
1933
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
Plan of Development
PAUL PHILIPPE CRET
CONSULTING ARCHITECT
Scale 100 feet equals 1 inch

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la

To R. L. White
with my thanks for his
collaboration —
Tauret

Gret, Paul Philippe.

REPORT ACCOMPANYING THE GENERAL PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 1933

INDEX

January 1933.

REPORT ACCOMPANYING THE GENERAL PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CAMPUS PREPARED BY THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT

To the Board of Regents, University of Texas :

When the Board of Regents appointed the Consulting Architect to the University, in 1930, an important item of his duties was stated in the Minutes of the Board, as....."The preparation of a plot plan, sketches, and report to be used as general plan of development of the University grounds and buildings after it has been approved by the Board of Regents".....

Several of these plot plans have been prepared during the past two years, embodying the successive stages of my studies, the criticisms received from your Building Committee, from the Faculty Building Committee, or from the officers of the University, as well as the changes in conditions occurring since 1930.

The most important of these was the extensive building program decided upon in 1931 which necessitated important decisions in the location and shape of the new buildings. The plan presented with this report and the bird's-eye view prepared under my direction, are brought up to January 1933.

It is not out of place to state here some considerations on what is the purport of a general plan of development, what are its limitations, and on the need of an interpretation of its intent, before entering into a description of the plan submitted to your Board.

Under ideal conditions, a general plan of development is a maturely thought-out arrangement of buildings and their surroundings, which can be used as any other building plan. If prepared by a competent architect who is supplied by the University authorities with accurate data as to the present and future needs of the various departments, the plan is the means of achieving an institution satisfactory both as to the interrelation of the buildings, their individual location, and architectural appearance. The factor of architectural merit of each of the buildings is, although by no means of secondary importance, taken for granted.

Ideal conditions are seldom encountered. In the great majority of cases, the plan of development, instead of having merely to start from a stated program, will have to take into account :

a. The limitations resulting from the topography of an existing site, and the difficulty of extension in the most favorable direction.

b. An existing group of buildings to be preserved and incorporated in the new plan. These buildings are often placed on the campus in such locations as to prevent the use of solutions of the problem otherwise desirable. The architectural style of these buildings will also influence the general design toward one grouping in preference to others.

c. The fact that in the great majority of cases the building of the university group is not a building operation lasting a few years and guided from beginning to end by the same directing group and by the same architects. On the contrary, a university campus is

of slow growth, extending over several decades and supervised by successive Building Committees too often without continuity of policy.

This development over a long term of years, involves a further consequence:

It is impossible to foresee what department in the institution will develop more quickly than another in the course of time, and still more impossible to foresee the number and type of departments to be accomodated half a century hence. In some institutions, a certain department may still be adequately housed in the building provided for it originally, while others have two or three times outgrown their original quarters during the same period. New scientific or professional groups are now and then added to the university curriculum. In the same way, the policies of the institution may be fundamentally changed at a certain stage of growth; for instance, the policies governing students' residences, or the ever-fluctuating athletic policies. Finally, the curve of increase in the number of students and faculty cannot be plotted with any degree of accuracy, subject, as it is, to many indeterminate factors.

It is obvious, therefore, that a general plan prepared today will have to be modified from time to time, to take account of changing conditions.

Recognition of these difficulties is discussed in the book "Civic Art", as follows.... "One of the reasons which the elder Olmsted gave against the use of formal design in connection with college grounds seems quite strong. He said that a 'picturesque rather than a formal and perfectly symmetrical arrangement would allow any

enlargement or modification of the general plan of building adopted for the college which may in the future be found desirable', which is another way for saying that it is comparatively simple to ramble along informally, while to make an elastic formal plan is by no means an easy matter. The stupendous development of modern colleges is apt to break down the frame of a formal scheme however ambitiously it may have been conceived. It is not in the spirit of a great composition to have annexes attached to it which do not stand in close axial relation to the scheme. It would therefore be desirable if in a group the plan of each one of the individual buildings were designed in such a way as to allow for an organic extension as soon as the need arises. These individual extensions should not disturb the general plan but should contribute to its completion and enhance the appearance of the whole. If planned for in advance, a campus composed of a small number of individual buildings tied together only by foliage or light colonnades can gradually be transformed into a scheme of physically connected buildings grouped around courts which stand in axial relation to each other with all the perspective refinement connected therewith. One scheme of courts can be surrounded by a second chain of courts without losing interrelation, balance, and symmetry....."

The principles stated in this quotation are entirely shared by your Consulting Architect, and have been underlying the plan of development for the University of Texas. They aim at establishing a sort of frame work of open spaces, of important axis and general lines, binding together all secondary groups. The principal aspects of the campus will thus be established, while, within the area of the secondary

groups, a sufficient flexibility is preserved to allow the accomodation of various sizes of departments as will be needed in the future.

Besides these, we have given particular attention to the following principles:

1. A composition can be of balanced masses instead of strictly symmetrical, and this is of advantage in preventing too great formality, while retaining the orderly appearance of a composed plan.

2. The value of a vista is limited by what can be seen by the passerby; that is to say, the aim is not to achieve a pleasant appearance for the benefit of airplane travellers, and it is useless to design features attractive on paper, but which cannot be seen in reality on account of topographical conditions or merely on account of their dimensions. A composition intended to be seen at a glance, and quite appropriate to a limited size, becomes without merit, when applied to much larger grounds, or where (as is our case), topographical conditions necessarily divide these grounds into a number of separate units. Some of the earlier plans prepared for the University have too frequently forgotten this.

3. The modern university has to be, on account of its size, a grouping of several compcsitions, related to be sure, but independent, and requiring a certain variety of treatment, to avoid the monotony and the "institutional" character inherent to the repetition of similar units.

4. A satisfactory relation has to be achieved between the open spaces and the volume of the buildings facing these spaces. This is of essential value in city planning. At the same time, the archi-

tectural composition of each group must be varied as far as practicable. Attention was also given to the east-west orientation of as many buildings as could be so arranged, to take advantage of the prevailing breeze, and to provide extension "in situ" wherever possible.

In the quotation given above allusion is made to the desirability of "a scheme of physically connected buildings grouped around courts". This principle has been used in several institutions on account of its architectural possibilities and in imitation of the quadrangles of Oxford. Such an arrangement of porticoes or galleries connecting various buildings, is undoubtedly attractive, and has the merit of sheltering from the sun or bad weather the movements of students. Only a limited use of this feature is suggested in the plan, for the following reasons:

1. In Austin, the free circulation of the breeze seems to be possibly of greater value to comfort than shelter.

2. The topography of the campus, with its strong slopes, does not lend itself readily to porticoes which have to be built horizontally if they are to possess architectural merit.

3. The limitation of cost for recent buildings has prevented the planning of almost every feature not strictly devoted to the requirements of the department concerned. In other words, porticoes or loggias are pleasant features, but do not add to the class room or laboratories area required by a department. As the desired area is usually more than can be built under the appropriation, the inclusion of purely architectural features is strongly opposed by the departments.

When these porticoes or covered circulation are thought

desirable, for instance, in the southwest group of the 40-acre plot, or along the south approach, it will be the task of the Building Committee to impress the departments interested with the value of these features to the University at large, as well as to their particular building.

From a purely architectural point of view, there is no doubt that connecting buildings by either porticoes, terrace walls, gateways (see Fig. 11), or balustrades, leads to a far better appearance than unrelated buildings. These features must, of course, be designed with due regard to economy of space and cost.

A start in this right direction has been made in the plaza in front of the Main Building, and that between Geology and Garrison Hall. The full value of these features will become more and more apparent with the completion of the plazas and the buildings.

Landscape design and the architecture of the buildings as factors of the general plan are discussed further on.

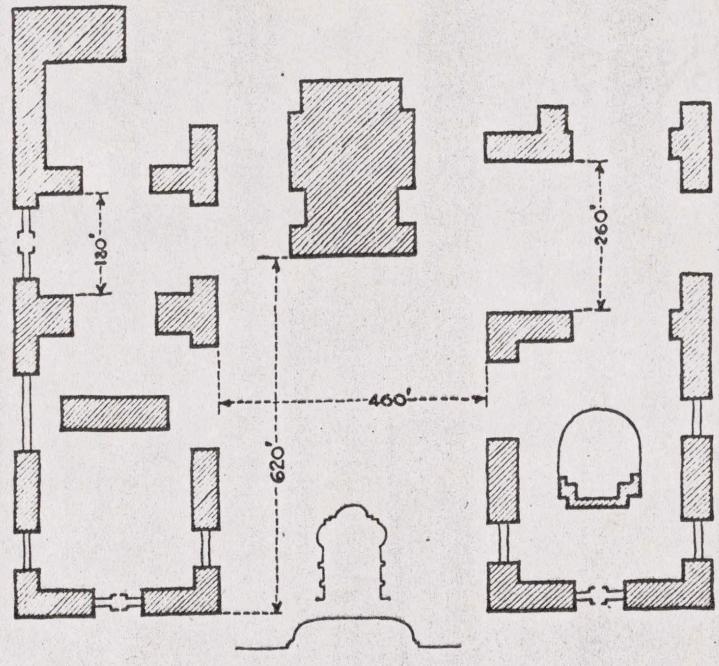
From these considerations, it appears that a plan, such as is presented today, cannot pretend to be an accurate picture of the University either ten or fifty years from now. The number of buildings anticipated by the plan will not be required within the shorter period even if it should be within the financial possibilities; and, as for the longer period, it is reasonable to expect that new departments will require other shapes of buildings than those shown on the drawings. This does not imply that planning for the future is vain. The essential features of the plan ought to remain the aim of the Regents, and be patiently carried on step by step each time a new department has to be located on the campus. The most valuable service that the Consult-

ing Architect can render to your Board in the future, will be precisely the interpretation of the plan in the light of the new conditions.

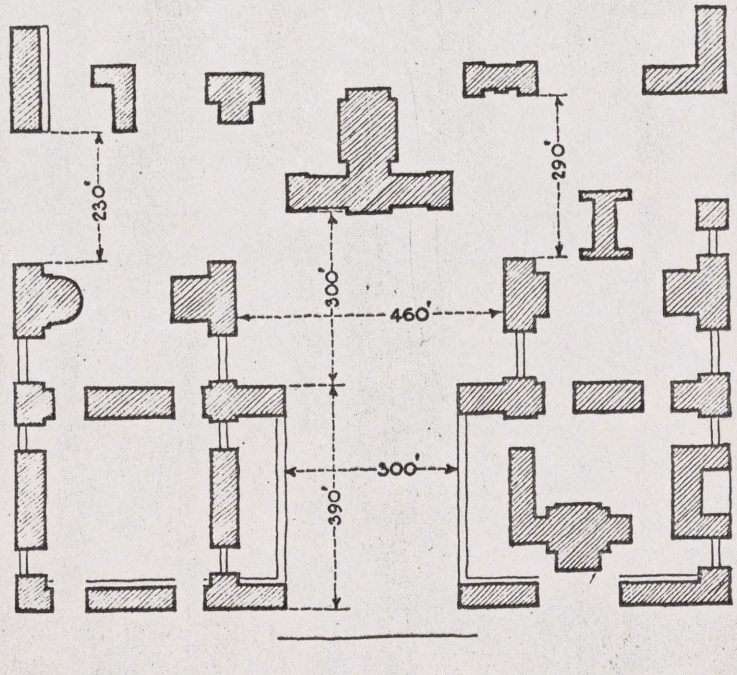
Conclusion

To preserve the spirit of the plan is a task which requires a clear conception of the results to be achieved, and the continuity of purpose needed for any great undertaking. It involves the duty to see farther away than the request of this or that department. It also requires the sacrifice of individual views of the future members of the Board, to the policies fixed by the present one. Changes in a building policy are worse than following a mediocre policy.

No better illustration of this can be given than the history of the plan for the City of Washington. This general plan, established by L'Enfant under the Presidency of Washington, and which appeared much too ambitious at the time, was unfortunately allowed to be set aside in the middle of the XIXth Century. When a sort of renaissance of monumental planning took place in the Nineties, the first task which confronted the Planning Commission was to destroy the structures placed in the wrong locations so as to restore the original plan. This has been the work of the last thirty years. A great saving in expenditure would have been effected by a continuity of policy and the mere prevention of ill-advised departures from the original plan.



