

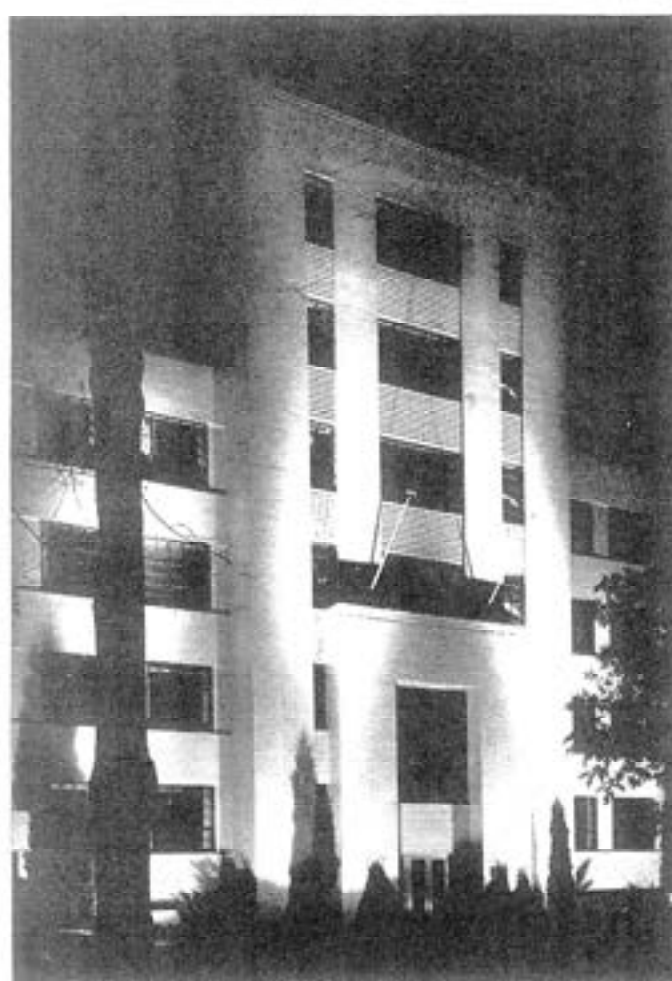
ARCHITECTURE *and Design*

VOL. XIII

JULY, 1949

CHAS. H. TOMPKINS CO.

ARCHITECTURE *and Design*



Selections from the work of

CHAS. H. TOMPKINS CO.

CONSTRUCTING ENGINEERS

907 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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The Charles H. Tompkins Co.

In 1907 the company was founded by Charles Hook and Lida Roberta Tompkins. It was incorporated in Delaware in 1911. The first contract was for six dollars for the repair of coping stone at the Peoples Drug Store No.2 at the corner of 7th and E streets N.W. in the District of Columbia.

Charlie and Lida were lifelong partners in life as well as business. Lida went to work at the company almost every day until about three weeks before her death in January of 1953. He was in charge of engineering and she took charge of personnel and finances. He was President and she was Senior Vice President and Treasurer. (There is an apocryphal story about Lida taking the cash payroll out to a job riding on a buckboard with a .45 caliber revolver on the seat. Considering she stood maybe five feet tall, it isn't all that farfetched.)

Over the intervening years as their reputation grew, so did the company's fortune and the size and scope of the work to be done. This photographic essay is a testament to the company and the Tompkins. It was originally published in 1949 and does not contain all of the work done to that date, nor, of course, does it contain some of the more notable structures done after 1949. (A partial list is given later.) The original was published in a 10X13" format on heavy (28 lb.) ecru glossy paper giving a somewhat sepia tone to all of the pictures which was very popular at the time.

The photograph titled "Headquarters of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development" is of the original building of the "H Street Building Corporation" located at 1818 H St. N.W. The property was purchased in October of 1940, and construction begun shortly thereafter resulting in a useful completion date and lease achieved on December 6, 1941.

Some of the buildings are no longer extant. Knowing the manner in which they were built, it must have been a really hard job to bring them down. Someone once commented, regarding the care and workmanship that was exhibited by the Tompkins Co. in its work; "They only know how to build memorials". It was also said that Washington, D.C. was a memorial to the Tompkins Co. Nice compliments indeed, even if the one was "left handed".

Charlie died in December of 1956. His funeral was attended by then President Eisenhower with whom Lida and Charlie were friends dating back to the 1920's.

The company continued on until April of 1961 when it was sold to the J.A. Jones Co. of Charlotte, N.C. with whom the Tompkins Co. had been involved in a number of joint ventures.

In the 40's and 50's jobs in progress or completed were the subject of articles in *Engineering News Record* and other trade publications on many an occasion. The company, also in those years, made the *ENR* top 50 list a few times based on dollar volume of work in progress.

Throughout its life the company always maintained its own labor force of carpenters and laborers as well as many other trades. It promoted personnel from within rather than hiring new from the outside. The result was a trusted, as well as trusting, work force that could always be depended upon. It worked very well!

Francis Meade Tompkins, III

May 19, 2003

Charles H. Tompkins Co.

Some other notable projects.

Base for Marine Iwo Jima Memorial (sculpture by artist)

Dutch Carillon by Iwo Jima Memorial (bells by others)

Coal Building at 17th and Desales Streets N.W.

National Geographic Society Headquarters at 17th and M Streets N.W.

Warwick Memorial cancer clinic (George Washington Univ.) at 23rd Street and Washington Circle, N.W.

Tompkins Hall of Engineering GWU) on 23rd Street below Washington Circle, N.W.

Battelle-Tompkins Memorial Library, American Univ. Ward Circle, N.W., D.C. *

Washington Hospital Center (portion) near Catholic Univ.

Washington Post newspaper bldg. On L St ,N.W.

Presidential escape tunnel under East Executive Ave while building the new East wing of The White House in 1942

East extension of the U.S. Capitol Building (prior, the structure was not architecturally balanced on its East and West facades. 40 feet was added to East center.)

Woodward & Lothrop branch department store, Alexandria, Va.

Woodward & Lothrop branch department store, Bethesda, Md.

Woodward & Lothrop warehouse, suburban Prince Georges Co, Md.

International Monetary Fund at 19th and H Streets, N.W. (next to 1818 H St) *

River House No. 1, (apartment house) Arlington, Va.

Universal Building South at Connecticut and Florida Avenues, N.W.

Anacostia River bridge, Baltimore-Washington Parkway

Base for Taft Memorial statue near the Capitol

Student Union Building, George Washington Univ.

Remodel of Eisenhower residence, Gettysburg, Pa.

Melpar Electronics Research Lab. U.S. Rte 50 between Fairfax and Falls Church, Va. *

WTOP Television station

WMAL Television station

Hangers, service buildings and original terminal building at Washington (now Reagan)

National Airport

U.S. Capitol utility tunnel

David Taylor Model Basin (U.S. Navy) Glen Echo, Md.

Some Joint Venture Projects with J.A. Jones, Co. and others

Bogue Field Marine Air Station, near Morehead City, N.C.

Bull Shoals Dam, Consortium of 9 contractors. White River, Arkansas

Old Hickory Dam, Cumberland River near Nashville at Henderson, Tn. (C of E)

John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir, Roanoke River, Va. & N.C. (Buggs Island)

Palisades Dam, Irwin, Idaho. Snake River, (Bur. Of Reclamation) *

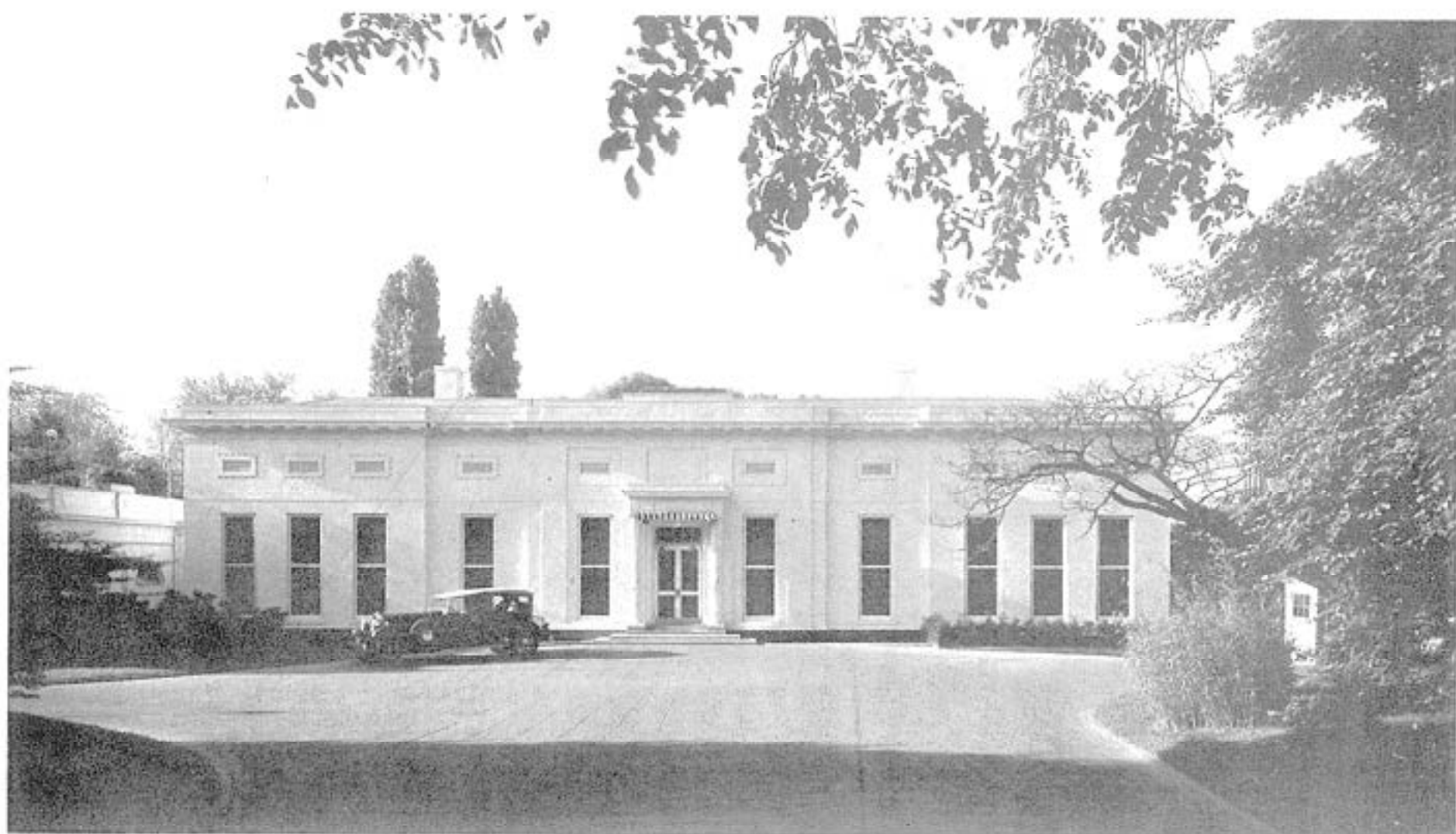
Swift Creek Dam. Cougar, Wa. Lewis River, (Cowlitz Co. PUD) *

Derbendi Khan Dam. Halabja, Iraq. Diyala/Sirwan River. (Iraqi Development Board) *

National Security Agency, Fort Meade , Md. *

Central Intelligence Agency, Langley Va.

There are others, but this is what I could dredge from my memory. Those marked with an asterisk are ones on which I actually worked in some capacity. FMTIII



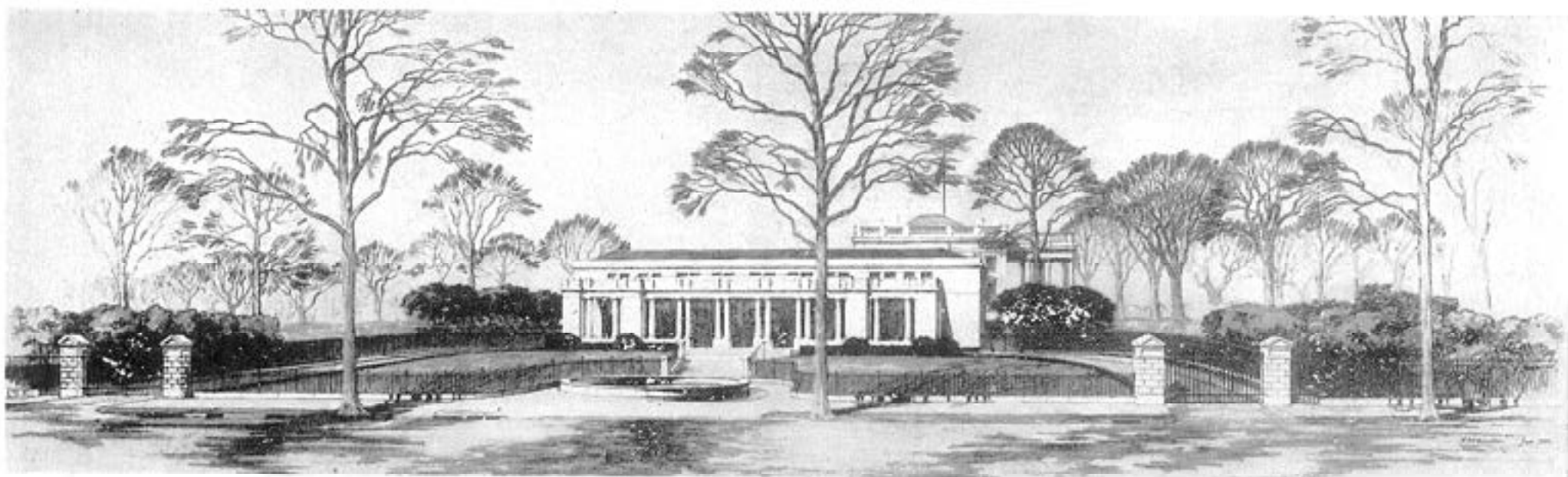
WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE OFFICES (RESTORATION 1930) WASHINGTON, D. C.

