

# Rock Island Preservation Commission

**Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2010**

**Regular Meeting Begins 4:00 p.m.**

**Personnel Conference Room  
Basement, Rock Island City Hall**

## MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2009 Regular Meeting  
(Sent with December meeting cancellation notice)
4. Comment on Section 106 Review for 600 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue
5. Review of *Residential Design Guidelines* Redesign  
(Sent with December meeting cancellation notice)
6. Other Business
  - A. Term Expirations: We will need suggestions for at least one new appointment, preferably a Highland Park resident
7. Adjournment



## REPORT

TO: Preservation Commission

FROM: Jill Doak, Urban Planner II  
Alan M. Carmen, Planning & Redevelopment Administrator

DATE: January 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Comment on Section 106 Review for 600 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

When telecommunications antennae are placed atop a building, the federal licensing action triggers comments by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the auspices of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties." The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's (IHPA) Review & Compliance Division completes the Section 106 Review. In this instance, IHPA has requested the Rock Island Preservation Commission (as a Certified Local Government) comment on the proposed project.

### Background on Section 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment.

If the agency's undertaking could affect historic properties, the agency determines the scope of appropriate identification efforts and then proceeds to identify historic properties in the area of potential effects. The agency reviews background information, consults with the SHPO and others, seeks information from knowledgeable parties, and conducts additional studies as necessary. Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects listed in the National Register are considered; unlisted properties are evaluated against the National Park Service's published criteria, in consultation with the SHPO. If questions arise about the eligibility of a given property, the agency may seek a formal determination of eligibility from the National Park Service. Section 106 review gives equal consideration to properties that have already been included in the National Register as well as those that have not been so included, but that meet National Register criteria. If the agency finds that no historic properties are present or affected, it provides documentation to the SHPO and, barring any objection in 30 days, proceeds with its undertaking. If the agency finds that historic properties are present, it proceeds to assess possible adverse effects, which are then negotiated and mitigated between concerned parties.

### Local Consultation

At the current stage of the process, IHPA has asked the consultants for more information, mainly limited to current photographs of the building.

At the same time IHPA requested the additional information, they also notified the consultants that comments of the Rock Island Preservation Commission were desired. Public involvement is a key ingredient in successful Section 106 consultation, and the views of the public should be solicited and considered throughout the process. While a public hearing is not necessary, the local consultation is part of a published agenda and discussion by those knowledgeable about the building and its context.

It is unknown what historical information about the Thurgood Marshall Building was provided to IHPA.

### Background on 600 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Postcard Article Excerpts** (researched by Rock Island Preservation Society and printed in Rock Island Argus):

Grant School, covering the square block at the southwest corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue is Rock Island's oldest building that has been used continuously as a school.

The first Grant School was a 2-½ story frame structure built in 1895 facing 7<sup>th</sup> Street on the west side of the block between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Originally known as Public School No. 9, it served the population of Rock Island that had begun to grow in the area south of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Although its name was updated in 1897 to honor Ulysses S. Grant, famed Civil War general and later president, it was still a building without other updates, heated only by stoves and lacking electric lights.

This old Grant School lasted 16 years and had the dubious honor of being the last frame schoolhouse in Rock Island. In November of 1909, the Board of Education signed a contract with Collins Brothers to build a brand new brick and reinforced concrete school using the design of architect Olof Z. Cervin.

On February 17, 1911, dedication ceremonies were held at the new Grant School. Recitations and music were provided by students and others to the 300 in attendance. The theme of the keynote address by Judge C. J. Searle rings as true today: The common (or public) school puts all on an equal basis and gives each an equal opportunity. He then compared the public school to a miniature republic.

The Argus praised the new school, calling it “substantial, businesslike, (with) plain but beautiful lines. Everything is modern. There are electric lights in each classroom and in the toilet rooms and there are drinking fountains, so cups are not needed. The brick work is beautiful, both inside and out. This school, from top to bottom, is a beauty.”

Although it contained eight classrooms, Grant only had five grades so only five rooms were initially used. Additional grades were phased in a year at a time. The first floor, with a “nice little office” also held a room for principal. In the basement, a large room was convertible into a gym while another room was intended for future manual training. On the east side of the second floor two rooms were separated by a moving wall so a large assembly room could be created.

