Palisades Neighborhood Library Modernization

National Capital Planning Commission Submission

December 21. 2016

DC public library

cox graae + spack architects

MCN BUILD
BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Table of Contents

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Palisades Neighborhood Library – Concept Design Narrative

Brief History of the Palisades Library

The Palisades Neighborhood Library is DC's sixth-oldest location, opening to the public on Nov. 20, 1964. The building is the second home of the library, which was started as a sub-branch in a one-room schoolhouse, the Conduit Road School, in 1928. The Conduit Road Sub-branch Library contained 1,320 square feet and when replaced in 1964 housed approximately 12,000 volumes.

The library was renamed the MacArthur Boulevard Branch on November 16, 1942 following the renaming of Conduit Road for General Douglas MacArthur in March 1942. The name was changed again in March 1950 to the Palisades Branch Library after the Citizens Association adopted "The Palisades" as the name for the community. Library patrons had been advocating for the construction of a new library as early as 1935, but World War II intervened. After nearly 2 decades, plans for a new Palisades Neighborhood Library were included in the D.C. Public Works Program in the mid-1950s. In fiscal year 1962 Congress appropriated funds for the acquisition of a site and for the preparation of plans and specifications. The library was designed by Bethesda, MD based Albert O. Goenner and Associates who also designed the DC West End Neighborhood Library.

The new Palisades Library was dedicated on November 19, 1964. At the time of its opening, the Palisades Branch was one of the largest branches in the public library system with approximately 20,000 square feet of space and a potential book capacity of 60,000 volumes. The Palisades Neighborhood Library has always enjoyed strong community support. At the time of the 1964 opening, it was predicted that because of the manifest interest of the residents of the area in getting the best possible library service, it was anticipated that the new Palisades Branch would be one of the most actively used in the city's Public Library system. Today the Palisades Neighborhood Library is solidly amongst the top 10 locations for overall circulation.

The Palisades Neighborhood Library located on a corner lot at V and 49th Streets NW, is a Mid-Century Modern expression consisting of a two-story, brick and exposed concrete building decorated with exterior masonry and ceramic tile panels incorporating opaque glass spandrels, tinted and clear glass windows. The building is 5-bays wide by 3-bays deep, with the first two bays designed with an exposed concrete structure, brick and tile panels and larger areas of glass that the rear of the building. A concrete canopy shelters the entrance, entry vestibules and large display window. A paved terrace with benches, stone retaining walls and landscaping fronts the building. There is small asphalt paved parking area accessed by two drives from V and 49th Streets at the rear of the building. The interior contains two floors of public services, the first consisting of a browsing area; an adult reference-reading room, a book stack area, offices and staff work spaces. The second floor provides space for a children's reading room, additional book stacks and community meeting rooms.

Planned Renovations and Improvements

The existing building has not undergone substantial renovations and improvements since it's construction in 1964. Many of the building systems including mechanical, electrical, lighting and plumbing systems are original and require complete replacement. Accessibility to and within the building requires improvements to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act. The building envelope including the walls and roof does not incorporate insulation, which will be added as part of the planned project. New roofing will be installed design to support a green roof system required to meet stringent DC stormwater management requirements. Original building fenestration will be replaced with modern high performing equivalents. Minor interior partitioning changes are envisioned and new interior finishes are planned throughout the building.

Site Improvements

The front entrance plaza will be restored. In addition to the replacement of deteriorated surfaces the area at the southeast corner of the plaza will be regraded to meet ADA requirements. Stone faced site and retaining walls will be rebuilt and repointed where required. The rear parking lot will be regraded at the northeast corner to provide ADA accessibility to a proposed new rear entrance. The entire parking lot will be repaved and restriped. An increase in the number of parking spaces is not planned.

Building Façade Restoration

The existing exposed concrete structure including columns and spandrel beams is showing signs of deterioration, with portions of the concrete frame spalled exposing the structural reinforcement. Restoration of these surfaces is planned. The existing brick masonry is in fairly good condition. Masonry restoration including replacement of broken brick, mortar joint repointing and cleaning is planned. Existing tile ceramic panels are in fair condition. The project design anticipates replacement of these surfaces with new tile. Inherent deficiencies in the original construction methods, which have led to deterioration of the building exterior, will be addressed.

Building Entrances

Front Entrance

The existing front entrance serves as building entrance and exit and provides an area for the library circulation desk. This arrangement does not meet the program and security requirements for a modern library. As an architectural expression, the entrance vestibule seems oddly juxtaposed to the established rhythm of the adjacent building bays and appearing as afterthought. It would seem that it was designed to serve the functional needs of the original building program and did not fit the building rhythm. The proposed design plans to remove the existing vestibule and circulation desk volume and replace it with an expanded entry vestibule. The design envisions the use of exposed structural steel framing elements and a continuous aluminum storefront and entry system. The new vestibule volume will be smaller and align with the established rhythm of the existing building bays and structure. The glass volume will allow greater connectivity between the building interior and the exterior environment and allow for greater understanding of the building spatial layout by the public. An extended canopy will extend east along the face of the building denoting the relocated entrance.

Rear Entrance

The existing rear building entrance/exit is routed through the existing exit stair connecting the lower level and second floor. Current life safety building codes do not allow this type of arrangement. As such, a new building entrance/exit is planned located further east of the existing. The new entrance/exit will align with an existing window opening. Building codes further require that building exits be covered. An extension of the existing canopy roof is planned.

Fenestration

First Floor

The existing aluminum windows at the first floor will be removed and replaced with modern high performance equivalents as required by building codes. The sightlines and dimensions of the new aluminum windows will closely match the windows removed. The existing windows and brick masonry walls to the east of the building entrance and along the east elevation extending to include the first two bays will be removed down to the first floor level. The proposed design envisions replacing the existing removed windows and masonry walls with a continuous modern storefront glazing system placed between the existing concrete columns. The new glazing system will open the building interior to the site and existing entry plaza, allowing natural light and view to and from the first floor, which as currently designed, has a very limited connection.

Second Floor

The existing aluminum windows at the second floor will be likewise removed and replaced with modern high performance equivalents. The windows at the first two building bays will be increased in size by lowering the existing sills. The existing windows sills are at approximately 5'-0" above the adjoining second floor, effectively offering no view from this floor. The new larger windows will afford exterior views and a substantial increase in natural light into the interior spaces, which is currently lacking in the Children's areas

Exterior Building Signage

The original building sign is a light box design integrated into the retaining wall at the front of the building on V Street. This sign will be restored. DCPL and the Design Team are proposing the following two designs for exterior building signage.

The first is the DCPL standard building identification sign that would be located in an existing landscaped area at the front elevation of the building to replace the existing deteriorated DCPL sign. This new sign will be externally illuminated.

The second is the building name spelled out in aluminum letters located at the roof edge of the planned new front building entry. This new sign will be externally illuminated.

New, non-illuminated signage conforming to DCPL signage guidelines will be added at the rear of the building to identify the new entrance from the parking lot.

