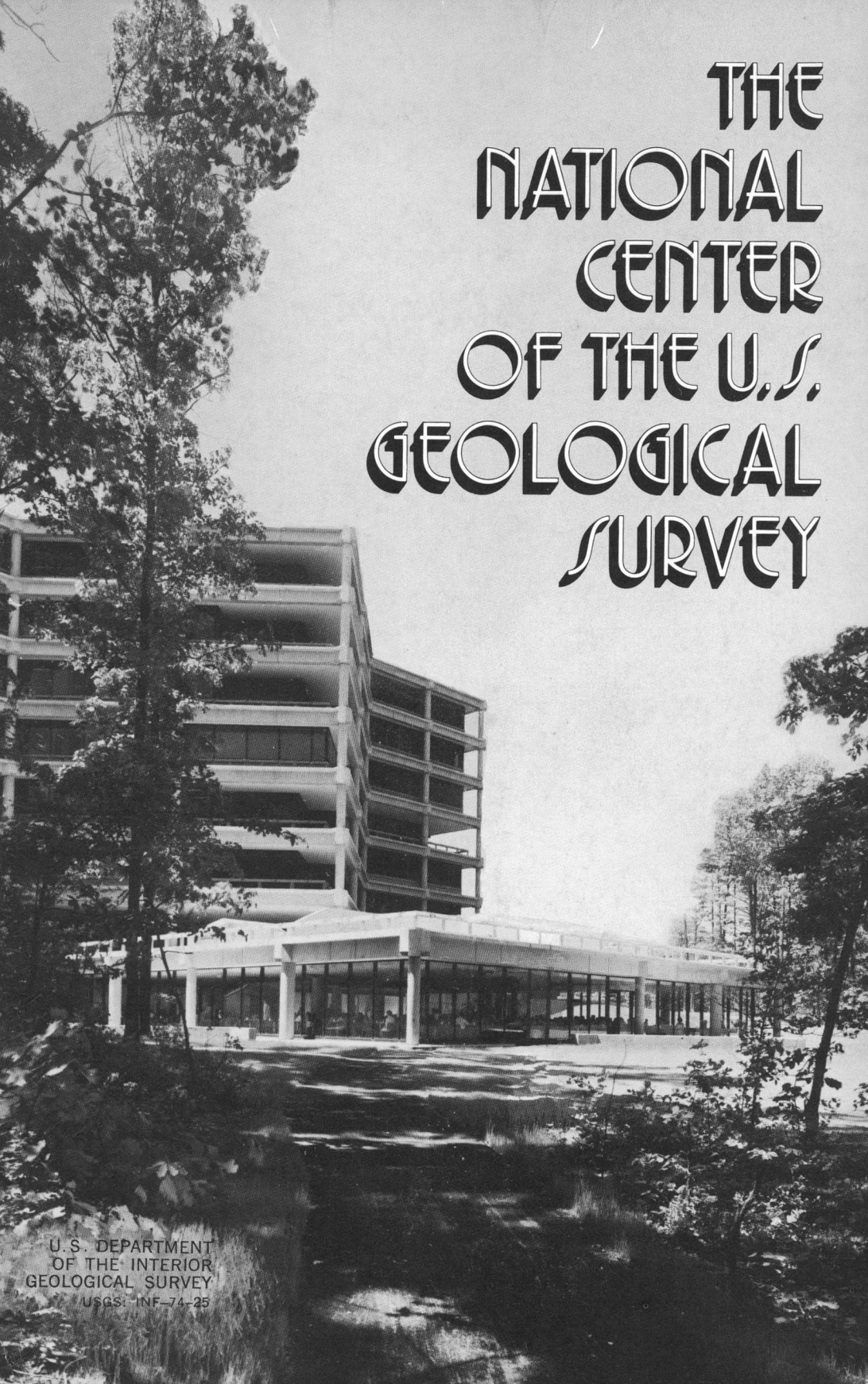
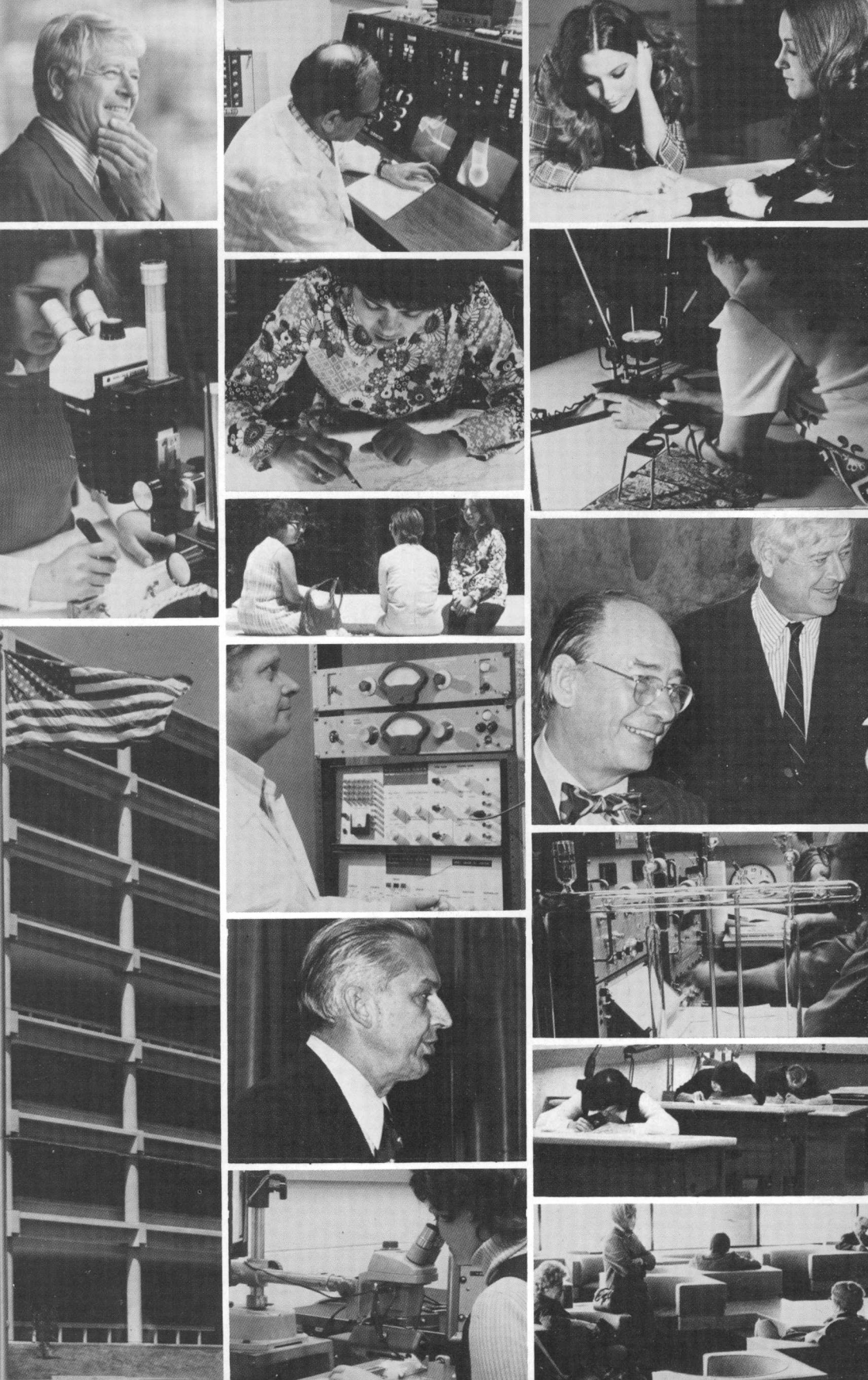
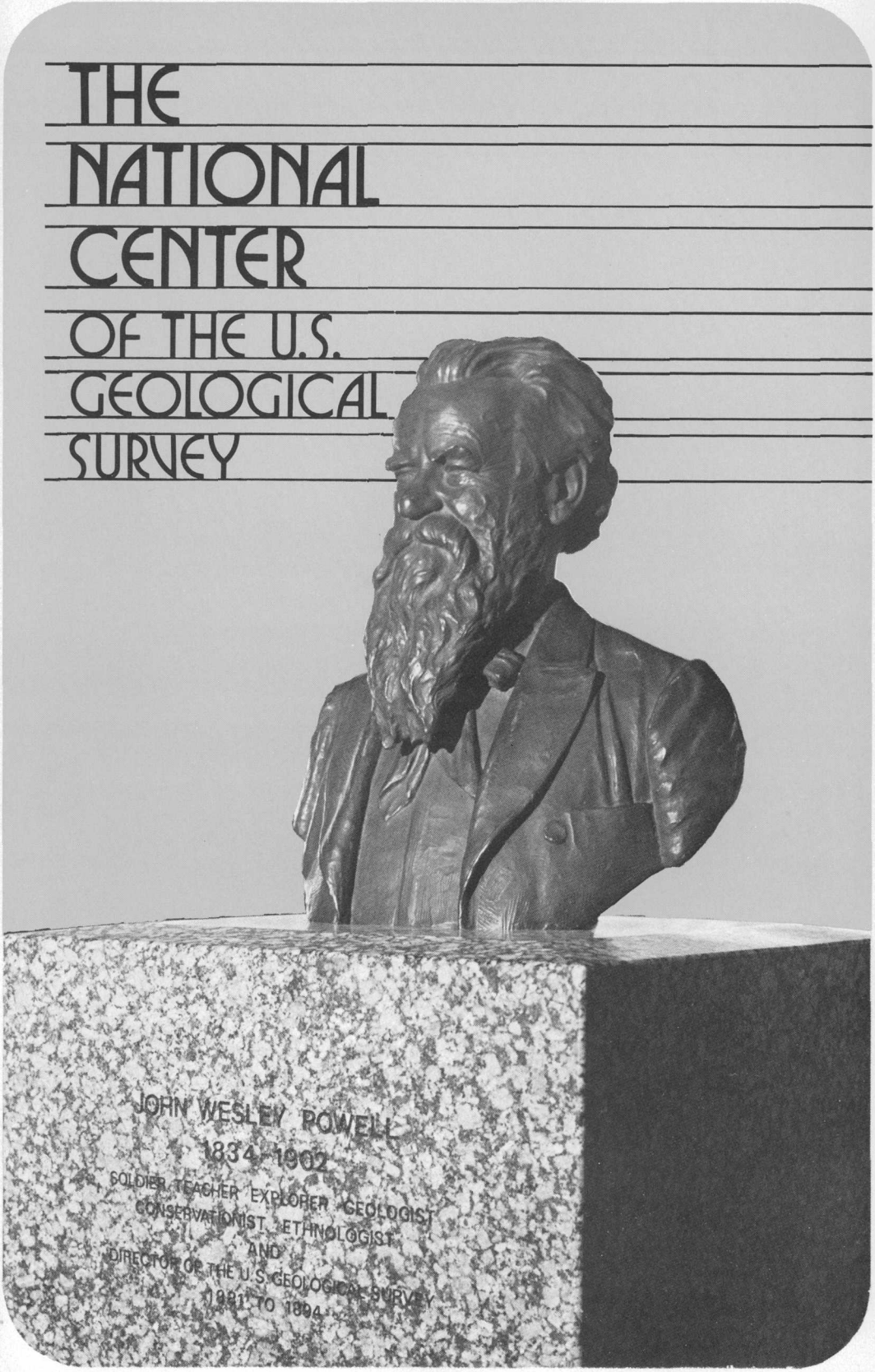


