
Association Affairs

AAAS Buys Washington Building Site

Scott Circle Property Assures Convenient Location

On Monday, 29 April, the Association closed with representatives of the owners of four separate parcels of ground, the whole comprising a wedge-shaped site on Scott Circle in Northwest Washington, for a future permanent headquarters building. It will be possible to enter the building from Scott Circle, Massachusetts Avenue, N Street, or Fifteenth Street.

The site was purchased with money collected for the purpose during the fall and winter. At the time of the purchase the building fund amounted to approximately \$100,000, all of which, and more, was used for the land.

The location is convenient with respect to the Union Station, the National Airport, principal hotels, and other scientific and learned societies which maintain Washington offices.

The separate parcels comprising the site were each improved with buildings originally constructed as residences, but the largest, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, has been used for business-office purposes for some years and will be available for Association use by 15 July. The other buildings will temporarily be continued as residence units, the income from which will accrue to the Association.

The principal building, shown in the figure below, contains four usable floors, totaling approximately 5,000 square feet of floor space, an amount sufficient for the immediate needs of the Association. No extensive remodeling is necessary.

It is planned to retain some space in the Smithsonian Institution until well into 1947, or even later, so that current operations will not come to a halt during a moving period.



Photograph by courtesy Science Service

The photograph shows the Massachusetts Avenue entrance to the new home of the Association. It is expected that some of the Washington offices, including the offices of *Science* and the *Scientific Monthly*, will occupy space in this building at 1515 Massachusetts Avenue about 15 July. Ultimately this building will give way to a new nine-story structure designed and built to accommodate the rapidly extending functions of the Association.

The city zoning area within which the new property falls is restricted to residences or offices, libraries, and laboratories of nonprofit associations and institutions. The area never will become commercial. The plot contains approximately 9,000 square feet of land, 90 per cent or 8,100 square feet of which may be used for building purposes, but the proposed building must not be over nine stories, so that a potential floor area of 72,900 square feet is possible.

The site was chosen by a subcommittee representing the Executive Committee. The subcommittee was appointed by A. J. Carlson, Executive Committee chairman, following extended discussion of the principles involved at St. Louis, and was composed of C. F. Kettering; F. R. Moulton, administrative secretary; Howard A. Meyerhoff, executive secretary; A. N. Richards,

vice-president, University of Pennsylvania; Phillip Bard, Johns Hopkins; Warren Magee, counsel; and W. L. Valentine, editor of *Science*. After inspecting this and other property which was available, the subcommittee reported favorably on the Scott Circle plot at a meeting of the Executive Committee on Wednesday, 24 April. The Executive Committee accepted the report, inspected the property, and authorized purchase which was consummated five days later.

It is the consensus of opinion in the Executive Committee that the Association is really under way in providing itself with a permanent home. Now that the location is settled upon, it will be possible to make specific plans for the utilization of the land, and architects can be employed to put the needs of the Association into concrete plans for a functional building.

This rough map shows the location of the newly acquired AAAS property with respect to some well-known Washington landmarks. Scott Circle is on the north and south axis of a reference point which includes the White House, the zero milestone, and the Jefferson Memorial (to the south of the area shown). Vermont Avenue and Connecticut Avenue, extended, intersect at a point in the center of the White House. From the zero milestone, due north through the White House along 16th Street, is exactly 4,500 feet. The property is roughly 200 feet east of the center of Scott Circle.

From the center of Scott Circle, along Massachusetts Avenue, to the boundary of the map is three-quarters of a mile; the Union Station is only one mile further on Massachusetts Avenue. The numbers on the map identify the approximate locations of the following well-known properties: 1, The Carnegie Institution of Washington; 2, Science Service; 3, American Council of Learned Societies; 4, National Education Association; 5, American Chemical Society; 6, Geographical Society of America; 7, Brookings Institutes; 8, Cosmos Club. The Statler Hotel and the Carlton, not included on the map, are at 16th and K Streets, five blocks from Scott Circle.

