

City of Austin
Central Fire & EMS Station

WEST

Design Commission Presentation
25 October 2021



Context

Location: 401 E. 5th St

Part of a block owned by the city

Block includes the O. Henry Museum

Project is being coordinated with the development of Brush Square Park, which is a separate project led by the Parks and Recreation Department



Introduction



Overview

Constructed in 1938

Architect:
Kreisle and Brooks

Constructed under the
Public Works
Administration (WPA)

National Register of
Historic Places in 2000

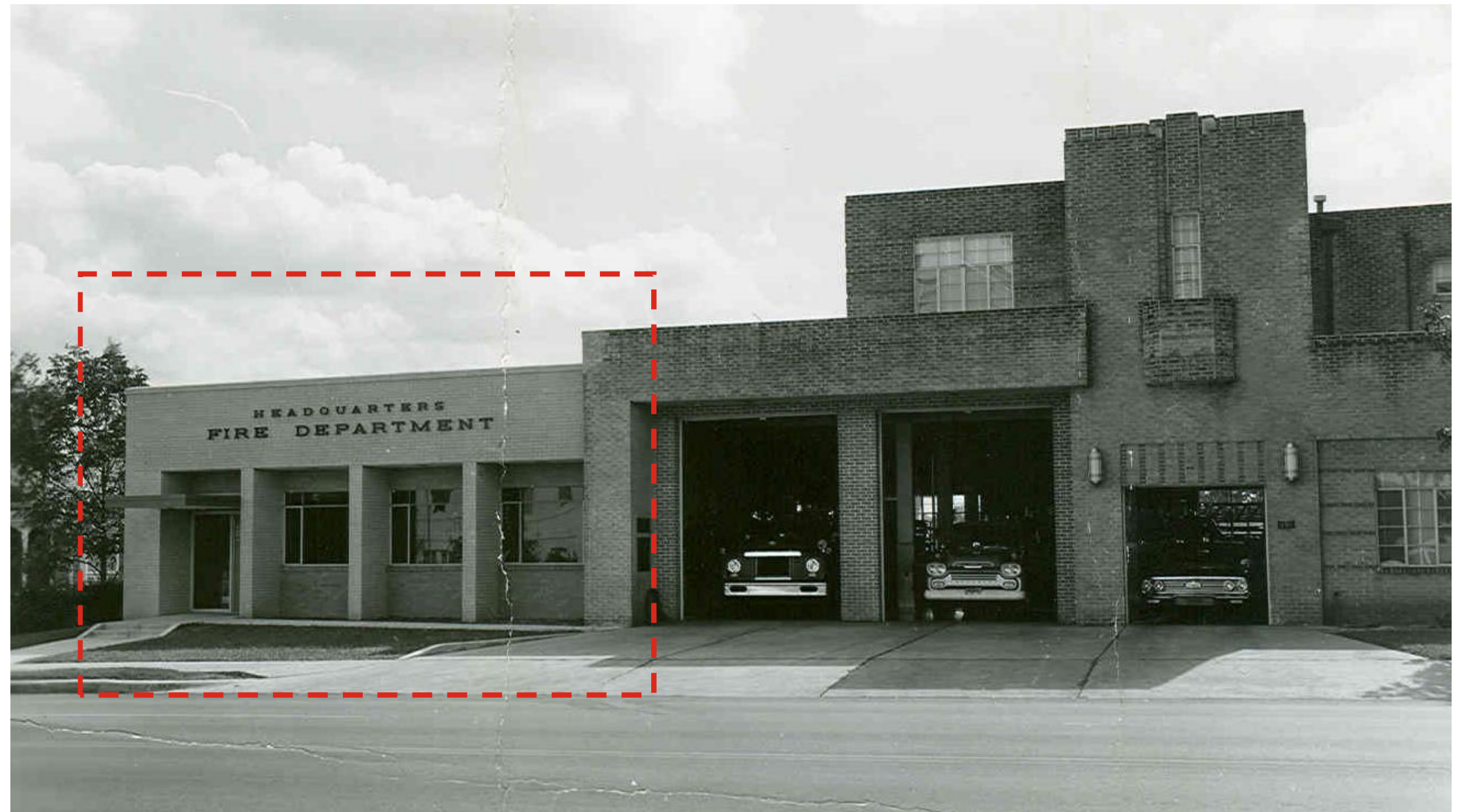


Building History



Overview

Annex added in 1962
by architect Eugene
Wukash

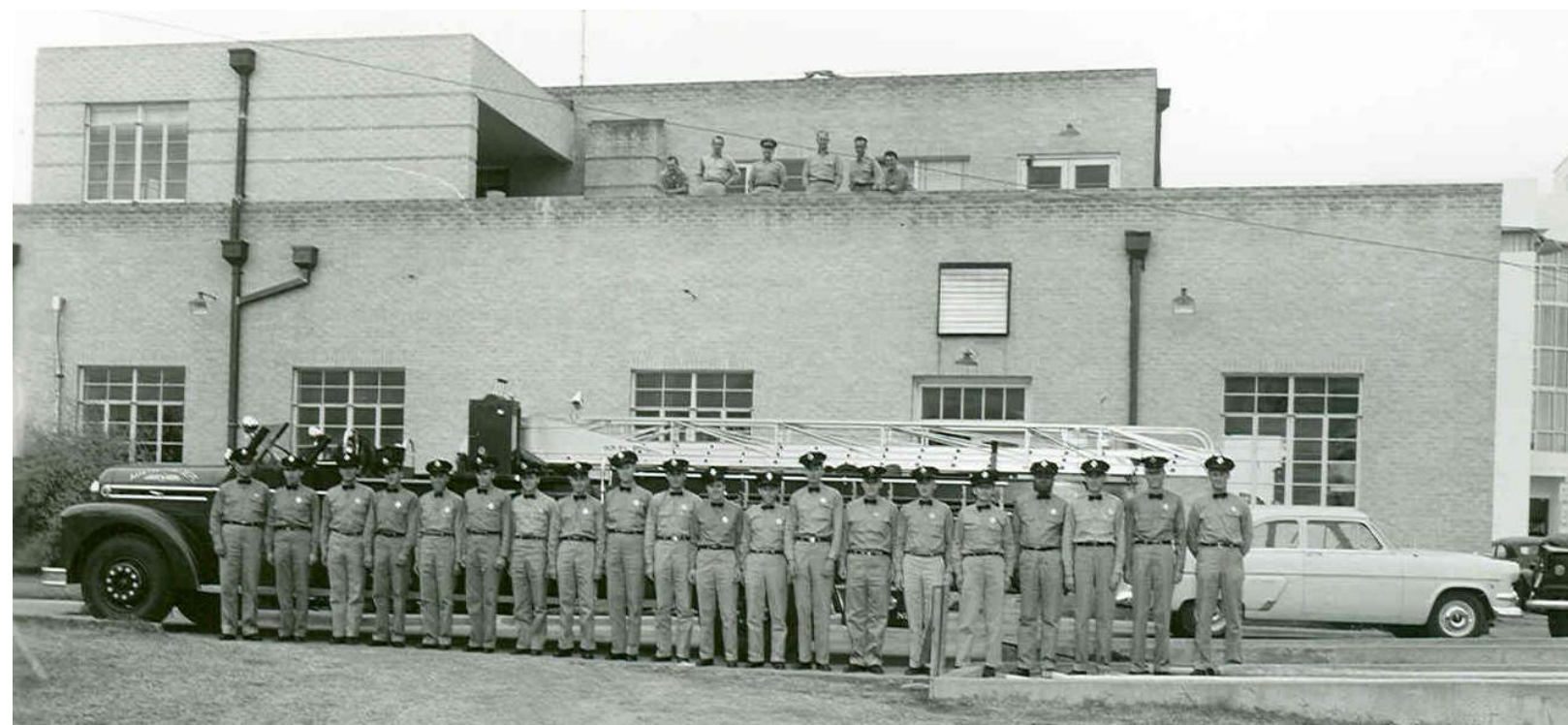


Building History



Overview

Non-historic windows
added in 1980s



Building History



Historic

Moderne style
(Streamline Moderne)

