#### PLANNING RATIONALE REPORT: SITE PLAN CONTROL APPLICATION

2458 CLEROUX CRES 3-STOREY, 17 UNIT APARTMENT 11784005 CANADA INC.

PREPARED BY: P H ROBINSON CONSULTING SEPTEMBER 2022

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#### Introduction

This report has been prepared in support of a Site Plan Control Application for the property at 2458 Cleroux Cresent. The legal description of the property is Part of Lot 10, Concession 3 (Ottawa Front), City of Ottawa (PIN 04403 - 0474 (LT)).

The property is located on the west side of Cleroux Crescent (with Cleroux Cresent being considered to be a north south street) in Blackburn Hamlet. The neighbourhood consists of low-rise residential developments with a mix of single, two, and three-storey buildings. The eastern portion of Cleroux Cres predominantly features single-detached dwellings, while the western portion has more variety in housing types and scale. Commercial opportunities in this area are limited to home-based businesses. North of the site at Innes Rd / Blackburn Hamlet Bypass is Ottawa Fire Station 54 and Good Shepherd Church. Less than 200m to the north at the Cleroux Cres. / Orient Park Dr. intersection is an active development proposal for two (2) low-rise apartment buildings each with 40 rental units zoned as R5A.

Located within 200m north of the property towards Innes Rd. is Keystone Park, Norman Johnston Secondary Alternative School, and Blackburn Seniors Residence Ottawa (see **Fig. 1-3**).



**Fig. 1.** Norman Johnston Alternative Secondary School located north of the subject property.

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**Fig. 2.** Blackburn Seniors Residence Ottawa located north of the subject property.



Fig. 3. Keystone Park located north of the subject lands.

The lands at 2458 Cleroux have 17.72m of frontage, depth at 80.74m at its longest, and a lot area of 1,391m<sup>2</sup>. The lot has an irregular shape due to its angled rear yard lot line (see **Fig. 4. Survey plan**). The current property contains a single-detached dwelling with two (2) vinyl sheds.

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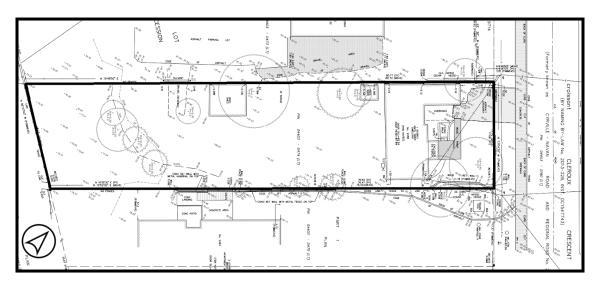


Fig. 4. Survey Plan of the subject property

The intent of the Site Plan Control Application is to allow for the development of a 3-storey, 17 unit rental apartment building (see **Fig. 5. Site plan**). For which the dimensions are approximately 9.4m x 57.3m. There will be three (3) one-bedroom units, and 14 two-bedroom units included in this proposal. To service the residents, there are 20 proposed vehicular parking spaces and 4 vehicular spaces for visitors. Additionally, there are 13 interior bicycle parking spaces located in the underground parking level, and 4 spaces located at grade beside the entrance to the building. Also located in the underground parking is the common garbage room and utility room.

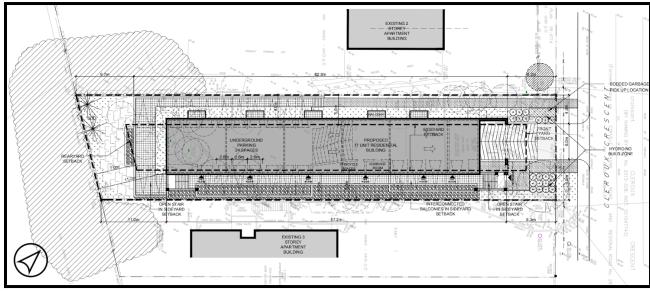


Fig. 5. Site Plan of the subject lands.

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### Design

The building's exterior facades are characterised by a gallery access corridor on one side, balconies on the other, as well as five (5) ground-oriented units. The entrance to the building's main stairwell and underground parking are located directly off Cleroux Cres via an interlocking path and a 2-way paved drive aisle respectively.