Public Buildings & Public Parks of the National Capitol
James Wetmore, *Supervising Architect*



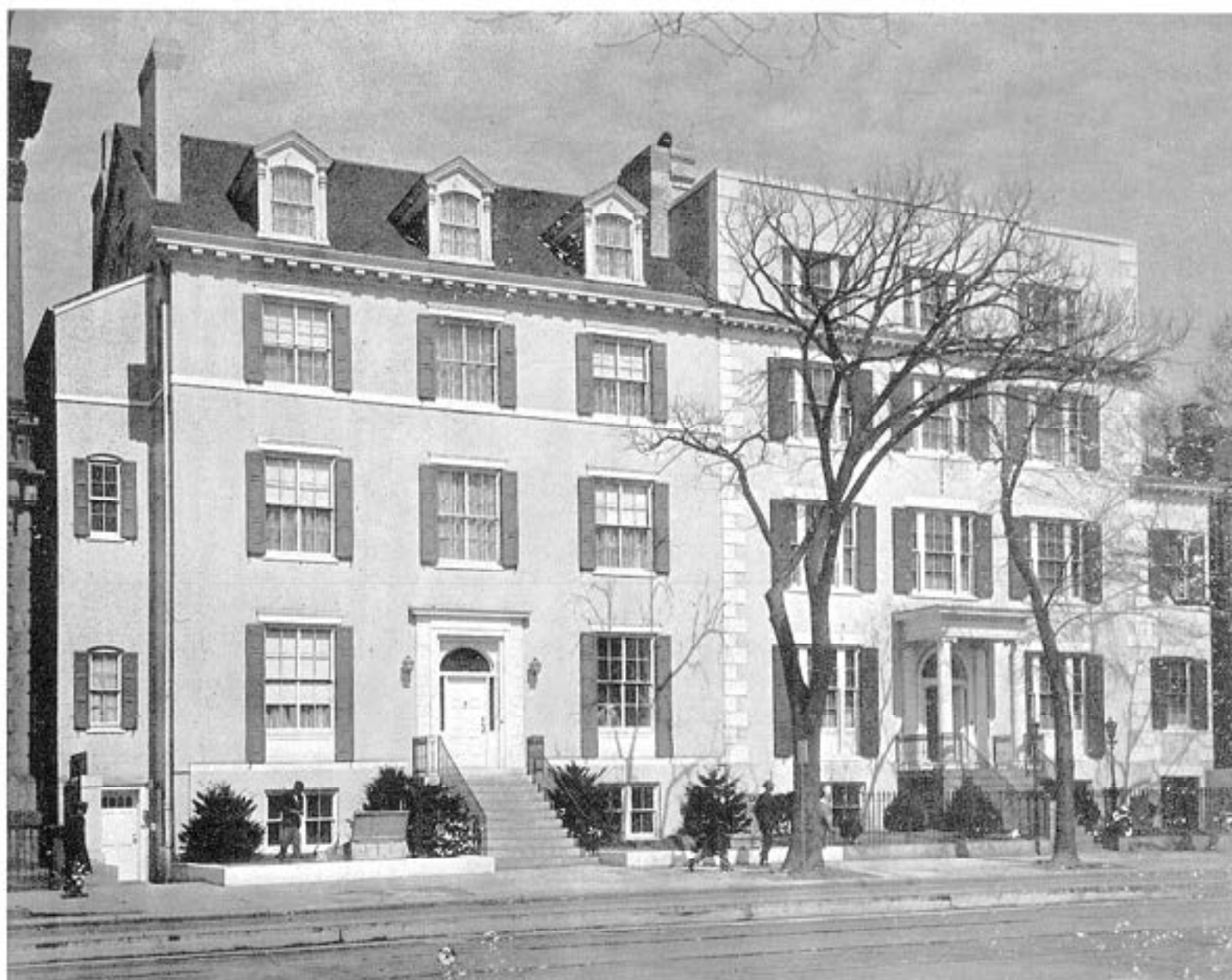
MEMORIAL TO THE HEROIC WOMEN OF THE WORLD WAR
AMERICAN RED CROSS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Trowbridge & Livingston, *Architects*



THE EAST WING OF THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Lorenzo Simmons Winslow, *Architect*



RESTORATION OF THE BLAIR-LEE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

(Temporary Residence of the President)

Public Buildings Administration
N. Max Dunning, *Consulting Architect*



PERUVIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Horace W. Sealee, *Architect*.



RESIDENCE OF PRINCESS MARTHA OF NORWAY, BETHESDA, MD.

Appleton P. Clark, Jr., *Architect*.



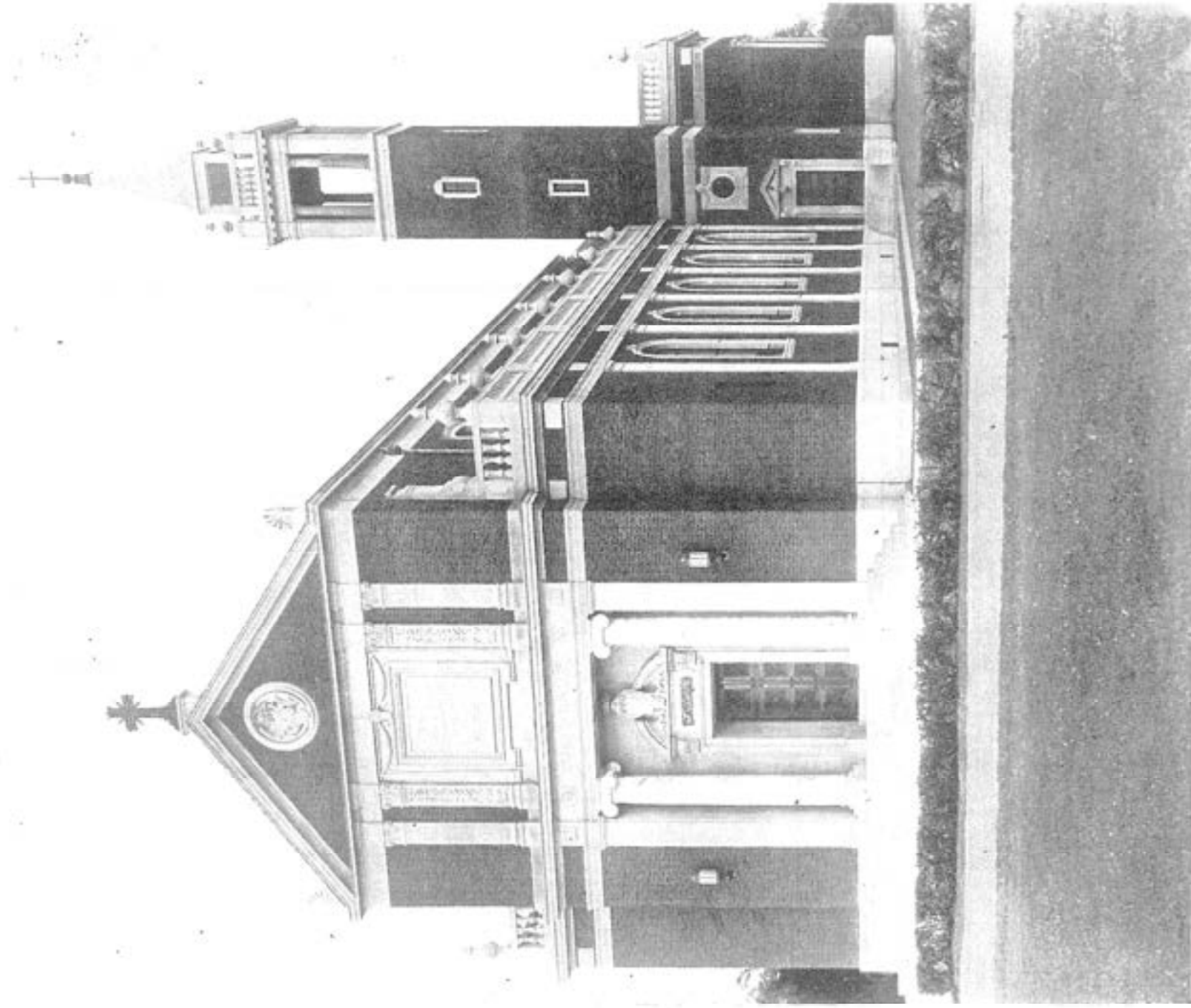
SOUTH AFRICAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

John J. Whelan, *Architect*

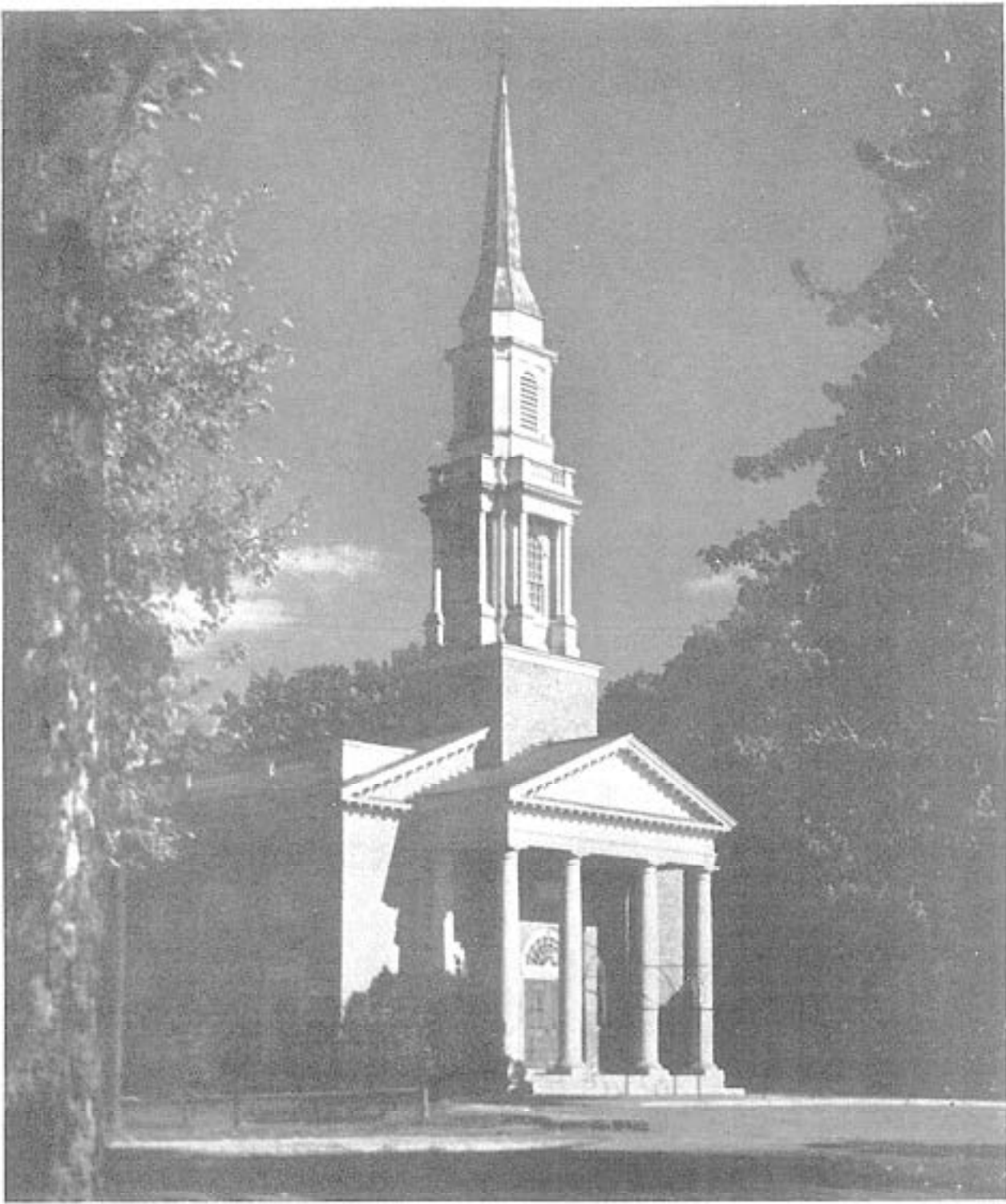


RESIDENCE OF MRS. MARY E. STEWART, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Paul P. Cret, *Architect*



CHAPEL OF OUR LADY, GEORGETOWN PREPARATORY SCHOOL, GARRETT PARK, MD.



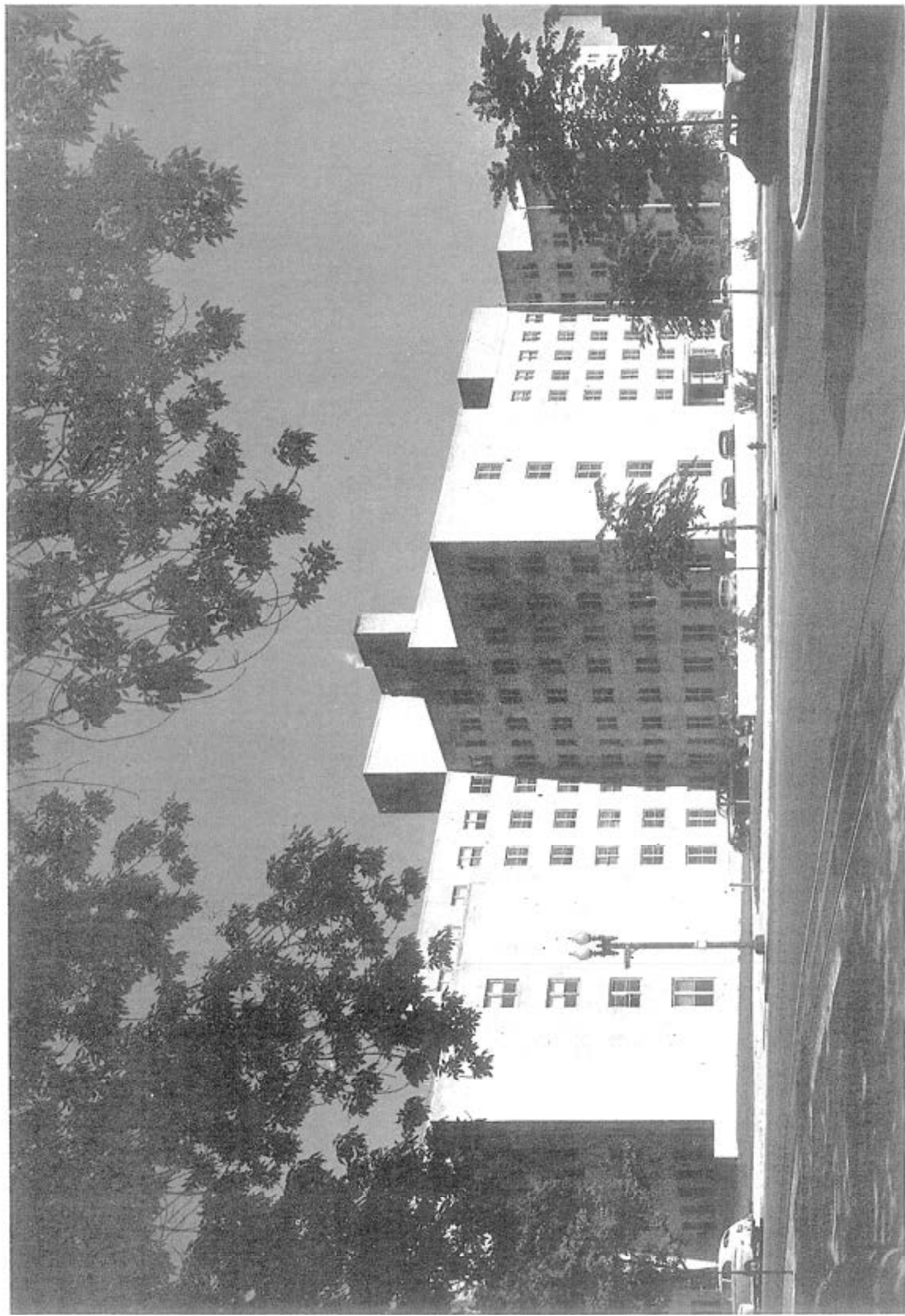
CHAPEL, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, ARLINGTON, VA.

