
Ocmulgee National Monument

Visitor Center

Historic Structure Report

December 2008

for

Cultural Resources Division

Southeast Region, National Park Service

by

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Winston-Salem, NC



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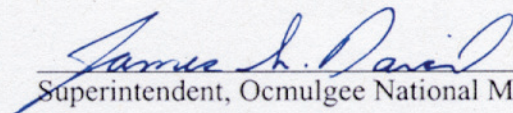
The historic structure report presented here exists in two formats. A traditional, printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeastern Regional Office of the NPS (SERO), and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, the historic structure report also exists in a web-based format through ParkNet, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.nps.gov for more information.

2008
Historic Structure Report
Visitor Center
Ocmulgee National Monument
LCS#: 091399

Cover image: Visitor Center, 2008
(photograph by author)

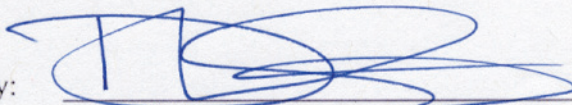
**Ocmulgee National Monument
Visitors Center
Historic Structure Report**

Approved by:


Superintendent, Ocmulgee National Monument

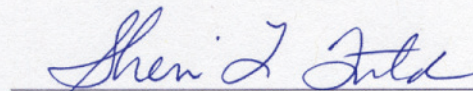
3/20/09
date

Recommended by:


Chief, Cultural Resources Division, SERO

4/16/09
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Recommended by:


Deputy Regional Director, SERO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 1939 advent of construction of the Visitor Center at Ocmulgee National Monument near Macon, Georgia was a watershed event for the National Park Service, though the significance of the event was not widely recognized at that moment. The design of this building was a radical departure from the Park Service buildings previously constructed.

Until the Ocmulgee building, the agency's park facilities were uniformly traditional in architectural expression. These new buildings were often rustic, in acknowledgement of the natural character of the park. Sometimes, as at Lincoln's birthplace, they employed classical architecture to give an air of solemnity to the site. And at other times they mimicked the early architecture of the region. This design revival sentiment was so strong that it typically held sway even if the copied historic style had little or no relationship to the commemorated event or theme of the park, as at Guilford Courthouse.

The Ocmulgee Visitor Center followed none of these cues. Though a rural setting, near a historic nineteenth century community, this site commemorated the early, pre-historic, native-American culture and its mound community that flourished had once flourished there. Vast amounts of artifacts had been recovered through archaeology. Portions of a mound and site features had been exposed and rebuilt. To introduce a new building of an historic European or European descendant design vocabulary would have been ingenuous. Instead the designer, James T. Swanson, a park service official who had also directed the

reconstruction of the site's Earth Lodge, looked to a radical new architecture for expression. He chose Art Moderne, a new, twentieth-century, architectural style that took pride in its break from historical precedent. This style brought new modern form and materials to architecture. At Ocmulgee as was typical of the style, its formed-in-place concrete created massive curving forms. Window and door frames of aluminum or stainless steel held glass in long, shiny, horizontal rows, flooding the interior spaces with natural light. Walls of glass block added shimmering illumination, both inside and out.

Swanson used these materials and architectural style to meld these very new characteristics with the very old elements of the archaeological site. He used the plasticity of the concrete to evoke the image of another building, the visitor center, rising out of the earth, akin to the mounds. He created a tall, tiered rotunda, squarish in plan with rounded corners reminiscent of the Earth Lodge. He gave the rotunda a boldly formed exterior frieze patterned on the incised decorations of the Native American pottery found at the site. He used common colors of the native people, red and black, to highlight the frieze and exterior pathways in contrast to the creamy white building.

The result was a bold solution to a difficult design problem. It was unlike anything the Park Service had ever attempted. As was true for the Modern Movement in general, not everyone embraced the design or the new architectural style of which it is a part. Its advent did enhance the opportunity for

other Park Service buildings of Modernist design.

The important role of the Ocmulgee Visitor Center is not well known nor is it promoted. This is a building that should be a National Historic Landmark. The process of gathering the support documentation should begin immediately with special emphasis on oral histories the sources for which are diminishing daily.

Beneficial to both the documentation and preservation processes, the building retains a great deal of its 1939-51 building fabric and characteristics. These should be retained,

conserved and celebrated. Some parts of the building have been remodeled. It is highly desirable to restore some areas, especially the major public spaces. In general, the building is well maintained and in good condition except for a persistent, long term leakage problem at the terrace.

In summation, the building is a major icon of the Park Service and the Modernist Movement. This building, largely pristine and in good condition, presents enormous opportunities to interpret and promote an important but not well understood epoch in Park Service history, as well as the larger historical context of Modern Architecture.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Locational Data

Building Name: The Visitor Center
Building Address: 1207 Emery Highway, Macon, GA 31201
Location: Ocmulgee National Monument
County: Bibb County
State: Georgia

Related Studies

Binkley, Cameron. *Science, Politics, and the "Big Dig;" A History of the Southeast Archeological Center*. Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, 2007.

Jones, Tommy H. *Earth Lodge Historic Structure Report*. Atlanta, GA: Southeast Region National Park Service, 2005.

Marsh, Alan. "Ocmulgee National Monument Administrative History." Typewritten manuscript. Macon, GA: Ocmulgee National Monument, 1986.

Brown, Jennifer T. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*; Ocmulgee National Monument, Amendment and Additional Information, 1996. Earlier listings were in 1966 and 1979.

Wheeler, Beth J. *Ocmulgee National Monument Cultural Landscape Report*. Atlanta, GA: Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, 2007.

Real Property Information

Acquisition Date: Visitor Center site included in 1936 land transfer to Department of Interior.

Numbering Information

LCS #: 091399
FMSS Number: 78211

Size Information

<i>Total Floor Area:</i>	22,500 s.f.
<i>Ground Floor Area:</i>	13,100 s.f.
<i>First Floor Area:</i>	8,400 s.f.
<i>Roof Area:</i>	9,700 s.f.
<i>Perimeter Length:</i>	690 l.f.
<i>Number of Stories:</i>	Two occupied floor levels
<i>Number of Rooms:</i>	55 rooms 35 rooms at ground floor 20 rooms at first floor
<i>Number of Bathrooms:</i>	Two public restrooms Two staff restrooms One office half-bath

Cultural Resource Data

<i>National Register Status:</i>	Listed; Contributing Structure
<i>National Register Date:</i>	Listed 1966 Documentation accepted 1978 Amended 1996
<i>Period of Significance:</i>	A.D. 900-1100; 1250-1650; 1690-1715; 1936-1951 Only the 1936-1951 period applies to the Visitor Center.

Proposed Treatment

Preservation of the exterior and interior with restoration of key exterior features and interior public spaces to 1951 appearance.

PART I. DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

On the fall line of the Ocmulgee River near Macon, Georgia, is a cluster of earthen mounds that in the 1930s became the largest archaeological excavation in the eastern United States. The importance of the discoveries there brought national attention to the site and attracted experienced as well as young, hastily trained archaeologists. It was during these excavations that much of today's standard ceramic and cultural typology was developed.¹

The succession of prehistoric and historic cultures at Ocmulgee and the intensity of research made it the logical location for a regional museum and laboratory. Both the museum and designation of the land as a National Monument were spearheaded by local proponents with construction carried out by New Deal relief workers.

Ocmulgee's Museum and Administration Building, today's Visitor Center, was built in two major construction phases. Initial construction began in 1938, then was suspended in 1941 as World War II escalated in Europe. After numerous delays, the second phase of construction began in 1950 and the building was completed a year later.

Settlement

The earliest human settlement at Ocmulgee is believed to have been by nomadic Paleo-Indian hunters who arrived about 9,000 B.C., followed by hunters and gatherers of the archaic period, early farmers of the Woodland period, and the more established farmers of the Early Mississippian period. This latter group constructed impressive

mounds and earth lodges before abandoning the area. By the mid-fourteenth century, Late Mississippians had settled downriver from the Ocmulgee mounds and developed the culture later classified as Lamar.²

Hernando de Soto, a Spanish explorer who in 1533 helped defeat the Peruvian Incas, landed at Tampa Bay with his army in 1539 with plans to explore North America and search for gold. He headed north in 1540, traveling with his army through Georgia and the Carolinas, then continued westward across the Great Smoky Mountains.



Figure A-1 Hernando DeSoto. (Governors State University, Illinois)

De Soto's travels through Middle Georgia prompted the relocation and decline of the

¹ Marsh, p. 20; and Wheeler, *Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 2.

² Marsh, "Ocmulgee National Monument Administrative History," p. 3-5. The Lamar Culture covered much of the Southeast and several pottery types were named for the site. Lamar was named for the property owners during the 1930s excavations at Ocmulgee.

Lamar population. A century and a half later, Lamar descendants, known as Creek Indians, resettled the area when a trading post was established at Ocmulgee about 1690 by white traders from Charleston.³

Damages Begin

The significance of Ocmulgee's mounds had been recognized as early as 1739 when the mounds were described in a short written account by one of General James Oglethorpe's rangers. A later account of the mounds was made in 1775 by James Adair, and a 1773 description by the noted botanist William Bartram was published in a 1791 journal of his travels.⁴

The first affront to the Ocmulgee lands was an 1805 treaty requiring the Creeks to cede most of their land east of the Ocmulgee River to the United States government. The treaty excluded an important 15-square-mile strip containing the mounds and known as Ocmulgee Old Fields; nevertheless, in 1826, the Creeks were forced to surrender the remaining land. Two years later, it was laid off into land lots and auctioned.⁵

Additional changes to both topography and use of the site came in 1843 when a railroad line was cut through a portion of one mound, and a roundhouse was built near another. In 1856, the Dunlap family built a farmhouse nearby. A few years later the Macon Home Guard of the Confederate Army built a U-shaped earthworks south of the Dunlap House, and in 1864, General Stoneman's Union troops used the house as headquarters.

Long known as a local landmark, Ocmulgee received serious attention in the early 1870s when historian Charles Colcock Jones, Jr., studied burials there and published his findings. But by this time, neighboring Macon's agricultural wealth was creating a transportation hub. Railroad cuts again damaged Ocmulgee, destroying much of the Funeral Mound.⁶

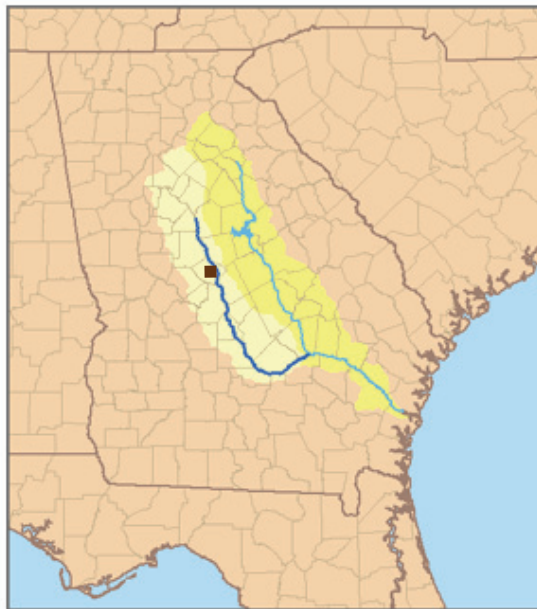


Figure A-2 Ocmulgee's location on the fall line of the Ocmulgee River within the Ocmulgee River Watershed in Middle Georgia, near Macon.

During the next decades the Ocmulgee plateau was altered by a variety of uses, including a fertilizer factory, brickyards, open-pit clay mine, railroad roundhouse, textile mill, dairy farm, and motorcycle course.⁷

Preservation Attempts

Efforts to protect Ocmulgee began in earnest when three prominent Macon citizens started a full-fledged campaign to acquire Ocmulgee Fields and fund archaeological work there. Spearheading the group was General Walter A. Harris, a Macon lawyer

³ Jones, *Ocmulgee National Monument, The Earth Lodge Historic Structure Report*, p. 8.

⁴ American Philosophical Society
www.amphilsoc.org/library/exhibits/nature/bartram.htm

⁵ Ocmulgee Chronology on NPS OCMU website; the mounds were not incorporated into the city of Macon as reported on that site.

⁶ Jones, *Earth Lodge HSR*, p. 9: Charles Colcock Jones, Jr., published *Antiquities of the Southern Indians, Particularly of the Georgia Tribes*.

⁷ Marsh, p. 6.

and local historian; he was joined by Dr. Charles C. Harrold, a surgeon, and Linton M. Solomon, retired businessman. In 1922, General Harris first wrote to the U.S. Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE) regarding acquisition of Ocmulgee Fields and, in 1929, proposed to BAE that Macon supporters help fund Smithsonian excavations. Three weeks later, Bureau Chief M. W. Stirling visited Ocmulgee to evaluate the mounds.⁸

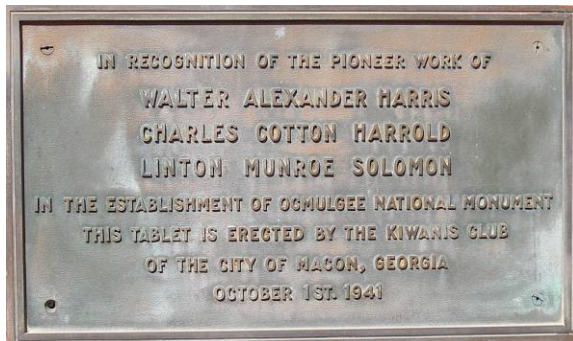


Figure A-3 1941 Commemorative plaque recognizing Harris, Harrold, and Solomon.

The abrupt arrival of the Depression after the stock market crash of 1929 was a setback, but within a few years Harris and the others resumed their efforts to protect the mounds, now with the significant support of Georgia Congressman Carl Vinson. The broader community also was prompted to action in 1933 when a large portion of one mound was removed for fill dirt for Macon's Main Street.⁹ These local efforts not only were successful, but came at a time of best advantage.

⁸ Marsh, p. 7; Binkley, *History of SEAC*, p.16. BAE was formed as a separate, purely research unit of the Smithsonian. In 1965, it merged with the Smithsonian's Dept. of Anthropology; their records became the National Anthropological Archives in 1968. The Bureau had conducted archaeological investigations elsewhere in Georgia in the 1880s.

⁹ Jones, *Earth Lodge*, p. 11; Marsh. In October, the Society for Georgia Archaeology was founded with Harris, Harrold, and Solomon as officers, and the following month joined with the Macon Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Macon Historical Society to initiate acquisition of the mounds.



Figure A-4 Ocmulgee temple mounds.

The New Deal

The Depression was to be the lifeblood of Ocmulgee. When Franklin Roosevelt was elected in 1932, he promised a program that would provide all Americans with security from "the cradle to the grave." With unemployment at an all-time high, Roosevelt was convinced that only massive government intervention could help the collapsed economy; he called his plan "A New Deal for the Common Man."

Launched during the first hundred days of his presidency, a range of New Deal emergency-relief programs put thousands of Americans to work, often in large-scale projects to improve the country's natural and historic public lands. Several New Deal agencies, especially the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Public Works Administration (PWA), were able to help Ocmulgee accomplish its ambitious archaeological program. The CWA was one of the first agencies to arrive at Ocmulgee. Created in November 1933 as part of the PWA, it was an experimental program providing construction jobs during the winter of 1933-34. Unlike other New Deal agencies, it was intended to be temporary and to focus on small projects and repair of existing facilities. Beginning excavations of the mounds on December 20, 1933, the CWA employed 150 unskilled laborers, 50

skilled tradesmen and equipment operators, and five supervisors to the excavations.¹⁰

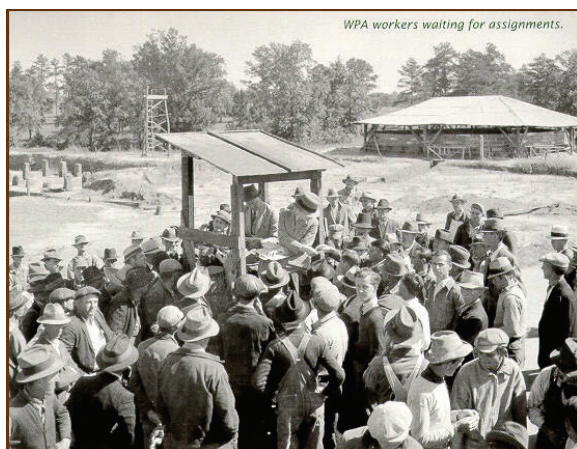


Figure A-5 WPA Workers waiting for assignments, ca. 1935 (<http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/seposter.htm>)

Quite different in scope, the CCC arrived later and was one of the largest groups represented at Ocmulgee, providing about 200 additional workers. It was designed to provide national conservation jobs primarily for young unmarried men. Nationwide, the CCC program put 250,000 young men to work in national parks and forests within three months of its establishment. The CCC camp at Ocmulgee opened in 1937 and remained until after the start of World War II.

Another program important to Ocmulgee was the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA, often called ERA) which made grants to the states to operate programs generally for unskilled jobs.¹¹ The Public Works Administration (PWA) was established a month later in June 1933 to provide construction jobs aimed at more highly skilled and experienced craftsmen.¹² In April 1935 the Works Progress

Administration (WPA) was established as a more general employment program. Under these programs, the 1930s witnessed more archaeological excavation than during the entire previous century. Requiring only a large, mostly unskilled labor force and inexpensive equipment, archaeology projects could be set up almost anywhere unemployment prevailed. The Southeast, with its favorable climate, soon became an important center for year-round "relief" archaeology. The CWA and the Smithsonian Institution launched projects in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, and California.¹³

Of these, Ocmulgee was to have the largest archaeological work team in the United States. An average of 450 relief workers, at one time as many as 600, were involved in the excavations, helping Ocmulgee as well with construction, landscaping, and guide service. They were to be instrumental in construction of the Museum and Administration Building, later to be named The Visitor Center.¹⁴

In 1933, the Smithsonian appointed Dr. Arthur R. Kelly (1900-1979), a Harvard anthropologist, to serve as director of archaeological excavations at Ocmulgee. Excavations began in December 1933.¹⁵ In a 1973 interview, Dr. Kelly recalled the activities at Ocmulgee during the New Deal years:

I had five or six trained engineers, and I had a whole drafting group just to draw profiles....I had half a dozen different unit excavations, each one with maybe a hundred or so people working on it. And in order to keep up with the daily

¹⁰ Marsh, p. 7-8.

¹¹ The earlier ERA under Hoover gave loans for the same purpose rather than grants under the new FERA. Ocmulgee's excavations were transferred to FERA in April, 1934.

¹² Paige, CCC History, Chapter 5.

¹³ History of SEAC conference <http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/seposter.htm>

¹⁴ Marsh, p 7-8; Superintendent's Annual Report, 1938.

¹⁵ Kelly was, "in one way or another, involved in almost all archaeology in Georgia from 1933 until the mid 1970s." Williams, ed., Kelly interview.

work I would go with Charlie Tidwell, a male secretary, and dictate notes all day long...just walking from one dig to another... and the Ocmulgee Museum now has a whole library of the typescripts of those notes. It's literally a library—volumes. I don't know how many hundreds of thousands of words. In addition, I had an enormous collection of profiles and all sorts of the usual recordations, plus all the catalogued collections.... I was maintaining a laboratory at the same time I was doing a dig and had all these people...specialized group of draftsmen did nothing but drafting, engineers did nothing but engineering recordations, illustrators who did nothing except draw burials in place, and these were the people who had art training. People with special education who did nothing on Saturday and Sundays, when there were 2,000 or 3,000 visitors, except act as guides. And I had a special group of people who did nothing except work with burials. They got to be real artists at it. And other people who just dressed profiles so they were absolutely smooth, and you could see every lens.¹⁶

The Earth Lodge

Ocmulgee's Earth Lodge was discovered in 1934 during excavation of the mounds. The best preserved and earliest among several earth lodges in the Southeast, the Earth Lodge and Dr. Kelly's extensive excavations as a whole triggered national attention and brought ever-increasing numbers of visitors. The most visited attraction was the reconstruction of the Earth Lodge, an ambitious project begun in late 1936. The project was led by NPS assistant architect James T. Swanson, Jr., who developed the plans with Dr. Kelly, archaeologist James A. Ford, and NPS engineer Olinus Smith.



Figure A-6 James T. Swanson looks on as General Harris breaks ground for the Earth Lodge reconstruction, November 1936. (Swanson, OCMU Coll.)

Swanson was to feature prominently in the later development of Ocmulgee.¹⁷

Creating the Monument

General Harris and his team had succeeded in bringing funds and workers to Ocmulgee; they now turned once again to federal protection of the mounds. Persistent appeals brought a promise from the National Park Service to “investigate these mounds to determine their value.”¹⁸

In February, Representative Vinson introduced a bill to secure 2,000 acres and establish “Ocmulgee National Park.” The name “Ocmulgee National Monument” was offered as a more fitting name reflecting its “national-monument character, being similar to lands set apart in Western States for scientific purposes....”¹⁹

In June 1934, legislation passed approving the future establishment of Ocmulgee National Monument. The process, however, had been revised to require acquisition of

¹⁶ Pennington, Kelly interview, p. 8-9.

¹⁷ Fairbanks, “The Macon Earth Lodge,” p.107; Marsh, p. 25-27.

¹⁸ Letter NPS Director Arno B. Cammerer to Georgia Congressman Vinson 1/6/1934.

¹⁹ Letter from U.S. Interior Secretary Ickes to Chairman DeRouen 4/16/1934.

the land by public or private donation instead of government appropriation.²⁰ The intensive excavations underway during this time fueled unrelenting help from Macon's citizens. Early in April of 1934, twenty-five civic organizations joined to raise the funds necessary for acquisition and, in June, created a committee of 100 to raise \$25,000.²¹ By May of 1935 the Macon Historical Society had acquired almost five hundred acres. Another fund drive secured additional lands. After legal delays and title problems, the properties were conveyed to the federal government in 1936.²²

Only two days after James Swanson's reconstruction project began at the Earth Lodge, Ocmulgee National Monument was established on December 23, 1936, by Presidential Proclamation No. 2212.²³

PRIORITY ONE: MUSEUM

The enormity of artifacts produced by the excavations surpassed the capacity to analyze and catalog them. Accordingly, in 1938 Dr. Kelly set up a laboratory at the Macon Municipal Auditorium where WPA workers could begin processing the staggering collection of artifacts, notes, photographs, and other documents relating to the excavations. A pottery laboratory was also set up at Ocmulgee for immediate examination of materials from the field, and operated in conjunction with the laboratory in Macon. Artifacts from archaeological sites elsewhere in Georgia and even from neighboring states were sent to the Macon laboratory, creating a collection of over a million objects by 1939 and establishing

Ocmulgee as a regional depository for the Southeast. Storage needs alone underscored the necessity of permanent housing of the collections.²⁴

From the start, Ocmulgee's local promoters had foreseen a museum at the site and as early as 1935, such a building was a major component of the park's first development plan. There was already a pressing need for office space that led to the 1936 remodeling of the Dunlap House for offices for NPS staff and FERA workers.²⁵ At hand as well were the thousands of visitors coming to Ocmulgee each year to see the excavations. In response, a temporary museum was opened in the mid-1930s in a small wooden building. As the archaeological importance of Ocmulgee strengthened and its collections multiplied, Dr. Kelly envisioned a larger museum and regional center to provide laboratory, study, storage, and office space.



Figure A-7 Visitors at temporary museum. (undated photo, OCMU Coll.)

²⁰ Letter from Interior Secretary Ickes to Chairman DeRouen 4/16/1934. The change in funding source was reflected by the altered title of the bill, from "A Bill to Establish..." to "A Bill to Authorize the Establishment..."

²¹ Marsh, p. 10-11.

²² Jones, *Earth Lodge*, pp. 13, 58; Marsh, p. 14-16.

²³ Pursuant to the Act of 14 June 1934 (48 Stat. 958).

²⁴ Marsh, p. 23; Binkley, *History of SEAC*, p. 16-17; Superintendent's Annual Report, 1938.

²⁵ Marsh, p. 42; letter dated 12/7/1937 to NPS director regarding inspection trip to Ocmulgee Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 1937; also 2 sheets of remodeling plans drawn April, approved June 1936. OCMU-A CD disk, p 3, 4.



Figure A-8 Participants in the 1939 Southeastern Archaeological Conference at Ocmulgee.
(<http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/seposter.htm>)

Master Plans

The Park Service also saw Ocmulgee as the logical location for a regional museum. The preliminary plan of 1935 was finalized in 1937 as a six-year master plan.²⁶ Later plans identified its three-fold purpose: to house the administrative offices of the Monument; to provide fireproof storage and study space for artifacts in well-equipped laboratories; and to provide facilities for public interpretation. By 1938, construction was underway.²⁷

The museum was to encompass more than Ocmulgee. The superintendent reported, "Perhaps most important for the whole picture of Southeastern Archaeology is the building and establishment of a great display

and research museum at Ocmulgee....a center for continued scientific investigation in Anthropology in the Southeastern United States."²⁸

The need for a regional center stemmed from the pace of the region's excavations. Relief projects were producing unprecedented numbers of artifacts, yet no chronology of Southeastern prehistory had been developed to help identify and interpret the findings. Recognizing the need for a uniform set of standards, archaeologists James B. Griffin and James A. Ford organized a Conference on Southeastern Ceramic Typology in May 1938. Later that year, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference was organized in Alabama, and in 1939 held its annual meeting at Ocmulgee as construction on the new building progressed.

²⁶ Binkley, *History of SEAC*, p. 17; Superintendent's 1939 Annual Report reported 41,000 visitors in a year. Preliminary plan was developed by Representative Vinson, General Harris, and Dr. Harrold.

²⁷ Ewers, 1940 "Exhibit Plan for Ocmulgee National Monument," p. 2.

²⁸ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1939.

Superintendent John Ewers closed his 1939 annual report with a hopeful prediction:

With the work of the past year in mind it takes very little imagination to look ahead toward the Ocmulgee National Monument of the future – a beautifully landscaped park area, with paved roads and ample parking areas, with well-trained rangers..., with a modern museum in which aspects of the story of Indian occupation not easily interpreted in the field will be brought out in a series of attractive, graphic popular exhibits. It will be a museum where archaeologists can meet... and consult large collections of safely stored ... artifacts. Then truly Ocmulgee National Monument will be a center for popular education and scientific research.²⁹



Figure A-9 John C. Ewers, curator and author of 1940 Exhibit Plan; later became superintendent. (Smithsonian Institution Libraries, www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/BAE/Bulletin164/jcewers.jpg)

THE ARCHITECT AND HIS DESIGN

The Architect

Among the significant figures associated with Ocmulgee's success was James T. Swanson, Jr., called Jimmie.³⁰ Swanson had begun the reconstruction of the Earth Lodge in 1936 just two days before Roosevelt's

proclamation establishing Ocmulgee as a National Monument and was immediately named Acting Superintendent. As such, he continued ongoing projects: archaeological excavations, off-site lab work, development of the park for public use and education, and of course his Earth Lodge project. He left Ocmulgee in February 1938 to work as Assisting Architect at NPS.

Available records do not reveal how Swanson came to be the designer of the Museum and Administration Building nor how his controversial design was approved, but it is likely that his close work with the people and projects at Ocmulgee made him the natural choice. In a letter of February 1937, Swanson advised Herbert E. Kahler, NPS Coordinating Superintendent, that he had studied "...the Museum problem and I expect, within the next several weeks, to have prepared studies for the preliminary plans for submission to Mr. Vint's office...."³¹

Swanson was not a major Park Service architect. Records show him only with a minor role in the Skyline Drive project in Shenandoah National Park, where he was listed among several "other assistant landscape architects or technicians."³² It appears further that his various titles while working at NPS included assistant architect, assistant landscape architect, and architect, though these titles may not reflect his actual work.³³ Though his earlier experience may have been slight, as designer of the two major construction projects at Ocmulgee he

²⁹ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1939.

³⁰ Apparently spelled Jimmie, but spelled Jimmy in transcript of Kelly interview.

³¹ Letter dated 2/3/1937. Thomas Vint oversaw architecture and landscape architecture for NPS from the late-1920s to the 1960s.

³² National Register nomination, Skyline Drive Historic District (Boundary Increase), p. 8-33.

³³ An unpublished NPS manuscript reported that some architectural personnel held positions with titles different from their duties. Tweed, *Rustic Architecture*, App. A.

is the individual most responsible for the park's above-ground appearance.

Swanson (James Trotter Swanson, Jr., 1/18/1909 - 1/1980) had received his BA in Architecture from Rice Institute in 1931. He apparently left the Park Service in 1939 and served in the Navy during World War II. After the war, Swanson worked for Alfred Hopkins, a NY architect well-known for prison and hospital designs; for Fort Worth architect Wiley G. Clarkson; and for architect Claude E. Hooton of Houston and New Orleans until 1951 before working on an Air Force project in Morocco. In 1955, Swanson opened his own firm in Houston designing schools and office buildings. The Ocmulgee building appears to be his only principal work before this time.³⁴

... and His Design

Swanson's design for the building was an accomplished piece of Art Moderne architecture representing a daring new style. Modernistic architecture was introduced to the United States in 1922 when an Art Deco design won second prize in a competition for the *Chicago Tribune's* headquarters building. Although not selected, the design was widely publicized and Art Deco became the popular new architectural style.³⁵ Used first by California and New York architects, Art Deco was spreading to other regions, generally in urban areas, by the late 1920s. It was the first nationally popular style in the U.S. to break from classical revival architecture and Victorian adaptations, and paid scant notice to local or regional

tradition. While popular nationally, it remained uncommon in Georgia.³⁶

Art Deco led to Art Moderne. Essentially ornamental with stylized designs and vertical emphasis, Deco became more abstract as it moved toward the Art Moderne style's new emphasis on smooth surfaces, curving corners, and a more horizontal effect. It was not unusual for a building to include both Art Moderne and geometric Art Deco influences.³⁷

Swanson's confident design for Ocmulgee's Museum and Administration Building belies his relative anonymity. The building is a sculptural showpiece of the Art Moderne style, revolutionary in both design and material. Formed concrete provided the plasticity of building material to create curving forms and sweeping turns. Walls of glass block established a new pattern for natural illumination. Aluminum, in doors and windows, was a new construction material and spoke of a new age. Ocmulgee's building emphasizes the horizontal: its wide stairs, low flowing terrace walls, banding at base of the rotunda and again at the frieze, the flat entrance canopy, roof line and restrained cornice, all echoed by the clerestory band and flat upper roofline. The distinctive hint of Art Deco is provided by the color and exoticism of the geometric frieze.

There may have been additional influences to the building's appearance. Swanson's knowledge of Ocmulgee gave him particular insight into the needs and possibilities of the Southeast's premier archaeological complex. A crucial question may be whether his familiarity with the Earth Lodge influenced

³⁴ American Architects Directories (AIA), 1956, p. 547; 1962, p. 689; 1970, p. 897. Hastings H. Hart. *Plans and Illustrations of Prisons and Reformatories*. New York; Russell Sage Foundation, 1922.

³⁵ McAlester, *American Houses*, p. 465. Submitted design was by Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen. The term Art Deco was not common until the 1960s, derived from the *Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs and Industriels Modernes*, held in Paris in 1925.

³⁶ Craig, *Atlanta Architecture*, p. 18. In Georgia, Art Deco and Art Moderne first appeared in Atlanta in about 1930.

³⁷ McAlester, *American Houses*, p. 465-466; Bevis Hillier: *Art Deco of the 20s and 30s*.

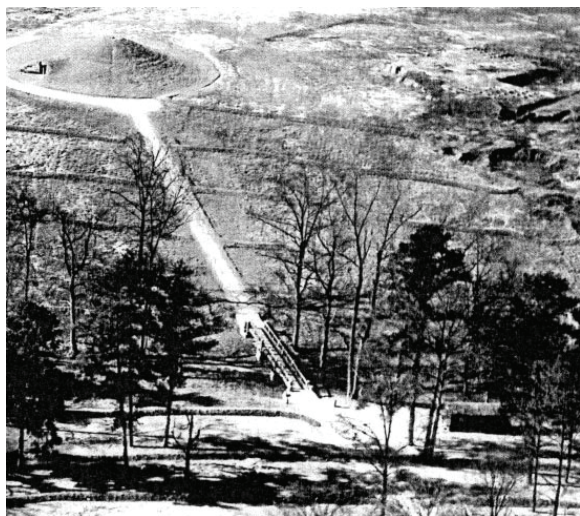


Figure A-10 Aerial photo showing path from site of Museum to Earth Lodge. Temporary museum shows in lower left. (undated photo, OCMU Coll.)

the design. This goes against general perception. In the words of a park planner in 1940, the building's "definitely modern design was chosen because of the lack of any appropriate period design...it is in striking contrast to... the Indian-built mounds [and] the restored ceremonial earthlodge...."³⁸ But was that the case? Swanson had spent the previous years scrutinizing the Earth Lodge in exhaustive detail and was knowledgeable of other circular earth lodges of the Southeast. It is not entirely fanciful to consider the Earth Lodge as an inspiration for Swanson's design.³⁹

He first set up a dynamic relationship with the setting, focusing on the Earth Lodge in particular. For the building itself, he adopted the rounded corners of the Art Moderne. This is reflected not only in the exterior but in the grand entrance space. The dramatic design of the rotunda is integral to display of the exhibits, and once

³⁸Ewers, Exhibit Plan, p. 2.

³⁹ Swanson worked on the museum design and the Earth Lodge at the same time. In a 1939 letter about electrical details of the museum, he expressed his serious concerns about fungus and deterioration in the Earth Lodge.



Figure A-11 View from the building to the Earth Lodge.

again a focus towards the Earth Lodge is provided by the large southern window.

Apart from any parallel Swanson may have intended with the circular Earth Lodge, his design clearly deviated from common practice within the Park Service. Not only was it a novelty in Georgia, Swanson's design was a radical departure from long-established Park Service precedents. In the 1920s, the Park Service established a policy of rustic design for its new construction emphasizing natural materials and associations with the landscape. Buildings were to harmonize with their surroundings without needless disruption of the scene. Using materials such as native stone and logs, the Park Service built rustic fences, bridges, entrance gates, signage and even bathroom and maintenance sheds. The rustic style became a hallmark of national parks.

Another design concept for Park Service buildings was a philosophy of harmonizing with local architecture. For instance, in



Figure A-12 NPS rustic style as seen in 1934 Ranger Station, Yosemite National Park (www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/rusticarch)

1935 the Park Service built a Moravian Revival-style superintendent's residence and visitor center at Guilford Courthouse, copying the Germanic architecture of the nearby Moravian town of Salem, and in 1937, built an adobe office building in Santa Fe and a Spanish mission style museum at Tumacacori in Arizona. All of these were modeled after the historic architecture of neighboring communities.

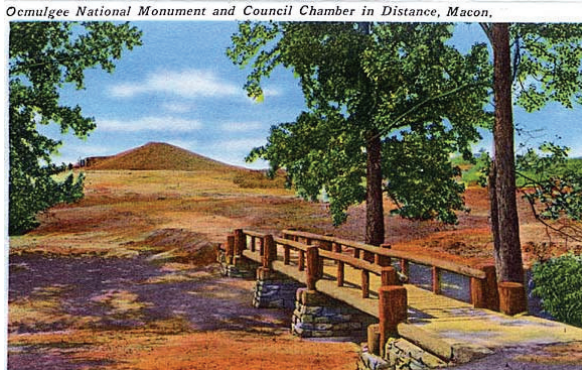


Figure A-13 Earth Lodge and bridge. (Undated postcard)

Ocmulgee presented an unusual situation. Both its environment and purpose were archaeological, and the only existing building, the 1856 farmhouse, had no relationship to that focus. A bridge leading visitors to the Earth Lodge had been built in the rustic style with the characteristic stone piers and log railings. But Ocmulgee's new museum was unlike other Park Service

projects; it was to include a full complement of administrative offices, visitor facilities, and research laboratory. At the time, most Park Service visitor facilities were intended for a single purpose, and displays were customarily free-standing signboards.

Swanson's response was unprecedented. He chose the Art Moderne, a new architectural style that eschewed historical precedent, to give form to his vision of the Museum and Administration Building. The building is the first, in fact the only, Art Moderne visitors' building constructed by the Park Service. Ocmulgee certainly made more palatable the designs of those that followed, such as Mitchell/Giurgola's 1960 Wright Brothers National Memorial Visitor Center at Kitty Hawk, NC. Ocmulgee was also a pioneer as a multi-purpose facility; it would be decades before the Park Service built another multi-use Visitor Center.⁴⁰

Mission 66

In the years after Ocmulgee's first phase of construction, the Park Service's rustic architecture trend subsided. The 1930s had brought relief workers and rapid expansion to parks throughout the country, but World War II brought an end to both new construction in the parks and the painstaking maintenance required of rustic architecture. The lull in construction continued long after the war. The parks were described in 1949 as "victims of war" by Newton Drury, director of the National Park Service, neglected and in desperate need of funds for maintenance.⁴¹ The result was Mission 66, a ten-year NPS program to improve visitor services by 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of

⁴⁰ In 1931-32 an Art Deco shaft was built as a commemorative monument at the Wright Brothers National Memorial. The 1939 streamline moderne Bathhouse at the San Francisco Maritime Museum was built as a joint project of the City of San Francisco and the WPA, and was not transferred to the Park Service until the 1970s.

⁴¹ Tweed, *Rustic Architecture*, Chapter VI.

the Park Service. Basic to the program and a new concept was a Visitor Center in each park as a central, multi-function facility for visitors. Over one hundred new visitor centers and additions to existing museum buildings were commissioned in the years from 1956 to 1966.⁴²

Ocmulgee did not receive the physical changes that Mission 66 brought to many parks. Its Museum and Administration Building was decades ahead of the pack, its design already fulfilling the new requirements. The building, however, did receive a new name after Mission 66 planners coined the term "visitor center" to describe the new building type.

Today, Swanson's building is recognized as a minor icon of modern architecture and a watershed event in National Park Service design.

⁴² Allaback, *Mission 66*, Appendix III

B. CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE

In the 1930s, extensive archaeological excavations conducted at Ocmulgee Old Fields created the largest archaeological dig in the eastern United States and one of the most significant archaeological projects initiated by the federal government during the Depression. Relief workers produced a vast collection of artifacts and data that became central to the development of regional archaeological classifications that remain in use today.

