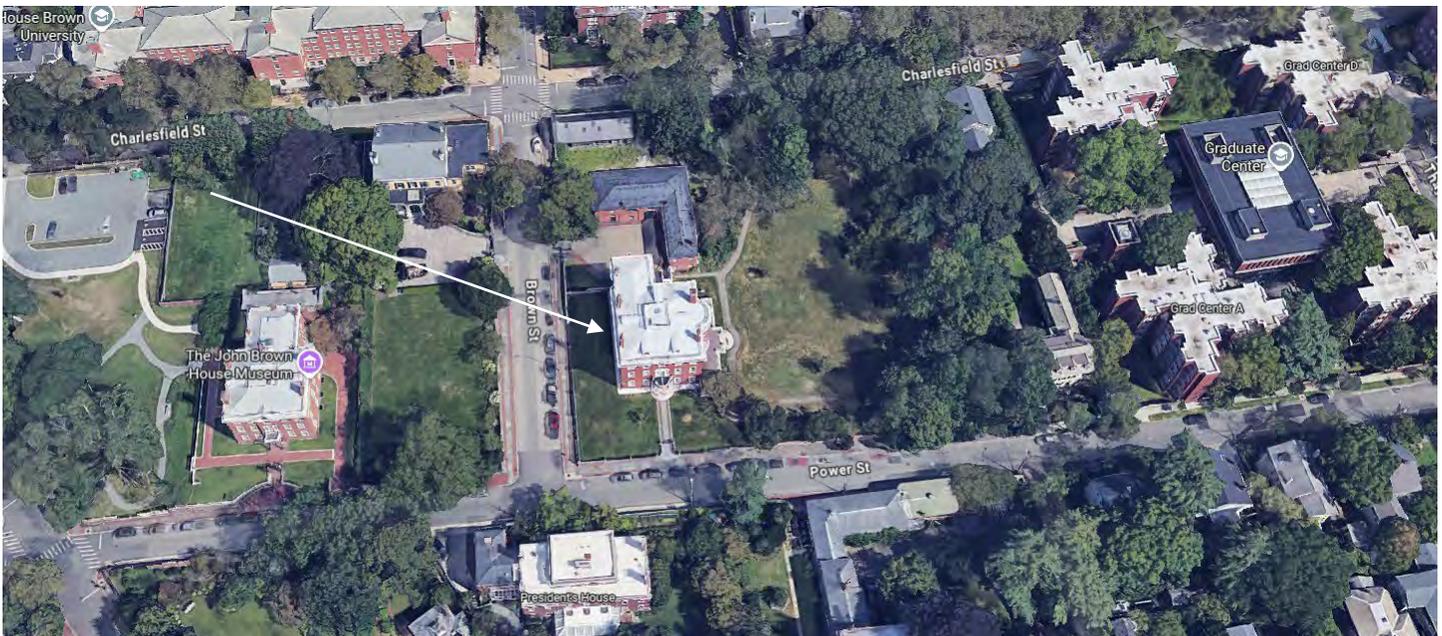


**3. CASE 25.130, 66 POWER STREET, Thomas Poynton Ives House, 1806 (COLLEGE HILL)**

Federal; three-stories; brick with stone trim; hipped roof with balustrade and modillion cornice; five-bay facade with central elliptical fanlight doorway under semicircular Corinthian portico; elliptical fanlight second story hail window; fine stable complex and paved courtyard at rear. Stone, Carpenter and Wilson, added a three-story rear ell in 1885. [National Historic Landmark](#)  
CONTRIBUTING



Arrow indicates 66 Power Street.



Arrow indicates project location, looking north.

**Applicant/Architect:** Cara Pomeranz, 131 Anoka Avenue, Barrington, RI 02809

**Owner:** The Brown Power Personal Residence Trust, 42W 39th Street, Floor 14, New York, New York 10018

**Proposal:** The scope of work proposed consists of Major & Minor Alterations and includes:

- removal of a window and the construction of a new residential entrance, west elevation; a new ADA compliant entrance, north elevation; construction of a colonnade and roof deck, with removal of two windows and introduction of doors to access roof deck, east elevation; and the construction of a new double vehicular access gate off Charlesfield Street (see architect's narrative).

**Issues:** The following issues are relevant to this application:

- The proposed work includes a change of use for the ground floor and basement levels to accommodate a Community/Cultural Center, while the upper levels (second, third, and attic) will remain a single-family residence. This proposed change of use is permitted under the current City of Providence Zoning Ordinances;
- A new residential entrance proposed on the west facade in place of an existing window. The new door will be a 3'-6" door with 18" sidelights, it includes entry steps and landing, portico and hardscape walkway from the brick driveway located at the rear of the primary structure. The modifications will be visible from the public right-of-way;
- New ADA compliant access ramp or ADA compliant lift on North facade (rear of primary structure) within the existing brick garden walls. This will require wayfinding signage for ADA compliance. New landing and automatic actuators at the existing rear entrance (north) for ADA access, this will require a modification of the existing patio access gate. The modifications will be minimally visible from the public right-of-way;
- Addition of a new occupiable roof deck with required support columns and railings over the existing exterior patio on the East facade (facing the garden). New exterior doors on Level 2 East facade (garden facing) in place of existing window for roof deck access. The modifications will be partially visible from the public right-of-way;
- A new double-vehicular access gate off Charlesfield Street for vehicular and maintenance access. The modifications will be visible from the public right-of-way;
- 66 Power Street is a singular property. The property needs maintenance, and the owners are also undergoing restoration/rehabilitation work to the property as well as upgrades to electrical and mechanicals. The addition of a community/cultural center will allow the property to be enjoyed by the public but does necessitate changes to separate the public from private uses. This necessitates a new private entrance for the exclusive use of the owner's use. The applicants have designed an entrance along the west side that would replace one window. The design is sympathetic to the existing architecture with the concern being that this side (west) elevation is prominent from the public rights-of-way. The applicants have reduced the impact by introducing a walkway from the rear parking area and not introducing a pedestrian entrance along Brown Street, minimizing the impact. The other proposed modifications have limited visibility, all are designed to respect and keep with the character of the existing structures; and,
- An architect's narrative, drawings and photos have been submitted.

**Recommendations:** The staff recommends the PHDC make the following findings of fact:

- a) 66 Power Street is a structure of national historical and architectural significance that contributes to the significance of the College Hill local historic district, having been recognized as a contributing structure to the College Hill National Historic Landmarks District and a National Historic Landmark;
- b) The application for Major & Minor Alterations is considered complete; and,
- c) The work as proposed is in accord with PHDC Standard 8 as follows: the proposed alterations are appropriate having determined that the proposed construction is architecturally and historically compatible with the property and district having an appropriate size, scale and form that will not have an adverse effect on the property or district, as the modifications are reversible.

**Staff recommends a motion be made stating that: the application for 66 Power Street, a contributing resource of the College Hill local historic district, recognized as a contributing structure to the College Hill National Historic Landmarks District and a National Historic Landmark, is considered complete. The Commission cites Standard 8 in granting Final Approval of the application for Major & Minor alterations, having determined that the alterations are appropriate, having a size, scale and form that will not create an adverse effect to the property or district, as the modifications are reversible, citing and agreeing to the recommendations in the staff report, with staff to review any additional details.**

## 66 POWER STREET - PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK OVERVIEW

The property located at 66 Power Street in Providence, Rhode Island, is known as the Thomas P. Ives House. This Federal-style building is a designated National Historic Landmark situated in the College Hill Historic District. It is bound by Charlesfield Street to the north, Brown Street to the west, and Power Street to the south.

According to historical records, the house was constructed between 1803 and 1806 by master builder Caleb Ormsbee as the primary residence of Thomas Poynton Ives, a prominent Rhode Island merchant and banker. In 2023, the property was acquired by The Brown Power Residence Trust. The Trust has engaged Cara Pomeranz Architect, LLC and Dave Annese of Annese Construction to provide professional design and construction services for the renovation. The proposed work includes a change of use for the ground floor and basement levels to accommodate a Community/Cultural Center, while the upper levels (second, third, and attic) will remain a single-family residence. This proposed change of use is permitted by right under the current City of Providence Zoning Ordinances.

Interior renovations will include updates required for life safety compliance, including fire alarm systems, sprinklers, and upgrades to electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fire protection systems.

We are here before the Historic District Commission to discuss the proposed exterior modifications. The proposed exterior modifications include:

- A new residential entrance proposed on the west facade in place of an existing window. The new door will be a 3'-6" door with 18" sidelights, it includes entry steps and landing, portico and hardscape walkway from the brick driveway located at the rear of the primary structure.
- New ADA compliant access ramp or ADA compliant lift on North facade (rear of primary structure) within the existing brick garden walls. This will require wayfinding signage for ADA compliance.
- New landing and automatic actuators at the existing rear entrance (north) for ADA access, this will require a modification of the existing patio access gate.
- Addition of a new occupiable roof deck with required support columns and railings over the existing exterior patio on the East facade (facing the garden).
- Repairs/replacement in kind to the existing elevated patio at the north and east of the building.
- New exterior doors on Level 2 East facade (garden facing) in place of existing window for roof deck access.
- Repairs/replacement in kind of the existing front (Power St) walkway.
- Replacement of the attic level skylight for the proposed new Observatory Room.
- A new double vehicular access gate off Charlesfield Street for vehicular and maintenance access.



# 66 POWER ST

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HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

07/28/2025

CPA  
CARA POMERANZ ARCHITECT

# OVERVIEW

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- Addition of a new occupiable roof deck with required support columns and railings over the existing exterior patio on the East facade (facing the garden).
- Repairs/replacement in kind to the existing elevated patio at the north and east of the building.
- New exterior doors on Level 2 East facade (garden facing) in place of existing window for roof deck access.
- Repairs/replacement in kind of the existing front (Power St) walkway.
- Replace the attic level skylight for the proposed new Observatory Room.
- A new double vehicular access gate off Charlesfield Street for vehicular and maintenance access.

