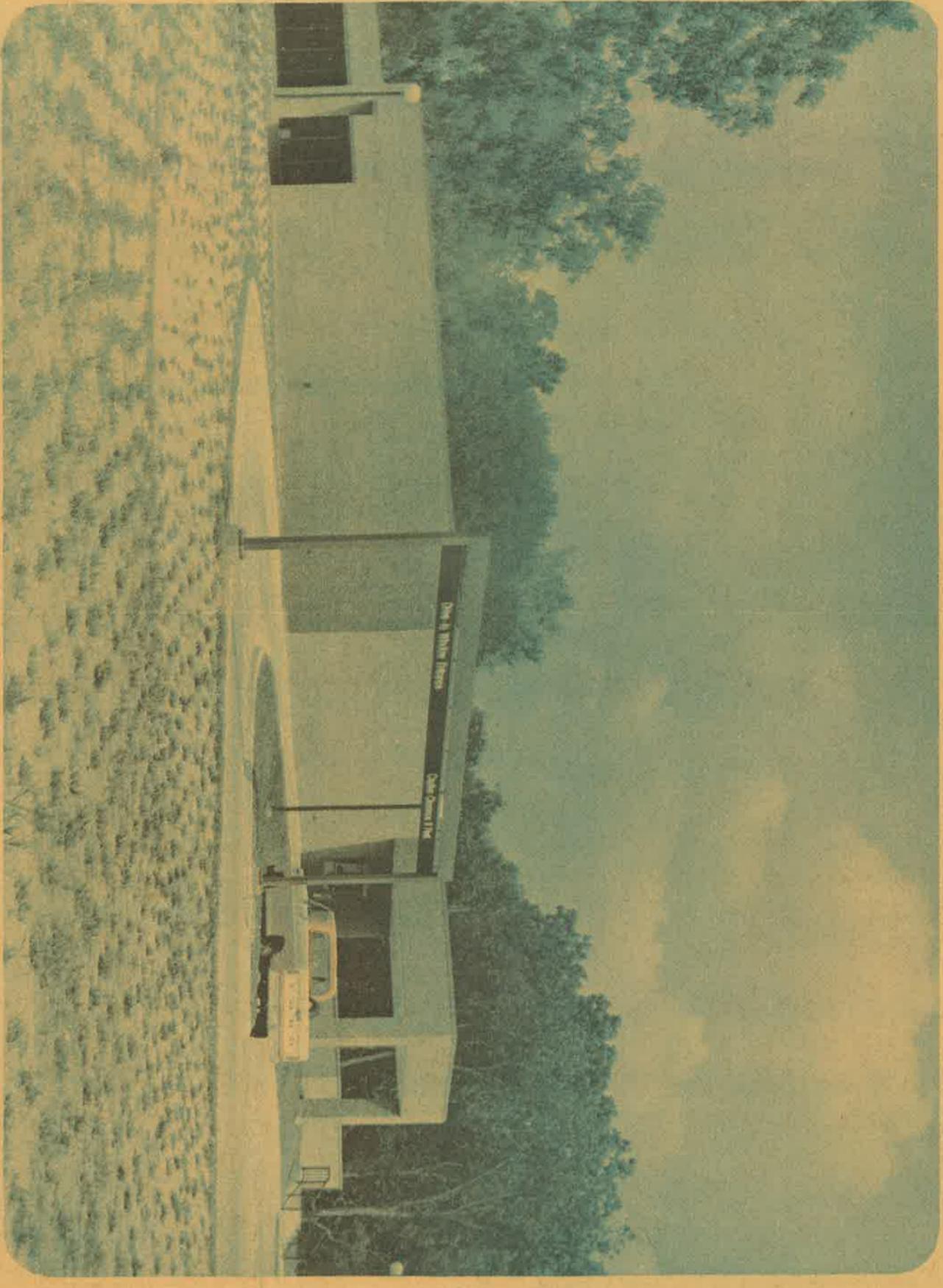


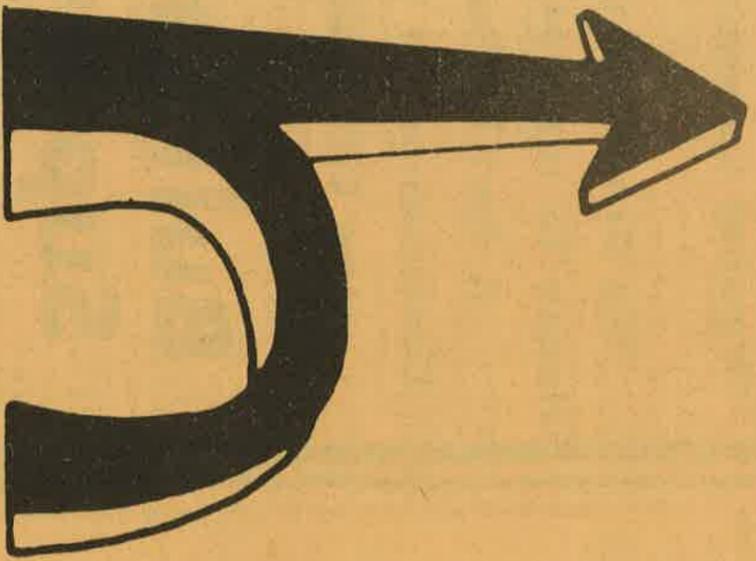
A NEW FACE IN TOWN

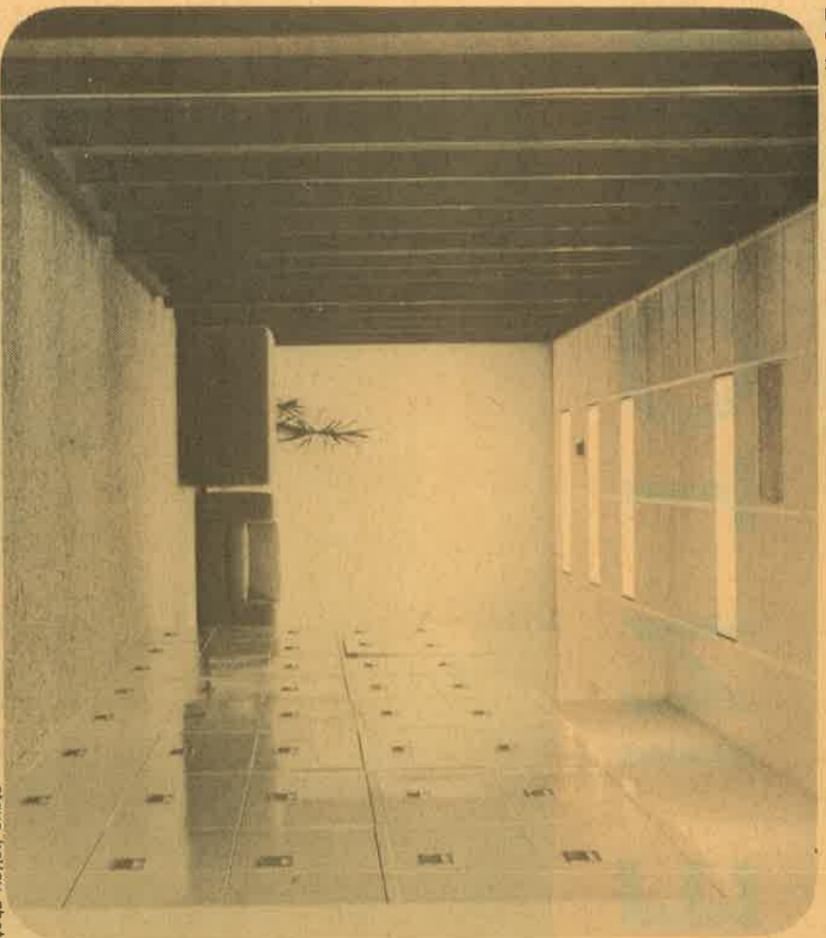


jim falbot photo

Huntsville's New City Hall, Built At A Cost Of \$700,000 Will Be Dedicated With A Ribbon Cutting Sunday, August 29th By The Mayor And City Council. The Open House Will Be From 2-5 PM And Everyone Is Invited To Come By And Look At Their City Hall.

General Contractor Nash Construction





stewe kelley photo

This hallway is lined with filing cabinets provided by space the

city never had in its old facility.

Hall interior stresses flexibility of design

Flexibility is the concept behind the interior design of the new Huntsville City Hall, according to Nancy Pouns, the spokesperson for the Koetter, Tharp, Cowell, Bartlett (KTCB), the contracting company which built the exterior and took care of the interior design.

The offices throughout the new building are designed with interchangeable components.

"The reason why we chose this type of design is that there are so many different office needs for the various employees of the city," said Pouns.

The designing began in the early part of 1975 with interviews of the city employees to see just what the individual needs of each office would be.

The offices all have wall mounts that can facilitate movable shelves and cabinets.

