

Old Brandon High School Revitalization

Organization: re-BHS is a Vermont Non-profit Corporation
A community-based social infrastructure organization for creating affordable and sustainable solutions for housing and public space.

Funds Request: \$40,000

Use of Funds:

Funds will facilitate the capture of \$71K state tax credits awarded to the project by the Vermont Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits program in 2021. These credits were awarded for Facade Restoration (\$21K) and Code Improvements (\$50K). The work must be completed by July 26, 2024 to receive the state credits.

Facade Restoration, which will begin this fall and continue through winter and spring, includes clearing of overgrowth, repair of masonry features and stairs, and repair/painting/thermal improvement of windows and exterior doors.

Code Improvements include fire separations (walls/floors/ceilings) throughout the building as required by NFPA codes, ADA access, and additional code upgrades necessary for occupation of the building.

The funds request in conjunction with the state tax credits will allow us to achieve the 1st stage of a phased occupancy strategy that will put the building back into public use and allow us to begin program and event activities in 2024.

- Our vision for the old high school that we will present to the DRB on Oct 11th allocates almost 50% of the building to community service in terms of our organizational mission, design intent, access and practical use of the building.
- Our goal for the project is to return the old high school to a valued social and civic space for the community.
- Our mission for the organization is to create affordable and sustainable solutions for housing and public space.

reBHS - Brandon High School Re-envisioned

reBHS is envisioned as a 25,000 sqft work/live/cultural hub that brings together expertise and resources for creating affordable and sustainable solutions in housing and public space. reBHS can be thought of as a makerspace for making space. Its mission is to improve public access to knowledge and the material, technical and professional resources necessary to undertake projects in the built environment at any scale and purpose. ***Our mission is the model by which we will renovate the old high school.***

The transformation of the Old Brandon building would be a mix of uses to include:

- Cooperative cohousing units that are affordable and self managed for 12+ residents.
- Fellows residence housing for visiting artists, scholars, designers and others who are engaged in cultural work in Vermont.
- reBHS co-working offices and a range of workshops, galleries, resource library, screening, and event spaces open to and for use by the public.
- Open studios for work and collaboration available for use by the town and public at large.
- Workshops and production spaces for design and fabrication.
- Flex space for public/private events, production, etc. Spaces for socializing.

Our strategy/timeline for returning the building to service is through phased renovations beginning with partial occupancy of the main level in 2024 and a build out of additional phases by 2028.

Backstory

The former high school began as a community wide effort by the mothers of Brandon to create a safe and healthy learning environment for their children. It is a unique and remarkable building whose service to the community came to a close over 40 years ago. The building, as we know, has remained vacant for more than 35 years in spite of its social and historical relevance, its strategic location, its beauty, volumes and quality of space. The reality is that the economic logic of returning the building to service as residential or mixed use has been at odds with preserving these qualities and maintaining community accessibility.

The solution to this challenge, we believe, is to build a community around this building that shares both the affection for the space as well as a new vision for what the school could be. To that end, a group of highly motivated and dedicated individuals from Vermont and beyond have come together over the last six months, and through a series of discussions and planning sessions have formed a vision and strategy.