## DATES

6/30 30 DAY FILING HDC

7/14 14 DAY FILING HDC  
\*ALTERATIONS + NEW CONSTRUCTION\*

7/28 MEETING DATE



## PAPERWORK

- Application
- List of Abutters
- Proposed Modifications

# ALTERATIONS

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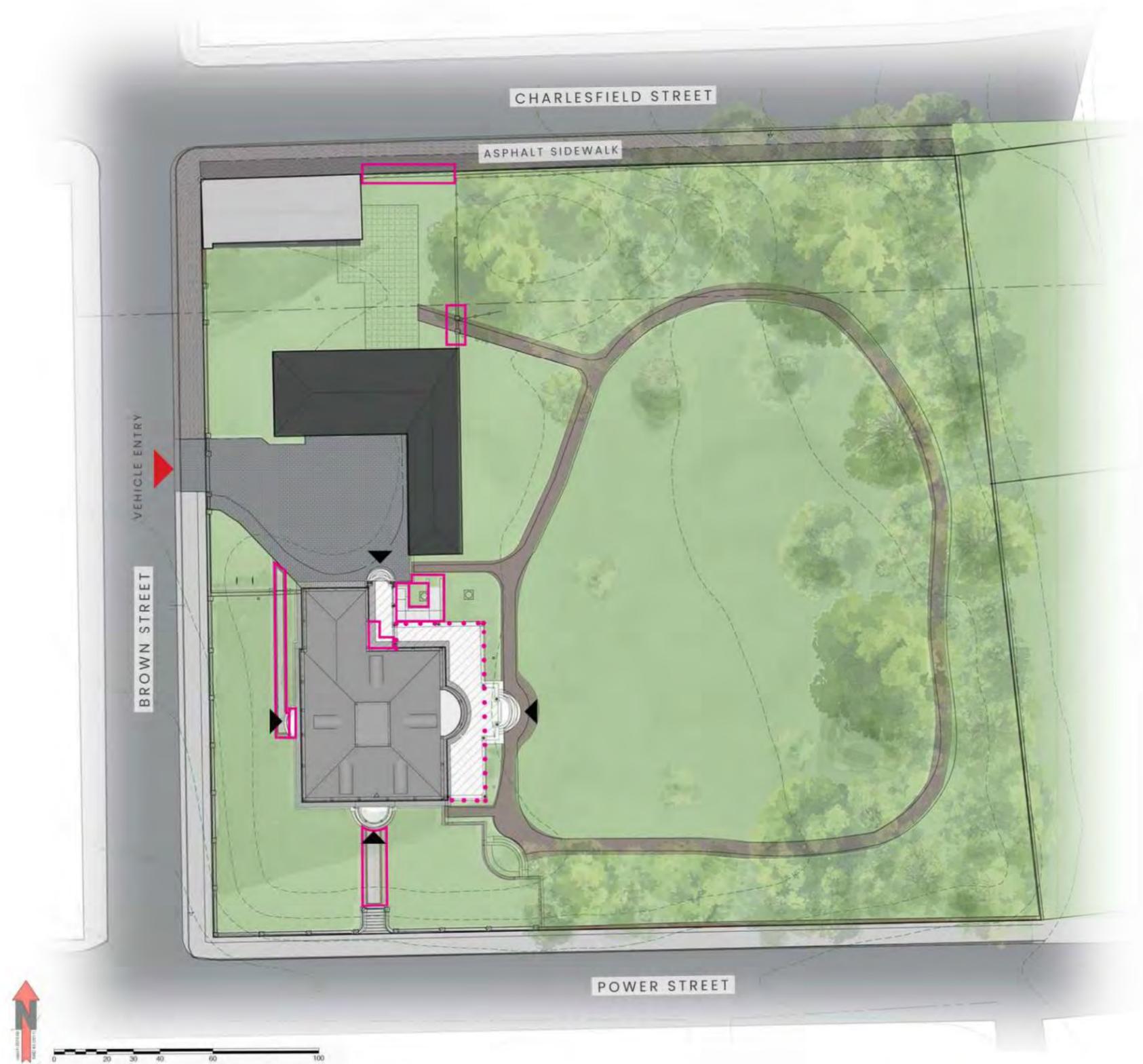


EXHIBIT 3A - SITE PLAN

# SITE PLAN

PROPOSED

- Private Entrance
- Grande Terrace
- ADA Improvements
- New Vehicular Equipment access



# BUILDING SECTION

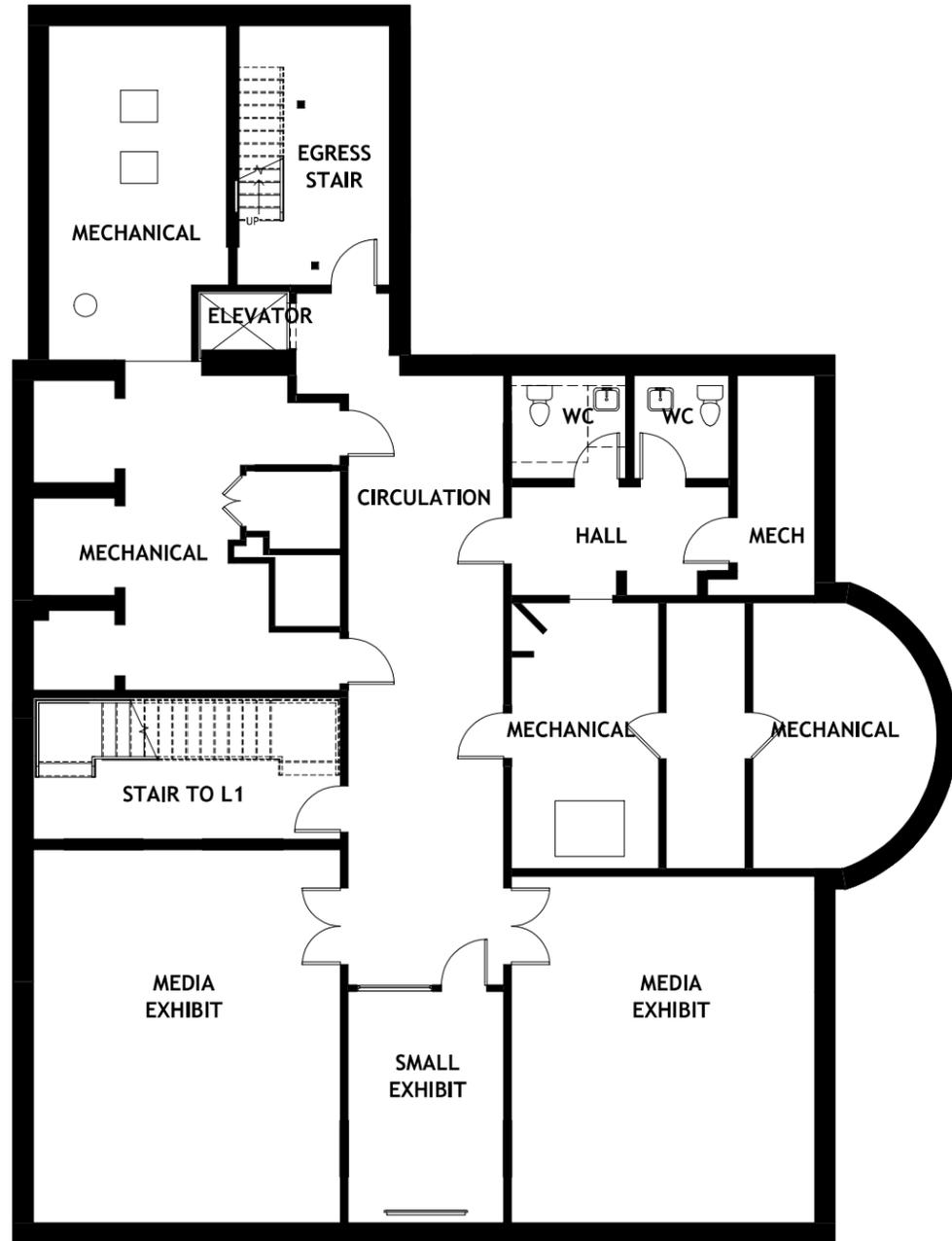


DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

EXHIBIT 3C - FLOOR PLANS

# FLOOR PLANS

BASEMENT PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

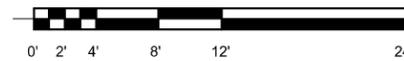
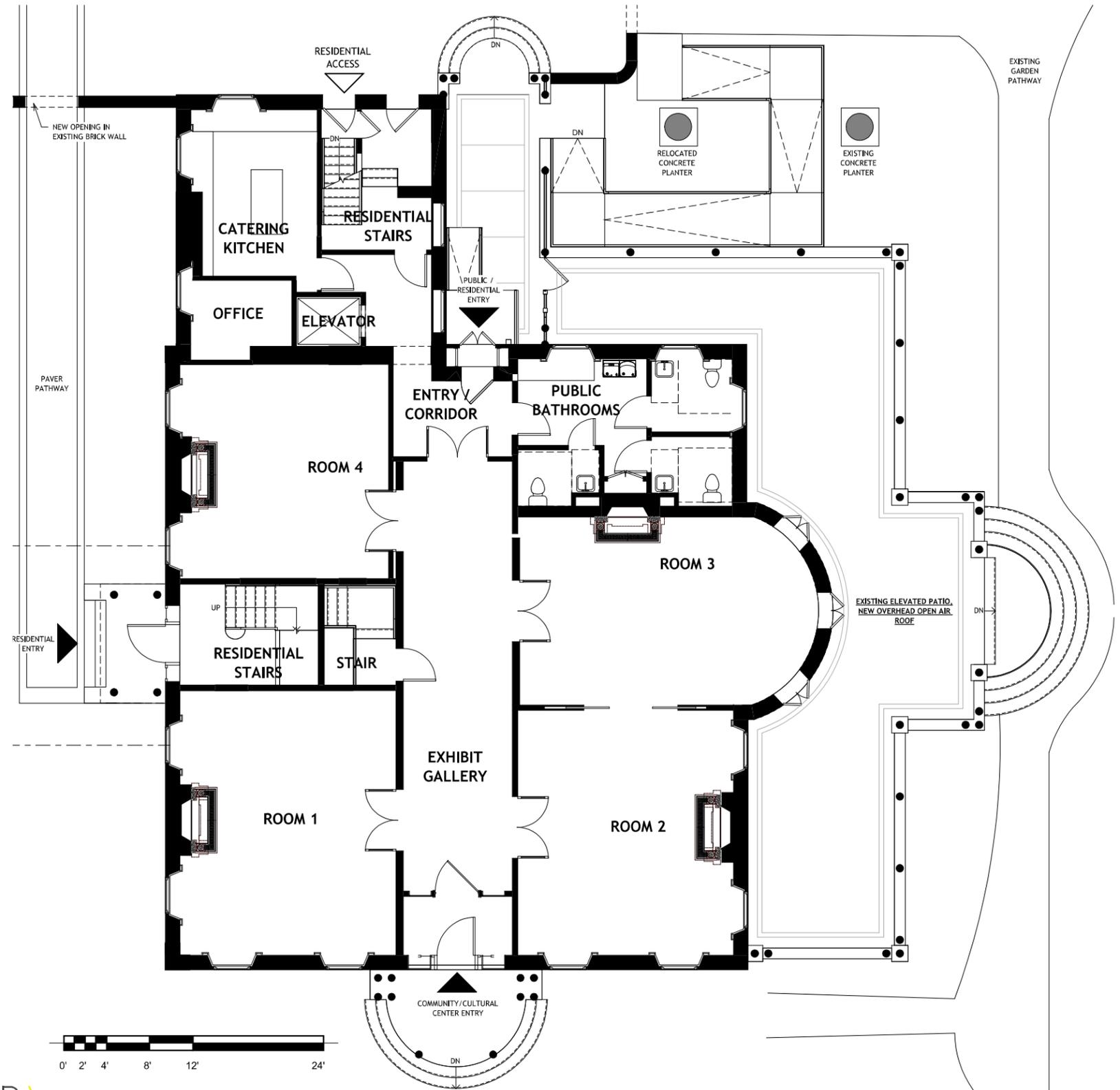


