M.Sc, (Architecture) Thesis

N.Y.S.C. SECRETARIAT COMPLY AT MAKURDI

By:

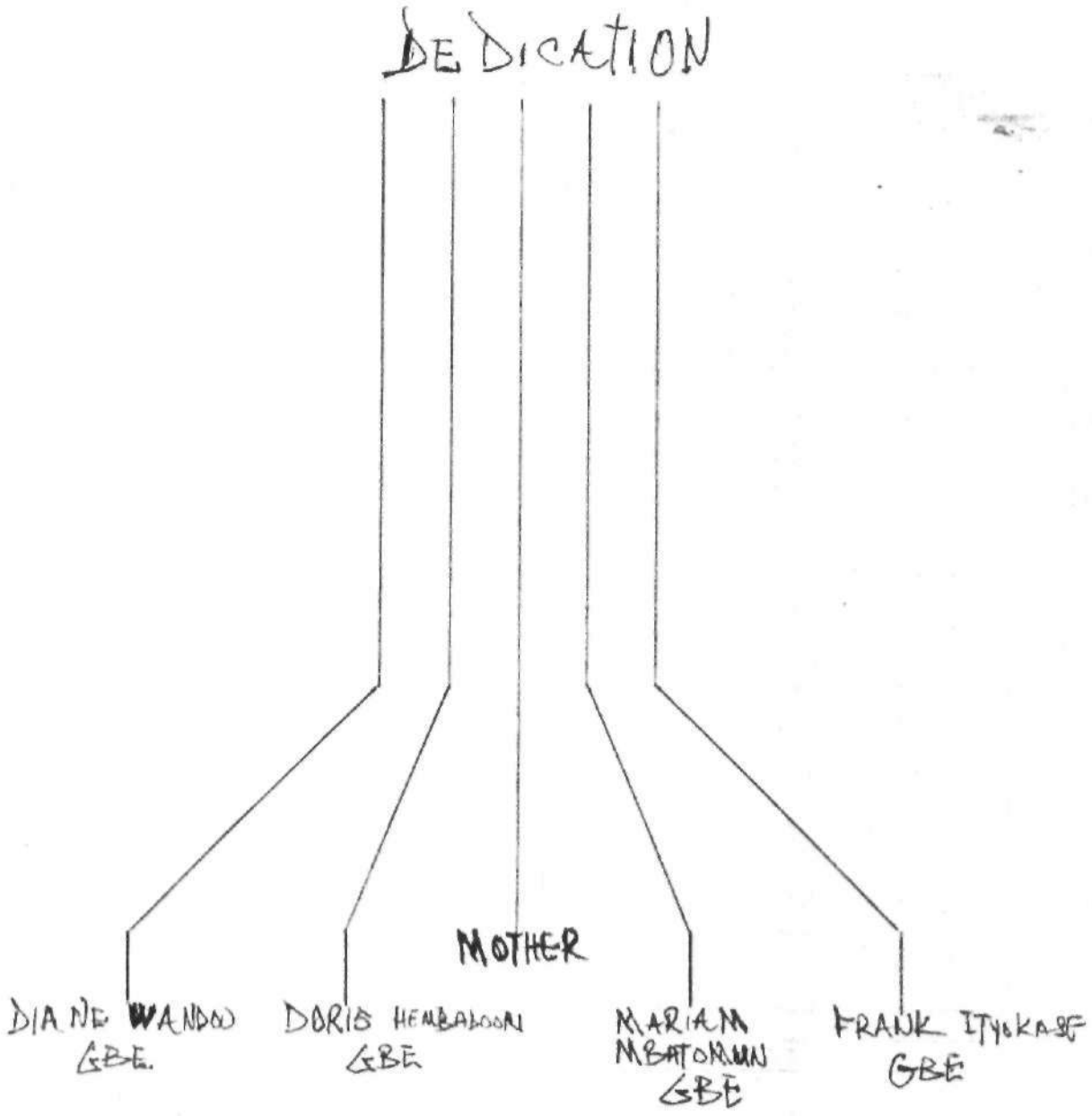
July, 1982 A. L.

NYSC SECRETARIAT COMPLEX AT MAKURDI

A thesis report presented to the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Design, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in partial fulfilment for the award of the Degree of Master of Science in Architecture by Godwin A. L. Gbe.

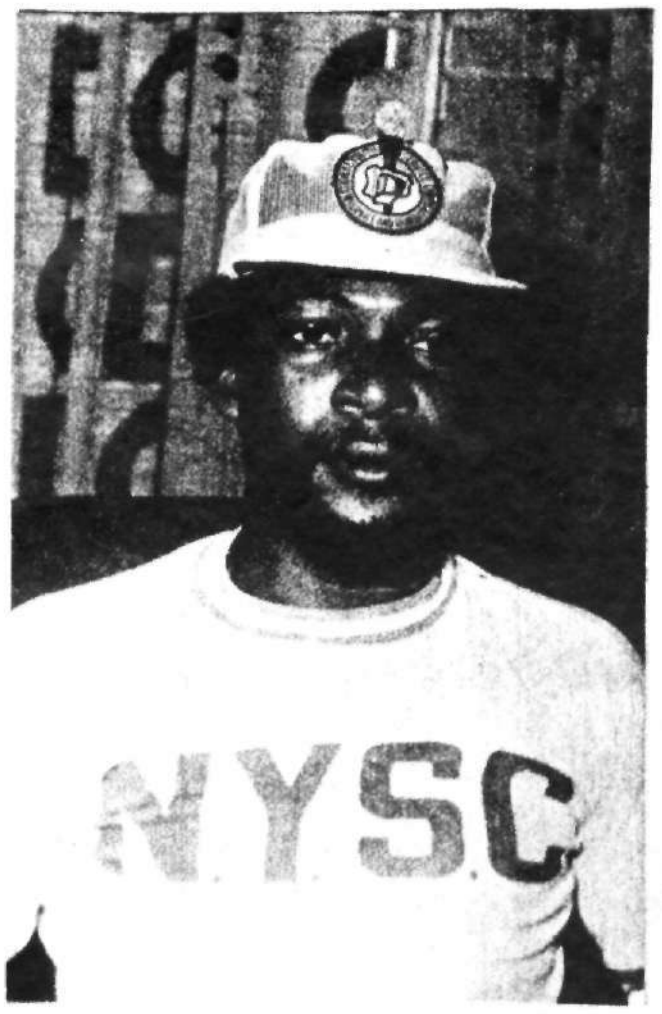
July, 1982.

(Mentor - Dr. Schwerdtfeger)



But for them, the world would not be round.

THE CORPS MEMBER



Well trained, confident, young, vigorous, eager and proud to be called upon to serve his country. But...

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Since the decree establishing the National Youth Service Corps was formally promulgated in May, 1973, appreciation by the Nigerian populace of the wisdom behind the scheme has grown from year to year as the organization has steadily albeit slowly progressed. As Nigerians, rich and poor alike have continued to reap from the benefits of the scheme, the realization has slowly downed on every-one that this is yet another government establishment that has come to stay.

