



MEMORANDUM

“...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life.”

TO: Plan Commission

FROM: Jessica Titel, Principal Planner

DATE: July 12, 2023

RE: Location of the proposed Sexual Assault Survivors Monument in Ellen Kort Peace Park per Wis. State Statute 62.23(5)

Wis. State Statute 62.23(5) states that the location of any statue or other memorial shall be referred to the Plan Commission for its consideration and report before final action is taken by the Common Council.

Background:

The applicant has been working since late 2020 to secure funding for the design, engineering and construction of the monument and has now met her fundraising goal. The applicant has also worked closely with Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management regarding the location and design of the monument. The applicant is now requesting final approval of the monument and plans to begin construction this summer.

The final design and placement of the monument was recommended for approval by the Public Art Committee on June 20, 2023. Their recommendation and report will be presented at the July 10, 2023 Parks & Recreation Committee and then forwarded to the Common Council for final action on July 19, 2023, in conjunction with this action item.

Please see the attached memo, that was presented to the Public Art Committee on June 20, 2023, for full details and past action.

PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In accordance with Wis. State Statute 62.23(5), Staff recommends that the location for the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument within Ellen Kort Peace Park, as shown on the attached plans, **BE APPROVED**.



MEMORANDUM

“...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life.”

TO: Appleton Public Arts Committee (APAC)

FROM: Jessica Titel, Principal Planner

DATE: June 20, 2023

RE: Final Design - Sexual Assault Survivors Monument

On September 10, 2020, the Appleton Public Arts Committee recommended approval of the conceptual design and placement within Ellen Kort Peace Park of the proposed Sexual Assault Survivors Monument. The Parks and Recreation Committee and the Common Council also approved the proposal on September 21, 2020 and October 7, 2020, respectively.

Since the monument was in its very early design phase and the applicant wanted assurance that the monument was supported prior to fundraising efforts, the monument was conceptually reviewed and approved. Upon securing adequate funding and the final design, the monument was to come back to Committee and Council for final approval. The initial staff report is attached for reference and the following conditions were attached to the conceptual approval:

1. Upon approval of the final design and location, an agreement between the applicant and the City will be prepared by the City’s Legal Services Department and shall be executed prior to installation. This agreement will memorialize the expectations of the parties including the location of the art, installation and insurance requirements, maintenance, liability, indemnification, and the like.

Status: The Public Art Agreement will be executed after approval and prior to construction of the monument. This condition will be included with the recommendation.

2. The final design, construction details and structural engineering shall be provided to Staff no later than December 31, 2021. The final design will be presented to the Public Art Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Common Council for final review and action before the monument installation. The monument shall not be considered “approved” until this step is complete.

Status: Final design, location and structural engineering documents have been provided to staff. Fundraising took longer than anticipated; however, the applicant has secured the

funding needed to complete the design and the installation. The action and review requested with this report will satisfy this condition.

3. Proof of funding (or significant progress towards funding) for the monument shall be provided to Staff by December 31, 2021.

***Status:** Fundraising took longer than anticipated; however, the applicant has secured the funding needed to complete the design and the installation. Final design, location and structural engineering documents have been provided to staff indicating the funding is adequate to complete the project.*

4. Approval of the monument will be contingent on both parties (City and Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation) mutually agreeing on the final design.

***Status:** Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management have been working with the applicant on the final design and placement of the monument. The action and review requested with this report will satisfy this condition.*

5. Applicant shall create an endowment fund for ongoing maintenance of the monument.

***Status:** The applicant has committed to creating an endowment fund to cover ongoing maintenance of the monument. The details will be included in the Public Art Agreement. This condition is satisfied.*

The applicant has completed the fundraising, design and engineering of the monument. She has also worked closely with Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management regarding the location and design of the monument. The applicant is now requesting final approval of the monument and plans to begin construction this summer.

APPLETON PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE ACTION:

Based upon the guidelines outlined in the Art in Public Places Policy, staff recommends that the final design of the proposed Sexual Assault Survivors Monument to be located within Ellen Kort Peace Park, as shown on the attached plans, **BE APPROVED** subject to the following conditions:

1. Agreement between the applicant and the City will be prepared by the City's Legal Services Department and shall be executed prior to installation. This agreement will memorialize the expectations of the parties including the location of the art, installation and insurance requirements, maintenance, liability, indemnification, and the like.
2. Applicant shall create an endowment fund for ongoing maintenance of the monument. Details shall be included in the Public Art Agreement.
3. Upon completion of the installation, a structural/professional engineer shall provide certification that the artwork was installed according to specifications and meets required structural standards.

4. Applicant and/or contractor shall contact Digger's Hotline for underground utility locates prior to any site work commencing.
5. Per the Art in Public Places Policy, any artwork signage shall meet the parameters set forth in Zoning Code Section 23-531(e), which allows each artwork one plaque/sign not to exceed nine square feet in size.
6. Applicant and/or any contractors shall provide proof of minimum liability insurance to meet City requirements, prior to installation.

Monument SASM

Ellen Kort Peace Park - W Water Street, Appleton, WI 54911



DRAWING SYMBOLS LEGEND:

ROOM 100A	ROOM NAME AND NUMBER	(A100A) 1-HR	DOOR TAG - REFER TO DOOR SCHEDULE FIRE RATING
	INTERIOR ELEVATION		WINDOW TAG
	SECTION OR DETAIL NUMBER	(A1A)	WALL TAG - INTERIOR
	SHEET ON WHICH SECTION OR DETAIL IS DRAWN	(E2EM)	WALL TAG - EXTERIOR
	PLAN OR DETAIL NUMBER	(TA-18)	TOILET ACCESSORY TAG
	SHEET ON WHICH PLAN OR DETAIL IS DRAWN		REVISION TAG - ADDENDUM/ CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN
	EXISTING ELEVATION		SPOT ELEVATION
	NEW ELEVATION		WORK POINT
			SURVEY POINT
			DEMOLITION NOTE
			PLAN NOTE

GENERAL NOTES:

- ALL WORK OF ALL TRADES SHALL BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL GOVERNING CODES AND ORDINANCES. IF ANY CONTRACTOR OBSERVES THAT ANY OF THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS ARE AT VARIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS, STATUTES, BUILDING CODES, OR ORDINANCES, THEY SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY HOFFMAN.
- EACH CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL CONDITIONS AND DIMENSIONS AT THE SITE; NEITHER THE OWNER NOR HOFFMAN ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDITIONS OR DIMENSIONS SHOWN AS EXISTING.
- NOTIFY HOFFMAN IMMEDIATELY IF ANY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE ENCOUNTERED DURING DEMOLITION, REMODELING, OR EXCAVATION, AND STOP WORK IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA UNTIL A COURSE OF ACTION IS DETERMINED. DO NOT ABATE.
- CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING ALL CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR WORK PERTAINING TO THEIR SCOPE, INCLUDING CODE AND REFERENCE SHEETS. KEYNOTE LIST ON INDIVIDUAL SHEETS MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL KEYNOTES ON THAT SHEET.
- PLAN NOTES ARE GLOBAL; INDIVIDUAL PLAN NOTES MAY NOT BE PRESENT ON EVERY PLAN SHEET.
- NEITHER HOFFMAN NOR THE OWNER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN SCALING DUE TO PRINTING, REPRODUCTION, OR ELECTRONIC FILE CREATION. SCALE AT YOUR OWN RISK.

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FABRICATOR:
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FABRICATOR:
A&P FABRICATING SOLUTIONS
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APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54913
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CONTRACTOR:
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NEENAH, WISCONSIN 54956
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ELECTRICAL:
ABSTRACT ELECTRIC
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STRUCTURAL:
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2801 E. ENTERPRISE AVENUE SUITE 200
APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54913
(920) 734-9867

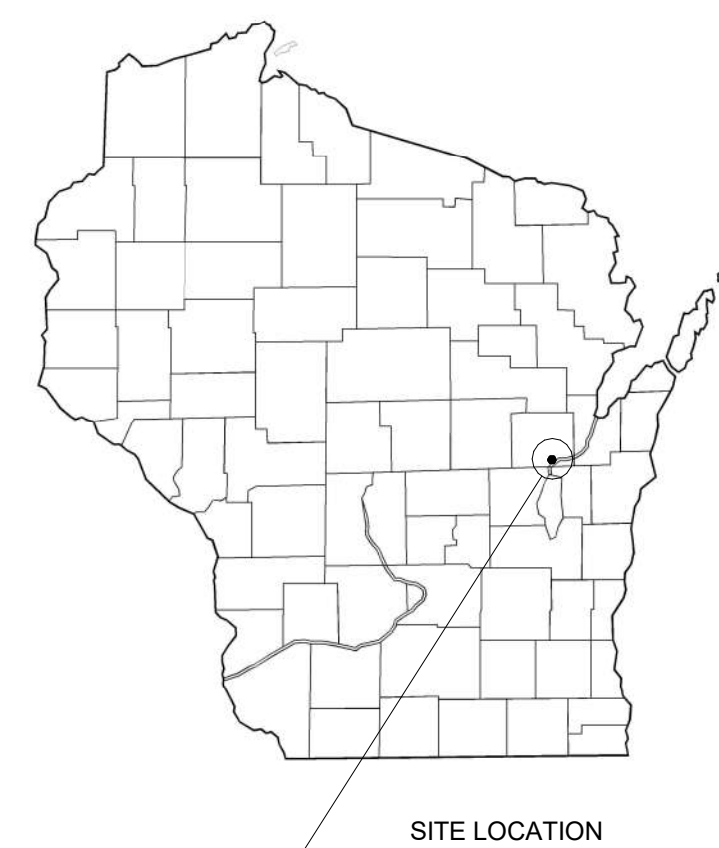
EQUIPMENT:
EAGLE PERFORMANCE PLASTICS
2929 W EVERGREEN DRIVE
APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54913
(920) 739-8841

DRAWING INDEX:

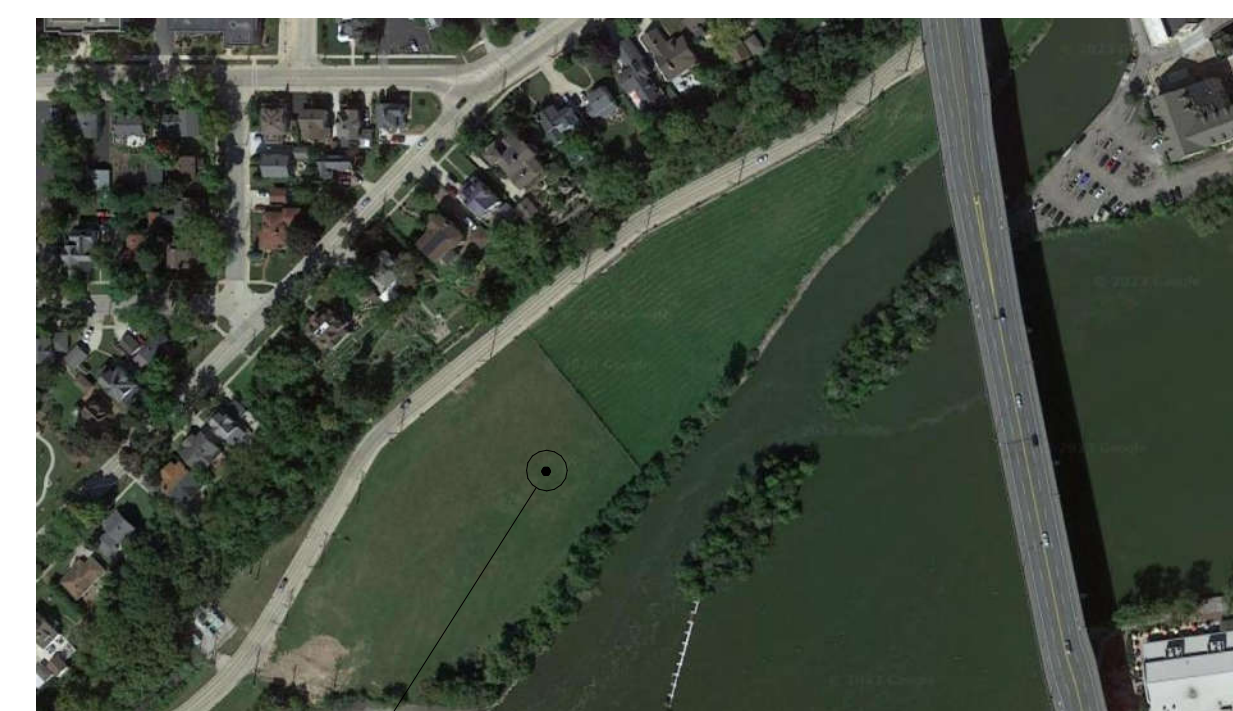
GENERAL	ELECTRICAL
GI-000 COVER SHEET	
GI-101 CODE PLAN	
CIVIL	
STRUCTURAL	
ARCHITECTURAL	
AE-101 OVERALL/ENLARGED ROOF AND FLOOR PLANS	
AE-202 ENLARGED COLUMN ELEVATIONS	
AE-301 BUILDING SECTIONS	

OWNER:

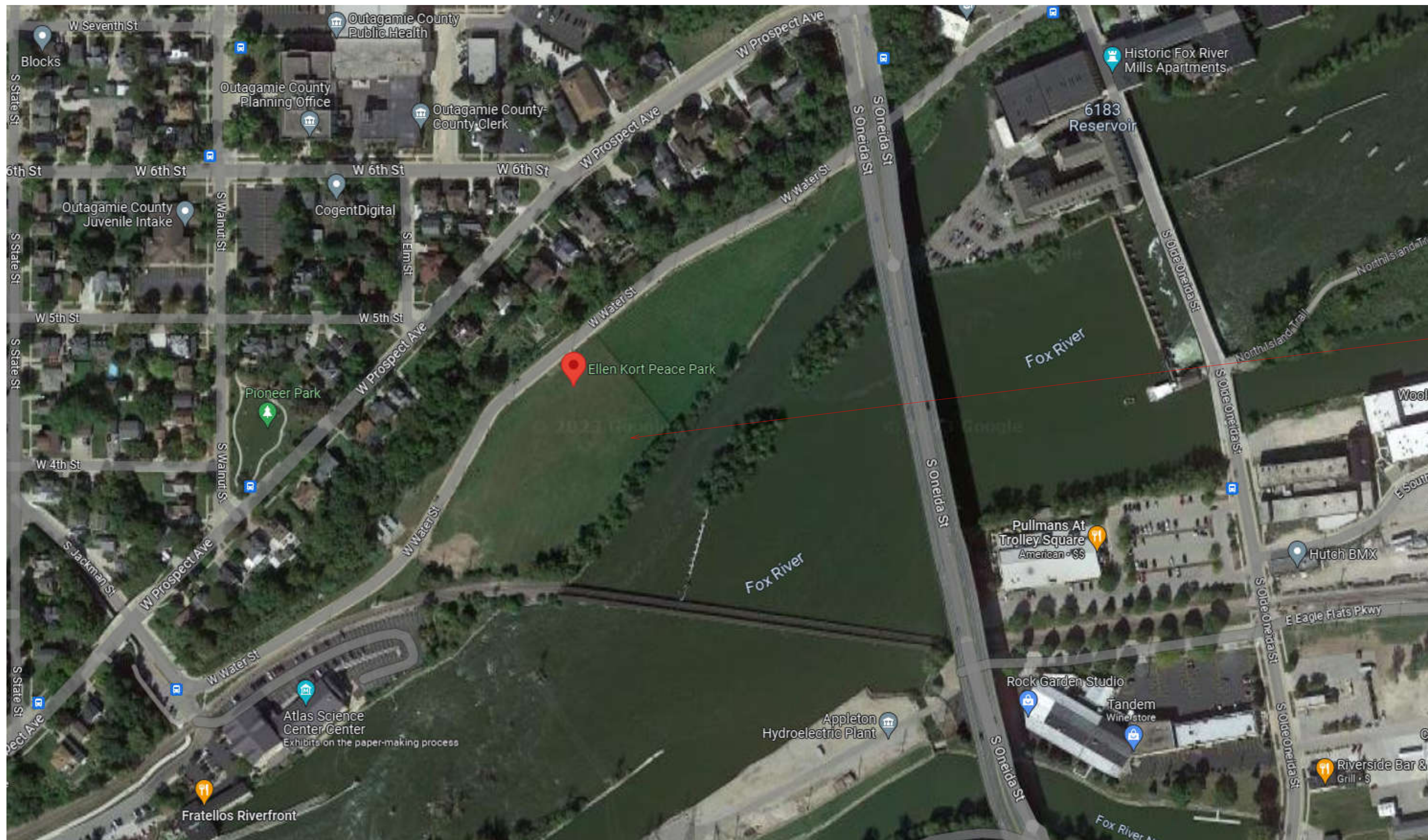
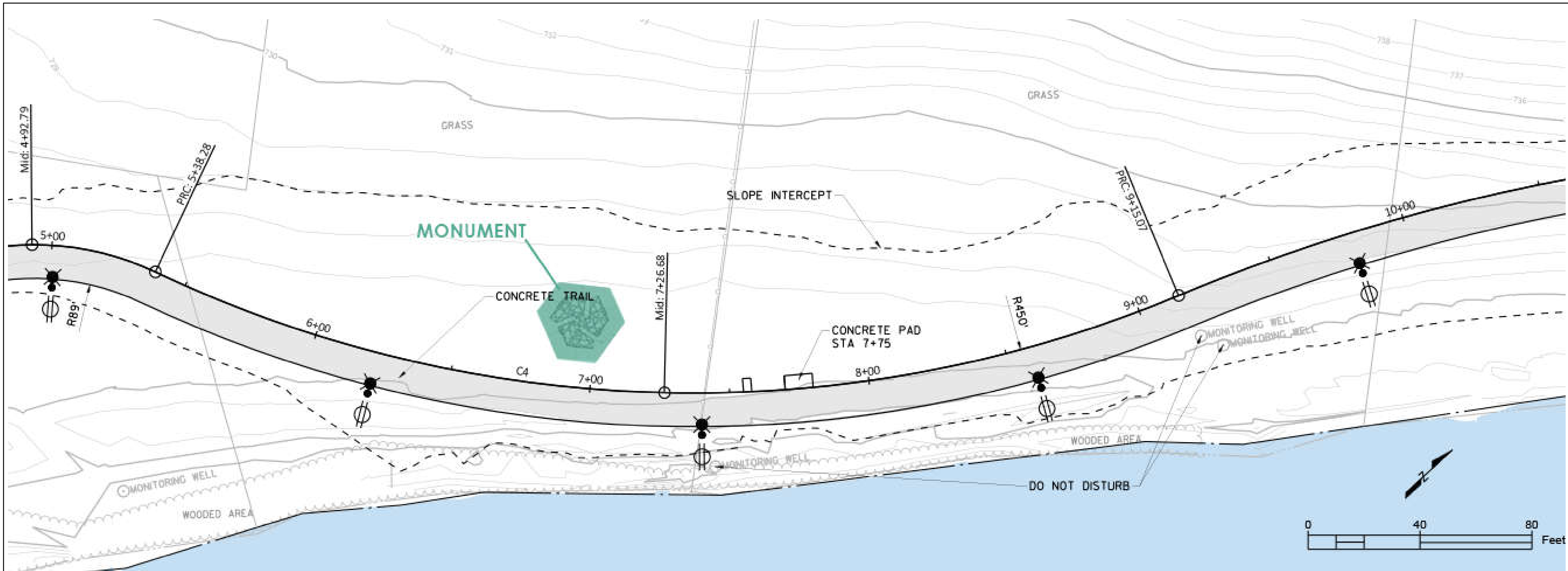
Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation
W2162 Daisy Ln * Brillion, WI * 54110



SITE LOCATION
STATE LOCATION



SITE LOCATION
LOCATION MAP



APPROXIMATE
SITE LOCATION

CONSULTANT:

Monument
SASM
Ellen Kort Peace Park - W Water Street, Appleton, WI
54911

MARK	DATE
ISSUED:	Issue Date
PROJECT NO:	
DRAWN BY:	Author
CHECKED BY:	Checker

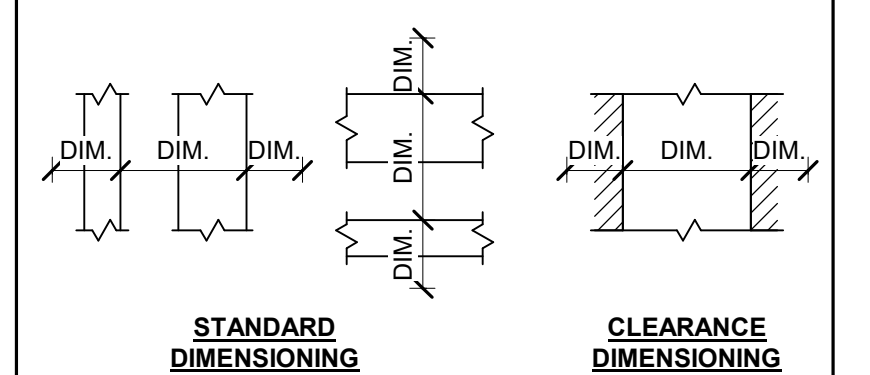
SITE PLAN

AE-001

PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

WALL DIMENSION KEY

NOTE: ALL WALLS ARE DIMENSIONED TO FACE OF STUD OR FACE OF MASONRY. CLEARANCE DIMENSIONS ARE FROM FACE OF STUDS OR FACE OF MASONRY.



