From 1930 to 1949, the American economy underwent drastic change, overhaul, renewal, and expansion. After the Depression brought devastation to the economy, the United States Government, in order to help stimulate a recovery, initiated the New Deal which created extensive work on the country's infrastructure. Then, World War II brought the challenge of a wartime economy. Though demand was high, production of goods and services shifted, along with personnel, toward national interests other than consumerism.

Irwin & Leighton managed to weather the storm of the Depression years by working for the Government and other established customers. During that period, it built retail stores and telephone buildings, expanded much-needed medical facilities and helped to strengthen enterprise in "tough times." As World War II approached, the company became very active with the industrial sector and military projects.

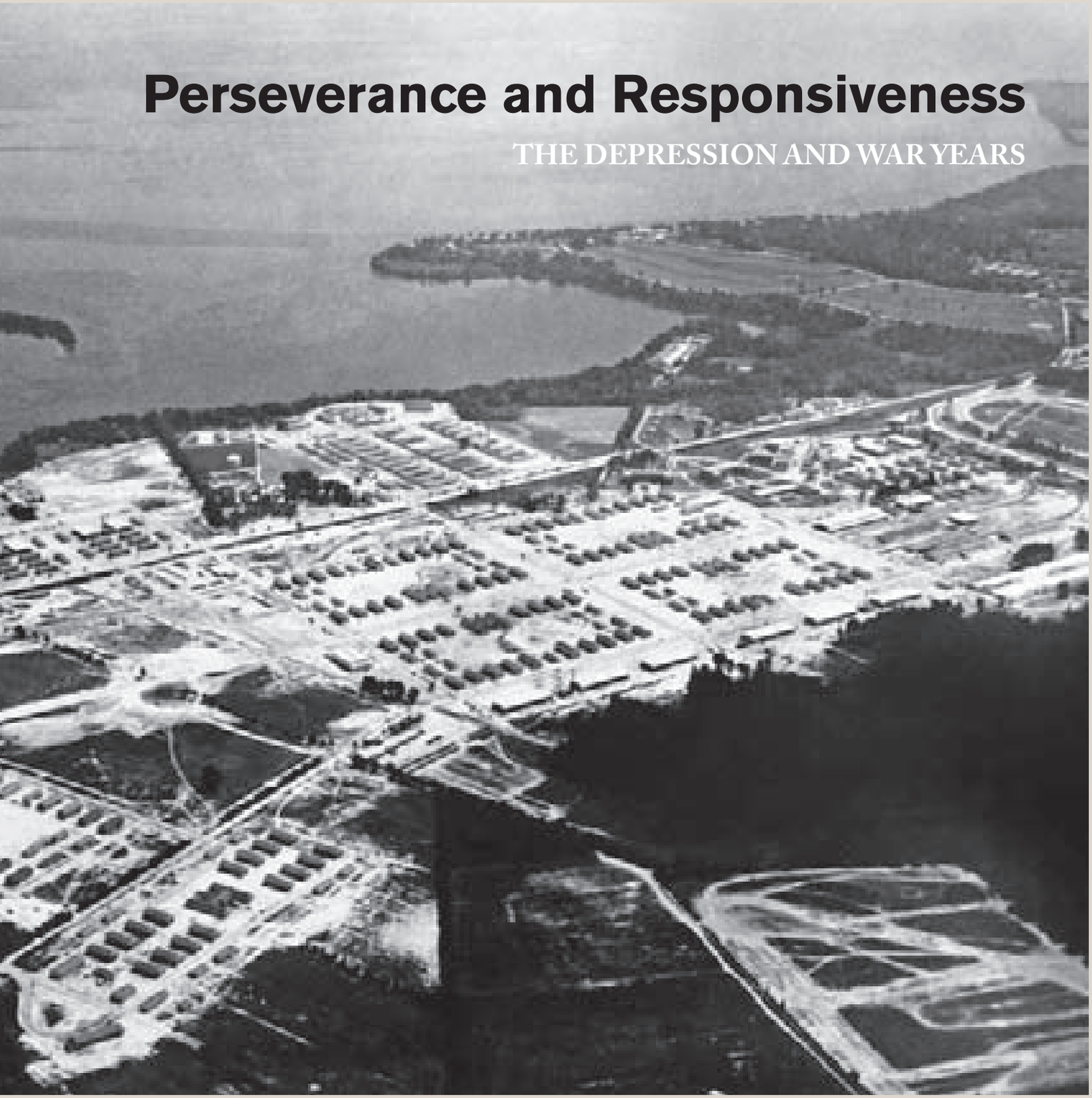
CAMP RODMAN

Aberdeen Proving Ground, which includes Camp Rodman, is the Army's oldest active proving ground. It was established on October 20, 1917, six months after the United States entered World War I. The location allowed design and testing of ordnance material to take place near contemporary industrial and shipping centers. Camp Rodman was built by Irwin & Leighton in 1941 as part of the Government's preparation for World War II. At the peak of the war, Aberdeen Proving Ground had billeting space for 2,348 officers and 24,189 enlisted personnel.

