



Carnegie Library

Rehabilitation and Exterior Restoration

801 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Mount Vernon Square (Reservation 8)

Concept Review Submission

National Capital Planning Commission

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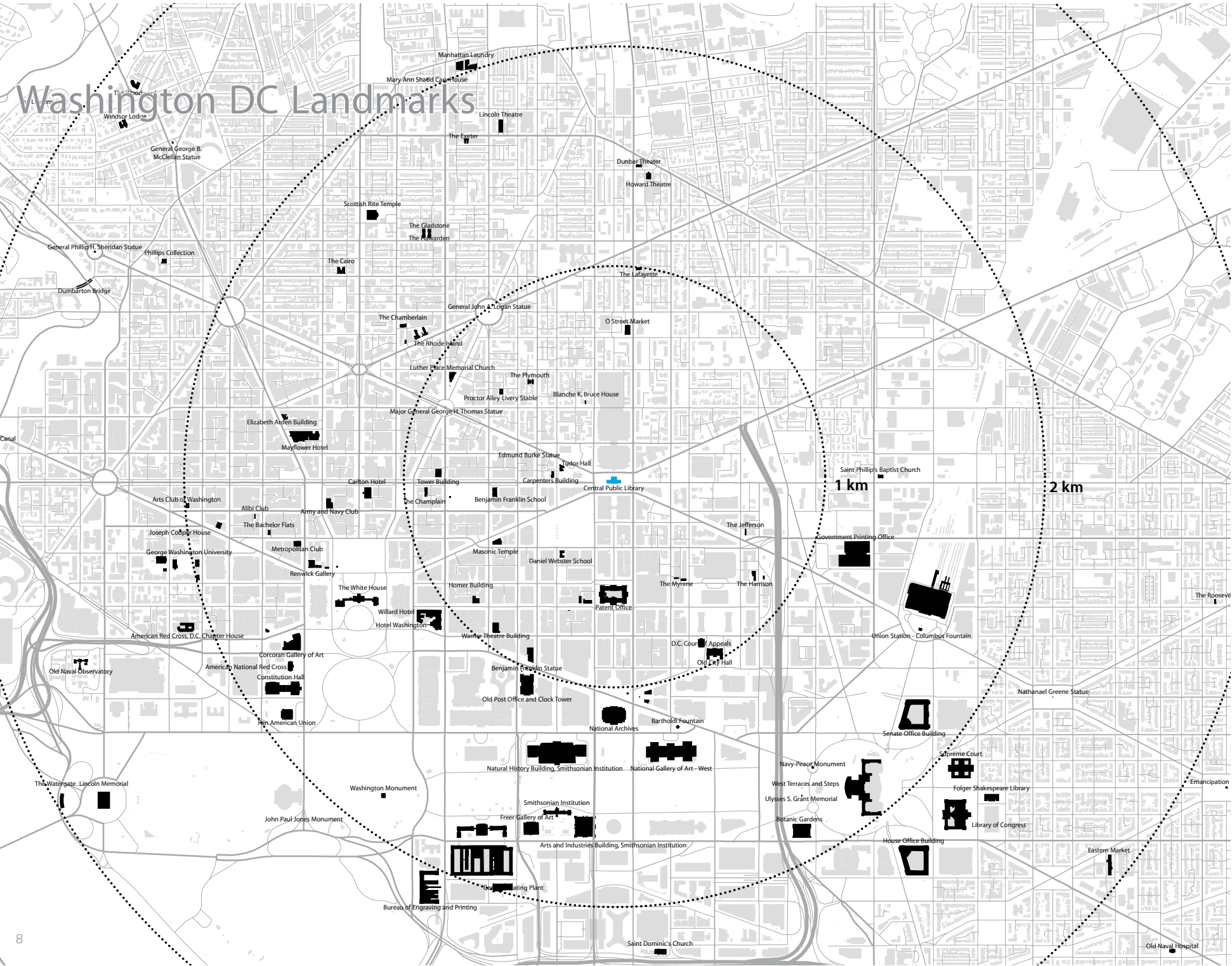


Figure 1: Vinity Map (not to scale)



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Figure 3:
Carnegie
Library,
south
and west
elevations,
facing
northeast,
2017. EHT
Traceries



Figure 2:
Undated
(circa
1902) view
of south
elevation,
facing
northeast.
Library of
Congress



PROJECT NARRATIVE

Existing Conditions

Carnegie Library is located at 801 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20001. The site is located on Mount Vernon Square (also designated as Reservation 8), which is owned by the U.S. Government and administered by the District of Columbia. The Carnegie Library building is separately owned by the District of Columbia and administered by Events DC, the convention and sports authority for the District of Columbia. The building functions as the headquarters of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (HSW). It houses the administrative offices, archival storage, exhibit galleries, and research functions of HSW. It also houses event and office space for Events DC. The building features three full stories in addition to three habitable mezzanines and a sub basement.

Historical Overview

Constructed in 1899-1902, Carnegie Library was listed in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites in 1964 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 as the Central Public Library. The nomination recognized the building's significance as one of many buildings given to American cities by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to promote free library systems. It also reflects the growth of the D.C. Public Library (DCPL) system from humble beginnings in rented quarters to a Beaux-Arts edifice on Mount Vernon Square. Mount Vernon Square is a contributing resource to the Plan of the City of Washington (L'Enfant Plan; L'Enfant-McMillan Plan).

Since its completion, the Carnegie Library has undergone several small- and large-scale renovations. Shortly after the library's dedication in 1903, Carnegie donated additional funds to complete the building's then-unfinished

interior, including interior painting and expansion of the closed book stacks. From 1905 through 1962, DCPL undertook several additional changes, notably the reconfiguration of the Delivery Room and the addition of mezzanines in the east and west reading rooms. Carnegie Library operated as the Central Public Library for the District of Columbia until 1971, when those operations were transferred to the newly constructed Downtown Central Library, subsequently renamed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.

The building's two later tenants, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) (1977-1990s) and HSW (1999-Present), each completed major rehabilitations. At the time UDC acquired the library in 1977, it had been vacant for six years and was suffering from neglect. UDC's \$4.2 million renovation included the reorientation of the building towards Mount Vernon Place, NW, with the construction of a new main entrance at the north elevation, the removal of book stacks, the addition of a large HVAC unit, new lighting, the conversion of the former stack room and Lecture Hall into office space, removal of the Delivery Room counter, alteration of the west stairway in the northern portion of the building, and an additional layer of plaster onto the existing decorative plasterwork.

In 1999, Congress designated the Carnegie Library as the site for a city museum. HSW, which would operate the museum and house its administrative and research facilities in the former library, entered into a 99-year lease for the building. A comprehensive rehabilitation was undertaken to accommodate the City Museum, which opened in the spring of 2003. The project included: a newly constructed 150-seat theater in the east wing of the building; a permanent exhibit in the former west reading room on the first floor; new egress stairs and elevators; community galleries focusing on D.C. neighborhoods; two galleries, a public reading room, and a library on the second floor; and an archaeology lab, with classrooms and workshops in the basement. Though the City Museum only remained operational through November 2004, HSW remains in the building and continues to operate the library on an appointment basis.

Figure 4: North elevation (including non-original stair and awning), facing southwest



the project must undergo review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act to consider its effects on historic and environmental resources.

NCPC initiated consultation with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) on April 21, 2017. The first consulting parties meeting will be held on May 11, 2017. The purpose of this meeting will be to define the undertaking, present the draft Area of Potential Effects and list of historic properties, and present additional information on the proposed design. Events DC and NCPC will continue to consult with DC SHPO and the consulting parties to identify, assess, and resolve adverse effects on historic properties.

Environmental Documentation

NCPC is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider the project’s effects on environmental resources. NCPC will conduct a thirty-day public scoping period to invite the public to consider the range of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. During that period, on May 9, 2017, NCPC will conduct a public scoping meeting.

Schedule

Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2017 and continue for approximately one year, with occupancy in the fall of 2018.

Funding

The entirety of the project will be funded privately by the retail tenant.

Employment

Neither the existing nor the proposed employment on the site will exceed 500 employees over a twenty-year period.

Building Area and Site Coverage

The approximate, existing gross site and building areas are listed below. Under the proposed project, only the gross building area will change nominally; otherwise, these figures will not change.

Gross building area	51,000 square feet	
Gross site area	117,000 square feet	
Area of building footprint	17,000 square feet	~14.5% site coverage

Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection

The project is not located within or near a floodplain or wetland.

Basic Design Concept

The proposed project will rehabilitate and modernize the Carnegie Library building to become a retail and education facility. The building will be leased jointly by HSW (which will continue to operate its research library, exhibit galleries, and administrative offices there) and a retail tenant (which will operate a retail, events, and educational facility in the building). The project will include a full restoration of the building exterior, including the repair and cleaning of the exterior stone, repair and retrofit of the original wood windows, repair and retrofit of the original skylight frames, and repair of the copper roof cladding. On the north side, the non-original stair and awning will be removed and replaced with a new stair that improves access to the building. Windows on this elevation—modified during the UDC and HSW rehabilitation projects—will be replaced or retrofitted.