KEYNOTE LEGEND

KEY NO.	KEYNOTE TEXT
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PLAN NOTES KEY

NO.	DESCRIPTION
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CONSULTANT:

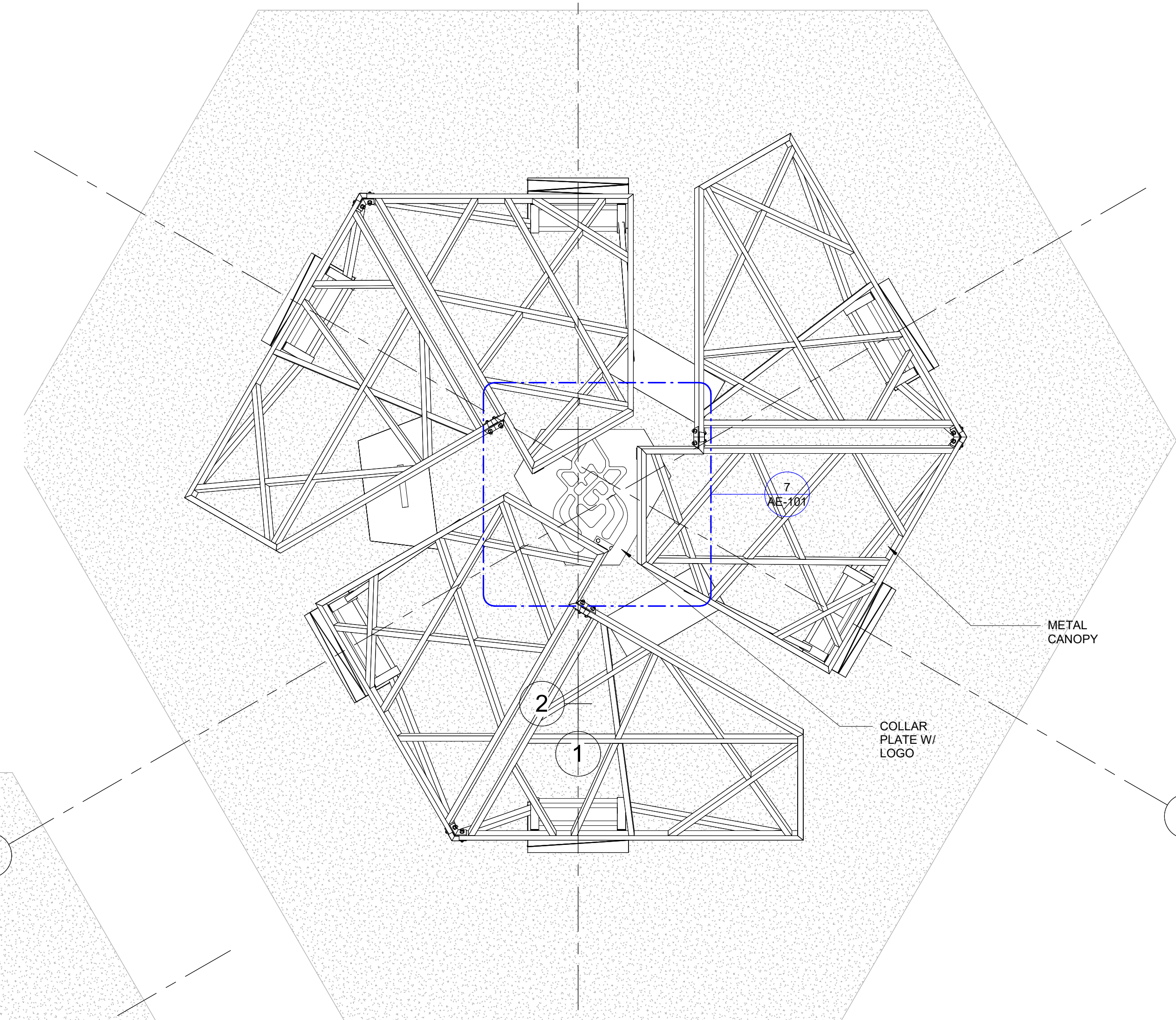
Monument
SASM
 Ellen Kort Peace Park - W Water Street, Appleton, WI
 54911

MARK	DATE
ISSUED:	Issue Date
PROJECT NO:	
DRAWN BY:	Author
CHECKED BY:	Checker

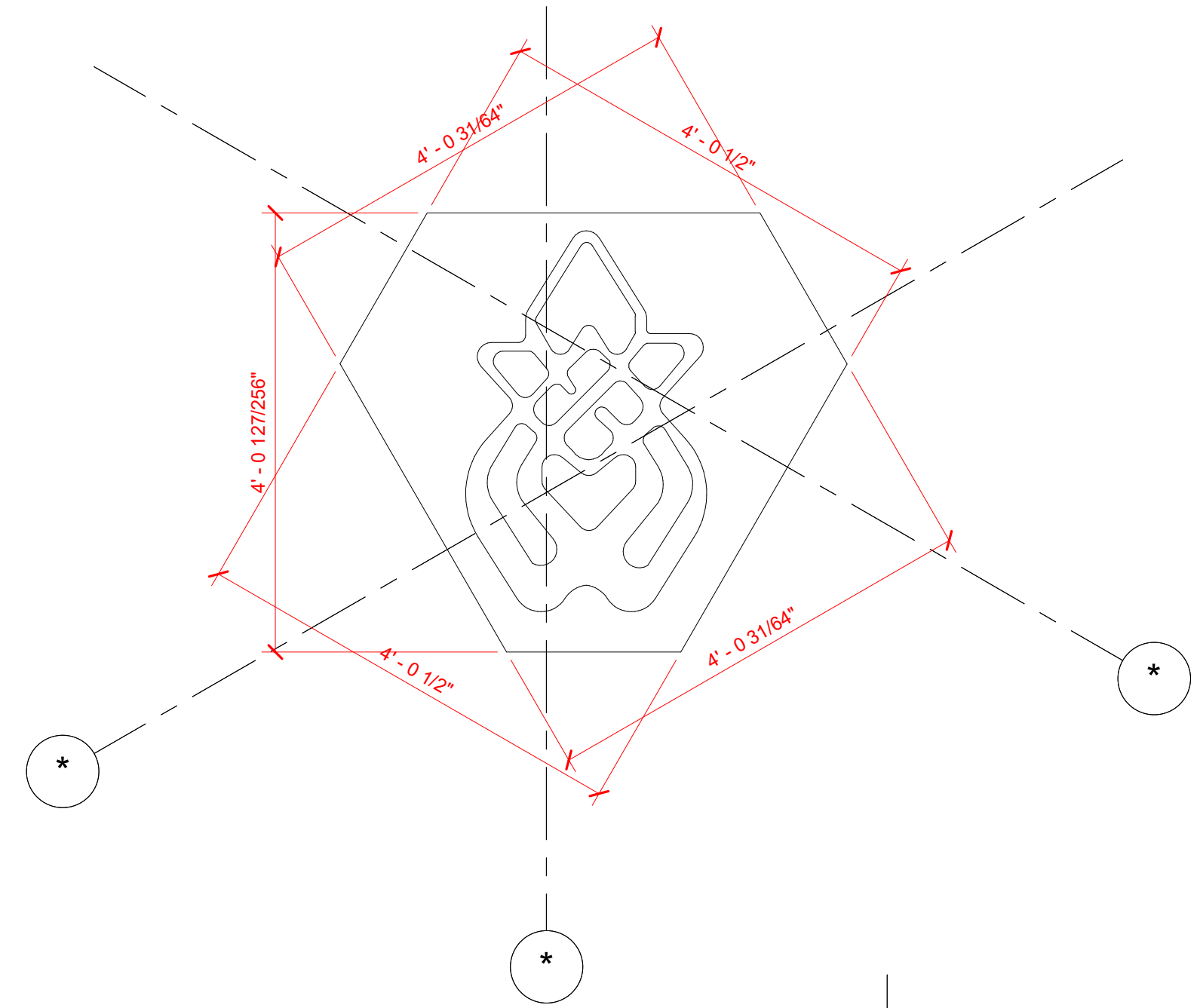
OVERALL/ENLARGED
 ROOF AND
 FLOOR PLANS

AE-101

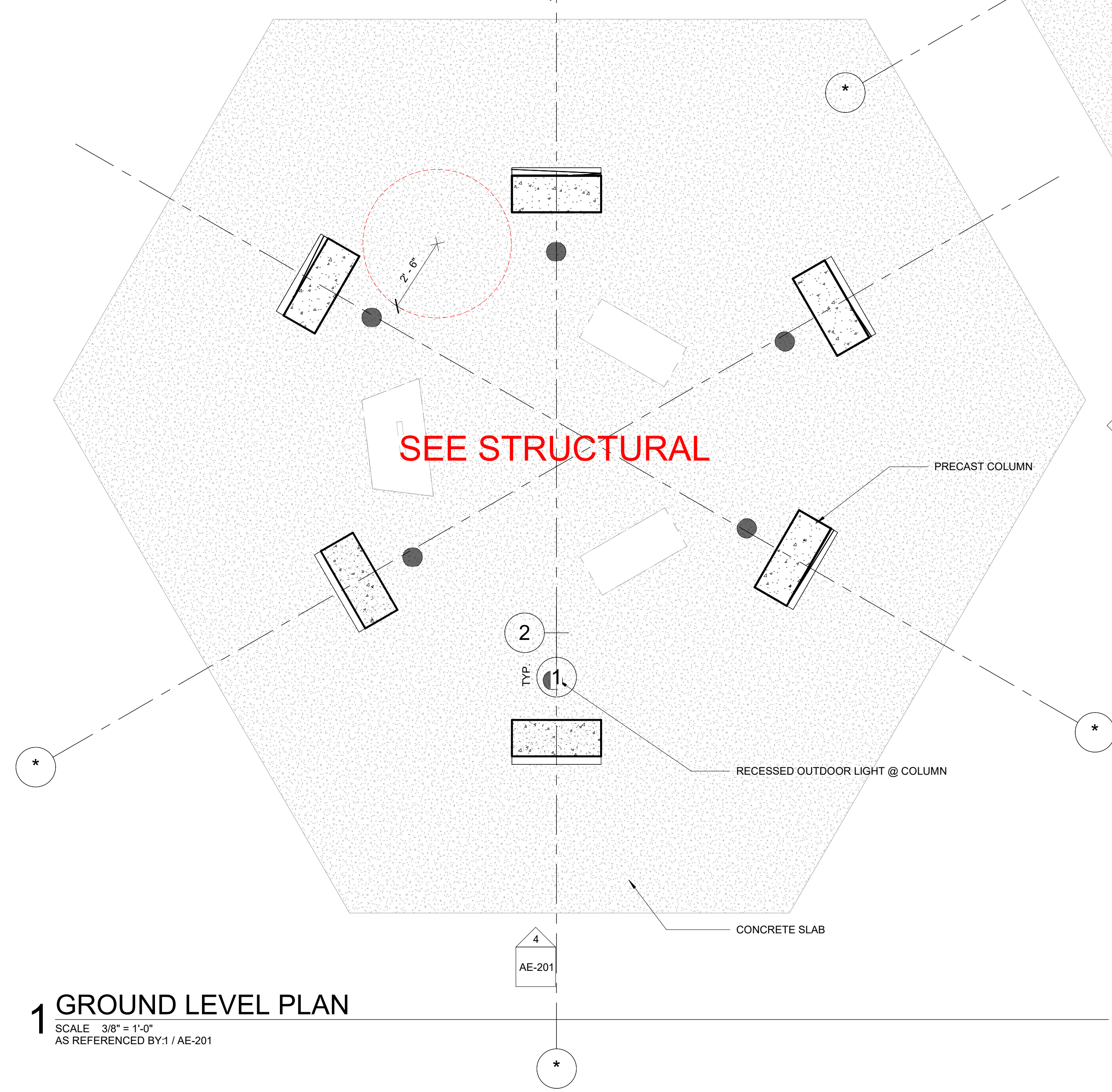
**PRELIMINARY
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**