THE GREENE LAROCHE AND DAHL PLAN (1928)



THE CASS GILBERT PLAN (1910-1914)

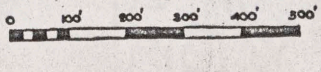
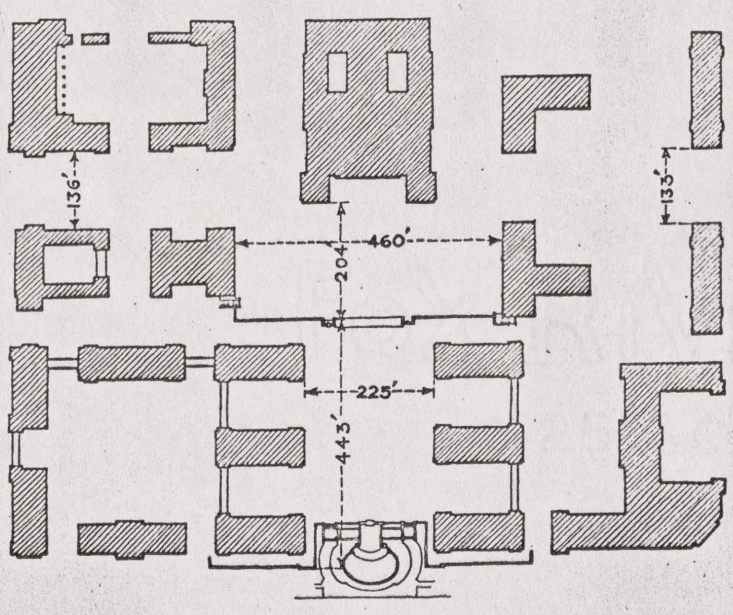


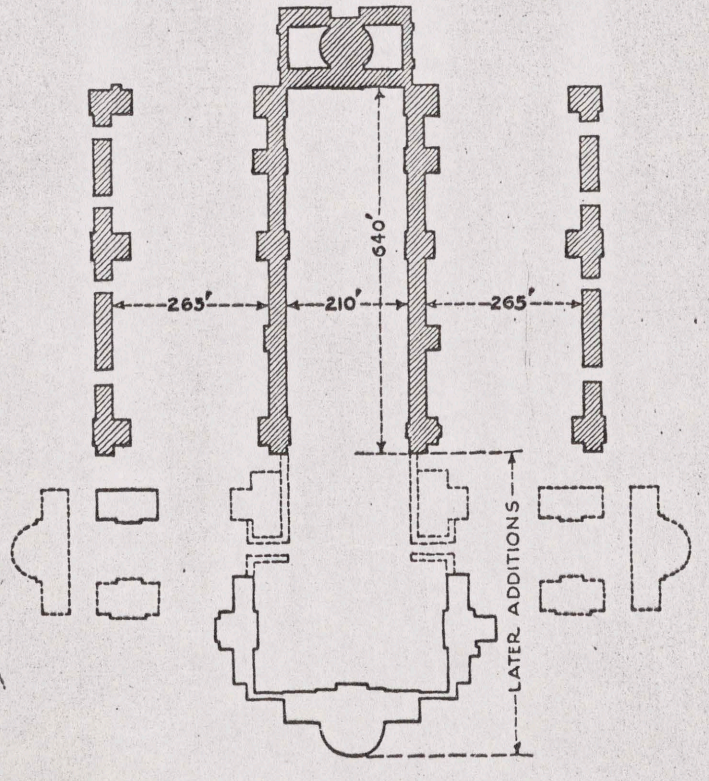
FIG. 1



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

THE 1933 PLAN

SOUTH MALL AND LIBRARY PLAZA



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

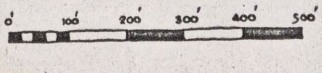


FIG. 2

** → LIST EARLIER PLANS AND FACT THAT SOME OF THEIR IDEAS WERE USED NOT SIMPLY ABORTED

THE EARLIER PLANS OF DEVELOPMENT

Several plans have been prepared by various architects. It is not intended to present here a criticism of the solutions proposed, which varied greatly both as to scheme and merit, - the plans of Cass Gilbert (1910-1914), (see Fig. 1), of Fred M. Mann, of Professor J.M. White of Illinois, and Messrs. Greene, LaRoche & Dahl (1928), have been particularly studied.

The Cass Gilbert plan determined the location of the Library and Sutton Hall. The Library and a symmetrically placed building (proposed museum), were to form, with the Academic Building (intended to replace the Main Building), the three sides of a plaza, center of the 40-acre plot. The approach to this plaza from 21st Street was constituted by three buildings on each side, enclosing a mall of the same width as the plaza (460'). This width was far too wide for the length of the mall (390') to be of any architectural value, and besides, the middle building of the three, with a north-south axis, was placed rather awkwardly on a steep slope. The designer attempted to correct this by placing on both sides of the mall, in front of the three buildings, a light portico acting as a screen, and reducing the width of the mall to about 300'. The slope of the porticoes was still objectionable, and the proportion of the mall still too wide. This can be appreciated by comparison with the University of Virginia campus (see Fig. 2), which measures 210' in width for a length of 640'. The east and west approach to the Main Building were entirely too wide, (230' on the west side, and 290' on the east), to be of any architectural value. The buildings in general were placed too far apart to be of any mutual help in creating

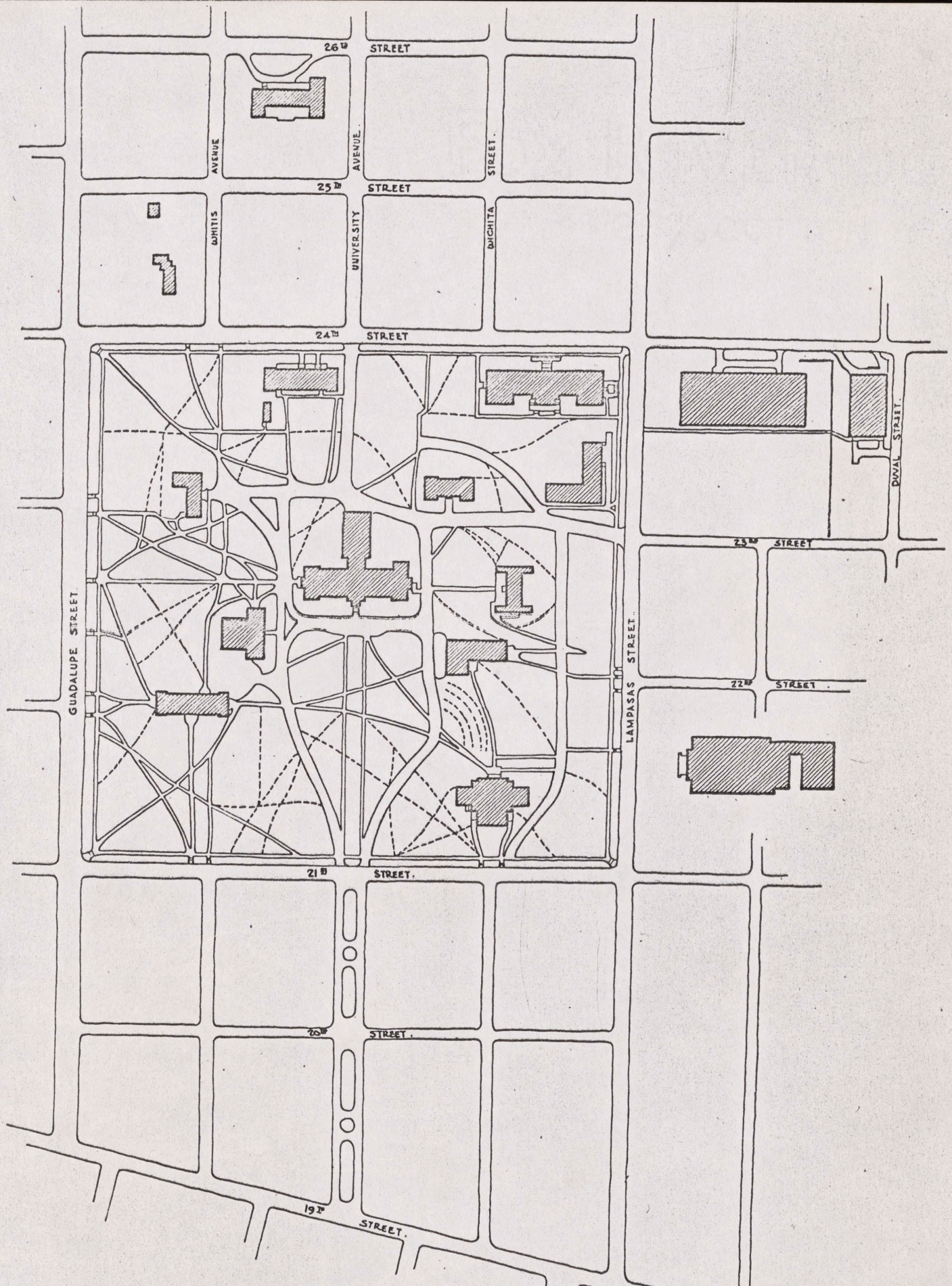
an organic composition. The extension of the buildings was in most cases impossible to achieve, and an enormous amount of grading or retaining walls was needed to connect the various elements. However, the principle of the plaza in front of Main Building and the south approach, was a valuable contribution, and the two buildings designed by the same architect have great merit.

It was an error to discard this scheme of the main plaza when Garrison Hall was located by another adviser without any regard for the Library on the opposite side.

The plan of Messrs. Greene, LaRoche & Dahl (see Fig. 1) embraced a greater campus, and determined the location of various important buildings for Biology, Chemistry, Engineering Laboratories, Mens' Gymnasium, Womens' Gymnasium, Littlefield Dormitory, Power Plant and the Stadium. Several valuable ideas were developed, such as the east approach carried down to Waller Creek, the Womens' Group, the approximate location of the Mens' Dormitories, and the suggestion of making a new Library the central feature of the campus. Some features were, however, of lesser value; i.e., the important south approach, the angular shape of most of the buildings, and the interior aspect of the secondary groups.

In preparing the present plan, several suggestions of these previous plans have been used, either on account of their intrinsic value, or because the recently built departments had been located according to this or that plan.

The present plan was started in 1930. The campus then presented the conditions shown on the accompanying map. Figure 3 shows



CONDITIONS IN 1930

FIG. 3

the appearance of the road and paths system and the landscaping. A number of wooden barracks left from the War years were used for various purposes until provision could be made for permanent structures. Some of the more permanent buildings could also be considered as temporary, either on account of their absolescence, or their fire risk.

In the case of the Main Building, the use of the Auditorium had already been condemned as unsafe. The main portion was still servicable, although its replacement by a more permanent structure had to be contemplated. This replacement was none the less desirable if the general character adopted for the structures of the last twenty years was to be made predominant, because this Southern character conflicted with the Gothic of the earlier structure.

During the period of studies of the new plan (from 1930 to the end of 1932), many decisions had to be made when the construction of a large group of new buildings was authorized by the Legislature, and their location selected. These buildings are, - Library, Geology, Physics, Architecture, Home Economics, new Engineering group, University Union and Commons, Auditorium, Mens' Dormitories (first unit), the Practice School.

If the location of these buildings was, in most cases, determined by the general plan, the shape of building required by the interested department reacted in its turn on this plan.

