

A New Vision for the Florida Capitol Complex, Tallahassee, FL**Hannah Rubottom****Publication Date**

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The University of Notre Dame

A New Vision for the Florida Capitol Complex

A Thesis Project submitted to
the faculty of the School of Architecture
in Candidacy for the Degree of
Master of Architecture

by

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PREFACE

Why propose a new vision for Florida's capitol complex? While a full response to this question will unfold in the following pages, an initial, broad-brush response is offered here by way of introduction. Simply stated, the existing capitol – specifically the complex of buildings added to the grounds of the existing historic capitol building in Tallahassee in the 1970s – has shortcomings that give pause and call for analysis, inviting us to consider what should and could be by contrast with what is. Furthermore, considering that buildings do not last forever and that modern buildings in particular have a track record for historically short life spans, the time will no doubt come when these buildings will require replacement due to loss of structural and material integrity. It is a worthwhile endeavor to prepare for such a time by considering suitable solutions. This thesis proposes one such solution.

Two acknowledgements bear mentioning. First, over the course of Florida's history as a state the idea has on multiple occasions been proposed to relocate the state's capital to a different city. As the population of the state has grown – most dramatically in the central and southern parts – the suitability of location and amenities offered by the comparatively small capital city of Tallahassee has been questioned. Tallahassee cannot now and perhaps never will compete with Florida's more metropolitan cities of Miami, Jacksonville, Tampa and Orlando. For historical reasons the author of this thesis favors maintaining Tallahassee's status as the capital of Florida. As such the new vision proposed in this thesis assumes the continued use of the current capitol site.

This thesis considers what the capitol of Florida has been and is now as measured against what could or should be – the central argument of this thesis. A second acknowledgement is this: the magnitude and complexity involved in the actual design of a state capitol are well beyond what is feasible to thoroughly address in this thesis project. This thesis should not be taken to assume full satisfaction of the specific programmatic needs of Florida's government.

Instead, as an academic exercise, the solution presented should be understood as a big picture concept which may be further refined to achieve a Florida Capitol for the ages.

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I would also like to acknowledge a number of people who helped in my research and documentation of the existing capitol site. The Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department provided CAD files of Tallahassee GIS data. For this data, a special thanks goes to Jeremy Floyd and Jason Cox for their assistance. Bo Pittman, former construction and facilities senior manager with the Florida House of Representatives, provided information regarding performance and maintenance of the 1970s buildings of the capitol complex. Tiffany Baker, Museum Director of the Florida Historic Capitol Museum, pointed me to information regarding the history of Florida's Historic Capitol. I also received assistance from the Florida State University Library Special Collections and the State Library of Florida in tracking down source information for the 1824 map of Tallahassee.

I extend a special thank you to my parents. My father enthusiastically affirmed this project from the beginning and provided information regarding the existing capitol complex. It is also to my father that I owe the initial spark of my interest in capitol buildings from childhood field trips to his office at the capitol in Oklahoma City. Those experiences left a lasting impression. I would also like to thank my mother for her unwavering support and encouragement – in thesis as in life.

THESIS STATEMENT

Governments span generations, connecting the governed to their history and to their future through the continuous pursuit of civil peace and flourishing. A state's constitution binds the government to this pursuit. Success in the endeavor is most importantly gauged by the actions of the government over time. The buildings that house the government have a role in articulating its purpose to public officials and citizens. By durable and contextually suitable design and by architectural expressions that incorporate the recognizable and time-honored typological symbols associated with edifices of its kind, a state's capitol can project into the surrounding city fabric the worthy purpose of the government.

CHAPTER 1: WHAT IS A CAPITOL BUILDING?

Beneath the central argument of this thesis is the question, “What should a capitol building be?” To answer this question, it is first necessary to ask, “What *is* a capitol?” To ask what something is by definition is a key first step in understanding what it *should* be.

Merriam Webster’s dictionary defines the term¹ as follows:

a: a building in which a state legislative body meets

// the dome of the state capitol

b: a group of buildings in which the functions of state government are carried out

This definition addresses the function of a capitol, however it is architecturally incomplete. Dictionary.com offers the following origin of the term: “An Americanism first recorded in 1690–1700; from Latin *capitolium*, the name of the temple of Jupiter on Capitoline hill, Rome, taken to be a derivative of *caput* “head”; replacing Middle English *capitolie*, from Old North French.”² In their book, *Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the USA*, Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale note,

*The Virginia Capitol at Williamsburg was the first building in the New World to take its name from the Capitolium, the ancient Temple of Jupiter overlooking the Roman Forum. A derivative term designated the principal structure of a Roman colony, whether temple or, later, the main governmental building. More important than its name, however, the wilderness Capitol of Virginia was the first monumental structure built to house an American legislature.*³

¹ “Capitol”, Merriam-Webster, April 5, 2021, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/capitol>.

Note: To avoid confusion which could arise in the use of capitol-related terms within this thesis, please refer to Appendix A for the definition and usage of additional terms.

² “Capitol”, Dictionary.com, April 5, 2021, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/capitol>.

³ William Seale and Henry-Russell Hitchcock, *Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A* (New York : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976), 3.

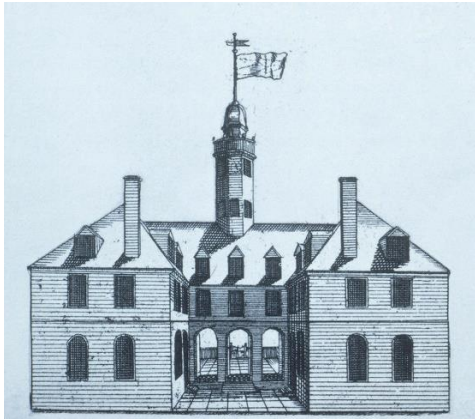


Figure 1. Williamsburg Capitol (ARTstor)

From this first colonial precedent, Hitchcock and Seale trace the development of the American state capitol, describing its unique typology through its distinguishing elements. They specifically identify symbolism as being at the heart of what defines a capitol:

The storm of democracy that swept British America in the eighteenth century gave birth to a new sort of symbolism in monumental architecture. Skyscrapers and state capitols are America's unique contributions to monumental architecture. The skyscraper is a product of function and structure; the state capitol owes its special character to symbolism. To most Americans today architectural symbolism means church design – the steeple and the pointed Gothic arch. Yet far more significant to the United States are earlier, Classically inspired architectural features, first built by colonial legislatures long before the opening guns of the Revolution. Their creators were legislators who saw in the dramatic possibilities of architecture a means of expressing the spirit of liberty. The vision was an accurate one: Those architectural features developed into symbols for the young nation, eventually taking on an abstract authority in the architecture of state capitols. Since the second decade of the nineteenth century the symbols have dominated every legislative building erected in the United States. Their story through two centuries of American building is a chronicle more continuous than any other, even that of church and private house.⁴

The meaning behind the symbolism of the American state capitol, then, was imbued in the earliest capitol buildings by their designers. By association, these buildings are intended to represent the American ideal of liberty.

In the book, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Historicism*, Carroll William Westfall and Robert Jan van Pelt identify six fundamental building types and discusses their application in four classes of activity. They note between these types and political activity an imprecise correlation due to the adaptation inherent in political activity. They explain, “the building types serving

⁴ Seale and Hitchcock, 3.

political activities do not represent the activities directly. Instead, they arise from the deepest and most fundamental purposes of those activities, one of which is that of providing a means of acting on the aspiration to live well by living politically, the other by providing a seat for the authority that binds the members of a polity.” To these purposes the authors connect the theatrum and regia building types – types which accommodate “actively imagining” and the “residence of the person or body that governs” respectively.⁵

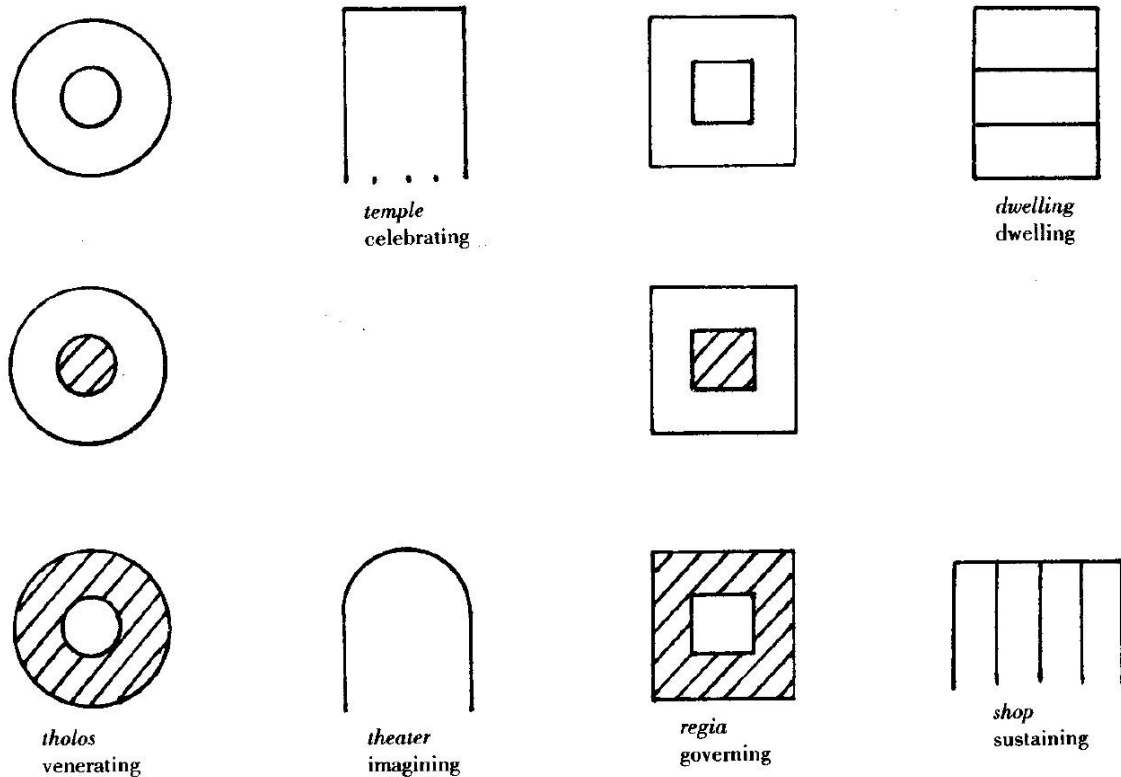


Figure 2. Building Types (Westfall and Van Pelt)

Although an imprecision may exist in political building types at the generalized level addressed by Westfall and van Pelt, the state capitol has become its own sort of type characterized by specific symbols and correspondence with multiple of the basic building types. Clearly evident in state capitol buildings is the incorporation of not only the theatrum and regia, but also the tholos (for venerating) and templum (for celebrating). These added types certainly highlight the aspirational nature of political activity which Westfall and van Pelt discuss:

⁵ Carroll William Westfall and Robert Jan Van Pelt, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Historicism* (New Haven : Yale University Press, 1991), 158-159.

*The three great divisions of political activity we are familiar with- legislating, administering and judging- have in common their dependence on confronting the disorder of unpredictable, time-bound, unique circumstances with the logic of morals found in the principles of justice. This commonality is not an activity but an aspiration on the one hand and a claim for authority on the other. The aspiration gives birth to a broad range of activities, as broad, indeed, as the variety of circumstances people confront and as varied as the knowledge of people who organize political activities into the conventional form of a constitution.*⁶

Hitchcock and Seale identify the following as the elements ultimately established as architectural symbols of American democracy: dome, rotunda, portico and balanced legislative chamber houses.⁷ In his book, *The American Statehouse: Interpreting Democracy's Temples*, Charles Goodsell offers an expanded list of elements: "The ideal type of the American statehouse⁸ possesses six interrelated elements: (1) a prominent site, (2) parklike grounds, (3) cruciform massing, (4) a central dome, (5) a temple front, and (6) a grand central space."⁹ There are exceptions in the application of these elements, yet their common use is sufficient to establish them as recognizable symbols – characteristics of an ideal capitol "type."

Hitchcock and Seale's list focuses on the capitol building specifically, while Goodsell zooms out to also consider the building in context. This broader lens reveals the relationship of the capitol to its surroundings. Situated on prominent sites and in parklike grounds, capitol buildings are typically object buildings – as opposed to fabric buildings of the city. In this sense, they are foreground buildings, not background buildings; public, not private; monumental as opposed to vernacular. This prominence is fitting given that centers of government are monumental by nature – by virtue of their function. The well-known *Civitas* diagram by the architect Leon Krier illustrates the relationship of monumental structures to the fabric of a city. According to Krier,

⁶ Westfall and Van Pelt, 158.

⁷ Hitchcock and Seale, 63.

⁸ Note: the term "statehouse" is synonymous with capitol.

⁹ Charles T. Goodsell, *The American Statehouse : Interpreting Democracy's Temples* (Lawrence : University Press of Kansas, 2001), 15.

All traditional architecture clearly distinguishes between public and/or sacred buildings, on the one hand, and utilitarian and/or private buildings, on the other. The former express the qualities of institutions – dignity, solemnity, grandeur for the res publica and the res sacra; the latter, the more modest private activities of housing, commerce and industry in the res privata and the res economica. If factories have the facades of cathedrals and houses resemble royal palaces, if museums look like factories and churches like industrial warehouses, a basic value of the state is in crisis for the very nature of its architecture is in peril.¹⁰

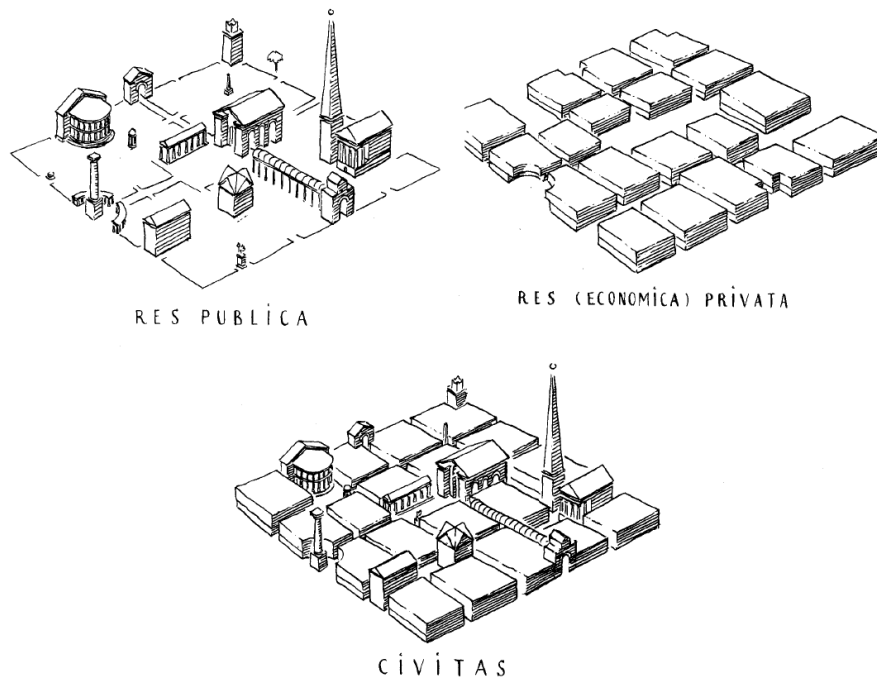


Figure 3. Civitas (Leon Krier)

Architectural monumentality is not solely a matter of size. It includes quality of construction, level of detail and articulation, and relationship to the surrounding buildings and open spaces. Krier's distinction between building and architecture is helpful here:

Building is the material culture of construction. As a craft, it is concerned with the construction of domestic structures: houses, workshops, warehouses or engineering works. It is generally concerned with the erection of the urban fabric, of building blocks which form the streets of the city and its retaining walls...

¹⁰ Léon Krier, *Architecture : Choice or Fate* (Windsor, Berks, England : Andreas Papadakis, 1998).

*Architecture is the artistic culture of Building. As an art, it is concerned with the imitation and translation of the elements of building into symbolic language, expressing in a fixed system of symbols and analogies the origins of architecture in the laws of building...*¹¹

Krier goes on to tie architecture specifically to the public and monumental and to permanence, and notes an incompatibility between *Zeitgeist* and permanence.¹² To permanence we may tie ideas of timelessness and durability. Governments are ideally stable institutions spanning generations. Within the city, the government is associated with the building where it convenes. When this edifice is constructed to endure for many generations and thus over time attains a longstanding, familiar presence, the stability of the institution is physically represented and observable.

In the forward to *Building Cities: Towards a Civil Society And Sustainable Environment*, Demetri Porphyrios expounds on the implications of this presence:

Humans are characteristically political animals. In other words our lives, aspirations, dreams, and mythical perceptions are all formed and re-formed in the context of civic debate. Buildings and architecture participate in such a civic debate as they establish functional and symbolic hierarchies between themselves and the public spaces which at the same time unite and distinguish them.

*This pattern of relationships (both physical and social) between buildings and public open spaces is what constitutes the city. It is of great importance, therefore, to remember that architecture and the city are two faces of the same coin. We cannot address the one without reference to the other.*¹³

We see, then, that a capitol, as monumental architecture, has an important role in the city. While being sited within a particular city, a capitol building serves and represents a whole state. This representation can be physically symbolized through architectural ornament and artwork, as well as regional building materials.

¹¹ Leon Krier, "Reconstruction of the European City", *Architecture & Urban Design 1967-1992*, ed. R. Economakis (London: Academy Editions, 1992), 19.

¹² Krier, "Reconstruction of the European City", 19.

¹³ Norman Crowe et al., *Building Cities : Towards a Civil Society and Sustainable Environment* (London : Artmedia Press, 1999).

The most iconic example of a capitol is, of course, the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Though the building takes more of an I or H form than cruciform massing¹⁴, the remaining typological characteristics and symbols are accounted for – and at a Baroque scale befitting its national significance. As designed in L’Enfant’s plan for the city, the capitol site is given prominence at the terminus of the National Mall. The parklike grounds extend to connect to the National Mall.



Figure 4. U.S. Capitol Building (National Park Service)

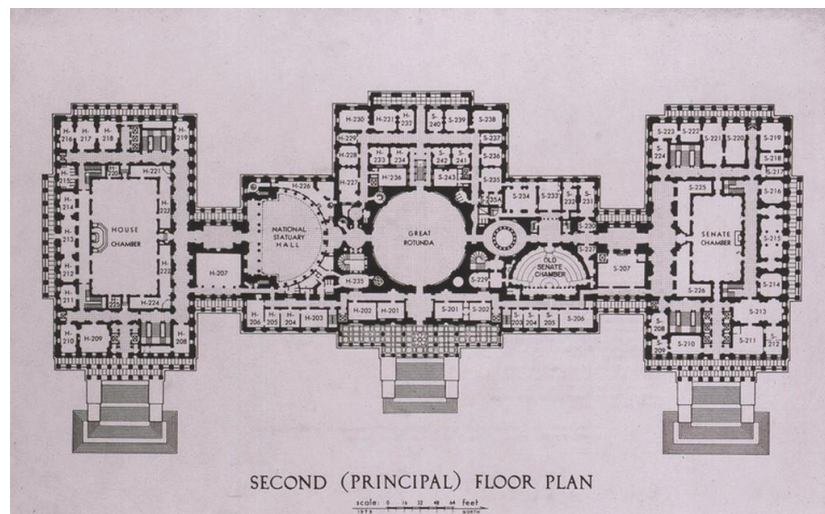


Figure 5. U.S. Capitol Floor Plan (ARTstor)

¹⁴ Prior to the addition of the north and south wings, the original building massing was in a T form.

At the state level expressions of the capitol typology vary somewhat. Capitols constructed prior to the early 20th century maintain a close adherence to the established characteristics, and are generally consistent in the use of classical architectural language¹⁵. Most of the more recently constructed capitols (and additions) have used art deco or modernist language and also take more liberties with (or ignore altogether) the capitol typology. Hawaii, Florida, and Mexico are examples of clear deviation from symbols, massing, or both. Louisiana, Nebraska, and Florida are unique in their incorporation of a tower, but otherwise adhere to some degree to capitol architecture tradition. (These examples will be further discussed in chapter 3.)

Space needs of governments grow over time, and a number of approaches have been taken to capitol expansion. Some states have added buildings to create a complex. Others have add to the existing edifice. A number of states have replaced an earlier or original capitol with a newer, bigger, better building and repurposed the old building as a history museum.

While capitol buildings are typically object buildings, as noted above, this does not necessarily mean that they do not participate in the shaping of public space. The Georgia capitol fills its site such that it helps form the street space. The Indiana capitol is situated as a node along a major axis, terminating a street on the east, and a plaza on the west. Its height encloses the space on both sides. The Pennsylvania, Washington and West Virginia capitols, in their orderly configuration of multiple buildings into a complex form public plazas and green spaces.

Art and decorative elements, as well as building materials are incorporated into capitol buildings reflecting the state represented. For example, regional stone may be used – as in the case of the Texas State Capitol which is built with Texas Pink Granite. Stone relief work of interior murals may tell of the history of the state. A series of paintings tracing Florida’s story from prehistory to the early 2000s surround the House Chamber in the current Florida Capitol.

In summary, a capitol – specifically an American state capitol – is a building or complex of buildings which house(s) the state government. Traditionally it is characterized by the established symbols, a monumental, enduring presence which conveys its civic importance within the capital city, and art or other decorative elements representative of the state it serves.

¹⁵ New York’s capitol is a notable exception, having elements of multiple styles including Romanesque.

CHAPTER 2: HISTORY OF FLORIDA'S CAPITOL

Introduction

From the beginning of its days as a United States territory, Florida's capitol has undergone numerous changes. The history of Florida's capitol building and location reflects the history of the state and also ties into Florida's longer story, prior to coming under U.S. control.

Historical Context¹⁶

Pre-Columbian Florida was home to Native Americans. European occupation began in 1513 when Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León – to whom Florida owes its name – landed near St. Augustine. The next three hundred years brought conflict over national sovereignty and shifting territorial boundaries. Spain, England, and France each vied for control of the territory. The native peoples also engaged in the conflict. After the United States won its independence from England, the new nation soon joined the contest for control of Florida, as well. Florida officially became a U.S. territory in 1821.

Under British rule in the mid-18th century, the territory was divided into East Florida and West Florida – with capitals in St. Augustine and Pensacola, respectively. When the United States joined the two as one territory, logistics and perils of travel between the two government centers necessitated a single, more centralized capital city. Tallahassee was chosen as the new capital based on its location in the Red Hills which was found to be fertile and beautiful land and even featured a 16-foot waterfall.

Prior to settlement by the United States, occupation of the Tallahassee area fluctuated with the conflict over control of Florida. The area was most consistently occupied by Native

¹⁶ Unless otherwise noted, information in this section regarding the history of Florida is from William Warren Rogers, Joan Perry Morris, and Mary Louise Ellis, *Favored Land, Tallahassee: A History of Tallahassee and Leon County* (Virginia Beach, VA: Donning, 1999), chaps. 1-2.

American groups. In antiquity the region was home to Ft. Walton culture Native Americans, followed by the Apalachee. The Florida Division of Historic Resources locates Anhaica, a capital of the Apalachee, in present day Tallahassee, and also identifies this site as that of Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto's winter encampment of 1539-1540.¹⁷

Tallahassee was also the location of a prominent Spanish mission, Mission San Luis. A reconstruction of the mission operating as a museum marks the site today. The museum website explains,

*From 1656 to 1704, Mission San Luis served as the principal village of the Apalachees and was the Spaniards' westernmost military, religious, and administrative capital. Mission San Luis was one of over 100 mission settlements established in Spanish Florida between the 1560s and 1690s. It was home to more than 1,400 residents, including a powerful Apalachee chief and the Spanish deputy governor.*¹⁸

In the early 1700s as the British asserted their power and James Moore led raids against the mission settlements, Mission San Luis was destroyed. At the time of Tallahassee's selection as capital in late 1823, Seminole natives occupied the area, however the United States had acquired the land from the tribes by the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in September of that year.

The Original Town Plan

At the city's founding, the town plan was laid out on a quarter mile area designated for development. In his book, *The Red Hills of Florida, 1528-1865*, Clifton Paisley provides background regarding Tallahassee's urban plan explaining that in 1824 Governor William Duval (Florida's second territorial governor) proposed the plan based on William Penn's plan of Philadelphia. The plan featured streets of sixty-, eighty-, and one hundred-foot widths, blocks, and five open squares for public meeting. The square placed at the center of the city was larger than the other four and designated as the capitol site.¹⁹ Early maps show this plan, which is structured as a rational grid with Capitol Square directly in the center.

¹⁷ "Hernando de Soto 1539–1540 Winter Encampment at Anhaica Apalachee," Florida Department of Historic Resources, April 3, 2021, <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/projects/hernando-de-soto-15391540-winter-encampment-at-anhaica-apalachee/>.

¹⁸ "What is Mission San Luis?" Mission San Luis, April 3, 2021, <https://www.missionsanluis.org/visit/>.

¹⁹ Clifton Paisley, *The Red Hills of Florida, 1528-1865* (Tuscaloosa : University of Alabama Press, 1989), 77.



Figure 6. Plan of The City of Tallahassee, 1824 (Florida Memory)

Street names in the original grid have significance connected with the history of the place. For example, Pensacola Street and St. Augustine Street are the east-west streets bordering the north and south of capitol square. Although the grid has been altered over the years and a state highway route has been added, most of these street names remain today in what has become Tallahassee's downtown.

Serving as the State's capital from its inception as a U.S. city, Tallahassee's original urban plan clearly gives the most prominent site to the capitol building. Whether the original intent or

not, the other blocks designated as squares were not used as open plazas or squares, but rather civic building sites. This is evident from the 1885 map and from historic photos of the city.

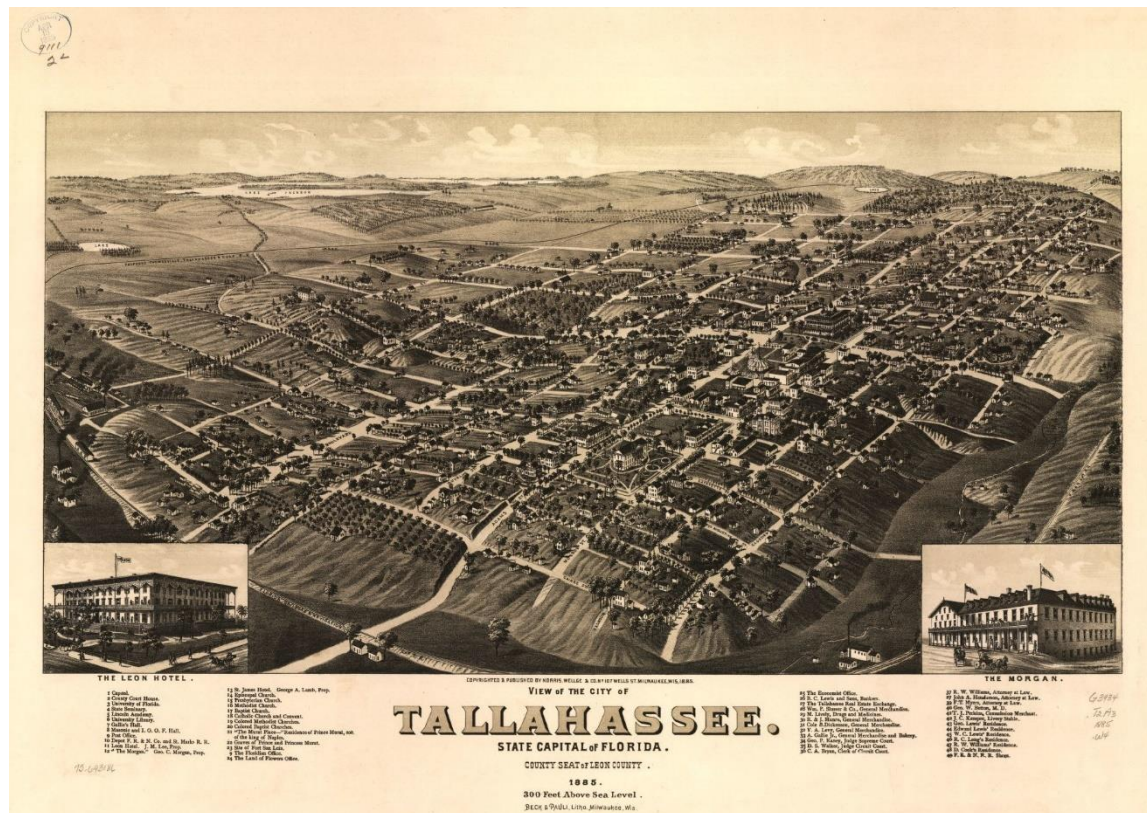


Figure 7. 1885 View of the City of Tallahassee (Library of Congress)

A “Tallahassee Capitol Center Survey” by the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties explains that Tallahassee’s population growth was initially fast but slowed with the 1837 economic panic, and the city “remained a small, agriculturally oriented community until well into the twentieth century.”²⁰ Following the pattern of the state Tallahassee’s population growth rate significantly increased after the second world war.

