

Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil War Era Historic Site + Log Cabin



Prepared for Literacy InterActives, Inc.

August, 2013

**Elizabeth Gilboy**  
Director

**Arian Korkuti**  
Architecture Project Coordinator

**Lara Browning**  
Landscape Architecture Project Coordinator

**JooWon Im**  
PhD Student, Landscape Architecture

**Michael Rollins**  
Graduate Student, Architecture

**Liam Smith**  
Graduate Student, Architecture

**Colbi Young**  
Undergraduate Student, Architecture

**Harley Walker**  
Landscape Architecture Intern

project team

2

**Angelita Reyes**  
Founder / CEO  
Literacy Interactives

**Doris Hester**  
Board Member  
Literacy Interactives

**Tim Colley**  
Architect / Principal  
Colley Architects

**Joshua Galloway**  
Landscape Architect / Project Manager  
Community Housing Partners

**William Green**  
Associate Professor  
School of Architecture + Design, Virginia Tech

**Michael Pulice**  
Architectural Historian  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

**Alexander Rawles**  
Assistant Curator  
Prestwold Plantation Museum

**project description**

5

**existing conditions**

site analysis

7

photo inventory

9

log cabin

10

as-built drawings

12

**preliminary design**

site master plan one

13

architectural concept one

16

site master plan two

22

architectural concept two

24

**design process**

final site master plan

29

final architectural concepts

32

visitors center

34

caretaker's house

41

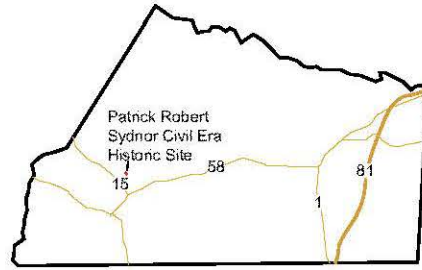
**conclusion**

46

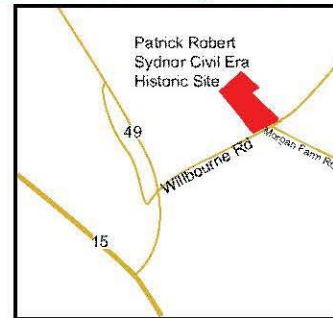
**appendix**

47

## Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin



Mecklenburg County map highlighting the Patrick Robert Sydnor Historic Site



Local map highlighting the Patrick Robert Sydnor Historic Site



Virginia State map highlighting Mecklenburg County

### project description

5

The Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil War Era Historic Site and Log Cabin are located in Mecklenburg County, Virginia near routes 15 and 58. Surrounded by wooded lots and farmland, the rural setting complements the historic nature of the site. Located on a wooded area of 4.41 acres, the cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Built during the antebellum era, the cabin was used to house the enslaved workers of the nearby Prestwould Plantation.

The log cabin site is named after Patrick Robert "Parker" Sydnor (1854-1950), a locally well-known Virginia tombstone carver, who lived in the cabin during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Parker Sydnor was born into slavery in Halifax County. He worked for forty years at his craft and there is evidence that he began making gravestones before 1900.

## Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin

The log cabin has undergone structural transformation because it was continuously occupied by African American families and maintained to the best of their abilities up until the 1970s. Most of those occupants were immediate descendants of enslaved African Americans at the Prestwoud and Sydnor plantations in Mecklenburg and Halifax counties.

Thus the Sydnor log cabin shifted in physical appearance and function throughout various historical periods after slavery when African American families struggled to survive and succeed. The home place was a foundation for freedom, autonomy, self-reliance, faith and the legacy of endurance. The Sydnor log cabin was characterized by an enslaved workforce, freedwomen and freedmen, sharecroppers, and unconditional poverty.

Literacy InterActives, Inc. requested that the Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) develop plans to rehabilitate the Patrick Robert Sydnor Log Cabin and design a new visitors center. These two features are strengthened with the design of a conceptual master plan that includes a nature trail, amphitheater, natural play area, various gardens and caretaker's house.

### project description

6

Throughout the design process, the CDAC team worked collaboratively with Literacy InterActives, Inc. and members of the Mecklenburg County community to develop conceptual plans for the historic site. This report documents the design process and describes the final concepts that were developed.



**cd** community design  
**ac** assistance center

College of Architecture + Urban Studies  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

## site analysis

During the initial site visit to the Patrick Robert Sydnor pre-Civil War Era Historic Site, the CDAC team recorded existing site elements and analyzed site conditions. This information was compiled and became a basis for initial conceptual master plan designs and helped strategically locate the desired placement of proposed buildings. The process of inventorying the site consisted of taking photographs of the property, measuring grade changes between the existing buildings on the site, identifying desirable and undesirable views, collecting soil samples for analysis in the lab, identifying flat areas suitable to build on, and identifying the most common tree species growing on the site. A utility corridor was identified that bisects the property and acts as a minor limitation in locating proposed design elements. The lowest part of the site is just north of the utility corridor. This low spot is wet due to the fact it collects water from the surrounding area and because it contains a natural spring.

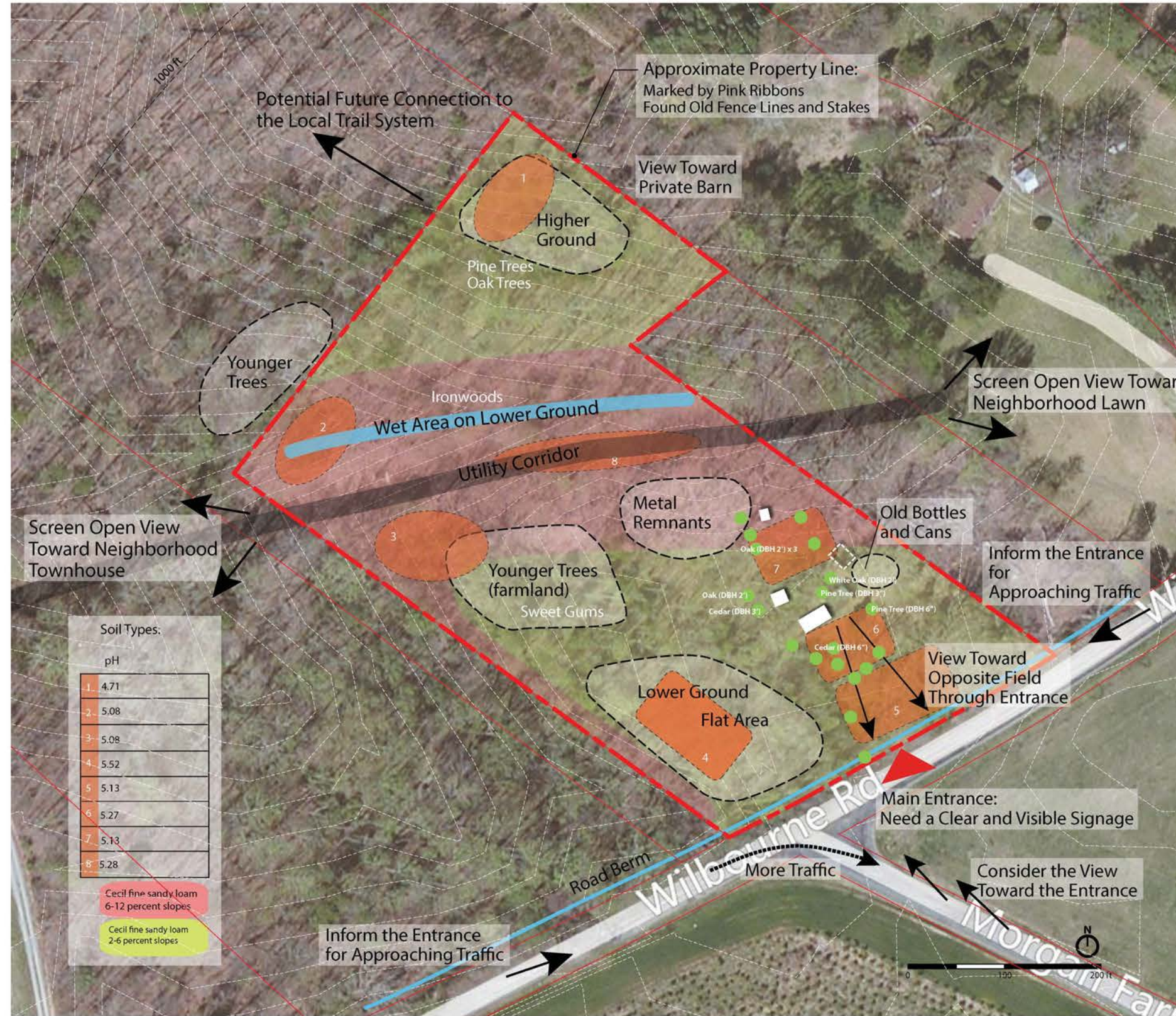
After conducting the initial on-site inventory and analysis, the CDAC team continued to analyze the property with GIS software. Elevation, slope, and flow accumulation (where water collects on the site) were all reviewed and combined into a final inventory and analysis map. This map can be found on page eight. On page nine is a photo inventory of various areas on the site.

existing conditions

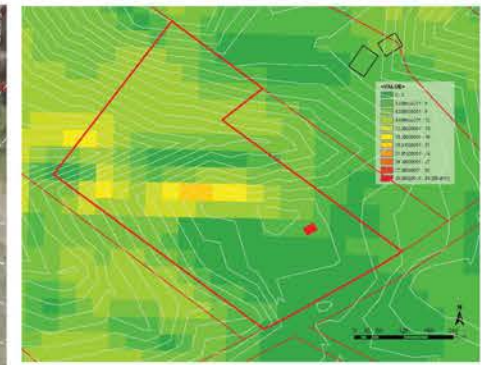
7



Designer Harley Walker performing a soil ribbon test on-site to quickly get an understanding of the soil's clay content.



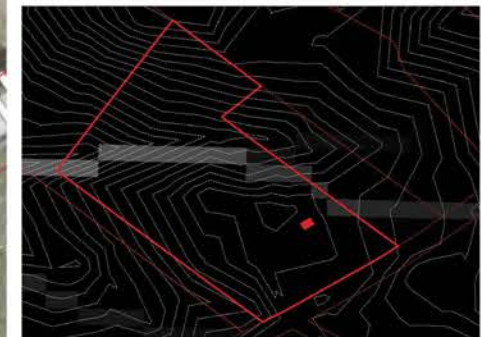
existing conditions



This slope analysis map shows how steep various surfaces are. Green represents flat surfaces while warmer colors represent steeper slopes.



This hillshade map helps illustrate the form of the landscape's topography.



This flow accumulation map shows where rain water gathers on the site.



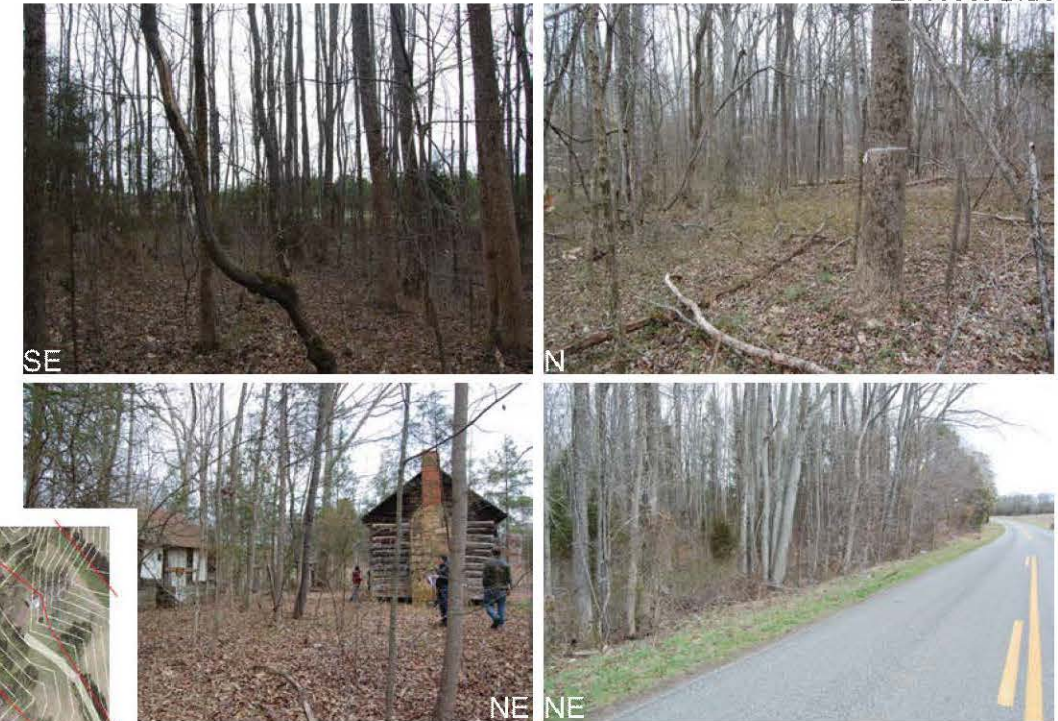
This USGS soil map shows where soil composition changes.



1: Entrance



2. West Side



existing conditions

3: Utility Corridor



4: High Ground



## log cabin

CDAC team also met with faculty member Bill Green, Associate Professor at the School of Architecture + Design, regarding materials and methods of construction employed at the Sydnor Log Cabin. Following is some of the information gleaned from examining the cabin with Professor Green. The team was not able to access the interior of the cabin, though it was possible to reach in and take photographs.

Professor Green explained that chop marks on logs designate cutting method. "Walking" cut lines with inconsistent angles are indicative of something being hand-sawn. If the logs are hand-planed, they probably date back to original construction. Generally consistent angles designate that they were circular-sawn. Support buildings and non-visible faces of timber not planed, most likely date between 1840-1950. If they are mechanically planed, the date is most likely post-1950's. Original walls would not have been whitewashed but instead left bare.

The roofing and floor could date from 1900-1940 and most likely are not original. The joists could be post-Civil War or as recent as 1940. The tin roof itself could date as far back as the 1880's, possibly placed by former slaves. The floor joists for the loft may have been added during the 20th century. Based on the consistency in dimensions, it is estimated that they are probably circular sawn.

The roofing was most likely originally shingled. The chinking and shingles have been removed from the roof and placed between logs to close the gaps. The beige mud chinking is original and very fragile. Grey chinking is most likely a cement-based mortar from the 20th century and not of high quality era.

The sheetrock appears to be from the late 50's, 60's, maybe even very early 70's. It appears to be a very thin sheetrock similar to that often used in mobile homes.

The brick facing on the fireplace appears to date to the late 60's-70's. The brick facing is either lightly mortared to the original face of the fireplace or simply leaned up against it.

The windows are not original. The original cabin may have had two doors at most. The first windows would have been a simple wood-shutter without glass. Replacement windows are the current ones and from the 20th century. The panes are most likely float glass.

