

Staff Report for Decision

File Number: DP001110

DATE OF MEETING October 1, 2018

AUTHORED BY LAUREN WRIGHT, PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING AND

SUBDIVSION

SUBJECT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP1110 -

450 WENTWORTH STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present for Council's consideration, a development permit application for the renovation and addition to an existing office building.

Recommendation

That Council issue Development Permit No. 1110 at 450 Wentworth Street with the following variances:

- reduce the minimum required side yard setback from 3m to 2.25m; and
- permit a commercial use on the second storey of a commercial building within the Downtown – Old City Mixed Use (DT8) zone.

BACKGROUND

A development permit application, DP1110, was received from Tidalwest Building Projects Ltd., on behalf of Ms. Helene Sullivan, in order to expand an existing office building currently located on the subject property. The project consists of constructing a ground-level addition under the building and adding a two-storey addition to the rear of the building.

The existing 106m² building was formerly a single residential dwelling and was converted to a commercial office building in 2001. A development permit is required in order to allow the proposed renovation and addition.

Subject Property

Zoning	DT8 – Downtown Old City Mixed Use
Location	The subject property is located on the northeast corner of Wentworth Street and Selby Street.
Total Area	682m ²
Official Community Plan (OCP)	Map 1 – Future Land Use Plan – Neighbourhood Map 3 – Development Permit Area No. 8 – Old City Neighbourhood; Development Permit Area No. 9 – Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Multi-family and Mixed Commercial/Residential Development.
Relevant Design Guideline	Old City Neighbourhood Development



The site is located on the northeast corner of Wentworth Street and Selby Street in the Old City Neighbourhood. The surrounding lots are comprised of similarly-sized commercial properties.

DISCUSSION

Proposed Development

The proposed development includes a ground-level addition to be constructed under the existing building with a further 66m² two-storey addition to be constructed to the rear of the building. The proposed improvements will accommodate additional office space, including a reception area, boardroom, washroom, and storage spaces. The completed renovation will increase the building area to 172m² and the building height to 8.23m.

Site Design

The subject property is a rectangular corner lot. The building has a strong street presence along Wentworth Street. The parking area is located in the northern portion of the property with paved access from Selby Street and a paved accessible parking space. The remainder of the parking area will retain a gravel surface cover.

Building Design

The proposed building addition uses similar architectural vocabulary to the existing building. The existing building has a gable roof and open gable front porch with stairs and a path leading to the sidewalk on Wentworth Street. The gable roof design is echoed in the rear two-storey addition and also features a covered walk-in entry to the lower storey.

The existing building finish is stucco, and the addition will consist of a combination of vertical board and baton, and horizontal fiber cement siding.

The proposed development meets the intent of the Old City Multiple Family Residential Design Guidelines and the General Development Permit Area Design Guidelines.

Landscape Plan

The Landscape Plan shows existing landscaping to be retained along the Wentworth Street frontage, and small street trees and rose bushes to be planted along a portion of the Selby Street frontage that will provide vertical relief to the building. An existing fence runs along the north and east property lines.

For more information, see the Attachments.

Design Advisory Panel Recommendations

The Design Advisory Panel, at its meeting held on 2018-AUG-23, accepted DP1110 as presented, with support for the proposed variances, and provided the following recommendations:

Consider the plant species list along the south (Wentworth) side of the building.



- Consider implementing a rain garden to the landscape plan.
- Consider ways to alleviate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) issues along the blank corridor down the east side of the building.
- Consider balance of exterior finishes to better marry/balance the new portion of the building with the existing.
- Look at ways to enhance and provide a stronger aesthetic to the stairs/railings coming off Wentworth Street to make them appear more robust.
- According to Bylaw 4500, Minimum Landscape Treatment Level 1c should be followed along Selby Street. Please produce a new, detailed landscape plan, which includes an updated plant list, irrigation information, and sight lighting.

The applicant responded to the above-noted recommendations as follows:

- The plant list was updated with more appropriate plantings for the location.
- The applicant considered a rain garden, but concluded that the site is not suitable due to the shallow underlying bedrock.
- Lighting was added to alleviate CPTED issues along the east side of the building.
- The applicant recommends that the proposed siding remain as the original stucco on the
 existing building cannot be easily replicated with the new acrylic-based stucco material
 that is currently used on new buildings.
- The entrance stairs fronting onto Wentworth Street were updated with a more prominent and robust design.
- The Minimum Landscape Treatment Level 1c is followed along Selby Street.

Proposed Variances

Minimum Side Yard Setback

The required side yard setback is 3m. The proposed side yard setback is 2.25m, a proposed variance of 0.75m.