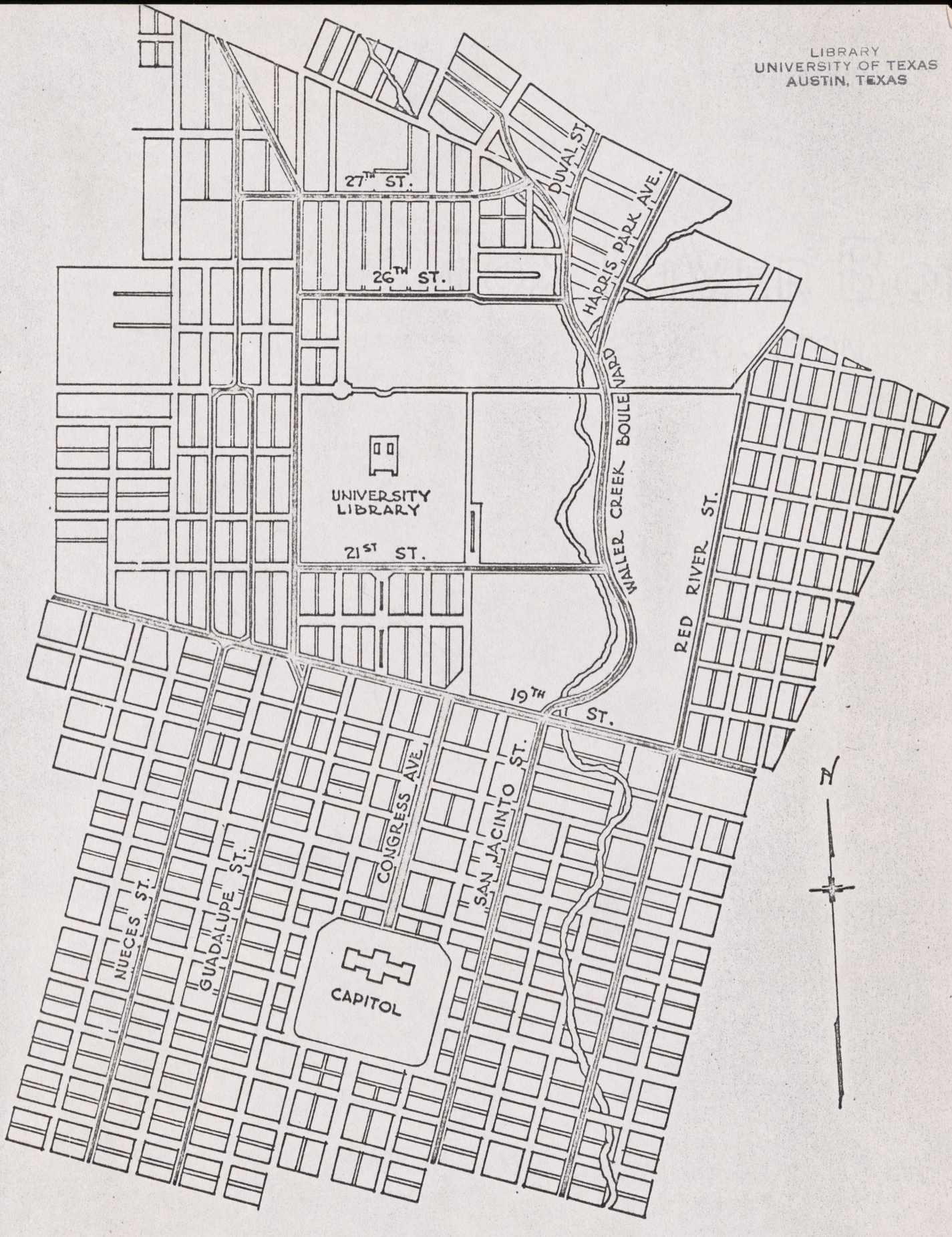
Several other questions came up for preliminary studies and decisions: the location of the new Waller Creek Boulevard, the approach to the Mens' Gymnasium, the new practice fields for the Department of Athletics, the study of the landscaping of the 40-acre plot, etc.

As explained above, the plan of development was in each case used as a frame for the individual problems of each department. It will still be the case in the future. Supervising the physical growth of a large institution is not any more a task to be completed once for all than the determination of its educational policies.

THE UNIVERSITY IN RELATION TO THE CITY

The location of the campus in relation to the City brings up problems amounting to finding a compromise between conflicting aims. There is, on one side, the desire of the University to divert the City traffic from the campus in order to secure the quiet necessary to its lecture rooms, and to safeguard the active students' traffic. On the other side, the City may find that the enclosed grounds of the University form an obstruction, more objectionable from year to year because the traffic is growing while the University campus is at the same time increased by successive land acquisitions. A policy of closing the streets may, in time, be opposed by a public counter-request for opening traffic arteries through the campus. It is advisable to anticipate this demand, by reasonable provision for the needs of the City.

Within the last two years, your Board has taken a step in this direction by opening the Waller Creek Boulevard to connect the



STREET SYSTEM IN THE VICINITY OF THE UNIVERSITY

FIG. 4

northeast section of the City with San Jacinto Street. This has permitted the closing of the Speedway, and forestalled a probable demand for a traffic-way through the grounds reserved for Womens' athletics.

For the present, the south to north traffic system in the University region, seems to be adequately provided for by (see Fig. 4) :

1. The proposed Nueces Street Boulevard
2. Guadalupe Street
3. Congress Ave. to 19th Street then east on 19th to the Waller Creek Boulevard
4. San Jacinto Street continued by Waller Creek Boulevard
5. Red River Street

The east to west traffic by:

1. 27th Street connected with Waller Creek Boulevard and Duval Street
2. 26th " " " Harris Park Avenue
3. 21st " " " Waller Creek Boulevard
4. 19th Street

Some improvements in the street system are mentioned here as they would be of benefit to the University.

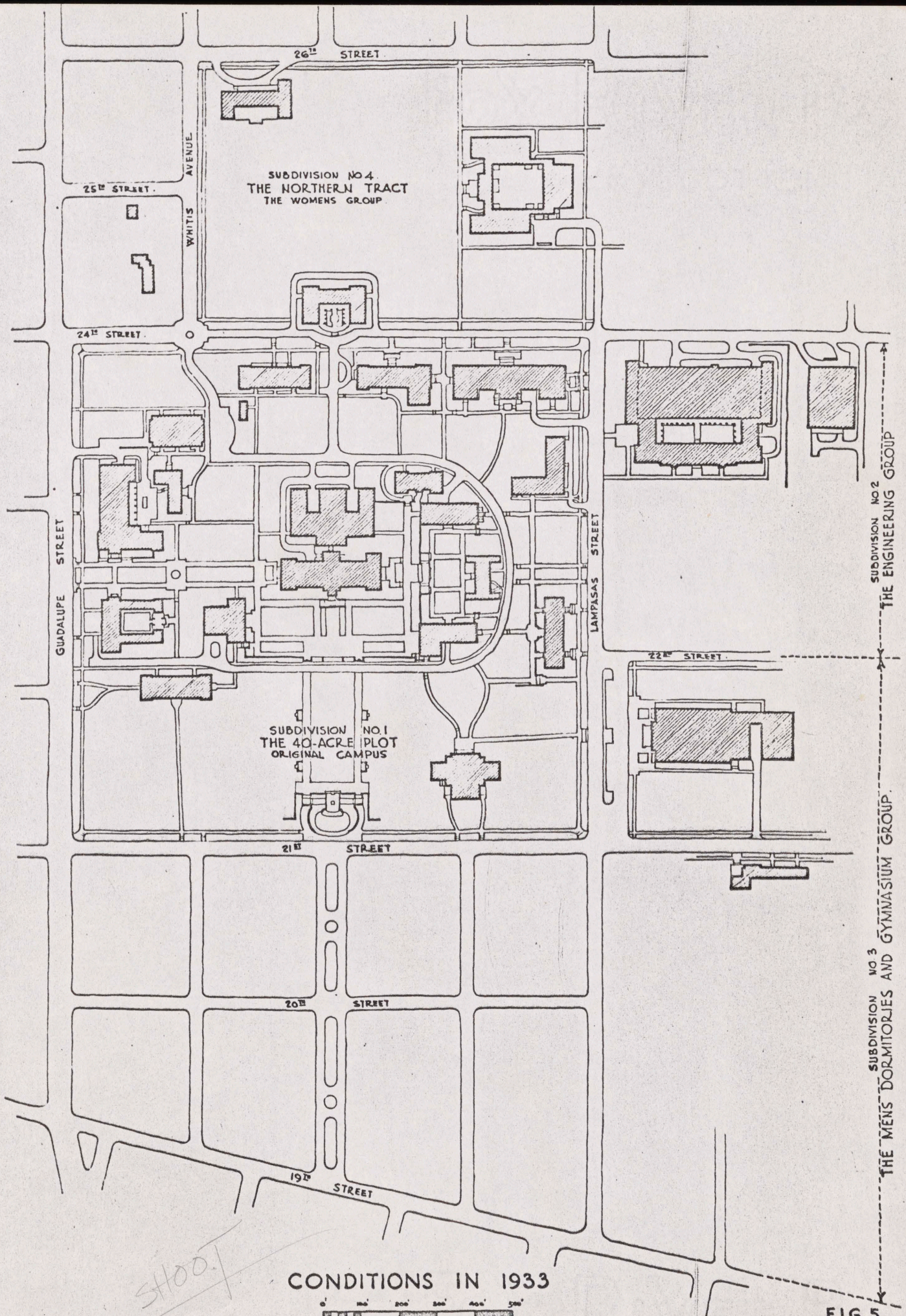
The jog of Guadalupe Street at 19th ought to be eliminated by cutting through the corner.

21st Street ought to be improved in the portion between Lampasas and Waller Creek Boulevard, and a suitable connection with this Boulevard designed. There is a possibility of carrying this Street over Waller Creek Boulevard to a road serving the Stadium, and connecting with both Red River Street and Waller Creek Boulevard.

The easing up of the right angle turn from University Ave. to 21st Street, is recommended, both from the point of view of traffic improvement, and to give a better approach to the Littlefield Memorial.

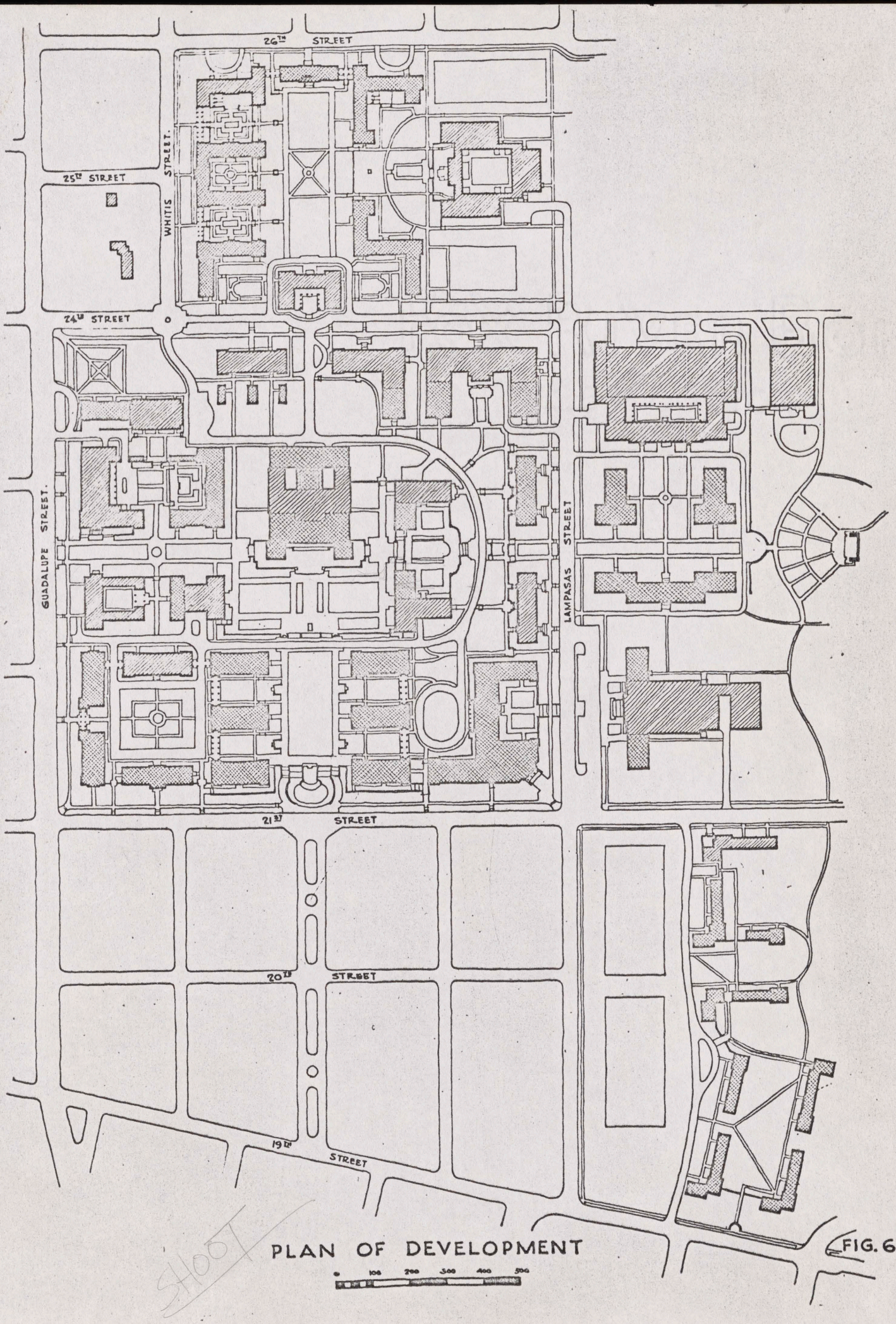
A proposal has been made in the report of Messrs. Koch and Fowler to carry South University Avenue to the Capitol Plaza. In my judgment, this proposal is of little value either as an approach to the campus, or as a monumental feature. The proposed extension cuts through the existing street system at a sharp angle, leaving small patches unfit for building, with the result that the appearance of the extended avenue would be that of two triangles connected by their summit and awkwardly filled with grass plots of unpleasant shape. Besides, the profile of this Avenue, as determined by the topography and adjoining streets, is very bad, unless extensive grading is contemplated.

