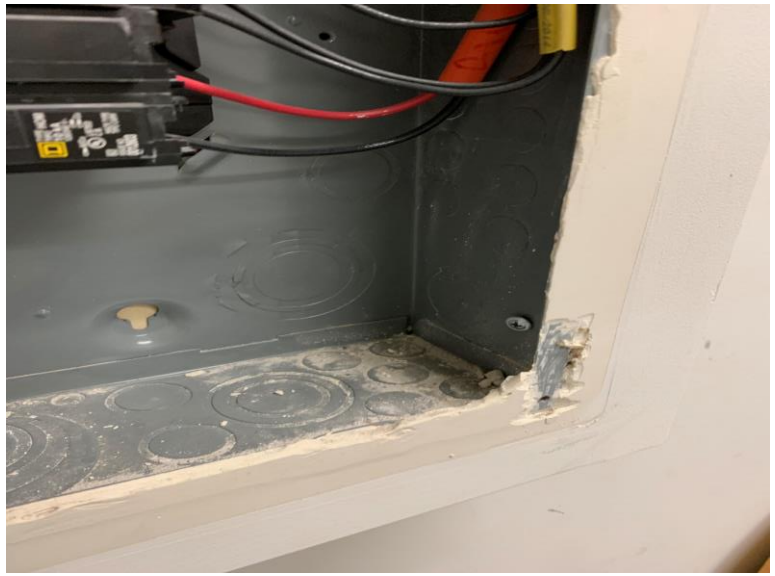


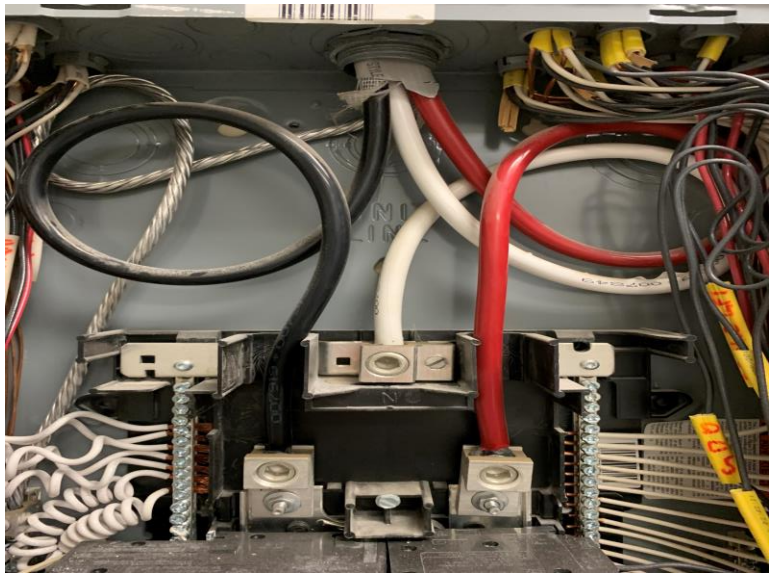


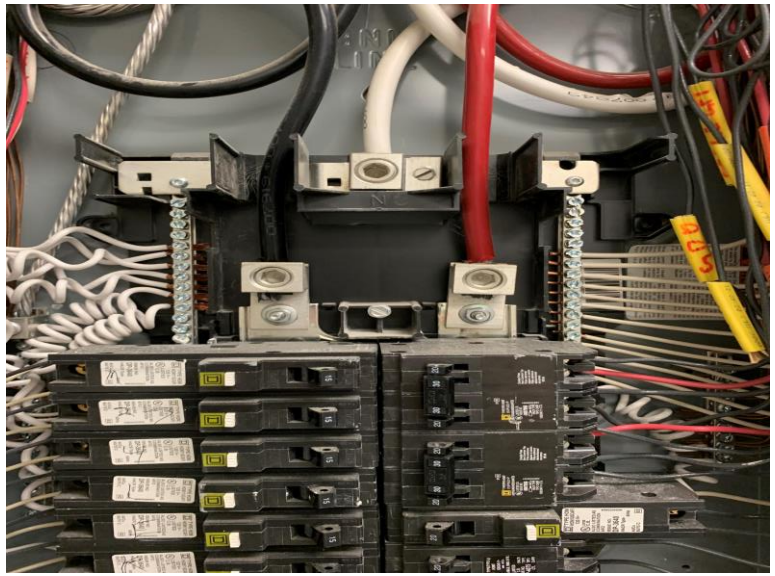




More photos if sub panel without the dead-front



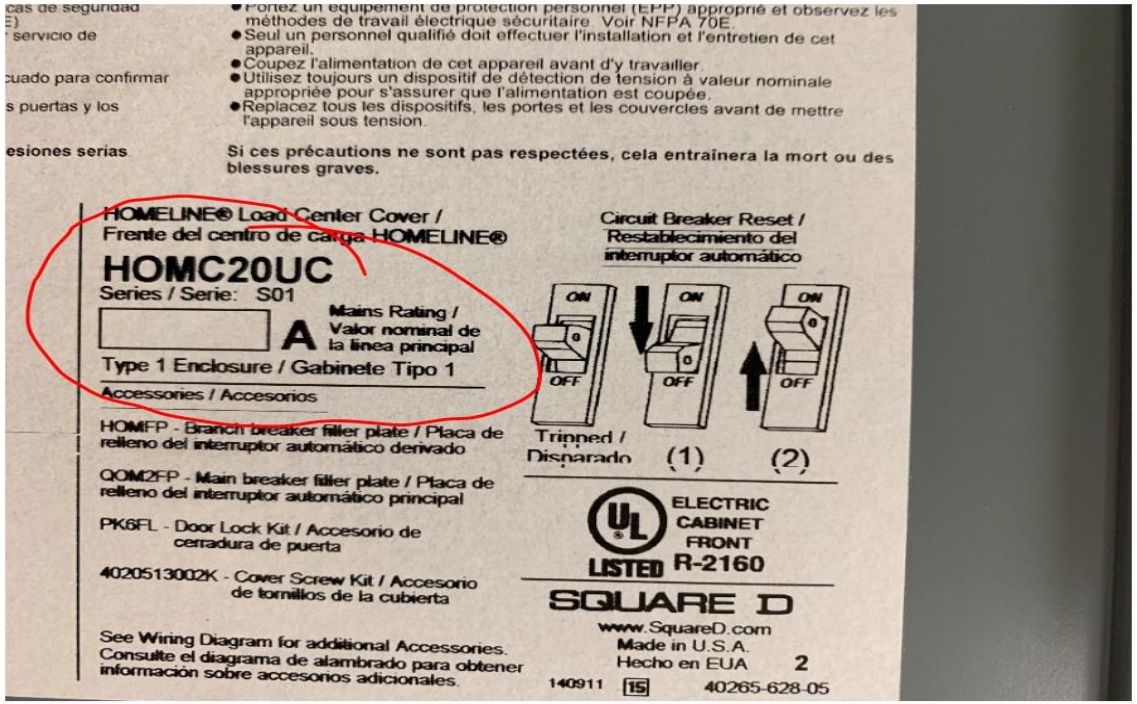


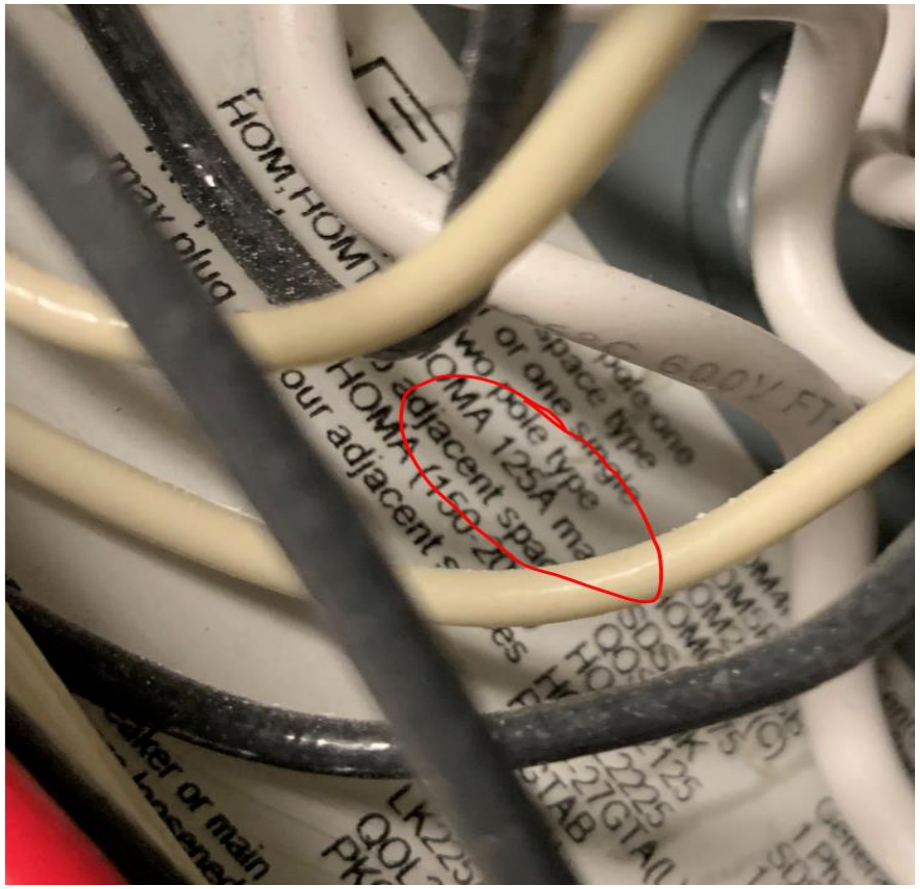




More photos if sub panel without the dead-front

Note this subpanel did not have a rating on the front label but did have a rating on the inside label







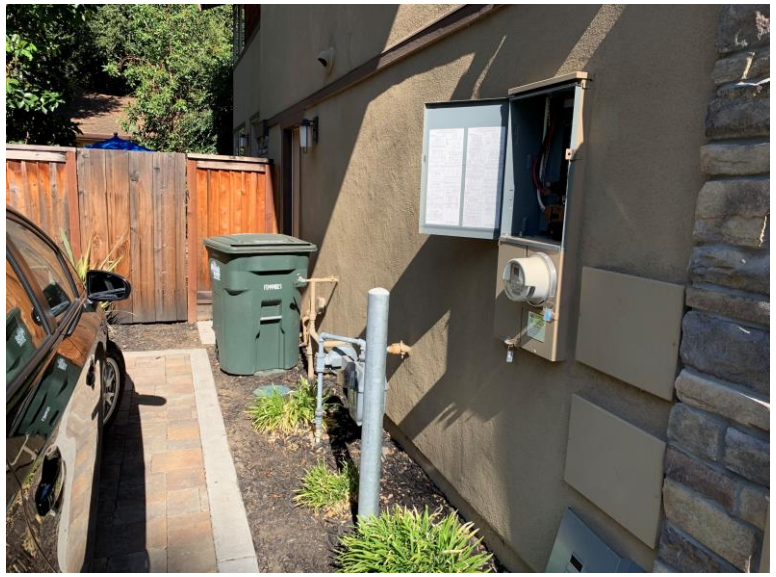
Close everything up and take a photos of the area the way you left it

Exterior Electrical

- Take photos of the surrounding area of the electrical panel or utility meter.
