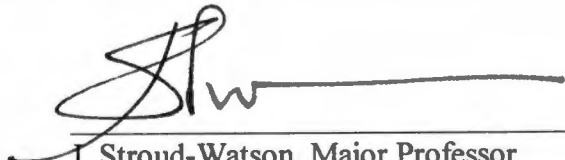
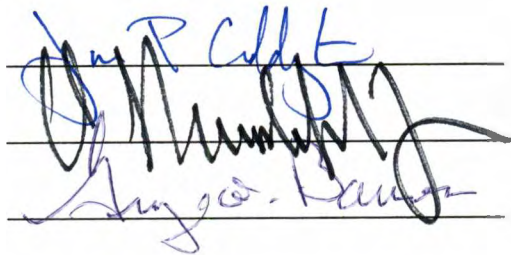


To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Alexander J. Montesi, Jr. entitled
"Claiming Critically Unclaimed Places in the City." I have examined the final copy of
this thesis for form and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture with a major in
Architecture.


J. Stroud-Watson, Major Professor

We have read this thesis
and recommend its acceptance



Accepted for the Council:


Associate Vice Chancellor and
Dean of the Graduate School

CLAIMING CRITICAL UNCLAIMED
PLACES IN THE CITY

A Thesis
Presented for the
Master of Architecture Degree
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Alexander J. Montesi, Jr.
December 1999

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents

Alexander J. Montesi, Sr.

and

Jennie Sciara Montesi

for all the years of support and guidance that
leads me through life.

A special thanks to **Michelle Cordera, Paul Montesi**
and **John Cordera** for making the time away
seem like I never left.

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Last I would like to thank and acknowledge all my classmates all of whom became life long friends. A special thanks to one inparticular classmate that taught me how to be an artist, a skill that will stay with me all my life. A thanks goes to all the others for I take a little part of each into practice everyday.

ABSTRACT

In cities all over America certain critical sites have been left undiscovered. When combined with partial architectural programs linked to the public realm, these sites can act as catalysts for redevelopment of an area of a city as well as celebrate the very nature of the city itself. A range of analytical methods were used to examine aspects of the project including site, program, and building type. The resulting design created a building with different edges, each responding to different needs. However these edges also blend into the context of the surrounding community without the building losing its own identity. The site which I selected proved to be the good location to explore the above thesis statement. The building not only responds to the analysis in all aspects but it also makes a memorable node in the city.

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PART ONE

THESIS INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF THESIS

In cities all over America certain critical locations are left undiscovered; the sites when combined with certain architectural programs, can act as catalysts for a neighborhood or district redevelopment as well as celebrating the very nature of the city itself. These locations need to explore their critical positions in the city and be programmed according to the surrounding needs. Such places can gather critical aspects of the city both from a physical standpoint and from a planning standpoint. The city's infrastructure is made up of two realms, the private and the public. The places described above have an obligation to address the public realm. It is the contention of this thesis that urban improvements can be made with architectural interventions that gather and link distinct communities within the city to make a place that celebrates the city while still performing an independent function.

THESIS DESCRIPTION

The downtown area falls into ruin, null of life. A logical step is to bring back people into the city to enjoy its inherent ambiance. This entails creating a space that not only acts as a connector to the surrounding area, but as a gathering point that can be expressed architecturally.

Cities need to locate sites which will act as catalysts that will help to revitalize the urban fabric and the city as a whole. I propose a catalyst that could start to link a neighborhood to a park and to downtown; a place which gathers people together. The

facility is a new baseball stadium that will also incorporate restaurant and retail areas which can be used year round. The new stadium will relate to all the existing proposals the city is currently undertaking, as well as add a new content to the area known as the Worlds Fair Park. The stadium will be located in a strategic area that will help to complete the Worlds Fair Park.

On one side of the site is the Fort Sanders neighborhood, which is steeped in history. The neighborhood has status as a historical neighborhood. The area now houses students during the school year. The area needs investment to bring new life into the neighborhood. The new life needed for this area is a combination of ideas that existed decades ago: Edge, Context, Connection are only a few that start to uncover the unclaimed places in the city.

The other side involves the Old City, the entertainment area of Knoxville. The Old City was a warehouse/ retail district that is slowly being revitalized through mixed use which dynamically combines residential with retail and office functions. This project explores and extends mixed use programming to allow life to exist in the city at all times during all seasons.

Projects such as this not only help the immediate adjoining neighborhoods and districts, but they have the capacity to demonstrate that a downtown area can have an extended life as well; one that goes beyond the nine to five work day.

All three areas described above - the Fort Sanders neighborhood, the Old City and Downtown - have a common thread; they are beginning to grow again, people are

moving back into the old buildings not just to work but to live. The baseball stadium will demonstrate that the city is willing to make a commitment to keeping the downtown area alive and vibrant, beyond the typical workday hours.

The stadium will act as a hinge that not only connects the above areas, but also starts to revitalize the city. As a result, the hinge (see figure 1) becomes perceived as a node at which there is a convergence of places and activities.

Nodes are points, the strategic spots in a city into which an observer can enter, and which are the intensive foci to and from which he is traveling. They may be primarily junctions, places of a break in transportation, a crossing or convergence of paths, moments of shift from one structure to another.

Kevin Lynch

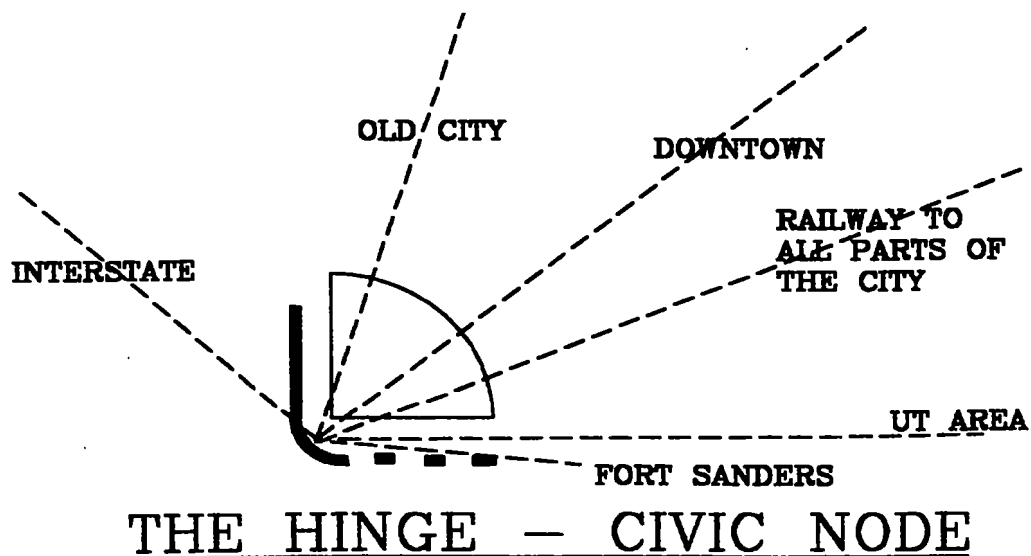


Figure 1. HINGE DIAGRAM

ISSUES OF THESIS

The issues stated below are the back bone of my thesis: (1) Connection, (2) Context, (3) Time, (4) Edge, (5) Permeability, (6) Placement and (7) Precision.

Connection plays an important role in improving urban life. Not only are the connections physical but also visual and mental. All three are vital to each other and without the others can not exist. Example: a light rail system that connects points in the city. The physical aspect is the light rail system (see figure 2). The visual aspect is seeing the train leave the station to go to another station.

For many people, these are the predominant elements in their image. People observe the city while moving through it, and along these paths the other environmental elements are arranged and related.

Kevin Lynch

The architectural form that links and gathers people at a certain place is made unconsciously. The form becomes an important node to gather, because the connection allows for access to all parts of the city. The building in itself takes on an image all its own. Why not have a place to go to and also a place to come from?

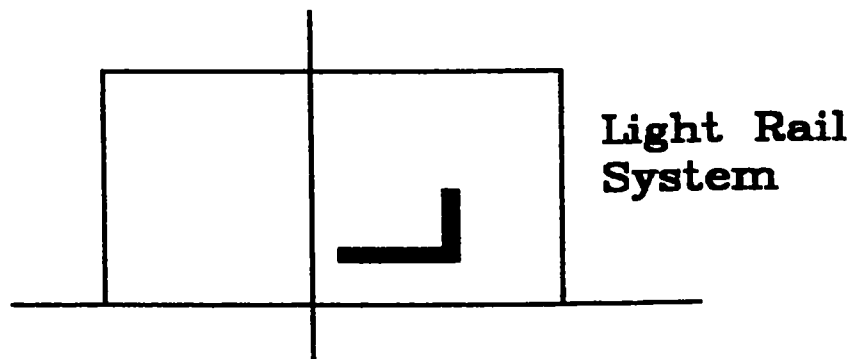
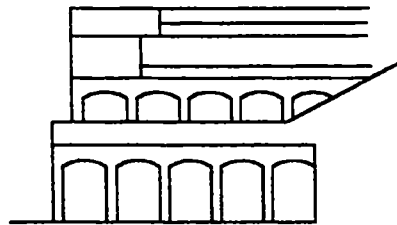


Figure 2. CONNECTION ISSUE

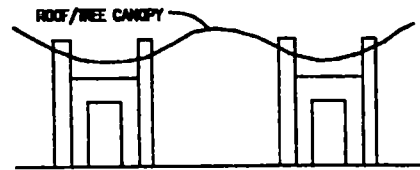
Context is the element that holds together the urban fabric. It is the life force behind improving the quality of life. In order for a community to thrive, an underlying element needs to be established. Context consists of many elements such as scale, form, materials and style. These elements need to relate to the characteristics of the surrounding community. The scale should be consistent with the buildings around it and not be overbearing, or too diminutive as in figure 3. Form should be established that works with the fabric. Materials need not be the same but coexist with surrounding materials. Style is a matter of taste. Does style relate to the style which embodies the neighborhood? One can only tell with the passage of time. Nevertheless the above items have one element in common, their relationship with the existing urban fabric.

Time involves two dimensions. First is the actual sense of time; what time is it and what season of the year is it (see figure 4a). An architectural intervention depends heavily upon time to succeed. I believe that part of the building does need to be open all year around, 8 hours a day in order for it to be accepted into the community.

Time's other dimension deals with history. At one time baseball was played in downtown Knoxville off Gay Street, the urban ball park (see figure 4b). An urban park gives the public a chance to do other things in the city after the game is completed. Time long ago showed us that an urban ballpark became a center of entertainment in the city. It was a center that provided a clean and safe starting point in time.

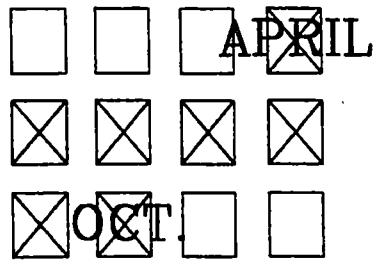


Relationship with the Bridges



Neighborhood

Figure 3. CONTEXT ISSUE



1855

1999

Figures 4a & 4b. TIME ISSUES



Low Profile

The relationship between Fort Sanders and Ballpark is not disrupted.

Figure 5. EDGE ISSUE

The Edges of a site are the physical relationships with the urban fabric. Each edge condition is different from the other. A different response to each condition is therefore necessary while at the same time uniting the whole. The edges need to relay a sense of togetherness. Kevin Lynch describes edges as:

The linear elements not considered as paths: they are usually, but not quite always, the boundaries between two kinds of areas. They act as lateral references.

The critical edge of this project is the edge which faces Fort Sanders. This edge is meant to distinguish the two areas while at the same time linking them as well (see figure 5)

While continuity and visibility are crucial, strong edges are not necessarily impenetrable. Many edges are uniting seams, rather than isolating barriers, and it is interesting to see the differences in effect.

It pulls the residents together by attracting them to itself. It acts ambiguously either as linear node, edge or path for various people at various times.

Kevin Lynch

The other edges act mainly as paths between the areas and are described later in the thesis.

Edges are often paths as well. Where this was so, and where the ordinary observer was not shut off from moving on the path then circulation image seemed to be the dominant one. The element was usually pictured as a path, reinforced by boundary characteristics.

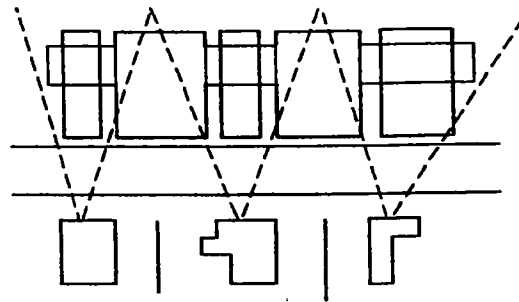
Kevin Lynch

Permeability of an area to view the outside world is of utmost importance.

Blocking the view a neighborhood has traditionally had of the city diminishes one of its special characteristics. The new building needs permeability to give the neighborhood a sense of not being closed in and isolated (see figure 6). The permeability needs to let a building be transparent but at the same time unify the whole.

Location plays a major role in any placement of a project in an urban environment (see figure 7). The location will relate the intentions of said project. Sites that are in the middle of a block or on a corner must respond differently from one another. Middle of the block could mean a filler building that will probably go unnoticed while a building located on a prominent corner can make a stand and claim a critical place in the city. A corner location needs to address all of the above issues in order to make that stand.

Precision has a role in every architectural project. It comes with different faces. Function and site are but a number of things that dictate precision. With baseball, precision takes a lead role in the placement of the field, which in turn tells the architect where the stadium belongs (see figure 8).



The permeability that the neighborhood had before does not disappear when the farmers market is in place.

Figure 6. PERMEABILITY ISSUE

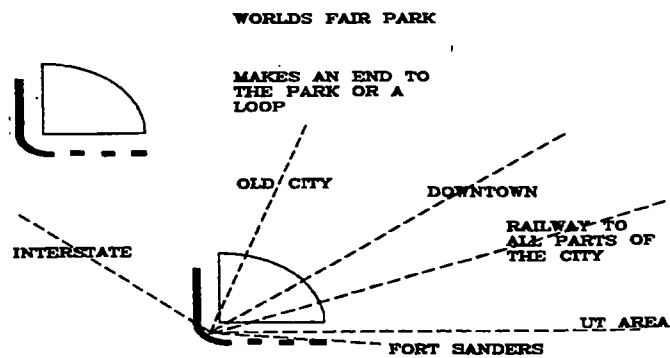


Figure 7. LOCATION ISSUE



Figure 8. PRECISION ISSUE

PART TWO

SITE INFORMATION

SITE SELECTION

The site for the new baseball stadium is the northwest corner of Worlds Fair Park, on the corner of 11th Street and Western Avenue. The following characters make this an appropriate site; the railroad tracks that run through the site connect to the rest of the city; the site is at the end of World's Fair Park, an area untouched by any existing project; a majority of the traffic which comes from downtown and the old city is routed by the site. These factors make for a natural linking and gathering area. The area also allows for one to mix the building types given the variety of communities encircling it. The site falls about fifty-two feet (52') from street level to the bottom of the bowl. This allows the structure to bury itself into the site, so the ballpark does not overwhelm the adjoining neighborhood.

The Fort Sanders area is a historical district, which has fallen into a state of disrepair. The revitalization of homes is beginning to take place. The houses are mostly Victorian in style, with wrap around covered porches, wood siding, three stories and small yards. The topography in this area is steep which causes most houses to have basements. The other side of the baseball stadium fronts the overpasses of I-40. This represents a commercial/public side to the site. Figures 9 and 10 represent the above conditions.



Figure 9. VICTORIAN STYLE AROUND FORT SANDERS



Figure 10. INTERSECTION TO RAMPS TO I-40

The pictures in figures 11, 12 and 13 below show what the view the public sees when sitting in the stadium. The backdrop takes in much of downtown Knoxville's distinctive features: Sunsphere, Downtown, L & N Railroad Depot, Museum of Modern Art, Fort Kid, Old City Hall and the majestic Smoky Mountains.

Downtown

Sunsphere

Smoky Mountains



Figure 11. OUTFIELD VIEW OVER SECOND BASE

OLD CITY HALL

L & N RAILROAD DEPOT



Figure 12. OUTFIELD VIEW DOWN THIRD BASE LINE

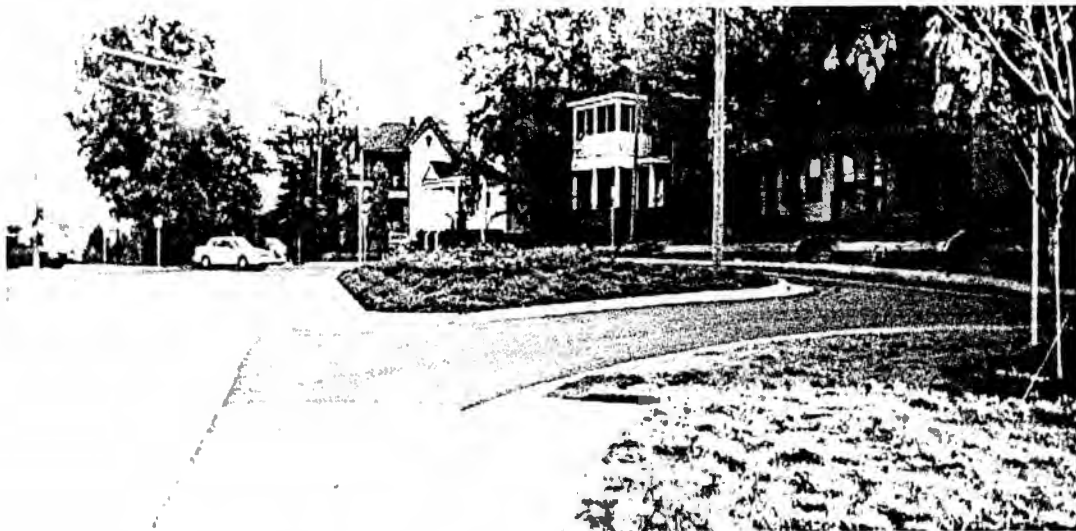


Figure 13. VIEWS FROM THE CORNER OF 11TH STREET AND
WESTERN LOOKING BACK TOWARD FORT SANDERS

SITE ANALYSIS

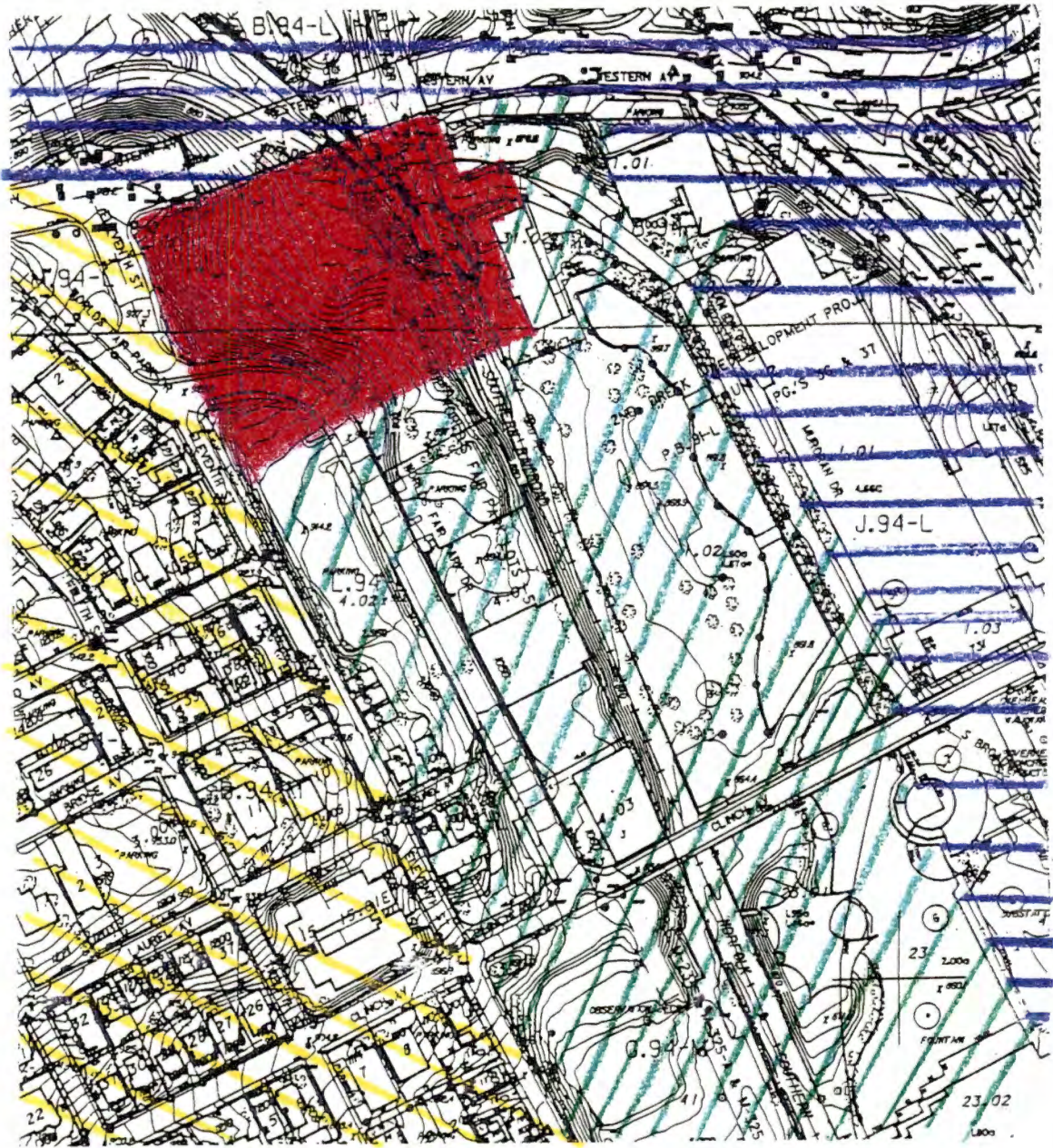
The site analysis is broken down into nine sub categories which the following figures 14 through 35 will explain in graphic detail. The sub category title is in the lower right hand corner while the title of the figure is printed above and to the left of the sheet.



North Knoxville --- Miles/ 10 Minute Drive
 East Knoxville --- 5 Miles/ 20 Minute Drive
 South Knoxville --- 2 Miles/ 10 Minute Drive
 West Knoxville --- 5 Miles/ 20 Minute Drive

○ Location of Site in the City

Figure 14.



