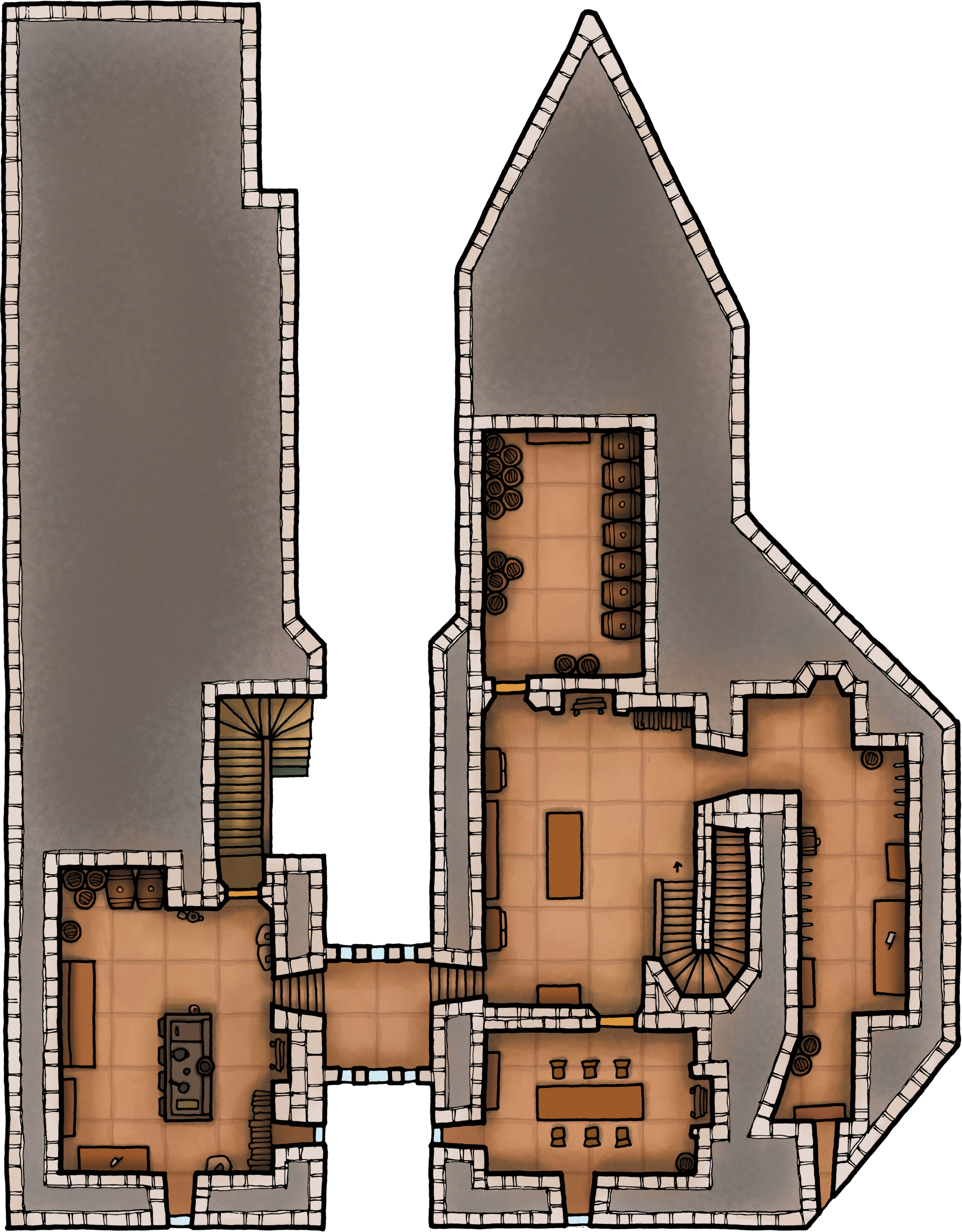
