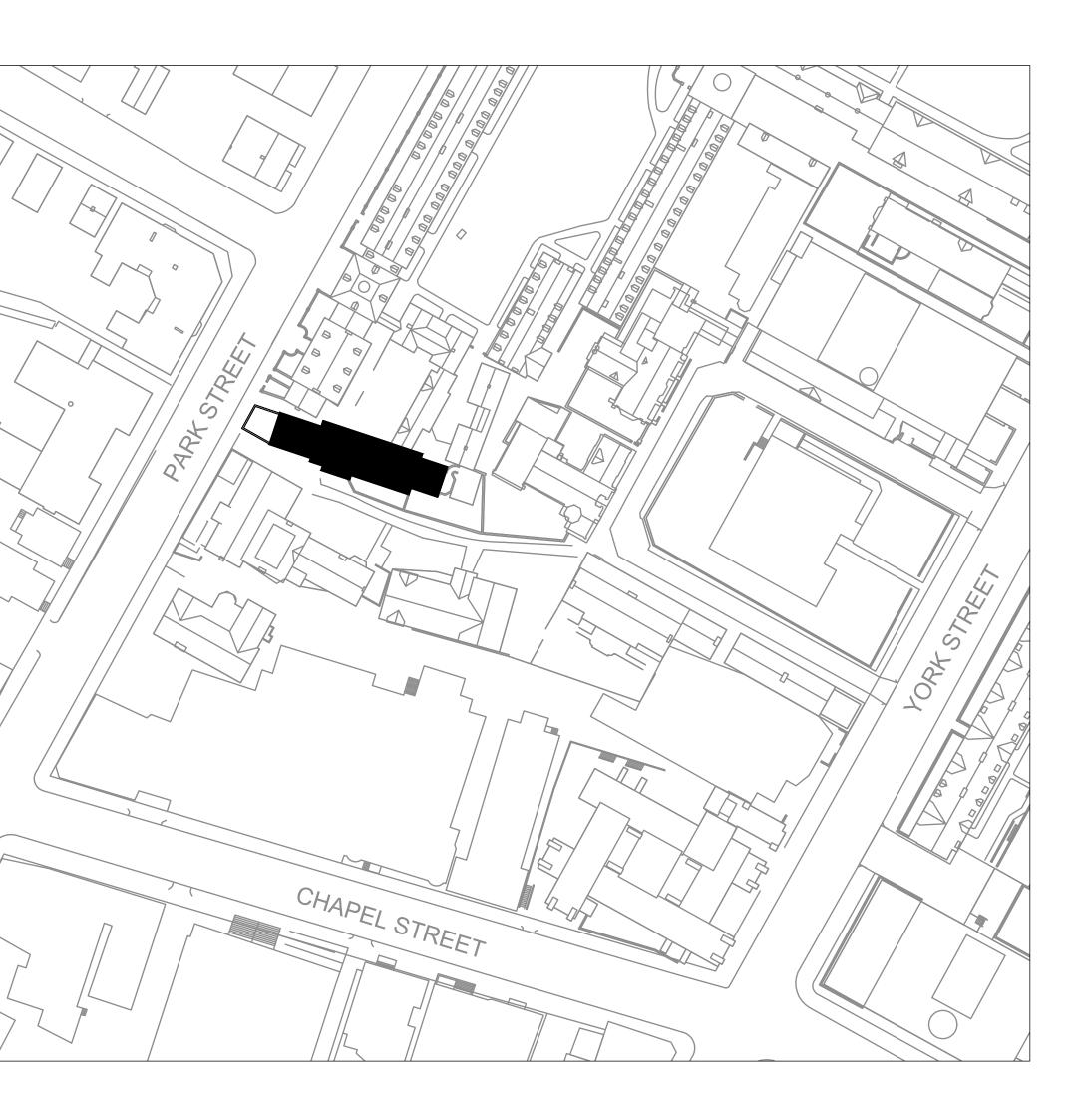
# ASTC - USITT BUILDING RENOVATION CHALLENGE YALE UNIVERSITY, 2023

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# YALE CABARET

# 217 PARK STREET NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511



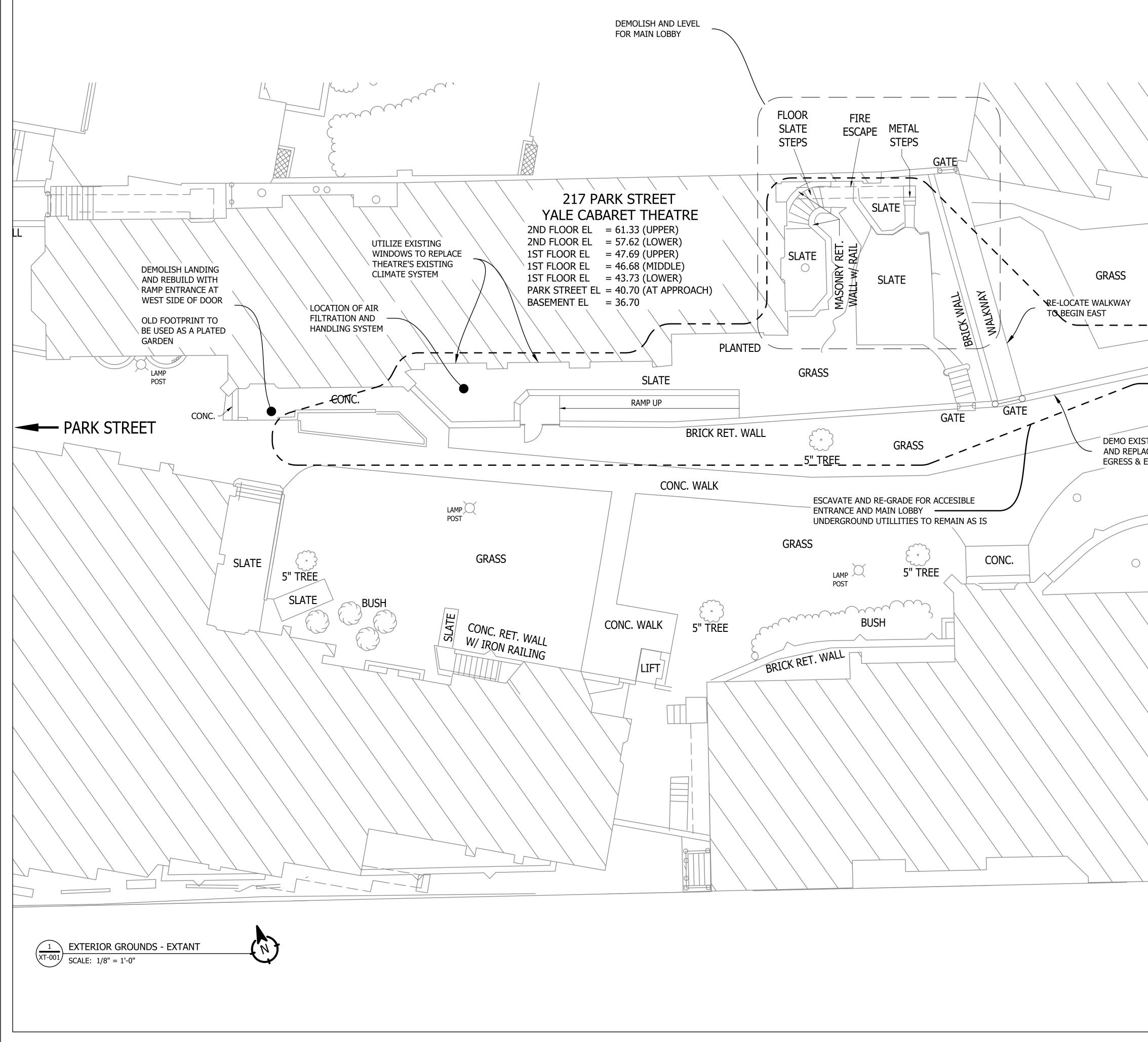


217 PARK STREET WAS ERECTED IN 1931, AS A HOME FOR THE PHI GAMMA DELTA FRATERNITY.

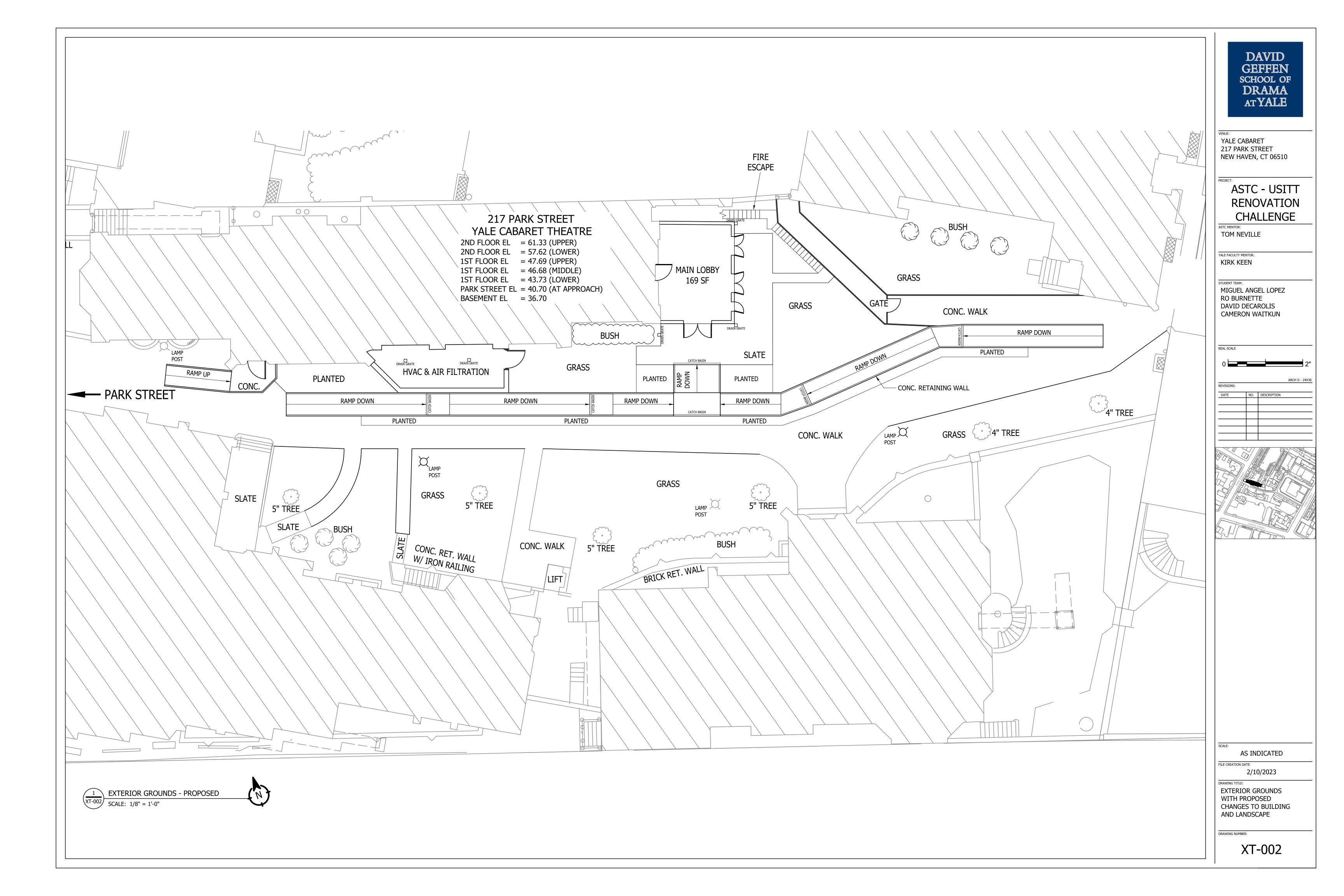


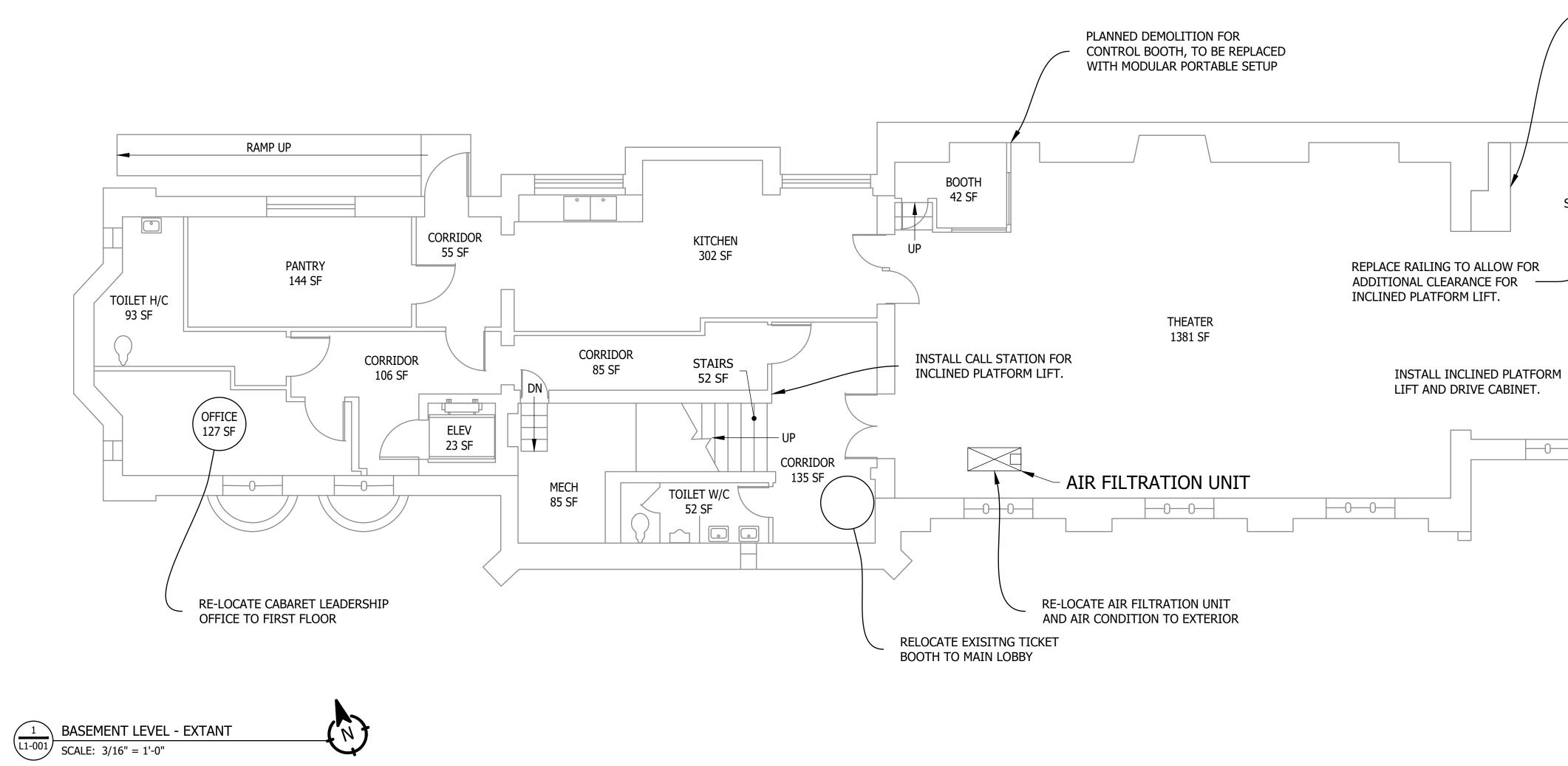