Simplicity of
ornamentation



Key Features and Stylistic Elements



Historic

Use of building materials as decoration

Subtle patterning

Brick coursing

Symbolic towers

Nickel-finished lights



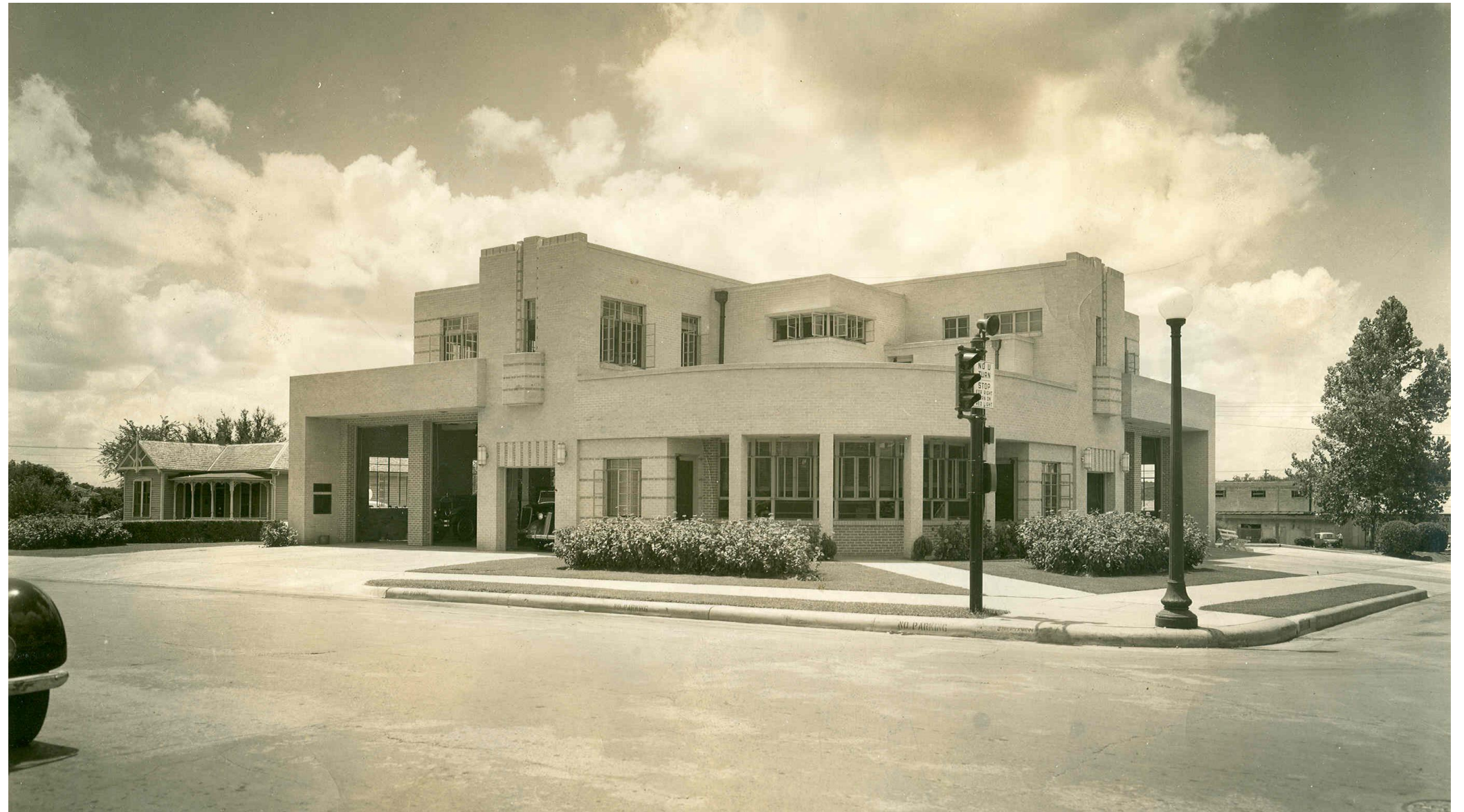
Key Features and Stylistic Elements



Historic

Curved portico

Corner approach



Key Features and Stylistic Elements



Historic

Layering of elements

Massing plays with
symmetry and
asymmetry

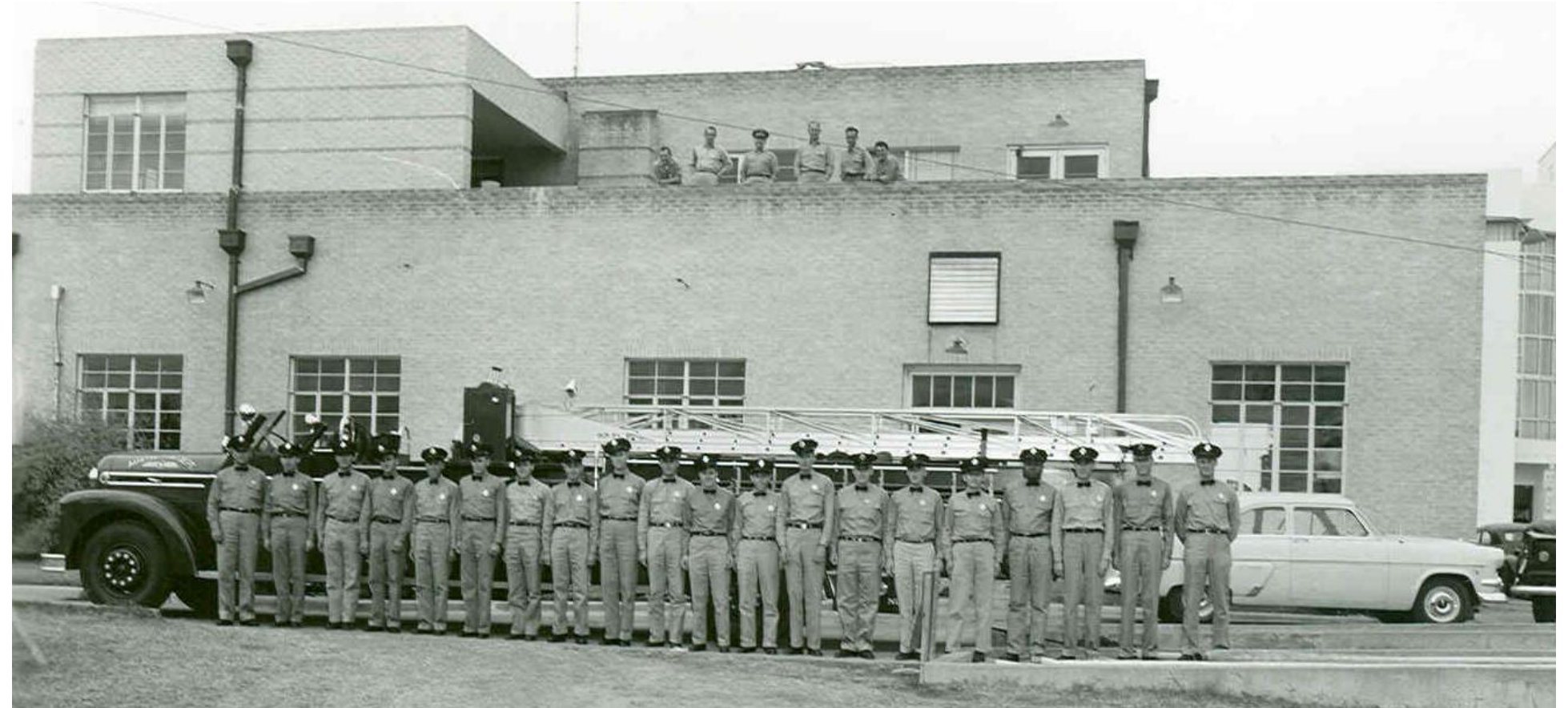


Key Features and Stylistic Elements



Preservation

The proposed changes ensure the facility will continue to operate in its historic location efficiently functioning as its original purpose for years into the future.



Maintain Original Intended Use



Preservation

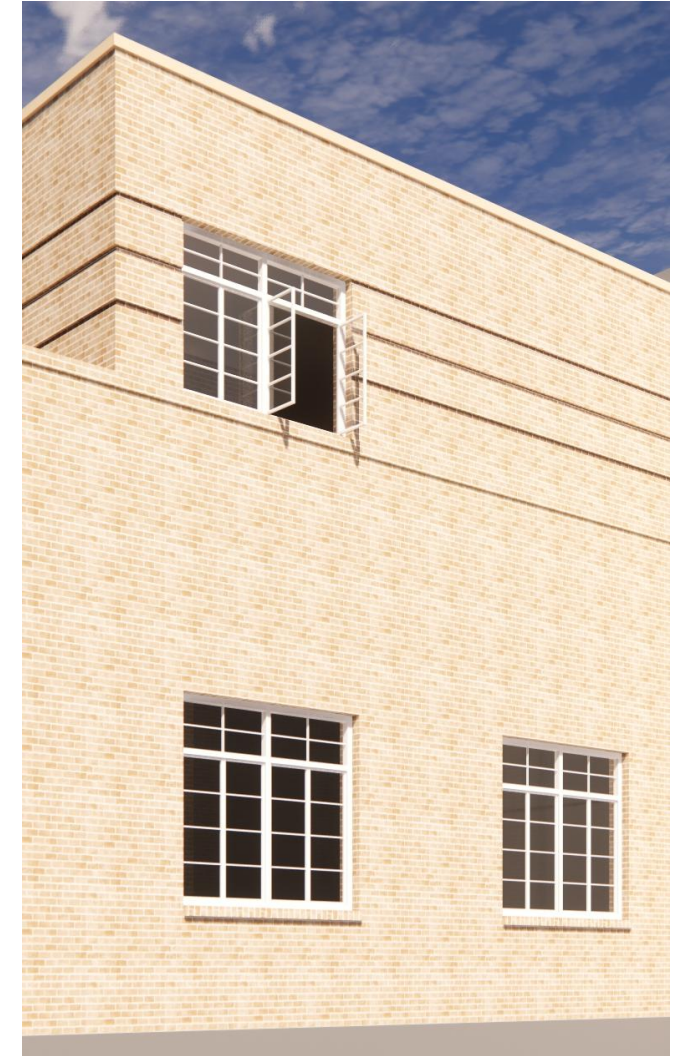
Window replacements
will more closely match
the original design



