Collegetown Terrace Plan for Interpretive Elements

Submitted to Ithaca City Planning Board

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Prepared By:

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INTRODUCTION

The Approval for Collegetown Terrace contained a number of Conditions. The material presented here is in response to the Planning Board mandated commemoration of four buildings that were on the site and have since been demolished, and another building that was to remain. The buildings were as follows:

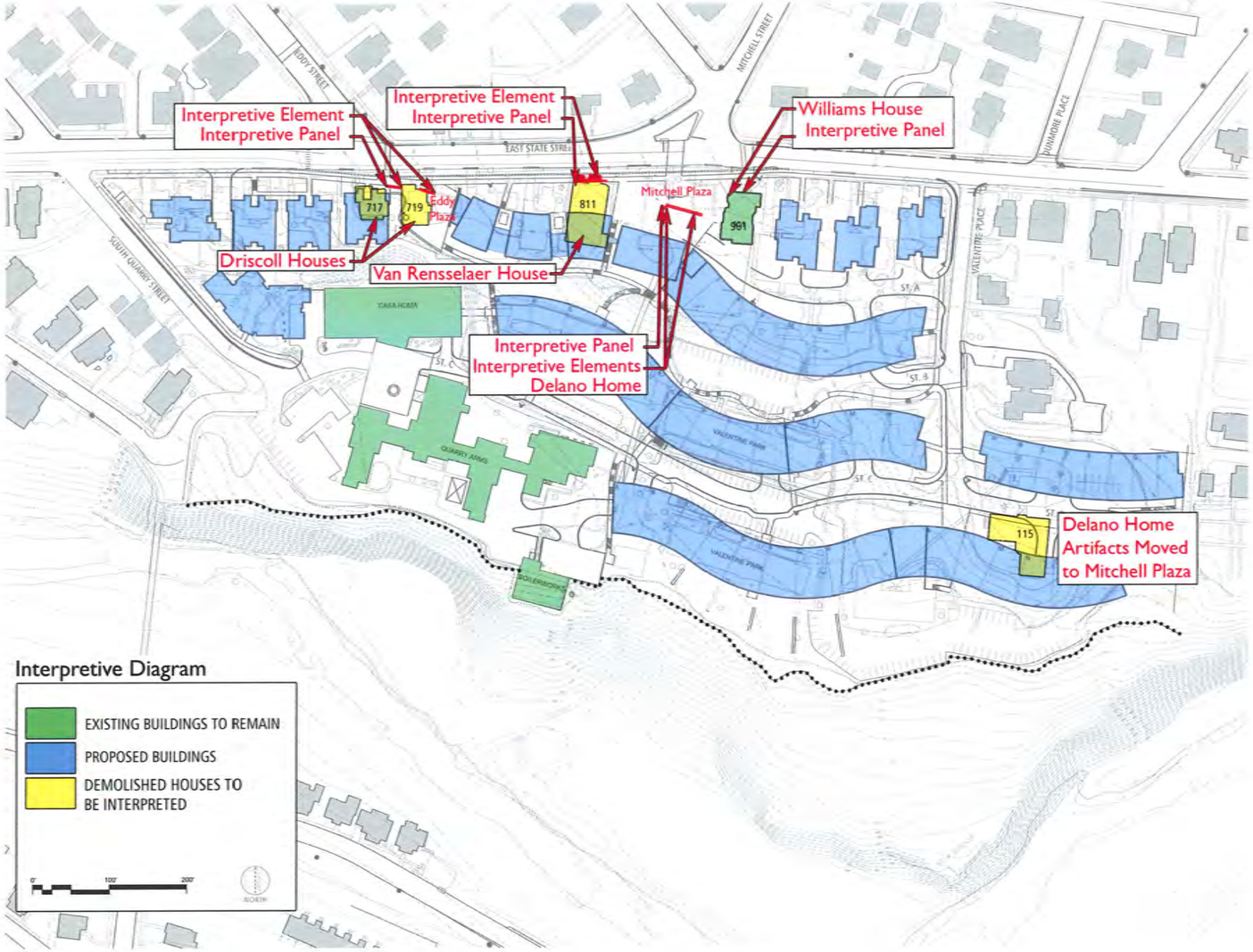
717 and 719 East State Street.
Brothers Patrick and John Driscoll built these houses for their families. An interpretive panel was required.

809/811 East State Street.
A double house that one time was the home of Martha Van Rensselaer. An interpretive panel was required.

901 East State Street
The George C. Williams House. The original house was to be restored and an interpretive panel included.

113/115 Valentine Place
The Jane Delano Home. One example of granite and brick window trim on the west façade and the granite surrounding the rear entrance door were to be salvaged and installed in an appropriate location along with an interpretive panel.

The final design and content of the interpretive panels will be submitted for approval at a later date. Ms. Mary Tomlan is in charge of the historical research, the text and selecting the images.



