

## ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)

# Project Data Sheet

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2025

**Agency Name:** Virginia State University

**Project Name, Number, and Location:**

Improve South Entrance and Campus Security – Construct Restroom Building  
212-18735-001  
Petersburg, VA 23806

**Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer**

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Timmons Group

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**Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule**

- Preliminary Design Submission:
- Final Design Submission:

*Phase - Schematic Design Submission (Dec 2025)*

**Request for Consent Agenda:** Yes:  No:

**Project Description**

*(Area, number of stories, building and roof forms, exterior materials, etc.)*

The project introduces a new single-story 1,000 gsf (per CPSM 6.1.2.2) restroom facility designed to enhance accessibility and user comfort near the South Entrance to Virginia State University's campus. It aims to support outdoor functions and events that will be planned to be held on the lawn and hardscaped area (former Simms Hall location) at the southern tip of campus along the Appomattox River.

The design is compact in footprint and is comprised of (4) ADA accessible single-use restrooms, a central housekeeping/janitorial closet, and an ADA accessible water fountain all accessed by a continuous three-sided arcaded portico. An electrical closet is provided at the rear to support the building and nearby services.

The building assumes a simple, rectilinear massing crowned by a low-pitched gable roof clad in slat shingles with louvered gable vent accents, consistent with buildings on the historic campus. Other primary materials consist of VSU's campus standard Flemish brick blend, running bond patterns within arched reveals that provide shadow relief, and a precast concrete water table and accent elements. These materials align with the campus' established architectural vocabulary and provide durability, ease of maintenance, and long-term resilience.

**Architectural Aesthetic:**

*(What does it look like and why?)*

The design intentionally reinforces VSU's architectural identity. The brick detailing, cornice, pediments, and slate gabled roof echo the historic campus core, creating a familiar and contextual aesthetic. The building's proportions are modest but disciplined, with the portico providing both functional weather protection and an architectural focal point. The aesthetic is clear, restrained, and grounded in traditional campus language – appropriate for a utilitarian building that still serves as a prominent touchpoint at a major pedestrian gateway. The goal is a structure that feels timeless, well-crafted, and unmistakably part of VSU's historic lineage.

**Relationship to Approved Master Plan** [*\*this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]

*(Include the date of the master plan and how this project relates to a larger program effort, if applicable)*

This project directly advances the 2024 VSU Campus Master Plan, particularly the South Entrance Gateway Enhancements, by re-establishing architectural presence at the former Simms Hall site and strengthening the primary pedestrian spine into campus. Although modest in scale, the restroom delivers a high-impact, plan-aligned improvement – supporting circulation, universal access, and overall campus experience while providing essential amenities at a key arrival point.

**Existing Architectural Context**

*(The surrounding community, historic significance, adjacent site, the identity of the agency or institution, etc.)*

The site sits at the former location of Simms Hall, a 1938 campus building, and occupies a visually prominent position between the river bluff and main campus core. The surrounding context consists of traditional brick academic buildings defined by symmetrical massing, gabled roofs, and formal entry elements – strong markers of VSU's historic identity. The project responds directly to that context through materiality, scale, and form, reinforcing continuity with the broader campus character. The restroom becomes not merely a utility building but a contextual architectural element that restores order and identity to a location previously marked by demolition and interim conditions.