THE NATIONAL CENTER OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

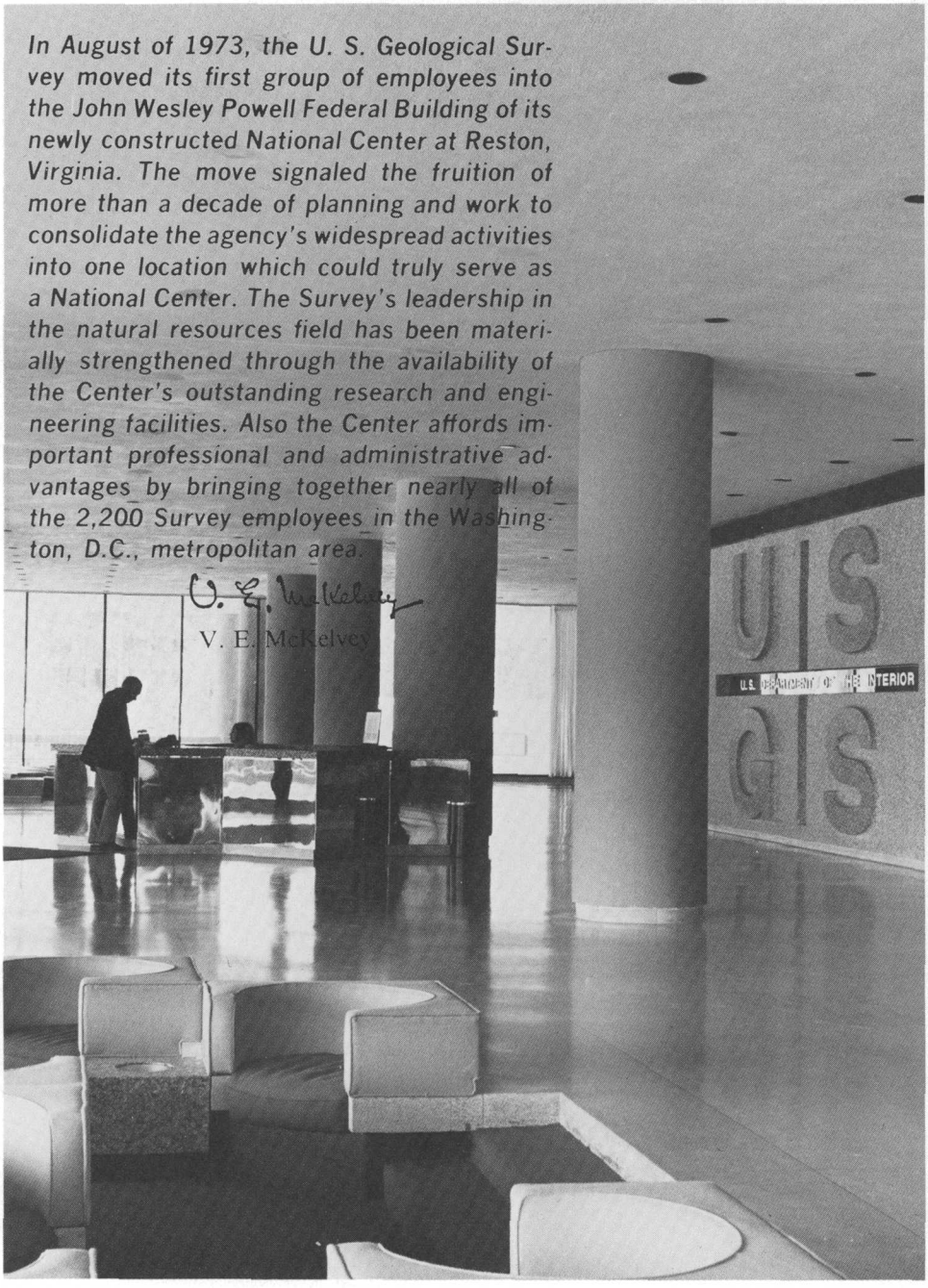
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
USGS/INF-74-25



THE NATIONAL CENTER OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



FOREWORD



In August of 1973, the U. S. Geological Survey moved its first group of employees into the John Wesley Powell Federal Building of its newly constructed National Center at Reston, Virginia. The move signaled the fruition of more than a decade of planning and work to consolidate the agency's widespread activities into one location which could truly serve as a National Center. The Survey's leadership in the natural resources field has been materially strengthened through the availability of the Center's outstanding research and engineering facilities. Also the Center affords important professional and administrative advantages by bringing together nearly all of the 2,200 Survey employees in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

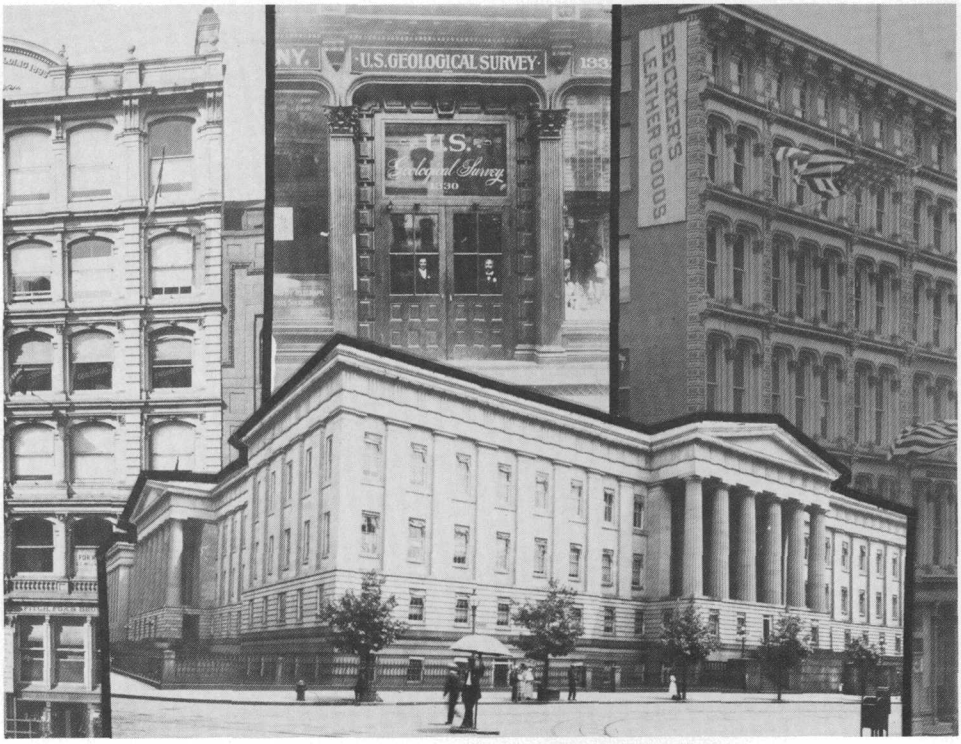
V. E. McKelvey

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The U. S. Department of the Interior's Geological Survey is one of the Federal Government's major earth science research and fact-finding agencies. It carries out diversified programs that play a vital role in furthering the Nation's welfare. The Survey's programs provide information on the character, magnitude, location, and distribution of minerals and ores, the sources and supplies of water, and the natural earth processes that must be understood to maintain environmental quality. This information serves government and private enterprise as a sound basis for making critical decisions about mineral resource exploration and development, water resource use, land management, the problems of earthquakes and other natural hazards, enlightened urban planning, sound construction practices, and environmental and health problems.

For almost a century, the growth of the Survey's scientific and engineering research programs has paralleled and contributed to the development of the United States as a great industrial nation. Today, the expansion of the Survey's programs reflects an increasing need for its surveys, investigations, research, and supervisory functions.

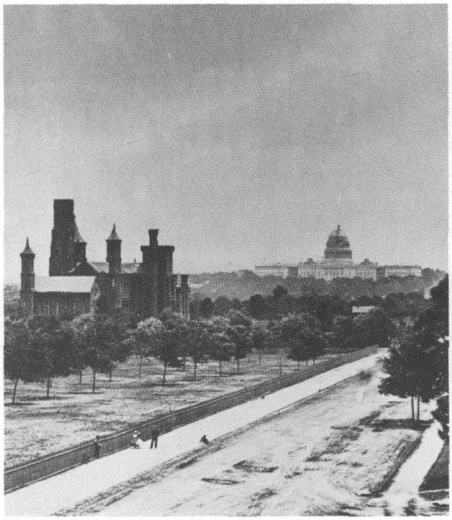
The primary work of the Survey is accomplished by four Divisions —Topographic, Geologic, Water Resources, and Conservation. The Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Program gathers and interprets data on earth features and natural resources obtained by orbiting satellites and high-altitude aircraft. Support services for all Survey offices are provided by the Administrative, Publications, and Computer Center Divisions, from the National Center at Reston, Virginia. Other Survey offices include regional headquarters at Denver, Colorado, and Menlo Park, California; the Earth Resources Observation Systems Data Center at Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and numerous field offices throughout the country.



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUILDINGS - CIRCA 1917

EARLIER HOUSING

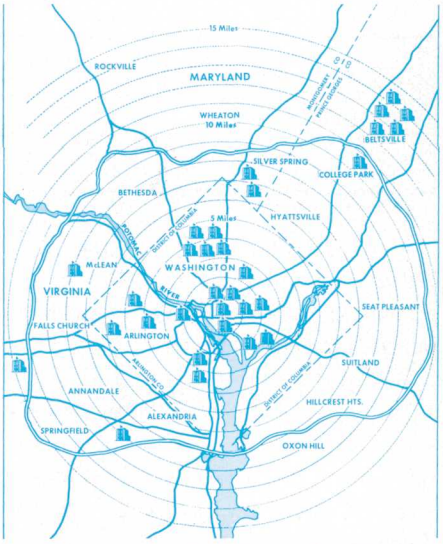
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION - 1879



The Survey, established by an Act of Congress in 1879, first occupied office space in the Smithsonian Institution on Independence Avenue in the Nation's Capital. During the years of early growth, it was successively and simultaneously headquartered in the "Old" Patent Office Building, on 7th Street, N. W.; the Hooe Building, on the south side of F Street, N. W. (presently the site of the National Press Building); and the Adams Building, on the north side of F Street, N. W. In 1917, the Geological Survey joined its sister bureaus of the Department of the In-

terior in a new building on F Street, between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W. (now the General Services Building). Twenty years later, a larger building (the present Interior Department Building) was constructed just south of the "Old" Interior Building. Space limitations and the bureau's own particular requirements, however, caused the Geological Survey to remain in the older building.

By 1960, the continued growth of the Survey's programs and activities led to the bureau's being housed in more than 30 different buildings scattered throughout the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area.



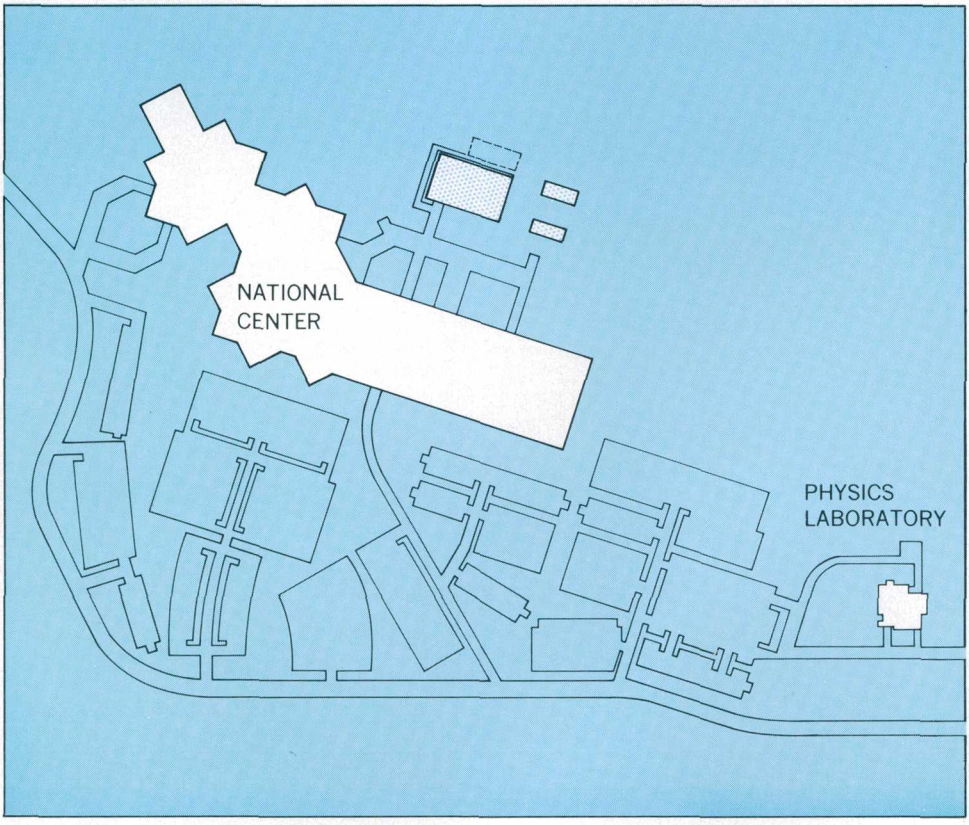
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUILDING LOCATIONS

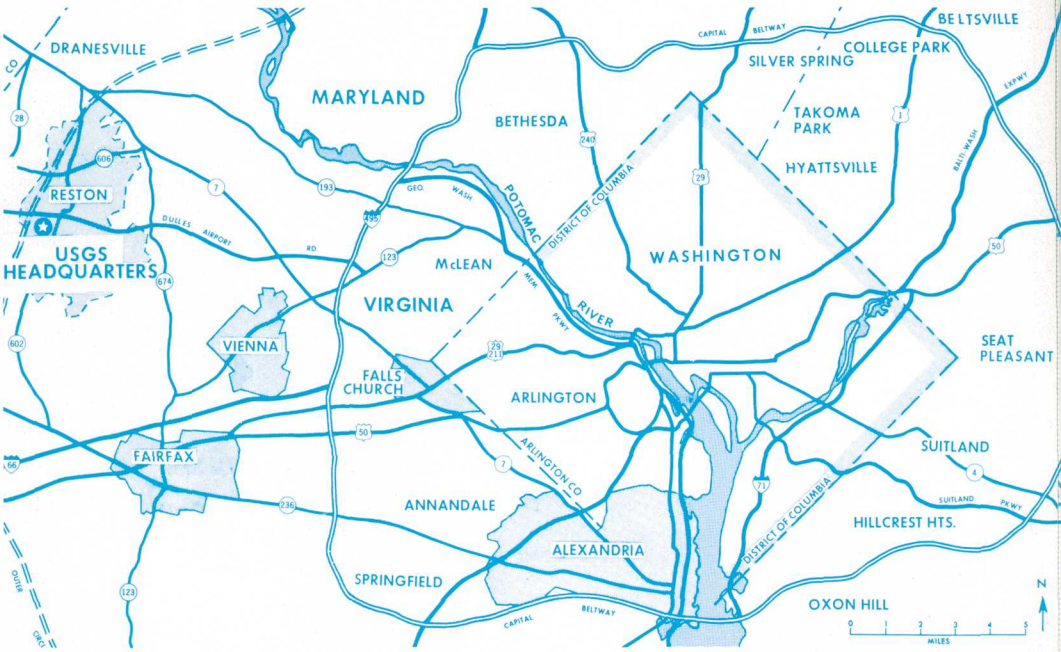
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUILDINGS - 1973

PLANNING THE NATIONAL CENTER

In 1962, a prospectus for a National Center for the Survey was approved by a resolution of both the Senate and the House Public Works Committees under the Public Buildings Act of 1959. Preliminary design work was begun immediately.