Locations of Interpretive Elements

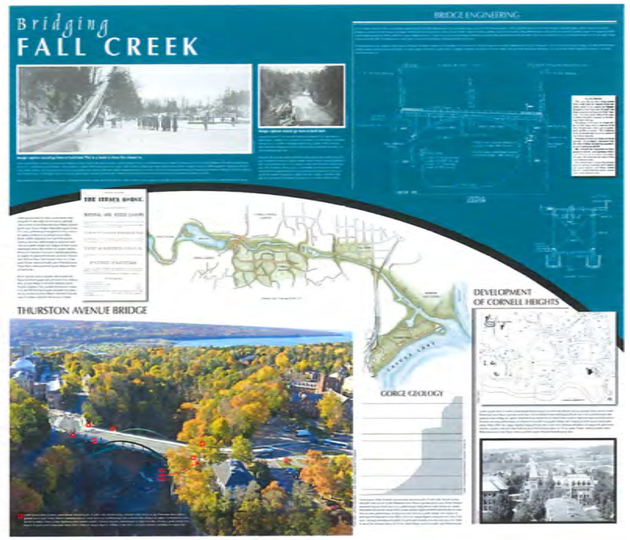
INTERPRETIVE PANELS

The buildings will be represented by an interpretive panel as required by the Board plus an artifact or other material designed to help bring the text and images to life and to make the learning experience more vivid.

The supporting low steel frames of the panels will be custom designed and will be similar in height and design, but the size of the actual panels will vary slightly in accordance to the amount of information deemed appropriate. The text and images will be made of embedded fiberglass.

The examples shown here are representative of the proposed style and content.

Thurston Street Bridge, Ithaca NY.



Thurston Street Bridge, Ithaca NY.

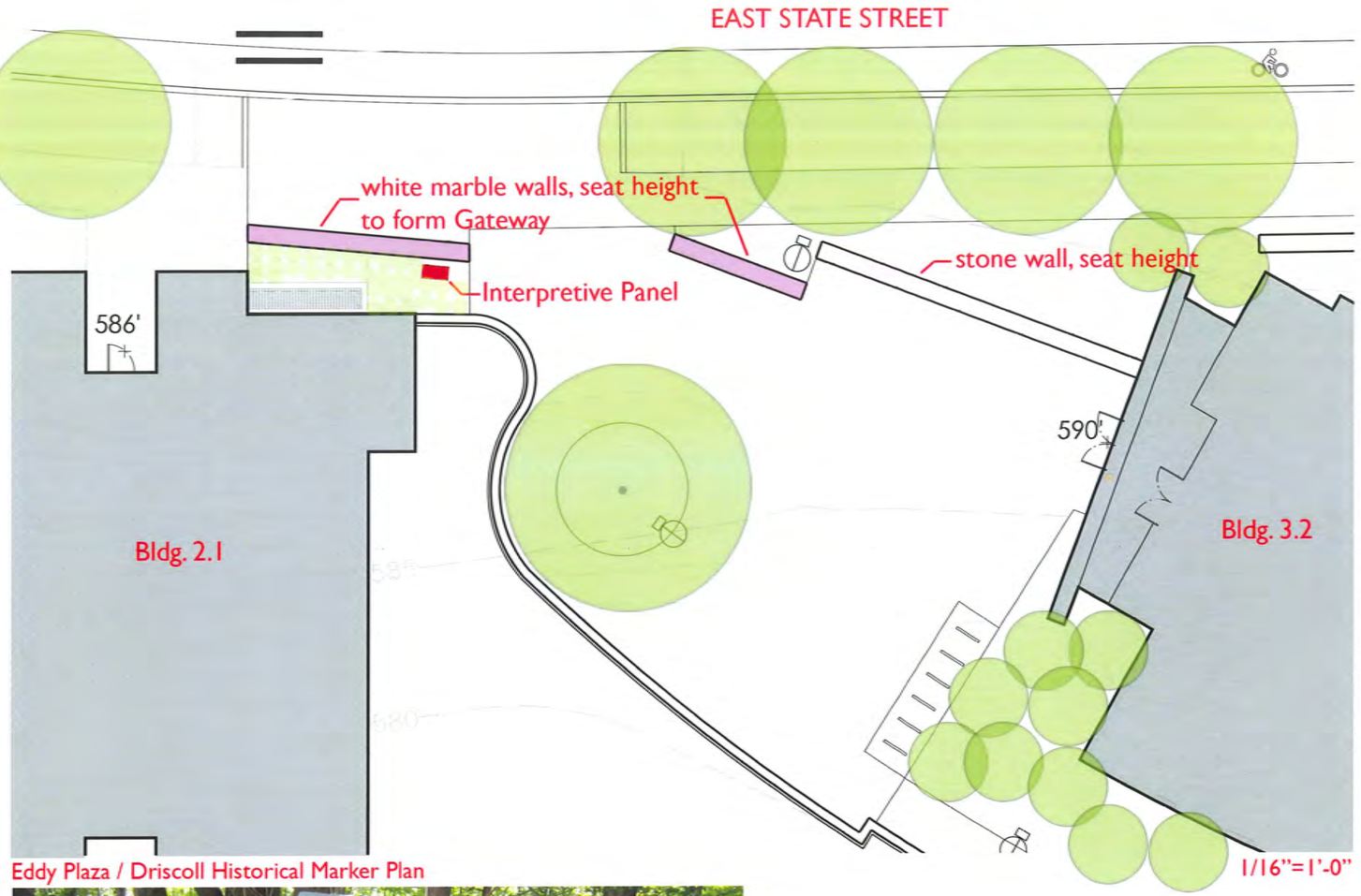
Meridian Hill Park, Washington DC.