History of the Capitol Building

Constructed at the start of Tallahassee’s settlement as the capital city, Florida’s first capitol was a set of three log cabin. A second capitol designed by Robert Butler²¹ was begun in 1826,

²⁰ *Tallahassee Capitol Center Survey: A Report Submitted to the Capitol Center Planning Commission* (Tallahassee: The Bureau, 1975), 23-25, May 18, 2021, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiug.30112078431928&view=1up&seq=35>.

²¹ Butler is also historically noteworthy for serving as military aid to Andrew Jackson and later Florida’s first Surveyor General. See Julianne Hare, *Tallahassee: A Capital City History* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2002), 23.

but due to insufficient funding only a wing of the two-story building was completed.²² This second capitol was of wood construction.²³ Rogers, Morris and Ellis explain that insufficient maintenance led to need of and plans for a third building as well as the demolition of Butler's building in 1839.²⁴

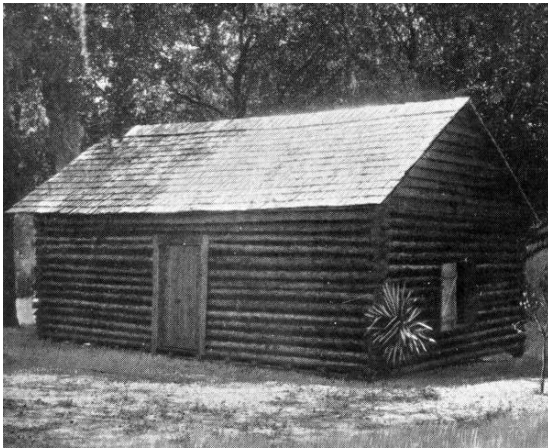


Figure 8. Replica of Florida's First Capitol (Florida Memory)



Figure 9. Florida's Second Capitol (Florida Memory)

The third capitol building – which remains as the core of today's Historic Capitol – was designed by architect Cary Butt and completed in 1845, the year of Florida's statehood. The building is brick masonry with white stucco finish. Originally the stucco was scored to give the effect of hewn stone.²⁵ The bilaterally symmetrical, classical revival building had pedimented porticos – each with six columns – on the east and west sides and a gabled, slate roof. Large windows supplied daylight to the interior, and early photographs show exterior louvered shutters which provided sun shading. The three-story structure initially exceeded the space needs of the government allowing the rooms on the lowest level to be rented to local businesses.

²² "The Capitol", Florida Department of State, February 28, 2021 <https://dos.myflorida.com/florida-facts/floridahistory/the-capitol/>.

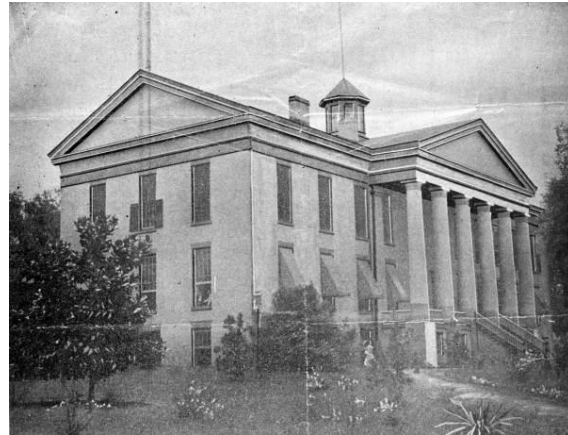
²³ Albert Taylor and Herbert L. Flint, *Florida Capitol Center a Report on the Proposed Development*, (Tallahassee, 1947), 21, May 14, 2021, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015070348142&view=1up&seq=25>.

²⁴ Rogers, Morris and Ellis, 35.

²⁵ Eldon Hauck, *American Capitols: An Encyclopedia of the State, National, and Territorial Capital Edifices of the United States* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1991), 38.



*Figure 11. Florida's Third Capitol
(Florida Memory)*



*Figure 10. Third Capitol After 1891 Renovations
(Florida Memory)*

Many renovations and additions to the 1845 building took place over the years. Keeping its original form for nearly fifty years, an octagonal cupola, gas lighting and interior plumbing were added in 1891. The first expansion of the building happened in 1902 with north and south wings, a dome, and interior improvements by architect Frank Milburn. Milburn added decorative relief work of the State Seal to the tympanum of both pediments, added a grand stair to the lobby and opened the lobby up to the dome above, creating a rotunda. As the state continued to grow, so did the space needs of the government. Three major subsequent additions were made to the capitol in the following decades. East and west wings were added by architect Henry Klutho in 1923. Architect M. Leo Elliott planned symmetrical north and south wings – the northern being constructed in 1936, and the southern finally constructed in 1947. The supreme court and railroad commission eventually moved out of the capitol into their own dedicated buildings – the Supreme Court building being constructed on Duval Street, on axis with the capitol.

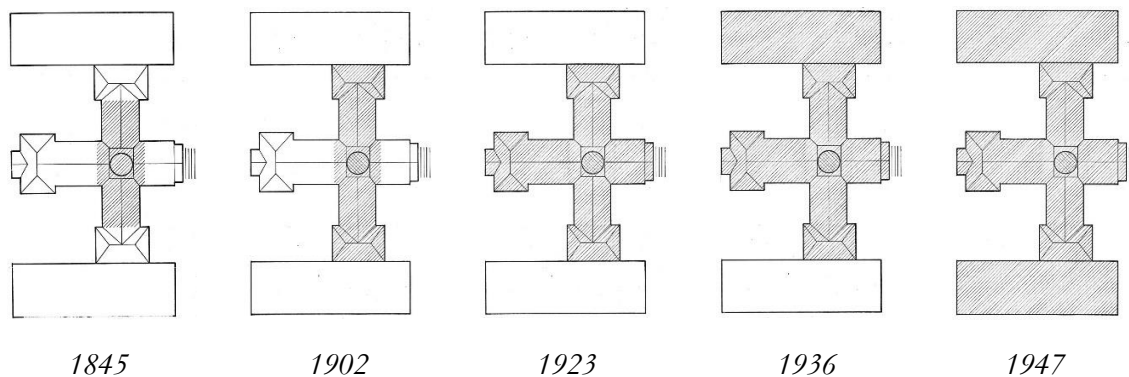


Figure 12. Plan Diagrams, Capitol Expansion 1845-1947 (National Register Record)



Figure 13. Frank Milburn 1902 Design (Florida Memory)



Figure 14. Florida Capitol After 1947 Addition (Florida Memory)

After World War II the population of the state dramatically increased necessitating further expansion of the government center which finally took place in the 1970s. Edward Durrell Stone, a New York-based, prominent architect of the time, was entrusted with the design. Stone's design added new buildings to the capitol site, expanding it into the surrounding blocks, and also assumed the demolition of the existing capitol building. Although this demolition plan was strongly supported by key decision makers in the government, a "Save

the Old Capitol” movement involving citizens and government officials rose up, and after a hard-fought battle the historic capitol was saved. The building had to be altered because Stone’s proposed buildings essentially abutted the existing building. Much deliberation resulted in the restoration of the building to its 1902 design, completed in 1982. Jacksonville-based architect Herschel Shepard served as the restoration architect.



Figure 15. Before Restoration of the Historic Capitol (Florida Memory)

Stone’s complex features three buildings: the main building, a House office building, and a Senate office building. The main building has a 22-story central tower with lower north and south wings. Low domes mark the house and senate chambers in these wings. Skywalks connect the buildings. The tower building fronts Duval Street to the west, facing the Florida Supreme Court. A bus drop-off zone on Duval serves large groups visiting the capitol. A terraced plaza featuring a dolphin sculpture leads visitors up the 20+ foot rise to the capitol entrance at the base of the tower. An additional public plaza is situated between the tower building and the Historic Capitol to the east. This plaza – an access point to both the tower building and the historic building – is the location of much activity and organized events – particularly during the annual legislative session. Additional plaza space off of the House Office Building and the Senate Office Building is situated on either corner of the site along Monroe Street to the east.²⁶ The Historic Capitol fronts Monroe Street, mediated by a

²⁶ These plazas are currently being renovated along with the parking garages beneath them due water intrusion compromising the structure. Source: Bo Pittman (former construction and facilities senior manager with the Florida House of Representatives), in email conversation with the author, July 2020.

landscaped lawn with large trees. The east steps of the historic capitol continue to serve as the site of gubernatorial inauguration ceremonies.

The architecture of Stone's complex is considered to be of the New Formalism style and has concrete and steel structure.²⁷ Between the simple geometric volumes and fenestration there is a play of horizontal and vertical lines. Vertical lines are emphasized by the fenestration and continuous window louvers and by the multi-storied, slender columns of the center building. The buildings are stark, devoid of ornamentation. The main public spaces of the interior are grand, though not ornate. The rotunda and adjoining public spaces feature terrazzo flooring and Italian travertine, as well as other fine finish materials. The observatory on the 22nd floor, typically open to the public, is a valued feature of the building offering a 360-degree view of Tallahassee and beyond.

The capitol complex as it exists today is comprised of five buildings: the Historic Capitol building, the three buildings designed by Stone, and the Knott Building. The Knott Building predates the Stone complex and was annexed by the Capitol Complex expansion. The building now houses large committee meeting rooms for both houses of the legislature and Senate staff offices. The Historic capitol is now on the National Register of Historic Places.²⁸ It functions primarily as a Museum, but also houses offices in the lowest level. The museum offers valuable services to the community and visitors. It provides education about the history of Florida's government and the capitol as well as opportunities for students to learn about the legislative process. The Museum also serves as an event venue. The historic capitol remains the icon of the Florida capitol complex.

²⁷ "Capitol History," The Florida Capitol, April 5, 2021, https://www.floridacapitol.myflorida.com/the_capitol/capitol_history.

²⁸ At the time that the Historic Capitol was added to the National Register the Edward Durrell Stone buildings were considered to have architectural significance based on the prominence of the architect and as an example of New Formalism, however, being recently constructed, they were not considered to have historic significance. As the buildings now approach 50 years old their status can easily soon change in this regard. See "New Legislative Wing Historic Data Supplement," *Florida Capitol Master Site File*, Florida Department of State, Department of Historic Resources, n.d., 29.

CHAPTER 3: PROBLEMS WITH FLORIDA'S CURRENT CAPITOL

Edward Durrell Stone was an award-winning architect and produced noteworthy architectural works over the course of his career. The complex he designed for the Florida Capitol has positive aspects and serves the functional needs of the Florida government well in many ways. However, many people who are familiar with Stone's Florida Capitol find it problematic.²⁹ A common complaint is the crude symbolism associated with the building's form. There are other, more worthwhile architectural and urban concerns with the design that deserve consideration. It is with no disrespect to Mr. Stone and acknowledging the benefit of hindsight that I offer the following critique of Stone's design, aimed toward discerning what could be a more suitable design solution.

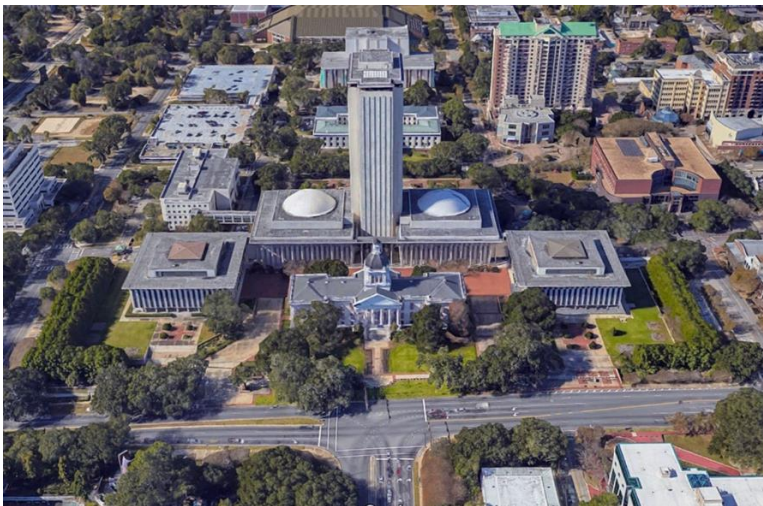


Figure 16. Current Capitol Complex, Aerial View Looking West (Google)

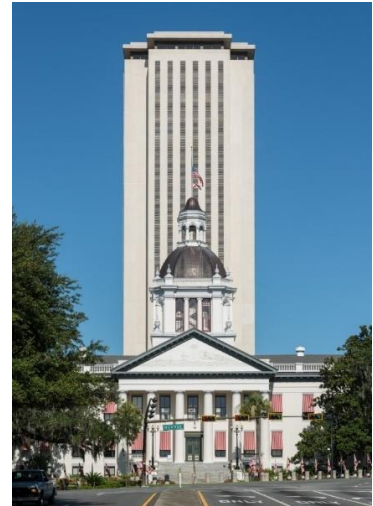


Figure 17. View of Capitol from Apalachee Pkwy (Wikipedia)

I begin by returning to the central argument of my thesis: “By durable and contextually suitable design and by architectural expressions that incorporate the recognizable and time-honored typological symbols associated with edifices of its kind, a state’s capitol can project into the

²⁹ See the article “The Decision-Making Process 40 Years Ago That Led to the Modern Capitol Building,” *Tallahassee Magazine*, April 5, 2021, <https://www.tallahassee.com/the-decision-making-process-40-years-ago-that-led-to-the-modern-capitol-building/>.

surrounding city fabric the worthy purpose of the government.” I observe that Mr. Stone’s design neglects this role in specific ways at both the urban and building scales.

The Florida Capitol today remains situated at the historic Capitol Square site in the center of Tallahassee’s downtown. Beyond this point of continuity with the past, much has changed. The buildings added by Stone markedly altered the urban fabric and skyline of Tallahassee, as well as the form and function of the building that previously served as Florida’s capitol since 1845. The 1970s expansion engulfed blocks immediately to the north, south, and west of the original Capitol Square. The intervention involved notable loss to the urban building fabric in the small core of Tallahassee’s downtown as well as interruptions to the rational street grid originally planned by Governor Duval. Adams Street, Pensacola Street and St. Augustine Street are no longer continuous through downtown. A 1947 Capitol Center development study demonstrates that this intervention to the fabric was already intended well before Stone was commissioned, so this critique goes beyond Stone’s design.

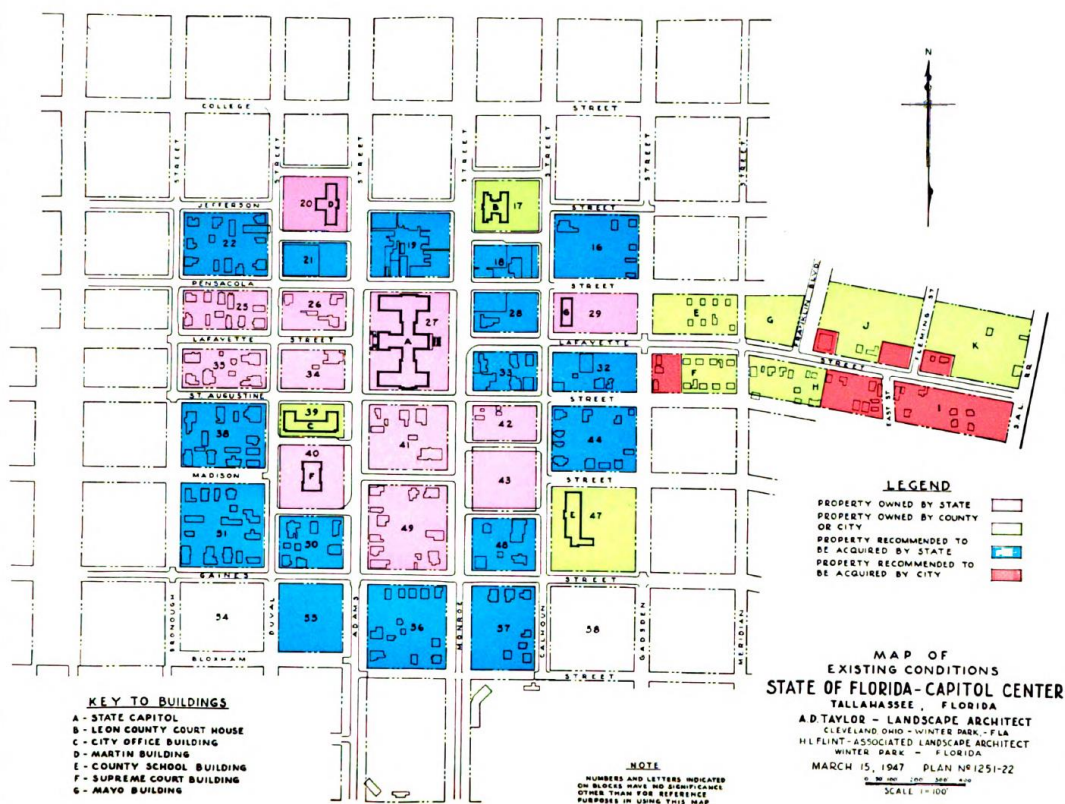


Figure 18. Downtown Blocks Prior to 1970s Capitol Expansion (Taylor and Flint)

Note: Blue fill denotes “Property Recommended to be Acquired by State”

While Tallahassee's population has more than doubled from 80,000 in the late 1970s to nearly 200,000 in 2021, the city maintains a small-town quality with which the metropolitan scale of Stone's capitol complex is incongruous. As the center of government for the third largest state in the country, the capitol must accommodate the needs of a large government. This is indisputable. The scale of the buildings, however, need not be out of proportion with the fabric of the city.

The most significant problem with Stone's design is the twenty-two-story tower. The 307-foot tower, situated on the major east-west axis, dominates the site and skyline and serves as an unfortunate backdrop for the Historic Capitol on the Apalachee Parkway approach from the east. Until 1989 when the 18-story Turlington Building was built a few blocks to the south, the Capitol tower exceeded the tallest downtown area buildings by at least ten stories. Even today after a handful of tall buildings have been added, the capitol tower is prominent. While towers can be appropriate for a monumental building, I argue that this particular tower is neither architecturally nor urbanistically fitting.

To make this case, let us revisit a quote from Seale and Hitchcock and then consider the state capitols of Nebraska and Louisiana. Seale and Hitchcock state: "Skyscrapers and state capitols are America's unique contributions to monumental architecture. The skyscraper is a product of function and structure; the state capitol owes its special character to symbolism."³⁰ This assertion suggests that inclusion of a skyscraper in a capitol can be fittingly American. Yet it also identifies a key aspect of Nebraska's and Louisiana's architecturally successful use of a skyscraper, contrasted with Florida's unsuccessful use. Both Louisiana and Nebraska combine the tower with some of the established symbols of capitol building typology. What is lacking in the literal application of the symbols is made up for by the architecture – in Leon Krier's meaning of the word. These towers, by their Art Deco articulation and proportionally pleasing horizontal divisions, are like glorified cupolas – and actually are topped with a cupola element. While neither building has a portico, both feature grand, celebrated entrances. The decorative stone work emphasizes that these are monumental buildings. Furthermore, these towers are suitably located at the center of a large, open site. The tower has a harmonious relationship with the surrounding urban fabric. Neither the Nebraska Capitol nor the Louisiana Capitol shares a site with or diminishes the grandeur of a predecessor, historic capitol building.

³⁰ Seale and Hitchcock, 3.



Figure 19. Nebraska State Capitol (Google)



Figure 20. Louisiana State Capitol (Google)

Florida's tower, on the other hand, being geometrically simple (a tall box) and lacking typological symbols and ornament could as easily house a hospital or the offices of a corporate headquarters as those of the government. The low-domed chamber buildings could as easily be planetariums as legislative chambers. The building's monumentality is expressed primarily in its size. There is nothing about these buildings – other than their posted signage – which indicates either their Florida location or their use as a capitol. This ambiguity is further illustrated by the fact that the State of Florida continues to present the preserved historic capitol building as the iconic, public face of the complex.

Looking more closely, there are a few additional issues to note. The continuous louvers of Stone's tower give the sense of a blank face, veiling what is inside. The low-profile building entrances at the base of the massive structures, though appropriate to the design, do not dignify the human person and are not communicative of welcome or entry. The plaza between the tower and the Historic Capitol is (by necessity) misoriented in relation to both the longitudinal façade of the latter and the height of the former. Neither building can be appreciated by occupants of the space. The other plazas of the complex lack formal definition and shade from the Florida sun, and as such are not comfortable to occupy.

Finally, while the architectural style of Stone's design may have been selected to communicate Florida's contemporary relevance or modern progress and optimism, it is now dated and simply looks like a 1970s office tower. As a result, the buildings do not have the timelessness that is suited to a building that houses a government that serves generations.

CHAPTER 4: A NEW VISION FOR THE FLORIDA CAPITOL COMPLEX³¹

Project Description

GOAL

The goal of this project is to address the shortcomings of the current capitol complex through an alternative design which better relates to the Historic Capitol Building and surrounding context and which architecturally acknowledges its role as a capitol.

SITE (See Figures 21-32)

The project site is the existing capitol site in downtown Tallahassee. Tallahassee is located near the center of the north Florida panhandle. The site is on a hilltop at the intersection of Monroe Street and Apalachee Parkway – two major streets which form part of the US Highway 27 route. Within a ¼ mile, 5-minute walk of the site are primarily state and city office buildings to the south as well as courthouses, businesses, condominiums, and some retail to the north. The Leon County Civic Center, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, Cascades Park, and the Park Avenue Chain of Parks are on the edge of, or a few blocks beyond the ¼ mile radius. Cascades Park has in recent years been improved to become a popular attraction and event venue and is currently undergoing further development. A pedestrian bridge offers passage over Monroe Street along a multi-use trail several blocks south of the capitol.

The Historic Capitol building on the east side of the site fronts Monroe Street. To the west, across the Duval Street site boundary is the Florida Supreme Court. Adams Street projects from the site leading to popular dining venues to the north and intersecting a multi-use trail a few blocks to the south. The primary axis runs east-west through the center of the capitol site in line with the Historic Capitol, the Supreme Court, and Apalachee Parkway. A secondary axis runs north-south through the center along Adams Street.

³¹ Figures referenced in this chapter are located in the following chapter.

The site has a 24-foot elevation change from Duval Street on the low end to the Historic Capitol grade level. A challenge for the proposal is to navigate this level change while relating the proposed building design to the scales of both the Historic Capitol and the Supreme Court.

PROJECT (See Figure 34)

The project involves an urban design problem and a building design problem. The urban design problem is to arrange the buildings within the proposed new complex in a way that respects the Historic Capitol and Supreme Court while also shaping public space and improving the relationship between the complex and the urban fabric of the city. The project makes a first step toward scaling down the urban blocks and reestablishing a more livable, walkable, beautiful built environment at the center of Tallahassee's downtown.

The buildings of the proposed complex are intended to function together to accommodate the legislative and executive branch programmatic needs which are specifically connected with essential capitol business. The state's government has grown so large that many of its departments are housed in buildings off site. The facilities of the proposed complex meet and are able to exceed the square footage of the existing facilities.

Selecting one building of the complex, the building problem aspect of the proposal is to develop a design solution that not only addresses the functional and programmatic requirements of the building, but also accounts for fitting architectural character, durability, contextual suitability, and incorporation of the historically recognizable symbols of the capitol building type.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The building selected for design within this project is the Executive Building which will house the formal office of the Governor and also serve as the main public access building of the complex. The key spaces of the building are:

- Formal Office of the Governor and key supporting staff
- Governor's Cabinet Room
- Lobbies for access from both Duval Street and a plaza at the level above
- A grand, central rotunda
- Press lobbies which offer bridged connection to separate House Chamber and Senate Chamber buildings
- The Capitol Branch of the State Library
- Event space

DESIGN PROPOSAL (See Figures 33-49)

The proposal assumes that at some point in the future the buildings added to the capitol complex in the 1970s will require replacement. The Historic Capitol and the Knott Building are assumed to remain. The streets are reconfigured to partially restore the original grid and increase connectivity – both pedestrian and vehicle – through the downtown area by extending Pensacola Street through Monroe Street toward Florida State University and by extending St. Augustine Street from the west through Monroe Street to Calhoun Street. The separated blocks created by these street extensions north and south of the recreated Capitol Square remain part of the capitol complex but within a restored urban fabric. The buildings on these blocks will house legislative offices and connect to the buildings within Capitol Square by way of below-grade tunnels. Parking garages serving the complex will also be located beneath these blocks.

The proposed buildings of the Capitol Square block are configured around a central public plaza at the top of the hill. The plaza is fronted by buildings on all four sides and can be accessed from each side of the Capitol Square. The proposed Executive Building is situated at the west end of the site fronting Duval Street and is on the primary axis with the Historic Capitol to the east and the Supreme Court to the west. Stairs on either side of the Executive Building lead up the hill from Duval Street to the plaza above on approach toward the Historic Capitol at the opposite end. These stairs also allow visual connection up to the public space. Proposed buildings along the north side of the site are designated for House of Representatives uses, and buildings on the south are designated for Senate uses. The House Chamber Building and the Senate Chamber Building flank the Executive Building and connect to it by way of arched bridges at the common chambers and press lobby level. The House and Senate Office Buildings extend along the north and south of the central plaza space. Across Pensacola Street to the north and St. Augustine Street to the south are additional, large office buildings accommodating the additional staffing and committee room needs of each legislative branch. Additional space needs of the Executive branch are accommodated beneath the House and Senate Chambers and in the Knott Building (replacing current Senate offices which will move to the proposed Senate Office Building).

The Executive Building is four stories, with the lowest level partially below grade. The building is accessible from both Duval Street and the Plaza. To prevent overshadowing the two-story Supreme Court building across Duval Street, the portico projection at the center of the

Executive Building rises only three stories – a lower height at the foremost face of the building. On the Plaza side the façade rises the full building height such that the cornice height is comparable to that of the Historic Capitol. An octagonal, drum with a cupola tops the Executive Building. The stately dome of the Historic Capitol is given prominence on the site. Secure parking to accommodate the Executive Building personnel, as well as service access are provided in a parking garage below the plaza. Designated parking and a private elevator for the Governor are provided.

The floor plans are roughly symmetrical. Main lobbies are on the west and east accommodating entry from Duval Street and from the Plaza. A grand rotunda and vertical circulation are at the center of the building. Primary spaces occupy the north and south ends. Secondary spaces are located off of the corridor which connects the primary spaces to the rotunda.

The Doric order is applied to the building for compatibility with the Historic Building (though the proportions of the Historic Building order are not truly Doric). The structure of the building is a combination of loadbearing masonry and steel framing. The exterior walls are brick with stone at the base, and bear their own weight. The steel frame supports the floor. Additional solid masonry walls are incorporated at stair and elevator cores and for sheer strength. The building has a slate roof.

PRECEDENTS (See Figures 50-59)

Key precedents for the project include the Campidoglio in Rome, the Pasadena City Hall, the 1821 Pennsylvania State Capitol, the Tennessee State Capitol, the Massachusetts Statehouse, James Gibbs' Summer Houses, the Oxford Bridge of Sighs, and the existing buildings of the Florida Capitol.

The Campidoglio, while not a U.S. capitol, has historical ties noted in Chapter I, as well as similarities to the scale and site conditions of this project.³² This precedent influenced the concept to configure the proposed buildings around a central public plaza and to offer passage to the plaza from the street below by way of exterior stairs, allowing a pedestrian approach to

³² It is serendipitous to note that Tallahassee is called "City of the Seven Hills" and that, like Rome, Tallahassee's capitol is located on a hill other than the highest of the city. (See Christina Johnson, "City of the Seven Hills," *The Tallahassee 100*, last modified May 17, 2018, accessed April 27, 2021, <https://thetallahassee100.com/history/2018/05/17/city-of-the-seven-hills/13031>.)

the Historic Capitol from the west. Unlike the Campidoglio, the plaza is fronted by buildings on all four sides. Initially I sought to provide the exterior passage through the central rotunda as The Pasadena City Hall does, however, it became evident that this concept created issues with the functionality of the building that in the end directed a different solution. The goal of offering visibility from outside the complex into the plaza / square while still maintaining its spatial definition, however, was informed by the Pasadena City Hall.

The 1821 Pennsylvania State Capitol and the Tennessee State Capitol guided the building design as to interior configuration of spaces. Pennsylvania offered insight for the primary public spaces and lobbies, while Tennessee informed location of stairs and support spaces.

The Massachusetts Statehouse inspired the stepping back of the building façade on the Duval Street side to mediate the relationship of the proposed executive building to the lower Supreme Court building while also allowing the executive building suitable height in relation to the Historic Capitol on the plaza side.

James Gibbs summer house designs served as precedent for the proposed cupola. The Bridge of Sighs informed the arched bridge connectors between buildings.

The buildings of the existing capitol complex were consulted for configuration and relationship of building functions. The breakdown of buildings on the site generally follows the current division of House buildings on the north, Senate on the south, and Executive in the middle. The existing capitol plan offers connection from both legislative chambers back to the central rotunda for ceremonial and practical reasons. The proposed design places the legislative chambers in separate buildings flanking the executive building, but this connectivity from the chambers to the rotunda is maintained by way of the connector bridges.

Finally, the Historic Capitol served as primary precedent for the architectural character of the proposed building. The scale, fenestration, and level of articulation are all guided by the historic building, though not followed exactly so as to provide a clear distinction between the new and the historic.

Project as Exploration of Thesis Statement

This proposed New Vision for the Florida State Capitol explores the central argument of this thesis. The design solution addresses contextual suitability, durability, and timelessness and incorporates the historically recognizable symbols of capitol building typology. In these ways the project offers a visual representation of the established ideals of the state's constitution.