Site - Northwest Corner of the Worlds Fair Park

Site	= Red
Worlds Fair Park	= Green
Downtown	= Blue
Fort Sanders	= Yellow

○ Location of Surrounding Neighborhoods

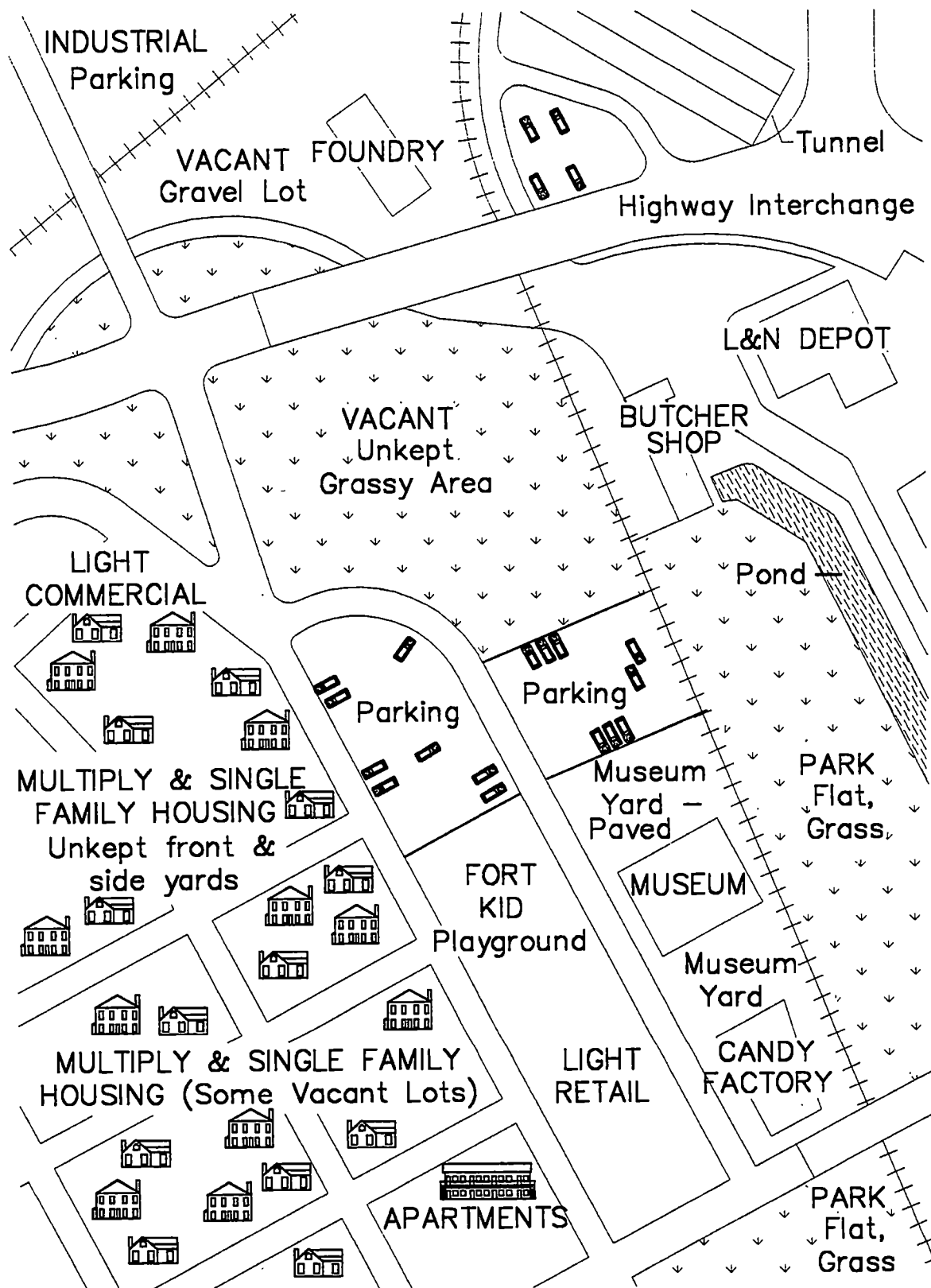
Figure 15.



Red = 5 Minute Walk - 1/4 Mile
 Yellow = 10 Minute Walk - 1/2 Mile
 Blue = 15 Minute Walk - 3/4 Mile
 Green = 20 Minute Walk - 1 Mile

○Walking Distance from the Site

Figure 16.



○ Existing Uses

Figure 17.

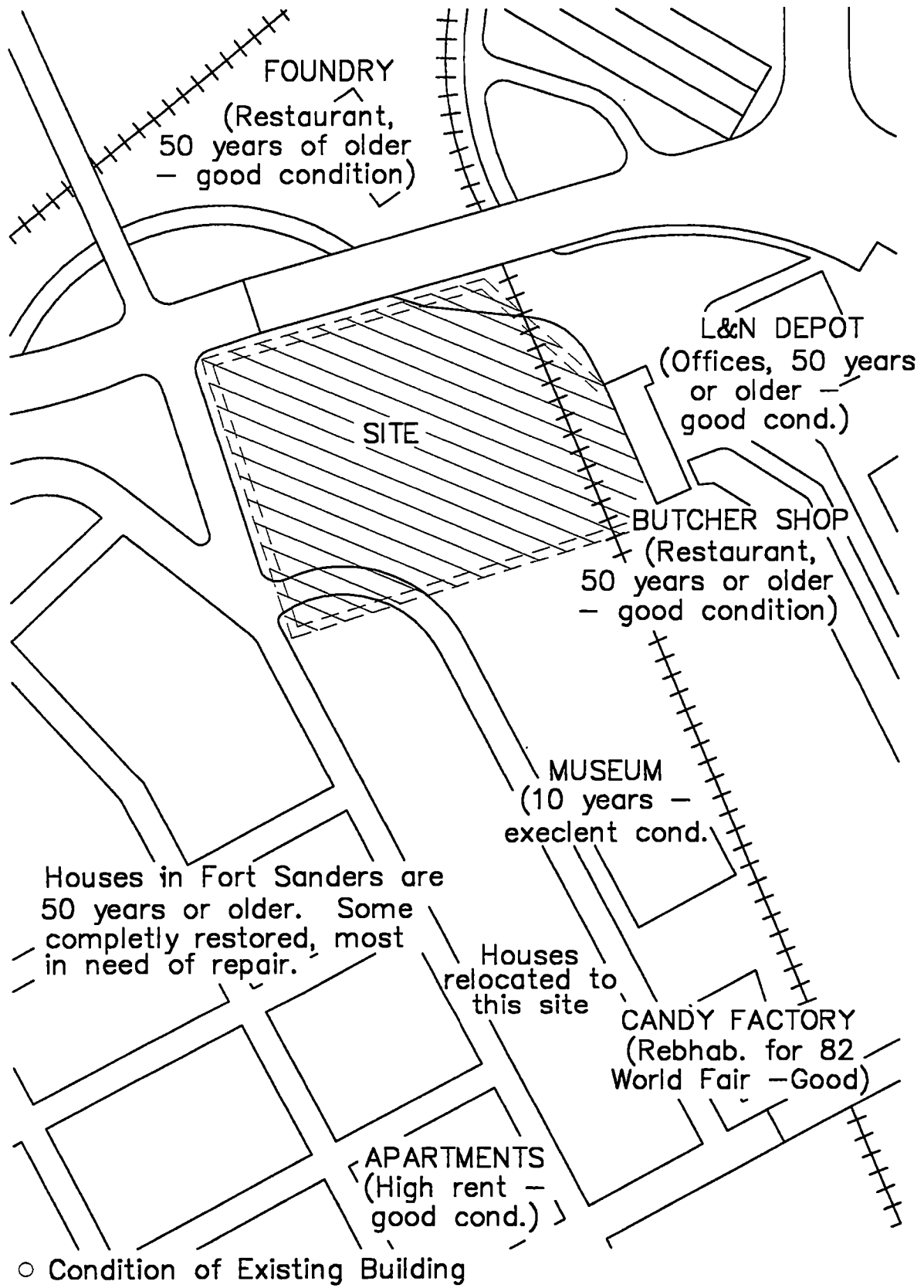


Figure 18.

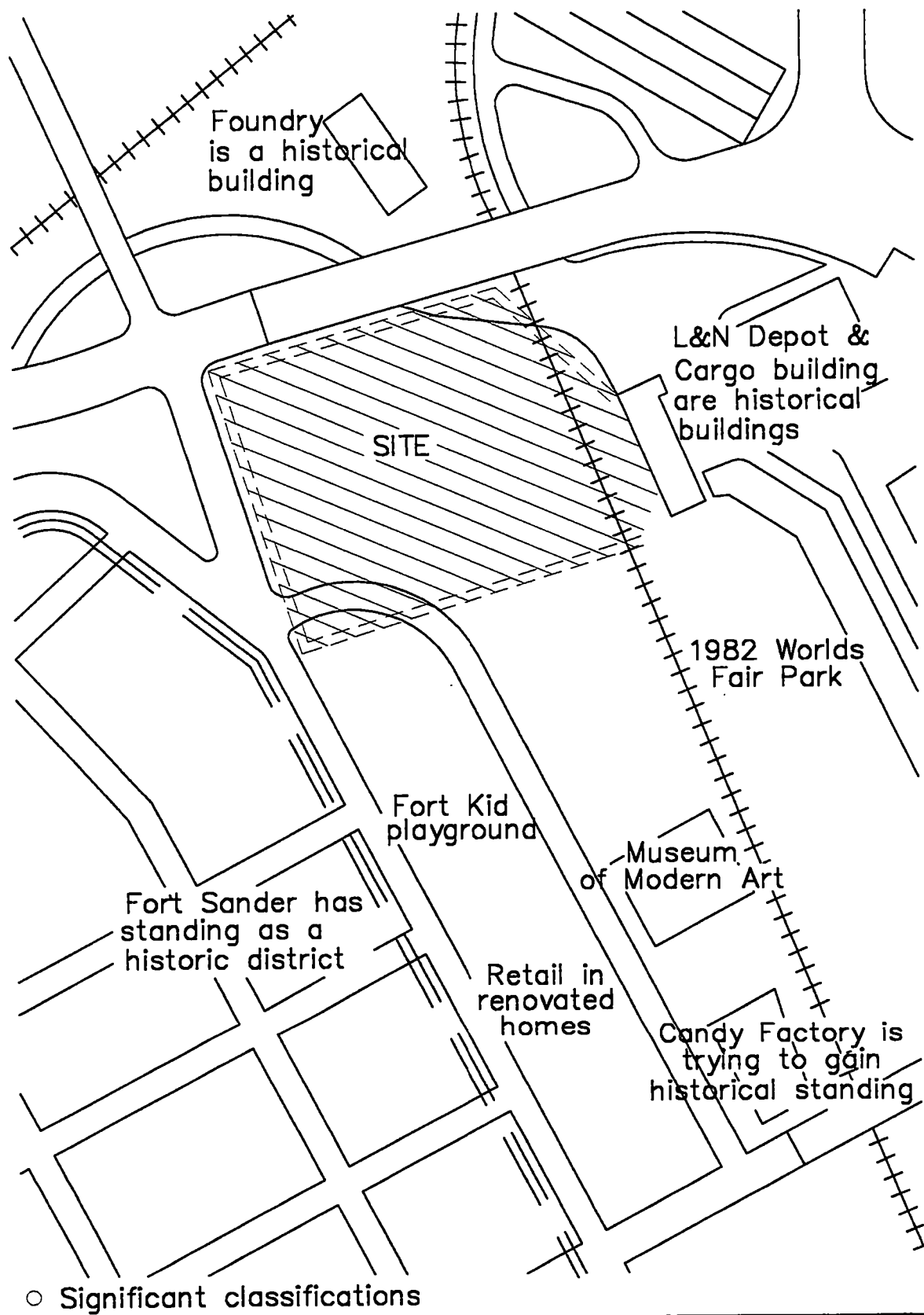
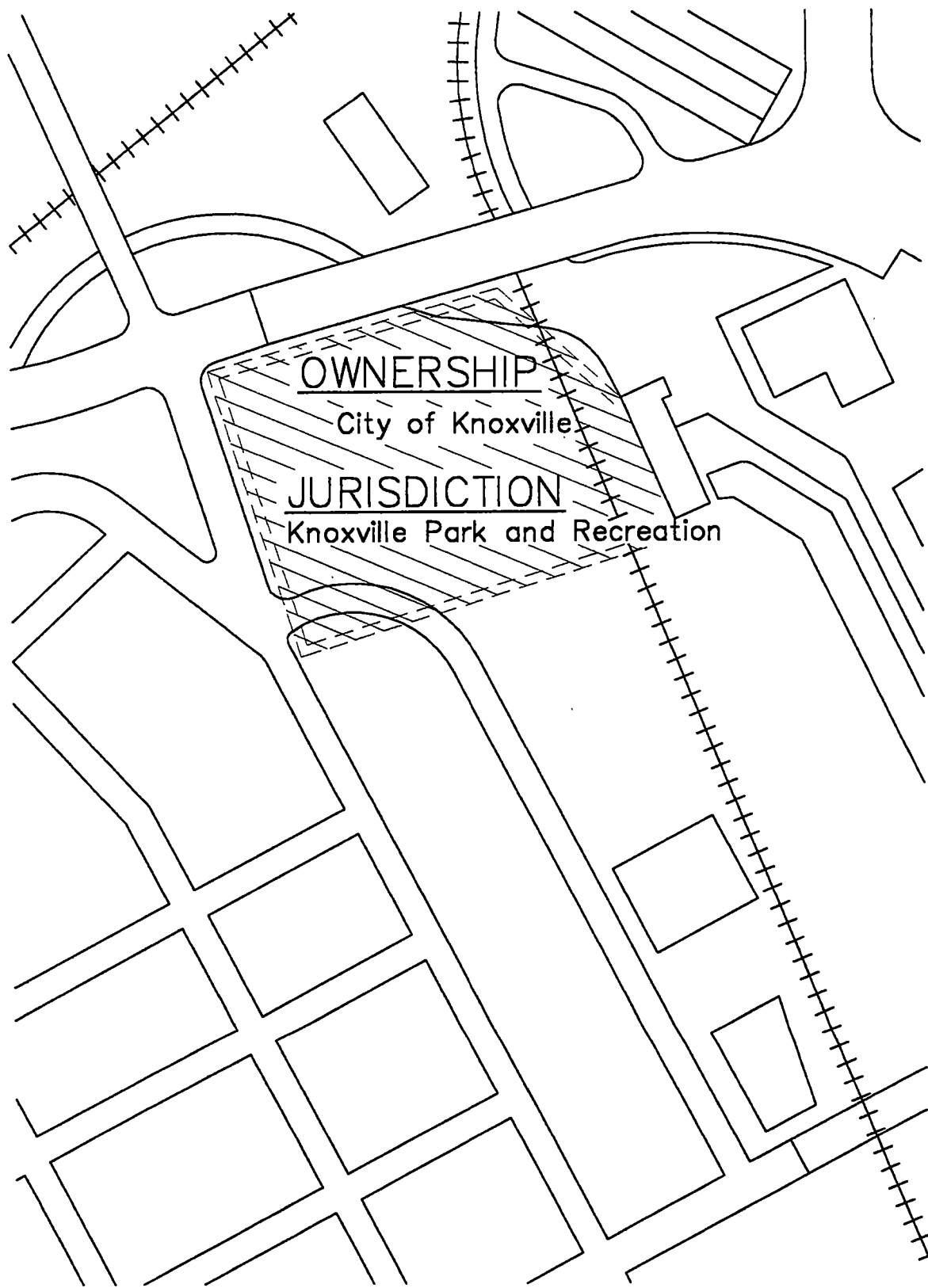


Figure 19.



○ Ownership and Jurisdiction

Figure 20.

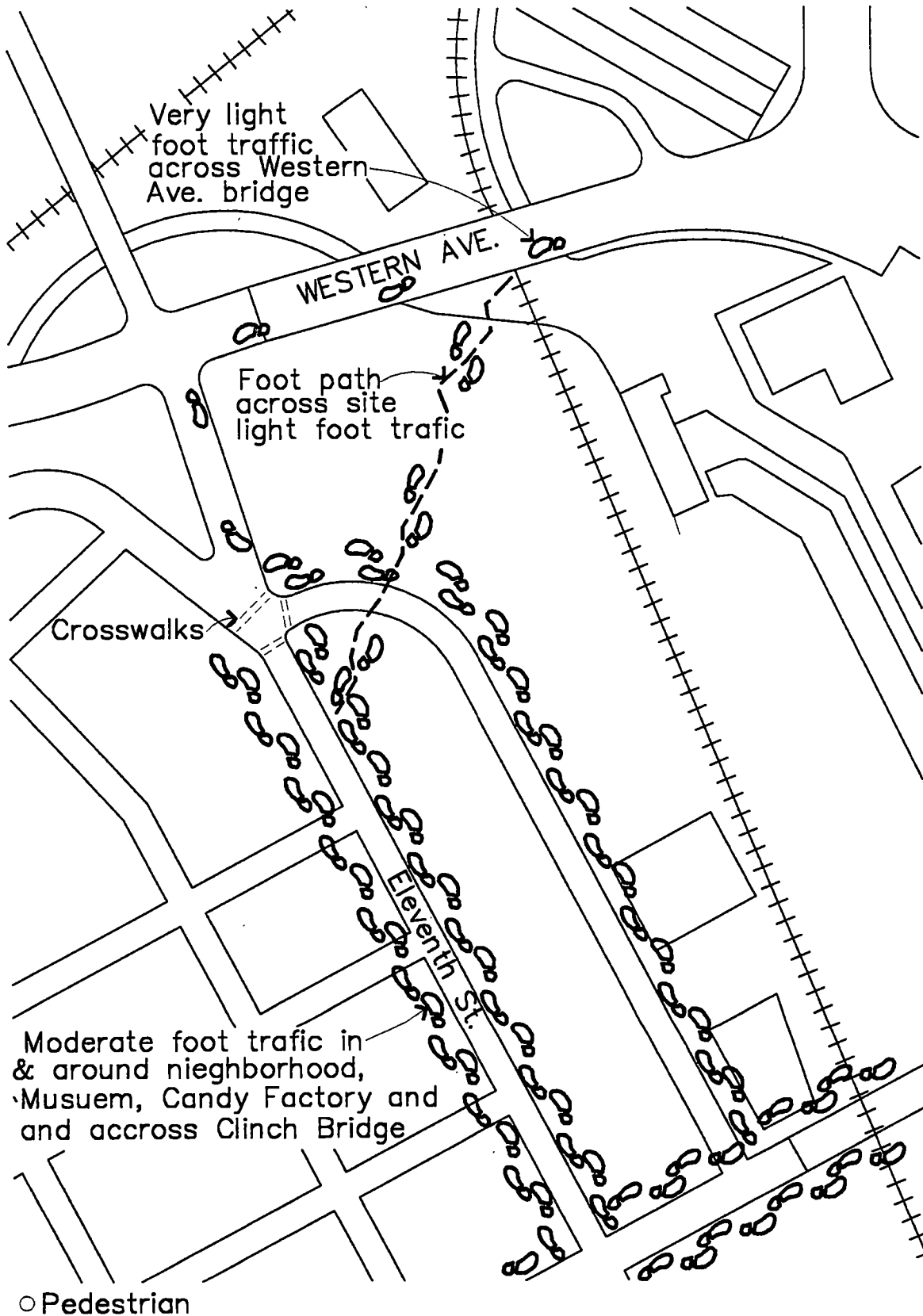


Figure 21.

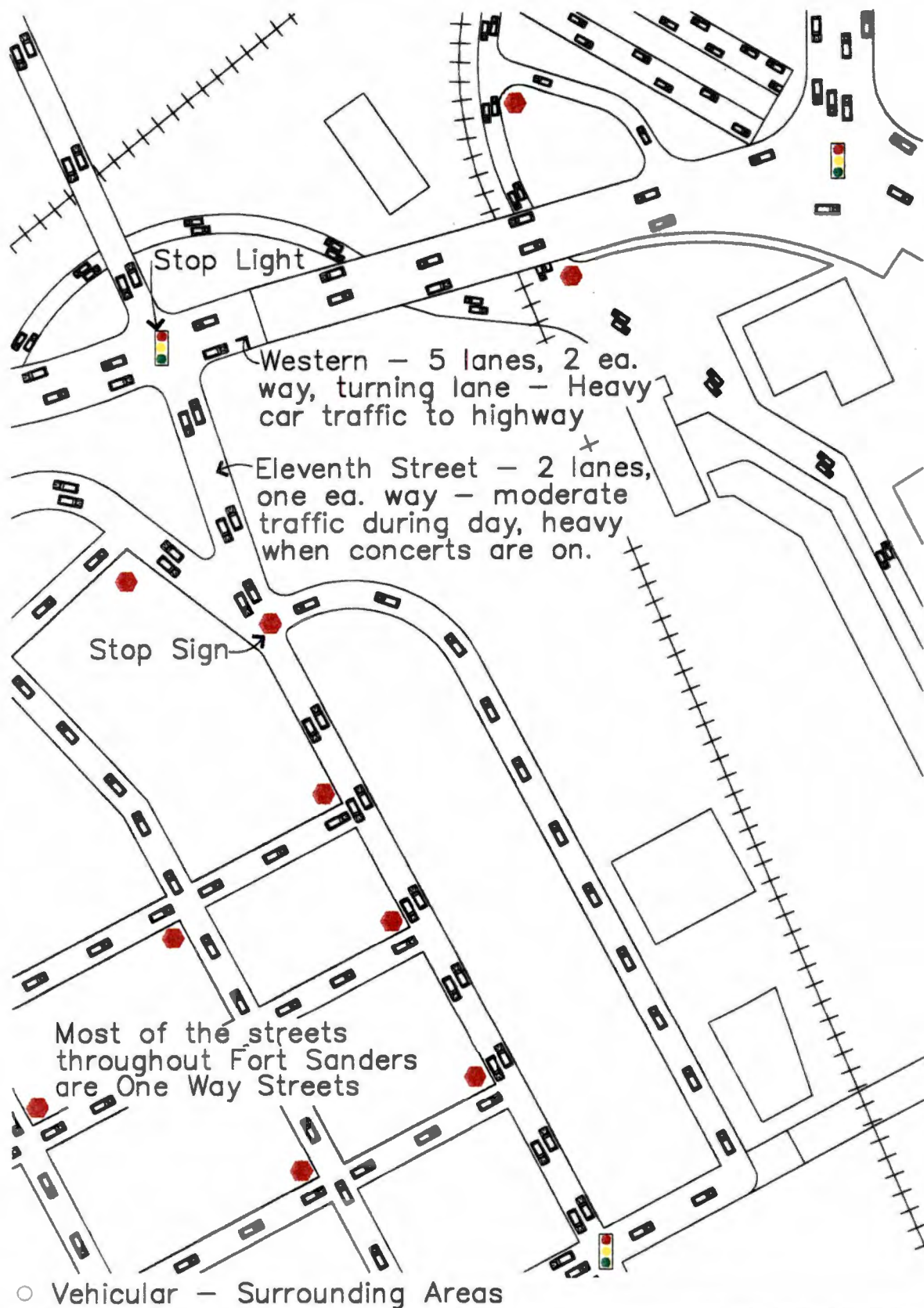
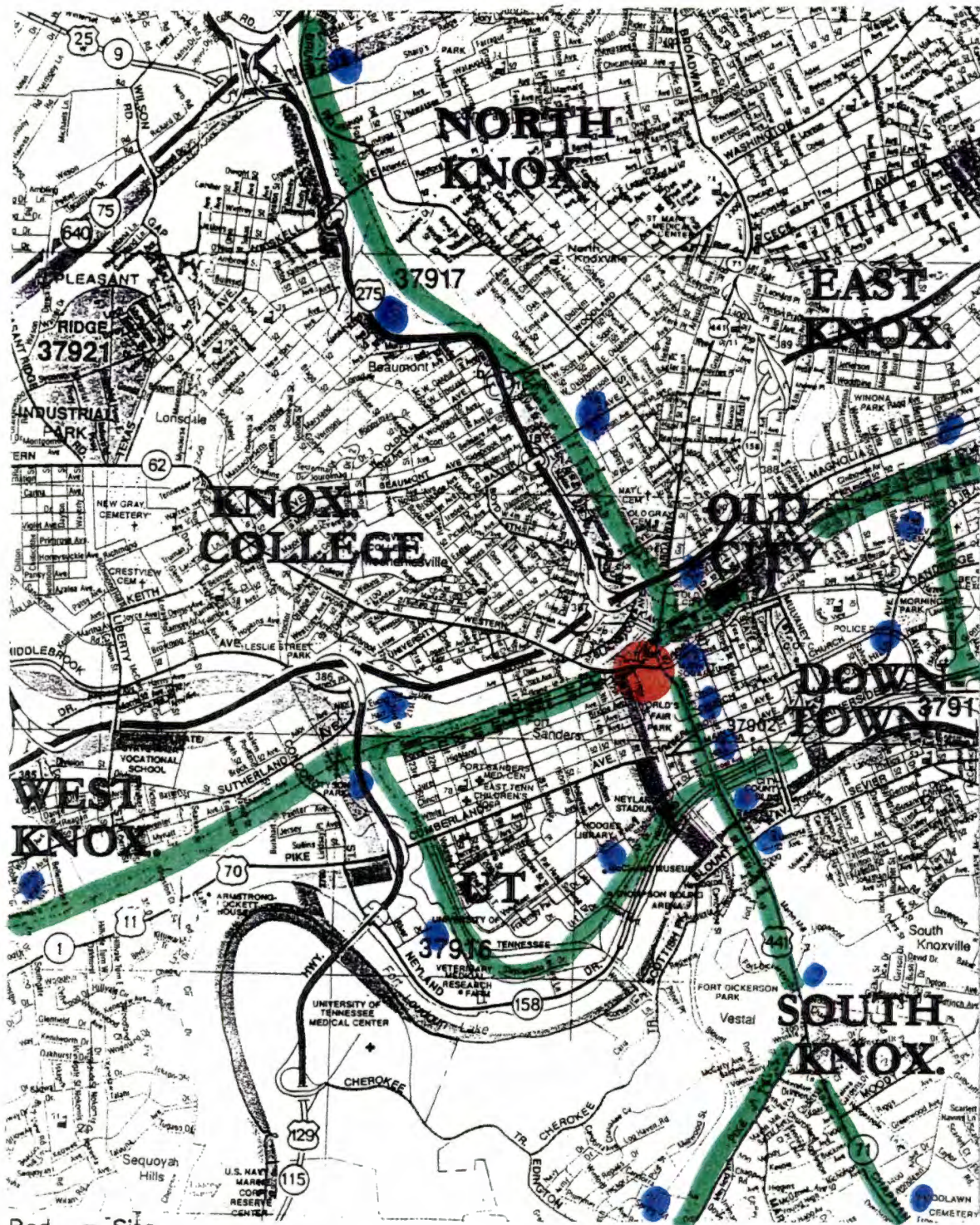


Figure 22.

