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USC South Campus: A Last Look at Modernism

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USC SOUTH CAMPUS

A Last Look at Modernism

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With more Americans attending college than ever before; urban renewal; racial integration; the expansion of coeducation; and the architecture community's advocacy for holistic relationship between planning, architecture, and landscape architecture, the American college campus developed rapidly and dramatically in the mid-twentieth century.

Using the University of South Carolina's Columbia Campus as a case study, this project explores the history of American architecture in the mid-twentieth century.

USC SOUTH CAMPUS

A Last Look at Modernism

HISTORICAL REVIEWS

SITE SURVEYS

1

Paul Haynes

HISTORICAL REVIEW

University of South Carolina: Urban Renewal

The University of South Carolina is fortunate enough to have a wealth of architecture from many different periods of development. The university grew out slowly—sometimes taking over existing buildings, and sometimes building new ones on land purchased in the downtown area. The post-World War II era saw the largest expansion of the university to date, and probably to come. During this time, the university partnered with the City of Columbia to procure land through the federal urban renewal program. On this newly acquired land, the university constructed some of the city's most recognizable modern structures. A boon for modern architecture, the University of South Carolina's urban renewal expansion displaced hundreds of African-American families in the name of progress, and in the process reshaped the City of Columbia.

The City of Columbia started long range planning in 1905. Columbia's civic improvement league hired Boston landscape architect Harlan P. Kelsey to design a comprehensive plan for the city.[1] His report stated that overcrowded African-American tenements stifled proper city growth and development. The plan was adopted by city council in 1907 but largely ignored, and it wasn't until 1924 that Columbia adopted its first zoning ordinance.[2] The 1924 zoning map designated most of Columbia's African-American neighborhoods as business or industrial districts.[3] Following the federal housing acts of 1937 and 1949 focused on "slum clearance," the City of Columbia created its first planning department in 1952. In 1954 an additional federal housing act removed the previous requirement for housing in redevelopment plans. That same year the city enacted its first minimum property ordinance and established the Urban Rehabilitation Commission to rid the city of blight.[4]

During post-war days, the university had no choice but to expand its campus. Though badly needed to accommodate veterans attending the university on GI bills, the school's expansion did not take off until the 1950s under new president Donald Russell. Through a bond issuing scheme and the help of a friendly and influential governor, the university started buying land around the campus to improve the school's reputation and accommodations.[5] The university, under Russell, made plans for expansion, but a formal long-range plan for the university was not penned until 1965.[6]

A plan laid out by the Housing Authority to clear a section of slum just south of campus for redevelopment into university and private uses

1 Staci Leanne Richie, "Variations on the Theme: Planning for the Elimination of Black Neighborhoods in Downtown Columbia, South Carolina, 1905-1970" (master's thesis, University of South Carolina, 2005), 2.
2 Richie, "Variations on a Theme," 5.
3 Richie, "Variations on a Theme," 6.
4 Staci Leanne Richie, "Variations on the Theme: Planning for the Elimination of Black Neighborhoods in Downtown Columbia, South Carolina, 1905-1970" (master's thesis, University of South Carolina, 2005), 8.
5 Henry H. Lesene, *A History of the University of South Carolina, 1940-2000* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2001), 93.
6 *Elizabeth Cassidy West, The University of South Carolina* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishers, 2006), 97.

1. *1000 block of College Street, 1969. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1969.*

2. *1227 Wheat Street, 11/25/1660. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1960.*

3. *226-228 Marion Street in 1958. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1958.*

4. *400-424 Main Street 11/3/1963. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1963.*

5. *500 Main Street, 2/2/1956. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1956.*

6. *Whaley Street alley, 1958. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1958.*

7. *College Street outhouse, no date. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.*

resulted in the State Supreme Court ruling in 1956 that the use of eminent domain for slum clearance must benefit the public, and it made private use of these lands prohibited.[7] Detractors in the planning community argued that land earmarked for slum clearance was greater than that needed for public use, but with the ruling in place, city parks, state government, and the university became the major shareholders in Columbia's participation in the urban renewal program.[8]

The city found a willing partner in the University of South Carolina. Flush with cash from its bond buying deal with the state, the school had started a massive expansion plan the pervious year. It had already begun to purchase some of the land south of campus. Redevelopment of its existing athletic fields into what is now Russell House prompted the purchase of a piece of land along Rosewood Drive to replace them.[9] The university worked closely with the city and its officials. John A. Chase, former Dean of Administration at the university, was the Housing Authority administrator in charge of slum clearance during the early 1960s.[10]

The first parcel of slum cleared by the Housing Authority in south campus under John A. Chase for the university included five buildings that were left intact. The adaptive use of 516 and 518 Main Street helps to demonstrate the university goals with the redevelopment of south campus. These buildings were repaired, combined into one building, and a new modern architecturally conceived façade was placed on the new building for use as maintenance and purchasing facilities. The majority of the rest of the urban renewal area was slated for physical education facilities and athletic fields.[11] A 1955 demographic study co-authored by university Bureau of Business and Economic Research's Robert W. Patterson predicted that, due to the post war baby boom, enrollment at the university would more than double by 1970 and increase again by 50% from 1970 to 1980.[12] During the early 1960's the university focused its investment on land acquisition over building construction.

It is sometimes easy to view the University of South Carolina as benevolent actor—an agent of the state looking out for the good of the public in the pursuit of knowledge and education. While it may be true that it is the desire of some of the university's administrators to have higher education available to all residents of the state, it is not politically feasible to make that happen and moreover, it is not profitable. The university only received 10.8% of its budget from the state in the 2014-2015 fiscal year (33% in 1949-1950 down from 89% in 1924).[13] The majority of its income comes from tuition fees (47.5%) with the second largest source of income coming from grants, contracts, and gifts (27.5%).[14] The University of South Carolina's coaches, administrators, deans, and faculty comprise the majority of the highest paid positions of any state agency.[15] With high paid salaries, a majority of income coming from sales and services, and an almost constant expansion since the middle of the 20th century, the modern conception of the University of South Carolina is more akin to a business with a profit motive rather than a state agency.

During the implementation of urban renewal in the early 1960s, the university found friends in critical positions. John A. Chase, former dean at the school, was the administrator of the Columbia Housing Authority and recently retired USC president Robert Sumwalt sat on the Housing Authority's board.[16] This agency not only made proposals to the city council for "slum clearance," they also reported and filed requests for plans and funding

7 "'Citizens' Design for Progress: A Community Development Plan,' A Compilation of Reports Made by Citizens Committees of the Metropolitan Area," June 30, 1965," Folder Q2 Box 30, Records, Vice President of Operations, 1954-1989, Harold Brunton, University Archives, University of South Carolina, Columbia.
8 Richie, "Variations on a Theme," 9.
9 Henry H. Lesene, A History of the University of South Carolina, 1940-2000 (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2001), 95.
10 Lesene, A History of the University of South Carolina, 154.
11 "Letter to State Budget and Control Board Regarding Institutional Bonds and the Physical Science Center, September 16, 1963," Folder Q2 Box 30, Records, Vice President of Operations, 1954-1989, Harold Brunton, University Archives, University of South Carolina, Columbia.
12 Lesene, A History of the University of South Carolina, 136.
13 Henry H. Lesene, A History of the University of South Carolina, 1940-2000 (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2001), 54.
14 University of South Carolina Budget Document, Fiscal Year 2014-2015, accessed April 17, 2016, http://finplan.admin.sc.edu/budget/doc_15/FY15BOT_DOCUMENT_FINAL.pdf.
15 State of South Carolina Salaries, accessed April 17, 2016, http://www.thestate.com/news/databases/article14573084.html.
16 "More Housing Needed for Displaced People," *The State* (Columbia, SC), Sept. 4, 1963.

with the federal government. Previous university president Donald Russell moved on to become the state's governor who was also chairman of the state's budget and control board, which was responsible for releasing funds for urban renewal projects from the bond deal he help set up as university president.[17] The revolving door between university positions and state and local government more than likely facilitated the acquisition of urban renewal land.

The university, the city, and the state in conjunction with the federal government were all actively working to remove "slums" from the city of Columbia during the 1960s, as was the case in many cities around the country. This disproportionally affected African-Americans who were economically disadvantaged. A 1950 federal census determined that 27% of the City of Columbia's housing stock was substandard.[18] This report put the issue of Columbia's urban conditions in front of its politicians and administrators. That same year, Columbia hired a city manager for the first time to handle its affairs and end tensions on city council. Armed with this new information, the city started a "Fight Blight" campaign. By the time Columbia enacted its first minimum property ordinance in 1954, it had already facilitated the renovation or demolition of nearly 2000 of its 7500 substandard housing units.[19]

African-American community leadership was well aware of the social problems brought on by poverty that persisted in the areas the city and university cited for urban renewal.[20] The focus of the many efforts of Columbia's African-American community during this time was placed on access to better facilities and jobs through desegregation. Community leader Modjeska Simkins, through the African-American organization *Citizens Committee*, consistently pressured the City of Columbia to improve the "slum" conditions for African Americans.[21] This effort included repair and maintenance of facilities, improved services, and repair or demolition of "slum" housing.[22] She even advocated the urban renewal program for its ability to relocate families into above-standard housing.

Nationally, urban renewal programs began receiving criticisms in the early 1960s. "Slum removal" was called "slum shifting" for its focus on the buildings and neighborhoods instead of the people and the social problems that affected them.[23] The urban renewal program was also responsible for the demolition of perfectly adequate housing. As much as 40% of the housing demolished though the program was considered sound.[24] The use of eminent domain allowed cities and universities to take control of land and property, under protest of its owners, without much interference from courts.[25] In his book *Alabaster Cities* John Rennie Short writes, "In total six hundred thousand units were demolished, and two million people were displaced. It ranks with the removal of Native Americans as one of the largest and saddest forced migrations in the history of the nation."[26]

The results of the program for the City of Columbia and the University of South Carolina are harder to classify. The positive aspects are plainly visible. The university campus has a wealth of mid-century modern architecture that came out of the expansion. The extended capacity of the university almost certainly made it easier for the increased enrollment of African-Americans following desegregation of the university in 1963. And the large student body in the middle of downtown Columbia is an economic stimulator

17 "Letter to State Budget and Control Board Regarding Institutional Bonds and the Physical Science Center, September 16, 1963," Folder Q2 Box 30, Records, Vice President of Operations, 1954-1989, Harold Brunton, University Archives, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

18 John Hammond Moore, Columbia and Richland County: A South Carolina Community, 1740-1990 (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1993), 402.

19 Moore, Columbia and Richland County, 403.

20 Modjeska Simkins, "Richland County Citizens' Committee Broadcast Segment, December 27, 1967," Modjeska Simkins: In Her Own Words, South Carolina Political Collections, University Digital Collections, University of South Carolina, Columbia. http://digital.tcl.sc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/simkins/id/47/rec/20.

21 Tom Walker, "'Another Side of the Coin,'" *The State* (Columbia, SC), May 23, 1965.

22 Modjeska Simkins, "'Offering a Definite Challenge and Choice,' Simkins for City Council, 1966," Modjeska Simkins: In Her Own Words, South Carolina Political Collections, University Digital Collections, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

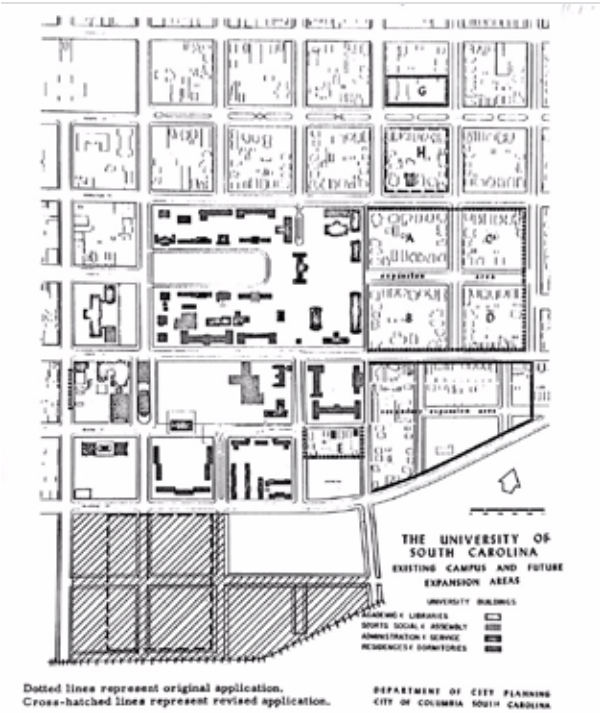
23 Jane Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities (New York: Vintage Books, 1992), 270.

24 John R. Short, Alabaster Cities: Urban U.S. Since 1950 (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2006), 24.

25 "Application for Approval of a Permanent Improvement Project, Land Acquisition, 600 Main Street, April 30, 1964," Folder Q2 Box 30, University of South Carolina Records, Vice President of Operations, 1954-1989, Harold Brunton, University Archives, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

26 Short, Alabaster Cities, 21.

for area businesses. For the populations that were displaced, federal housing was considered only marginally better than their "slum" housing, and social and economic disparities still plague the African-American community in the downtown area.[27] The University of South Carolina and the City of Columbia experienced no greater period of change than that brought on by the urban renewal program. Nationally the program was considered a failure and is looked back on with regret, but here in Columbia it paved the way for the growth and prosperity we are experiencing today which ultimately provides more opportunities for community members of all races as we move closer toward equality.



Map of campus expansion. University Archives, University of South Carolina, Columbia. No date.

27 John R. Short, Alabaster Cities: Urban U.S. Since 1950 (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2006), 26.

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2

Andrew Nester

HISTORICAL REVIEW

Steam in South Campus

CONTEXT

The 1960s were a time of rapid expansion at the University of South Carolina. From 1960 to 1967, the total number of enrolled students at the Columbia campus doubled to over 11,000. By 1973, the number had nearly doubled again, with over 21,000 students enrolled. Clearly, such massive growth necessitated an expansion of the University's facilities. New housing, classrooms, and recreation facilities were needed to accommodate the growing student population, and new infrastructure would be required to support these buildings.[1] With limited options available for expanding the campus much further east, north, or west, plans called for the development of a new section of campus south of Blossom Street. The construction of the Cliff House dormitories in 1968 marked the beginning of the University's expansion to the south.

SOUTH ENERGY FACILITY

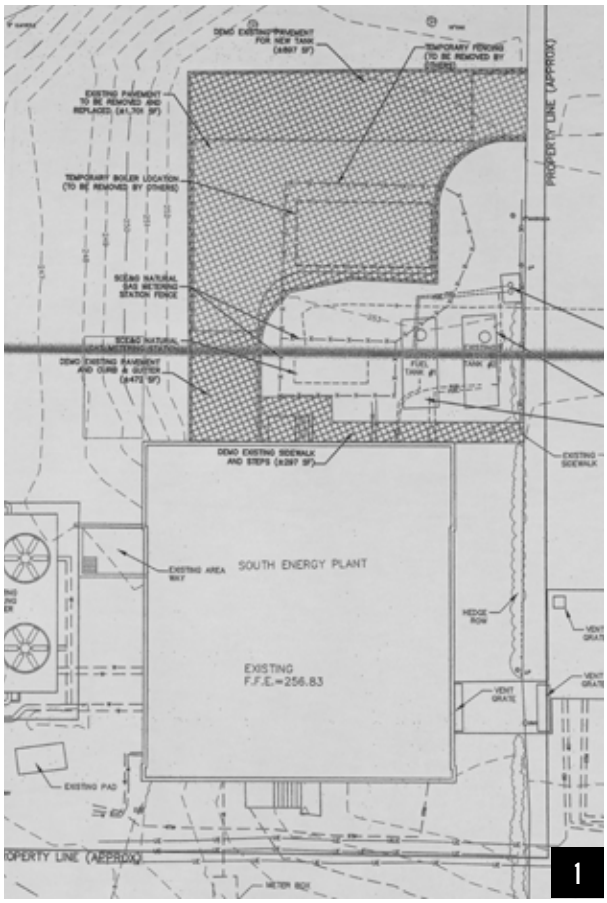
Although it is small and relatively out of the way, the South Energy Facility is an important part of the University of South Carolina's south campus zone, and has been since the area started being redeveloped in the late 1960s. Originally called "Central Energy Facility - South," the building was constructed for the purpose of providing heating, hot water, and air conditioning to Cliff House (now known as Bates House) and the other University buildings that were to be built in the new south campus area.[2] The South Energy Facility was designed by the McPherson Company, an engineering and architecture firm with offices in Greenville, South Carolina. The bidding process for selecting a contractor for the construction began in early March, 1968. Submitted bids were read publicly on April 4, 1968, and the next day it was announced that the Columbia-based Roberson Construction Company had won the contract with their bid of $717,107.

The construction of Cliff House was set to begin in the next week, and it is likely that work on the South Energy Facility started not long after. The facility was built on what was then the corner of Whaley and Marion Streets, with an underground utility tunnel connecting it to Cliff House to the northeast. Cliff was completed in time for the fall semester of 1969, when it was opened as a new all-male dorm and officially named Bates House. From this it can be assumed that the South Energy Facility had also been completed, and was now performing its intended duties.

The South Energy Facility houses boilers and chillers, which produce steam and chilled water. The steam from this process is pumped through

1 Tom Laughlin, "Higher Education's Impact in Columbia," *State (Columbia, SC)*, 31 October 1965.

2 "Low Bid Announced For New Facility," *State (Columbia, SC)*, 05 April 1968.



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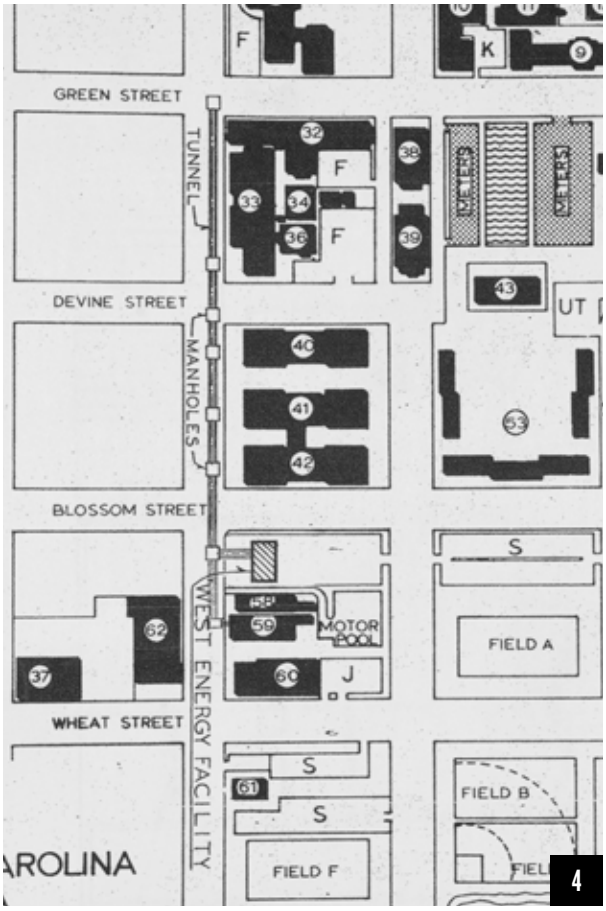

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1. *Record drawings of the work that was to be completed before the 2010 addition to the South Energy Facility. 185-01-10-005. Print Room, Facilities Center, University of South Carolina*

2. *A satellite image that shows the South Energy Facility's 2010 addition under construction. 10 October 2010 imagery. Google Earth.*

3. *An aerial view of downtown Columbia in 1968, featuring a surface parking lot where the West Energy Facility currently stands. "View of downtown Columbia and the Carolina Coliseum, aerial." Russell Maxey Photograph Collection. Richland Library. 1979.*

4. *A map included in the 1971 plans for the West Energy Facility which shows the utility tunnel that was to be built underneath Main Street. 140-01-10-029. Print Room, Facilities Center, University of South Carolina*

underground ducts that lead to various campus buildings, where it is used to provide heating and hot water. Similarly, the chilled water is pumped out of the facility to be used in air conditioning systems in various south campus buildings. In the case of the South Energy Facility, these pipes and ducts were originally run in an underground utility tunnel beneath Marion Street, leading to Bates House.

In late September 1969, the University's vice president of business affairs, Harold Brunton, publicly announced the details of further developments in the new south campus area. Planning was underway for the new Physical Education Center, which was to be built to the north of Bates House, on Wheat Street. Alongside the Physical Education Center would be a "pedestrian mall" which was to replace Marion Street, and allow students to walk all the way from Bates House to the central part of campus near Russell House. This raised walkway meant that students would no longer have to deal with avoiding cars while crossing the Wheat or Blossom Streets on their way to or from south campus.[3] The walkway also provided a means for transporting the steam and chilled water produced in the South Energy Facility to other buildings. Ducting and pipes suspended underneath the walkway connected the facility to the Physical Education Center, which opened in the fall of 1971.

As the student population continued to rise, the area around the South Energy Facility was developed even further. New housing towers went up beside Bates House, with Bates West and the Cliff Apartments both being completed in 1974, adding to the list of buildings heated and cooled by the energy facility.

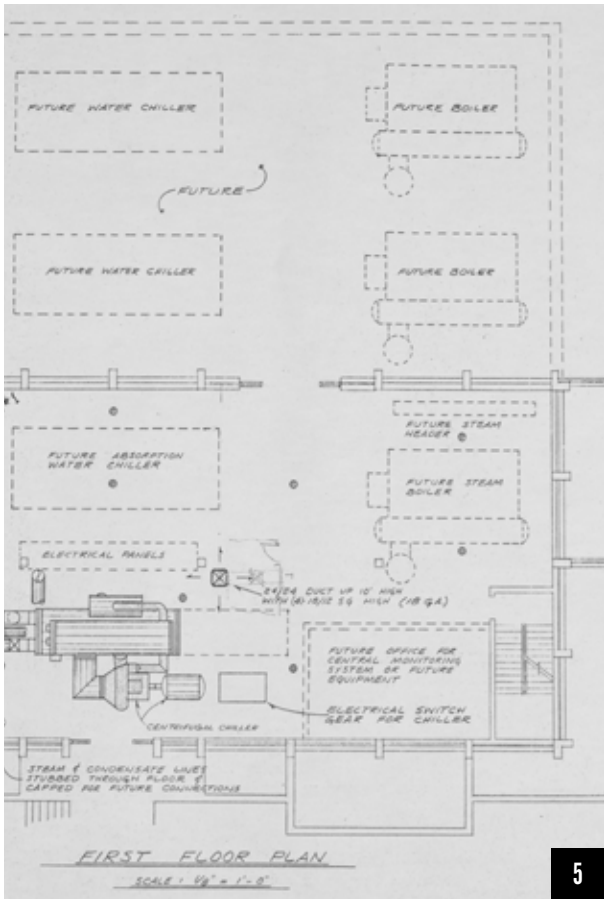
In 2010 the first major structural addition to the South Energy Facility was made. The original square building was extended on the north side with the construction of a small single-story wing. Archived plans detail the work that was to be completed prior to construction of the new wing (Figure 1). Underground fuel tanks that were located to the north of the facility were dug up and removed. This, and other details suggest that the boilers originally ran on some sort of fuel oil, and they were replaced during this expansion with new natural gas boilers. Satellite imagery of the site from 2010 shows the northern addition construction in progress (Figure 2).

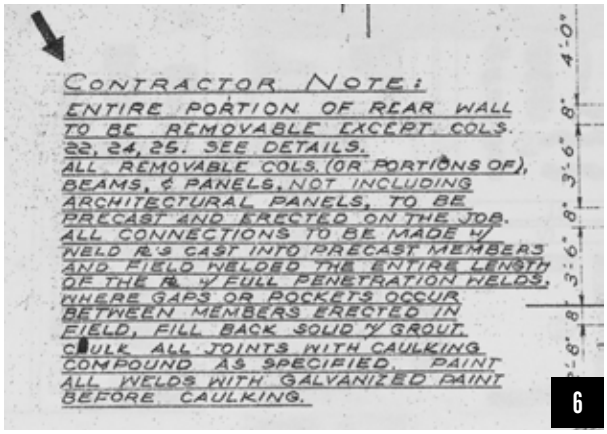
WEST ENERGY FACILITY

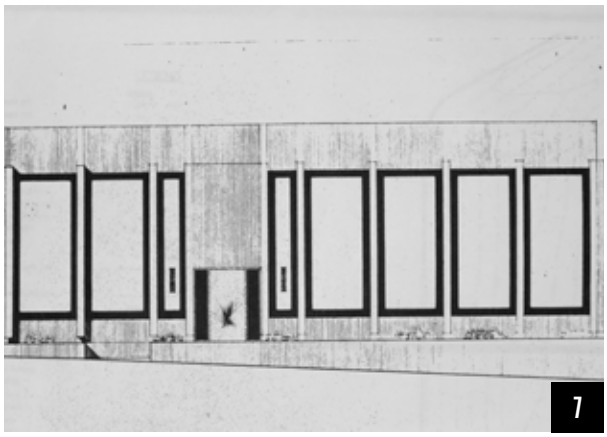
The West Energy Facility is located on the corner of Blossom Street and Main Street (Figure 3). The structure was planned by Reed, Flemming & Associates, who were also responsible for the East Energy Facility that was built several years earlier on Greene Street in the central part of campus. The firm Blume, Cannon, & Ott is listed on the plans as the consulting architects. The bidding process for the construction contract began in early September 1971, and ran until October 7th of the same year. Unlike the South Energy Facility, it does not appear that the contractor who won the bidding process was publicly announced in any of the local newspapers. In an April 1972 edition of the State, an article mentioned the West Energy Facility on a list of University projects that were either in development or already under construction. According to this article the facility was to be a 10,000 square foot structure that would cost $1,550,000 to build. Handwritten notes on the archived building plans from 1971 suggest that the facility was completed in 1973 by the Midland Construction Company.