**AARB History (for return presentations on the same project):**

N/A



# *Virginia State University*

## *South Entrance Improvements:*

### **New Restroom**



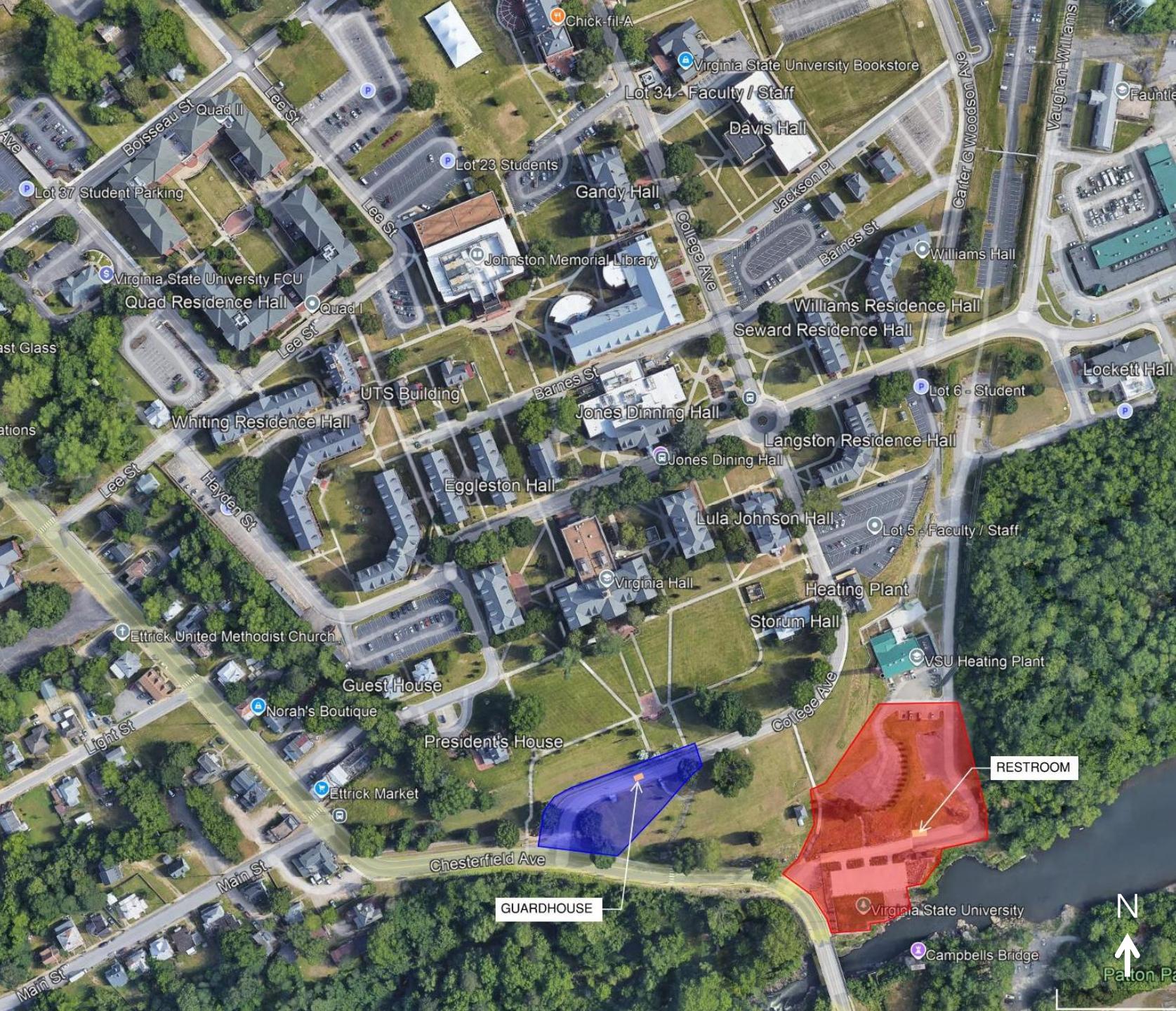
December 05, 2025  
AARB Design Presentation

