

Carolina Landmarks

The places to see on the Carolina campus

Playmakers

An unusually designed building considered beautiful by many, is the Playmakers Theater.

First designed as a combination ballroom and library in 1851, then used for agricultural chemistry and law, the building finally became the first state university building dedicated to the production of folk drama.

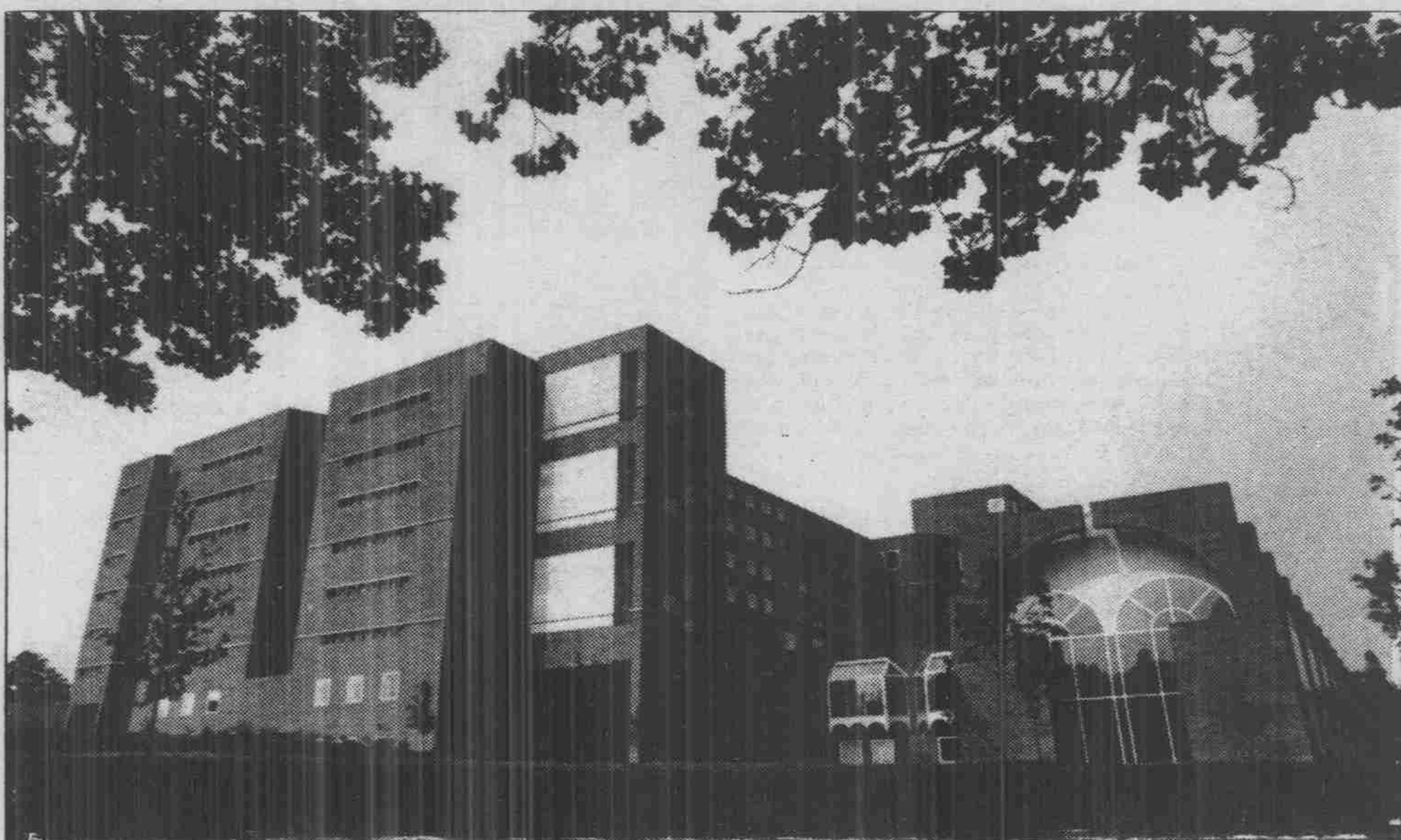
The building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

A persistent but unsubstantiated legend has it that the horses of the Michigan Ninth Cavalry were stabled in the library after the Civil War. This stimulated the story that, since then, Michigan horses have been known for their intelligence, and Carolina students for their horse sense.

Throughout the school year, many plays are performed in Playmakers.

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The Walter R. Davis Library

Designed by two award-winning architects, the Walter R. Davis Library is the largest educational building in North Carolina.

This \$22.9 million library, which is often considered a more serious place to study than the Undergraduate "Zoo", has 10 acres of floor space over nine levels on a three-acre site.

Davis Library has a total seating capacity of 3,013, including 1,950 open carrels and seating, 144 faculty studies and 500 closed carrels. The building has a capacity of 1.8 million volumes.

The library includes several ingenious design features. One of the most striking features is a large main gallery hung with colorful banners, showing historic printers' marks represented in the Rare Book Collection.

Leslie N. Boney of Wilmington and Romaldo Giurgola of Mitchell/Giurgola and Thorp of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania designed the library. The latter designed a high-rise building in front of Historic Independence Hall as well as the shelter for the Liberty Bell in Independence Square.

The building was named for Walter R. Davis, a Texas businessman with family roots in Elizabeth City, N.C. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for eight years and he fought in the state legislature to claim for Chapel Hill the major portion of funds received from the sale of University utilities.