

ATHENS HISTORIAN

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In This Issue:

GEORGIANS WE SHOULDN'T FORGET: Dr. Atherton Seidell ~ "Publican"

Selections from the Atherton Seidell Photo Album

*Roy Hitchcock, Architect: A University of Georgia Design Legacy ~
Janine L. Duncan*

ATHENS HISTORIAN

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On The Cover:

"Janitors," photograph of University of Georgia janitors taken May 1899 by Atherton Seidell.

Front row, L-R: Albert Brown, Sampson

Back row, L-R: Cato, Jim, William

Photograph courtesy of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library. University of Georgia Libraries.

GEORGIANS WE SHOULDN'T FORGET:

Dr. Atherton Seidell

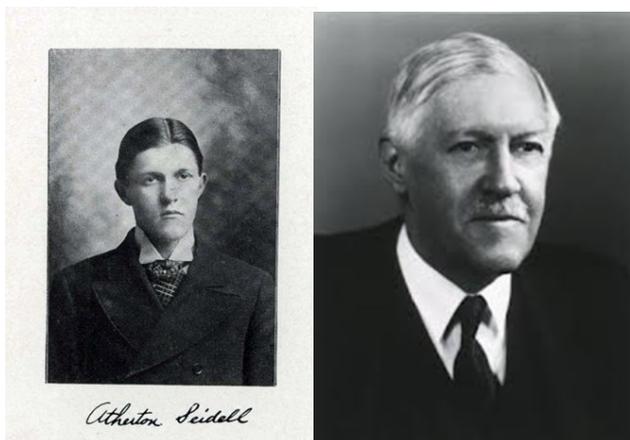


Figure 1: Atherton Seidell in 1898 (left) and 1946 (right)

Photograph credits: University of Georgia (left) and US. National Library of Medicine (right)

In 1897, Atherton Seidell, a University of Georgia student stood on the roof of Science Hall and photographed the Athens skyline. Over the next two years, Seidell photographed friends, family, the University campus, and the city, and then organized those in an album with meticulous annotations. What is most compelling about this album, more than a century later, is his demonstrated interest in documentation, information, and detail, elements which subsequently influenced his career and life.

Early Life & Research

Atherton Seidell was born in Hartwell, Georgia on December 31, 1878, the son of Charles W. and Emily Ann Roebuck Seidell. His father was Pennsylvania-born, but moved with his family at a young age to Hart County, Georgia. Charles served in the Confederate Army and in 1871, received his law degree from the University of Georgia. Atherton's mother was born in 1848 at Goss Plantation in Elbert County. Through his mother's family, Atherton was related to Dr. Isham Goss and lived in the Goss home at the

southeast corner of Hancock and Pulaski streets while studying at UGA.

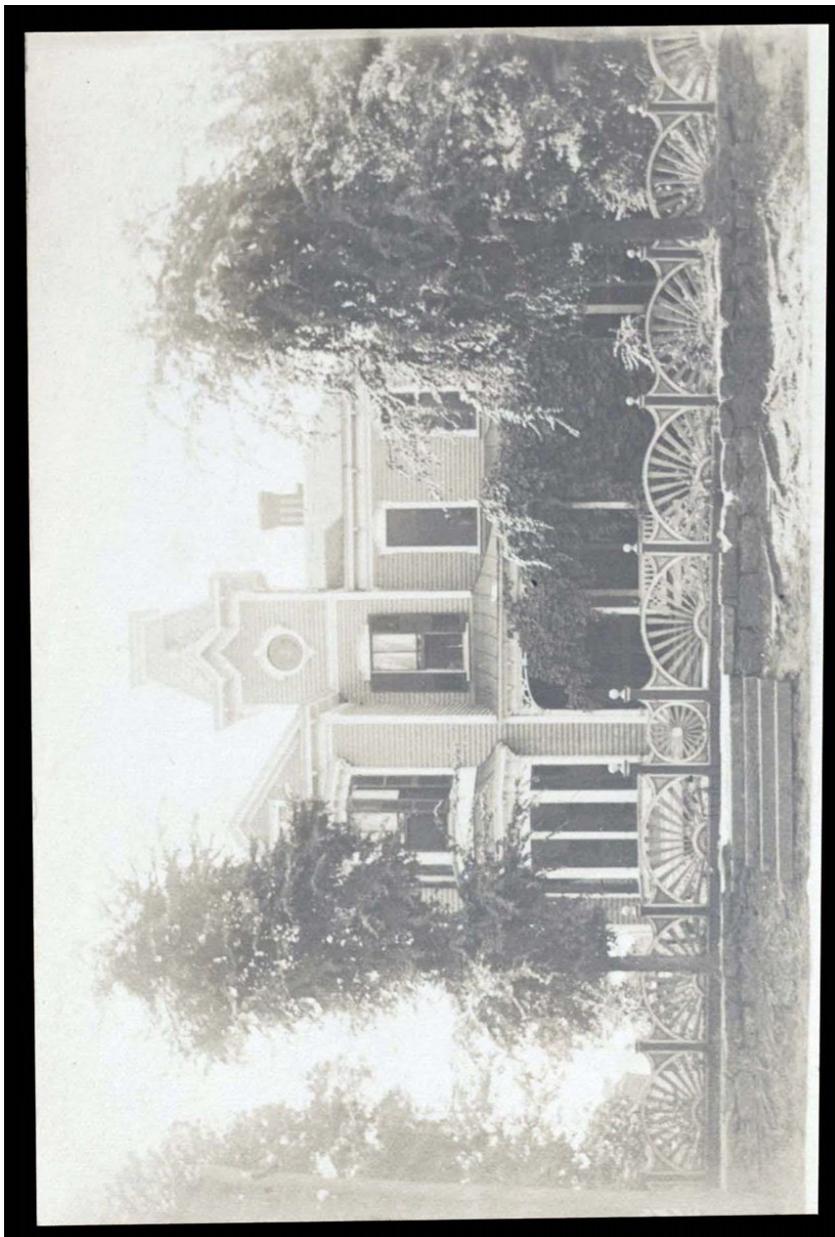


Figure 2: Home of Dr. Isham Goss, 1898
Photograph by Atherton Seidell

During the three years Seidell attended UGA he earned two undergraduate degrees: a Bachelor of Agriculture in 1898 and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1899. He was a member of the Demosthenian Literary Society, the Non-Fraternity Club, and perhaps not surprisingly, he founded the Photograph Club. In 1899 he briefly lived with his widower father and older brother at 10 West Ellis Street in Atlanta. By 1901, according to a UGA alumni survey (1), Seidell was working as an assistant chemist for the Bureau of Soils in Washington, D.C., had just completed a master's degree in Chemistry at George Washington University (then called Columbian University), and had become a member of the Washington Branch of the American Chemical Society. Seidell, however, did not rest on these laurels. His 1902 Johns Hopkins University admissions file indicates that he was granted an unpaid furlough from the Bureau of Soils to pursue his doctorate. Based on recommendations from his supervisor and former professors, Johns Hopkins granted Seidell free tuition. He completed his studies in one year, and was awarded a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Johns Hopkins in 1903.



Figure 3: "Dr. C. H. Herty in His Office," 1898
Photograph by Atherton Seidell



Figure 4: Photograph by Atherton Seidell, May 1899. The gentleman posing with the double-barrel cannon is presumed to be Atherton's father, Charles W. Seidell. This First Baptist Church (1898) replaced an earlier edifice, and was demolished in 1922 after the congregation moved into its present building on Pulaski Street. The Confederate soldier monument is now at the intersection of College and Broad streets. The cannon is at City Hall on the north-west corner of College and Hancock streets.