The whole problem of the Capitol grounds and its approach has never been the object of an adequate study, although of great importance to the City of Austin. As this problem is of interest to the state, the City, and the University, it is to be hoped that it will be placed some day in competent hands.



CONDITIONS IN 1933

FIG. 5



PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

FIG. 6

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN OF 1933

A - Sub-Divisions of the Campus

The University campus divides itself in a few large sub-divisions (see Figs. 5 and 6).

1. The 40-acre plot or original campus;
2. The Engineering group tract, from 22nd to 24th Street, (now 26) and from Lampasas (San Jacinto) Street to the Creek (Waller);
3. The Mens' Dormitories, Gregory Gymnasium and Practice Fields group, between Lampasas Street and the Creek, and from 19th to 22nd Streets;
4. The Northern tract extending from 24th to 26th Streets, and from Whitis Avenue to Waller Creek. A few tracts outside this sub-division belong to or may be acquired by the University; (Womens' Residential group)
5. The Wesleyan College property;
6. The athletic tract from the Creek to Red River Street and between 19th and 24th Streets, extended. (Athletics)

The repartition of these sub-divisions between the various functions of a campus was fairly well decided upon by earlier decisions of the Board when the studies of the new plan were started.

The 40-acre plot can be considered as the Academic, or Educational center, with the Engineering tract as an additional building site for new departments. The sub-divisions north and south are reserved for students' residential areas; the sub-division east of Waller Creek, for athletic fields with some departments requiring isolation

from the main campus (Practice School). The use of the Wesleyan College tract is for the present undesignated.

B - Provision for Growth

In the Educational group (Sub-divisions 1 and 2), in 1930, not including the wood barracks still in use while the building campaign of 1932 was in course of achievement, the area occupied by buildings measured on the ground floor only, amounted to 178,000 square feet. In 1933, this area is brought up to 352,000 square feet. The plan provides for a total of 587,000 square feet; that is to say, with ample space around the departments, and without trying to use the grounds to their utmost capacity, the completed scheme allows an increase in the Educational group of buildings, of 60% over the present 1933 capacity, after deducting the buildings which are to be demolished in the future. This increase does not take account of the possible use of tracts in other sub-divisions as, for instance, if an education department exclusively for women students were located in sub-division 4. The possibility of growth on the present campus of the Educational group can be considered as 100%, if used to full capacity.

In regard to Sub-division 3 (Mens' Dormitories', Gymnasium and Practice Field), a group of Dormitories housing 1000 students is shown, leaving ample space for practice fields. Should it be thought desirable to increase the capacity of Dormitories on this same site, it can be achieved by another grouping of buildings, bringing the capacity to about 2000 students. The practice fields might, in this case, become inadequate.

Sub-Division 4 (Womens' Residential group) can also provide a capacity from 1000 to 2000 students, according to the type of grouping selected; the practice field area, if properly divided and extended to the Creek, is adequate.

Sub-Division 6 (Athletics) is one where any provision for future needs is most arbitrary. The future of intercollegiate athletics, and especially of the exhibition games requiring very large accommodations for the public, is a subject of great controversy. It seems, however, that if the provisions for public attendance were to be decreased, there would be a corresponding increase in playing fields for intra-University teams, and this sub-division would then require more area, or at least, a better utilization of the University properties east of the Creek. A part of sub-division 5 (Wesleyan tract) might provide for this future growth.

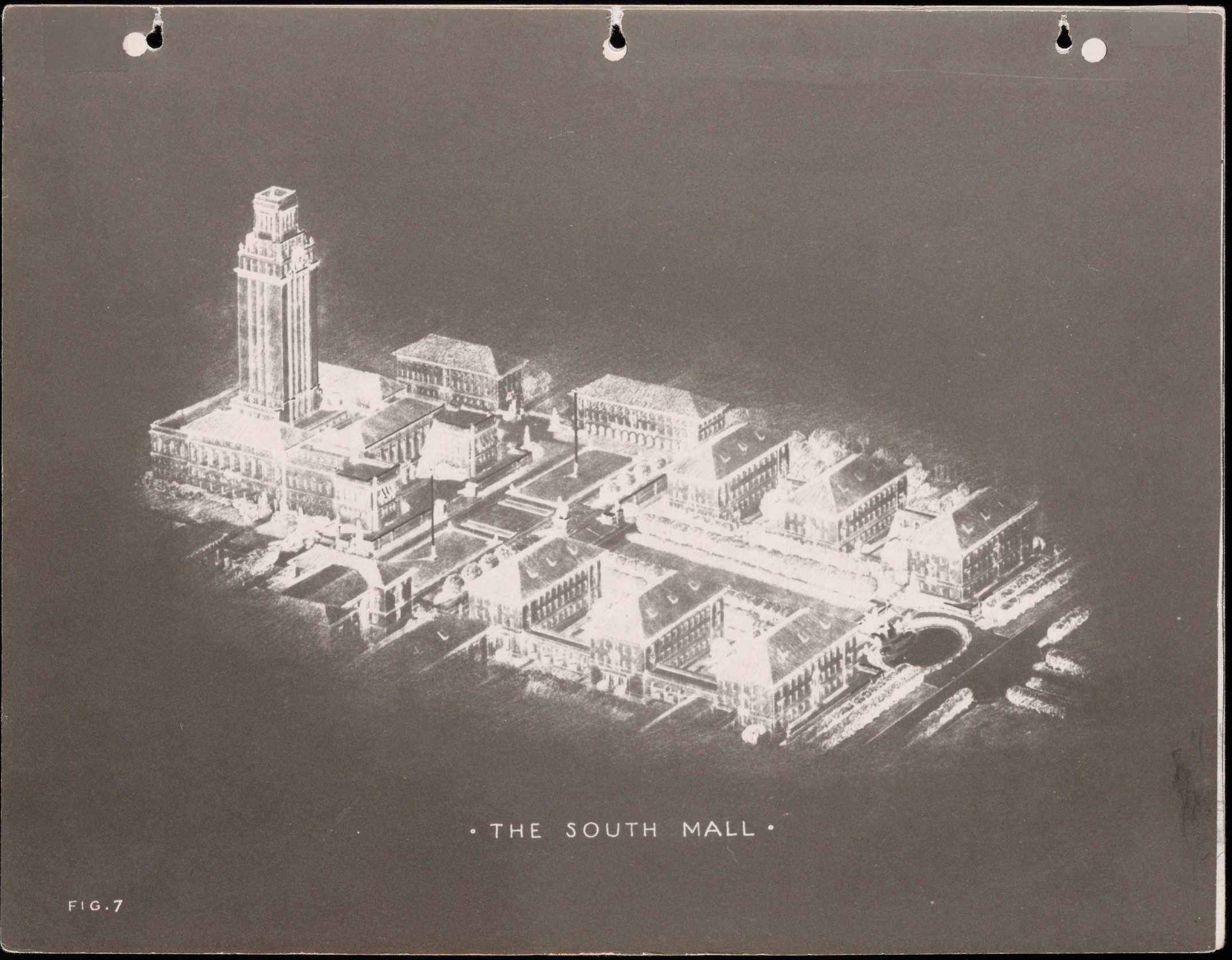
The plan has recognized the provisions made long ago for an increase in the Stadium, although this enlargement depends on the future of exhibition games, and might involve some congestion between the Stadium and Waller Creek Boulevard.

C - The 40-Acre Plot

1. South entrance to the University campus and Littlefield Memorial

This entrance, and its continuation, the south mall, are the features of the University campus where the visitor gains his first impression of the Institution.

In a large group of buildings, be it a city, a world fair, or a university, there is always a certain part of the whole which



• THE SOUTH MALL •

FIG. 7

provides the image carried in our memory when we think of the place. In a city, it will be the principal square, or a certain avenue; if a world fair, the Court of Honor; if a university, let us say, Columbia University, it will be the composition of steps, walls and fountains dominated by the Alma Mater statue, and the noble mass of the Library. This does not mean that secondary aspects ought to receive scant attention. Nevertheless, it is mostly by this focal point that the place is remembered and judged.

This has been the foremost thought in planning the 40-acre plot.

It led to a fundamental revision of the proposed Littlefield Memorial which instead of a small composition, overcrowded with features and designed without regard for its surroundings, was expanded so as to form an entrance to the campus. The portrait statuary was separated from the allegorical figures, as the juxtaposition of these two types was objectionable on account of the difference in scale, and the contrast of the classicism of certain figures with the realism of the other. The portrait statues selected by the donor gain in prominence when provided with an individual setting instead of being used as accessories to a fountain design. A much more ample display of water was secured for the fountain, a better selection of materials, and the proper introduction of planting and lawn around the memorial.

2. The South Mall - (See Fig. 7)

The aspect of the Littlefield Gate will not be complete until the six buildings shown on the plan along the south mall are built, with the flanking terrace in front of the two lower ones. An open space

takes its shape from the buildings forming its frame, and only secondarily, from the masses of trees and planting. The group of buildings provides in the design, the abutments of the whole, and marks the direction of the visual lines focusing on the Main Building.

The early plans provided a mall much too wide for its length. The result was to make the campus appear too short.

The six buildings framing the mall will narrow this width to 225' or less, and minimize the difficulties created by the steep grade of the campus. They will also have the benefit of the best exposure to the southeast breeze instead of the north-south exposure of the early plans.

The possibility of a covered portico circulation between and through these buildings is shown on the plan, although it is by no means essential to the design. One of these six buildings could be the future Administration Building.

3. Plaza in Front of the Main Building -

The Board of Regents has accepted the suggestion of eventually replacing the Main Building by the central unit of the new Library. This unit will provide additional reading rooms, exhibition rooms, vestibules, seminars, library school, etc. Some open air reading rooms will be placed in the loggias flanking the principal facade. The reasons for the placing of the Library in this location have been fully discussed in the report of your Consulting Architect, dated April 3, 1930, and appended to this report (Appendix 1). It is therefore unnecessary to recite again the arguments which received the approval of your Board, and have resulted in the first unit of the structure now nearing completion.

