A humorous map of Clemson drawn by GIs and returning veterans in the years 1943–1947. The map is a gift of the Hon. Judge Hazel Collings Poe, wife of Vernon Poe, professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering, and daughter of Prof. Gilbeart “Lord” Collings (1895–1964), longtime professor of agronomy and soils.
CHAPTER XII

Trustees Don Hard Hats

1945–1955

The Board of Trustees, chaired by W. W. Bradley, approached the opening of Clemson Agricultural College in September 1945 with both anticipation and caution. The trustees knew that Clemson had been sustained through the war years, in part, by being selected to serve as one of the military officer training campuses. They could only thank the federal government for the influx of young men preparing for the war. And they could only thank the skills of now-deceased President Enoch Sikes, his astute business manager, Jim Littlejohn, who handled the sheaf of paperwork, and the dedicated service of Rudolph Lee, who designed buildings almost to order in the 1930s, using federal “Depression emergency funds” to help underwrite the bonds and construction of the five new barracks, Long Hall, and much of the Physical Education Building. A small group of men, including James Byrnes, then a U.S. senator, and Frank Lever, who died in 1940, both with close knowledge of Washington, D.C., and strong Democratic Party ties, had kept the “way clear” for the college’s miracle of growth during the Depression.

Byrnes, the newest of the life trustees elected in 1941, filled the vacancy on the board created by the death of Lever. He had been a friend of Clemson College for years. Bradley, the oldest board member, had replaced his father, J. E. Bradley, in 1907. Having served as president of the board since 1935, W. W Bradley began his service when Richard Wright Simpson, B. R. Tillman, and J. E. Wannamaker, all named life trustees in Mr. Clemson’s will, were still active. Bradley served as board president until his death in 1948. In fact, the thirteen trustees in 1945 collectively supervised the college for a combined total of more than 220 years, or an average of twelve and a half years per person.

Like most institutions of higher education, Clemson, its trustees, and other leaders braced for three major challenges: increased enrollment, facilities that needed enlarging, and replacing aging faculties. Of course, each challenge had been created and made worse by the Depression decade and a half of material shortages and then the demands of war. For all schools, some common answers existed, but each college faced unusual hurdles and specific combinations.
The Enrollment

Preparation for the expected war’s end continued at Clemson since late 1943 or early 1944. President Frank Poole and Littlejohn had made reasoned estimates of what the male enrollment might reach because eighteen-year-olds were no longer drafted and Clemson men now in service were demobilized and returned to domestic life via the GI Bill of Rights. The initial increase of students in September 1945 numbered 296, or about 40 percent since the close of the college the past June. While some were veterans, others included the hoped-for new high school graduates. But in South Carolina, the number graduating from high school remained lower than originally expected because the legislature had authorized the addition of the twelfth grade, which obviously reduced the availability of new high school graduates.

The addition of the twelfth grade had resulted from two decades of efforts by State Superintendent of Education James Haskell Hope (1874–1952), who served in that office from his election in 1922 until 1945. From Hope Station, Newberry County, he had graduated from Clemson in the Class of 1896 and received his master’s degree from Newberry College. He is noted for a number of major reforms and gifts, including his donation of land in his county to the Rosenwald Fund to help create the Hope Rosenwald School. It was built to a Rudolph Lee plan and continues today to serve the community. Hope is also noted for helping open the way for African Americans to receive high school diplomas from South Carolina public schools. During his twenty-three years as superintendent, his best-known achievements included the creation of the public school teachers’ retirement plan, the passage of a state school attendance law, and the previously noted addition of twelfth grade.1

Poole had made it quite clear that Clemson welcomed all academically (and legally) qualified male veterans who applied, while some neighboring schools chose to admit any veteran. But in schools everywhere, pockets of resistance existed to the intrusion of the much older and more worldly men into the academic community, and some institutions took in many more students than they could accommodate.2

Some schools opened special parts of their campuses, separating the veterans with a cordon sanitaire from the traditional students. Clemson’s challenge was a bit different. For the trustees and administration, three other problems loomed: the relationship of the veterans to the cadet corps, housing, and the teaching capacity. The first involved Clemson’s military regimen. The small number of veterans who enrolled in late 1944 and 1945 had remained in regular service uniforms until the end of hostilities in August, as generally required by the War Department. They were excused from regular cadet formations, training, and duties. And the administrators assumed the veterans wished it that way and planned to continue that mode. But not all wanted to remain “military.” In early 1946, John Evans
remembered that when he returned to Clemson to enroll and heard that full military regimen would continue for veterans, he picked up his baggage and planned to catch the bus out of town. His next choice was Auburn, also a land-grant college. But before he arrived there, a group of veterans, returning Clemson students led by Robert Grigsby, met with Poole to state firmly the veterans’ case. Clemson’s administration reversed itself, setting aside military participation for returning servicemen. John Evans returned to Clemson to finish in agriculture in 1948 and then join the college’s staff. Other veterans did likewise.3

The second semester of 1945–1946, the student population rose by 403, and the growth continued until fall of 1949, when the student number leveled off and even turned down once more. But the new men were very different students. Many were older, war-toughened individuals. By the second semester of 1945–1946, enrollment reached 1,644, the largest since 1942–1943. But 917 (or 56 percent) were freshmen (although a number were not of the more usual younger age), a percentage only surpassed by the college’s opening Class of 1893, and the mean age of the freshman class had risen from seventeen in 1940 to twenty-one. The men twenty-five and older numbered 181 (11 percent), with four over thirty-five. These were neither the young striplings who had arrived at the school in 1893 nor the young men who returned from World War I, following the nineteen-month participation in battle. Nor were they almost completely southern with more traditional attitudes toward the land, race, religion, and any other characteristics that had marked the earlier “new boys.”4

Emergency Housing

The immediate housing of students posed no serious problem. Through the influence of U.S. Senator Burnet R. Maybank, the financial juggling of Littlejohn, and the attention of John Hobart Gates in the Federal Housing Administration, surplus military housing began rolling on trucks into the campus. Over 300 additional single men could be squeezed into existing buildings by adding 84 beds in Barracks One, housing 120 in the upper floors of the Physics (originally Textiles and now Godfrey) Building, putting 94 beds in the little gym (the western part of the Field House), and picking up additional space in Barracks Seven and the firehouse. The cost to the college, including war surplus beds and enhancing the bathrooms, amounted to $16,600. A survey indicated that another hundred could be housed in the small town of Clemson.

Fifty prefabricated homes were moved onto the campus. These houses, with two bedrooms, one principal room, a bath and a kitchen, and called “U.K.” homes, soon received the name “prefabs” from locals. Eventually, 300 of these were placed in two campus communities: one on the south campus in an area, according to Poole, “suitable for the development of our future Agricultural building program”;
Housing the influx of returning veterans following World War II led to the move of single and double prefabricated homes, called “U. K. homes” or “prefabs,” onto campus. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.
and the other along the Greenville Highway (now Walter T. Cox Jr. Boulevard), in an area later developed into athletic buildings and fields. In addition, two-story frame barracks housed 196 single veterans, and other surplus buildings found use for classes. A large group of these lay in the field west of the baseball diamond and north of the Field House. Clemson was prepared for 2,700 students.

Thus, that enrollment limit was set not by administrative choice, but by crowding and stretching existing facilities, by the Federal Housing Administration, and by the very nature of the small, isolated community. Just one year proved the federal government’s prediction for housing needs was inadequate. Flooded with applications from more recently demobilized veterans and by a record number of the newest high school graduates, the college administration, nudged by Registrar Gustave Metz (Clemson 1927), stepped, perhaps belatedly, into action. Littlejohn took inventory, not just of living space, but also of faculty and their teaching fields, of the college’s capacity for teaching and laboratory space, and of the library and its holdings. A series of faculty committees assisted. The mess hall and the infirmary also had increasing problems. And the long-term faculty housing problem still needed resolution. Fortunately, federal regulations permitted a modest percentage of government surplus housing to be occupied by faculty.