EXHIBIT 3D - FLOOR PLANS

# FLOOR PLANS

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

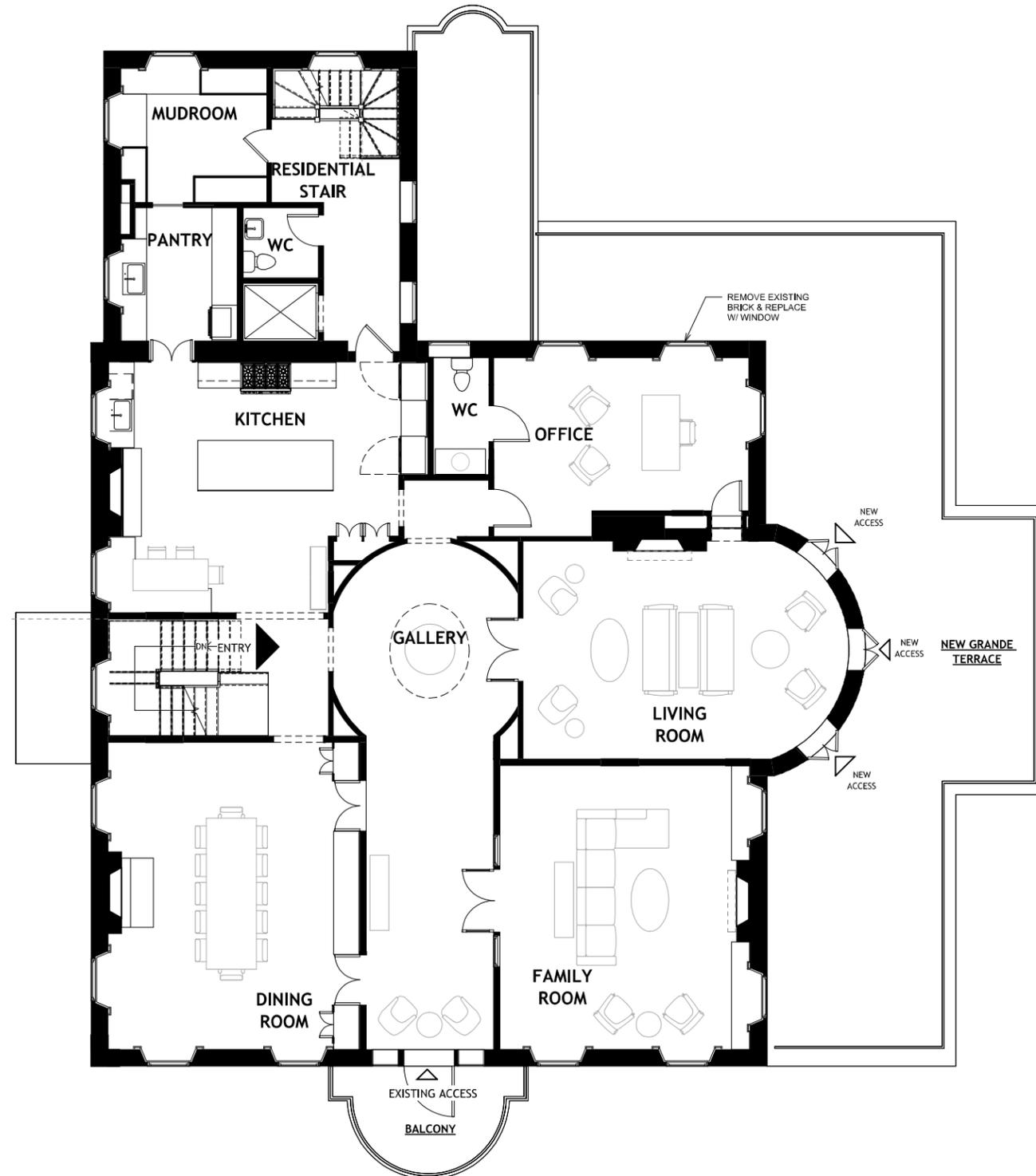
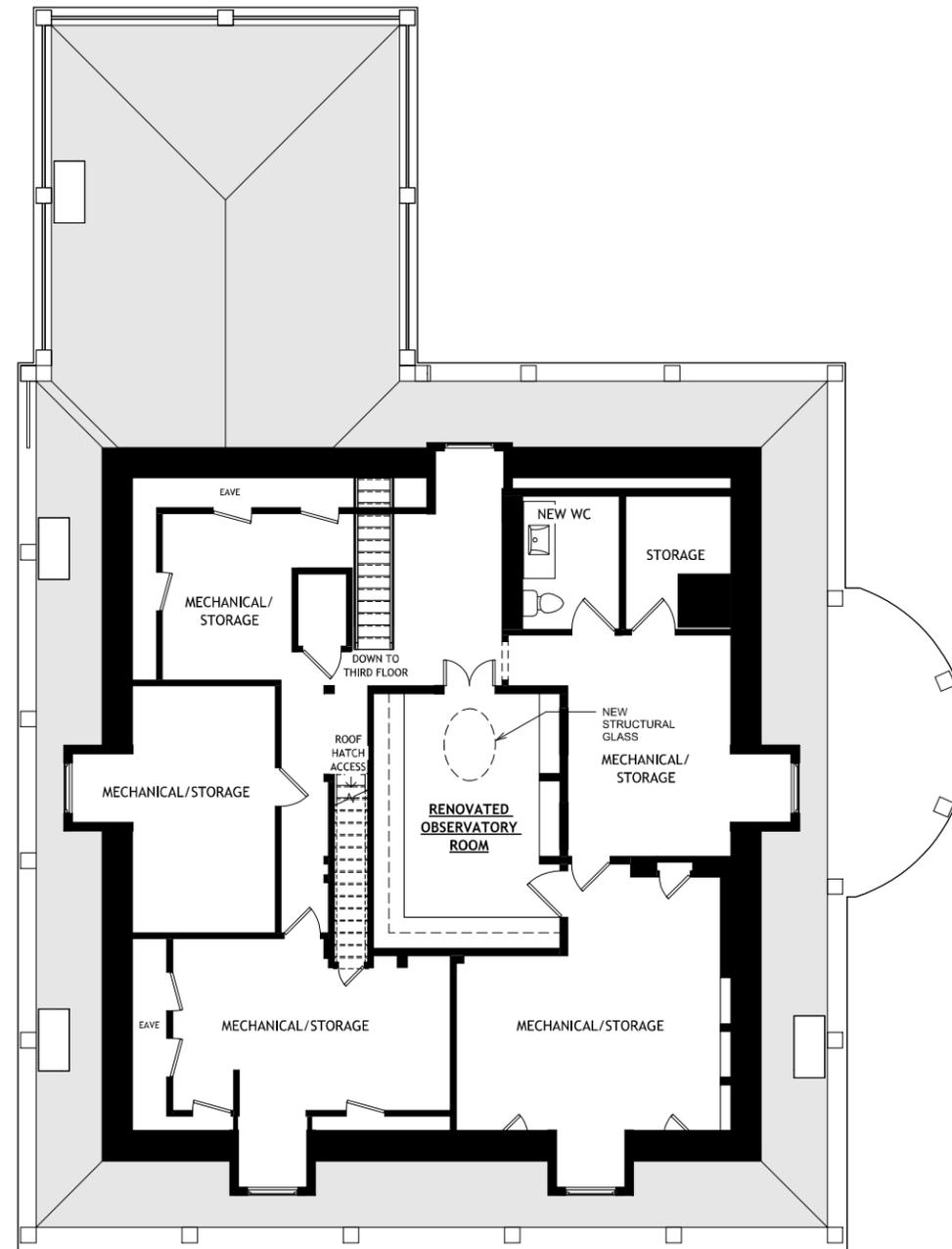


EXHIBIT 3E - FLOOR PLANS

# FLOOR PLANS

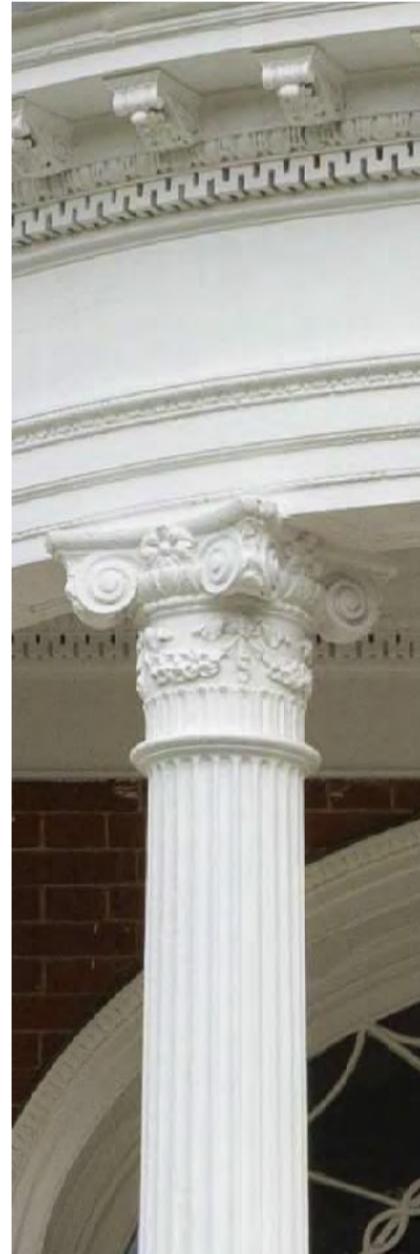
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN



# EXISTING EXTERIOR



FRONT ENTRANCE, POWER ST



REAR ENTRANCE, BROWN ST



# EXISTING WEST FACADE



WEST FACADE, BROWN ST

# NEW PRIVATE ENTRANCE



BROWN ST. FACADE

RENDERED PERSPECTIVE, NOT TO SCALE

# NEW PRIVATE ENTRANCE

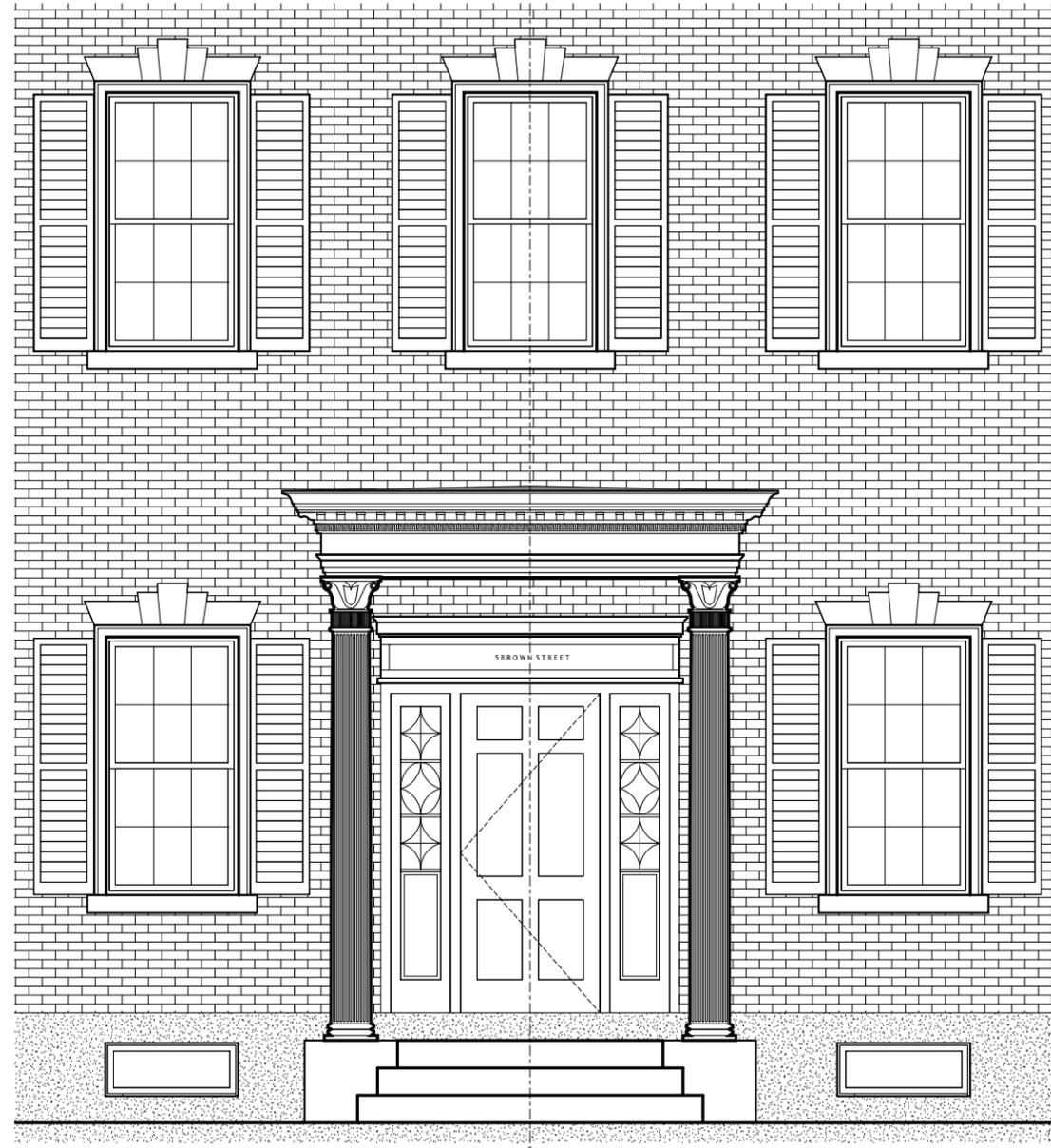
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VIEW FROM BROWN ST. DRIVEWAY