IN 1968 THE YALE SCHOOL OF DRAMA AQUIRED THE BUILDING, AND OPENED THE DOORS OF THE YALE CABARET ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1986.

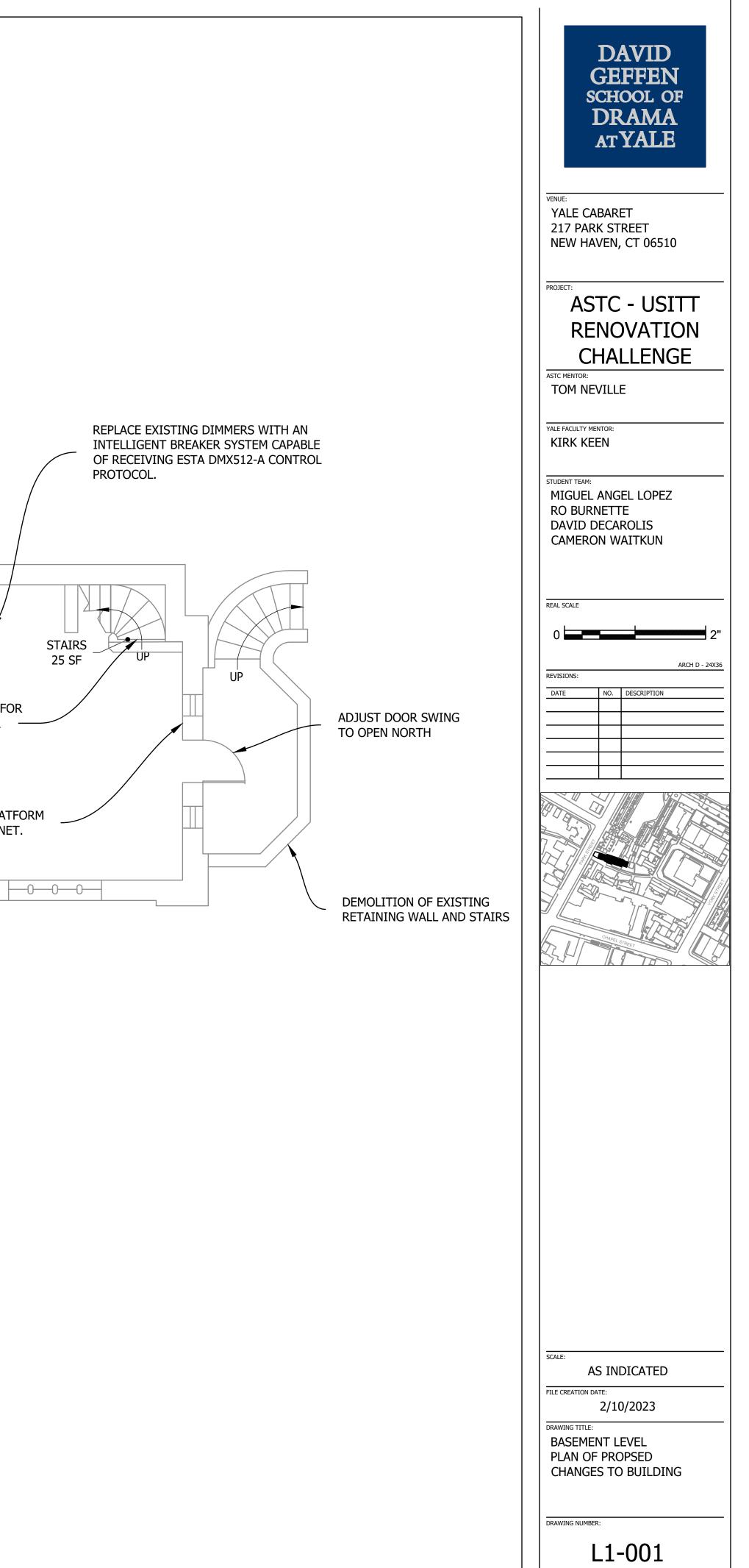
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VENUE: YALE CABARET 217 PARK STREET NEW HAVEN, CT 06510				
PROJECT: ASTC - USITT RENOVATION CHALLENGE ASTC MENTOR: TOM NEVILLE				
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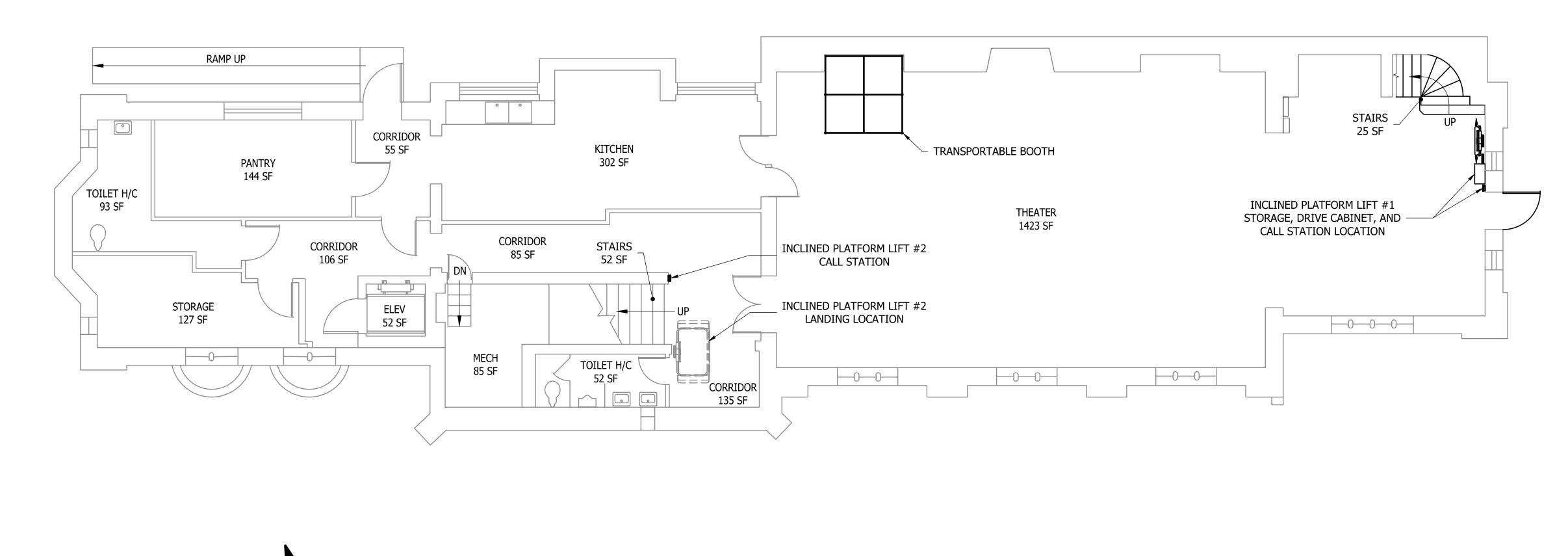