Carrere and Hastings, *Architects*

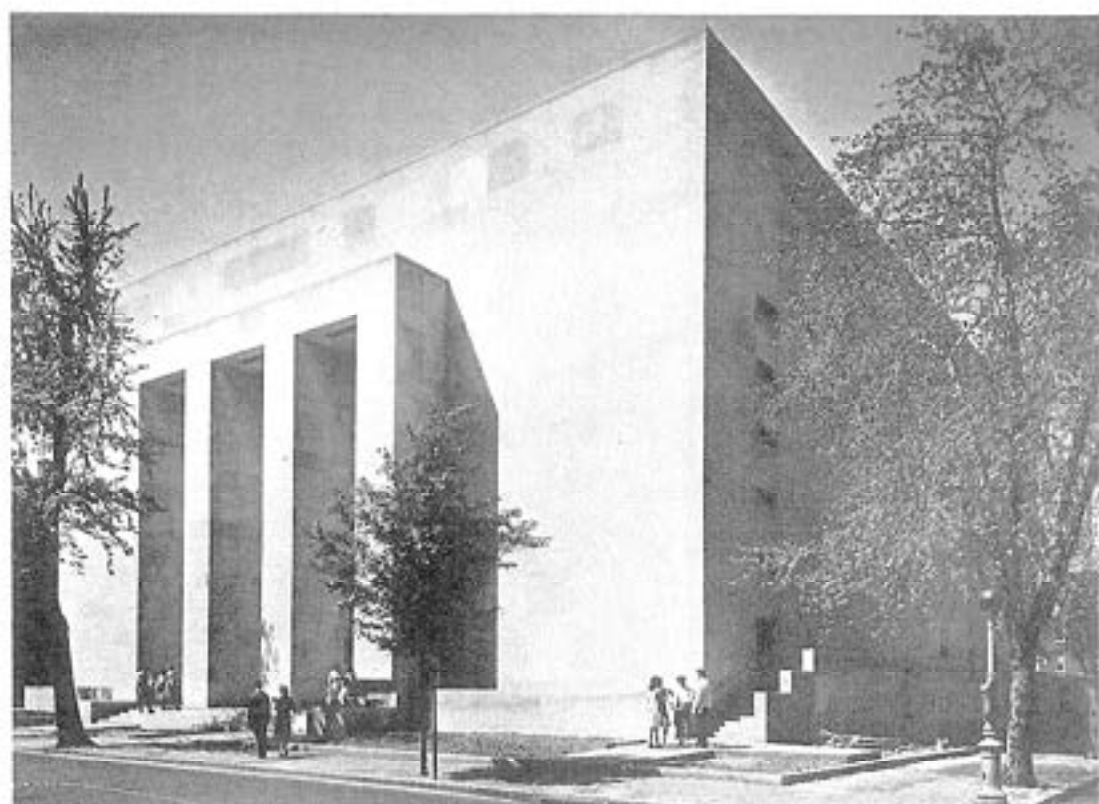


SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Porter, Lockie and Chatelain, *Architects*



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON, D. C.



LISNER AUDITORIUM
Faulkner & Kingsbury, *Architects*



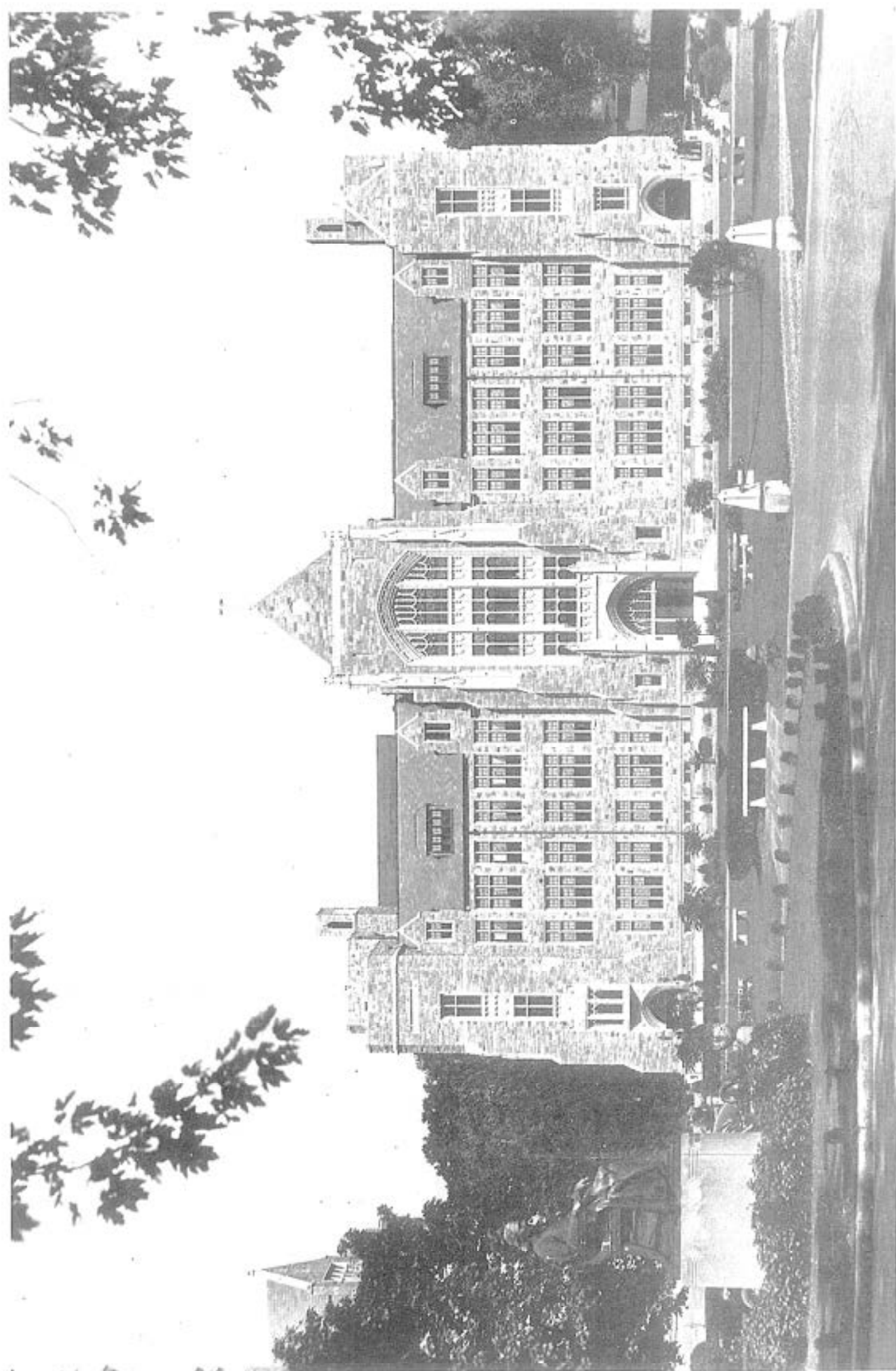
HATTIE M. STRONG RESIDENCE HALL FOR WOMEN
A. B. Trowbridge, *Architect*
Waldron Faulkner, *Associate*

LISNER HALL (center)
Faulkner & Kingsbury, *Architects*

ZOOLOGICAL SCIENCE HALL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE HALL
Edwin Weihe, *Architect*

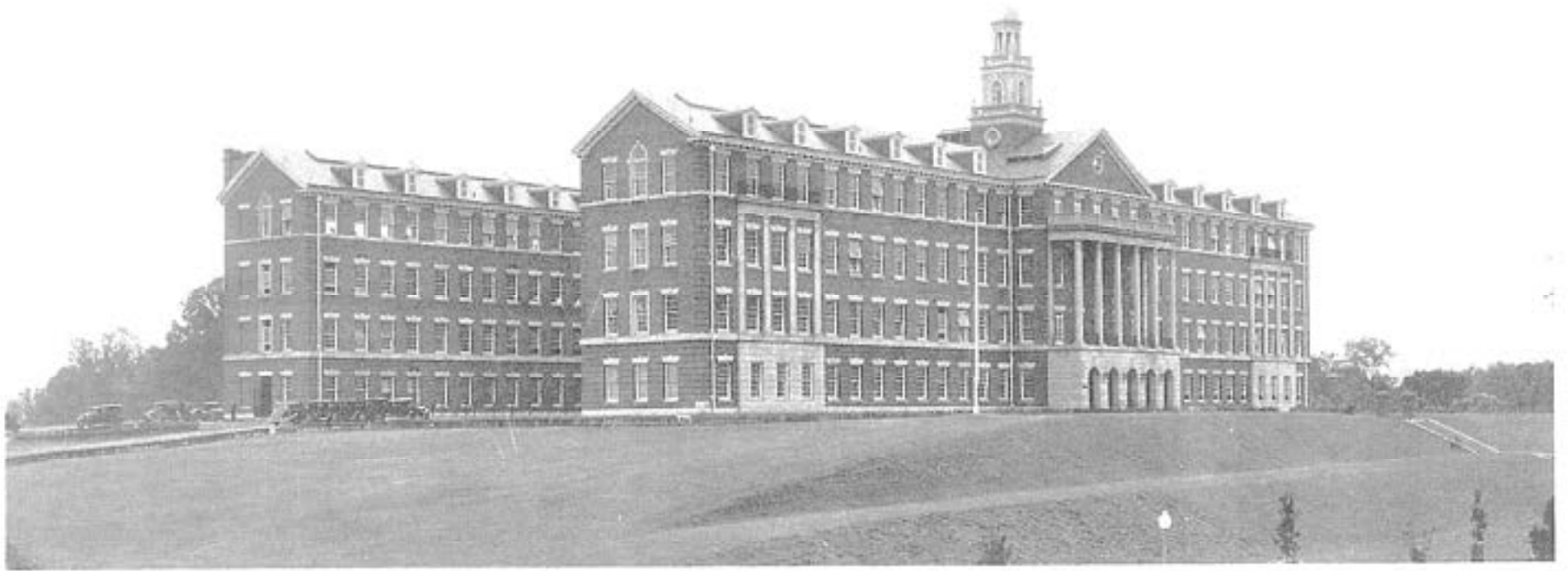


THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.



WHITE-GRAVENOR SCIENCE LABORATORY BUILDING

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.



MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOL

George A. Didden, *Architect*



COPLEY HALL

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

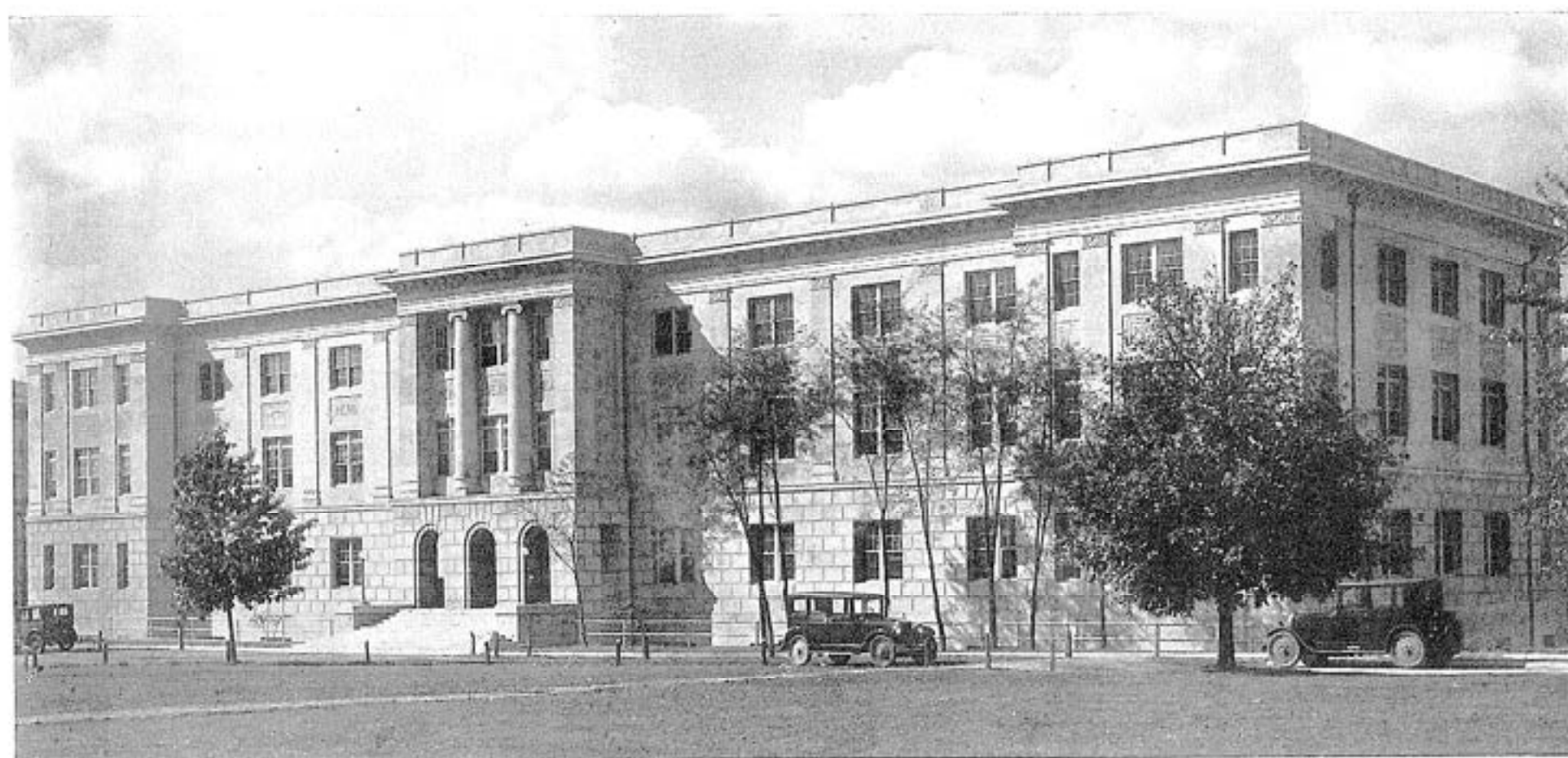
Emile G. Perrot, *Architect*



WHITE FRIARS HALL

CARMELITE COLLEGE, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Edwin Weihe, *Architect*