In 1903, Atherton Seidell married Martha Adela Hooper, a native of Baltimore. In 1905, the couple lived in Washington, D.C. "As a biochemist, first in the Agriculture Department and later in the Hygienic Laboratory of the Public Health Service (later to become the National Institutes of Health), Seidell worked on a variety of research problems. His early research interests were in the solubility of organic chemicals. Later [he] shifted to the isolation of Vitamin B, and he performed many studies on vitamins in conjunction with his French colleagues at the [Institut] Pasteur where he often spent six months of each year performing much of his research." (2)

The first edition of Seidell's *Solubilities of Inorganic and Organic Compounds* (3) was published in 1907 and quickly became a reference book on the subject. Through his personal efforts, and later under his supervision, tremendous numbers of scientific papers from all over the world were searched so that their information could be summarized in this reference work. The value of the endeavor, and also the enormity of the task involved in sorting out the data, was recognized by the American Chemical Society in 1939 when they assumed responsibility for its publication. Under their auspices, a fourth edition of the work appeared in 1958-1965." (4) The book is still in print.

The 1920s and 1930s were a busy time for Atherton and Martha. They moved into an apartment in the Kalorama neighborhood of Washington, D.C., and traveled extensively while Atherton continued his research for the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1924 he and Martha spent the summer traveling in France, England, Holland, Denmark, and Germany after attending a conference for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. (5)

OFFICE OF THE HOME SECRETARY
8 & 21 1/2 STREETS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

S i r :

It is requested that the special passport issued last April to Dr. Atherton Seidell in connection with his going to Denmark as the delegate of the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council to the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry be renewed in view of the fact that Dr. Seidell is going abroad on the same mission for the Academy next month.

The meeting will be held in Bucharest this year, and in addition to the countries listed on the returned passport, Dr. Seidell expects to pass through Austria, Hungary, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, and Serbia.

S E L W

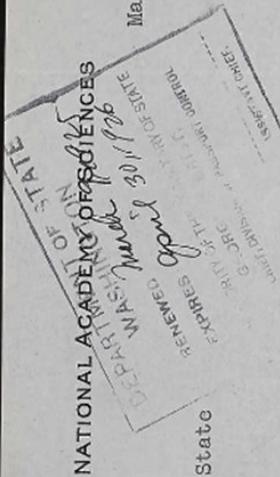
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Very respectfully yours,

A. C. G. [Signature]
Assistant Secretary

MAR 9 - 1925

Chief, Division of Passport Control



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

22795

April 30, 1924

March 9, 1925

File
5/19/25
LH

Figure 5: Atherton Seidell's passport renewal request, 1925

Image from Ancestry.com

The Seidell Viewer

Beginning with a series of articles published in *Science* in the 1930s, Seidell began to make a case for the dissemination of scientific research through the use of “filmstats,” or microfilm. (6) Seidell was not alone in his support for this technology: “...Watson Davis and Edward Slosson of the Science Service had turned their attention to the problems of documentation and became vocal advocates for microfilm. Robert Binkley was working on a study on the general use of microfilm by scholars for the Social Science Research Council. Overseas, Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine were arguing forcefully for the adoption of microfilm.” (7) Early supporters believed that there was so much research being published in the U.S. and Europe that individual scientists could not keep up with, or subscribe to, all of the journals. The ability to make copies, or “photo loans,” would, it was felt, expand knowledge and eliminate duplicate research.

Initial projects involved centralized film libraries. One such library, the “Biblio-Film Service,” evolved from a 1934 Cosmos Club (8) luncheon of microfilm enthusiasts whose attendees included Atherton Seidell. Bibliofilm was established in 1935 and operated by the Department of Agriculture Library. Microfilm scans were completed by the library through the high-speed camera of its day, a Draeger, obtained with Seidell’s assistance. In 1937 the service was reorganized as the American Documentation Institute (now the American Society for Information Science), although the Agriculture Library still completed the scans. That same year Bibliofilm services were extended to the Library of Congress and the Army Medical Library (now the National Library of Medicine). A series of events culminated in Seidell voluntarily managing the microfilm service in the Army Medical Library, called Medicofilm, beginning in September 1940. By doing so, however, he took the Army Medical Library scans with him and inadvertently closed Bibliofilm’s library network.

To help publicize Medicofilm, and the copies it could furnish from over 400 journals received by the Army Medical Library, Seidell began a pocket-sized weekly publication in January 1941 titled *Current List of Medical Literature*. This publication grouped nearly 1,000 titles in approximately 50 subject areas related to medicine and allied sciences so that a subscriber could quickly determine articles of interest. Seidell and his niece, Elizabeth Medinger, spent hours in the Army Medical Library and created lists of all of

the new articles from the incoming journals. *Current List* published the compiled information within eight to ten days of receiving a journal, much faster than other indexes. (9) *Current List* later became *Index Medicus*. (10)

Seidell's involvement with both Bibliofilm and Medicofilm shifted his documentation interests from scientific publishing and centralized repositories to the creation of practical microfilm readers. Individual users needed to have a portable and inexpensive personal viewer, and Seidell developed one with another chemist – L. de Saint-Rat (11) – prior to World War II. Production resumed in 1950: (12)

A monocular microfilm viewer designed by Dr. Atherton Seidell and M. de Saint Rat [sic] and marketed in considerable numbers before World War II has again been placed in production. The viewer consists of a plastic case equipped with a ground glass, a slit to accommodate a strip of microfilm, and a viewing lens. A handle and an eye shade may also be attached if desired. The viewer is intended for viewing [and a limited amount of reading of] strip 35mm low ratio microfilm. It is made in France and imported by Dr. Seidell to be sold on a non-profit basis of \$2.00 postpaid. Orders should be sent directly to Dr. Atherton Seidell, 2301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington 8, D. C.

A fervent supporter of inexpensive or free publication copies, Seidell's ideas were not popular with libraries worried about costs and copyright. "At a 1951 meeting of the American Documentation Institute...Seidell proposed a resolution recognizing microfilm copying as a legitimate extension of the service that libraries render, rather than as a special enterprise attached to the library...' [no] distinction should be made in the service rendered to persons at a distance by microfilm copying and that rendered to those who are able to come into the library to consult its collections.'" (13) In the 1950s, he offered to give microfilm cameras to libraries for free if they agreed to distribute free copies, but that offer met with little success.

This short biography cannot touch on every aspect of Seidell's life or career. He authored or co-authored hundreds of articles and journal papers. He was assigned patent # 1,173,317 on February 29, 1916 for "an improved process for easily obtaining vitamins in a solid stable form suitable for use in the prevention and cure of nutritional deficiency diseases." (14) In 1954 he was the first recipient of the Special Award from the Association for Information Science and Technology, (15) and in 1961

received the Pioneer Medal from the National Microfilm Association.

Seidell's highest civilian honor was presented by the French government in 1946 when he was named "Officer de l'Ordre de la Sante publique," (16) "a French order of merit...for services to the public health and protection of children." (17) "Officer" was the second-highest classification for the Order of Public Health, which was replaced by the National Order of Merit in 1963.

This article is a combined effort of four individuals, and is published under the penname "**Publican**" because one of the writers descends from a woman who owned a public house in 1840s Gainsborough, England.

Ministère
de la Santé Publique

République Française

Réf. à rappeler :
B.C.