Just like the South Energy Facility, the West Energy Facility houses machinery that produces steam and chilled water, which is then piped underground to a number of other campus buildings. Included in the 1971 building plans is a campus map, which shows the site of the facility, as well as the underground tunnel system that would be constructed underneath Main Street to accommodate the steam and water pipes needed for the system (Figure 4). The map shows a connection made to the University's service center to the south (now the Bursar's office), as well as a longer section of tunnel to leading north towards

3 "Path Open for USC to Link Campuses," *State (Columbia, SC)*, 28 March 1968.







5. *The 1971 plan for the first floor of the West Energy Facility that shows that the building would later be expanded to house additional machinery. 140-01-10-013. Print Room, Facilities Center, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.*

6. *A note in the 1971 plans for the West Energy Facility that details the construction methods that would allow for most of the eastern wall to be removable to facilitate a future addition to the building. 140-01-10-015. Print Room, Facilities Center, University of South Carolina*

7. *An architectural drawing on the cover page of the 1971 plans for the West Energy Facility. 140-01-10-030. Print Room, Facilities Center, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.*

8. *The textured metal doors that were originally installed at the West Energy Facility, which have since been replaced by glass doors. "University of South Carolina, door to Energy Facility." Russell Maxey Photograph Collection. Richland Library. 1979.*

the Towers (colloquially known as the honeycombs) and Jones Physical Science Center.

One interesting detail contained in the 1971 plans is that the building was originally half its current size, and was designed and constructed in a way that would allow for a later expansion (Figure 5). The precast panel sections that formed the east wall of the structure were removable, thus making it easier to extend the structure to the east if more space became necessary (Figure 6). It seems obvious from this detail that those in charge of campus planning at the University during this time were beginning to think ahead. In a 1972 article from the State newspaper, Harold Brunton spoke about the University's struggle to provide adequate facilities for the rapidly growing student population. "The educational progress of the university is running faster than we can." He said. By building the West Energy Facility in a way that would make later expansion easier, planners were making sure the campus infrastructure would be able to keep up with the energy demands of the constantly growing University.

The 1970s energy crisis prompted a number of changes to the campus infrastructure. To help make the system of heating and cooling more efficient and bring down the costs, a number of new tunnels were planned that would connect many of the existing sections. In September of 1975, a tunnel was completed that connected the East Energy Facility with an older boiler plant that was located near the center of campus, behind Currell College. As the newer East Energy Facility was more efficient than the boiler plant, the connection allowed for the plant to be shut down when it was not needed, thus saving money.[4] Another connection was made between the chilled water pipes of the West Energy Facility and the cooling system of the Jones Physical Science Center. The science building had been built with its own air conditioning chiller, which apparently suffered frequent malfunctions, creating the need to connect the building to the West Energy Facility's system.[5]

Development in USC's south campus continued into the 1980s, bringing more necessary upgrades to the energy systems. As new buildings were built, and older structures received additions, the infrastructure was becoming strained. In January of 1983, the University requested $4.5 million from South Carolina's legislature, which would be used to complete a number of expansions related to the energy facilities. Among the changes covered in the request was a connection between the South and West Energy Facilities, and the expansion of the West Energy Facility. These upgrades were deemed essential to the completion of the Swearingen Engineering Center, which was planned as the next major project in the south campus.[6] The funding came through, and Swearingen and the energy facility upgrades were completed by 1987. Archived plans for the West Energy Facility indicate that the building expansion was completed in the manner that was described in the original 1971 plans. The precast concrete panels that made up the east wall of the structure were reused in order to extend the north wall. A new section of the east and south walls was constructed using poured concrete. The finished building was now a square, and had essentially doubled in size from the original 1973 structure.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In July of 2006, construction began on a new biomass energy facility at USC. Instead of burning natural gas to heat its boilers like the other energy facilities on campus, the biomass plant would use waste wood as a fuel source. The new facility was a major upgrade, as it would potentially be able to supply 80 percent of the entire campus' steam requirements under peak conditions, while saving millions of dollars from decreased natural gas use. In addition, while the existing energy facilities on campus did not generate any electricity in the process of producing their steam, the biomass plant

4 John Sharkey, "USC's Energy Bill Up, More Efficiency Planned," *Gamecock (Columbia, SC)*, 02 October 1975.

5 R. Vance Butts, "Energy Crisis: A Reality at USC." *Gamecock (Columbia, SC)*, 28 August 1975.

6 John Deiner, "USC Requests Funds from General Assembly to Upgrade Steam Plant." *Gamecock (Columbia, SC)*, 18 January 1983.

had the capability to generate power that could be fed back into the utility grid.[7]

The biomass facility was up and running in December of 2007, but a number of problems with equipment as well as a highly-publicized explosion at the plant led to its closure. With the cost savings and production capability the plant offered, it seems likely that had it worked properly, The South and West Energy Facilities might have been made obsolete. For now, however, they remain an essential part of the University's campus infrastructure.

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3

Robert Wertz

HISTORICAL REVIEW

The Conversion of Marion Street

In 1927, Columbia resident W.A. Forde sent a letter to the editor of The State Newspaper to express concern about a request to close Bull Street:

> *I read in your paper of the petition of the university to close Bull street from Pendleton to Green and from Green to Divine. I hope council will realize what a dangerous precedent that would establish.*[1]

For the last century, the University of South Carolina has been expanding through downtown Columbia. And as the institution has grown, it has worked – and fought – with the City of Columbia and its residents about closing streets to create a more pedestrian friendly campus.

Marion Street is one of those streets that has been slowly devoured. As the university grew south, sections of Marion Street were systemically closed and redeveloped to make room for a pedestrian corridor for the southern side of campus.

In his letter to the editor, Forde notes that already in 1927, "Marion Street is closed for three blocks (Pendleton to Divine)." According to maps from 1949, Marion Street continued South of Devine Street, crossing Rocky Branch creek, two railroad tracks and a steep incline.[2]

RAPID EXPANSION

After World War II, the University of South Carolina experienced significant growth. And as the student population grew rapidly, the university searched for room to expand. In 1953, the university looked at acquiring land to the west Assembly Street — an area "predominately covered by one of the worst slums in the city." This predominantly African American area had 545 dwelling units; 484 had no running water. A second area south of campus was also identified as being "covered by slum houses" and was targeted for acquisition as well. This four block area was bordered by Devine, Marion, Wheat and Main Street and marked the University's first public plan to expand south of Blossom.[3]

In 1960, USC continued to seek room south of Blossom street for expansion. Again, USC applied for an urban renewal grant to clear "slum-type housing" south of Blossom Street. The university would take over most of the land between Blossom and the railroad tracks, with the notable exception of Booker T. Washington High School, an African American high school located on Marion between Blossom and Wheat streets that served the surrounding community.[4]

In March of 1961, the university was still working to acquire the land south of Blossom, but

1 W. A. Forde, "Against Closing of Bull Street," *The State*, June 28, 1927.
2 Columbia (S.C.) Office of the City Engineer, "Map of Columbia S.C.," 1949.
3 "Slum Clearance, Industrial Redevelopment Program Hearing Scheduled Here Tuesday," *The State*, December 20, 1953.
4 "Council OK's Plan for More USC Land," *The State*, June 16, 1960.

announced plans to build a series of intramural fields, parking lots and a drill field for ROTC.[5]

On campus, parking was a major concern and the university worked with consultants to find new areas for parking and improve pedestrian safety. In fall of 1961, the Gamecock student newspaper reported "The slum areas below Blossom Street will be cleared" and that the university would build a parking lot to accommodate 500 cars. Street parking was also expanded on Marion Street across from Booker T. Washington High School. But that wasn't the only traffic problem at USC. "The pedestrian situation is also a traffic problem at the University," advising students to stop jaywalking.[6]

By 1966, the areas between Blossom and the railroad tracks were cleared and actively used by the university for parking and intramural fields. The section of Marion between Wheat and Catawba was removed to allow for larger, uninterrupted fields.[7]

THE PEDESTRIAN MALL

By the late 1960's the university started to develop other plans for south campus. In 1969, USC announced plans to develop a new physical education center, several new residence halls and the university's first multi-level parking garage.[8]

Connecting these areas would be a new Pedestrian Mall — a 20 foot wide elevated walkway that would "run from north of Blossom Street, south along Marion and end beyond the new Cliff House dormitory." Designed by Lafaye, Lafaye & Associates, the walkway would physically connect all of the new facilities on the south side of the campus.[9]

Harold Brunton, USC's vice president of business affairs, told a Columbia City Council at a Wednesday, March 19, 1969 meeting that the "proposed walkway-mall will protect both our students and motorists on Blossom Street."[10]

Brunton felt strongly that the pedestrian mall was an elegant solution to increasing traffic on campus: "We are very much interested in separating pedestrian and vehicular traffic on campus. This is one way to do it. The walkway will not only be functional, it will add to the beauty of our campus."[11]

(Pedestrian safety was a hot topic during this time. The south region of campus was not the only area that the university and its students sought to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the university also sought to build a pedestrian mall to connect Capstone with Gibbes Green and student government hired a consultant to propose a plan to convert Green Street into a pedestrian mall.)[12]

The first phase of the Pedestrian Mall on the south side of campus would start at the physical education center at Wheat Street and end at Cliff House (eventually renamed Bates House). The new ramp essentially replaced the section of Marion that had been removed to make room for the intramural fields and allowed students to safely cross the creek and railroad tracks.[13]

The second phase would connect the Russell House with phase one at Wheat Street. Pedestrian bridges would span Blossom Street and Wheat Streets. The overall plan was to permit "unimpeded pedestrian flow from the Rex Enright Athletic Center on Rosewood Avenue to Russell House student activities building on Green Street.[14]

When Bates House opened in fall of 1969, the first phase ramp was not ready. Students living in Bates House had no direct route to campus and struggled to find convenient ways to get to campus. Tom Difiglio wrote a letter to the Gamecock complaining about the walk:

5 "University Announces Plans for New Land," *The Gamecock*, March 24, 1961.
6 "New Parking Spaces Suggested for Future," *The Gamecock*, September 29, 1961.
7 Joseph E. Winter, "500, 600 Blocks of Sumter, Marion and Bull," Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1966.
8 Susan Ross, "New Gym Complex to Meet Need for Athletic Facilities," *The Gamecock*, March 7, 1969.
9 Frank James Corda. "Plans Given for Elevated USC Walkway," *The State*, March 20, 1969.
10 Corda, "Plans Given for Elevated USC Walkway."
11 Corda, "Plans Given for Elevated USC Walkway."
12 Blake Lorick, "Spinazzolo Proposes Mall for Pedestrians," *The Gamecock*, February 26, 1973.
13 Ty Kelley, "Cliff House Details Revealed." *The Gamecock*, April 1, 1969.
14 "Bids Opened Today on Ramp from Cliff House to Wheat St.," *The State*, June 19, 1969.

1. *408 Marion Street in 1958. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1958.*

2. *412 Marion in 1960. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1960.*

3. *418 Marion in 1968. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1968.*

4. *Athletic fields along Wheat Street. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1966.*

5. *Booker T. Washington High School. Joesph E. Winter Photography Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1966.*

6. *Blossom Street Pedestrian Bridge. Russell Maxey Photography Collection. Richland Library. 1979.*

7. *Pedestrian Mall, taken from the Physical Education Center. Russell Maxey Photography Collection. Richland Library. 1970.*

The method of walking from Bates House to campus goes something like this: cross over two railroad tracks; tumble (while trying to walk) down a short hill; cross over a polluted creek; hike across a high school practice field dodging players and coaches; walk past the high school; hop a fence; jog across Blossom in a full stream of traffic;hike up a long grade; level off and walk one more block. Hurrah! The campus is in sight.[15]

When the first phase of the ramp opened, it solved many of Difiglio's problems, providing an easier route over the railroad tracks and around Booker T. Washington High School. But the pedestrian mall didn't yet bridge the section between Wheat and Blossom.

As part of the pedestrian mall project and as the new dorms were constructed, the university requested that additional sections of Marion be closed between Rice and Catawba streets.[16]

The second phase also ran into delays and problems as well. The Blossom pedestrian overpass was designed with a 15 feet high clearance and the Columbia Traffic Committee insisted that they be 18 feet instead. Construction of the bridge was delayed, but USC Planning director Thomas B. Faris insisted that it would be worth the wait. "When it's finished, you will be able to walk or right a bicycle all the way from the "Roost" to the Russell House without running into traffic."[17] Construction on phase two was completed in fall of 1971, completing the pedestrian corridor from the Russell House to Bates.[18]

The remaining sections of Marion Street disappeared slowly.

In February of 1971, the university asked the city to close another block on Marion between Catawba and Whaley. With this expansion, the pedestrian mall covered five city blocks. From Devine Street to Wheat Street, the elevated walkway ran alongside Marion and then from Wheat to Whaley, the pedestrian corridor replaced the road.[19]

In 1974, the university began the process of purchasing Booker T. Washington High School from Richland County School District One.[20] Once the sale was complete, USC requested the closing of Marion Street between Blossom and Wheat Street, alongside the old high school. The university also requested the closing of Marion between Whaley and Hayward Street. This was the last block of Marion left south of Wheat Street and would have completed the goal of the pedestrian mall to connect campus to the Roost. University director of public information Sig Huitt commented that "The University owns all the surrounding properties of these stretches of Marion Street and it is common procedure for use to ask that they be closed under such circumstances."[21] Approval for the closing was not given at the time, though, and in 1976, approval was postponed.[22]

FURTHER REFINEMENT TO THE PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR

The university continued to refine the south campus pedestrian corridor.

In January of 1977, speed bumps were installed on the Bates ramp to slow cyclists and skateboarders in response to complaints that they were hazards to pedestrians.[23] Only a few months later, a cyclist speeding down the Bates ramp was killed when he collided with another student at high speed.[24] Students discussed whether they needed to add bike lanes to separate bicycle and pedestrian traffic.[25]

Despite the presence of the pedestrian bridge over Blossom Street, students still continued to cross Blossom illegally during heavy traffic. In 1984, the university partnered with the Columbia Action Council to landscape Blossom Street and add a fence to force pedestrians to find a safer

15 Tom Difiglio, "Bates failing," *The Gamecock*, November 7, 1969.
16 Alan Rosenblum, "Campus getting face-lifting," *The Gamecock*, September 14, 1970.
17 "Ramp Has Troubles," *The State*, June 2, 1969.
18 Construction projects planned for fall completion 1971
19 "Agency Asks Use of ASO Building," *The State*, February 18, 1971.
20 Merry Bateman, "University Seeks Purchase of Washington High School," *The State*, March 28, 1974.
21 "Street Closing Considered," *The Gamecock*, July 17, 1975.
22 Linda C. Owens, "USC's Request to Close Several Streets Delayed," *The State*, February 19, 1976.
23 Karen Lee, "Speed bumps slow bicyclists on Bates ramp," *The Gamecock*, January 17, 1977.
24 Kathleen McIntyre, "Bicyclist dies in coma after Bates ramp collision," *The Gamecock*, April 14, 1977.
25 Karen Lee, "Speed bumps slow bicyclists on Bates ramp."

route.[26]

Marion Street between Blossom and Wheat was eventually closed to through traffic, but in 1989 a segment still existed to provide access to the Blossom Street parking garage. Because of safety concerns, that entrance was closed and access to that section of Marion was further limited.[27]

In 1997, the Blossom Street pedestrian bridge was removed and replaced and the pedestrian mall could not be used to access campus for several months. Students complained about the inconvenience and lack of a direct route for pedestrians, echoing the comments of Tom Difigio almost 30 years earlier. Without the pedestrian ramp, students living on the south side of campus had significant difficulties getting to the central part of campus. An elevator was added on the south side of the Blossom Street bridge to improve handicap accessibility.[28]

Construction in the late 1990's finished off the last two sections of Marion closest to campus. When the Bull Street Garage was built in 1997, the section of Marion between Devine and Blossom was finally removed. And in the 1999, with the construction of the new South and East Quad residence halls, the section of Marion and the phase two pedestrian bridge between Blossom Street and Wheat Street was removed and replaced with a ground level sidewalk and handicap accessible ramps.[29]

In his letter to the State in 1927, Forde was concerned about the "dangerous precedent" that Columbia could set by allowing the university to close the streets within its borders. Almost 90 years later, those discussions still continue about streets within the university's footprint.

Before urban renewal, Marion Street was a functioning street in a predominately African American neighborhood. But in an effort that spanned six decades, the university converted Marion Street into a pedestrian only corridor and the key artery for the south side of campus.

Only one block of Marion remains between main campus and the Roost: the section between Whaley and Hayward. The university failed to convince the city to close that block in 1976 and so the university's ultimate plan — to use Marion to connect the Russell House with the Roost — fell one block short of completion.

Even without the final block, the Marion Street pedestrian corridor is still, 50 years later, the primary axis for all south campus development at the University of South Carolina. For university planners, the decision to convert Marion Street from street to walkway was a pivotal choice in the expansion of the University of South Carolina. Without the ramp and bridge system, students in the South Campus area felt separated from campus. It's doubtful the university's expansion south of Blossom would have been successful without the conversion of Marion Street.

Pedestrian Mall, taken from Marion Street in front of Booker T. Washington High School. Russell Maxey Photography Collection. Richland Library. 1972.

26 Warren Bolton, "Median construction begins in Blossom Street project," The Gamecock, March 5, 1984.
27 Jeff Wilson, "Blossom Street Garage might be a safer place," The Gamecock, August 28, 1989.
28 James Munsey, "Bates bridge renovation detours campus navigating," The Gamecock, September 15, 1997.
29 Sammy Fretwell, "Suddenly, some students find campus 'a little scarier,'" The State, October 9, 1999.

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Ana Gibson
Margaret McElveen

HISTORICAL REVIEW

Kingdom of the Sun

INTRODUCTION

In 1969, the University of South Carolina - Columbia opened Bates House as a traditional style residence hall. A surge in enrollment during this time resulted in the construction or acquisition of ten residences, including Bates. The building was named for Jeff Bates who served as South Carolina state treasurer from 1940 to his death in 1966. The University still uses the building as a residence hall, and today, Bates House is home to 531 students, predominantly freshman, both male and female, and includes a variety of different amenities for residents.[1]

Bates is not remotely similar architecturally to any other building on campus, let alone its mid-century peers. The blue, glazed brick and staggered pattern of windows of the exterior lend it a certain charm. Additionally, Bates House was initially designed as an "experiment." It was the first dorm on USC's campus to be a "self-sustaining unit" as Joseph A. Barnes, then Director of Housing for the University, called it in an article for The State and The Columbia Record in 1969.[2] Finally, Bates House is notorious for inspiring a deep love-hate relationship amongst students. While many students over the years have complained about the relative isolation of Bates from the rest of campus, the atmosphere of the residence hall continues to foster a strong community amongst its residents almost 50 years after its construction.

ARCHITECTS

Maynard Pearlstine and Upshur, Riley and Bultman designed Bates House, and in May 1968, Congaree Construction Company started construction on the $2,500,000 project.[3] The firm was originally named Upshur and Riley until Phelps Herbert Bultman joined and later became a partner. Before Robert Irving Upshur became a founding member of the firm in 1954, he received his degree in architecture from the University of Virginia in 1939. He was a member and past president of the South Carolina chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Upshur eventually moved on from the firm and became the director of the Office of School Planning and Building with the State Department of Education.[4]

Bultman graduated from Clemson College, as it was then known, in 1949 and earned his Masters in Architecture from Yale University in 1951. In addition to aiding in the design of Bates House, he also designed for the firm responsible for the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, the S.C. Education Association headquarters and several other university buildings. Bultman, like Upshur, was also a member and past president of the South Carolina

1 "Bates House," 2002, University of South Carolina, http://www.sc.edu/uscmap/bldg/bates.html, 15 April 2016.
2 Ron Wenzel, "USC Honors Two of Its Alumni," *The State and The Columbia Record (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Sept. 14 1969.
3 "Merit Award," SCAIA Review of Architecture (1970): 24.
4 "Robert I. Upshur," *The Columbia Star (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Aug. 6, 2010.

1. *This image pictures the exterior of the west elevation of C-wing and part of the west elevation of B-wing. This photograph was published by Russell Maxey on November 15, 1969 and was borrowed from the Russell Maxey Photography Collection of the Richland Library.*

2. *This image pictures the exterior of the north (rear) elevations of A-wing and C-wing and the connecting breezeways. This photograph was published by Russell Maxey on January 25, 1970 and was borrowed from the Russell Maxey Photography Collection of Richland Library.*

3. *This color image pictures the exterior of the north (rear) elevations of A-wing and C-wing. This photograph was published by Russell Maxey on June 1, 1970 and was borrowed from the Russell Maxey Photography Collection of Richland Library.*

4. *This image pictures part of the interior of Bates House, presumably the original design of the dining hall. This photograph was published by Russell Maxey on November 15, 1969 and was borrowed from the Russell Maxey Photography Collection of Richland Library.*

5. *This image pictures the skyline as it could be seen from Bates House in the year the building was finished - 1969. In this image, it is possible to see Capstone House, South Tower and Patterson Hall. All of these residence halls are still used by the University to date. This photograph was published by Russell Maxey on October 12, 1969 and was borrowed from the Russell Maxey Photography Collection of Richland Library.*

chapter of the American Institute of Architects.[5] Charles Anderson Riley, the third partner of the firm, was a member of the American Institute of Architects like his colleagues. [6] Maynard Pearlstine, a Charleston native and Clemson University graduate, worked as an associate architect alongside Upshur, Riley and Bultman to oversee the completion of Bates House. Like the other men, Pearlstine was also a member of the American Institute of Architects.[7] In 1970, both firms that contributed to the design process for Bates House received an award of merit for their work at the winter meeting of the S.C. Chapter of the AIA held at Clemson University. [8]

NAMESAKE

During its construction, the building was known as Cliff House for its hillside location in the then new south area of campus. It was intended this name would endure following construction; however, the University opened its 1969-1970 by naming the building after distinguished alumni Jeff Bates. Bates, who passed away in 1966, was South Carolina state treasurer from 1940-1966, a prominent donor to the University, president of the USC Alumni Association from 1951-1953, the University's first Education Foundation president and a 1917 graduate of the University of South Carolina.[9]

ORIGINAL VISION

According to the 1970 edition of the Garnet and Black yearbook, "Bates House . . . was unique almost to the point of being an experiment."[10] Vice president for business affairs Harold Brunton said of Bates House, "We didn't just go and build another dormitory . . . We visited other schools, talked with students and consulted with many persons in an effort to provide our students with a home away from home."[11] The Gamecock billed the residence hall as "the ultimate in college living" and said it was representative "Carolina's 'look to the future' style architecture."[12] From these three quotes, it is evident the University had high hopes for Bates House and its cutting-edge design. However, from its construction, Bates House never achieved the perfect reputation and ideal community environment originally conceived by architects and university planners. This disconnect between the original conception and the reality of student's opinions can be attributed, at varying extents, to the isolated location of Bates House, the rowdy atmosphere of the building and unhappiness with the meal plan and other amenities.

