

# Context for the Work of Architect Leif Valand



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# INTRODUCTION

In 2019, the City of Raleigh hired Hanbury Preservation Consulting to write a historic context for the work of architect Leif Valand. Having previously nominated Valand's St. Ambrose Church to the National Register of Historic Places and surveyed the Ridgewood subdivision which featured Valand-designed homes, the firm had some familiarity with his work. It has been said that after Valand's retirement, his successor firm had lost or destroyed much of his original plans and documents, thus Valand had not been considered a good candidate for study. However, for a brief period the Wake County Public Library system subscribed to a database that included searchable digital scans of *The News and Observer*. During that window of opportunity, numerous citations were found and a formidable list of projects assembled. The list grew when cross-referenced with documents on file with Special Collections at North Carolina State University. Photographic materials from the North Carolina State Archives augmented the list with visual representations of buildings that have been demolished. And the willingness of the Valand family and his former employees and colleagues to be interviewed added a human dimension to the architect.

In reviewing Valand's career, there are a number of points that present themselves. First, Valand and his firm were prolific. In a twenty-seven year career he produced a massive portfolio of work. Second, he was extremely versatile. He could design in a variety of styles and typologies, from churches, to houses, offices, and stores. He was well-regarded by clients and by employees. Former employees interviewed for this project, now at least in their seventies, to a man, continued to refer to him as "Mr. Valand." And colleagues and clients returned to him multiple times for projects. While he may have had a strong preference for his personal designs and ideas, his professional philosophy was to serve and please his clients. There are some patterns that recur in his work however--use of stone veneer, preferring low-slung buildings with a horizontal emphasis, the nearly ubiquitous integrated planter, and the centrality of the hearth in custom, single-family homes. He was a "rainmaker," the principal in a practice who could translate his personal connections into commissions. He was very independent, as he did not feel the need to conform to the stylistic curriculum promulgated by the School of Design.

The buildings described in the pages to follow are not an exhaustive list of Valand's work, but a fairly comprehensive one with additional buildings included in the building list in the Appendix. If design/project architects for the firm are known, they are generally noted in the narrative.

This project has expanded far beyond the initial proposed scope and I am grateful to Tania Tully and the Raleigh Historic Development Commission for their patience and for allowing me to expand the project (at no extra fee). Thanks also to the staff at Special Collections at North Carolina State University and at North Carolina State Archives, particularly Ian Dunn. And special thanks to everyone who fielded email queries, agreed to be interviewed and provided

images , notably: Mark Valand, Smedes York, Jimmy Williams, Tom Bradshaw, Ray Sparrow, Ben Taylor, Edwin F. “Abie” Harris, Jr., Steve Bryan, Ann Bryan Huffman, Edythe Poyner, and Robert Watson.

# BACKGROUND

## Early Life

Little is known about Leif Valand's early life. He was born September 8, 1911 in Norway. His father moved to the United States and sent for his family in 1917 once he had found employment. They lived in Jersey City, New Jersey. Valand's father worked at a shipyard and fell from a ship and drowned, leaving behind his wife and young children.<sup>1</sup> Leif was able to attend Pratt Institute where he received a degree in Architectural Construction in 1932 and later New York University where he earned an architecture degree. In 1941 he married Wymene Smith, a nurse who was originally from Ohio. Valand lived in Scarsdale and practiced architecture in New York City. Little is known about his early professional life. Former employee Edwin "Abie" Harris noted that he has had some experience in designing retail interiors in New York which served him well in his later work in North Carolina.

He was associated with a company called American Homes where he met Edward Nelson "Ed" Richards (1910-1987), who had been involved in military housing construction during World War II. This association would bring Valand to North Carolina to work on Cameron Village.

## Professional Practice

Valand had a private architectural practice in Raleigh starting circa 1947. Former employees noted that in terms of staff, it was one of the largest firms in the city of Raleigh. Employees over the years included Ben Taylor, Wayne Taylor, Edwin Freeland "Abie" Harris, Ray Sparrow, James Scovil, Russell White, Gilbert "Gil" Slack, Karina McCourt, Ed Mogelnickie, Pete Jarrell, Reggie White, Nelson Benzing, Norman Eugene "Bart" Bartholomew, William Robert "Bob" Wakeham, David Lee, and Charles Davis. Many of these men continued with other firms, or started their own, but gained significant experience working with Valand. In an oral history interview, landscape architect Henry Hammond observed that, "his (Valand's) office is responsible for more designers in the City of Raleigh than anybody else's because he would give them work."<sup>2</sup> In Valand's obituary in the *The News and Observer*, former employee Ed Mogelnickie noted, "The majority of people who have architectural firms today in Raleigh worked for Mr. Valand at one time."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Valand, Interview with author

<sup>2</sup> Henry Clayton Hammond, interview SCRC Series: Lewis Clarke Oral Histories Project – MC 00191 Field Notes: Henry Hammond (compiled October 20, 2008) Interviewee: HENRY CLAYTON ("HENRY") HAMMOND Interviewer: Yona R. Owens

<sup>3</sup> "Leif Valand, Architect in Raleigh, Dies," *The News and Observer* February 13, 1985, p.3C.

By all reports, Valand had a large personality. He was demanding and had a quick temper. Yet he was also generous. More than one former employee noted the decision to work for Valand, as opposed to a competing firm, was partially based on his generous salary offers. Landscape architect Geoff Maclean noted in an interview, "Somebody else said this that he [Valand] probably worked more architects than anybody else in this town and he paid pretty well, in spite of his Norwegian temperament. He was hell on wheels, but he was also good as gold."<sup>4</sup>

Valand was also notable for giving his younger colleagues significant responsibilities, and the opportunity to explore their own design vocabularies. One architect noted that he had an offer from a competing firm but turned it down as he knew with Valand he could explore his own design ideas and not merely execute the vision of the senior partner at another firm. Former employees note that he travelled often to look at works in other parts of the country and often brought junior staff members along to see projects and to learn from them.

The exact dates of changes in the firm's composition are not entirely clear, but by examining plans and specifications, Valand practiced as Leif Valand, Architect through 1959. From 1960 to at least 1965 the firm was Leif Valand and Associates. By 1969 it was Valand, Benzing and Associates and in 1974 Valand and Nelson Benzing formed Valand-Benzling and Associates.<sup>5</sup> Valand retired in 1974, though may have taken on occasional solo commissions. He died in 1985 at the age of 73.

With the rise of corporate architecture firms, the question of design attribution becomes more difficult, and often various junior architects and draftsmen contributed parts of the overall design. For example, Abie Harris remembers designing the interior stair at the Peden Steel Headquarters. Nonetheless, most drawings that have been found contain Valand's professional seal and with his responsibility for the drawings comes the design attribution.

Valand worked closely with other professionals including landscape architects. Though most of his firm's records have been lost, many drawings survive as part of the special collections at North Carolina State University in collections of others--architects who used Valand drawings to design later additions, and landscape architects working contemporaneously and collaboratively using site plans and footprints as a basis for their work. Henry Hammond's first solo practice project was with Valand on the Woman's Club in Raleigh, "I did all the site work on that including the driveway and the connections to Glenwood Avenue and that's the first project for

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<sup>4</sup> Geoffrey McLean interview SCRC Series: Lewis Clarke Oral Histories Project – MC 00191 Field Notes: Geoffrey D. McLean (compiled April 4, 2012) Interviewee: GEOFFREY D. ("GEOFF") MCLEAN Interviewer: Yona R. Owens

<sup>5</sup> Valand-Benzling and Associates, Inc. Articles of Incorporation February 28, 1974.

me on my own."<sup>6</sup> Geoff Mclean did work with Valand at Quail Corner Shopping Center and the Cameron Brown building at North Hills.

A constant thread throughout Valand's professional career was his ability to translate personal connections into commissions. His associations with Willie York and Ed Richards translated into direct commissions and perhaps some indirect ones. St Michael's Church was built on land given to the parish by Willie York. Richards and Valand were both parishioners. Willie York was on the board of the YMCA when the new branch was built on Hillsborough Street. Willie York moved his sizeable corporate accounts from Wachovia to First Citizens in 1960 and in 1961 Valand designed a branch bank on what is now Capital Boulevard. In the mid 1960s York was appointed to the Board of Conservation and Development after which point Valand designed a number of state welcome centers. Valand's wife Wymene became involved in Democratic politics at the state and national level, and Valand received commissions for several state buildings as well as the Terry Sanford Federal Building in Raleigh.

Valand worked closely with developers during a period when they began to form numerous corporations to separate various individual developments thus shielding some projects from liability if other projects foundered. This is now a common practice. And while Valand's name has yet to emerge as an incorporator in any of these ventures, tax court filings that involve Washington Terrace, shed some light on the possibility that Valand may have been creative in developing compensation agreements for his work.

Washington Terrace Apartments Inc was incorporated in 1949 by J. W. York, James Poyner and Marshall Hartsfield.<sup>7</sup> Federal Tax Court Reports show that Valand had received Class B stock in the corporation for architectural services which he later sold to Ed Richards for \$3,750.<sup>8</sup>

Generally only incorporators and initial Class A share holders are public record so we may not be able ascertain how frequently Valand negotiated ownership interests and their potential revenue stream in lieu of cash payments for design services. Nonetheless the one documented case of it shows a willingness to be creative in fee negotiations with compensation more directly tied to the success of the overall project.

## **Design Ethos**

Valand's practice in Raleigh coincided not only with a period of growth, expansion and construction, but also with a growing sophistication in the field of architecture. The School of Design (now College of Design) at North Carolina State College (now University) under the

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<sup>6</sup> Henry Clayton Hammond, interview SCRC Series: Lewis Clarke Oral Histories Project – MC 00191 Field Notes: Henry Hammond (compiled October 20, 2008) Interviewee: HENRY CLAYTON (“HENRY”) HAMMOND Interviewer: Yona R. Owens

<sup>7</sup> Washington Terrace Apartments Inc, Articles of Incorporation December 23, 1949.

<sup>8</sup> Ella C. Thomas, (reporter) *Reports of the Tax Court of the United States Reports October 1955-March 1956* v. 25 Thomas Wilson and Mary W. Wilson, petitioners, v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Respondent. Edward N. Richards and Helene H. Richards, petitioners, v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Respondent

leadership of Henry Kamphoefner, who arrived in Raleigh around the same time as Valand, grew in size and in influence. Kamphoefner was a vocal proponent of modernism and brought prominent faculty and lecturers to Raleigh who championed modernism. Valand was not associated with the nascent School of Design and eschewed the academic architecture espoused there. His work tended to be more client-focused and pragmatic. If any modern architect's design was an inspiration to Valand, it would appear to be Frank Lloyd Wright's. Valand often designed low-slung buildings with a horizontal emphasis. His use of natural materials, specifically stone in rough faced ashlar, and the centrality of the hearth in domestic architecture, echoes many of Wright's aesthetics.

Valand was noted for his customer orientation--generally building to suit the client rather than with an eye to publication. Working closely with developers, he was conscious of cost and profit margins. In the case of some of the Cameron Village houses, he adapted designs to respond to metal shortages during the Korean War.<sup>9</sup>

While his work did not garner the same attention as some other architects' iconic buildings, Valand's more modest buildings are also notable. Additionally, when considering the work he did in the design of multifamily residential complexes and stock designs for the burgeoning residential subdivisions of the post-War era (much of which is still being discovered) it is not an overstatement to say that he, more than any other architect, shaped the look of Raleigh in the mid- century era. His professional practice employed and trained many of the architects who worked in Raleigh at the end of the 20th century.

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<sup>9</sup> Linda Harris Edmisten, *J.W. Willie York: His First Seventy-Five Years in Raleigh* Privately printed 1987. p 84



## BUILDINGS

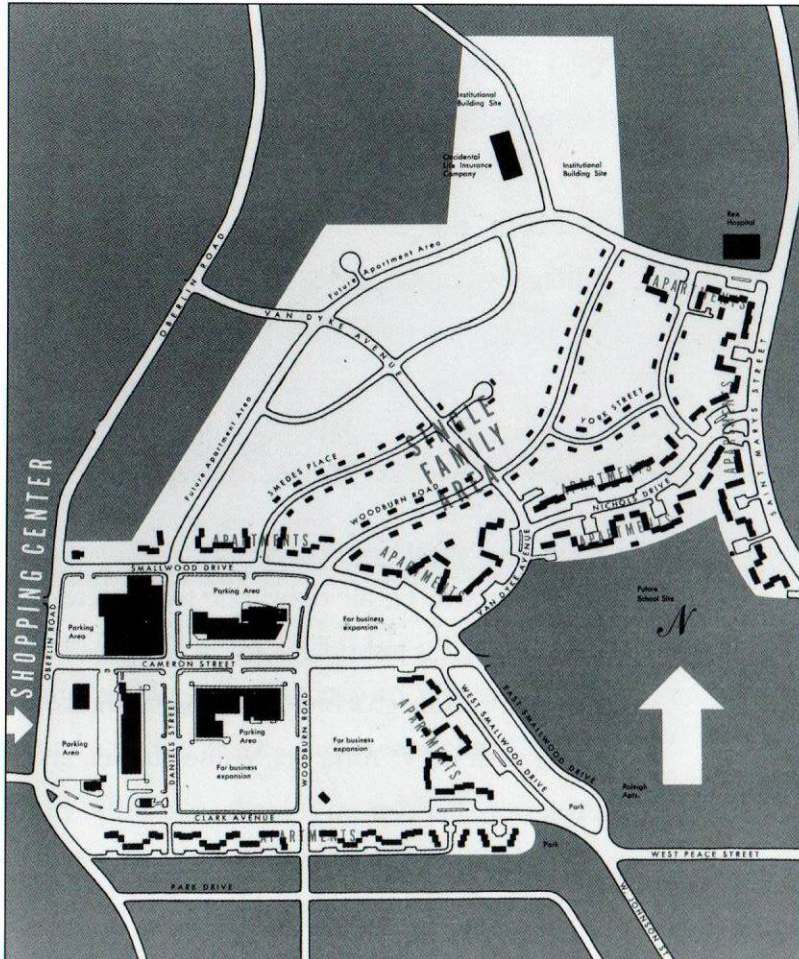
### Cameron Village

J.W. "Willie" York was the son of C.V. York, Sr., who in 1910 started the York Building company, later the York Construction Company. Willie had been involved in home building in Raleigh prior to World War II. During the war years he worked with Goldsboro contractor Raymond Bryan of the T. A. Loving Company on military construction projects in eastern North Carolina. During this period York bought pre-fabricated houses from Ed Richards to erect in Morehead City. After the war, York returned to home building in Raleigh working in partnership with Raymond Bryan. In the late 1940s York developed a mixed use property, modeled on Kansas City's Country Club Plaza, that changed the pattern of development in Raleigh.