Gustave Ernest Metz (1907–1996), Clemson 1927, served Clemson from 1929 to 1964, first as an associate registrar and mathematics instructor, then as chief registrar, and finally as secretary to the Clemson Board of Trustees and assistant to presidents Poole and Edwards. Taken from the 1951 edition of the Clemson College annual, Taps.

**Student Growth Continues**

The 1946 freshman class of 1,477 included many students who had enrolled at February registration or had enrolled in a very full summer session, and the 1945–1946 freshman-to-sophomore retention rate (cohort to cohort) reached an unbelievable 91 percent. It was even higher for sophomores-to-juniors, which increased from 141 in 1945–1946 to 510 in 1946–1947. And the senior class grew from 85 to 394. The Registrar’s Office carefully maintained firm standards for new students, whether freshmen or transfers, while it admitted returning “old boys” on prior eligibility. And the faculty, many back from duty, had every
bit as rigorous demands in the classroom as before the war. Overall, the student body, including special students, postgraduate students, and graduates, numbered 1,863 by June 1946. Also by then, women again enrolled in summer school for graduate course work in various vocational education programs, and one woman, Judith Haulbrook, began undergraduate work in education during summer sessions only. By the end of 1947, the total student body had reached 3,350, an increase of nearly 80 percent.

Throughout the summer of 1946, more temporary wooden barracks arrived, but the trustees, on the suggestion of Charles Daniel, not a trustee but an informal advisor to the board, hired the architectural firm of Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle and Wolff of Columbia to study the situation and make a thorough recommendation about the existing old barracks. The college’s Building and Grounds Committee, headed by David Watson, had undertaken an inventory of the lands and properties of the college, both on the campus and around the state. Excluding the large property leased from the federal government for ninety-nine years, the campus contained 1,610 acres, of which the teaching buildings and athletic fields occupied 400, the farms 463, and forest, meadow, and other uses 747. The estimated value of the acreage amounted to $198,562 (2009 equivalent $2,158,417.50). The real properties around the state were worth approximately $168,144 (2009 equivalent $1,827,739). On campus, the Main, Chemistry, Trustee, and Barracks One buildings, and a few of the original faculty homes, survived from their construction between 1890 and 1893, while the most recent new facility was the football stadium. All the campus buildings collectively had a value of $3,717,751 (2009 equivalent $40,412,250.32), including contents. The buildings and contents off campus were estimated at $305,859 (2009 equivalent $3,324,711.76). The total value of everything at Clemson, including land, buildings, equipment, and supplies, was $6,146,716 (2009 equivalent $66,815,293.88), while everything away from Clemson had a value of $677,347 (2009 equivalent $7,362,815.99), for a grand total of $6,824,063 (2009 equivalent $74,178,109.87).

The same committee estimated that Clemson’s immediate campus needs in buildings and renovation reached $8,465,000 (2009 equivalent $92,015,226.13). The renovation and addition of student dormitories cost twice everything else. The college also needed a new student hospital, the existing one having been built in 1893 in anticipation of the first class that entered. Porches had been added and equipment upgraded since then, but the examination and treatment rooms remained unchanged.

A Master Plan

Confronted with this list of needs, the trustees determined that they should establish a master plan for such growth. A new chemistry building, renovation of
the Main Building as a classroom structure for general studies, and renovation of
the old Textile Hall for physics, raised questions of what could be done with the
old Chemistry Building. Concern about the placement of four new engineering
buildings, an architectural building, a new graduate studies building, and six new
agricultural buildings bothered the faculty and the trustees. Rudolph Lee pro-
posed massive renovation of Barracks One, Two, and Three; the erection of more
brick barracks between One, Two, and Three and the stadium; and the use of the
tract bordered by Fort Hill house, Textile Hall, and the cemetery for the addi-
tional engineering buildings. The agricultural expansion would continue around
Long Hall, the old extension building, and the Dairy Building to the east of the
outdoor theater. No indication existed whether or not the pre-war Lee exterior
style would be continued. John Gates, the new head of architecture in 1947, con-
ducted a thorough analysis of faculty and staff (as apart from employees) housing
condition and needs. In the planning of the new Clemson, existing faculty com-
mittees, all of which reported to the president, along with new committees that
also reported to the president, assisted in the process.9

The next year (1947–1948), student enrollment continued to rise, but more
slowly, reaching 3,756. It then declined very slowly as the veterans graduated and
the freshman class returned to the traditional sixteen- to eighteen-year-olds. All
the counties of South Carolina were represented in the student body; however,
students from the five most urban counties now comprised more than one-third
of all the students. That alone, mirroring the change in South Carolina, helped
dictate the shift from agriculture to more general studies. And 575 (15 percent)
students came from other U.S. states and territories, with the remainder hailing
from the Western Hemisphere.

Enrollment in major fields of study hastened the move away from agricultural
and related areas (22 percent in 1946, down from 44 percent in 1919) toward
more industry-related programs such as engineering, which included architecture
(43 percent) and textiles (8 percent). The subjects preparatory for medical, teach-
ing, legal, and commercial professions comprised the remaining growth. This
continuing shift reflected both changes in society hastened by the more practical
bent of the land-grant movement in the middle of the nineteenth century and
by the strong movement toward general public high school education that had
swept America near the last century’s end. This was not unique to Clemson or
South Carolina or even the South. America was no longer basically a rural, agri-
cultural society. The newer age of the towns and suburbs dedicated to commerce
and industry received support from a more efficiently produced, preserved, and
transported food supply.

Besides rapid shifts in educational needs and goals, other national problems
existed. They would be part of the problems that confronted many colleges and
universities and would not be settled quickly, cheaply, or easily. These included
equal opportunities for women and African Americans. In 1945, race represented the deepest and most pressing of America’s domestic problems. These two and others would haunt the nation and all its institutions, including Clemson, for decades to come.

For Clemson Agricultural College, another pressing question involved teaching the swelling group of students seeking an education for the postwar world. Many of the younger prewar faculty remained away on military leave—whether in Japan as with English Prof. H. Morris Cox, in India as with history Prof. E. M. Lander Jr., in Europe as with several faculty in agriculture, or in the U.S. as with faculty on loan to science and technology pods. Thus, much of the teaching fell on older faculty, some summoned from retirement, others whose retirement was delayed, and still others who taught out of their academic field, particularly in the freshman and sophomore courses. New faculty were difficult to find at first because the salaries had remained unusually low, not having recovered from shortages brought on by the Depression and World War II, and many of the brightest young people were attracted to higher paying industry and just-emerging research complexes.

Clemson had to face the issue of gender, which although as important as race, did not have as vocal proponents or opponents as did the other question. Women had worked as part of the nonprofessional staff since the college’s opening in 1893, as librarians since 1905, and on occasion as faculty since 1918. But during the 1930s, there had been none in the faculty until World War II created the shortage of available men. Of the 208 faculty, two were women who had joined Clemson in World War II. One, Elizabeth Epting, taught the French language and introductory European history. The wife of Carl L. Epting, a professor in social sciences, she joined the faculty in 1943 and served through the early postwar years. When the opportunity came to replace her with a male, President Poole wrote her a letter, thanking her for her service and noting that she had been the best Clemson could find during the war.

