Zoning Board of Appeals August 28, 2013 Regular Meeting

STAFF REPORT

Subject: ZBA12-017, 3947 Research Park Drive

Summary: American Honda Motor Company Inc., is requesting one variance from Chapter 47 (Streets), Section 4:20, a variance of 4.3 feet in order to permit a driveway opening of 19.7 feet wide; 24 feet is the minimum required.

Description and Discussion:

The site is located on the east side of Research Park Drive, east of South State Street, south of Interstate 94. The site is currently occupied by a 19,357 square foot emission testing and research building. The petitioner currently has a site plan under review to construct a 24,116 square foot addition to the side of the existing building in order to provide expanded capability for the facility.

The site has one curb cut from Research Park Drive. The existing drive width is 19.7 feet wide; city code requires a minimum of 24 feet for driveway width. Although 72 parking spaces are required by code, the petitioner has deferred the maximum amount of 19 spaces, due to the low traffic and parking needs of the use. There are currently 6 employees in the building and that is projected to grow to 10 employees after the addition is complete. There are no large truck delivery needs and no customer traffic visiting the site. Enlarging the existing drive would result in the removal of one mature tree and encroach significantly in to the critical root zone of two additional trees.

The site plan was recommended for approval at the August 20, 2013 Planning Commission meeting. If the variance is granted, it will proceed to City Council for final site plan approval.

The variance as proposed has been reviewed and accepted by the City's traffic engineer as a safe and efficient design for the use on the site.

Standards for Approval - Chapter 47 (Streets) Variance

The Zoning Board of Appeals has all the power granted by State law and by Section 5:99, Application of the Variance Power, from the City of Ann Arbor Zoning Ordinance and Chapter 47(Streets), Section 4:20(9). The following criteria shall apply:

The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the authority to interpret this Chapter and may, in specific cases involving practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, grant variances or exceptions from the requirements of this Chapter providing such a variance or exception is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this Chapter.

Zoning Board of Appeals ZBA13-017 Variance August 28, 2013 - Page 2

All of the variances requested will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of Chapter 47 because they will allow for continued safe and efficient access to and from the site. Modifications required to increase drive width would result in impact and/or removal of three mature trees on the site and result in additional impervious surface.

The existing use has a low daily traffic count with 10 employees predicted after the proposed building expansion. The existing drive has been in use since the original building was constructed in 1974 and there have been no known issues or conflicts with the drive. There are no large truck deliveries on a regular basis and vehicles being tested are driven on site individually. Occasionally, test vehicles are received from Japan and delivered on a flat bed truck.

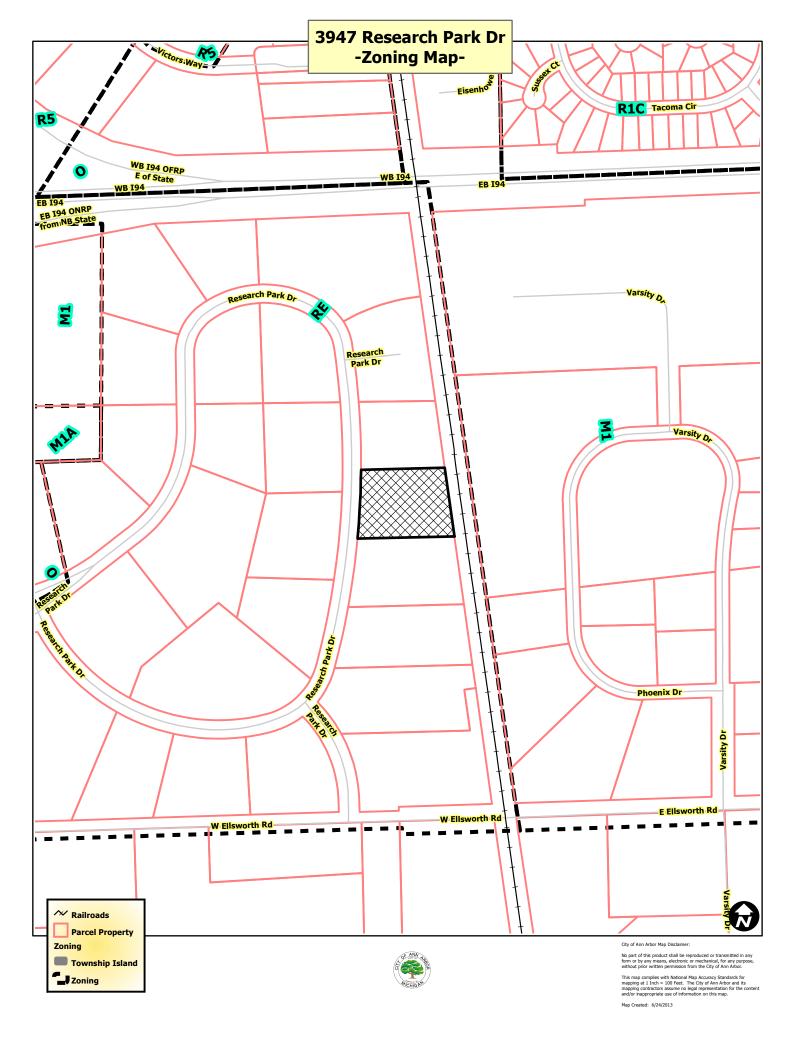
The City's Traffic Engineer has reviewed and supports the variance requests as proposed.

