



EXTERIOR VIEW - towards the restored cabin

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON WRITING CABIN RESTORATION

RESTORATION

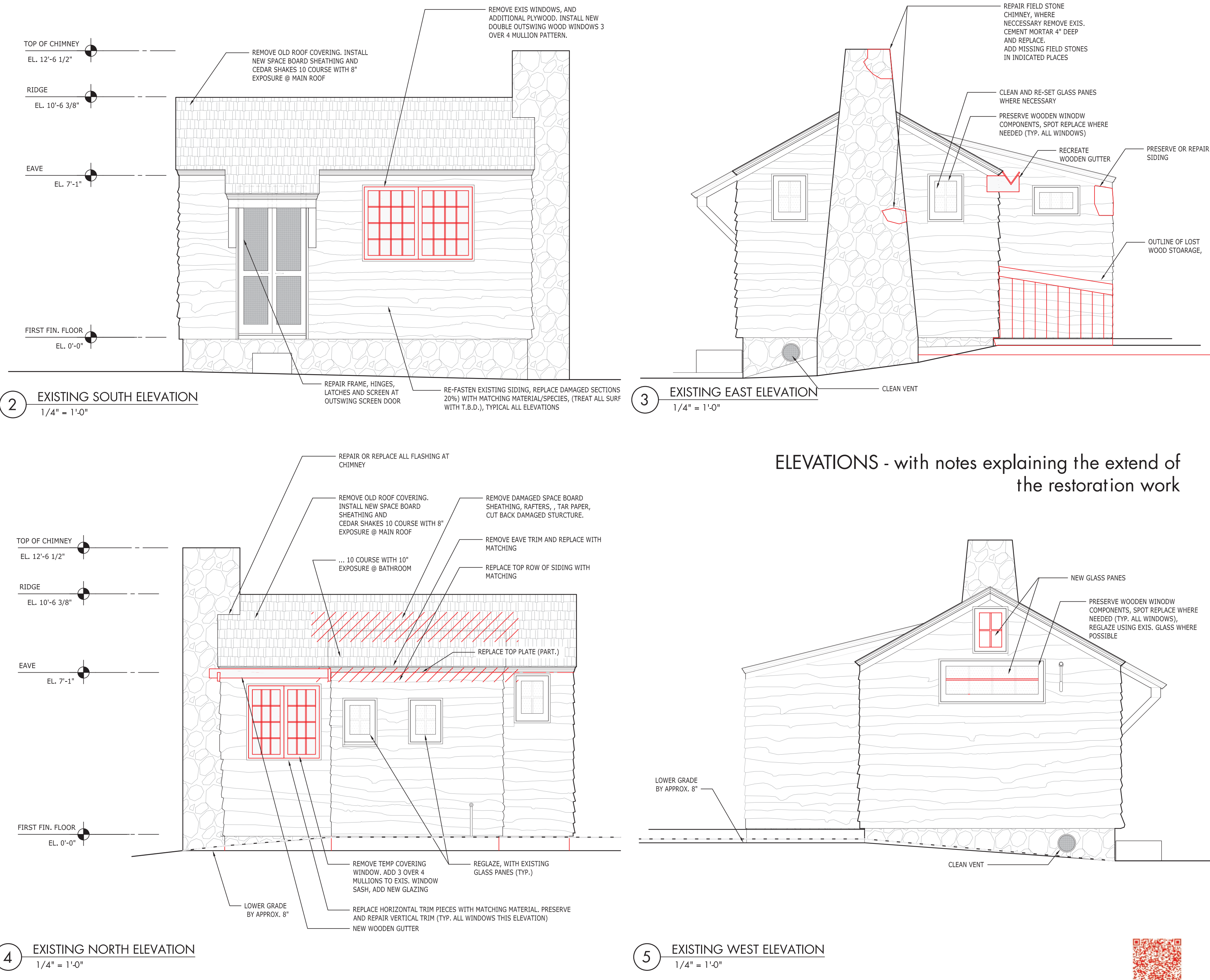
The cabin is in surprisingly good condition. The exterior mitered rough-sawn wood siding is mostly intact, along with the modest trim at the eaves and gables. The original chimney, although in urgent need of repair, is still standing. The foundations appear sound. Many of the original window sashes are missing, but there is enough evidence in the form of smaller sash and photographs to allow replication.

STRATEGY

Preservation of a maximum of historic and original fiber is the at the heart of this project. Materials and finishes matching the original construction will be employed where repairs are necessary.

OBJECTIVE

We strive to rehabilitate the studio and bring it back to as original a condition as can reasonably be accomplished, with the goal of eventually restoring its use as a writing studio and study for scholars and authors.



