

**FOUNDERS MEMORIAL GARDEN
ATHENS, GEORGIA**

A SITE HISTORY

WITH AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS



Prepared By: Dexter Adams

April 12, 2000

FOUNDERS MEMORIAL GARDEN
ATHENS, GEORGIA

A SITE HISTORY

WITH AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS



Prepared By: Dexter Adams

April 12, 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Site History	
Site History Prior to Garden Development.....	2
Development of the Founders Memorial Garden.....	10
The War Years.....	17
Garden Completion.....	19
Appendices	
I An Overview of Garden Built Elements and Their Existing Conditions.....	35 - 55
II 1938 Letter to Mrs. Bradshaw Approving Garden Development at UGA.....	56
III 1939 Estimate of Garden Costs.....	57 - 62
IV Inventory of Designated Memorials - Founders Memorial Garden.....	63 - 69
V Supplemental Plans and Drawings.....	70 - 75
VI Who Designed the Founders Memorial Garden?.....	76 - 77
Endnotes.....	78 - 81

Introduction

The Founders Memorial Garden occupies two and a half acres on the University of Georgia campus and honors the pioneers of American gardening as well as the men and women who served in the most calamitous world war in history. These two groups, at first seeming to have little relation to each other, are, in fact, associated due to one man - Hubert Bond Owens. This garden was the brainchild of this educator and landscape architect who energetically encouraged amateur and professional, patron and student, and in so doing, created a living memorial to both.

The following report examines this landscape in a process aimed at the eventual identification of a treatment guideline that best reflects this property's historic significance and condition. An ambitious University Master Plan, changes in use of garden facilities, proposed changes in garden configuration, and the fact that the property is entering an age at which "historic" status is commonly considered, all underscore the need for protection and future treatment. It is hoped that this site history will contribute to a study that will provide an informed basis for the analysis and treatment recommendations leading to responsible and respectful stewardship of the Founders Memorial Garden.

Site History Prior to Garden Development

The original site of the Founders Memorial Garden rests upon a west-facing slope in the American Piedmont Plateau of Georgia. The slope drains into the nearby Oconee River and one of its tributaries, Tanyard Creek. Elevations through the site run between 690 and 725 feet above sea level. Soils are characterized as belonging to the Cecil Series of sandy loams, comprised primarily of weathered gneiss and granite. Beneath this thin loam lies a subsoil of red clay.¹

There are two known sites of prehistoric habitation very near the site. In the area now known as Sanford Stadium, along Tanyard Creek, a site of the Late Archaic Period (3,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.) was discovered. A handsome artifact, a long chert blade, was discovered at this site and occupies catalogue listing number one in the collection of the University of Georgia Anthropology Department. Within the embankment along the west side of Jackson Street, near the Main Library, an Archaic Period (8,000 B.C. - 1,000 B.C.) encampment was discovered which also produced a "hint" of the latest aboriginal habitation in this area (around 1500 A.D.).² It can be said that the area now known as North Campus, which includes our site, was the kind of location favored for prehistoric camps as well as more permanent habitation sites. In fact, the first Euro-American settlers in this area, notably Josiah Meigs in 1801, "found almost as many Indians as whites."³

The history of the founding of the University of Georgia and Athens has been variously and completely told and will only be summarized here. A 1785 legislative charter established the University of Georgia as the first such institution in the nation, but it was not until 1801 that the location along the west bank of the Oconee River was selected. After initially holding classes under the trees, the first campus building, a one-and-a-half story log cabin, was constructed in 1802.⁴

As a means of generating revenue, the University was authorized to survey lots for private sale. These lots were arrayed adjacent to the early campus and represented the future town of Athens. A nearby "rock spring" served both college and town.⁵ The road to the older community of Watkinsville originated at the western end of the town lots and descended the ridge opposite the slope to the river. This "Road to Watkinsville," as earlier maps describe it, would become busy Lumpkin Street and provide a border to the campus as well as forming the western edge of the study site.

Franklin College, as the school was known, eventually grew to reflect the traditional physical campus plan of the time. Anchored at one end by its main academic building, a rectangular space was defined by a chapel, two debating society headquarters, supporting academic buildings and professors' homes. A nearby arboretum, along Tanyard Creek and adjacent to our site, was developed by the school and supported a variety of introduced and native botanical specimens. It was the sale of this land in the 1850s that financed the erection of the sturdy iron fence separating town and campus.

Concurrent with the fabrication and installation of the campus iron fence, and financed with further sales of University holdings, the first documented development was reported on the study site. The July 16, 1857 edition of the "Southern Watchman" reported that "the iron railing furnished and now being put up around the college campus by the Athens Steam Company is both ornamental and useful".⁶ A further account of university activities within that same issue observed that "Mr. Crane lately erected an edifice on the college grounds a professor's house, we

believe - and improvements are going on all over the place." This account is confirmed in the meeting notes of the Prudential Committee, an executive subcommittee of the Board of Trustees that could exercise some day-to-day supervision of the school and could direct the construction of campus improvements. These notes indicated that the treasurer was ordered to "pay Ross Crane, five hundred dollars in addition to the one thousand heretofore awarded him on his contract for building the new Professor House."⁷

This initial construction included the house, smokehouse and kitchen building in their present configuration. All were of red brick with low-pitched gable roofs. The two-story main house was built in a "plantation plain Greek Revival" style with two rooms and a central hall on each floor.⁸ A twenty-by-forty-foot room was soon added on the east side at the end of the first floor hall. Floors of the main house were of heart pine. The kitchen building was divided into two rooms and, like the smokehouse, had brick floors and white plaster over brick walls.⁹



Figure 1 .Lumpkin House. View South prior to garden development

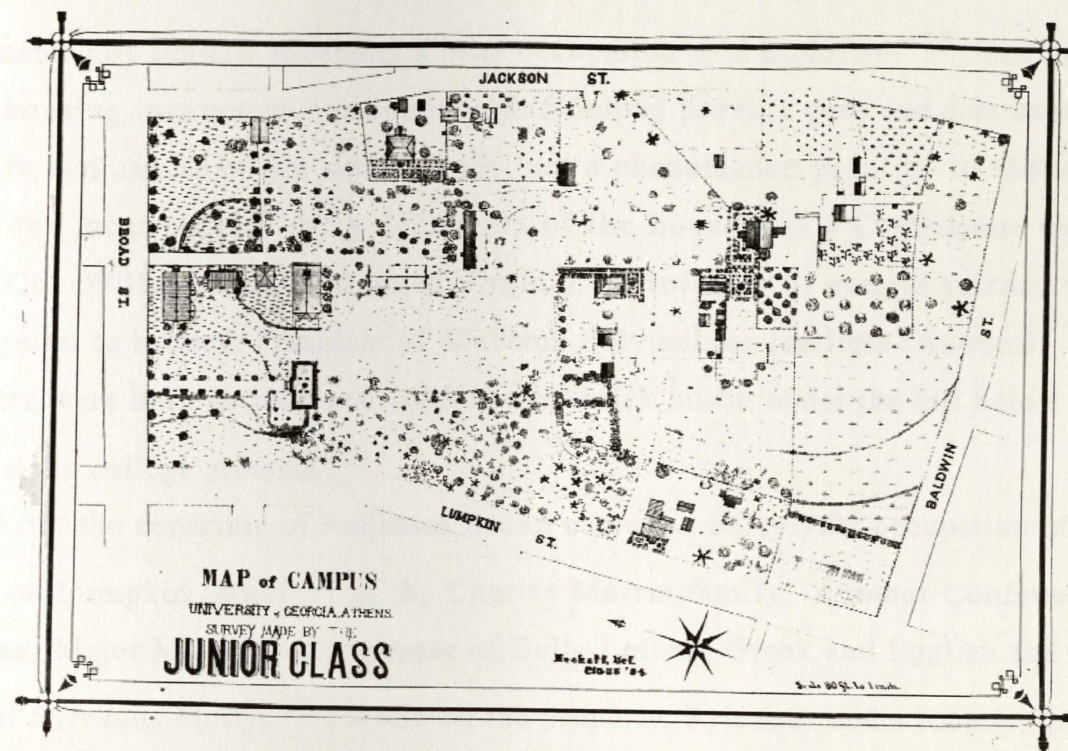


Figure 2. 1894 Campus Map

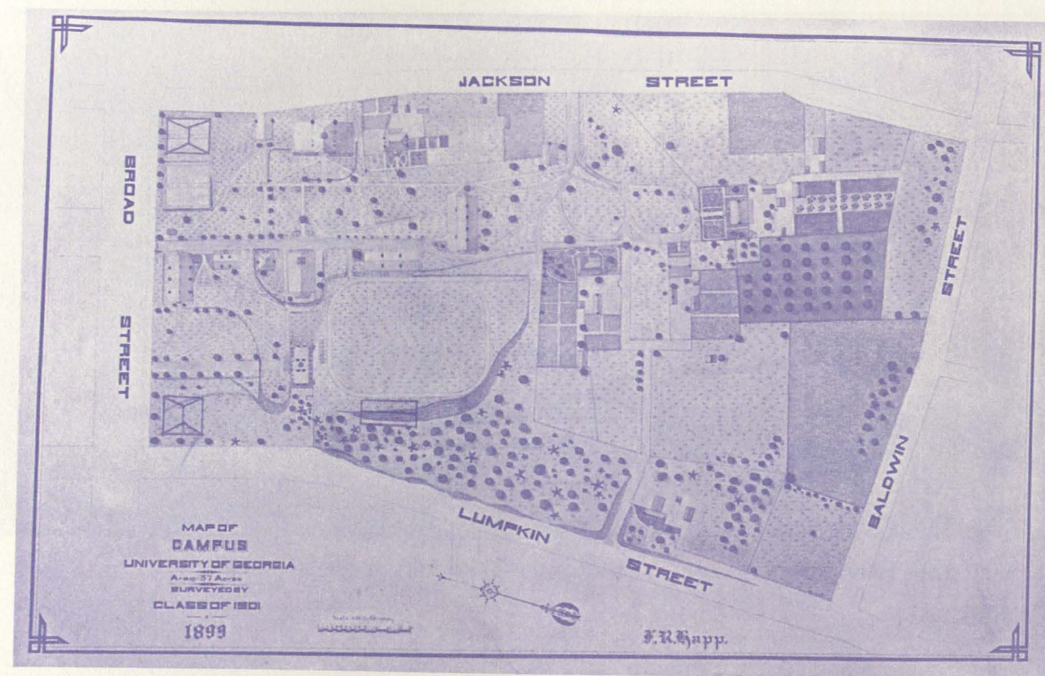


Figure 3 1901 Campus Map

A.L. Hull stated in 1894 that the "brick dwelling on Lumpkin Street" was built for \$4,000 and that a "mess hall scheme was not even attempted, and the house has only been tenanted by renters, excepting a brief occupation by a professor."¹⁰ The practice of housing instructors was common and helped provide eyes and ears over an immature and unpredictable student body, not a phenomenon peculiar to the age. One of the most notable early occupants of the house was a Confederate veteran, Lt. Col. William Leroy Broun of Virginia, a professor of natural science who would go on to become President of Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn). His daughters were born in 1867 and 1868 in the "brick house under the hill below the forest on the college grounds."¹¹

After the departure of Professor Broun came the thirty-year occupation of the "house on Lumpkin Street"¹² of the Charles Morris family. Another Confederate Virginian, Major Morris was professor of Belle Lettres, Greek and English and the father of Sylvanus Morris.¹³ While on the property, Sylvanus and a brother "had a cotton crop in the garden, corner of Lumpkin and Baldwin. They made fifteen dollars...."¹⁴

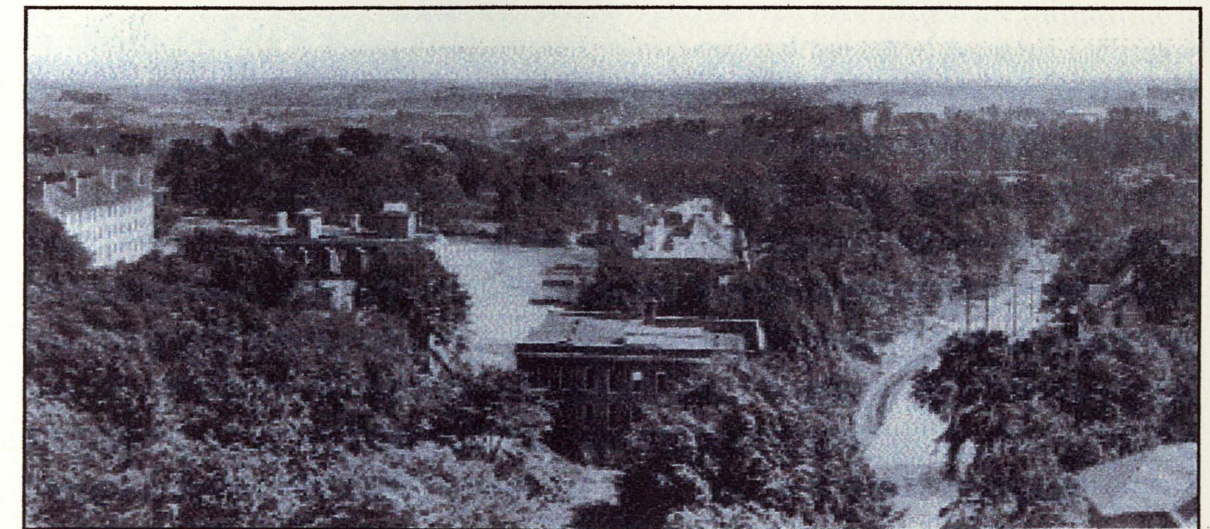


Figure 4. Campus, Lumpkin Street and Future Garden Site. View South From Town (c.1920)

Maps prepared in 1874, 1894 and 1901 do indicate that the Lumpkin Street - Baldwin Street corner was, if not fallow, actively cultivated and part of the parcel associated with the house. These surveys also confirm that this was the most heavily wooded portion of the area now known as North Campus (the land bordered by Broad, Lumpkin, Baldwin and Jackson Streets). Another interesting feature of these diagrams is a roadway cutting eastward up the slope, perpendicular to Lumpkin Street and directly north of and adjacent to the Lumpkin House. This campus drive, later to be realigned and known as Bocock Street, apparently served this property and the Strahan House, another faculty residence. Fascinating aspects of the campus survey of 1894 are asymmetrical formal gardens at the front of the house as well as additional outbuildings southeast of the house-kitchen-smokehouse complex. Another structure, possibly a well, is indicated among the trees in the southwest corner of the house plot.

In 1898, the Lumpkin House served as a student mess hall "under a cooperative plan originated and directed by Colonel Charles M. Snelling".¹⁵ In the legislative session of 1900, funds were earmarked for a new dining facility. Denmark Hall was located just uphill from the Lumpkin House and with its completion, student renters occupied the house. The house provided athletic housing "in early teens" due to its close proximity to Herty Field where sporting and martial activities were focused.¹⁶

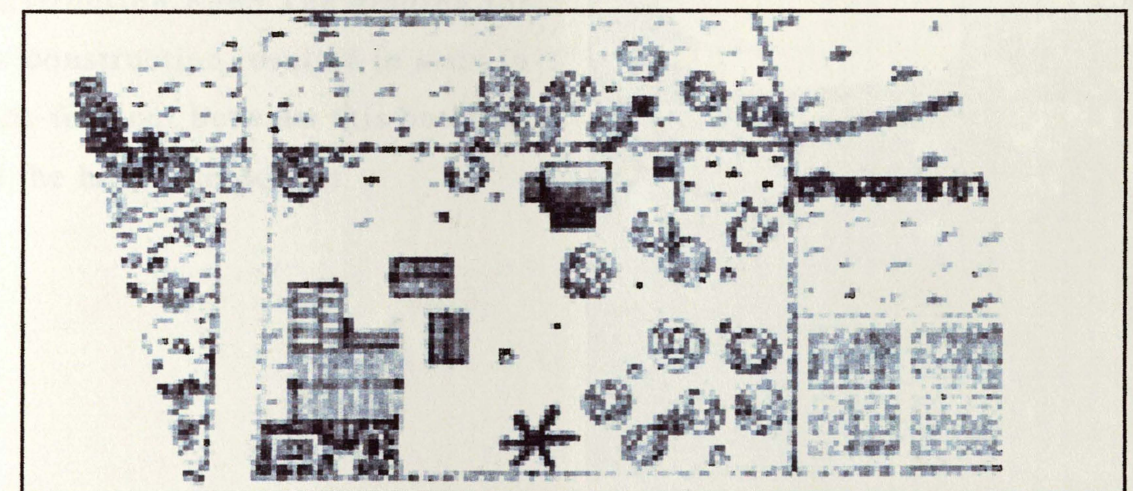


Figure 5. Enlargement of 1894 Campus Map. Note Formal Garden

With the admission of women to the university in 1920, the house became the home of Miss Mary Lyndon, the University's first Dean of Women. Presumably, the property became a focus for the activities of the female minority on the campus and, upon the death of Dean Lyndon, became the headquarters for her sorority—the first at the University of Georgia—Phi Mu. Thanks to their occupancy, we have the first images of the house and site. Taken two years apart in 1926 and 1928 from the street below, the photos reveal a clapboard addition made to form a southern wing to the main structure. This alteration was not shown on the survey maps of 1894 and 1901. The photos hint at the existence of some form of landscape treatment above the brow of the obscuring barren embankment. Unfortunately, all that is visible is a low hedge. Also of note is the original, straightforward treatment of the steps into the house, these were significantly modified in later years.

