1454 MIDDLE STREET RESIDENCE

Re-imagining the

HISTORIC FORT MOULTRIE POST THEATER

TOWNSHIP OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND | SOUTH CAROLINA



FINAL DESIGN REVIEW

DECEMBER 2025



CISSELL DESIGN STUDIO

EM STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

MIDDLE STREET CONSTRUCTION

NK PARTNERS PROJECT MANAGEMENT

HENSLEY & GOERLING CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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The Final Design of 1454 Middle Street considers comments from neighbors, town staff, and Design Review Board members to revise the site plan and add additional detail and clarity to the revitalization and re-purpose of the historic Fort Moultrie Theater into a single-family residence. Extensive investigation of the building since the conceptual / preliminary phase has yielded additional information about the structure and original construction of the building that has advanced the design and preservation approach to the building. This has included a full 3D scan of the building, as well as extensive evaluation by structural engineers and historic masonry restoration specialists.

URBAN CONTEXT

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Theater History
Historic Proscenium

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URBAN CONTEXT

Sullivan's Island Context
Site and Street Views
Theater History
Historic Proscenium

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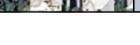
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$T_{H_E} C_{\mathcal{O}_{V_E}}$ FORT MOULTRIE ATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BATTERY JASPER BATTERY LOGAN

A LANDMARK BUILDING

The historic Fort Moultrie Post Theater sits on the north side of Middle Street, near the southern tip of Sullivan's Island. Primarily surrounded by single-family residences, the building stands out along the street due to its larger size and decidedly commercial architecture. Built to house a theater for entertaining service members, as well as providing a space for presentations and WWII updates, the building was designed in the style of other Fort Moultrie buildings, with a simple gabled roof and nondescript brick shell. A large open forecourt on Middle Street, once a half-moon lawn, now a concrete apron, also distinguishes it from the surrounding residences. Unfortunately there is no building signage remaining, or any historical marker that indicates it was once the Theater, so passersby are presented with a less noble time in the building's history, the conversion to a warehouse in the 1970s. With windows boarded up and the main aperture of the facade, once the ticketing and entrances, filled in, it reminds one more of an abandoned car service center than a grand military theater.



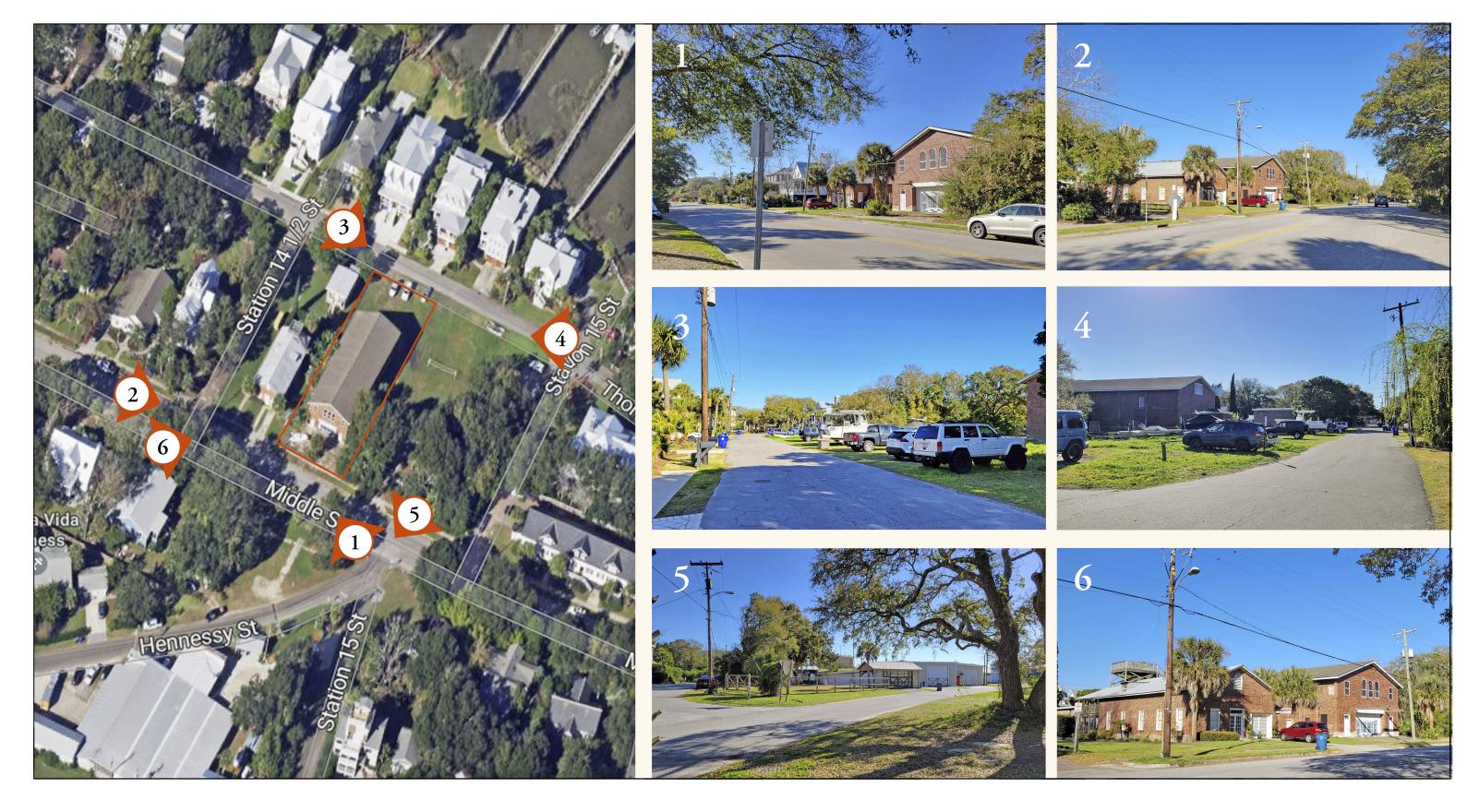
SULLIVAN'S ISLAND CONTEXT

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SITE AND STREET VIEWS

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Soldiers in formation on the half-moon lawn in front of the theater, preparing to enter the theater for an event or show.



By the late 20th Century the building was boarded up and abandoned, with it's canopy gone and the exterior ticket plaza walled up.



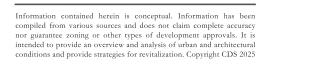
This image of the theater at Christmas shortly after its construction shows the original configuration of the facade. A recessed ticket plaza under the canopy contained a projecting ticket booth flanked by theater entrances with what appear to be signs above. The signature palmetto tree, a symbol of the fort and the island, centers a half-moon lawn in front of the theater.

The Fort Moultrie Post Theater served as the primary entertainment venue for the fort's service members from 1930 to 1947. It was sold by the government to in the 1950s and converted to a warehouse around 1975. The red brick building is largely utilitarian on the exterior, with the exception of the Middle Street facade, which has a regular order of door and window openings, with three roman arched windows on the upper level centering the facade. Over its lifespan the building has had various windows on the sides moved or altered, and the entrance facade has been altered to close off the original recessed ticket plaza. The original canopy has been mostly lost, and the projecting ticket booth and original theater entrances were removed.

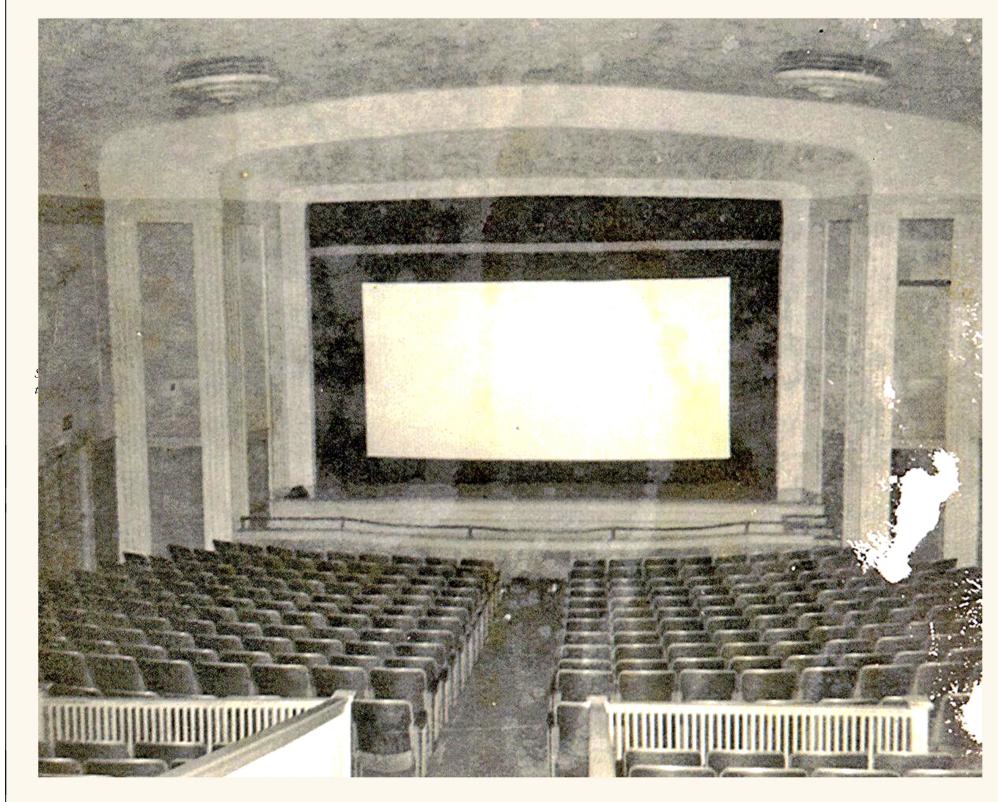
HISTORIC CONTEXT











The interior of the theater was much less utilitarian than the exterior. A large theater space with a formal proscenium and an elliptical arched ceiling housed sloped seating on the lower level and a tiered gallery on the upper level. A central aisle divided the seating, and side aisles led to the gallery and to exit doors on the sides of the building. When the building was converted to a warehouse in the 1970s the theater seats were removed and the floor was raised level with the stage.



The theater interior as it exists today, with the screen removed and the seating area filled in. The lower exit doors have been bricked in and there is a general level of degradation of the plaster and wood finishes.

