## Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of Adjustment

September 14, 2022

File: A/085/22

Address: 9 Hughson Drive, Markham

Applicant: Tim Huang Agent: Tim Huang

Hearing Date: Wednesday September 21, 2022

The following comments are provided on behalf of the Central Team.

The Applicant is requesting relief from the "Single Family Residential - Third Density, Exception Two (R3\*2)" zone requirements under By-law 221-81, as amended, as it relates to a proposed two storey single detached dwelling. The variances requested are to permit:

#### a) Amending By-law 2012-13, Section 7.2.2 (i):

a minimum front yard setback of 7.70 metres (25.26 feet), whereas the Bylaw requires a minimum front yard setback of 9.0 metres (29.53 ft);

#### b) Amending By-law 2012-13, Section 7.2.2 (iii):

a minimum exterior side yard setback of 1.90 metres (6.23 feet), whereas the By-law requires a minimum exterior side yard setback of 2.0 metres (6.56 feet); and

## c) Amending By-law 2012-13, Section 7.2.2 (viii):

a maximum of three storeys, whereas the By-law permits a maximum of two storeys within a single vertical plane.

#### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Property Description**

The 691.50 m<sup>2</sup> (7,443.24 ft<sup>2</sup>) subject lands are located east of Woodbine Avenue and north of Highway 7 (refer to Appendix "A" – Aerial Photo). The subject lands are currently vacant, and contain mature vegetation and multiple large mature trees along the front and exterior side yards of the property.

The subject lands are located within an established residential neighbourhood that is comprised primarily of a mix of one and two-storey detached dwellings. The surrounding area is undergoing a transition with newer dwellings being developed as infill developments.

#### **Proposal**

The Applicant is proposing to construct a new 416.11 m<sup>2</sup> (4,479 ft<sup>2</sup>) two storey detached dwelling (refer to Appendix "B" – Plans) on a vacant lot. The lot was created by way of severance application B/12/16, which was approved by the Committee of Adjustment on November 23, 2016.

#### Official Plan and Zoning

Official Plan 2014 (partially approved on November 24/17, and updated on April 9/18)

The Official Plan designates the subject lands "Residential Low Rise", which permits low rise housing forms including single detached dwellings. Section 8.2.3.5 of the Official Plan outlines infill development criteria for the "Residential Low Rise" designation with respect to height, massing, and setbacks. This criteria is established to ensure that infill development is appropriate for the site and generally consistent with the zoning requirements for adjacent properties and properties along the same street, while accommodating a diversity of building styles. In considering applications for development approval in a "Residential Low Rise" area, which includes variances, development is required to meet the general intent of the above noted development criteria. Regard shall also be had for the retention and enhancement of existing trees and vegetation. Planning staff have had regard for the requirements of the infill development criteria in the preparation of the comments provided below.

#### Zoning By-Law 221-81, as amended by By-law 2012-13

The subject lands are zoned "Single Family Residential - Third Density, Exception Two (R3\*2)" under By-law 221-81, as amended, which permits single family detached dwellings. Exception Two relates to Amending By-law 2012-13 (the "Amending By-law") which further amends By-law 221-81. The Amending By-law was enacted by the City of Markham subsequent to an order issued by the Ontario Municipal Board (the "OMB") on August 8, 2012. The Amending By-law introduced development standards, including but not limited to minimum lot area, minimum lot frontage, and minimum yards, so that redevelopment in the area can proceed subject to updated standards.

The proposed development does not comply with the Amending By-law requirements with respect to minimum front yard setback, exterior side yard setback and maximum number of storeys within a single vertical plane.

#### Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) Undertaken

The Applicant completed a Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) on July 26, 2022 to confirm the variances required for the proposed development.

#### **COMMENTS**

The *Planning Act* states that four tests must be met in order for a variance to be granted by the Committee of Adjustment:

- a) The variance must be minor in nature;
- b) The variance must be desirable, in the opinion of the Committee of Adjustment, for the appropriate development or use of land, building or structure;
- The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law must be maintained;
   and

d) The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan must be maintained.