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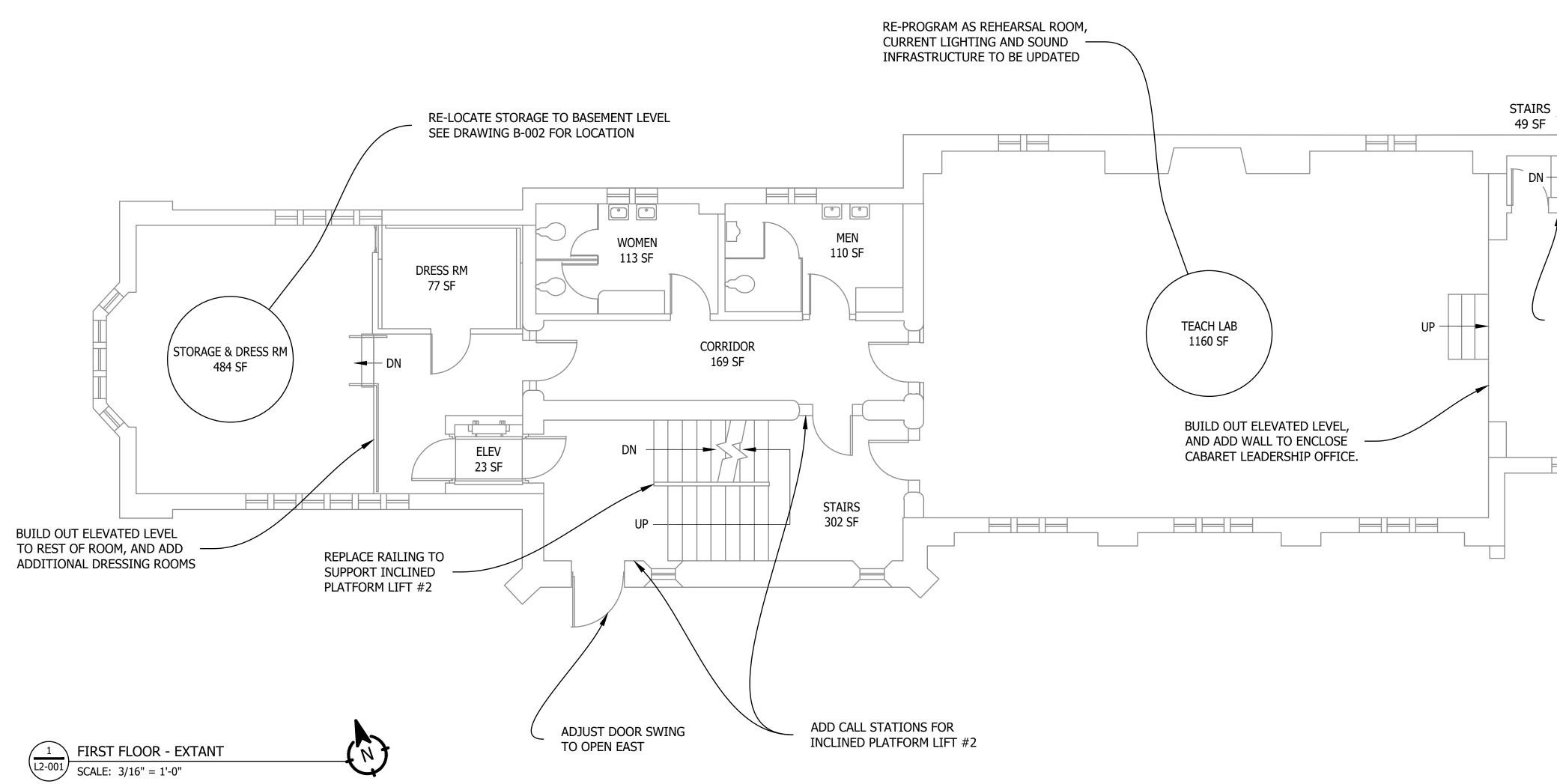