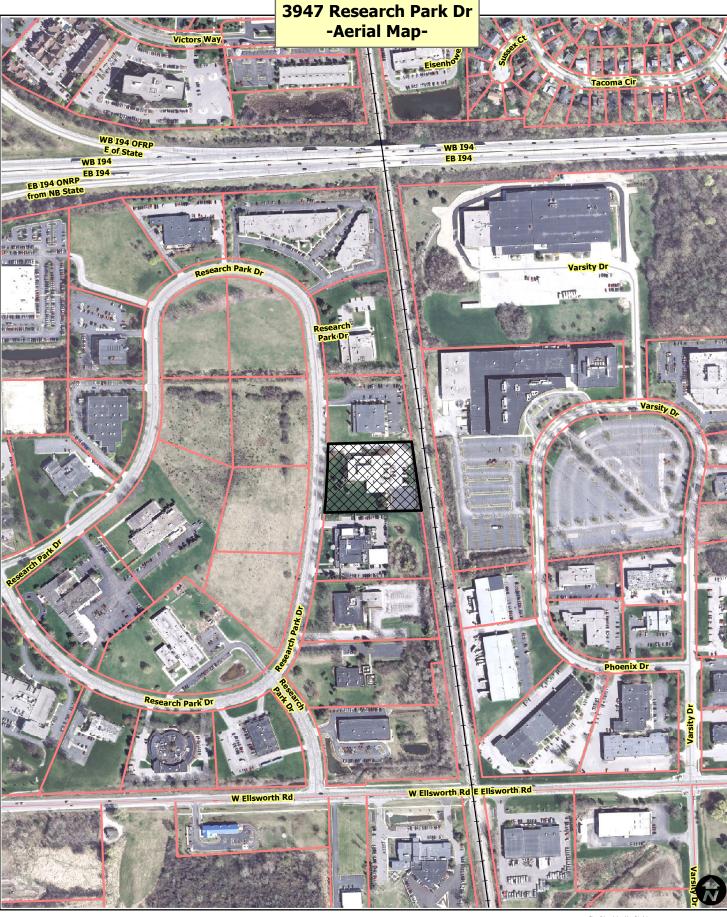
Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Kowalski, AICP

Yell "

City Planner









This map complies with National Map Accuracy Standards for mapping at 1 Inch = 100 Feet. The City of Ann Arbor and its mapping contractors assume no legal representation for the co and/or inappropriate use of information on this map.