THE WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALL

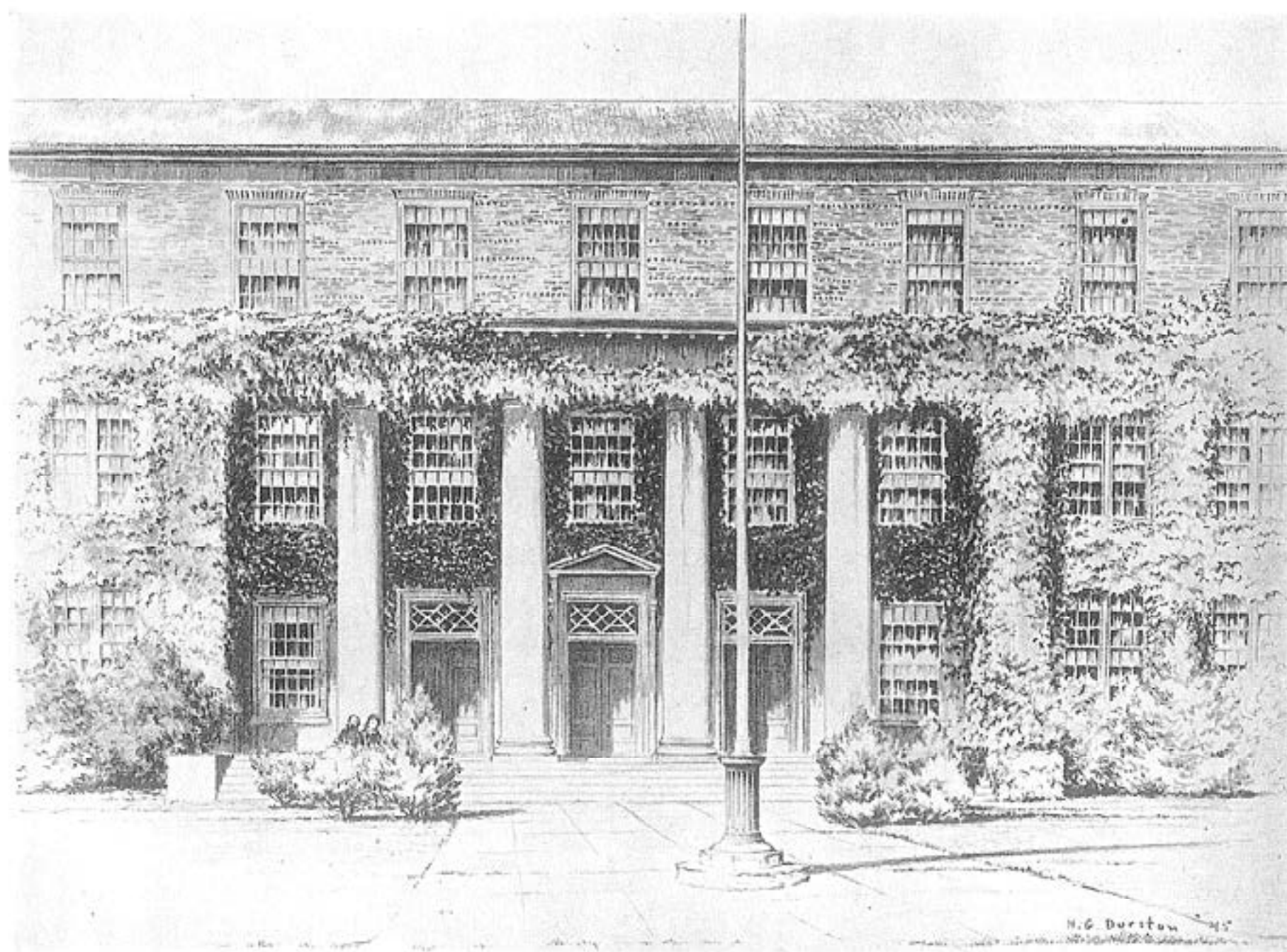
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

P. M. Anderson, *Architect*



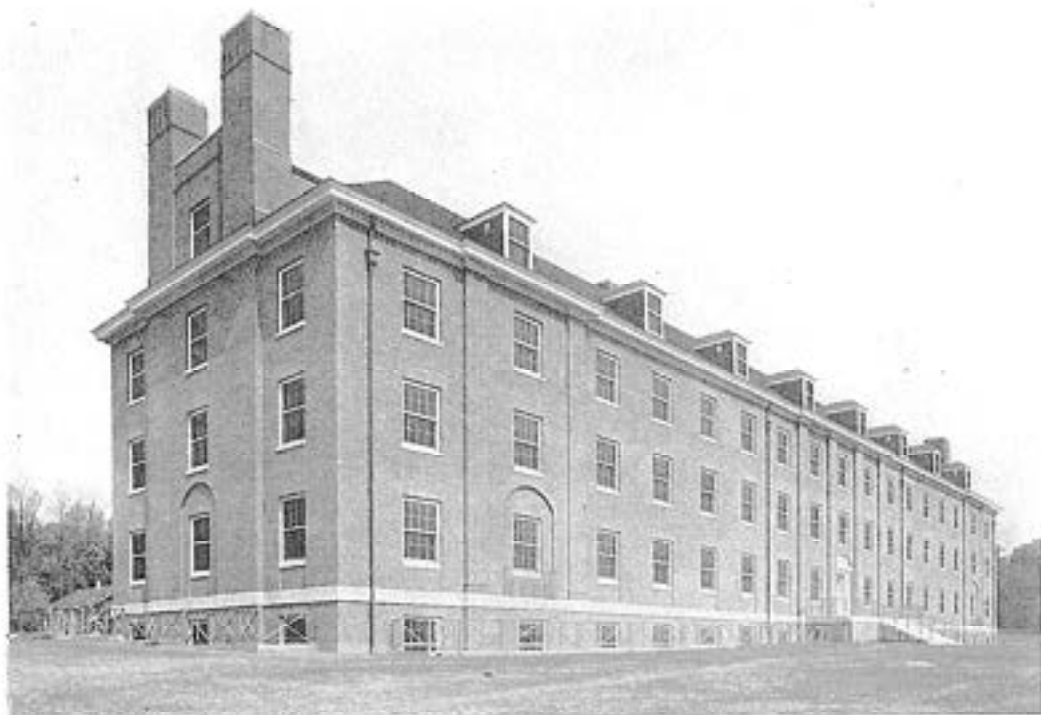
GEORGE W. COOK HALL (Men's Dormitory)
HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Hilyard R. Robinson, Paul R. Williams, *Architects*



ANACOSTIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Nathan C. Wyeth, *Municipal Architect*



LABORATORY, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, BETHESDA, MD.

Public Buildings Administration

Lewis Simon, *Supervising Architect*



U. S. NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY, BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Bureau of Docks and Yards, U. S. Navy

SUPERSONIC WIND TUNNEL LABORATORY,
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, ABERDEEN, MD.

Peter F. Loftus, *Consulting Engineer*





HEADQUARTERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

A. R. Clas, *Architect*



STORE BUILDING FOR JULIUS GARFINCKEL & CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

Architects:

Main Bldg.—Starrett & Van Vleck

Addition—Porter & Lockie



THE RIGGS NATIONAL BANK, WASHINGTON, D. C. (14th & Park Rd. Branch)

George N. Ray, *Architect*



H. L. RUST CO. BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

George N. Ray, *Architect*



SHEPHERD DIAL CENTER

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC TELEPHONE CO., SILVER SPRING, MD.

Leon Chatelain, *Architect*



NORTH CAPITOL STREET BUILDING

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC TELEPHONE CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

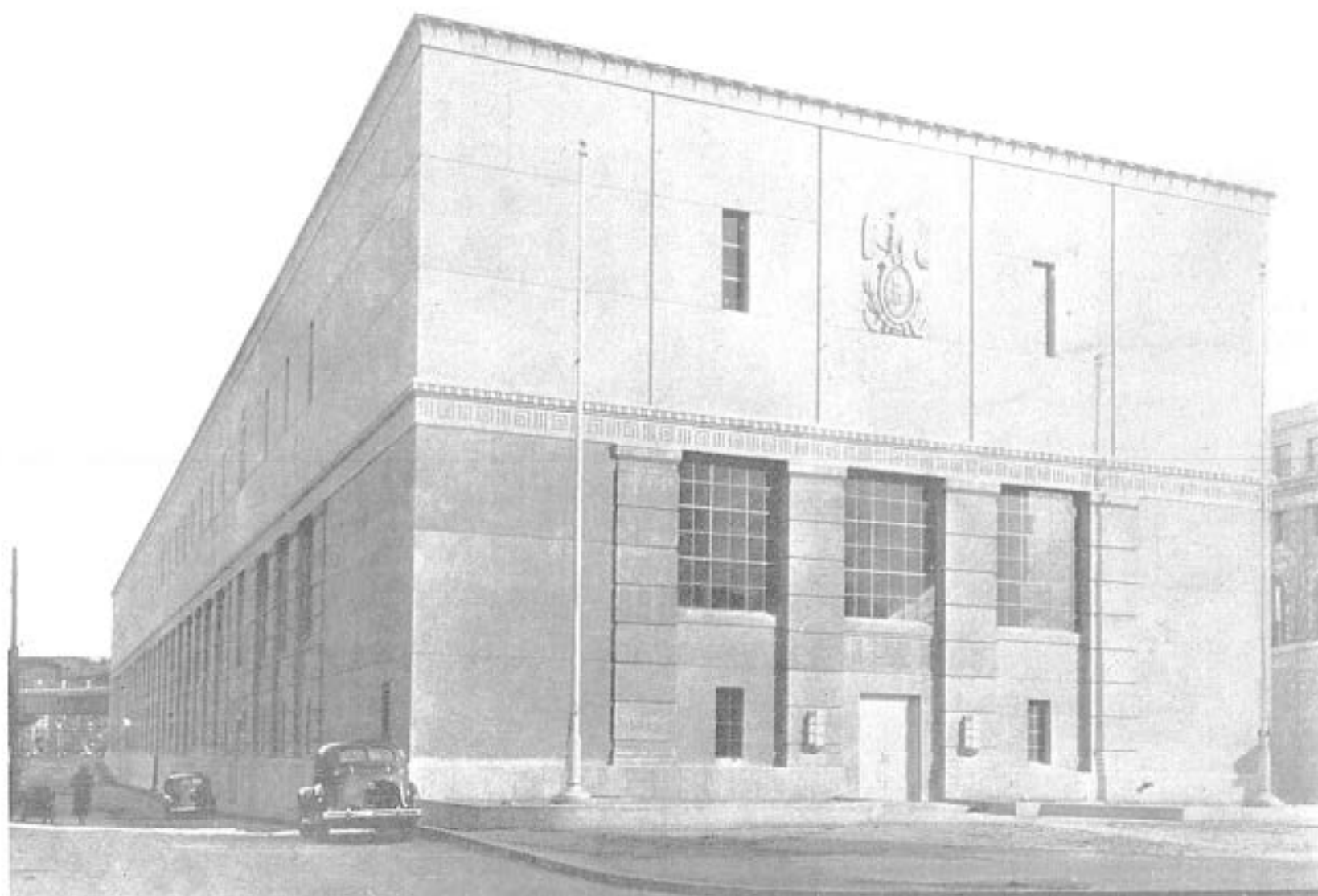
McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin, *Architects*



FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING No. 4, SUITLAND, MD.