**Faculty and Staff**

Of the 208 faculty at the college in 1946–1947, thirty-two held PhD’s (15 percent), three others held earned doctorates in veterinary medicine and surgery and in theology, and one held an honorary doctorate. Two others held terminal master’s degrees in architecture and one a master’s degree in fine arts, for a total of 16 percent of the faculty with terminal degrees. President Poole remained concerned about the number who held only master’s degrees. The situation could not be remedied until state funding improved, the supply of new faculty increased, and Clemson developed strategies to give promising younger faculty the time and resources to secure terminal degrees. The fifty-person administration (25 percent
the size of the faculty) contained persons with earned doctorates (10 percent of
the administrative staff). In addition, in 1946, thirty-two staff worked at the five
experiment stations; fifty-one were at the “home farm” at Clemson, with much of
the research taking place on “land-use” property.

The Clemson regulatory commissions had eighty-six staff, many of them
housed in Columbia. At the same time, the extension service employed fifty-five
professional and support staff based at Clemson, Winthrop, and South Caro-
lina State. There were three district agents and forty-six county agents. Twenty-
nine African American agricultural agents, none with full county responsibilities,
worked with the county agents. In addition, the home demonstration agents,
located at Winthrop by an agreement between the earlier presidents of Clemson
(Riggs) and Winthrop (Johnson), but directed from Clemson, were assigned to
the counties. African American agents worked under an African American as-
sistant director, who received direction from Clemson but was housed in Or-
ageburg at South Carolina State. Although exceptions had existed very early in
extension history and later in the human resource shortages during World War
II, the county agents were required to hold bachelor’s degrees at the minimum.
Home demonstration agents and assistant agents (both agricultural and home)
had no such requirement. In the years immediately after the war, the number
and percentage of African American agents without bachelor’s degrees remained
unchanged, and the salary disparities were, though present, not great. But as the
decade progressed and the effects of the GI Bill emerged, the disparities were
perceived to have grown steadily. In their separate annual meeting in 1947, the
Association of Negro Agents petitioned the Clemson administration for relief,
not because the gap in wage scales with white assistant agents had grown (which
it had), but because the African American wage scale had not kept pace with the
rapidly escalating cost of living.12

Although the student housing shortage had received brief attention, long-
term housing for students awaited the report of the Lyles architecture firm. Hous-
ing for faculty and staff was also poor. Erecting needed homes was beyond the
immediate capability of the college. The town lay between the concentration of
classrooms, dormitories, other principal buildings, and the older campus faculty
homes and the Southern railway tracks. Some residential development, mostly
west of College Avenue, the artery that connected the campus with the Southern
line as it passed close to the small but growing business district, had occurred.
College Avenue crossed the Southern rail line into the village still known as Cal-
houn and on through some of the Clemson College-managed land-use property.
The property most conducive to residential growth lay east of College Avenue and
north of the Greenville road that bordered the campus, creating an east-west axis.

Individual younger faculty built homes in that section, and gradually the
community grew. Unlike the older neighborhood with the five churches (Presby-
The High Seminary

terian, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic, in order of founding), where only a few streets had names of persons and the rest for trees and plants, the newer streets were named for former faculty such as Strode, Riggs, Daniel, and Martin. The new neighborhood barely met the need of younger faculty and their families. Littlejohn and faculty leaders realized this shortage of housing was so acute that it seriously limited the college’s ability to recruit new professors.

The New Accommodations

The Gates-led study provided a large amount of population data and estimates of the availability of potential faculty in the fields that Clemson emphasized. President Poole received the report on April 13, 1948; it called for a mixed-use apartment house-hotel complete with meeting rooms, a large lounge, and other features more common to upscale urban hotels to replace the rambling frame hotel that had overlooked the parade ground for over a half century. The hotel-apartment house, the committee reasoned, would appeal to more transitory faculty, staff, and retired members of the faculty. The committee also recommended a large complex of attached two- and one-story residences set on a park-like hill overlooking older faculty homes located on the college grounds. The residences would help attract new young faculty and their families. The report also noted the need for a private building project sponsored in some way by the college. When the Board of Trustees received this report, Edgar A. Brown (July 11, 1888–June 26, 1975), a legislative trustee from 1934 to 1947 and elected a life trustee on March 20, 1948, had the state bond bill amended to permit Clemson’s trustees to issue $1 million in bonds to proceed with construction immediately. (The break in Brown’s tenure on the board resulted from a new state law that prevented legislators from holding two state posts simultaneously.)

Unencumbered by a large state bureaucracy, the bonds were issued, architects and engineers were selected, and the vital construction project began. In the meantime, the prefabricated housing units vacated by veterans and their families were pressed into service. Housing for African American staff was also in short supply, and, through careful tending of the bond money and other savings, a series of apartments was erected on the eastern border of the campus between the new faculty units and the African American residential neighborhood. These were named the Tom Littlejohn Apartments by the trustees in honor of a long-serving African American cook in the mess hall. The rental price was generally higher than many families felt able to pay, and this effort went for nothing.

The apartment houses and hotel proposed by the Lyles firm’s study were opened for bidding, with plans for the college to issue bonds under state authority for $1 million. In case that was not sufficient for covering the building costs, Poole and Littlejohn intended to approach the FHA for a loan at 4.5 percent.
The bids were opened, and Daniel Construction Company of Greenville had the lowest. Once he signed the contract, the firm’s owner, Charles Daniel, proposed to begin immediately, bypassing the FHA and returning to the state for authorization to issue sufficient bonds at a lower interest rate. During the wait, his crew began the work and the company paid the cost without interest until the state issued the bonds. If that did not happen, then the college planned to turn to the FHA. The FHA concurred. The trustees and Littlejohn leapt for joy. The massive building project began.  

Daniel’s crews and machinery remained on campus for the next decade. As it arose from the hill overlooking the campus, the new hotel-apartment house drew interest from the community similar to that shown during the creation of the campus in the early 1890s. The complex had a slate-paved porch and entrance hall, a large open lounge that soon became a community center and would be the site of regular tables of bridge and other games, a lower level “nonalcohol-selling” club, and a pair of elevators that whisked folks up the seven stories of rooms and apartments to a fully equipped three-bedroom penthouse.

The luxurious penthouse on a gracious, but utilitarian, campus was Charles Daniel’s special gift (for which he paid) to Clemson. The terraces of the penthouse still give glorious views over the rolling college acreage against successive vistas of lakes and the Blue Ridge. And the penthouse has served special Clemson guests, including a number of S.C. governors, U.S. senators, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and some of the world’s greatest performing artists, such as violinist Yehudi Menuhin and world-renowned opera singer Beverly Sills. On the main floor, a large dining room named the Sabre Room was furnished with famous Charles Eames wooden tables and chairs and featured a large mural by Gilmer Petroff. The largest mural in the state (forty-by-seventy-foot), it received a superb description from Louis Wolff, a member of the architecture firm that designed much of the campus that emerged in the next decades:

The mural will represent a sort of cavalcade of cadet activity beginning on the right (the viewer’s left) with a lonely freshman hiding behind a signal corps insignia and progressing from Pfc. through sergeant to the coveted ‘pie plates’ as the officer’s collar insignia is known. Infantry symbols join allusions to the Clemson-USC rivalry, and a foaming beer mug leads to a student contemplating military or civil life.