Sixteenth Street, Washington DC.

Interpretive Signs

717 AND 719 EAST STATE STREET.

The interpretive panel is within the footprint of the Patrick Driscoll House, facing East State Street. It is adjacent to two seat-height walls flanking the entry to Eddy Plaza. These will incorporate a distinctive white marble salvaged from the basement walls of 717. Mr. Driscoll was a builder.



Eddy Plaza / Driscoll Historical Marker Plan

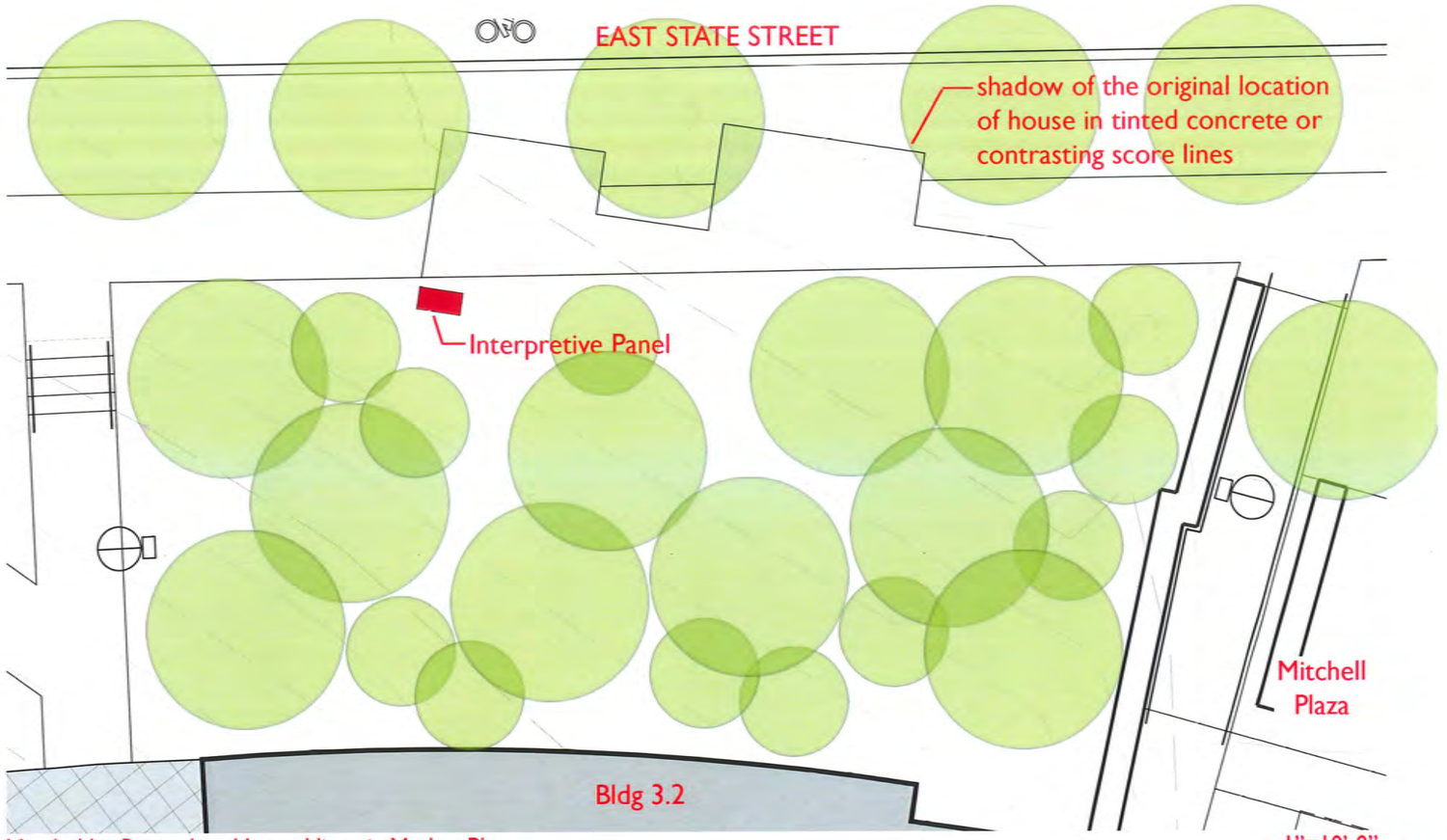
1/16"=1'-0"

Salvaged stone salvaged from 717 East State Street will be incorporated into seat-height walls.

Driscoll Brothers Houses Marker

809/811 EAST STATE STREET

Martha Van Rensselaer was the block's most prominent resident and the interpretive panel will reflect this. It will include a picture of the house taken from the west. To give some context, the panel will be sited next to a shadow-like representation of the front façade of the house, cast in it's correct location…now in the sidewalk. The interpretive panel will face East State Street.



Martha Van Rensselaer House Historic Marker Plan

Martha Van Rensselaer House. Photo taken in 2010.