With the addition of artifacts from other sites in the Southeast, Ocmulgee was fast becoming a regional archaeology center. It was evident by the mid-1930s that the wealth of material demanded a permanent museum to exhibit and house the collection, as well as ample space for administrative and laboratory facilities.

After tireless efforts by local promoters and the National Park Service, funds were received for construction of a museum and administrative building. Selected as architect was James T. Swanson, who had supervised the reconstruction of the Earth Lodge. Work began on Swanson's ambitious Art Moderne design in 1938.

EVOLUTION OF DESIGN

Choosing the Building Site

Ocmulgee's new building was to be located on a rise at the northeastern edge of the archaeological area in an open grove of pines and gum trees.¹ The site was well-chosen, separate from the archaeological features yet overlooking the Earth Lodge. The careful positioning of the building is evident today. The building's design complements its location in relation to the archaeological site. At the building's impressive front, or east elevation, attention

is directed toward the building with its wide stairs, towering two-story presence, and glistening glass entry portal. On the relatively stark south side, however, the focus is shifted away from the building toward a stunning open vista to the south.

In contrast to the curving walls and flowing sweep of the front stairs is a stark straight flight of stairs leading to an arrow-straight walkway to the Earth Lodge. This abrupt variation in design directs attention to the true focus of the park, the Earth Lodge.



Figure B-1. Aerial photo showing walkway from Museum site in foreground to the Earth Lodge. (Undated photo, OCMU Coll.)

Plans of March and October, 1938

The earliest available drawing of the Museum and Administration Building is a schematic plan of 1938 labeled "Designed by & Drawn by Swanson 3-12-38."² Swanson's plan showed the main rotunda

²Plans dated 3/12/38, sheets 8 and 9, OCMU-A CD disk, p. 105. Swanson is shown as designer on all labeled early plans. A later set of drawings, marked "Advance Print 7/20/39" is labeled "Designed by: Swanson," and on another line, "Designed by: Swanson & Nevins."

¹Ewers, Exhibit Plan, p. 3.

fronted by a terrace wrapping the front and south side of the building. The majority of the upper level was devoted to exhibits. Behind the rotunda were spaces for offices, a 180-seat auditorium with stage, and a prominent exhibit gallery winding from the north side of the rotunda around the north and rear of the building. This was to be the main exhibit space displaying a timeline of Ocmulgee's prehistoric cultures and leading visitors to the auditorium. Part of the south wing was to be occupied by administrative offices, to include a clerk's office, the Superintendent's office, and library. Across from the wing was the Ranger's Office. The spaces on the lower level were devoted to the study and curation of archaeological materials with significant space identified

for artifact and record storage. The size of the building was felt to be in "keeping with the needs of the Monument," seen as a center for research in Southeastern archaeology and therefore the logical place for storage of materials from other excavations in the region. The collections at that time "comprised nearly a million and a quarter specimens, a number that is probably considerable larger than that of any other Park or Monument." By 1940, arrangements had already been made for acquisition of collections from the Mississippi Valley and from a NPS site at Santa Rosa Island, Florida. Ocmulgee's building would provide needed space for cleaning, cataloging, preserving, and restoring artifacts and pottery, and for their

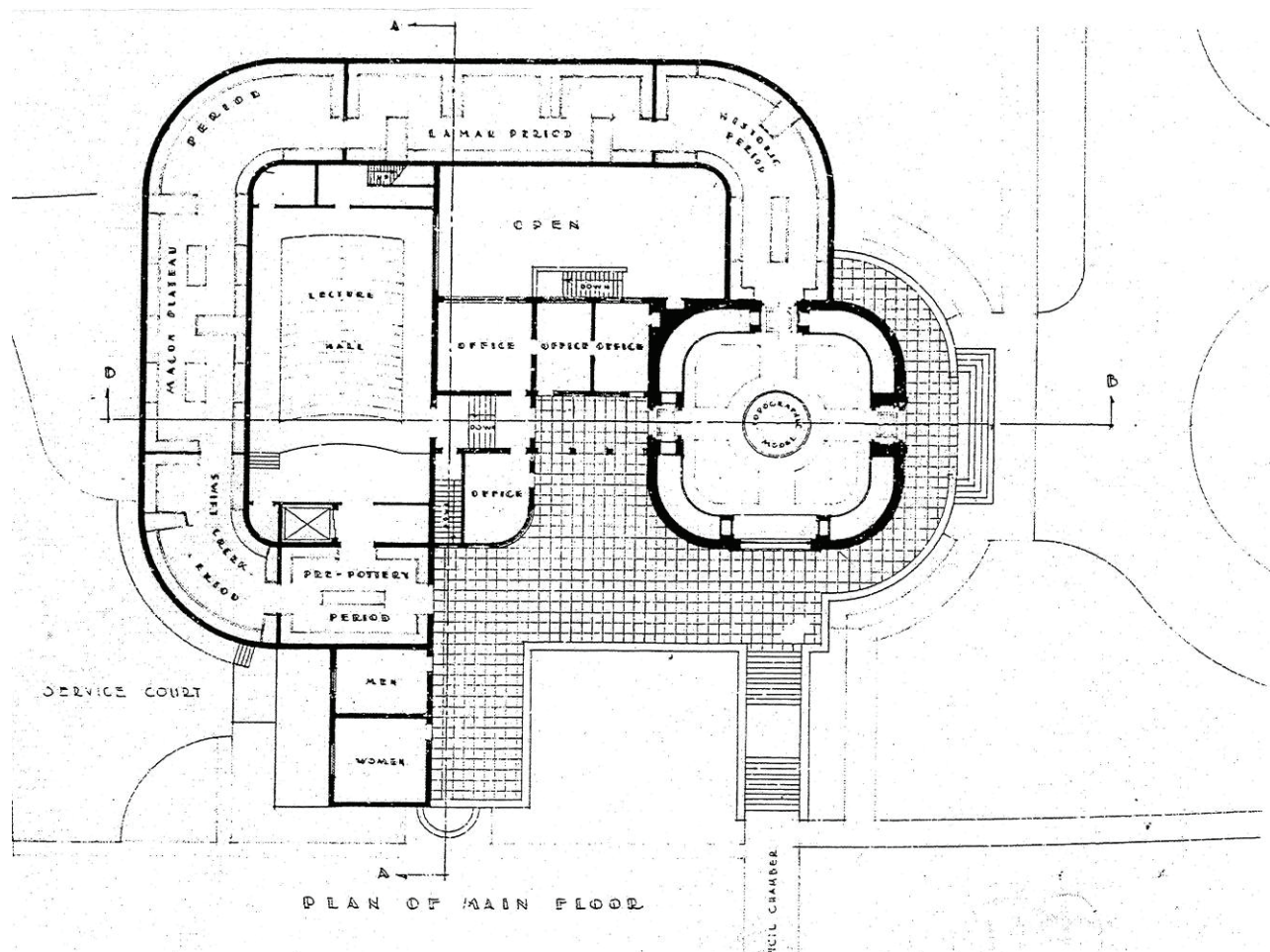


Figure B-2. Main floor plan on Swanson's 3/12/1938 drawing. (OCMU-A CD disk, p. 105)

scientific study. The spaces were arranged to allow for “the greatest economy in time and motion.”³

While the design of both interior and exterior remained predominantly unchanged from Swanson’s first plan, its early evolution is evident from a comparison with later plans. Perhaps the most significant was a series of three alterations to the front steps apparently made after construction had begun. The March 1938 plan (Figures B-2 and B-3) showed the initial design, a front stairway with U-shaped square-cornered front steps. Notable was the absence of cheek walls.



Figure B-3. Swanson’s 3/12/1938 elevation shows early design of stair, frieze, clerestory, front entrance and front ornament. (OCMU-A CD disk, p. 105)

The October 1938 plans, however, showed a second design, a stepped, straight-sided cheek wall extending straight out from the terrace with rounded end and no outer flare.⁴ The same design was illustrated in a watercolor rendering (Figure B-4) and apparently was thought to be the final design. In 1939 when grading had begun and some building sections had been poured, a photograph (Figure B-5) shows the wood form in place for pouring concrete for the October cheek wall design; later drawings

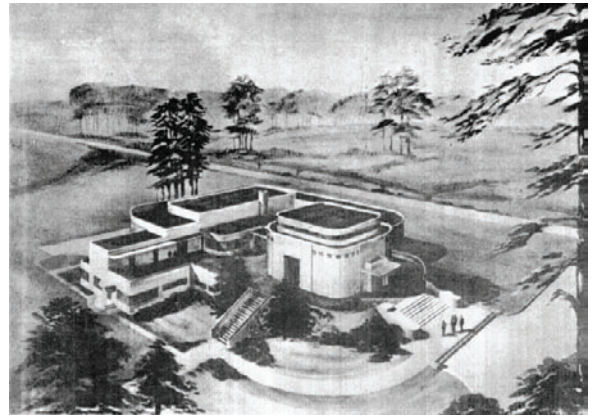


Figure B4a. Watercolor rendering of proposed building. (Undated, probably 1938, OCMU Coll.)

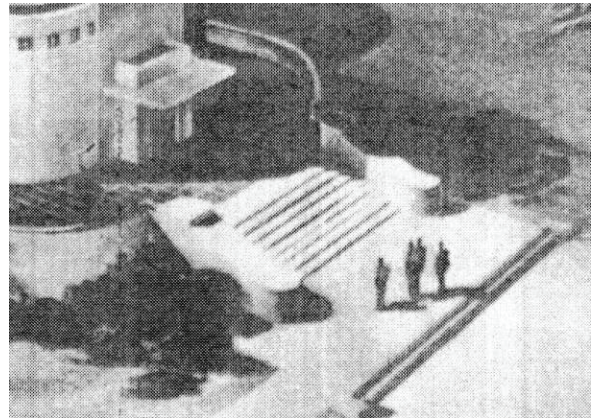


Figure B-4b. Close-up of rendering showing second stair design. (Undated, probably 1938, OCMU Coll.)

confirm that the concrete in fact was poured.⁵

The stair design was to change again, taking on the present appearance later in 1939. This third design was apparently underway when a plan sheet included the warning, “NOTE! See Later Detail for Cheek Walls & Steps,” and by December, plans showed the sweeping, raked flare present today.⁶

⁵ Inset dated 9/22/1939 on plan sheet 8 shows “Detail of Cheek Wall above Existing Pour.” OCMU-A CD disk, p. 191.

⁶ Plan sheet is dated March 1939; the Note was added, perhaps associated with a penciled approval six months later: “OK 9/22/39.” Also, “Key to Gallery Arrangement” dated 12/9/1939, #2002C, OCMU-A CD disk, p. 113. This design is also on 12/18/1939 landscape planting plan, p. 216 of same disk.

³ Ewers, Exhibit Plan, p. 4-5.

⁴ Plans dated 10/21/1938.

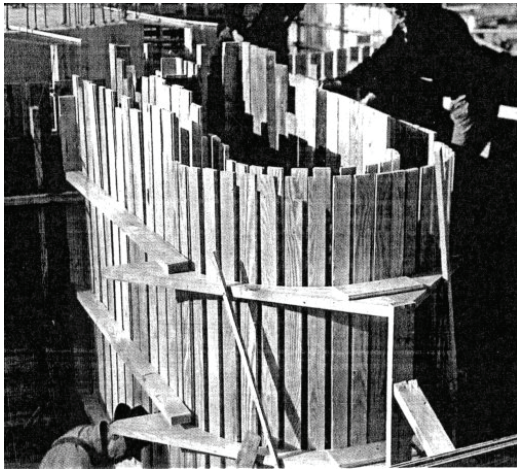


Figure B-5. Form in place for second design of cheek wall for front steps. Part of Unit I-B. (1939 photograph, OCMU Coll.)

Another major change to the early drawings was the design and placement of the frieze and the band of glass block. It appears that these also went through at least two design changes. The March 1938 drawing (Figure B-3) shows a double frieze, unlabeled but perhaps of incised concrete. The clerestory is circled by a continuous, though segmented, band; the segments suggest that the band was glass or glass block. A second design is shown on the watercolor rendering probably made in 1938 (Figure B-4). In place of the double frieze is a line of squares, the material indistinguishable though perhaps glass block. In a change from the March drawing, the frieze is interrupted by a wide, unadorned, slightly projecting entrance bay framing a new entrance design. The clerestory is wrapped with a band of similar scale to the March elevation; it is difficult to discern from the watercolor whether the band is continuous or segmented, or whether the material is glass or solid.

The design was changed again in 1939. Drawings of March 1939 show a frieze of size and location similar to actual construction, specified as “Precast Ornament” without detail. The clerestory design is also as built, a ribbon of horizontal

panels of glass block (“glass brick” on the drawings) with wider spaces setting off the central panel above the entrance. A watercolor included in the 1940 exhibit plan (Figure B-6) shows this design with the frieze further developed to show the colored geometric pattern. These later plans and watercolor also show the revised entrance vestibule.⁷

Other exterior changes made after Swanson’s initial plans of March 1938 included elimination of an intermediate landing on the side stairs, the significant addition of the glass block entrance vestibule leading from the side terrace, and the substitution of a square corner for the earlier rounded corner of the rangers’ office off the side terrace. Several changes were also made to bathrooms. Both 1938 plans showed bathrooms located in the south wing with exterior access from the terrace, the March plan showing two bathrooms and the October plan showing four.⁸ By 1940, all four had been moved inside, north of the central corridor. The rooms spanned the full length of the hall, requiring a considerable amount of space to accommodate one room each for white women, ‘colored women,’ white men, and ‘colored men.’ Separate toilet rooms for the races were required by Georgia law.

Despite the segregated bathrooms, their presence indicates that both races were allowed to use the park in an era when that could not be assumed. There is some question, however, whether colored patrons were allowed to visit the park only on certain days.

⁷ Plans dated March 1939, OCMU-A CD disk, p. 190.

⁸ Plan dated 10/21/1938 showed white women’s bathroom larger than white men’s and two smaller rooms for ‘colored’ women and men.

The Terrace and Frieze

Color was an important element of the design and created a dramatic effect absent from the building today. A 1939 plan for the terrace specified its bold colors. Paving tiles were red outlined by an eighteen-inch-wide black border. The band outlined the whole of the terrace, edging the outer parapet wall, the rotunda, and the walls of the rear offices. The border signified the relative importance of the two stairs. At the side stair, the black band continued across the opening with only a slight projection towards the top step. At the front stair, however, the band accentuated the sweep of the stair, following the angle of the cheek wall to its dramatic lower curve.⁹

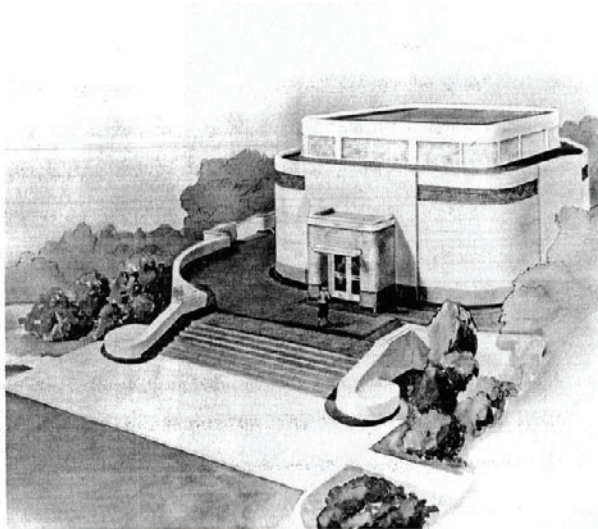


Figure B-6. Rendering showing third cheek wall design and color patterns on step, terrace, and rotunda walls. (Undated, probably 1939, OCMU Coll.)

This color scheme was described in an exhibit plan written in 1939-40 and referencing “a wide stairway, Indian red in color and bordered by a narrow band of black, flanked by concrete pilasters.” The description includes the banding around the rotunda, “tastefully decorated with a colored

frieze bearing an incised geometric design adopted from the rim decoration of an Ocmulgee Fields pottery vessel.”¹⁰

Swanson specified the size and placement of the frieze, calling for “precast ornament.”¹¹ His input in the geometric Art Deco detail is not known, although a mix of Art Deco with Art Moderne was characteristic of Moderne buildings. Drawings of the frieze were prepared by the Branch of Plans and Design, of which Swanson was a part.



Figure B-7. Frieze pattern derived from incised patterns on Lamar Pottery.

The dark banding of the frieze worked in concert with the terrace colors and banding to reinforce the horizontal aspect of the building. Swanson may have chosen these colors expressly for their similarity to the characteristic colors of Lamar pottery, generally black with exposed areas of red clay. This balance of contrasting color is shown in watercolor renderings, also produced by the Branch of Plans and Design (Figures B-4 and B-6).¹²

⁹ At the side terrace, the paving plan specified “red 1½-inch concrete tile, flush ½” joint 12” on center [emphasis noted on plan]. Stair details stated: “Up 7 risers @ 6 inches; 13[?] inch treads. Cement finish risers and treads. Scored joints as shown.”

¹⁰ Ewers, Exhibit Plan, p. 17.

¹¹ March 1939 elevations, sheets 8 and 9 of drawing #2006.

¹² Ewers, p. 17; Tweed, *Rustic Architecture*. NPS’s 1937 reorganization moved most of the Branch of Plans & Design to Washington.

PHASE I CONSTRUCTION

1938: A Phased Construction Schedule

Construction began in May 1938 largely with non-skilled labor as a Federal Emergency Relief Administration project under the direction of Reaville M. Brown, ERA Project Superintendent. (The federal program is referred to as ERA in Ocmulgee's documents.) Late in 1938 when ERA funds were running out, the Public Works Administration (PWA) made an outright grant of \$40,000, with \$35,000 of the appropriation available for construction of the building units. The ERA and PWA would each build portions of the building.

A collection of photographs taken during construction show the sequence of work and the quantity of laborers. Grading and excavation for the first basement units was accomplished with shovels and wheelbarrows. Wood forms were then built for each component of the building to shape the poured concrete.



Figure B-8. May, 1938: Breaking Ground. Among those pictured are 2 of the initial promoters of the Monument, General Walter A. Harris (holding wheelbarrow) and Linton M. Solomon (holding shovel). (Black Photo Notebook, OCMU Coll.)

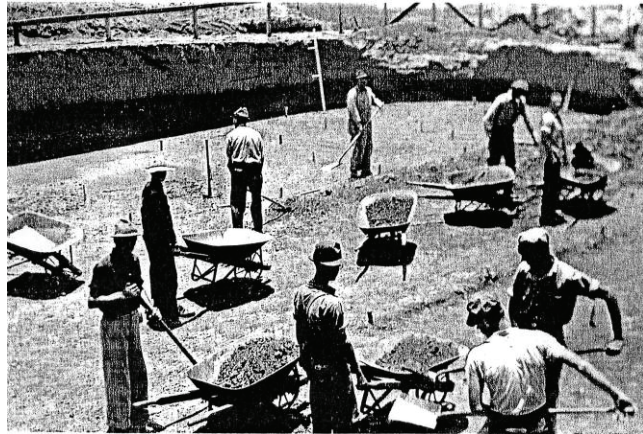


Figure B-9. Men with wheelbarrows excavating basement, 1938. (Black Photo Notebook, OCMU Coll.)

After the concrete was poured, wet blankets were put over the walls to retain adequate moisture during the curing process. A caption typed beneath one of Ocmulgee's construction photographs explained, "Men cover concrete basement walls with wet blankets; others rub walls."¹³



Figure B-10. Wheelbarrow ramp, 1938. (Black Photo Notebook, OCMU Coll.)

The curing procedure was precise. Exposed surfaces were thoroughly saturated after pouring, then covered with wet blankets within fifteen minutes, and leaving them for a three hour period to prevent moisture loss before actual curing began. The next step was to rub, usually with burlap, until the

¹³ Photo captions, OCMU Coll., and Ewers, Exhibit Plan, 1940.

surface had been ground to a paste and all form marks, irregularities, and projections had been removed. The rubbing produced a smooth surface and allowed the paste-like material to reset under proper curing conditions. This process was followed as each component of the building was poured.

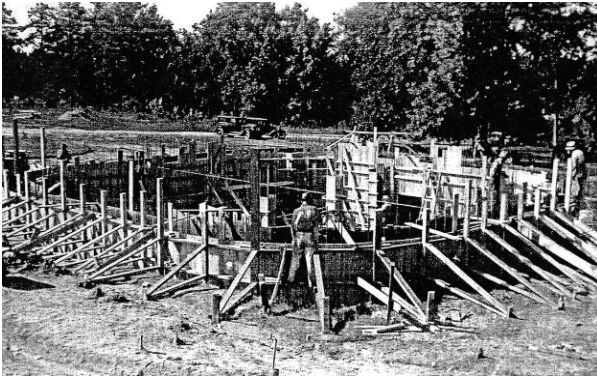


Figure B-11. *Constructing forms for poured concrete for basement walls of Unit I, 1938. (Black Photo Notebook, OCMU Coll.)*

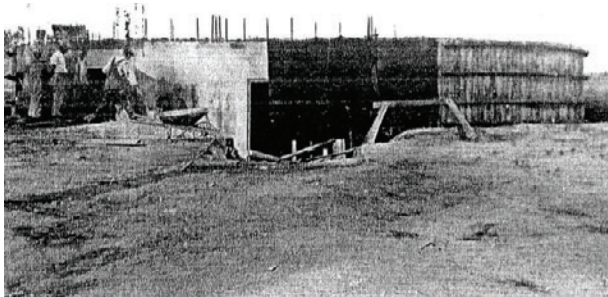


Figure B-12. *"Men cover concrete basement walls with wet blankets; others rub walls, 1939." (Black Photo Notebook, OCMU Coll.)*

Phased Units

From the start, the building was to be constructed in phases. The October 1938 plans showed a schedule with a sequence of building units starting with the basement of the rotunda, Unit I-A, already labeled "Under Construction = ERA." Unit I-B was labeled "Proposed for PWA Program" and included offices, corridor, elevator, toilets, and four areas labeled for archaeological storage. The remaining areas of the lower level were labeled "Proposed Remainder" and included the storage areas beneath the

winding gallery and unexcavated space beneath the auditorium.



Figure B-13. *Completing Unit I-A before starting on unit I-B, 1939. (Black Photo Notebook, OCMU Coll.)*

Plans of April 1939

By April 1939 with construction well underway, architectural plans of the upper level showed only the front portions of the building, presumably portraying the first phase of construction. Included were the front and side terraces, front and side stairs, projecting vestibule, and rotunda with terraced floor. Beyond the rotunda, the plans show an east-west corridor with quarry tile floor. South of the corridor, plans show a room with rubbed tile floor and rounded outer corner facing the south terrace was labeled "Rangers Office." Immediately west of the office, the plans called for stairs leading to the lower level.

On the north side of the corridor, the plans show two more offices, one for the superintendent and one for the clerk. Both show rubber tile floors; between them was a centered entrance flanked by two closets and a small bathroom. The exterior north wall was on line with the north wall of the rotunda. The size and location of this area in the April 1939 plan is similar to Swanson's March 1938 schematic, although the earlier plan provided three offices.

Most notable in this plan was the wall at the west end of the central corridor. The building stopped there at the east wall of the auditorium that had in these plans become

the back wall of the reduced building.¹⁴ The plans excluded the auditorium and all of the winding outer gallery.¹⁵

It is unclear whether these and later plans were limited to show current construction, or if they indicated consideration of a smaller building as World War II escalated in Europe. A later sketch shows the areas completed during fiscal year 1939 (Figure B-14). Unit I-A was unchanged; it encompassed the rotunda footprint and had been completed with ERA labor. Unit I-B included the area beneath the front stairs and the storage areas C and D beneath the terrace and wrapping around portions of Unit I-A. The PWA had built the two storage units and ERA completed the remainder of Unit 1-B. The outline of this

Unit is similar, but not identical to the earlier plan. The sketch also shows Unit I-D completed by ERA; this was behind and south of the rotunda, including the areas for workshop, lab, and archaeology office. Hatching on the sketch indicated the three Units, 1-A, 1-B, and 1-D, were completed.

In his 1939 annual report, the superintendent indicated these units equaled 55 percent of the total basement and together would house the laboratory and workshop for processing and study of the artifacts, as well as storage facilities for the extensive collection belonging to the Monument. Expansion space for future acquisitions was still anticipated. Figures B-15 and 16 show floor plans of the two levels with a bold outline showing the areas completed by 1939.¹⁶

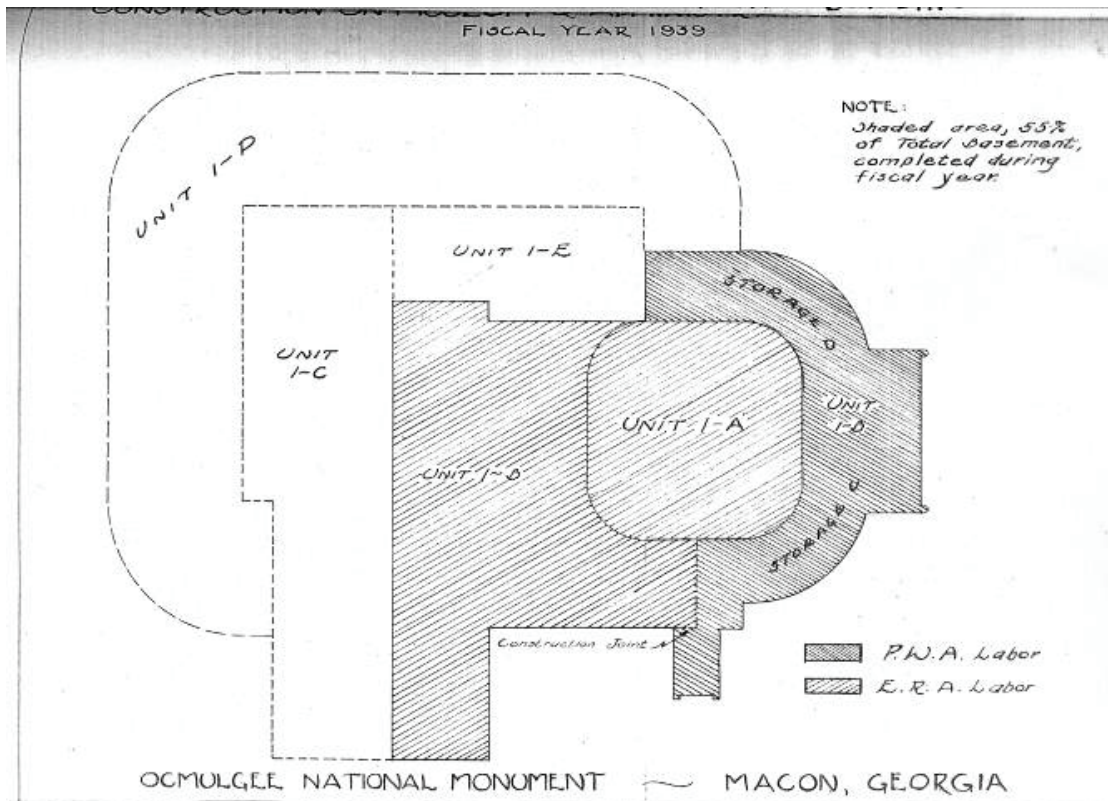
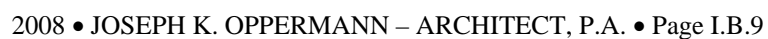
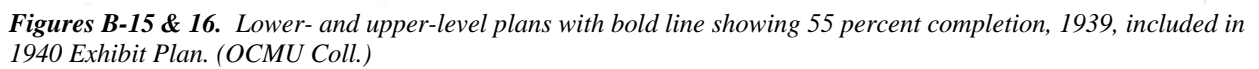


Figure B-14. Lower-level plan with shaded areas showing 55 percent completion, fiscal year 1939, included in 1940 Exhibit Plan. (OCMU Coll.)

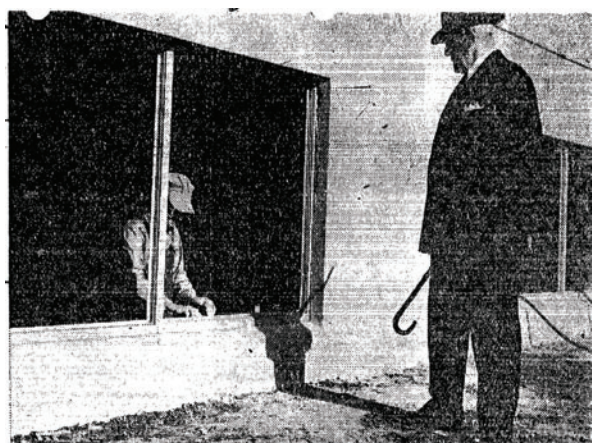
¹⁴ The plan included detailed locations for 4 large dioramas in the rounded corners of the rotunda

¹⁵ Plans dated 4/14/1939 on OCMU-A CD disk, p. 130. Swanson's schematic was dated 3/12/1938.

¹⁶ Supplement to Sheet 3, 1939 Edition, OCMU Master Plan. Plans of 7/26/1939, OCMU-A CD disk, p. 146. Plans of 8/14/1939, same disk, p. 148.



Three other units on the 1939 sketch had not been constructed. These were Units 1-C and 1-D, encompassing the air conditioning room and areas beneath the auditorium, including photography and dark rooms, elevator, staff bathrooms, a second stairhall and small office for archaeologist, as well as the entire footprint of the winding gallery, with the exception of a part of its northern junction with the rotunda where it intersected the terrace.



WHEN CHASE OSBORN inspected the new museum under construction at Ocmulgee National Monument, shown above, he found workmen putting finishing touches to temporary display cases built into the concrete foundation. The cases will house artifacts he shown today and tomorrow at the fourth annual meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference here. (Staff photo by Coke).

Figure B-17. 1939 newspaper photograph showing workman putting finishing touches on temporary display cases built into the concrete foundation in preparation for the fourth annual meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. (News Articles, OCMU Coll.)

These drawings were part of a supplement to the 1939 Master Plan. Also in the plan was an account of the project, stressing the importance of the Museum and Administration Building and giving no indication of a reduction in size.

This building, now under construction, will represent the focal point toward which all visitors to Ocmulgee National Monument will be attracted. It is a concrete structure of modern design. It will house, beside the administrative and technical offices of the monument, a fully equipped archaeological laboratory for the processing and study of artifacts, ample space for the storage of vast

archaeological collections from this and other areas in the Southeast, a large modern museum which will combine with the field exhibits to interpret to the public the archaeological story of this monument and its relation to the entire field of Southeastern archaeology. Other features of this building will be an auditorium and a library. Provision is also made for public rest rooms. At present 55% of the basement has been completed.¹⁷

A comprehensive Exhibit Plan was prepared in 1939 and 1940 by John C. Ewers (1909-1997), at that time Field Curator and later Superintendent. Printed in booklet form, it included black-and-white copies of a series of watercolor drawings of interior and exterior views. Ewers's descriptions give his perspective on the museum's intended appearance and use, concentrating on the rotunda and the winding exhibit gallery. At the time of writing, Ewers still anticipated full completion of the building.

In his annual report for 1939, the superintendent reported that, by the end of September, only basement units 1-A, 1-B, and excavation of the open court were completed. At the time of his report in 1940 (month unknown), all excavations for basement unit 1-C had been completed and work on unit 1-D had begun. In addition, the rotunda, terrace, and ranger and toilet wings of the ground floor, and walks connecting the front and side entrances had been finished. The pouring and finishing of the basement floor, installation of plumbing and plumbing fixtures, and a permanent floor and west wall for the archaeologist's work room were also completed.

In May 1940, "all laboratory personnel, library volumes, artifacts, and laboratory equipment were transferred from the Macon

¹⁷ General Development Supplement to Sheet No. 3, 1939 Edition, Ocmulgee National Monument Master Plan.

Auditorium to the basement of the building,” and a temporary exhibit was set up “in a temporary location of the basement,” occupying 578 square feet of floor space.¹⁸

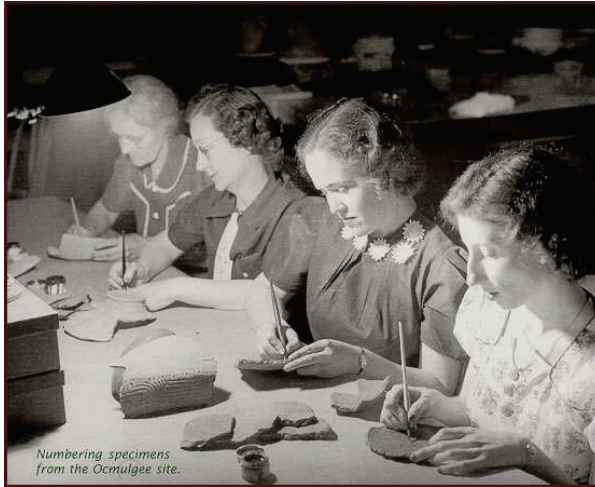


Figure B-18. Lab workers numbering specimens in Museum basement, 1939. (NPS Historic Photograph Coll., Harpers Ferry Center.)

The superintendent appeared optimistic as he described the transformation of the park:

Six years ago all of the land now included within the monument boundaries was privately owned. Part of it was a dairy farm. Other portions were under cultivation. The Indian Mounds were little understood objects of local curiosity. On bright Sunday afternoons crowds gathered around Mound A to watch motorcycle races up its steep sides. Then, toward the close of 1933, the period of extensive archaeological explorations was inaugurated. For five years the area was the scene of exceedingly fruitful digging. Mounds were excavated, long trenches were dug on the plateaus, and significant cultural materials were uncovered. On the basis of the importance of these discoveries Ocmulgee National Monument was established in December 1936. At that time the area more closely resembled the site of a recent battlefield than it did a public park.¹⁹

¹⁸ Superintendent's report for "Travel Year 1940;" Binkley, *SEAC*, p. 17.

¹⁹ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1939.

DELAY AND SUSPENSION

Funding Delays

As early as June 1940, it was known that the air-conditioning would not be installed that year, and in a letter of August 14, 1940, Reaville M. Brown, ERA Superintendent who oversaw construction, made reference to a possible alteration of the program if there was a change in the money allotted. The ERA's non-construction, or white collar, project had terminated, leaving the guide services composed entirely of CCC enrollees. Brown particularly wanted to move office spaces out of the unsatisfactory space in the Dunlap House, transferring the ERA office to the record room in the basement and the superintendent's office into the rangers' room on the upper level. He also hoped to complete storage cases "...as many of the artifacts stored in shoe boxes are in danger of being mixed up again."²⁰

A week later, Brown expressed his concern that "we are very anxious to get moved into the museum building as early as possible....Is there some way these jobs and comments could be hurried up so that we could get busy?"²¹

Finally, in October 1940, one unit had been completed sufficiently to allow NPS staff and FERA workers to move their offices from the Dunlap House to the Museum and Administration Building.²² A pottery lab had been established in the partially completed building to relieve the crowded lab at the Macon Auditorium and provide space for continued examination and pottery

²⁰ 6/29/40 and 8/14/40 letters from Reaville M. Brown, Sup't ERA, to unnamed Asst. Regional Director for Planning & Development Region One; and superintendent's "Travel Year 1940" report.

²¹ 8/22/40 letter from Reaville M. Brown, Sup't ERA, to unnamed Asst. Regional Director for Planning & Development Region One.

²² Marsh, p. 32; also 11/1940 article from unidentified Macon newspaper.

restoration. In his 1940 Exhibit Plan, Ewers estimated that 35 percent to 40 percent of the total building would be completed by the end of fiscal year 1940.²³

In November 1940, a newspaper reported, “foundations are being laid for the auditorium and several basement rooms beneath it. Also in progress is construction of parking areas at the building...by CCC workers.”²⁴

Delays in receiving final plans during construction in 1940 and 1941 generated a heavy correspondence between the multiple federal agencies and divisions involved. Mounting frustration is shown in a confidential letter written September 30, 1940, by Reaville Brown at Ocmulgee to Frank Whitehouse, Associate Engineer in Richmond, Virginia. Brown stressed the need to receive the completed engineering plans:

...Something definite must be done to give us the completed plans. It seems funny to talk about designing a floor system on a building with one quarter of the fiscal year gone and nine months after any previous plans had been received. If there is just a little bit more delay, the work planned for this year cannot be completed. This building has been under design now for over two years. What is the real trouble? It looks as though no one in the Regional Office seems to realize that work carried on like this is bound to be wasteful, but, none of you seem to care so why should I?²⁵

A Macon newspaper, undated but probably written in November 1940, described the work underway at Ocmulgee as 60 percent completed with expectation of completion “by next June 30” and quoted Superintendent Luckett’s comment that there was “more construction and activity at the Ocmulgee

National Monument now than at any national park east of the Mississippi River.” The reporter continued, “If by any chance Mr. Hitler should ever send a bomber over Macon, there would be no safer [place than] the basement of the museum.”²⁶

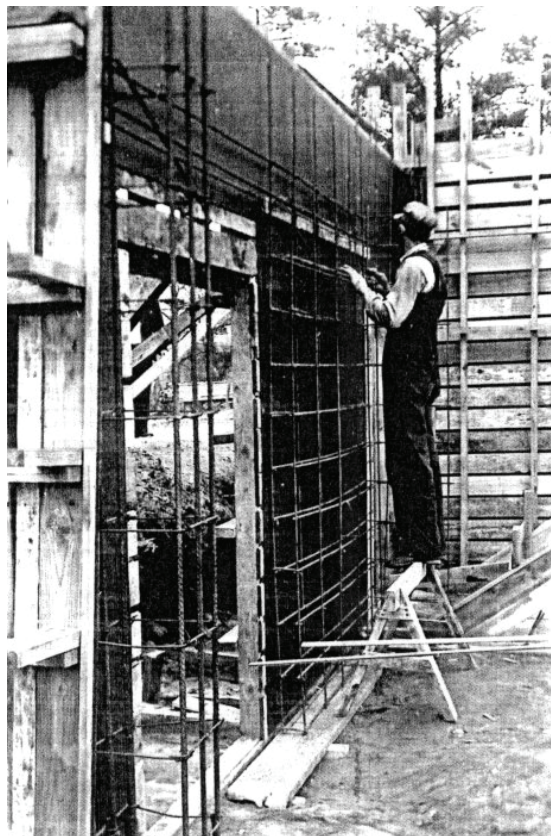


Figure B-19. *Placing steel for the walls of Unit 1-B; photograph caption notes the installation of Presdwood, a hardboard used as forming boards for concrete construction.*²⁷ (Black Photo Notebook, OCMU Coll.)

