

Accessibility Advisory
Committee
Proposals
June 11, 2013



Executive Summary

The Accessibility Advisory Committee, composed of parents of Special Education students, architects, a school board member and District 97 staff, was formed to advise Oak Park Elementary School District 97's Facilities Advisory Committee with regard to access for physically challenged individuals. The committee has completed this initial task. The Committee has identified problem areas in seven of the ten schools. Each problem area was studied for solutions to enhance accessibility. The findings of the committee are contained in the following proposal. Although the Committee established criteria to identify problem areas, the Committee was not charged with prioritizing its proposed solutions. It is the conclusion of the Committee that most of the problem areas do indeed have workable solutions. These solutions, if adopted, will bring greater accessibility to the District facilities.

The Committee concluded that the two middle schools, Gwendolyn Brooks and Percy Julian, were thoroughly accessible. After touring each of the eight elementary schools in District 97: Beye, Hatch, Holmes, Irving, Lincoln, Longfellow, Mann and Whittier, the committee determined that Holmes is also currently accessible. The seven remaining buildings will be discussed in detail in this proposal.

Vertical access is proposed in the following buildings; Beye, Hatch, Longfellow, Mann and Whittier. With the addition of any vertical access, restrooms and doorways would have to be reevaluated for accessibility, and Areas of Rescue Assistance would need to be created. The Committee has also observed that many of the current ADA compliant restrooms do not have electronic door activation.

Currently Holmes, Brooks and Julian are the only buildings with electric automatic front door openers. Julian and Brooks have deactivated their exterior plates due to security and maintenance issues. When they are active, the doors are unable to be locked and are frequently misused. The exterior plate was removed from Holmes during this school year for the same reasons. The maintenance department modified the entry system at Holmes to automatically open a door when the door is buzzed from the office. This system is proposed for all ten schools, however this system does not take into account entry when the office is closed.

The committee endeavored to propose solutions for all identified problem areas. Even with these specific proposals, some areas remain inaccessible. The goal is to create an environment of creative and flexible programming within the schools, to alleviate the accessibility issues in these areas that cannot be altered.

Each school's problem areas were identified by using the following criterion.

- Are common non-movable spaces (Gymnasium, Multi-Purpose Rooms, Auditoriums, stages, and Media Centers) accessible?
- Is the building close to full accessibility already?
- Are nearby schools accessible?
- Are there adequate accessible exits from the first floor spaces?

	Common Non-Movable Spaces	Close to Accessibility	North	South	Safe Exit From First Floor		
Beye (J)	x		x		x		
Hatch (B)	x	x	x				
Holmes (B)			x				
Irving (J)	X			x			
Lincoln (B)	x	x		x			
Longfellow (J)	x			x			
Mann (J)	x	x	x		x		
Whittier (B)	x		x		x		
B=Brooks							
J=Julian							
Common Non-Movable Spaces	Beye	Hatch	Lincoln	Longfellow	Mann	Whittier	Irving
Lunchroom						x	x
Gym	x					x	
Auditorium			x			x	
Stage		x	x		x	x	
Media Center	x			x	x	x	



Beye Elementary School

Home of the Bobcats



Problem areas:

The first floor of Beye School is accessible. While the south end of the floor is technically accessible, a handicapped individual cannot enter or exit the south end and would be required to go an unsafe and inconvenient distance to exit the building and in the case of an emergency, could be put at risk.

The second and third floors are not vertically accessible.

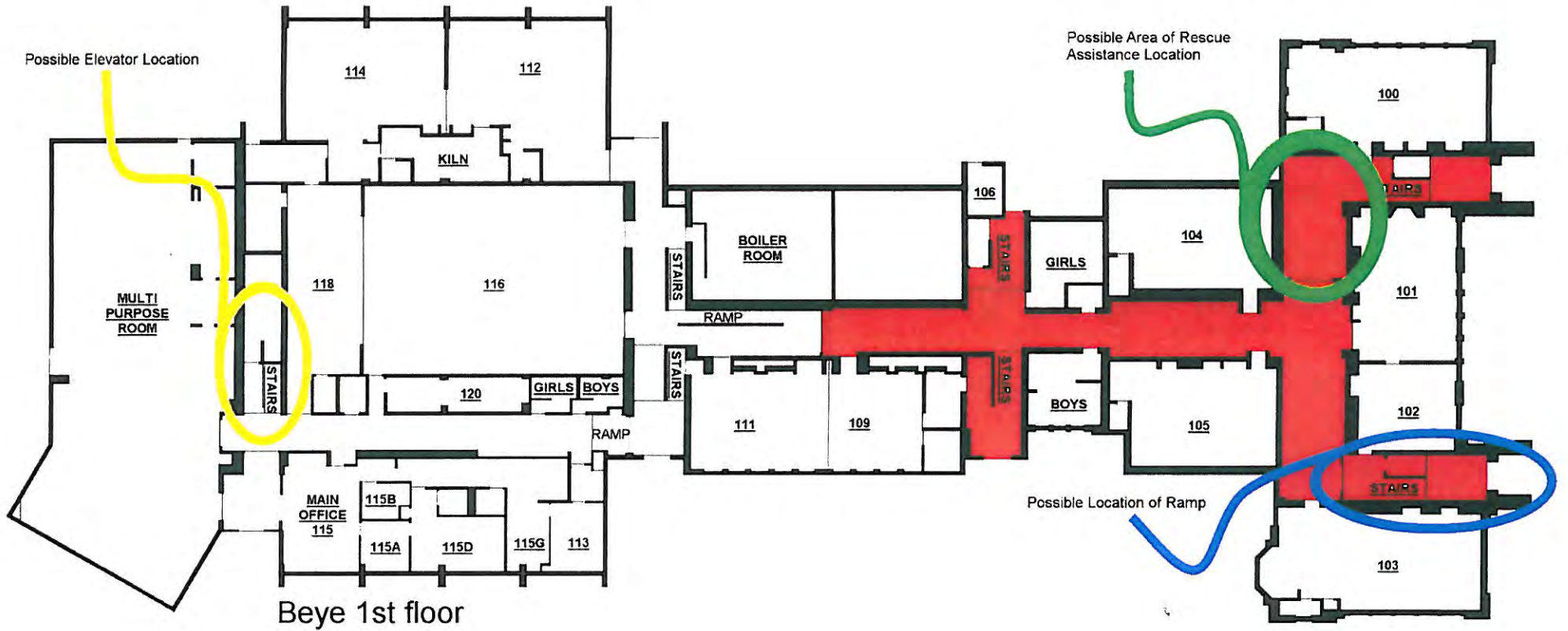
Solutions:

Rework the existing stair resulting in the lowering of the landing to ground level at one of the south entrances would allow for a ramp to the first floor. In order to accommodate the length of the ramp and additional stairs, the entrance vestibule would need to extend to the public sidewalk.

Minimally, two hour rated fire safety doors and a communication device should be added creating an Area of Rescue Assistance to one of the two interior corridors of the south end of the building.

With the addition of an elevator in the north "white" stairwell, access to the gymnasium, media center, and north end 3rd floor "penthouse" classrooms becomes available. The west locker-room wing could be reconfigured to provide additional classroom space. The south end of the building remains inaccessible on both the second and third floors.

With the addition of any vertical access, restrooms and doorways would need to be re-evaluated for accessibility, and an area of rescue of assistance would need to be created.





Hatch Elementary School

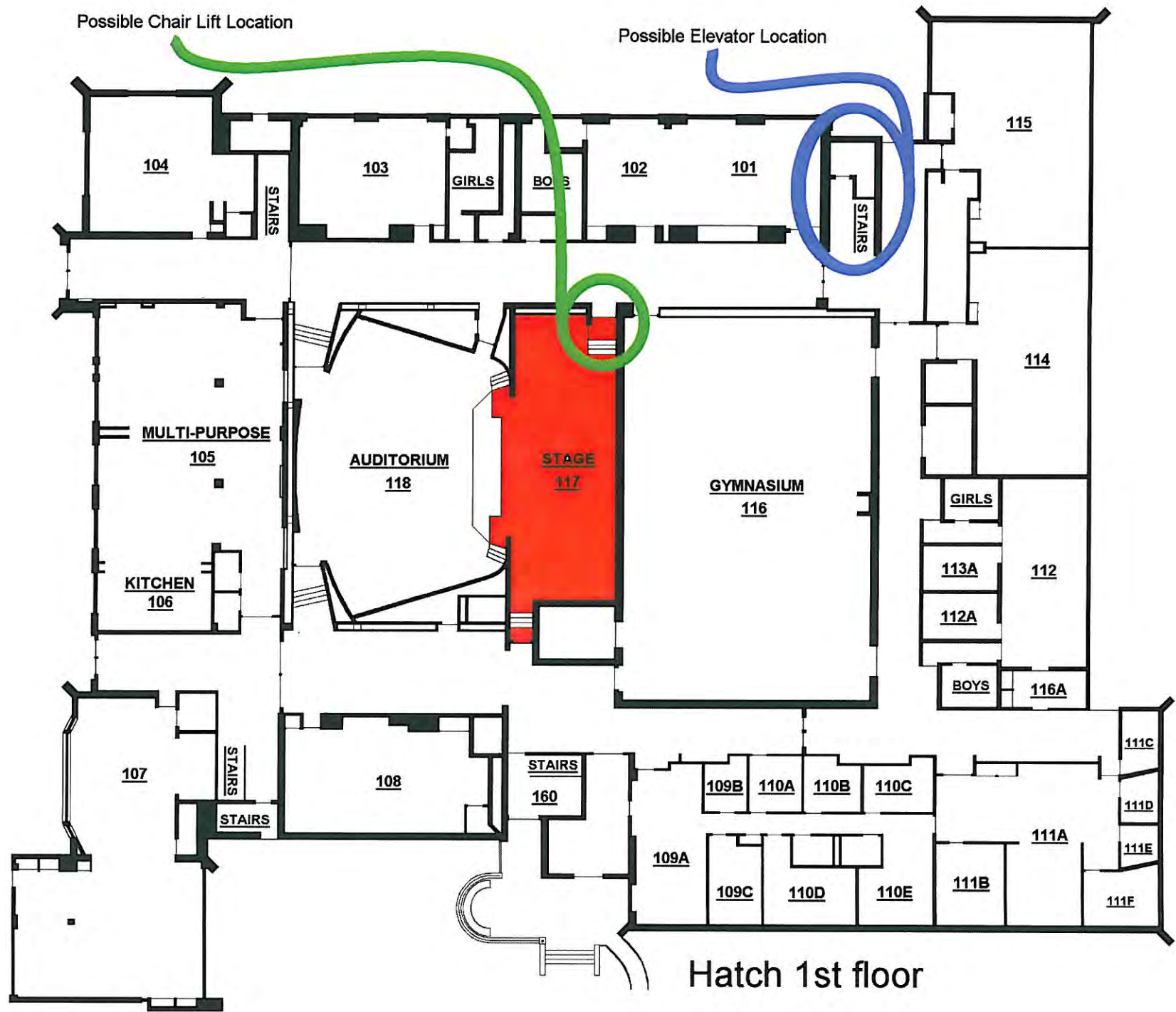
Home of the Tigers

**Problem Areas:**

Currently the only problem area at Hatch is accessibility to the stage.