6 CANOPY PLAN
 SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"
 AS REFERENCED BY: 1 / AE-201



7 COLLAR PLATE PLAN
 SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"
 AS REFERENCED BY: 6 / AE-101



1 GROUND LEVEL PLAN
 SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"
 AS REFERENCED BY: 1 / AE-201

CONSULTANT:

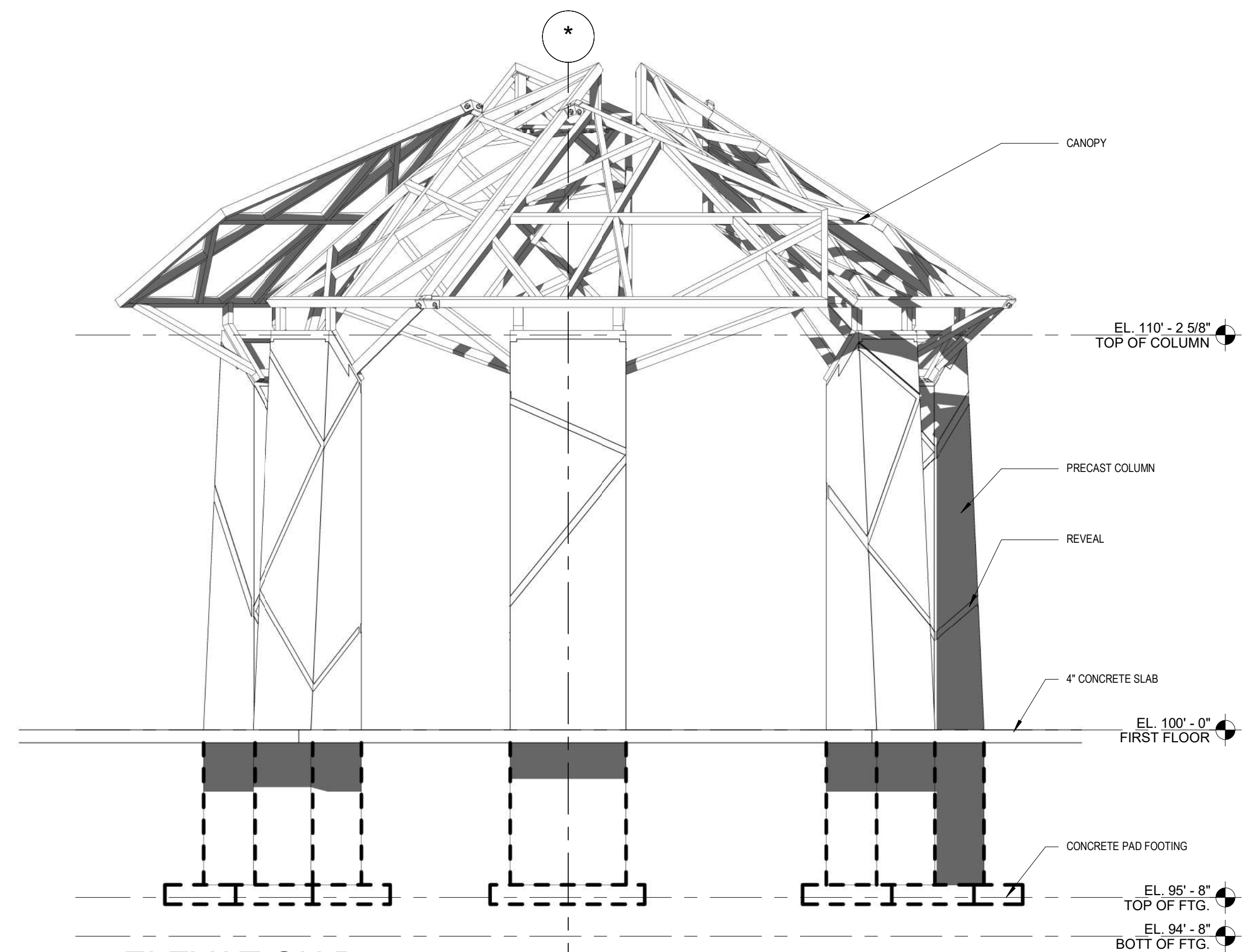
Monument
SASM
 Ellen Kort Peace Park - W Water Street, Appleton, WI
 54911

MARK	DATE
ISSUED:	Issue Date
PROJECT NO:	
DRAWN BY:	Author
CHECKED BY:	Checker
COPYRIGHT © 2020: HOFFMAN PLANNING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, INC.	

