

# CAMPUS EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL PLAN



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Existing Conditions Inventory  
Architecture



Major architectural modifications, additions and new construction are beyond the scope of this CEAP. What has been noted is the incongruity of color choices of several existing buildings in relation to the landmark Sharon/Lecture Hall.

Deteriorating wall finishes and siding material are noted on Black and Bashore Building and McDowell Hall.



Existing Conditions Inventory  
Campus Edges



Campus boundaries are ill defined due in part to limited property ownership at key points on the perimeter of the property. Primary approaches to the campus from the south are particularly effected by this predicament.



## Existing Conditions Inventory Site Furnishings



A variety of styles and sizes of benches, tables, trash receptacles and ash urns are spread across the campus. The campus currently does not take full advantage of the opportunity to define an aesthetic character through stylistically complimentary furnishings.

In addition to aesthetic appropriateness, the longevity and maintenance of site furnishings should be considered when specifying. The existing wooden furnishings require painting and are vulnerable to vandalism.



Existing Conditions Inventory  
**Landscaping**

Landscape plantings and lawn areas are generally in good condition. The campus is home to a variety of mature trees of various species. There is opportunity to supplement street tree plantings and enhance outdoor pedestrian gathering spaces with tree, shrub and groundcover plantings. There is a general lack of screening of parked cars.



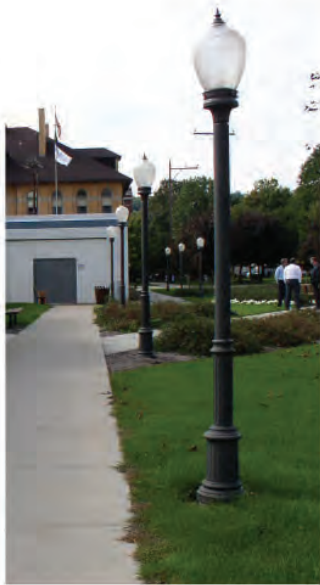
Existing Conditions Inventory  
**Lighting**

Campus lighting is inconsistent stylistically with respect to luminare and lamp type as well as pole design and color. The campus currently does not benefit from the unifying effect of a comprehensive exterior lighting scheme.

The downtown revitalization plan for the City of Sharon proposes the installation of ornamental period style lighting fixtures.



City of Sharon fixture



Campus fixture types





Campus identification and wayfinding signage is inconsistent stylistically with respect to copy, colors and detailing. In many cases signage is scaled inappropriately for its purpose.

Additional signage is necessary to identify the entry points to campus as well as wayfinding once visitors arrive.

Pole mounted banners line the streets of downtown Sharon. While this is testament to the importance of the campus relative to the community, it diminishes the efficacy of banners as an identifier on campus property.



## Existing Conditions Inventory Window Treatment



Onlookers assessment of the visual quality of a building can be effected by something as simple as the appearance of windows. Storage in front of windows is noted on Lecture Hall. Some windows are grated and barred for security reasons. Some window coverings appear dated and worn.

