

Project Description/Narrative

In 2015 this multi-phase project began with a feasibility study for the stabilization, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of the 1910 chapel located in a picturesque cemetery. The chapel was closed in 1960, as a result of changing funerary customs. The Chapel sat vacant for several decades and suffered from persistent leaks that compromised its heavy timber roof structure and sandstone masonry walls. The result of the study included an exterior and interior conditions survey and the development of the building's new program. Using the study as a guide a multi-phase project was developed to stabilize the building and plan for a full rehabilitation project. The project phases included:

- Stabilization and limited reconstruction of the timber roof structure
- Full restoration of the slate and copper roofing system
- Full rehabilitation of the Chapel including:
 - Handicap Accessibility
 - Restoration of all interior finishes
 - Restoration of the Hook and Hastings organ
 - Restoration of all stained-glass windows
 - Restoration of limestone and Medina sandstone walls
 - Reimagining the Chapel's receiving vault as a new community space

Retaining the integrity of the historic building envelope was an important project goal so expansion on the site was not considered. The program goals of a community space, handicap-accessible toilet room, kitchenette, and modern HVAC all had to be realized within the existing compact building envelope. The resulting design thoughtfully incorporates the mechanical systems and programmatic amenities without compromising the original character of the building. To create an open community space within the receiving vault, the masonry walls were removed while suspending the barrel-vaulted ceiling in-situ and a new leaded glass window was installed within an existing false opening to provide natural light. The Chapel was a forgotten community resource, but its adaptive reuse has successfully reconnected the community with the cemetery's history and reestablished it as a place of shared memory.

AIA's Framework for Design Excellence

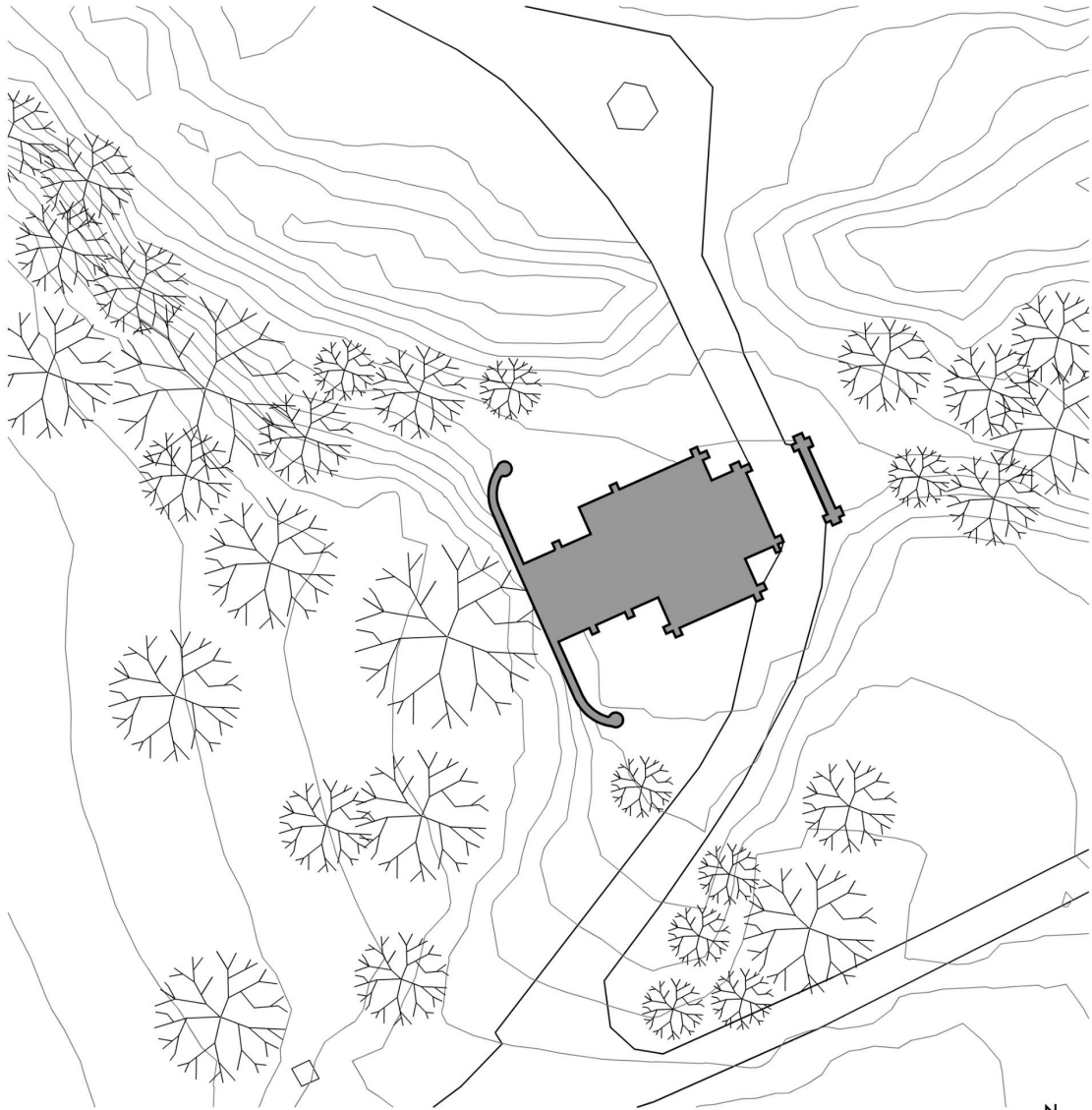
The project addresses four of the ten measures for Design Excellence:

1. **Design for Integration:** This project was driven by the opportunity to expand the cemetery's connectivity with the community and save a local architectural treasure. Rehabilitating historic buildings is an effective means to conserve the natural environment while preserving our built environment. Through careful planning and collaboration with the client, general contractor, and engineering consultants, all salvageable building components were repaired and reinstalled reducing the quantity of resources required to rehabilitate the building thus reducing its embodied energy.
2. **Design for Economy:** The footprint of the chapel is modest, it includes a small sanctuary space connected by a vestibule to a receiving vault with a barrel-vaulted ceiling and eight masonry niches meant to store caskets before burials. The program required that the project stay within the existing building footprint and provide a flexible meeting room and a handicap-accessible toilet room in addition to preserving the original sanctuary space. The dark, segmented receiving vault was not ideal for its proposed use but with careful planning, we were able to retain two niches, one for a toilet room and the other for a utility closet. The masonry walls in the remainder of the space were removed to create an open floor plan but the barrel-vaulted ceiling were retained with the new supporting steel structure articulating the previous construction.
3. **Design for Resources:** The chapel was built in 1910 with quality materials meant to last for generations and they did. Demolition of existing materials was limited to only where absolutely necessary. The use of new materials was limited and all new material assemblies and finishes introduced into the building were assessed for both their aesthetic appropriateness within the historic building fabric and for their longevity of service life and repairability. Historic elements that were salvageable were repaired in place or removed for repair and reinstalled including stained glass, light fixtures, millwork, doors, and hardware. The new and repaired material and finishes will remain in service for decades.
4. **Design for Change:** Expanding the programmatic capabilities of the building with open, accessible spaces significantly expanded the capabilities of a building that was once limited to funeral services and cold storage. New heating and cooling systems, carefully concealed out of sight provide for a comfortable interior environment in the once cold and damp space. The building now accommodates a variety of events and uses that include musical and theatrical performances, lectures, meetings, weddings, banquets, and of course, funeral services. The historic and new materials were selected and designed for longevity to ensure that the chapel will continue to stand and be a functionally viable asset to the community for another 100 years.