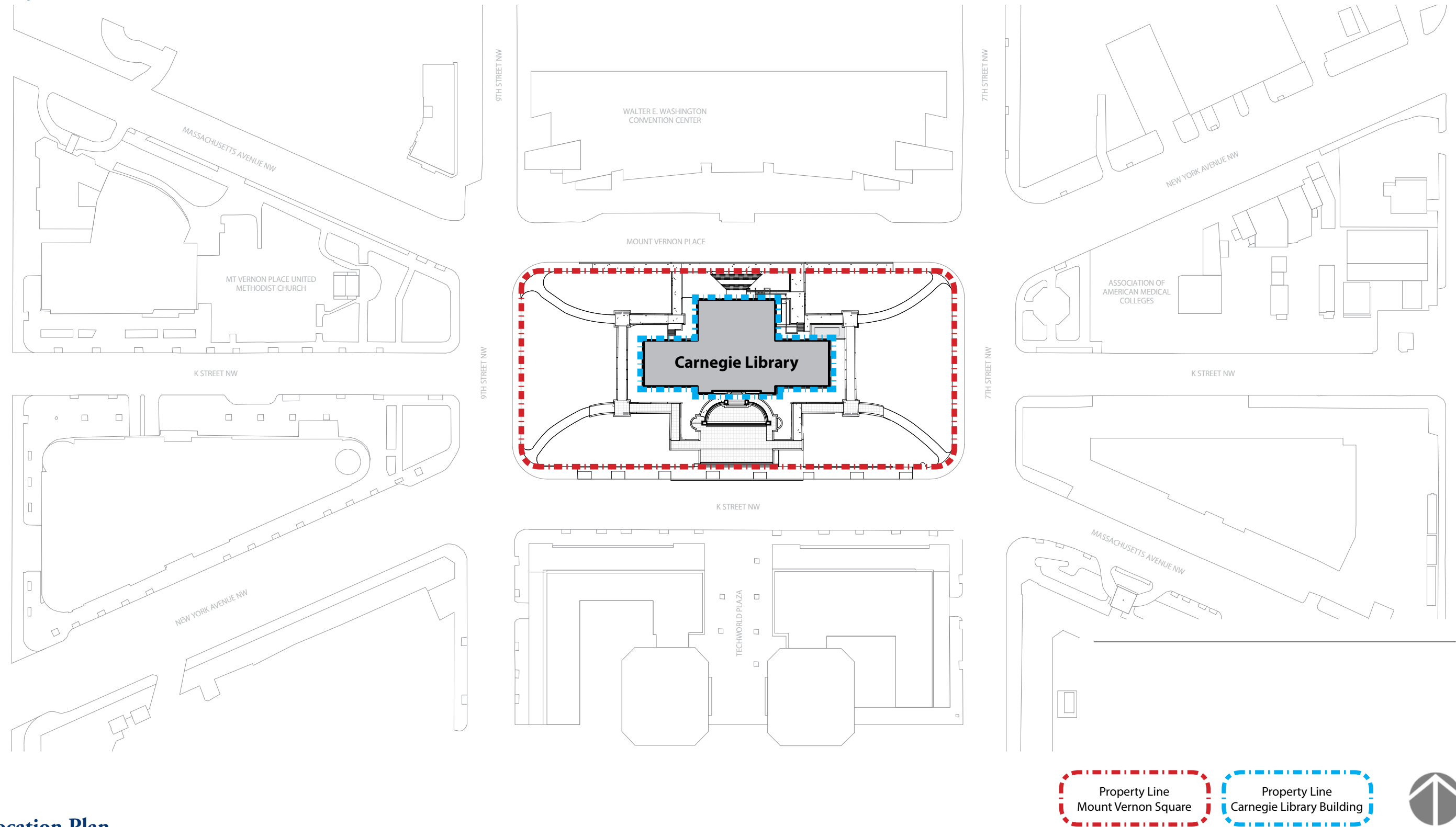
The interior of the building will be rehabilitated, including removal of non-original infill construction throughout the building dating from the 2003 City Museum rehabilitation. The scope of this project included the enclosure of the central atrium with a museum gallery, offices, and clerestory extension with hipped roof. This addition will be removed, creating a central, skylit atrium space. The new atrium will be enclosed with a flat skylight, positioned below the existing roof line to obscure its visibility from the surrounding streetscape. Additionally, the MEP and other systems throughout the building will be upgraded or replaced.

Although the project is generally limited to the building itself, minor alterations may be made to site hardscape elements to comply with accessibility and other code requirements.

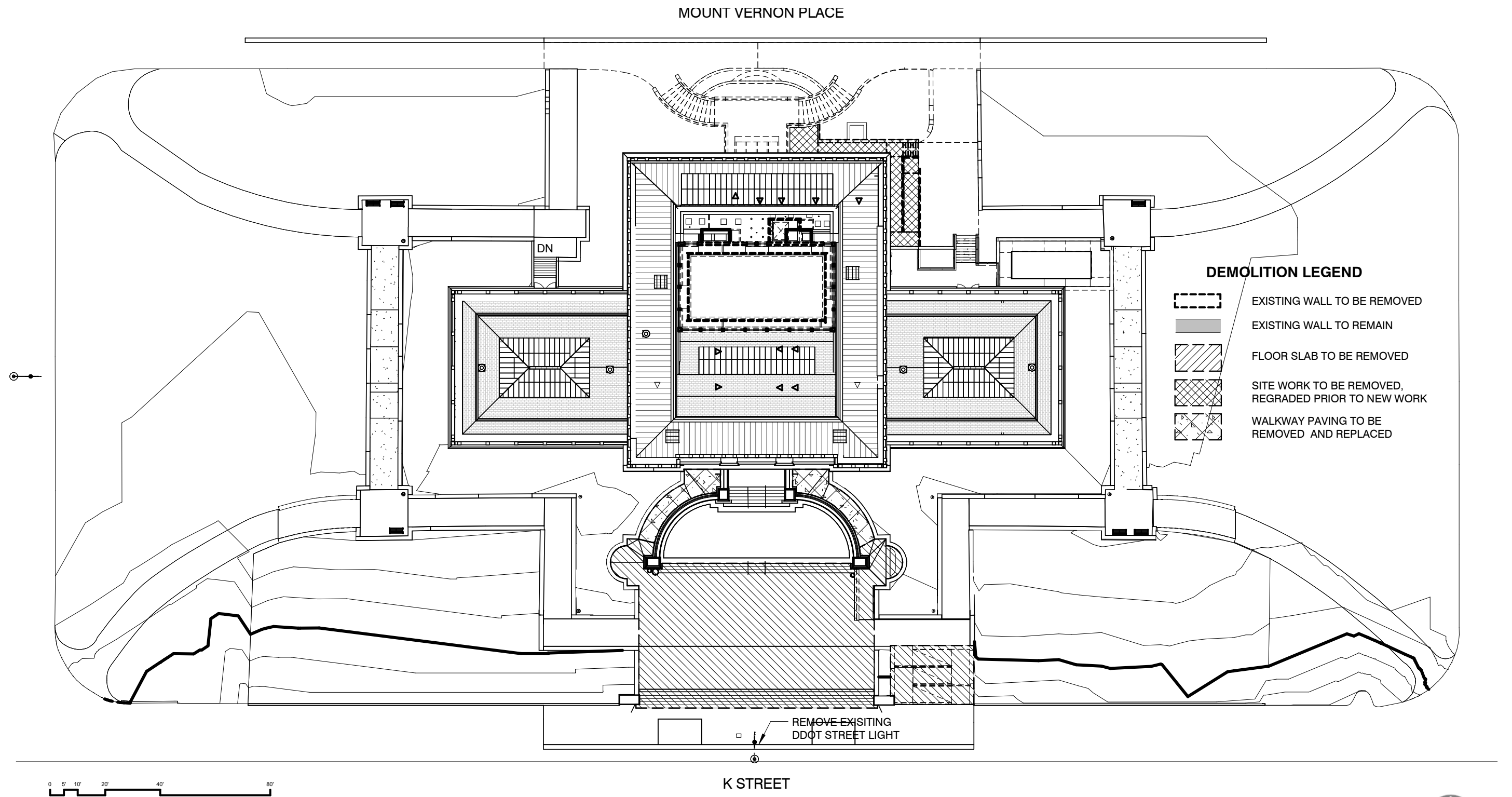
Historic Preservation Documentation

Because the Carnegie Library is a District of Columbia Government-owned building in the Central Area, the proposed project is subject to the review and approval of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) under the National Capital Planning Act. NCPC’s approval of the project is considered a federal undertaking; therefore,