RENDERED PERSPECTIVE, NOT TO SCALE

# NEW PRIVATE ENTRANCE - 1

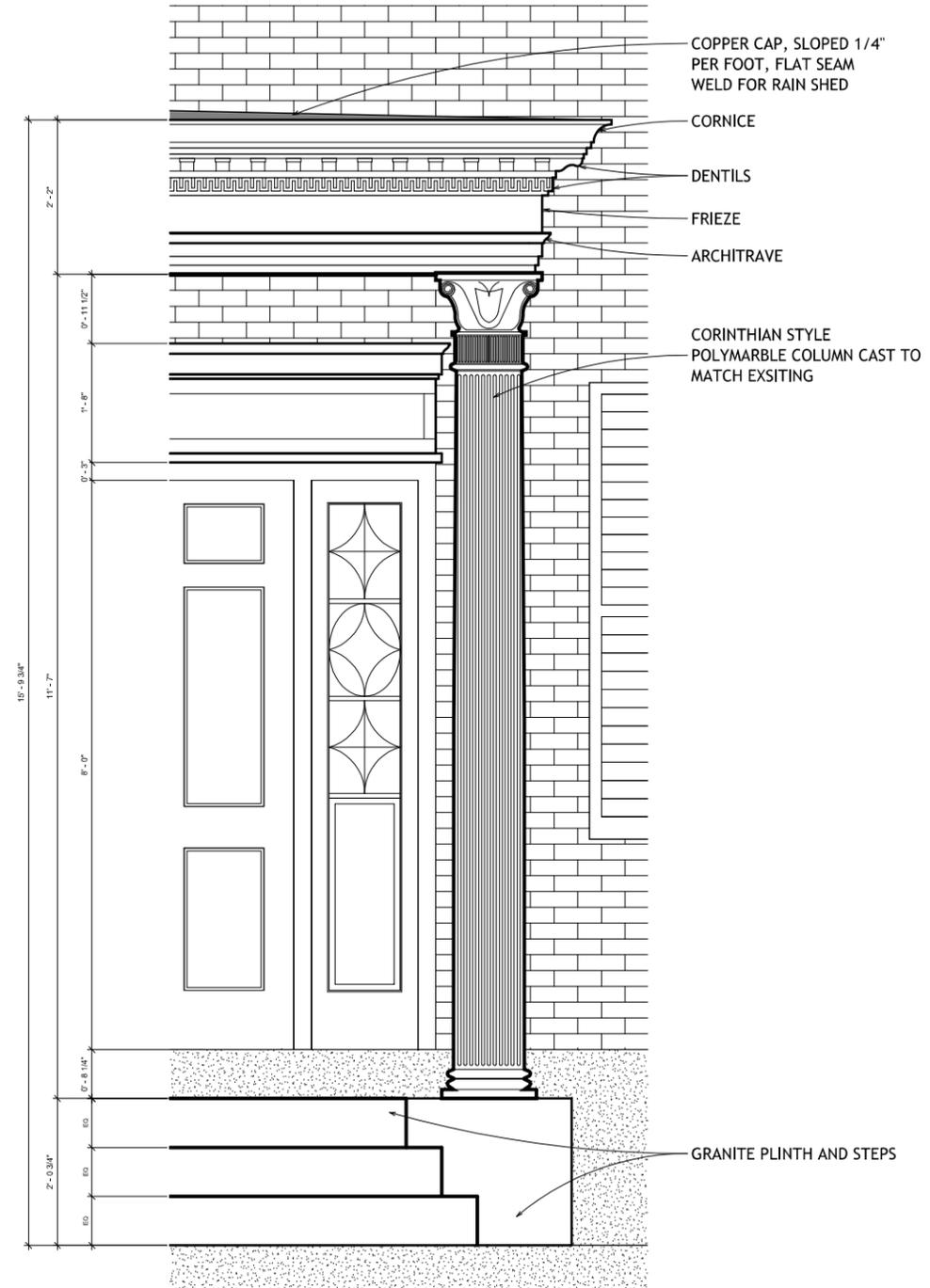


VIEW FROM BROWN ST.

# ENLARGED VIEW - 1

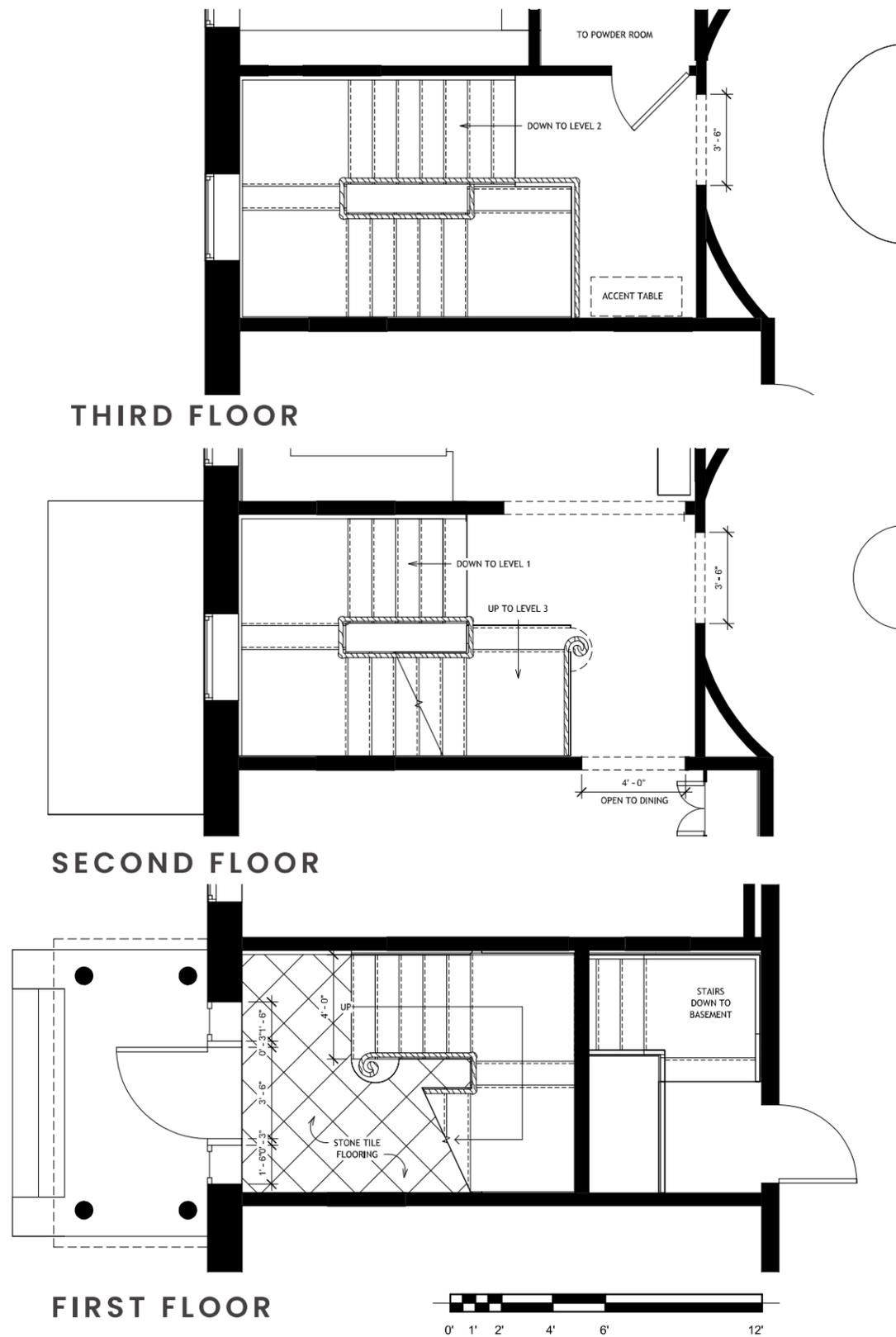


VIEW FROM BROWN ST.



VIEW FROM BROWN ST.