Today the NYSC is a mature 9 years old. Th ough a lot has been achieved, when this is compared against the huge labour force deployed from the directorate annually it surprisingly shows so very little achieved over the years. What could be responsible for this poor yield ? First, a close examination of the one calender year that is the "service year" shows it to be totally inadequate for the activities that are contained therein apart from poor planning of the year itself. The allocation of only 1 month to community development, for example, hardly helps both the corpers who are supposed by this to appreciate the dignity of labour and the community which should gain directly from it.

Secondly, it is disappointing to note that after 9 years of existence, the NYSC cannot boast of a single Secretariat desioned specifically for the NYSC in any one

state. In other words, the various NYSC Secretariats in all the 19 States are actually temporary offices. Needless to say that this does not make for good organization which as we all know is the root of efficiency, for there cannot be organization in impermanence. Efficiency of course means results.

If the people of this great nation are to achieve maximum results from the NYSC Scheme, a place designed to meet the special demands of the NYSC to yield maximum efficiency in all the states is highly desirable. This essentially is what I have set out to do for Benue State.

A SECRETARIAT COMPLEX FOR THE NYSC AT MAKURDI.

GBE, G. A. L.

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Chapter One

1.01 Brief History of the NYSC Scheme in Nigeria.

1.02 Goals and Objectives of the NYSC Scheme

1.03 Activities in the NYSC Year (The Corps Year)

1.01 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NYSC SCHEME IN NIGERIA

On the 22nd of May, 1973, the then Military Regime of General Yakubu Gowon promulgated decree No. 24 formally establishing the National Youth Service Corps. By this act, it became mandatory for a graduate of any of the Nigerian Universities to proceed to serve the nation for one year before taking up an appointment in a place of his or her own choice. Though initially designed to accomodate only graduates, it was soon extended to include University graduates of Nigerian origin from other countries. It was further extended in 1976 to encompass holders of the H.N.D. (Higher National Diploma), N.C.E. (National Certificate of Education), and other professionally qualified Nigerians. A brief look at the events just before this decree I believe will throw some light onto it's emergence and further give an insight into its planning, goals and objectives.

In 1970, Nigeria ended a 30 - month Civil War which had brought so much destruction to both lives and property and set the country back a pace or two development wise. It is believed that paramount among the situations responsible for this sad event were "ethnic loyalties and mutual group suspicion and distrust" abundantly exhibited by both our leaders and the populace. The coups and counter-coups were either tribal or region - oriented. Then there was general disorder in the country; mass killings on tribal lines, and inevitably a full-scale civil war after some futile attempts at peace. It was clear at the end of this traumatic episode

that what the country needed desperately was "unity" more than anything else without which of course nothing could ever work smoothly.

That Nigeria's graduates of the Universities and other higher institutions of learning are the countries future leaders needs no emphasis. That these graduates are drawn from all parts of the Federation is a fact. It is also a fact that these young men and women are more or less representatives of their various areas of origin and are looked up to for guidance and direction by their kinsfolk or communities i.e. they enjoy some degree of followership. Their general behaviour in society especially towards anything that relates to the country is very important and therefore, should be closely guided as the general behaviour of their representative communities could be and in-fact are, modelled after these young graduates. Thus, their attitude to work (i.e. in their field), their own contribution to the communities in which they may find themselves, their utterances, and most importantly the way they relate to each other i.e. their own colleages and the community in general should be geared towards a greater and more united Nigeria. The Military obviously must have had these facts in mind when they decided to involve this class of people in forging national unity thus paving the way for development.

Of course there were other problems that necessitated this scheme. Nigeria was an underdeveloped country. That is to say there was:

(a) Mass Poverty

(b) Mass Illiteracy

(c) An acute shortage of high, middle and low-skilled manpower.

(d) An acute shortage of housing and related facilities.

(e) In effective communication system and,

(f) Inadequate health care services.

The end of the Civil War brought with it the task of reconstruction (and recomciliation), to add to those already outlined. It became evident that if the country was to survive it needed to set fresh goals and objectives for it-self. The government therefore set out to build Nigeria as:

(a) A united, strong and self-reliant nation.

(b) A great and dynamic economy

(c) A land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens and

(d) A free and democratic society.

It was in pursuit of these goals that the NYSC Scheme was introduced.

1.02 Goals and Objectives of the NYSC Scheme:

Item 9 of the handbook of the NYSC reads and I quote:

"The purpose of the scheme is primarily to imbue Nigerian youths with a spirit of selfless service to the community, and to emphasise the spirit of ONENESS AND BROTHERHOOD of all Nigerians

irrespective of cultural or social background. The history of our country since independence has clearly indicated the NEED FOR UNITY amougst all our people, and demoustrated the fact that no cultural or geographical entity can exist in isolation." Unquote. All emphasis mine.

These in a nutshell represent the goals of NYSC in Nigeria. It is hard not to notice that UNITY forms the central goal of the scheme.

Item 10 of the same handbook further goes to outline the objectives of the scheme and here again I quote:-

10(a) To inculcate discipline in our youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work, and, of patriotic and loyal service to the nation in any situation they may find themselves;

(b) To raise the moral tone of our youths by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement and social and cultural improvement;

(c) To develop in our youths attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest;

(d) To develop commonties among our youths and promote national unity by ensuring that:

(i) As far as possible, youths are assigned to jobs in states other than their states of origin;

(ii) Each group, assigned to work together, is as representative of the country as possible;

(iii) The youths are exposed to the modes of living of the people in different parts of the country with a view to removing prejodices, eliminating ignorance and confirming at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups:

(e) To encourge members of the corps to seek, at the end of their corps service, carrect employment all over the country, thus promoting the free movement of labour;

(f) To induce employers, partly through their experience with corps members, to employ more readily qualified Nigerians irrespective of their states of origin; and

(g) To enable our youths to acquire the spirit of self-reliance.

1.03 Activities in the NYSC Year (The Corper - Year):

The NYSC year takes up one full calender year of about twelve months. Item 22 of the NYSC handbook vividly describes the activities that take place in this year:

"The youth corps year is divided into four major periods:

(i) Orientation and Induction course.

During the first six weeks of the service year, corps members undergo an orientation course comprising drills, physical exercises, lectures and leadership - training activities of the Man O'war Bay type. The purpose of the course is to introduce corps members to and faniliarise them with the ideds of the youth corps scheme. During the period, corps members live a fairly regincuted life in camps usually LOCATED OUTSIDE STATE CAPITALS emphasis mine.

Lectures and discussions are held on a wide variety of national and local issues including ideology, history, culture, customs, economics and government. Guest speakers are drawn from all walks of life. Local languages are also taught.

(ii) Primary Assignment:

For the greater part of the service year, corps members are, as far as possible, deployed to work in assignments relevant to their fields of study.

(iii) Community Development Programme

(a) During the Easter vacation, corps members are engaged in community development projects. They work side by side with their host communities in road construction, building the local schowl or church, repairing or building bridges, market stalls, etc. The exercise enables the future lenders of this nation to appreciate the dignity of labour and to learn at first hand, the prevailing local circunstances in rural lis terlards.