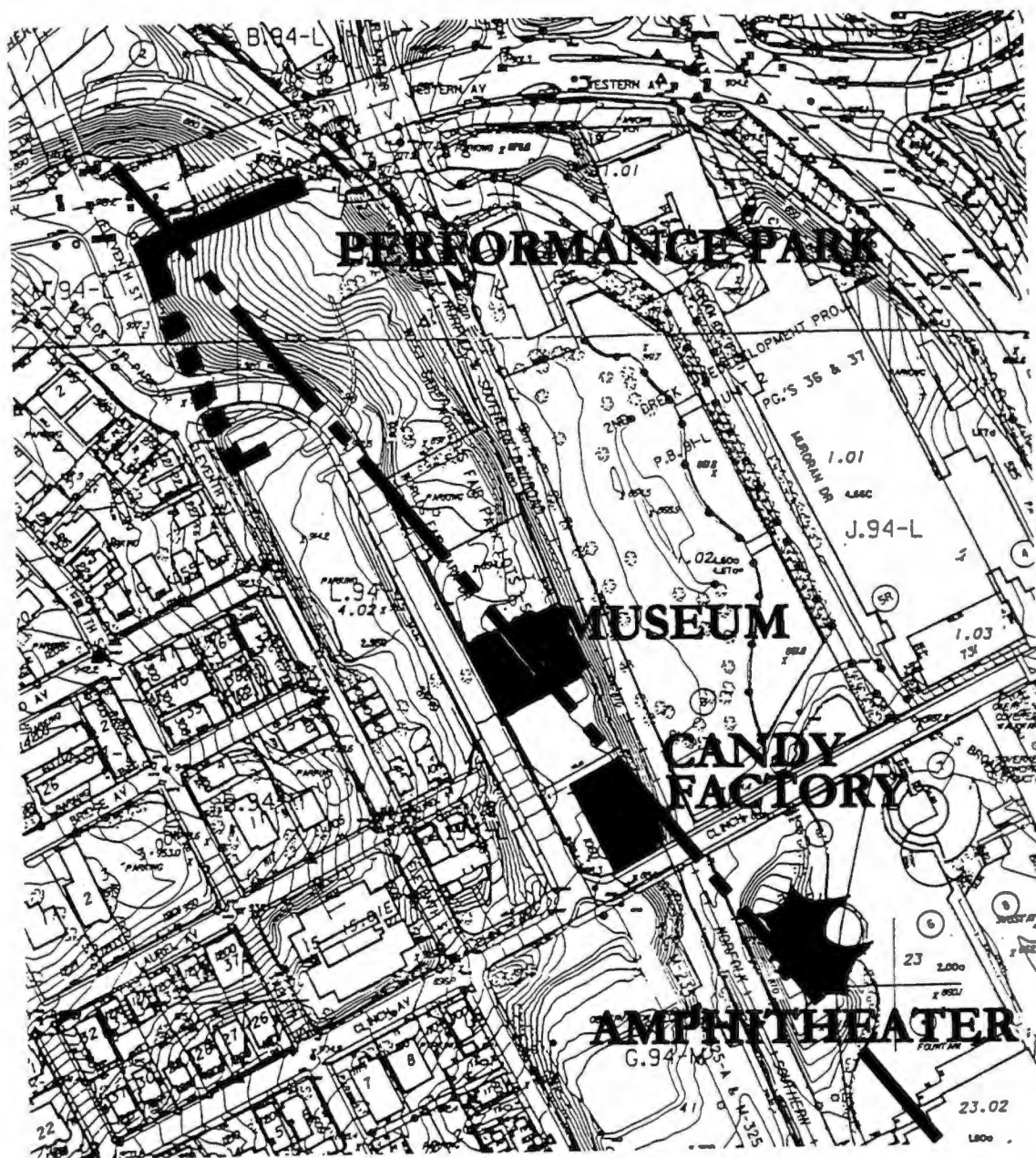


Red = Site
 Blue = Train Stops
 Green = Tracks

With the rail system in place the major sporting events could house train stops that also double as regular stops for every day travel.

○ Light Rail System (Proposed)

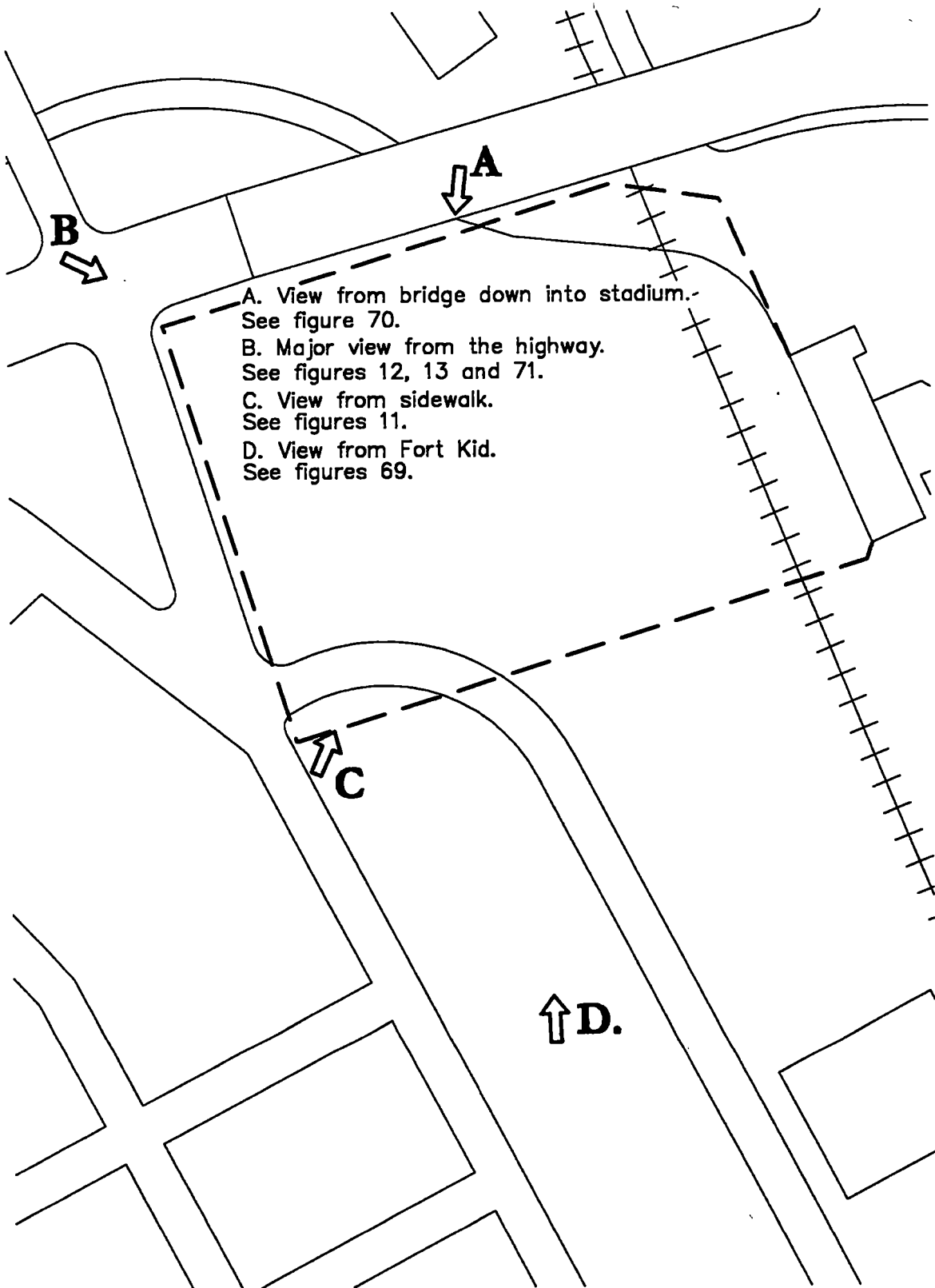
Figure 23.



The area could be known as PERFORMANCE ROW in the near future.

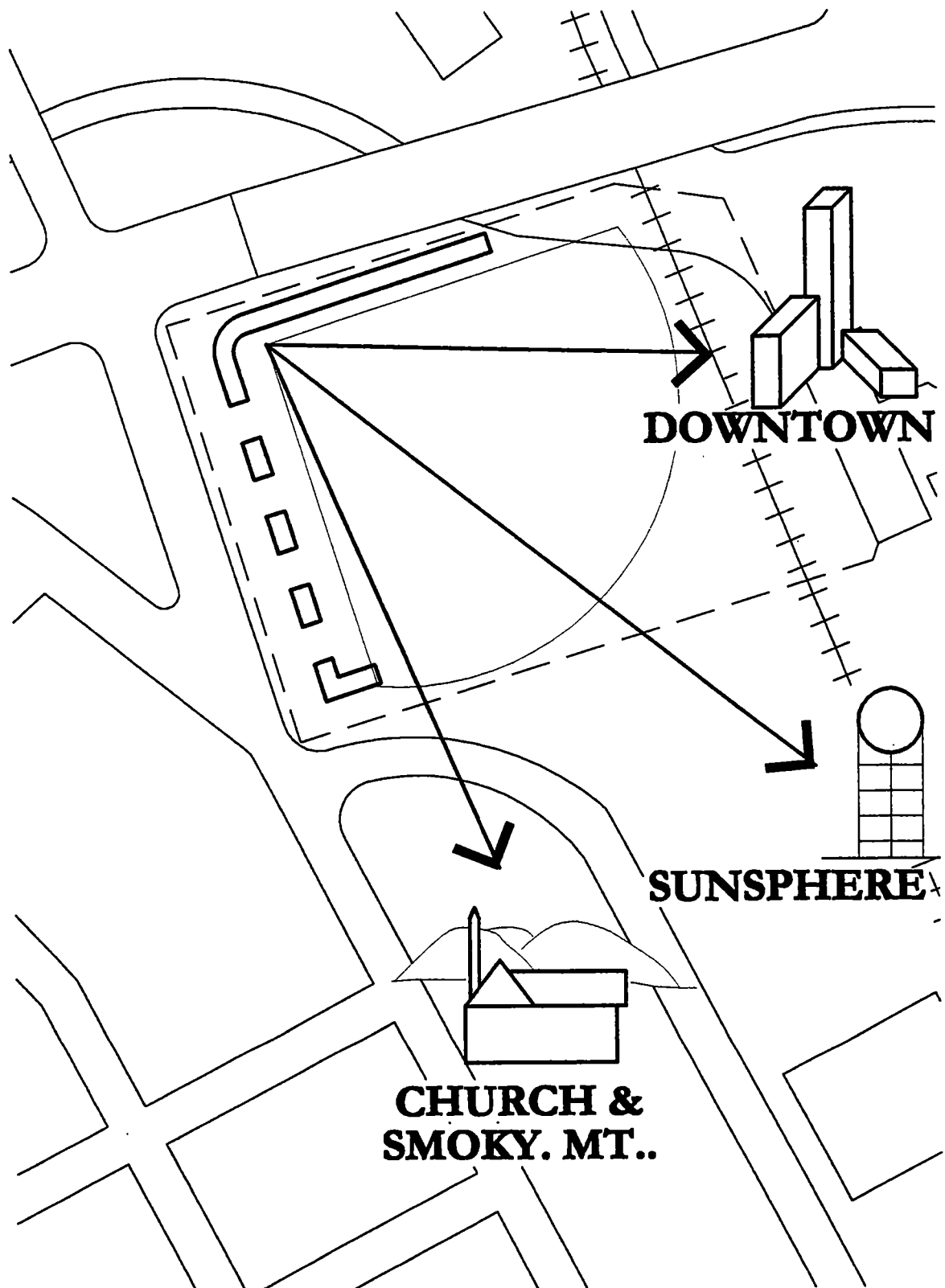
○ Performance Park

Figure 24.



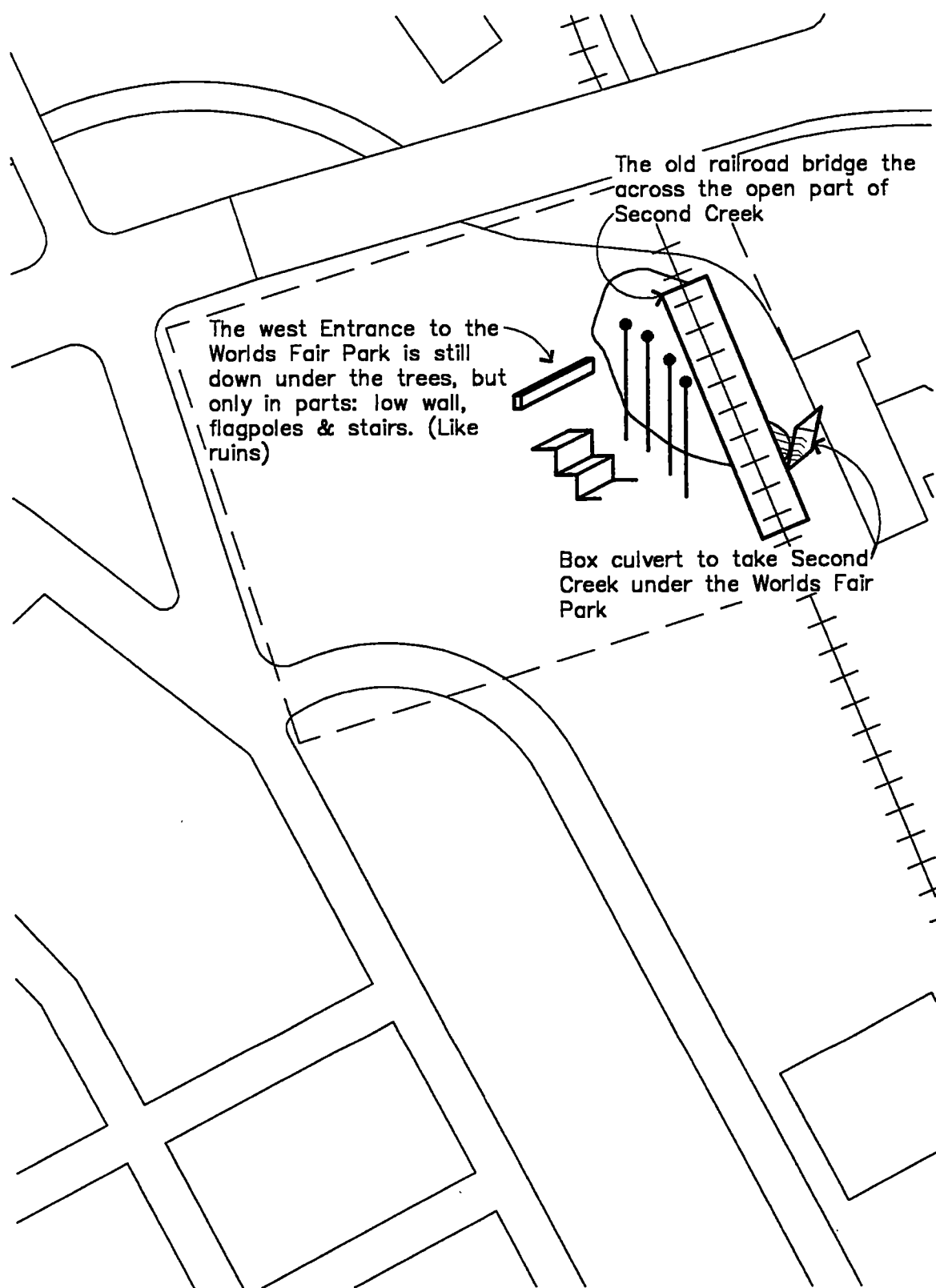
○ Views into the Site

Figure 25.



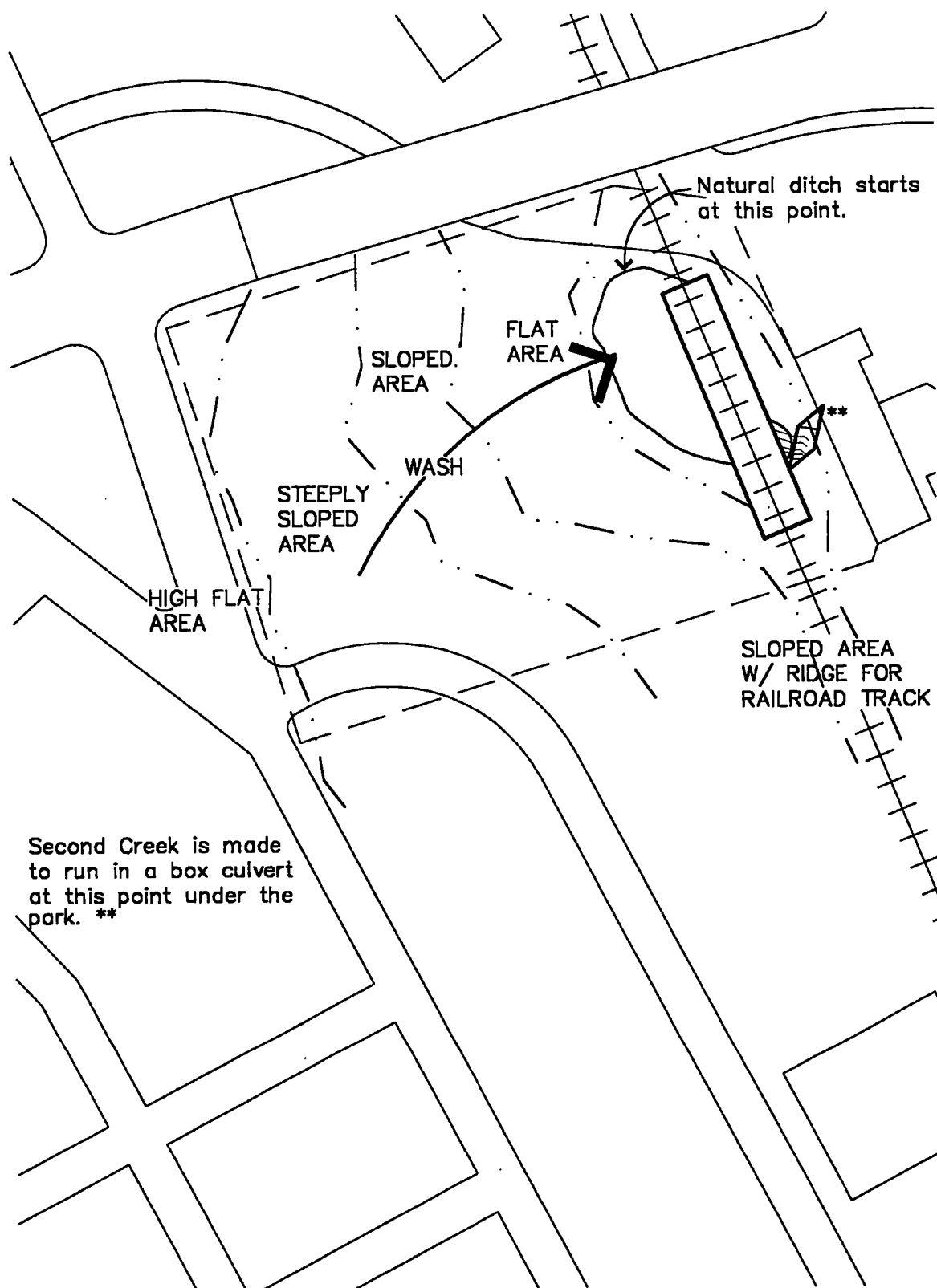
○ Views from the Stadium

Figure 26.