Public Buildings Administration

Gilbert Stanley Underwood, *Supervising Architect*

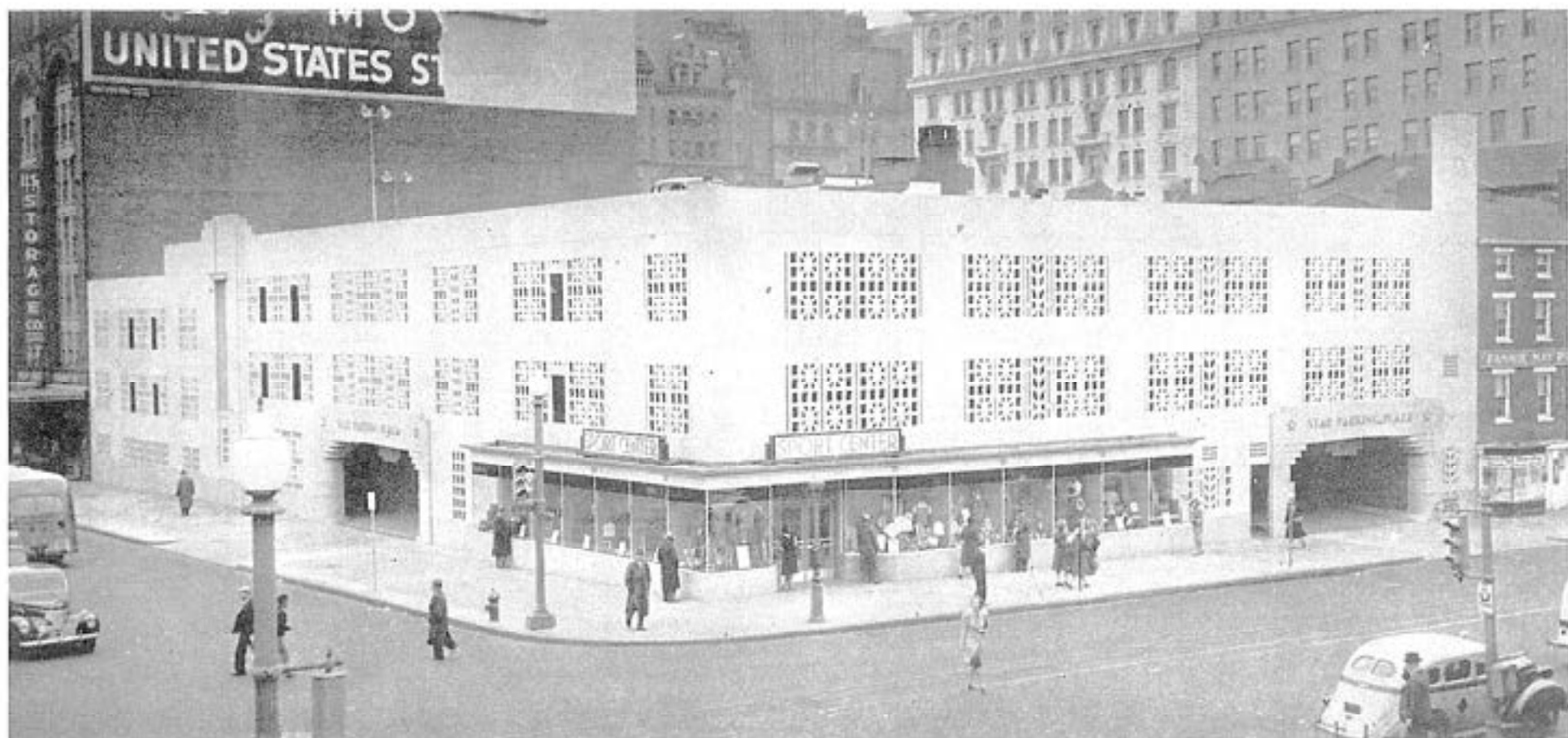


GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE WAREHOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Procurement Division, Treasury Department

Louis Simon, *Supervising Architect*

Victor Abel, *Consulting Architect*



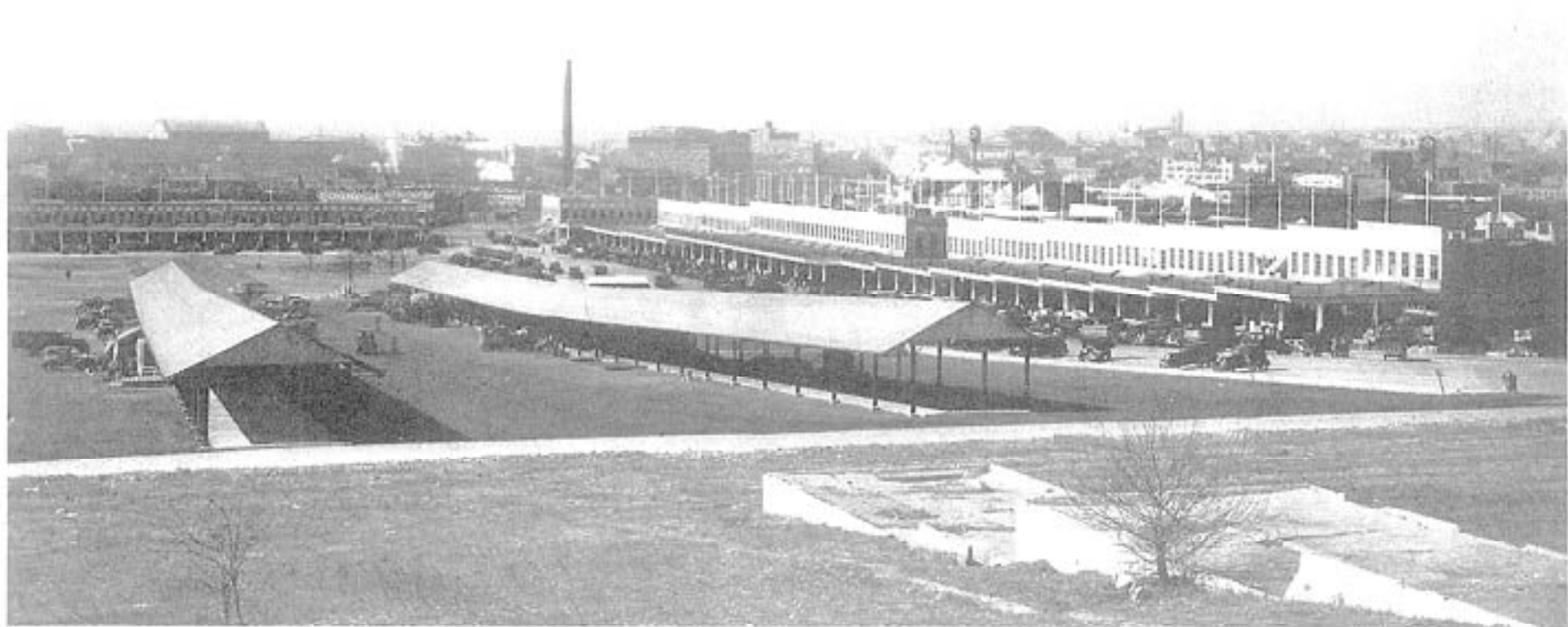
EVENING STAR PARKING PLAZA, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Porter & Lockie, *Architects*



ARTHUR JORDAN PIANO CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

Donald S. Johnson, *Architect*

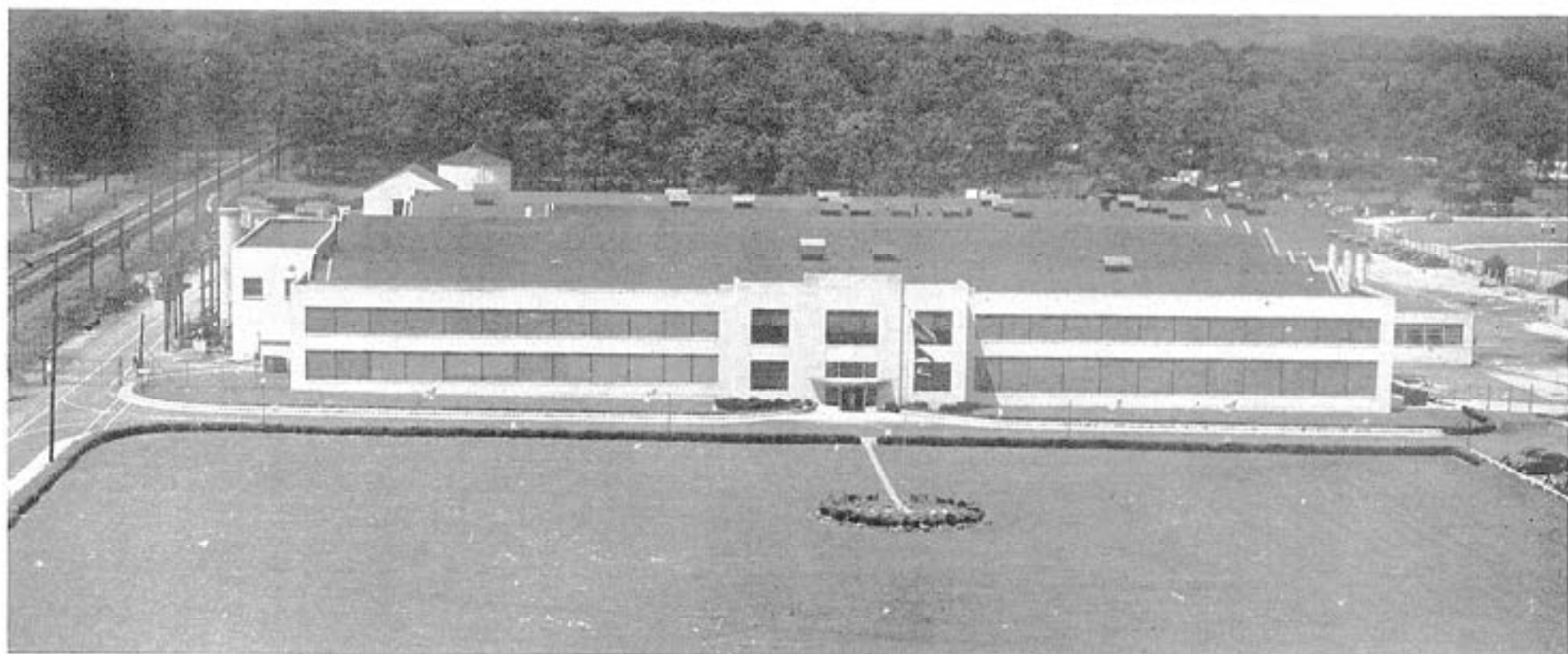


UNION MARKET TERMINAL, WASHINGTON, D. C.



OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE, SAFEWAY STORES, INC., WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Ballinger Co., Architects and Engineers



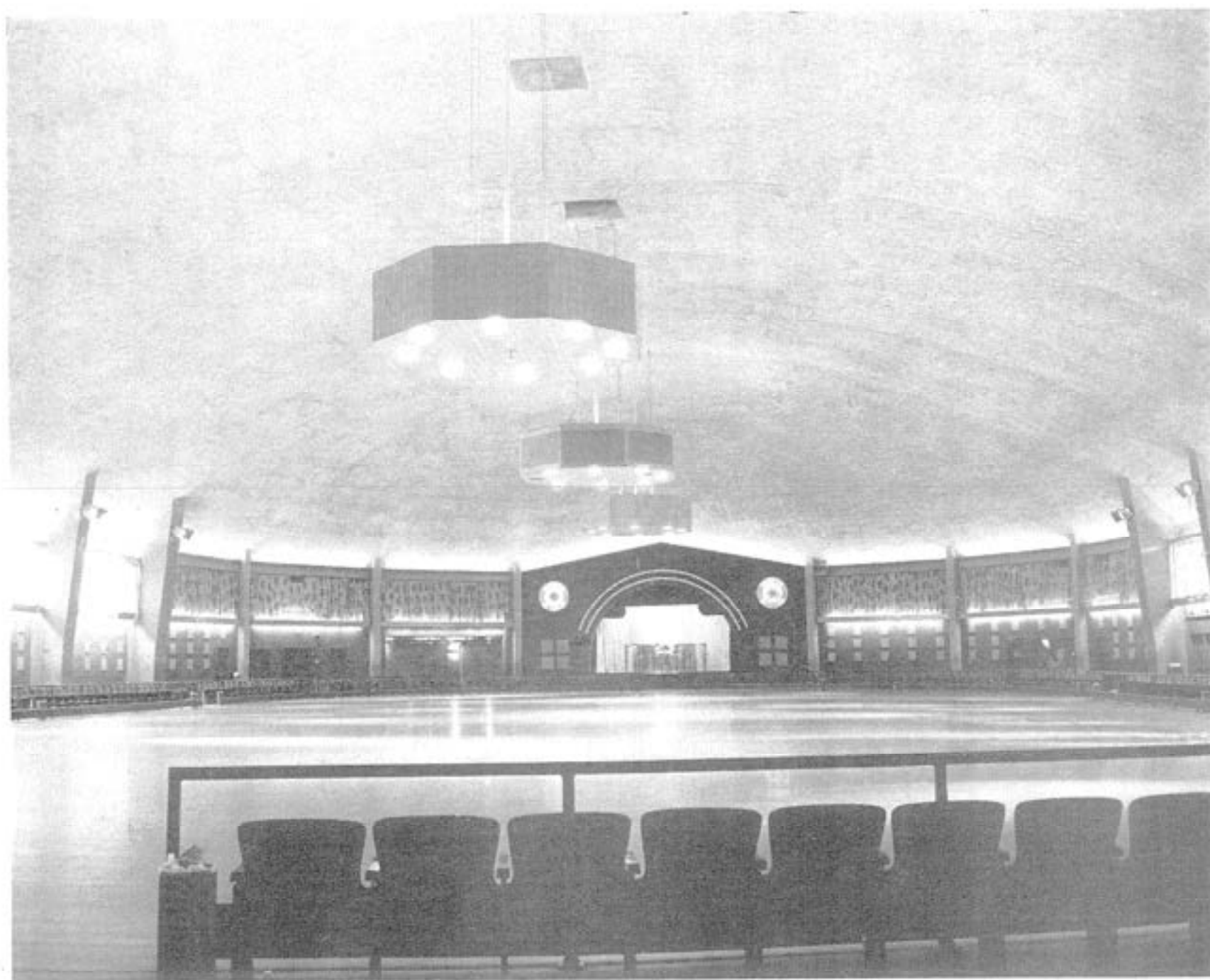
ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH CORPORATION, RIVERDALE, MD.