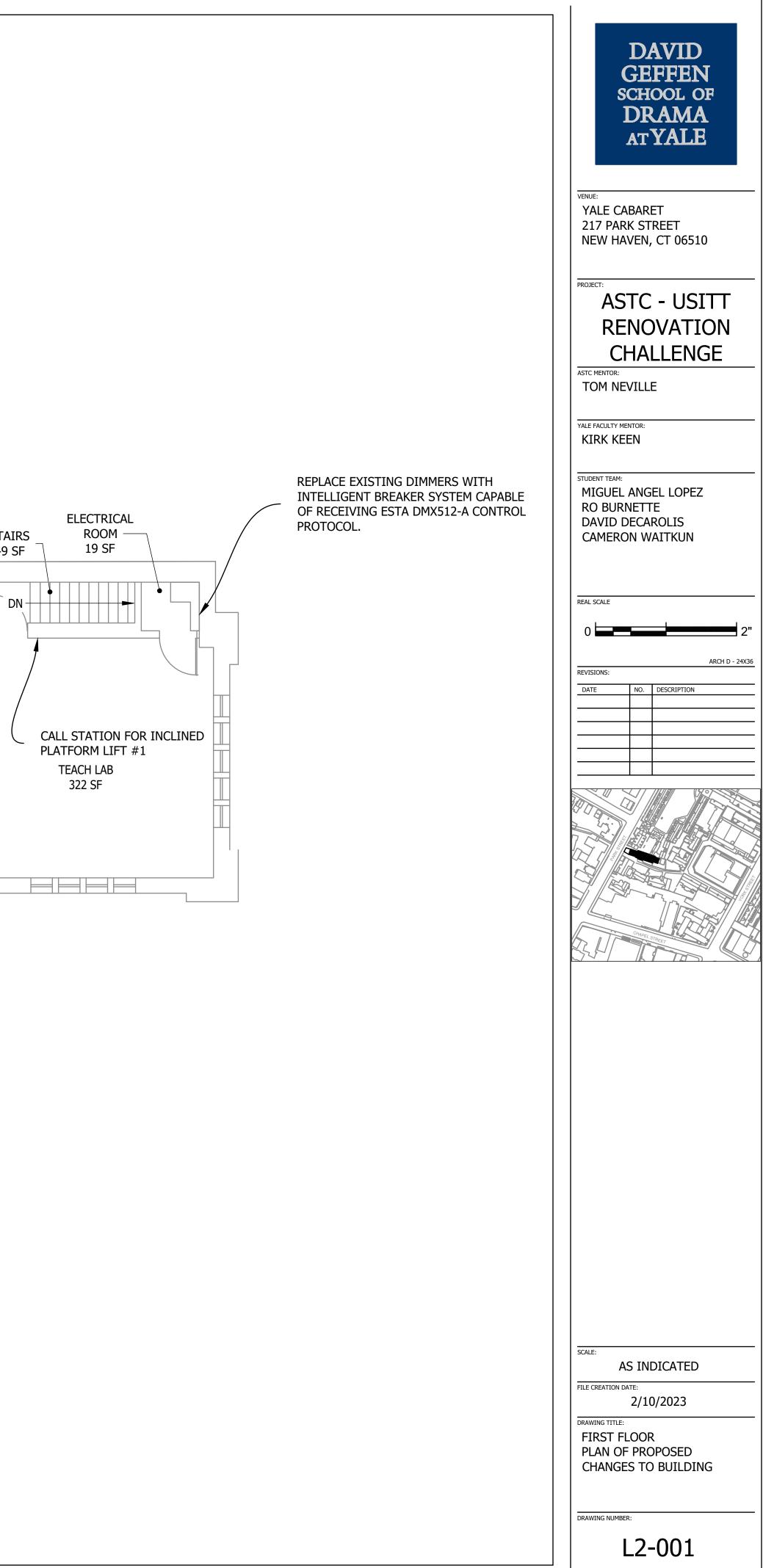


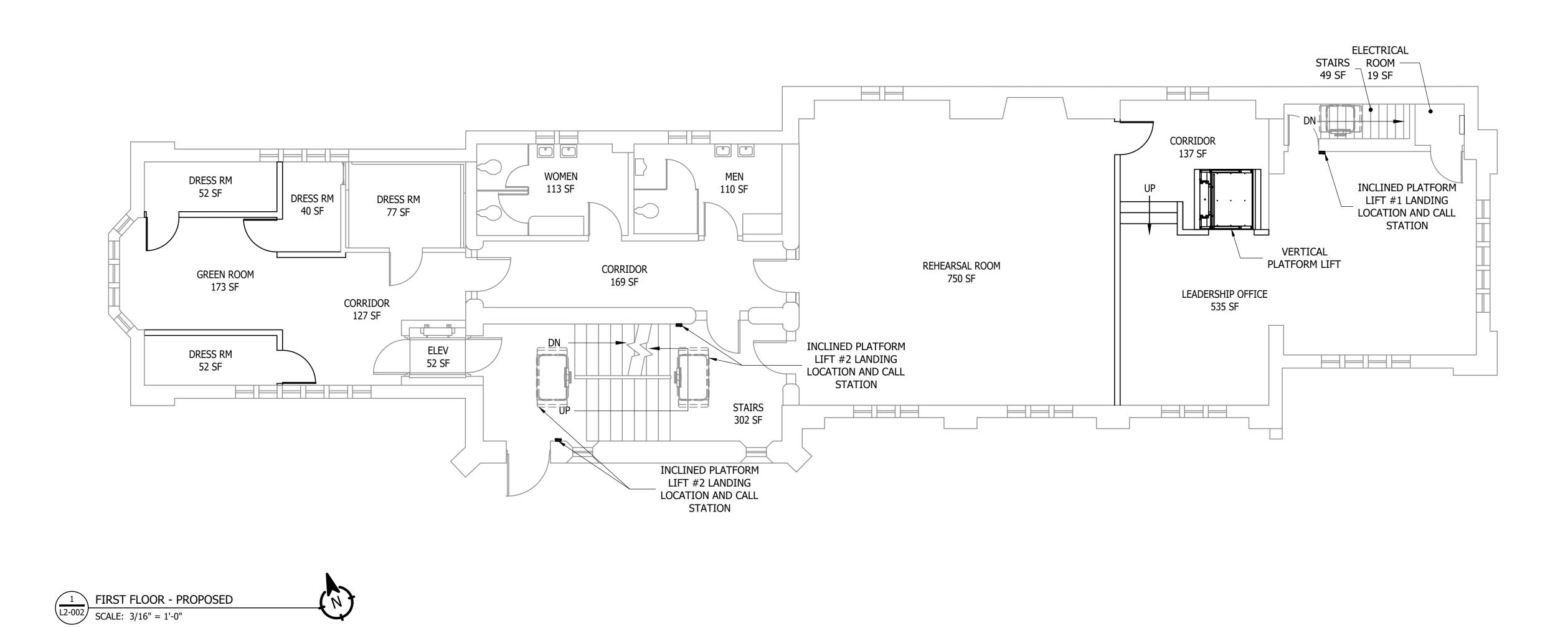




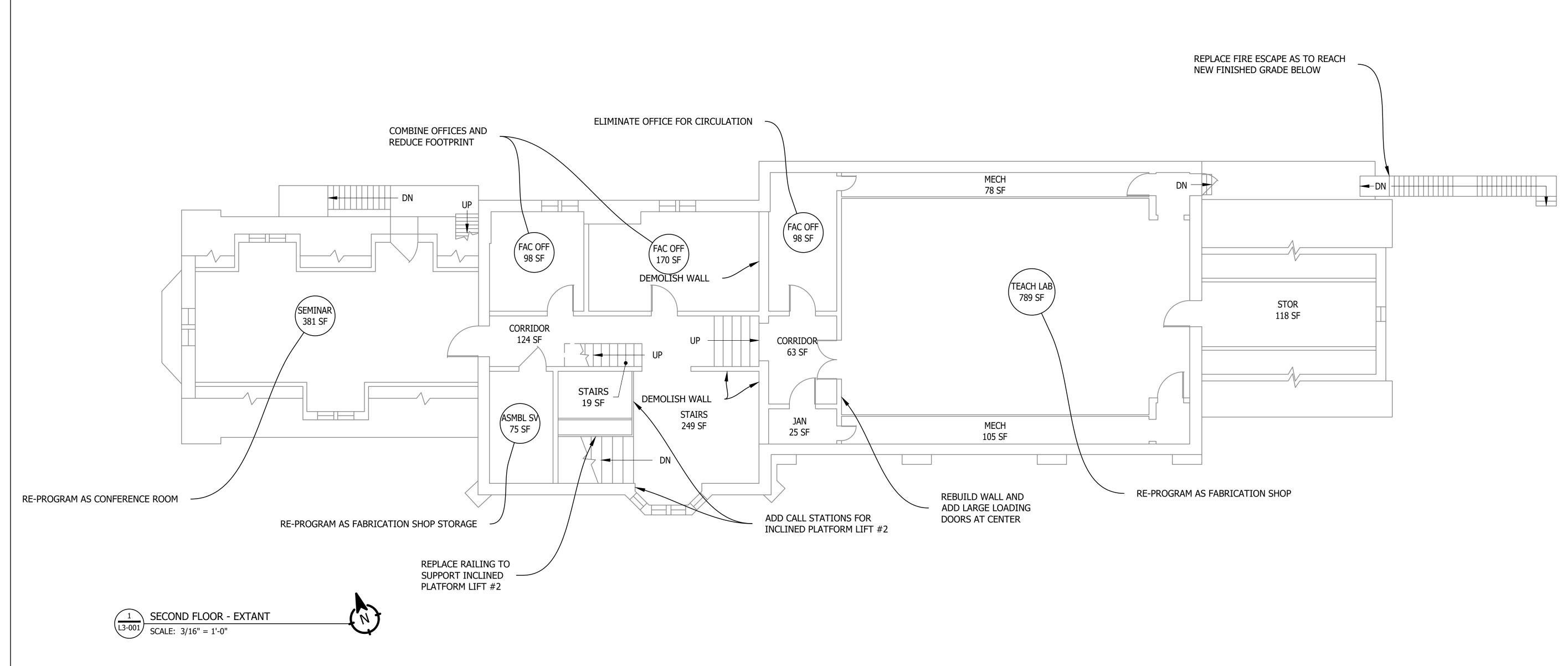
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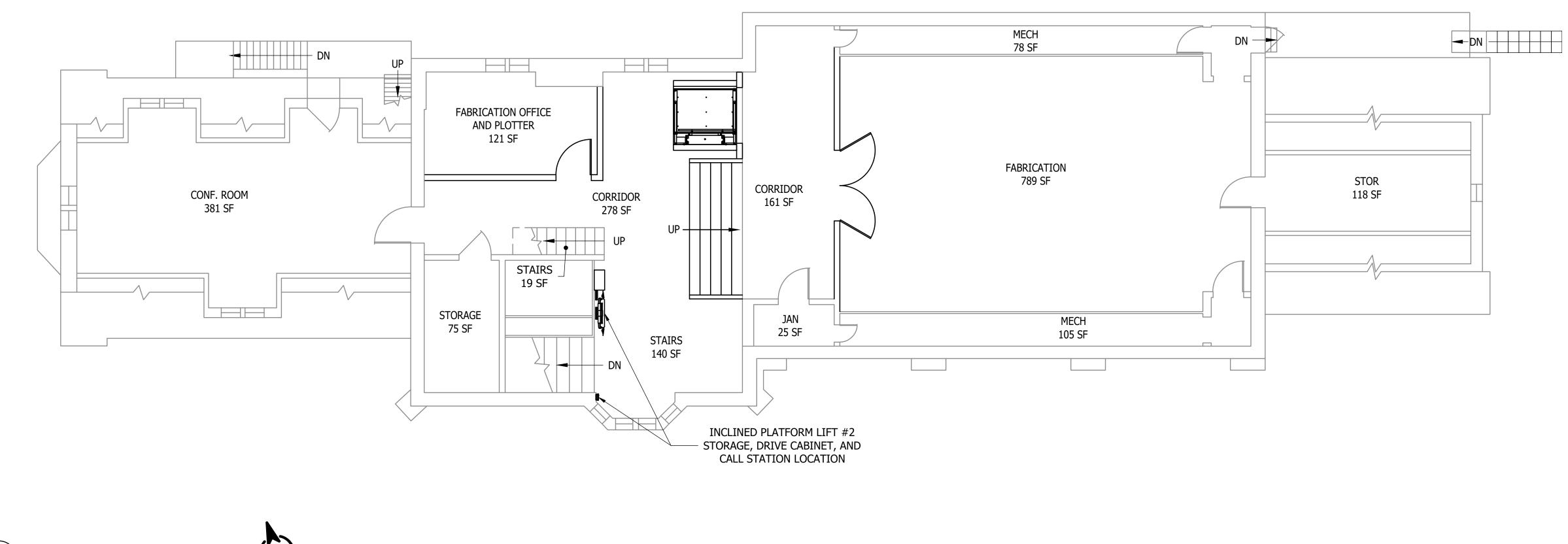