#### **Reduced Front Yard Setback**

The Applicant is requesting a minimum front yard setback of 7.70 m (25.26 ft), whereas the By-law requires a minimum front yard setback of 9.0 m (29.53 ft). This is a reduction of 1.3 m (4.27 ft).

The subject lands are irregular in shape, and are narrower on the north side of the property (exterior side yard) than the south side (interior side yard), (refer to the site plan in Appendix "B" – Plans). The alignment of the proposed dwelling results in an irregular front yard setback, with the shortest distance being 7.7 m (25.26 ft), which applies to a portion of the garage.

Staff have no objections to the requested variance, and are of the opinion that the general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law is maintained.

#### **Reduction in Minimum Exterior Side Yard Setbacks**

The Applicant is requesting relief to permit a minimum exterior yard setback of 1.90 metres (6.23 feet), whereas the By-law requires a minimum exterior side yard setback of 2.0 metres (6.56 feet). This is a reduction of 0.1 m (0.33 ft).

As noted previously, the subject lands are irregular in shape (refer to the site plan in Appendix "B" – Plans). The alignment of the proposed dwelling results in an exterior side yard setback that ranges between 1.9 m (6.23 ft) and 2.2 m (7.21 ft).

Staff are of the opinion that the proposed exterior yard setback is minor and have no concern with the requested variance.

#### **Increase in Maximum Number of Storeys**

The Applicant is requesting relief to permit a third storey for the proposed dwelling, whereas the By-law permits a maximum of two storeys within a single vertical plane. Storey, as defined by Amending By-law 2012-13, means:

"the portion of a DWELLING, other than a CELLAR or an unfinished attic, located between the surface of any floor and the surface of the floor or roof above, and shall include a BASEMENT."

Staff note that the proposed lowest level of the dwelling is located above-grade, and falls within the definition of "basement" rather than a cellar. The proposed above-grade basement is therefore counted as an additional storey.

Staff further note that the proposed dwelling height of 9.8 m (32.15 ft) complies with the maximum height requirement, as set out in the Amending By-law, which is 9.8 m (32.15 ft). As such, Staff have no concerns with the requested variance.

#### Tree Protection and Compensation

As noted previously, the subject lands contain mature vegetation and multiple large mature trees along the front and exterior side yards of the property.

Staff recommend that the tree related conditions, as outlined in Appendix "C", be adopted by the Committee to ensure the Applicant installs the appropriate tree protection barriers and provides compensation to the City, if necessary. Staff note the Applicant is required to apply for and obtain a tree permit from the City for any proposed injury to, or removal of any trees that have a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 50.0 cm (19.68 in), or more on the subject property or neighbouring properties. Further mitigation through these processes may also be required to ensure the protection of certain trees is achieved.

#### York Region Requirements

York Region provided comments on the subject application, requesting confirmation that adequate water supply and sewage capacity has been allocated for the proposed dwelling.

Staff recommend a condition be added requiring the Applicant satisfies this requirement prior to the issuance of a building permit.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY**

No written submissions were received as of September 13, 2022. It is noted that additional information may be received after the writing of the report, and the Secretary-Treasurer will provide information on this at the meeting.

#### CONCLUSION

Planning Staff have reviewed the application with respect to Section 45(1) of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended, and are of the opinion that the variance request meets the four tests of the *Planning Act* and have no objection. Staff recommend that the Committee consider public input in reaching a decision.

The onus is ultimately on the Applicant to demonstrate why they should be granted relief from the requirements of the zoning by-law, and how they satisfy the tests of the *Planning Act* required for the granting of minor variances.

Please refer to Appendix "C" for conditions to be attached to any approval of this application.