Three additions take design cues from the older building. Why so many additions? Blame World War II, which brought hundreds to Rock Island to work at Rock Island Arsenal. This created a critical housing shortage which was partly addressed by the construction of an apartment complex, Arsenal Courts, built in 1941 just to the southwest of Grant School.

More homes, more students, more classrooms. A federal grant covered nearly half the construction cost of a \$132,000 six-classroom addition in 1941 because the expanded school would serve government workers.

A decade later, another addition and basement remodeling created three more classrooms and more bathrooms. By 1961 it was time for a new gymnasium, which was built on the south, right in front of the original main entrance. The historic entrance columns and the stone cornice they support were moved to the center of the north side in one of the new additions, where they can be seen today. The dozens of tiny panes in the huge window above the old entrance, as well as some of the other windows on the front part of the school were simply replaced with bricks. The shaped stone window hoods and the stone quoins trimming the window sides remain.

The dark-colored textured brick of the base balances the ultra smooth pressed brick and the pale stone bands trimming the upper stories. The classroom additions complement the original building by using stone bases and a vertically-textured brick above. They, too, have stone coping atop their parapet walls. There are still small-paned windows throughout, even in the newer additions, although the older windows have been modified.

### **National Register Criteria for Evaluation**

The history of the building is documented. The question will be whether or not it meets the test for level of significance. Below is the National Register Criteria for Evaluation:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

**(a) that are associated with events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

**(b) that are associated with the lives of persons** significant in our past; or

**(c) that embody distinctive characteristics** of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

**(d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information** important in prehistory or history.

### **National Register Analysis**

The building at 600 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue is 99 years old, meeting the age criterion for the National Register. This is the oldest building in continuous use as a school in Rock Island. The building has had three major additions, but all taking their cues from the architecture of the original building designed by Olof Z. Cervin. Given the level of documentation and research about this school, staff believes it could potentially qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. Cervin would certainly be considered one of Rock Island's most important architects.

**Effect of Undertaking**

The Section 106 review is being conducted because there is a request to place antennae on top of the building. These antennae will be approximately six feet tall, extending about four feet above the existing parapet. The antennae will be placed on an apparatus that resembles a football tackling sled. They will be placed in three locations surrounding the central chimney on the oldest part of the building, facing the north, south and east. See the attachments for façade and roof top views.

It is likely only a small portion of the antennae will be visible from ground level. The surrounding neighborhood consists of one and a half story residences, none so tall that they will have a very good view of the school's roof. In addition, no historic fabric will be disturbed with the installation of the antennae and they can easily be removed.

A small compound area will be established on the east side of the building, in the recessed space next to the south addition. The mechanicals in this area will be surrounded by a fence and conduit will run up the wall to the antennae on the roof. The selection of location is good because it is not the primary façade and is in a recessed area. The compound installation will not harm the building's exterior.



North Facade



West Facade



East Façade, Looking Northwest

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Preservation Commission comment to IHPA that there would be "No Adverse Effect" for installation of antennae of the style proposed at 600 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

PROJECT MANAGER



APPLICANT/OWNER

iwireless  
4135 NW URBANDALE DRIVE  
URBANDALE, IA 50322

DRAWN BY: CHK BY: APP BY:

KIM BCH MRS

SITE NAME:

THURGOOD

iwireless SITE NUMBER:

IL0057

SUBMITTALS

REV.	DATE	IR. AND UTILITY	DESCRIPTION
1	12/21/09		

DRAWING TITLE:

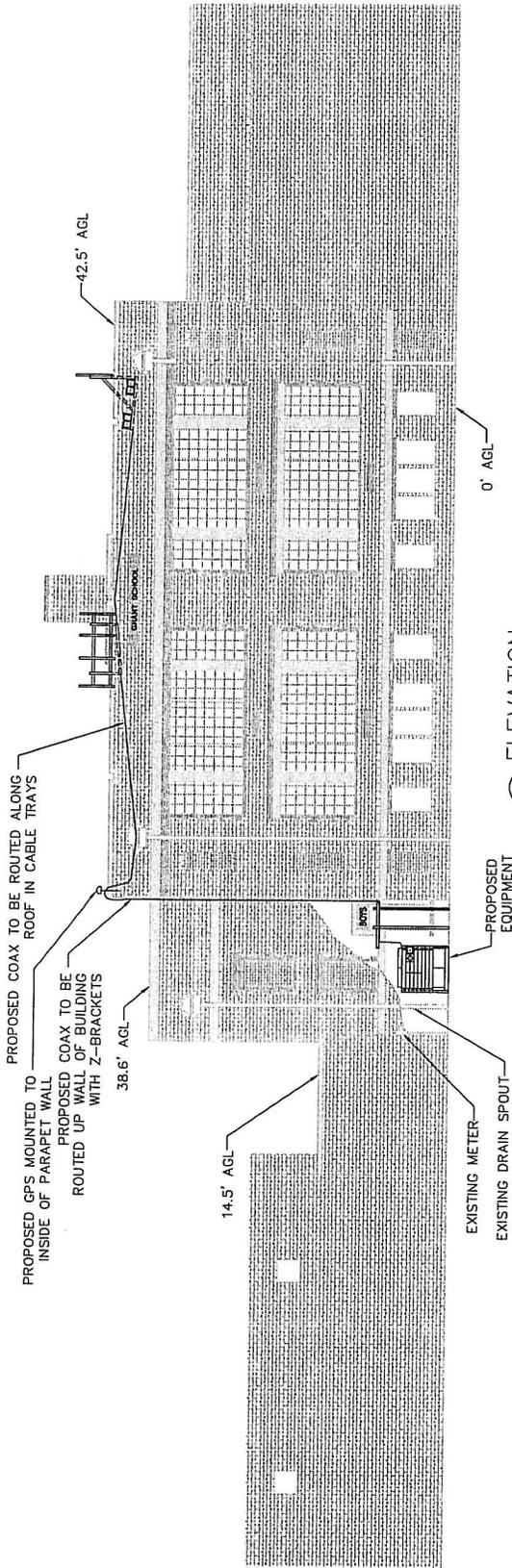
ELEVATION AND  
DETAILS

DRAWING NUMBER:

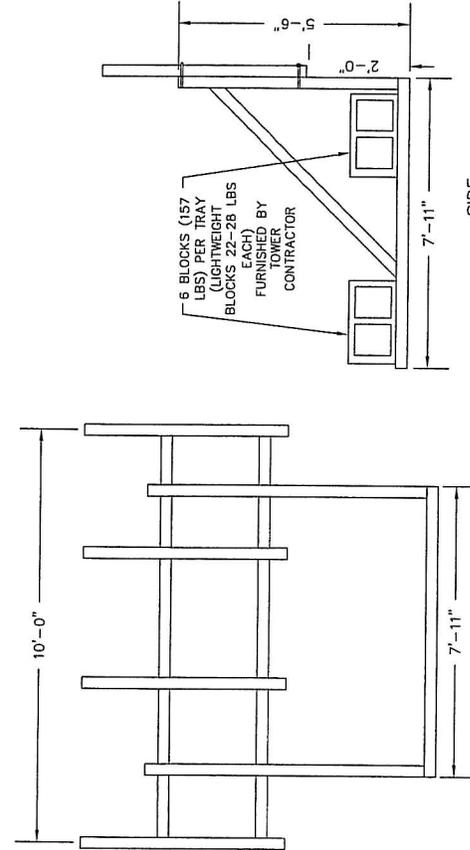
A-4

JOB NUMBER:

01-09-93D



1 ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1"=15'