- Take a legible close-up photo of the meter and label on the electrical panel
- Take photos of the exterior electrical panel and all of the breakers
- Take photos of the electrical panel with the dead-front removed
- Open all areas of the electrical panel that do not have a utility lock
- Measure equipment that is on the outside of the house (gas meter, electrical panes, doors, windows, ect) to find a location for the solar equipment
  - This area must be a minimum of 5 foot cleared space





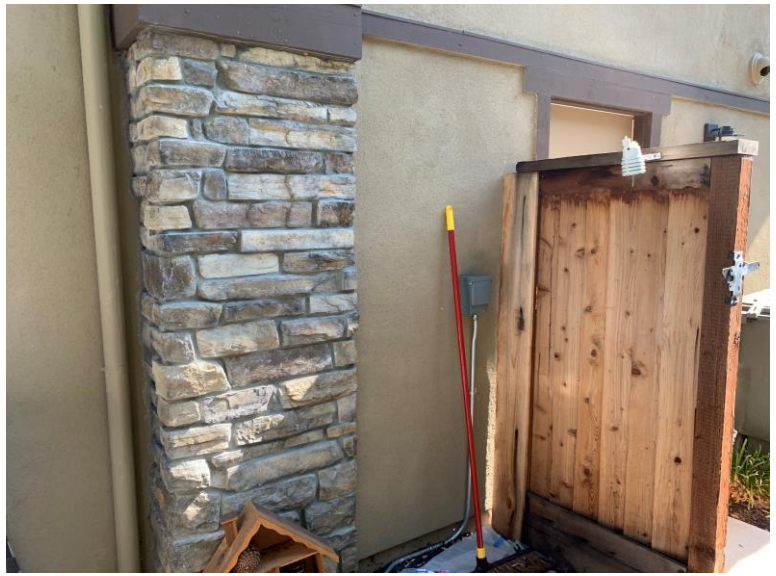




Take photos of the surrounding area of the electrical panel or utility meter.