During construction, it was assumed that within the next few years, the building could and would be expanded with the addition of three more towers, presumably mirroring the original three.[13] The kitchen and dining area on the first floor, today, Bates Carolina Diner, were designed to grow with this expansion.[14] The construction of this new and adjoining addition, then known as Bates House West, was announced by The Gamecock in 1972. Now known simply as Bates West, the exterior and overall design of the new residence hall did not match that of Bates House as originally predicted.[15]

SURROUNDING AREAS

In a 1973 issue of The Gamecock, community residents with homes in the areas surrounding Bates House and Bates House West, as it was formerly known, voiced their concern regarding the expansion of the university and other future problems. According to The Gamecock, "Residents realize it is inevitable they eventually will have to relocate." Many families in these neighborhoods moved after selling their houses to the University,

5 "Phelps Herbert Bultman," *The State (Columbia, South Carolina)*, June 3, 2015.
6 American Institute of Architects, American Architects Directory, 3rd ed. (New York: R.R. Bowker LLC, 1970), pg. 764.
7 American Institute of Architects, American Architects Directory, pg. 703.
8 "Columbia Firm Honored at Architects Meeting," *The State* (Columbia, South Carolina), Feb. 28, 1970.
9 Ron Wenzel, "USC Honors Two of Its Alumni," *The State and The Columbia Record (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Sept. 14 1969.
10 University of South Carolina, *Garnet and Black*, Columbia, South Carolina (1970), pg. 236.
11 Wenzel, "USC Honors Two of Its Alumni," Sept. 14 1969.
12 R.J. Gillespie, "New Dorm 'The Ultimate,'" *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Sept. 19 1969.
13 "Merit Award," 24.
14 "Merit Award," 24.
15 "N.C. Co. Wins Bid for Dorm," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, March 17, 1972.

leaving those who were left behind troubled and unsure if they should partake in major renovations to their houses if they might soon be forced to leave. Lack of parking for students also caused problems for the neighborhoods surrounding Bates House. "Homeowners complained of blocked driveways and impassable roads; students complained of no parking space." [16]

In a statement from the University, officials said, "We feel it helped the University find its place in the community, and we feel it showed the community and the University that there is much to be learned from each other." In the first few years after the building's construction, the residents of Bates House worked hard to be active members of the Wheeler Hill community, the neighborhoods surrounding Bates House. It is assumed this effort was made in order to build goodwill amongst residents of Bates House and the community alike. The Special Projects Committee of Bates House organized outings for the children of the Wheeler Hill neighborhoods, both white and black, to get to know the area and the university campus that was so close to home. Such outings included trips to the circus and to the top of Capstone. Assistants to the project commented the mixing of races did not cause any issues and actually fostered acceptance amongst many of the children.[17]

GENDER AND BATES HOUSE

Originally, Bates House was home to only male students. Bates House became a co-ed dormitory in the fall semester of 1978.[18] An article published by Janet Gibson in The Gamecock in 1978 states that men and women lived on the same floors but on different wings, much like the arrangement of the building at present. The idea behind the switch from an all male dorm to a co-ed residence was to facilitate a more conductive atmosphere for group study and other activities.[19] Another article from The Gamecock published after the girls officially moved into Bates House states their presence had a calming affect on the once rowdy "wild place." Additionally, male and female students appeared to have little to no trouble interacting with hall advisors of the opposite sex.[20] In 1992, there was talk of converting Bates House to a same-sex dormitory once again due to fire codes because of locking the wings of the building. At that time, University officials were considering making the dorm all-male, all-female or simply leaving it as a co-ed dorm. Officials were skeptical to convert the dorm, once again, to an all-male dorm sighting disciplinary issues from the 1970s.[21]

BREEZEWAY ALTERATIONS AND OTHER RENOVATIONS

The original design of the building featured open air breezeways connecting the three towers of the structure on floors two through ten as evident from a photo published by Russell Maxcy on January 25, 1970, see attached. This photo even features two students standing on the three-foot ledge on the exterior of these breezeways. While still technically open air, today, these breezeways, described in detail in the attached architectural description, have sections where the upper half of the breezeway is constructed of expanded metal grate of varying sizes. We attribute this change to the death of a student in 1973, four years after the building originally opened.[22]

Richard T. Dowis, age 19, was a sophomore resident of Bates House Dormitory; he was also a defensive back for USC's football team and was a Biology (Pre-Med) major in the College of Arts and Sciences.[23] Dowis fell ten flights from the top floor of Bates House shortly after 2:00 am on Sunday, October 14, 1973.[24] He died at 4:30 am in Richland

16 "University Expansion Threatens Residents," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Feb. 5, 1973.
17 Harry Hope, "To Wheeler Hill Kids Bates House is Disneyland," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Feb. 20, 1970.
18 Janet Gibson, "Bates House to Provide Co-Ed Living Experience," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Feb. 2, 1978.
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20 Aly Covell, "Girls Calm Rowdy Bates House," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Sept. 6, 1978.
21 Patrick Villegas, "Bates House Dormitory May Become Same-Sex," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Feb. 12, 1992.
22 "Ruling Expected Today in Bates House Death," *The State (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Oct. 16, 1973.
23 "USC Student Dies in Fall," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Oct. 15, 1973.
24 "Ruling Expected Today in Bates House Death," Oct. 16, 1973.

Memorial Hospital from resulting injuries.

Dowis was celebrating a USC athletic victory over Wake Forest with friends and other residents on the tenth, and top, floor of the residence hall. Bates House had a reputation for being the "rowdy" residence hall on campus. In celebration, Dowis hopped the waist-high retaining wall of the breezeway and slipped off the three-foot wide ledge on the exterior of the building. According to Lt. William E. Shurling of the Investigation Division of Campus Police,[25] "People have been going back and forth over that retaining wall since that dorm's been there. I guess it's an enticement."[26] It is assumed the grates were installed shortly after Richard Dowis's death as a precaution to combat the unintentional safety hazard of the building's original design.

Bates House received several other facelifts and alterations throughout its history. In 1984, new hallway carpet and a paint job for the stairwells were promised along with renovations to many other dorms on campus.[27] In 1988, the building was waterproofed at a cost of $77,000. In the same year, the interior of the building was repainted. Some of this work was done by USC students in the summer months.[28]

Some of these renovations were required following incidents of structural damage to the building. One such incident was a fire on Saturday, February 18, 1984 caused by a short circuit in a stereo system that resulted in $1,500 worth of damage to the individual room and $10,000 worth of damage to the third floor.[29] Within a month, another fire, this time on the second floor, was started by the hair dryer of a male resident and resulted in about $500 worth of damage to the building and personal property.[30] Yet another blaze later that year, again on the third floor, caused by smoking in bed left a resident with minor injuries, but he was not hospitalized.[31] Still other renovations, like a computer lab and student study area, were added to accommodate changing student needs and technologies.

STUDENT OPINIONS

Today, residents of Bates House, and students in general at the University of South Carolina, have a very poor opinion of this Modernist residence hall. Even shortly after its construction, residents were dubious about Bates House. However, in 1986, The Gamecock published an article about a senior, Greg Williams, who had lived in the same room in Bates House for the five years he spent at USC. Williams said of Bates House, "Most of the people here are like a family; they're friendly and they like to have a good time . . . It's our own little community out here." In the same article, The Gamecock stated Williams was one of the first freshman to live in the co-ed residence hall that had predominantly housed upperclassmen to date. Williams stated Bates House had the reputation of a "rowdy" dorm and was cited as having more problems than any other dorm on campus, including problems with crime and arson.

Williams also admittedly states the criticism of other residents, "Bates House has plenty of critics. Most people say that they don't like the meal plan, that the location is lousy because it's too far to walk to classes and the Shuttlecock takes too long, and that you can't study or sleep because there's always someone up at one or two in the morning making noise." Additionally, he describes some of the changes he witnessed as a student and resident in his five years at the University. Such changes included the locking of women's wings, the removal of a study room, an increased tolerance for unruly resident behavior and a change in the drinking age from 18 to 21.[32]

Many articles published in The Gamecock comment on increased levels of crime in the south area of campus, specifically in regards to Bates

25 "USC Student Dies in Fall," Oct. 15, 1973.
26 "Ruling Expected Today in Bates House Death," Oct. 16, 1973.
27 Laura Dannhardt, "Renovation Plan Scheduled for Fall," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Sept. 19, 1984.
28 Julie Stuempfig, "University Housing Renovates Dorm," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, July 6, 1988.
29 David Hill and Tracy Mixson, "Bates House Fire Heavily Damages Third Floor Room," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Feb. 20, 1984.
30 Marisa Porte, "Hair Dryer Causes Second-Floor Fire in Bates House," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, April 4, 1984.
31 Bill Pratt, "Bates House Blaze Injures One," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Sept. 12, 1974.
32 Tracy Mixson, "USC Senior Calls Bates House 'Home,'" *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, April 23, 1986.

West and Bates House. One such article published in 1985 describes a crime spree of petty theft. In this article, Phillip Cardaci, a victim of the robberies and Bates House resident, attributed the excessive crime rate in the area to the location of Bates House, ". . . so far away from campus and near the public housing . . ." Cardaci also commented on Bates' location in a relatively low-income area, "We're on the other side of the tracks, literally." This interaction with the community and surrounding areas was, and is, little experienced by students who live in the heart of campus.[33]

While Cardaci attributed the location of Bates House to an increase in crime, others considered its location to be advantageous for student life and development. In an article published by The Gamecock in 1997, students praised the location of Bates saying, ". . . the strength of their hall's programs and the length of the bridge to the rest of campus . . ." fostered a true of sense of community amongst residents. They also applauded the amenities located within the building, including the cafeteria and a recently added computer lab. The article also described the state of Bates several years earlier. In 1992, the entire C-wing of Bates was temporarily closed because of student disinterest in living in the residence hall.[34]

Freshman Chris Mould wrote an editorial letter to The Gamecock in 1984 expressing his disgust of the meal plan. Mould complained the 19-meal "American Plan" all Bates House residents were required to purchase was neither convenient nor cheap. Like the current meal plan at the University, Mould explained each meal cost a certain amount of money, and if your meal was less than that dollar amount, the money was lost, but if it is more, you would be forced to pay out of pocket for the difference. Mould goes on to say the cost and inconvenience of the meal plan forced both his roommate and him to move out of the residence hall despite enjoying all other aspects of life at Bates House.[35]

THE FUTURE OF BATES HOUSE

On October 1, 2015, The State newspaper released an article detailing plans for the south area of USC's campus. These ambitious plans include tearing down Bates House, USC's fourth largest dorm, and three other residence halls in the area (Bates West, Cliff Apartments, and Carolina Gardens). These residence halls will be replaced with three- to six-story towers that could house as many as 4,000 students. The University hopes the first phase of the project (1,500 beds) will be completed by a private developer by July 2018. School spokesman Wes Hickman stated the University hopes the new development, ". . . will help redefine that area of campus." Much like when Bates House was originally constructed in the late 1960s, the University is currently working to resolve many issues that stem from increased enrollment. By 2025, it is expected that the University of South Carolina could add 1,000 students to the Columbia campus which has already grown nearly 30% since 2004.[36]

Bates House is an iconic landmark in the south area of USC's campus. It is a prominent feature of the University's skyline, and since its construction in the late 1960s, Bates has changed very little. The layout, the use and the way the building works still function as originally designed. This significant integrity to the original design of the building is one reason the University of South Carolina should consider preserving Bates House as an excellent example of midcentury architecture on its Columbia Campus.

33 Juliet Nader, "Bates, Bates West Dormitories Gain Notoriety for Crime Rate," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Sept. 4, 1985.
34 Karen Layne, "Bates House Residents Share Community Spirit," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, March 24, 1997.
35 Chris Mould, "Bates House Meal Plan is Unfair to Students," *The Gamecock (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Dec. 7, 1984.
36 Andrew Shain, "Exclusive: USC Plans New Housing Towers on Its South Campus," *The State (Columbia, South Carolina)*, Oct. 1, 2015.

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HISTORICAL REVIEW

Cliff Apartments: A Home for Families in the USC Multiversity

The University of South Carolina recognized a need for residential living space for married and graduate students in the early seventies due to the increasing enrollment numbers at the university during this time period. As a result of the ever-increasing student population, the university responded by building Cliff Apartments. Completed in 1974, the goal of this building was to provide comfortable, affordable, and private apartment homes to graduate students with families year-round. Although it was constructed with married couples in mind, the apartments were also open to families, single parents, graduate students, and older undergraduate students (age 23 and up).[1] These apartments were an integral part of the university's success in growing to be a multiversity that could compete on a national level with other top-tier universities. The University of South Carolina made it its goal to draw in vast numbers of diverse students and provide them with the tools they needed to obtain a research-based education that, in turn, would set them apart from other students and graduates.

During the 1960's and 1970's, the university saw an unprecedented increase in its graduate student enrollment. From 1960 to 1970, the enrollment grew from merely 318 students to just over 2,000. In just another five years, this number tripled to almost 7,500 in 1975. This is a 2300% increase in just fifteen years. This is a much more substantial increase than that of the undergraduate population, which only tripled over the years 1960-1975.[2] The university, therefore, had a great need to provide housing for these students. Graduate students had the option to reside in either University Terrace or Cornell Arms, and had a total of 122 and 136 apartments to offer, respectively.[3] However, these apartments were decades old and they were becoming increasingly rundown and inadequate. It was imperative that the university come up with plans for a new facility, not only to accommodate graduate students, but also to to remain a competitive choice for prospective students.

The university was rushing to try to manage their exponentially-increasing student body by building new housing, learning, and recreational facilities. However, providing for the students' needs was not the only priority; the university was also trying to compete on a large scale with other schools on a national level in order to establish itself as a prestigious research institution. With that in mind, the university put an emphasis on

1 Fred Von Canon, "Letters to the Editor: Greek, Cliff explain differing sides", *The Gamecock*, 03 November 1997

2 "Historical Enrollment Data (1956-1997)," University of South Carolina: Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, <http://ipr.sc.edu/enrollment/historical/1956.htm>, (7 April 2016)

3 "University Terrace," Columbia Housing Authority, 2016, <http://www.chasc.org/history-of-the-cha.html>, (7 April 2016); Caroline Doyle, et al. "Lyles, Bisset, Carlisle, and Wolff: Building Modern Columbia," (Final Report, University of South Carolina: Spring 2015 American Architecture Seminar, 2015), 55

building modern and impressive facilities to house graduate students and students with families. This targeted student population undoubtedly consisted mainly of graduate students conducting research, and providing this specific student body with on-campus residential space played a part in personifying the university's mission to become a leading research institution.

In the late 1960's to early 1970's, the university was facing many turbulent social and political challenges coupled by an increase in undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, and a vast expansion of graduate programs simultaneously[4]. Thomas F. Jones served as the 23rd president of the university during these historically turbulent times from 1962 until his resignation in 1974, and has been credited as one of the most influential presidents in USC's history, facilitating its shift to a multiversity. According to Henry Lesesne, "... the University of South Carolina under Thomas F. Jones's leadership grew into a full-fledged research institution with a wide range of degree programs on both the undergraduate and graduate levels."[5] By 1975, undergraduate enrollment began to slow down, while graduate student enrollment continued to steadily increase. Also during this time, the university shifted their main priority from enrollment numbers to improving the overall quality of the main campus. This priority shift led to the expansion of existing graduate student programs that promoted the university's emphasis on research and in turn, recruitment of potential graduate students. From 1965 to 1975, the graduate school enrollment numbers were 841 and 7,420, respectively.[6] It was vital at this point for the university to address additional living space for graduate students.

The university's response to the need for more graduate and family residential space on campus was first mentioned amongst other university building projects in *The Gamecock*. In the March 6, 1972 issue, Cliff Apartments was initially dubbed as "Apartment 73." According to *The Gamecock*: "A new dorm for married students, Apartment 73, is still in the planning stage…"[7] This temporary name was more than likely chosen in favor to the projected construction beginning date or expected project completion date in the year 1973. Unfortunately, the projected completion date was not met, and Cliff Apartments was completed in 1974.

Ten months after the initial discussion of "Apartment 73," in *The Gamecock*, on January 30, 1973, *The State* reported that M. B. Khan Construction Company submitted the lowest of seven bids for construction, in the amount of $2,510,200--and as a result, secured the contract. Ed Bass, from the USC Office of Campus Planning, stated that it would be several weeks before the company would break-ground in construction. This new, nine-story apartment building designed by Harmon & Keenan architects of Columbia would hold 105 apartments and be reserved exclusively to married students.[8]

Cliff Apartments was designed to meet the needs of married students and the building's spaces and features are evident of this. This facility was built in a quieter area of campus, away from much of the undergraduate housing and downtown Columbia. The apartments were furnished and each had private kitchens, living rooms, and bathrooms.[9] The idea for these apartments was that couples and families would have private homes rather than communal living environments like many other residence halls. This in turn, would aid in enhancing their quality of life, especially of those that had families. Even the floor and apartment layouts were purposefully designed for the comfort of its occupants; couples and families were placed on floors with other residents with similar family dynamics. For example, married students without children would be placed together on one floor and those with children would

4 Lesesne, Henry, A History of the University of South Carolina (University of SC Press, 2001), 212
5 Lesesne, Henry, A History of the University of South Carolina (University of SC Press, 2001), 237
6 Ibid., 228
7 "Apartment-style dorm for women planned", *The Gamecock*, 6 March 1972
8 "M. B. Khan Gets USC Housing Bid", *The State (Columbia, SC)*, 30 January 1973
9 Jim Phillips and Sally Wilson, "Demand for on-campus housing doubles in past year", *The Gamecock*, 20 March 1978

go on another.[10] But Cliff Apartments was not the only building erected as a result of enrollment numbers. Henry Lesesne mentions that another residence hall, Bates West was also built along Whaley Street, opened in 1974, and was planned to house Carolina's upperclassmen and graduate students.[11]

For over twenty years, Cliff Apartments were coveted living spaces for students on campus; however, the apartments grew to be overpriced and rundown. In the past few decades, there has been a surge in housing opportunities in the Columbia area, many of which cater specifically to the needs of USC students. This has led to a rise in the number of students living off-campus or in privately-owned apartment complexes. There is no longer such a high demand to live in places like Cliff because of other opportunities that are either more economical or nicer than what Cliff has to offer at the time. Currently, the apartments at Cliff are being used for housing freshmen and also serves as an alternate venue for Resident Mentors (RM's) waiting to be relocated to another residence hall if an RM slot became vacant. Cliff Apartments served as an important facility for the married students on campus; this building enabled them to build their education without putting other areas of life on hold.

Because of their somewhat unique college situation, Cliff residents desired a community that was quiet, studious, and conducive to raising children. Cliff Apartments provided a daycare service to residents that had small children and served as a temporary sanctuary for the children to occupy while enabling their parents to attend class, study, and teach. The Kampus Kiddie Day Care Center also extended its service to parents that did not attend USC.[12] The Day Care Center's flexible hours extended into the late evening, and provided parents with extra free time in order to further their educational ambitions while their children were looked after under the watchful eye of university staff in an on-campus setting.

Students that lived in Cliff Apartments valued their housing and fought to keep it comfortable, private, and family-friendly. Students and families in Cliff, unlike undergraduates in dorms, lived in their apartments year-round. They treated the building like their home because to them, it was. In the mid-1990's, the university made plans to build a Greek Village directly in front of Cliff Apartments. This caused an uproar in the Cliff community and their opposition caused friction with the campus Greeks. The residents of Cliff did not want to be exposed to the rowdiness of the fraternities and sororities that would be living in the "front yard" of the apartments. They considered it to be a safety issue and a nuisance for both parties. Parents did not want to be complaining all the time about the rowdy crowds and they assumed that the Greeks would rather be in a place where they could have their fun and their parties in peace.[13] Students in Greek life, however, took offense to the idea that Cliff residents did not want to live next to them. In their opinion, the residents of Cliff were stereotyping all students involved in Greek life as being irresponsible, loud, and rambunctious all the time. They tried to defend their position by recalling philanthropic endeavors and promising that "Greeks will have to be mindful of the special needs a family has living on campus and make some compromises in their living plans."[14] Many residents and other students, however, were not buying into this promise. Many were concerned of the effects that "Greeks drunkenly dragging themselves home from Five Points" would have on the children living there.[15]

Another concern was that of xenophobia. Many residents in Cliff in the mid-nineties were international students. It was frightening for many to think about how Greek organizations would interact with people of other races or ethnicities.

10 John Vaughn, "University Residents Comment on Conditions", *The Gamecock*, 17 September 1981.
11 Lesesne, Henry, A History of the University of South Carolina (University of SC Press, 2001), 231
12 Tracy Lee, "USC day care center focuses on learning", *The Gamecock*, 10 November 1986
13 Andre Rembert, "Family Housing Protests Greek Village", *The Gamecock*, 24 October 1997
14 Adam Snyder, Nikki LaRocque, Stephanie Sonnenfeld, "Graduates, Greeks can live in peace," *The Gamecock*, 24 October 1997
15 Quentin Johnson, "Cliff Apartments will suffer with Greek movement," *The Gamecock*, 18 February 1998

This may seem like a harsh accusation to make towards the Greek community, but it is not an unreasonable question to pose. At this time, fraternities and sororities were still almost exclusively either black or white. It was not common for these organizations to be interracial by any means, or even multicultural.[16] Ultimately, the residents of Cliff were concerned with maintaining the family-friendly atmosphere that they tried so hard to make. It was not a question of disliking Greeks or not seeing their importance at Carolina, but their concern was simply for the well-being of their children and their community. In the end, it was decided that the Greek Village would not be moved to the Cliff Apartments parking lot. This enabled Cliff Apartments to continue to be conducive to learning and family life.

Cliff Apartments has served the University of South Carolina well for the past forty years; it has served as a well-loved home and community for many students and families. This sense of an exclusive residential community drew students to the university into the ever expanding graduate programs. The university made sure Cliff Apartments helped give this body of students every opportunity to achieve their educational goals while providing them with the option of supportive services to maintain or even establish a family. This ensured not only successful students, but also a successful multiversity that could rival other large-scale research institutions for generations to come. In the end, Cliff Apartments withstood the test of time and became a nurturing residential environment that helped the University of South Carolina become a beacon and nationally recognized research institution.

16 Ibid.

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HISTORICAL REVIEW

Building the Blatt

INTRODUCTION

Although the history of a building includes the facts regarding its construction, to fully understand and be able to appreciate any structure, its cultural significance must be considered. The changing attitudes and uses throughout the planning, designing, construction, and life of the building in relation to its environment are very significant in understanding its historical impact. The Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center of today has gone through many stages in its existence. Before its construction, the land was used as a public residential area full of homes and businesses, where a close-knit African-American community resided. Immediately after it was built it, it was perceived as an ideal addition to the campus landscape, as it filled a desperate need for athletic facilities for the university. Today, its significance diminishes slightly in the face of newer facilities that have resulted from an ever-expanding university. It is not just the changing function of the site that gives the building meaning, but the changing perceptions and impact on the people who interact with it. The history of a structure is a complicated story; the architectural, functional, and cultural significances of the building are all necessary to fully understand the historical significance.

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

Land Acquisition

During the late 1960s into the 1970s, there was a massive construction program going on at the University of South Carolina, developing in congruence with the ongoing land acquisition program. The scope of this undertaking can be seen by figures; in 1961 the campus consisted of one hundred-three acres and by 1979 they had 242 acres.[1] In response to the drastically growing enrollment, the University announced their plans to develop acreage to the south of the existing campus in 1961. The University held a public hearing in 1961 and received no initial objections to the proposed plan, which included proposed sites for various administrative functions as well as an intramural center for physical education.[2]

In the early 1960s, the university began the expansion by acquiring six city blocks in the southern end of campus, in what was then part of the Wheeler Hill neighborhood.[3] The city blocks affected by this project were those falling south of Blossom Street, east of Main Street, north of the Southern Railway, and west of Pickens Street.[4] Into this area, the University planned to implement a

1 "Buildings as History: An Explosion of Students and Campus," The University of South Carolina, accessed March 28, 2016, http://www.sc.edu/uscmap/bldg/buildings_history.html.
2 "University Announces Plans For New Land,"*The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), March 24, 1961.
3 Henry Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 1940-2000, (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2002), 154-55.
4 Ibid., 154.