(b) As a supplement to the Easter community development exercises, corps members are expected to undertake, in conjunction with their primary assignments, at least one community development project in their local neighbourhoods on a year-round basis. The projects undertaken would be related to the felt needs of the community, and would be selected by the corps members, or group of corps members, after due consultation with people in the community. Suggested projects under the year round community development programme are the following:

(a) Conducting extramural classes for dropouts from secondary schools;

(b) Conducting literacy classes for adults under the aspices of the Adult Education Division of State Ministries of Education;

(c) Organizing local people to take more interest in indigenous drama, music, dances, etc;

(d) Youth corps Agriculturists could organise farmers' clubs, and train local youths in modern methods of farming; and

(e) Public Health Education.

During the last week of the service year, corps members are again brought together in a camp environment where they are grouped into workshops to discuss the experience of the service year. Their suggestions, recommendations and proposals are studied, analysed, and subsequently used as basis for further improvement of the scheme.

Chapter Two

2.01 Brief History of the NYSC Scheme in Benue State.

2.02 The Existing NYSC Secretariat in Benue State.

2.03 The Need for a New Secretariat.

2.01 THE BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NYSC IN BENUE STATE

The NYSC at state level is fairly young in Benue State, the state itself having been created only in 1976 along with six other states. In the same year, the NYSC directorate promptly opened a state brauch at Makurdi the Benue State Capital.

Benue State was carved out of the former Kwara and Benue-Plateau States. Those corpers that had been posted from the Secretariats of the latter to those areas that now constitute the new Benue State automatically became its first batch of corpers. They only totalled 226 then but this number has been increasing over since.

2.02 The Existing NYSC Secretariat:

The existing NYSC Secretariat is situated along Barracks Road close to the Police Headquarters and sandwiched between the Grade C Magistrates Court and the Federal Office of Statistics It consists of three low roofed blocks with no clear organization. These blocks supposedly house the headquarters of the NYSC in Benue State. The inadequacy of this place as a Secretariat for the NYSC needs no emphasis.

2.03 The Need for a New Secretariat:

The present NYSC Secretariat at Makurdi is inadequate for most if not all the functions of the organization it serves for the following reasons:-

(i) As earlier mentioned in the introduction for an organization which by sheer weight of its importance to society and nation building may only grow, its situation in three blocks of rented bungalows at best can only be said to be unsuitable for use as office accomodation.

(ii) The present Secretariat is climatically unhealthy as four or five persons are nomally cramped in an area originally designed for only one person.

(iii) High rental costs and uncerta ity of stay as land-lord may issue quit notice at any moment.

(iv) Poor inter-departmental relationships (circulation) therefore, gross inefficiency.

(v) The Secretariat is highly understaffed due mainly to lack of office accomodation.

For any organization to function smoothly and achieve its desired goals, its very roots must be well established and firmly anchored. The roots of the NYSC scheme in Benue State lie in the Secretariat where all planning as concerns the NYSC in the state is carried out. The output of the corpers surely, will depend on the type of organization the Secretariat represents. And output is of paramount importance! It may then be seen from the issues outlined here that a new Secretariat designed to meet the needs and aspirations of the staff and members of the NYSC scheme in Benue State is not only a necessity but an obligation.



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Chapter Three

LOGATIONAL CONSIDERATION3

3-01 Physiological

3.02 Environmental

3.03 Doric-graphic

LOCATION COMaiDisRiiTIONS

3.01 Physiological;

(a-).. Geology:

The Benue valley is one of the least documented areas in Nigerian geology. Most of Benue Jtate comprises a geological structure of the low-lying river system with small areas of complex older granite adjoining the Niger River as an extension of the geological structure to the West of the river. The Southern area is generally gently undulating with low hills some of which rise up to 600 m.a.s.-l especially in the North-East region,

Makurdi belongs to the lower or South Benue valley. In this sub-region, very thick marine dark grey shales, siltstone and sub-ordinate limestones were deposited in the middle Albian/Lower Cretaceous age. The upper Cretaceous cen manian sediments were only identified in the Odukpari area of the South-.Eastern corner of the Nigerian coastal basin. The Muri sandstone of the middle Benue region was assigned a cenomani n age and were reported to wedge out in the South-West and have not been observed in the South. The Ezeaku Shales and the equivalent Makurdi Formation overlie the Albian Shales around Makurdi, It consists of a thick mass of cement bedded coarse grained deposits described as the Makurdi sandstone, which attains a thickness of up to 900 metres. Its basalt parts are laterally equivalent to the Keana sandstone of the middle Benue area. Up in the senonian age, the Awgu Formation was reposited consisting of marine fossilferdus grey-blue shales associated with subordinate

limestones and calcareous sandstones. Later formations are found mainly in the Southern parts of Nigeria.

(b) Topography:

Benue State, being bordered by the Niger and Benue rivers, is generally low lying and undulating. Whilst the land lies between 30 and 305 metres above sea level, the topography changes in the two extreme corners of the state. To the South-east, the foot-hills of the Cameroom Highlands rise dramatically to 1,000 metres in the upper reaches of the Katsina-Ala river. To the North-west there are old granite outcrops (the Bassa hills) rising to the height of 518 metres. Apart from these two areas, there are a number of small hills and rocky outcrops scattered throughout the Southern part of the state (refer di gran).

The region around Makurdi generally slopes towards the river, according to the directions of the tributaries. The gradient ranges between 2 - 10% with pockets of marshes here and there.

(c) Vegetation:

The state lies in the Southern Guinea zone mid-way between the semi-desert of the North and the tropical rain-belt and forests of the South. Most of the state is characterised by an open tree and grass savannah, the high tropical forest being confined to the South and West of the state.

3.02 Environmental:

Due partially to its location in the deep Benue valley, and the presence of the River Benue, Makurdi experiences a climate that could be described as hot and humid all year round. Temperatures as high as 100°F are sometimes recorded. A reference to table 1 shows that temperatures are maximum for the months of February and March when they go up to 36.1°C and 23.9°C and minimum in December (32.7°C and 17.2°C).

(b) Rainfall:

Like most other parts of the country, Benue State experiences two seasons in the year. The 'wet season' which begins in March and ends in October and the 'dry season' which commences in November and ends in February. The highest amount of rainfall is normally recorded in the month of August. Rainfall is of the convectional type caused by the high rate of evaporation and the subsequent condensation of the vapour.

(c) Winds:

From March to October, there is a South-west wind from the equatorial rain belt. This is the rain bearing wind and last through the rainy season. From November to February however, this changes to a dry dusty wind from the North-east the Harmattan wind from the Sahara. This wind hails in the dry season.

(d) Humidity:

Benue State generally enjoys a relatively more humid atmosphere cou pared with the more Northerly areas. Again due to the River Benue, Makurdi particularly has an all year round moisture laden atmosphere. The most humid period is between March and October. Humidity falls considerably however between Novermber and February when the North-east winds come.