The horizontal elements along the main facades (east and west) help maintain a human scale for this three-storey building. The east facade overlooks the adjacent property's parking lot and features the gallery-access corridor with a prominent, light-coloured slab with panels of horizontal wood slatting. The panels of wood slatting also serve to protect the corridor from the elements over the course of a Canadian year. The corridor also features glazed panels to maximise the opportunity for views and give the building a lighter appearance. The west facade maintains horizontal elements through consecutive cantilevered balconies. The balconies also use glazed panels to maximise views for the units and make the building feel lighter.

Access to the building from the street is limited to the east side of the building, as the interlocking paved path on the west side of the building leads to the rear yard amenity space. Access to units from the underground parking level is via the stairwell located in the northeast corner of the building.

Landscaping is limited in the side yards because they are shallow and there is limited space for root growth due to the size of the underground parking. The rear yard features an approximate 7m drop from the building facade to the property line. Isolating the landscaped portion of the rear yard, the drop is approximately 4m. This grade change provides a small area in the rear yard that permits tree growth, and we have included two (2) coniferous trees in that location. Planting in the front yard consists of two (2) smaller deciduous trees that will not interfere with the Hydro no-build zone along Cleroux Cres. Also located in the front yard are perennial flowers and shrubs.

Background studies addressing soils, environmental issues and civil engineering design are being filed as part of this Site Plan application. A full set of engineering, architectural, surveying and landscaping plans are also being filed with this site plan submission. No major issues or concerns were identified in these studies. The site's challenging grade inspired the development's unique stepped approach to the building levels and underground parking.

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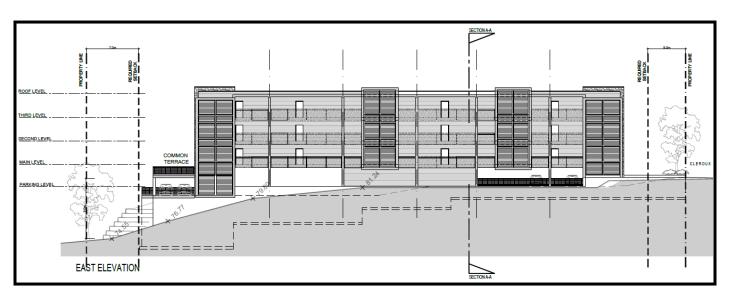


Fig. 6. East elevation of 2458 Cleroux Cres.



**Fig. 7.** Rendered perspective showing the frontage and east facade as viewed from 2468 Cleroux.

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#### **Zoning**

Under Zoning By-Law 2008-250, as amended, the subject lands are zoned R4Z [1335] (Residential Fourth Density Zone). This zoning permits the construction of low-rise apartment buildings under a maximum height of 15m. The buildings will require minor rezoning for the minimum required lot width and the minimum required interior yard setback.

The proposed use of the site conforms to the existing zoning and other requirements that apply to this site.

Provision	Required	Proposed
Min. lot width	18 m	17.72 m
Min. lot area	450 m <sup>2</sup>	1,391 m <sup>2</sup>
Max. building height	15 m	13.75 m
Min. front yard setback	5 m	8.2 m
Min. interior yard setback	<mark>5 m</mark>	4 m
Min. rear yard setback	7 m	7.2 m
Min. vehicular parking	21 spaces	24 spaces
Min. bike parking	9 spaces	17 spaces
Min. amenity area	174 m <sup>2</sup> (120 m <sup>2</sup> communal)	347.3 m <sup>2</sup> (231.9 m <sup>2</sup> communal)

**Table 1.** Zoning requirements for 2458 Cleroux Cres.

Note: The minimum lot width and minimum front yard setback will be the subject of a minor variance application to be filed near the conclusion of the Site Plan Control application process.

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#### **Provincial Policy Statement**

The current Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) came into effect in 2020 and it outlines the key matters of Provincial planning interest with respect to land use planning decisions made by municipal approval authorities. Any decisions that are made by municipal approval authorities must be consistent with the policies of the PPS.