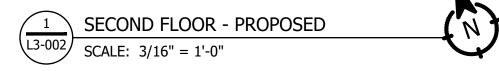
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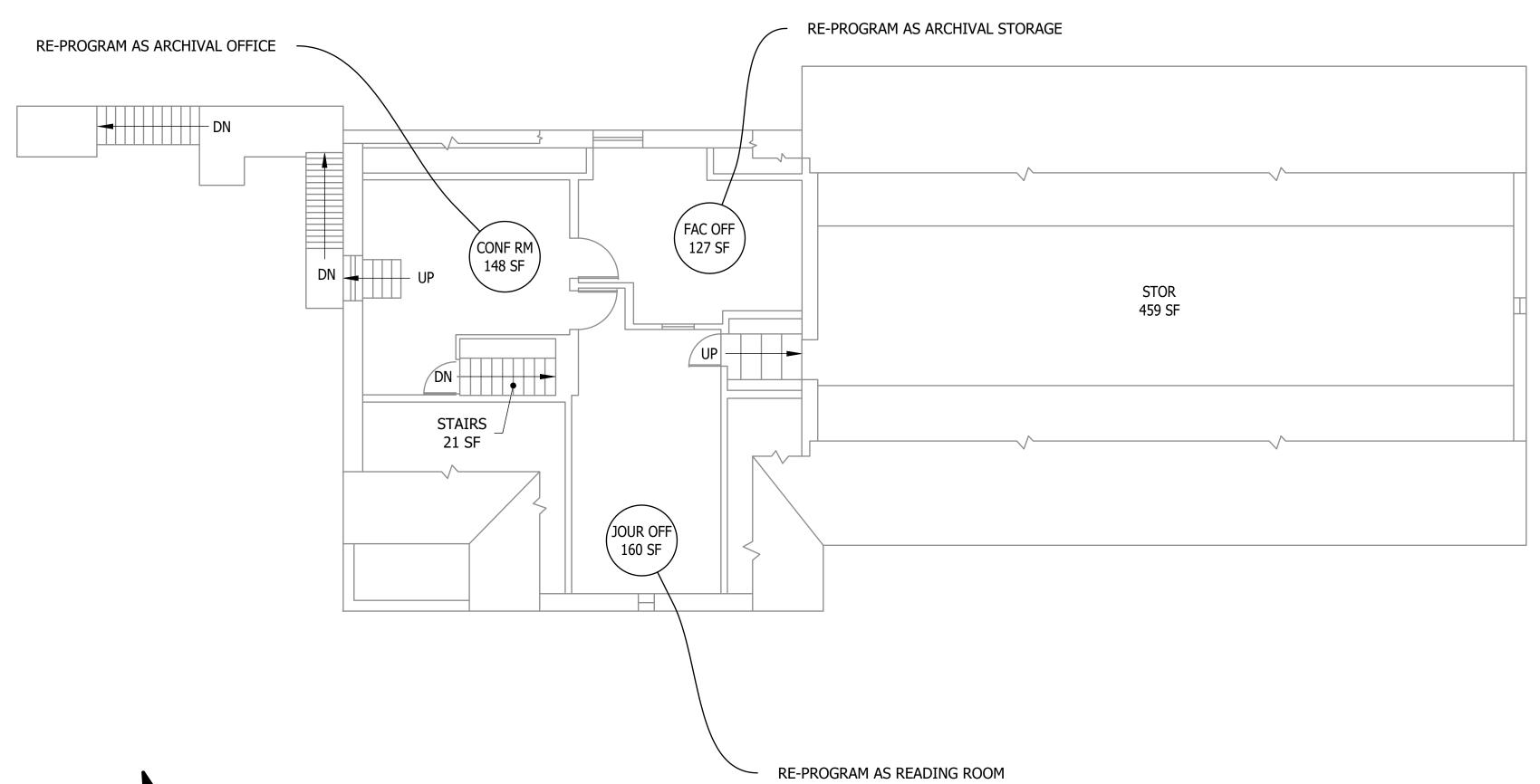


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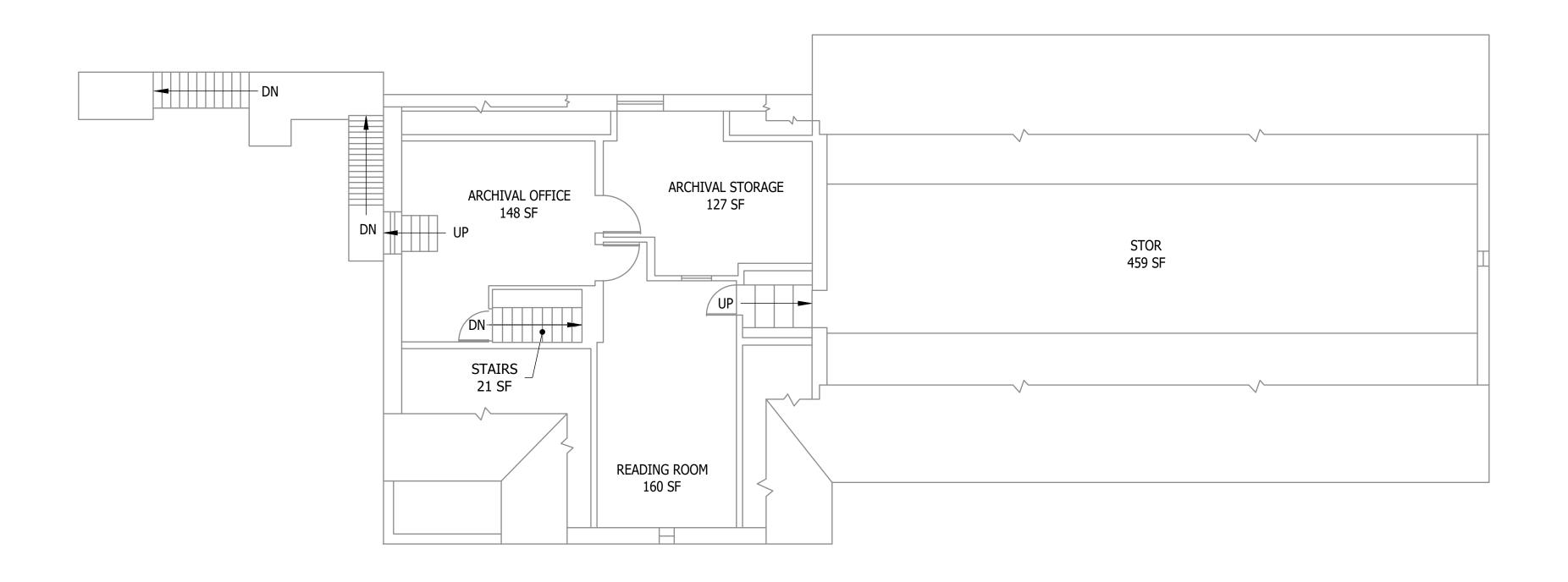


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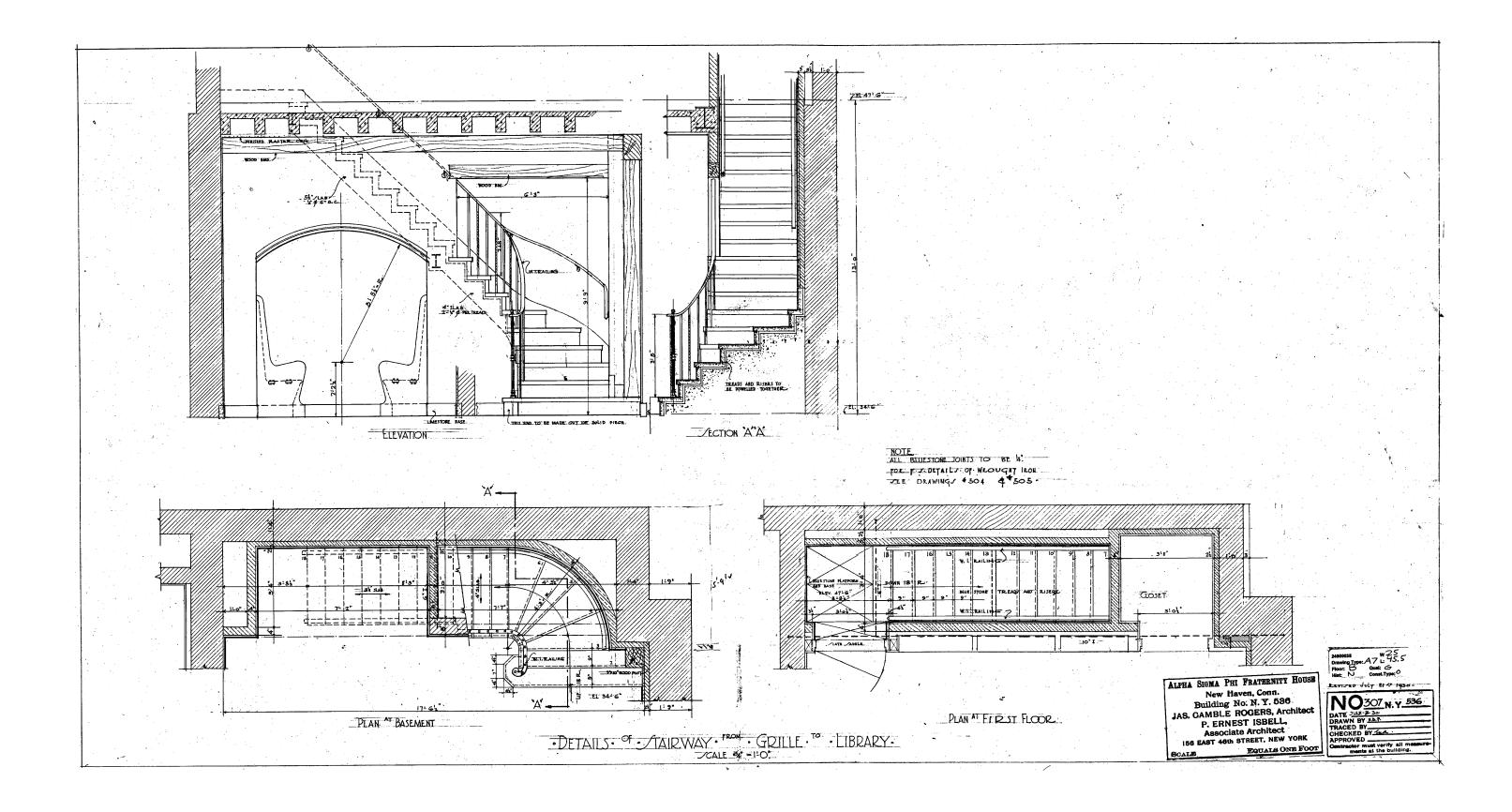


