

PAGE & TURNBULL

CASTRO THEATRE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

21261

PROJECT REVIEW MEETING

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BUILDING OVERVIEW

BUILDING HISTORY

The Castro Theatre is one of San Francisco’s most well-known neighborhood movie theaters and is the geographic and cultural center of the city’s Castro district. The theater was designed in the Spanish Colonial architecture style by one of San Francisco’s most prominent architects, Timothy Pflueger. The opening of the theater in 1922 marked the apex of Eureka Valley’s commercial development in the early twentieth century and represents the viability and regard of neighborhood movie theaters in that period.

The façade reads as a two-story building with three bays, articulated at the upper level with classical pilasters. The ground floor of the west façade contains storefronts to retail tenants and a recessed arcade that provides entry to the theater. The center bay is pronounced with impressive plaster relief ornament. Plaster niches, foliage, plaques, shells, brackets, columns and other forms evoke Churrigueresque ornament on Spanish colonial cathedrals in Mexico. The plaster ornament rises all the way to the parapet, which forms a stepped arch.

HISTORIC STATUS

The Castro Theatre was designated a San Francisco Landmark in 1976. The theater is Landmark #100.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Overall Form, Massing, and Style:

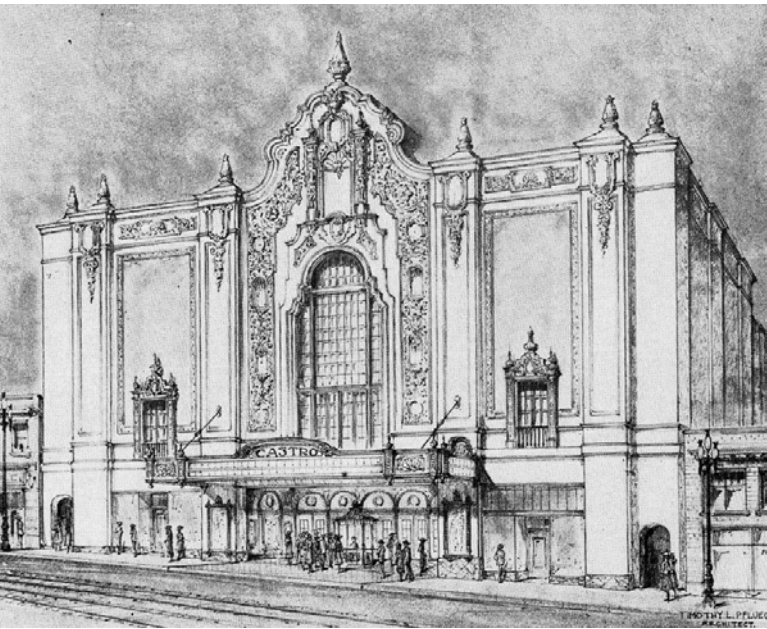
- Rectangular footprint and capacious volume
- Lofty profile over neighboring commercial buildings on Castro Street
- Use of the Spanish-Colonial style on the theater’s west façade
- Division of west façade into three broad bays by piers
- Central west façade bay that rises to a stepped-arch parapet
- Central recessed arcade leading under marquee to theater interior
- Placement of continuous storefront across the west façade (current doors, glazing pattern, and infill materials are not historic at the north storefront. More investigation is needed at the south storefront.)

Exterior Features and Materials:

- Smooth stucco cladding with Churrigueresque plaster ornament on west façade
- Plaster relief moldings, architraves, swags, and sculptures that adorn the west façade’s fenestration, piers, and cornice
- Central plaster niche at crown of stepped-arch parapet
- Serpentine banding that frames panels in flanking bays
- West façade blade sign profile, lettering, and banding
- Central west façade marque profile, lettering, and banding
- Central bay baroque arched window
- Two-leaf, mullioned windows in flanking bays
- Painted-plaster arches in recessed arcade

IMAGES

HISTORIC IMAGES - EXTERIOR



1. Castro Theater Drawing, 1921 (Time Tim Remembered)



2. West facade view at Castro Street, 2000 (Ian Grundy Flickr)



3. Marquee at front entry, 1964 (Open SF History)



4. Marquee at front entry, 1986 (American Classic Images)



5. Castro blade sign & marquee at West facade, 1974 (Open SF History)

IMAGES

HISTORIC IMAGES - INTERIOR



7. View of Upper Level Lobby, 1922 (Open SF History)



8. View of Auditorium at mezzanine looking towards stage, 1922 (Open SF History)



9. View of auditorium looking towards North wall & stage (Ian Grundy Flickr)



10. View of Lobby, 1922 (Open SF History)



11. View of auditorium looking towards mezzanine



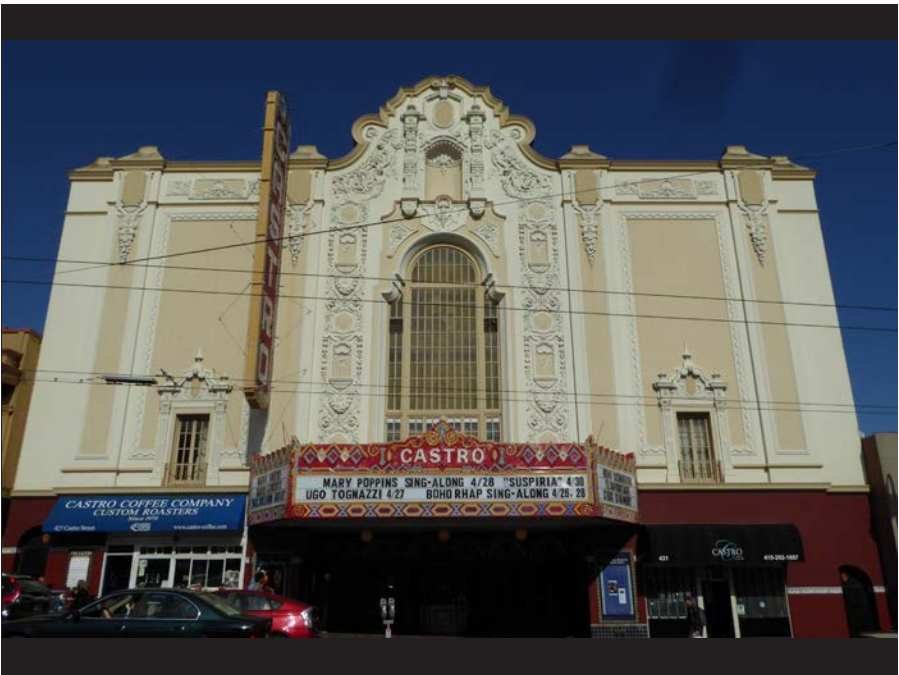
12. View of auditorium looking towards stage (Ian Grundy Flickr)

