



NYC Parks

The Reconstruction of The Mt. Morris Fire Watchtower

Located in Marcus Garvey Park, bounded by Mount Morris Park West, West 124th Street, Madison Avenue and West 120th Street. Borough of Manhattan

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

Public Hearing

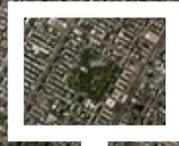
July 14, 2015

DPR Capital Projects

Thornton Tomasetti



MANHATTAN



NEW YORK CITY

2,500'

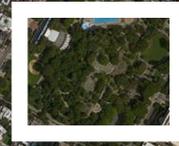


UPPER MANHATTAN

MARCUS GARVEY PARK

3RD AVE BRIDGE

EAST HARLEM

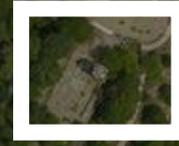


UPPER MANHATTAN

500'



THE FIRE WATCHTOWER



MOUNT MORRIS PARK WEST

EAST 124TH STREET

EAST 120TH STREET

MADISON AVENUE

SITE

200'



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THE FIRE WATCHTOWER I Project Location

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1840** Mount Morris Plaza (later Marcus Garvey Park) is established.
- 1857** Fire Watchtower completed.
- 1865** New bell installed.
- 1878** Fire Watchtower decommissioned.
- 1936** WPA era “acropolis” constructed burying approximately two feet of the tower below.
- 1967** Tower is designated as a New York City landmark.
- 1976** Tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1994** Steel frame reinforcement.
- 2015** Temporary dismantling and storage.

Image at Left: Historic Site View, Looking North, Winter 1937 | McLaughlin Air Service



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THE FIRE WATCHTOWER | Site History

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SHEET 4/26



1



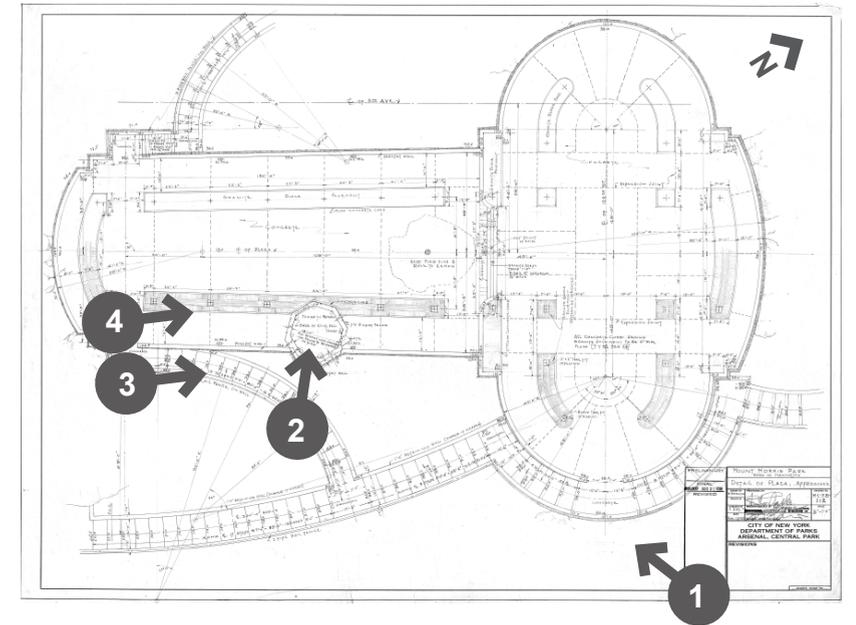
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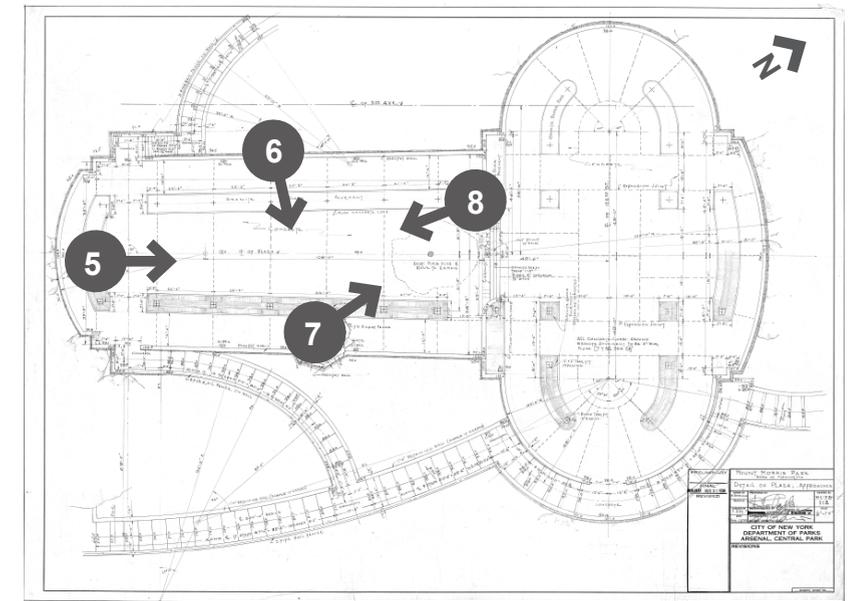
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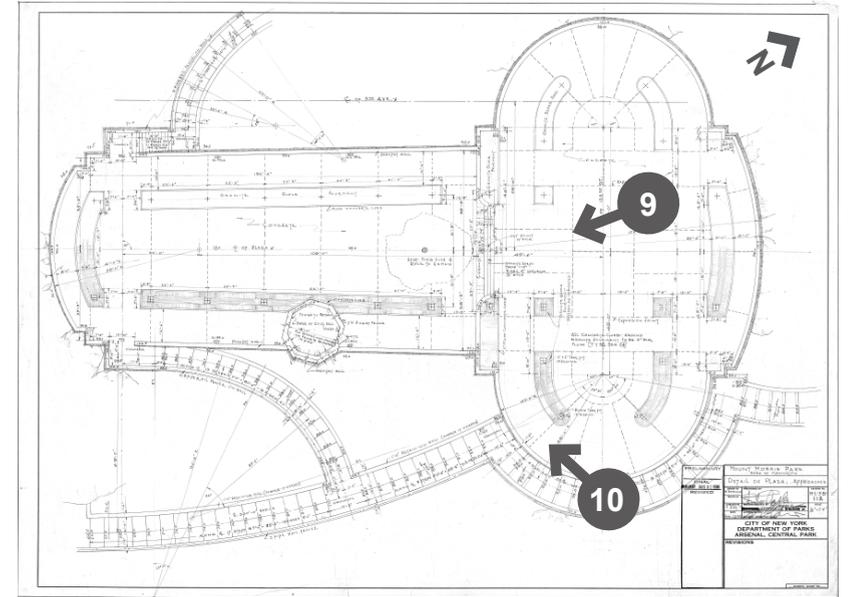




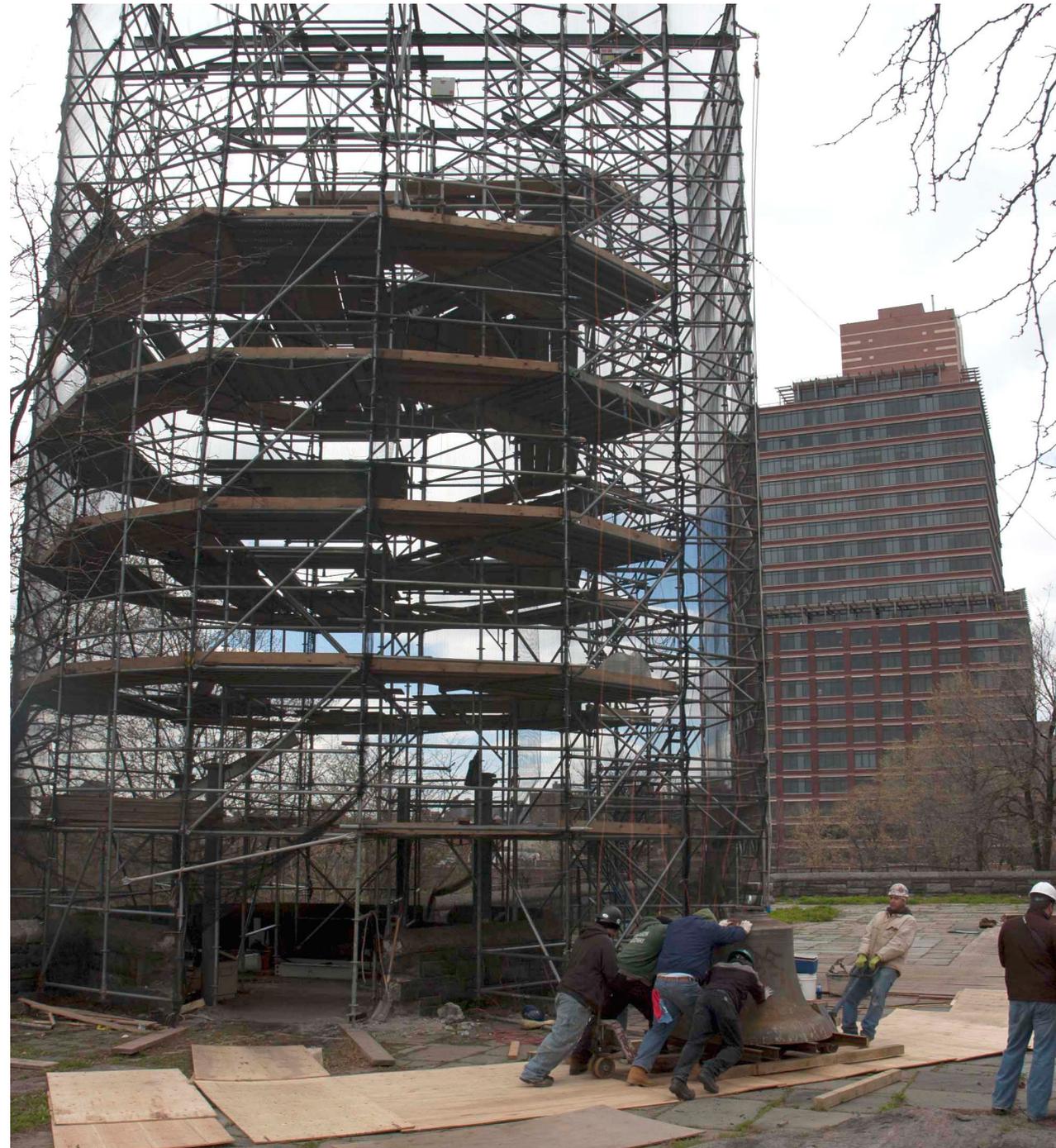
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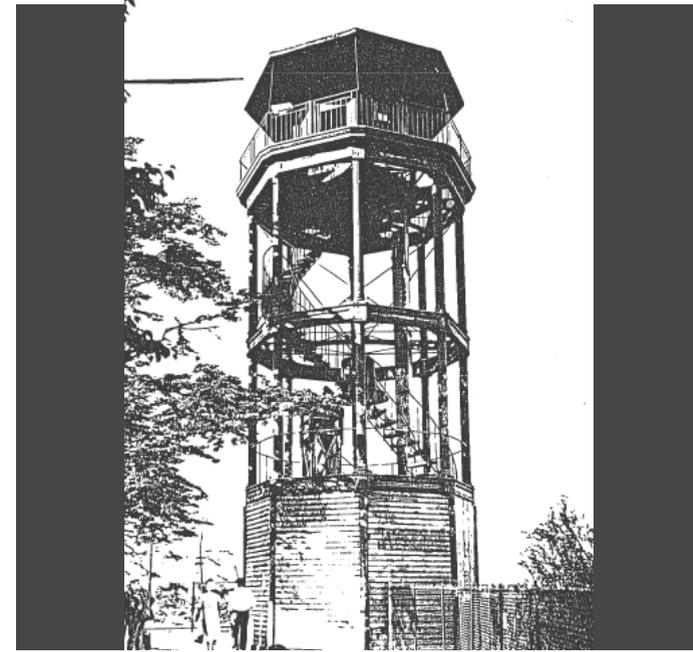