Original



Current



Proposed

Return to Original Design Elements

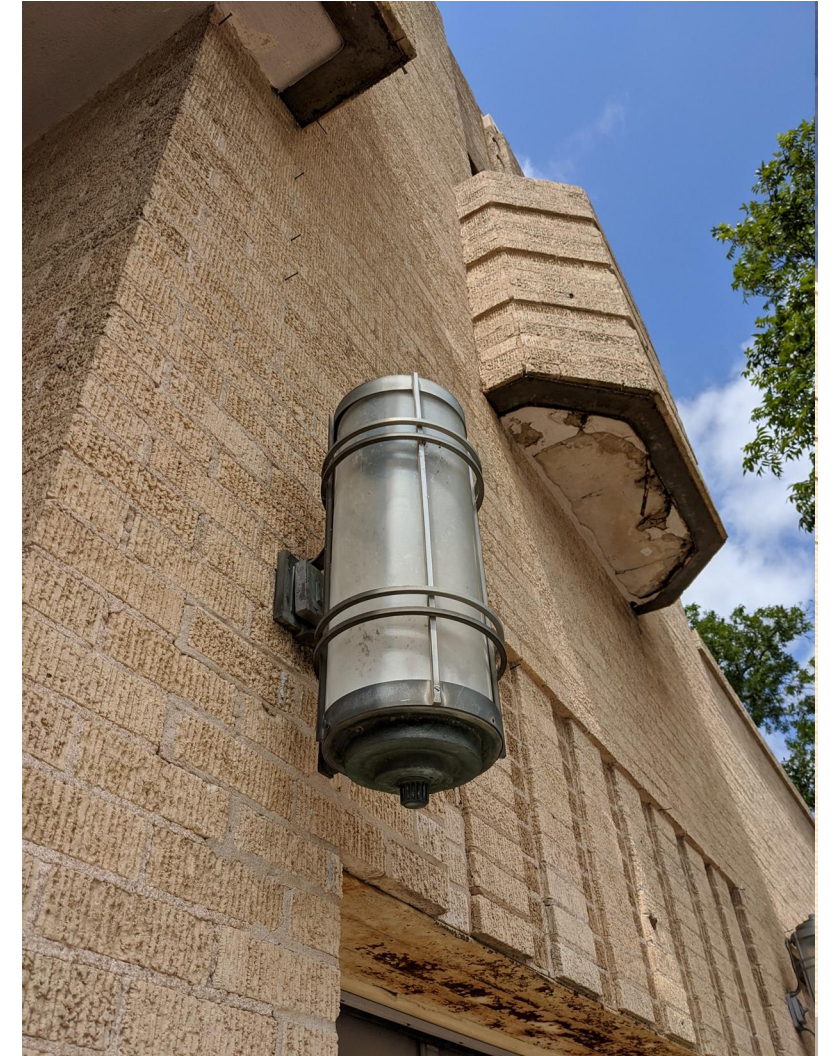


Preservation

Brick will be cleaned
and repaired

Lintels will be
refurbished

Eroded plaster on soffits
will be replaced



Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement



Historic Landmark Commission Engagement

We presented the design proposal to the Historic Landmark Commission.

Commission hearing was conducted on June 28, 2021.

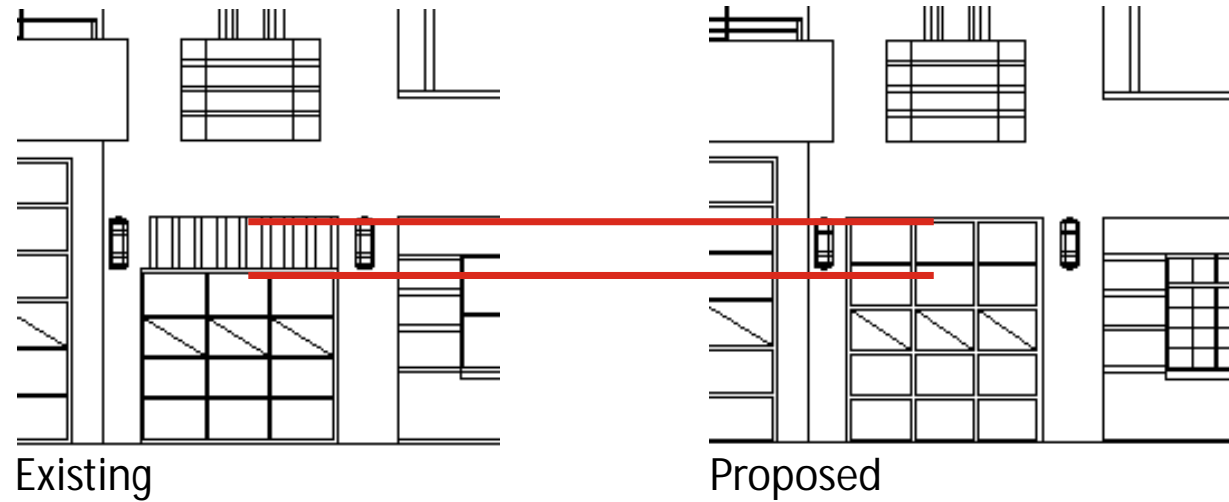
Commission was favorable to the programmatically required minor demolition and rear addition.

