

OCTOBER, 1966

NORTH CAROLINA
ARCHITECT



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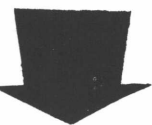
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OCTOBER 1966, VOL. 13, NO. 10

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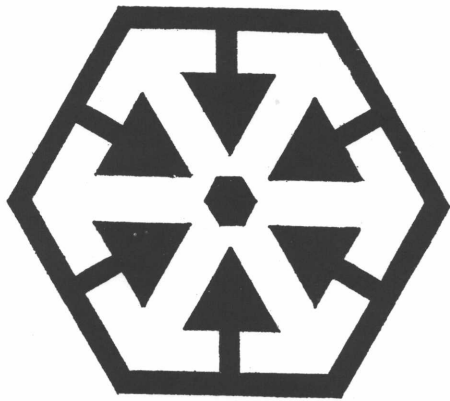
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GREATER CHARLOTTE CENTRAL AREA PLAN

A. G. ODELL JR. AND ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

The preparation of a Master Plan for Central Charlotte has been in process since October, 1964. It was financed by the City of Charlotte and the Downtown Charlotte Association and executed by A. G. Odell, Jr. and Associates, Architects. The architects were assisted by Hammer, Greene, Siler Associates, Economic Consultants; Dr. David Wallace of Wallace & McHarg Associates; and Wilbur Smith and Associates, Traffic Consultants.

During August of 1965, eight alternate plans for the central area were presented. After public and private review by community leadership, a plan incorporating all of those elements considered essential to the future development of Central Charlotte was accepted. Each major element of the plan was given a full public hearing and accepted only after a complete evaluation of all pertinent factors by the Joint Committee for the Master Plan.

Throughout the planning process a number of technical reports and memorandums were issued by the consultants. And during the 20-month period this plan was under development, a great deal of factual material was made available for appropriate agencies.

The time and talents so generously contributed by numerous public officials

and businessmen toward making possible the presentation of this plan are greatly appreciated.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Traffic Movement and Circulation
2. Convention Center and Related Parking Garage
3. Additional Downtown Parking Facilities
4. Independence Square
5. Link Between Downtown and Government Center
6. Extension of Core Area Development and Convention Boulevard
7. Central Residential Areas

II. THE GOALS

- A. Improved Access to Metropolitan Area
- B. New Convention Center
- C. Expand Number of Off-Street Parking Structures
- D. Compact Core Area Oriented to Pedestrians

E. Creation of Visual and Functional Connection between the Central Business District and the Governmental Center

F. The Governmental Center

G. Elimination of Blight on Eastern Edge of Core Area

H. Provide Close-In High Density Residential Areas

I. Recommend Sites for Stadium, Zoo, and Botanical Gardens

J. Provide for Core Area Public Transit Facilities

K. Provide Additional Parks

L. Provide for the Support and Growth of Major Downtown Functions

M. Provide Esthetic Amenities

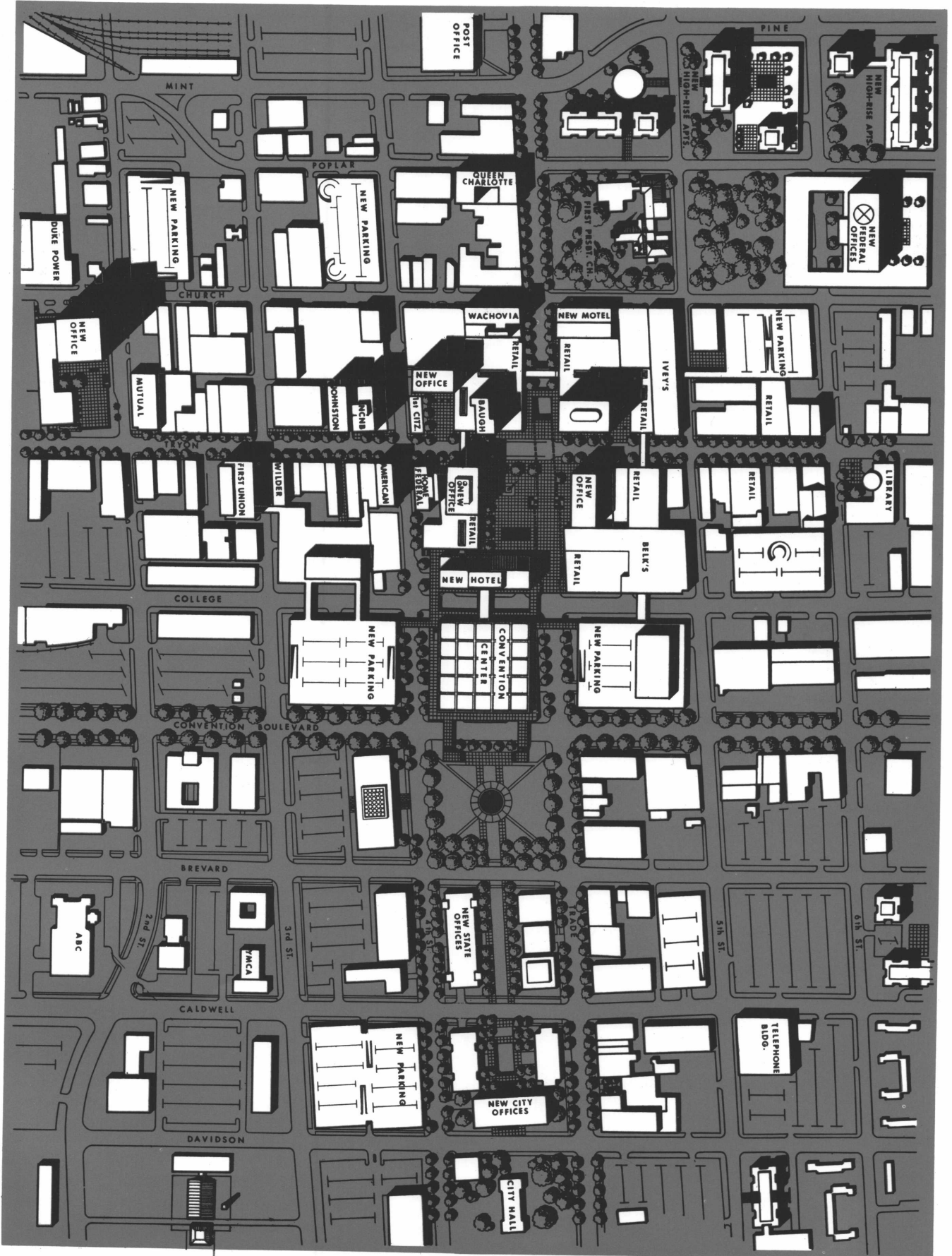
N. Recommend Sites for Future Medical Facilities

III. THE CENTRAL AREA

- A. Traffic Plan
- B. Land Use Plan
- C. Park Plan
- D. Core Area Plan



A SYMBOL
Arrows represent
two-way movement
adopted as the sign of
Greater Charlotte



NEW CONVENTION CENTER

Looking west to the Convention Center and to Independence Square from East Trade street.

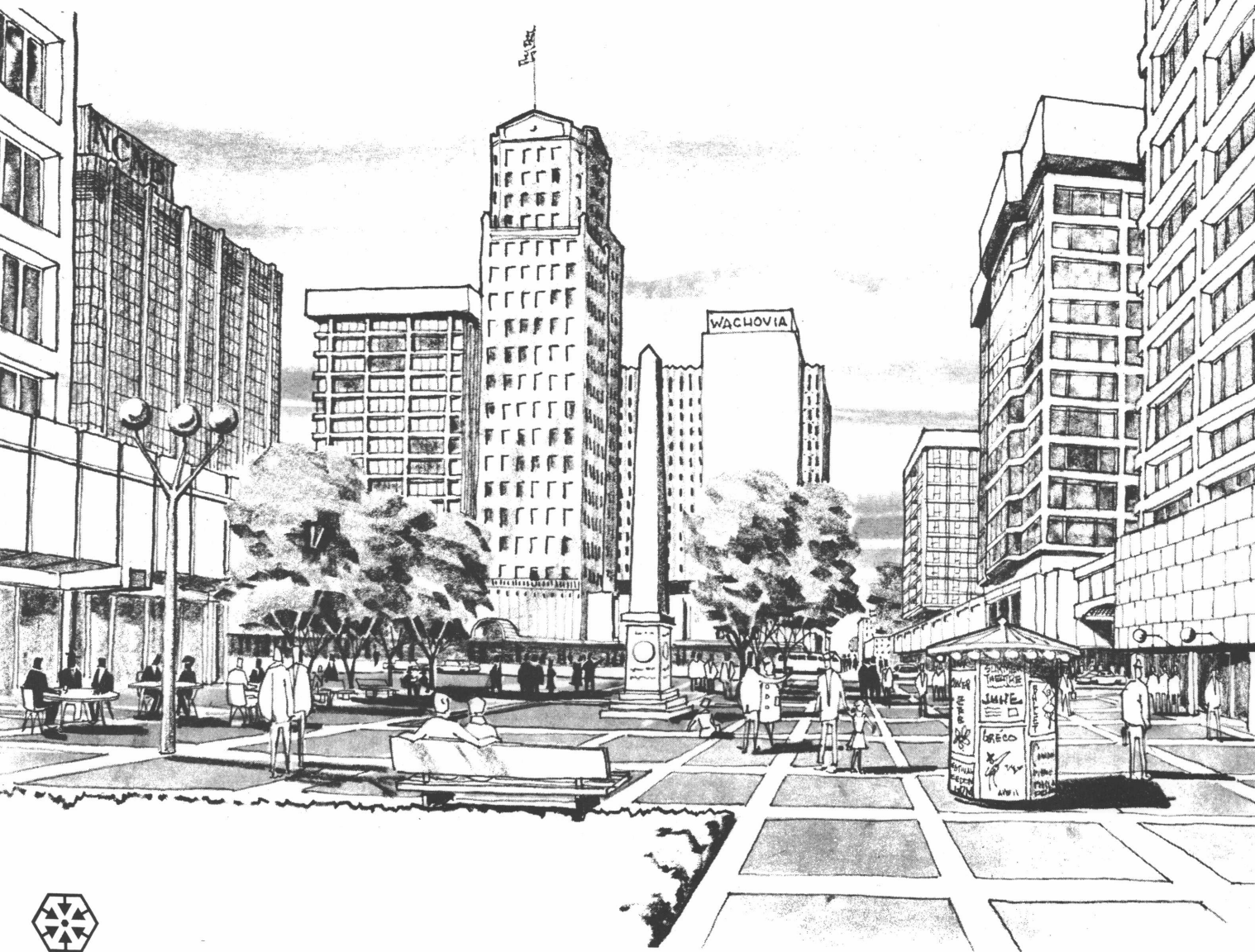


At the present time Charlotte has a considerable investment in facilities capable of supporting mass-attendance events. While the general quality of these facilities is excellent, most are located away from the center of the city and do not work to the community's best advantage. And although they constitute an impressive array of space, there is no one building capable of providing the optimum service required for mass-attendance events.