IMAGES

EXISTING CONDITION PHOTOS - EXTERIOR



1. View looking southeast at Castro Theatre from Castro streets.



2. View of Castro Street facade.



3. Close-up view of the Castro Street entrance.



4. Close-up view of the Castro Street entrance.



5. Close-up view of Castro Street facade.

IMAGES

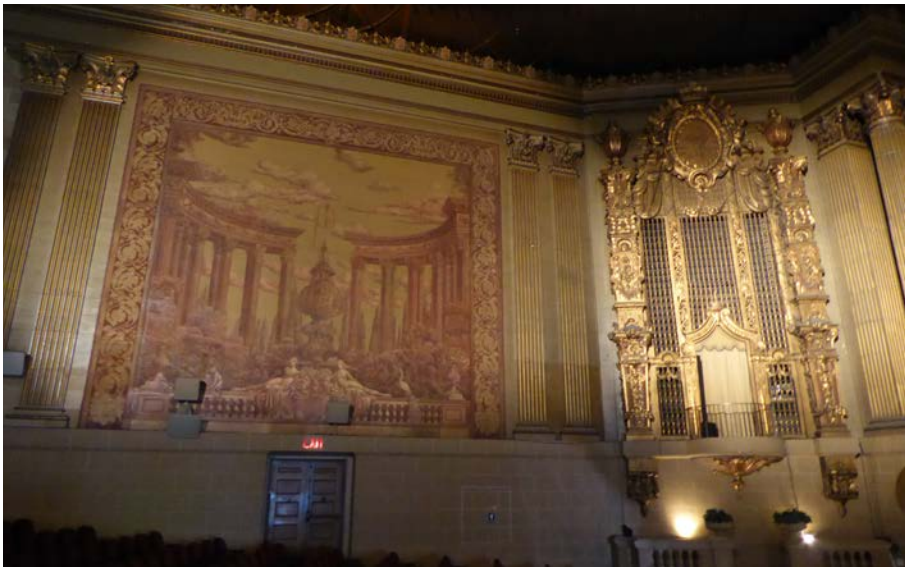
EXISTING CONDITION PHOTOS - INTERIOR



6. View of Upper Level Lobby, 2019



7. View of Auditorium at mezzanine looking towards stage, 2019



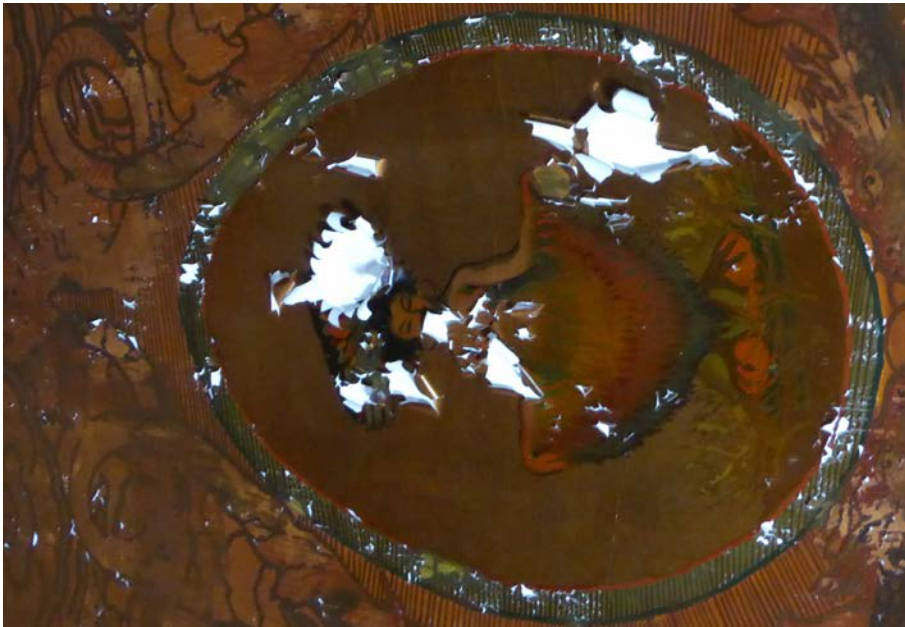
89. View of auditorium looking towards North wall & stage, 2019