The following are sections of the PPS that are applicable to the proposed development at 2458 Cleroux Cres.:

- 1.1.1 Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by:
  - a) promoting efficient development and land use patterns which sustain the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long term; The proposed development promotes efficient development and land-use patterns.
  - e) promoting the integration of land use planning, intensification, and standards to minimise land consumption and servicing costs; The proposal represents an intensification achieved through the development of a 3-storey apartment building. The inclusion of underground parking involves positive land-use planning to minimise land consumption and servicing costs.
  - g) ensuring that necessary infrastructure and public service facilities are or will be available to meet current and projected needs; An "Adequacy of Public Services" has been completed prior to this Site Plan Control application to ensure public service facilities and the necessary infrastructure are possible to service the site.
- 1.1.3.1 Settlement areas shall be the focus of growth and development. This area is within a Hamlet of the City of Ottawa and focuses on growth and development.
- 1.1.3.4 Appropriate development standards should be promoted which facilitate intensification, redevelopment and compact form, while avoiding or mitigating risks to public health and safety. This proposal represents compact intensification and promotes public health and safety as it uses efficient circulation and land use, and the through units have plenty of access to light and open space.

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- 1.4.1 To provide for an appropriate range and mix of housing options and densities required to meet projected requirements of current and future residents of the regional market area, planning authorities shall:
  - a) maintain at all times the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 15 years through residential intensification and redevelopment and, if necessary, lands which are designated and available for residential development; *This proposal incorporates a range of unit types, diversifying the existing housing options in the area.*

### Official Plan Designation - City of Ottawa Official Plan

The New Official Plan categorises this area as an Outer Urban transect under the 'Neighbourhood' designation which pertains to classic suburban neighbourhoods built within the greenbelt between approximately 1966 and 2000. As of the time of the submission of this report this Official Plan which was prepared by Planning staff and approved by City council has not received final approval by the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

- 3.2. New Official Plan outlines support for intensification. Intensification is permitted as a variety of built forms and height categories including low-rise developments. It is also stated that residential intensification will focus on the 15-minute model and this intensification is permitted in all designations. This project allows for 17 residential units on an infill site located in close proximity to similar building types. The site is located approximately a 15 minute walk (1.2km) from Innes Road's variety of amenities such as retail, leisure, schools (Norman Johnston Alternative Secondary School OCDSB, Good Shepherd School OCSB, Emily Carr Middle School OCDSB), food services, and transit.
- 4.6.5. (2) The development should generally be located to frame the adjacent street, park or greenspace, and should provide an appropriate setback within the street context, with clearly visible main entrances from public sidewalks. Visual impacts associated with above grade utilities should be mitigated. The setback of the proposed structure within the street context is similar to the existing structure on the site and entrances to the units are clearly articulated on the eastern facade with enough tree coverage to provide privacy for residents.
- 4.6.6. (6) Low-rise buildings shall be designed to respond to context, and transect area policies, and shall include areas for soft landscaping, main entrances at-grade, front porches or balconies, where appropriate. Buildings shall integrate architecturally to complement the surrounding context. The proposal clearly responds to the evolving built conditions of the street and is designed in accordance with 'Outer Urban' and 'Neighbourhood' designations.

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Soft landscaping and ground-oriented units have been integrated into the project along with balconies for upper-level units.

- 5.31. The Official Plan outlines goals to evolve these neighbourhoods into an urban, 15-minute model. This is supported by low-rise developments within the outer urban transect neighbourhoods as well as a range of dwelling unit sizes in multi-unit dwellings, ground-oriented forms, and low-rise multi-unit dwellings. This low-rise multi-unit dwelling proposal meshes with the existing built fabric of the street while adhering to the goals of the new Official Plan. There are multiple unit sizes included in the building with 5 ground-oriented units.
- 6.3.1. The City outlines specific goals for the neighbourhood designation such as, building heights shall be limited to low-rise unless otherwise permitted by zoning or secondary plans, or in areas with preexisting taller buildings. Additionally, it states that zoning by-law will allow lower densities and ground-oriented dwellings in outer urban transect neighbourhoods. The proposal does not exceed 3 storeys, before the change in grade in the lot rear, keeping with the existing character of the street. The proposal also includes 5 ground-oriented units.

The Official Transportation Master Plan and Community Design Plan include a plan to expand the Brian Coburn rapid bus route directly south of the subject lands as well as a major pathway connecting Cleroux Cres to the bus route. This reinforces the development's scale and building type as it relates to the New Official Plan's prioritisation of diverse development along rapid transit routes. The proposed project is in general conformity with the surrounding existing residential development both in scale and building type. Due to its proximity to the Brian Coburn rapid bus transit extension, it is an appropriate land use and density in the community.

The current Official Plan has classified this area under the General Urban Area designation.