Chapter Three

Perseverance and Responsiveness

THE DEPRESSION AND WAR YEARS



1941 CAMP RODMAN, ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, THE UNITED STATES ARMY
Aberdeen, Maryland • Construction Division War Department

Working for the Government

1930 FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: Paul Philippe Cret

Philadelphia-based architect Paul Philippe Cret combined the best of his Ecole des Beaux-Arts schooling in Paris with an affectionate sense of modernity gleaned in the States. In his 1930 design for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, built by Irwin & Leighton, he advanced toward the perfection of his trademark style, later used in creating the Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington, D.C. Now known as the Old Federal Reserve Building, the Chestnut Street location was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 after the Philadelphia Reserve moved to its current location, which Irwin & Leighton took part in building, at 6th and Arch Streets.

During the 1930s, private customers in the construction market were few. However, Irwin & Leighton had an established and well-earned relationship with the government, and was hired to construct large projects for the one client who continued to consistently contract work.

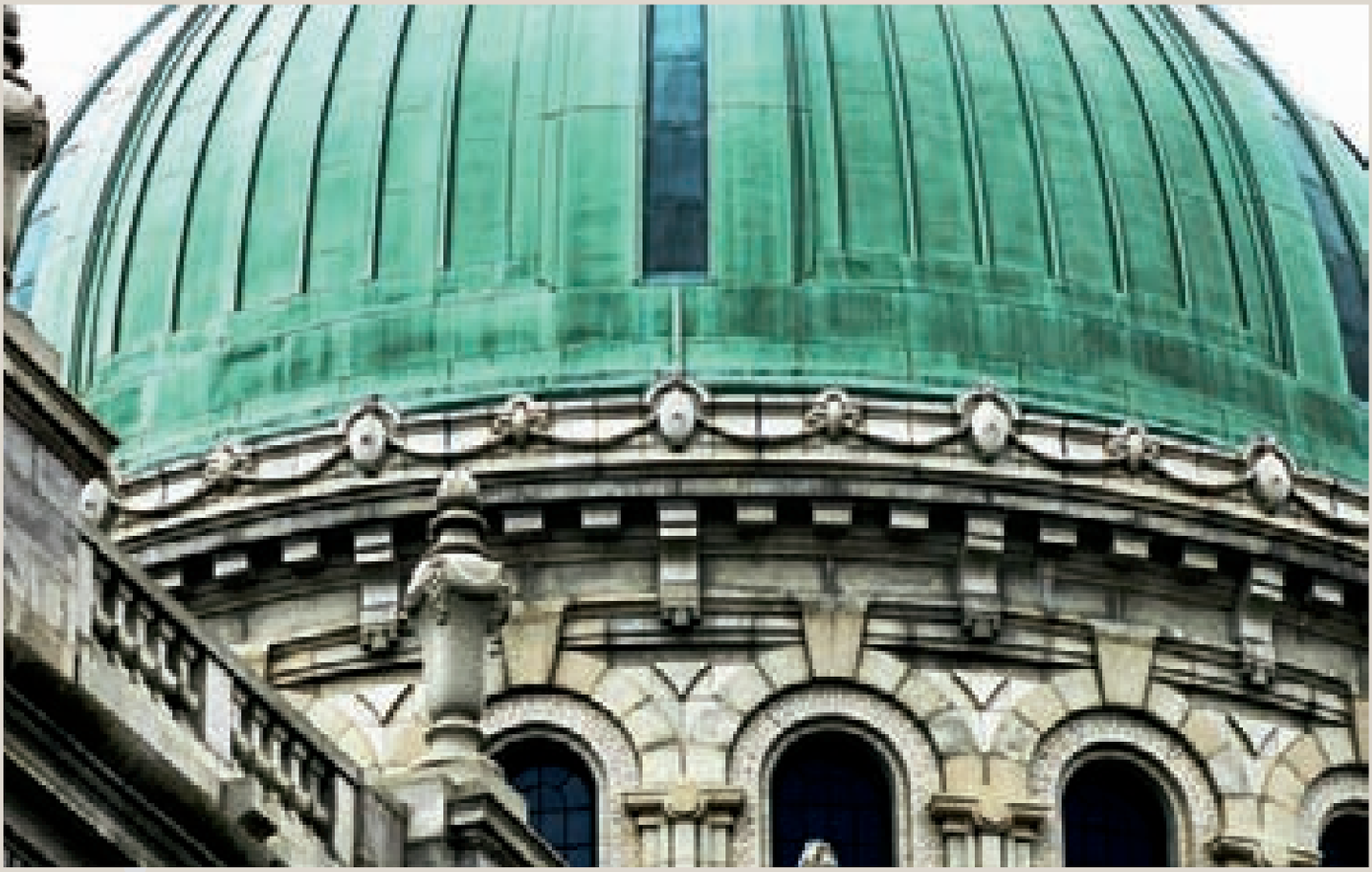
1935 POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE, UNITED STATES TREASURY
Wilmington, Delaware • Architect: Associated Federal Architects