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Vicinity Plan **03**

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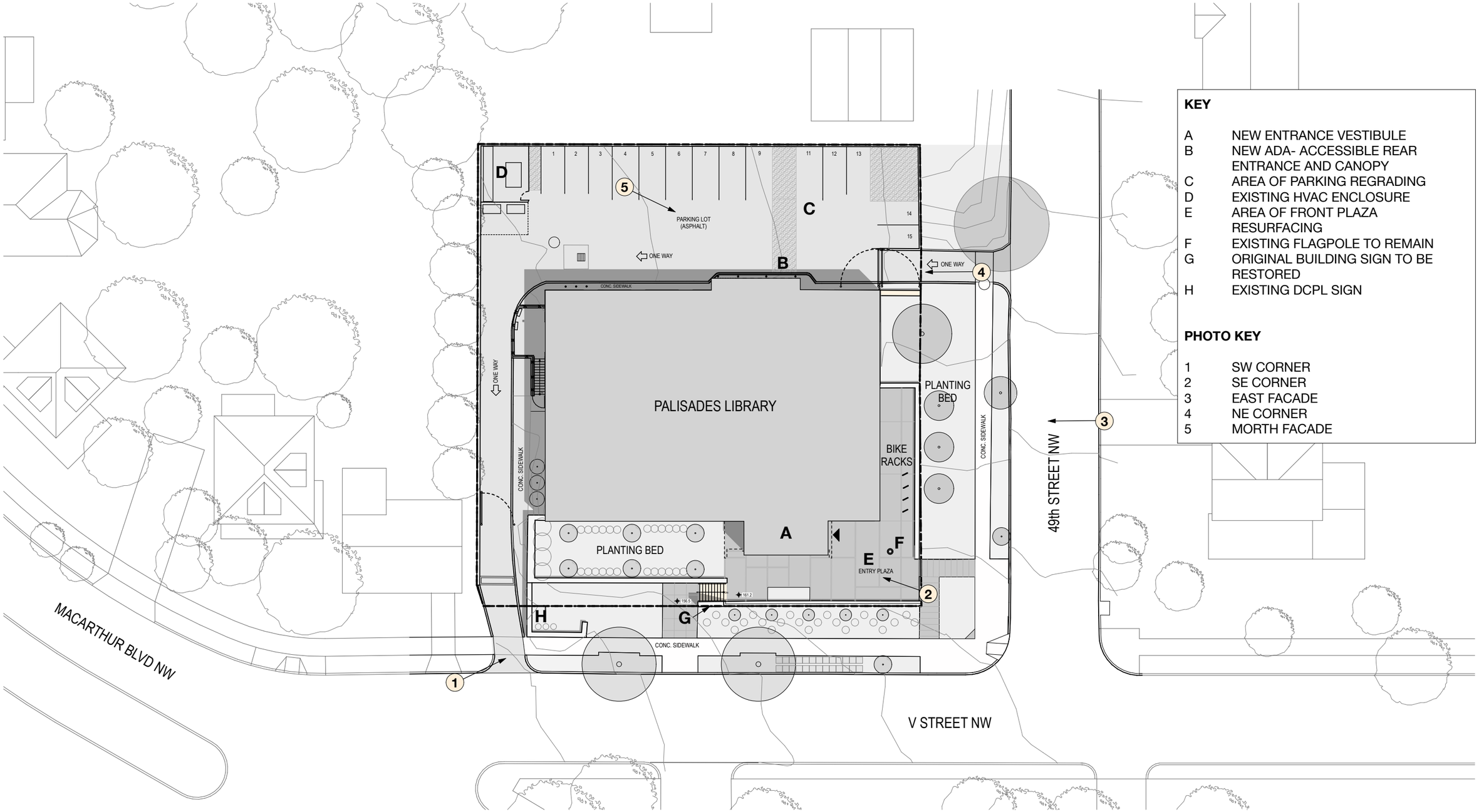

KEY

A	NEW ENTRANCE VESTIBULE
B	NEW ADA- ACCESSIBLE REAR ENTRANCE AND CANOPY
C	AREA OF PARKING REGRADING
D	EXISTING HVAC ENCLOSURE
E	AREA OF FRONT PLAZA RESURFACING
F	EXISTING FLAGPOLE TO REMAIN
G	ORIGINAL BUILDING SIGN TO BE RESTORED
H	EXISTING DCPL SIGN

PHOTO KEY

1	SW CORNER
2	SE CORNER
3	EAST FACADE
4	NE CORNER
5	MORTH FACADE

N

Scale:1/32" = 1'-0"

0 16' 32' 64'

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Site Plan **04**

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1 View of SW Corner

2 View of SE Corner

3 View of East Facade

4 View of NE Corner and Parking

5 View of North Facade

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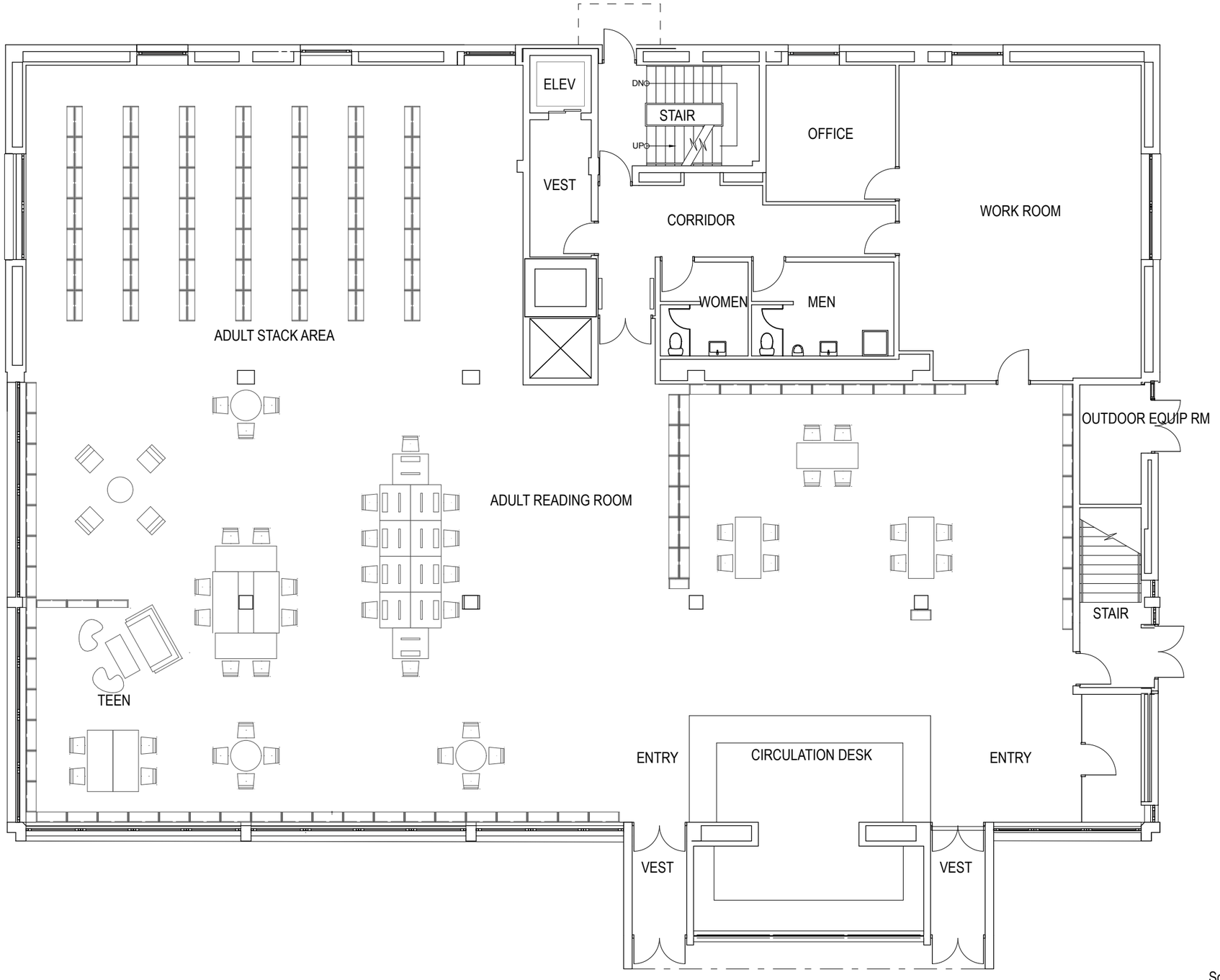