It is believed that a new downtown convention and exhibition center would be in substantial demand for consumer and commercial trade shows, conventions of all sizes, miscellaneous meetings and conferences, and other general community events.

COMPACT CORE AREA ORIENTED TO PEDESTRIANS

Looking west at Independence Square.

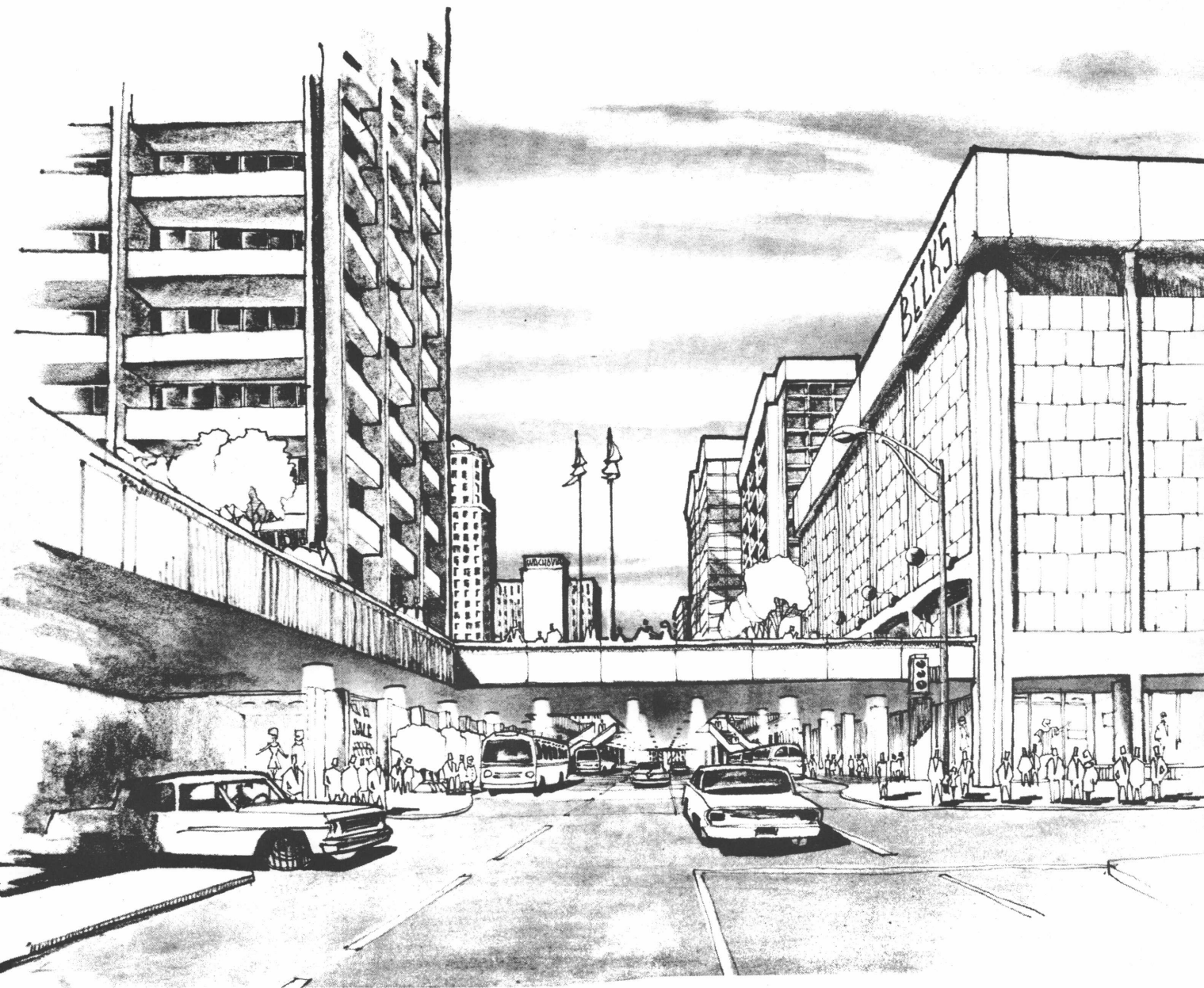


A significant public open space should be provided in the immediate core area of Downtown Charlotte to provide a focus for redevelopment and encourage a significant increase in adjacent private investments. It is proposed that Charlotte put the "Square" back in Independence Square.

The block bounded by South Tryon, East Trade, College, and 4th streets lies at the heart of Downtown Charlotte's "Independence Square." By comparison with the blocks on the other three sides of the "Square," this block is badly blighted. The southwestern corner of this block is being developed to provide that segment with a new downtown office facility.

It is recommended that the remainder of the block be cleared and redeveloped for three main purposes:

1. Removal of substantial commercial blight represented by most of the existing development in a block at a strategic location in the very heart of Downtown Charlotte.
2. Provision of first-class sites intended to encourage substantial private investment in new office, hotel, and retail space adjacent to the proposed convention-exhibition complex, and
3. Creation of a greatly needed open-space in the intensively developed core area.

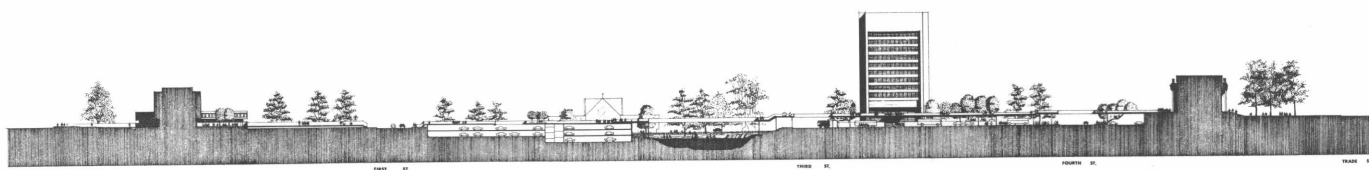


There are more than 800 parking spaces on public streets in Downtown Charlotte. The time has long passed when the community can afford to use even a small part of its public thoroughfares for vehicular parking. Neither does Charlotte have the core area street capacity to permit the blocking of traffic movement on public streets by parked service vehicles. The traffic consultants estimate that by 1980, a minimum of 120,000 vehicles per day—47,000 more than the present volume—will enter the central area. The public streets must be prepared to accommodate this growing demand, and the existing thoroughfare system must be upgraded to facilitate access from the suburbs and beyond and from the proposed inner loop expressways.

**PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PARKS TO ENCOURAGE
COMPREHENSIVE RENEWAL AND MAJOR RESIDENTIAL
FACILITIES IN THE FIRST WARD AND FOURTH
WARD AREAS**



It is further recommended that the City of Charlotte continue exploring the utilization of the Federal urban renewal program to obtain matching funds to help in the financing of public investments and to underwrite a portion of the cost of acquiring from and disposing to private land owners and developers those central area properties determined to be essential to the future economic health of Downtown Charlotte. Public open spaces suggested in the plan may fall within the scope of recent legislation passed by Congress relating to parks, open space and recreation. All necessary effort should be expanded to qualify appropriate open space for partial Federal financing.



GOVERNMENTAL CENTER STUDY

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

J. N. PEASE ASSOCIATES

Architects — Engineers — Planners

Charles DuBose, FAIA, Architect and Planning Consultant, Hartford, Connecticut

Richard C. Bell Associates, Landscape Architects, Raleigh, N. C.

Seldom is there the opportunity for a city and a county to join together in the development of a new complex of government buildings on an ample site near the heart of a city. The realities of economics and the difficulties of land assembly in the central areas frequently would hamper acquisition of an adequate site and limit the design potential of the project, so the possibility of developing a magnificent 60 acre property, which already includes existing city and county structures, is a remarkable opportunity and Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have shown great foresight in seizing upon it to plan so boldly for the future.

In the design of a governmental center to be built in progressive stages over a period of many years, it is essential that a decisive plan be established which not only states in eloquent terms the solution to immediate needs, but also makes provision for orderly expansion in the future. Adequate parking and convenient access to transportation must be provided at every stage of development, and the circulation patterns of vehicles and pedestrians separated wherever possible. These practical necessities must be achieved in a manner economically and visually

satisfying and finally the project as a whole must reaffirm the importance of the central city and contribute towards its revitalization.

Since 1924, when the existing city hall, new police, health, and fire department buildings were built, and 1927 when the county court house was completed; the center of the city-county government has been located on East Trade Street in a "governmental complex". This two block area was augmented in 1961 by the addition of the county office building between Third and Fourth Streets.

In 1958, a report by the Planning Commission proposed the establishment of a multiblock governmental center. With the advent of the urban renewal program, this proposal was given the final emphasis necessary to become a realistic project. This report is the next step in the planning process necessary to make this "governmental center" a reality—a comprehensive study and plan for the development of the center area.

