

Looking for landmarks

They're all over, and they're more interesting than you thought

By **GEORGE SHADROU**
Staff Writer

Mark Twain said a classic book was one that everyone wanted to have read, but no one reads. Landmarks are sort of like that. Everyone is supposed to know about them, but few do. Even fewer will admit to their ignorance.

Being somewhat ignorant of landmarks before undertaking this story, I decided to take a quick tour of campus late one night and discover for myself Carolina's revered past.

Across the street from Four Corners restaurant and bar—no doubt freshmen already have discovered this part of Carolina—stands Silent Sam. This statue of a man holding a rifle is a tribute to the 321 Carolina students who died in the Civil War. It was

erected in 1913 by the North Carolina Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

As I passed by it, trying to imagine a campus emptied by such a bitter war, I heard a scream. An inebriated youth, surely overcome by emotion, was hanging from Sam's leg. Three friends watched him as he struggled to descend.

Legend has it that Sam fires his gun whenever a virgin walks by. Perhaps our statue climber wanted to check the musket for gunpowder.

Further down the path is the Caldwell monument, built in memory of the University's first president, Joseph Caldwell.

As I approached the white marble monument I detected the odor of grass—the kind you smoke. Three people huddled together were breathing deeply. I stopped.

"Want some," one of the three said.

"Uh... no thanks," I said, content to move on to the next stop on the tour.

Years ago the Old Well served as the only water supply in Chapel Hill. That was before the pillars and dome were added in 1897. I would have stopped for water, but did not want to disturb a couple melted together in bliss.

Nearby the oldest state university building in the country, Old East, provided the area with music as stereos blare out the windows. The dorm, built in 1973, once housed Thomas Wolfe, the novelist, and Andy Griffith, the actor. In 1966 the building was named a National Historic Landmark.

Wolfe, by the way, has an entire section of the North Carolina Collection dedicated to his life's work.

A 1920 graduate, he was editor of *The Daily Tar Heel* and wrote several plays for the Playmakers. A bronze sculpture located on the northeast corner of New East was donated by the class of 1966 in remembrance of Wolfe's contributions to the University and the world.

A slight detour took me to Person Hall, which was once a chapel and is now used as a recital hall. Besides being the second oldest state university building in the United States, the hall is famous for the sculpture surrounding it.

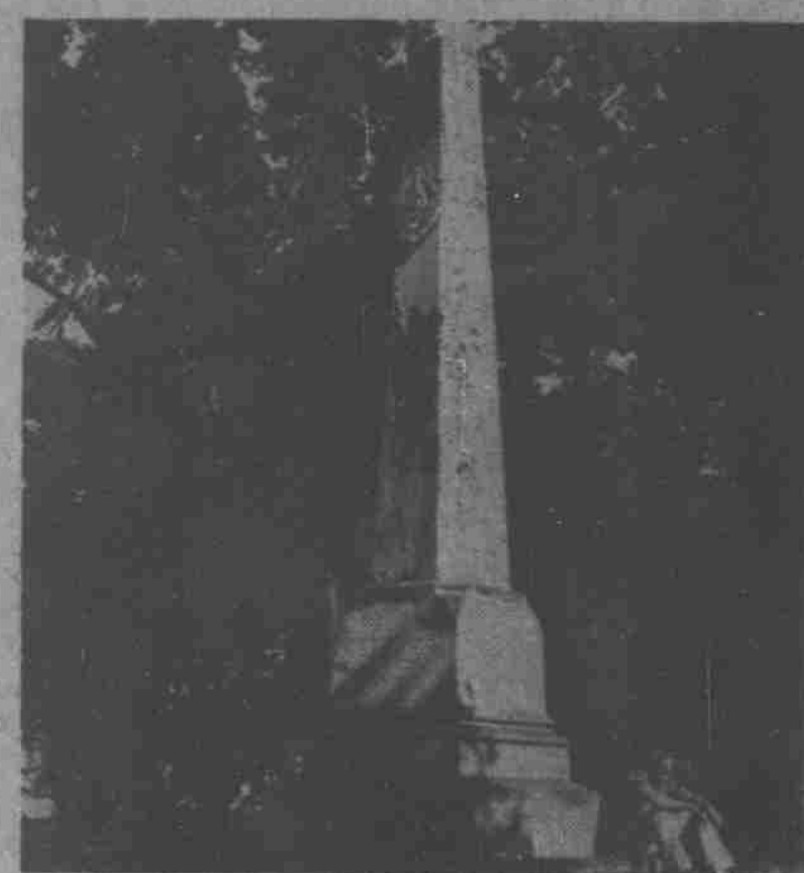
By then it was early morning and the throngs from Franklin Street were groggily returning from an intense night of hedonism. They eyed me curiously as I studied the statues of two gargoyles and a former Archbishop of Canterbury. These sculptures were given to the University in 1933 by Katherine Pendleton Arrington.