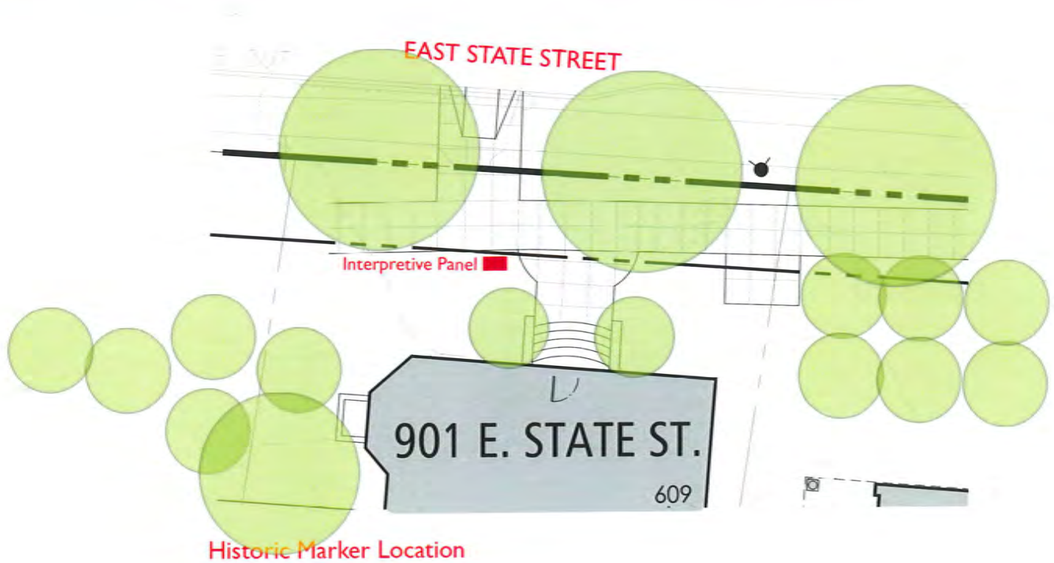
Martha Van Rensselaer House Marker

901 EAST STATE STREET

The home of George C. Williams is currently being restored and an interpretive panel emphasizing Mr. William's life and the architectural features of the interior will be installed in front, facing East State Street.

901 East State Previous Condition

901 East State Restoration



Historic Marker Location

George C. Williams House Marker

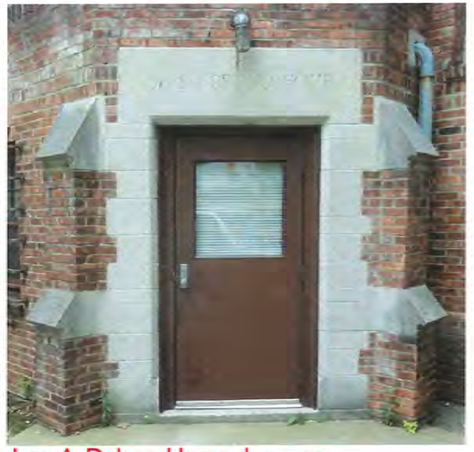
113/115 VALENTINE PLACE.

Jane Delano Home, a nurse's residence, was built at the bottom of Valentine Place, then and now a largely invisible location. The Board's requirement to save substantial architectural artifacts and the prospect of this investment and the memory of the Nurse's Home still remaining invisible prompted the decision to reconstruct these artifacts and the Interpretive panel in a prominent location - Mitchell Plaza the entrance to Collegetown Terrace

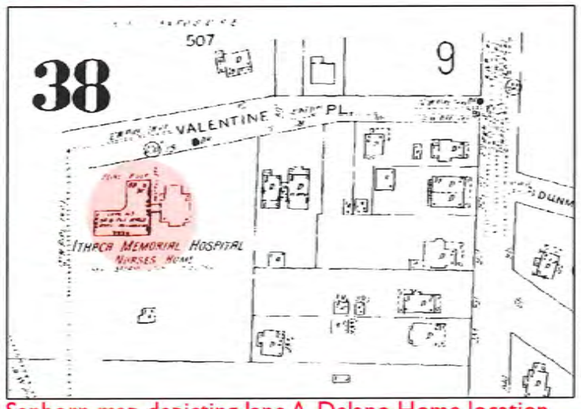
This has necessitated a new design. The fountain of the earlier design has been eliminated in favor of a more extensive restoration. The retaining wall now becomes a major art work with a series of murals incorporated into the façade by the painter, Stan Taft. Its inclusion was felt to be overkill.

The granite and brick trim of a range of three windows is built into a substantial retaining wall that separates East State Street level from Mitchell Plaza. Although the retaining wall and the reconstructed doorway stand six feet below the street level, their height will make them visible from East State Street. The interpretive panel will be located at this lower level, where the impact of the artifacts will be most felt and can be studied in association with them.

Brick and granite window trim. One of three windows.