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APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE OR NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

ection 1: Applicant Information				
Name of Applicant: David E. Saneholtz, P.E.				
Address of Applicant:1168 North Main Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402				
Daytime Phone:419-352-7537				
Fax:419-353-0187				
Email:saneholtzd@poggemeyer.com				
Applicant's Relationship to Property:Owner's Designated Representative				
ection 2: Property Information				
Address of Property: 3947 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE				
Zoning Classification: RE, RESEARCH DISTRICT				
Tax ID# (if known):09-12-09-302-006				
*Name of Property Owner: AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.				
*If different than applicant, a letter of authorization from the property owner must be provided.				
ection 3: Request Information				
Chapter(s) and Section(s) from which a variance is requested: Required dimension: PROPOSED dimension:				
Chapter 47 Section 4:20 24'-0" min width 19.77' (existing width)				
Item (4)(c)(i) - Drive Opening				
Minimum Width				
Example: Chapter 55, Section 5:26 Example: 40' front setback Example: 32'				
Give a detailed description of the work you are proposing and why it will require a variance (attach additional sheets if necessary) ne proposed work consists of the addition of 24,116 sq ft of floor space to the existing vehicle emissions sting and certification facility. Along with the proposed building addition the site improvements will include				
ainage and storm water detention improvements as required by the City.				
ection 4: VARIANCE REQUEST (If not applying for a variance, skip to section 5)				
The City of Ann Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals has the powers granted by State law and City Code Chapter 55, Section 5:98. A variance may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals only in cases involving practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships when ALL of the following is found TRUE . Please provide a complete response to each item below. These responses, together with the required materials in Section 5 of this application, will form the basis for evaluation of the request by staff and the Zoning Board of Appeals. (continued)				

1. Are there hardships or practical difficulties to complying with the ordinance? Are these hardships or practical difficulties an exception or unique to the property compared to other properties in the City? Yes, widening of the existing access drive to comply with code requirements presents a practical difficulty that was unforeseen at the time of planning/developement for this improvement. Based on available information the existing access drive was constructed in 1974-1975, presumably with city plan approval or prior variance approval. (see attached supplemental for continuation) 2. Are the hardships or practical difficulties more than mere inconvenience, inability to obtain a higher financial return? (explain) Yes, it does not appear that widening of the existing drive opening an additional 4' will provide a significant benefit of access to, or from, the property. Widening of the exsiting drive opening will temporarily impede access and daily operations of the facility while reconstruction occurs. There will also be some loss of mature landscaping of the site. 3. What effect will granting the variance have on the neighboring properties? It is believed that granting of this variance request will have little, if any, effect on the neighboring properties or character of the community. 4. What physical characteristics of your property in terms of size, shape, location or topography prevent you from using it in a way that is consistent with the ordinance? Compliance with the subject code requirement will require reconstruction of the lone access drive to the parcel which will require removal of 1 existing tree, relocation of landcaping and a small portion of an existing irrigation system. (see attached supplemental for continuation) 5. Is the condition which prevents you from complying with the ordinance selfimposed? How did the condition come about? To the best of the applicant's knowledge this is not a self imposed condition. It appears the current existing drive opening width would have been approved by the city in 1974-1975 in variance to the opening width requirement of 24' that existed at that time. (see attached supplemental for continuation)

ection 5: ALTERATION TO A NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURE (Not applicable)	
Current use of the property	
The proposed change is allowed in accordance with Structure Non-Conformance, Section 5:87 (1) (a) & (b), which reads as follows:	n

- (1) A non-conforming structure may be maintained or restored, but no alteration shall be made to a non-conforming structure unless one of the following conditions is met:
 - a. The alteration is approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals upon finding that it complies as nearly as practicable with the requirements of this Chapter and that it will not have a detrimental effect on neighboring property.
 - b. The alteration conforms to all the requirements of this Chapter and is made to a building which will be a single-family dwelling on completion of the alteration and is located in an R1,R2, R3, or R4 district.
 - c. The structure is considered non-conforming due to the following reasons

(continued)

Existing Condition	Code Requirement
Lot area	
Lot width	
Floor area ratio	
Open space ratio	
Setbacks	
Parking	
Landscaping	
Other	
Describe the proposed alterations and state why you are	riequesting this approval.
The alteration complies as nearly as is practicable with the will not have a detrimental effect on neighboring property	
Wherefore, Petitioner requests that permission be grante and Section of the Ann Arbor City Code in order to perm	

Section 6: Required Materials

The following materials are required for all variance requests. Failure to provide these materials will result in an incomplete application and will delay staff review and Zoning Board of Appeals consideration of the request. The materials listed below must accompany the application and constitute an inseparable part of the application.