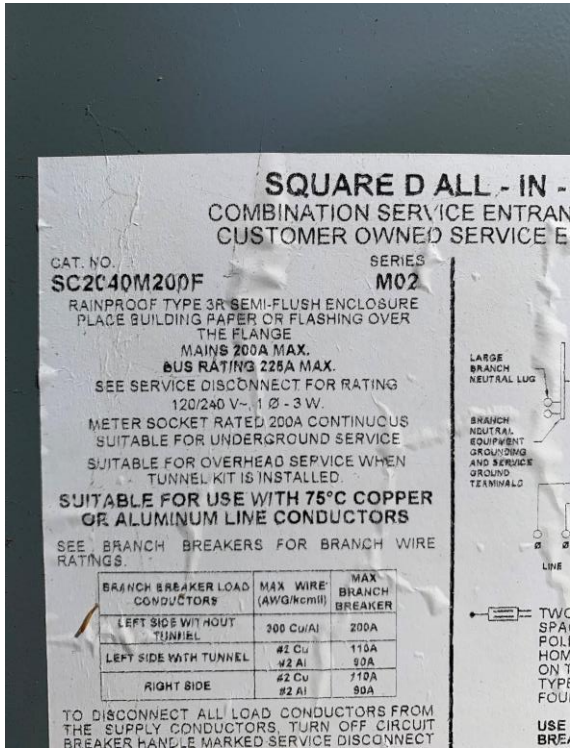


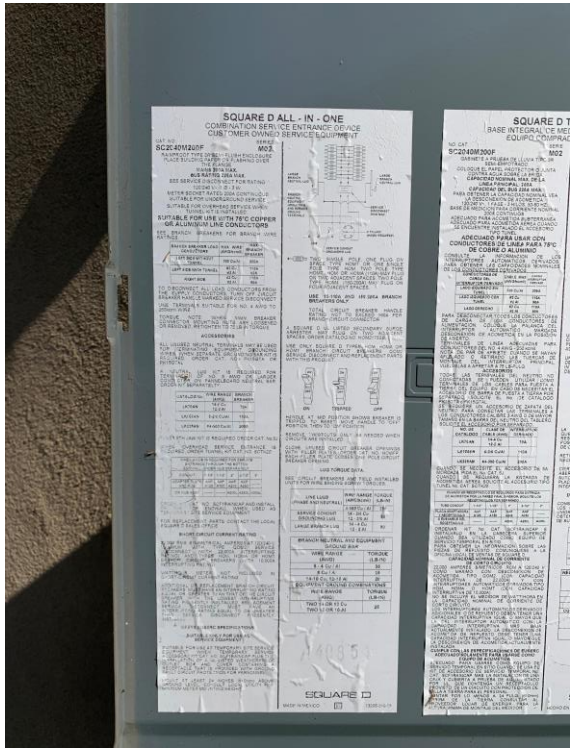


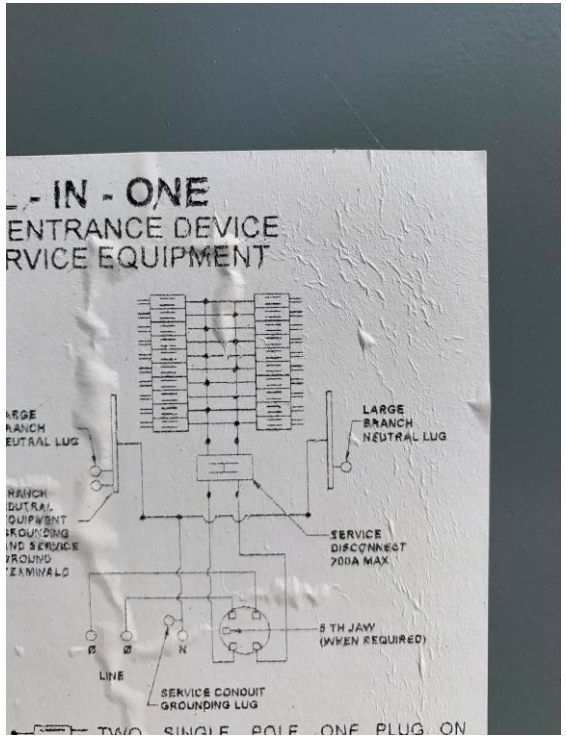


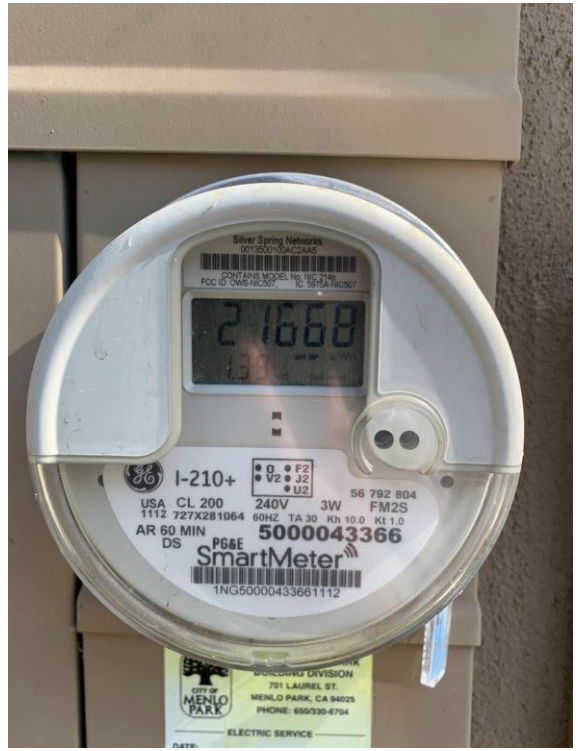


More photos of the surrounding area of the electrical panel or utility meter.









Take a legible close-up photo of the meter









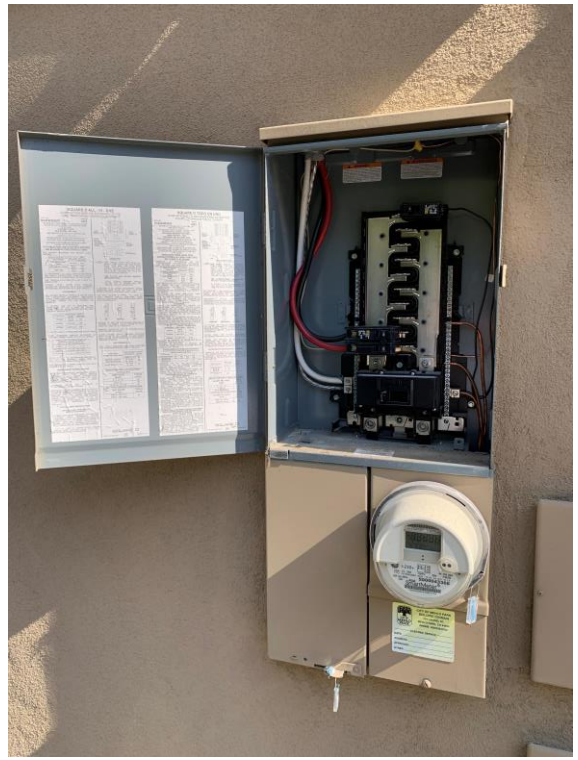
Take photos of the exterior electrical panel and all of the breakers



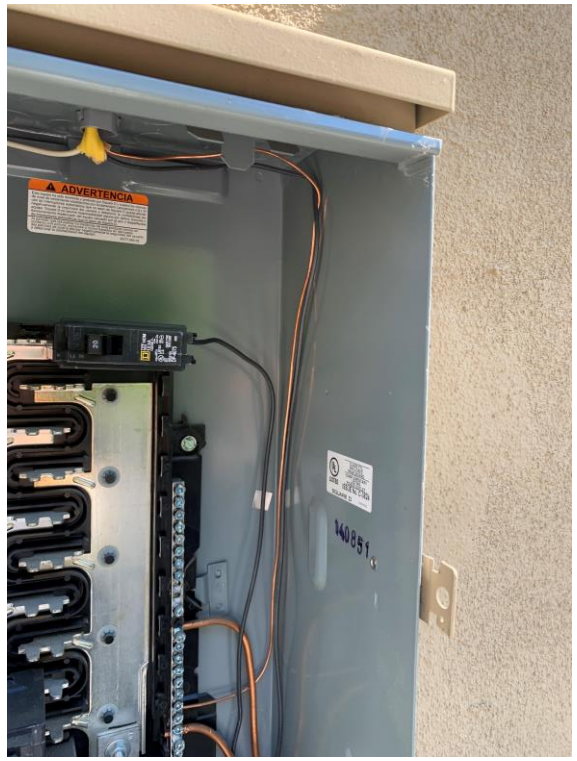
More photos of the breakers (taking a close up of the Main breaker)