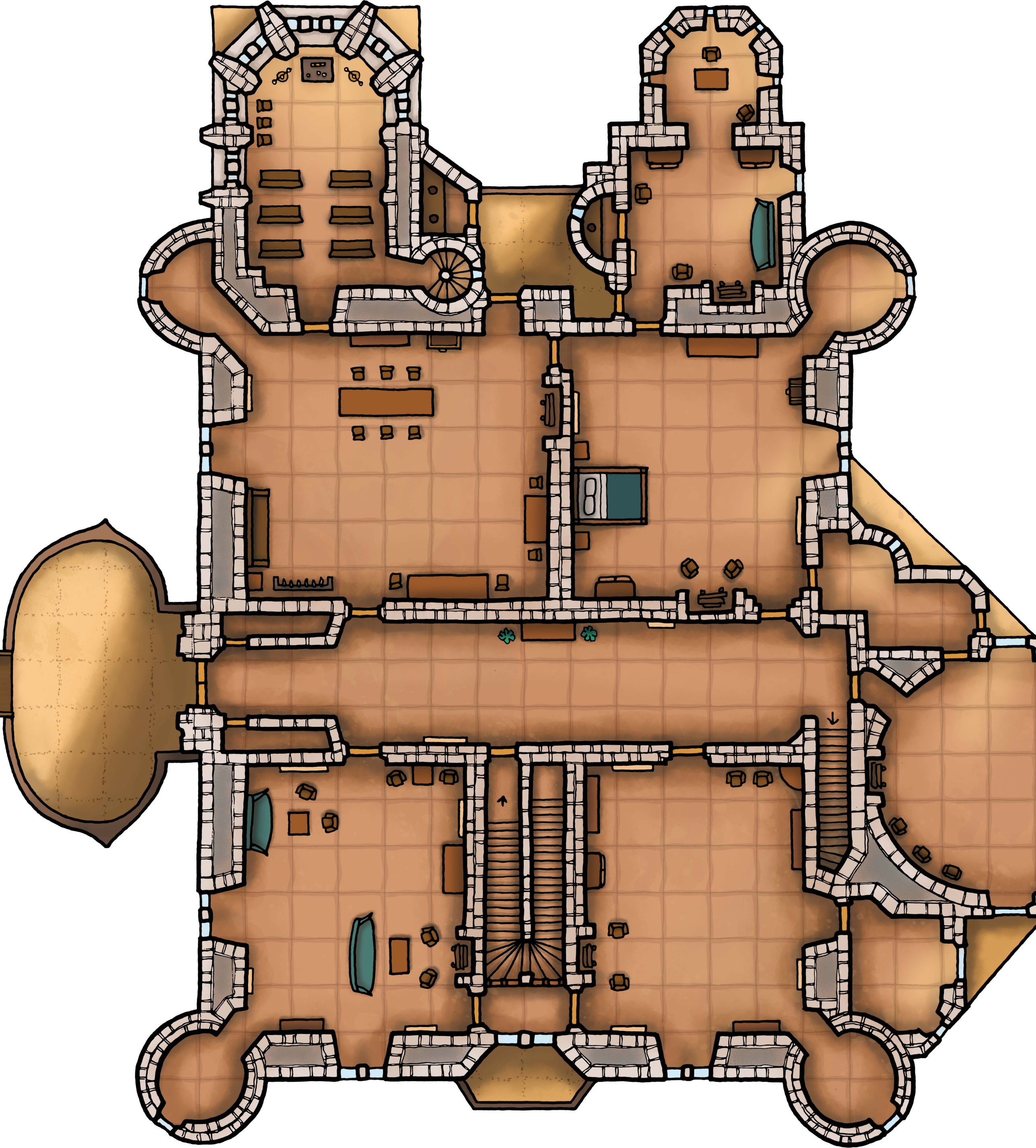