All materials must be provided on <u>8 ½" by 11" sheets.</u> (Continued.....)

Survey of the property including all existing and proposed structures, dimensions of property, and area of property. Building floor plans showing interior rooms, including dimensions. Photographs of the property and any existing buildings involved in the request. Section 7: Acknowledgement SIGNATURES MUST BE SIGNED IN PRESENCE OF NOTARY PUBLIC I, the applicant, request a variance from the above named Chapter(s) and Section(s) of the Ann Arbor City Code for the stated reasons, in accordance with the materials attached hereto. 419-352-7537 Signature Phone Number saneholtzd@poggemeyer.com David E. Saneholtz, P.E. Print Name Email Address I, the applicant, hereby depose and say that all of the aforementioned statements, and the statements contained in the materials submitted herewith, are true and correct. Signature David E. Saneholtz, P.E. Further, I hereby give City of Ann Arbor Planning & Development Services unit staff and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals permission to access the subject property for the purpose of reviewing my variance request. Signature David E. Saneholtz, P.E. I have received a copy of the informational cover sheet with the deadlines and meeting dates and acknowledge that staff does not remind the petitioner of the meeting date and times. Signature David E. Saneholtz, P.E. On this 31st day of July before me personally appeared the above named applicant and made oath that he/she was reaching application by him/her subscribed and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is the appropriate town knowledge except as to those matters therein stated to be upon his information and be if as he/she believes them to be true Notary Public Signature Kathy A. Bilek Print Name Notary Commission Expiration Date

Staff Use Only	
Date Submitted:	Fee Paid:
File No.:	Date of Public Hearing
Pre-filing Staff Reviewer & Date	ZBA Action:
Pre-Filing Review:	
Staff Reviewer & Date:	

Application for Variance Supplemental Honda Emissions Testing Facility Expansion 3947 Research Park Drive Ann Arbor Project #SP13-027 7/31/13

<u>Section 4 Item 1 continued</u> - It appears the current drive opening width requirement was enacted in 1966 or 1969. There will be no significant increase in ingress/egress traffic of the property due to the proposed building expansion. Actual access to/from the site is generally limited to employees (6 current, 10 projected), vehicle/product delivery to the site (1 truck per month current, 3 trucks per month projected), and fuel delivery (7 times per year current, once per month projected), along with possible daily UPS or Fedex delivery or pick-up.

<u>Section 4 Item 4 continued</u> - The existing site conditions were installed/created in 1974-1975 at the time of original property development/construction.

<u>Section 4 Item 5 continued</u> – It appears that previous City approved site improvements or petition amendments occurred in 1991, 1993, 2001, and 2002 which did not require or stipulate a change of, or variance for, the existing drive opening width.



American Honda Motor Co., Inc. 1919 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA 90501 Direct +1.310.783.2032

July 31, 2013

Ann Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals

To whom it may concern:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. hereby authorizes Poggemeyer Design Group (PDG), and its representative named below, to act as our representative in the matter of the zoning appeal for the proposed expansion of the Honda Testing Facility, 3947 Research Park.

Kindest regards,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

Thomas Fromdahl

Senior Manager, Facilities Planning

Representative: David E. Saneholtz, P.E.

Poggemeyer Design Group

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4:20. - Curb cuts and driveway approaches.