The preamble of the Constitution of the State of Florida reads as follows:

*We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution.*³³

In this preamble are conveyed ideals pursued by the Florida government which may be summarized as “civil peace and flourishing.” It is to these ideals that the Florida government is bound across history by its constitution. As discussed in Chapter 1 of this thesis, established symbols of the capitol building type convey these American ideals by association. The proposed project draws from these symbols incorporating a rotunda, portico, and balanced legislative chamber houses. While the building does not incorporate an external dome (to do so would create a duality and question of hierarchy with the Historic Capitol), the interior rotunda space is domed, and topped with a cupola – a precursor to the dome for American capitols.

By restoring streets and blocks closer to their original layout the proposed design repairs the relationship between the Capitol and the urban fabric and reintroduces a walkable, human scale to the center of Tallahassee's downtown. Introduction of an inviting central public plaza contributes to the symbolic and physical representation of human flourishing and invites the citizen into the process of their government. The configuration of the legislative and executive branch functions along with the judicial branch across the street serves as an architectural diagram of the system of government. The House and Senate chambers within their respective buildings are oriented at 45-degree angles to face the center of the plaza. The axis of the Executive and Supreme Court buildings intersects these lines. The House and Senate work together to agree on legislation. Once passed, the Governor signs it into law at which point it

³³ *Constitution of the State of Florida*, The Florida Senate, April 5, 2021, <https://www.flsenate.gov/laws/constitution>.

takes effect for the citizens. The Supreme Court interprets the laws according to the constitution.

Timelessness and durability are addressed in this project through the selected construction system and by restoring the relationship of new buildings with the Historic Capitol. The design achieves durability by employing a loadbearing wall system with the construction convenience of a steel framing system. In the proposed design the Historic Capitol is no longer overshadowed by a 300-foot tower rising up behind it. The building is respected for its beauty and historical significance, but is also physically reintegrated with the every-day life of the complex. Due to the value of the Historic Capitol Museum as a historical and educational resource in the community, this thesis does not propose eliminating the museum function of the Historic Capitol for replacement with current government uses. However, should a time come when the museum function is no longer viable, the building can certainly be repurposed.

CHAPTER 5: PROJECT PLATES

Project Site



Figure 21. Location Map 1 - United States (WorldAtlas)



Figure 22. Location Map 2 – Florida (Wikimedia)

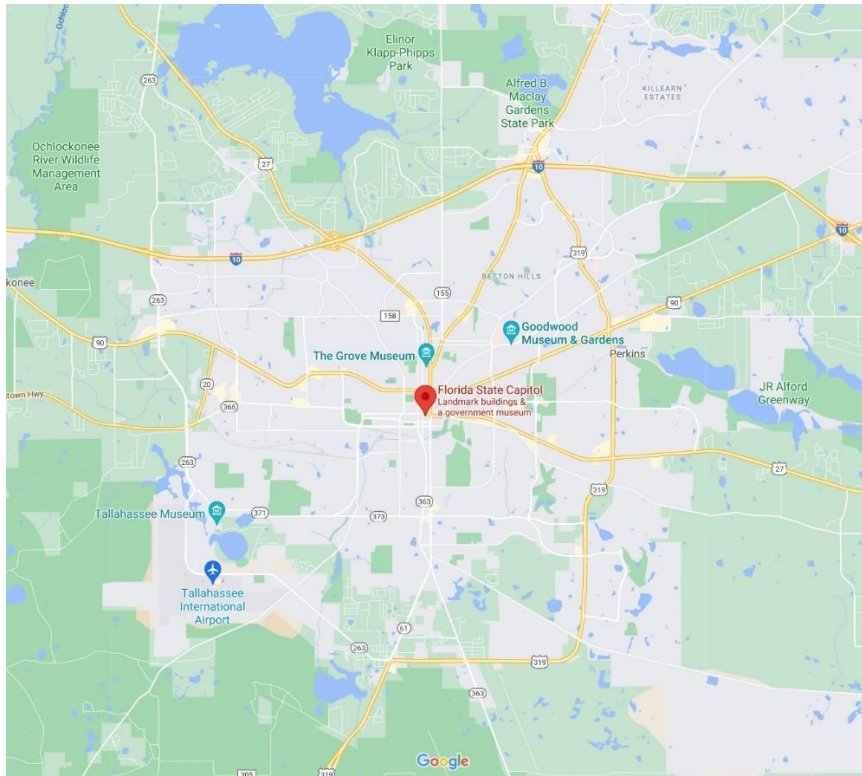


Figure 23. Location Map 3 - Tallahassee (Google)

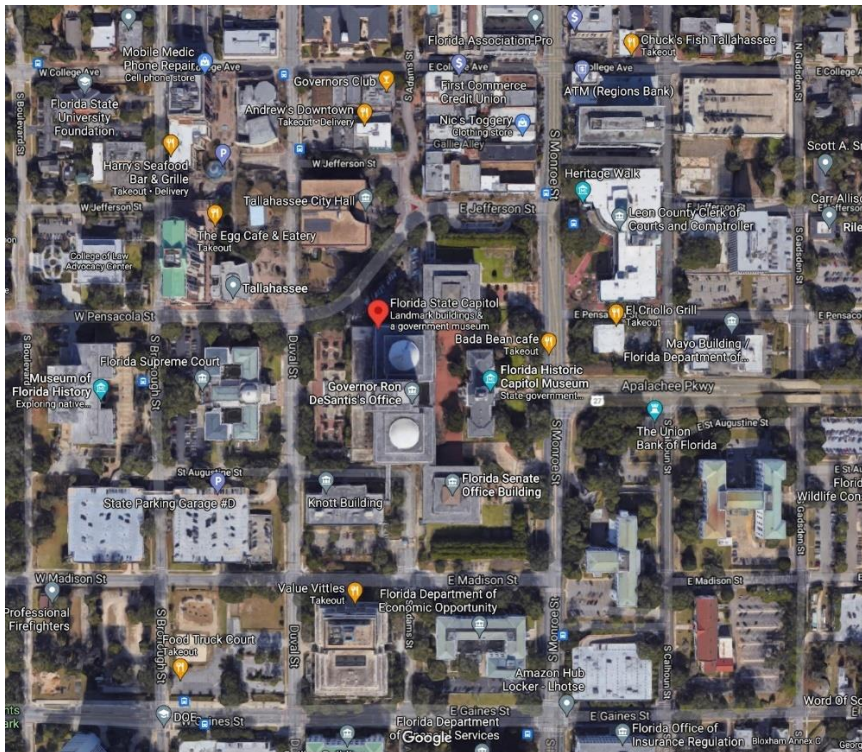


Figure 24. Location Map 4 - Downtown Tallahassee (Google)

Diagramming & Analysis



Figure 25. Site Context (Author)

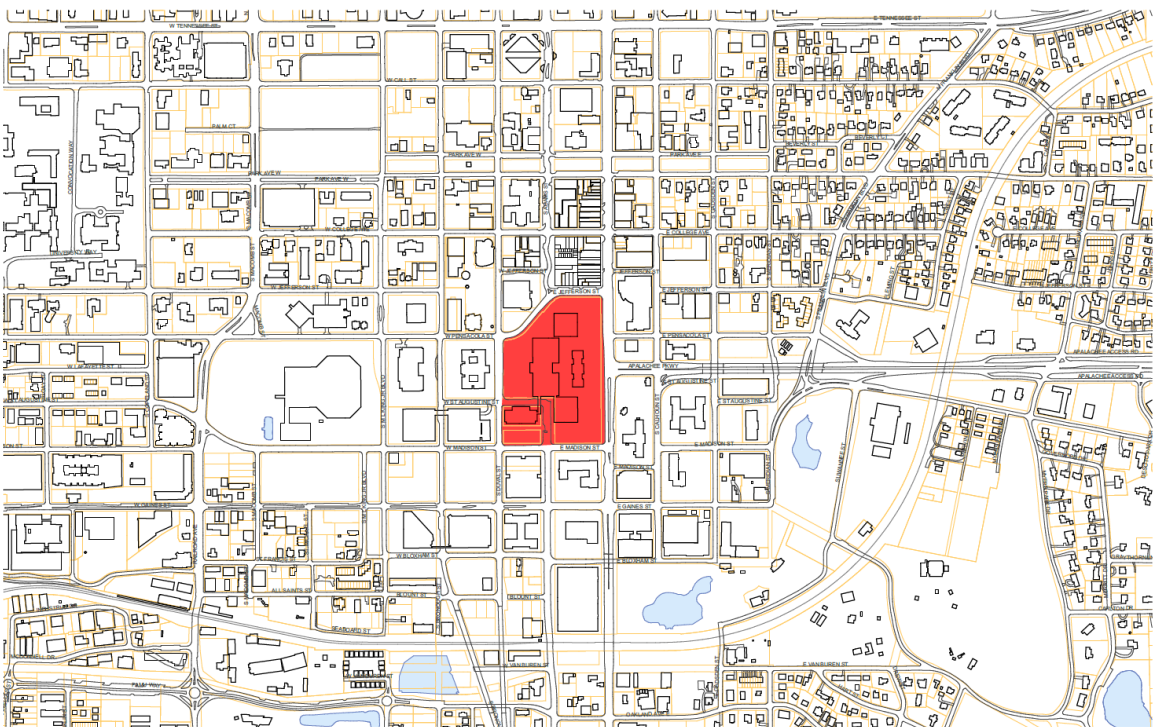


Figure 26. Base Map (GIS data)



LEGEND


- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
|  | PUBLIC ACCESS STAIR |  | VEHICLE ROADWAY |  | GARAGE ENTRANCE / EXIT |
|  | KEY PEDESTRIAN ROUTE |  | VEHICLE PICK-UP / DROP-OFF ZONE |  | LOADING ZONE ENTRANCE / EXIT |

Figure 27. Existing Site (Author)

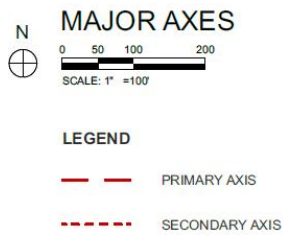


Figure 28. Major Axes (Author)



N
 0 50 100 200
 SCALE: 1" = 100'
 EXISTING SITE - BUILDING FUNCTIONS

Figure 29. Existing Site - Building Functions (Author)

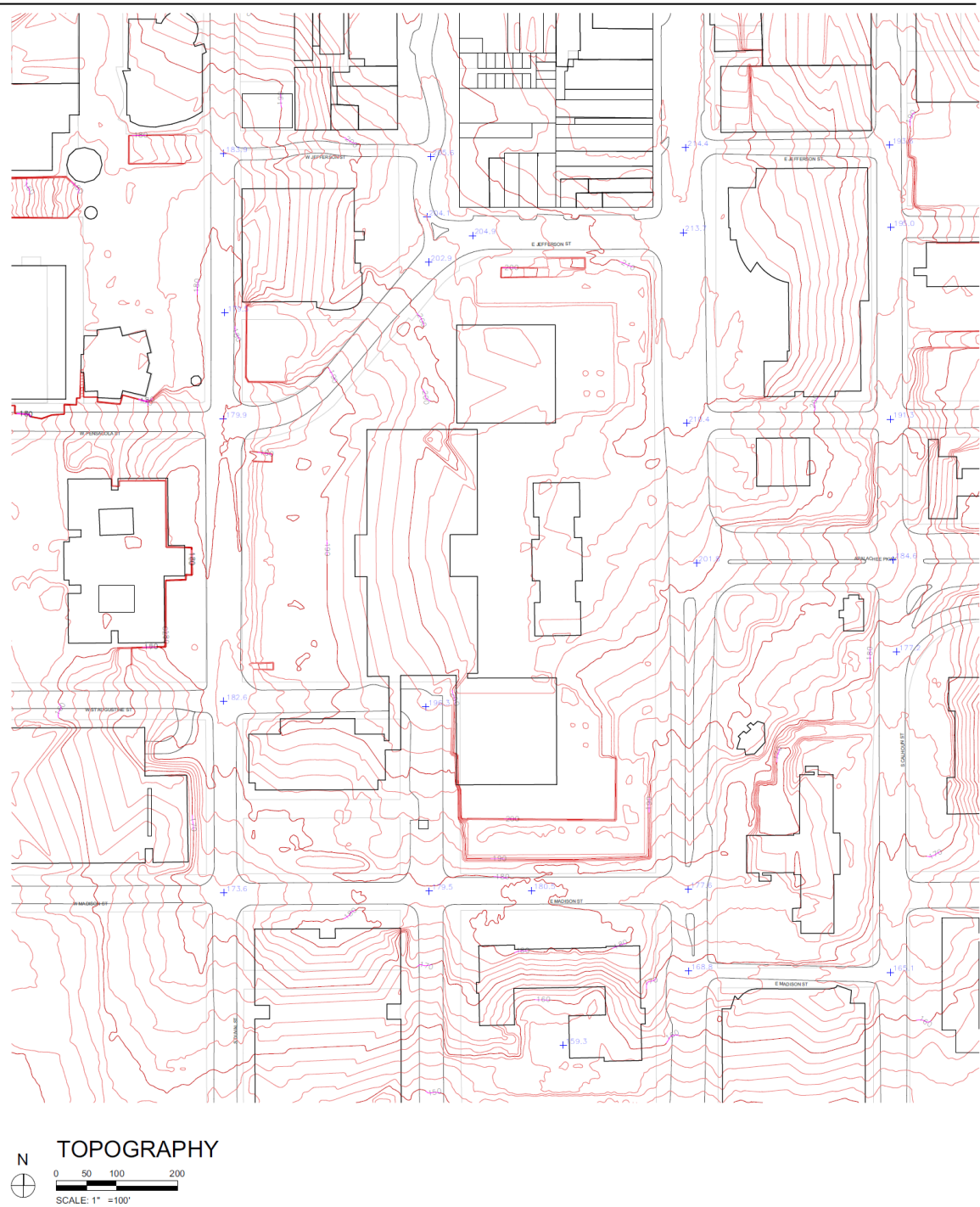


Figure 30. Topography (GIS data)

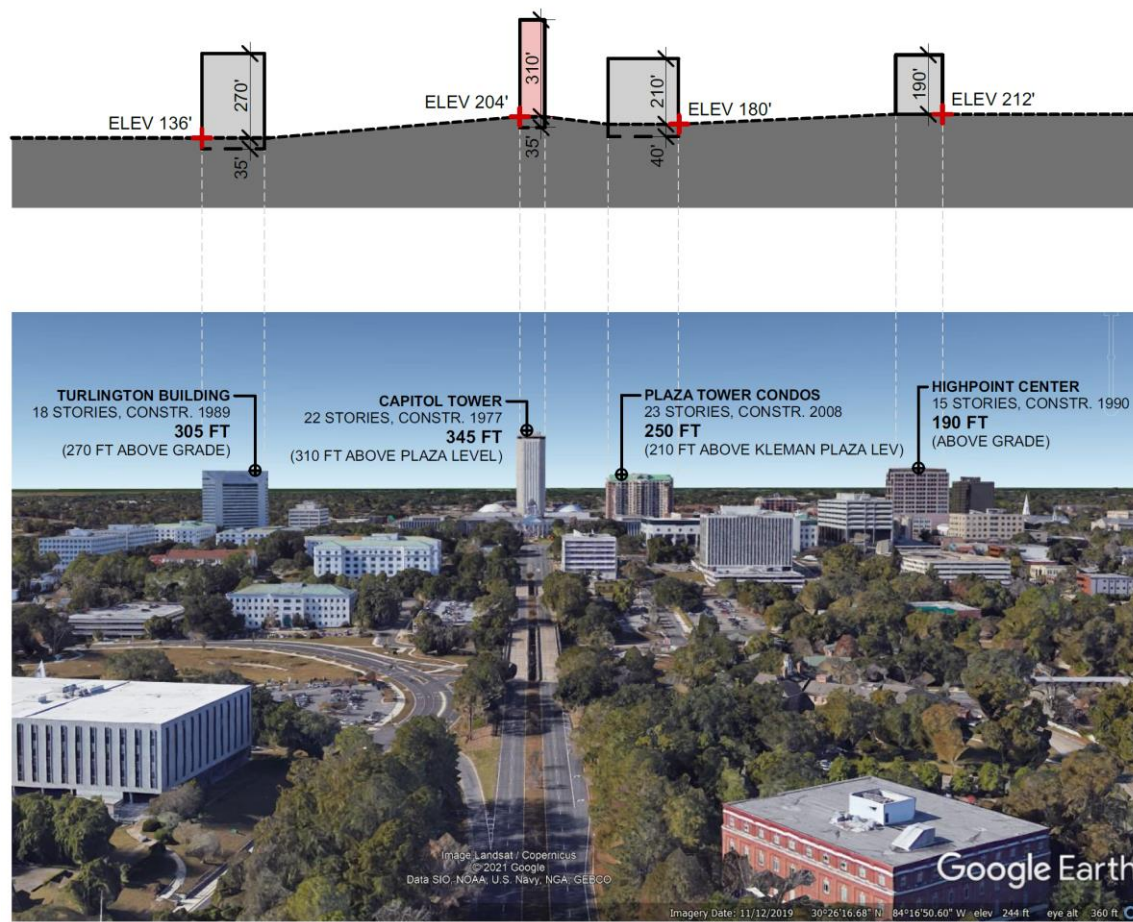
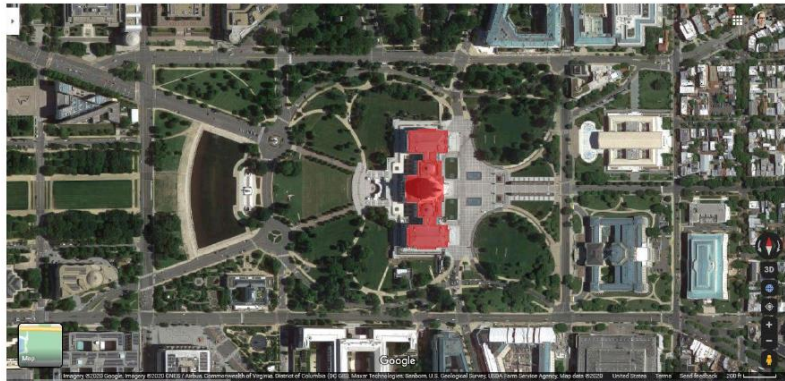


Figure 31. Building Heights Diagram (Author)



FLORIDA STATE CAPITOL



UNITED STATES CAPITOL



SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL



PASADENA CITY HALL



CAMPIDOGGIO, ROME



PRECEDENT SCALE COMPARISON

0 250 500 1000
SCALE: 1" = 500'

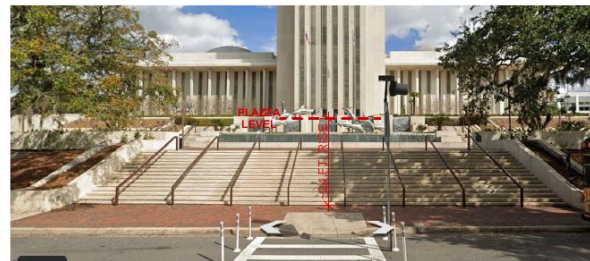


Figure 32. Precedent Scale Comparison (Author)

Proposed New Vision

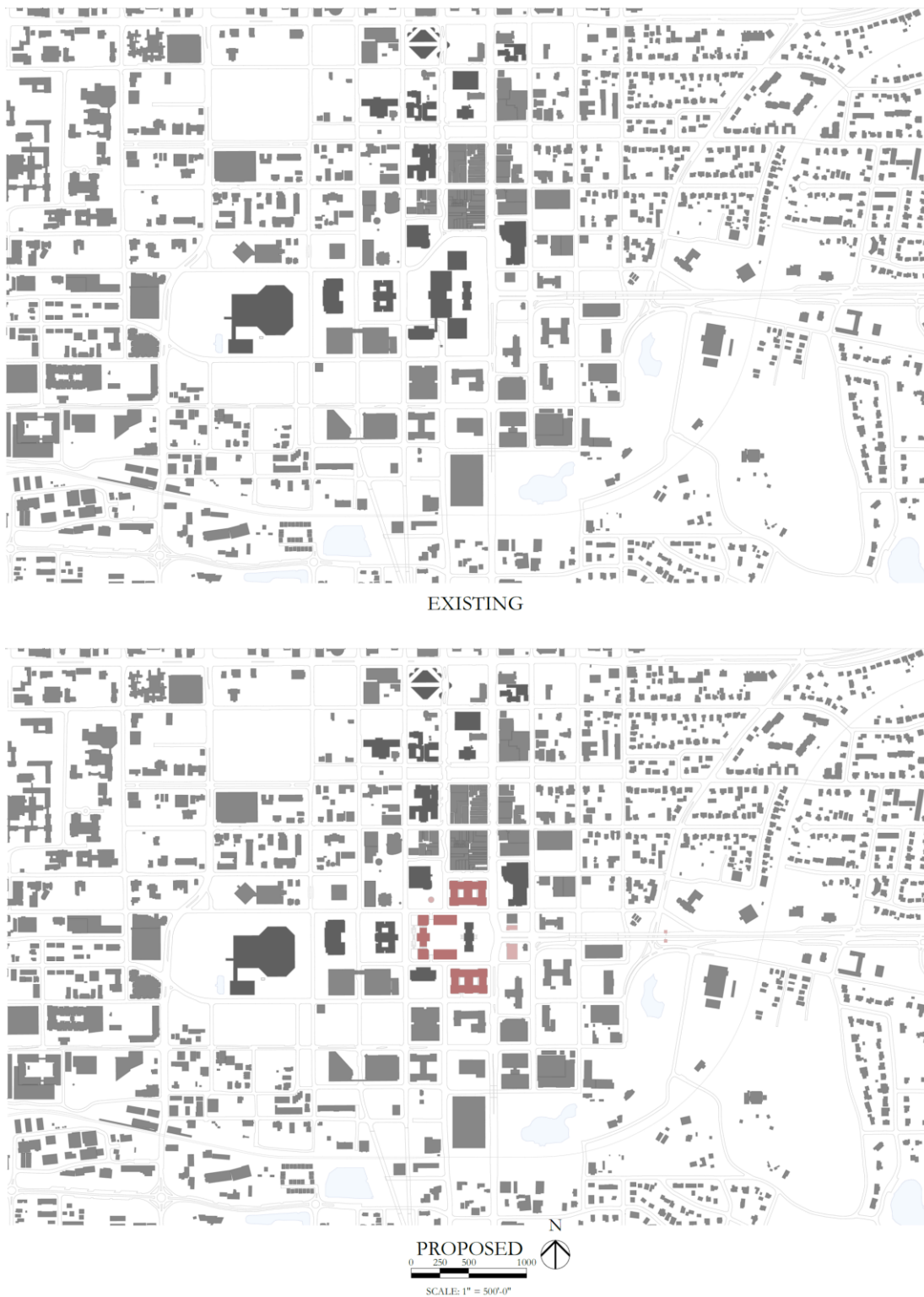
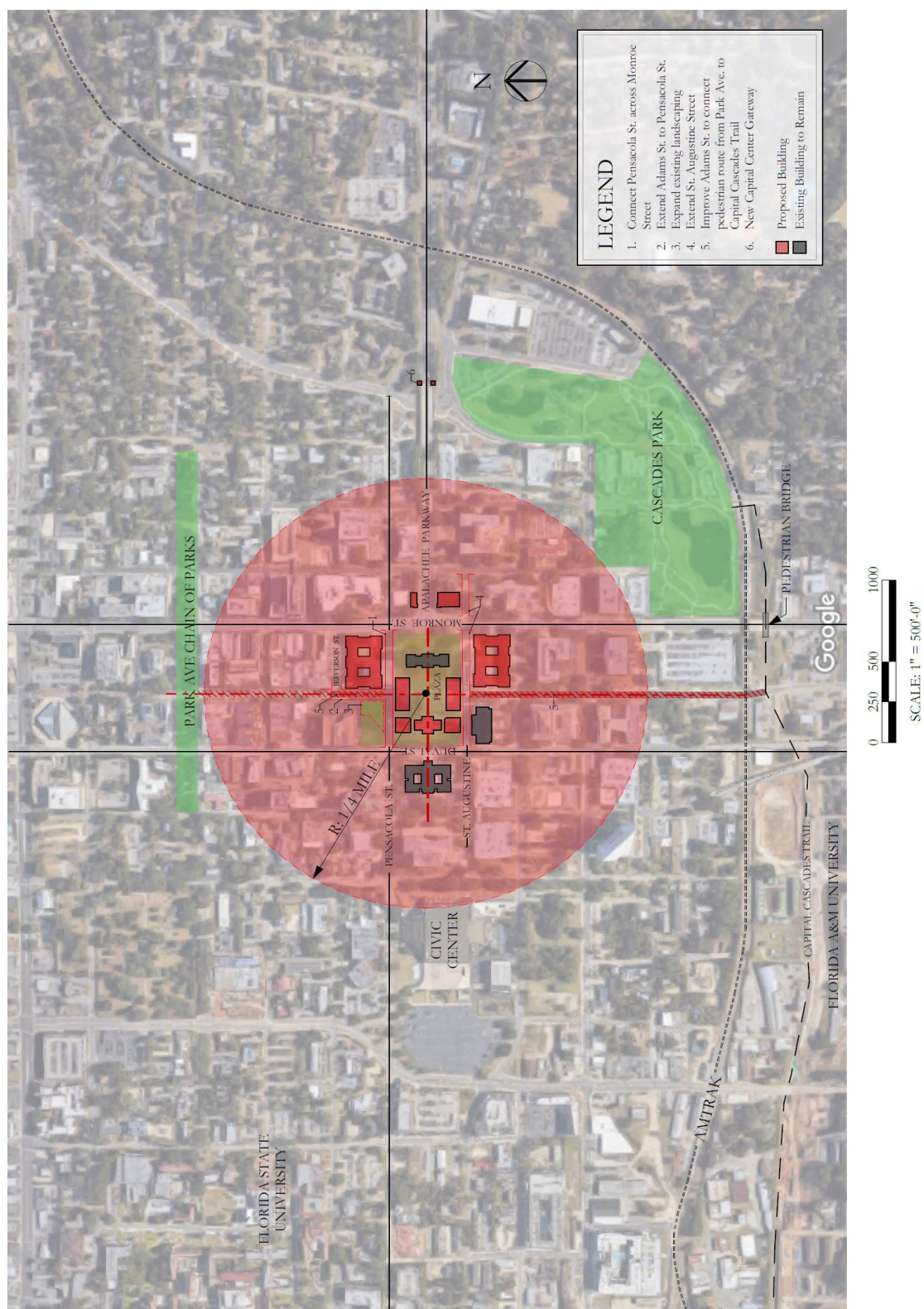


Figure 33. Figure Ground Comparison – Existing and Proposed (Author)



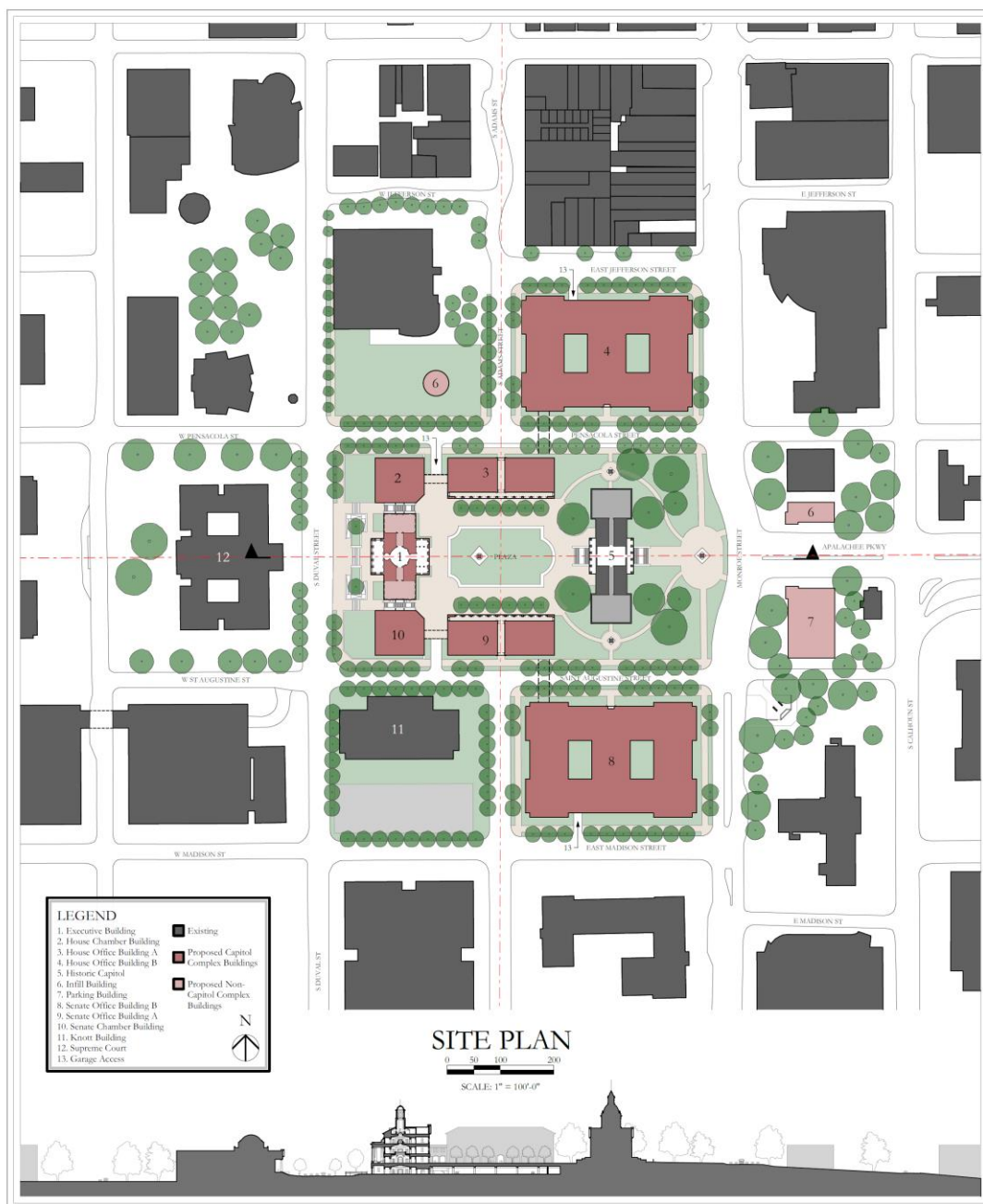


Figure 35. Site Plan (Author)