PREPARED BY:

Deanna Schlosser, MCIP RPP, Senior Planner, Central District

### **REVIEWED BY:**

Sabrina Bordone, MCIP RPP, Development Manager, Central District

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix "A" – Aerial Context Photo

Appendix "B" – Plans Appendix "C" – A/085/22 Conditions of Approval



## Appendix "A" – Aerial Context Photo



57.33

114.7

Meters



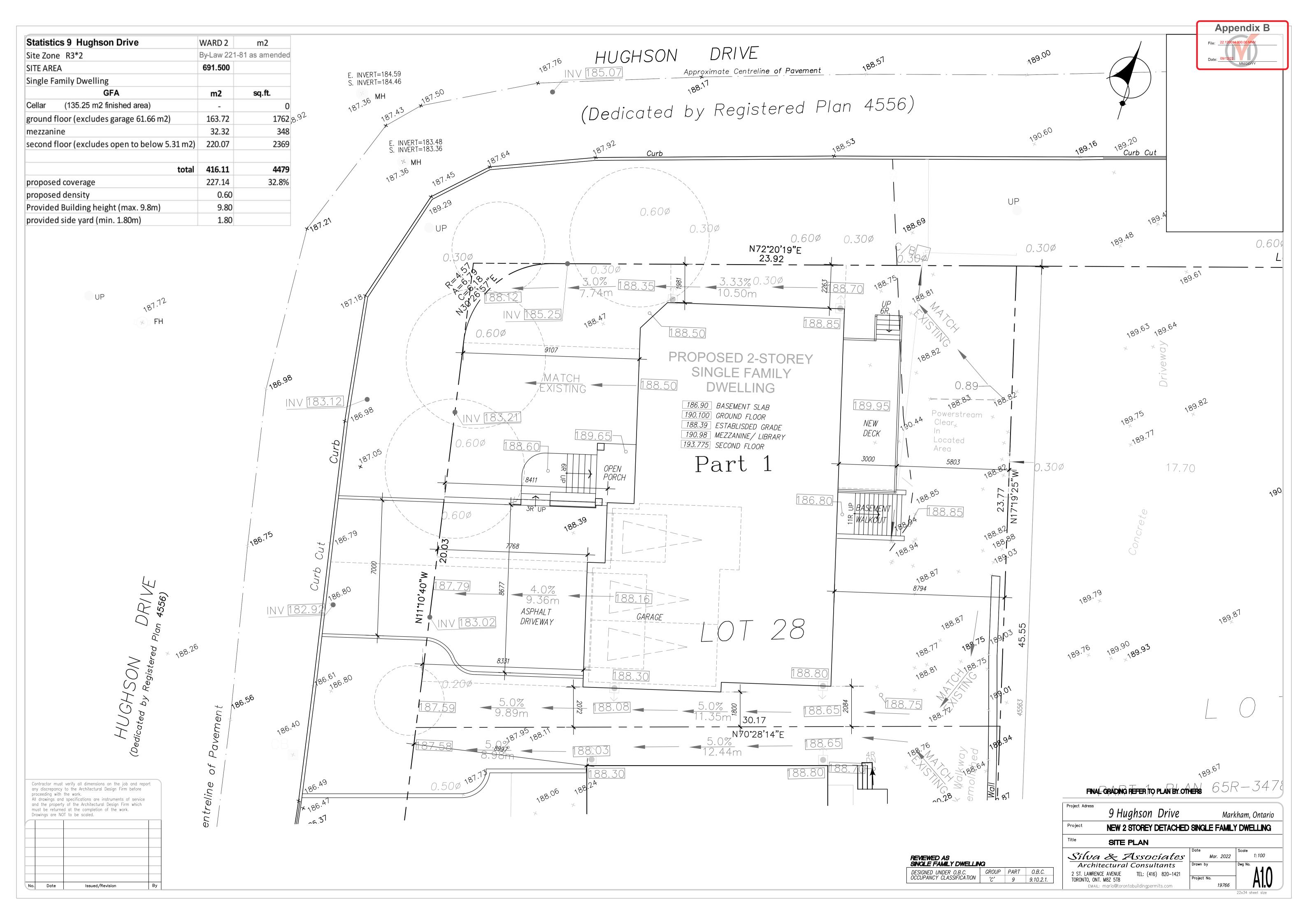
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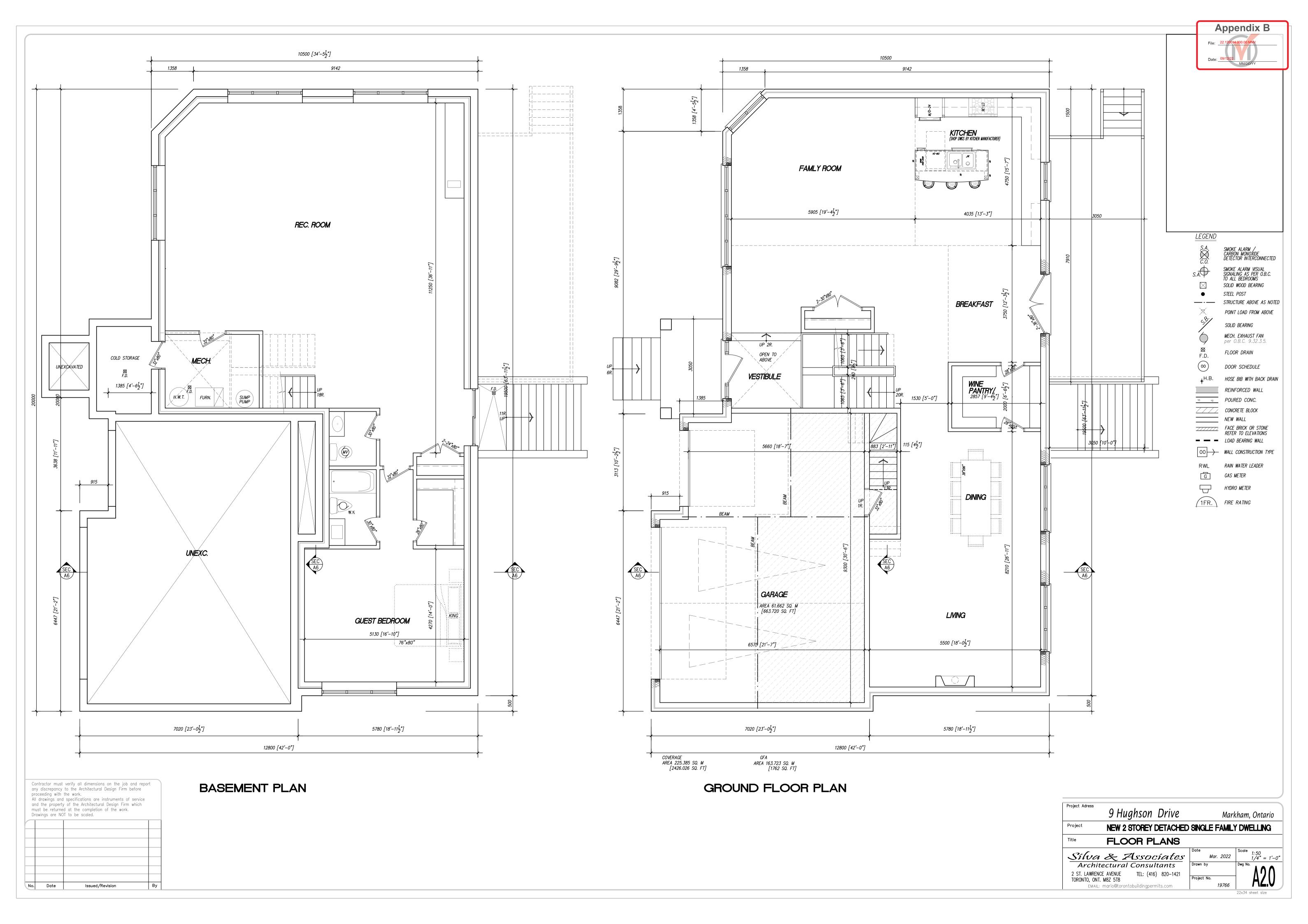
Subject Lands - 9 Hughson Dr.