Previous Engagement



Program

Improved emergency response through bay door height increase to accommodate modern vehicle sizes



Interior reconfiguration to accommodate gender equity



End-user's Long-term Needs



Program

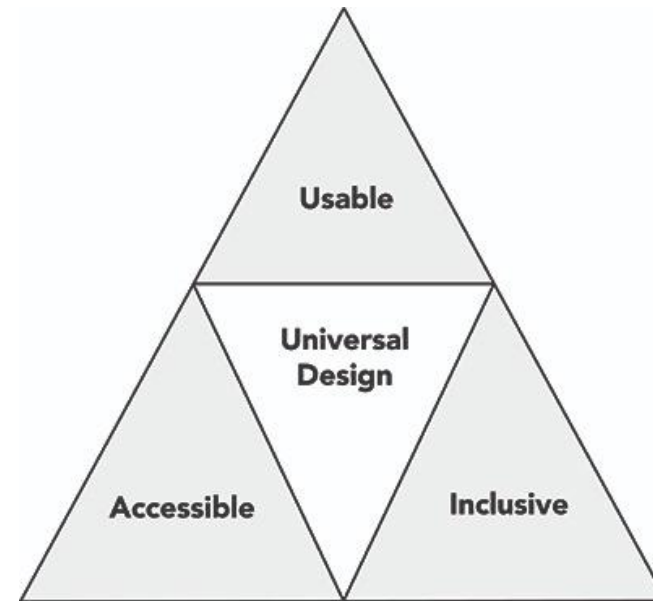
Improvement of life safety through sprinklers and additional egress

Making the building accessible (ADA and elevator addition)

Energy efficiency (Windows, Envelope, and HVAC)