"This flexibility allows for future growth and also if there is some change in office assignments, the cabinets and shelves and even the furniture can be moved to suite each specific need," she added.

This concept of wall mounted action equipment is new to Huntsville City employees and whenever there is a change of this type, it takes time to fully adapt.

But the KTCB company has made every effort to make the color scheme and design comfortable for the City Hall workers and visitors.

A careful eye was chosen to accent and balance the rhythmic felling from the moment of entry until final exit.

The particular design of the interior was adapted to lend accent to the curves in the council chamber.

A careful eye will notice that the receptionist's desk at the entrance of the building is curved along with even the benches in the corridors. Office furniture, too, lends to the curvature of lines in the building.

The idea of coordinating curves was repeated time and time again throughout the office.

Houston National Bank, which was also designed by KTCB, shares the same type design.

62,000 bricks make up hall

Describing the new Huntsville City Hall is simple, due mainly to its construction. The building is contemporary and functional.

Bill Nash, of Huntsville-based Nash Construction Co., who built the structure, noted that the building's planners "didn't waste a lot of money on ornamentation." Rather, the new hall is "functional, intended for relatively low maintenance."

The architectural firm of Koetter, Tharp and Cowell of Houston designed the building and parking lots, and the Nash Co. undertook all general contracting except

the drainage structures, which were built by Continental Construction Co. of Dallas.

Trivia experts would be interested to know that the City Hall is composed of 62,000 bricks, 960 cubic yards of concrete and 48 tons of steel structure.

Excluding the creek area on the building site, the land covers 3.1 acres. The building, paving and sidewalks take in nearly 50,000 square feet, while the lawn covers almost 85,000 square feet, for a total of 134,761 square feet of con-

struction.

The Nash Co. was awarded the bid on July 8, 1975, but

work on the building itself didn't begin until the first part of December, due to drainage and landfill work which had to be done first. Nash explained that dirt from the top of the lot and along the bottom of Town Creek was removed and replaced with better quality soil, which was compacted to laboratory-tested specifications to prevent settling of the structures.

Air conditioning for the City Hall is divided into three

zones, to allow temperature setting to vary in three different areas of the building.

Nash noted that probably the only unique feature about the building is its fire protection in the ceiling. An extra layer of fire-proof gypsum was secured within the ceiling, along with fire-proof ceiling columns, to better ensure the hall's fire safety features.

The Nash Co. has awarded the standard one-year guarantee on the building, and various sub-contractors have their own warranties on other parts of the structure.

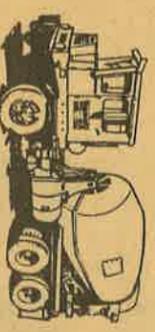


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Town creek now being checked

Town Creek, that quiet little underground waterway that explodes in fury after a hard rain, will at least be partly held in check by measures taken during construction of the new Huntsville City Hall.

Huntsville literally sits right on top of Town Creek — a relatively uneventful situation — until it rains. Then the creek usually floods, along with residences and businesses along its path.

The creek passes directly through the block at Ave. M and 13th St. — the site of the new City Hall. However, City Manager Jim McAlister said every reasonable precaution has been taken to ensure that the new structure will remain high and dry during heavy rains, flooding of the creek, or both.

"We haven't solved the entire flooding problem on Town Creek," McAlister noted. "We've widened and cleared the channel on the City Hall site to ease the problem just on that lot. To fully address the flooding problem in the city, major collector creeks will have to

be widened and cleaned."

He added that millions of dollars would be needed to solve the flooding problem from one end of the creek to the other, but the city simply doesn't have the necessary funds available, "so we've tried to address the problem for a one-block stretch," he said.

Town Creek has presented flooding problems in the past, particularly in Sept., 1974, when overflow and backup from the creek caused more than \$100,000 worth of damage to downtown businesses and homes. Since that time, city authorities have urged property owners along the creek to keep weeds and other obstacles out of the creek, to help ensure proper drainage.

And as a result of that necessity, many trees which would have enhanced the new hall site had to be removed upon re-routing of the creek. However, Mayor Morris Walker noted that the trees "that were attractive were where the building itself was to be located," and those were "replaced with

younger, more attractive trees."

The architectural firm of O'Malley and Clay engineered the drainage structures and earth fill, and Continental Construction Co. of Dallas handled construction of drain pipes, retaining walls, storm drains and inlets and ditches.

Bill Nash of Nash Construction Co., builders of the new City Hall, noted that the floor of the new hall is two and one-half feet higher than the floor of Huntsville Savings & Loan, ensuring moderate safety against flooding of the creek.