9. View of Lobby, 2019



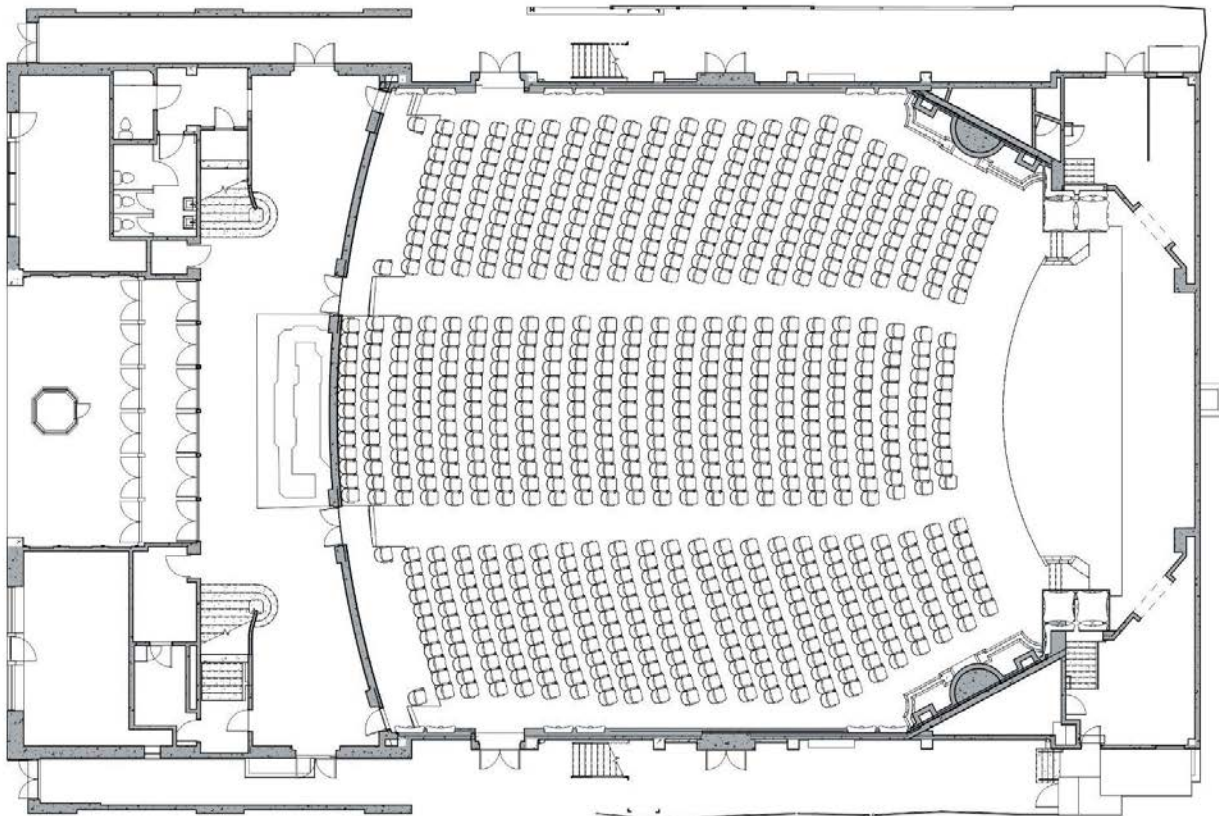
10. View of auditorium ceiling, 2019



11. Close-up view of auditorium ceiling, 2019

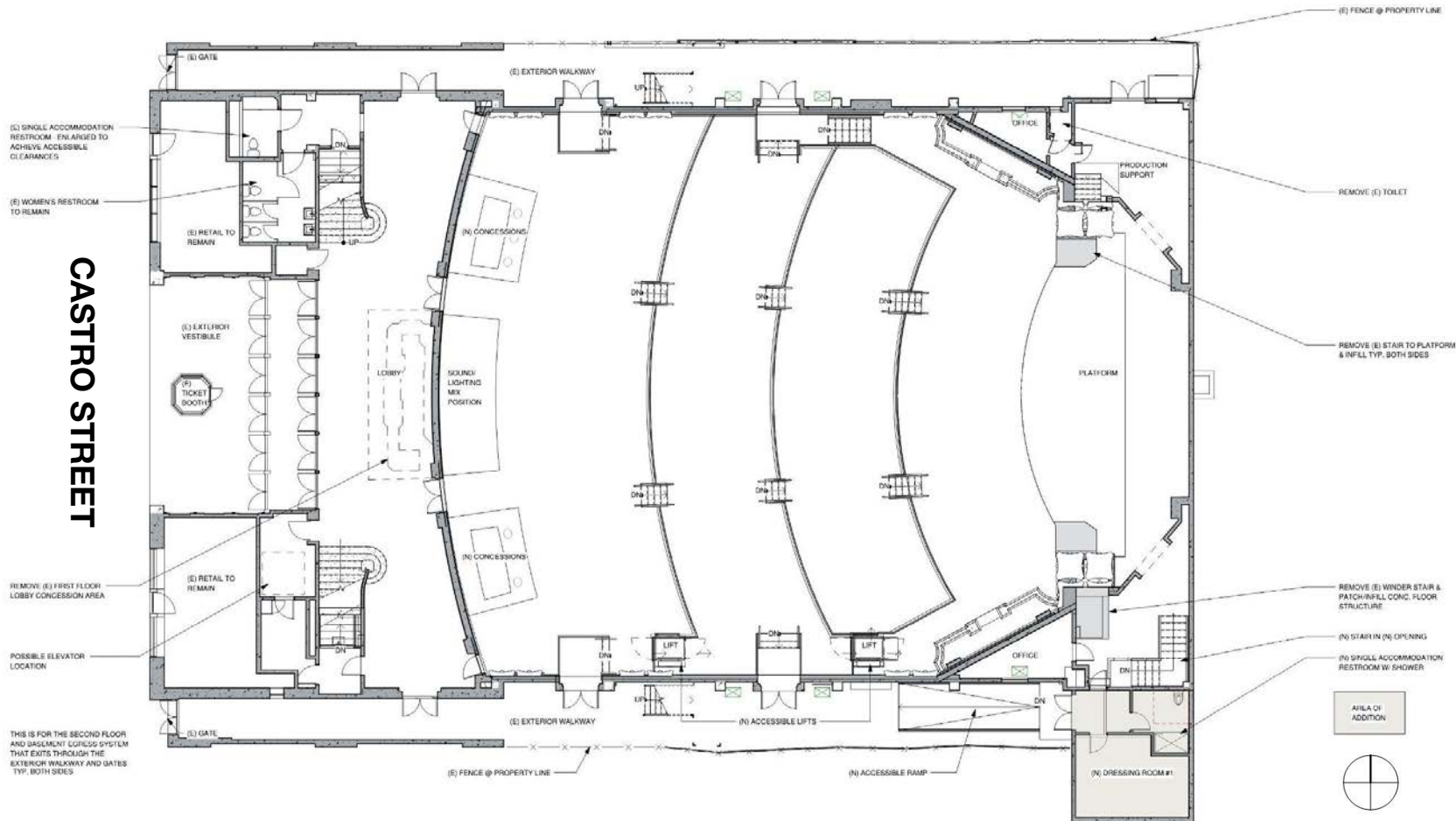
EXISTING AND PROPOSED DRAWINGS

CASTRO STREET

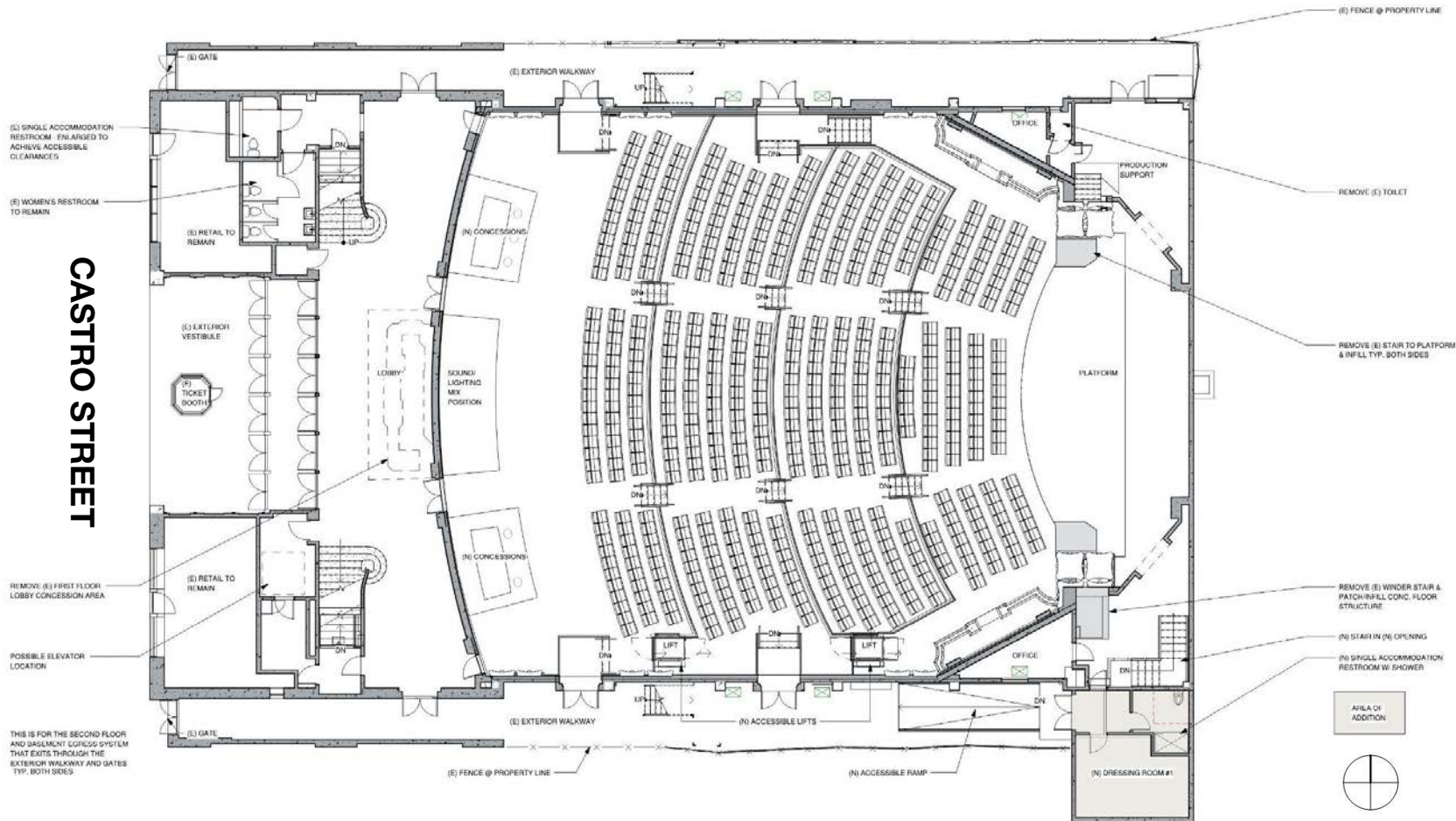


ORCHESTRA FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING

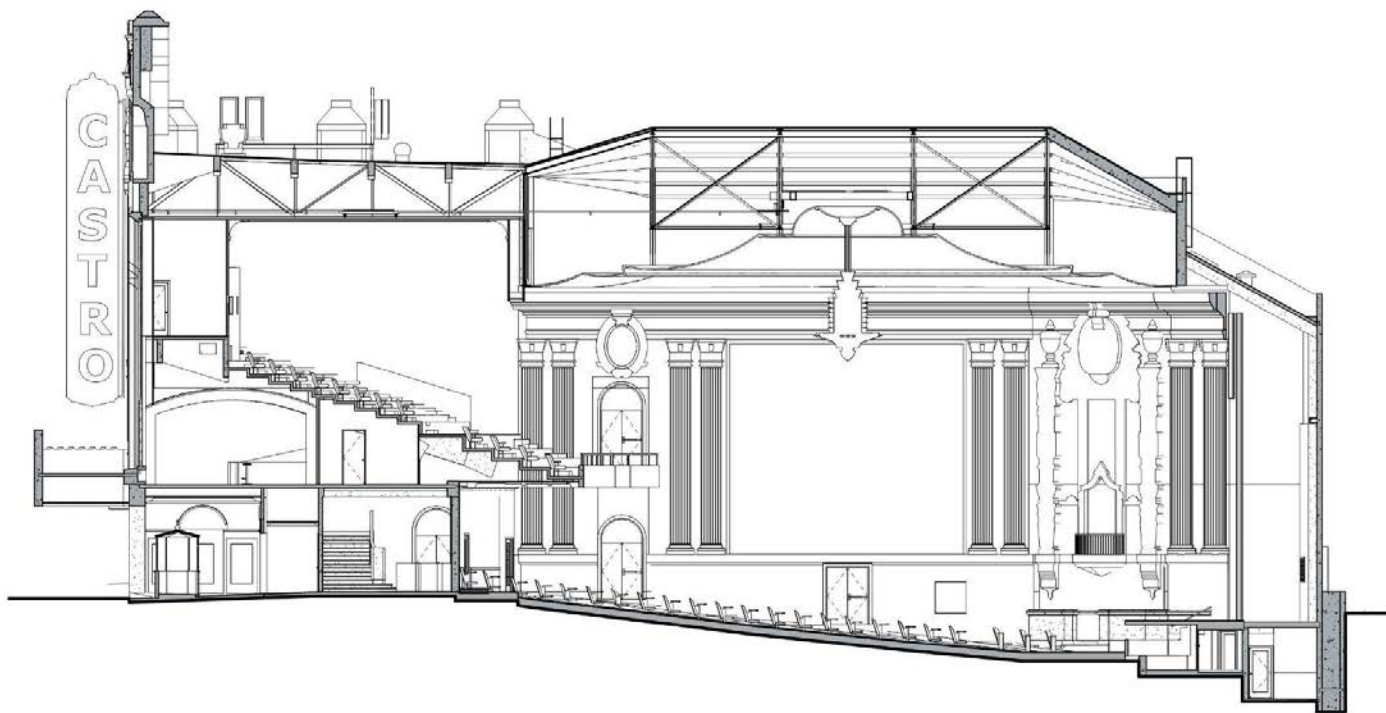




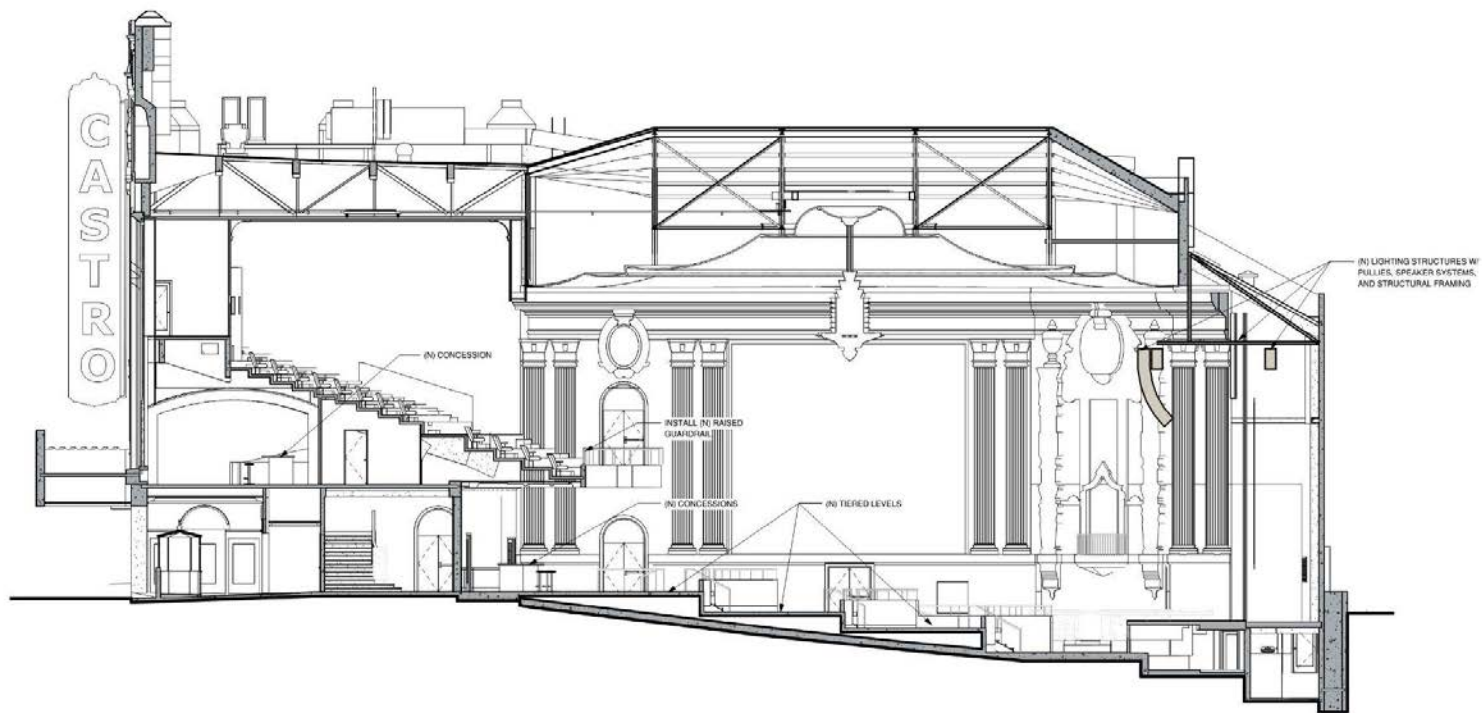
ORCHESTRA FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED STANDING ROOM



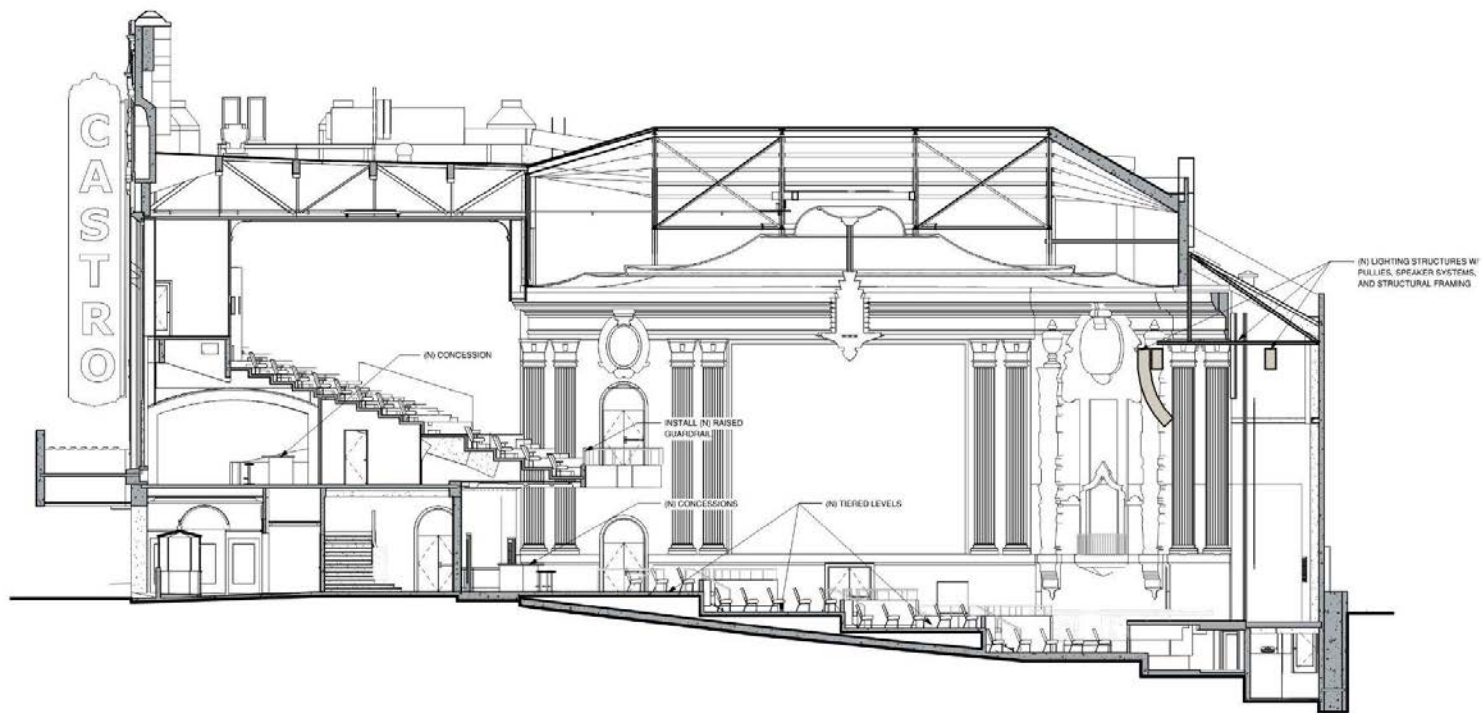
ORCHESTRA FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED SEATING