Paris, le 28 AOUT 1946

7, RUE DE TILSITT - 17^e.

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que, par
Décret du 28 AOUT 1946, rendu sur ma proposition,
vous avez été nommé OFFICIER de l'Ordre de la SANTÉ
PUBLIQUE.

Je suis heureux d'avoir pu ainsi rendre hommage
à la compréhension que vous avez manifestée des pro-
blèmes français, et à l'aide efficace apportée à notre
Pays dans des circonstances particulièrement difficiles.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de ma
considération distinguée.

LE MINISTRE

Mr SEIDEL~~ER~~ Arherton
Chimiste du Laboratoire de
l'Institut National du Service
Américain de la Santé Publique

Rene Arthaud



Figure 6: Award notification letter from the French Minister of Health, Rene Arthaud, to Atherton Seidell, August 1946

Image courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History

ENDNOTES

- (1) "University of Georgia Centennial Alumni Catalog," Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/centennialcatalog/html/SEIDELL_Atherton_page1.html. Accessed March 2013.
- (2) Pages 424 & 425, "Historical Note: Atherton Seidell and the Photoduplicaton of Library Material," Peter B. Hirtle, Journal of the American Society for Information Science, vol. 40, issue 6, 1989.
- (3) Seidell, Atherton, *Solubilities of inorganic and organic compounds; a compilation of quantitative solubility data from the periodical literature*, New York: Van Nostrand (1907, 1919, 1928, 1940).
- (4) Page 425, Ibid.
- (5) Established in 1919, additional information on the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry can be found on their website, www.iupac.org. An image of the 1933 meeting attendees can be seen on the IUPAC website at www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2008/3006/cc1_230708.html. Martha is in the second row; Atherton in the last.
- (6) "Film-strip copies of scientific publications," Science, vol. 81 (1935); "Dissemination of scientific literature by means of microfilm," Science, vol. 85 (1937); "Microfilm copying of scientific literature," Science, vol. 89 (1939).
- (7) Page 425, "Historical Note: Atherton Seidell and the Photoduplicaton of Library Material," Peter B. Hirtle, Journal of the American Society for Information Science, vol. 40, issue 6, 1989.
- (8) The Cosmos Club is a private social club in Washington, D.C. (www.cosmosclub.org.) Established by explorer and geologist John Wesley Powell in 1878, its membership draws from science, literature and the arts.
- (9) Page 281, "Chapter 16: The Library on the Eve of World War II," *A History of The National Library of Medicine*. Chapter accessed October 15, 2013 through an online search, http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/manuscripts/miles/miles_16.pdf.
- (10) "Information Science Pioneers" website, Department of Library Science, University of South Carolina, <http://faculty.libsci.sc.edu/bob/ISP/seidell.htm>. Accessed October 15, 2013.

- (11) Monsieur L. de Saint-Rat was a French chemist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. "Biographical sketch: Maurice Javillier (1875-1955)" webpage, Service des Archives de l'Institut Pasteur website, http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/archives/e_jav0.html.
- (12) Page 118, "Seidell Microfilm Viewer in Production," *American Documentation*, vol. 1, issue 2, April 1950.
- (13) Page 430, "Historical Note: Atherton Seidell and the Photoduplication of Library Material," Peter B Hirtle, *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, vol. 40, issue 6, 1989.
- (14) "Atherton Seidell, of Washington, D.C., Solid Combination of Vitamins and Process of Making Same," United States Patent Office website, <http://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=1173317&idkey=NONE&homeurl=http%3A%252F%252Fpatft.uspto.gov%252Fnetathtml%252FPTO%252Fpatimg.htm>. Accessed August 21, 2014.
- (15) "Special Awards" webpage, ASIS&T website, http://www.asis.org/awards/special_awards.html.
- (16) Atherton Seidell Papers, ca. 1932-1964, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, box 1, folder 2.
- (17) "Ordre de la Sante publique" webpage, Wikipedia website, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordre_de_la_Sant%C3%A9_publique. Accessed August 21, 2014.
- (18) "Atherton Seidell Papers, ca. 1932-1964," 1977.0875 (NMAH Acc.), Smithsonian Institution, Archives Center: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.
- (19) "Smithsonian Libraries Receives \$1.5 Million from Seidell Fund," website Newsdesk: Newsroom of the Smithsonian (<http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/smithsonian-libraries-receives-15-million-seidell-fund>). Online article dated March 10, 2010. Accessed June 2012.

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National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington D.C.; *Applications for Extension and Amendment of Passports*; Collection Number: ARC Identifier 2555158 / MLR Number 1006; Box # 1.

Atherton Seidell Papers, ca. 1932-1964, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Email correspondence with Christine Windheuser and Cathy Keen, August 12, 15, 21 and 26, 2014.

"Atherton Seidell Photo Album, bulk 1897-1899," UA 0030, Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.

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"The microcopy in France in libraries and documentation center," *BBF*, 1959, No. 4, p. 161-182 [Online] <http://bbf.enssib.fr>. Accessed and translated June 12, 2013.

Genealogical research for Charles E. Seidell, Charles W. Seidell, Atherton Seidell, Martha A. Hooper and Dr. Isham Goss completed in the summer of 2012 through www.ancestry.com. Sources included: U.S. federal census transcriptions for 1860, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940; 1899 directory for Atlanta, GA; Washington, D.C. directories for 1901 through 1934; Atherton Seidell's WWI draft card; Atherton Seidell's entry from the 1917 George Washington University alumni book; Martha Seidell's 1922 U.S. passport application; and copies of both Martha and Atherton Seidell's obituaries. Accessed May and June 2012.

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"Film-strip copies of scientific publications," Science, vol. 81 (1935); "Dissemination of scientific literature by means of microfilm," Science, vol. 85 (1937); "Microfilm copying of scientific literature," Science, vol. 89 (1939).

Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University Special Collections. Emails to Janine Duncan from James Stimpert on June 12 & 13, 2013.

"Trustee Minutes 1892-1899," Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia [Online] www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/archives/trustees/index.html. Accessed May 2012.

UGA Centennial Alumni Catalog, Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries [Online] http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/centennialcatalog/html/SEIDELL_Atherton_page1.html. Accessed June 2013.

United States Passport renewal image for 1925 located found on Ancestry.com. Source Citation: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington D.C.; *Applications for Extension and Amendment of Passports*; Collection Number: *ARC Identifier 2555158 / MLR Number 1006; Box #1*. Accessed July 2014.

The image of Dr. Seidell taken in 1946 was located through an online search, and is part of a collection entitled "Images from the History of Medicine" maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health. Image available at <http://ihm.nlm.nih.gov/images/B23421>. NLM copyright information available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/copyright/>. Accessed October 2013.

Selected Images from the Atherton Seidell Photo Album

The photo album Atherton Seidell created between 1897 and 1899 was acquired by the Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library in 2012 (UA 0030). As a student Seidell photographed whatever caught his eye: friends... family... Athens... the University of Georgia campus... Camp Haskell... the Atlanta Exposition Grounds. His photograph of the UGA janitors on the cover of this issue of *Athens Historian* is the only image of campus staff from that period located to date.

Seidell's immediate family – parents Charles and Emma, and older siblings Mai and Stafford – remained in Atlanta. Mai Seidell married Menzo White in May 1887 and died in 1902 at age 35. Stafford married Carrie Badger Fetzer in 1910 and died in 1954 at age 82. Mai, Stafford, Menzo and Carrie are buried with Emma Roebuck Seidell (d. 1908) and Charles W. Seidell (d. 1913) in the Seidell family mausoleum in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery. Although Atherton completed and returned University of Georgia alumni questionnaires from time-to-time, current research has not confirmed return visits to campus.