N

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

0 8' 16' 24'

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Existing First Floor Plan **06**

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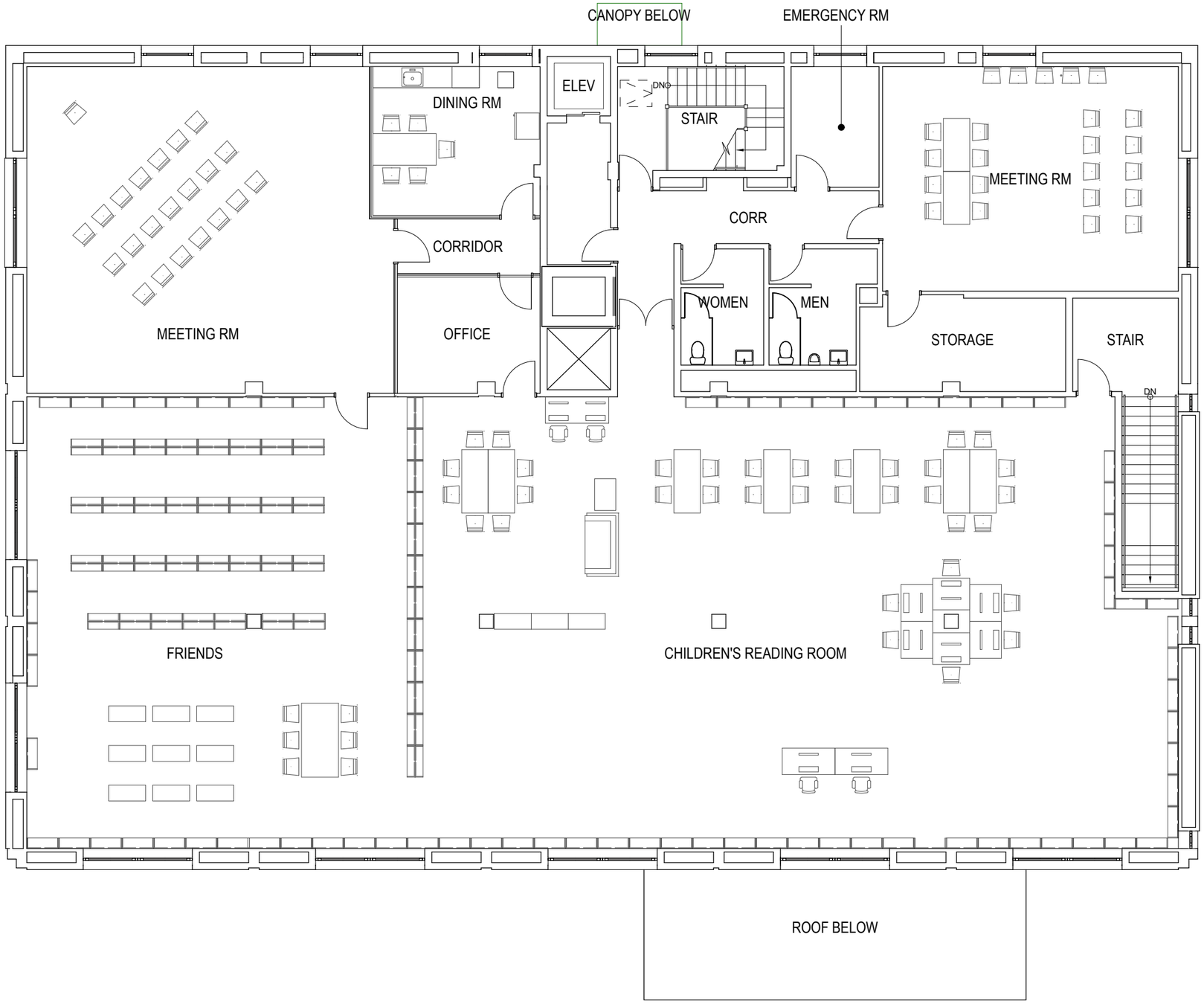

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Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

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Existing Second Floor Plan **07**

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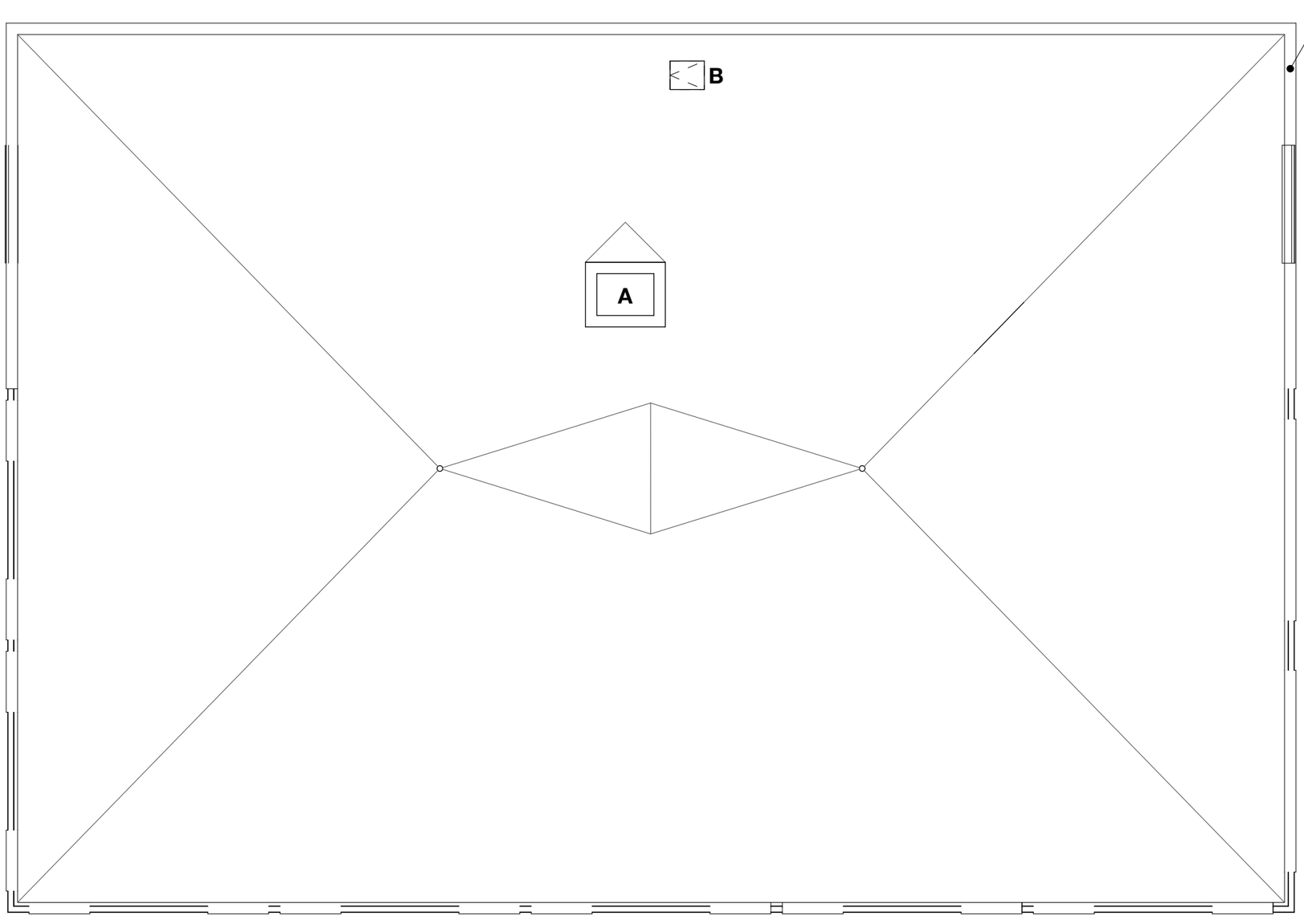