CDAC team also met with Michael Pulice, Architectural Historian at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The following is a list with Mr. Pulice's recommendations regarding rehabilitation and preservation of log cabin:

- Log cabin should not be displaced
- Consider leaving the cabin in its current state. Preserving present state of deterioration would indicate endurance
- Only replace logs deemed structurally necessary
- When replacing a log, nearby logs should be reinforced using "Liquid wood" stabilizer to take the weight off of the log being removed
- Damaged logs could be replaced with antique, hewn logs. Alternatively, they could be replaced with new logs as an honest replacement, not trying to simulate the current state of the other logs
- Borates should be used to prevent rot, termites, and carpenter ants

existing conditions

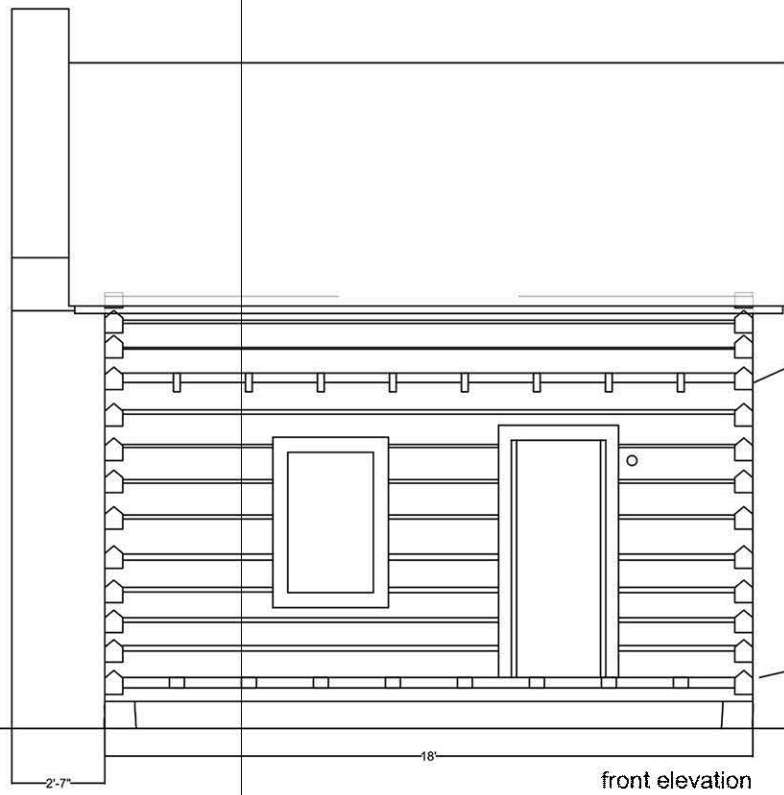
11



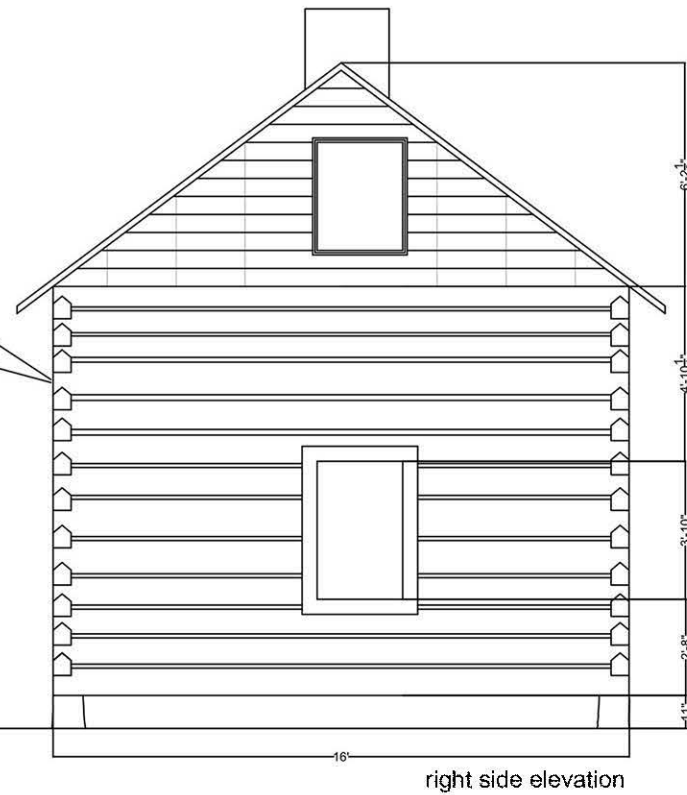
Architectural Historian Michael Pulice (center) explains findings from images of log cabin to CDAC team members: Colbi Young (right), Michael Rollins (right), and Arian Korkuti (left).

The following page includes as-built drawings with basic measurements.

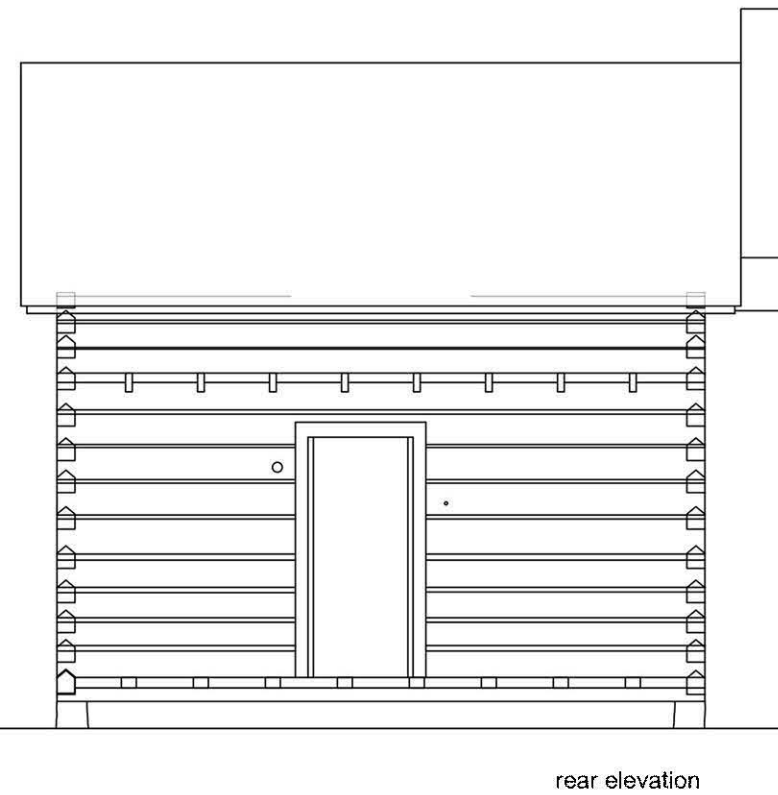
Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin



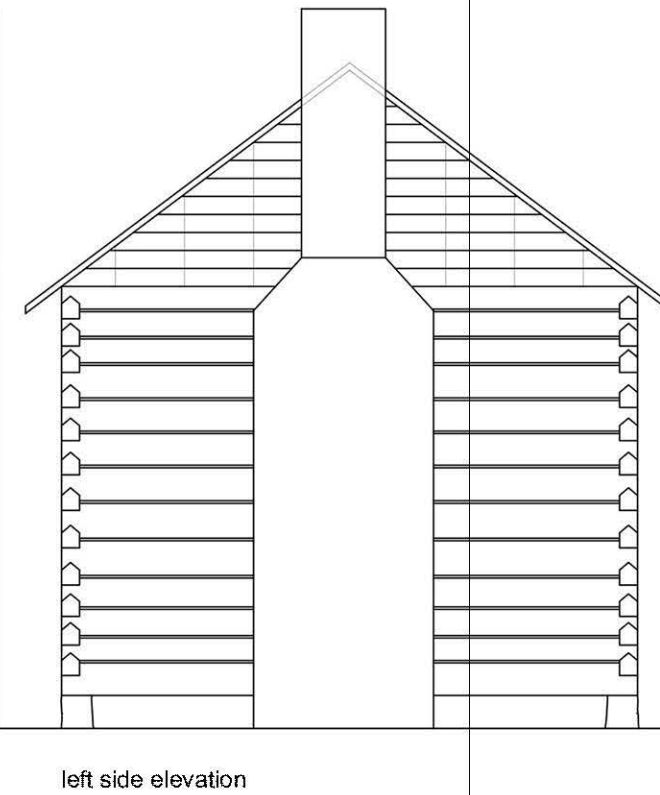
front elevation



right side elevation



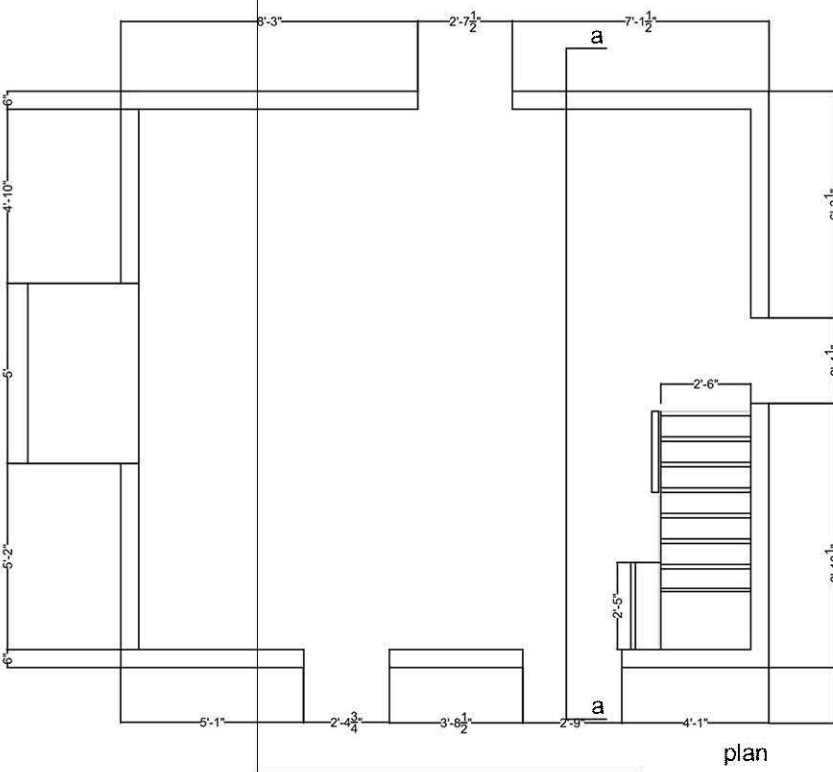
rear elevation



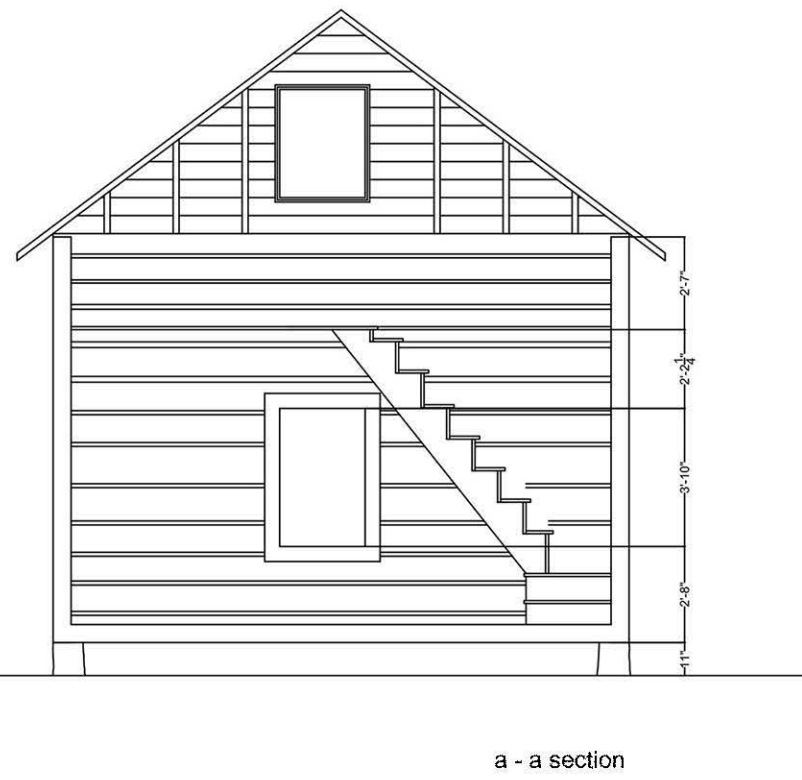
left side elevation

existing conditions

as-built drawings



plan



a - a section



### site master plan one

This master plan alternative (see following pages) allows for flexibility in the way visitors enter and experience the site. Access to the trail system is directly through the parking lot or through the visitors' center. The trail system is divided into two sections: the historic trail and the nature trail.

The historic trail loops around the historic log cabin and offers interpretive opportunities for the cabin itself, the Sydnor family, and slavery in Mecklenburg County. Groups of woodland perennials that may have been historically found on the site would also be planted in this area.

The nature trail focuses on education and environmental awareness. A community garden, located in the approximate area where a garden historically was located, offers visitors an opportunity to learn about plants, soils, health, and nutrition, while a native plant garden highlights species indigenous to the area. In addition, a nature play zone and fitness offer both children and adults a way to exercise and further explore the outdoor environment. The nature trail extends across the property and allows visitors a more remote, reflective experience. It crosses several different plant communities and provides spaces for rest and observation. An amphitheater/ outdoor classroom also offer a place for schools to engage in outdoor learning.

preliminary design

13



Joo Won Im (right) explains initial ideas to team members Colbi Young and Michael Rollins (left)



preliminary design

site master plan one

14

Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin



preliminary design

15



## architectural concept one

The log house has lived through many decades and all of them are important for future generations to remember. The site of the log house is a place full of memories that should also be preserved, so the rehabilitated log house would be part of a larger historical exhibit including the surrounding site for visitors to personally experience as they walk around the historic location.

The two phases of the cabin's life that stand out the most are the Parker Sydnor era following the Civil War and the Cora Shields era, lasting up until the 1970s. These two phases would be exhibited separately in order to experience both of them uniquely. The Parker Sydnor era cabin will serve as a historical landmark, more like an artifact that is remembered for its physical qualities. The Cora Shields era cabin would be a tribute to the oral history of the people who lived in the cabin with her and the community that worked in association with the site and the people who lived there.

The historical exhibit would be primarily the structure of the log cabin: the logs themselves, the floor joists and floorboards, and the amazing precision of the plan. This log cabin exhibit would be preserved in its exact location and only minor repairs would be made so that visitors can walk through it. An elevated platform surrounds the log house and serves two purposes: first to provide the cabin with shelter from the rain and snow around the base of the structure, and second to allow visitors a viewing platform to learn about the structure of the entire cabin, including the roof.

The oral history of the log house and its site are currently unrecognizable because of the destructive forces of time and age. It looks nothing like the vibrant memories that community members described in the first meeting, so in order to bring that life back to the cabin, we will recreate the cabin in an indoor exhibition to the way it was 40 years ago when the family lived there. By using some of the physical remnants from the log house such as interior wall surfaces, electricity, and the stairs to the loft, we can start to recreate those emotions and the environment that the community remembers. These pieces were the personal touch that gave the cabin its personality and life. The log structure itself was only the shell that held the memories, and so by recreating this indoor experience we hope



to be able to preserve the two eras mentioned previously in their most complete state.

The new visitor center on the site would serve as both exhibition space and administrative space. The Cora Shields exhibit would be placed within the visitor center as a public exhibition space. Its upstairs loft would also be included in the exhibit, and it would be accessible by the stairs within the cabin. Adjacent to this permanent exhibition space is an outdoor exhibition. This permeable space serves as a threshold to the site where visitors can see through the visitor center to the Parker Sydnor exhibition beyond. This outdoor room can be occupied by temporary exhibits that can fill the walls within the space. Adjacent to the outdoor exhibit is a gift shop and restrooms that provide necessary amenities for visitors. These services can welcome people to the site and also provide information about the site.

The caretakers home would be located separate from the historical features of the site and in proximity to the gardens in order to distinguish his or her role as the current resident of the site that is not living in the past era, but is looking toward the future and the future community activities centered around the community gardens.