1941: Suspension of Construction

In mid-1940, administrators had anticipated full completion by 1942 requiring an additional \$93,000.²⁸ They did not reach

²³ Ewers, Exhibit Plan, p.3.

²⁴ Unidentified Macon newspaper.

²⁵ Brown’s letter, from files of Denver Service Center.

²⁶ Article dated 11/1940 in unidentified Macon newspaper.

²⁷ There are several references to form board and Masonite in 1940-41 series of letters regarding details of construction. Presdwood was patented in 1926 by Mason Fiber Company, which became the Masonite Corporation and the generic name for all such hardboards. Gould *et al*, “Fiberboard,” p. 120-125; also Thomson, “Hardwood.”

²⁸ June 25, 1940.

their goals of either money or time. With the approach of the war, low funding required the ERA to describe a reduced construction program for fiscal year 1941. Their plan appears to have formalized the strategy already in place, eliminating the auditorium, some of the office spaces, and the upper level's original winding museum gallery that was the centerpiece of the exhibit plan. Excluded from the lower level were those portions of the basement beneath the gallery, marked loading platform, men's locker room, receiving room, and the storage space not already built.

The need for an augmented national defense tremendously reduced funds, workers, and operations. Near Ocmulgee was Camp Wheeler, a former World War I army training camp closed in 1918. In October 1940, the Army reopened the camp, developing an infantry training center housing 25,000 men. Most of Ocmulgee's CCC workers were called into military service there in 1941.



Figure B-20. "It's Mess Time," Camp Wheeler.
(Undated postcard.)

Only a skeleton staff remained, yet Ocmulgee benefited from the proximity of Camp Wheeler; a small number of CCC workers remained at the park, continuing to work at the park until Congress terminated the program altogether. The CCC camp closed in July 1942.²⁹

²⁹ Marsh, p. 23-24; Paige, *The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942*; An



Figure B-21. Officers' tents at Camp Wheeler.
(Undated postcard.)

Construction on the Museum and Administration Building continued, albeit slowly, until relief appropriations and ERA work halted in November 1941. Major portions of the building had been completed, including the pottery lab and considerable storage space for artifacts, and on the upper level, the rotunda, corridor and offices for NPS and ERA. Temporary exhibits were on display in the lower-level laboratory space. Reports variously estimated the building as 55 percent, 60 percent, or 65 percent completed.³⁰ The last job was a temporary roof put up by relief workers, who also packed artifacts for storage until construction could resume, expected certainly in the near future.

Opinions on the new building were mixed. Though not all in Macon agreed, a 1940

Administrative History, p. 29-34. Camp Wheeler became largest infantry training camp in US; last parade 12/15/1945, closed 1/19/1946. Emory Highway was built to create more direct route to the camp and named for its first commander. www.nps.gov/archive/ocmu/Wheeler.htm. The CCC warehouse was sold and removed in 1963.

³⁰ Walker in Hally, *Ocmulgee Archaeology*, p. 28. Marsh quoted estimates of 65 percent; Macon *Telegraph and News* cited Dr. Kelly's report of 55 percent in 12/30/1945. Temporary exhibit was shown on 7/17/1939 layout plan, OCMU-B CD disk, p. 398.

newspaper article reported glowingly about the “beautiful structure,” encouraging Macon residents to visit Ocmulgee to see “one of the finest buildings of its kind in the United States and one of the most modernistic in Georgia.” A year later, Standard Oil’s “Tours and Detours” 1941 magazine referred to the “striking museum building.”³¹



Figure B-22. Building in the 1940s after construction was suspended. (OCMU Coll.)

The Stagnant Years

Decreased funding during the war reduced staff and halted most maintenance throughout the Monument. Trails, fences, parking lots, and the mounds themselves suffered from vandalism and the lack of workers, and the roof of the unfinished building leaked while construction remained on hold. A few months after the September 1945 end of the war, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes notified the governor of Georgia that construction of the Museum and Administration Building would resume shortly, as conditions allowed.

At the end of December, the Macon newspaper led with a bold headline, “\$500,000 Proposed for Ocmulgee Park; Bill Waiting for Approval of Congress; Top Priority Given Measure.” The article quoted Superintendent Dr. Kelly’s report that the museum was the top priority for funds from

the appropriation, recommending that approximately \$60,000 be spent for completion of the remaining part of the structure “including a library, an auditorium to seat 200 persons, and the main exhibit wings circling the building.” Clearly Kelly considered the winding gallery a part of future construction. The funds were also to be directed towards general upkeep and staffing of the park, for exhibits and tile floors in the museum, for exhibits at the mounds, for staff housing, and for an improved entrance to the park. Despite hopes and needs, funding was not approved.³²

In 1946, Superintendent Kelly reported with some sarcasm that “Physical development continued at a complete standstill.” He detailed his concern about the effects on the building:

In all these particulars of deterioration and failure of physical structures, experience indicates the process to be gradual over a period of four to five years of accumulated neglect, with a sudden precipitation of complete collapse or serious functional breakdown occurring at the end of the period. Many structures had just about reached this stage by 1946. Rehabilitation is an exigent factor in practically every feature standing on the Monument. It cannot be overemphasized that this condition is due to a five year lag in providing the minimum requirements in man-hours, equipment, and materials.³³

It was clear that the rapid deterioration of the unfinished building demanded maintenance. After additional assurances to Ocmulgee from Secretary Ickes, the 1947 federal budget did indeed include appropriations for Ocmulgee, but these were to disappear in compliance with a presidential ban on competition with private businesses for

³¹ November article in unidentified Macon newspaper; also “Standard Oil Tours and Detours,” October 1941, p. 3.

³² *Macon Telegraph & News*, front page, 12/30/1945.

³³ Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1946

building material.³⁴ Again the next year, Ickes “confidently promised” that funds for construction would be a high priority for the 1948 budget. As conditions deteriorated, Ocmulgee’s supporters continued to seek additional financial aid to complete the museum.

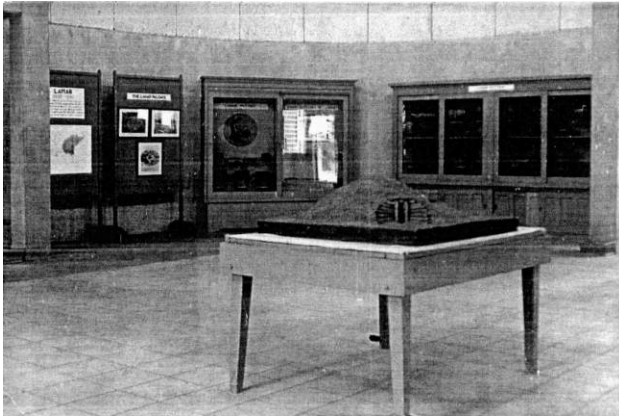


Figure B-23. Rotunda exhibit with model of reconstructed Earth Lodge. (Undated photo, probably 1940s, OCMU Coll.)

Some work on the building may have been done in 1947 by men remaining at Camp Wheeler after its closure. According to a veteran of Camp Wheeler, a small crew stationed there in 1947 used leftover bags of concrete found at the camp to pour floors in the back sections of Ocmulgee’s incomplete building. Foundations of the auditorium and several back rooms had been poured in November 1940 before construction was suspended. Though the report is unconfirmed, it is likely that army personnel remained at Camp Wheeler after its closure in January 1946, to prepare for its 1947 transfer to private ownership. Other workers were there as well when, in 1946 and 1947, the Army Corps of Engineers removed unexploded ordnance at the camp.³⁵

³⁴ Ickes to Arnall, Jan 29, 1946; Annual Report, 1946; Marsh, p. 34.

³⁵ Unconfirmed report by camp veteran who visited Ocmulgee; also Engineering Evaluation for Ordnance Removal: www.formercampwheeler.com/

Nonetheless, the completed portions of the building continued to deteriorate. Funds remained scarce. In 1948, Superintendent Millard D. (Dean) Guy took on the call, advising NPS of the pressing needs of the building and requesting in particular the replacement of the pre-cast tile floor of the terrace, base, border and exterior steps, for which no allotment had been made. “Many of the units are cracked and out of position, permitting seepage of water under the floor. Due probably to settlement, the grade of the floor does not permit proper drainage. Water escaping to the floor bed through cracked border and base units and deteriorated joints emerges through broken steps at the main entrance to the rotunda.” Guy appealed as well for 40 squares of temporary 3-ply, asphalt & felt roofing. He also requested funds to repair the joints of broken steps at the main entrance and to furnish and install aluminum doors.³⁶

Guy’s doggedness secured approval for repairs during 1948. The year had started badly, with no electricity for three weeks after heavy rains flooded the transformer vault. Cables failed again in April. Ultimately, however, renovation was underway. Included were repair or replacement of “all wood doors, frames, and windows...except those in a few needless outer openings which were sealed with finished lumber and painted.” Steel mesh and plaster were used to repair nine window sills, and repairs were made to the permanent steel window sashes and frames.³⁷

EECA/CH04.DOC. *Macon Telegraph*, 8/9/2005. Additional ordnance removal in 1960s, 1990s, and 2004.

³⁶ Superintendent’s 8/10/1948 memo to director.

³⁷ Superintendent’s Annual Report and May 31 and July memos to director, 1948. Sup’t reported “windows of the type have not been manufactured since the beginning of World War II and purchase of the parts may be difficult.”

Inside, joints of the glass block of the rotunda clerestory were caulked and several areas painted, including four restrooms, the rangers' office, upper and lower corridors, and the stairs. Museum cases were renovated and the exterior of the cases "and the border of the concrete floor" were painted "tile red." An undated photograph of rotunda exhibits shows the floor with its darker border. The floor is either of tile or of concrete scored to resemble tile (Figures B-22 and 23). Shelves for pottery display were built in the lecture room in the lower-level south wing, and the superintendent received bids for new metal doors and rubber tile floor covering for the corridor and rangers' office.³⁸

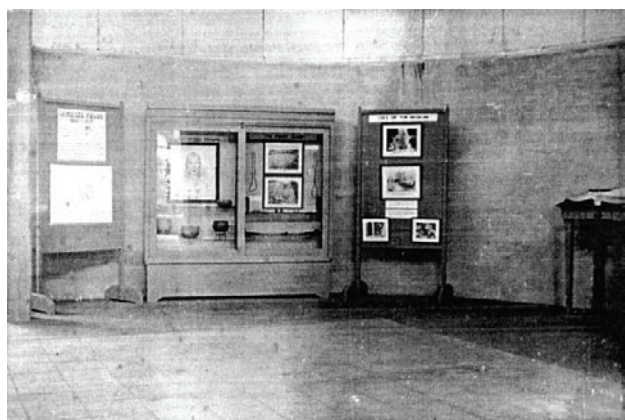


Figure B-24. Rotunda exhibit showing floor and border. (Undated photo, probably 1940s, OCMU Coll.)

These repairs were far from adequate and did not resolve the building's more serious problems. In steadfast anticipation of funding, final drawings for completion of the rotunda were finished in the Region One Office and forwarded to the Director's office for approval.

Guy continued his requests in 1949:

Needless to state, the rapid deterioration of an unfinished building demands much for maintenance. It does not serve the complete purpose for which intended and,

if a public building, creates some doubt as to logical planning. We would like to think that the time is near when a definite decision will be reached in regard to the completion of this building. If funds could be made readily available for finishing the building as originally planned and we could be assured that annual allotments would be sufficient to maintain and operate such an elaborate enterprise, we would fall in line. However, we are not optimistic enough to believe that funds in the required amounts will be provided at any time, certainly not before the existing portion of the building is considered too old for costly additions.³⁹

Throughout these years, the requests for completion were always coupled with the urgency of maintenance. Although unfinished inside and out, several areas of the building had been in use for years.⁴⁰

The Outstanding Derelict of 1949

Millard Guy was fed up, and he expressed his frustration in his 1949 annual report:

The Museum-Administration Building has been the subject of so many reports and discussions since construction was stopped in 1940 that little more than repetition is possible. Approximately 60 percent completed at a cost in excess of \$200,000, it is, in our estimation, the outstanding derelict in the National Park System.

In approaching the building, the visitor first sees 40 squares of temporary roofing on unfinished sections of the building and countless pieces of reinforcing steel protruding in every direction. After parking his car, he sees a massive concrete front with innumerable discolorations, greasy in appearance, from the terrace floor to the roof. He ascends broken steps through which water seeps from under a deteriorated terrace floor. Entering the rotunda, now used as a temporary

³⁸ Superintendent's Annual Report and July memo to director, 1948.

³⁹ Superintendent's 7/10/1949 memo to director, p. 6.

⁴⁰ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1950.

museum, his amusement is more pronounced. He is right in the middle of 8 discarded drug store cabinets used as exhibit cases against a background of mildewed cork sheets stuck on the concrete wall. Continuing through the building, he finds inadequate heating and lighting facilities, leakage into the basement, archeological collections stored in shoe boxes and unfinished room after room.

In a later section of the annual report, Guy discusses exhibits with similar scorn:

In our temporary museum...⁴⁷ of the exhibited items are restored pots and potsherds. Supplementing...exhibits are the Earth Lodge and 3 Indian skeletons....Nothing more do we have to show visitors.

We can tell visitors, many from distant states and foreign countries, that there are approximately 1,000,000 pieces of pottery, weapons, implements, ornaments and skeletons stored in the basement in shoe boxes but they cannot see them; that there is a cornfield approximately 500 years of age on the area but it is now covered with earth; that a burial mound ... is covered with a dilapidated shed and cannot be seen; that the site of a colonial trading post has been discovered.....

Our job of interpreting is very unique in that most of it concerns the invisible. Hidden features make good stories possible but, regardless of factual basis, stories alone will not satisfy visitors.

Superintendent Guy's agitations were corroborated in a newspaper's brutal description of the building:

The museum at the Ocmulgee National Monument looks as if it had a bad case of measles. The building has "weathered" in such an unpleasant fashion that the splotches are unhealthy looking. And there is no money for any sort of repaint job. The beauty of the design that forms the frieze to decorate the museum is lost in

the stained, soiled, run-down look of the building.

Broad and imposing steps lead to the entrance but at least one step is so badly broken that the visitor's eye can't miss it, though his foot may.

Once you get inside the rotunda of the unfinished building, you can scarcely look at the meager display of Indian life, because your eyes turn to the mottled, blistered, peeling walls. If the exterior has measles, the interior has pox! If the outside looks unhealthy, the interior looks as if it were almost on its death bed.⁴¹

The article reported that "a broken drain in the basement leaves the floor wet all the time." Despite these conditions and underlying Guy's concern was his estimate of yearly visitation of 32,953 and over 6,000 cars.⁴²



Figure B-25. Cars in Museum parking area. (Undated photo, OCMU Coll.)

PHASE II DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

On November 28 and 29, 1949, the Ocmulgee Auxiliary Corporation and NPS officials from both Washington and regional offices met to inspect the building and "discuss plans regarding rehabilitation and

⁴¹ Article, apparently May 1949, from unidentified Macon newspaper.

⁴² Superintendent's Annual Report, 1949.

completion.”⁴³ To their mounting aggravation, the 1950 budget contained appropriations for other NPS properties, but nothing for Ocmulgee. Congressman Vinson and Senators Walter George and Richard Russell then tried another tactic, sly and successful. “Rehabilitation” funds of \$227,700 were appropriated, which were applied to “physical improvement.” Completion of the unfinished building was back on track.

1950: Phase II Construction Begins

Ocmulgee had finally received funding, but only \$135,000 was made available for the building from the \$227,700 provided in the appropriation, requiring substantial modifications to earlier plans. Records from this time are limited, but it appears that revisions were made by architects in the NPS Regional Office and completed in April 1950. Preliminary Drawings of December 21, 1949, are labeled to show plans and design by A. J. Higgins with [Scudder] Griffing. Engineering is by O’Neil, “Archaeology” by [Regional Archaeologist] J.C. [“Pinky”] Harrington, and “History” by [Regional Historian Roy] Appleman.

Little is known about the 1949-50 designers. A. J. Higgins apparently worked with Scudder Griffing and James Swanson (later to be Ocmulgee’s architect) on NPS’s Skyline Drive projects in 1936-37 and was one of the architects handling the restoration of the eighteenth-century Hillsman House in Virginia’s National Battlefield Park. Higgins also worked with engineer O’Neil on development of Catoctin Mountain Park in Maryland in 1938, working from NPS Region One.⁴⁴ Whether Higgins was

involved with Swanson in the original 1938 plans for Ocmulgee’s building is not known. The 1950 plan simply shows “drawn by Merrill.” On June 2, 1950, the construction contract was signed.⁴⁵

The plans for the Phase II project of 1950 show a building radically different in size and scope from that designed by James Swanson and anticipated at least as late as 1941 when initial construction was suspended. The reports of superintendents during the stagnant years after the war, despite their emphasis on the need for maintenance, repairs, and above all, leaks, still revealed that they anticipated the eventual completion of the building. Nevertheless, whether expected or not, major reductions had to be made.

The plans prepared in 1950 are labeled “Rehabilitation,” not to reflect their content, but to comply with the source of funding.⁴⁶ The upper level drawing shows the projecting entrance vestibule, rotunda, and a new reception room immediately north of the rotunda, abutting the side terrace and extending the width of the terrace. The room was new to this design; in the earlier plan, it had been not a room at all but the first section of Swanson’s long-lost winding gallery. It became the guides’ room, where guides kept their uniforms and received assignments.

Behind the rotunda was the existing corridor built in Phase I. North of the corridor was the earlier complex of four bathrooms, and to its south were the rangers’ office and the stairs down to the lower level. The corner of the rangers’ office had already been built in the earlier phase as a square corner, in

⁴³ Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1950.

⁴⁴ Names found on 1949 drawings. Information is from several sources including National Register nomination of Skyline Drive HD, Va., administrative histories of Catoctin Mountain Park, Md. and George Washington Birthplace, Va.; and W&M Quarterly

article on Hillsman House, Va. Appleman was at times called Regional Historian and Regional Supervisor of Historic Sites.

⁴⁵ Drawings of 1949 and 1950; also Marsh, p. 35; also Walker in Hally, *Ocmulgee Archaeology*, p. 30.

⁴⁶ Plans are dated simply “1950,” drawings #2041C. OCMU-A CD disk, p. 241-249.

contrast to the rounded corner of the original Art Moderne design.

The abrupt end of the central corridor, as it remained after 1941, was now to be extended. To the south, a perpendicular hall was added that led south to an exit lobby and continued to the side wing where partitions created three offices, a toilet room, and a back stair hall. The exit lobby on the 1950 plans was located immediately south of the rangers' office and opened onto the south terrace through a small vestibule.

The main area of new construction was behind (west) of the central corridor and bathrooms. The corridor extended through a new opening to a large exhibit room, its odd shape revealing the wartime interruption of construction. Square at three corners, the fourth corner was rounded, the only part of the winding gallery ever constructed. After leaving the rotunda, visitors followed the corridor to the exhibit room, circled around the projecting pipe-space enclosure wall with exhibits on each side, and exited into the exit lobby and vestibule to the south terrace. There was no auditorium. North of the exhibit room was the roof of the furnace room with a sunken court to its east.

A second sheet from the 1950 plans shows the ground floor. The front sections appear little changed: storage beneath the front terrace and reception room, more storage in the Unit I-A area beneath the rotunda, more storage again behind and west of that area. The laboratory remained beneath the south terrace and a lecture room took up the full length of the south wing. Added west of this wing was a smaller western room identified as an archaeologist's office, and the stair hall leading to the upper level.

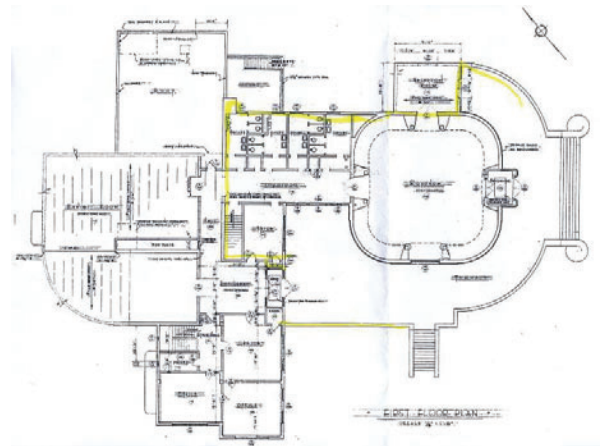


Figure B-26. 1950 Rehabilitation plan, upper level. (OCMU Coll.)

The areas of new construction on the lower level included numerous rooms and partitions. Beneath the round-cornered exhibit room were a photography room, dark room, several supply closets, staff bathrooms, janitor's closet, and corridor extending from the 1941 stair hall. The elevator and associated motor room shown in earlier plans had been eliminated, and spaces in the original plans were reconfigured and subdivided. Most of the walls that were erected in 1940-41 but never completed appear to have been retained. A large receiving room was created in the northwest corner of this area with access to the rear service court. North of the photography room was the furnace room with a storage room at its north end. The furnace room opened on the east to an open court.⁴⁷

The new construction of 1950-51 added significant additional space to the building, allowing visitor programs and administrative functions not possible in the incomplete earlier facility, but showing considerable change from the 1930s design.

⁴⁷ Plans dated 1950, drawings #2041C. OCMU-A CD disk, pp. 242, 243.

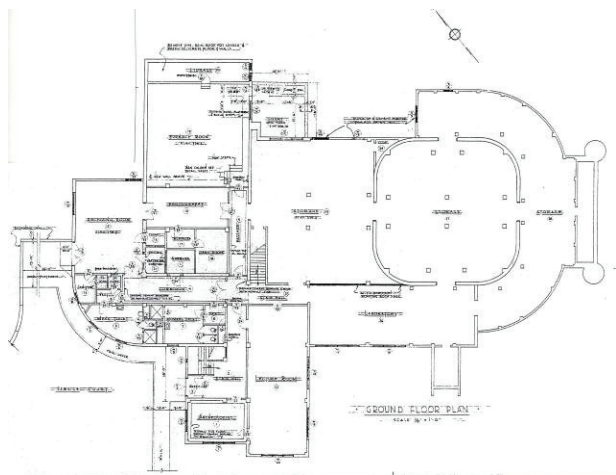


Figure B-27. 1950 Rehabilitation plan, lower level.
(OCMU Coll.)

Some idea of the progress of construction can be gleaned from monthly narrative reports prepared by the superintendent. By July 1950, sealing of the openings on the northeast (our north) side had been completed and temporary asphalt roofing was being removed “from the tops of walls to be raised.” By August, the court walls and steps (east of furnace room) and all walls of the main exhibit room had been poured; heating ducts and plumbing were being installed.

In October, Superintendent Guy reported that “decisions are yet to be made in regard to exterior and interior paint colors and the color of the matrix in the terrazzo floors.” In his customary manner, he commented on the delay in installation of exhibits by saying, “In the meantime, we will take great pride in showing the public a beautiful, empty building.”

Funds for the building were also to provide cases for permanent storage of collections. The need was great. The NPS Museum Branch recommended plans for storage; it was estimated that 10 cases and 800 drawers, in addition to the 25 cases and approximately 400 drawers then on hand, would be needed. In December, 1950, Guy reported that the contents of 1,300 of the deteriorating shoe

boxes were transferred to twenty storage cases, and at least one hundred additional cases were needed.⁴⁸

1951: Completion

In January, plastering of seven rooms had been completed, exhibit rooms were partially finished, and aluminum doors were ready to install. The progress was offset by the terrace: “The terrazzo on the terrace is proving quite a disappointment,” wrote Dean Guy.⁴⁹ Twenty sections of the field and border had cracked and the terrazzo and underbed had separated in several places. Even a front step had cracked. “No one seems to understand these developments, since materials used were of top quality and the work was performed by a man with 30 years experience....The subcontractor has advised ... that complete replacement may be necessary.” Work on the terrace resumed in March, replacing several sections. Experiments were made to obliterate hairline cracks. The rest of the building was “97 percent” completed, but painting of the rotunda was delayed by the terrace work.

One year later and thirteen years after its start, the building was completed. The new administrative offices were occupied in May and the superintendent reported June 30, 1951, as the date of acceptance of the work.⁵⁰ Total estimated cost was \$350,000. But completion did not mean the work was over. The terrace leaked in July and the contractor advised that the leakage could not be stopped as long as the terrace floor was of terrazzo.

⁴⁸ Superintendent’s report to director, dated 6/14/1950; monthly report, 12/1950.

⁴⁹ It is unclear whether ‘terrazzo’ was used by superintendents simply as a generic term to describe the terrace surface.

⁵⁰ July 7 and November monthly reports. Staff of the NPS Museum Branch installed the exhibits; rotunda was opened to the public July 25, all exhibits and public address system completed in October; *The Macon Telegraph*, 7/19/2001, in a “50 years ago” article. Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1951.

The staff archaeologist was more optimistic. He reported in 1951 that dampness in the storage room had been reduced to the minimum by the completion of the building, and “the possibility of damage to collections and cases from that cause is now remote.”



Figure B-28. 1950s postcard showing completed building.

During the year of construction, 333,000 visitors had toured the monument, a 12 percent increase over the preceding year, and greater increases were expected after exhibits opened. A crowd of 6,000 attended the official dedication of the building on November 2, 1951. Rain moved the ceremony to the Macon City Auditorium where Dr. Kelly had opened the first Ocmulgee archaeological laboratory in the 1930s.

Superintendent Guy summarized the years of construction in his Annual Report for 1951:

The most outstanding accomplishment at the Ocmulgee National Monument during the 1951 fiscal year is the completion of the Museum-Administration Building. Started in 1938, construction was halted in 1940 with the termination of relief appropriations. At that time, the building was approximately 65 percent completed; however, it was without adequate heating, plumbing and lighting facilities and no room was completely finished. Although unfinished, uncomfortable and unsightly, the building has housed for a

decade temporary museum exhibits, numerous archeological collections and administrative offices.

Guy appreciated the building:

...The building is of reinforced concrete and tile construction and modern in every respect. The interior is a thing of beauty, while exterior walls are attractively finished in sandstone color and the frieze and dado around the rotunda in tile red.

Another view was less positive. In contrast to Guy's admiring words were those of Devereaux Butcher of the National Parks Association, criticizing the Park Service for abandoning its policy of rustic architecture and citing “the supremely ugly museum at Georgia's Ocmulgee National Monument.”⁵¹ Superintendent Guy wrote that Butcher's was the only adverse publicity known during the year. “This is not the first outburst by Mr. Butcher. On another occasion, he referred to the building as a ‘monstrosity’ and suggested that the Park Service ‘build a mound over it.’” Guy added spice to his monthly report:

It seems that Mr. Butcher still doesn't like our Museum-Administration Building....[his opinion] causes us to doubt his qualifications as a critic. Perhaps he possesses a latent talent more valuable than his writing ability and should enter the field of architecture.”⁵²

Others appreciated the park. In a 1952 article, a local reporter opined, “It is the finest, most modern and best prepared archeological presentation anywhere in the U.S. That is undisputed by the National Park Service which supervises such monuments and parks....Recently completed, the museum building and exhibit are Middle

⁵¹ “For a Return to Harmony in Park Architecture,” in *National Parks Magazine*, October-December, 1952, p. 150.

⁵² Monthly report, November 1952.

Georgia's finest showplace from an educational and historic standpoint."⁵³

Several local articles during the 1950s touted the financial benefit Ocmulgee would bring to Macon through tourism. An estimated 50,000 people were expected to visit the park in FY 1952.⁵⁴

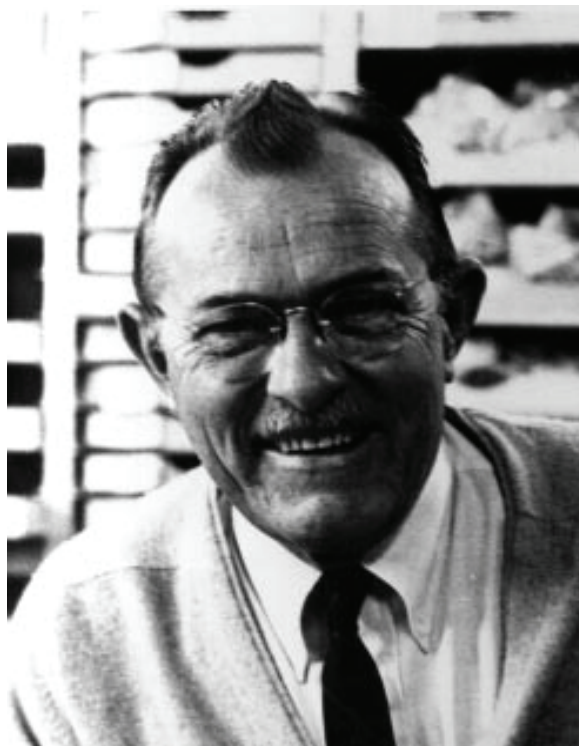


Figure B-29. Jesse D. Jennings, acting superintendent April 1938 to May 1939 during initial construction of the building. (Photo from Aikens' *Memoir*, Biographical Memoirs, Volume 77, p.2.)

A long list of superintendents had watched over the building as it took shape. James T. Swanson, who directed the reconstruction of the Earth Lodge, became the first acting superintendent and designed the museum building. The second superintendent, Jesse D. Jennings, saw the beginning of construction and the establishment of an archaeological laboratory. The comprehensive exhibit plan was prepared by John C. Ewers, curator and third

superintendent, followed by William W. Luckett and Arthur R. Kelly, fourth and fifth, who served during the difficult years of the war. The building was completed and the exhibits installed in 1952 under the perseverant tenure of Millard D. Guy.

POST-COMPLETION ALTERATIONS

Alterations made to the building after its completion in 1951 have been limited primarily to maintenance and the reorganization of existing spaces. These changes have been at the same time slight and frequent. Although copious records are available in Ocmulgee's files, they vary widely in clarity and level of detail, as reflected in the information below.

1950s Alterations

The FBI came to Ocmulgee a year after completion. In July 1952, staff found a broken 12" by 30" glass from the large window in the rotunda. The FBI "failed to discover any clues," and decided that the 104-degree temperature caused the glass to shatter.

Other problems were not as easily solved, even by the FBI. The Museum had continuing and consistent problems. Even before the building was complete, the terrazzo terrace began to crack and separate. The flat asphalt roof leaked repeatedly. Patchwork repairs were undertaken frequently. When chronic dampness in the storage room was thought to be "reduced to the minimum," archaeological collections were transferred to permanent wood cases with confidence.⁵⁵ It was soon clear the problems had not been solved; leaking continued in the 1950s between repairs.

In July 1954, the glass block ("ornamental panels") of the clerestory was recaulked, and it appeared that roofing of both upper and lower levels of the rotunda would need

⁵³ *Macon Telegraph*, 2/29/1952.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1951.

replacement. The terrazzo installed on the terrace in 1952 “is proving to be a wonderful reservoir,” and soured water beneath the terrace was causing an odor. “The \$8,000 cost of the floor has gone down the drain a lot faster than the water falling thereon.”⁵⁶

A year later in June 1955, water-damaged interior plaster was patched. In August, water trapped beneath the terrazzo forced itself up through new caulking, and the superintendent suggested that high moisture content in the walls might be the cause of continued interior leaking.

The reception room north of the rotunda and the superintendent’s office were painted in June 1956. In October, the roofing beneath the clerestory windows was removed and two applications of TocoSeal with a glass cloth membrane between were applied, with total thickness of one-half to three-quarters of an inch. The old roofing had been three to four inches thick, consisting of alternate layers of gravel, felt and tar. It was saturated with water which had somewhat deteriorated the concrete roof and seeped into the building, damaging the plaster. Two drains in the roof were lowered to the new surface. Cracks in the parapet walls were to be coated.

The partial new roof was not enough. In November it was determined the remainder of the roof needed replacement. In December approximately one-third of the rotunda roof was replaced due to a bad leak. By April 1957, the gravel covered felt of the rotunda roof had been removed and replaced with an asbestos fibred plastic coating and a glass membrane. A finish coat of aluminum paint was applied to act as a “coolerant” for the roof. In June, the office and restroom section of the building was reroofed. It rained during the work. The exterior of the building was painted in July.

⁵⁶ July 1954 monthly report.

By the following May, roof repairs were once again underway over the rotunda, and interior painting was completed on the rotunda walls and main exhibit room. In the fall of 1958, two of the bathrooms were refurbished. Walls, steel panels, and doors were painted, and the terrazzo floors were sanded, polished, and painted with clear silicone paint. In the spring of 1959, the superintendent reported that the basement was “rearranged and housecleaned” and some replastering and painting was done. “One expansion joint was placed in the Visitor Center.” In September, cracks in exterior walls were caulked with “Thiokol compound” in an attempt to alleviate leaks.⁵⁷

Continued leaks in the terrace warranted an inspection visit in November, 1959, by Architect W. E. Merrill from the NPS Region office. The next month, the downstairs restrooms were painted, including floors and ceilings. “They sparkle so nicely we almost avoid using them.”⁵⁸

1960s Alterations

The April 1960 monthly report references new cases in the library (probably in the upper-level south wing). Roof work continued that month with installation of glasscloth and asbestos fibred aluminum roof paint around the exhibit room parapet to repair cracks. In October, the exterior wall of the main exhibit room was given a waterproof treatment of Thompson’s Water Seal before an application of polyvinyl paint, and the lower-level walls beneath the rotunda were waterproofed preparatory to being painted.

A year later, after a September 1961 inspection by the NPS Regional Architect, a new twenty-year bonded-type roof was

⁵⁷ Thiokol Chemical Company was founded in 1929 and made a range of synthetic rubber and polymer sealants.

⁵⁸ December 1959 and earlier monthly reports.

installed on the rotunda and repairs began on the terrace floor. Another NPS architect inspected the water problems the following February.



Figure B-30. Big Dig salvage project conducted in 1961-62 by ARU and local workers. (NPS photo, SEAC file 004-053-101)

In 1961, the controversy over Interstate 16 brought the Big Dig II and with it, the Archeological Research Unit (ARU) who conducted the excavations. In an effort to reduce water seepage in the lower-level areas occupied by the ARU, broken terrazzo on the terrace above was replaced in February 1962. “This patching improved the appearance of the terrace but caused the water problem to become worse.”⁵⁹ In April, a new bonded-type roof was installed on the intermediate level of the rotunda.

In May, in addition to work on the terrace floor and plaster repair, alterations were made to convert “surplus restrooms” to an archaeologist’s office, undoubtedly to accommodate ARU staff. This probably refers to the two easternmost bathrooms along the upper-level central corridor where four bathrooms had been built for race and gender. In June, the entire first floor of the building was painted.

A puzzling entry from August 1962 reported that an architect visited to inspect alterations to the basement, though there had been no earlier description of such alterations. (Many changes were made some years later in 1967.) By November, the bonded roof installed in April had absorbed enough moisture to make huge water blisters between layers of felt; the entire area was reworked.

A major waterproofing job was done in November and December, 1962. All electrical circuits that had been poured in the slab beneath the terrace were removed and surface mounted in preparation for waterproofing treatment in the rooms below. Part of the terrace floor was treated with Hydrozo, reducing water seepage to the areas beneath by 75 percent. The concrete floors of the storage area beneath the rotunda, the equipment room, janitor storage, mop room, electrical storage, and two rooms for miscellaneous storage were painted and waxed. All raw concrete floors in the basement except two were now painted. Overheads in the rooms beneath the terrace were sandblasted, holes and cracks filled with “Waterplug,” and all overheads treated with two heavy coats of Thoroseal. Additional Hydrozo would be applied to the terrace floor when the weather warmed up.

The final phase of terrace waterproofing began the following June and was disastrous. After several joints were opened, the rains started, letting “considerable water” through the expansion joint around the rotunda. In September, a final coat of Hydrozo was applied and safety strips were placed on the leading edge of the terrace steps.

An unfortunate change made in September, 1963, was the removal and replacement of the large south-facing window in the rotunda facing the Earth Lodge, although this was seen as a positive change to improve the view of the Earth Lodge from the rotunda. The original framing, or “horizontal strips” were

⁵⁹ February 1962 and earlier monthly reports.

removed and “three large sheets of tempered glass installed.” At the same time, glass doors were installed between the rotunda and guides’ office, and window air conditioning units were installed in the guides’ office adjoining the rotunda and in the library in the south wing.⁶⁰

The superintendent’s office was carpeted in July 1964. In November and December, 1965, the exterior of the building was sandblasted, waterproofed, and painted. “The color combination [was] soft yellow with brick red trim, similar to the combination used when the structure was first painted back in 1951.”⁶¹

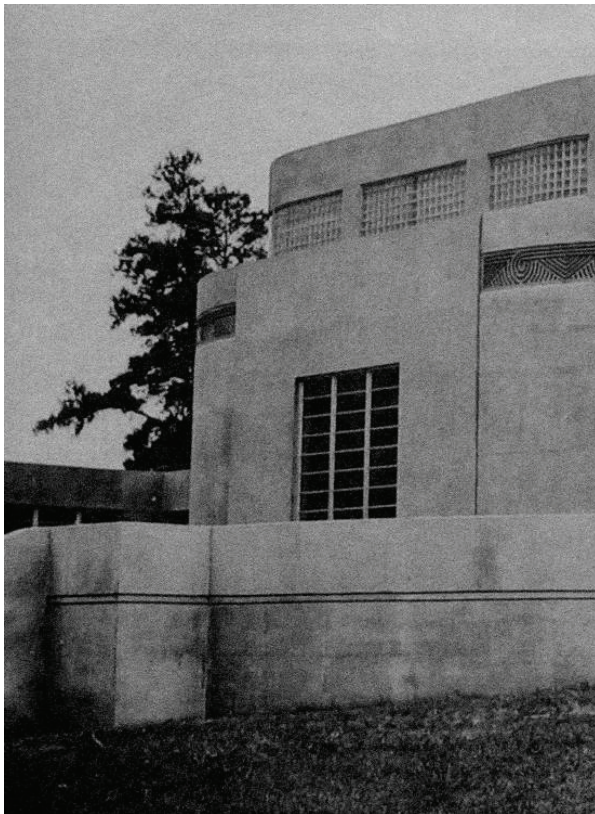


Figure B-31. Photograph, ca. 1940, shows original rotunda window. (OCMU Coll.)