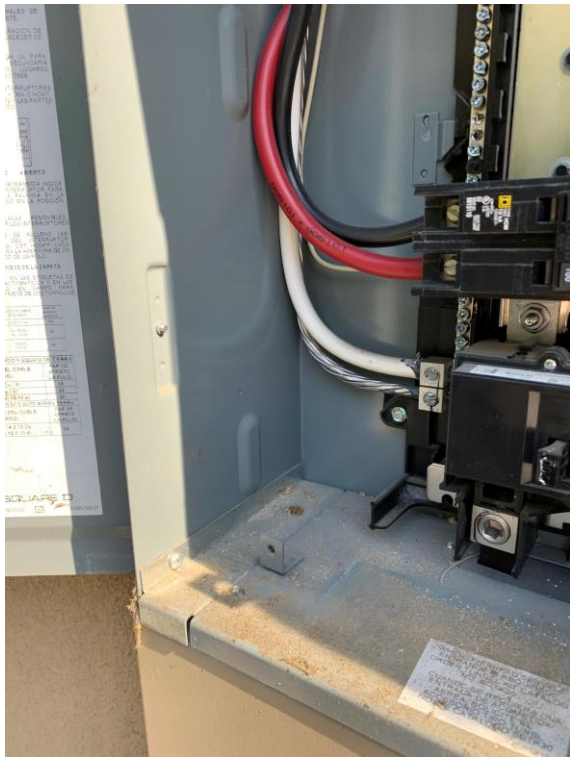
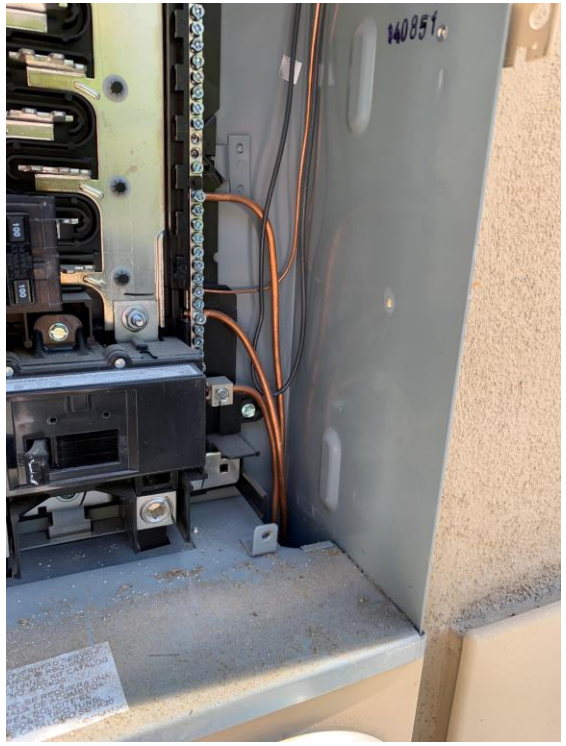


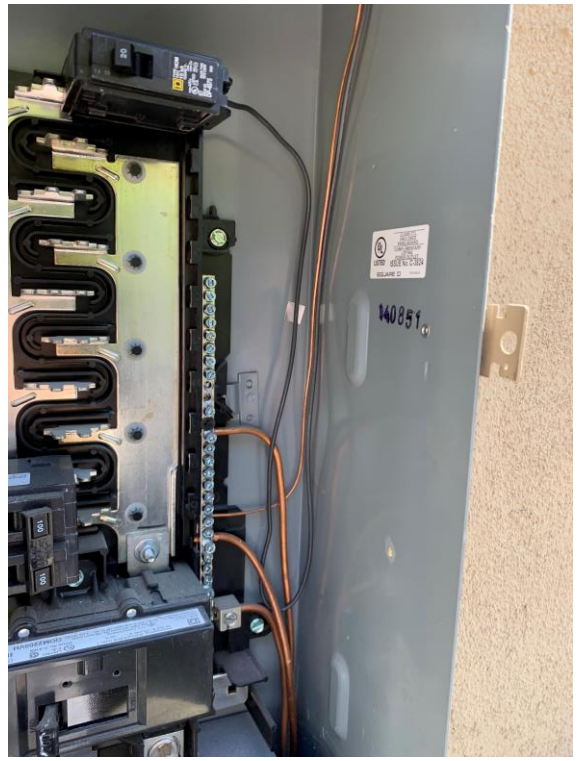




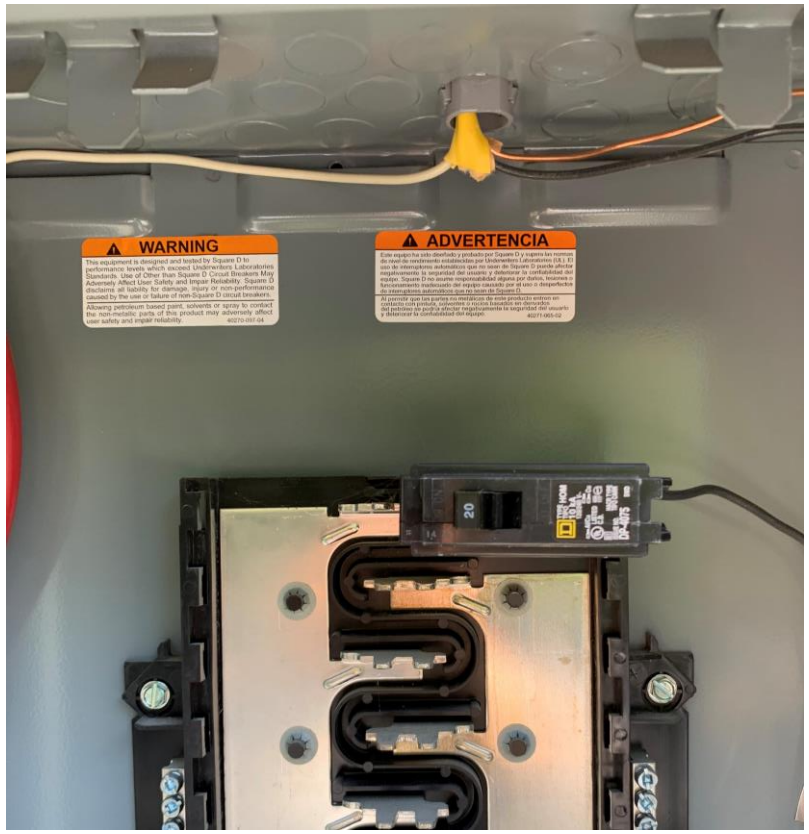
Take photos of the electrical panel with the dead-front removed

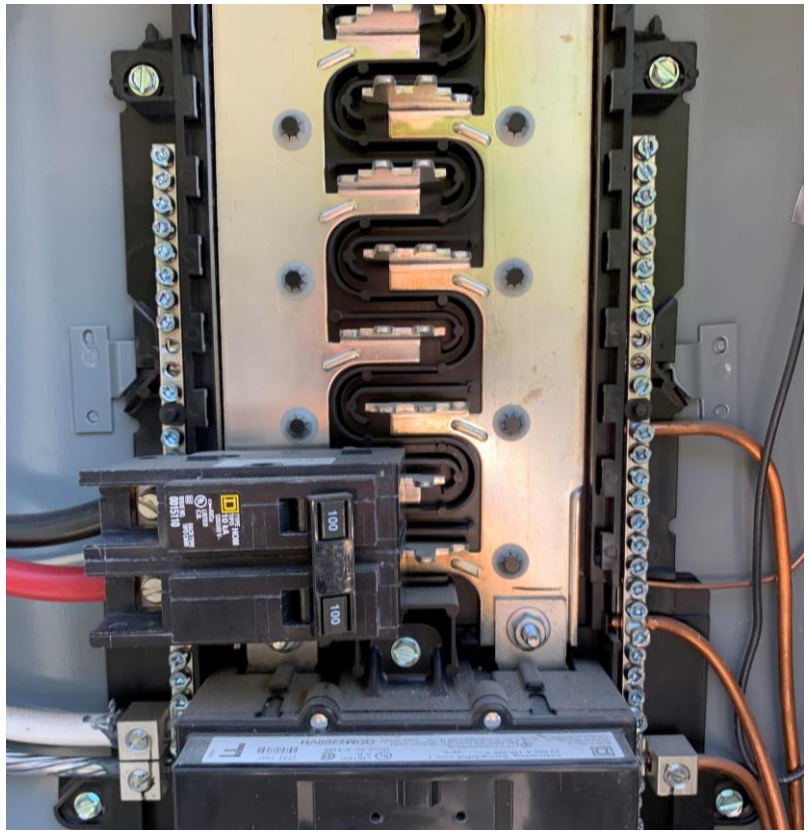
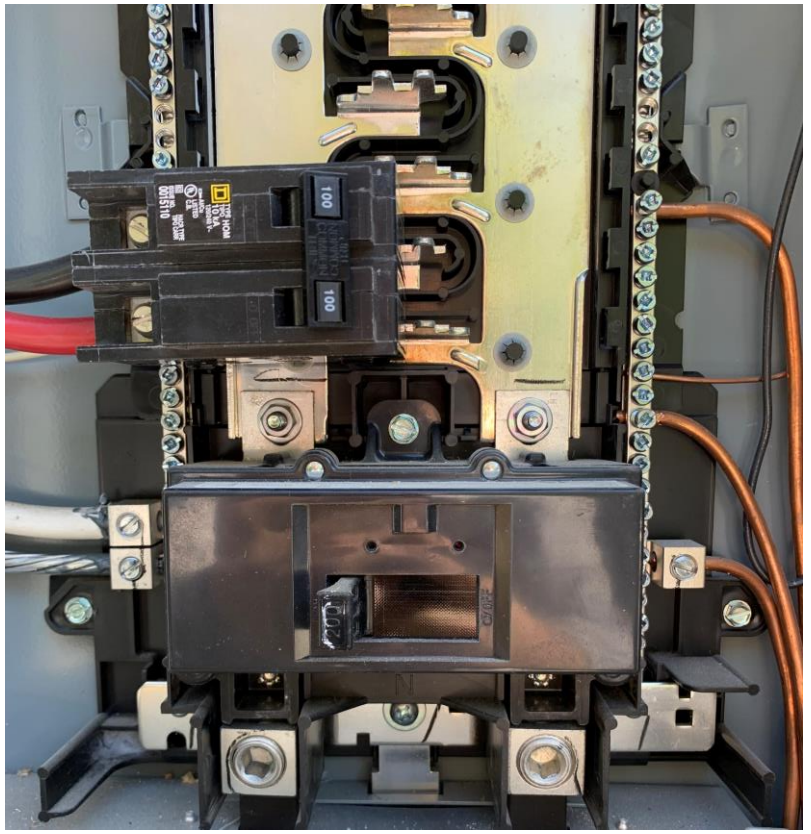




