

# URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION APPLICATION

# UDC

City of Madison  
Planning Division  
Madison Municipal Building, Suite 017  
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
P.O. Box 2985  
Madison, WI 53701-2985  
(608) 266-4635



## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Received 3/30/26 11:55 a.m.

Initial Submittal

Paid

Revised Submittal

**Complete all sections of this application, including the desired meeting date and the action requested.** If your project requires both UDC and Land Use application submittals, a completed [Land Use Application](#) and accompanying submittal materials are also required to be submitted.

*If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access these forms, please call the Planning Division at (608) 266-4635.*

*Si necesita interprete, traductor, materiales en diferentes formatos, u otro tipo de ayuda para acceder a estos formularios, por favor llame al (608) 266-4635.*

*Yog tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, tus neeg txhais ntawv, los sis xav tau cov ntaub ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom paub txog cov lus qhia no, thov hu rau Koog Npaj (Planning Division) (608) 266-4635.*

## 1. Project Information

Address (list all addresses on the project site): 4301 Cherokee Dr., Madison WI 53711

Title: MMSD Cherokee Heights MS

## 2. Application Type (check all that apply) and Requested Date

UDC meeting date requested April 15, 2026

- New development       Alteration to an existing or previously-approved development  
 Informational       Initial Approval       Final Approval

## 3. Project Type

- Project in an Urban Design District  
 Project in the Downtown Core District (DC), Urban Mixed-Use District (UMX), or Mixed-Use Center District (MXC)  
 Project in the Suburban Employment Center District (SEC), Campus Institutional District (CI), or Employment Campus District (EC)  
 Planned Development (PD)  
     General Development Plan (GDP)  
     Specific Implementation Plan (SIP)  
 Planned Multi-Use Site or Residential Building Complex

### Signage

- Comprehensive Design Review (CDR)  
 Modifications of Height, Area, and Setback  
 Sign Exceptions as noted in [Sec. 31.043\(3\)](#), MGO

### Other

- Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Applicant, Agent, and Property Owner Information

**Applicant name** Scott Chehak  
**Street address** 545 West Dayton Street  
**Telephone** 608-235-4989

**Company** Madison Metropolitan School District  
**City/State/Zip** Madison, WI 53703  
**Email** schehak@madison.k12.wi.us

**Project contact person** Susan Bowersox  
**Street address** 301 North Broom Street, Suite 100  
**Telephone** 319-551-9723

**Company** OPN Architects  
**City/State/Zip** Madison, WI 53703  
**Email** sbowersox@opnarchitects.com

**Property owner (if not applicant)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Street address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction

The City of Madison's Urban Design Commission (UDC) has been created to:

- Encourage and promote high quality in the design of new buildings, developments, remodeling, and additions so as to maintain and improve the established standards of property values within the City.
- Foster civic pride in the beauty and nobler assets of the City, and in all other ways possible assure a functionally efficient and visually attractive City in the future.

## Types of Approvals

There are three types of requests considered by the UDC:

- Informational Presentation. A request for an Informational Presentation to the UDC may be requested prior to seeking any approvals to obtain early feedback and direction before undertaking detailed design efforts. Applicants should provide details on the context of the site, design concept, site and building plans, and other relevant information to help the UDC understand the proposal and provide feedback. (Does not apply to CDR's or Signage Modification requests)
- Initial Approval. Applicants may, at their discretion, request Initial Approval of a proposal by presenting preliminary design information. As part of their review, the Commission will provide feedback on the design information that should be addressed at Final Approval stage.
- Final Approval. Applicants may request Final Approval of a proposal by presenting all final project details. Recommendations or concerns expressed by the UDC in the Initial Approval must be addressed at this time.

## Presentations to the Commission

The Urban Design Commission meets virtually via Zoom, typically on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 4:30 p.m. Applicant presentations are strongly encouraged, although not required. Prior to the meeting, each individual speaker is required to complete an online registration form to speak at the meeting. A link to complete the online registration will be provided by staff prior to the meeting. Please note that individual presentations will be limited to a **maximum of three (3) minutes**. The pooling of time may be utilized to provide one speaker more time to present, however the additional time will be based on the number of registrants from the applicant team, i.e. two (2) applicant registrants = six (6) minutes for one (1) speaker.

Primarily, the UDC is interested in the appearance and design quality of projects. Emphasis should be given to the site plan, landscape plan, lighting plan, building elevations, exterior building materials, color scheme, and graphics. Please note that presentation slides, in a PDF file format, are required to be submitted **the Friday before** the UDC meeting.

# URBAN DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLANS CHECKLIST

The items listed below are minimum application requirements for the type of approval indicated. Please note that the UDC and/or staff may require additional information in order to have a complete understanding of the project.

## 1. Informational Presentation

- Locator Map
- Letter of Intent (If the project is within an Urban Design District, a summary of how the development proposal addresses the district criteria is required)
- Contextual site information, including photographs and layout of adjacent buildings/structures
- Site Plan
- Two-dimensional (2D) images of proposed buildings or structures.

Providing additional information beyond these minimums may generate a greater level of feedback from the Commission.

### Requirements for All Plan Sheets

1. Title block
2. Sheet number
3. North arrow
4. Scale, both written and graphic
5. Date
6. Fully dimensioned plans, scaled at 1"= 40' or larger

**\*\* All plans must be legible, including the full-sized landscape and lighting plans (if required)**

## 2. Initial Approval

- Locator Map
- Letter of Intent (If the project is within a Urban Design District, a summary of how the development proposal addresses the district criteria is required)
- Contextual site information, including photographs and layout of adjacent buildings/structures
- Site Plan showing location of existing and proposed buildings, walks, drives, bike lanes, bike parking, and existing trees over 18" diameter
- Landscape Plan and Plant List (*must be legible*)
- Building Elevations in **both** black & white and color for all building sides, including material and color callouts
- PD text and Letter of Intent (if applicable)

Providing additional information beyond these minimums may generate a greater level of feedback from the Commission.