Phi Mu moved from the Lumpkin House to their current home in 1928 but the building continued to house women until the mid-30s as one of the school dormitories. It was eventually used for instructional purposes in the 1930s by the sociology and biology departments.¹⁷ Opening in 1932 and occupying the site of Sylvanus Morris' "cotton patch" at the corner of Baxter and Lumpkin Street, Joseph E. Brown dormitory was built with surplus funds from the World War I Memorial Hall Construction Fund. The grading for this construction resulted in a six to eight-foot cut between this building and the higher house plot.



Figure 6. 1926 Phi Mu House

The landscape architecture program during this period had been housed in several locations including Conner Hall (1928-29), Hardman Hall (1929-30), the Ceramics Building (1930-32), Moore College (1932-37), and the Lustrat House (1937-39).¹⁸ This department moved into Lumpkin House in 1939. In January of that year, and prior to the move into new headquarters, department head Hubert Owens observed that "adjacent to the building is an area admirably suited to the development of a complete garden."¹⁹

Development of the Founders Memorial Garden

Hubert Owens began his work with the Garden Club of Georgia almost immediately upon assuming his post at the University of Georgia in 1928. He became a member of the Board of Directors of that club in 1938. At the organization's 1936 convention in Albany, a member proposed to develop a suitable memorial in recognition of the founders of the Ladies Garden Club of Athens, the first organization of its kind in America.²⁰ The garden club concept had eventually spread across the nation, and the state council wanted to commemorate the approaching 50th anniversary of this occasion.

The knowledge of the lost nineteenth century campus botanical garden and the impression made upon him by his experience at verdant Berry College in 1926-27 had convinced Owens of the "value of a planned garden in an academic setting."²¹ During the late 1930s the university took advantage of "PWA [Public Works Administration] and other federal funds as well as the million(s of) dollars provided by the state."²² The physical plant of the old school grew by leaps and bounds and it was within this atmosphere that Owens approached University President Harmon W. Caldwell with a proposal to combine public and private resources in order to create a much-needed campus garden.

Hubert Owens' proposal for a Founders Memorial Garden was accepted by the executive board of the Garden Club of Georgia at the Hotel DeSoto in Savannah on January 27, 1939.²³ Prior to this formal acceptance and in correspondence with Mrs. W.F. Bradshaw, chairwoman of the Founders Memorial Committee, University President Caldwell announced that the "University would welcome the location of this garden on its campus.....(by) providing a satisfactory location.....and supplying funds for adequate maintenance."²⁴ Owens proposed a design with terraces and formal gardens, a courtyard and a large, wooded area suitable for a naturalistic treatment. The funds for construction and planting would be raised by the Garden Club with design and construction supervision to be provided by the Landscape

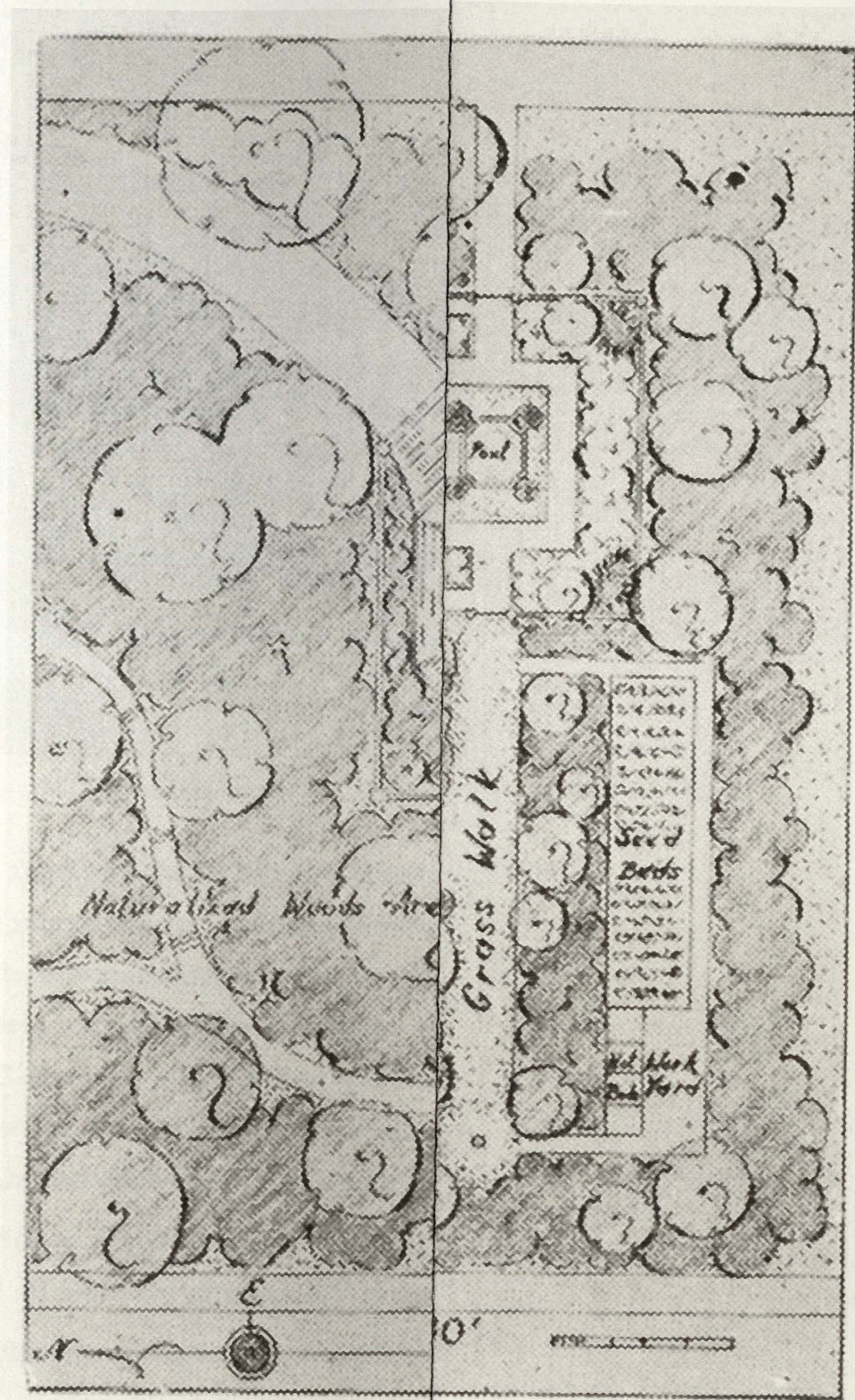
Architecture Department. Funds for upkeep would be the responsibility of the university.²⁵ A detailed cost estimate (see appendix), a presentation plan and a model were prepared in order to promote the project and raise funds for its initiation.

The design of the Founders Garden, in early plans and in the eventual build-out of the garden, was decidedly Colonial Revival, exemplified by axes, cross axes and terraces.²⁶ Box-bordered parterres, a sunken turf panel defined by perennial borders, the terrace overlook, and strong axial connections between units can all be seen in the garden proposed by Professor Owens. According to this early plan, the formal units were to be complemented by informal areas to the north and south where many mature hardwoods were in existence. Extensive under plantings of smaller ornamental trees, woody ornamentals, groundcover, bulbs, and herbaceous plantings would be placed in these areas.

Construction began in late March, 1939. Significantly, the first undertaking was both a functional necessity and a symbol of the new partnership between the school and garden club - a courtyard which was constructed between the main house and the two outbuildings. It was proposed that the smaller smokehouse would become a Garden Club Memorial. The courtyard plantings included "mondo grass, white azaleas, and crocuses in the rectangular strips and Carolina Jessamine and clematis" which grew over the pierced brick walls.²⁷ Meanwhile, the landscape architecture program had moved into the Lumpkin House and work had begun on the boxwood garden construction and smokehouse alterations.²⁸ The construction was performed by a private builder, Mr. G.S. Wright, in a series of five contracts totaling \$1,817.70.²⁹

The next unit, the Boxwood Garden was completed in 1940 and was modeled on the boxwood parterres typical of the Georgia piedmont in the first half of the nineteenth century³⁰ and so well remembered by Hubert Owens from his childhood.³¹ The dwarf boxwoods of each quadrant are arranged such that they represent plants which are important in their association with the State. A bay window

installed in the east wall of the smokehouse building overlooked the centrally placed sundial. The garden and window were gifts of the Peachtree and Sand Hills Garden Clubs respectively and are typical of the fund-raising mechanism which made the improvements possible. A focal point of the Founders Garden, the Boxwood Garden serves as a dramatic extension of the "shrine": the smokehouse trophy room and bay window reserved in remembrance of the founding twelve members. The most intensively cultivated of the several garden rooms, the margins and cut-outs of the boxwood parterre were planted in apricot and blue violas, clumps of herbs, Johnny jump-ups, violets, burnt orange geums, lemon lilies, buttercup ranunculus, jonquil snowdrops, and foxglove.³²



Concept Plan - Founders Memorial Garden. c.1938

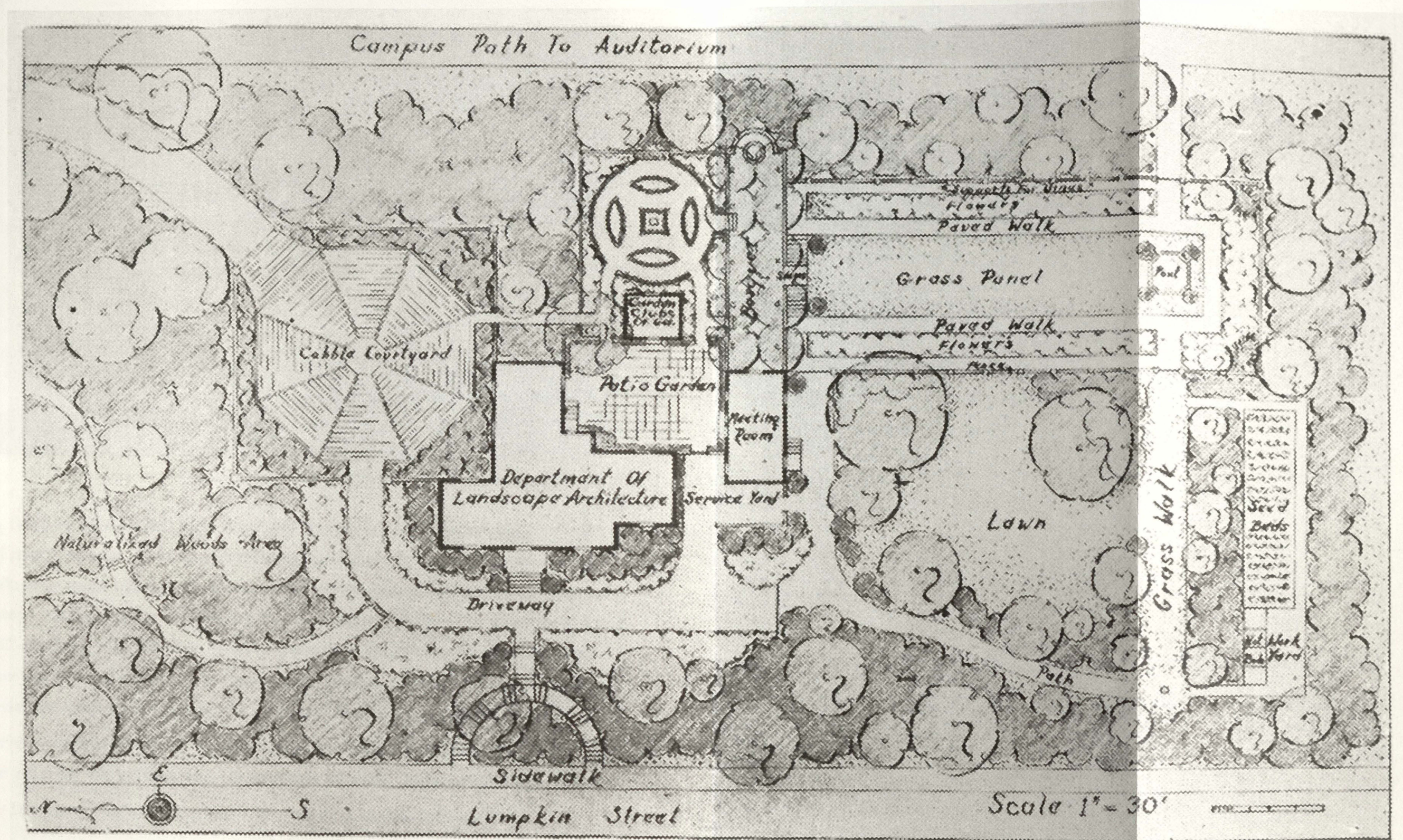


Figure 7. Concept Plan - Founders Memorial Garden. c.1938

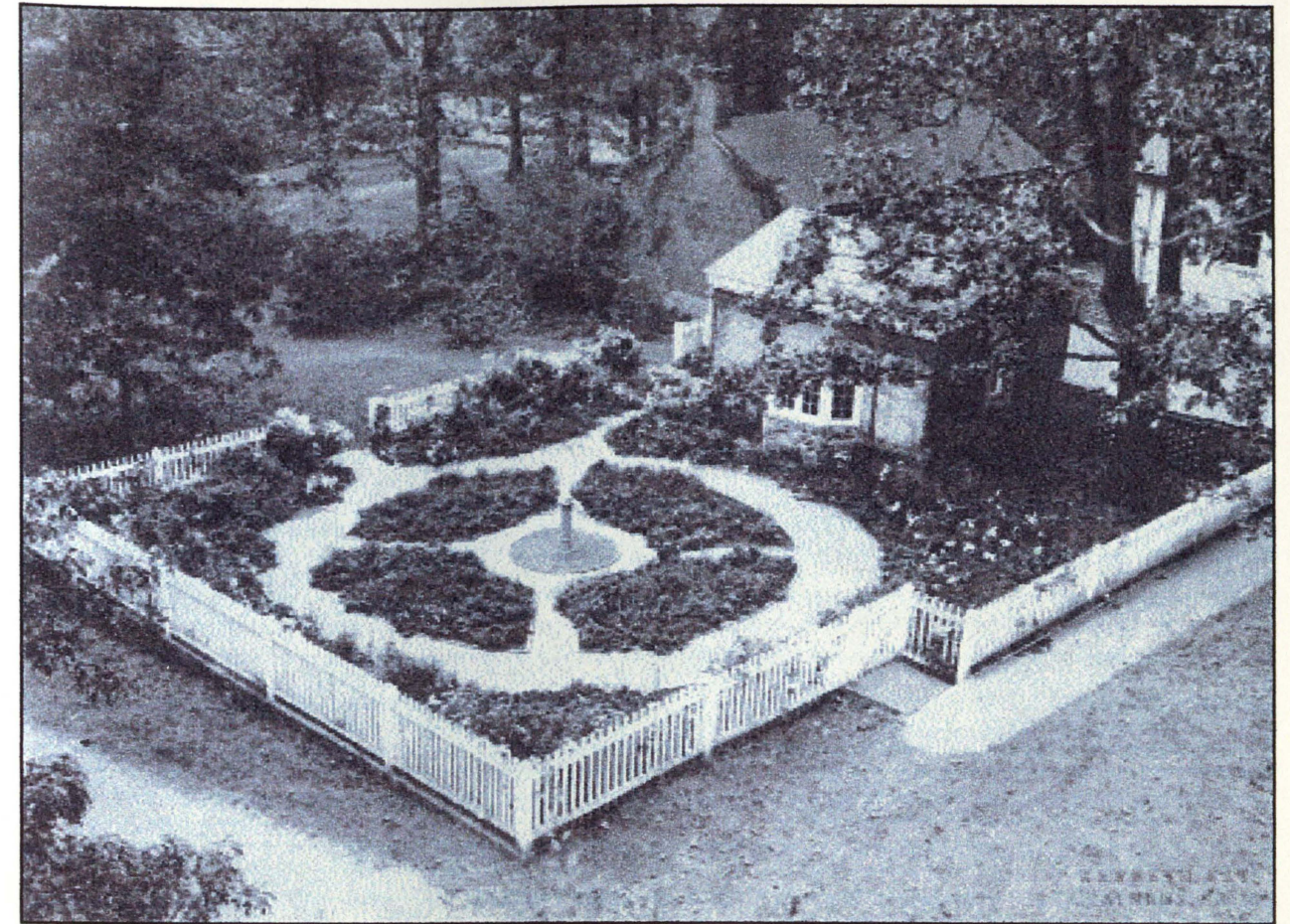


Figure 8. Boxwood Garden. c. 1939. Note undeveloped garden area

A funding scheme had been finalized by spring, 1941 to develop the next series of improvements. Substantial retaining walls and steps, critical to the necessary grade adjustment between the overlooking terrace garden and the sunken perennial garden, were funded by the Charter Garden Club of Columbus as a memorial to Mrs. W.C. Bradley. Mrs. Clifford Swift of Columbus donated the oval pool in memory of her mother and agreed to advance funds for the serpentine walls if Owens and the Garden Club of Georgia would guarantee funds to cover all other expenses and provide a complete project.³³ The funds were secured and G.S. Wright again provided all labor for grading and construction of walls, steps and railings, using specialty limestone treads and copings from Indiana and cast railings.³⁴