NORTHEAST VIEW, 1875



SOUTHWEST VIEW, 1880



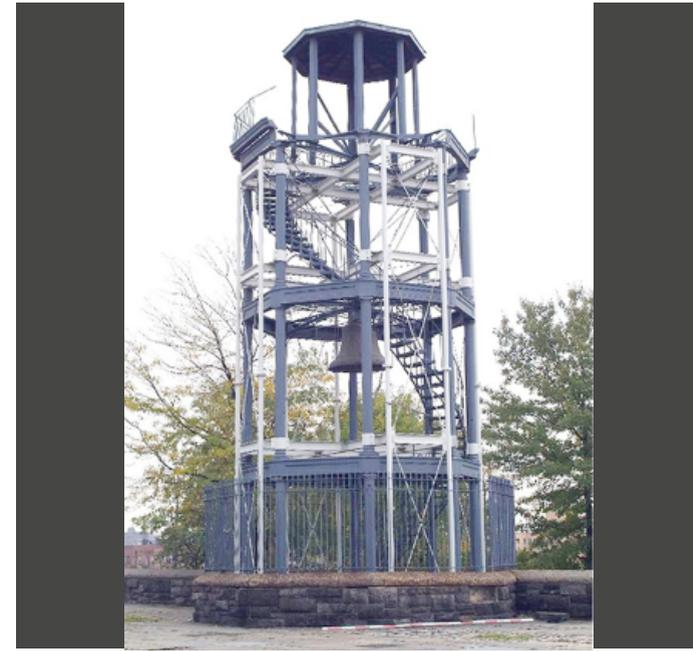
NORTHEAST VIEW, 1926



NORTHEAST VIEW, 1935



NORTHEAST VIEW, C. 1968



NORTHEAST VIEW, 1994



COLUMN BASES IN CONCRETE FLOOR



PROBE REVEALING COLUMN BASE



COLUMN CAP WITH CORROSION



SPANDREL BEING REMOVED



DETERIORATED COLUMN



FENCE AND WALL AT BASE

NO FINIAL ON ROOF

ROD CROSSES STAIR

BRACING FRAME

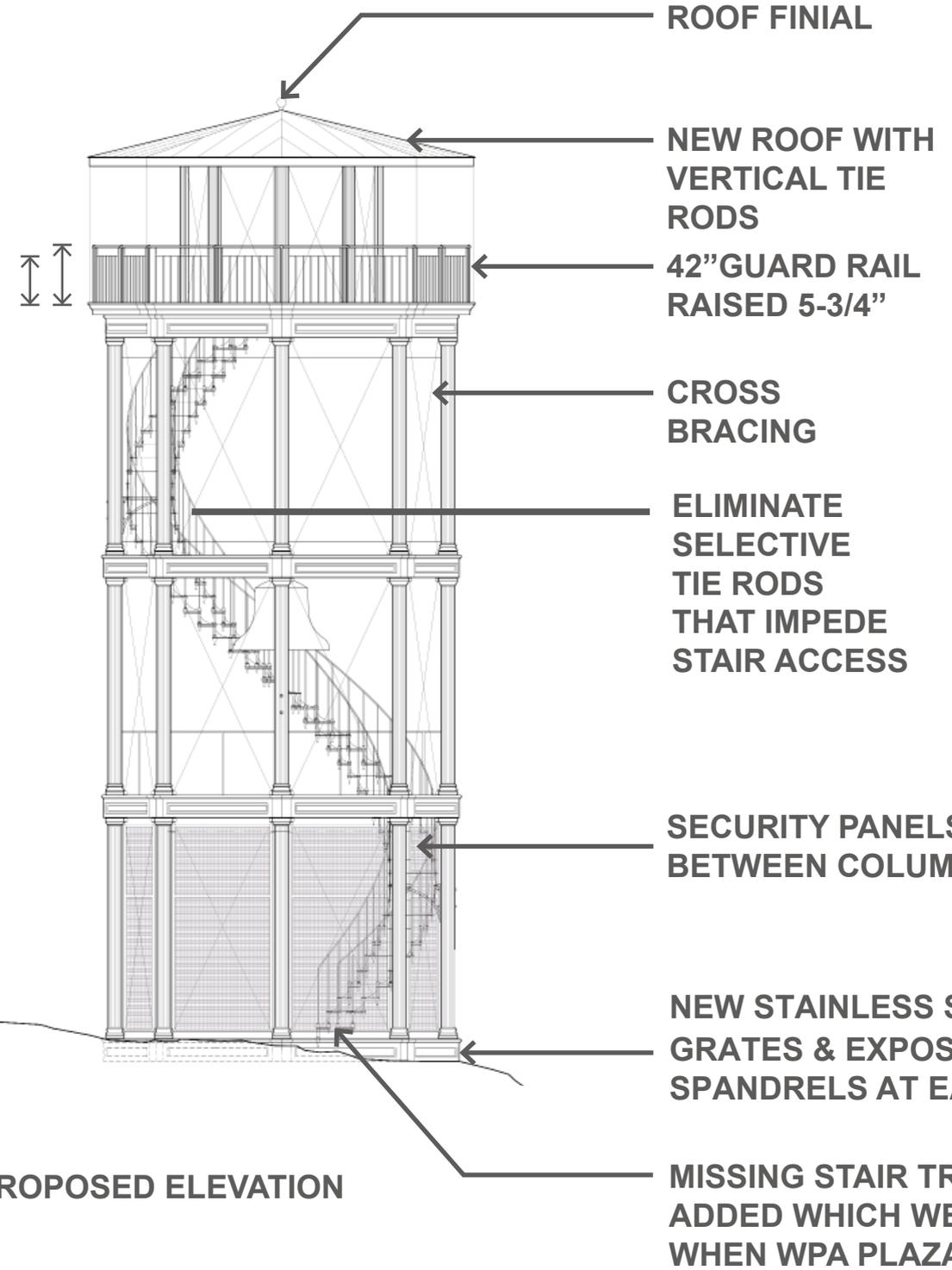
PICKET FENCE

WPA WALL

BASE BURIED 2'-0" BELLOW PLAZA



EXISTING PRE-DISASSEMBLY



PROPOSED ELEVATION

THE FIRE WATCHTOWER I Proposed South Elevation

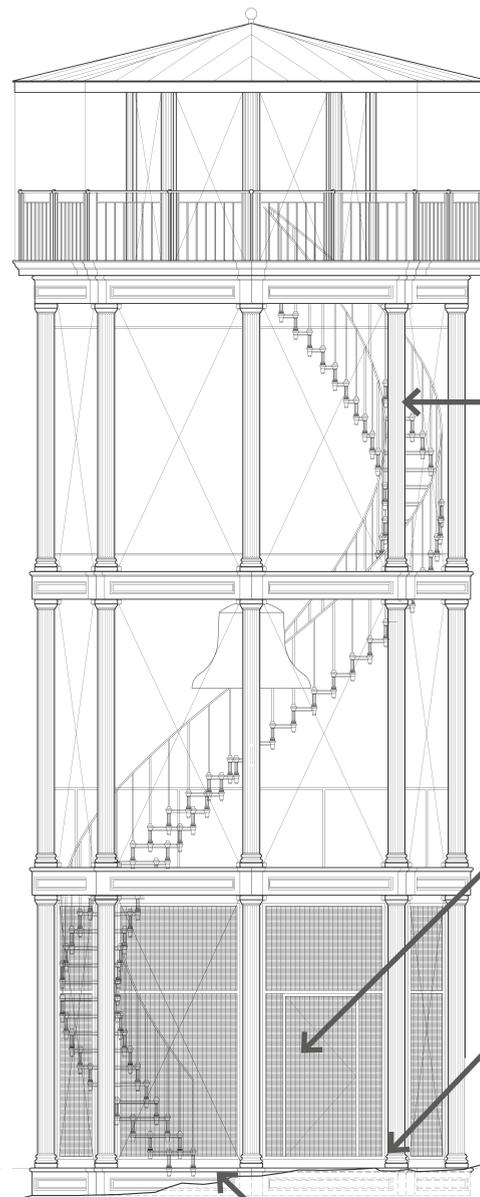
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ORIGINAL
DOOR
LOCATION