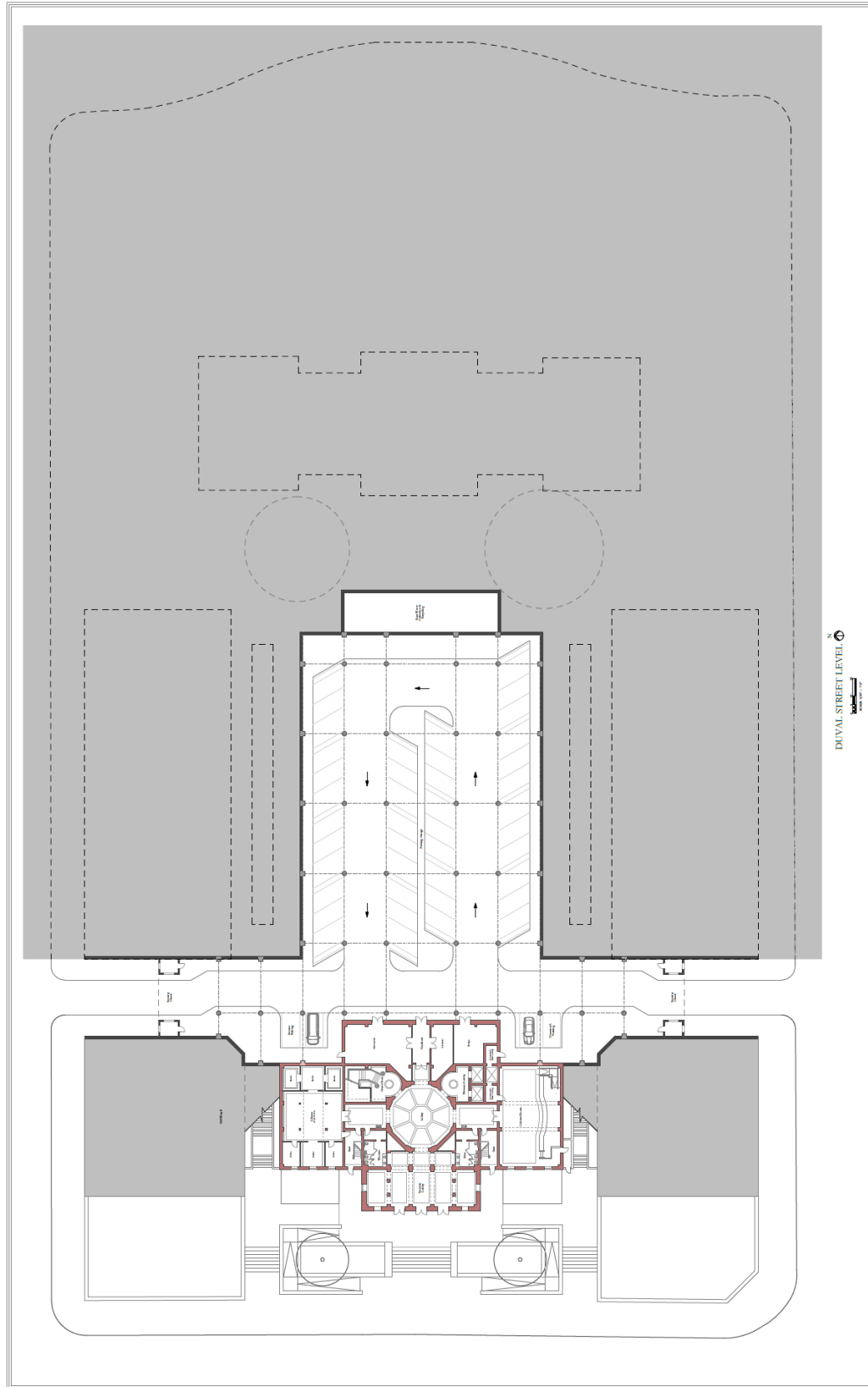


Figure 36. Duval Street Plan in Context (Author)

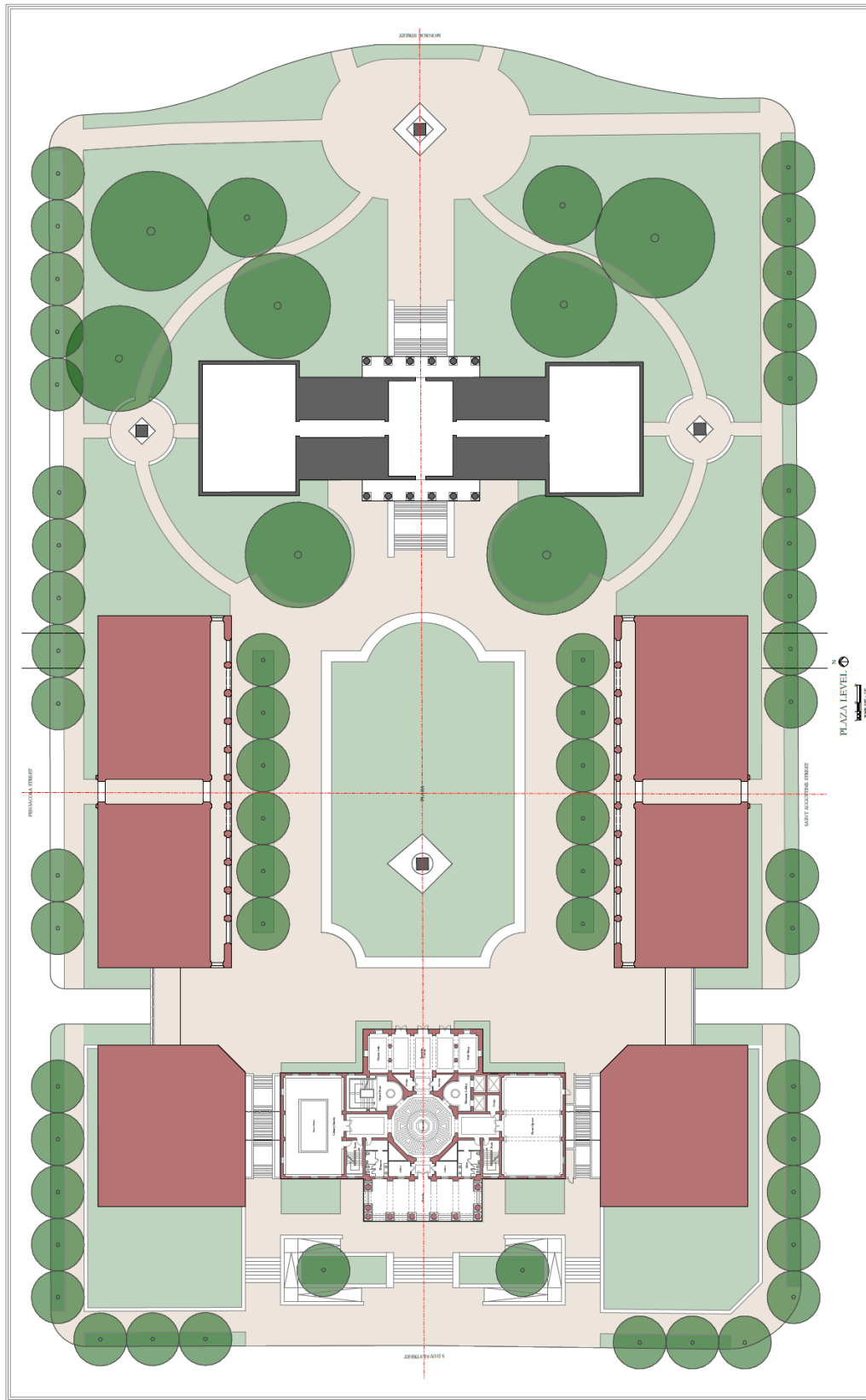
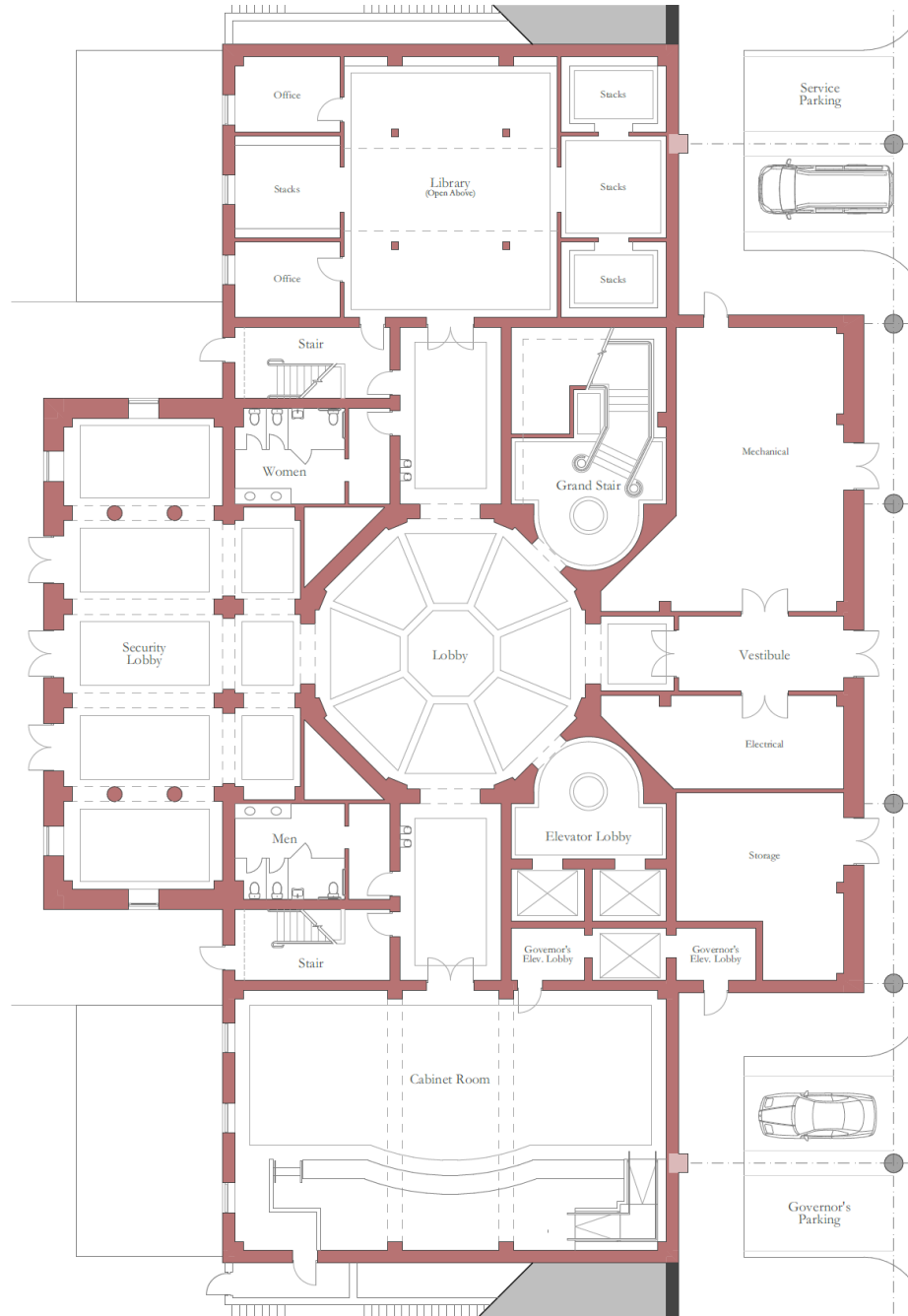


Figure 37. Plaza Level Plan in Context (Author)



DUVAL STREET 

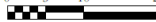
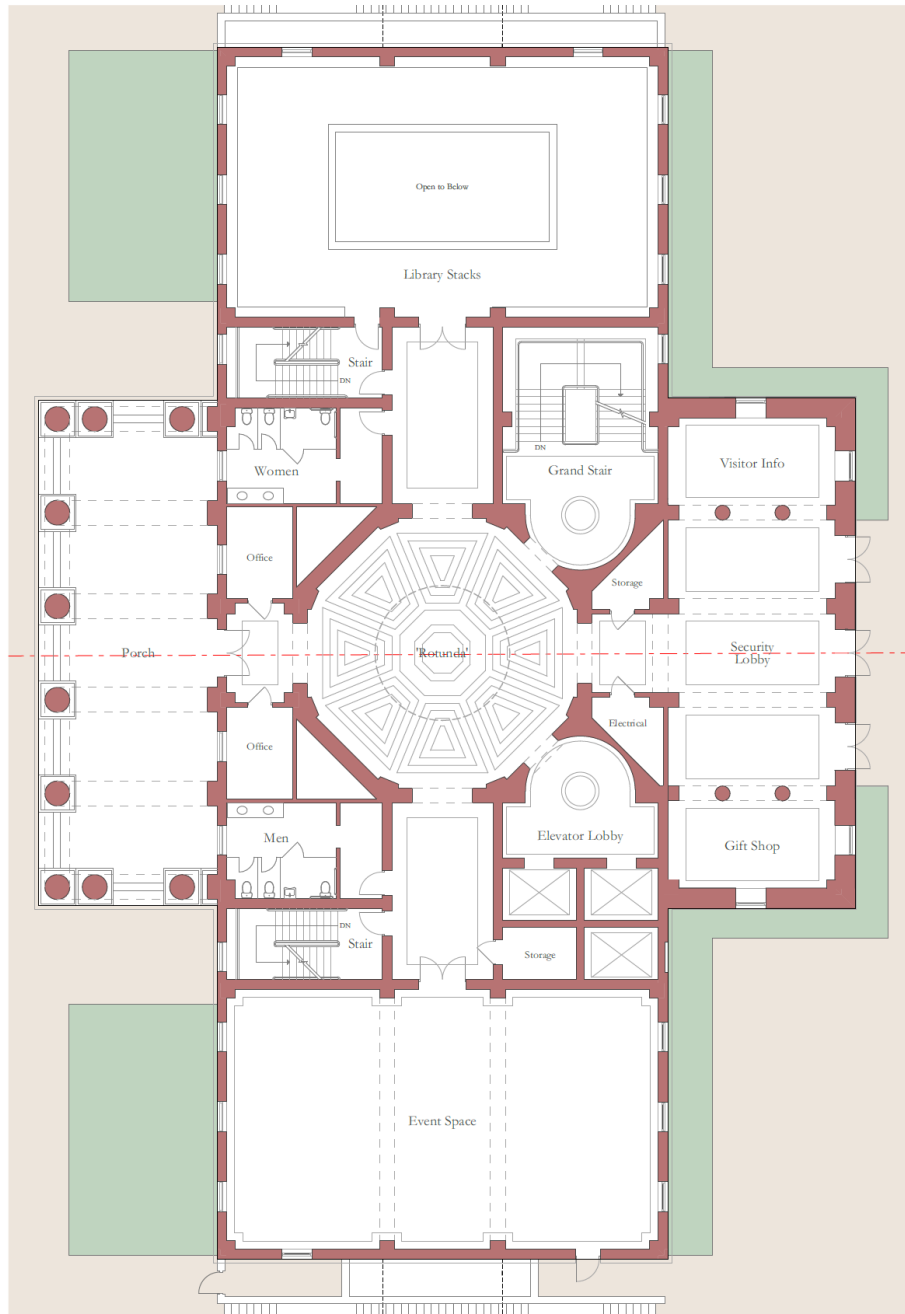

0 5 10 20

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

Figure 38. Duval Street Plan (Author)



N
PLAZA LEVEL 

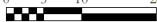
0 5 10 20

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

Figure 39. Plaza Level Plan (Author)

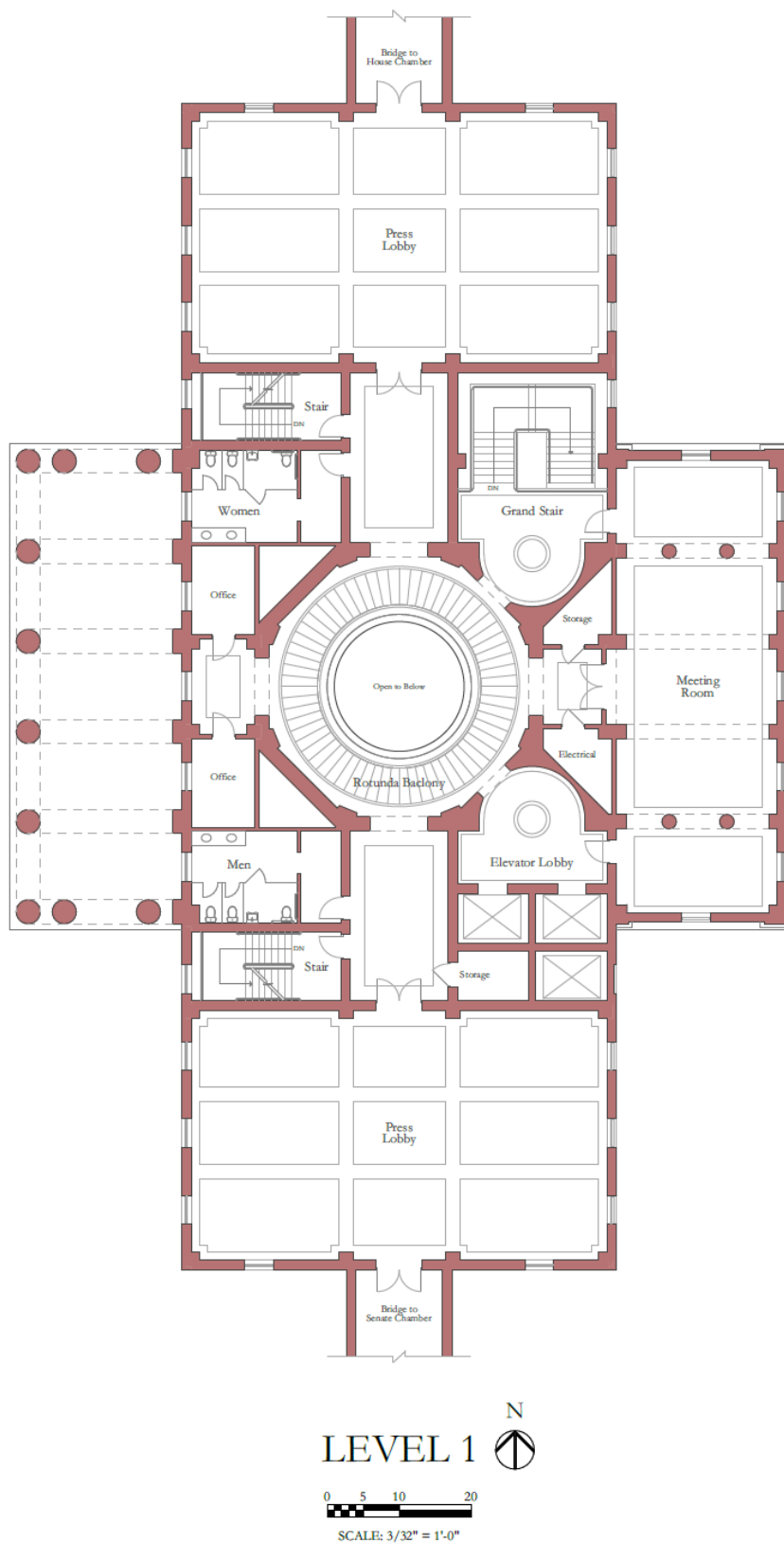


Figure 40. Level 1 Plan (Author)

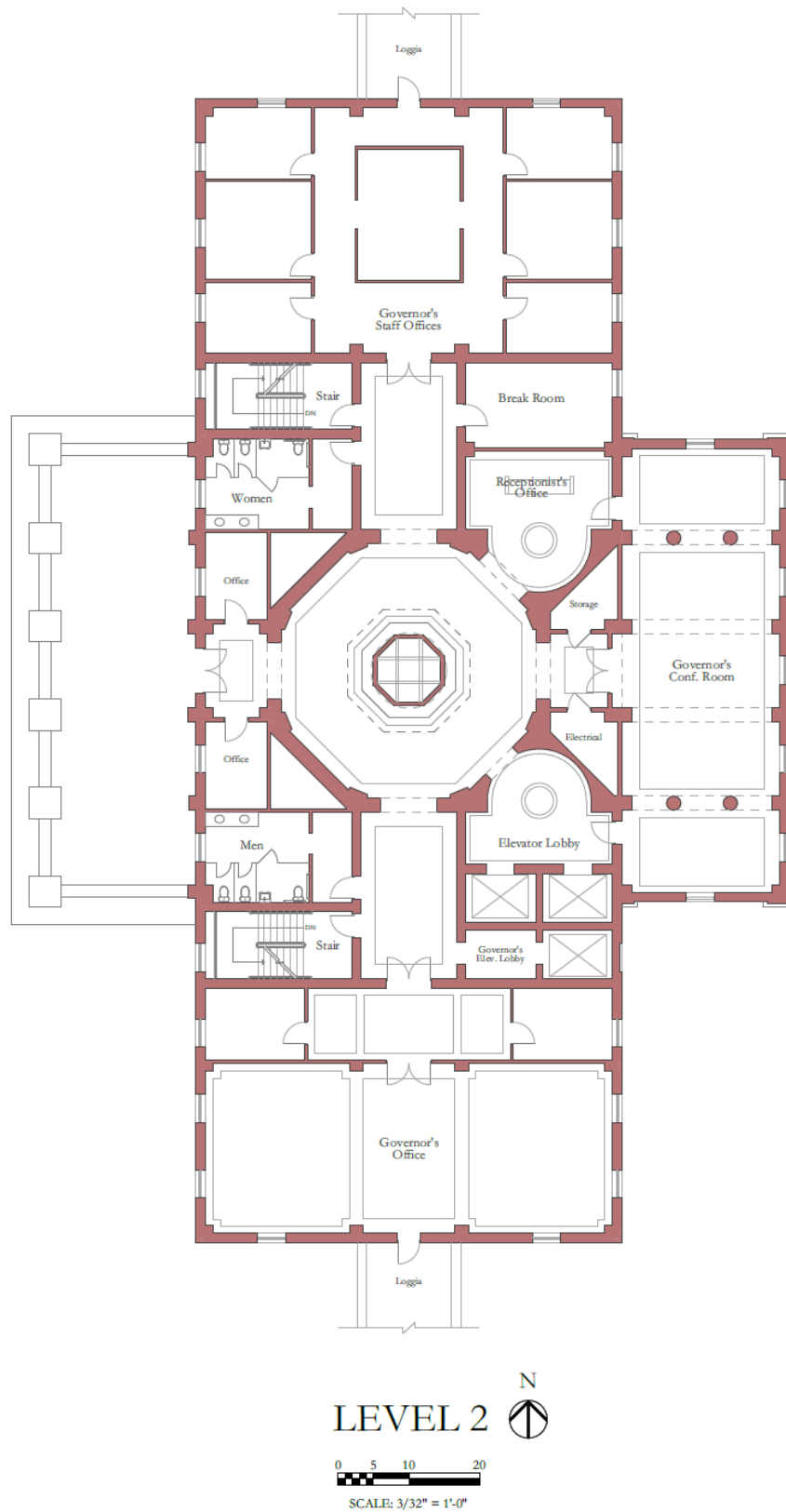
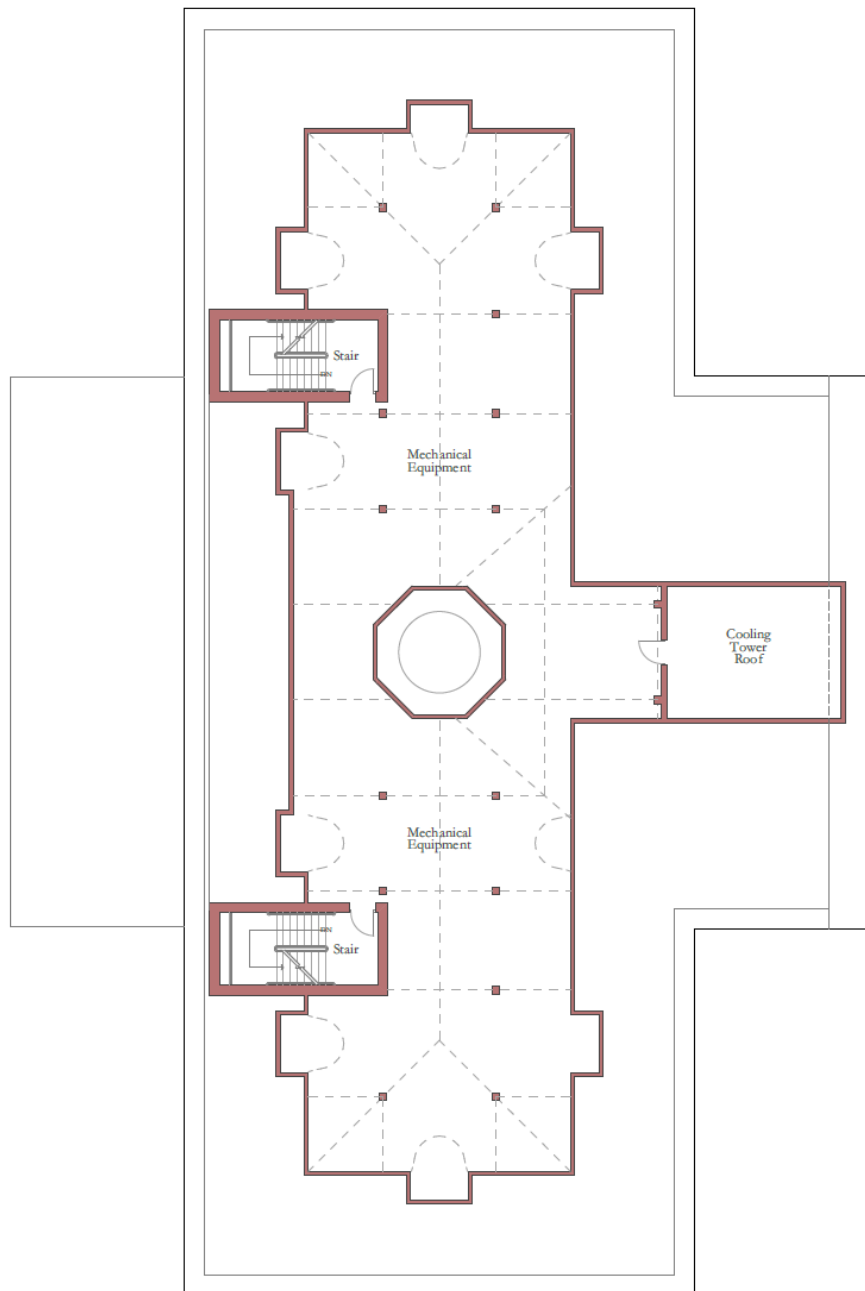


Figure 41. Level 2 Plan (Author)




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 ATTIC 
 0 5 10 20
 SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

Figure 42. Attic Plan (Author)