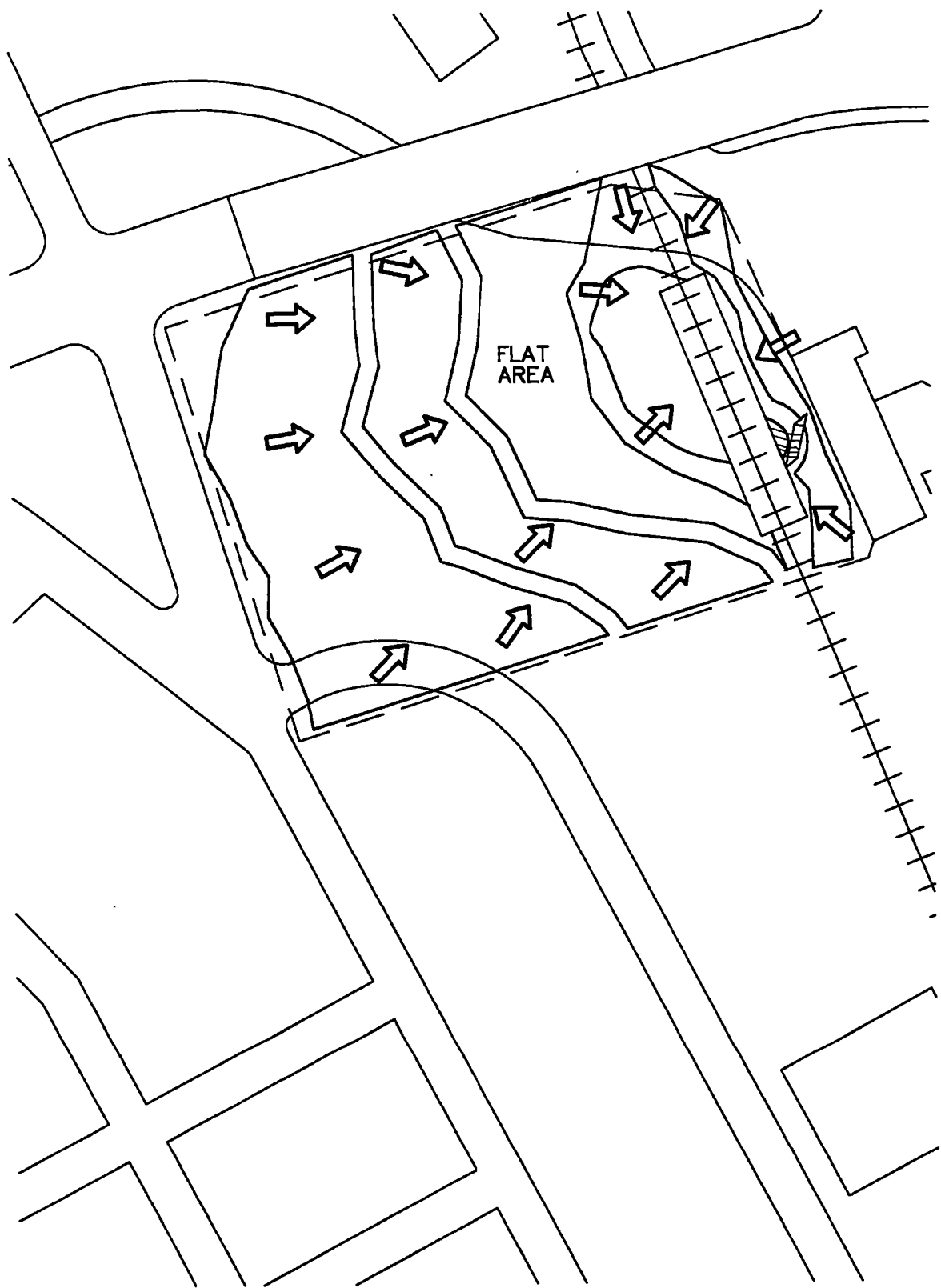
○ On Site Features

Figure 27.



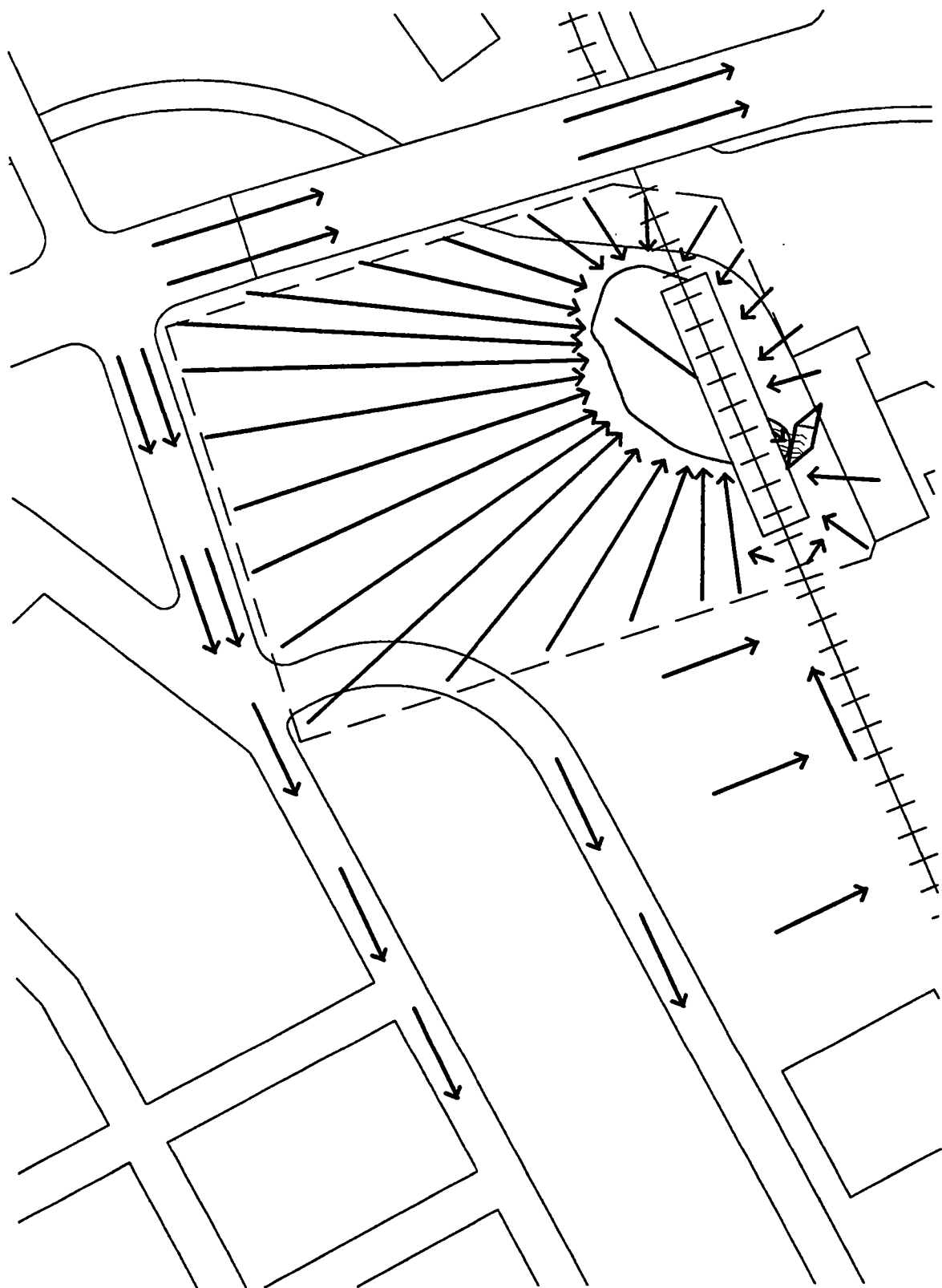
○ Major Land Features

Figure 28.



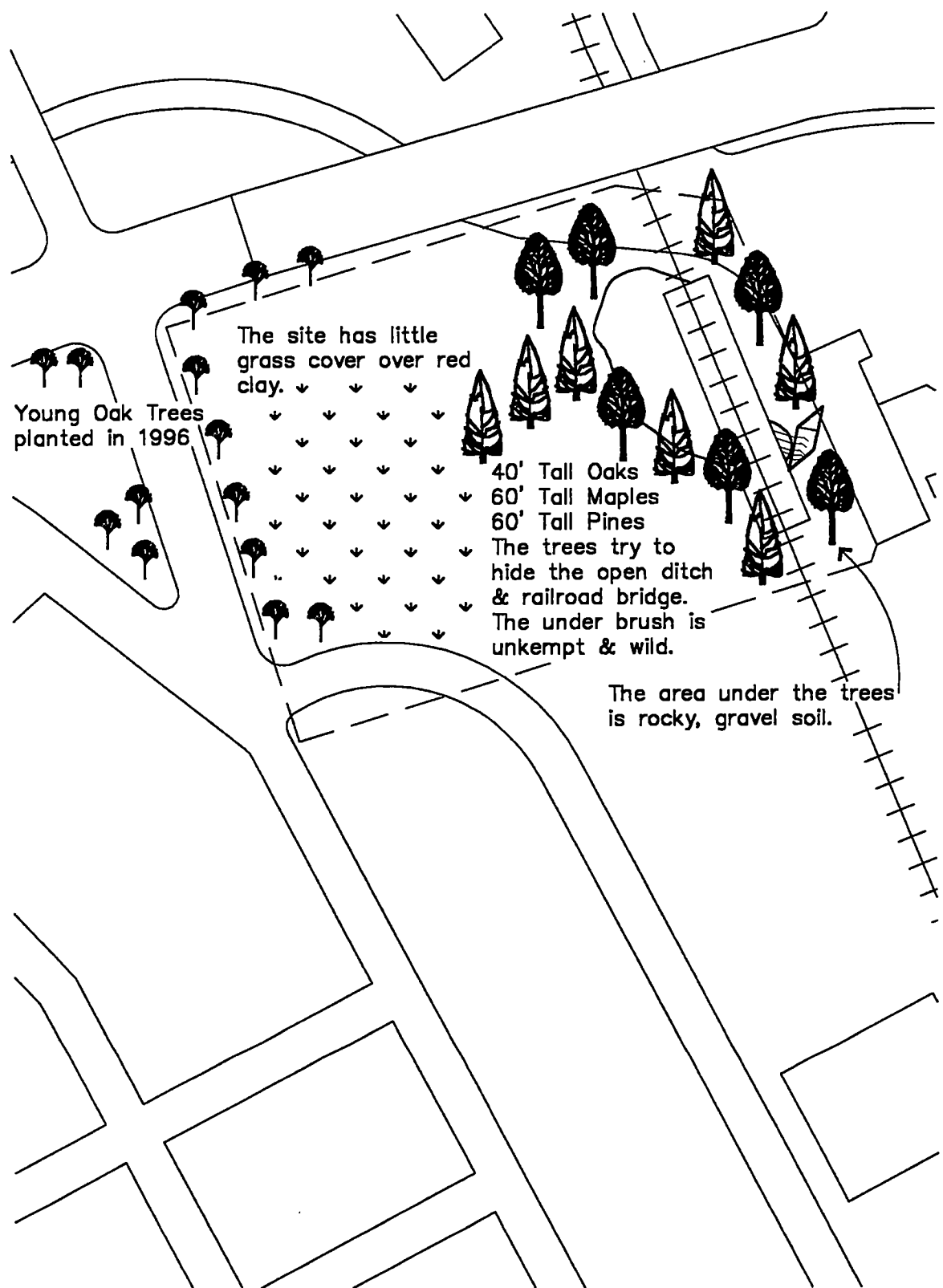
○ Slope

Figure 29.



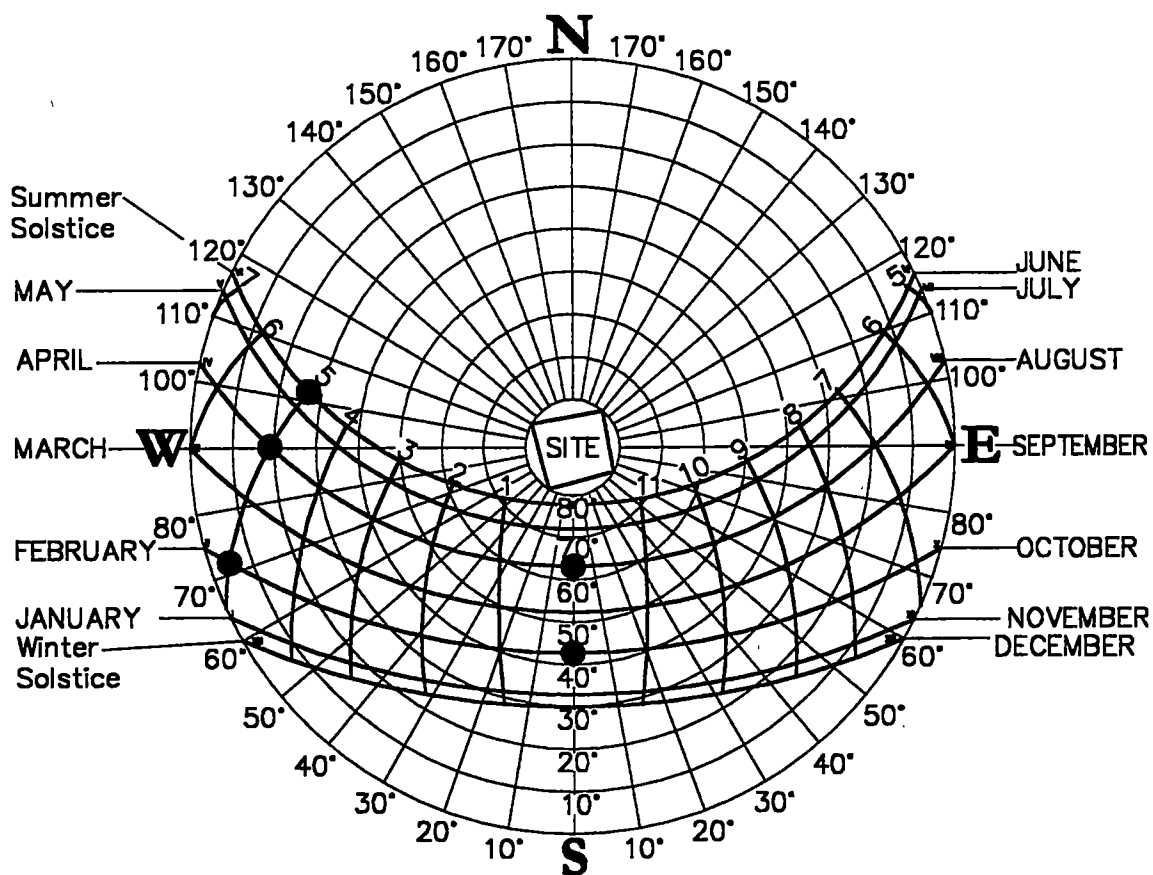
○Surface Drainage Patterns

Figure 30.

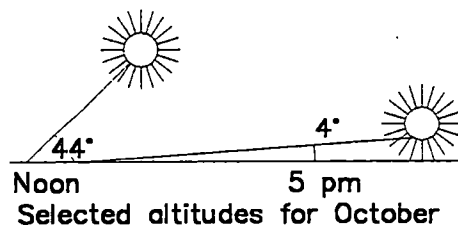
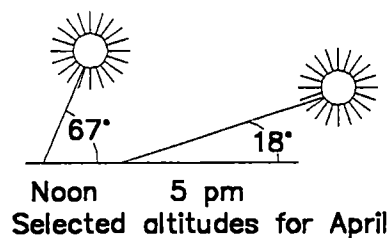
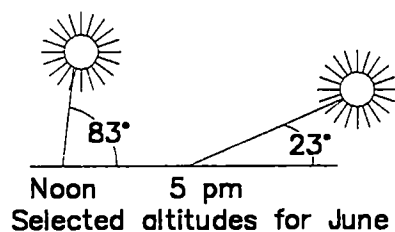


○ Ground Cover, Condition and Vegetation

Figure 31.

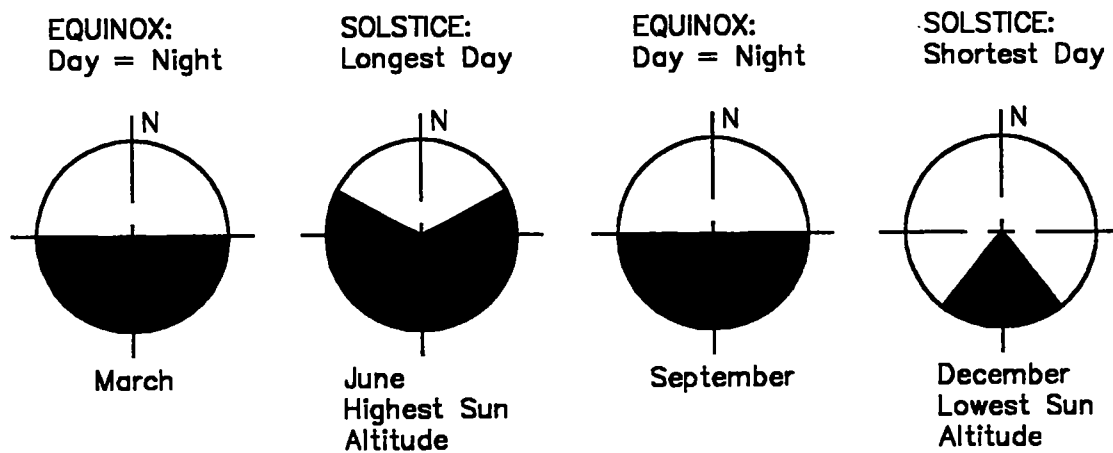
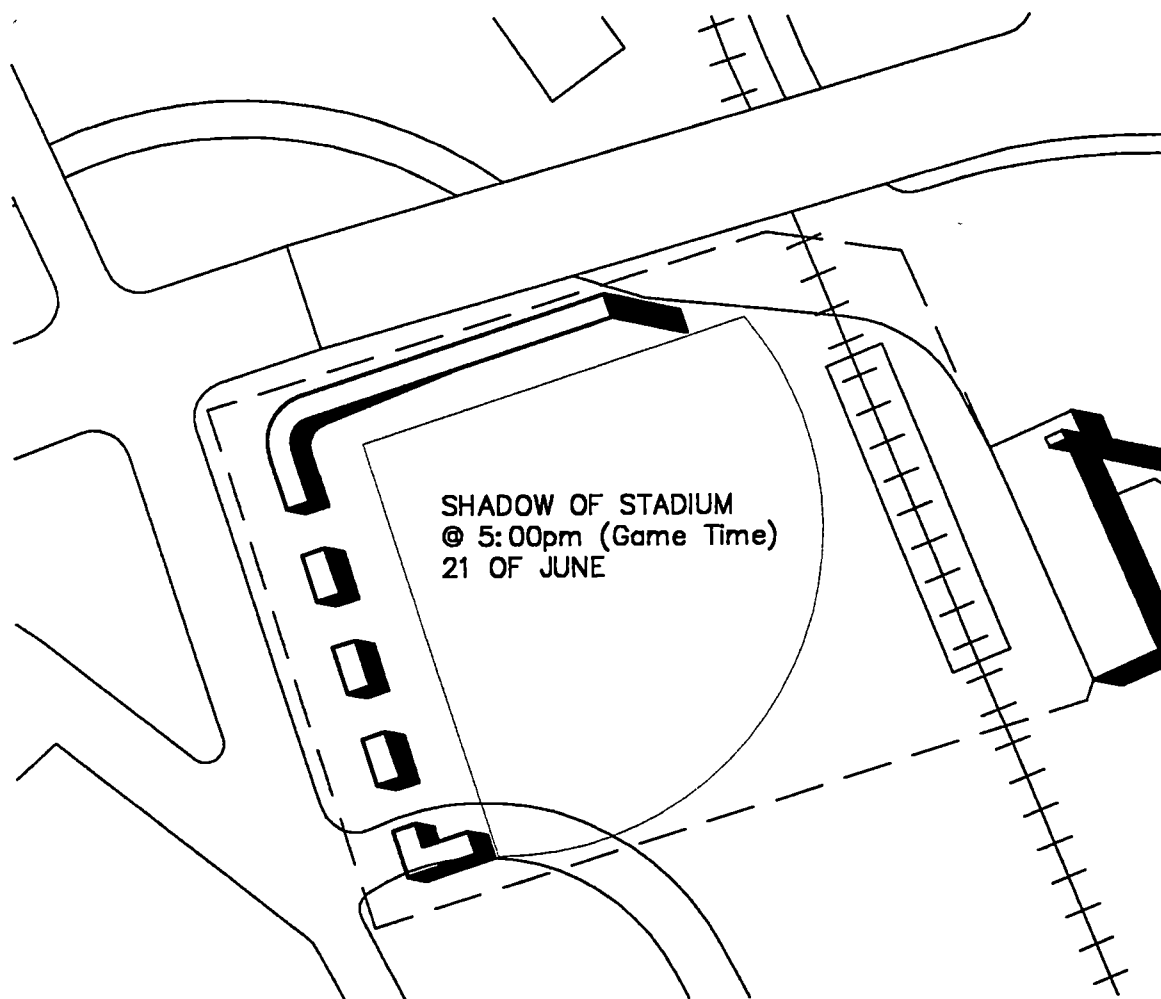


36° N. LATITUDE



○ Sun Path (Part 1 of 2)

Figure 34.



○ Sun Path (Part 2 of 2)

Figure 35.

SITE ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The site analysis examines the possibilities of the location; its edge conditions, the sections through the site, and the physical effect a stadium this size has on the surrounding communities.

The edge conditions indicate that both edges of the baseball stadium need to address two worlds. The side facing Fort Sanders as seen in figure 36 needs a scale that does not overwhelm the community. This edge is appropriate for a restaurant or retail area, which need an air of openness to them.



Figure 36. EDGE CONDITION ONE

The other edge condition faces the highway and bridge (see figure 37). This condition calls for a different approach, which allows this side to develop into a tall building that is noticed from a distance, this side is designed to respond to the car while the other responds to the neighborhood.

The sections through the site show that the main structure with its seating, can be excavated from the earth. The section also shows that the stadium is acoustically appropriate for stage concerts.

Connections to Old City are provided by a proposed light rail system or a footpath along the rail road tracks (see figure 38)

The program for the area under the bridge can become part of the building that needs no direct sun light. Loading docks and storage space are appropriate functions for this area. All the open space under the expressway structure can be used as parking for the stadium, the park, and for concerts as shown in figure 39.

To take advantage of the stadium design and location the following existing conditions should be modified: the rerouting of 10th street, the widening of 11th street and relocating the Butcher Shop restaurant to the second level of the L & N Depot Building.