Primarily, it is a report to provide necessary guide lines for the development of the governmental center through the year 2000 AD. Secondly,

it is a report to intelligently relate this area to the future development of the entire Charlotte-Mecklenburg area and to make it a vital part of the overall development.

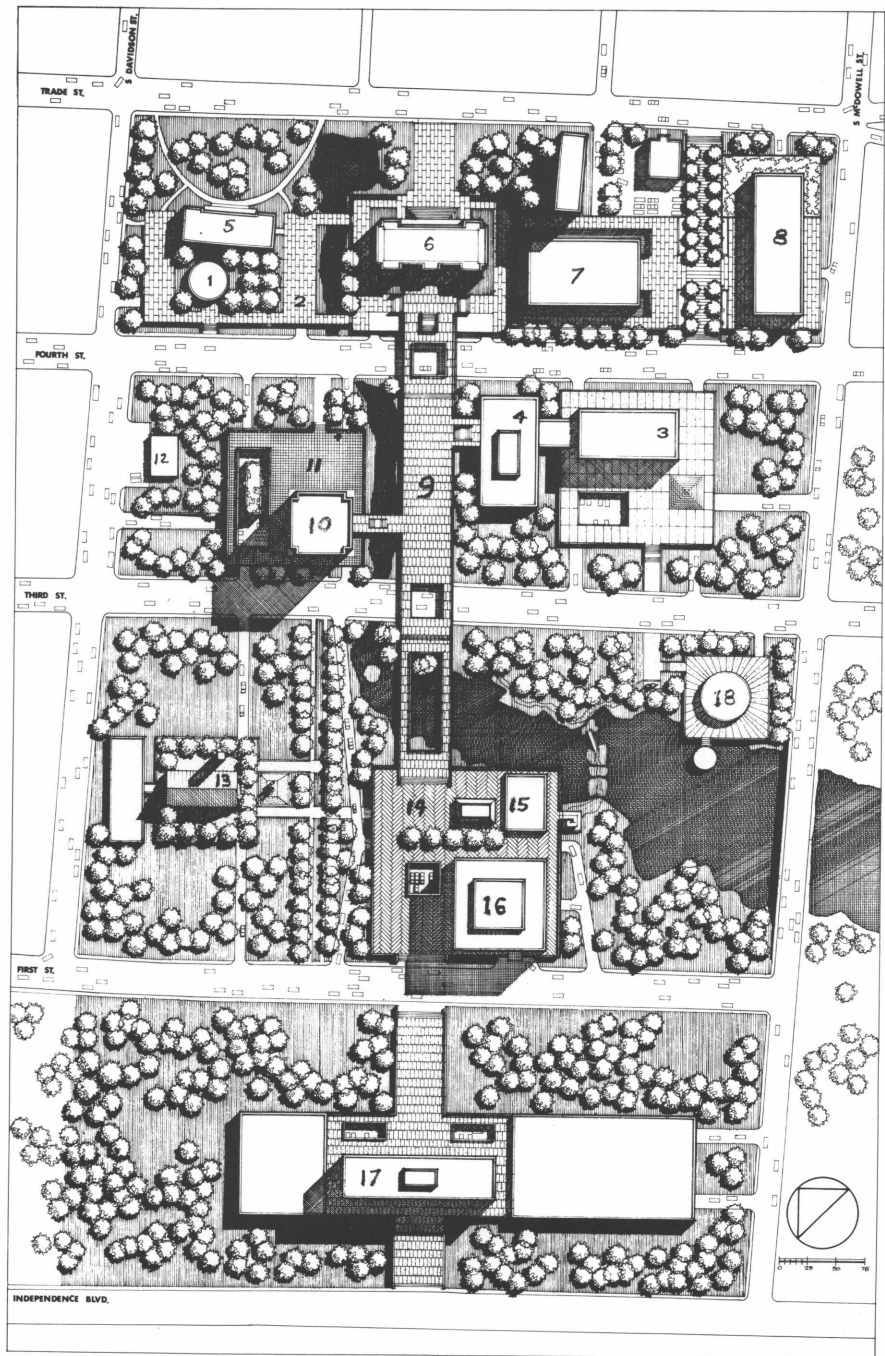
The third objective of this report, and possibly the most important, is to propose, as a part of the development of a better environment for city-county employees, a facility that will benefit the whole population of Mecklenburg County.

The Governmental Center is today well along the way to realization. A good amount of the land needed has already been acquired and three of the major new structures are in the planning stages. Yet definite steps must be taken to make the center a reality.

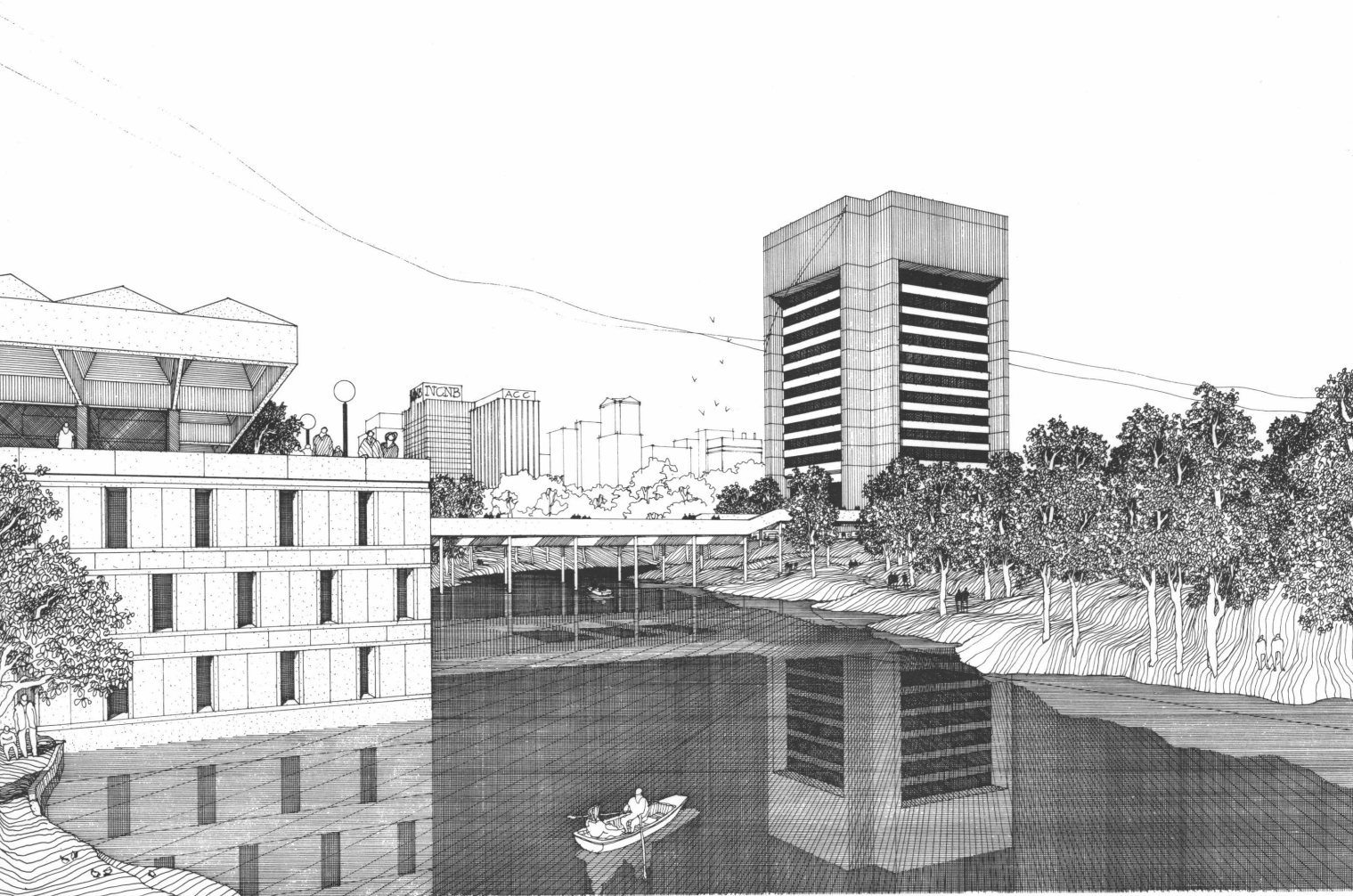
Primarily, A Governmental Center Commission must be established. This should be a small group of men with the power to make recommendations and to see that they are carried out. This group must be augmented by a professional organization of planners, architects and engineers that would be responsible to the commission for the overall planning, for the architectural continuity, and for the engineering coordination on a continuing basis.