Solutions:

There are two areas where a vertical lift could be added as a potential solution. Hatch has a one-person stair lift that was added to the south-east stairwell in August of 2012. The lift is not a permanent or long-term solution. An elevator could be added in the northwest corner at the "red" staircase.





Irving Elementary School

Home of the Eagles

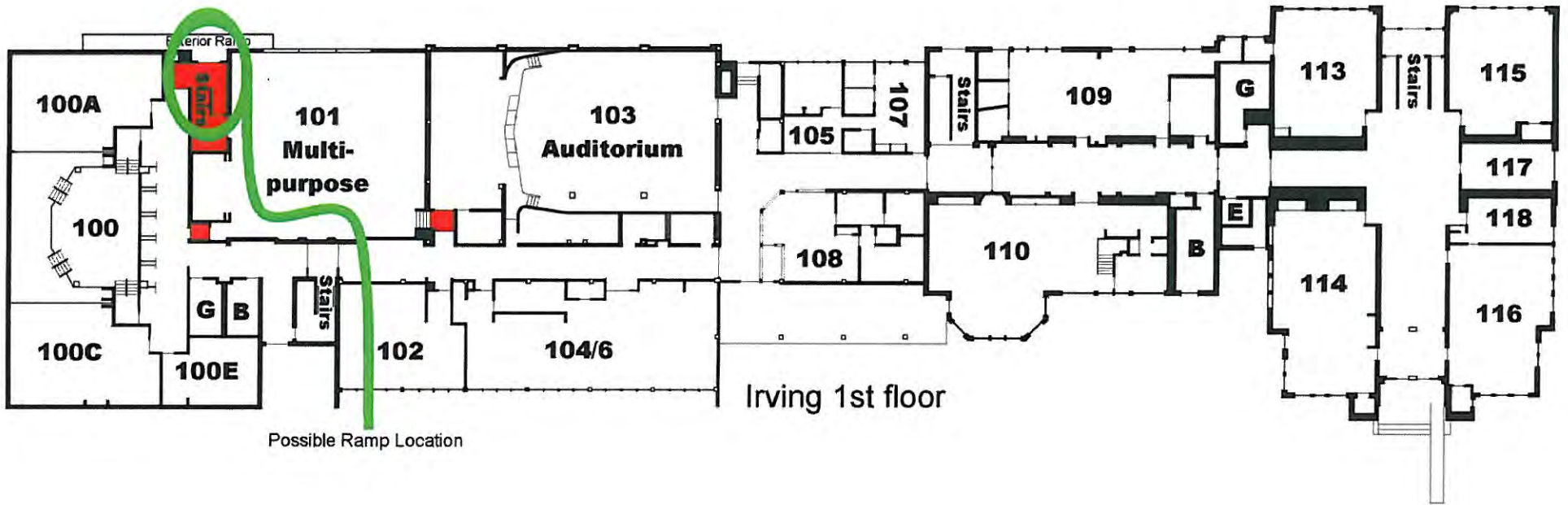


Problem Area:

There is no accessible exit to the outside from the Multi-purpose room.

Solution:

Remove the stairs up from the west exit and the exterior ramp to facilitate a smaller ramp from the multi-purpose room to the ground level. Some modification of the entrance and the existing stairs may be necessary.



Possible Ramp Location



Lincoln Elementary School

Home of the Lions



Problem Areas:

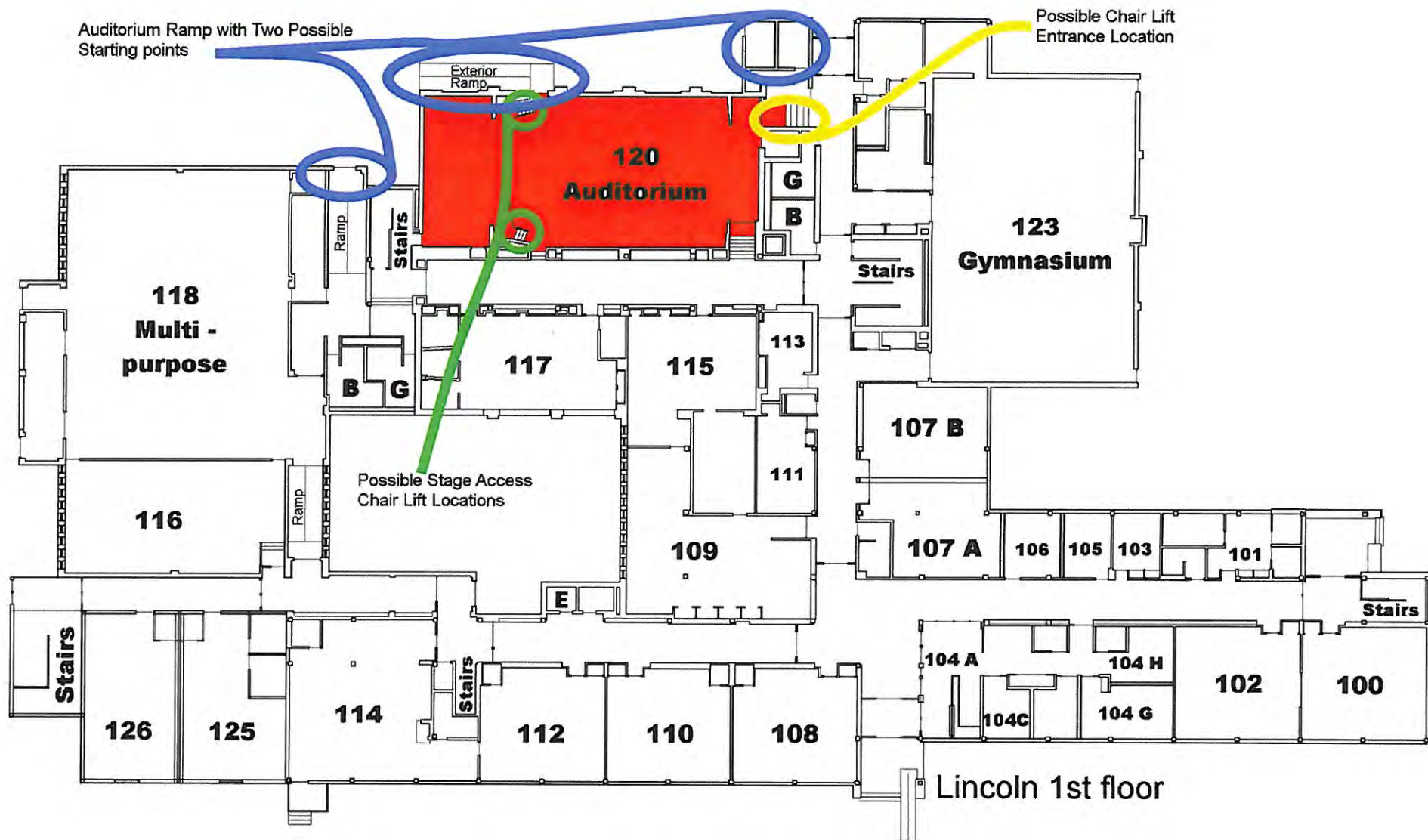
The auditorium is only accessible from the exterior of the building. The stage is inaccessible. The third floor is inaccessible with current elevator. The second floor is accessible by an elevator; however, failure to address the steps in the south-east hall requires a circuitous route from the elevator to the south end of the building.

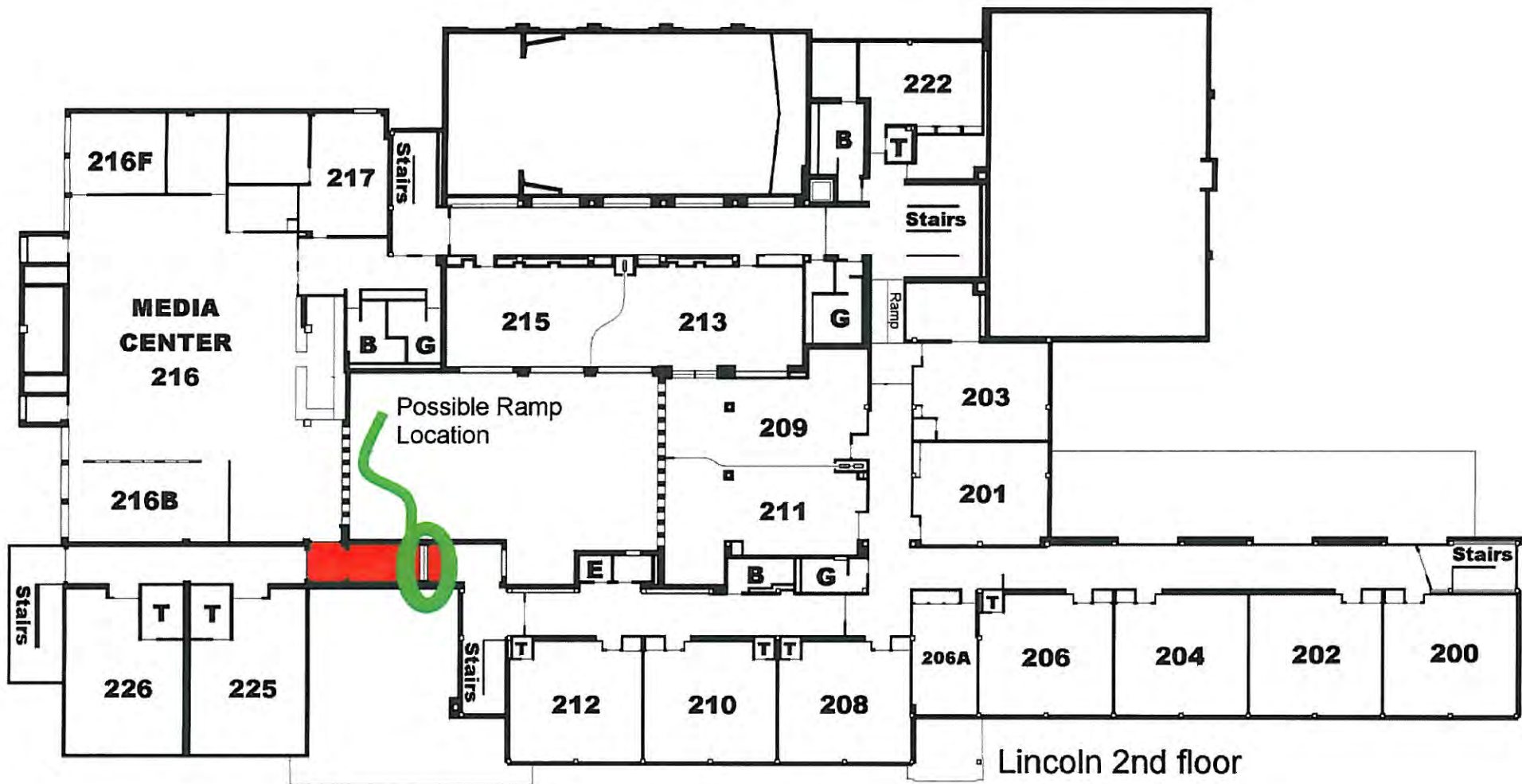
Solutions:

The addition of a hallway on the back of the building connecting to where the current exterior ramp is now would provide safe secure access to the auditorium from inside the building. A door leading directly to the playground would also provide easier access to the auditorium from the parking lot for the public attending performances.

A chair lift to the front of the stage currently appears to be the only viable solution to stage accessibility.

Ramping of the two (2) steps in the second floor south east hall would alleviate the need for anyone to transit the majority of the second floor to reach the Media Center and the new wing.







Longfellow Elementary School

Home of the Bears



Problem Areas:

First floor is currently 80% accessible. Southwest corner, the Art and Spanish rooms, are inaccessible. With vertical accessibility ramping is still required to make the 2nd floor east classroom wing accessible. Third floor accessibility is dependent upon location of vertical access.

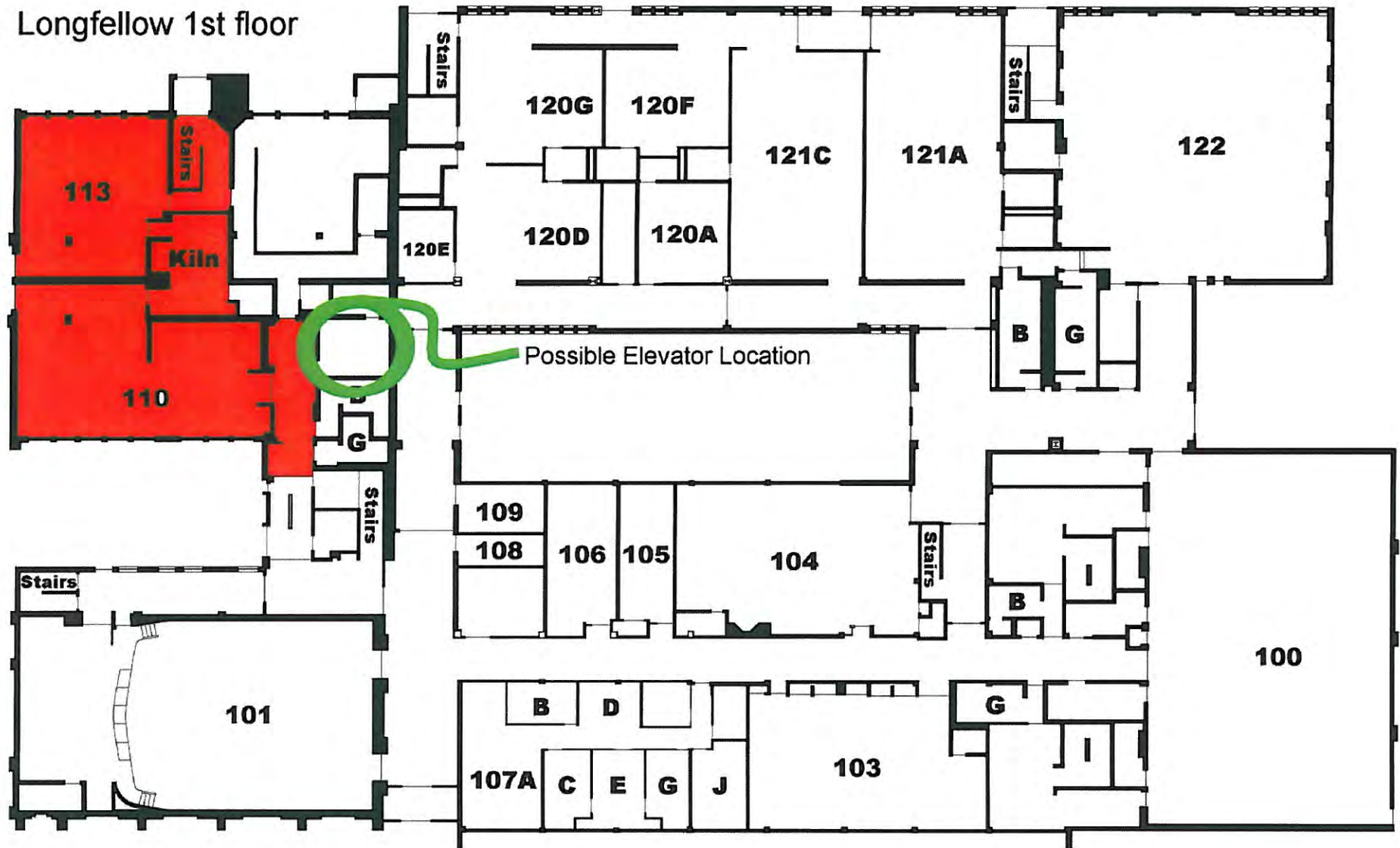
Solution:

There is an interior space where an elevator with multiple openings could connect the lower levels with the upper levels on the first and second floor. The third floor lower level would be accessible from the elevator and the upper level could be if a ramped corridor were added to what is currently a roof area.