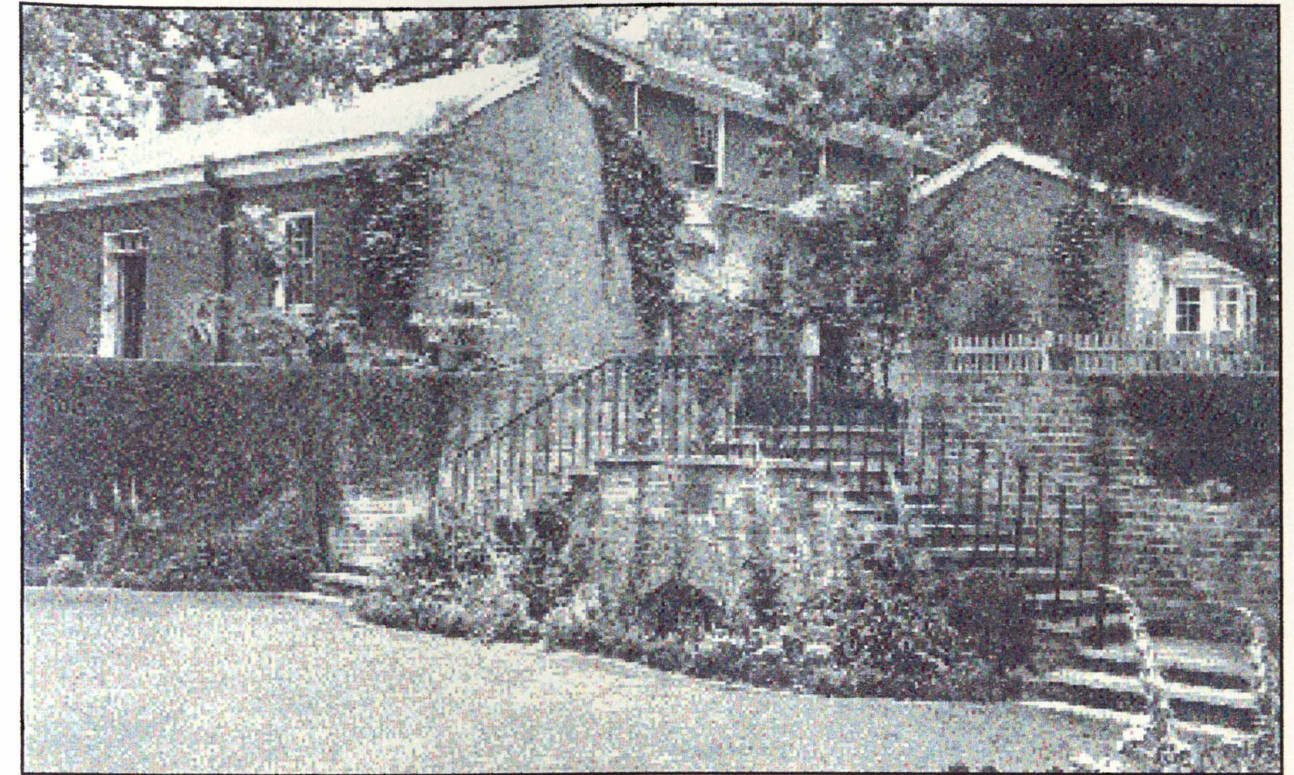


Figure 9. Bradley Memorial Steps c.1944

The Terrace and Perennial Gardens, completed in August, 1941, marked the end of the first phase of development in the Founders Memorial. The Terrace formed a passage from the houses and Boxwood Garden into the lower perennial unit. Paved with river gravel, defined by the white picket enclosure of the boxwood "old fashioned garden" and supported by the new brick and limestone Bradley steps, the terrace offered an inviting and shady space affording a dramatic view to the south. Vinca minor was underplanted with emperor and empress narcissi within the free-form beds.³⁵

With its signature serpentine walls, the perennial garden featured a highly manicured lawn whose edges undulated with the walls six feet beyond. The appearance of this area was so important that the sunny borders were planned and planted by the instructional staff of the school on an alternating basis.³⁶ It was Owens' desire to use new varieties of irises, peonies, and other spring-flowering perennials, along with chrysanthemums and asters to make a spectacular display.³⁷

Owens now turned his attention to the Lumpkin House. Plans were developed to replace the "unattractive existing wooden steps of the Lumpkin Street facade"³⁸ with "cast-iron columns and balustrade with twin staircases which sweep out from both sides of the porch".³⁹ Owens stated in a letter with the ominous date of December 9, 1941, that "the war news is very distressing. I hope we can get the steps built before conditions become too upset."⁴⁰

The War Years

Pearl Harbor was the defining moment in twentieth century American history. As such, and due to the overwhelming insult which resulted from this event, the nation was united and focused as never before (or since). All affairs were judged in light of the successful conclusion of the conflict and every endeavor must contribute toward that end. Accordingly, it was announced that, due to the national emergency, the Garden Club of Georgia would postpone the completion of the garden until after the war.⁴¹

Hubert Owens had resigned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserve in 1938 and was rejected for service in World War II due to poor eyesight. He remained in Athens and continued teaching "to 15 women students and two young men with 4-F military classifications!"⁴² June Harrel, class of 1948, remembers that "there just weren't many people around."⁴³ Despite the restriction on labor and materials, maintenance and planting proceeded and Owens completed the formal gardens constructed before the war with a steady stream of solicited donations. But the conflict did have a physical effect upon the garden. A wartime publication stated that curators were keeping in line with the Victory Garden movement: the beds in the Boxwood Garden were being used for herb growing.⁴⁴ Otherwise, the maintenance of perennial borders in the garden was seen as a war service as it helped to build morale on the home front by providing enjoyment for citizens who were forced to convert their home gardens entirely to vegetable production.⁴⁵

Plant materials seemed to be one of the few commodities not restricted by the War Material and Price Administration Boards. In February, 1942, the Georgia State Nurseryman's Association voted to give all the plants needed to finish the garden.⁴⁶ They donated magnolia and ligustrum to provide serpentine garden enclosure, a specimen double-flowering dogwood, and a Douglas pear for espalier on the smokehouse. The garden club members and other "loyal friends of the Garden" made per-

sonal donations.⁴⁷ Garden furnishings and gifts of service were also accepted. Occasional offerings were politely declined or redirected: "I wonder if it would be agreeable with you for me to use your check for purchasing *Ilex vomitoria* instead of fig bushes?"⁴⁸



Figure 10. Aerial view 1946

The original concept of the Founders Garden as a living memorial began to take on a new dimension as the toll of war was exacted. In January, 1945, Mrs. Robert Neeley, President of the Garden Club of Georgia proposed "a Living Memorial and Arboretum for our boys and girls in the Armed Forces [and that it be] planted at the Founders Memorial in Athens."⁴⁹ Original plans for the garden had called for the five formal units (house, courtyard, boxwood, terrace, and perennial gardens) to be complemented by a "naturalized woods area" and "planted with the best of the native small trees, shrubs and wild flowers."⁵⁰ Aerial and ground-level photographs of the area show the northern and southwestern portions of the property as wooded, rough and crisscrossed with dirt paths. The Living Memorial offered a means to complete the "new half-finished garden."⁵¹

Garden Completion

The notion of the garden war memorial was a popular one. The Garden Club of Georgia undertook a fund raising drive and the University promised utmost cooperation.⁵² A plan dated April, 1945, by Brooks Wigginton, a new instructor in the landscape architecture program, details the extension of the historic iron fence and retaining walls along the garden's boundary with Lumpkin Street. A stairway penetrating the wall and fence was to be separately designed as the principle entrance to the development.⁵³ The university agreed to finance this construction even though costs were extremely high.⁵⁴ At the same time, Wigginton and students, such as Harry Baldwin (BLA '50), were engaged in the design of the two areas, which combined, comprised the Arboretum. This last phase of garden construction was slow due to post-war shortages and the club's resolve that work proceed only when sufficient funds had been secured. By October, 1947, however, donations were no longer being solicited "but [would] be gratefully received".⁵⁵

Rough grading of the pre-existing terraces had been completed by the beginning of 1948.⁵⁶ As a means of addressing the completion of the garden enclosure and as a deterrent to "walkway(s) across the Arboretum,"⁵⁷ an ivy-covered wire fence was proposed by Mrs. Neely. This was rejected by University President Caldwell who instead offered to contribute toward a pierced-brick wall along Infirmary Drive,⁵⁸ a roadway created when the old driveway which had bisected the site just north of the house was realigned. While no documentation has been found to date, it is presumed that the road was built in concert with the construction of Denmark (1901) or Brooks (1924) halls.

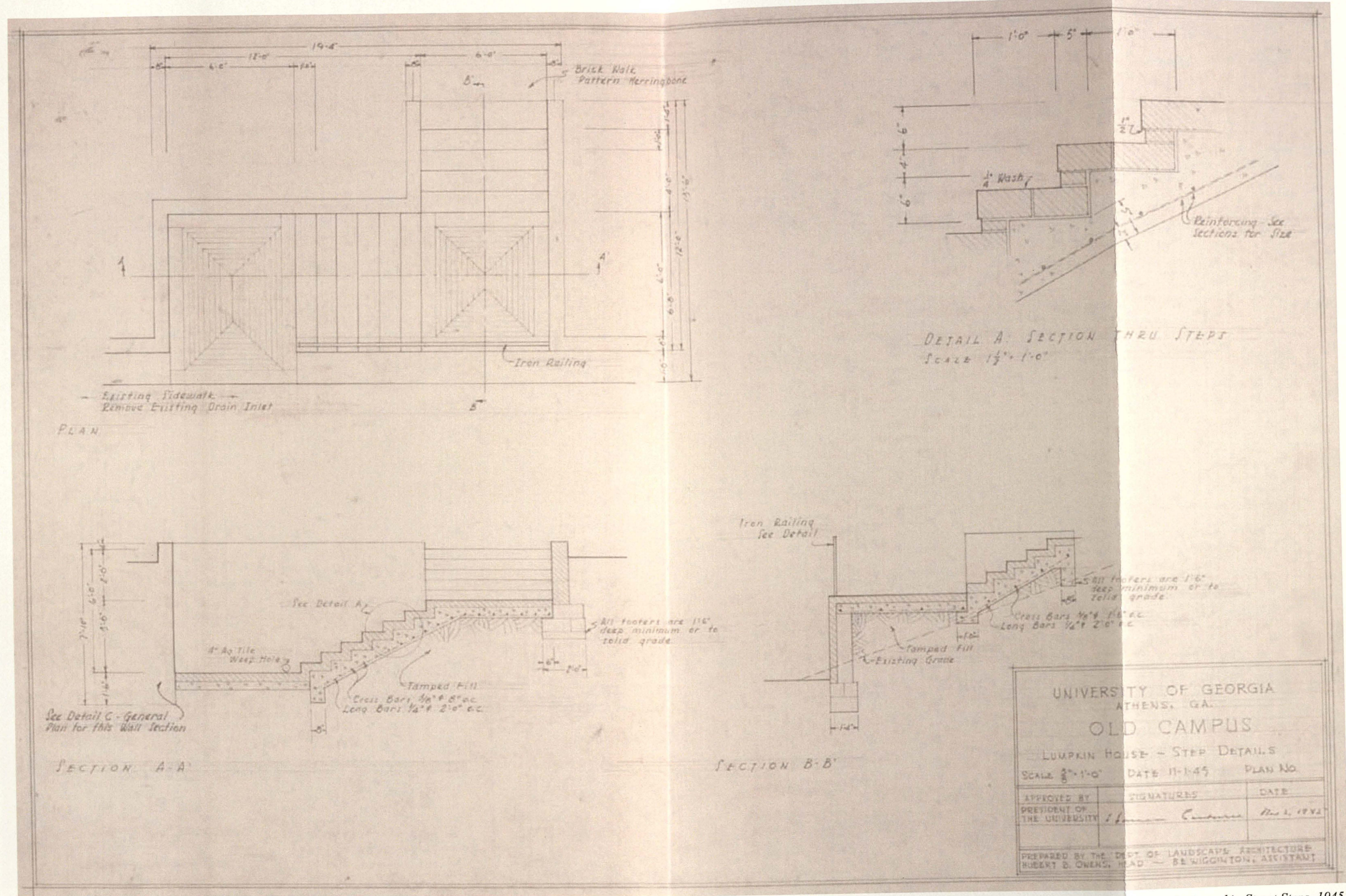


Figure 12. Details. Lumpkin Street Steps. 1945.

Facing the terrace banks with stacked slate provoked some controversy. Hershel Webber, an instructor, did not approve of the treatment, claiming it was only a veneer and would ultimately fail.⁵⁹ The installation of the Jeff Smith Camellia collection, a crab orchard stone path, turf, extensive shrub and groundcover plantings, and the “necessary pipes and hydrants”⁶⁰ for watering were completed during these early post-war years.

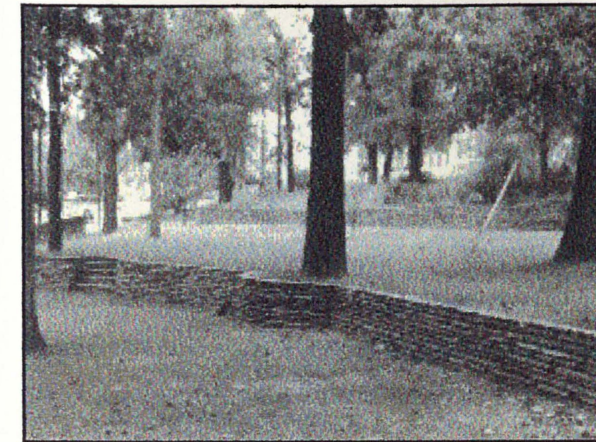


Figure 14. Arboretum construction



Figure 15. Terrace before planting Arboretum

The program in landscape architecture was bursting at the seams. In addition to the Lumpkin House, students occupied the adjacent kitchen building, as well as prefabricated military barracks east of Jackson Street on the current site of the Visual Arts Building.⁶¹ Studio space also occupied the upper floor of the “Beanery,” the former living quarters of the Denmark Hall dietician.⁶² The need for instructional space was illustrated in garden plans which were prepared during these years. One site plan shows a proposed building adjacent to and north-east of the Lumpkin House. This expansion never occurred but does reflect the school’s need for space.

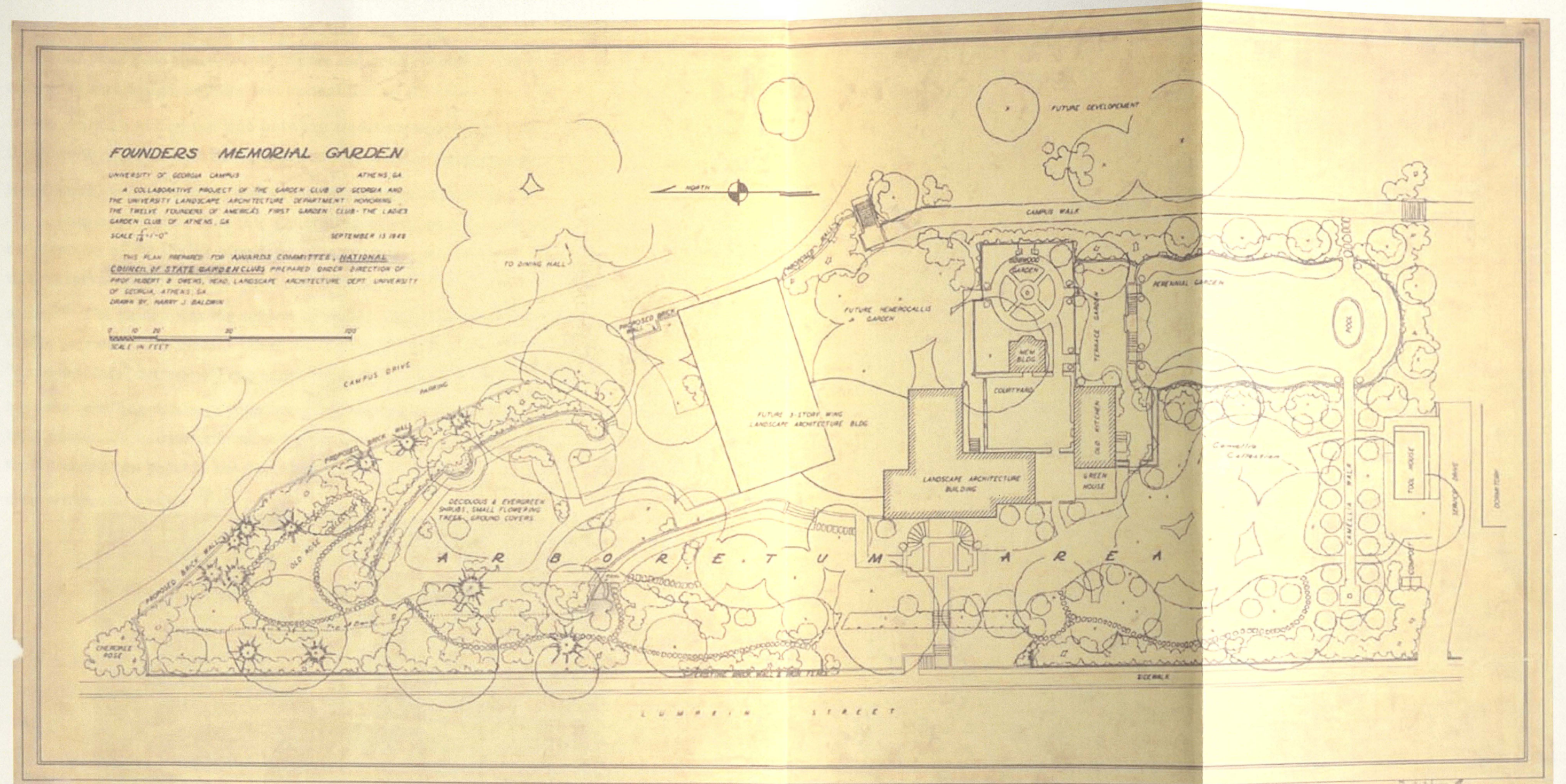


Figure 16. 1949 Harry Baldwin Plan. Note proposed building addition.