HISTORIC PROSCENIUM

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EXISTING CONDITIONS

SITE SURVEY

THEATER LEVEL ONE

THEATER LEVEL TWO

STREET ELEVATIONS

Side Elevations

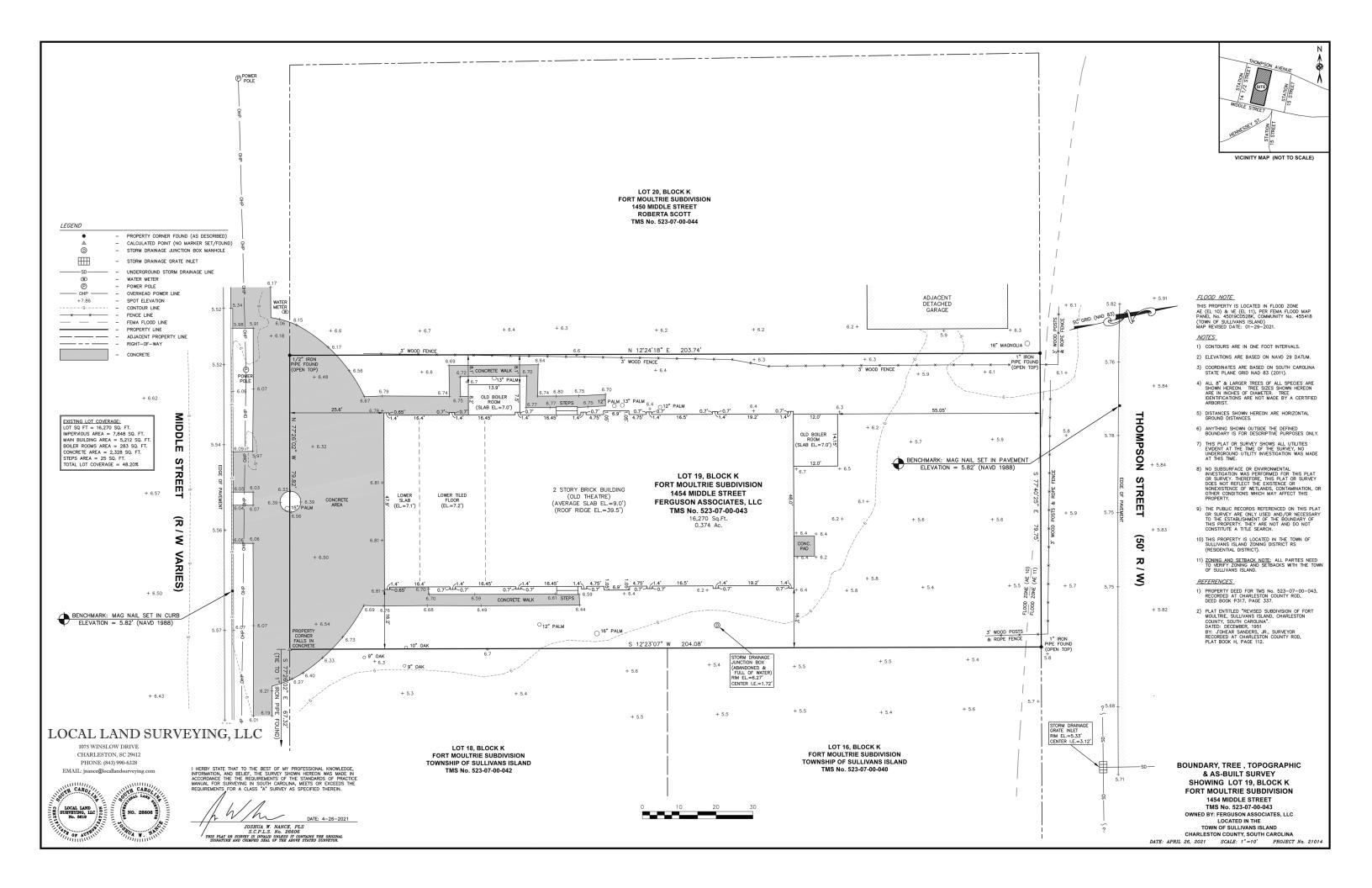
EXTERIOR BUILDING PHOTOS

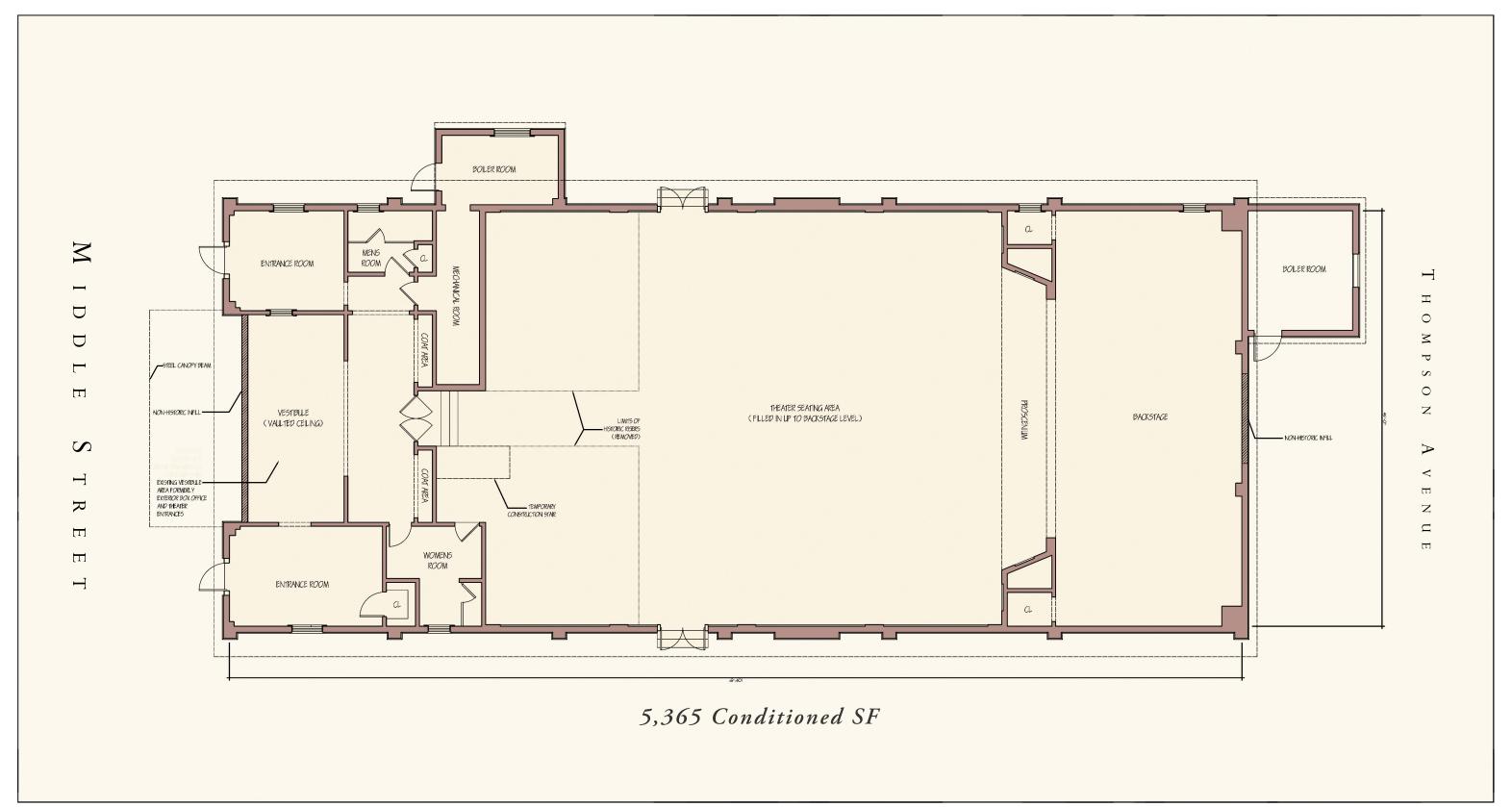
Interior Building Photos

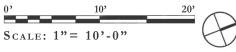


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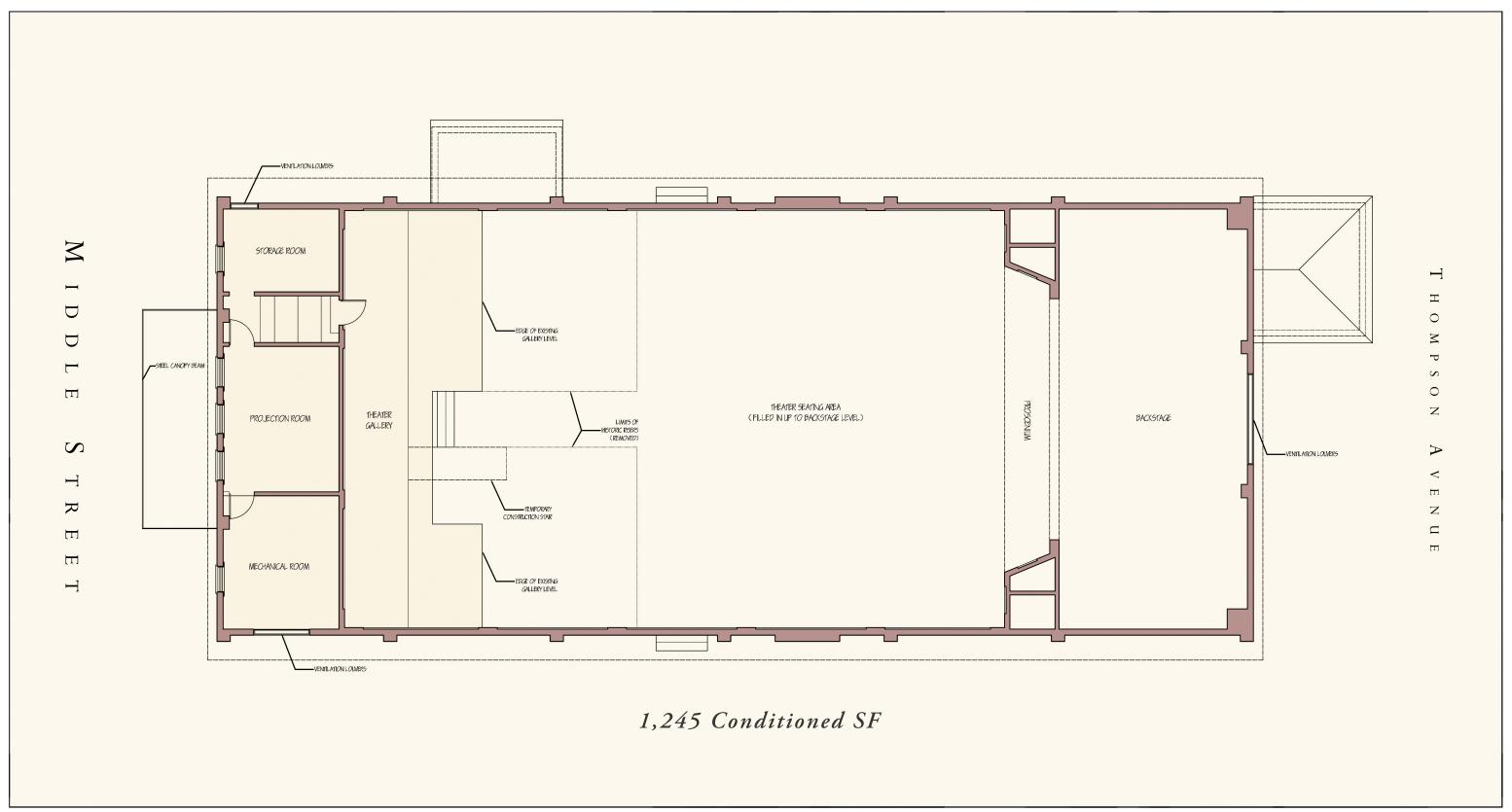


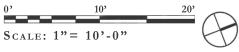
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EXISTING LEVEL ONE





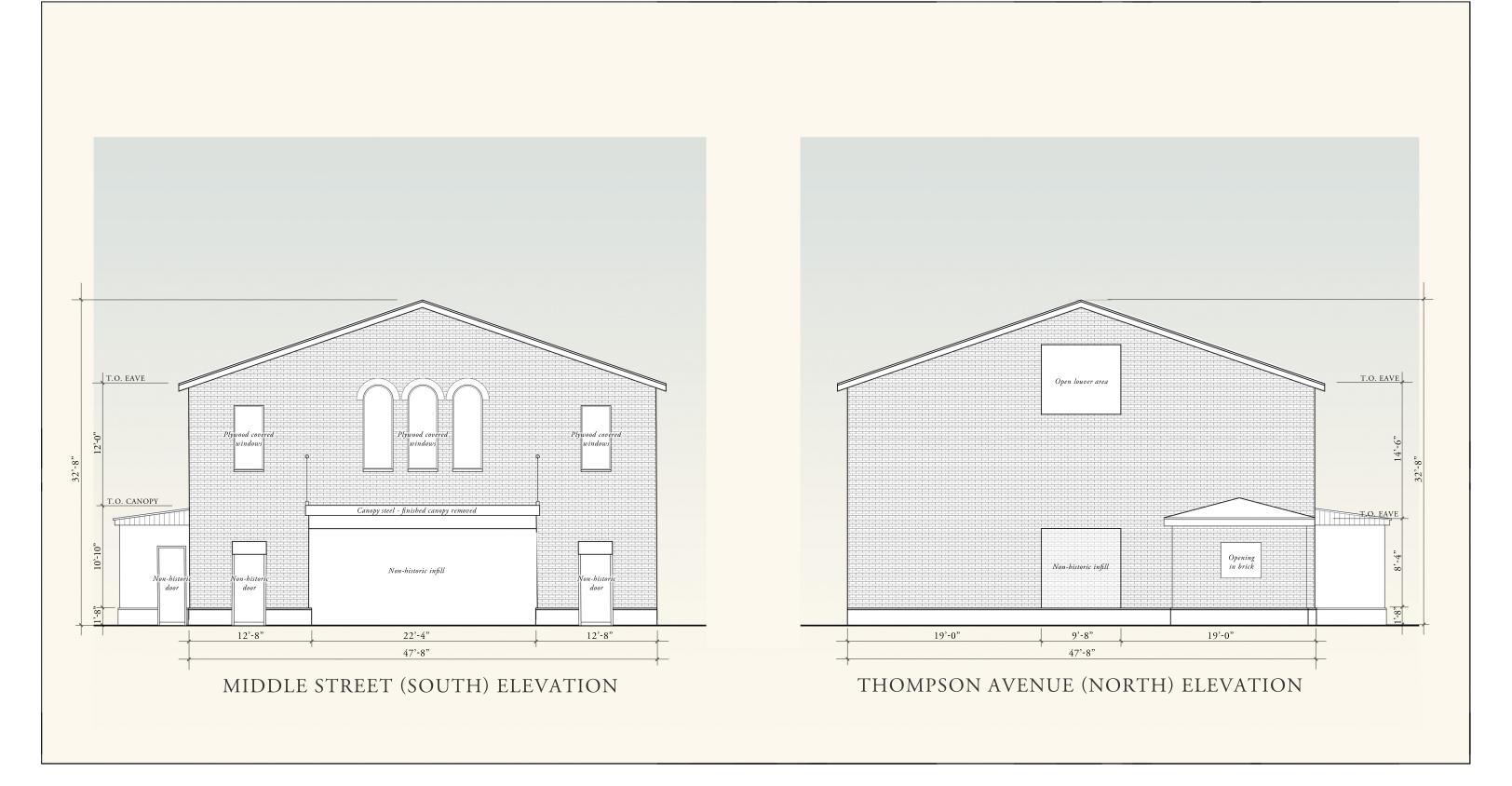


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EXISTING LEVEL TWO





NOT TO SCALE

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EXISTING STREET ELEVATIONS





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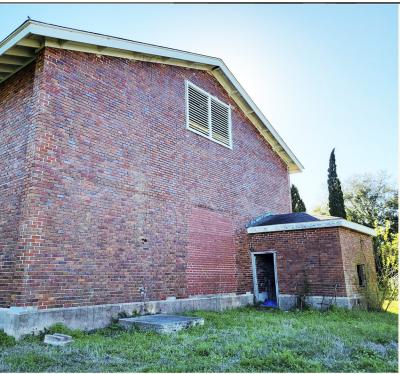
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EXISTING SIDE ELEVATIONS





The side elevations are defined by a series of brick pilasters, with minimal windows and louvered ventilation openings.



The Thompson Avenue facade with its louvered vent, the boiler room, and evidence of a rear opening that has been filled in.



Boarded up windows on the side sit below the modern flood plain.



Evidence of filled historic openings on the side facade.



View of the smaller side boiler room.



View of the side theater entrance.



The Middle Street facade is the only formal facade, with an ordered series of doors and windows centered by three Roman-arched upper windows. The former recessed ticket and entry plaza has been covered with an infill wall.



Ventilation openings in the side facade vary in size from this large opening to much smaller vents.



Incompatible brick repairs will need to be remediated to prevent further degradation of the brickwork..

BUILDING EXTERIOR

1454 MIDDLE STREET | SULLIVAN'S ISLAND | SOUTH CAROLINA
HISTORIC FORT MOULTRIE POST THEATER



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Interior of the arched windows on the Middle Street facade.



