SOUTHERN ARCHITECT

AUGUST 1959
Tower in the Sky...

Towering against the Miami skyline, the First National Bank Building makes a striking architectural contribution to a thriving metropolis. Space, comfort and efficiency are wrapped up in a shining building that is uncompromising in line... warm in feeling... a product of the latest construction techniques and materials.

In this beautiful, multi-story building, Solite lightweight structural concrete was used to back the building's precast, tilefaced panels. Since Solite concrete is 1/3 lighter than ordinary concrete, the tremendous dead-weight of the panels was offset and the structural system of the building considerably reduced.

Solite's light weight and strength, its complete adherence to performance under test conditions have led to its use in many of the most outstanding construction projects along the Eastern seaboard. In fact, Solite's many inherent advantages... its compatibility with all building materials and techniques... have made it the natural choice for all types of construction.

WHATEVER YOU BUILD—The professional advice of an architect or engineer can save you time and money—and provide the integrity of design that means lasting satisfaction.
The thanks of the entire Chapter go to the Western N. C. Council of Architects for a very fine Summer Meeting in Asheville in mid-July. Especially do we thank our Asheville colleagues for the excellence of the program, the hospitality, and the activities. The predominant sentiment seemed to be to the effect that a new high water mark was reached for a Summer Meeting. Certainly the panel discussion on City Planning on Friday morning was of outstanding quality by any standard. Numerically, the registration was above average. The interest, enthusiasm and warm fellowship was something that one could feel throughout the meeting.

Among other business transacted the time and place for our Forty-Sixth Annual Chapter Meeting and for the 1960 Regional Conference were made official as follows:

**Chapter Meeting**
Raleigh
January 28, 29 and 30, 1960
Hotel Sir Walter, Headquarters

**Regional Conference**
Winston-Salem
May 12, 13 and 14, 1960
Community Center, Headquarters

These events are set to type in the above manner to focus your attention on them. Right now each member should ring up his calendar accordingly.

The Chapter is most fortunate in having Bob Arey to officially accept the General Chairmanship of the Regional Conference. Several weeks ago Bob was already at work with his usual vigor and imagination on formative plans which are now beginning to take shape. At this writing his organizational structure is about complete.

Another event of vital importance to us all and one which is now official is that of the School Planning Conference jointly sponsored by the Division of Superintendents, N.C.E.A., the Division of School Planning and the N. C. Chapter A.I.A. Three successive area conferences will be conducted as was done in 1958. The time is either early January or early February, 1960. The places are Asheville, Sedgefield and Goldsboro. Plans for these meetings are well under way. Our Chapter's share of the planning is being borne by our Committee on School Buildings, whose hard working chairman is Leslie N. Boney, Jr.

As you can see, we are currently in the midst of producing or assisting in the production of these three highly important and well organized events as scheduled above. Two weeks ago at this writing we were working on four at one time, while still carrying on the normal day to day business of the Chapter. The success which we must and will achieve requires whole-hearted cooperation and willing assistance from throughout the Chapter membership. Bob Arey cannot do his job alone. Les Boney cannot do his job alone. Neither can your President nor most of the Committee Chairmen do their jobs alone. Your President has nothing but praise for the splendid and loyal support he has received from everyone thus far. We make an appeal now for your further acceptance and execution of all duties and assignments given to you by either Bob, Leslie or your President in connection with either or all of these events.

This appeal is made not because of any doubt but rather on account of fairness to Bob and Leslie and to forewarn you to be prepared. The assignments are coming. Make no mistake about that. Many already will have been made before you read this. Others will follow on up till the last days before each event. Always keep in mind the thought that the benefits we receive from belonging to any organization are in direct ratio to the efforts we put forth in that organization.

"Shoulders to the Wheel" must necessarily be our common watchword for the six to nine months that lie immediately ahead.

Robert L. Clemmer, President
N. C. Chapter A. I. A.
COLOR ON THE COVER

To The Southern Architect:

Please advise whether your plans are to continue with the sepia cover as used on the last couple of issues. We had thought that perhaps the June issue was an emergency move because of a temporary paper shortage or something of the like, but the July issue seems to refute that assumption.

As you can appreciate, this makes our style of trying to capture photographic brick details look mighty sick. And while we are not complaining nor recommending any change, we would like to consider moving to inside space if this tinted cover stock continues to be used.