A new generation of older, confident veterans taking advantage of the G.I. Bill had filled the program. Many of these students who experienced combat and saw the resulting devastation of war had at the same time, been exposed to the culture and landscapes of the world as no generation in American history.⁶³ The result was a fierce vocational work ethic aimed directly career and family support. There was also an open attitude toward design, perhaps best exemplified by the influence of Thomas Church, whose work straddled the line between tradition and modernism.⁶⁴ In response to the lifestyle America yearned for after years of sacrifice, these students would respond, like Church, with new forms and a new "preoccupation with use."⁶⁵

It is appropriate that this generation of students benefited most from the development of the Living Memorial. Classes were involved in design and construction observation and several students provided the labor for planting and laying stone.⁶⁶ The garden was the subject of senior projects and countless plant identification sessions. The classes observed the design and construction of Wigginton's "contemporary" terrace off the south side of the kitchen building and chided him over the resulting drainage problems.⁶⁷ Lifelong impressions were guided by this total immersion in environment and curriculum. Graduates even recounted dipping their presentation paper in the Perennial Garden pool and dashing indoors to prepare their watercolor washes.⁶⁸



Figure 17. Postcard of fountain

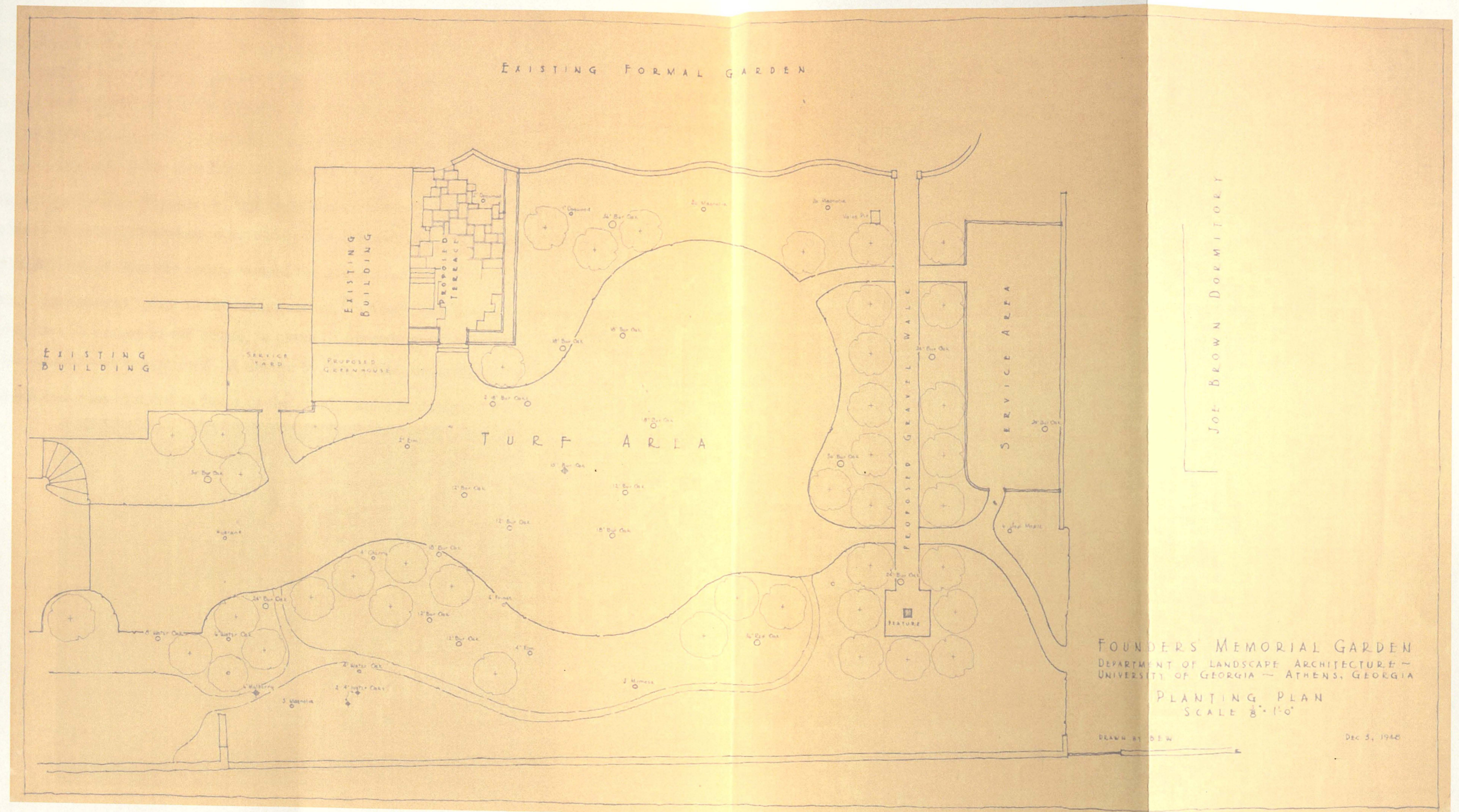


Figure 19. 1948 Planting Plan for South Arboretum

By the late forties, the Founders Memorial was nearing completion. The Garden Club of Georgia began negotiating with the university over eventual occupation of the Lumpkin House as the state headquarters while the college made plans for new dining facilities to replace those in Denmark Hall. The landscape architecture program would be relocated into that building. In 1949, a small commemorative fountain was constructed as the last major improvement to the Living Memorial and a small tablet dedicating the Arboretum "to those who gave much and those who gave all" (See Appendix) was mounted on the pool wall. A driveway and parking lot, designed by Brooks Wigginton, was installed in 1950.⁶⁹ This asphalt driveway, originally to be a cobblestone auto court, was considered by Mrs. Robert Neely "a vast improvement...but she sorely missed the green grass".⁷⁰ Others remember this area as "unimproved" prior to this construction.⁷¹ Above the Lumpkin Street steps, serving as a forecourt to the house, a plaza of historic granite cobbles donated by the University was constructed. A design by Jim Coile, utilizing brick within concrete borders, was rejected in favor of the granite units as designed by Wigginton.⁷²



Figure 20. War Memorial fountain

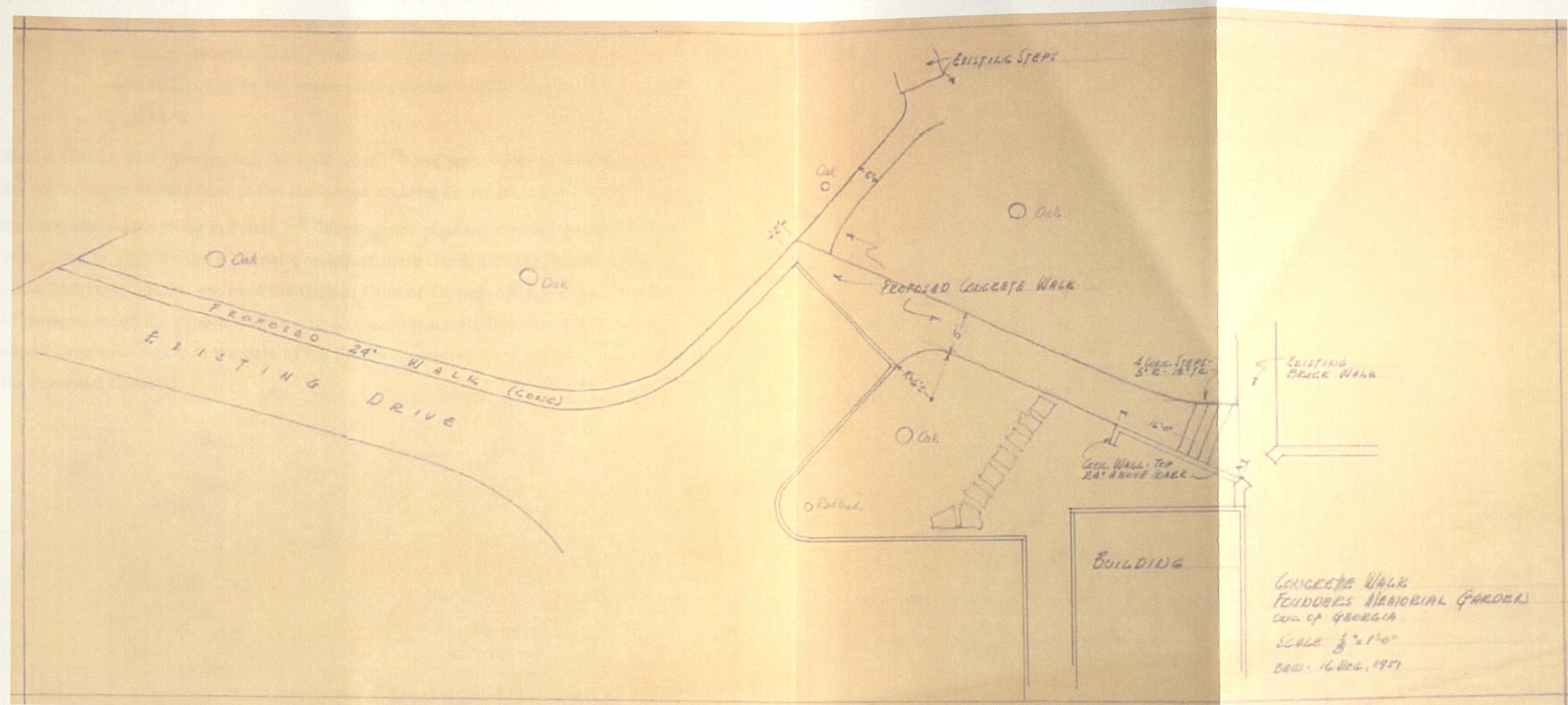


Figure 21. Plan for Parking Lot connector walks. Brooks Wiggington 1951.

The Founders Memorial Garden was completed. This living laboratory and memorial, begun in 1939, had taken eleven years and \$18,000 to build (exclusive of donations and cost of land). All funds had been supplied by the Garden Club of Georgia. The garden set a new standard for the campus and provided Georgia with:

A comprehensive collection of deciduous and evergreen shrubs, ground covers, vines and a limited number of perennials and trees which can be used in this region for ornamental purposes. New varieties are being tried.⁷³

Hubert Owens, who "always had the final word"⁷⁴ had persevered to make the garden an example of "the best in the landscape architect's art [using only] the very best and most appropriate material."⁷⁵ Planting and placement of memorials continued. Finally, in 1954 the National Council of State Garden Clubs, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, awarded the Garden Club of Georgia its Silver Seal Award in recognition of the garden. The event was commemorated by the placement of a classic limestone figure at the base of the Bradly Memorial Steps on the north end of the Perennial Garden.

In October, 1954, the Garden Club of Georgia and the university finalized plans for the club's occupation of the Lumpkin House and its outbuildings while the Department of Landscape Architecture retained oversight of the development and maintenance of the garden.⁷⁶ The department relocated into a renovated Denmark Hall in 1956. Disastrous freezes occurred in November, 1950 and March, 1955 and did much apparent damage to the more tender specimens. The 1955 bout killed "all the boxwood edgings in the Boxwood Garden.....and [they] had to be replaced."⁷⁷ Plant evaluation was, however, one of the objectives of the garden program as the planting of "rare and unusual species...enabled [Owens] and the other...staff to conduct some important research"⁷⁸ in determining species appropriate to the region.

The garden entered a period of establishment and stability. Despite occasional scares that the university would renege on its promise and utilize the property for its ever-expanding building program,⁷⁹ the site continued to host garden club meetings, roving plant identification classes, historic preservationists, and garden lovers from around the world. In lieu of any other area arboretum or botanical garden, Founders Memorial "fulfilled an essential need for students...for learning about plants and planting design and...maintenance."⁸⁰

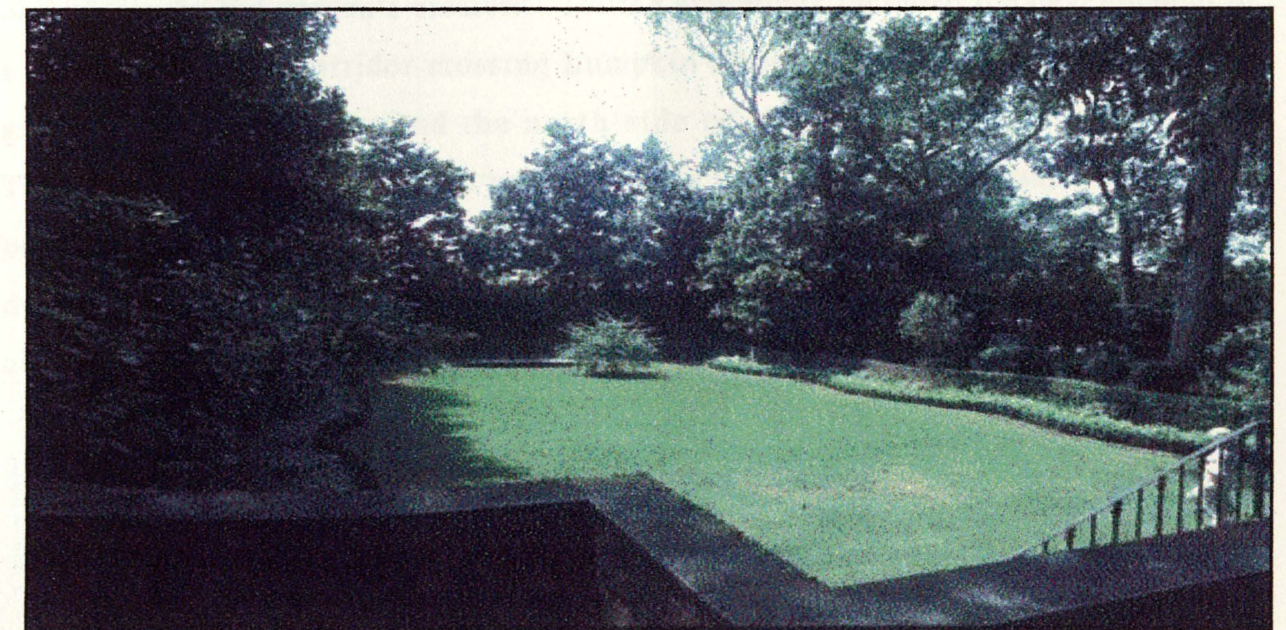


Figure 22. Terrace overlook c. 1965?

Maintenance of the Founders Garden had long been a concern. President Caldwell's 1939 letter authorizing the project on University land stated that the college would "supply...funds for adequate maintenance of the garden to include expenses for labor, fertilizer, sprays and other necessary service and material".⁸¹ This commitment certainly was an attraction to Garden Club participation and funding. It was obvious that the installation would require more attention than that possible on the larger "run down, overgrown"⁸² main campus. As early as 1939, however, a paid, non-university gardener was hired by Owens.⁸³ In 1954, Owens proposed a scholarship in landscape architecture; recipients would assume some of the garden maintenance responsibilities.⁸⁴ Eventually, a full-time gardener was hired by the department and the university funded all materials, utilities and building maintenance.

Conditions surrounding the garden changed dramatically in the 1960s and 1970s when increased enrollment brought new and expanded university facilities east of the garden. Across increasingly congested Lumpkin Street, large staff and commuter parking lots were constructed. The result was a crush of pedestrian traffic unforeseen by the garden's creators. Telling symptoms included the development of a major pedestrian corridor crossing Lumpkin Street at mid-block and through the garden, particularly around the north side of the house and up the driveway. Through the southwest quadrant and across the Perennial Garden, quaint slate walks became paralleled with dirt paths and the turf enclosing the oval pool disappeared due to compaction. The demand for campus parking kept the small garden lot full at all hours.