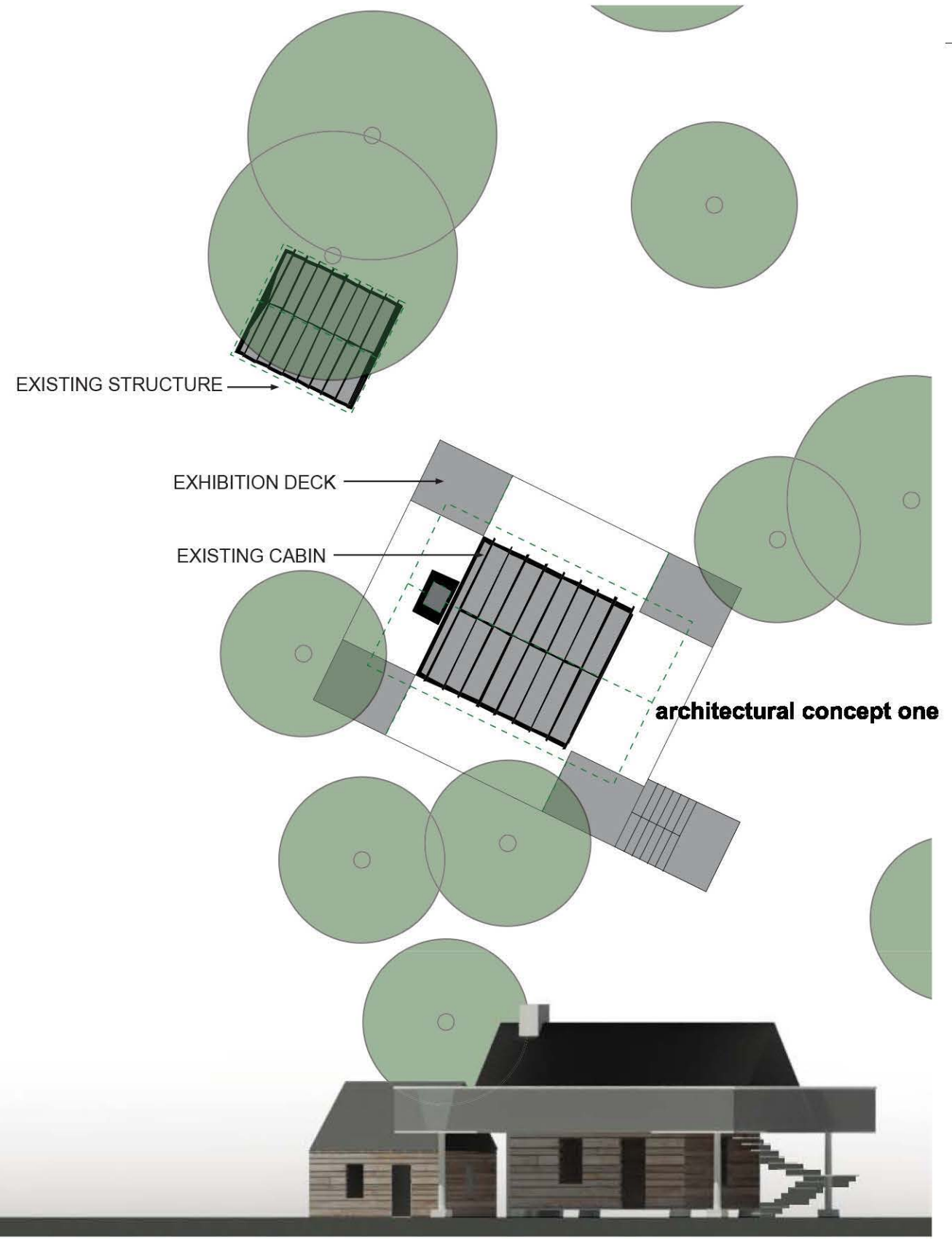
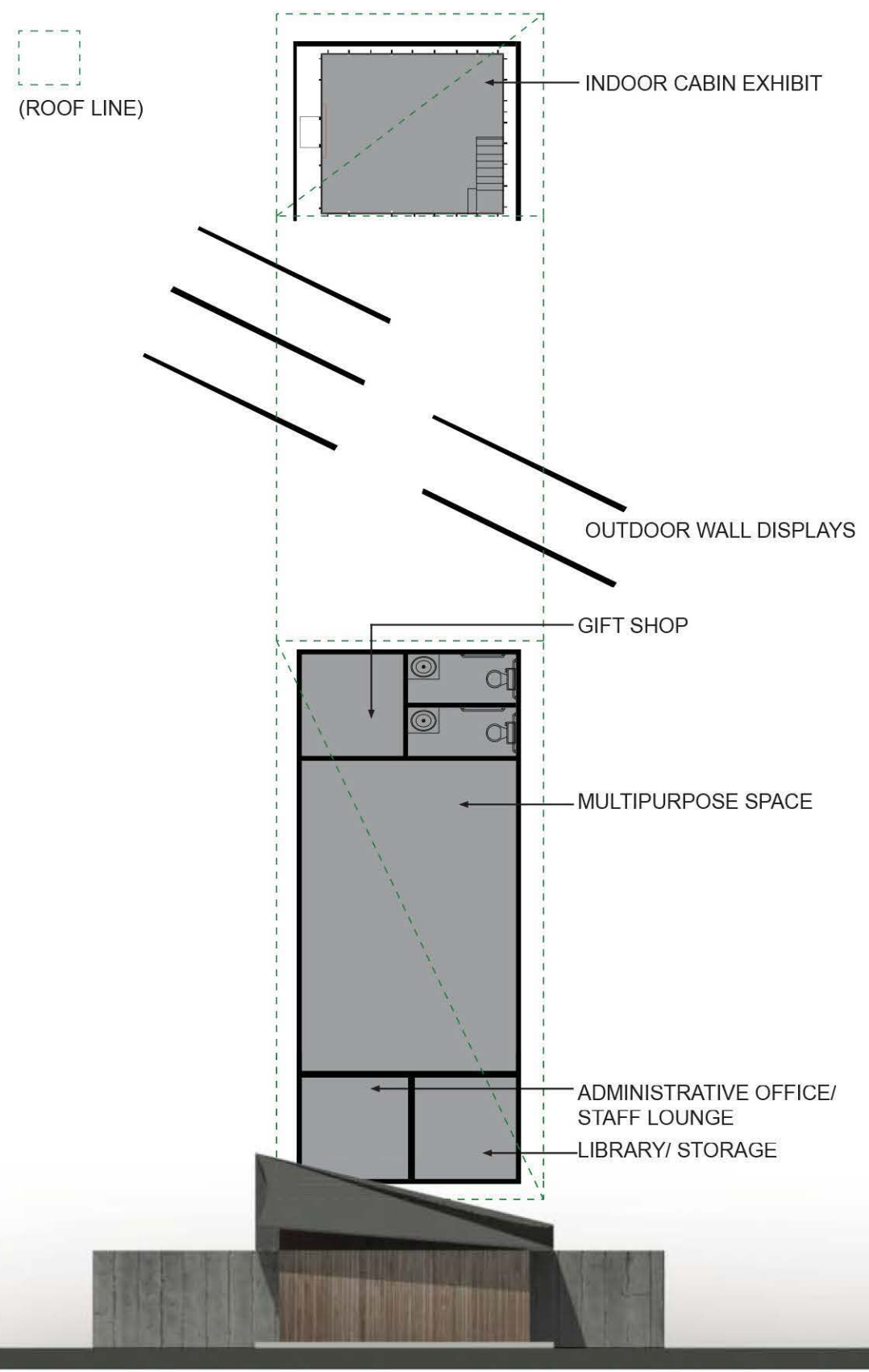
preliminary design

17

The following pages contain floor plan drawings, perspectives, and elevations of the proposed ideas for architectural concept one.

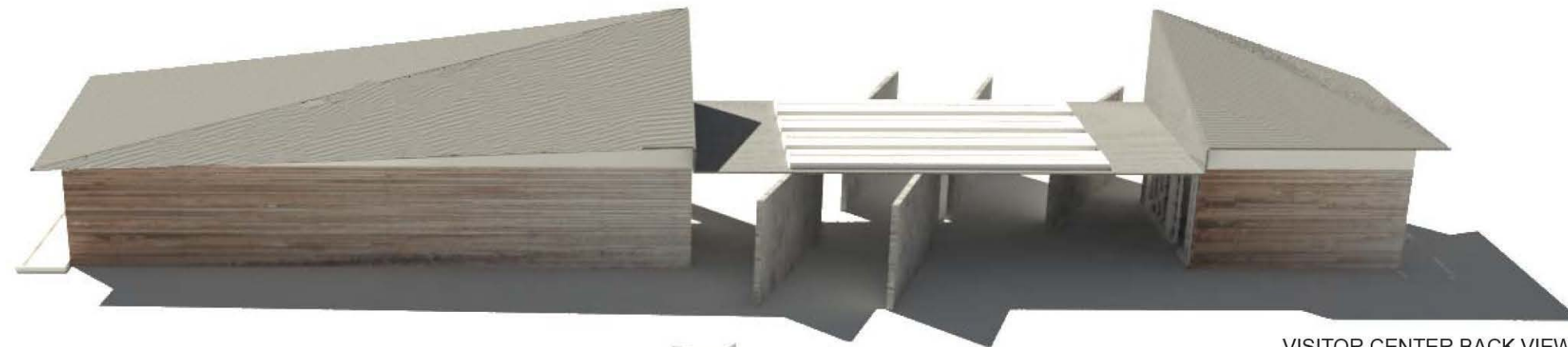


Colbi Young explains some initial ideas.