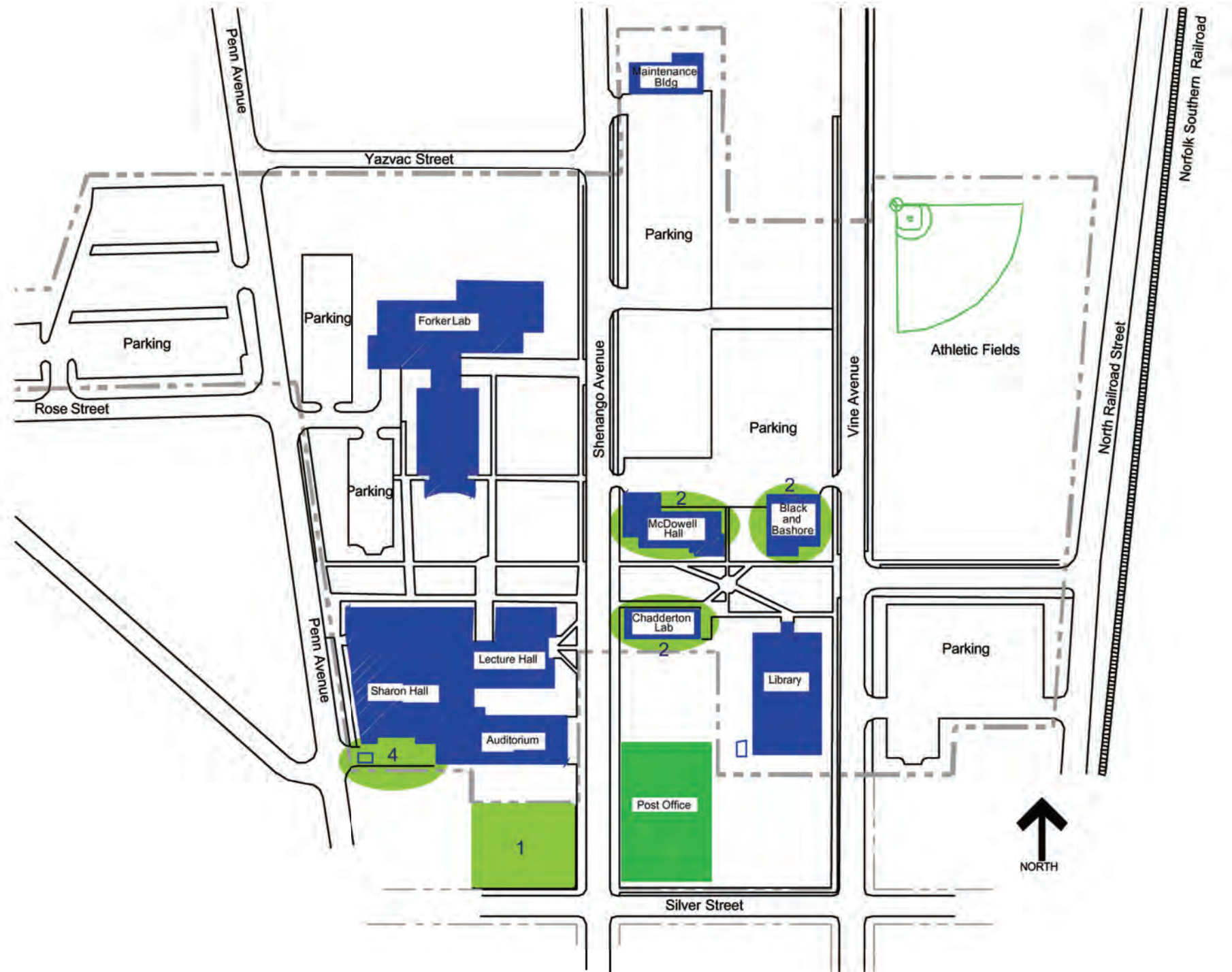
Low or no cost alternative measures can be implemented to maintain security without giving the impression from outside as well as within that the building requires fortification.