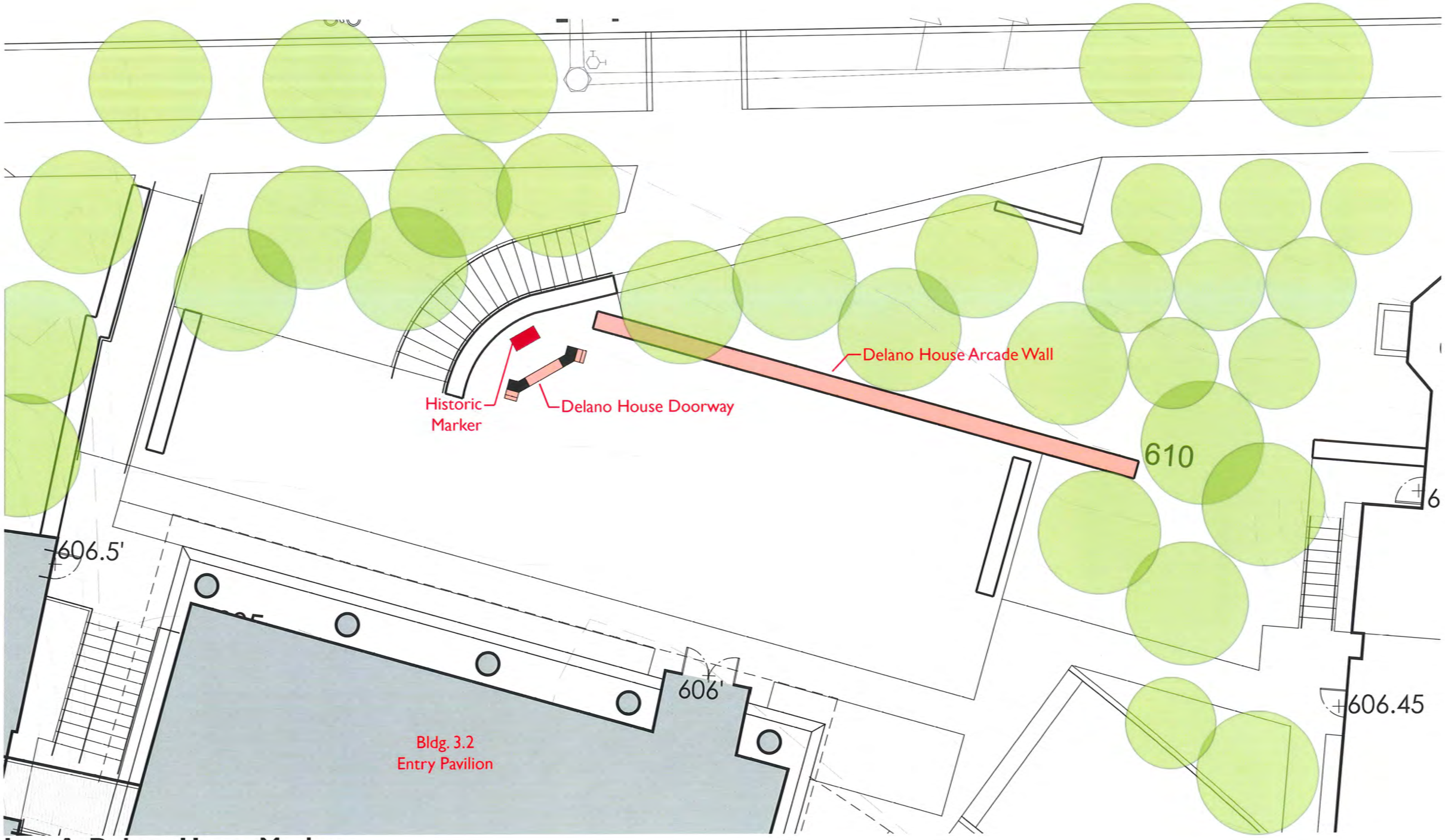


Jane A. Delano Home doorway.