Operations are more efficient

Since the new city hall opened its doors earlier this month officials are happy to report that business is being conducted in a more efficient manner.

John Payne, building inspector, said that now that the offices are all in one building, customers are being helped more easily and

quickly.

City hall offices were previously located at two locations, which Payne said served to confuse the people coming to do business. The offices were at 11th Street and on the south side of the town square in the old Huntsville National Bank building. Payne said the city

Town creek viewed from underneath the bridge into the drainage ditch behind the new City Hall is now being checked a

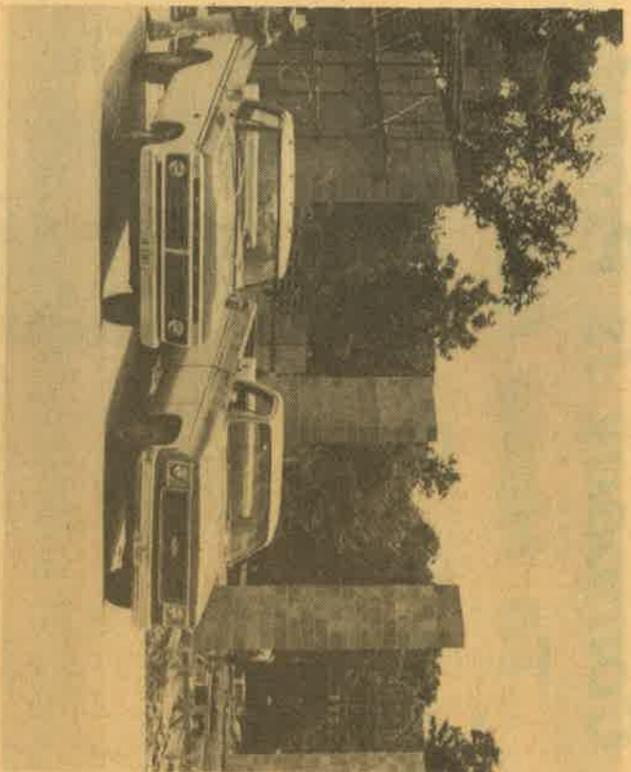
good bit due to the precautions taken during the construction of the hall. Officials say it won't be as furious during storms.

manager, the inspection package," he said.

He said he felt the employees were happier now that they were working in a more spacious and modern environment.

"Now that we are out of the cramped space everything seems to be flowing very smoothly," he noted.

Growing With Huntsville Partners In The Growth And Development Of Huntsville.



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**FIRST
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Sharon darragh photo

Planting is not always as easy as it sounds -- sometimes "brute strength" is necessary. Gene Pipes, Director of Public Services is shown trying to help Parks and Services employ Charles Landrum pull one of the new shrubs

out of its container, while Larry Hayward, his associate, looks on with amusement. Lariope, a grassy border plant, "false holly," dwarf yaupon and Italian blue juniper form the basis of the landscaping.

Open house slated today at city hall

The City of Huntsville will be showing off its latest prize, the new city hall, today from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., officials announced.

The event will be informal and highlighted by a ribbon cutting, Mayor Morris Waller said. "We won't be doing anything special, we just want to show the citizens of Huntsville their fine new facility."

Mayor said that he believes the people of Huntsville will be proud of the facility, completed Aug. 2, which offers the convenience of combined city offices in a

convenient location with ample parking. "We hope it will accomplish the purpose of better efficient government," he noted.