More photos of the electrical panel with the dead-front removed



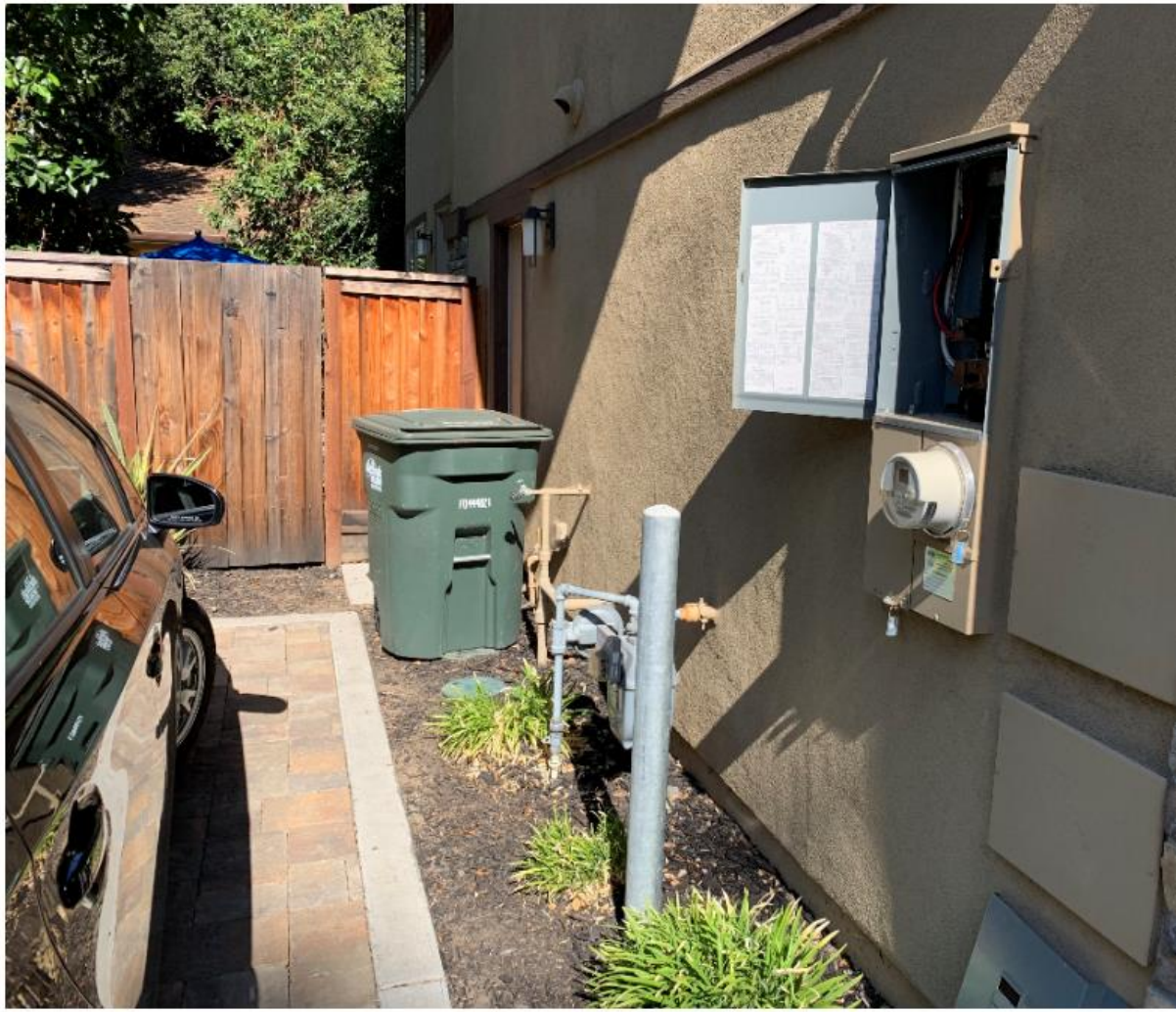
More photos of the electrical panel with the dead-front removed



Open all areas of the electrical panel that do not have a utility lock

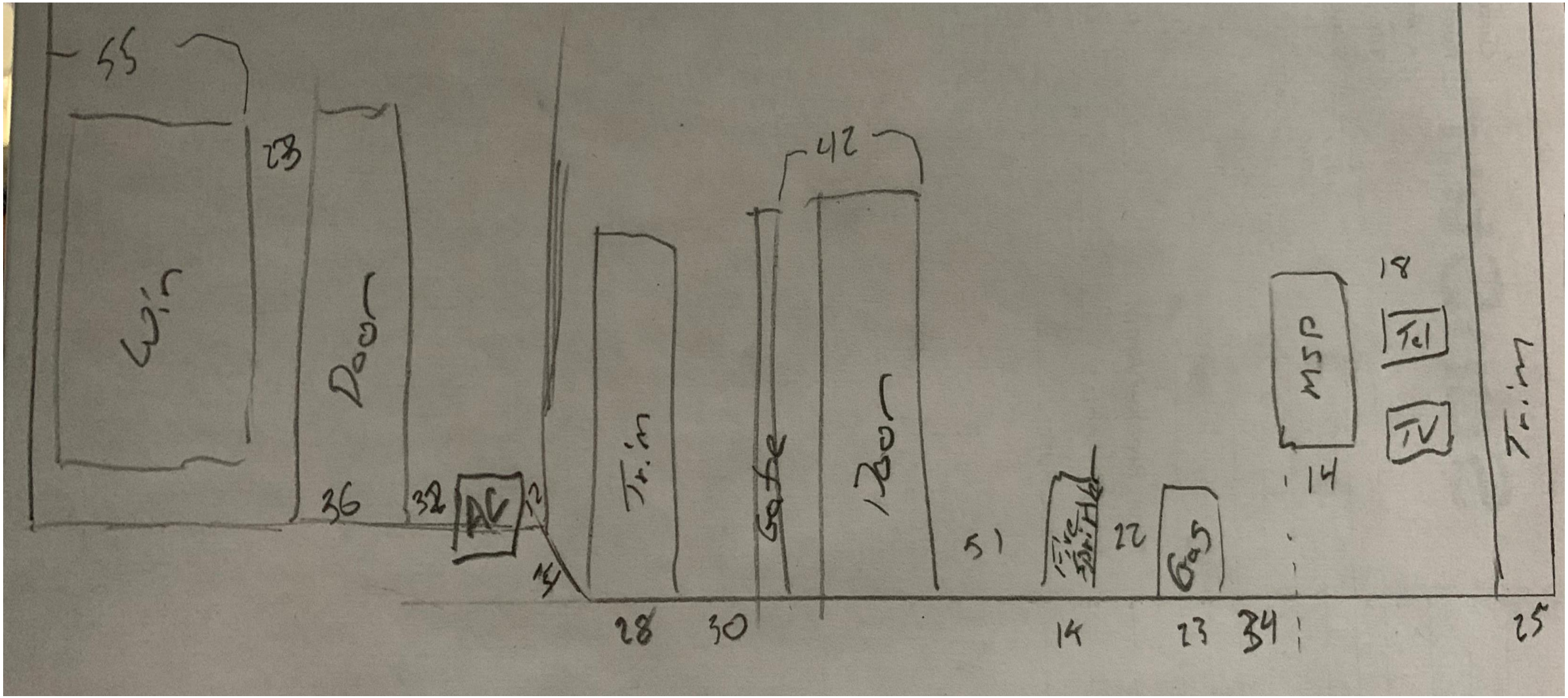
- Note this is locked by the utility and cannot be opened