VIEW FACING SOUTHWEST, 1880



ELIMINATE
SELECTIVE
TIE RODS
THAT IMPEDE
STAIR ACCESS

DOOR - 3'-0" WIDE x
6'-8" HIGH,
CENTERED AT BAY
NOTE: NO CROSS
BRACING AT ENTRY
BAY

GRADE LEVEL AT
FINISHED FLOOR
ELEVATION

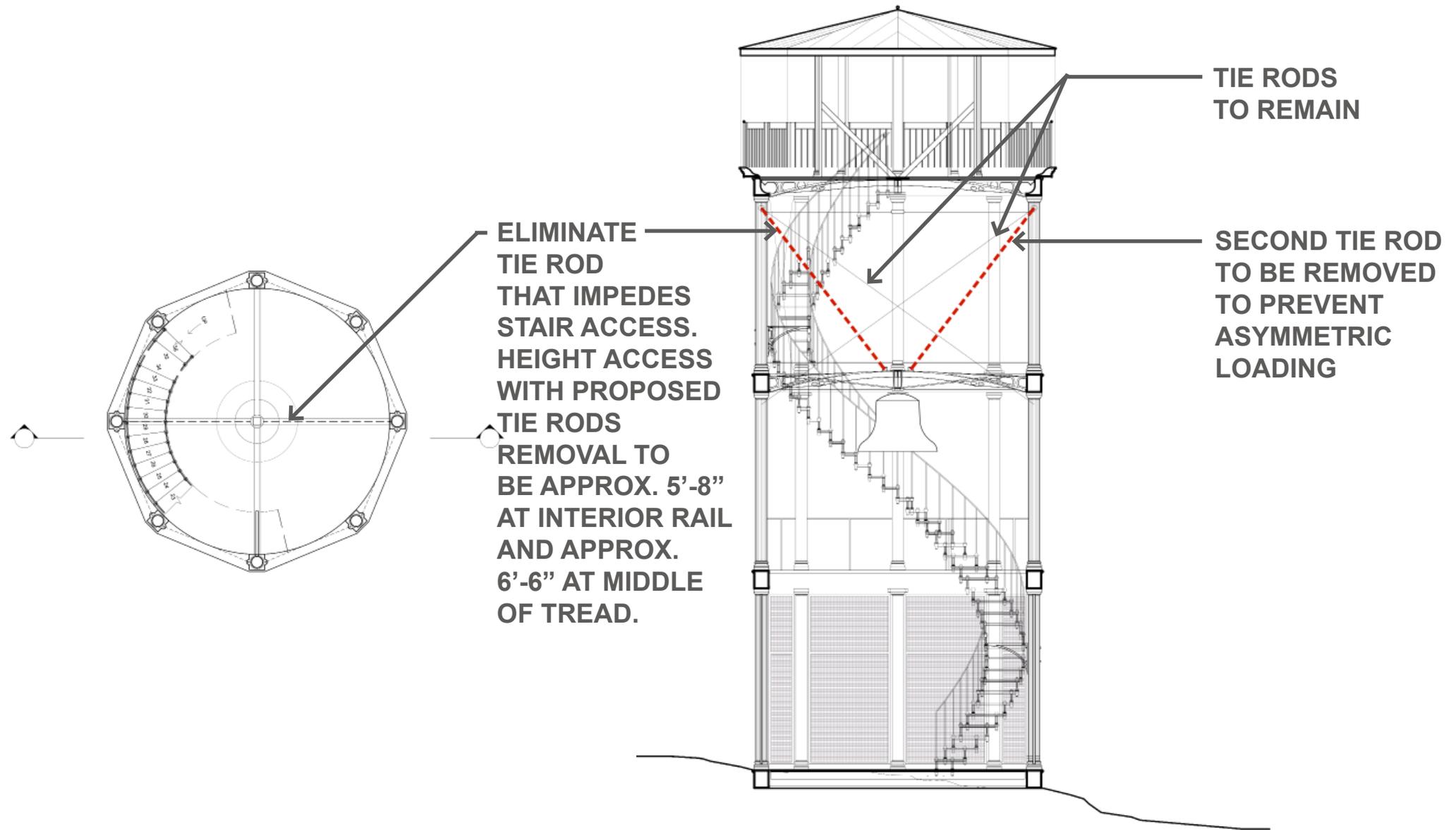
GRADE SPANDREL
VISIBLE AT EAST

PROPOSED ELEVATION



THE FIRE WATCHTOWER I Proposed North Elevation





PROPOSED PLAN AT LEVEL THREE

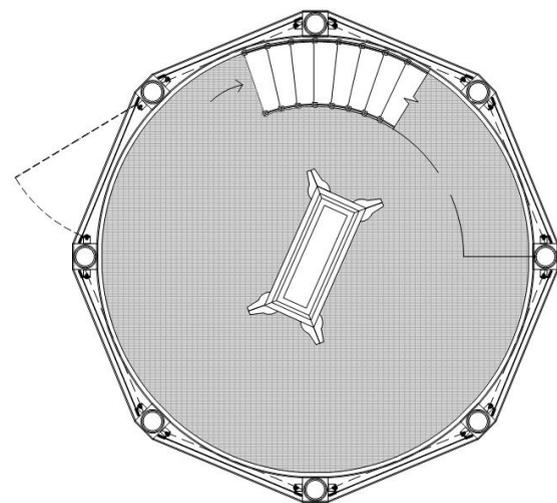
PROPOSED SECTION

THE FIRE WATCHTOWER I Tie Rod Removal

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1 PLAN: LEVEL ONE
1/4" = 1'-0"



PAINT ANALYSIS AND SCHEDULE

Paint Color: PPG 414-5 “Stony Creek”

1. Paint analysis by Angel Ayón and JBCI.
2. Both found the original color matches Pittsburgh 414-5 “Stony Creek”.
3. Evaluation of stratigraphy and historic photos indicates that the original color was still present when the rods were introduced.
4. Schedule of painted elements:
 - Spandrels
 - Columns
 - Stairs
 - Railings
 - Girders at original locations -
Internal tie rods
 - Wrought iron hardware