LEGEND

1. Branch Library
2. District Court House Parking Facility
3. County Office Building Addition
4. County Office Building
5. Present City Hall, Future District Court House
6. County Court House
7. Jail Facility
8. Law Enforcement Facility
9. Elevated Pedestrian Mall
10. City Hall
11. West Parking Building Plaza
12. Fire Station
13. First Baptist Church Property
14. South Parking Building Plaza
15. Employee's Center
16. Education Center
17. Federal State Office Facility
18. Civic and Cultural Activities Building



SITE PLAN 2000



200

Park, Lake and Landscaping

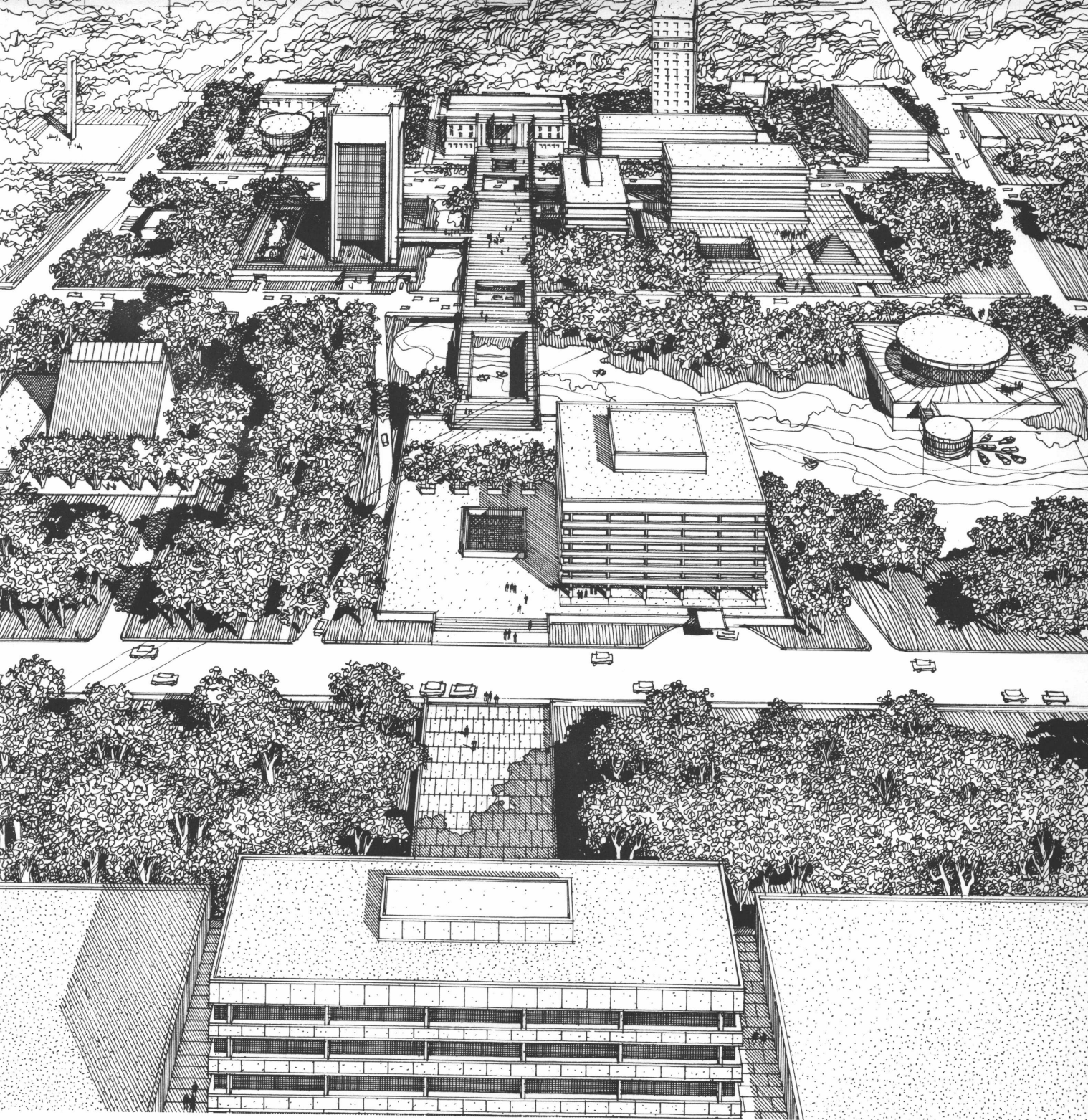
The development of an informal park in all of the areas not designated for other uses, and for those areas to be developed in later stages, is of prime importance in the first phase.

Continuity of landscaping, as well as structural elements, must be maintained. Trees and plantings will be utilized to give scale and life to resultant areas; they will be used as windbreaks, to define circulation, to soften the

horizontal expanses, and to assist the transition from the horizontal plaza to the vertical architecture. As the projects shall be done at different times by different designers, the continuity of the plant material will not be readily accomplished without thorough investigation and planning. The overall effect will be that of a natural park setting, except where the architectural arrangement of man-made material requires a more formal design. There shall be smaller

areas landscaped to a more personal scale, relating not only to the entire complex but to the use of the individual space and the people coming within it.

Engineering studies have been contracted for to determine the feasibility of the lake to be located between Third and First Streets, and additional studies need to be made as soon as possible to develop the small ponds between Third and Fourth Streets and Fourth and Trade Streets.

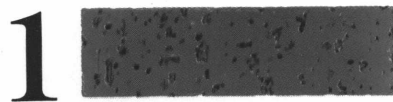


For the governmental center to be more than a group of buildings located haphazardly in relationship to the surrounding city and to each other, an imaginative concept for the development of the area is vital. This concept must be strong enough to dominate any change or variation in the overall scheme of planning.

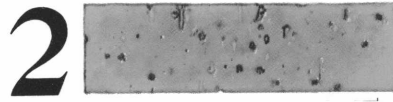
It must be strong enough to dominate new construction techniques, new operational techniques or even a new way of life not visualized today. It must be dependent upon an approach that is as near "timeless" as possible, yet flexible enough to accept the new and the unseen.

How many ways Boren glazed brick?

Count the ways.



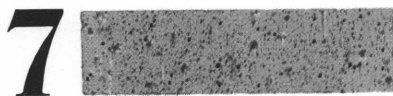
No. 500 Red



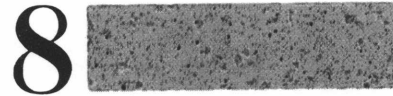
No. 520 Yellow



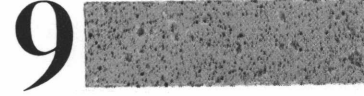
No. 530 Orange



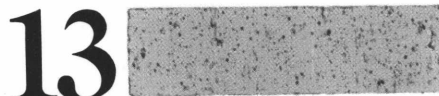
No. 30-1 Tan



No. 40-1 Grey

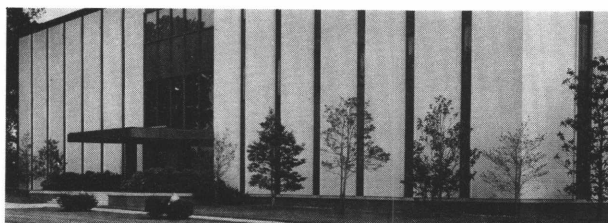
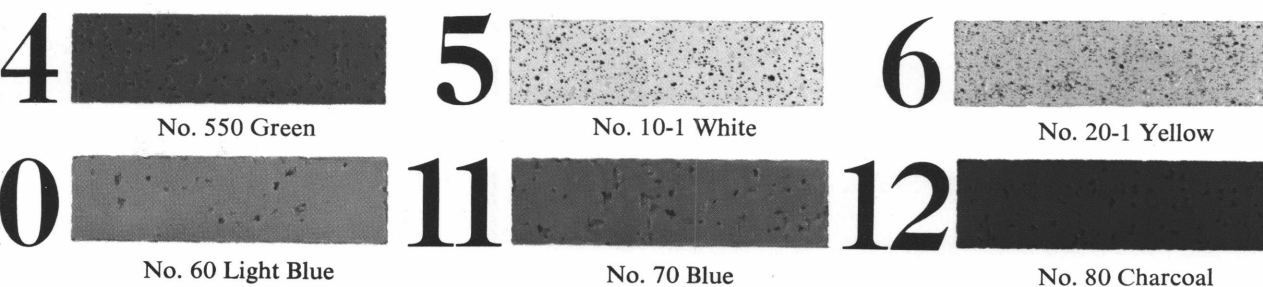


No. 50-1 Grey-Green



No. 90-2 Off-White

can you get



One of our newest glazed brick jobs: J. P. Stevens & Company, Inc., Charlotte, N. C.
Architects & Engineers: J. N. Pease, Associates • Contractor: C. P. Street.

We've both counted correctly, we get to the number 13. Accent colors and 9 basic colors.

Accent colors are new. They give you a greater freedom of design than we've ever been able to give before.

Basic colors are the same as always. But with a difference. We've built a new plant to craft these glazed bricks. So now you can get them faster and in greater quantities than before. This is also the only plant that makes glazed brick in the South Atlantic States.

Otherwise, Boren glazed bricks are the same.

They give you the same long life. The same load-bearing qualities. And they're all built on a red body. So you get the layability and economy of a red brick and the beauty of a glazed one.

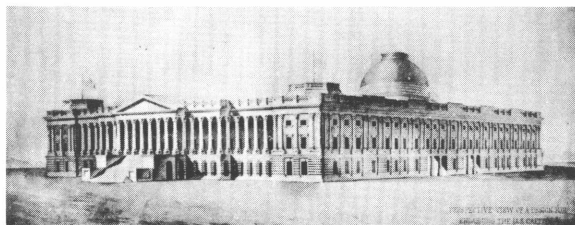
Another word:

Boren glazed brick number 13 should really be number 1. It's the glazed brick that started it all for us. The first glazed brick we manufactured.

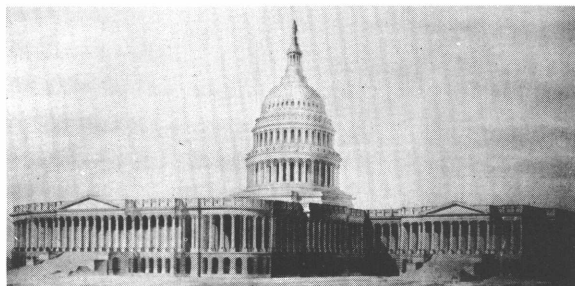
We've come a long way since then. 13 ways to be exact.



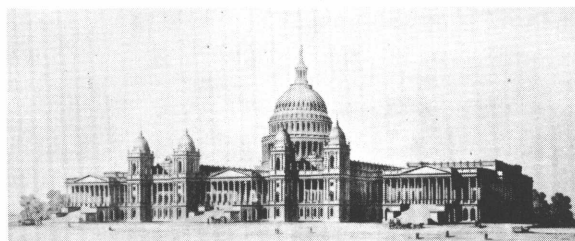
BOREN BRICK



Perspective view of Thomas U. Walter's competitive design for the enlargement of the Capitol, 1851.