Kubitz & Koenig, Engineers



SUBSTATION, POTOMAC ELECTRIC POWER CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

Arthur B. Heaton, Architect



INTERIOR OF ROLLER SKATING RINK

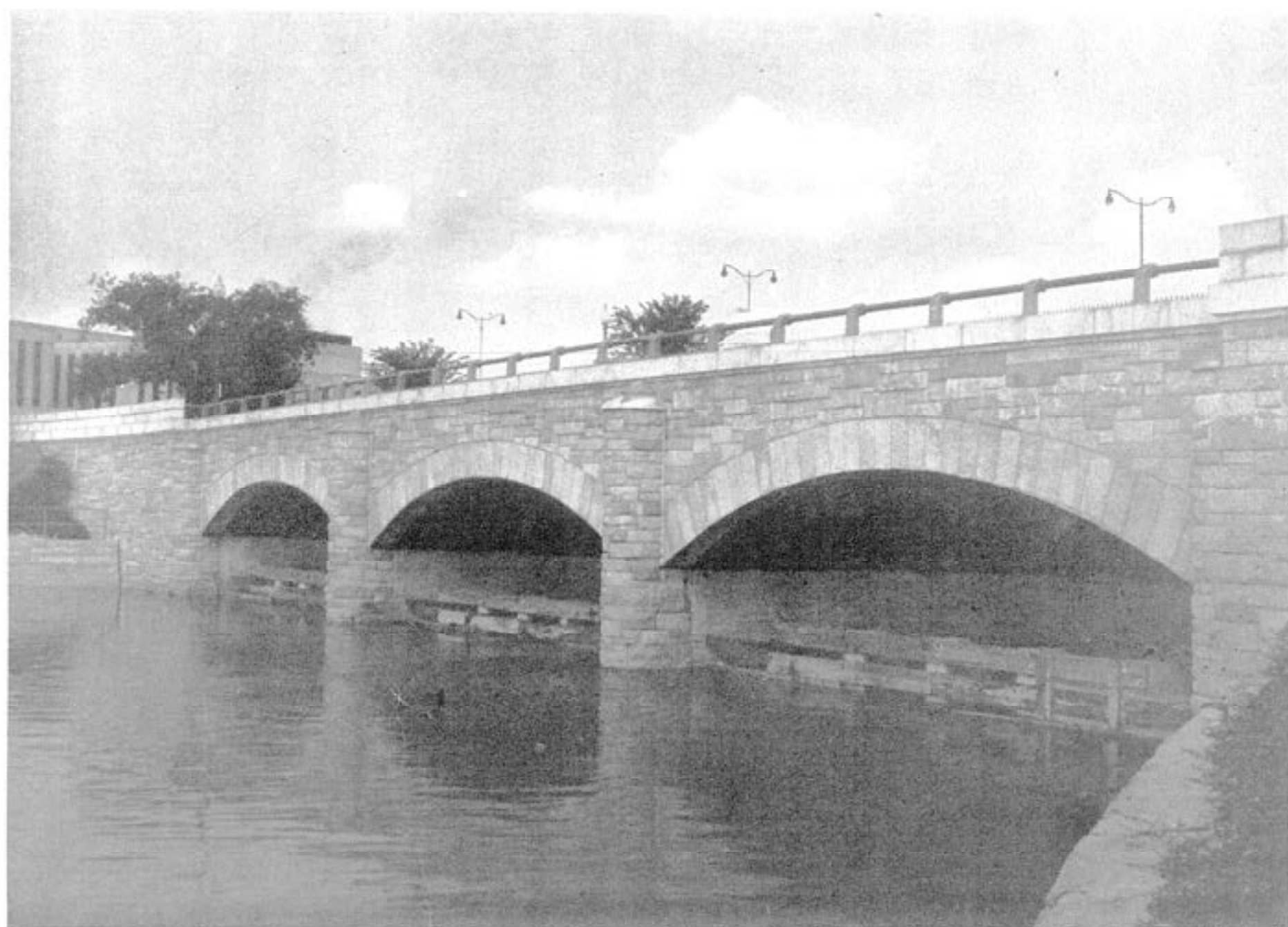
KALORAMA COMPANY BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Frank Grad & Sons, *Architects*
 Roberts & Schaefer, *Engineers*
 "Z-D System" Roof and Domes



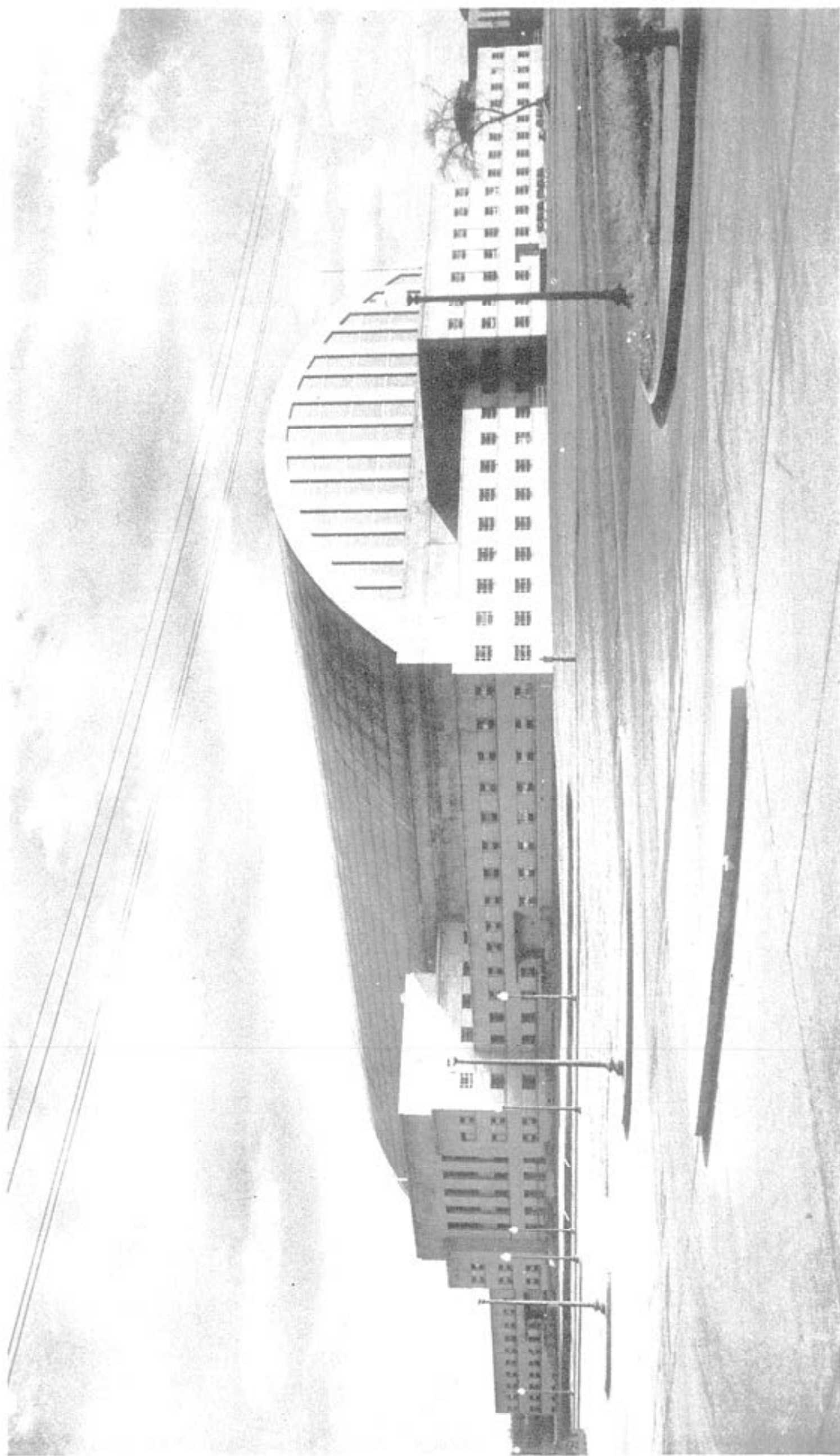
REFLECTING POOL FRONTING THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Henry Bacon, Chas. McKim & Associates, *Architects*



TIDAL BASIN BRIDGE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Department of Highways, District of Columbia

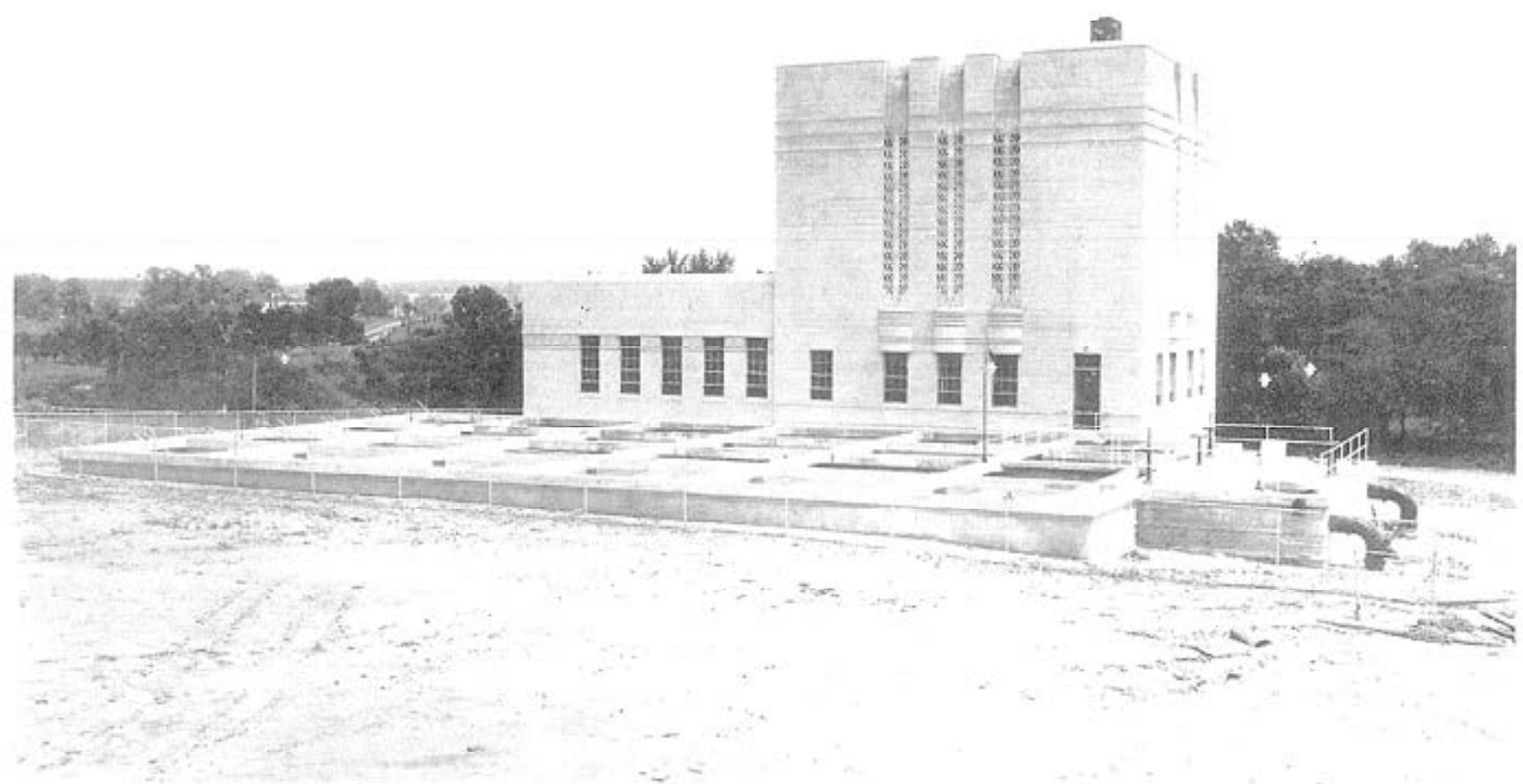


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY, WASHINGTON, D. C.



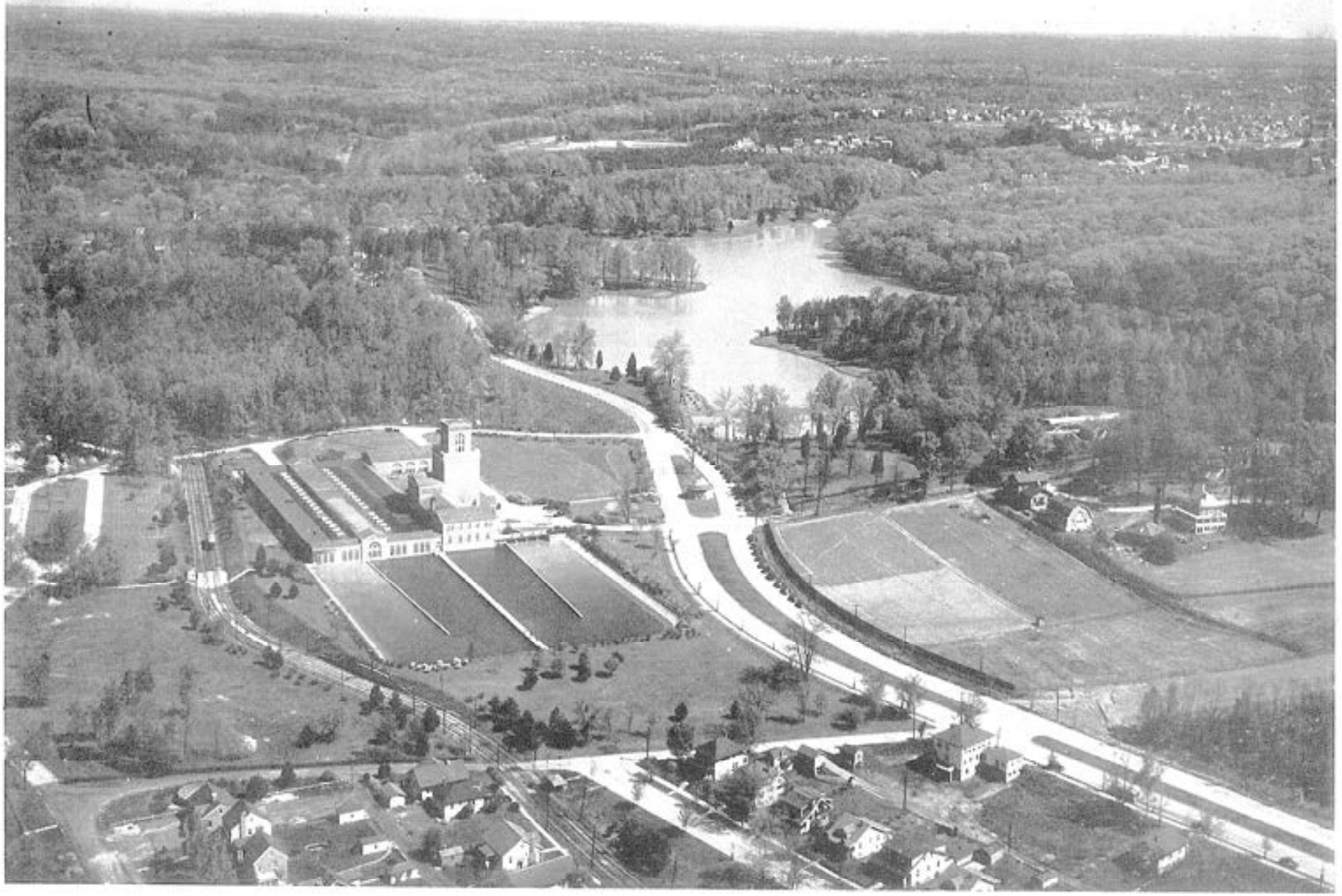
DISPENSARY, MARINE BARRACKS AND MARINE CORPS SCHOOLS, QUANTICO, VA.