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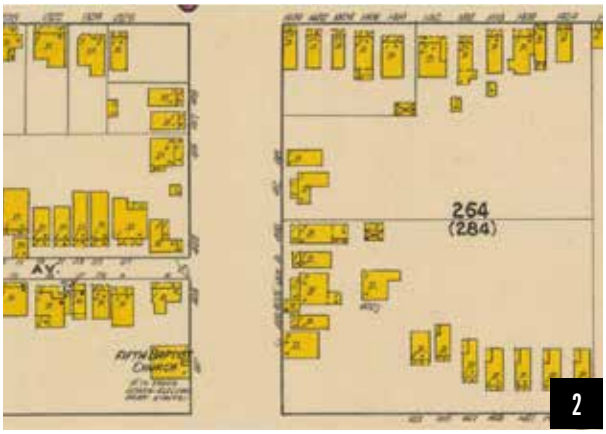

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football field encircled by a track, a baseball field, tennis courts, softball fields, and a track for high hurdle races. All of these additions were intended to be part of a larger athletic area, easily accessible from the physical education center also planned for this site.[5] The University was able to acquire this section of land through the federal government's Urban Renewal program.[6] The Columbia Housing Authority administered this federal program locally, the two programs had the same objectives but different methods of approach.[7]

Under the Urban Renewal program, the government paid for two-thirds of the total cost for the purchase and clearing of the land. This program also covered a small portion of the relocation costs for the affected community inhabitants.[8] Other methods of funding covered the remaining costs to the University, both for the land and miscellaneous project fees. In 1967, the Columbia Housing Authority received a low interest bid of 2.79 percent on its loan meant to help fund the project. The Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York submitted this bid. The $511,00 in funds was later used towards the acquisition of the land, relocation of some of the families, appraisals, and other portions of the project.[9]

The purchased land parcels were part of a thirty-three acre area that had been deemed in the program paperwork as the "blighted slums."[10] The portion of this acreage that the future physical education center would be constructed on was within the aforementioned Wheeler Hill community. The Wheeler Hill community took shape in the early 1900s in the southern area of Columbia within the corporate limits. This little community was named for Dr. Ezra W. Wheeler. [11] He was believed to have once lived in the area of the Wheeler Hill community.[12]

Described by outsiders and white city officials as a "seedy" area, this thirty-three acre section of dilapidated, sagging wooden houses was home to a total of forty-two businesses and two-hundred-ten families, a majority of which were African American (Figs. 1-2).[13] The area where the future physical education center would stand held eighty-four homes housing sixty-three families. Of the eighty-four homes, sixty-one were deemed "sub-standard," supposedly justifying their removal (Figs. 3-8).[14]

Though the city saw this neighborhood as an eyesore, its residents believed it a vibrant community that was to be destroyed without their consent.[15] Along with the looming destruction of the businesses and individual homes, citizens offered strong objections in regards to the noise, traffic, parking problems, and lose of the valuable history the location offered.[16] The ill will of the affected Columbia residents regarding the Urban Renewal program spread to anger towards the University. This anger compounded upon an existing resentment due to the University's long refusal to admit black students.[17] As Columbia's first Urban Renewal project, there was no precedent for those in charge in regards to how to interact with the discontent of the community.[18] Affected residents, felt the project "tore the heart out" of the closely-knit Wheeler Hill community (Fig. 9).[19]

Regardless of their good intentions, the University failed to realize just how involved the current residents of this area should be in the planning process, and proceeded with little heed for public opinion. Francis J. Lammer of Philadelphia was known to have said, "the planning and interchange of ideas...should include all segments of the population affected by the redevelopment program. If the people who surround the university do not understand what is going on, they have

5 "University Announces Plans For New Land,"The Gamecock, (Columbia, SC), March 24, 1961.
6 Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 154-55.
7 "'Cleaning' City: A Major Project," The State, (Columbia, SC), April 28, 1965.
8 Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 154-55.
9 "Urban Project Gets Low Bid," *The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), March 24, 1961.
10 Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 154-55.
11 Dr. Wheeler came to Columbia after the Civil War and was famous for building the Wheeler House hotel in the center of Columbia, the location of the Marion Hotel of today.
12 John Hammond Moore, Columbia and Richland County, 278.
13 Sanborne Fire Insurance Maps and Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 154-55.
14 Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 187.
15 Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 154.
16 Ibid., 186.
17 Ibid., 154.
18 City-wide renewal projects around Columbia that impacted downtown impoverished neighborhoods were considered by some as institutional racism, a term coined by Black Power activists during the late 1960s to identify racist social and governmental policies and systems.
19 Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 155.

no incentive to cooperate in the program" and will only resist.[20]

The affected members of the community were not alone in their outrage. Though pleased with the new potential facilities, some of the USC students also offered protest to the heavy-handed methodology of the University. Harold Kirtz, the 1969 student government secretary for intercommunity affairs, publicly criticized the University's lack of concern in relocating the people in the communities affected by the expansion. To the student senate, he stated that the University "should seek to continue its building and educational programs by more constructive means and allow the present neighborhoods surrounding the University campus to continue to exist alongside the University as communities" as long as they are providing housing for residents of Columbia."[21] He also noted concerns about how far the university could extend their influence before the community withdraws support.[22]

In spite of the public upheaval, within five years the University had taken ownership of the entire area, which totaled in value for more than one million dollars.[23] After years of involvement with the federal Urban Renewal program, the University and existing members of the Wheeler Hill community came together to undertake a "Human Renewal" project. To complete this project, the university was funded $170,000 by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The project was meant as a partnership between the university and the neighboring Wheeler Hill community to bring about the renewal and growth of a disadvantaged group of people through adult education.[24] The project was being conducted through the University's Social Problems Research Institute.[25] Though proposed as a joint enterprise, much of the planning, decision-making, and council and advisory participants came from the residents of Wheeler Hill under the terms of the grant. This project was not meant to merely educate these residents, but to elevate their quality of life by tailoring the learning objectives to individual needs and learning desires. [26]

Project Planning

The initial plans for the southern acquisition deemed the land to be used for athletic purposes. Once the area was cleared, the University installed six multipurpose playing fields. The exact location of the physical education center was later decided upon due to the proximity to these fields and accessibility from the present campus and the planned future campus expansions to the south.[27] Before the plans were conceived for the physical education center Harold Brunton, Vice President of Business Affairs, was vocal about the inadequacy of the athletic facilities with the rapidly growing enrollment. He claimed the University had insufficient facilities for the last twenty to thirty years and attributed this to fund limitations. In 1968, he proclaimed that the University was limited to the old gym, unusable for anything else, Peabody and the Field House. Furthermore, when the Field House burned down in late 1968, the situation became even more strained."[28]

Though many at the University agreed on the need for more athletic facilities, there was a specific set of priorities that determined the allocation of University funds. The funding around the late 1960s was allocated first to improving the science and humanities buildings for classroom space, then the multipurpose coliseum for public appeal, and finally that Capstone for living areas. Once these areas were satisfactory, plans could be made for an updated athletic facility.[29]

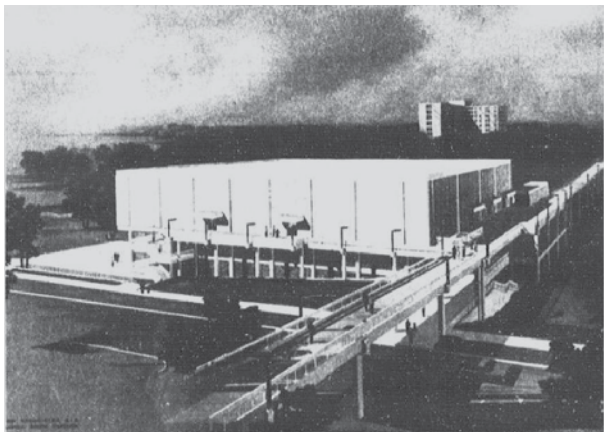
Once funds were available to build upon the previously acquired land, the university began accepting bids, eventually awarding the construction to Lafaye, Lafaye & Associates.[30] The drastic need

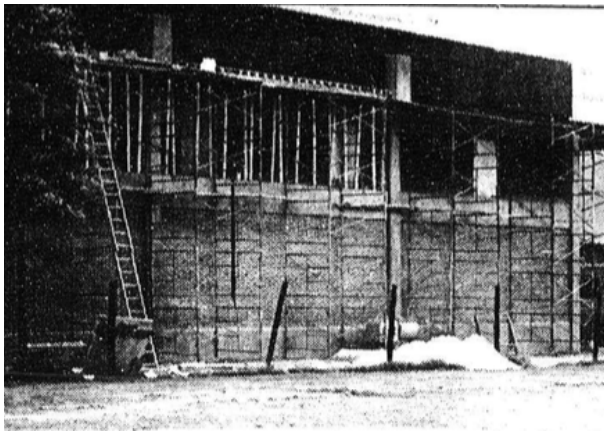
20 Ibid., 388.
21 Fred Monk, "SC Official Raps Campus Expansion," *The Gamecock,* (Columbia, SC), March 28, 1969.
22 Ibid.
23 Lesesne, A History of the University of South Carolina, 155.
24 "HEW Funds to Finance USC 'Human Renewal' Plan," *The State, (Columbia, SC),* June 24, 1970. 12.
25 Bob Craft, "Wheeler Hill: 'Experiment' in Adult Education," The Gamecock, (Columbia, SC), October 19, 1970.
26 "HEW Funds to Finance USC," 12.
27 Susan Ross, "New Gym Complex to Meet Need for Athletic Facilities," *The Gamecock.* (Columbia, SC), March 7, 1969.
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.
30 Ross, "New Gym Complex..." *The Gamecock.*


WRECKING
WOOD
SALVAGE
COMPANY

9


STROM THURMOND FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER





for athletic facilities on campus led to the plans for construction as part of a three-phase program. This program was estimated at $1.5 to $2 million, but later rose to $2.6 million.[31] The project included the proposed three-story gym, a future addition that would add a massive swimming area, and a walkway extending from the undergraduate library to the Bates House dormitory. According to the director of campus planning, Thomas B. Farris, the walkway and physical education center would be completed by late 1971.[32] The addition of the swimming area of the complex was scheduled to happen later in an attempt to reduce initial costs.[33]

The twenty-foot wide portion of the pedestrian mall was completed first, and used to house pipes underneath for the air conditioning ducts running to the physical education center. The center was planned to be two hundred feet by one hundred-thirty feet wide and would be primarily approached by the mall on the third floor. The third floor was designed to contain four regulation basketball courts, with plans for an additional eight courts to be added in the future. The second floor was planned to hold locker rooms, four handball-squash courts, and faculty offices. The bottom floor was intended for all wrestling, boxing, dancing, and golf facilities as well as office spaces. To pay for the construction, the university received $375,000 in insurance after the Field House burned in 1968, $200,000 from a federal grant, and the rest from institution bonds.[34]

AFTER CONSTRUCTION

Building Completion

The Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center was a state of the art facility at the time of its opening in 1971. The building was open but possible additions were still being considered. While the University hoped to increase the facilities size in the future, they wanted to wait and see if the facility was widely used before any expansion was done, considering that a physical education center was a brand new concept at the time. Dr. Warren Giese explained, "The actual go-ahead on the expansion depends entirely on student utilization of the complex".[35]The 66,000 square foot, three story, multi million-dollar building was decided by the board of trustees to be formally dedicated to the House Speaker Solomon Blatt in 1973.[36] The additions were completed in 1975 and included a 155′ x 75′ Olympic size pool and courts that could be used for multiple competitive sports.[37]

This complex is a good representation of how the campus was evolving. During this era more people were growing interested in athletics and the University of South Carolina was starting to become a sports centered school. The school also had an increase in funds, which helped to expand the athletic department. The building of Blatt was decided upon to meet the University's new athletic needs, as well as to gain popularity among the community and high school graduates who would consider the school. USC even created a new women's athletic program that played primarily at the Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center and its fields. In where most teams compete due to large amounts of people coming to see these teams play.[38]

Building Uses

Since it's opening Blatt has always served as a versatile physical fitness building. In its early years, it housed school department's, intramural sports, recreational fitness classrooms, recreational and competitive courts, and gyms.[39] It was the home to official indoor sports at the time such as volleyball, basketball, swimming and gymnastics and outdoor sports like tennis and softball.[40]

Intramural sports became widely popular in the 70's due to adequate facilities and equipment that someone can check out with a University ID

31 "Expansion Plans Outlined," *The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), November 3, 1969.
32 "Construction Projects Planned for Fall Completion," *The Gamecock.* (Columbia, SC), January 13, 1971.
33 Ross, "New Gym Complex..." *The Gamecock.*
34 Ibid.
35 Steven Borough, "University Opens New PE Facilities," *The Gamecock, (Columbia, SC)*, October 11, 1971.
36 Kenneth M. Hare, "Trustees Okay Names For Buildings," *The State, (Columbia, SC)*, May 16, 1973.
37 Borough, "University Opens New PE Facilities," *The Gamecock.*
38 Gene Able, "USC 'Chicks' Find Success: Athletic Program a Winning One," *The State, (Columbia, SC)*, April 19,1974.
39 "University Opens New PE Facilities," *The Gamecock.*
40 Able, "USC 'Chicks' Find Success," *The State.*

card. Intramural teams at the time include, racquetball, one on one, bowling, softball, wrestling, foul shooting, horseshoes, 3 man basketball, putt putt, track and tug of war. If the sports were not played in the gym they would have taken place in Blatt PE Center surrounding fields.[41]

Global Perception

The Physical Education Center was such an important building at the time of the completion of its addition in 1975 that Prince Bertil of Sweden came to examine the facility. Bertil was the President of Swedish Sports Federation and the Swedish Olympic Committee who was invited to the US by the President Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. He toured many facilities across the United States, but Blatt along with the William Brice Stadium on campus were the only collegiate facilities he toured in the United States.[42]

An Increasing Lack Space

As the 70's became the 80's and the student population continued to increase, the behemoth concrete structure at the South of USC's campus began to feel a little bit smaller. While the facilities, only around a decade old were still considered "second to none," recreational spaces like the weight room and basketball courts were beginning to become overcrowded.[43] The building, constructed in 1971 was created to serve the school's structured athletic needs first and foremost, while recreational fitness was only a small portion of the original design. In the early 80's Blatt was still home to varsity level men's and women's swimming, the majority of the indoor Women's athletics and men's basketball practices. The facility also housed intramural sports, P.E. as well as a large number of classrooms and offices. For individuals, "most recreation areas are facilities are open for free play when not otherwise scheduled, normally from 4-10 p.m and on weekends."[44] With all this time and space devoted to school sponsored programs, the non-structured recreational needs of the student body were struggling to be met.

While Blatt was not designed specifically for the requirements of those independent of school-sponsored activities, a need for more space was something that USC administration understood and planned for. "Since the center's construction in 1971, a three-stage plan has been in effect to further the buildings facilities." The first part of the plan was the original design, while parts two and three were meant to be expansions. The 1975 addition was the second part of the three-phase plan for the center. The third phase intended to add more gyms, racquetball courts, an indoor track and an indoor tennis court.[45] The only major addition done after 1975 however was the creation of a new weight room in 1982. This expansion was done on the west side of the building under the pedestrian bridge and it increased the weight room size from 900 square feet to 2,700 square feet.[46]

Although phase three of the Blatt plan was still very much a possibility in 1992, the students of USC were dissatisfied with the increasingly inadequate facilities at Blatt and searched for a more immediate and economical solution to this problem. In 1992 the Student Government and Resident Hall Association along with the Department of Student life held a student and administration forum to brainstorm an alternative plan for expansion of Blatt's facilities. The largest goal of this meeting was to create a larger and user-friendlier weight room, which, despite the improvements in 1982 was still considered problematic. Student Mark Fernandez argued that, "It was obviously built at a time when health wasn't that important, and it was never changed." The main idea generated at this forum was to reconstitute the Booker T. Washington building into a 73,000 square foot weight room without the need to build a whole

41 Ken Hauser, "Shoney's Intramural Sports Flash: Intramurals Provide Exercise," *The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), January 16, 1980.
42 "Swedish Prince Will Visit USC," *The State*, (Columbia, SC), March 8, 1975.
43 Joseph Foley, "Campus Recreation: Center's Facilities 'Second to None'," *The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), August 10, 1984.
44 "Variety: Something for Everyone At Blatt P.E. Center," *The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), August 25, 1981.
45 Foley, "Campus Recreation," *The Gamecock*.
46 Nathan Sands, "Weight Room Construction Nears End," *The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), July 21, 1982.

new building or addition. This project would however still cost over $200,000 and take eight weeks. This was certainly more reasonable than the full eight million dollar multi-year renovation proposed for phase three. Student Government had $50,000 allocated for the project if it the proposal was to be submitted, but the idea was eventually scratched as plans for a new, separate facility began to form with the campuses new Master Plan.[47]

A NEW PLAN

In 1993 the University began to formulate its Mater Plan, which intended to centralize the campus and create a better living and learning environment.[48] The plan included the creation and renovation of multiple classroom buildings, residence halls and green spaces. One of the largest projects in this plan was for the creation of a separate fitness center at the intersection of Blossom and Assembly streets. The center was to be named after the influential South Carolina politician Strom Thurmond.[49] This building was intended to solve the lack of recreational space as Charles Jeffcoat, the director of facilities management stated that, "The center will be allocated solely for recreational use." The facilities at Blatt would then be used mainly for Varsity and Intramural Sports.[50]

Though considered extremely necessary, everyone did not meet the monstrous Strom Thurmond project with praise. Many student and alumni that paid for the building with tuition and donations were understandably angry because they would never get to use the facilities that they paid for. The construction took years and many of the students that were going to school there at the time had to use the outdated facilities at Blatt knowing that as soon as they graduated there would be a brand new facility. These feelings are not uncommon and every generation of students are forced to watch similar construction they never get to use. These sentiments are reiterated in an editorial in the student newspaper, The Gamecock, which argued, "Universities are always building or renovating," and encouraged students to accept the unfortunate reality of new campus buildings.[51]

As the students of the 1990's waited in anticipation for the Strom Thurmond Center that would not come until the next decade, the university attempted to make whatever smaller scale changes they could to improve conditions at Blatt and stave off the continuing criticism they faced. One of these improvements was the moving of the Women's volleyball team out of the building in November of 1995. This was the last non-swimming varsity sport to use the P.E center and their removal effectively freed one extra gym for public use.[52] The other major change in the 1990's was the renovation to the entrance of the building in 1996. These renovations created a less confusing entry system and converted two gyms into a large aerobics studio and a lounge area. These renovations were meant to make the buildings stoic concrete structure seem more inviting and it was during this renovation that the windows on the front of the building were added.[53]

While parts of the Master Plan were carried out all over campus from 1993 onwards, the $43 million Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center was not completed until 2003. Despite the extensive time and money spent on the building after its completion with almost universal praise, one faculty member stated, "It's stunning on the outside, and twice as nice on the inside." With the creation of this 192,000 square foot structure the university finally seemed to understand the need to invest in recreation. Strom from its conception was, "Touted as a recruitment tool for USC and a fitness center showcase," an icon of the university.[54] The once state of the art Blatt on the

47 Jill Buehlman, "Students, Staff Discuss P.E Center: Booker T. Washington Center Possible Site for Renovations," *The Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), March 27, 1992.
48 Brad Walters, "Russell House Expansion to Follow Wellness Center Construction," *The Gamecock,* (Columbia, SC), March 15, 1999.
49 Greenville.com, "USC's Strom Thurmond Wellness & Fitness Center is Now Open and Operational," Last modified 1999, http://www.greenville.com/news/uscthurmondcenter.html.
50 Walters, "Russell House Expansion to Follow," *The Gamecock.*
51 "Master Plan Ought to Get Our Support," *The Gamecock,* (Columbia, SC), April 19, 1999.
52 Ryan Wilson, "Gamecocks Ready for Last Blatt Battle," *The Gamecock,* (Columbia, SC), July 21, 1995.
53 Alyssa Smith, "Blatt to Become More User Friendly," *The Gamecock,* (Columbia, SC), September 4, 1996.
54 Gina Smith, "New Fitness Facility Opens Today at USC," *The State,* (Columbia, SC), March 1, 2003.

other hand, faded into the background where it remained bland but functional. With the creation of a new, recreation centered facility Blatt was finally able to go back to what it was intended to do, house intramurals, swimming, and a small number of recreational users. In 2007 the University invested again by completely overhauling the outdoor fields at Blatt and Strom in order to provide better facilities for intramural and club sports. The university hoped that, "The programs should continue to grow as the field improves," and that better draining, larger outdoor facilities would allow for sports such as ultimate Frisbee to move outdoors. With the continued improvements to Blatt and Strom the campus seemed to finally have a solution to its long time recreation problems.[55]

Unfortunately however in 2010 the school cut its recreational budget and closed Blatt on the weekends. This change caused controversy as it forced those who frequented Blatt to move to Strom on Saturdays and Sundays. Student Patrick Ryan one of a group of students that use Blatt rather than Strom stated, "It'll make things more crowded, that's for sure." In addition, Blatt was free for faculty use while Strom cost either $5 a day or $360 a year, so a faculty attempting to work out on weekends were forced to pay if they wanted to use campus facilities. While the school deemed this change necessary, it has created a problem of space and overcrowding that may one day grow as large as the problems faced in the 1980's and 90's.[56]

CONCLUSION

The Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center has gone through many stages in the course of its existence within the University of South Carolina campus. It has maintained a significant cultural impact before, during, and even after its construction, which has guaranteed its place as a major landmark of the University. The changing perceptions, attitudes, and uses throughout the planning, designing, construction, and life of this building in relation to its environment are very significant in understanding its historical and cultural impact. The history of this building is an interesting and complicated story. From the community upheaval during the initial land acquisition, to the varying uses throughout its life as the main recreation center on campus, and even now as it functions together with Strom, Blatt has been an extremely important if not sometimes controversial building. Though built primarily as a functional and inexpensive structure, this structure remains an integral part of the campus environment, as well as the landscape of Columbia.

55 Morgan Bradham, "Blatt, Strom Fields to Open For Spring," *The Daily Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), January 23, 2007.
56 Kristyn Winch, "Blatt to Shut Down on Weekends," *The Daily Gamecock*, (Columbia, SC), July 28, 2010.

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Winter, Joseph E., Joseph E. Winter Photograph Collection. 1920-1992.

7

Ana Gibson
Margaret McElveen

SITE SURVEY

Bates House

INTRODUCTION

In 1969, the University of South Carolina - Columbia opened Bates House as a traditional style residence hall. A surge in enrollment during this time resulted in the construction or acquisition of ten residences, including Bates. The building was named for Jeff Bates who served as South Carolina state treasurer from 1940 to his death in 1966. The University still uses the building as a residence hall, and today, Bates House is home to 531 students, predominantly freshman, both male and female, and includes a variety of different amenities for residents.

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

This 1969 Modernist structure measures ten stories high. The complex is constructed of brick and concrete with a steel frame. Three towers, rectangular in shape, are joined by a breezeway and come together to form a footprint that resembles a "T." Bates House is located in the south area of the University's relatively large campus.

The building is situated at the end of a large parking lot that slopes downward from south to north towards the entrance of the complex. A public road runs along the east side of the building separating it from private residences and a small theatre. The combination of slope and road hinders the visibility of the first stories of B-wing and A-wing on their east elevations. However, the entire building is visible from the street at the top of the parking lot that runs parallel to the south elevation. The building is connected on its west side to a fourteen-story residence hall, Bates West, via a small dining hall at ground level, to be described further later. The dining hall shares the same façade as Bates House, as it is somewhat of an extension of the building. The two residence halls are similar in style, sharing some exterior characteristics; however, Bates House is shorter than Bates West and also has a larger footprint.

At the main entrance of the residence hall, which faces south, a set of concrete stairs leads to a small courtyard that contains a gazebo and a water feature. The courtyard continues at the north side of the building where another gazebo sits almost mirroring the position of the gazebo at the front of the building.

FAÇADE

The symmetrical façade of each of the three towers, or wings, of Bates House is five bays wide, with the exception of the east and west elevations of B-wing which are six bays wide. The exterior of the building is wrapped in both brick and concrete. All of the elevations are similar and are variations of a pattern, keeping the building façade visually intriguing while also providing a level of continuity. The façade of the first and second floors of each tower is distinctly different from floors three through ten.

The first floor of each tower consists of either board formed concrete fluting, large picture windows or a combination of the two. The board formed concrete has the detail of the wood naturally embedded as a pattern adding aesthetic appeal to the first story of the façade. The wide paneled fluting keeps a vertical orientation for the entire height of the first story and then is interrupted by a stringcourse that consists of horizontal panels. The picture windows, consist of windows of varying sizes to maximize the view. Each elevation's respective band of picture windows on the first floor exterior has a different combination of window panes. On the majority of the elevations, the first floors are recessed underneath the façade of the second story. The first two floors are stepped with each one more so than the last until the main body of the façade is reached at the third floor.

The second story façade of each tower sits on top of the stringcourse mentioned above. Like the first floor, the exterior of the second floor consists of either concrete fluting, picture windows or a combination of the two elements. The fluting repeats in the same pattern as the first floor exterior on each respective elevation and is also capped with a stringcourse of horizontal board formed concrete fluting. The picture windows on the second story consist of a fixed window stacked on top of an awning window, surrounded on three sides by composite board that are green in color. Mullions that are made of the same concrete as the fluting separate the windows. These bands of picture windows are the same on every elevation they exist on. Acting as a cornice, board formed concrete molding sits on top of the windows and protrudes further from the building than the windows. This cornice with pilasters, has vertical blocks that interrupt the horizontal band in between every picture window. This element also visually separates the second floor from the remaining eight floors.