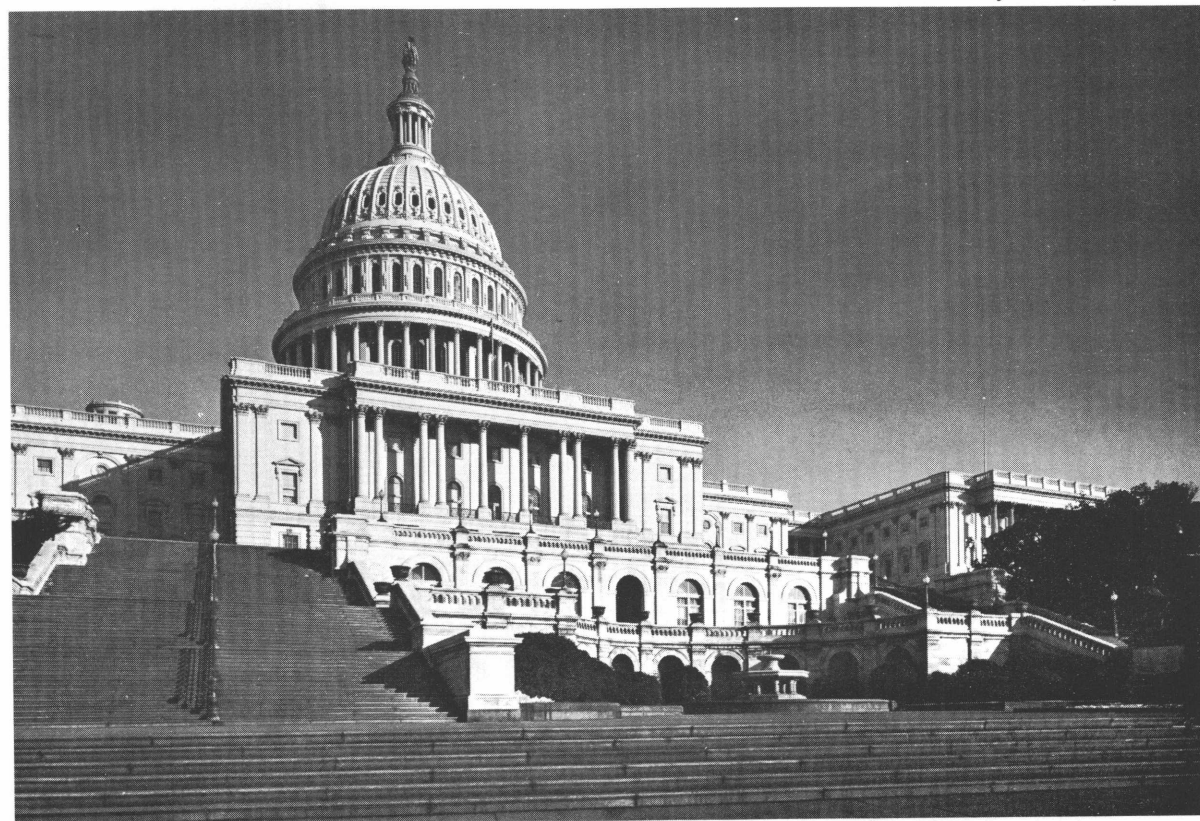


Perspective view from the northeast of Walter's proposal for the enlargement of the Capitol, 1874.



Perspective view from the northeast of Smithmeyer & Pelz's design for the central-portion extension, 1881.

Reprinted from
THE AIA JOURNAL, April 1966



More Capitol Punishment

BY FRANCIS D. LETHBRIDGE, AIA

Chairman of the Joint Committee on Landmarks for the National Capital and a practicing architect in Washington, D.C., the author presents his views on the West Front extension.

IT WAS EIGHT YEARS AGO that a public hearing was held on the proposed extension of the United States Capitol, and to read the transcript of that hearing today makes one realize that more than just the eastern facade of the building has changed. Some of the architects who appeared before the Senate Committee on that occasion have passed beyond any further controversy, and others, in their efforts to prevent alteration of the East Front, so compromised their position on extensions to the West Front that they have since had little to say publicly on the subject.

The Architect of the Capitol, J. George Stewart, nevertheless, has persisted in his intention to carry out all of the proposed "improvements" described in his report of August 1957, and the time draws near when any further discussion on the merits of the West Front extension will be purely academic.

The arguments for the East Front extension, it will be recalled, were threefold. First, that the change would correct an architectural inconsistency that had occurred at the time the new dome was erected over the walls of the existing rotunda, causing the skirt of the dome to project over the front portico, a flaw that the architect of the dome, Thomas U. Walter, had been anxious to rectify from the time of its construction. Second, that the original sandstone and rubble walls of the older, central portion of the building were in poor structural condition, and that the surface of the porous Acquia sandstone was corroded and caked with the innumerable coats of paint that had been applied since 1819. Third, that the additional space obtained by moving the east wall 32 feet 6 inches forward was needed by Congress in addition to that space which might be obtained by the proposed extension of the West Front.

Opponents of the change, on the other hand, argued that the original walls had unique historical values which should be preserved; that the projection of the dome beyond the walls of the building had been a happy esthetic accident which should be perpetuated; and that the cost of the extension, in terms of space gained, was outrageously high.

In retrospect it appears clear that the first argument for the East Front extension—that of improving the architectural relationship of the front portico to the dome—was a valid one, and that the new relationship of the central portion of the building to the wings is an acceptable change, if no improvement. It was undeniably true that serious problems of erosion and structural failure were present, but it was never established that they could not have been corrected without the construction of new walls some distance forward of the old, if this had been considered of paramount importance. This last point is still a real issue, for the central portion of the West Front is today in essentially the same state of disrepair as was the East Front eight years ago. It is only fair to point out that the Architect of the Capitol, and the consultants who have been retained by him to study the structural problems, have never argued that the conditions of the exterior walls could not be corrected except by building new outside walls to buttress them. They have merely said this method of reconstruction would be effective and economical, that it would provide additional space and would be least disruptive to continued activities within the building.

The Associated Architects* who were commissioned "to furnish necessary architectural and engineering services for the extension of the Capitol and other authorized changes and improvements" developed the need, to use Mr. Stewart's words, for 139,250 additional square feet of floor space to accommodate present needs of Congress, with some allowance for future growth. Since the extension of the east central front has already provided 44,930 square feet of the total, the remaining 94,320 square feet are scheduled for construction in the proposed extension of the West Front.

It has been proposed that the Senate and House restaurant facilities be moved to the west terrace, together with an additional visitors' and employees'

*Roscoe DeWitt and Fred L. Hardison of Dallas; Alfred Easton Poor and Albert Homer Swanke of New York City; and Jesse M. Shelton and Alan G. Stanford of Atlanta.

restaurant, their combined area to be about 55,000 square feet with seating accommodations for 1,305 persons. In addition to the new Capitol restaurant space, the West Front additions are scheduled to provide 8 committee rooms, 55 offices, 7 storage rooms and extensive additions to the facilities for vertical circulation in the building, including 6 passenger elevators, 2 freight elevators and 6 escalators.

Obviously, the proposed extension of the West Front is in response to these estimated needs, some of which, such as the improvements in vertical circulation, would be difficult, if not impossible to build without further enlarging the central portion of the building. We are in no position to challenge these needs without the benefit of an up-to-date study, but we should challenge whether providing this additional space by further alteration of the Capitol is going to be at a price—historically or esthetically—that is too great to pay. Specifically the questions to be answered are these:

- 1) Should the walls of the West Front be repaired or restored in their present position?
- 2) Should the entire facade of the central portion of the West Front be rebuilt some distance forward of the present walls?
- 3) Should the West Front be redesigned and rebuilt in a basically different manner some distance forward of the present walls?

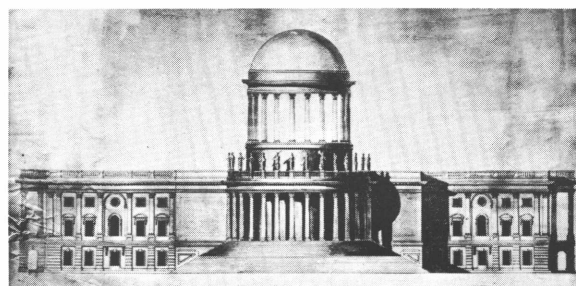
Probably few people are aware that it is the third alternative which is being carried forward at the present time by the Architect of the Capitol. The report of August 1957 states, "It is proposed to extend the basement story of the west central portion of the Capitol, across the courtyards, to the west terrace structure. It is also proposed to partially extend the west terrace structure and to relocate the west steps and approaches. It is further proposed to extend the original north and south wings of the west central portion of the Capitol, and the House and Senate connections, by erection of additions to these portions of the central structure, from the first floor to the attic floor, inclusive; also, to enlarge the West Portico."

The widening of the west portico, if carried out, will alter the proportions of the entire West Front, will obliterate all external evidence of the original Thornton-Latrobe wings and will present a broad, almost unbroken facade at the line of the House and Senate Wings. The proposed terrace alterations will also radically change the appearance of that structure from the Capitol grounds, for the two great flights of steps designed by Olmsted which cascade down from either side of the central portico will be moved so far apart as to present an entirely different effect. Another subtlety will be lost as well, for these flights now terminate at walks which are an extension of the lines

of Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues, the terminus of L'Enfant's *patte d'oie*.

Let us return, however, to the first alternative—preservation or restoration of the existing walls. It can be seen from an examination of the proposed plan of extension that preservation in this instance is not simply a matter of preserving the stones and mortar of the old walls, but rather a question of preserving the present proportions of the building, of preserving any visible evidence of the original work of Thornton, Latrobe or Bulfinch, and of preserving the quality of the design of Olmsted's terraces and grounds. There is no reasonable doubt that the extensive repairs are required, and it would probably be perverse at this point, with the East Front reconstruction completed in marble, to insist that the damaged sandstone be replaced with the original material.