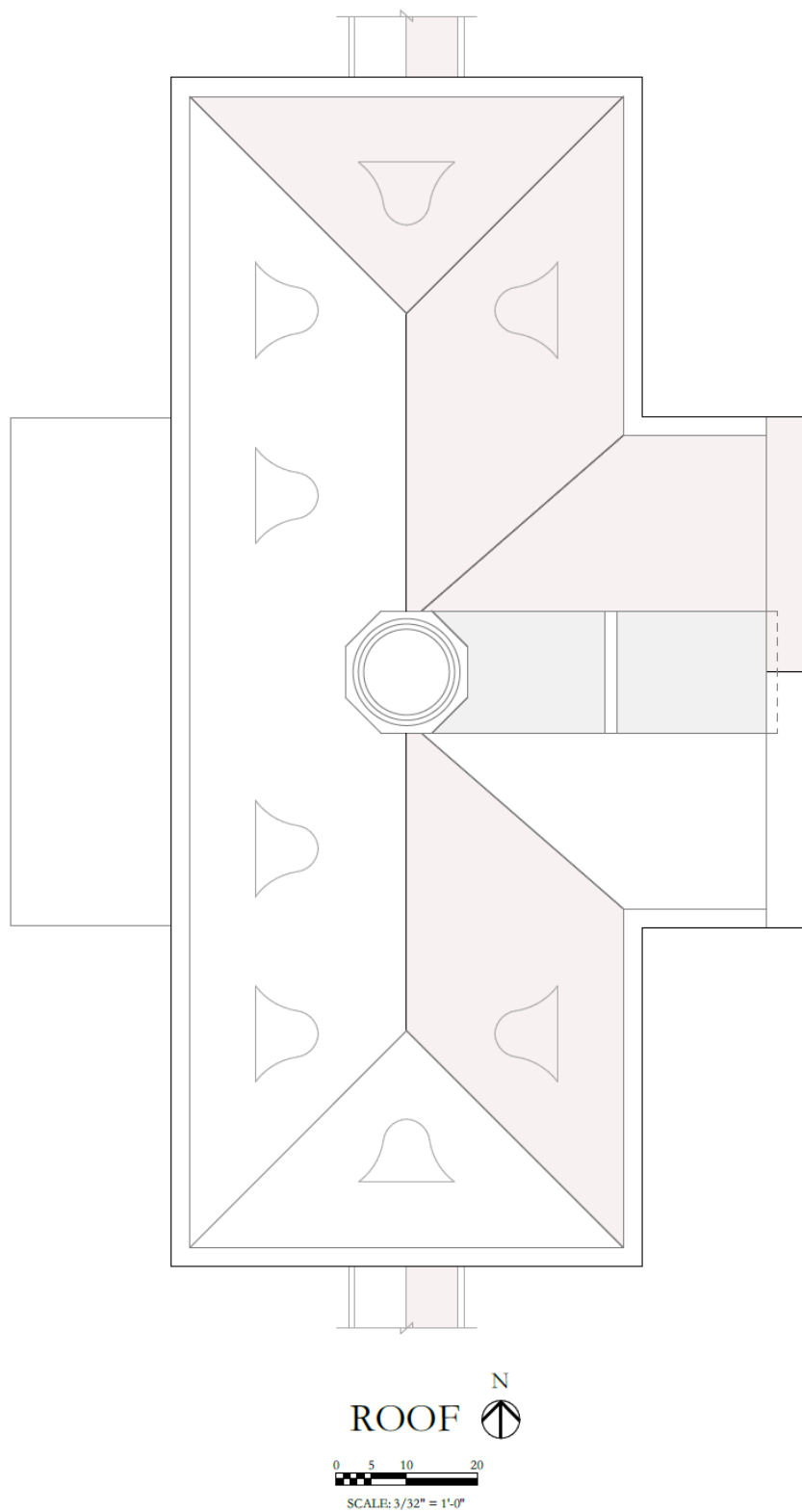


Figure 43. Roof Plan (Author)

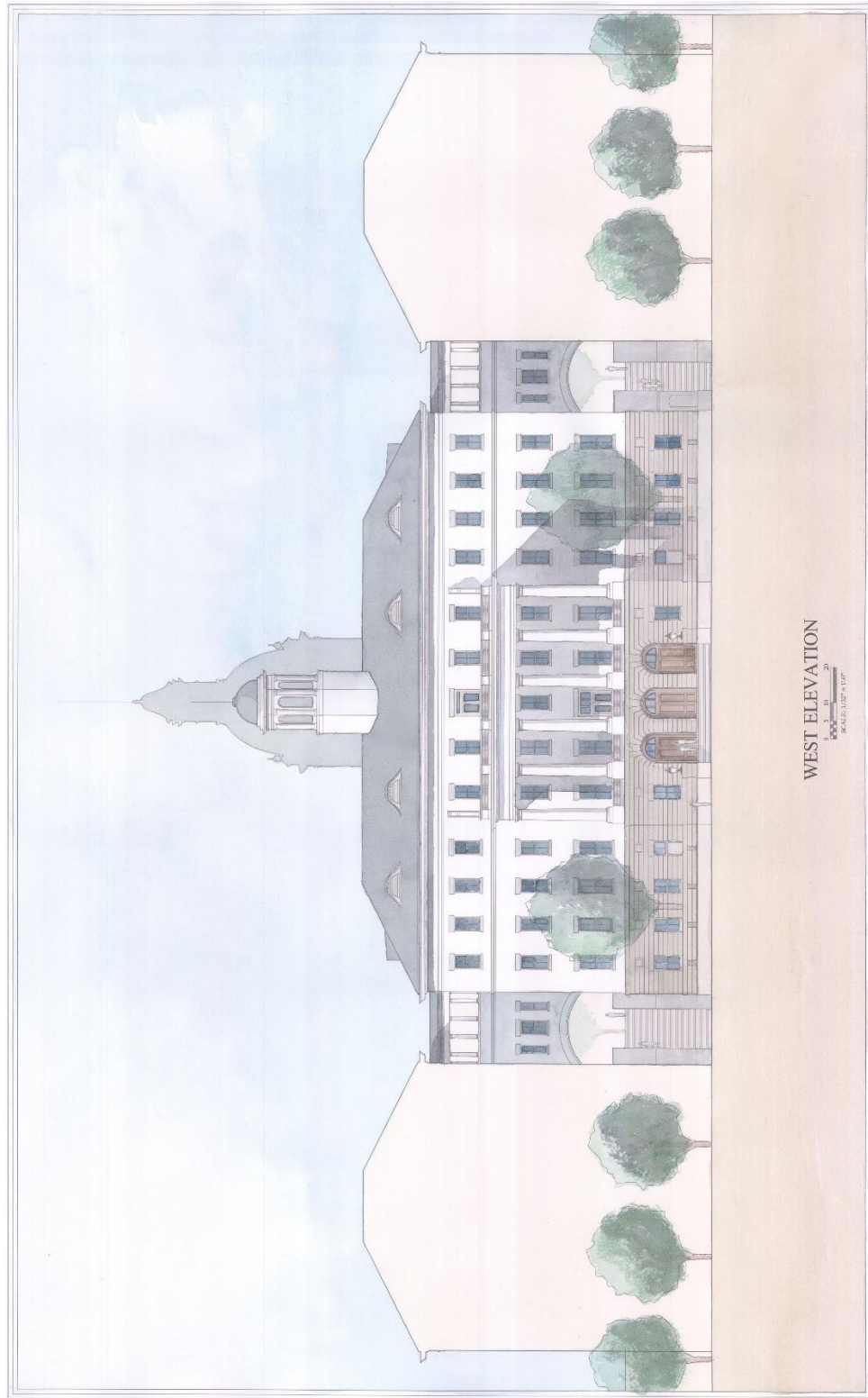


Figure 44. West Elevation (Author)

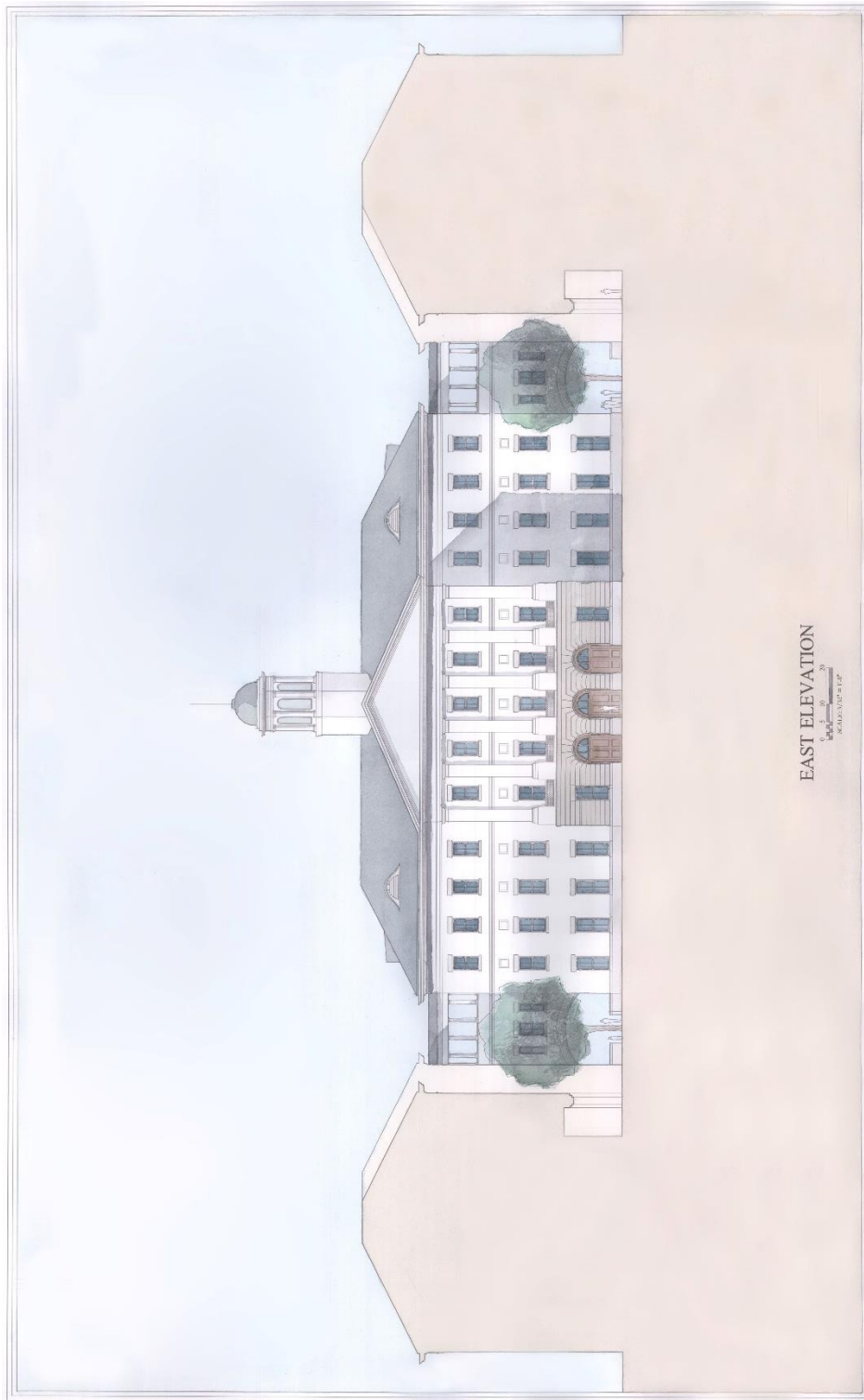


Figure 45. East Elevation (Author)



Figure 46. North & South Elevations (Author)

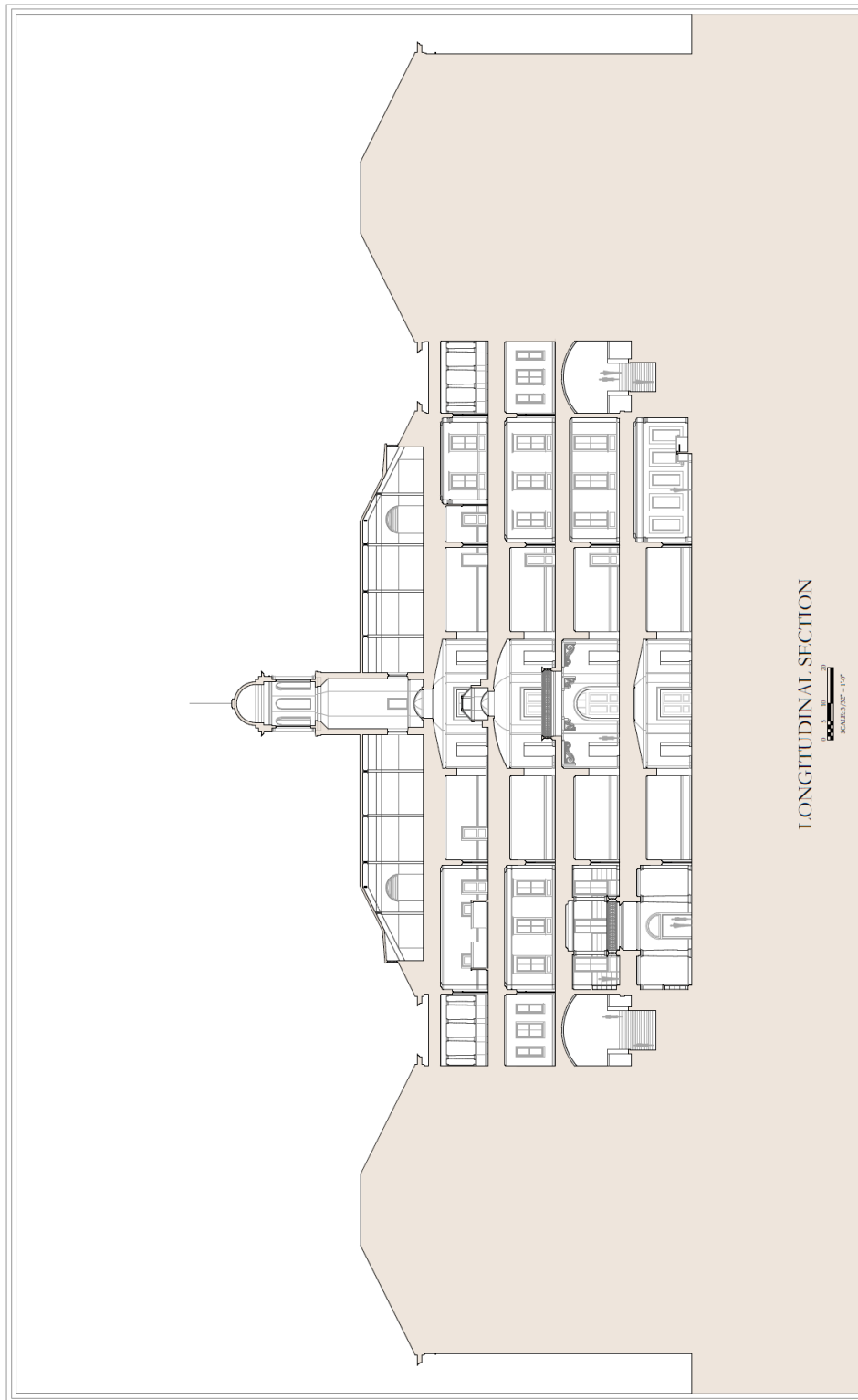


Figure 47. Longitudinal Section (Author)

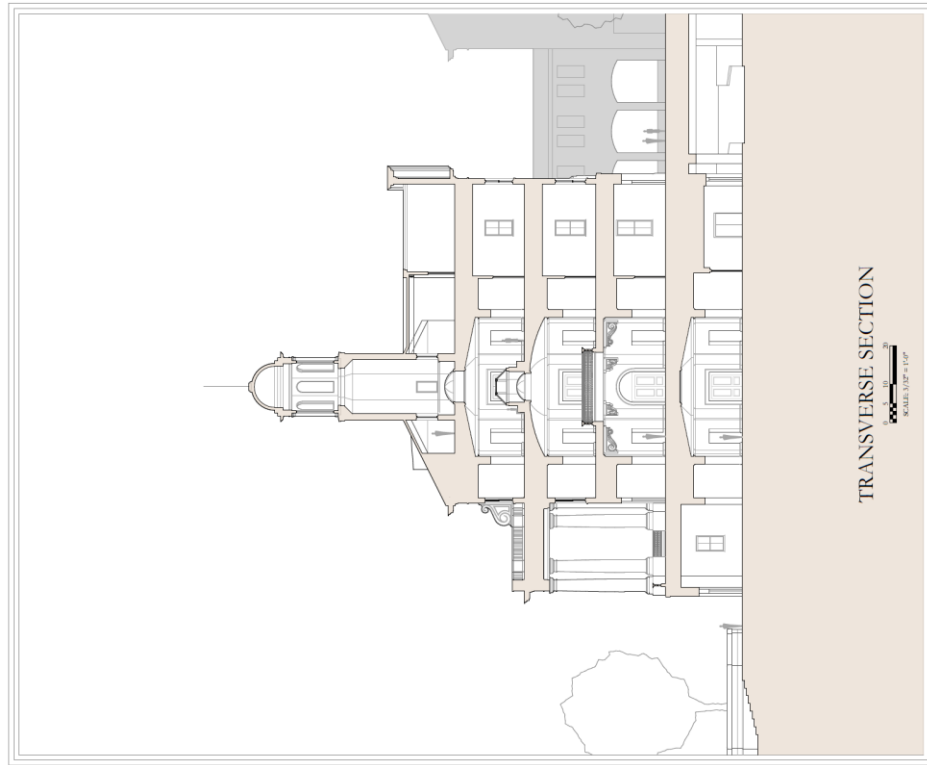


Figure 48. Transverse Section (Author)

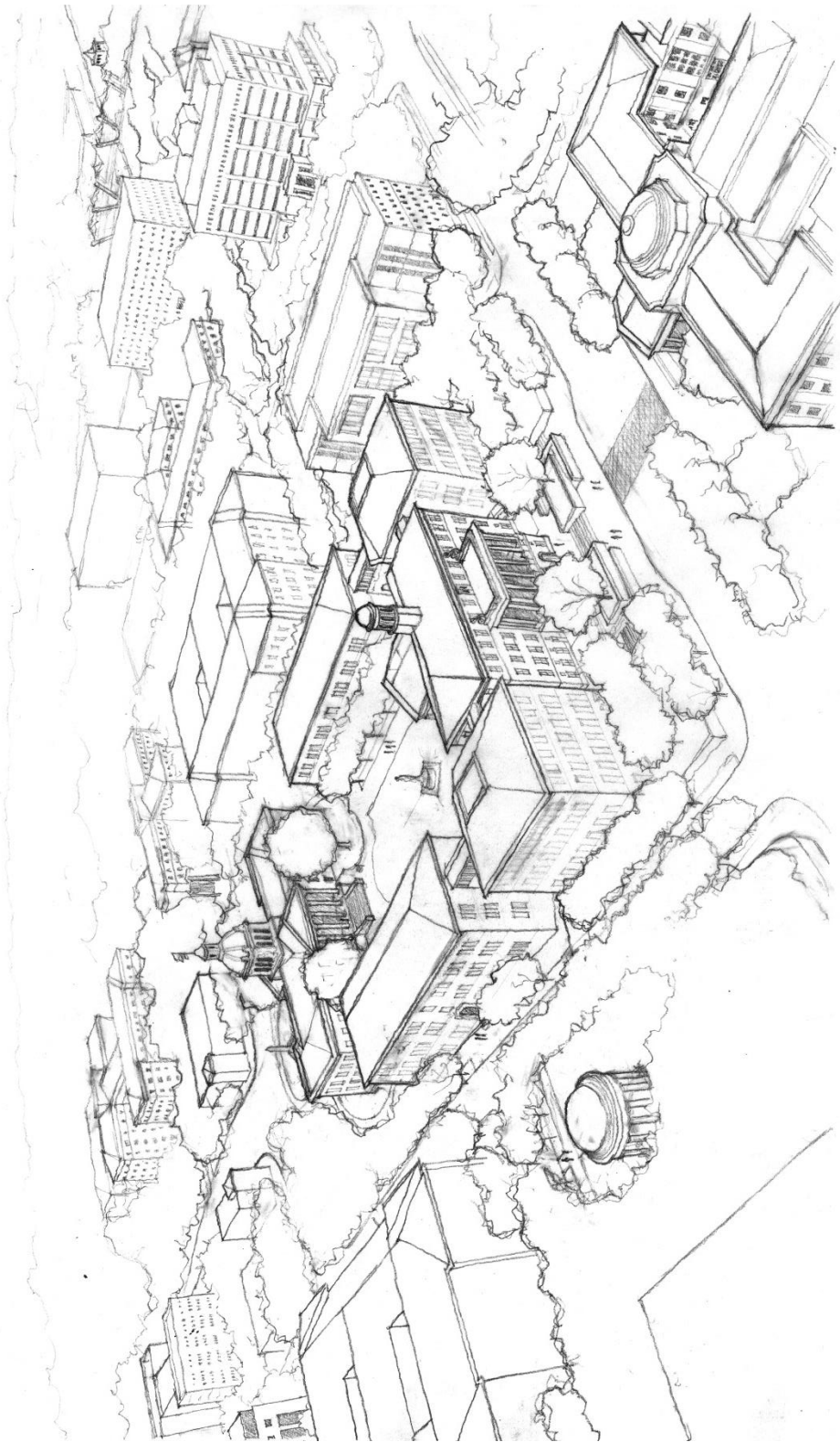


Figure 49. Aerial Perspective View from Northwest (Author)

Precedents



Figure 50. Campidoglio, Rome (Italiaanse Stedan blog)



Figure 51. Pasadena City Hall (visitpasadena.com)



Figure 52. Oxford Bridge of Sighs (Trip.com)



Figure 53. Massachusetts State House (Steven L. Markos)

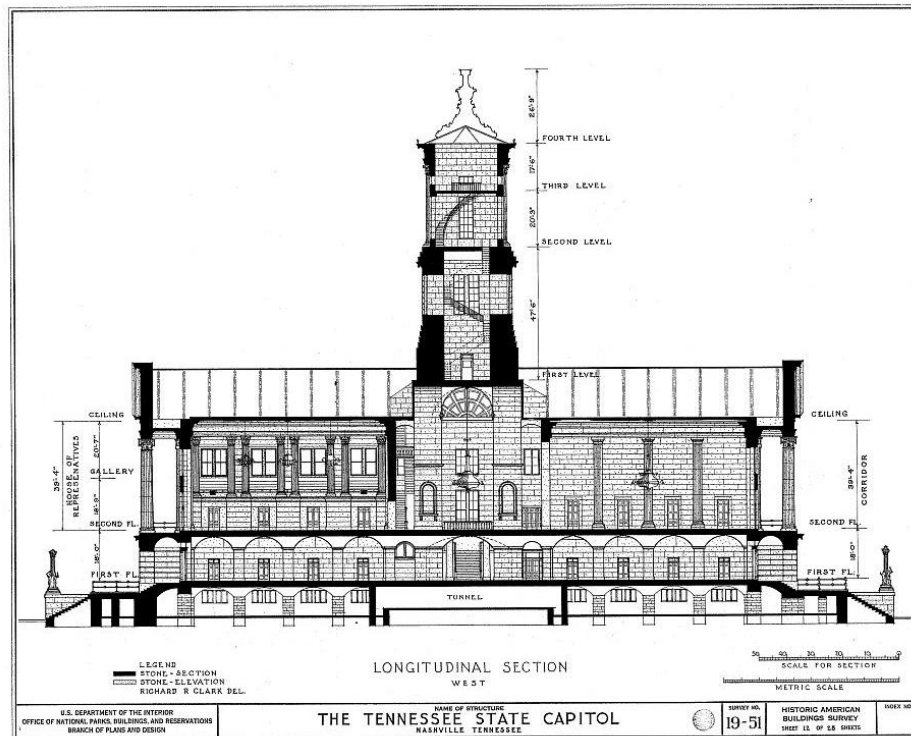


Figure 54. Tennessee State Capitol, Longitudinal Section (HABS)

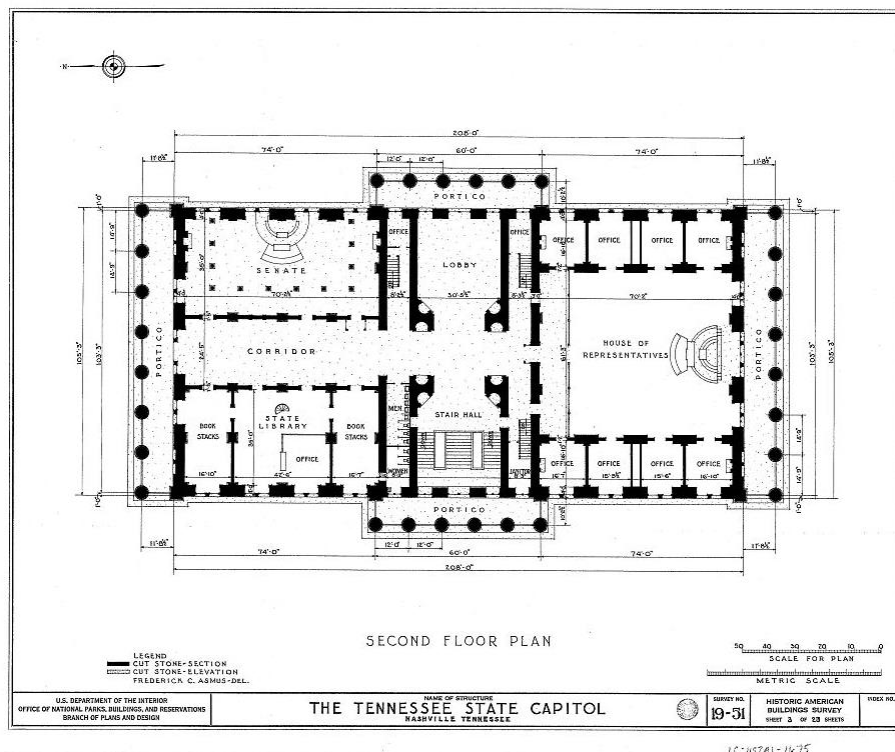


Figure 55. Tennessee State Capitol, Second Floor Plan (HABS)



Figure 56. Old Pennsylvania Capitol (pennlive.com)

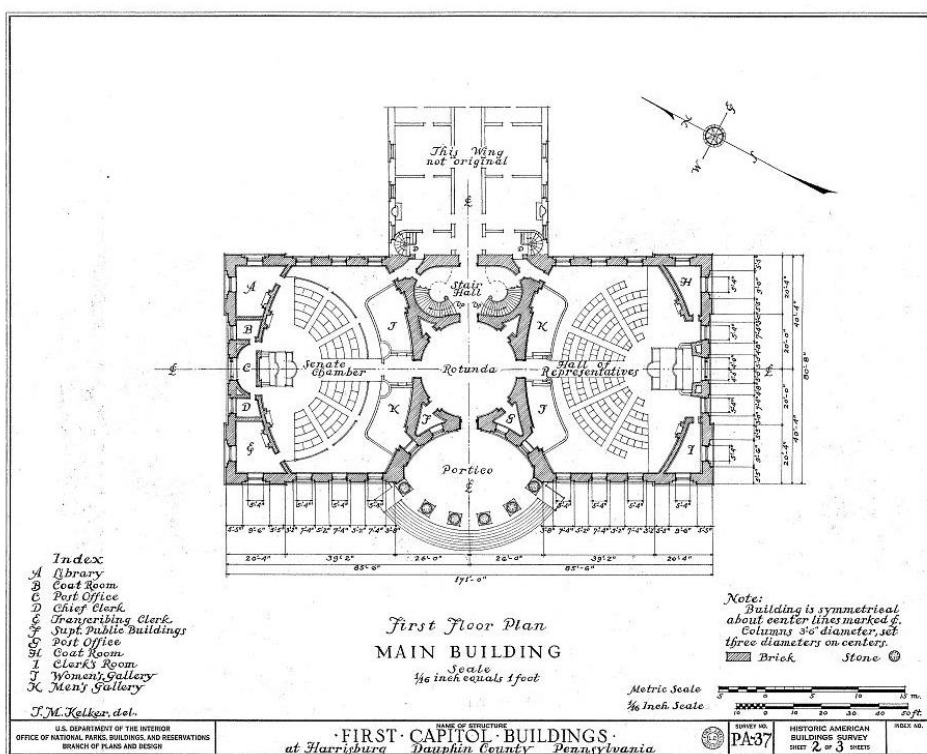


Figure 57. Old Pennsylvania Capitol, First Floor Plan (HABS)

APPENDIX I: GLOSSARY

Capital³⁴ (noun) the city or town that is the official seat of government in a country, state, etc.

Capitol³⁵ (noun)

a: a building in which a state legislative body meets

// the dome of the state capitol

b: a group of buildings in which the functions of state government are carried out

Florida Historic Capitol (Museum)

The building initially constructed in 1845 to house Florida's government and which has undergone numerous changes over time leading to its current condition as a reconstruction of the 1902 version of the building and which currently functions primarily as a museum.

(Existing) Florida Capitol Complex

The Florida capitol as it exists today consisting of five buildings: the Florida Historic Capitol, three buildings added in the 1970s which house the state's current governmental functions, and the Knott Building which is an annex building housing committee rooms and Senate staff offices.

Proposed Capitol Complex

The capitol complex proposed by this thesis and intended as one concept for consideration should need ever arise to replace the 1970s buildings of the Existing Florida Capitol Complex.

³⁴ "Capital", Merriam-Webster, April 5, 2021, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/capital>.

³⁵ "Capitol", Dictionary.com, April 5, 2021, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/capitol>.

APPENDIX II: TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

Hannah Rubottom

Integrative Design
May 11, 2021

Thesis Project: A New Vision for the Florida Capitol
Project Location: Tallahassee, Florida

Faculty Advisor: Richard Economakis

CODE ANALYSIS, IBC 2015

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Site

The project is located in Tallahassee, Florida. The site is that of the existing Florida Capitol Complex, situated at the top of a hill where today two major roads on the U.S. Highway 27 route meet in a "T" intersection at the east side of the site. Florida's Supreme Court Building is directly across the street to the west of the site. To the north are businesses and retail, as well as Tallahassee's City Hall and the Leon County Courthouse. To the south are State office buildings.