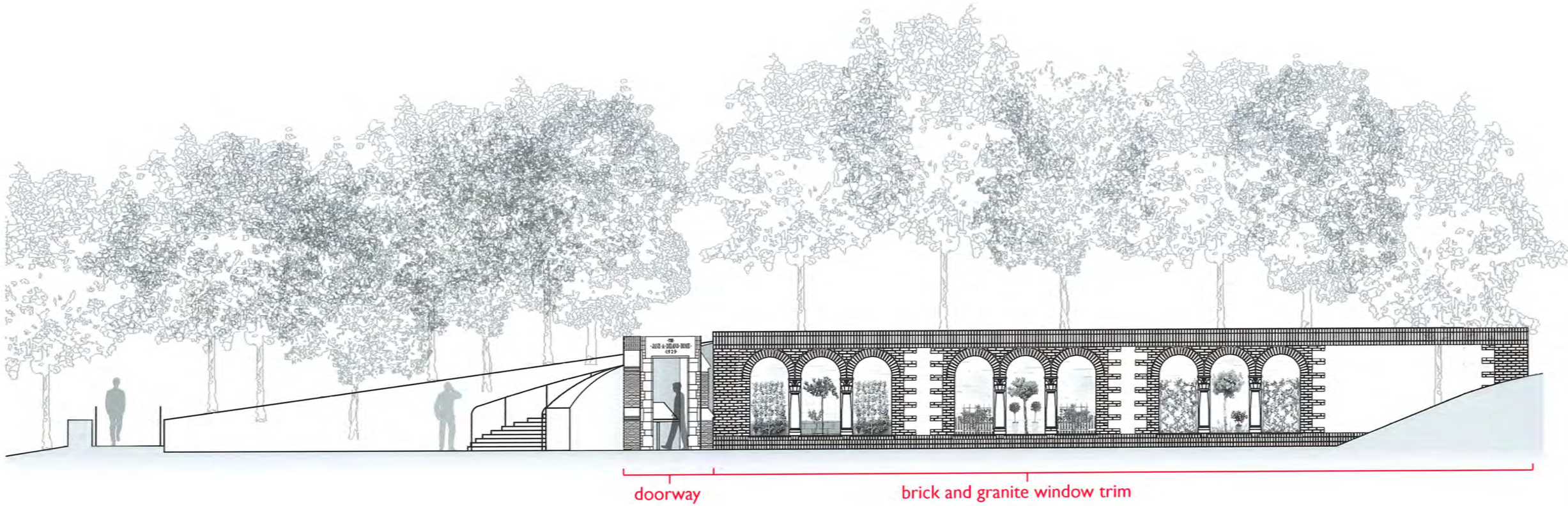


Sanborn map depicting Jane A. Delano Home location.

Jane A. Delano Home Marker



Jane A. Delano Home Marker

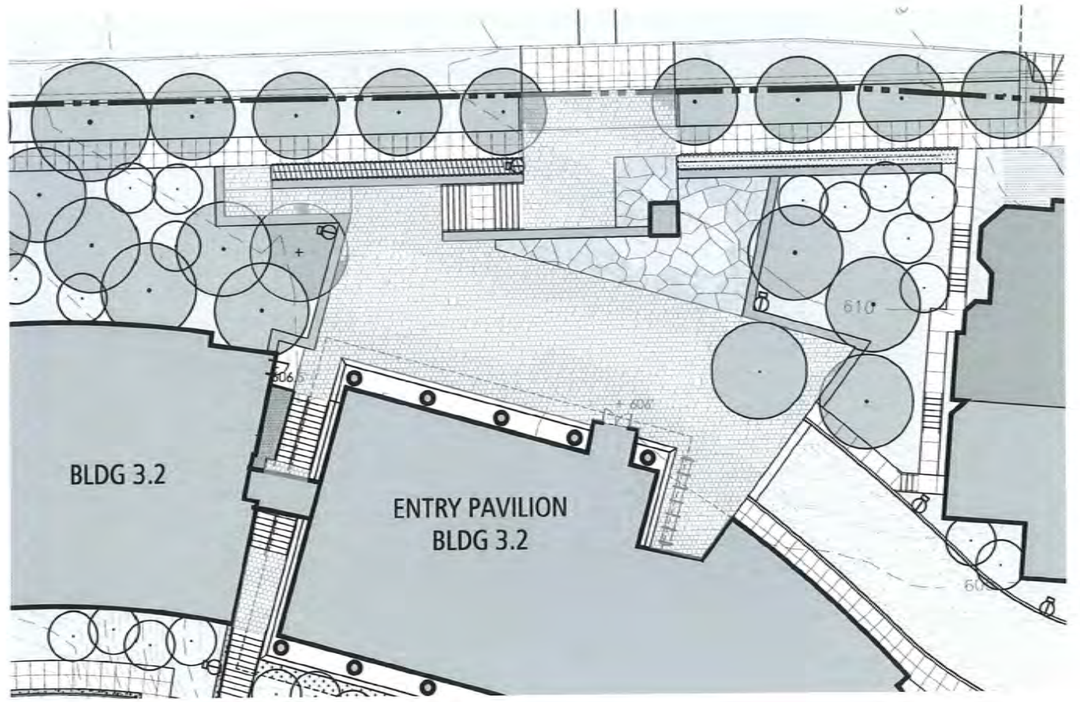


Jane A. Delano Home Windows & Doorway

The decision to relocate the Delano Home fragments to make them more visible entailed a re-design of Mitchell Plaza. The proposed design retains the organization of the design already approved by the Planning Board, but now includes a larger area of planting and the specified architectural remnants. The paved forecourt to the Pavilion remains roughly the same area.

Materials:
These will include brick and stucco for the wall and the doorway.
The original brick was too soft to be salvaged and a new brick that matches it as closely as possible will be used. The stucco will match the original walls.
Two other site walls will remain dry laid bluesstone as originally proposed.
The plant list will be drawn from the same species as the earlier drawings.

Since pricing is not yet complete, and some technical issues remain to be solved, alternatives for other materials are proposed.
The Plaza paving will be either the porous concrete pavers approved earlier or upgraded to granite blocks.
The Delano wall cap will be either brick on edge, retaining the brick pattern of the old façade, or Spanish tile salvaged from the original building.
The wall/balustrade of the curved steps will be either bluestone stone veneer or stucco.



Previously Approved Plan.