BUILDING SECTION - EXISTING

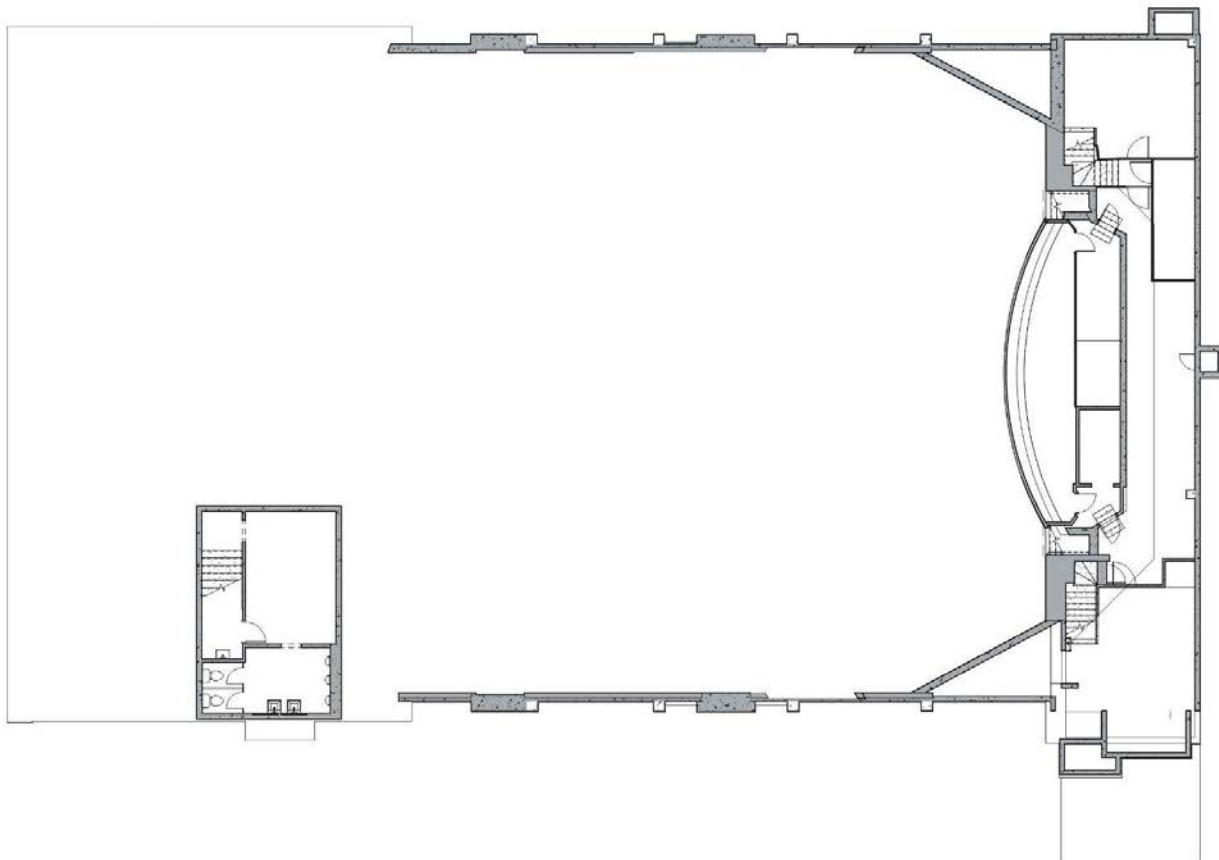


BUILDING SECTION - PROPOSED STANDING ROOM



BUILDING SECTION - PROPOSED SEATING

CASTRO STREET



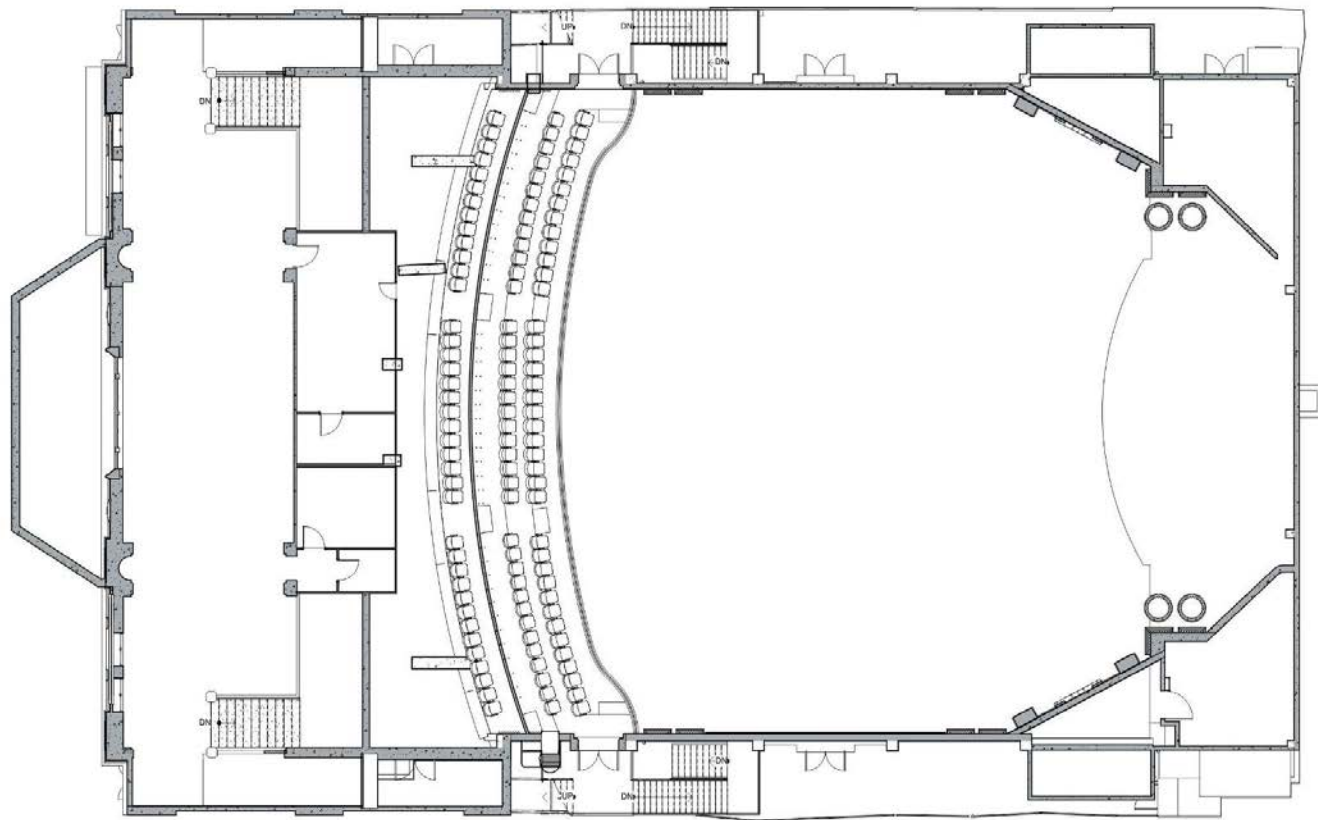
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING

Architectural floor plan of the second floor of the National Theatre, showing various rooms and renovation areas. The plan includes a large 'UNEXCAVATED SPACE' on the left, a 'PRODUCTION SUPPORT' area at the top right, and several restrooms and dressing rooms. A curved wall is labeled '(F) CONC. WALL TO REMAIN'. A staircase is labeled 'REMOVE (E) STAIR & INFILL FLOOR'. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner.

Labels and annotations on the plan:

- UNEXCAVATED SPACE
- PRODUCTION SUPPORT
- (N) RESTROOM
- 4'-0" WIDE WALKWAY
- 4'-3" AVAILABLE SPACE FOR STORAGE OR WORKSPACE
- (F) CONC. WALL TO REMAIN
- REMOVE (E) STAIR & INFILL FLOOR
- (N) STAIR IN (N) LOCATION
- (N) RESTROOM
- (N) DRESSING ROOM #2
- CONVERT (E) BOILER ROOM TO PROGRAM SPACE
- JAN
- DN
- UP
- (E) MEN'S RESTROOMS TO REMAIN

CASTRO STREET



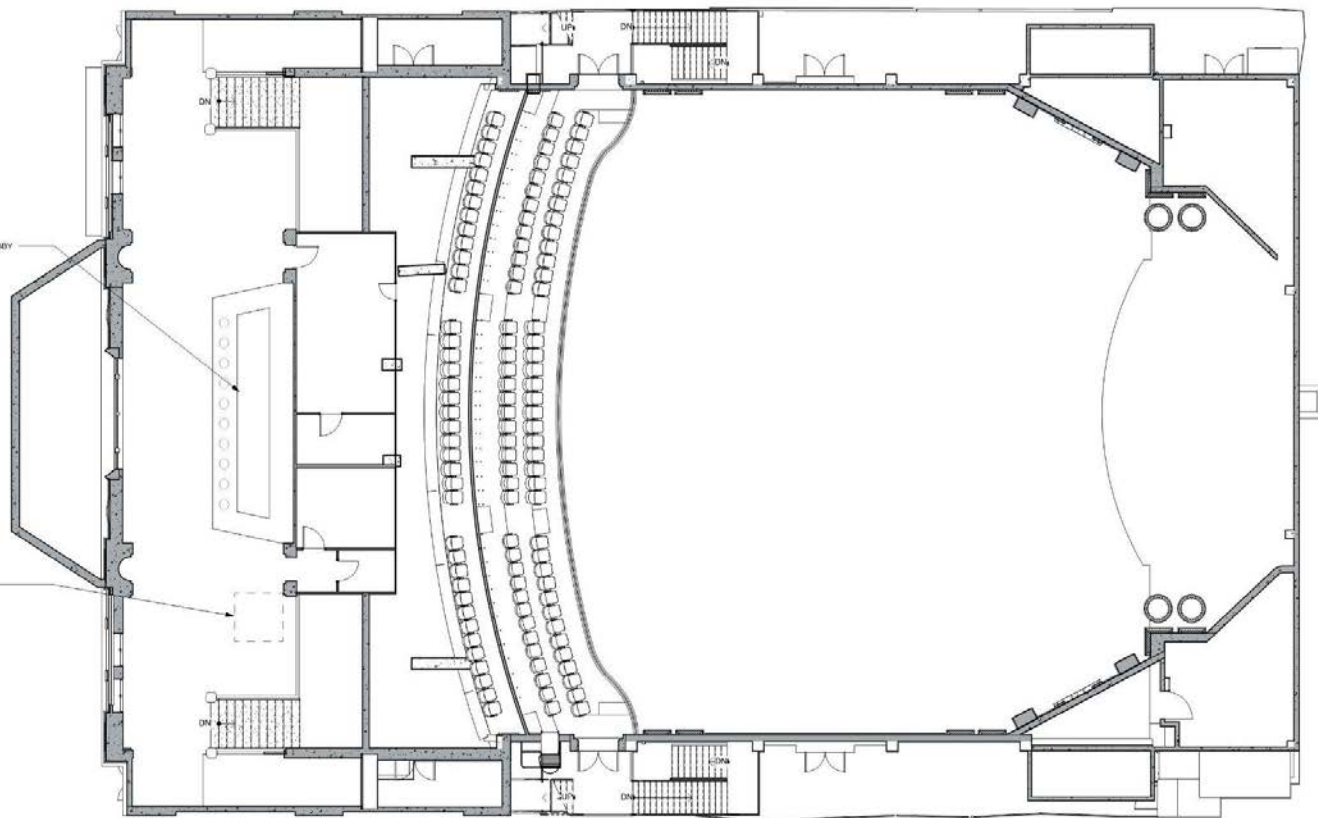
UPPER LOBBY FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING



CASTRO STREET

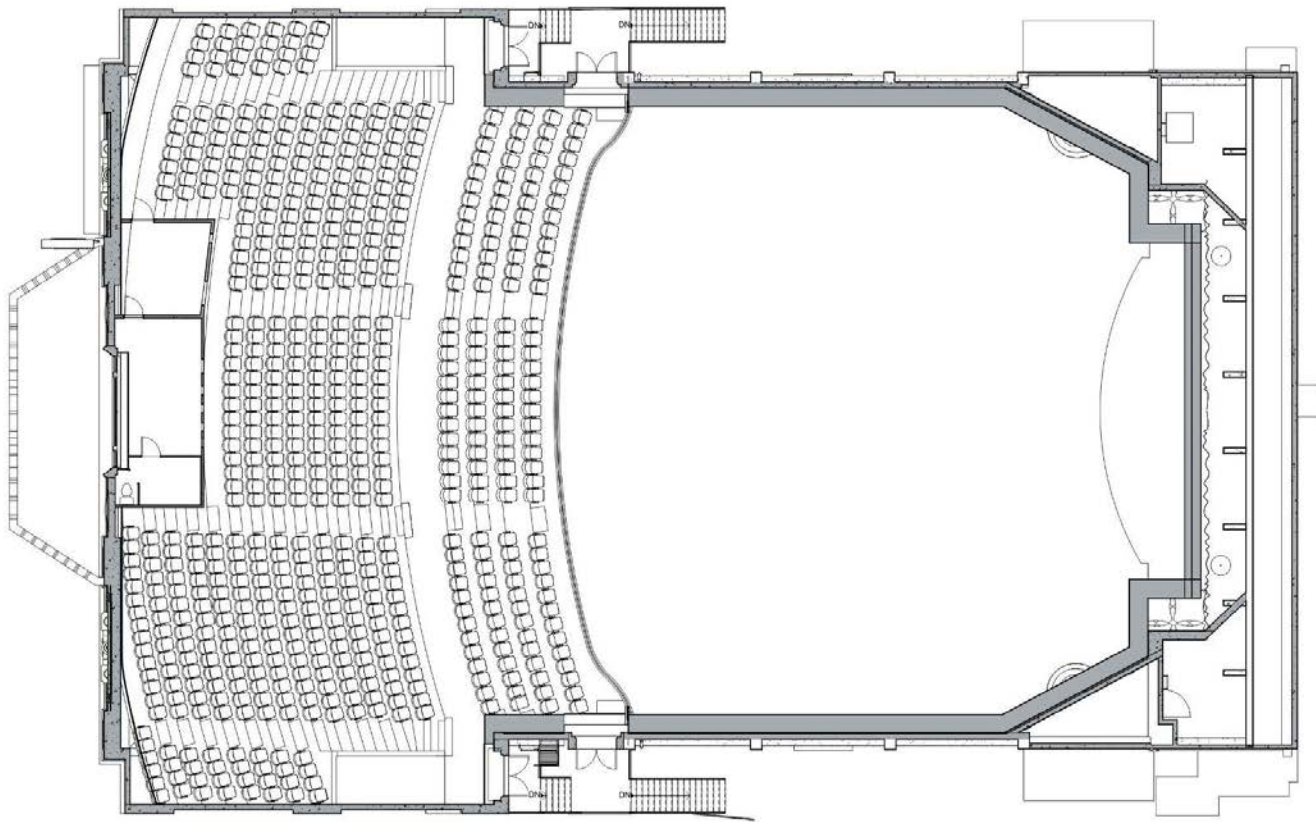
(IN SECOND FLOOR LOBBY
CONCESSION AREA

POSSIBLE ELEVATOR
LOCATION



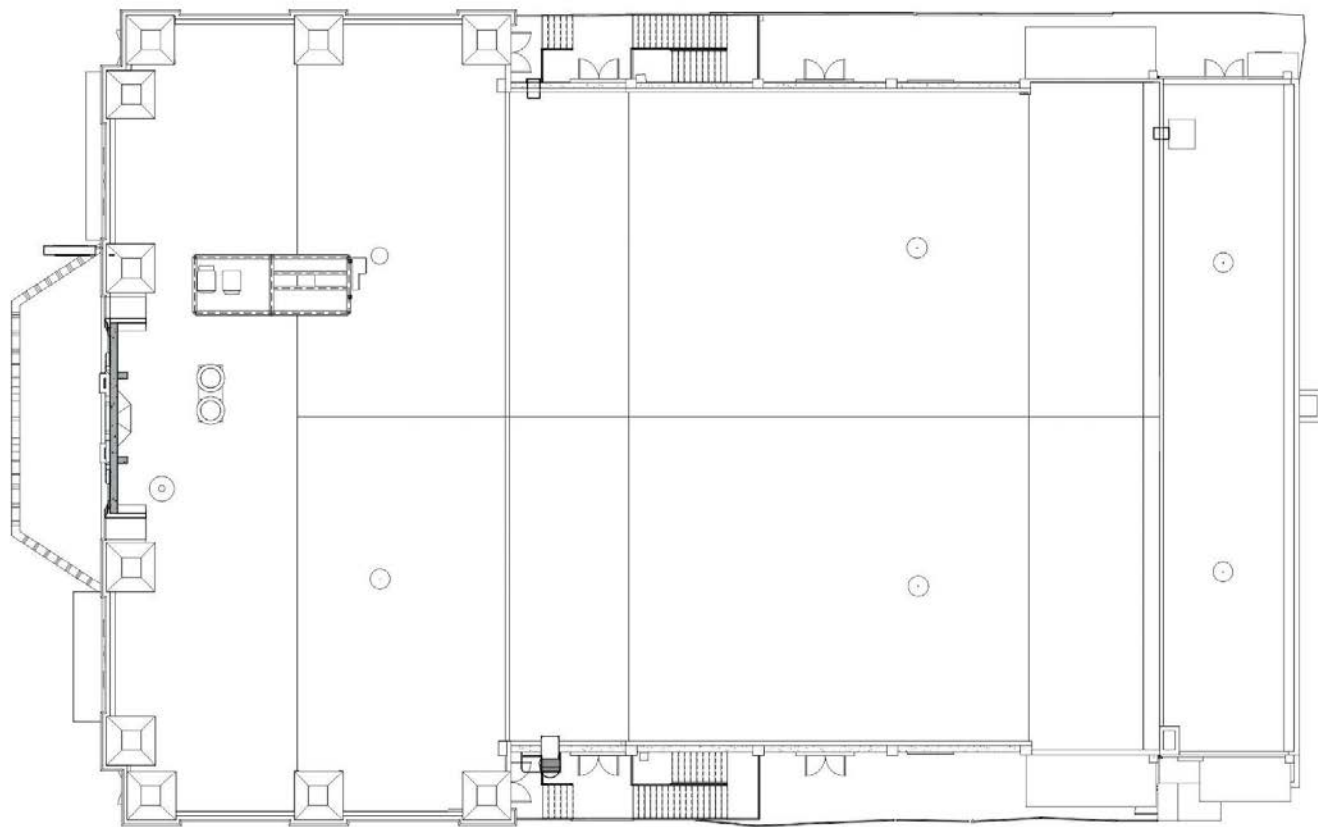
UPPER LOBBY FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED

CASTRO STREET



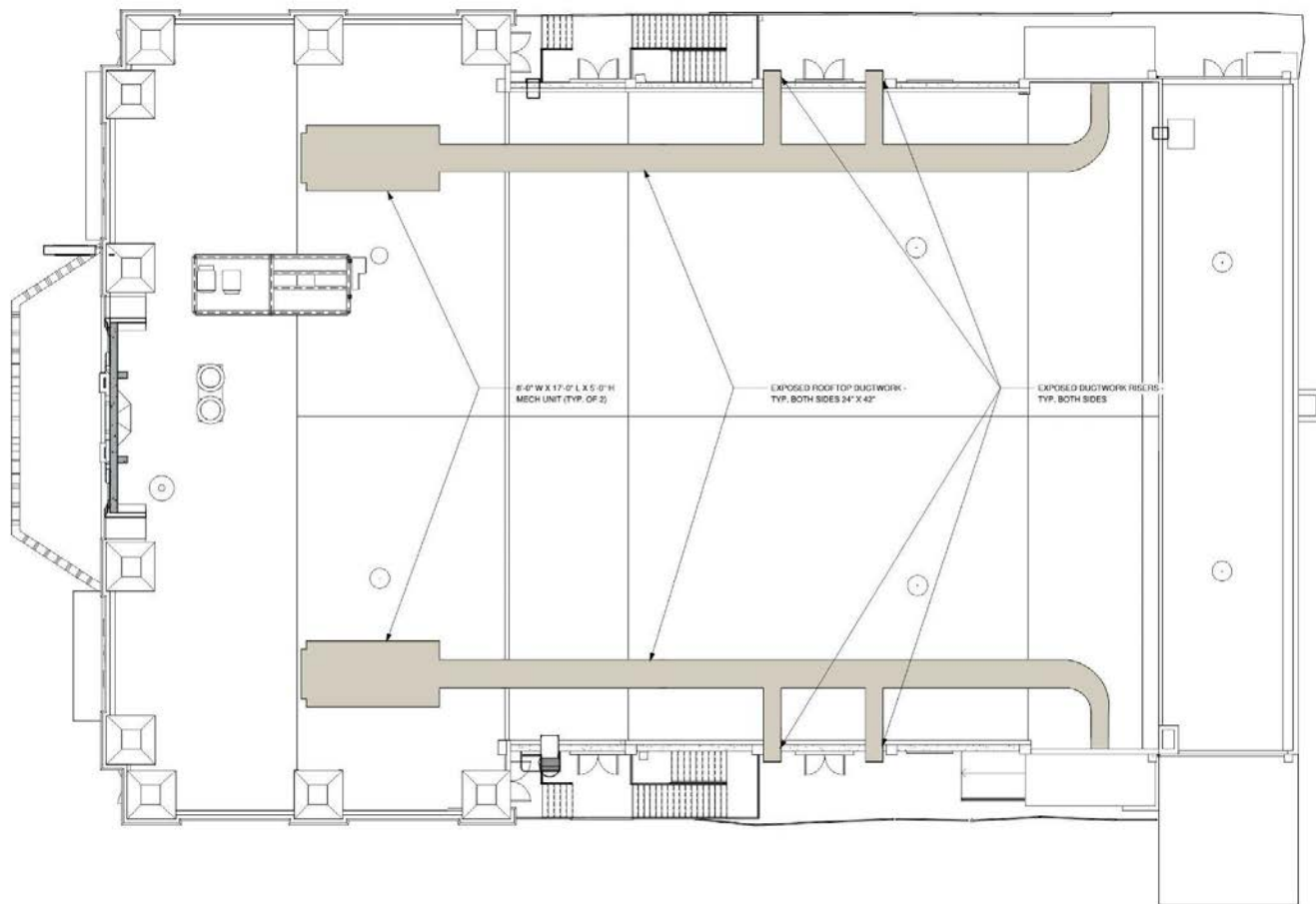
BALCONY FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING TO REMAIN