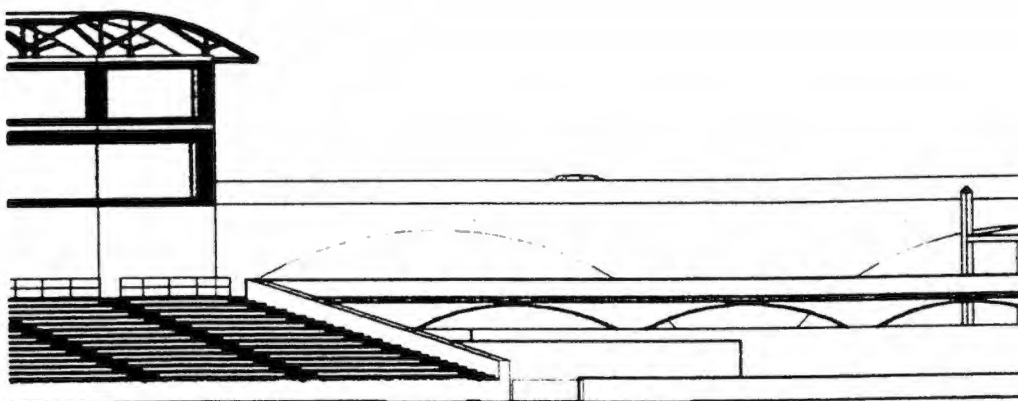


Figure 37. EDGE CONDITION TWO



Figure 38. CONNECTION TO OLD CITY

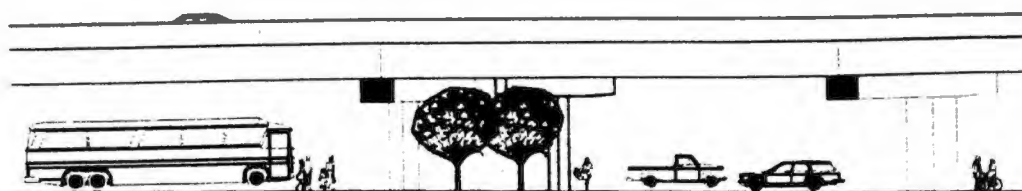


Figure 39. UNDER HIGHWAY STRUCTURE USES

PART THREE

PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM SELECTION

The actual size of the stadium is largely determined by the layout of the seats. The owner decides if the stadium seating needs to be closer to the players. By positioning the backstop 45 feet from home plate, also know as a hitter's park, the people feel closer to the players. This instills a sense of community. The players become part of the neighborhood because the distance is less and communication is greater.

My vision for the baseball stadium is a stadium that helps the surrounding community while servicing a purpose that it was intended for.

The train depot and the farmer's market are a way to link the communities with the site. The market allows for activity every day of the year. A place to go to get food or to meet a friend. The train depot helps link the stadium and the market with areas throughout out the city.

The natural bowl shape of the stadium has the capacity to accommodate additional events and other gatherings when the outfield gates are open to the park.

The following programs are deemed the most important to the over all thesis:

Baseball Field	130,479 sq. ft.
Dugouts	1,000 sq. ft
Bullpens	2,800 sq. ft.
Total square footage of field	134,279 sq. ft.

The Stadium (which consist of the following areas)

Concession Stands	3,600 sq. ft.
Ticket Windows	325 sq. ft.
Security Command Post	1,000 sq. ft.
First Aid Station	300 sq. ft.
Radio, Television, Camera and Print Media Booths	560 sq. ft.

Skyboxes	3,000 sq. ft.
Facility Administration Area	1,750 sq. ft.
Stadium Personnel Dressing Room	1,600 sq. ft.
Team Facilities	4,000 sq. ft.
Visitors Club House	1,000 sq. ft.

Train Depot

The train depot will actually be a covered porch, which also acts as a platform for a restaurant above.

1,500 sq. ft.

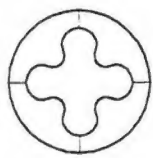
Framer's Market/Concession Stands

Each stand could possibly hold both functions. There are 11 stands, each vary in size.

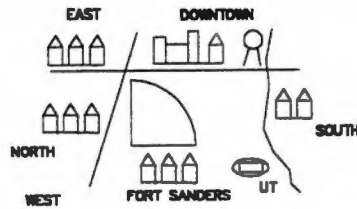
1,500 sq. ft.

PROGRAM ANALYSIS

The program analysis consists of graphically analyzing the major program areas of the ballpark as shown in figures 40 through 43.



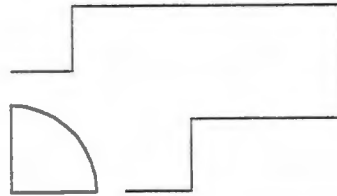
CONNECTION



The ball field itself makes a connection to that which extends beyond the limits of the park.



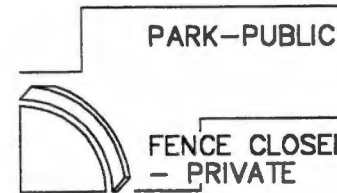
CONTEXT



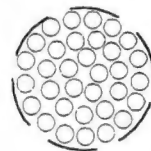
The ball field's context relates to the open field of the park.



EDGE



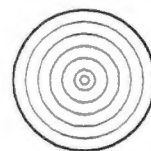
The edges of the baseball field relate to the public and private conditions of the baseball stadium. Park is always public. The field's fence is closed when a game is in progress. (private)



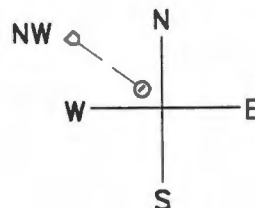
PERMEABILITY



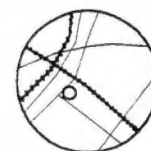
The field itself poses no obstructions to the views from the neighborhood.



PRECISION



The orientation the ball field is precisely located on the ideal Northwest/Southeast axis.



LOCATION



The baseball field takes advantage of the existing topography which forms a bowl. The natural bowl is perfect for seating.

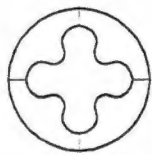


TIME

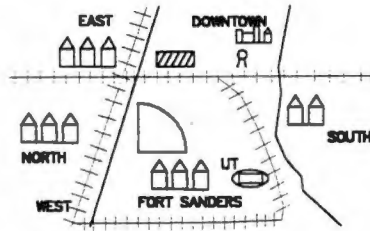
NOT APPLICABLE

○ Baseball Field

Figure 40.



CONNECTION



The rail line connects the park to the city as well as to the broader areas outside the city.



CONTEXT

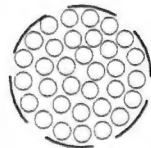
The depot brings everybody to a part of town that is only used during certain events. This allows a bringing of the community together all year round.



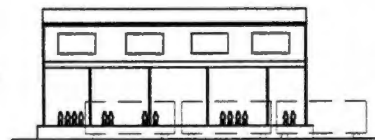
EDGE



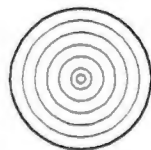
The train depot defines the edges of the public and private realms of the stadium it self. The depot is a public edge at all times.



PERMEABILITY

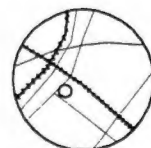


The train depot itself is nothing more than a covered porch.

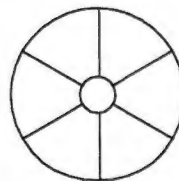


PRECISION

NOT APPLICABLE



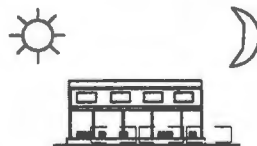
LOCATION



The train depot is located in the center of the city.



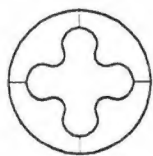
TIME



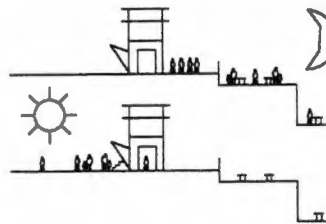
The train depot is open all the time.

○ Train Depot

Figure 41.



CONNECTION



The buildings are used for dual purposes. Game day as concession stands, mostly at night and Market stands during the day.



CONTEXT

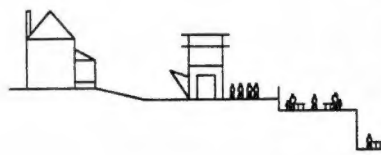


MATERIALS

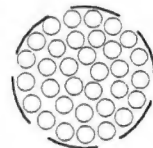
The market brings the surroundings into Fort Sanders by taking parts of neighborhood into the design of the buildings itself. This makes for good relationships between the two.



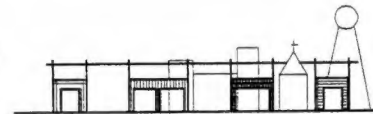
EDGE



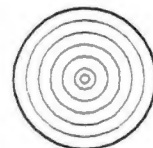
The edge the market needs to address is Fort Sanders. The buildings should not be out of scale. The stands are one story and narrow, as to fit into neighborhood context and scale.



PERMEABILITY

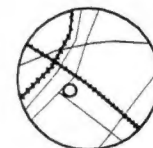


The program calls for buildings that are spaced widely apart but act as one unit during game day. The spaces in-between gives permeability to the stands & a unobtrusive view back to Fort Sanders



PRECISION

Precisely located on the edge of the street to create a public space.



LOCATION



The stands need to be located near the neighborhood and in an area easy to get to, also without blocking any major streets.



TIME

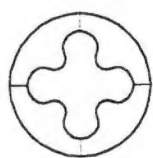
MARKET		
JAN	FEB	MAR
APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP
OCT	NOV	DEC

CONCESSION		
JAN	FEB	MAR
APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP
OCT	NOV	DEC

The stands can be used all year round without changing any layout after baseball season closes. The stands also provide shade.

○ Farmer's Market/Concession Stands

Figure 42.



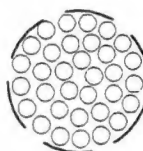
CONNECTION



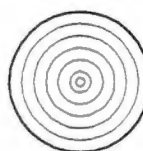
CONTEXT



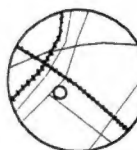
EDGE



PERMEABILITY



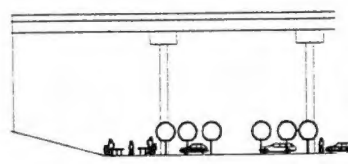
PRECISION



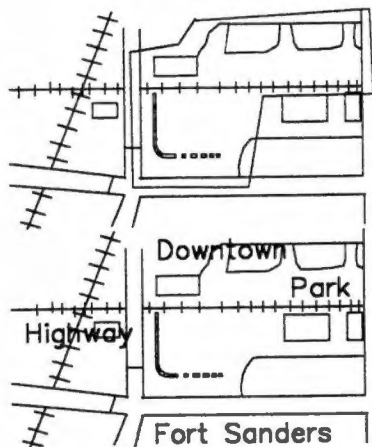
LOCATION



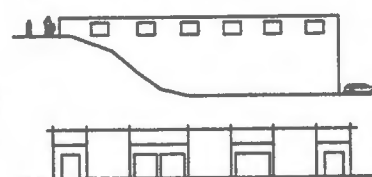
TIME



The stadium connects the park to the rest of the city, by way of using an unclaimed area left vacant. The reclaiming of this area connects parts of the city to one other.



The building strengthens the site by giving identify and closure to the north end the site.

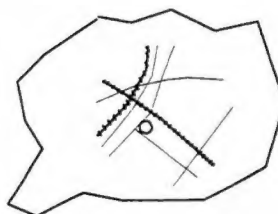


The stadium has four different edges to consider: 1. The street fronting Fort Sanders. 2. The street facing the highway. 3. Outfield to the park. 4. The Outfield to the outlying buildings and downtown

Because of the different edges, part of the stadium permeability is essential. That can only be achieved by making low profile buildings.



The precision to which the stadium is placed depends on the accessibility to which the building will function properly.



The stadium location is determined by the area of the city and how well the site can be adapted to the building.

JAN	FEB	MAR
APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP
OCT	NOV	DEC

The stadium can be used all year round. The functions in and round are made to service the public not only at game time but any time.

○ THE STADIUM

Figure 43.

PROGRAM ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The program analysis starts to examine the public and private realms of a baseball stadium. The analysis shows which areas of the stadium are public and which are private. By addressing each room on an individual basis one begins to understand the relationship the rooms have to the baseball stadium itself. Does the room need to be locked at all times, does it need direct sunlight, etc? By dealing with each characteristic one begins to understand the hierarchy and position the individual rooms have in relationship to the public and private realm. Rooms which serve a private function are hierarchically less important than rooms which house public functions. Thus the private realm, is placed in an area that is isolated from the public.

The train depot and farmer's market compliment the ballpark and its expanded program. The program and design allows for activities outside the stadium to benefit from the activities linked to the stadium as a result the public rooms position themselves on the outside of the stadium.

PART FOUR
PRECEDENTS STUDIES

PILOT FIELD (figure 44.)

Buffalo, New York

Connection: The ballpark connects to the existing area by being placed within an existing city block, keeping a continuous city grid. No roads are rerouted or closed off, enabling traffic to flow without any disruption.

Time: This field is designed for a minor league team, which means smaller crowds and shorter season than major leagues. The park support facilities that are open year around.

Edges: Pilot Field has four very distinct edges (see figure 44). The first edge backs up to the highway. The blank facade on this edge does not interface with the highway. The second edge backs up to an apartment. The building that surrounds that side of the park is permeable, which enables the residences to see the game from their apartment. The third edge backs up to retail and restaurant district. The stadium seems to flow out into a plaza between the two. This gives a sense of openness. The fourth edge backs up to commercial and industrial area. The stadium turns a blank wall to this area, thus the stadium is open and permeable regarding the pedestrian and city, but closed in regard to large scale vehicular traffic and other non pedestrian oriented functions.

The edges are each very different but in combination they bring coherence to the project as a whole.

Context: The buildings that form the actual stadium conform to the scale, form and style of the surrounding fabric (see figure 45). The scale of the building is made

Second Edge

Third Edge



Fourth Edge

First Edge

Figure 44. EDGES OF PILOT FIELD

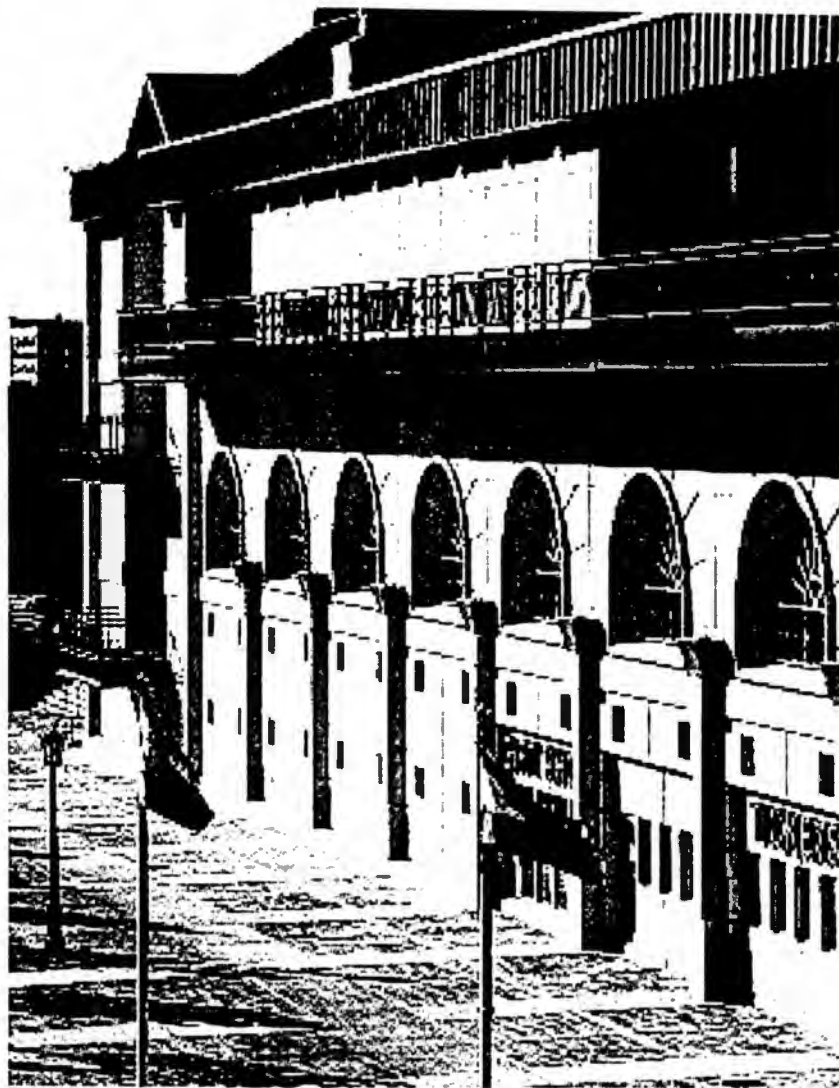


Figure 45. REFLECTION OF SURROUNDING FABRIC

not to overwhelm the area. The building expression reflects the scale and materials of surrounding fabric.

Location: The location of the park addressed an area that needed revitalization. The site had old warehouses with basements on it, therefore it made sense to use the shape that was left to structure the stadium. The section (figure 46) shows this condition.

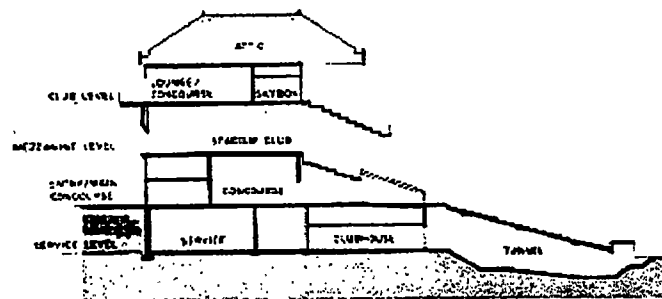


Figure 46. SECTION OF PILOT FIELD

COORS FIELD (figure 47.)

Denver, Colorado

Context: Coors Field reflects the context around it. Existing warehouses are reflected in the facade of the new baseball stadium. The materials are also linked to the existing fabric. Most of the warehouses around the stadium are made of brick with high parapets.

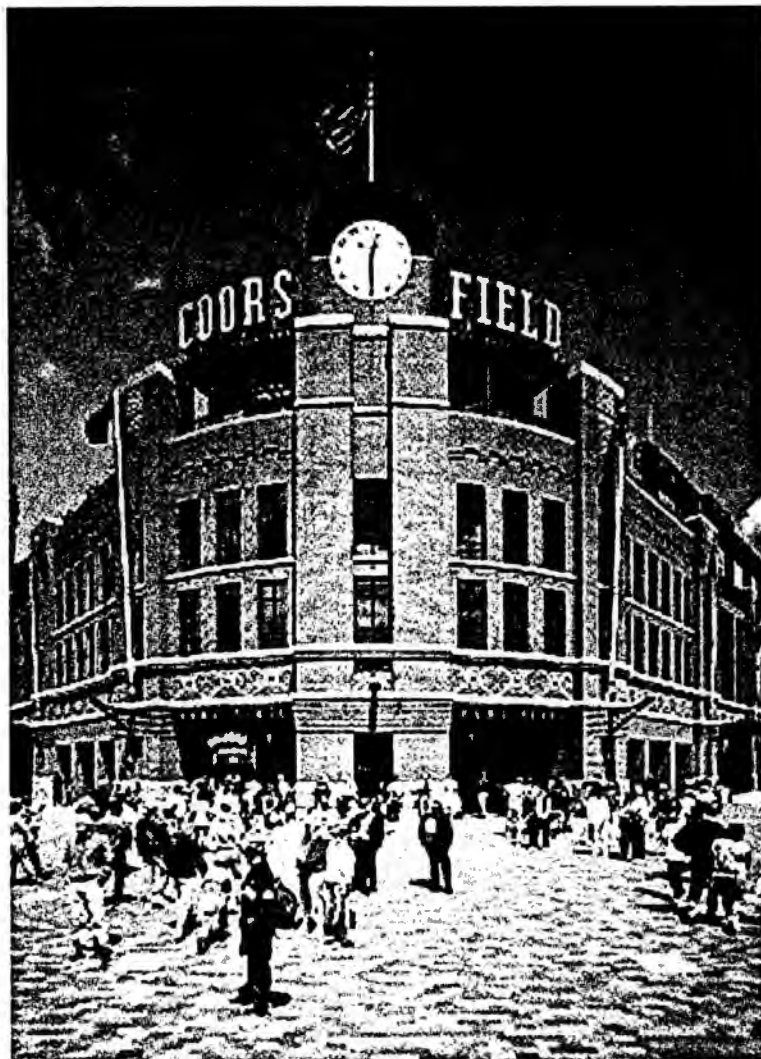


Figure 47. BRICK FAÇADE OF COORS FIELD

Connection: The linking capacity of the park to the city fabric is directly addressed and achieved. The park inhabits about two city blocks in an area that at one time was run down. The park is connected to the city through the subway and the city street system. The connections are made simply, early and safely.

Context: The park also contains festive retail areas and a mini amphitheater (see figure 49). The area is made to interact with the surrounding city fabric. The facades reflect the industrial buildings that once surrounded it. The brick façade with tall windows for letting light into the work area and the rod iron grill work along the front is part of the building fabric that joins the building to the history and context of the site.

Time: The ballpark is not open all year round, but the retail areas are and thus keep interest in the ball team going as well as providing continuous life in the city

Edge: The park has three edges: Two edges are identical to one another, with both facing restored high rise apartments. The building maintains a low profile by placing the field below the natural grade as the sections above explain. Another edge faces new retail shops with a public pavilion in the middle. The stadium uses a narrow building with many holes punched in it to provide a sense of openness and permeability. The other side turns its back to an old commercial area, on that is not considered to be an asset to the stadium and its functions.

Permeability: The permeability may have come into play by sheer accident. The apartments that are on two sides of the park enjoy a great view of the games from

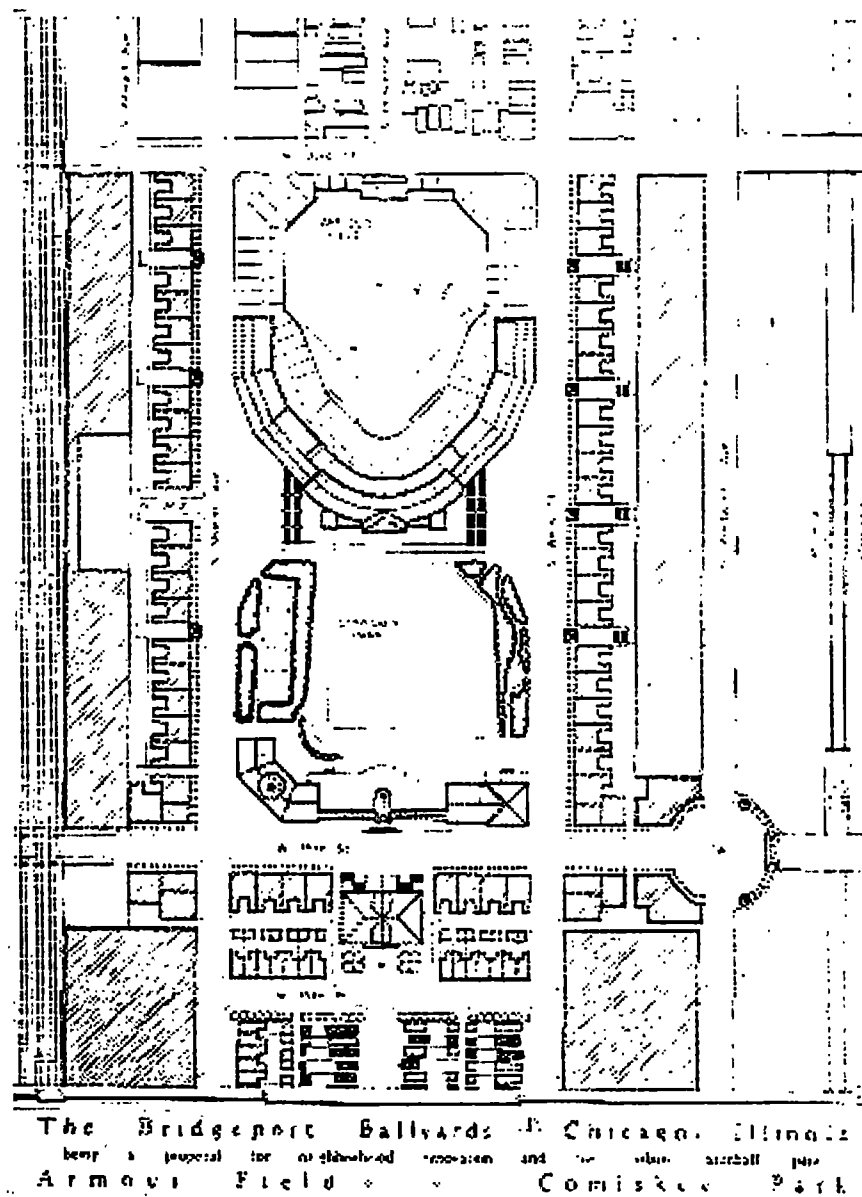


Figure 48. PLAN OF COMISKEY PARK

the rooftops. The empty park makes a great backdrop for all the apartments when the season is over.