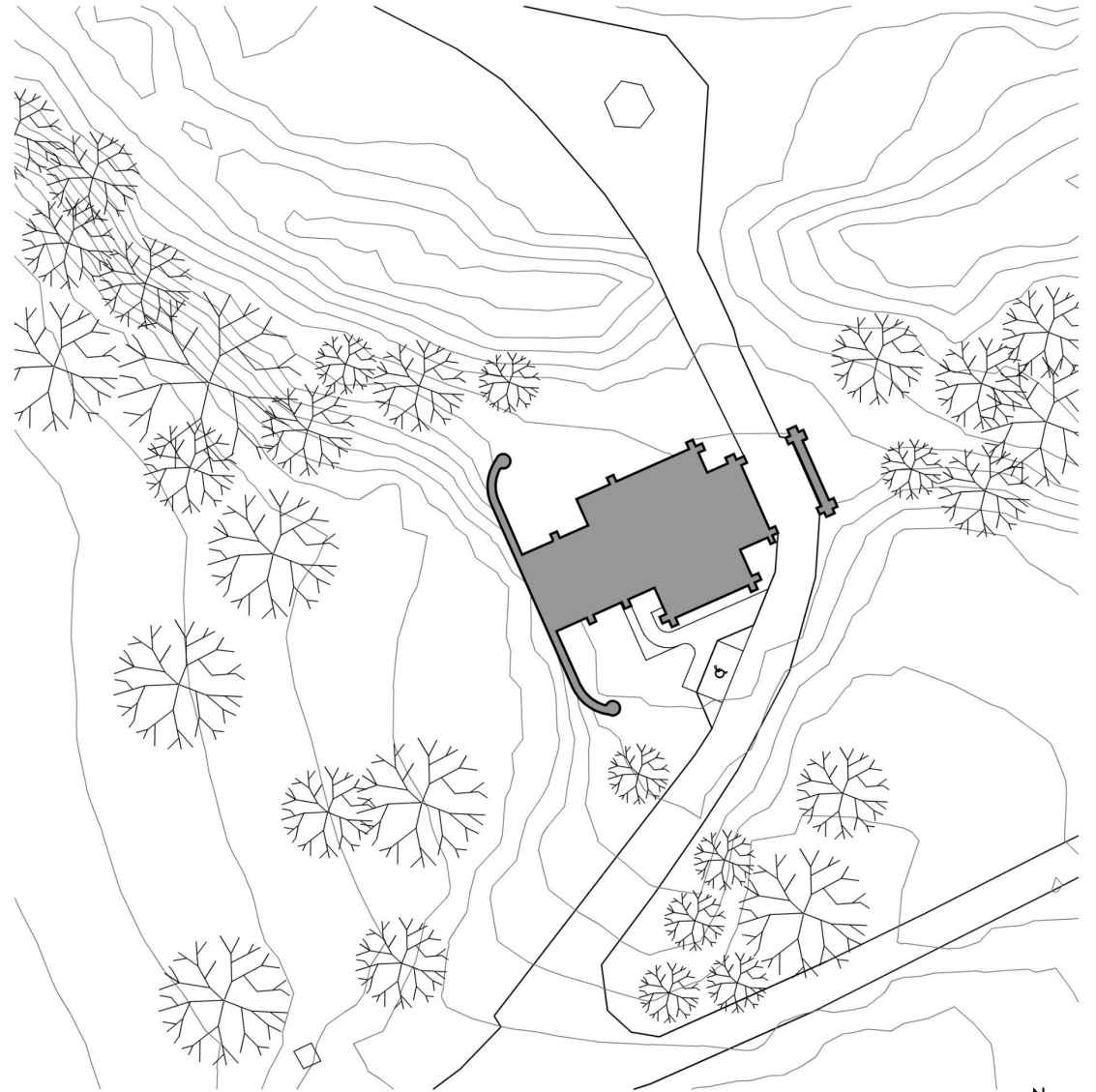
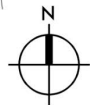
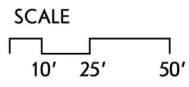
AIA Rochester Community Impact Award

The chapel is located within a naturally scenic eighty-acre cemetery. Because of its bucolic beauty, the community uses the cemetery as if it were a park. In fact, you can wander through many areas of the cemetery and forget you're in the cemetery, and this is particularly true for where the chapel is sighted, overlooking a long meadow flanked by a creek. Seeing the chapel in disrepair as so many did as they visited their deceased family members or walked and jogged the meandering roads created curiosity and interest in the chapel. The cemetery associate and the cemetery's superintendent took that energy and built on an effort to rehabilitate the chapel with a focus on identifying community uses that would carry the Chapel into the future and further connect the community with the cemetery and its history.