The 1935 building commissioned for a Federal Courthouse and Post Office on Rodney Square in downtown Wilmington, Delaware, was completed by Irwin & Leighton in 1935. It was a design collaboration of various local architects, artists, and planners. Included in the plans, under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), were three large-scale murals depicting the historical heritage of the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware. Overseen by George M. Harding, the murals included two scenes focusing on Delaware's Chemical Heritage by Herman Zimmerman and one scene of the earliest Swede landing on the Delaware River by Albert Pels. Today, the Federal Court is located at the nearby Boggs Courthouse, and the building complex Irwin & Leighton constructed in 1935 is used as the headquarters of Wilmington Trust, one of Irwin & Leighton's current banking partners.

THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY AT ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND

The most recognizable feature of the United States Naval Academy and the City of Annapolis, Maryland, the domed Chapel at the Naval Academy was originally built between 1904 and 1908. In 1940, the space was expanded by Irwin & Leighton, doubling its capacity. Beneath the 200-foot high cupola and dome, which feature a breathtaking starry sky and open lighted windows in panorama, 2,500 midshipmen can be seated for worship. In the crypt of the chapel lies the body of John Paul Jones, entombed in a sarcophagus made from 21 tons of Grand Pyrenees marble.

1940 CHAPEL INTERIOR, THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland • Architect: Ernest Flagg

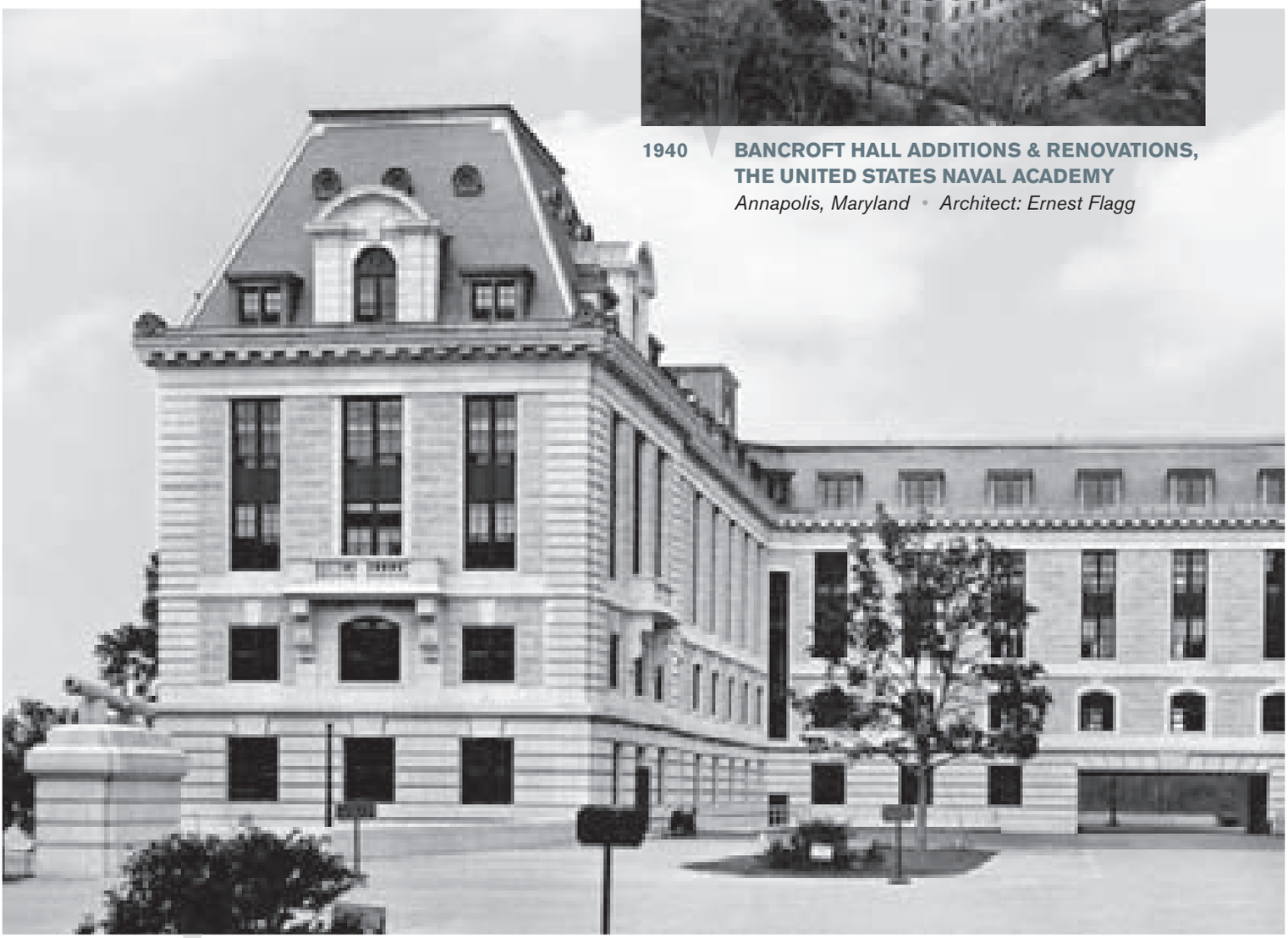


1940 CHAPEL ALTERATIONS, THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland • Architect: Ernest Flagg

THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY'S BANCROFT HALL

An increased number of midshipmen at the Naval Academy required more dormitory space, as well as the necessary addition to the Chapel. Rather than build satellite dormitories, Bancroft Hall, the beaux-arts building designed by Ernest Flagg in 1901, was expanded by Irwin & Leighton. This and subsequent expansions made Bancroft Hall the single largest dormitory building in the world, with nearly 5 miles of corridors and 33 square acres of floor space spread over 5 floors. As well as housing a gymnasium, a post office, medical and administrative offices, retail shops, a bank, and a barber shop, "Mother B" Hall also contains the dining room where its 4,000 midshipmen eat, simultaneously, three times a day.