## 3. Final Approval

All the requirements of the Initial Approval (see above), **plus**:

- Grading Plan
- Lighting Plan, including fixture cut sheets and photometrics plan (must be legible)
- Utility/HVAC equipment location and screening details (with a rooftop plan if roof-mounted)
- Site Plan showing site amenities, fencing, trash, bike parking, etc. (if applicable)
- PD text and Letter of Intent (if applicable)
- Samples of the exterior building materials
- Proposed sign areas and types (if applicable)

## 4. Signage Approval (*Comprehensive Design Review (CDR), Sign Modifications, and Sign Exceptions (per [Sec. 31.043\(3\)](#))*)

- Locator Map
- Letter of Intent (a summary of how the proposed signage is consistent with the CDR or Signage Modifications criteria is required)
- Contextual site information, including photographs of existing signage both on site and within proximity to the project site
- Site Plan showing the location of existing signage and proposed signage, dimensioned signage setbacks, sidewalks, driveways, and right-of-ways
- Proposed signage graphics (fully dimensioned, scaled drawings, including materials and colors, and night view)
- Perspective renderings (emphasis on pedestrian/automobile scale viewsheds)
- Illustration of the proposed signage that meets [Ch. 31, MGO](#) compared to what is being requested
- Graphic of the proposed signage as it relates to what the [Ch. 31, MGO](#) would permit

**5. Required Submittal Materials**

**Application Form**

- A completed application form is required for each UDC appearance. For projects also requiring Plan Commission approval, applicants must also have submitted an accepted application for Plan Commission consideration prior to obtaining any formal action (Initial or Final Approval) from the UDC.

**Letter of Intent**

- If the project is within an Urban Design District, a summary of how the development proposal addresses the district criteria is required.
- For signage applications, a summary of how the proposed signage is consistent with the applicable Comprehensive Design Review (CDR) or Signage Modification review criteria is required.

**Development Plans** (Refer to checklist on Page 4 for plan details)

**Filing Fee** (Refer to Section 7 (below) for a list of application fees by request type)

**Electronic Submittal**

- Complete electronic submittals must be received prior to the application deadline before an application will be scheduled for a UDC meeting. Late materials will not be accepted. All plans must be legible and scalable when reduced. Individual PDF files of each item submitted should be submitted via email to [UDCapplications@cityofmadison.com](mailto:UDCapplications@cityofmadison.com). The email must include the project address, project name, and applicant name.
- Email Size Limits. Note that an individual email cannot exceed 20MB and it is the responsibility of the applicant to present files in a manner that can be accepted. Applicants who are unable to provide the materials electronically should contact the Planning Division at (608) 266-4635 for assistance.

**Notification to the District Alder**

- Please provide an email to the District Alder notifying them that you are filing this UDC application. Please send this as early in the process as possible and provide a copy of that email with the submitted application.

**6. Applicant Declarations**

1. Prior to submitting this application, the applicant is required to discuss the proposed project with Urban Design Commission staff. This application was discussed with DAT on March 26, 2026.
2. The applicant attests that all required materials are included in this submittal and understands that if any required information is not provided by the application deadline, the application will not be placed on an Urban Design Commission agenda for consideration.

Name of applicant Scott Chehak Relationship to property Owner

Authorizing signature of property owner Scott Chehak Date 3/30/2026

**7. Application Filing Fees**

Fee payments are due by the submittal date. Payments received after the submittal deadline may result in the submittal being scheduled for the next application review cycle. Fees may be paid in-person, via US Mail, or City drop box. If mailed, please mail to: *City of Madison Building Inspection, P.O. Box 2984, Madison, WI 53701-2984*. The City's drop box is located outside the Municipal Building at 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. on the E Doty Street side of the building. Please make checks payable to *City Treasurer*, and include a completed application form or cover letter indicating the project location and applicant information with all checks mailed or submitted via the City's drop box.

Please consult the schedule below for the appropriate fee for your request:

- Urban Design Districts: \$350 (per [§33.24\(6\) MGO](#)).
- Minor Alteration in the Downtown Core District (DC) or Urban Mixed-Use District (UMX) : \$150 (per [§33.24\(6\)\(b\) MGO](#))
- Comprehensive Design Review: \$500 (per [§31.041\(3\)\(d\)\(1\)\(a\) MGO](#))
- Minor Alteration to a Comprehensive Sign Plan: \$100 (per [§31.041\(3\)\(d\)\(1\)\(c\) MGO](#))
- All other sign requests to the Urban Design Commission, including, but not limited to: appeals from the decisions of the Zoning Administrator, requests for Sign Modifications (of height, area, and setback), and additional sign code approvals: \$300 (per [§31.041\(3\)\(d\)\(2\) MGO](#))

A filing fee is not required for the following project applications if part of the combined application process involving both Urban Design Commission and Plan Commission:

- Project in the Downtown Core District (DC), Urban Mixed-Use District (UMX), or Mixed-Use Center District (MXC)
- Project in the Suburban Employment Center District (SEC), Campus Institutional District (CI), or Employment Campus District (EC)
- Planned Development (PD): General Development Plan (GDP) and/or Specific Implementation Plan (SIP)
- Planned Multi-Use Site or Residential Building Complex



**Cedar Rapids**

200 Fifth Avenue SE Ste. 201  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401  
(319) 363-6018

**Des Moines**

100 Court Avenue Ste. 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
(515) 309-0722

**Iowa City**

24 ½ S. Clinton Street Ste. 1  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240  
(319) 363-6018

**Madison**

301 N. Broom Street Ste. 100  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
(608) 819-0260

**Minneapolis**

212 N 3rd Avenue, Ste. 312  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401  
(612) 355-7111

[opnarchitects.com](http://opnarchitects.com)

March 30, 2026

Letter of Intent, UDC Informational Presentation

Proposed MMSD Cherokee Heights Middle School  
4301 Cherokee Drive, Madison, WI

Madison Metropolitan School District is proposing to construct a new Middle School on the existing site located at 4301 Cherokee Drive, Madison, WI 53711. The new school will be constructed on the West portion of the site while the existing school is in use. Upon completion of the new construction the existing building will then be demolished with new parking and green space constructed on the site.