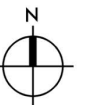
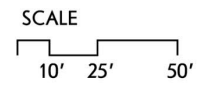
The chapel has provided a beautiful location for many intimate events. Those events have included small theatrical productions, meetings, weddings, funerals, and many musical events, some of which feature the restored pipe organ. It also provides an important historic connection to both the prominent local resident who funded and constructed the Chapel in 1910, Mary Clark Thompson as well as the final resting place of past family members throughout the community. It's clear by the many curious passersby, during and after construction that there is a genuine love for the building and appreciation for its rehabilitation. It has been renewed as an integral part of the fabric of the Canandaigua community.

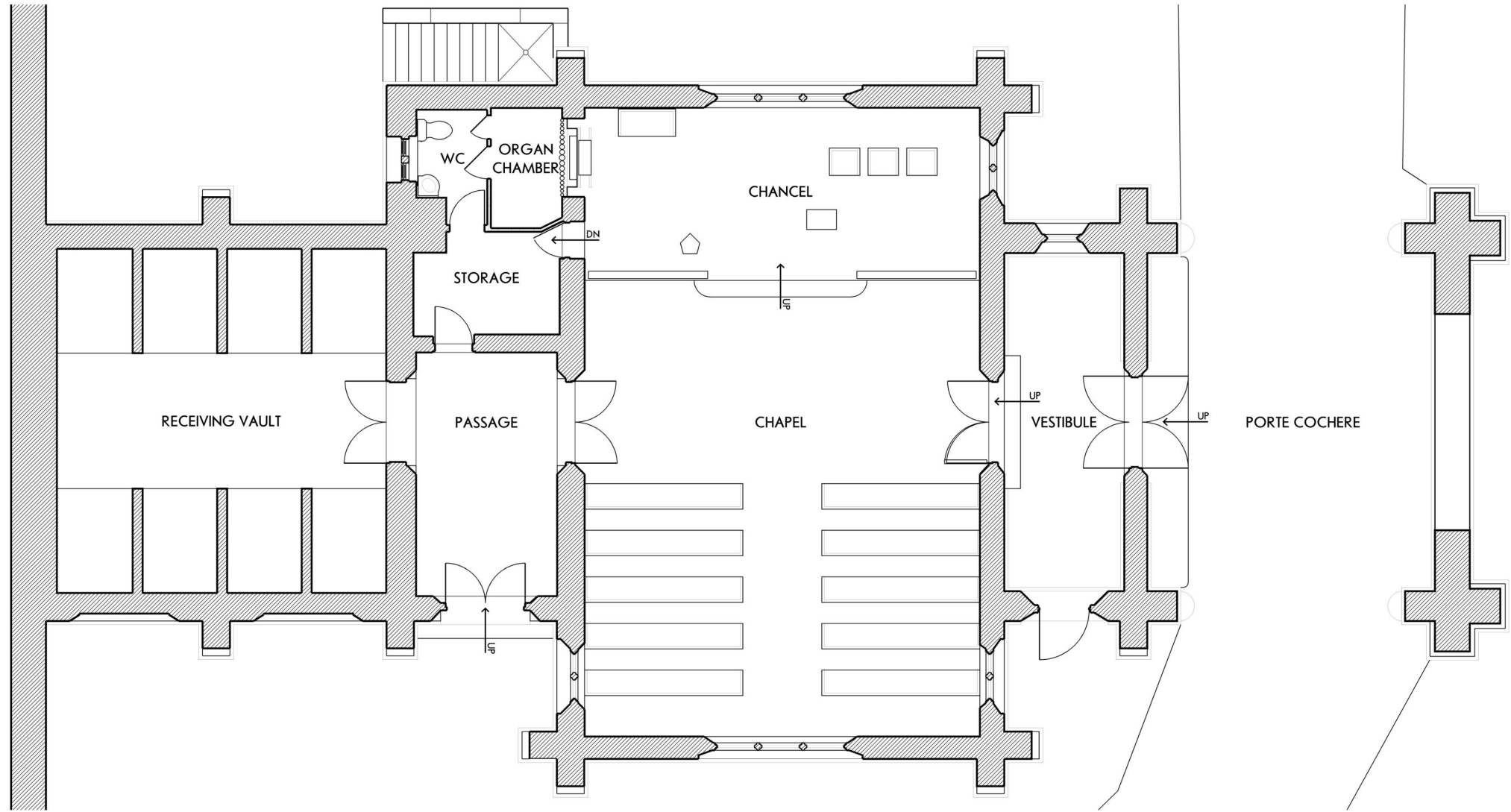


SITE PLAN BEFORE

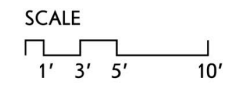


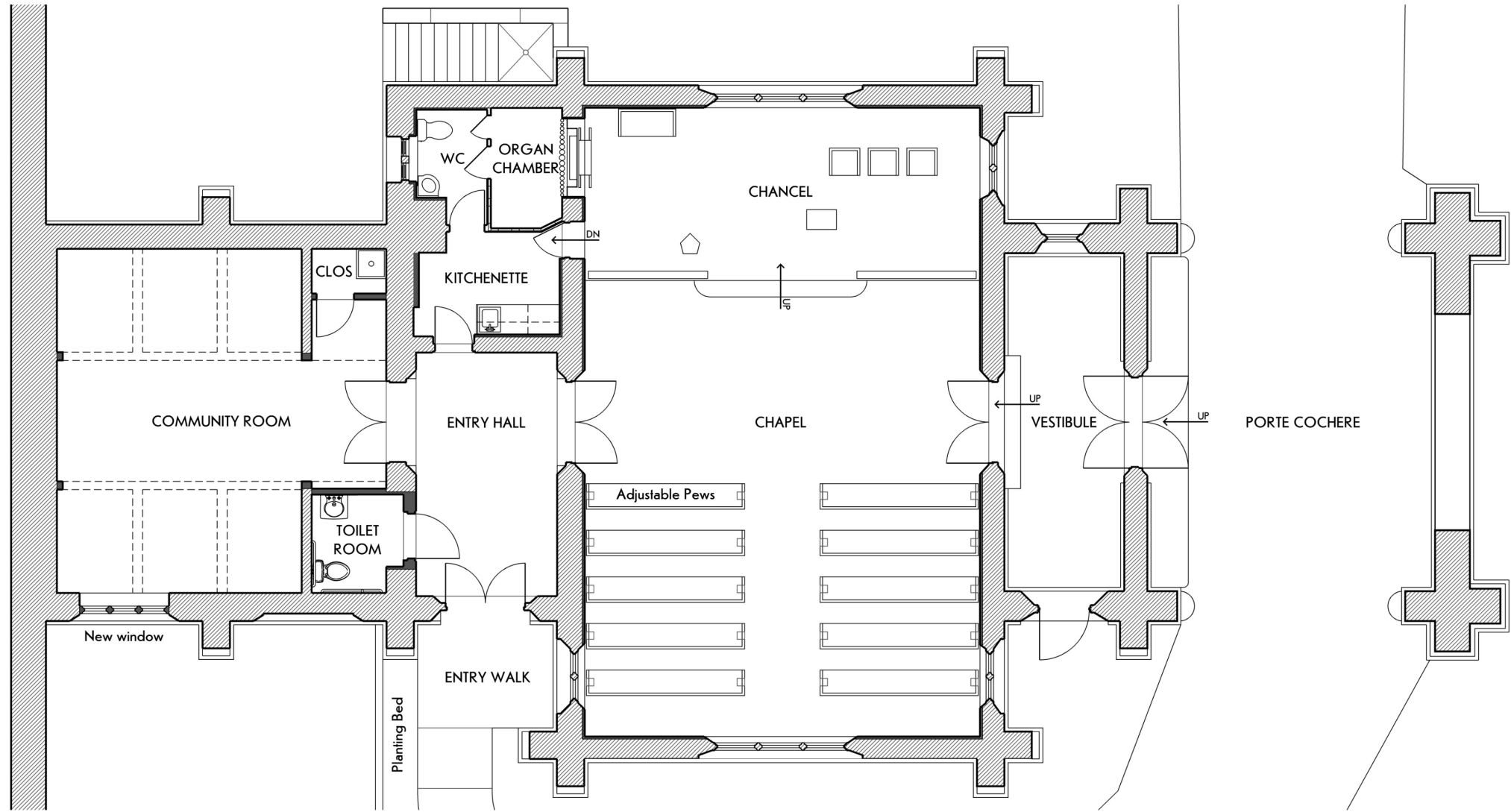
SITE PLAN AFTER



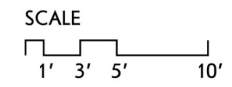


FLOOR PLAN BEFORE





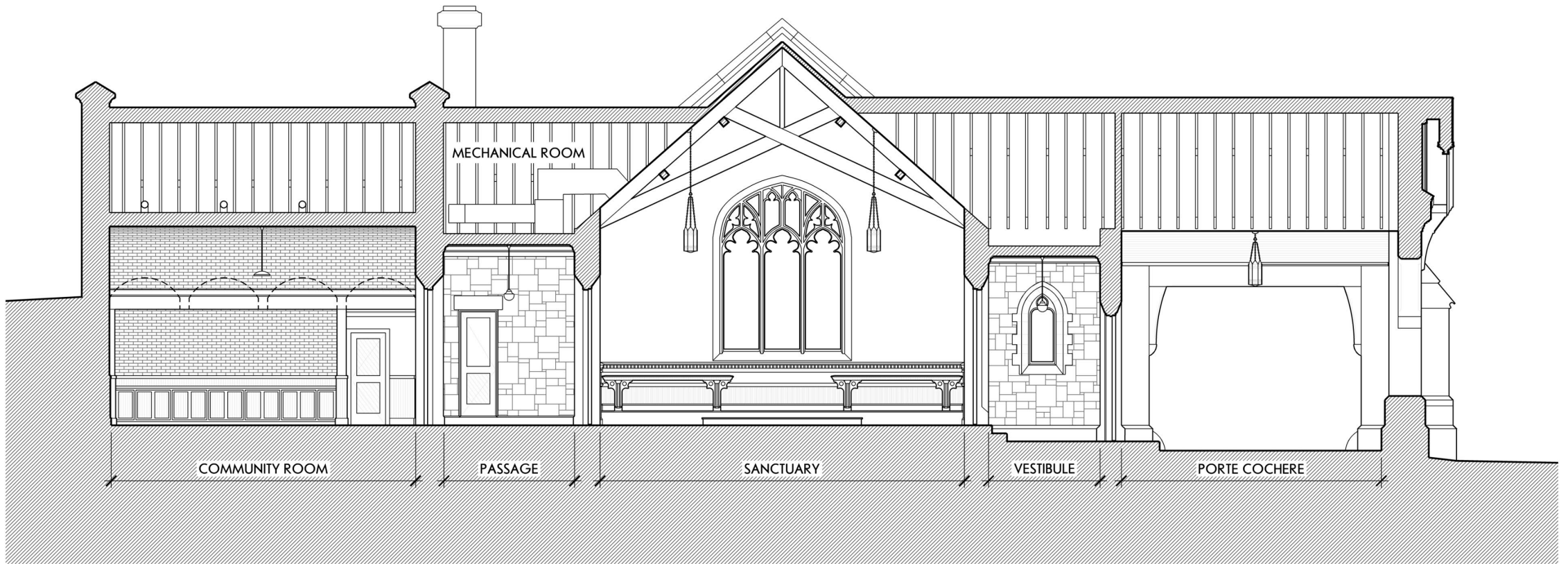
FLOOR PLAN AFTER



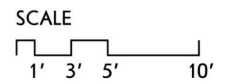


REHABILITATED SOUTH EXTERIOR ELEVATION

SCALE
1' 3' 5' 10'