Mitchell Plaza

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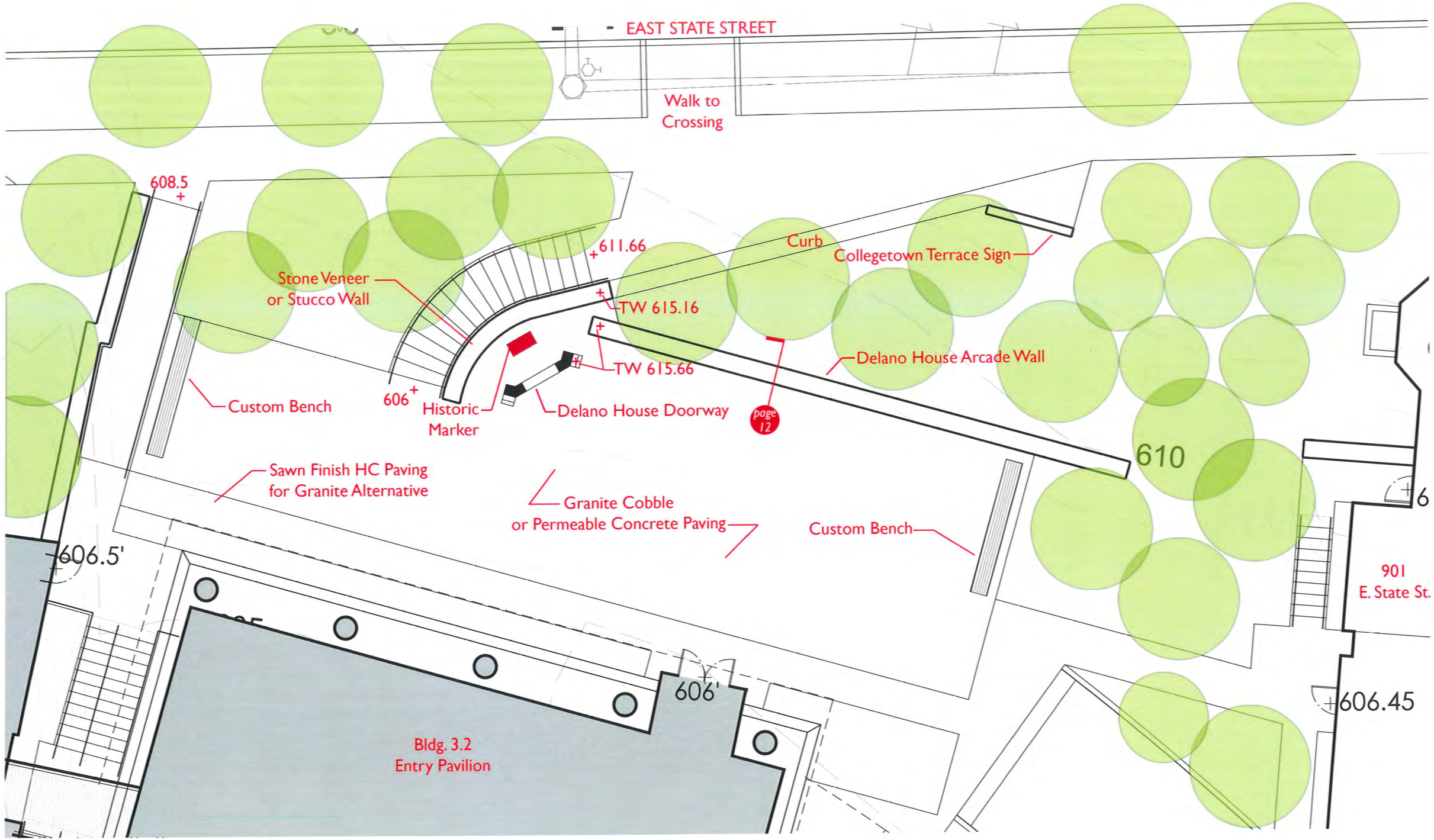