Several projects were undertaken to resolve some of these problems. Most notably, and perhaps the most significant alteration made to the garden, was the installation of cut-stone paving around the Perennial Garden pool. In addition to the sparse turf, problems with subsurface drainage and an ever-spreading magnolia canopy had resulted in the decline of the border plantings. Dan Franklin (BLA '63) designed an improvement plan for this area, which was completed in 1988. The University Grounds Department pruned the magnolias and eventually removed the unhappy result and replaced them with a slow-growing variety. In 1990 the inadequate and deteriorated slate walk in the South Arboretum was replaced by granite cobbles. Labor and materials were donated by the grounds department. In 1991, after the death of Hubert Owens and at the request of the garden director, an arbor was constructed at the western end of the Perennial Garden cross axis walkway. This structure was dedicated to Owens and was a gift of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.



Figure 23. Garden pool paving

In 1999, the American Society of Landscape Architects commemorated its 100th anniversary with the recognition of 362 significant designed landscapes. The Founders Memorial Garden received one of these Centennial Medallion Awards. This honor was bestowed, coincidentally, on the fiftieth anniversary of the garden's completion, an event which itself celebrated the half-century since the garden club movement founding.



Figure 24. Belgian block path in South Arboretum

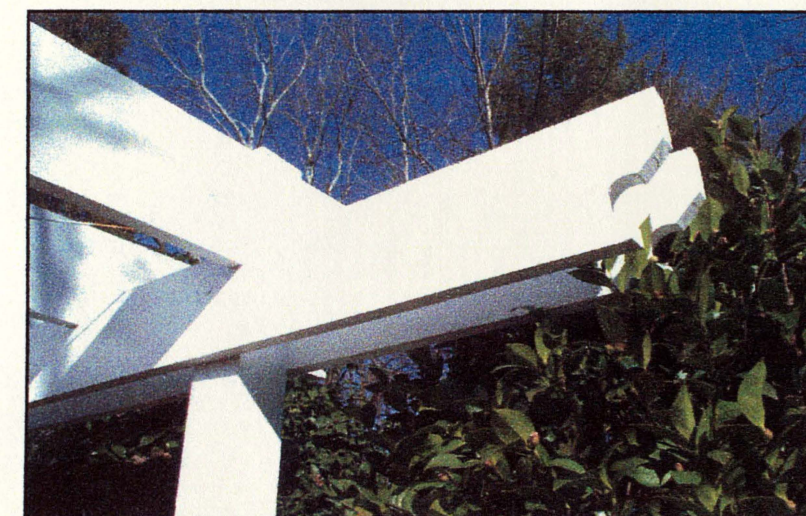


Figure 25. Arbor detail

Existing Conditions

The following section provides a description of garden features as they currently exist or are planned to exist. The purpose of this section is to provide a baseline for the design process. The information provided in this section is intended to be a starting point for the design process and is not intended to be a final design. The information provided in this section is intended to be a starting point for the design process and is not intended to be a final design.

The information provided in this section is intended to be a starting point for the design process and is not intended to be a final design. The information provided in this section is intended to be a starting point for the design process and is not intended to be a final design.

APPENDIX I

AN OVERVIEW OF GARDEN BUILT ELEMENTS AND THEIR EXISTING CONDITIONS

Existing Conditions

The following section provides a compilation of garden features as they currently exist. Wherever possible, the origins of a given feature will be cited in an effort to guide decisions regarding the resource's significance, contribution toward character, and subsequent treatment. Conditions of the site as a whole will be examined first, followed by the component landscapes in the order of their development. Please note that this study does not extend to the house and outbuildings. Their significance has been established elsewhere.⁸⁵

A detailed examination of plantings and their conditions has not been undertaken out of necessity. The sheer number of individual plantings, their defining characteristics of change through growth, decline and disappearance, and the limitation of time upon this study necessitate their examination en masse. In order that it receive a properly thorough study, this evaluation has not been undertaken at this time.

Boundaries

The study site retains the original boundaries from those indicated on the original 1938 plan. It is entirely enclosed by walls, fences and barrier plantings. To the south, a four foot brick wall sits atop a bamboo covered embankment falling toward Joseph E. Brown Hall, which presents an unbroken facade across that end of the property. This south extreme is the garden's widest point at approximately 180 feet. The most defined edge is to the west, where the iron fence and retaining wall combination was constructed in 1945-46. This 540-foot length is further reinforced by another sharp grade drop and the paralleling Lumpkin Street. From the narrow northern "prow" of the property, a pierced brick wall runs parallel to Bocock Street (a.k.a. Infirmary Drive) and terminates after 230 feet at the driveway entrance to the garden. From this point southward to Joe Brown Hall, the boundary is defined by thick plantings of bamboo and magnolia. A campus walkway along this edge is generally considered to mark the limit of garden property.⁸⁶

The Founders Memorial Garden is not a separately platted property. Boundaries are defined by use and convention but the property is owned by the Board of Regents of the State of Georgia. Other than the 1938 consent memoranda between President Caldwell and the garden club allowing that group and the department of landscape architecture to construct the garden, there are no formal delineation of bounds.

Courtyard Garden

Other than the house and outbuildings, the central courtyard is the oldest construction in the garden. Approximately 30x50 feet, the courtyard includes two levels: a narrow landing at the north end, accepting steps from the house and the gated entrance at the northeast corner. Limestone steps then descend to a main level which centers on the smokehouse and kitchen building. The paving pattern is comprised of brick-in-mortar panels set in a basket-weave pattern. Panel borders are made of cut limestone slabs. Brick for the pavement and enclosing walls was donated by the university.⁸⁷ The limestone was a gift of the Tennessee Stone Company.⁸⁸

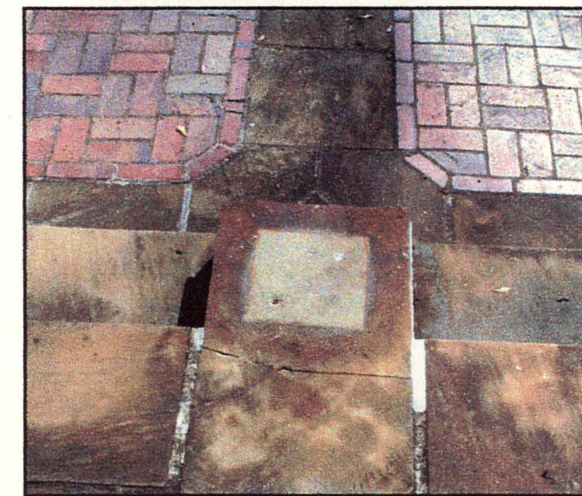


Figure 26. Courtyard steps & paving. Note missing urn.



Figure 27. Remodeled steps to house.

In the late 1980s the stone and brick steps into the main house were removed and reconstructed to code in order to provide a landing. The original wrought-iron handrail was removed along with one of four cast-iron, pedestal-mounted urn planters located at the top of the full width courtyard steps, and replaced with a lighter machined railing. A large oak toppled into the courtyard around 1992 damaging the pierced brick wall at the northeast corner and damaging another of the urns.⁸⁹

Original materials along with some modern brick was used to repair the wall. Limestone border pieces have been selectively replaced with a major repair of these elements occurring in the late 1980s.⁹⁰ Two cast-iron benches occupy the courtyard, donations dating to 1948. Gates, originally Williamsburg green have been painted black.⁹¹ Nothing remains of the courtyard's white azalea planting.⁹² Generally, however, Owens' concept of an area of "vines and espalier on the walls"⁹³ has been maintained.

Boxwood Garden

This unit retains the segmented geometry and representational dwarf box plantings of the original parterre plantings. The running bond brick walks and edgings, the low brick walls and steps, and the sundial pedestal are the only surviving, original features. The white picket fence was last replaced in the mid 1990s and the boxwoods have been renewed numerous times. The herbaceous parterre filler beds are, of course, replanted frequently. The condition of the boxwoods is problematic and will be discussed in a later section.

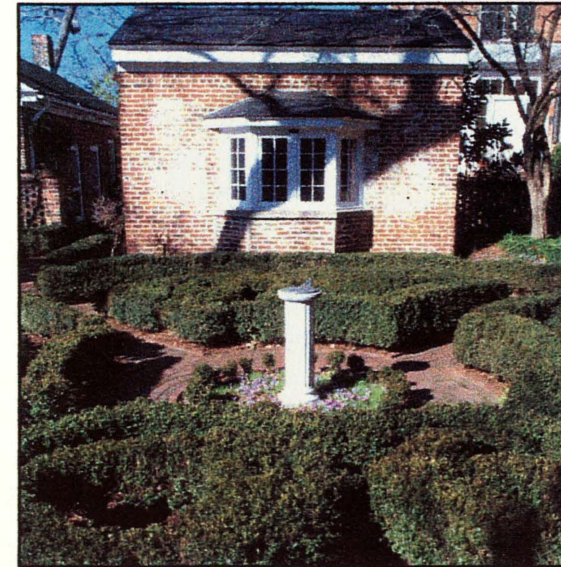


Figure 28. Boxwood garden



Figure 29. Boxwood detail

Terrace

Other than minor coping damage atop the Bradley Steps, the Terrace overlook, sparsely furnished and planted as it is, remains in good condition. After mounting two small "French" urns in 1990, one of the corner stones broke. The urns, a donation, are similar to those originally placed in the courtyard but are woefully small for the support of plantings. The pea gravel surfacing which distinguishes this unit is thin but easily replenished.



Figure 30. *Ficus pumila* on the South wall



Figure 31. Terrace overlook coping

The Bradley Steps remain in good repair. Several limestone treads were replaced at the time of the above-mentioned courtyard repairs. No further damage was observed. Original handrails are sound and require only painting. *Ficus pumila* completely covers the south wall making visual inspection impossible.

Perennial Garden

This unit has experienced the most extensive modifications since the garden was completed. In order to maintain a showcase display, measures addressing wear and tear, shading, overgrowth and structural failure have been undertaken.

As mentioned earlier, the 1988 renovations brought new pavings, a drainage system and plantings to the area. These measures have indeed solved the problems. The replanted magnolias have attained a scale reminiscent of the early 1950s yet now admit enough sunlight to support turf and flowering perennials.⁹⁴ Repairs made to the serpentine wall have addressed heaving damage caused by of the original magnolias. Soldier course brick edging between the turf and perennial bed has been reset and is in good order. Turf, which previously suffered from a lack of drainage, light and aeration, now appears to be in good health.

The most obvious change is the limestone paving that surrounds the oval pool at the south end of the lawn. Although this paving has solved the problem of increased pedestrian traffic, it presents a strikingly different appearance from early images of the pool floating in the turf panel and prohibits plantings at or near the edge, as seen in historic photographs.



Figure 32. Serpentine Wall Detail

Camellia Walk and South Arboretum

As a transition area, this unit blends some of the formality of the previous areas within an area of woodland character. It is dominated by several mature hardwoods and is enclosed by sizable evergreens along the southern end of its Lumpkin Street edge. The camellia plantings re-established in the place of those donated in 1949 by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Smith are notable.⁹⁵ This area is perhaps the most secluded zone in the garden due to these heavy evergreen plantings. An arbor with iron bench, designed and built in 1991, sits at the west end of the cross-axial walkway. Near the arbor, in the extreme southwest corner of the garden, is a recently constructed "rock outcrop" of small smooth stones formed into a mound. As described earlier, a granite cobble walk replaces the original loose-laid slate path and connects this area with the house. Turf on either side of this walk appears thin from shading. The South Arboretum contains the first informal woodland path, which parallels Lumpkin Street and winds through understory plantings of camellia, lonicera, viburnum and philadelphus.

Wall, Fence and Steps

The fence along Lumpkin Street is in good repair and the university provides periodic maintenance and painting. In 1997, a large red oak fell out of the garden and Lumpkin Street destroying several panels, which were replaced by the physical plant from spare components.⁹⁶ The retaining wall and steps in front (west) of the Lumpkin House have fared poorly. The wall has separated at the recessed returns supporting the steps, though there appears to be no immediate structural danger. The brick treads of these heavily-used steps have worn considerably and were recently repointed. In the early 1990s, another tree failure destroyed much of the retaining wall immediately north of these steps; repairs are evident. The pierced brick wall constructed in the late 1940s, ascending Bocock Street, is in very good condition and shows no signs of breakage or instability.

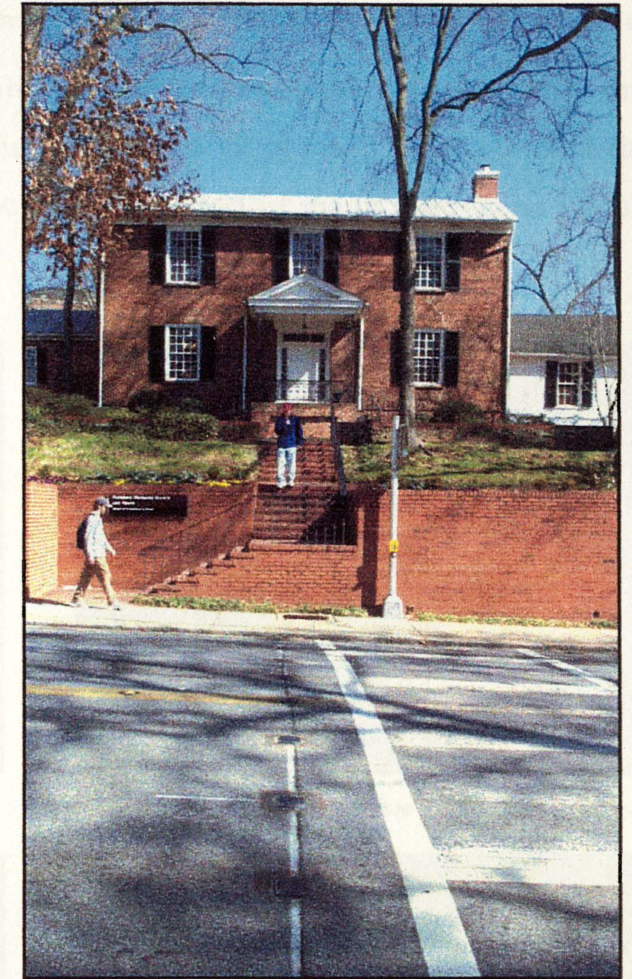


Figure 33. Retaining Wall along West edge

The Living Memorial (North Arboretum)

This largest of the component landscapes, envisioned as more of a botanical arboretum than a show garden,⁹⁷ contains an impressive collection of woody ornamentals. Its numerous pathways of Cherokee and crab orchard stone conduct the visitor and student in such a way that close inspection of many specimens is possible.



Figure 34. Stacked Slate retaining wall



Figure 35. Restored walkway



Figure 36. Recent informal walls



Figure 37. View of walkway

The freestanding and retaining walls of stacked slate are in remarkably good condition. No failure is evident. Low, informal walls recently added in the extreme northern portions of the Arboretum are of a stone previously unused in the garden. These walls allow for the addition of new woodland paths on this sloping terrain and allow (non-A.D.A.) accessibility to this area.

This work is not of the same quality or appearance as the nearby, original garden walls. The lining of these paths with stones is another feature inconsistent with original path construction. Several original woodland paths have been reset and reinforced and provide comfortable walking. The primary walkways in the North Arboretum are distinguished by individual large pieces of squared crab orchard stone. Modern repairs to these walks are obvious as smaller, random pieces of this stone have been used.

The main feature in the Living Memorial is the quiet pool at the north end of the lower terrace wall. Most obvious is the vandalized cherub-and-goose figure that is the water source. Plantings in the pool, evident in black plastic nursery containers, and the spotty plantings of euonymus and Liriope, combined with the damaged statuette, make for a less than desirable scene. Additionally, the pool does not appear to recirculate and is continuously fed fresh water. Site furnishings in this area include: the two masonry benches described earlier, a teak bench installed in 1990 near the fountain, and an authentic stone Japanese lantern.



Figure 38. Repairs to walkway

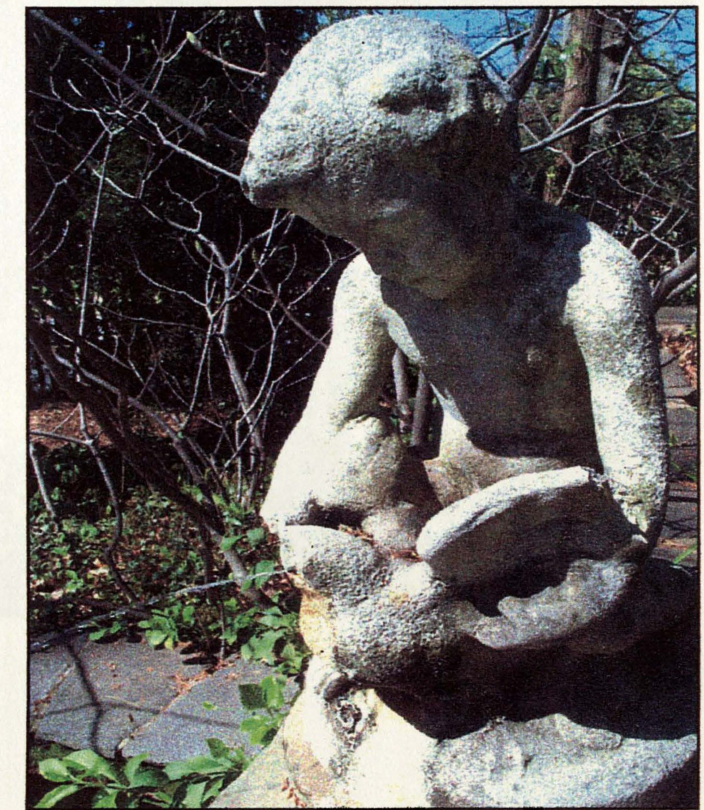


Figure 39. Vandalized Figurine

According to Bob Hill, former director of the Founders Memorial Garden, the greatest visual change to this section has been the decline of plantings to the west of the entry drive (between the drive and the slate walk and steps to Denmark Hall). At one time this area was heavily massed with azalea and a short lived *Acer circinatum* (Oregon Vine Maple). This area is now very open.