The mural was a gift from the partners of the architecture firm of Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle and Wolff, all four graduates of Clemson’s architecture program. A fountain beside the main entrance to the hotel, named the Clemson House, contained a freely mounted stainless steel tiger sculpture done by Charleston artist Willard Hirsch. Water play and the breezes caused the tiger to move and “roar.” The hotel had a staff of five chefs, and students earned money as waiters and lug-
The Clemson House, built in 1950, was known as “Carolina’s smartest hotel.” The hotel-apartment house complex included a large dining room (the Sabre Room) featuring a mural by Gilmer Petroff, a club (Tiger Tavern), seven stories of rooms and apartments, and a three-bedroom penthouse overlooking the rolling college acreage. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.
gage carriers. Its Sunday luncheons attracted guests from around the area, and the Clemson House was called “Carolina’s Smartest Hotel.”

**Campus Changes**

In the midst of this eruption of modern art and architecture at the college, two memories of the past were added to Clemson’s campus. The first was one of South Carolina’s oldest “European” houses. Thomas F. Waterman, an architect with the U.S. Department of the Interior, had surveyed all the properties in the path of the Santee-Cooper hydroelectric project along with many other remnants of colonial life. He concluded that “Hanover (the name it was given by its builder, Paul de St. Julien, in 1714) is the only house in the proposed region of inundation, the loss of which can be considered of national importance.” Clemson, through Rudolph Lee, had shown interest in helping to save this early relic and, with the work of Watson and Littlejohn, successfully applied to the Santee-Cooper Authority for a grant to move the house to the campus. J. B. Lee, Clemson 1940, photographed the entire removal project, supervised the dismantling and labeling of each shingle, board, stud, joist, beam, and brick, and loaded all carefully on trucks for hauling 250 miles to Clemson. Stored, it awaited the end of

A drawing of Hanover House by Joseph L. Young, A.I.A. Young was a professor of architecture at Clemson from 1950 until his retirement. This presentation drawing is used with the kind permission of the Joseph Laurie Young estate.
World War II for Watson to supervise the careful reassembly near the sheep barn in an area Watson hoped to turn into a “colonial restoration district.” The work on reassembly began in 1945. The Spartanburg Committee of the Colonial Dames of America furnished the house, which the committee accomplished over several years. The home opened on June 7, 1962, and among the Colonial Dames most involved were Mrs. M. A. Owings and Mrs. James Sams, both faculty wives.\(^{20}\) Hanover House has since attracted unusual gifts, including a 1694 Huguenot Bible printed in London and two 1771 hand-colored bird prints by Mark Catesby, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Gignilliat.\(^{21}\) Unfortunately, Hanover House found itself directly in the path of progress again as the Clemson campus grew. Although a volatile issue, the house was moved in 1994 to a new campus site in the S.C. Botanical Garden.\(^{22}\)

The second memory from the past involved the placing of two cannons on campus. Sculptor Abe Davidson had accepted the cannons on behalf of the college in the 1930s from Charles Gerald, the secretary to Governor Ira C. Blackwood. Gerald, knowing that Davidson was searching for metal from which to cast Thomas Clemson’s statue, suggested, “In the basement of the Capitol there are some Civil War cannons. Would you like to have these cannons to use for the casting of the Clemson statue? If you don’t get them something will happen to them and they will get lost.” Davidson accepted but then promptly dismissed the offer as a mere courtesy. Half a year went by, and Davidson received a phone call from his brother in Greenville, “What in the hell are you doing bringing cannons to my back yard? A highway truck is here with two cannons. Get them out of here as soon as you can. I don’t want any cannons laying [sic] around here.” Davidson had the truck rerouted to the campus and the cannons delivered to the shop, where Prof. Ed Freeman stored them.\(^{23}\)

Forgotten again, they resurfaced only in 1951, by which time the story of how the cannons got to Clemson was lost. John D. Jones Sr., Clemson 1915, contributed to a fund to mount them on Bowman Field. His son, Lt. Col. James B. Jones, and Watson supervised the construction.\(^{24}\) The cannons took the place of the World War I howitzer, originally a gift of the Class of 1926, which the college had donated to the scrap metal drive in 1942.\(^{25}\) Years later, an artillery historian concluded that the 1842 Ames cannon is one of sixty-two made and is either No. 11 or No. 24. The second is the Alger 1861 and is probably No. 178 or No. 206. Students call the cannons “Tom and Jerry.”\(^{26}\)

**Academic Expansion**

The teaching and research missions required an entirely new heating plant and system; buildings for chemistry, general engineering, ceramic engineering, plant science, animal science, and agricultural engineering; and 690 additional
two-person student bedrooms. The cost was estimated at $7 million. The money would come from a combination of housing bonds, state-secured bonds, federal grants (particularly in agricultural research money), and various other sources. Edgar Brown proved extremely helpful with the legislature in getting bonding permission for much of the financing.

Among the most desperately needed was a new chemistry building. The original building, marked “1890,” had been enlarged in 1900 at a time when all students took some chemistry, but the building had long ago been strained far beyond capacity. In 1946, the building caught fire. Area fire departments responded quickly and contained the fire, limiting the loss to the upper floor interior and the large, Romanesque hipped roofs. The state acted quickly, finding money to stabilize and rebuild the landmark. Of course, insurance money, paid by college funds, provided a basis on which to expand. While the rebuilding provided a stopgap measure, it would not be the larger, up-to-date chemistry building needed for post-World War II teaching and research. Daniel Construction Company did the work.

The larger, desperately needed chemistry building now awaited a master plan. The college hired the firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, Kehoe and Dean of Boston to develop the long-desired master plan for the campus. The firm assigned it to J. F. Larson, who had already provided such plans for Dartmouth, Lehigh, Bucknell, and Wake Forest. When the plan was presented, it designated logical areas for programmatic enlargement and circulation schemes for pedestrians and vehicles given Clemson’s long-term goals, enrollment models, topography, and environment. Building perspectives were in a generic red brick style. Nothing alarmed Poole or the older trustees.

**Trustee Changes**

Between the years 1945 and 1950, the changes in Clemson board membership accelerated. The S.C. Legislature amended the state code in the spring of 1947 to bar public officials from holding two state positions simultaneously. The new law affected four Clemson legislative trustees. In the face of the change, Clemson’s six surviving life trustees elected Edgar A. Brown, one of the four affected legislative trustees, to the open life position. When officially asked, the state attorney general issued an opinion that life trustees were not public officials, which only confirmed the importance of the intention of the Clemson will. Brown, needing no time for “learning,” joined the life trustees.

On the legislative side, trustees ousted by their colleagues in the general assembly included W. C. Graham, a nine-year veteran; J. P. Mozingo III, elected in 1941; and S. H. Sherard, who had served since 1930. Among those who took their place was W. A. Barnette of Greenwood (1886–1962), a 1910 Clemson
graduate in agriculture and a veterinary science faculty member from 1914 to 1918.

Another addition, John McLaurin of Bennettsville (1901–1959), came from Marlboro County and attended elementary and high schools in McColl. He enrolled briefly in North Carolina State College before serving in the U.S. Army during World War I. When he returned, he attended Clemson and received a BS degree in textiles in 1922. He spent four years raising cotton with his father, then he married Leila Kirkpatrick, moved to Bennettsville in 1931, and became a “large scale farmer,” according to the News and Courier of Charleston (September 21, 1959).

The third new legislative trustee, T. Wilbur “Buddy” Thornhill (1892–1978), graduated from Clemson with a degree in electrical and mechanical engineering and married Anna Van Noy Smith from Summerville, Thornhill’s birthplace. After serving in Panama and France during World War I, he and his family settled in Charleston, where he served as the principal director of the Charleston Oil Company. He had a close friendship with Poole, whom he addressed privately as “Sarge.” Thornhill strongly supported opening Clemson to women.29 He was already irritated that Poole had not really pushed the trustees on the issue and the legislature on permission to offer bonds for women’s housing.