Lands designated General Urban Area will continue to mature and evolve through intensification and infill but at a scale contingent on proximity to major roads and transit, and the area's planned function. Consideration of the character in the surrounding community is a factor in determining compatibility within a community. This proposal is a low-scale intensification project designed for an under-utilised lot. The area is populated with multi-unit residential dwellings at similar scales as the proposed. Existing road networks and transit routes support this scale of development but also require parking to be available on the lot for residents and visitors.

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- 2.2.2. (10) Low-rise intensification will be the predominant form of intensification in the General Urban Area. The proposal conforms to this guideline by having a maximum of 3 storeys at its lowest, and 4 storeys at the rear of the building due to a significant grade change.
- (23) The interior portions of established low-rise residential neighbourhoods will continue to be characterised by low-rise buildings (as defined in Figure 2.4). The City supports intensification in the General Urban Area where it will enhance and complement its desirable characteristics and long-term renewal. The low-rise form is not only recommended for this area, but it also conforms well to the surrounding context of Blackburn Hamlet.

#### **Consultation details**

A pre consultation meeting was held with City staff in March 2021 and then further meetings and discussions were held in May 2021 to discuss the project and present modifications to the plans originally filed in March 2021. The property owner has had discussions with the owner of the adjacent apartment building at 2444 Cleroux Crescent. In the near future we will discuss the plans with nearby property owners and residents and we are open to a community meeting if the City Councillor feels it is appropriate..

#### **Conclusions**

This proposed development of a 3-storey, 17 unit apartment building is consistent with Zoning By-Law goals, New Official Plan, and Community Design Plan policies.

The site represents a compact infill development that allows:

- Urban design excellence in a developing neighbourhood that meshes well with existing context;
- Efficient circulation and land use planning with consideration to the unique lot shape and grading;
- The inclusion of vegetation where possible.

It is our opinion that the proposed development is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and the City of Ottawa Official Plan and relevant zoning regulations. It is being proposed at an appropriate scale of development and will be compatible with surrounding land uses and will contribute to the overall housing supply in the community surrounding the property. The associated site

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studies that accompany this Planning Rationale support the development of this proposal.

The proposed development represents good land use planning that is in the public interest and it is recommended for approval.

Should you have any questions or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