**Cameron Village** revolutionized development practices in the city in terms of a master-planned, mixed-use community of shops and housing at a scale previously unimagined. It also employed a vertical integration where design, construction, and property management were all controlled within a series of inter-related businesses and ownership. It also brought together York, Richards, and Valand, who had worked with Richards in New York, and was hired in 1947 shortly after the final zoning for the project was approved. Valand's designs for Cameron Village included retail, office, and housing. Indeed the vision must have been compelling for an architect to leave the New York City market for Raleigh, North Carolina.

The project began with multifamily units--the **Cameron Village Garden Apartments (1948)**, followed by **Clark Avenue Apartments (1950)**, the **Smallwood Apartments (1951)**, and the **Daniels Street Apartments (WA5939)**. The shopping center was a product of negotiations to secure tenants in advance of construction including the anchor store, Sears, a grocery store and a drugstore. Though the retail area grew over time, the initial shops opened in November 1949. Construction of single family residences in the northern portion of the development began in the early 1950s.

The **Cameron Village Shopping Center (WA2672)** has been altered substantially over the years. While the site plan and building footprints have changed little, the elevations and interiors have very little resemblance to the original design. Some of the garden apartments along Smallwood, Sutton, Nichols, Saint Marys, and Oberlin remain with notable recent demolitions along upper Smallwood. Many have been converted to condominiums. A small portion of the Clark Avenue units remain near West Peace Street, the others having been demolished for a series of commercial buildings, mainly banks. The lower Smallwood apartments remain as of early 2020 but are slated for demolition for a higher density development. The Daniels Street units remain but have been altered and converted to condominiums.



Early Cameron Village Site Plan, copied from *Cameron Village-A History*

Later commercial development on the periphery of Cameron Village, designed by Valand has also been demolished or highly altered. Commercial buildings on the north side of Oberlin Road have all been demolished as has the Balentine's Cafeteria building on the south side which housed Valand's office. Likewise a handful of office buildings along Wade Avenue have been highly altered save for the Occidental Insurance Building for which Valand was the local architect but not the principal designer..

The single -family housing north of the shopping area is reported to have all been designed by Valand though neither written documentation nor drawings have been found. Many of these original homes have been demolished and replaced with larger buildings

incongruous with the size, scale, amassing, and materials of the originals.

The Cameron Village complex ultimately included 65 stores, 566 apartments, 100 single family residences, and 112 offices, the majority of which Valand designed over the course of years.

In a 1974 issue of *The North Carolina Architect*, Ernie Wood of *The News and Observer* was one of several people asked to comment on what could be considered "significant landmarks in the development of the professional practice of architecture in North Carolina."<sup>10</sup> Wood included Cameron Village in his list. He remarked,

Leif Valand, architect, has had a great influence on the entire population of North Carolina-and that includes architects-as it was the first major shopping center here. It reorganized the shopping patterns of millions of people and undoubtedly helped both the architectural profession and the construction business as other developers tried to follow

<sup>10</sup> Ernie Wood, "Responses to a Survey of Significant Architectural Projects in North Carolina," *North Carolina Architect*, vol. 21, no. 3&4 March/April 1974, p. 20

Willie York's lead. But Cameron Village is more than the enclosed malls being constructed today. It follows more closely the traditional ideas of "downtown" building streets and parking areas around the stores, allowing people and vehicles easy access to shopping facilities. Its architecture and building materials are understated and less self-consciously "pop" than much of what is now being built-helping Cameron Village to be in the long run a facility that will be more attractive longer. And it includes housing in its overall plan, not only assuring the merchants of a steady clientele but prevents the center from becoming a vast wasteland in off hours.<sup>11</sup>

Since 1974 Cameron Village Shopping Center has undergone numerous "face-lifts." Not uncommon in retailing, there is an attempt to give shopping centers a fresh look to boost sales and compete with newer developments. Cameron Village bears little resemblance to its former appearance, nor do Valand's other retail projects. However his principles of retail design were highly influential in the midcentury period.

Though Valand designed many projects for York and for Richards, he always maintained a private architectural practice that was separate from the various corporations formed to develop, manage, and sell properties.

### **Client-specific Residential Projects**

In addition to multi-family and speculative subdivision housing, Valand designed a number of single family, client-specific houses. Those described below are likely not a definitive list. Most are in Raleigh but two additional houses known to have been designed by Valand are the

**Richard Hurd House (1955 Rumson, New Jersey)** and the **R. A. Bryan, Jr. House (1966 Goldsboro, North Carolina).**

The Bryan House is a hallmark of Valand's style. It is low-slung, with generous use of stone veneer. The roof of the carport wing is set on metal posts that are set back and painted a dark color so that the roof seems to float over the stone wall below.

Though the interiors have been slightly modified, historic photos show the prominent fireplace and stone planter at the entrance.



*Bryan House, photo by the author*

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<sup>11</sup> IBID





*Bryan House interiors, photos courtesy of Ann Bryan Huffman*

The dates of the known Raleigh houses range from 1946 to 1970, and coincidentally the first and last known houses were both designed for Willie York, for whom he also designed a house in 1963. Not included in this list are several houses built for specific clients but that appear to have been designs that Valand repeated elsewhere, notably **the Banks Kerr house (1952)** and **William King house (1952)**, both in Cameron Village, and the **Marion Fike House (1957)** in Longview Gardens. **The Fred and Mary Dixon House (WA5352 1952)** is cited by Triangle Modern houses to have been designed by Robert Hall in Valand's office who did live at that address, though the most recent owners claim it is by Thomas Cooper. **The Leif Valand House (WA6608 1952)** house would presumably be by Valand, though sources attribute it to Charles Davis.

Six Raleigh houses have been demolished: **the Poyner House (1950)**, **George Vial House (1952)**, **Kidd Brewer House (1956)**, **Ira Green House (1953)**, **Willie York House #2 (1963)**, and **Willie York House #3 (1970)**.

Only one is designed in a traditional style: **the Sanderford House (1959)** at 1520 Saint Marys Street. It is a one-story, brick, minimal traditional house that is side-gabled with projecting cross-gabled wing on the facade.

**The Peden Guest House (1950)** was not built as a single family residence, but rather as an additional structure on the Peden property for use as the children's recreational space. Originally rectangular in footprint, it was adapted to a residence with a master bedroom ell addition, the enclosure of a screened porch, and the construction of an interior partition wall at the central interior fireplace. Drawings recently discovered in the Special Collections at NCSU indicate that Valand did design the ell, though the later alterations were not his.

As of the last survey, **the Willie York house (WA4619, 1946)** is a low-slung ranch house with a hipped slate roof clad in crab orchard stone, weatherboard, and board and batten siding. It has wooden casement windows. The entrance is via a stone, landscaped terrace.

**The Poyner House (WA4657 1950)**, no longer extant, was a one-story, low slung house with a gable roof clad in vertical board siding and crab orchard stone. A covered breezeway with a flat roof supported by metal posts provided protected exterior circulation. It had an interior stone chimney, single-light casement windows, and double-leaf entrance doors flanked by sidelights.

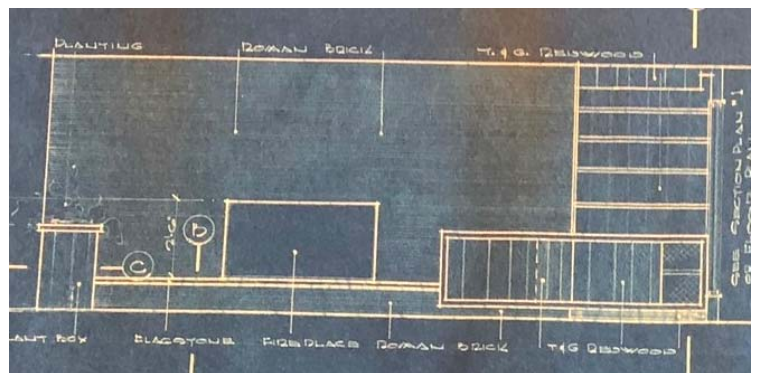
**The Everett Case House (WA4603 1951)** is a one-story, low-slung, gable-roofed house with an attached carport designed for the legendary North Carolina State University basketball coach. Drawings by Valand in the special collections at North Carolina State University do not include the projecting southern wing, which aerial photographs suggest may have been added later. The integration of the roof of the later wing with an exterior breezeway suggests that Valand may have designed the addition. Plans show a four bedroom house. The fourth bedroom and bath are below grade at the southwest with a separate entry.



*Everett Case House, photo by the author*

The main floor was designed with an open central core with the entrance hall leading to a living room and dining room with a screened rear porch (later enclosed) beyond. Elevation drawings show the living room with a Roman brick southern wall with redwood bookcases, an integrated planter and a flagstone hearth.

To the north of the central core is a kitchen to the west and a bedroom and bath to the east. Both the kitchen and bedroom have an exterior door. South of the entry hall is a small den accessed from a hall at its west that services a bedroom and bath at the southeastern corner of the house and a master suite at the southwest.



*Everett Case Drawing, special collections NCSU Libraries*



The master bedroom has an exterior door to the south. The entrance porch supported by pipe columns with a section of exposed outriggers is in the original drawings as is the planter at the exterior that continues to the interior. The drawings call for exterior vertical fir board siding and stone cladding which remain. The scored concrete at the entrance appears original. The single-leaf entrance has a narrow transom that extends across the large sidelight north of the entrance.

**The Ed Richards house (WA4658 1951)**, was built for the developer who was Valand's frequent business partner. Irregular in footprint, this house has a central two-story core surrounded by one-story projecting wings. Despite its two-story mass, broad eaves with thick fascia painted in a light color contrast with the darker paint of the mass of the house, creating a horizontal emphasis. The facade is clad on the first story in stone up to the sills of the bands of single-light windows that are interspersed with wood panels. The primary entrance is via double-leaf doors flanked by sidelights set within a porch with a flagstone deck and supported in part by a stone wall. The rest of the house is clad in vertical wooden siding. A rear glazed sun porch appears to be original.



*Ed Richards House, photo by the author*

**The George Vial House (WA4481 1952)** in Country Club Hills is a more modest ranch house designed by Valand who assisted the original owners in enclosing a garage and adding additional rooms along the facade soon after construction. The additional rooms create a recessed entrance and set the exterior chimney behind the front plane of the house. A projecting rear wing with a glazed wall affords a sweeping view of the golf course beyond.

**The Ira Green House (1953)** in Forty Acres, though demolished, appears in Wake County tax records to have been a typical Valand house, one-story, low-slung, side-gabled with stone veneer and broad eaves extending to a breezeway to an attached carport.

**The McAdams House (1954)** in Coley Forest was designed as a side-gabled house with a projecting cross-gabled rear ell and a projecting, front-gabled carport wing. As with many Valand houses, the primary entrance leads to flagstone foyer/hall that moves directly into the living room, featuring a stone-clad wall with a prominent fireplace and hearth, and generous glazing to afford a rear view. The kitchen, dining room, play room and a screened porch (now enclosed) were on one side of the central entrance-to-living-room axis. The kitchen has moved to the play room area and the dining room to the kitchen. Originally four bedrooms and two baths (now two bedrooms and a master suite) were located on the other side of this main axis.

Additional alterations include renovated kitchen and bathrooms, full enclosure of the carport wing, small "bump-out" addition off the rear master suite, and a wooden rear deck. On the interior the main elements of the plan, including the segregation of public and private spaces, and the main entrance procession to the central living room area remain, as does the prominent stone wall and fireplace. Most of the exterior changes are on secondary elevations and not visible from the facade. Valand's use of orchard stone veneer at the corners of the facade and at the entrance and the inclusion of a stone-faced integrated planter are hallmarks of his style as is the horizontal emphasis of the house as a whole.

**Willie York House #2 (1963)** and **Willie York House #3(1970)** were both demolished with little documentation.

## **Subdivisions**

Subdivision housing by its very nature is somewhat anonymous. However in at least some cases, Valand is cited in advertising or news articles as the designer for subdivision housing. While much of his known work is with developers Ed Richards and Willie York, he did not design exclusively for them. The advertising credit he received was unusual, and it is unclear if it was a result of a requirement exacted by Valand, or if his name was a selling point.

Another aspect of Valand's approach to subdivision design is the development of a small number of basic models and the ability to add variety by allowing for different external styles or minor adjustment to interior features. This is noted in the media descriptions of Rocky Mount's Edgewood Park and supported by numerous sheets of drawings in the Special Collections North Carolina State University showing various models and varieties of housing for what appear to be Northwoods Park and North Hills Estates.

One of the earliest and best documented of Valand's subdivisions is **Ridgewood (WA4630, 1954)**. News reports list the Ridgewood Partnership as the owner of parcels under development.

Wachovia Building Company, owned by Ed Richards, was listed as contractor. Later the Raleigh Building Corporation, also an Ed Richards Company, was issued permits for houses on Dogwood Avenue, Wade Avenue, and Leonard Street.<sup>12</sup> In 1958 a portion of the subdivision was rezoned to shopping center.

A 1954 mention in *The News and Observer* shows photos of four homes designed by Valand in Ridgewood, constructed by the Richards Building Company and brokered by Cameron Realty Company. A 1955 article describes the neighborhood, the "tree-shaded area has contemporary dwellings in the \$14,650-\$20,000 price range. Ed Richards is the builder, and the houses, which come with three or four bedrooms, were designed by Leif Valand, the Cameron Village architect. More than 100 have been occupied; another 30 will be built. Then a large shopping center will be put in."<sup>13</sup>



*Ridgewood Models, photo courtesy N and O Collection, State Archives*

<sup>12</sup> "More Homes for Ridgewood," *The News and Observer*, January 19, 1956, p.25

<sup>13</sup> Raymond Lowery, "Building Boom Continues Here," *The News and Observer*, February 13, 1955, p.11.



