

Association Affairs

A New Home for the AAAS

On 4 August the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment gave the AAAS permission to erect a headquarters building on the Association's property at 1515 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Washington. Members who have built their own homes and those who remember Mr. Blanding's dream house—whose author, by the way, gained additional laurels in 1953 in winning one of the AAAS-George Westinghouse Science Writing Awards—will have a sympathetic feeling both for the excitement of the occasion and for the fact that a good many headaches lie between permission to build and actual occupancy.

The model pictured here was built to show the Board of Zoning Adjustment the size and general character of the proposed building. The building itself will not necessarily match the model in all respects, for detailed drawings have not yet been prepared. The size, however, is definite. There will be three stories and a basement.

The new headquarters will provide approximately 3 times as much office space as does the old residence that the Association now occupies at 1515 Massachusetts Avenue. Such an increase should prove ample for as far ahead as we can safely predict our needs. As a matter of fact, for some years there is likely to be space available for one or two affiliated societies that want to move in with us. A ground-floor auditorium with a capacity of about 200 is a possibility but not yet a certainty.

The building will be modern in design and con-

struction. The movable louvers shown across the front of the second and third floors constitute one of its most unique features. They are designed to shield the large glass areas from direct sunlight and will reduce substantially the cost of air-conditioning the building.

The Association's appearance before the Board of Zoning Adjustment on 30 July was its second attempt to secure permission to erect a headquarters building. An earlier effort in 1952 was denied. In making a second attempt, the Association changed its plans in a number of respects. Most important was the reduction in size from a building of eight stories to one of three. The larger building, planned to accommodate a number of affiliated societies as well as the AAAS, was too much for the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve for construction in a residential area. The smaller building won their unanimous approval and will be adequate for the AAAS but may be a disappointment to those who had hoped that we could bring a number of scientific societies together under the same roof.

It will take several months to complete final plans and to make arrangements with a building contractor. Work can be expected to start in the early spring of 1955, and the building should be ready for occupancy approximately a year later. We can look forward, in 1956, to moving into our permanent headquarters, a building of our own design, and one that the Association has been talking about ever since the site was purchased in 1946.

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American Association for the Advancement of Science