Exposed brick and roof structure in the backstage area.



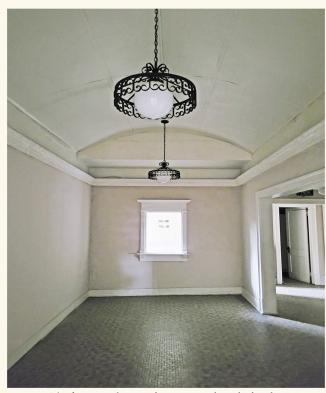
The original theater vestibule doors with porthole windows.



View of the formal proscenium and elliptical arched ceiling. The theater seating area has been filled in up to the level of the former stage.



View towards the front door in the room flanking the vestibule.



The former ticket window area with arched ceiling.



The vestibule and coat hanging area.



View to the back of the theater and the upper gallery area. Seating and the lower tiers have been removed.

BUILDING INTERIOR

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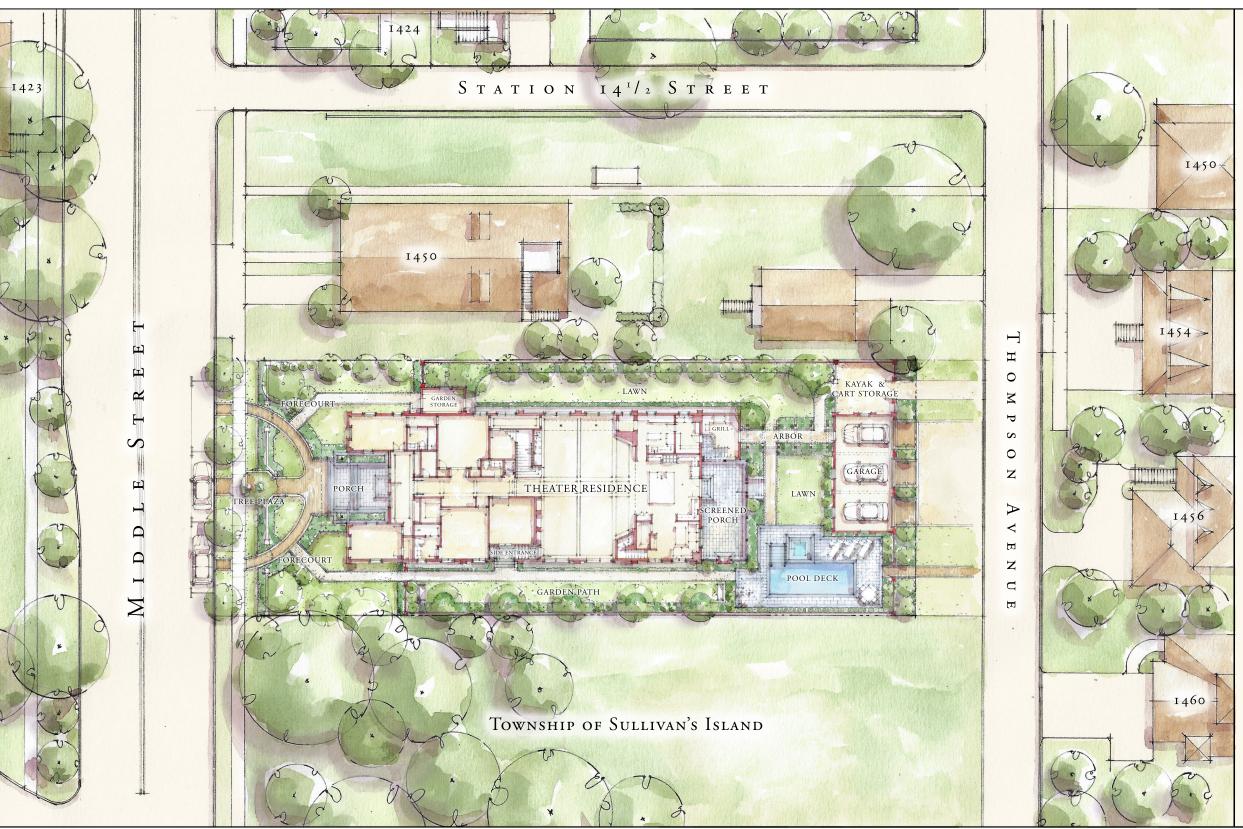
SITE DESIGN

Conceptual Master Plan
Final Site Plan Rendering
Architectural Site Plan
Landscape Plan
Streetscape Elevations



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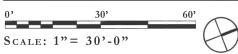


RENOVATION MASTER PLAN

The renovation and re-use of the Fort Moultrie Post Theater into a single-family residence will breathe new life into a landmark site and building on Sullivans Island that has sat abandoned since the late 20th century. The goal of the conversion is to preserve the character and distinctive features of the existing theater building, and where elements and materials cannot be retained in place, preserve them and re-use them in the building as close to their original location as possible. The conceptual site design envisions a forecourt on Middle Street that keeps taller landscape to the sides, allowing the current view of the historic facade to remain unobstructed. Brick walks recall the half-moon plaza that soldiers would form up in prior to entering the theater for entertainment.

Low landscape and a brick knee wall defines the private yard from the sidewalk, and a small entry plaza is created around the historic palmetto tree, a symbol of the fort and the island. A bronze plaque in this location educates visitors and passersby on the history of the building and the significance of the tree. A series of slow steps transition visitors under the porch canopy and up to the front door which is set at the modern flood plain elevation.

The private yard is enclosed by a privacy fence that is set well back from the historic street facade, and contains a series of open lawns separated by gravel paths, with landscape focused on the perimeter edges. A small pool deck and recreation lawn are contained by a new screened porch and a garage that is accessed from Thompson Avenue.

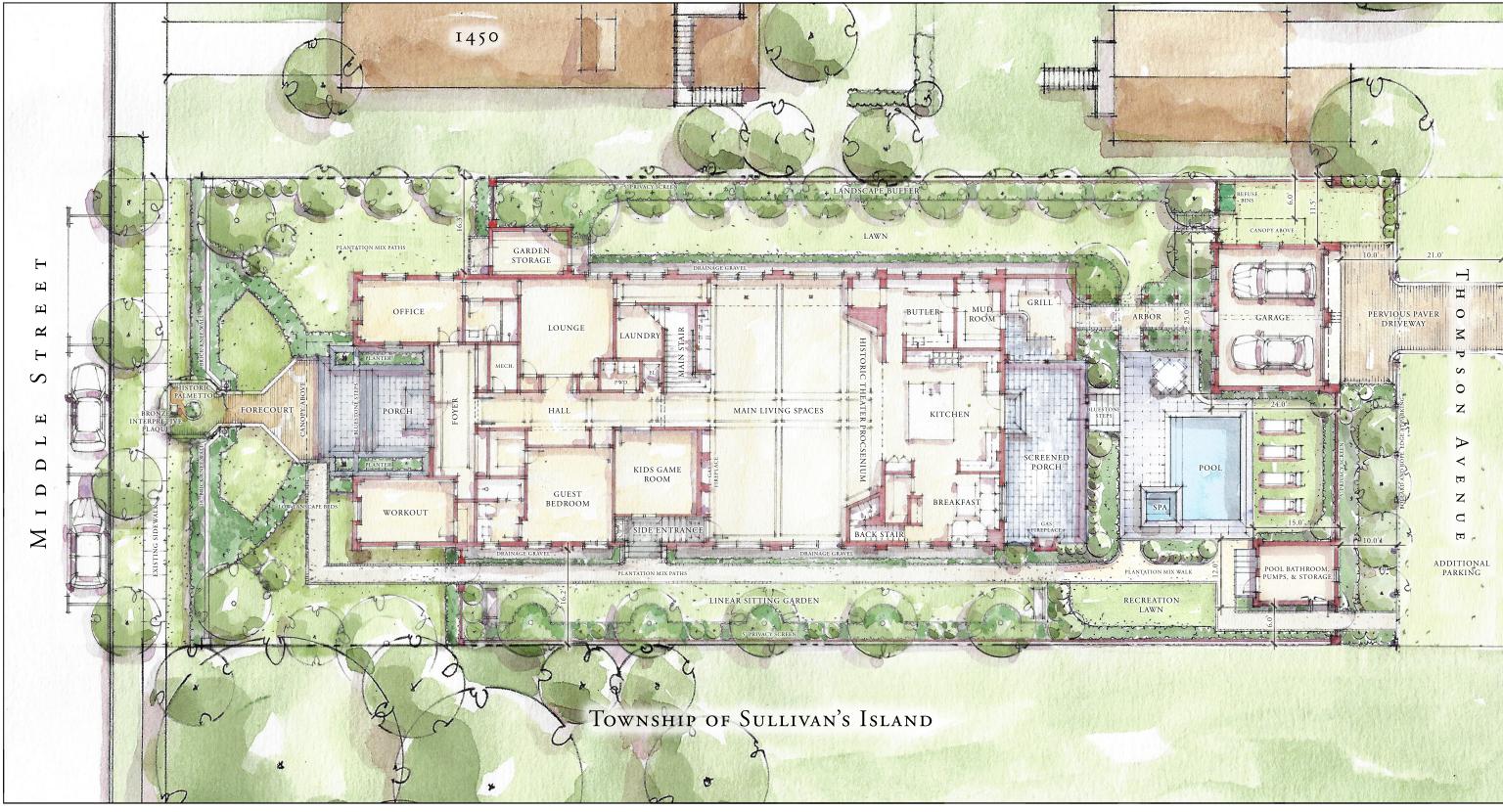


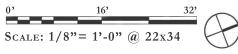
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CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN





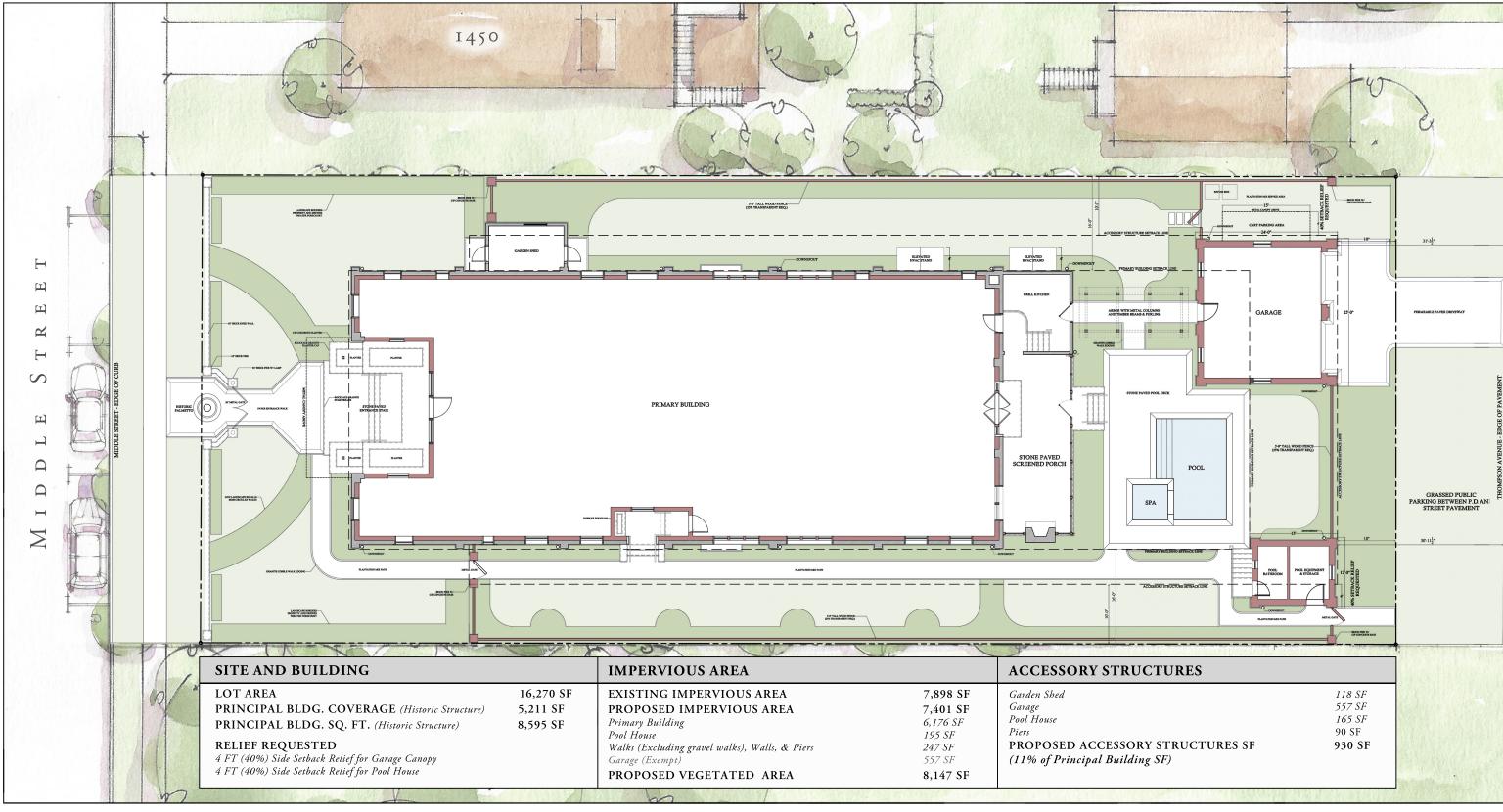


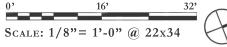
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FINAL DESIGN SITE PLAN