Measure equipment that is on the outside of the house (gas meter, electrical panes, doors, windows, ect) to find a location for the solar equipment
This area must be a minimum of 5 foot cleared space

Measurements of the area around the exterior meter



Roof survey and photos

- Photos showing roof plane (roof 1, roof 2, ect)
- Photos of entire roof plane
- Photos showing any obstructions on the roof (vents, pipes, chimneys, satellite dish, ect)
- Photos of the roof condition
- Photos of any roof issues (missing/broken shingles, missing/broken tiles
- If composite shingle – a photo showing how many layers of comp shingle are on the roof
- If tile roof – a photo showing a lifted tile, paper under the tile
- Notate the direction of the roof slope and the degree of the slope

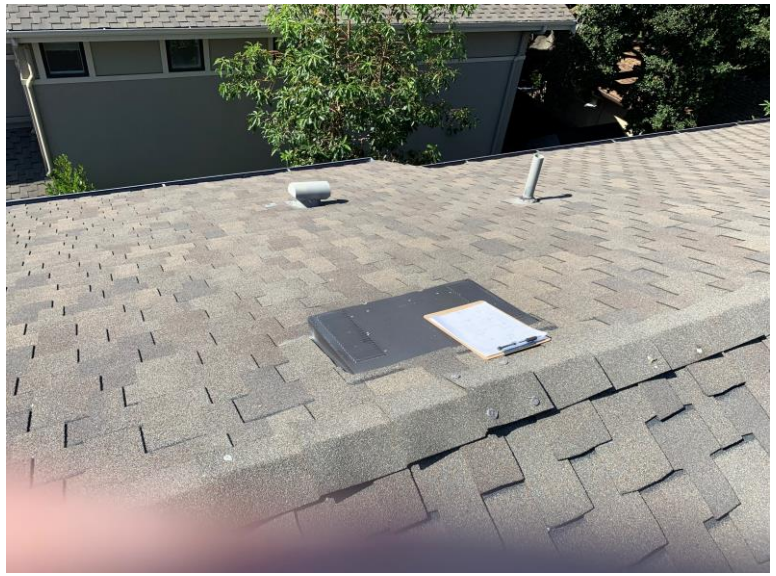
Photos showing roof plane (roof 1, roof 2, ect)













Photos of entire roof plane

Roof 1









Photos of entire roof plane

Roof 1









Photos showing any obstructions on the roof (vents, pipes, chimneys, satellite dish, ect)





Photos of the roof condition

Photos of any roof issues (missing/broken shingles, missing/broken tiles











If composite shingle – a photo showing how many layers of comp shingle are on the roof