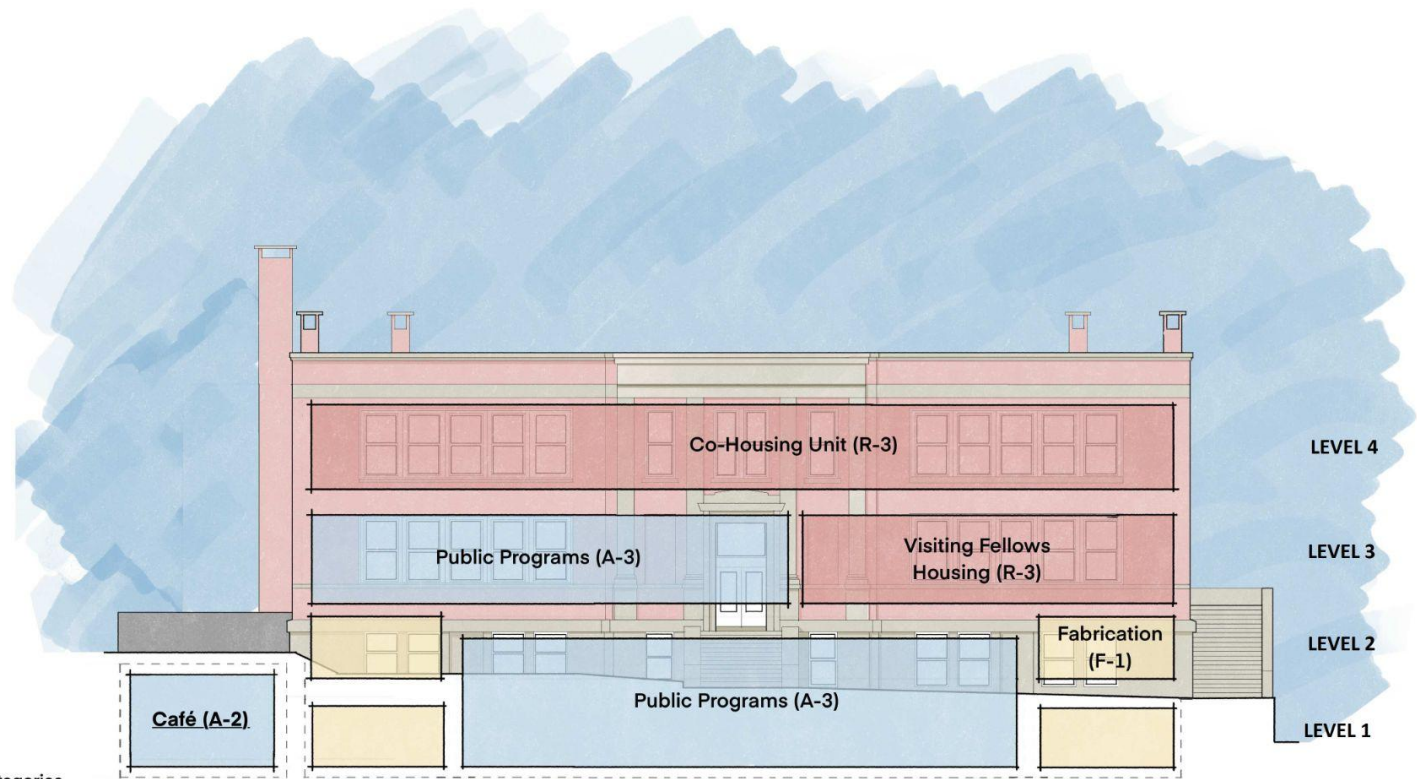
This community is comprised of highly skilled and experienced professionals spanning disciplines and practices of architecture, design, conservation, art, craft, and building. This group has formed a non-profit organization both to begin the work of transforming the former Brandon High School and to continue with this mission well into the future.