Stories three through ten of the exterior are glazed brick, light blue in color, which is laid in a running bond formation. This running bond is interrupted by a single common bond course at the head of every window. Each common bond row appears after twenty-five stretcher courses of brick. All of the elevations of the building have the same brick work. The windows on the rest of the exterior are small picture windows that consist of one fixed window stacked on top of an awning window of the same width. These windows are surrounded by concrete elements on all four sides. These "concrete blinders" on either side of the windows project the furthest from the building façade. The blinders create shadows on the building as the sun moves throughout the day but also simply add detail to the exterior, giving the building texture from afar. Capping off the tenth floor is a parapet roof that takes on the board formed concrete aesthetic of the bottom two floors.

B-WING

The B-wing is the south-most tower of the complex. The south elevation of its first story façade consists of only board formed concrete fluting with wide vertical panels. Viewed from this elevation, the first floor is only partially visible. The second story is a combination of concrete fluting and picture windows. The windows sit in the middle of the façade and consist of three fixed windows on top of three smaller rectangles of composite board. The words "University of South Carolina: Bates House", comprised of metal letters, are mounted on the west corner of the stringcourse that separates the second and third stories. The west and east elevations of the B-wing are similar, following the same progressing order of the rest of the building. The west elevation of the first floor only has picture windows, which alternate between a composition of fixed windows on top of composite board and fixed windows stacked on awning windows stacked on composite board. The second bay is actually an entrance consisting of two glass doors surrounded by fixed windows on three sides. Between each picture window is a square, concrete column. The second story is a band of picture windows that are all the same in composition. The east elevation of the first floor only consists of concrete fluting while the

second story mirrors that of the west elevation. Floors three through ten on all elevations remain similar to the rest of the building with the same glazed brickwork and windows framed by projecting blinders, only differing in the placement and grouping of windows.

C-WING

The C-wing is the western-most tower of the building. The south elevation of the first story is concrete fluting, while the second floor façade is a band of picture windows that are the same as the second floor west elevation of B-wing. The west elevation of both the first and second stories mirrors those of the south elevation on B-wing. The north elevation of C-wing's first and second floors look like B-wing's west elevation, consisting first of picture windows and an entrance followed by a band of picture windows on the second story that have exactly the same composition. Floors three through ten resemble the rest of the building.

A-WING

The A-wing is the northeastern tower of the complex. The west elevation of the first and second floors mirrors the west elevation of B-wing, except where there is a door on B-wing there is a picture window on A-wing. The north elevation of the first story consists of concrete fluting, picture windows and an entrance. Moving from east to west, the façade begins with fluting, then the doorway and finishes with picture windows. The entrance looks like that of both B and C-wing's except it recedes back into the building. The windows are a small band of three picture windows that consist of alternating compositions of one large fixed window stacked on a smaller rectangle of composite board and a fixed window stacked on an awning window that sits on composite board. The second floor resembles that of B-wing's south elevation. The remaining eight floors follow the pattern of the rest of the building very closely resembling B-wing's south elevation as well.

INSIGHT EXTERIOR PROVIDES OF INTERIOR

The exterior and façade of Bate House hint at what is happening on the inside. The exterior elements of the floors progress outward beginning between the first and second stories. This progression signals the beginning and ending of each floor. Once the third through tenth floors are reached, the brickwork takes over. Every header course in the brick façade marks a new floor in the building. The windows also signal where floors begin and end. The windows of the third through tenth floors also tell whether the space on the interior is a room or a hallway. The south elevation of B-wing has groups of three windows centered on its façade indicating that the space behind the windows is a hallway. The single windows and pairs of windows indicate the interior space is a dorm room. The exterior of the second floor on each tower does not match the design and materials of the third through tenth floors, insinuating the interior of the second floor differs from the rest of the residence floors; however, the structure and configuration of the interior spaces remain constant throughout the building beginning with the second floor. Additionally, glass is the primary material of the first floor while more obscure materials offer greater privacy on residential levels.

EXTERIOR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

In front of Bates House, there is a concrete courtyard that contains a gazebo and a small water feature. A set of concrete stairs leads down to this courtyard where the gazebo sits in the west corner of the space providing a covered, shaded sitting area for visitors. Closer to C-wing is a semi-circle concrete bench that encompasses a small water feature. The feature, made of marble, is cylindrical in shape with one larger piece sitting on top of a slightly taller and much thinner form. A small amount of water slowly pours out of the center of the stone cylinder and flows over the sides. On the north side of the building sits another gazebo of equal size almost mirroring the location of the gazebo on the south side of the building. The

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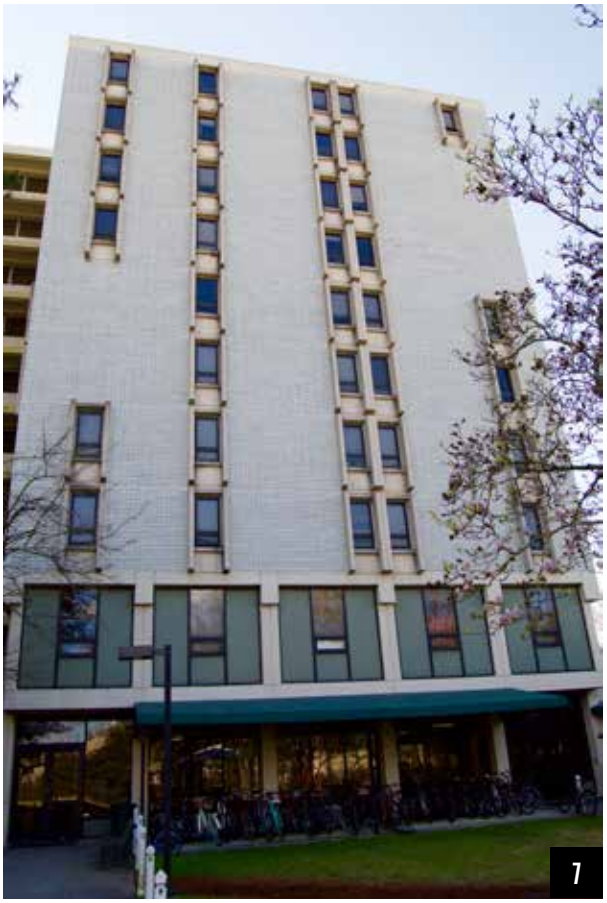

1 *This image pictures the north (rear) elevation of the A-wing exterior and part of the connecting breezeways.*

2. *This image pictures the interior of the all-you-can-eat dining facility located on the first floor of Bates House. Students and visitors must pay before entering this facility.*

3. *Bates_Bwing Sign Detail: This image pictures a close up of the metal lettering on the west corner of the B-wing south (front) elevation that identifies the building.*

4. *Bates_Breezeway South Elevation: This image pictures closely the breezeways of stories six through ten that connect the three wings of the building.*

5. *Bates_Breezeway: This image pictures the interior of the breezeway that connects the three wings of the structure on floors two - nine. (Note: The tree design is student/housing decorations and not representative of the design of the building.)*

6. *Bates_Concrete Fluting Detail: This image pictures a detail of the board formed concrete fluting that wraps around the exterior of all the towers.*

7. *Bates_Cwing North Elevation: This image pictures the north (rear) elevation of the C-wing façade providing a good example of the three levels of the exterior discussed in this description.*

8. *Bates_East Elevation: This images pictures the east (side) elevations of both the A-wing (right) and the B-wing (left). It also shows how the adjacent street hides the first story of the building, mentioned on page two of this description.*

9. *This image pictures the interior of the far end of the residential halls (two-ten) described in more detail on page five of this description.*


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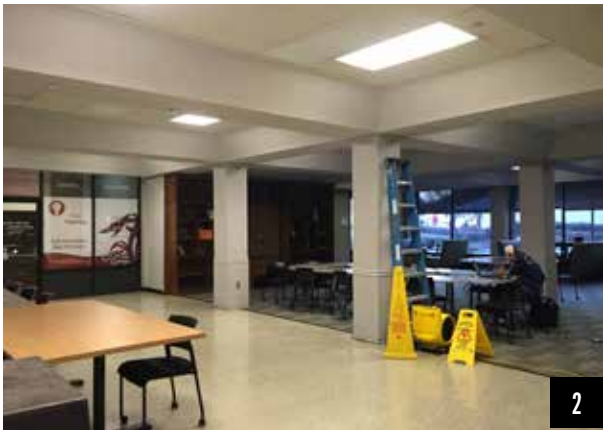
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a girl with
a woman
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1. *This image pictures part of the communal bathrooms located on each residential floor.*

2. *This image pictures the renovated study lounge and the Student Success Center Satellite Office located on the first floor of Bates House.*

3. *This image pictures the cinder block wall that directly confronts visitors as they enter A-wing and C-wing on floors two - nine of the building. It also provides a look at some of the interior hardware.*

4. *This image pictures the galley kitchen located on each residential floor of C-wing.*

5. *This image features half of the typical floorplan of a residential hall of Bates House.*

6. *This image pictures the south (front) elevation of the Bates complex, showing how the wings are connected by breezeways.*

7. *This image pictures the gazebo that sits in the south courtyard of Bates House. A portion of Bates West can be seen in the background. Another gazebo mirrors the position of this one in the north yard of the complex.*

8. *This image pictures the vestibule of the first floor of Bates House. In the background of the image, the exterior of Bates Diner can be seen. At the left of the image, the exterior of the South Area Housing Office is pictured.*

9. *This image pictures a close up of the windows that are a part of the facades of every wing of the building from the third to the tenth floor. It also shows how the common bond described in the above description interacts with the windows.*

10. *This image pictures the water feature that sits diagonally from the gazebo in the south courtyard of the grounds. In the background, the progressing levels of the facade can also be seen.*

11. *This image pictures the west elevations of both the B-wing (right) and the C-wing (left). It provides a good visual to compare the differing aspects of the facade on each of the two wings.*

locations of these features emphasizes the grid the building sits on and its symmetry.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The complex includes three ten-story towers, known as A-wing, B-wing and C-wing. An open-air breezeway connects these wings on the second through tenth floors. Apart from the first floor, where all communal amenities of the building are located, the other nine floors on each wing contain the same basic configuration, barring a slight deviation in floor plan on B-wing. Currently, C-wing houses all female residents of the building while A-wing and B-wing are home to male residents.

Pedestrian traffic has several different routes in Bates House. One possible route stems from the three elevators located in the open-air breezeway. Entering these elevators from the vestibule on the first floor, it is possible to access any floor and tower of the building as the breezeway connects all three of the towers. Additionally, there is one staircase in the core of each tower that goes from the first floor to the tenth. Fire doors separate the staircase from the living space on each floor.

FIRST FLOOR

Various parts of the first floor of Bates House are accessible to the public while others are restricted to residents and can be accessed with a Carolina Card (University of South Carolina identification card). The original "T" frame composition of the building and corresponding structural grid remain visible on this floor, but almost all of the original space has been renovated or remodeled with new floor plans.

Some of the spaces found on this level include a laundry room with twelve washers and dryers. Also on the first floor of C-wing, located next to the laundry room, is Bates Carolina Diner. This all-you-can-eat dining facility features both indoor and outdoor seating. Bates House is connected to Bates West, another residence hall, via this diner. Students and visitors can choose from a variety of dining options including, but not limited to, a buffet, salad bar and grill. The South Area Housing Office is also located in this area on the first floor of Bates House. On the first floor A-wing, it is evident that new walls have been added after the original construction was completed to accommodate the changing needs of students and staff. In this area, there is a computer lab that is rectangular in shape. It contains ten desktop Dell computers with various seating and tables. The room is carpeted and has two ceiling fans. Additionally, the Resident Life Coordinator's office and living quarters can be found in this area. The Student Success Center Satellite Office and a newly renovated study lounge for students are located on the first floor of B-wing. The study lounge has an open, "flexible" floor plan. The area is carpeted and the structural pillars of the building are visible throughout the space. Additionally, the first floor houses a security desk, vending machines and printing kiosks.

SECOND THROUGH TENTH FLOORS

The three towers of the structure are connected by an open-air breezeway on floors two through ten. These floors retain more original detail than the first floor. The entrance to C-wing faces west and is located at the far west end of the structure; the entrance to B-wing faces south, and the entrance to A-wing faces north. Both the entrance to B-wing and A-wing are located at the far east end of the structure.

The open-air breezeway that connects each of the towers on floors two - nine has a poured concrete floor and ceiling. Exposed, red pipes run the length of the ceiling. The blue glazed, oversized brick typical of the exterior of the building is found in sections of this breezeway. In other sections, the wall is split into two horizontal halves by design and materials. In these sections, the upper half is constructed of expanded metal grate of varying sizes. Many of these mesh grates appear to have been replaced over the years. The lower half of these sections are constructed of concrete. There are ten evenly spaced concrete pillars located very near the perimeter walls visible on

each floor of these breezeways. These pillars are structural and span the height of the entire building. Similar to the structure of a skyscraper, these pillars are made of steel and reinforced by concrete. These pillars, along with many others in the structure, make up the structural grid that Bates House is built around. The doors to the residence wings and the trash room, which can also be accessed via this breezeway, are metal and painted blue.

The entrance to each tower is located behind a singular door that opens onto the breezeway; however, the doors of C-wing and A-wing are flanked on either side by fixed glass windows. Below each of these windows the exterior brick, previously described, is fixed in soldier courses. On the far side of each tower, facing out onto the exterior of the building, there is another series of symmetrical, fixed windows. While the fixtures and design on either side of the windows vary, the exterior elevation appears symmetrical. It is important to note that the architect could have very easily made this a cinder block wall similar to the other interior walls of the tower. However, the choice to include windows supports the idea that with this structure's outward appearance, design and symmetry were more important than interior functionality. Across from this series of windows is a false wall made of sheet rock. A HVAC system is used in the building and ventilation ducts can be found throughout the towers.

The general configuration of each of the three individual towers of Bates House resembles a rectangle. Each residential floor is extremely symmetrical. At the center of each rectangular wing is a core block that contains a communal bathroom, staircase and a locked mechanical room. There is also a small galley kitchen located within this core block on floors two - ten of C-wing. The walls of each floor are made of white painted cinder block laid using a stack bond. Immediately upon entering any of the three wings from the breezeway, a visitor is confronted with a blank, cinder block wall of the core block. The hallway wraps around this central core, and the student's rooms are around the perimeter of the rectangle, along the exterior walls. Each residence hall floor is carpeted, but the design and color varies on each floor of each tower. The ceiling is made of white ceiling panels or drop ceiling tiles with inset fluorescent lighting. This drop ceiling was most likely an alteration after the original construction of the building. Doors to all rooms on the hall are wooden with silver fixtures and framed by thin metal.

A-wing and C-wing have ten bedrooms per floor. B-wing is slightly different from A-wing and C-wing with ten resident bedrooms and one bedroom, slightly set off from the others, that is designated for the Resident Assistant per floor.

Bedrooms, designed to be shared by two students, have two, wooden built-in closets measuring 44 inches wide and 25 inches deep. The desk, chair, bed and any other bedroom furniture are easily rearrangeable. The bedrooms have white, industrial tile floors. The walls of the bedrooms, like those of the interior of the wings, are made of white painted cinder block. While each individual bedroom may vary slightly, the general configuration is an 11'6" X 15'6" (177 square feet) rectangle.

The communal bathrooms on each floor of C-wing, assumed to be of the same configuration as the other two wings of the building, have five sinks with five individual mirrors above each sink. Additionally, there are three showers separated by stalls. The showers are tiled in a small, shiny tile similar in color to the floors and stalls. There are five toilets, all separated by stalls. One of the toilets is enclosed by a larger stall than the rest. The floors of the bathroom are tiled and are the same color as the off-white paint on the walls. Unlike the walls of the bedrooms and hallways, the walls of the bathroom are plastered, not made of cinder block. The bathroom can be accessed from both sides of the core of the hallways. The plumbing is located as close to the center of the building as possible. It is very likely several alterations have been made to the bathrooms after the original construction of the building.

ALTERATIONS

Bates House retains a high degree of exterior integrity, as exterior alterations to the building have been minimal. Excluding the first floor, overall, the interior of the building is in poor to fair condition. While no apparent additions have been made to the exterior of the structure since its completion in the mid-twentieth century, parts of the interior of the building, including the elevators and almost the entire first floor, have been highly altered to accommodate changing student needs, design styles and new technology. These renovated spaces have new interior finishes that include new flooring, fresh paint and new furniture.

8

Paul Haynes

SITE SURVEY

Bursar's Office

Placed squarely in the middle of the of the block on Main Street between Blossom and Wheat Streets, the Bursar's Office rests between the towering energy plant and the low-slung Archaeology Conservation Facility. The new Horizon 1 engineering building, which focuses on alternative energy development, is directly across the wide four lane thoroughfare. Geographically sandwiched between the past and present, the Bursar's Office faces the future.

Being south of Blossom Street means the Bursar's Office is officially outside the hub of the University of South Carolina's academic focus, but the center of university life has been shifting south since the redevelopment of the old warehouse district into Greek housing and the Strom Thurman Wellness center. The pull of Williams Brice cannot be ignored as many students sacrifice the convenience of living close to classes for a spit focus positioned between the stadium and the Horseshoe. The Bursar's Office is a waypoint in the south sliding university core.

The building is divided into two main sections: the southeast portion of the building projects out toward the street, just a few feet off the sidewalk; the northwest portion is recessed back from the southeastern portion by about four feet. There are three additions to the two main portions of the building. The first is attached directly to back of the main northwestern section and is a simple unheated cinderblock storage/utility room with a roof line that stretches out five times over to form a carport. This addition has no access to the interior of the main building and is not utilized by the Bursar's Office staff.

The second addition is affixed to the rear of the southeastern half of the main structure and appears to be much older. It may have been added on shortly after the building was constructed/repurposed. It is much larger than the other two additions, at about one-sixth the overall size of the main building. The parapet wall of this addition is almost equal in height to the main structure, and the brick on both the addition and the southeast half of the main structure was painted a cream color to make them blend together.

The third addition is seamed to the sidewall of the southeastern section of the main building and is set back from the front façade by about fifteen feet. It appears to have been added near the end of the twentieth century based on the lack of weathering found on other parts of the building, though it was constructed to mirror the appeal of the rest of the structure. This addition falls short of the height shared by the main portion of the building and the slightly lower rear addition.

The Bursar's Office is constructed on one of downtown Columbia's many hills. The gradation is approximately twenty-one degrees from high to low across the building's front façade. This extreme slope cuts the base of the one-story structure like a wedge. The top remains level against an un-

obstructed sky, while the base of the edifice gains momentum from left to right. This momentum is counteracted by the larger protruding southeast portion staking the structure and preventing the recessed northwestern portion from succumbing to its own inertia. Other than posing design and engineering quandaries for construction professionals to solve, the extreme gradation provides an opportunity for the terraced beds that buttress the foundation and further ground it against the south sliding forces.

The building's front façade is framed with a series of simple red brick pilasters that flank recessed sections of brick veneer set in a Flemish bond pattern. The decorative masonry technique is further dramatized by allowing the perpend bricks to protrude from the face of the wall for two courses every two courses. This checked pattern arrangement is broken by the two flush courses, creating a dynamic visual effect that is complex without being overly complicated.

The building is accessed by climbing two low jade-green slate steps onto a narrow slate stoop. The entranceway is an assemblage of aluminum glass and wood. Two single aluminum wrapped glass doors stand guard to either side of a larger double glass door. The double door is capped by an aluminum wrapped glass transom window. The three options for egress are separated by two wood mullions that have been painted white. The whole shallow portico is set back from the brick façade by several feet drawing you into the building.

Atop this protruding southeast portion sits the focal point of the entire design. A huge metal lintel props up a heavy collection of fifteen exposed-aggregate tilt-up panels. The yellow and tan quartz pea gravel provides a stark contrast to the dearth of red brick that dominates the construction of the building face. The lower ten gravel panels are vertically set in five columns over the doorway and are about two and a half times tall as they are wide. They are seamed together with a wide bead of whitish adhesive caulk that pronounces the grid effect of the separate panels. The ten large panels are capped by five narrow strips of the same material, which gives the illusion that the panels turn onto the roof. This effect makes the whole square pediment seem much weightier and impossible to keep aloft, straddling the sections of glass that comprise the entranceway below it.

This textured skin does not appear too busy because of the uniformity of shapes and color that comprise the siding material's make-up. It provides an appropriate backdrop for the placement of the university moniker. The understated san serif black metal letters oxidized by weather and time boldly proclaim: University of South Carolina. Falling in step, the raised block lettering undulates with the alternating push-pull of the front elevation of this structure. The choice of a simple font agrees with a design in which no one component has prominence—they all contribute, and if one component were removed, the aesthetic might collapse.

The upper recessed northwest portion of the front elevation is a shadow of the larger southeast portion. They share the pilasters punctuating the decorative Flemish bond brick work but where the stylized entranceway would be on the other half is marked by a single narrow strip of red brick set in a running bond same with the pilasters that boarder it on the northwest portion. It is hard to see, but this fraternal twin is a false front—this facade contains no content. A metal door on the left side of the building just around the corner leads into a narrow strip of untouched earth. Overhead a series of metal I-beams bridge the false front to its original face like an industrial pergola. At the end of the constricted courtyard a left turn makes it completely clear that this is a marriage of two buildings into one.

Down the thin single lane alleyway that borders the building on the upper northwest side, the drab uninspired exterior wall is punctuated by a collection of doors, windows, and security lighting. They take turns interrupting the still surface—door/window, door/window, door/window, door/window, door/window. The last door in the series is a roll-up delivery or service door. There

are scars on this elevation where two more such doors were bricked in. The remains of a window bricked in to fit a through-wall air conditioning unit, which was later removed and bricked in also, mars the surface as well. This northwest portion of the building appears to have had a more utilitarian past. The presence of multiple bays with roll up doors suggests a vehicle service facility or a storage warehouse. Possibly some sort of woodshop was the original intention of this once functional aspect of this conscripted convert.

Behind the northwest portion of the building, a relic of its service-driven past lingers. The small unpainted cinderblock addition seams the original rear elevation to a long wood and metal carport which houses lawn mowers, traffic cones, and stacks of other landscaping accouterments. A tall rusty metal chain-link fence surrounds the tackle. The roof of the carport has leaked for a while. The rotten wood framing is going to need major repairs before a new roof can be placed on the structure. Large joists and blocking run across the bays of the carport and tie into girders via ledger boards creating an interesting grid effect. The girders are kept aloft by metal posts leading down to square concrete post bases. This maintenance hub has long lacked the service it provides to the rest of the campus.

An unusually tall brick chimney peeks out the from behind the top of this service facility. This chimney appears to be apart of the rear addition to the southeast building. The rear addition is fairly plain from the back. A single window, a large wall mounted HVAC unit, and a metal halide security light make up the elevation's detail. The lower edge of the rear addition is footed by a concrete curb that extends past the corner, turns 45 degrees, and ends in a small concrete pavilion where remnants of a light or possibly electrified signage still stands in the form of two rusting poles and some caped conduit heading underground.

Around the corner on the southeast face of the addition three six-over-six windows and two flat panel steel doors with concrete ramps leading to them give this elevation more activity. Another metal halide security light looks from the rear face of the main southeast building down onto the rear addition, which sits back from the corner of the main building by twenty-five feet. In this alcove, crumbling asphalt is painted with lines establishing small spaces for scooter parking. More signs of closed entryways pock this wall as well as the adjacent rear wall of the southeast building.

The southeast section of the building is the largest of this amalgamation of structures. Although the overall roof height of the two main buildings is the same, the lowered placement of this building makes its exterior walls thirty percent higher and it is overall twenty-five percent wider and about ten feet longer as well. The southeast wall of this building has three components: a collection of doors, the side addition, and a small gravel park with seating. There are four doors toward the rear of this elevation—two single flat panel units, a double flat panel unit, and a roll-up door. The roll up door is oversized, probably so a box truck could back though it. This is no longer possible considering recent interior renovations, but at one time the southeast building may have processed mail or served as a fire station. Three simple pilasters add texture to this section of the building as well.

The addition appears to have been constructed in the late 1980's or early 1990's. It is clad in a red brick that is slightly darker than that of the front façade. The smooth face brick is set in a common bond unlike the Flemish bonding that is present on the front façade. It has one window on the rear and three windows equally spaced on the front half of the southeast side. There are two more window units on the front face. These three light units are different from the modular six- and twelve-light units on the other parts of the building. A large center pane is capped and underpinned by narrower pieces of glazing each about half the size of the center pane.