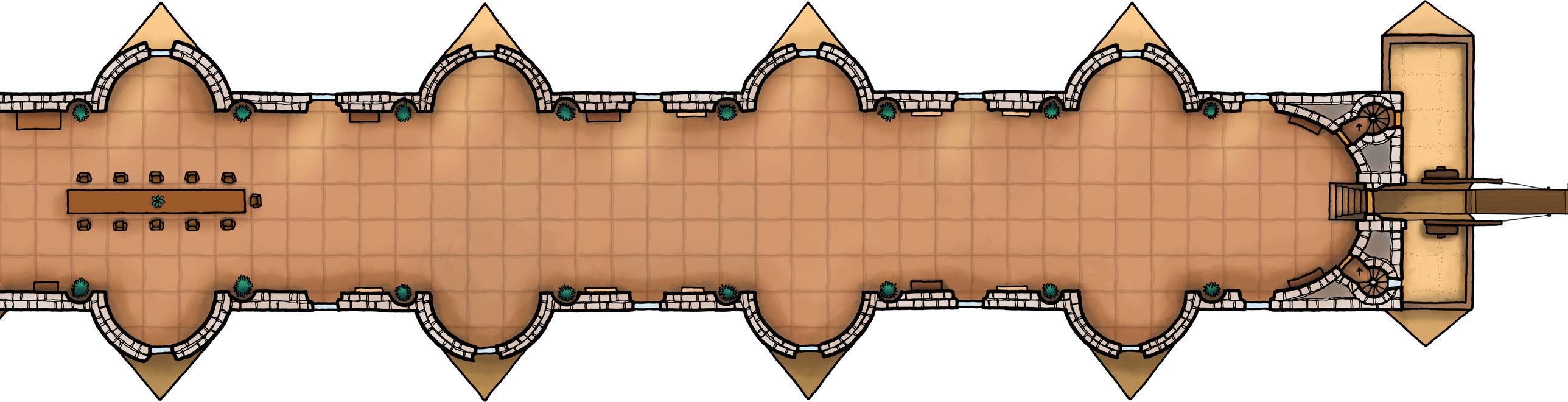
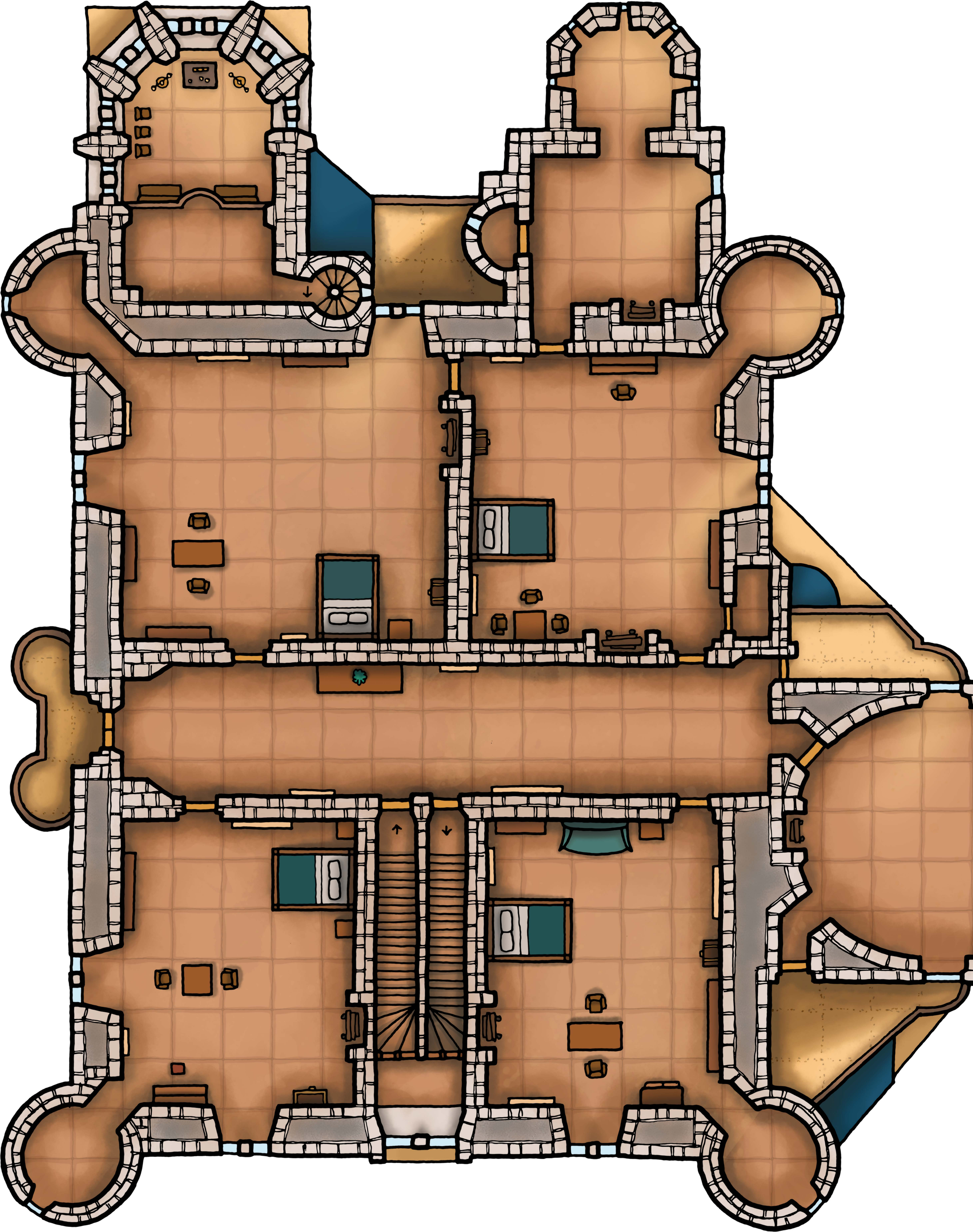