Particularly interesting are the gargoyles, evil looking beasts that once decorated Big Ben in London. Arrington salvaged the statues when the Londoners removed them because of weather corrosion. On the opposite side of Person Hall another statue of a young man trying to control a rearing horse symbolizes "Youth."

Only the sounds of students retreating to their dorms broke the silence as I walked by the Playmakers Theatre. One of the most beautiful buildings on campus, it is patterned after a Greek Revival temple. Wolfe, Griffith, Pulitzer-Prize winning Paul Green, and bandleader Kay Kyser and *Damn Yankees* author Richard Adler are only a few of the notable artists who launched careers there.

Down the road from the theater is Coker Arboretum, five acres of land containing almost 400 varieties of exotic plants and shrubs. Besides its solitude and beauty, the arboretum also is known for one unsolved murder in 1965. Women are urged not to walk there alone at night.

On the corner of Franklin and Hillsborough streets sits the old law school office, which was built in the



The University's Caldwell Monument...it's a great place to sit and think

1840s. DTH staffers fondly refer to this antiquated building as *The Daily Tar Heel* immobile float, mainly because several former staff members have lived there and the Beat Dook parade passes by the front yard.

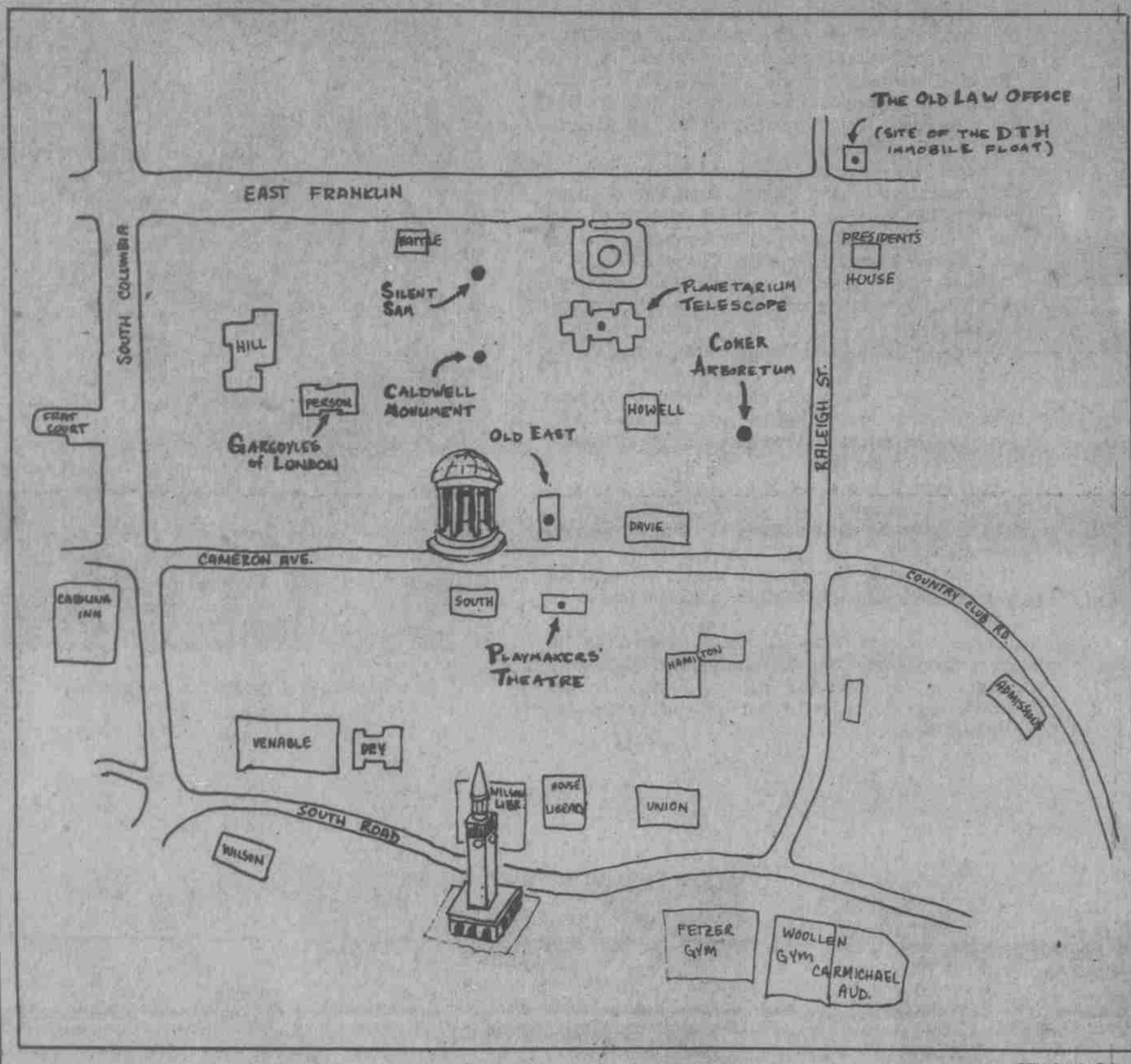
From the front yard I saw the Morehead Planetarium, built in 1945 with funds from the John Motley Morehead foundation.