2 SABRE# C10-223-010  
ANTENNA MOUNT DETAIL  
SCALE: NONE  
(NON-PENETRATING)

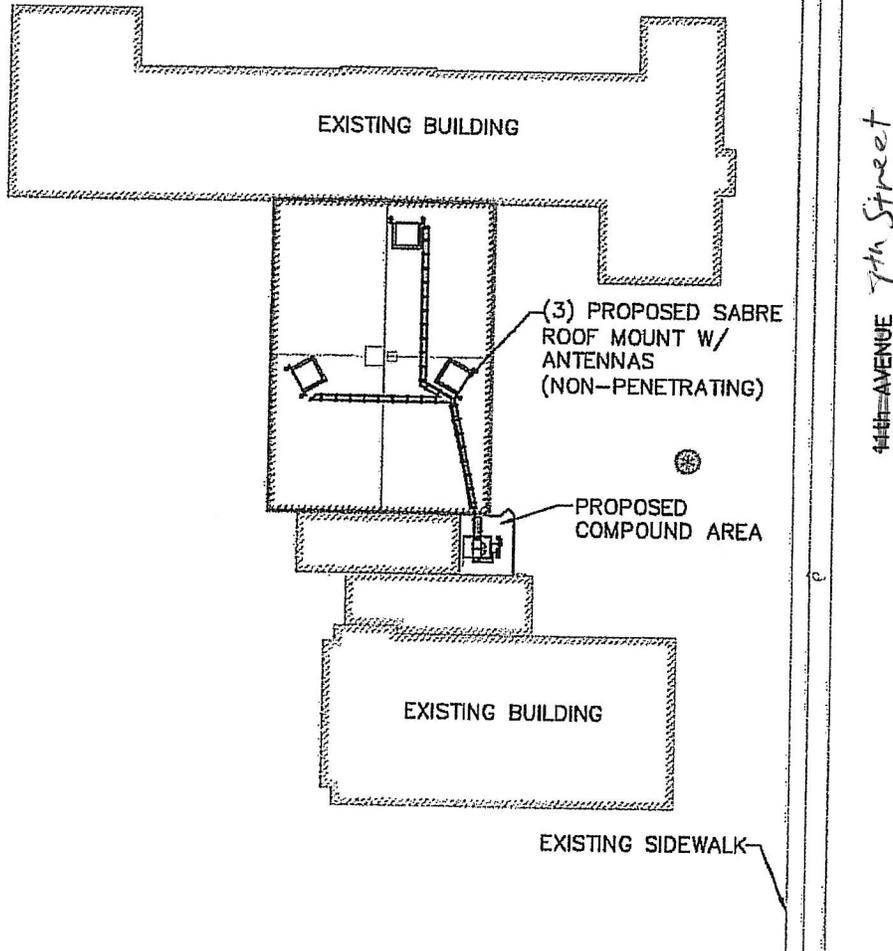
ANTENNA POSITION	COLOR CODING
Rx1	1 RED
Rx1/Tx1	2 RED
Rx2	1 YELLOW
Rx2/Tx2	2 YELLOW
Rx3	1 GREEN
Rx3/Tx3	2 GREEN
Rx4	SEE NOTE 2
Rx4/Tx4	SEE NOTE 2
MW1	
MW2	

- NOTES:
- COLOR BAND TO BE 2" WIDE OF MAIN LINE
  - SPACING TO BE 1" BETWEEN BANDS
  - COLOR BAND ON JUMPERS 1" WIDE w/ 1" SPACE
  - START COLOR BANDS 2" BEYOND WEATHERPROOFING
  - START SECTOR COLOR NEXT TO END CONNECTOR

- NOTES:
- CONTRACTOR TO INSTALL ANTENNAS AT CENTERLINE OF AZIMUTH AS INDICATED ON RF CONFIGURATION SHEET. CABLE ROUTING ON, IN, OR ABOUT SUPPORT STRUCTURES TO BE AS DETAILED IN THE TOWER DRAWINGS OR STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS.
  - IF FOUR SECTOR IS USED THE SECTOR IS SPLIT WITH ONE OF THE OTHER SECTORS. FOURTH SECTOR COLOR IS BLUE. EXAMPLE MARKING: IF SPLIT WITH SECTOR ONE, RECEIVE WOULD BE 1 RED AND 1 BLUE AND RECEIVE AND TRANSMIT WOULD BE 2 RED AND 2 BLUE. LIKE WISE IF SPLIT WITH SECTORS TWO AND THREE.
  - CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY RF CONFIGURATION WITH I-WIRELESS PROJECT MANAGER PRIOR TO INSTALLATION OF ANTENNAS.