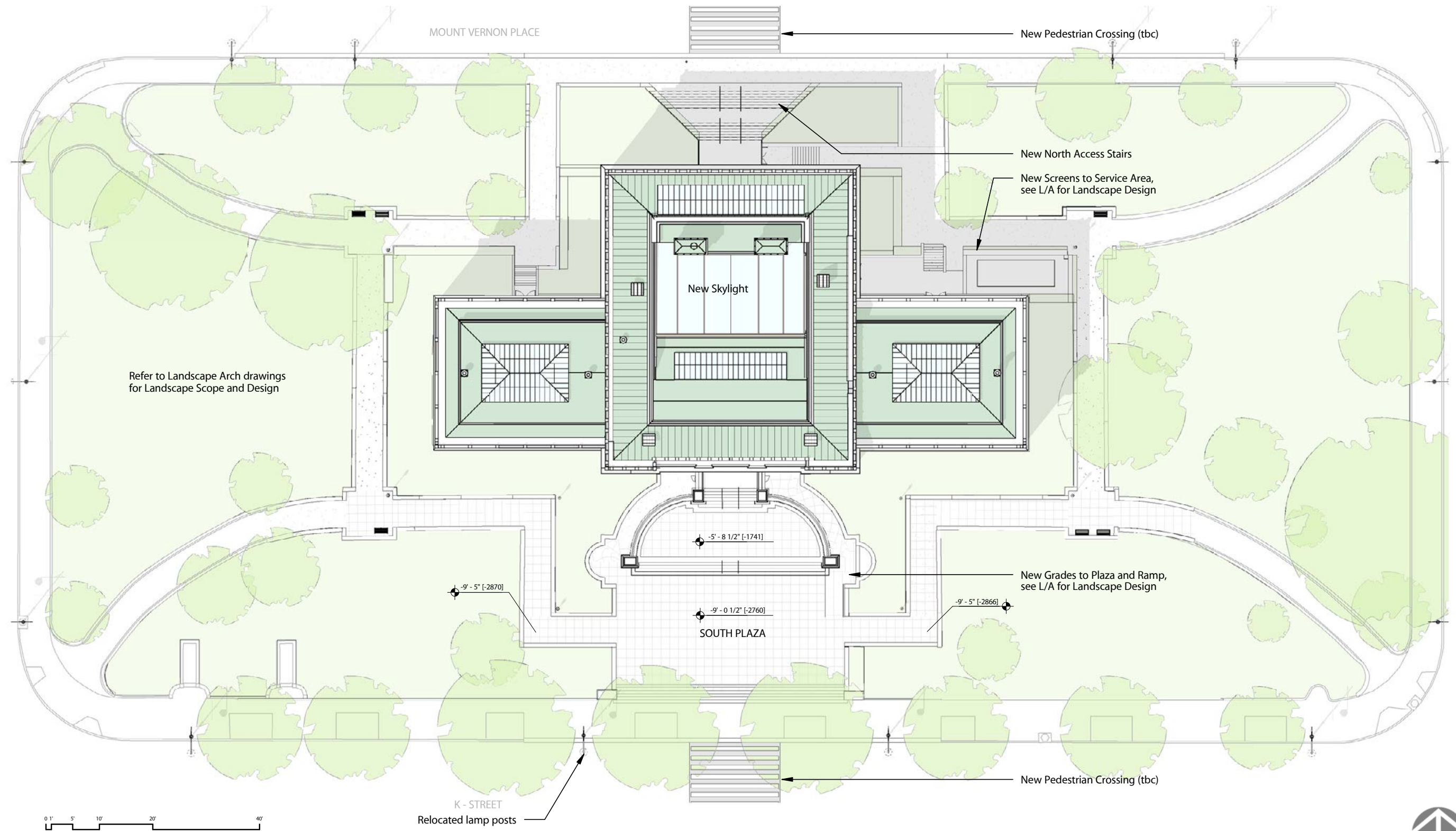
PROJECT DRAWINGS



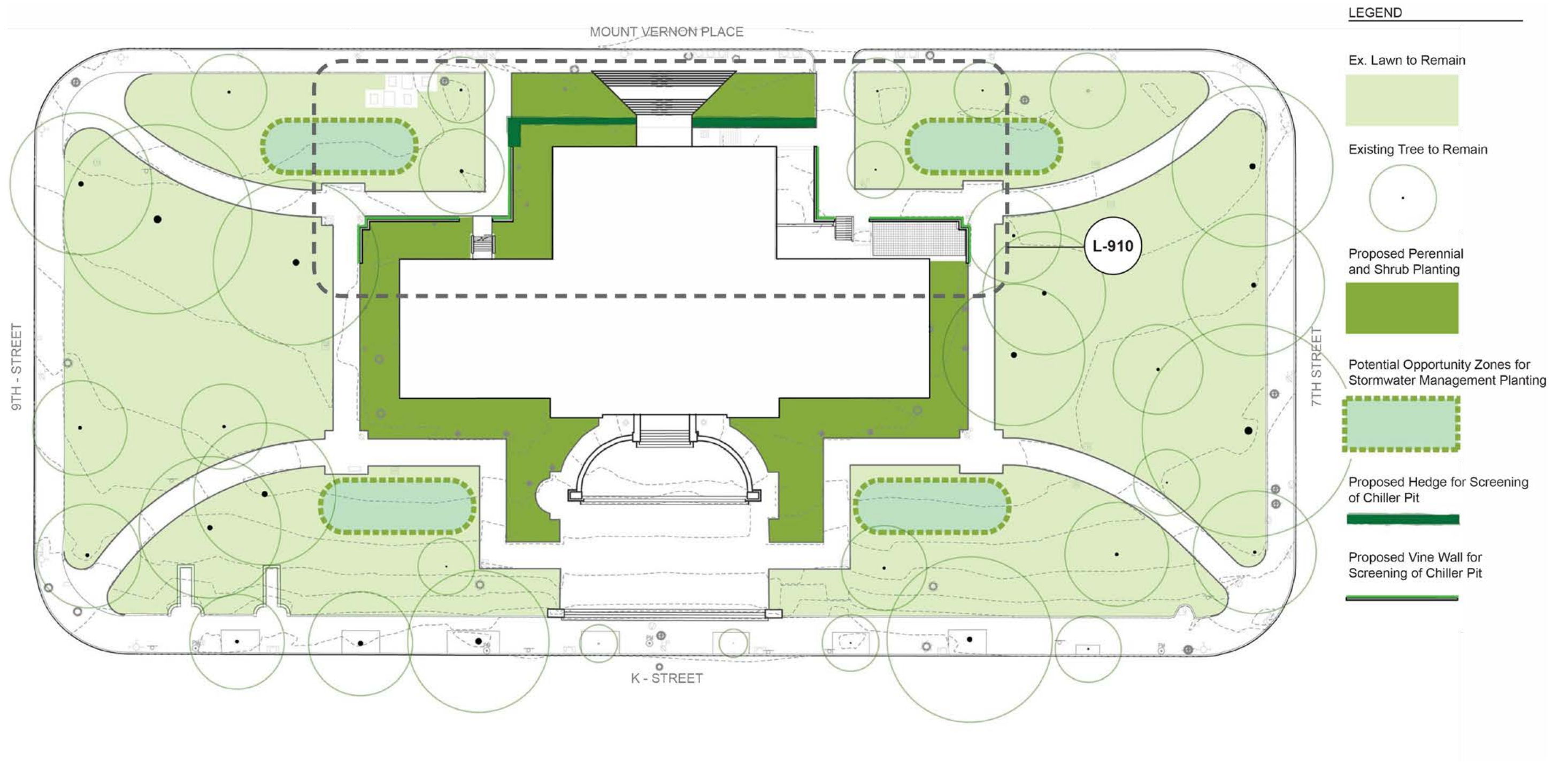
Location Plan



Site Plan - Demolition

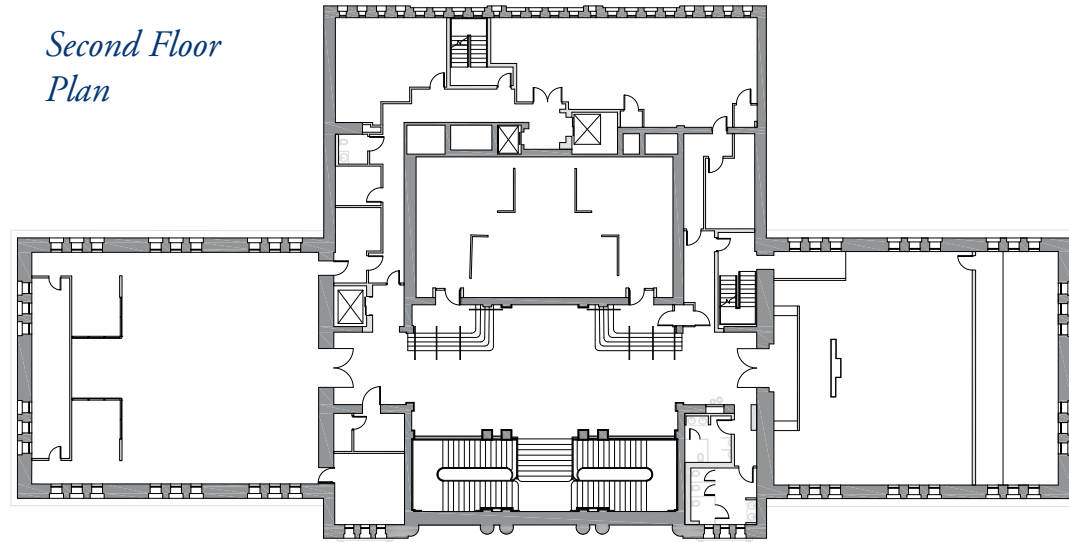


