



PHOTO BY ANICE HOACHLANDER

## HOUSE OF LEBANON

AT THE MARGARET MURRAY WASHINGTON VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
WASHINGTON, DC

Originally known as the O Street Vocational School, the school was established to provide “domestic science and art for girls.” A movement to encourage training in the craft and domestic skills spread across Europe and America in the 1870s and 1880s. By the end of the century, Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington espoused widespread vocational training for African Americans. It was fitting that, 14 years after opening, the school was renamed in 1926 for the late widow of Booker T. Washington, “Lady Principal” of Tuskegee and a leader of several black feminist organizations. During World War II, the school began offering courses in nursing. Its graduates were lauded by the military, and a three-year, evening nursing program grew quickly after the war and was soon accredited.

This adaptive reuse project in the Historic Shaw Neighborhood of Washington, DC, transformed the former school into 82 affordable apartments for independent seniors and a community center serving the surrounding neighborhood. The original school structure, built in 1912 and subsequently added to in 1928 and 1938, was restored, receiving Historic Tax Credits through the National Park Service Section 106 Process to supplement the Low Income Housing Tax Credits received from HUD. The more recent 1971 Gymnasium addition underwent substantial modifications to its mass and skin to introduce a more residential scale and create a more sympathetic partner for this historic structure. The House of Lebanon was certified under the Enterprise Green Communities Program.

Project Category: Multi-Family Residential Architecture

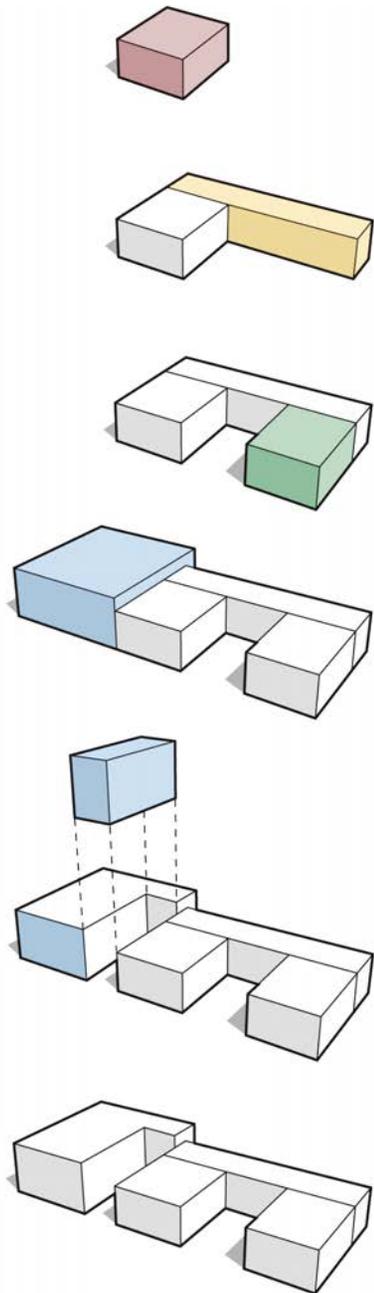
## SITE CONTEXT



### THE SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

During the early 20th century, the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, DC became home to a thriving middle-class African American community. Black businesses and institutions prospered as the community grew. In a time of segregated schools, the Margaret Murray Washington Vocational High School was part of a cluster of African American schools between North Capitol and First Streets.