Dr. Atherton Seidell died on July 25, 1961 in Washington, D. C., at his home on Connecticut Avenue, NW four months after the death of his wife, Martha. Both Atherton and Martha are buried in Washington, D.C.'s Rock Creek Cemetery. They had no children, but were survived by nieces, nephews, siblings and cousins. Although many of his ideas met with resistance during his lifetime, the plentiful number of websites devoted to, or which mention, Atherton Seidell attest to his legacy in the fields of Chemistry and microfilm documentation. Seidell's personal papers (18) and an endowment are held by the Smithsonian Institution. In 2010, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries received \$1.5 million from the Atherton Seidell Endowment Fund to “[purchase] a high-speed digital camera for the digitization of folio volumes and large fold-outs, [to design] an effective digitization workflow to incorporate locally scanned materials into the Biodiversity Heritage Library portal, [and to subsidize] two library technicians...” (19) Atherton would be pleased.

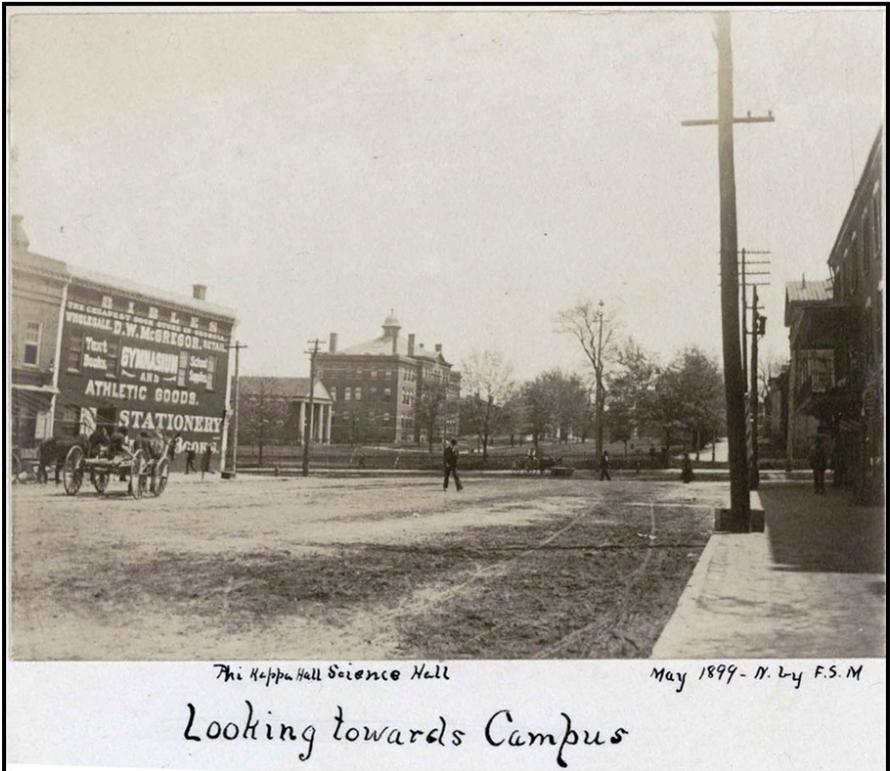


Figure 1: Science Hall was constructed for use as the University's main science building, and opened in 1897. Of Richardsonian Romanesque design with Georgian features, it was destroyed by a fire in 1903. Terrell Hall was constructed on its foundation, and the original Science Hall cornerstone is visible at Terrell's northwest corner.

Note the animal cistern at the intersection of College Avenue and Broad Street.

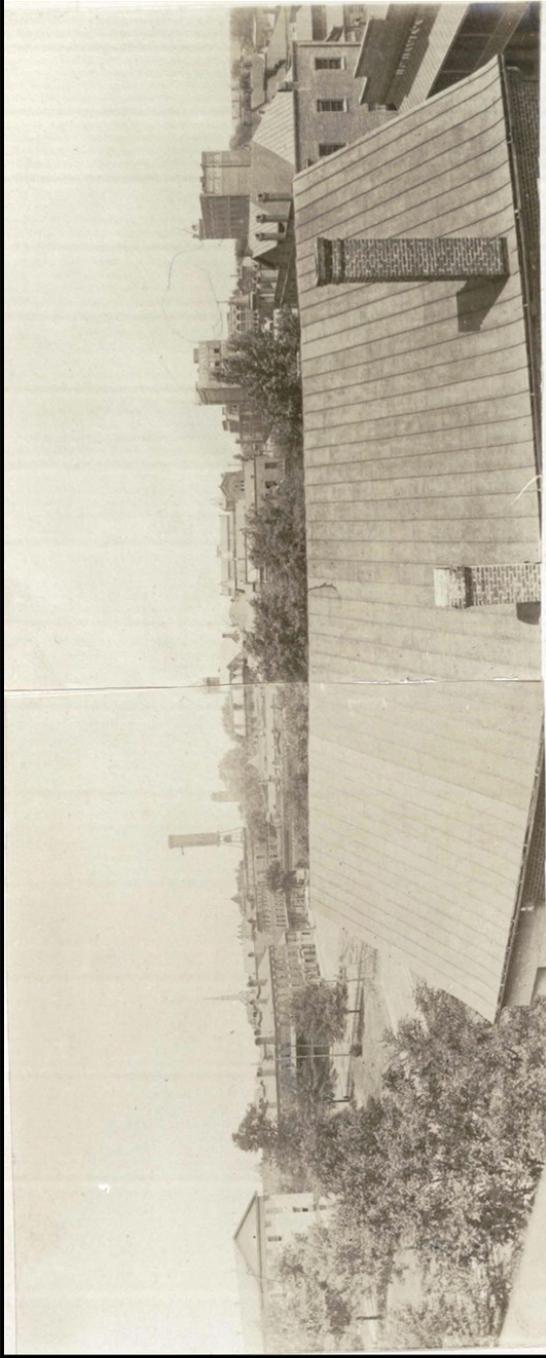
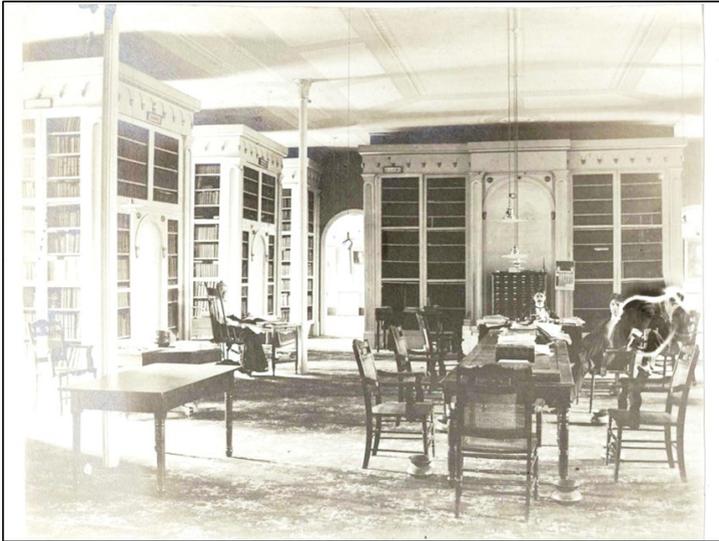
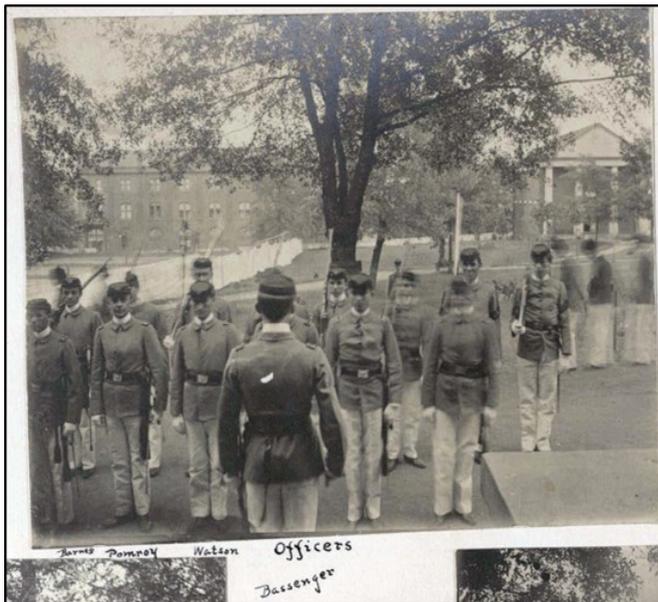