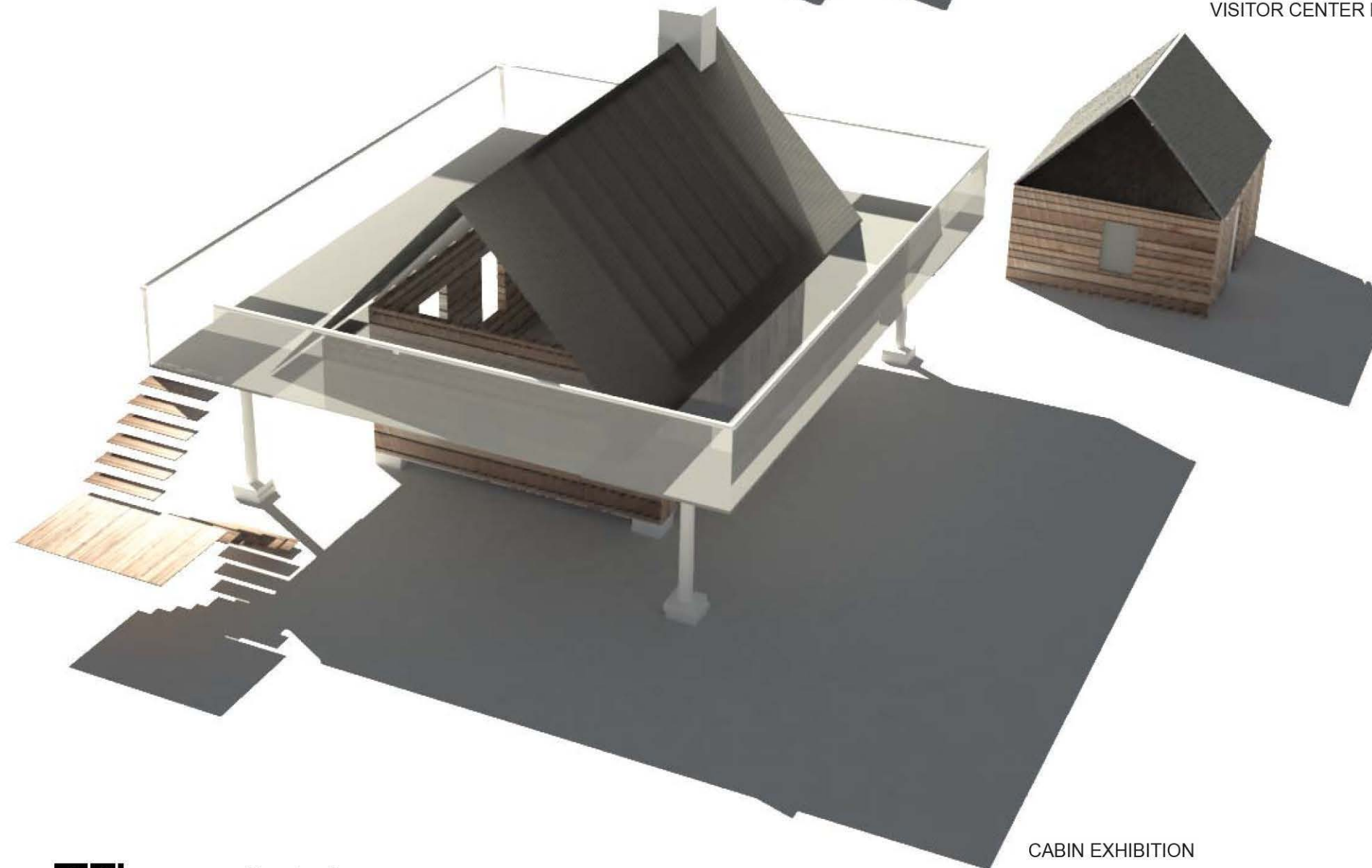


preliminary design

18



VISITOR CENTER BACK VIEW

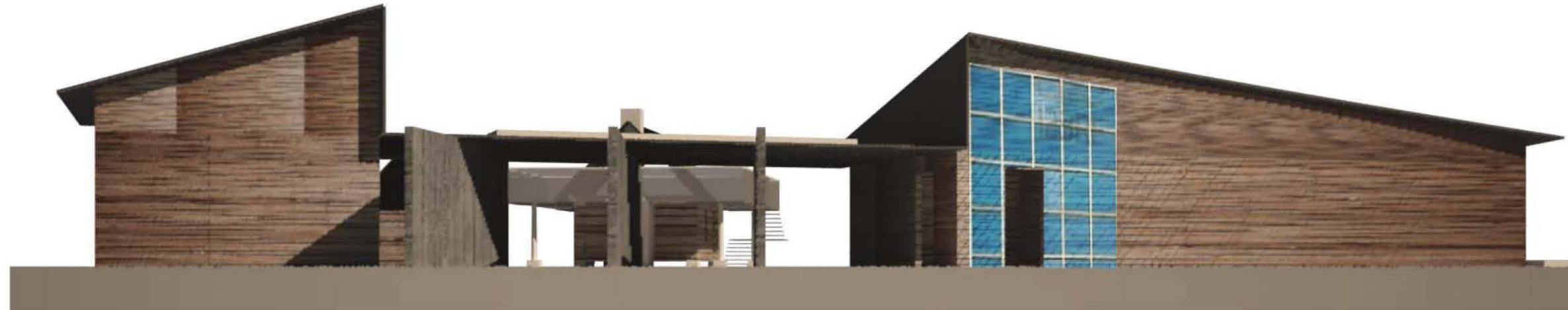


CABIN EXHIBITION

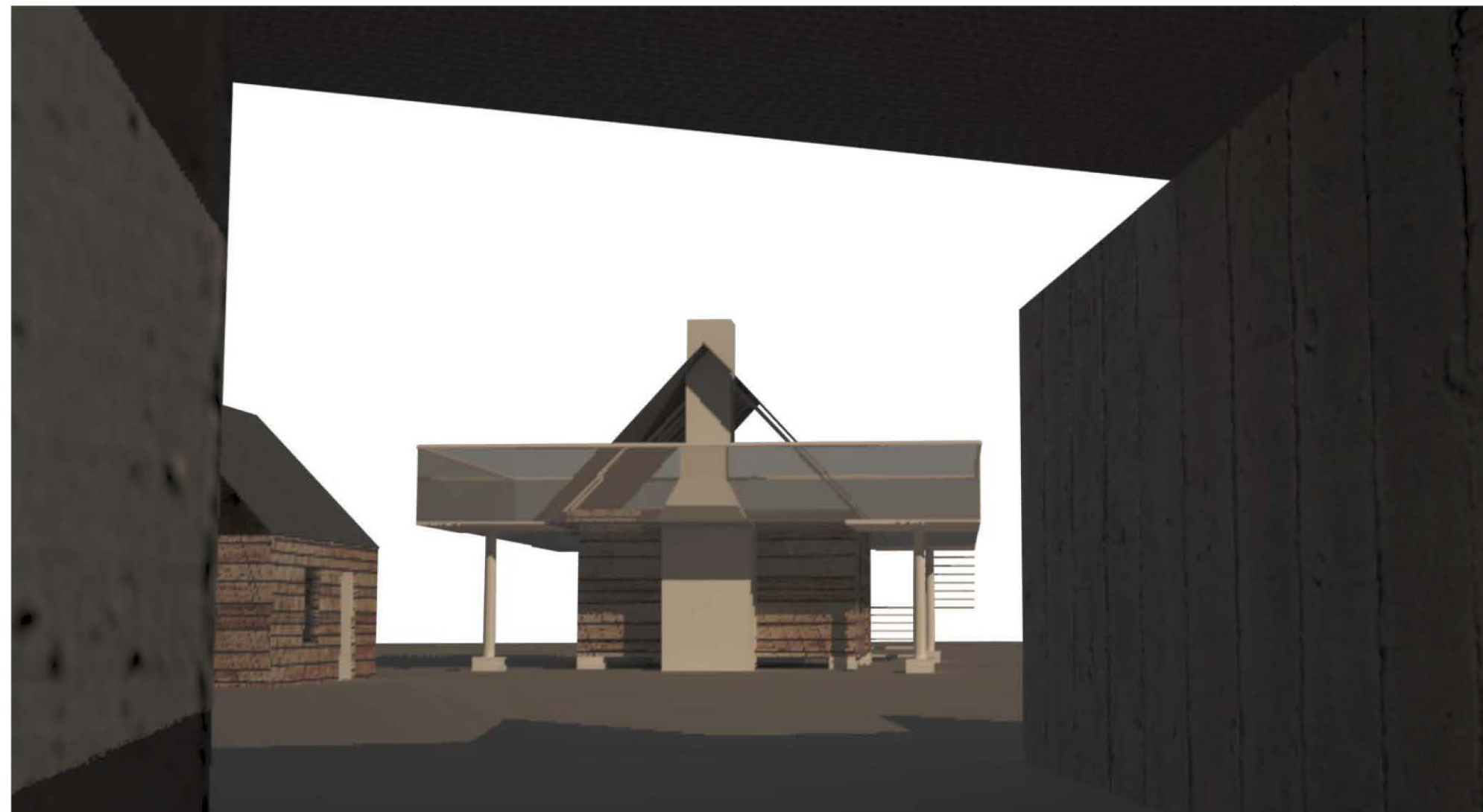


architectural concept one

preliminary design



VISITOR CENTER PERSPECTIVE



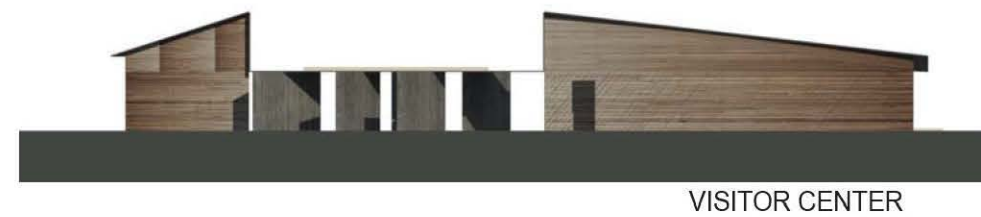
VIEW OF CABIN THROUGH VISITOR CENTER

preliminary design

architectural concept one

20

preliminary design



VISITOR CENTER



CABIN EXHIBIT



architectural concept one

## site and architectural master plan two

The second master plan alternative elevates the visitor to a participatory level with the story of this site and its place in the Mecklenburg region. The “stages” and walkways curate the experience of a cycling exhibition of narratives regarding the cabin and its inhabitants. This story culminates in the home and how residents and members of the community experienced that feeling of hearth and home in the cabin.

The visitors center and stone timeline wall, which would exhibit a national and regional history related to the site’s time period, serve as a threshold on two levels: the first, as an entry to the outdoor stages upon which the narrative is told; second, as a point at which the considerations of the past turn towards thoughts of the future. When a visitor reaches the cabin, the spaces open to the natural environment and invite him or her to explore nature trails and a community garden.

The garden’s function is two-fold: not only does it serve to provide a space for members of Clarksville to engage in small-scale agriculture but, through on-site water collection and environmentally conscious agricultural practices, serves to educate visitors in contemporary methods of personal farming that may be adapted to their own personal use. The use of native plants highlight climate-adapted choices for personal gardens; their use serves to educate visitors on proper garden care and plant nutrition. The butterfly roof that shelters the stone wall walkways serves to collect rainwater both for garden irrigation and grey-water reuse for plumbing facilities.

The following pages contain floor plan drawings, perspectives, and elevations of the proposed ideas for architectural concept two.

Michael Rollins explains his initial ideas.





preliminary design

site master plan two

23



preliminary design



24





preliminary design



25

architectural concept two

preliminary design



26

architectural concept two

preliminary design



27



preliminary design

28

architectural concept two

## final site master plan

After receiving feedback from the preliminary design concepts, the CDAC team created the final conceptual master plan. The positive elements of the preliminary designs were refined and incorporated into the new plan while a number of changes and new features were added.

The walking trail's connection to the historic cabin was changed to preserve the existing approach toward the structure and the old cleared circle in front of it. The nature walking trail was modified to incorporate areas of passive recreation. These features include a butterfly garden, hummingbird garden, marshy area and bird garden. The fitness trail was removed and the community garden was replaced with the proposal of a demonstration vegetable garden. The vegetable garden will demonstrate how to grow vegetables with basic gardening practices such as composting and turning soil. The native plant garden was replaced with the proposal of an heirloom garden that will include flowers that were historically found in the gardens at Prestwoud plantation. Lady Jean Skipwith, second wife of Sir Peyton Skipwith, was very interested in native plant materials. Some plants grown at the Prestwoud Plantation house were also found at the cabin site. Consequently, these plants and others utilized by Lady Jean Skipwith (listed in the appendix) were incorporated into the design.

design process

29

The natural play area was further developed to provide play that is symbolically connected to the cabin. Children can interact with local, native materials for creative play or even to build structures of their own. A design for an accessible amphitheater was developed and it was moved closer to the parking lot, allowing it to be easily reached by people of different accessibility. The caretaker's house was moved further back from the parking lot to provide privacy yet it maintains a visual connection to the entrance of the property. Finally, the parking lot was modified to allow easy circulation of school buses.

The following pages contain floor plan drawings, perspectives, and elevations of the proposed ideas for architectural concept one.



Harley Walker helped develop the site master plan.



Interpretive panels are recommended along the trail. They will educate visitors on the historical and environmental importance of various features throughout the site.



The heirloom garden will be planted with the same flowers that grew at the Prestwold Plantation, some of which can already be found on the Patrick Sydnor property when Lady Skipwith grew them.



A wood or recycled plastic walkway will allow the trail to pass over wet areas.



It is recommended that the beginning of the trail, the amphitheater, and picnic area be paved with permeable pavers.



The majority of the trail is recommended to be paved with compacted stone dust.



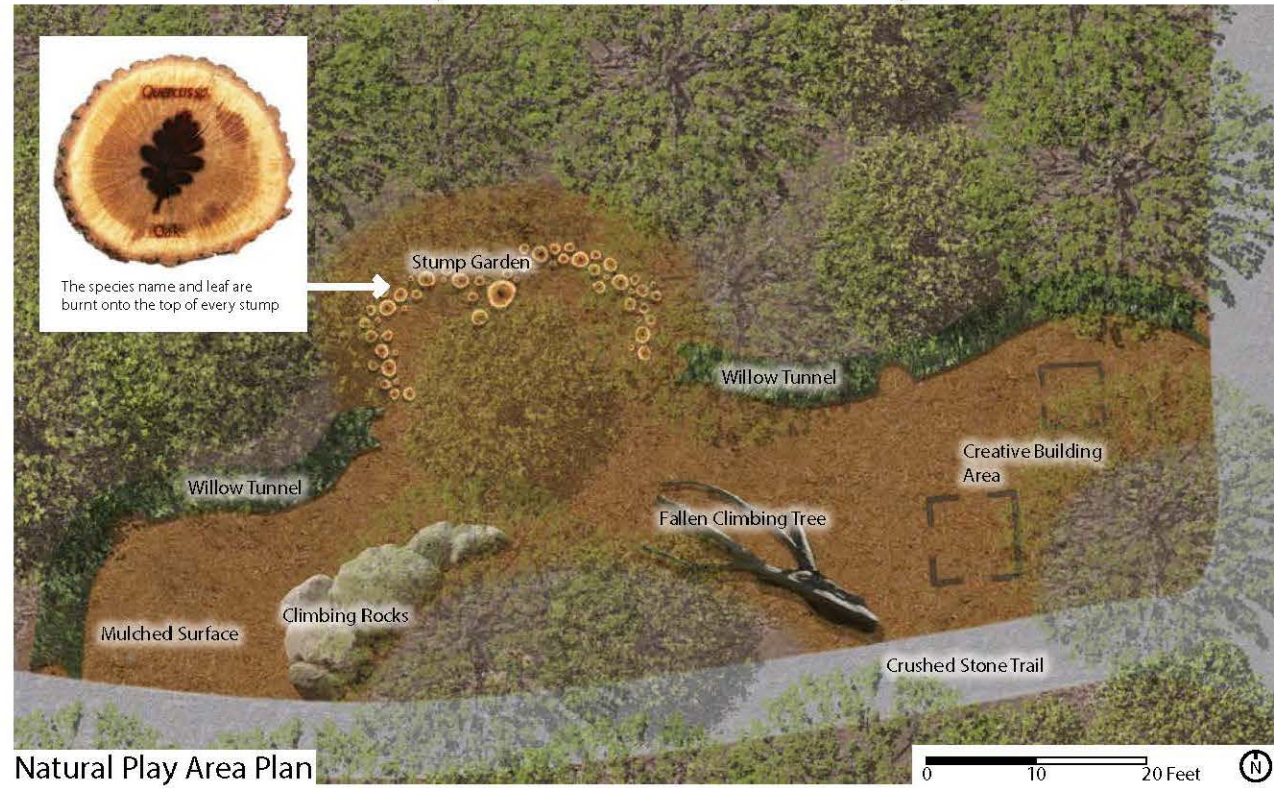
Pervious asphalt is recommended for the parking lot.

design process



- Interpretive Panel 1: Power of Place in Living History
- Interpretive Panel 2: Geo-Glimpses: Nature, Places and Things
- Interpretive Panel 3: A Place to Work

Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin

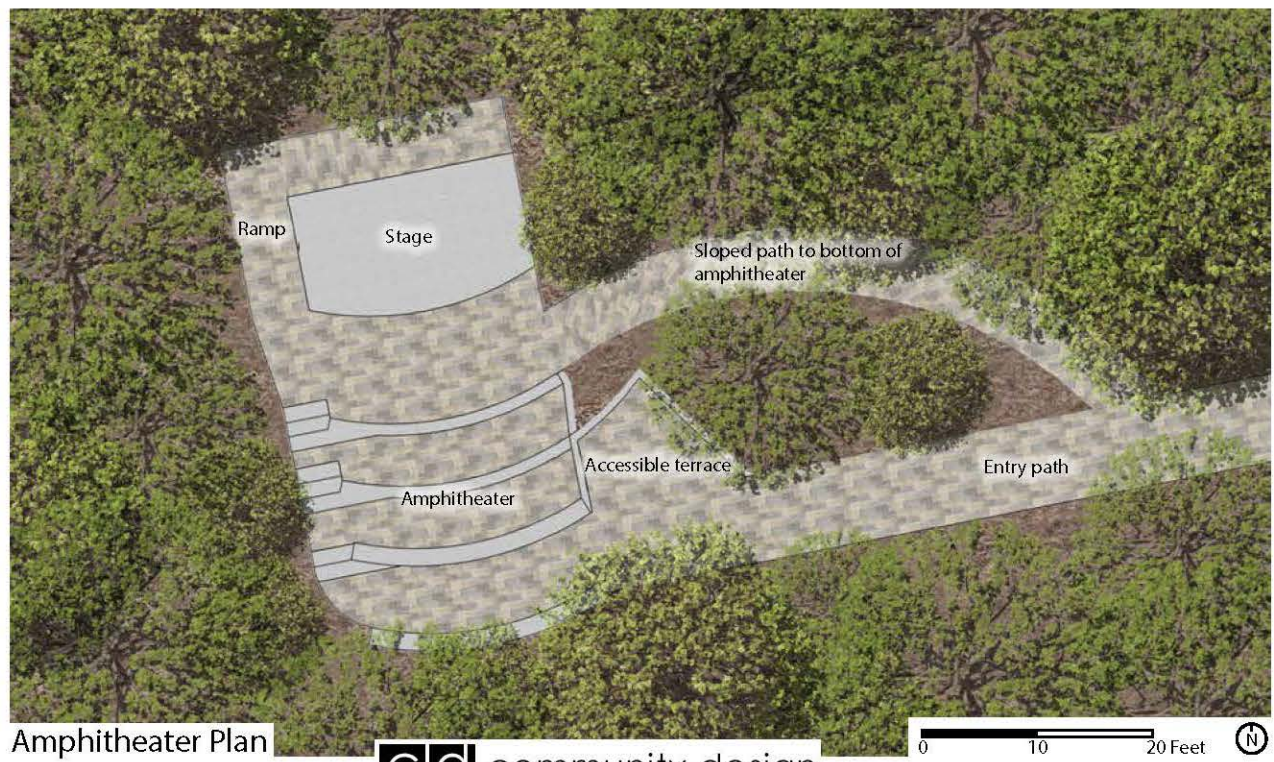


Natural Play Area Plan



Natural Play Area

design process



Amphitheater Plan



Amphitheater

final site master plan

### final architectural concept

The final design concept for the visitors center focused on the accommodation of basic needs and the facilitation of the visitor's experience of the site. We sought to choreograph an experience of the Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil War era log cabin and historic site that would contribute both aesthetically and functionally to the suggestions of the client and vision of the design team.

With these objectives in mind, the visitors center became the hub of the site; the center of activity and information about the site. The design of the visitor center sought flexibility in use, allowing for a number of different arrangements depending on use of the facility. A gallery for seasonal exhibits, a library wall, information kiosk, and multi-purpose event space form the core of the building, arranged around a working hearth upon entrance to the visitor center lobby. Restrooms, a staff room, and gift shop extend outward, along a perpendicular axis from the center, while storage rooms and a kitchen extend in the opposite direction, abutting the multi-purpose room.

The arrangement of these supporting rooms suggests a hierarchy of movement within the visitor center related to the expected use of the facility. Since visitors must enter the building first in order to proceed towards the log cabin compound, all necessary information about the site, and its history is readily available and accessible upon entry. Although the building arrangement and concept suggests lateral expansion, specific importance is attached to the areas of greatest sectional change, which further reinforces the hierarchy of space within the logic of the building. Light wells sit above the lobby entrance, and multi-purpose room, which face Southeast and Northwest. These spaces punctuate the experience of the visitor center through generous ceiling heights, glimpses of sky, and the trace of natural light throughout the day.

Upon exiting the visitors center, one begins along a pathway which leads to the Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil War era Log Cabin, adjoining buildings, and then on to the site's scenic walking routes.



