

**The New York Landmarks Conservancy  
Lucy G. Moses Preservation Awards  
Submittal**

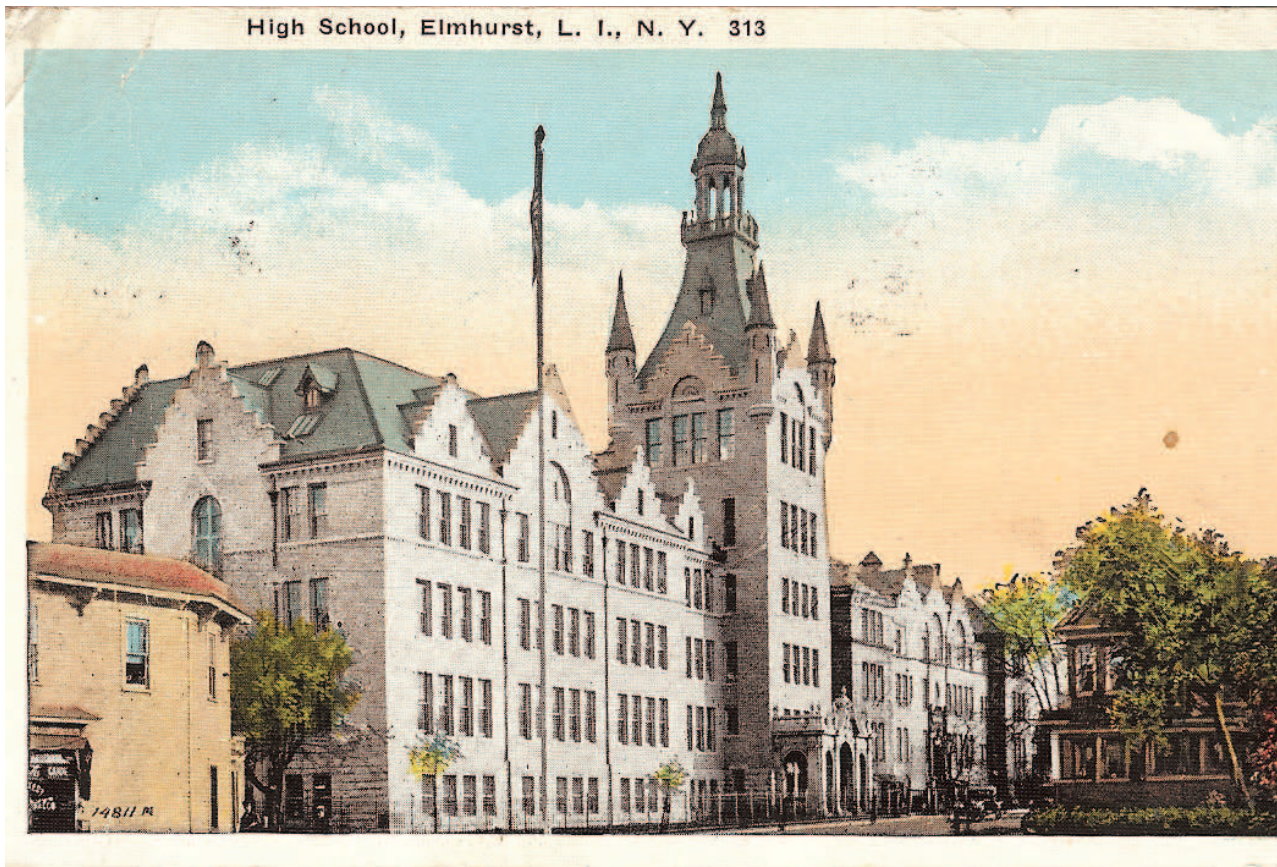


**Newtown High School  
48-01 90th Street  
Queens, New York**

**Exterior Renovation**

**SUPERSTRUCTURES**  
+ **ENGINEERS  
ARCHITECTS**

32 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10013  
Tel 212 505 1133  
[www.superstructures.com](http://www.superstructures.com)



### **Newtown High School: The Pride of Elmhurst**

Newtown High School in the neighborhood of Elmhurst, is one of Queens' most prominent buildings, and a testament to New York City's commitment to public education. Bounded by 48th and 50th Avenues, and 90th and 91st Streets, the school occupies an entire city block. The current building is a result of several building campaigns spanning nearly four decades, three architects, and several architectural styles. Newtown High School has been in operation at this location for over 100 years.

According to the Landmarks Preservation Commission's the site has had a school since 1866, when a small wooden school house was built to serve the children of Newtown and neighboring farms. Due to the site's long history, and the architectural significance of the building, the City of New York designated Newtown High School a landmark in 2003.

The oldest extant portions of the school are from 1921, designed by C.B.J. Snyder in a Flemish Renaissance Revival style. Snyder's choice of this style showed his awareness of New York's and particularly Elmhurst's, beginnings as a Dutch colony. It is one of only a handful of public schools in New York City executed in this style.

Snyder's design was built as an addition to the now demolished Boring and Tilton school completed in 1900, and his design continued the stepped gables of the original building, and features a dramatic 169-foot, centrally placed tower topped by a cupola and turrets. The tower is visible throughout the neighborhood and gives the school its slogan: "We Tower Above the Rest." The Snyder addition comprises



two wings, having granite-imitating terra cotta bases, and clad with buff and beige brick, limestone, glazed terra cotta, and decorative ceramic tile, corbelled cornices, multi-soldier flat arch lintels, and sculptural relief on entrance porticoes.

As soon as 1930, another addition was built to accommodate the rapidly growing student population. Architect Walter C. Martin, designed two additional three-story wings, that are stylistically similar but less ornate than the previous Snyder wings. The Martin wings are Clad with buff and beige brick and limestone detailing; one features stepped gables with ceramic tile designs.