Naturally, we would regret having to make such a move since our ad has appeared on the back cover of every issue of Southern Architect since its inception.

Yours very truly,
H. B. Foster
General Manager
Brick & Tile Service
Greensboro

We regret that you are displeased with the appearance of your advertisement in the June and July issues of the Southern Architect; however we are pleased to receive your comment.

We feel that an explanation of what the Publications Committee is trying to do may seem reasonable to you and to others who may have noticed the changes which have taken place in the Southern Architect in the last few issues.

Since it was established as the official publication of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1954, this publication has retained basically the same format and editorial policy it had in the beginning. Perhaps it should remain so but the present Publications Committee does not think it should. We believe that the status quo is a step backward. We want those who see the magazine to be aware of it and to read it. We want it to represent the quality and taste of the Architectural Profession in North Carolina. This can only be done by more substantial editorial policy and more attractive format. This is not a criticism of past policy but a realization of status and a hope of improvement. Thus this committee has embarked upon a new publication program, hoping to develop a more attractive and appealing format, a more interesting and provocative editorial policy, a more pleasing and readable typography.

Admittedly we are novices at this business of editing, therefore we propose to proceed with caution. The changes in the last three issues (and in this issue) have been experimental to some extent and they do not express permanent policy. We have made mistakes and we'll make others; however, we feel that the end result will produce a more attractive and readable publication. If such is the case, we all stand to benefit through a greater reading public.

We ask that you and others have patience with our efforts and we welcome any comment on our work.

—NCAIA Publications Committee

OLD JOHN & YOUNG BURT

To The Southern Architect:

There appears in the current July 1959 issue of Southern Architect, (vol. 6 No. 7) the news item of the reappointment of Mr. John Ramsey to the North Carolina Board of Architecture this article also stating that he (Ramsey) was the youngest architect ever to be appointed to the Board. (N. C. Board of Architecture — formerly the N. C. State Board of Architectural Examination & Registration)

In all good fun I am going to take issue with this statement since "Old John" was (according to the 1955 A. I. A. Register) born on September 23, 1915, was appointed in May 1954 and was (according to my calculations) 38 yrs. & 7 months of age.

I was born on July 4, 1899, was appointed in May of 1937 to fill the unexpired term of the late Harry Barton, at that time being 37 yrs. & 10 months of age.

This letter is not to be construed that I am (or was) the youngest architect to be appointed to the Board since some research might develop another still younger, however, I ain't going to let "Old John" out-do me on this score.

Cordially,
J. Burton Wilder, AIA
Greensboro
AWARD COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The American Institute of Architects and the National Association of Home Builders announce the first in a series of yearly Awards of Honor to encourage the design and construction of the best communities and homes for the American people by promoting the collaboration between architects and builders. This Award will be made to the architect-builder team which has contributed the most to any one or more of the following categories:

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- INDIVIDUAL HOUSE DESIGN
- IMPROVEMENT OF BUILDING TECHNIQUES
- PUBLIC SERVICE
- ARCHITECT-BUILDER RELATIONSHIPS
- SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTE OR NAHB

ELIGIBILITY: Any architect-builder team which has collaborated on a project since January 1, 1958, will be eligible. Only team submissions are eligible. All entries must be submitted by AIA and/or NAHB Chapters or by the National Organizations of either AIA or NAHB. It is preferable but not necessary that entries be made jointly by AIA and NAHB Chapters in local area.

AWARDS: The architect and the builder of the building team will each receive a plaque and a certificate attesting to the Award of Honor. The presentation of the Award of Honor to the winning architect-builder team will be made initially at the 1960 convention of the National Association of Home Builders in Chicago, January 1960. The awards will also be presented to the same team at the AIA convention in San Francisco, April 1960.

CLOSING DATE: All submissions must be received at the headquarters of The American Institute of Architects postmarked not later than October 1, 1959.

Further information may be obtained by writing to the Octagon, A.I.A., Washington, D.C.

LEAFLETS AVAILABLE

The American Institute of Architects has published a series of four new leaflets written and produced by AIA's public relations counsel, Henry J. Kaufman & Associates, under the direction of the national Public Relations Committee.

The leaflets cover: "The Meaning of Architecture," residential design, commercial buildings, and school construction. They are designed as public relations tools for use by both AIA Chapters and individual architects.