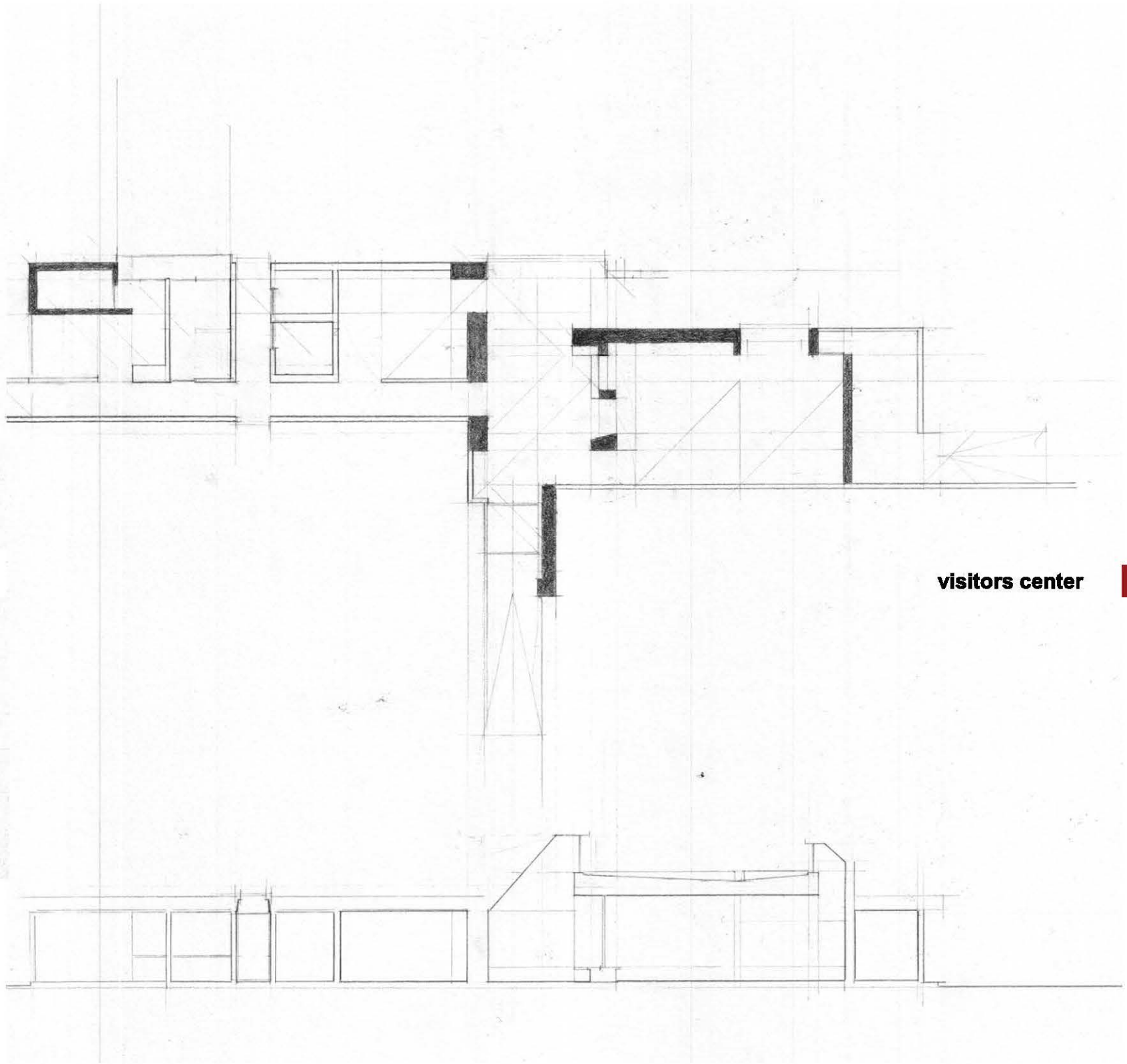
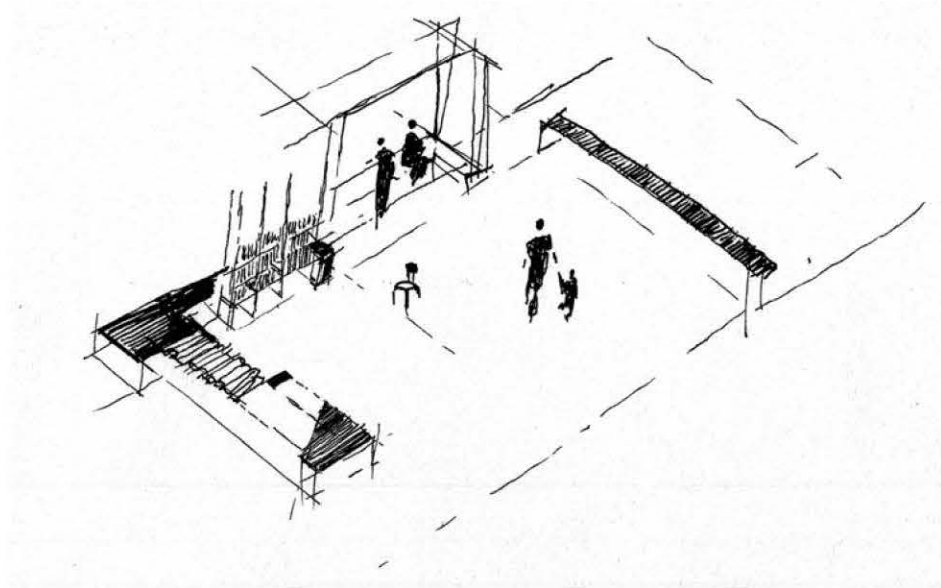
The caretaker's house sprung from the necessity for an on-site docent to look after and maintain the property outside of visitors hours. The caretaker's cabin therefore sought to simultaneously provide the requisite privacy of a dwelling, as well as relative proximity to the visitor center and site entrance. The building is accessed primarily from a driveway along the Southeast side of the property. Another entrance opens out upon the site's trail system.

The cabin itself is arranged in two halves, related to day and night activity: bedrooms on one side, kitchen, dining, and living rooms on the other. The kitchen and living room adjoin, hinged by a working fireplace, which open out onto a generous deck to the North-east. The deck space is hidden from view of the road and visitors center to provide a level of privacy for the caretaker and family.

The following pages include initial sketches for the visitors center floor plans with elevators, seating options for the lecture/multi-purpose room, and perspectives of the visitors center and site entry areas. Following those drawings are those for the caretaker's house.



The CDAC team discusses the final site master plan. Left to Right: Lara Browning, Liam Smith, Elizabeth Gilboy, Harley Walker, and Arian Korkuti

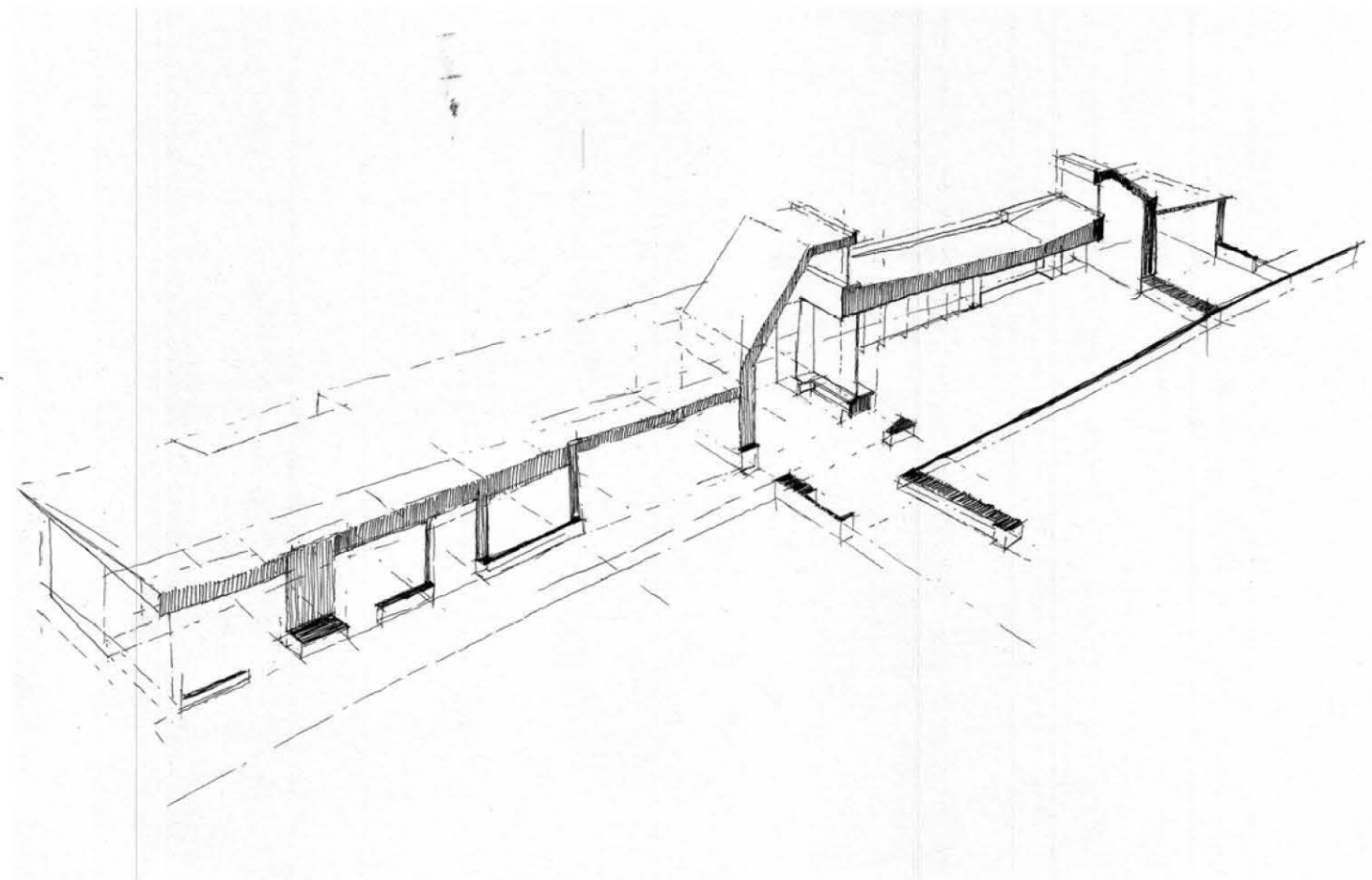
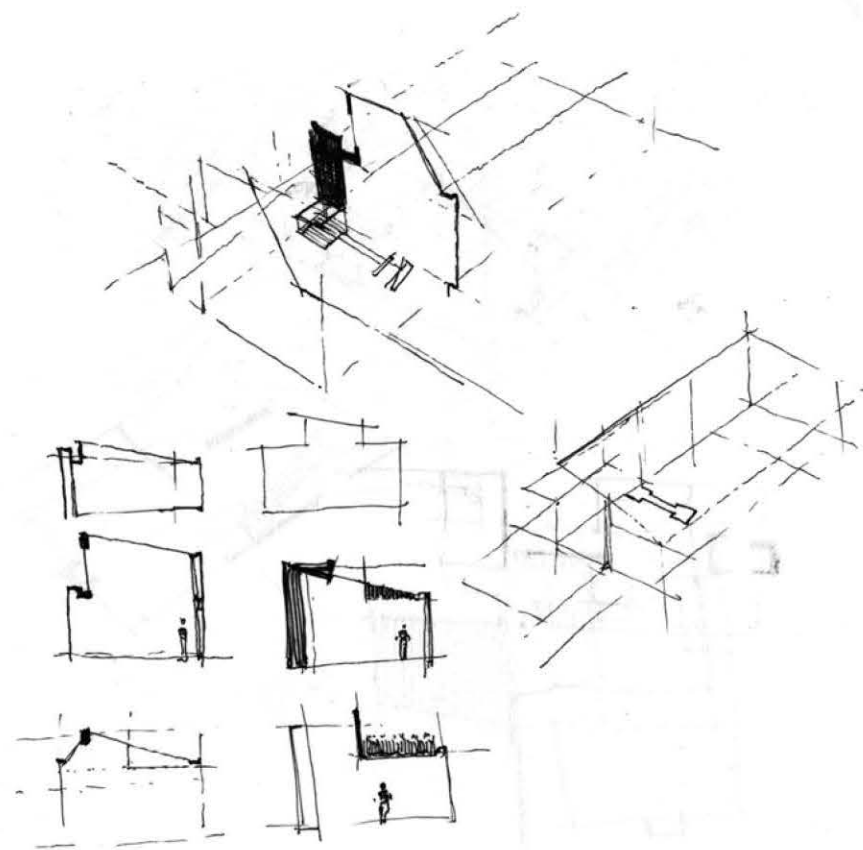


design process

visitors center

34

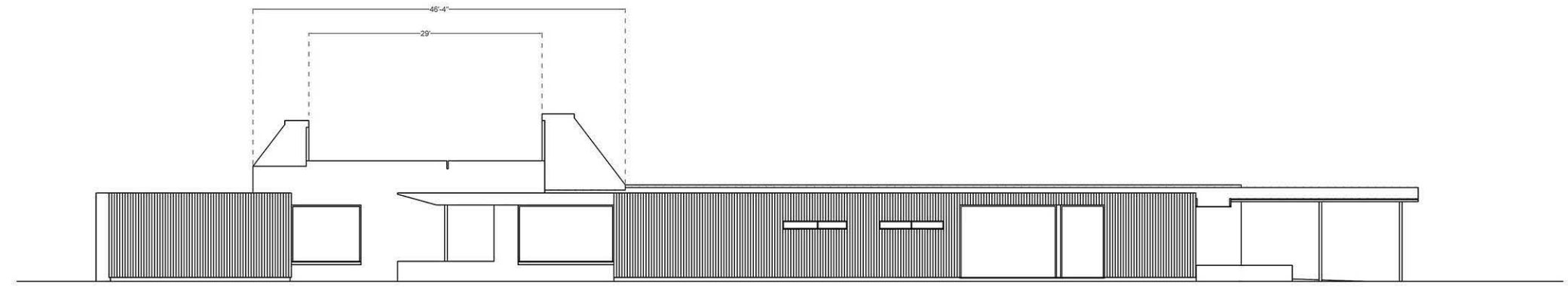
design process



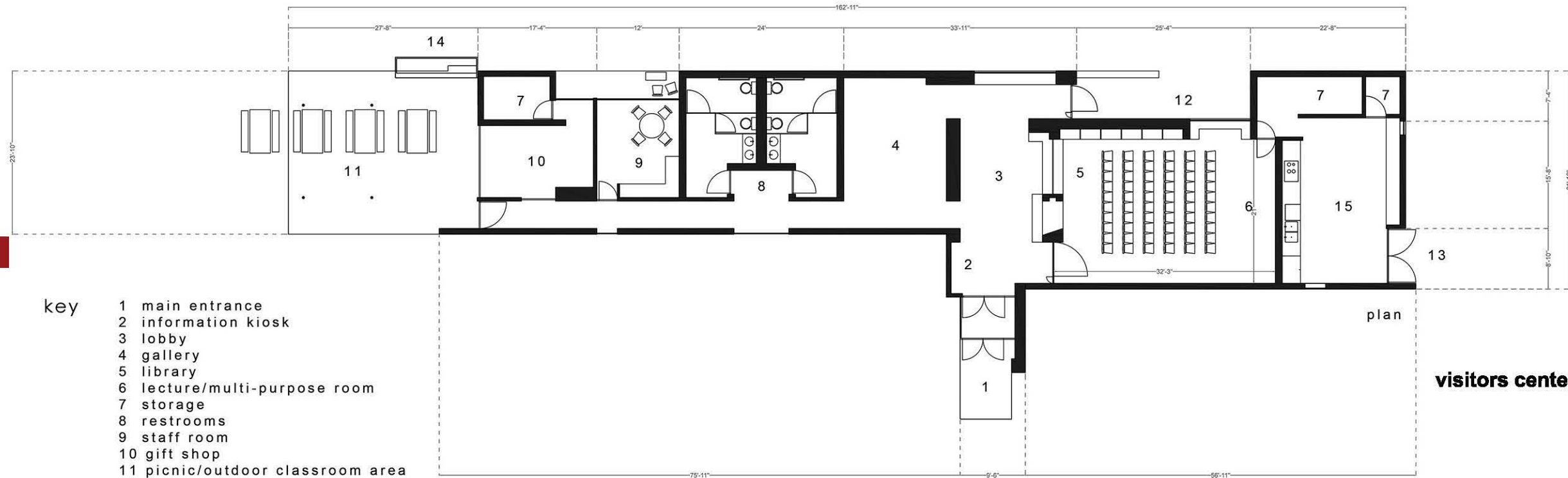
35

visitors center

Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin



rear elevation NE



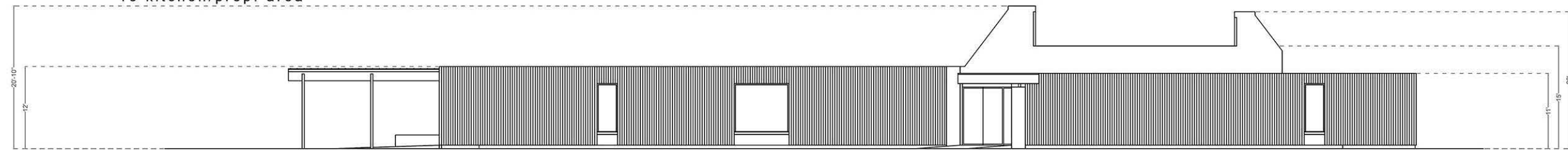
plan

visitors center

- key
- 1 main entrance
  - 2 information kiosk
  - 3 lobby
  - 4 gallery
  - 5 library
  - 6 lecture/multi-purpose room
  - 7 storage
  - 8 restrooms
  - 9 staff room
  - 10 gift shop
  - 11 picnic/outdoor classroom area
  - 12 exit towards sydnor cabin
  - 13 maintenance entrance
  - 14 rain water collection
  - 15 kitchen/prep. area