The School District anticipates submitting for UDC Initial-Final on May 15, 2026. It is the School District's objective to start site infrastructure construction late this year, with building completion set for July 2028.

The proposed Cherokee Heights Middle School is a 174,000gsf two story structure, that will house sixth thru eighth grade. Functionally, the new school will operate the same as the existing school, with typical staffing levels of 120 people. Since the school is an important component of the community's school system, the site and building require special considerations for site access with safe and separate yellow bus and vehicle circulation while maintaining the existing access entry from Cherokee Dr. Another important community aspect is the consideration being taken with the existing chimney and partnering with Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance to preserve the site's role in the migration of the Chimney Swifts.

Enclosed for review please find the proposed site plan and architectural plans and elevations. Please contact Susan Bowersox with OPN Architects or Scott Chehak with Madison Metropolitan School District if additional information is needed prior to the upcoming review meeting.

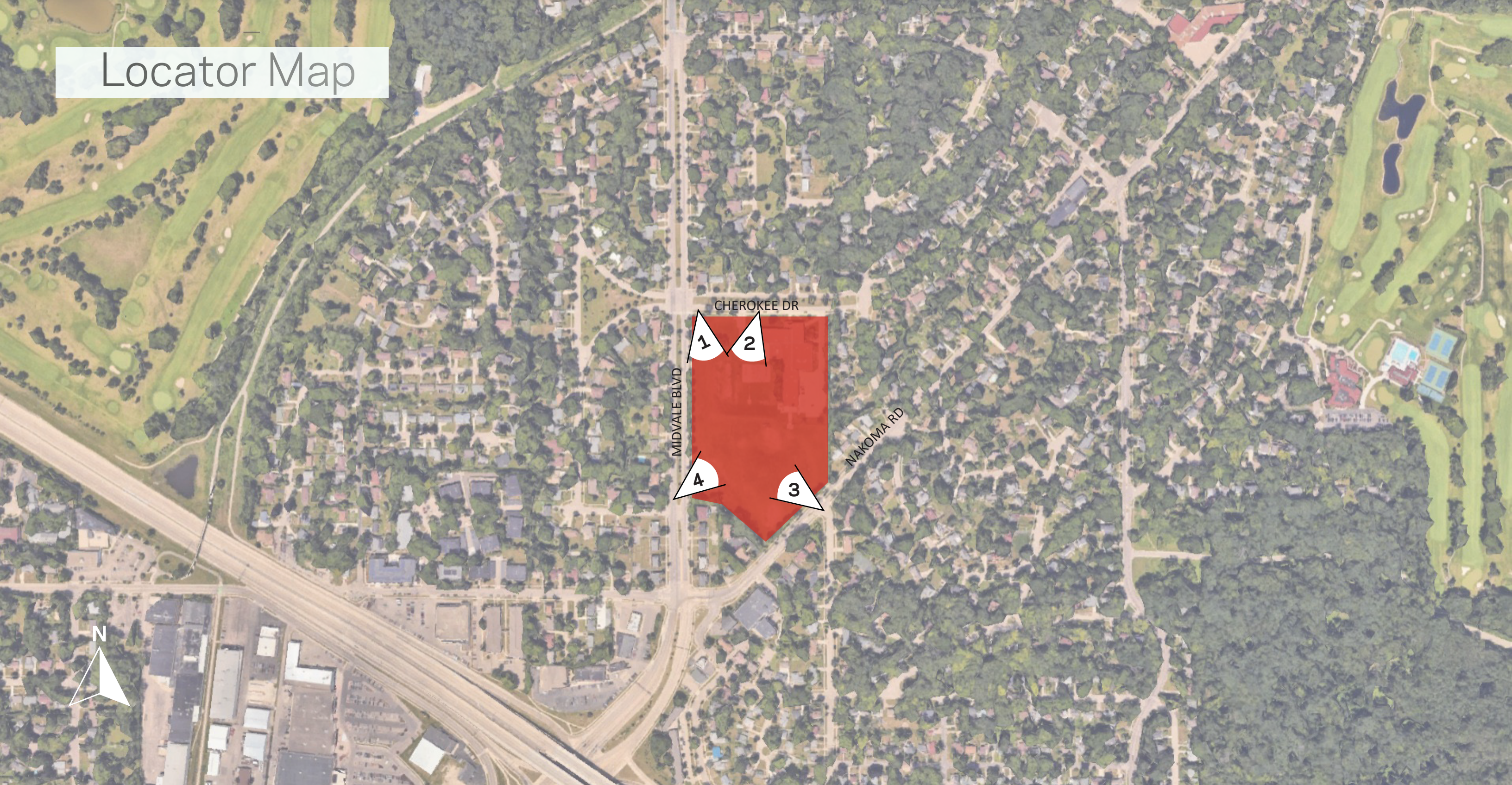
# Cherokee Heights Middle School

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New School Design | UDC Informational Presentation  
3/30/2026