KEY

A	EXISTING CHIMNEY TO REMAIN
B	EXISTING ROOF HATCH
C	EXISTING METAL COPING

N

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

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Existing Roof Plan **08**

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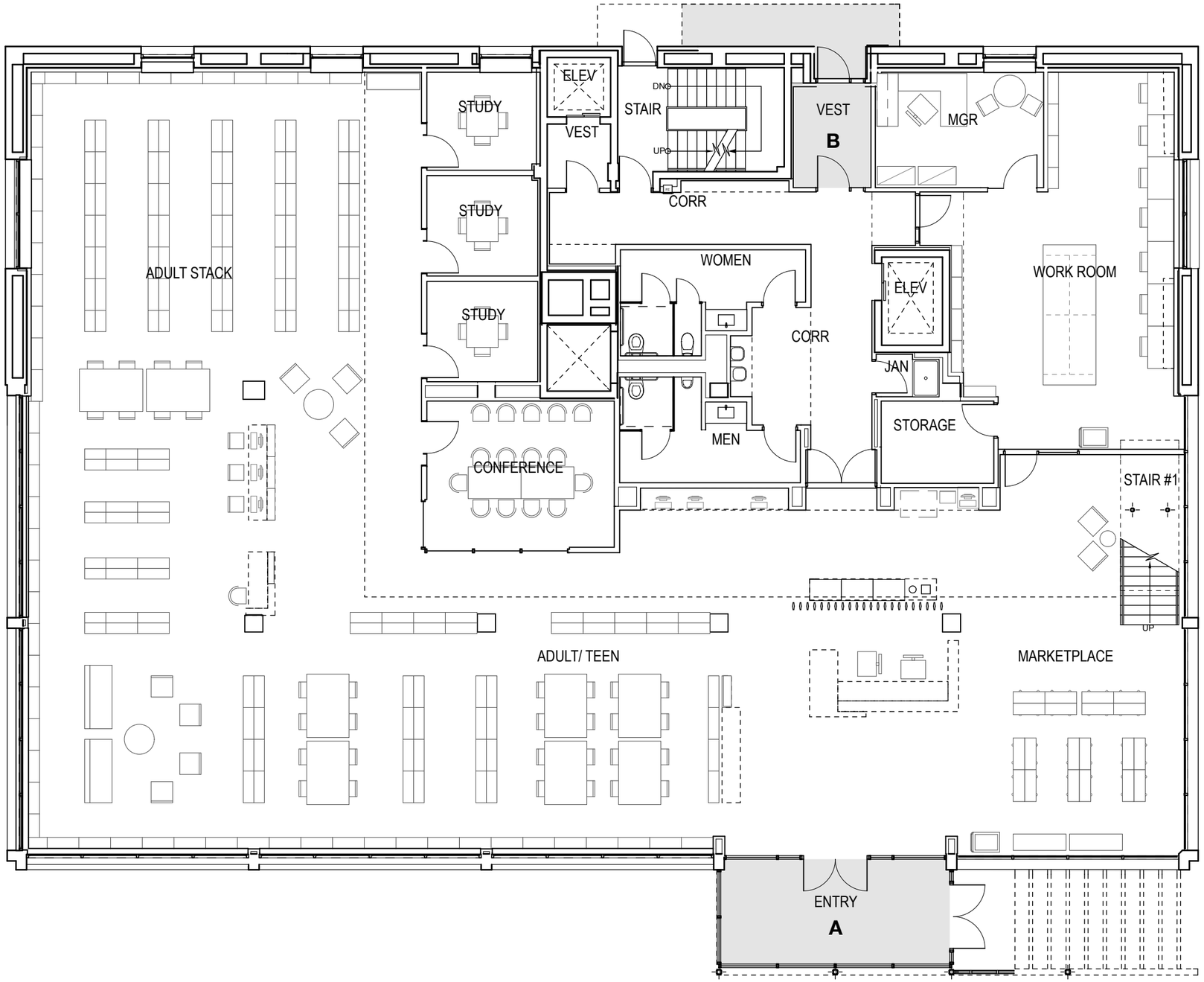

KEY

A	NEW VESTIBULE AND FRONT ENTRY
B	NEW VESTIBULE, REAR ENTRY, AND EXPANDED CANOPY

N

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

0 8' 16' 24'

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First Floor Plan **09**

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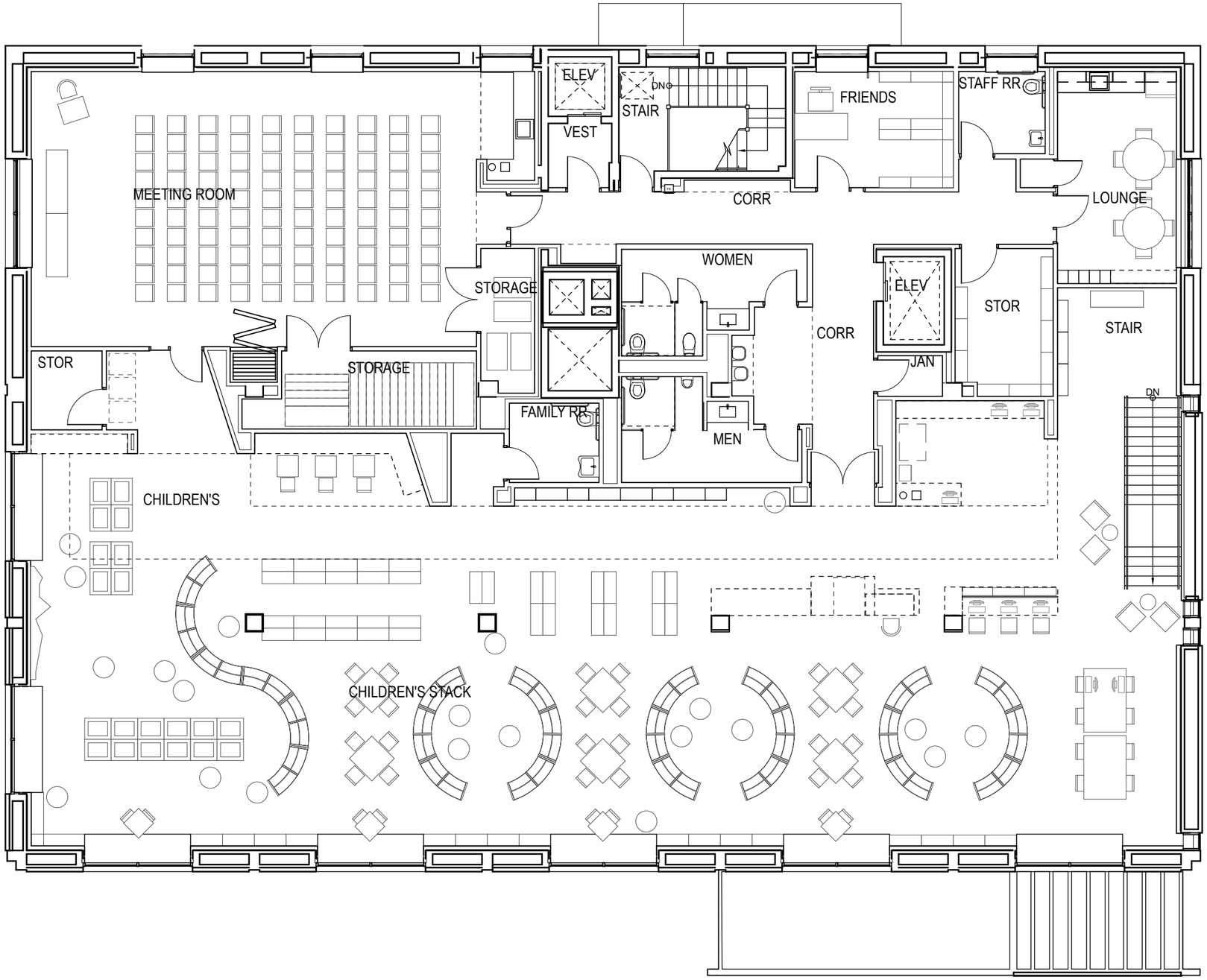