Among the many popular attractions at the planetarium are a telescope 24 inches in diameter, a projector that displays numerous space and constellation programs on a huge dome ceiling, paintings by Rembrandt, Anthony Van Dyck and Thomas Gainsborough, and a 35-foot sun dial.

Content that my tour was complete, I walked wearily to the DTH office in the Carolina Union. But I was reminded of another historical landmark on the Carolina campus. The Bell Tower plays its music daily. It has played during Christmas, throughout the hostage tragedy and on each day of class, come rain or sun, exams or skip days. No doubt it will play long after future Wolfes, Kuralts and Greens have made names for themselves and the University.

And, no doubt, it will continue to harbor what has become known as the "High Noon Society," a group of students who meet there regularly to smoke pot, thus demonstrating their commitment to enjoying the present just as the landmarks celebrate the vintage past.

Thanks to Marguerite E. Schumann's book *The First State University—A Walking Guide*, which supplied much of the historical information for this article.



DTH/Sandy Salata

From a modest start

University has grown and prospered

By **WILLIAM PESCHEL**
Staff Writer

Legend has it that in 1792, a group of men led by William Richardson Davie paused for dinner under a poplar tree during their search for a new state university site. The committee viewed the beauty of the area and the bountiful springs and decided to build the University of North Carolina in what is now Chapel Hill.

Another more unlikely legend says the men had been drinking all day and fell off their horses near that same poplar. Too drunk to go on, they decided to build the University here.