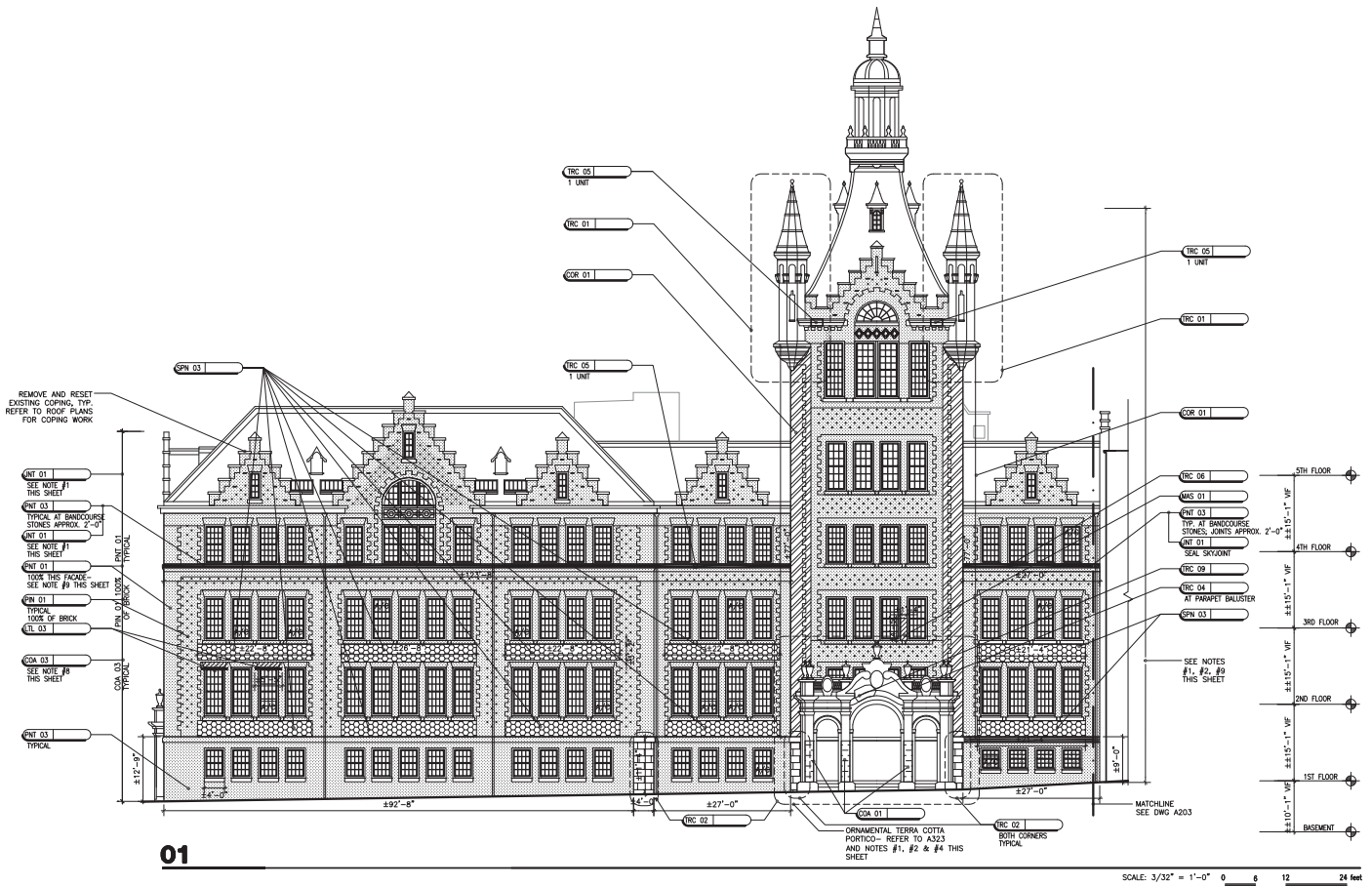
The most recent addition was completed in 1958 and designed by Maurice E. Salo and Associates. This wing took the place of the original school building by Boring and Tilton which had been deemed by the Board of Education to be deficient and not able to be improved by renovations. Instead of echoing the motifs of the previous additions, the four-story rectangular block addition was designed in the International Style. The steel-frame structure is clad with beige-colored bricks, limestone trim and aluminum panels.

The renovation project completed in 2011, under the auspices of the New York City School Construction Authority, consisted of the following exterior envelope repairs: corner masonry replacement, face brick replacement at various locations, stone and terra cotta replacement at various locations, masonry pointing, lintel reconstruction, spandrel repairs, sealant replacement, parapet reconstruction, coping stone removal and resetting, roof replacement at various roofs, bulkhead window replacement, exterior door at grade replacement, and installation of roof railings. The text accompanying photos on subsequent pages highlights further details of the renovation.

Newtown High School is the architectural focal point of the Elmhurst community. One observer noted: "Solid, dignified and regal, the school looks as if it had been there always and will last forever." Those working on the recent renovation are honored to have contributed to extending the life of this noble structure.

Sources: *Landmark Preservation Commission Designation Report dated June 24, 2003*; *SUPERSTRUCTURES SHPO Report*





### Modern Methods for Historic Preservation

The project benefited from SUPERSTRUCTURES' proprietary software-based methodology that is unique in the restoration field. The size, location, and description of each and every defect was noted with a "smart tag". The smart tag is not just a graphic device but a software link to a spreadsheet database, which contains cost information, repair details and enables tracking of work completion during construction administration. This level of accuracy benefited the Owner by providing a very accurate cost estimate.

Contractor bids came in as estimated and even with Owner-requested change orders the project was completed within 10% of the construction estimate.



## Terra Cotta

Restoration of terra cotta was a major aspect of the project. Polychromatic murals were replaced with new terra cotta - which involved an extensive color matching process. Rusticated terra units at the base of the building were restored, including localized unit replacement, cleaning, patching and reglazing by an artist. Mockups were done to match the colors and unique texture of the original terra cotta.

*Top, left and right: Terra cotta lunettes after restoration; Bottom, left and right: Terra cotta lunettes before restoration.*



## Turret Reconstruction

On the central tower, all four corner turrets were rebuilt. The existing turrets were demolished and rebuilt in kind, matching original brick, terra cotta, steel structure and full copper roofing. The copper on the new turret roofs was specified to match the copper on the main cupola, which was left intact. The turret roofs will eventually develop the same patina as that on the original turrets.

*Top, left: Tower before restoration. Top, right: Tower after restoration. Bottom: Turret roof after restoration.*