This first unit, built north of the Main Building and partly on the site of the former Auditorium extension of this Main Building, will have a capacity of over 1,000,000 volumes in its stacks and on shelves. Besides some new reading rooms which were needed, it houses the special collections which were only inadequately provided for, (Wrenn, Aitken, Garcia and English collections). Provisions for enlargment are as follows, -

1. Enlargement by increasing the height of the tower (as shown on Fig. 7), for which steel frame is calculated; bringing the total capacity to 2,200,000 volumes.

2. Enlargement by extending the stacks with the same number of stories as at present on the plot north of the present stacks (as shown on the general plan); total capacity 3,000,000 volumes.

Enlargement both vertically and horizontally as in 1 and 2: Total capacity 4,200,000 volumes. (The capacity in the old library was between 300,000 and 400,000 volumes.)

This first unit will give satisfactory working facilities for years to come. We realize that the entrance to the building is far from dignified. This is due to the desire to avoid duplicating accommodations which are to be ultimately provided by the new south front.

The architecture of the future south front of the Library being the keynote of the architectural treatment of the University, will have to be of distinguished value in study and execution. This south wing will also contain the rooms deserving the most elaborate treatment on the campus, if the precedents established in every great

institution of learning of the country are of any value as precedents.

The shape of the plaza was governed by the old Library which is to become ultimately the University Museum. Our first concern was to insure to this building a setting worthy of its merit. To this end, the hump in the original ground on the axis of the Main Building had to be removed as it interfered with the view of the Library from many points, and a flat terrace with lawn and planting provided between the Library and Garrison Hall. This terrace is limited on the south side by a retaining wall, tying the two buildings together, and used as a setting for the Wilson and Jefferson Davis statues. It will receive two monumental flag poles and the future Washington statue which is to be placed on the axis of the south mall. A formal treatment is here desirable in the design of lawns and in the planting.

Garrison Hall had unfortunately been badly located, without any regard to the old Library or to the width desirable for the east approach. To remedy these conditions, it is proposed to double the facade of Garrison Hall on the plaza by an addition, and to build the future enlargement of Geology Building symmetrically with this addition so as to reduce the space between these two additions to 115' which is ample. The new facade of Garrison Hall enlarged will be approximately 175' long, which is much better proportion to the size of the plaza than the present length of 93'. We find here again a mistaken appreciation in the earlier plans of the sizes of buildings needed in relation to the open space they surround. Too much open space is just as detrimental to the architectural effect as too little. In the first case, there is no apparent relation between the various units of a

plaza, and therefore the disconnected appearance of an open lot instead of an orderly plaza; in the second place, the plaza becomes an air shaft. The treatment of the plaza is shown on the plan and incorporated in the landscaping plans of Messrs. Hare & Hare. It will show its value only later on, when the Main Building is replaced by the south front of the Library, Garrison Hall is extended, and the terraces and balustrades around the Library are built.

If a certain lavishness of architecture is justified in some portions of the campus, it is at this point, which is the Heart of the University.

The transformation of the old Library Building to other uses does not need to be discussed here, as it does not affect the present appearance of the Building, with the exception of providing an extension toward the west, if, and when, needed.

4. The West Mall -

This approach to the new Library from the west is second in importance only to the south approach. It has been flanked by two important buildings facing on Guadalupe Street - the Union and Architectural Departments. The designs of these buildings, although informal and quite different one from the other, preserve the unity of the whole by the use of materials similar to those used on the old library, and those to be used on the fourth building still unassigned.

The two towers of Union and Architecture, and a variation in the height of cornice lines, were introduced to counter-act a tendency to design all the buildings rectangular in plan, and strictly horizontal in elevation. This, when repeated on the some thirty buildings on the

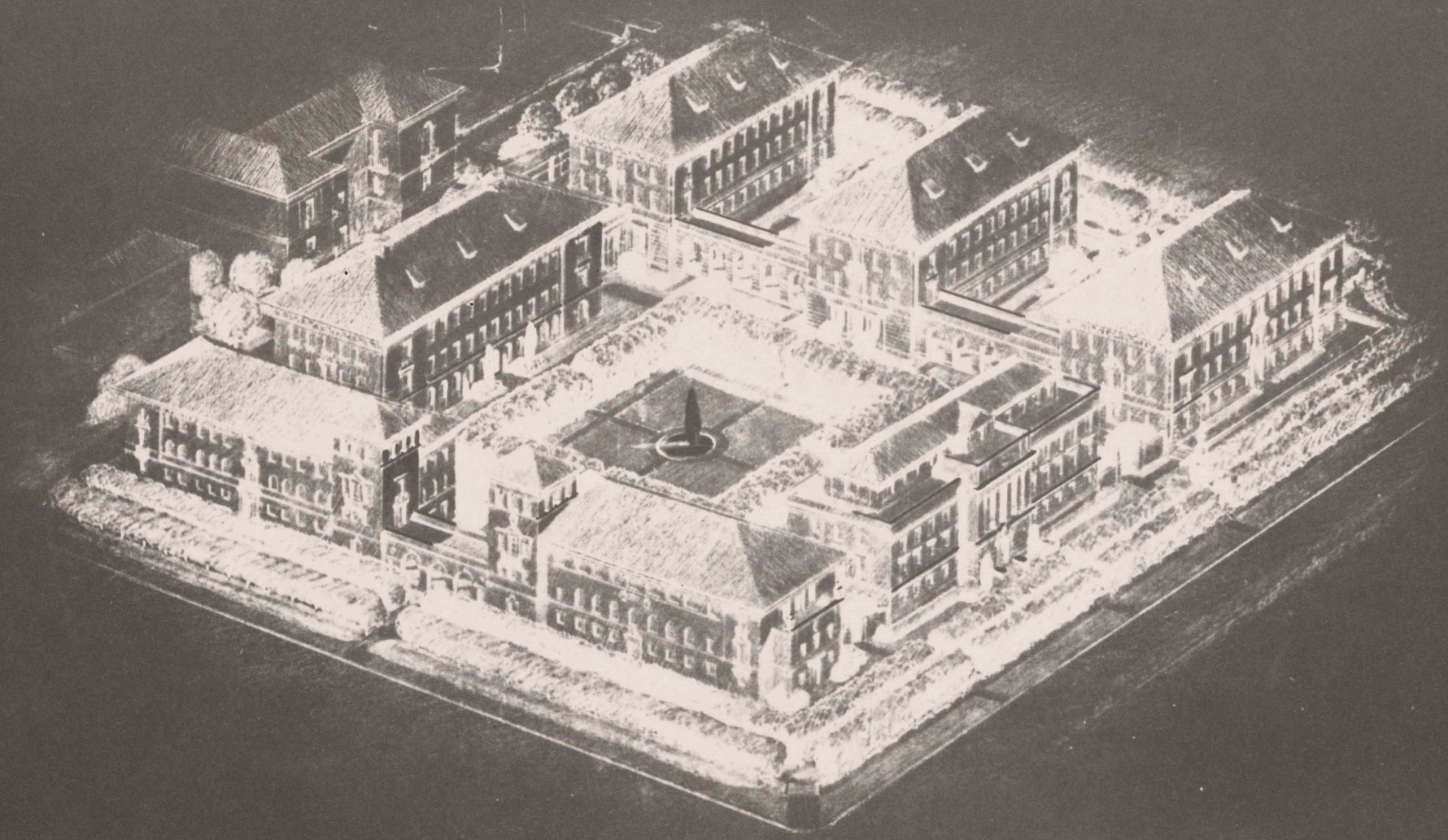
40-acres, or the fifty or more of the whole future campus, would have been hopelessly monotonous, and would have recalled too much Army posts or hospital grouns. Instead of symmetry, a balance of masses was set as the aim. Improvement in the grading and planting of the mall was suggested in the detail studies incorporated since in the planting plans.

Half way up, this west mall is intersected by a north-south secondary axis, giving access to the courtyard of the Union, to the space between the extended Museum (old Library) and Architecture, and terminating on the north at the facade of the Auditorium, and to the south, at the center of Sutton Hall. The west mall ends at one of the open loggia motives of the future south wing of the new Library, and temporarily at the west entrance of Main Building.

5. The East Mall -

This feature will be, when fully developed, one of the most attractive spots of the campus. Starting from the south front of the new Library, it first reaches through monumental stairs the terrace between Garrison Hall and Geology Building. As stated above, the future extension of these two buildings will reduce the too large space existing at present between these buildings, and help to focus the view on the valley of Waller Creek and the hills on the east.

This terrace, and further steps down hill, recall the hill-side garden of the Italian villas. A formal garden with benches and statuary will create there a secluded and restful outdoor plaza. At the lower level, the mall is framed by Waggener Hall and the symmetrical building to replace the old Power Plant. Then it is carried across



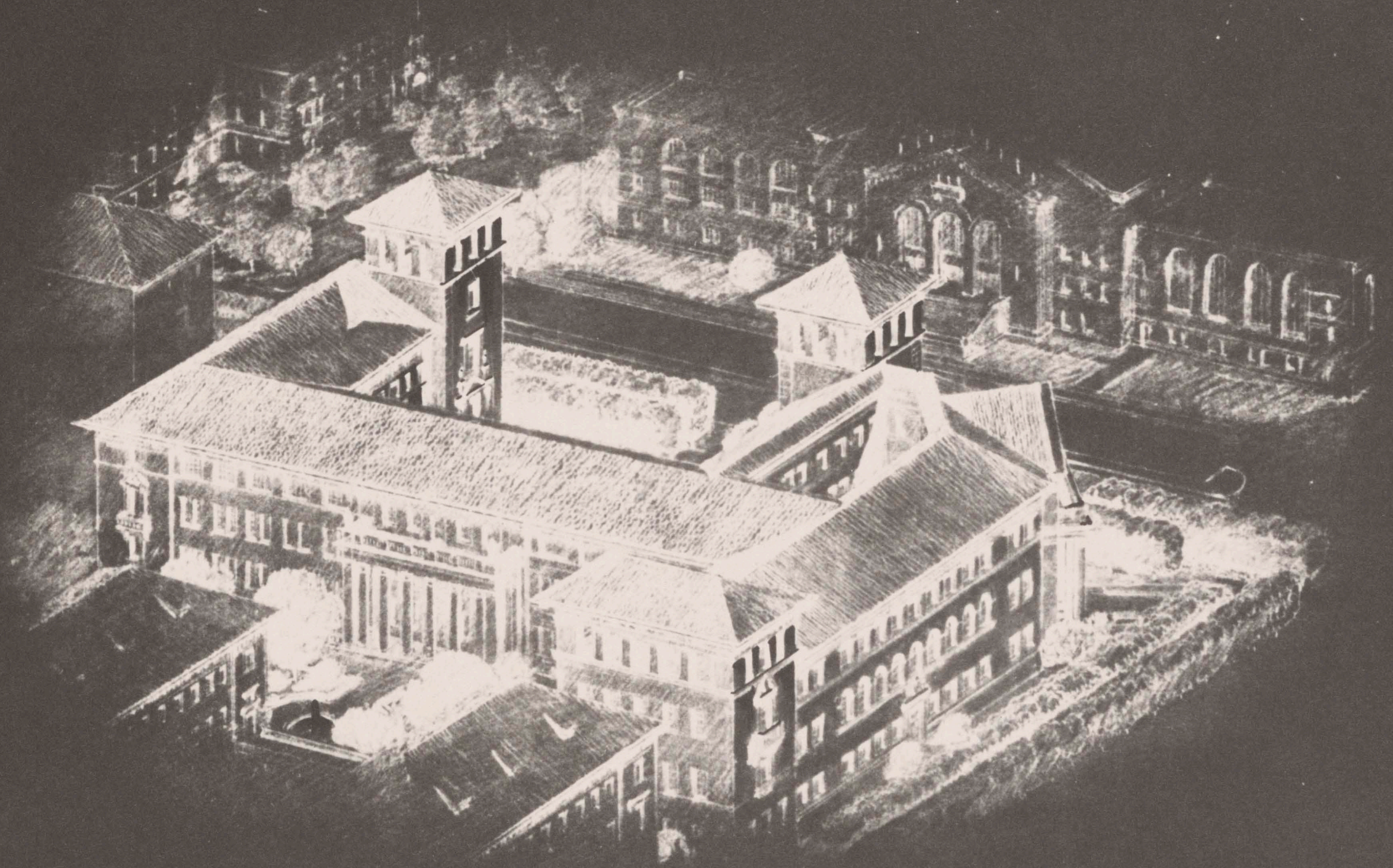
• THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE 40-ACRES •

FIG. 8

Lampasas Street to a campus, developed in sub-division 2 (Engineering Laboratories) giving excellent sites for new departments and susceptible to accommodate either large or small departments. The mall ends at the outdoor theatre, although the view extends above to the hills. The location of the outdoor theatre was suggested by the topography and the possibilities of an informal setting extending to the Creek. At night, the public can reach the theatre by Waller Creek Boulevard, without entering the campus proper. Parking facilities can be had on the east bank of the Creek. Existing live oaks and the future landscaping of the Creek banks will provide a most attractive setting. The size of audience possible in this location is far larger than could be had on the 40-acres. The total length of the perspective between the new Library and the ridge of the hill at Red River Street is about a half mile.