3.03 Demographic:

Benue State lies within the fourth zone of the population and urbanization pattern of Nigeria. This zone is distinguished by a low population and a low population density. A census carried out in 1963 showed that only two towns in the state had populations over 20,000. These were Makurdi with a population of 53,000 and Gboko with a population of 27,000 since then of course more towns with populations of over 20,000 have emerged and the populations of both Makurdi and Gboko have increased considerably. The population of Makurdi for example, stands at 94,000.

The change of status of Makurdi from a divisional headquarter to a state capital in 1976 brought about a considerable change in the population of the town. A large increase was noticed as state indigenes returned from all parts of the country to help see the state through its infancy. Not to be left out, were young men and women from the surrounding areas (Gboko, Otukpo, Idah etc.) who migrated to Makurdi looking for employment opportunities. This has resulted in a

considerable bulge in the age group 20 - 29. Future population growth of Makurdi, however, will depend on several factors some of which are:

(a) Natural increase of the existing population

(b) Rural Urban migration, which is certain to remain large, but could vary a good deal according to agricultural development and the attraction of other centre's.

(c) Competition from other centres which for Makurdi appears to be fairly high, as Gboko and Oturkpo towns are rapidly growing centres nearby which might attract people away from Makurdi.

(d) The influence of government administration which now seems likely to increase as a result of the increase of the area of which Makurdi is the capital.

(e) The influence of specific government projects, which could be substantial, but may be difficult to foresee more than a short distance ahead.

(f) The influence of tourism, which, in towns of numbers is likely to be comparatively small.

The influence of higher education which could be significant.

Overleaf are population projections for Makurdi town up to the year 2005.

ble 1

Average Monthly Temperature in Makurdi in ^{o}C:

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max	34.5	36.1	36.1	33.9	32.2	30.5	29.4	30.0	30.0	31.1	32.7	32.7
Min.	18.3	21.1	23.9	23.9	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2	21.7	21.7	20.6	17.2
Range	16.2	15.0	12.2	10.0	9.5	8.3	7.2	7.8	8.3	9.4	12.1	15.5

Table 2

Average Monthly Rainfall in Makurdi in Cm.:

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainfall	0.0	2.3	12.8	11.6	16.8	16.0	19.0	21.7	18.2	10.3	0.0	0.0

Table 3

Population projections for Makurdi/1978 - 2005/

(Based on Max. and Min. Assumed growth rates)

Year	GROWTH RATE Min. 3.5%/Annum.	Max. 5%/Annum.
1978	94,000	94,000
1979	97,300	98,700
1980	100,700	103,600
1981	104,200	108,800
1982	107,900	114,300
1983	111,600	120,000
1984	115,500	126,000
1985	119,600	132,300
1986	123,800	138,900
1987	128,100	145,800
1989	132,600	153,100
1990	137,200	160,800
1991	142,000	168,800
1992	147,000	177,200
1993	152,200	186,100
1994	157,500	195,400
1995	163,000	205,200
1996	168,700	215,400
1997	174,600	226,200
1998	180,700	237,500
1999	187,000	249,400
2000	193,600	261,900
2001	200,400	275,000
2002	207,400	288,800
2003	214,600	303,200
2004	222,100	318,400
2005	229,900	334,300
	238,000	351,000

Chapter Four

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

4.01 Choice of Site

4.02 Topography

4.03 Soil

4.04 Drainage

4.05 Services

4.06 Accessibility

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

4.01 Choice of Site:

The factors determining the choice of a site for the NYSC Secretariat complex are as unique as the complex itself. The purpose for which the complex is designed (and its requirements) competes for first place with the physical requirements for building programmes in the considerations for site selection. However, since the primary aim is to design for the purpose, and not the buildings, I have, while still giving ample consideration to the physical suitability of the site, given priority to the former. Among the considerations for the selection of a suitable site were that:-

(i) It is easily accessible from all or most of the major routes from which arriving would be corpers are expected;

(ii) It conforms with the land-use patterus specified on the master-plan for Makurdi;

(iii) It lies within the central Bussiness District (CBD) or it is not too distant from it for easy access to facilities there in;

(iv) The site be large enough to contain the design and further allow for future expansion;

(v) It be accessible to town services like, transport, electricity, water etc.,

(vi) Its physical conditions be suitable.

The site that came nearest to satisfying all these conditions is just south of the road bridge over the Benue river along the Makurdi - Jos and Makurdi - Enugu freeway and on the North-eastern side of the round-about formed by this road and that from Gboko passing through into the town (refer map).

4.02 Topography:

The gradient of Makurdi generally ranges from 2 - 10%. In the site the gradient is about 6%. The site slopes towards a natural stream that drains into the river Benue. The 250 contour line almost surrounds the site a depression being created along the tributary.

4.03 Drainage:

The River Benue and its seasonal streams, all of which eventually drain into the river constitute a natural drainage system for Makurdi. One of such streams as mentioned in 4.02 runs down along the east side of the site to the Benue. Thus draining the site would not be a problem as shown on the diagram.

4.04 Soil:

Most of the identified soils in the Benue valley are hydromorphic all vial clays with poor drainage charateristics! To a lesser extent also identified are vertisoils with better drainage characteristis. The soils on the gently sloping uphands, however, are ferruginous trogical soils. These are

better still in terms of drainage and bearing capacity. Soils in Makurdi town generally have a bearing capacity of about 2 knm^{-2}. This also applies to the site.

4.05 Services:

The main electricity supply from Oji river to Makurdi town passes along the site from Gboko. Electricity light can be easily tapped from this rid. So also, can water as a 150 mm. mains also runs along this site (refer map: services).