# HISTORIC CONTEXT AND BUILDING ADDITIONS



**1912**  
ORIGINAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTED



**1928**  
ADDITION AT REAR TO PROVIDE MORE SPACE FOR DOMESTIC INSTRUCTION; FENESTRATION CONSISTENT WITH ORIGINAL BUILDING



**1938**  
EXPANSION ON O STREET, ADDITION MIRRORED ORIGINAL SCHOOL AND FORMED OPEN COURTYARD



**1971**  
WINDOWLESS CLASSROOM AND GYMNASIUM ADDITION, CONSTRUCTED OF TAN BRICK IN A STARK BRUTALIST STYLE



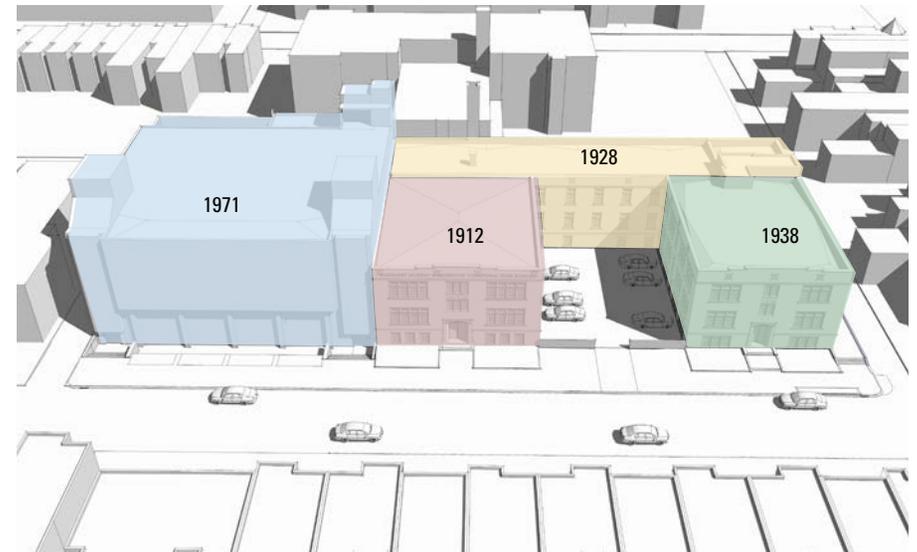
**2008**  
AFTER 15 YEARS OF BUDGET CUTS, SCHOOL WAS CLOSED AND BUILDING ABANDONED