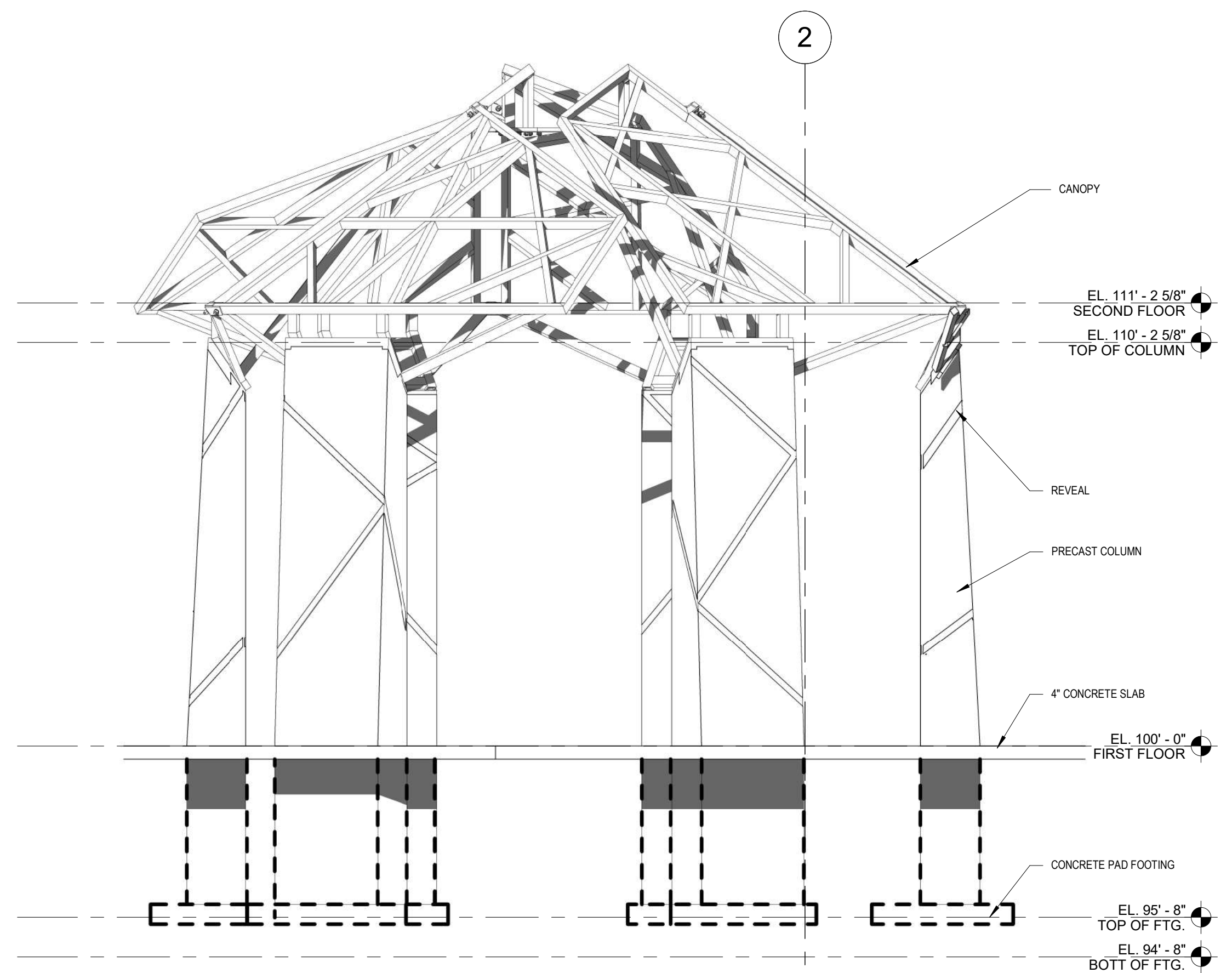
EXTERIOR
 ELEVATIONS

AE-201

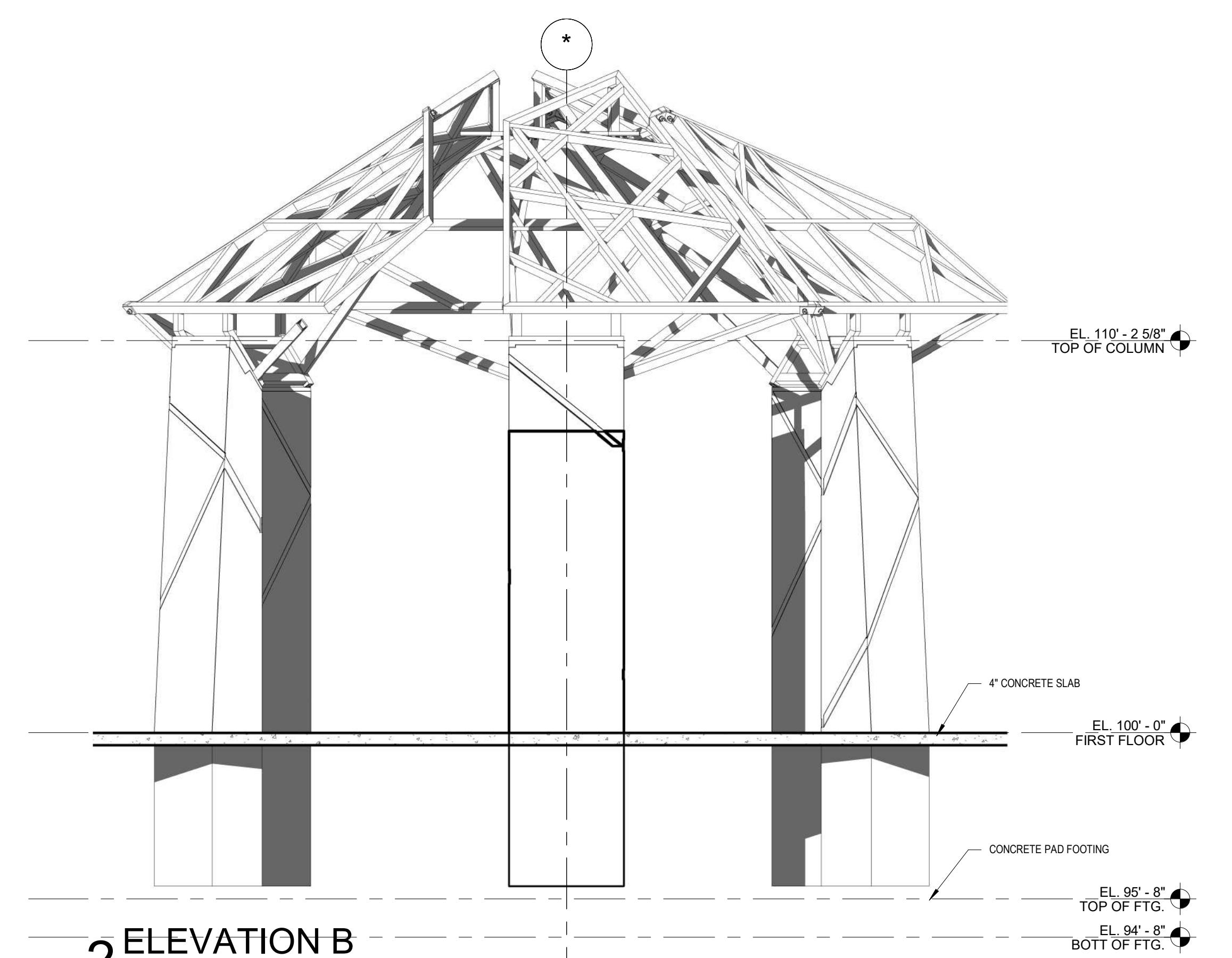
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 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**



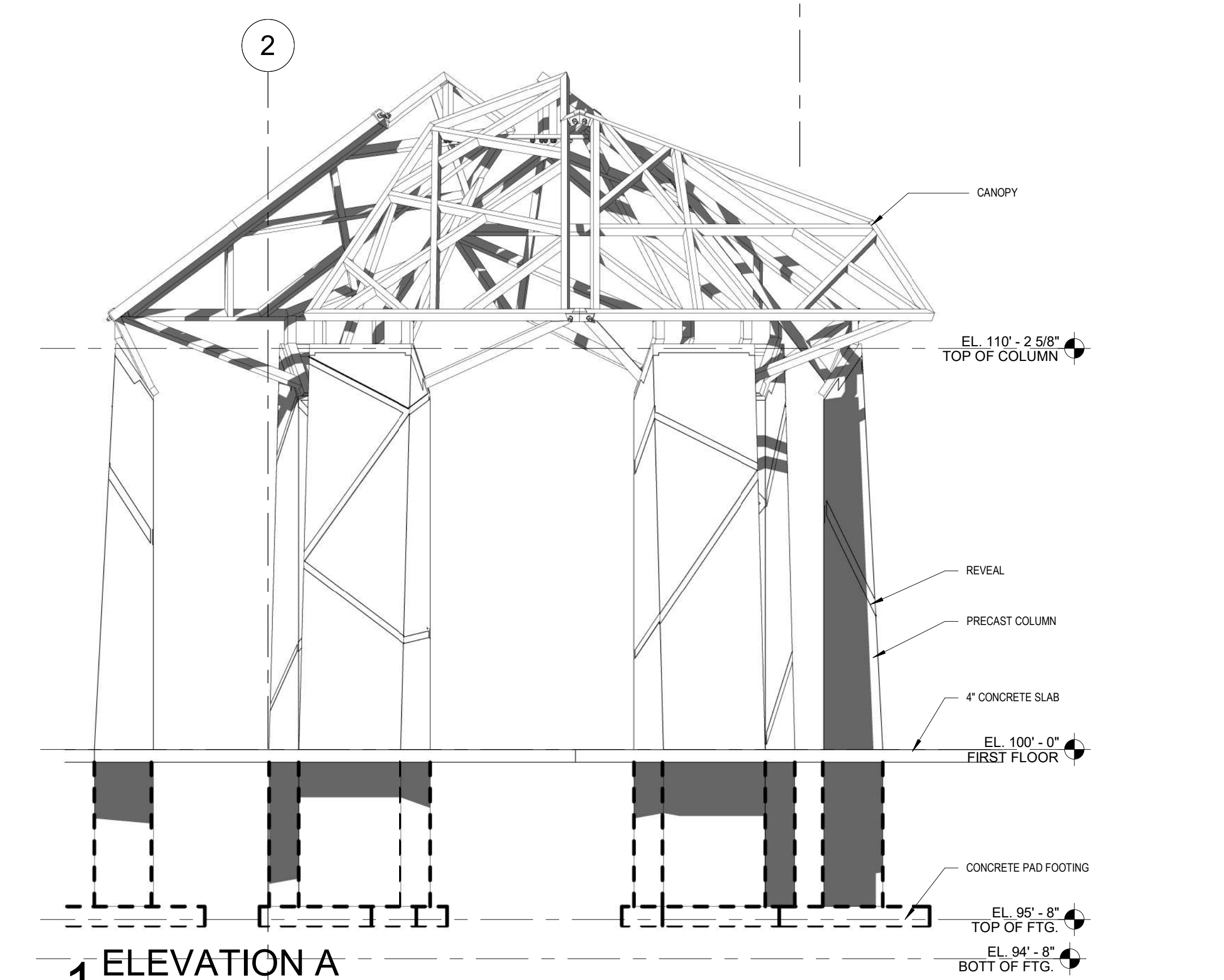
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 SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"
 AS REFERENCED BY:1 / AE-101