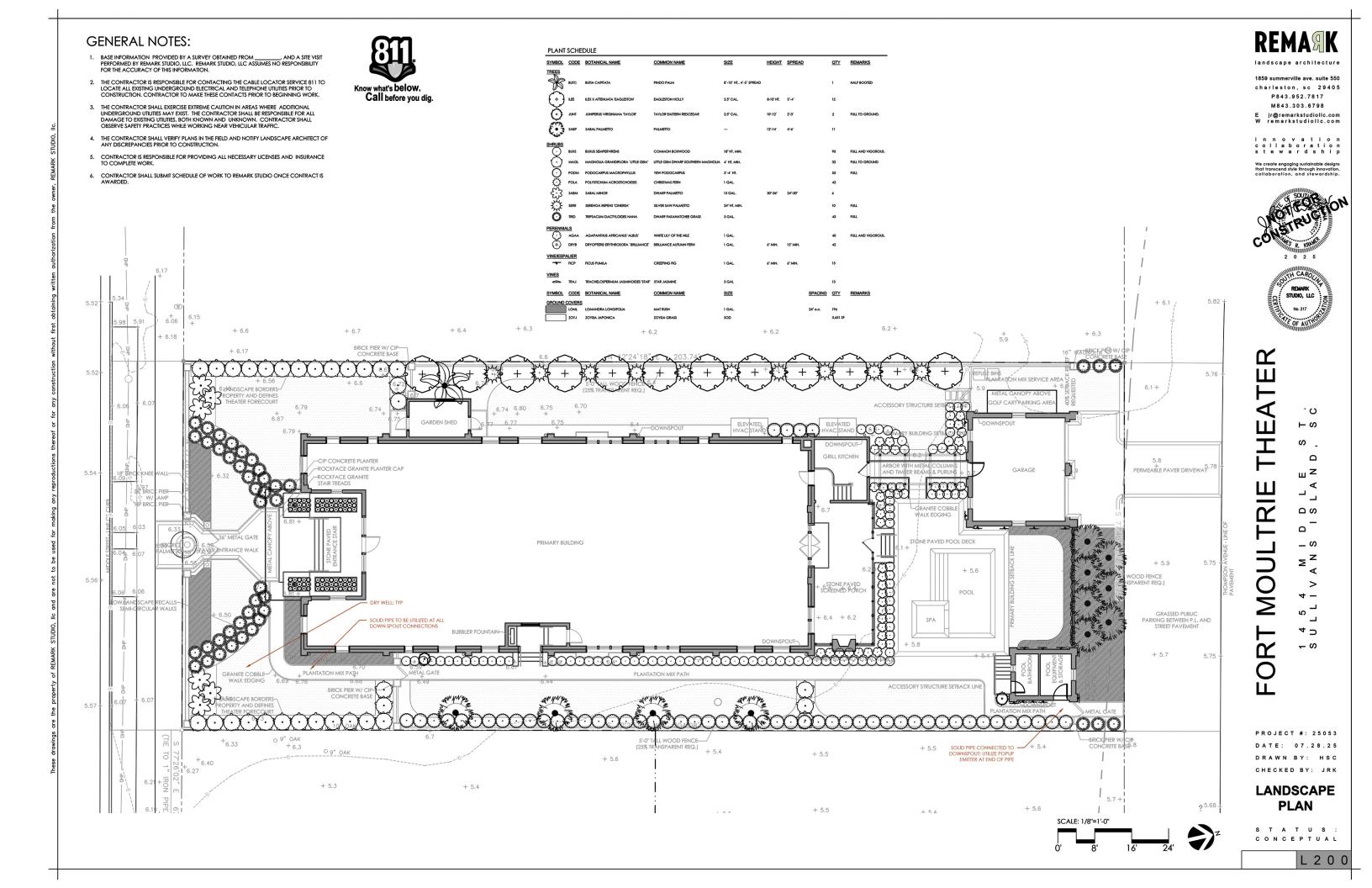


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ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN



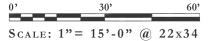




MIDDLE STREET CONTEXT



THOMPSON AVENUE CONTEXT



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STREETSCAPE CONTEXT



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FINAL DESIGN

Level One Floor Plan
Preliminary Level 1

Level Two Floor Plan
Preliminary Level 2

GARAGE & POOL HOUSE FLOOR PLAN

MIDDLE STREET ELEVATION
Preliminary Design Elevation

East Elevation
Preliminary Design Elevation

Thompson Avenue Elevation
Preliminary Design Elevation

West Elevation
Preliminary Design Elevation

Garage Elevations
Preliminary Design Elevations

Pool House Elevations
Preliminary Design Elevations

BUILDING WALL SECTIONS

Colors & Materials

MIDDLE STREET RENDERING

SIDE WALK & ENTRANCE RENDERING

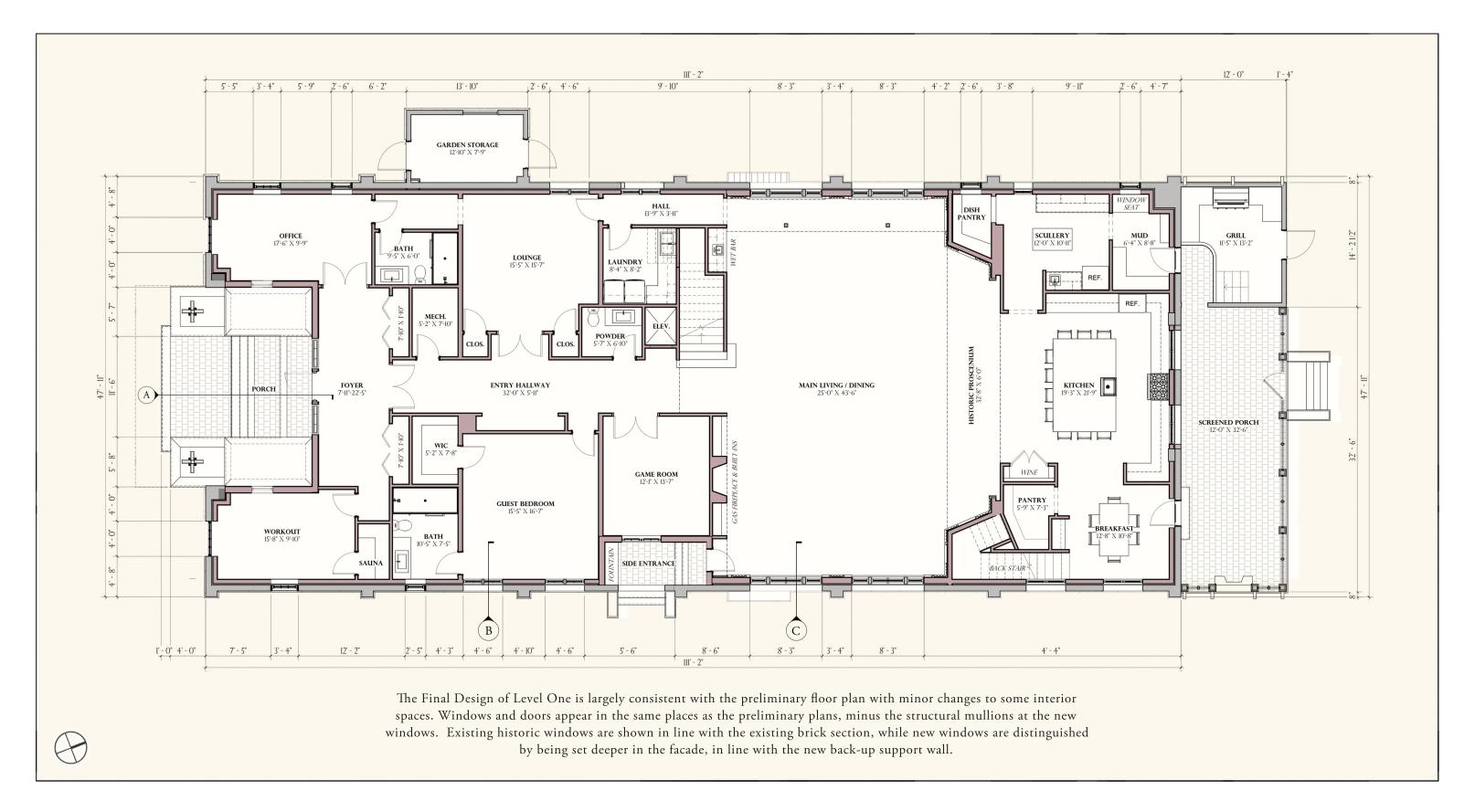
REAR COURTYARD RENDERING

THOMPSON AVENUE RENDERING

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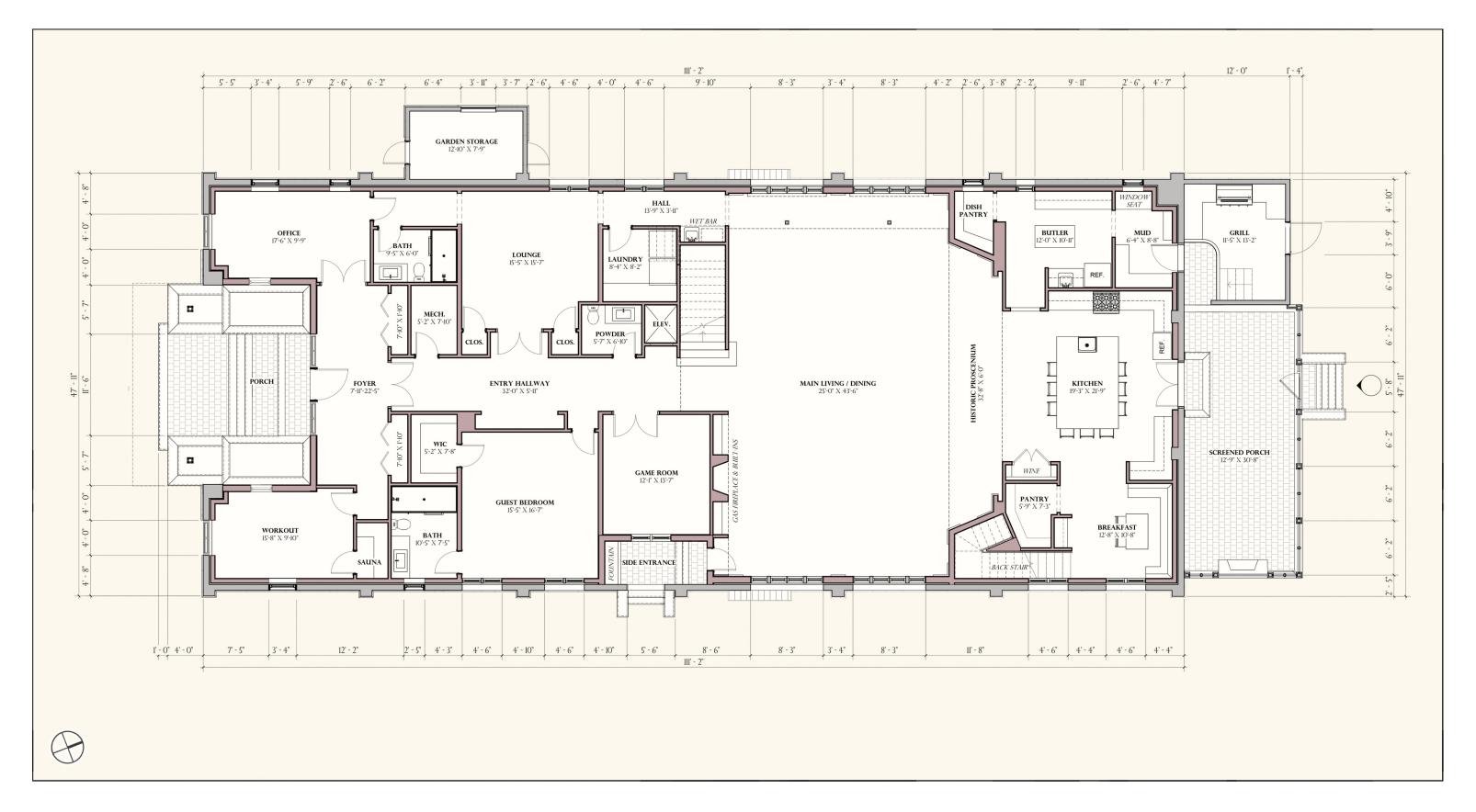