Site Plan - Proposed

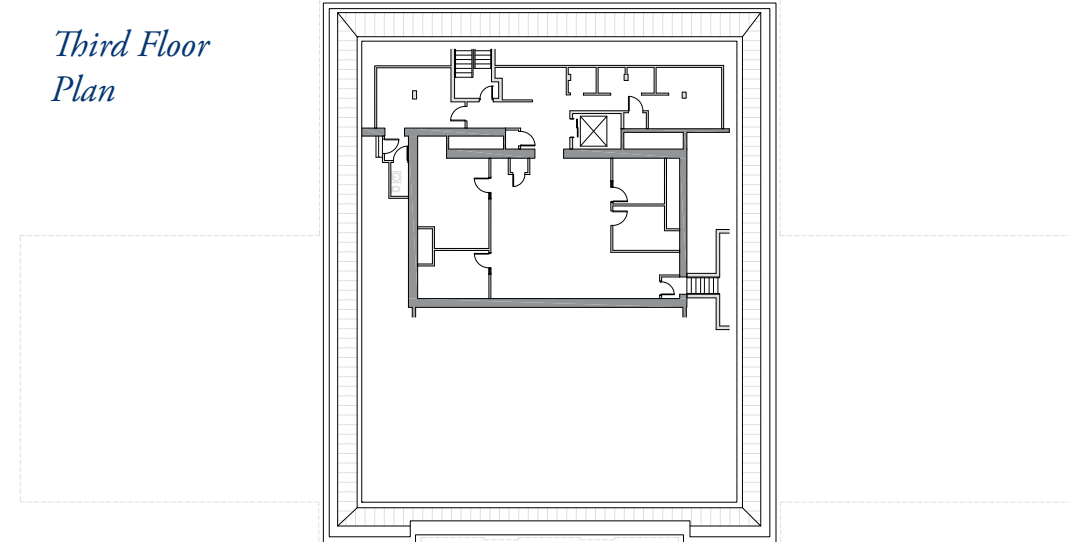


Site Plan - Proposed Planting

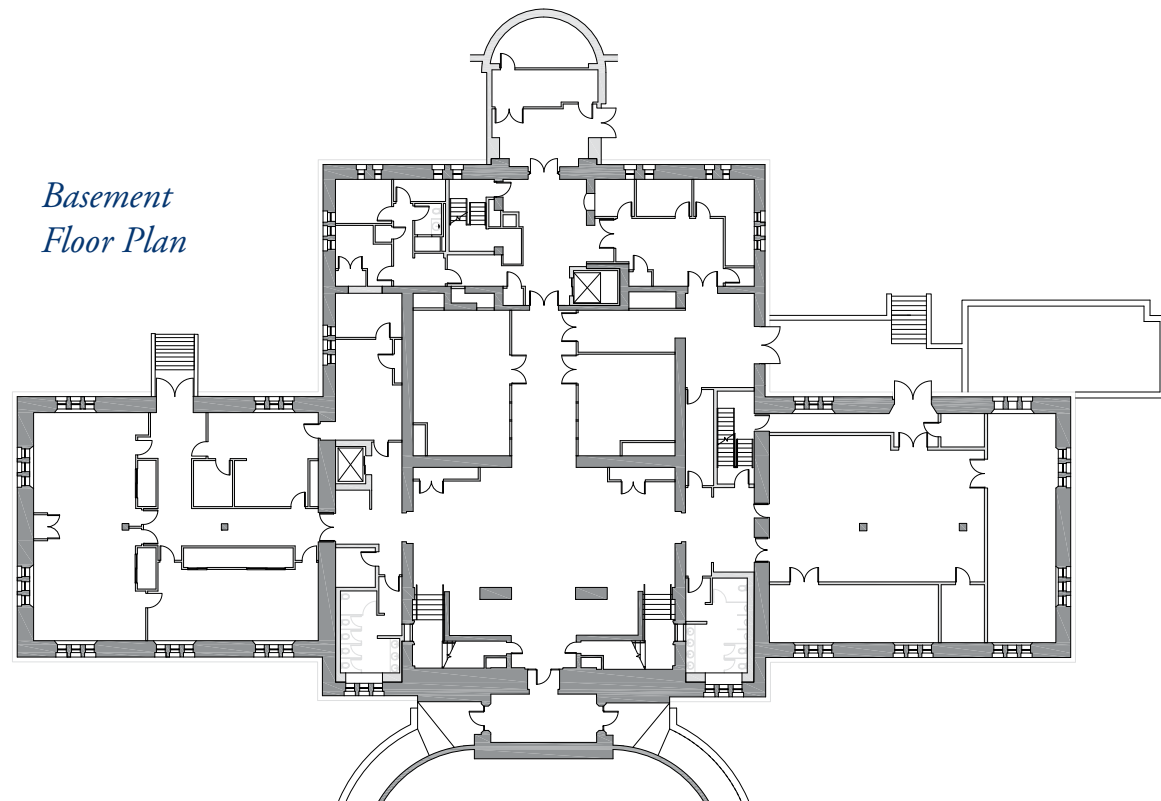
*Second Floor
Plan*