The window on the main building perpendicular to the front of the addition is one of these three light units, suggesting that the addition was designed to be appropriate for the southeast


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building. The L-shape formed where the addition meets the southeast building houses the gravel park common area. Opposite the front wall of the addition a brick wall topped with a black aluminum fence cradles the common area and separates it from the road and parking lot. A couple of large bushes attempt to conceal a green oxidized metal power unit in the middle of the common area. A wood and metal bench and picnic table sit atop crushed red brick gravel. Just across the entry ramp to the parking lot a twin common area flanks the driveway. Another bench and picnic table rest on more crushed brick.

Up the two front green slate steps and a couple of strides across the slate stoop, the building is entered through a small foyer. Grey commercial carpet and black rubber scraper mats greet visitors. The sidewalls of the foyer have large windows announcing the interior space. Two half-glass doors with sidelights give you pause. They both lead to the same room, but this building was, until recently, a duplex. Through either one of the doors you enter a lobby that resembles a bank. Straight ahead are two help desks manned by what could be loan officers. To the right are a series of offices. To the left are teller bays with garnet signs dangling above them. In the center of the room is a bank of computer stations. The ceiling is comprised of dropped acoustical panels concealing the wires and ducts above.

Everything is fresh and clean—a recent remodel has obscured any signs of the building's original trimmings. Windows looking into that narrow strip of courtyard behind the teller bays reveal the secret of the two merged buildings. What should be interior space is filled with grass surrounding the original brick façade of the northwest building, which was co-opted with the larger southeast building to make up the current structure. Behind the help desks directly across from the main entrance, a door on either end leads to a slender hallway. Inside the walls are painted cinderblock and the floor is old one-inch square blue tiles. A water fountain sits in a niche in the middle of the hall and doors leading to the men's and women's rooms are on either side. This area seems untouched by the recent remodel and more in keeping with the building's former blue-collar life. The font marking the bathroom doors is clearly a mid-century hold-over and through the door into the men's room lime green steel stall separators sit on cream colored hexagonal tiles. The toilets are old three-gallon flush units and the sink is a porcelain wall mounted design with the drainpipes exposed. There are separate spouts for hot and cold, and a chrome nipple between them has a hole where a stopper would have hung on a chain.

Beside the help desks, through the locked door into the back restricted area, a maze of hallways and offices chop up the once open space into claustrophobic capitalist catacombs. The carpet switches from grey to brown, and whitish VCT tiles cover areas of the floor. The walls are a mixture of sheetrock and painted cinderblock and brick, and black cove base snakes around every corner and along every wall. More acoustical panels push down on the space, and cubicles further divide the already fractured interior. Fresh white paint allows the fluorescent light to bounce around and gives the workspace a clinical feel. Groupings of tall black four-drawer file cabinets gather along the walls, sometime completely covering a wall or two. White cardboard file boxes catch the overflow.

At the end of a long hall, a turn northwest leads to a series of eight vinyl-clad steps heading upwards. This is the only connection point for the two original buildings, and it is this linkage that merges the two structures into one. At the top of the stairs, you enter the northeast portion of the building, where more halls and small offices confuse your directional senses. Down a hall and through a seemingly innocuous door, like all the rest, you come to an unfinished storage room. Piles of cardboard file boxes list left and right on top of utility shelves and more black file cabinets.

Despite the abundance of filings crammed into this room, it feels open. The acoustical drop-ceiling present in the rest of the building is gone, leaving

the steel truss webbing holding up the corrugated metal roof sheathing visible. The ductwork is exposed, and conduit feeding the fluorescent lighting weaves through the truss webbing. The roll-up door on the northwest side of the building perforates the painted cinderblock exterior wall. This storage room feels like it complies more with the two buildings' original utilitarian purposes.

The Bursar's Office building has lived more than a few lives before its current incarnation. The easily adaptable open nature of utility buildings may be what saved the original structures from the wrecking ball. A beautifully constructed false façade conceals its conjoined state, and tasteful, although bland, additions further adapt the two shell-structures into useable office space. Inside, the layout and finishes are frustrating and lackluster. Architecturally, the front façade is the only significant element of the building's design, but the creative adaptive use of the two merged buildings deserves some merit.

The Bursar's Office is among the more interesting buildings on campus despite its lack of a pedigreed past. The intentional and well-conceived façade lends legitimacy to two structures initially destined for service instead of recognition. An obvious survivor, the Bursar's Office faces its future with the potential to offer the University of South Carolina much more use in the years to come.

9

John Benton
Carly Simendinger

SITE SURVEY
Cliff Apartments

INTRODUCTION

In the 1960's and 1970's, the University of South Carolina experienced a time of exponential growth in its student population. Both the undergraduate and graduate student enrollment increased to unprecedented levels. The university rushed to build facilities to accommodate their growing numbers. One of the groups that the university was trying to provide for was married students. It became apparent that the school needed more living space for this unique group. It was during this time that the university began its plans to build an apartment building designed specifically to fulfill the needs of married students and families. The resulting building was Cliff Apartments.

CLIFF APARTMENTS- EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Built in 1974, Cliff Apartments is an apartment-style student housing facility located at 1321 Whaley Street in Columbia, South Carolina. It is positioned in the southern region of the University of South Carolina Columbia campus. To its east, there are two other USC residence halls: Bates House and Bates West. These three buildings are the tallest in the area and can be seen from a distance. To the south of the apartments, there is a parking lot for the residents and faculty, as well as an energy facility. Further to the south, across Whaley Street, is where the University of South Carolina soccer field is located. Cliff Apartments is situated on the side of a hill. The parking lot in front of the building has three terraced levels to compensate for the sloping change in elevation.

Cliff Apartments itself consists of nine stories, the lowest of which is a semi-basement. The building has a semi-basement to account for the building's location on a hillside. Cliff Apartments is made up of a reinforced concrete frame with a concrete foundation. The exterior is covered in nonstructural, machine cut, sand-colored brick. The building, if viewed from above, is in the shape of two overlapping, offset parallel rectangles. These sections will be referred to as the East and West Wings. The East Wing is set back farther to the north than the other. Centered on both the east and west ends, there are stair towers that differentiate themselves from the main body because they protrude from each end.

The main entrance is on the south side of the building. It is located centrally on the easternmost side of the West Wing. Above the entrance, there is a white concrete portcochere supported by four rectangular concrete pillars. At the front of the portcochere there is a cornice of four large squares which are projecting slightly from the surface. This detail resembles dentil molding and echoes the rectangular nature of the building's structure and other features. Under the portcochere is where the main entrance to the building is located. The two side-by-side main doors to the building are glass

doors with metal frames. To the east of the entrance, there is a concrete wall with a metal fence that sits on top of it. This wall extends east from the east elevation of the West Wing and then turns ninety degrees and runs to the north to connect to the easternmost side of the East Wing. This wall encloses a grassy area with a large tree and a swing set. There is also a sidewalk in this space leading to another entrance to the building. This set of double doors is centered on the East Wing. The doors are glass with metal frames like the main entrance. Above this door is a white concrete overhang that points downward on both sides. This style resembles that of the portcochere at the entrance.

There are fourteen symmetrical bays of windows on the façade, seven on both the East and West Wings. There is one more bay of windows in the corner where the building juts back. These bays of windows rise to all eight aboveground floors. Only these eight floors can be seen from the façade; the semi-basement is only visible from the north and the west elevations. Each window is separated into four sections by mullions. The top two sections are vertically-oriented rectangles while the bottom two sections are smaller horizontal rectangles. The bottom windows can be opened, but the top ones are fixed. Above and below each quadrant of windows, there is a piece of dark brown aluminum sheeting. The material is dull but feels cool, smooth, and metallic to the touch. This creates a continuous strip of window-looking material through the entire bay.

On either side of each bay of windows, there is a pilaster that runs from the ground up to the bottom of where a parapet wall begins at the top of the building. The top is squared off, which reinforces the rectangular motif of the building. Each pilaster is constructed with the sand colored machine cut brick. In the center of the pilaster, the brick is recessed from this exterior border. The exterior edge of the pilaster is rectangular and about a foot wide. At the top of the building, there is a white concrete parapet wall. This parapet wall is crenulated, with one vertical rectangle crenulation centered above each bay of windows. In between each crenulation, there is a metal feature. This feature appears to be wrought iron and consists of three vertical bars and two horizontal bars. The square angles created by these bars echo the rectangular shape of the crenulations and pilasters.

Because the building is stepped, the west elevation of the building consists of the west sides of both the East and West Wings. There is a stair tower centered on the west elevation of the West Wing. There are two bays of windows on the west elevation, one on both the East and West Wings. The bay of windows on the East Wing is in the corner where the two wings meet. At the bottom of this bay of windows, there is an entrance to the semi-basement. Above the doorway, there is an overhang identical to the one above the doorway on the east side of the façade.

The bay of windows on the West Wing is centered on the stair tower. This bay on this side is not identical to those on the façade. This one only has a single column of windows split horizontally with a mullion rather than into four sections like on the façade. There is, however, a vertically-oriented rectangular window on the top and a smaller horizontal rectangular window on the bottom as with the quadrants of windows on the façade. This bay also has one thinner pilaster of brick on either side of the windows. At the top, there is one crenulation centered above the column of windows. On both sides of the elevation where the wall extends back, the white concrete parapet wall is solid with no crenulations. At the bottom of this bay, there is an exterior door with an overhang identical to that which is on the west elevation of the East Wing. This overhang is covered by a rectangular, sloped awning, which completely covers the overhang on this door. On each side of the door, there is a sconce and on the south side of the door there is a mechanism to swipe a card for access to the building. On the south side of this elevation where the wall extends back, there is a dumpster. Behind the dumpster, the elevation to the top of the first story is covered in white concrete rather than the sand-colored brick of the rest

of this side.

The north elevation of the building is compositionally similar to the façade, with the one wing set farther back from the other. There are nine bays of windows on the East Wing of the building and six on the West. There are two sets of doors on the East Wing, directly under the third and seventh bays of windows. They are both sets of double doors with vertical openings over the top of the frame. Each door has a sconce on one side. In between these doors, there is a gas meter, a vent, and another set of vertical openings, presumably for ventilation. Also in between these doors is a doorway with a metal roller door that opens upward. The semi-basement, which goes across both the East and West elevations, can only be seen from the north and west elevations. The semi-basement is encased in white concrete.

The east elevation of the building is similar to the west elevation. The visual details of the east elevation are identical to that of the west, including the pilasters, the singular crenulation, and the windows themselves. However, both the semi-basement and the first floor are underground at this elevation due to the sloping elevation. Therefore, the door under the bay of windows on this side is located on the second floor. There is an overhang identical to those on the other entrances. However, like the south elevation and the west elevation of the East wing, an awning does not cover this overhang.

CLIFF APARTMENTS: INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Cliff Apartments is currently used as an apartment-style residence hall for freshman living on campus at the University of South Carolina. Floors four through nine have the same layout with the exceptions being the semi-basement, second, and third floors. The building's floor plan can be described as irregular or "hinged" in layout. It is in the shape of two overlapping, offset parallel rectangles that make the east and west wings of the building. Public spaces include hallways, study rooms, stairwells, and elevator lobbies located on each floor. Private spaces include administrative office space and individual apartments.

The interior has undergone minor alterations/upgrades in the past few years including new flooring/cabinetry in various apartments; drywall and paneling for allocated office space on the first and second floors. The east wing of the semi-basement houses laundry facilities for residents and mechanical rooms that hold various water pumps responsible for Cliff's building-wide heating and cooling systems. An electronic fire panel that was not original to the building is installed on the eastern elevator lobby wall facing the two elevators on the second floor.

Floors four through nine have the exact same floor layout and organization. Due to this mirroring effect, these floors will be discussed as a whole. Student apartment-style living spaces fill the majority of each floor, but each also has a study room, trash room, two stairwells, and an elevator lobby. Student apartments have a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom(s), and living area. These apartments come in two designs: one bedroom and two bedroom layouts. For the one-bedroom apartment, a hallway connects the bedroom to the bathroom and living area that houses a recessed kitchen. The two-bedroom apartment has the same characteristics, with the hallway connecting both bedrooms, bathroom, living area with recessed kitchen. Viewing from the hallway, student rooms are poised on each side of the hallway on both east and west wings. One can observe the apartment entry doors are composed of solid wood, and do not face other apartments' entry doors. This intentional shift apartment entry door placement and their staggered orientation from one another discourages connecting with other residents. A similar parallel can be drawn about the hallways: their placement prevents one from being able to view both hallway passages from a single vantage point at the same time. Near the end of the west wing corridor are the trash rooms and are composed of red brick walls, and vinyl tile flooring. A hinged, stainless steel door with a handle is built into the brick wall with the word "RUBBISH" machine stamped into the steel plate. This hinged door provides access to


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1. *This photo shows the outside space that is enclosed by the concrete wall with metal fencing.*

2. *This image shows the wooden wall that was placed in order to separate the conference room from the storage room.*

3. *This photo (taken from the living area) of a two-bedroom apartment is looking down the hallway within the apartment.*

4. *This photo shows the east elevation of the South Wing. It shows the stair tower and the single bay of windows on this elevation.*

5. *This is the door to the east of the main entrance, which is centered on the facade of the East Wing. This shows the sidewalk and the entryway through the concrete wall that encloses this outside space.*

6. *This image shows the wallpaper-like material clad to the wall imitating natural stone as well as the recessed elevators.*

7. *This photo shows the detail of the set of double doors which are centered on the facade of the East Wing. It also shows the detail of the overhang above the doors.*

8. *This is the facade of Cliff. It shows the grand scheme of the bays of windows on each wing and the main entrance.*

9. *This detail of the window shows the rectangular glass and mullions. Handle is visible for opening lower rectangular window; pivots into living/bedroom area.*

10. *Shows detail of storage area not original to building (to the right) that was made for storage.*

11. *This picture captures the main entryway while facing south toward Whaley Street from the interior of the building. Portcochere is also visible from this angle.*

12. *This is the north elevation of the building. Much of it is blocked from view because of cars, golf carts, and multiple storage pods. The semi-basement can be seen from this elevation, as well as the entirety of the bays of windows on both wings.*

1 *This photo shows the detail of the windows and how they are separated by the mullions and the pieces of aluminum. It shows the detail of how the pilasters square off at the top, as well as the crenulations on the parapet wall and the metal details in between them.*

2. *This photo shows how the parking lot is terraced to allow for maximum parking space while also accounting for the sloping elevation.*

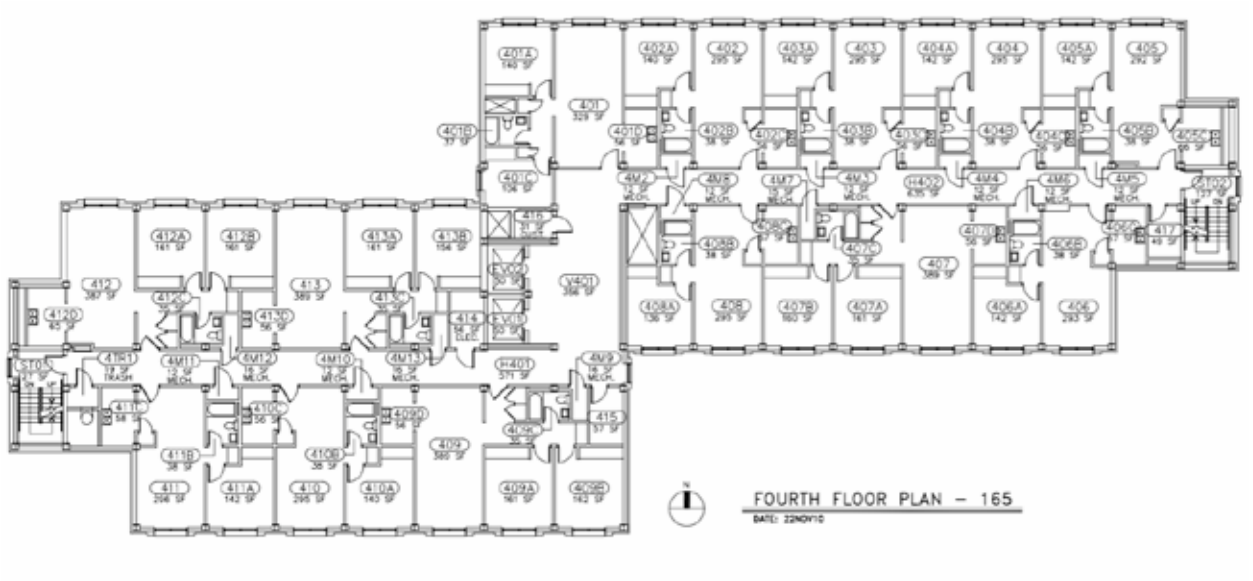
3. *This photo shows the detail of the portcochere, specifically the cornice.*

4. *This image shows the stairwell detail: red brick, concrete columns, steel door with small square glass window, and railing.*

5. *This image shows the detail of the study rooms, consisting of vinyl flooring, acoustical tile drop ceilings, and the desk mounted to three walls.*

6. *This photo shows the west elevation of the West Wing, specifically the stair tower of this side as well as the entrance to the semi-basement.*

7. *This photo shows the detail of the door to the semi-basement and stair tower on the west elevation of the West Wing. This photo also shows the detail of the awning that covers the overhang and the sconces that are on either side of the door.*



This "bird's eye view" of Cliff shows in detail a standard floor layout.

the trash chute. Study rooms are located on each floor south of the elevator lobbies and have walls consisting of painted cinder blocks and sheetrock. A small table is mounted on the walls serving as a tabletop. The compact size of this room provides room enough for two to study simultaneously sitting next to one another.

At the distal ends of each wing is a stairwell separated from each hallway by a heavy metal door with a small glass square window located near the top. The interior of the stairwell is composed of exposed concrete columns beside the metal door and hopper windows, stairs made of concrete and metal, and exposed red brick encapsulates the remaining stairwell walls. Elevator lobbies are located in the area where the two offset parallel rectangles meet at the central core of the building. The elevator walls are clad in a green, rough-textured sheet imitating natural stone. These lobbies hold only single row of hopper windows where the western hallway connects and faces the fenced-in area with the swing set and large tree to the east. Two elevators provide service for all nine floors. Public areas such as hallways and elevator lobbies have acoustical-drop ceilings with fluorescent lighting, industrial-grade carpeting, and heavy duty wallpaper.

Floors that have different layouts from the fourth through ninth floors include the third, second, and semi-basement floors. The third floor has the same layout as the floors above it, with the exception being an entry/exit door composed of metal and glass located at the end of the east wing stairwell that leads to the sidewalk and pedestrian bridge.

The second floor differs from floors four through nine because of the presence of administrative office space, an additional entryway that leads from the office space to the building exterior, and a vestibule. Administrative offices are located in the bottom portion of the east wing. These offices currently serve as office space for the Housing Facilities department and used to serve as a daycare center for small children. A pair of metal and glass doors lead directly from these office spaces to the exterior of the building, transferring one onto the sidewalk in the fenced in area with a swing set and large tree. The building's main entry doors are located on the second floor under the white portcochere. These doors are composed of metal and glass, and on the lateral sides of these doors are two rectangular panes of glass that assist in visualizing the contents of the inside of this area. The entry vestibule is the space located on the interior side of the entry doors; this space filters public movement to the elevator lobby or

hallways due to its extremely small rectangular shape, and minimal seating opportunities.

The semi-basement's western wing is composed of office space and a conference room. The laundry room and mechanical rooms occupy the space in the east wing. Vinyl tile makes up the flooring in the first floor eastern corridor as well as in the laundry room. The office spaces on this floor have the same layout as the apartments on floors above. It is possible that these were once used as residential living spaces. The conference room serves as a meeting area for the administrative staff; a large wooden panel was recently installed, and separates this space from a storage room on the other side. The entry door to the laundry room is directly in front of the elevators, and has a small window with wire mesh glass situated within it. In the laundry room, painted wooden paneling that was not original to the building have been installed to form a storage room for supplies for the office staff. Laundry machines are sitting on the left side of the room up against the cinder brick wall. A mechanical room is located to the eastern portion of this area, and is entered via a heavy metal door absent of a window.

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Andrew Nester

SITE SURVEY

Energy Facilities

WEST ENERGY FACILITY

Exterior

The West Energy Facility sits at the intersection of Blossom Street and Main Street, on the southeast corner. The site sits roughly at street level on the north (Blossom Street) side, while the southern side is elevated from street level due to the use of a tall retaining wall that keeps the site level while Main Street drops away down a hill. The plan of the building is roughly a square, with each side measuring around 100 feet in length. About one third of the structure's height comes from a parapet wall, which shields the view of the equipment that is housed on the roof. Each of the three other corners of the intersection is occupied by large four to six story buildings, which seem to dwarf the two story Energy Facility. Further east along Blossom Street on the same block sits another University building marked simply "1244 Blossom," which, although taller and having a larger footprint, does not feel that much bigger than the Energy Facility due to slope of the site. The northwest portion of this building is built into the hill, and the ground floor is revealed as the site slopes down to the south. Directly to the south of the Energy Facility further down Main Street is the University's Bursar's building. While this structure takes up a slightly larger footprint than the Energy Facility, it is significantly shorter, and this in combination with the fact that it was built further down the hill means that the southern elevation of the Energy Facility towers over it.

Stylistically, the Energy Facility is significantly different from most of the other buildings in its current context. While its elevations are almost completely windowless, most of the surrounding structures feature a great number of large windows. The most obvious contrasting feature is in the choice of materials. While most of the surrounding buildings have exteriors of brick, precast concrete panels, or metal and glass, the West Energy Facility mostly uses poured concrete, precast exposed aggregate panels, a hard stucco-like coating, and stone. The two buildings in the immediate area that are most closely related stylistically to the West Energy Facility would be 1244 Blossom and the Blossom Street Parking Garage, both to the east. 1244 Blossom uses precast concrete panels and louvered grilles, while the Blossom Street Parking Garage features bands of fluted concrete, all elements which provide some visual similarity between the three structures.

The Facility is set back from Blossom Street and the sidewalk by approximately 20 feet, with a strip of grass and some small trees creating a buffer between the building and the street. The structure is set back from the Main Street sidewalk by about 30 feet, with a mulched bed and concrete retaining wall providing separation. Planted in the lower mulched bed are three large trees, one on the northwest corner of the lot, and two spaced out along the western edge down Main Street. The


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WEST ENERGY FACILITY

1. *Detail of shaft leading to basement level.*
2. *Detail of the entrance to the east elevation.*
3. *Full view of the east elevation.*
4. *Detail of exposed aggregate, stone, concrete.*
5. *Oblique view of north elevation at northeast corner.*
6. *Oblique view of southeast corner.*
7. *Detail of lower-level entrance in south elevation.*
8. *Oblique view of south elevation at southwest corner.*
9. *Detail of pilasters and southwest reentrant corner.*
10. *Elevated view of building in context from southwest.*
11. *Detail of west elevation.*
12. *Full view of west elevation.*
13. *Detail of entrance to west elevation.*

tree closest to the corner is slightly taller than the building itself, while the other two trees reach just below the top of the western wall of the structure. The effect of these three trees is that one's view of the facility's western elevation and northwest corner is severely limited, to the point where it is nearly impossible to get a full, unobstructed view of the western wall.

Ultimately, the reasons behind all of these details can be traced back to the function of the building as an energy plant. The building is simply intended to be an enclosure for the machinery housed within, and has no need for the large windows that are important to the functions of the surrounding structures (offices, classrooms, and apartments). Similarly, the scale of the building would have been determined not by what the best fit for the context was, but by the size of the equipment that needed to be stored inside. The large trees that obstruct the view of the west elevation make sense when the function of the building is considered, since utilitarian structures are generally built in out-of-the-way places, or using methods that hide them from public view.

West Elevation

The front of the West Energy Facility appears to be the western face, which overlooks Main Street. A poured concrete retaining wall sits between the main structure and the sidewalk. This retaining wall starts near the northwest corner of the lot, where it is less than a foot high. As one continues moving to the south, the street level gradually drops away, and the retaining wall comes to a corner at the southernmost edge of the lot, with a final height of around eight to ten feet. The surface of the retaining wall features a repeating series of vertical grooves, each approximately three inches wide, creating a fluted pattern. A number of weep holes are spaced out at regular intervals along the lower portion of the wall to provide drainage. On the northern (uphill) portion of the retaining wall, there is momentary break which serves to connect the Main Street sidewalk with a set of steps that run parallel to the street. These steps lead up to a concrete slab that sits in front of the entranceway. The walkway created by this break in the retaining wall aligns with one of the bays of the main wall of the western elevation, specifically the second bay when moving north to south.