The project is designed with the assumption that the 1970s buildings of the existing complex will at some future date require replacement. On the basis of this assumption, the project reconfigures the site to accommodate five new buildings arranged around a central plaza. The Florida Historic Capitol building on the east side as well as Knott Building on the southwest corner of the complex are assumed to remain. The site has a ~24-foot elevation change, sloping up from Duval Street on the west to grade level of the Historic Capitol Building.

Building

The project includes the design of one building of the proposed new complex. The building is the Executive Building and is to be located on the west end of the site, on axis with both the Florida Historic Capitol building and the Florida Supreme Court. The building will serve as the public gateway to the Capitol and feature large entrance lobbies and a central rotunda. The building will house the formal office of the Governor, the Governor's Cabinet Room, the Capitol Branch of the State Library, a Gallery/Event Space, and Press Lobbies which link by arched bridges to the House Chamber Building and the Senate Chamber Building to the north and south of the Executive Building. Secure parking and service access for the building are located in a parking garage beneath the central plaza.

CODE ANALYSIS

Gross Square Feet:

Occupancy Classification: **Mixed-Use: A-3 Assembly with Accessory; Business**

Special Use and Occupancy: **Atrium**

Construction Classification: **Type IIIA, Sprinklered**

Building Heights & Areas:

Building Height: **78'-7"**

✓ 85 feet allowable for sprinklered IIIA per Table 504.3

Stories: **4 stories, 3 above grade plane**

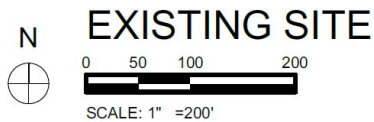
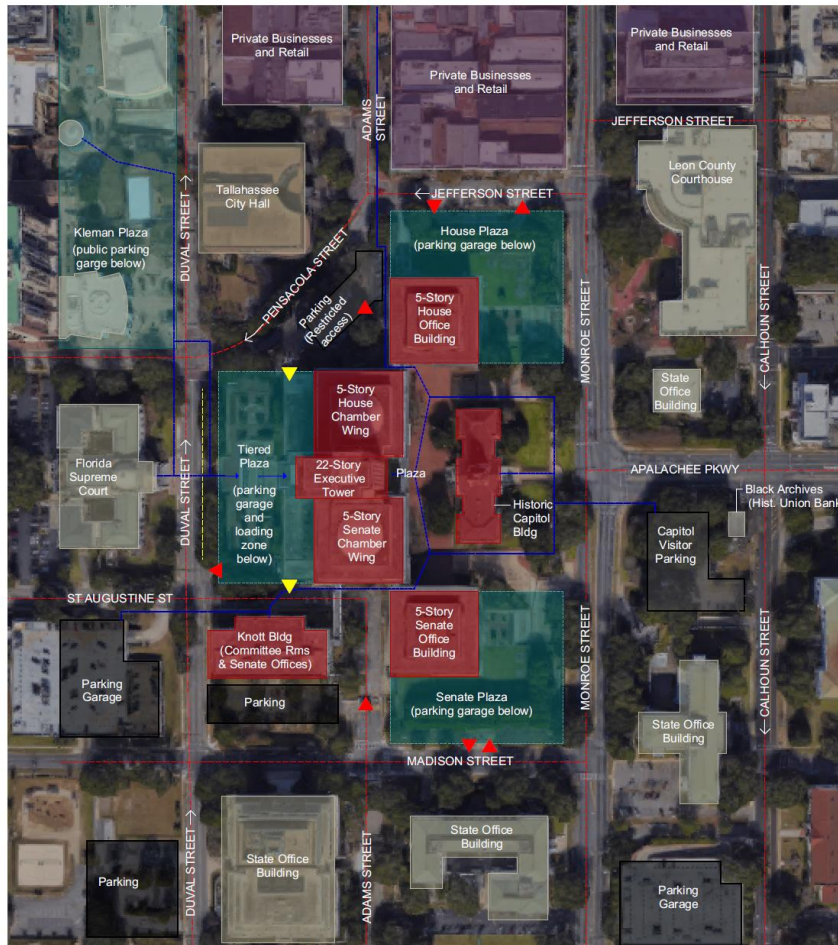
✓ 4 stories allowable for sprinklered IIIA per Table 504.4

Note: grade plane is midway between Duval St. and Plaza levels

Building Area: **52,597**

Occupancy Separation: **1 Hr Separation**

➤ required between Assembly and Business for a Sprinklered building per Table 508.4



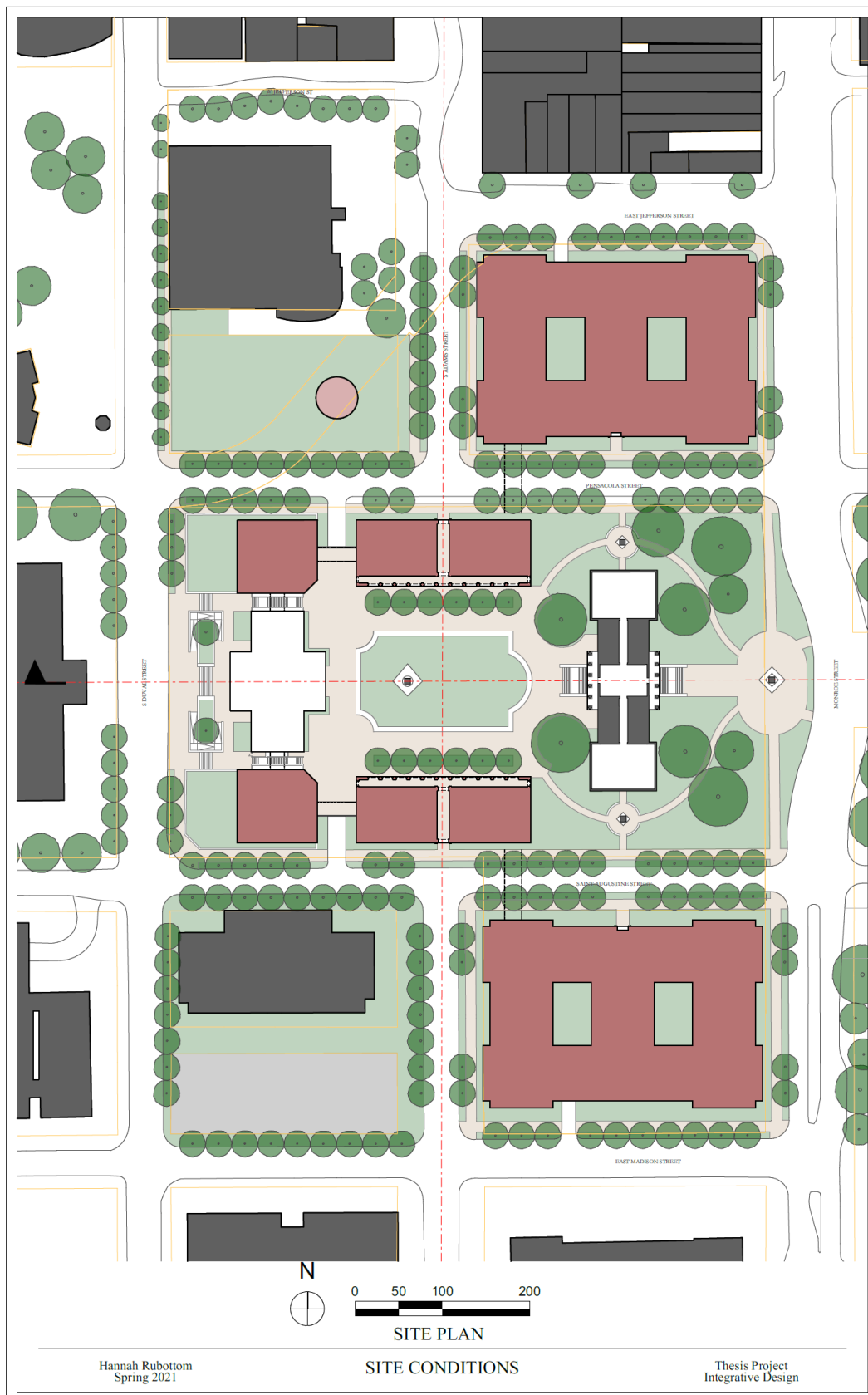
LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | PUBLIC ACCESS STAIR | | VEHICLE ROADWAY | | GARAGE ENTRANCE / EXIT |
| | KEY PEDESTRIAN ROUTE | | VEHICLE PICK-UP / DROP-OFF ZONE | | LOADING ZONE ENTRANCE / EXIT |

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

SITE CONDITIONS

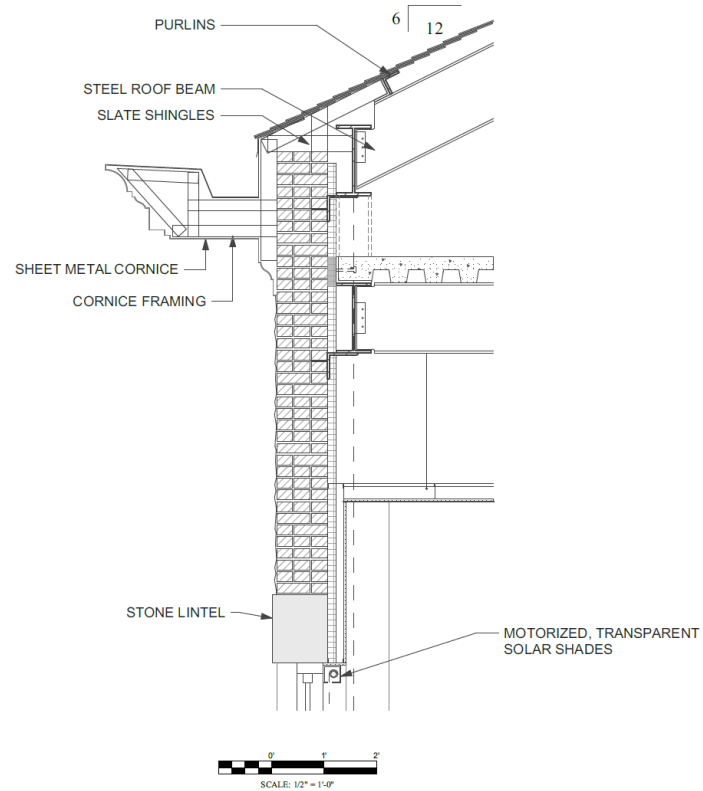
Thesis Project
Integrative Design





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Spring 2021

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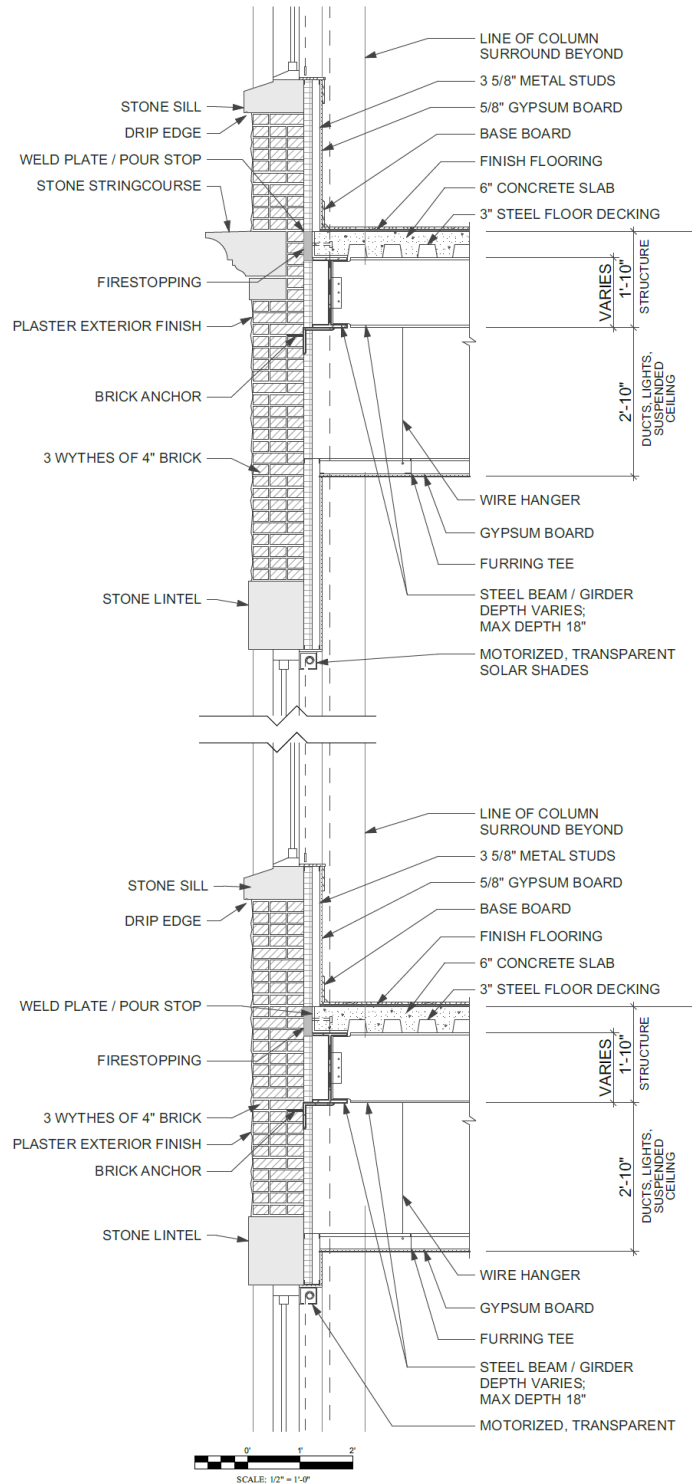


WALL SECTION

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Spring 2021

BUILDING ENVELOPE, SYSTEMS & ASSEMBLIES

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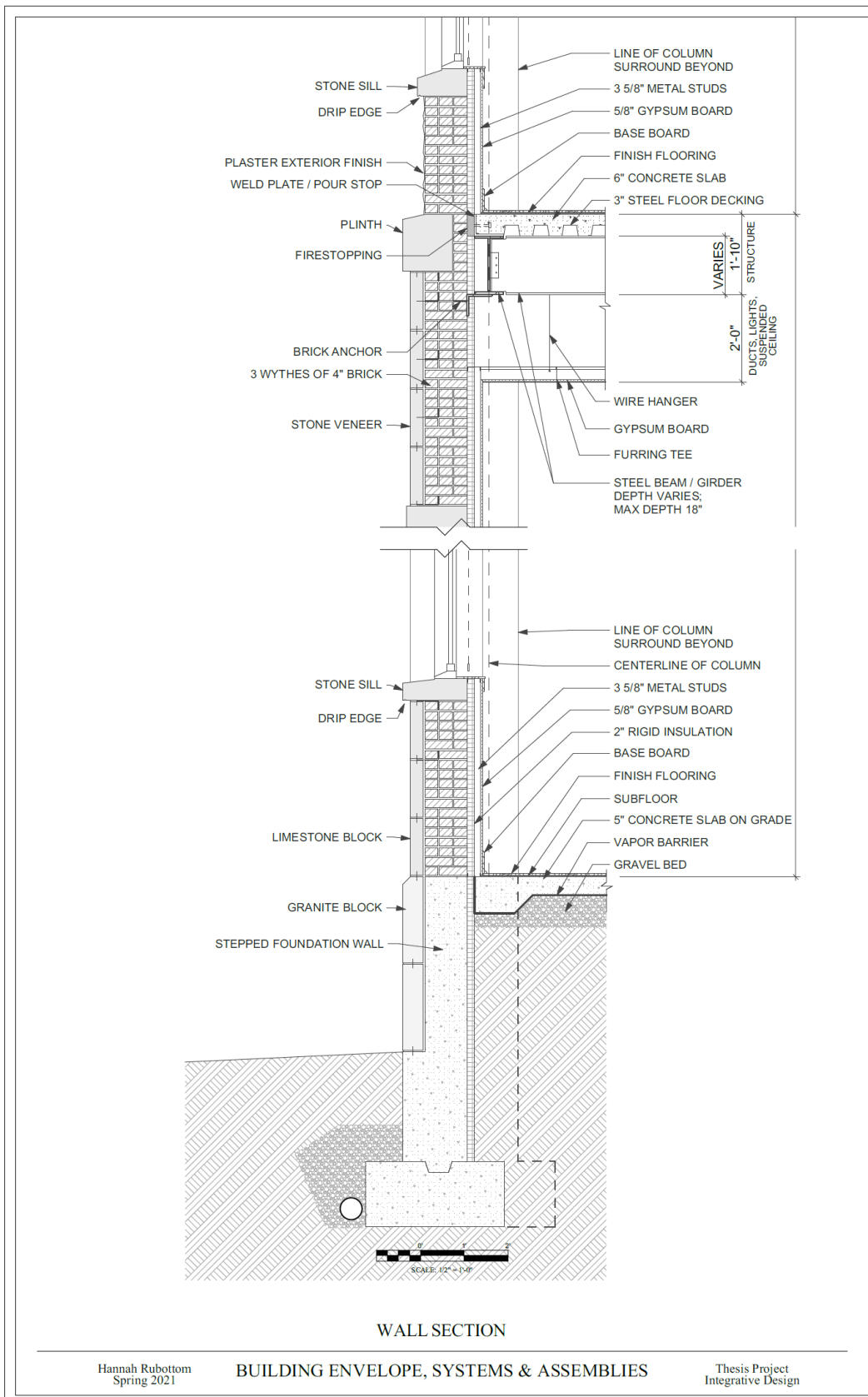


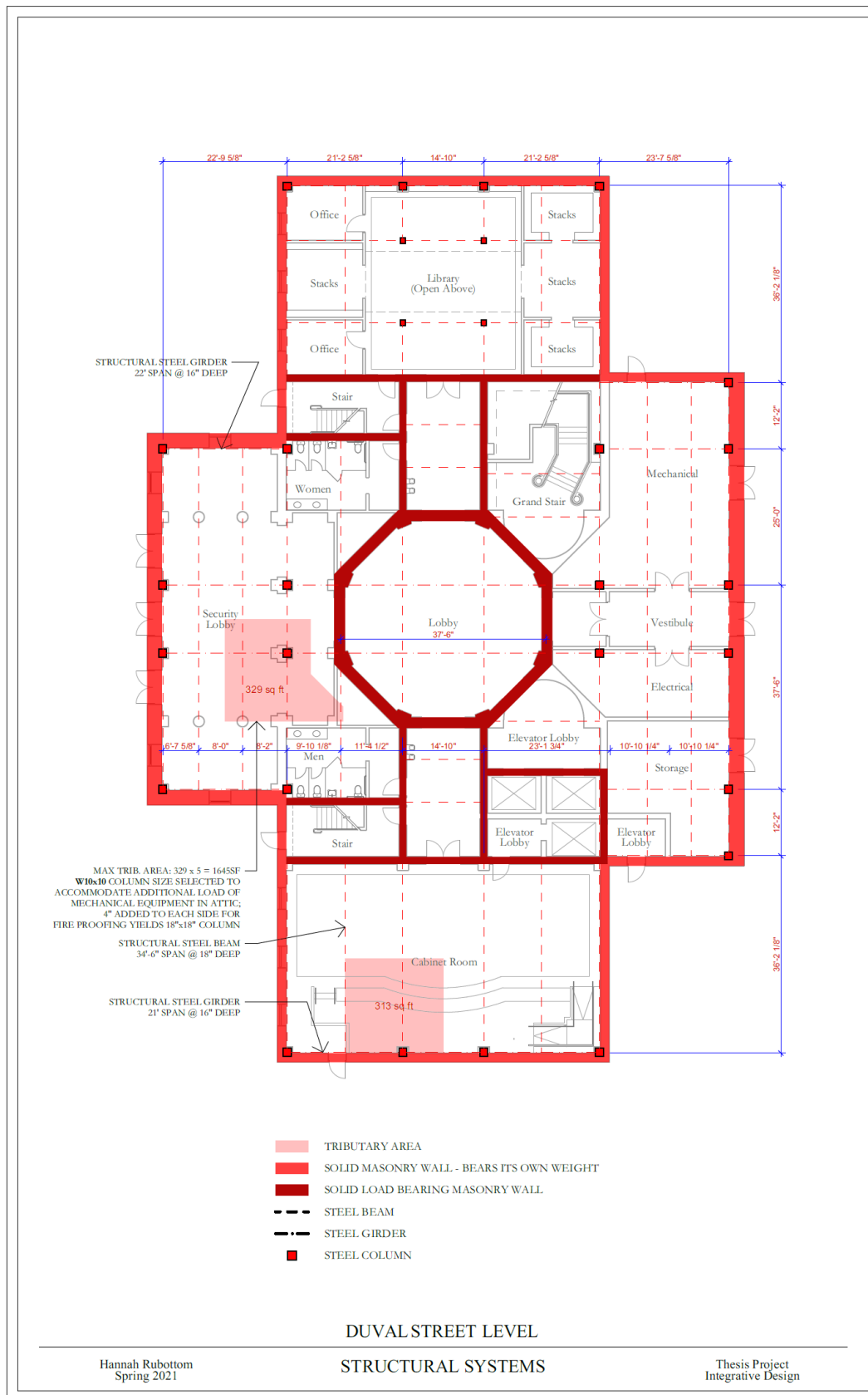
WALL SECTION

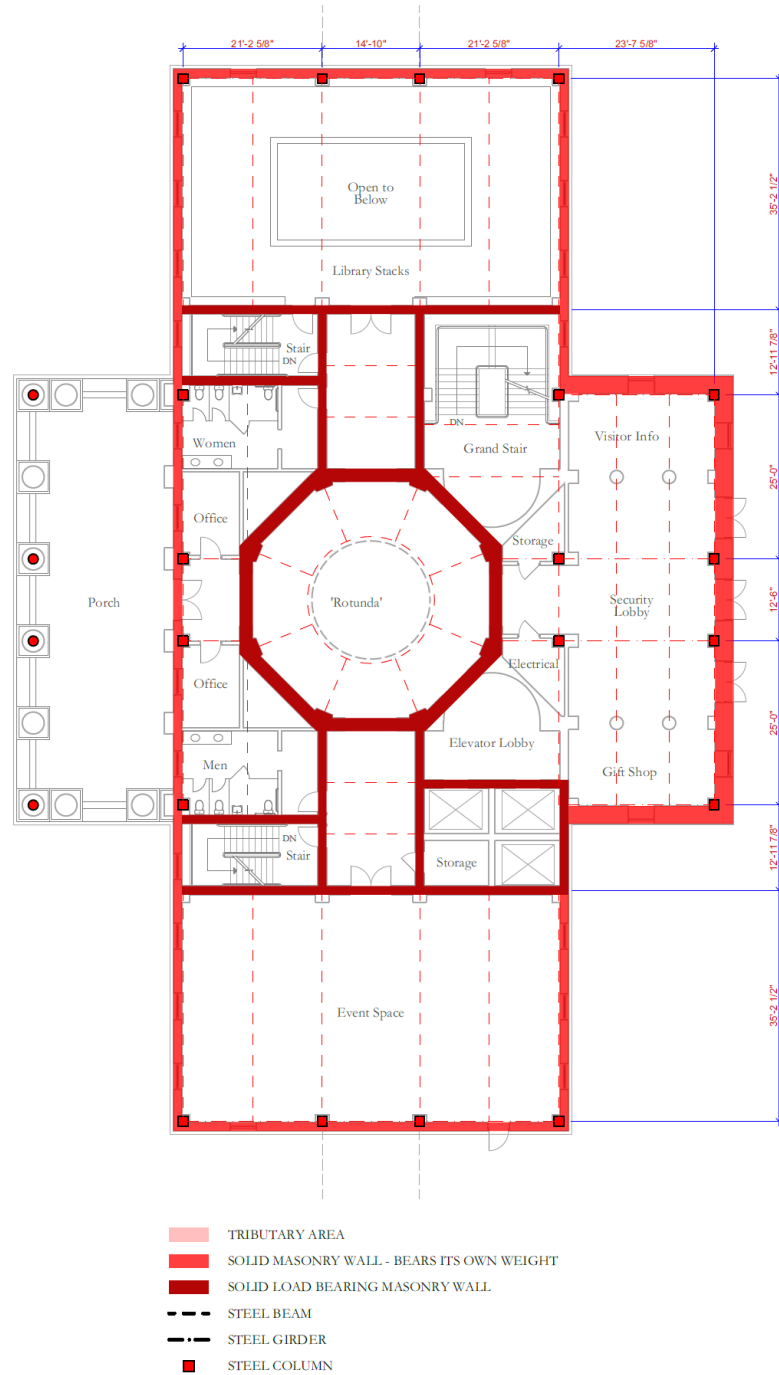
Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