*Site*

*eon*

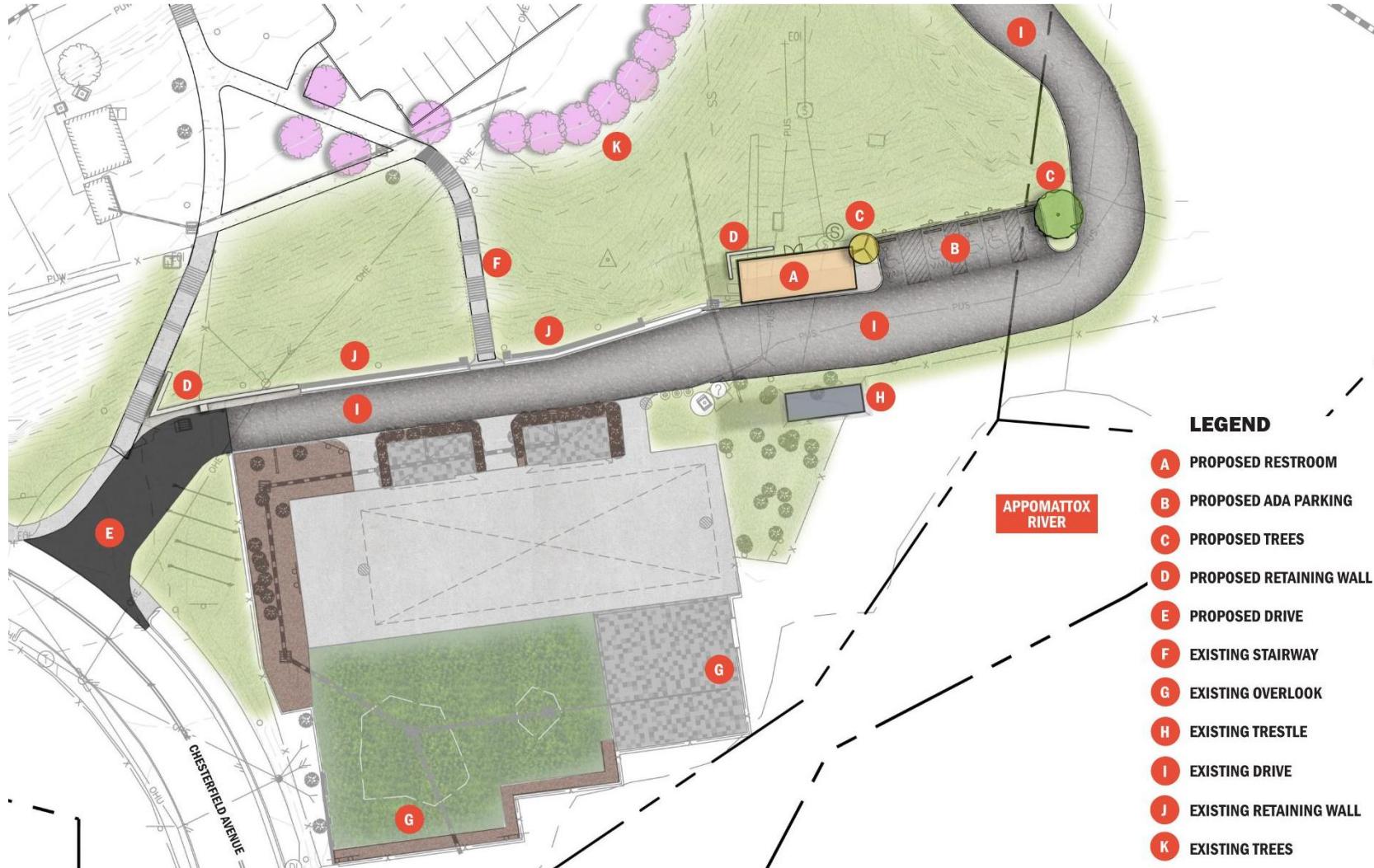
## SITE

## *Campus Context*



SITE

## Restroom



# *Restroom Design*

# Site Context

*Simms Hall: Built 1938, Demolished 2018*



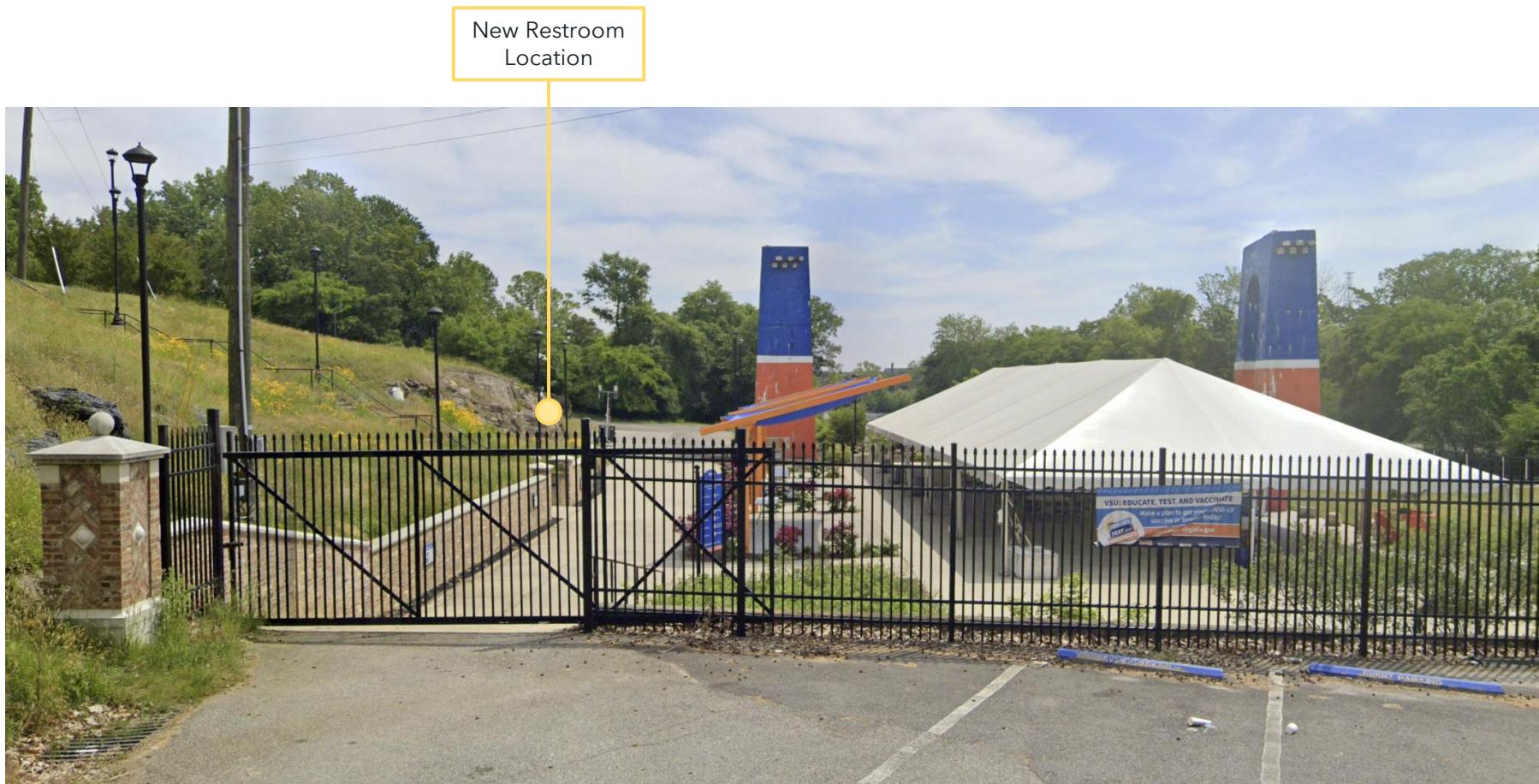