N

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

0 8' 16' 24'

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Second Floor Plan **10**

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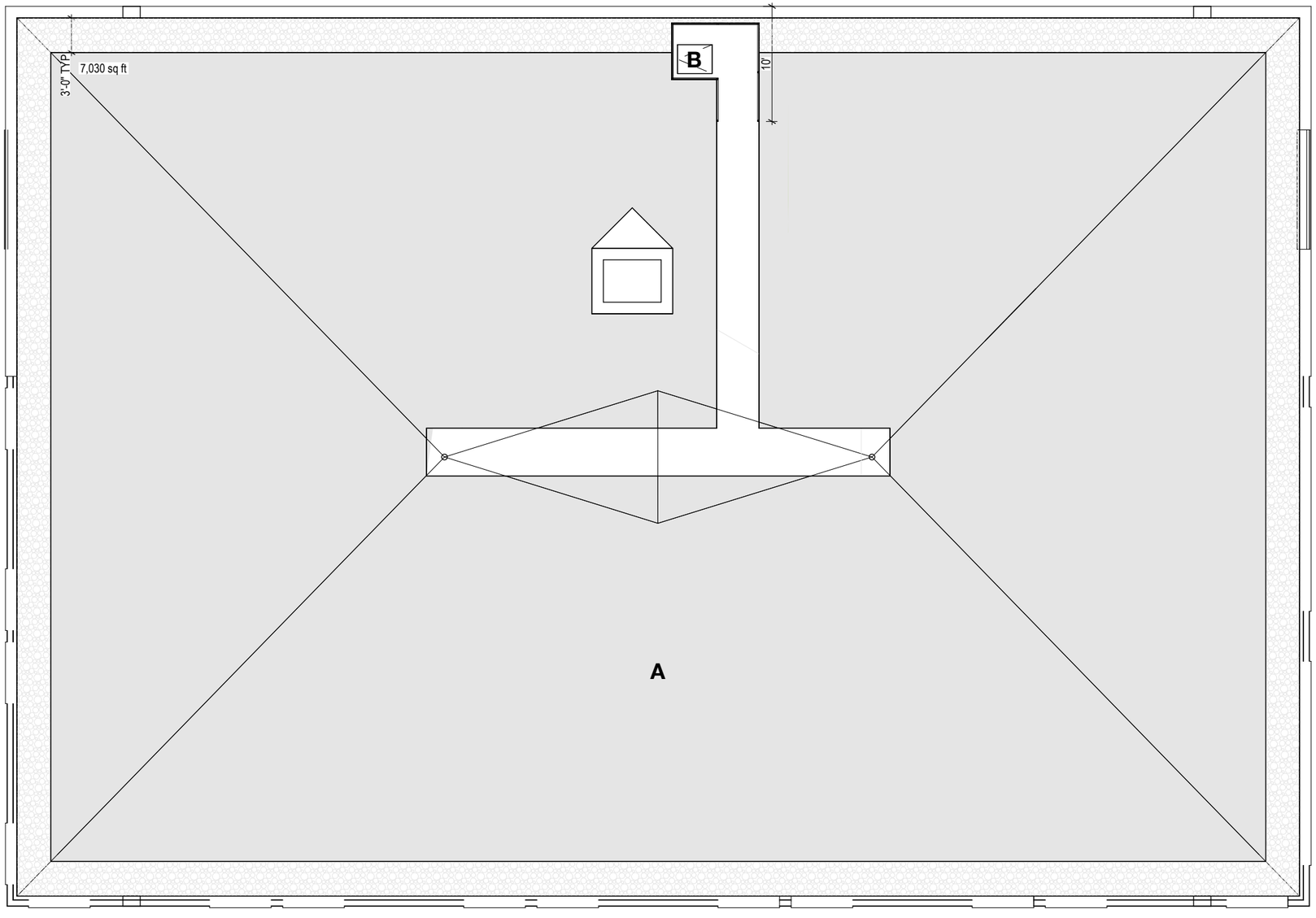

KEY

A NEW GREEN ROOF
B NEW ROOF HATCH IN EXISTING LOCATION

N

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

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Roof Plan II
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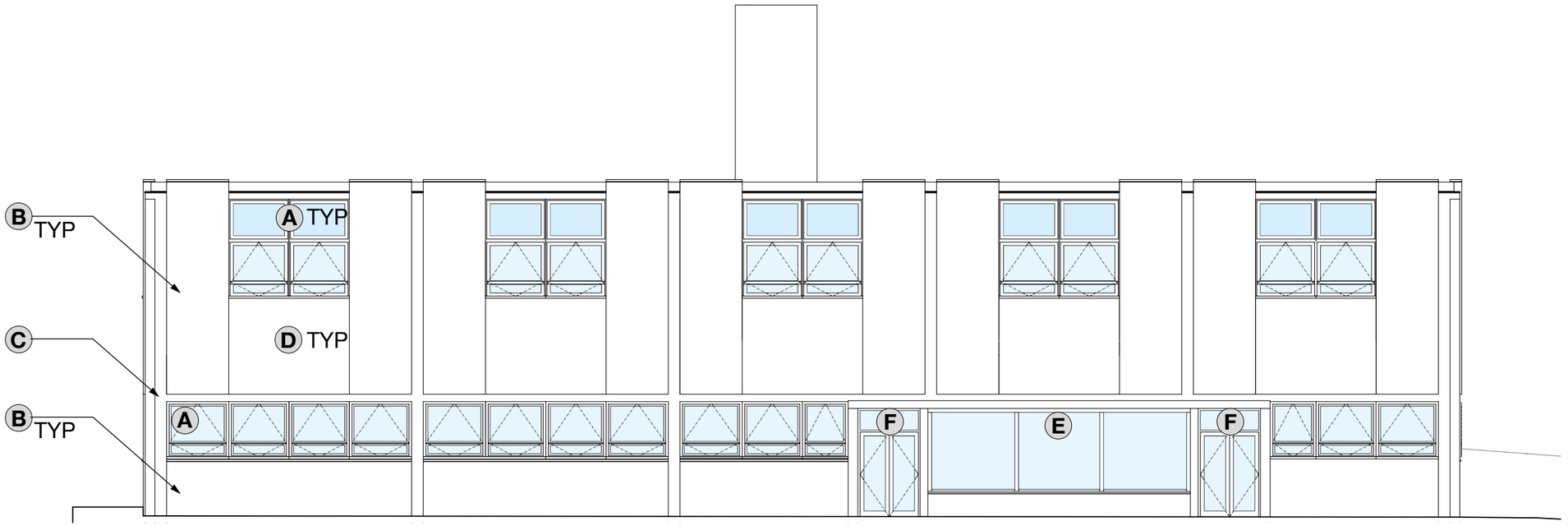