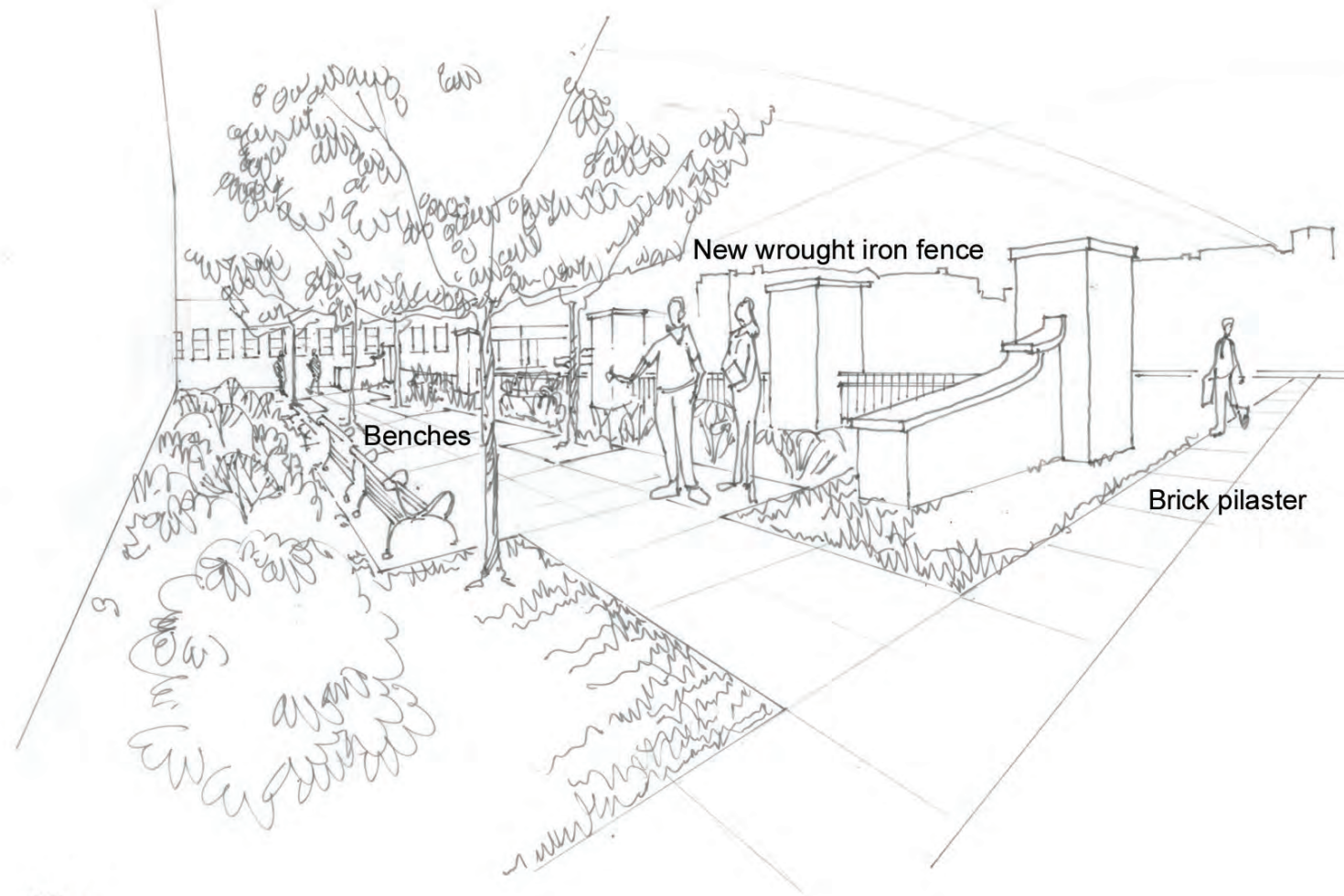
## Improvement Recommendation Project Key Map

Improvement recommendation projects listed below have been assigned numeric order based on visual impact, minimal cost and campus preference.



PROJECT	
	Streetscape* improvements at Shenango Avenue
	Streetscape* improvements at Vine Avenue
	Streetscape* improvements at North Railroad Avenue
	Parking lot screening (on campus)
1	Parking lot greenspace (Winner lot)
3	Campus walkway lighting replacement
6	Campus site furnishings replacement (benches, trash receptacles)
5	Campus signage replacement
	Building interior window treatments
4	Screen dumpster service area at Sharon Hall
2	Paint Chadderton Lab exterior
	Siding renovation to Black and Bashore Building
	Siding renovation to McDowell Hall
	Lecture Hall/Sharon Hall commons
	Lecture Hall/Auditorium courtyard
	Handrail replacement - Lecture Hall
	Ramp removal/grade adjustment (auditorium)
	Restore windows in Auditorium
	Streetscape improvements between campus and Main Street
	Walkway enhancement at mall and Shenango & Vine Avenues
	Campus Entry Park at Auditorium
	Campus corner markers
	Vegetation removal at Rose Street
	Re-orient visitor arrival to Vine Avenue
* includes streetlights, new sidewalk, buried utilities, tree planting	

Improvement Recommendation  
**Campus Entry Park**



The primary approach to campus is characterized by the stark facade of the south side of the auditorium wing of Sharon Hall and a deteriorated parking lot. A busy civic use occupies the opposite corner in the City of Sharon post office.

The opportunity exists to create a multi-functional parklike area. In addition to the softening effect of landscape plantings, the space can provide seating as well as an identification signage opportunity on the masonry corner wall.