**2010**  
ADAPTIVE REUSE INTO AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING BEGINS.



**2014**  
TRANSFORMATION COMPLETE



**2010**  
EXISTING ABANDONED MM WASHINGTON SCHOOL



**2014**  
ADAPTIVE REUSE:  
MM WASHINGTON SCHOOL TO HOUSE OF LEBANON

# CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATION



O STREET LOOKING EAST



- 1 ORIGINAL CONDITION
- 2 NEW FACADE
- 3 NEW WEST FACADE AT THE COMMUNITY COURT

# RESTORED HISTORICAL FACADES

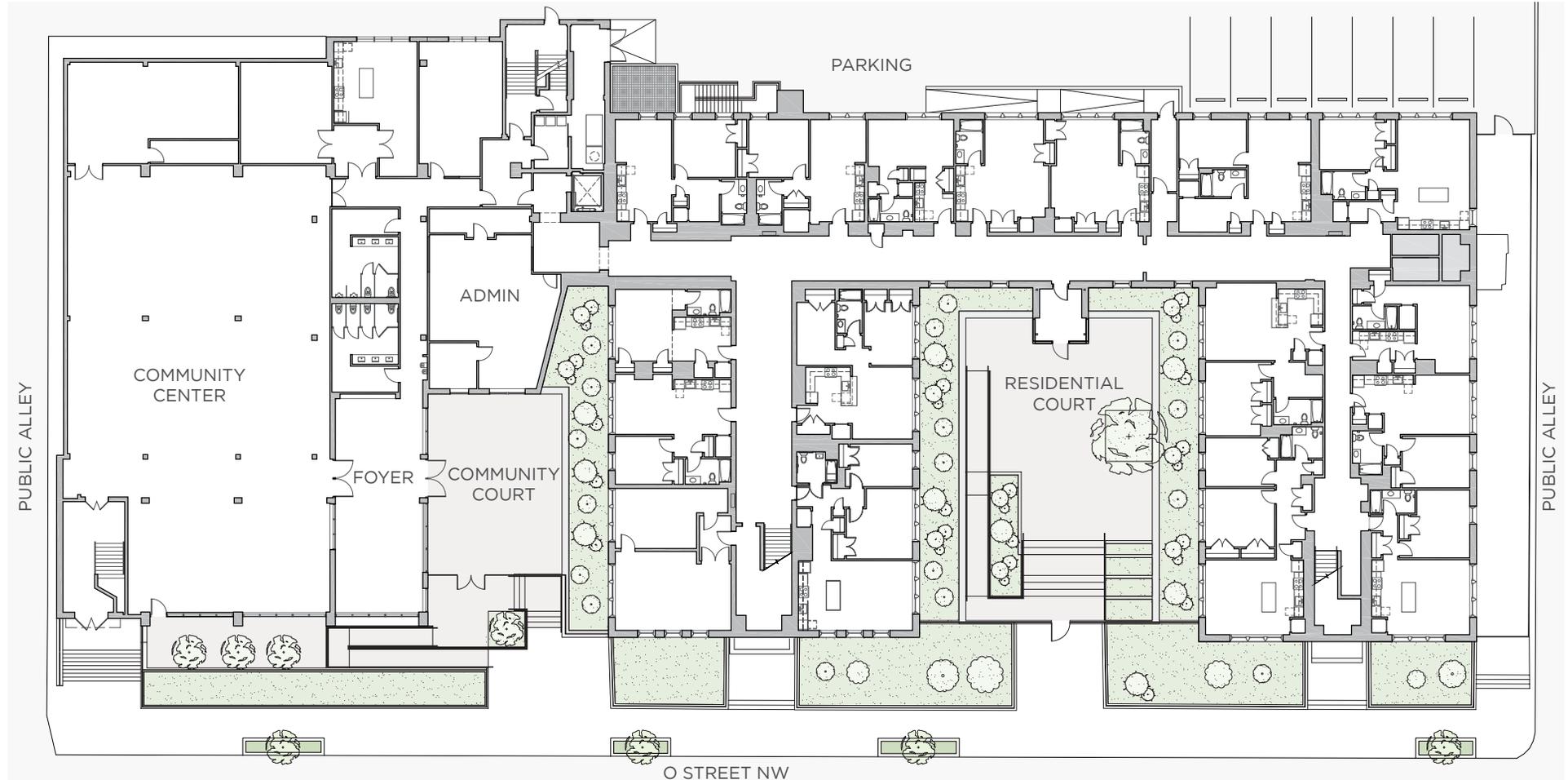


O STREET LOOKING WEST

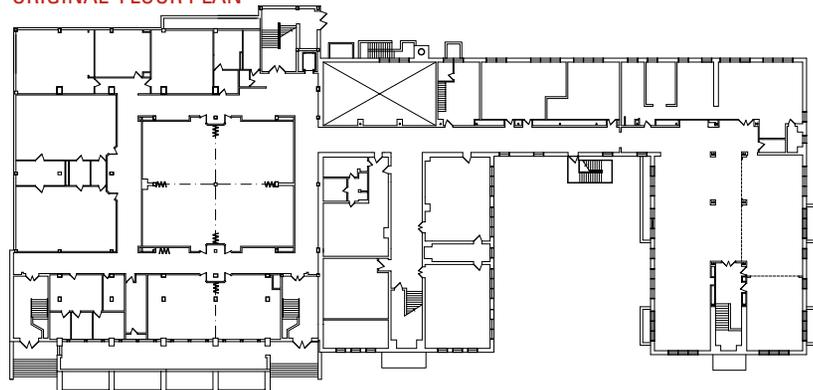


- 1 ORIGINAL CONDITION
- 2 RESTORED FACADE DETAIL
- 3 RESTORED HISTORIC NORTH FACADE

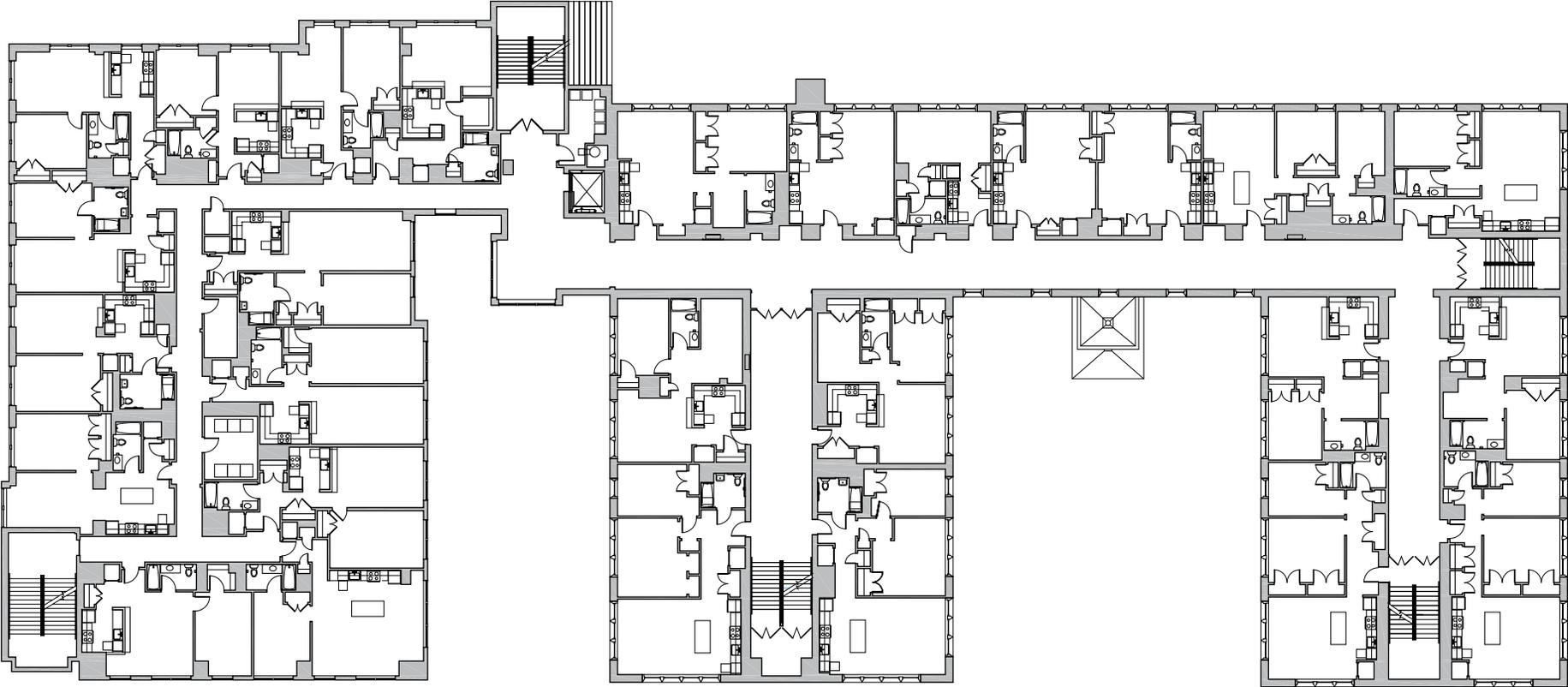
# GROUND FLOOR PLAN



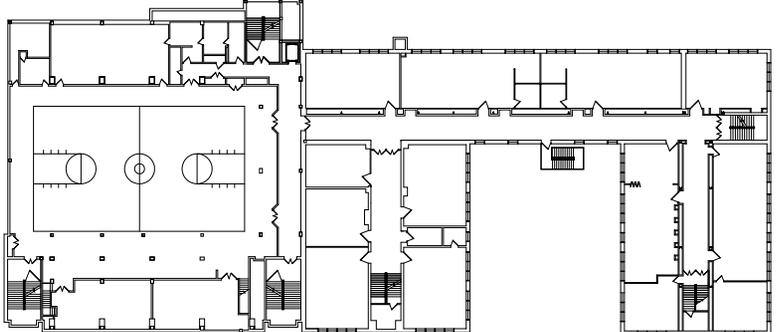
## ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN



TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN



ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN



# SECTION: BEFORE & AFTER

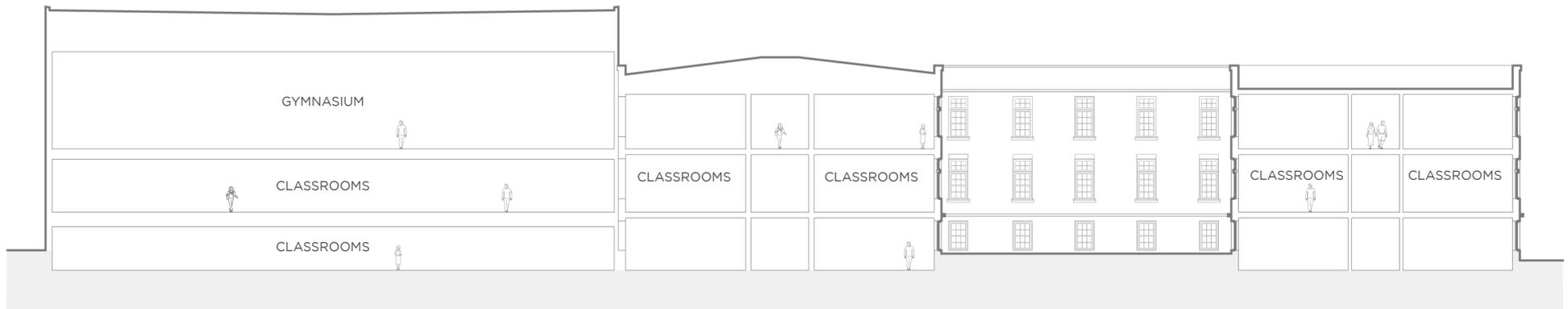
## NEW SECTION

East-West section looking north through House of Lebanon

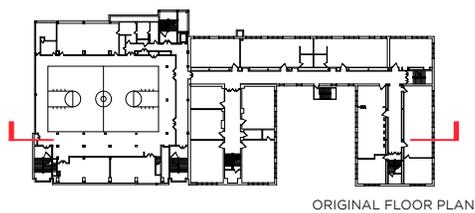


## ORIGINAL SECTION (2010)

East-West section looking north through existing MM Washington High School



## SECTION KEY



ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN



# RECLAIMED & NEW SPACES

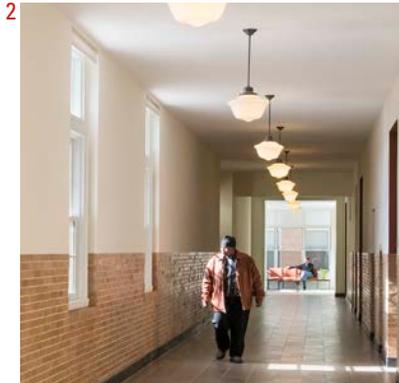


- 1 ORIGINAL CONDITION OF RESIDENTIAL COURTYARD
- 2 A REACTIVATED RESIDENTIAL COURTYARD
- 3 COMMUNITY COURTYARD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- 4 NEW ENTRANCE TO COMMUNITY COURTYARD

# RESTORED & NEW INTERIORS



COMMUNITY CENTER FOYER



- 1 ORIGINAL HALLWAY CONDITION
- 2 RESTORED ORIGINAL SCHOOL CORRIDOR
- 3 RESIDENTIAL UNIT
- 4 CORRIDOR GATHERING SPACE