Fifteen houses remaining in Ridgewood strongly resemble (or resembled prior to remodeling) published Valand designs. Fifty-three additional houses contain, or originally contained, features found in Valand designs of the period. However, it is conceivable that with further study, additional models can be attributed to Valand. Also, given Valand's participation in other subdivisions, some of these models may be found in other Raleigh neighborhoods.

A classified ad in *The News and Observer* in 1954 touts homes in **Forest Hills (1954)** in Garner as "New FHA approved 3 bedroom homes individually designed by Leif Valand."<sup>14</sup> According to plats and documents on file with the Wake County Register of Deeds, the developer was E.P. Sauls. The broker in the classified ad was Cameron Realty Company. Original shareholders of this company, established in 1953 were Charles C. "Cliff" Cameron (a mortgage lender who was involved in numerous projects), Zach H. Bacon, Jr., Don F. Friend, and James R. Trotter.

**Edgewood Park (1956)** in Rocky Mount was developed and/or built by Wimberly and Gregory. An initial build-out of 20 homes by Valand were constructed on a subdivision that according to reports could contain up to 200 homes, "...of both modern and traditional design, the Edgewood Park homes are designed on three different floor plans with 20 variations providing for individual styling of each home. Architect for the project was Leif Valand of Raleigh."<sup>15</sup> The developers describe the neighborhood as " 'a community of the future' because of such innovations as the year round air conditioning, modern built-in kitchens, community planned landscaping and individually styled homes."<sup>16</sup> An article a week later in the *Rocky Mount Sunday Telegram* has extensive coverage of the grand opening with an aerial photo showing development progress and photos of two Valand homes: a hipped-roof Ranch, and a side -gabled Ranch with Minimal Traditional styling, both with carports.<sup>17</sup>

In 1957 the Lions Club had a contest at the State Fair and the grand prize was the "**Dream Home**" exhibited at State Fair and designed by Valand and to be built by Lowry and Kistler. A rendering shows a one-story, side-gabled ranch with an off-center entrance and large windows at one corner, and clerestory windows at the other.

A 1958 advertisement in *The News and Observer* for the **Citation Home** (model) built by Georgetown Building Company, a subsidiary of Wachovia Building Company and designed by Valand was found in the **Lakewood** and **Woodcrest** subdivisions. The ad quotes *The American Home* magazine which describes it as an "efficiently planned and well executed house, high on

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<sup>14</sup> "Forest Hills in Garner" Classified Ad *The News and Observer* September 5, 1954, Section II p.9.

<sup>15</sup> "Air-Conditioned Housing Development Opens to the Public Here October 21," *Rocky Mount Sunday Telegram*, October 14, 1956, p.3A.

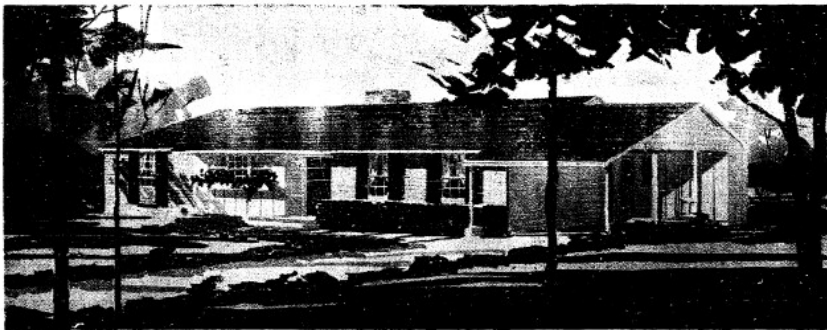
<sup>16</sup> IBID

<sup>17</sup> "Area's First Air Conditioned Community Opens Today," *Rocky Mount Sunday Telegram*, October 21, 1956, p9.

value low on cost, (and Raleigh's) best house for the money." In expanded text the ad continues to quote, "The excellent planning implicit in the location of carport, mud room, kitchen and family room facilitates every-day family routine. The mud room provides a clean-up spot for children before they come into the house proper; the washer-dryer combination in the mud room eases the laundry problem; the pass-through counter between kitchen and family room means quick meals and less work for mother, and also allows her to be a part of the family room activity."<sup>18</sup> The rendering shows a Minimal Traditional, side-gabled ranch with a carport. The Citation Home was also built in Longview Lake<sup>19</sup> (perhaps Longview Park WA4436).

***SEE eastern carolina's award - winning***

# CITATION HOME



**calls this – RALEIGH'S "BEST HOUSE FOR THE MONEY"**

The October issue of American Home magazine pays tribute to this  
"efficiently planned and well executed home," and headlines it  
"High On Value—Low On Cost."

Designed by Architect Leif Valand and built by Georgetown Building  
Company—a subsidiary of Wachovia Building Company

*Advertisement from the News and Observer*

<sup>18</sup> "Citation Homes Section, " *The News and Observer* September 28, 1958, Section V, p.1.

<sup>19</sup> "City Builder Wins Award of Magazine," *The News and Observer*, September 28, 1958.

A 1959 real estate ad in *The News and Observer* lists three houses on **Woodland Drive** in Fuquay-Varina built by Ed Richards and Designed by Leif Valand.<sup>20</sup> Drawings in the Special Collections of North Carolina State University library suggest that Valand was the architect for **Northwoods Park (ca 1963)** subdivision in Jacksonville, Onslow County and **North Hill Estates (1960)** in Raleigh. Architectural historian Ruth Little credits Leif Valand and Al Haskins with a "distinct group of contemporary 1950s Ranches"<sup>21</sup> in the **Forty Acres (WA4610)** neighborhood.

## Military Housing

There are two known military housing projects involving Valand. However given his extensive experience with multifamily and subdivision housing, it is conceivable that he designed more than two projects. Military budgets are recession-proof and when other markets are suffering, military construction can be a boon to design and contracting firms. The projects listed below are beyond the scope of the current project but could be a rich area for further research.

In 1950 Valand and the firm of Edwards, Pugh and McKinnon in Raleigh and Eugene Martini landscape architect of Columbia, South Carolina were selected to design 1,054 **dwellings at Camp Lejeune (1950)** in Onslow County. An article in *The Rocky Mount Telegram* noted the project was "to be built under title 8 of the National Housing Act which authorizes the FHA to insure loans for construction by private builders on or near military bases for the housing of military and civilian personnel connected with the establishments."<sup>22</sup> The 1950s era housing is not highlighted in Camp Lejeune's historic preservation publications online and research into these units is ongoing.

In 1958 his firm working on collaboration with Charleston, West Virginia firms Davidson and Irving Bowman and Associates involved housing for 140 families at the **Naval Radio Research Station (1958)** at Sugar Grove near Pendleton, West Virginia at cost of over \$2,000,000. This Cold War facility has since been closed and in 2016 portions were sold off to a developer. Research into these units is ongoing.

## Apartments

While Valand's earliest multi-family designs in North Carolina were the apartments associated with Cameron Village, he quickly expanded to other projects.

**Washington Terrace Apartments (WA7834, 1950)** were constructed by a corporation Washington Terrace Apartments, Inc. "organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina

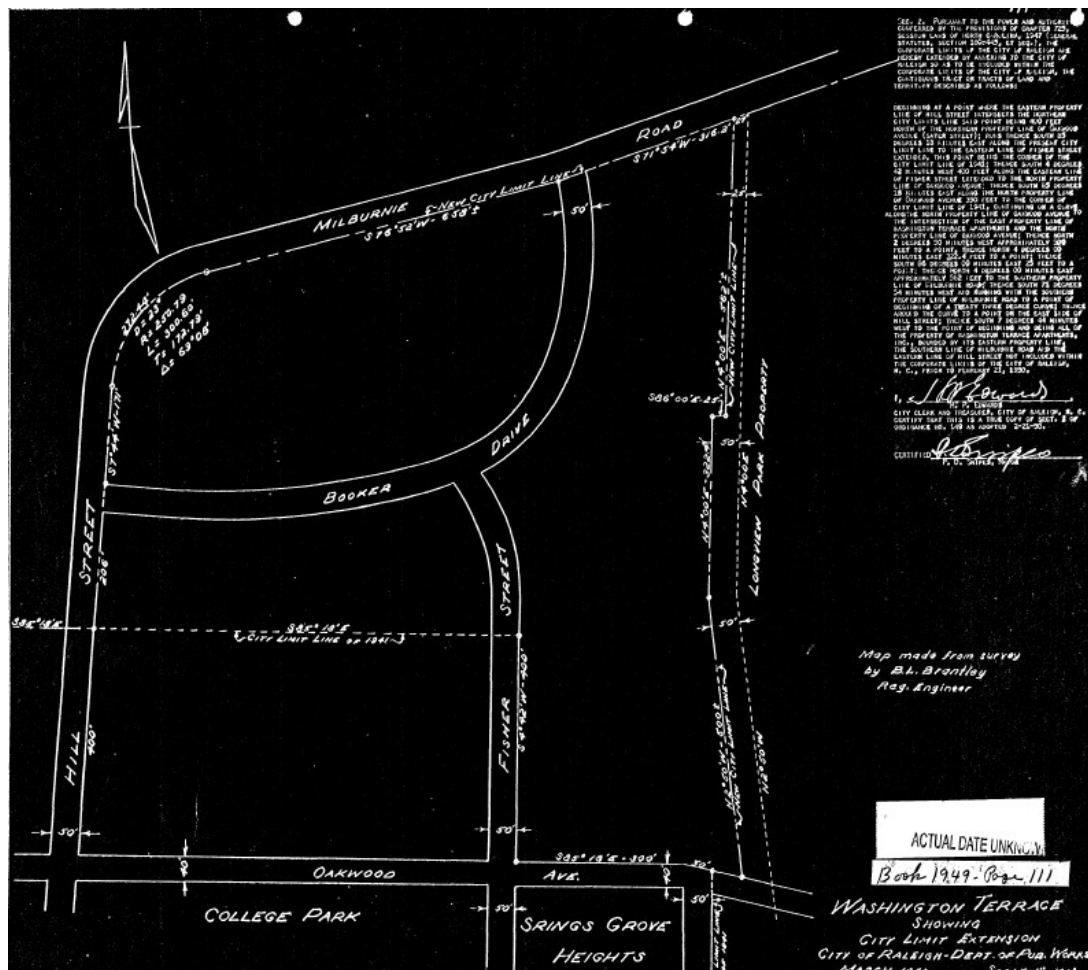
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<sup>20</sup> "Cameron Corner" (advertisement) *The News and Observer* March 1, 1959, p. 10

<sup>21</sup> Little, Ruth *The Development of Modernism in Raleigh, 1945-1965*, p.28

<sup>22</sup> "Dwelling Units are Planned at Lejeune," *The Rocky Mount Telegram*, October 1, 1950, p. 3

on December 30, 1949, for the purpose of building and renting an apartment project for colored people in Raleigh, North Carolina." <sup>23</sup> It included among its stockholders and/or officers J. W. York, James Poyner, Marshall Hartsfield, Ed Richards and Leif Valand.



Washington Terrace Site Plan, Wake County Map Books

In 1949 *The News and Observer* reported that a \$2,000,000 project for affordable housing for African Americans was being planned. The City of Raleigh would lease 50 acres of land of the old City Farm property for 75 years from which the city would receive both rental and property tax revenue.<sup>24</sup> Later that year it was reported that the Federal Housing Administration had approved a \$1,230,000 loan towards a \$1,600,000, 276-unit project to be built by J. W. York. It was described as "includ(ing) approximately 60 "garden-type" buildings of frame construction with wood siding and wood shingles...The layout will be similar to that at Country Club

<sup>23</sup> Washington Terrace Apartments Inc, Articles of Incorporation December 23, 1949.

<sup>24</sup> "Negro Apartments Planned," *The News and Observer* May 26, 1949, p.22.

Homes...Of the 276 apartment units...240 will be one-story and 36 two-story."<sup>25</sup> The project had been moved slightly to a 30-acre site which was optioned for purchase. The developers were responsible for paving streets, curbs, and gutters, and installing water and sewer lines.<sup>26</sup> Local lender Cliff Cameron also provided financing for the project which opened in 1950 over objections by neighbors. At its opening it was the "first privately owned Negro housing project in Raleigh, and the second in the State (sic)."<sup>27</sup> Land was set aside for a shopping center. The site is currently being cleared for re-development.

There is some evidence that Valand may have been involved in the design of **Country Club Homes (WA4605 1940, 1949)**. A group from Charlotte formed Country Club Homes Incorporated in 1940 to develop a tract in Raleigh. A later loan document references that the development would be designed by Charlotte architect Charles W. Connelly. However, in May 1949, Ed Richards, James Poyner, and Thomas Wilson incorporate as Country Club Properties, to purchase what was described as a 76-unit apartment complex, which roughly corresponds to the area between Fairview and Oberlin Roads, south of Middle Court. In August of that year Richards et al form Country Club Homes Addition and in September file a plat for roads in the northern half of the development. A June 1950 newspaper article describes Valand as the architect for Country Club Homes.<sup>28</sup> Thus it appear that Connelly designed the southern half of the development, and Valand the northern.

The units north of Middle Court are two- and three-unit, one-story buildings with side-gabled roofs and brick veneer siding. They are sited along curving drives on a rolling topography. Windows have been replaced. Entrances vary with gabled porticos or projecting pents, or gabled pents with metal or wooden brackets.

Other early apartment complexes include the **College View Apartments in Greenville (PT2175 1951)**<sup>29</sup> and a complex at the corner of **Beech and Daisy Streets (1953)** built by Don Howell in



*Country Club Homes, photo by the author*

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<sup>25</sup> "Negro Housing Loan Okayed," *The News and Observer* June 29, 1949, p.1.