Preserve the building's inclusion on the National Historic Register

City's Objectives



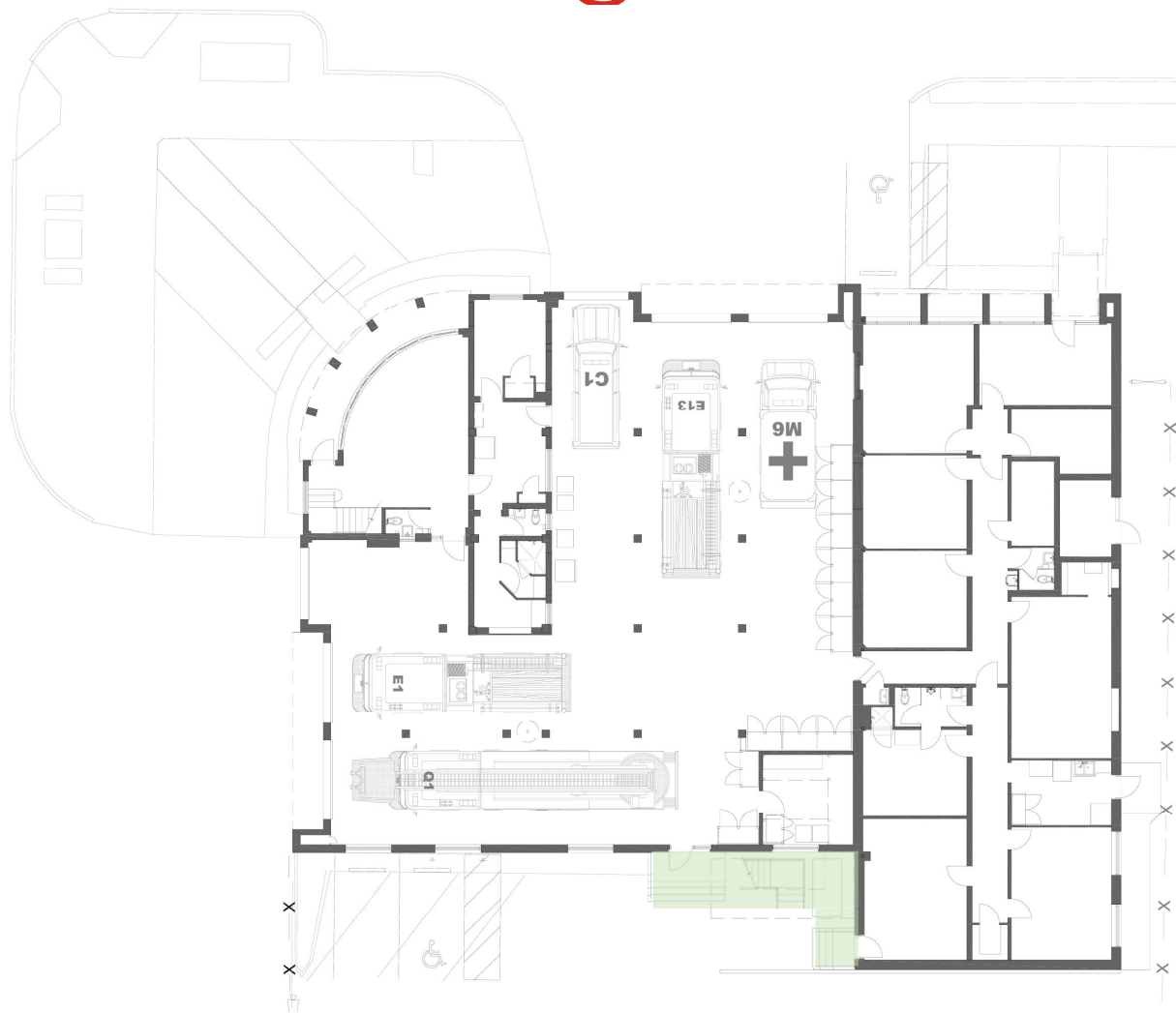
National Register
of
Historic Places