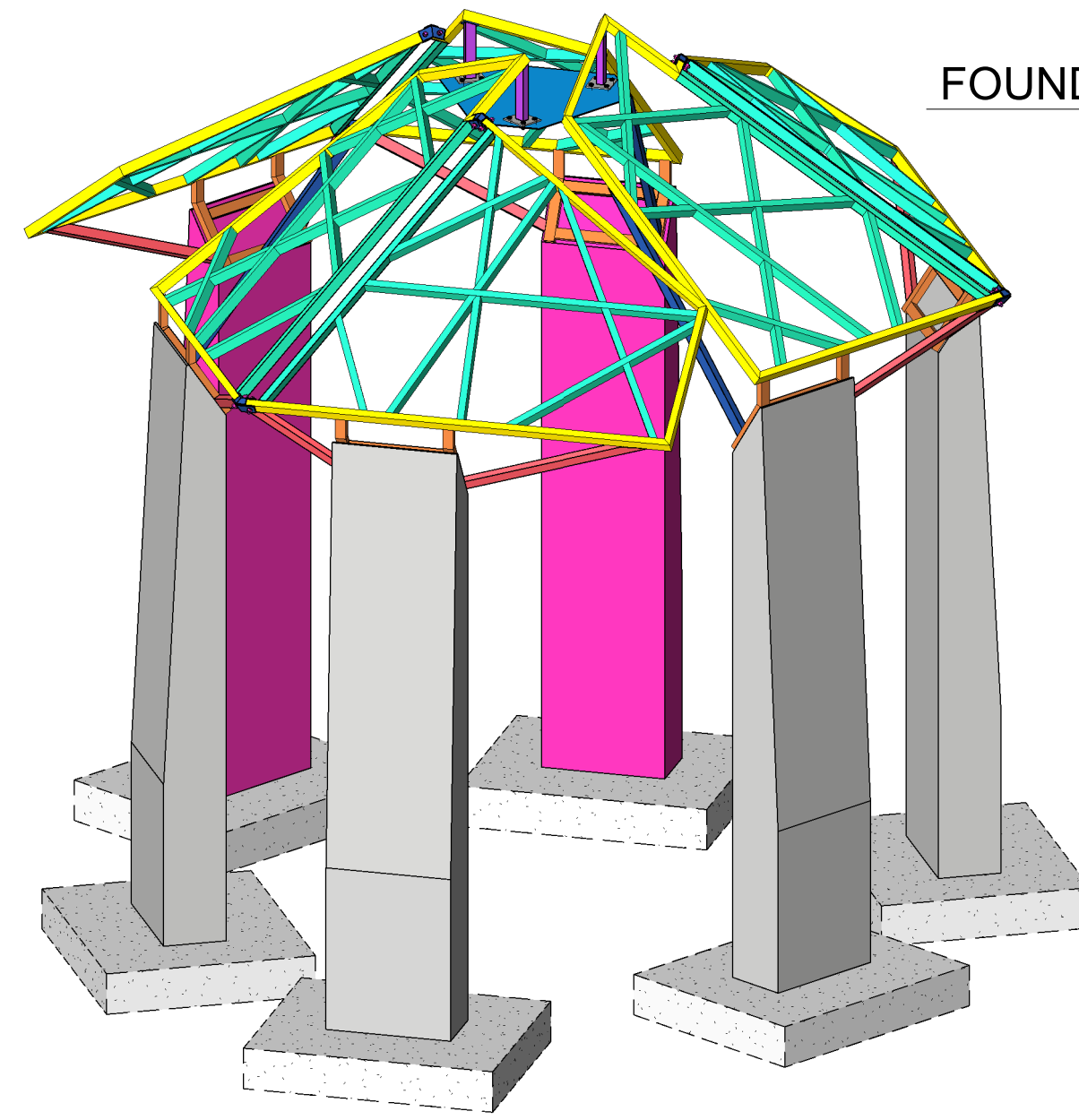
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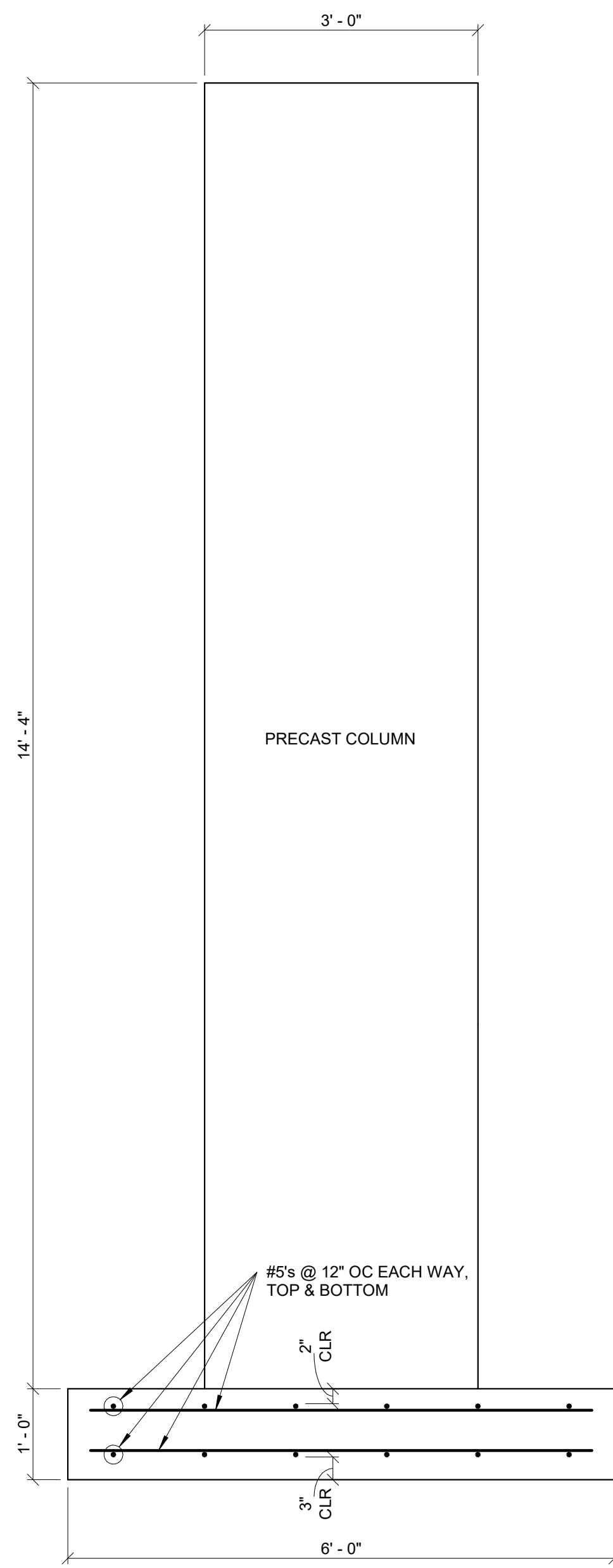
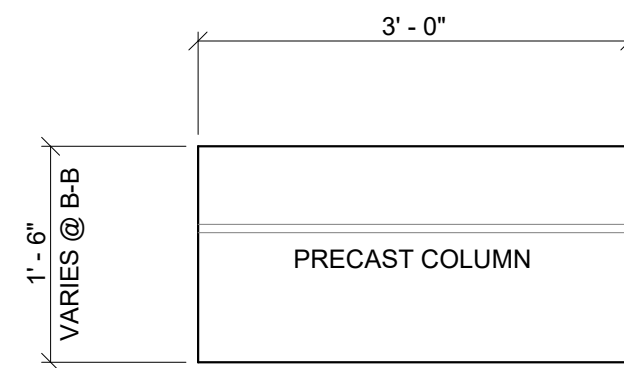
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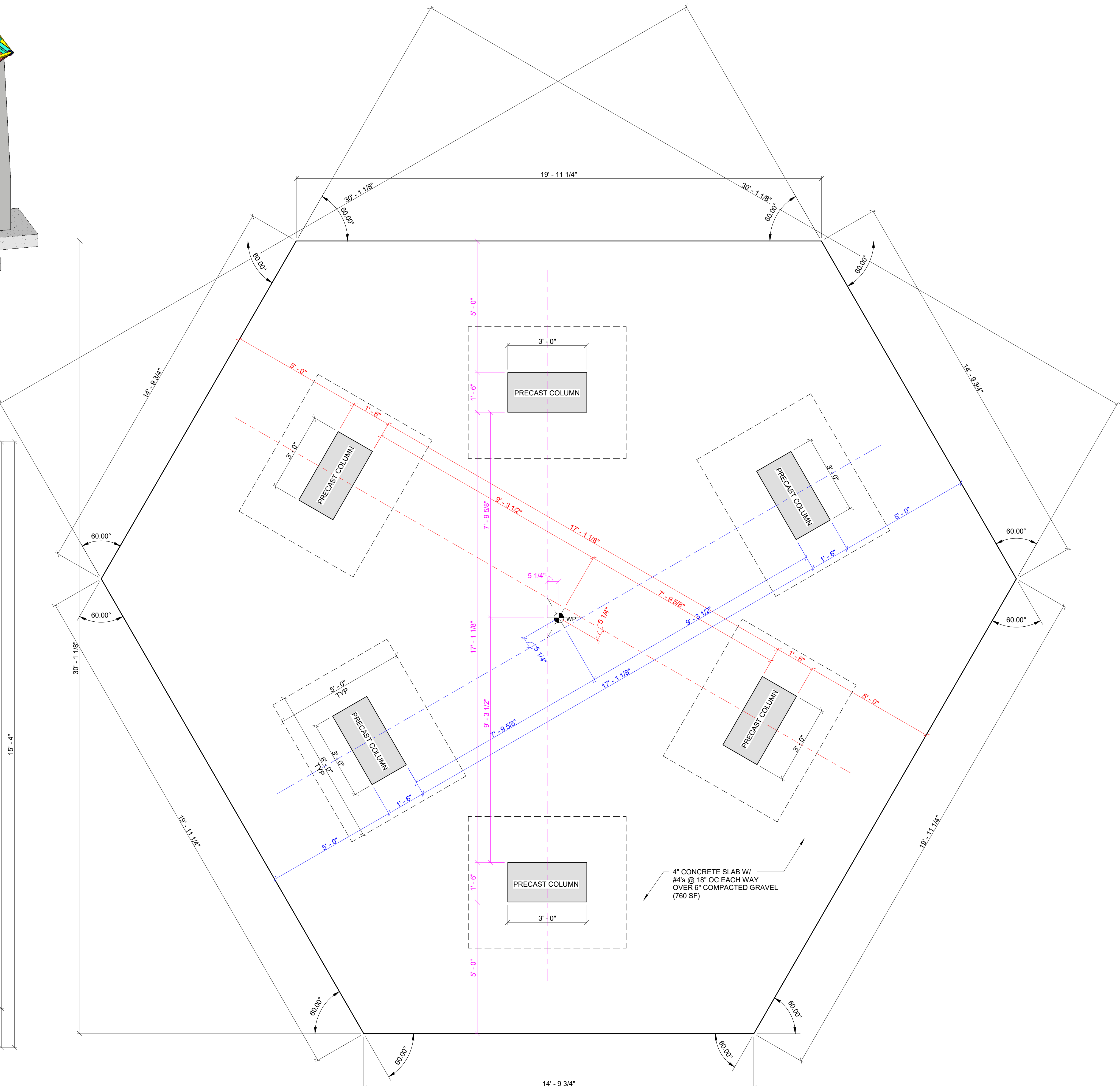
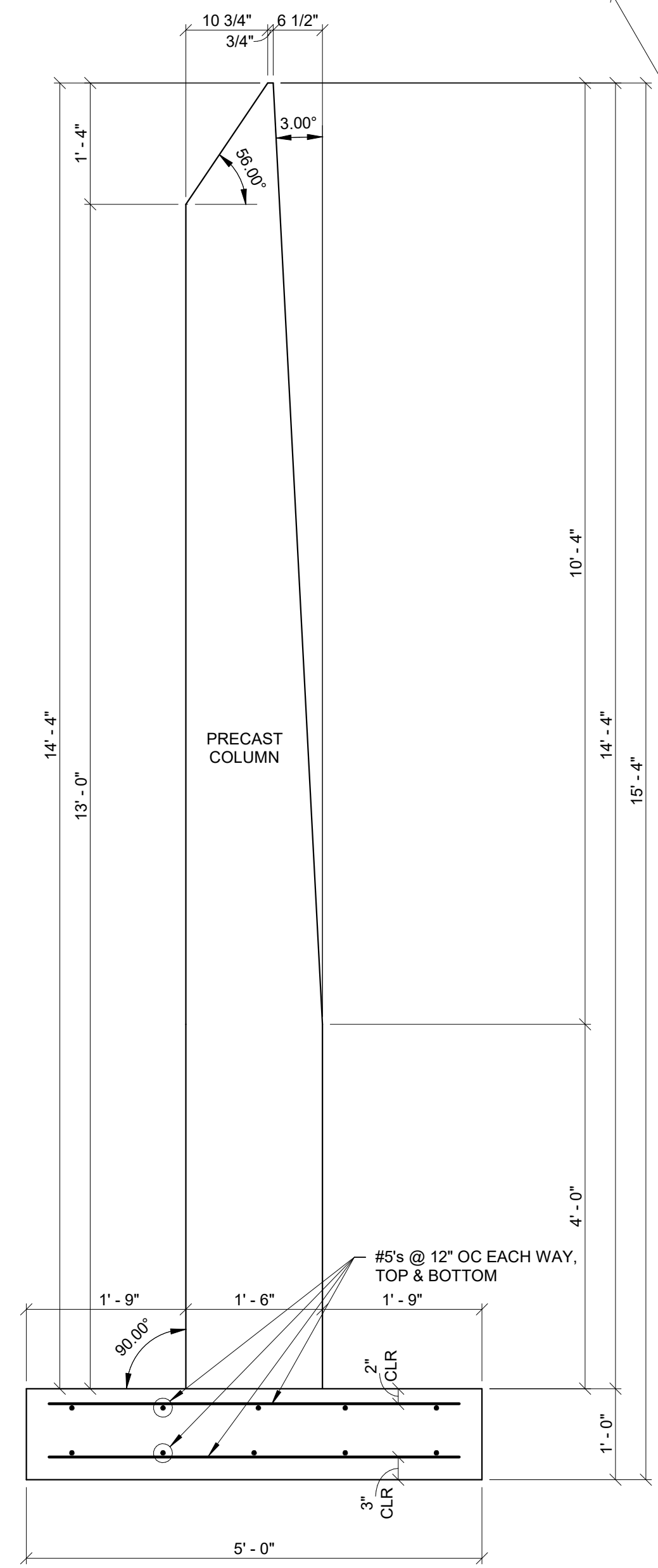
1 ELEVATION A
 SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"
 AS REFERENCED BY:1 / AE-101



FOUNDATION & FRAMING ISOMETRIC



FOUNDATION DETAIL
3/4" = 1'-0"



FOUNDATION / LAYOUT PLAN
1/2" = 1'-0"

MARK	DATE
ISSUED:	06/09/23
PROJECT NO:	-
DRAWN BY:	BJR
CHECKED BY:	CAR

FOUNDATION & PRECAST COLUMN PLAN

S2.0



REPORT TO PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE

Appleton Public Arts Committee Meeting Date: September 10, 2020

Parks and Recreation Committee Date: September 21, 2020

Common Council Meeting Date: October 7, 2020

Item: Sexual Assault Survivors Monument – Conceptual Review

Case Manager: Jessica Titel

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant: Chelsea Bongert – Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation

Address/Parcel: W. Water Street – Ellen Kort Peace Park

Applicant's Request: Applicant is requesting approval of the conceptual design and placement of the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument within the future development of Ellen Kort Peace Park.