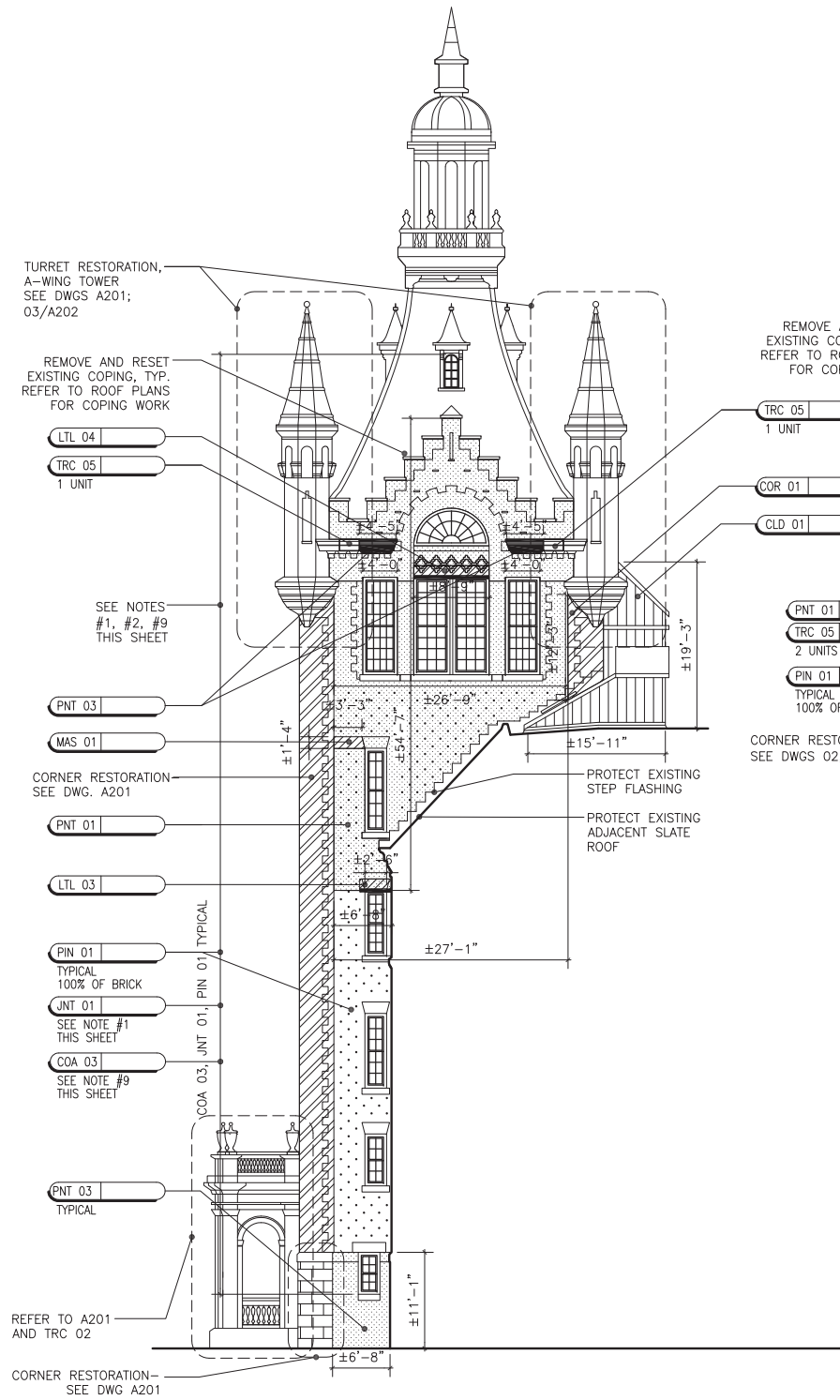




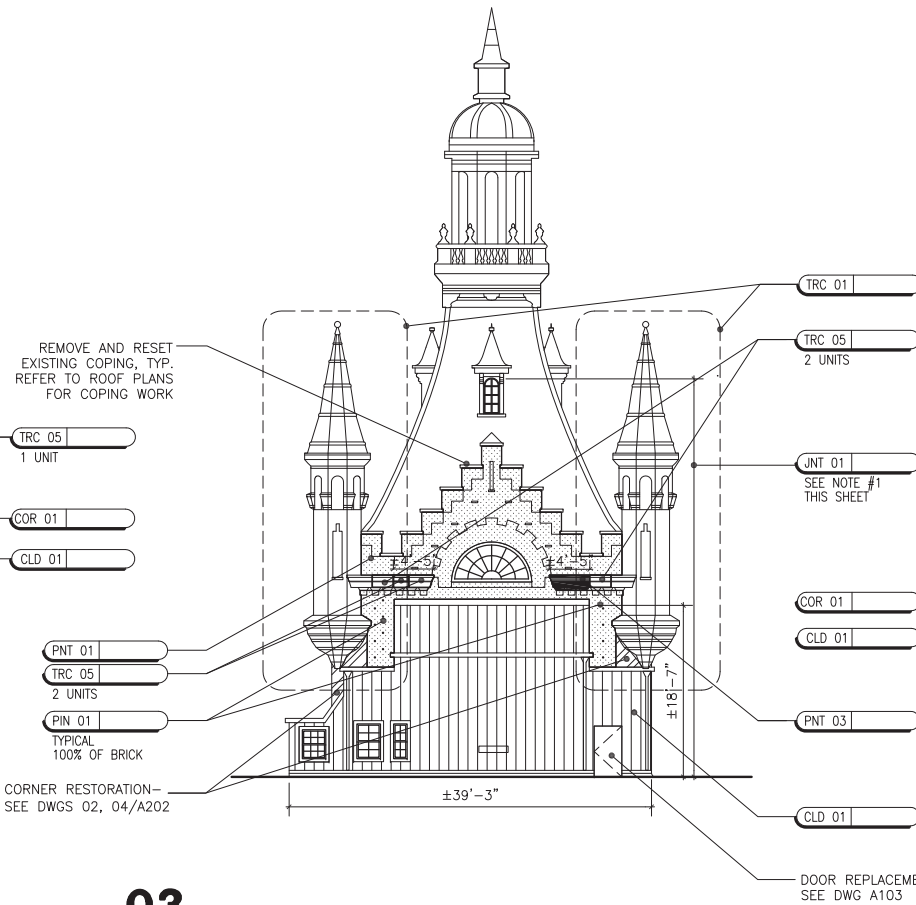
## Turret Reconstruction - continued

*Top, left: Deteriorated structural steel in turret during demolition. Top, right: New structural steel in turret during reconstruction. Bottom, left and right: Terra cotta elements of turret during reconstruction*