2 COAX IDENTIFICATION

SITE # IL0057  
THURGOOD  
ROCK ISLAND, IL



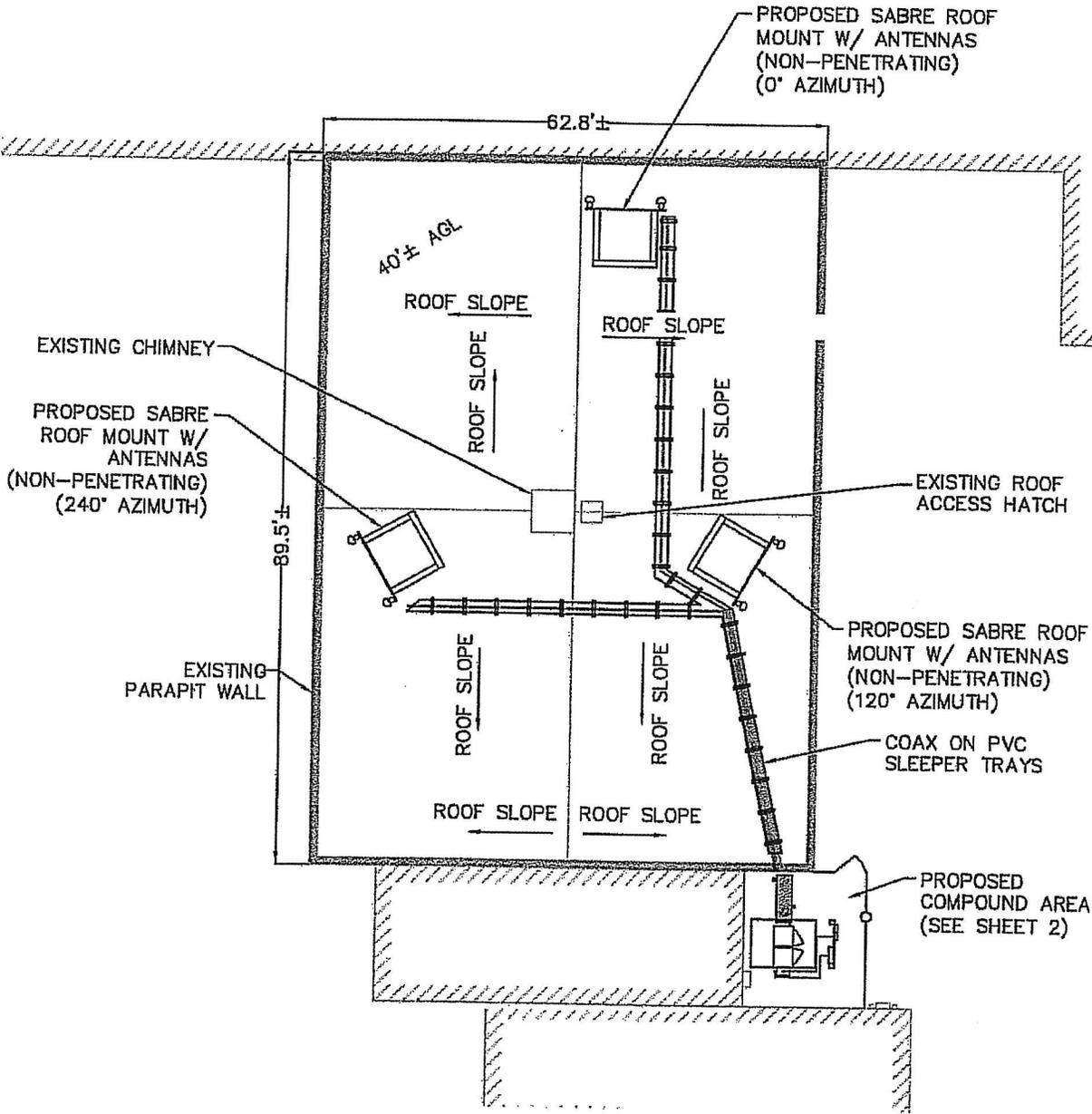
NOTES:  
1-PROPOSED ANTENNA  
AZIMUTHS = 0°-120°-240°

PAGE: 1 OF 3  
DATE: 08/10/09  
JOB NO.: 01-09-930



**Landmark**  
ENGINEERING GROUP  
455 AVENUE OF THE CITIES EAST MOLINE, IL 61244  
(309) 765-3400 FAX (309) 765-4422  
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING  
DESIGN FIRM REGISTRATION NUMBER 184-001511