**P H Robinson Consulting** 

**P-Squared Concepts** 

Paul Robinson, RPP

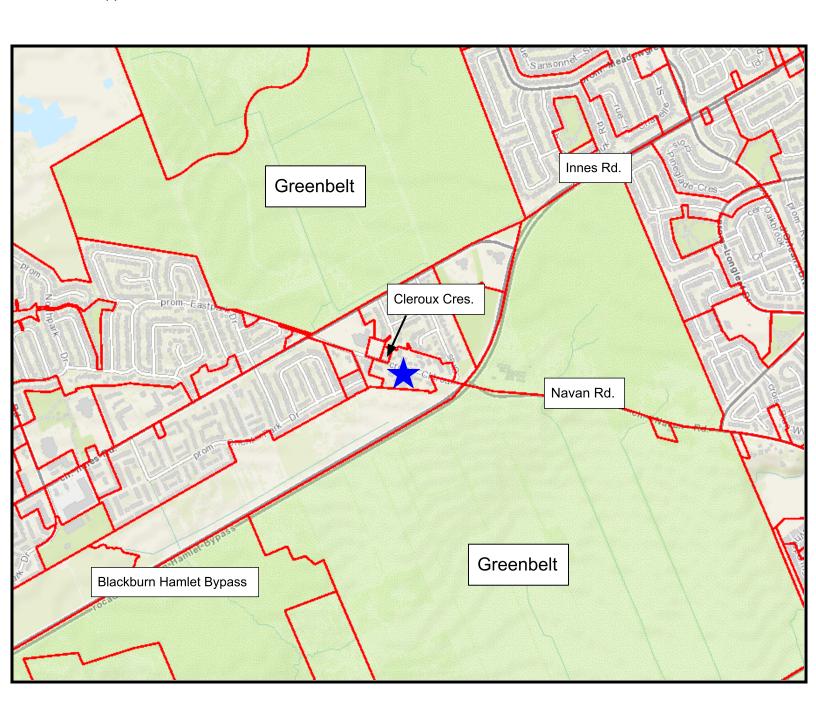
Jasmine Paoloni, Planner

## **Appendix**

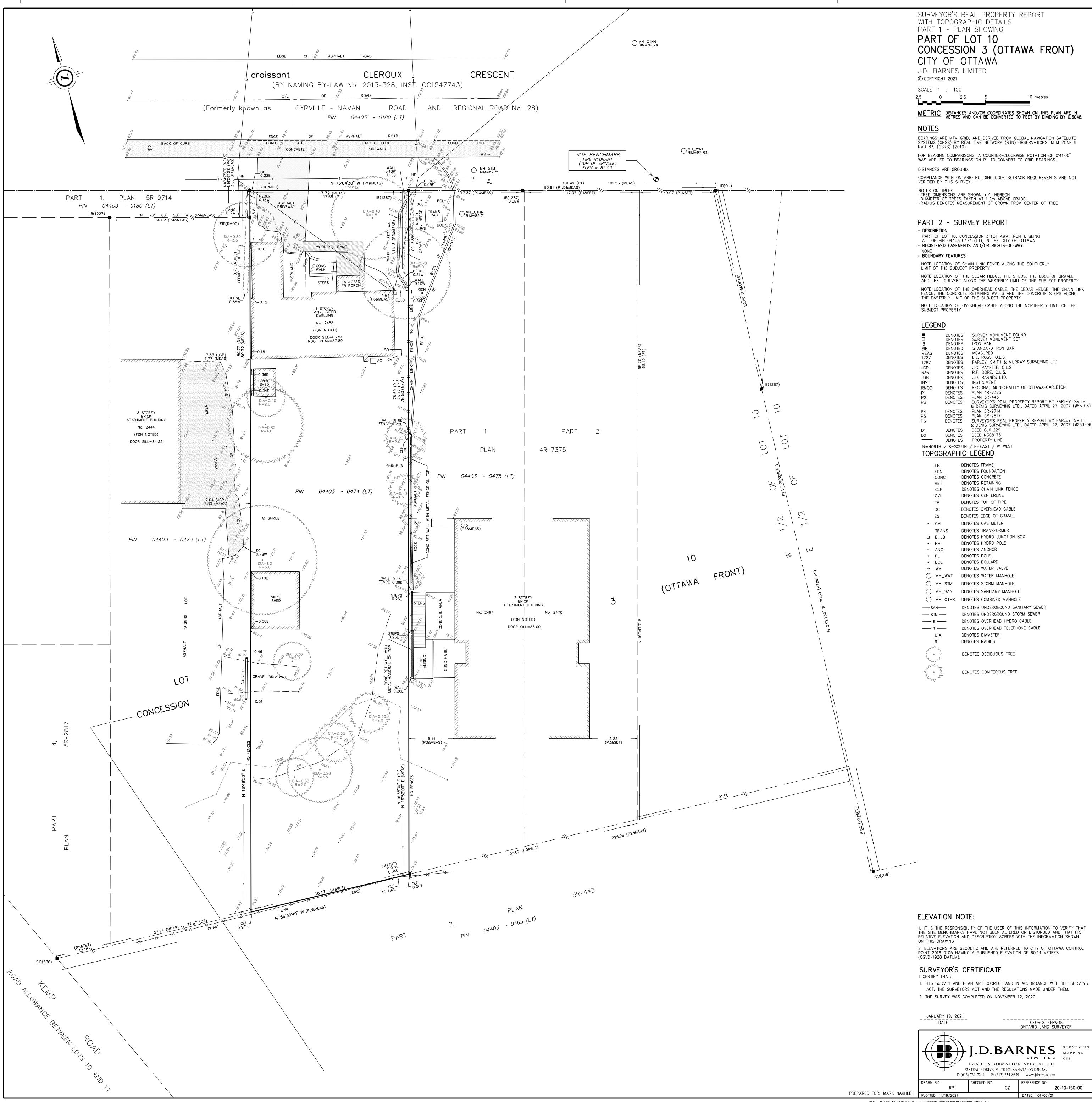
LOCATION PLAN
SURVEY PLAN
SITE PHOTOS
SITE PLAN
ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS
ARCHITECTURAL PLANS

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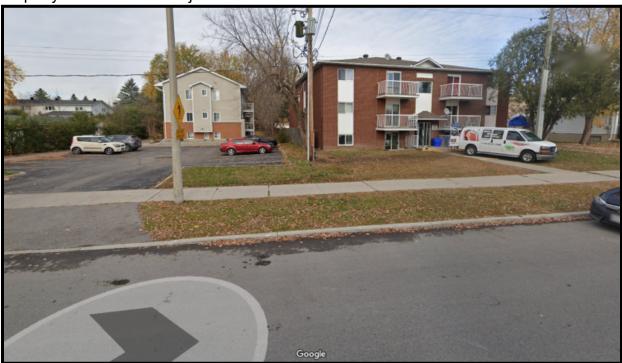
Location Plan



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Property to the west of subject lands



Property to the north of subject lands.