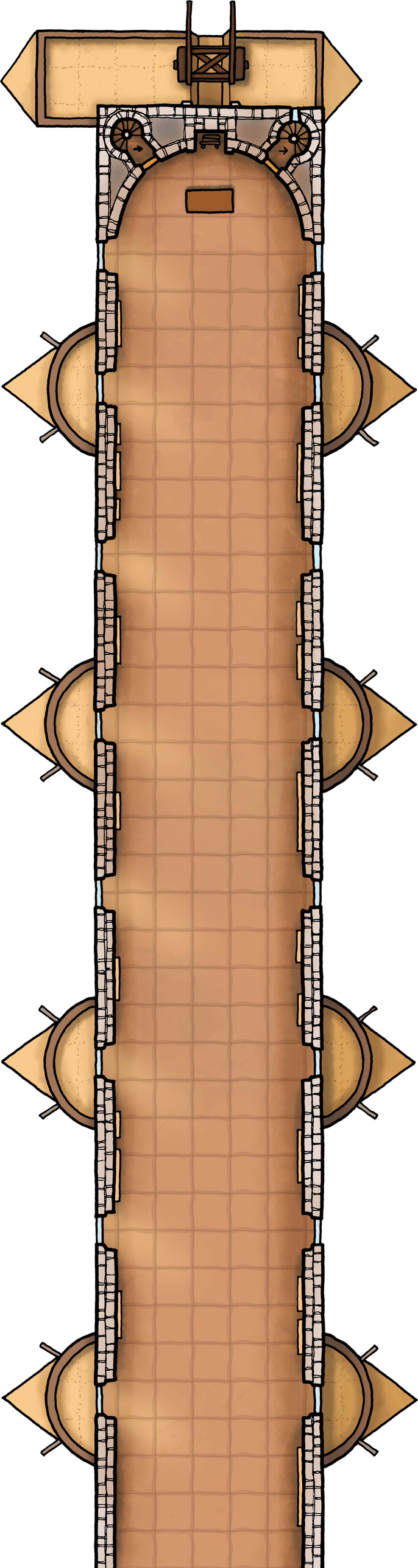