The fourth new legislative trustee was Ben Tillman Leppard (1892–1957) from Greenville. After graduating from Greenville High School, he studied agriculture at Clemson, interrupted his education to serve in the army in World War I, and upon his discharge received his BS degree in 1919. From there he studied law at Furman University, was called to the bar, and joined the Greenville firm of Leppard and Leppard with his brother James Ernest. Leppard had served in the S.C. House (1933–1934) and then the S.C. Senate (1937–1940). In between, he worked as an aide to Governor Olin D. Johnston (1934–1938) and participated actively in state and national Democratic Party affairs. He had also been a legislative trustee for Clemson from 1934 to 1938.30

But change on the board had not yet run its course. Besides claiming J. E. Sirrine, death laid its shroud on Life Trustee W. W. Bradley, who had served as a member of the board for forty-one years and as board president since Wannamaker’s death in 1935. For the new board president, the remaining legislative and life trustees selected Christie Benet (1879–1951), who had served as a life trustee since 1929. Born in Abbeville, Benet was nine years old when his father played a leading role in moving the bill to accept Thomas Green Clemson’s will through
the general assembly. Benet initially attended South Carolina College, transferred, and earned a BS degree from the College of Charleston. He earned a law degree from the University of Virginia, where he played football and was awarded a Phi Beta Kappa key. While in Columbia, he worked as a volunteer coach for South Carolina’s football team. In the aftermath of South Carolina’s upset victory over Clemson in 1902, he is credited with holding up the brewing confrontation between the students long enough for police to arrive and halt the trouble.

Benet had filled the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by B. R. Tillman’s death in 1918. He had served as chair of the S.C. War Finance Committee in World War II. An active Episcopalian, he was involved with the Episcopal retreat Camp Kanuga and the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Married and father of a daughter, he strongly urged higher education for women. In his papers is a report in which he wrote, “It is the glory of this century that now a woman may acquire the highest education without being decided as a blue stocking.”

Of course, the life trustee post made vacant by Bradley’s death needed filling. In 1949, the remaining six life trustees elected Charles Ezra Daniel (1895–1964), the Greenville construction magnate, to join the board. Daniel, born in Elberton, Georgia, had grown up in Anderson, South Carolina, where he attended high school. He entered the Citadel in 1916 and after two years there began working with Townsend Lumber Company, where he had also worked while in high school and where he continued to work until 1935. In 1924, he married Hoomzel Mickel of Elberton, Georgia; they had no children.

Upon leaving Townsend, Daniel organized Daniel Construction Company of Greenville. He was a close friend of A. C. Crouch, the founder of Piedmont Engineers, Architects, and Planners, Inc., whose father, the Rev. Dr. Sydney Crouch, served as pastor of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church in Clemson. Under Crouch’s leadership, the congregation, whose primary ministry was to Clemson students, faculty, staff, and their families, joined by Presbyterians across South Carolina and Clemson alumni everywhere, had constructed a new building in 1931 to accommodate the rapidly growing Clemson cadet corps. A year later a fire broke out and destroyed the
sanctuary, the pastor’s study, and a large room designated for college students. Daniel endorsed, by letter, a petition to the state office of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (an agency of the federal government) for financial help for the church. The petition also had the support of regional Boy Scout executives (the church was the host institution for the little community’s scout troop along with the local town fellowship club for men) and had the signatures of over a third of the cadets. The RFC contributed the amount necessary to pay the salaries of the skilled workers who rebuilt the church.32

Daniel Construction Company next built the barracks, known then as Barracks Four, Five, Six, Seven, and Eight, and the Textile (Sirrine) Building, along with smaller textile plants before the approaching military conflict turned the company’s attention to war needs, which included the construction of the Charleston Naval Yard.33

When Daniel received the invitation from the six life trustees of Clemson to join the board, he did not accept until he had assurance that his company could still bid on construction for the college. Benet posed the question to the attorney general, who replied that so long as the bidding was open and the low bid was taken or rejected with good reason, no conflict existed. There was also an internal problem; Section 14 of the bylaws of the Clemson Board of Trustees prohibited the board from entering into a contract with the business of a fellow member. Before Daniel received the offer to join it, the whole board clarified the relationship of the section when the transaction was by open bid. In his prior dealings with Clemson College in the five barracks and the Textile Building, Charles Daniel had always submitted the lowest bids, saving Clemson an estimated $115,000 during the Depression. It would be to Clemson’s good fortune in matters much broader than money alone that Daniel took his place as a trustee.34

The board had changed greatly. The life trustees, who ranged in age from fifty-two (one) to seventy-five (two), were considerably younger on average than the group five years earlier. The same held true for the legislative trustees, whose age spread was narrower, from forty-six to sixty-three, averaging fifty-five, or ten years younger than their life colleagues. The board service for the life trustees averaged fifteen and a half years, but the average of those elected by the legislature numbered only five and a half, with most of that credited to F. E. Cope and J. B. Douthit Jr.

If the life trustees’ multiple careers are considered, three had strong agricultural backgrounds, two had longtime industrial ties (one close to textile interests), one had a legal and financial background, and two had major political careers. Four were primarily farmers of large properties, although one of them, R. M. Cooper, had powerful industrial connections. Byrnes was on his way to becoming a political icon. The legislative trustees had greater homogeneity in occupation. One was an urban lawyer; another was an urban businessman with strong agri-
The others were also in agriculture. But then, all life and legislative trustees were community leaders who had served or did serve in public life. All were Protestants (Baptist, Episcopalian, Methodist, or Presbyterian), although Byrnes was born into a Catholic family, and all were active churchmen.

Residentially, men from the Lowcountry (including the Pee Dee), where eight of the trustees had primary residences, dominated, while three came from the Upstate. Only Board President Benet called the Midlands home. While Byrnes had a geographic attachment to the whole state, he really had national interests at heart. Politically, all were progressive or “New Deal” Democrats.

They had practical educational interests. Three had not attended college. Board President Benet had personal ties to the College of Charleston, then a quasi-municipal, private college more in the tradition of the classical liberal arts. But Benet also had familial ties to Clemson, educational ties to the University of Virginia, and an affection for the University of South Carolina. Among the life trustees, only T. Benton Young held a Clemson degree, but all the legislative trustees had Clemson degrees, and of them, Leppard had also received a law degree from Furman University. As a whole, they were sensible political and economic progressives and realists, with deep affection for Clemson College, and they were committed to steering the school’s course in the best interests of South Carolina of the future.

Architectural Revolution

To this board, Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle and Wolff Architects brought their housing report. It was not really what Poole wanted to hear. Barracks One, Two, and Three, built from the 1890s to 1907, were wooden-frame structures whose appearance of stability resulted mainly from the two-ply brick. All wiring, electrical equipment, and plumbing, along with almost all the sinks, toilets, showers, and tubs, had to be replaced. Further, the placement of windows and exterior doors was such that the option of retaining the brick shells and creating new interiors would yield only a slight increase in capacity. Further, Barracks One held the primary kitchens and the mess hall, which, while kept clean, contained outmoded equipment. And the space was (and had been for years) simply too small to serve the traditional “one seating” Clemson College meals. Furthermore, the county health department had placed the YMCA small dining room on notice for significant improvement or closure, while the only local café had received a health warning. Simply to fix Clemson’s housing and feeding problem would cost about $4,250,000, with no increase in capacity. Daniel, whose engineering firm had estimated the cost, noted that a new, modern design for well-built and safe housing and an adequate dining facility would cost less than half, and some increase in capacity would be achieved relatively inexpensively.
After much discussion, the board decided to raze the three old barracks, and it directed the Lyles firm to begin sketch plans. While the records do not speak to the issue, the architects must have understood that they could abandon the older, dark red brick that had more or less brought an aesthetic unity to the campus. Meanwhile, the Florence firm of Hopkins and Baker worked on the new Chemistry Building. It was located directly north of the old Chemistry Building, which made the removal of the old greenhouse necessary. While this older metal and glass structure was lovely in its late Victorian and early Edwardian style, it had been isolated from the group of agriculture buildings since the original Agricultural Hall destroyed by fire had been rebuilt as the library between 1925 and 1927.