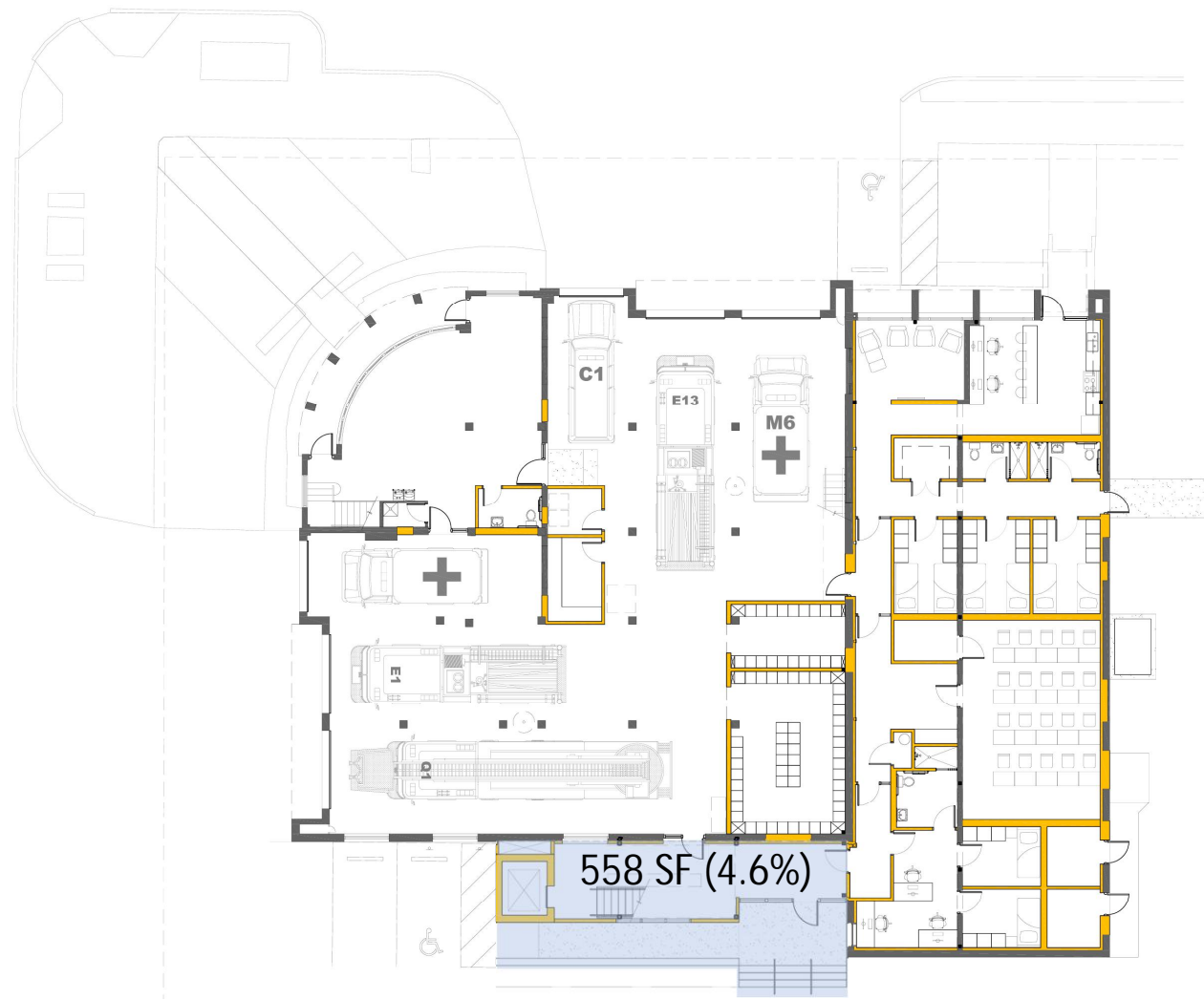
Plan Changes

Change to Existing

Addition



Existing



Proposed

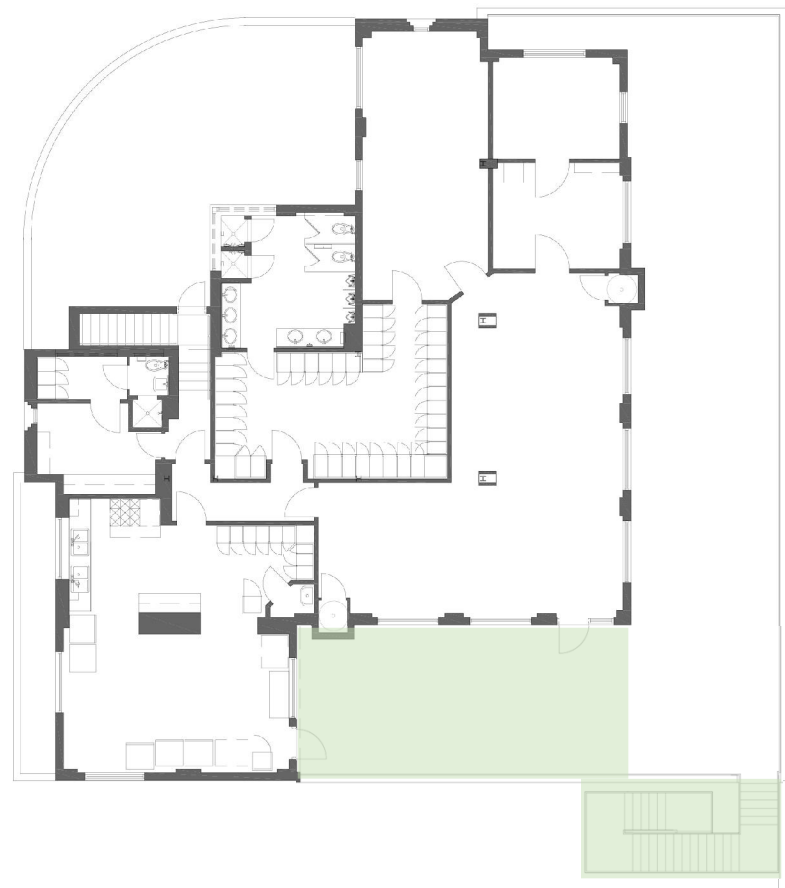
First Floor



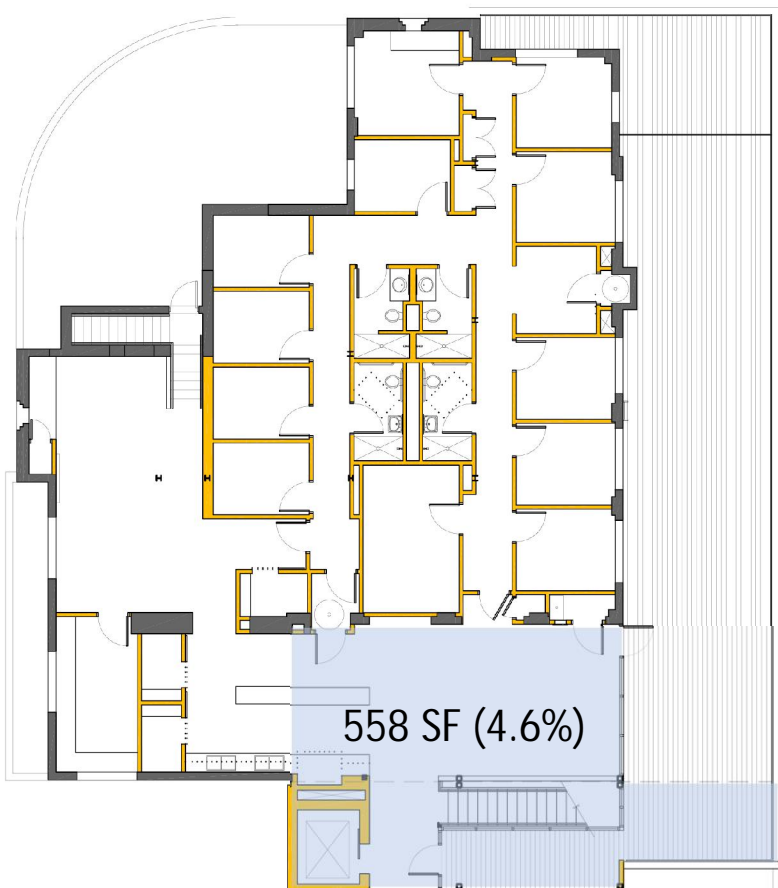