Upman & Adams, *Architects*

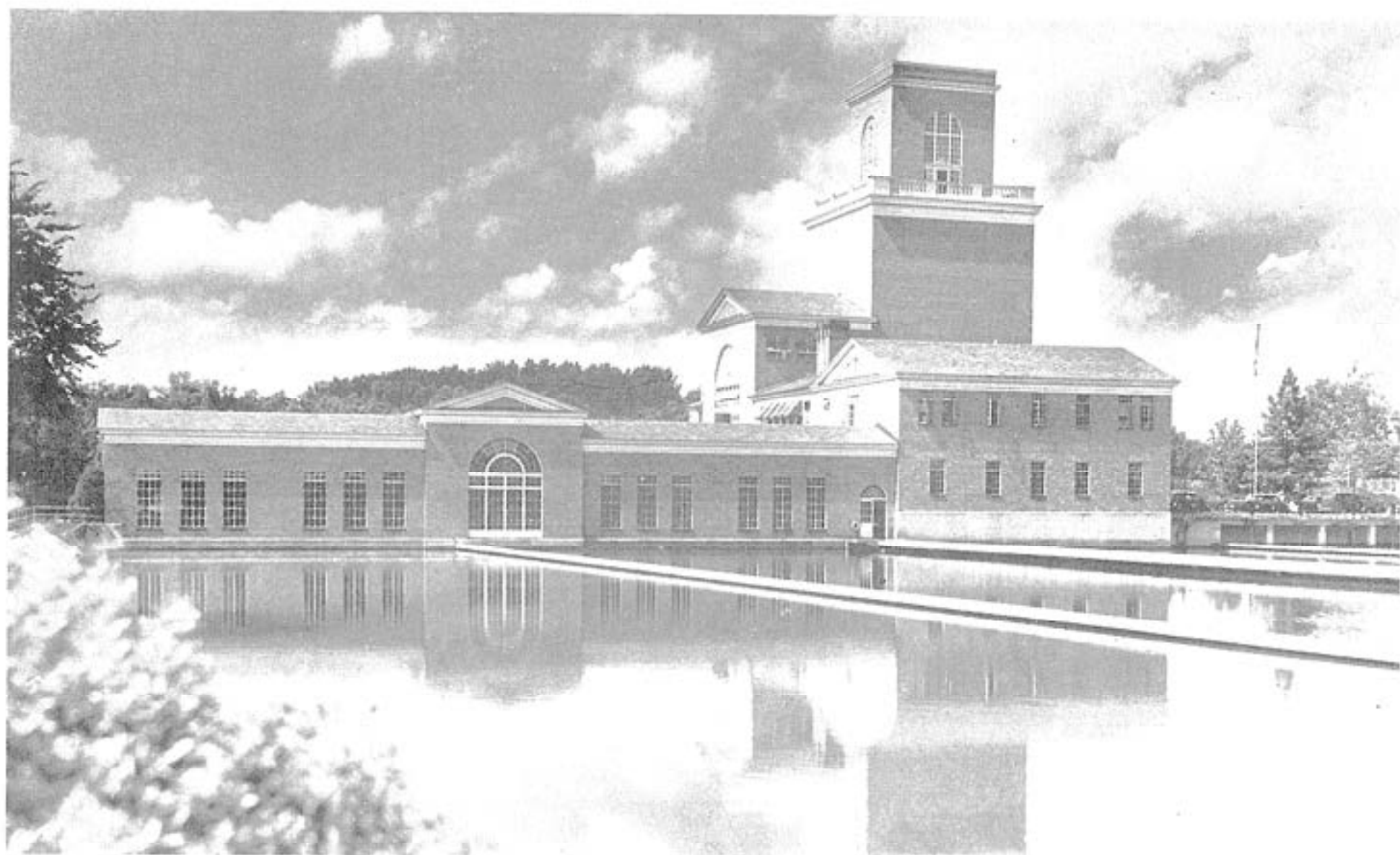


FILTRATION PLANT, FORT KNOX, KY.

Hadjens & Emerson, *Architects*



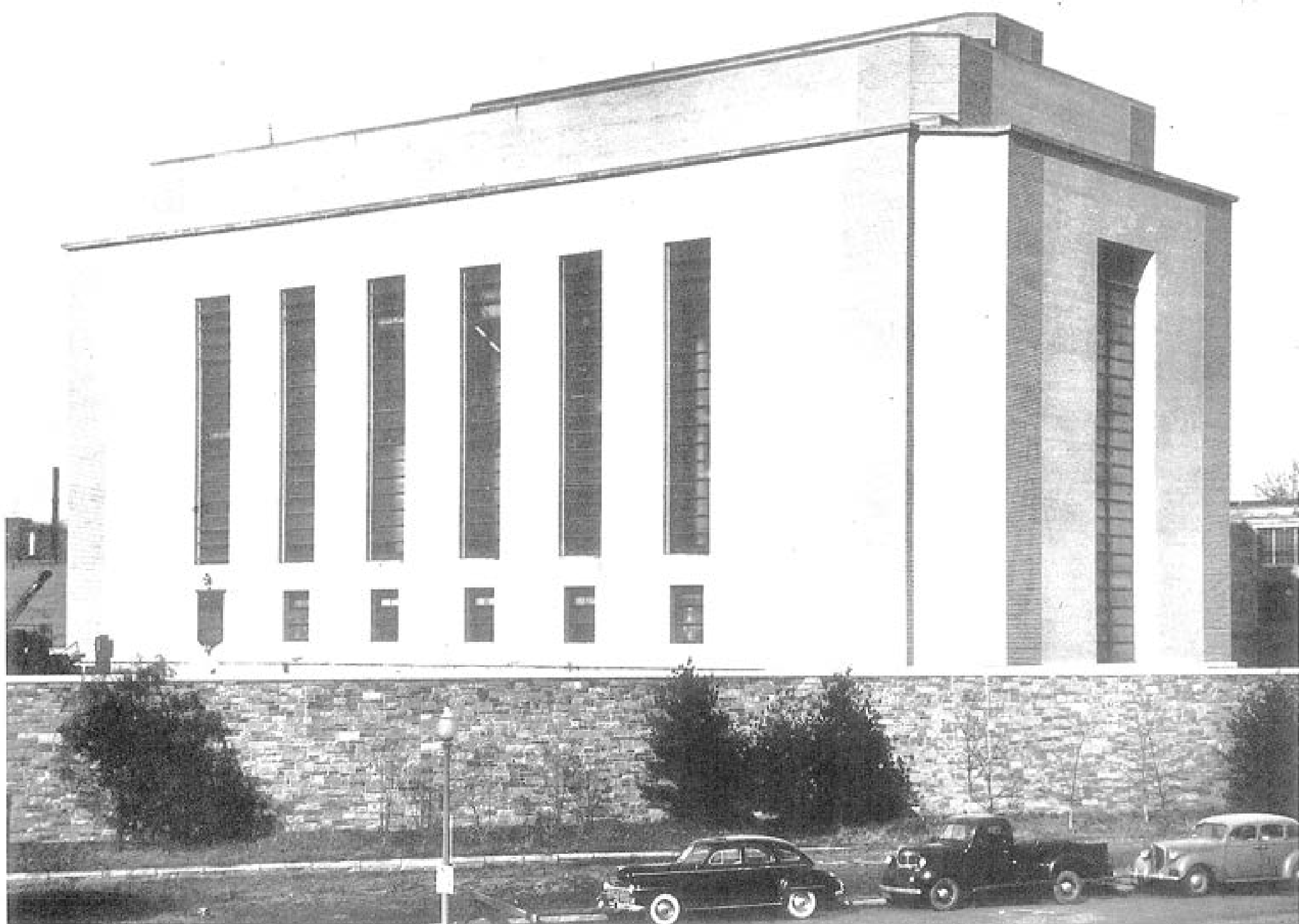
DALECARLIA FILTER PLANT, WASHINGTON, D. C.



CHEMICAL BUILDING, FILTER GALLERY AND SEDIMENTATION BASIN
DALECARLIA FILTER PLANT, WASHINGTON, D. C.



OPERATING GALLERY
DALECARLIA FILTER PLANT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

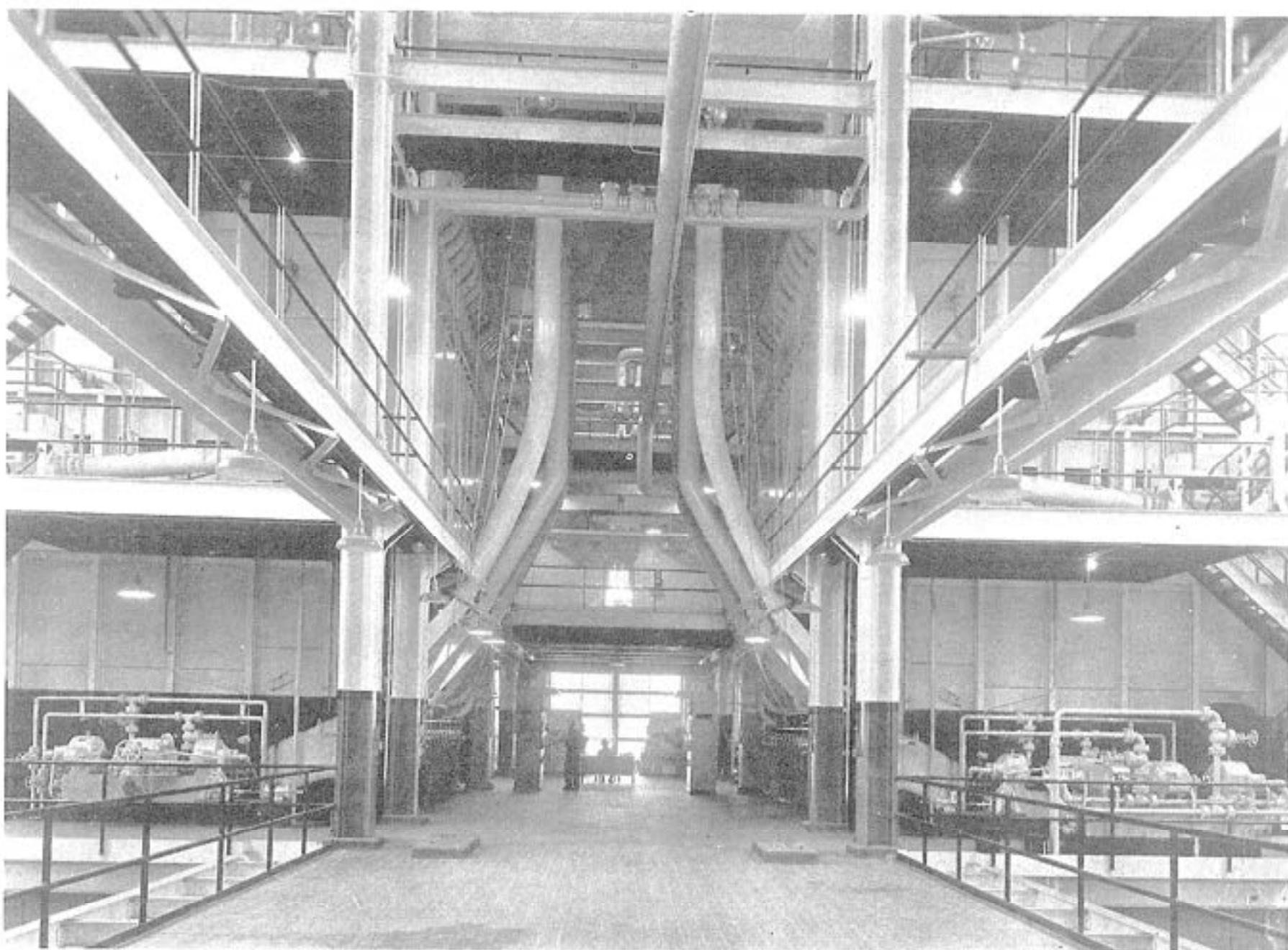


WEST CENTRAL HEATING PLANT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Public Buildings Administration

Gilbert Stanley Underwood, *Supervising Architect*

William Dewey Foster, *Consulting Architect*

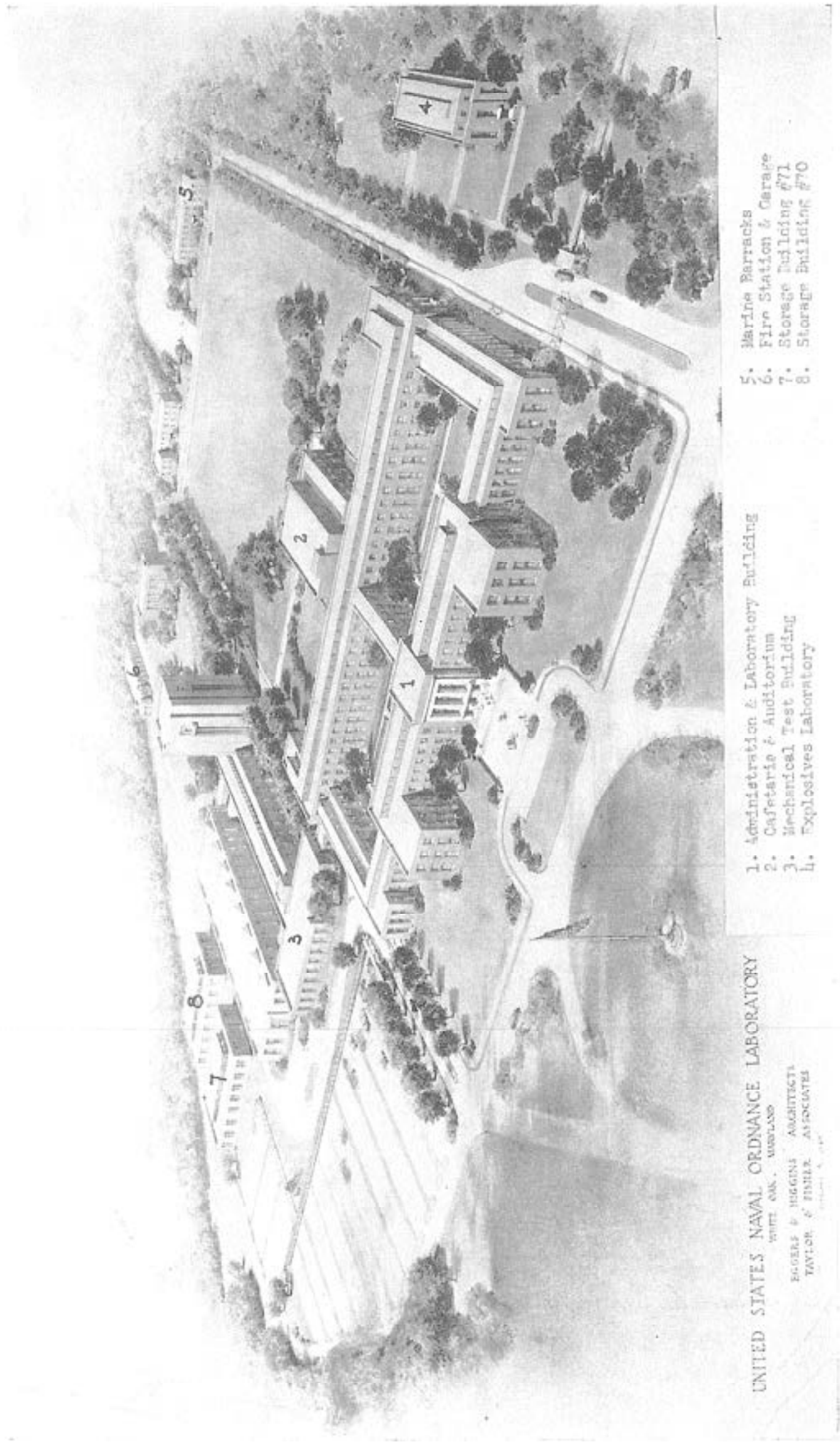


FIRST FLOOR, LOOKING WEST



GROUND FLOOR, LOOKING WEST

WEST CENTRAL HEATING PLANT, WASHINGTON, D. C.