In February 1966, door openings were cut from the rotunda to the archaeologist’s office (former bathrooms) and the guides’ office.

⁶⁰ September 1963 monthly report.

⁶¹ December 1965 and earlier monthly reports.

Doors were to be installed in March. The purpose was to provide access for the interpretative staff to the information counter. Terrazzo floors in the public bathrooms were sanded, sealed and waxed. In March, the rotunda, lounge, main corridor, front vestibule, guides’ office and archaeologist’s office were painted, in part to cover scars from installation of the doors.

In September 1966, the exterior paint, applied only the past December, had become discolored and was repainted, with the paint manufacturer’s supplying the paint and paying half the labor costs. And the terrace leaked in December.



Figure B-32. Photograph, 2008, shows current rotunda window. (OCMU Coll.)

In 1967, an exhaust fan was installed in the unventilated exhibit room, and a new information and publication sales counter was constructed in the rotunda.⁶²

⁶² Monthly reports and Highlight Briefing Statement, 1967.

During these years when other parks were receiving funds from the Mission 66 program, Ocmulgee received none.

The Big Dig and Creation of SEAC

The archaeology of Ocmulgee and its excavations in the 1930s had brought great acclaim and helped to create the National Monument. A second archaeological project brought more attention. A 1961 proposal for construction of Interstate 16 through Ocmulgee's lands, after much controversy, led to extensive archaeological salvage excavations. Known as the "Big Dig II," the 1961-62 project was undertaken by a large group of archaeologists known as the Archeological Research Unit (ARU). After Big Dig excavations ended in June 1962, the ARU remained for several years at Ocmulgee, carrying on its research in offices on the lower level.

Ocmulgee's museum building had been envisioned as a regional facility from the start. Superintendent Jesse D. Jennings, in August 1938, wrote that material from other related Southeastern sites would be displayed at Ocmulgee, and a 1940 newspaper article described "the building, which will become Southeastern headquarters for archaeological studies."⁶³ So it was not unexpected when the National Park Service in October 1966 expanded and redesignated the ARU as the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC). Although located at Ocmulgee, it was administered as a separate research organization responsible for providing information and assistance to parks within the Southeast Region of NPS.⁶⁴

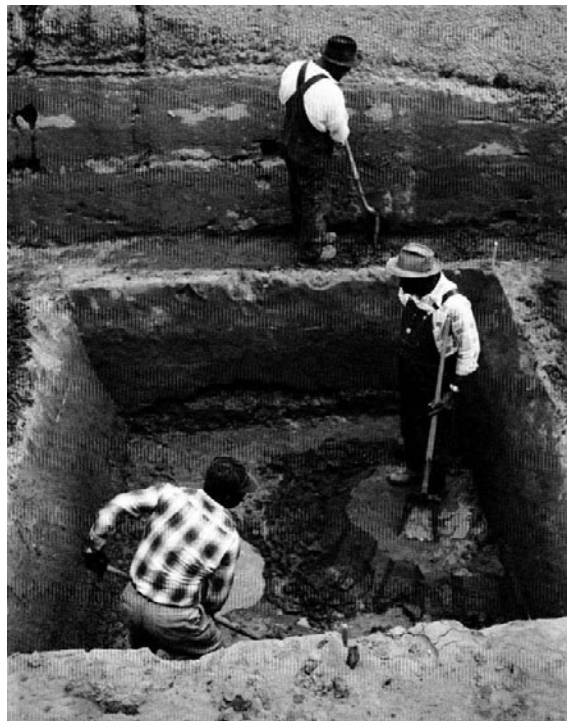


Figure B-33. Big Dig salvage project conducted in 1961 and 1962 prior to construction of I-16. (NPS undated photo, SEAC file 04-053-30)

The arrangement was not without tension. SEAC's expanded staff was given substantial space in the building's lower level. The large open storage area behind the lower rotunda was partitioned to provide offices, a small lab, a map and archives room, as well as a separate library and conference rooms. The remodeling work was completed in April 1967. Sheet metal window frames and air conditioners were installed in the SEAC office (former laboratory) in June. A Building Data sheet completed in January 1969 stated that SEAC "will probably use the entire basement when the area's maintenance building is constructed." This was the original intent of the building's lower level; however, the NPS staff, despite their increased numbers, remained in cramped spaces on the upper level.⁶⁵

⁶³ *Macon News*, 8/16/1938; and unidentified 1940 Macon newspaper.

⁶⁴ Binkley, *History of SEAC*, p. 16,17 and 27-30. The Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge also had office space in the lower level, but used it infrequently and provided it for archaeological use: Lonnie Davis interview.

⁶⁵ One-page NPS form prepared 1/15/1969 by Superintendent Charles F. Bohannon.

Superintendent's Highlight Briefing Statements, 1966 and 1967; Marsh, p. 48-49. Interview, Homer Leslie, longtime chief of maintenance

Despite the friction between SEAC and Ocmulgee staffs, NPS continued its strong support for the program. Mindful of agency politics, the superintendent declared his agreement with NPS in his annual report:

Ocmulgee has been an archeological center, unofficially at least, for many years. Archeological collections and excavation records of the many “digs” at Ocmulgee, other W.P.A. projects of the 1930’s in Georgia and work at other Service areas are stored here. At long last, this important repository and an archeological staff have been brought together.⁶⁶



Figure B-34. Artifacts stored in metal cases and cardboard boxes in lower-level archival storage area beneath the terrace. (undated photo, SEAC Coll.)

1970s Alterations

The 1970s was a difficult decade for Ocmulgee. In 1968, a complicated administrative change merged Ocmulgee’s management officially with SEAC’s to put more emphasis on archaeological research and reduce administrative staff, and later placed Ocmulgee under supervision of another Park. The intermingling of SEAC’s research mission and Ocmulgee’s park operations was confusing and unwelcome, and conflicts over office space increased.⁶⁷

In 1972, Ocmulgee joined with local and national organizations, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, inviting Creek Indians to move to Macon from Oklahoma to create a living history program. The Park Service proposed to establish a Trading Post gift shop at Ocmulgee to be run by the Creeks. Significantly, the Trading Post was to take over SEAC’s space in the lower level. This amplified SEAC’s rising interest in associating with a university and triggered the departure of SEAC and its staff.⁶⁸

After years of deliberation, SEAC moved to Tallahassee in June 1972 to join Florida State University’s archaeology program. It was estimated that SEAC had about two hundred tons of archaeological material from throughout the Southeast. Many of SEAC’s materials still remain in Ocmulgee’s storage area, and many Ocmulgee artifacts remain at SEAC for study.⁶⁹ The departure of SEAC created space for NPS staff and led to considerable changes in office space.

The Creek Indian program’s Trading Post gift shop did not last long and its space on the lower level was turned over to rangers’ offices. Associated with the changes of 1972, Superintendent Pingree Crawford created a new exterior entrance into the gift shop/rangers’ offices room on the south side of the lower level by removing a window unit (west bay of eastern window group) and, at the same time, built an exterior court, generally called the patio. This work is said to have been undertaken with neither review nor approval of the NPS regional office. The date of this work was determined from a listing in “Ocmulgee National Monument Photographic File Catalog, new Series 1965” (with later supplements), which cataloged

⁶⁶ Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1967.

⁶⁷ Binkley, *History of SEAC*, p. 39-46; *Macon Telegraph*, 7/16/1972. Dedication was 7/31/1972.

⁶⁸ The Trading Post was to open by April 15, 1972. Project was short-lived; most Creeks returned to Oklahoma. Gift shop was closed by mid-1970s.

Marsh, p. 46-51. Binkley, *History of SEAC*, p. 56.

⁶⁹ Binkley, *History of SEAC*, p. 56-62; NPS <http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/seac-tap.htm>.

photographs by numbers no longer used. Photos 543-558 are identified as Progress pictures of patio construction June 1972. The photographs themselves were not found during document search conducted for this report. Drawings give conflicting information. Conceptual Space planning drawings from July 1973 show the patio footprint and two doors into the space, which was shown partitioned into two rooms. A May 31, 1978, interior furnishing plan, apparently using a pre-1972 base drawing, shows the windows unchanged with no exterior door. Yet a month later, a June 20 plan shows the doorway. A plan of September 1981 also shows the door.⁷⁰



Figure B-35. New south entrance created by removing a window unit in lower level, opening onto brick patio.

New thresholds “to match existing” may have been added at the entrances to both vestibules in 1970; these are noted on a 1970 plan for terrace rehabilitation. In 1973, a wheelchair ramp was added to the northeast side of the terrace.⁷¹

By 1977, the problems with the roof and terrace were so constant that both were replaced. The terrace work was

⁷⁰ Several interior planning studies appear to have been prepared in the 1970s, though some appear unfinished and most unused.

⁷¹ Terrace plan, Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1973.

comprehensive and included removal of the four-inch concrete wearing surface and application of a new membrane, wear slab, and surface membrane.⁷²



Figure B-36. Brick patio on south side of lower level.

The interpretative aspects of the building were also in need of overhaul. In 1978, a scope of work was proposed to restructure the public areas of the museum, noting that the thirty-year-old exhibits were “verbose by the standards of today’s exhibit visitors and are rendered obsolete by statements and theories that have been subsequently disproven.”⁷³ Office improvements were also planned; interior designers proposed a revised floor plan, furniture, and color scheme for the superintendent’s office, the chief ranger’s office, and the administrative officer’s office, as well as for the conference room in the general office area.⁷⁴ A May 1979 exhibit plan proposed changes to the large window in the rotunda, specifying: “Rework window frame; remove mullions; replace 3 PC glass with 1 PC 5/8” plate-

⁷² “Structural Deck Investigation” undated 1970s report by Ed Boggs, Assistant Chief, Branch of Construction, Denver Service Center. Work of 1977 was referenced in 1982 Structural Deck Investigations.

⁷³ Scope of Work statement, May 1978, p. 1-2.

⁷⁴ Letter dated 5/31/1978 from Alastair M. Black, Atlanta architect with McDuffie & Associates, to Philip R. Brueck, acting superintendent. Several interior planning studies appear to have been prepared in the 1970s, though some appear unfinished and most unused.

glass.”⁷⁵ NPS comments on the proposal recommended a barrier be placed in front of the altered window to prevent visitors from mistaking it for an exit. Those comments also included a recommendation for a barrier at the top of the back stairs to prevent visitors from walking into staff office space.⁷⁶

1979: Solar Energy System

Ocmulgee, unusual in 1938 for the novel design of its museum building, joined with NASA in the 1970s to undertake a seemingly incongruous project. This stemmed from a 1976 contract between Honeywell Corporation and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center to design and develop solar-powered heating and cooling systems for buildings. Ocmulgee’s Visitor Center was chosen as an Operational Test Site for this program.⁷⁷

In September 1978, preparations for the system began when a lower-level wall was removed and new walls were installed to accommodate the solar equipment and piping installation. It is unclear which walls were affected; it may have been those for the area created in the southwest portion of the furnace room to hold the large insulated tank needed for the new system, yet a November drawing shows a site plan for locations of the Rankine chiller, boiler, and storage tank in the mechanical room. The storage tank is shown in the southwest corner but no enclosure walls are shown.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ The Harpers Ferry Comprehensive Plan of 2/12/1979 proposed a single pane of glass.

⁷⁶ “Comments Regarding the Visitor Center Exhibit Plan.” Undated 2-page document.

⁷⁷ Operation and Maintenance Manual, March 1981. NASA is National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Manual is among many documents that remain loose in the storage room behind the mechanical room.

⁷⁸ Change order 9/11/1978 and interview with Homer Leslie; plan dated 11/2/1978, OCMU-B CD disk, p. 98. Marsh, p. 37; letter dated 6/12/1979 from James L. Ayers, Jr., NPS Regional Energy Manager, to Associate Regional Director.

The heart of the system was the group of four large flat-plate solar collector panels, termed Outdoor SDAS Sensors, on the grounds north of the building. The length of the panels was almost equal to the length of the building from the rotunda entrance to the back corner of the mechanical room. A landscape plan shows slate landscaping stone to be laid between the panels, an evergreen ground cover on three sides, and a row of deciduous and flowering trees on the north side.⁷⁹

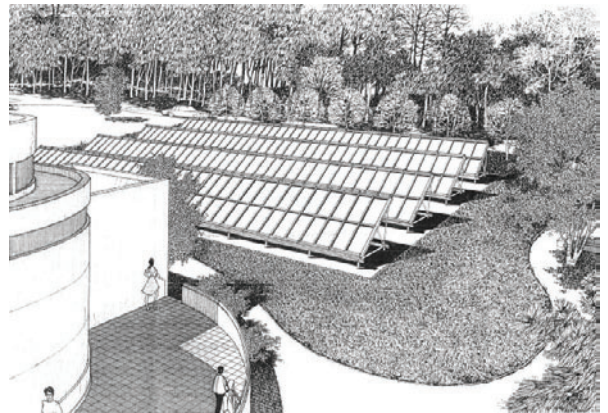


Figure B-37. 1979 Publicity poster showing Honeywell solar collector panels (OCMU Coll.)

The full system was installed in 1979 with construction considered completed in February 1981; the furnace room even today is more often called the solar room.⁸⁰

The solar energy system was a conspicuous addition to the building and through the efforts of interpretative staff received positive publicity. However, the system was plagued with problems from the start. By August 1980 the Rankine engine failed completely. It was repaired to one-half capacity on August 12 and failed again on August 20. Because the system was experimental, no parts were available for repairs, requiring new parts to be fabricated individually.⁸¹ In

⁷⁹ Landscaping Plan dated 5/10/1978.

⁸⁰ Three-year “Construction Profile.”

⁸¹ While maintenance staff struggled with the system, the interpretative staff developed a visitor tour, brochures, and posters. Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1982.

the summer of 1982, the system failed and a safety device was installed to restore operation.

After continued problems, the Rankine engine was rebuilt in 1984, then removed after it failed again in August 1985. Portions of the system were substituted with new equipment and the extensive exterior panels were removed.

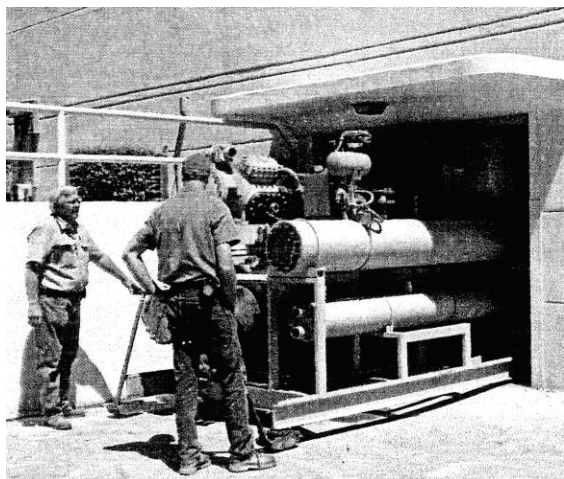


Figure B-38. Removal of solar energy system, May 12, 2003. (OCMU Coll.)

The interior portions of the system remained in place until 2003 when a completely new HVAC system was installed.⁸² Minor remnants of the system remain in the building, and some parts of the system, but not the panels, remain stored in the shop building.⁸³ The room that had been created in the southwest corner of the solar room was converted into a file storage area.

Many original notebooks, instruction manuals, and files regarding the solar energy program are kept unsystematically in the small storage room/“chart room” off the mechanical room; these should be properly stored to prevent further damage.

1980s Alterations

Several large projects were underway in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The solar project begun in the late 1970s was completed in early 1981; construction of a maintenance building began in July 1981 and would free up space in the lower level of the building for construction of rooms.

But the major work of the 1980s was a comprehensive renovation and remodeling project carried out between November 1981 and September 1982. Its stated objective was to minimize costs by allowing the museum to be operated by a single ranger and to modernize the outdated interpretative program as proposed in the late 1970s. A staff reorganization was developed in concert with an expanded volunteer program and the redesigned visitor spaces in order to allow other rangers to concentrate on interpretative programs both in the Visitor Center and throughout the monument.⁸⁴

The building was closed in 1981 and 1982 during the work. Among the principal interior changes was a revised layout of the main exhibit space at the back of the upper level. Treatment and installation of exhibits and construction of new exhibit cases was handled by NPS and the Harpers Ferry Exhibit Center with installation started in November 1982. New exhibits were designed by NPS and produced by Malone, a well-respected exhibit fabricator from Atlanta.⁸⁵ An east-west partition wall was added to extend the existing pipe-space partition to create a reduced, fully-enclosed exhibit area in the northern part of the divided space. An updated exhibit plan included new layout, new exhibits and exhibit cases, and repairs to the large existing

⁸² Interview with Jerome Walker, maintenance director, who started work at Ocmulgee in 1982.

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ Three-year “Construction Profile;” also Marsh, p. 56-57.

⁸⁵ Three-year “Construction Profile,” and email correspondence from Guy LaChine, OCMU Ranger, November 17, 2008.

dioramas displayed on the south wall; an access space was created behind the dioramas with a small entrance door for staff.

The purpose of the partition wall was to create a theater in the new room south of the partition, with entrance through a vestibule from the corridor on the east wall. Fifty metal chairs faced east toward a screen on the vestibule wall in front of the entrance with projection from the rear. A small elevated room for audio-visual equipment was created in the back of the theater at the rounded southwest corner of the building. The rounded wall was poured during the 1938-41 construction, when the winding gallery was still anticipated, and completed as exhibit space in the second phase of construction in 1951.⁸⁶

Other significant partition changes were made during the 1981-82 renovations, particularly on the lower level. Staff offices were relocated to the south wing (former lecture room) and to the former laboratory/SEAC space. The lecture room in the south wing was divided into three offices with the superintendent's office in the southernmost space. The hall near the stairs was extended eastward to provide access to offices in the former laboratory and to the existing library.

The construction of the maintenance building allowed the maintenance shop in the northwest corner of the former storage space to be moved; the space was subsequently partitioned and converted to a staff break room and associated storage. In the east section of the offices in the lab space, a partition was added to create a graphics room.

⁸⁶ Exhibit plan, 5/8/1979 (38 sheets). OCMU-A CD disk, pp. 45, 47, 54. Before these changes, a small seating area had earlier been set up in the north end of the exhibit room.

Interpretative changes included, in the rotunda, installation of a central base in the shape of the rotunda and holding a map of the park. The information desk was in front of the door to the guides' room (today's gift shop) with an open sales area to the east. Heavy imprinted banners hung from the ceiling.

It was probably during these renovations that the exterior doors to the two vestibules were changed. The May 1979 exhibit plan specified: "Remove lower aluminum door panels and horizontal bars...Reglaze full door frames. If door frames are welded, replace doors with Tubelite 'Monumental' door."

Additional work reported for 1981-82 by the superintendent included remodeling of the bathrooms within existing bathroom spaces, installation of cabinet doors in all administrative areas, and installation of a security alarm. The eastern section of the four original bathrooms had been converted to an archaeologist's office in 1962; it is unclear when that use was discontinued, although it appears that the full space was converted to two bathrooms in 1981-82.⁸⁷

During this work, a new roof was installed in yet another attempt to resolve the persistent problems, the terrace was reworked, and the exterior of the building was painted.⁸⁸ An unspecified reference to sandblasting was made in May, 1982. On the agenda of a meeting with the contractor, SERO, DSC, and OCMU is a handwritten note to "Start Sat 5/22/82, sandblast on Sat, wash on Sun morning." No clarification is given.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ Four bathrooms are shown on a 1970 plan for rehabilitation of the terrace, though perhaps an earlier base drawing was used.

⁸⁸ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1982.

⁸⁹ Typed agenda regarding scheduling for completion of work, with handwritten dates and added note about sandblasting, 5/19/1982.

The results of the work were disappointing as reported in December 1981 by Superintendent Sibbald Smith in a “Deficiency Identification Record” submitted to the Denver Service Center (DSC):

On several occasions the contractor has been asked to secure the roof from several leaks; these happenings were previous to final inspection. Many hours of park staff were lost in cleaning up due to the faulty work that was performed by [the] contractor. At times, water did not just leak but it poured through the ceiling....in the last 30 days, we have had problems again with the roof leaking. The project manager...has made contact with the contractor and with...the DSC requesting that contractor repair the roof and put it in good condition.

As of this date, we have received no response....In the meantime, the leaks are causing safety hazards, deterioration to the walls and ceilings; also, unsightly housekeeping.⁹⁰

A further disappointment, in spite of the overhaul, was the chronic leaking of the terrace and steps. In 1982, the DSC responded to Smith’s request and sent a representative from the Denver Service Center to see the roof, but especially to examine the severe condition of the deck. The resulting Structural Deck Investigation reported that the contractor had difficulty removing the existing four-inch concrete wearing course and waterproofing: “Upon the use of a jackhammer, spalling occurred on the deck underside.”

The structural engineer subsequently determined that the existing structural deck should be replaced due to previous damage from removal of the wearing course. An inventory and plan of cracks in beams and columns accompanied the report, which

referenced three previous removals of the wearing surface, with those of 1971 and 1977 involving “water proofing accompanied by a wearing surface.” The 1982 contract called for removal of the existing four-inch concrete wearing course and waterproofing and application of a new membrane, wear slab, and surface membrane.⁹¹

The superintendent reported that “great quantities of rain water have drained into the basement where artifacts are located and stored.” He continued, “This problem was brought about as a result of inexperienced personnel operating the jackhammer.” Hard line cracks elsewhere in the terrace were allowing more water to penetrate. “Water has been seeping in some areas since the beginning of construction in 1981....we have not measured the humidity content, but you can feel, and at times see, it on the walls.” Leaks required covering artifacts in the rotunda with plastic covers and removing two display cases.⁹²

Problems elsewhere soon surfaced. In a memo of November 15, 1982, the superintendent reported that three leaks had opened in the rotunda area, two in the terrace at the front entrance, and one in the lower-level rangers’ office near the patio entrance. He also noted cracks in the newly installed wall between the exhibit area and the audiovisual room, in a wall in the audiovisual room, in a hallway at the back door, in the craft room display window, in a closed-in door at the front office, and around the door of the men’s restroom in the hallway. He also reported rust on all handicap rails, on stainless steel metals used in both restrooms, and on the door frame of the archaeology room. And finally, the entrance door of craft

⁹⁰ Post Construction Program report, 12/9/1981.

⁹¹ Structural Deck Investigation and Existing Conditions drawing dated 2/1982.

⁹² Memo from Superintendent to Roger Mackey, 5/11/1982.

room was too high, causing damage to ceiling tile.⁹³

Drawings of December 1983 show details for replacement of the exterior front and side steps. A new step was to be added above each original concrete step and covered with a liquid-applied waterproofing membrane, and two handrails were installed on the front stairs. The step replacement began in February 1985.⁹⁴

And yet the roof problems did not cease. In 1983, a water sealant had been applied to the roof, as recommended by an architect from the NPS Branch of Design, but repairs were needed again in 1985 when a weatherproofing material was applied. Heavy rains during the roof work caused severe water damage to the building and disputes with the contractor. The Superintendent reported:

Contract let to install new roof on Visitor Center in September 1985 with severe damage to interior of building and exhibits caused by contractor's negligence (necessitated temporary closing of Visitor Center during October).⁹⁵

In 1984, a hands-on learning center for children was created in former storage space beneath the rotunda. Named the Dr. Charles Fairbanks Memorial Discovery Lab and considered highly innovative, the award-winning Discovery Lab attracted educators and planners from across the Southeast and became a model for similar projects elsewhere.⁹⁶

⁹³ Memo of 11/15/1982 to Branch of Construction Contracts (Don Marley) from Superintendent Sibbald Smith regarding existing deficiencies.

⁹⁴ NPS drawings designed by Barton, recommended 1/20/1984; maintenance project list for FY 1985.

⁹⁵ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1985.

⁹⁶ Fairbanks was among anthropologists who developed southeastern archaeology methodology at Ocmulgee in the 1930s; the lab won Freeman Tilden

The visitor information desk in the rotunda was moved to improve the entrance to the gift shop, which received its own improvements, including paint, new bookshelves, carpeting, and the lowering of its ceiling from twelve to eight feet. The Association office was also painted, and touch-up painting was done in restrooms, hallways, and the break room. Outside, the solar panel structure was painted to reduce maintenance costs.⁹⁷



Figure B-39. Promotional sign currently in storage.

Again in 1985 and 1986, a new roof was installed on the Visitor Center. The superintendent reported as well that interior painting had been completed, and the murals in the rotunda had been replaced. Additional alterations to interior spaces were undertaken. A partition was added in the curatorial area between work and storage areas, giving controlled access to the artifact storage area, and a wall was installed in the Association office. In 1986, storage shelves were installed in the Discovery Lab and in

Education Award in 1988. www.nps.gov/archive/ocmu/calendar.

⁹⁷ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1985. Full name is "The Cooperating Association of the ONM," generally known as the Ocmulgee Association.

the newly partitioned curatorial area, and a tile floor was laid in the Discovery Lab and hallway.⁹⁸

However, again in 1987 the superintendent reported that roof leaks had been repaired.

1990s Alterations

Repairs continued in 1991. A leak on an exterior wall was repaired, walls in the administration office were patched and painted and the back hall and special exhibit room were painted; the bottom of the gift shop door was shaved to prevent damage to the tile floor and plaster was touched up and painted.

In the period between 1989 and 1999, a new roof was installed in-house by Ocmulgee maintenance staff, with the majority of the work performed by Jerome Walker after day laborers either quit or were fired. The new roof was a membrane roof covered by a layer of brick.⁹⁹



Figure B-40. Theater with reversed seating.

In 1995, exhibits were improved, and in 1997 the theater's audio-visual system was updated in preparation for Ocmulgee's new film,

⁹⁸ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1986. Dedication of the Discovery Lab was held on May 5, 1986.

⁹⁹ Email correspondence from Guy LaChine, OCMU Ranger, November 17, 2008. Jerome Walker joined Ocmulgee's maintenance staff in 1982 and became maintenance director after Homer Leslie's retirement.

"Mysteries of the Mounds." Seating was reversed to face west towards a new, large-screen television, VHS, and DVD player. The projection booth in the rounded corner was largely abandoned, and the original screen, painted on the east wall, was retained and covered by a curtain.¹⁰⁰

The Visitor Center roof continued to leak, and in 1998, NPS drew up plans to replace the roof with a raised roof structure with external downspouts. Upon review, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) found this design to have an adverse effect under Section 106 regulations. Ocmulgee submitted a substitute proposal to install another "membrane type roof but avoid the internal drain system."¹⁰¹ In 1999, the slope of the roof was increased and the new roof installed.

Terrace leaks also continued. The drain system was revised in 1999, also with a slope added, and the membrane was replaced and new cast stone paving installed. The terrace continued to leak after completion of this work.¹⁰²

In 1998, the main compressor on the HVAC system broke down and was rebuilt in place with emergency funds. Both public areas and offices were without air conditioning during a hot summer week.¹⁰³

2000s Alterations

In 2001, a combination of a broken shutoff valve and clogged drains caused a major flood of the mechanics room on the lower level. Water rose two feet. In addition to damaging the HVAC system, the water

¹⁰⁰ Interview, Homer Leslie; also Superintendent's Annual Report, 1998, proposing changes; Superintendent's Annual Reports, 2001 and 2002; and email correspondence from Guy LaChine, OCMU Ranger, 11/17/2008.

¹⁰¹ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1998.

¹⁰² OCMU-B CD disk, p. 195.

¹⁰³ Superintendent's Annual Report, FY 1998.

flooded the adjacent file storage room, causing severe damage to many files and documents that were subsequently discarded. Reportedly, no inventory of damaged or destroyed files was available at the time of this report.¹⁰⁴

That same year, funds were secured to update the Monument's fire and security systems. This was part of a government-wide effort to correct deficiencies identified after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 and highlighted following the September 11 attacks in 2001. At Ocmulgee, outside lighting was developed for the building, surveillance cameras were added, repairs were made to the security fencing and outdated detection systems were updated.¹⁰⁵

The building was painted again in 2001-02 using "special sealant paint," and the sidewalks were replaced.

Major work was undertaken in 2003 after mold and mildew were found throughout the duct system and porous surfaces of the building and were determined to be the cause of health problems among the staff. It was determined that these conditions could be eradicated only with a complete removal of the HVAC system including all ducts and of most carpeting. The building was closed from April to September during the work while staff, offices, and exhibits were moved to six temporary trailers to continue operations of the Monument.¹⁰⁶

Associated with the installation of the new mechanical system was installation of ceramic tile floors in several areas on both levels of the building. On the lower level, tiles were installed in all halls, the rangers' office, an office in the south wing, the

library, and the break room. Upper level spaces included the central corridor, the main exhibit room, an office in the south wing, the waiting area, and adjoining terrace lobby and vestibule. The dropped ceiling installed during the 1980s renovation was damaged during the mechanical installation and replaced by the contractor.¹⁰⁷

Although existing carpeting was removed during this work, new carpeting was installed in the rotunda and adjoining gift shop and in the theater and upper and lower office spaces in the south wing. Four ceiling fans were installed in the rotunda and two in the theater. A doorway between rooms 114 and 115A was also closed at this time.¹⁰⁸



Figure B-41. Discovery Lab beneath rotunda.

Additional changes reported by the superintendent in 2003 were the removal of the partition between the library and conference room, a change to the hallway behind the Discovery Lab, and correction of unspecified sewage problems. Outside, new sodding, irrigation, and landscaping were added to the island fronting the building.¹⁰⁹

In 2005, the Discovery Lab's carpet was replaced with multi-colored tile.

¹⁰⁴ Interview with Superintendent Jim David; and Superintendent's Annual Report, 2001.

¹⁰⁵ Superintendent's Annual Report, 2001.

¹⁰⁶ Superintendent's Annual Report, 2003.

¹⁰⁷ Interview with OCMU Cultural Resources Manager Lonnie Davis, 2/2008; email correspondence from Guy LaChine, OCMU Ranger, 11/17/2008.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ Superintendent's Annual Report, 2003.

In 2007, several areas of the lower level beneath the terrace were painted with a water sealant in an attempt to reduce the dampness and leaks from the terrace. The treated areas included the walls, floors, and ceilings of the storage, archives, curatorial, and graphics rooms and other spaces. During this time, improvements were made to the archival area northeast of the Discovery Lab in the storage area beneath the terrace, consisting principally of the addition of a wall and doorway in the north storage area beneath the terrace in order to create a secure artifact and archives area and to provide a curatorial workspace beneath the gift shop. This had originally been a divided space although the earlier wall had at some time been removed.

In 2008, a doorway was filled in between offices 010A and 010B in the south wing of the lower level.

CHRONOLOGY --- TIME LINE

<p>•In this timeline, “M&A” is used for the Museum and Administration Building, the name given to the building even before it was designed and which continued in use for several decades until the term Visitor Center became more common.</p> <p>•Through the years, the levels of the building are variously named, with the lower level called ground floor, lower floor, basement, & first floor, and the upper level likewise called main floor, upper floor, and second floor.</p> <p>•For purposes of this report, the building is considered to face east.</p> <p>•Unless otherwise indicated, information is from superintendent’s reports.</p>	
9000 BC- AD 1350	Land occupied by Paleo-Indian hunters & later prehistoric groups who built earthen mounds. Lamar culture developed by mid-14 th century.
1540	Contact by de Soto initiated relocation & decline of Lamar people.
ca. 1690	Lower Creek Indians returned.
1805, 1821	Creeks ceded most land to U.S. gov’t; ceded Ocmulgee Old Fields in 1821.
1828	Land auctioned to white settlers.
1840s-1920s	Ocmulgee damaged by railroad cuts and continuing agricultural, ranching, timbering, & clay mining uses.
1856	Dunlap family house built on site.
1922 Feb. 3	Local citizens contacted US Bureau of American Ethnology regarding acquisition.
1929 April	Local funds proposed to augment Smithsonian excavations.
1933 Nov. Dec. 20	Mound damaged by removal of fill dirt for street construction. Local groups initiated purchase of mounds & sought New Deal relief labor. Dr. Arthur Kelly arrived as Smithsonian representative to supervise excavations; CWA began excavations.
1933-early 1940s	New Deal programs employed several hundred workers; largest archaeological team in U.S. made up of CWA, ERA, & WPA workers.
1934 Feb. April	Legislation proposed for Ocmulgee National Park. Ocmulgee archaeology assigned to Federal Emergency Relief Administration (ERA).
Mid 1930s	Temporary museum built to display artifacts.
1935	Preliminary development plan included construction of a museum.
1936 Dec. 21 Dec. 23	Dunlap House remodeled for use as offices for NPS staff & FERA workers; remodeling plans drawn April, approved June. Earth Lodge reconstruction began under direction of architect James Swanson, anthropologist Kelly & engineer Smith with WPA workers; CCC joined spring 1937. Presidential Proclamation established Ocmulgee National Monument; Swanson named acting superintendent.
1937 May Dec.	Six-year development plan listed new Museum & Administration Building (M&A) as high priority. \$50,000 WPA allotment & PWA allotment sought for M&A construction. Over 200 CCC workers arrived. Dunlap House renovation completed; soon ready for offices.
1938 Feb. Mar. 12 May Oct. 21	Swanson left; served as assistant architect in NPS offices; designed M&A. Schematic architectural plan of M&A labeled “Designed by & Drawn by Swanson 3-12-38.” Construction of M&A began under ERA. Drawings by Swanson identified three phases of construction. Total square footage of lower level was 16,546. Temporary exhibit planned for completed Unit 1-B. \$35,000 in PWA funds received to continue construction.

late 1938	Archaeological excavations largely discontinued; laboratory continued at Macon Auditorium.
1938 or 1939	Drawing of frieze by Branch of Plans & Design.
1938 & 1939	Watercolor renderings of proposed building prepared by Branch of Plans & Design.
1939	Master Plan developed by NPS.
March	Architectural plans showed “existing construction” & “future construction.”
April 14	Upper level plans showed reduced footprint excluding auditorium & winding outer gallery. Included front & side terraces, front & side stairs, rotunda, rear corridor, offices, interior stair.
June	Ocmulgee placed under NPS administrative coordinating group, “Southeastern National Monuments,” headquartered in St. Augustine at Fort Marion NM.
July 20	“Advance drawings” showed Swanson & Nevins as designers.
July 1938 to June 1939	Work at Ocmulgee performed by relief labor averaging 450 workers. Museum parking lot laid out, graded, & surfaced by CCC.
1939 June	John Ewers, curator who prepared Exhibit Plan, became superintendent. 55% of basement completed by ERA & PWA by mid-1939.
Jul-Aug	Drawings show only front portion excavated, existing slab, current & future construction. Architectural plan specifies terrace paving & colors: red tiles with 1'6"-wide black border at parapet wall & building edge. Red stairs with black border along cheek walls. Cataloging of almost one million artifacts completed. Ocmulgee becoming regional center for southeastern archaeological study.
1940 April	Master Plan gave high priority to construction & furnishing of M&A. Drawings included in 1940 Exhibit Plan show completed portions of building & portions for future construction.
May	Artifact lab moved from Macon Auditorium to lower level of M&A while construction continued.
June 25	Construction program for FY41 to exclude upper winding gallery & basement spaces beneath the gallery, including men’s locker room, loading dock, receiving room & storage.
Oct.	Offices for NPS staff & FERA workers moved to M&A from Dunlap House. Dunlap House converted to superintendent’s residence. Ocmulgee resumed administrative autonomy; removed from St. Augustine coordinating group. Exhibit plan approved; described comprehensive design for exhibits in the winding gallery & descriptions of space usage below the gallery; these areas were eliminated from construction plans.
Nov.	Foundations laid for auditorium & several basement rooms.
1940-41	Series of “confidential” & “off the record” letters between superintendent of ERA (overseeing construction) & NPS regarding ongoing construction.
1941	Low funding required ERA to define units to build & those to exclude.
Oct. 1	Building said to be 65% complete. Flagpole & commemorative plaque erected.
Nov.	ERA work suspended; small CCC force remained. Construction ended. Pottery lab, artifact space, NPS & ERA offices completed; temporary exhibits displayed.
1942 July	CCC camp closed leaving minimal staff throughout war years.
1944 Oct.	Arthur Kelly returned to Ocmulgee as acting superintendent.
1945-18	Temporary roof created continuing problems; no funds for replacement.
1946 Jan. 29	Construction expected to resume shortly; appropriated funds disappear.
1946	Lack of maintenance intensifies damage. Superintendent described leaks, water-

		soaked basement, insect damage to collections, defective storage containers, & frequent use of DDT; roof repaired; rotunda's interior cork insulation "cemented & replaced;" interior walls & office painted.
1947	Sept. 1	Dr. Kelly resigned to associate with University of Georgia.
1948	May	Staff included only director, clerk-typist, janitor & two laborers.
1947-48		Funding lost under federal ban on competition with private business. Private fundraising continued. Heavy rains disrupted power for three weeks; additional cable failures in April. Repaired or replaced doors, frames, windows; painted portions of interior; caulked clerestory glass block; renovated display cases, built shelves.
1948		Drawings for completion of rotunda prepared by Region One Office [no details].
1949	Nov.	1950 budget includes no "construction" funds.
1950	June 2	Received \$135,000 in federal "rehabilitation" funds, actually used to complete construction. Signed construction contract for completion of building with great reduction in total area; eliminated winding gallery, auditorium, & lower level beneath gallery.
1951	Jan.	Terrace cracked & separated before construction complete; roof leaked repeatedly. Recurrent repairs.
	June Nov. 2	Construction complete. Cost estimated at \$350,000. M&A building dedicated.
Late 1950s		Mission 66 concept introduced Visitor Center as alternate name for M&A.
Dec. 1961 to June 1962		"Big Dig II" salvage excavations for I-16. Archeological Research Unit (ARU) housed in lower level, remaining after 1962. Portion of first-floor bathrooms converted to archaeologist's office.
1963		Removed original large divided window in rotunda; replaced with three large sheets of tempered glass.
1965-66		Building sandblasted and repainted "soft yellow with brick red trim" to match color combination of 1951.
1966	Oct. 15	Major repairs to roof & terrace.
	Oct. 17	Ocmulgee listed in National Register of Historic Places; M&A within boundaries although not included in text. Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) established at Ocmulgee with office & work spaces in lower level, NPS staff on upper level.
1968		SEAC & Ocmulgee combined administrative operations; unsuccessful.
1972	June 12	SEAC moved to Florida State University; SEAC & Ocmulgee artifacts at both locations.
	Oct.	Creek Indians opened Creek Trading Post gift shop in SEAC space.
Late 1960s-70s		Lower court/patio & new entrance built on south side of building.
1973	June	Installed wheelchair ramp at northeast side of front terrace.
Mid-1970s		Closed Trading Post gift shop.
1977		Replaced roof; replaced terrace.
1978	May Sept.	Additional documentation for National Register Historic District "accepted." M&A again included in boundaries & again absent from text. Developed renovation plans with focus on public & exhibit areas. Removed & installed walls for installation of solar equipment.
1979		Closed M&A for installation of Solar Energy System; moved staff & exhibits.