Historic & Location: The new field shares the site with the old field. For historical and urban design reasons the new field is located at the other end. The original park was an urban ballpark, so the decision to keep the new park urban has continued that tradition. The new facility is acting as a catalyst for change in the surrounding area.

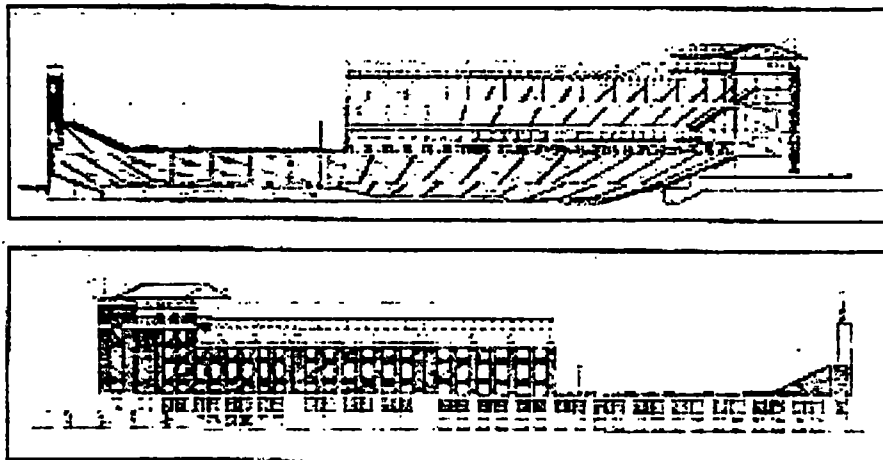


Figure 49. SECTION AND ELEVATION OF COMISKEY PARK

HARBOR PARK (figure 50)

Norfolk, Virginia

Context: The scale of the stadium has a low profile that incorporates the sky boxes on the roof. This allows for more seating closer to the field. The fans are closer to the field which in turn makes for a better relationship between the players and the fans, allowing for direct rapport.



Figure 50. VIEW OF HOW CLOSE THE GRANDSTANDS ARE TO THE FIELD AT HARBOR PARK

**PART FIVE
CONCLUSION
&
PARTI STRATEGIES**

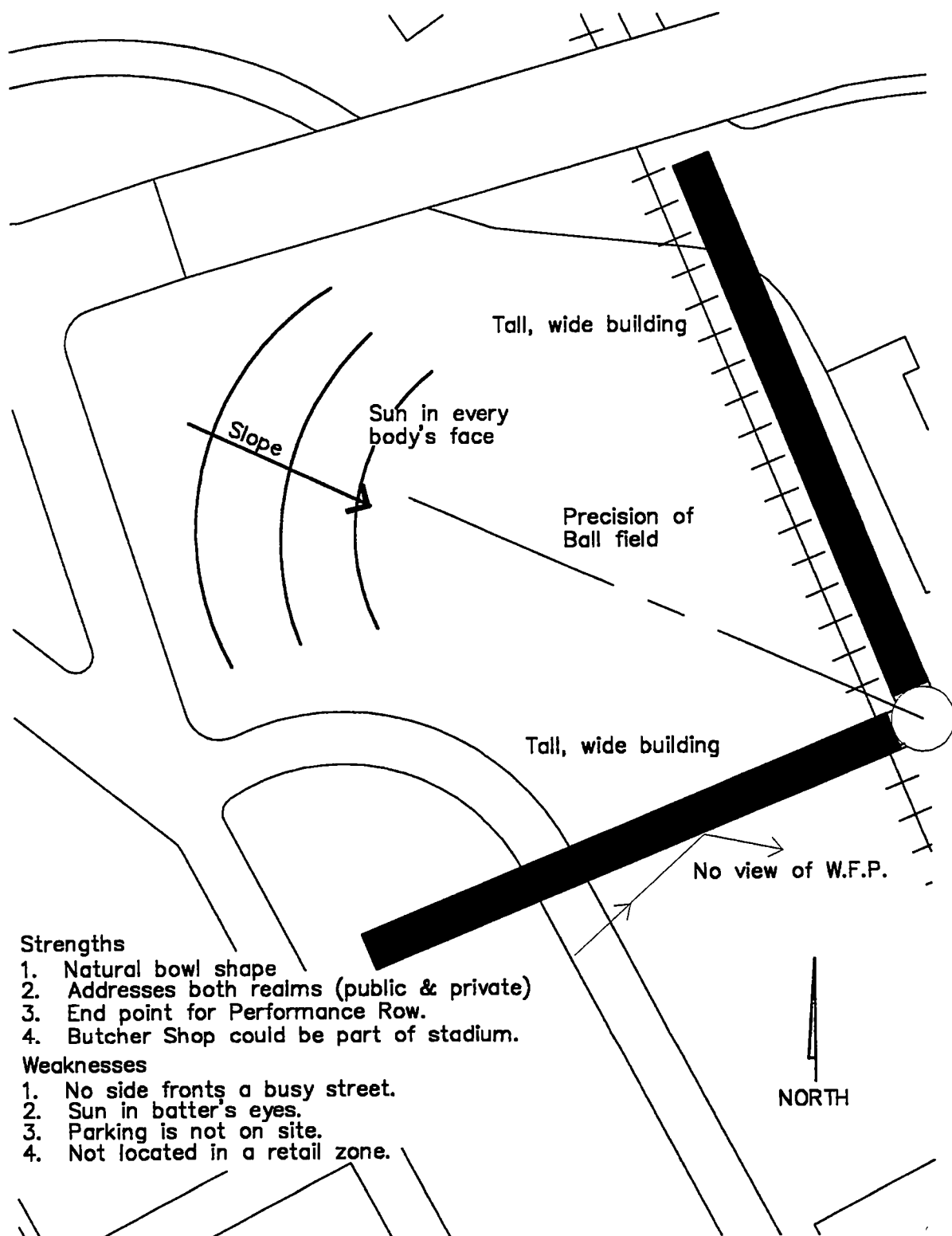
CONCLUSION

With the above analysis one can conclude that the baseball stadium will work at the proposed site. The natural bowl shape of the site is particularly suited for this function.

The way each edge is programmed, analyzed, and designed helps the project bring about urban improvement in ways of gathering and linking the distinct areas, which were not previously connected. The park acts not only as a ballpark on game day but when closed provides the community with a safe and fun activity node. By engaging the particular site and program, one begins to realize that each edge has its own identify. The edges compliment and extend the context to promote renewal to the existing fabric.

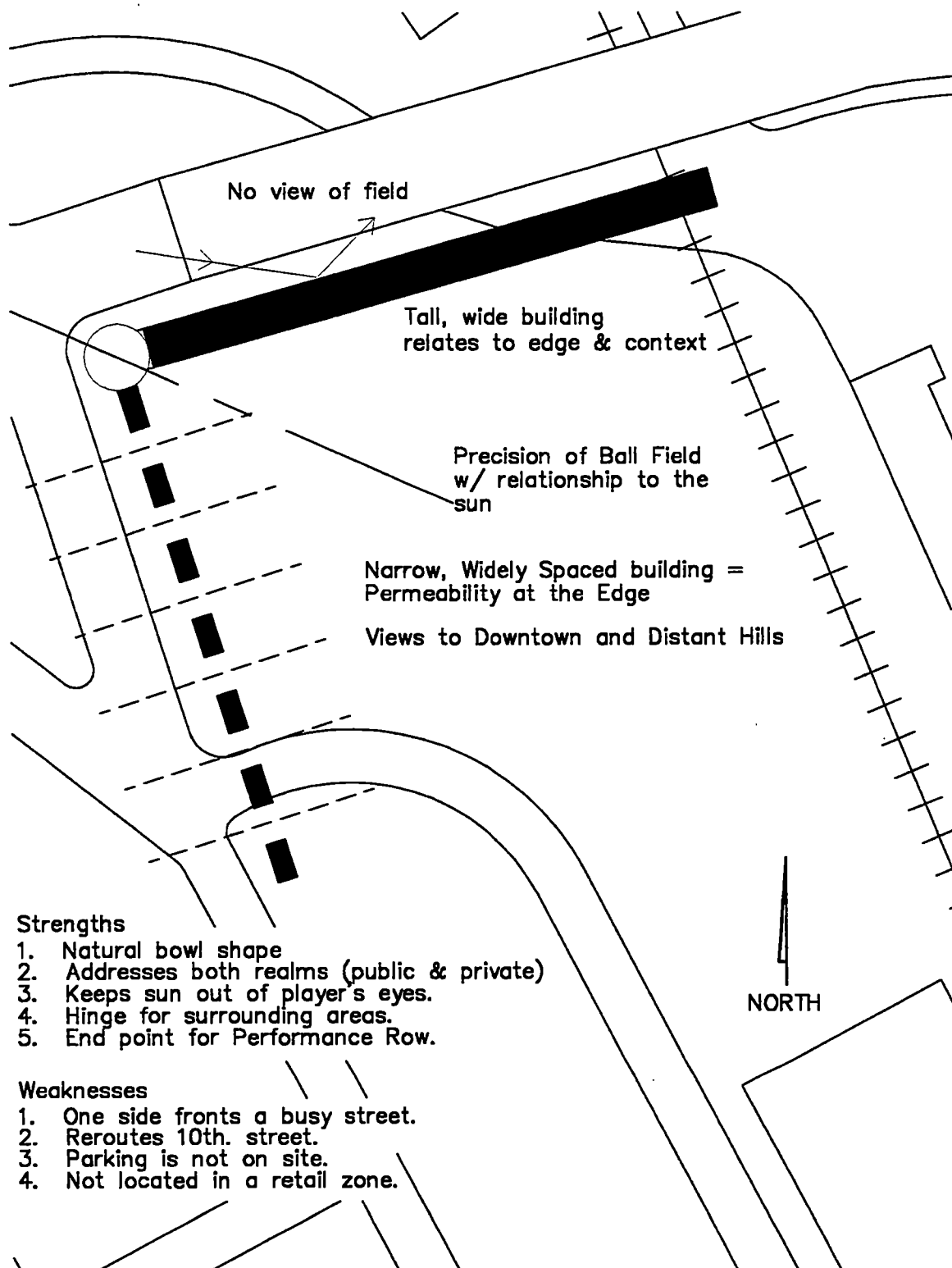
The issues stated in the analysis are the driving forces behind the design of the ballpark.

The parti strategies (figures 51 & 52) were the two-final conclusion as to where to place the project on the site. Both strategies could work well in the final outcome but parti (figure 52) address all the issues that are stated in the paper.



○ Parti I

Figure 51.



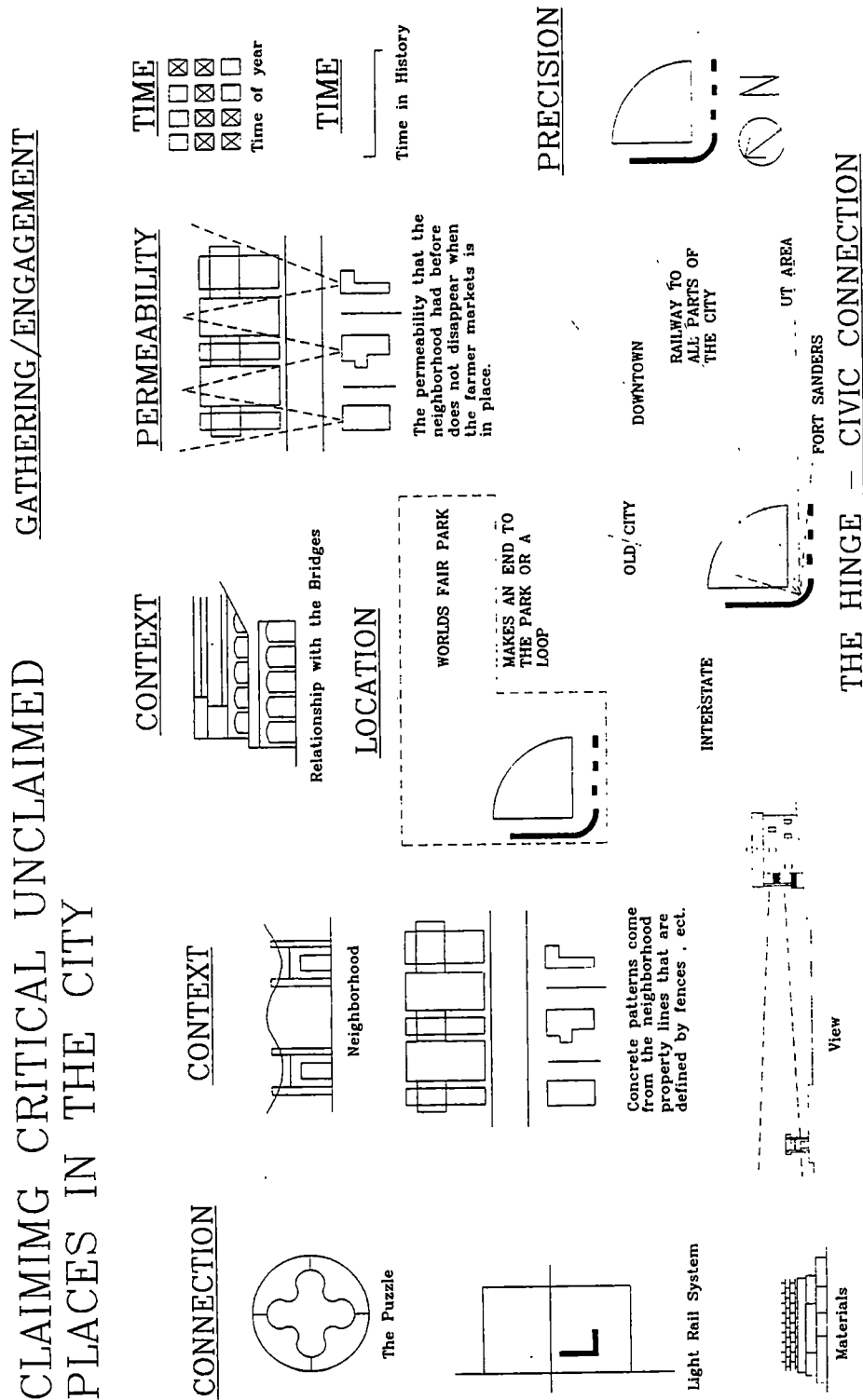
○ Parti II

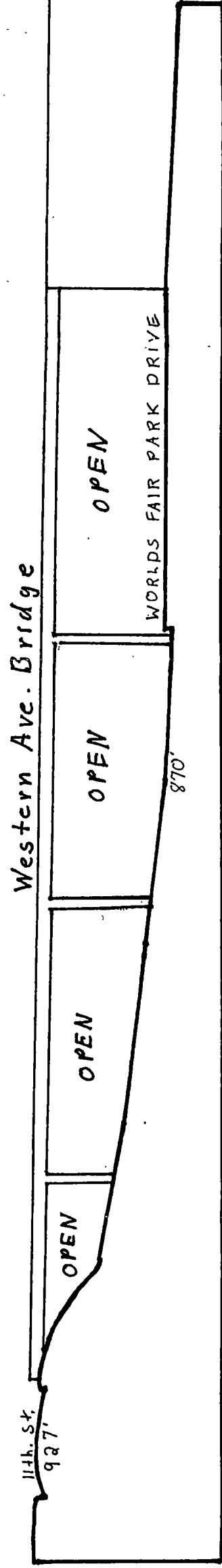
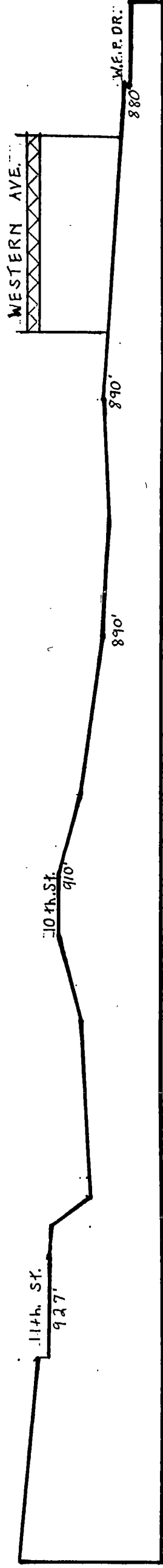
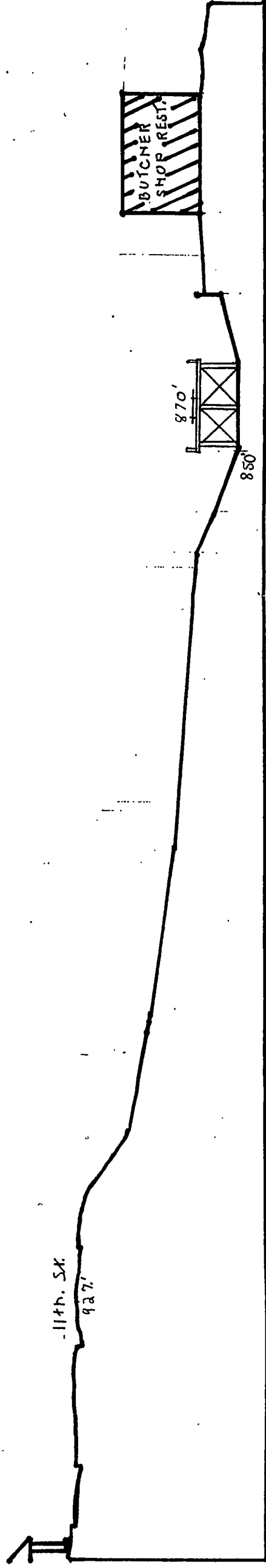
Figure 52.

PART SIX
DRAWINGS OF THE PROJECT

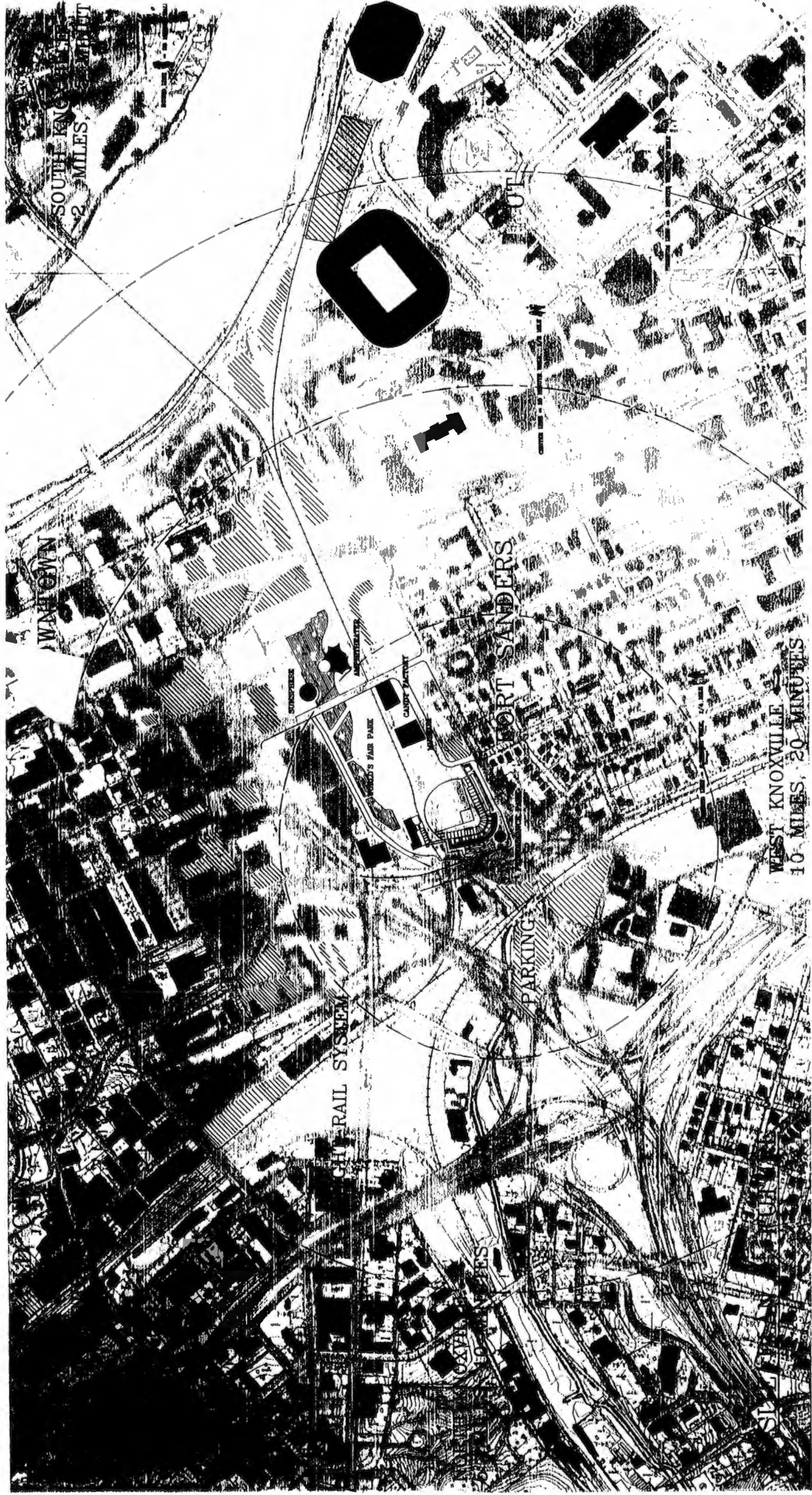
○ Title Sheet

Figure 53.