UNITED STATES NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY

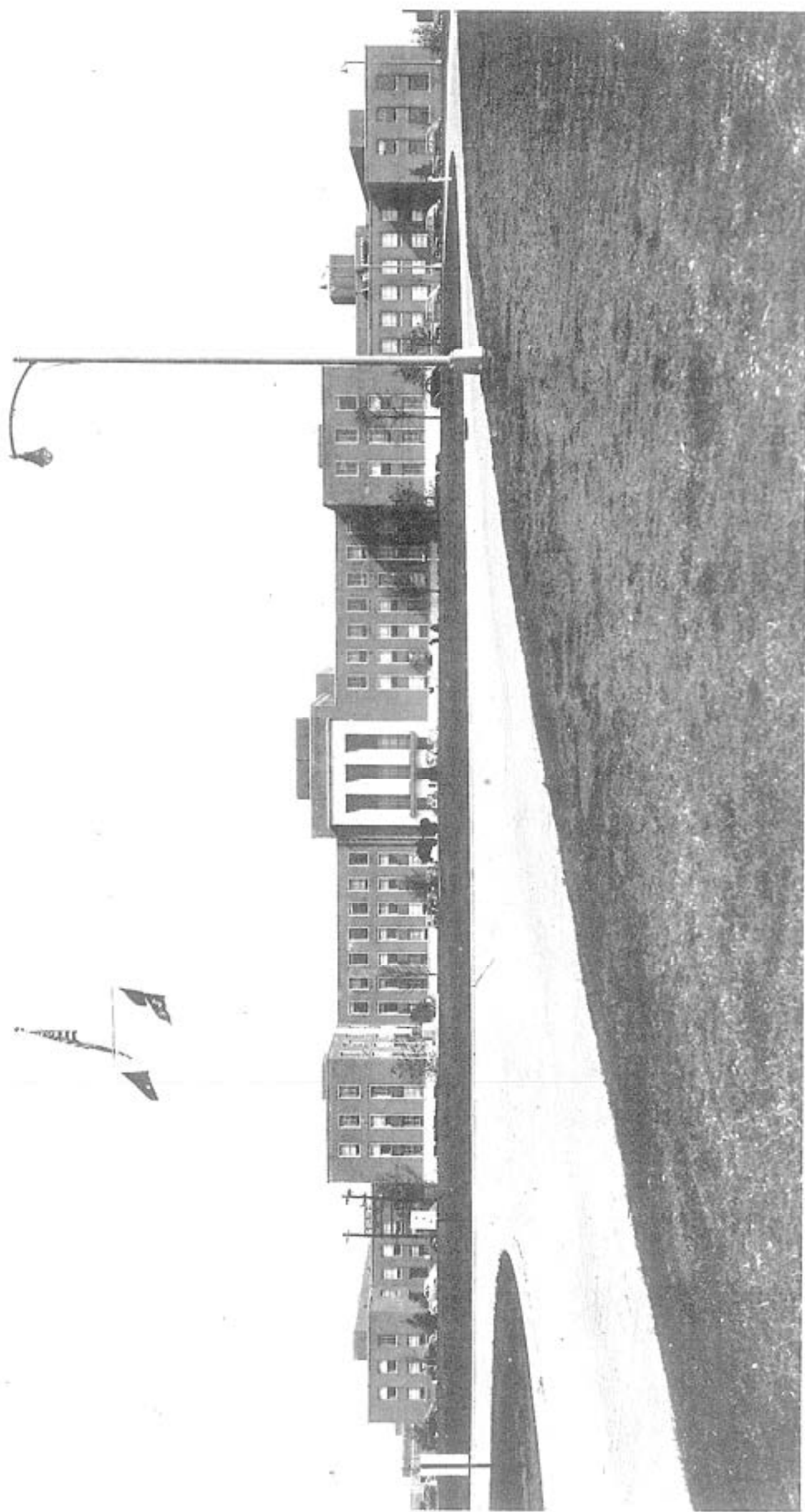
WHITE OAK, MARYLAND
 EGGER & HIGGINS ARCHITECTS
 TAYLOR & FISHER ASSOCIATES
 FEBRUARY 1, 1944

1. Administration & Laboratory Building
2. Cafeteria & Auditorium
3. Mechanical Test Building
4. Explosives Laboratory

5. Marine Barracks
6. Fire Station & Garage
7. Storage Building #71
8. Storage Building #70

U. S. NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY, WHITE OAK, MD.

Eggers & Higgins, Architects
 Taylor & Fisher, Associates



ADMINISTRATION AND LABORATORY BUILDING

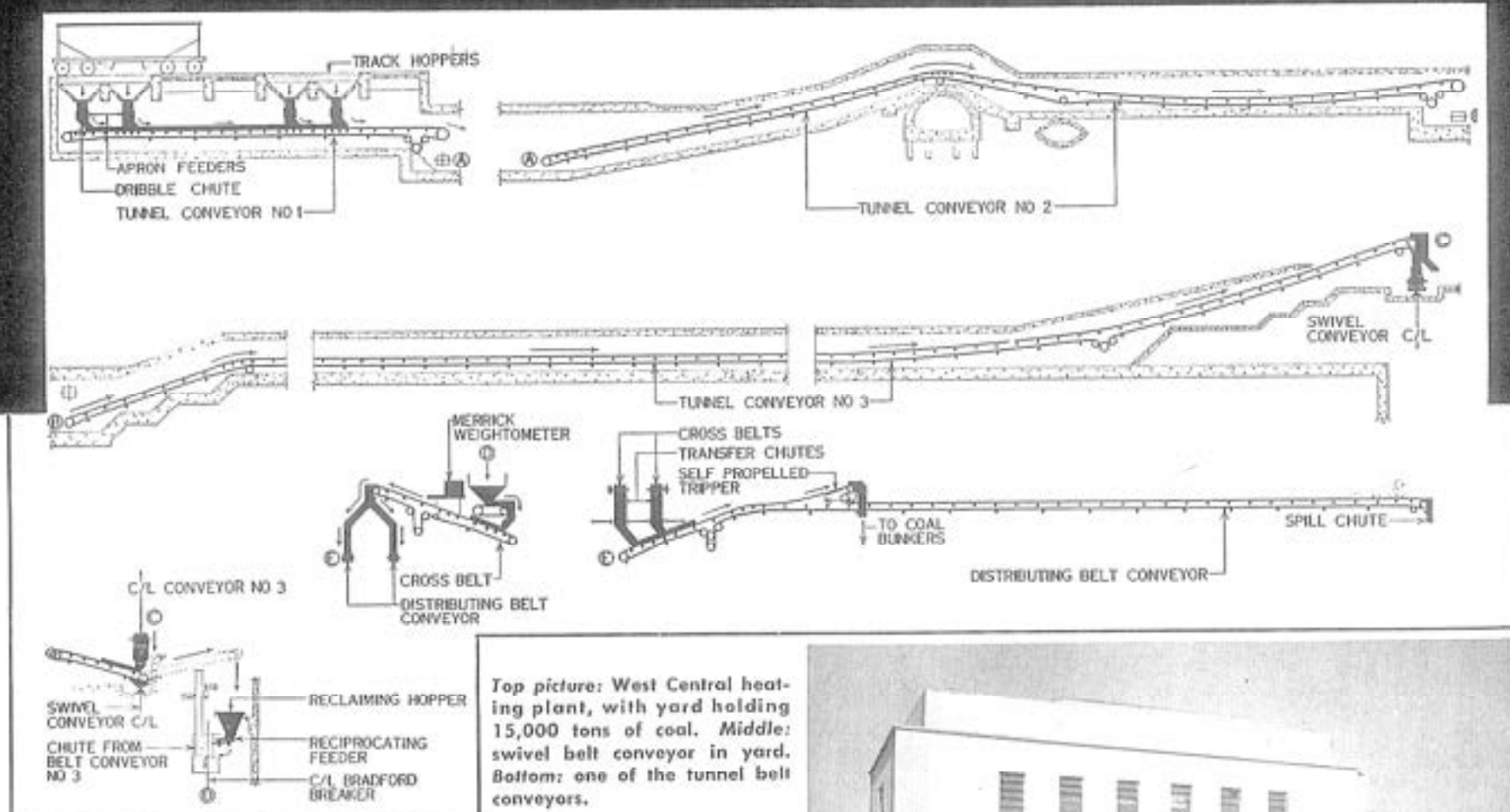
U. S. NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY, WHITE OAK, MD.



UNITED STATES NAVAL TRAINING STATION, BAINBRIDGE, MD.

Eggers & Higgins, Architects

Newest Capital Plant Features LINK-BELT Belt Conveyors



Charles H. Tompkins Co., engineers select Link-Belt handling equipment for \$5,000,000 heating plant . . .

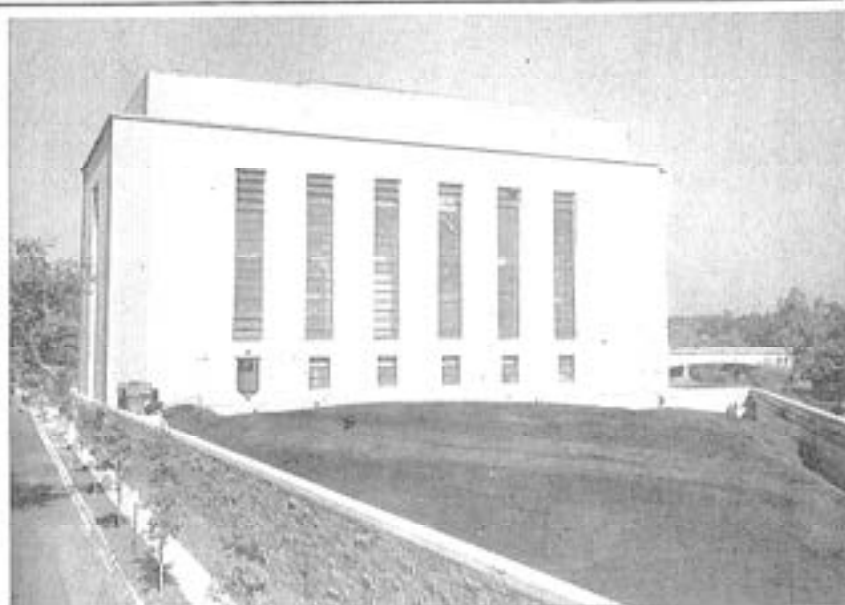
A number of problems in coal handling were solved by Link-Belt belt conveyors, selected by Chas. H. Tompkins Co., Engineers, for use at the West Central Heating Plant, 29th and K Streets, Washington, D. C., built under the direction of the Federal Works Agency.

As shown in the sketch, coal goes to apron feeders under the track hopper to tunnel belt conveyor No. 1 (82-ft. centers) . . . to tunnel belt conveyor No. 2 (198-ft. centers) . . . to tunnel belt conveyor No. 3 (250-ft. centers) . . . to swivel belt conveyor No. 4 (20-ft. centers) feeding outside storage or to breaker. Coal from breaker is elevated to belt feeders and conveyors, discharging to distributing belt conveyor over bunkers (40-ft. centers). The belt conveyor system handles 150 tons per hour.

Link-Belt belt conveyors represent more than correctly designed idlers, pulleys and terminal drive machinery. They are the product of engineering experience that produces the proper relationship between pulley diameters, belt characteristics, material handled, etc. May we help you on your material handling problems?

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CARRIER AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
JOHNS-MANVILLE BUILDING PRODUCTS
OWENS-ILLINOIS INSULUX GLASS BLOCK
PLASTIC TILE — FIREPLACE DAMPERS — ALUMINUM WINDOWS
GENERAL BUILDING MATERIALS

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DISTRICT 0787-0788

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JORDAN PIANO COMPANY BUILDING, 1239 G. St. N.W. WASHINGTON, D. C.

were installed by

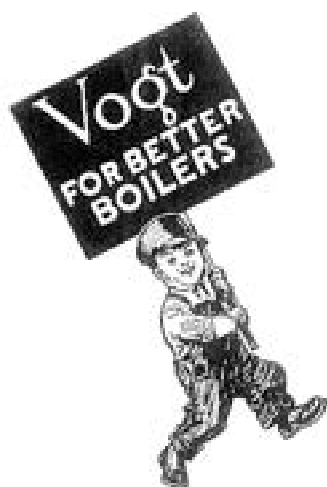
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