4.06 Accessibility:

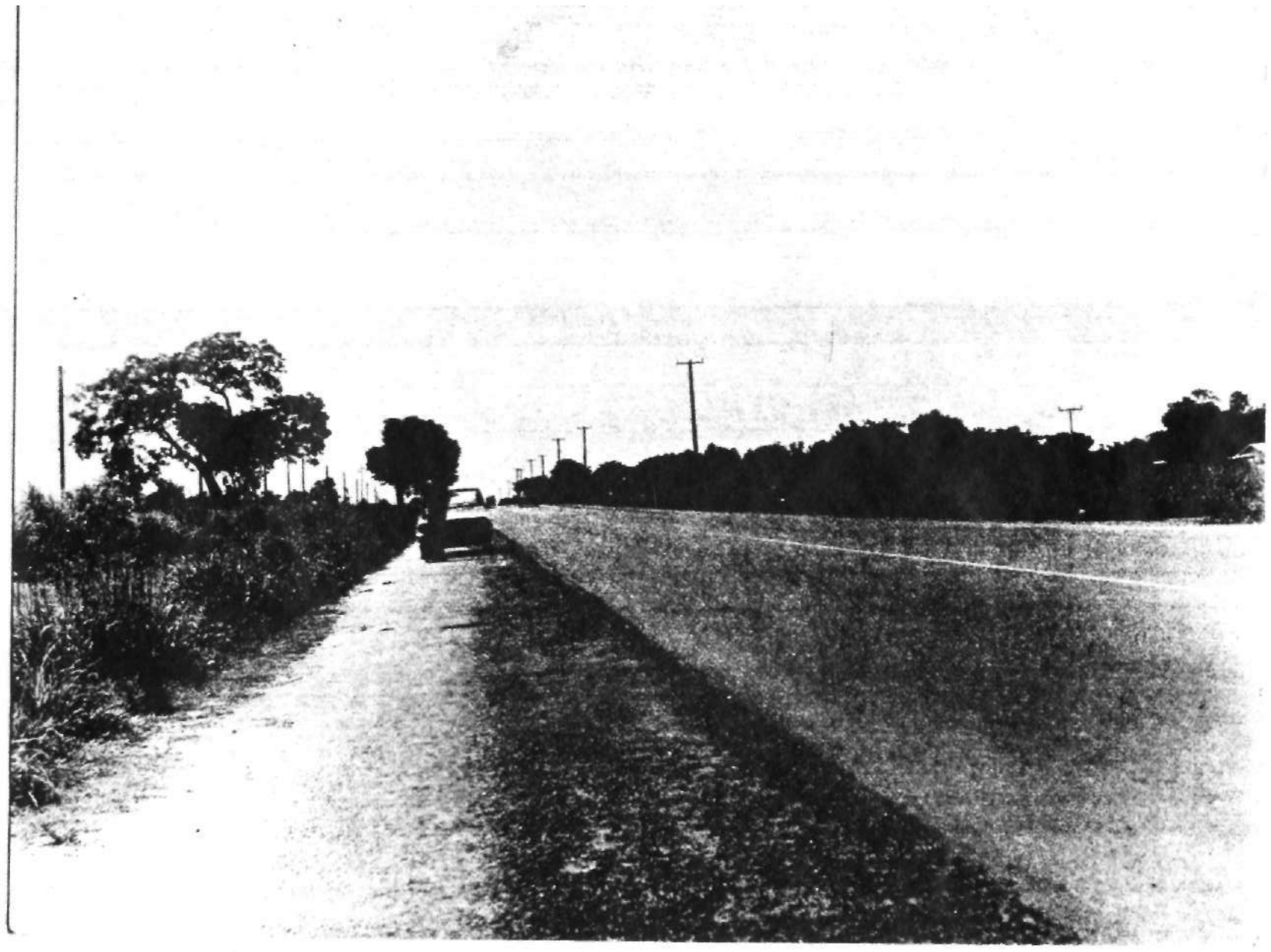
The site is bonded on the South by the highway from the airport and Gboko to the centre of the town. On the East is the main highway linking the South and the North. Furthermore the town centre is less than 1 kilometre away.



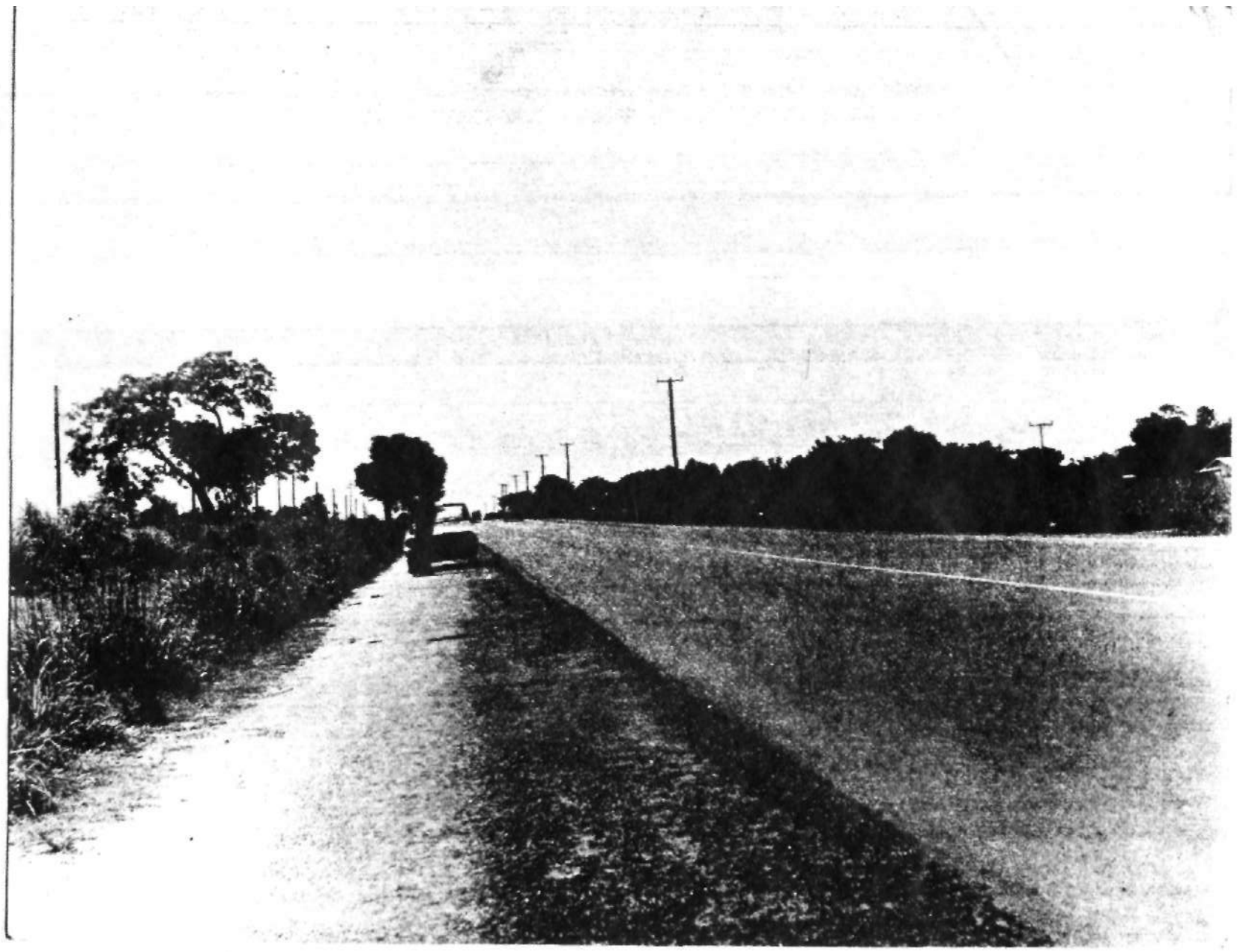
The site, photographed from over the Benue River bridge. In the background is the Government Technical Training College Makurdi



The Benue River Bridge photographed from the site



The Road to Gbako. On the left is the site.



The Road to Gboko. On the left is the site.



The road to Enugu from Jos across the Benue bridge. Here again site is on the left.

Chapter Five

5.01 Design Goals and Objectives

5.02 Design Concepts

5.03 Design Scope

5.04 Design Standards

5.01 DESIGN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(a) To design a 'Secretariat Complex' geared towards increasing the out-put of corpers by way of providing conducive working atnospheres for the NYSC planning staff thus encouraging good organization and efficiency.

To achieve the above goals, it is necessary to:-

(i) determine optimum number and type of staff required presently taking into consideration the high yearly increase in the number of graduates from our institutions of higher learning.