The proposed siting of the building is in compliance with the British Columbia Building Code regulations for spatial separation and allows for more opportunity for a larger landscape buffer width along Selby Street.

Conditions of Use

Commercial uses are only permitted on the first floor of a building within the DT8 zone. The applicant proposes to vary this requirement to permit the second storey of the building to be used as an office.

The property is surrounded by similar commercial uses and is in close proximity to the downtown core, as well as local amenities and transportation services. A stand-alone commercial use is consistent with other similar commercial uses in the Downtown Old City Neighbourhood.



SUMMARY POINTS

- Development Permit Application No. DP1110 is for the construction of a ground-level addition under an existing building and an attached two-storey addition to the rear of the building.
- The proposed development meets the intent of the Old City Multiple Family Residential Design Guidelines and the General Development Permit Area Design Guidelines.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Permit Terms and Conditions

ATTACHMENT B: Location Plan

ATTACHMENT C: Site / Landscape Plan ATTACHMENT D: Building Elevations

ATTACHMENT E: Aerial Photo

Submitted by: Concurrence by:

L. Rowett D. Lindsay

Manager, Current Planning and Subdivision Director, Community Development

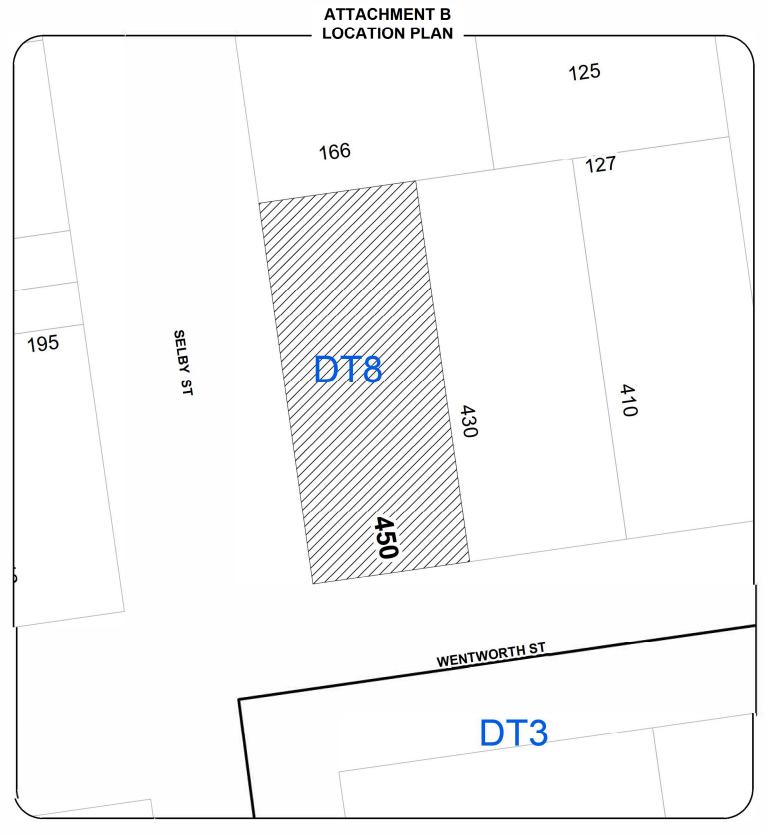
TERMS OF PERMIT

The City of Nanaimo "ZONING BYLAW 2011 NO. 4500" is varied as follows:

- 1. Section 11.2.1 Permitted Uses to permit the second storey of the building to be used as an office.
- 2. Section 11.5.1 Siting of Buildings to reduce the minimum required flanking side yard setback from 3m to 2.25m.

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

- 1. The subject property is developed in substantial compliance with the Site / Landscape Plan prepared by Herold Engineering, dated 2018-AUG-28 as shown on Attachment C.
- 2. The subject property is developed in general accordance with the Building Elevations prepared by Herold Engineering, dated 2018-AUG-28 as shown on Attachment D.