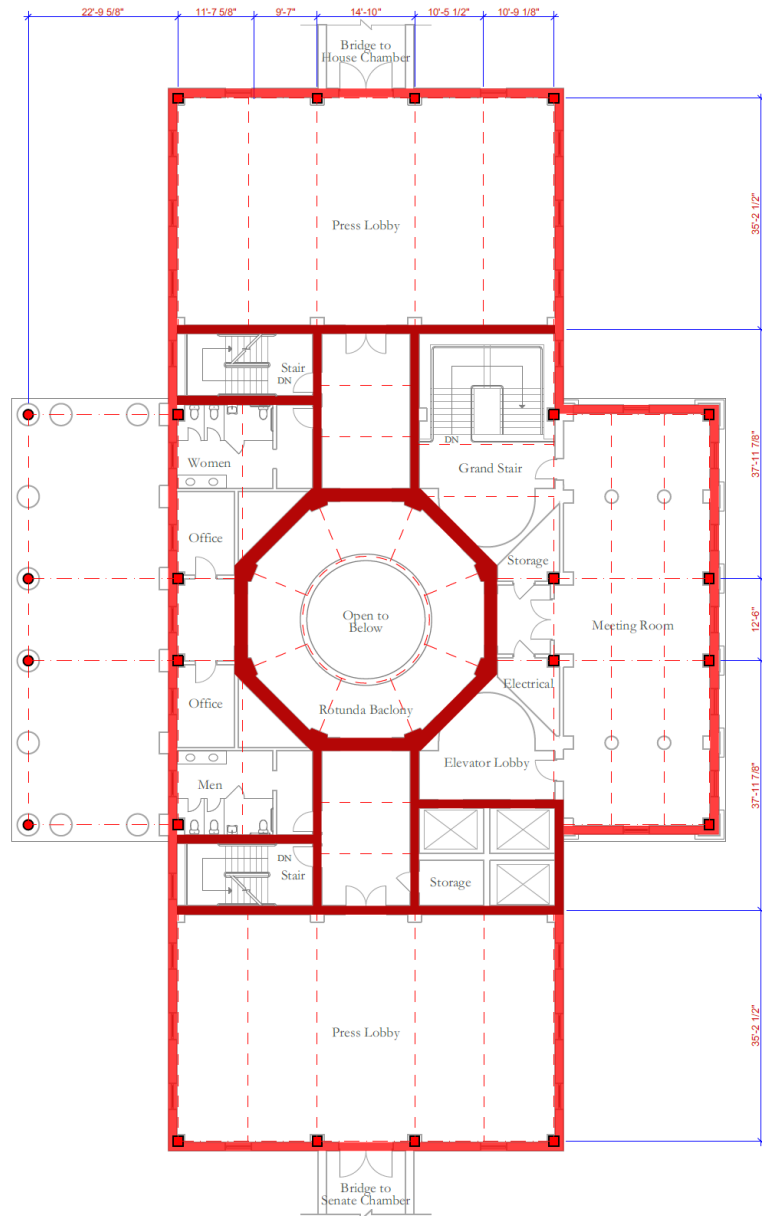
BUILDING ENVELOPE, SYSTEMS & ASSEMBLIES

Thesis Project
Integrative Design







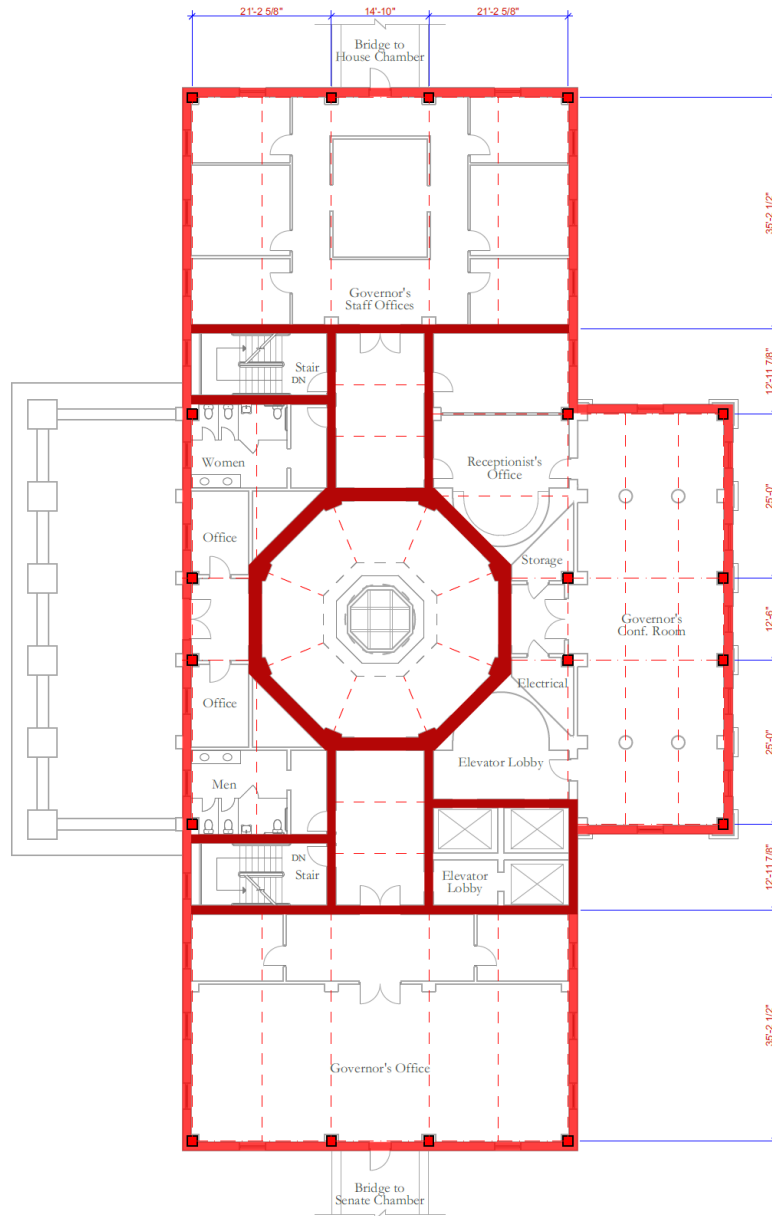


LEVEL 1

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Spring 2021

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



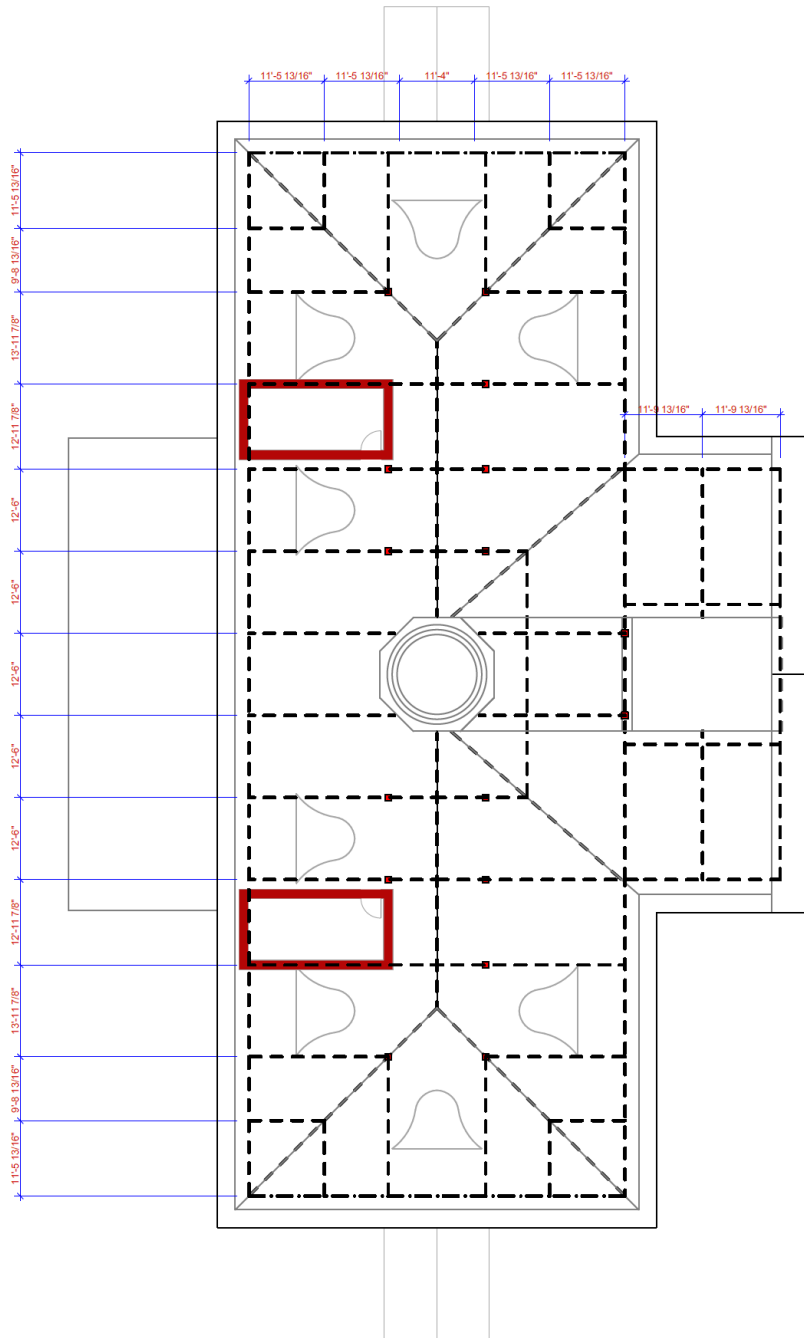
- TRIBUTARY AREA
- SOLID MASONRY WALL - BEARS ITS OWN WEIGHT
- SOLID LOAD BEARING MASONRY WALL
- STEEL BEAM
- STEEL GIRDER
- STEEL COLUMN

LEVEL 2

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



ROOF

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Spring 2021

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

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Integrative Design

Hannah Rubottom

Integrative Design
May 11, 2021

Thesis Project: A New Vision for the Florida Capitol
Project Location: Tallahassee, Florida

Faculty Advisor: Richard Economakis

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

HVAC

System:

- Central All-Air System: Single Duct, VAV
 - Floor Area Served:

Floor Level	NSF
LL – Duval St.	9,016
PL – Plaza	7,515
1 – First Floor	8,174
2 – Second Floor	8,753
Total	33,458 NSF

- Cooling capacity: **150 tons**
- Total space for boiler room and chilled water plant: **900 SF**
- Space for cooling towers: **175 SF**
- Cooling Air Volume: **55,000 CFM**
- Area of Main Supply or Return Ducts: **30 SF**
- Area of Branch Supply or Return Ducts: **50 SF**
- Area of Fan Rooms: **1400 SF**
- Area of Fresh Air Louvers: **150 SF**
- Area of Exhaust Louvers: **100 SF**

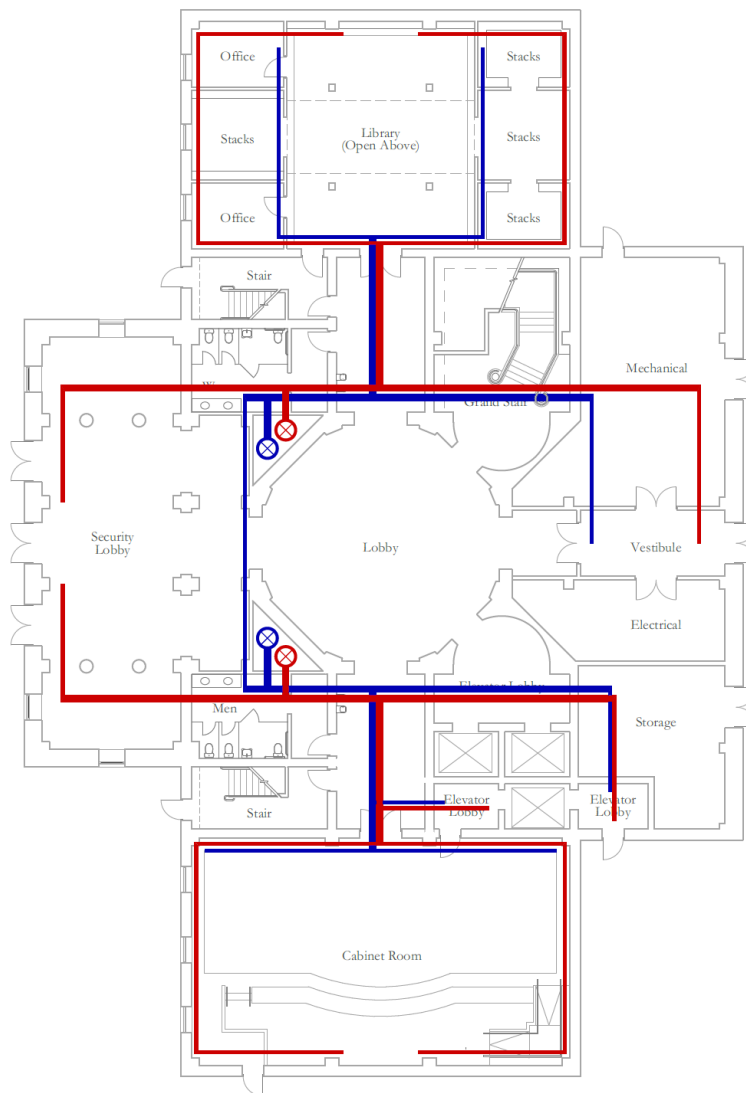
LIGHTING

Daylighting

- Large windows provide natural light to the primary spaces of the building
- Shade devices required due to E-W orientation of large windows

Electric Lighting

- Electric lighting is also supplied to the primary spaces for use when sunlight is lacking / insufficient to meet lighting needs



Vertical Distribution

⊗ Supply

⊙ Return

Horizontal Distribution

— Supply

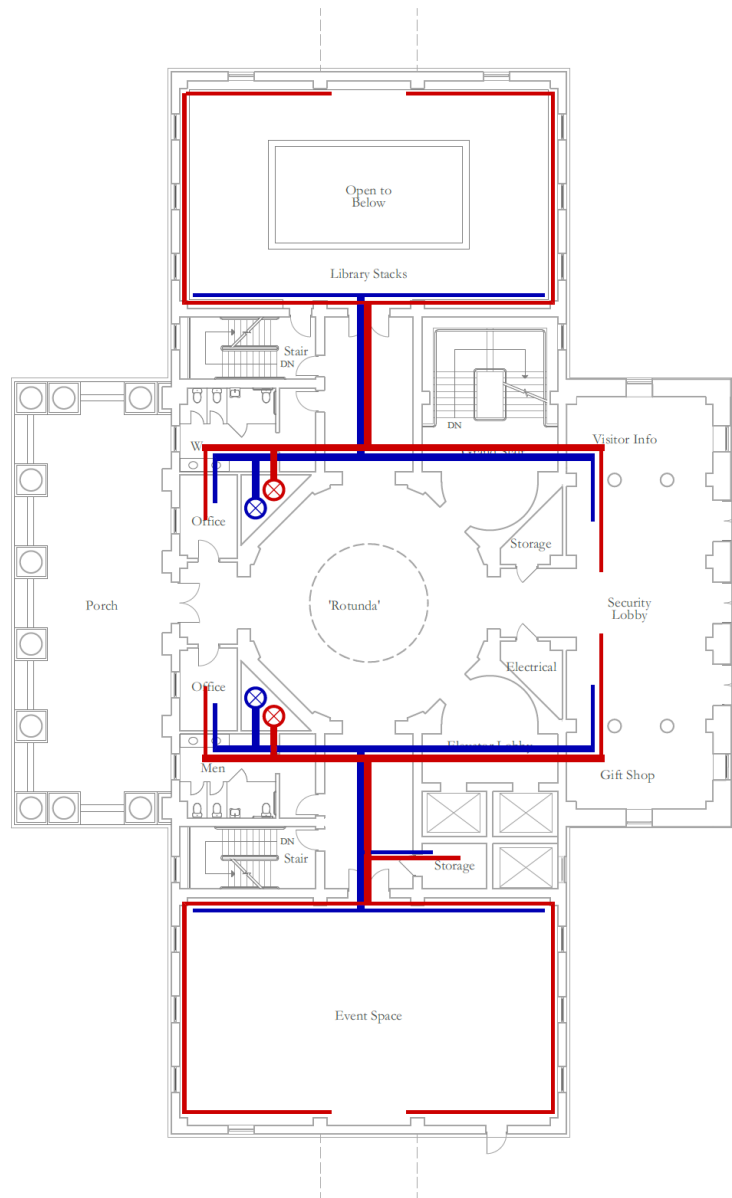
— Return

DUVAL STREET LEVEL

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HVAC DIAGRAMS

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



Vertical Distribution



Horizontal Distribution

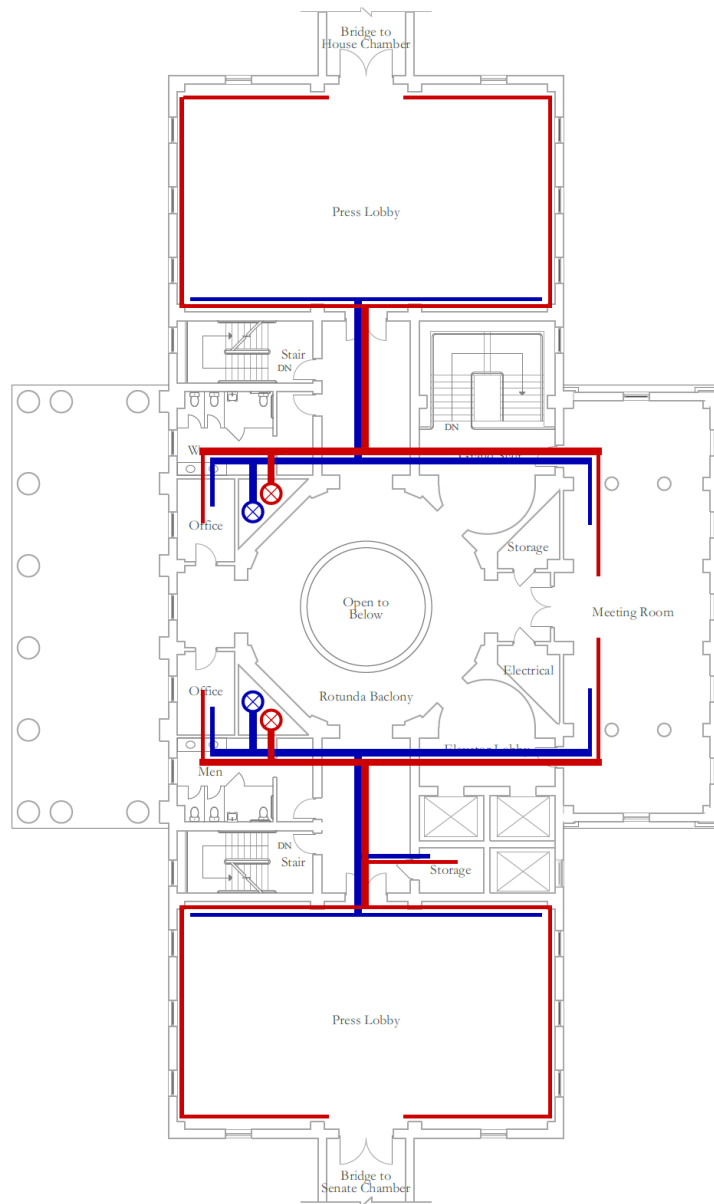


PLAZA LEVEL

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

HVAC DIAGRAMS

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



Vertical Distribution

⊗ Supply
⊙ Return

Horizontal Distribution

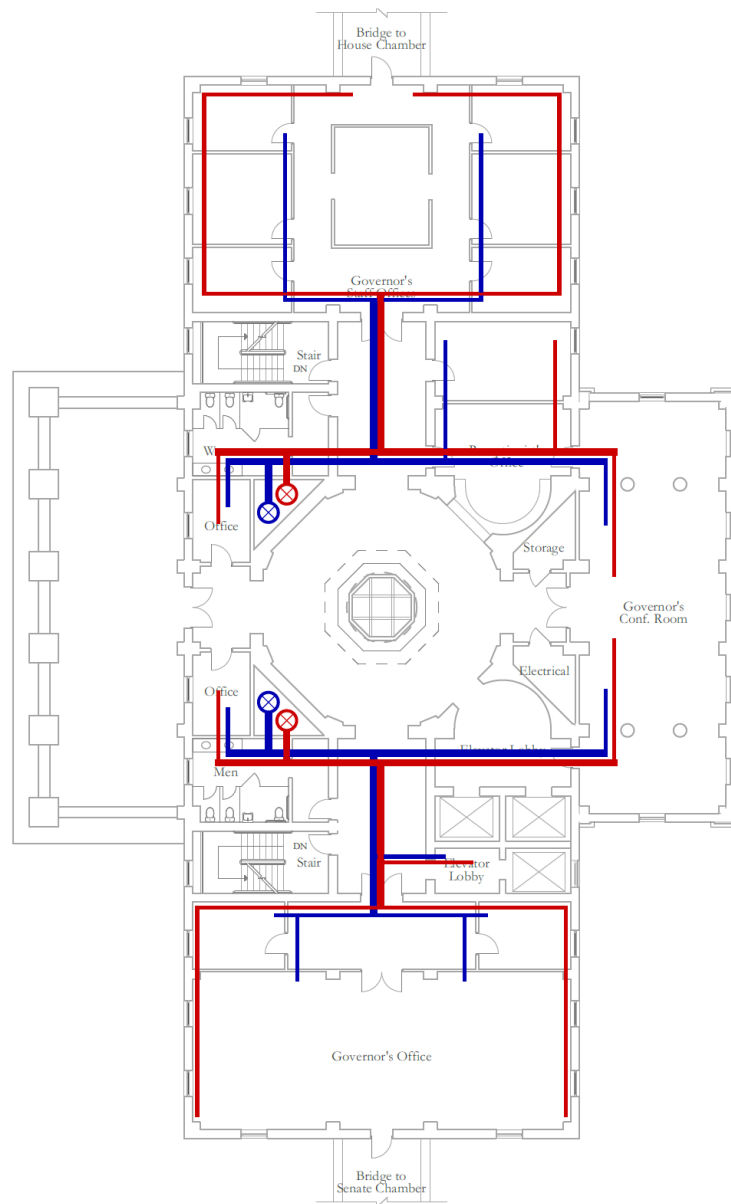
— Supply
— Return

LEVEL 1

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Spring 2021

HVAC DIAGRAMS

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



Vertical Distribution

- ⊗ Supply
- ⊙ Return

Horizontal Distribution

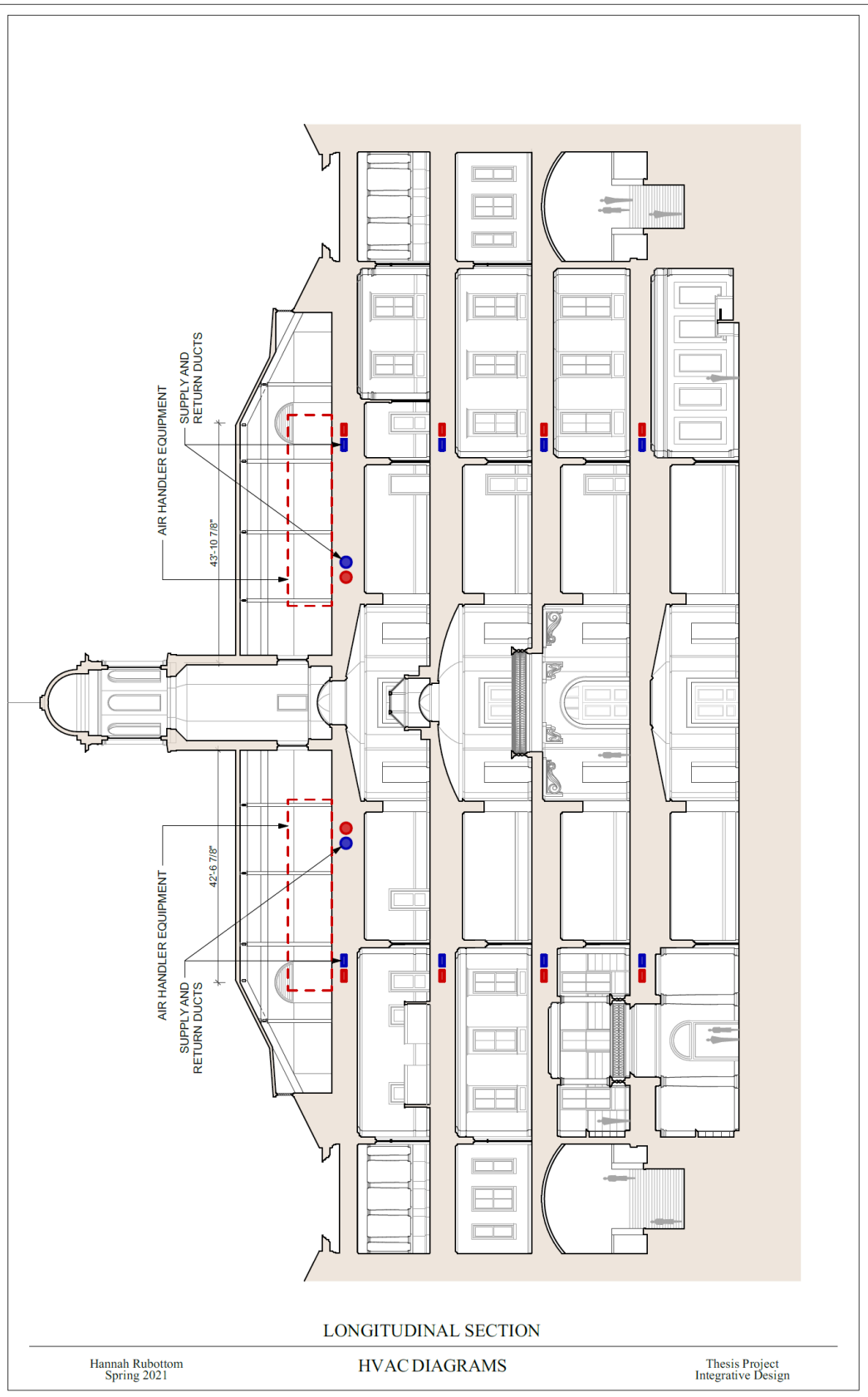
- Supply
- Return

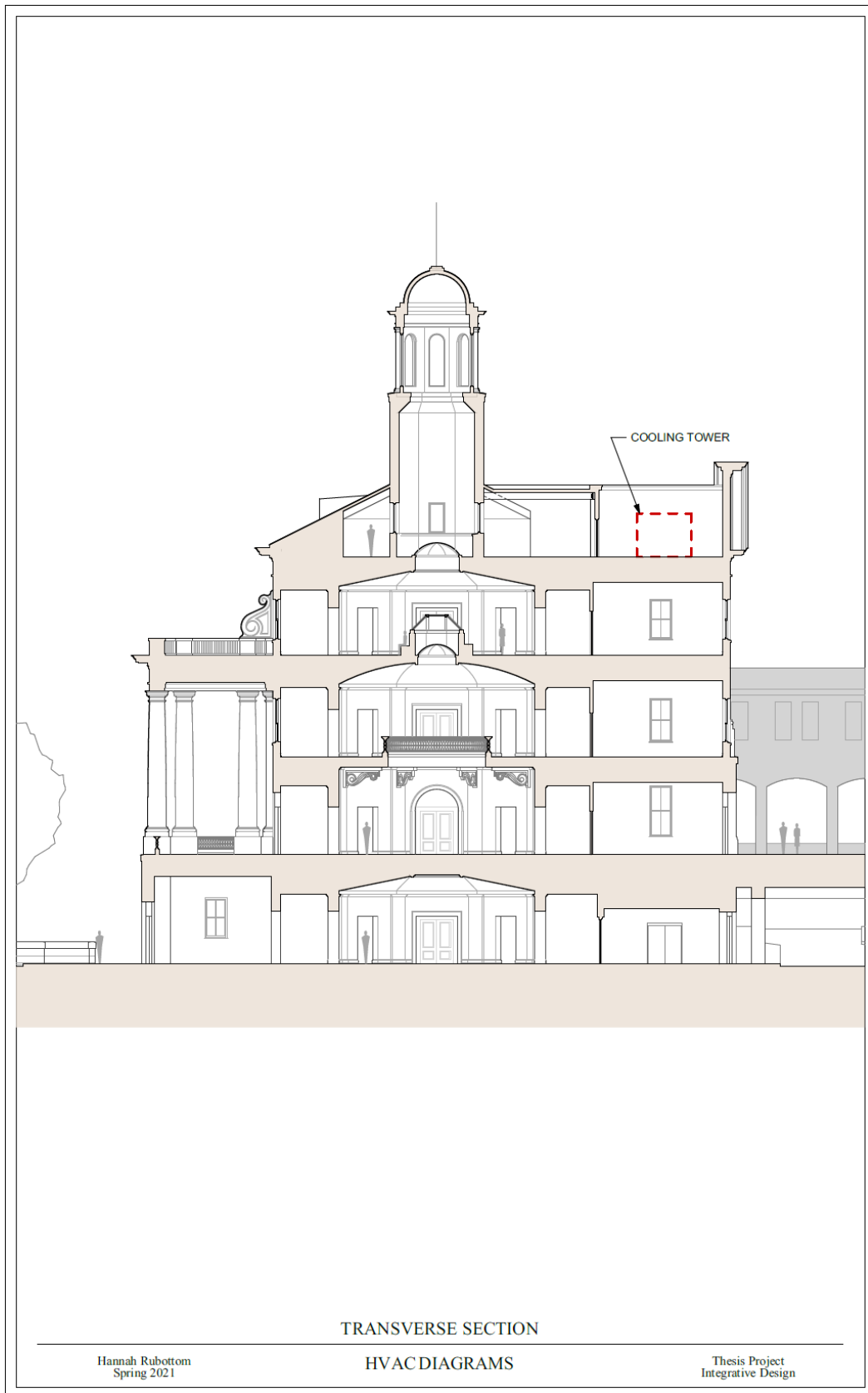
LEVEL 2

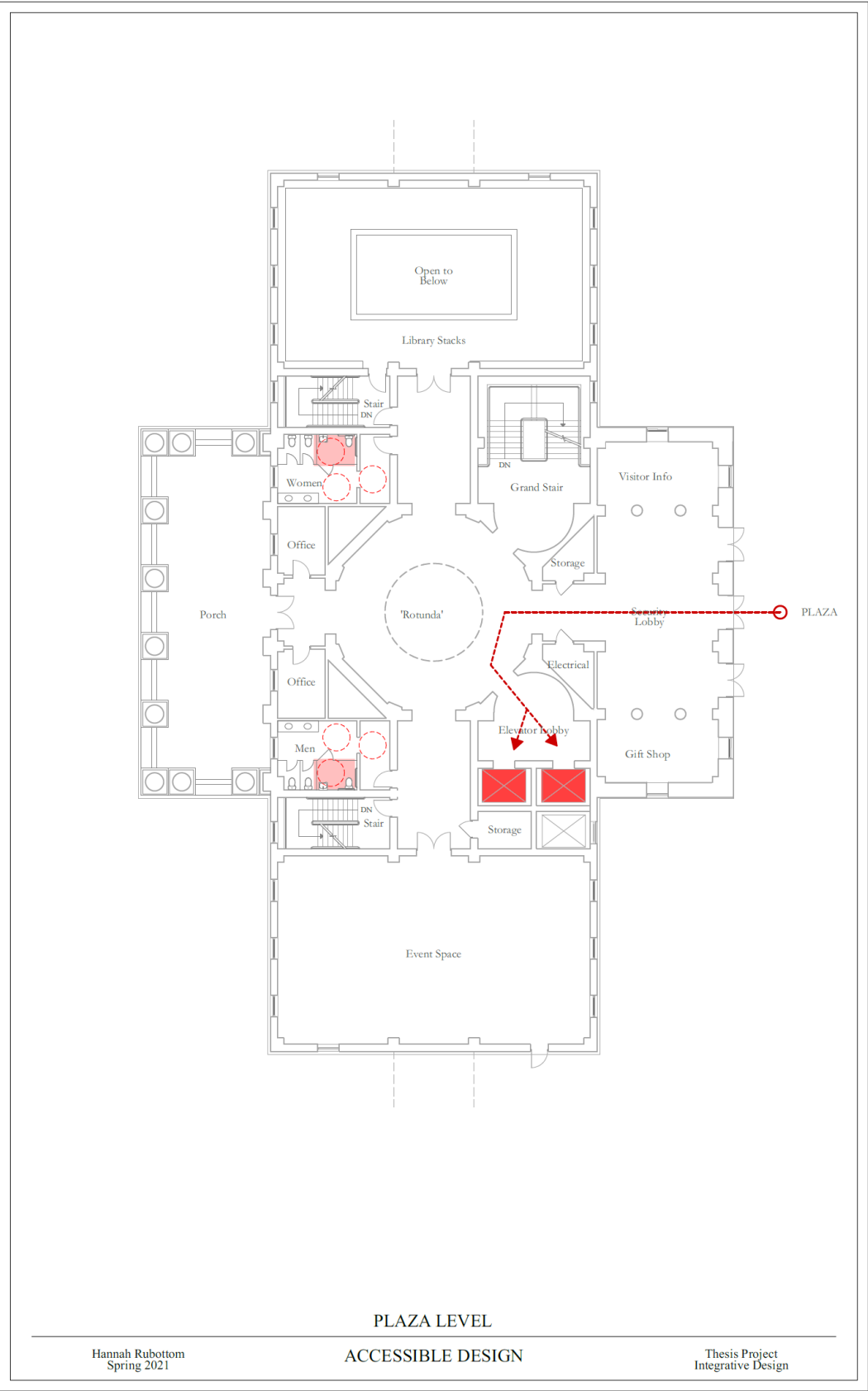
Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