# PRIVATE ENTRANCE PLAN



# EXISTING GARDEN FACADE

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GARDEN FACADE

# NEW GRANDE TERRACE



GARDEN FACADE

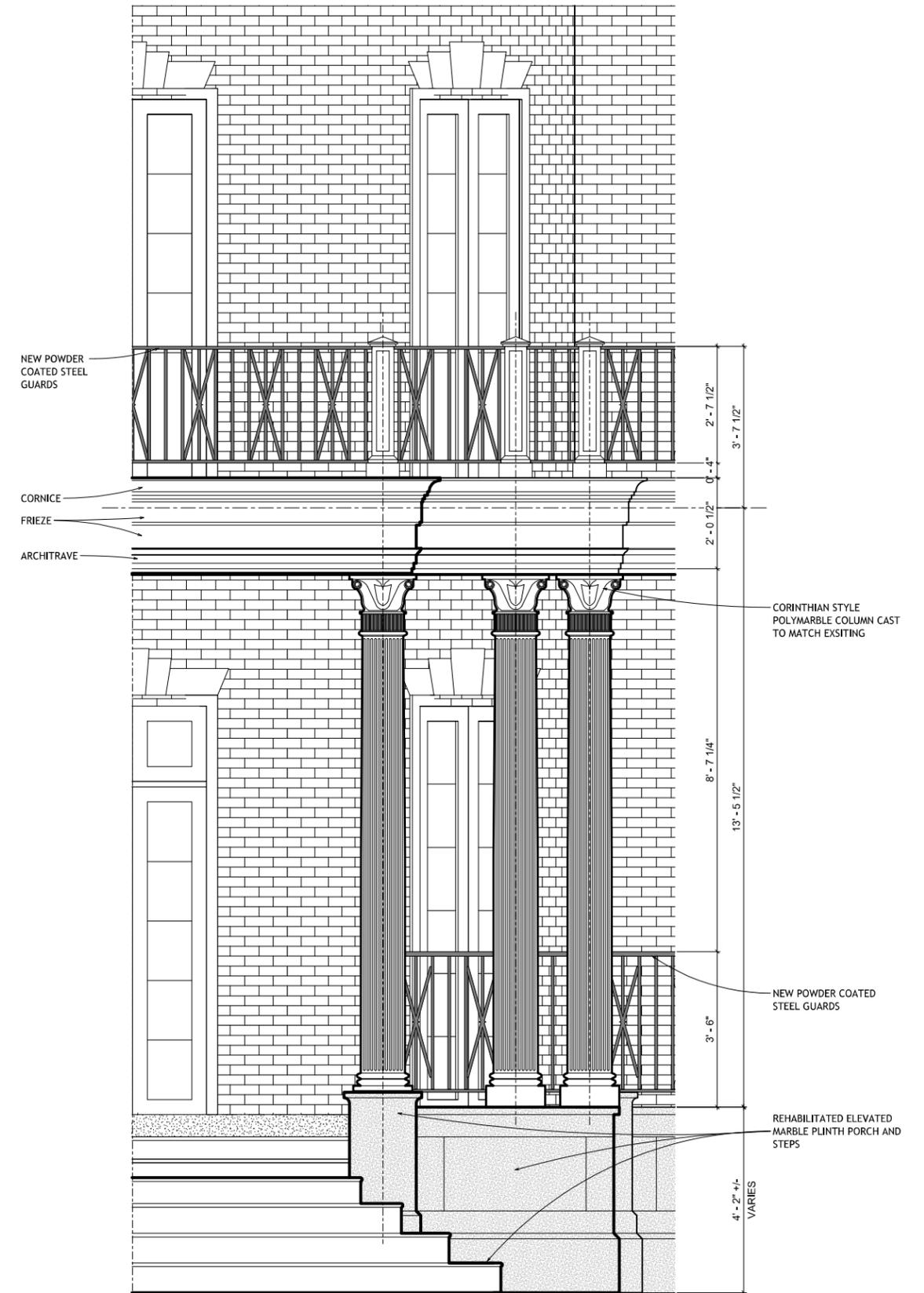
RENDERED PERSPECTIVE, NOT TO SCALE

EXHIBIT 3L - EAST ELEVATION

# GRANDE TERRACE - 1

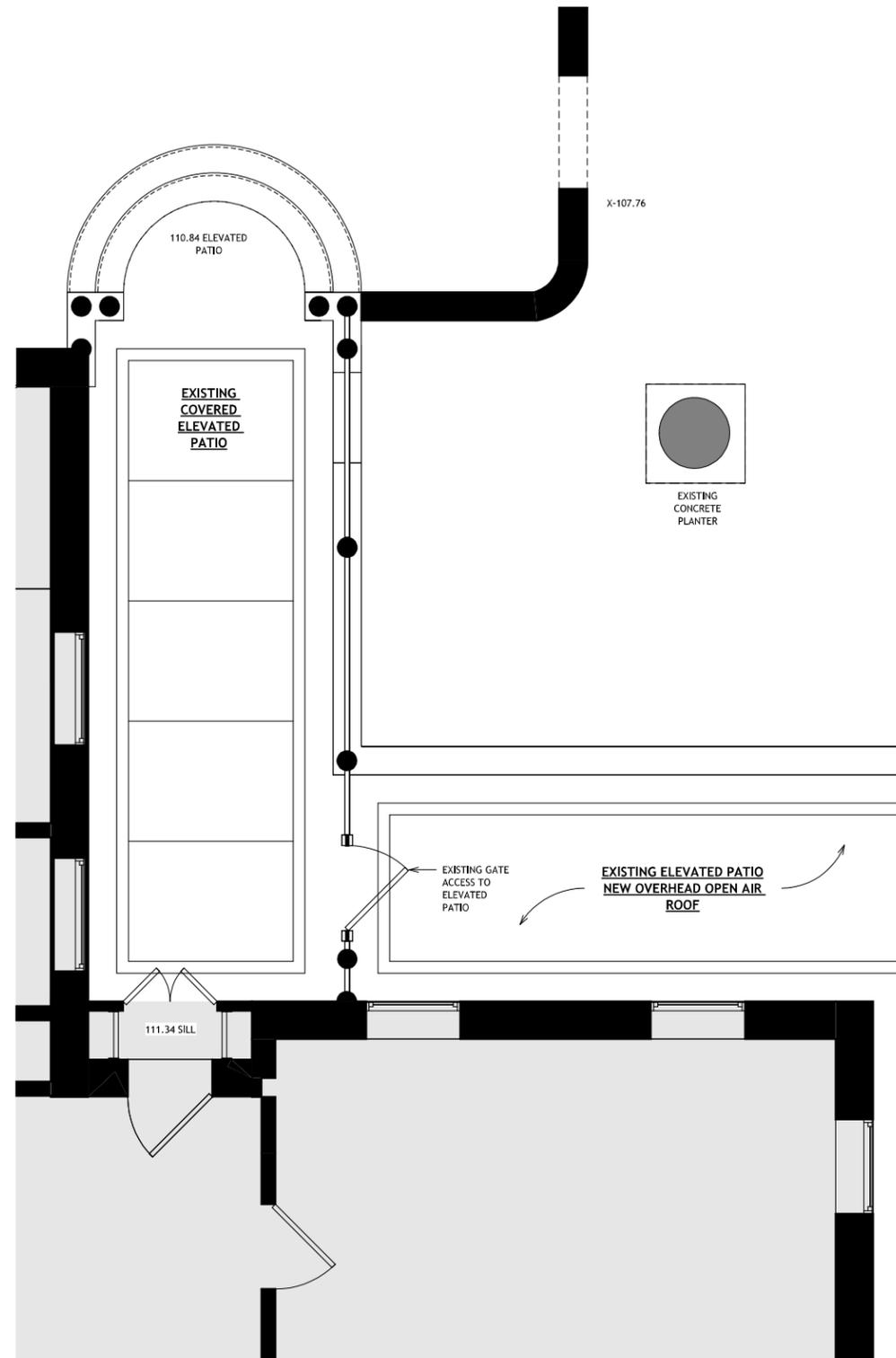


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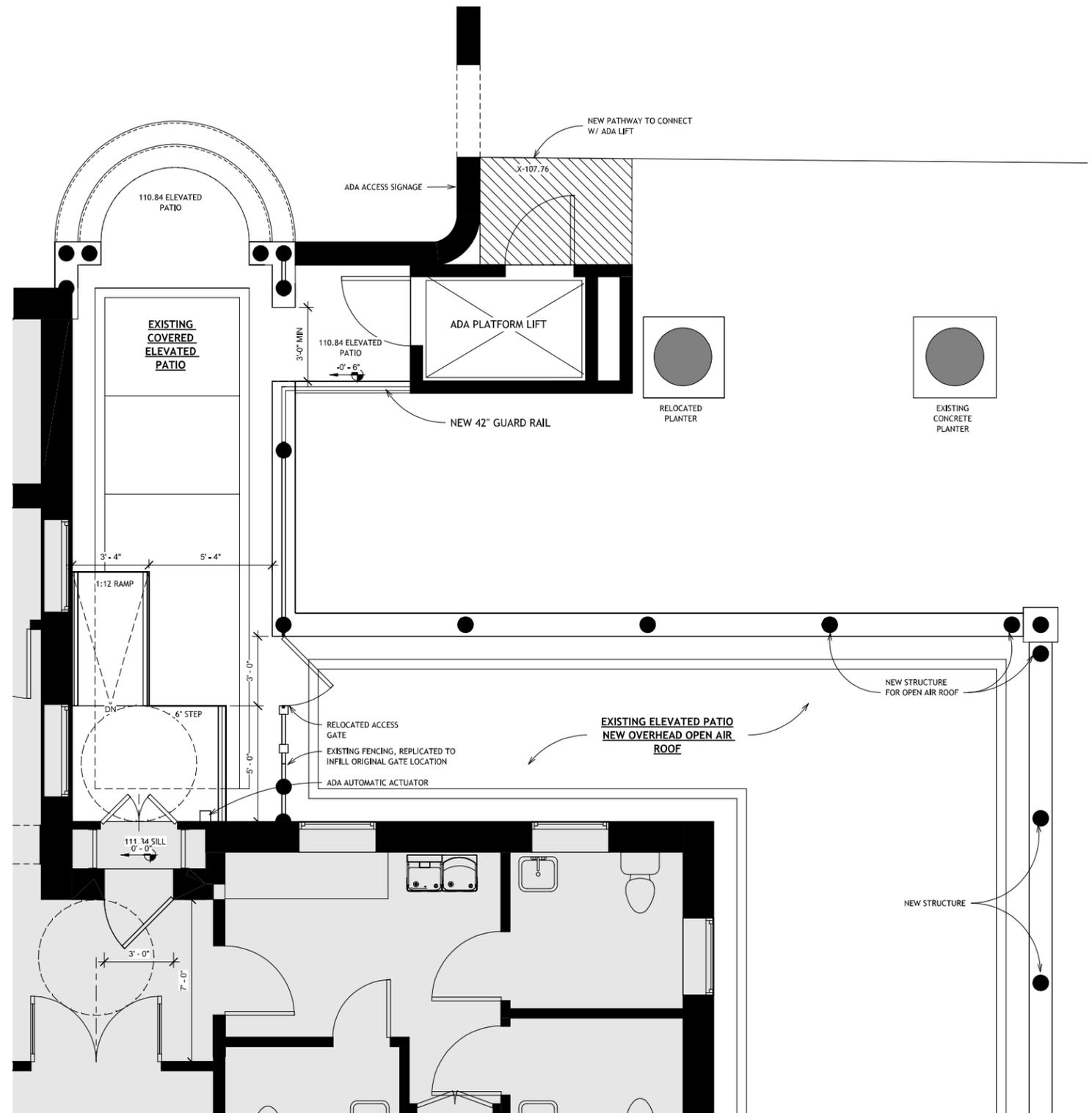




# ADA IMPROVEMENTS - LIFT



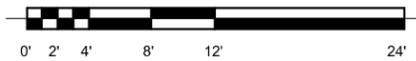
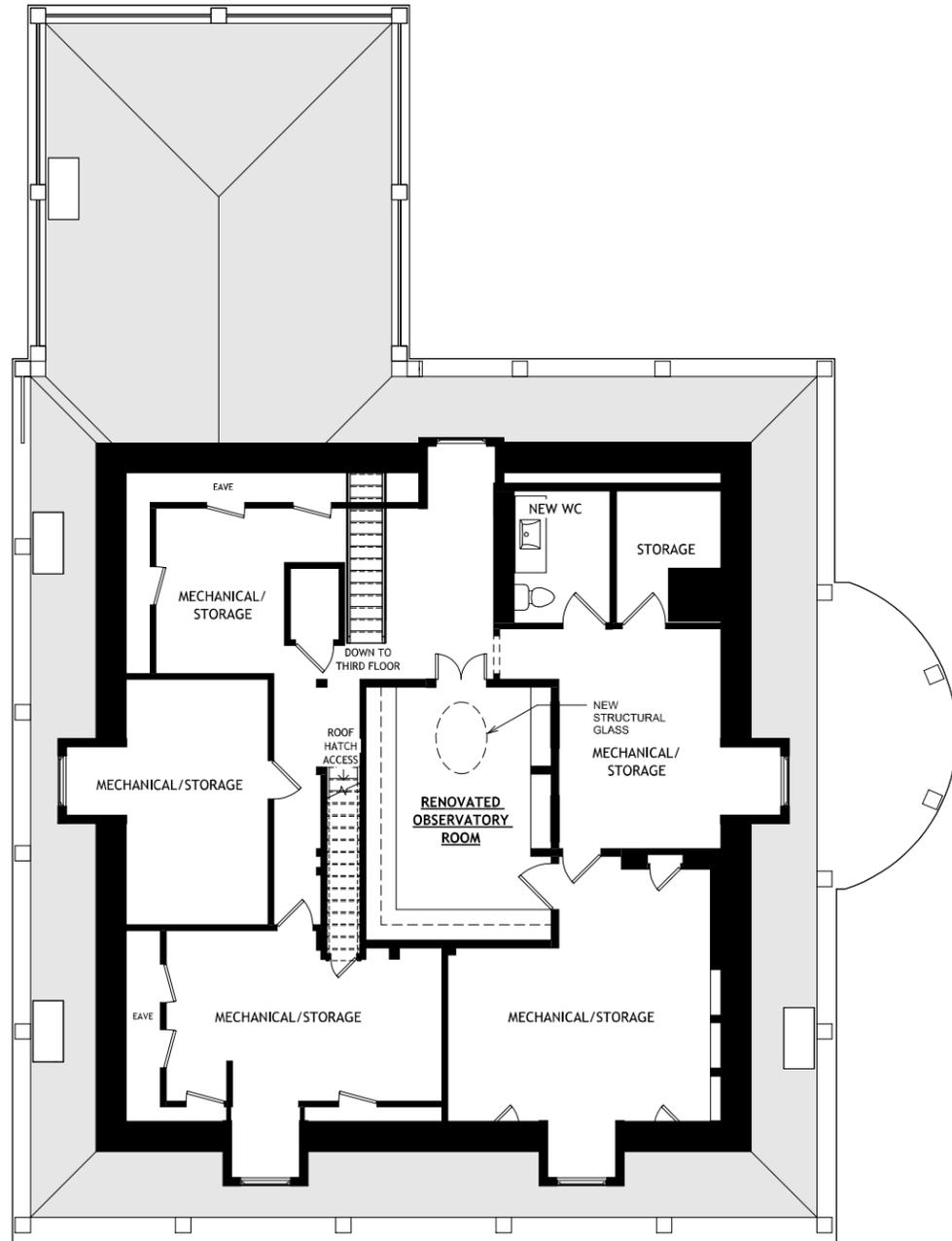
ENLARGED EXISTING REAR ENTRANCE FLOOR PLAN