No curb cut or driveway approach shall be made to a public dedicated street or right-of-way without first obtaining a permit from the City Administrator or his designee. Issuance of such permits shall be made only in accordance with the following regulations:

- (1) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the following definitions apply:
 - (a) The term "approach" shall mean an area improved for vehicular traffic on a public street right-of-way which connects the traveled portion of the street with a driveway.
 - (b) The term "curb cut" shall mean that section of curb removed to permit ingress and egress from the pavement to the adjacent property and shall be measured between the points of tangency of the opening radii with the normal street curbing.
 - (c) The term "opening" shall mean the point of connection of the driveway and approach at the street right-of-way line. Its width and location shall be determined by extending the driveway line to the street right-of-way line.
 - (d) The term "site" shall mean all contiguous land under the same ownership or one whole lot in the case of land for which a recorded plat exists.
 - (e) "Street frontage" shall mean the length of the property abutting 1 or more streets.
- (2) *Number of openings.* The number of openings listed in the chart below shall be maximum for any site, lot or parcel.

Up to	101' to	201' or Over
100′	200′	
(1)	(2)	(2) for the first 200' plus (1) for each additional 600' of total street frontage thereafter.
	•	100′ 200′

- (3) Location of openings.
 - (a) No opening shall be closer than 15 feet to the right-of-way line of an intersecting street or extension of the street right-of-way of a street ending at the intersection, provided that no part of any approach shall encroach on any intersection turning area, except as otherwise required by this section.
 - (b) No opening shall be closer than 10 feet from the right-of-way line of an alley, except in the case of a joint approach and provided the total width of the combined opening does not exceed that permitted in subsection (4) of this section.
 - (c) No opening shall be closer than 4½ feet to the adjacent property line. No approach shall be so constructed that any part of same extends in front of

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- property belonging to another person unless both property owners sign a joint application for a permit.
- (d) Any 2 openings shall be at least 9 feet apart; provided that this requirement shall not apply to openings for existing driveways on residential property.
- (e) All openings and approaches shall be so located as to provide adequate vertical and horizontal sight distances for safe access to the street in accordance with the design standards for sight distance, copies of which are on file with the department of streets, traffic and parking.
- (4) Design criteria.
 - (a) The angle of the driveway approach to the street shall be 90 degrees, except as otherwise provided for herein.
 - (b) Driveways for single and two family uses shall be constructed as follows:
 - (i) Minimum permitted width of openings: 10 feet.
 - (ii) Maximum permitted width of openings: 24 feet.
 - (iii) Maximum permitted curb cut width: 44 feet.
 - (iv) Minimum turning radius: 5 feet.
 - (c) Driveways for all other uses shall be constructed as follows:
 - (i) Minimum permitted width of openings: 24 feet.
 - (ii) Maximum permitted width of openings: 30 feet.
 - (iii) Maximum permitted curb cut width: 60 feet.
 - (iv) Minimum permitted width of one-way drives: 15 feet.
 - (v) Maximum permitted width of one-way drives: 20 feet.
 - (vi) Minimum turning radius at pavement edge: 5 feet.
 - (vii) Maximum turning radius at pavement edge: 15 feet.
 - (d) Upon a finding that traffic conditions would otherwise cause unnecessary congestion or practical difficulties, the City Administrator or his designee may permit the following design features:
 - (i) One of the driveway openings on each abutting street may be channelized with a separating island a minimum of 10 feet in width to form a separate opening for entrance and exit lanes; provided that the total of both lanes shall not exceed the maximum permitted width.
- (5) Standard for parking lots. The following requirements shall apply to parking lots having more than 4 car spaces:
 - (a) The minimum distance to intersections as measured from the extension of the street right-of-way line to the nearest edge of the driveway opening shall be 50
 - (b) Where 2 or more openings are permitted, signs shall be erected, making 1 or more openings 1-way.
 - (c) No opening shall be so located as to conflict with an existing opening on the opposite side of the street.
- (6) Traffic hazards. Any openings which are found to be a traffic hazard may be closed, modified, or relocated by resolution of City Council.
- (7) Traffic control order. The direction and turning movement of traffic entering and exiting through openings shall be subject to traffic control orders issued pursuant to Chapter 126 of Title X of this Code.