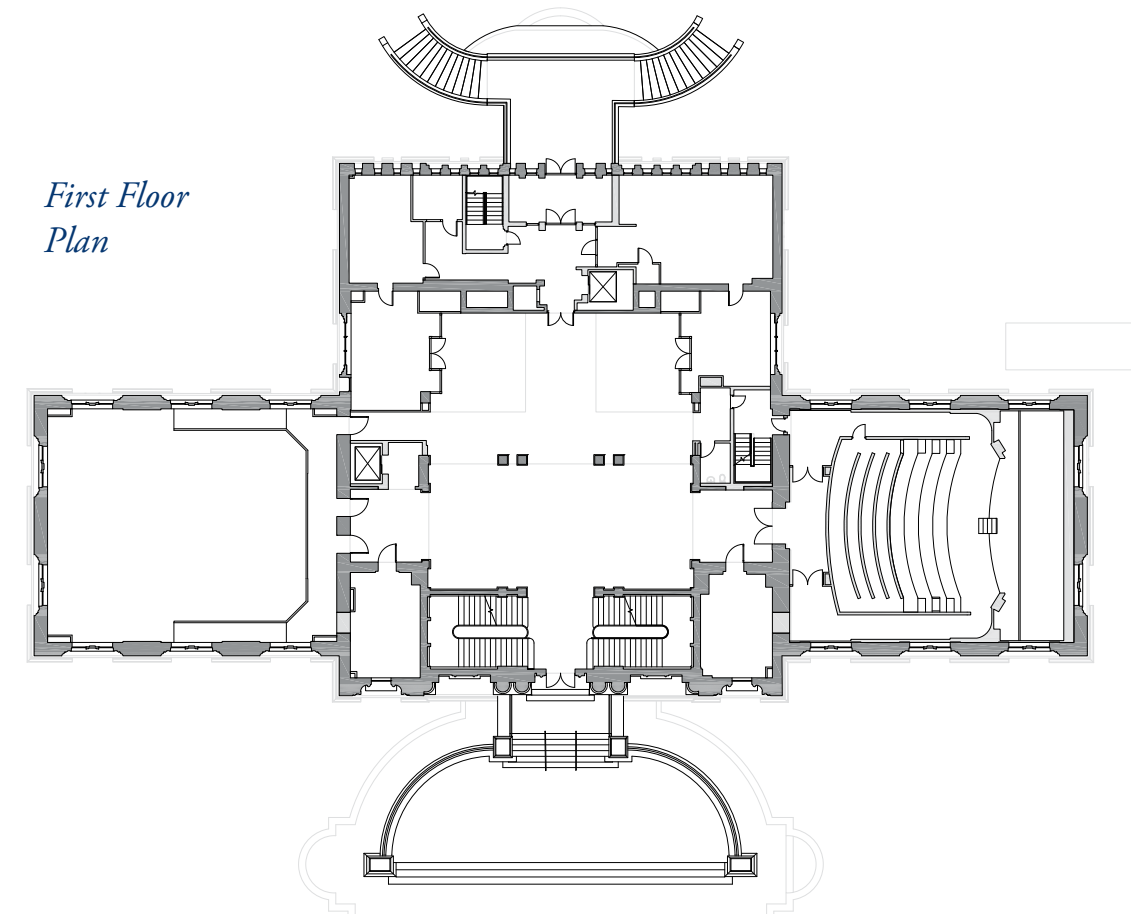
*Third Floor
Plan*



*Basement
Floor Plan*

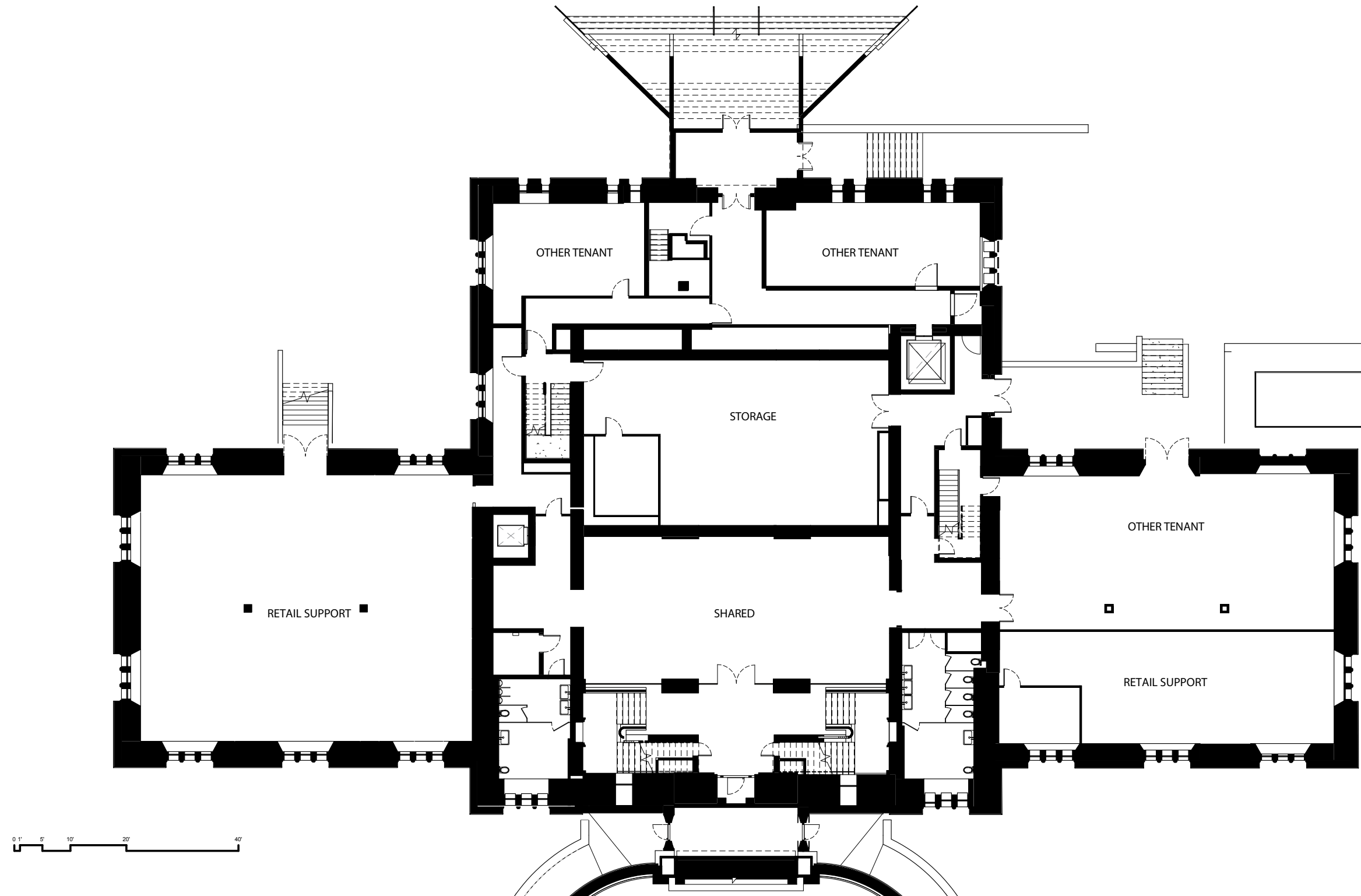


*First Floor
Plan*

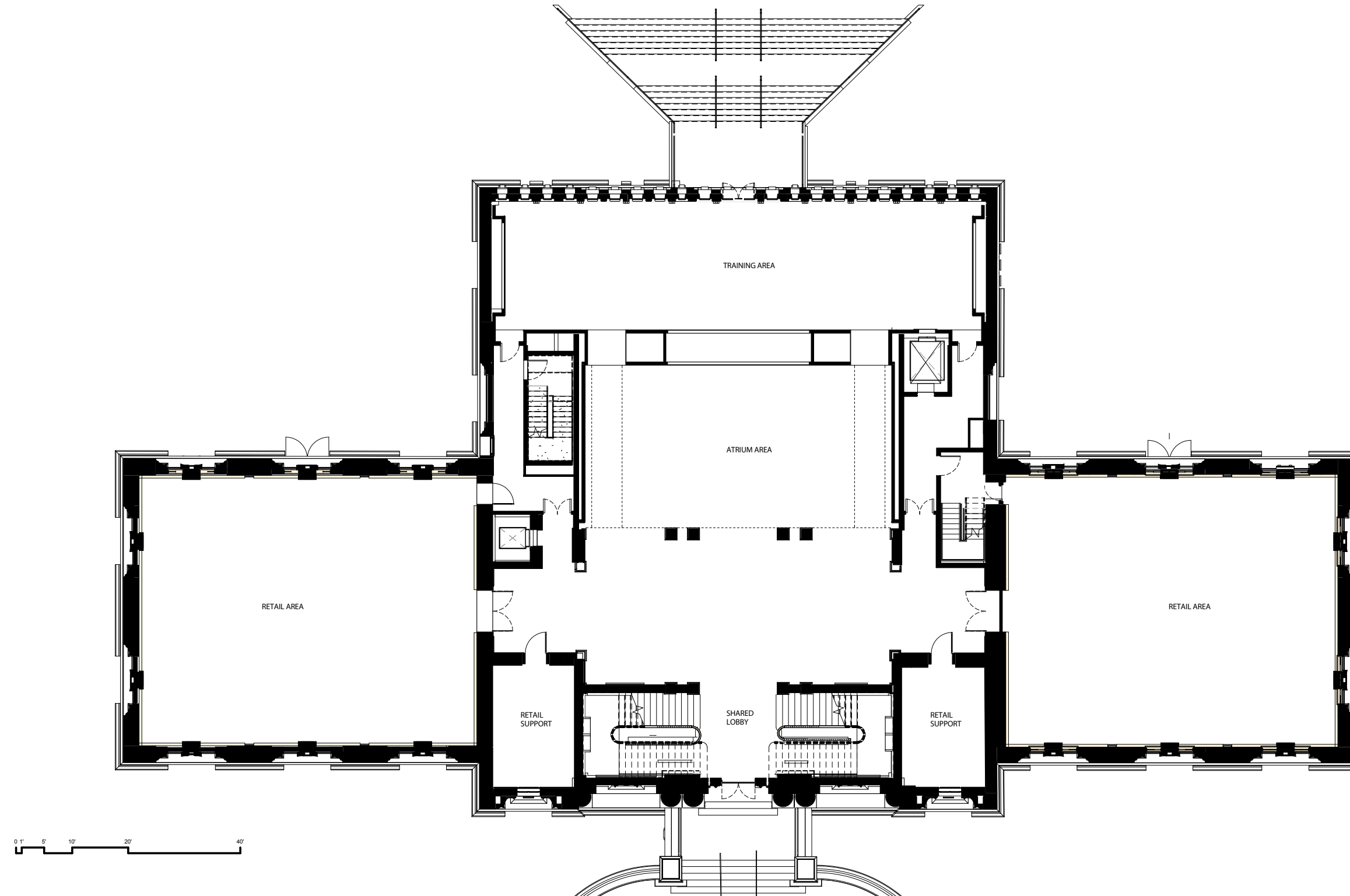