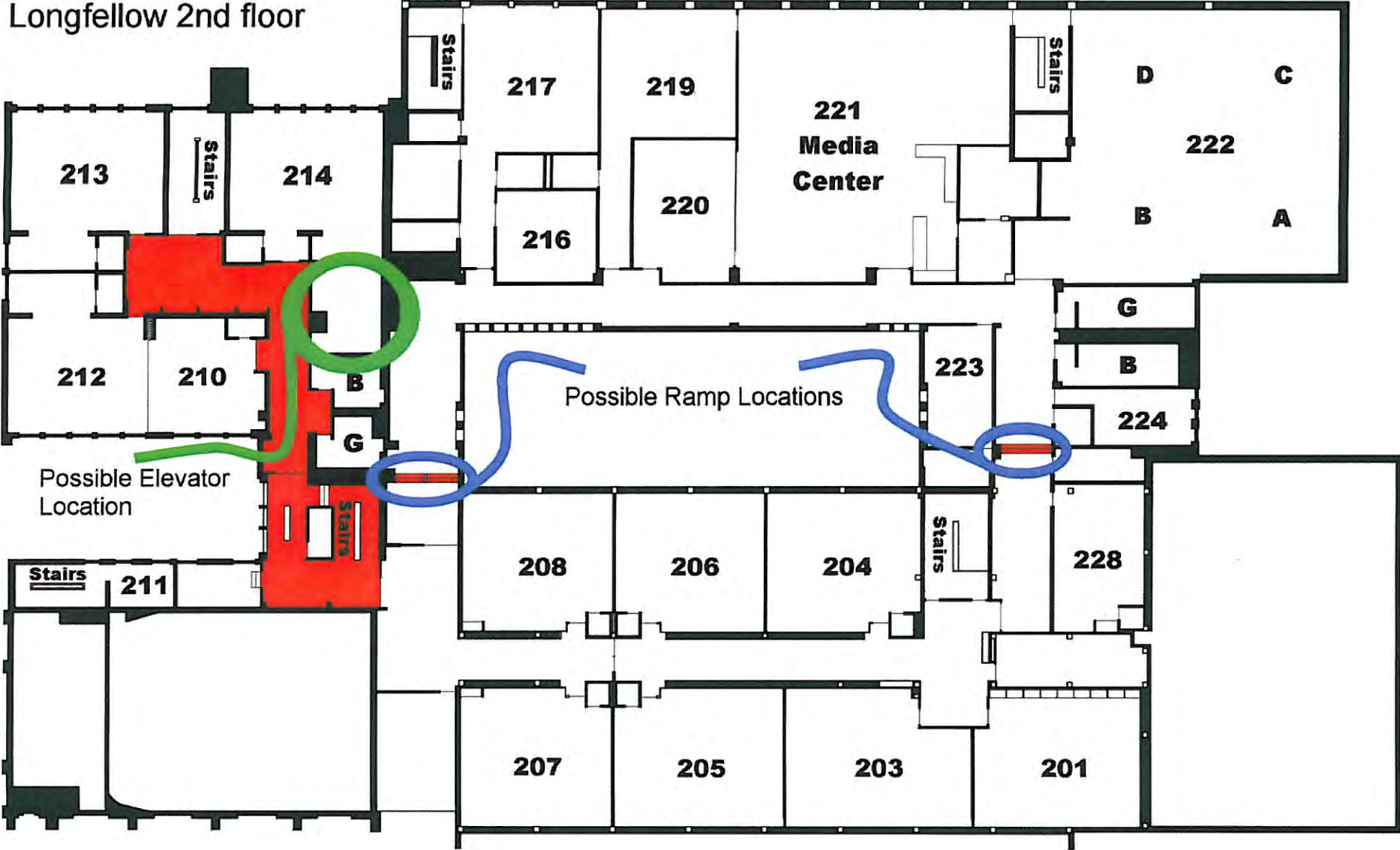
This would still require some reconfiguration of the southwest corner of the first floor.