The base of the western elevation features a band of what appears to be concrete covered with a thin, tan-colored coat of cement plaster that runs the entire length of the wall. This band features the same fluted pattern that is present on the retaining wall. Above this band are panels made of exposed aggregate. The aggregate embedded in the surface of these panels varies in color and shape, with stones that are brown, white, tan, grey, and orange, all with generally smooth, pebble-like contours. From a distance, the combination and distribution of the different colors gives the panels an overall appearance of being light brown, with a slight tint of orange. A thin band of stone outlines the exposed aggregate panels. The stone pieces are mostly grey in color, with a very subtle amount of blue and purple mixed in. This stone provides a sharp contrast with the tan of the concrete and the brown and orange of the exposed aggregate. At the top of the wall is another fluted band that runs the length of the building. This band appears to be taller than the one found at the base of the wall by roughly one third. Inset in this band are louvered grilles that have a dark brown metal finish. Each of these grilles appears to be made of three identical panels set side-by-side in the opening, creating a single larger panel that has 15 horizontal louvers, and two vertical supports.

The façade is broken into seven main bays by eight pilasters. These pilasters are not attached at the top or bottom of the wall, which makes it look as if they are simply floating. The pilasters work to connect the fluted bands found at the base and top of the wall, and they meet the surfaces of these bands with no visible seams. Each of the pilasters extends approximately seven or eight inches from the main surface of the wall, with a similar overall width. Each pilaster starts about one foot off the ground, and tops out around one foot above

the bottom edge of the parapet fluting. A single pilaster is located directly on both the north and south edge of the western wall. When combined with the same detailing on the two perpendicular walls, the two pilasters join and create a reentrant corner. On each of these joined pilasters, the two faces that form the reentrant corner are marked with a single vertical groove that is centered on the face, and runs the entire height of the pilaster. This groove matches the size of the grooves used in the ubiquitous fluting pattern.

Six of the bays on the western elevation are the same size: the two northernmost, and the four southernmost. The stone trim that surrounds the exposed aggregate panels within these bays uses three horizontal pieces, and 4 longer vertical pieces. The fluting pattern that is found on the base and top bands conforms to the size of these six uniform bays, with fourteen grooves and thirteen raised sections fitting between each pilaster. The interval of the fluting changes slightly underneath and above each pilaster, with a single, wider raised section that corresponds to the width of the pilaster itself. There are three louvered grilles in the parapet on the western elevation, and each of them is horizontally centered within one of these bays. Moving southward from the northernmost edge of the façade, there is a grille above the second, fourth, and sixth bay.

The third bay from the northern edge of the façade is unique. It takes up the width of two of the regular bays. In the center of this bay is a feature that appears to be a sort of rectangular pediment, which has the same width as one of the uniform bays, and the same height as the floating pilasters. This pediment features the same fluting pattern that is found on the two bands and the retaining wall, but here it is much taller. Below the pediment is a section that is recessed back behind the main surface of the wall, and inside this void is the building's main entrance. The entryway is a set of double doors that are placed within a frame made of metal and glass. A large transom window sits above the double doors, with two slim sidelights at the right and left flanks. The metal mullions and crosspieces that make up the frame seem to have a similar finish color to that of the louvered grilles seen at the top of the wall.

Within this larger bay at the flanks of the pediment are two "sub-bays." These sub-bays match the six uniform bays in their layout and materials, but are simply not as wide. Looking at the fluting pattern along the base of the wall, there are seven grooves and six raised surfaces that fit between the pilasters at the edges of the sub-bays. The stone trim that surrounds the exposed aggregate panels only uses two horizontal pieces within the sub bays, and additionally, these pieces are not quite as long as those used in the regular bays. Centered horizontally in both sub bays is a single light fixture, which is positioned just above the top edge of the double doors.

North Elevation

The north elevation is extremely similar to the western one, and essentially uses the same basic layout and materials, with a few key differences. Once again there are two fluted bands, one along the base of the wall, and one along the top. The north elevation is also divided into bays in the same fashion as those seen on the west. Here, however, each of the bays is uniform in size. In total there are eight bays, created by the protrusion of nine floating pilasters. The one major difference is seen in the top band, concerning the size and placement of the louvered grilles, and the fluting. On the western half of the wall, centered above the two middle bays are louvered grilles that are the same as those used on the west elevation. The top band along the eastern half of the wall is almost completely taken up by four larger louvered grilles, which span the entire width of each of the four bays. In addition, the fluting pattern in the top band ends on this half of the wall, as a result of the louvers. At the northeast corner of the building is another "joined" pilaster, identical to the ones on the northwest and southwest corners.

East Elevation

The east elevation is the most radically different of the four. Here, on the northern side of the wall are two bays of exposed aggregate panels, identical to the ones of the west and north elevations with louvered grills in the parapet wall. Underneath the northernmost bay is an open pit which leads to the basement level of the facility. Attached to a pilaster beside this pit is a small crane arm, which is presumably used to load and unload heavy equipment from the basement of the facility. Beside the pit is a raised concrete slab with a ramp and stairway that directs visitors into this side of the building. Sections of railing along the edge of this porch are removable, so that the space can be used as a loading dock. At the south edge of the second bay is another joined pilaster, this time lacking the two vertical grooves in its surface. At this pilaster, the wall turns a corner back to the west, creating a large void in the overall composition of this elevation. Recessed back within this void is another set of glass double doors, much like the one used on the west elevation. From the top edge of these doors, a louvered grille is set so that it angles forward, back towards the main surface of the wall. It stops short before reaching the outside edge of the recessed area, and another vertical grille is placed above it that extends to the top of the elevation.

To the south of the void, the wall becomes much more plain and uniform, as the exposed aggregate and stone details are absent. The surface of this section of the wall appears to be a single continuous slab of concrete. The entire height of the parapet wall is occupied by two stacked rows of louvered grilles. These grilles are the same size as the larger ones that were first described on the north elevation, just in pairs stacked on top of one another. The surface of this wall features grooved sections that echo the exact size and shape of the grilles. These grooved sections give the wall the appearance of having been built with a series of separate panels. Centered on this section of the wall is a series of letters that spell out the name of the building: "West Energy Facility," along with the University logo. This seems to suggest that, while the west elevation would typically be considered the front of the building, the entrance in the east is the real main entrance, since it is the one that is most easily accessible from the parking lot.

South Elevation

The south elevation is mainly a combination of the north and east faces. The western half of the wall is composed of four bays, with pilasters, exposed aggregate panels, stone, and fluted bands. The retaining wall that was mentioned in the description of the west elevation wraps around the corner here, and continues to the midpoint of the wall. There is a break just before this, which houses a set of steps that lead down to a glass doorway for the basement level of the facility.

The eastern half of this wall is nearly identical to the plain section of the east wall that it is connected to. Once more there are two stacked rows of louvered grilles that take up the entire height of the parapet wall, with four rows of grooved sections below them creating the look of panels. At the point where the south and east walls meet, there is another reentrant corner, this time without any pilasters. This feature begins at the top of the wall, and runs down until it meets the top of the lowest row of "panels." At this point, the walls join at a conventional, salient corner. There is some significant staining observed on this face, as it seems that runoff from the roof has been able to flow through the bottom of the louvers and down the surface of the wall.

SOUTH ENERGY FACILITY

Exterior

The South Energy Facility is located on Whaley St, on a strip of land that sits between the parking lots of the Cliff apartments and the Bates and Bates West dorms. Unlike the West Energy Facility, the South Energy Facility seems to share a relatively cohesive style with the buildings that are close by. The color of the brick veneer on the Facility closely matches the color of the brick used in the Cliff apartment tower. The exposed

aggregate used in the pilasters and trim is much more uniform in color, an off-white or cream that blends well with its surroundings. The protruding elements form a sort of "blinder" around the edges of the pilasters can also be found on the Bates dorm, where they work to frame the windows. A similar, but slightly altered feature is seen in the windows of Bates West. As a result, the combination of buildings in this small section of the south campus feels much more like a deliberate, planned grouping when compared to the West Facility and its context.

In terms of size, the South Energy Facility is quite a bit smaller than the West Facility. The core structure is again roughly square, with sides approximately 60 feet long. This core section appears to have two above-ground stories, but like the West Facility, a large portion of the height comes from the parapet wall that has been used to shield the view of the equipment on the roof of the structure. A smaller, single story wing extends around 25 feet from the northern elevation. Although the South Facility is smaller, and is surrounded by several much taller buildings (8-14 stories versus the 4-6 story buildings that are in the vicinity of the West Energy Facility), the structure does not feel out of place in its context. This is likely due to the distances involved, and the way the elevation of the site changes. Whereas the West Facility had only a short strip of road between it and its neighboring high-rises, the South Facility has a large parking lot providing more separation from the tall surrounding buildings. This parking lot also has a slight slope to it, with the southern edge near Whaley St being higher, and the northern edge near Cliff, Bates, and Bates West being much lower. These factors combine to give the feeling that the South Energy Facility is not that much smaller than its neighbors. In fact, from the opposite side of Whaley St and at a distance, the Cliff apartment tower does not appear to be that much taller than the Energy Facility, even though it is an eight-story structure.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the structure appears to be the front, as it faces the street and is marked with letters that identify the building. The base of the wall appears to be constructed of poured concrete which has been covered with a thick layer of hard-coat cement plaster. The plaster is relatively uniform in color, and matches the look and finish of the raw concrete elements very closely. At the top of this portion of the wall, there is a slightly protruding ledge, supported by a number of corbels. Stacked on top of this ledge is the main portion of the wall, which is constructed mostly of a brick veneer that uses a plain, running bond. This section of the wall is broken into bays by four evenly spaced pilasters.

The pilasters are made of exposed aggregate material, and each features a thick, raised section, or "blinder," along its edges. The pilasters are cut in half horizontally roughly halfway up the wall, creating a small strip of negative space in between the two halves. The top half of the pilasters remain plain, while the bottom portions each have middle sections that have been recessed with louvered grilles placed inside. A small ledge divides the recessed area even further, and in the middle two pilasters a door and a window are placed underneath, while the louvers continue in the remaining two. About one third of the way up the wall, centered in each of the three middle bays of brick, there is a single metal scupper that is used to drain water off the roof from behind the parapet wall. Atop the parapet wall is a band of exposed aggregate that acts as a coping, which wraps around to each of the three additional elevations.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the South elevation is the set of poured-concrete cantilevered stairs. The steps run parallel to the wall, and two massive tapered brackets that protrude from the corbeled ledge work to support them.

East Elevation

The east elevation quite differs greatly from the south. While the materials generally remain the same, the composition shifts. The ledge that


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SOUTH
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SOUTH ENERGY FACILITY

1. *Detail of expansion joint between addition and original structure.*
2. *Detail of exposed aggregate and louvers on east elevation.*
3. *Full view of east elevation.*
4. *Full view of north elevation.*
5. *Detail of cantilevered stairs with brackets, south elevation.*
6. *Full view of south elevation.*
7. *Oblique view of southwest corner.*
8. *Full view of west elevation.*

sat at the base of the wall in the south wraps around this side, although there are no corbels present. Also, the cement plaster surface has been cracked and damaged along large portions of the ledge, leaving the concrete beneath visible. Three large roll-up doors take up much of the space on this wall, with two in the original two-story face, and one in the newer single-story addition to the north. The two to the north appear to be roughly the same height, while the one to the south is slightly taller. Looking at the parapet wall, about three quarters of its length along this face is taken up by a single continuous section of louvered grilles. This section is made up of eight individual louvered panels, but there are no vertical supports between them, which creates the appearance of a single larger panel. Below this louvered section there is a small ledge made of exposed aggregate, which is likely intended to divert water away from the surface of the brick veneer below. The entire portion of the east wall that runs the length of these louvered panels is recessed back slightly. Centered below the louvered panels in between two roll-up doors are two pilasters similar to those seen on the south face. Here, however, it is just the lower half sections, and they are placed side-by-side, with a small area of negative space separating them. The recessed sections within once again house louvered grilles.

Between the two northern roll-up doors, a small poured concrete platform rises from the ground to the top of the concrete and plaster ledge. This platform is attached to both the original structure and the northern addition, and a set of steps that run perpendicular to the wall connects it to the sidewalk below. The platform provides access to two metal doors, one that leads into the original structure, and one that leads into the addition. The doors, and the metal railing that encloses the raised platform and steps are both painted in a pale blue-grey color.

North Elevation

The north elevation features two different tiers. First, there is a single story section, and then around 25 feet behind that one can see the parapet wall cutting across the roof of the main body of the building. The parts of the parapet wall that are visible from the ground seem nearly identical to the one seen on the south elevation. Once again there is a coping along the top of the wall made of exposed aggregate. There are also the same types of pilaster. Here, however, there are only three pilasters, and the spacing is different from what was used in the south. The three pilasters are much closer together, and instead of being centered horizontally on the face, they are set off to the eastern side, leaving a large empty expanse of brick to the west.

Looking at the single story addition attached to this elevation, the materials as well as the arrangement change. A coping that is similar in size to the one seen atop the parapet wall is used, but instead of a single band of exposed aggregate, it is formed from multiple blocks of what are likely cast stone. This cast stone coping wraps around the east and west corners to the single story portions of those faces. Set in a number of these blocks are metal scuppers, but unlike those used in the south, these are smaller, and have a rounded appearance. While the vertical division created by the pilasters is carried on, the exposed aggregate blinders disappear on the lower wall. Instead, the louvered panels, windows, and doors are set directly into the brick veneer, with a stacked course of brick running up the wall on either side.

West Elevation

The west elevation is somewhat plain, but similar in many ways to the east face. The tall central portion is set up in the same manner, with a large recessed section above and below a continuous group of louvered grilles in the parapet wall. The biggest change here is in the materials. Instead of a section of brick serving as the wall below the grilles in the recessed area, the space is covered with corrugated metal. The side-by side pilasters seen on the east elevation return here, but are formed from metal trim pieces instead of exposed aggregate.

Next to the single-story northern section that juts off of the core structure, there is a pit constructed of poured concrete. A ladder leads down to the bottom, where there is yet another louvered panel, as well as a doorway, suggesting that there is some sort of basement level, at least underneath this section of the building.

Alterations

The South Energy Facility seems to have undergone some major alterations. The original footprint of the building was a square, but an addition to the north elevation has turned it into more of a rectangle. The evidence of this addition is fairly clear. The brick used on the northern side has a more even color, and appears to be much cleaner and newer than the rest of the building. There is a large expansion joint between the core and the addition, where the change in brick is most noticeable. As mentioned previously, the exposed aggregate material completely vanishes in the northern portion, replaced with cast stone. At the expansion joint on the west side, one can see that the ledge that the brick veneer sits atop is of a slightly different height, and the surface color does not match. Also, while the louvered panels used on this section are similar to the ones seen on the rest of the building, the northern ones are painted a blue-grey, while the others are all unpainted. It seems apparent that the stairs, porch and one door that are found on the east elevation were added at the same time as the northern extension. Looking closely at the brick around the frame of the door, it is obvious that it was replaced, as the color does not match the rest of the wall. After looking over historical satellite imagery of the site, it seems that these changes were made some time in 2010.

Additionally, the brick above and around two of the roll-up doors on the east side seems to have been replaced at some point. This change appears to be older than the 2010 add-on. It is unclear what exactly the purpose of this alteration was, but it seems possible that at one point there may have been some sort of awning or frame attached to the brick in these spots, that was later removed.

11

Robert Wertz

SITE SURVEY

Pedestrian Mall

The pedestrian corridor is located on the southern side of the University of South Carolina, providing access for many buildings on the south side of campus and connecting the central campus area to the athletic facilities south of Whaley Street. It crosses Blossom Street, Wheat Street, Rocky Branch Creek and two railway crossings — a distance of almost a half mile.

The pedestrian corridor (or "ramp") is the central axis for south campus development and physically provides pedestrian access to the Blossom Street Parking Garage, South Quad, East Quad, the Booker T. Washington Center, Blatt Physical Education Center, the challenge tower, the band practice facility, Bates, Bates West, Cliff Apartments and even the West Energy Facility.

There are three distinct sections of the corridor. The pedestrian bridge across Blossom Street starts on the north side of Blossom and terminates at an elevator tower and stairway. At the base of the elevator tower, a second section continues on a lower level consisting of sidewalks, stairs and handicap accessible ramps. A final section continues after crossing Wheat Street, with a stairway leading up to a bridge that leads to Whaley Street where the pedestrian mall terminates.

In addition to serving as a pedestrian corridor, the bridges also serve as utility conduits, with pipes weaving along and under the bridge system.

THE BLOSSOM STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

At the northern end of the corridor is the Blossom Street pedestrian bridge.

Blossom Street is a four lane, heavily travelled road with a median. The median contains a fence to prohibit pedestrian crossing at street level, steering all foot traffic to the pedestrian bridge or a nearby intersection. Stairs allow access on both sides of Blossom to the bridge from street level.

The Blossom Street pedestrian bridge is 20 feet wide and constructed of steel I-beams with a concrete floor and corrugated metal ceiling that runs the length of the bridge. The I-beams on the sides of the bridge are oxidized and have a rusted appearance. The beams along the ceiling are painted white. Between the horizontal rusted beams are glass panels with aluminum frames, divided into four fixed panes divided by a simple aluminum mullions. Running along the middle of the white metal ceiling are evenly spaced lights.

Inside the bridge on the western side, a pair of pipes rise up and run along the ceiling for the length of the bridge. The pipes lower back into the ground at the end of the bridge.

The bridge has post and lintel supports only at the beginning and end of the bridge. There is not a central support in the median of Blossom Street. The end of the lintel crossbeams are tapered slightly.

The bridge ends at a landing connecting to the fourth floor of the Blossom Street Parking Garage.

1. *The Blossom Street Pedestrian Bridge, facing south.*
2. *Detail of ductwork along the western side of the Blossom Street Bridge.*
3. *Upper elevator atrium adjacent to the Blossom Street.*
4. *Blossom Street pedestrian bridge, facing West from Blossom Street.*
5. *Post and lintel support system underneath the Blossom Street pedestrian bridge.*

The perimeter of the landing has a green, metal pipe railing. The railing has seven, evenly spaced cylindrical horizontal bars connected to a narrow, metal vertical support. The top rail slants inward and creates a handrail.

A concrete elevator tower is next to the stairs on the south side of the landing. A small, covered glass atrium adorns the front of an elevator tower. The style of glass is similar to the glass on the pedestrian bridge, with an aluminum frame and segmented panes of glass.

The sides of the tower are concrete, with expansion joints segmenting solid surfaces into smaller panels. Eight small circular indentations are caused of tie rods used to form the structure and are arranged in two rows of four evenly spaced circles.

The south facing side of the elevator tower has a segmented aluminum and glass atrium, framed by concrete. This provides natural light into the elevator, which has a glass exterior wall.

A matching glass and metal atrium is at the lower exit, which faces north towards Blossom Street. The elevator exit connects to the sidewalk system that leads southward, joining a street level Blossom Street sidewalk with the lower level sidewalk and ramp system.

A concrete stairway runs along the western side of the landing between the elevator and the Blossom Garage, guiding pedestrians to sidewalks on ground level. The railing matches the color and style of the railing on the landing.

Sidewalks, Stairs and Ramps

The pedestrian corridor continues southward on ground level converting to a sidewalk with steps on the western side of the corridor and handicap accessible ramps on the eastern side. These stairs and ramps connect the Blossom Street elevator tower with a Wheat Street crossing and the Blatt PE Center.

On the western side of the corridor is the South Quad residence hall. On the eastern side is East Quad and the Booker T. Washington auditorium. There is a significant slope from Blossom Street to Wheat Street.

The sidewalks and stairs move straight along side the South Quad residence hall. Along the stairs and sidewalks are raised planters with concrete block retaining walls, benches and trees. At the entrance to South Quad on the western side of the corridor is a bicycle rack.

Between the the sidewalk system and the East Quad residence hall is a zig zagging network of handicap accessible ramps that navigate the sloping hill. These ramps are lined with simple black, metal pipe rails. These ramps also provide access to the Booker T. Washington Auditorium.

This segment of the pedestrian corridor ends at Whaley Street where a garnet, brick paver crosswalk connects the sidewalk with the Blatt PE Center.

THE RAMP

To the west of the main, ground level entrance for the Blatt PE Center is a wide, concrete divided stairway. The stairs have railings on both sides and an additional rail down the center of the stairway.

At the top of the stairs is a landing that also forms a section of the roof for the Blatt PE Center. The main ramp continues south towards Whaley Street, running along Blatt's western elevation. A balcony moves along the front of the Blatt PE Center, parallel to Wheat Street and is essentially an extension of the elevated walkway. There are several entrances to the gyms at Blatt along that Wheat Street side and along the main ramp.

The landing and ramp are poured concrete. A small, raised concrete lip is at the edge of the walking surfaces. A railing is attached to the concrete lip. The simple silver aluminum rail surrounds the Blatt PE Center and continues up the ramp. It has a wide top rail supported by simple rectangular posts. Between the posts are thin, evenly spaced balusters.

On the western side of the ramp are two sections that jut out several feet. Six solar panels are spaced in two groups of three awnings. The first bank of three are on the same level as the walkway and have a solid concrete wall instead of a railing. The second set of three are on a concrete pad that

is the same height as the lip around the walkway. The wall around this set is a brick with a wide concrete top edge.

A white metal frame supports a series of solar panels which slope over the walkway providing shade. Steel cables connect from the solar panel to the base of the structure and to the outside wall of the Blatt PE Center.

A nonfunctional kiosk is located by the second set of solar panels. Nothing on the structure indicates what the solar panels power.

Moving south from the Blatt PE Center, the ramp slopes upward and is lined with the same aluminum railing that surrounded Blatt. The ramp and sidewalk is 20 feet wide and continues straight for .3 miles to Whaley Street. As the ramp rises, the ground below slopes to Rocky Branch Creek. At its highest point, the ramp is about three to four stories above the ground.

A series of massive concrete post and lintel supports run under the ramp. Each support consists of two concrete pillars with a wide concrete crossbar that connects to the ramp. The crossbar is slightly wider than the ramp. Some of the taller concrete pillars are connected to each other with horizontal concrete beams. Utility conduits line the bottom of the ramp.

Light poles are mounted on the section of the concrete crossbar that project past the ramp. The light poles do not interfere with the walkway. The light poles alternate sides and run the entire length of the elevated walkway, from Wheat to Whaley.

The lights are simple: a tall black aluminum post with a square light fixture jutting out from the top. The light fixtures have black aluminum sides and tops so it directs the light downward only.

The ramp crosses over Rocky Branch Creek and the first of two railways. The aluminum railing stops over the railway and is replaced with a tall, chain link fence. The light pole pattern continues, but the posts behind the chained link are silver instead of black. Holes are cut in the fence to allow the light fixture to maintain its position over the walkway. A padlocked door in the eastern side of the chain link fence allows access by ladder to the utility conduits below.

After crossing the railway, a second walkway splits off and heads towards Bates and Bates West. The walkway is similar in construction to the main ramp, but is only about 10 feet wide. The railing and light fixtures are the same. This segment of the ramps is slightly different than the main ramp, supported by single concrete post instead of the pairs of pillars that support the main ramp.

Where the Bates ramp splits off to the east, a concrete stairway leads down to a plaza that provides access to the band practice facility, a couple of sand volleyball courts and a challenge tower on ground level below. Halfway down the stair is a chain link fence door that can shut off access to the lower area.

At the plaza, a black metal fence divides the plaza in two sections, restricting access to the volleyball courts and challenge tower to the east. Large circular planters surround the bridge supports (some of these planters are squared off to make room for machinery or walkways.)

A pair of solar panels are positioned over the band practice field.

The main ramp continues towards Whaley Street. There is another section of chain link as the ramp crosses the second set of railroad tracks.

WALKWAY

The ramp transforms at Bates West and Cliff apartments into a sidewalk as the topography changes. Removable steel bollard posts along the entrance to the ramp keep unauthorized vehicles from driving on it.

Sidewalks branch out from the main corridor to Bates West and Cliff. Bicycle racks and raised planters line the sidewalk. Light poles continue in the alternating pattern. A large 400+ surface parking lot is adjacent to the walkway on the Bates West side. A line of trees on the eastern side separate the walkway from the surface lot.

The 20 foot wide walkway continues southward unobstructed until it ends at Whaley Street. At Whaley Street, the South Energy Facility is the last building connected to the walkway. The large

1. *Blossom Street pedestrian bridge, window detail.*
2. *East side of the elevator tower at Blossom Street.*
3. *Pedestrian ramp, facing south at crossing of Rocky Branch Creek and railroad tracks.*
4. *Access door on east side of pedestrian ramp.*
5. *Pedestrian ramp, facing north from the walkway between Cliff Apartments and Bates West.*
6. *Underneath detail of utility conduct.*
7. *Stairway access to plaza at the Band Practice Facility.*

roll-up doors face the walkway and a driveway crosses from the surface parking lot into a small access area behind the energy facility.