Construction cost to establish the park is estimated to be in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

After



Before



Improvement Recommendation  
Site Furnishings

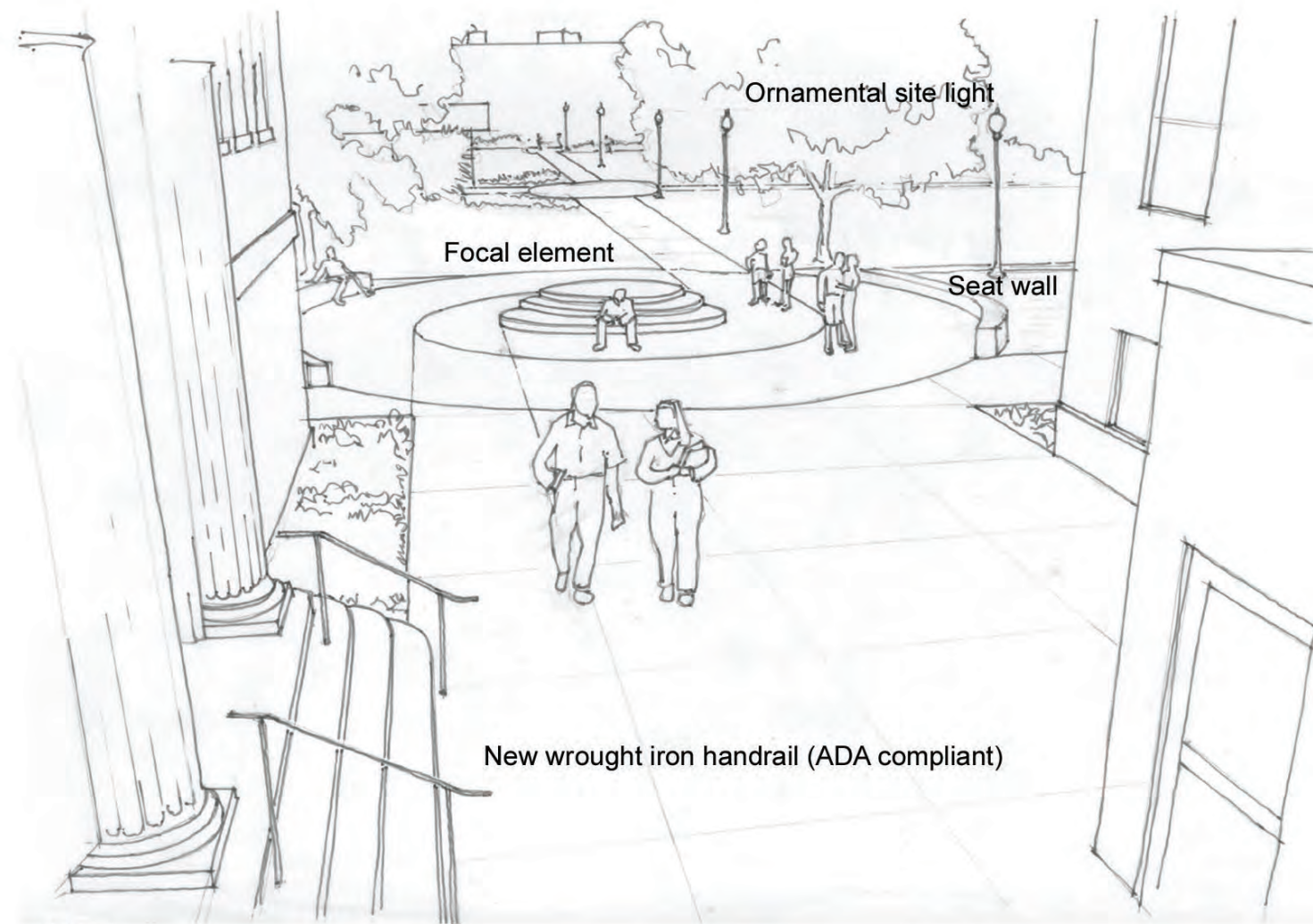


Site furnishings designed in a style “family” and installed throughout campus will provide a unifying theme in addition to the practical function of providing seating and a place for depositing trash.