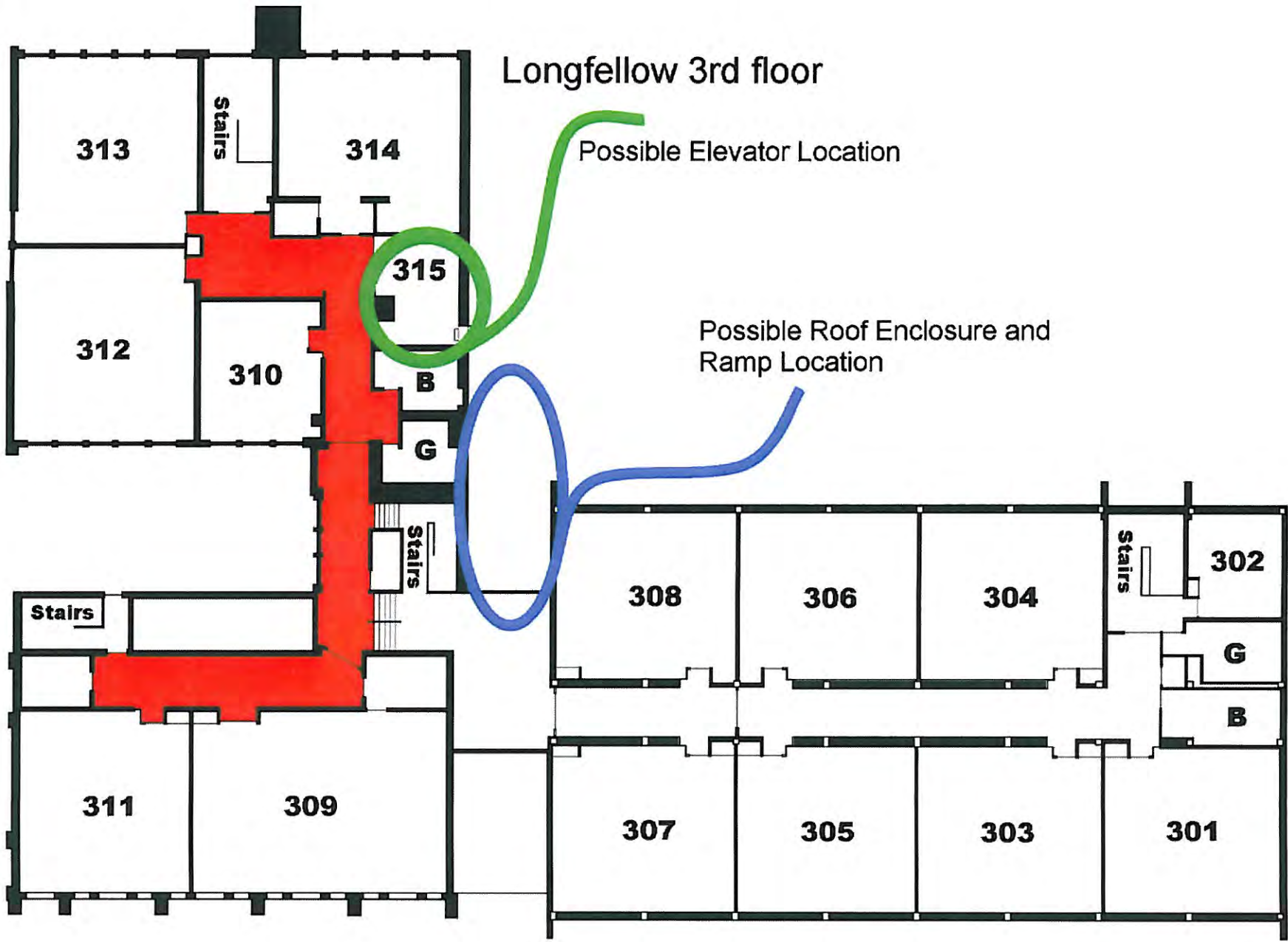
With the addition of any vertical access, restrooms and doorways would need to be re-evaluated for accessibility, and areas of rescue of assistance would need to be created.

Longfellow 1st floor



Longfellow 2nd floor





Longfellow 3rd floor

Possible Elevator Location

Possible Roof Enclosure and Ramp Location



Problem areas:

Stage and exit from multi-purpose room to exterior are both inaccessible. With vertical accessibility both second and third floors would become accessible.

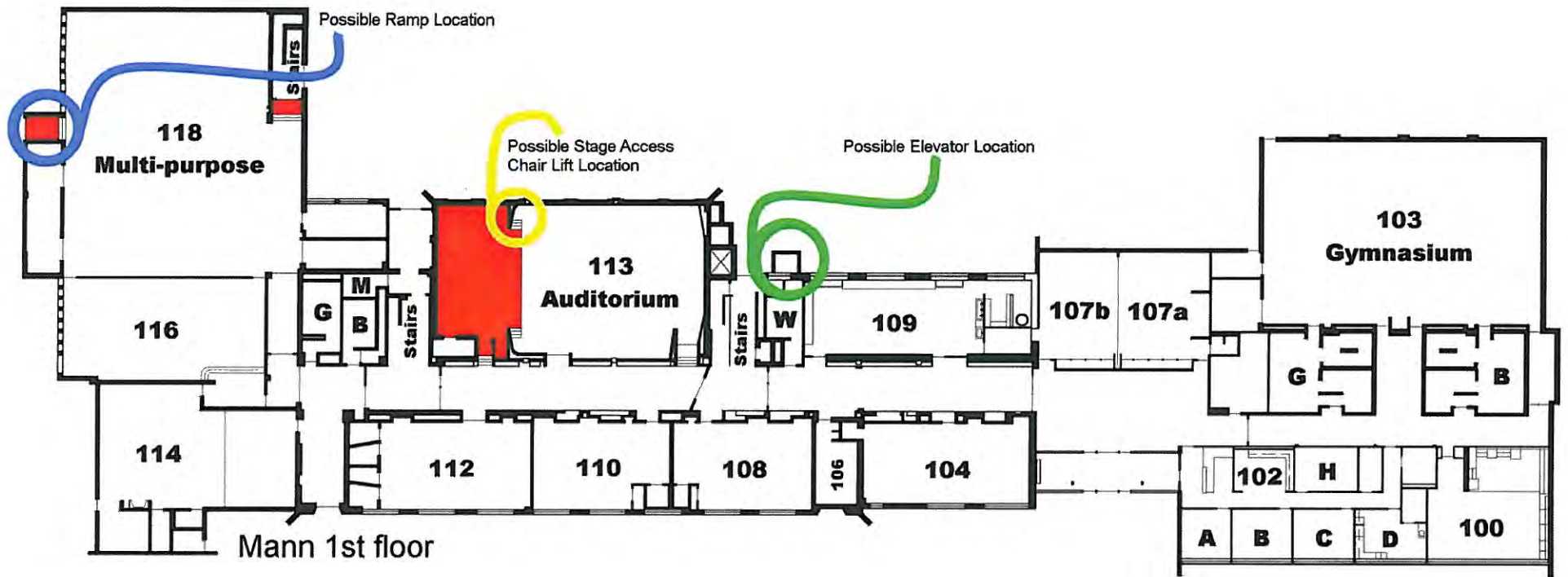
Solutions:

There are two areas where a vertical lift could be added as a potential solution for stage access.