ELEVATIONS - with notes explaining the extend of the restoration work

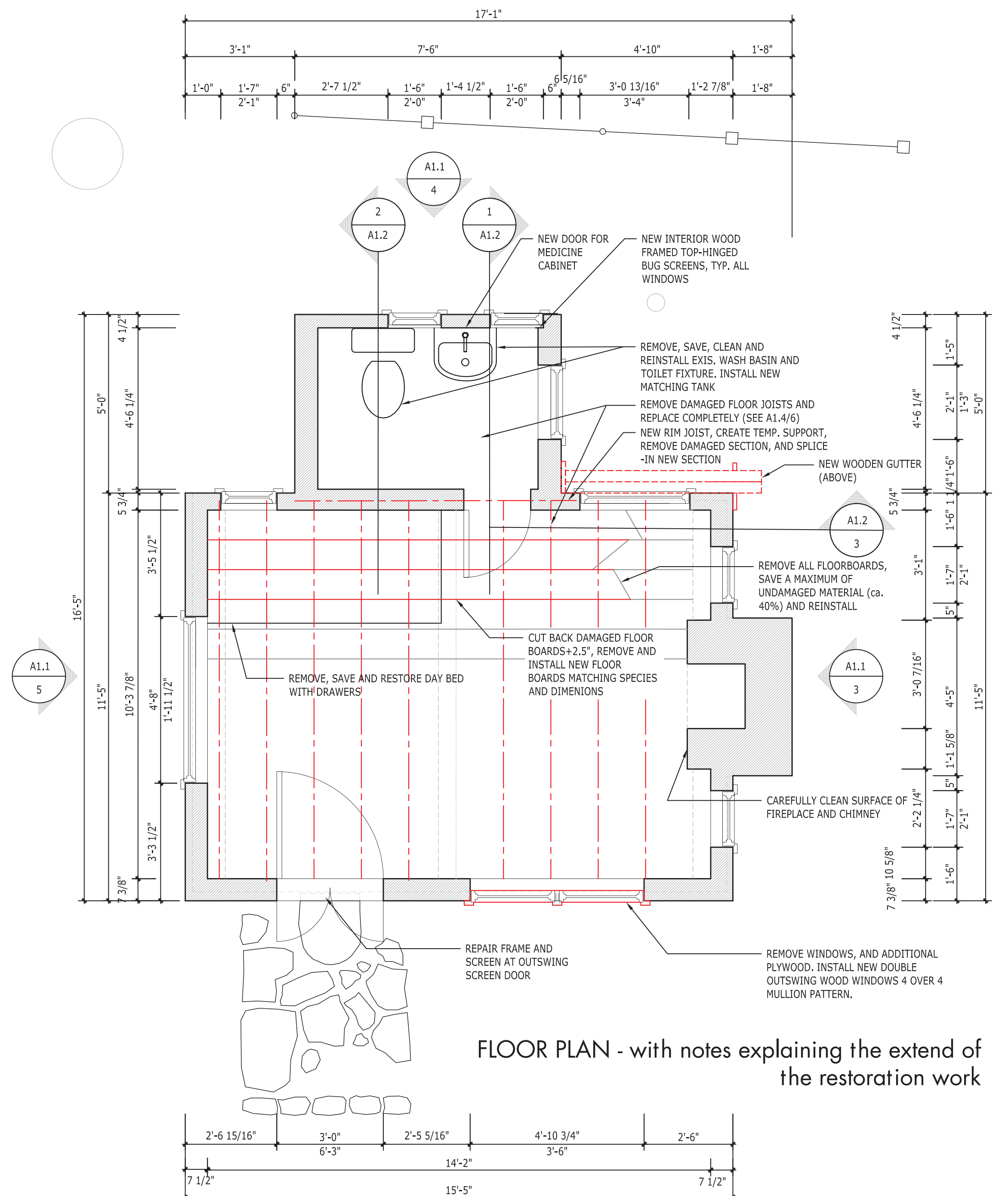
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ORIGINS

After James Weldon Johnson and his wife acquired their Berkshire retreat in the mid-1920s, this small writing cabin was built at the edge of the couple's property. With views of the brook and the distant mountains, it is secluded and yet connected to its surroundings. Although rustic in its appearance, the cabin featured modern comforts such as electric lighting, a small bathroom with running water, wall paneling and a fire place for heat.

STUDIO

The two-room, 220-square-foot cabin was used as a writing studio by James Weldon Johnson during his stays at his country house in Great Barrington, MA. The studio was the place of creation of many of Johnson's works, including his masterpiece *God's Trombones*. It provided a refuge for reflection and creativity, and a source of inspiration as well.



INTERIOR VIEW - of the restored space