PROJECT DETAILS

Brief Description of Project and Location: The monument will be located in the future development of Ellen Kort Peace Park. The design of the park is planned for 2022. This proposal will be reviewed in two steps. First, is this approval of the conceptual design of the monument and the placement within Ellen Kort Peace Park. The applicant will then know if the monument has support and if it will have a place in the park. Assuming it is approved, the applicant can move forward with fundraising, design details and structural engineering with assurance of a location within the park and the City can continue with the design of the park taking into consideration the final placement of the monument. Since the park planning and design will occur in 2022, the City will need to have the final monument design ahead of that so the monument can be incorporated into the park layout. Due to the complexities of the proposed design and significant cost of this project, the applicant requested some level of review and approval prior to embarking on major fundraising efforts.

The second step for this project will include presenting the final detailed design, specifications and structural engineering to the Public Art Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Common Council for final review and action. A more narrowed down location within the park would also be presented with the next submittal.

The applicant has provided a detailed project narrative that is attached to this report. The work would comprise of gazebo-like monument with a concrete base and six stone pillars. There will be two curved benches on either side of the monument and a curved wall in the back middle of the gazebo with a firerose design in the front. Renaissance School of the Arts students worked for a semester in a monument design class with designing this monument being their culminating project, so many of these design ideas and parts came from the Renaissance students. Please note, parts of the design are subject to change as the project moves into the detailed design phase.

Sexual Assault Survivors Monument

September 1, 2020

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Attached to this report are the following supporting documents:

- Detailed project proposal/summary
- Conceptual monument design prepared by Renaissance School of the Arts Students
- Revised 3D monument rendering eliminating the fountain feature (based upon City feedback)
- Conceptual Ellen Kort Peace Park layout

Reason for Choosing the Proposed Location: Ellen Kort Peace Park will be designed as a passive park and is intended for people to visit, reflect and enjoy nature. This monument could fit well with the intended use and vision for this future park.

Description of How the Work is Installed/Anchored/Attached: Final design and structural engineering details will come at a later date and will be presented to the Public Art Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Common Council for final review and action prior to park design in 2022.

Timeline and Duration of Installation: The park design is planned for 2022 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in 2023, subject to final budget approval. The monument will be a permanent structure within the park.

Maintenance and Cost: Due to the early stage of this project maintenance costs are unknown. The applicant will be providing those with the final design. The Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation Nonprofit (501.c3) will plan to set up an endowment fund to cover maintenance costs of the monument.

Associated Signage: There will be a sign in front of the monument as you enter with the mission statement, a brief history, reason for the monument, and the community involvement for the monument. Within the monument there will be plaques on each pillar that describe the meaning/symbolism of the pieces within the monument. The stones on the walkway will also have sponsors engraved on them as well.

Appleton Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030: The City of Appleton *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030* illustrates the importance of the arts community to Appleton and encourages the expansion and promotion of placemaking and arts in the City. The proposed public art project is consistent with the following goals and objectives of the *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030*.

Chapter 3 – Community Vision #12: Creative place making and public art enhance the public realm and contribute to a vibrant economy.

Goal 7 – Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

Appleton will continue to protect and enhance its environmental quality and important natural resources, preserve historic sites, and support cultural opportunities for community residents.

Chapter 14 – Downtown Plan

- *Community Priorities: Ellen Kort Peace Park – This newly designated park is envisioned as a place which celebrates cultural diversity and various forms of public art.*
- *Strategy 1.4 Install sculpture, murals, and other art in public locations throughout the downtown*
- *Strategy 2.1 Maintain and strengthen the vitality of the arts and entertainment niche*
- *Strategy 2.6 Create more Fox River to Downtown tourism opportunities and connections*

Sexual Assault Survivors Monument

September 1, 2020

Page 3

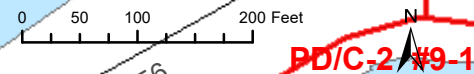
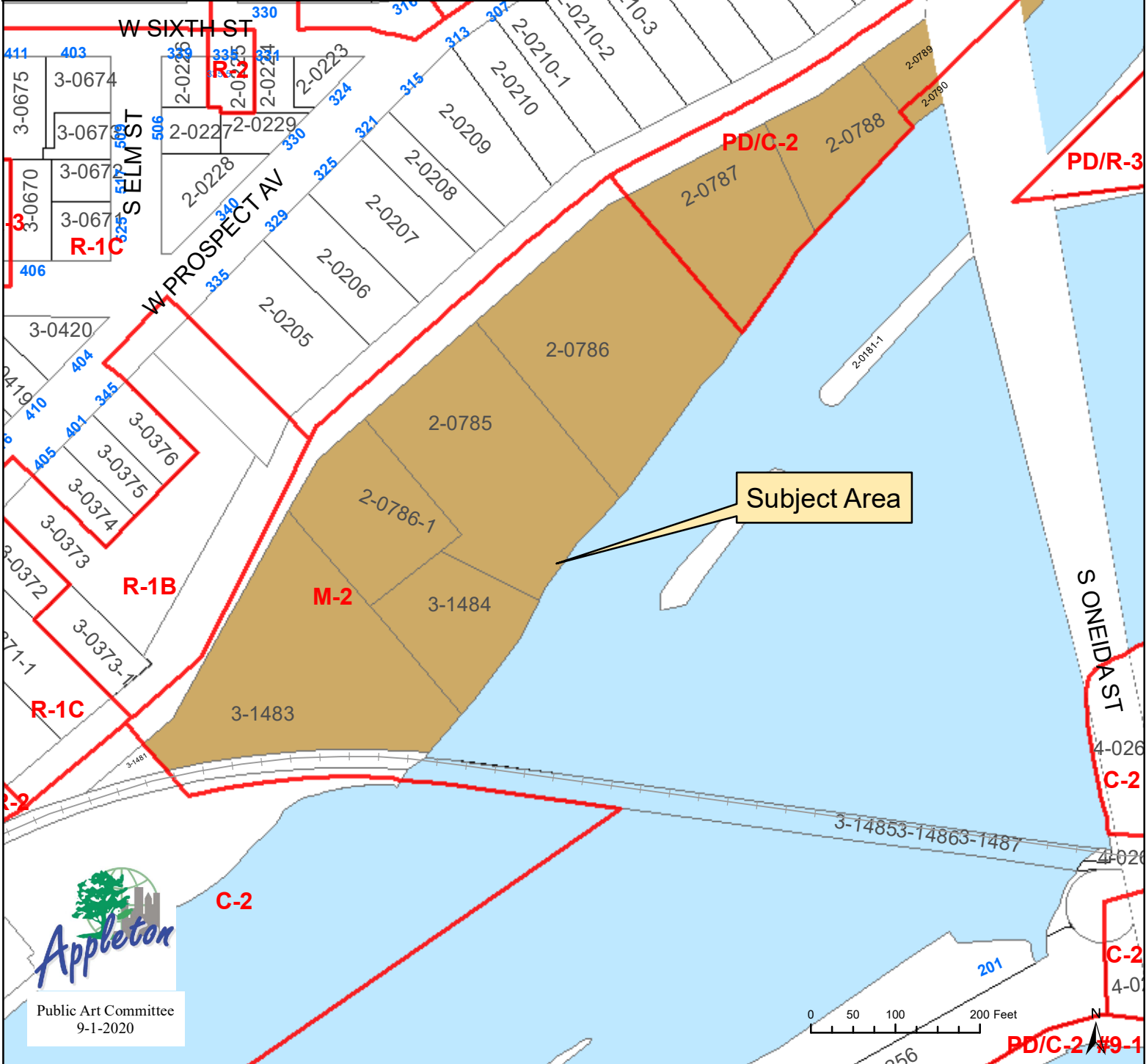
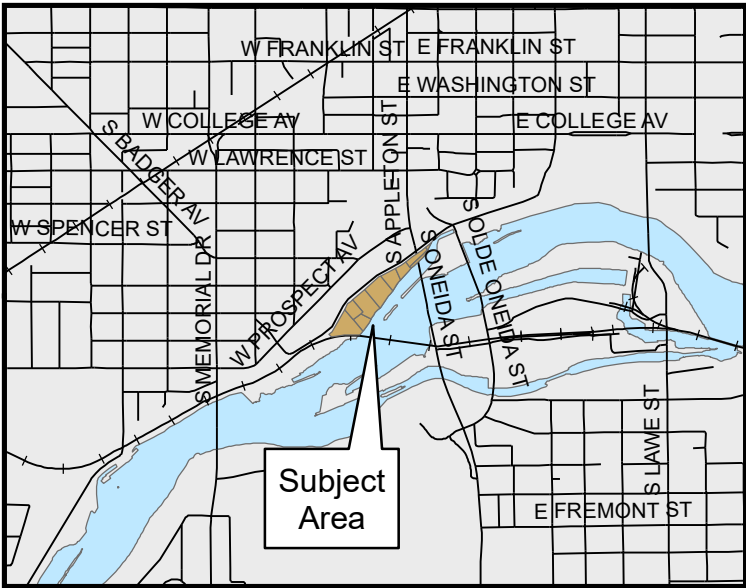
- *Strategy 7.4 Plan, design, and construct improvements to Jones Park and Ellen Kort Peace Park: It is anticipated that Ellen Kort Peace Park will emphasize nature, art, and culture over active play areas or highly formal programming.*

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the guidelines outlined in the Art in Public Places Policy, staff recommends that the conceptual design of the proposed Sexual Assault Survivors Monument be located within the future Ellen Kort Peace Park, as shown on the attached conceptual plans, **BE APPROVED** subject to the following conditions:

1. Upon approval of the final design and location, an agreement between the applicant and the City will be prepared by the City's Legal Services Department and shall be executed prior to installation. This agreement will memorialize the expectations of the parties including the location of the art, installation and insurance requirements, maintenance, liability, indemnification, and the like.
2. The final design, construction details and structural engineering shall be provided to Staff no later than December 31, 2021. The final design will be presented to the Public Art Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Common Council for final review and action before the monument installation. The monument shall not be considered "approved" until this step is complete.
3. Proof of funding (or significant progress towards funding) for the monument shall be provided to Staff by December 31, 2021.
4. Approval of the monument will be contingent on both parties (City and Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation) mutually agreeing on the final design.
5. Applicant shall create an endowment fund for ongoing maintenance of the monument.