Existing South Elevation

Proposed South Elevation

KEY

A	EXISTING ALUMINUM WINDOW
B	EXISTING BRICK MASONRY
C	EXISTING EXPOSED CONCRETE STURCTURE
D	EXISTING CERAMIC TILE PANELS
E	EXISTING VESTIBULE
F	EXISTING ALUMINUM ENTRY DOORS
G	NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS
H	NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS IN ENLARGED OPENING
I	NEW VESTIBULE
J	NEW ALUMINUM STOREFRONT
K	BUILDING SIGN
L	NEW TILE PANELS
M	NOT USED

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

0 8' 16' 24'

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South Elevation **12**

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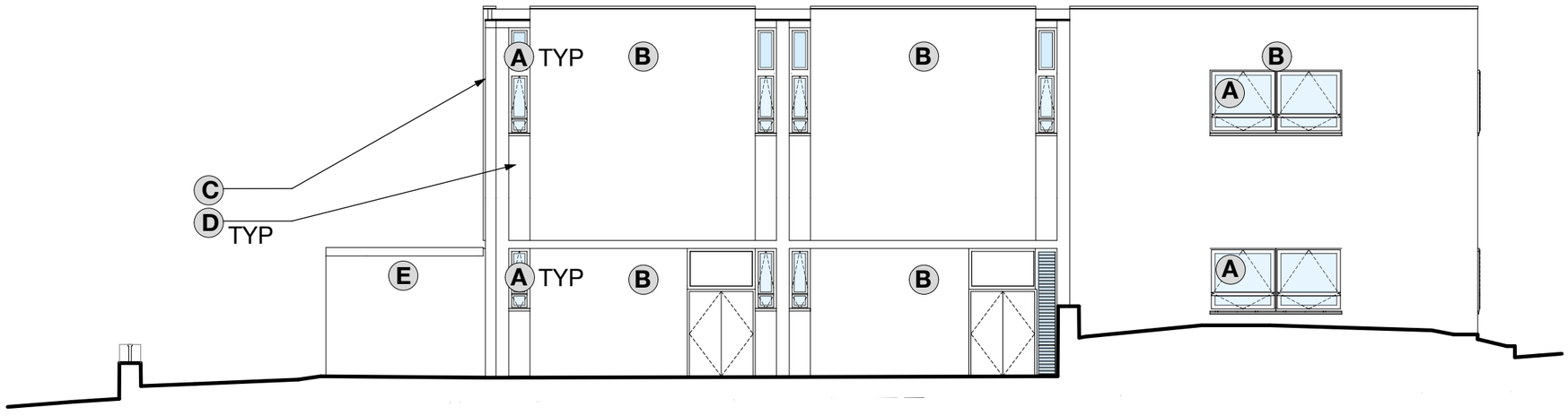
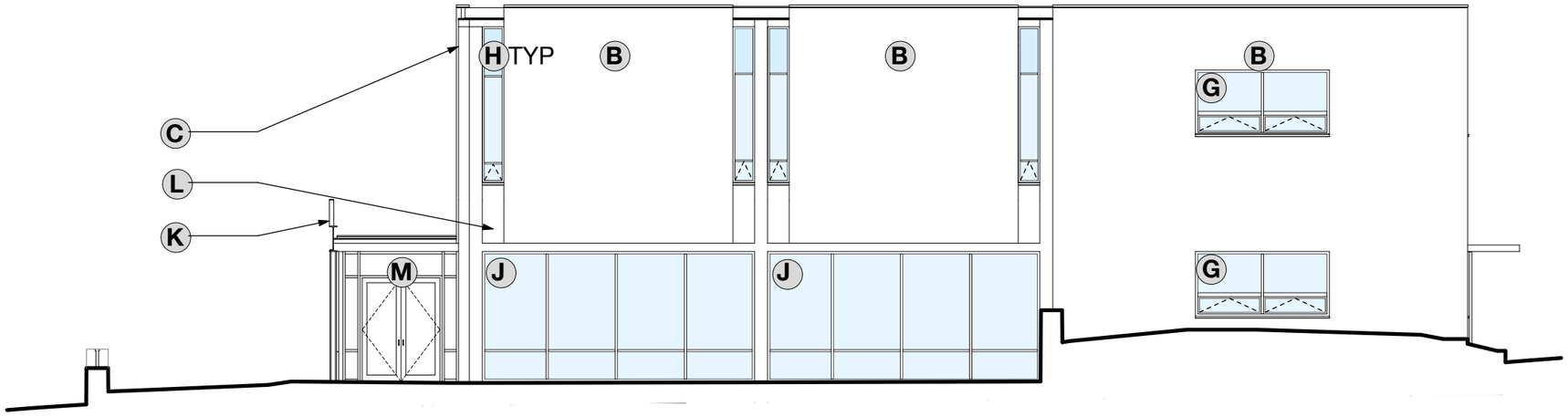


Existing East Elevation

KEY

A	EXISTING ALUMINUM WINDOW
B	EXISTING BRICK MASONRY
C	EXISTING EXPOSED CONCRETE STURCTURE
D	EXISTING CERAMIC TILE PANELS
E	EXISTING VESTIBULE
F	NOT USED
G	NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS
H	NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS IN ENLARGED OPENING
I	NEW VESTIBULE
J	NEW ALUMINUM STOREFRONT
K	BUILDING SIGN
L	NEW TILE PANELS
M	NEW ALUMINUM ENTRY DOORS



Proposed East Elevation

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

0 8' 16' 24'