# Locator Map



# Site Context



View to Southeast from corner of Midvale and Cherokee



View to Southwest from Corner of existing school



View to Northwest from Southeast corner of site

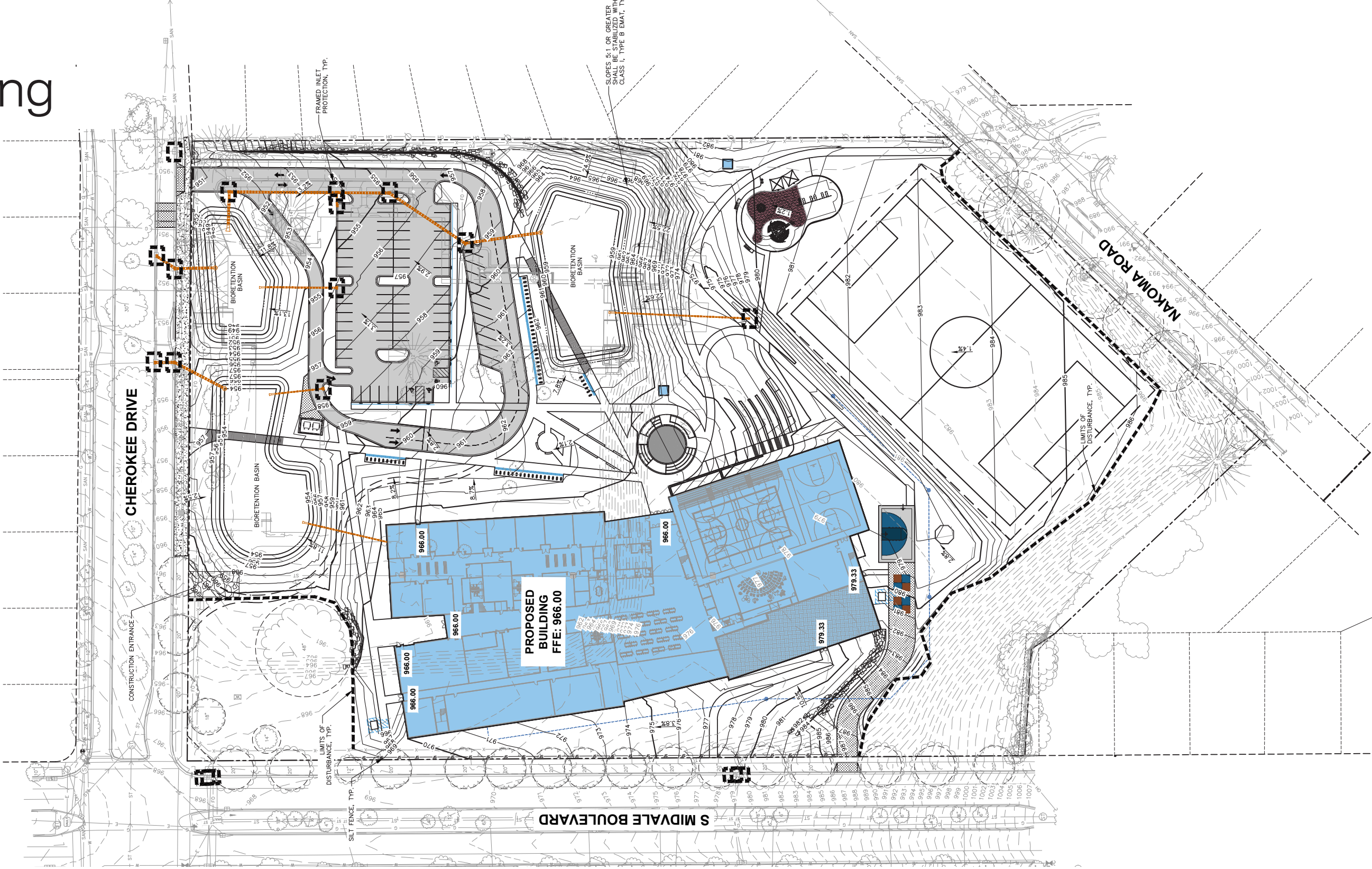