If tile roof – a photo showing a lifted tile, paper under the tile



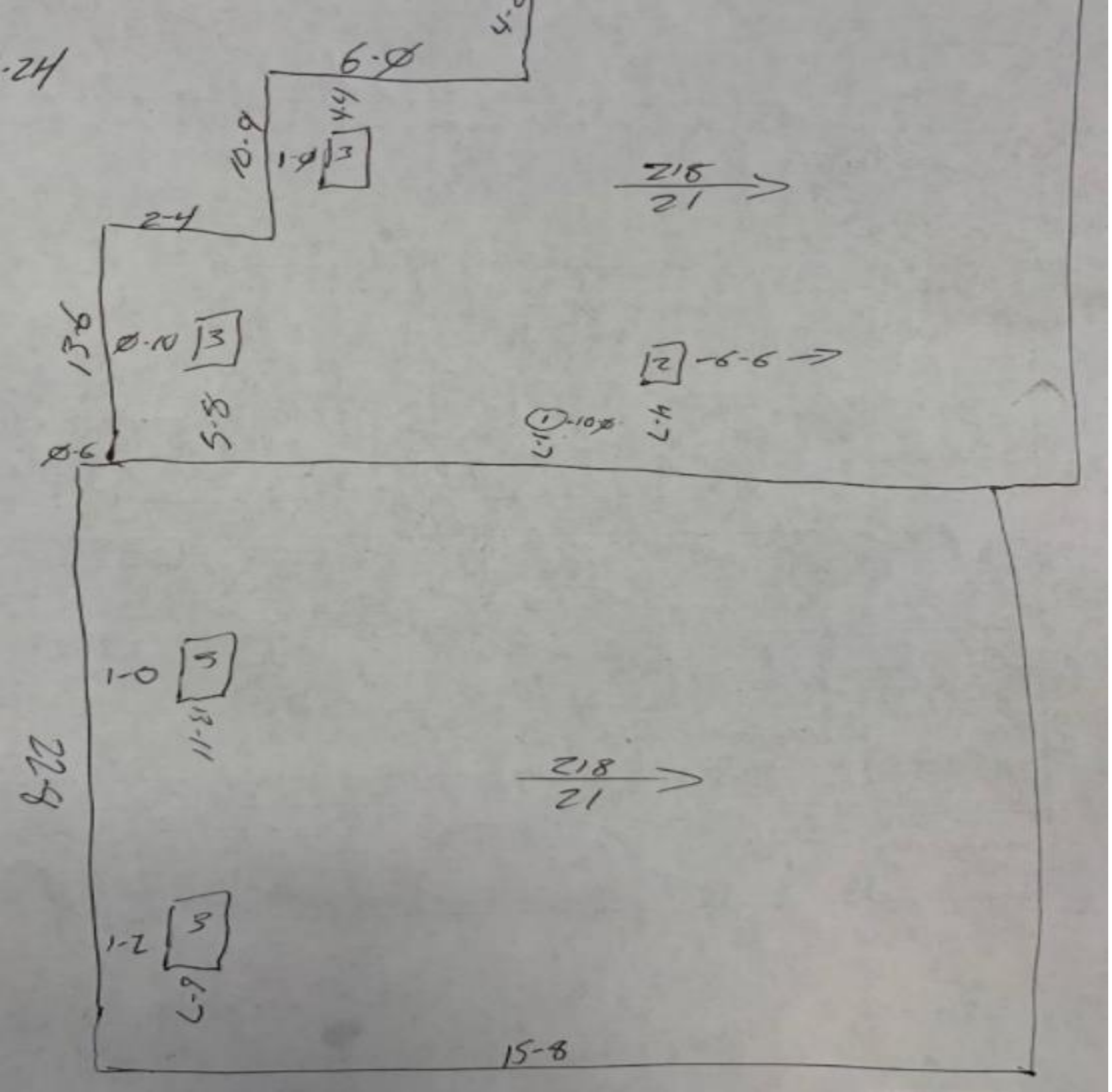


Take many photos of the roof. Panoramic photos are also helpful



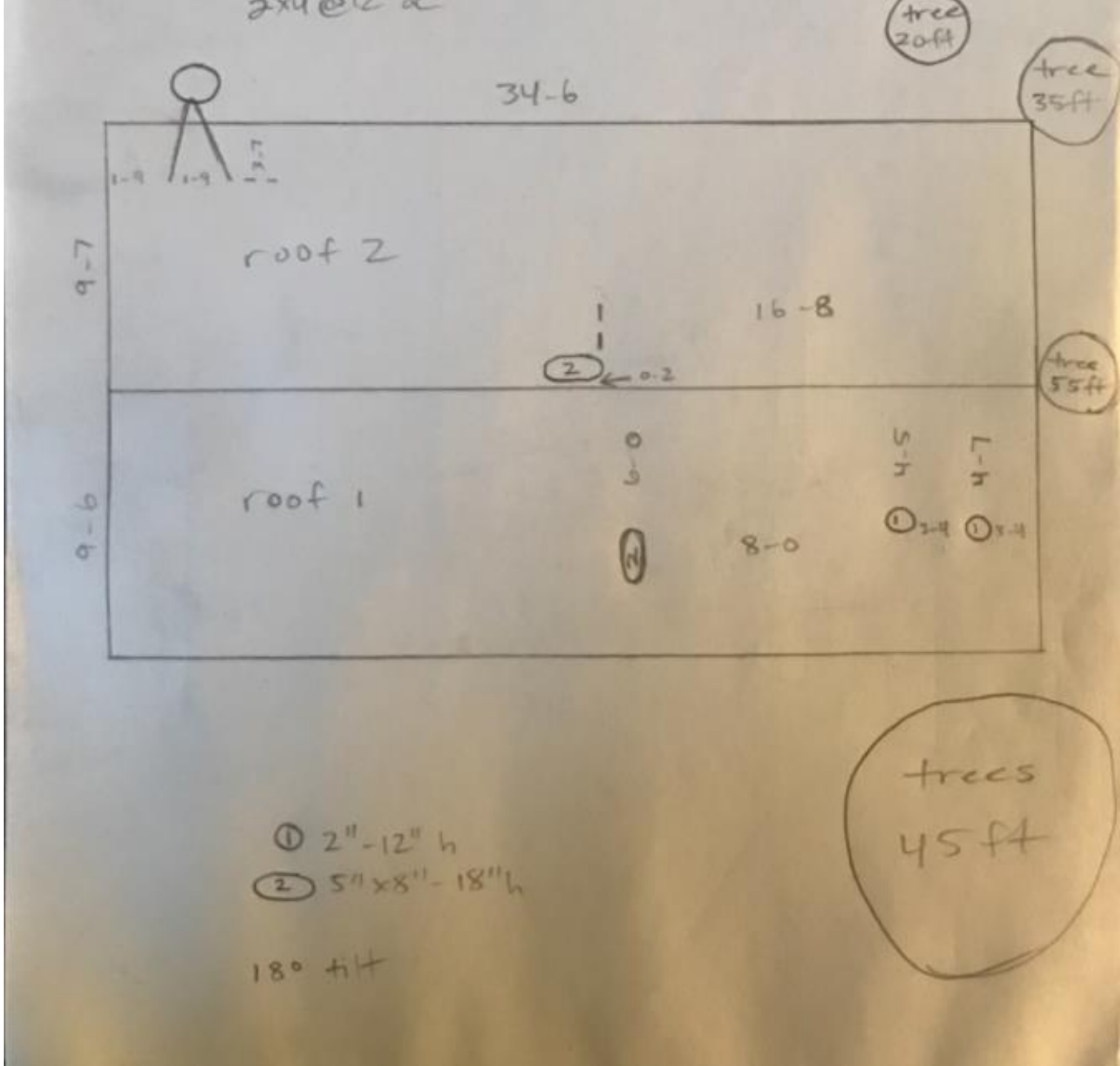
Roof measurements and Notes

- Clearly drawn roof plane
- Measurements of the perimeter of the roof
  - Squaring off any triangles if possible (see page below)
- Two Measurements locating the obstructions (vents, pipes, chimneys, satellite dish, ect)
- Measurements of the obstructions (width, length, and height)
- Notate the direction of the roof slope and the degree of the slope