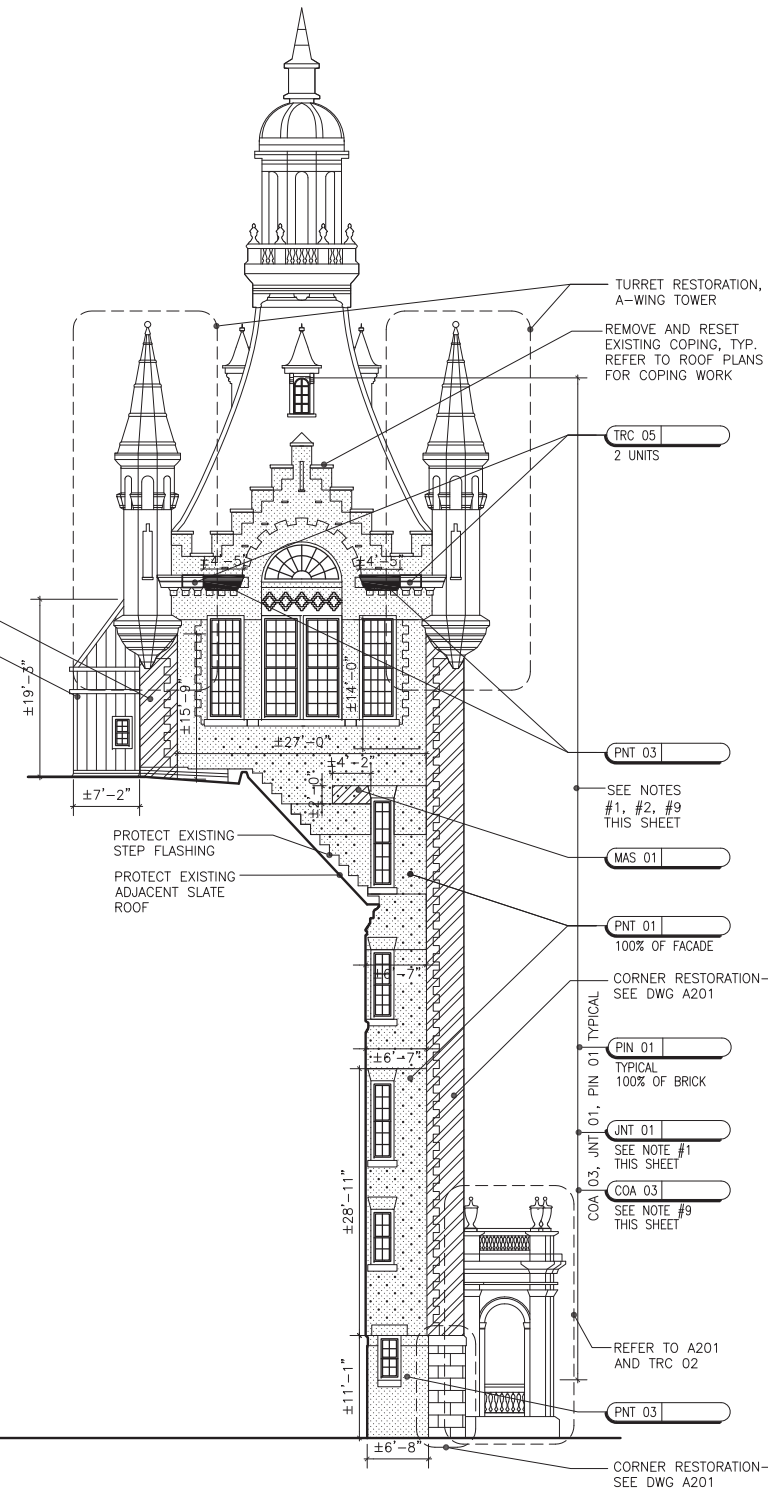


02



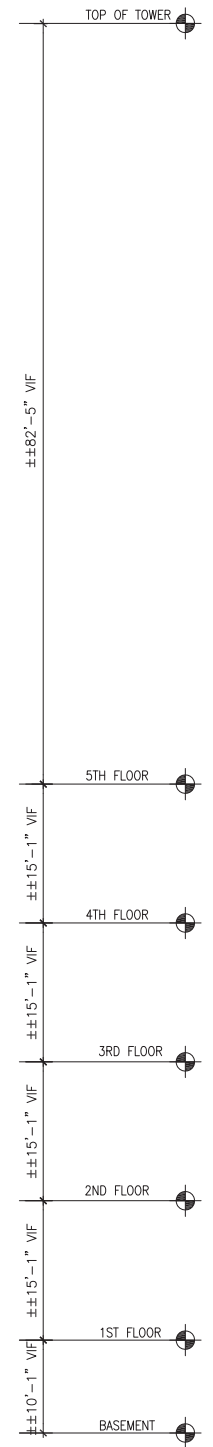
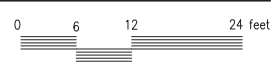
03