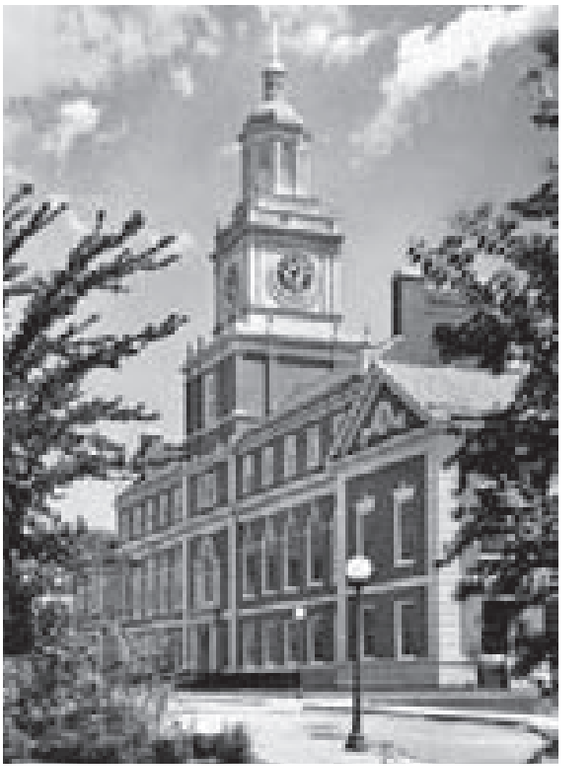
1940 BANCROFT HALL ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS, THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland • Architect: Ernest Flagg



1940 BANCROFT HALL ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS, THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland • Architect: Ernest Flagg

A National Landmark: Founders Library, Howard University

Architect and Professor Albert Cassell's "masterwork is Howard's hilltop campus; its jewel is its main Library." Built by Irwin & Leighton, and funded by a $1 million appropriation from the United States Senate, the Founder's Library, which overlooks the nation's capital and the central quadrangle of the campus, is symbolic of the hopes and aspirations of the institution. The Library is a traditional space, borrowing its aesthetic from the finest and proudest of colonial architecture, and featuring a tower designed as a replica of that at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Using liberty as a central ideal for the library, and instilling it with a strong sense of American tradition, did not make the early African American architect hold back when it came to modern amenities. The four-story space featured the latest in technological advances, including air conditioning and electric elevators for transporting books to and from the stacks.



1939 FOUNDERS LIBRARY, HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Washington, District of Columbia • Architect: Albert I. Cassell

Irwin & Leighton and the Medical Community – 1930 to 1949

The biggest health concern during the Depression Era was the ability to pay for care. Many who could not afford to see a doctor neglected their health until they were in need of hospitalization, causing longer hospital stays and increased complications. During and following World War II, veterans began to return home in need of medical attention. Often, the wounded GIs also needed extended care.

In this climate of demand, Irwin & Leighton was heavily involved with the medical community, pairing with government, private, and church-subsidized organizations to build facilities for the growing number of patients. Many of these hospitals would prove just as necessary in the following decades with the advent of the Baby Boom era.

1930 TEMPLE MEDICAL HOSPITAL
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: William H. Lee

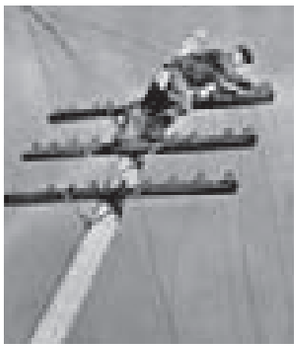
c1940 VETERANS' HOSPITAL
Bath, New York • Department of Veterans Affairs

The Bell Telephone Connection

c1930 OREGON JACKSON EXCHANGE, BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: John T. Windrim

c1921 GERMANTOWN EXCHANGE, BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: John T. Windrim

1949 TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING, BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Norristown, Pennsylvania • Architect: Zantzinger & Borie



In a time long before antitrust suits were on the horizon for "Ma Bell," Irwin & Leighton played a key role in the historic expansion of the Bell network, constructing many of the exchange stations prevalent in urban and suburban American landscapes during the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. These stations, staffed with operators and massive switchboards, were places where the human hand connected the yet-to-be-bridged gap in technology.