View to Northeast from Midvale Blvd

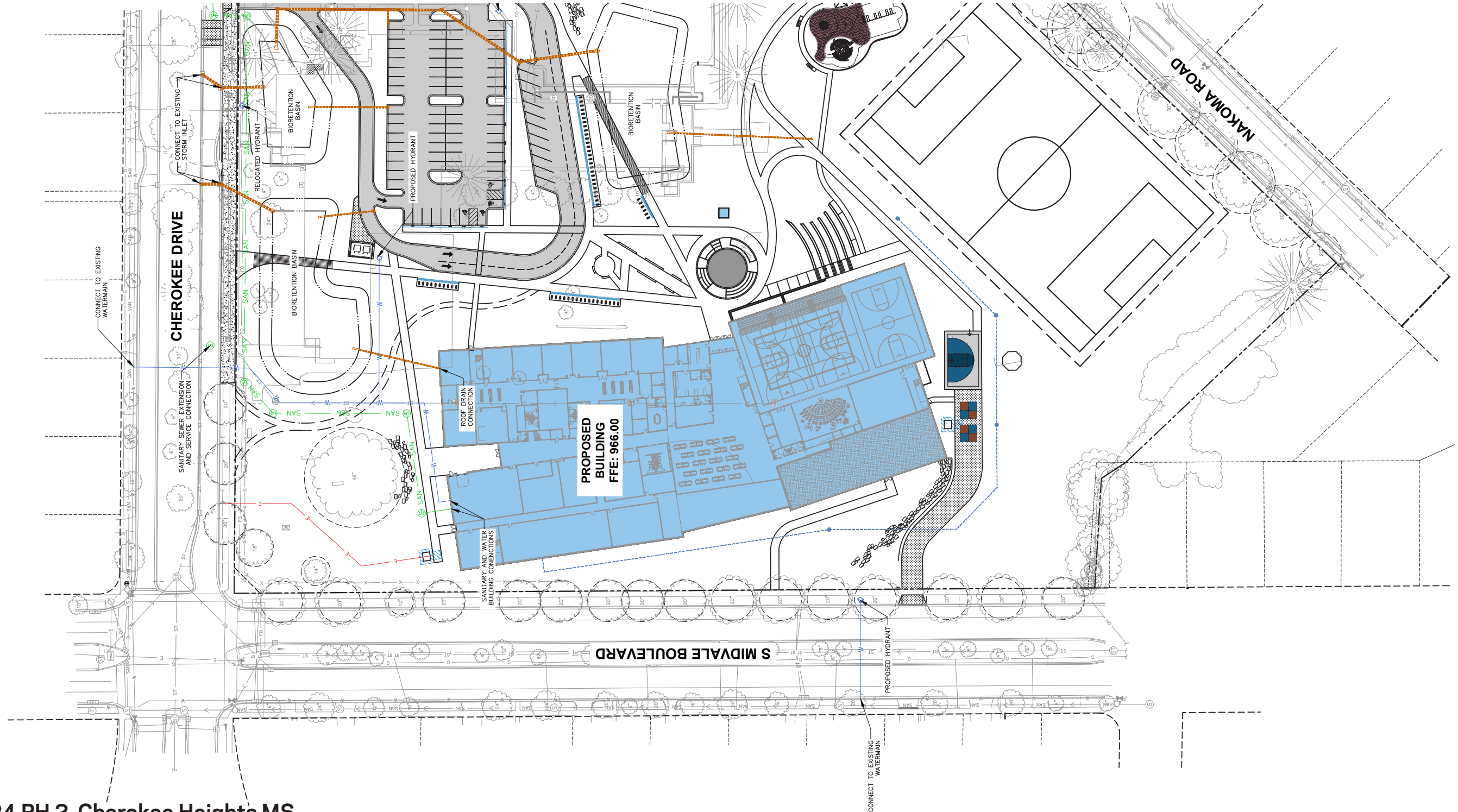


# Grading

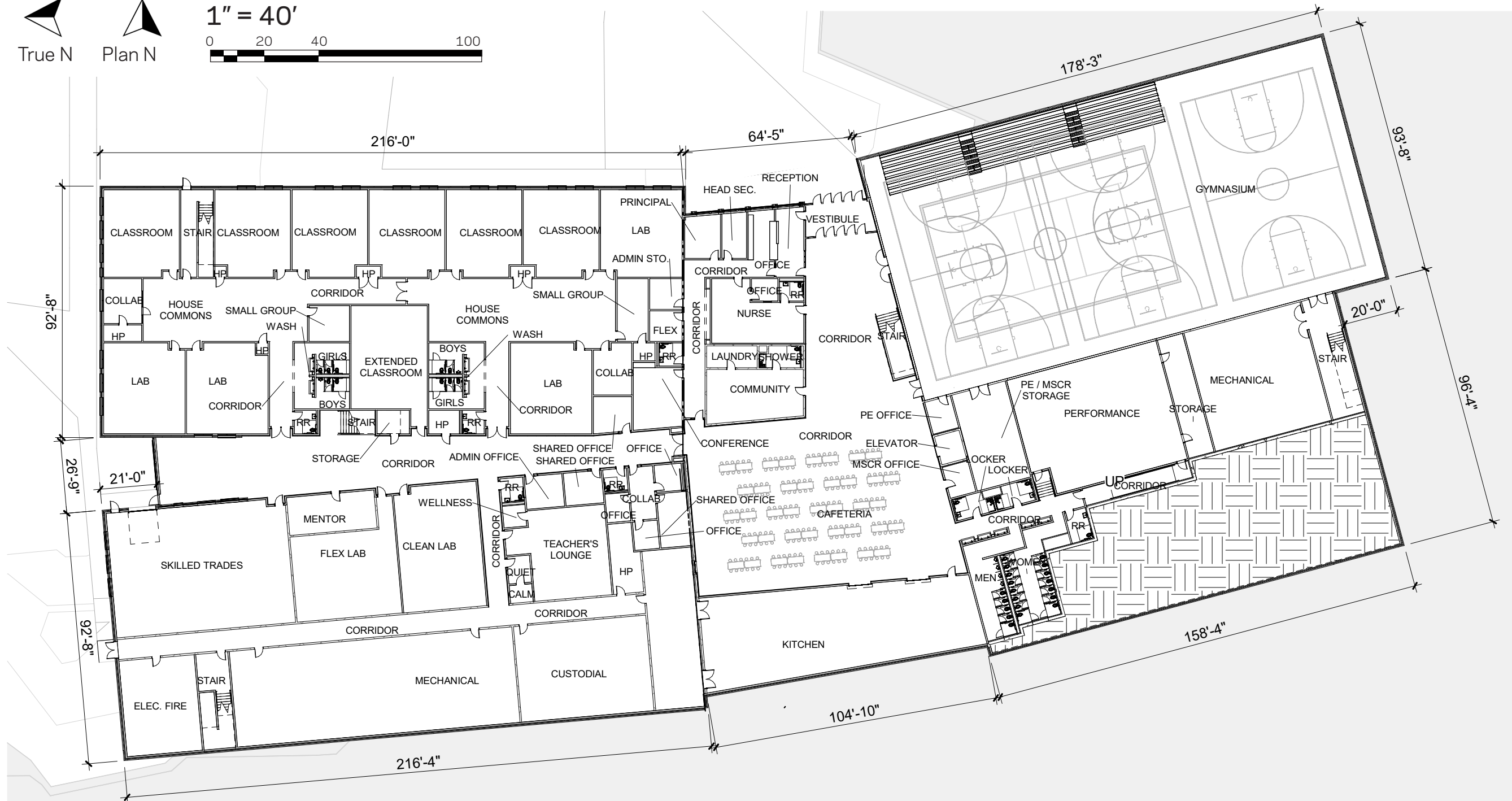
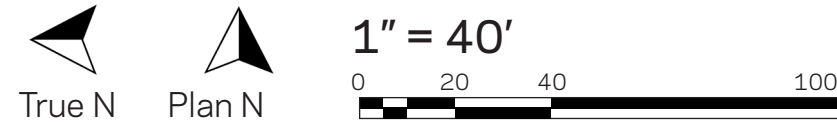
8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17