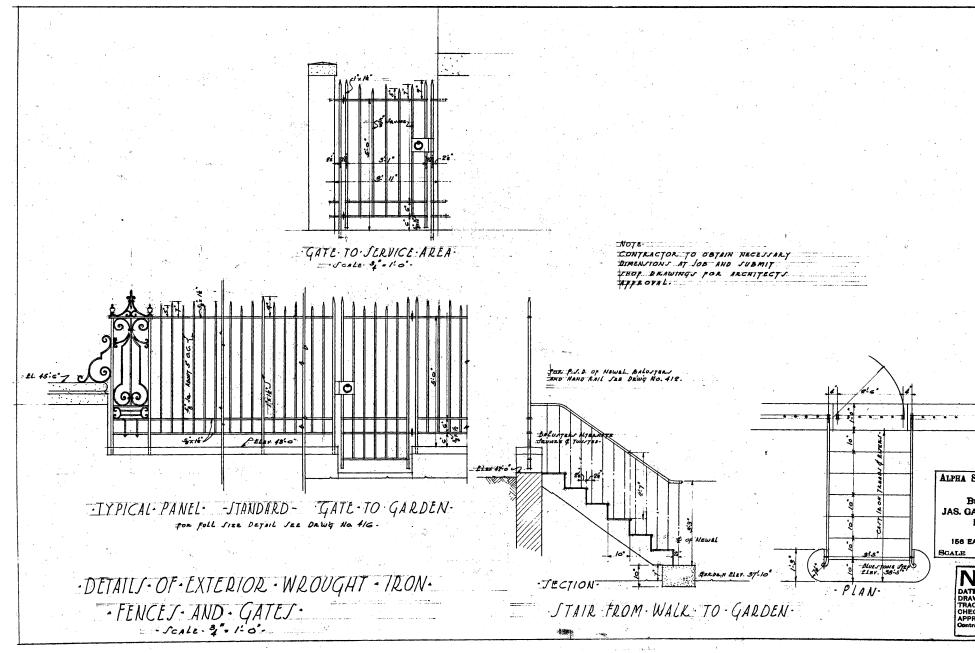
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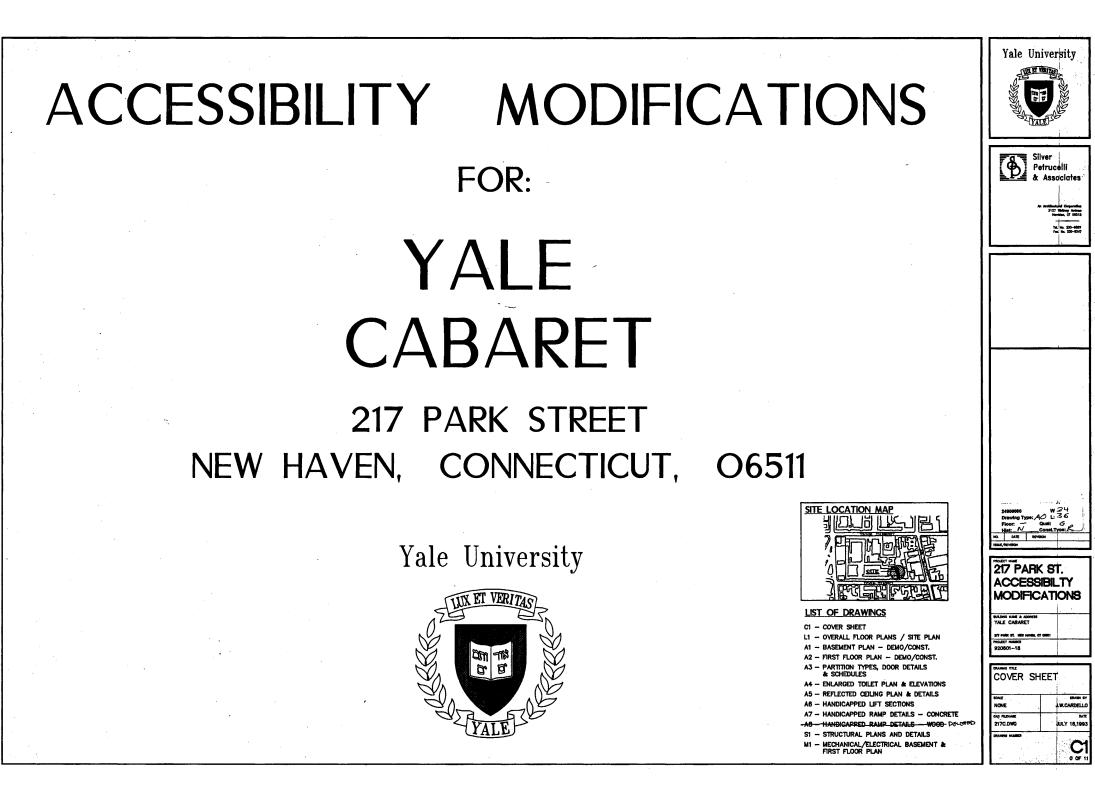