Founding Community

Frank Briscoe
Dan Brett
Kevin Booth
Jeff Dardozzi
Paul Marr-Hilliard

Joy Marcotte
David Martin
Lua Nova Piovano
Jillian Pariseault
Allen Pierce, AIA

Milo Piovano-Marcotte
Joseph Schine
Elizabeth Weeden
And many others

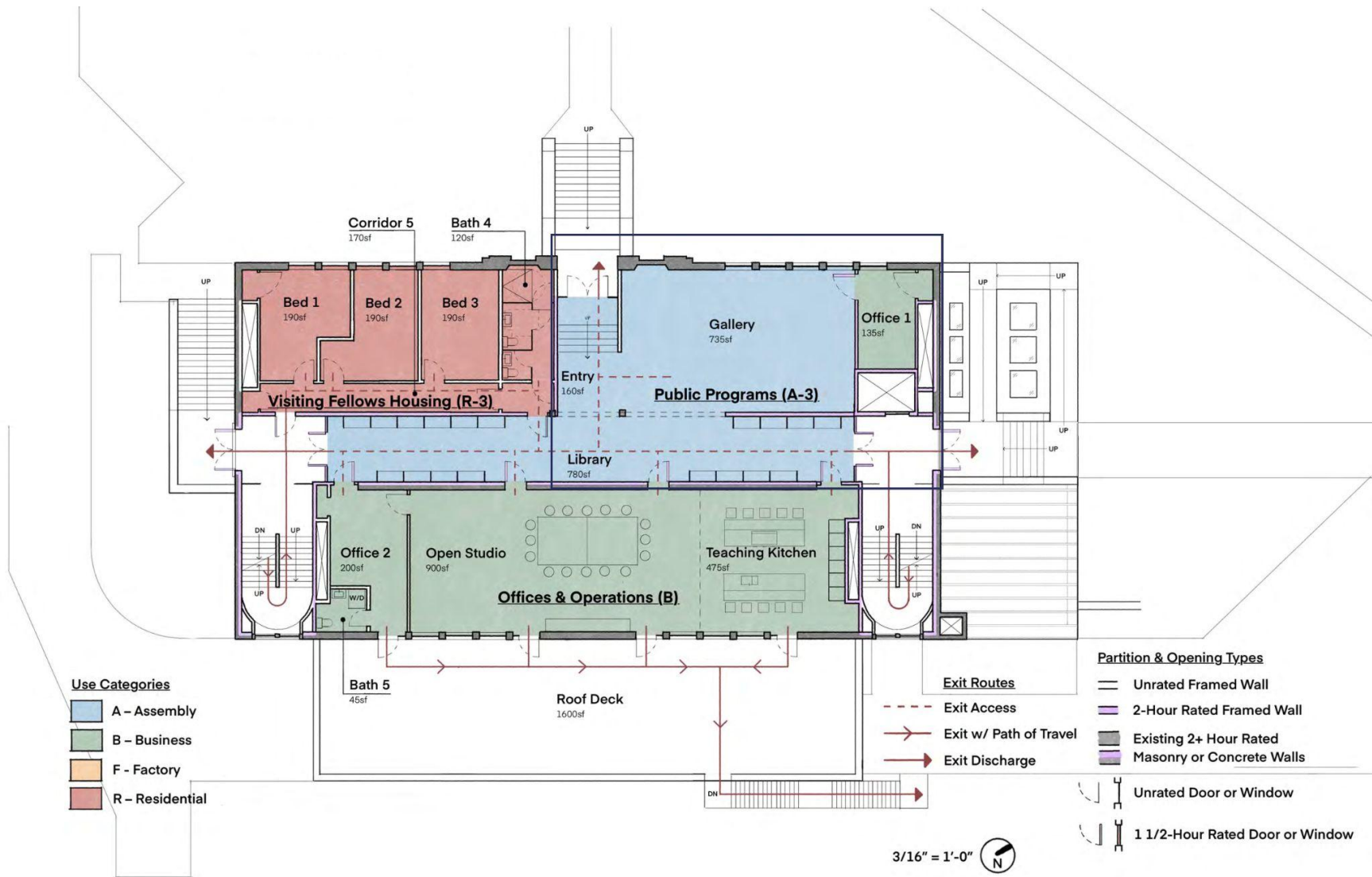


- Use Categories**
- A - Assembly
 - B - Business
 - F - Factory
 - R - Residential