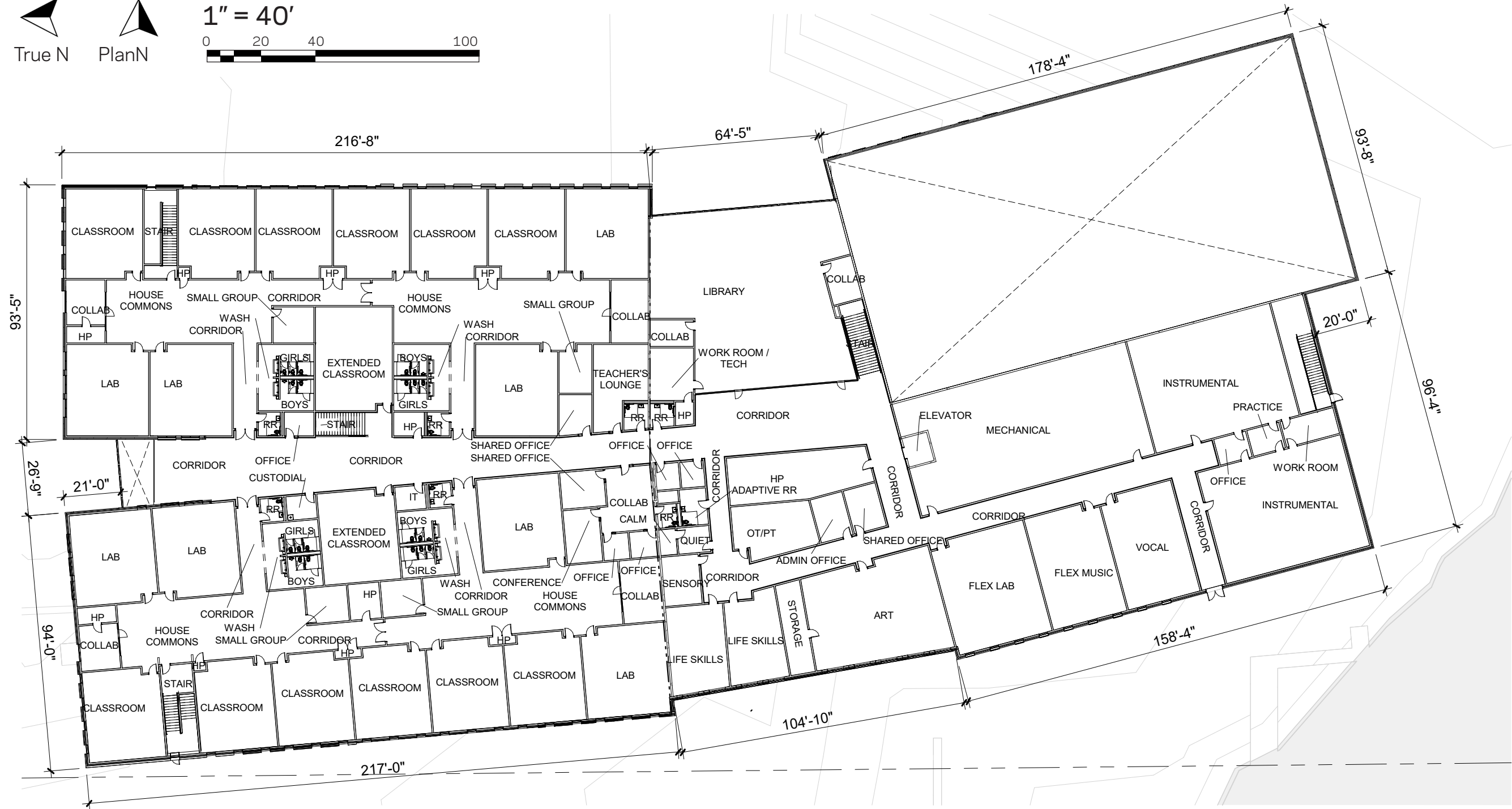
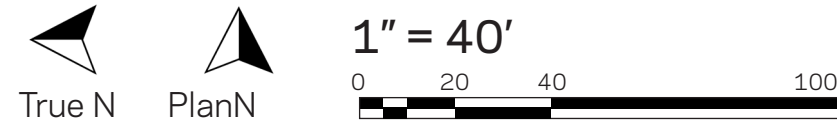
# Utility Plan