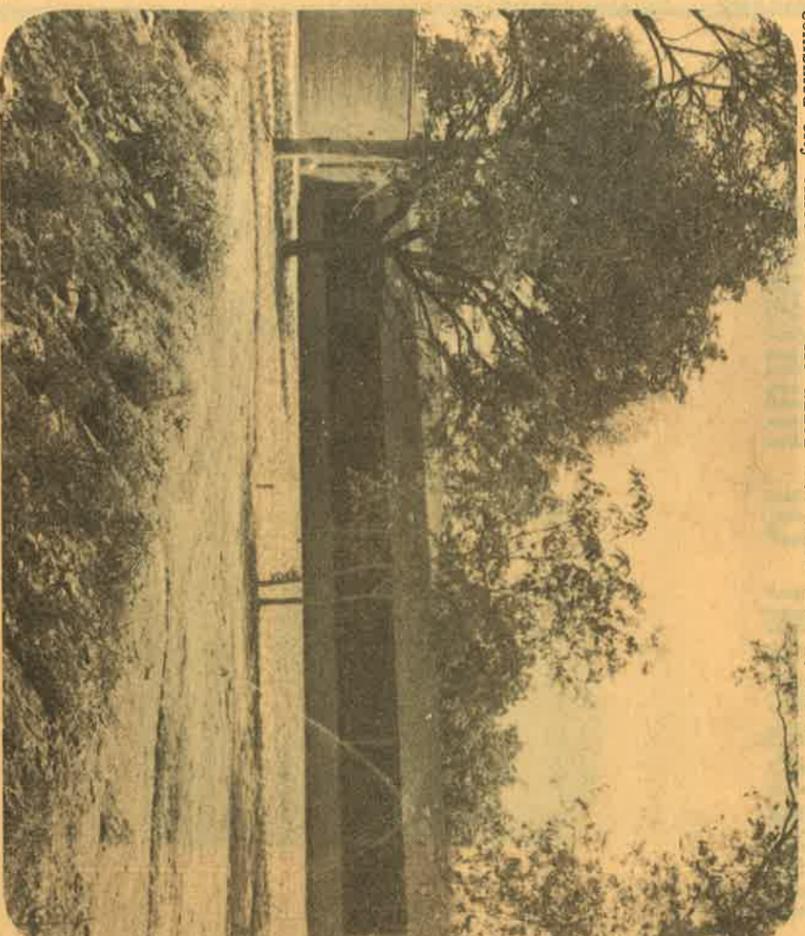
He said the building and furnishings cost about \$700,000 and were paid for without any type of bond issue or tax increase with the exception of less than \$100,000 which has been provided for in next year's budget.

"These funds were derived from the sale of city property approximating \$300,000 and the balance from revenue sharing funds," he said. He added that when the

revenue sharing program began five years ago the council set aside 25 per cent of each year's allocation into a reserve fund and accumulated the monies for this specific purpose.

The new municipal building is located on a three-quarter inch tract with drainage improvements at a cost of \$1.84 per square foot, he said.

"The city council joins me in the hope that as many people in Huntsville as possible can tour the facilities in the new city hall building," he noted.



Steve Kelley photo

A park-like setting is created through the landscaping design at the new Huntsville City Hall. Larger, natural trees were left growing on the three-and-a-half acre site, San Augustine grass was plugged and terraced, and an abundance of hearty, main-

tenance-free and indigenous plants were planted to create a high-low design. Seasonal flowering plants such as chrysanthemums and marigolds will soon be added to create color fusion.

Saving money, making pretty

Goal: to attempt to accent the architectural features of the new city hall while remaining as economical as possible regarding purchase and maintenance.

Result: an abundance of hearty, maintenance-free and indigenous plants that will not take "costly, daily pampering" according to Director of Public Services Gene Pipes -- and all for less than \$600.

Recommendations, diagrams and plans from three local landscaping firms were reviewed by city officials before a decision was made on the landscaping architecture.

Their ideas on kinds of plants, types of soil conditioning, plant location, spacing of high-low design and color fusion were carefully considered before a basic planning design was adopted.

The council then decided the project could be accomplished much more economically by doing it "in-house."

Larger, natural trees were

left growing on the three and a half acre site -- and San Augustine grass, a hearty year round turf, was plugged everywhere except around drain boxes, where double rows of sod were planted to retard erosion, and on embankments where sod was terraced for the same purpose.

"False holly, a variegated leaf plant, and dwarf yaupon, a hearty evergreen which grows wild in Walker County are accented by lariope, a grassy, border plant that bears violet blossoms, tall Italian blue junipers, and hedgerows of variegated pittosporum, a dark green plant with white stripes of color through the leaves.

The entire planting project took place over a four-day period and was implemented by two Parks and Services employes, Charles Landrum and Larry Hayward, under the direction of Pipes.

"The intent in years to come," explained Pipes, "is to continue with the landscaping program, as funds are made available, by ad-

ding more trees, shrubbery and flower beds."

"What has been done to this point," he continued, "is the minimum possible because of economic constraints, but we'd really like to add seasonal flowering plants, especially around the flagpole -- chrysanthemums in the fall, and marigolds in the spring and summer."

"And copper plants, such as those at the west entrance to the Court House," he added, "would be sensational at the east entrance."

All the plants were purchased through Huntsville Gardens and the expertise of well-known gardener and landscape architect, Reo Kataoka.

But the landscaping design did not stop with the outside -- major interior plants were placed throughout the new offices to further enhance the building's architectural design of Koetter, Tharp, Cowell and Bartlett, to synthesize inside and outside views.