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East Elevation **13**

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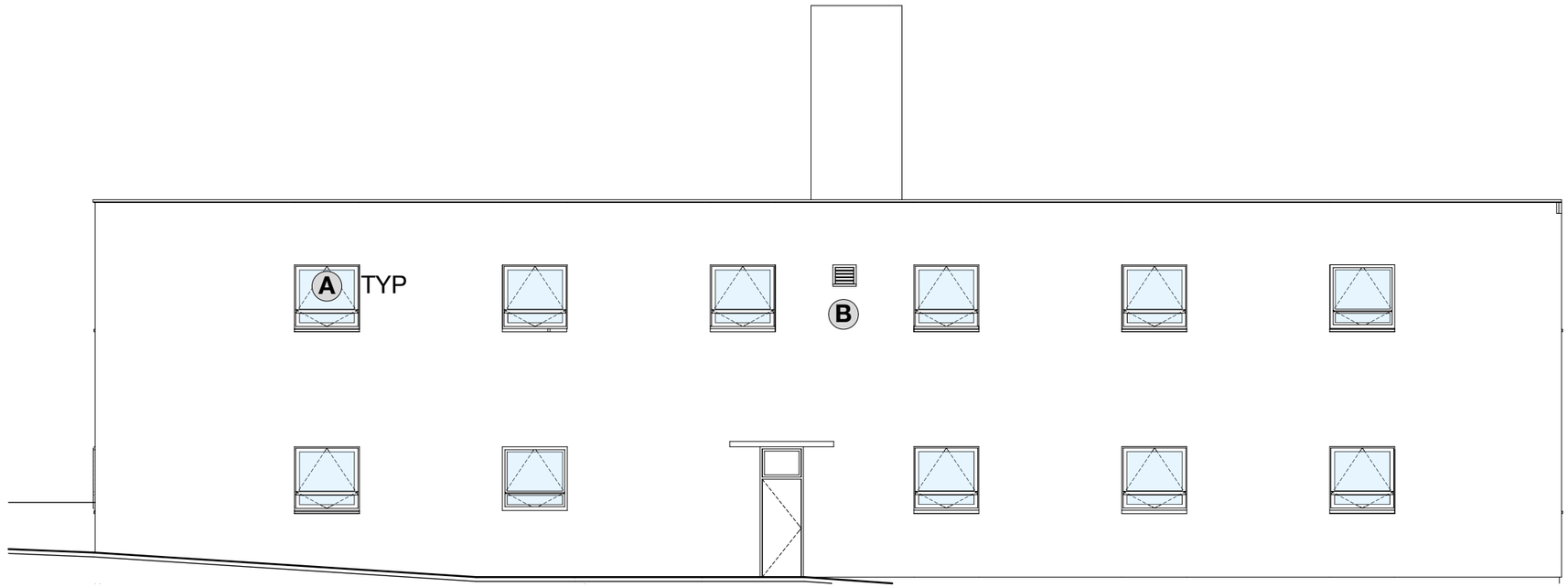
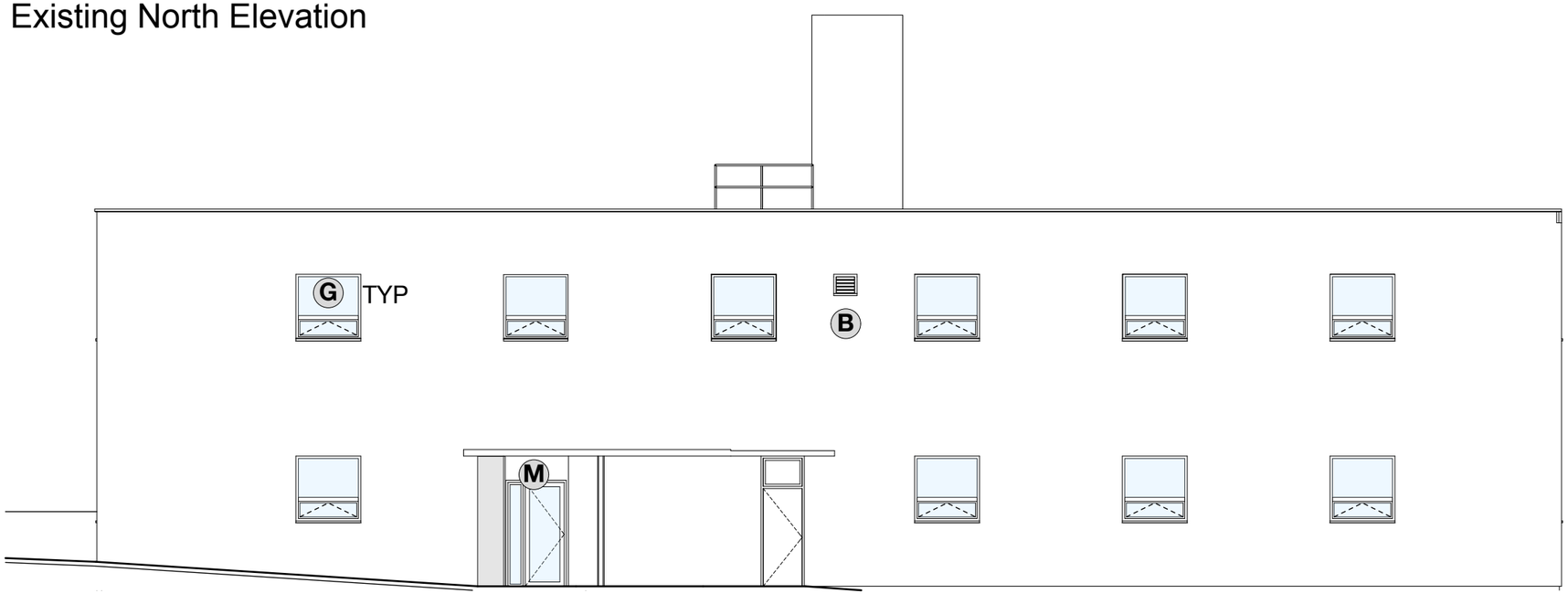


Existing North Elevation



Proposed North Elevation

KEY

A	EXISTING ALUMINUM WINDOW
B	EXISTING BRICK MASONRY
C	NOT USED
D	NOT USED
E	NOT USED
F	NOT USED
G	NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS
H	NOT USED
I	NOT USED
J	NOT USED
K	NOT USED
L	NOT USED
M	NEW ALUMINUM ENTRY DOOR

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

0 8' 16' 24'

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North Elevation **14**

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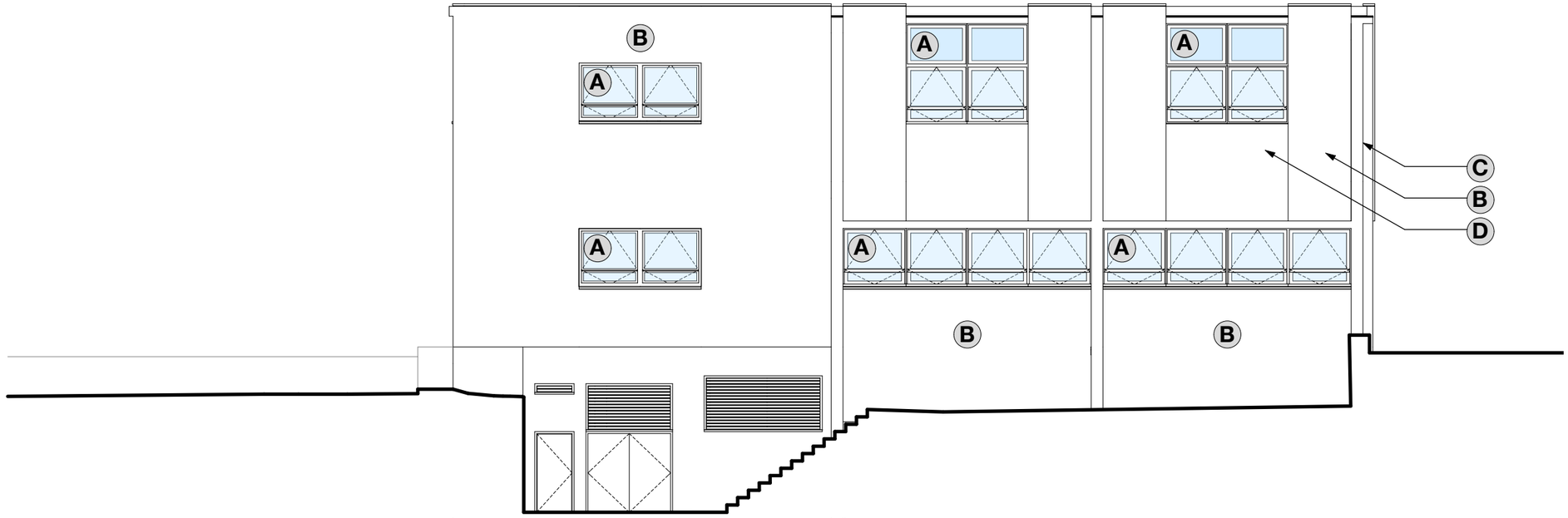
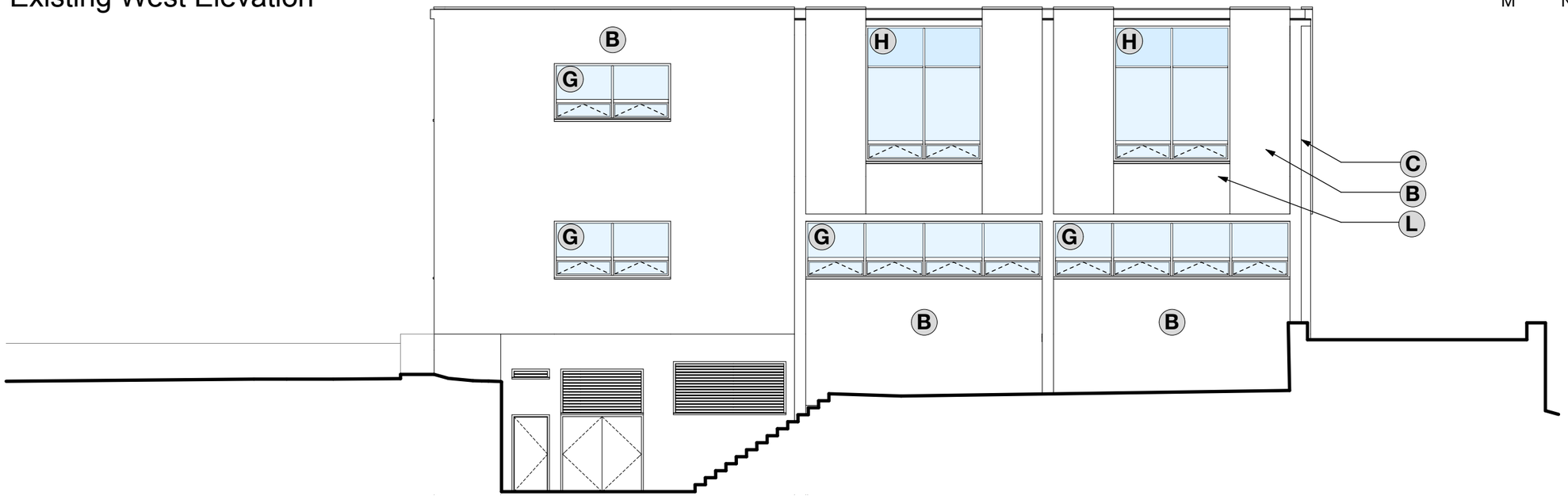