The example shown here is a modernized interpretation of a period style fixture. Either a metal or combination wood metal bench is recommended.

Cost for complete replacement of site furnishings is estimated to be in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 range.

Improvement Recommendation  
Lecture Hall / Sharon Hall  
Commons



After



Before



Lecture Hall and Sharon Hall join to form one of the most active open spaces on campus. The space is currently underdeveloped and poorly furnished. The opportunity exists to create an appealing outdoor gathering area while at the same time strengthening the existing east-west pedestrian mall.

Recommend installation of enhanced paving material and seating in addition to a focal element at the intersection of the mall walkways.

Construction cost for a project of this magnitude using quality materials could exceed \$100,000.

Improvement Recommendation  
**Lecture Hall / Auditorium  
Courtyard**

The existing courtyard space between Lecture Hall and the auditorium wing of Sharon Hall is a dead space without purposeful use. The opportunity exists to provide an outdoor access to the student lounge space in the basement of Lecture Hall which can also function as breakout space for the auditorium.

Recommend storefront window and door replacement along south face of Lecture Hall and landscape improvements to courtyard space.

Construction costs for a project of this magnitude including architectural modifications to provide access to Lecture Hall could exceed \$100,000.



After



Before



Improvement Recommendation  
**Site Lighting**

The mounting height, lamp type, pole and luminaire style of pedestrian walkway lighting throughout the campus should be consistent to create a unifying effect.

Recommend replacement of all existing lights with metal halide, cut-off fixture that is distinct stylistically, yet complimentary to City of Sharon period style street lights.

The example shown here recalls the industrial heritage of the city and compliments the style family of site furnishings.

Cost for complete replacement and supplementation of existing lights is estimated to be in excess of \$100,000. System design and cost estimation by a licensed professional will be necessary.



Existing campus light fixtures

Improvement Recommendation  
Paint Chadderton Lab



After



Before

The landmark building on campus is arguably Lecture Hall. The earth tones of the Library building and Forker Lab color schemes compliment Lecture Hall. On the contrary, the strong contrast of bright white and blue on Chadderton Lab is not sympathetic to the campus color scheme.

The “white shoebox” draws too much attention to itself and interrupts the visual flow of the mall.

Recommend painting the building a complimentary color to diminish its visual impact on the space. The estimated construction cost for this improvement is \$25,000.

Consideration should be given to complete removal of this structure and reconfiguration of the pedestrian mall at some point in the future.

## Improvement Recommendation Black and Bashore Building



After



Before



Library

As with Chadderton Lab, the color scheme of the Black and Bashore Building is not complimentary to the colors used on other principal campus structures. In addition, the existing siding on this structure is in disrepair. This structure flanks the entrance to the pedestrian mall opposite the library forming a “bookend” to this campus gateway.

Recommend siding repair and painting the building in a color scheme compatible with that of the library. The estimated construction cost for this improvement is in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 depending on the condition of the existing siding.

Consideration should be given to complete removal and/or replacement of this structure at some point in the future.



## Improvement Recommendation McDowell Memorial Hall



After



Before



As with Chadderton Lab, the color scheme of the Black and Bashore Building is not complimentary to the colors used on other principle campus structures. In addition, the existing siding on this structure is in disrepair. This structure flanks the entrance to the pedestrian mall opposite the library forming a “bookend” to this campus gateway.

Recommend siding repair and painting the building in a color scheme compatible with that of the library. The estimated construction cost for this improvement is in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 depending on the condition of the existing siding.

Consideration should be given to complete removal and/or replacement of this structure at some point in the future.