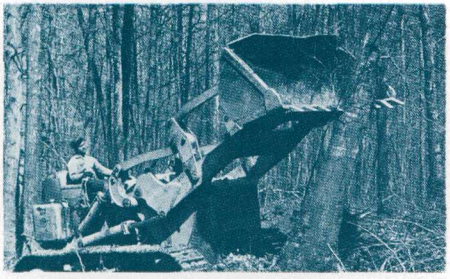
After several investigations, a site in the new town of Reston, Virginia, was selected for the Survey's National Center. The site is located within an area set aside by the Reston developers for use by Government and private research organizations. About 50 acres of the 105-acre wooded site were donated to the Government by Reston, Virginia, Inc., the original developer of the community; the remainder of the site was purchased by the Government. The building design was completed in 1969, and in the absence of Federal funding, the project was reapproved by the Senate and the House Public Works Committees for construction under a lease arrangement. With the Government's agreement, Gulf Reston, Inc., the current developer of Reston, undertook the construction of the building

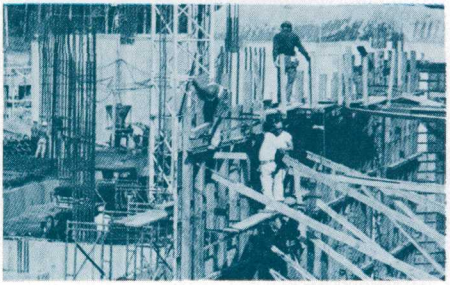


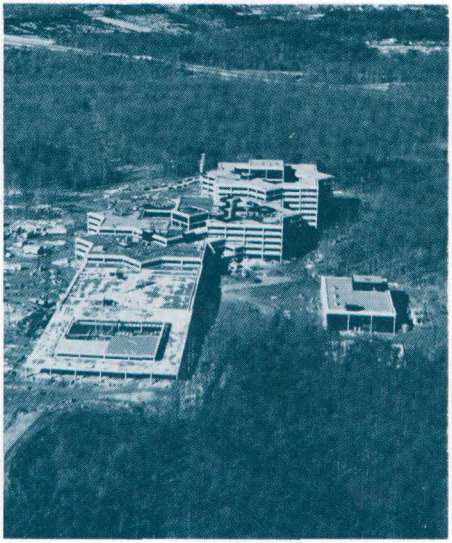


with private funds. On completion, Gulf Reston leased it to the Government for 20 years, at the end of which it will be Federally owned.

Competitive construction bids were invited in September 1970. The George Hyman Construction Company of Washington, D. C., was awarded the construction contract in the amount of $44,118,000 in June of 1971. Architects for the project were Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill of Chicago, Illinois, and H. D. Nottingham and Associates of McLean, Virginia. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 31, 1971, with Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton turning the first earth. Construction started immediately.







THE SURVEY'S RESTON LOCATION

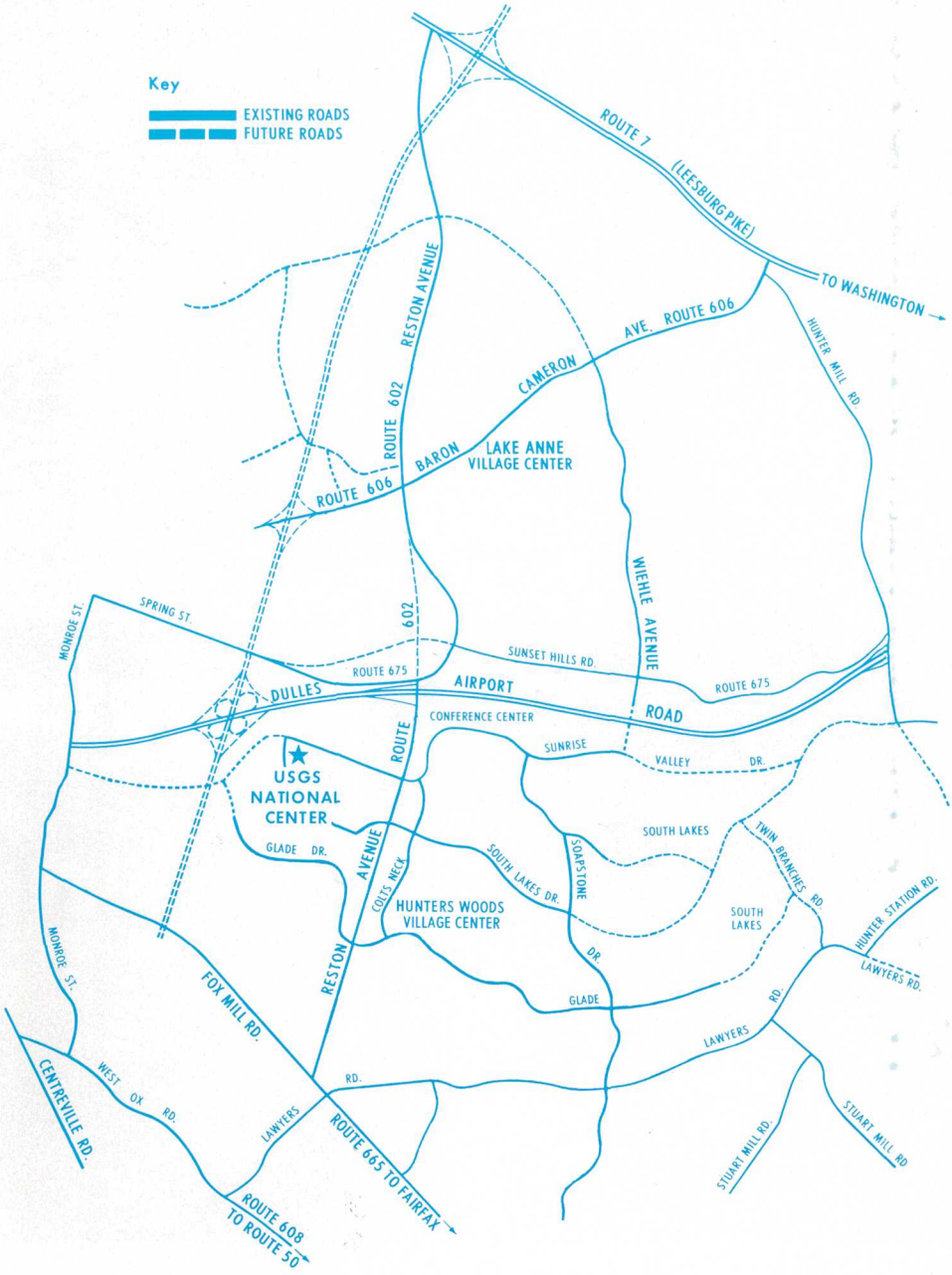
The town of Reston covers some 11½ square miles of Virginia countryside, in the rolling piedmont hills of Fairfax County, 18 miles west of Washington, D. C. The Reston community provides a wide range of facilities and services including housing, churches, public and private schools, libraries, community centers, and medical services. There are also research facilities, an industrial complex, banking and business offices, and public transportation. Parks, lakes, golf courses, swimming pools, walkways, trails, and riding paths provide ample recreational facilities.

The heavily wooded National Center site contains some 10,000 trees of 8-inch diameter or more. The trees are mostly oak, including red, white, pin, black, post, blackjack, and chestnut oak. Other trees include hickory, red maple, beech, poplar, black locust, sassafras, flowering dogwood, and black gum. Holly shrubs and ground covers such as partridge berry, pipsissewa, and treeclub mosses are present, as well.

The site is underlain largely by Triassic Manassas sandstone, which in this area consists of scattered pebbles of schist, sandstone, and quartz in a matrix of red or purple micaceous silty sand. Adjacent formations are Triassic diabase to the west and lower Paleozoic Wissahickon schist to the east.

The Center is located about one-half mile southwest of the intersection of Reston Avenue (State Route 602) and the Dulles Access Highway. Present access is north from U. S. Highways 50 and 66 over State Routes 665, 608, and 602, or west and south from State Route 7 over State Routes 606 and 602. Route 606 is four lanes from Route 7 to Route 602. Access to Reston Avenue (Route 602) from the site is over four-lane paved roads from the northwest and southeast corners of the site.

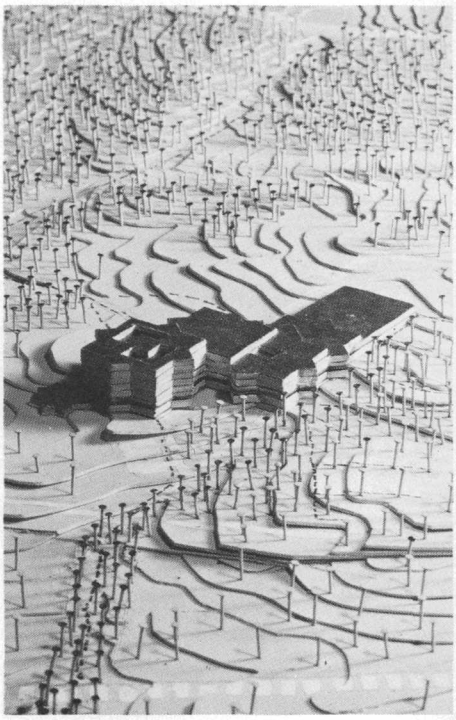
The National Center has an environment relatively free of air pollution, interference, and vibration. Manufacturing or processing operations which release particulate matter into the atmosphere through exhausts of smokestacks are not permitted within 5,000 feet of the site. Industrial, mechanical, or quarrying operations that generate excessive vibrations are not permitted in the vicinity. Radio, television, and telecommunications interference is restricted and no major power lines can be located within 1,000 feet of the site without Survey approval.

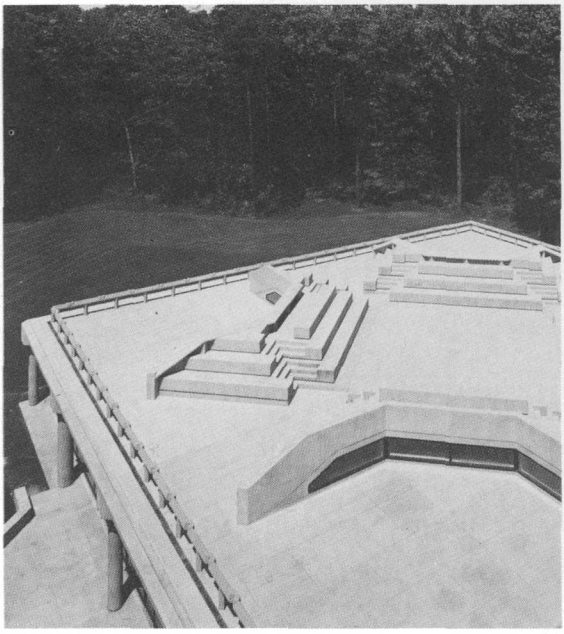


DESIGN

The National Center's John Wesley Powell Federal Building is a continuous structure about 1,200 feet long, built along a low ridge. Although it is one structure, it can be considered as consisting of three sections: the administration, laboratory, and map reproduction wings. The building ranges in height from about 120 feet in the seven-story administration section to about 25 feet in the single-story printing plant on the upper end of the ridge. The 1-million-square-foot building accommodates about 2,500 employees, and there are adjoining parking facilities for 1,600 vehicles.

