

Giant permit pulled for Amazon's Raleigh facility

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A rather massive building permit has been pulled for Amazon.com's sort facility in Raleigh.

The permit, valued at \$124 million, is for the e-commerce giant's five-story, 3.8 million square-foot distribution center.

The sort facility/warehouse at 4055 New Allen Road is called "Project Iris" on the permit, but Amazon is the owner of the property. Project Iris first came to the public's attention in August; it was approved by the Memphis & Shelby County Board of Adjustment in September; and the 98-acre property was bought and an \$8 million permit was pulled in November.

The permit lists Seefried Industrial Properties out of Atlanta as the tenant/owner of the project. The architect is listed as Mitchell & Hugelback ARC — aka, St. Louis-based M&H Architects.

The engineer is Memphis-based The Reaves Firm Inc. The November permit listed Joseph Tomasello as the engineer.

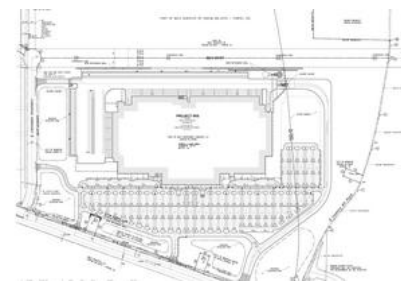
The facility is just north of the Nike North America Logistics campus and is expected to employ more than 1,000 people.

"It's going to be an employment center in a part of our city where people are underemployed and unemployed," Burch, Porter & Johnson attorney Nathan Bicks, representing Seefried, said in September.

Amazon entered the Memphis market in 2018 and already employs more than 1,500 full-time associates locally, according to MBJ research. The company's regional footprint encompasses more than 1 million square feet. The Raleigh facility will nearly quadruple that figure.

Lest one thinks the \$124 million amount might be a typo — and, of course, it could be — Amazon has a similar facility underway (codename "Project Rocket") in Gwinnett County, Georgia, which is expected to cost \$238 million, according to MBJ's sister publication, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. So, it's even possible that this won't be the last big permit pulled for the Memphis operation.

(And the \$227,000 fees alone for the \$124 million permit are impressive.)



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