The production cost of these leaflets has been kept to a minimum to make it possible for architects to give them the widest possible distribution. The price of each leaflet is $3.00 per 100 and $27.50 per 1,000. The minimum order is 100 copies.

The Southern Architect will print these leaflets as a series beginning with this issue (see page 7). If you wish to order more copies contact NCAIA, Box 408, Raleigh.

NCAIA SUMMER MEETING EVENTFUL

The 1960 Summer Meeting of the N. C. Chapter American Institute of Architects, held in Asheville at the Grove Park Inn July 16-18, was one of the most pleasant and informative in the Chapter's history. The program, under the general theme "Continuing Education For the Architect" featured a panel discussion on "Factors Influencing Town Planning." The session was held Friday morning before a large audience including many invited guests. Panelists were Werner Sensbach, native of Germany and now of Columbia, S. C. with the City Planning Department, who discussed the differences in American and European cities, and showed slides of areas and outstanding buildings in both; George M. Stevens, Jr., native of Asheville and now of Raleigh with the State Highway Department, who spoke on the effect highway planning can have on city planning and of the plans of the highway Department in North Carolina; and Philip Hammer of Atlanta, who traced the change in the land use, noted the "Second Industrial Revolution" and spoke on planning of downtowns, suburbs. The panel was moderated and a summation given by Barclay Jones of the University of California, who is currently at the University of North Carolina. Another feature of the meeting was an address "A Tax Deductible Retirement Program" by G. T. Lumpkin, Jr. of Wachovia Bank & Trust Company of Winston-Salem.

On Friday evening during the Chapter banquet Chapter President Clemmer, gave to Past President William R. James, Jr. of Winston-Salem, on left in the photo, a sterling silver bowl in recognition of past service. Among guests at the banquet were Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Bradshaw of Salisbury, President of the Carolinas Branch Associated General Contractors of America, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Colburn of Asheville, President-elect of the Professional Engineers of North Carolina, Mr. John Skinner of Miami, Fla., former Regional Director of the Old South Atlantic Region.

The meeting was opened by Mayor Earl Eller, who extended greetings to the group. Two new members were recognized during the meeting: James L. Brandt of Raleigh and John Angelo Forlidas of Charlotte, and also Frank C. Branon, Jr. of Raleigh was re-admitted to membership. The Annual 1960 Meeting was voted to be held in Raleigh's Hotel Sir Walter January 28-29-30 with the Raleigh Council of Architects to act as hosts.
If you live in a house, send children to school, worship in a church, work in a place of business, seek entertainment in a theater, dine occasionally in a restaurant, place your money in a bank, trade in a variety of retail stores, drive a car made in a factory, bind up your family's wounds in a hospital, and demand a reasonable amount of consideration and protection from your courthouse, police station, and firehouse... read on.

TO THE MAN
WHO IS NOT AN ARCHITECT:

ARCHITECTURE IS YOUR BUSINESS, TOO...

It affects your movements, your senses, your comfort, and your pocketbook. You should know more about it.

Architecture is the design of spaces. For example, the arrangement of spaces inside a well-designed house keep children from running across the living spaces of adults. Noisy living spaces are separated from quiet sleeping spaces. In a school, imaginatively-related spaces provide the best education for the tax dollar. The spaces inside a good business building aid production efficiency by keeping the product or key document moving in a straight work-flow line.

Architecture is also the design of outside spaces; the way a house is situated on a lot, for instance, to let in light without unwanted heat, and provide privacy from neighbors. It is also the way these lot spaces are related to each other to form a neighborhood, and the way neighborhoods are related to each other to form a community.
A good deal also depends on the spaces between spaces; good planning enhances property values by providing an easy link between the house and retail store without jamming them together to the detriment of both. (Pulling them too far apart, of course, is just as bad.)

Planning spaces and their relationship to each other is the meaning of function in architecture, sometimes called utility. The way these spaces are arranged can produce beauty; another requirement of architecture. The way the enclosure is held up is the engineering part of architecture; the provision of strength.

The principles of good architecture have remained unchanged since antiquity. The words of the ancient Roman, Vitruvius, were paraphrased so well by Sir Henry Wotton in about 1600 that they are still quoted. He said: “Well building hath three conditions: commodity, firmness, and delight.” It’s still the same — function (commodity), strength (firmness), and beauty (delight).

Function is really the social purpose of any building. It is the architect’s job to establish it in detail and translate it into the special language of design which an architectural education and practice — and only this study and experience — make possible.