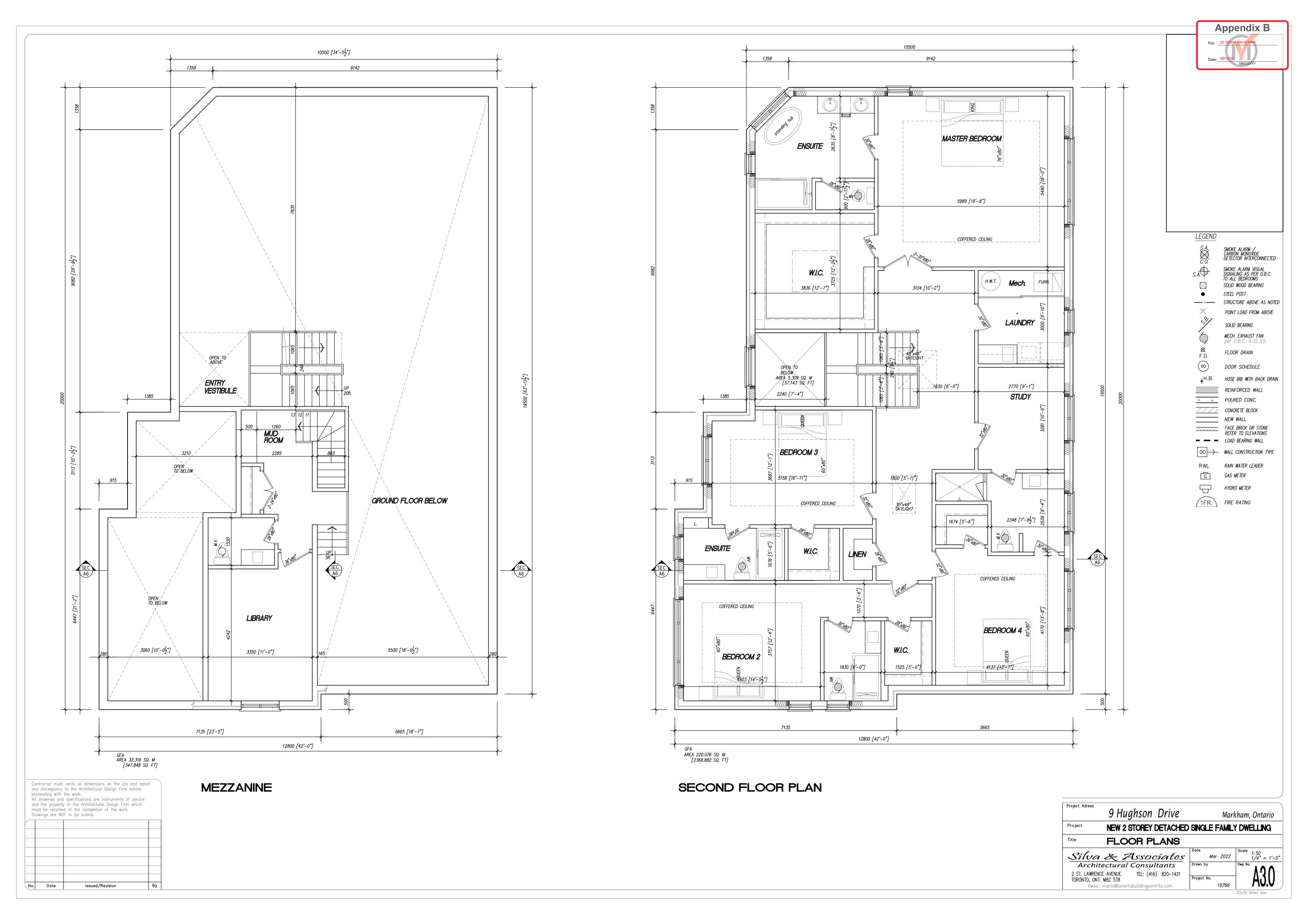
Notes

DISCLAIMER: The information is presented on a best-efforts basis, and should not be relied upon for making financial, survey, legal or other commitments. If you have questions or comments regarding the data displayed on this map, please email cgis@markham.ca and you will be directed to the appropriate department.