CASTRO STREET

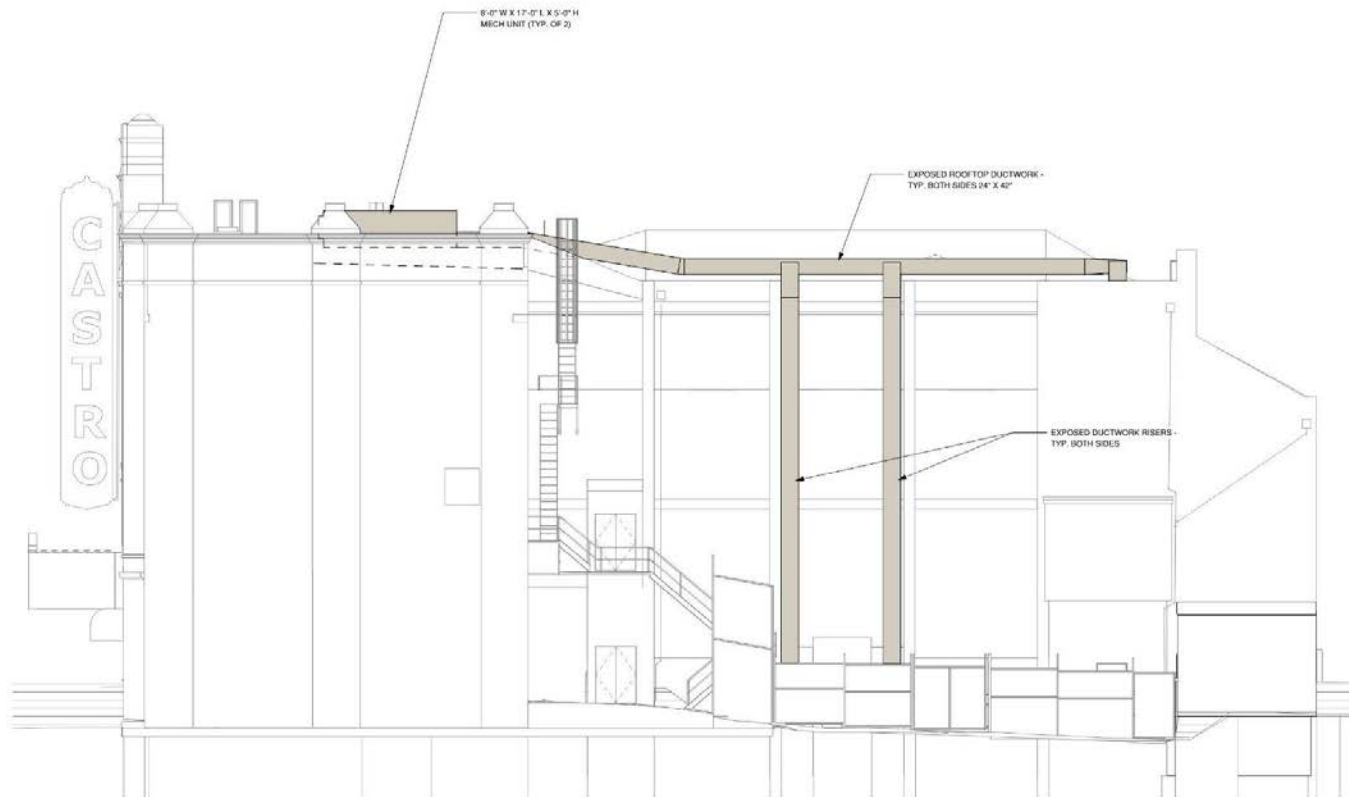


ROOF FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING

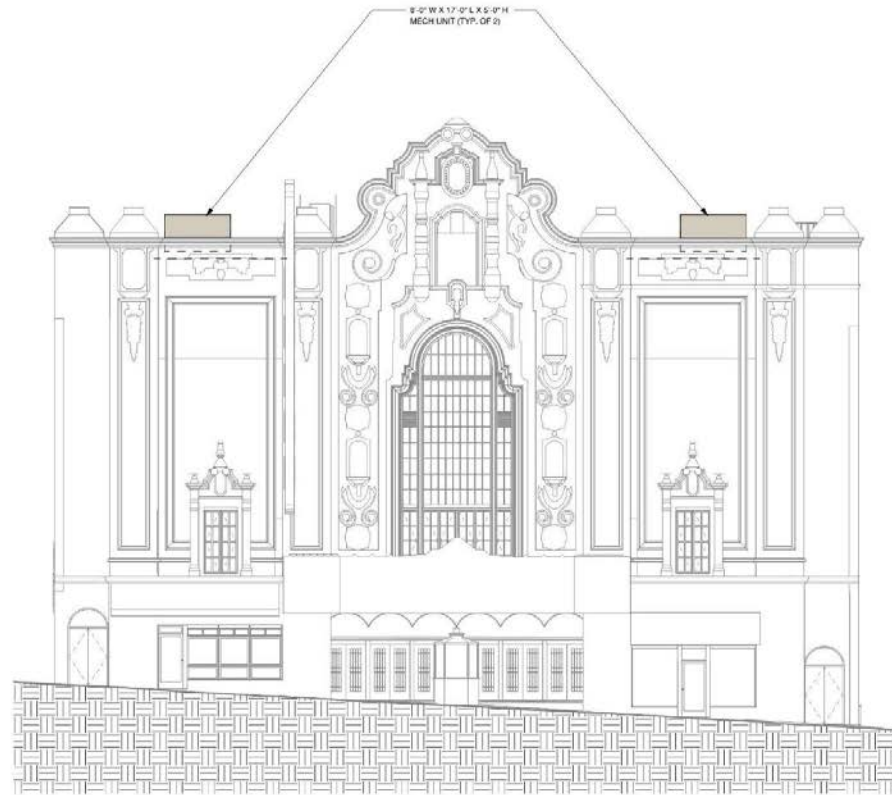
CASTRO STREET



ROOF FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED



EXTERIOR ELEVATION - PROPOSED



EXTERIOR ELEVATION - PROPOSED FROM CASTRO STREET