Figure 40. Ascent to Denmark Hall

Driveway, Forecourt and Service Yard

All part of the same development which installed brick and concrete curbing, bituminous paving sidewalks and the striking Lumpkin House forecourt, this unit provides service access to the houses and parking for six or seven automobiles. It also functions as a major campus pedestrian connection between North Campus and the variously designated parking lots along Hull Street.



Figure 41. Driveway

The condition of these pavements varies. The main driveway and parking area are sound, though blemished by underground utility cuts and repairs. The sidewalk connecting this parking with the Courtyard and Boxwood Garden is heavily damaged

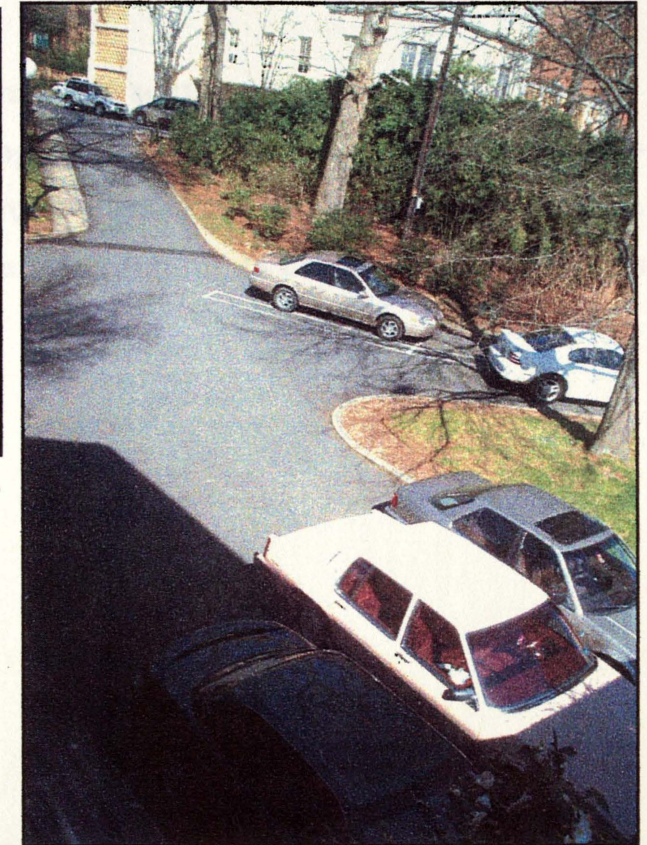


Figure 42. Parking Lot

due to a falling tree. Repairs to this walk were temporary and it was understood that a more permanent replacement would be made.⁹⁸ The terminus of the crab orchard stone path adjacent to the parking lot and leading into the Arboretum is badly damaged. Its proximity to the tight parking area enables cars to back over and occasionally park on this walk.

Asphalt pavement on the northwest and southwest corners of the Lumpkin House was most likely placed by hand, versus the machine application of the main drive.⁹⁹ This surface is slightly more uneven and is coarser, with the aggregate stone more apparent. Considerable cracking of this surface due to roots of nearby trees is evident and the southwest corner is further marred by utility cuts. The granite cobbles of the main entry forecourt show considerable unevenness, due to the roots of nearby trees.

A lattice screen was extended around the southwest corner of the Lumpkin House in 1999 to screen the unsightly supplies and debris common in garden maintenance. The corner of this structure protrudes beyond the inside border of the drive and still does not suffice, as these materials continue to accumulate outside this enclosure.

Herb Terrace

Structurally, this feature off the south side of the Kitchen Building is in excellent condition. Tight-fitting cut-stone paving on the landing and main level remain level and unbroken. Herb plantings are evident, with space for summer planting, despite shade problems. A beautiful cast iron bench, a war memorial, provides the central feature. Containerized plant storage in this area detracts from its appearance and is yet another symptom of the lack of maintenance support provisions for this garden.



Figure 43. Herb Terrace furnishings



Figure 44. Herb Terrace overview

Lighting

A carriage light, the original garden light, continues to burn at the north gate of the Boxwood Garden. For several years, and in a safer time, the garden was lighted only by a porch light, this carriage light, and any spillover illumination from adjacent campus and city streetlights. A number of exterior lighting treatments exist in the garden today and yet deficiencies have been reported as recently as 1998.¹⁰⁰ Only one freestanding fixture is known to have been erected as an original garden fixture. With increases in student population, after-hours operation, campus crime, and the pedestrian traffic which laces through the garden at all hours, adequate lighting has been a frequent concern.¹⁰¹

Campus safety lighting was given high priority after the 1984 killing of a female student on North Campus. Since then, an annual audit of campus exterior lighting deficiencies has been carried out by representatives from the Crime Prevention Bureau, Student Activities, and Physical Plant. Funding and implementation is applied based on the prioritization of this list by the Public Safety Division.¹⁰² The first such project undertaken in the Founders Memorial Garden was in 1991 in an effort to indirectly illuminate paths by uplighting certain structures: the west face of the Lumpkin House and west and east face of the Kitchen Building.



Figure 45. Original carriage light

These fixtures are standard off-the-shelf exterior uplights and still work although vegetation now obscures the Kitchen Building west wall. In 1993 certain areas within the Founders Memorial Garden were further identified as safety hazards and were given high priority for funding. In an attempt to avoid additional freestanding fixtures, tree lighting was installed in the Smith Camellia Garden, in the South Arboretum and above the parking area. The fixtures used are architectural flood-lights (AFL Series) manufactured by the Kim Lighting Corporation. These luminaries were tree mounted for vertical flooding. Conduit supplying power to the fixtures is readily apparent.

In 1998, upon adoption of the University of Georgia Physical Plant Master Plan, a prototype of the new standard area illumination pole and fixture was offered to the Founders Garden in response to deficiencies noted in a November, 1998 survey. The installation was also to be evaluated by various campus offices prior to final adoption. This lighting (Dynamic Lighting, Pittsburgh Series) — a 22 inch white acrylic globe on an 11 and half-foot fluted column — was installed at the base of the drive.

A request for additional lighting was submitted to Physical Plant in 1999 for implementation. This audit sited the need for further illumination of the paths through the Smith Garden, the South Arboretum, and the northwest corner of the Lumpkin House and is currently under study.

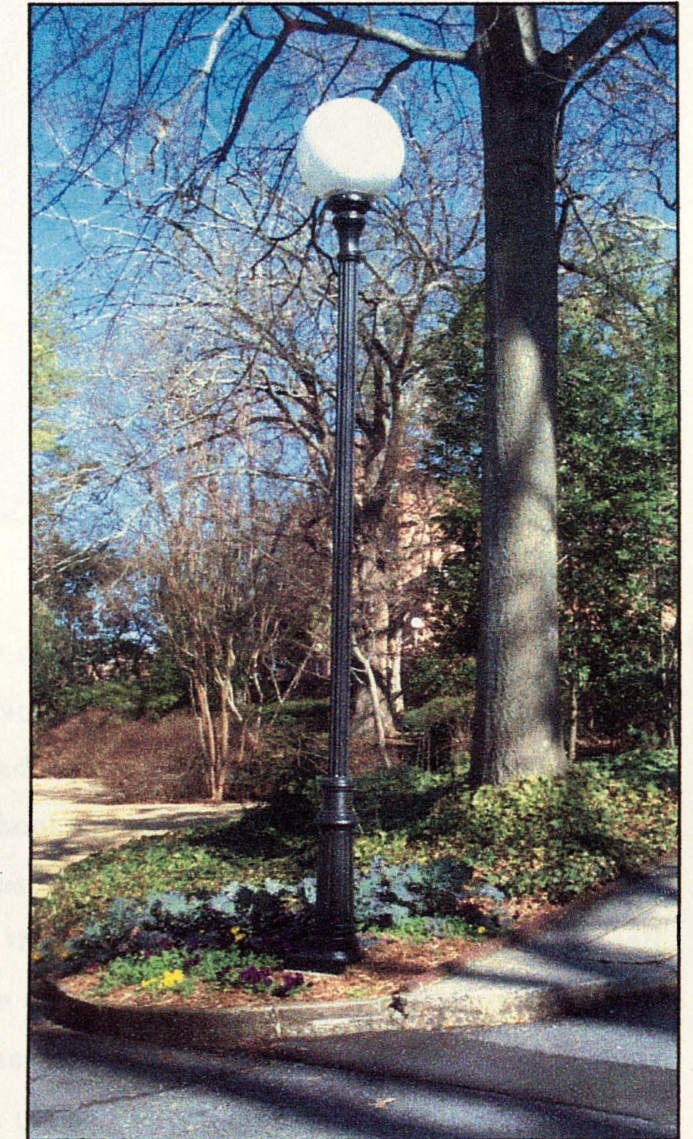


Figure 46. New standard light pole

Land Use

As has been described in earlier sections, the boundaries of the Founders Memorial Garden have not been compromised since its creation. The most significant alterations to the study site previous to garden construction were the realignment of the "Strahan" drive to form Infirmary Drive (Bocock Street) and the construction of Joseph Brown Hall over what was the property's southern extension. These developments effectively define the site as it exists today.



Figure 47. Bocock Street entrance from Lumpkin Street

The surrounding land use, particularly on the east (campus) side has changed dramatically. Unlike other portions of North Campus, this southeast corner of that precinct has seen an explosion in academic building expansion and infill. The Strahan residence was razed for law school expansion in 1967, an addition was made to Park Hall near the garden's southwest corner, and the University Health Center built a modern addition in the 1970s at the northeast corner of the site. Brooks Hall, originally constructed in 1924, has been enlarged twice and now looms over the garden's east border. Caldwell Hall rose seven stories in 1982, infilling a former parking lot, and the law library annex was constructed over the last remnant of Herty Field in the same year.

To the west of the site, land-use patterns differ but nevertheless dramatically impact the site. Lumpkin Street, restriped to a sub-standard four-lane configuration with nine-foot-wide lanes, carries traffic counts averaging 19,000 trips per day. Though posted with a 30 m.p.h. speed limit, velocities average significantly higher, compounded by the straight alignment and gradient in this stretch alongside the Founders Garden..

Three national fraternity houses, the graduate dormitory, Morris Hall, on university property, and the private Baptist Student Union lay opposite the site along Lumpkin Street. Beyond these facilities lie the large, mixed designation university parking lots along Hull Street. These lots provide the following capacities: Graduate ("G" zone), 617; Employee ("E" zone), 150; Perimeter ("P" zone), 119.¹⁰³ This parking serves the high-density campus precinct described above.

In 1945, extension of the iron fence created penetrations in only four locations from Broad Street to Baldwin Street - a distance of 1500 feet. By far the most heavily-used is the main entry to the garden which aligns with the "front" of the Lumpkin House. The mid-block crossing of Lumpkin Street in this location (now protected with embedded pavement flashers) funnels students, faculty and staff through the Founders Memorial Garden. The last available count of activity at this location showed that in 1984, the peak hourly pedestrian volume was 392 and a similar vehicle volume of 493.¹⁰⁴

Service traffic and parking demands on the main campus, east of Lumpkin Street, have correspondingly increased and have resulted in a constant pressure on the limited (six spaces) parking within the garden. In 1999, a parking gate was installed at the intersection of the Brooks Hall/Denmark Hall service drive and Bocock Street. This was done at the urging of administrators in the Terry College of Business in order to better regulate parking near Brooks Hall.¹⁰⁵

For years, a severe parking shortage existed at the Gilbert Health Center. Serving upward of thirty-thousand students just prior to relocating, the facility offered only eleven spaces to clients. These short-term, "customer spaces" were

notoriously difficult to enforce and resulted in the construction of a turnaround to keep traffic flowing and the placement of a full-time attendant to monitor parking.¹⁰⁶ Ironically, the relocation of the Health Center has caused a new circulation dynamic on this portion of Bocock Street. Given the dearth of such opportunities on this portion of campus and the convenience of the turnaround, Bocock Street continues to be heavily congested, particularly just after class change. This "cul-de-sac" now serves as an informal student pick-up location and has caused frequent mayhem along this northeast perimeter of the Garden.

The Facilities Master Plan has specified improvements to campus that will bear directly upon the garden and its nearby environment if implemented. This document, mandated by the Board of Regents in 1997, requires all system institutions make a plan in order that they may approach that Board for funding approval of capital projects. The distinguishing characteristics of the Athens campus plan are: to check the continued southward sprawl of campus growth and use an infill building strategy; arrange existing and infill structures to improve spatial definition; construct perimeter parking decks; remove interior surface parking and convert green space; build a student housing building program.

The plan specifically recognizes the Founders Memorial Garden as a valuable resource and recommends that it be protected.¹⁰⁷ Plans for the surrounding "Northwest Precinct", however, are considerable. Lumpkin Street, the plan proposes, is to be realigned from its intersection with Baxter Street to the Broad Street /Pulaski Street intersection, making an in-line connection with the latter. In other words, the reconfigured street would intersect Broad Street approximately 900 feet west of the current location. The purpose of this costly proposal is to allow for an unbroken expansion of North Campus westward and into a "Northwest Precinct" which would allow these new campus facilities to exist within, rather than be separated by, a busy Lumpkin Street. It is the contention of university planners that the widened interface of campus and town, in addition to the close-in location that this plan affords college

housing, would be a boon to downtown development.¹⁰⁸

The effect of these proposals upon the Founders Garden depend upon the disposition of the existing Lumpkin Street. The possibilities mentioned range from the creation of ill-defined "green space", presumably eliminating the street, to the simple closure of the street, allowing for the operation of a trolley-like shuttle connecting town and central campus. Almost certainly, and whether or not the Lumpkin Street realignment occurs, significant development is to occur in the "Northwest Precinct" to include a major parking deck, a library for the University's special collections, and student housing. This continued urbanization is certain to increase pressures on the garden.

APPENDIX II:
1938 Letter to Mrs. Bradshaw Approving
Garden Development at UGA

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
ATHENS, GEORGIA

June 1, 1961

Mrs. T. F. Bradshaw
Prince Avenue
Athens, Georgia

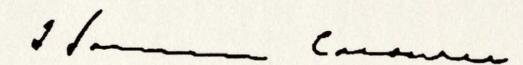
Dear Mrs. Bradshaw:

It has come to my attention that there is a possibility that the Garden Club of Georgia is considering the advisability of sponsoring the development of a Founders' Memorial Garden on the campus of the University in Athens.

As President of the University, I am writing this letter to say that the University would welcome the location of this Garden on its campus. The University is willing to cooperate with you to the extent of providing a satisfactory location for the Garden and supplying funds for adequate maintenance of the Garden. This latter item will include expenses for labor, fertilizer, sprays and other necessary service and material.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Harmon Caldwell

HAC/H

APPENDIX III.

1939 Estimate of Garden Construction Costs

Mr. W. F. Bragdon,
Prince George,
Alberta, Canada.

Dear Mr. Bragdon:

I have been thinking of you for some time and I am sure that you are very busy. I have been thinking of you because I have been thinking of the garden that you are planning to build. I have been thinking of you because I have been thinking of the garden that you are planning to build. I have been thinking of you because I have been thinking of the garden that you are planning to build.

Enclosure No. 2 is a list of all the things that I have been thinking of. I have been thinking of the garden that you are planning to build. I have been thinking of the garden that you are planning to build. I have been thinking of the garden that you are planning to build.

Sincerely,
Robert B. Owens

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
ATHENS, GEORGIA

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

May 18, 1939.

Mrs. W.F. Bradshaw,
Prince Avenue,
Athens, Georgia.

Dear Mrs. Bradshaw:

Enclosed you will find a list of estimates of costs for the various units of the Founders' Memorial. As far as I am able to tell every necessary item is listed, and I must call to your attention that a minimum estimate has been given in each instance. On the last sheet is a summary which shows the total amount of money needed. After you have had time to look this over I would like to discuss it with you.

Enclosure No. 2 is a list of all Clubs to date responding as favorable to my letter of December 1, 1938. The slips are still straggling in. I thought you might like to have this information.