<sup>26</sup> "City Approves Washington Terrace Plans," *The News and Observer*, February 18, 1950

<sup>27</sup> "Negro Apartments Open in City," *The News and Observer* June 16, 1950, p.20.

<sup>28</sup> IBID

<sup>29</sup> "Housing Project Underway in Pitt," *The News and Observer* October 19, 1951, p.8.

Goldsboro.<sup>30</sup> Both appear to be extant. In 1966 the Housing Authority for the City of Chapel Hill advertised for bids for a public housing complex with plans available from the architect, Leif Valand.<sup>31</sup> Architectural historian Cynthia de Miranda has also surmised that Valand was involved with the design of William Muirhead's mixed-use **Glen Lennox subdivision (OR1476, 1950-52)** in Chapel Hill.<sup>32</sup> Later Raleigh works attributed to Valand or his firm include the **Timberlake Apartments (1971)**, the **North Haven Apartments (1972)**, and **The Lakes (1973)**.

## Commercial, Industrial and Office Buildings

Valand's corporate buildings were incredibly diverse and many of them were part of York developments.

In 1955, Valand working with J. W. York designed the original **Raleigh Farmer's Market (WA4504)**. Initial permits were for buildings on a 62 acre site between Crabtree Creek and the Norfolk Southern railroad. York Construction was the contractor. Initial newspaper reports noted "First such market to be built in North Carolina, the facility will be known as the Raleigh Farmers Market and will serve as a distribution center for wholesale and produce dealers throughout this section of the state."<sup>33</sup> Robert Martin, the general manager of the market and a consultant to Valand on the design, was quoted as saying, "This is one of the most outstanding things that has happened to agriculture in North Carolina."<sup>34</sup>

The *News and Observer* noted,

The purpose of the project is to make for more economical handling of farm products sold and distributed in the Raleigh area. Most of the dealers locating on the market did not have rail service available at their warehouses, and truck traffic was awkward and trying, due to congestion. Their old facilities were not adequate, and the cost of handling was a big problem....The Raleigh Chamber of Commerce agricultural committee....was instrumental in getting J. W. York, local developer, to construct the new market on the present site as a private enterprise.<sup>35</sup>

The article continued,

In the general over-all plan for the development of the site is a retail section, a wholesale section, and one for allied industries...The key structures consist of store units for wholesale dealers, sheds for farmers and merchant truckers, paved open-street parking,

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<sup>30</sup> "Apartment Work Begins in Wayne," *The News and Observer* November 2, 1955, p.8.

<sup>31</sup> "Invitation for Bids," *The News and Observer* October 17, 1966, p.21.

<sup>32</sup> de Miranda, Cynthia, Survey of Glen Lennox, NC HPO survey files September 2017

<sup>33</sup> "Market Permit is Issued," *The News and Observer* February 5, 1955, p.13.

<sup>34</sup> IBID

<sup>35</sup> "Market is in New Development," *The News and Observer* September 23, 1955, p.18.

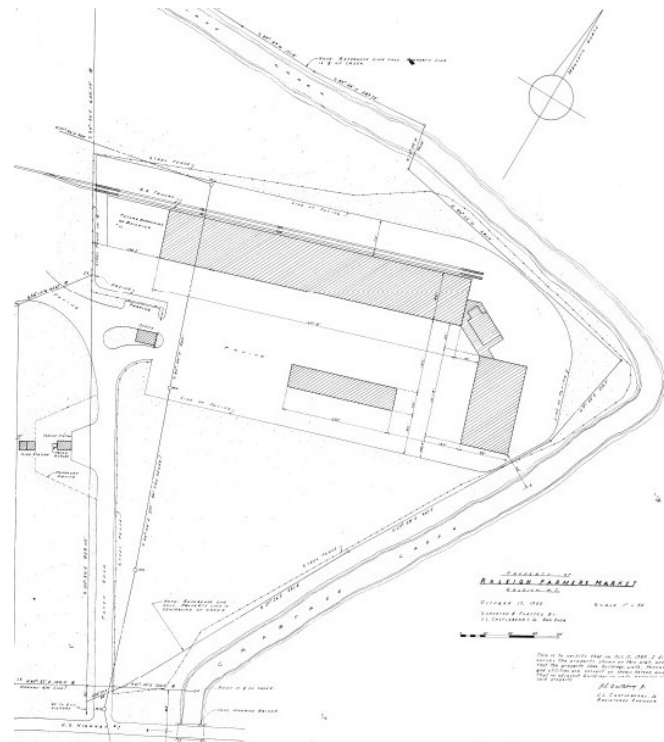


restaurant, barber shop, and truck fuel, icing and weighing facilities. The wholesale units are of concrete, steel and cement block construction. Twenty-eight of the units, measuring 22 1/2 feet wide and 100 feet deep, are serviced at the rear by a double-rail spur track. Eight units do not have rail connections. The rail platform is 10 feet wide, and in front is a 24-foot, truck-bed-height platform which serves for display and in-and-out loading. Both platforms are canopied. The farmer-trucker shed is of open type construction, with part having a two-foot height platform and street level.<sup>36</sup>

On-site access to the property is limited. Comparison of a 1955 map of the property, the description from the media, aerial photos, and current photographs from the right of way show that the original core buildings remain with little alteration. New structures have been added. What is now Hodges Road was originally a private road servicing the market. The icing station and scales, originally west of the road, are no longer extant and their former location is now part of a separate parcel.



*Aerial View Raleigh Farmer's Market, Google Earth 2020*



*Raleigh Farmer's Market Plat, Wake County Map Books*

<sup>36</sup> IBID



*Raleigh Farmer's market, photo by the author*

Willie York developed the first industrial park in North Carolina, the eponymous York Industrial Park, in 1951. Three Valand-designed buildings remain: the **American Machine and Foundry Building (WA8011, 1956)**, **Kraft Foods Company (1957)**, and **Norfolk Southern Railroad Offices (1962)**. They stand in a row along Yonkers Road just inside the Raleigh Beltline.

The American Machine and Foundry Building is a large, one-story International Style building with a continuous band of windows along the facade interrupted only by the glazed entrance vestibule, sheltered by "V" shaped canopy supported by metal posts. The building is set back on the site suggesting a suburban campus headquarters, a suggestion contradicted by the later, dense growth in the region. The building is simple, but sophisticated.

The Kraft Foods Company Building was designed as a 30,000 square-foot building that included 3,000 square feet of refrigerated space. Currently used as a furniture showroom, much of the



*Kraft Foods Company Building, photo by the author*



interior has been gutted. However the loading dock with bays of rollup doors at the north end of the facade speaks to the building's industrial origins. The facade retains banks of four-light, horizontal-pane windows, as well as integrated planters, a design element frequently used by Valand.



*Norfolk Southern Building, photo by the author*

Norfolk Southern broke ground for their two-story building in 1961. It was to be the railroad's headquarters but may have only housed administrative functions. The building has a common bond brick exterior and a flat roof. Windows, which may be replacements, are a large fixed pane over what appears to be a hopper window. There is a exterior canopy at the main entrance supported by metal posts.

The interior plan is likely not original though an entrance foyer with a stone floor and a period interior stair with vertical aluminum members and a solid panel with aluminum handrail remain.

Two of Valand's early industrial buildings, now no longer extant, were in what was known as the Crabtree Industrial Park, located just inside the beltline, east of Wake Forest Road, north of and Crabtree Creek. The 1958 **Kellogg Building** and the 1964 **Pepsi Cola Bottling Plant** both have been demolished.

Historic photographs of the Kellogg Building show a long-slung, one-story building clad in brick veneer with a flat roof. A band of square windows in a projecting concrete frame nearly spans the facade. The recessed entrance is flanked by partial-height, stone-clad panels with a narrow bank of windows above, that fit below the projecting concrete window frame. Below each stone panel is an integrated planter, clad in stone. A concrete path leads to the recessed entrance and is sheltered by a canted canopy on round metal posts. Resting on the projecting concrete window frame are large letters spelling "KELLOGG" on one side of the entrance and on the other "communications division of ITT."



*Kellogg Building, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

carrier products," which were the basis for cellular telephones. Valand was the architect and York Building Company the contractor.

<sup>37</sup>

Just south of the Kellogg building, Valand's Pepsi Cola Bottling Company building opened in 1964. A historic photograph shows a building of three sections. In the left hand side of the image is a low, one-story, brick-veneered building section with the letters "PEPSI COLA" affixed to the exterior wall. To the far right appears to be a two-story section, again with a flat roof and brick veneer, and vertical units evenly spaced along the facade with windows at the center with light-colored panels above and below. The one-story center section projects forward with a rectangular canopy and a bank of narrow, vertical rectangular windows that stretch from a planter to the canopy/eave above. The entrance to the building is by an inset porch at the left side of the central section as shown in the photograph, where a single post supports the overhanging canopy, sheltering a glassed entrance. The grand opening was attended by Pepsi CEO Donald Kendall and actress Joan Crawford, a member of the Pepsi Board of Directors. Construction costs were \$2,000,000 for the 75,000 square foot facility. J. M. Thompson and Sons was the contractor.<sup>38</sup>



*Kellogg Building, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*



*Pepsi Cola Building, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

<sup>37</sup> "Kellogg Plant Dedication Set for 11:30 A.M.; Tour Planned," *The News and Observer* December 11, 1958, p.1.

<sup>38</sup> "Pepsi-Cola Dedicates its New Plant Today," *The News and Observer* October 31, 1964, p.19.

The **McCracken Supply Company (WA8138, 1956)** hired Valand to design a 40,000 square-foot warehouse south of downtown. Though adapted now for use as a church and a medical facility, several original design aspects remain--the large front gables with exposed structural steel; a projecting canopy covering along the facade; and the hallmark integrated masonry planter. Over a decade later the company again hired Valand to design a showroom (see Retail section).



*McCracken Supply Company Building, photo by the author*

Arguably Valand's finest corporate building is the **Peden Steel Headquarters (WA4503, 1963)**.



*Peden Steel Headquarters Building, photo by the author*



This International Style building was published in *The Southern Architect* in 1964, which noted

The Architects were commissioned to design an office building for the Administrative division of a steel fabricating and steel specialties company using structural steel and steel building products in an imaginative and esthetic way. Expressed steel includes exterior and interior columns, floor spandrels, vertical siding, roof fascia, and interior and exterior stairs. The floor and roof systems are metal decking on open web joists.

The two story building contains a total of 15,450 square feet with 6800 square feet on the first floor and 8650 square feet on the second. A five foot overhang on each side and a ten foot roof overhang assists with sun control...<sup>39</sup>



*Peden Steel Headquarters Building, photo by the author*

The primary entrance was accessed by a foot bridge over a rectangular reflecting pond that spanned the facade, likely a contribution by the associated landscape architect for the project, Richard Bell. The interiors have been changed but the entrance lobby still has terazzo flooring and a steel, two-run stair set in a shallow pond (now filled with stones) that ascends in front of an accent wall that appears to be a walnut panel.

In the early 1960s, Valand returned to work on projects near Cameron Village-the **North Carolina Bar Center (WA7994, 1961)**, and the **Presbyterian Synod**, both along Wade Avenue. Ground was broken in May 1961 for the North Carolina Bar Center. *The News and Observer* reported that the land was donated, and the cost was estimated to be roughly \$150,000. The bar center building has been greatly altered with the insertion of a vertical band of glazing centered on the facade and additional second story windows on the north side of the facade. It does retain planters flanking the main entrance.

J. W. York provided the land for the synod building a one-story, 5000-square foot facility constructed by Davidson and Jones for \$85,000. The synod building retains its same size and massing and much of the exterior materials. Tax record photos on file with the Wake County assessor's office show that the four southern bays along the facade contained screening, either

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<sup>39</sup> "Peden Steel Office Building," *The Southern Architect* September 1964, p 16.

breeze blocks or a metal brise-soleil, that is now gone though the steel structural grid that supported them remains exposed.



*Cameron Village Post Office, photo by the author*

The **Cameron Village Post Office (WA8054, 1962)**, recently demolished, was an excellent example of Valand's brand of the International Style. The building was stripped down, with minimal applied decoration. Its horizontal emphasis was reinforced by a continuous band of windows along the second floor facade, set within a box with a projecting cornice above and projecting beltcourse below framed by vertical projecting members at each corner. The windows were repeated on the first floor, south of the recessed entrance. North of the entrance was a stone-faced wall with a few display



*Cameron Village Post Office, photo by the author*



*Cameron Brown offices Wade Avenue, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

windows and a ribbon of rectangular clerestory windows. The use of crab orchard stone and the inclusion of integrated planters were Valand hallmarks.

Valand designed the **Cameron Brown** offices at 900 Wade Avenue (1959).

Valand's firm later designed the **Cameron Brown Building** and the **First Union Building** (1970) on Six Forks Road. T. A. Loving was the contractor for both and the Cameron Brown building was constructed at

the cost of \$3,632,163.<sup>40</sup> The nine-story First Citizens Building has been greatly altered and it is unclear if when the four story companion building was demolished. Both were associated with the greater North Hills development by Ed Richards.

Valand's firm designed the headquarters for the **Public Service Company of North Carolina (WA8028, 1967)** An article in the News and Observer is one of the few contemporaneous narratives with extensive quotations from Valand himself. Some reflect his business practices and others address the design itself. Valand is quoted

When B. E. Zeigler of Gastonia, president of Public Service Company of North Carolina, first came to us he said he wanted a building that would indicate the progress the gas company has made over the years and that is what we tried to give him. He has been a good client and when you get a good client, you're apt to get a good building.<sup>41</sup>

Given the opportunity to tout his own practice, Valand deflects to some extent to promote his client and to credit the client with the success of the project. Again we see Valand's ethos to be a client-focused practice and not a designer-driven, "starchitect" firm. York Construction Company was the contractor and the estimated construction cost was \$500,000. The article continues to describe the building

(it) will be constructed of architectural cast stone, bronze-tinted glass and aluminum, with supporting members tinted bronze. The base of the building will be brown brick. The main entrance will be on Hillsborough Street via a podium. The podium will feature a fire fountain and a reflecting pool. The visitor will enter a large reception area on the first floor. On the wall facing the main entrance will be a decorative device...<sup>42</sup>

The article continues to outline the program for the building. Norman Bartholomew was credited as the project architect and Robert Phillips was the associated landscape architect.