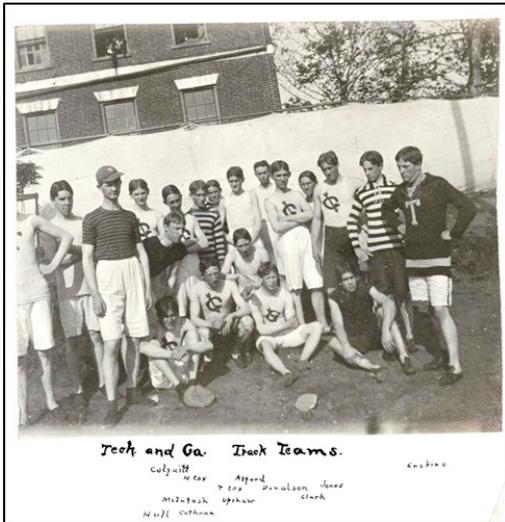
Figure 2: "View from the 3rd floor of the Science Building."

The roof of Phi Kappa Hall is in the immediate foreground; the city water tower is in the background. Note that the 1903 city hall had yet to be built.



Figures 3 & 4: Library interior, May 1899. Miss Frierson, UGA librarian from 1889-1904 (and assistant librarian from 1904-1910) is pictured in mid-ground, left. The library was located on the second story of today's Holmes-Hunter Hall, in the area which now houses the African Studies Institute. Note the spittoons on the floor near the chairs. **(below) University Cadets, May 1899.** Phi Kappa Hall is in the background, right. Athens Refrigeration/Tasty World/Magnolia's is in the background, left. The canvas fence was installed along the campus side of the tennis courts.

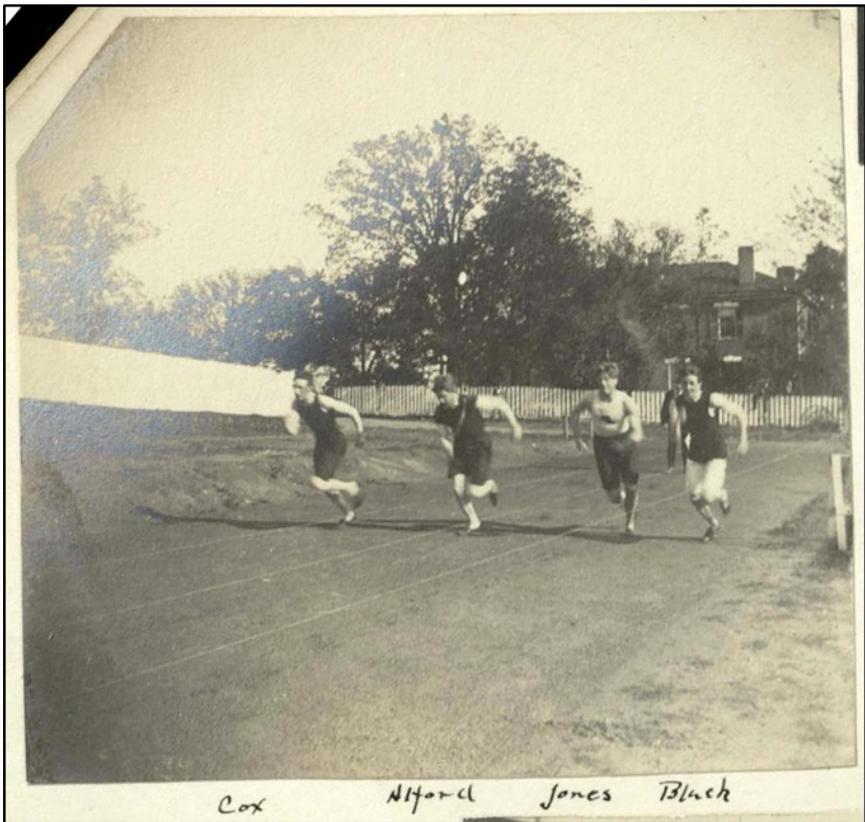




Figures 5 & 6:

(left) Members of the Georgia Tech and UGA track teams, with a portion of Old College in the background.

(below) "Dash." Smoke from the starter's pistol lingers above the runner's heads. The north elevation of Strahan House and its white picket fence are visible in the background.





'98 Base-ball Men

C. Du Bignon

McBride

C.E. Weddington

J. Heidt

Flournoy

Huff

Figure 7: Members of the 1898 UGA baseball team.

An unpainted Waddel Hall (with shutters) is visible in the background.

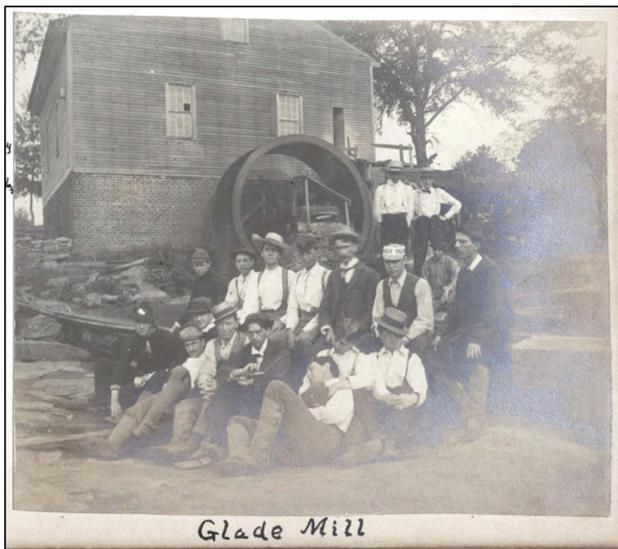


Figure 8: "Annual Engineering Class Trip, May 1898, Glade Mill, Habersham Co."



Figure 9: Charles Davis, Remer Denmark and Lucius McMullan.



Figure 10: Rock crusher at the quarry.

The quarry was located off Newton Street, and this view is assumed to be looking from the quarry toward Lumpkin Street.

Folder 98B of MS 1633a [Athens City Records: Plans & Blueprints] at Hargrett Library contains various materials related to the crusher design. The materials include plats which show two rock crushers setting by the quarry, near the present day intersection of Newton and Waddell streets. It is assumed that the crushed rock was used for improving streets or laying streetcar lines.