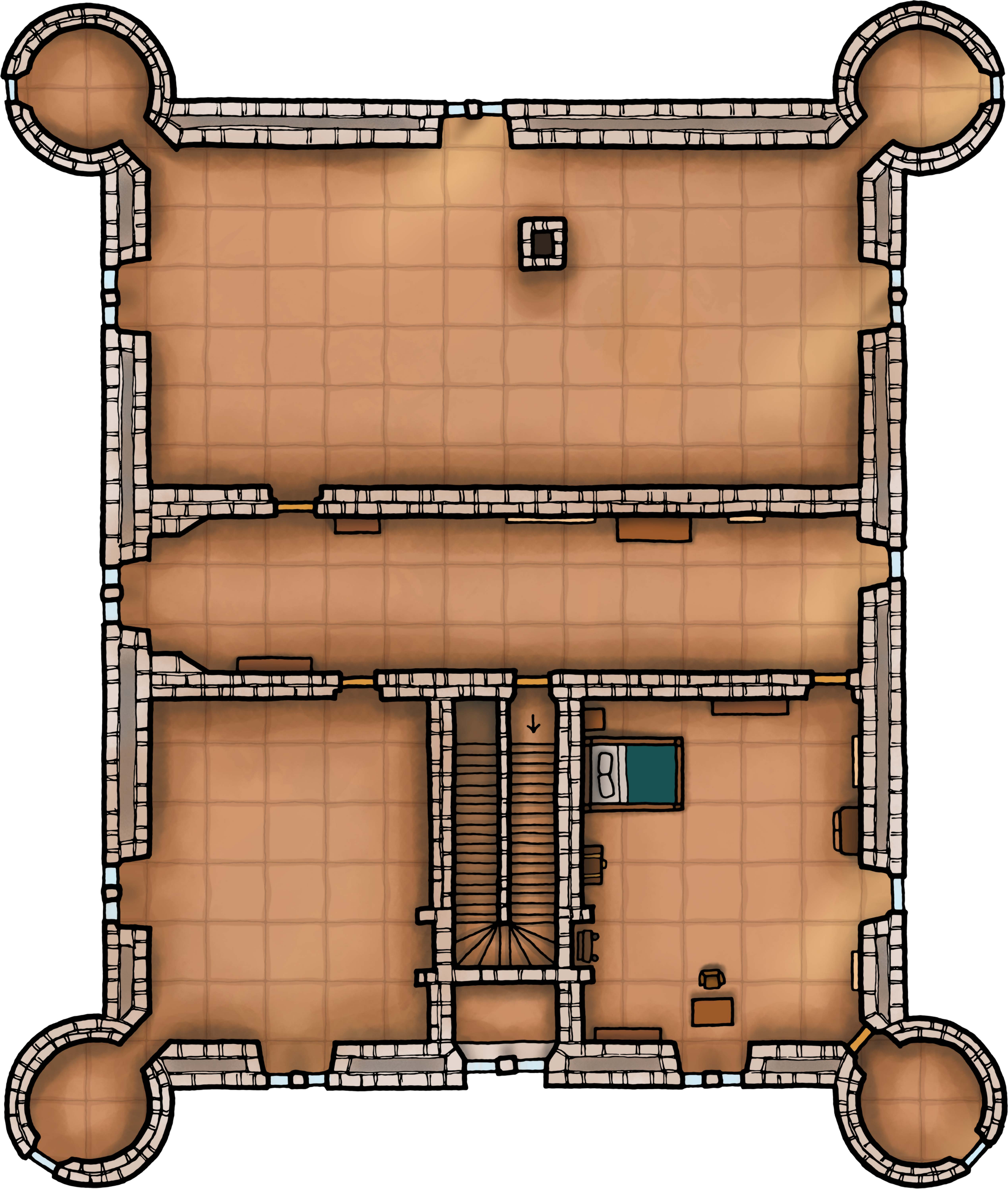