Valand's firm designed a building for **WPFT/Durham Life Insurance Company** in downtown Raleigh that has been highly altered and now houses the Alfred E. Williams Company. One other commercial building credited to Valand, the **Western Union Building (1954)** which appears in a photograph from the News and Observer collection.



*Western Union Building, News and Observer Collection,  
State Archives of North Carolina*

<sup>40</sup> email correspondence with Steve Bryan of T. A Loving Company dated May 4, 2020

<sup>41</sup> Jane Hall, "Hallmarks," *The News and Observer* June 18, 1967, p.8.

<sup>42</sup> IBID



## Social/Recreation

A legal notice in *The News and Observer* in 1957 credits Valand with preparing drawing to rehabilitate the **YMCA at North Carolina State College**.<sup>43</sup> Little is known about this particular project and the building has since been demolished, however Valand had a continued association with the YMCA/YWCA in North Carolina. Including the **Hillsborough Street YMCA (WA4596 1958-60)**, and the **Bloodworth Street YMCA (1979)** as well as the **Central YWCA (1975)**<sup>44</sup> and YMCA property- in Arapahoe in eastern North Carolina, **Camp Seafarer (1961)** which involved Ed Richards, James Poyner and Willie York.<sup>45</sup>

The Central YWCA is closed and investigations to find its location are on-going. Drawings in the Special Collections of North Carolina State University show that Valand working in collaboration with Scovil and Rairden and landscape architect Henry C. Hammond designed the Bloodworth Street YMCA in its new location on Garner Road in 1979. Reliable sources suggest that Valand's work at Camp Seagull is gone as well. But of all the Y-related projects perhaps the greatest lost is the demolition of the YMCA on Hillsborough Street. James Poyner and Willie York, both Valand colleagues, were involved with the project as members of the Executive Committee of the Board. T. A. Loving was the contractor and the construction cost was \$1,125,000.<sup>46</sup>

The northern section of the building had four stories of lodging accommodations with 92 rooms, and the southern section housed recreation facilities including a gym and indoor pool. The facade had dual entrances sheltered by a projecting canopy supported by metal posts. The entrances were in brick



*YMCA construction photo, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

base that was setback from the upper floors and clad in red brick. The upper stories of the facade were clad in white glazed brick with slightly projecting horizontal bands of brick separating

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<sup>43</sup> "Advertisement for Bids or Alterations to First Floor, North Wing, North Carolina State College Y.M.C.A.," *The News and Observer* August 16, 1957, p.27.

<sup>44</sup> "Building Plans for YWCA are on Drawing Boards," *The News and Observer*, April 12, 1968

<sup>45</sup> "Local YMCA's Camp for Girls Dedicated" *The News and Observer*, July 10, 1961, p.20.

<sup>46</sup> email correspondence with Steve Bryan of T. A Loving Company dated May 4, 2020

recessed band with paired casement windows. The redbrick elevator tower to the east was slightly setback from the facade and carried large metal letters vertically spelling "YMCA."

Drawings in the Special Collections at NCSU with a Leif Valand and Associates title block show that the firm also worked on a **Gymnasium in Elkin (1963)** and limited on-line research suggest that this is the gym for the local high school and that it remains standing.

In the early 1960s and again in the 1970s Valand was involved with new construction and renovations of buildings belonging to the City of Raleigh Department of Parks and Recreation. These included new buildings at **Pullen Arts and Crafts Building (WA8046 1961)**,<sup>47</sup> **Lions Park (WA 8010, 1961)**, **Chavis Park (1961)**, **Jaycee Park (1961)**,<sup>48</sup> **Carolina Pines Park (1972)**, **Biltmore Hills Park (1972)** and **Millbrook Exchange Park (1971)** and a rehabilitation project at the **Raleigh Little Theater (1963)**.<sup>49</sup> The latter parks buildings were designed under Valand Benzing and Associates.

The building at Chavis Park has been altered and is slated for extensive changes as is Pullen Arts Center. The buildings at Jaycee, Carolina Pines, Biltmore Hills and Millbrook Exchange have all received some alterations over time but the primary design is the same for all. They are one-story, concrete block buildings with a brick-veneer exterior and a flat roof. The gym section of the building is taller than the rest of the building. Most of the centers originally had lower volumes of office, meeting rooms, locker rooms, and restrooms along two sides of the gym but many have expanded their original footprint.



*Above Carolina Pines Recreation Center; Left Millbrook Exchange Recreation Center photos by the author*

<sup>47</sup> "Architect is Appointed for Recreation Project," *The News and Observer* January 19, 1960, p. 13.

<sup>48</sup> "Time Extension Asked by City Hall Builder," *The News and Observer* March 5, 1960, p.18.

<sup>49</sup> "Council Calls for Plans On Park Improvements," *The News and Observer* November 8, 1960, p.10.



On the exterior, structural steel was exposed at the roof and sometimes at building corners or as vertical members on the gym section. On the interior, structural steel is exposed and in some cases is now brightly painted. One hallmark of the interior are office spaces with recessed wooden panels and glazing, in a grooved wooden framing.

In the 1960s as Research Triangle Park was expanding, IBM announced their intention to add a facility in North Carolina. Developer Ed Richards saw the potential in developing additional housing for the workers re-locating to the south and also saw a need for a new country club for its executives as the waiting list at existing clubs was long. Richards assembled a large parcel well north of Raleigh to develop North Ridge and the **North Ridge Country Club**. For the housing development, he did not build and sell homes, but sold lots to other builders under the umbrella of North Ridge, Inc with Cameron-Brown Company. The clubhouse itself was credited in news reports to Leif Valand<sup>50</sup> but other publications say it was designed by Dean Best, project architect and project manager for Leif Valand and Associates.<sup>51</sup> Though now greatly altered the original building was a low-slung building with a metal hipped roof ascending to a raised light well structure with a flat roof. Renderings suggest broad eaves with outriggers and use of stone veneer along the facade, planters, and piers for the porte-cochere.

Valand also designed the **Raleigh Woman's Club (WA7973, 1968)**. Built on a slope, this one-story brick building with an exposed basement at the rear, has a shingled, faux mansard roof, a tall central atrium with clerestory windows, and a central entrance with a canopy extending to the street, supported by brick piers. Though significantly smaller than the North Ridge Country Club club house, the horizontal emphasis of the building, the clerestoried atrium, and the covered entrance are consistent design elements. Valand's firm was one of six interviewed for the project. Mrs. L. Y. Ballentine, chairwoman of the project noted in media reports, "Personalities were of no consideration in the choice...Mr. Valand was reluctant to promote himself, wanting only to be of service to the club."<sup>52</sup> Mrs. Leif Valand was the immediate past president of the club.

## Retail

Valand's work in Cameron Village positioned him for additional retail work in Raleigh, across North Carolina and even out of state. In some cases he and his firm were responsible for an entire complex and at other times only individual stores can be confidently attributed to Valand and his colleagues. His retail portfolio grew steadily in the 1950s and 1960s moving from individual stores and small strip malls to larger projects and enclosed shopping malls.

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<sup>50</sup> "New Country Club Being Built Here," *The News and Observer* March 1, 1967, p.21.

<sup>51</sup> Diana L. Bailey, *North Ridge Country Club-A Vision Becomes Reality*. Brookfield, Mo: The Donning Company, 2019.

<sup>52</sup> "New Woman's Clubhouse to Be Near Glenwood and Beltline," *The News and Observer* January 18, 1968, p.19.

In 1951 he was the architect for **Ridgewood Shopping Center** in Raleigh, adjacent to the subdivision for which he designed several model homes for and with developer Ed Richards. The shopping center remains, but is greatly altered.

In 1954 he designed a **W.T. Grant Department Store** in Goldsboro at the corner of James and Walnut Streets.<sup>53</sup> The T. A. Loving Company was the contractor.

In that year he also had a large out-of-state commission. J. W. York partnered with Charles Glueck of Gary Indiana to build the **Tri-City Shopping Plaza** on a 55 acre parcel near Chicago.<sup>54</sup> The initial land planning was done by Seward Mott who had laid out the initial plans for Cameron Village. Valand was

included as a consultant and local press cited Cameron Village in reports about the new shopping center.<sup>55</sup> The construction was not complete until 1958 and the first phase was 170,000 square feet. The exterior included canopied walk and brick and limestone veneered walls and ample surface parking. Google Street view images suggest it remains though altered.



*W. T. Grant store, Goldsboro, photo by the author*



*Longview Shopping Center, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

Closer to home, Valand designed the **Longview Shopping Center** on New Bern Avenue in Raleigh in 1954. Again Seward Mott was responsible for land planning. J. M. Thompson and Company was the builder.<sup>56</sup> The center was owned by Longview Gardens, Inc. The stores were to be stone, brick, and glass and were to be air conditioned and have surface parking. In 1956 Valand added a doctor's office. A bank added that year was designed by Charles Davis.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>53</sup> "New Goldsboro Store," *The News and Observer* June 26, 1954, p.16.

<sup>54</sup> "York Partner in Big Center," *The News and Observer* February 12, 1954, p.30.

<sup>55</sup> "Gary To Begin 4.5 Million Shop Center," *Chicago Tribune* January 31, 1954, p.1

<sup>56</sup> "Permit Issued for Center," *The News and Observer* February 6, 1954, p.8.

<sup>57</sup> "Building Plans Announced," *The News and Observer* July 19, 1956, p.5.

In 1956 Valand designed a free-standing **Roses Store (WL0577)** in Wilson.<sup>58</sup> The Roses appears from Google Streetview to have a relatively intact exterior, minus the word Roses spelled out in giant loopy script across the parapet. The heroic parapet storefront provided monumental signage/advertising space for the one-story, 20,000-sqft store built by Jones Brothers Construction Company. The **Sunrise Shopping Center** in Goldsboro, built the following year, is extant but highly altered.

Valand's work was not limited to new construction, nor was he adverse to revisiting old projects. In 1958 he renovated the interior of the **Jean's Women's Store** in Cameron Village. "The shoe department features increased space for the convenience and comfort of shoppers...Furnishings and trim are a combination of limed oak, wrought iron and fabric in shades of aqua, green, black and white with complementing pastel shades...A special ceiling has been installed...with fluorescent lighting designed to accurately show the color of the shoes and hats."<sup>59</sup>

Valand is credited with the **Eastgate Shopping Center** in Chapel Hill though the documentation is sparse. However his connection with the **Northgate Shopping Center** in Durham in 1962 with later work there in 1974 (movie theater and restaurant) is stronger.

In Raleigh, he designed the **Gateway Plaza Shopping Center** off Capital Boulevard in 1962.<sup>60</sup> The general footprint of this strip shopping center remains as does the ample surface parking to its north. The canopied walkway has a recent addition of a metal sloped coping above, giving the structure a mansard appearance, and the canopy supports appear in a historic aerial photograph to have been metal pipe though they are now clad in brick. The open metal trellis at the right-angle turn in the building, as well as the sculptural metal projection at the north corner of the building, are not original and have been added between 2018 and 2019. One of the notable aspects of remaining original fabric are the concrete shadow blocks used in panels along with brick in the exterior veneer. The center was developed by a



*Gateway Shopping Center, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

<sup>58</sup> "Construction of New Roses Store is to Begin Shortly," *Wilson Daily Times* January 30, 1956, p.9

<sup>59</sup> "Jeans Remodeling Completed," *The News and Observer* March 9, 1958, Section II p.7.

<sup>60</sup> "40-Acre Shopping Center Planned on U. S. 1 Here," *The News and Observer* August 19, 1962, p.8.

partnership of Seby B. Jones of Raleigh and Robert Gorham of Rocky Mount. A national firm, the Kislak Company, was the leasing agent. In 1967 an **Arlan's Store** was added. Ray Sparrow of Valand's firm handled much of the construction management for Arlan's.<sup>61</sup>

In 1963 Valand designed the **North Hills Shopping Center** for Ed Richards, adjacent to the eponymous subdivision, also developed by Richards. The shopping center and subsequent mall have been demolished but the northern Service Center section designed by Valand remains, though highly altered.



*Cardinal Theatre-North Hills Service Center News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

In 1963 Valand is credited with the remodeling of the stand-alone **Campus Room** store in Rocky Mount. Though the building at 213 S.E. Main Street remains, much of Valand's contributions appear to be gone. An article in the *Rocky Mount Telegram* on the occasion of the store's re-opening gives a description of the design and some insight into Valand's ability to collaborate with clients. In this case, the client was the store manager who had previously worked at the Burton's in Cameron Village and had also worked in retail in New York City. Though the Cameron Village connection to Valand is strong, Valand also worked in retail design in New York, prior to moving to North Carolina. The manager James B. Herring is credited as having inspired the look for the Village Squire Shop in Cameron Village, an inspiration for the Campus Room. However it should be noted that Herring, a Rocky Mount native, is clearly a prominent local citizen and the true extent of the collaboration with Herring and Valand is not clear. It is however one of the most detailed contemporary description of a Valand project. The store is described,

A brown tweed wall-to-wall carpet covers the Campus Room floor. Walls are painted a stucco color, and the trim is pine, which has been stained dark walnut. The exterior is painted with the same stucco or off-white color. Trim is dark oak. A brick walk leads from the city sidewalk to the double wooden doors of the shop. The bay window is to the left of the entrance. The display window is composed of small window panes instead of the usually large glass pane in stores. Black washpots filled with ivy are on each side of the display window. Electric candles shine in the shuttered second floor windows.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>61</sup> "A Rocky Problem," *The News and Observer* August 13, 1967. p9

<sup>62</sup> "Campus Room Opens with New Image," *Rocky Mount Telegram* October 27, 1963, p.6-C

The project reinforces characterizations of Valand's versatility in design vocabulary and his willingness to collaborate with clients to meet their needs.