What is to happen in your building? How many people will do it, and how will it be done? What result do you hope for? These are some of the key questions the architect must ask to translate the building’s social needs into that design of spaces which provides Vitruvius’ commodity.

Strength, or the ancient Roman’s firmness, is provided by the building systems of any age. Four thousand years ago, the people of western Asia used the post and beam. The same system was refined by the Greeks. The Romans borrowed it, invented concrete, and inaugurated vault and dome construction. Centuries later, vault and dome construction was perfected in the Gothic architecture of western Europe. Renaissance architecture and the Baroque, Georgian, and Colonial forms which followed held nothing new in structural development. The nineteenth century was unique in architectural history in that it was a period of imitation in both the building systems and the appearance of previous eras. In many cases, this imitative hangover persists to this day.

A new method of building wasn’t developed until the twentieth century, when modern steel made possible the development of the structural frame on which walls could hang like curtains. Today, the architect’s search for new and better forms has led to engineering innovations in complex curved structures with thin concrete shells (ever try to break an egg by squeezing it length-wise in your hand?), warped plane surfaces, and other methods of utilizing the complete tensile and compressive properties of materials and forms.

Today’s architecture draws from many systems, using the old when it is indicated and the new when it is appropriate. Thus the system itself, while necessary, follows and is subordinate to the functional forms that grow out of human needs.

Beauty is an abstract word which is usually associated with some form of art. Architecture is an art form, as are music, painting, and sculpture. Like the latter two, it is a visual art, but unlike all three, it shelters people and is a primary aid to living. Man has sought beauty in one form or another since he crawled into a cave. He scratched decoration into the head of his stone ax; the walls of his earliest caves are covered with primitive drawings and paintings.

A public appreciation of art generally is in direct ratio to the amount of leisure time enjoyed by the people of any age. In pioneer America, the rigid
austerity of the Puritans and the following rush westward created a psychology of expedience in building from which we are just recovering. Later, business tycoons collected art treasures from abroad and expressed their own powerful, if un-sophisticated, personalities in bizarre structures borrowed from exotic places that impressed them. Thus midwestern bankers build Mediterranean villas, industrialists painstakingly assembled medieval castles, and houses patterned after Greek temples sprang up along the Hudson.

Today, beauty in architecture no longer imitates the past. It expresses the human needs and living habits of today, growing directly out of the forms and spaces these needs and habits require. This is really all that modern architecture is — the freedom to solve a problem of design without forcing the building (and the people inside it) into a certain "look."

For justification of this, we need only look to the past. Gothic was modern in its day. (In fact, many people of that time thought it barbarous; they complained it just wasn’t "traditional" enough.) We no longer turn to Colonial as the wellspring of residential design; nor do we wear powdered wigs and knee-breeches. This does not imply breaking with the past just for the sake of doing it. The ancient Romans took hot baths and used bricks; we still do both. The point is that we use from the past what fits into today’s needs and discard what no longer fills the bill.

Today, architectural beauty exists for itself alone, as does the art of any age. It enriches the lives of people. It is also used as a tool in contemporary society. One business corporation sells soap better because of the architectural expression of its function. Another expresses its personality better to visitors; the design is part of its continuing public relations program. By avoiding the prison-like appearance of the past, the school encourages the educational process rather than obstructs it. Today’s factory removes an objection to its location by harmonizing with the character of its community rather than destroying it.

The criteria for good architecture, then, are the fulfillment of social purpose, or function; strength, or sound engineering; and beauty. This is what you should look for in any building. It is the architect’s job to give it to you.

In order to serve his client’s interests, the architect must evaluate the building’s functional needs and consider them in relation to the site, the soil, the climate, the local laws, and the available budget, to name but a few considerations. Only then is the building designed and the drawings produced. He also prepares a book of specifications describing in detail what materials are to be used and how. From these documents, contractors submit bids. When the contractor is selected, building begins under the architect’s supervision. The architect also must check suppliers’ shop drawings and samples, supervise the required testing of materials, and, as the representative of the owner, certify that the work is done properly.

These are a few of the things which you should know about architecture. There is a great deal more, of course. Writing about architecture is a little like trying to describe Niagara Falls by playing the piano. The best way to understand architecture is to look at it. The best way to plan it is to look for an architect.