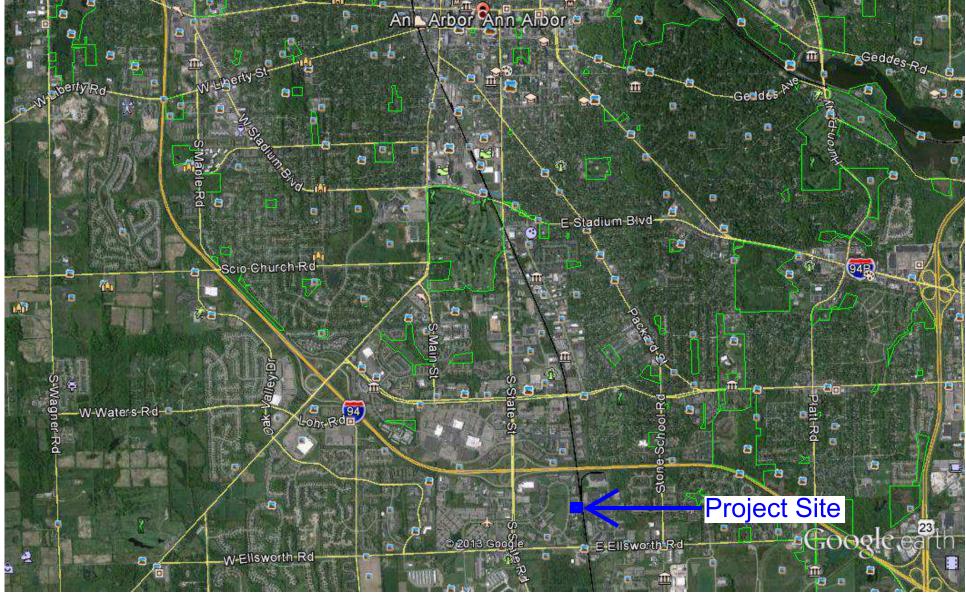
(8)

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Useless curb cuts. If at any time a curb cut ceases to be functional, the curb shall be replaced and the approach removed by the adjoining property owner. No building permit shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 98 of this Code where, as a result of the construction, a curb cut would become nonfunctional, unless said permit provides for the replacement of the curb and removal of the approach. If a useless curb is not replaced by curbing and the approach removed, said work may be done by the City. The cost of said work shall be assessed in accordance with Chapter 13 of this Code against the site formerly served by the curb cut.

(9) Variance and exceptions. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the authority to interpret this chapter and may, in specific cases involving practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, grant variances or exceptions from the requirements of this chapter providing such variance or exception is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this chapter. Appeals under this chapter shall be made in accordance with procedures outlined under Sections 5:99 and 5:102 of Chapter 55

(Ord. No. 57-66, 8-8-66; Ord. No. 50-69, 10-13-69)

















Aerial Site Photo 3947 Research Park Drive Ann Arbor Project #SP13-027





feet meters 3



Google earth

meters Charact Views Phase 2

Street View Photo 2 3947 Research Park Drive Ann Arbor Project #SP13-027

TOPOGRAPHY - PLAN

ENGRAS CO	SHRUBS	8" SAN.	— O	SANITARY SEWER & MANHOLE
*	LIGHT	12" STM	-0	STORM SEWER & MANHOLE
-	UTILITY POLE	田		CATCH BASIN CURB TYPE
	MAILBOX	\Pi		CATCH BASIN LAWN TYPE
♦	SIGN			VALVE
	RAILROAD TRACKS	<u> </u>		HYDRANT
	EXISTING FENCE	6*	WTR.	WATER MAIN
•	SOIL BORING	M		METER BOX
0	FOUND PROPERTY IRON	早		TELEPHONE PEDESTAL
	LOT LINE (AS MEASURED)		. —	OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
	EASEMENT LINE	HDPE		HIGH DENSITY POLYETHELYNE
ВМ	BENCH MARK	RCP		REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE
\ \Delta	CONTROL POINT	VCP		VITRIFIED CLAY PIPE