6. South West Corner of the 40-Acres - (See Fig. 8)

The composition suggested for this area is that of a formal square of the type of the smaller cities' plazas. The first unit, Sutton Hall, is now built. The level ground and the desirability of protecting this area from the noise of Guadalupe Street traffic lend themselves more readily to a more formal treatment of connected buildings than any other portion of the campus. The square is bound on the north by Sutton Hall, on the east by three of the buildings of the south mall connected by porticoes, on the south and west by three new departments. The connecting porticoes or walls, the formal planting of trees as a cloister-walk, would, by shutting off the outer world, make a pleasing contrast with other parts of the campus which rely, on



• THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE 40-ACRES •

FIG. 9

the contrary, on extended views toward either the Capitol or the eastern range of hills. The value of contrasts has proved its worth all through the ages.

7. South East Corner - (See Fig. 9)

The area between the buildings of the south mall and Lampasas Street is approximately similar to the southwest corner. It is, however, on fairly steep sloping ground which would not make it suitable for the same type of group-planning without extensive grading and retaining walls. Besides, it faces the Gregory Gymnasium and the approaches developed during the present study of the general plan.

The importance of the gymnasium suggested that buildings on the opposite side of Lampasas Street could form a composition on the same axis, or to put it in another way, it was thought more important to group the buildings on the southeast corner of the 40-acres in relation rather to the Gregory Gymnasium than to the south mall buildings. The problem admits, however, several solutions which have been worked out by the Consulting Architect. One only could be shown in the general plan. It shows a U-shaped building surrounding a courtyard raised above the level of the "Peripatos" by a few steps, and open on the side facing the Gregory Gymnasium. The south wing of this building forms a 45° motif facing the steps from Lampasas and 21st Streets. An informal treatment of the west court is desirable on account of the sloping grounds.

The building, if planned in this way, would be one of the largest units of the campus excepting the Library. Whether future needs will require such a large unit, or whether it will be preferable to

divide this area in two buildings (which is entirely feasible), no one can tell today.

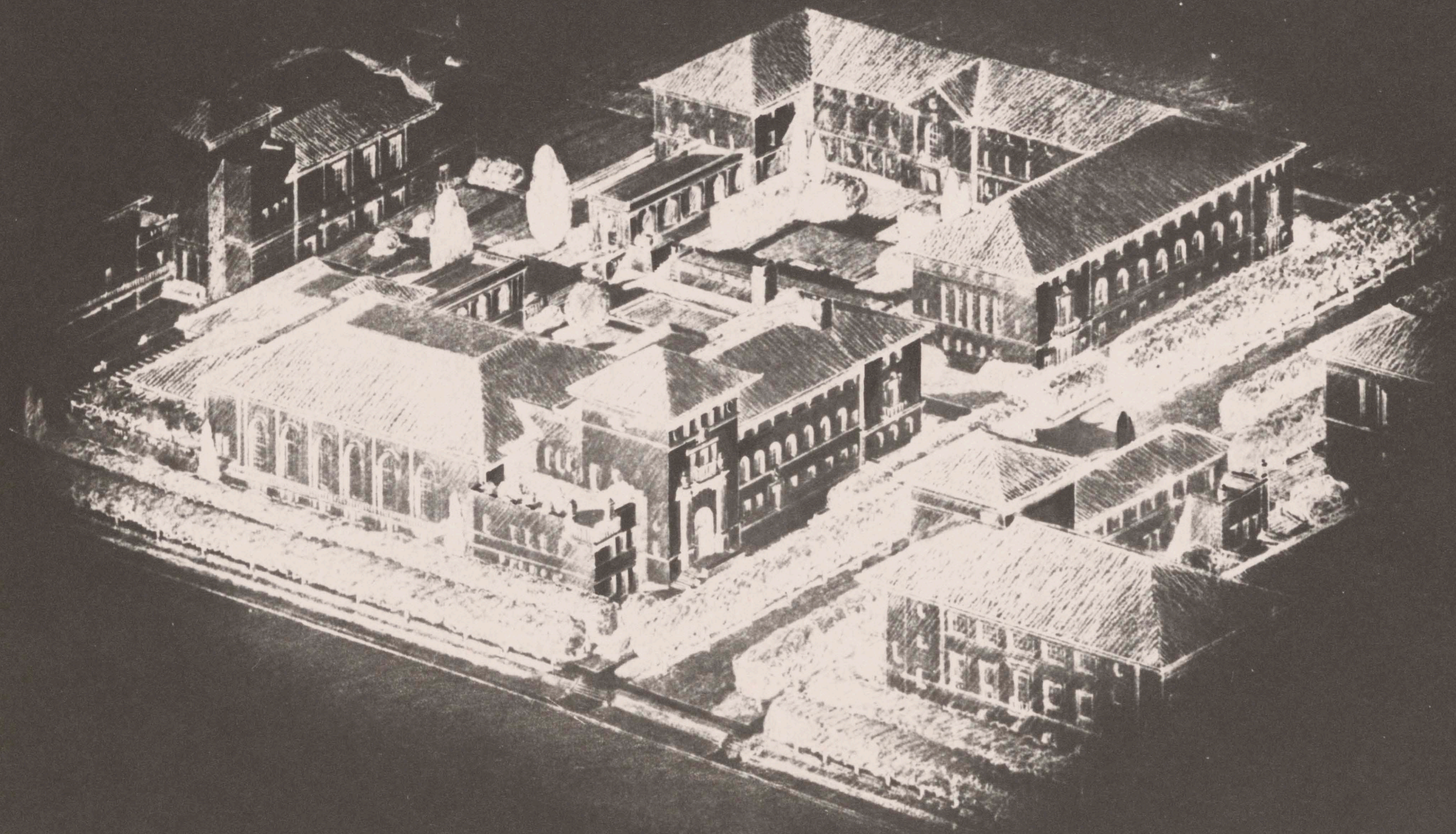
For the present, the Law Building, erected in 1900, stands on this area, and may be kept there for a good many years. It does not interfere with the building of the three units of the south mall, and might be considered as permanent. A decision on this point is not urgently needed, and as stated above the problem of planning this area can be approached from several angles.

8. Area North of the New Library -

We have seen that the new Library can have its stacks extended either vertically in the tower, or horizontally, as shown on the plan of development. This alternative is shown on the plans not to indicate a preference, but in order to locate the roads and paths so as to leave the question open. The area north of the stacks allows the extension "in situ" of the scientific departments along 24th Street. This extension has been foreseen in the shape of wings directed toward the south. Besides this, some departments (Biology, for instance), require a certain amount of ground for green houses, animal houses, experimental gardens, ponds, etc.

Along 24th Street, and from west to east, are located a garden, the origin of which is the group of live oaks now on the site; the start of the service road of the 40-acres with its control; the Biology and Physics Buildings symmetrically placed on the north-south axis of the campus; and finally, the Chemistry Building shown with its proposed extensions.

It is realized that this part of the campus, on account of



• THE UNION GROUP •

FIG. 10

the uneven size of future extensions of buildings, cannot achieve much of an architectural composition. For this reason, informal planting, screening the rear of the scientific departments, is advisable. For the present, and probably for a number of years, the old Engineering Building is to remain. Its removal is suggested, to insure to the completed library the spacious surroundings necessary to the principal building of the University.

9. The Union -

The planning of the Union and Commons, the Auditorium, and adjacent territory, is the result of many schemes and suggestions from the interested departments and the Supervising Architect, Mr. White.

The plan shows conditions as they will be after the Womens' Building is removed (probably in a few years). The small theatre for amateur theatricals is to be built back to back with the Auditorium. The two buildings completing the quadrangle on the south and east are still unassigned.

The Auditorium entrance faces east, the Faculty Committee foreseeing the use of this Auditorium by large classes who would reach it from the center of the campus. The small theatre, when built, will, on the contrary, face on Guadalupe Street, the performances taking place in the evening for audiences coming from the City.

The plan contemplates the creation of a garden inside this group, taking advantage of the different levels of the ground, and providing an outdoor resting place and dining terrace in connection with the Union. Porticoes or loggias have been provided for this center of social life of the students (see Fig. 10).

D - Engineering Laboratories Sub-Division

The laboratories of Mechanical Engineering were completed in 1932, by a very large addition. Space is reserved also for doubling the area of the new Power Station. Between these buildings and the extended line of 22nd Street (used only as an ideal separation line between the Gregory Gymnasium grounds and the area reserved for academic buildings extension), lies a large plot, now occupied by small houses. Many combinations of grouping are possible on this area. One only could be shown on the plan. Here again, future developments will dictate the final choice. The only feature of the plan that we consider as essential in this area is the extension to the east of the east mall leading to the outdoor theatre and to the Waller Creek Park.

E - The Mens' Dormitories, Gregory Gymnasium and Practice Field Group

The gymnasium was in the process of construction when these studies were undertaken. The plans of the Gymnasium's architect contemplate a future two-wing extension of the main front.

The parking space in front of the Gymnasium, the utility of which is amply demonstrated, tends to show that parking facilities would be a great convenience in three or four other sections of the campus.

The planning of the practice fields around the Gymnasium, and of the additional fields under construction now on the Tract between Lampasas Street and the knoll (where the first unit of the Mens' Dormitories is located), ought, in the future, to receive more attention

from the point of view of planting trees or bushes at convenient points and hiding the wire fences around tennis courts.

The location of the Mens' Dormitories was selected with regard, -

a. to leaving as much space as possible for practice fields on those parts of the site suitable for this purpose;

b. to making use of the trees standing on the knoll as a landscape setting for the Dormitories, and to giving a better outlook to the Dormitories by using the highest point of the Tract.

The access to the group is, of course, made a little less convenient because of the separation from the north-south street system by the wide band of practice fields. On the other hand, it approximates conditions of residential quarters in a college located in open country, instead of in a city. This led to the suggestion of planning the Dormitories on a more informal type of grouping than was originally contemplated.

Full advantage of the best exposure to the breeze is available through this informal arrangement, as well as picturesqueness in the grouping and design of buildings. The appropriation for each unit to be erected in the future ought to include a certain percentage reserved for landscaping and features like porticoes, terrace walls, benches, steps, which will tend to make the residential section much more attractive than mere housing. The first unit has been erected at an extremely low cost if compared to the cost per student in other universities. This is a gratifying result, provided the amenities of campus life are not lost sight of.

The road serving the future group and starting at 19th Street, approximately at Duval Street, might receive a feature marking this entrance in an appropriate way. As stated above, the number of building units to be erected on this site for Dormitories is variable, although tentatively fixed for 1000 students.

F - The Womens Dormitories' Group (Northern Tract)

When the study of the general plan was started, the Womens' Gymnasium location had been selected by the Board, and the Littlefield Freshman Dormitory was built. The intention of devoting this area to the women residential section was thus clearly determined. The large surface limited by Whitis Avenue, the Creek, 24th and 26th Streets, might, however, receive a few academic buildings, if desirable. A step in this direction was the location, in 1932, of the Home Economics Department on the principal north-south axis, at 24th Street. I mention also the possibility of using the sites directly east and west of Home Economics for educational buildings, the dormitories starting just north of the Home Economics Building.