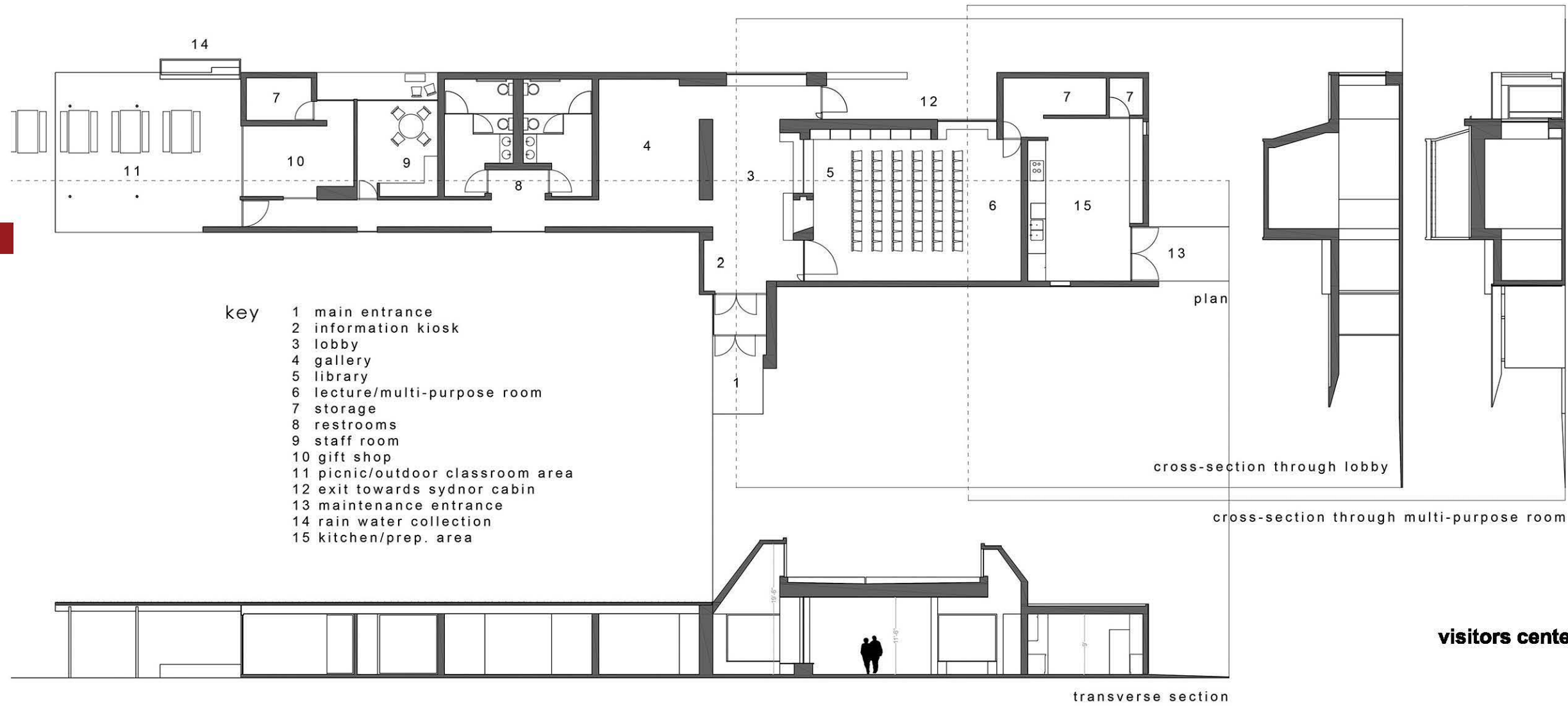
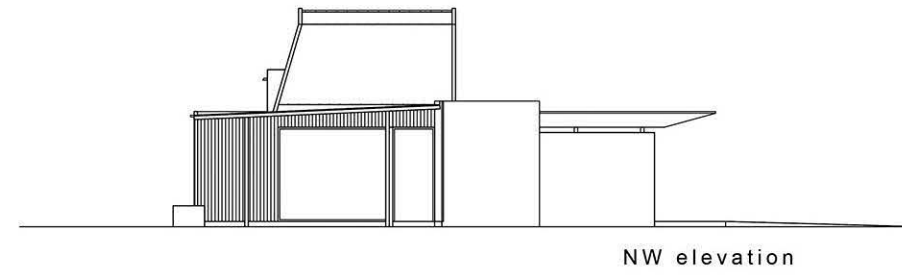
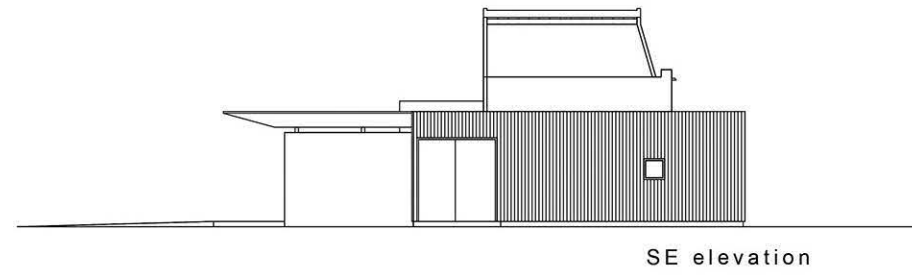
design process

36



front elevation SW

Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin

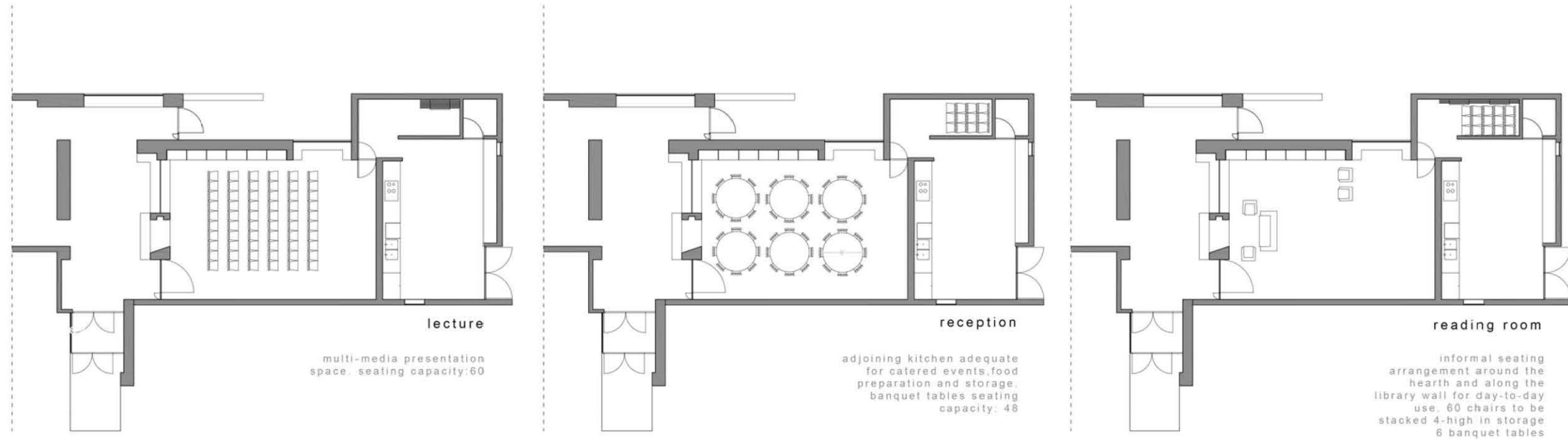


- key
- 1 main entrance
  - 2 information kiosk
  - 3 lobby
  - 4 gallery
  - 5 library
  - 6 lecture/multi-purpose room
  - 7 storage
  - 8 restrooms
  - 9 staff room
  - 10 gift shop
  - 11 picnic/outdoor classroom area
  - 12 exit towards sydnor cabin
  - 13 maintenance entrance
  - 14 rain water collection
  - 15 kitchen/prep. area

design process

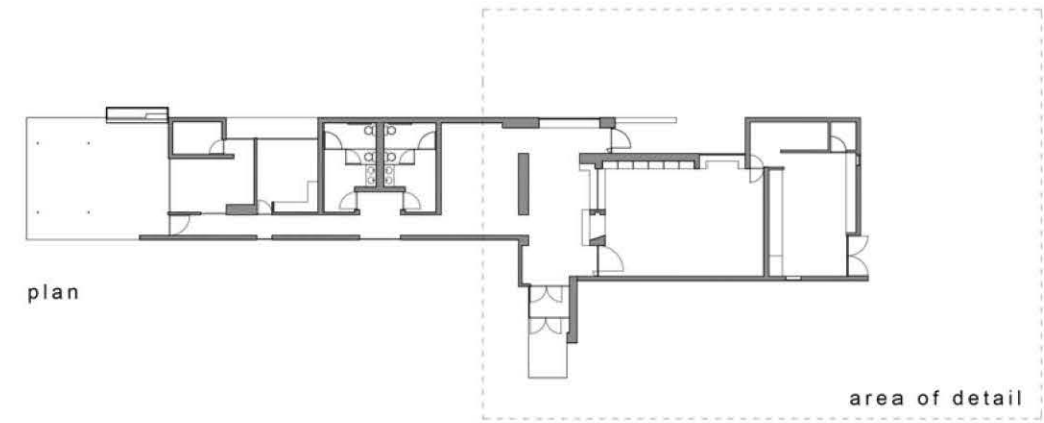
37

visitors center



design process

38



visitors center



design process



39

visitors center

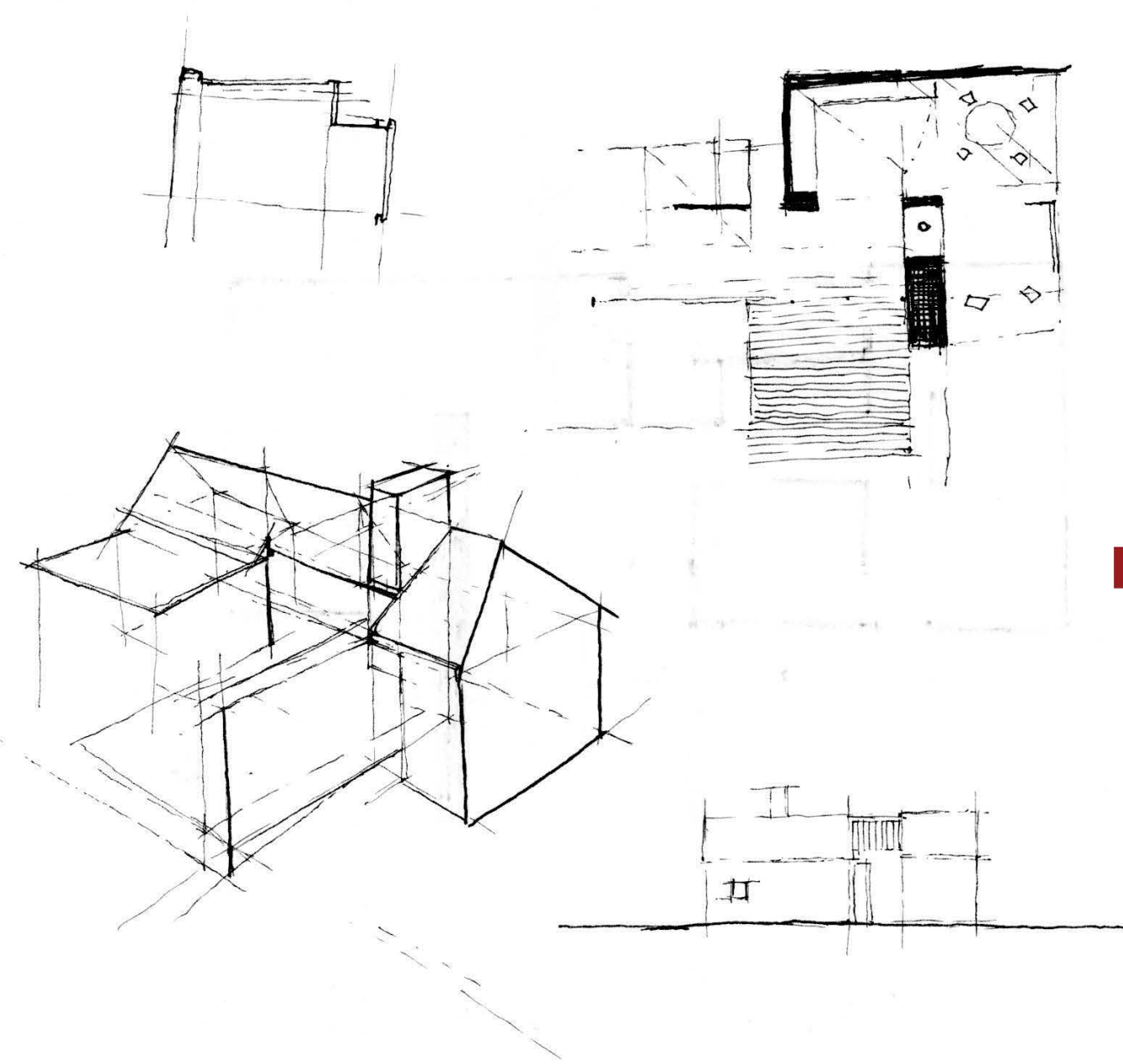
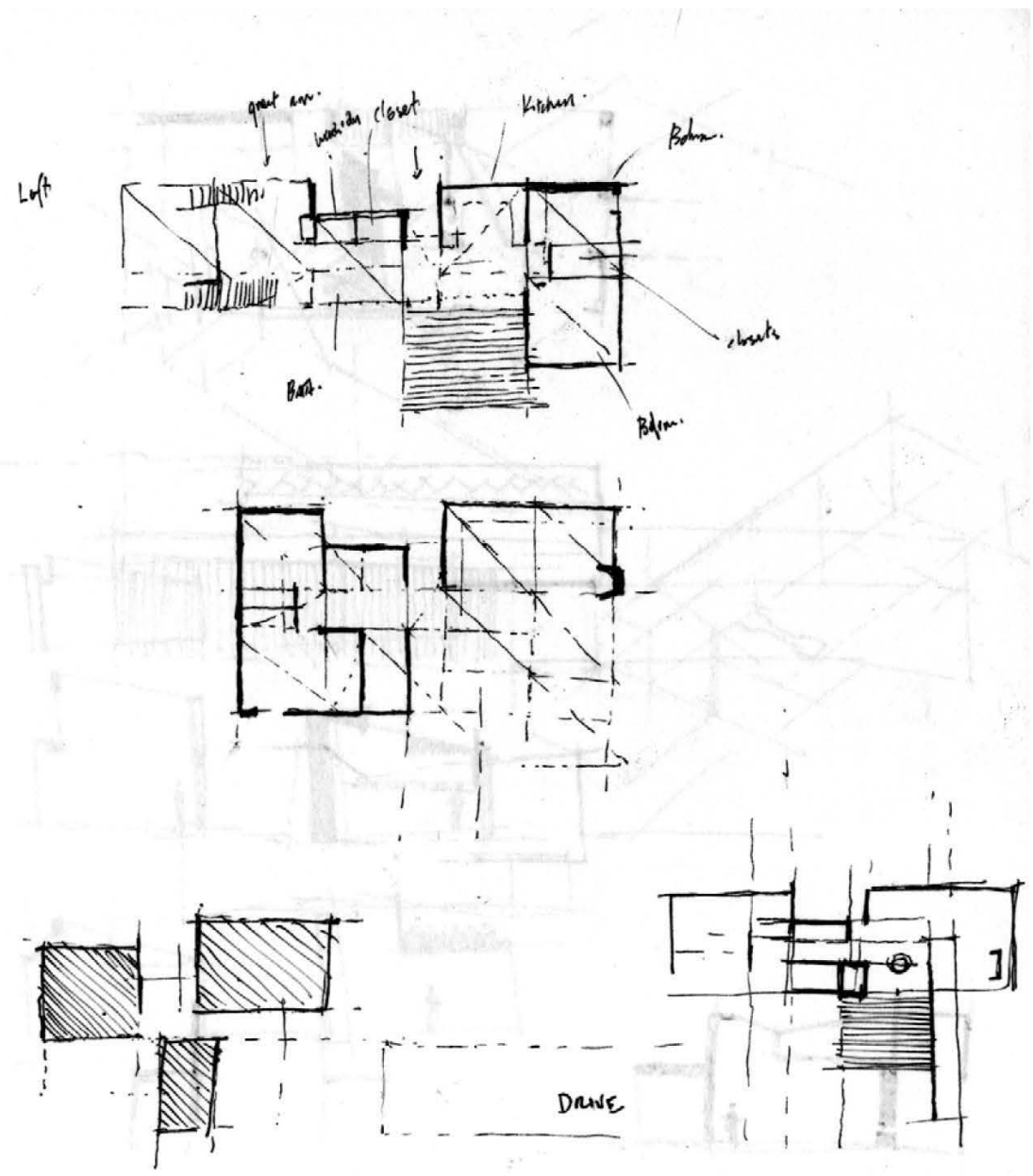
design process