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RUTH DESHAW



JOHN JOERNAL



BETTY TACKETT

City employees like new home

The people who work there just makes it a better place to work.

The City employees, whose home was the old City Hall, seem to be very happy in their new \$65,000 home. The conveniences are the main thing they like, plus the advantage of having more room

just makes it a better place to work.

City Secretary Ruth De Shaw notes that just the fact of having everything under one roof is a big advantage. We used to have to go and take papers from one building to the other and this

one just saves a lot of time and trouble," she said.

She added that the building is very centrally located and is very convenient for the public and employees.

"And the parking facilities are greatly improved here," she said, "why at the old

building we were lucky if we got to park in the rear lot, because if you didn't, then you had to park by the meters and put in money all day."

The new City Hall provides ample parking facilities for the public and all employees. Receptionist Joyce McGilberry noted that "it's just a better place all around."

She added that more space and just a nicer building promotes a good atmosphere for working. "I think the city spent their money very well for the present and the future," she said.

Deputy Clerk Shirley Jasper notes that with everything under one roof "it not only makes it easier for us, it makes it easier for the people doing business here." She added that, just having

more ample space "just makes things easier."

"It sure makes things easier for me," said City Court Administrator Betty Tackett.

She added that when people come to her to pay fines, they usually aren't in very good moods, so the nice new building really adds a bright spot for her.

Civil engineer John Joernal stated that moral has "really shot up since the staff moved into the new City Hall."

He added that the windows and general open atmosphere of the new building will contribute to good working conditions. "Everybody here has a good view of the outdoors, and that's great," he said.

"And the storage place is greatly increased here,"

notes Joernal, "because in the old building we had to utilize any closet we could find and in one case had to share a room with the air-conditioning unit."

John Stewart, a draftsman, says he likes all the natural light that the new building permits with the large windows. "It sure is a lot nicer than staring at a blank wall," he said.

He added that the building just has a good atmosphere for working and he is very happy there.

Better storage facilities and a rear entrance, are the best parts for survey party chief Dan Thomasson. "Now we've got room to keep things straight, plus when we get in we're kind of dirty, and we don't have to trudge through the front," he said.



BECKY WILSON



JANE DAVIS



GAILLA KITTS

Say residents

An asset to the city

Local citizens like their new City Hall and seemingly think that it is an asset to the city in many ways.

They note that the ease of doing business in the new building and it's "sheer beauty" add to the city and shows that the city is growing and that the city government is growing along with it.

Becky Wilson stated that the new City Hall "really is attractive and adds to the

beauty of the city."

She added that the building looks as if it would be very nice to work in, "because it sure is nice to do business in."

"Plus the location is very good because it's off the square, but still near the central business district," she said.

"I'm all for progress and the city of Huntsville has had a lot of that lately," said

Allen Dannelly. He added that the new City Hall is a very attractive building and really is an asset to the progress of the city.

"Plus there is more room which is good for both employees and the public," he said.

Gailla Kitts noted that the new City Hall is something the city of Huntsville "has needed for a long time."

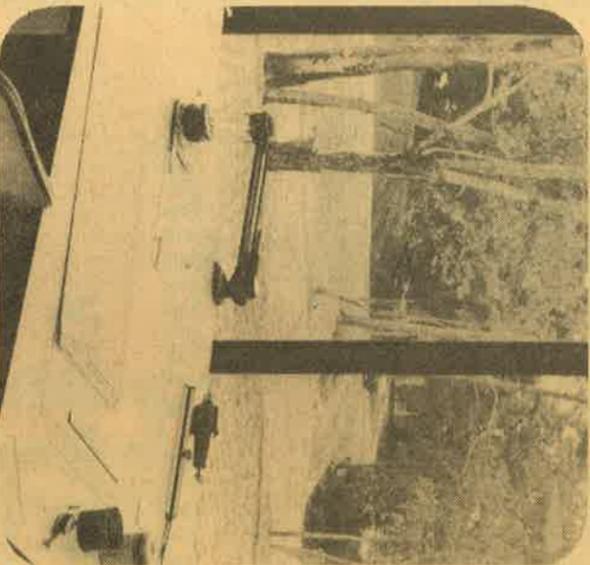
"The city just outgrew the old building and it was time to build a new one and I must say they did a nice job," she said.

She added that the new building is much larger and therefore better than the old building from all viewpoints.

"I really like the location," said Jane Davis, "plus it's easy to get your business done there."