Through the 1960s Valand and his firm designed numerous shopping centers including **Four Seasons Mall and Hotel** in Greensboro, **Holly Hill Mall** in Burlington, **Quail Corners Shopping Center** in Raleigh and the **University Mall** in Chapel Hill.<sup>63</sup> Ed Richards was the developer for University Mall and was a consultant to Holly Hill Mall which was developed by Bareco. The Holly Hill Mall was originally credited to Valand but by 1968, news reports credit Nelson Benzing as the project architect. T.A. Loving built the Holly Hill Mall at a cost of \$6,572,004.<sup>64</sup>

His firm designed the **Thomas Woods Tire Store** in Raleigh in 1968, location yet unknown. "Thomas Woods" was a re-branding of the retail arm of T.W. McCracken, formerly Tire Sales and Service. The contractor was Davidson and Jones.



*Thomas Woods Store, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

Valand had a strong relationship with the **Thalhimer's** department store out of Richmond, Virginia. A 1967 article in *The High Point Enterprise* states Valand would be designing the interior of their anchor store for the Westgate Mall Shopping Center noting that Valand had done interiors for Thalhimer's stores in Winston-Salem, Durham and Richmond. Repeat work for this retail client indicates Valand's talent for retail interiors as well as his ability to provide good customer service<sup>65</sup>

In 1972 Valand Benzing and Associates were credited with the design for a shopping center in Raeford. **The Edinborough Center (1973)** was developed by North Hills, Inc. The first phase was to be 52,000 square feet with room for expansion.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> "Mall Becomes Real Under Richards' Direction," *The Chatham Record* August 2, 1973, p.10

<sup>64</sup> email correspondence with Steve Bryan of T. A Loving Company dated May 4, 2020

<sup>65</sup> "Thalhimer Plans Confirmed Here," *High Point Enterprise* April 20, 1967, p.25

<sup>66</sup> "Shopping Center Representatives Visit Here and Announce Construction Plans," *The News-Journal*, October 19, 1972, p.1

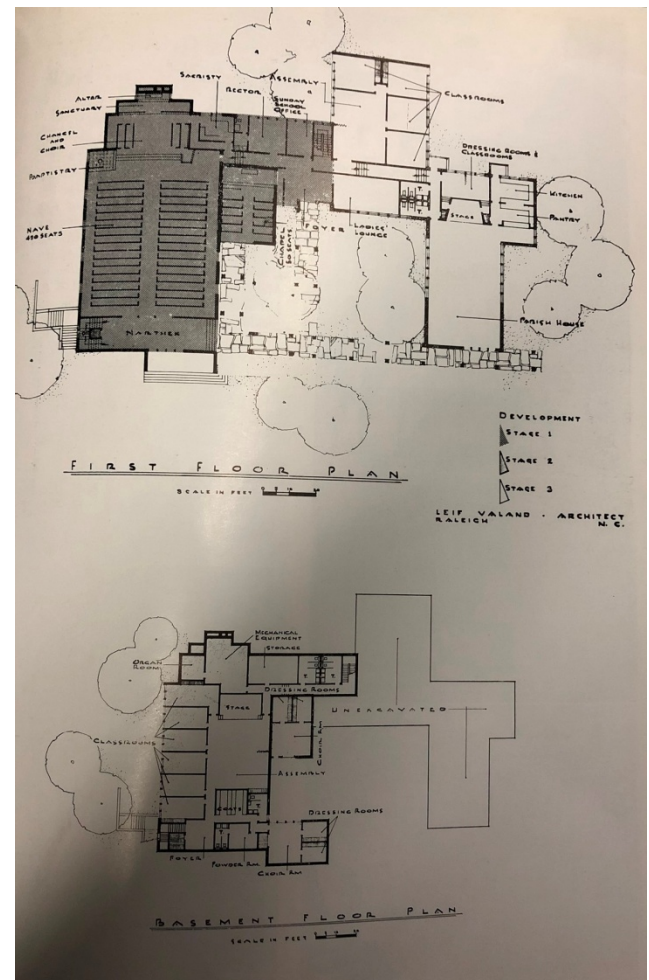
## Religious

The postwar building boom seen across the country as well as in Raleigh spurred new suburban subdivisions fueled in part by federal funding and a strong post war economy. Church building grew during this period as well. "In 1947, \$126 million was spent on churches; by 1953 this number had almost quadrupled, to just under half a billion dollars."<sup>67</sup> New church buildings followed population growth away from the center city to parcels that allowed for enlarged spaces to support expanded ministries. Valand designed three Episcopal churches in Raleigh all in a modernist style: **St. Michael's Episcopal Church (WA4599 1955)**; St. Savior's, later known at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (WA7977 1957)**; and **St. Ambrose Episcopal Church (WA8136 1965)**.

The first of these was Valand's own parish where he was active and served on the vestry. His commission for the building may also stem from the fact that the 8 acre site was donated by Mary Smedes York and her husband Willie York, for whom Valand had designed, and continued to design, the build out for the massive Cameron Village development.

An article in *The News and Observer* noted that the builders were Ed Richards and J.W. York, both members of the church.<sup>68</sup> And a plaque at St Michaels credits York with a donation of the land. Hal Worth was the chairman of the building committee. The church was to be built in phases with a parish wing designed by Valand to be built later, a fact confirmed by his son Mark Valand. The cost of the initial construction was estimated to be \$226,000. The church can be safely described as modernist though a contemporary report suggests a design "derived from French Colonial, Norman and Gothic architecture."<sup>69</sup>

The original portion was the church worship space with some limited support spaces on the east side of the south elevation and a belfry in the crook of the ell. The dominant form was a bold A-frame sanctuary with a



*Plans of Saint Michael's as reproduced in The Southern Architect, June 1957*

<sup>67</sup> Gretchen Buggeln, *The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in Postwar America*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015, p. xxii

<sup>68</sup> "Groundbreaking Rites Set," *The News and Observer* December 23, 1955 p.6.

<sup>69</sup> "New Church," *The News and Observer*, August 22, 1956 p.26



recessed, four-bay entrance porch behind slender brick piers that extend from grade to the interior of the large triangular form. Flanking the entrance porch are triangular brick walls with planters to their west. Within the porch is a stained glass surround and wooden doors with tall wooden panels above with a metal cross superimposed on the panels. The belfry is a square brick tower with rectangular masonry openings trimmed with cast stone on all four sides, exposing the bells. The south and west elevations have a central recessed vertical panel of cast stone or concrete.

The 1965 addition, (also by Valand ), extended the support wing further south with a turn to the west to create a "C" shaped foot print. Between 2002 and 2004 a wing was expanded to the east. and in 2010 an addition was added to the north. Though set back, the northern addition with a smaller front gable that mimics the original, detracts from the initial design intent.

St. Saviour's, now known as St. Timothy's, was built on land valued at \$16,000, donated by Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Bryan, and Mr. and Mrs. C.B. McNairy. It was to be built in phases. The parish hall was to be built first by A. E. Rackley Construction Company at a cost of \$80,000 to be followed by the church (estimated at \$100,000) and later an auditorium. Also an A-frame church, it has clinker brick walls and a glazed terra-cotta breeze block facade superimposed with a white cast-stone cross.



*St Timothy's Church, photo by the author*



*St Ambrose Church, photo by the author*

Like St. Michaels and St. Timothy's, St. Ambrose is also an A-frame church, clad in brick, constructed with laminated wood trusses, with spare and minimal ornament, but including a monumental symbolic gesture in the form of colossal ornamental cross dominating the facade.

In her book *The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in Postwar America*, Gretchen Buggeln describes the A-Frame church as "a building whose dominant shape was a triangle, having a steeply pitched roof that often rested on low side walls. The gable end of these buildings almost always fronted the street, a dominant facade that became a familiar sight along the main thoroughfares of

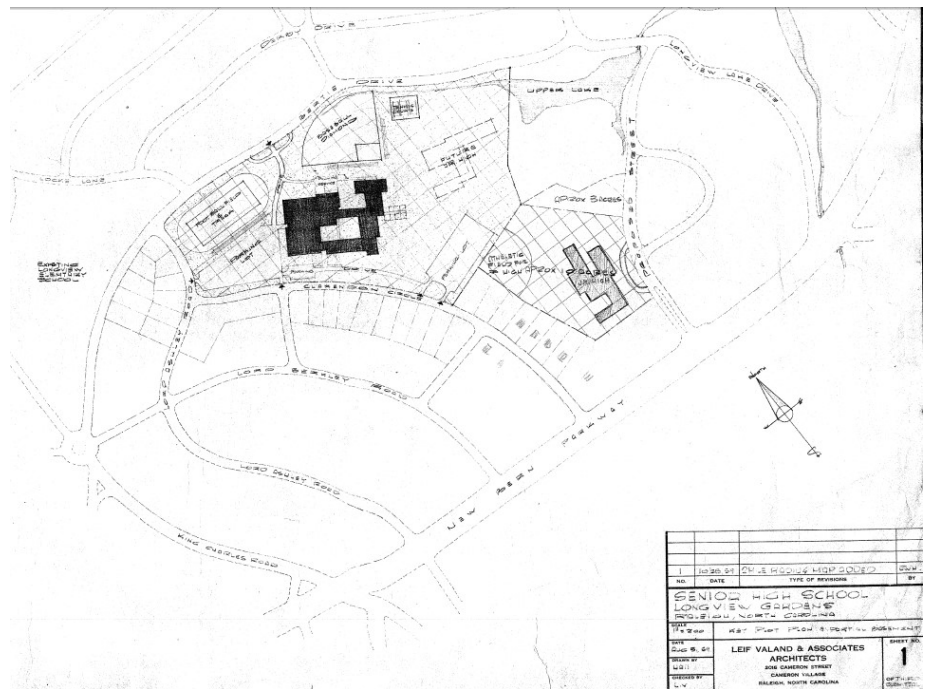
suburban neighborhoods."<sup>70</sup> The churches were often built with the relatively new technology of laminated wood trusses. <sup>71</sup> Buggeln also notes that the adaptability of the form and ability to phase construction helped fuel the popularity of the form. "A-frame churches are identified by the triangular elevation and rectangular plan of their sanctuaries. The rest of the church plant was also standardized, most frequently consisting of low, one-story wing(s) that contained classrooms, offices, and social spaces. These wings were easily added or enlarged, appealing to congregations that required staged building."<sup>72</sup>

**Ridge Road Baptist Church (1960)** hired Valand to design buildings for its campus.<sup>73</sup> While details are sparse, tax records indicate that the primary church dates to the 1940s but that two Colonial Revival buildings to the west from ca 1960 could be the buildings referenced by news reports.<sup>74</sup> **Grace Lutheran Church (1962)** designs in drawings with North Carolina State University are on Leif Valand and Associates title block sheets, but appear to be largely the design work of Abie Harris. **Manley Street United Church of Christ (1972)** was designed by the firm but specifically attributed to Nelson Benzing and Harry Watkins.<sup>75</sup>

## Education

There are only a few educational buildings associated with Valand. The earliest, the **Sweet Gum School (1954)** in Caswell County appears to have been converted into the Lakulish Yoga Center and Retreat.

In 1958 Valand was chosen to design a high school in Raleigh on Bertie Drive. **William G. Enloe High School (1962)** opened in 1962. A bronze plaque in the lobby lists Valand as the architect as well as other dignitaries including school board members, one of whom was J. W.



Portion of Site Plan Enloe High School, Courtesy Wake County Public Schools

<sup>70</sup> Buggeln, p. 86.

<sup>71</sup> Buggeln, p. 88.

<sup>72</sup> Buggeln, p. 100.

<sup>73</sup> "Church Marks Rally Day," *The News and Observer* October 5, 1957, p.6.

<sup>74</sup> "Ridge Road Church Plans Ceremonies," *The News and Observer* July 16, 1959, p.15.

<sup>75</sup> "Work Begins on Church's New Facility," *The News and Observer* March 18, 1972, p.16.



York. William G. Vick was the contractor. The school is a masonry building with a flat roof and brick veneered exterior walls laid out around an interior courtyard. Between 1993 and 1998 a canopy at the southeast was added which extends to a covered walkway to the campus of the former Aycock Junior High School to the east. A large addition was added to the northeast in 2006. The interiors were not accessible.



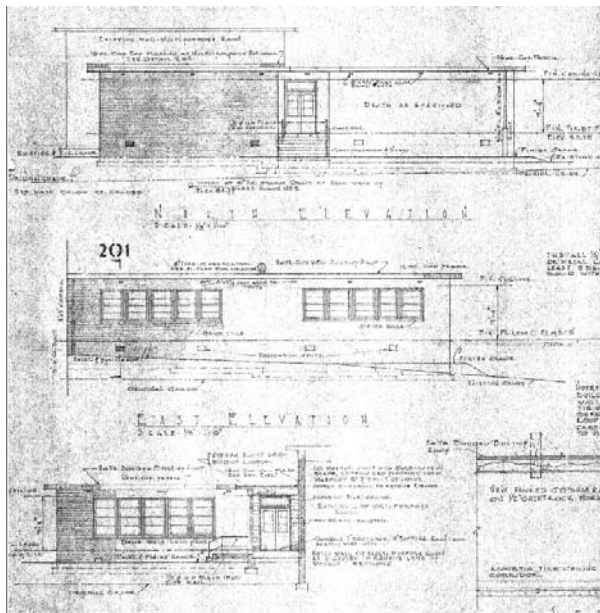
*Enloe High School, photo by the author*

The southern half of the school is a two stories with a one-story section to the north. Floor plans show double-loaded corridors throughout with an auditorium and gym at the west end and beyond them a lunch room on the first floor, to the north. The principal entrance is through a series of doors in a glazed surround, setback between two flanking, protruding wings and sheltered by an overhanging canopy supported by steel columns forming a porch. The western section has a nearly continuous bank of windows--each a column of four rectangular lights. The roof has a narrow cornice and a deep eave above the windows. East of the entrance porch is a two story section. This section has three large bays with projecting brick end walls, divided by projecting masonry pilasters with brick-veneer faces and exposed vents on their sides. The bays are further subdivided with cast stone pilasters. Each floor has banks of windows in a similar configuration as those on the west side. Though the windows themselves appear to be replacements, they appear to be in original masonry openings.