Back then, dialing MI9 meant that one would be connected through the MIdway exchange. Today, M19 (649) is a nominal prefix that has no true connection to any given telephone exchange. Although obsolete, some of these buildings have survived and have found varied uses. Those that remain are prized for their handsome, classical designs and their sturdy, concrete-reinforced structures. Some can even be found on the National Register of Historic Places, such as the Preston Exchange in Philadelphia. Currently, the Arch Street Exchange in downtown Philadelphia is being converted to condominiums.

c1923 EVERGEEN EXCHANGE, BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: John T. Windrim

1955 TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING, BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA

West Chester, Pennsylvania
Architect: Maurice Fletcher

c1924 DELAWARE & ATLANTIC TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY

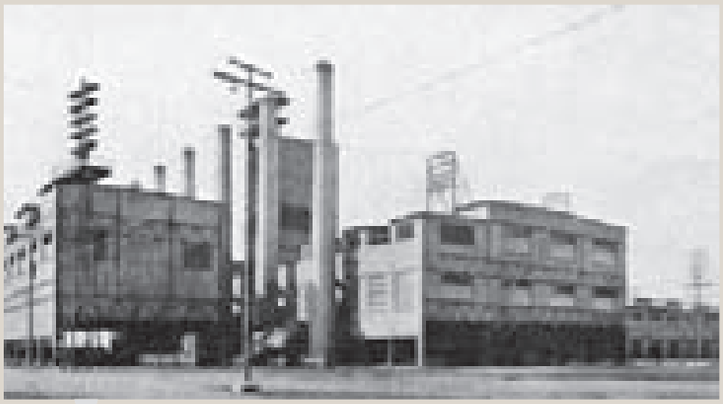
Atlantic City, New Jersey • Architect: John T. Windrim

Core Customers in Slow Times

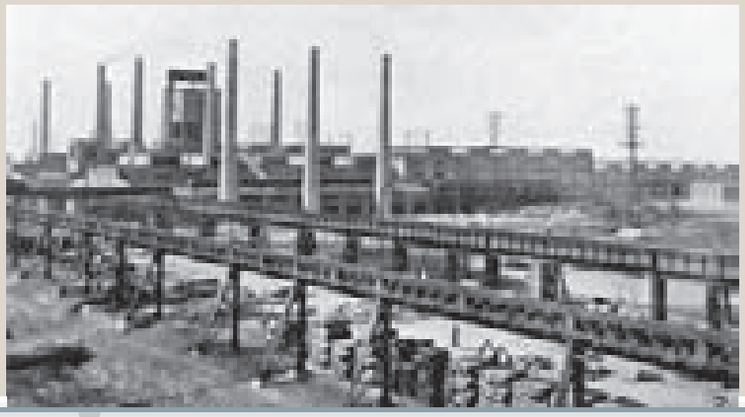
1941 PLANT EXTENSIONS, BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY
Sparrows Point, Maryland

Purchased by Bethlehem Steel in 1916, the mill's steel was a vital part of war production during World War I and World War II. By 1961, the mill was producing 672,000 tons of steel per year.

1941 OPEN HEARTH, BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY
Sparrows Point, Maryland



1941 40 INCH PLATE MILL, BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY
Sparrows Point, Maryland