Existing Conditions Plans

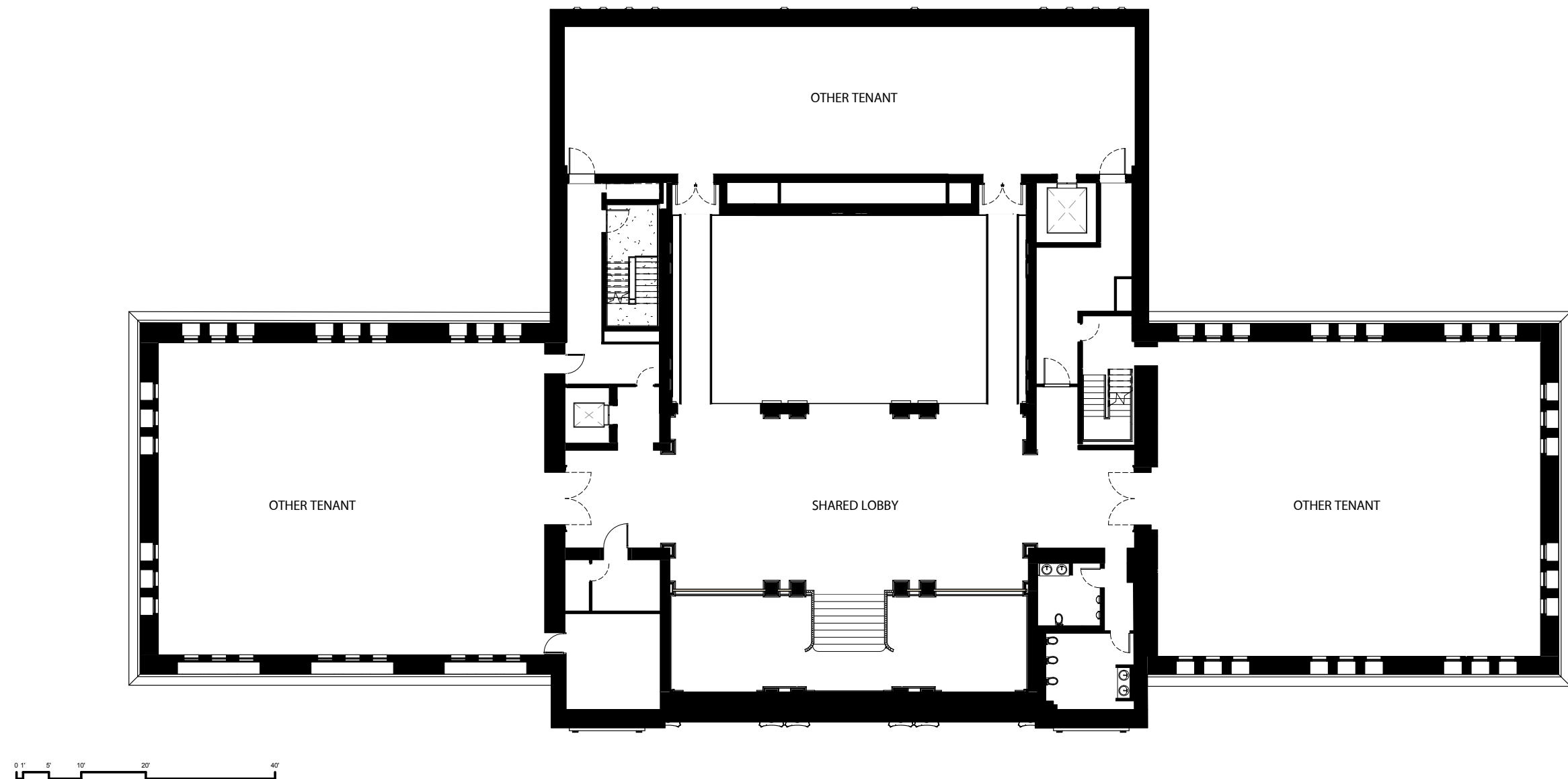




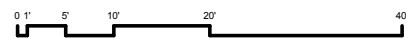
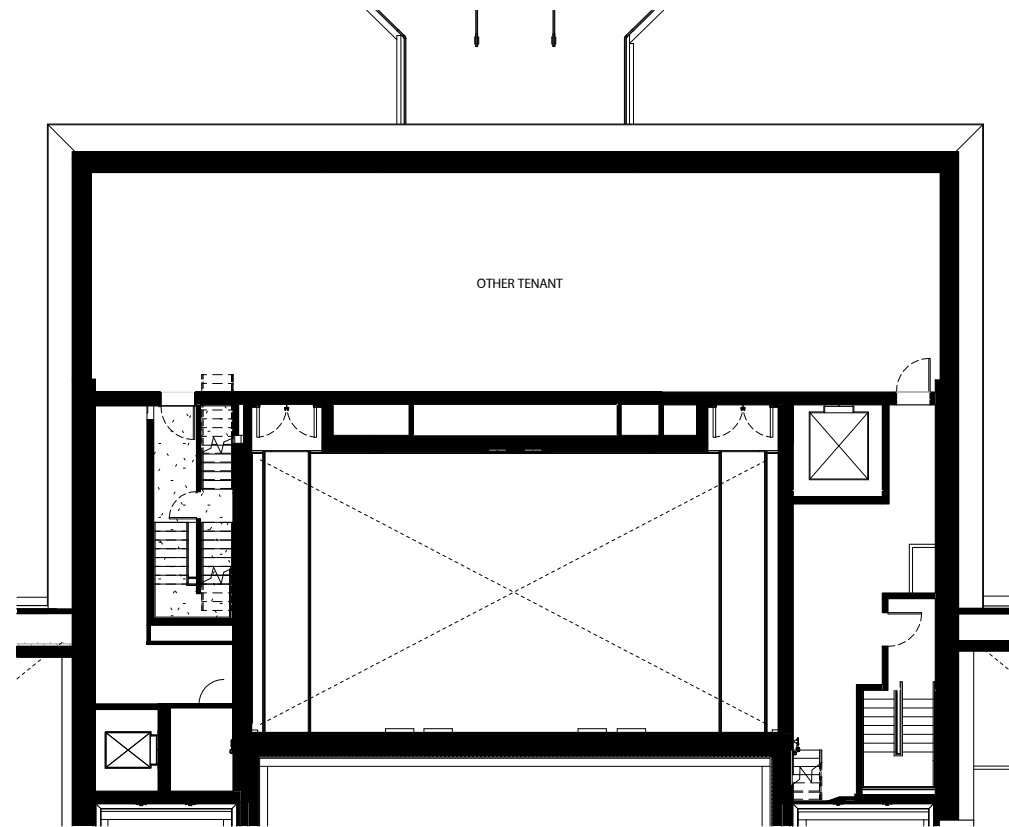
Basement Floor Plan - Proposed