The new Chemistry Building continued the use of red (but now cherry) brick in combination with fieldstone, slate, and limestone, and it had a flat roof. Its footprint, a “C,” continued the Lee tradition of avoiding quadrangles (probably for fire safety and ventilation). Inside, the north wing had a large lecture laboratory with modern audiovisual equipment and a seminar room. However, it did not take advantage of the northern sky’s even, reflected light. The south wing had a range of smaller (approximately one-hundred-seat) lecture halls and lecture laboratories. The center or west unit included student laboratories, faculty office laboratories, the chemistry library and faculty lounge, and the departmental head/dean’s reception and office. The interior was surfaced in ceramic tiles. One of the college’s first permanent modern buildings, it was well constructed. Industrial Builders of Anderson, the low bidder, received the contract for $514,731. The laboratories con-

The new Chemistry Building shortly after its completion in 1951, later named Brackett Hall in honor of Richard Newman Brackett, eminent Clemson professor of chemistry. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.
tained the finest equipment available, thanks to a $50,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. Poole personally presented the faculty-authored application.36

At almost the same time, the area south of the main cluster of buildings, where the southern “prefabs” were placed, was prepared for Poole’s dream—a new center for agricultural sciences. These facilities ranged along the eastern ridge, as were Long Hall, the Dairy Building, and a few others. The first of the buildings designed was for agricultural engineering, which had survived in the sheep barn. The new building continued the use of cherry red brick with a modest amount of limestone. C. Hardy Oliver of the Oliver and Dickson of Columbia firm served as the architect, and Daniel Construction Company was the builder. This much construction required a large amount of furnishings and a prior major expansion of the heating, water, electric, and sewer systems, not to mention new streets and landscaping. The immediate and foreseeable building costs amounted to a staggering $3,875,000. Managing and facilitating these projects were J. C. Littlejohn, Edgar Brown, and Charles Daniel.37

Shortly thereafter, Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle and Wolfe presented the firm’s plans for the new barracks. The plans were audacious. The overwhelming, low-slung range of modern buildings was designed to hold 2,200 cadets in reasonably sized double rooms. The units took advantage of the hillside sloping west toward the football stadium and the Seneca River, which made the relocation of the laundry and a smattering of other smaller support structures necessary. While each of the seven units functioned separately, they were interconnected so that the entire complex formed a large quadrangle. In basic scheme, it owed much to the Walter Gropius-designed Harvard-Harkness Graduate Center featured in Architectural Record.38 The Clemson plan was three times as large and, like the Gropius design, included a modern series of kitchens and a single dining room capable of holding the entire corps in one sitting or, with dates, for all-student dances. The quadrangle had multiple entries, with covered openings suitable for moving cars and trucks in and out. The public entry was to the east through an open-air “loggia” (an Italian word meaning a covered but open-air entrance or passage), above which was a series of enclosed floors that included a lounge, administrative offices, rooms for student radio broadcast and the various publications, a nondenominational chapel, counseling offices, and meeting rooms. Also the central facility had a barbershop (an absolute necessity for an all-male military college), a lounge, and restrooms. The lower level (the main entry to the dining room) housed a canteen, dining room, kitchens, and a good-sized separate dining room that could serve as an athletic training table or banquet hall for clubs and societies.

But the real wonder was the construction. It used a new, but not untried, method known as “lift-slab,” a system that required the erection of towering columns of reinforced concrete that had steel connectors protruding from all four sides at each level. Then, using metal forms, construction engineers and workers set
the metal reinforcements and some utilities and poured concrete into the forms, all at ground level. When the concrete had hardened and cured, the slabs were slowly jacked to the appropriate level and fastened to the steel connectors on the load-bearing columns. It was a giant assembly line that minimized the need for concrete forms and teams of carpenters and laborers pushing wheelbarrows. Further, work crews were relatively small and specialized, and the scheme minimized the time and expenses of lifting concrete blocks, tiles, plumbing, and heavy materials because those could be ground-loaded before the slab was lifted. Interestingly, Buck Mickel, a relative of Mrs. Charles Daniel and a future life trustee of Clemson College, served as the site engineer for this huge complex.39

The new barracks, only a portion of which remains in today’s Section A of Johnstone Hall, as it was being built. Below: an aerial view of one of the massive building’s wings. Right: a closer photo of men engaged in raising the slabs that formed the floors of the building, a revolution in building construction. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.
Concrete ledges that extended past the exterior walls emphasized the horizontality of the structure and were designed to serve as sun baffles in the not-air-conditioned South. Of course, they served as unintended sun decks and galleries for surprise sallies on the unwary. Long bands of glass, some panels of which opened for ventilation (and egress or entrance) and others fixed, emphasized the sense of horizontality. Inside the building, designed for young men, each floor had gang showers and toilets at intervals, while every room had lavatories and mirrors for shaving and grooming and built-in rifle racks. Halls wide enough for units to be formed and stairs wide enough to march down and for steamer trunks to be hauled from the car to the room fit the military life. Those who lived there also remembered kegs of beer and tubs of ice hauled in and impromptu (or arranged) contests of touch and tag football waged in the halls.

The massive complex, elegantly designed for a male military college before the age of air conditioning and ubiquitous electronic sound amplification, also captured the attention of *Architectural Record* and would reemerge in dormitories, apartment housing, and motels around the nation. It was a great improvement over the old barracks, even if it did break away from the red brick tradition of a campus that seemed to have sprung from the Piedmont’s red hills. But within a very few years, the trustees would render the building much less functional when the board changed policies on military and women. Also, with glass on four sides, the complex could be very hot or very cold, depending on the weather.

While housing and the space for chemistry (and geology) were solved for the foreseeable future, and Old Chemistry would soon be occupied first by education and then by history—which was required of everyone, as it had been since the first year, and was grouped with government and economics as “social sciences”—there were still major classroom needs for the other fundamental fields of mathematics, English, and physics. And while textiles was generously housed in the textile building recently dedicated to the memory and honor of Life Trustee J. E. Sirrine, engineering had nearly burst the walls of Riggs Hall. In fact, engineering had spilled over into a specially designed brick building that housed industrial and some civil engineering classes and into several “growing more permanent” temporary wooden buildings. Classes and offices in the older fields of mechanical, electrical, and chemical engineering and architecture found themselves badly crowded. If Clemson expected to house over 3,000 (for which chemistry and the new barracks were built), then the college needed classrooms and laboratories for most fields and a much larger library. Also Daniel Construction Company undertook the construction of the new laundry and the new water filtration plant. Both were sited between the new barracks and the football stadium, as called for in the master plan being overseen and updated by Lockwood, Greene and Company of Greenville.40

President Poole asked the Building and Grounds Committee to recommend names for some of the principal buildings on campus. The pressures for this came
from the fact that a new chemistry building replaced the near sixty-year-old original building, which had the legend “Chemistry” in the stone arch over one door. The college leaders sought to maintain traditional academic attachments. A second impetus was coming from Benjamin Ryan Tillman Jr., who visited in the community awaiting the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation, and he had written several articles on his father’s role in establishing the college. His writings paid little attention to the work of other men and proposed that something should be done to keep his father’s name alive.\textsuperscript{41}