(ii) determine optimum work spaces required to accomodate these staff within the office block so designed.

(iii) Ensure that staff are protected from the adverse effects of climate throughout the year at least during working hours.

(iv) Ensure excellent circulation within the office block.

(b) To provide accomodation for corpers on their first day of arrival at the state capital and subsequently accomodation for use by corpers that would be resident in the state capital where shortage of accomodation is most serious.

Again to achieve above it would be necessary to:-

(i) determine the highest number of would be corpers that arrive in the state capital in any one day from where they proceed to camp and embrace this in the eventual design of the hostel

(ii) determine the total number of corpers posted to Makurdi town in particular and design hostels for a projected number in the future when turn-out from our higher institutions of learning would almost be a constant value.

(iii) determine the basic requirements of corpers through the year and design a hostel unit accordingly to provide so called suitable accomodation for them.

(iv) Ensure good contact between the corpers.

(c) To bring the participants of the scheme closer to the people through provision of entertainment and relaxation facilities to be used by both.

Objectives to goal (c) include the following:-

(i) provide a multi-purpose theatre (capacity approx 500 pers), for cultural shows, drama, film shows, public lectures etc.

(ii) provide sports facilities such as lawn tennis courts, basket-ball, volley-ball, net-ball, and possibly a swimming pool for greater social interaction.

(iii) provide out-door sitting areas for use by both corpers and public.

(d) To design for good circulation in the complex in general and the individual units in particular objectives to (d) above include:-

(i) zoning the areas i.e. offices, hostels, and relaxation or recreation so that their activities do not conflict.

(ii) creating a circulation pattern in such a way that there is a progressive flow from one activity area to the other.

(iii) In the individual units, clearly defined entrances and especially exits should be shown. Escape routes to be provided at strategic points in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations.

(iv) keeping the total circulation area to a minimum for more effective use of space .

(e) To aim, in the design, at substantial use of locally obtained materials and to utilise local man-power in the area by deploying workable and economic structures.

Objectives to these are:-

(a) explore locally manufactured building materials and specify some or all on the d design as the case may be.

(b) while maintaining aesthetic concepts, structures may be such that local labour and skills can handle easily.

(c) be erally prudence may be the watch word, in design and specifications, to tone down costs and make the structures economical.

(f) To make allowance for future expansion should the need arise in the long run.

Objectives are:-

(a) To identify those parts of the complex most likely to need extension in future (in this case the Administrativer block and the Hostels).

(b) To design so as to allow for expansion to about twice present capacity without necessarily changing the concepts of the design.

5.02 Design Concepts:

It is my intention to treat the complex as a unified whole that would generate a sense of pride and belonging in the participants of the scheme as well as serve as a civil monument to the people of Benue State. It should further raise the moral and status of its users and arouse the interest of the public in the NYSC scheme.

Shape and Character:

The shape of the proposed Secretariat derives from two considerations:-

(a) what the would be corper expects on arrival, from the people of Benue State - a big WELCOME; and ;

(b) the ideal most sought by the NYSC scheme - UNITY.

As mentioned in earlier chapters, unity is the central theme of the scheme. The borning torch, mixing together people from all parts of the country in one big cauldron, is the symbol of the NYSC.

Thus on the design, the open welcoming arms of the Benue indigene transforms into the administrative block - the first port of call of the would be corper. The burning torch is manifested by the water tank. This combines with the former to give the Secretariat its unique character.

5.03 Design Scope:

The proposed new NYSC Secretariat will be made up of the following:-

(i) Administrative Block:

This will accomodate members of the NYSC staff from the Chief Inspector down to the cleaner involved in the day to day running of the activities of the NYSC in the state. It is the cove of the Secretariat and co-ordinates the functions of the various departments as well as those of corps members located outside the state capital Makurdi. Its design for good if not supert work-flow for peak efficiency, therefore, is of utmost importance.

(ii) Hostels:

Most corpers report for their service in early August but a lot others especially those who read in other countries, report at any-time of the year. Pending when these corpers can get accomodation from their employers, the Secretariat should

be able to house them since most do not know anyone around. That a side, the problem of accomodation especially in an urban centre like Makurdi. I believe needs no introduction. I have therefore, thought it wise to provide accomodation for a large proportion of those corpers that will be posted to the state capital after their orientation. These hostel units may be duplicated in other urban centres like Gboko and Oturkpo which may have similar problems. In designing the hostel blocks, special attention to the corpers basic needs have been taken into account.

(iii) Maintenance Yard:

The NYSC is a self sufficient organization as people from all walks of life participate in the programme. Corpers, therefore, can be utilised to effect repairs of all the broken down machinery of the Secretariat e.g. cars, air-conditioners, refrigerators, etc.

(iv) Multi-purpose Theatre:

The multi-purpose theatre is designed for a capacity of about 500 persons and will feature drama, film shows, music festivals, and infact all the issues mentioned in item 3 clause 1 of the objectives of the NYSC as contained in the handbook and outlined in chapter one.

(v) Resta rant:

The restaurant is part of the theatre and should serve NYSC staff and corpers alike and the general public. Evidently it will be operated by corpers as within the members there will be food technologists and home economists.

(vi) Stores:

Large stores will be needed for the following: (a) Equipment for the Community Development Programme; (b) Uniforms, Magazines, etc., (c) Furniture for both the administrative and hostel blocks.

5.04 Design Standards:

The design standards outlined here are those that afeect mainly the Multi-purpose theatre. These standards are fixed and failure to apply them results in failure of the design. Two of the most important of these are Acoustics and Vision (sightlines).

(a) Acoustics:

The audiobility in a theatre is usually affected by:

(i) Shape of Room;

(ii) Size of Room;

(iii) Furnishing;

(iv) Position of Source of Sound; and

(v) Reverberation time.

(i) Shape of Room:

The shape of the theatre is rectangular in the direction of sound. This automatically eliminates

the unfavourable situation where curved shapes exist thereby focusing sound to a particular point. The stepped seating also ensures that sound travels to all and sundry with little or no obstouction.

(ii) Size of Room:

Normal speech audiobility is between 20m - 30m. The size of the theatre conveniently falls within this range falling slightly below the maximum of 30 metres. The use of electroacoustic aids is recommended in the case of a quiet speaker on stage.

(iii) Theatre Furnishing:

This will be of the soft sound-absorbing type and together with the audience, should be able to further reduce the reverberation time.

(iv) Position of the Source of Sound:

The source of sound is in front of a hard reflecting surface (the screen), and will help reflect sound pressures travelling behind the speaker or speakers to the audience.

(v) Reverberation Time:

This is time required for sound pressure to drop by 60 decibels. It is registered by the listener as the gradual dying down of sound. Where the period or time exceeds 1.8 secs, the reflected sound is heard as an echo. The open side walls of the theatre guards against this as there will be no reflection from the sides. The use of acoustic boards is recommended

for the ceiling of the theatre to further reflect sound towards the audience.