Plan Changes

Change to Existing

Addition



Existing



Proposed

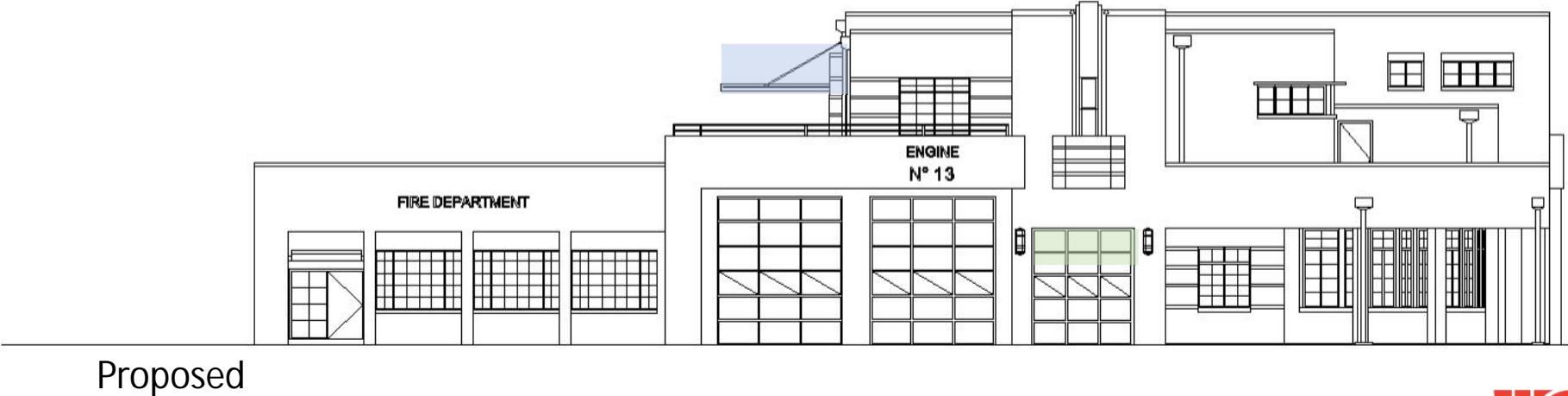
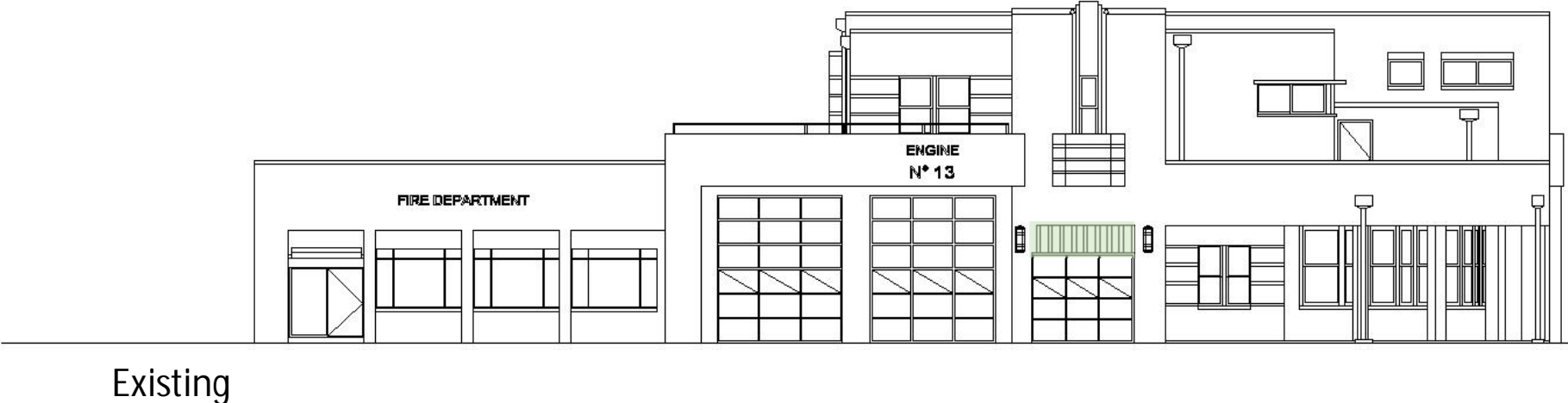
Second Floor