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

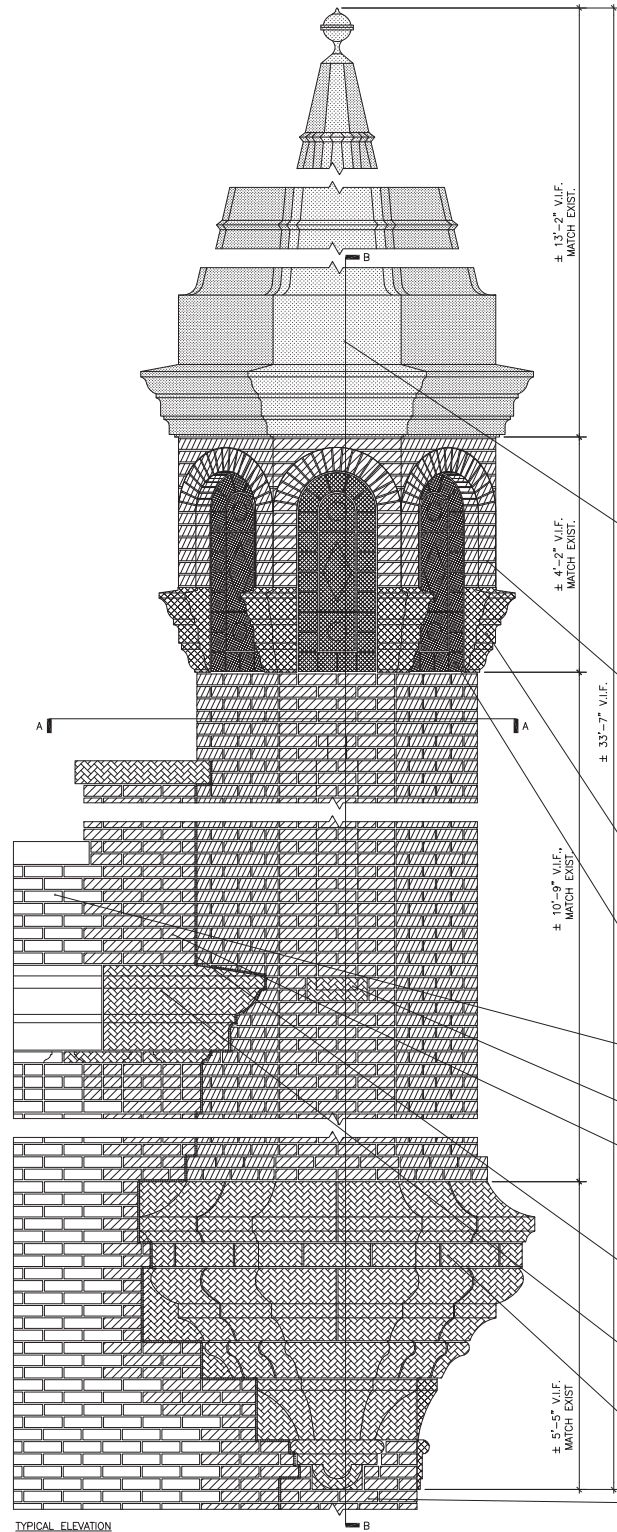


04

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



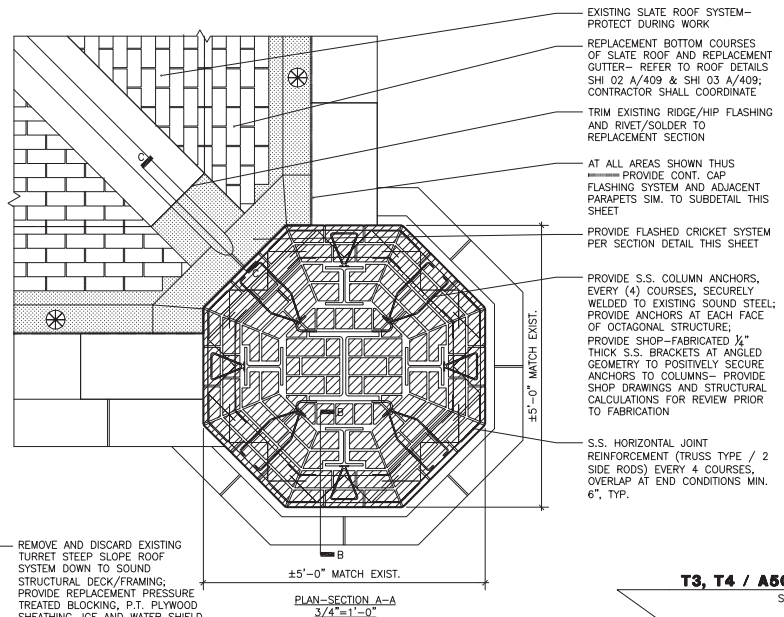




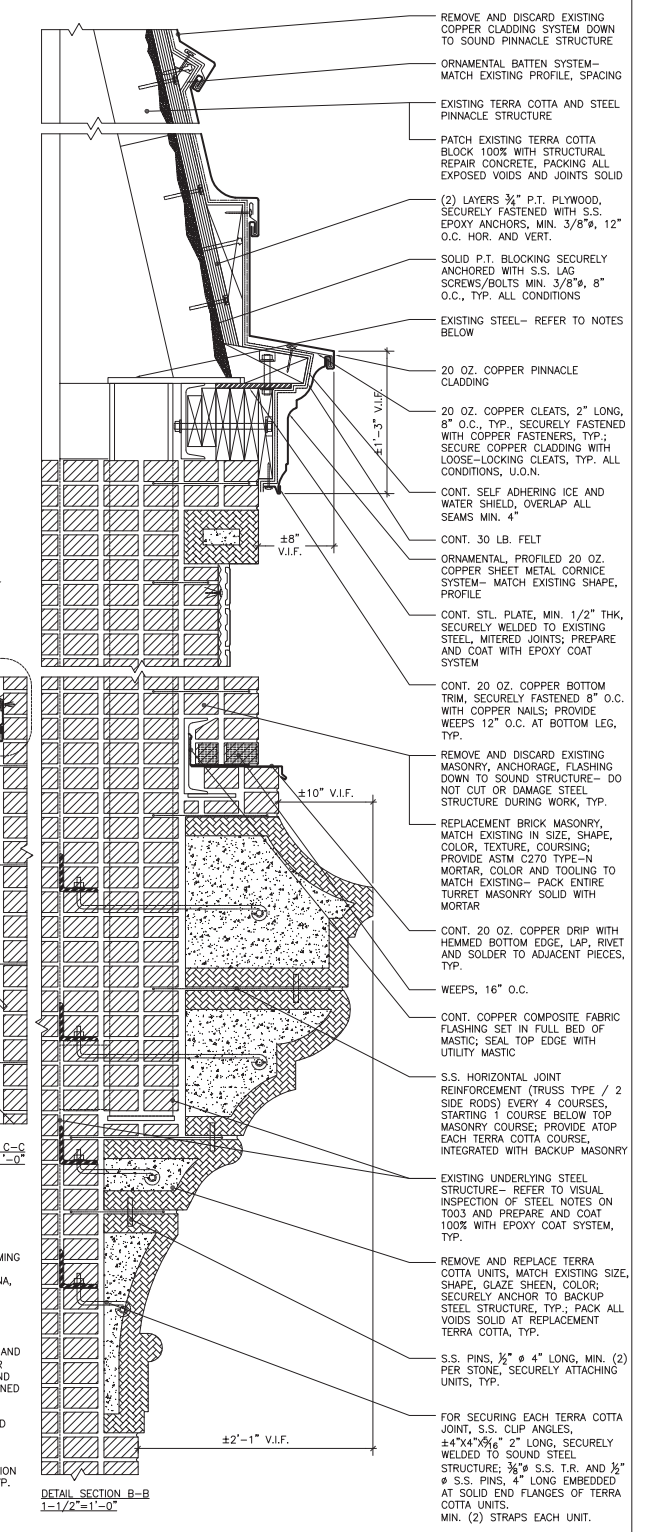
TYPICAL ELEVATION  
3/4\"/>

**TRC 01**

**T.C. TURRET RECONSTRUCTION**



- EXISTING SLATE ROOF SYSTEM—PROTECT DURING WORK
- REPLACEMENT BOTTOM COURSES OF SLATE ROOF AND REPLACEMENT GUTTER—REFER TO ROOF DETAILS SH 02 A/409 & SH 03 A/409; CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE
- TRIM EXISTING RIDGE/HIP FLASHING AND RIVET/SOLDER TO REPLACEMENT SECTION
- AT ALL AREAS SHOWN THUS PROVIDE CONT. CAP FLASHING SYSTEM AND ADJACENT PARAPETS SIM. TO SUBDETAIL THIS SHEET
- PROVIDE FLASHED CRICKET SYSTEM PER SECTION DETAIL THIS SHEET
- PROVIDE S.S. COLUMN ANCHORS, EVERY (4) COURSES, SECURELY WELDED TO EXISTING SOUND STEEL; PROVIDE ANCHORS AT EACH FACE OF OCTAGONAL STRUCTURE; PROVIDE SHOP-FABRICATED 1/2\"/>



DETAIL SECTION B-B  
1-1/2\"/>

SCALE: AS SH

- REMOVE AND DISCARD EXISTING TURRET STEEP SLOPE ROOF SYSTEM DOWN TO SOUND STRUCTURAL DECK/FRAMING; PROVIDE REPLACEMENT PRESSURE TREATED BLOCKING, P.T. PLYWOOD SHEATHING, ICE AND WATER SHIELD, FELT UNDERLAYMENT AND 20 OZ. ORNAMENTAL COPPER TURRET ROOF SYSTEM, MATCHING EXISTING CONDITION
- REMOVE AND DISCARD FACE BRICK AND BACKUP BRICK DOWN TO SOUND STEEL SUPPORT STRUCTURE; REFER TO VISUAL INSPECTION OF STEEL NOTES ON T003
- PROVIDE REPLACEMENT BACKUP BRICK AND FACE BRICK (ALL BRICK SOLID); PROVIDE ORNAMENTAL, SPECIAL SHAPES AS REQUIRED TO MATCH EXISTING; MATCH EXISTING SIZE, SHAPE, COLOR, TEXTURE, COURSING, TYP. ALL CONDITIONS
- REMOVE AND DISCARD EXISTING ORNAMENTAL TERRA COTTA UNITS; PROVIDE REPLACEMENT S.S. ANCHORAGE AND ORNAMENTAL TERRA COTTA UNITS, MATCHING EXISTING SIZE, SHAPE, COURSING, FINISH
- REMOVE/REPLACE MULTI-COLOR ORNAMENTAL TERRA COTTA TILE, MATCHING EXISTING SIZE, SHAPE, ORIENTATION, COLOR, PATTERNS
- STABILIZE AND PROTECT EXISTING SOUND MASONRY AT PARAPETS/GABLES, TYP. ALL CONDITIONS
- REMOVE/REPLACE TERRA COTTA NICHE SILL, MATCH EXISTING SIZE, SHAPE, COLOR, FINISH
- REMOVE AND REPLACE (1) SECTION OF STEPPED PARAPET, INCLUDING TERRA COTTA COPING, FLASHING, MASONRY DOWN TO SOUND STRUCTURE; REINFORCE AND FLASH SIM. TO PPT 04/A303; TOOTH IN REPLACEMENT MASONRY WITH EXISTING MASONRY AT ENDS (MATCH EXISTING COURSING, TYP.)
- PROVIDE THROUGH-WALL EXPANSION JOINT AT VERTICAL TURRET/CABLE JUNCTURE, PROVIDE JOINT ANCHORAGE, FILLER, BACKER AND SEALANT, SIM. TO T5, T6/A502
- REMOVE AND REPLACE 100% OF CONTINUOUSLY PATCH 100% OF STRUCTURE WITH STRUCTURAL REPAIR CONCRETE; CURE PRIOR TO MEMBRANE INSTALLATION; AT ALL EXPOSED STEEL STRUCTURE, PREPARE AND COAT 100% WITH EPOXY COAT SYSTEM
- REMOVE AND REPLACE ORNAMENTAL TERRA COTTA TURRET BASE; PROVIDE REPLACEMENT ANCHORAGE, ORNAMENTAL TERRA COTTA UNITS
- PROVIDE CORNER MASONRY REPLACEMENT—REFER TO ELEVATIONS; COORDINATE WORK, TYP.