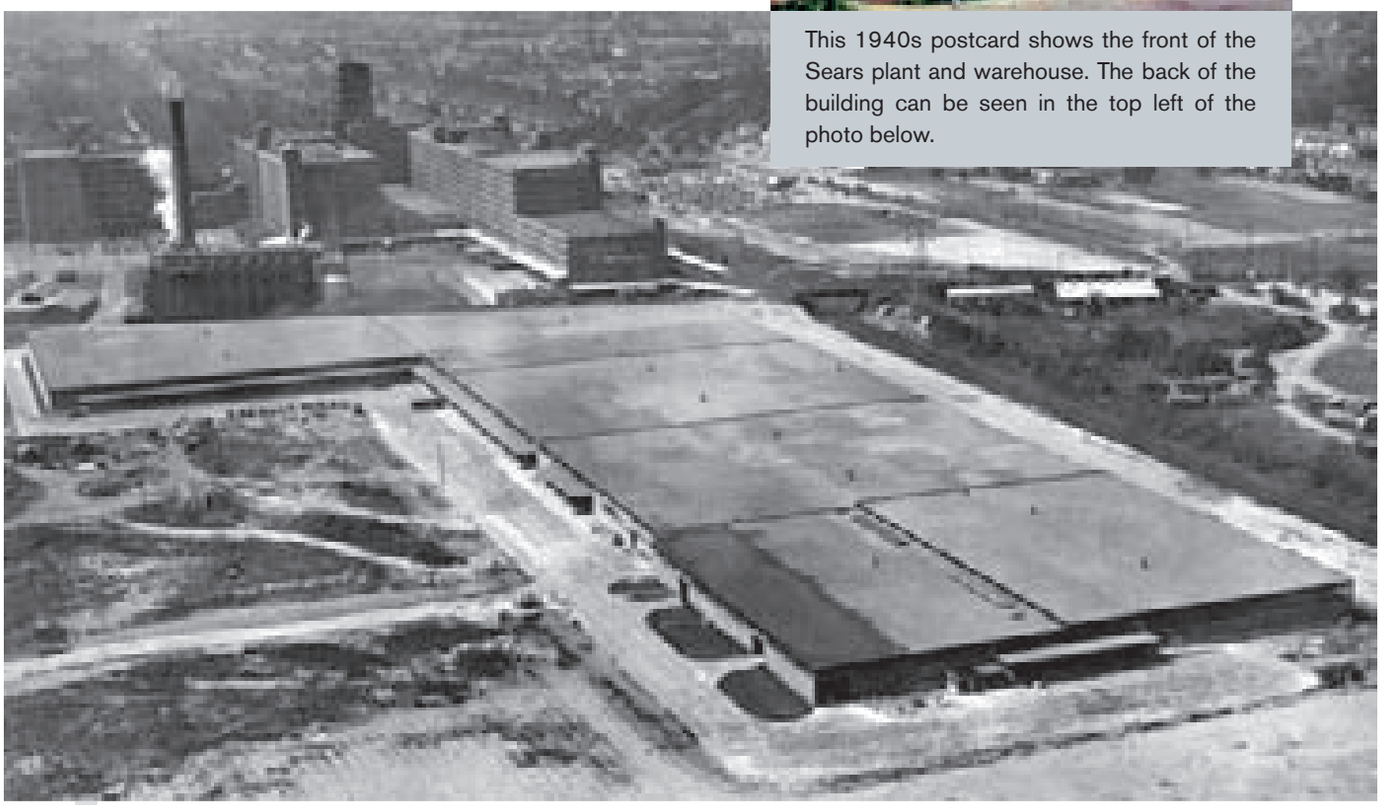
1941 60 INCH PLATE MILL, BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY
Sparrows Point, Maryland

Although the disposable income and consumer economy of the 1920s was absent throughout the 1930s and 1940s, there were some enterprises that did forge on toward economic success. Two examples were Bethlehem Steel and Sears, Roebuck & Company – each a core customer of Irwin & Leighton. Both of these organizations relied on Irwin & Leighton to help support their physical expansion during this era.

For Bethlehem Steel, Irwin & Leighton completed many projects at its Sparrow's Point Steelworks. The largest steelworks in the world, Sparrows Point was a vital part of steel production during both World Wars. Irwin & Leighton constructed an Open Hearth Facility in 1941. The open-hearth method of producing ingots was used to supply steel for use in both the Golden Gate Bridge and the George Washington Bridge.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Irwin & Leighton remained very active with Sears. In 1946, the company constructed a massive warehouse beside the "Sears on the Boulevard" Distribution Center it had built in 1919. Sears' mail order business and affordability continued to make it the number one retailer in the country. The new space, built by trusted partner Irwin & Leighton, would improve the flow of merchandise that would be sold to millions of households throughout the East Coast.

This 1940s postcard shows the front of the Sears plant and warehouse. The back of the building can be seen in the top left of the photo below.



1946 WAREHOUSE, SEARS, ROEBUCK AND COMPANY

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: The Ballinger Company