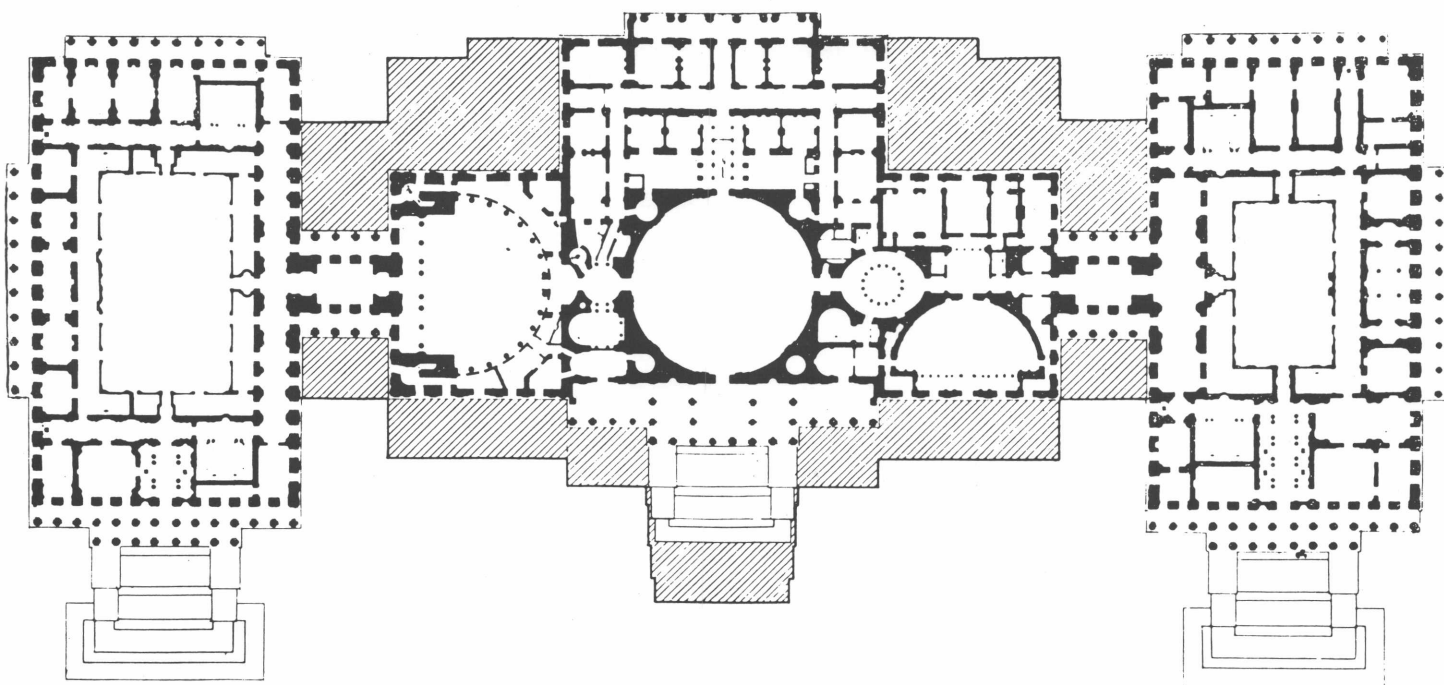
The recommendations of Carrere & Hastings in 1905 were to extend the East Front in marble, but to reface the West Front in marble *in its present position*. Those preservationists who were vigorously espousing the cause of Senate Bill S-2883 in 1958, to "eliminate the requirement that the extension, reconstruction and replacement of the central portion of the United States Capitol be in substantial accord with Scheme B [the Carrere & Hastings recommendations] of the architectural plan of March 3, 1905," might well at this point be arguing that the Architect of the Capitol be held strictly to that plan.



Alternative elevation of a design of the West Front by Dr. Thornton. Known as the two-dome proposal, it has a circular conference room beyond the central rotunda.

The existing Senate and House dining rooms were enlarged to an adequate size when the East Front was extended, so that an additional dining room for employees and visitors might be provided within the space between the existing steps on the west terrace, even though that arrangement would probably involve a less efficient separation of kitchen facilities.

There is no esthetic or practical reason why the courts between the west side of the Capitol and the terraces cannot be developed as interior spaces as proposed, and it is quite possible that a well-designed revision of the north and south terraces could provide



Plan of the proposed extensions to the Capitol, presented by the Architect of the Capitol at public hearings before the Senate on February 17, 1958. The shaded portion below represents the extension of the East Front completed in 1962. The shaded portion at the top illustrates the proposed extension of the West Front.

an amount of space for offices and committee rooms equivalent to or greater than that provided under Scheme C, the proposed extension of the West Front.

The charge by the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital that the present plans amount to "historical vandalism" was anticipated by Mr. Stewart as early as 1958 when he said, "From the viewpoint of those concerned with sentiment and with the preservation of the Capitol intact, in its present state and condition, it must be remembered that extension of the West Front also affects the work of our first three architects and, on such basis, would fall into the same category of 'desecration' and 'vandalism' as is alleged against the East Front extension. Should it happen that the same hue and cry which has been raised over the extension of the East Front should occur if the extension of the West Front were attempted, the Congress would really be in a sorry plight for adequate space in which to do its work."

That this "sorry plight" isn't necessarily so is made clear in his own report from the Associated Architects. It outlined five additional possible solutions to future needs for expansion, the first two of which involve extension of the House and Senate Wings, but the last three of which are concerned with further possible revisions of the terrace area. Mr. Stewart was guilty of some exaggeration, too, in his fears that "sentimentalists" would insist upon "preservation intact, in its present state and condition."

The architecture of the Capitol is inextricably bound up with its history, with the men who designed

the building as well as the men who have helped to make the country's history within its walls. It is the wonderful building it is, in part at least, because it still exhibits each of the stages of its development as a distinct part in the composition of the total mass of the building.

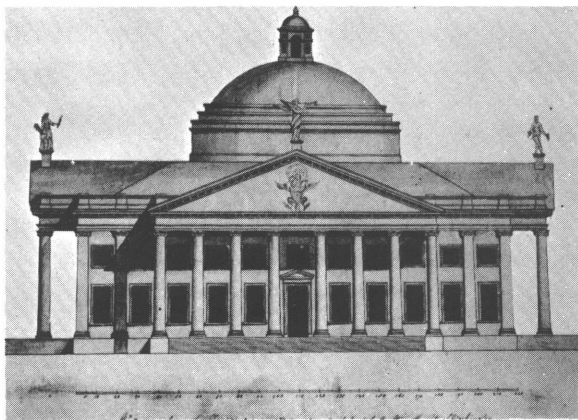
I have never heard an argument for the proposed changes to the West Front saying there would be an effort to improve the existing work of Thornton, Latrobe, Bulfinch, Walter and Olmsted. Whether this is simply modesty on the part of the architects, or a stern conviction that "form follows function," I cannot tell. I would maintain, nevertheless, that such changes are undesirable even if they were improvements in form, for they would destroy or obscure something of even greater value.

There is bound to be a limit to the amount of space that can be added to the main body of the Capitol without its becoming a formless and confused mass, and that limit might as well be accepted now as 10 years from now when irreparable damage might already have been committed. It is a procedure, furthermore, that can never hope to solve all of the foreseeable future needs of Congress, for which purpose a new study and master plan of the entire Capitol grounds should be prepared.

The second alternative of reconstructing the west central facade, in its present form but some distance forward of the existing walls, is less desirable from the historical-architectural standpoint than restoration in place. But it can be preferred, nonetheless, to

currently published plans if the functional advantages of gaining more space above the basement floor cause Congress to insist upon such additions, or if the reconstruction of the existing walls cannot be accomplished without intolerable interference with the business of the House and Senate.

Now that "the deed has been done" on the East Front, there is a certain classical logic in rebalancing the basically symmetrical form of the plan by adding an equal amount of space on the west side. It would amount to another strip 32 feet 6 inches wide, a distance that represents approximately the width of two bays of the flanking Senate and House wings. Such a procedure would involve the extension of the central portico as well as the old wings in order to retain their existing relationship to one another.



Elevation of Samuel Dobie's competitive design. More sophisticated than some of the other submittals, Jefferson's influence may be witnessed here. Dobie had supervised construction of the Virginia State Capitol.

This would cause further interference with the view of the Capitol dome from points due west of the portico, but less than in the presently proposed plan from an oblique angle. It would probably not seriously affect the long view from the Mall or Pennsylvania Avenue.

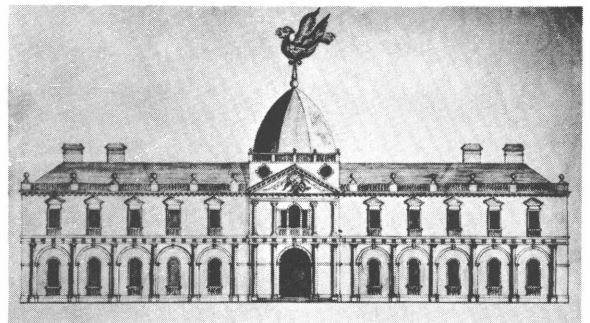
It is interesting to note that Olmsted showed an extended west portico on his plans and perspectives of the west terraces at the time they were proposed in 1874. Under such a scheme the image, if not the reality, of the older portions of the building would be preserved and the need for extensive remodeling of the terraces might be eliminated.

The third alternative, which so far as we know is the plan that is now being followed, has already been described. It is the least desirable of the three and should join the file of never-carried-out plans for the Capitol. Such proposals have a history that dates back to the original competition held in the spring of 1792. The brief invitation to submit drawings brought forth a variety of responses, none of

which was totally satisfactory to the Commissioners or to the President.