A secondary entrance at the south end of the facade is obscured by a later canopy. The parapet wall above it contains a decorative grid of glass blocks set in brick masonry. This decorative motif is repeated on the west elevation at a wall north of a secondary entrance that appears to lead to a hall servicing the auditorium, gym and lunch room. Also notable on this elevation is a curving brick wall that encloses a small garden. The area is too large to be a planter per se, but it does echo Valand's frequent choice to have a dedicated space for plantings near building entrances.

In 1964 Valand was chosen for the adjacent **Aycock Junior High School (1965)**. The school closed in 1979 and the building and grounds were absorbed into the Enloe campus. The Aycock building is similar to the Enloe building in many regards but simplified. A large part of the building at the east end was demolished in 2007 to make room for an outdoor tennis complex. The earliest aerial photographs available show the building's footprint as having an "L" shape with an additional square volume west of the lower section of the "L." The facade most likely was symmetrical with two-story wings flanking a one-story entrance pavilion, which as with Enloe, is set back beneath a projecting roof, in this case cantilevered. Within the porch, flanking the entrance doors are brick walls with a grid of glass blocks, mimicking the device from the earlier Enloe building.

The remaining west wing has bays divided evenly by low-profile brick pilasters and each bay has on each floor a bank of nine-light windows divided into a 3x3 grid.



*Portion of Elevations, Mary E. Phillips School addition, Courtesy Wake County Public Schools*

Valand did additional work for schools in Raleigh with **additions to the Mary E Phillips School (WA4253)** in 1963 and a **cafeteria wing addition to the Apex Elementary School (WA3821)** in 1968. The schools were demolished in 2003, and between 1999-2005, respectively.

**The Cate Center (WA7537, 1972)** on the campus of Meredith College is attributed to Valand Benzing and Associates. Funding for the building came from the Kresge Foundation and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, among others. Preliminary plans for the building had been approved by 1970 and construction began when funding was secured. The program for the building was to include a bookstore, lounges, meeting rooms, food services, and a post office. The east elevation was obscured with the addition of the Park Center in 1977. In 2019 the Kresge Auditorium

was upgraded with new interior finishes and more accessible seating. The two-story building has a flat roof and a common bond brick veneer exterior with cast stone accents. The east and west elevations have recessed entrances under projecting canopies with a central window walls above. The north elevation has a recessed central section flanked by projecting wings with recessed corners on the first story. The central entrance bay has a dramatic curtain wall.

## Banks

There are six known branch banks associated with Valand, two of which were built in Raleigh

**First Federal Bank (1958)** was at the southwest corner of New Bern Avenue and State Street and was demolished between 1970 and 1980. A rendering published in *The News and Observer* shows a one-story building with a flat roof and a thin overhanging eave and canopied walkway supported by slender posts.<sup>76</sup> The quality of the reproduction available is poor but there may be solar screens on this building. It was reported to have been built by John W. Coffey and Son.<sup>77</sup> It was noted that the bank had another branch in Cameron Village, which Valand may have designed. It was also noted that the president of the bank was James Peden for whom Valand designed residential and corporate work. While drawing for the project have not been located specifications are located in the Special Collections of the North Carolina State University Library.

In 1961 ground was broken for the **First Citizens North Boulevard Office (1961).**

The seventh branch office of the bank in Raleigh, it was built by Inland Construction Company. *The News and Observer* reported that the one-story, 3,000 square foot building was to be built largely of steel, glass, and anodized aluminum.<sup>78</sup> The building still stands, though it is now only a drive-thru location with no lobby hours. It is located on a narrow peninsula of land with Capital Boulevard to the north and south and a section of Pigeon House Branch at the southwest.



The central core of the building, rectangular in footprint, is taller than surrounding volumes. A projecting glazed entrance vestibule extend to the north on the facade. A square volume is at the east corner of the building and an "L" shaped section spans the rear elevation (containing the drive-thru teller's office) and wraps to the north along the west elevation. A slim canopy supported by steel members extends to the south and shelters three drive-thru lanes. Wrapping the northwest corner of the building, extending south from the northeast addition, and extending north from the entrance vestibule are steel framed canopies. They have steel members, square in profile. Vertical posts support long horizontal members that run across the posts and shorter members that extend to the body of the building from the intersection with the

<sup>76</sup> "New Office," *The News and Observer* March 3, 1958, p.16.

<sup>77</sup> "First Federal Opens Branch," *The News and Observer* June 29, 1958, p.3.

<sup>78</sup> "Branch Bank," *The News and Observer* October 7, 1961, p.15.

posts. Some of the horizontal voids contain rectangular screening. In contrast to the strict rectilinear construction of the building, surrounding planting beds are curved.

Other known Valand banks were in Lillington, Wallace, Farmville, and Wilson, North Carolina.

Bank of Lillington was touted on its completion as "one of the finest examples of functional architecture yet erected in Harnett County."<sup>79</sup> It is unknown if the building remains, but a detailed architectural description could aid investigation.

The brick building is one story in height, but reinforced steel overhead and thick walls will make addition of another story practical in the future if the need demands. Plate glass, set in stainless steel, extends halfway across the front of the bank and its street entrance. An overhanging copper marquee protects the entrance, bordered on the left by a brick planting box. A night depository has been provided..which is the only one in the county...Terrazzo forms the floor of the lobby and in keeping with the modernistic design there is an angled teller counter of birch and barkwood...Cypress paneling distinguishes the walls of the lobby and secretarial areas, and the safe deposit customer space. Two inner offices for bank executives and the loan department are walled with mahogany paneling.<sup>80</sup>

**First National Bank of Wallace (1960)** appears to be extant at the corner of North College and east Southerland Street. The design is credited to Leif Valand and Associates and was constructed by New River Management and Company. "The building is very attractive from the outside with solar screen, using pink tile as an eye catcher. Throughout the building charcoal tinted glass is used to keep down the glare."<sup>81</sup> On the interior "the walls are of walnut paneling and much study and care was taken in designing the lights so that there would be just the extract amount of light at all times."<sup>82</sup> Comparison of Google Streetview images of the building and newspaper photos of the Presbyterian Synod building in Raleigh show similarities in shape massing and the use of solar screening.

**First National Bank Farmville (1965)** is a departure from earlier banks. News reports credit the design to Valand with construction by the North Hills Construction Company. Now used as the Farmville Center for Pitt Community College, the structure is Brutalist. The first floor is slightly setback from the second, and on three sides has a ribbon of tinted windows punctuated by stuccoed pilasters. The second floor has no fenestration. It is clad in projecting stuccoed panels with rectangular voids above the pilasters below. The fenestration pattern is disrupted by paired glazed entrance doors on the northwest elevation. The south east elevation has a drive-thru

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<sup>79</sup> "Bank of Lillington to Open New Home Tonight," *The Daily Record* (Dunn), March 25, 1954, p.1

<sup>80</sup> IBID

<sup>81</sup> "First National Bank of Wallace Moves to Modern New Building; Ready for Business Today" *Kenansville Duplin Times*, April 28, 1960, p.1.

<sup>82</sup> IBID

window with a projecting canopy and a few first floor windows; the second story of this elevation mirrors the others.

The **First Citizens Bank (1968)** in Parkwood Shopping Center, Wilson appears to be extant. *The Wilson Daily Times* noted, "The new branch office will be constructed of brick and glass, and its contemporary design will be similar to that of the bank's main office . . . (Interior) Walls will be paneled in walnut. . . Landscaping will include planters at each end of the building."<sup>83</sup> It was built by the Parkwood Construction Company. A building matching this description is built of buff-colored brick with a flat roof and a wide overhanging eave/cornice. The south entrance is flanked by projecting brick walls and the fenestration visible on Google Streetview shows glazed columns set back considerably from the wall plane. There is a drive-thru window on the west elevation.

## Hospitality/Tourism

There are only two known hotels associated with Valand, both in Raleigh and both associated with Willie York: the **College Inn Motor Lodge (1958)** and the **Velvet Cloak Inn (WA4594, 1963/1965)**.<sup>84</sup> Still standing though greatly altered, the College Inn, now apartments, was described by *The News and Observer*, thus "a 60-unit motor lodge, restaurant, swimming pool and putting green...a two-story brick and stone building designed on different levels with overhead ramps connecting the motor lodge, restaurant, swimming and putting green. Both the motor lodge and the restaurant will be acoustically engineered and will feature built-in furniture, cove lighting, dressing rooms and paneling in all rooms."<sup>85</sup>

While the motor lodge was perhaps a departure from the norms with its multiple amenities, The Velvet Cloak Inn (built next to Valand's YMCA building) was said to have exceeded all expectations. Architectural historic Ruth Little surveyed the building in 2006

Raleigh developer Willie York saw the need for a luxury motor hotel in Raleigh in the early 1960s. ...(he) hired Leif Valand to design the facility in a style reminiscent of New Orleans...Although the motor hotel has a modern steel frame, the exterior of red brick, wooden sash windows, and two-story porches of lacy ironwork evokes the romantic architecture of the French Quarter.<sup>86</sup>

Josh Shaffer, writing for *The News and Observer* describes how the building grew to be iconic

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<sup>83</sup> "First-Citizens Expects Completion of New Branch Building in 30 Days," *The Wilson Daily Times*, December 31, 1968, p.2

<sup>84</sup> "Plans Told To Expand Velvet Cloak," *The News and Observer* July 11, 1965, p. 12.

<sup>85</sup> "Modern 60-Unit Motor Lodge To Be Built Near N.C. State," *The News and Observer* August 26, 1958, p.20.

<sup>86</sup> Little, Ruth Survey form for The Velvet Cloak Inn



In its day, the Velvet Cloak Inn boasted crystal chandeliers in its Queen Suite, a black-tile jacuzzi in the King's Throne Room and a doorman out front dressed in gold cuff links and a black top hat.

You could order dessert in cups made out of chocolate, sunbathe at an indoor pool with a retractable glass ceiling and – if you ranked high enough in the General Assembly – store bottles of booze in a personal locker downstairs.

The Velvet Cloak offered harp music, meals cooked tableside and a smorgasbord on Sundays. The suites had flame-stitched wing chairs flanking the stereo system and a mirrored dining room lit by Flemish lanterns. The bathrooms had telephones by the toilets.

By 1971, the Velvet Cloak earned the nickname Pat Taylor headquarters because Taylor, then lieutenant governor, haunted the hotel, cementing its reputation as a deal-making watering hole.

Until the mid-1980s, the Hillsborough Street hotel with its wrought-iron railings borrowed from New Orleans served as the overnight crash pad not only for the city's tonier clientele but also for the rock bands that stomped through Raleigh, playing Reynolds Coliseum a few doors down.

(It) will live forever as a star's hotel, public enough to spot Bob Dylan leaving through the back door with Joan Baez. In its 40-plus years, it provided champagne and pillows for The Rolling Stones, Ethel Merman, Tom Jones and Sonny & Cher.<sup>87</sup>



The Velvet Cloak Inn was demolished in 2017.

*Velvet Cloak Inn, News and Observer Collection, State Archives of North Carolina*

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<sup>87</sup> Josh Shaffer, "Remembering the rock star glory days of the Velvet Cloak Inn," *The News and Observer*, January 27, 2017 <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/josh-shaffer/article129267219.html>

The only other buildings by Valand that could be considered to be categorized under the heading hospitality, were a series of highway **Welcome Centers**. Two were advertised for bid in 1968, one in Warren County and one in Northampton County.<sup>88</sup> A third, designed by Valand Benzing and Associates, opened in 1970 near the Tennessee border,<sup>89</sup> and a fourth near Lumberton in 1974.<sup>90</sup> There may have been others.

## Military

An invitation to bid appears in the July 19, 1962 edition of *The News and Observer* for construction of a Military Center and Three Unit Plus Armory Building<sup>91</sup> by Valand's firm. Special Collections at North Carolina State University also contains a specifications document dated 1963 for a Combined Field Maintenance Shop for the North Carolina Armory Commission by the firm. Though neither source indicate a location, it is highly likely they are part of the Raleigh Armory complex on Reedy Creek Road and research to document and confirm that is on-going

## Government

In the mid 1960s, Valand received a state government commission; technically there were two. They were to be jointly designed by Valand and F. Carter Williams, but according to Valand employees, Williams and Valand split the jobs, Williams took the State Archives Building and Valand the **Department of Administration Building (WA8059, 1967)**. The Administration Building was designed with two levels below grade, one to house an emergency operations center, and five stories above grade.<sup>92</sup> The facade spans an entire city block. The upper four floors are a repeating pattern of recessed, two-part windows framed in marble. The slightly recessed base has marble-faced pilasters, dividing recessed glazed bays and a central entrance vestibule. The plaza leading to the street features four stone planters.

Shortly thereafter the firm, working in collaboration with Lowenstein Atkinson, received the commission for a new **Federal Building (WA4564, 1968)** in Raleigh. The two-part building has a two-story section and an eight-story tower. Not unlike the State Administration Building, the Federal Building has a repeating grid pattern of pre-cast concrete and smoked glass windows.

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<sup>88</sup> "Notice to Bidders," *The News and Observer* January 18, 1968, p.28.

<sup>89</sup> "State's Newest Welcome Center Opens Wednesday," *Rocky Mount Telegram*, October 14, 1970, p.22

<sup>90</sup> "Welcome Center Dedication Set for Saturday," *The Robesonian* March 28, 1974, p.1.

<sup>91</sup> "Notice to Bidders," *The News and Observer* July 19, 1962, p.25.

<sup>92</sup> "Out of a Jones Street Hole Will Rise A \$3.2 Million State Office Building," *The News and Observer* June 30, 1965, p.24.