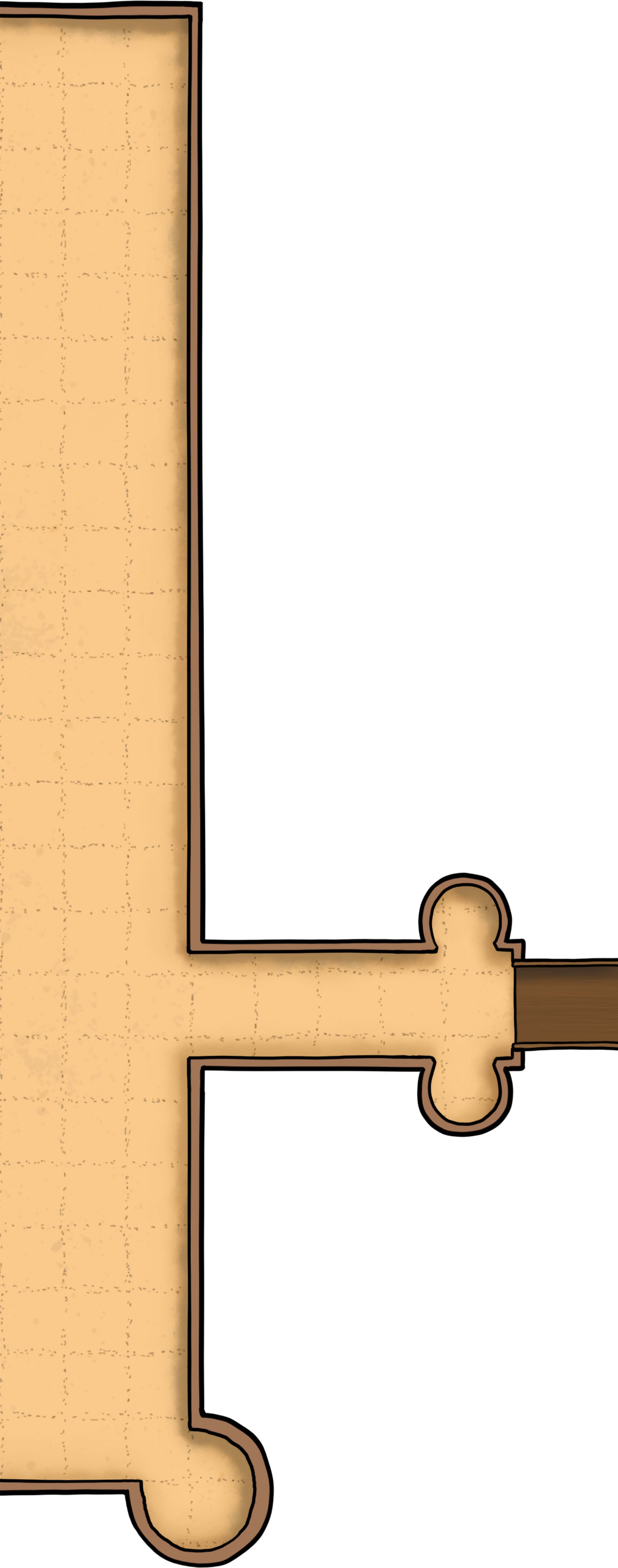


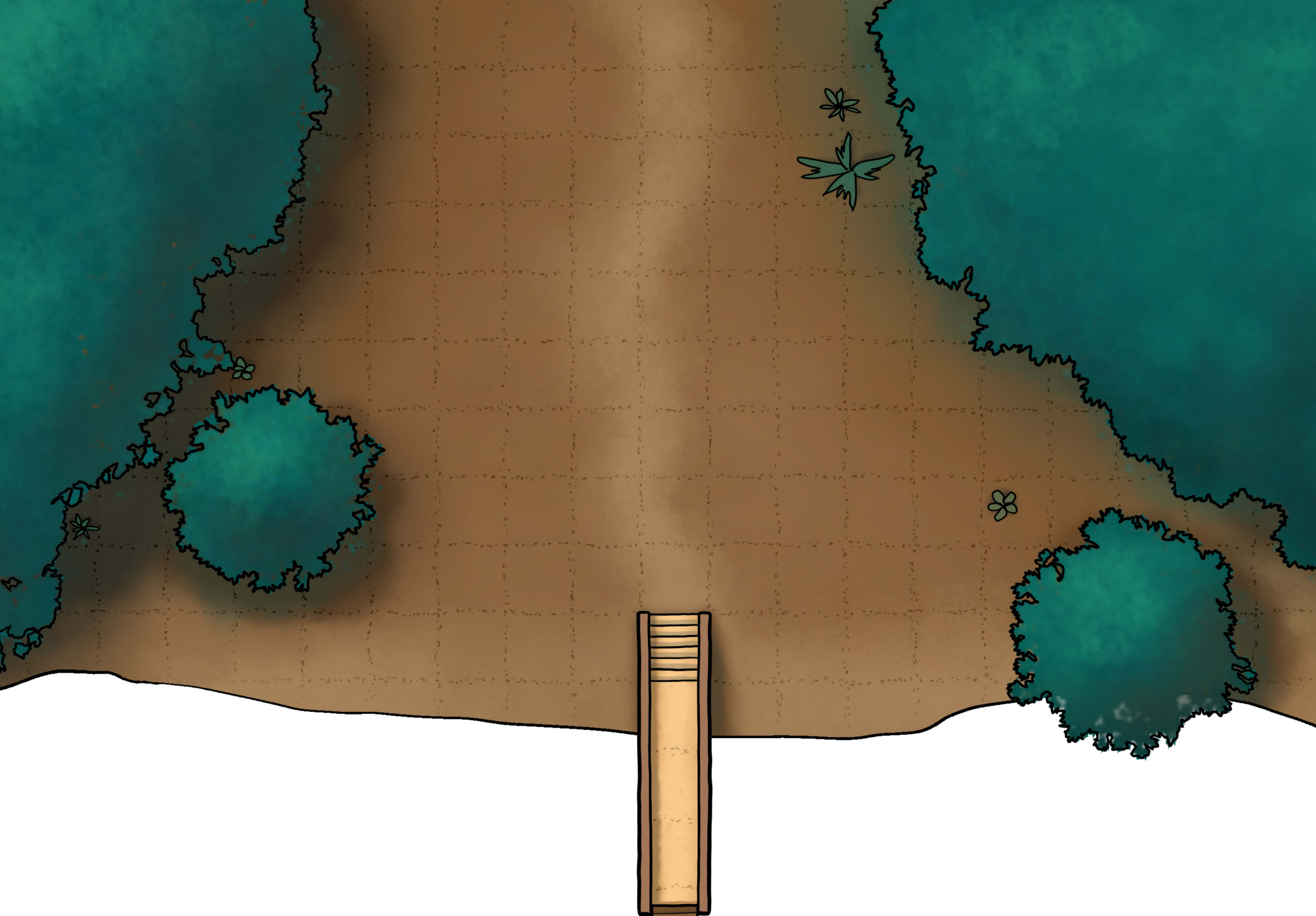












1 - Attic
2 - Unused Bedroom
3 - Guest Room
4 - Chapel Balcony
5 - Master Bedroom
6 - Bedroom
7 - Gallery
8 - Chapel
9 - Balcony
10 - Office
11 - Guard Room
12 - Cloak Rooms
13 - Salon
14 - Parlor
15 - Dining Hall and Ballroom
16 - Drawbridge
17 - Food Cellar
18 - Pantry
19 - Butchery
20 - Staff Dining Room
21 - Kitchen
22 - Dock

Château de Chenonceau

About

•The Chateau de Chenonceau is a French castle in the Loire Valley, near Tours. Constructed in the 1500s, it was built across the River Cher, which serves as the castle's moat.