The submissions included a very respectable and conservative Georgian design by Samuel McIntire; a charmingly naive proposal by Philip Hart that in detail is vaguely reminiscent of Independence Hall; an adaptation of Palladio's Villa Rotunda submitted by Samuel Dobie; a strange melange of medieval and Georgian detail on a building that surrounded a square open courtyard by James Diamond of Maryland; and a fairly sophisticated design, to judge by later drawings which have survived, by Stephen (Etienne Sulpice) Hallet, a French emigre who was then residing in Philadelphia.

Thornton's winning design, which was submitted after the close of the competition (setting a precedent for confusion in federal architectural competitions persisting to the present time), was a far simpler,



Elevation of James Diamond's competitive design. The weathercock may have been an act of desperation on his part when he saw what he had done, or may possibly be the addition of some wag after submittal.

more monumental conception than any of the previous designs. It was one that more clearly reflected the desires of Washington and Jefferson for a Capitol that would somehow express the strength and virtues of the infant republic.

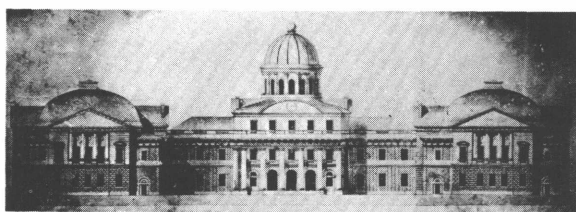
Thornton never had clear sailing in the execution of his design. He declined to supervise its construction; he lacked the technical experience to carry through the work on a major public building in a day when the architect was obliged to provide truly "comprehensive services." The short-tempered doctor thereupon had a succession of difficulties with Hallet, who was retained as supervising architect, and George Hadfield who later succeeded to the job. Both had sought to alter his design, and the even-tempered James Hoban assumed the responsibility for construction from the year 1798, until the appointment of Benjamin Latrobe in March 1803.

Latrobe brought to the position an already established reputation as an architect of great talent and skill. He was much respected by President Jefferson and managed to impose his own ideas upon the in-

terior design and in plans for the central portion of the building which were carried out, after his retirement in 1817, by Charles Bulfinch who completed the original building in 1829.

Robert Mills, who was Architect of Public Buildings at the time, proposed several forms of extension to the Capitol in the year 1850. Mills' designs deserve special mention for it is hard to believe that they were not the genesis of Walter's final designs for the wings and dome. The few sketches of Mills that have survived are much more like the Capitol as we see it today than were Walter's first competition drawings of the same period, for Mills had already seized upon the idea of a great dome, modeled in scale and form after that of St. Peter's, to be constructed over the foundations of the rotunda.

He evidently was intrigued by the idea of developing the expanded building in the form of a cross, the



Design by Hallet, 1793. His drawings, which show the professional competence of a trained architect, are prophetic, in a distorted way, of the present building.

enlarged dome to act as a dominant focal point at the center, but he also prepared drawings of an extension of wings to the sides attached with an ingenious arrangement of interior courts to prevent blanketing the windows of the older building. Mills' plans were not accepted by the Senate, which insisted that a competition be held, and in 1851 President Millard Fillmore appointed Thomas U. Walter as Architect of the Capitol. Mills at that time was already 70 and died four years later, in March 1855. Walter was 47 and destined to work on the Capitol for the next 14 years.

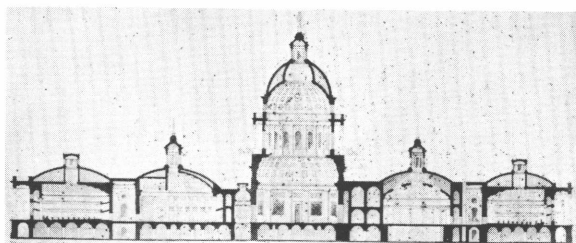
The list of designs for "the Capitol that never was" continued to the turn of the century, and the more familiar proposals of Carrere & Hastings for expansion of the building in the year 1905 by the survival of two plans for monstrous enlargements submitted by Thomas Walter in 1874, nine years after his retirement as Architect of the Capitol.

Walter had apparently never completely given up an infatuation with his earliest competition studies, which extended a vast interior gallery eastward from the rotunda, and the years he had spent since leaving Washington, working on Philadelphia's City Hall, might have clouded the esthetic judgment of any man.

The ubiquitous Washington firm of Smithmeyer & Pelz submitted a grotesque scheme in 1881 that would have left nothing of the original central portion of the building but the rotunda and dome, which they planned to embellish with eight additional domed turrets.

Admittedly the present proposal for the extension of the West Front is more modest than some that have been discarded in the past, but it has neither the merit of sensitive historic preservation nor the merit of bold architectural concepts. It falls to the inevitable level of an unhappy compromise, for it fails to recognize that time has changed what can and cannot be done to this one building that symbolizes the aspirations and growth of the country from the time of its founding through the age of confidence and material prosperity which characterized the last decades of the 19th century.

If the old stones of the Capitol are crumbling let them be restored, or replaced if need be, but let us refrain from padding its bones with layers of rooms until it becomes a shapeless mass signifying nothing but its own bulk. Congress deserves a mid-20th century answer to its space needs, not a misguided mid-19th century alteration to a venerable building deserving of respectful preservation.



Section of a design proposed by Robert Mills in 1850. The great masonry dome—similar in concept but not in detail to St. Peter's—was to be built over the existing rotunda, with new wings for the Senate and House.

Statement of The American Institute of Architects: The Institute believes that the Capitol of the United States is a vitally important symbol of our nation's government. As such, it should be preserved. If reconstruction is structurally necessary, it should be carried out in strict accordance with the present design. If the Capitol continues to expand, it will rapidly lose all resemblance to the original building. The AIA believes that it should be a permanent policy of the Congress that the exterior of the Capitol is to remain unchanged. Today, the West Front contains the last remaining external vestiges of the Capitol as it was originally designed and built. It is the only important link with the beginnings of the building. If the West Front of the Capitol is extended, we will have buried the last of those walls that date from the early years of the Republic, and will have obscured a part of our history that can never be restored. —OCT. 13, 1965

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John L. Cameron

The Park Center Auditorium, Charlotte, will be the site for a School Construction Seminar and Workshop to be presented by the Carolinas' Chapter, The Producers' Council, Inc., at 1:30 P.M., November 2, 1966.

The purpose of this Seminar is to provide an opportunity for school officials, architects, engineers and manufacturers of building materials and equipment to exchange ideas on current trends in education, especially as related to needs in educational facilities.

Dr. John L. Cameron, Chief School Housing Section, U.S. Office of Education, will be the keynote speaker. A professional panel discussion featuring Dr. A. Craig Phillips, Superintendent Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, Dr. J. G. McCracken, Superintendent, District #7, Spartanburg County Schools, Mr. Leslie N. Boney, Jr., F.A.I.A., Leslie N. Boney and Associates, Architects, Mr. Louis M. Wolff, A.I.A., Lyles, Bisset, Carlisle and Wolff, Architects, and Mr. Emmett W. Bryan, PE, Mechanical Engineer, A. G. Odell, Jr. and Associates, Architects, will follow the keynote address.

Product application workshops, exhibits of school building products and systems will be presented for discussion and inspection.