- REMOVE AND REPLACE STEP FLASHING SYSTEM—PROVIDE 20 OZ. COPPER STEP FLASHING SYSTEM WITH CONT. Z SHAPE SOLDERED AND RIVETED TO VERTICAL COPPER FLASHING; PROVIDE 2\"/>
- EXISTING COPPER ROOF RIDGE—CAREFULLY TRIM AND INTEGRATE WITH REPLACEMENT COPPER BASE FLASHING
- EXISTING SHEATHING OVER DECK—DO NOT DAMAGE BY WORK
- SET REPLACEMENT ICE AND WATER SHIELD BELOW EXISTING FLASHING AT TOP EDGE AND CONT. SEAL WITH MANUFACTURER APPROVED TERMINATION COMPOUND
- CAREFULLY TRIM EXISTING COPPER ROOF, BEND UP, FORM AND LOCK TO REPLACEMENT COPPER SYSTEM
- CONT. 20 COPPER CLEAT, SECURELY ANCHOR TO SOUND STRUCTURE WITH S.S. NAIL IN FASTENERS MIN. 8\"/>
- AT WORK AREAS, REMOVE AND REPLACE 100% OF SHEATHING; PROVIDE (2) LAYERS 3/4\"/>
- REPLACEMENT 20 OZ. COPPER RIDGE SECTION, LAP, SOLDER AND RIVET TO VALLEY FLASHING AND EXISTING COPPER RIDGE
- 20 OZ. COPPER VALLEY (SOLDER ALL SEAMS, TYP.) OVER 30 LB. FELT OVER ICE AND WATER SHIELD
- PROVIDE CONT. SOLID P.T. BLOCKING/CRICKET SECURELY ANCHORED WITH EPOXY ANCHORS 8\"/>
- CONTINUOUSLY PATCH 100% OF STRUCTURE WITH STRUCTURAL REPAIR CONCRETE; CURE PRIOR TO MEMBRANE INSTALLATION; AT ALL EXPOSED STEEL STRUCTURE, PREPARE AND COAT 100% WITH EPOXY COAT SYSTEM

- REMOVE AND DISCARD EXISTING COPPER CLADDING SYSTEM DOWN TO SOUND PINNACLE STRUCTURE
- ORNAMENTAL BATTEN SYSTEM—MATCH EXISTING PROFILE, SPACING
- EXISTING TERRA COTTA AND STEEL PINNACLE STRUCTURE
- PATCH EXISTING TERRA COTTA BLOCK 100% WITH STRUCTURAL REPAIR CONCRETE, PACKING ALL EXPOSED VOIDS AND JOINTS SOLID
- (2) LAYERS 3/4\"/>
- SOLID P.T. BLOCKING SECURELY ANCHORED WITH S.S. LAG SCREWS/BOLTS MIN. 3/8\"/>
- EXISTING STEEL—REFER TO NOTES BELOW
- 20 OZ. COPPER PINNACLE CLADDING
- 20 OZ. COPPER CLEATS, 2\"/>
- CONT. SELF ADHERING ICE AND WATER SHIELD, OVERLAP ALL SEAMS MIN. 4\"/>
- CONT. 30 LB. FELT
- ORNAMENTAL, PROFILED 20 OZ. COPPER SHEET METAL CORNICE SYSTEM—MATCH EXISTING SHAPE, PROFILE
- CONT. STL. PLATE, MIN. 1/2\"/>
- CONT. 20 OZ. COPPER BOTTOM TRIM, SECURELY FASTENED 8\"/>
- REMOVE AND DISCARD EXISTING MASONRY, ANCHORAGE, FLASHING DOWN TO SOUND STRUCTURE—DO NOT CUT OR DAMAGE STEEL STRUCTURE DURING WORK, TYP.
- REPLACEMENT BRICK MASONRY, MATCH EXISTING IN SIZE, SHAPE, COLOR, TEXTURE, COURSING; PROVIDE ASTM C270 TYPE-N MORTAR, COLOR AND TOOLING TO MATCH EXISTING—PACK ENTIRE TURRET MASONRY SOLID WITH MORTAR
- CONT. 20 OZ. COPPER DRIP WITH HEMMED BOTTOM EDGE, LAP, RIVET AND SOLDER TO ADJACENT PIECES, TYP.
- WEEPS, 16\"/>
- CONT. COPPER COMPOSITE FABRIC FLASHING SET IN FULL BED OF MASTIC; SEAL TOP EDGE WITH UTILITY MASTIC
- S.S. HORIZONTAL JOINT REINFORCEMENT (TRUSS TYPE / 2 SIDE RODS) EVERY 4 COURSES, STARTING 1 COURSE BELOW TOP MASONRY COURSE; PROVIDE ATOP EACH TERRA COTTA COURSE, INTEGRATED WITH BACKUP MASONRY
- EXISTING UNDERLYING STEEL STRUCTURE—REFER TO VISUAL INSPECTION OF STEEL NOTES ON T003 AND PREPARE AND COAT 100% WITH EPOXY COAT SYSTEM, TYP.
- REMOVE AND REPLACE TERRA COTTA UNITS, MATCH EXISTING SIZE, SHAPE, GLAZE SHEEN, COLOR; SECURELY ANCHOR TO BACKUP STEEL STRUCTURE, TYP.; PACK ALL VOIDS SOLID AT REPLACEMENT TERRA COTTA, TYP.
- S.S. PINS, 1/2\"/>
- FOR SECURING EACH TERRA COTTA JOINT, S.S. CLIP ANGLES, 4\"/>

- NOTES:
- 1— FOLLOW ALL COPPER FORMING AND CONNECTION RECOMMENDATIONS PER SMCNA, COPPER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, COPPER AND COMMON SENSE, TYP. ALL CONDITIONS.
  - 2— PROVIDE SHOP DRAWINGS AND ENGINEER'S CALCULATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT TERRA COTTA AND TERRA COTTA ANCHORAGE, SIGNED AND SEALED BY LICENSED ENGINEER REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF NY, FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL PRIOR TO RECONSTRUCTION.
  - 3— REFER TO VISUAL INSPECTION OF STEEL NOTES ON T003, TYP. ALL AREAS OF TURRET RECONSTRUCTION.