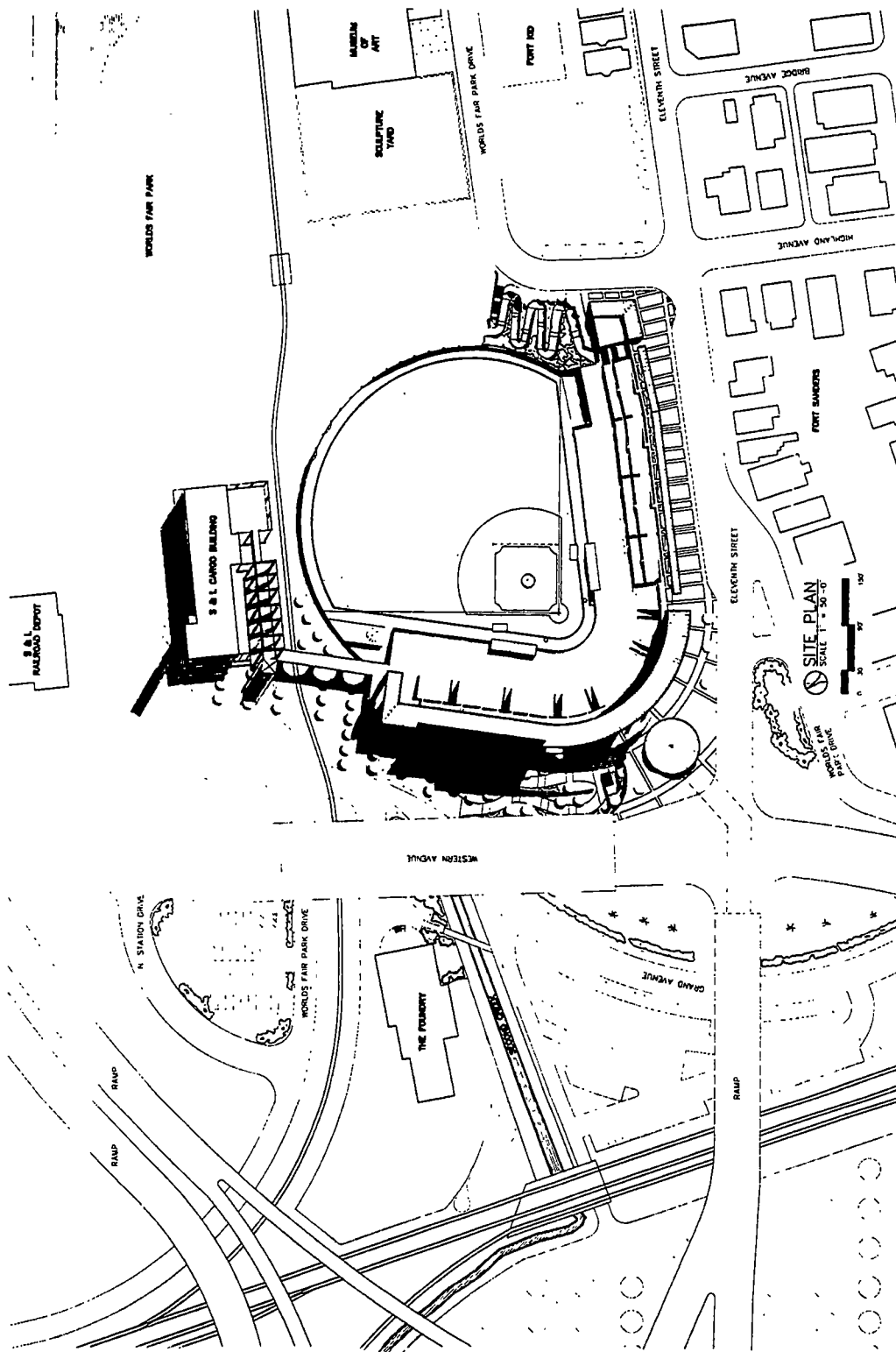


○ Sections Thru. Site



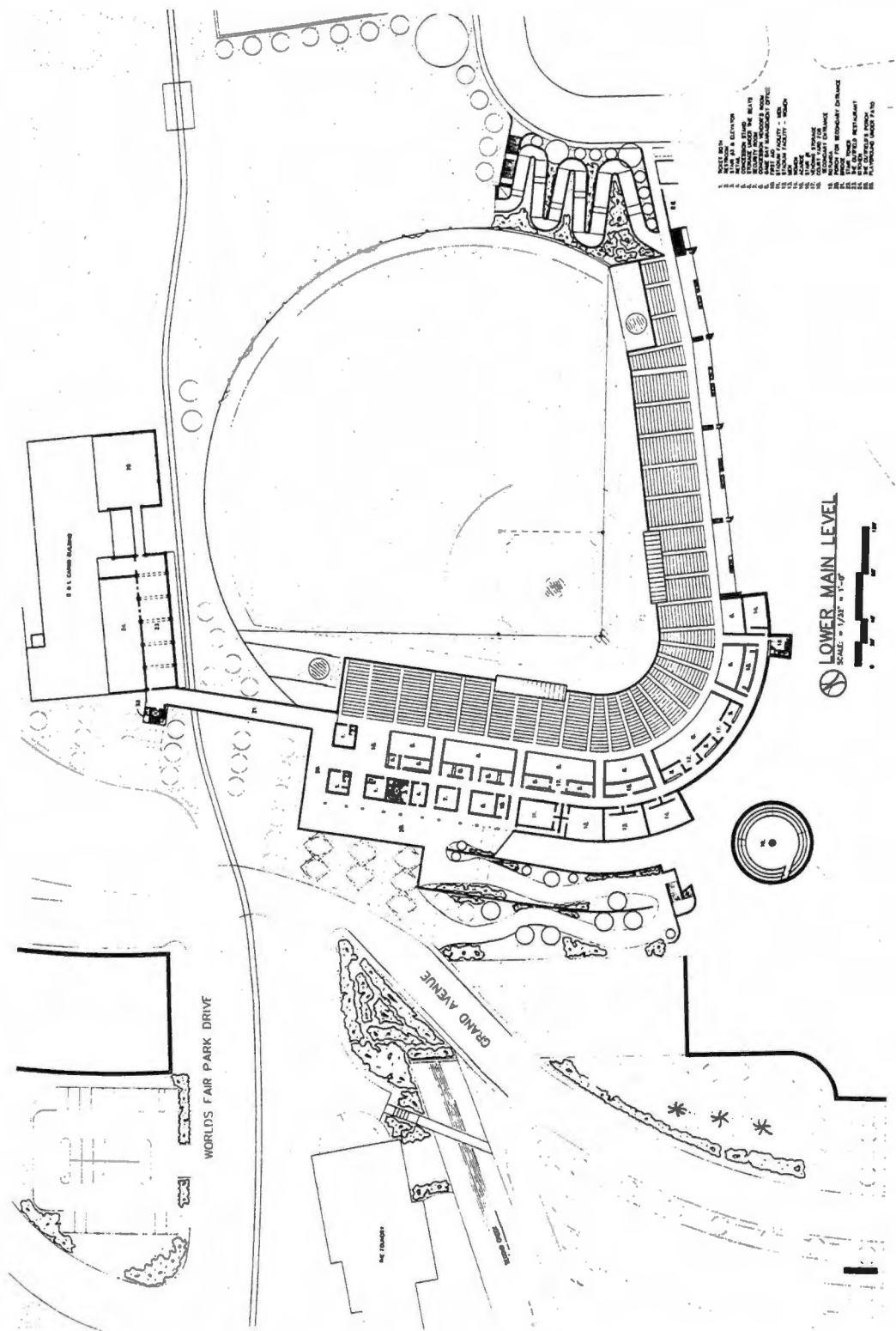
○ Overview of the City

Figure 54.



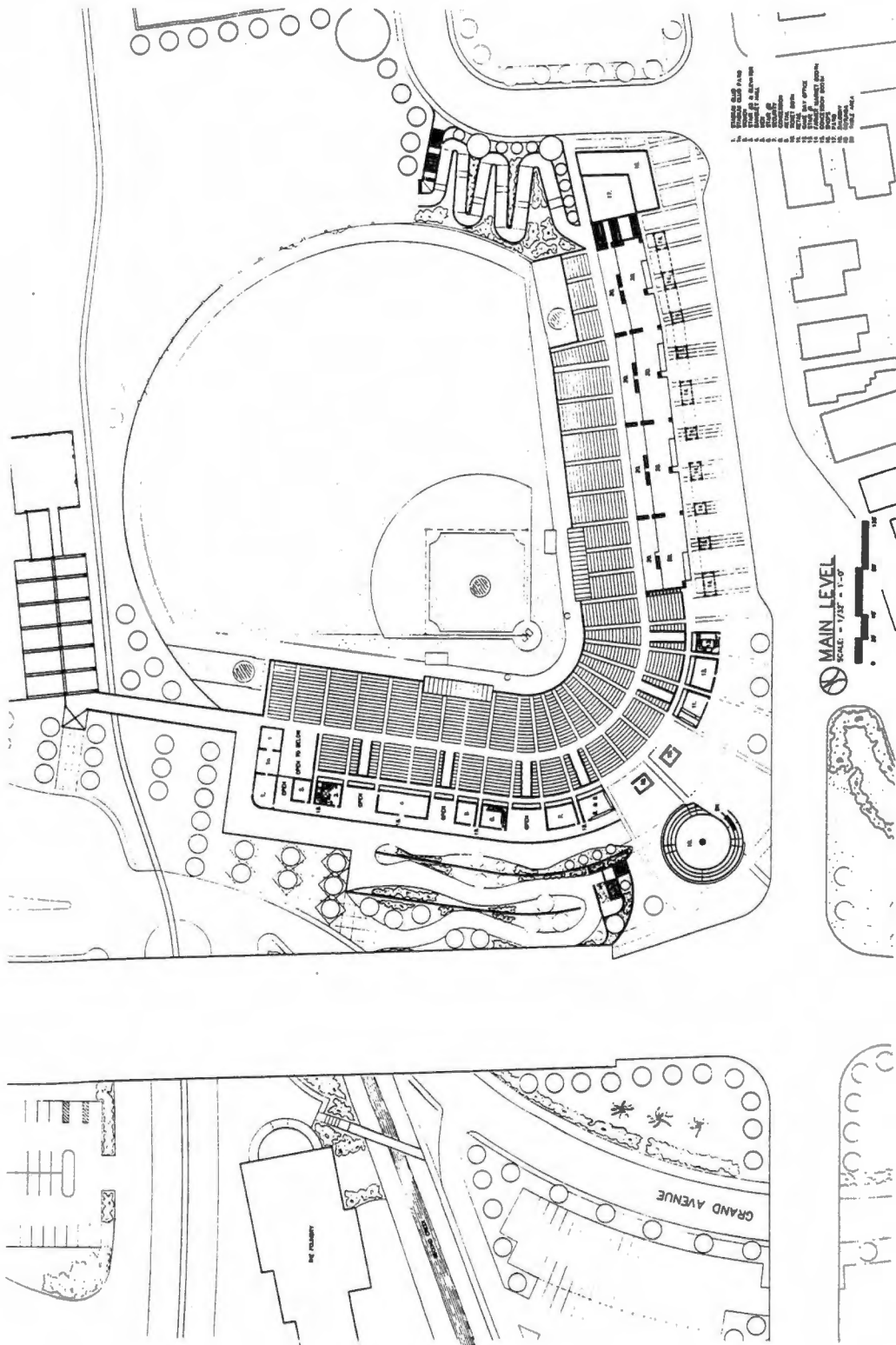
○ Site Plan of Project

Figure 55.



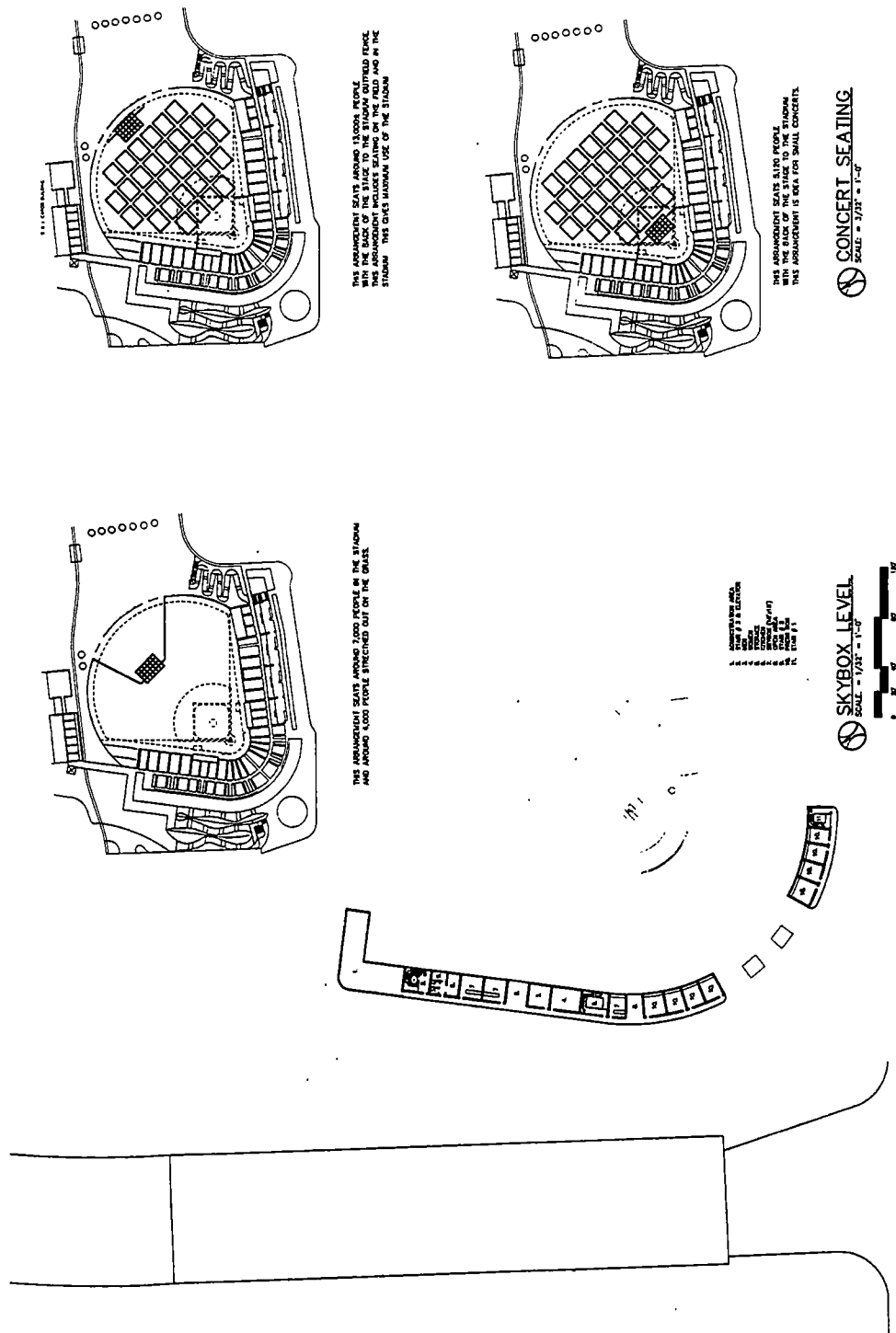
○ Lower Main Level

Figure 57.



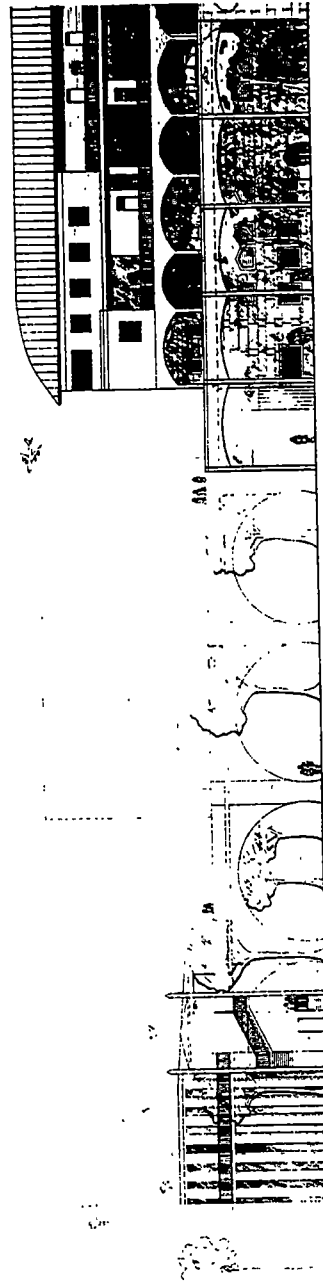
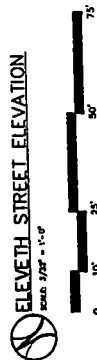
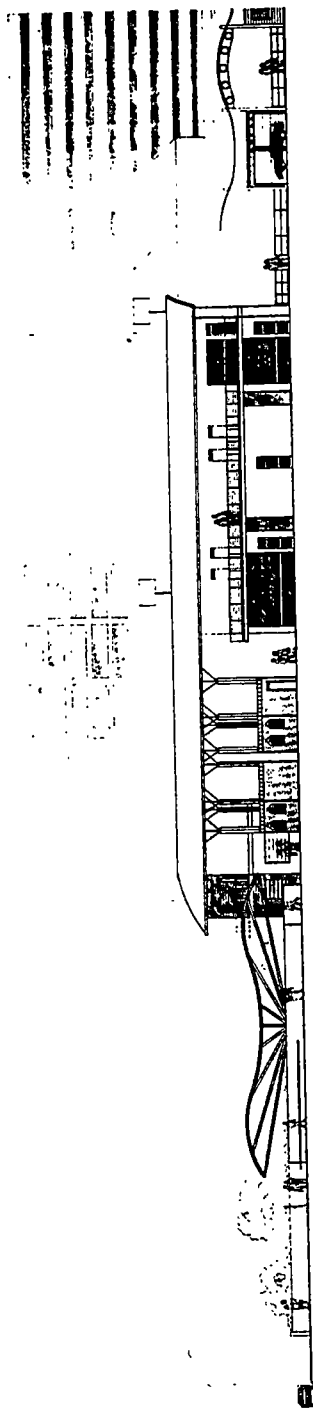
○ Main Level

Figure 58.



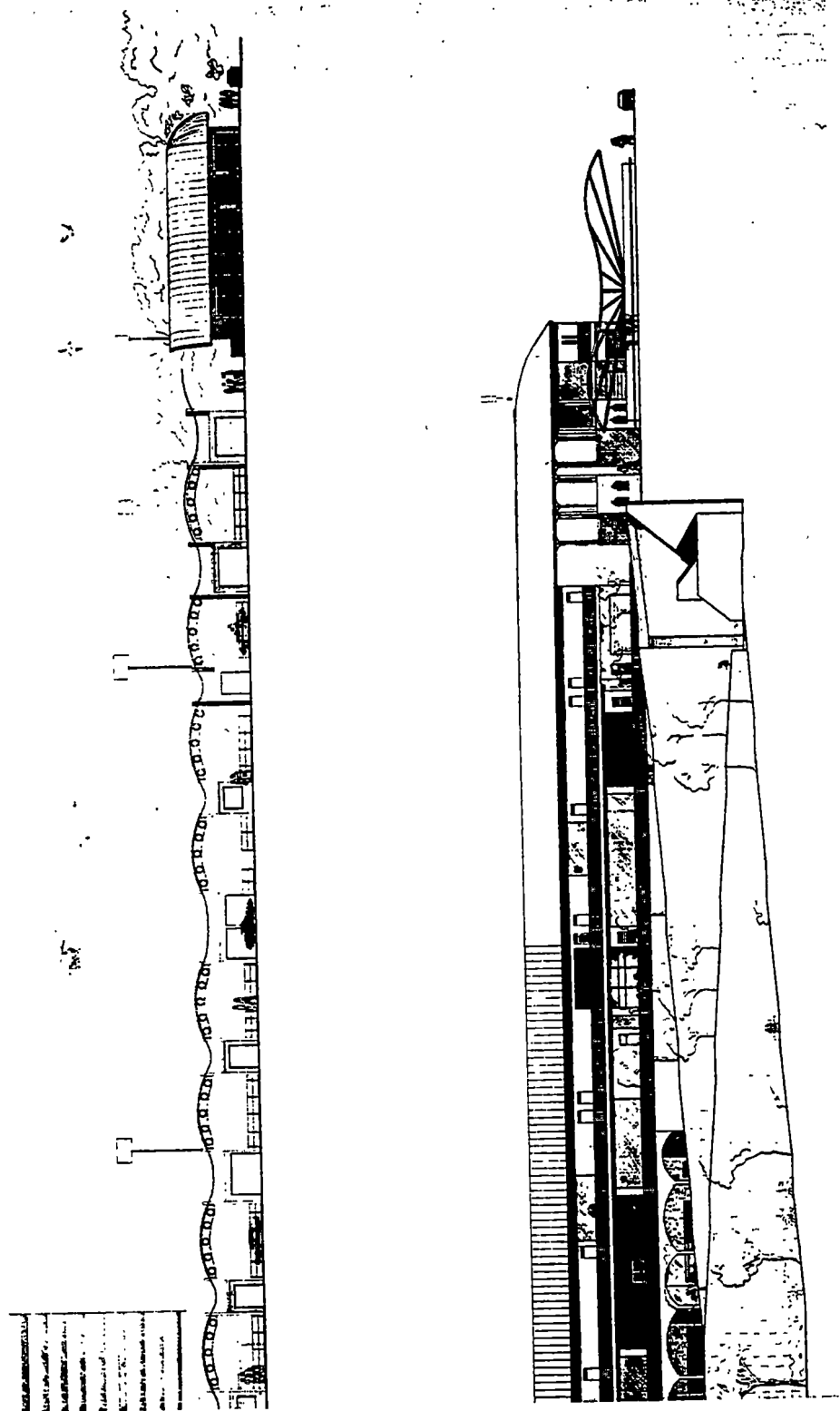
○ Skybox Level and Concert Seating

Figure 59.