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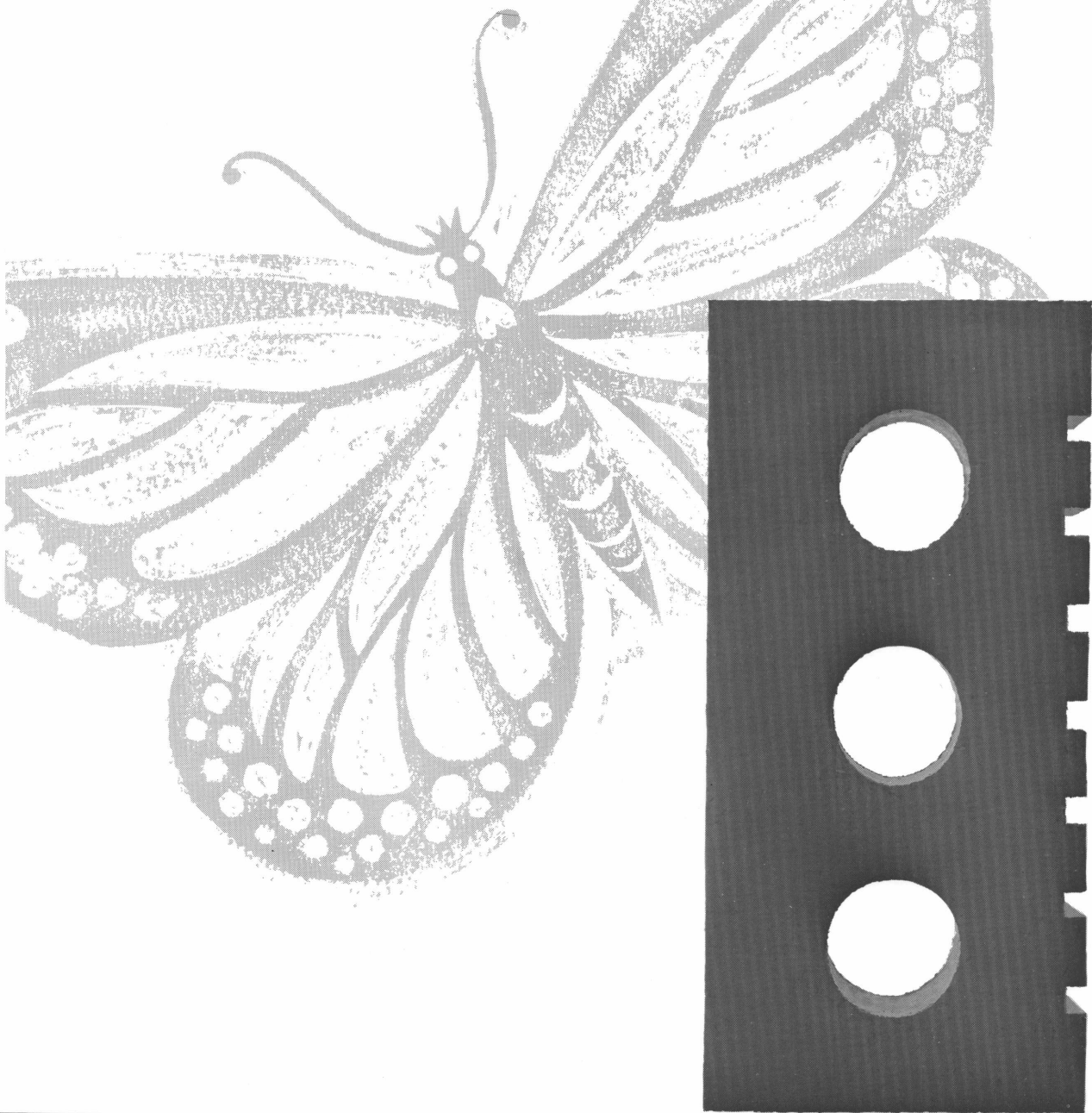
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The Architectural Profession and North Carolina State University wishes to thank all patrons listed below. These firms and individuals contributed to the North Carolina Design Foundation between September 1, 1965, and August 31, 1966, the Foundation's last fiscal year. Interested persons may write Box 5067, State College Station, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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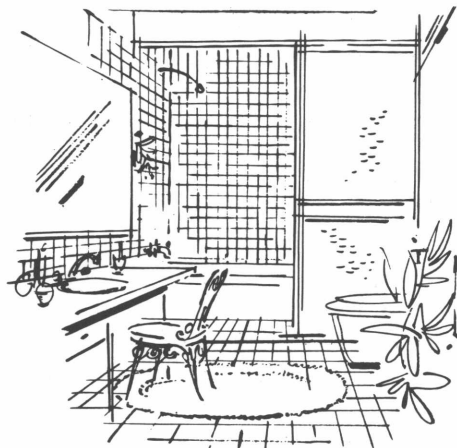
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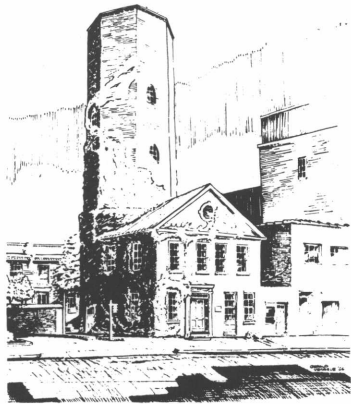
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At that time, the buildings were completely renewed and this year a pleasant garden court, designed by Richard C. Bell Associates, has been installed. The property has been designated for preservation by the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission.

The sketch is the work of Gerald Venable, graduate of NCSU's School of Design.



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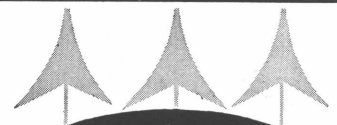
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Jackie Caldwell of Burlington, Route 7, is North Carolina's "Champion Apprentice Bricklayer of 1966." Caldwell walked away with top honors and a \$200 bond prize from the 13th annual N. C. Apprentice Bricklaying Contest held at the State Fair in Raleigh in October. A third place runner-up in 1965, Caldwell had no trouble moving up to the top spot this year, even with 39 other Tar Heel bricklayer apprentices competing for the prizes and honors. Caldwell is training on the job while working for Burlington contractor Richard A. Robertson. The North Carolina Chapter, AIA, was a sponsor of the contest, and J. Hyatt Hammond, AIA, served as one of the judges.

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- October 26-29: South Atlantic Regional AIA Conference, Queen Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte, B. B. Rothschild, FAIA, Regional Director; Charlotte Section, NCAIA, Hosts
- November 1: Durham Council of Architects, Jack Tar Hotel, 12:00 N, Frank Depasquale, AIA, President
- November 2: Charlotte Section, N. C. Chapter AIA, Stork Restaurant, Independence Blvd., 12:30 PM, Thomas P. Turner, Jr., AIA, President
- November 2: School Construction Seminar sponsored by Producers' Council, 1:30 PM, Park Center Auditorium, Charlotte
- November 6: Raleigh Council of Architects, YMCA, Hillsborough St., 12:15 PM, William C. Correll, AIA, President
- November 6-9: Carolinas Branch, AGC, 46th Annual Convention, Boca Raton Hotel & Club, Boca Raton, Florida
- November 6-27: N. C. Artists Exhibition, N. C. Art Museum, E. Morgan St., Raleigh
- November 15: Winston-Salem Council of Architects, Twin City Club, 12:00 N, Donald H. Hines, AIA, President
- November 17: Greensboro Registered Architects, Dino's Restaurant, 6:30 PM, A. C. Woodroof, Jr., AIA, President
- November 21: Carolinas' Chapter, Producers' Council, Inc., Heart of Charlotte Convention Hall, 6:00 PM

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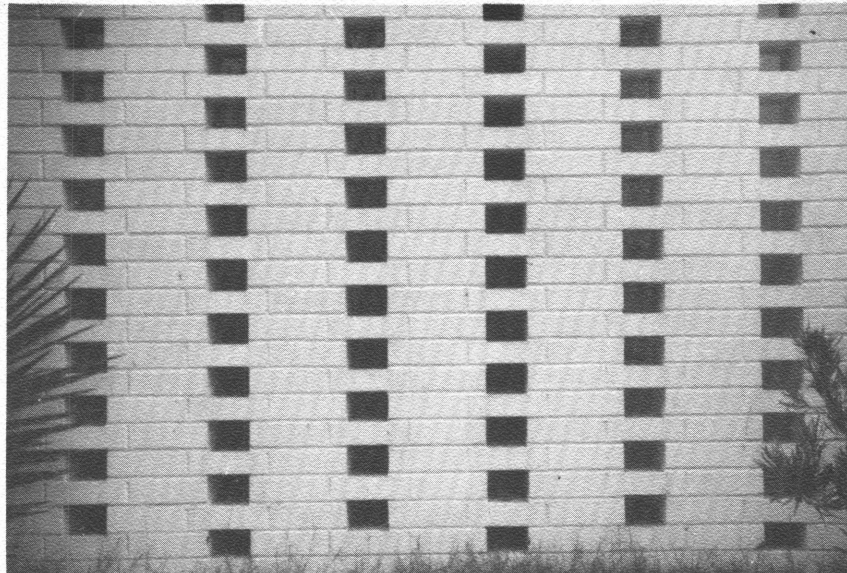
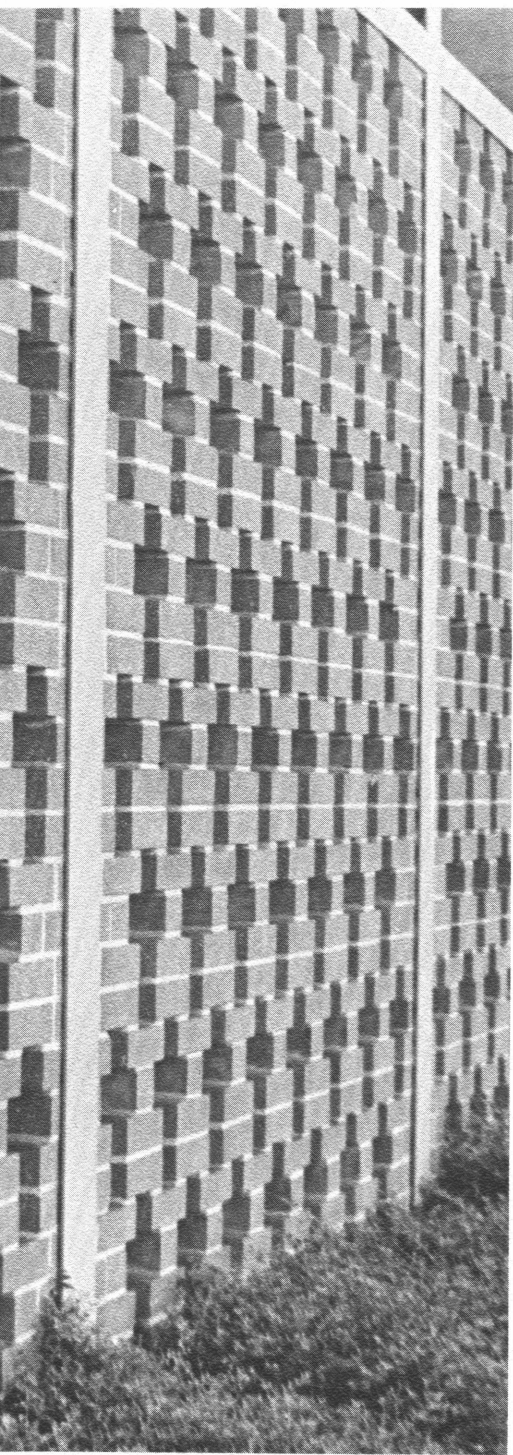
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United States Plywood Corporation
Universal Rundle Corporation
Vermont Marble Co.
Weyerhaeuser Company
Zonolite Division

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Bob Bennett
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W. Fred Casey Co.
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Acoustics, Inc.
Delph Hardware & Specialty Co.
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Delph Hardware & Specialty Co.
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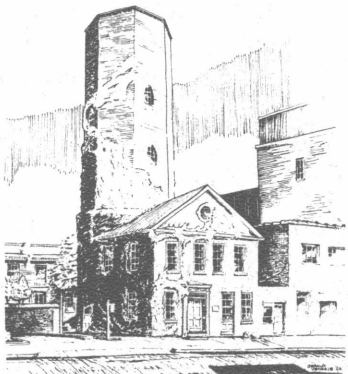
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