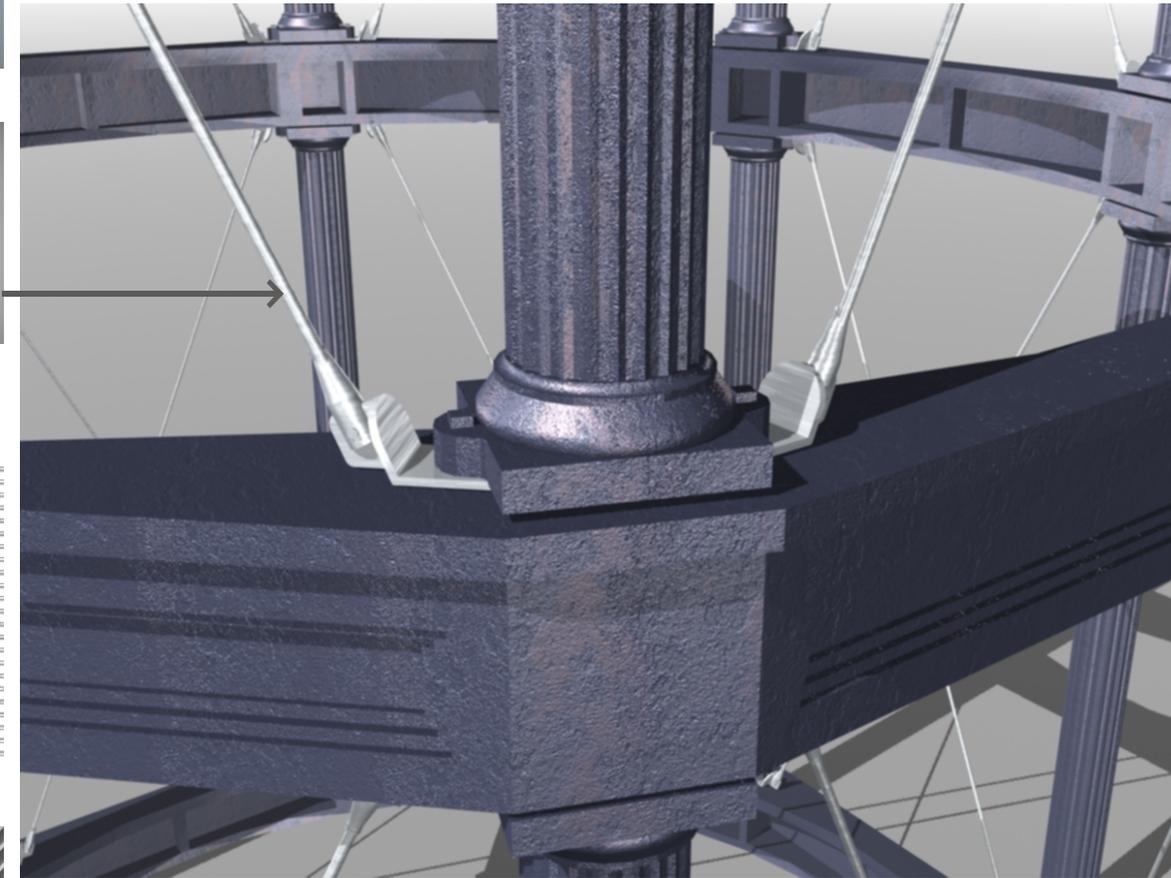
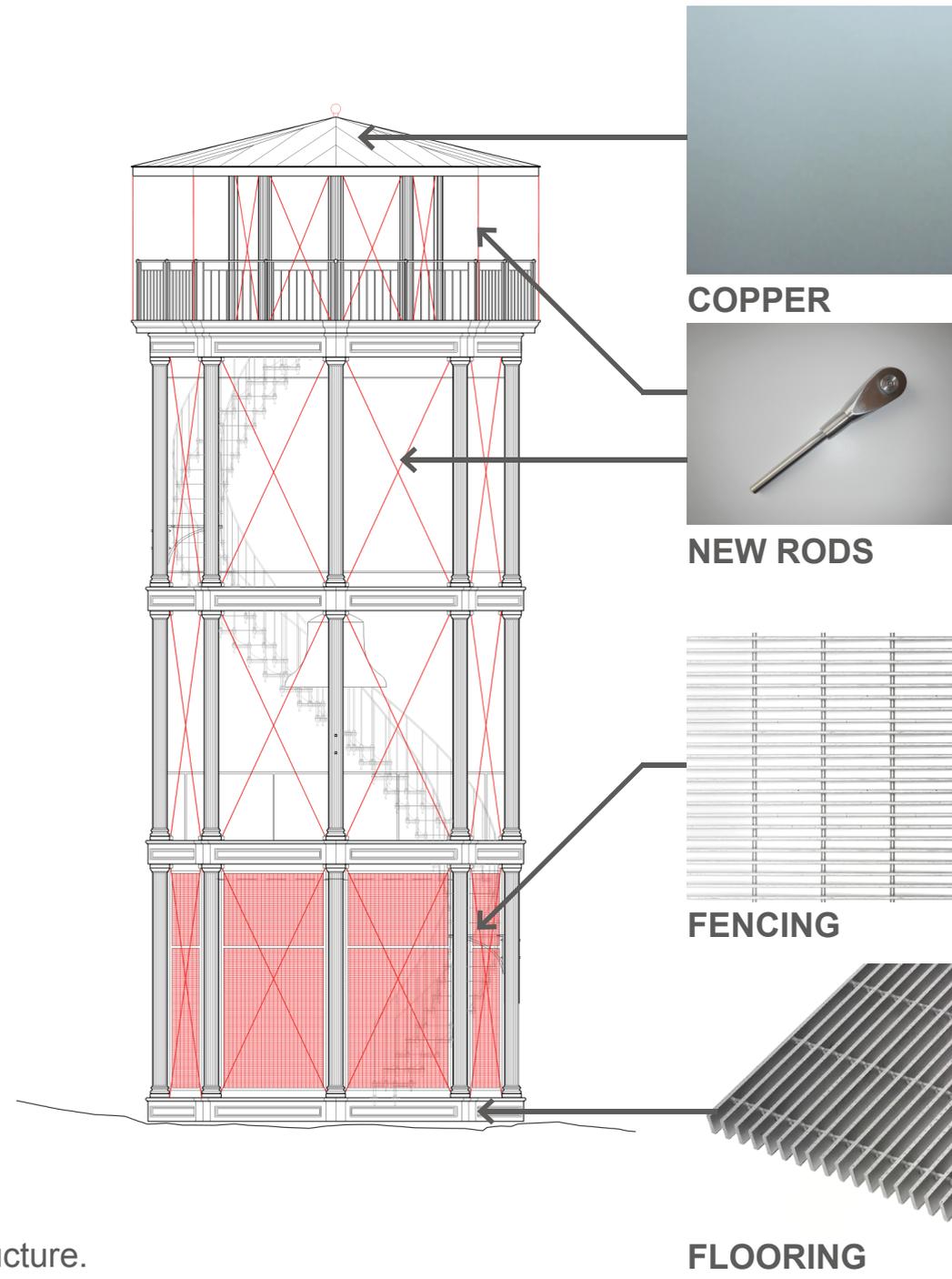


ORIGINAL IRON ELEMENTS OF TOWER PAINT COLOR: PPG 414-5 (FOR REFERENCE)



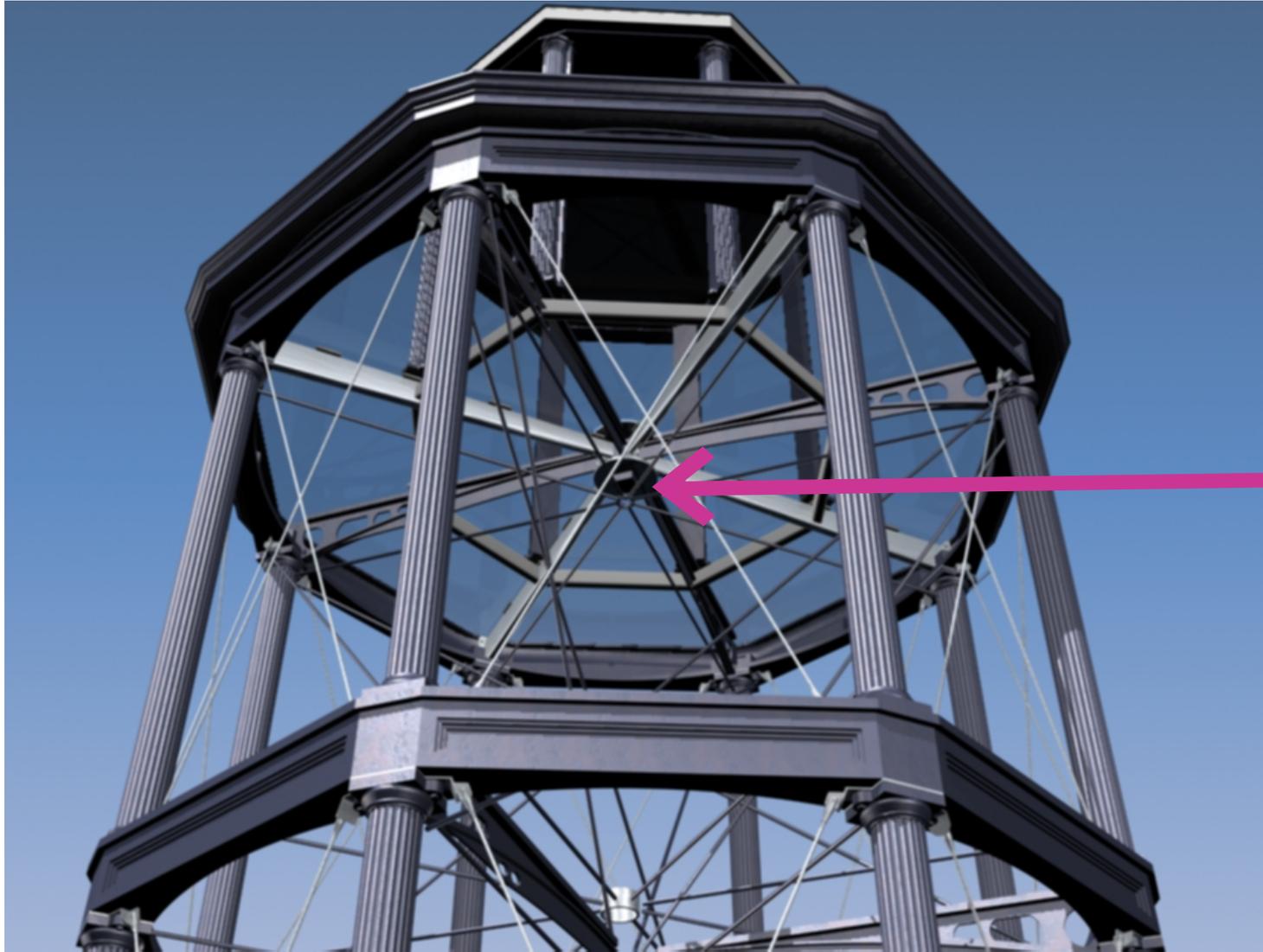
MATERIAL BOARD

1. Roofing:
standing seam Zinc-Tin
Alloy-Coated Copper Sheet
2. New internal cross bracing:
3/4" stainless steel rod
3. Vertical roof tie rod:
stainless steel rod
4. Security Fence (Orsogrill):
stainless steel
5. Flooring:
2" stainless steel grating to be
removable for maintenance
6. Miscellaneous structural elements
(bent plates, center block, etc.):
stainless steel
7. Supplemental girders at Level 4:
stainless steel