The precast concrete exterior of the Powell Building, including exposed columns, window wall panels, and terrace handrails, is a natural buff color. Mullions and window

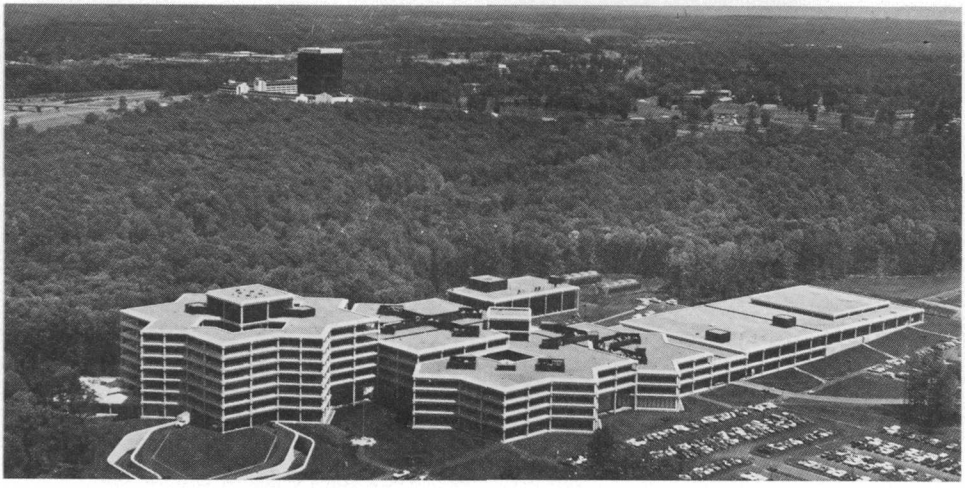




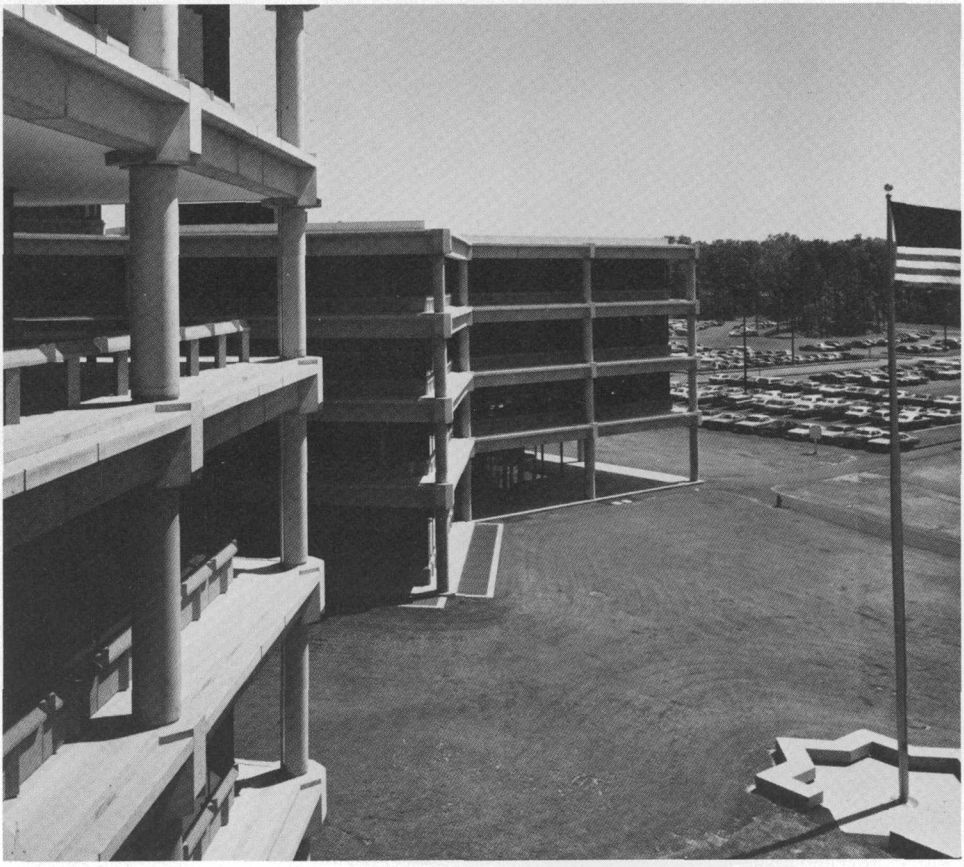
frames are satin-black extruded aluminum. The mechanical penthouse, printing plant, and central utility plant have steel panel exteriors with satin-black porcelainized enamel finish. Formal landscaping at the National Center includes some 900 trees and 15,000 plants.

A two-story central utility plant, measuring 110 by 180 feet, is located 200 feet northeast of the headquarters building. It houses the heating and refrigeration equipment. Cooling towers are adjacent to the utility plant.

The Solid State Physics Laboratory, nearby and to the south of the Powell Building, is a separate two-story structure enclosing 13,500 square feet of space.



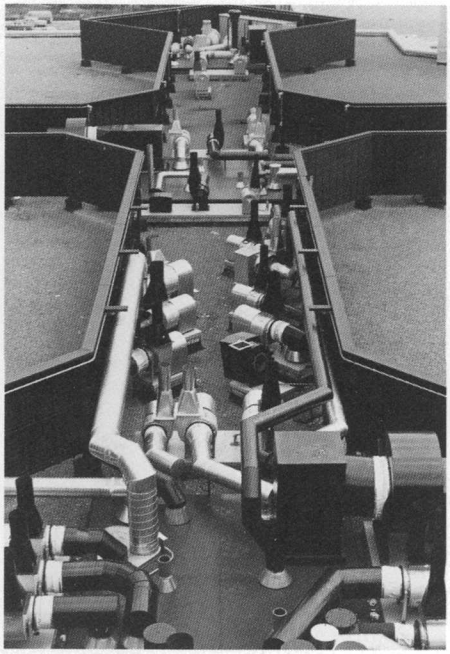
STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL DETAILS

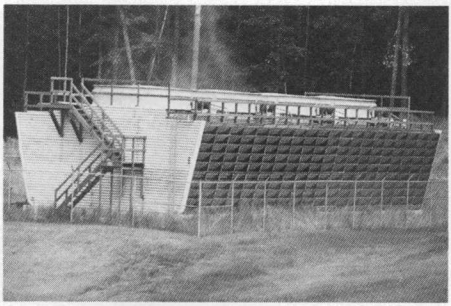


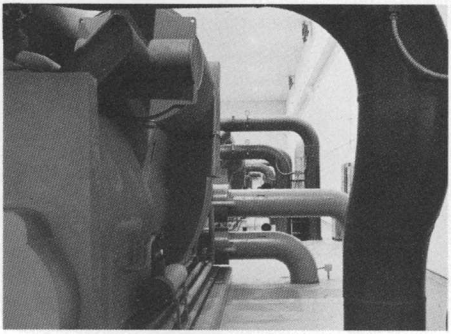
The building structure is a reinforced concrete framework of beams and columns with walls set back from the exterior columns. The setback recesses the 6-foot-high tinted glass windows and provides exterior service walkways on each floor. Interior areas are subdivided by gypsum-board and metal-stud partitions.

Each floor of the structure consists of a series of 200-foot-square modules superimposed on 212-foot-square modules and rotated 45°. This arrangement provides a floor with as many as 16 sides, permitting more window space.

The building contains a central elevator core of five passenger elevators and one freight elevator in the administration wing and three pairs of passenger elevators and one freight elevator in the laboratory wing. There are 11 stairwells distributed through the building, and 12 service cores provide mechanical







service to all laboratory floors.

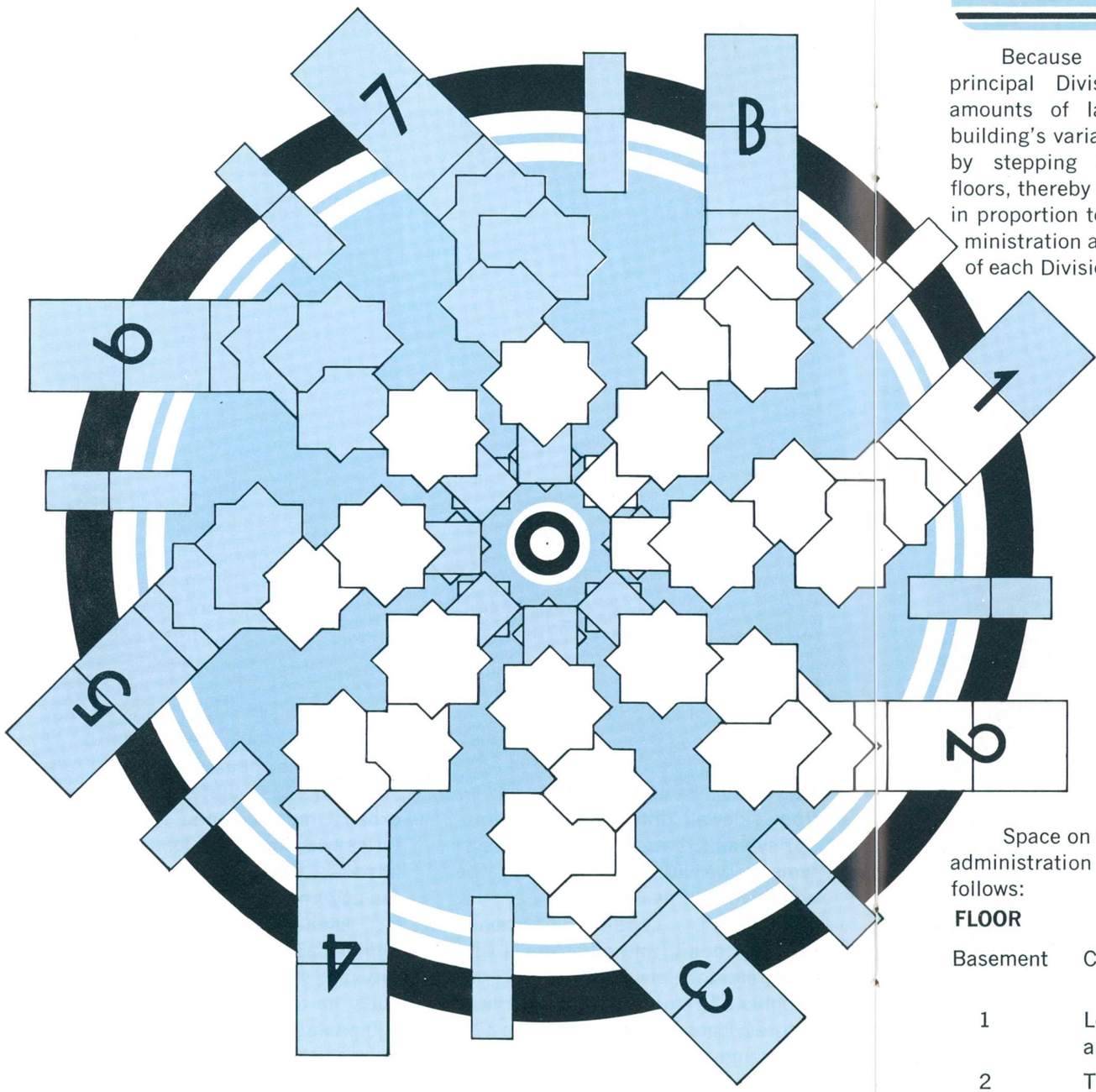
The entire building, except for the truck loading dock and first floor bulk storage areas, is air-conditioned. Perimeter office areas in the laboratory and administration wings are served by a four-pipe fan-coil system with a separate one-row hot-water coil and a three-row cooling coil. The fan-coil units are the 100-percent recirculation type, and ventilation to perimeter areas is supplied from sidewall diffusers off the interior systems. Low-velocity reheat systems serve interior spaces in the administration wing.

Offices, conference rooms, drafting rooms, and other areas with relatively low air change have air supply and return built into the light fixtures. Laboratories and other high air change areas have square or rectangular standard ceiling diffusers and return air grilles.

Ventilation and humidity control for the computer facility are supplied from the interior system. A separate air-handling unit with a chilled-water coil supplies air in the computer floor plenum for cooling.

Fume hoods are of the bypass type and are in continuous operation. Induced-type hoods, with a maximum of 70-percent nonconditioned air introduced directly into the hood, reduce the amount of air required and the possibility of drafts in laboratories that have excessive exhaust requirements. Those laboratories with high heat loads are ventilated by 100-percent recirculation, fan-coil units.

Chilled water from the central utility plant is piped to each laboratory pipe shaft and to the air-handling units in the computer room where equipment has special cooling requirements. Oversized pipes afford a large amount of future cooling capability as laboratory requirements change.