She added that the city of Huntsville is growing all the time and the city administration must grow with it. "I think they are planning for the future and it's good they built this building now, rather than when we get in a bind and really need one and then the prices of everything will also be a lot higher," she said.

"I just think the new building is great in every way," she added.



Steve Kelley photo

Draftsmen working at the new City Hall are pleased with their new working conditions. All persons employed at the hall have a good view of the scenery outdoors.

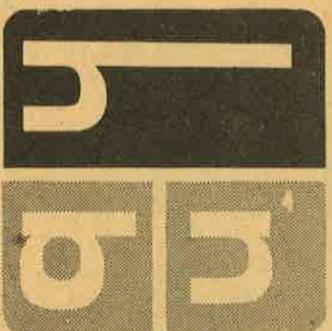
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City services offer variety

Services vary anywhere from coordinating children learning gymnastics to collection of city utility bills, but they are all housed under the same roof.

The new City Hall, located at 1212 Avenue M, houses a variety of city departments and officials working at a diversity of tasks.

If you need information about Parks and Recreation in the city, the new City Hall houses the Public Services Department, which includes the divisions of Parks and Recreation.

Among his many duties, Gene Pipes, who heads that department, supervises development and maintenance of Josey, Emanicipation and Kate Barr Ross Parks.

And the Parks and Recreation is also responsible for maintenance of the new city pool and the youth league fields.

In addition to physical facilities, the department also supervises adult activities for senior citizens and youth programs such as the Huntsville Enrichment Activities Program, Youth League and Little Dribblers.

In addition, City Building Inspector John Payne and City Health Inspector Ellen Franzen are housed in the modernistic building.

Among her many duties, Franzen inspects all food establishments to make sure they are in compliance with state and local health laws.

In addition, she checks swimming pools, pollution and sanitation controls. And she checks out citizen complaints.

And City Manager Jim McAlister explains that the job the Building Inspector is responsible for is the issuance of electrical and building permits and provides follow-up inspections to insure that the facilities are built in conformance with specific codes. McAlister says the codes specify the minimally ac-

ceptable materials and type of construction that can be used in building these facilities.

In addition, if you are looking for the people who handle the city's engineering work, the Department of Community Development is the place to look.

Jim Hudgens, the Director of Community Development, heads the department. Department employees busy themselves with such tasks as assigning house numbers, handling complaints about streets and requests for services.

And engineers at the department work on programs such as survey and easements, construction inspection and drafting design.

Hudgens says he deals with the planning commission in review of subdivision plats and "We do all the engineering work for the city."

Another department housed in the new City Hall is the Department of Internal Services headed by Van Van Dever. Among the many programs under that department are the budget control, payroll and insurance.

In addition, there is budget administration, investment and debt service, departmental support.

And the individuals who pay city taxes and utility bills can do so at the new city hall.

McAlister explains the department is also responsible for fiscal control which includes accounts receivable and payable and internal budgetary accounting.

And "city taxes are collected along with monthly payments for utility bills."

Another city department housed in the new city hall is the Public Utilities Department headed by Boyd Wilder. As head of that Department, Wilder is responsible for all water production, and the distribution lines that take water to residences and businesses.

There are five major departments housed in the City Hall and City Manager Jim McAlister has the responsibility of making sure all is running smooth in those areas.

"The city manager manages the city," says McAlister, whose office is one of many housed in the new modernistic structure on Avenue M.

"I am the chief fiscal officer for the city responsible for the budgetary process and under those divisions are

dispensation of the \$3.5 million budget program that we have every year."

And in addition, McAlister manages to keep himself busy by supervising all city activities and services which are delivered through the five major departments. Those are public safety, public services, community development, internal services and public utilities.

And from there the city administration is further subdivided into 27 divisions and under those divisions are

60 separate program areas. McAlister explains that "it is my responsibility to supervise the 150 different employees in the 60 separate program areas."

Another city official housed in the new City Hall is City Judge Adele Simpson. Simpson has jurisdiction over class c misdemeanors that do not carry a jail sentence.

And the new city council chamber doubles as a courtroom for cases in court.



The new City Hall houses the many varied departments that are needed to keep the city running right. City Manager Jim McAlister is the man who has the responsibility to see that everything is run right. City parks and

recreation director Gene Pipes is shown at work in his new office here. This is just one of the many departments that it takes to run the city.



JIM MCALISTER

Manager has big job

And the new city council chamber doubles as a courtroom for cases in court.

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City Of Huntsville



Steve Kelley photo

The new city hall council chambers are shown above. The old city hall was bought at a cost of

\$30,000 in 1958. The new facilities cost \$700,000.