First Floor Plan - Proposed

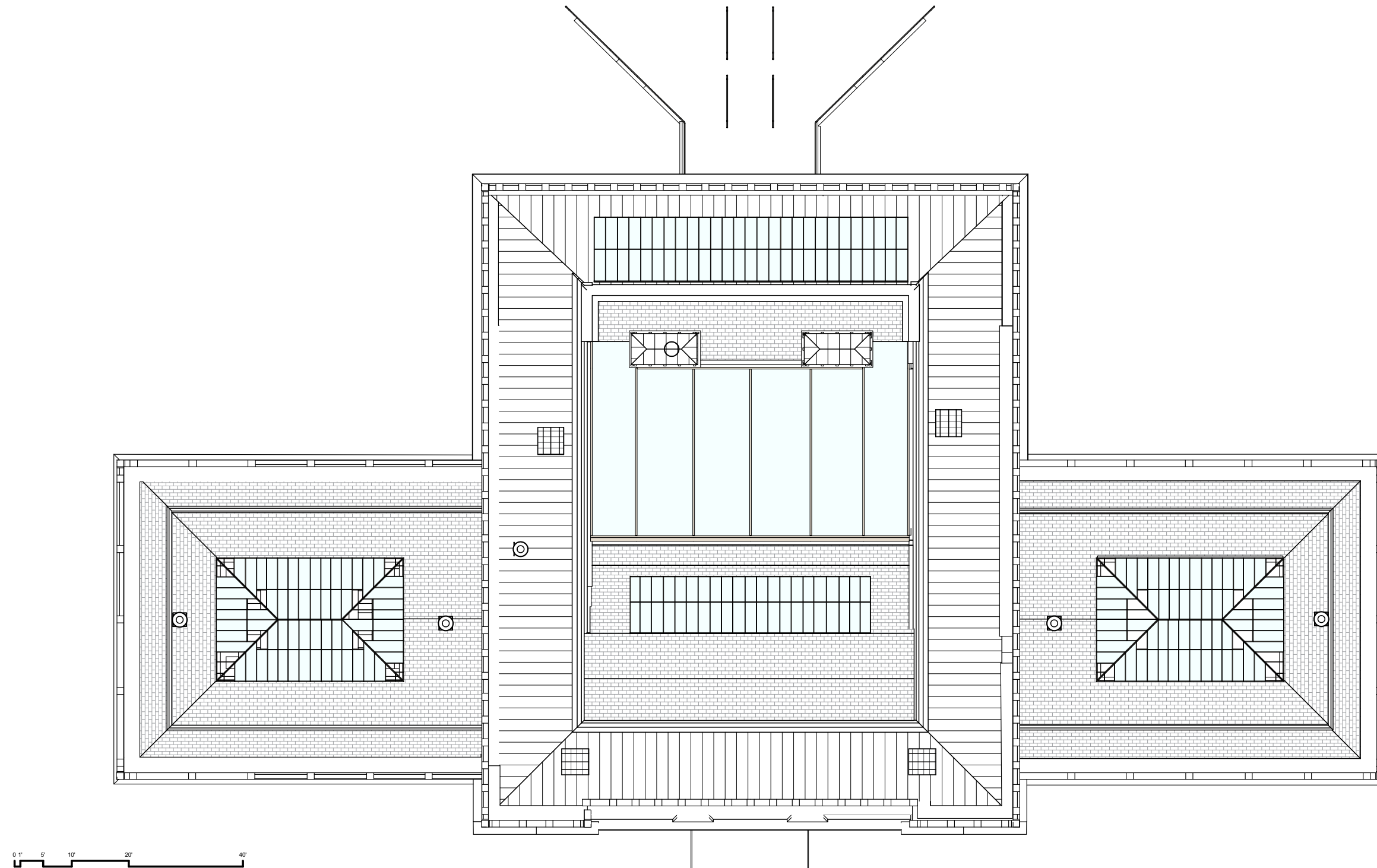


Second Floor Plan - Proposed



Third Floor Plan - Proposed





Roof Plan - Proposed

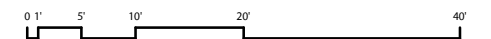


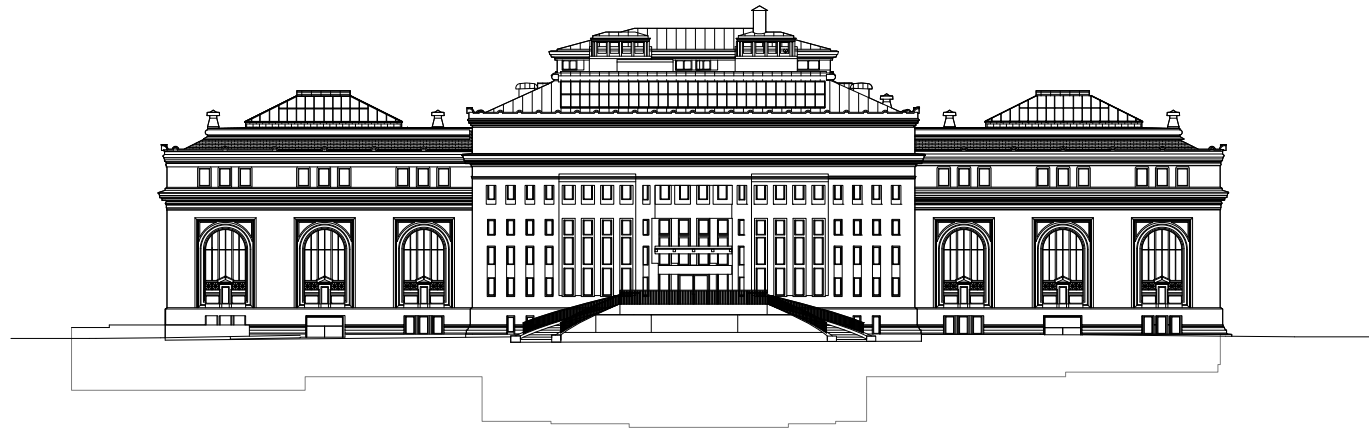


Existing South Elevation

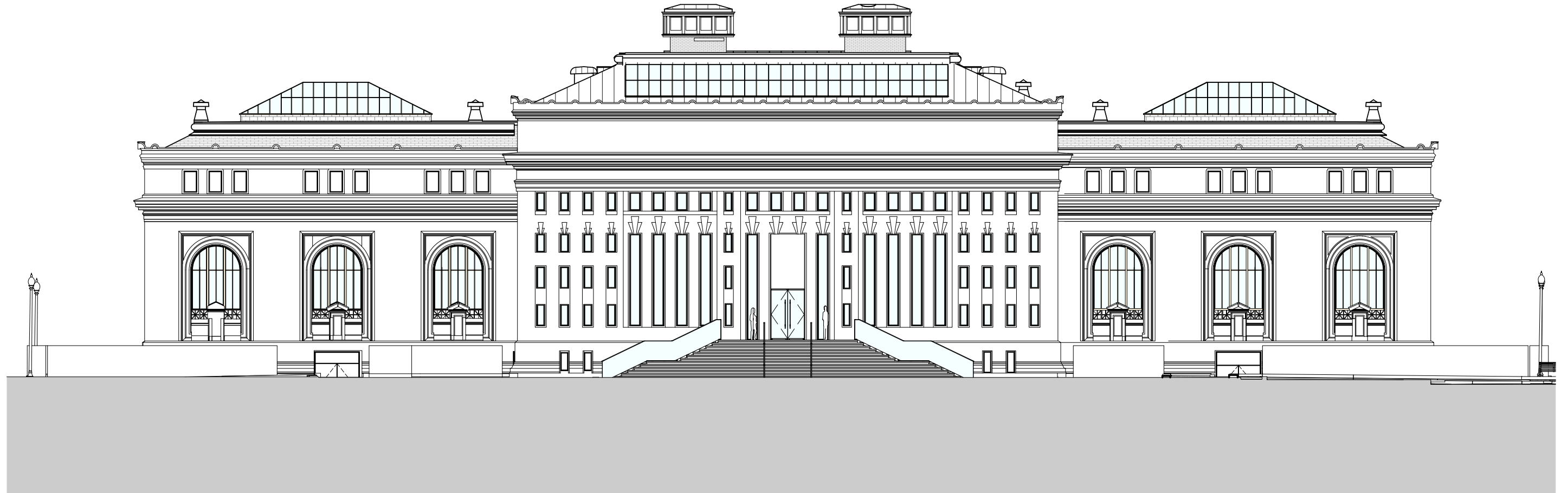


South Elevation - Proposed

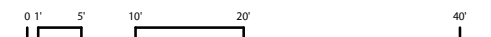


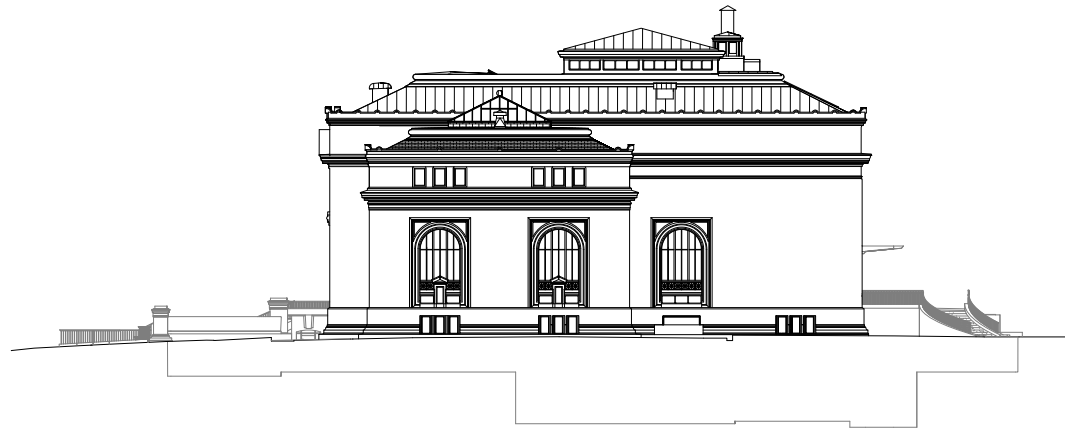


Existing North Elevation



North Elevation - Proposed

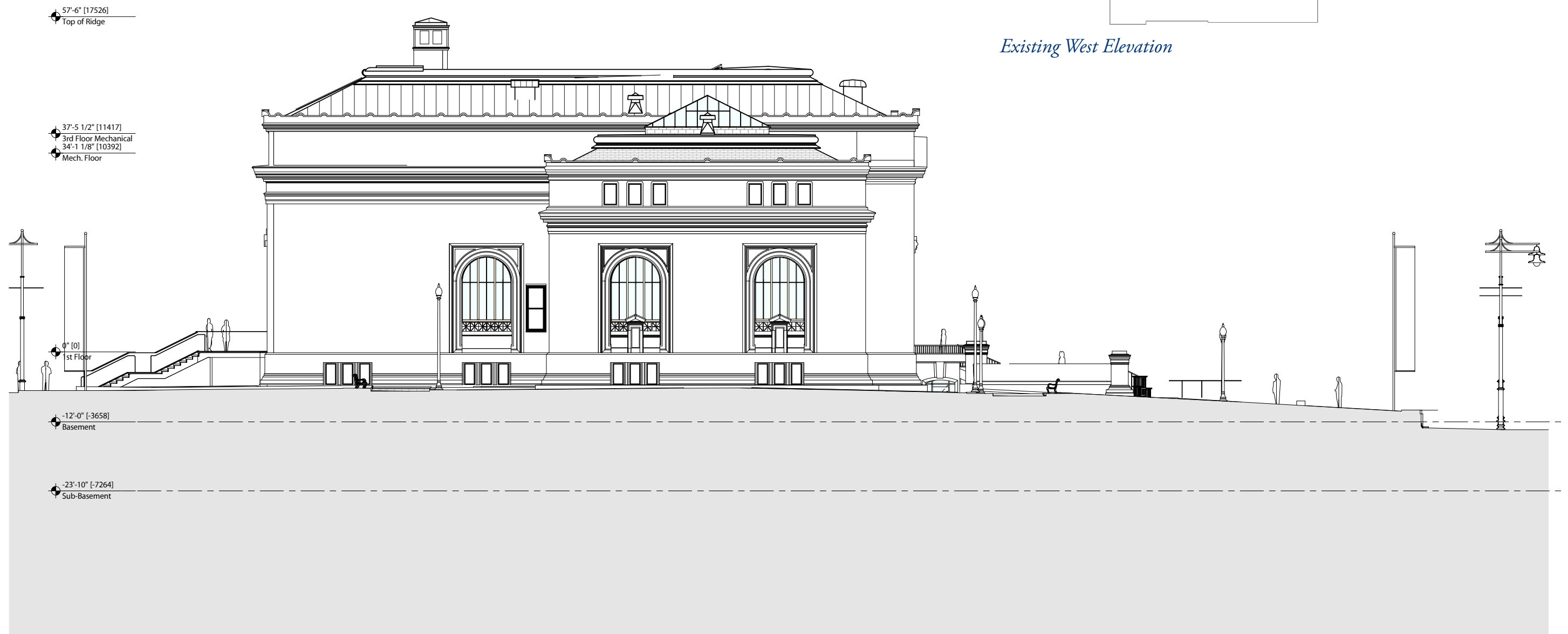




Existing East Elevation



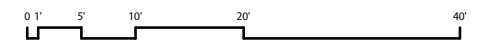