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LEVEL ONE FINAL



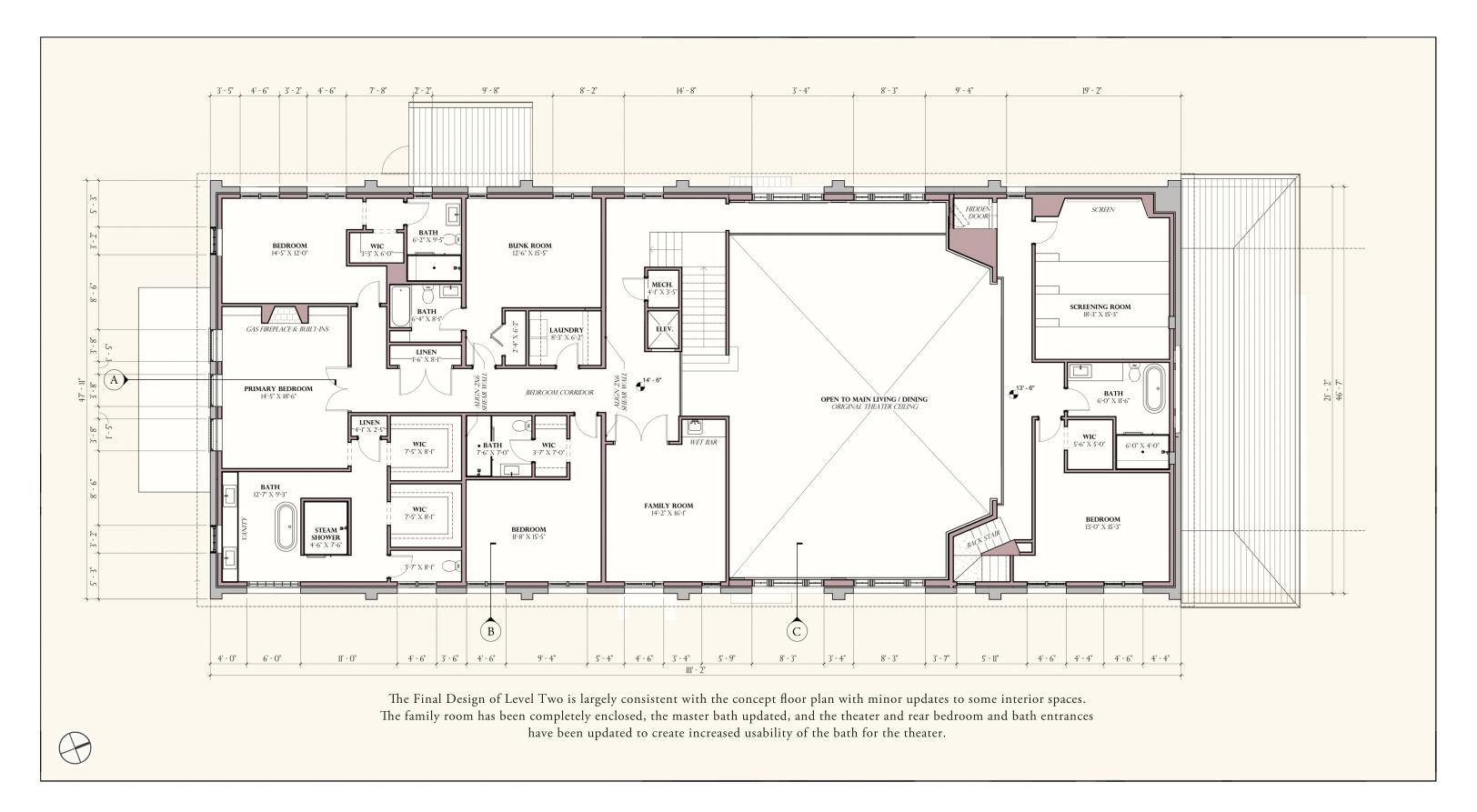


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LEVEL ONE PRELIMINARY



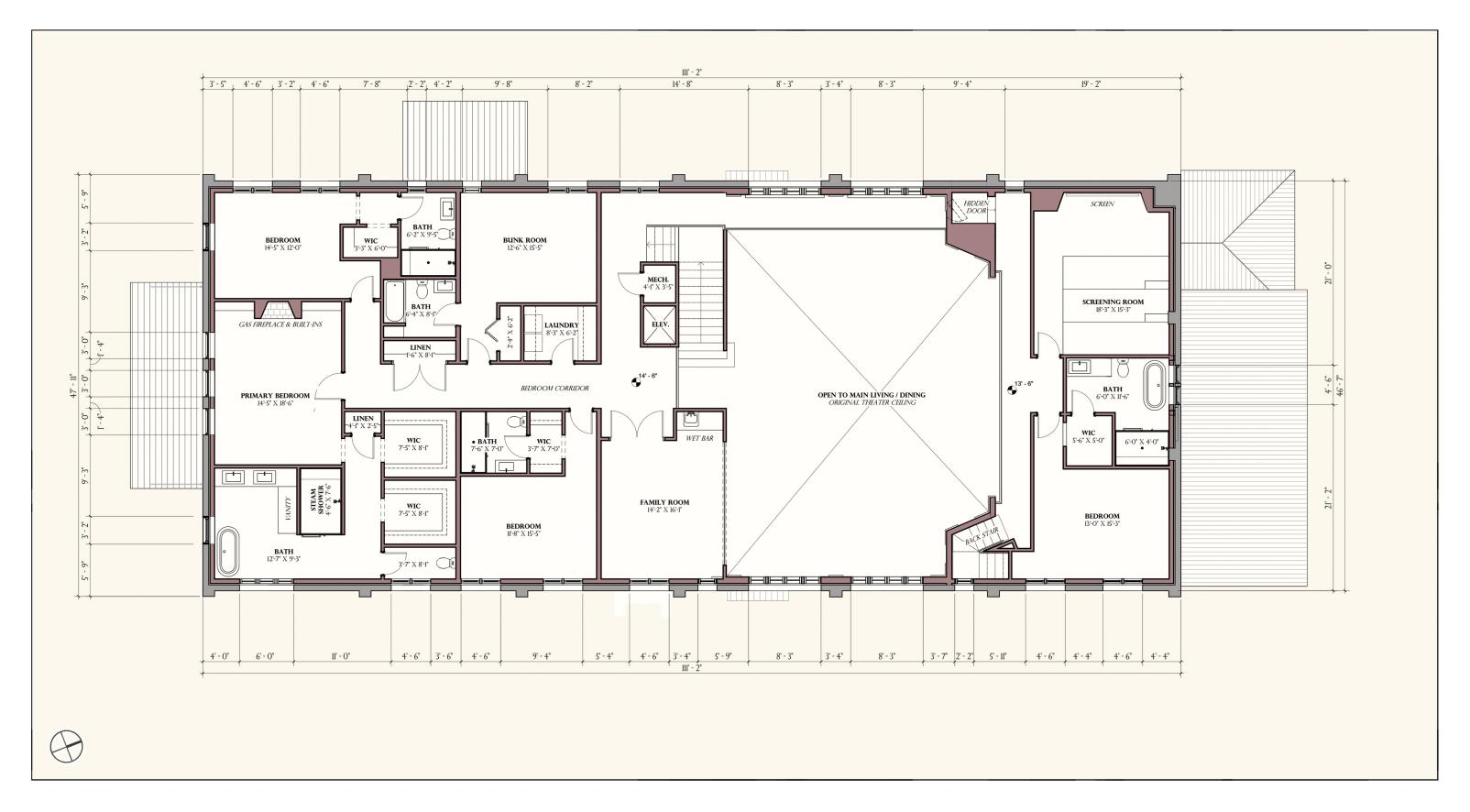


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LEVEL TWO FINAL



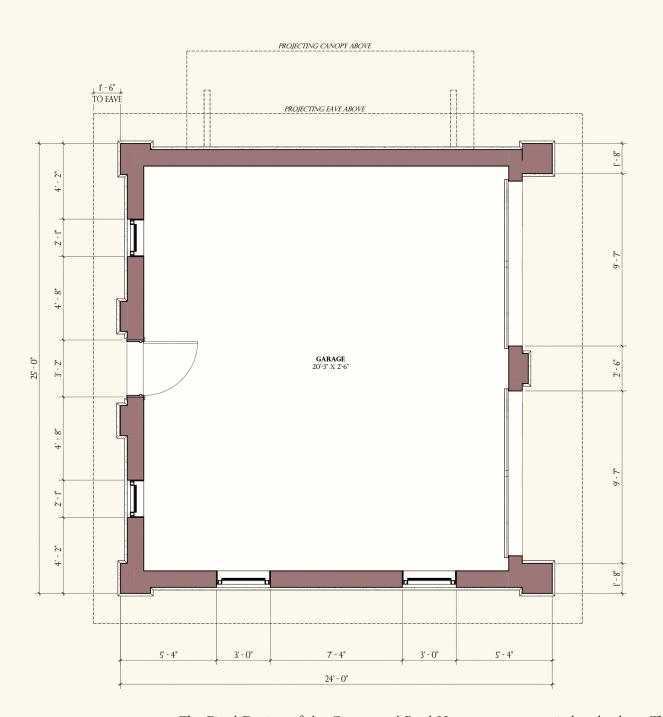


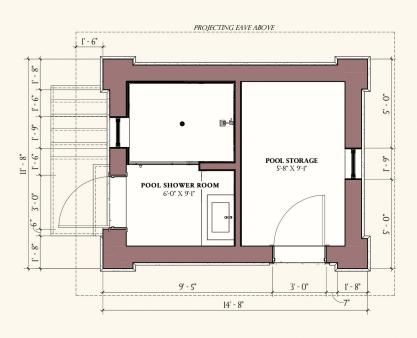
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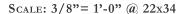
LEVEL TWO PRELIMINARY







The Final Design of the Garage and Pool House creates a varied scale along Thompson Avenue, enclosing the rear yard with massing that is appropriate to the historic structure. The buildings continue a palette of details that are compatible but distinct from the historic theater structure. A concrete water table is expressed at a different height, a projecting eave is utilized, but with a closed soffit and wood brackets from the new screened porch. A combination of fixed and operable casement windows continues the language of new windows for the main building.

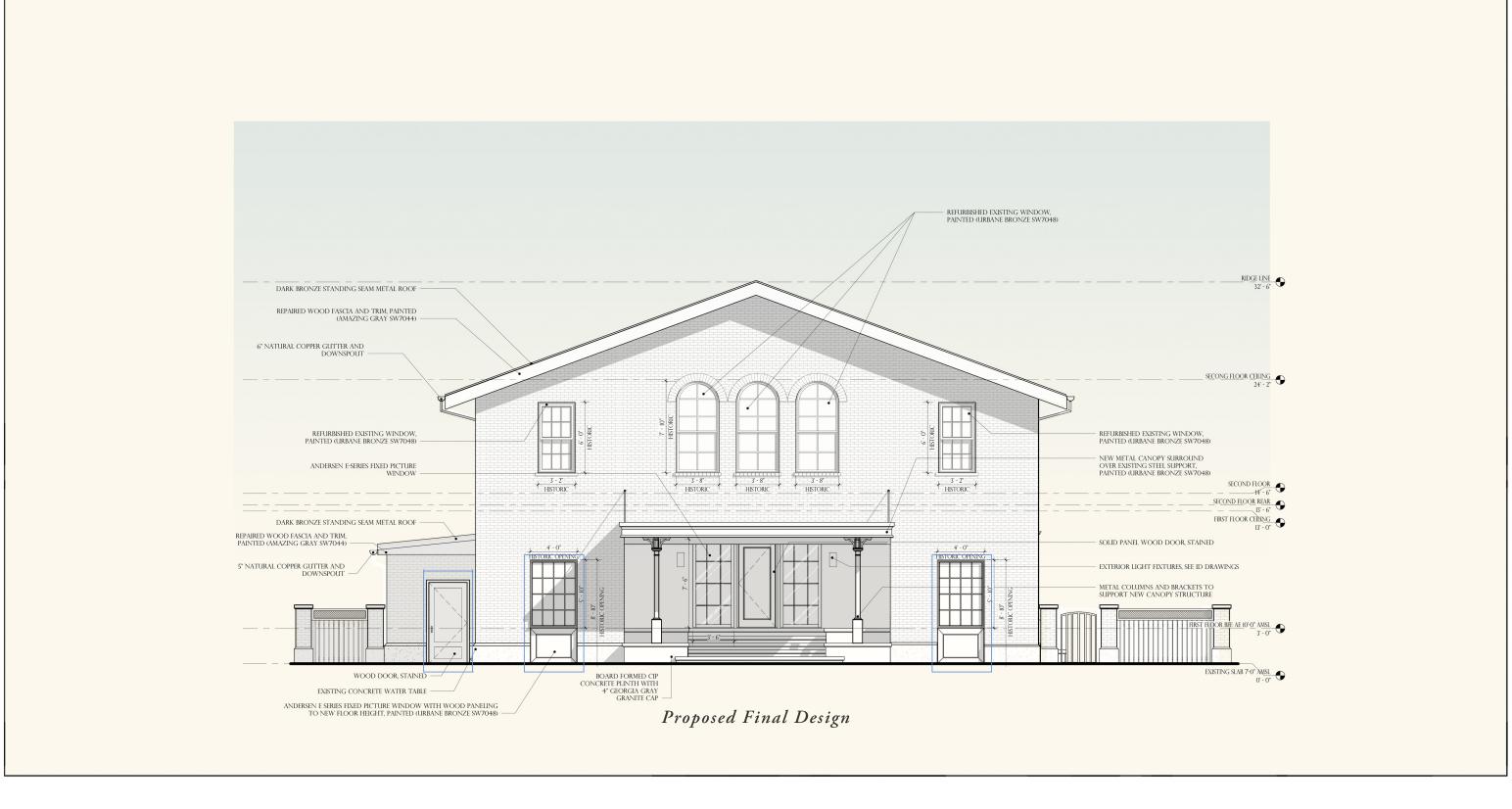


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ACCESSORY STRUCTURES FINAL





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MIDDLE STREET ELEVATION FINAL