Contemporary: mark of new hall

Two downtown Houston buildings, the Hyatt Regency Hotel and the 1100 Milam Building, are just two of Houston major architectural accomplishments that have much in common with Huntsville's new City Hall — they were all built by the same Houston-based architectural firm, Koetter, Tharp, Cowell and Bartlett.

But unlike these soaring structures, Huntsville's City Hall is a low-slung, low ceilinged contemporary construction with efficiency as its hallmark.

Loss of time and efficiency caused by divided operations in "the old days" played a major role in the design development of the new building.

The department of finance was found in the old Business Office on University Avenue, the departments of community development, engineering, administration and municipal court were found around the corner on 11th Street and a lot of time was lost traveling to and from.

When city officials were in the throes of planning and the woes of choosing an architectural firm from a field of two local companies and four Houston firms, they sorted carefully through all proposals to find the model

that fulfilled their specifications.

KTCB was chosen, according to City Manager Jim McAlister, "because of the depth of their experience and professional ability."

McAlister had just "come on board" in February, 1973, right after the council had appropriated funds and made plans for the building. And since McAlister was not yet familiar with Huntsville, geographically as well as politically, the City Council was to choose the site and responsibility for the building itself would fall to the city manager.

Look at an organizational chart of Huntsville's city government, and it bears a surprising resemblance to the comprehensive and functional floor plan of the city's main government building — council chambers, municipal court, the offices of the city manager, city judge, city attorney and city secretary are found in one area, and the five basic divisions of government that fall under their direction are then separated accordingly — public services, finance and grants, community development, public safety and public utilities.

The latter is found conveniently in the east wing of the building with a drive-in

window added for the convenience of the customer.

Clean lines, spaciousness and excellent traffic flow and acoustical engineering between departments are keynotes of this building's design, with an abundance of window walls to further the architect's concept of fitting the design to the general environment — the idea being to take advantage of the view

of the natural bank of trees and shrubberies along Town Branch Creek to the north of the new hall.

Don't look for ornate fixtures or elaborate or complicated design here, because from the schematic design phase of the project through completion of construction, the terms "functional" and "maintenance free" were kept constantly in mind.

KERR PLUMBING AND HUNTSVILLE

*We Are Growing To Keep Up
With Huntsville. The New City
Hall Is Another Sign Of The
Strength Of This Community.*

*Thank You Huntsville
For Letting Us Be
A Part Of This Growth.*

295-5597
704 10th St. Huntsville

Old city hall cost \$30,000

The move into the new City Hall by city employees left an old city hall building behind.

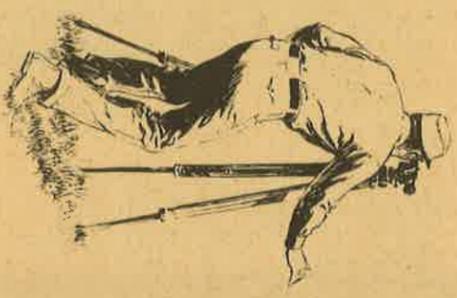
That old building, purchased in 1957 for a sum of \$30,000, has been used as a service building for city customers since that date.

Prior to 1957, the city facilities were housed in the second floor of the old fire station which was and still is located at the corner of University Avenue and 11th Street.

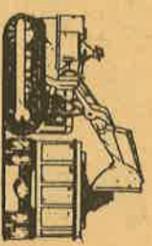
As the city grew, the need for more space in the city office grew and the location upstairs from the fire station grew obsolete.

Upon moving to the old HNB building, the old fire station was bricked in and used as additional offices for the city employees.

That building, until the recent move in, facilitated the council chambers and the city judges office.



*Congratulations
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Huntsville On Their
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Of This Outstanding
Community Project.*



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Nash Construction

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FUTURE... TODAY!



Back Row left to right, Osby Hall, Lee Jones, Ned Jordan and Mike Craig. Front Row left to right, Harold Gledhill, Obie Rolling, Wilber Jefferson, Cecil Trantham, Job

superintendent, and Freddy Thompson. The men in the front were in the project from the beginning of construction.

Everyone At Nash Construction Is Proud To Be A Part Of The Growing Community Of Huntsville, With The Building Of This New City Hall.

Because Of This Pride That Each Individual Has In His Work We Are Able To Complete Most Of Our Projects Ahead Of Schedule. Huntsville Is Growing And The People At Nash Construction Are Working Hard To Make It The Kind Of Community You Would Be Proud Of.

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