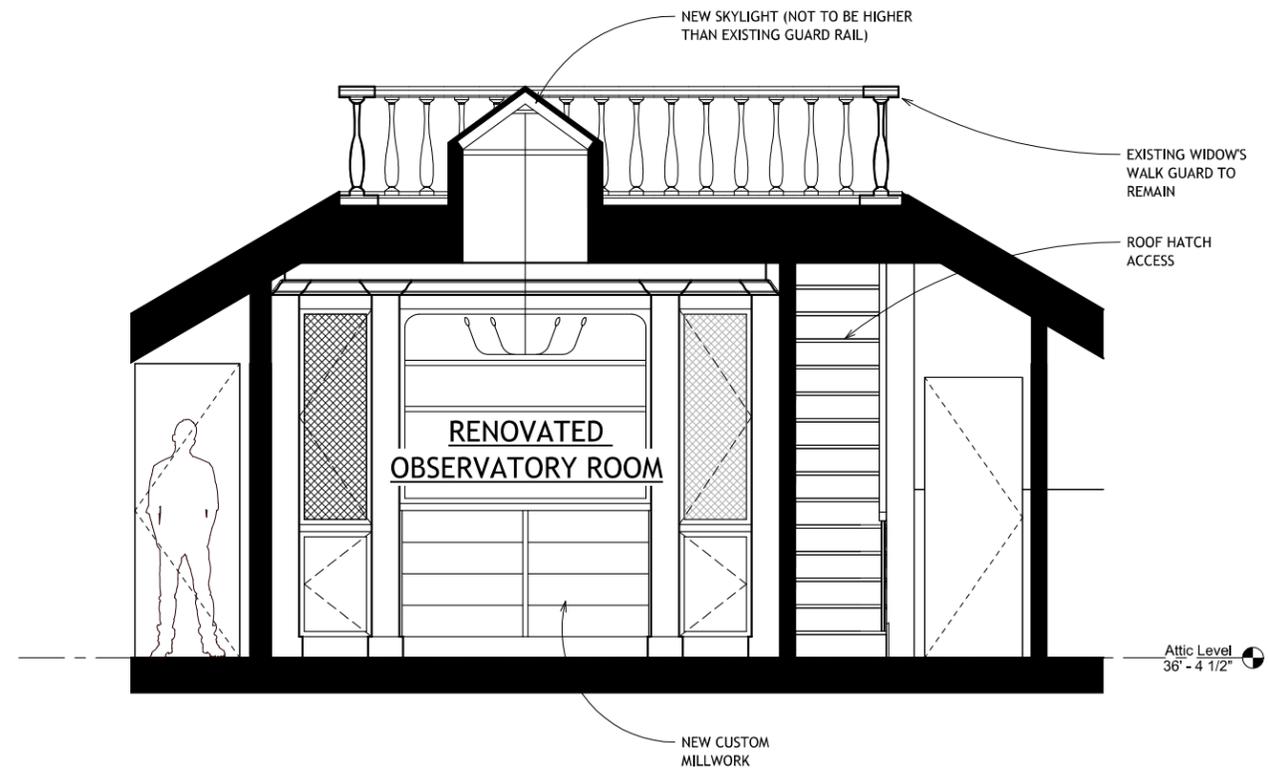
ENLARGED PROPOSED REAR ENTRANCE FLOOR PLAN



# OBSERVATORY SKYLIGHT



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN



INTERIOR ELEVATION/SECTION

# STREET VIEWS



VIEW FROM POWER ST.

RENDERED PERSPECTIVE, NOT TO SCALE

# STREET VIEWS



VIEW FROM POWER ST. AND BROWN ST.

RENDERED PERSPECTIVE, NOT TO SCALE

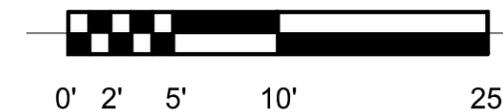
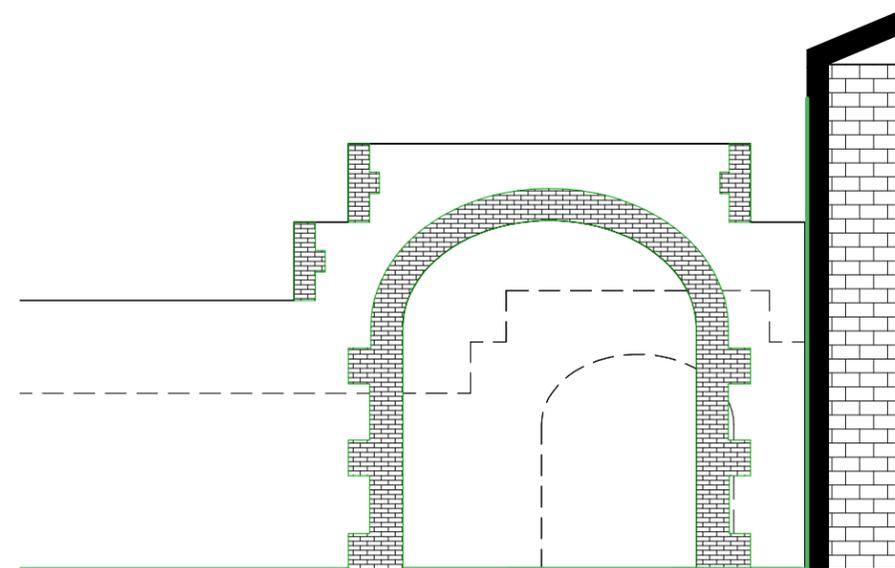
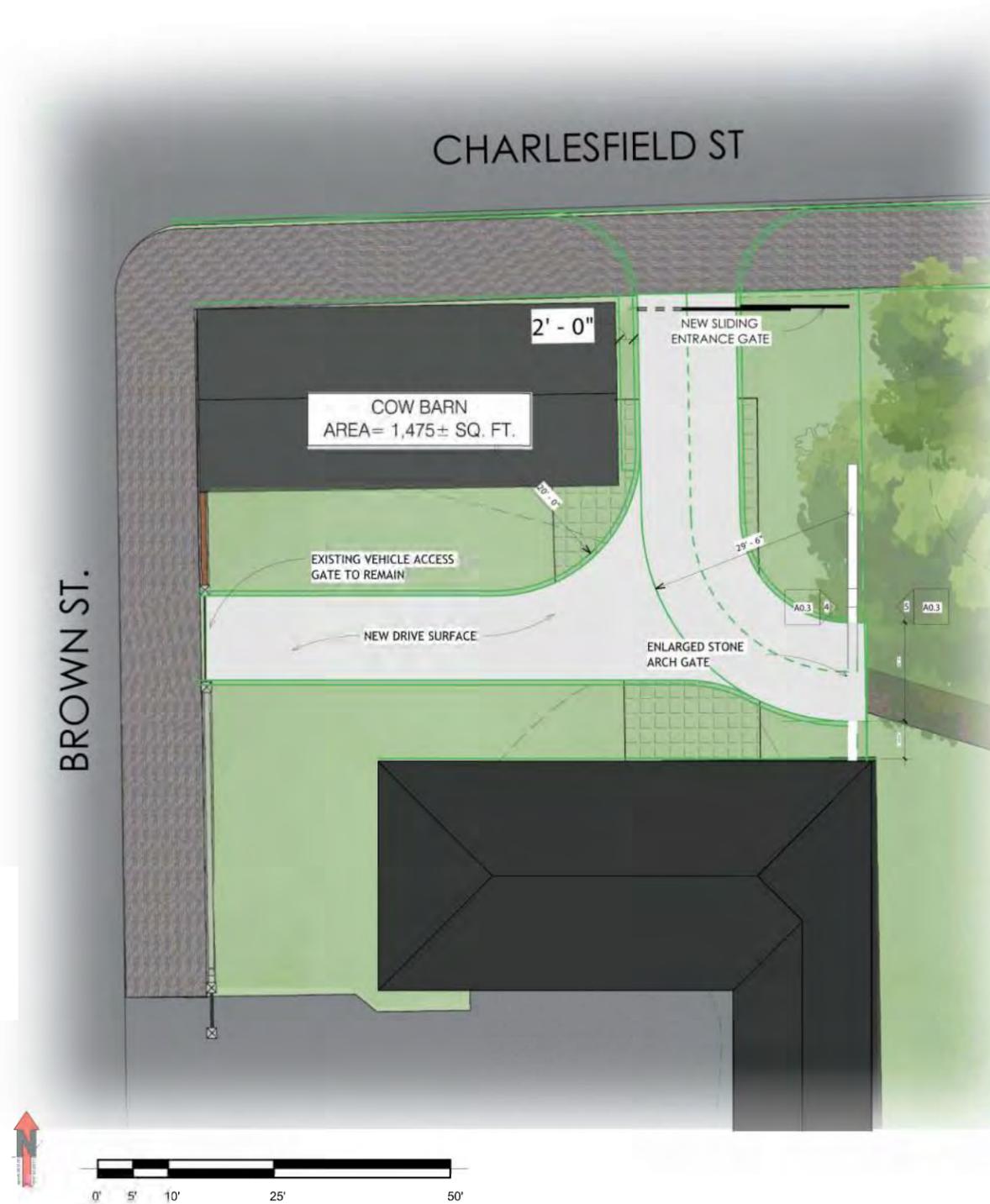
# STREET VIEWS



VIEW FROM POWER ST.