1981-82	Closed building for several months during major remodeling of M&A; installed new roof; replaced terrace; remodeled interior; reconfigured upper exhibit space; built theater & A-V room; moved offices to remodeled lower level; remodeled bathrooms, installed security alarm; repainted exterior; installed cabinet doors in offices. Denver Service Center investigated leaks in terrace & front steps; recommended new work.
1982 May 19 Summer Nov.	In meeting with contractor is handwritten note to “sandblast on Saturday, wash on Sunday morning” [no explanation given]. Solar energy system failed; installed safety device to restore operation. Cracks in new walls at exhibit & A-V areas & elsewhere; leaks near rotunda at front terrace & rangers’ office near south patio entrance. Began installation of exhibit cases.
1983 Dec.	Applied roof sealant as recommended by NPS Branch of Design. Drawings for replacement of exterior front & side steps.
1984	Opened Discovery Lab; painted portions of interior & solar panel structure; Added shelves & carpet & lowered gift shop ceiling; relocated information desk.
1984-85	Rebuilt solar system’s engine; removed August 1985.
1985 Sept-Oct.	Closed building during roof work; applied weatherproofing material to roof; Severe damage to interior & exhibits from rains during roof work “caused by contractor’s negligence.”
1986	Replaced roof; completed interior plaster & painting; replaced rotunda murals [no details]; repaired exhibits damaged by roof leaks; installed wall in Association office; built shelves in several rooms; installed tile floor in Discovery Lab & hallway; built partition in curatorial area between work & storage areas; installed storage shelves in curatorial facility; removed underground solar supply line; replaced at ground level.
1987	Repaired roof leaks; repaired plaster & painted interior.
1991	Repaired leak on exterior wall; patched & painted administration office & elsewhere.
1996	M&A included in “Additional Documentation” submitted to National Register.
1997	Theater seating reversed; production equipment upgraded.
1998	Design for new raised roof abandoned after SHPO review; alternate proposal for membrane roof; rebuilt failed HVAC compressor; installed new interpretative panel.
1999 May	Plans for terrace replacement.
2001	Painted building with sealant; replaced sidewalks; installed outside lighting & surveillance cameras. Flood in mechanics room damaged HVAC system & numerous files in adjacent file room.
2002	Renovated Discovery Lab.
2003	Complete replacement of HVAC system to eradicate mold: closed building for six months; moved staff & exhibits to trailers; replaced carpeting with tile floors; installed fans; replaced dropped ceiling; removed partition between library & conference room; altered footprint of hallway behind Discovery Lab; landscaped front island.
2007-08	Repainted lower level interior with sealant; added wall to create curatorial workshop beneath gift shop.

C. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

General Description

At Ocmulgee, the visitor enters the park at a visually subdued vehicular entrance along a major Macon thoroughfare. One then travels along a two lane park road through a wooded area of dark greens and browns. The road bends and turns and approaches the building from behind and to the side. One is almost at the building before it comes into view. Surface parking is immediately opposite the main entrance.



Figure C-1. East or main elevation.

The building faces southeast (east for the purpose of this report). It is a whitish building, the main block square-ish with rounded corners, two stories in height with its bold red-orange frieze and a shimmering, glass block band just below its flat top. Behind can be seen one-story wing extensions with long expanses of aluminum windows. A broad expanse of low rising steps and low sweeping terrace walls frame the view of the two-story rotunda and bring the visitor to its front entrance. A wide terrace of red-tinged pavers leads the way. A projecting, one-story, entrance vestibule of glass block with aluminum doors and trim provides a sparkling entryway to the discovery beyond.



Figure C-2. The rotunda.

Through the low-ceilinged room of the entry vestibule, one enters directly into the rotunda. It is impressive, tall, some twenty-five feet from floor to ceiling, and lit from above with natural light that enters on all four sides through the glass blocks just below the ceiling. An information desk is forward to the right, in the northwest corner of the room. Exhibits are around the other perimeter wall surfaces. On the north wall is a relatively low, unadorned doorway to the one-story gift shop. Opposite, the south wall has a wide, tall glass window revealing a magnificent vista. The view is unbroken across the red paved south terrace to a straight run of steps leading down to a walkway across a small pedestrian bridge and rising gently to the reconstructed Earth Lodge in the distance.

To the west is a long, low, wide corridor. Public restrooms are to the right, the north. Along the south wall is a long, horizontal, silver-colored band of aluminum windows that flood the room with sunlight. At the end of the hall is a large exhibition room of display cases and exhibits. Adjoining it just to its south is the theater. Across from the theater is a lobby and an exit to the south terrace. From there the visitor can descend steps to the walkway leading to the Earth

Lodge, or follow the terrace to the front of the building. These are the spaces known to the visitor.



Figure C-3. Walkway to the Earth Lodge.

But there is much more to the building. Further down from the theater, behind a secure doorway off the terrace lobby, is a wing of staff offices. Below, at grade level and extending well beyond the building footprint and beneath the terrace, are large expanses of rooms for artifact storage, curatorial space, staff offices and rooms for other support services.

The building's areas for staff, when they are not involved with the visiting public, are straightforward and utilitarian. They are low-keyed in design, clearly not intended to impress. Some are set back from the public in the two-story wing of offices. Others are tucked away in ground level rooms below the rotunda and other main level spaces. From the exterior, the staff rooms continue the Moderne image of a low, long white building with glistening strips of aluminum windows.

The Visitor Center's design physically separates the two worlds. For the visitor, it is a path of impressive and sometimes surprising sights and experiences, of discovery and learning. For staff, it is a separate realm of surprises and broadening

experiences that comes from the daily work of museum curation and interpretation.

Construction Characteristics

Structural Systems

Foundations & Footings: Throughout the building, in all areas of construction regardless of the phase, the foundation walls and continuous footings are reinforced concrete, poured-in-place.

Exterior Walls: The exterior walls of the building are constructed of poured-in-place concrete. The exposed exterior elevations are stuccoed and painted. Exposed interior elevations of primary spaces, typically offices, are plastered and painted. On the walls of secondary spaces, such as traditional storage and archival spaces, plaster was typically not applied; the imprint of the concrete formwork was left intact and initially unpainted.

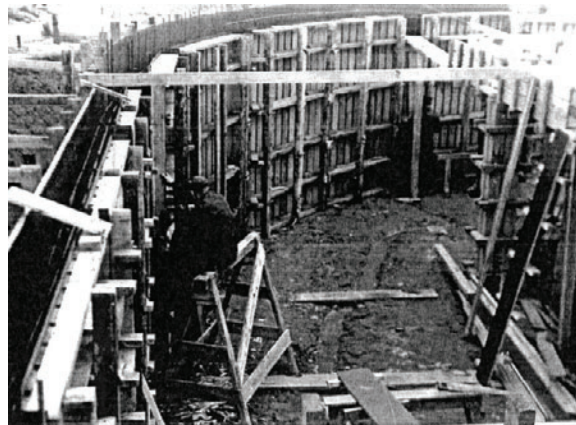


Figure C-4. Formwork for poured concrete.

Cross Walls: Up through the 1950-51 second major phase of construction, the cross walls were constructed of hollow clay tile, then plastered if a primary space.

Later remodelings of internal spaces typically built walls of gypsum board on studs.

Flooring Systems: According to the 1939 and 1950 construction documents, which in

effect would be phase one and phase two of construction, all floors are reinforced concrete slabs.

Roof Framing: All the roofs are flat, consistent with the Art Moderne style.

According to the 1939 construction documents (June 15, 1939), most roofing systems that were installed before the 1950-51 phase two work are specified to be reinforced concrete slabs with beams of varying size and spacing. A “gypsum roof slab” is specified for the rotunda.

The 1950 construction plans (sheet 4 of 14) specify steel open-web bar joists to support the roofs of the theater and exhibit hall. The specified joists for the theater are 12" deep set 36" o. c. For the exhibit hall the joists are specified to be 16" deep set 36" o. c.

Exterior Features

Roofs and Rainwater Collection/Dispersal: All the roofs were reroofed in 1999 with a Sonnefil membrane (30-year warranty). Insulation board was first installed to provide a slight slope to the roof surfaces. The earlier roof drains and internal drain pipes were abandoned in place, and all roof water was directed to the roof perimeter parapets and out scuppers to external galvanized downspouts. At grade, some downspouts empty onto a splash block; some tie into the 1939 cast iron, underground drainage lines. The staff reports that all the roofs and their drainage systems are working well.

As part of that same waterproofing effort, the terrace pavers were removed, old area drains abandoned, the terrace substrate sloped for drainage at new perimeter scuppers, and the same membrane installed over the new substrate. New cast stone were installed. Unlike the reroofing, this effort was flawed. A dispute ensued and an

impasse resulted. The terrace continues to have problems with water infiltration.



Figure C-5. Scuppers and external Downspouts added 1999.



Figure C-6. New pavers at east terrace.

Walls: The exposed elevations have painted stucco. A 1990 chemical analysis by the Georgia Tech Research Institute concluded the stucco samples at unspecified locations contained 60% sand and 40% gypsum. The earliest paints identified (presumably post-1970 when the building was sandblasted) were two coatings of polyurethane-based paints followed by three coats of aluminum silicates-based paints. Sampling of the rotunda stucco during the preparation of this report visually identified all seven samples as rich in Portland cement. The building

was last painted in 2003, according to then Chief of Maintenance, Homer Lesley, with a water-sealant paint named “Renewit.”

Frieze: The frieze that encircles the rotunda is made of cast cement panels. The decorative pattern, taken from early pottery of the region, is cast as an incised decoration approximately 1" deep. The frieze appears to be in good condition.



Figure C-7. Pottery-inspired frieze.

Doorways: The completed building that was dedicated in November of 1951 has three major doorways. These include the main public entrance on the east elevation of the rotunda, the terrace lobby doorway off the south terrace, and the staff entrance at ground level, off the south stair lobby. All three retain their 1951 aluminum door framing. All three have replacement doors dating to about 2003. All three have devices for assisted opening and closing, added in the early 1990s.



Figure C-8.
Main entrance



Figure C-9.
South terrace exit

A second staff entry was added to the south wall of the rangers’ offices in the late 1960s or 1970s. One section of a three-part window was removed for conversion to the doorway. That aluminum and glass door remains. This doorway, too, has a device for assisted opening and closing.



Figure C-10. West-side staff entrance.



Figure C-11.
Service court.

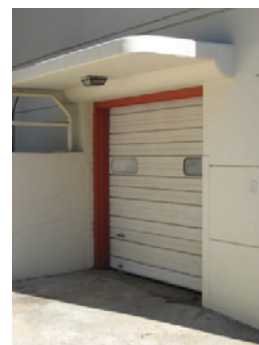


Figure C-12.
Garage door.

In addition, there is a service door on the east wall of the original mechanical room in the northwest corner sector of the building.

This doorway is at ground level and opens onto the service court. This doorway purportedly dates to 1951 and retains its original features including door and hardware.

There is also a garage door on the west elevation of the garage. This doorway dates to 1951 and reportedly retains its original door.



Figure C-13. Awning-type window unit.

Windows: Reportedly the windows were purchased as a group when construction first started; some were installed and other stored for later use. Indeed, throughout the building, regardless of construction phase, the window units are consistent in their design, if operable either awning type or hinged and others that are fixed. All are intact except for two which have extensive replacement as part of repair and are discussed along with their respective room's other features in the room sections below. The large multi-paned window on the south wall of the rotunda was replaced with the current three-panel window in 1963.

Service Court: The service court on the north side of the building was constructed as part of the 1950-51 second phase of construction. The floor surface is poured-in-place concrete as are the two enclosing

walls. A surface drain is located near the center of the court. A set of poured-in-place concrete stairs lead from the ground level down to this court. The court is accessible only from the mechanical room at grade.



Figure C-14. East and south terraces.

Terrace: The wide terrace extends from the east side of the rotunda around to the south and over to the doorway at the terrace lobby. Records indicate repeated efforts to stop the persistent leaks that have wet the rooms below. In 1999, the terrace pavers were removed, internal drains abandoned and a new topping set to slope drainage to new terrace wall scuppers. The scuppers direct rainwater to conductors and downspouts for dispersal at grade. New, pale rose-colored, cast-cement pavers were installed on top of the terrace. The leaks reoccurred, however. The resultant disagreement with the contractor over liability went unresolved. The leaks persist.

South Court or Patio: This lower court was installed in the late 1960s or 1970s when a window of the south wall of the rangers' offices was converted to a staff doorway. The court is framed by a low, 30" tall retaining wall of painted, poured-in-place concrete and concrete block. The court surface is brick. There are two concrete benches for seating. The court, sometimes called the patio, is reportedly serving as

intended and appears to be well maintained and in good condition.



Figure C-15. South court or patio and stairs leading up to the south terrace.

Interior Features - Ground Floor

Room 001- Artifact Storage: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 first phase of construction, this C-shaped room is directly beneath the entrance terrace. The end wall in the northwest section was demolished sometime after 1949, when NPS documentation last recorded its presence. In 2007 a new wall was constructed in the same location, reestablishing the original floor plan. The room's use, as it has always been, is for artifact storage.



Figure C-16. Catalogued artifacts.

- **Flooring:** The original concrete slab floor was first painted (with a water sealant) in

late 2007 as part of a waterproofing effort to help protect the collection.

- **Walls:** The walls, except the northeast end wall, are the originals, poured-in-place concrete.

The northeast end wall dating to 2007 was constructed of gypsum board on studs; it replaced a 1989 partition.

- **Doors:** The door of the northeast end wall constructed in 2007 is a modern, painted, flush panel, wood door measuring 1 ³/₄" x 3'-0" x 5'-8". The modern stock casing features a cove and ovolo and measures 5/8" x 2 ¹/₄". There is no threshold for this doorway.



Figure C-17. 1938-41 metal-clad door.

A passageway opening leads to Room 002, a storage area. This opening originally was framed for doors as evidenced by two remaining bolts at the lintel. In the earliest construction period, such bolts were used to attach wood framing for doorways to ancillary spaces.

The original doorway to what is now the Discovery Lab (Room 004) remains intact. The steel-clad, beveled casing holds what appears to be the original pair of two-panel, steel-clad doors each measuring 3'-0" x 7'-0" x 1 ³/₄". The door panels are trimmed on both

sides with cove and ovolo moldings. Each door has three original, brass Type 1 hinges and brass Type A doorknobs.

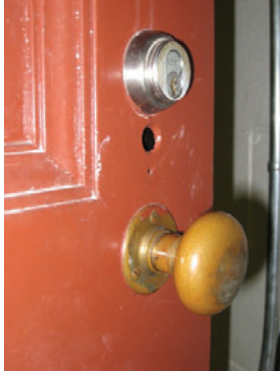


Figure C-18. Type A.



Figure C-19. Type 1.

The 1938-41 doorway to what is now the graphics room (Room 005B) retains part of its original material. The steel-clad, beveled casing remains, but the doors and hardware are replacements. The pair of flush-panel, steel-clad replacement doors each measure 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1¾". Each door has three steel hinges and two 2"-diameter, brushed-chrome doorknobs. The bronze threshold appears to be original.

- *Ceiling:* The underside of the concrete slab for the terrace forms the ceiling. The concrete beams are exposed. The ceiling and beams were painted in late 2007 with a water-sealant paint.

- *Baseboards:* There are no baseboards.

- *Finishes:* The walls and ceiling were painted in 2007 with a Benjamin Moore acrylic paint.

The original concrete slab floor was first painted (with Rust-Oleum Epoxy Shield Floor Coating) in late 2007 as part of a waterproofing effort to help protect the collection.

The steel door frames and doors are painted. The gypsum board-clad northeast end wall, and the door and trim are painted.

- *Mechanical Systems:* A heat pump was dedicated specifically for this room during the 2003 redesign of the building's mechanical system. It is located near the northwest partition wall, suspended from the ceiling structure. A separate, movable dehumidifier rests on the floor below the heat pump.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in a surface-mounted, metal conduit. There are four, 8'-0" long, two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures. There is a single, wall-mounted, ceramic, incandescent lighting fixture over the new doorway to the curatorial workshop (Room 103).

- *Other Features:* There are three ten-inch diameter, floor drains.



Figure C-20 Typical 10" floor drain.

Three sections of 4" iron, drain pipes extend from ceiling to floor as part of an earlier rainwater dispersal system. According to staff, these drain lines are no longer operational as a result of the 1990 effort to waterproof the terrace.

There is a five-pound, handheld, ABC Type fire extinguisher.

There are security system contacts on the doors to Room 004 and Room 005B.

Room 002 - General Storage: Part of the 1938-41, first phase of construction, this room, rectilinear in plan measuring approximately 5'-5" x 33'-4" is directly beneath the main-entrance stairs and landing. It is used as a general storage area.



Figure C-21. Doorway to Room 002 with header bolts still present and formwork imprints in the concrete.

- **Flooring:** The unpainted concrete slab is the floor.
- **Walls:** The walls are unpainted, poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction. The imprint of the wood framing of the concrete forms is clearly visible.
- **Doors:** See Room 001 for description.
- **Ceiling:** The sloped and level ceiling planes are the unpainted, poured-in-place concrete undercarriage of the stairs and landing. The imprint of the wood framing of the concrete forms is clearly visible.
- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.
- **Finishes:** The poured-in-place concrete walls and ceiling surfaces were painted in 2007 with a Benjamin Moore acrylic paint.

- **Electrical Systems:** Electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted conduit. There is an 8'-0", two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixture mounted above the passageway.

Room 003 - Curatorial Workshop: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 first phase of construction, this room, rectilinear in plan and measuring approximately 15'-0" x 19'-2" with an 8'-3" ceiling height, is directly beneath the current gift shop (Room 103). The east end wall was demolished sometime after 1949. In 2007, a new stud wall sheathed with gypsum board was constructed in the same location, reestablishing the original floor plan. The room's use until reconstruction of the end wall had been for artifact storage.

- **Flooring:** The original concrete slab floor was first painted in late 2007.

- **Walls:** The east wall which is a stud wall sheathed with painted gypsum board was installed in 2007. The other walls are original, poured-in-place concrete.

- **Doors:** See Room 001 for a description of the east wall doorway.

The original single leaf doorway on the north wall and a double leaf doorway on the west wall were filled with "blocks" (probably hollow clay tiles as used elsewhere in the building) and cemented over in the 1950-51 second phase of construction.

The original doorway to what is now the Discovery Lab (Room 004) remains intact. The steel-clad, beveled casing holds what appears to be the original pair of two-panel, steel-clad doors, each measuring 3'-0" x 7'-0" x 1 3/4". The door panels are trimmed on both sides with cove and ovolo moldings. Each door has three, original brass Type 1 hinges and brass Type A doorknobs.



Figure C-22. Curatorial workshop and doorway to artifact storage (Room 001). Note fluorescent lighting fixture attached to bottom of beam.

- **Ceiling:** The underside of the concrete slab and beams forms the ceiling. The concrete beams are exposed. The ceiling and beams were painted in late 2007.

- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.

- **Finishes:** The concrete walls and ceiling were painted in 2007 with a Benjamin Moore acrylic paint.

The original concrete slab floor was first painted (with Rust-Oleum Epoxy Shield Floor Coating) in late 2007 as part of a waterproofing effort to help protect the collection.

- **Mechanical Systems:** A floor-mounted fan coil unit is centered on the north wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted, metal

conduit. There are two 8'-0", two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures.

- **Other Features:** There is a ten-inch diameter, floor drain near the center of the room.

There is a 15-pound, handheld, ABC Type fire extinguisher mounted on a column.

There are security system contacts on the doors to Room 004.

There is a smoke detector mounted on the ceiling.



Figure C-23. Discovery lab.

Room 004 – Discovery Lab: Part of the 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, square in plan with rounded corners and measuring 45'-10" x 45'-10" with an 8'-0" ceiling height, is directly beneath the rotunda (Room 102). Initially used for general storage, it was converted to a learning center for children in 1984.

- **Flooring:** The vinyl tile flooring, in 12" x 12" squares, was applied in two separate installations. When converted to a learning center, the tan tile was installed at the room's perimeter while the center was covered with carpet. In 2005 a donor removed the carpet and one row of the encircling ring of tiles and installed new tile as replacement. Each tile is a solid color,

either white, orange or blue, remnants from other installations.

- *Walls:* The walls are painted, poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction. The imprint of the wood framing of the concrete forms is clearly visible.
- *Doors:* The west doorway that leads to the central corridor (Room 007B) appears to be intact, dating to the initial construction of 1938-41. The steel metal frame has a pair of wooden, louvered doors each measuring 3' – 0" x 6' – 11½" x 1¾". Each door has three Type 1 hinges. The two doorknobs are chrome, Type B.



Figure C-24. Doorway to central corridor.

See Rooms 001, 002 and 005B for descriptions of the north, east and south doorways respectively.



Figure C-25. Type B doorknob

- *Ceiling:* The metal framing and acoustical tile ceiling was installed along with the current HVAC system in 2003. Each acoustical panel measures 2'-0" x 4'-0".
 - *Baseboards:* The 4"-high, molded vinyl baseboards were installed in 2003.
 - *Finishes:* The perimeter concrete walls, the CMU screen walls at the north, east, and south doorways, and trim are painted.
 - *Mechanical Systems:* There are two fan coil units for heating and cooling. One is in front of the north screen wall and the other in front of the south.
 - *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted, metal conduit.
- Mixed in with the acoustical ceiling panels are eighteen 2'-0" x 4'-0" diffuser panels with concealed, two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures.
- At the south doorway to the graphics room (Room 005B) there is a modern, ceiling fixture for incandescent lighting.
- *Other:* Just south of the west doorway, a 4" iron drain pipe extends from ceiling to floor as part of an earlier rainwater dispersal system. Staff reported that these drain lines

were discontinued as part of the 1999 effort to waterproof the terrace.

There is a five-pound, handheld ABC Type fire extinguisher at a column just north of the west doorway.

There are security system contacts on the doors to Room 001 and Room 003

The floor-to-ceiling screen walls at the north, east and south doorways are constructed of concrete masonry units (CMUs).

Internally lit exit signage is at the south doorway.

A two-bulb, battery-operated, emergency lighting pack is located on the east screen wall.

Room 005A - Rangers' Offices: Part of the first phase of construction, this room, an approximate rectangle in plan measuring 20'-4" x 39'-7½" with 7'-3½" ceiling height, is one part, along with Rooms 005B and 005C, of what originally was a much larger room dedicated as the archaeology laboratory. All combined, these three rooms are directly beneath the south terrace. This room now is used for offices for the rangers.

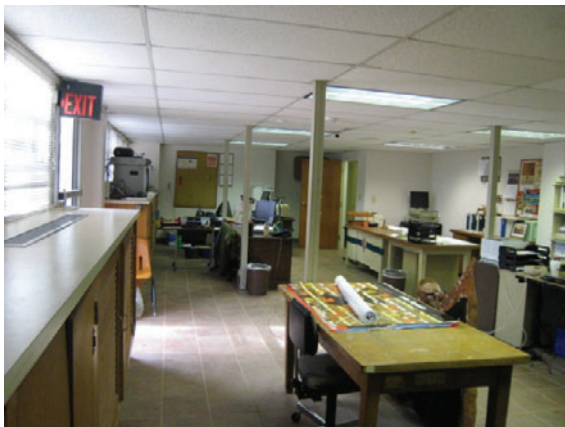


Figure C-26. Rangers' offices looking west.

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The south wall, the north portion of the west wall, and the east part of the north wall are poured-in-place concrete, dating to 1938-41.



Figure C-27. Rangers' offices looking east.

The center portion of the north wall dates to 1950-51 and is plaster on hollow clay tile.

The portions of the north wall and west wall that frame the central hall extension (Room 005C) are constructed of gypsum board on studs and date to 1981-82.

The south portion of the west wall was constructed in 2003 of gypsum board on studs to create a chase for the mechanical system.

- **Doors:** There is a doorway to Room 005B on the east wall for a single leaf door with steel frame dating to the 1981-82 construction of the wall. The door, now missing, was hinged on the north jamb.

The door to Room 005C on the north wall is varnished wood, flush panel, measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾" and dates to 1981-82.

See *Exterior Features – Doorways* for a description of the doorway that leads to the south court or patio.

- *Windows:* There are two groups of windows on the south wall. Each unit is aluminum framed with four lights stacked vertically. Each unit measures 3'-5" in width and 4'-2" in height. The west group consists of four window units. The east group originally contained three units but one was converted to a doorway.

In the west group, the two middle windows are awning type, each light on a separate track. The two flanking windows are each hinged at the top.

In the east group, the west window unit was removed for conversion of the opening to a doorway in circa 1965. The original center unit is an awning type, and the east window is hinged.

- *Ceiling:* The suspended ceiling consists of acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" installed in 2003.

- *Baseboards:* Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- *Finishes:* The walls and trim are painted.

- *Mechanical Systems:* Fan coil units are located in the built-in cabinets along the south wall.

- *Electrical Systems:* Some wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit. Some is contained in the stud walls.

There are eight fluorescent lighting fixtures, each measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0," that are part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels. Each fixture has a reflective recessed pan and louvers forming a grid pattern of three rows of six sections

each or eighteen total sections. Each fixture contains three bulbs.

- *Other Features:* There are smoke and heat detectors mounted on the ceiling.

There is a round, painted metal, intercom speaker measuring 1'-1" in diameter, mounted on the ceiling.

There is a sound detector mounted on the ceiling near the south side windows.

Room 005B - Graphics Room: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 9'11½" x 13'-7" with 8'-3" ceiling height, is one part, along with Rooms 005A and 005C, of what originally was a much larger room dedicated as the archaeology laboratory. All combined, these three rooms are directly beneath the south terrace. In 1981-82, this room was created when a north-south wall was constructed to form its west wall. This room is now dedicated to graphics work in support of the rangers' activities.



Figure C-28. Graphics room looking south.

- *Flooring:* The original concrete slab floor is painted.

- *Walls:* The north, east, and south walls are plastered, poured-in-place concrete, dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction.

The west wall is gypsum board on studs built in 1980-81.

- *Doors:* See Rooms 001, 004, and 005A for descriptions of the east, north and west doorways respectively.

The south doorway, leading to the graphics storage (Room 006) is the most intact of any of the ancillary room doorways dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction; it retains its wood frame typical of ancillary spaces. In addition, it has an early, two panel door with original hardware. The door is wood, flush with a single, upper window panel now filled with plywood. (A drawing of this door elevation and a description appear in the 1950 construction documents page 9 of 14). The door has two chrome, C-shaped, pull handle 1'-0³/₄" tall of ³/₄" x ³/₄" stock. It also had three Type 3 hinges. Now hinged on the east doorjamb, the door was previously hinged on the west jamb.

- *Ceiling:* The underside of the concrete slab and beams form the ceiling. The concrete beams are exposed. The ceiling and beams are painted.
- *Baseboards:* There are no baseboards.
- *Finishes:* The ceiling, floor, walls, doors, and trim are painted.
- *Mechanical Systems:* There is a floor-mounted fan coil unit in the southeast corner of the room.
- *Electrical Systems:* Electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted, metal conduit.

There are two, 4'-0" long, two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures suspended from the ceiling.

Room 005C - Central Stair Hall Extension:

Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 first phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 4'-5" x 7'-2", is one part, along with Rooms 005A and 005B, of what originally was a much larger room dedicated as the archaeology laboratory. All combined, these three rooms are directly beneath the south terrace. As part of the 1980-82 remodeling, this east extension of the central stair hall was created and a new doorway constructed along its north wall for access to the conference room, now a part of the library, Room 007A.



Figure C-29. View through central hall extension (Room 005C) to rangers' offices (Room 005A).

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.



Figure C-30. Typical floor tiles installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The north wall of plaster on hollow clay tile dates to the 1950-51.

The east and south walls are gypsum board on stud construction, dating to 1980-82.

- **Doors:** See Room 005A for a description of the doorway in the north wall.
- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling consists of acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" installed in 1980-82.
- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 1981-82.
- **Finishes:** The walls and door framing are painted.
- **Electrical Systems:** Electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

There is a fluorescent lighting fixture, measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" and covered with a translucent diffuser panel, that is part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels.

- **Other Features:** There is a two-bulb, battery-operated emergency light at the east wall.

Room 006 - Graphics Storage: Part of the 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 8'-0" x 13'-0", is beneath the south terrace stairway. The room has always served as a storage area.

- **Flooring:** The original concrete slab floor is painted.
- **Walls:** All four walls are poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first phase of construction.
- **Doors:** See Room 005B for description.



Figure C-31. Two-panel door dating to 1950-51.

- **Ceiling:** The sloping ceiling is poured-in-place concrete, the underside of the south terrace stairs.
- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.
- **Finishes:** The walls, ceiling, floor, door and framing are painted. The walls and ceiling were painted in 2007 with a sealant.



Figure C-32. Two chrome door pulls on a 1950-51 door.

- **Electrical Systems:** Electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted conduit.

A single four-foot, surface-mounted, two-bulb, fluorescent fixture with translucent cover panel is mounted on the wall over the doorway.

- **Other Features:** There are no other significant features in the room.

Room 007A - Library: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 17'-6" x 33'-8" and 7'-6½" in ceiling height, is one part, along with Rooms 007B, 007C, 007D and 007E, of what originally was a much larger room for the archaeology workshop. In 1967, two rooms were carved out of the southern portion of the large room to create a library from the west half and conference room from the east half. The 1980-82 remodeling extended the central stair hall to provide a south doorway for the conference room. Though those construction plans called for the partition wall separating library and conference room to remain, it apparently was removed during construction. Now identified simply as the library, the space continues to be used as

both a library with shelving in the west half and an open area with conference table in the east half.



Figure C-33. Library looking southwest.

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The west wall, north portion of the east wall and west portion of the south wall are poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first phase of construction.

Construction of the east portion of the south wall was rebuilt in the 1950-51 second phase of construction using hollow clay tile.

The north wall of gypsum board on studs was constructed prior to the 1980-82 remodeling.

- **Doors:** The apparently original doorway from the central stair hall (Room 009) dating to the 1938-41 period remains intact. The 1950-51 construction plans do not indicate any activity at this doorway. The steel-clad, beveled casing holds what appears to be the original pair of two-panel, steel-clad, doors each measuring 2'-0" x 7'-0" x 1¾". The door panels are trimmed on both sides with beveled moldings. These doors are likely Kalamein doors, a popular trademark brand of fireproof, metal-clad wood doors; this pair of doors and frame match those of the

service corridor (Room 017) leading to the garage which are identified by name and specified on the 1950-51 plans for “use old doors.” Each door has three, original brass Type 1 hinges, two brass Type C doorknobs with Type V escutcheons.

The doorway from the central hall extension (Room 005C), from the central corridor (Room 007B) and to this room’s east wall closet all date to the 1980-81 remodeling. Each door is a varnished, wood, flush-panel door in a flush steel frame with two, chrome Type E doorknobs and Type V escutcheons and three Type 3 hinges. The two room doors measure 3'-0" x 6'-7" x 1¾" while the closet door is 2'-6" in width.

- *Ceiling:* The suspended ceiling consists of acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" installed in 2003.

- *Baseboards:* Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- *Finishes:* The walls and door frames are painted. The doors and trim to Room 009 are painted. The doors to Rooms 007B and 005C and the room’s closet are varnished.

- *Mechanical Systems:* Four louvered-metal HVAC registers are on the north wall just below ceiling height.

The thermostat is on the north wall just west of the doorway.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

There are eight fluorescent lighting fixtures, each measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0," that are part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels. Each fixture has a reflective recessed pan and louvers forming a grid pattern of three rows of six sections

each or eighteen total sections. Each fixture contains three bulbs.

- *Other Features:* A closet was created in the southeast corner in 1981 when two rooms were created and the east portion was a conference room.

There is a smoke detector mounted on the ceiling.

Room 007B - Central Corridor: Part of the Visitor Center’s 1938-41 first phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 7'-11" x 40'-5½" and 7'-1" ceiling height, is one part, along with Rooms 007A, 007C, 007D and 007E, of what originally was a much larger room for the archaeology workshop. In 1963 the south wall was built to create the library and conference room. In the 1981-82 remodeling, the west part of the north wall was constructed creating the kitchen. Then, in 2003, the east part of the north wall was erected to create the mechanical room (Room 007C).



Figure C-34. Central corridor looking east.

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- *Walls:* The east and west walls of plastered, poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction.

The south wall and the west half of the north wall are constructed of gypsum board on studs, dating to the 1980-82 remodel. The east portion of the north wall dates to 2003.

- **Doors:** See Room 007A for a description of the south wall doorway to the library.

The doorway from the mechanical room (Room 007C) dates to 2003. The door is varnished wood and flush paneled measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾", set in a flush steel frame. The door has two chrome Type D door knobs with Type W escutcheons and three Type 2 hinges.

The doorway from the break room (Room 007E) dates to the 1980-82 remodel. The door is a varnished wood, flush panel measuring 3'-0" x 6'-7" x 1¾" set in a flush steel frame. The door has a chrome push plate, a closer, door handle, and three Type 4 hinges.

The doorway at the west wall was constructed for double doors that opened inward and are now missing.

The doorway from the janitor's closet (Room 008) retains portions of its original, 1938-41, bolted wood framing.

- **Ceiling:** The drop ceiling of 2'-0" x 4'-0" acoustical panels was installed in 2003 as part of the HVAC installation.

- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- **Finishes:** The walls and trim are painted. The doors are varnished.

- **Mechanical Systems:** A floor-mounted blower is centered on the north wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** Four recessed, two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures measuring

2'-0" x 4'-0 are set among the grid of acoustical ceiling panels.

Four, two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures 4'-0" in length are mounted onto the ceiling over the cabinets of the south wall.

- **Other Features:** Varnished wood cabinets were installed along the south wall by park staff in the mid-1990s.

Room 007C - Mechanical Room: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 first phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 17'-5" x 21'-3" with 8'-1" ceiling height, is one part, along with Rooms 007A, 007B, 007D and 007E, of what originally was a much larger room for the archaeology workshop. In the 2003 installation of new mechanical systems, this room acquired its current configuration.



Figure C-35. Mechanical room (Room 007B) looking north. Gas hot water heater at right.

- **Flooring:** The original concrete slab floor is painted.

- **Walls:** The north wall and the south portion of the east wall date to the 1938-41 first phase of construction and are made of poured-in-place concrete. The west stud wall

sheathed with gypsum board was erected in 1981 when the break room and adjoining storage area (Rooms 007E and 007D, respectively) were created. The south stud wall sheathed with gypsum board was erected in 2003 to enclose the new mechanical equipment in this area.

- **Doors:** The one doorway is on the south wall and dates to the 2003 enclosure of this room. The varnished wood, flush-paneled door was in place before 1989 and measures 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾" and is set in a steel frame. The door hardware is chrome and includes two Type D doorknobs with Type W escutcheon and three Type 2 hinges. This is no threshold for this doorway.

- **Ceiling:** The underside of the concrete slab and the concrete support beams are exposed.

- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.

- **Finishes:** The concrete floor is painted.

- **Mechanical Systems:** The room houses part of the building's mechanical system.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted, metal conduit. There is one 4'-0" long, two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixture suspended from the ceiling.

- **Plumbing Systems:** A Lochinvar 80-gallon hot water heater is located just east of the entry door.

A 6" cast-iron waste pipe servicing the public restrooms above is located along the north wall.

- **Other Features:** There are numerous remnants of previous mechanical and electrical systems left in place; their use, if any, are unidentified.

Room 007D - Storage: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 5'-8" x 18'-3½" with 9'-5" ceiling height, is one part, along with Rooms 007A, 007B, 007C and 007E, of what originally was a much larger room for the archaeology workshop. For a while in the 1970s, this was part of the shop for the building maintenance crew. In the 1980-82 remodeling this room and the adjoining break room (Room 007E) were created.



Figure C-36. Storage room looking east.

- **Flooring:** The original concrete slab floor is painted.

- **Walls:** The north wall and the west wall date to the 1938-41 first phase of construction and are made of poured-in-place concrete. The east and south stud walls sheathed with gypsum board were erected in 1981 when this and the adjoining break room (Room 007E) were created.

- **Doors:** The one doorway is on the south wall and dates to the 1981 enclosure of this room and the adjoining break room (Room 007E). The varnished-wood, flush-panel door measures 2'-8" x 6'-7" x 1¾" and is set in a steel frame. The door hardware is

chrome and includes two Type E doorknobs with Type V escutcheons and three Type 2 hinges. There is no threshold for this doorway.

At the south wall an original single leaf doorway and a double leaf doorway were filled with “blocks” (presumably hollow clay tiles) and cemented over in the 1950-51 second phase of construction.

- *Windows:* The set of three windows units on the north wall are original and mostly intact. All window units are aluminum framed with four horizontal lights and measure 4'-2" in height. The two outer units measure 3'-6" wide; the center unit measures 3'-4½" wide. The center and westernmost unit are replacements dating to an incident of vandalism in 1995. The easternmost unit is the original and is hinged at the top.

- *Ceiling:* The underside of the concrete slab and beams forms the ceiling. The concrete beams are exposed. The ceiling and beams are unpainted.

- *Baseboards:* There are no baseboards.

- *Finishes:* The concrete floor is painted.



Figure C-37. Storage room looking west.

- *Mechanical Systems:* This room is in effect a chase for pipes and ducts for the mechanical system.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted, metal conduit. There are no lighting fixtures in this room.

- *Plumbing Systems:* A 4", cast-iron waste pipe servicing the public restrooms above is located along the north wall.

- *Other Features:* There are numerous remnants of previous mechanical and electrical systems left in place; their use, if any, are unidentified.