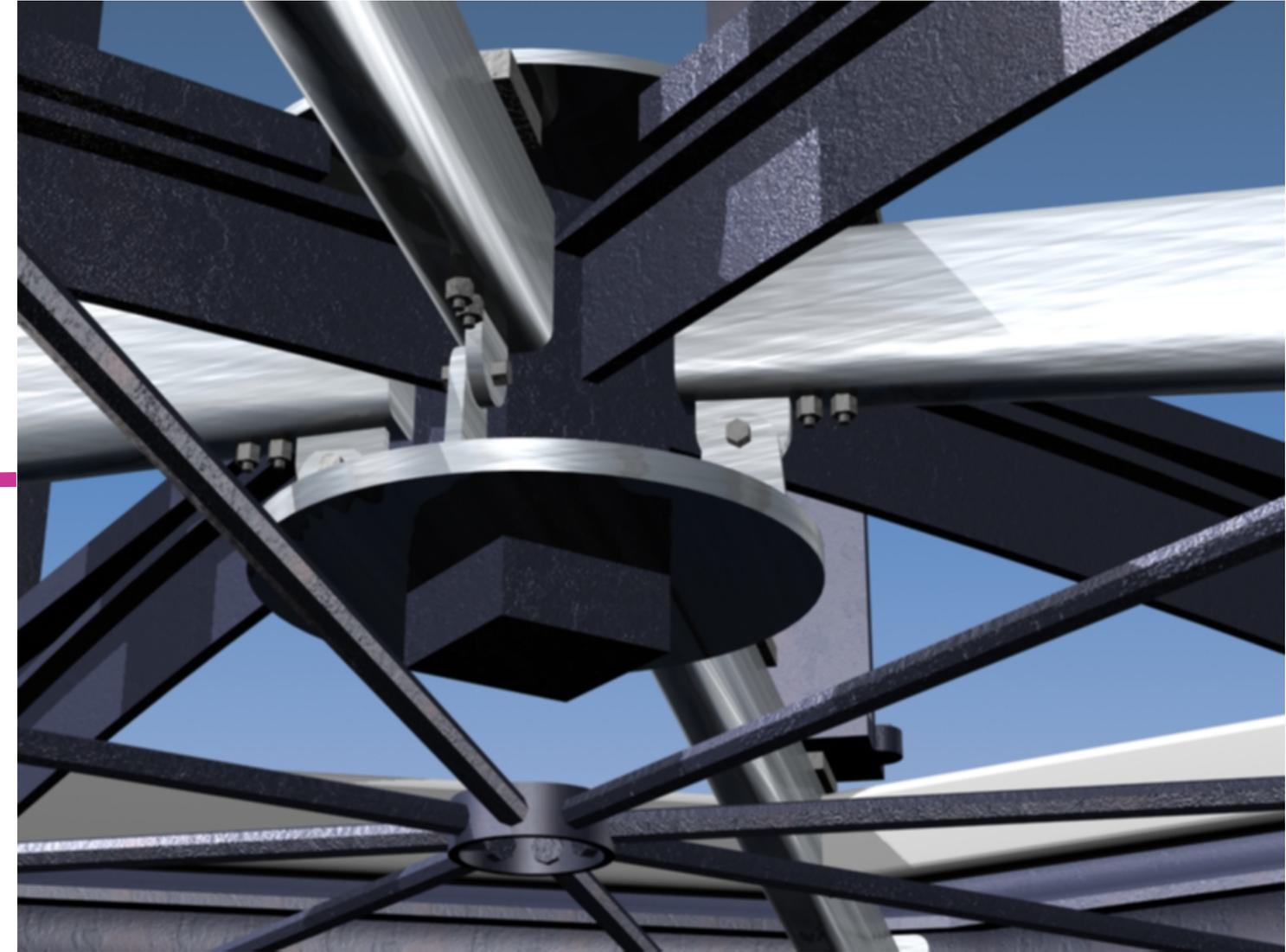


RENDERING OF NEW CROSS BRACING AT COLUMN

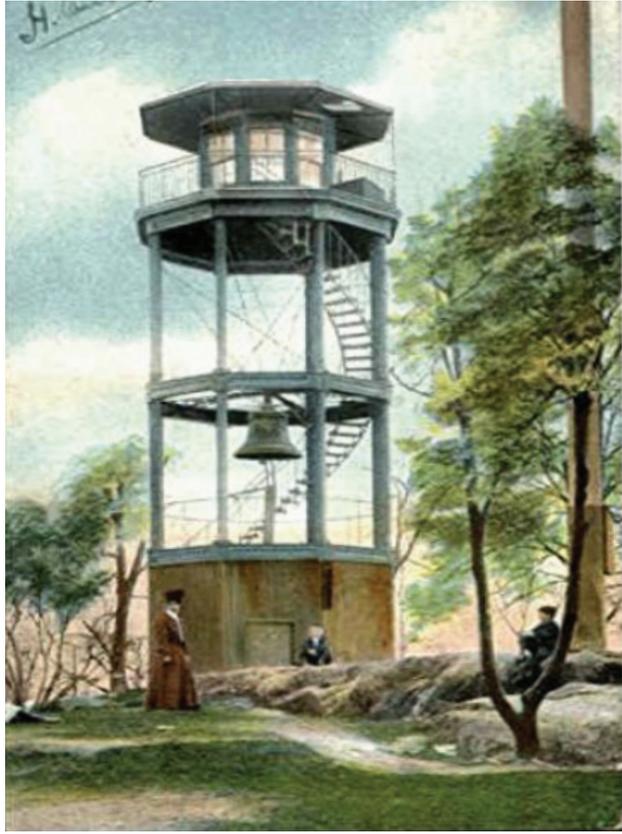
- Red items are new additions to structure.



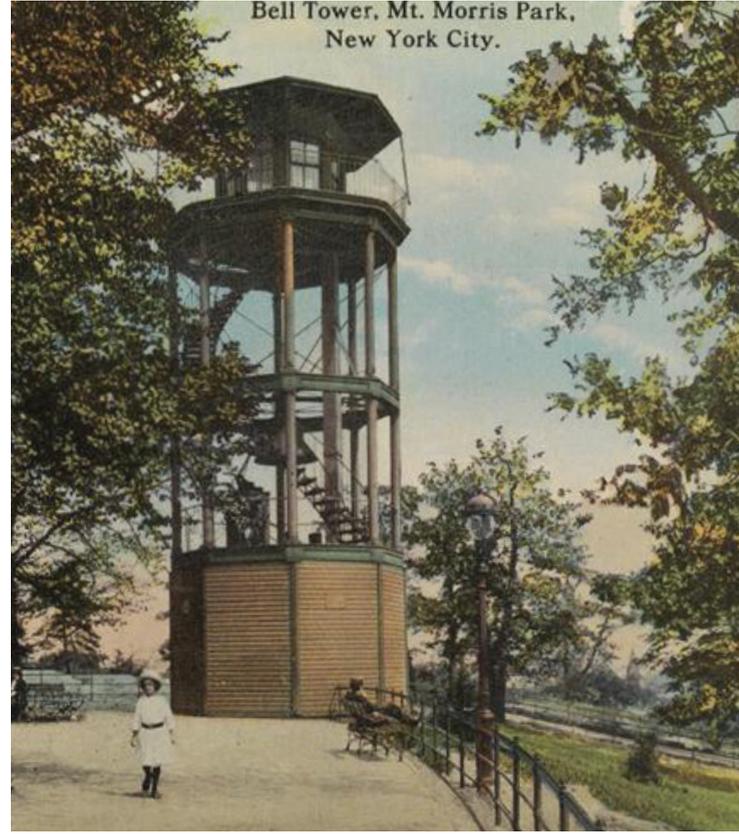
VIEW OF RESTORED CAST IRON/NEW STRUCTURAL STEEL CROSS BRACING AND GIRDER DETAILS