SURVEY CONTROL

BENCHMARK A: 825.33 TOP OF SE BOLT ON LIGHT POLE BASE, WEST SIDE OF RESEARCH PARK DRIVE, 63' NORTH OF SOUTH PROPERTY LINE LOT 12

BENCHMARK B: 824.31 TOP OF W SIDE CONCRETE BASE FOR LIGHT POLE, WEST SIDE OF FENCED IN PARKING AREA AT SE CORNER SITE

CONTROL PT 100 N 267766.738 E 13295329.513 ELEV 825.370
1/2" REBAR WITH "GPS POINT" CAP IN SW
CORNER LOT 12, 21' N. OF S. PROP LINE,
40' E. OF E. BACK/CURB

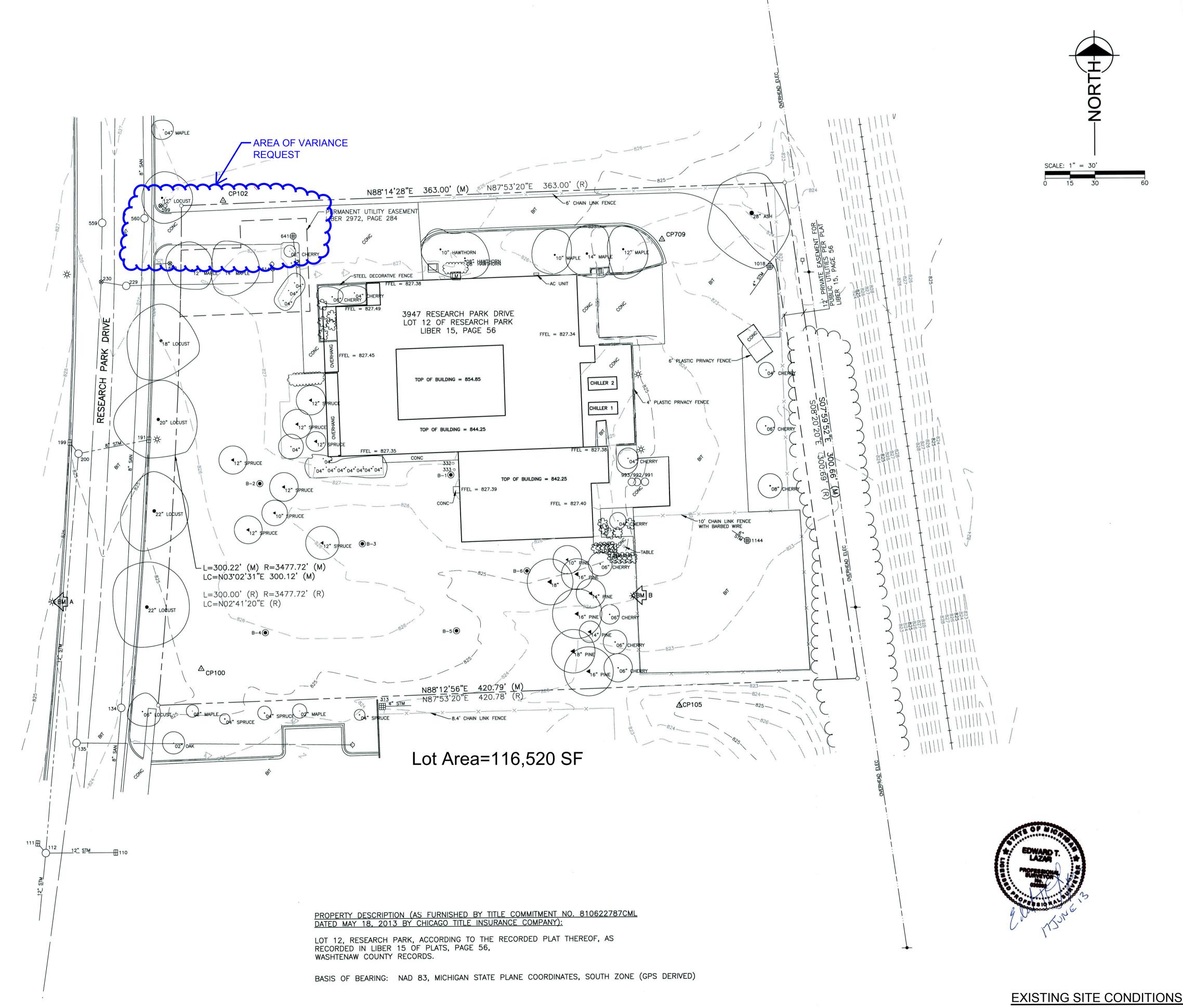
CONTROL PT 102 N 268047.527 E 13295344.471 ELEV 826.957 1/2" REBAR WITH "GPS POINT" CAP IN NW CORNER LOT 12, 2' N. OF N. PROP LINE, 41' E. OF E. BACK/CURB