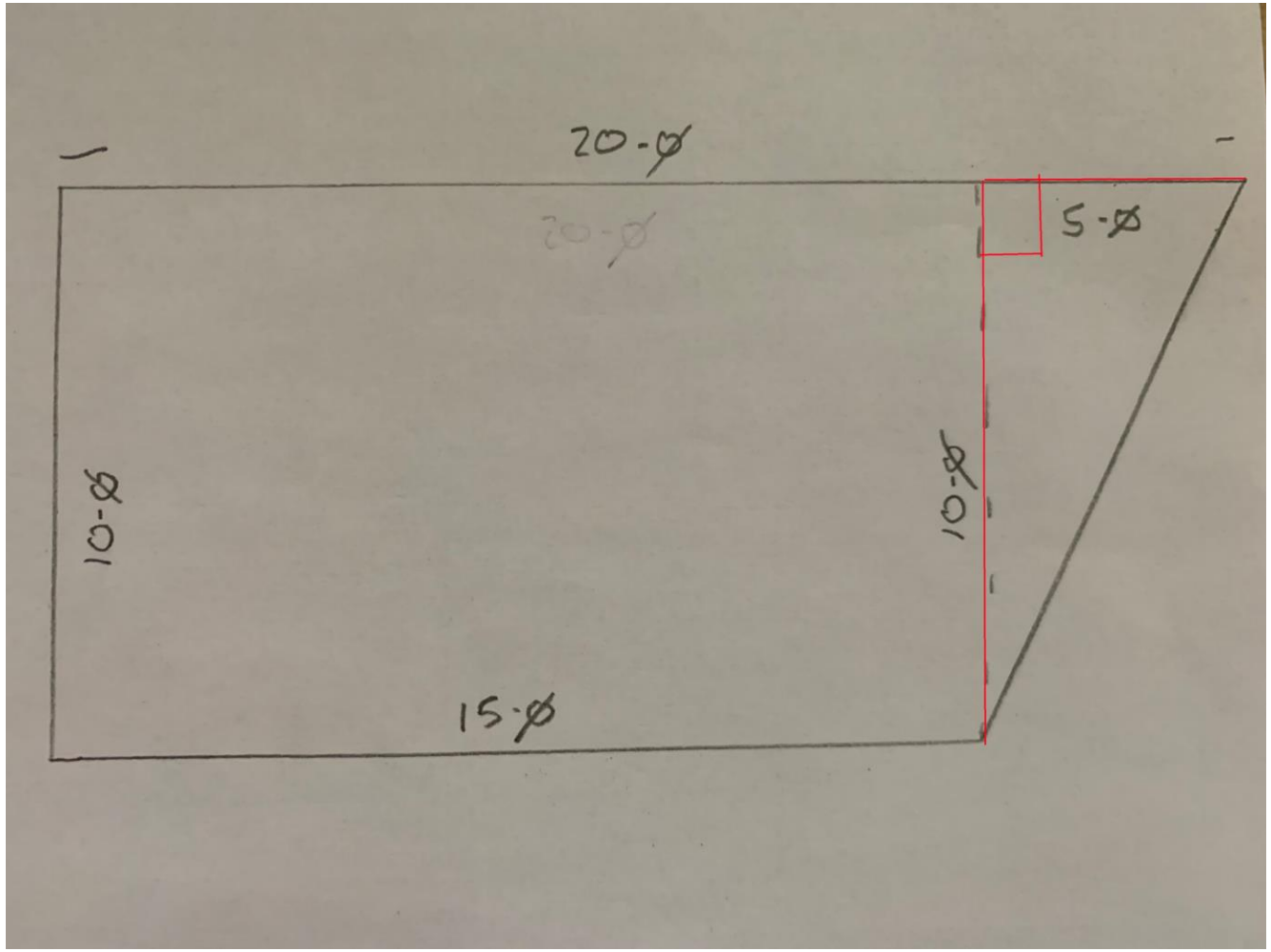
Clearly drawn roof plane

Measurements of the perimeter of the roof

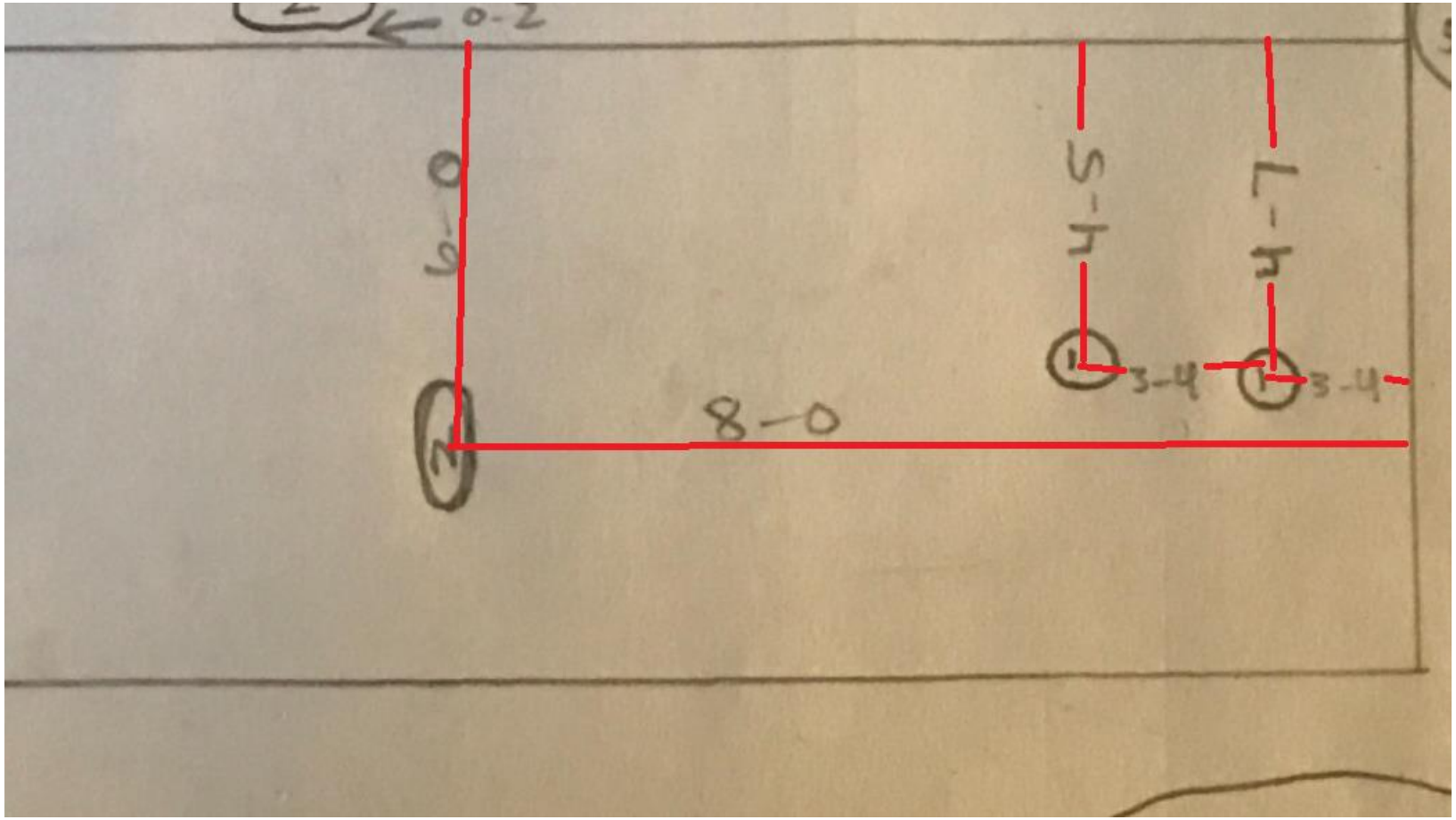


Squaring off any triangles if possible

- If there are off angles on a roof we need to create square 90° measurements for the design

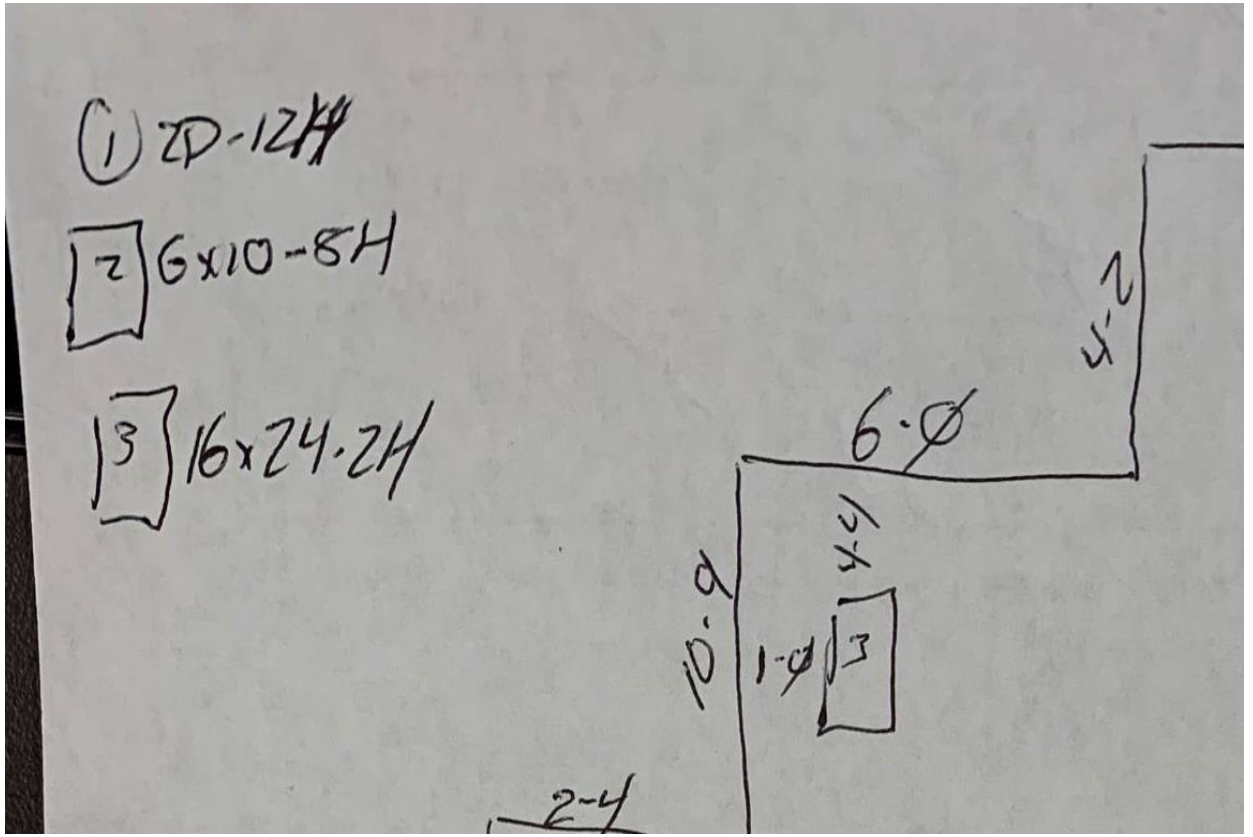


Two Measurements locating the obstructions (vents, pipes, chimneys, satellite dish, ect)



Measurements of the obstructions (width, length, and height)

- Note a key on the side to keep the drawing clean and not cluttered



Notate the direction of the roof slope and the degree of the slope