DETAIL OF GIRDER CONNECTION AT 4TH LEVEL



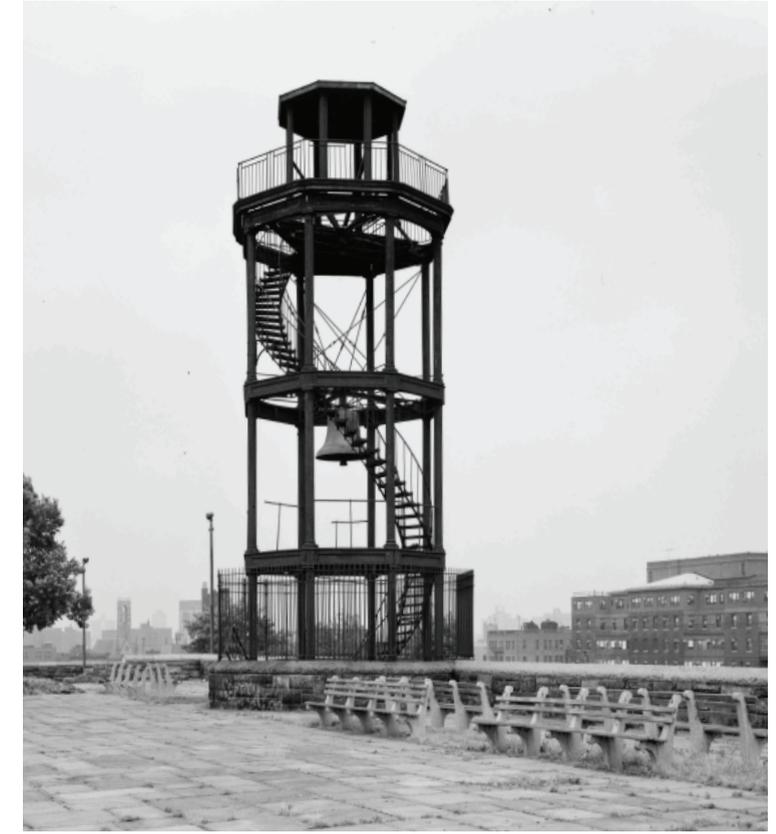
**SOUTH VIEW,
LATE 19TH CENTURY**



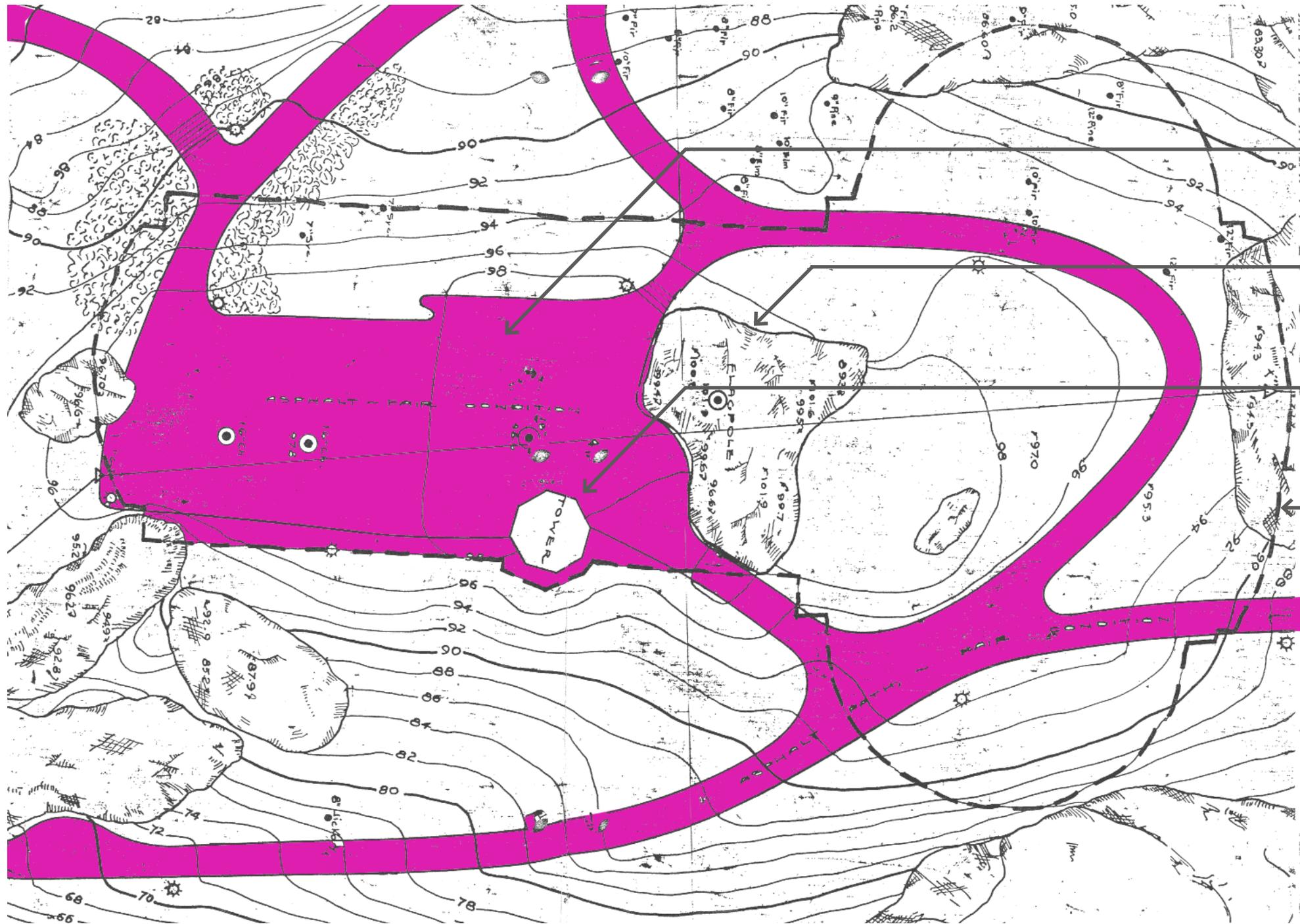
**NORTH VIEW,
LATE 19TH CENTURY**



NORTH VIEW, 1935



NORTHEAST VIEW, C. 1968



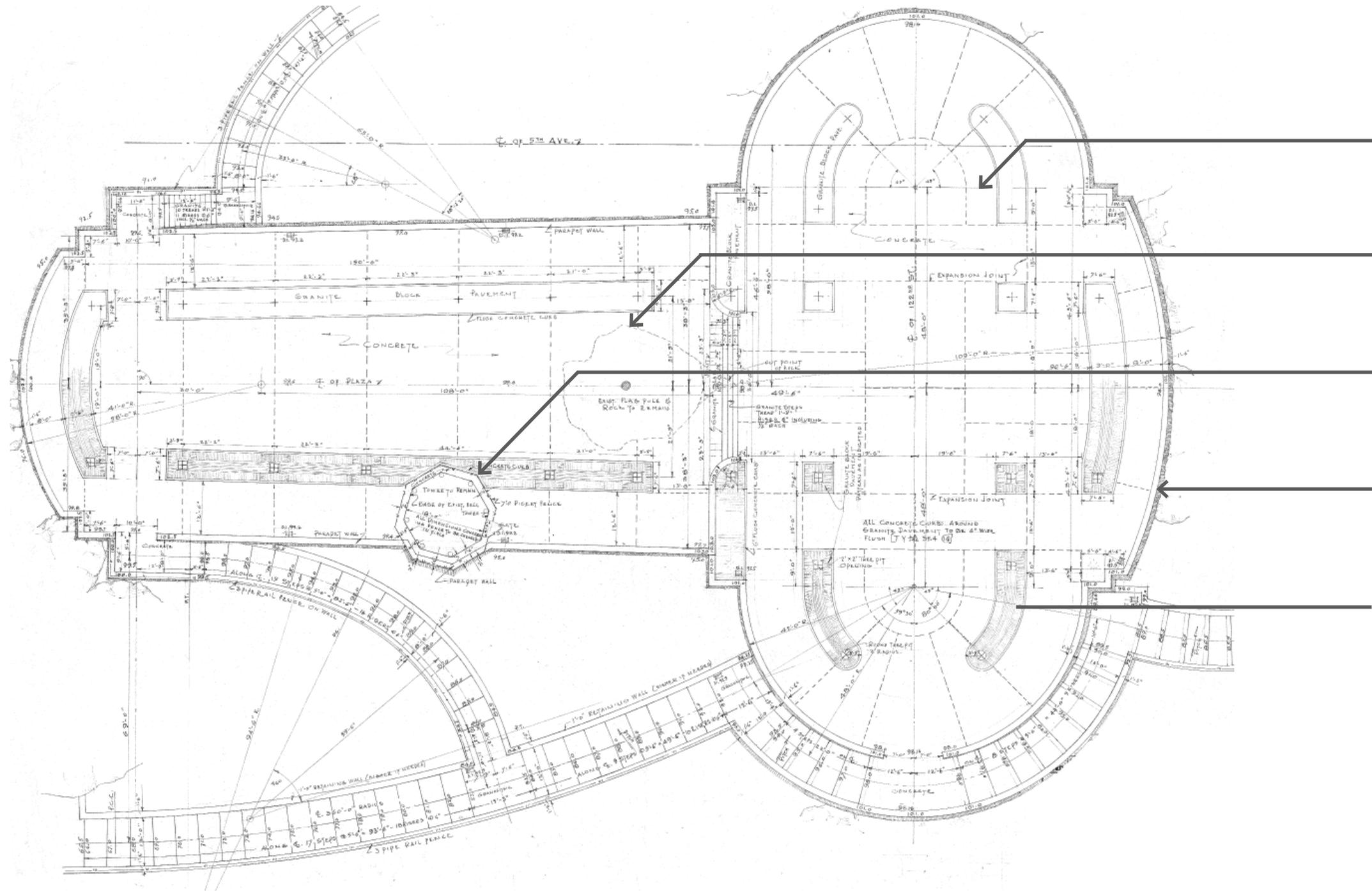
ASPHALT
PAVING

ROCK
OUTCROPPING

TOWER

WPA ERA
PLAZA
OUTLINE





**BLUESTONE
PAVING**

**ROCK
OUTCROPPING**

TOWER

**STONE
WALLS**

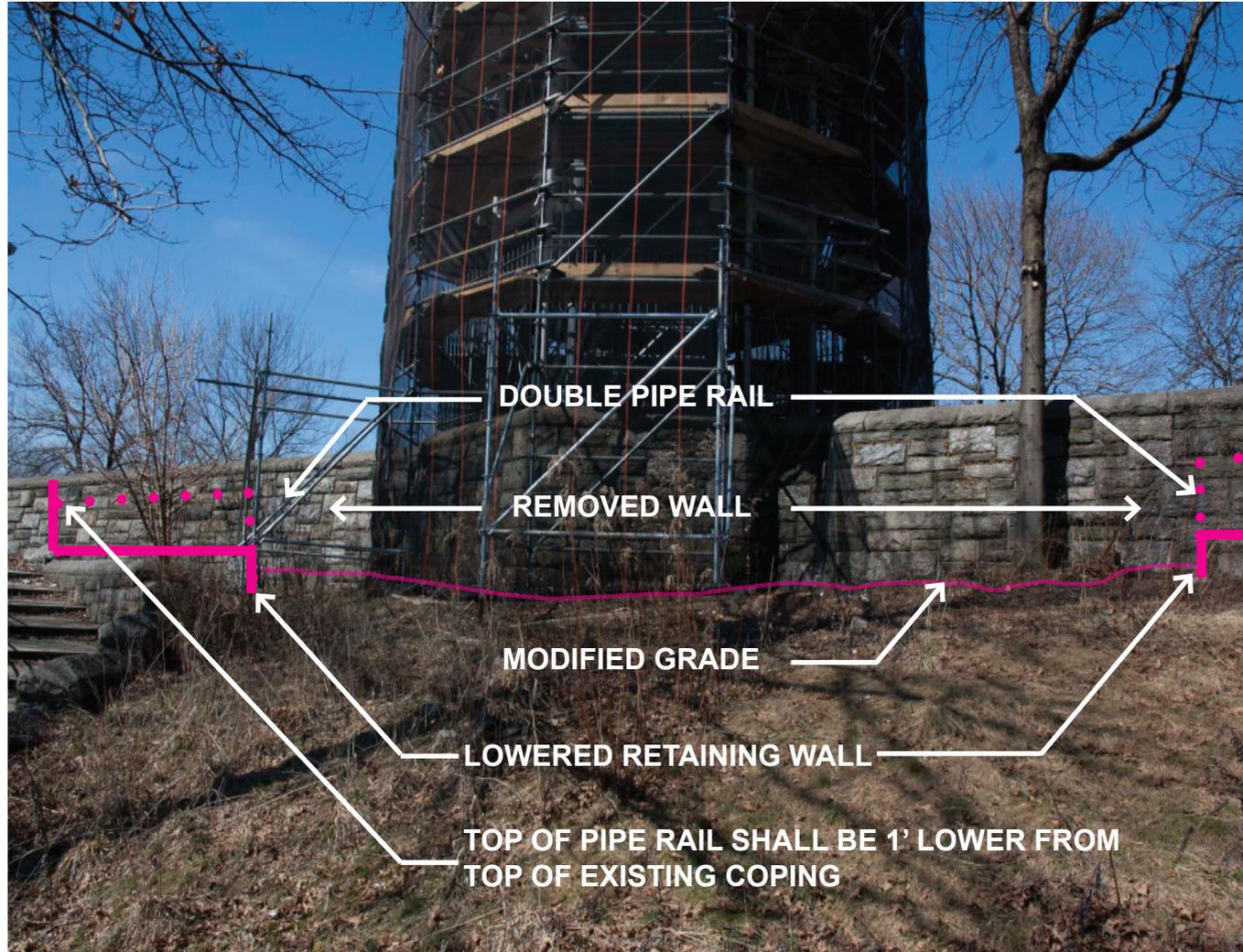
**GRANITE
BLOCK**



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THE FIRE WATCHTOWER | Current Landscape Plan (WPA-1936)