Room 007E - Break Room: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 11'-2" x 18'-5" with 6'-11 ½" ceiling height, is one part, along with Rooms 007A, 007B, 007C and 007D, of what originally was a much larger room for the archaeology workshop. For a while in the 1970s, this section served as a shop for the building maintenance crew. In the 1981-82 remodeling this room was created along with the adjoining kitchen storage (Room 007D).



Figure C-38. Break room northeast oblique.

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.
- *Walls:* The west wall is poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction.

The north, south, and east walls are constructed of gypsum board on studs dating to the 1981-82 remodeling that created this current room design.



Figure C-39. Break room looking southwest.

- *Doors:* See Rooms 007B and 007D for a description of the doorways leading from the storage room and the central corridor respectively.



Figure C-40. Pull



Figure C-41. Type 4

- *Ceiling:* The ceiling is a suspended acoustical tile in metal track. The tile measure 2'-0" by 4'-0."
- *Baseboards:* Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- *Finishes:* The doors and cabinets are varnished.

The walls and wood trim are painted.

- *Mechanical Systems:* There is a six-inch, metal ceiling register.

A thermostat is on the east wall.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit and in stud walls.

There are four recessed, two fluorescent bulb, lighting fixtures among the panels of suspended acoustical ceiling tiles dating to 1981-82. Each fixture has a translucent diffuser cover.

- *Plumbing Systems:* An operable kitchen sink is located in the kitchen counter along the north wall.

- *Other Features:* Built-in, varnished wood cabinets are set along the north wall.

There is a painted metal intercom speaker measuring 1'-1" in diameter, mounted on the ceiling.

There is a five-pound, ABC Type, handheld fire extinguisher on the south wall.

There is a smoke detector on the ceiling.

The door from Room 007D has a contact as part of the security system.

Room 008A - Janitor's Closet: Part of the 1938-41 first phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan measuring 5'-5" x 6'-4", is tucked beneath the central stairs. Identified on the original plans as the "Janitor's Toilet" it is now a janitor's closet.



Figure C-42. 1938-41 Janitor's closet.

- **Flooring:** The original concrete slab floor is painted.
- **Walls:** The north, east, and south walls are poured-in-place concrete, dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction. The imprint of the wood framing of the concrete forms is clearly visible.
- **Doors:** The entry doorway was framed with wood attached with carriage bolts, the same technique used to construct the doorways to other ancillary rooms of the first construction period.
- **Ceiling:** The sloping ceiling is poured-in-place concrete, the underside of the stair carriage, dating to the 1938-41 first period

of construction. The imprint of the wood framing of the concrete forms is clearly visible.

- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.
- **Finishes:** The concrete floor, formed concrete walls/ceiling and board wall/door are painted.
- **Electrical Systems:** Electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted conduit.

A ceramic base for an incandescent light bulb, probably dating to initial construction, is on the north wall.

- **Plumbing Systems:** The original janitor's wash basin is still present. Piping for other fixtures has been disconnected.
- **Other Features:** A board wall extending north-south with board-and-batten door subdivides the rear of the room for what apparently was the toilet stall.

Room 008B - Central Stairs: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 first phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan, contains the stairway that provided the only interior connection between the basement and first floor. The stairs remain in regular use and supplemented by a second stairway, the south stairs, added in the second phase of construction.

- **Flooring:** There is no stair landing. The stairs begin at edge of the wall shared with the central stair hall (Room 009).
- **Walls:** The walls, east and west, are plastered, poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first phase of construction.
- **Doors:** There is no door at the base of the stairs.

- *Ceiling:* There is no ceiling at basement level.
- *Baseboards:* A baseboard of formed cement is present at the east and west walls.



Figure C-43. Cast-cement baseboard and painted steel handrail.

- *Finishes:* The walls, baseboards, handrails, and stairs are painted. There is a protective vinyl covering over part of the stairs.
- *Electrical Systems:* Wiring is contained in the walls.
- *Other Features:* The poured-in-place concrete stairs date to the 1938-41 first period of construction.

There are two early, steel, round handrails.

Room 009 - Central Stair Hall: Part of the 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room is a rectangle in plan measuring 3'-11" x 20'-00" with 7'-0 1/2" ceiling. The room retains its original use as stair hall though

slightly reduced in width due to reconstruction of its south wall in 1981-82.



Figure C-44. Doors of central hall dating to 1938-41.

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.
- *Walls:* The north wall and east part of the south wall are constructed of poured-in-place concrete and date to the 1938-41 first phase of construction.

The south wall was rebuilt, at a slightly shorter width, in 1981-82. The west portion is constructed of glass wall panels in steel frame, and the east portion of gypsum board on studs.

- *Doors:* See Room 007A for description of the double doors of the north wall.

On the south wall is an intact doorway dating to the reconstruction of the wall and doorway in 1981-82. The door is a

varnished wood, flush-paneled measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾." The original hardware includes two Type E chrome doorknobs and three Type 4 hinges.

- *Windows:* Two fixed glass panels are in the south wall, rebuilt in 1981-82.
- *Ceiling:* The suspended ceiling consists of acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" installed in 2003.
- *Baseboards:* Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.
- *Finishes:* The walls are painted
- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

There is a 1981-82 fluorescent lighting fixture, measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" and covered with a translucent diffuser panel, that is part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels.

Room 010A - Office: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room was initially part of one, large room rectangular in plan. A 1940s plan showing room configuration and uses indicated that this large, open room was being used for "Offices and Files (Archaeologist)." The 1950 construction documents indicated that the room would be a "Lecture Room." The 1981-82 remodeling divided the space into three office segments of approximately equal size. This, the northernmost segment, was further sub-divided into two smaller offices for support staff. Sometime after the work in 1981-82, these two small rooms were combined into the one, large office which measures 15'-1" x 19'-6," approximately the same size as the other two offices, Rooms 010B and 010C.



Figure C-45. Northwest oblique view of Room 110A.



Figure C-46. Southeast oblique view of Room 110A

- *Flooring:* The commercial-grade carpet was installed in 2003.
- *Walls:* The east wall is constructed of poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first construction period.

The west wall is constructed of hollow clay tiles built in 1940-49, then plastered.

The south wall is gypsum board on studs. The east portion was constructed during the 1981-82 remodeling. The west portion was constructed in 2007 as infill where a sliding glass door connection existed with Room 010B.

The north wall was modified and built slightly north of its original location. The existing 1980-82 wall is gypsum board on

studs with two sections of fixed glass windows.

- *Doors:* See Room 009 for a description of the north wall doorway.
- *Windows:* There are two fixed glass panels on the east side of the door to the central stair hall (Room 009) dating to 1981-82.
- *Ceiling:* The suspended ceiling consists of acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" installed in 1981-82.
- *Baseboards:* A four-inch high, molded vinyl baseboard was installed in 2003 at the time the carpeting was installed.
- *Finishes:* The walls and trim are painted. The door is varnished.
- *Mechanical Systems:* There is a six-inch, louvered-metal HVAC register on the ceiling.
- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

There are four fluorescent lighting fixtures, each measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0," that are part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels. Each fixture has a reflective recessed pan and louvers forming a grid pattern of three rows of six sections each or eighteen total sections. Each fixture contains three bulbs.

Room 010B - Administrative Office: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room was initially part of one, large room rectangular in plan. A 1940s plan showing room configuration and uses indicated this large, open room was being used for "Offices and Files (Archaeologist)." The 1950 construction documents indicated the room would be a "Lecture Room." The 1981-82 remodeling

divided the space into three office segments of approximately equal size. (The northernmost segment was further subdivided into two smaller offices for support staff. Sometime after 1982, the two small offices were combined into one large office.) This room is the center office and measures 17'-5" x 19'-6" with a 7'-10" ceiling height.



Figure C-47. Northeast oblique view of Room 010B.



Figure C-48. Southwest oblique view of Room 010B.

- *Flooring:* The commercial-grade carpet was installed in 2003.
- *Walls:* The east west wall is constructed of poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first construction period.

The north wall is gypsum board on studs. The east portion was constructed during the 1981-82 remodeling. The west portion was constructed in 2007 as infill where a sliding

glass door connection existed with Room 010A.

The west wall is constructed of hollow clay tiles installed 1940-49, then plastered.

The south wall is gypsum board on studs constructed during the 1981-82 remodeling.

- **Doors:** On the wall leading to the south stair hall (Room 012) and the south wall connecting to the superintendent's office (Room 010C) are intact doorways dating to 1981-82. In each instance the door is a varnished wood, flush panel measuring 3'-0" x 6'-11" x 1¾". The original hardware includes two Type E chrome doorknobs and three Type 4 hinges

- **Windows:** The set of three windows units on the east are original and intact. All window units are aluminum framed, with four horizontal lights, and measure 4'-2" in height. The two outer units measure 3'-6" wide and the units are hinged at the top; the center unit measures 3'-4½" wide and is an awning type with each light on a separate track.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling consists of acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" installed in 2003.

- **Baseboards:** A four-inch high, molded vinyl baseboard was installed in 2003 at the time the carpeting was installed.

- **Finishes:** The walls are painted.

The doors and cabinets are varnished.

- **Mechanical Systems:** A fan coil unit is mounted within the built-in cabinets along the east wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

There are four fluorescent lighting fixtures, each measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0," that are part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels. Each fixture has a reflective recessed pan and louvers forming a grid pattern of three rows of six sections each or eighteen total sections. Each fixture contains three bulbs.

- **Other Features:** A closet is built out from the east end of the north wall. The walls are made of gypsum board on studs, constructed in 1980-82.

There is a cabinet built in 1981-82 along the east wall of the room.



Figure C-49. Typical 1980-82 cabinet hardware.

A sound detector is on the ceiling.

A motion detector is located in the southeast corner of the room.

Room 010C - Superintendent's Office: Part of the 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room was initially part of one, large room rectangular in plan. A 1940s plan showing room configuration and uses indicates that this large, open room was being used for "Offices and Files (Archaeologist)." The 1950 construction documents indicated the room would be a "Lecture Room." The 1981-82 remodeling divided the space into three office segments

of approximately equal size. (The northernmost segment was further subdivided into two smaller offices for support staff. Sometime after 1982, the two small offices were combined into one large office.) This room is the southernmost office and measures 17'-10" x 19'-6" with 7'-8½" ceiling height.



Figure C-50. Superintendent's office southeast oblique view.



Figure C-51. Superintendent's office northwest oblique view.

- **Flooring:** The commercial-grade carpet was installed in 2003.
- **Walls:** The east, south and west walls are plastered, poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first phase of construction.

The north wall is constructed of gypsum board on studs, constructed in 1981-82.

- **Doors:** See Room 010B for a description of the doorway on the north wall.
 - **Windows:** Both sets of three windows units, one on the south wall and one on the east, are original and intact. All window units are aluminum framed, with four horizontal lights, and measure 4'-2" in height. In both sets the two outer units measure 3'-6" wide and the units are hinged at the top; the center unit measures 3'-4½" wide and is an awning type with each light on a separate track.
 - **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling consists of acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" installed in 2003.
 - **Baseboards:** A four-inch high, molded vinyl baseboard was installed in 2003 at the time the carpeting was installed.
 - **Finishes:** The walls and trim are painted.
- The door is varnished.
- **Mechanical Systems:** A fan coil unit is mounted inside the cabinets along the east wall.
 - **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

There are four fluorescent lighting fixtures, each measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0," that are part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels. Each fixture has a reflective recessed pan and louvers forming a grid pattern of three rows of six sections each or eighteen total sections. Each fixture contains three bulbs.

- **Other Features:** There is a cabinet built in 1981-82 along the east wall of the room.



Figure C-52. Typical 1981-82 built-in cabinets contain fan coil unit.

A sound detector is on the ceiling.

A motion detector is in the northwest corner of the room.

Room 011 - Office: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the “existing” building, the basic configuration of this room was complete, including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room.

This room is rectangular in plan and measures 13'-2" x 19'-3" with a 7'-8½" ceiling height. The 1950 construction plans identify its use as an office for “Archaeology.” It retains its original use as an office.



Figure C-53. Southwest oblique view of office (Room 112).



Figure C-54. Southeast oblique view of office (Room 112).

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The east, south, and south part of the west wall (exposed to the weather) are poured-in-place concrete constructed in 1940-49, then plastered.

The north part of the west wall is constructed of clay tiles dating to 1940-49, then plastered.

The north wall is plastered hollow clay tile constructed in 1950-51.

- **Doors:** On the north wall is an intact doorway dating to 1981-82. The door is a varnished wood, flush panel measuring 3'-0"

x 6'-8" x 1¾." The original hardware includes two Type E chrome doorknobs and three Type 4 hinges

- *Windows:* Both sets of windows units are original and intact. All window units are aluminum framed, awning type with four horizontal lights. Each of the paired windows on the west elevation measure 3'-4½" wide x 4'-2" tall. Of the three on the south wall, the two outer units measure 3'-6" wide and the center 3'-4½"; all units measure 4'-2" tall.

- *Ceiling:* The suspended ceiling is metal framed with 2'-0" x 4'-0" acoustical panels dating to 1981-82.

- *Baseboards:* Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- *Finishes:* The walls and trim are painted.

The door from Room 012 is varnished.

- *Mechanical Systems:* A fan coil unit is located in the cabinet along the west wall.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit and in stud walls.

There are four recessed, two-bulb fluorescent bulb, lighting fixtures among the panels of suspended acoustical ceiling tiles dating to 2003. Each fixture has a translucent diffuser cover.

- *Other Features:* There is a cabinet built in 1980-82 along the west wall of the room.

A closet was built on the east wall in 1981-82. The walls are made of gypsum board on studs, closing former doorway to Room 010C.

Room 012A - South Stair Hall: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work to this room.

This room is L-shaped in plan, measuring a depth of 13'-5 7/8" at the west side exit and a length of 37'-3" north-south. The ceiling height is 7'-1." It retains its original use as part of the north-south hallway and the west or principal staff entryway into the building.



Figure C-55. Southwest oblique view of west doorway.



Figure C-56. Security control panels and 1950-51 fire hose cabinet at west wall.



Figure C-57. South stair hall looking north.

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The west exterior wall is poured in place concrete dating to 1940-49, then plastered.

The west section of the south wall is poured-in-place concrete dating to 1940-49, then plastered. The east section was constructed of clay tile during that same decade, then plastered.

The east wall and the portion of the west wall north of the stairs were constructed of clay tile in 1940-49, then plastered. The southern portion of the west wall, below the upper run of stairs, was constructed of plastered clay tiles installed in 1950-51.

- **Doors:** See Rooms 010B and 011 for descriptions of the doorways on the east and south walls respectively.

The two sets of double-door doorways on the west wall that are arranged in sequence to create an airlock date to the 1950-51 second period of construction. The door frames and doors are aluminum. The door frames are original. The doors are replacements installed circa 1970. They are controlled to open and close electronically with a control mechanism by Horton Automatics.

At the north wall there is a steel frame dating to the 1981-82 remodeling. As indicated on the period drawings, a single leaf door measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1 ¾" and now missing, was mounted on the east jamb with three hinges.

- **Ceiling:** The drop ceiling of 2'-0" x 4'-0" acoustical panels was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- **Finishes:** The walls and trim are painted.

The doors to the storage closet beneath the stairs and Room 011 are both varnished.

- **Mechanical Systems:** There is a fan coil unit along the south wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in metal conduit and in stud walls.

There are two recessed, two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures among the panels of suspended acoustical ceiling tiles dating to 2003. Each fixture has a translucent diffuser cover.

- **Plumbing Systems:** There is a water fountain on the west wall. The unit is not handicapped accessible.

A fire hose cabinet on the west wall dates to 1950-51. The unit is not operational.

- *Other Features:* The control panel for Burglar Alarm Products of Macon, GA, which provides security monitoring services is on the west wall.

A two-light, battery-pack emergency light is located on the east wall.

A 1'-1" diameter, metal intercom speaker is in the ceiling near the exit doors.

Room 012B - Center Back Hall: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work to this room.

This room is rectangular in plan and measures 6'-5" x 8'-10" with a ceiling height of 7'-0½". It retains its original use of being part of the north-south hallway.

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- *Walls:* The east wall is plastered poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first period of construction.

The south wall is constructed of clay tile dating to 1940-49, then plastered.

The north and west walls are plastered clay tile dating to the 1950-51 second period of construction.

- *Doors:* See Room 012A for description of the doorway on the south wall.



Figure C-58. Center back hall looking north.

The doorway to Room 012C has a steel frame for a single leaf door measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾". Scars on the jambs indicate that the door was hinged with three hinges on the east jamb, which was also indicated in the 1950-51 construction documents.

A steel-framed double doorway dating to the 1950-51 second period of construction is located on the west wall. The original doors specified in the construction documents were wood flush panel doors with one upper light. These doors have been replaced. The current doors, installed in 1981-82 are varnished wood, flush panel, each measuring 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1¾". Each door has two chrome Type E door knobs and three Type 4 hinges.

- *Ceiling:* The drop ceiling of metal frame with 2'-0" x 4'-0" acoustical panels was installed in 1981-82.

- *Baseboards:* Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- *Finishes:* The walls and trim are painted.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in metal conduit and in stud walls.

There is one recessed, two-bulb fluorescent lighting fixture measuring 2'-0" x 4' - 0" among the panels of suspended acoustical ceiling tiles. Each fixture has a translucent diffuser cover.

- *Other Features:* A security camera is located in the southwest corner of the room.

A smoke detector is located on the ceiling.

A five pound, handheld, ABC type fire extinguisher is mounted in the northwest corner of the room.

A 1'-1" diameter, metal intercom speaker is in the ceiling near the exit doors.

Room 012C - North Back Hall: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work to this room.

This room is rectangular in plan and measures 6'-0" x 28'-5" with 9'-4" ceiling height. It continues its original use as part of the north-south hallway.

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- *Walls:* The east wall is plastered poured-in-place concrete, originally the west exterior wall of the 1938-41 first phase of construction.



Figure C-59. North back hall looking south.

The north and west walls are clay tile dating to 1940-49, then plastered.

The south wall is plastered clay tile dating to the 1950-51 second phase of construction.

- *Doors:* See Room 007E for a description of the east doorway.

See Room 012B for a description of the south doorway.

The doorway for double doors on the west wall to the office (Room 022) has a two-inch-wide steel frame with bevel, typical of those of the first construction period. The 1950-51 plans indicate this doorway was salvaged from the north wall of Room 003 and reinstalled in this location, which appears to be confirmed. The original Kalamein steel-clad doors are not present, however. The current doors are varnished wood, flush panel, measuring 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1¾" and dating to 1981-82. The hardware for each

door includes two Type E doorknobs and three Type 4 hinges.

The doorway on the north wall appears to be intact, the salvaged 1938-41 doorway from the north elevation of Room 003 reinstalled in this location as per the 1950-51 architectural plans. This doorway has a two-inch wide, beveled frame, two Type A doorknobs and three Type 1 hinges.

- *Ceiling:* The underside of the first floor slab and support beams form the ceiling.

- *Baseboards:* Four-inch high, ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.



Figure C-60. North hall looking north.

- *Finishes:* The walls and ceiling are painted.

- *Mechanical Systems:* Insulated ducts and hot and chilled water pipes are attached to the underside of the concrete ceiling beams.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in metal conduit and in clay tile walls.

There are two 4'-0" x 10," two-bulb fluorescent lighting fixtures with translucent covers suspended from the ceiling and dating to 1981-82.

- *Other Features:* There is a twenty-pound, handheld, ABC Type, fire extinguisher near the north end of the west wall.

A two-bulb emergency light is mounted on the west wall at the double doorway.

Room 013 - South Stairs: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including the window opening in the west masonry wall. Whether the window, temporary or permanent, also was installed and the room's finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room, including the construction of the stairs.



Figure C-61. Northwest oblique view of south stairs.

Completed during the 1950-51 second phase of construction, this open stairway retains its original use as the second stairway, dedicated primarily to circulation among non-public areas.

- **Flooring:** This open stairway ends in the south stair hall (Room 012A) with its 1'-0" x 1'-0" ceramic tile floor installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** Initial construction of the poured-in-place north and west concrete walls occurred sometime during 1940-49. Completed in 1950-51, the construction documents called for a cement plaster for the upper walls and the more durable "Keene's Cement" for the lower portions of the walls.

The construction schedule and plaster treatments for the east and south walls and the dividing stair wall coincide with those for the concrete walls as described above, except that the substrate is hollow clay tile.

- **Doors:** A wood, flush-panel door measuring 2'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾" opens from an unfinished area beneath the stairs. The door has two Type E chrome doorknobs and three Type 3 hinges. This doorway is an addition, not shown on the 1981 construction plans, but nonetheless identified by the previous facilities manager as dating to the 1979 installation of the solar heating system. This area housed a back flush tank for that system.

- **Windows:** A single row of glass blocks are stacked vertically at the landing.

- **Ceiling:** There is no ceiling until the second level.

- **Baseboards:** There is a six-inch high, cast-cement baseboard.

- **Finishes:** The walls and steps of the stairway are painted.

The door to the storage closet has varnished.

- **Electrical Systems:** There is no artificial lighting of the stairway at this level.

Wiring is contained in the clay tile walls. The switch box is surface mounted.

- **Plumbing Systems:** Located beneath the stairs is a water tank, installed in 1979 to use in back-flush procedures involving the solar heating panels. The tank was abandoned in place after the use of the solar panels was discontinued.

- **Other Features:** The 1950-51 era, 2½" - diameter, aluminum handrail remains intact.

The area under the stairway is unfinished; the clay tile walls and underside of the concrete stair carriage are left exposed.



Figure C-62. Original 1950-51 aluminum handrail.

The cast-in-place concrete stairs date to 1950-51. Slip-preventive vinyl covers are on the treads.

Room 014 - Vestibule: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete. The 1950-51 phase of construction completed the work in this



Figure C-63. Abandoned back-flush tank for solar panels.

room, including the installation of doorways. This room is rectangular in plan and measures 6'-6½" x 6'-10" with 8'-9½" ceiling height. The room retains its original use as vestibule to the staff women's restroom (Room 015).

- **Flooring:** The floor is the painted concrete slab dating to 1940-49.

- **Walls:** The four walls, dating to 1940-49, are constructed of clay tiles, then plastered.

- **Doors:** The doorway on the north wall leading from the Service Corridor (Room 017) has a steel frame with a painted-wood, flush-panel door measuring 3'-0 x 7'-0" x 1¾." The door retains two early Type B chrome doorknobs with Type U chrome escutcheons and three Type 1 hinges.

The painted-wood, flush-panel door into the staff women's restroom is a half-door measuring 2'-5½" x 4'-6" x 1¾." The door



Figure C-64. Typical door handle for entry door to staff restrooms.

has two self-closing spring hinges and a chrome pull handle, all apparently original.

- **Ceiling:** The ceiling is the underside of the concrete slab and beams for the upper floor level.



Figure C-65. Typical spring hinge for entry door to staff restrooms.

- **Baseboards:** The baseboard is cast cement measuring ½" x 6."

- *Finishes:* The floor, baseboard, walls, ceiling, door and trim are painted.
- *Electrical Systems:* Wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

A single lighting fixture is attached to the underside of the exposed concrete ceiling.

Room 015 - Staff Women's Restroom:

According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work to this room.

This room is rectangular in plan and measures 12'-8½" x 13'-1" with an 8'-9 ½" ceiling height. It retains many original features as well as its original use.



Figure C-66. Staff women's restroom with early pedestal sink.

- *Flooring:* The floor is the painted concrete slab dating to 1940-49.
- *Walls:* The north, east, and west walls, dating to 1940-49, are constructed of clay tiles, then plastered.



Figure C-67. Entry door and toilet stalls.

The south wall, also dating to 1940-49, is constructed of poured-in-place concrete, then plastered.

- *Doors:* See Room 014 for a description of the east wall doorway leading from that room.
- The doors for the two toilet stalls have self-closing spring hinges and a chrome pull handle, all apparently original.
- *Windows:* The one window is original, awning type with aluminum frame, two lights, and measuring 2'-4" tall x 3'-4" wide.



Figure C-68. Typical chrome handle at toilet stalls of staff restrooms.

- *Ceiling:* The ceiling is the underside of the concrete slab and beams for the upper floor level.
- *Baseboards:* The original baseboard is cast cement measuring 1/2" x 6."
- *Finishes:* The floor, baseboard, walls, ceiling, door and trim are painted.
- *Mechanical Systems:* There is a floor mounted fan coil unit for this room on the south wall.
- *Electrical Systems:* Wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

A single lighting fixture is attached to the underside of the exposed concrete ceiling beams. The fixture is 10" x 4'-0" and has two fluorescent bulbs and a translucent diffuser cover.

- *Plumbing Systems:* There is an original pedestal sink, two toilets and a built-in shower stall.
- *Other Features:* The toilet stalls are made of 2" x 2" tubular steel and flush wood panels.

In the window is an exhaust fan operated by a motion sensor.

Room 016 - Staff Men's Restroom:

According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work to this room.

This room is irregular in plan, reflecting the curving southwest elevation of the building.

At its longest dimensions it measures 13'-1" x 18'-7½" with a ceiling height of 8'-9" to underside of beam. The room retains much of its original features as well as its original use.

- *Flooring:* The floor is the painted concrete slab dating to 1940-49.
- *Walls:* The north and east walls, dating to 1940-49, are constructed of clay tiles then plastered.



Figure C-69. Entry to staff men's restroom and early pedestal sink and mirror.

- *Flooring:* The floor is the painted concrete slab dating to 1940-49.
- *Walls:* The north and east walls, dating to 1940-49, are constructed of clay tiles then plastered.

The curving south-to-west wall, also dating to 1940-49, is constructed of poured-in-place concrete, then plastered.



Figure C-70. Northwest oblique view of staff men's restroom with curving southwest wall at left.

- **Doors:** The door from the vestibule (Room 018) is actually a half-door, measuring 2'-5½" x 4'-6" x 1 ¾." The door has two self-closing spring hinges and a pull handle, matching those of the staff women's restroom. All are early, if not original.

The door for the toilet stall has two self-closing spring hinges and a chrome pull handle, matching those of the staff women's restroom. All are early if not original.

- **Windows:** Both windows are the original, aluminum frame, two light, awning type measuring 2'-4" tall x 3'-4" wide.

- **Ceiling:** The ceiling is the underside of the concrete slab and beams for the upper floor level.

- **Baseboards:** The baseboard is cast cement measuring ½" x 6."

- **Finishes:** The floor, baseboard, walls, ceiling, door and trim are painted.

- **Mechanical Systems:** There is a floor-mounted fan coil unit for this room on the south wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** Wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

A single lighting fixture is attached to the underside of the exposed concrete ceiling beams. The fixture is 10" x 4'-0" and has two fluorescent bulbs and a translucent diffuser cover.



Figure C-71. Staff men's restroom.



Figure C-72. Typical Lavatory Hardware.

- **Plumbing Systems:** There is an original, 1950-51 pedestal sink with original chrome fixtures, a "Standard Chinal" floor urinal, a toilet, and a built-in shower stall with original chrome fixtures.

- **Other Features:** In the window is an exhaust fan operated by a motion sensor.

There is a 10" diameter metal floor drain.



Figure C-73. Early shower with modern shower head.

Room 017 - Service Corridor: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the “existing” building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied by this date is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room.

This room is rectangular in plan and measures 8'-10" x 33'-2" with an 8'-9 1/2" ceiling height. It retains many of its original features as well as its original use as an east-west passageway.

- **Flooring:** The 9"x9" synthetic tile is early, if not original. There is a 7 1/2"-wide, painted-cement border around the room's perimeter.



Figure C-74. View of service corridor looking west.

- **Walls:** The north wall dates to 1940-49 and is constructed of poured-in-place concrete, then plastered.

The east, south and west walls date to the same period and are constructed of clay tiles, then plastered.

- **Doors:** See Rooms 012B and 014 for descriptions of the east and south doorways respectively.

The doorway at the west wall leading to the men's restroom vestibule (Room 018) also dates to 1950-51. This doorway has its original steel frame with a painted-steel, flush-panel door measuring 3'-0 x 7'-0" x 1 3/4." The door retains two original Type B chrome doorknobs with Type U chrome escutcheons and three Type 1 hinges.

The north wall doorway and double doors leading to the garage (Room 020) are salvaged “old doors” reused in 1950-51 according to the construction documents.

Indeed, the doorway matches other 1938-41 doorways. It has the 2"-wide beveled casing. The doors, each measuring 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1 3/4," have two panels and are clad in metal with beveled molding. (The plans refer to these as "Kalamein" brand doors.) The doors have modern Type E chrome door knobs but have original Type 1 hinges.

The doorway on the north wall leading from the Storage area (Room 021) dates to 1950-51. The painted-wood, flush-panel door measures 3'-0" x 6'-6." The door knobs are missing but the Type U escutcheons remain. The door also retains its three original Type 1 hinges.



Figure C-75. Cast cement baseboard.

- **Ceiling:** The underside of the upper floor concrete slab and beams form the ceiling.
- **Baseboards:** The cast-cement baseboards are 1/2" x 6."
- **Finishes:** The baseboards, walls, ceilings, doors and trim are painted.
- **Mechanical Systems:** There is a floor-mounted fan coil unit for this room on the south wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** Wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

Three lighting fixtures are attached to the underside of the exposed concrete ceiling beams. Each fixture is 10" x 4'-0" and has two fluorescent bulbs and a translucent diffuser cover.

- **Other Features:** A two-bulb, emergency light is located on the west wall.

Room 018 - Vestibule: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room.

This room is rectangular in plan, measuring 5'-0" x 8'-0" with a ceiling height of 9'-8 1/2." The room retains its use as the entry vestibule to the staff men's restroom (Room 016).

- **Flooring:** The floor is the concrete slab, painted, dating to 1940-49.
- **Walls:** The four walls, dating to 1940-49, are constructed of clay tiles, now plastered.

- **Doors:** The doorway on the east wall leading from the service corridor (Room 017) appears intact and probably dates to 1950-51. It has a steel frame with a painted-steel, flush-panel door measuring 3'-0" x 7'-0" x 1 3/4." The door retains two original Type B chrome doorknobs with Type U chrome escutcheons and three Type 1 hinges.

The painted wood, flush panel, door into the Staff Men's Restroom is a half-door measuring 2'-5 1/2" x 4'-6" x 1 3/4." The door

has two self-closing spring hinges and a aluminum pull handle, all probably original.

- *Ceiling:* The ceiling is the underside of the concrete slab and beams for the upper floor level.
- *Baseboards:* The original cast-cement baseboard remains and measures ½" x 6."
- *Finishes:* The floor, baseboard, walls, ceiling, door and trim are painted.
- *Electrical Systems:* Wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

A single lighting fixture is attached to the underside of the exposed concrete ceiling beams. The fixture is 10" x 4'-0" and has two fluorescent bulbs and a translucent diffuser cover.



Figure C-76. Vestibule closet.

- *Other Features:* There is a supply closet off the north side of this room. The doorway appears intact and probably dates to 1950-51. The door frame is painted hollow steel. The door is painted wood,

flush panel, measuring 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1 ¾" with the original two chrome Type 1 doorknobs with Type U escutcheons, and three Type B hinges.

Room 019 - Fire Cache Room: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. During the 1950-51 construction phase, according to the construction documents, the work in this room was completed.

This room is irregular in plan, reflecting the curving southwest elevation of the building. It measures at its widest dimensions 6'-6" x 11'-8" with a ceiling height of 9'-8½." Identified as a janitor's room on the 1950 plans, it retains its ancillary use, now housing fire-fighting equipment.



Figure C-77. Entry to fire cache room.

- *Flooring:* The concrete slab is painted.
- *Walls:* The west wall, dating to 1940-49, is constructed of poured-in-place concrete which then was plastered.

The north, east and south walls, dating to 1940-49, are constructed of clay tiles, and then plastered.



Figure C-78. Southwest wall of fire cache room.

- **Doors:** The doorway from the garage (Room 020) has a hollow steel frame. The door is wood, flush panel, measuring 3'-0" x 7'-0" x 1¾" and probably dating to 1950-51. The two doorknobs match only the ones on this room's closet door and are unlike any others found in the building. These door knobs are replacements. The Type U escutcheons, probably original, remain however. The door has three Type 5 hinges, found elsewhere only on the room's closet door.



Figure C-79. Chrome, Type U escutcheon from 1950-51 era and replacement doorknob.

- **Windows:** The aluminum-framed, two-light, awning-type window measures 2'-4" tall by 3'-4" wide.
- **Ceiling:** The underside of the upper floor level concrete slab and beams form the ceiling.
- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.
- **Finishes:** The floor, walls, ceiling, doors and trim are painted.
- **Electrical Systems:** Wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

A single, ceiling-mounted ceramic base holds an incandescent light bulb.

- **Other Features:** A small closet provides additional storage. The doorway has a hollow steel, square frame. The door is wood, flush panel, measuring 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1¾". The door has two replacement doorknobs and three Type 5 Hinges.

Room 020 - Garage: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated in those plans, completed the work in this room.

This large rectangular room measures 22" - 0" x 30'-1¼" with a ceiling height of 8'-6½". Identified on period plans as the "receiving room," it later became known as the garage as its use for housing vehicles became more common. The room is largely intact, retaining most of its original characteristics.



Figure C-80. Northeast oblique view of garage.



Figure C-81. Southeast oblique view of the garage.

- **Flooring:** The unpainted concrete slab is the floor. It is scored in a pattern of rectangles measuring 4'-4" x 4'-8".
- **Walls:** All four walls date to 1940-49. The west, north and east walls are poured-in - place concrete. The south wall is constructed of clay tiles, then plastered. A later plywood partition was removed in 2003.



Figure C-82. West wall of garage.

- **Doors:** See Room 017 for description of the south wall doorway to service corridor.

See Room 019 for the description of the south wall doorway to the Fire Cache.

The vehicular service door on the west elevation reportedly dates to 1950-51. It is constructed of painted corrugated steel and measures 7'-8"w x 7'-0"h.

The three doorway openings on the east wall date to 1940-49. Each was reworked in 1950-51 for 7'-0" doors. The middle and south doorways retain their square-cut steel frame from that period, although the doors have been replaced. The north opening for double doors was later reworked to accommodate new doors shorter and wider than the originals.

The southernmost doorway on the east wall originally opened from the "Heater Room." The original wood door was to be painted. According to the previous facilities manager, the current replacement door is a salvaged door installed in 1997. The door is varnished wood, flush panel, measuring 3'-0" x 6'-11" x 1¾". The door has three Type 2 hinges. There are two modern, chrome doorknobs. The door has been patched for a previous set of doorknobs, which may be the current set but at a lower height.



Figure C-83. Doorknobs at southernmost door to Room 021.

The middle doorway opened from a "Closet." The original door was to be made of wood, painted, flush panel and measuring 2'-8" x 7'-0" x 1¾." The current door was salvaged from elsewhere in the building and installed here in 1997. The door is varnished wood, flush panel of same dimensions as the 1950 specifications. This door has three Type 2 hinges and a pair of chrome door handles similar to but not identical to those on the adjoining double doorway to the north.



Figure C-84. Door handle of northernmost door to Room 021.

The northernmost doorway, the doorway to Room 022, was modified in 1997 to accommodate a shorter and wider pair of doors. These doors opened from the large room intended for "Photography." The plans called for painting and "reusing the oak (double) doors" from the first-floor entry on south side of the now central corridor. Those doors were noted as measuring 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1¾." The current doors are flush panel, clad in steel. They measure 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾". These doors have chrome handles and Type 2 hinges.



Figure C-85. Door handle for steel-clad, double doors to Room 022.

- *Windows:* There is a pair of original window units on the west elevation separated by a mullion. Each window unit is aluminum framed with two lights vertically. Each unit measures 2'-4" tall x 3'-5" wide.
- *Ceiling:* The underside of the upper floor concrete slab and beams forms the ceiling of this room.
- *Baseboards:* There are no baseboards.
- *Finishes:* The walls, ceiling, trim and some doors are painted.
- *Mechanical Systems:* The room is climate controlled by a heat pump installed in 2003.
- *Electrical Systems:* Wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.

Five fluorescent lighting fixtures are suspended from the underside of the exposed concrete ceiling beams. Each fixture is 10" x 4'-0" and has two fluorescent bulbs and a translucent diffuser cover.

Four electric service panels are on the north wall and two on the west wall.

- *Other Features:* There is a handheld, twenty-pound, ABC Type fire extinguisher mounted on the south wall.

There is a fire-hose cabinet dating to 1950-51 on the south wall.

There is a metal, 10" diameter floor drain at the center of the room.

Room 021 - Storage: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-

51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room.

This now is one, large rectangular room measuring 14'-6" x 26'-5" with an 8'-9½" ceiling height. Initially, this space was subdivided into several, small rooms as indicated by period construction documents and confirmed by wall fragments still evident. The period plans indicate the room's uses were for supplies, a closet, a heater and a dark room. From prior to 1989 to 2003, this room was completely filled with mechanical equipment. In 2003, the clay tile dividing walls were removed. The room is now used for storage.



Figure C-86. Room 021 used for storage.

- **Flooring:** The painted concrete slab is the floor. The paint is well worn.

- **Walls:** The four walls of this room date to 1940-49. The south and west walls are constructed of poured-in-place concrete, then plastered. The north and east walls are constructed of clay tiles, then plastered.

- **Doors:** See Room 017 for a description of the doorway on the south wall.

See Room 020 for descriptions of the two doorways on the west wall.

The doorway on the north wall from the Office (Room 022) dating to 1950-51 is

intact retaining its steel frame, door, and hardware. The door is painted wood, flush panel, measuring 2'-11" x 6'-10" x 1¾". It has two chrome Type B doorknobs and three Type 1 hinges.

- **Ceiling:** The underside of the upper floor concrete slab and beams form the ceiling of this room.

- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.

- **Finishes:** The floor, some doors and trim, and some walls and ceilings are partially painted. The two doors on the west wall are varnished.

- **Electrical Systems:** Wiring is contained in wall-mounted conduit.

There are three ceramic base lighting fixtures for incandescent light bulbs.



Figure C-87. Typical ceramic base lighting fixture for an incandescent light bulb.

There are two 10" x 4'-0," two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixtures suspended from the ceiling.

- **Other Features:** There is a ceiling-mounted heat detector.

Room 022 - Office: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors, temporary

or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room.



Figure C-88. Office (Room 022) view looking west.