# Floor Plan - Level 1

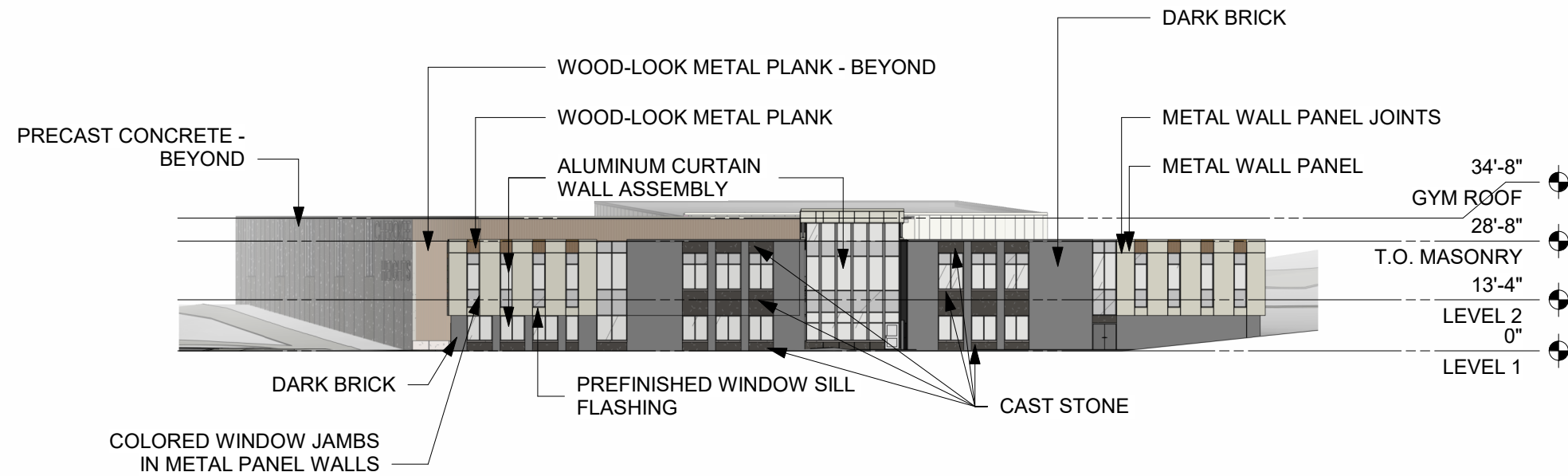
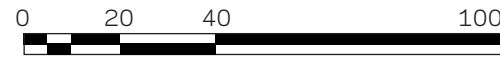


# Floor Plan - Level 2

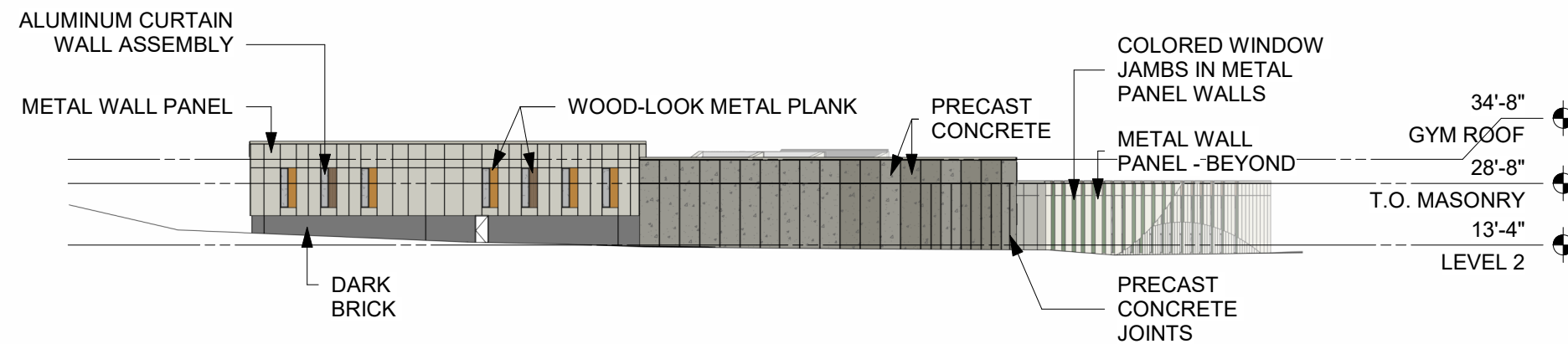


# Elevation - N & S

1" = 40'



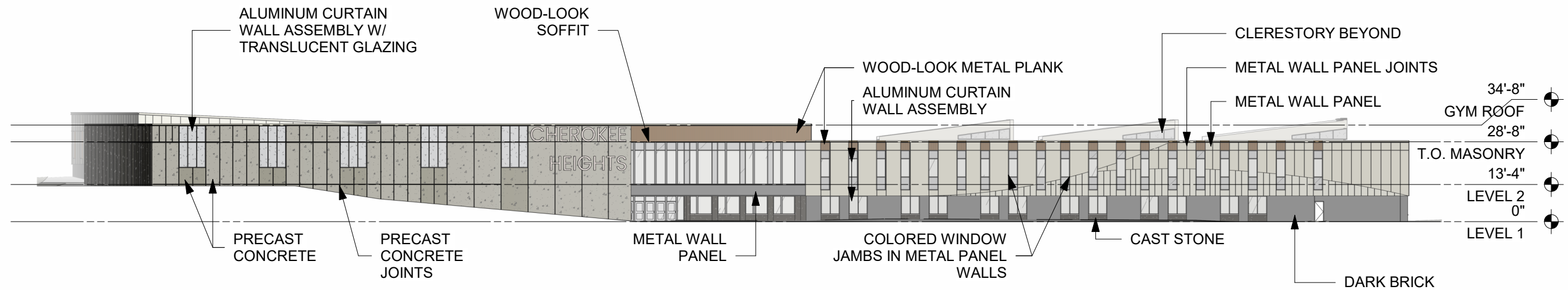
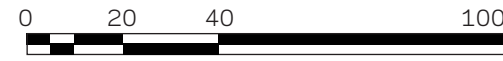
## North