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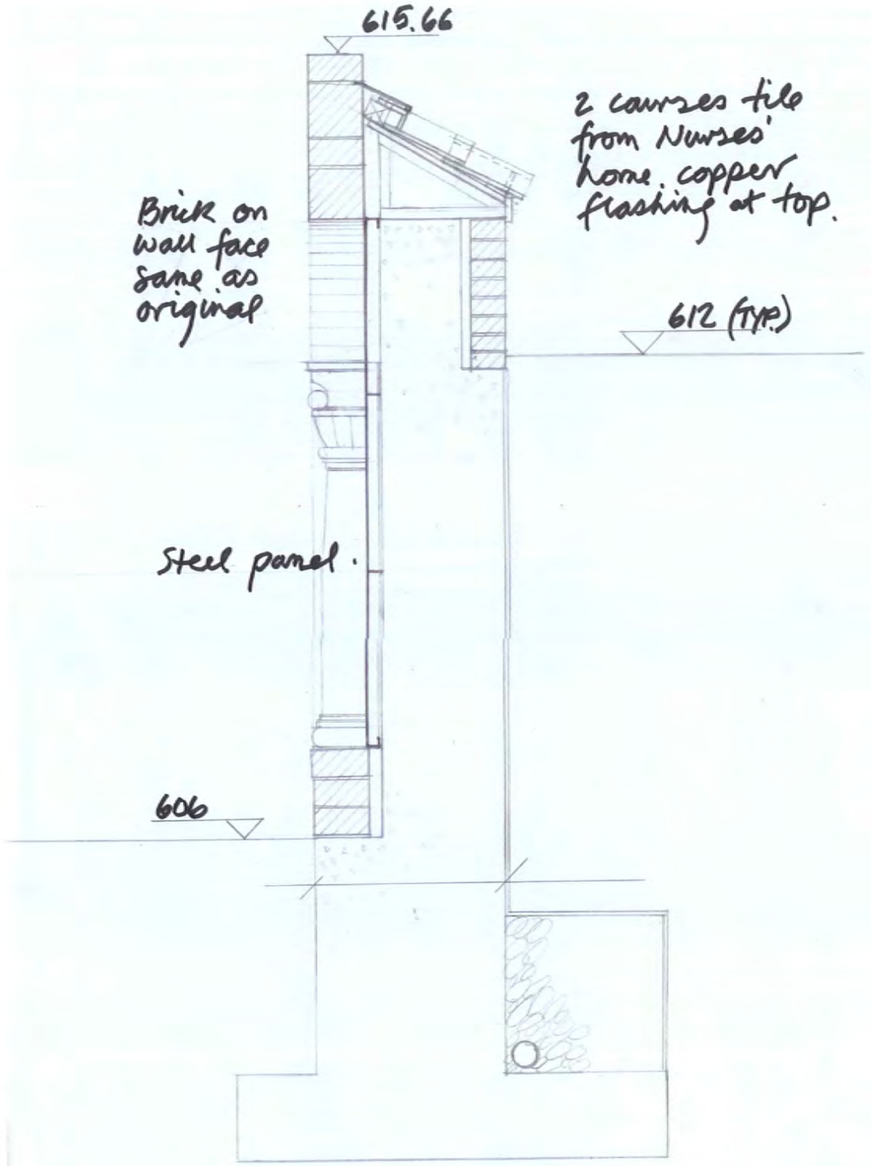
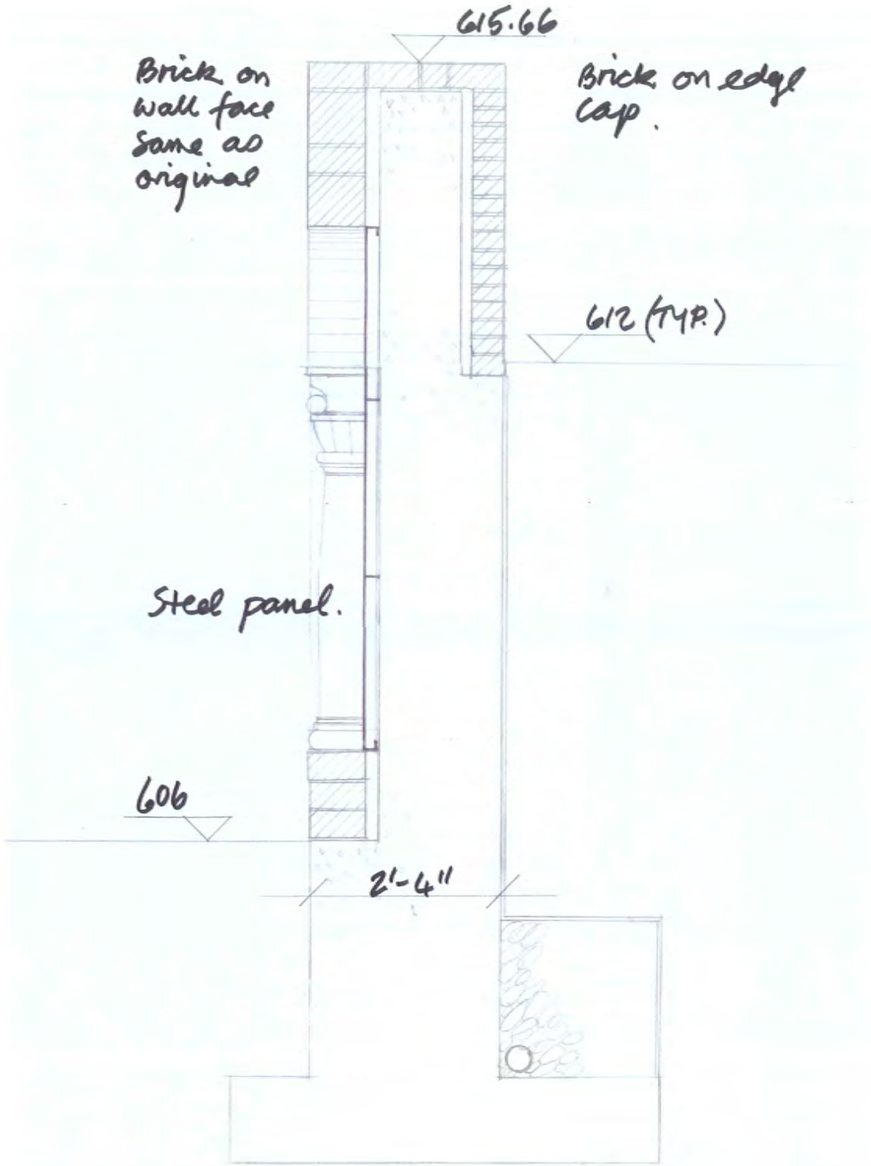


Section thro' wall with Tile cap. 11.27.12 ct.
1" = 1'-0"



Section thro' wall with Brick cap. 11.27.12 ct.
1" = 1'-0"