SPACE USE

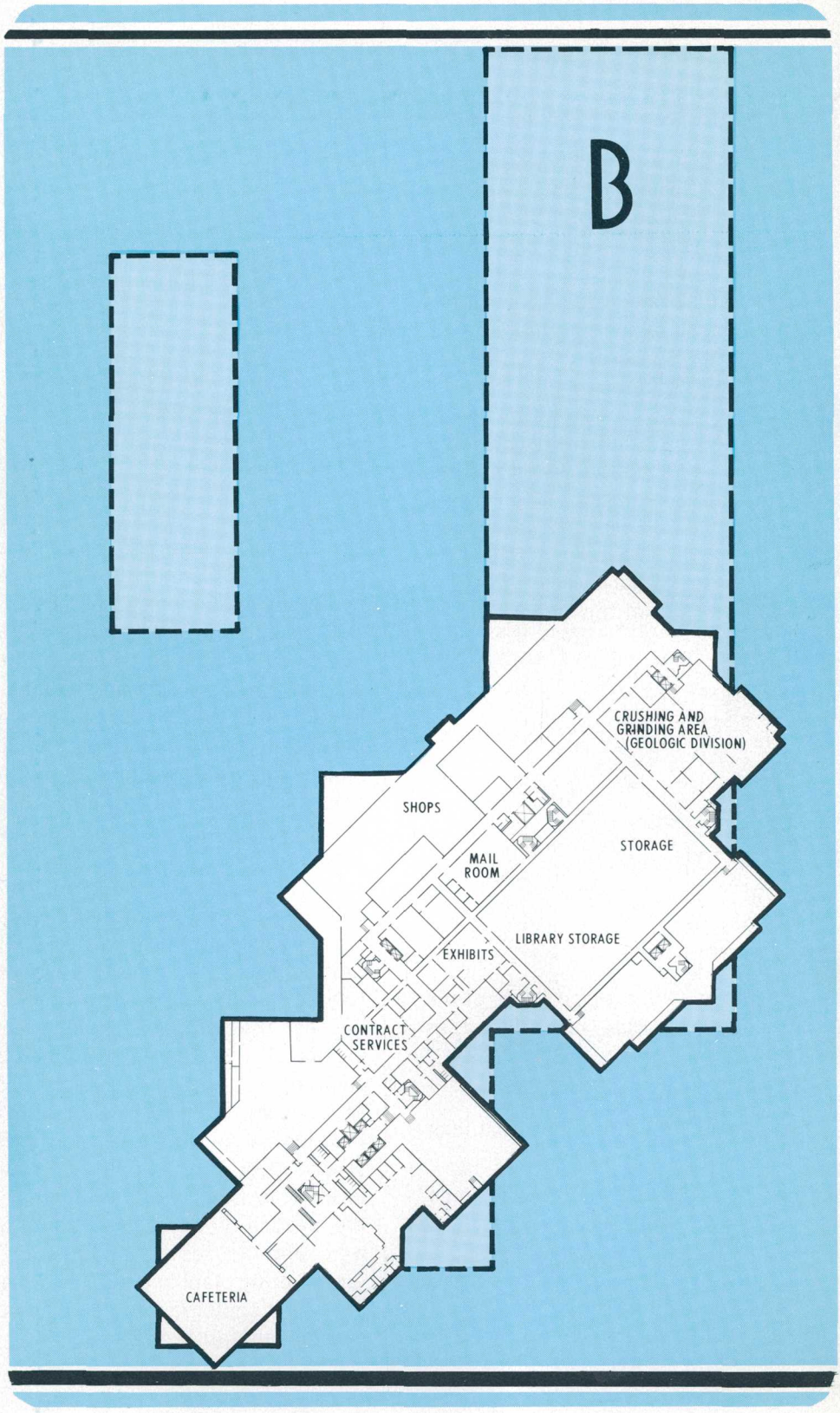
Because the Survey's four principal Divisions need different amounts of laboratory space, the building's variable height is achieved by stepping back the laboratory floors, thereby decreasing their areas in proportion to that of adjoining administration areas. The laboratories of each Division are connected horizontally with the administrative offices of that Division and the offices of all seven Divisions are connected by vertical circulation to the Office of the Director.

Space on the seven floors of the administration wing is assigned as follows:

FLOOR	ACTIVITY
Basement	Cafeteria and Custodial Shops
1	Lobby, Personnel Office, and Miscellany
2	Topographic Division
3	Geologic Division
4	Survey Library
5	Water Resources Division
6	Administrative Division, Publications Division, and Computer Center Division
7	Office of the Director and Conservation Division

The laboratory wing is a horizontal extension of the administration wing, and the laboratories associated with each Division are located on the same floor as and adjacent to the Division's staff. A flexible laboratory environment is obtained by the assignment of scientists to individual lab-offices which are grouped around the more complex laboratory facilities. Laboratory space is divided according to the needs of the Divisions. The Water Resources Division uses 18,000 square feet and the Geologic Division uses 89,000 square feet.

The map reproduction area consists of 107,000 square feet of space distributed on two floors. The first floor, separated from the laboratory wing by a service roadway, houses the property maintenance section. The second floor bridges the service roadway and extends 250 feet beyond the first floor. Owing to the sloping site, the extension of the second floor is essentially at ground level. This floor is a continuation of the second floor of the laboratory wing and houses a 21,000-square-foot printing plant and 56,000 square feet of photographic and cartographic laboratory space.


B
CRUSHING AND GRINDING AREA (GEOLOGIC DIVISION)
SHOPS
MAIL ROOM
STORAGE
LIBRARY STORAGE
EXHIBITS
CONTRACT SERVICES
CAFETERIA

BASEMENT

BASEMENT. The cafeteria seats 600 people and is located off the lower lobby at ground level. Window walls on three sides provide diners with an unobstructed view of the surrounding wooded hillsides. A small buffet dining room supplements the main dining area, a one-story structure projecting from the administration wing. The roof is railed and serves as an observation platform. In the center of the platform is a combination skylight and exedra, which seats about 100 people.

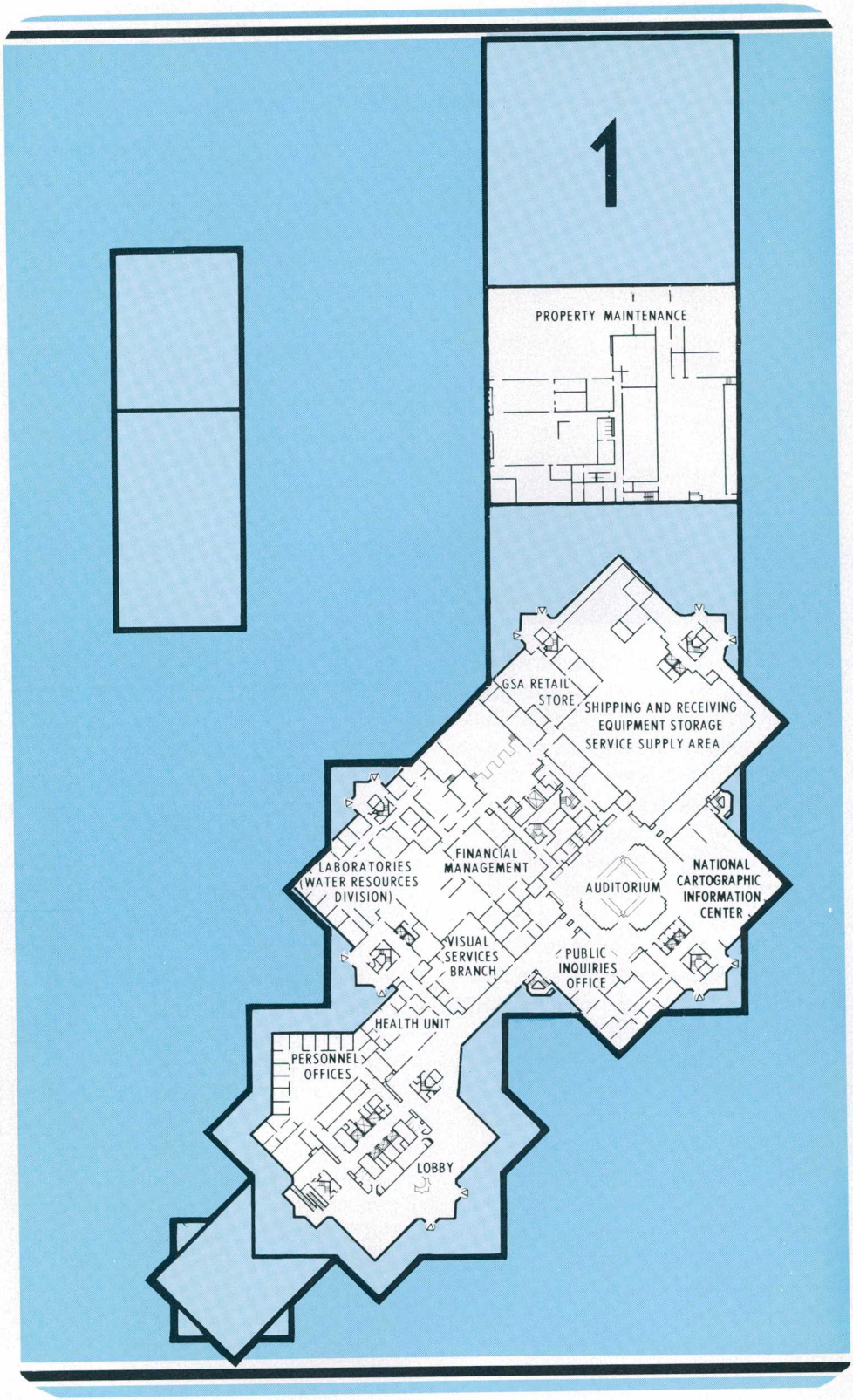
In addition to the space used for food services, areas of this level are reserved for contract services, building maintenance shops, library storage, general storage, a mail room, and the Branch of Exhibits. The staff of this Branch prepares exhibit panels that illustrate and explain the technical and scientific aspects of the work of the Survey. Over 200 of these panels are available on loan for use at professional meetings, technical conventions, and similar gatherings.

The Geologic Division also has an area on this level devoted to the preparation of rock and mineral samples. The facilities include a variety of crushing and grinding equipment, sieving facilities, and special handling areas to minimize sample contamination. They are equipped with all the devices needed to pulverize and grind rock materials into powder for chemical and spectrographic analyses as well as to saw and polish thin sections of rocks and ores for petrographic and mineralogic studies. The sample storage and field equipment storage areas are nearby.

FIRST FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR. All entrances and elevator lobbies are connected to allow personnel to enter near their parking places and proceed to the elevator cores serving their offices. Escalators connect the main and lower lobbies near the cafeteria, and a central corridor connects the main lobby and reception center with the opposite end of the building.

At the Information Desk in the main lobby, the Branch of General Services provides information about the location of people, offices, and services in the National Center. The reception center also includes two small offices. The Guard Office, under the control of the General Services Administration (GSA), supplies protection services. The second office provides keys and makes photographs for identification cards.


1
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
GSA RETAIL STORE
SHIPPING AND RECEIVING
EQUIPMENT STORAGE
SERVICE SUPPLY AREA
LABORATORIES (WATER RESOURCES DIVISION)
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
AUDITORIUM
NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER
VISUAL SERVICES BRANCH
PUBLIC INQUIRIES OFFICE
HEALTH UNIT
PERSONNEL OFFICES
LOBBY

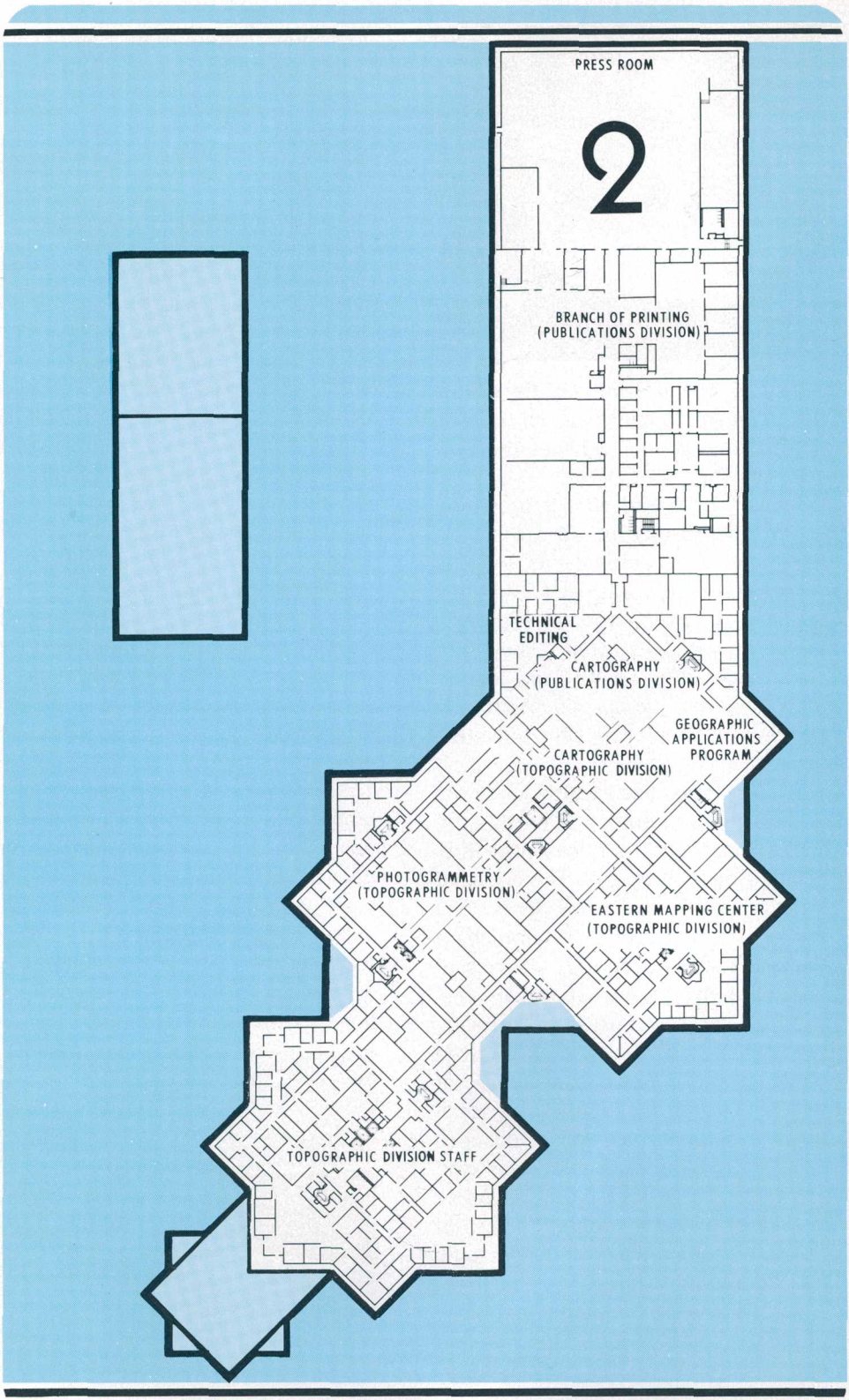
Offices of the Branch of Personnel are adjacent to the main lobby. The staff of this Branch advises the Survey on the policy and means of achieving its broad aim of providing equal opportunity in all phases of personnel management. As well as recruiting employees and planning training programs for the Survey's highly diversified staff, they are responsible for health and retirement benefits, job classification, and Bureau of Employee Compensation actions.