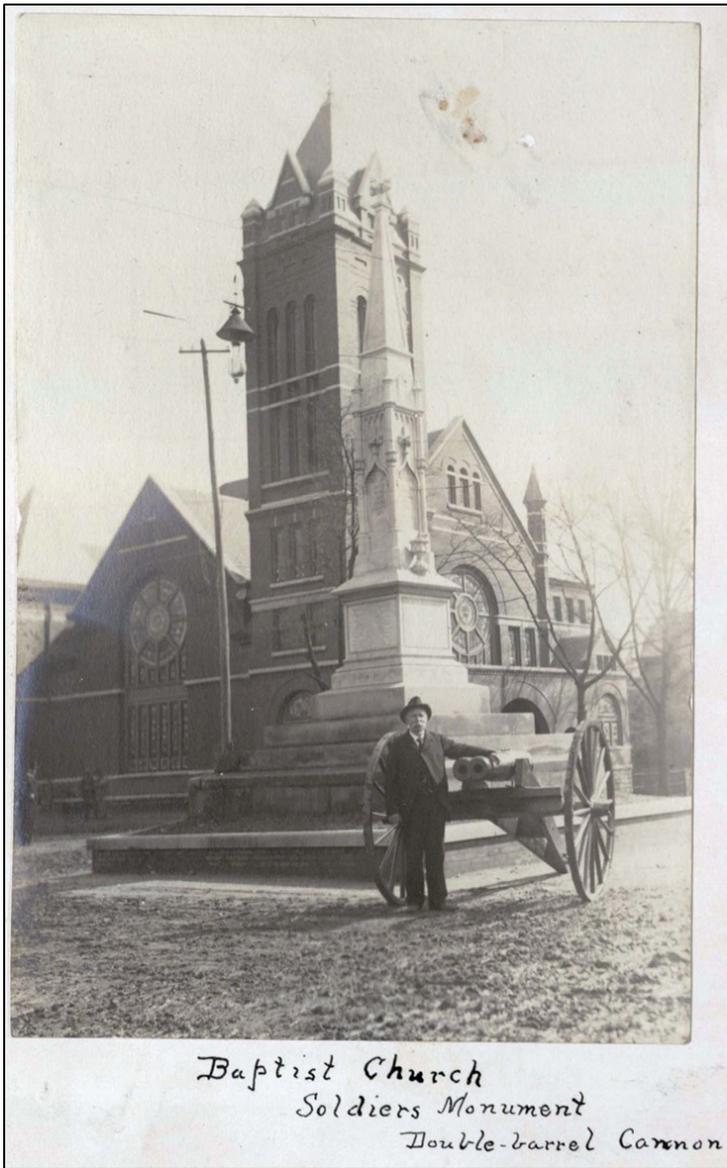
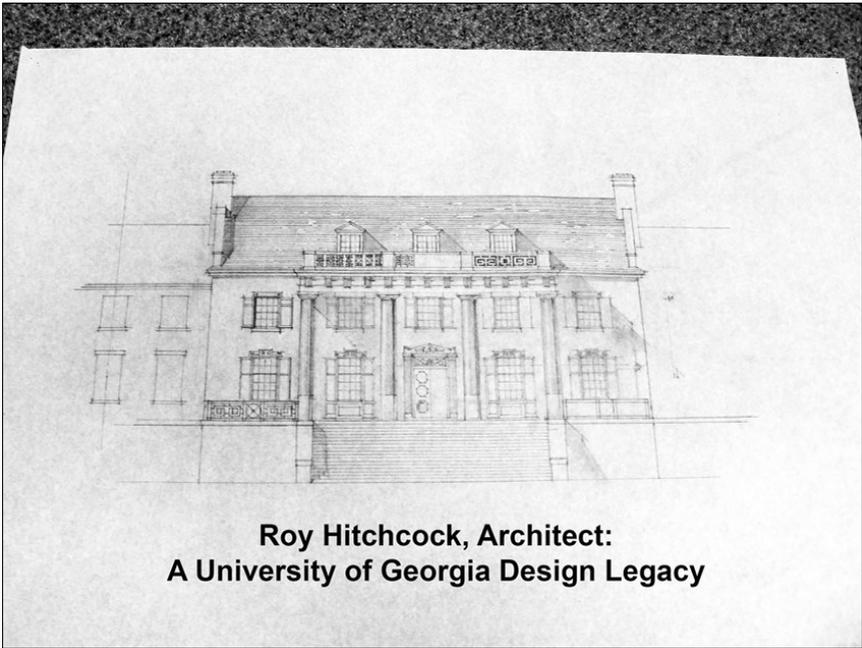


Figure 11: Southeast corner of College and Washington streets, May 1899.

The gentleman posing with the double-barrel cannon is presumed to be Atherton's father, Charles W. Seidell. This First Baptist Church (1898) replaced an earlier edifice, and was demolished in 1922 after the congregation moved into its present building on Pulaski Street. The Confederate soldier monument is now at the intersection of College and Broad streets.



**Roy Hitchcock, Architect:
A University of Georgia Design Legacy**

Janine L. Duncan

This article is an edited version of the paper presented to the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians in October 2012.

In October 1929, at the beginning of the Great Depression, the University of Georgia and the adjacent Georgia State College of Agriculture housed over 1,700 students, faculty and staff in 33 buildings (excluding greenhouses, power buildings, shop/storage buildings, barns and Camp Wilkins). There were less than 500 dormitory rooms. After the opening of the Commerce-Journalism Building in 1927, a columnist for the UGA student newspaper wrote, "Every year the number of students increases rapidly, and yet the legislature is still indifferent to the needs of the University. Nearly every building built during recent years has been erected at the expense of the town of Athens...the county of Clarke...the alumni...by the economy of Dr. Soule on the Agricultural Hill, or by gifts." (1) System Chancellor S. V. Sanford was more blunt six years later, "I have been with

the University for thirty years and during all those years the state has not appropriated a dime for buildings on the University campus...Every building on our campus since 1903 has been the generous gift of friends and alumni..." (2) Athens was home to three system campuses in the 1930s: the University of Georgia; the Georgia State College of Agriculture; and Georgia State Teachers College, later renamed The Coordinate Campus. They, and the other institutions in the state's university system, needed to expand, but first Chancellor Sanford needed money.

United States President Herbert Hoover created the Emergency Relief Administration in 1932 to provide loans to states for relief programs that would alleviate unemployment with the creation of new, unskilled jobs in local and state government. Renamed the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1934, the following year the organization was christened the Works Progress Administration, or W.P.A. The Works Progress Administration was later renamed the Works Projects Administration. The Public Works Administration, or P.W.A., was one department within the W.P.A. and the monetary funnel which the university system accessed in the 1930s.

No matter the agency's name, however, this Federal pot of grants and loans was the financial source Chancellor Sanford wanted to tap. Ignoring the protests of Georgia Governor Eugene Talmadge, Sanford began traveling to Washington, D.C. in 1933 to campaign for funds. In a letter dated November 6, 1933 he writes, "I am making a request for \$1,225,000. With this money we hope to erect three dormitories...two dining halls; an Armory-Auditorium, a library, an academic building, and a cannery. Of course, we cannot get these buildings unless we can show the income from the buildings will repay the amount borrowed." (3) The funds were received, but Governor Talmadge sued the Board of Regents, and a description of that ordeal is fodder for another paper.