CONTROL PT 105 N 267742.638 E 13295616.747 ELEV 825.266 1/2" REBAR WITH "GPS POINT" CAP IN SE CORNER LOT 12, 12' S. OF S. PROP LINE, 40' E. OF FENCE CORNER ON LOT 13

CONTROL PT 709 E 13295608.067
ELEV 823.612
PK NAIL IN BIT DRIVE AT NE CORNER LOT
12, 5' NE OF BACK/CURB, 15' N. OF E.
END LOADING DOCK WALL

STRUCTURE	TYPE	RIM	INVERT	ELEVATION	NOTES
110	STORM	822.93	12" RCP W	817.63	1' DIAMETER
111	STORM	822.96	12" RCP SE	817.76	1' DIAMETER
112	STORM	823.25	12" RCP N	816.10	4' DIAMETER
			12" RCP E	817.15	
			12" RCP S	816.05	
			12" RCP NW	817.15	
134	SANITARY	823.97	8" VCP N	811.82	4' DIAMETER
			8" VCP S	811.82	
135	WATER	824.12	TOP OF NUT	819.82	
	N-S	S-E MAIN	TOP OF MAIN	818.22	
191	STORM	824.90	12" RCP SW	820.55	1' DIAMETER
199	STORM	824.85	12" RCP SE	819.35	1' DIAMETER
200	STORM	825.14	8" VCP NE	818.49	4' DIAMETER
			12" RCP S	818.24	NE PIPE LOOKS LIKE 8" VC
			12" VCP NW	818.39	SLEEVED INTO A 12" RCP
229	WATER	826.35	TOP OF NUT	821.55	
	E	-W MAIN	TOP OF MAIN	820.35	
230	WATER VALVE	826.29	TOP OF NUT	822.54	
313	STORM	823.86	4" HDPE E	823.20	1' X 1' PLASTIC YARD BAS
332	CLEANOUT	826.83	RESISTANCE	822.88	4" PVC
333	CLEANOUT	826.79	RESISTANCE	820.99	4" PVC
559	WATER	826.63	TOP OF NUT	823.73	
	1	N-S MAIN	TOP OF MAIN	821.53	
560	SANITARY	826.26	8" VCP N	812.86	4' DIAMETER
			8" VCP S	812.81	
599	WATER VALVE	826.78	TOP OF NUT	822.68	
609	WATER VALVE	826.47	TOP OF NUT	821.97	
614	WATER VALVE	827.70	TOP OF NUT	823.30	
641	STORM	826.25	4" VCP S	823.45	2' DIAMETER
992	UNKNOWN	824.95	воттом	819.55	MH 991AND 993 TIED IN
1018	STORM	822.43	4" VCP SW	820.98	2' DIAMETER
1144	STORM	823.46	6" VCP NW	821.11	

EXISTING STRUCTURE DATA





engineers scientists architects constructors

fishbeck, thompson, carr & huber, inc.

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Motor

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C

Ame

Park Drive

Designer Reviewer ETL

Manager ETL Hard copy is intended to be 24"x36" when plotted. Scale(s) indicated and graphic quality may not be accurate for any other size.

> PROJECT NO. G130348

SHEET NO.

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TOPOGRAHIC SURVEY

