

NUMBER 15

Category	PRESERVATION/ADAPTIVE REUSE/RENOVATION
Project Type	Mixed Use
Project Address	121 W Main St, Louisville, KY
Date of Completion	2023

ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

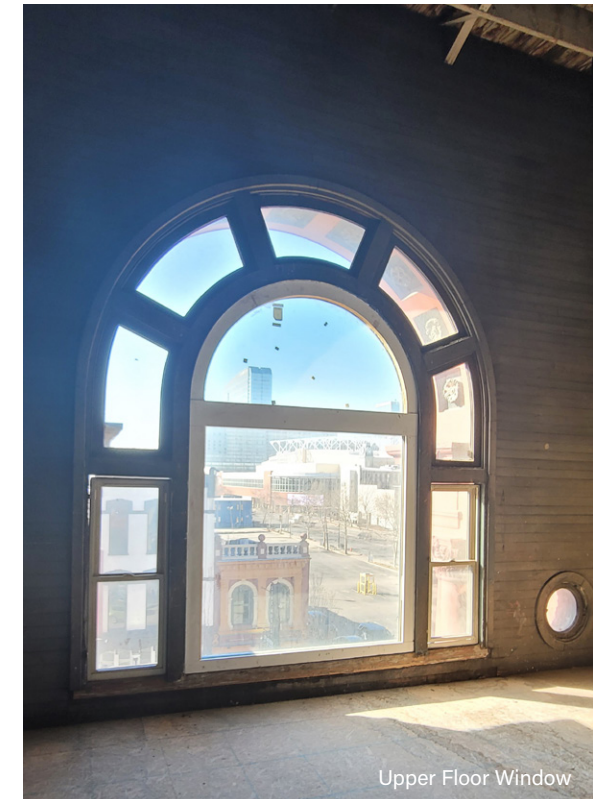
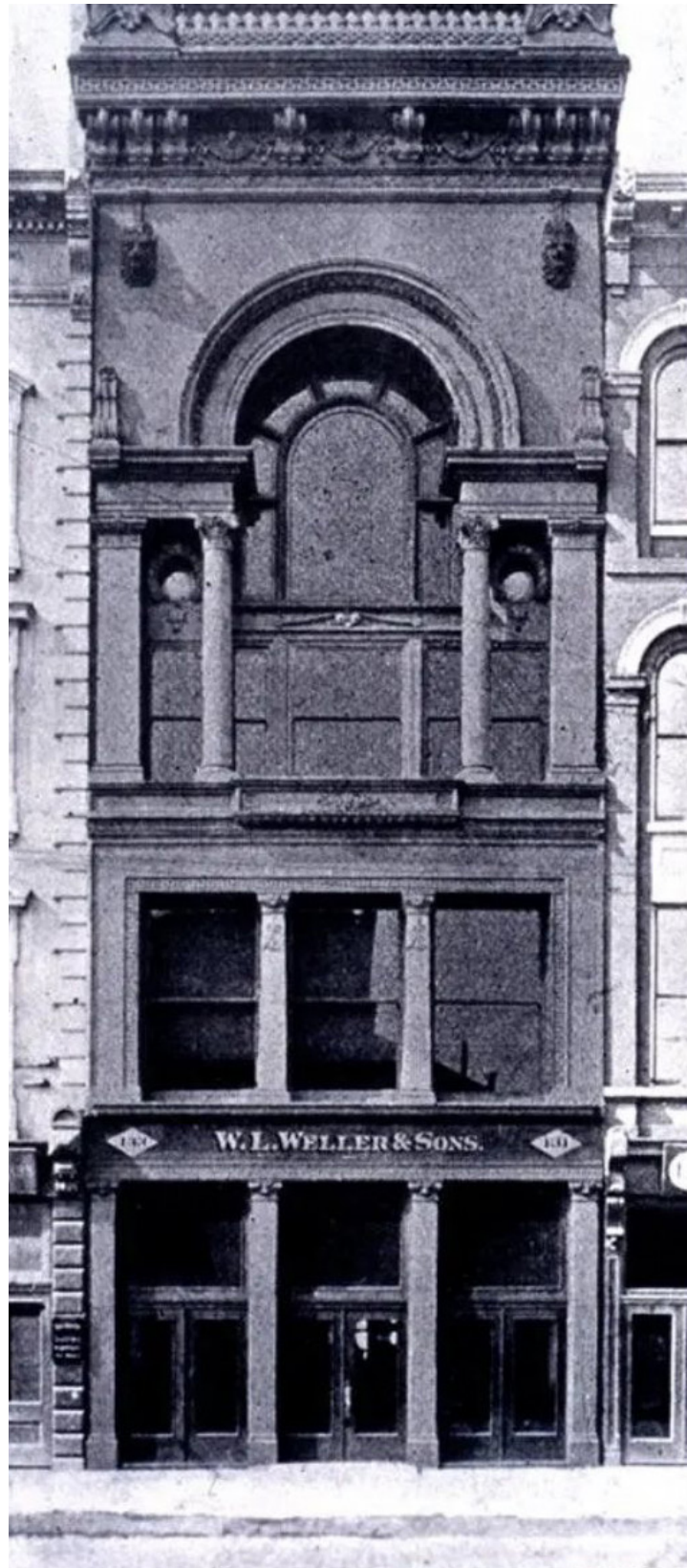
Number 15 is a five-floor entertainment venue in the nationally registered W.L. Weller distillery on Whiskey Row in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. The main two floors feature two bars, an open-air balcony overlooking Main Street and a double-height music venue. A glass enclosed stair connects the two floors so guests are always visually connected to the stage. The lower floor opens onto Whiskey Alley, with a sports-bar and full kitchen. A fourth floor features two distinctly designed private event spaces while the top floor features a 3-bedroom, 2-bath rentable suite and green room hosted by Blade & Bow Bourbon.