This room is rectangular in plan and measures 12'-10" x 26'-5" with an 8'-9½" ceiling height. The construction plans indicate that its original purpose was for photography. Until recently it served as office space; currently used for storage.

- **Flooring:** The painted concrete slab is the floor. There is an 8" wide painted strip that forms a perimeter border. Inside that border, the floor is painted a contrasting color and etched in a grid of 1'-8" x 2'-1" rectangles.

- **Walls:** The four walls of this room date to 1940-49. The west wall is constructed of poured-in-place concrete, then plastered. The north, east, and south walls are constructed of clay tiles, then plastered.

- **Doors:** See Room 012C for a description of the doorway on the east wall. See Room 020 for description of the doorway on the west wall.

See Room 021 for a description of the doorway on the south wall.

The doorway on the north wall from storage (Room 023B) was installed in 1979 when a new room was partitioned off from the furnace or solar room. The wood, flush panel door measuring 2'-8" x 6'-8" x 1 3/8" is without a finish. The unfinished wood casing is modern stock measuring 5/8" x 3½." The door has modern hardware with "antique brass" finish.

- **Ceiling:** The underside of the upper floor concrete slab and beams forms the ceiling of this room.

- **Baseboards:** The baseboards are cast cement 6" tall and ½" deep.

- **Finishes:** The floor, baseboards, walls, ceiling, and three doorways and trim are painted. The recent wood door and trim of the north wall remain without a finish.

- **Electrical Systems:** At the south wall, wiring is contained in wall-mounted conduit.

At the north wall, the wiring is contained within the wall.

There are two 8" x 4'-0," two-bulb, fluorescent fixtures suspended from the ceiling.

- **Other Features:** There is a ceiling-mounted smoke detector.

Room 023A - Furnace or Solar Room:

According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door and window openings in the masonry walls. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, also were installed and finishes applied is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room.

This room is one of two parts of what was a single, large rectangular room. In 1979, with the installation of the solar panels, this room was divided into two rooms. This section, which is the larger of the two, is now L-shaped in plan and houses the building's furnaces as the earlier, larger room did before, thus its name. It is also sometimes referred to as the Solar Room, a reference to its use housing solar equipment from 1979 through 1985. The long dimensions of the room are 21'-6½" x 33'-0" with 11'-8" ceiling height.



Figure C-89. Northwest oblique view of furnace or solar room.

- **Flooring:** The unpainted concrete slab dating to 1940-19 is the floor.
- **Walls:** The west, north, and east walls and part of the south wall of this room date to 1940-49 and are constructed of poured-in-place concrete, then plastered.

The east section of the south wall, dating to 1940-49, is constructed of clay tiles, then plastered. The west sections of the south wall are gypsum board on studs constructed in 1979.

- **Doors:** See Room 012C for a description of the doorway on the south wall.

The doorway on the north wall from Storage (Room 024) dates to the 1950-51 construction and remains largely intact.

There is a square-edge steel frame. The flush-panel door is steel clad and measures 2'-6" x 7'-0" x 1 ¾." The hardware includes three Type 1 hinges and two Type U escutcheons; the door knobs are missing.



Figure C-90. Doorway of 1938-41 on south wall relocated in 1950-51 from north wall of Room 003.



Figure C-91. Beveled molding of door and door casing dating to 1938-41.

The doorway on the east wall to the exterior service court dates to 1950-51 and is intact. The steel frame is square edge. The door is steel clad, flush panel, measuring 2'-8" x 7'-



Figure C-92. East wall doorway and windows open onto service court.

0" with two chrome Type B doorknobs, Type U escutcheons, and three Type 1 hinges.

- **Windows:** There is a pair of window units on the east wall. Each unit is aluminum framed with four lights, awning type, and measuring 3'-6" wide x 4'-2" tall. The north window has been modified for louvers.

- **Ceiling:** The underside of the concrete slab and beams for the roof structure forms the ceiling for this room

- **Baseboards:** There are cast-cement baseboards at the main entrance doorway only.

- **Finishes:** The walls, doors and trim are painted.

- **Mechanical Systems:** This room, as one of two major mechanical rooms, contains two



Figure C-93. Paired Marathon pumps.



Figure C-94. Solar room blowers.



Figure C-95. Gas oilers of solar room.

gas boilers, two pumps, two blowers, and a hot water heater.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in wall-mounted conduit.

There are two electrical panels on the west wall, adjacent to the two pumps, and one on the north wall.

There are two 6" x 4'-0", two-bulb, fluorescent fixtures without diffusers suspended from the ceiling.

- *Plumbing Systems:* There is a Rheem, 67-gallon, gas hot water heater located along the east wall which according to staff serves the break room and staff restrooms at ground floor as well as the public restrooms and lavatory-toilet on the first floor.

- *Other Features:* There is a ceiling-mounted heat detector.

There are two 10"-diameter, metal floor drains.

There are two cast-cement, four-inches high, poured-concrete platforms for mechanical equipment.

A clean-out hatch for the chimney is located on the east wall. The metal hatch measures 1'-1" x 1'-5."



Figure C-96. Hatch for Chimney.

There are two handheld, ABC Type, fire extinguishers at the north end of the room. One is a ten pound and the other is twenty pound. A third extinguisher, five pound, is at the main entrance doorway.

An original fire-hose cabinet is on the east wall just inside the entrance. The hose is missing.

Room 023B - Storage: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, this room is one of two parts of what was initially a single, large rectangular room constructed 1940-49. In 1979 a solar heating system was installed. At that time this room was partitioned off to create an insulated room to house the 2,000 gallon hot water storage tank for that system. When it was decided in 1985 that the solar system was a failure, parts of it were removed including the storage tank. This room then became a storage area for park records.

This storage room, which is the smaller of the two subdivided rooms, is rectilinear in plan, measuring 9'-1 3/8" x 20'-7" with a 10'-0" ceiling height.

- *Flooring:* The unpainted concrete slab dating to 1940-49 is the floor.

- *Walls:* The west wall of poured-in-place concrete dates to 1940-49.

The south wall is constructed of clay tiles dating to 1940-49, then plastered.

The north and east walls are gypsum board on studs constructed in 1979.

- *Doors:* For a description of the doorway see Room 022.

- *Ceiling:* The underside of the concrete slab/beams for the roof structure is the ceiling for this room.

- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.
- **Finishes:** The floor, walls, and ceiling are unpainted. The door and trim are without finish.
- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in metal, surface-mounted, conduits.

There are two 10" x 4'-0", two-bulb fluorescent lighting fixtures.

- **Other Features:** There is a wooden, two-step stairs leading down from Room 022.

Room 024 - Storage: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the basic configuration of this room was complete including door opening in the masonry walls. Whether doors, temporary or permanent, also were installed is not clear. The 1950-51 phase of construction, as indicated by those plans, completed the work in this room.

This room is rectilinear in plan, measuring 6' 5 1/2" x 33'-0" with a 9'-7" ceiling height. The room retains its original use as a storage area associated with Room 023-A.

- **Flooring:** The unpainted concrete slab is the floor.
- **Walls:** All four walls date to 1940-49 and are made of poured-in-place concrete.
- **Doors:** See Room 023A for a description of the doorway.

There are two patches on the east wall where a door and a window were removed in 1950-51.

- **Ceiling:** The underside of the concrete slab/beams for the roof structure is the ceiling for this room.



Figure C-97. Room 023 looking west.

- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.
- **Finishes:** The door and trim are painted.
- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in surface-mounted metal conduit.
- **Other Features:** There is a 4"-diameter cast iron roof drainpipe at the west end of the room.

The imprint of an early set of stairs is visible along the west end of the room. These stairs are shown on the 1949 NPS plan of existing features, a connection to the anticipated theater to be built on the level above. When funding was reduced, the building was redesigned once again. The resultant 1950 architectural plans eliminated the first floor theater which was to have been immediately above, thus removing the need for these stairs.

Interior Features - First Floor

Room 101- Public Entrance Vestibule:
Part of the 1938-41 initial phase of

construction, this room is rectilinear in plan and measures 7'-6 1/2" x 10'-10" with a 10'-8 1/2" ceiling height. It continues to serve its original purpose as the primary entryway for the public.

- **Flooring:** A yellow, glazed tile, measuring 8" x 8", was installed in 2003. The tiles are laid on the diagonal in relation to the walls.

- **Walls:** Extending forward from the front plane of the building, the walls are stacked glass block on a base of formed concrete. Extending inward are sweeping walls of plaster.



Figure C-98. Main entrance.

- **Doors:** There are two pairs of doors in sequence to create an airlock. Both pairs are replacements, aluminum frames with glass, installed circa 1970. The original aluminum framing for the two doorways remains intact. Electric openers were installed in the early 1990s.

- **Windows:** The forward, three walls of glass blocks allow natural light without clear visual connection.



Figure C-99. Replacement doors in original door frames of main entrance.

- **Ceiling:** The ceiling is plaster, presumably the original.

- **Baseboards:** A four-inch, molded vinyl baseboard is glued atop the six-inch terrazzo baseboard.



Figure C-100. Vinyl baseboard applied over original terrazzo baseboard.

- *Finishes:* The plaster walls and ceiling are painted.

- *Mechanical Systems:* A 10"-metal ceiling register provides tempered air.

- *Electrical Systems:* Metal flex conduit along the west wall contains the electrical wiring.

A 10" x 10" ceiling light provides artificial incandescent light.

- *Other Features:* There is a sound detector on the ceiling.

Room 102 - Rotunda: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room is approximately square in plan but with rounded corners. It measures 45'-8" x 45'-8". It continues to serve its original purpose as an exhibit area and the primary reception area for the public.



Figure C-101. West wall of rotunda.

- *Flooring:* Commercial-grade carpet was installed in 2003.

- *Walls:* The encircling walls, on all four sides, are poured in place concrete dating to 1938-41, then plastered.

- *Doors:* See Room 101 for a description of the east doorway.

The north doorway which connects with the Gift Shop (Room 103) has double doors of aluminum frame and fixed glass. The doors, measuring 2'-11" x 6'-10" x 1 3/4," are replacements installed in circa 1970.

- *Windows:* A single large window is at the first floor visitor level. It measures some 9'-0 x 10'-0" and is located at the center of the south elevation to provide a commanding view of the Earth Lodge. The window unit is a replacement for the one installed in 1950-51.



Figure C-102. Window on the Earth Lodge.



Figure C-103. A band of glass blocks.

High above, a band of glass blocks, six rows vertically measuring some 3'-0" in height, circles the rotunda just below the ceiling.

- **Ceiling:** The ceiling is covered with 2'-0" x 2'-0" acoustical tile installed in 2003.
- **Baseboards:** There is a modern molded vinyl baseboard 6" tall.
- **Finishes:** The walls and ceiling are painted.
- **Mechanical Systems:** Three metal-louvered registers, each measuring 1'-0" x 2'-6" provide tempered air into the room. They are located in the horizontal banding that circles the room just above the first level exhibits. One is above the front entrance doors. A second is above the doorway to the gift shop (Room 103) and the third is above the window looking toward the Earth Mound to the south.

A fourth metal-louvered register, measuring 1'-0" x 1'-6" is located at the underside of the banding immediately over the large, south window.

Four ceiling fans suspended from the central ceiling in 2003 supplement the air circulation.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained within the plaster walls.

Three large spotlights are located above both the east entrance and west passageway and are used for special evening events.

Recessed spotlights are in the underside of the horizontal banding in the northwest and northeast quadrants of the room.

- **Other Features:** A sound detector is located above the south window.

A motion detector is located above the west passageway to the Central Corridor.

A security camera is located in the northwest corner.

A two bulb emergency light is located just north of the west passageway.

Room 103 - Gift Shop: This room was added in 1950-51, the second phase of construction. Its purpose, according to the architectural plans, was to be a "Reception" area. Rectilinear in plan, the shop measures 14'-11" x 19'-6" with an 8'-6" ceiling height.

- **Flooring:** Commercial-grade carpet was installed in 2003.



Figure C-104. Southeast oblique view of gift shop.

- **Walls:** The south wall is plaster on poured-in-place concrete dating to the 1938-41 first phase of construction. The west, north and east walls are plaster on poured-in-place concrete dating to 1950-51, the second phase of construction.

- **Doors:** See Room 102 for a description of the doorway.

- **Windows:** There are two identical sets of paired windows units, one on the north wall and one on the east. They date to 1950-51 and remain intact. All window units are aluminum framed, with four horizontal lights, and measure 2'-11 in width and 5'-4" in height. All are awning type with each light on a separate track.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling of metal tracks and 2'-0" x 4'-0" sections of acoustical tile was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** There is a 6" molded vinyl baseboard at the south wall flanking the doorway. On the other walls, is a 4" molded vinyl baseboard.

- **Finishes:** The walls are painted.

- **Mechanical Systems:** There are two square-metal registers in the ceiling.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the plaster walls.

- **Other Features:** A motion detector is located in the northwest corner.

A video camera is located on the north wall.

A sound detector is located on the ceiling.

Room 104 - Central Corridor: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room is rectilinear in plan and measures 9'-11" x 47'-11" with a 7'-

9½" ceiling height. It continues to serve its original design purpose as the primary east-west public corridor connecting the phase one public entrance vestibule and rotunda reception area (Rooms 101 and 102) with the phase-two exhibit hall (Room 119) and theater (Room 117).

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.



Figure C-105. Central corridor looking east.

- **Walls:** The south and east walls are plaster on poured-in-place concrete dating to 1938-41.

The west wall, plaster on masonry probably clay tile, dates to 1950-51.

The west end of the north wall that encloses the electrical closet is plaster on masonry, also likely clay tile dating to 1950-51. The remainder of the north wall is gypsum board on studs dating to the 1980-82 remodeling of the public restrooms.

- **Doors:** The doorway from the Central Stairs dates to 1938-41. The door frame is steel. The door is steel clad, flush panel of uncertain date. The door has a replacement strip hinge and two modern, chrome, Type E doorknobs.

The doorway to the electrical closet (Room 108) dates to 1950-51. The steel frame is intact as is the door and its hardware. The door is painted wood, flush panel, measuring 3'-0" x 6'-11" x 1 3/4" with two Type B doorknobs and Type U escutcheons.

The doorways to the two restrooms and the janitor's closet (Room 107) between them date to 1981-82. All three doors are varnished wood, flush panel. The door to the janitor's closet is 2'-6" x 6'-11" x 1 3/4" while the two doors to the restrooms are 3'-0" wide. The restroom doors each have three Type 4 hinges, a chrome push panel measuring 4" x 1'-4," a 10" chrome handle, and an 8" kick latch. The door to the janitor's closet has two, chrome, Type E doorknobs and three Type 2 hinges.



Figure C-106. Typical door, recessed canister light and ceiling fixture along central corridor.

- **Windows:** There is a set of seven windows units on the south wall. All are original and intact. All are aluminum framed, have four horizontal lights, and measure 4'-2" in height. The two outer units on each end of the grouping measure 3'-6"

wide and are hinged at the top (but were fixed in place prior to the 1950 NPS plans). Of the three central units, the center window unit measures 2'-11" wide and is an awning type with each light on a separate track; its two flanking "side light" units measure 1'1" wide.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended panels of acoustical tile measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" were installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** Four inch high ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- **Finishes:** The walls are painted. The metal door to the central stairs (Room 110) is also painted. The other doors are varnished.

- **Mechanical Systems:** Two floor mounted fan coil units dating to 2003 are located along the north wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

Recessed canisters in the ceiling panels provide lighting.

- **Other Features:** A video camera is located at the northwest corner of the corridor.

There is a motion detector at the west wall.

A sound detector is located on the ceiling at the south windows.

There are two smoke detectors at the ceiling, one near the east end of the corridor and the other near the west end.

There is a two-bulb emergency light on the north wall opposite the back hall (Room 109).

Room 105 - Men's (Public) Restroom: The area of the 1938-41 initial construction phase now occupied by the public restrooms and support area (Rooms 105, 106, and 107) was initially intended for office use. As building development faltered, this sector was converted by 1940 into four restrooms by race and gender. Room 105 was converted into an archaeologist's office in 1962 and remodeled in 1981-82 to its present configuration.



Figure C-107. Men's restroom lavatories.



Figure C-108. Men's restroom toilet stalls.

- **Flooring:** The glazed tile measuring 8" x 8" was installed ca. 2003.
- **Walls:** The north and east walls are plastered poured-in-place concrete and date to the 1938-41 first period of construction. The west and south perimeter walls and the interior subdividing wall are constructed of gypsum board on studs and date to the restroom remodeling of 1981-82 or later.
- **Doors:** See Room 104 for a description of the entrance door.
- **Windows:** There are two window units on the north wall. They date to a 1950-51 installation and remain intact. Each is aluminum framed with three lights stacked vertically. Each unit is an awning type and measures 3'-4" wide by 4'-2" tall.
- **Ceiling:** Acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" are set in a metal grid. The ceiling height is 7'-2."
- **Baseboards:** The ceramic tile baseboards date to the floor tile installation of 1980-82.
- **Finishes:** The walls are painted.
- **Mechanical Systems:** Metal-louvered registers are located in the acoustical tile ceiling.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

Wall-mounted incandescent light fixtures provide lighting above the lavatories.

Lighting in the toilet area is provided by recessed, fluorescent lighting fixtures measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" with translucent covers that fit within the grid of acoustical ceiling panels.

- **Plumbing Systems:** This restroom has three toilets, one of which is handicapped

accessible, two wall-mounted urinals, and three lavatories. All date to the 1981-82 period.

- *Other Features:* The toilet stall partitions date to 1981-82, constructed of prefabricated laminated panels on 2" x 2" square posts.

Room 106 - Women's (Public) Restroom:

The area of the 1938-41 initial construction phase now occupied by the public restrooms and support area (Rooms 105, 106 and 107,) was initially intended for office use. As building development faltered, this sector was converted by 1940 into four restrooms by race and gender, altered in 1962, and remodeled in 1981-82 to its present configuration.



Figure C-109. Women's restroom toilet stalls.

- *Flooring:* The glazed tile measuring 8" x 8" was installed ca. 2003.

- *Walls:* The north and west walls are plastered poured in place concrete and date to the 1938-41 first period of construction.

The east and south perimeter walls and the interior subdividing wall are constructed of gypsum board on studs and date to the restroom remodeling of 1981-82 or later.

- *Doors:* See Room 104 for a description of the entrance door.



Figure C-110. Typical window in both men's and women's restrooms.

- *Windows:* There are two window units on the north wall. They date to a 1950-51 installation and remain intact. Each is aluminum framed with three lights stacked vertically. Each unit is an awning type and measures 3'-4" wide by 4'-2" tall.

- *Ceiling:* Acoustical panels measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" are set in a metal grid. The ceiling height is 7'-2."

- *Baseboards:* The ceramic tile baseboards date to the floor tile installation of 1980-82.

- *Finishes:* The walls are painted.

- **Mechanical Systems:** Metal, louvered registers are located in the acoustical tile ceiling.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls. Wall-mounted incandescent fixtures provide lighting above the lavatories.

Lighting in the toilet area is provided by recessed, fluorescent lighting fixtures measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" with translucent covers that fit within the grid of acoustical ceiling panels.



Figure C-111. Women's restroom lavatories.

- **Plumbing Systems:** This restroom has four toilets, one of which is handicapped accessible, and three lavatories. All date to the 1981-82 period.

- **Other Features:** The toilet stall partitions date to 1981-82 and are constructed of prefabricated laminated panels on 2" x 2" square posts.

Room 107 - Janitor's Closet: The area of the 1938-41 initial construction phase now occupied by the public restrooms and support area (Rooms 105, 106 and 107) was initially intended for office use. As building

development faltered, this sector was converted to restroom facilities, the use that has continued ever since, through various remodeling.

- **Flooring:** The concrete slab is the floor.

- **Walls:** The walls are gypsum board on studs, constructed in 1981-82.

- **Doors:** See Room 104 for a description of the door.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended metal tracks with panels of acoustical tile measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" were installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.

- **Finishes:** The walls are painted. The door is varnished.

- **Plumbing Systems:** The room contains a large janitor's sink.

- **Electrical Systems:** Wiring is contained in the stud walls. The room contains a large fuse panel.

There is a ceiling-mounted, incandescent lighting fixture.

Room 108 - Supply Closet: Part of the 1950-51 second phase of construction, this room is rectangular in plan and measures 4'-0" x 6'-8". It retains its original use.

- **Flooring:** The concrete slab is the floor. A sheet of plywood lies on top of the slab.

- **Walls:** The east wall is constructed of poured-in-place concrete dating to 1938-41 and later plastered.

The north wall is poured-in-place concrete dating to 1940-49 with an infill section of CMU dating to 1950-51.



Figure C-112. Supply closet.

The west and south walls are plastered hollow clay tiles dating to 1950-51.

- **Doors:** See Room 104 for a description of the door.
- **Ceiling:** The underside of the concrete slab that forms the roof structure is the ceiling surface.
- **Baseboards:** There are no baseboards.
- **Finishes:** The plastered portions of the walls are painted.

The door is painted.

- **Electrical Systems:** Wiring is contained in clay tile walls.

Room 109 - Back Hall: Part of the 1950-51 second phase of construction, this room is rectangular in plan and measures 6'-8" x 9'-2" with a 7'-9" ceiling height. It retains its original use of connecting the rooms off the central corridor (Room 104) with those off the terrace exit lobby (Room 112).

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.
- **Walls:** The east wall is plaster on poured-in-place concrete dating to 1938-41.

The north portion of the west wall is plaster on clay tile dating to 1950-51. The south portion is poured-in-place concrete that dates to 1940-49, then plastered.



Figure C-113. Back hall looking north.

- **Doors:** There are no doorways in this hall.
- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling system of metal frame with panels of acoustical tile measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" was installed in 1981-82.
- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.
- **Finishes:** The walls are painted.
- **Mechanical Systems:** There is a floor mounted fan coil unit dating to 2003 located along the west wall.
- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

Recessed canisters in the ceiling panels provide lighting.

- **Other Features:** A fire-hose cabinet dating to 1950-51 is located on the west wall.

Room 110 - Central Stairs: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan,

contains the stairway that provided the only covered connection between the public spaces at first floor and the nonpublic staff area of the basement. The stairs remain in regular use, supplemented by a second stairway, the south stairs, added in the 1950-51 second phase of construction.

- **Flooring:** The landing at the top of the stairs is covered with commercial carpeting.
- **Walls:** The west wall is plaster on poured-in-place concrete dating to 1938-41.

The south, east, and north walls date to 1940-49 and are constructed of hollow clay tiles then plastered.



Figure C-114. View from top of stairs at central stair hall.

- **Doors:** See Room 104 for a description of the doorway.
- **Ceiling:** According to the 1950 plans, the ceiling is plaster installed in 1950-51.

- **Baseboards:** The cast-cement baseboard measures ½" x 6."
- **Finishes:** The walls and stairs are painted.
- **Electrical Systems:** The wiring is contained in the walls and in surface-mounted metal conduit.

One 4'-0", fluorescent lighting fixture with translucent diffuser cover is mounted on the ceiling.



Figure C-115. Central stair hall lighting fixture.

Room 111 - Waiting Room: Part of the Visitor Center's 1938-41 initial phase of construction, this room, a rectangle in plan, measures 12'-7" x 17'-10". Originally it served as the rangers' office. Then, in 1981-82 the south wall and the north door were removed for its conversion to an "exhibit room" as the rangers moved to ground floor offices. In the mid-1990s, the room's function was changed again to that of waiting room and furnished accordingly.

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.
- **Walls:** The north, east, and west walls are intact, constructed of plaster on poured-in-place concrete dating to 1938-41.



Figure C-116. Southwest oblique view of the waiting room.

The portion of the south wall that remains dates to the same period and is of the same construction.

- **Doors:** There is a doorway to a closet at the south wall. The varnished, flush panel wood door measures 3'-0" x 7'-0" x 1¾" and was installed in 1950-51.



Figure C-117. Southwest oblique view of the waiting room.

- **Windows:** The set of three window units on the east are original and intact. All are aluminum framed, with four horizontal lights, and measure 4'-2" in height. The two outer units measure 3'-6" wide and are hinged at the top; the center unit measures 3'-4½" wide and is an awning type with each light on a separate track.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling system of metal frame with panels of acoustical tile measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- **Finishes:** The walls are painted.

- **Mechanical Systems:** There is a floor mounted fan coil unit dating to 2003 located along the east wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

Lighting is provided by recessed fluorescent lighting fixtures measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" with translucent covers that fit within the grid of acoustical ceiling panels.

- **Other Features:** A sound detector is located on the ceiling.

Room 112 - Terrace Lobby: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the perimeter, poured-in-place, concrete walls that encircled the terrace lobby (Room 112), the terrace lobby vestibule (Room 113), office (Room 114), office (Room 115A), toilet/ lavatory (Room 115B) and the south stairs (Room 116A) were in place. Parts of three walls of what was to become the theater (Room 117) were also shown. Door and window openings in the masonry walls are also indicated. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, were actually installed and finishes applied is not clear. Cross walls are not indicated except for the south "Stair Well" and indeed the theater space and the other group of undifferentiated rooms are separately labeled "unfinished." The plans for the 1950-51 phase of construction addresses the completion of these first floor rooms as well as others.



Figure C-118. Terrace lobby looking west.

The terrace lobby is rectangular in plan, measures 16'-8" x 20'-10" with a 7'-9" ceiling height. In those 1950 construction documents, this space is identified as the "exit lobby," reflecting the intended route of circulation for visitors. In 1981-82 the north wall was removed to facilitate connection with the newly converted Lounge (Room 111). This room continues to serve as a lobby, now for the theater added to the west in 1980-82 as well as for the building's exterior doorway to the east.

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The north segment of the east wall is plaster on masonry, probably poured-in-place concrete dating to 1938-41.

According to the NPS plans for the 1950-51 work, the center portion of the east wall which contains the aluminum and glass doors and windows, are set on plastered concrete, forming the rear wall of the vestibule. Further, the south portion of the east wall is plaster on concrete, also dating to 1950-51.

The north wall (back side or south side of the stair tower) is made of plastered hollow clay tile dating to 1938-41.

The west wall is part concrete dating to 1940-49 and part gypsum board on studs dating to 1981-82.

The south wall, according to the 1950-51 plans, is plaster on concrete, dating to that time frame.



Figure C-119. Southwest oblique view of the terrace lobby.

- **Doors:** The framed aluminum and glass doorway on the east wall dates to 1950-51. The pair of aluminum and glass doors are replacements, however, dating to circa 1970.

The doorway on the south wall dates to 1950-51. The door is varnished wood, flush panel, measuring 3'-0" x 6'-11" x 1 3/4". It has two chrome Type E doorknobs and three Type 4 hinges.

- **Windows:** Two 1950-51 era, four-light aluminum windows are on the east wall, one on each side of the doorway, opening onto the vestibule.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling system of metal frame with panels of acoustical tile measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- *Finishes:* The walls are painted.
- *Mechanical Systems:* There is a floor-mounted fan coil unit dating to 2003 located along the south wall.
- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

Lighting is provided by recessed, fluorescent lighting fixtures measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" with translucent cover that fit within the grid of acoustical ceiling panels.

- *Plumbing Systems:* A water fountain is located in the southwest corner of the room.
- *Other Features:* A video camera is located at the southeast corner of the lobby.

A sound detector is located on the ceiling near the vestibule.

There is a smoke detector on the ceiling.

There is a two-light emergency lighting pack on the west wall over the entry to the theater foyer.

Room 113 - Terrace Vestibule: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the perimeter, poured-in-place, concrete walls that encircled the terrace lobby (Room 112), the terrace lobby vestibule (Room 113), office (Room 114), office (Room 115A), toilet/ lavatory (Room 115B) and the south stairs (Room 116A) were in place. Parts of three walls of what was to become the theater (Room 117) were also shown. Door and window openings in the masonry walls are also indicated. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, were actually installed and finishes applied is not clear. Cross walls are not indicated except for the south "Stair Well," and indeed the theater space and the other group of undifferentiated rooms are

separately labeled "unfinished." The plans for the 1950-51 phase of construction addresses the completion of these first-floor rooms as well as others.



Figure C-120. Terrace vestibule looking south.

This vestibule is rectangular in plan, measuring 5'-0" x 11'-8" with a 7'-11" ceiling height. This room is largely intact and continues to serve its original use.

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.
- *Walls:* The east wall is poured-in-place concrete constructed during 1940-49 then plastered.

The other three walls are constructed of plaster on hollow clay tiles and date to 1950-51.

- *Doors:* The original, 1950-51 aluminum framing remains for the two pairs of doors, one on the west wall and one on the east. However, the current doors of aluminum

and glass, are replacements installed circa 1970.

- *Windows:* Flanking each pair of doors is an aluminum frame with four lights stacked vertically. The awning type frame measures 2'-11" wide x 4'-2" tall.

- *Ceiling:* The ceiling is plaster dating to 1950-51.

- *Baseboards:* There is a 4" ceramic tile baseboard

- *Finishes:* The walls are painted.

- *Electrical Systems:* Wiring is contained within the walls and ceiling.

There is a single incandescent light fixture on the ceiling.

Room 114 - Office: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the perimeter, poured-in-place concrete walls that encircled the terrace lobby (Room 112), the terrace lobby vestibule (Room 113), office (Room 114), office (Room 115A), toilet/ lavatory (Room 115B) and the south stairs (Room 116A) were in place. Parts of three walls of what was to become the theater (Room 117) were also shown. Door and window openings in the masonry walls are also indicated. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, were actually installed and finishes applied is not clear. Cross walls are not indicated except for the south "Stair Well," and indeed the theater space and the other group of undifferentiated rooms are separately labeled "unfinished." The 1950 plans for the 1950-51 phase of construction addresses the completion of these first-floor rooms as well as others.

This large, rectangular office now measuring 18'-10" x 37'-11½", was originally two offices. In 1981-82 the dividing wall was

removed and this area became a single office. The ceiling height varies; in the north portion it is 7'-0" and in the south it is 7'-8".



Figure C-121. Office Room 114 looking southeast.



Figure C-122. Office (Room 114) looking northwest.

- *Flooring:* The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- *Walls:* The east and south walls, and the south exterior portion of the west wall, are poured-in-place concrete dating to 1940-49, then plastered. According to the 1950 NPS plans, the portion of the west wall that adjoins Rooms 115A and 116B is plaster on clay tiles, dating to 1950-51. Further, the north wall also is plaster on hollow clay tiles dating to 1950-51.

- *Doors:* The west wall doorway that leads from the south stair hall (Room 116B) dates

to the 1950-51 second phase of construction. The original varnished wood, flush panel door measures 3'-0" x 6'-11" x 1¾" and has two chrome handles and three Type 4 hinges. A doorway leading to Room 115 A was reportedly closed in 2008.

- **Windows:** There are three sets of three windows units, one on the south wall and two on the east. All units are original and intact. All are aluminum framed, with four horizontal lights, and measure 4'-2" in height. In all three sets the two outer units measure 3'-6" wide and the units are hinged at the top; the center unit measures 3'-4½" wide and is an awning type with each light on a separate track.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling system of metal frame with panels of acoustical tile measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- **Finishes:** The walls are painted. The built-in cabinets and the door to Room 116B are varnished.

- **Mechanical Systems:** At mid-room there is an offset in the plane of ceiling panels. Metal registers are along this east-west vertical plane between the two ceiling levels.

- **Electrical Systems:** Wiring is contained in the walls.

Lighting is provided by recessed, fluorescent lighting fixtures measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" with translucent covers that fit within the grid of acoustical ceiling panels.

- **Other Features:** A closet is in the northeast corner of the room. Built-in

cabinets span from this closet to the west wall. In these cabinets is a exhibit case that faces the terrace lobby (Room 112).

Room 115A - Office: According to an August 1949 NPS plan of the "existing" building, the perimeter, poured-in-place, concrete walls that encircled the terrace lobby (Room 112), the terrace lobby vestibule (Room 113), office (Room 114), office (Room 115A), toilet/ lavatory (Room 115B) and the south stairs (Room 116A) were in place. Parts of three walls of what was to become the theater (Room 117) were also shown. Door and window openings in the masonry walls are also indicated. Whether doors and windows, temporary or permanent, were actually installed and finishes applied is not clear. Cross walls are not indicated except for the south "Stair Well," and indeed the theater space and the other group of undifferentiated rooms are separately labeled "unfinished." The plans for the 1950-51 phase of construction addresses the completion of these first-floor rooms as well as others.



Figure C-123. Office (Room 115A) looking southeast.

This office was initially much smaller. According to the 1950 construction documents and 1962 drawings, a "toilet" room was located between this office and the south stairs (Room 116A) and opened into the south stair hall (Room 116B) which

then extended farther southward. In the 1981 remodeling, the southernmost segment of the south stair hall was eliminated and the toilet room was reconfigured into the small toilet/lavatory (Room 115B) it is today. As a result, this office was extended northward, now measuring 19'-8" x 21'-2" with an 8'-0" ceiling height, and the redesigned restroom opens directly into this office.

- **Flooring:** Commercial-grade carpet was installed in 2003.
- **Walls:** The west and south walls are poured-in-place concrete that date to 1940-49 then plastered.

According to the 1950 NPS plans, the east wall is plastered hollow clay tiles constructed in 1950-51.

Further, the west portion of the north wall is plaster on hollow clay tiles, the construction of which dates also to 1950-51 though not as part of this room at that time. The east portion of the north wall is gypsum board on studs constructed in 1981-82.



Figure C-124. Office (Room 115A) looking northwest.

- **Doors:** The doorway from Room 115B was constructed in 1980-82 when this area was reconfigured. The door is varnished wood, flat panel, measuring 2'-4" x 6'-8" x

1¼". There are two chrome, Type E doorknobs and three Type 2 hinges. The door from Room 116B was installed when this wall was relocated in 1980-82. The door is varnished wood, flush panel, measuring 3'-0" x 6'-11" x 1¾". In the lower door is a painted metal louvered grill measuring 1'-4" x 1'-10". The two chrome door knobs are Type E. The three hinges are Type 4. The door casing is a modern stock design measuring 5/8" x 1 1/8".

A doorway leading to Room 114 was reportedly closed in 2008.

- **Windows:** There is one set of three windows units on the south wall. All window units are original and intact. All are aluminum framed, with four horizontal lights, and measure 4'-2" in height. The two outer units measure 3'-6" wide and are hinged at the top; the center unit measures 3'-4½" wide and is an awning type with each light on a separate track.
- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling of metal frame with acoustical tiles measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" was installed in 1981-82.
- **Baseboards:** A four-inch high, molded vinyl baseboard was installed in 2003 at the time the carpeting was installed.
- **Finishes:** The walls and trim are painted.
- **Mechanical Systems:** A 4" x 8" louvered, metal register is above the door to Room 116A.
- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

There are five fluorescent lighting fixtures, each measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0", that are part of the ceiling grid arrangement along with the acoustical panels. Each fixture has a reflective recessed pan and louvers forming a grid pattern of three rows of six sections

each or eighteen total sections. Each fixture contains three bulbs.

- *Plumbing Systems:* There is a kitchen sink set in built-in cabinets installed in 1980-82 along the north wall

- *Other Features:* A four inch drain line extends from ceiling to floor along the west wall.

Room 115B - Toilet/Lavatory: This small, private room off an office (Room 115A) was created in the remodeling of 1981-82.



Figure C-125. Toilet/ Lavatory.

- *Flooring:* The ceramic tile flooring was installed in the remodel of this area in 2003.

- *Walls:* The west wall is constructed of poured-in-place concrete dating to 1940-49 then plastered.

The north wall is plastered hollow clay tiles installed in 1950-51.

The east and south walls are gypsum board on studs dating to the construction of this room in 1980-82.

- *Doors:* See Room 115A for a description of the doorway.

- *Windows:* There is one aluminum window unit. Original to its installation in 1950-51 and intact, it measures 1'-11" x 2'-9" with two lights, awning type.

- *Ceiling:* The suspended has metal frame holding 2'-0" x 4'-0" panels of acoustical tile.

- *Baseboards:* The ceramic baseboards were installed with the floor tile.

- *Finishes:* Walls and trim are painted.

- *Mechanical Systems:* A metal ceiling register provides climate control.

- *Electrical Systems:* The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

A recessed panel, fluorescent fixture measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" fits in the grid of the suspended ceiling. It contains two bulbs and has a translucent diffuser cover.

- *Plumbing Systems:* There is a ceramic flush toilet and a ceramic lavatory, both dating to 1981-82.

Room 116A - South Stairs: Completed during the 1950-51 second phase of construction, this open stairway measures 9'-0" in width. At the landing at the top of the stairs the ceiling height is 7'-2." This stairs retains its original use as the second stairway, the one dedicated primarily to the circulation of staff among non-public areas.

- *Flooring:* The landing at the top of the stairs is poured-in-place concrete, as are the stairs, installed in the 1950-51 second phase of construction.

- *Walls:* The north and west wall are poured-in-place concrete with plaster finishes. The

erection of the walls was begun and was at least partially completed during 1940-49. In the 1950-51 phase, the work was completed. The plans call for the upper portion to be coated with cement while the lower part was to be coated with the more durable “Keene’s Cement.”

Construction and surface treatments of the east and south walls coincided with work to the other walls described immediately above, except that their substrate consists of hollow clay tile.



Figure C-126. South stairs.

- **Doors:** A doorway, installed sometime after the 1981-82 repairs, leads to a small unfinished area beneath the north run of stairs. The varnished wood, flush panel door measures 2'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾" and has two chrome, Type V doorknobs and Type 3 hinges.

- **Windows:** A single row of glass blocks are stacked vertically in the west wall above the landing.

- **Ceiling:** The drawings for the 1950-51 phase of work indicates the ceiling is plaster on metal lath.

- **Baseboards:** The cast-cement baseboard is ½" x 6."

- **Finishes:** The walls, baseboard and stairs are painted. The door is varnished.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

Two two-bulb, 4'-0" fluorescent lighting fixtures are on the ceiling.

Room 116B - South Stair Hall: Part of the 1950-51 second phase of construction, this area was initially an open landing at the top of the south stairs. The west wall at the top of the stairs was constructed in 1981-82 making this an enclosed hall.



Figure C-127. South stair hall looking south.

- **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square, ceramic floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The north wall, the east wall, and the northern portion of the west wall (the section between the stairs and the north wall) are constructed of plastered hollow clay tile dating to 1950-51.