The south entrance of the multi-purpose room could be configured into a ramp.

An exterior elevator tower would access both the second and third floors. The best location for the tower would be at the center west stairwell, just south of the new art room.

With the addition of any vertical access, restrooms and doorways would need to be re-evaluated for accessibility, and Areas of Rescue of Assistance would need to be created.





Whittier Elementary School

Home of the Wildcats



Problem Areas:

Multi-purpose room is inaccessible. Auditorium, stage, art room, and music room are only accessible from exterior. With vertical accessibility, second floor will require further modification. With vertical accessibility, third floor becomes accessible.

Solution:

There are a number of solutions for Whittier; many of which will need to be used in conjunction to create an accessible environment.

The Multi-purpose room (MPR) could be accessed by;

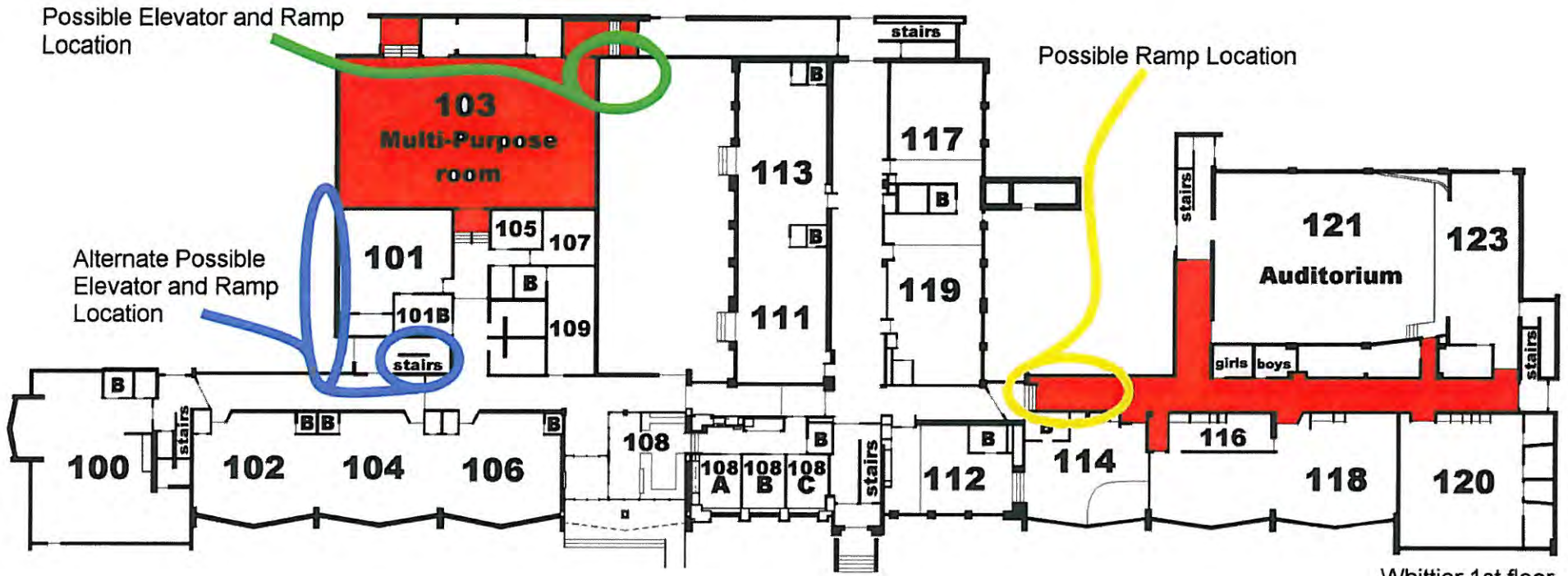
- Adding a hallway ramp from the south west stairwell door into the south wall of the MPR;
- By reclaiming the west hall and raising the floor level of the MPR to the hallway height the amount of ramping needed to access the MPR from the east and south becomes feasible;
- Reclaiming the west hall and adding a covered ramp through the corner of the center courtyard;
- The installation of a chair lift would also make the room minimally accessible but does not present as a permanent solution.

The north end of the building on the first and second floor has a number of steps that could be passed with the addition of an exterior two level ramped corridor in the courtyard by the auditorium.

The addition of a three story elevator in one of a couple different areas would allow for access approaching. These are;

- On either side of the west "green" hall (which is currently an unused space on the second and third floors)
- In the north courtyard by the corner where the addition meets the original building
- Near the three story stairwell by the southwest exit, with an elevator that opens to both the hallway on one side and the media center on the other. This solution would need to be done in conjunction with a ramp to the north end for accessibility to the gymnasium.

With the addition of any vertical access, restrooms and doorways would need to be re-evaluated for accessibility, and an area of rescue of assistance would need to be created.



Possible Elevator and Ramp Location

Possible Ramp Location

Alternate Possible Elevator and Ramp Location

Whittier 1st floor