LONGITUDINAL BUILDING SECTION





SOUTH ELEVATION & NORTH RETAINING WALL
During (2018) | After (2019) | After (2019)



FRONT (EAST) ELEVATION & ROOF
Roof During (2017) | Roof After (2018) | After (2020)



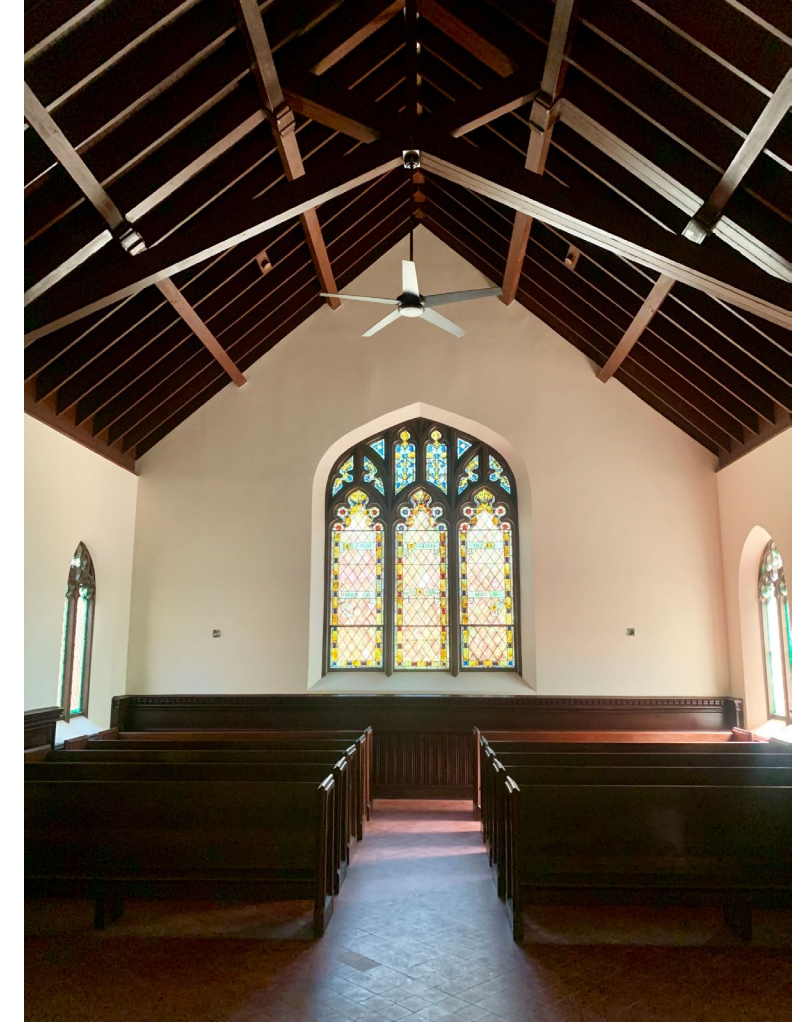
CHAPEL INTERIOR Before & After



ORGAN Before & After



CHAPEL INTERIOR
After (2019)



CHAPEL INTERIOR
Before (2017) | During (2018) | After (2019)



ENTRY HALL & KITCHENETTE
After (2019)



COMMUNITY ROOM
Before (2017) | During (2018) | After (2019)



CHAPEL EXTERIOR & COMMUNITY ROOM WINDOW
Before (2017) | During (2018) | After (2019)