In the past, only the trustees had given names to buildings and spaces. They had named the main building “Agriculture,” the fertilizer and chemistry building “Chemistry,” and the old engineering and physics building “Mechanics.” But then in 1904, they called the new building “Agricultural Hall,” and although they did not specifically change the main building’s name, most people referred to it as “Main.”\textsuperscript{42} The trustees also named the playing fields behind the YMCA “Riggs” in honor of the then president. Ten years later, they named the new engineering building “Riggs” for the just-deceased president.\textsuperscript{43} Their next naming came with the opening of the new agriculture building, which they named for the recently deceased extension director, W. W. Long.\textsuperscript{44}

Poole turned to the Building and Grounds Committee for its advice. David Watson, Clemson 1915, who was responsible for buildings and grounds, chaired the committee. The members were S. R. Rhodes, R. A. McGinty, A. M. Musser, G. B. Nutt, H. E. Glenn, J. H. Gates, J. H. Sams, and H. J. Webb.\textsuperscript{45} They grappled with the problems and recommended that the old chemistry building become Hardin Hall; the new chemistry building to be named for Richard Brackett, the second chemist on the faculty; old Barracks One for R. W. Simpson, the first president of the board; old Barracks Two for Alan Johnstone, the second board president; and the main building for B. R. Tillman, one of the seven will life trustees. Curiously, the committee did not suggest a name for old Barracks Three. Poole took the committee’s recommendations to the trustees, who approved them.\textsuperscript{46} Regardless, just a few years after naming the two barracks, the trustees voted to raze all three old barracks. So Simpson and Johnstone disappeared from the physical portion of the campus.

Then, a fortuitous event for Clemson occurred. Frank Johnstone Jervey (Clemson 1914), a retired U.S. Army captain, returned “home” to Clemson from the Washington, D.C., area, where he had been with the Army Ordnance Corps for thirty-one years. Jervey, through his Clemson education, military service, and diligence, had become one of a handful of persons in America who were experts on side-arms munitions. One of the major manufacturers, whom he judged to produce the highest and most reliable of products, had a large endowed foundation, the Olin Foundation. Jervey had brought Clemson’s work to the foundation’s attention in the 1930s, and it had helped support the Clemson 4-H summer camps through the Depression.\textsuperscript{47}

Jervey understood better than most the links between the ores explored carefully by faculty in Clemson’s rapidly emerging ceramic engineering program and chemical engineering, another field of research for Clemson’s younger faculty. He brought the laboratory and teaching space needs to the attention of the Olin Foundation’s trustees and particularly to that of Charles L. Horn, the president, and James A. Wynn, the secretary-treasurer. After a few exploratory trips to Clemson, Horn announced a gift from the Olin Foundation of $421,871 for a building and $180,000 for equipment for a new ceramic engineering building for Clemson. During the visits, Horn had developed a warm friendship with Poole, who also presented Clemson’s need very well. Olin reserved the right to name the builder.

What would almost immediately become a real team, the ceramic and chemical engineers and the architects in Clemson’s School of Engineering, led by Gates, developed the plans and specifications for the building. Daniel Construction Company, with the lowest bid, a guarantee to absorb any overruns, the shortest promised date to completion, and much of its heavy equipment already on site, won the job. The state’s engineers approved state construction and safety standards, and because the building needed no state funds for construction, Columbia provided no delay for it. The agreement between the foundation and the college was reached in the autumn of 1952, construction began on January 2, 1953, and the building’s doors opened on September 24, 1953. The Clemson trustees had enthusiastically named the buff brick structure, which occupied the site south of Hardin Hall where the Fertilizer Building had stood, Olin Hall. With the building of Brackett, the new barracks, and Olin Hall, the problem of a logjam of space on campus began to loosen.

In the field of natural resources, internal and public pressure had grown for Clemson to involve itself much more in the issues of water and soil, because every South Carolinian who had experienced the eroded land and the drought of the 1930s knew the importance of these substances for life. One of the most outspoken of South Carolina’s citizens on these subjects was Buddy Thornhill
of Charleston, who donated money to Clemson to carry on research and to pay for student trips into the hills and river basins of the region, hoping to impress upon the young men the necessity of thoughtful reconstruction of nature. But the most pitifully housed of all Clemson’s disciplines was agricultural engineering. Housed in one of Clemson’s older barns, the faculty was led by George Nutt (1908–2007). Nutt, born in the farming town of Enterprise, Mississippi, received his BS degree in agricultural engineering from Mississippi State College in 1930. He joined the Clemson faculty in 1932, using the Depression summers and the academic leave encouraged by President Sikes to earn an MS degree in agricultural engineering from Iowa State College in 1940. He returned to Clemson and in 1941 became head of the department, a position he held until 1950, except for a period of service in the U.S. Army.

In his budget request to the 1946 legislature, the first after World War II, Poole asked for, and received, permission to issue bonds up to $250,000 to build an agricultural engineering classroom and laboratory building. He formed a building committee with two tasks: write the building program and recommend a site. David Watson chaired the group, which included Gates, the head of architecture, Sams and two others from engineering, and Nutt, McGinty, and Musser from agriculture. Hamilton Hill, from the Business Office, was on the committee to watch over the fiscal aspects. The architectural firm of Oliver and Dickson served as the design team. The chosen site for the building lay to the west of the three oldest barracks on the slope toward the stadium and the Seneca River basin. Perhaps the building committee considered the slope for experimentation. However, it was far removed from the agricultural buildings to the east, only marginally closer to Riggs Hall, the center of the engineering world, and the attendant wooden “temporary” buildings behind it, and a good distance from
the newer agricultural fields in the “bottoms” to the west. A number of faculty from engineering and agriculture complained vigorously to Poole. These reactions helped move Clemson toward hiring the master planning team noted earlier, while Littlejohn insisted that these decisions belonged to the trustees alone.53

After the Perry firm developed a master plan that fit well into the terrain, the almost entirely new agricultural complex was placed on the southeast side of campus, stretching out south of Long Hall. A site was chosen where the land began flattening as it sloped southward to the fields and pastures. The plans for the Agricultural Engineering Building showed a building of four large blocks. The center block was a two-story class and office unit surrounded on three sides by a large “C,” a one-and-a-half-story set of laboratories equipped to study and test problems of water and soil of different types, water fall, and drainage, and allowed the study of agrarian mechanization on soils. Of cherry red brick and limestone, the new building sported aluminum-framed, ventable windows, large truck entrances, and a water-cooling tower. Money was also found to build a new seed laboratory and steam plant. The Agricultural Engineering Building was eventually named McAdams Hall for Prof. William U. McAdams, Clemson 1938, and a faculty member from 1939 to 1959.