Whatever story you believe, it is true that in 1789, Davie, lawyer, orator and one of the writers of the U.S. Constitution, submitted a bill to the N.C. General Assembly for the establishment of a state university. The bill was approved and in 1792 Davie was appointed to a committee to find a site. They chose this area because of its plentiful springs, its location in the center of the state, and most importantly, because the residents of the area donated 1,290 acres of land and 768 pounds to the new university.

In 1795, Old East was completed, and with the arrival of its first student—Hinton James—classes began.

Students paid 15 pounds per year for board and \$5 per year for rent.

The campus grew rapidly in the years before the Civil War. The University raised money through the sale of

donated lands and twice held lotteries. The first commencement was held July 4, 1798, as the University graduated seven students.

The college survived during the Civil War, but not without problems. Students and faculty dropped out to join the armies, and only old men and clergymen were left to teach the few students. In 1865, when Union cavalry came to occupy Chapel Hill, most of the students fled. Only four of 15 seniors were present for commencement that year. The University was protected by General William Sherman from damage, but the surrounding countryside was not, and livestock and personal possessions were confiscated.

The last straw came when the commander of Union troops, General Atkins, married the University president's daughter. The University suddenly became very unpopular in the South.

The ax finally fell during Reconstruction. With few students and no money, the Board of Trustees closed UNC in 1871. For the next four years Carolina was closed while money was being raised. During that time, the University was stripped of nearly all its possessions by students and faculty. When UNC reopened in 1875, ads were run begging for the return of the property.

Fraternalism came into existence by 1851, but they disappeared by the end of the Civil War. After the war, fraternities were forbidden, but they were formed anyway. Around 1892, fraternities such as Delta Kappa Epsilon, Phi Gamma Delta, Zeta Psi and Theta Nu Epsilon existed.

UNC's first intercollegiate football game was in 1888

against Wake Forest. Wake Forest won.

During the fall of 1897, the Old Well was rebuilt from an old well to its present structure. The design was by President Edwin M. Alderman and was derived, he said, "largely from the Temple of Love in the Garden at Versailles." That same year, the first women students were allowed in after a long fight.

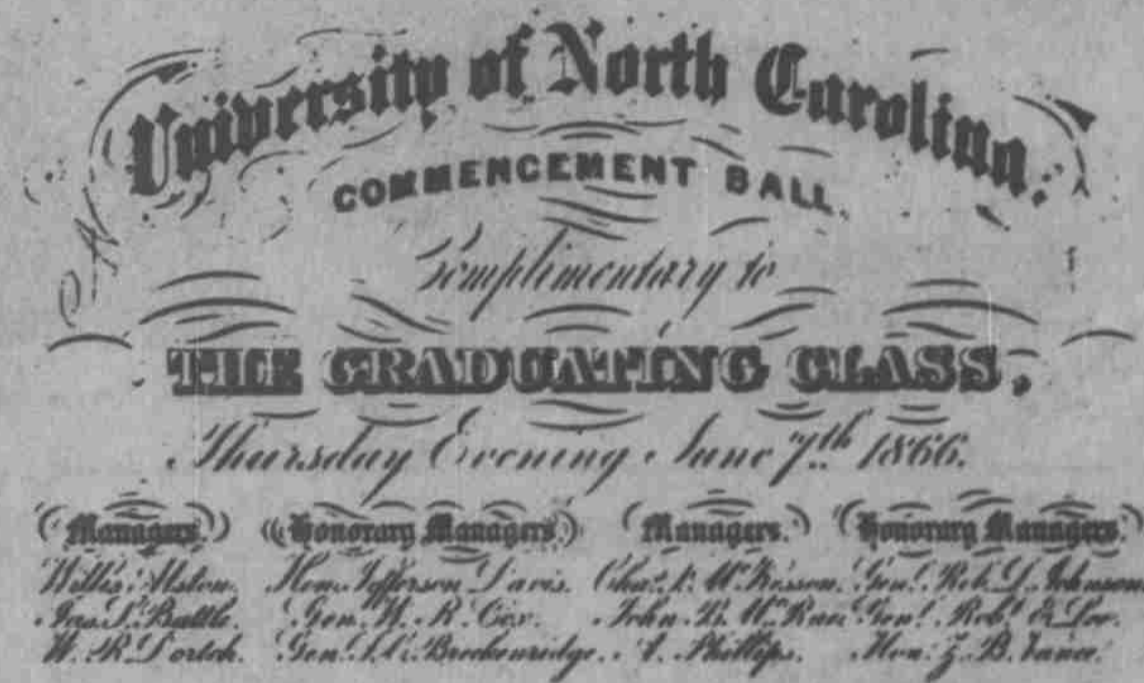
Carolina's ram mascot wasn't introduced until 1924. Head cheerleader Vic Huggin decided that the football team should have a mascot like North Carolina State University's Wolfpack. Because one of UNC's more popular football players was known as "The Battering Ram," Huggins chose the ram. Ramase I was brought from Texas in time to see UNC beat Virginia Military Institute. Since then, Ramase's descendants have been present at each football game.