DPR Capital & Thornton Tomasetti



RETAINING WALL LOOKING WEST FROM HILLSIDE



RETAINING WALL LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM LOWER PLAZA

**NEW ADA COMPLIANT
BLUESTONE PAVERS
3 FEET WIDE ON 4.5%
SLOPE LAID ON A CONC,
SUB-BASE WITH MORTAR**

**BLUESTONE PAVERS TO BE
REMOVED RANDOMLY TO
RETAIN THE PATTERN OF
THE UPPER PLAZA -
ACROPOLIS**

**PROPOSED GRACEFUL 4.5%
MAX. CONTOURED NEW
LAWN**

**REMOVE OF STONE WALL
REMOVE OF STONE
RETAINING WALL**

**LOWER EXISTING STONE
WALL BY 3'-6" TO EL. 99'0"
AND INSTALL A DOUBLE
PIPE RAIL ALONG COPING
BLUESTONE PATH AT A
2% CROSS PITCH**

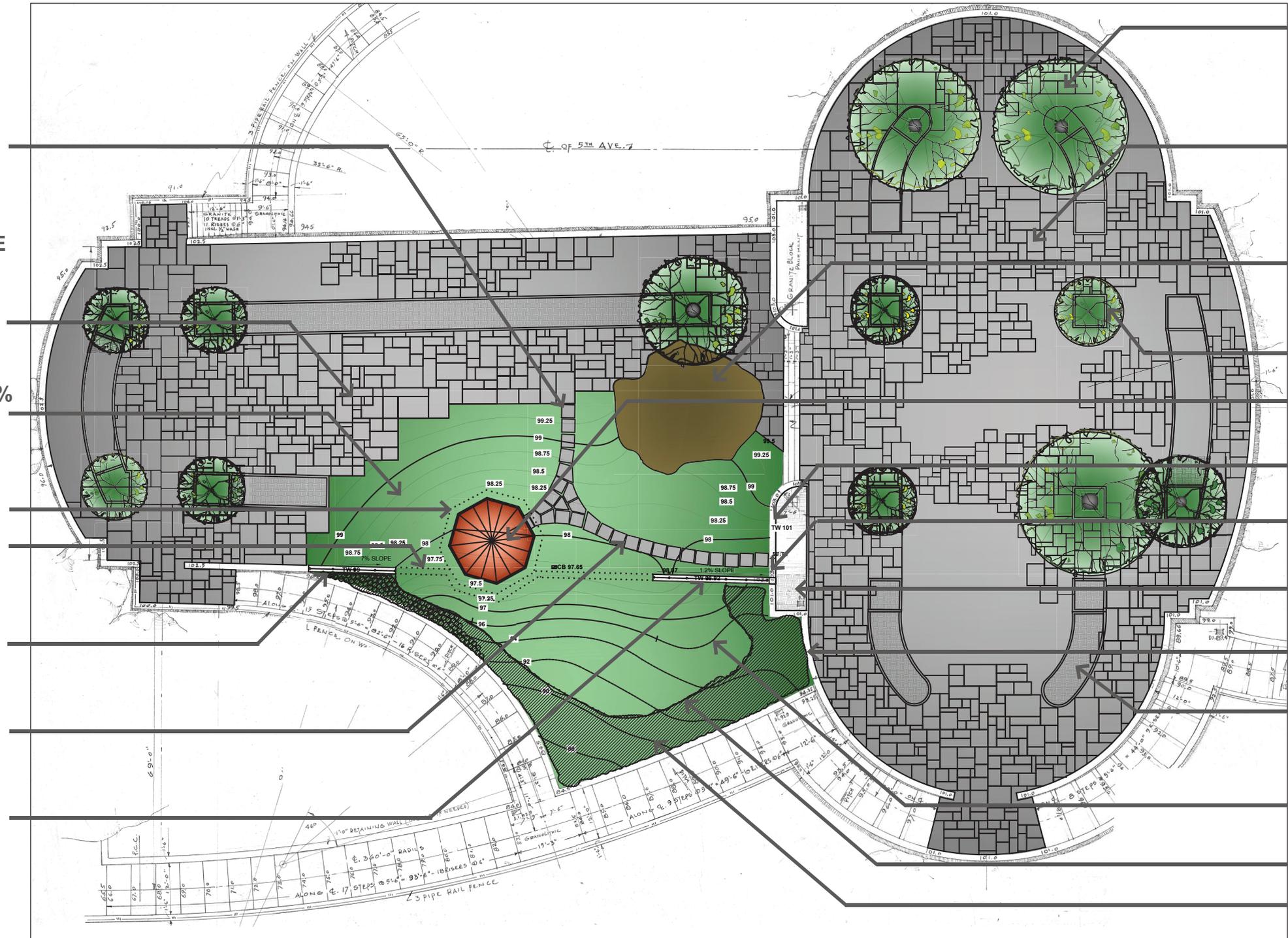
**LOWER EXISTING STONE
WALL BY 4'-0" TO EL. 99'0"
AND INSTALL A DOUBLE
PIPE RAIL ALONG COPING**



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THE FIRE WATCHTOWER | Landscape Master Plan

DPR Capital & Thornton Tomasetti



EXISTING TREES

RANDOM BLUESTONE PAVING

**ROCK OUTCROP - ADDITIONAL
ROCK TO BE EXPOSED DURING
REMOVAL OF STONE PAVERS**

NEW TREES

FIRE WATCHTOWER

STONE WALLS EL. 103'

LOWER WALL FLUSH TO GRADE

**NEW GRANITE BLOCK ADA
COMPLIANT**

STONE WALLS EL. 101'