The Employee Health Unit, the Auditorium-Conference Center, the Branch of Visual Services, the Public Inquiries Office, and the National Cartographic Information Center line the central corridor. The Branch of Visual Services prepares a series of popular publications. These are distributed by the Survey to provide the general public and interested students with basic knowledge of geology, water resources, and topographic mapping, as well as descriptions of the Survey's programs and activities. The Public Inquiries Office provides over-the-counter sales of Survey book reports and geologic and topographic maps of the area. This office also maintains a library of Survey publications and selected open-file reports. The National Cartographic Information Center coordinates data on maps and mapmaking. Records on the sources and status of mapping, geodetic control, and aerial photography are available for reference.

The Financial Management offices are also on this floor, as are some of the laboratories of the Water Resources Division. Here some staff scientists investigate the hydrologic information available from plants, such as the evidence of past droughts and floods found in tree rings. Another group designs, tests, and develops the instrumentation, mostly automated, that is used across the United States to collect data regarding the quantity and quality of surface and ground water.

The Geologic Division has the Carbon-14 age-dating laboratory and facilities for some paleontologic investigations, including an acid-room to remove fossils from carbonate rocks.

Another large section of the laboratory wing of the first floor is occupied by service and supply operations, including the GSA retail store and equipment storage. The supply area is separated by a service roadway from property maintenance, which is housed in a large space beneath the printing plant.

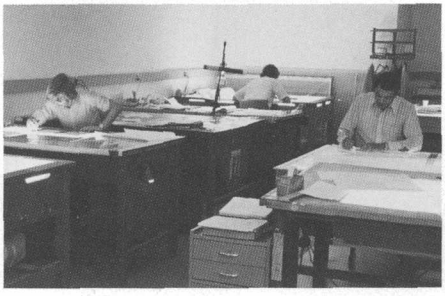

PRESS ROOM
2
BRANCH OF PRINTING
(PUBLICATIONS DIVISION)
TECHNICAL
EDITING
CARTOGRAPHY
(PUBLICATIONS DIVISION)
GEOGRAPHIC
APPLICATIONS
PROGRAM
CARTOGRAPHY
(TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION)
PHOTOGRAMMETRY
(TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION)
EASTERN MAPPING CENTER
(TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION)
TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION STAFF

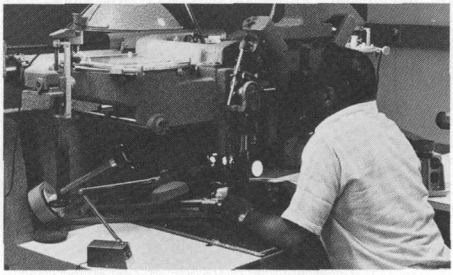
SECOND FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR. The Topographic Division prepares and revises the maps of the National Topographic Map Series, which show both the natural and man-made features of the Nation's land surface. These maps are the starting point for many geologic and hydrologic studies such as comparing and selecting dam sites; planning and installing communication and highway systems; and developing programs for flood control, soil conservation, and reforestation. Topographic maps are also popular with recreationists in planning their activities.

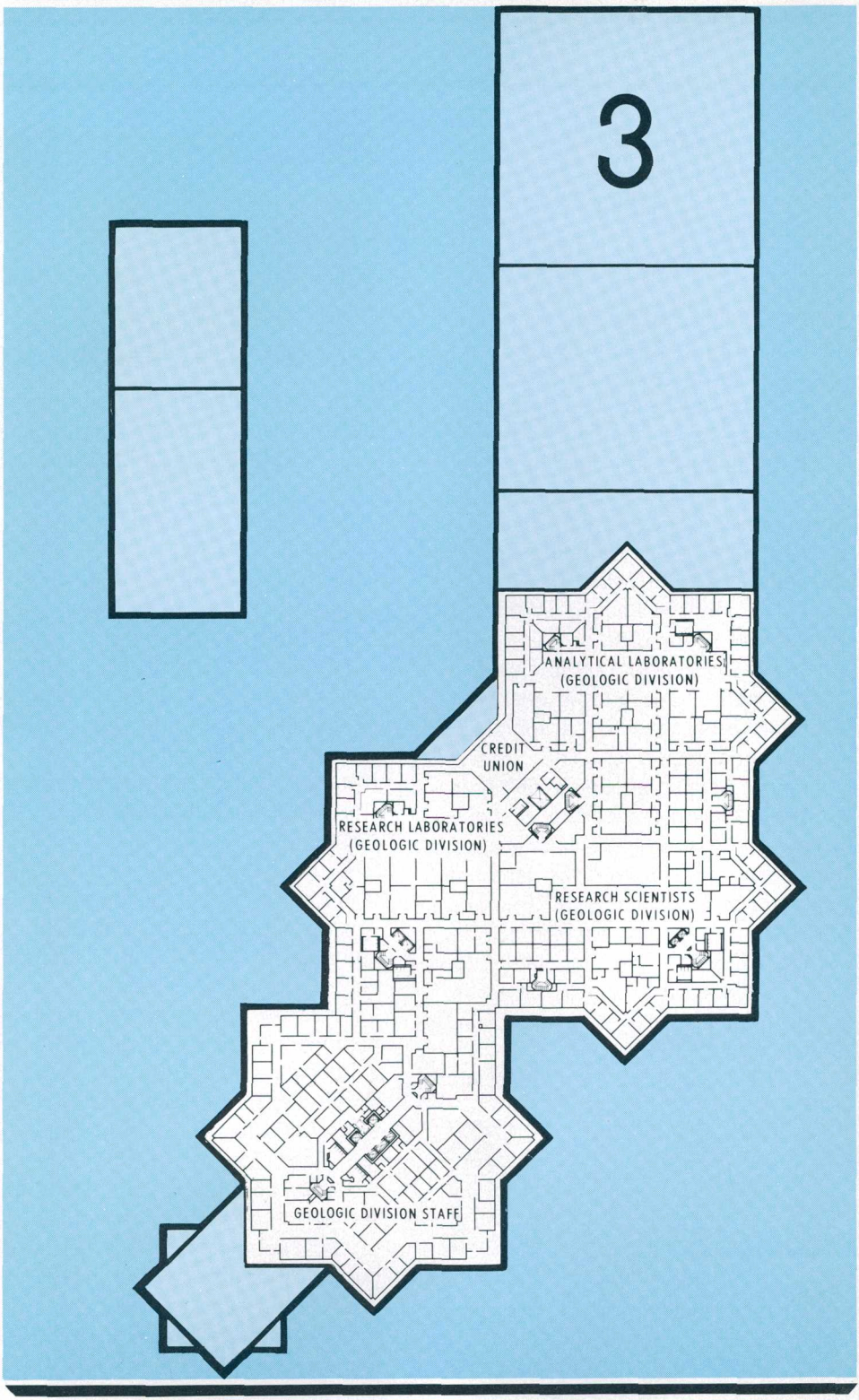
The staff is housed in the administration wing of the second floor, and extensive cartographic and photogrammetric laboratories are available for research in topographic surveying and mapping. The Eastern Mapping Center occupies one part of the Division's laboratory space. This section prepares maps providing basic information for land-use planning and evaluation of the natural resources of the eastern region. Similar facilities are available for other parts of the country at Rolla, Missouri; Denver, Colorado; and Menlo Park, California.

The office of the Geographic Applications Program is in another corner of the laboratory wing. This office, headed by the Chief Geographer of the Geological Survey, plans and organizes research and applications programs applying the science of geography to the support of basic Survey missions in geology, topography, and hydrology. The principal approach is to produce a national land-use inventory to identify trends in population distribution, urban development, agricultural land use, and energy requirements, and to predict the probable nature and effects of changes caused by these trends.





The rest of the second floor is occupied by the Cartographic Sections of the Topographic Division and some parts of the Publications Division. Staff offices of the Assistant Chiefs for Management and Administration, and for Research and Technical Coordination are located here. The Chief of the Eastern Region, Publications Division, also has his office on this floor, together with his Administration and Plans and Production staffs and the Branches of Cartography, Technical Editing, and Printing. A 460-foot extension of this level provides space for the Branch of Printing and its fully equipped plant and photographic laboratories.

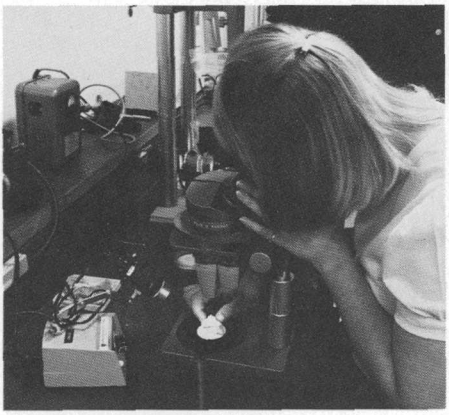

3
ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES
(GEOLOGIC DIVISION)
CREDIT
UNION
RESEARCH LABORATORIES
(GEOLOGIC DIVISION)
RESEARCH SCIENTISTS
(GEOLOGIC DIVISION)
GEOLOGIC DIVISION STAFF

THIRD FLOOR

THIRD FLOOR. The Chief Geologist and the staff of the Geologic Division conduct highly diversified research programs to increase understanding and aid in the management of the mineral, energy, and land resources of the United States and the adjacent continental margins. Information developed in this work also provides the basis for critical decisions and actions relating to land use, urban planning and development, construction practices, environmental and health programs, and earthquake, volcanic, and other natural hazards. This program is wide ranging in scope and is supported by about 100 specially designed and equipped laboratories of the Geologic Division located on the first, third, and fourth floors.

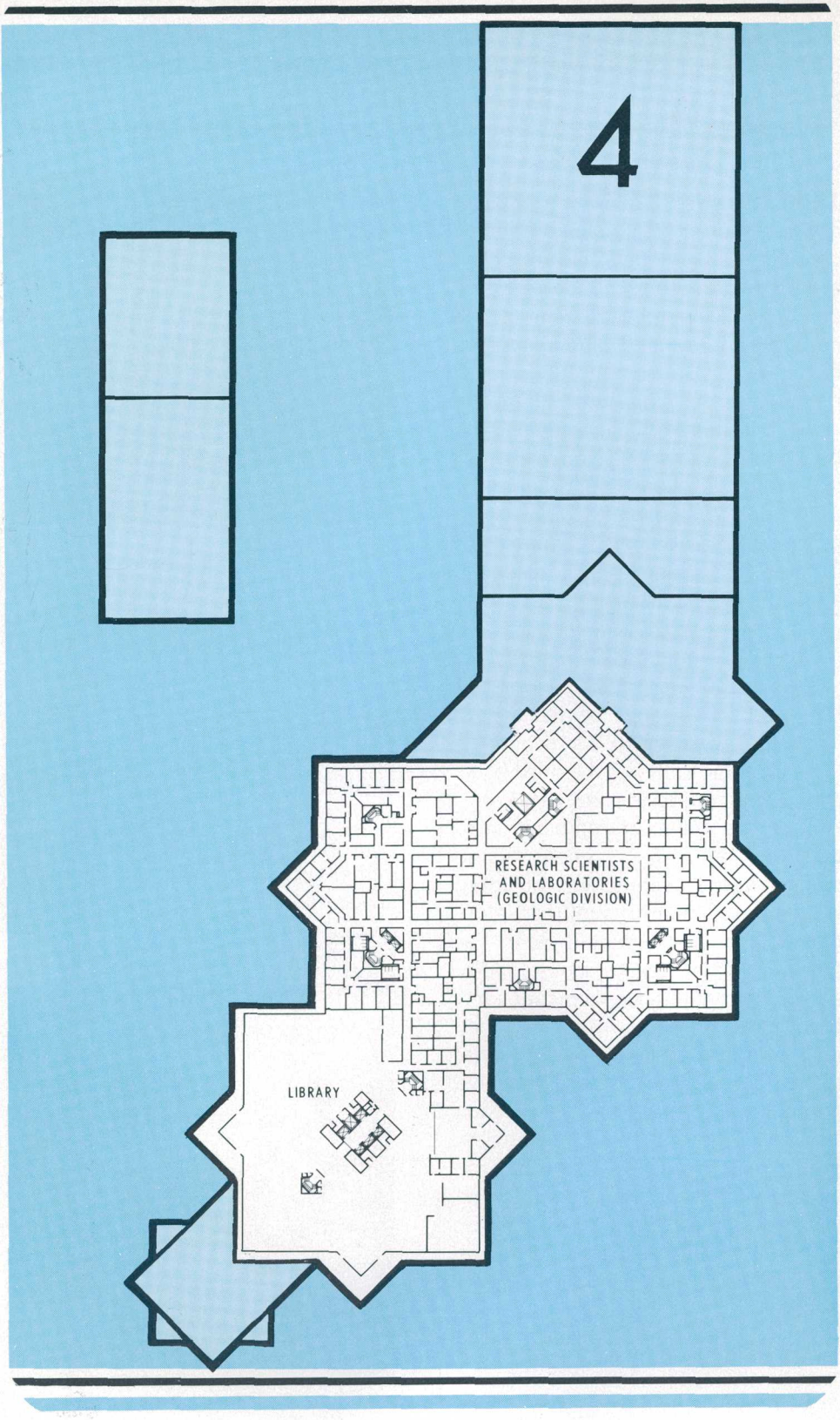
In laboratories on the third floor, staff members provide analytical services on the chemical composition of rock and mineral specimens, using many different techniques, including standard wet chemical methods, automated and instrumented wherever feasible; X-ray spectroscopy; radioactivation analyses; atomic absorption; and flame fluorescence. They also conduct research on analytical techniques and develop innovative approaches to gain higher precision and improved analytical efficiencies. In other laboratories, the research staff is engaged in lunar sample and isotope studies. In the geophysical laboratories the staff ascertains the thermal magnetic properties of earth materials.