Number 15 establishes itself within the vibrant community of Louisville, Kentucky, and its presence continues to resonate deeply. Situated in the historic W.L. Weller distillery on Whiskey Row, this venue stands as a beacon of cultural revival and local pride with its restored red sandstone façade and large arched windows. The venue not only preserves the rich heritage of its surroundings but also redefines them, blending contemporary amenities with the storied past of bourbon craftsmanship. As Number 15 moves forward, it remains committed to evolving in tandem with its community. Whether through innovative programming, sustainable practices, or collaborative initiatives, the venue strives to be a catalyst for cultural enrichment and economic vitality in Louisville. With each event hosted, each guest welcomed, and each story shared, Number 15 reaffirms its position as a cherished gathering place and a proud ambassador of Louisville's spirit.

SUSTAINABLE + ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN STATEMENT

The adaptive reuse of the W.L. Weller distillery stands as a testament to sustainability in action, demonstrating a deep commitment to preserving resources by creatively repurposing the existing structure. Built in 1893, the distillery could easily have been demolished to make room for new development. However, the development team chose a different path, recognizing the intrinsic value of the 130-year-old building. By embracing its historic character, they not only preserved a piece of local heritage but also established it as a natural anchor within a district renowned for its indigenous charm. This approach not only honors the past but also fosters a sustainable future, where existing resources are leveraged thoughtfully and economically to meet modern needs.





Upper Floor Window



Second floor patio



EXTERIOR RESTORATION WORK

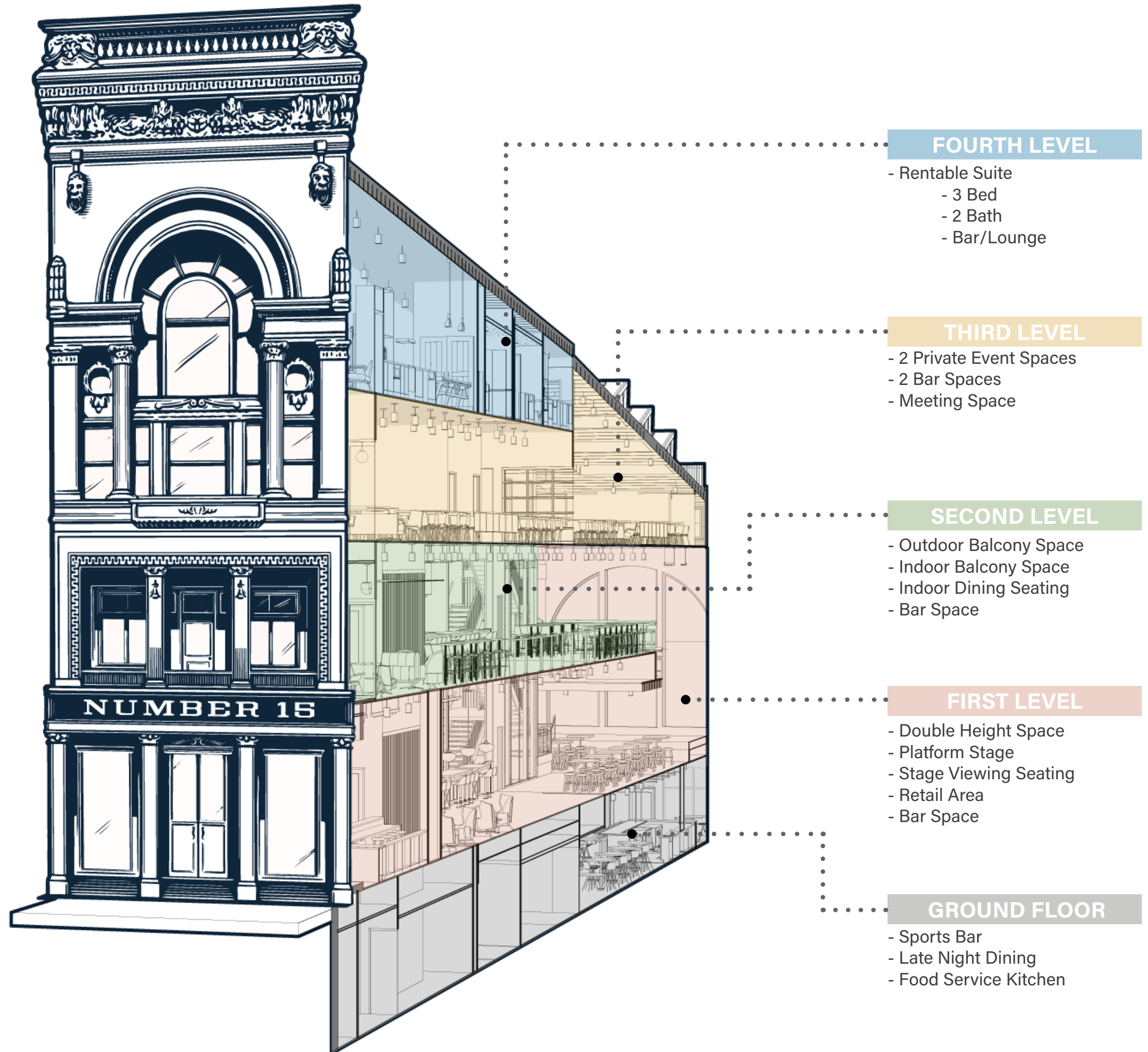
The restoration of the exterior facade of the nationally registered W.L. Weller distillery was a meticulous endeavor, blending historical authenticity with modern conservation practices. By far the most exuberantly detailed facade in the 100 West Main Street District, the Beaux Arts style building was constructed circa 1893 while owned by William H. Thomas.