By the summer of 1934, disagreements over construction costs developed between the architects (Hentz, Adler & Shutze) and engineers (Robert & Company) hired by the Board of Regents. A letter from Sanford to Board chair Philip Weltner dated September 18, 1934 is particularly illuminating:

Today I had a three hour conference with [Rudolph] Adler about our building program. He showed me the plans and drawings...[and] they were all very beautiful and artistic. He and the members of this firm have done an excellent piece of work...For this devotion to duty and to

their profession we admire them. But all architects of high order are like most musicians I know – perfect in their art, but temperamental and sensitive with a certain compound of jealousy I do not understand... Today I sensed in my long conversation with Adler that there was an inordinate degree of jealousy between the architects and engineers. A firm like Adler's will not, if possible [agree] to any figures submitted by a purely Engineering firm...When my patience had been exhausted, I told Adler that Robert & Company had been chosen as the supervising engineers by the Regents and that he would have to discuss his projects with that firm, and I am sure that firm would tell him his estimates were all wet, and [that the Regents would not ask the federal government for more money]. Adler...said that he would confer with Emerson of Robert & Company and see what could be done. My suggestion to you [Weltner] is simply this: Issue an order at once to all architects to complete the details for their plans and to comply with the amount of money authorized by the Regents and allotted by the PWA. If this cannot be done, then ask them to surrender their contracts so that others can be selected who can comply with what has been submitted to PWA... Quick action is needed – no further delays will be tolerated. (4) *[Note: "engineers" in this context is the equivalent to today's construction manager rather than a design engineer per se.]*

It is assumed by this author that an agreement was made, as UGA's Department of Agricultural Engineering was tapped in 1935 to design and manage nearly all of the W.P.A. construction projects for the University System of Georgia. (All drafting and design classes offered by UGA at that time were taught through Agricultural Engineering.) Department Chair R. H. (Hugo) Driftmier was made supervising engineer, and one of the first people he hired was a young architect named Roy. E. Hitchcock.

Roy Embry Hitchcock was born in Vincent, Alabama in 1904, the son of a carpenter. Raised in Birmingham, he attended Birmingham-Southern for two years. Hitchcock traveled through Europe between 1925 and 1927 and then entered Georgia Tech as a sophomore in 1928. He left Tech circa 1930, presumably because of the Depression, and worked as a clerk and draftsman in Birmingham. According to his UGA personnel form, Hitchcock was hired as a part-time instructor in the Department of Agricultural Engineering in 1933. Hired full-time as an architect in May 1935, the UGA post appears to have been his first design position. He was 31 years old.



Figure 1: Roy Hitchcock analytique, ca. 1929

The purpose of an analytique is to express the form, construction, detail and materials of a building. Still an exercise used by architecture schools, analytiques may include perspective sketches, drawings at different scales (e.g., site plan + building elevation) and building details on the same sheet. One of Hitchcock's professional trademarks was his use of the analytique format.

Image courtesy of the Georgia Tech Archives.

Set to work immediately, Hitchcock designed four major buildings for the University of Georgia in 1935: three dormitories (the original Rutherford Hall, Mary Lyndon Hall, and Clark Howell Hall), and the Agricultural Extension Building. In the Ag Extension Building, Hitchcock's bays, broken pediment, fan light and symmetry are infused with carved strawberry flowers, fluted egg-and-dart capitals, and a custom fruit-and-vegetable swag.

Hitchcock's frantic design pace continued through 1935 and 1937 with the completion of plans for Baldwin and Park halls, the Forestry Building, and a dairy barn now known as Four Towers. Of stucco and brick construction, the Four Towers dairy barn includes arcades, and an arch element that is rhythmically repeated over the windows along the east elevation [Figure 4].

The success of Chancellor Sanford's Washington, D.C. fundraising was only part of the battle, as there was a strict application process for each construction or repair project. Approval was required by the P.W.A.



Figure 2: Swag detail, Agricultural Extension Building, corner of Carlton & Lumpkin streets, Athens.

2012 photograph courtesy of the author.

regional office in Atlanta before a project could have a chance at approval in Washington. Hugo Driftmier's ability to navigate the paperwork is suggested in his letter dated November 19, 1937 to UGA President Harmon Caldwell:

In order that available funds might more nearly match the buildings we propose to construct, we are calling the Language and Letters Building a Laboratory School Building, and we made certain name changes on some of the rooms to make it appear more nearly like a laboratory school building. That is, where we had a room named classroom, we simply called it 'Laboratory.' In another case where we had a classroom, we simply called [it] 'Cafeteria,' and in another case we called it a 'Kitchen and Foods Room.' We are very anxious that there be no discussion whatever with reference to these two changes in title...I don't want to give you the impression that there is anything shady about the matter. We are simply giving a liberal interpretation to the name Classroom Building and Laboratory School Building...P.S. You understand of course that the Dairy Products Building is for 'Forestry.' (5)

Ten Hitchcock-designed buildings, including the aforementioned Dairy Products / Forestry, were occupied by late 1939. Five of these buildings – the Nursery School and Home Management Houses, as they were then known – allowed Hitchcock to design on a smaller scale. Purposely sited on Ag Hill to take advantage of the Department of Home Economics around

the corner, the five are Colonial Revival homes. All slightly different in design, they harmoniously exist in a cul-de-sac originally backed by trees. The axial focal point of the group is the largest of the five houses, the Nursery School building. In it we see more use of bays and classical details, with the inclusion of octagonal windows and a fan light hidden behind a broken pediment. It is the jewel of the group.



Figure 3: The W.P.A.-funded Nursery School building, now part of the McPhaul Center.
2012 photograph courtesy of the author.

Roy Hitchcock was appointed chief architect by the Board of Regents circa 1937, and although based in Athens, he was under direction of the BOR office in Atlanta. Current research is unclear as to whether or not Agricultural Engineering students were used as draftsmen during this time; however, one architectural assistant appears in a 1938-1939 UGA faculty directory and a draftsman was hired for 1939-1940. Even with this help Hitchcock still would have been expected to design; draw full construction plans and detail sheets; manage the work room; and communicate effectively with Hugo Driftmier... a man who was no longer his supervisor but who still held final UGA project approval. The arrangement – and the mix of Hitchcock and Driftmier’s personalities – was bound to create tension, and this may be one reason why professional assistants stayed one year or less.

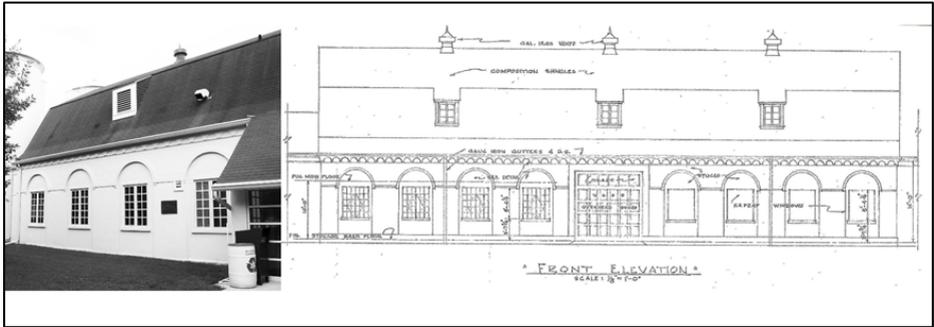


Figure 4: Excerpt from Four Towers (“Dairy Barn”) plan showing façade elevation.

Plan image courtesy of Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library. 2012 photograph courtesy of the author.