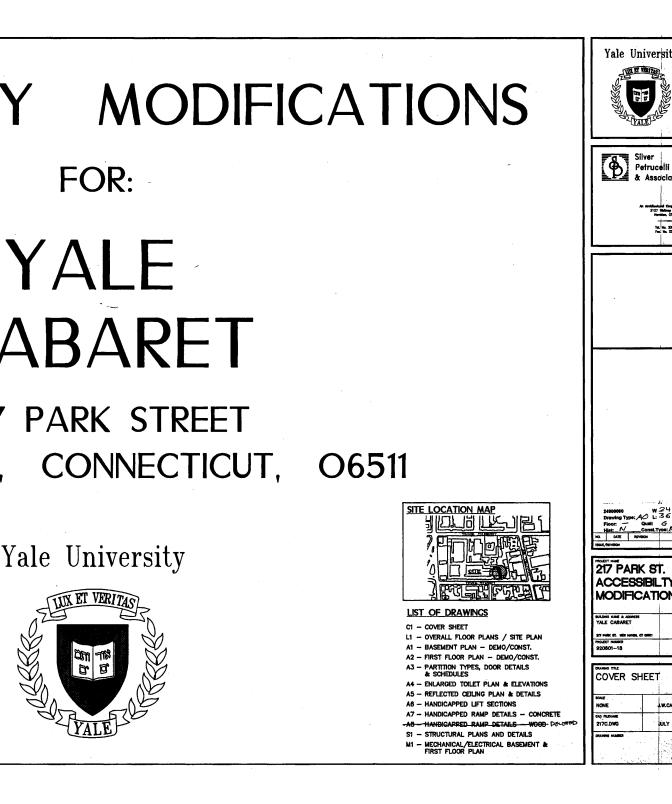


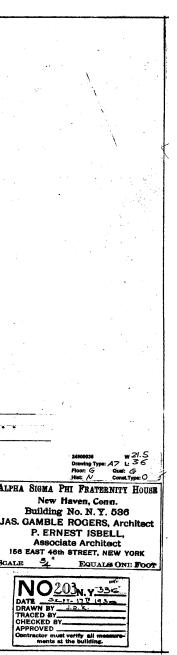
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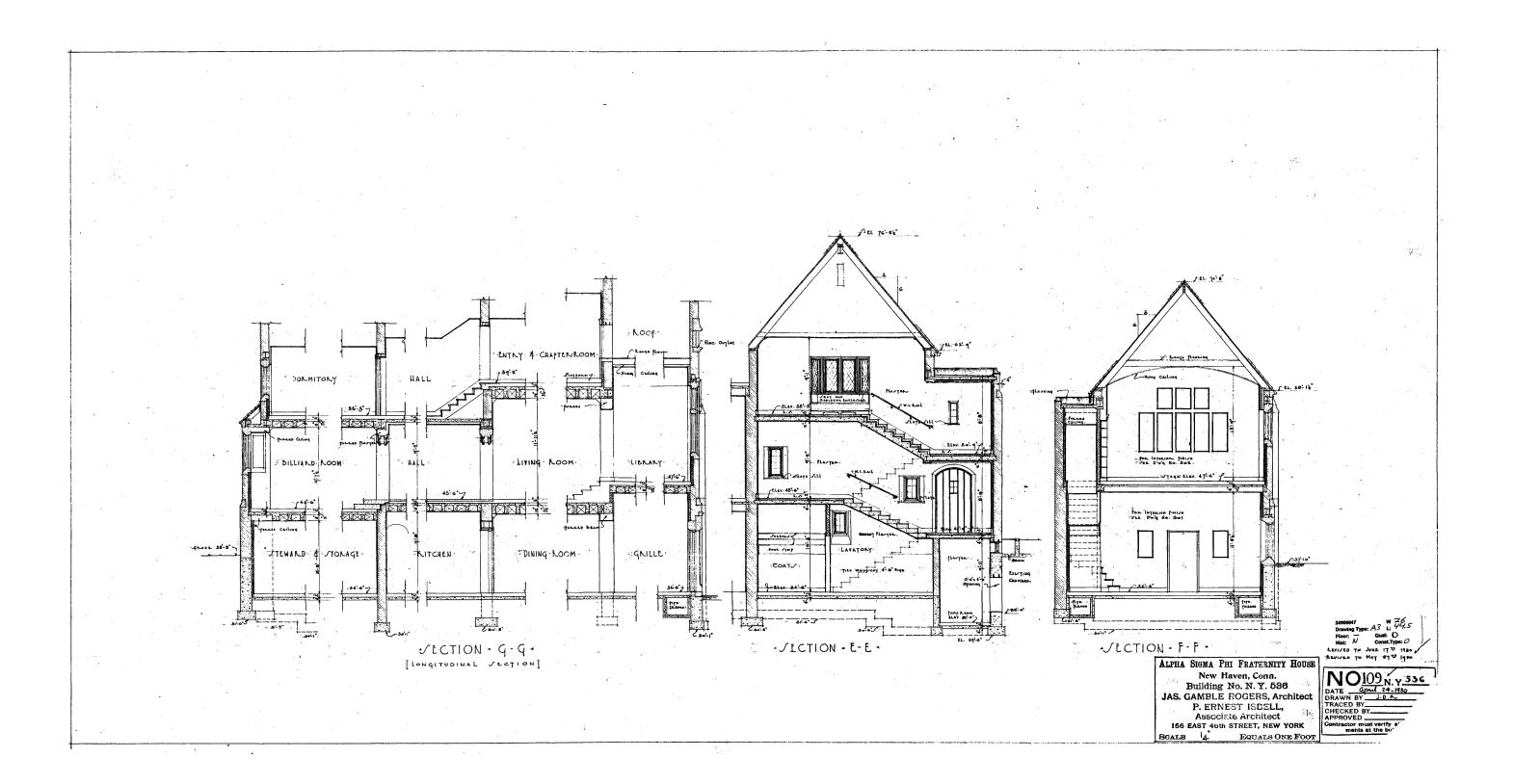