SITE # IL0057  
 THURGOOD  
 ROCK ISLAND, IL

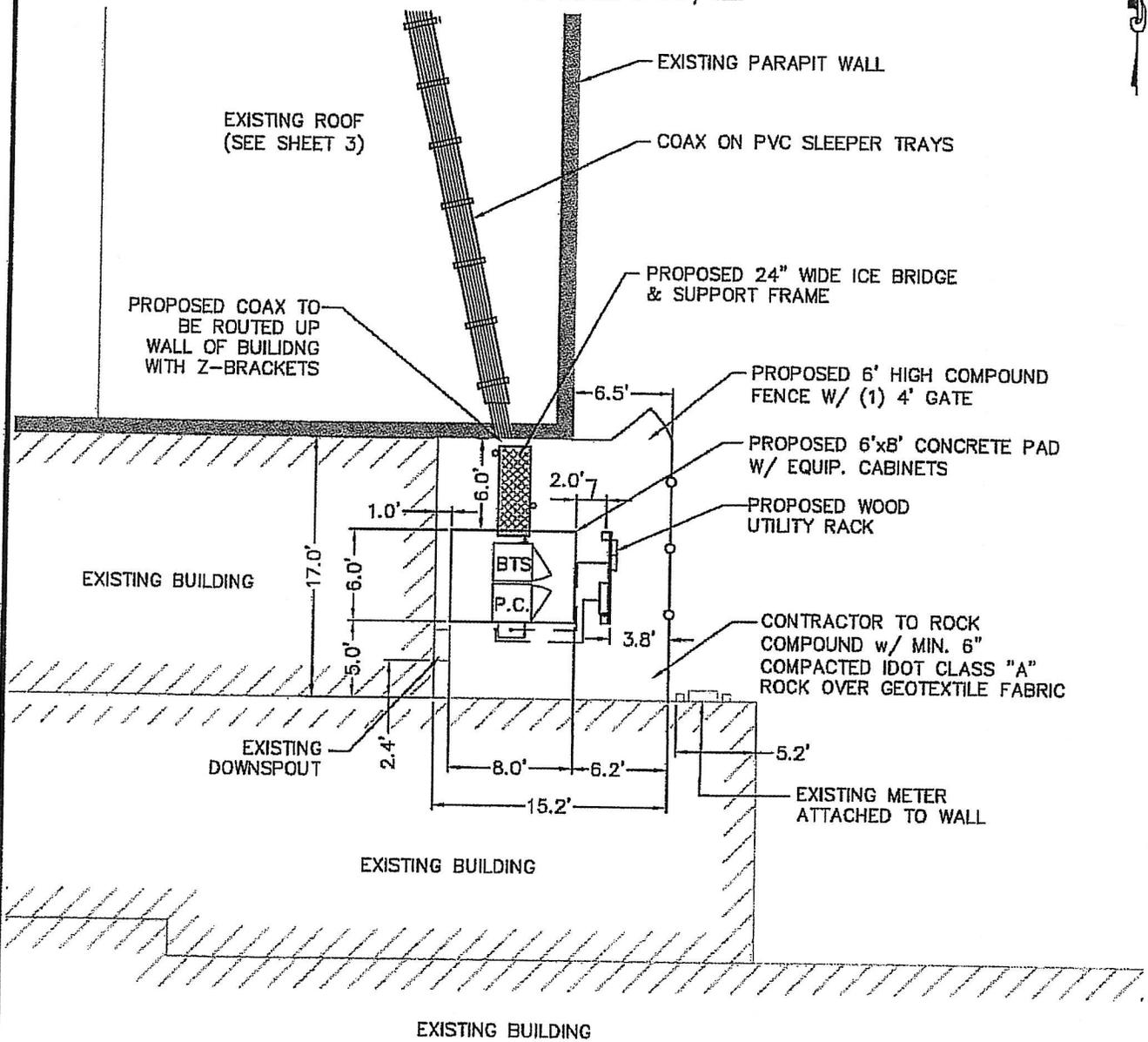


NOTES:  
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 AZIMUTHS = 0°-120°-240°

PAGE: 3 OF 3  
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