The distillery building's history was researched through the University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Louisville Free Public Library Wine and Spirits Bulletins from 1908-1910, previous building owners, the Kentucky Heritage Council's 1979 National Register nomination, the Van Winkle family, bourbon historians and architectural historian, Carolyn Brooks, currently writing a book on historic Kentucky distilleries.

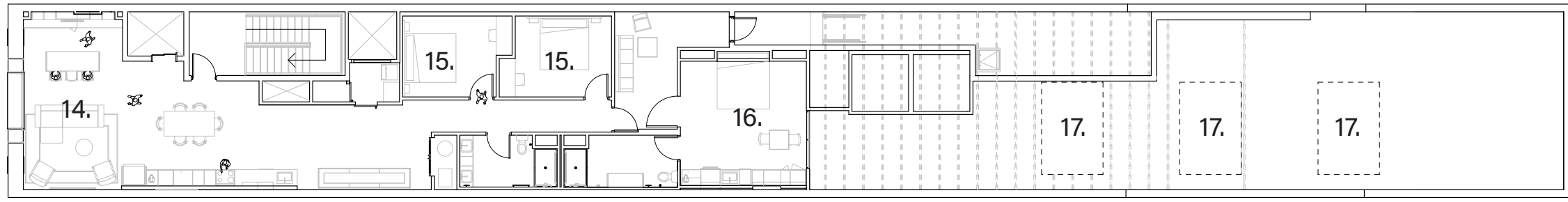
Artisans delicately removed layers of grime and weathered coatings, recoating the masonry with similar plaster slurry coat in original red sandstone color. Ornate metal-formed cornices and intricate moldings were repaired, breathing new life into the buildings openings, punctuating the former distillery's 200' depth.

Upper floor historic windows were repaired in place, with new insulation storm windows installed over the restored systems.

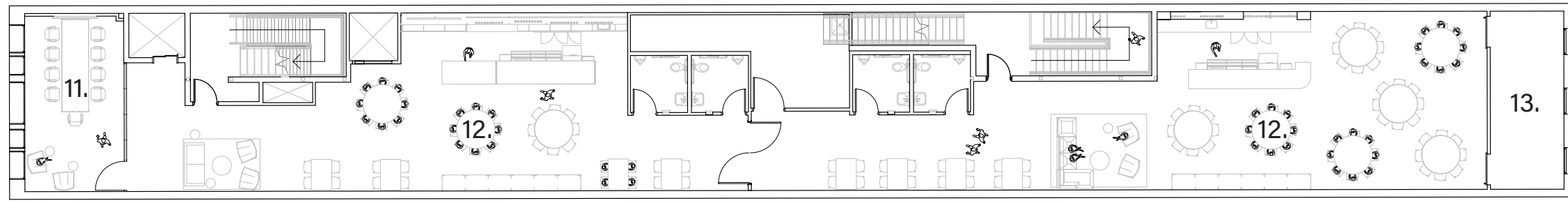
Finally, a gentle cleaning and protective sealant ensured the facade's longevity against future elements, celebrating its transformation from weathered relic to a testament of architectural preservation.