**RESET GRANITE BLOCK
PAVERS**

**EXISTING NATURAL
HILLSIDE VARIES WITH 20%
MAX. SLOPE**

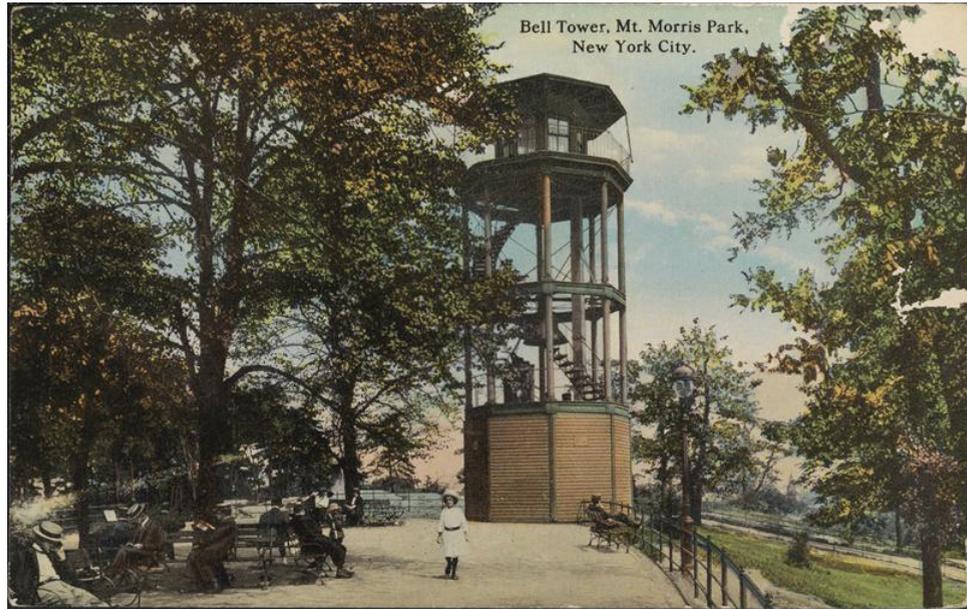
WELDED WIRE MESH FENCE

NATIVE PLANTINGS



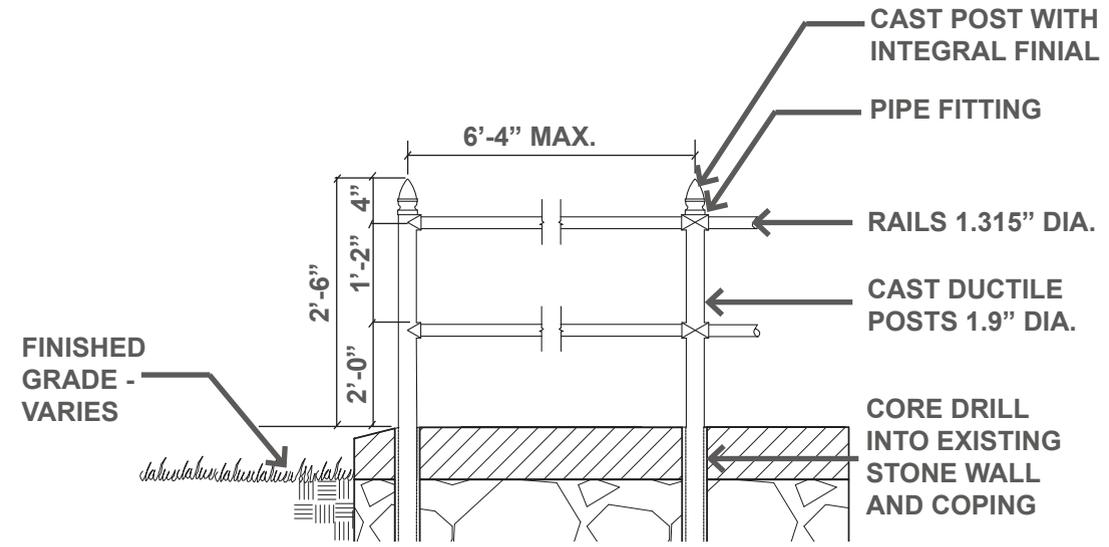
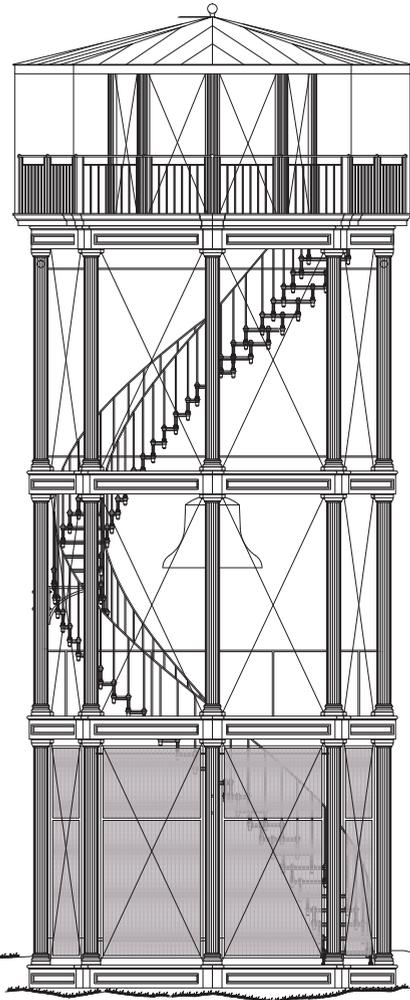
- ROCK OUTCROPPING
- STONE STEPS
- CONTOUR LINE WITH GRADE
- FIRE WATCHTOWER
- 3' WIDE BLUESTONE PATH
- LOWER STONE WALL FLUSH WITH GRADE
- NEW LAWN
- STONE WALLS
- LOWERED RETAINING WALL WITH PIPE RAIL
- EXISTING LAWN
- 18" HIGH WELDED WIRE MESH FENCING WITH STEEL POST EVERY SIX FEET ON CENTER
- NATURAL HILLSIDE WITH NATIVE PLANTINGS





Bell Tower, Mt. Morris Park,
New York City.

NORTH VIEW, LATE 19TH CENTURY



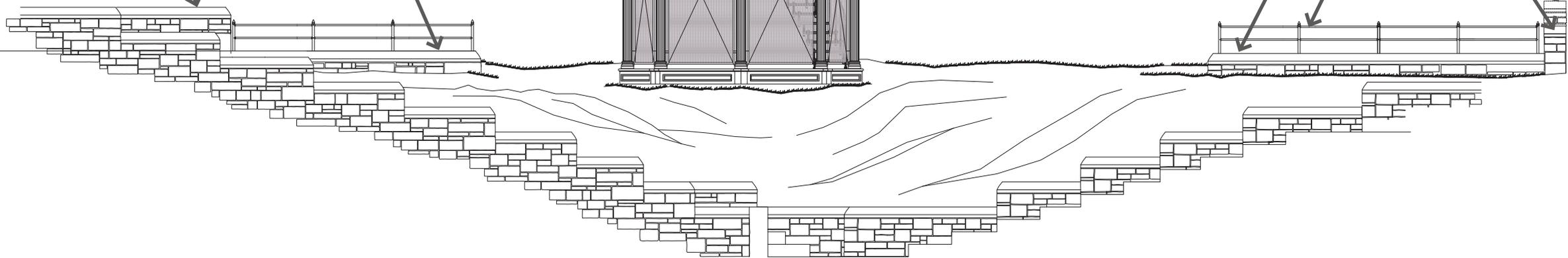
PROPOSED LOWERED
STONE WALL EL. 99'

UPPER PLAZA TOP OF
STONE WALL EL. 102.5'

PROPOSED LOWERED
STONE WALL EL. 99'

UPPER PLAZA TOP OF
PIPE RAIL AND STONE
WALL EL. 101'

UPPER PLAZA TOP OF
STONE WALL EL. 103'



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THE FIRE WATCHTOWER | Proposed Landscape Around Restored Tower | Section A

DPR Capital & Thornton Tomasetti



SHEET 25/26

PROPOSED GRADE FLUSH WITH SPANDREL AT ENTRANCE

GRACEFUL NEW LAWN WITH 4.5% MAX. SLOPE

BLUESTONE PAVERS WITH IRREGULAR EDGE TO RETAIN EXISTING PAVING PATTERN OF UPPER PLAZA - ACROPOLIS



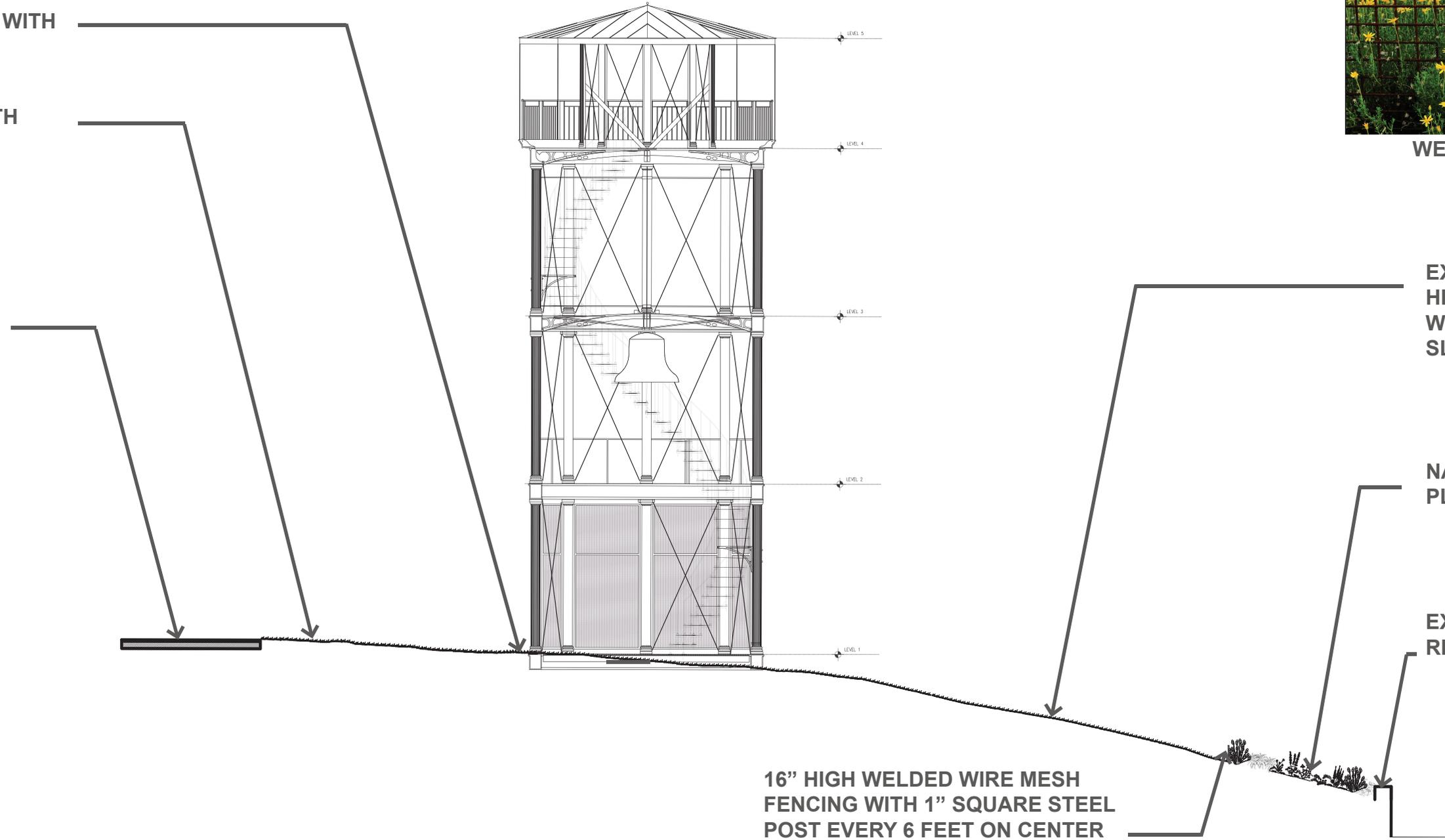
WELDED WIRE MESH

EXISTING NATURAL HILLSIDE VARIES WITH 20% MAX. SLOPE

NATIVE PLANTINGS

EXISTING LOWER RETAINING WALL

16" HIGH WELDED WIRE MESH FENCING WITH 1" SQUARE STEEL POST EVERY 6 FEET ON CENTER



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THE FIRE WATCHTOWER I Proposed Landscape Around Restored Tower I Section B

DPR Capital & Thornton Tomasetti



SHEET 26/26