During the '20s UNC underwent a building program that included the construction of Aycock, Lewis and Graham dormitories, Venable Hall, Kenan Stadium, Woollen Gym, Graham Memorial Hall and the Bell Tower.

World War II reduced the number of students, but that was made up after the war, as the returning veterans quickly dried up the housing market. Trailers and quonset huts appeared in the area as a short-term answer.

Now, 187 years later, tripling is the short-term answer to that age old problem. But you wouldn't know that was the case, especially while tripping over all the new construction that's going on.

History never fails to repeat itself.



The 1866 commencement ball announcement...some names on it shocked administration

Unruly UNC students an old school tradition

By **WILLIAM PESCHEL**
Staff Writer

One of Carolina's oldest traditions is the open expression of student views. Many have been voiced in the last 186 years.

Of those, quite a few were legal exercises of freedoms. And then, there were some that were a bit more questionable.

In 1828, for instance, UNC sophomore William Lee Kennedy was brought before the faculty after a professor observed him "very intently and conspicuously engaged in cutting the bench on which he was seated." After being asked to stop, a faculty report said, "he quickly replied that he paid for them, and claimed a right to occupy himself in this manner." The faculty suspended him for six months.

Later, the University received a letter from Kennedy asking that he be readmitted. After informing his father of the reasons for his early return home, Kennedy wrote, "The arguments he used have satisfied my mind as to the correctness of his opinion." He promised to conform and he was readmitted.

Nine freshmen appeared before the faculty a year later, for disturbing a professor's lecture. They were cited for "grossing in concert and running stripes along the bench." The nine confessed and written warnings were mailed to their parents.

In January 1855, students were discovered reveling in South Building. After that was broken up, the faculty went to the students' rooms "to ascertain the condition of the young men." They were found, as the faculty put it, "To be more or less intoxicated." While meeting with the faculty the next day, the four students admitted being drunk. They were suspended for four weeks. One reveler was said to be too intoxicated that morning to come and answer the charge—of being intoxicated the night before.

In January 1856, the trustees passed an ordinance prohibiting students from keeping dogs and weapons in Chapel Hill. Other laws were passed concerning drinking, dancing, gambling or sleight of hand performances.

Those actions cooled things down for a while. But in 1865, the commander of the North's occupying forces in Chapel Hill married the University president's daughter. Student sentiment could not be contained. During the ceremony, and for three hours afterward, students tolled the bell in South Building. This was immediately followed by hanging the president and groom in effigy.

A year later, during Reconstruction, the students made Confederate President Jefferson Davis, General Robert E. Lee, and other Confederate officials honorary captains for the commencement ball. The invitations, with the list of honorary captains, was printed and mailed out before the administration found out.



1946 and the end of World War II brought a sharply increased enrollment...housing shortages forced temporary dorms in the old Tin Can