Instrument and machine shops provide facilities for calibrating and

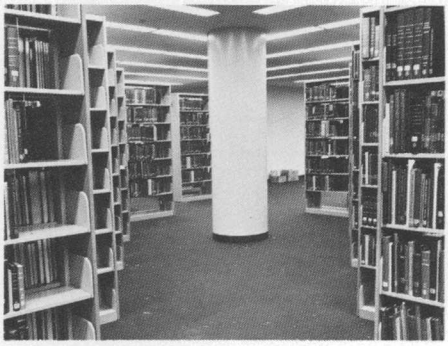


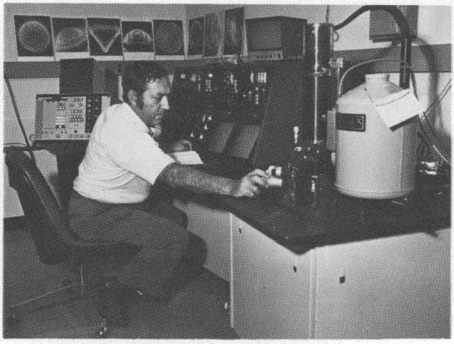
maintaining the multitude of complex mechanisms and controls used in the laboratories. The shop staffs also work with the research staff in designing and creating new equipment to support ongoing projects. Lab-office space is provided for the scientific staff engaged in programs of environmental geology, theoretical and regional geophysical studies, and mineral resource analysis, together with appropriate laboratory space for the common use of these groups.

The Employee Credit Union also has an office on this floor.


4
RESEARCH SCIENTISTS
AND LABORATORIES
(GEOLOGIC DIVISION)
LIBRARY

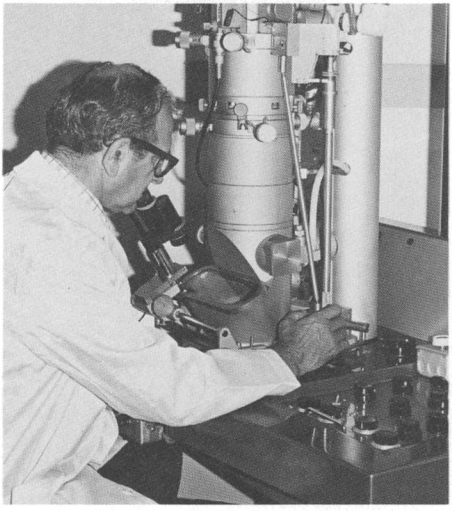
FOURTH FLOOR

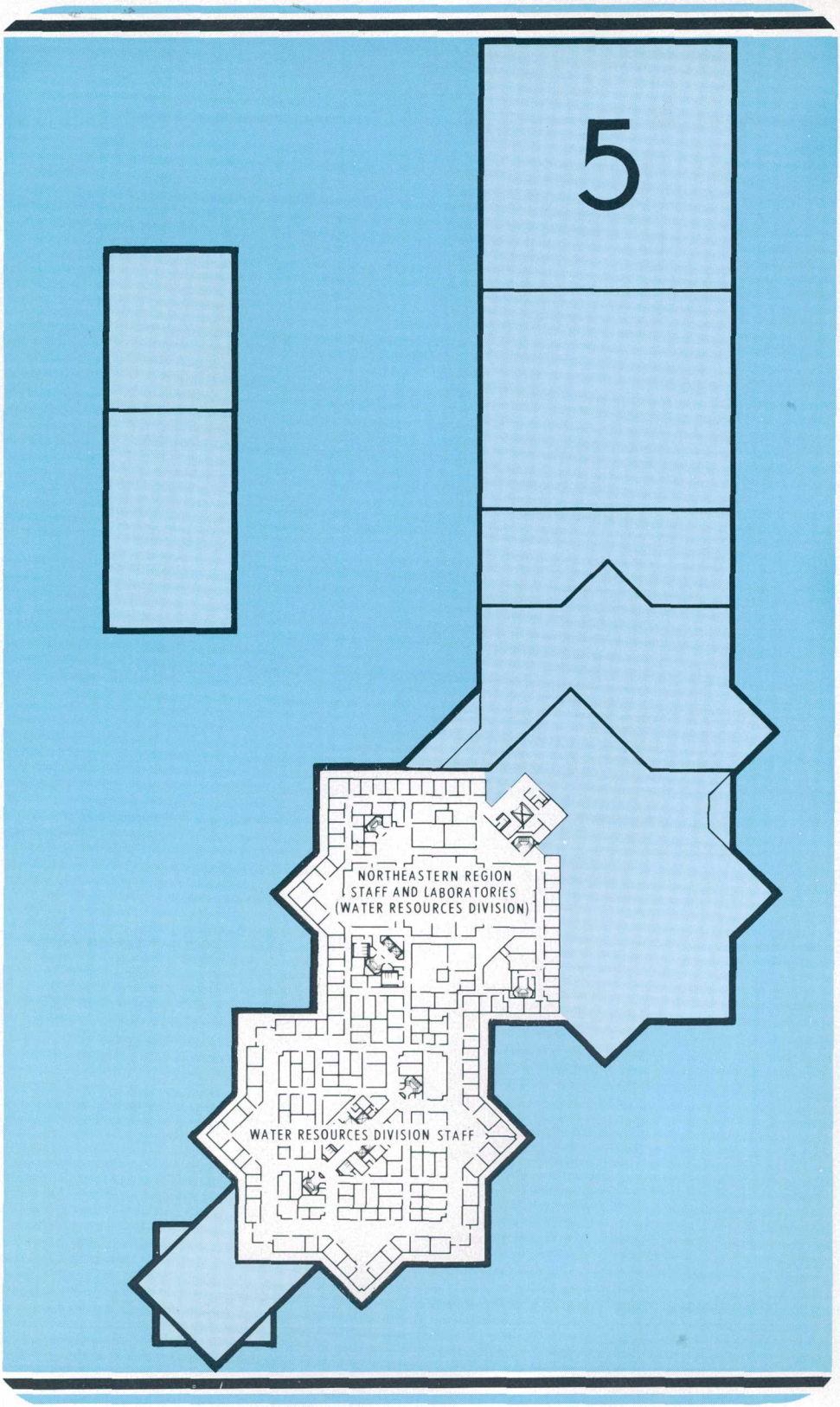




FOURTH FLOOR. Nearly all of the administration wing of the fourth floor is occupied by the Survey library, which has one of the largest collections of earth science literature in the world. Combined with those of three large branches in Denver, Colorado; Menlo Park, California; and Flagstaff, Arizona, this collection contains almost 600,000 bound volumes, 325,000 maps, and 350,000 pamphlets, articles, and documents. Yearly acquisitions average more than 30,000 items, including about 1,600 periodicals. The exhaustive collection, including technical literature in many languages, is maintained primarily to furnish research and reference materials for Survey scientists. The library also serves the Department of the Interior, other government agencies, universities, and research organizations all over the country. The library's reading rooms are open to the public, and its books and maps are frequently loaned to other libraries.

The Geologic Division's laboratories on the fourth floor provide facilities to model the different natural geochemical processes including experimentation at high temperatures and high pressures. Some are equipped for various types of research on crystal chemistry and X-ray studies of the crystal structure of minerals. Others provide extensive analytical capability using optical emission spectroscopy as well as X-ray and electron microscopy. Several of them are equipped for analysis of extremely minute samples. Other laboratories house the scientific staff engaged in energy and mineral resource studies and researchers who are studying and comparing field samples of significant suites of geologic materials.

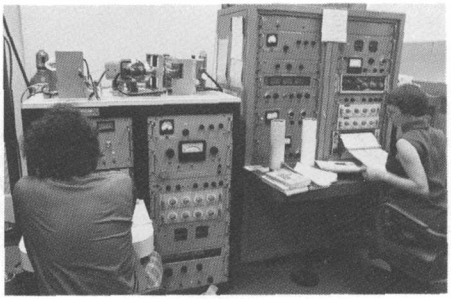


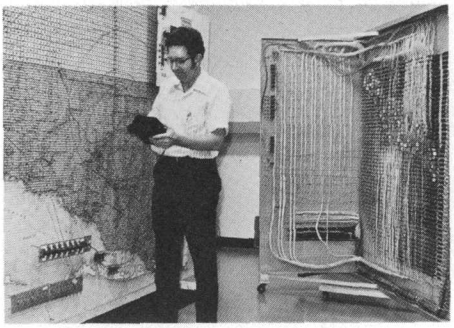

5
NORTHEASTERN REGION
STAFF AND LABORATORIES
(WATER RESOURCES DIVISION)
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION STAFF

FIFTH FLOOR

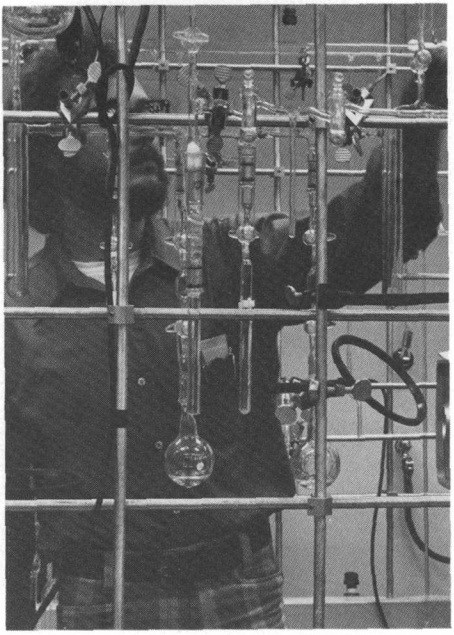
FIFTH FLOOR. The administration wing of the fifth floor houses the Water Resources Division. The Chief Hydrologist and his staff determine the source, quantity, quality, distribution, movement, and availability of surface and ground waters. They investigate the magnitude of floods and droughts and evaluate water in river basins for domestic, industrial, and agricultural purposes. This Division maintains a national network and a central catalog of information on water data and acquisition activities.