40



visitors center



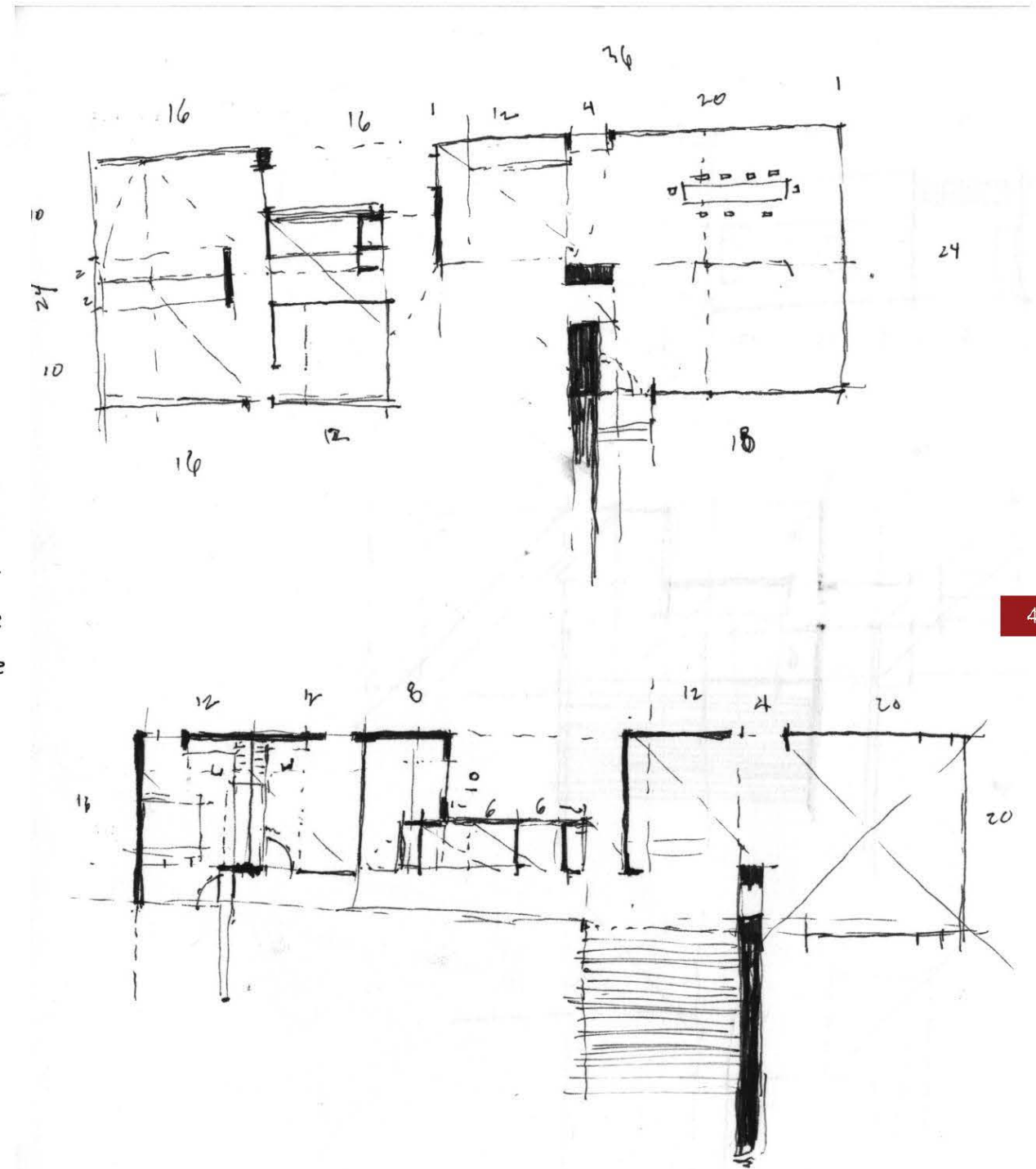
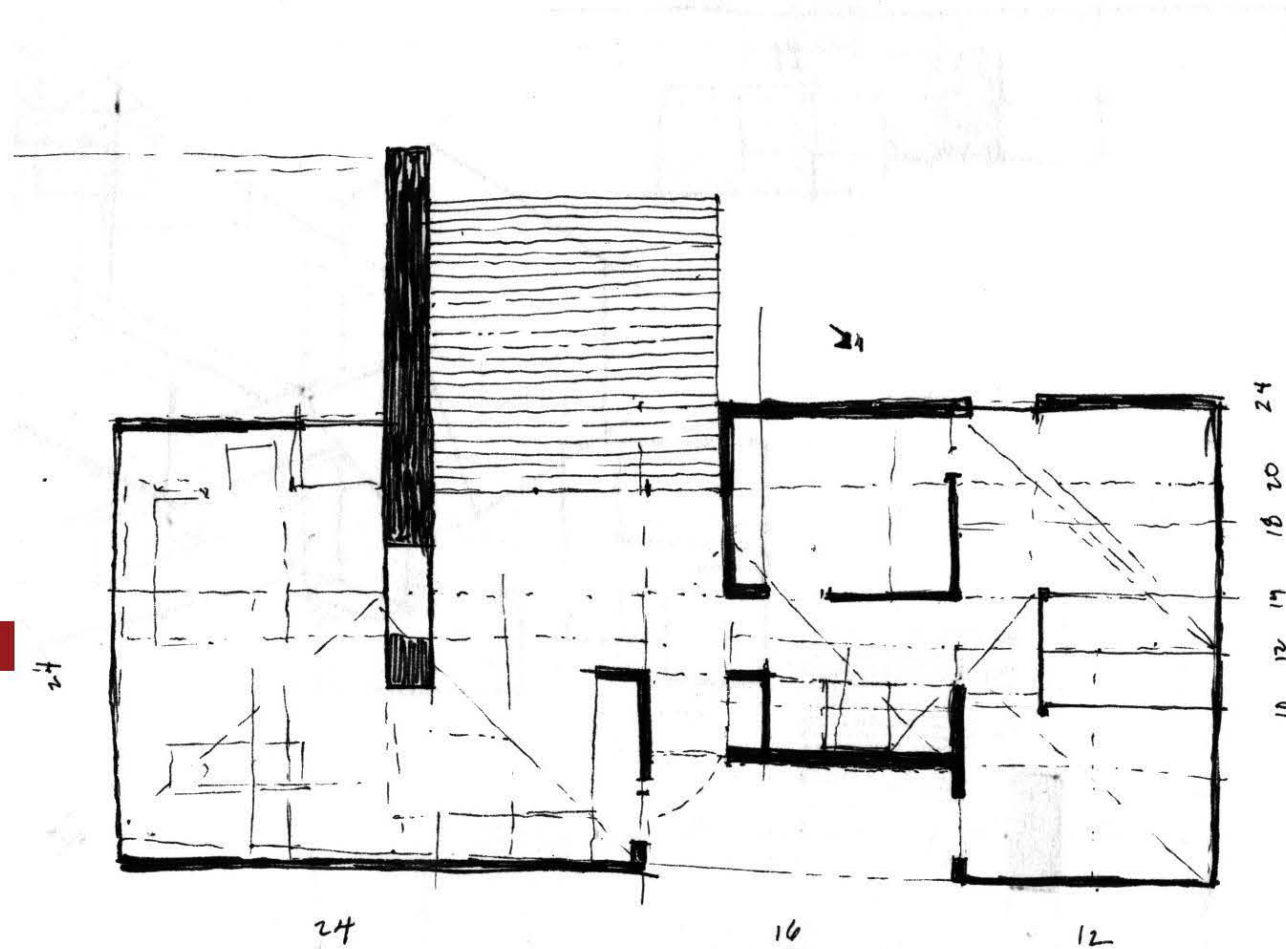