# Site Context

## *Existing Conditions – Old Simms Hall Location*



# Site Context

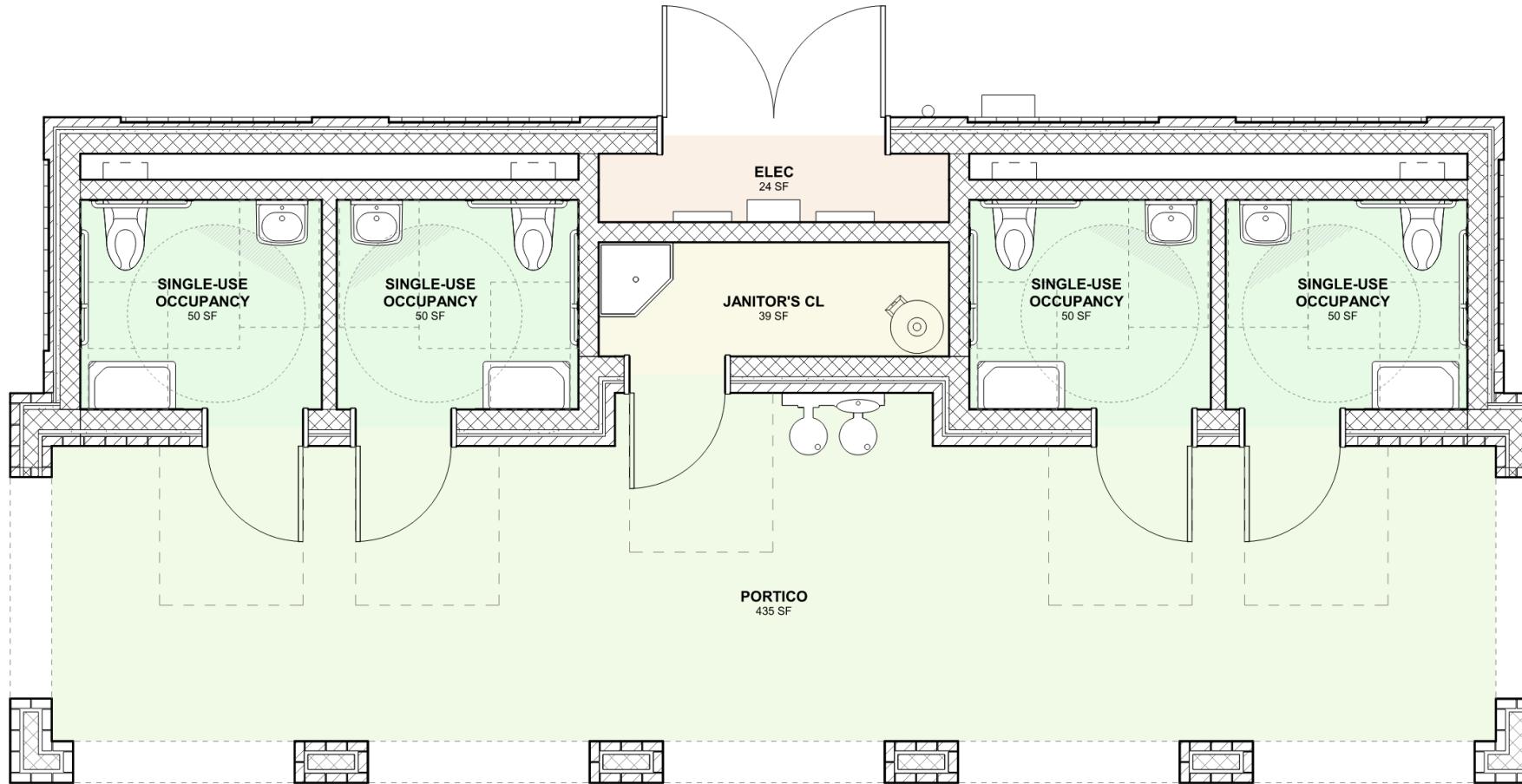
## Existing Conditions



# *Contextual Elements*

## *VSU Precedents*





# *Floor Plan*



*South Elevation*



*West & East E elevations*



*North Elevation*



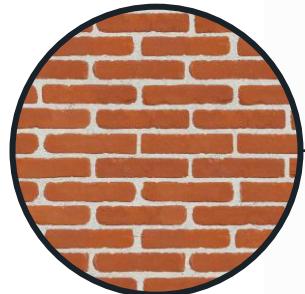
*SWAxon*



*NE Axon*



Flemish Bond



Running Bond



Slate Shingles



VSU Precast



Concrete

# *Material Palette*



*Portico Perspective*