(b) Sightlines:

A sightlin is a straight line from the eyes of a seated member of the audience over the heads of others below him to the lowest and nearest point he is able to see clearly. To construct sightlines for an audience, first, this point e.g. (P) is decided which in this case is the edge of the stage. The nearest eye level should be above this horizontal plane. Refering to figure verticals are then drawn through the eye positions for each row of seats. The point X, 100 mm. above A on the first vertical, represents the top of the head of the person in the frout row. When PX is extended beyo d X, the point B at which it cuts the second vertical gives the eye position for the second row. 100mm. above B lies the point Y through which the next sightline is produced to cut the next vertical, and so on. These are called vertical sightlines.

Horizontal sightlines are also critical in a theatre with a proscenium stage like this one. Sightlines from the side seats apart from restricting the amount of the stage that can be used as a cting area also affects the picture quality on the screen.

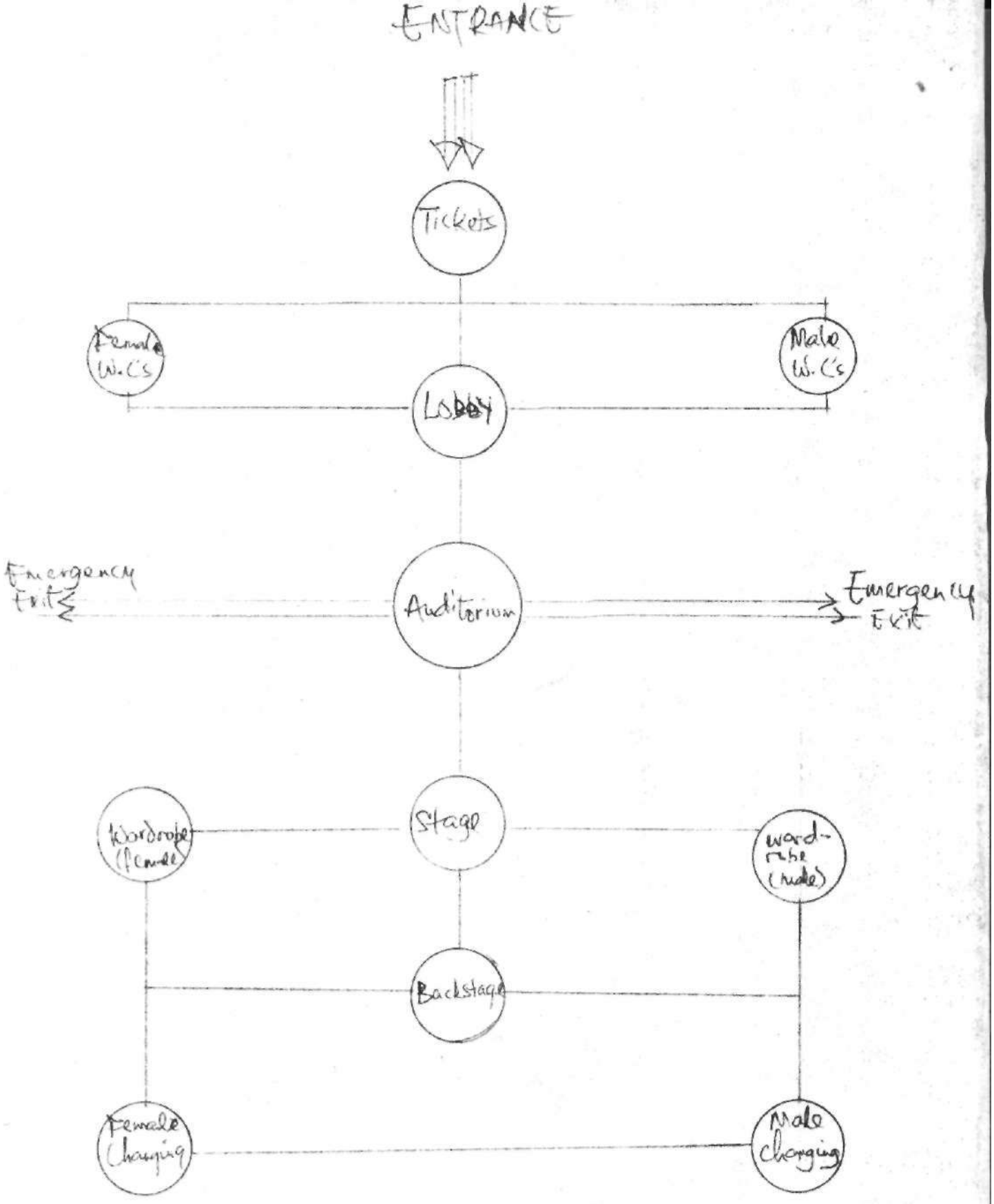


Fig. 3 Functional diagram of the multi-purpose theatre

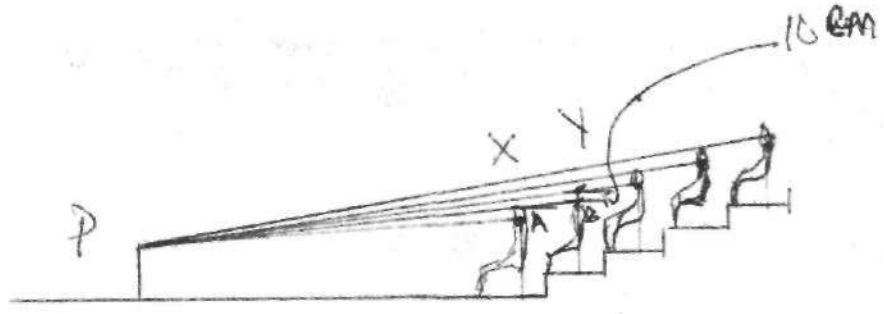


Fig. 1 Construction of vertical sightlines

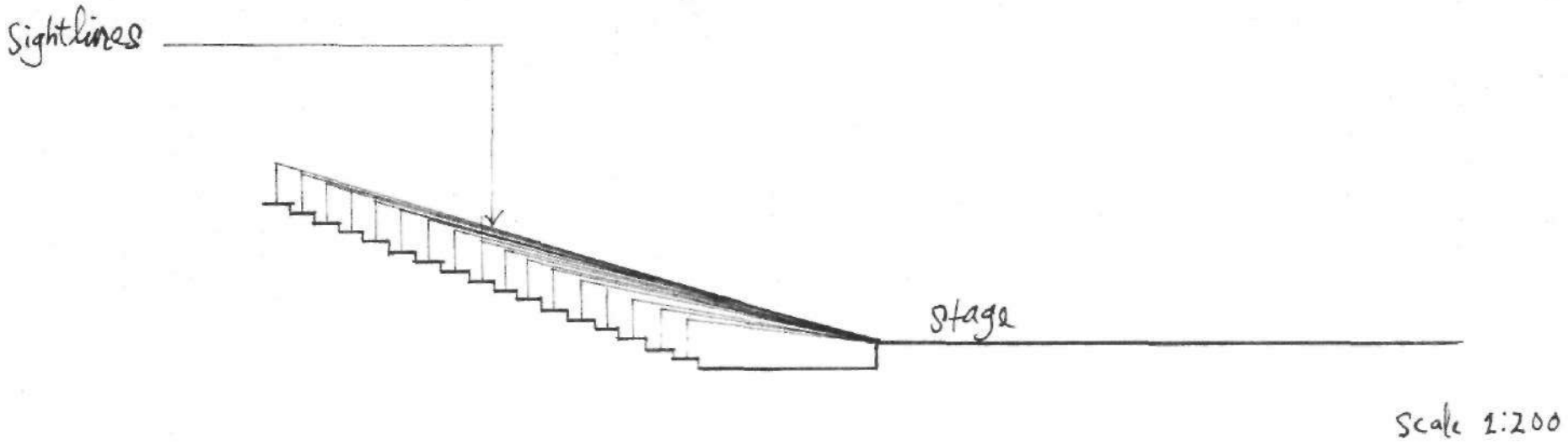


Fig. 2 Sightlines of seated audience in the multi-purpose theatre

6.01 Administrative Block:

	Area(M^2)
Chief Inspector	60
Secretary to the Chief Inspector	29.25
Deputy Chief Inspector	60
Secretary to Deputy Chief Inspector	29.25
Principal Inspector	29.25
Senior Inspector	22.5
Inspector I	18
" II	13.5
" III	13.5
Senior Information Officer	22.5
Information Officer I	18
" " II	13.5
" " III	13.5
Accountant	29.55
Secretary	13.5
Hostel Superintendent	22.5
Assistant Hostel Superintendent	17.5
Hostel Supervisors	22.5
Maintenance Engineers	22.5
H.E.O. Accounts/Typist	29.25
E. O. Accounts	13.5
A. E. O. "	13.5
Cashier	8
General Office Accounts	54
Enquiries/Lobby	31.5

General Office (Admin.)	57.5
File Depot	44.5
H. E. O. (Admin.)	22.5
Store (Office Equip. & Stationery)	44.5
Staff Room	70
Telephone Exchange	11.25
Conference Room I	105
" " II	105
Doctor	35
Drugstore/Dressing/Dispersary	45
Waiting	35

6.02 Multi-purpose Theatre/Restaurant:

	M^2
Lobby	64
Manager's Office	14
Ticket Booth	4
Projector Room	
Switchboard	14
Film Store	6
Kiosk	8
Kiosk (Upper Floor)	10
Stage	120
Back-stage	64
Wardrobe (Male)	25
" (Female)	25

Male Changing Room (Theatre)	50
Female Changing Room (Theatre)	50
Restaurant/Bar	100
Cashier	16
Supervisor's Office	12
Kitchen Store	44
Store (Drinks)	24
Kitchen	68
Male Changing (Kitchen)	24
Female Changing (Kitchen)	24

6.03 Maintenance/Stores:

Engineer	15m^2
Store Keeper	17.5m^2
Assistant Store Keeper	15m^2
Service Bay	35"
Washing	35"
Generator	35"
Store I	122m^2
Store II	157"

6.04 Hostels:

Waiting/T.V. Room	65
Bar/Provision Store	33
Living Room	12
Bed-room	8.2
Kitchen	4.5
Balcony	3
Shower/WC	2

SCHEDULE OF FINISHES

	FLOORS						WALLS						CEILINGS		
							LOWER			UPPER					
	Thermoplastic tiles PVC, Vinyl - asbestos tiles	Rubber and Hardtile	PVC linoleum	Carb tiles	Terrazzo tiles	Granolithic tiles	Wood block offsits	Ceramic Tiles	Sand/cement screed	Wood panels	Mosaics	Acoustic tiles	Ceramic tiles	Sand/cement screed	Wood panels	Mosaics	Plaster	Acoustic tiles	Asbestos tiles	Concrete tiles
Administrative Offices	*		*					*	*								*	*		
Lobbies / Concourses				*	*	*		*	*								*	*		
Restaurant / lounges				*				*									*	*		
Conference / committee rooms	*													*			*	*		
Toilets				*	*		*				*						*			
Stores				*	*			*									*			
Library	*	*							*									*		
Plant room				*				*												
Clinic	*	*						*									*			
Theatre		*		*				*										*		
Enquiries	*	*		*	*															

Chapter Seven

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

It has been observed that:-

(i) Corps members quickly lose interest in the NYSC Scheme a few weeks after the orientation course;