## Roof and Parapet

Roof replacement was done as required, bulkhead windows were replaced and roof railings were installed for code compliance in such a way so as not to be visible from the public way. The bulkhead cladding was restored from previously installed stucco to historically accurate standing-seam copper.

Upon investigation it was discovered that the parapets on the 1958 wing of the school were very poorly reconstructed during a prior restoration campaign, being filled with materials such as beer bottles, so extensive reconstruction was required.

*Top, left: Bulkhead before restoration. Top, right: Bulkhead after restoration. Bottom, left: New railing installed on roof. Bottom, center: Inferior workmanship discovered inside existing parapet. Bottom, right: New parapets on 1950s wing after restoration.*

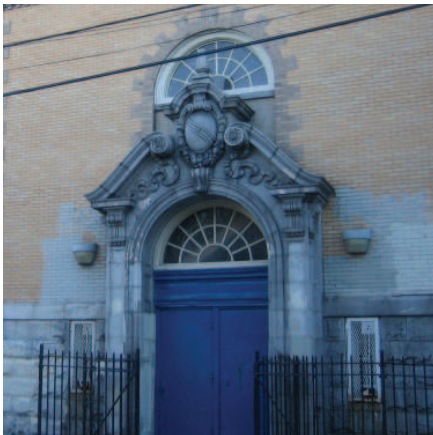




## Masonry

Pigmented color which had been added on the ground level walls up to 12' for graffiti prevention was removed and the original materials restored to their original colors. Graffiti haloes were removed. Pointing of masonry and lintel reconstruction were also done. Clear breathable anti-graffiti coating was applied to prevent future abuse.

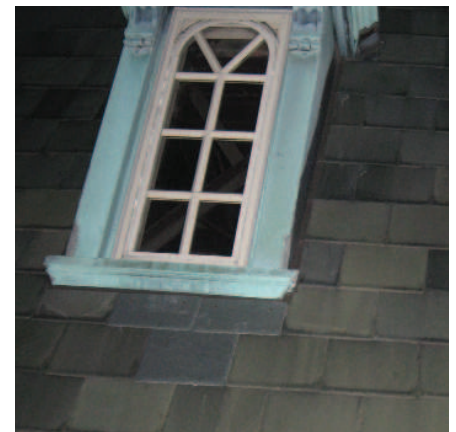
*Top, left: 91st Street entrance before restoration. Top, right: 91st Street entrance after restoration. Bottom, left: 91st Street façade, rusticated terra cotta before restoration. Bottom, right: 91st Street façade, rusticated terra cotta after restoration.*



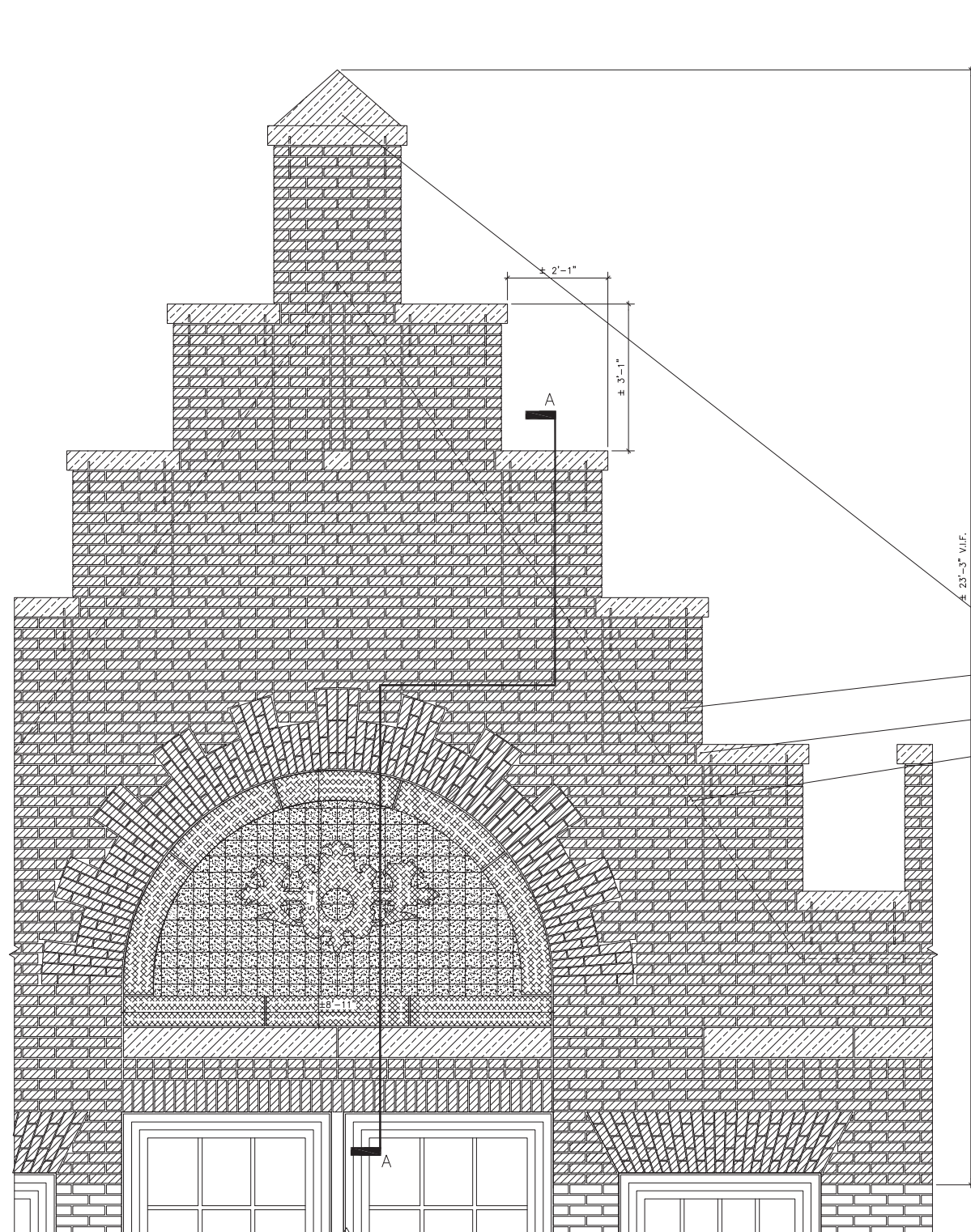
## Materials Matching

The project involved extensive matching of a number of materials in kind, among them masonry, terra cotta, and slate roof tile.