design process

41

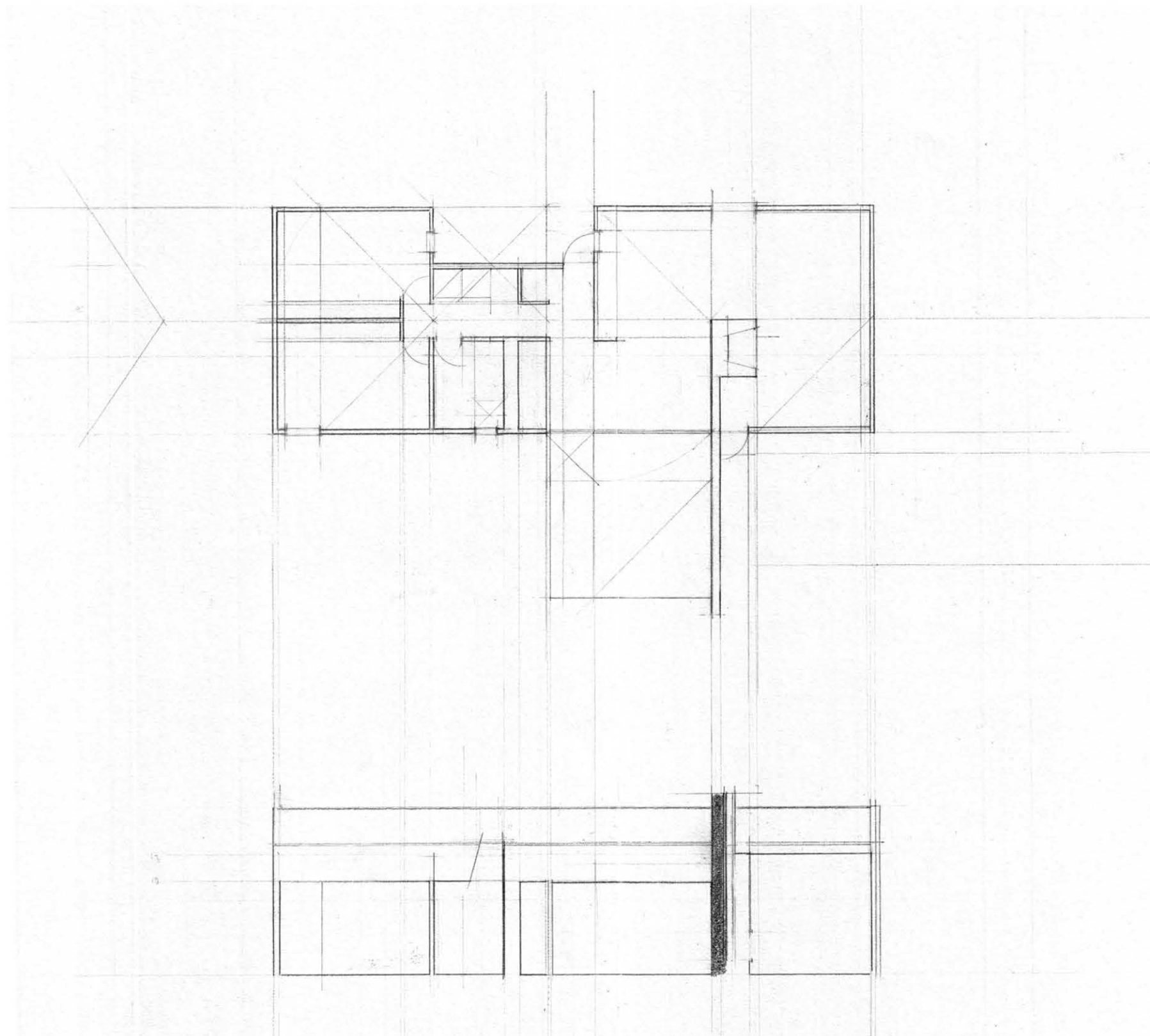
caretaker's house

design process



42

caretaker's house

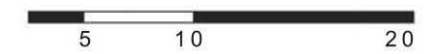
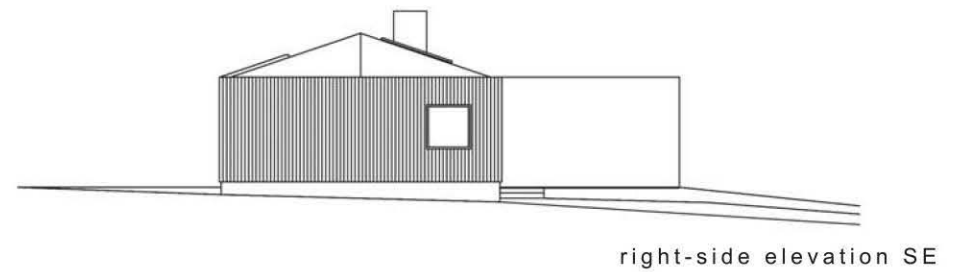
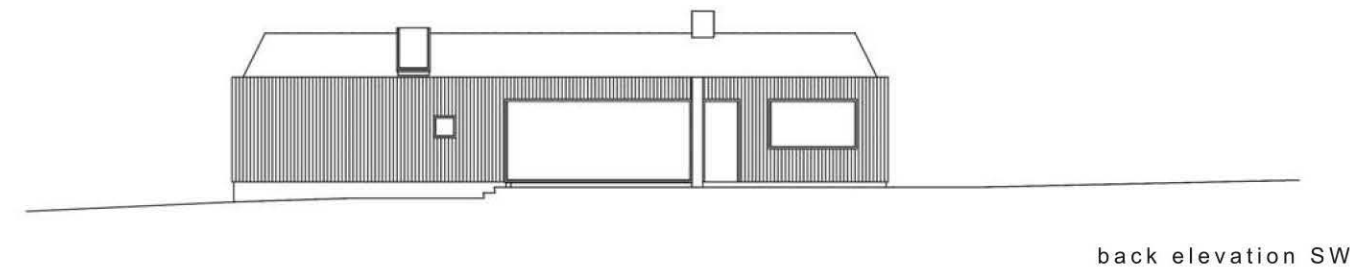
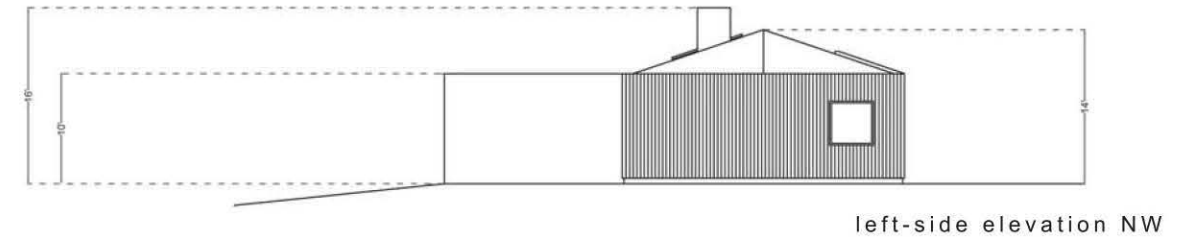
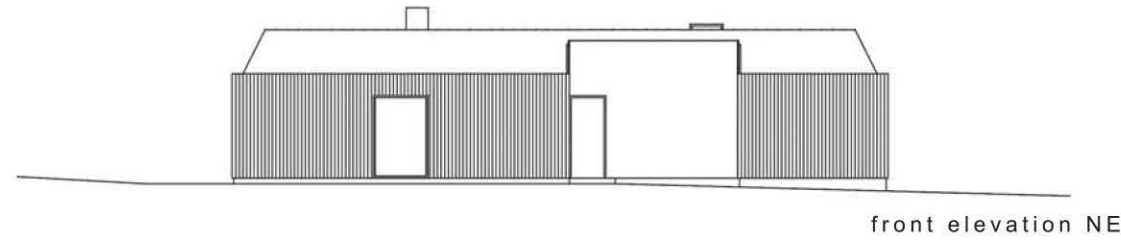


design process

caretaker's house

43

Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil Era Historic Site + Log Cabin



design process

caretaker's house 44

design process



45

caretaker's house

The Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil War Era Historic Site and Log Cabin is an important part of the history of Virginia and the nation. Planning for use of the site and cabin as a visitors center offers a great opportunity to provide both information and educational opportunities about the site's history, its history in the larger context of Virginia and U.S. history, as well as information and educational opportunities that look to the future. The nature trail, with its, heirloom, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and natural play area will offer opportunities for visitors, local citizens, and school groups to learn about gardening in the past as well as current gardening and nature-related information. The visitors center will provide a venue for seasonal exhibits, local community space, and local history and will also showcase sustainable building practices. The Community Design Assistance Center team wishes Literacy Interactives the very best as they proceed in seeing this toward fruition.

**heirloom garden plants**

48

**prestwoud plants**

49

**case studies 1-6**

Historic Palmer-Epard-cabin

50

Cunningham Cabin

51

Magnolia Cabin

52

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

and

Booker T Washington National Monument

53

Mabry Mill

54



Amsonia



Claytonia



Monk's Hood



Aster



Cowslip



Phlox



Atamasco Lily



Dog's Tooth Violet



Sculloap

appendix



Bloodroot



Indian Pink



Solomon's Seal



Blue Eyed Grass



Lady Slipper



Toadshade



Canadian Columbine



Liverwort



Virginia Spiderwort

48

heirloom garden plants



community design  
assistance center

College of Architecture + Urban Studies  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



Wild flowers in the garden

Dogs tooth violet (see *Erythronium*)  
 Puccoon, or Blood root (see *Sanguinaria*) greater plants has  
 rings to stalk. —  
 Tuberosa insipid *Tamaria* (see *Tamaria*)  
 Monkshood, Wolfsbane, (see *Aconitum*) Ordeal and Antimonial  
 Ladies Slipper (see *Cypripedium*) and Moccasin flower. —  
 Claytonia. —  
 Solomon's Seal, (see *Convolvulus Polygonatum*) 4, 3, 5, & 6<sup>th</sup> sorts.  
 Lipile Trillium —  
 Atamisco Lily (see *Amurellis* 2<sup>d</sup> sort)  
 Honors Tongue (see *Cynoglossum laeve*)  
 Composita (see *Millen* 1 sort)  
 Virginia Spiderwort (see *Tradescantia*). —  
 Asters of various kinds. —  
 Callisaid violet (see *Viola*) very handsome, some with a fringed  
 flower. —  
 Lychnis, or Butcher's Bunch (see *Phlox*) 6 sorts all hand-  
 some. —  
 Dwarf Capin. an annual. seed from the Forest, or Ladyfinger.  
 Carolina Kidney-bean-tree (see *Lychnis*) winged leaves and blue flowers  
 growing in woods - 2<sup>d</sup> sort - got the seeds from Mr. Skip with  
 Carolina Coat-tree (see *Erythrina*) 1<sup>st</sup> sort got the seeds from Mr. Miller  
 Limodorum Tuberosum - from South Carolina. by Lin. —  
 Twag blade (see *Ophrys*) 2 sorts 2<sup>d</sup> sort. —  
 Blue Star-flower - not described by Miller —  
 American Cowslip (see *Madia*) (see *Madia*) - 13<sup>th</sup> sort of Virginia  
 Bromadiana (see *Sisyrinchia*) blue flower with gaps looking stalk  
 and leaves - plenty in the Orchard. —  
 Canada Columbine (see *Aquilegia*)  
 Skull-cap, Capida - (see *Scutellaria*)  
 Star-flower (see *Ornithogalum*) 4<sup>th</sup> sort. —  
 Liverwort (see *Hepatica*) single blue - by sowing the seeds some exist  
 maybe obtained - to be sown in August soon after they are ripe -  
 Queen, or Wild Strawberry (see *Fragaria*) 6<sup>th</sup> sort. —

presthould plants



**Historic Palmer-Epard-cabin in Homestead National Monument of America, Nebraska, USA**

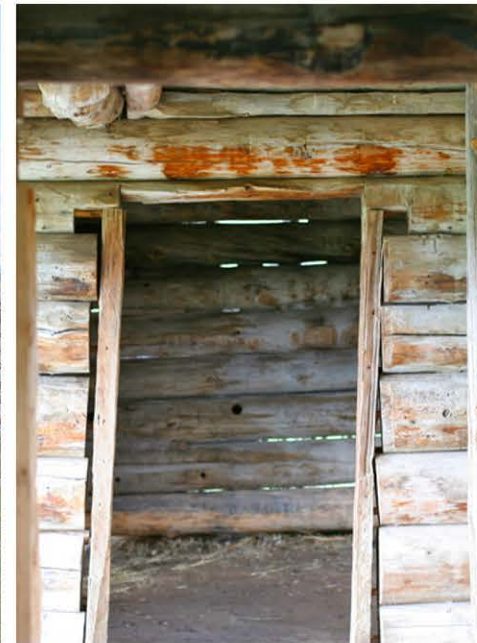
This homestead cabin was built in 1867 from various hardwoods and measured 14'x16'. A lean-to was added between 1875 and 1880 and was occupied by the Palmers until 1895. After changing hands multiple times the cabin fell under the ownership of Lawrence and Ida Epard and occupied it for 40 years. Since the cabin has been moved to the Homestead National Monument and rehabilitated in 1950. v

The cabin remained in its original state until 1950. At the time of its rehabilitation it was placed on a concrete foundation and moved repeatedly in 1954, 1961, and finally in 2009 when it settled on a plot behind the Heritage center. The actual process used to restore the cabin is not detailed by the National Park Service, but they claim to have disassembled the cabin piece by piece during each subsequent site transition.

A "Living Wall" along the procession to the main entrance of the visitor's center, which serves the entire park, illustrates the amount of land owned by "Homesteaders" during the 1800's relative to the size of the state. The center addresses many topics related to the Homestead Act, including immigration, agriculture, industrialization, and native tribes.

**case study 1**





**Cunningham Cabin in Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole, WY**

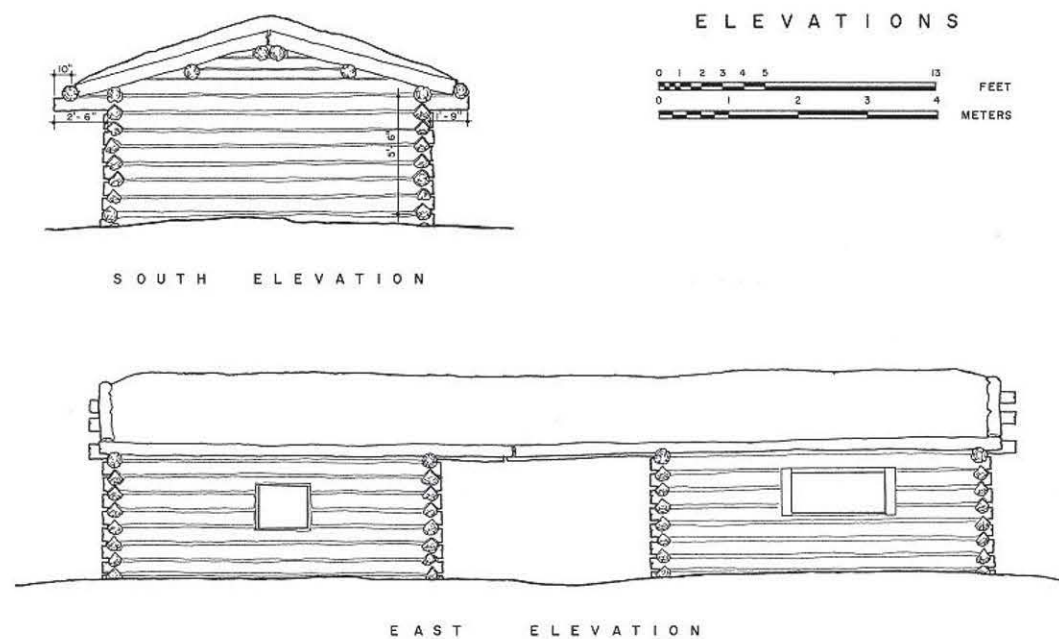
This dog-trot style cabin existed first as a profitable ranch, then as a fixture on the parcel of land donated by the Snake River Land Co. to the Grand Teton National Park (1928). The cabin itself has not been officially “restored,” but instead was reconstructed in 1956 and is surrounded by support structures similar to those on our site.

The cabin remained in its original state until 1956. Original construction was of V-notched logs of Appalachian origin. In 1956, the sill logs were replaced and the roof was rebuilt. The wall logs were reset upon replacement of the sill logs. Aside from that the cabin has not been “restored”.

Firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson developed the Grand Teton Visitor’s Center for the national park as a whole. Large heavy-timber members mimic the surrounding forest while utilizing locally-sourced building materials. Special consideration is given to the views out of the center and towards the Grand Teton mountain range. While significantly larger as a result of accommodating visitors for the entire park, the educational considerations and the integration of the site (and indigenous building materials) with the architecture are concerns shared by the Sydnor Cabin project.



**case study 2**





**Magnolia Cabin in Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Charleston, South Carolina**

This cabin has been restored to its original condition as it stood upon construction in the 1850's. A portion of the cabin remained with its "petina" intact to compare the present state of the cabin with the restored, "original" state. The only construction work undertaken was to repair and stabilize the cabin for the safety of visitors.

A few remaining roof shingles were preserved under the tin roof and were used to recreate the roof. Existing weather boards and floor boards were restored; interior wall boards were removed on one wall to show its original construction while the remainder was whitewashed with a historic lime wash. Historic lime-based mixture using river sand acted as mortar for foundation bricks and interior chimney facing.

The primary structure was in danger of collapse; each structural member was either restored or, in the case of mortise and tenon joints, the receiving beam was replaced with a new beam crafted using traditional methods.

The loft was preserved to illustrate how families utilized the entirety of their relatively small living quarters. The shuttered windows were restored and original hardware was used, including square nails.

**case study 3**



case study 4 and 5



<http://www.ket.org/nationalparks/lincoln/lincoln.htm>

**Abraham Lincoln Birthplace  
National Historical Park  
Hodgenville, Kentucky**

This 19th century log cabin was believed to be the home of President Lincoln when he was born but has been scientifically dated to 1848 or later, when Lincoln was already in Congress. Although it is not his physical house, it “symbolizes” the type of place the president lived in his early years. It is enshrined inside a memorial hall near Knob Creek farm, where Lincoln grew up. <http://www.civilwar.org/hallowed-ground-magazine/trailing-lincoln.html>



<http://www.vacationhomes.net/blog/2012/05/17/top-10-attractions-in-kentucky,-usa/>



<http://www.history.com/photos/virginia/photo1>

**Booker T Washington National Monument, Moneta, VA**

The birthplace of Booker T Washington is now a national park displaying his homeplace and attempting to recreate his early life for visitors. Features of the site include several log cabins, a farm area with live animals, walking trail and historic learning trail, visitor center, and picnic area. The log cabins have been reconstructed to look like 19th century farm buildings; they are open for visitors to walk through as part of the 1/4 mile “historic loop.” The farm area includes sheep, pigs, horses and chickens, typical animals of a farm in the 19th century. The site also features a garden area where visitors learn about period gardening techniques. The 1.5 mile walking trail traverses the site through fields and forest in addition to the short historic trail loop.

The national monument includes programs aimed specifically at school children to teach them about slave history. They provide learning materials and space for school groups to learn on site.



[http://www.nps.gov/history/teachers\\_afam.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/teachers_afam.htm)



<http://yadkinvalleyhome.wordpress.com/2009/05/12/mabry-mill/>



<http://www.pointrichmondvoice.com/2010/10/driving-blue-ridge-parkway.html>

appendix



### Mabry Mill on BlueRidge Parkway, Virginia

Mabry Mill is a historic watermill showcasing a restored sawmill and wood-working shop. The mill is in working condition and enables visitors to be a part of the process and see how it works. The site also includes a short walking loop that highlights historic pieces included at the farm that depict rural life over the past 100 years in Appalachian country. The site also features a bandshell and regularly has musicians playing Appalachian music so people of all ages can sit and enjoy a good time.

case study 6