This article was prepared under the direction of the Public Relations Committee of the American Institute of Architects in the form of leaflets which are available to AIA members, see page 6.
SUMMIT MEETING

Top officials of the American Institute of Architects and the Associated General Contractors of America held their first "summit meeting" in Washington, D. C., on July 17 to discuss strengthening the relationship between these two major organizations in the construction industry.

AGC President James W. Cawdrey of Seattle, Wash., expressed the hope that the same spirit of friendly cooperation between the AIA and the AGC on the national level would prevail at the local level. He submitted several practical suggestions to facilitate better cooperation at the local level.

AIA President John Noble Richards of Toledo, Ohio, reemphasized the importance of close liaison between the architect and the general contractor in order to eliminate misunderstandings and to secure the benefits which result from understanding each other's work and problems.

The representatives discussed the merits of the single contract system, compared legislative policies and reviewed ways to get architects and general contractors to play an active role in redeveloping urban centers. Other subjects considered included retained percentages and scholarships.

The meeting was the first annual top level conference between the officers and key staff members of the two groups, and future meetings will provide an opportunity to review yearly programs, discuss major problems, and combine efforts on subjects of mutual concern.

In addition to Mr. Richards and Mr. Cawdrey, others present at the meeting were George S. Wright of Albuquerque, N. M., cochairman of the National Joint Cooperative Committee for the AIA; Carl W. Olson of Lincoln, Neb., cochairman of the National Joint Cooperative Committee for the AGC; AIA Executive Director Edmund R. Purves, and AGC Executive Director James D. Marshall.

NEW ARCHITECTS

On Saturday, July 18, 1959, at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, N. C., Mr. John Erwin Ramsay, President of the North Carolina Board of Architecture, presented certificates of registration to the following candidates. The candidates qualified for registration and admission to the practice of architecture by having passed the standard junior four day, 36 hour written examinations and by having the requisite practical experience:

- Henry O. Eubanks, Jr., Charlotte
- Robert Jackson Ingram, Raleigh
- Harold E. Smyre, Hickory
- Robert B. Tucker, Monroe
- A. Eugene Warren, Charlotte
- Joseph Thomas Pegram, Statesville
- Norman Leo Zimmerman, High Point
- James Butler Westmoreland, Spartanburg

ARCHITECTURAL CALENDAR

AUGUST 4: Durham Council of Architects, Harvey's.

AUGUST 5: Charlotte Council of Architects, Chez Montet, Charlotte.

AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26: Architects Guild of High Point, High Point.

AUGUST 6: Raleigh Council of Architects, S & W Cafeteria.


SEPTEMBER 1: Deadline for items for this publication's next issue.

JANUARY 21-23: Professional Engineers of N. C. Annual Meeting, Hotel Sir Walter, Raleigh.


MAY 12-14: South Atlantic Region AIA, Winston-Salem.

Make Reservations Now

Winter Meeting

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS

JANUARY 28-30, 1960

Hotel Sir Walter Raleigh, N. C.
As a type, the savings and loan building is essentially a bank building even though the savings and loan association is much more limited in its functions than a commercial bank. This limiting of functions to savings accounts and home loans is well expressed by the name itself and should also be expressed and served by the building whether it is a main office as in The Cooperative Savings and Loan Building, # 1 at left, or a small drive-in branch like The Home Savings and Loan Building, # 2. The acceptance of savings and payment of interest takes place at counters which are essentially the same as bank tellers cages while the home loans are handled in privacy, either in small conference rooms or in conference areas set aside visually by railings.