Existing West Elevation



Proposed West Elevation

KEY

A	EXISTING ALUMINUM WINDOW
B	EXISTING BRICK MASONRY
C	EXISTING EXPOSED CONCRETE STURCTURE
D	EXISTING CERAMIC TILE PANELS
E	NOT USED
F	NOT USED
G	NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS
H	NEW ALUMINUM WINDOWS IN ENLARGED OPENING
I	NOT USED
J	NOT USED
K	NOT USED
L	NEW TILE PANELS
M	NOT USED

Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

0 8' 16' 24'

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Site ID

Materials:
Sign structure is a framework of 1.75", 2" and 3" square aluminum tube stock, painted.
Sign panels are porcelain enamel.
Custom-cast finials to match those on existing fence.
Concrete footings and all required fastening provisions for base-to-ground and sign-to-base interface.
For each installed sign, provide two (one for each sign face) Kim Lighting #4348 "Sign Lighter" fixtures in black aluminum finish with 32 watt T8 lamping.

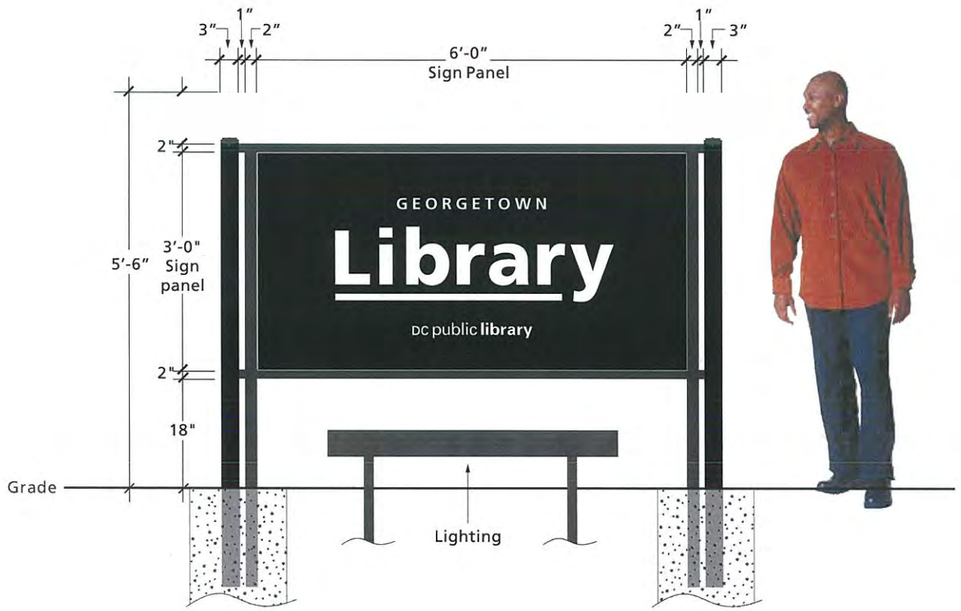
Size:
7'-0" wide x 5'-6" high, O.A. (above ground).

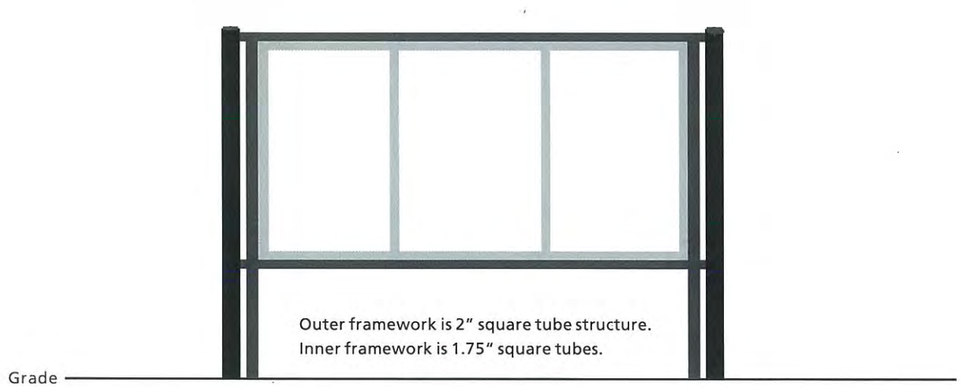
Graphics:
Typefaces include Frutiger Bold, Frutiger Black and DCPL logo font.

Colors:
Sign panel is satin finish "Black."
Sign structure is semigloss "Black."
Graphics are white.

Construction Details:
Coordinate with DCPL for cast finial resource(s).
Sign Contractor must verify as-built conditions and required base provisions for each sign location.

Installation:
Field verify exact placement with Library.





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Precedent 1

Precedent 2

Aluminum Lettering
Building signage located along roof edge near the main entry

Anacostia Library

Sign Type E/G-1

Tenley / Friendship Library

Sign Type E/G-2

Watha T. Daniel Shaw Library

Sign Type E/G-3

Benning Library

Sign Type E/G-4

Sign Type E/G
Dimensional Letters

Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

BUILDING-MOUNTED SIGNS

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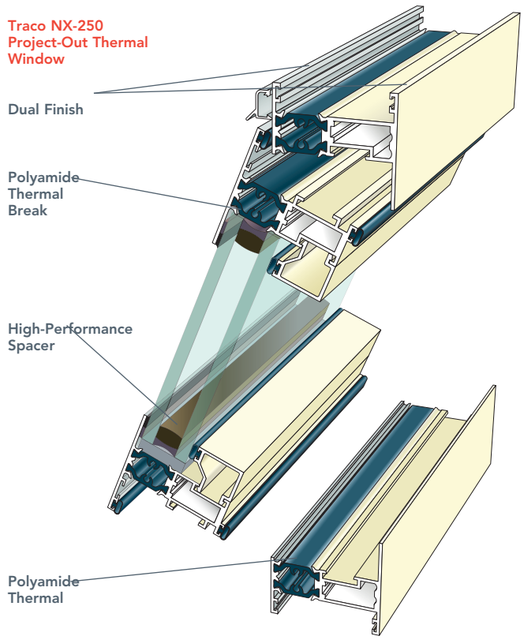

New Exterior Storefront, Door, and Window System

Stone Site Walls

Brick Exterior Walls

Ceramic Tile Mosaic Panels

Existing Exterior Materials

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