The Clemson House, the faculty homes behind it, and the Tom Littlejohn staff homes were completed in 1950 at a cost of $2,925,000. The steam plant had cost $510,000, while the seed laboratory was only $25,000. The Agricultural Engineering Building would cost $275,000. Within two years, the new Chemistry Building was finished, equipped, and in use, and the equipment for the newly
dedicated textile building, named Sirrine Hall; all was accomplished at a cost of $920,000. The very next year, 1953, the Olin Foundation paid $653,000 for Olin Hall and its special equipment. Moving the laundry and fitting it with new equipment, finishing the power, heat, and electricity enhancements (all which Gates designed), and new facilities for the 4-H camp at Pinopolis brought the total building cost up to $6,286,000.54

The remainder of the agriculture group consisted of two other buildings, the first the large Plant and Animal Sciences Building. The upper two floors held faculty offices, classrooms, laboratories, and student lounges. The basement had a ground level entry and loading dock on the south. Much of the basement space was given over to mechanical equipment and storage. The southwest quarter of the basement had small research, laboratory, and office space, while a goodly portion of the eastern side had space for the ever-increasingly important agricultural communications. The latter included space for producing and storing extension bulletins, an early form of outreach for agricultural extension, and for the radio, a medium in which Clemson had been an early leader.55 And for the immediate future, considerable space provided for television. The exploration of this new mode of communication had been advocated by Poole almost since he arrived as president at Clemson in 1940.56 Now a younger Board of Trustees and younger faculty were agreeing with him. Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle and Wolff designed the immense P&A Building of 205,515 square feet, and Daniel Construction Company built it. The façades were of buff brick with small inset glass windows. The north front had a beautiful green slate protrusion that held a large lecture hall. Willard
Hirsch of Charleston, who also created the Clemson House tiger sculpture, created a symbolic stainless bas-relief that combined a bull, a beaker, and a plant.

The next and, for the time being, last of the major buildings in the agriculture group was the Food Industries Building, planned for instruction in meats and dairy. Besides the various types of meat laboratories and offices, it contained an adaptable auditorium designed for a variety of levels of instruction. A retractable curtain screened off a large open room suitable for preparing and butchering animal carcasses or having fruit, vegetable, or flower judging. The auditorium proved useful for student and community theater, partially because of its adaptability and its desirability, but also because of ample close-by parking. It also became increasingly popular as a site for smaller parties that frequently took place on big dance weekends. The building also contained dairy facilities, complete with a dairy bar that sold rich Clemson ice cream, milk, eggs, and the signature product, Clemson Blue Cheese. There is no wonder that the Food Industries Building welcomed steady streams of traffic. However, it rendered Lee’s old Dairy Building useless, and it was destroyed. The two stories plus basement in the Food Industries Building contained 71,048 square feet, and Daniel was the builder. It continued the use of buff brick, slate, and aluminum, keeping a harmony with the Plant and Animal Sciences Building.57

A number of individual efforts produced this amazing feat of planning, design, and construction: the juggling abilities of J. C. Littlejohn; Charles Daniel’s
“gifts” as an aggressive builder whose bottom line was the economic and, thus, social progress of South Carolina; and a board under the direction of Christie Benet and then R. M. Cooper, about whom more will appear shortly. Alumnus Frank Jervey, whose deep loyalty to Clemson moved the college forward at a time when the state had other concerns, brought business friendships that provided two buildings. The transformation was hastened by the great desires of Buddy Thornhill, who occasionally chided President Poole, his old school chum. Poole wanted progress for Clemson, but he had his own dreams of Clemson primarily as a major agricultural research and teaching center.

The final cost for all the physical changes exceeded $16,130,000. State appropriations for planning, utilities, roads and walkways, the 4-H camp improvements, several regulatory facilities, and seed building amounted to $3,129,500. Charles Daniel’s contributions in financing and the ability of Frank Jervey to involve Charles Horn and the Olin Foundation added $1,476,000 to Clemson’s need. The remaining $10,500,000 came from the sale of bonds, the payment of which was pledged on anticipated dormitory room and rent, board payments, and by future tuition. An additional $316,000 was available from collegiate savings, again thanks to Littlejohn.58

However, a majority of the trustees had little patience with the seemingly endless discussions that Poole held with his administrative staff and with the desire of every branch of the college to be involved in every decision. Secondly, Poole’s unhappiness with the architectural decisions that were leading Clemson away from its red brick, Bruce and Morgan and Lee styles, was pointed. Since the end of World War II, several trustees had urged Poole to recommend a management consulting team to study the Clemson administrative structure, but Poole had not done so. Perhaps some of the trustees had grown weary of the wait.

Notes
2. Edgar, South Carolina, 516.
3. Martha Grigsby to J. V. Reel and John Evans to J. V. Reel.
4. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 President’s Report to the Board of Trustees, June 28, 1946.
5. Record, volumes for the years 1945–1955. Data on enrollments and faculty throughout this entire study are derived from Record.
6. CUL.SC.MSS 91 f 211.
7. Ibid., 68 b 11 f 212.
8. CUL.SC.CUA. S 7 f 10.
9. CUL.SC.MSS 68 b 11 f 211.
10. Reel, Women and Clemson, 10–11.
11. Rebecca Epting, in organizing her mother’s correspondence, came across the letter.
12. CUL.SC.CUA. S 7 f 208. I have used the word “perceived” purposefully, because salary differentials, to be demonstrated to be valid, require careful analyses of a number of factors and then studying all the results, position by position. However, the African American agents’ argument that salary increases for them as a group were not “keeping up” with the rise in the cost of living was accurate.
13. Ibid., f 10.
14. Ibid., S 30 ss i, f “Brown.”
15. CUL.SC.MSS 91 b 15 f 208.
16. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 6, 47–51.
17. CUL.SC.MSS 68 b 11 f 211.
18. SCHS 1231, 00/25/26/10.
19. Columbia State, September 29, 1951. After the Clemson House was converted from a hotel-apartment house into a student dormitory, the mural was not seen. Whether it remains intact under the covering, was removed, or was simply destroyed awaits discovery. For the tiger sculpture, see CUL.SC.CUL. S 11 f 286.
21. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f “Hanover House.”
23. A. Wolfe Davidson’s unpublished autobiography, 380–382, photo pages of which are filed in CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 “Monuments-Cannons on Bowman Field.”
26. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 “Monuments-Cannons on Bowman Field.”
27. CUL.SC.MSS 91 b 15 f 210; and SCHS 30–04 and MSS Benet 43/0219.
29. CUL.SC.MSS 47 ff 10, 14 and 15.
31. SCHS MSS Benet 43/0219.
32. McMahon, Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, 101–106.
34. CUL.SC.MSS 91 b 15 f 210 and 211; and CUL.SC.CUA. S 87 I B 22.
35. CUL.SC.CUA. S 87 I b 14 f 7.
36. Ibid. Greenville News, April 21, 1950; and RAC.RE.28 S 2 ss 1 3 b 406 f 4254.
37. CUL.SC.CUA. S 87 I b 13 f 10.
38. Ibid., S 37 f “Buildings-Johnstone Hall.”
39. Reel conversation with Buck Mickel.
40. CUL.SC.CUA. S 7 f 9.
41. Ibid., S 5 f 7.
42. Ibid., S 37 f Buildings “Tillman Hall.”
43. Ibid., “Long Hall.”
44. Ibid., S 7 f 7.
45. Ibid., S 30.
46. Ibid.
47. Ibid., ss i, “Jervey.” He was a great conversationalist whose dreams of the past were vivid, but who always saw visions of the future clearly.
48. Ibid., S 87 ss i b 19 f 13 and b 49 f 1.
49. Ibid., S 30 ss i “Thornhill.”
50. Ibid., S 28 “Nutt.”
51. CUL.SC.MSS 68 f 244.
52. CUL.SC.CUA. S 87 ss i b 13 f 10; and CUL.SC.MSS 44 f 7.
53. CUL.SC.CUA. S 87 ss i b 14 f 6.
54. Ibid., S 30 President’s Report to the Board 1948–1953, 15; and S 87 ss i b 30 f 24.
56. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 6, 167.
57. Ibid., Facilities Documents – Building 0040, 5 sheets.
58. Ibid., S 87 ss i b 30 f 24; S 30 v 6, 177; and CUL.SC.MSS 91 b 15 f 210. Not all dreams were realized. Poole’s request to the Rockefeller Foundation for money for a 2,500-seat auditorium was denied. RAC.GEB.SC103 S 1.1b 129 f 1179.