The design pioneering of contemporary architecture has swept away the massive and forbidding facades of yesterday's financial institutions and replaced them with a light airiness that welcomes the visitor rather than intimidates him. Both of the following buildings achieve this openness and, without sacrificing their traditional dignity, express in form and appearance the services which the savings and loan association offers to the public. Although different in size, the two buildings are similar in their functions. They are also similar in that the architects were permitted to design not only the plan and the exterior but also the interiors, the tellers counters, panelling, etc. and to select the furniture, draperies and carpets which results in a unity of building and furnishings.
This 15,000 square foot building which will cost $350,000.00 contains the finest of materials inside and out. The exterior is opalescent granite and glazed brick with a statuary bronze curtain wall, the first of its kind in the area. Inside the floors are white terrazzo with inserts of Italian travertine and the walls are panelled in walnut, teak and cherry. The adequate budget permitted custom built tellers counters, wall panelling which was carved in Bavaria, a special large lighting fixture in the lobby and some of the furniture to be designed by the architect.
This 4800 square foot drive-in branch building which cost $89,500 plus $17,000 for paving and landscaping features brick and crab-orchard stone and aluminum window walls on the exterior and covered entrances to the main banking area and covers over the two drive-in windows. On the interior, the floors are carpeted except behind the tellers counters where there is cork tile. The dominant feature of the interior is the corrugated plastic luminous ceiling which provides a uniform lighting level over the entire main public area. The fronts of the tellers counters and the partitions around the conference room and office area are birch plywood.
This house situated on a heavily wooded site overlooking the Sedgefield golf course, is generous in living space. Not only does it have the usual formal living — dining spaces and the informal family room which has gained such favor in the last few years, it is built around a large central patio. The patio is screened and has an open ceiling of translucent plastic.

A variety in ceiling treatment is achieved by both exposed beams in some areas and plywood finish in others. All ceilings follow the roof line. Walls are panelled in natural finished cherry adding warmth to the overall concept. Floor finishes are quarry tile, carpet, and vinyl tile.

The exterior materials are rough-sawn siding, hand-made brick, and plywood panels, with all main trims being redwood. The siding is stained a warm brown with accent panels done in black and deep turquoise.
Governor Hodges' industry-hungry administration has copped more headlines for the Department of Conservation and Development than that department has had before in its long life — or so it seems to us. Good or bad the industry seeking has created some problems for the blond, smiling young man who is the chief planner of the little known Division of Community Planning in that department. About the first question small communities ask Robert D. Barbour in his work as administrator of the two-year old Division is “How can we get some industry?” Bob does not feel that the rosy, carefree road to progress and prosperity is paved with industry in every community in the Old North State. Some communities are suited for industry — others are not; but, from his standpoint as a planner, only through a continual and active planning program can a community develop its full potential whether with or without industry.

The thirty-five year old planning administrator is a Raleigh native who attended Campbell College in Buie’s Creek, in spite of the fact that he is a Presbyterian. After two years he transferred to the University of North Carolina, graduating with the unlikely degree of Bachelor of Science in Geology. For several years after graduation Sherwin-Williams Paints were sold by a geologist — which, we suppose, is reasonable. Returning to U.N.C. in 1953, Bob and his wife applied themselves to the grueling task of earning a graduate degree in City and Regional Planning. His background in geology was a unique, and he feels, advantageous one among all the sociologists, economists and architects in the school. The next two and a half years found him at the University of Arkansas in the City Planning Division which is the state planning agency out there. When, in 1957, the North Carolina General Assembly created the Division of Community Planning within the C and D structure, Bob returned to his native city as administrator of the new division. Since that time he and his co-workers have had contracts with twenty-one municipalities of less than 25,000 population. Of these contracts, work has been completed on three — Graham, Chapel Hill and Laurinburg.

Some ten years ago Bob married Venita Sanders, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Sanders of Chapel Hill. Venita and Bob have one son two and a half years old and are expecting an increase in their family soon.

During World War II, Bob was an Army Air Corps pilot in the South Pacific, which accounts for his “expensive” hobby of flying. Such a hobby was possible in Arkansas where he was a member of the Air National Guard and was checked out on the F80 jet airplane. Incidentally, hometown folks were shocked during World War II by the newspaper headline which said that Air Cadet Barbour’s commission would be held up — until he became twenty-one years of age three years hence. Fortunately, enough red tape was cut to allow him to receive his commission without the wait.

Readers who wish to learn more about the Division of Community Planning will be interested in the article on that division which appears on the following pages.
YOUR CITY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR:

STATE AID IN
COMMUNITY PLANNING

The rapid spread of blight and slum conditions into otherwise healthy urban areas is of great concern to city, State and Federal officials. Federal matching grants to enable smaller communities to do the necessary planning job to correct these conditions are now available.

The 1957 General Assembly authorized the creation of a Division of Community Planning within the structure of the Department of Conservation and Development. This Division, under the direction of Mr. Harry E. Brown, is legally designated to administer the Federal-aid program of planning assistance to small communities in this State.

Under the terms of Section 701 of the (Federal) Housing Act of 1954, the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency is authorized to make grants of funds, up to 50% of the cost of the work, to State planning agencies to aid them in providing planning assistance to small municipalities lacking adequate planning resources.