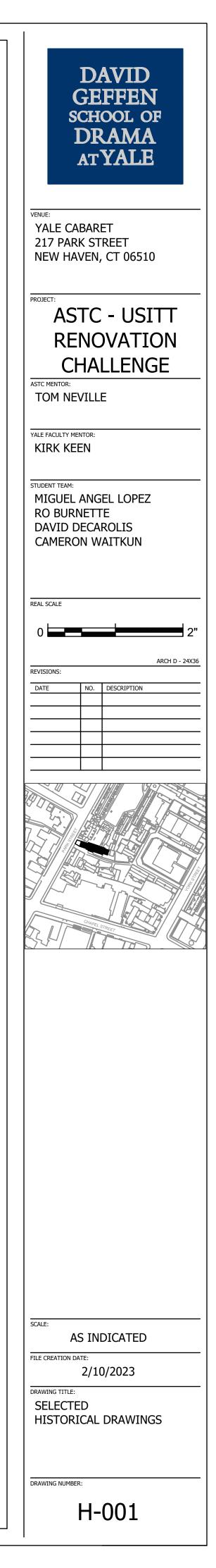


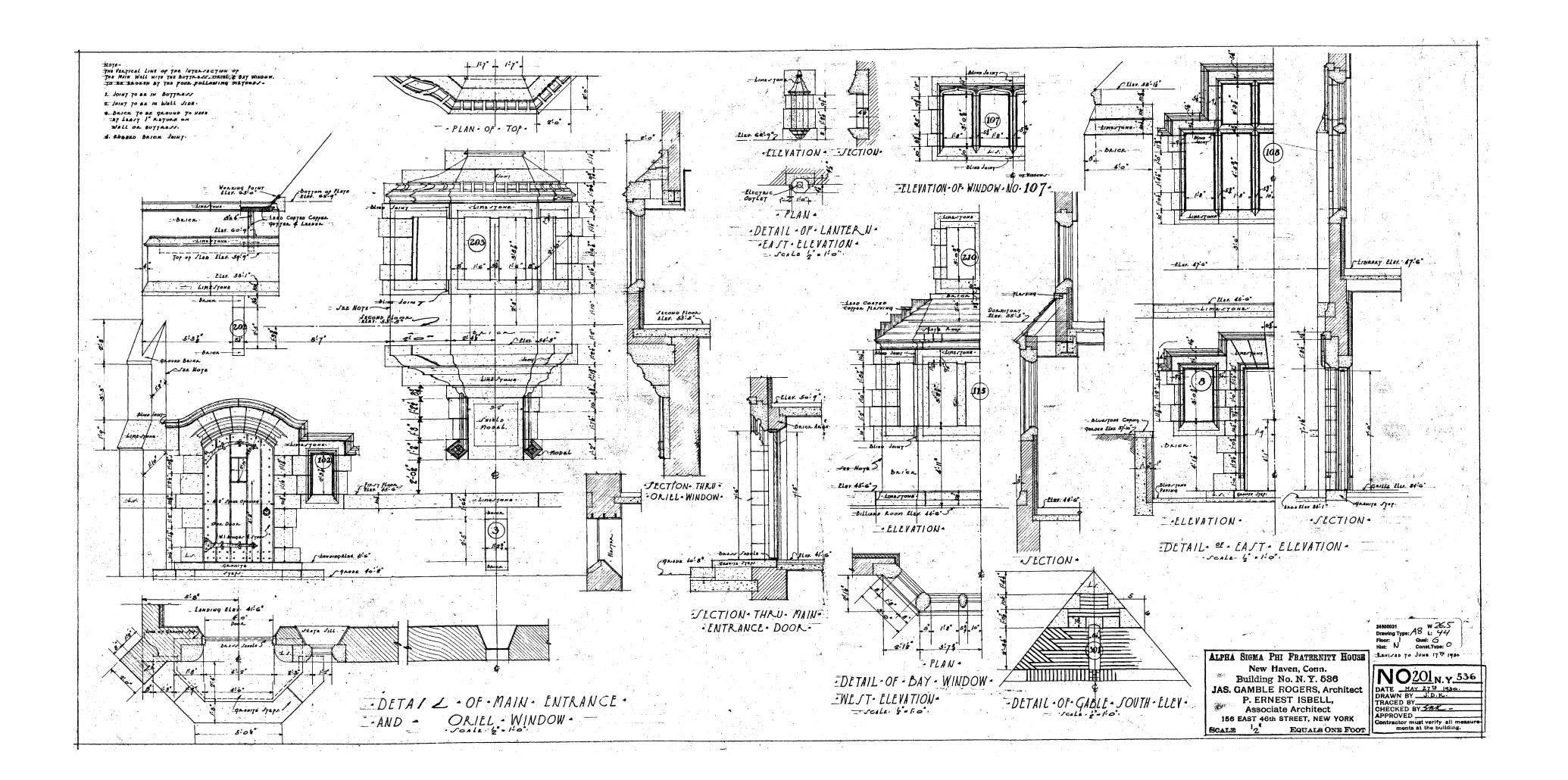


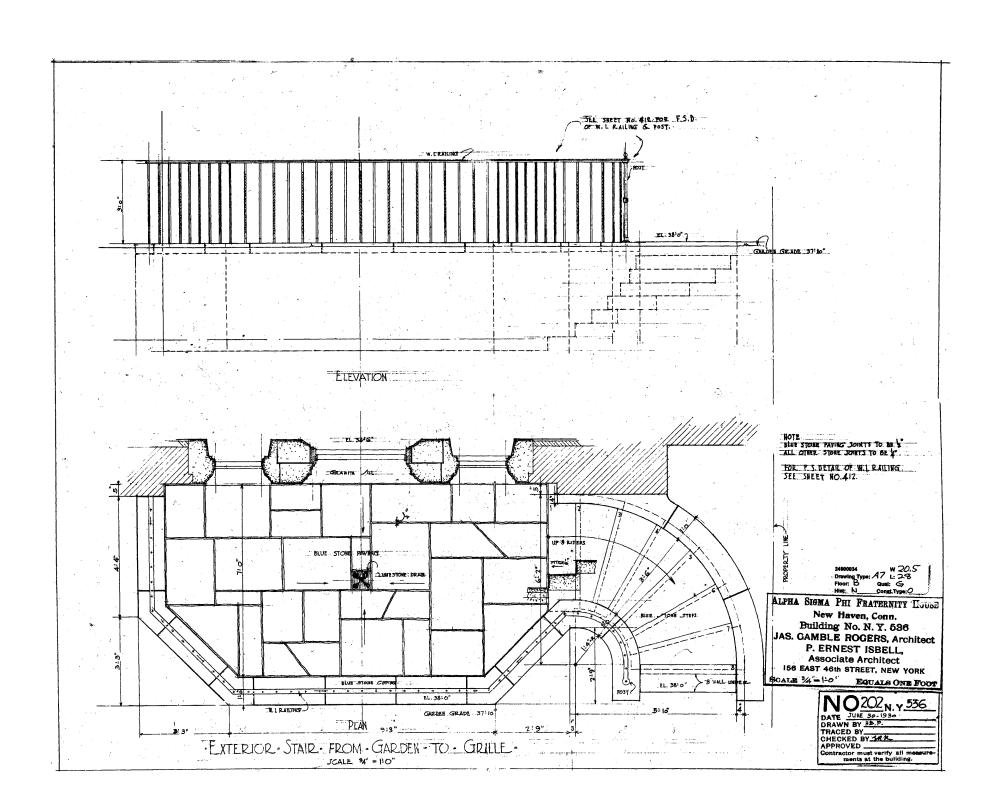


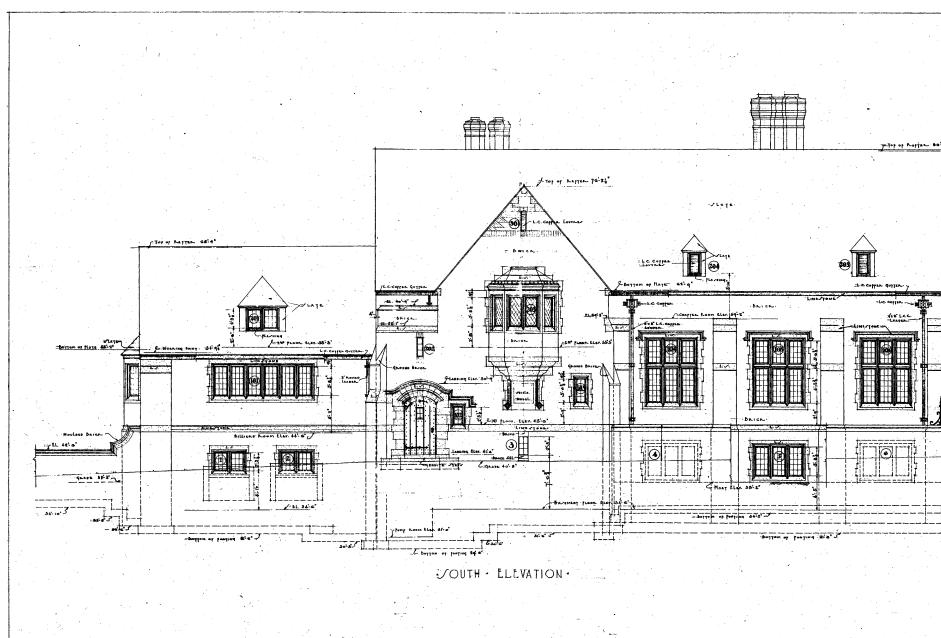












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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE YALE CABARET

"In 1968, David Geffen School of Drama at Yale students established a basement performance venue in the former home of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity at 217 Park Street. Envisioned as an alternative outlet for drama school students' creativity and experimentation, Yale Cabaret became a forum for our expanded New Haven communities, whom we invite to gather around food, drink, conversation, fellowship, and artistry.

Since its founding, the Cabaret has remained in continuous operation, producing hundreds of plays, old and new, alongside musicals and musical revues, comedy shows, dance, performance art, and genre-defying performance. Artists who spent the early days of their careers at Yale Cabaret include Meryl Streep, Angela Bassett, Wendy Wasserstein, Sigourney Weaver, Christopher Durang, John Turturro, Lynn Nottage, Anna D. Shapiro, Henry Winkler, David Alan Grier, Tony Shalhoub, Paul Giamatti, Liev Schreiber, Trip Cullman, Melissa James Gibson, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Lupita Nyong'o, and many hundreds more. Each generation of School of Drama students renews the Cabaret with their talent and energy.

Every year, a new student leadership team curates its season from School of Drama student proposals—uplifting peers' passions, impulses, and curiosities. With evening and late-night performances on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, our basement offers ever-changing, ever-surprising experiences to all who enter.

Shared with special thanks to Amauta M. Firmino and Jeremy O. Harris, historians for Yale Cabaret's 50th anniversary. " (Yale Cabaret, 2022)

# LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AT THE YALE CABARET

The Cabaret's commitment to student work fosters an avenue for collaboration. All students, faculty, and staff from Yale College and Yale Graduate Schools are invited and encouraged to be a part of the process. The Yale Cabaret is truly a community run space; collaborators are encouraged to go beyond their chosen fields. This unique environment allows for artists to explore, experiment, and collaborate with colleagues across the university.

"Yale Cabaret operates under the guidance of a Board of Trustees comprised of faculty and students. Senior staff and community board members function as advisors to the Cabaret. Any YSD student is eligible to apply for the artistic directorship of Yale Cabaret and the artistic director(s) are selected by the Board through a proposal and interview process. The Managing Director, Cabaret Assistant, and Production Manager are assigned by their respective Chairs. Shows are proposed in intervals, twice per semester, and a season is selected by the Artistic Director(s) and the Managing Director, after consulting with the artistic associates"

(Yale Cabaret, 2017).

# BENEFICIARIES OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

# The Yale Cabaret is truly a community run space

Theatre makers have a rich tradition of rehabilitating odd spaces into theatrical venues. Downtown New Haven keeps notable examples of this legacy. The Yale Cabaret calls home to the former Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house, however, unlike the Yale Repertory Theatre down the road, which was formerly the Calvary Baptist Church, 217 Park Street was never intended to hold a large crowd, audience, or congregation. Over the last fifty-four years, this building has grown to serve the demands of two entities: The Yale Cabaret, and The David Geffen School of Drama (DGSD). The Yale Cabaret primarily occupies the basement level; DGSD occupies the upper floors save for a shared dressing room space. The Cabaret is provided with the opportunity to expand into the upper floors, as DGSD looks to consolidate classroom, lab, and workshop spaces under the roof of a new building.

Our team's proposed improvements aim to develop the entirety of 217 Park Street into a facility that focuses on the exclusive requirements of the Yale Cabaret. Reprogramming, identifying, and allocating space for planning, fabrication, and storage will allow the theatre's facilitators to streamline the production process. Refitting the theatrical infrastructure gives all creators the ability to execute complex ideas and experiment with modern tools, while also moving towards more environmentally sustainable productions. Reimagining the grounds immediately adjacent to adjust audience circulation will transform the Yale Cabaret into a more accessible space, as well as providing ample space for the community to gather before, during, and after a performance.

# CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES OF THE YALE CABARET

The mission of the theatre changes as new teams of student leadership form. The Cabaret's unique structure allows its users to produce work and uphold values that are immediately pertinent to the student body. Previous missions have focused on highlighting equity, LGBTQ+ visibility, neighborliness, and artistic growth.

For Yale Cabaret's fifty-fifth season, the mission statement reads:

"Yale Cabaret 55 is a transition; a space to place your art and watch it transform. We do not suggest that your art begins or ends with us, but it will change with us. We invite our community to take risks with us. Failure is not an option; it is an illusion. Like Pantone Color of the Year: Very Peri, we know that "as we emerge from an intense period of isolation, our notions and standards are changing, and our physical and digital lives have merged in new ways." We seek to be a holding space to explore these changes. Cabaret 55 is a shared experiment of what it means to come back to theater.

### Values

- The Cab is a studio
- The Cab is a space for trial and error
- The Cab is a space for fellowship
- There is no utopia, only risk and commitment
- There are no assignments, only invitations"

(Yale Cabaret, 2022)



# RENOVATION SCOPE OF WORK

Reprogramming – Refitting – Reimagining

Possible and achievable are terms which are often conflated, but rarely do they have the same definition. Our scope strives to provide achievable ideas that begin to address the needs and concerns associated with expanding operations throughout a structure nearly a century old. The majority of the work will focus on improving accessibility throughout the building and introducing modern equipment to the performance space.



# PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUILDING

Circulation

- Relocating the audience entrance through the courtyard, to provide equitable access to the theatre for all who want to attend.
- Adding inclined platform lifts to add accessibility to the upper floors.
- Removing the retaining wall, and excavating the surrounding land to seamlessly incorporate level changes

Reassignment

- Relocating administrative offices to the second floor by transforming the secondfloor teaching lab into a collaborative office space.
- Identify optimal performance-related circulation to maximize efficiency of newly designated storage and workrooms.

Updating

- Upgrade all theatrical equipment
- Replace the dimmer system with power distribution and associated data network control designed for more energy efficient fixtures



## **UPDATING:**

# CURRENT SOUND INVENTORY

#### CONSOLES & OUBTOARD GEAR

- (x1) Allen and Heath ZED 14
- (x1) Computer Mouse
- (x1) Crate CMX42FX
- (x1) Kramer Stereo Amp
- (x1) MOTU 828 Mk 2
- (x1) Mac Mini
- (x1) Mac Keyboard
- (x1) VGA Display
- (x1) Yamaha O1V96

#### SPEAKERS

- (x4) EAW JFX88
- (x1) EAW UB12s
- (x4) EAW UB12se
- (x1) EAW UB12si
- (x2) QSC K10
- (x2) QSC Ksub
- (x3) Small Custom Wedges

#### MICROPHONES

- (x1) Behringer ULTRA-DI 20
- (x6) Boom mic stand
- (x4) Countryman B3
- (x1) Kopul PDI-40 Passive Direct Box
- (x1) Radial Trim A/V DI
- (x4) Sennheiser EM-1031U
- (x1) Sennheiser MKE 2
- (x1) Shure SM57
- (x3) Shure SM58

#### AMPLIFIERS

- (x1) Crown CE1000
- (x2) Crown XLS 1000
- (x1) QSC DCA1644

#### MISC.

• (6x) UB12 Yokes

## PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND REPLACEMENTS

#### CONSOLES & OUBTOARD GEAR

- (x1) Computer Mouse
- (x1) DVI-D Display
- (x1) Mac Keyboard
- (x1) Mac Mini w/ Dante Virtual Soundcard
- (x3) Rio 1608-D
- (x1) Yamaha QL1

#### MISC.

• (6x) UB-DXR8 U Brackets Yokes

#### SPEAKERS

- (x6) Yamaha DXR8 Mk II
- (x2) Yamaha DXS12 Mk II
- (x2) Yamaha DHR12M