Sincerely,

Hubert B. Owens
Hubert B. Owens

HO/sh

ESTIMATES FOR FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL GARDEN

Courtyard Garden

Labor for grading and planting	\$ 20.00
Reinforced concrete slab and drain	285.00
Laying brick and stone paving	150.00
3 M new brick	45.00
Open work brick wall	75.00
Freight on stone	50.00
Steps with iron railing	100.00
Large gate	35.00
Small gate	15.00
Small gate	15.00
Planting	35.00
4 Pottery oil jars @ \$15.00	60.00

Knot Garden

Labor for grading, preparing soil, planting	\$ 50.00
Drainage tile	15.00
Brick retaining wall	80.00
2 sets brick steps	25.00
Brick for walks	45.00
Labor for laying walks	35.00
Picket fence and gates	75.00
300 Dwarf edging Boxwood	30.00
Planting	50.00
Memorial bench of wrought iron	100.00
Armillary sundial and pedestal	35.00
Plumbing and spigot outlet	15.00

Gravel Terrace (between Knot Garden and Perennial Garden)

Labor for grading and planting	\$ 15.00
Retaining Wall	150.00
Steps with iron railing leading to perennial garden	150.00
Gravel	15.00
75' Iron fence	120.00
10 Dogwood Trees @ \$5.00	50.00

Perennial Garden

Labor for grading and preparation of soil	\$75.00
35 M old brick for walls	210.00
270' brick wall and 25 brick vine piers	250.00
24 picket fence and 3 gates	150.00
Irrigation system, pipes, etc.	125.00
Labor for preparation of soil and planting creeping bent grass in 25' x 100' grass panel	40.00
2000 sq. ft. Random Rectangular stone for walks	375.00
Labor for laying stone walks	125.00
Lily pool - materials and installation	250.00
Planting - 4 boxwood specimens for corners of pool @ \$15.00, 2 boxwood specimens at steps @ \$25.00	110.00
25 vines in variety for fence piers	25.00
4 Flowering trees @ \$5.00	20.00
Flowering shrubs around garden	35.00
Evergreen trees and shrubs around garden	45.00
Herbaceous perennials	30.00

Cold Frame and Seed Beds

Cold frame	\$75.00
Gravel paths around seed beds	25.00
Labor for grading and preparation of soils	15.00

Lawn Area

Labor for grading and seeding	\$25.00
Preparation of soil for planting shrubs and trees	15.00
50 Native shrubs	30.00
Bulbs for naturalizing	15.00
Herbaceous woods plants for naturalizing	20.00

Service Yard

Fence	\$35.00
-------	---------

Lanark St Street Approach

Labor and materials for stone on bank from Lanark St to driveway	\$175.00
Driveway of Canadian	125.00
Reconstruction of house steps, including brick and iron railing	120.00
Planting - ground cover plants in variety	35.00
Planting - undershadow shrubs and small trees	25.00
Herbaceous woods plants and bulbs for naturalizing	40.00
Tanbark paths	25.00

Foran Court

Paving cobble court concrete foundation	\$150.00
Paving cobble court laying cobble stone	100.00
Cherry Laurel hedge around court and planting	100.00
Driveway Canadian	150.00

Garden Shop of Georgia Building (Small)

Concrete foundation for floor	\$ 25.00
Tile floor	30.00
Slate roof	75.00
Bay window	100.00
Plastering inside walls	25.00
Panelled door	30.00
Cabinets and shelves	50.00
Lighting fixtures and incidentals	25.00
Ceiling	30.00

Meeting Room Building

Slate roof	\$120.00
Removing partition	50.00
Repairs on window and door frames	30.00
2 panelled doors @ \$30.00	60.00
Brick steps and railing from rear door	75.00
Brick terrace at bottom of steps	40.00
Removing plumbing fixtures	25.00
Lighting fixtures and incidentals	25.00
Patching plaster and painting interior	15.00

Landscape Architecture Department Building

Removing bathroom next to courtyard garden,	
painting and repairs	\$ 30.00
Door	25.00

General

Tile for drainage ditch	50.00
Illumination	100.00
Freight on donated materials	200.00
Garden benches and tables	100.00
Incidentals	150.00
*Proposed Tool House	400.00

Summary Sheet

1. It is likely that all the planting will be donated by Nurseries. This totals \$685.00. (This figure does not include 300 small Boxwood plants which are already contracted for - \$30.00.)
2. A proposed tool house estimated at \$400.00 was not originally included in the plan. This could be eliminated or a cheaper one built.
3. \$25.00 from 200 Garden Clubs would give \$5,000.
4. Omitting planting (\$685.00) and tool house (\$400.00) the total amount needed is \$5,975.

THESE STEPS WERE ERECTED
BY THE
CHARTER GARDEN CLUB
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
IN MEMORY OF
MRS. W.F. BRADSHAW

APPENDIX IV.

Designated Memorials - Founders Memorial Garden

NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF
STATE GARDEN CLUBS
ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY
APRIL, 1954
PRESENTED TO
THE FOUNDERS
MEMORIAL GARDEN
ATHENS, GEORGIA
"FOR EVERY GOOD THING
HAS A BEGINNING AND
THE BEGINNING WAS HERE."

On the wall above landing, NW Corner of Perennial Garden:

THESE STEPS WERE ERECTED
BY THE
CHARTER GARDEN CLUB
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
IN MEMORY OF
MRS. W.F. BRADSHAW

On the Perennial Garden Statue Pedestal:

A TRIBUTE FROM
NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF
STATE GARDEN CLUBS
ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY
APRIL, 1954
PRESENTED TO
THE FOUNDERS
MEMORIAL GARDEN
ATHENS, GEORGIA
“...FOR EVERY GOOD THING
HAS A BEGINNING AND
THE BEGINNING WAS HERE.”

On Foundation Wall by Cherub:

DEDICATED IN LASTING
MEMORY TO ALL WHO SERVED
IN WORLD WAR II
“TO THOSE WHO GAVE MUCH
AND TO THOSE WHO GAVE ALL”

General Bronze Corp.
Gardes City, N.Y.

On the Teak Bench in Arboretum:

IN MEMORY OF
HUBERT BOND OWENS
GEORGIA LANDSCAPE DESIGN
CRITICS COUNCIL
1990

On Cast Iron Bench, Herb Terrace:

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM STOKES WALKER
FIRST LIEUTENANT, U.S.M.C.R.
KILLED IN ACTION ON
THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN
JULY 7, 1944

Over Smokehouse Door:

GARDEN CLUB
OF
GEORGIA

On Main House Steps into Courtyard:

COURTYARD ENTRANCE
IN MEMORY OF
MRS. PIERCE BLITCH

On the coping edge, oval pool, Perennial Garden:

IN MEMORY OF
JOHNNIE KYLE WOODRUFF
OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Engraved Brass Plaque on West Gate, South End, Perennial Garden:

THIS GATE PRESENTED BY
MRS. J.J. NICHOLSON
IN MEMORY OF HER SON
FRANCIS WILLIAM NICHOLSON

On Ground-Mounted Plaque under Arbor:

ARBOR AND CAMELLIA WALK
IN MEMORY OF
HUBERT BOND OWENS
THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC.
1991

On Lumpkin House, West Side by Entry:

THIS PROPERTY
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FIRST HOME OF THE
GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC.
DEDICATED OCT. 6, 1964

On Porch Landing Wall, W. Side Lumpkin, On-Center with Cobblestone Court:

LADIES GARDEN CLUB
FIRST GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
FOUNDED 1891

CLAUSUM
OCTOBER 13, 1992 - 2091

On Stone Next to Smoke House, Bay, in ground:

BOXWOOD GARDEN
GIFT OF
PEACHTREE GARDEN CLUB
ATLANTA
1941

On Brass Plaque above Smoke House Bay Window:

THIS WINDOW PRESENTED BY
SAND HILLS GARDEN CLUB
AUGUSTA, GA
1940

On Brass Plaque, top of steps, Terrace, by one of two metal urns:

FRENCH URNS
IN MEMORY OF
HUBERT BOND OWENS
THE GARDEN CLUB COUNCIL OF
ATHENS
1990

On Lumpkin House, East Door @ Courtyard:

IN TRIBUTE OF
JEANNIE TATE ANDERSON
FOR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TIME, KNOWLEDGE AND
LEADERSHIP
AS RESTORATION CHAIRMAN
OF STATE HEADQUARTERS HOUSE
THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC
SEPTEMBER 19, 1984

On Cast Iron Fern Bench, West Side, Courtyard:

UNMARKED

On Cast Iron Fern Bench, South Side:

LADIES GARDEN CLUB
ATHENS, GEORGIA
1948

On Lumpkin House, West Side on Main Entry Steps :

IN MEMORY
OF
IDA TAYLOR HILTON
OF
SAVANNAH, GA.
FOUNDER OF THE GARDEN CLUB
OF NYACK - ON - HUDSON, NY
THESE STEPS WERE PRESENTED BY
HER DAUGHTER
IDA HILTON SEYMOUR
1942

IN MEMORY
OF
IDA TAYLOR HILTON
OF
SAVANNAH, GA.
FOUNDER OF THE GARDEN CLUB
OF NYACK - ON - HUDSON, NY
THESE STONES WERE PRESENTED BY
HER DAUGHTER
IDA HILTON SEYMOUR
1912