Façade Changes

Change to Existing

Addition



E. 5th Street

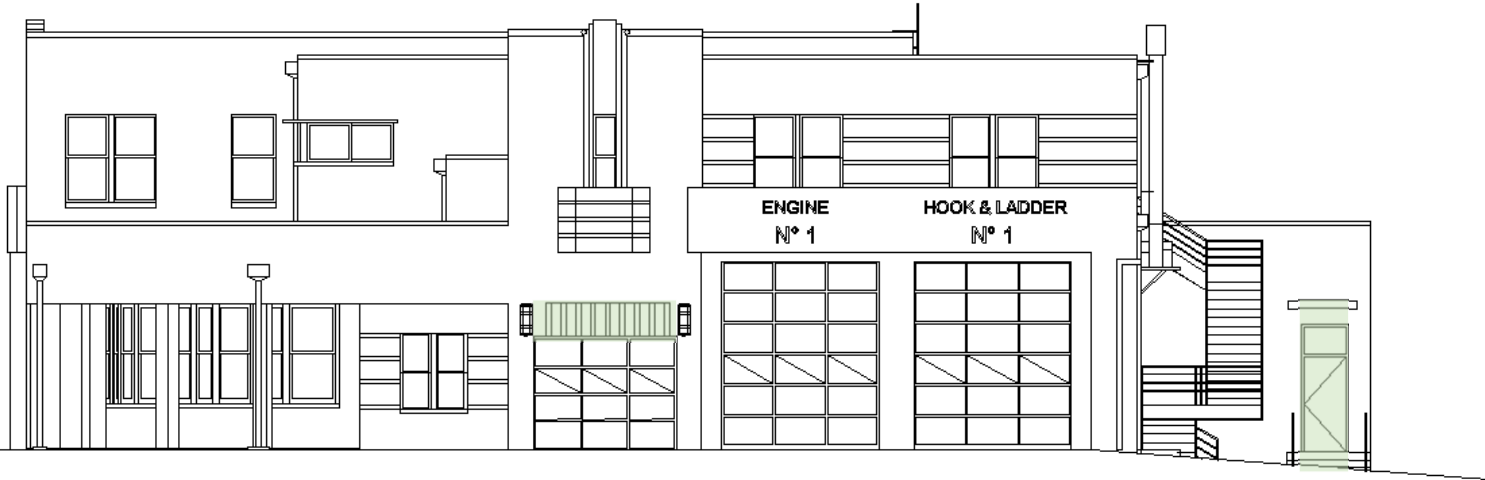


Façade Changes

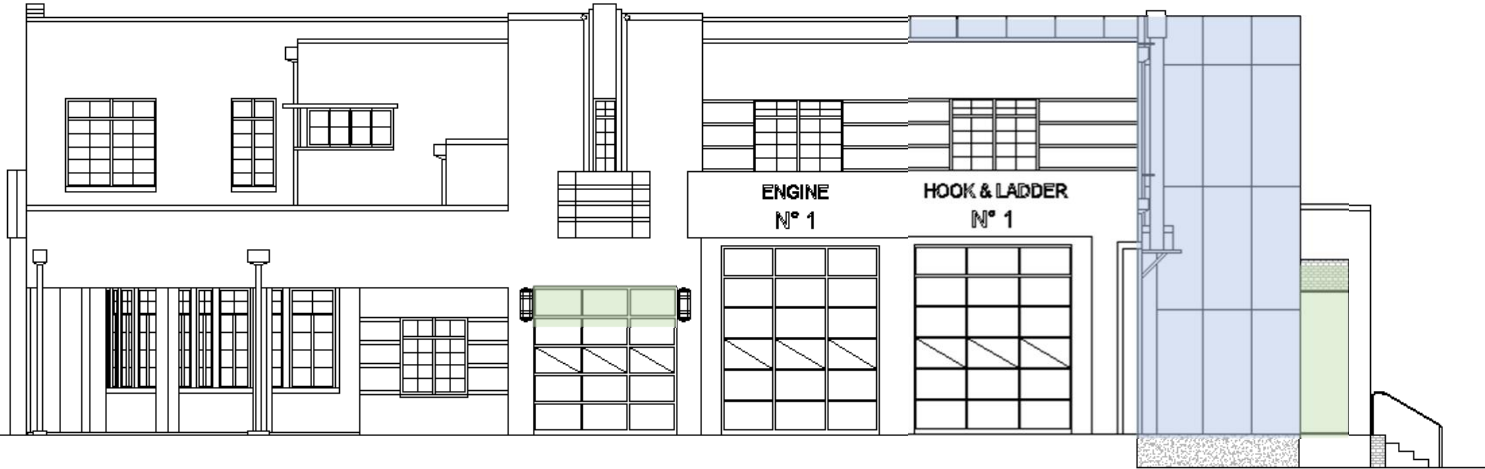
Change to Existing

Addition

Existing



Proposed



Trinity Street



Addition

Minimize the addition
to only what is
programmatically
necessary

Original=12,031 SF /
Addition=515 SF / 4.3%
gross square footage
increase



Keep It Small



Addition

Use the parking-lot side to preserve the 5th and Trinity Street facades which are the most crucial to the historic character of the building

Delineate what is new through material and tone while maintaining sympathetic massing and scale without emulation



Keep It Separate



Addition

Recess the new entry to not overpower the importance of the crucial original corner entry



Keep It Deferential



Addition

Bridge the massing of the annex and the original building to pull the forms into a distinguishable but well-composed and complimentary resulting façade



Keep It Unified



Addition

Use glazing to provide visibility to the original structure playing off the layering in the original design



Keep the Original Visible



Addition

Provide art in public places to continue the aspirations of the original design that Austin be a modern and progressive city



Keep the Progressive Vision of the Original



Questions and Discussion



WEST

WestEast Design Group, LLC
Architectural, Interior Design, Planning
Mechanical, Electrical + Plumbing
210.530.0755 | westeastdesign.com