•The long gallery spanning the river was used as a dining hall and, on occasion, as a ballroom. The castle's most famous resident, Catherine de Medici, was known for throwing lavish parties here, with elaborate decorations and musical and dancing performances. These galas were exceptionally wild for their time and, on various occasions, included such things as topless serving girls and France's first fireworks display. In the 1500s, these were the kinds of parties they would burn you at the stake for having. Unless, of course, you were the ruler of France. Fortunately for Catherine de Medici, she was.

•Photos of the interior of the Chateau de Chenonceau are widely available online if you want to get a better idea of what the place looks like.

Notes

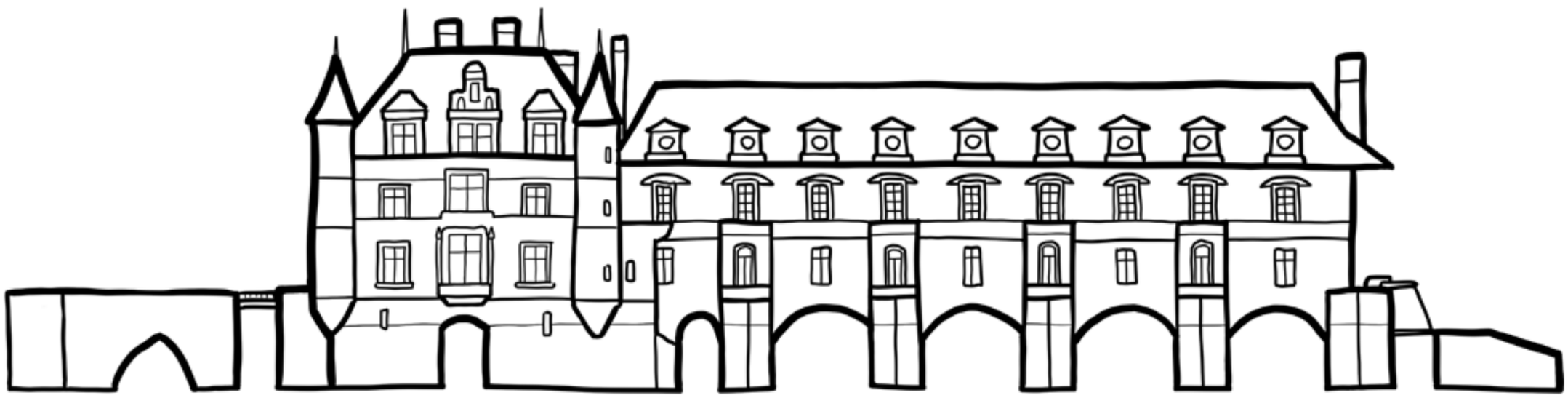
•Most of the castle's guards and servants lived in buildings outside the castle itself, although, for a time, the second floor of the long dining hall/ballroom was used as servants' quarters.

•The lowest level of the castle, containing the kitchens and cellars, is built into the pylons supporting the main structure above. The small room between the pantry and the kitchen is a bridge connecting the rooms in the left pylon to the rooms in the right.

•The "dock" near the kitchens isn't a pier, just a staircase leading into the water with a few metal rings to moor a small boat to. This allowed food to be delivered directly into the kitchens from below. It is also an excellent way to sneak into the castle, in case you happen to know anyone who might need to do so.

•The small, square bit of wall in the attic surrounds the chimney of the fireplace in the room below.

•The entrance on the castle's right-hand side is connected to the shore by a drawbridge. The entrance on the left is connected by a wooden bridge that can be destroyed in the event of an attack.

•The windows that lead out to balconies-- such as those along the sides of the second-floor gallery-- are also doors that can be opened and walked through.

•The ledge upon which the arms of the drawbridge sit is about ten feet (3m) above the walkway below.