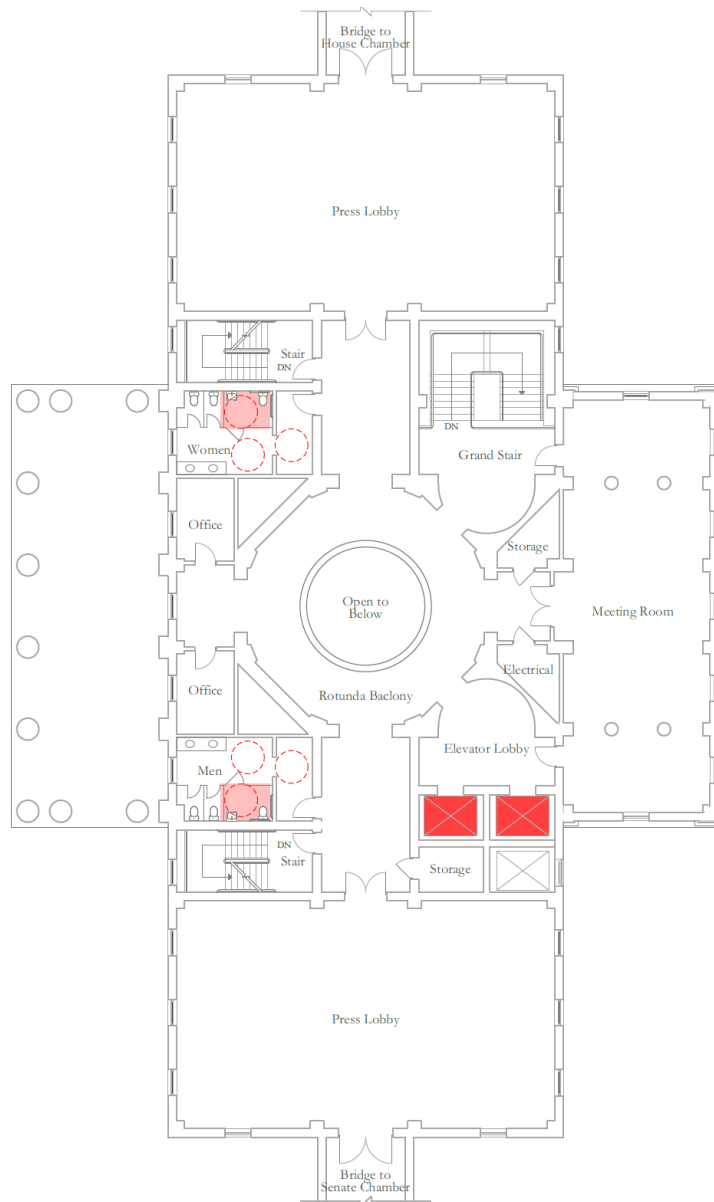
HVAC DIAGRAMS

Thesis Project
Integrative Design







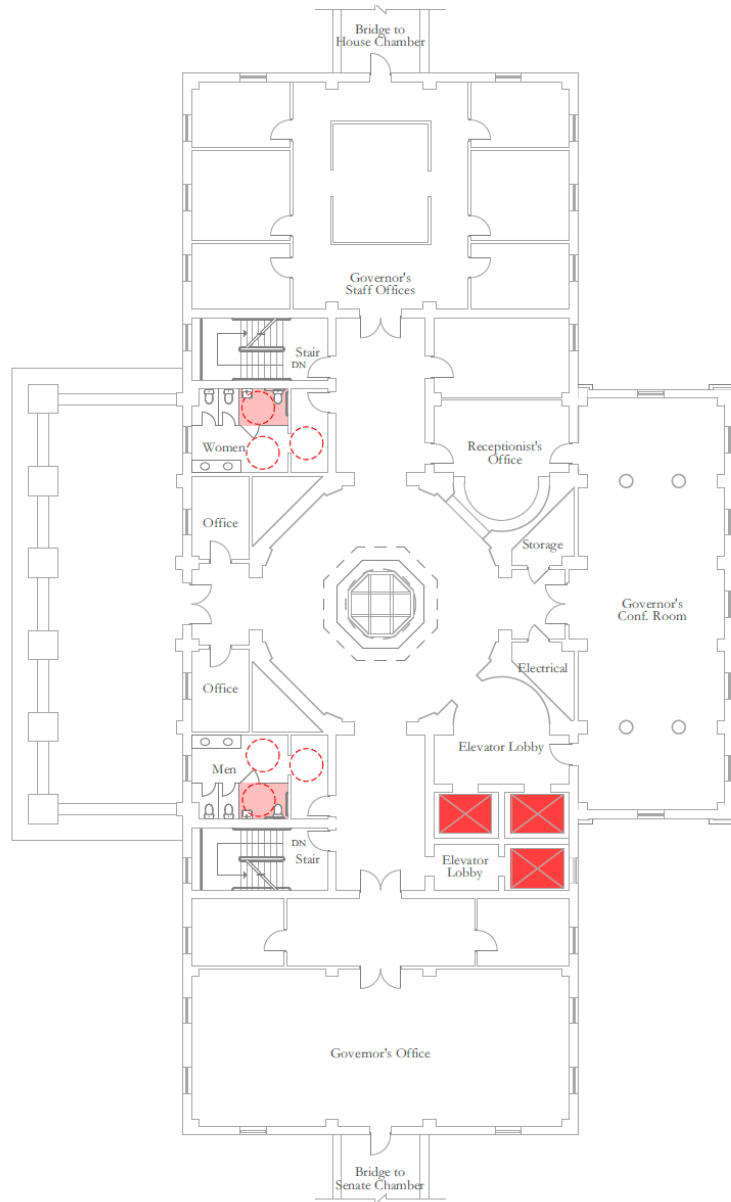


LEVEL 1

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Spring 2021

ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

Thesis Project
Integrative Design

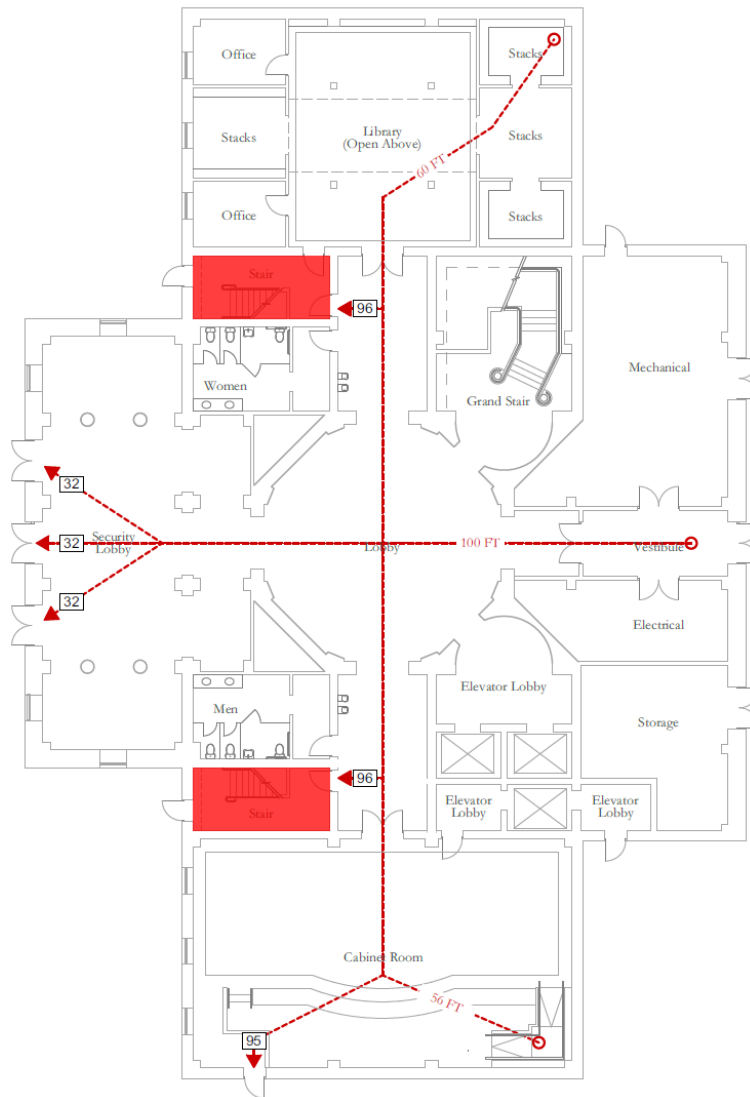


LEVEL 2



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Spring 2021

ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



LEGEND

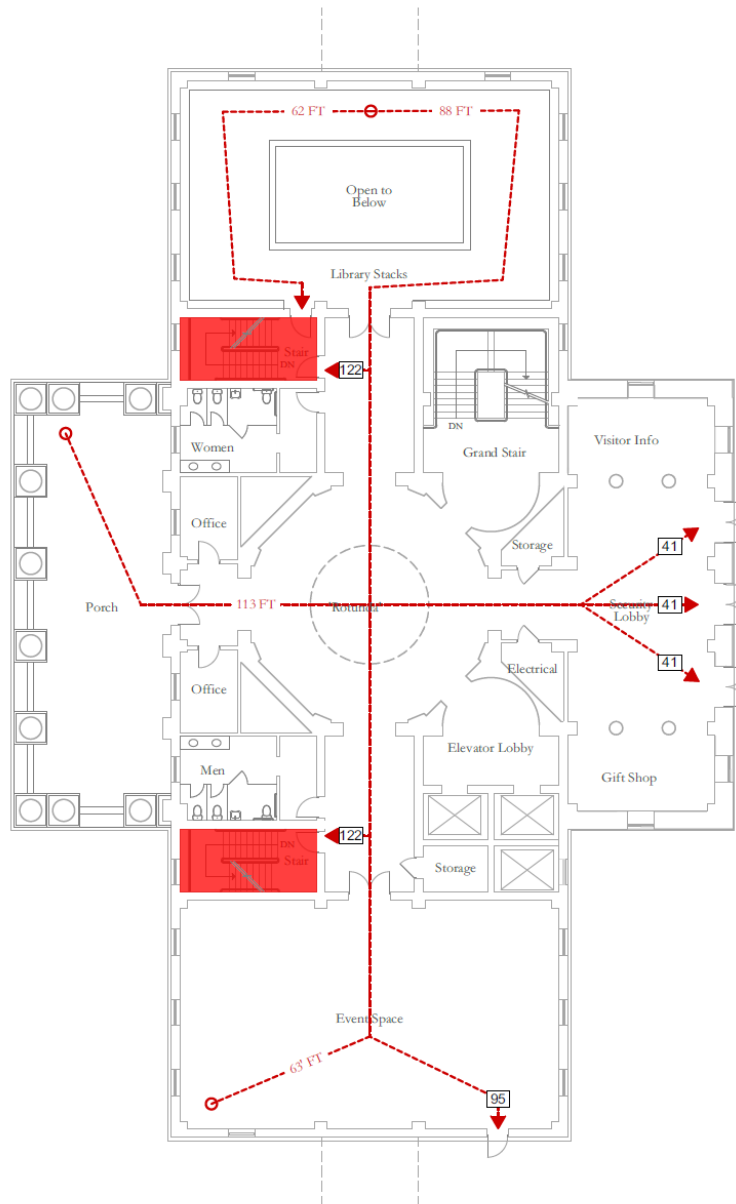
-  Travel Distance To Exit Stair Access
-  Number of Occupants Per Exit

DUVAL STREET LEVEL

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

EGRESS

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



LEGEND

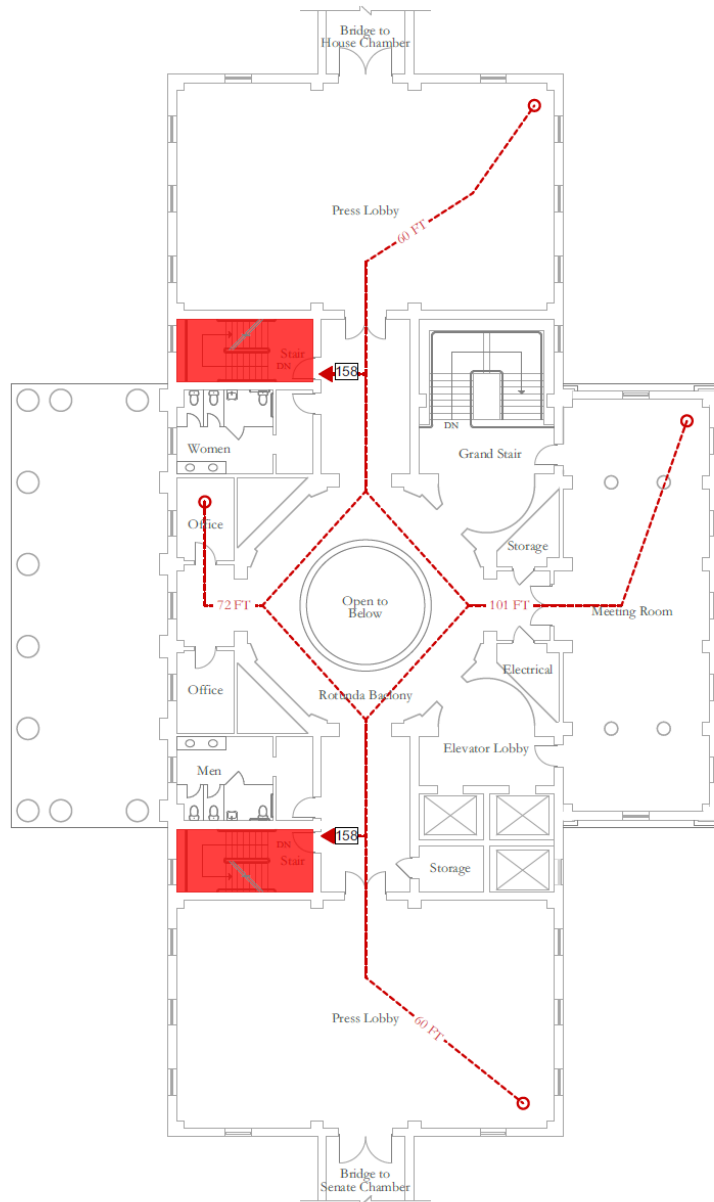
Travel Distance To Exit Stair Access
 Number of Occupants Per Exit

PLAZA LEVEL

EGRESS

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



LEGEND

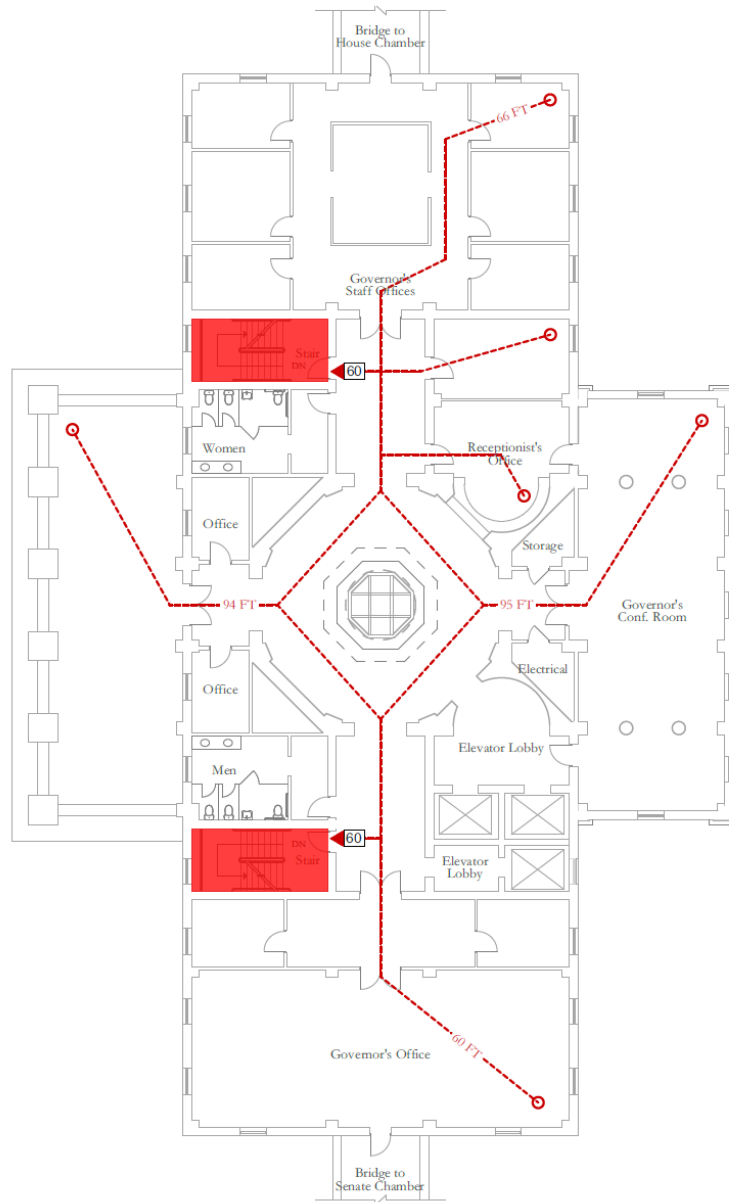
- Travel Distance To Exit Stair Access
- Number of Occupants Per Exit

LEVEL 1

EGRESS

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



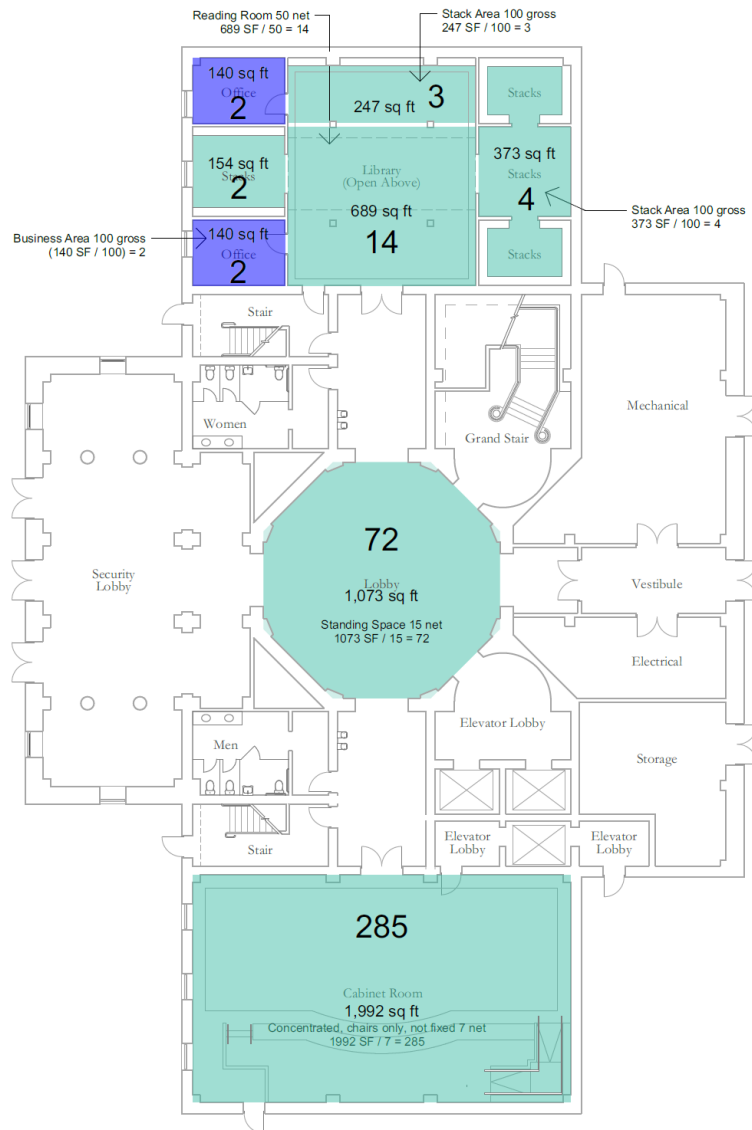
LEGEND
 Travel Distance To Exit Stair Access
 Number of Occupants Per Exit

LEVEL 2

EGRESS

Hannah Rubottom
 Spring 2021

Thesis Project
 Integrative Design



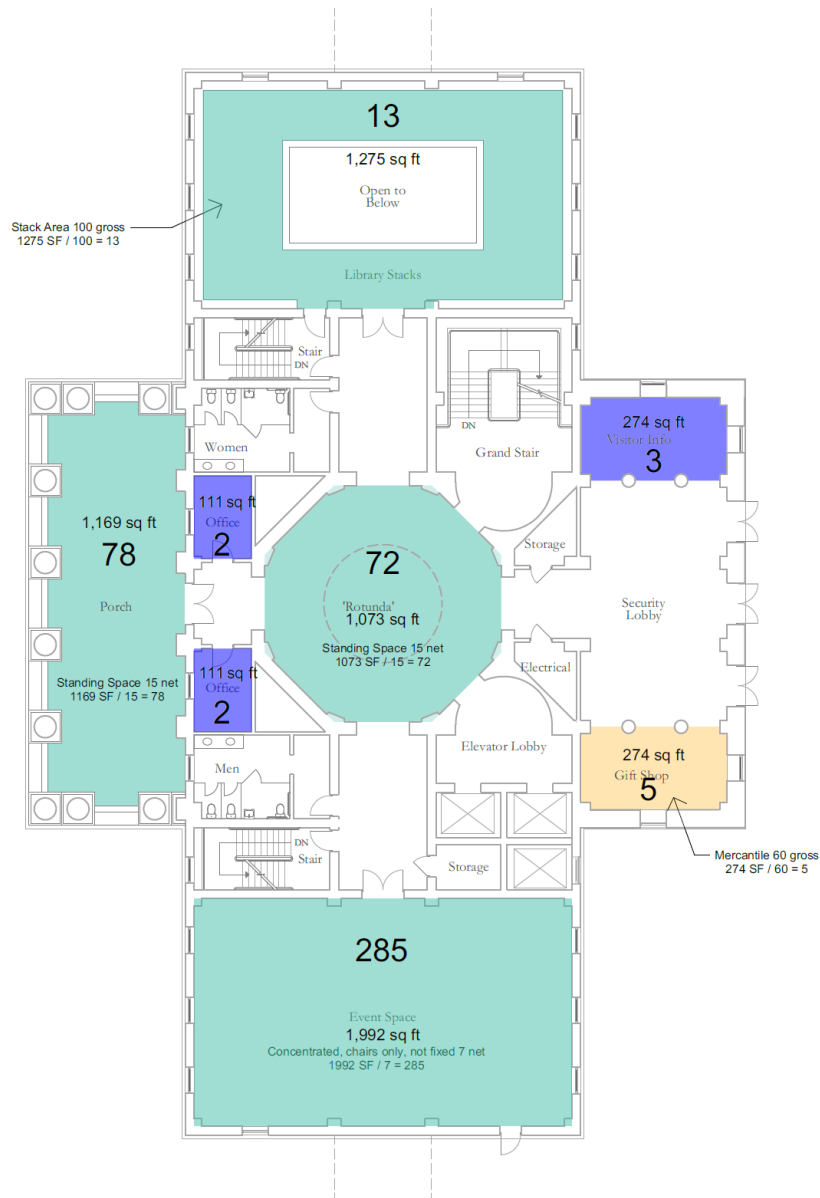
384 Occupants

DUVAL STREET LEVEL

OCCUPANT LOAD

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



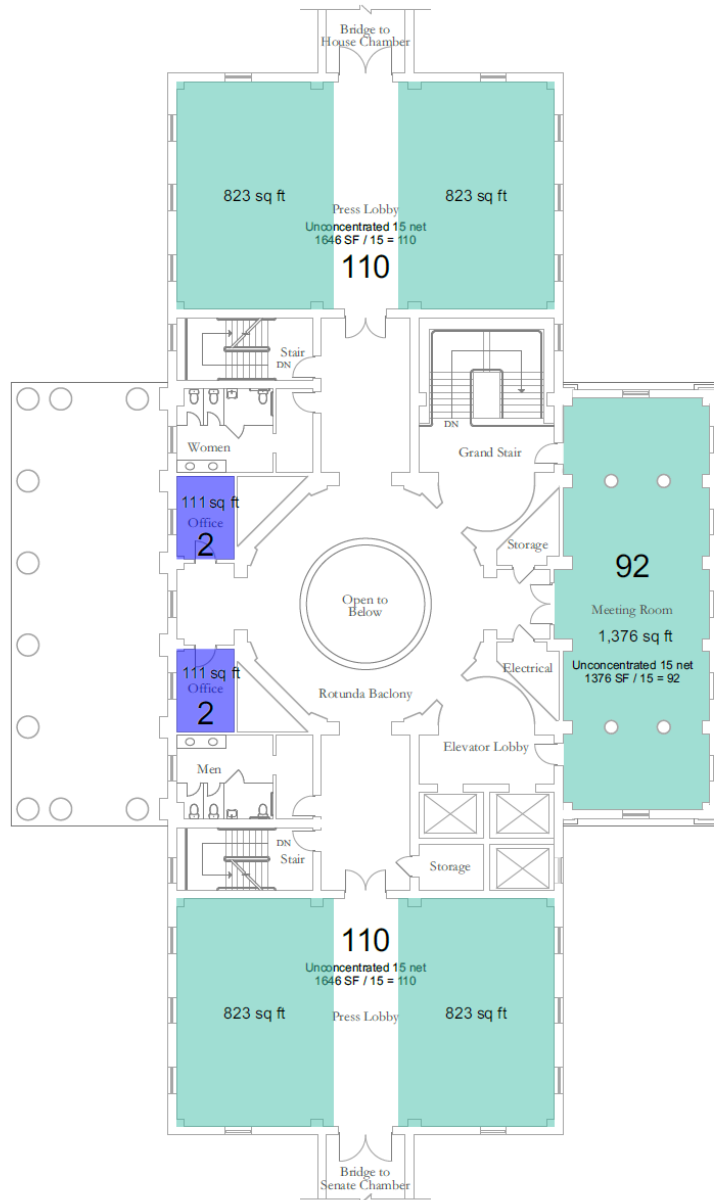
460 Occupants

PLAZA LEVEL

OCCUPANT LOAD

Hannah Rubottom
Spring 2021

Thesis Project
Integrative Design



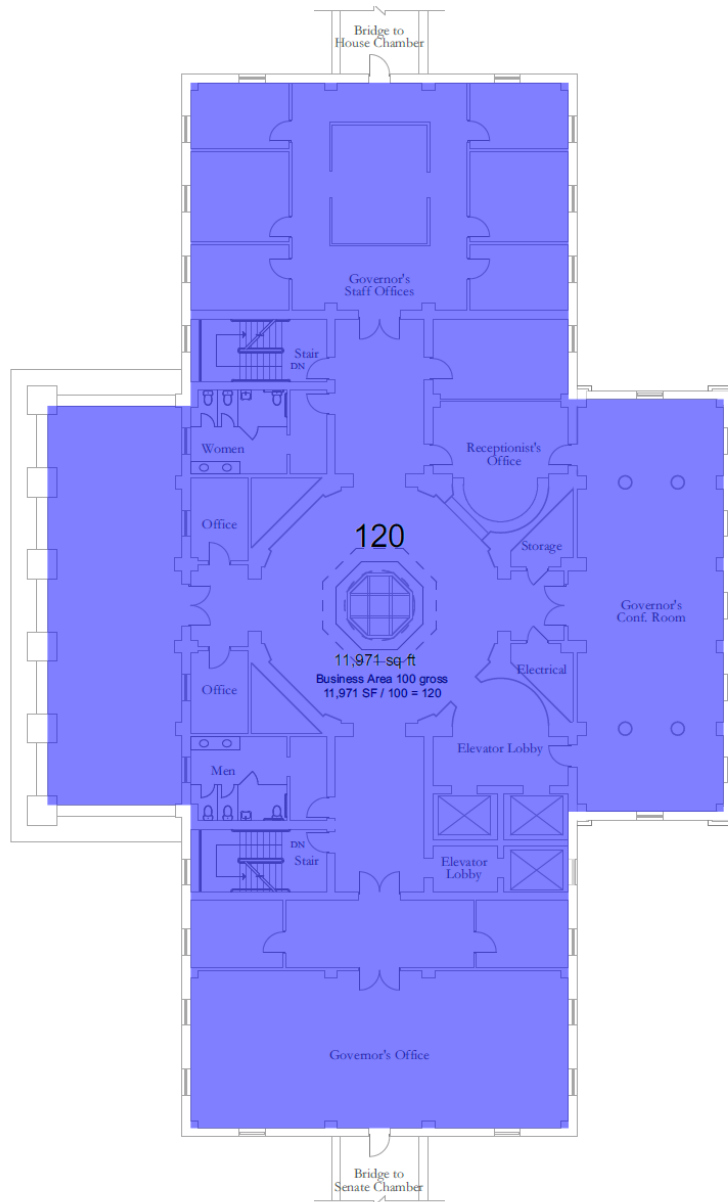
316 Occupants

LEVEL 1

OCCUPANT LOAD

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120 Occupants

LEVEL 2

OCCUPANT LOAD

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