The western portion of the tract has a pronounced slope from west to east. It is proposed to recognize this feature by grading it in three terraces, the central one being a college green preserving existing trees, as far as practicable, within the lines of two shaded walks running north-south; the two outer terraces to receive dormitories. A suggested extension of the Littlefield Freshman Dormitory has been shown, while the arrangement of the Dormitories Building is tentative. Recognition of an approach to the Womens' Gymnasium ought to be a feature

of this grouping. The desirability of enclosing this area by a wall, fence or hedge, as in many other institutions (Harvard, Brown, University of Pennsylvania dormitories, etc.), ought to be considered.

G - The Wesleyan College Property

No attempts have been made to show a group of buildings on this site. New departments or University activities requiring altogether a new type of planning are likely to come up before the Board at some future time for an allotment of space. It would be better to approach these new problems with a mind unhampered by a tentative layout covering all the available land of the campus.

For the present, it can be said that the fine landscape qualities of this site make of it a natural park extension of the Waller Creek Park studied below. If kept as a park, it will require only a small amount of improvement in the road system to connect it more effectively with the central group.

H - The Athletic Tract

Under this sub-division, is included all land east of the Waller Creek, and between the Wesleyan College grounds and 19th Street. This land is at present divided into small residential blocks, the only extensive clearings being the Baseball and Football fields and the Practice School property.

Only a limited amount of utilization of this large section has been shown on the general plan. The reason for our disinclination to suggest an extensive building program is, as stated above, our con-

viction that it is unwise to mortgage the future too heavily, and if we assume that this area will remain mostly devoted to athletics, the kind of facilities to be provided for is not entirely formulated.

Certain portions of the tract are on a hill-side, and do not lend themselves readily to the layout of playing fields. These ought to become part of the Waller Creek Park (see below).

The facades of the Stadium have been left partly incompleted, with the idea that an enlargement of the seating capacity would have to be provided by deepening the east and west branches of the U. Architecturally, this solution has proved to be of mediocre appearance. Should it become unavoidable in the future, particular care should be given to the circulation around the enlarged Stadium. It seems that the moderate traffic of the neighborhood would not be greatly inconvenienced by street parking at the time of the games, as is the practice at a number of universities located in cities. Such parking occurs on a few days each year; to provide special accommodation for it is quite expensive. It is felt that parking areas are much more urgently needed near the 40-acres where they could be used every day by faculty, students and visitors. A recent development has been to locate the Practice School in the southern part of this tract.

I - The Waller Creek Valley

This element of the campus can be developed into a most attractive feature, without entailing large expenditures. An important step in this direction was taken in opening the Waller Creek Boulevard as part of the City's highways and Park system.

The Creek intersects the University campus from north to south on a length of almost 4000 feet. In spite of its limitations as a stream, some parts of its course have scenic value and with a gradual improvement of the clumps of trees, embankments, and, in some cases, of its bed, it will be a pleasing feature of the proposed park.

This park bordering the Creek would provide the campus with a long walk, amidst a natural setting of trees, rocks and water, which would be a great asset. The path, located on the west bank of the Creek and starting at 19th Street, borders the practice fields of the Men's Dormitories, the picturesque section each of the Gregory Gymnasium, the open air theatre, and the Womens' Athletic Fields. It has already a good number of trees, and planting done from time to time could improve its appearance without much expenditure. From the principal sanded path informal secondary branches will reach the University grounds; small foot bridges would cross to the east section.

On the eastern bank, the boulevard, a city highway, provides the same advantages for the general public.

A suggestion was made by the landscape architects of the University that a garden of indigenous plants and trees be established somewhere along this Creek instead of at the northwest corner of the 40-acres, as many of the interesting specimens show to better advantage in a rocky informal setting than in a level park.

The outdoor theatre is part of this proposed Park, and it is suggested to treat it as informally as possible, the landscape treatment dominating decidedly the architectural. Outdoor theatres designed as Greek or Roman theatres, besides being more costly to build, create a gap

in the lawns and the landscape. What is suggested is a simple shaping of the grounds, with trees breaking the lines of seats in places, and with only the stage as an architectural feature. Good examples of this type exist in this country.

CONTROL OF TRAFFIC

The problem consists in giving access for delivery wagons to each building of the campus, while preventing interference with pedestrian traffic and prohibiting the access and parking of unauthorized cars. The Building Committee of the Faculty has formulated the extent of control they desire by stating that for the present only the 40 acres would be supervised and subject to restriction. The plan shows such a system. It is realized that the solution offered is not entirely satisfactory. Undoubtedly, in the operation of the University grounds, experiments and changes are likely to occur in the future, and the system suggested which seems adequate for the present will have to be extended and improved. Such method by trial and error is not without danger; roads are built piece-meal, complicating the general system. On the other hand, the limited appropriations available for the purpose do not allow the immediate building of a comprehensive system. The solution shown is a compromise.

STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE OF THE BUILDINGS

Although the instructions of the Board of Regents did not contemplate a study of the appearance of buildings to be erected in the future on the campus, but merely their location, the building campaign of 1932, by adding some ten units to the permanent group of buildings, necessitated the formulation of a policy.

The best buildings on the campus at the time were built of limestone for the first floor, face brick for the upper floors with enrichments of polychrome terra-cotta. Projecting eaves and tile roofs were uniformly used. The old Library was entirely build of limestone with the terra cotta more sparingly used in window jambs. This building was justly considered architecturally the most successful of the campus. The fact that it has, on the principal front, only two stories, the second one of monumental proportions, accounts in part for its more impressive appearance. These contrasts in the height of stories have been in the past one of the greatest resources of the designer. Most of the departments on the campus require, on the other hand, four stories of approximately the same height, which greatly increase the difficulty of obtaining a successful outside appearance. If we add to this the lack of wall surface due to the interior division into small offices instead of large rooms, it is apparent that the ordinary department cannot be given the same monumental quality that is found in the old Library. However, a lesson can be gained from it, and this has been of use in designing some of the recent buildings : the white walls and the limitation of the polychrome terra cotta scheme to a few points are more

effective than the darker color of face brick used in other buildings. When existing buildings to be matched by the new ones did not dictate the use of brick, stone walls were recommended in preference, and accepted by the Board of Regents.

Old stone houses in Austin were another source of inspiration, although the requirements of a modern scientific department as to windows, as well as the large bulk necessary to accommodate these departments, prevented the use of an adaptation of these early types of Texan architecture.

The origin of the State of Texas and the proximity of Mexico were an inducement to get some inspiration from the Spanish architecture, although a faithful archaeological reproduction was neither advisable nor possible. An academic building of the XXth Century ought not to attempt to pass for a Spanish palace or a Medieval town hall. The continuation of a tradition is quite different from plagiarism; the one recognizes changes brought by time, while the other would like to ignore them but fails in the attempt.

We spoke above of the effort to avoid covering all buildings by the same type of roof. This must be qualified by saying that we recognize the necessity of carrying the Spanish tile roofs already in use on the campus over the new buildings. These roofs do not, however, need to be all of the same shape, or start from the same cornice height, and the use of flat terraces is a good means to introduce variety while maintaining the same general character.

GATE CONNECTING TWO BUILDINGS
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

FIG. 11

To sum up, a little more freedom in design was introduced in the buildings designed in 1931-'32. The studies made by the Consulting Architect to be used by the artist preparing the bird's-eye view have followed the same lines. But, again, the wholly imaginative character of the appearance of these future buildings (the requirements of which are unknown at present) must be emphasized.

Due consideration was given to the possibility of a "modern treatment" of the new buildings. There was a disinclination among the faculty and the Board to accept this fundamental departure from the style of existing permanent buildings, and this argument was thought to outweigh the advantages which might have accrued from more modern forms.

A freer treatment of openings has been introduced where it was most needed, for instance, in the drafting rooms of the Architecture Building, Engineering Building, etc; a more domestic character in the Home Economics Building and in the Union. We hope that this precedent will induce the designers of future buildings to discard stereotyped design in favor of greater variety.

We have alluded elsewhere to the advantage of gateways, balustrades or retaining walls between certain buildings, to complete the architectural composition of a group. The accompanying picture shows what can be done in this line (see Fig. 11).

If a careful balancing of masses and heights of cornices is necessary in those parts of the campus where a monumental effect is sought, as, for instance, on the south, east and west malls, a more informal treatment is suggested in the residential sections (Mens' Dormitories,

Unions, and possibly, Womens' Dormitories). This has been found of value in other institutions.

Of the interiors, little has to be said here, as they result from the adequate designing of each building, an obvious adjunct to any plan of development.

LANDSCAPING AND ROADWAYS

In the study of the plan, and in the instructions given to the landscape architects, the fundamental principles were :

A too-elaborate formal treatment, in spite of its value as a setting for buildings, was to be discarded, as the cost of upkeep would be too great for the University.

The planting as done on the limited grounds of a private residence would be extravagant if applied to the hundreds of acres of the campus. Besides, the careful usage of private grounds could, unfortunately, not be expected from the students.

Where formal treatment was needed, it was recommended to achieve it by the simplest possible means, such as trees and plain lawns, omitting as much as possible flower beds, hedges, and other features requiring a good deal of attention from gardeners. Wherever possible, the grounds were to be treated as in a park, preserving existing trees and with little change to the natural grades.

A look at the grounds (see Fig. 3), or, better still, at one of the airplane photographs taken before the building program of 1932 was in progress, shows the principal difficulty which will be met in

improving the aspect of the campus; that is, the habit of the students of wearing short-cuts through the lawns in order to save a few steps. So long as this practice prevails, there is little hope of obtaining a good appearance of the University grounds. This will have to be impressed on the minds of the students by a campaign of education in the necessity of sacrificing small personal conveniences to the general good. If a pride in the beauty of the University campus can be instilled in the coming generations, the students will themselves see to it that "keep off the grass" signs, and wire fences are unnecessary, as has been proved elsewhere.

The building of each new unit ought to include the improvement of the grounds in its immediate vicinity according to the general plan revised for this particular unit. A yearly contract ought to be made with a landscape architect, providing for a given number of visits, and the preparation of instructions for the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and the University Architect. These instructions would indicate the lawns to be improved, the location of new planting, trees or shrubs, the clearing up of brush, according to resources available, with a view to the gradual improvement of the appearance of the campus even with the minimum up-keep needed when no actual landscaping contract is underway.

The University Architect ought to be consulted on the best way of carrying out improvements requested by individual departments, even when these appear at first sight to be of small importance.

. . . . . .

These recommendations could be greatly extended. It does not seem advisable to do so. A plan ought not require an apology nor an explanation of its merits. I have insisted on intelligent interpretation of a plan as preferable in the future to the slavish adherence to its features. What is needed is an understanding of its aims; then achievement may come by means other than those contemplated at first.

The Consulting Architect wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness not only for the assistance, but also for the valuable suggestions received during the preparation of the plan of development, from : The Board of Regents and its Building Committee; the University President, Dr. Benedict; the Faculty Building Committee and its Chairman, Dr. Battle, whose advice was sought at every step; the Comptroller of the University, Mr. Calhoun; the University Architect, Mr. R. L. White; the Architects for the University, Messrs. Greene, LaRoche & Dahl; and the various Departmental Committees consulted on their respective problems. Their unfailing devotion supplied a more intimate knowledge of the problems to be solved, without which a general plan is not more than an academic architectural design of small practical value.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL P. CRET,

Consulting Architect

APPENDIX No. 1.

April 3, 1930.

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY

To the Chairman of the Building Committee,
Board of Regents, University of Texas,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

As requested by your Board, I have carefully considered the various suggestions made for the provision of additional library facilities, and all conditions bearing on the problem of selecting a site. The report of the Faculty Building Committee, dated October 30, 1929; and a letter of the Architects, Messrs. Greene, LaRoche and Dahl, of January 17, 1930, have been carefully analyzed. The discussion of sites can be limited to, -

1. The west site, - that is an extension of the present library toward the west.

2. The central site, - that is the site of the present main building. This site would be used in its entirety only in the future. The part of the library to be built at once would occupy only the site of the north wing (old auditorium wing).

