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450 Eliot

Existing Conditions:

The existing building at 450 Eliot was the former Rectory and Community House serving the St. Peter Claver church directly across Eliot Street, St. Peter Claver was the first Roman Catholic parish founded expressly to serve black congregants.

At a date unknown, both the church proper and the Rectory/Community House directly south across Eliot Street were sold to Matrix Human Services which provided community based services to the area including such services as day-care.

The original Rectory building is a masonry wall structure using a dark, varied, red brick masonry in contrast to the original orangish red of the Church across Eliot. There are raised masonry elements throughout the façade and limestone inserts. The building is (3) stories with the First Level as a half-basement. A unique window design is incorporated across the facades with the top 1/3 of the window having vertical muntins where the original window remain. The windows are installed singly, in pairs and in threes to create a lively façade. All the windows have limestone sills of varying heights. The original windows at the lower level, half basement have been removed and filled with glass black behind a storm windows. Many of the windows have been damaged by installing a window air conditioner in the opening. Most of the windows have a aluminum storm window placed over them. The most prominent feature of the façade is the projecting cornice supported by large, decorative brackets. Above the main entrance on Eliot street, above the cornice, the masonry wall extends above to create a pediment.

At some point, at both the Beabian entrance on the addition and the Eliot Street entrance on the original building, a projecting, curved canopy supported by thick brackets were added to the entrances.

At some point, date unknown, an addition was constructed to the south behind the original Rectory building. The addition was in a more "modern/internal" style, devoid of any of the decorative elements found on the original rectory. The brick is a different color than the original Rectory and in a standard running bond pattern. The widows are horizontal aluminum, awning style windows with a head and sill of limestone continuous across the length of the window openings. The addition plan is "c-shaped" creating an outdoor courtyard within the addition and original rectory.