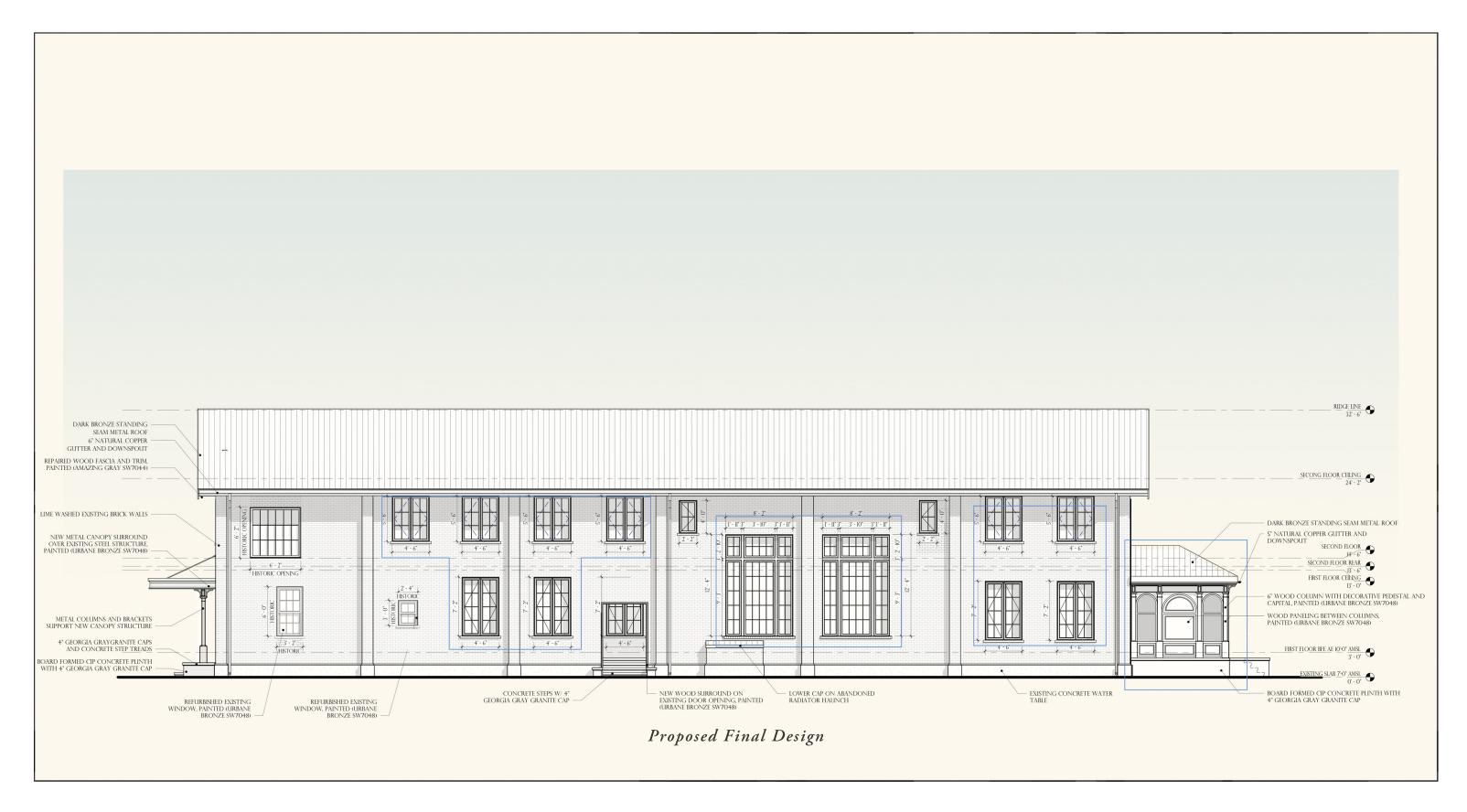
Approved Preliminary Design

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MIDDLE STREET ELEVATION PRELIMINARY



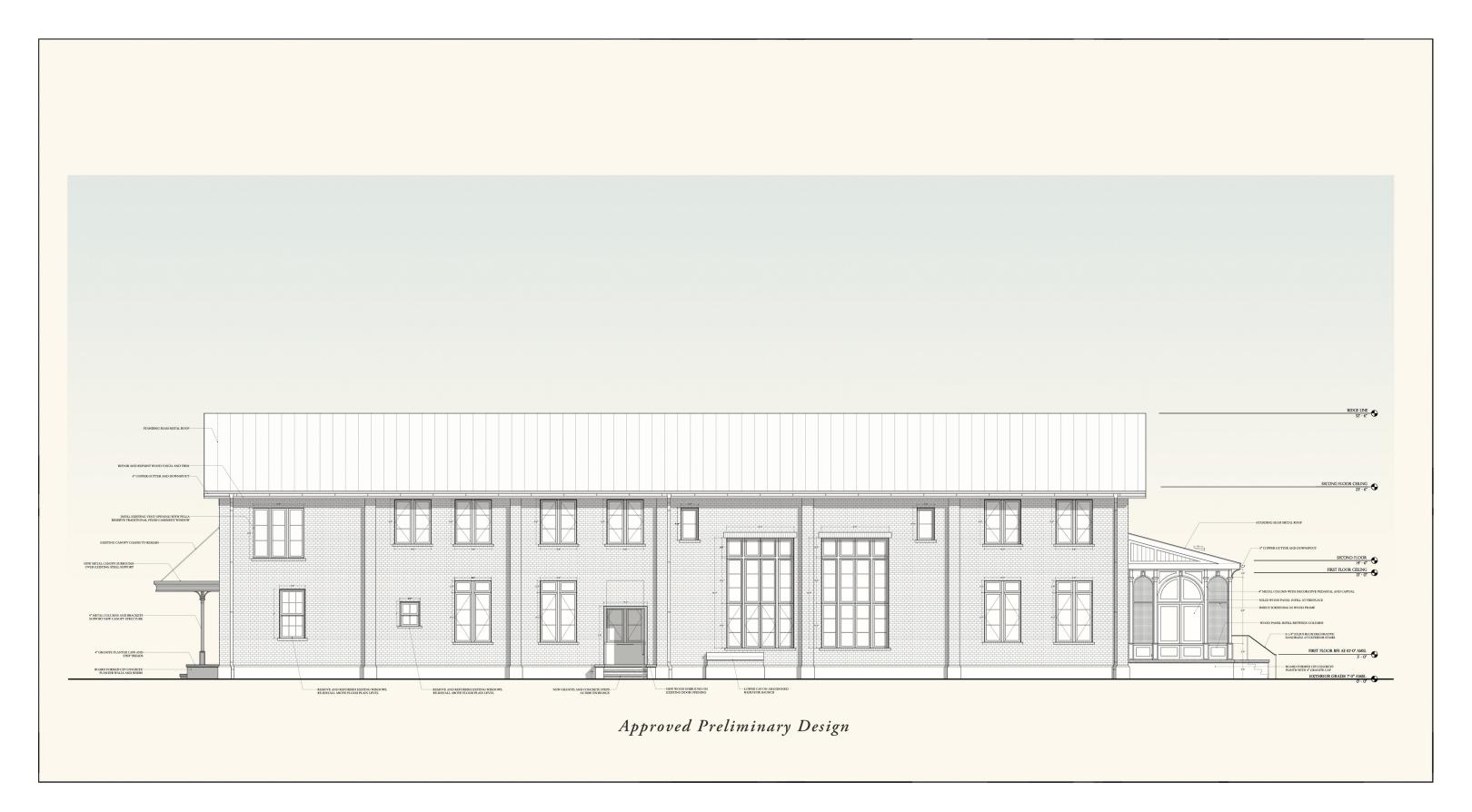


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EAST ELEVATION FINAL



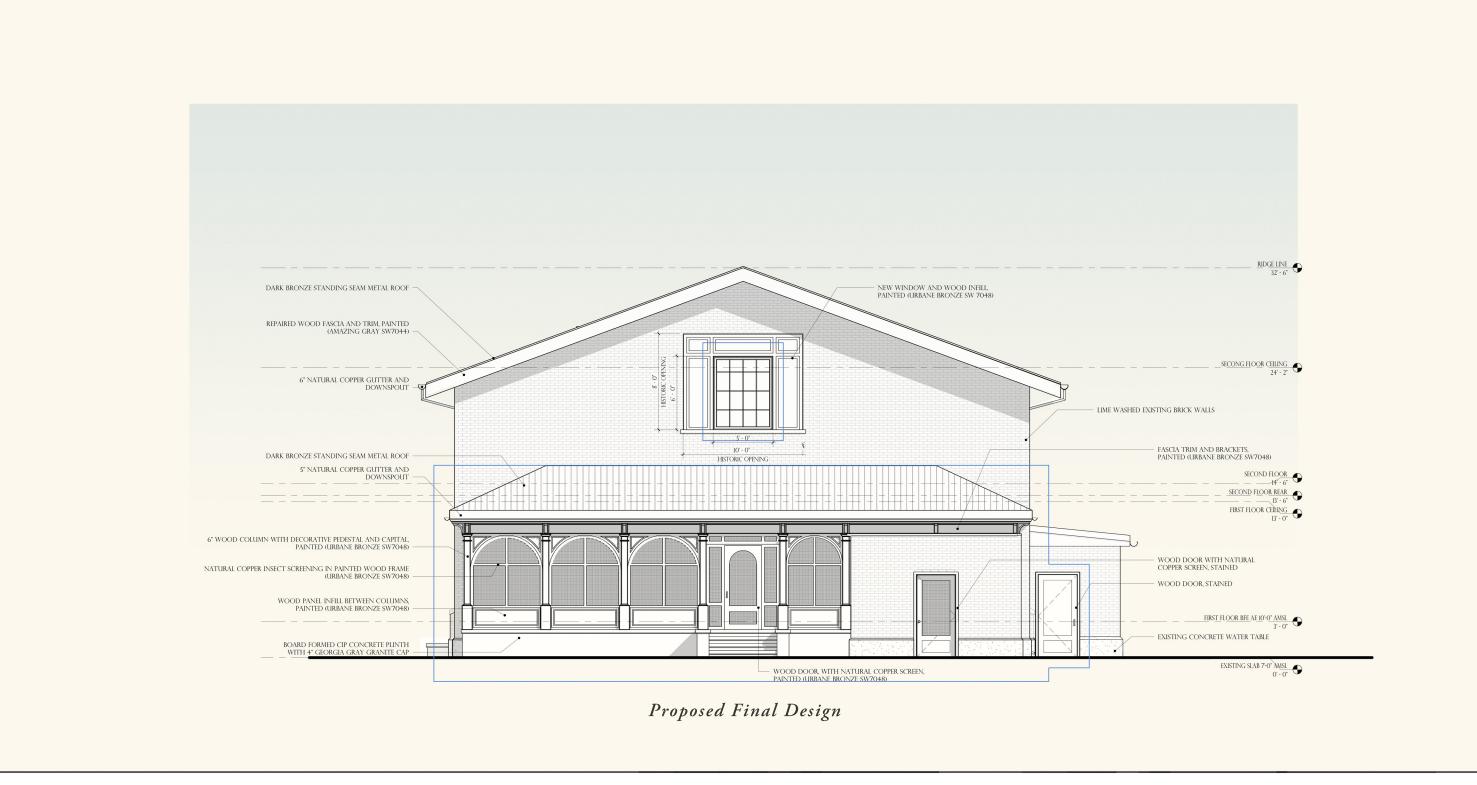


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EAST ELEVATION PRELIMINARY



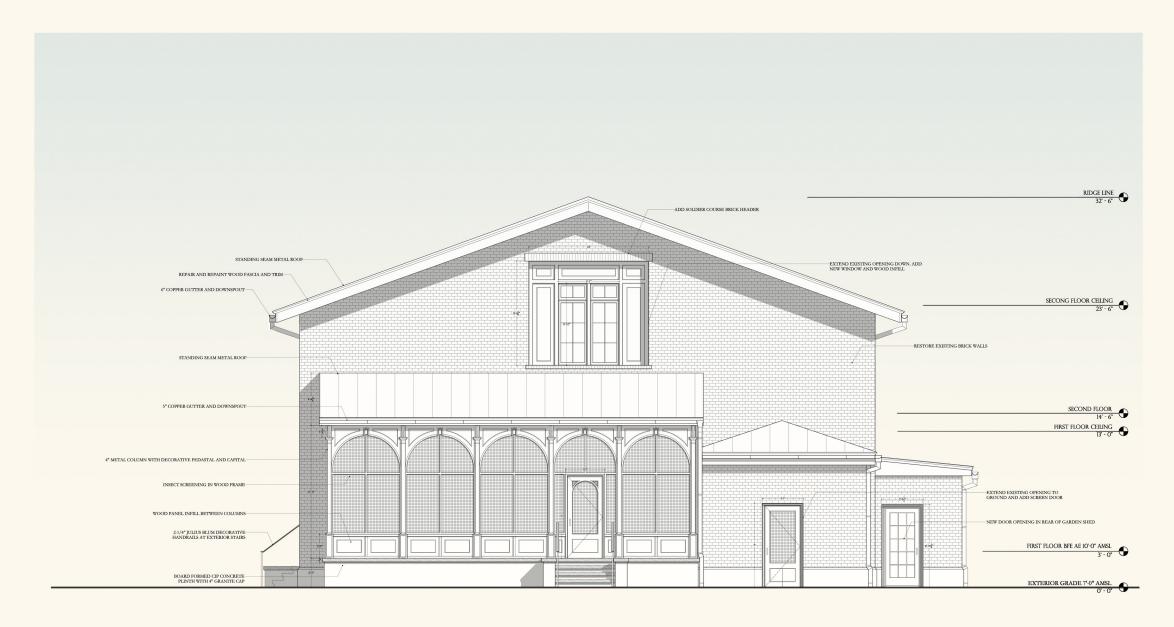


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THOMPSON AVENUE ELEVATION FINAL





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THOMPSON AVENUE ELEVATION PRELIMINARY