NAD\_1983\_UTM\_Zone\_17N © City of Markham

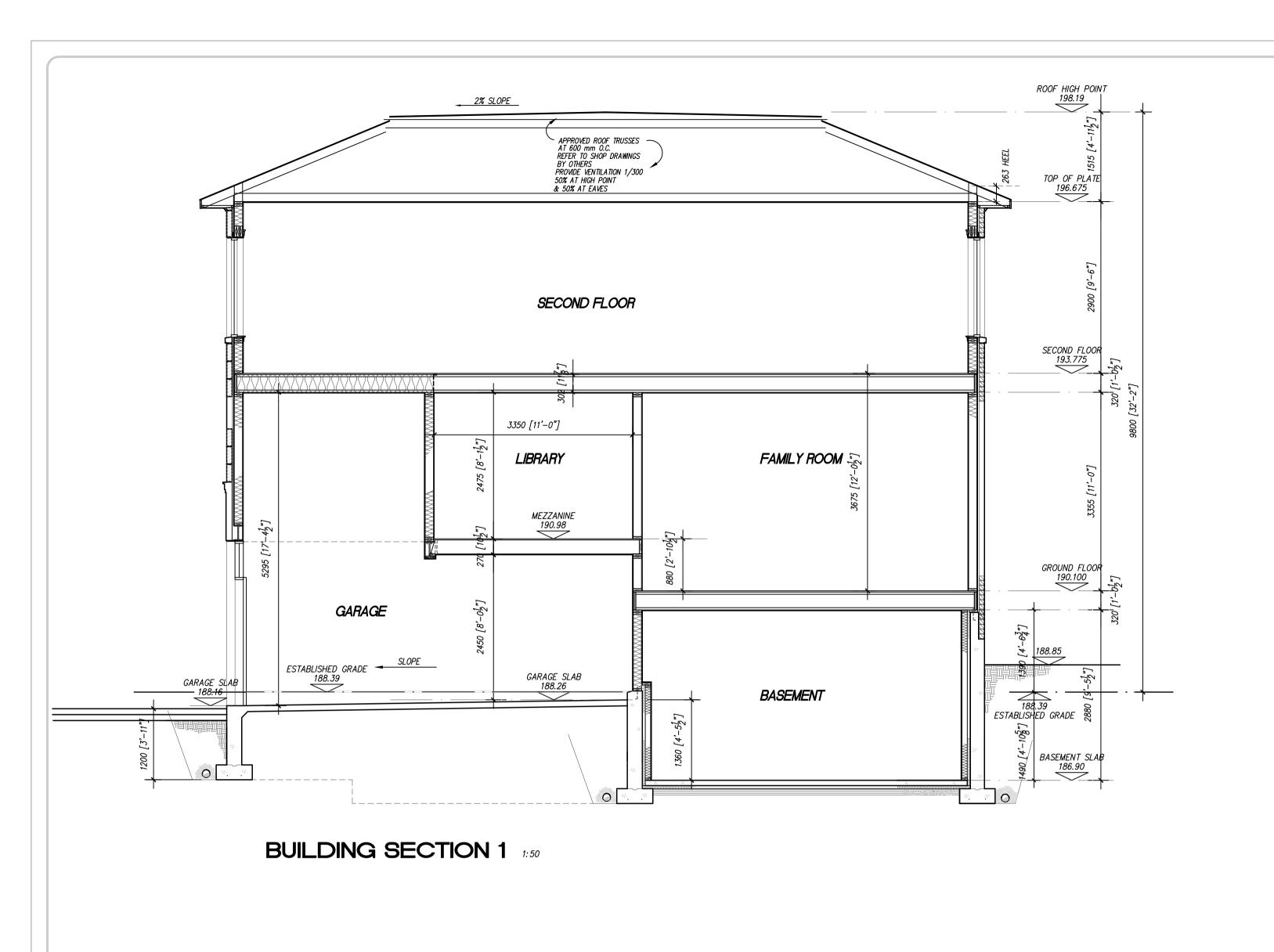




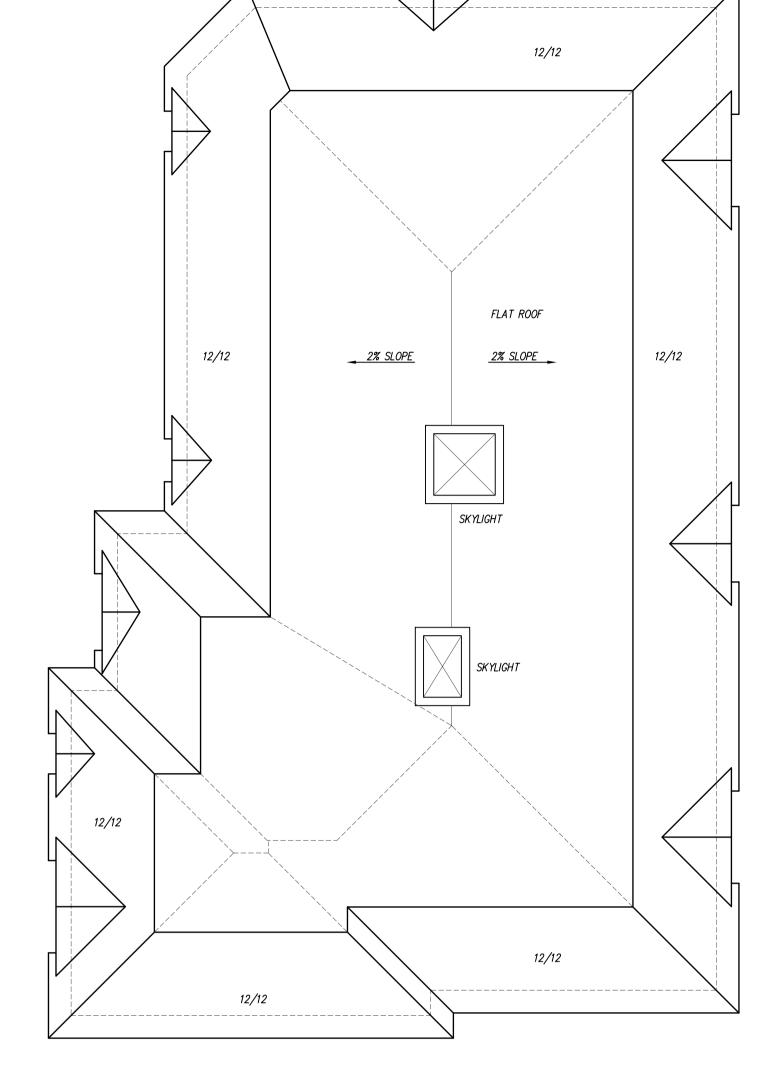




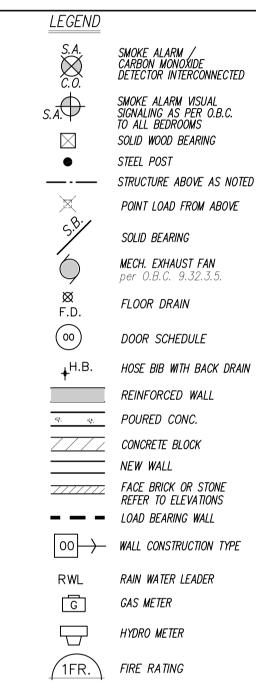




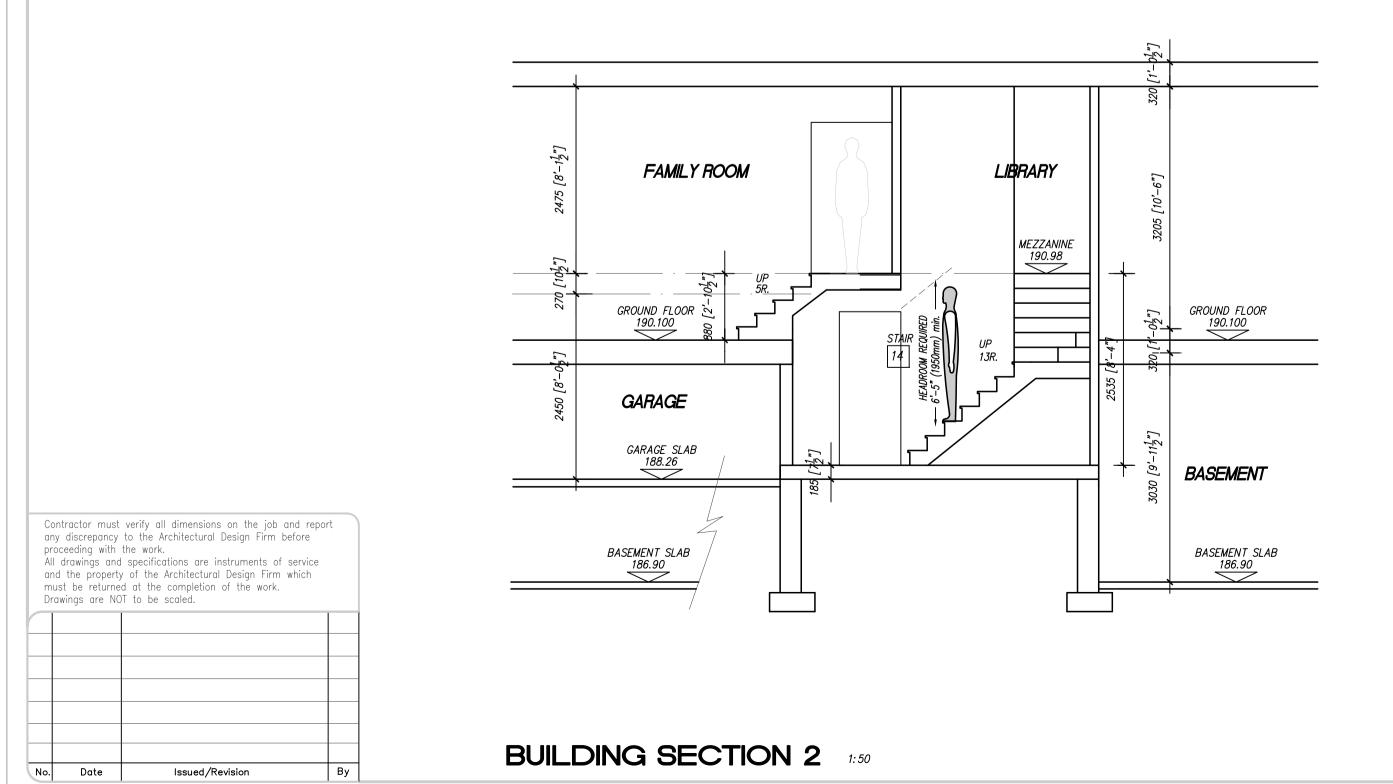
SECOND FLOOR



ROOF PLAN 1:75



Appendix B





# APPENDIX "C" CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/085/22

- 1. The variances apply only to the proposed development as long as it remains;
- 2. That the variances apply only to the subject development, in substantial conformity with the plan(s) attached as Appendix "B" Plans to this Staff Report, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Director of Planning and Urban Design or designate that this condition has been fulfilled to his or her satisfaction:
- 3. Submission of a Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan, prepared by a qualified arborist in accordance with the City's Streetscape Manual (2009), as amended, to be reviewed and approved by the City, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from Tree Preservation Technician or Director of Operations that this condition has been fulfilled to his/her satisfaction, and that any detailed Siting, Lot Grading and Servicing Plan required as a condition of approval reflects the Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan;
- 4. That prior to the commencement of construction or demolition, tree protection be erected and maintained around all trees on site in accordance with the City's Streetscape Manual, including street trees, in accordance with the City's Streetscape Manual (2009) as amended, and inspected by City Staff to the satisfaction of the Tree Preservation Technician or Director of Operations;
- 5. That tree replacements be provided and/or tree replacement fees be paid to the City if required in accordance with the Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation that this condition has been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Tree Preservation Technician or Director of Operations; and
- 6. That written confirmation be provided to the Regional Municipality of York that adequate water supply and sewage capacity has been allocated for the proposed dwelling, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation that this condition has been fulfilled to the satisfaction Regional Municipality of York.

CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

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Deanna Schlosser, MCIP RPP, Senior Planner, Central District