RENDERED PERSPECTIVE, NOT TO SCALE

# STONE ARCH GATE



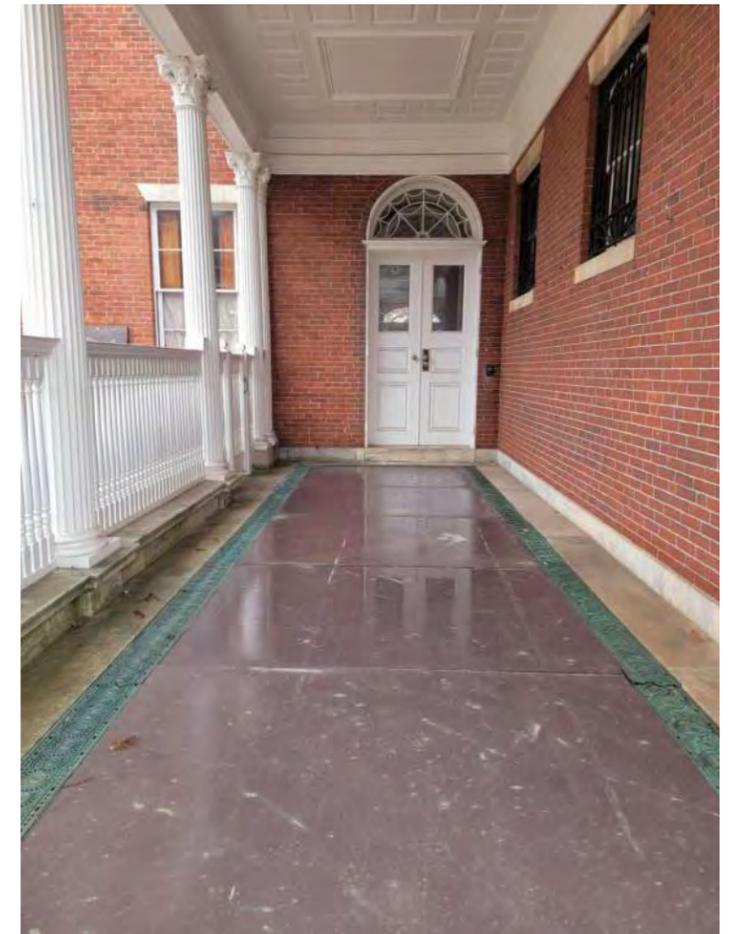
# EXISTING EXTERIOR



# EXISTING EXTERIOR



# EXISTING EXTERIOR



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**END**

LM

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Rhode Island</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Providence</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Thomas P. Ives House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**66 Power Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Providence**

STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: COUNTY: **Providence** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. Robert H. Ives Goddard, Jr.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**66 Power Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **02903**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**City Hall**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Kennedy Plaza**

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo) (7 data pages)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1937 1962**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington, 20540**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, 20540** STATE: **D. C.** CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas P. Ives House is an oblong - shaped three-and-one-half-story brick structure with a low hipped and balustraded roof. The residence, as built in 1803-06, is 55 feet wide and 57 feet deep and had a projecting one-story curved bay or bow in the center of the east (side) elevation. By 1887 this bay had been increased to three stories in height and its roof crowned by a balustrade. The walls of the front and side elevations are built of imported brick laid in Flemish bond and the rear (north) wall is in American running bond. The foundations are of marble. The three-story rear service wing at the northwest corner and the rear portico and vestibule were added in 1884 and conform in style to the main structure.

The main (south) facade is five-bays wide and has a central semi-circular one-story entrance porch with Corinthian columns and a roof balustrade; this feature, designed in the Adamesque style, was also added in 1884. The center door has side lights and a wide elliptical fan light over it. In the second story above the entranceway is a wide triple window also topped by a wide elliptical fan light. The windows are symmetrically spaced and have marble lintels and sills. First and second-story windows have flat arch splayed lintels with double keystones; third-story windows are reduced in height and also the windows on the north (rear) elevation, have plain flat lintels. All windows are adorned by exterior louvered shutters. The main cornice is decorated with modillions and is crowned by an eave balustrade. Two dormer windows rise from the low-pitched hip roof on the front elevation. Three of the four chimneys are in the outside wall, two in the west side and one in the east; the fourth chimney, which has back-to-back fireplaces in the library and smoking room, is set back a few feet from the east wall.

The plan of the house is large and imposing in scale with a 10-foot wide central hall extending through the house. The hall is divided into front and rear sections by means of a partition with a doorway, which is located behind the stairs. The staircase, starting with a straight run against the west wall, spirals at the rear to the second story and the spiral from the second to the third story is free-standing. The floors are of wide boards; all of the rooms have fireplaces, and the wood finish throughout the house is simple and delicately molded in the Adam style. The principle rooms have elaborate plaster cornices adorned with Greek honeysuckle, carved modillions, dentils, complicated fret and basket patterns, interlaces, circles, and banded leaves.

To the west, or left, of the central hall are, in the southwest corner, the dining room, 20 by 28 feet, behind this a pantry, 16 by 10 feet, and in the northwest (rear) corner, the kitchen. The dining room was redecorated in the Colonial Revival style in the 1870's and this later paneling removed during the restoration to the Federal period in 1954. The room's present mantelpiece, an original marble mantel from a Philadelphia house of the same period, was put in the dining room in 1954.

To the east of the center hall, in the southeast (front) corner is the main parlor, 20 by 22 feet, in the center, the oval shaped library, 20 by 28 feet, and in the northeast (rear) corner, the smoking room, 13 by 20 feet.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (1) Thomas P. Ives House

The library was redecorated in the Colonial Revival style in the 1870's and the room still retains its elaborate wood panelling. The French doors, located in the curved bay of the library and leading out to the gardens, were added in 1910. The overmantel piece in the southeast parlor, or main drawing room, is built in two stories and is surmounted by a broken scroll pediment, decorated with reeding and with half vases of Adam detail. This feature was also added in 1910. The mantel itself is of Italian marble and is original, as are some of the mantels in the second floor bedrooms. The panelled mahogany doors of the principal rooms have silver hardware.

The Thomas P. Ives House is in excellent condition. The house is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1803-06

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed by the master builder Caleb Ormsbee in 1803-06, the Thomas P. Ives House is a magnificent example of a large brick city house designed in the Adamesque-Federal style. The exterior of the house has undergone some additions that do not seriously alter its original appearance and on the interior two principal rooms were redecorated in the 1870's.

History

The Ives House was built by Caleb Ormsbee for the wealthy Providence merchant Thomas Poynton Ives in 1803-06. The residence has remained in the possession of the Ives heirs to this day and will eventually go to Brown University.

The mansion has undergone a series of exterior and interior additions and alterations over the years. About 1848 gas lights, central heating, and a built-in kitchen range were added. In the 1870's the original finish of the dining room and library was removed and these rooms were elaborately redecorated by Marcotte of New York City in the Colonial Revival style. The architectural firm of Stone, Carpenter, and Richards added the existing one-story elliptical Adamesque portico on the south (main) elevation, the rear service wing, the rear porch and vestibule, and the terraces on the side in 1884. By 1887 the two upper stories had been added to the original one-story bay or bow in the center of the east elevation. Around 1910 the architectural firm of Jackson, Robertson and Adams added the overmantel, the fireplace in the southeast parlor and also the French doors in the library. In 1954 the Colonial Revival woodwork was removed from the dining room and the room was restored by John Hutchins Cady to the Federal period. The existing dining room marble mantelpiece, an original period piece from Philadelphia, was installed as part of this work.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Antoinette F. Downing, Early Houses of Rhode Island (Richmond, Va., 1937), 327, 333, 350, 353, 355, 380, 382-83.

Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Rhode Island Architecture (Providence, 1939).

Rhode Island, A Guide to the Smallest State (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 277-78.

Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes - North (New York, 1956), 91.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		41° 49' 22"	71° 24' 10"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE: 7/20/70

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References for the Thomas P. Ives House, Providence:

Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans (New York, 1955), 92.

Antiques, May, 1965

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Rhode Island	
COUNTY	Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:	Thomas P. Ives House		
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
66 Power Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Providence			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Rhode Island		Providence	
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series, Providence Quadrangle, Rhode Island			
SCALE: 1:24 000			
DATE: 1957			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE		
COUNTY		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

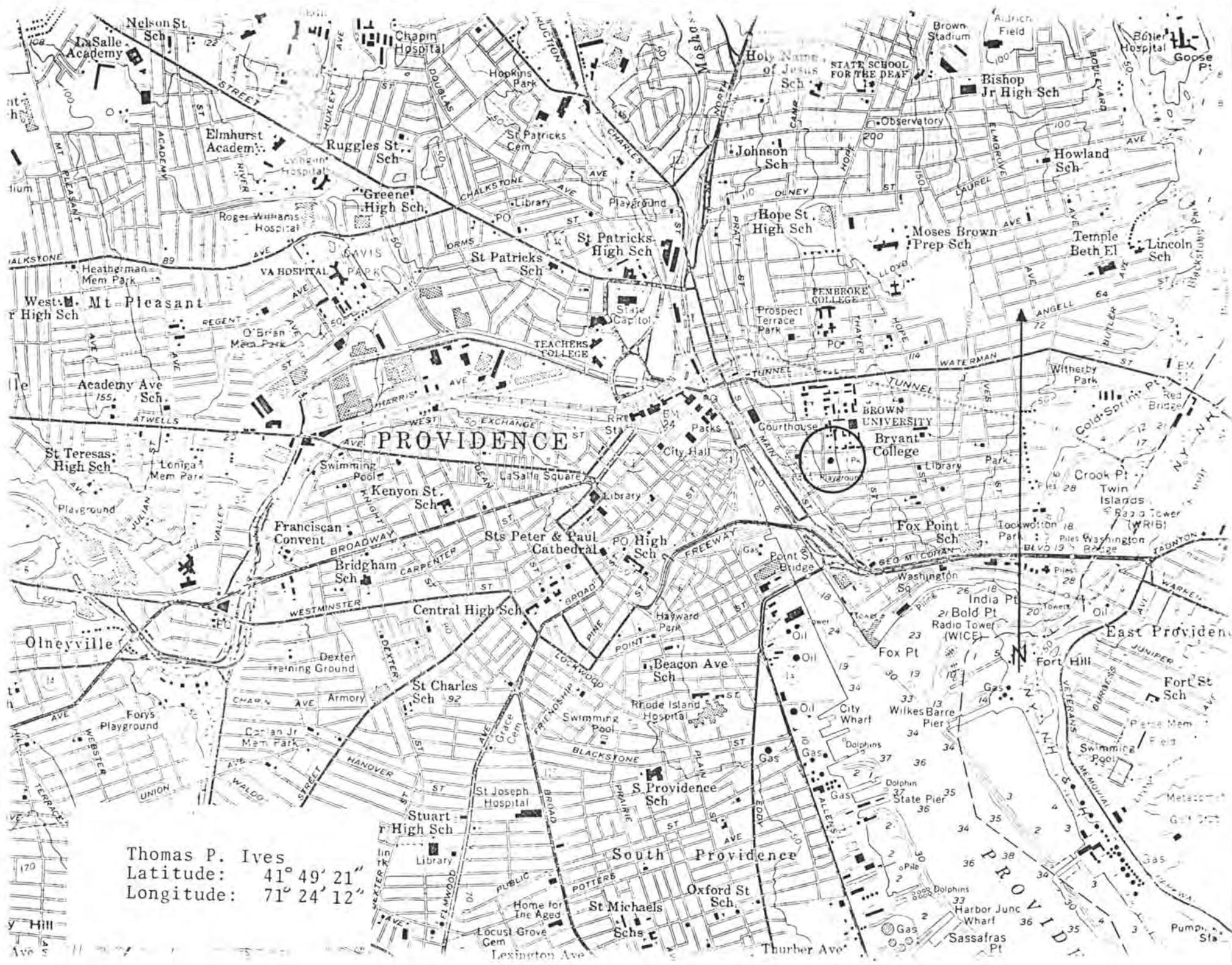
<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			





Thomas P. Ives House, Providence, Rhode Island

NPS Photo 1970



Thomas P. Ives  
 Latitude:  $41^{\circ} 49' 21''$   
 Longitude:  $71^{\circ} 24' 12''$

Thomas P. Ives House  
66 Power Street  
Providence  
Providence County  
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-235

~~An addendum to~~  
Ives House  
66 Power Street  
Providence, Rhode Island  
in HABS Catalog (1941)

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## THOMAS P. IVES HOUSE

An addendum to  
Ives House  
66 Power Street, Providence  
Rhode Island  
in HABS Catalog (1941)

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
12-

Address: 66 Power Street, Providence, Providence County,  
Rhode Island.

Present Owner: Brown University.

Present Occupant: Mrs. Robert H. Ives Goddard.