Even under these unusual circumstances, by the time Hitchcock’s first ten buildings were constructed at UGA, he had designed faculty housing for Fort Valley State; dormitories for system campuses in Americus, Milledgeville and Albany; a library for the University of West Georgia in Carrollton; a dining hall and vocational education building for North Georgia State in Dahlonega; and part of the Coastal Plains Research Station for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. It is estimated that Roy Hitchcock designed forty-two W.P.A.-funded buildings for the university system between 1935 and 1940, including twenty-one for the University of Georgia. This number includes designs for smaller buildings which may have been constructed at system campuses after World War II, such as student housing for Fort Valley State.

The total also includes Gilbert Hall (“Gilbert Memorial Infirmary”) at UGA [Figure 5]. Although originally included in Federal funding requests, its construction was eventually paid with a gift by Judge S. P. Gilbert, and named in memory of his father and son. Designed by Hitchcock in 1938 and constructed in 1942, the University officially occupied the building in December 1945 after the U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School left campus. Wings were added to the center section in 1947; the current Lumpkin Street façade was added in 1975.

Hitchcock opened an office downtown Athens in order to accept private commissions concurrently with his state employment. One of these commissions, the Class of 1907 Gate, was constructed at UGA’s Herty Drive entrance off Broad Street. Four design schemes have been located to

date, and all incorporate classical curves, brick and limestone. Design four, minus the ornamental iron work, was eventually chosen, and construction completed in 1940. The commissions may have been used as a launching point to design gates for the other main UGA entrances, including one for Lumpkin Street; but none of the other entrance gates were built.

The demands placed on Hitchcock's time (and one possible reason for the single UGA entrance gate) are suggested in a letter penned by UGA President Harmon Caldwell:

I have been disturbed by the delay on the part of Mr. Hitchcock, the University System's architect, in preparing plans for gateways and other ornamental structures for our campus... He says that [the Regents] recently requested that he give all of his time to plans for certain structures at Griffin, Dahlonega, and Fort Valley. Since Mr. Hitchcock is the employee of the central office and is paid by that office, I am not in a position to insist that his work for [UGA] take priority over University System work. (6)



Figure 5: Original facade (Lumpkin Street elevation) "Gilbert Hall Infirmary", circa 1948.

Pandora photo courtesy of Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

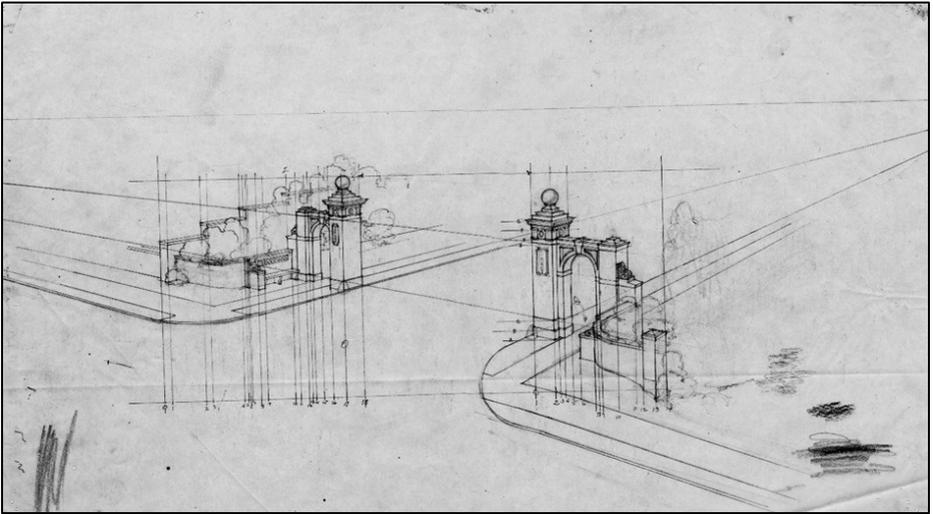


Figure 6: Hitchcock perspective drawing, unbuilt UGA campus entrance gate.

Plan image courtesy of Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

A medical condition may have kept Roy out of active duty during World War II, while marriage pressures and a deteriorating relationship with Hugo Driftmier began to take their toll in the early 1940s. Roy eventually left state employment and completed his degree at Georgia Tech in 1944. He continued to design for the Board of Regents in the early post-war period from offices in Athens and Atlanta, but was not awarded any commissions. Hitchcock is believed to have designed twelve homes in Athens' Five Points neighborhood between 1935 and 1953, including 740 Milledge Circle and the no longer extant Stiles House at 232 University Drive (see Figure 7).

Hitchcock returned to Birmingham about 1952, and designed homes, churches and country clubs (including Shoal Creek Golf & Country Club) for the remainder of his career. In 2011 the author spoke with Lawrence Corley of Corley/Timothy/Sweeney/McCormac (CTSM), a then-junior architect who worked with Roy in the 1970s. He described Hitchcock as being a first-rate classical designer, but a bad businessman, with drawings so beautiful that "they dripped honey." (7) Roy Hitchcock retired in the late 1970s and died in Birmingham in 2007 at age 102.

UGA's late nineteenth and early 20th century Second Empire and Beaux-Arts architecture blends so seamlessly with its antebellum Federal and Greek Revival buildings that it is easy to forget how each one represents a popular taste of its day. The handful of buildings constructed just prior to the W.P.A. period (e.g., Dawson Hall, 1932) *could* be considered transitional, as various design hands combined brick and classical elements to create a visually unified whole. But a confluence of factors – Chancellor Sanford's ability to tap funds, Hugo Driftmier's ability to navigate the P.W.A. bureaucracy, and arguments between architects and engineers in 1934 – guaranteed that a large portion of UGA's design history, and by extension, that for the University System of Georgia, would be written by the design hand of Roy Embry Hitchcock.



Figure 7: Stiles House, 232 University Drive, Athens (demolished 2013).

2012 photograph courtesy of the author

About the Author

Janine Duncan was born in New Orleans and raised at Camano Island, Washington. She holds degrees from Gonzaga University and the University of Georgia, and her career path has traveled through television, Wall Street, non-profit fundraising and website design. Currently employed as the preservation planner for the UGA Grounds Department, Ms. Duncan is charged with the research, preservation and day-to-day care of historic campus landscapes and features including Old Athens Cemetery, the Arch, and the North Campus cast iron fence.

Janine is the author of *Preliminary Research of Free Blacks in Loudoun County, Virginia 1850-1860: Identity, Settlement Patterns and Cultural Landscape*.

ENDNOTES

- (1) Page 4, "A New Building," Red and Black, March 4, 1927. Accessed through the Red and Black online archive, <http://redandblack.libs.uga.edu/xtf/search>, Spring 2012.
- (2) Letter dated September 19, 1933 from S.V. Sanford to Hugh Spalding, Chair of the USG Board of Regents, MS 97-097, box 1, folder "Building Projects: S.V. Sanford," Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.
- (3) Letter dated November 6, 1933 from S.V. Sanford to Hugh Spalding, *Ibid*.
- (4) Letter dated September 18, 1934 from S.V. Sanford to Philip Weltner, Chair of the USG Board of Regents, *Ibid*.
- (5) Letter dated November 19, 1937 from R.H. Driftmier to UGA President Dr. Harmon W. Caldwell, UA 97-098, box 33, folder "Building Program General," Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.
- (6) Letter dated November 14, 1940 from Harmon Caldwell to Harrison Jones, vice-president of the Coca-Cola Company, UA 97-098, box 17, folder "Land Plans," Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.
- (7) Author telephone conversation with Lawrence Corley of Birmingham, Alabama, July 15, 2011.

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