○First Half of Elevations

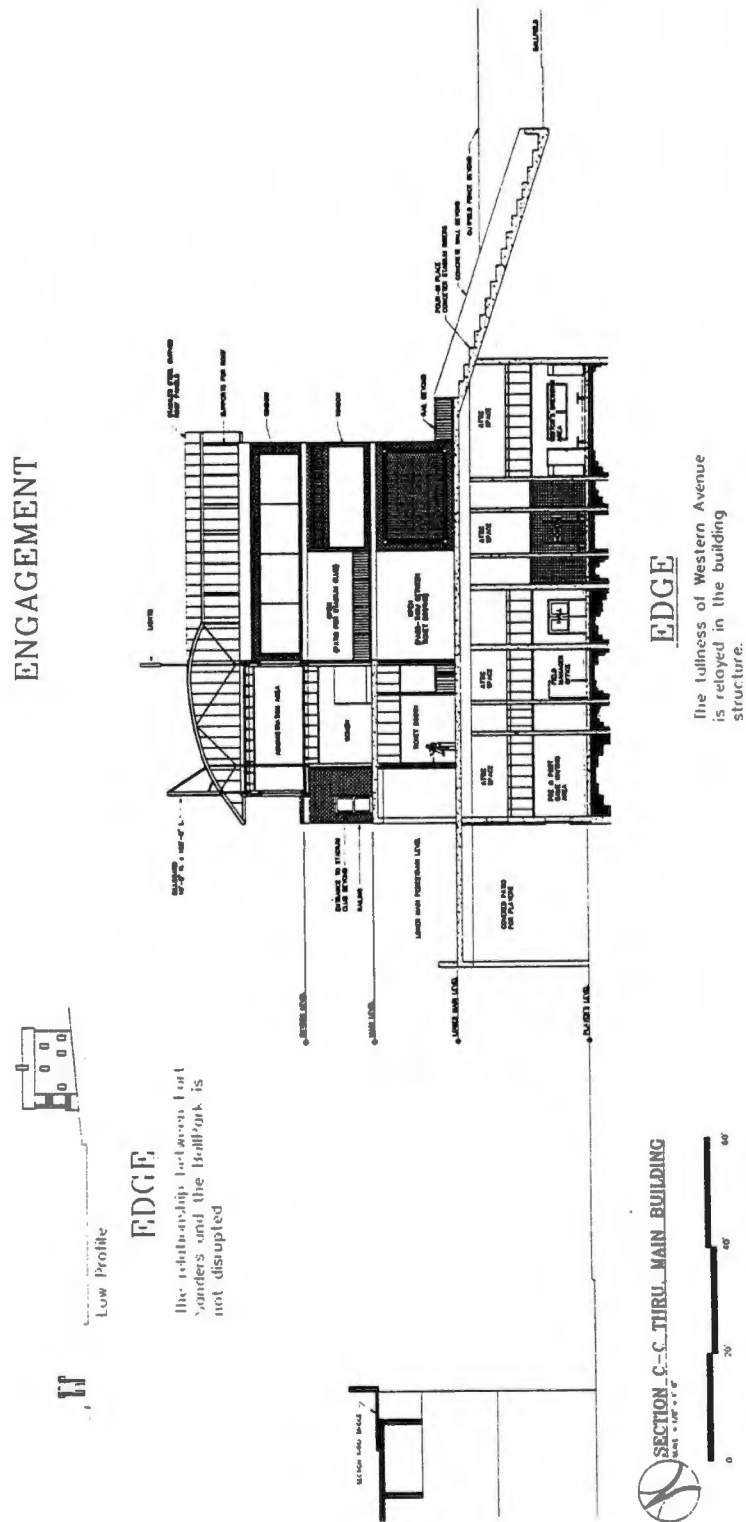
Figure 60.



○ Second Half of Elevations

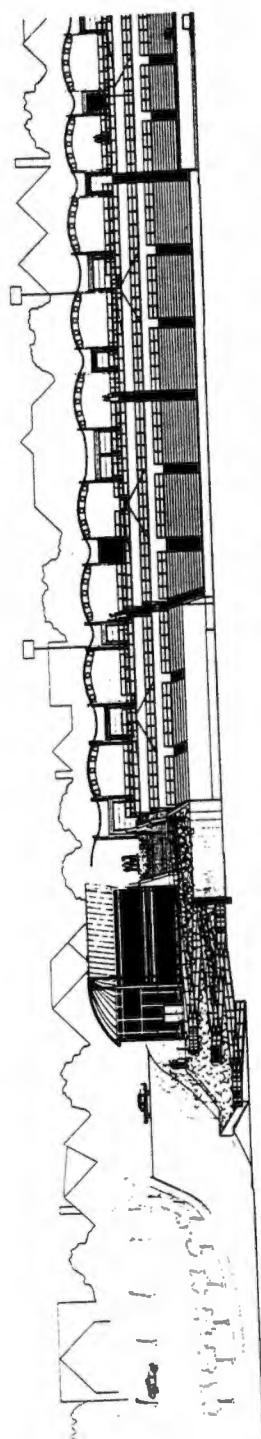
Figure 61.

In cities all over America certain critical locations are left undiscovered; when combined with certain architectural programs, they can act as a catalyst for redevelopment as well as celebrate the very nature of the city itself.

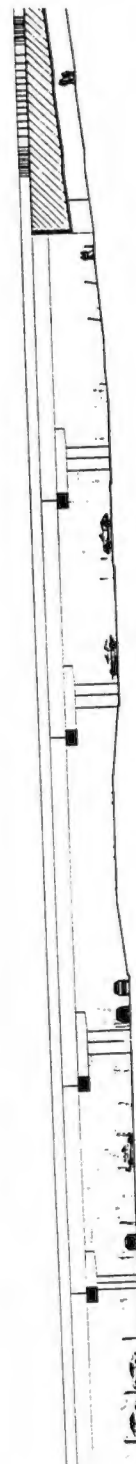


○ Large Scale Section

Figure 62.



SECTION B-B THRU. MAIN BUILDING

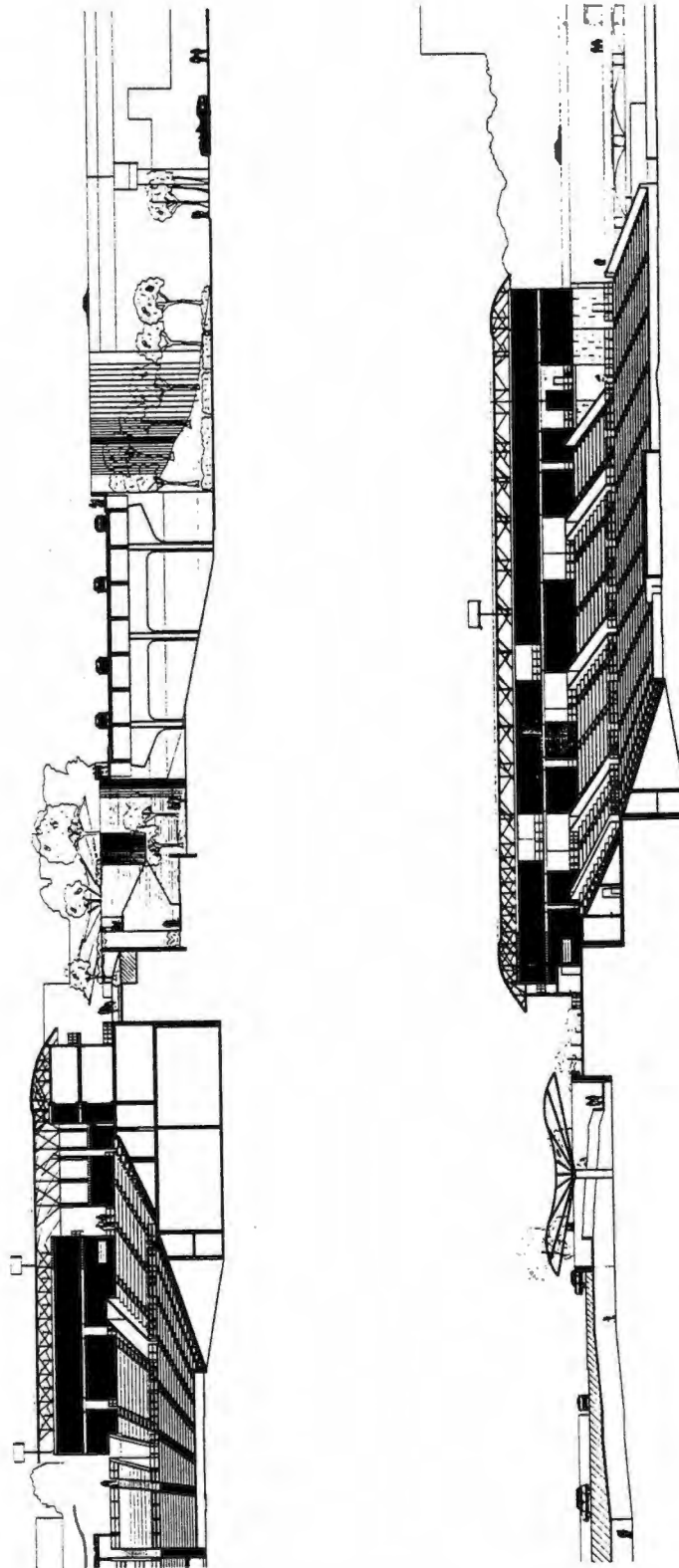


SECTION A-A THRU. CENTER OF BALLPARK



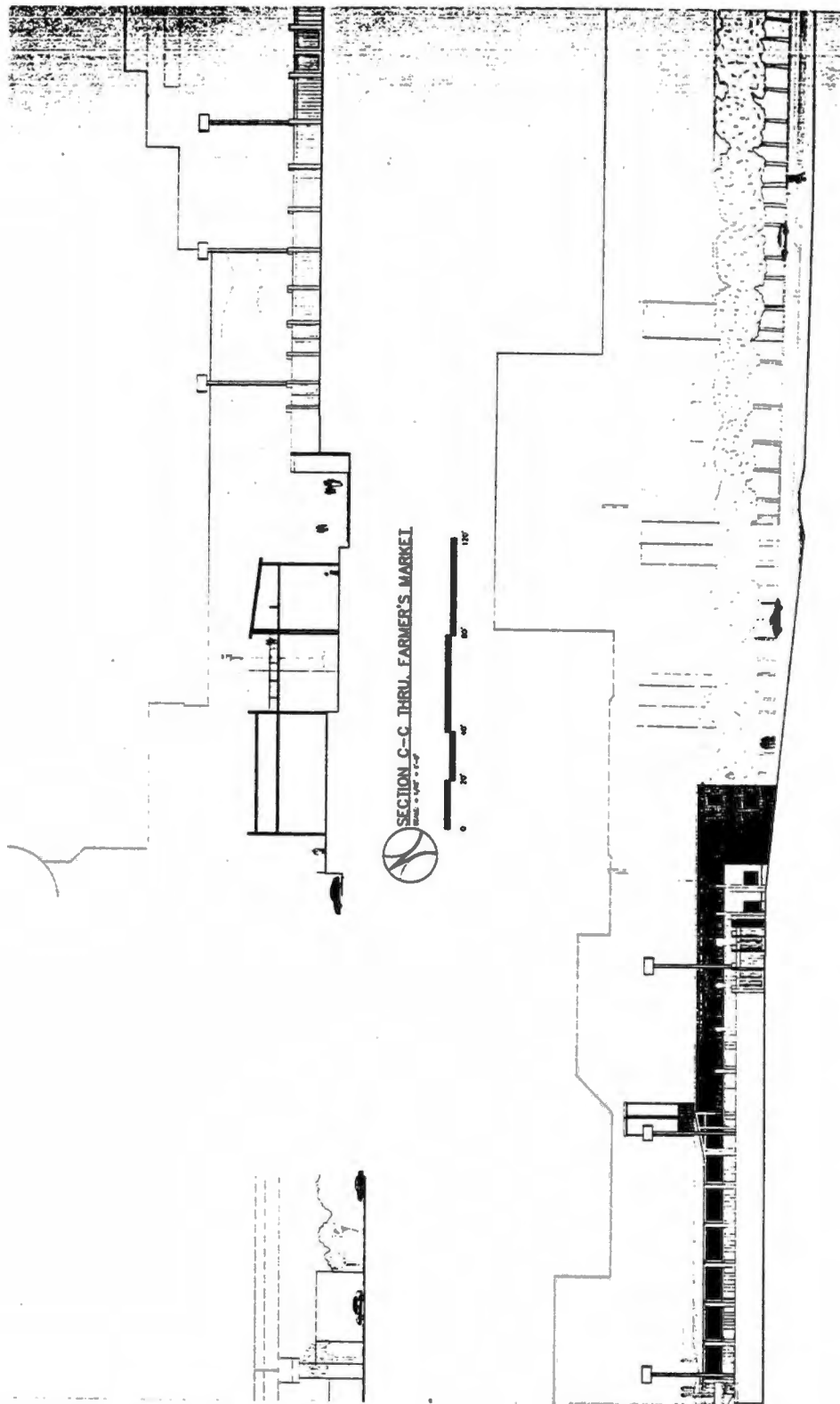
○ Sections (Begin)

Figure 63.



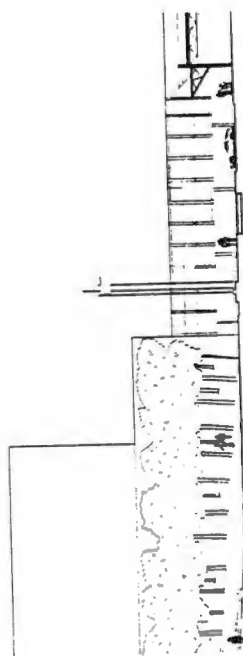
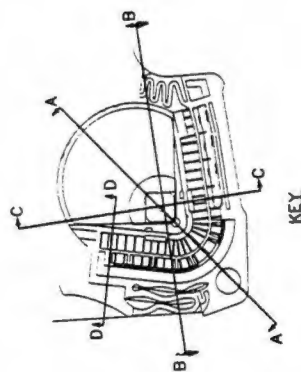
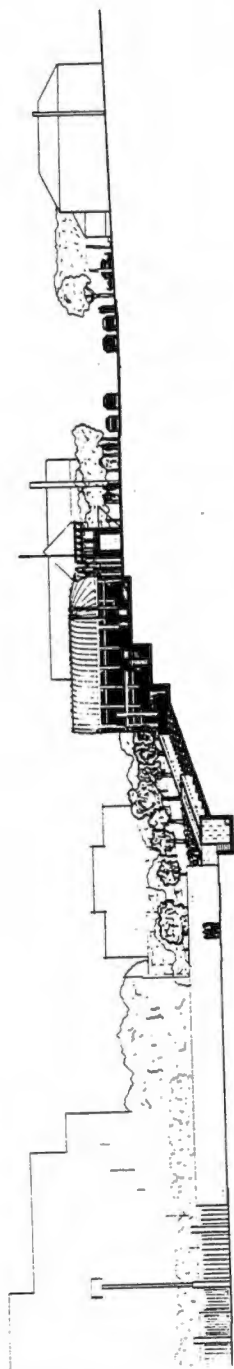
○Sections (Middle)

Figure 64.



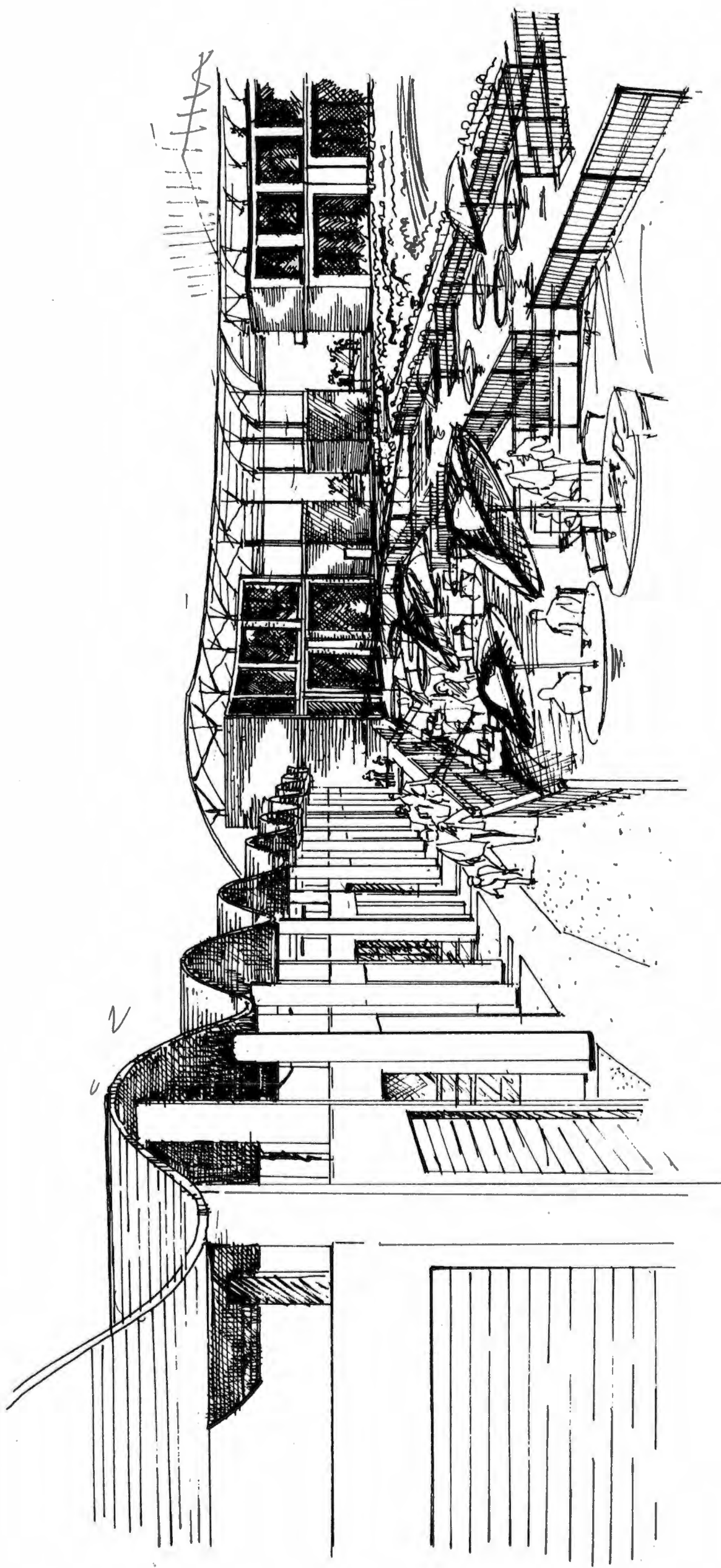
○ Sections (Middle)

Figure 65.

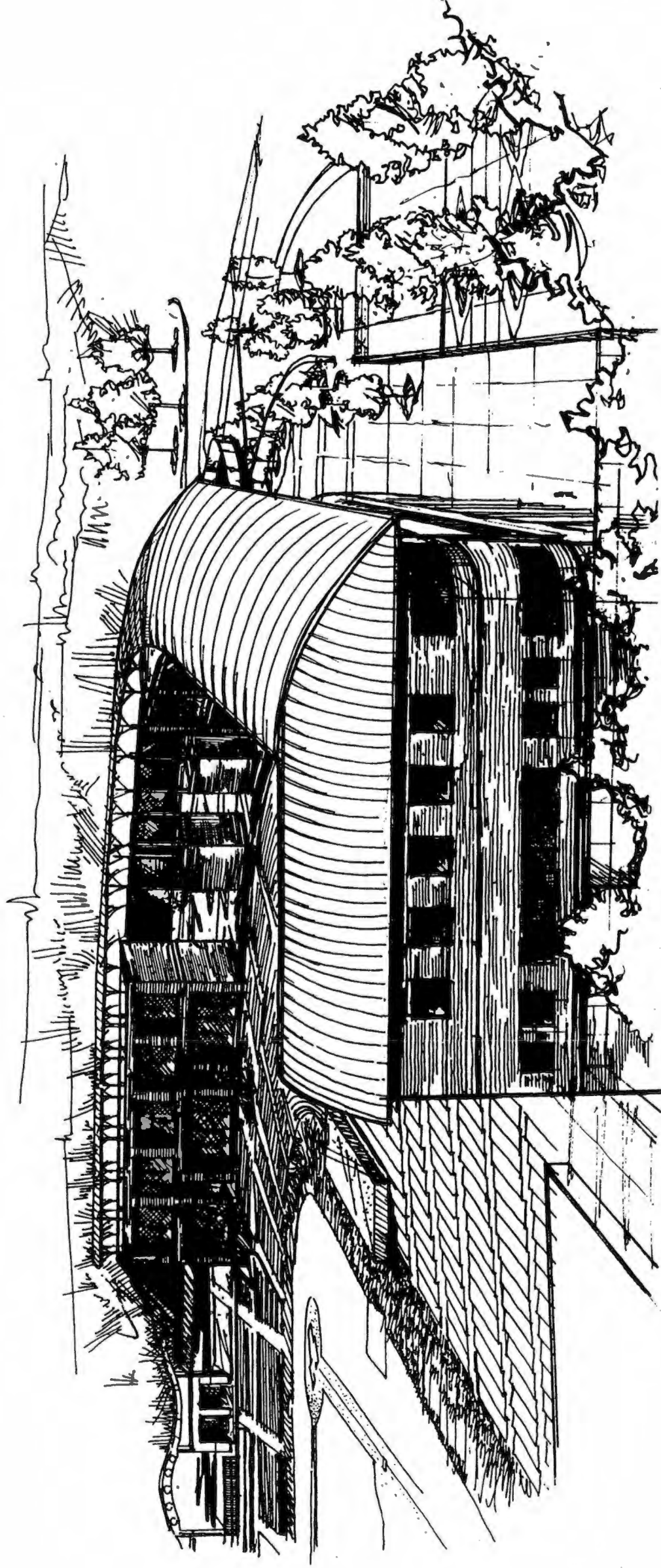


○ Sections (End)

Figure 66.

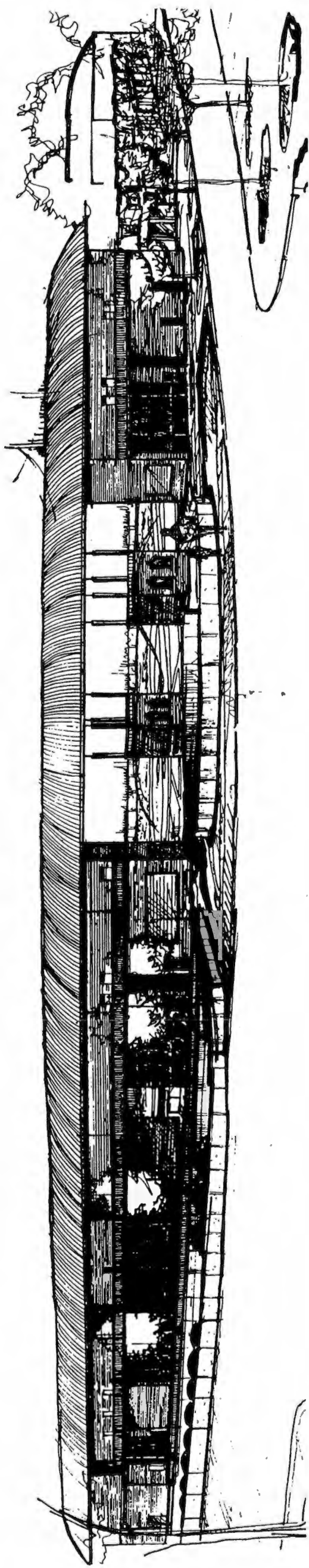


○ Rendering (Looking Down at the Field from behind Farmer's Market)



○ Rendering (Looking Down into the Stadium from a Bird's Eye View)

Figure 68.



○ Rendering (Looking at the front of the Stadium)

Figure 69.

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RESOURCES

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VITA

Alexander James Montesi, Jr. was born in Memphis, Tennessee on May 9, 1964. He attended a Catholic school until the sixth grade then enrolled in the Shelby County Public School System where he graduated from Germantown High School in May 1982. He then went to Memphis State University for two years then enrolled in State Technical Institute at Memphis where he received a Associate of Engineering Technology Degree with a major in Architecture. Upon graduation he accepted a job with David L. Wallace & Associates, where he was an intern. At that time he re-enrolled at Memphis State University. He graduated in May 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology with a major in Architecture. After designing a cad system for American Fabricating Engineers he joined Thorn, Howell, Stratton & Strong Architects heading their cad division. With his strong background in construction documents he became a project team leader with numerous responsibilities. In 1994 he entered the School of Architecture's new Master of Architecture Degree program at University of Tennessee to pursue his architecture license. In his last year at the school he worked with the Department of Energy at Oak Ridge National laboratory designing 3-D models of building components that were being tested for energy ratings. He received his Master of Architecture Degree at The University of Tennessee on December 1999.