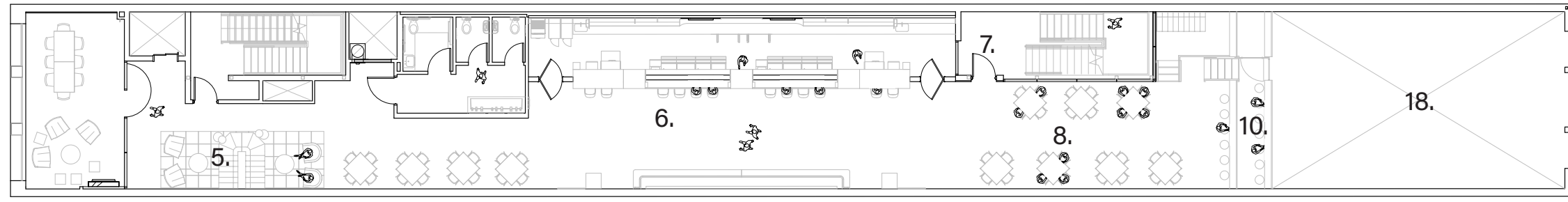
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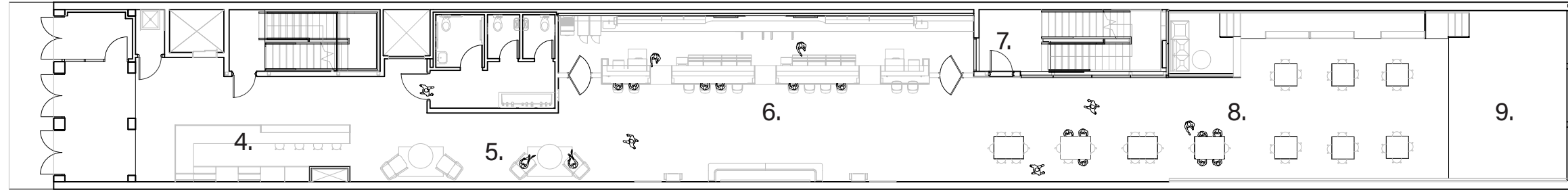
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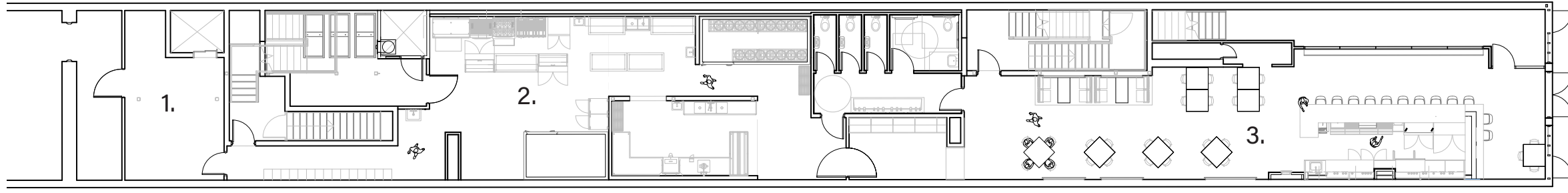
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- 1. DRY STORAGE
- 2. LATE-NIGHT KITCHEN
- 3. SPORTS BAR
- 4. RETAIL AREA
- 5. LOUNGE AREA
- 6. BAR AREA
- 7. GLASS ENCLOSED STAIR
- 8. DINING AREA
- 9. STAGE
- 10. BALCONY SEATING
- 11. MEETING SPACE
- 12. PRIVATE EVENT SPACE
- 13. AV STORAGE
- 14. SUITE LIVING SPACE
- 15. BEDROOM
- 16. MASTER BEDROOM
- 17. SKYLIGHT OPENING
- 18. OPEN TO BELOW













WATCH
OUR STEP







CASTLE & KEY
DISTILLERY

OLD FORESTER
THE FIRST BOTTLED BOURBON



Falls City
BEER

KNOB CREEK

NEW RIFF
DISTILLING

ROOTS IN RUIN
DRY GIN
RESTORATION

1870 ORIGINAL BATCH
1897 BOTTLED IN BOND
1920 PROHIBITION STYLE

SHOTGUN WEDDING
CLIFF JUMPER
COUGAR BAIT

PALE ALE
ENGLISH-STYLE PALE ALE
WIPER DRYLAND PA

KNOB CREEK
KNOB CREEK
KNOB CREEK

KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON
KENTUCKY STRAIGHT RYE
SINGLE BARREL