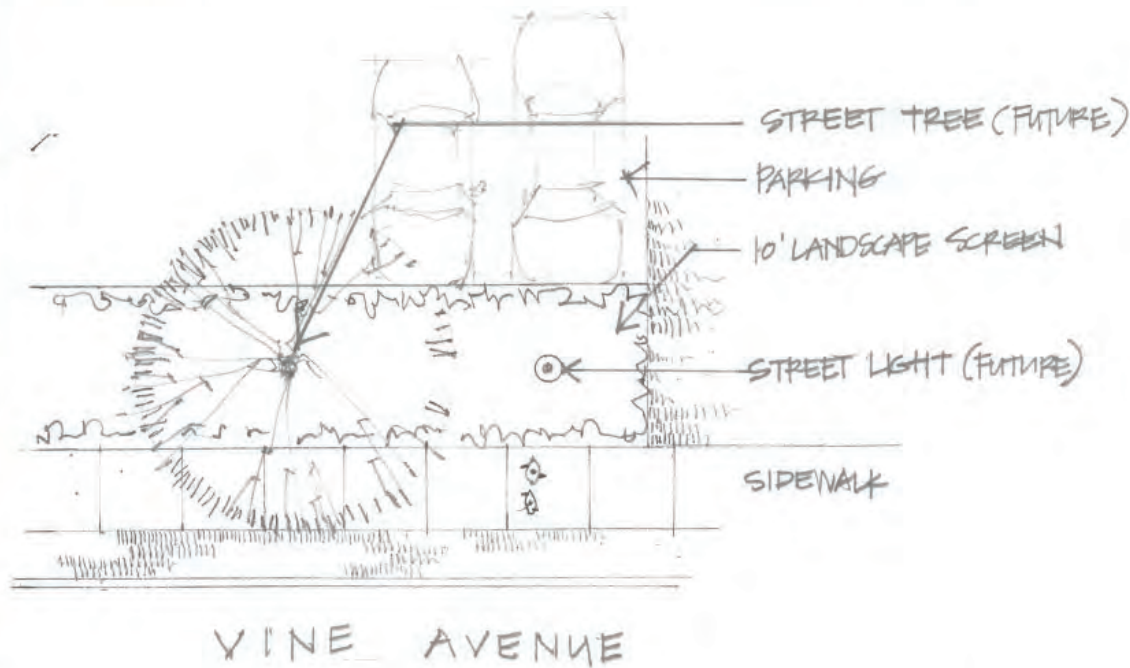
Improvement Recommendation  
**Parking Lot Screening**



After



Before



Parking lots east of Shenango Avenue have been developed without the benefit of landscape screening to adjacent streets. The addition of plantings between parked cars and sidewalks will help to define campus edges as well as softening the harsh appearance of pavement and cars.

Establishment of screening will require removal of some pavement and replacement with suitable soil material and planting. Estimated construction cost range for this improvement is \$45,000 to \$50,000.

Future streetscape improvements will add ornamental street lights and tree plantings as well as burying of overhead utility lines.

Improvement Recommendation  
**Auditorium Ramp**



After



Before

Auditorium ramp with handrail was installed to meet requirements of the ADA for accessibility by those with handicaps. A preferred solution to the installation of pipe railing would be to adjust the slope of the walking surface to eliminate the step thereby eliminating the need for railing. This simple improvement will meet ADA requirements while at the same time eliminating an obstruction in the walking surface that doesn't compliment the architectural style of the building.

Recommend removal of the railing and replacement of the concrete sidewalk to eliminate the step into the building.

The estimated construction cost range to complete this improvement project is \$4,000 to \$4,500.

Improvement Recommendation  
**Rose Street Improvements**



After



Before

Removing selected vegetation at the terminus of Rose Street will open views to the train bridge in an effort to celebrate the historical significance of the City of Sharon and Penn State Shenango.

The construction cost to accomplish this project have been estimated to be approximately \$10,000.



Example of metal fence and gate design to screen and secure the service area adjacent to Sharon Hall.

The southwest corner of Sharon Hall serves several utilitarian functions in the operation of the building. This corner is also highly visible from primary campus approach routes.

Screening of exterior gas house and refuse dumpsters will improve visual quality of the building facing the street as well as securing these service functions.

The estimated construction cost to provide this improvement is \$7,500-\$10,000.

Improvement Recommendation  
**Signage**



Campus Identification Sign

Signage identifying the campus, individual buildings and parking options is necessary for convenient use of the facility. Signage is also an important technique for unifying the visual appearance of the campus.

Recommend development and adoption of comprehensive signage standards governing size, content, style and color for all exterior signage applications.

Construction cost for a campus wide signage package is estimated to be in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000.