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: Built in 1803-1805, this is one of the largest and  
most elegant houses of the period in Providence,  
and the home of a prominent Providence family.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner, Thomas Poynton Ives, died 1835; to his widow Hope Ives until her death in 1855; to her son Moses B. Ives until his death in 1857; to his widow Anne Allen Dorr Ives until her death in 1884; to her daughter Mrs. Hope Brown Ives Russell until her death in 1909; to her cousins Robert H. I. Goddard and William Ames; to Robert H. Ives Goddard, Jr., in 1910. Upon his death, the house was willed to Brown University with a life tenancy for his wife, the present occupant.

2. Date of erection: 1803-1805.

3. Architect, builder: According to an unverified tradition, Thomas P. Ives sent to England for plans for the house. According to the family papers preserved in the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, Caleb Ormsbee, a local architect and builder was in charge of the work. At this time, John Holden Greene, who became Providence's leading architect in the next two decades was apprenticed to Ormsbee.

4. Notes on alterations and additions: About 1848 and following--gas lighting, central heating, built-in kitchen range, and plumbing added. Before 1884 the upper story of the east bay was added; lower story original. In the 1870's--dining room and library

elaborately redecorated by Marcott of New York. 1884--vestibule service wing and terraces added, Stone and Carpenter, architects; photostat of drawing dated April 21, 1884 preserved in the house drawn by Edmund R. Willson who later became a partner of Stone and Carpenter. Since 1910--an overmantel has been added to the fireplace in the parlor (southeast Room), and French doors have been added in the library leading to the garden; Jackson, Robertson and Adams, architects. 1954--restoration of the dining room; John Hutchins Cady, architect. Since 1954--marble mantelpiece from Philadelphia added to the dining room.

5. Important old views: There is an extra-illustrated, typed copy of Mr. Cady's article in the house together with ten 8" x 10" photographs including views of the dining room before the 1954 restoration.

6. Sources of information: John Hutchins Cady, "The Thomas Poynton Ives House," published in Rhode Island History, Vol. 14, No. 1 of January, 1955.

John Hutchins Cady, the Civic and Architectural Development of Providence 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island: The Book Shop, 1957), pp. 77-78.

Antoinette Forrester Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, 1937), pp. 327, 333, 350-355, 380, 382, 383.

Henry Russell Hitchcock, Jr., Rhode Island Architecture (Providence: Rhode Island Museum Press, 1939), p. 32, pl. 25.

B. Supplemental Material: The following is extracted from Cady, "The Thomas Poynton Ives House," published in Rhode Island History following Mr. Cady's restoration of the dining room:

Thomas Poynton Ives was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, in 1769. He entered the house of Brown and Benson in Providence as a clerk, in 1782, and ten years later married Nicholas Brown's daughter, Hope. He then became a partner in the firm, which later took the name of Brown and Ives.

Mr. Ives acquired a two-acre tract on Power Street to the east of the estate on which John Brown, brother of Nicholas, had erected a mansion in 1786. Both estates were a part of the original home lot of William Wickenden to whom it was allotted in 1640. According to tradition Thomas Ives sent to England for plans of a house, which came designated as "a Georgian manor house with paved court yard, stable and coach house." The street number at first was 37 Power and was changed to 66 when the highway was re-numbered in 1870. The estate is now bounded by Brown Street on the west and Charles Field Street on the north, these highways having been laid out after the house was erected.

The house stands on the southwest portion of the lot. North of it is a courtyard flanked on the north and east by a two-story L-shaped outbuilding, doubtless erected when the house was built and substantially unchanged since that time. The north wing was originally used for a stable, harness room and coach house, and the east wing for a laundry and servants' quarters. The brick fireplace and adjacent brick boiler in the laundry and the wide floor boards and small paned windows in the second story are so typically New England that a local planner would seem to have had a hand in the design. Farther north, on the Charles Field Street border, is the original cow barn. The easterly part of the lot is a landscaped area. A granite wall, topped by an iron fence, is built along the sidewalk on the westerly half of the lot on Power Street and along Brown Street, and a high brick wall curves from the southeast corner of the house to Power Street. The remainder of the estate is enclosed by a wall of brick and stone.

The house, as originally erected, was a square block, 55 feet wide and 57 feet deep, three stories high, with a flat hipped roof. The walls were built of imported brick, laid in Flemish bond (except American running bond on the rear) and rising from a marble underpinning. Three of the chimneys are in the outside walls, two on the west and one on the east; the fourth chimney, which has back-to-back fireplaces in the library and smoking room, as well as in the rooms above, is set back a few feet from the wall. The windows, symmetrically spaced, have marble caps and sills, the splayed caps having double keys except in the third story and on the rear where they are plain. The front entrance has side lights and an elliptical top light over which, in the second story, is a window of the Palladian type. The main cornice is decorated with modillions and is crowned by an eaves balustrade. The plain rectangular form of the house is relieved by a round bay on the east and a semi-circular entrance porch of the south, the latter in the Corinthian order surmounted by a classic balustrade. The side bay, now rising full height and crowned by an extension of the main cornice and balustrade, originally was only one story in height.

The plan is large and imposing in scale with a wide central hall extending through the house and divided into front and rear sections by a partition with a doorway behind the stairs. The stairway, starting with a straight run, spirals at the rear to the second story, and the spiral from the second to the third story is free-standing. All of the rooms have fireplaces. The wood finish throughout the house is simple and delicately moulded, reflecting a departure from the baroque trend of the late eighteenth century. The principal rooms have elaborate plaster cornices. . . .

Aside from the expenses for rum, the earliest surviving document with respect to the house is a proposal made by James B. Walcott dated February 13, 1804 to furnish certain building materials. This proposal included 24 window caps with double keys and 26 window caps without

keys. All of these are now accounted for except five unkeyed windows eliminated when the north wing was built. Walcott's proposal also included marble underpinning as follows: 350 running feet of stone 16 inches wide and 160 to 180 feet of stone eight inches wide, all intended for three sides of the house. The present underpinnings do not entirely accord with this schedule. They are composed of two courses of marble, the lower ten inches high above grade and the upper 16 inches high, with small window openings on the south and west, a total length of 136 feet exclusive of the front curved porch and the east curved bay. . . .

Thomas P. Ives wrote his agent, Amos T. Jenckes, in Italy November 26, 1804, asking him to purchase in Leghorn four marble chimney pieces and about 600 feet in length of marble slabs four inches thick and 14 inches wide. Of the chimney pieces one was to be "handsome and neatly ornamental for a drawing room" one "somewhat ornamental," and the others "plainly wrought." Shipments of the four chimney pieces and slabs were made from Leghorn in May, 1805. One of these, described in the invoice as of "statuary marble, made according to the models, 36 inches high and 42 inches in breadth" referring to size of fireplace opening is evidently the one now in the parlor. Mr. Jenckes wrote Mr. Ives from New York July 22, 1805, that he had, at his own initiative, shipped from Leghorn 22 plain chimney pieces and various other items noted, for Mr. Ives' use or for sale in New York, of which Mr. Ives selected four chimney pieces, four alabaster lamps and one alabaster oval lamp cord. The disposition of the marble slabs is unknown. Evidently they were not used on the main block as the walls had been erected prior to their arrival. . . . in 1954, the dining room was restored to an approximation of its original status.

In this latter project, executed by Frank N. Gustafson and Sons, building contractors, the removal of the mahogany finish and mantel, the tapestry-type wall hangings, and the wall laths and plaster revealed certain aspects of the original construction. The two interior partitions were built of brick, the north one of which was interlaced with studding in the form of half-timber work. The outside brick walls were lined with rough boards. Plaster was applied directly to the brick on the partitions and to laths nailed to the boarding on the outside walls. The original fireplace had been entirely reconstructed and no clue remained as to its original status. The wall hangings had been attached to cleats, nailed to the plaster, and had been lifted from time to time for the installation of gas pipes and electric cable between the cleats. In the reconstruction work the walls were recovered with plaster, laid on wire laths.

In planning the restoration the original wood details of the parlor wainscot and door and window trim were closely followed. The former fireplace, with its yellow marble facing and hearth, was retained and a wood mantel built around it in adaptation of the work of Samuel McIntire of Salem. This was surmounted by an overmantel with carved mouldings to frame a portrait. The original moulded plaster cornice and the original wood floor boards were preserved. The mahogany doors and window shutters were retained, but a section of louvres in each set of shutters was replaced by a panel. The doorways were crowned with caps, decorated in flat relief, originally over doors in the central hall. The Victorian electric wall brackets were replaced by fixtures furnished by Edward F. Caldwell of New York.

The wood finish was painted white, except for the mahogany finish of the doors, window stools and wainscot cap. The floors were given a natural finish and the plaster walls were painted a dark blue-gray. . . .

The outward aspect of the original house is practically unchanged after standing nearly a century and a half, and the additions are in architectural conformity. The same may be said of the interior finish with the single exception of the library where the rather extravagant Victorian style provides a sharp, but not inharmonious, contrast with the simpler motives of the other rooms. In many respects the Thomas Poynton Ives house is the finest example of the Early Republican period of architecture in Providence.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: "The plain wall surfaces and skillful disposition of the openings give the house a sophistication rare in Rhode Island in an era of often vulgar ostentation." Hitchcock, Rhode Island Architecture, p. 32.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Square main block, 55' x 57', five-bay facade facing south, three stories high, with a curved bay on the east side approximately semicircular in plan with a 10' radius; rear service wing at the west corner of the north side of the house added 1884.

2. Foundations: Regular ashlar granite, large blocks.

3. Wall construction: Brick, laid in Flemish bond.

4. Porches: Semicircular entrance porch, original or an early addition, similar to porches by Samuel McIntire of Salem, slender fluted Ionic columns, full entablature with modillion cornice and balustrade.

5. Chimneys: Four original brick chimneys; three in outside walls, one interior chimney

6. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: Paneled door, side lights and elliptical top light with elaborate mullions, elaborate doorway with colonettes, pilasters and carved trim.

b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows; six light sash, louvered shutters, marble sills and splayed marble lintels.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape: Low pitched hip roof.
- b. Cornice: Modillion cornice with balustrade.
- c. Dormers: Segmental roofed attic dormers.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Central hall plan, hall 10' wide, with small entrance vestibule, and small separated rear hallway 10' x 10' leading to porch along east side of later rear wing; parlor at the front right (southeast), 20' x 22'; library behind the parlor with circular bay at the east, 18' x 28'; smoking room behind the library at the right rear (northeast), 13' x 20'; dining room at the left front (southwest), 20' x 28'; pantry behind the dining room leading to kitchen at left rear of main block, 16' x 20'; servants' sitting room, 12' x 15'; service stairway and service rooms in the rear wing. Bedrooms on second and third floors in similar arrangement.

2. Stairways: Stairway at rear of central hall, open well to third floor, starts with a straight run and curves in U-shape to second floor, free-standing curved stairway to third floor. Open string, slender rectangular balusters, molded rail, carved step end ornaments.

3. Flooring: Wide board floors.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, wainscot in some rooms, later paneling in library.

5. Doors and doorways: Paneled mahogany doors; crossetted, double molded architraves on principal doorways.

6. Trim: Elaborate ceiling cornices, of plaster.

7. Hardware: Butt hinges, silver hardware in principal locations.

8. Lighting: Electric.

9. Heating: Central. Fireplaces in many rooms, see supplemental material above for notes on later mantels.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south, at the southwest corner of a very large lot in a residential section, garages to the north, gardens to the east.
2. Enclosures: Brick, stone, and iron fences.
3. Outbuildings: Stable and coach houses to the north, now used for garages.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
May 1962

HABSA R 1-235



HABS # R1-235



HABSR1-235



HABSR-235



HABS # R1-235



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