East Elevation - Proposed



West Elevation - Proposed



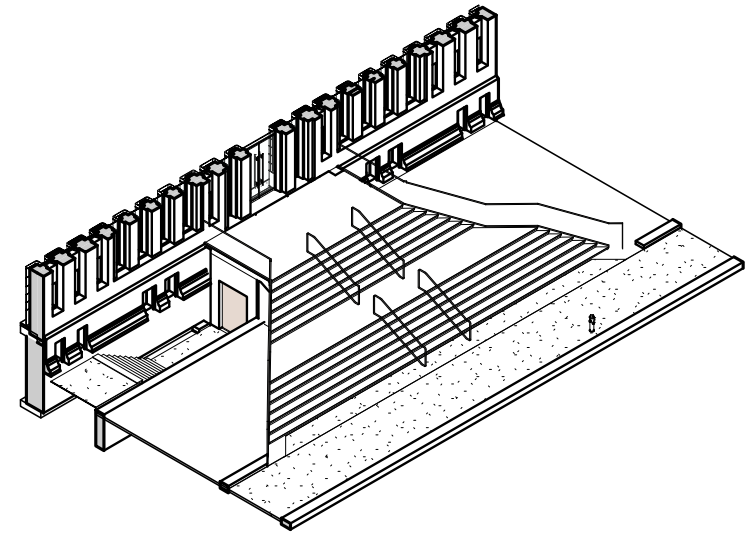
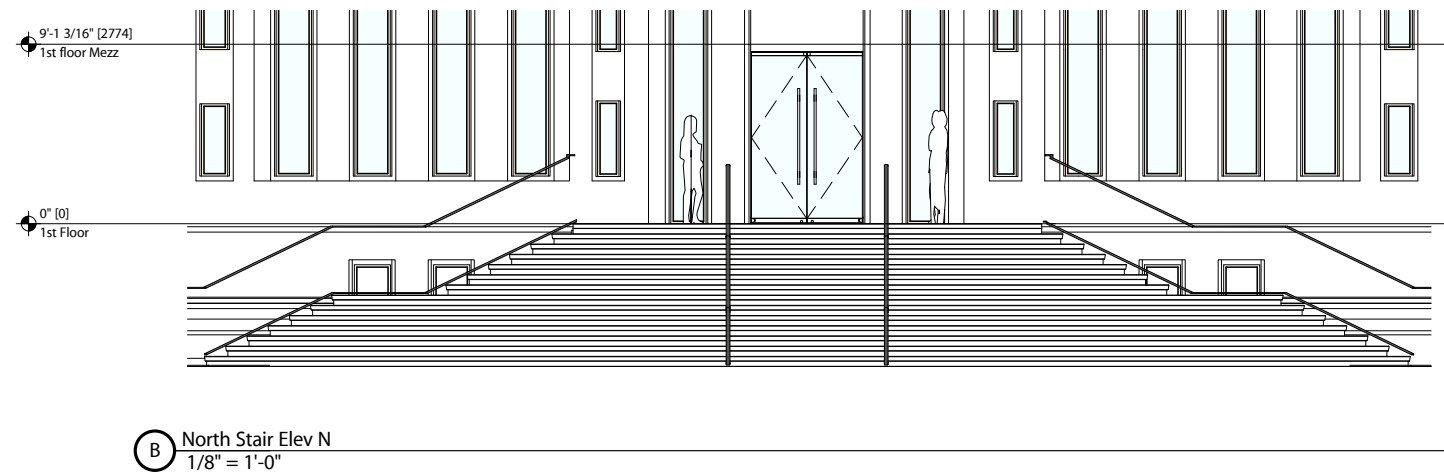
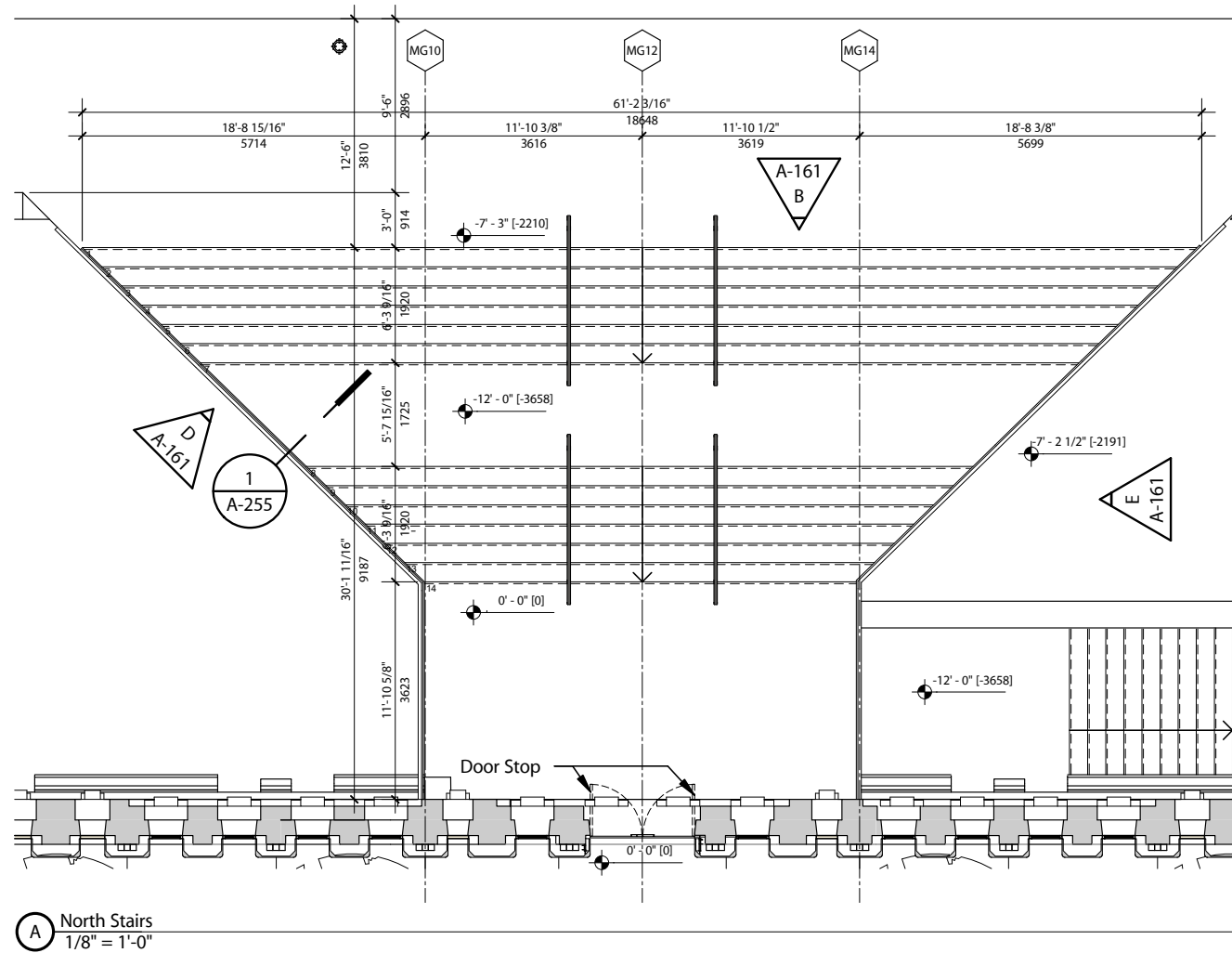
Transverse Section (Facing West) - Proposed



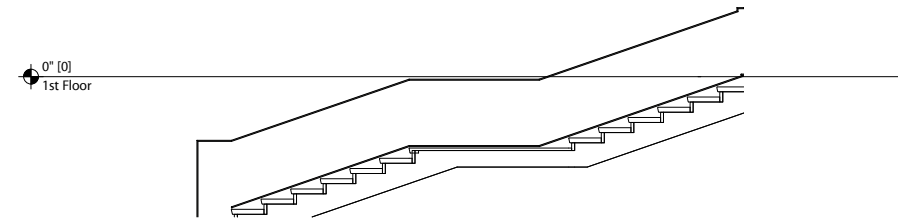


Longitudinal Section (Facing North) - Proposed

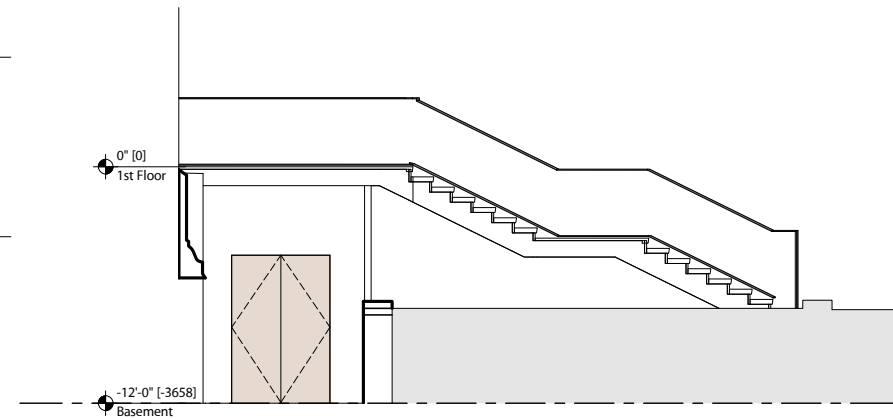
0 1' 5' 10' 20' 40'



C North Stair ISO



D North Stair Elevation 03
1/8" = 1'-0"



E North Stair Elevation 01
1/8" = 1'-0"

North Stairs

North Stair Details - Proposed



South Elevation



North Elevation

Elevation Renderings - Proposed