(ii) Most corps members, under various guises, seek redeployment to their various home states;

(iii) There are a painful few members that do or even think of achieving by way of patriotic service anything worthwhile during their service year i.e. they hardly think of doing anything reasonable for the communities they serve.

A close look at these observations reveals them to be related and as a matter of fact the latter are the off-shoots of the first observation. I believe these attitudes are attributable to lack of facilities, and proper mobilisation. The welfare of corps members is not given the attention it deserves. True one of the objectives of the scheme is to expose young graduates to the realities of life. However, these realities appear to be too harsh and rather generate a negative effect as evidenced above. The NYSC year is not a course in suffering but of service to the nation and corps members should be assisted in all ways possible to do just that. They couldn't on the one hand be busy trying to survive and at the same time be thinking of such lofty ideals as the handbook suggests.

Moreover, very few of the corps members are from well to do families; that is to say, a majority of them are not new to the so called harsh conditions of the outside world, being from poor families themselves. Naturally most corps members prefer to go back to their home states where they can easily turn to friends and relatives when in trouble (and they always are), and wouldn't need to over stretch their meagre allowances to purchase e.g. household utensils. If a few basic facilities especially accomodation are provided, I believe there will be a drastic change both in the corpers themselves and their attitude to the scheme.

Lack of proper facilities may not be the only reason for the outlined behaviour of corpers. Apart from the orientation course and the passing out parade there is hardly any other forum where corpers meet regularly (except of course drinking houses), to discuss. It is of course through such regular meetings and discussions that ideas are exchanged and eventually two or three persons get together to effect something. By this way communities may gain much more from youth corpers who come with such high ideals but shed them almost immediately because they are not encouraged to keep them. By this I am suggesting that the NYSC directorate do more home-work on how to fully mobilise and utilise these brains of the country going waste. I do not see how else this can be done without first providing a place they can look up to as their own.

Questions will be asked as to the practically of this project which no doubt will involve a large labour force and

heavy finance. Labour, however, poses no problem. With more than one thousand (1,000), corps members (some of them professionals) serving in Benue State annually, at least one quarter (250 pers), of this number can be made available as both skilled and unskilled manpower when construction work begins. This may be during the Community Development period which will have to be made longer for any meaingful results. I suggest a period of 1½ years for the natire service with six months (6 months), for the Community Development Programme.

Finally, finance might not be the big problem it appears to be. Firstly, the project is in phases i.e. the structure may be built in stages e.g.

1 Administration 2 Hostels 3 Theatre, each of which has been designed to be able to stand as an entity even by itself. This will help to reduce the financial yoke that would ensue if all were being built simultaneosly. Secondly, the financing of this project will be borne by three able bodies, the Federal Government, the Benue State Government and the Private Organizations who are beneficiaries of the scheme.

If all these be done, the sky only will be the limit of the NYSC Scheme in Nigeria.

GBE, G. A. L.
July, 1982

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