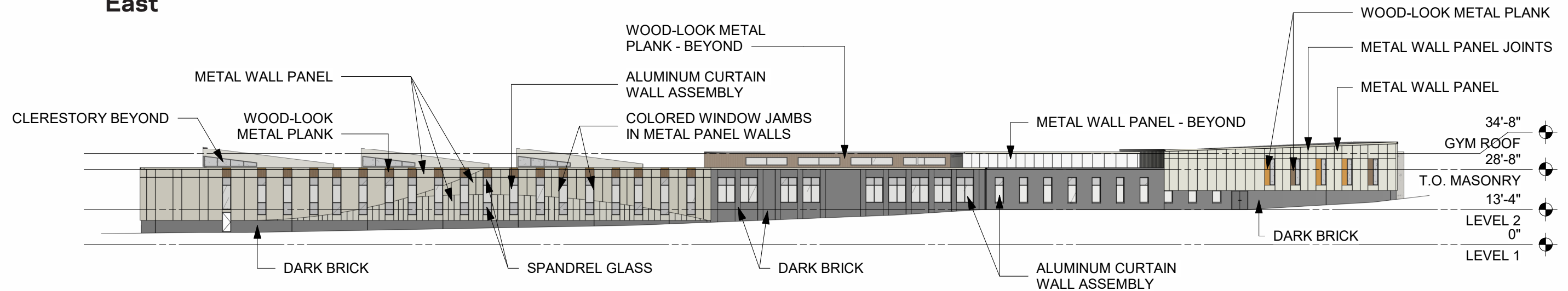
## South

# Elevation - E & W

1" = 40'



**East**



**West**

# Perspective - NE



# Perspective - SE



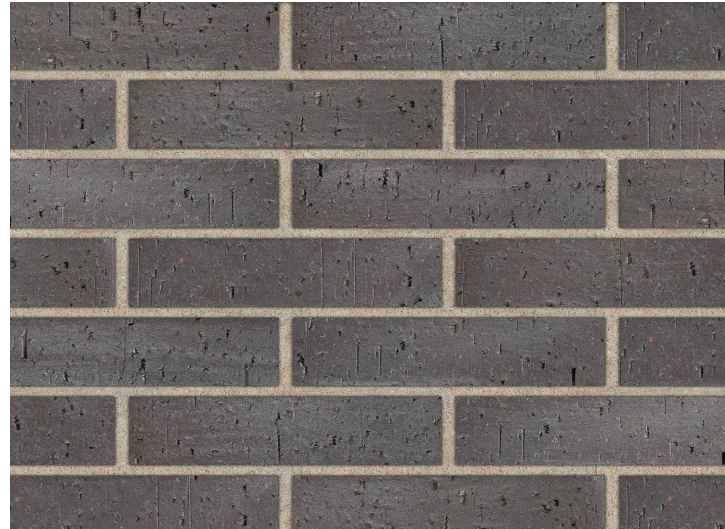
# Perspective - SW



# Perspective - NW



# Exterior Material Exploration



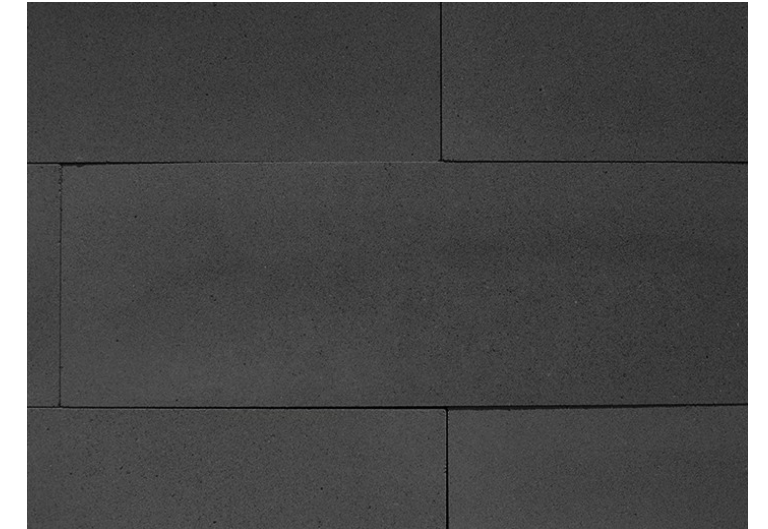
Dark Brick - 4" x 16"



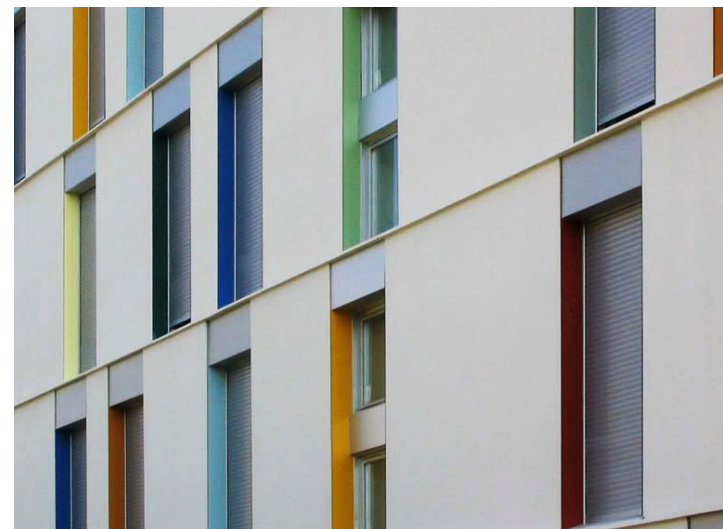
Metal Wall Panel



Precast Concrete



Cast Stone



Colored Window Jambs



Wood-Look Metal Plank

**Thank You**