The southern portion of the west wall and the south wall were erected in 1981-82 and are constructed of gypsum board on studs.

- **Doors:** See Room 116A for a description of the west elevation doorway to the stairs.

See Room 112 for a description of the north wall doorway.

See Room 114 for a description of the east wall doorway.

See Room 115A for a description of the south wall doorway.

- **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling of metal frame with acoustical tiles measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** Four-inch high ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

- **Finishes:** The walls and trim are painted. The doors are varnished.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

A two-bulb, fluorescent lighting fixture measuring 7" x 4'-0" with missing cover is mounted on the west wall next to the doorway to Room 115A.

Room 117 - Theater: During the period 1940-49, the east half of what is now the theater (Room 117) was at least partially constructed. Then in 1950-51, the second major phase of construction, this area was elongated to the west and the north to create one large "exhibit room." In the 1981-82

remodeling, this one room was subdivided into the three that now exist: the theater (Room 117), the audiovisual control room (Room 118) and the museum exhibit room (Room 119). The theater measures 37'-0" x 21'-8" with a ceiling height of 11'-0". Except for the carpeting, this room is intact as remodeled in 1981-82.



Figure C-128. Theater looking southwest.

- **Flooring:** Commercial-grade carpet was installed in 2003.

- **Walls:** The east wall and the easternmost twenty feet of both the north and the south walls are constructed of poured-in-place concrete and were at least partially constructed in the 1940-49 period. In 1950-51, the north wall was extended another four feet westward, plastered, and was terminated as part of a pipe chase. The south wall was extended westward in its current curving configuration and plastered.

During the remodel of 1981-82, the north wall was fully extended westward using hollow clay tile and plastered. Also at this time, the west wall, of gypsum board on wood studs, was built. Further, at the center of the east wall the passageway was made wider, 5'-0" in width. Inside the room the wall of gypsum board on studs, 13'-0" long, was built parallel to the old east wall, to form an entry vestibule for the newly created theater.



Figure C-129. One of two matching theater entry doors.

- **Doors:** The doorway on the west wall dates to the construction of the wall in 1981-82 and is intact. The frame is made of square, hollow steel bars. It has a varnished wood door, flush panel, measuring 3'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾". The door has two chrome, Type E doorknobs and three Type 4 hinges.

The two doorways at the east entrance vestibule at the rear of the room date to 1981-82. The frames are made of square, hollow steel bars. The doors are varnished wood, flush panel measuring 3'-0" x 6'-7" x 1¾". Each door has a raised wood door pull and three Type 4 hinges.

- **Ceiling:** The metal frame system with panels of 2'-0" x 4'-0" acoustical tile was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** The 4" molded vinyl baseboards were installed along with the carpet in 2003.

- **Finishes:** The walls and metal door frames are painted. The doors and wall railings are varnished.

- **Mechanical Systems:** Ceiling registers provide climate control.

Suspended from the ceiling are two ceiling fans with a modern antique brass finish installed in 2003.

- **Electrical Systems:** The electrical wiring is contained in the walls.

Lighting in the theater proper is partially provided by six, recessed, fluorescent lighting fixtures measuring 2'-0" x 4'-0" with translucent cover that fit within the grid of acoustical ceiling panels. There also are four, recessed, can lights.

In the entry foyer, there are three, recessed, can lights.

- **Other Features:** There is a two-bulb, emergency light pack on the west wall.

There is a smoke detector on the ceiling.

There is a varnished wood rail along the walls. There is carpet on the walls from the wood rail to floor level.

Room 118 – Audiovisual Control Room:

What now are two separate operational areas, the theater /audiovisual control room (Rooms 117/118) and the museum exhibit hall (Room 119), was constructed as one, large, exhibit area in the 1950-51 second phase of construction. In the 1980-82 remodeling, the one large room was subdivided into the two major work areas with the three rooms that now exist. This audiovisual control room, measuring 11'-0 ¾" x 18'-7" with a ceiling height of 8'-8," houses equipment for the operation of the adjoining theater.



Figure C-130. Audiovisual control room looking north.

- **Flooring:** The poured-in-place concrete slabs are the flooring at both room level and the landing level.

- **Walls:** The curving west-to-south wall is constructed of plaster on top of poured-in-place concrete constructed in 1950-51.

In the 1981-82 remodeling, the other two walls were constructed. The north wall was constructed of hollow clay tile and plastered. The east wall was constructed of gypsum board on wood studs.

- **Doors:** See Room 117 for a description of the doorway on the east wall.

The doorway on the north wall dates to the construction of this section of the wall in 1980-82 and is intact. The frame is made of square, hollow steel bars. It has a varnished wood door, flush panel, measuring 4'-0" x 6'-8" x 1¾." The door has two chrome, Type E doorknobs and three Type 4 hinges.

- **Ceiling:** The metal frame system with panels of 2'-0" x 4'-0" acoustical tile was installed in 1981-82.

- **Baseboards:** The baseboards are molded, 4" vinyl.

- **Finishes:** The walls are painted. The doors are varnished.

- **Mechanical Systems:** Ceiling registers provide climate control.



Figure C-131. The audiovisual control desk along the east wall.

- **Electrical Systems:** There are two ceiling-mounted, two-bulb fluorescent lighting fixtures. Three panel boxes are on the north wall. The AV control desk is along the east wall.

- **Other Features:** There is a poured-in-place concrete stairway of three steps that leads down from the room to a landing where doorways connect to the museum exhibit hall and the theater. The stairs have a steel pipe handrail.

Room 119 - Museum Exhibit Hall: What now are two separate operational areas, theater/audiovisual control room (Rooms 117/118) and the museum exhibit hall (Room 119) was constructed as one large exhibit area in the 1950-51 second phase of

construction. In the 1981-82 remodeling, the one room was subdivided into the two major work areas of three rooms that now exist. This museum exhibit hall measures 30'-8" x 48'-6" with a ceiling height 11'-0."



Figure C-132. Exhibit hall looking west.



Figure C-133. Exhibit hall looking southwest.

• **Flooring:** The twelve-inch square ceramic, floor tiles with matching four-inch high, ceramic baseboards were installed in 2003.

• **Walls:** The west and north walls are plastered, poured-in-place concrete that were constructed in 1950-51.

The easternmost twenty feet of the south wall and the east wall are plastered, poured-in-place concrete that were at least partially constructed in 1940-49, then finished in 1950-51. On the south wall, another four feet was added on the west end in 1950-51. In 1981-82, the remainder of the south wall was constructed of hollow clay tile and plastered.

• **Doors:** See Room 118 for a description of the doorway on the south wall.

• **Ceiling:** The suspended ceiling has metal tracks holding acoustical panels which measure 2'-0" x 4'-0."

• **Baseboards:** Four-inch high ceramic baseboards matching the floor tiles were installed in 2003.

• **Finishes:** The walls are painted. The door to Room 118 is varnished.

• **Mechanical Systems:** There are five 2'-0" x 2'-0" metal supply registers in the ceiling.

• **Electrical Systems:** Incandescent track lighting provides the light.

• **Other Features:** Much of the southeast quadrant of this room, subdivided by gypsum board on stud walls in 1981-82, contain exhibit spaces and service access immediately behind.

Utility Systems

The Visitor Center has three-phase, 208 v, electrical service upgraded in 2003. Unfortunately, the individual breakers for the panel boxes were not labeled. Georgia Power provides the electrical service, and the level of service is reported to be satisfactory.

Natural gas is piped to the site. Service is satisfactory. In addition to the HVAC boilers, other hot water equipment includes two water heaters. A Rheem 67 g hot water heater in the Solar Room provides all the hot water for staff the break room, the staff restrooms and showers, the private toilet-lavatory room/ kitchenette and the public restrooms. A Lochinvar 80g hot water heater in the Mechanical Room (Room 007C) provides water for the Artifact Storage Room (Room 001).

The facility is serviced by both potable water and sewer lines supplied by Bibb County. Service is reported to be satisfactory.

Heating and cooling is provided by a four-pipe system installed in 2003. Operation is reportedly satisfactory. Equipment includes:

- Two Raypack (Rheem) gas boilers, each 336,000 Btu/hour;
- Two Des Champs Laboratories, Inc., blowers;
- Two Marathon Electric Series E pumps;
- Des Champs Technologies model RCU 00721CA00, air cooled condenser – remote;
- Two Trane condensing units, model 2TTB0030A.

Summary of Conditions

The building is well maintained and is in very good condition, in general.

Though the building languished in partial states of completion through its first two decades, and the design underwent numerous revisions, the design concepts remained basically sound and the building materials and methods of construction were of good quality, in general. Subsequent revisions have likewise adhered to higher standards.

Nevertheless, there have been some persistent problems. Leaks at the flat roofs and the terrace have been persistent since initial construction. In 1999, a small adjustment in roof slope was made, the internal roof drains were replaced with scuppers and external downspouts, and a new roofing membrane was installed. Roof leaks have since ceased.

At the same time, the terrace leaks were addressed in similar fashion. The old terrace pavers were removed, the concrete deck was modified to drain to scuppers and external downspouts (abandoning the original area drains and internal drains) and a new membrane was installed. Unfortunately, the effort has not met with the same success as occurred with the roofs. Water continues to enter the building via the terrace especially in front of the main entrance. Sadly, the dispute with the contractor did not lead to resolution and the leaks persist. The most threatened building sector is the area immediately below the terrace. This, of course, contains the park's climate sensitive artifacts and associated records.

Changing standards are also an element of good stewardship. Clearly, efforts to address the special needs of the handicapped were implemented early at this park with the wheelchair ramp and toilet stalls for wheelchairs. Today, these designs do not match current ADA standards. Nor do the designs for lavatory counters and water fountains.

Successful stewardship of the building is hampered somewhat by the unusual construction history and a series of associated calamities. The initial construction began with the careful photographic recording and other record keeping. However, in the first decade and a half there were numerous revisions and delays. There are hundreds of architectural

drawings of the deliberations but they are not always dated, nor are the outcomes of the debate always clear. Photography as a recording tool also waned; only one photograph was located from the 1950-51 work, for example.

The circumstances of the time also played a part in the confusing construction history. For example, the years after the end of World War II, 1946 through 1948, held no appropriations for this building; nonetheless, returning military personnel from the nearby Fort Wheeler used their extra time and the excess of leftover building materials to lend a hand informally with construction at Ocmulgee. The official documents don't reflect these activities, but oral histories can provide confirmation.

Natural calamities have also played a part. Of special importance is the malfunction of the mechanical system and sump pump in 2001. As a result, the Solar Room (Room 023A) and an archival storage area (Room 023B) were flooded. Mechanical equipment was damaged. Many of the records were

reportedly damaged beyond recognition and were subsequently discarded. Identification of which records were lost is not known.

And, finally, the process of spreading money as far as possible has had some negative consequences not immediately recognized. A frequent occurrence in various construction campaigns has been the tendency to leave in place abandoned elements without identification or explanation. Plumbing and drain pipes, electrical wiring, and equipment are scattered throughout the building without clear indication at the location or in records as to its status, active or inactive, and its respective purpose.

As a result of this combination of circumstances, care of the building today relies heavily on the institutional memory of personnel. As needy as some physical conditions of the building are, the organization of the building data itself is equally a concern in order to provide the most efficient management and building maintenance.

PART II: TREATMENT & USE

A. ULTIMATE TREATMENT AND USE

Background

Although it could not have been anticipated at the time, the advent of construction of the Ocmulgee Visitor Center in 1939 was a watershed event for the National Park Service. Prior to that moment, new park facilities were designed to convey the rustic characteristics of the natural environment or a semblance of historicity, often copying an early architectural style of the region even if that architecture had no relationship to the theme or event to which the park was dedicated.

Ocmulgee National Monument commemorates the native-American culture and its mound community that once thrived there. The most important of those mound structures, the Earth Lodge, had been reconstructed and served as a focal point for interpretation. The design problem for introducing a new building to this site was to select something that would pay homage to the native culture and avoid the usual reintroduction of European culture-based precedents.

James T. Swanson was a National Park Service official who had participated in the reconstruction of the Earth Lodge. He then directed the design of the Visitor Center. His choices in the design process were brilliant. One was the location for the center, atop a rise to the north with a clear view of the Earth Lodge from slightly above.

A second wise choice was the architectural style. The Art Moderne was new, a style that relished its break from traditional architecture. And the building materials of this new style were new also, glass block, concrete, aluminum and stainless steel. The plasticity of poured-in-place concrete allowed the creation of bending, curving forms akin to that of the Earth Lodge. The use of an incised frieze replicated from the pottery work of the native culture gave another reference to the people for whom the park was dedicated. And the incorporation of their favorite colors, red and black, into the building design provided a third reference.

The building was conceived to be at the same moment both modern and with reference to the ancient past of the Ocmulgee people.

The building took initial shape in 1939. The resultant building design, modified again and again as budgets tantalizingly materialized and then took another form or disappeared, was not decided until 1950. The building was finally dedicated in 1951.

As with the Modernist Movement in general, there were both admirers and critics and both camps tended to have strong opinions.

Indeed, not everyone embraced the new building. It was a radical departure from anything the National Park Service previously had attempted. One of its most vocal critics was Devereaux Butcher of the National Parks Association. Criticizing the

National Park Service in 1952 for straying from its policy of promoting rustic and historic designs, he cited as example “the supremely ugly museum at Georgia’s Ocmulgee National Monument.”

Its appearance, however controversial at mid century, undoubtedly helped make palatable the National Park Service’s later modernist buildings and Mission 66.

While this very important building retains a great deal of its 1939-51 features and characteristics, it remains largely unheralded. As such, it presents rich opportunities to interpret the evolution of American and Park Service architecture and to celebrate the immense contribution of this building. It deserves recognition as a National Historic Landmark for this role.

The Recommended Ultimate Treatment includes the preservation of the exterior and interior with restoration of key exterior features and certain interior public and semi-public spaces to their 1951 appearances.

Key exterior features that have the highest priority for restoration to their 1951 appearance include, at first floor, the doors of the Public Entrance Vestibule, and the Terrace Vestibule; at ground floor, of highest priority are the doors of the West (Staff) Entryway.

Important interior public spaces that have highest priority for restoration to their 1951 appearances include, at first floor, the Public Entrance Vestibule, the Rotunda, the Gift Shop, the Central Corridor, the Back Hall, the Terrace Lobby and the Terrace Vestibule.

Important interior semi-public spaces of high priority for restoration to their 1951 appearances include, at first floor, the South

Stair Hall, the South Stair, and the Central Stair; at ground floor, they include the Central Stair Hall, the North Back Hall, the Center Back Hall, the South Stair Hall, and the Service Corridor.

The semi-public, ground-floor spaces of Staff Men’s Restroom, Staff Women’s Restroom, and Janitor’s Closet have high priority for preservation because of their early features.

The spaces occupied by the first floor Men’s (Public) Restroom and Women’s (Public) Restroom have a low priority for preservation because of a general absence of historic features.

Specific important historic features and elements throughout the building, such as early plumbing fixtures, floor tiles, doors and even remnants of early door attachment hardware, as identified in Section I – C, should be retained in place and preserved.

This approach would have the following advantages:

- Preserves a major architectural icon of the National Park Service and modern architecture;
- Promotes and interprets an important chapter in National Park Service history, one currently not well recognized;
- Allows for future work to be organized into phases based upon the established hierarchy of importance of spaces and features for preservation or restoration;
- Expands the opportunities for interpretation at Ocmulgee and elsewhere to include the controversy of Modernist architecture in general

and the impact of this building on
Park Service architecture
specifically.

This approach would have the following
disadvantages:

- Reverses some recent modifications.

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR TREATMENT

A General Management Plan has not been prepared for Ocmulgee National Monument.

The National Park Service Cultural Resources Management Guideline (DO – 28) requires planning for the protection of all cultural resources on park property, whether or not a General Management Plan has been prepared, or whether the cultural resource relates to the park's primary mission.

In addition, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) mandates that federal agencies, including the National Park Service, take into account the effects of their actions on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment.

Treatment of the building and site are to be guided by *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects*, the Americans with Disability Act, and the International Building Code. Threats to public life, safety and welfare are to be addressed; however, because this is an historic building, alternatives to full legislative and code compliance are recommended where compliance would needlessly compromise the integrity of the historic building.

C. ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

In addition to the Ultimate Treatment discussed in Section I.A above, an alternative treatment is discussed below.

Alternative #1: Rehabilitate the exterior and interior of the building to maintain the facility in good condition and to make it more energy efficient.

This approach would have the following advantages:

- Installing replacement systems, such as double-glazed window units, can improve the building's energy efficiency;
- Retaining and repairing damaged original features, such as the terrazzo floors and baseboards, is expensive. Installing modern materials which are readily available and easily installed, such as ceramic tile flooring and molded vinyl baseboards, is quickly implemented and inexpensive.

This approach would also have the following disadvantages:

- Replacing original material and distinctive features would be an irrevocable loss of historic building fabric and would diminish the historic value of this important architectural icon;
- Installing new materials and finishes that are out of character with the original design, even if installed on top of the original materials, diminishes the impact of the original design;

- Covering or replacing distinctive original building fabric and features of an architecturally important historic building, such as this one, diminishes the interpretive opportunities;
- Replacing original features for better energy efficiency, such as the windows, can be deceptively ineffective and financially costly. The original windows are a very high quality, in both design and material. The windows continue to function well though there is some air infiltration and a need for other minor maintenance repairs. A new window replacement unit with double glazing that is readily available would not closely match the appearance of the original. In addition, the replacement unit could provide only small improvement in energy efficiency. The payback period for the change would require a number of years. In addition, double-glazed glass has a notoriously high failure rate, further lengthening the long pay-back period and adding a nuisance factor. To construct a replacement window unit with double-glazing that does closely match the original design would be extremely expensive to produce and would increase the payback period even longer.
- Covering or replacing high quality original building fabric, such as the terrazzo flooring and baseboards, with a less expensive material, such as ceramic tile and molded vinyl,

may be a less expensive option than repair, but the product is often a lesser quality with a shorter lifespan, as in this instance.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Visitor Center is reportedly working well in its intended role as the place to orient visitors to the park and provide interpretive programs. In general, the building is in good condition with one notable exception, the persistent reoccurring problem of water infiltration at the east and south patios. The long-term, reoccurring problem of roof leaks appears to have finally been resolved in the reroofing of 1999.

The building retains much of its early building fabric and design characteristics which is fortunate given its special role in the history of National Park Service architecture. The building is an icon of modern architecture and was the building that first broke from the Park Service practice of constructing rustic and revival style park buildings. Until now, this aspect has not been well documented nor has it been celebrated as the important event that it was.

The recommended Ultimate Treatment for the Visitor Center is the preservation of the exterior and interior with the restoration of key exterior features and certain interior public spaces to their 1951 appearance.

Specific Recommendations to Achieve Ultimate Treatment:

To achieve the recommended Ultimate Treatment the following actions should be taken:

- Repair, preserve and maintain the original 1939-51 aluminum window units;
- Replace the original glass block units that are severely damaged and the replacement glass block units of inappropriate design with salvaged or reproduction units that are duplicates of the original design;
- When repairing the patio decks for current leaks, reincorporate the original red and black colors into the replacement materials to reestablish a more accurate historic color scheme;
- Replace the modern-design, c. 1970, aluminum-and-glass doors of the Public Entrance Vestibule, the Terrace Vestibule, the West (Staff) Entryway, and the current Gift Shop doorways with reproduction doors matching the 1951 design;
- Remove the modern molded vinyl baseboards of the Public Entrance Vestibule and re-expose and repair the original terrazzo baseboard;
- At Public Entrance Vestibule, investigate physical evidence of original flooring and associated design characteristics including recessed area for rubber mat. Repair and restore flooring and associated features to their 1951 design;
- At the Rotunda, the Gift Shop, the Central Corridor, the Back Hall, Terrace Lobby and Terrace Vestibule investigate physical evidence of original flooring and associated design characteristics. Repair and restore flooring associated features to their 1951 design;
- Remove modern window on south wall of rotunda. Install reproduction unit of the 1951 design;

- Preserve the remaining early (1939-51) design elements throughout the interior public and private staff spaces, such as the tile flooring of the service corridor, the bathroom fixtures and plumbing hardware of the staff restrooms, the wash basin of the janitor's closet, the fire hose (disconnected and labeled "inactive") and cabinet, doors and doorway units, lighting fixtures and even remnants of early elements such as the bolts and frames for early doorways;
 - Preserve what remains of the 1951 floor plan and strive to make new uses conform to that layout rather than modify the layout to best accommodate the new use;
 - When performing maintenance or making repair, employ techniques that preserve evidence of earlier paint and other finishes.
- proper recognition for this important icon of both modern architecture and the National Park Service;
- Use the data gathered for the nomination to celebrate and interpret the Visitor Center itself as an important cultural resource.

Other Recommended Actions:

There are other actions that should be taken for the stewardship of this important building:

- Seek out and collect oral histories, photographs and other iconographic images, souvenirs, building material and other tangible objects associated with the construction history and use of the building. Former members of PWA, ERA, CCC and personnel from Fort Wheeler are prime candidates for the early years. Former park personnel are likely candidates for the more recent years.
- Prepare a National Historic Landmark nomination to provide

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Other Sources

Ocmulgee National Monument Photo Collection.

Ocmulgee National Monument Archive Collections of books, manuscripts, general files, plans, drawings, reports, Superintendents' Annual and Monthly Narrative Reports, newspaper clippings, two CD-R disks of pdf documents, and other helpful materials.

Ocmulgee National Monument, History and Culture website
<http://www.nps.gov/ocmu/historyculture/index.htm>

Interviews with current staff, including Superintendent Jim David, Chief Ranger Guy Lachine, Park Ranger/Cultural Resources Manager Lonnie Davis, and Facilities Manager Jerome Walker, February, 2008.

Interview with Homer Leslie, former longtime chief of Maintenance and Facilities.

APPENDIX A

Ocmulgee Superintendents

APPENDIX A
Ocmulgee Superintendents¹

James T Swanson, Acting. Superintendent	12/23/1936 - 2/15/1938
Frank E. Lester, Acting. Superintendent	2/16/1938 - 4/09/1938
Jesse D. Jennings, Acting. Superintendent	4/10/1938 - 5/14/1939
Frank E. Lester, Acting. Superintendent	5/15/1939 - 6/17/1939
John C. Ewers, Acting. Superintendent	6/18/1939 - 3/23/1940
William W. Luckett, Superintendent	3/24/1940 - 3/02/1943
William W. Luckett, Custodian	3/03/1943 - 10/02/1944
Arthur R. Kelly, Custodian	10/03/1944 - 9/01/1947
Millard D. Guy, Superintendent	10/28/1947 - 6/06/1955
Louis R. Caywood, Superintendent	7/25/1955 - 1/07/1961
Albert Dillahunty, Superintendent	1/22/1961 - 12/03/1966
Charles F. Bohannon, Superintendent	1/15/1967 - 9/20/1969
W. Pingree Crawford, Management Asst. ²	12/28/1969 - 3/02/1971
W. Pingree Crawford, Superintendent	3/03/1971 - 3/13/1976
Walter T. Barrett, Superintendent	3/28/1976 - 12/15/1979

¹ http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/tolson/histlist7o.htm, and Lonnie Davis, Cultural Resources Manager, OCMU.

² Superintendent of Kennesaw Mountain NBP was assigned oversight responsibility from 12/28/1969 to 3/02/1971.

Sibbald Smith, Superintendent	12/15/1979 - 1/30/1988
Homer L. Leslie, Acting Superintendent	1/31/1988 - 5/07/1988
Mark J. Corey, Superintendent	5/08/1988 - 4/18/1992
Guy L. LaChine, Acting Superintendent	4/19/1992 - 8/19/1992
John F. Bundy, Superintendent	8/20/1992 - 12/07/1996
Guy L. LaChine, Acting Superintendent	12/08/1996 - 1/19/1997
James S. David, Superintendent	1/20/1997 - Present

APPENDIX B

Interview Transcripts

INTERVIEW

Date: April 22, 2008

Subject: Ocmulgee Visitor Center

Building History

Interviewee: Jim David, Park Superintendent

Guy LaChine, Ranger

Interview by: Joseph K. Oppermann, FAIA

Historical Architect

JO: Looking at the history of superintendent's reports, leaks at the roofs and the terraces are regular issues. What are the major repair issues now?

JD: The roof leaks seem to have finally been corrected with the work in 1999. The roofing material is made by Sonnefil with a 30-year warranty. As part of the work, we disconnected the internal roof drains and directed all roof runoff to the outside of the building with downspouts there. It seems to have worked.

The same material was used on the terrace. Internal drains were again eliminated. Water was directed to the perimeter. But the leaks persist. We think it is because of the way the seams of the deck with the building were patched. The installer disputed any responsibility to remove the pavers (in order to make repair) so the matter has gone unresolved. Last December a waterproofing paint was added on the inside under the terrace to try to stop the leaking. All are waiting to see what the results will be.

We know we need to address accessibility by the handicapped at the restrooms, at water fountains and on a new more suitable wheelchair ramp. We are also thinking about replacing the windows to improve energy efficiency and removing the fire hoses and cabinets for safety reasons.

HVAC was a serious problem. Every evening the system cut off at 6:00 p.m. People were complaining of sickness. We found mold in carpets, duct insulation, etc. We replaced it all in 2003 with a new system and employee health has improved dramatically. The down side is that we also replaced much of the electrical system and it was never properly labeled. The lack of identification is a continuing problem.

Vandalism had been a problem but an extensive security system is now in place. Motion detectors and sound detectors are in place. There are also contacts on doors. These are all monitored by a central station. In addition, there are video cameras

JO: We are finding gaps in the sequence of park documents. We understand from Lonnie Davis that many papers were so saturated in the 2001 flooding (faulty sump pump in solar room) that they couldn't be identified and there is no listing of what might have been included. Who might be the best source(s) of information about repairs and changes that we can't find in the available park documents?

JD: Lonnie may know about some matters. Jerome Walker who now heads up the maintenance of the facilities has been here a long time and may know. The person who is most knowledgeable retired about two years ago. His name is Homer Leslie and may be reached at home at 478/ 745-3080. He is tough to catch. He leaves early and gets back late.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Date: July 23, 2008

Subject: Ocmulgee Visitor Center

Repair History

Interviewee: Lonnie J. Davis

Park Ranger/ Cultural Resources

Ocmulgee National Monument

Interview by: Joseph K. Oppermann, FAIA

Historical Architect

JO: Looking at the 1949 drawings of work completed to date, there appears to have been some work accomplished since everything was officially stopped in 1941. But there were no appropriations in 1946, 1947 or 1948. Do you have any idea how this work occurred?

LD: I do. A few years ago, a fellow stopped here at the museum. Said he had been stationed at Fort Wheeler after returning from the war. The troops were given an option. Either go work on one of their projects or go over to Ocmulgee. The camp had a lot of bags of concrete left over with no use. So troops were sent over to Ocmulgee to unofficially help. This man poured concrete for flooring.

JO: Any idea when the original aluminum entrance doors were replaced?

LD: My understanding is that they were replaced about 1970. (Note: Homer Lesley says he then replaced those doors in 2003.)

JO: What about the vehicle door on the garage?

LD: I think that is original. (Note: Homer Lesley agrees.)

JO: When were the fans installed in the rotunda? The theater?

LD: Installed in both areas in 2003.

JO: When were the spotlights installed in the rotunda?

LD: About 1985.

JO: When were the fluorescent lights installed in the garage?

LD: In 1981-82.

JO: When were the acoustical tile ceiling installed in the rotunda?

LD: Not certain.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Date: July 29, 2008

Subject: Ocmulgee Visitor Center
Repair History

Interviewee: Homer Leslie
Maintenance & Facilities Director (Retired)

Interview by: Joseph K. Oppermann, FAIA
Historical Architect

JO: *Mr. Leslie, I understand from your former coworkers at Ocmulgee that you know more than anyone about the last several decades of work there. What time frame were you there?*

HL: I joined the building maintenance crew in 1970 and retired two years ago.

JO: *There appears to be a lot of extraneous pipes and wiring throughout the building, leftovers from various repair and replacement campaigns. They are not labeled nor are components of the current systems, such as the electrical boxes. It is hard to know what is active and what is not. Is there a record someplace?*

HL: Not really. A problem we had over and over was that people would do work and leave what they disconnected. There was nothing in their contract to say they had to remove things, so there was nothing we could do. Same thing with the new work. Nothing in the contracts said things had to be labeled.

JO: *Am I correct that you now have a four-pipe HVAC system with a separate heat pump and a mobile dehumidifier for the archive area?*

HL: That is correct. They were installed in 2002-03. Except the dehumidifier next to the heat pump; it is one of four or five that we had there before and we just reused that one.

When I came in 1970 we didn't have any AC, only fans. The archaeologists had AC window units. Then with the solar heating system in 1979-80 we got our first AC system. The turbines were really loud and never worked very well. Replaced them with our second AC system in 1986-87.

JO: *When was the last electrical rewiring?*

HL: In 2002-03 along with the installation of the new HVAC system. Did a bunch of rewiring and replaced service panels. Nothing got labeled then either.

JO: *There seems to be some confusion about the hot water heaters. I find two, one in the solar room and a second in the new mechanical room. There is a third tank under the south stairs that doesn't appear to be a water heater and appears to be disconnected. Could you clarify?*

HL: I only know of one water heater, the one in the solar room. That's why there is never much hot water in the kitchen or any of the restrooms. The tank under the south stair is the tank for back-flush for the solar heating system, installed about 1979 and abandoned about 1985.

JO: *Is that when the door was added under the south stairs at grade level, when the tank was installed in 1979?*

HL: That's right.

JO: *Speaking of doors, when were the doors switched out in the doorways along the east wall of the garage?*

HL: I did that about 1996-97. Used some doors I found in storage.

JO: *When were the interior walls of those five small rooms removed? The remnants of the tile walls can still be seen in the concrete floors and in ghost marks on the perimeter walls and ceiling.*

HL: Pretty recent. Same time we did the rewiring. 2003.

JO: *What about the aluminum replacement doors at the front entrance, at the exit lobby onto the terrace, the staff entrances at the south stairs and off the rangers offices?*

HL: Within the last six years. About 2003 I guess. People from Columbus GA did it.

JO: *Do you know when the acoustical ceiling tiles were installed?*

HL: About 1979-80 when we were messing with that first AC system.

JO: *The 1980 architectural plans for the 1981-82 repair phase of work shows a layout that looks the same. Could that be the time frame?*

HL: That probably is it.

JO: *Do you know when the room was cut out of the south side of the solar room for storage?*

HL: We made that room in 1979 to contain a 2,000 gallon hot water tank for the solar equipment. The tank had to be insulated, so we built that room for the tank. When we took the tank out about 1982, we converted that area to storage. We had records there that were destroyed when the room flooded in 2001. The sump pump for the chiller failed and the room flooded. Several feet deep.

JO: *Do you know when the library and conference areas of today's conference room (Room 007A) were two separate rooms?*

HL: They were two separate rooms when I arrived in 1970. My shop was across the way the kitchen and storage room are. My shop was there until the kitchen and storage room were made in about 1982.

JO: *When was the seating reversed in the theater?*

HL: About 2000-01. We did that when we needed a bigger wall for the bigger screen we were getting.

JO: *Do you recall the type of paint you used on the exterior of the building?*

HL: Yes, it was called Renewit. Rubbery. I don't think it is being made anymore.

JO: *The roof leaks seem to be have finally stopped, but the terrace still appear to leak. Is that correct?*

HL: The crew doing the terrace repairs patched the cracks in the concrete with epoxy but they didn't patch the seam between the terrace and the exterior walls of the rotunda, etc. I think that is where it is leaking. Their contract said that had to fix it but they said removing the terrace paving was not included. There was a lawsuit but it was never resolved and the leaks are still there.

JO: *Do you have any other major concerns?*

HL: The terrace leaks are my biggest concern. I also don't like the way they put the satellite equipment on the roof. They drilled right through the concrete deck and it is going to be a problem leaking in the future.

APPENDIX D

Paint Analysis and Color Evaluation



Welsh Color & Conservation, Inc.
Analysis of Historic Paints and Wallpapers

P.O. Box 767
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-0767
Tel: 610-525-3564
E-mail: fwelsh@welshcolor.com

Website: www.welshcolor.com

November 10, 2008

Mr. Joseph K. Oppermann
Architect
539 N. Trade Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

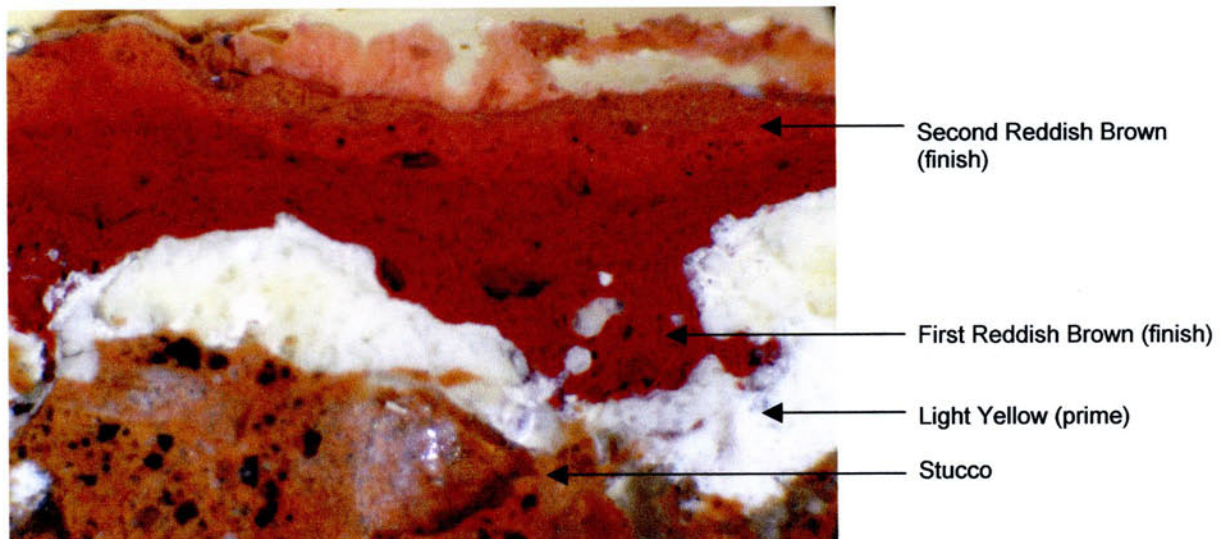
Re: Ocmulgee Visitor Center

Dear Joe:

We received seven paint samples from your firm from the Ocmulgee Visitor Center, constructed in 1938 - 1951 in Macon, Georgia. The samples are from the exterior. We conducted a stereomicroscopical analysis of each sample to determine the layer structure and the original color of the first finish coat.

Our analyses and color evaluation disclose that all of the samples exhibit very good paint layer evidence. There are only five layers of paint on the samples. The first two layers are the prime and finish coats. The two samples from the ornamental frieze area show a reddish brown stucco substrate, which has a prime of a light yellow, followed by a moderate reddish brown oil paint. There are three more reddish brown finish paint layers above the first finish paint. The five samples from general wall locations show a prime and finish of the light yellow oil paint. There are three more finish paint layers above the first finish.

A crosssection photomicrograph of the layers on the frieze is below.



Sample # 2: Frieze (underside) at northeast elevation

The evidence on your samples indicates that the building has been painted four times; however, it is unclear whether or not the first finish coat dates from the late 1930's or the 1950's or possibly later. Since the early construction was interrupted by the war and not completed until the early 1950's, it is most likely that the first paints are from the '50's. However, you have mentioned that there has been some reference to sandblasting at the building in the late 1970's. This raises some uncertainty as to whether the first layer is from the 30's or 50's. With only four finish coats on the samples from a building that is at least 57 years old, it raises the question: can it be that the exterior was only painted every 14-to-15 years? Because of the ambiguity, it seems advisable to do more investigation of the exterior to gather additional samples that either confirm or refute this uncertainty. Additional analyses of the samples in hand would not resolve this uncertainty because the pigments and oil vehicles available in the early 1950's are the same as would have been available in the mid 1940's as well as in the 1970's.

In the meantime, we matched the first two finish colors on the frieze and on the walls to the Munsell Color System and also have provided corresponding CIE L*a*b* color reference values. A sample of each color is included. The appended laboratory data presents the detail of the paint layer structure.

First Finish Color on the Frieze

Feature: Frieze

Color: Moderate Reddish Brown

Color sample:

Finish Type: Oil

Reflectance: Low-Gloss



The CIE LAB (illum C²; 0-45° geometry)
color references are:

L* = 31.13

a* = +26.39

b* = +17.19

The Munsell Color
notation is:

7.5 R 3/6**Second Finish Color on the Frieze**

Feature: Frieze

Color: Moderate Reddish Brown

Color sample:

Finish Type: Oil

Reflectance: Low-Gloss



The CIE LAB (illum C²; 0-45° geometry)
color references are:

L* = 31.13

a* = +24.44

b* = +21.51

The Munsell Color
notation is:

10 R 3/6

First Finish Color on the Walls

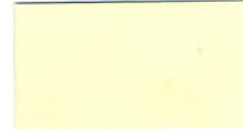
Feature: Walls

Color: Light Yellow

Finish Type: Oil

Reflectance: Low-Gloss

Color sample:



The CIE LAB (illum C²; 0-45° geometry)
color references are:

L* = 93.39

a* = +.60

b* = +13.68

The Munsell Color
notation is:

0.9 Y 9.2/1.8
(B. Moore #OC-102)

Second Finish Color on the Walls

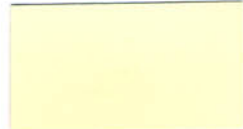
Feature: Walls

Color: Light Yellow

Finish Type: Oil

Reflectance: Low-Gloss

Color sample:



The CIE LAB (illum C²; 0-45° geometry)
color references are:

L* = 91.93

a* = +.51

b* = +17.14

The Munsell Color
notation is:

1.5 Y 9.1/2.3
(B. Moore #OC-104)

On our website, <http://welshcolor.com/matching.html>, we provide additional information on color matching new paint. If you have any follow-up questions or need additional color samples, please call me.

Sincerely,



Frank S. Welsh



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS D-88 December 2008