Directional Signage/Wayfinding



Campus Map/Wayfinding



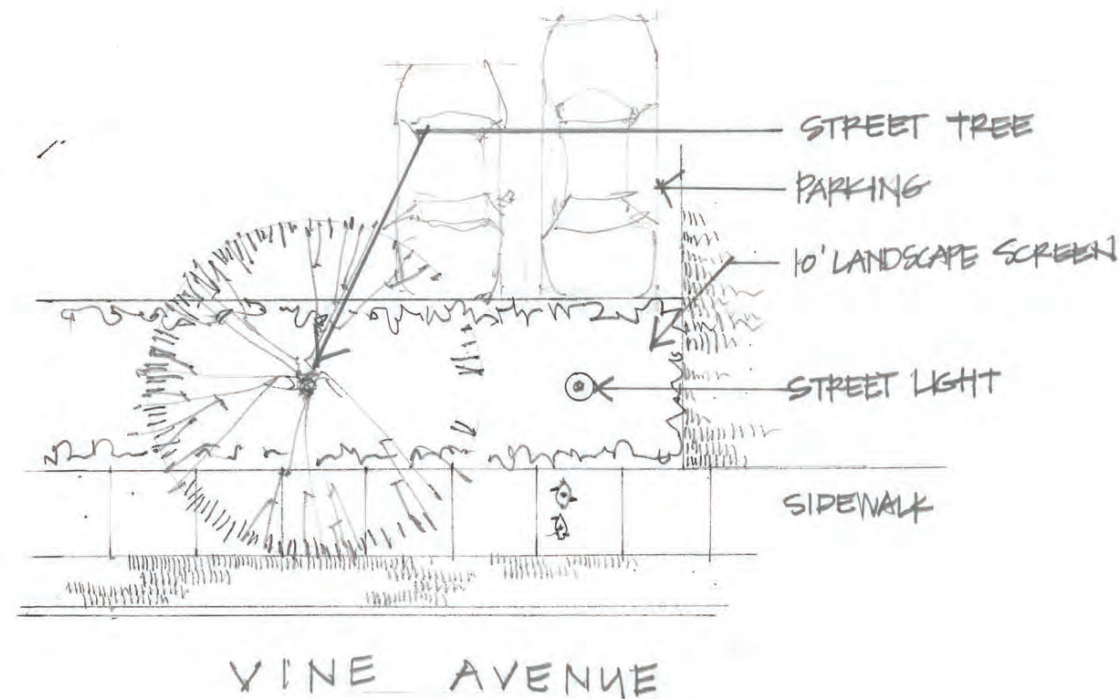
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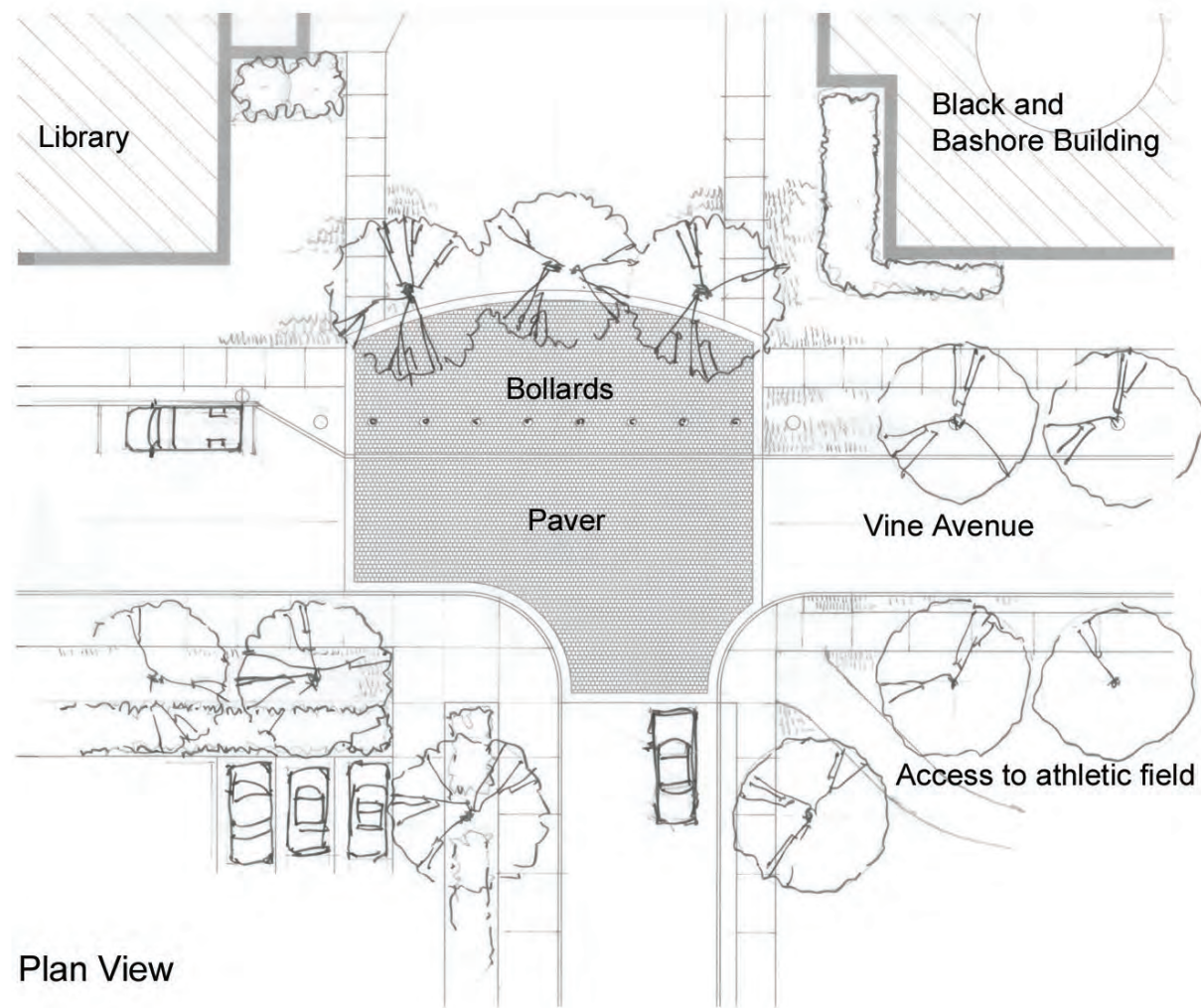
Streetscape improvements along city streets that pass through the campus can be enhanced with pavers, ornamental street lighting, landscaping and signage to fortify the visual quality and define the limit of campus. These improvements compliment those proposed by the revitalization plan adopted by the City of Sharon for streets within the business district. Campus streets proposed for these improvements include Shenango and Vine Avenues as well as North Railroad Street.