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WEST ELEVATION FINAL



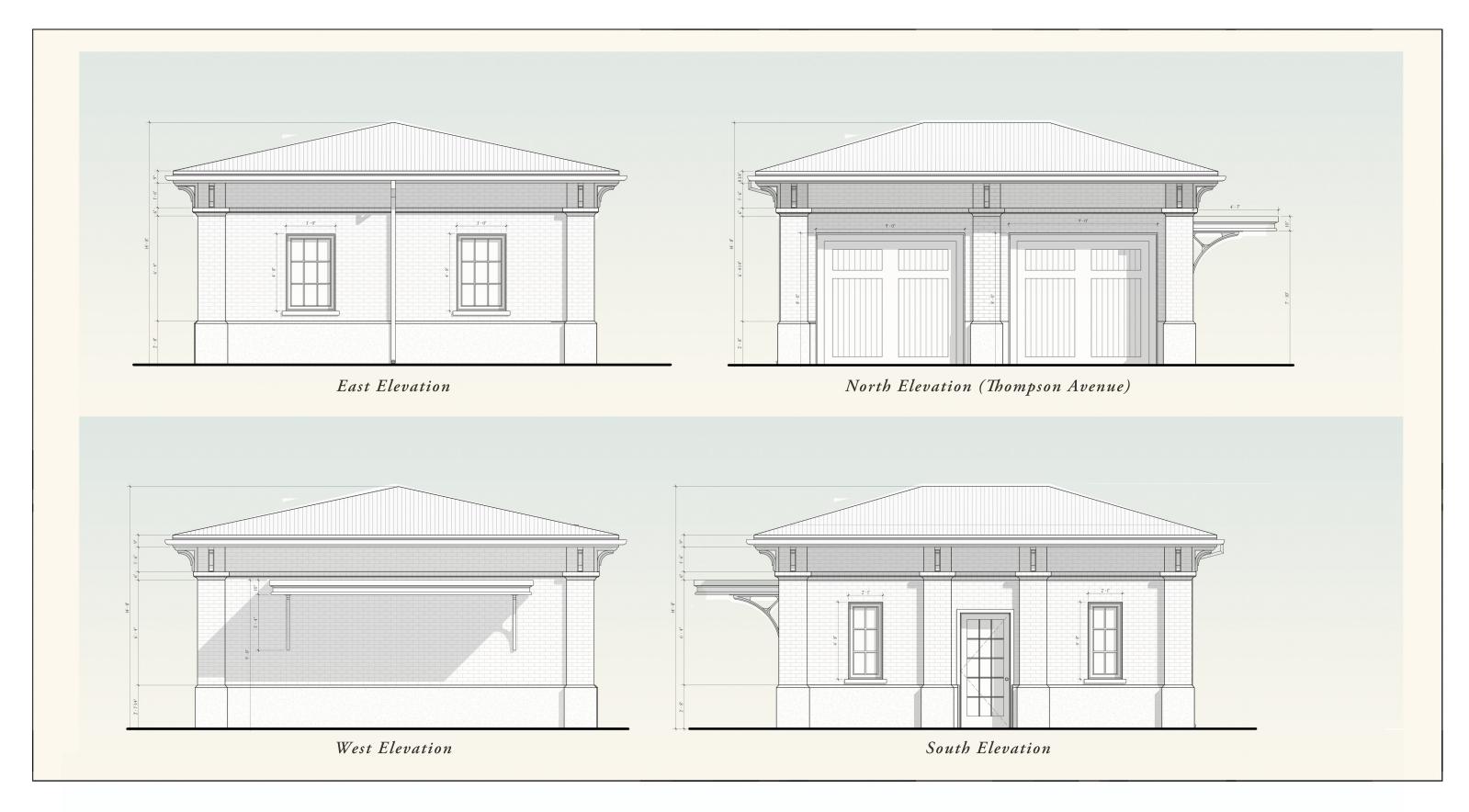


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WEST ELEVATION PRELIMINARY



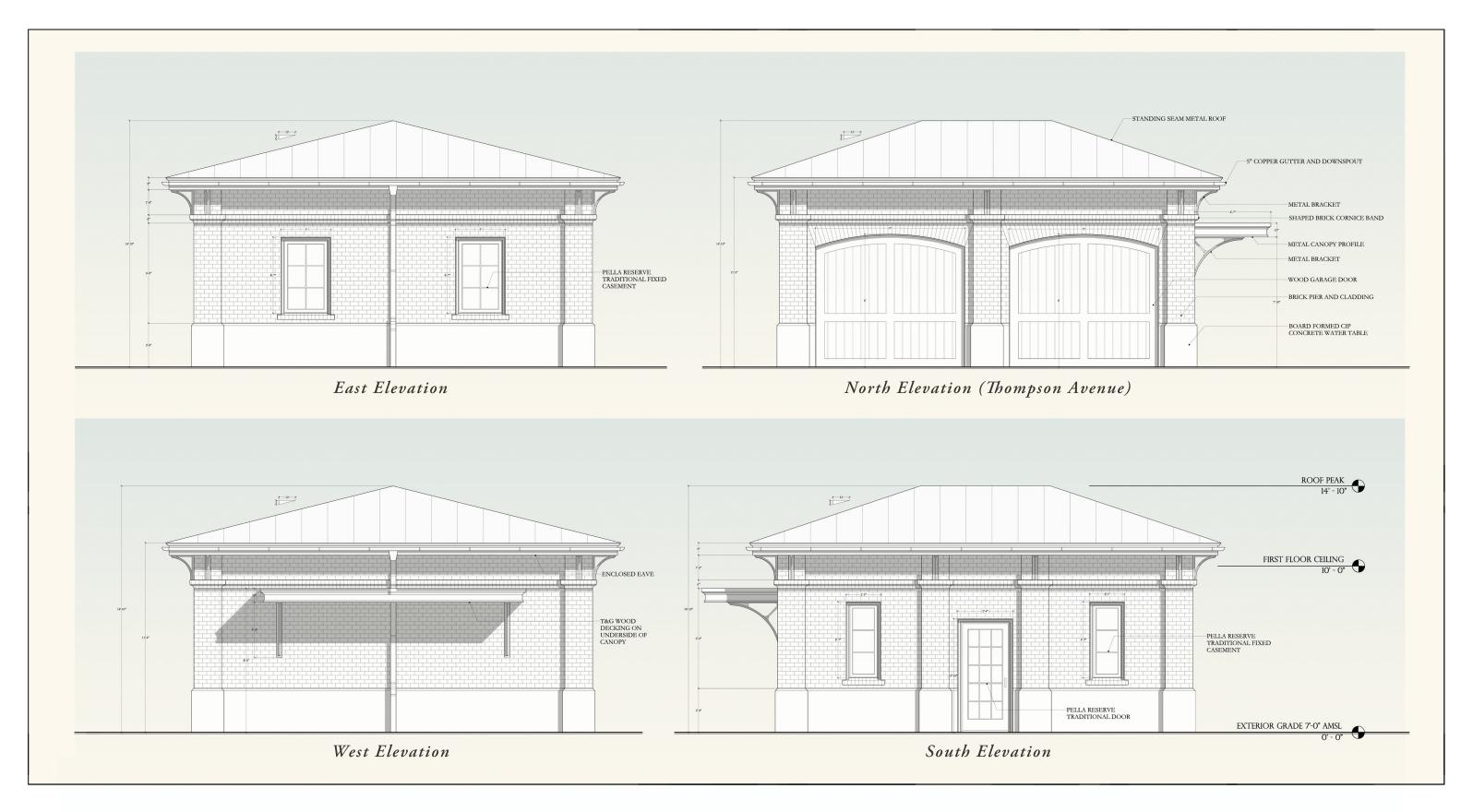


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GARAGE ELEVATIONS FINAL



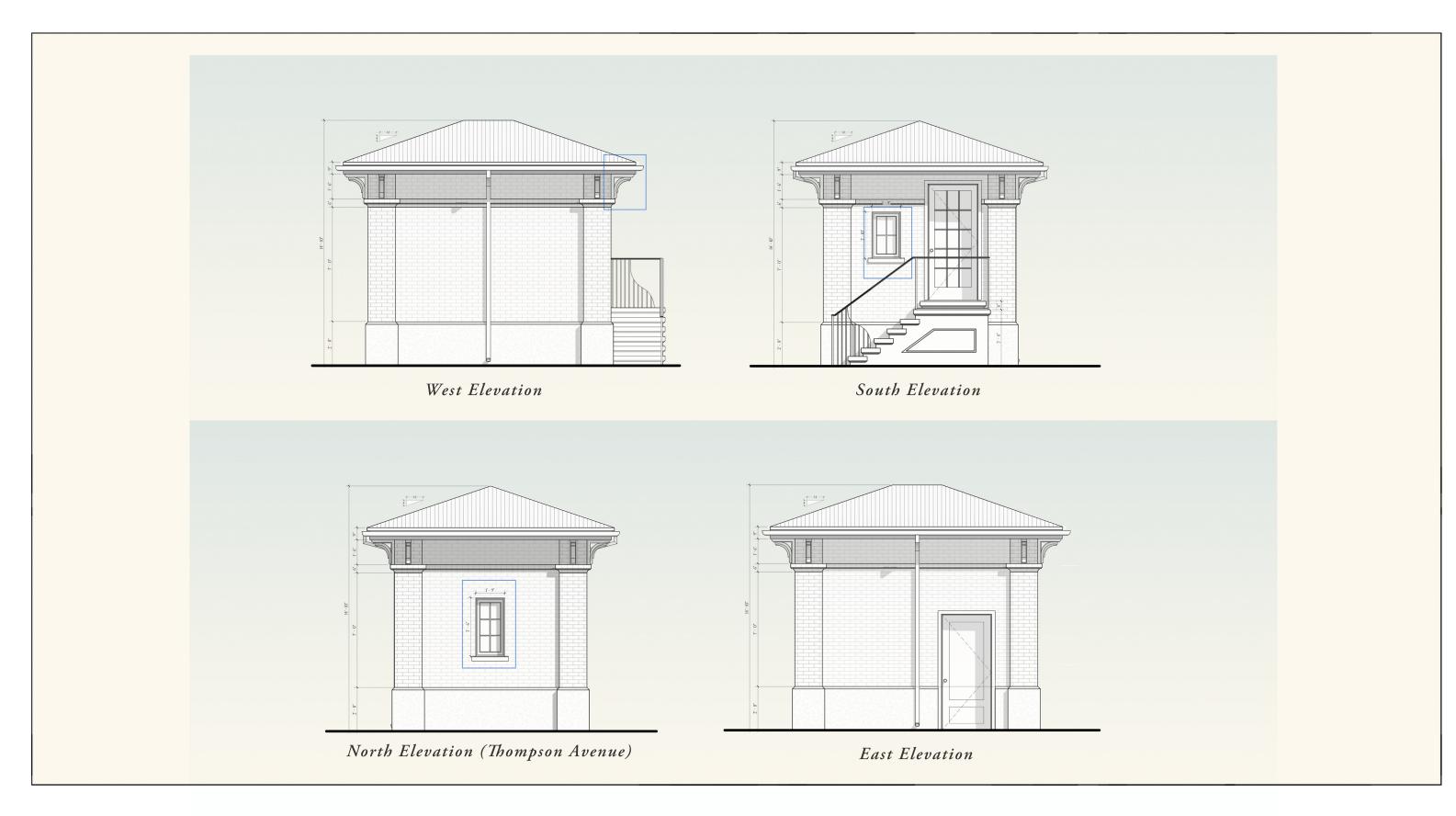


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GARAGE ELEVATIONS PRELIMINARY