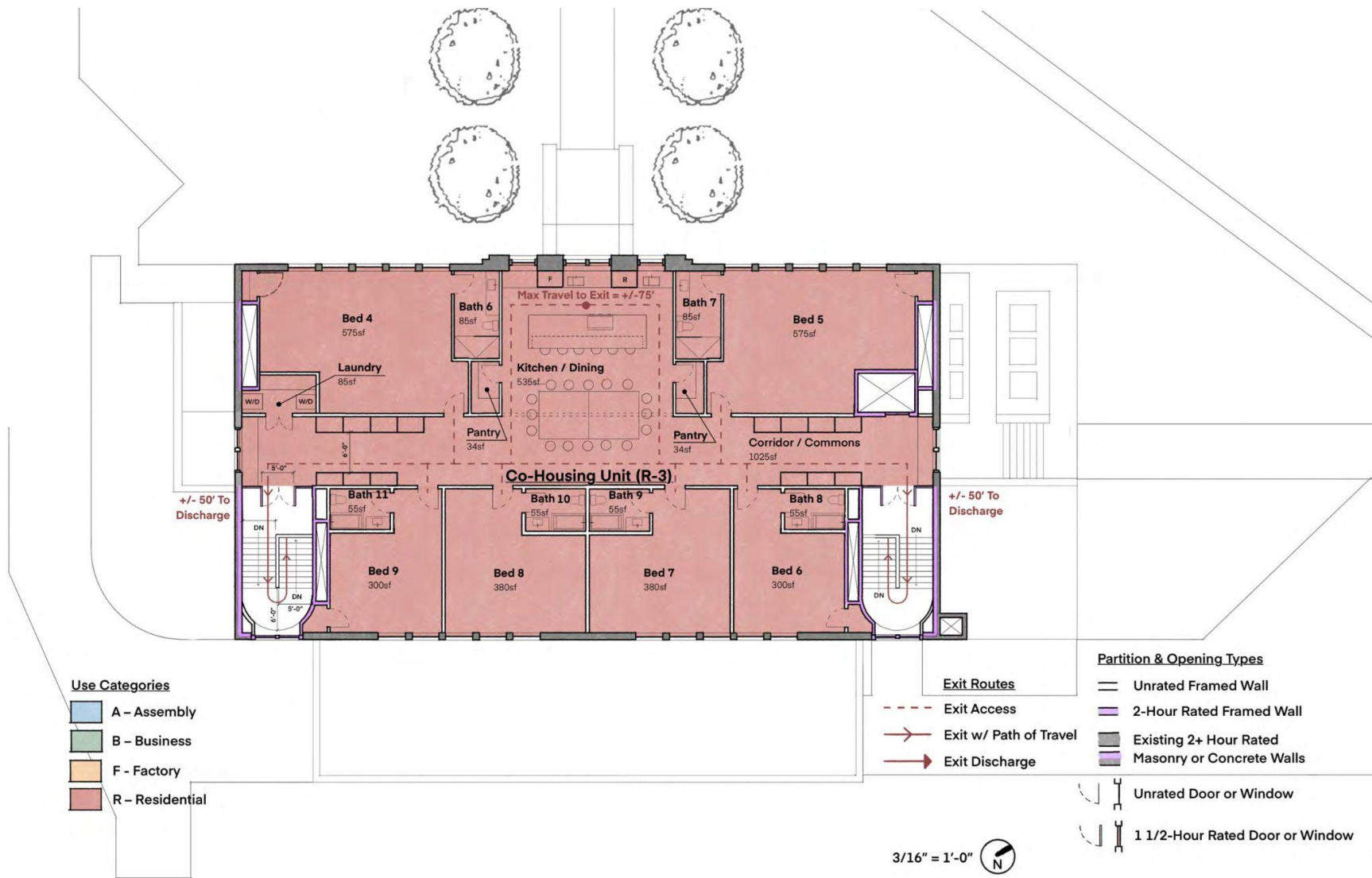
Northwest Elevation

3/16" = 1'-0"