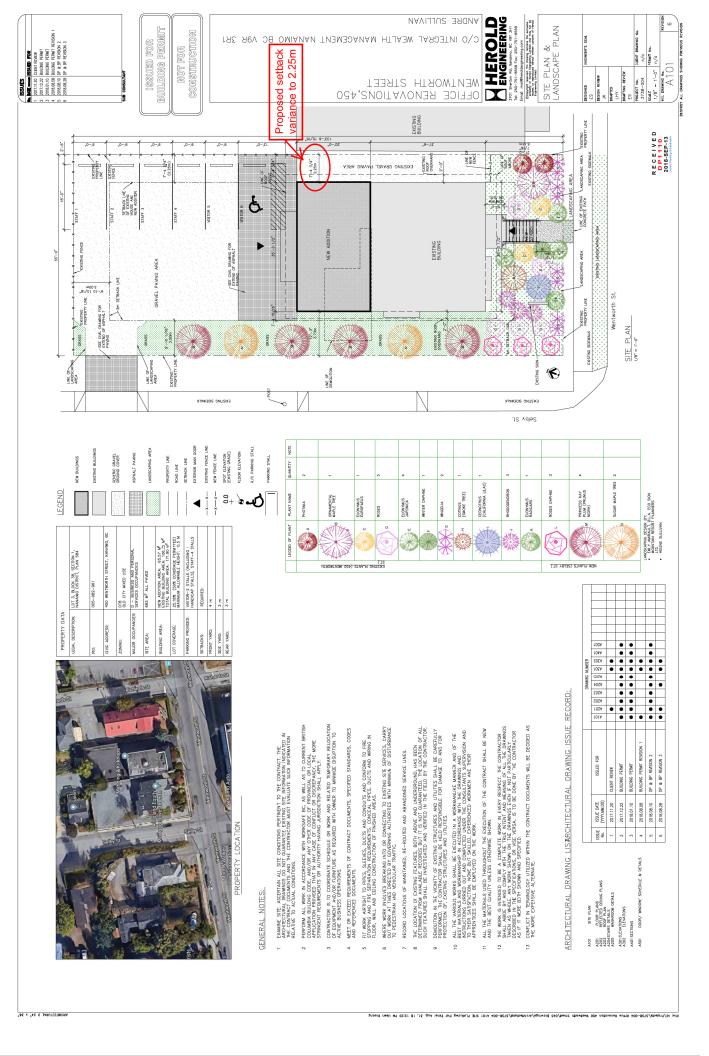
DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. DP001110

LOCATION PLAN

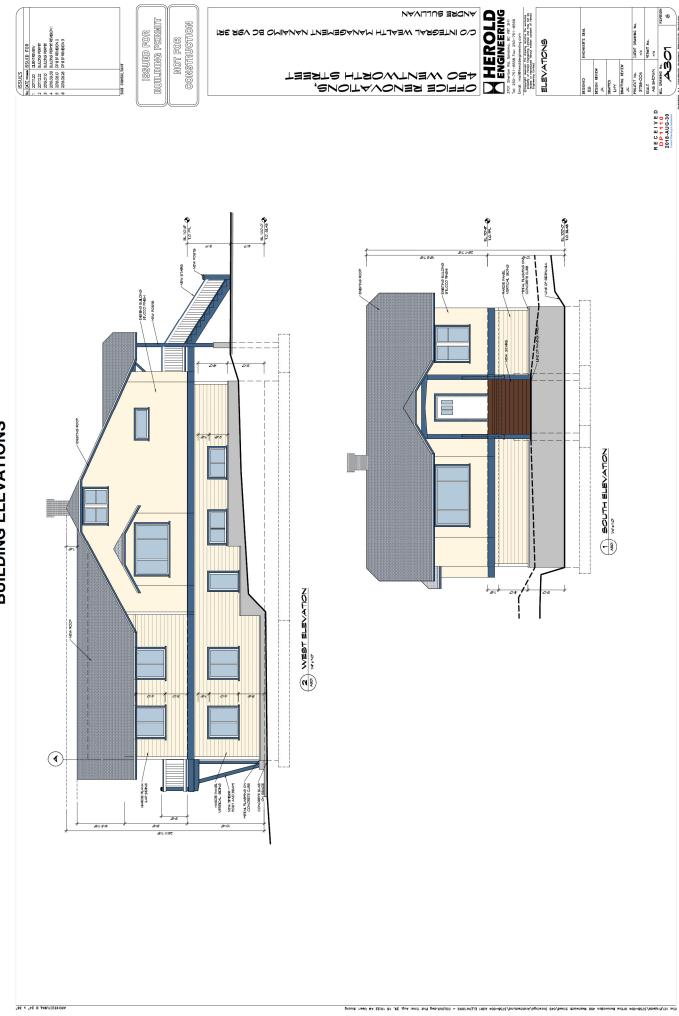
Civic: 450 Wentworth Street Legal Description: LOT 3, BLOCK 38, SECTION 1, NANAIMO DISTRICT, PLAN 584 110







ATTACHMENT D BUILDING ELEVATIONS





ATTACHMENT E AERIAL PHOTO





DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. DP001110