Construction costs for these ambitious projects are estimated to be in excess of \$100,000 each due in part to the high cost of burying overhead utility lines.



Before





Plan View



Shenango Avenue at the campus mall after lane reduction and paver installation



Vine Avenue at the campus mall before improvement



Bollard

The existing pedestrian mall running north/south through campus intersects with city streets at Shenango and Vine Avenues in an unceremonious way.

The visual quality and safety of these pedestrian/vehicular conflict points can be improved by reducing the width of the street and installing brick pavers. The addition of traffic control bollards, planters and landscaping will beautify these important campus nodes.

Construction cost for curb relocation, enhanced walkway surfaces, bollards, landscaping and paving restoration is estimated to be in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range.



Improvement Recommendation  
Auditorium Window Restoration



After



Before

The arched windows on the north and south sides of the auditorium have been sealed inside and out. The opportunity exists to restore the openings with glazed windows to improve the aesthetic quality of the building facade as well as the quality of the interior lighting.

The construction cost to accomplish this project have been estimated to be in excess of \$100,000.

## Improvement Recommendation Corner Lot - Shenango Ave./Silver Street



After



After

The corner of Shenango Avenue and Silver Street is currently occupied by a parking lot in degraded condition. Such an image is not suitable at the main entry to campus.

Upon reaching agreeable lease terms with the current owner, recommend removal of bituminous paving and concrete islands and replacement with a lawn surface and hedge screening. The estimated construction cost range for this project is \$15,000 to \$20,000.



Before