APPENDIX V.
Supplemental Plans and Drawings

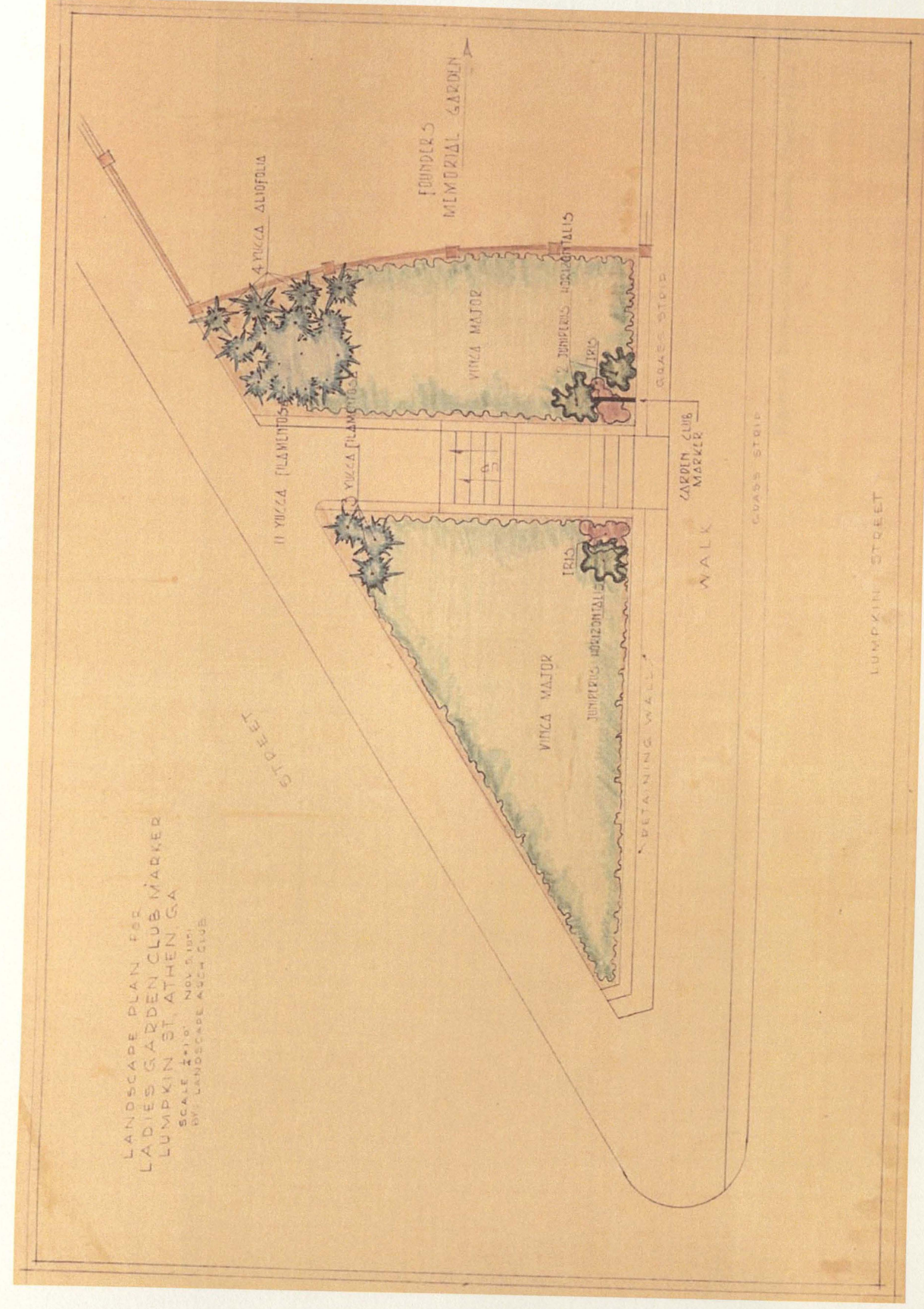


Figure 48. Historic Marker Planting Plan. 1951

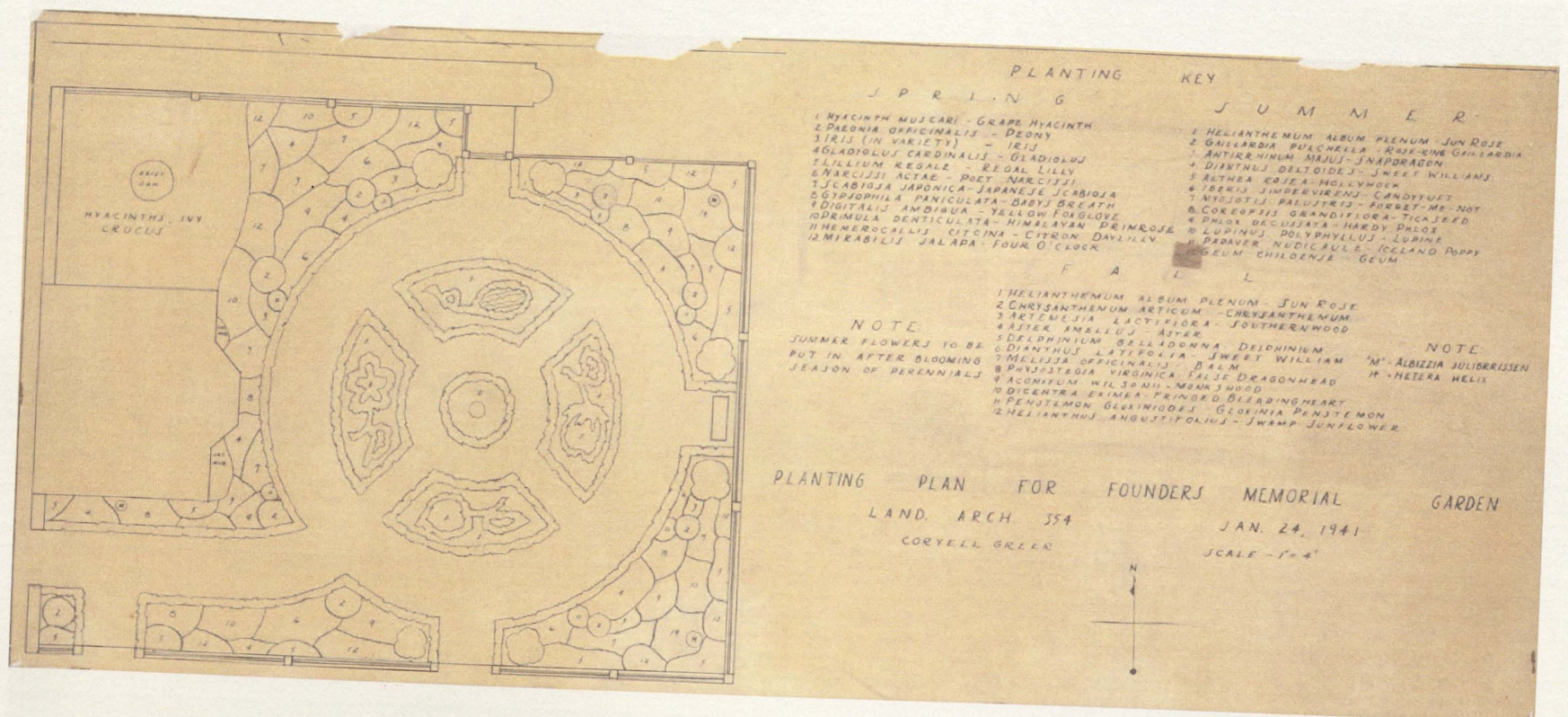


Figure 49. Boxwood Garden. Student Planting Plan. 1944

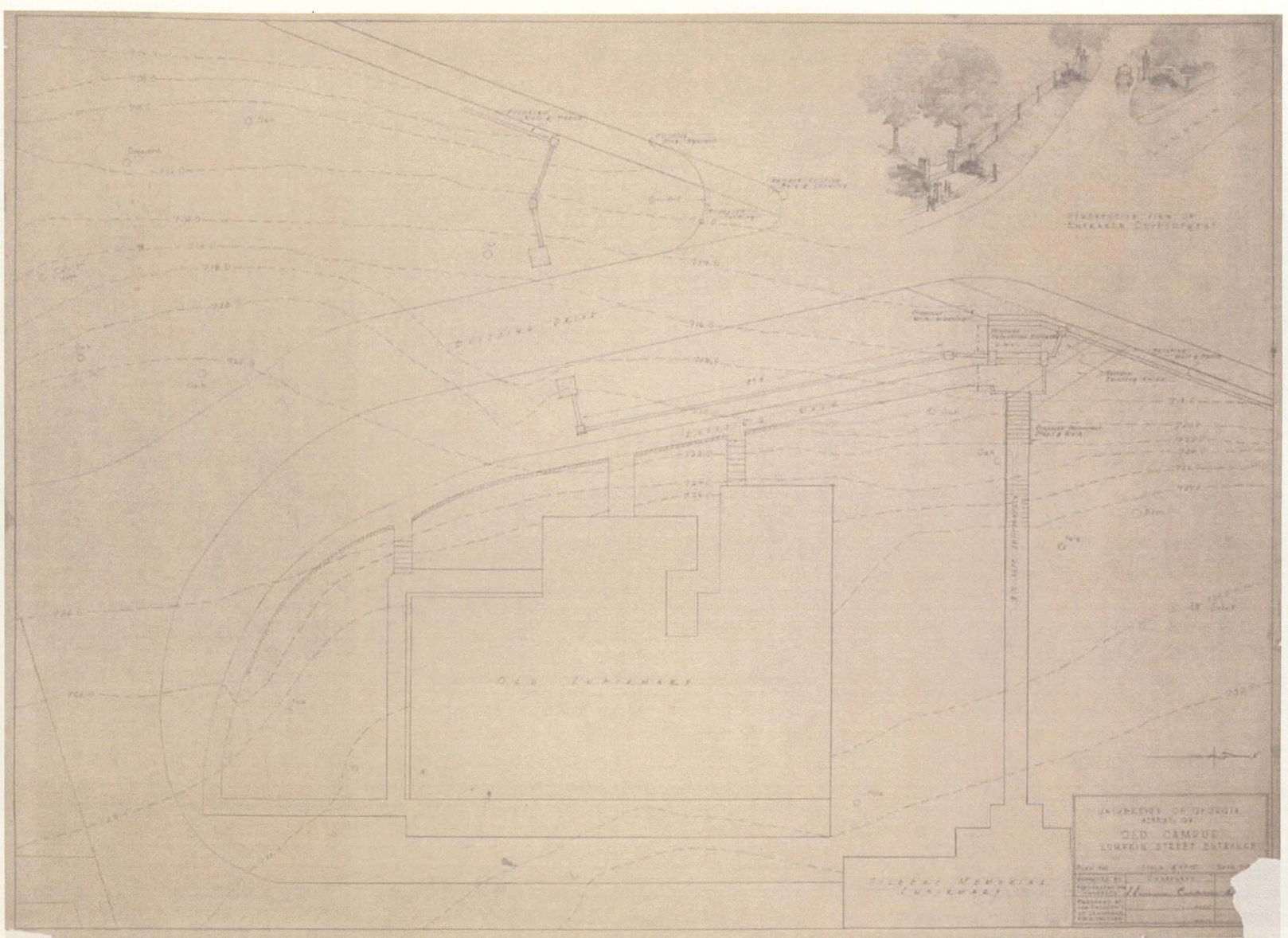


Figure 51. Proposal for Infirmary Drive Gate. Unbuilt. (1945?)

Who Designed the Founders Memorial Garden?

There were two distinct epochs of design activity in the Founders Memorial Garden: pre-war and post-war, formal and informal, and, frustratingly, undocumented and documented. Of course, the one constant factor throughout the ten years of development was Hubert Owens. Documents indicate that Owens employed both faculty and students in the preparation of plans.

A c.1938 concept plan is unsigned and does not appear to be in the hand of the department head. Frederick W.G. Peck (B.A. - Penn.), a faculty member from September, 1937 to December, 1939, is known to have prepared "two attractive water colors of the Memorial." ¹⁰⁹ The presentation of the above-mentioned concept to the Garden Club of Georgia for approval and funding had been made in November, 1938, "by Messrs. Hubert B. Owens and Frederick Peck...with the added sanction of the University's President, Dr. Harmon Caldwell." ¹¹⁰ Mr. Peck left the university during the first phase of garden construction involving the courtyard and boxwood gardens, but Nell Hawkes (BFA '40) remembered Peck as "the creative individual on that faculty...who probably did the design." ¹¹¹

No drawings known to have been prepared by Frederick Peck have been found, nor has a single construction drawing for any portion of the formal units of the garden. No construction photographs have been located, a curious void given the obvious educational value these images would have provided (not to mention the photographic penchant of landscape architects). For this portion of the garden it is therefore impossible to perform any kind of comparative analysis that might determine the degree of design involvement of specific individuals. It has been widely reported that Owens assigned various faculty members specific design problems within the garden. An initiative to replace the front steps of the Lumpkin House involved John A.C. Shulte (BFA - Illinois) who was on staff for one year beginning in September, 1941. Owens reported that "Prof. Shulte, my assistant in the Landscape Architecture Department, and I both feel that it would be best to use plain iron uprights in this rail" (proposed for the steps). ¹¹² Alumni recall that "Mrs. Weir joined the faculty and tried to do the (perennial) garden in all white." Hershel Webber's disapproval of terrace wall construction methods has also been noted. ¹¹³ Wolfgang Oehme was given charge of the perennial garden during his four months with the department (Sept. - Dec., 1965). His plan for the serpentine beds, utilizing ornamental grasses,

The contribution of Brooks Wigginton to the development of the garden began in 1945, well after the completion of the formal units. Many alumni remember Owens and Wigginton as the designers of the garden. This does appear to be the case in the design of the Arboretum. Wigginton's plans for the South Arboretum, North Arboretum, and the iron fence and steps extension along Lumpkin Street all survive. It is also known that he designed the Herb Terrace and received friendly criticism from the students regarding its drainage characteristics. ¹¹⁴

It is clear that many individuals were involved in the ten year development of the Founders Memorial Garden. It is equally clear that Hubert Owens provided the vision, gave it voice, marshaled the resources, and directed the construction and planting. Recalling those days, former students state that Owens always had the final word or simply that "Hubert ran things." ¹¹⁵ Robert Hill, former director of the garden stated that Owens never claimed to have designed the memorial. Perhaps, being the educator that he was, he provided a forum for students to participate in and observe what he considered an example of "the best in the landscape architect's art." ¹¹⁶

Endnotes

- ¹Soil Survey, Clarke and Oconee Counties. Georgia USDA, SCS, Issued Nov., 1968
- ²Steven Kowalewski, Professor, Anthropology, University of Georgia. Interview with the author, February 29, 2000.
- ³F.N. Boney, A Pictorial History of the University of Georgia. The UGA Press. Athens, Georgia. 1984.
- ⁴A.L. Hull, A Historical Sketch of the University of Georgia, 1894
- ⁵Plat of College and Town, 1803, unsigned.
- ⁶Southern Watchman. Athens. July 16, 1857.
- ⁷Minutes. Prudential Committee.
- ⁸Waters, John. Interview. January 11, 2000.
- ⁹National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination for Garden Club of Georgia Museum - Headquarters House, Founders' Memorial Garden. Form prepared by : John C. Waters, 1971.
- ¹⁰A.L. Hull, A Historical Sketch of the University of Georgia, Atlanta: Foot and Davies Co., 1894.
- ¹¹Broun, Thomas L., Bessie Lee Broun and Sally F. Ordway. Dr. William Leroy Brown. New York: Neale Publishing Co., 1912.
- ¹²Morris, Sylvanus. Strolls About Athens During the Early Seventies.
- ¹³ibid
- ¹⁴ibid
- ¹⁵Reed, Thomas, Water. "Uncle Tom" Reeds Memoir of The University of Georgia. Ed.Ray Mathis. Athens Georgia: University of Georgia Libraries, Miscellanea Publications, No. 11, 1974.
- ¹⁶Bartos, Ramona. From notes provided to the author relating to preliminary research on The Lumpkin House. n.d.
- ¹⁷Bartos, Ramona. Memo to John Waters, Athens, Georgia. Undated.
- ¹⁸Owens, Hubert Bond. Personal History of Landscape Architecture in the Last Sixty Years, 1922-1982. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Alumni Society, 1983.
- ¹⁹Owens, Hubert. "Georgia to Commemorate Founding of First Garden Club". Garden Gateways. January, 1939.
- ²⁰Owens, Gateways. January, 1939. 3
- ²¹Owens, History. 42
- ²²Boney. 156
- ²³"State Garden Club Board Accepts Plans" Savannah Evening Press, 27 Jan., 1939.
- ²⁴Caldwell, Harmon. Letter to Mrs. W.F. Bradshaw, 19 January _____. Hubert Bond Owens Papers. Hargrett Library, University of Georgia.
- ²⁵Owens, Hubert. Memo to Presidents of Member Clubs. December, 1938.

- ²⁶Mac Griswold and Eleanor Weller, The Golden Age of American Gardens. New York: Harry N. Abrams Inc., 1991.14
- ²⁷Hitchcock, Susan Lee. "The Colonial Revival Gardens of Hubert Bond Owens". Thesis.University of Georgia. 1997. 43
- ²⁸Minutes. Executive Board of the Garden Club of Georgia. Nov. 7, 1939.
- ²⁹"Financial Report of Hubert Owens, Director for University of Georgia, Founders's (sic) Memorial Garden Project for March 23, 1940".
- ³⁰Hitchcock. Owens. 43
- ³¹Owens. History. 14
- ³²Owens, Hubert B. "Memorial Garden in Georgia", Garden Gateways. 1942-44. 13.
- ³³Swift, Mrs. Clifford. Letter to Hubert Owens. Feb. 18, 1941. Hubert Owens Papers.Cherokee Garden Library. Atlanta History Center.
- ³⁴Owens, Hubert. "Financial Report for Mrs. R.P. Black". Undated.
- ³⁵"Future Plans For Memorial Garden". Atlanta Journal. Aug. 3, 1941.
- ³⁶Baldwin, Harry. Telephone interview. February 29, 2000.
- ³⁷"Future Plans". Atlanta Journal.
- ³⁸"University's Landscape Architecture Department is Third in U.S.". Georgia Alumni Record. 1940-43.
- ³⁹National Register Nomination. Garden Club. 1971.
- ⁴⁰Owens, Hubert. Letter to Mrs. John Seymour. December 9, 1941.
- ⁴¹"Founders Memorial Garden on University Campus Now in Full Bloom". Georgia Alumni Record. June, 1943.
- ⁴²Owens. History. 30, 31
- ⁴³Harrel, June. Telephone Interview. March 3, 2000.
- ⁴⁴"Garden in Bloom". Georgia Alumni Record. June, 1943.
- ⁴⁵"Garden in Bloom". Georgia Alumni Record. June, 1943.
- ⁴⁶Black, Mrs. Ralph. "Founders Memorial" Garden Gateways. May, 1942.
- ⁴⁷Black. Gateways. 1942.
- ⁴⁸Owens, Hubert. Letter to Mrs. Arthur Harris. October 5, 1943.
- ⁴⁹M.P. Phinizy. "Minutes of the Executive Board, Garden Club of Georgia". January 30, 1945.
- ⁵⁰Owens, Hubert. Memo to Garden Club Members. December, 1939.
- ⁵¹Cohen, Tracy D. "In Memory". Garden Gateways. March, 1945.
- ⁵²Caldwell, Harmon. Letter to Mrs. Robert C. Neely. 1945.
- ⁵³Kirven, Bessie Fry. "Memories and Trees". Garden Gateways. October , 1945.

- ⁵⁴Meeting of Charter Members and Membership. Garden Club of Georgia. March 25, 1947.
- ⁵⁵Minutes. Executive Board Meeting. Garden Club of Georgia. October 24, 1947.
- ⁵⁶Ibid.
- ⁵⁷Ibid.
- ⁵⁸Ibid.
- ⁵⁹Baldwin, Harry. Telephone Interview. February 29, 2000.
- ⁶⁰Neely, Mrs. Robert. "Founders Memorial". Garden Gateways. October, 1948.
- ⁶¹Owens, Hubert. History.
- ⁶²Hill, Robert. Interview. March 4, 2000.
- ⁶³Harrel; June. Interview.
- ⁶⁴Treib, Marc. Ed. Axioms for Modern Landscape Architecture.
- ⁶⁵Treib. Axioms.
- ⁶⁶Williams, T.G. Telephone Interview. March 4, 2000.
- ⁶⁷Baldwin, Harry. Interview.
- ⁶⁸Reese, Roy. Interview.
- ⁶⁹Hill, Robert. Interview. March 6, 2000.
- ⁷⁰Minutes. Executive Board Meeting. Garden Club of Georgia. January 31, 1951.
- ⁷¹Hill. Interview.
- ⁷²Hill. Interview.
- ⁷³Owens, Hubert. Draft Report. 1953. H.B. Owens Papers. Hargret Library. Athens, Georgia.
- ⁷⁴Baldwin, Harry. Interview.
- ⁷⁵"University's Landscape Architecture Department is Third in U.S.". Georgia Alumni Record. 1940-1943.
- ⁷⁶Aderhold, O.C. Letter to Mrs. T.J. Smith. October 8, 1954.
- ⁷⁷Owens, Hubert. "Founders Memorial Garden". April, 1956.
- ⁷⁸Owens, Hubert. "Founders Memorial Report". Garden Club of Georgia Archive. January 22, 1958.
- ⁷⁹Minutes. January 31, 1951. 4
- ⁸⁰Owens. History. 47
- ⁸¹Caldwell, Harmon. Letter to Mrs. W.F. Bradshaw. 19 January, 1939. Hubert Bond Owens Papers. Hargrett Library. University of Georgia.

- 82Williams, T.G. Telephone Interview. March 4, 2000.
- 83Seymour, Jon. Interview with Ramona Bartos. August 6, 1999.
- 84Minutes. April 9, 1954.
- 86Orr, Michael W. Interview, March 13, 2000.
- 87Minutes. Executive Board Meeting. Garden Club of Georgia. May 10, 1939.
- 88Bradshaw, Rosena W. "Report of Founders Memorial Committee". Garden Gateways. May, 1940.
- 89Orr, Michael W. Interview. March 13, 2000.
- 90Polster, P. Kimo. Interview. January 19, 2000.
- 91Hill, Robert. Interview. March 6, 2000.
- 92Owens, "Report Founders's (sic) Memorial Committee". Garden Gateways. May, 1940.
- 93MacNider, Louise L. Ed. "Founders Memorial Garden". Georgia Alumni Record. April, 1939. 187.
- 94Hill, Robert. Interview. March 6, 2000.
- 95Hitchcock. "Owens". 47
- 96Polster. Interview.
- 97Owens, Hubert. Letter to Mrs. Robert Neely. November 22, 1949. Hubert Bond Owens Papers. Hargrett Library. Athens, Georgia.
- 98Polster, Interview.
- 99Richardson, James. Interview. March 13, 2000.
- 100Brantly, Sgt. Jeff. "Lighting Survey". Memorandum to Assistant Chief Williamson. Nov. 6, 1998.
- 101Austin, Gene. Interview. March 13, 2000.
- 102TenBrook, James. "Campus Exterior Lighting Initiatives". Memorandum to Dr. David Coker. Sept. 22, 1994.
- 103Linston, Jimmy. Telephone Interview, March 27, 2000.
- 104"A Pedestrian Study For the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia". The RBA Group. Atlanta, GA. Dec. 1984.
- 105Linston, Jimmy. Telephone Interview. March 20, 2000.
- 106Linston. Interview.
- 107University of Georgia Facilities Master Plan. Ayers, Saint, Gross and Associates. Baltimore, MD. 1999.
- 108Sniff, Daniel. Interview. March 21, 2000.
- 109Minutes. Executive Board. Garden Club of Georgia. May 10, 1939. Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Archives.
- 110Minutes. Garden Club of Georgia Convention. May 12, 1939.
- 111Hawkes, Nell Telephone Interview with the Author. April 3, 2000.

¹¹² Owens, Hubert. Letter to John Seymour. Dec. 9, 1941. Hubert Bond Owens Papers. Cherokee Garden Library. Atlanta History Center. Atlanta.

¹¹³ Baldwin, Harry. Telephone Interview with the Author. February 29, 2000.

¹¹⁴ Baldwin, Harry. Interview with Ramona Bartos. August 6, 1999.

¹¹⁵ Williams, T.G. Telephone Interview with the Author. March 3, 2000.

¹¹⁶ "University's Landscape Architecture Department Is Third in the U.S.". Georgia Alumni Record. 1940 - 43.



1. The first part of the book is a history of the...
2. The second part is a description of the...
3. The third part is a collection of...
4. The fourth part is a collection of...
5. The fifth part is a collection of...

1

FOUNDERS MEMORIAL GARDEN
ATHENS, GEORGIA

A SITE HISTORY

WITH AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