Property to the east of subject lands.



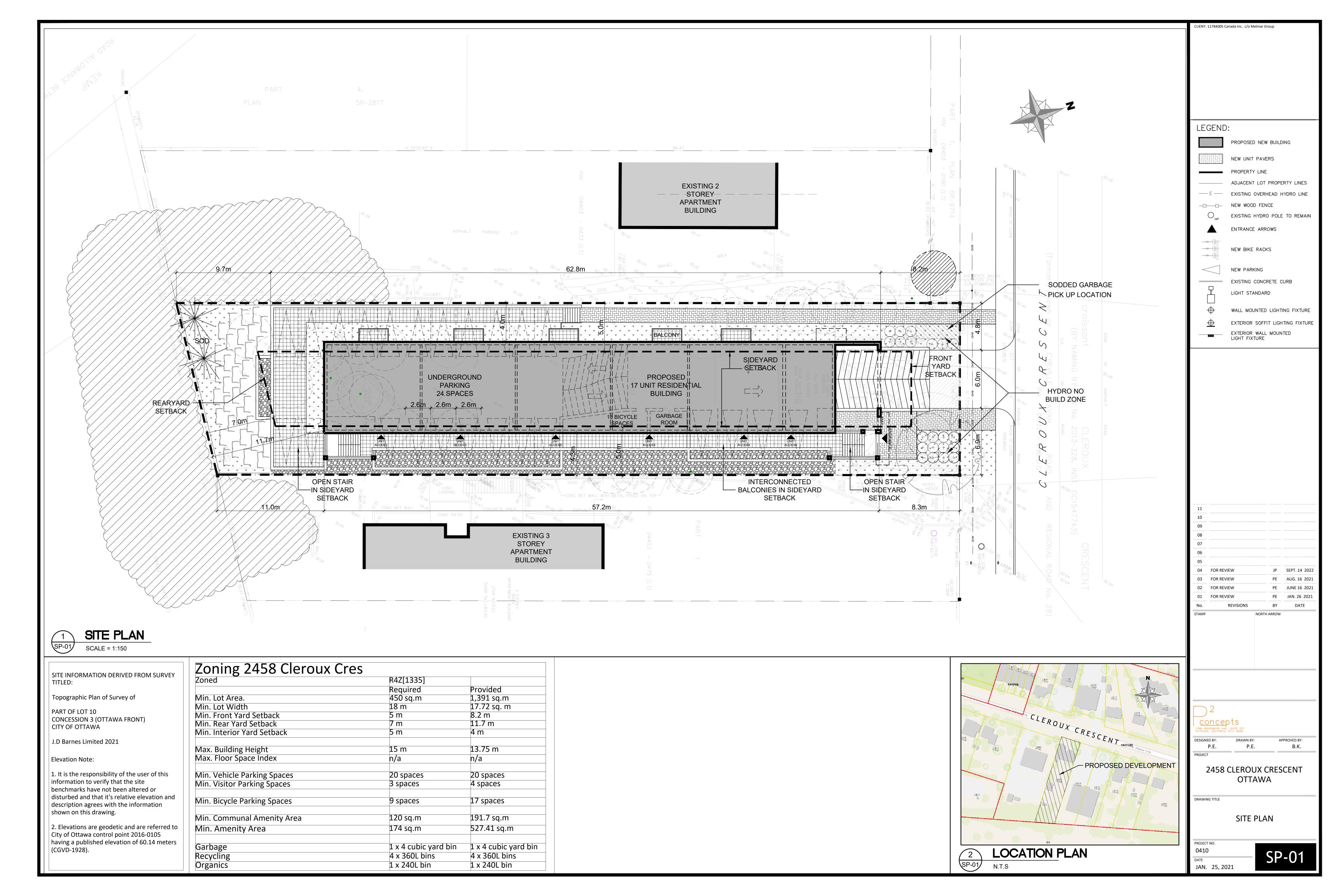
Property at the Cleroux cres / Innes rd.



Aerial view of subject property from the south



Internal view of the grade change looking north towards the property to the east.





Architectural render looking south east.



Architectural render looking south west.