The program of planning assistance to small municipalities is one of Federal-State-Local cooperation and each level of government has definite responsibilities for its success. First, the local community must have a definite planning program that it wishes to carry out and must be ready to contribute the funds or services required by the State.
as its share of the project cost. Second, the State planning agency must be able and willing to administer the planning program and to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal Government. Finally, the Housing and Home Finance Agency must certify that the proposed work is in conformity with the law adopted by the Congress and must contract with the State to pay the Federal share of the cost.

In order to be eligible for participation, a community must:

Be an incorporated municipality under the laws of the State.
Have had a population of less than 25,000 at the time of the latest decennial census.
Be authorized by official action of its governing body to take part.
Have an officially created planning commission or other local body authorized to conduct planning work.
Have a definite program of community planning activity for which it desires assistance.
Lack adequate planning resources to perform the work without such assistance.

The Division of Community Planning assists eligible municipalities to analyze their planning needs and prepare an appropriate planning “project” for Federal aid. A “project” consists of certain surveys, studies, plans and other planning work which will be completed (or brought to an agreed stage of completion) within the “project period” (not over two years). Work performed as part of a project is expected to result in, or make a substantial contribution to the completion of a comprehensive plan of community development.

When planning projects from a number of municipalities have been prepared and submitted to the Division of Community Planning in acceptable form, they are combined in an application to the Housing and Home Finance Agency for a planning grant covering one-half of the total cost of the work. The other half of the cost must be supplied from State and local funds.

The Division of Community Planning pays from its own funds the administrative and supervisory costs incurred in submitting applications and in administering approved projects but has no funds for matching purposes. Therefore, it is necessary for each participating community to provide funds equal to one-half of the total project cost for work in that community. In certain instances services of local planning directors or other qualified staff may be furnished in lieu of cash, up to 25% of the total project cost.

When Federal approval of a project has been secured, the Division of Community Planning completes arrangements with each of the communities covered by it. These arrangements include the selection, in consultation with each community, of qualified planning consultants; the use of local staff, where applicable; the payment to the Division of Community Planning of the local share of the project cost and other matters relating to the conduct and completion of the work.
As a general rule, all of the surveys, studies, technical analyses and other planning work normally undertaken in the preparation of plans for a community's physical growth and development are eligible for Federal aid under this program. These include such things as existing land use surveys, economic base studies, forecasts of population growth, street and transportation studies, location plan for schools, parks and other public facilities, delineation of residential neighborhoods, analysis of housing conditions, future land use plans, preparation or revision of zoning and subdivision codes and other planning work.

However, the regular and continuing expenses of the local planning commission are not eligible for Federal aid, such as rent of office space, secretarial help, expenses of public hearings, day to day actions on zoning changes and the approval of subdivision plats, etc. It is assumed that the local planning agency is already a "going concern" and that its proposed Federal-aid "project" represents a special or additional activity that is not part of its routine operations. Although most communities have some type of planning board, few have the necessary technical personnel to carry out an adequate continuing planning program.

Likewise, the normal operating activities of other city departments and officials are not considered to be planning work eligible for Federal aid. This includes such things as the preparation of tax maps for the assessors' office, large scale street maps for the city engineer, the preparation of legal documents for condemnation cases, the assignment of house numbers, etc. Preparation of plans for specific public works is excluded by an express provision of the Federal law.

The planning work to be undertaken in a community under the Federal aid program is described in a written contract between the Housing and Home Finance Agency, acting for the Federal Government, and the Division of Community Planning, acting for the State, and is also described in contracts between the Division of Community Planning and the assisted community and between the Division of Community Planning and any private consultants or organizations that it retains to perform the work.

Under the terms of the Federal program the Division of Community Planning is responsible for providing planning assistance to the small municipalities that wish to participate and for seeing that the planning work is performed competently and within the time and cost requirements of the contract.

The actual performance of the planning work, i.e. the making of surveys, maps, plans, technical reports, etc., generally is undertaken by Division Staff or by qualified consultants retained by the Division of Community Planning. To carry out this work the Division has four planners plus another proposed for the future and seven draftsmen as well as a secretarial and bookkeeping staff. Even so, they have little time to develop the type of program which they would like to have, i.e. a State planning program to aid local communities in developing their own continuing planning program with the proper technical assistance.
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