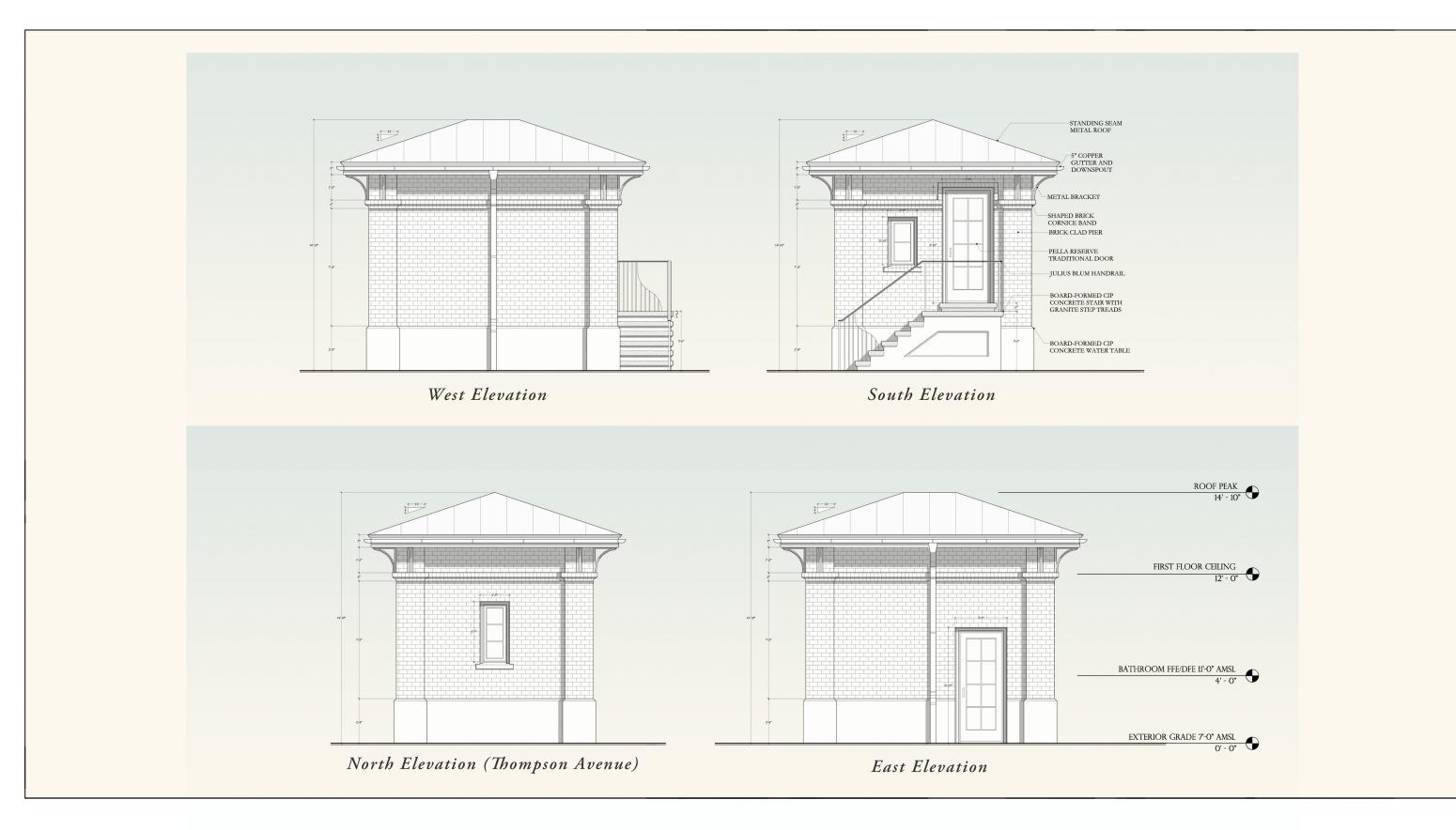


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POOL HOUSE FINAL



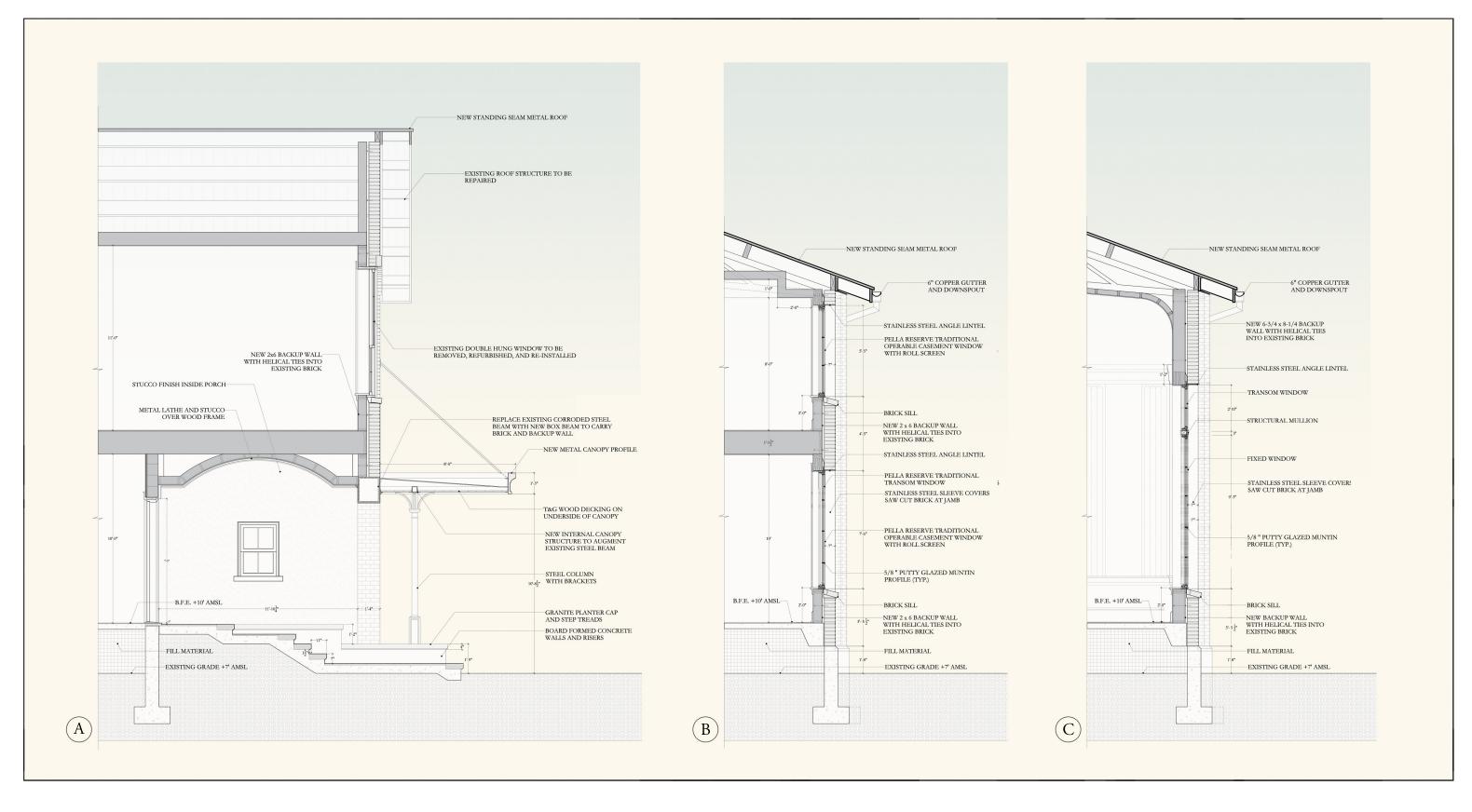


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GARAGE ELEVATIONS FINAL



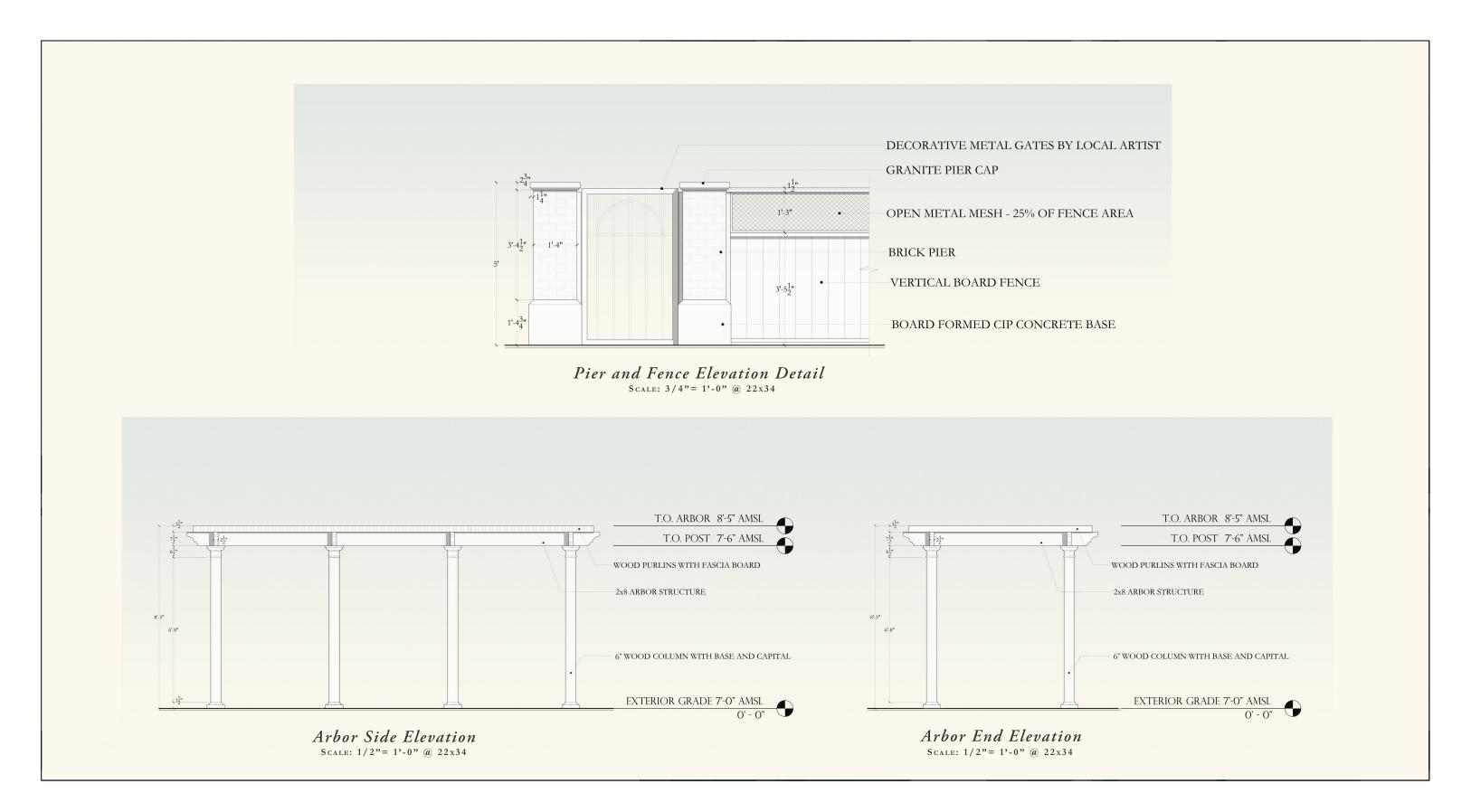


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BUILDING WALL SECTIONS





ARBOR & FENCE DETAIL



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1454 MIDDLE STREET | SULLIVAN'S ISLAND | SOUTH CAROLINA

HISTORIC FORT MOULTRIE POST THEATER





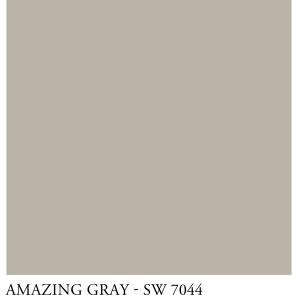
URBANE BRONZE - SW 7048

- Window Frames
- Metal Canopies & Columns
- Screened Porch Panels & Trim
- Handrails



CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE

- Garage & Pool HouseWater Table
- Planter Walls & Stair Risers

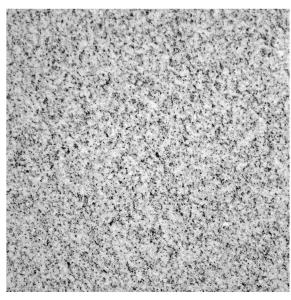


- Building Eaves
- Eave Fascia
- Stucco in Porches



LIME WASHED BRICK

- Principal Building Repairs
- Garage & Pool House Exterior



GEORGIA GRAY GRANITE

- Planter Caps
- Step Treads
- Paving in Porches and Pool Deck



PLANTATION MIX GRAVEL

• Permeable Paths



DARK BRONZE STANDING SEAM METAL

- Principal Building Roof
- Accessory Structures Roofs



NATURAL COPPER

- Gutters
- Downspouts





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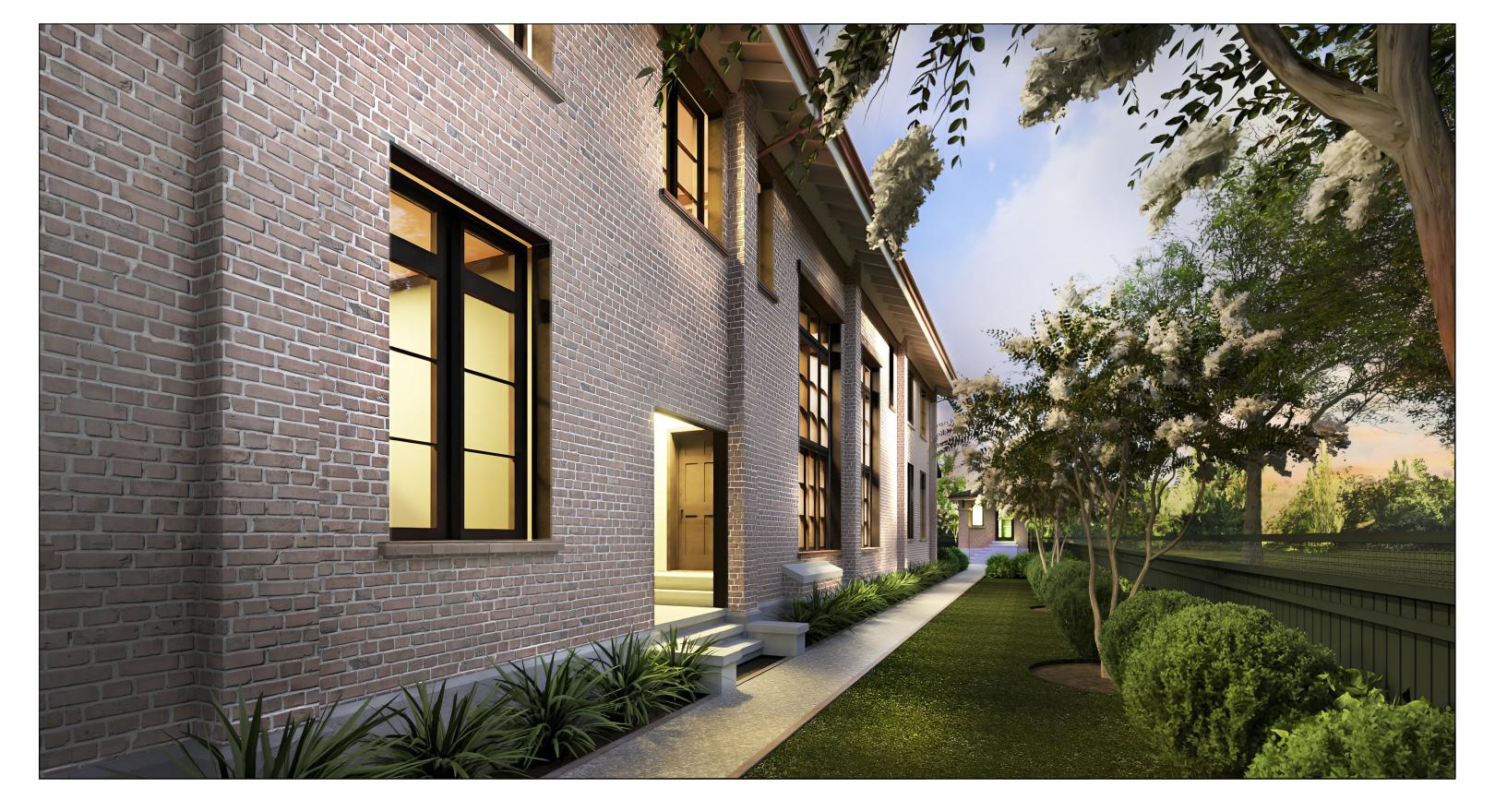


MIDDLE STREET VIEW

CISSELL DESIGN STUDIO

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SIDE ENTRANCE GARDEN VIEW

CISSELL DESIGN STUDIO

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REAR COURTYARD VIEW





THOMPSON AVENUE VIEW

CISSELL DESIGN STUDIO

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