Public Art Committee Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Ellen Kort Peace Park Zoning Map



Public Art Committee Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Ellen Kort Peace Park Aerial Map



Subject Area

Ellen Kort Peace Park

City of Appleton, WI



Master Plan

- A - Crosswalk
- B - Jones Park Connector
- C - Park Gateway
- D - Poet's Garden
- E - Nature's Gazebo
- F - River's Edge Lawn
- G - Circle Gathering Lawns
- H - Sculpture
- I - Circular Hill
- J - Butterfly Garden
- K - Peace Ring
- L - Path at River's Edge
- M - Pile Supported Walk
- N - Birding Island
- O - Peace Pole
- P - Parking
- Q - Quilt Gardens
- R - Rain Gardens/Retention
- S - Pavilion/Restroom
- T - Future Trail Extension
- U - Steps to Pioneer's Park
- V - Overlook

SCALE 0' 20' 40' 80'

N

LUNDE WILLIAMS



Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation

Appleton Park Art Application

Submittal Requirements:

1. Brief description of the proposed artwork

The piece will be a gazebo-like monument that brings a voice to sexual assault awareness. It will have two baby trees on either side of the stone walkway up to the monument. The trees will be sponsored each year by area companies with a plaque that accompanies them stating the year, company, and Sexual Assault Survivors Monument and the following year the trees will be replanted at the companies (with the plaque) to symbolize the spreading growth and awareness as a community. The stone path will have rounded stones with sponsor names on them as you walk up to the monument. The monument itself will be ground level with a concrete base and 6 pillars. As planned now, the front two pillars will say "You Matter" and "Be A Voice". The other pillars will have plaques on them that explain the meaning/symbolism of each piece of the monument. Two curved benches will be on either side of the gazebo with colorful mosaic tiles, each coming from an event where area survivors can pick a tile to represent them, or someone they know, who has been affected by sexual assault; therefore involving the community and allowing the topic to hit home. Metal teal ribbon backs will be attached to the benches, as the teal ribbon is for sexual assault awareness. There will then be a curved wall in the back middle of the gazebo with a firerose design in the front and cubby holes on either side. Within each cubby will be a plastic bottle where survivors and community members can leave messages of hope and encouragement, their own story and healing, and words of comfort. Visitors to the monument can then read these, take a message to keep and refill the bottle with their own message, or just write a message to leave in a bottle. It will make the monument a "living" space. Please note, parts of this plan are subject to change and open to change as well, but this is the best description of the design we have today. Renaissance School of the Arts students actually worked for a semester in a monument design class with designing this monument being their culminating project, so many of these design ideas and parts came from the Renaissance students.

2. Photos/sketches of the proposed artwork (see attached images)

In the attached images, you will see a sketch I have done (keeping in mind that the fountain in my sketch has been discussed and changed to a curved wall in

the back, so no fountain will be planned). The other design is a 3D graphic rendering of the monument

3. Site plan/location map showing location of proposed work

Ellen Kort Peace Park - actual location within to be determined once park design is planned

4. Reason for choosing the proposed location

I cannot think of a better location for a monument like this; one that is built for reflection, healing, and hope. The Ellen Kort Peace Park is designed for just that purpose. I did not know Ellen Kort personally, but I do know she was a teacher, as I am also, with a passion to make a difference and be a voice with her work and writings. She actually taught at Renaissance School of the Arts years back, and now present students from Renaissance are the ones that designed this monument for the community. Both of those details of teaching and Renaissance really brings a part of her life back to the park. Ellen was an amazing woman, going beyond her classroom and into the community to bring hope and change. Her words were powerful, as was her mission and love. As many of you know, she took her workshops everywhere - into schools, to at-risk teens, grieving parents, domestic abuse survivors, and women in prison. She had a heart for those who knew pain in their lives and reached out to them. Her words were a beacon of hope, and that is what this monument would be as well. Therefore, it would be an honor to have the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument call Ellen Kort Peace Park its home. It fits the mission of the park and has details that reflect Ellen Kort's life.

5. Description of how the work is installed/anchored/attached

Our plan at the moment is the base of the monument will be concrete and the structure will be built on top of that and secured onto the concrete base. So, wedge anchors will be put in place to hold the gazebo frame in place and the legs can then be bolted directly into place. That is my understanding at the moment.

6. Installation specifications provided by a structural engineer

We have met and plan to work with Hoffman Planning, Design, and Construction and had an initial meeting with them. They would like to know we have a spot secured in the park before moving forward and charging us money without that guarantee. Once that is guaranteed we will be more than happy to share specifics about installation. The dimensions we have discussed are 10 ft

diameter, and about 12 to 14 feet tall. The columns will be made of either cement or fiberglass outside with a steel rod running down the center. Both would be easy to maintain. The roof is planned to be metal, with the top roof being colored teal metal roofing, and the windows around the top roof would be plexiglass. Again, the roofing material would be easy to maintain. The benches would be concrete with a metal teal ribbon as the backs, and the curved survivor wall would also be made of concrete with the firerose colored and stamped in.

7. Timeline and duration of installation

Again, our plan is to install it in Ellen Kort Peace Park after the park is done being built, or if possible, while it is in the final stages - that decision is up to the Board. The specific amount of time this would take is unknown to me at this time, but again I am more than willing to share that information with you the moment we have it.

8. How the artwork will be maintained (including any costs associated with the maintenance and who will be responsible for those costs)

We, as the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation Nonprofit (501.c3) plan to set up an endowment fund as we fundraise for this exact purpose and plan to cover maintenance costs of the monument.

9. Description of any associated signage

There will be a sign in front of the monument as you enter, giving our mission statement (see letter), a brief history, reason for the monument, and the community involvement put into the monument (such as Renaissance students for example). Within the monument there will be plaques on each pillar that describe the meaning/symbolism of pieces within the monument. The stones on the walkway will also have sponsors engraved on them as well.

***Please note that these are the plans and ideas as of right now and that they may be subject to change as we are in the early phases of this project. So please understand some of this may evolve over time.

Thank you for your time taken to read this application and for your dedicated consideration for this monument to be placed in Ellen Kort Peace Park. I look forward to working with each of you in the future as we move forward.

Chelsea Bongert - Founder, Speaker, Advocate, Teacher
Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation





Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation

W2162 Daisy Ln * Brillion, WI * 54110

Dear Appleton Park and Recreation Committee,

My name is Chelsea Bongert and I am a teacher in the Appleton Area School District, teaching 8th grade math. I am also a speaker, advocate, and survivor of sexual assault. This will be my 10th year speaking to schools in the Fox Cities area. I started speaking during my first year at Wilson Middle School. I remember asking my administration what was done for sexual assault awareness and if I could hold an all school assembly on the topic, and they said yes. I shared my personal story of multiple rapes and assaults - the pain, the emotions, the hope and healing that comes, and what actions we can take together to make a change in the community and our own thinking. Now, 9 years later, I am joined by a panel of experts from Catalpa Health, Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Reach Counseling, Harbor House, and Center for Suicide Awareness-Hopeline, and we hold annual assemblies at every middle school in Appleton, and other schools in the Fox Cities, speaking on sexual assault awareness. I have also spoken at the Appleton Voices of Men annual events, business events, lead staff developments, and spoke for 3 days in LaCrosse at middle schools and community events. Each year I have multiple students and staff come to me after events in tears - telling me their personal story of sexual assault. I have heard stories of indescribable pain come from area 8th grade students, and seen tears roll down the faces of veteran teachers saying "I have never told anyone in 30 years..." I have held survivors as they cried, finally knowing it is not their fault and they are not alone. Every year I continue to speak and spread awareness, but always ask myself, "What more can I do?" If only I could raise bigger community awareness, and also give hope to victims and survivors - letting them know they are not alone.

Because of these experiences in the last 10 years, I started the nonprofit Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation. We are a recognized 501.c3 and I am happy to share that paperwork with you as well. Our nonprofit's mission is: **To be a beacon of hope and strength to victims and survivors - reminding them they matter - and educating the community so we can use our voices together to create change.**

As part of this mission to bring awareness, we would like to create a monument in Appleton. We have already started fundraising and collaborated with the students from Renaissance School of the Arts in Appleton to create a design. The teachers created a class this past semester solely focused on monument design and the final project was



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to design the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument. The students presented to our Board in groups and did a phenomenal job. We have now taken their ideas and designs and created a final monument, incorporating ideas from each student group. It is very important to us that the members of the community feel they own and take part in this monument. That was one of the reasons it was important to us to have the design done by the youth of Appleton. The final design has been very carefully thought out, with symbolism and community involvement, and we are proud of what it is.

As a survivor myself, and someone who has heard so many stories of pain and heartbreak from our own in Appleton, this project is very dear to my heart. I feel I owe it to victims still struggling and feeling alone, to my students, past and present, who have cried in my classroom after school as they shared their story of assault with me, to all the survivors in our community. This monument will be a stand as the message to survivors "You Matter" and to the community it will say "Be educated, be aware - then have determination to make a positive difference." It will be a symbol of our continued efforts to end sexual violence, and also create a safe place of reflection and conversation.

This is the point where I humbly come to you, as the Appleton Park and Recreation Committee, asking for authorization to move forward with, and raise money for, the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument, and if I do, then the City of Appleton would authorize the monument with the intent of it being placed in Ellen Kort Korte Peace Park. I cannot think of a better location for a monument like this; one that is built for reflection, healing, and hope. I did not know Ellen Kort personally, but I do know she was a teacher with a passion to make a difference and be a voice with her work and writings. She actually taught at Renaissance School of the Arts years back, and now present students from Renaissance are the ones that designed this monument for the community. Ellen was an amazing woman, going beyond her classroom and into the community to bring hope and change. Her words were powerful, as was her mission and love. As many of you know, she took her workshops everywhere - into schools, to at-risk teens, grieving parents, domestic abuse survivors, and women in prison. She had a heart for those who knew pain in their lives and reached out to them. She believed in her mission enough to carry around glow in the dark chalk just to write messages on the sidewalks. Her words were a beacon of hope, and that is what this monument would be as well. Therefore, it would be an honor to have the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument call Ellen Kort Korte Peace Park its home.



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My plan is to, with your authorization, spend the next couple years raising 100% of the funds for the Sexual Assault Survivors Monument, with the agreement that it would then stand in Ellen Kort Korte Peace Park in Appleton. I truly appreciate you taking the time to consider this and read my letter of request. Please know I, and my Board, am more than willing to sit with each of you and have a discussion and answer any questions you may have. Thank you again, and I look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Best regards,

Chelsea Bongert
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SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS MONUMENT

YOU MATTER

STRENGTH

SIGN EXPLAIN MONUMENT