The walkway terminates and Marion Street continues between the indoor practice facility and the soccer stadium.

ALTERNATIONS

There have been a couple of significant modifications to the pedestrian corridor since it was originally constructed.

The biggest change is the removal of a section of the elevated walkway and Wheat Street pedestrian bridge that connected the Blossom Street Pedestrian Bridge on the northern side of the corridor with the landing at Blatt. The elevator tower, sidewalks and crosswalk at Wheat were added after that elevated section was removed.

The solar panels were added. In addition, the second set of solar panels at Blatt were on an extended section of the walkway. The railings were clearly removed to make room for the extension.

Other modifications are more minor and temporary. Chalk writing is all along the corridor. Some graffiti is present and stickers are stuck to some of the metal surfaces.


1


3


5


7

1. *Lower level of the pedestrian corridor, moving south.*
2. *Wheat Street crossing at Blatt PE Center, facing south.*
3. *Stairway connecting the upper landing at Blossom Street with the lower section, facing south toward Wheat Street.*
4. *Plaza underneath bridge, facing southeast towards Bates.*
5. *Pedestrian mall at Blatt PE Center, moving South towards Whaley Street.*
6. *Pedestrian walkway moving southeast toward Bates.*
7. *Pedestrian walkway, facing south towards Whaley Street.*
8. *Divided stairway at Blatt, connecting the Wheat Street crossing with the ramp.*

12

Adam Bradway
Hatara Tyson
Caley Pennington

SITE SURVEY

Solomon Blatt Phyiscal Education Center

EXTERIOR

The Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center, constructed in 1971, is a colossal Brutalist style complex that looms over its surroundings in the southernmost section of the University of South Carolina campus. The three-story concrete, irregularly blocked facade stands tall within the rolling hills of downtown Columbia and faces northwest on Wheat Street towards the center of campus. The building is situated between a multipurpose athletic field to the west and the University of South Carolina Child Development Center on the eastern side. In the direction of the Child Development Center, the building is immediately bordered by parking lots meant for student and faculty use. It faces the red brick Booker T. Washington auditorium and plaster covered concrete South Quadrangle student apartment building. It lies in front of a creek and railway to the south, which limits the rear accessibility. A walking bridge rises above the ground and travels along the western side of the building, connecting central campus to the north and the university housing to the south. Though appearing very functional and accessible from every level, the imposing size and lack of proper maintenance make it somewhat uninviting.

The massive reinforced concrete framed structure seems to have been originally designed to emphasize functionality, while retaining visual interest and aesthetic distinction. Though primarily dissimilar in design from its surrounding buildings, the structure maintains harmony with its surroundings. The materials employed on the facade suggest a nod to cohesion with the inclusion of materials used in other structures in the vicinity.

With the exception of the large glass walls on the lower floor of the northern side of the building and the windows lining the western side, there are limited openings for natural light to enter and to reveal the function of the building to outside viewers. Along with the glass walls and windows, the first level of the facade is finished in a repeated, non-structural, pattern of red brick interspersed with light colored mortar in a running bond and exposed aggregate paneled sections. The bricked portion is recessed beneath the protruding paneled upper levels, forming an open covered walkway and offering protection for some entrances.

The irregularly repeated modular elements that create the majority of the blocked facade in the upper elevation is concrete covered in exposed aggregate tilt-up concrete panels, showcasing the yellowish ports pea gravel aggregate. The panels and the revealed concrete of the structural frame appear to have faded and become stained over time. The panels are uniformly spaced, with

intermittent voids and intentionally revealed grid of the underlying structure, creating an interesting overall rhythm and uniformity to the design. Thin metal flashing runs along the highest edges of the building, an attempt to protect the materials over time. At the rear of the building facing south, the facade is solid concrete.

The change of materials throughout the facade echoes the differing functions of the interior spaces on the exterior. Regardless of finish, the exposed vertical structural elements throughout unify the overall design of the structure. They offer a balanced, level appearance to the structure that has been placed on a steep gradation and create large square columns: both freestanding to create covered walkways and recessed strategically with brick paneling to create a change in texture and contrasting tone.

Though complex in appearance, an aerial view offers an unexpected simple rectangular footprint of the building in relation to its surroundings. The choice of concrete as a primary material for this structure centered around functioning as a physical education center reflects the tendency of Brutalist style buildings of this time to employ large areas of concrete as a simple, practical, and unpretentious material.

The eastern facade, facing the parking lots, is a chaotic array of uneven tiers and varying layers of materials as well as blocky protrusions and recessions of space. Towards the south, the building juts eastward in space, and as you move north, the blocks retreat unevenly at four different points, forming a staircase effect. The bricked first level of the facade is recessed beneath the protruding paneled upper levels, forming an open covered walkway and offering protection for some entrances and the centralized loading zone. Upon closer inspection, the overhanging portion creates a consistent secondary roofline that is interrupted by evidence of the structural supports in gentle diagonally slanted cantilevers. A protruding band of concrete runs along the bottom four feet of the main floor as a slight outcropping with a gentle angled top reflective of the cantilevers in the area above.

In the lower center of the eastern facade there are service areas with revealed conduit piping, a gate-restricted area holding a large transformer, and a raised concrete loading platform. In the northernmost portion of the eastern facade on the lowest floor there is a recent alteration covered by large glass windowed walls that are able to retract into the ceiling. This addition to the existing structure functions as a bike shop accessible to the public and more streamlined in appearance than the original finishes. Aside from the entrance to the bike shop and the two sets of double service doors in the loading zone, the building is accessed from the east by four entrances, two to the south, one up a small flight of stairs, one down a staircase to an underground level, and two along the center, one of which is covered by a garnet awning reading "Swimming & Diving."

Along the side of the building are varying sizes of slatted metal exhaust louvers. There are ten black shaded luminaries that light the side of the building, each placed at even distances on the lower gridded structural support lines. There are older pipe railings alongside newer steel cable and low profile poured concrete stairs that lead up to some of the entrances to the building. The upper majority of the facade is simpler, covered in the exposed aggregate panels with only small aesthetic voids to reflect the support system. The only major difference in the unified height of the structure is a slightly lowered blocked portion with a maintenance ladder offering access to the roof from the third story. There are no windows or other indications of life aside from the wear of the surface over time.

The north (front) facade of the building faces the street and continues the surface details and finishes from the eastern side. The lower level continues the glassed walls of the bike shop recessed under the upper levels of the building. Alongside the recessed lower level from the eastern facade is a covered walkway lined with structural square concrete columns going along the entire front of the building and connecting to the pedestrian bridge.

The walkway reflects the steep grade on which the structure sits, the height of the overhanging upper level and concrete path grow narrower as you move west toward the main entrance from the parking lot. This columned walkway is separated from the street by landscaping elements and slight depression of the space. As you move toward the western corner of the building, the walkway rises to meet the second (main) floor of the building, the ceiling of the walkway takes on the appearance of a post and lentil style construction. There are rectangular recessed areas where metal conduit piping and black encaged wall pack light fixtures are visible. In the lowest portion of the concrete floors are metal drainage grates. Revealed through recently altered windowed walls alongside the walkway is the aerobic area as well as other interior functions.

Obscuring a small portion of the glassed bike shop to the east is a half turn flighted concrete staircase that is set atop whitewashed cinderblocks that appear to have been a later addition rather than a part of the original design. The staircase leads up to the middle of the facade where a long balcony walkway connects the street from the north and the pedestrian bridge to the west. Along the balcony are two large square metal boxes, which seem to function as part of the HVAC system. The flooring running along the balcony is poured concrete that has been pressed into a simple large square tiled pattern. This walkway is railed along the front parallel to the street with concrete and metal railing and allows building access through multiple black double doors with concrete awnings faced in dentil molding containing recessed single florescent lights. Along the front of the elevated balcony are risers with black poles holding lights that illuminate the front of the building as well as the movement along the balcony. These light poles are situated in accordance with the spacing of the concrete structural supports, adding to the verticality of the facade from the street.

At the center of the façade's balcony is a raised portion of lettering that says "Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center" between two of the concrete structural supports. The elevated balcony extends beyond the building towards the west, covering the main entrance in the corner and forming the start of the pedestrian bridge. Connecting the immediate left of the main entrance and the solid exterior wall of the building is the concrete staircase with concrete railings that provides passage from the street to the elevated pedestrian bridge. Framing the entrance are two square columns that are more recent additions to the original structure and a banner with the Gamecock logo and text reading "Blatt PE Center: Home of South Carolina Swimming & Diving" that students walk under when entering the building. Underneath this covered entranceway are industrial vent pipes lining the bottom of the pedestrian bridge and a large glassed entry with glass double doors that swing outwards. To the right of this entrance, the lower multipurpose field can be viewed from the raised platform enclosed with concrete and metal railing. Though the structure is quite obviously built on a grade, the level balcony and structural lines throughout provide the building a steady and consistent appearance and an overall continuity of design.

The western facade provides a slightly different approach to composition and design. The building appears taller than from other sides; the lowest bricked basement level is visible due to the lower grade. There is a large curvilinear staircase leading from the street to the lower elevation multipurpose field and sidewalk that runs alongside it. The exterior is punctuated by sixteen windows in twelve bays. Each of the two lowest floors has six bays, the northernmost three bays on both floors each contain a pair of single pane windows on either side of the exposed concrete structural frame. The southernmost three bays on the main level contain four windows total, each with four panes separated by slight mullions.

Entrance is accessed on the western facade via three sets of glass surround double doors, one underneath the main entrance facing the northern facade and two within the southernmost three bays on the basement floor that. Around the two


SOLOMON BLATT
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER

southernmost entrances are decorative brick walls in a running bond separating the patio areas in front of the doors from the field. Another single recessed door exists at the far southern corner leading into the first floor up a small set of concrete stairs with a piped metal railing.

There are large trees lining both the northern and western facades. Extending the surface of the pedestrian bridge to the west is a larger band of structural concrete with elevated awnings that offer protection for student bike racks running along the pedestrian bridge where connected to the western side of the building. Mounted atop the awnings are solar panels that act as energy resources for the building. Each solar panel has four white guy-wires that connect it to the outward facing concrete structure of the bridge. Across from each set of bike racks are black double doors with stamped concrete awnings containing recessed single fluorescent lights, similar in design to those on the northern facade of the building.

The bridge detaches from the building towards the southwest corner and continues towards the southern part of campus. This detachment leaves a small, enclosed space underneath for conduit, metal piping, and a large metal circular exhaust vent. Also underneath the bridge is a grey graveled area around a brown maintenance box appearing to serve an electrical function as well as a freestanding tiered light atop a black post, all restricted by a new black chain-link fence. The southwestern corner of the building and a concreted patio area are recessed behind and underneath the towering concrete pillars of the pedestrian bridge. This rear portion of the building is finished in solid concrete without decorative paneling, with the lower level in recessed red brick, similar in fashion to the other facades.

The southern (rear) facade faces a creek and railway, limiting any public access to the interior spaces from that side. The composition of this facade is more simple than the other three. The facade is made up of two story solid concrete walls with no frivolous additions or visual interest. On the first floor, there is a small concrete balcony meant for storage and limited outdoor exercise equipment that extends over the creek and natural terrain. On the balcony is a small tan colored storage structure with black-shingled roofing and white accent wood molding running along the sides. A solid concrete wall encloses the elevated rectangular space extending along the first floor and concrete supports maintain distance from the ground. Visible along the balcony area and recessed underneath the solid concrete exterior are evenly spaced concrete columns that are connected, but not flush with the walls. On either side of the balcony the non-structural red brick facade is visible, continuing the design from the eastern and western facades.

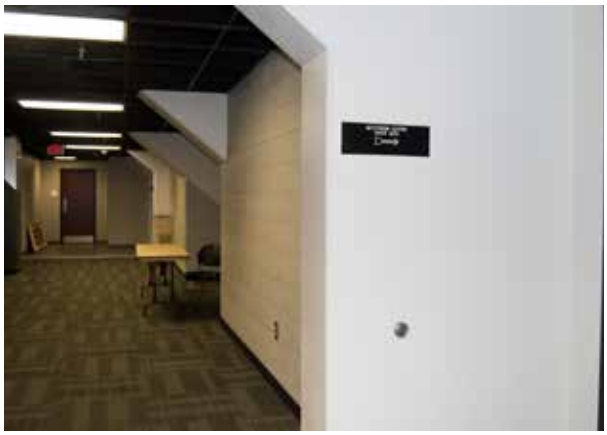
INTERIOR

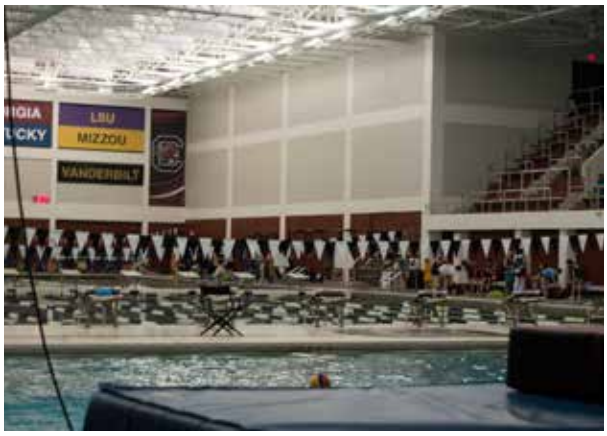
Entrance

The entrance of the Solomon Blatt PE facility is located on the northwest corner of the building. It is the only way to gain access to the building for security purposes. There are two security desk areas one receding into the southern wall that leads to an office and one small desk on the western side of the entrance. The area is roped off to maximize the functionality of this security system so that there is only one route to come through the building and only one way to leave the facility. The entrance area is located on the second floor of the building; the second floor is the main level of Blatt and the most visited floor, used for recreational and class purposes.

Second Floor

The second floor houses recreational rooms on the north side of the building and classrooms and offices in the southern wing. There is a concrete stairway systems on the east and west sides of the service desk that leads to the first and third floors. The southernmost area of the second floor of Blatt's circulation is fairly simple with hallways that connect corner to corner to form a rectangular like shape. These hallways lead to the classrooms, offices and swimming pool bleachers area back to the service area hallway. The front or north

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side of the second floor works in a similar way, sort of looping back into a rectangle with walkways in the front of the building connecting to a hallway that lead south then one that leads west . It follows through the service area hallway and then to the front going past the entrance, lounge and aerobics room. When these two circulation systems combine they create a bigger rectangular hallway cycle that goes around the entire second floor, with smaller hallways branching out around the classroom/office area and service areas. The service area includes locker rooms, equipment checkout, and stairways. It is the area that is used to supplement other areas or to provide services to the visitors of the complex. The materials used in this building is consistent throughout the southern wing. The rooms all have the same flooring, walls and ceiling. It differs from the north section where alterations were made. The frame of the facility is made more apparent in this section by wrapped columns and this area has a sense of openness due to glass windows. There are a variety of materials used for ceilings, walls and flooring in the northern section of the second floor.

Service Areas

Service areas are in the center of the building. It is in between the northern side and southern side of the building. In this area there is a service desk that recedes into the wall in a similar way as the entrance area security desk. This space is more of a room than just a desk area that houses athletic equipment for checkout. This service area is shaped like rectangle that stretches widest from east to west in the center of the facility. The drop ceiling in this section is an open truss system and is lined with pipes that run from east to west. An entrance to the Olympic sized pool is located in the service area across the hall from the circulation/checkout desk. The locker rooms are on the east and west side of the desk. There is a balcony over the squash and south of the circulation racquetball courts near the pool entrance. The locker rooms seem to have a space grid ceiling similar to the lounge area on the north side of the building,

with lockers fixed to the floor that sit on top of concrete cinder blocks and a bathroom area.

Aerobics Room

The aerobics room's eastern wall is lined with mirrors and the exterior northern wall is made of glass with a metal grid-like frame. The aerobics classroom has tiled drop ceiling.The north side of the second floor is altered with glass exterior walls framed with metal on the northern most side. Most areas of the second floor have recessed down light fixtures other areas have track lighting fixtures like in the lounge/sitting area. The floors are mostly tiled except for the aerobics room, which has finished hardwood flooring that may be engineered or laminate wood.

Lounge

Like the aerobics area and front entrance, the lounge is altered with glass windows. The carpeted flooring in the lounge is an alteration as well. The entrance, lounge and aerobics classroom are roughly the same size. In the lounge area located between the entrance and aerobics room, there is a statue that pays tribute to the building's namesake, Solomon Blatt, as one enters the sitting area. It talks briefly about Solomon Blatt and his life achievements.

Classroom and Offices

Like the entrance and the aerobics areas on the north side, the classroom area and service area on the south side of the second floor has painted cinder block brick walls. This section of the building has Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) flooring. The intersection between the floor and the wall is covered in a polymer or vinyl molding throughout the entire floor to make the floors easier to clean. This area is geared towards exercise science and physical training faculty and students. The classroom and office areas all have recessed light fixtures and hinged, flushed doors and are windowless. The offices each house one faculty member so the rooms are a relatively small size. The classroom area leads into a hallway that houses an entrance into the natatorium bleacher sitting area, which looks to be remodeled slightly. This hallway around the swimming pool has modified slanted columns, carpeted floors and newer ceiling tiles.

First Floor

The first, lowest floor of the Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center mirrors the central floor of the building in overall material and plan. The first floor hallways are walled with painted cinder block, its floor is VCT tile, and its ceiling is an open truss system covered in shotcrete. The structural members, like on the central floor, are visible but plastered over. The floor is divided into two rectangular sections by the central hallway, the northern rectangle being the larger of the two. Like the central floor, the hallway running east west down the middle of the plan is the main access to the smaller accessory hallways. This central hallway is also home to the two main stairways made of poured concrete with simple pipe railings. These stairways are noticeably narrow, and are only wide enough for one person to use (though two can squeeze past each other if necessary). Though most likely because of the size constraints of the hallway, this narrowness seems like a possible design flaw, as these stairways are some of the most heavily trafficked places in the building. There are much larger staircases at the ends of the hall and on the southwest corner of the building but they are hidden behind windowless steel doors and thus used much less frequently. The single public elevator that accesses all three floors is also used infrequently as it is somewhat located on the main western hallway rather than the central hallway. The floor is also divided by use in a less architecturally defined manner: the western side focuses mainly on the academic function of the building with classrooms and offices. The eastern side emphasizes the recreational functions of the floor and is home to dance studios, racquetball and squash courts.

Racquetball/Squash

The athletic areas that take up the most space

on the first floor are the squash and racquetball courts. They are the same architecturally so they will be grouped together. There are nine racquetball courts and three squash courts. These courts take up most of the southern section of the first floor and the northeast as well. All of the racquetball courts are on the same eastern hallway but the hallway is cut in half by the main hallway. Three of the courts are on the north side of the main hallway while the other six are to the south. The three courts to the north are on all next to each other on the eastern side of the hallway and across from dance studios. The southern courts have three courts on each side of the hallway. The squash courts are on a separate hallway in the south-center part of the building. They are also all on the eastern side of their hallway and are across from offices.

The courts are rectangular and enclosed completely except for a Plexiglas door and the mezzanine viewing area, which is open to the courts below. The walls of the courts are made of some type of particle board and the floors are hardwood. The ceiling also seems to be made of the same particle board and has rectangular florescent lighting enclosed by Plexiglas at regular intervals.

Dance Studios

The two dance studios are an athletic space but one that most likely is rarely used by the public. They are situated in the northeast corner of the floor. The walls are a most likely plaster and one is entirely covered by a mirror. The floors are hardwood sprung floors common in dance studios. The ceiling is a drop ceiling with Plexiglas covered fluorescent lighting.

Classrooms and Offices

There are four classrooms and multiple offices on the first floor. The classrooms are centrally located but on the western side of the building. The offices of the first floor are situated along the western wall of the building in the northwest corner. These spaces mirror the second floors classrooms and offices in material and size,

Bike Shop

One of the most singular spaces in the building is the bike shop on the northeast corner of the building. It is accessible almost exclusively from the exterior as it is most easily accessed by the parking lot and has large garage door style walls, which allow for an open air space. The south and west walls are the standard cinderblock but the eastern garage door style wall and the northern wall are both glass. These two glass walls are almost identical to the northern façade of the second floor as they feature the same metal grid frame. Due to their similarity the space was probably converted to its current use at the same time as the lounge area on the second floor. The floor is wood but it may be a composite rather than a hardwood.

Third Floor

While the third and uppermost floor of the building is divided into north and south like the other two floors, it is more specifically divided into four distinct gym areas. Three of these areas are currently used as basketball courts while the fourth has been converted into a weight room. The four gyms take up almost the entirety of the floor and there are few hallways. The main stairway from the main hallway on the second floor enters into a small, room sized space, which accesses the weight room at the northeast, the largest gym to the northwest and the southeast gyms. To access the different gyms one must either walk through this space or choose one of the other stairways, which enter directly into specific gyms. One notable area of the third floor is the small mezzanine level, which is accessed only from the weight room but looks down on the southwest gym as well. The third floor follows the building standard with exposed structural members and cinderblock walls. The third floor is also twice the height of the other two floors and has no windows in order to accommodate for its functions.

Northwest Basketball Courts

The northwest basketball courts are the largest group of courts. Like the hallways they have

cinderblock walls with exposed structural members. The flooring is hardwood and the ceiling is an exposed truss system painted black. Circular fluorescent lights provide the lighting. The ceiling also supports the Plexiglas backboards. This gym has access to the exterior but the steel doors are all fire exits only.

Weight Room

The weight room is a converted basketball court so it has the same walls and ceiling as the other courts. One notable change however is that the hardwood floors have been covered with rubberized flooring. Another change is that the east and west walls are partially covered with mirrors. This space is the building's largest alteration. Originally this space was almost as large as the northwest basketball court area. The remnants of the old courts still remain as there are still backboards hanging from the ceiling.

South Basketball Courts

The two south basketball courts are smaller and serve more varied functions than the northwest courts. These courts share the materials of the others but the lines on the floor indicate that they are used for activities other than basketball like volleyball and P.E classes. Double doors made of steel directly connect these two courts to each other. While they are connected to each other, they are still separated by a cinderblock wall so they are still distinct spaces.

Natatorium

While the Natatorium is on the first floor it spans the height of all three floors and thus causes it to be considered as its own entity. The natatorium is located on the south side of the structure and spans the entirety of the building from west to east. The area has a multitude of entrances on all three floors but there are only three that are generally accessible to the public. The first and most used is on the second floor and enters the Natatorium on the pool deck. The other two provide public access to the mezzanine viewing levels' stadium seating on the north side of the space. On the pool deck the majority of the other doors provide access for the swimming teams' locker rooms and offices.

The two pools, the lap pool, and the diving well dominate the natatorium. The diving well is significantly smaller than the lap pool. There are two mezzanine spaces, the previously mentioned stadium seating and a small catwalk along the south side that may be used as a space for coaches or judges. The two pools take up the entirety of the floor space on the first level of the natatorium save a small walking area around the edge and between the two pools. The lap pool is divided into ten lanes while the diving well is one large pool with two different height diving platforms extending vertically from the pool deck.

The materials in the natatorium are significantly different than the buildings other interior spaces. The walls of this area are noticeably divided into a rectangular grid three rectangles in height. The bottom rectangles of the walls are painted garnet while the upper two levels are grey but often covered with banners and signs. White structural lines divide the rectangles. Vertically the se match the structural elements of the building. One significant feature of the lowest row of rectangles is the ability of some of them to slide upwards as garage door style windows. These windows are open and provide direct access to the exterior of the building. The floors are tiled but the tiles are much smaller than the hallway tiles and are not laminate but some sort of glass-like material. The ceiling of the space is a metal space grid structure painted white.

Possible Building Inspiration

The architects of Blatt may have drawn inspiration from different buildings and facilities across the US at that time. When comparing Solomon Blatt PE facilities to other gym's made in similar time periods, there were similarities apparent in the first Gold's Gym in Venice, California created by Joe Gold in 1965. The Brutalist style is apparent in both buildings with their concrete structure,

small amount of windows and exposed frame ceilings. The building can definitely be classified as Brutalist, but there seems to be inspiration from other areas of architecture as well. The pragmatic utilitarianism of this building resembles the International Style on the interior a bit; there are not elaborate trimmings or decorative features in the building at all. Sort of like the Lovell House built by Le Corbusier and Mies Van der Rohe in 1929, the interior design of the building is clean and simple with flat trimming on intersection between the wall and floor. Blatt even resembles Thomas Cooper Library designed by LBC&W and Edward Durell Stone in 1976 on USC campus simply because the structure is held up by columns and the size of the buildings look to be similar and both buildings were made to navigate around a hill.