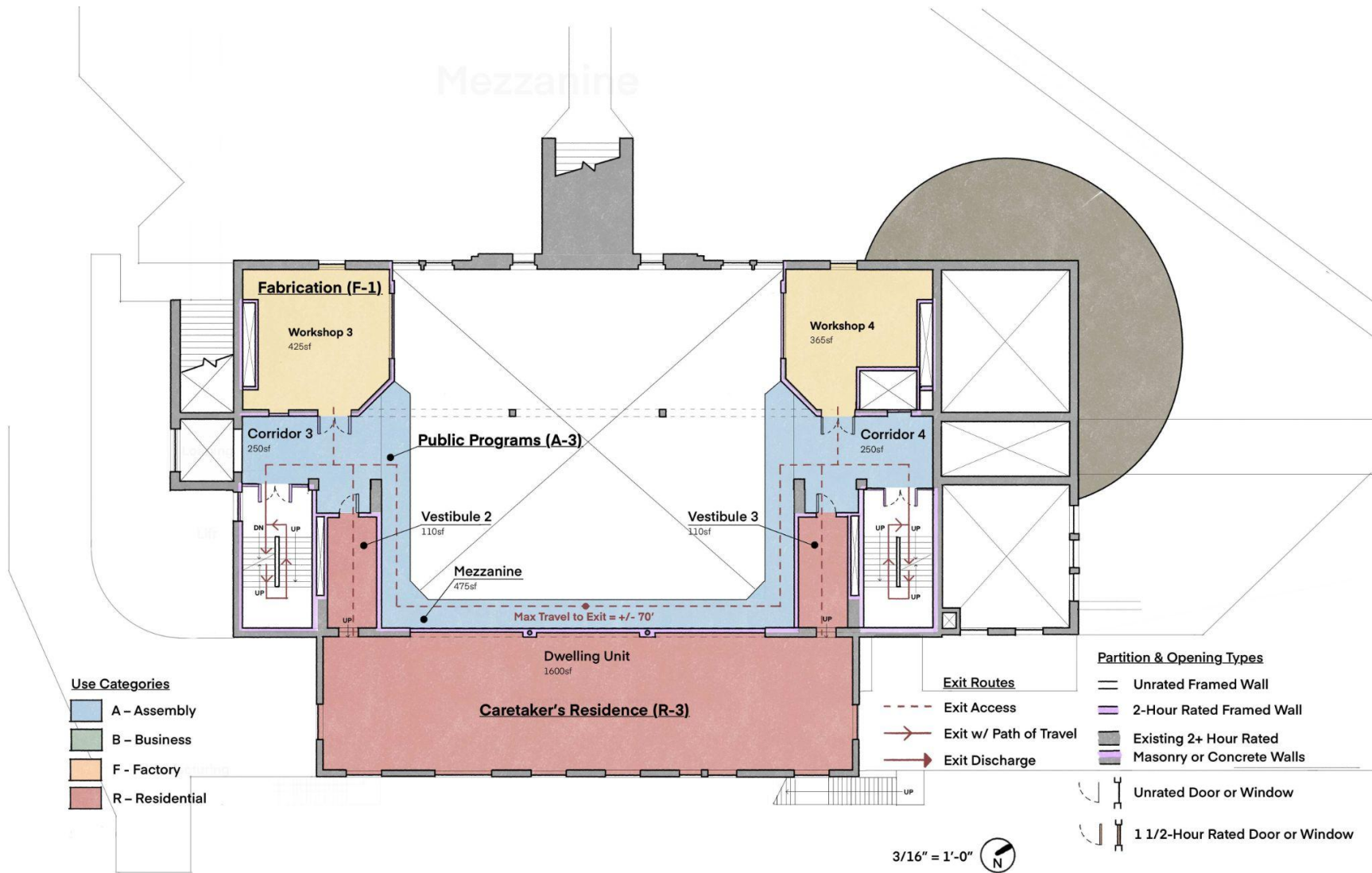
Uses - Seminary Street View



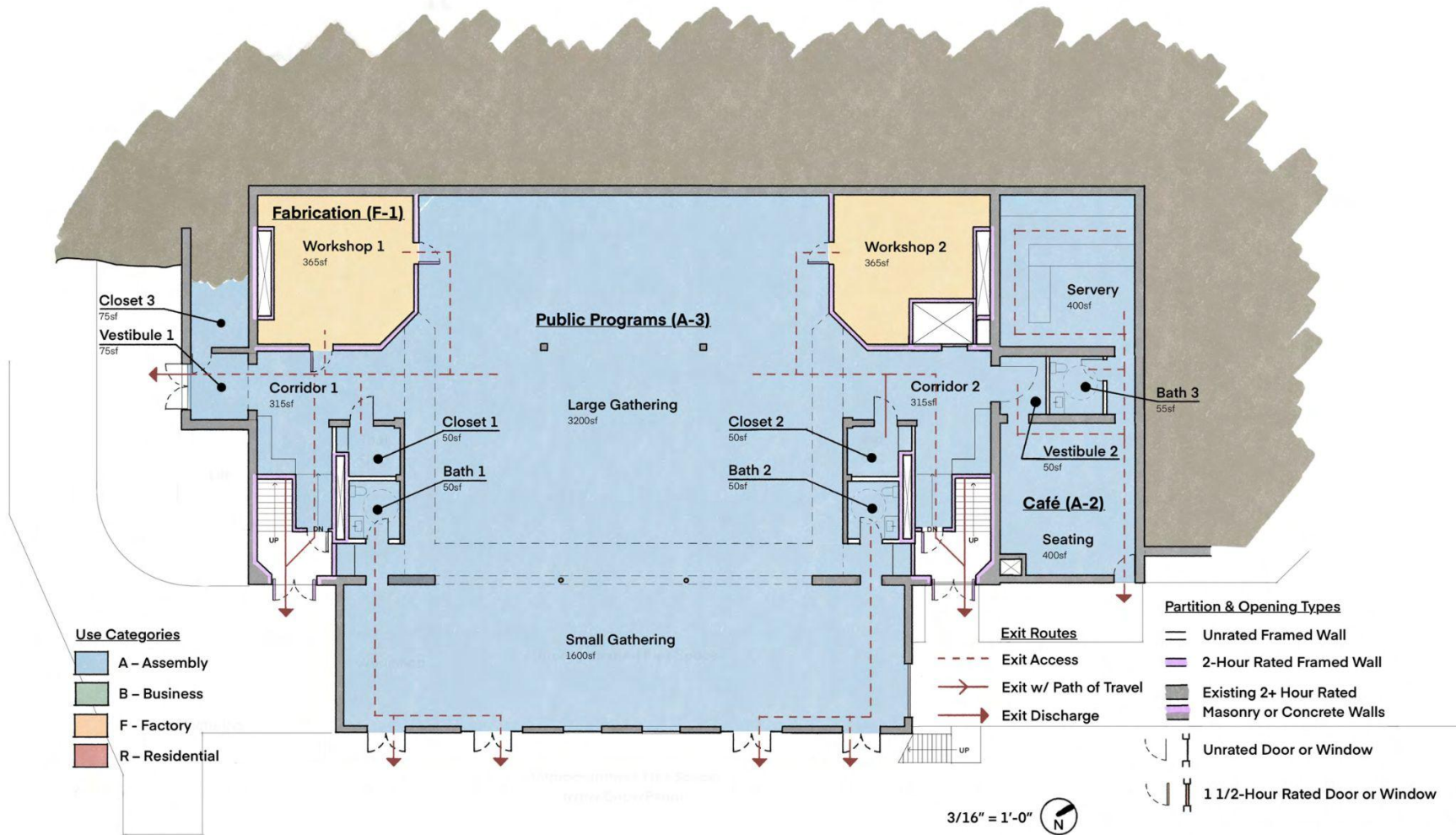
Main Floor - Level 3



Co-Housing Floor - Level 4



Mezzanine - Level 2



Basement - Level 1