*Top, left: Matching bluestone. Top, right: Matching limestone. Bottom, left: Matching slate tile. Bottom, center: Slate tile before restoration. Bottom, right: Slate tile after restoration.*







PARTIAL ELEVATION  
3/4" = 1'-0"

**PPT 04**  
PARAPET REPLACEMENT - TYPE 4

(2) S.S. PINS, 3/8", SET IN EPOXY; SEAL PENETRATION AS PER COPING FLASHING DETAIL

20 OZ. COPPER STEP FLASHING SYSTEM WITH CONT. Z SHAPE SOLDERED AND RIVETED TO VERTICAL COPPER FLASHING; PROVIDE 2" WIDE COPPER CLEATS MIN. 6" O.C. SECURELY ANCHORED TO BRICK WITH S.S. NAIL IN FASTENERS, TYP.

CAREFULLY TRIM EXISTING COPPER ROOF; BEND UP, FORM AND LOCK TO REPLACEMENT COPPER SYSTEM

CONT. 20 COPPER CLEAT, SECURELY ANCHOR TO SOUND CONCRETE STRUCTURE WITH S.S. NAIL IN FASTENERS MIN. 8" O.C.

20 OZ. COPPER OVER 30 LB. FELT OVER ICE AND WATER SHIELD; SOLDER ALL SEAMS, TYP.

OVERLAP ICE AND WATER SHIELD OVER HORIZONTAL LEG OF COPPER COMPOSITE FABRIC FLASHING MIN. 4"

CONTINUOUSLY PATCH 100% OF STRUCTURE WITH STRUCTURAL REPAIR CONCRETE; CURE PRIOR TO MEMBRANE INSTALLATION

REPLACEMENT ARCH MASONRY—SOLID, TYP., PROVIDE SPECIAL SHAPES TO MATCH EXISTING VOUSSOIRS, TYP.

PROVIDE MONUMENTAL EXTRUDED TRIANGULAR LIMESTONE COPING AND COPING FLASHING AT PEAK, MATCHING EXISTING

PROVIDE FINISHED ENDS AT ALL PARAPET STEPS, MATCHING PRECONSTRUCTION CONFIGURATION

TOOTH COPINGS, TYP., MATCHING PRECONSTRUCTION CONFIGURATION

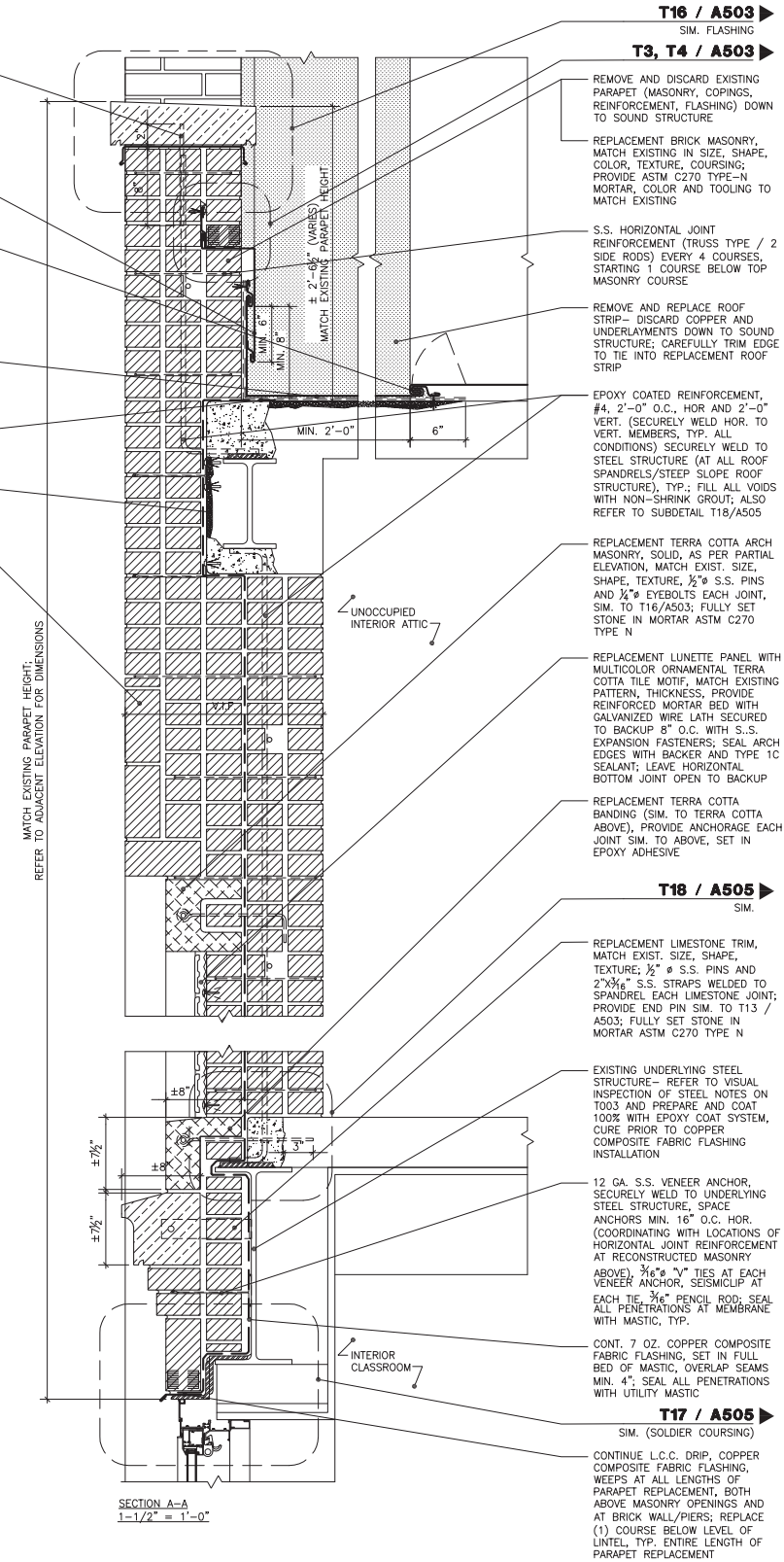
LINE OF STEEP SLOPE ROOF

**NOTES:**

1— FOLLOW ALL COPPER FORMING AND CONNECTION RECOMMENDATIONS PER SMACNA, COPPER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, COPPER AND COMMON SENSE, TYP. ALL CONDITIONS.

2— PROVIDE SHOP DRAWINGS AND ENGINEER'S CALCULATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT PARAPET, SIGNED AND SEALED BY LICENSED ENGINEER REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF NY, FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL PRIOR TO RECONSTRUCTION.

3— REFER TO VISUAL INSPECTION OF STEEL NOTES ON T003, TYP. ALL AREAS OF PARAPET RECONSTRUCTION.



SECTION A-A  
1-1/2" = 1'-0"

SCALE: AS NOTED