Architectural historian Ruth Little cites the building as a transitional building between the International Style and Brutalism.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> Little, Ruth Survey Form Terry Sanford Federal Building

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

There are many further areas for study which could provide additional information on Leif Valand and his work

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Carolina State University Special Collections have been temporarily closed, and several files referencing Valand have yet to be studied.
- T. A. Loving Company in Goldsboro has found several sets of Valand drawings on file, and there may be more.
- The Raney Library closed unexpectedly at the end of 2019, before their collections could be used.
- The Wake County School Board has records for Enloe and Aycock
- Valand designed several buildings for First Citizens Bank and their corporate records may show additional projects.
- Valand's potential association with other projects by Willie York should be investigated including but not limited to New Court, and Hi-Mount.
- Valand's potential association with other subdivision projects by Ed Richards should be (further) investigated including but not limited to Biltmore Hills (developed by Ed Richards and John Winters), Woodcrest, Pinecrest, Eastgate, Southgate, Stratford Park, Longview Lake, and North Hills Estates
- Records of financing agencies for subdivision projects
- Department of Defense records regarding building projects, especially housing
- Publications such as *The American Home*, and others that have been suggested as featuring Valand's work
- Subdivisions from 1947-1970 in Raleigh (and beyond) that resemble known Valand works (e.g., Fairway Acres (1955) looks like Ridgewood.

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## **APPENDIX**

List of Valand Employees

List of Valand buildings

### **Valand employees**

Norman Eugene "Bart" Bartholomew (1933-2008)

Nelson Benzing

Dean Best

Doug Boyce

W. Randall Bray

David Bullock

Charles Davis (employed ca. 1952-1956)

Bob Hall (associate)

Edwin F. "Abie" Harris, Jr., FAIA ( associate, employed 1962-1968)

Pete Jarrell

Bob Lyons

Karina McCourt

Clyde McGee

Ed Mogolnicki

Gene Reader

Jimmy Scovil (associate)

Gil Slack (associate)

Ray Sparrow (associate)

David Lee Sumner (employed 1971)

Ben Taylor

Wayne Taylor (Ben's brother)

Russell White

Reggie White

Bernard "Barney" Williams

Bob Wakeham

## Project List

The following project list is divided by location-first Raleigh, then Wake County, then greater North Carolina, then out-of-state projects. If North Carolina survey site numbers are known they are added. Entries in **boldface type** have been demolished. If properties are known to be extant they are noted otherwise they are designated as unknown. Significant alterations resulting in marked loss of integrity, likewise are noted. Projects attributed by other scholars are in italics and noted with asterisks. Properties where Valand did not design the original building but designed a rehabilitation or an addition are noted as such.

Design attribution to a firm is difficult. Valand practiced as Leif Valand, architect until around 1959 when dated drawings show a title block for Leif Valand and Associates (Enloe site plans). In 1969 Valand and Nelson Benzing announced the formation of Valand, Benzing, and Associates. In 1974 there are articles of incorporation on file with Wake County for Valand-Benzing and Associates which later that year became Nelson Benzing Design Associates. However there is at least one project post 1974 that Valand participated in, the Bloodworth Y, with a title block of Leif Valand architect (with Scovil and Rairden) suggesting that he may have continued to practice under his own name after his association with Benzing. An attempt has been made to credit known project architects and designers for projects discussed in the preceding narrative. However, all designers and architects worked under the larger firm that ultimately is credited with the work.

### Raleigh

1946	Willie York House WA4619	1904 Craig St	extant
1947-	Cameron Village WA2672, WA4602, etc		extant altered
1949	Country Club Homes WA4605	with Greenway Holloway, etc	extant
1950	Peden Guest House	Williamson Dr	extant altered
<b>1950</b>	<b>Poyner House WA4657</b>		
<b>1950</b>	<b>Washington Terrace Apartments WA7834</b>		
1951	Ridgewood Housing WA4630	Bradley, Leonard etc	extant
1951	Ed Richards House WA4658	2116 Banbury Rd	extant
1951	Ridgewood Shopping Center WA6488	Wade Ave	extant altered
1952	William King House	618 Daniels St	extant



1952	George Vial House WA4481	3100 Granville St	extant	altered
1952	Banks Kerr House WA5988	703 Smedes Pl	extant	
1952	Dixon House WA5352 attribution uncertain	105 King William Rd	extant	altered
<b>1953</b>	<b>Security Bank</b>	<b>2125 Cameron St</b>		
<b>1953</b>	<b>Ira Green House</b>	<b>1715 Picadilly</b>		
1953	Daniels Street Apartments WA5939	Daniels St	extant	altered
1954	Western Union Building	215 W. Martin St	extant	
1954	McAdams House	2214 Wheeler Rd	extant	
1954	Longview Shopping Center	2000 New Bern Ave	extant	altered
<i>1954</i>	<i>McKimmon House WA7344*</i>	<i>823 Bryan St</i>	<i>extant</i>	
1955	Raleigh Farmers' Market WA4504	1401 Hodges St	extant	
1955	St Michaels Church WA4599	1529 Canterbury Rd	extant	altered
1956	Occidental Building WA4298**	1001 Wade Ave	extant	
1956	American Machine & Foundry WA8011	2010 Yonkers Rd	extant	
<b>1956</b>	<b>Kidd Brewer House</b>			
1956	McCracken Supply Co WA8138	1500 Garner Rd	extant	altered
<b>1956</b>	<b>Boy Scouts HQ</b>	<b>Wade Ave</b>		
1956	Wachovia Bank	2305 Capital Blvd	extant	altered
1957	Security National Bank	2401 Capital Blvd	extant	
<i>1957</i>	<i>Roberts House WA5359***</i>	<i>114 Longview Lake Dr</i>	<i>extant</i>	
1957	Marion Fike House WA5361	122 Longview Lake Dr	extant	
1957	Ridge Road Baptist Church	unclear as to which buildings on campus		
1957	Lion's Club Dream House		unknown	
1957	St Savior's Church/St Timothy's WA7977	4523 Six Forks Rd	extant	
<b>1957</b>	<b>YMCA/NCSU improvements</b>			
1957	Everett Case House WA4603	611 Daniels St	extant	

1957	Kraft Foods Company	2004 Yonkers Rd	extant	altered
<b>1958</b>	<b>Jean's improvements</b>	<b>118 Fayetteville St</b>		
1958	Enloe High School	128 Clarendon Crescent	extant	
1958	Citation Model Homes	Lakewood/Woodcrest	unknown	
1958	College Inn Motor Lodge	2717 Western Blvd	extant	altered
<b>1958</b>	<b>Kellogg Switchboard and Supply Co</b>			
<b>1958</b>	<b>First Federal Bank</b>	<b>New Bern Ave</b>		
<b>1959</b>	<b>Balentine's (Cameron Village)</b>			
1959	Sanderford House	1520 Saint Marys St	extant	
1959	Cameron-Brown HQ	1000 Wade Ave	extant	altered
1960	Presbyterian Synod HQ WA7993	1015 Wade Ave		
<b>1960</b>	<b>YMCA Hillsborough St WA4596</b>			
1961	Pullen Arts Building WA8046	410 Ashe Ave	extant	
1961	Chavis Park Building	505 MLK Jr Blvd	extant	altered
1961	Jaycee Park Building	2405 Wade Ave	extant	altered
1961	Norfolk Southern Railroad Offices	2000 Yonkers Rd	extant	
1961	NC Bar Center WA7994	1025 Wade Ave	extant	altered
1961	First Citizens Branch	1839 Capital Blvd	extant	
1961	Lions Park Building WA8010	516 Dennis Ave	extant	altered
1962	Gateway Plaza Shopping Center	2409 Crabtree Blvd	extant	altered
1962	Grace Lutheran Church	5010 Six Forks Rd	extant	
<b>1962</b>	<b>Cameron Village Post Office WA8054</b>			
1963	Hermann Student Center	William Peace University	extant	
<b>1963</b>	<b>Mary E Phillips School additions WA4253</b>			
1963	Raleigh Little Theater Improvements WA3940	Pogue St	extant	
1963	Peden Steel WA4503	1815 Capital Blvd	extant	

<b>1963</b>	<b>Willie York House</b>		
<b>1963</b>	<b>North Hills Shopping Center****</b>	<b>4421 Six Forks Rd</b>	
1963	Armory and Machine Shop WA5108	Reedy Creek Rd	extant
1964	WPTF bldg	410 S Salisbury	extant altered
1964	Charles Aycock Jr High	128 Clarendon Crescent	extant altered
1964	Vo-Tech Center Improvements	117 South West St	extant
<b>1964</b>	<b>Pepsi Cola Bottling Plant</b>		
1965	State Archives*****	109 E Jones St	extant
1965	St Ambrose Church WA8136	813 Darby St	extant
<b>1965</b>	<b>Velvet Cloak Inn WA4594</b>		
1965	State Office Building*****	116 W Jones St	extant
<b>1966</b>	<b>First Union at Clark and Woodburn</b>		
1967	Mayview Convalescent Addition		unknown
1967	Federal Building WA4564*****	310 New Bern Ave	extant
1967	Public Service of NC WA8026	1620 Hillsborough St	extant
1967	Arlan's	1920 Capital Blvd	extant altered
1968	Thomas Woods Sales and Service		unknown
1968	Raleigh Woman's Club WA7973	Woman's Club Dr	extant
<b>1969</b>	<b>Atlantic Bank Card Center</b>	<b>Oberlin Rd</b>	
1969	Quail Corners Shopping Center	5003 Falls of Neuse Rd	extant altered
<b>1969</b>	<b>Downtown Parking Deck</b>	<b>Martin between Salisbury and McDowell</b>	
1969	Wade Ave Office Building	1033 Wade Ave	extant altered
1970	Cate Center WA7537	Meredith College Campus	extant
<b>1970</b>	<b>Willie York House</b>		
1970	North Ridge Country Club	6612 Falls of Neuse Rd	extant altered
1971	Timberlake Apartments		unknown

**1971 Cameron Brown at Six Forks**

1972	Manley UCC		unknown
1972	State Highway Patrol Heliport		unknown
1972	Millbrook Park Building	1905 Spring Forest Rd	extant
1972	Biltmore Hills Park Building	2615 Fitzgerald Dr	extant
1972	North Haven Apartments	7101 Sandy Forks Rd	extant
1972	Carolina Pines Park Building	2305 Lake Wheeler Rd	extant
1973	The Lakes Apartments	The Lakes Drive	extant
1979	Bloodworth YMCA*****	2235 Garner Road	extant

**Wake County Outside of Raleigh**

1954	Forest Hills	Lakeside Dr etc Garner	extant
1959	3 Houses	Woodland Dr Fuquay	unknown
<b>1968</b>	<b>Cafeteria Apex ES WA3821</b>	<b>Apex</b>	
1969	Heather Hills	Buckingham Rd etc Garner	extant

**Outside of Wake County**

1950	Glen Lennox OR14676*	Maxwell and Hamilton Rd.s	Chapel Hill
1950	Housing Camp Lejeune	Onslow Co	
<b>1951</b>	<b>College View Apt.s PT2175</b>	<b>2310 E 19th St</b>	<b>Greenville</b>
1952	Southern Pines Duplexes	800 Block N Page St	extant
1953	Goldsboro Apartments	SW Corner Beech and Daisy	extant altered
1953	Northwoods Park	Decatur, Daniels/Jacksonville	extant
1954	Sweet Gum School	8136 S NC Highway 119	extant altered

1954	Bank of Lillington		Lillington	unknown	
1954	W. T. Grant Store	200 W. Walnut St	Goldsboro	extant	
1956	Roses WL0577	204 Nash St N	Wilson	extant	
1956	Edgeworth Park	Marlboro Pl, Salisbury Dr, etc	Rocky Mount	extant	
1957	Sunrise Shopping Center	1701 E Ash St	Goldsboro	extant	altered
1958	Coral Bay Club	1901 W Ft Macon Rd	Atlantic Beach	extant	altered
1960	Eastgate Shopping Center	Eastgate Crossing	Chapel Hill	extant	altered
1960	First National Bank of Wallace	117 E. Southerland	Wallace	extant	
1961	Camp Seafarer		Arapahoe	unknown	
1962	Armory MK0456-7	116 S. Cross St	Youngsville	extant	
1962	Theater/ Restaurant	Northgate	Durham	extant	altered
1963	Campus Room improvements	ED0528 213 S.E. Main St	Rocky Mount	extant	
1963	Four Seasons Mall	Koury Blvd	Greensboro	extant	altered
1963	Elkin HS Gym	Elk Spur St	Elkin	extant	
1964	Main St office bldg improvements		Warrenton	unknown	
1965	1st National Bank Eastern NC	3781 S. Main St	Farmville	extant	
1965	Armory JK0554	College Dr	Sylva	unknown	
1966	Ray Bryan, Jr. House	304 Glen Oak Dr	Goldsboro	extant	
1966	Low Income Housing		Chapel Hill	unknown	
1967	Thalhimer's Westgate		High Point	unknown	
1968	Welcome Center	Northampton Co		unknown	
1968	Welcome Center	Warren Co		unknown	
1968	First Citizens Bank	1430 Tarboro St W	Wilson	extant	
1969	Holly Hill Mall	Huffman Mill Rd	Burlington	extant	altered
1971	First Union National Bank	GF9003	Greensboro	extant	
1972	Edinborough Shopping Center	240 S. Main	Raeford	extant	altered



1973	University Mall	S. Estes Dr	Chapel Hill	extant	altered
1974	Northgate Shopping Center		Durham	extant	altered

### **Outside of North Carolina**

1954	Tri-City Shopping Plaza	Gary	Indiana	extant	altered
1955	Richard Hurd House (NJ-7833)	Rumson	New Jersey	unknown	
1958	Housing Naval Station*****	Pendleton	West Virginia	extant	

\*attributed by Cynthia de Miranda

\*\* in collaboration with primary architectural firm Kemp, Bunch & Jackson

\*\*\*attributed by Ruth Little

\*\*\*\* The shopping center and subsequent mall (designed primarily by Nelson Benzing in collaboration with others) have been demolished. The service center, north of Lassiter Mill Road, by Valand, remains but it highly altered.

\*\*\*\*\* Valand is reported to have done this project in collaboration with Carter Williams as well as the Department of Administration Building. Williams was the primary design architect for the Archives building, Valand and his firm for the department of Administration

\*\*\*\*\*built in collaboration with Lowenstein Atkinson

\*\*\*\*\* built in association with another firm