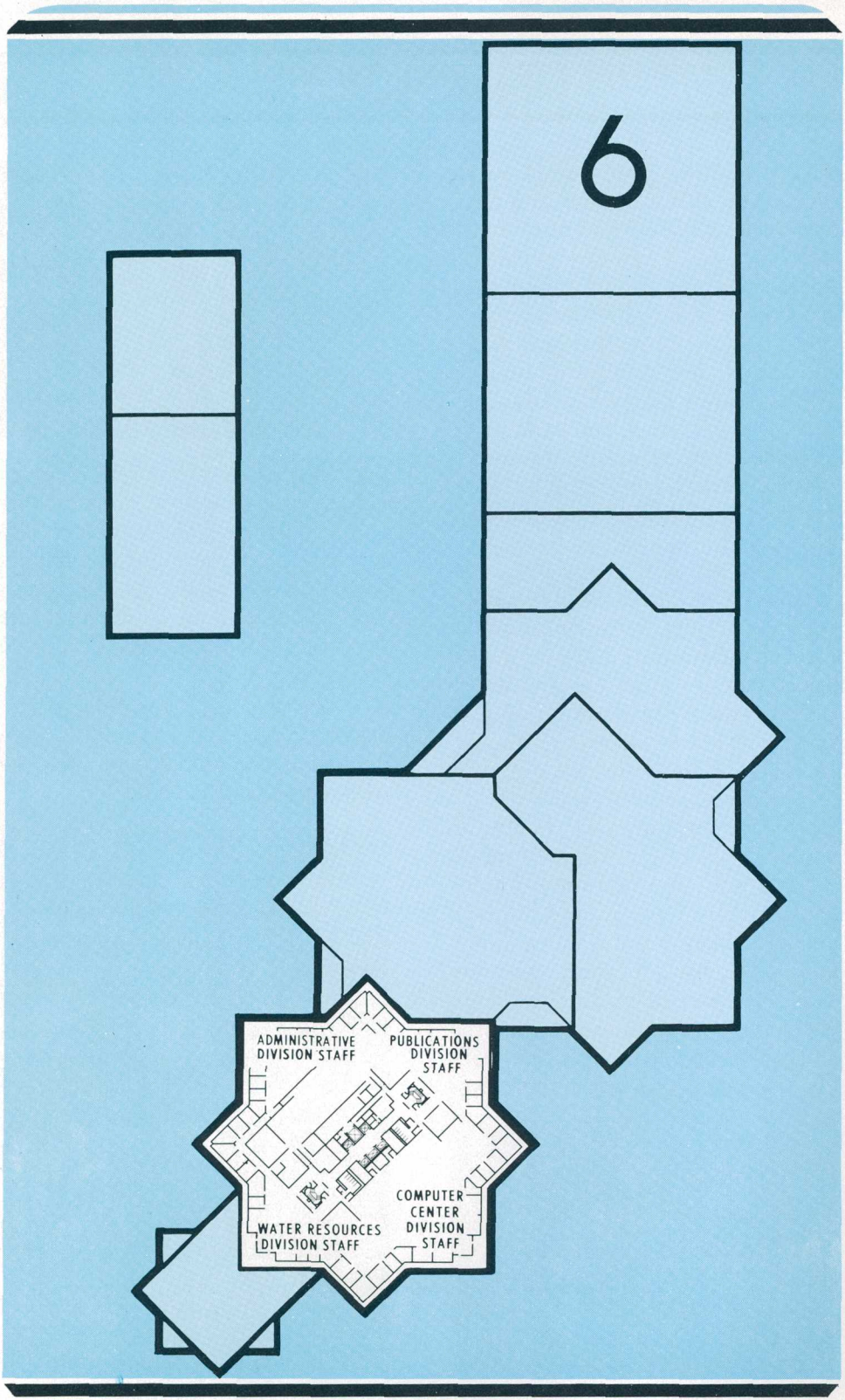
The Water Resources Division conducts special research programs to improve the scientific basis of investigations and provide technical assistance in hydrologic fields to other Federal agencies. The programs include development of digital-computer and electric-analog models to simulate phenomena related to water movement and water quality in streams, lakes, and estuaries and in the porous water-bearing materials beneath the surface of the Earth. The design, construction, and operation of the models depend upon research performed to describe more completely the physical processes and reactions which affect the quantity and quality of water in the hydrologic systems. The principal research aim is to develop the understanding and techniques needed to evaluate our water resources and to permit the prediction of the effects that specified actions of man will have on the quantity and quality of these resources.



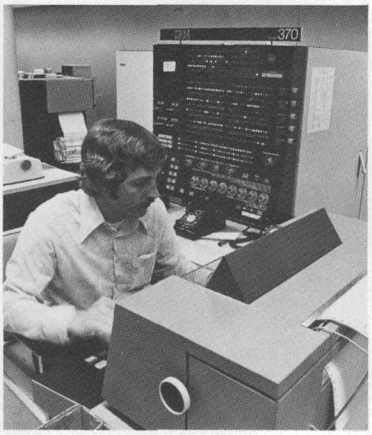


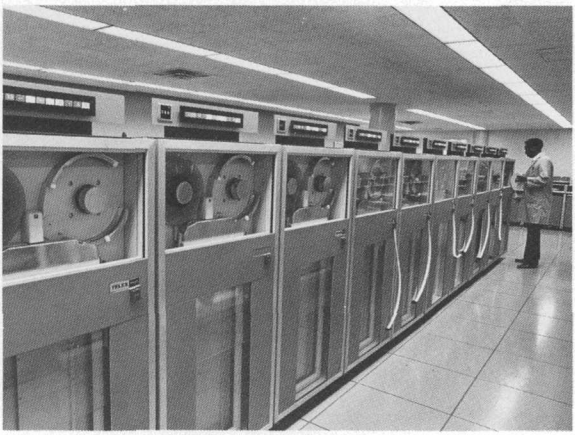
The Regional Hydrologist, Northeastern Region, and his staff share the remainder of the floor with the laboratories and lab-offices.




6
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION STAFF
PUBLICATIONS DIVISION STAFF
COMPUTER CENTER DIVISION STAFF
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION STAFF

SIXTH FLOOR



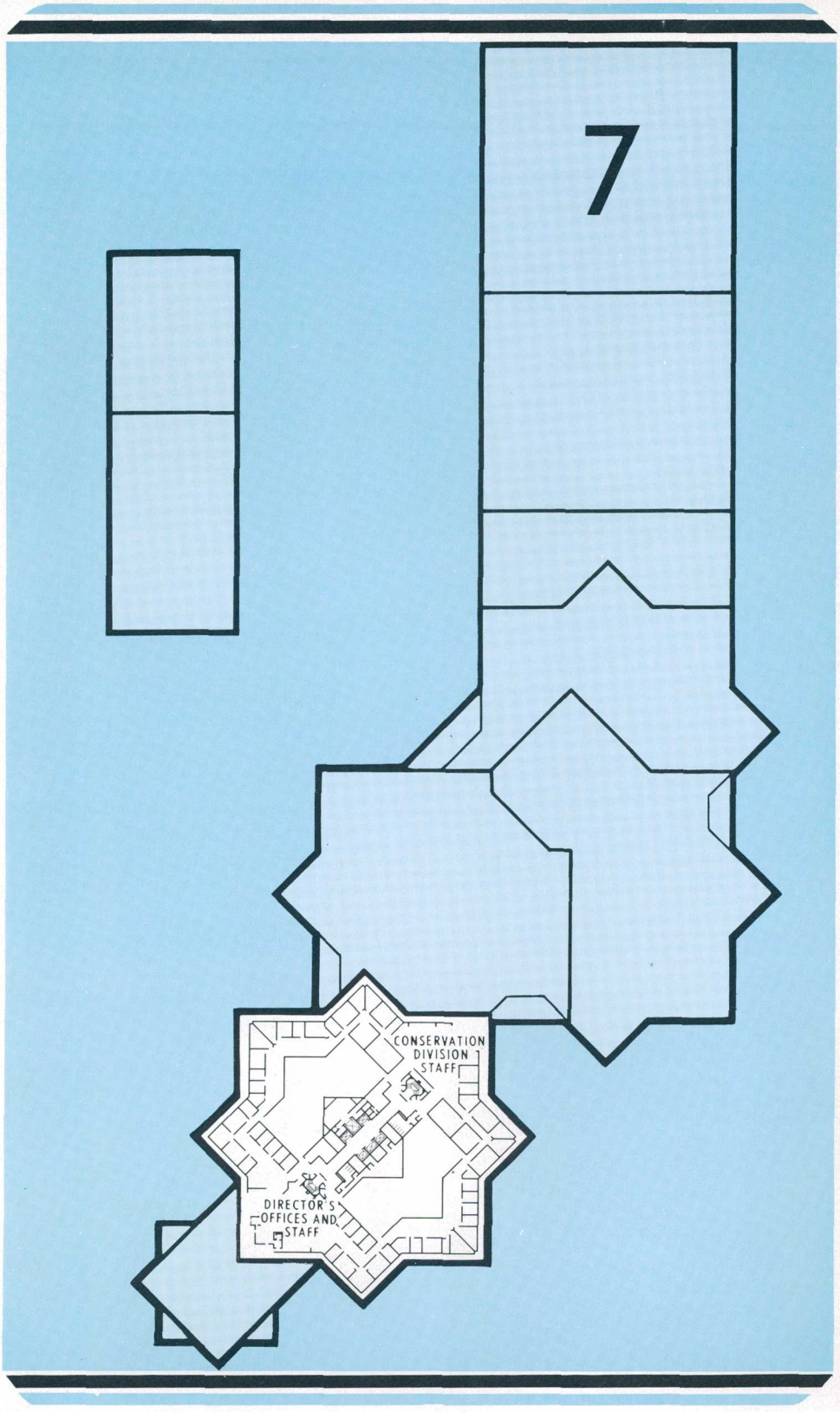


SIXTH FLOOR. Support services for all sections of the Survey are centered on the sixth floor. They are provided by the staffs of the Administrative, Computer Center, and Publications Divisions.

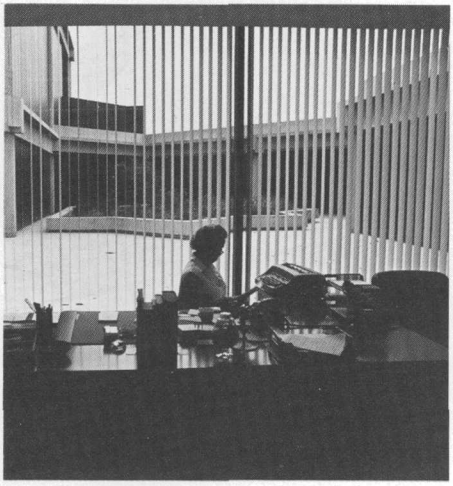
The results of Survey investigations and research are published in bulletins, professional papers, water-supply papers, circulars, and topographic, geologic, and related map series by the Publications Division. The Publications staff also prepares reports to be printed in cooperation with other agencies and in trade and technical journals.

The Computer Center Division staff advises the Director on all matters relating to automatic data processing and provides computation, data processing, and systems analysis and design services to the rest of the Survey.

The Water Resources Division also has offices on this floor.

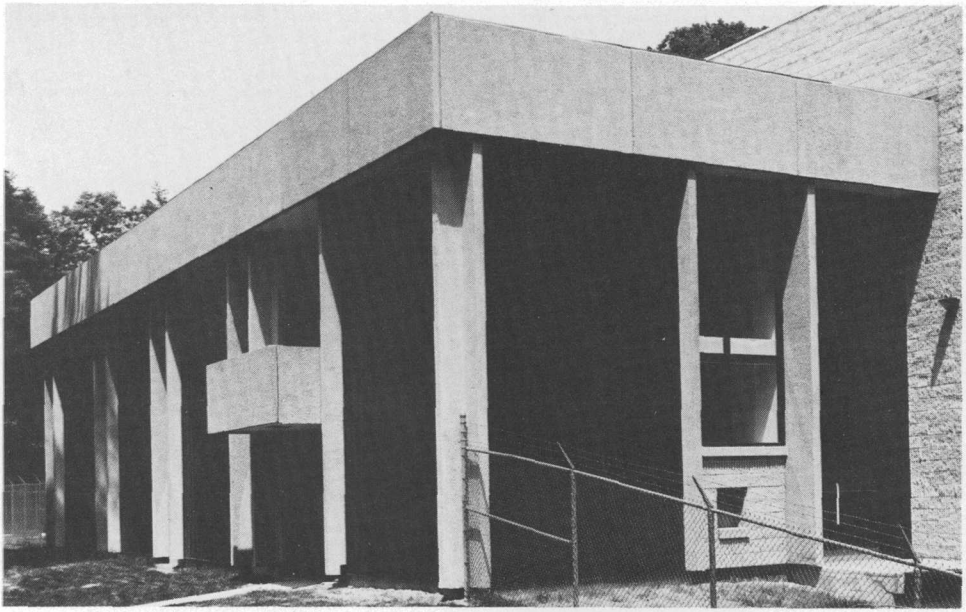

7
CONSERVATION DIVISION STAFF
DIRECTOR'S OFFICES AND STAFF

SEVENTH FLOOR



SEVENTH FLOOR. The Director of the Geological Survey and his staff share the seventh floor with the Conservation Division. The Director's staff is responsible for the overall direction and supervision of the activities of the Geological Survey. The Information Office prepares press and feature releases and related visual-arts materials about Survey activities and programs for use by the news media.

The Conservation Division is responsible for the management and disposition of the public domain. This responsibility includes classifying Federal lands as to their value for certain leasable fuels and minerals or for waterpower and geothermal development and supervising the operations of private industry when a lease is issued. The Division also maintains production accounts and collects royalties and rentals.



THE SOLID STATE PHYSICS LABORATORY

A separate building housing about 12 scientists, technicians, and administration personnel is located nearby and southeast of the Powell Federal Building. Funds ($750,000) for the design and construction of the Solid State Physics Laboratory were appropriated under Public Law 92–18 on May 25, 1971.

With the cooperation of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Geological Survey has pursued the use of both portable accelerators and neutron-emitting radioactive material to make chemical analyses of elements in the field. Such analyses can be performed on bedrock exposures, in boreholes, on the sea bottom, or on the surface of the Moon or the planets. The objectives of the program are the design and fabrication of analytical equipment for field use in the Survey's mineral exploration program. The Solid State Physics Laboratory enables the Survey to develop such equipment under laboratory-simulated field conditions.

The facility was designed by H. D. Nottingham and Associates, Inc., of McLean, Virginia, and constructed by Kerr Construction Co., Inc., of Alexandria, Virginia. Construction was completed in November 1973.

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The mailing address of the National Center is:

U. S. Geological Survey
National Center
Reston, Virginia 22092

The general telephone number for the Survey's National Center is (703) 860-7000.

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.