Other sites have been discarded for reasons set forth in the Report of the Faculty Building Committee, which need not be re-stated.

Characteristics of a Library Building in a Modern University

A. On account of the continuous growth of the stacks, and because the library draws students from all departments of the University, it is obvious that the library will become, in time, the largest building on any campus. In our case, Sketch A (appended to this report) shows that in either one of the two locations shown, the building will decidedly dominate in size any other building on the campus.

B. The need for large and dignified reading rooms, as well as the commendable practice of giving to the outside of the building an architectural treatment which designates it as the repository of human knowledge, tend to make of the library in American universities, the most monumental building.

C. The case of access from the various buildings on the campus, requires a location as nearly central as practicable.

In view of these characteristics, there is little doubt that the site now occupied by the main building would be selected as the location for the library if one had to plan the arrangement of buildings on the campus without regard for existing conditions. When this main building was erected, it was used as library, recitation building, scientific laboratories and administrative offices; therefore, it was natural to give it the most important location. Such conditions no longer prevail, and these various activities are now distributed among many buildings. The construction of this main building is of a kind to make its replacement, in a not very distant future, desirable, and even imperative. Outside of its sentimental appeal to the ex-student, there is little in its architecture to create a desire to preserve it from this fate.

Therefore, it appears from the start, that the library ought to have been located where the main building now stands; and what is to be carefully considered is not the desirability, but the feasibility, of a change in location. If further arguments were needed, they have been most convincingly presented in the Faculty Report referred to above (page 3 - "Where ought the Library to be ").

The site occupied by the main building is not available unless the accommodations provided by this building are transferred to some other part of the campus. To do this at once, would create a problem in financing which did not appear practicable to the Faculty Committee. They considered, therefore, a gradual transfer, using the main building for a long period of years, and starting to build the library on the site of the old auditorium. As the size of the reading rooms of the library follows the growth of the student enrollment, it was contemplated to build the additional reading rooms needed, let us say 20 years from now, on the site of the main building. This site would probably be available then on account of the deterioration of the main building; and the accumulated resources of the building fund would permit a monumental treatment worthy of this central location. The new library in this case, would start from a nucleus on the site of the old auditorium, the additional stacks growing toward the north, and the additional reading rooms growing toward the south.

The other solution considered was an enlargement of the present library toward the west.

We will compare the advantages and disadvantages of these two proposals.

I. Enlargement of Present Library Toward the West.

Advantages :

1. The site although not the center of the University, is sufficiently central so far as communications are concerned.
2. The present library, although hopelessly outgrown, is a building of such architectural merit as to make its retention very

desirable.

3. The cost of additions to the present building would be less than starting a new building, as one facade (the principal one), is already built and some rooms and book stacks would remain in use. Furthermore, the library, placed as it is, sideways in relation to the main axis of the University, would not call for a treatment as monumental as would be the case on the central site II.

4. The future extensions when carried as near Guadalupe Street as advisable, would give a shelving capacity of close to 4,000,000 volumes, which seems to be ample, in the judgment of the Faculty and of your Consulting Architect.

Disadvantages :

1. The plans prepared upon this hypothesis, show that the necessary space could be obtained as far as shelving and reading rooms are concerned. It must be noted, however, that the facilities for circulation, even when improved as suggested, would be very restricted for a building of the importance of the ultimate project. The plan of the present building is good for a library of 2,000 students and 300,000 or 400,000 volumes, but it will never be a good plan for a 4,000,000 volume library.

2. Of the reading rooms, 1/3 would have south, 1/3 east, and 1/3 north exposure. It is conceded that the majority of the reading rooms ought to have a south exposure.

3. The new wing on the south side would come dangerously close to

the Education Building.

4. As shown on sketch B appended, the mass of the building would be such as to throw out of balance either the buildings placed symmetrically in relation to the north-south axis, or symmetrically in relation to the east-west axis, when seen from Guadalupe Street. Besides, the mass of the completed library would compete even with the main building or its successor. As excellently said by the Chairman of the Faculty Committee, "A building of monumental character and large mass, placed at a distance from the center of the group, is apt to seem out of scale and to throw the group out of balance. The Widener Library at Harvard is a conspicuous instance of this".

5. The height of the stacks above the present roof of the Library would dwarf the appearance of the present building, and would be particularly noticable from the north and northwest approach. Even at present, the library seems somewhat sunk in the ground, and the roofs are most conspicuous.

6. It seems unfeasible to make the proposed additions and remodeling without closing entirely the library for a considerable period of time. The architects, Messrs. Green, LaRoche and Dahl, have called the Board's attention to this as well as to the no less serious danger of fire and deterioration of books by dust duringthe construction. Complete reclassification would have to be made in any case. The

architects have also called the attention of the Board to the condition of the stone work of the existing portion, and the necessity for a change of material in the new portion.

II. Building the New Library On the Site of the Old Auditorium, North of the Main Building.

Advantages:

1. The plan could be designed without regard of remodeling an existing building. The circulation, stairs, delivery rooms, etc., would be planned on the scale of the proposed library (that is a library five times larger than the present one). The seminar rooms could be accommodated in a more satisfactory way.
2. The orientation of the group of reading rooms to be ultimately placed on the site of the main building, would be on an east-west axis.
3. The larger area available would permit the use of courts of sufficient size to insure natural light and ventilation in all parts of the building. There would be no longer a necessity to contract the various elements in order to avoid coming too close to the Education Building, as would be the case for the other site.

Disadvantages :

1. The building to be erected on this site would be more expensive than the same accommodations secured by the enlargement of present library.

The figures given by the Faculty Committee are $1,000,000 against $700,000 for the enlargement. I do not know with what accuracy these figures have been prepared. Granting that this proportion is correct, it must be remembered that for this expenditure of $1,000,000, the University would acquire not only the library space needed (and on a better plan), but also the use of the present library, which would be released for other purposes. The value of this present library ought to be deducted from the increased building expenditure, and even in taking into account the necessary remodeling for other uses, could be valued upward of $200,000.

In this consideration of increased cost, some statements made as to the expenditure required by building on this site, must be discussed. It has been advanced that beside this estimated cost of $1,000,000, the operation would involve an expenditure of $1,450,000 for replacement of space in the main building. This has been based on the assumed necessity of providing new buildings for physic, geology, recitation rooms, and the alterations to the present library. That there is a need for new buildings to house these departments, everybody agrees, but this need has nothing to do with the building of the library. It exists regardless of the selection of the library site.

The only expenditure which could properly be caused by the scheme under consideration, would be the replacement of space now available in the north wing of the main building. This

space is estimated by the Faculty Committee at 20,000 square feet. A new recitation building has been authorized by the Board of Regents. It seems that the size of this new building could be increased so as to compensate the loss of space due to the tearing down of the old auditorium wing. Besides, as stated above, a considerable space would be released in the present library, and could be used for other purposes.

2. Preparation of new plans - The plans for the enlargement of the present library have been carried to the stage of completed working drawings, and become useless. Their cost is therefore a loss. The delay during preparation of new plans must also be considered. This, in my opinion, would be more than compensated by the fact that building on a new site would not interfere with the use of the present library. Better to work in cramped quarters a little longer, than to work for two years in the turmoil and dirt of reconstruction, or to have to close the library altogether, which seems unavoidable in case of the enlargement.

3. Danger of fire from the proximity of main building - This is not a very serious objection, as the wall between the unit of the new library built at first and the main building, is a party wall and not an outside wall with windows.

4. The building would have an unfinished appearance. In regard to this objection, it must be noted that from the south, the building would be masked entirely by the main building until this

main building would be removed; that the east and west facades would be completed; and that the north facade (and this applies to any scheme, - this one, or the enlargement of the present library), would have to be designed with the view of successive enlargements to bring the shelving capacity from 1,200,000 volumnes to 4,000,000 volumes.

The real front of the library would be built only after the demolition of the main building. Not until then would the campus benefit by this central motif of the composition. It may seem a long way off, but when one considers that the other units of the main campus will be added slowly, and that the final appearance of the grounds depends as much on the addition of these units as on that of the new library front, the delay may not seem too unreasonable. Meanwhile, the campus would remain in the present condition, improved by whatever new buildings and landscaping would be accomplished in the years to come.

The development of such a large group as the University campus, requires long patience and an unswerving policy. It is useless to hope for an immediate architectural effect unless an institution is created all at once from a sufficient endowment.

Recommendations.

Having compared both schemes, there is in my judgment an overwhelming advantage in favor of scheme II, which proposes to build the new library on the site of the old auditorium wing.

The present plight of the University comes from having built a good building on too small a scale. The site recommended gives the opportunity to plan adequately, without being hampered by existing conditions or by having to patch up an existing building. This ought to be a deciding factor.

Respectfully submitted

By -

PPC/W

APPENDIX NO. 2

GROUND AREAS OF BUILDINGS (EDUCATIONAL GROUP ONLY).

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

BUILDINGS	GROUND AREA BUILDINGS IN 1933	GROUND AREA ADDITIONS TO PRESENT BUILDINGS	GROUND AREA AS SHOWN ON PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT	GROUND AREA BUILDINGS IN 1930
Home Economics Bldg.	13,204 sq.ft.		13,204 sq.ft.	
Biology Bldg.	12,672		12,672	12,672
Physics Bldg.	15,594	5,400	20,994	
Chemistry Bldg.	25,914	13,940	39,854	25,914
Auditorium	12,632	7,772	20,404	
Union Unit	25,978		25,978	
New Library	28,174	34,161	62,335	
Main Bldg.	22,890	To be demolished		22,890
Engineering Bldg. (on forty acres)	7,405	To be demolished		7,405
Geology	9,708	4,385	14,093	
Brackenridge Hall	6,722	To be demolished		6,722
Garrison Hall	10,859	4,616	15,475	10,859
Waggener Hall	10,980		10,980	
Old Library	11,214	5,000	16,214	11,214
Architecture Bldg.	15,021		15,021	
Sutton Hall	12,540		12,540	12,540
Law Bldg.	16,100	To be demolished		16,100
Engineering Laboratory (East of forty acres)	88,949		88,949	45,402
Junior Practice High School	42,816		42,816	
Building West of Sutton Hall			10,056	
Building South-West of Sutton Hall			10,040	
Building South of Sutton Hall			10,538	
Building on South Mall			10,112	
" " " "			10,112	
" " " "			10,112	
" " " "			10,112	
" " " "			10,112	
" " " "			10,112	
Building North of Waggener Hall			10,980	
Building South-East Corner forty acres			47,192	
Building West of New Library			17,458	
Building of Group South of Engineering Lab.			13,284	
" " " " " " "			13,284	
" " " " " " "			25,080	
TOTALS IN SQ. FT.	389,372	75,274	630,113	171,718

inches

centimeters

Golden Thread

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
L*	38.76	65.15	49.61	43.54	55.52	70.42	63.13	60.08	51.75	95.34	92.09	86.92	82.37	72.17	62.32	49.61	38.89	28.60	17.97	9.50	4.33	39.32	72.50	72.10	29.51	55.60	43.48	82.02	52.85	50.86
a*	13.81	19.21	-4.20	-12.89	8.78	-32.39	35.43	10.25	47.36	-0.90	-0.92	-1.12	-1.12	-1.05	-1.10	-1.29	-0.23	-1.09	0.04	0.45	0.32	22.13	-22.92	19.51	13.42	-38.46	50.74	3.28	49.90	-27.78
b*	14.69	17.92	-21.33	22.66	-24.31	-0.48	57.84	-44.77	16.93	1.90	1.46	0.97	0.56	-0.04	-0.01	-0.10	-0.48	0.07	0.09	0.25	-0.47	19.02	56.08	67.85	-47.69	32.19	29.13	78.75	-12.86	-27.68

L*
a*
b*

Density ⟶ 0.05 0.09 0.16 0.22 0.36 0.52 0.75 0.98 1.24 1.64 1.96 2.38

All values are batch averages

D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer

Don Williams

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