Maps, Documents Show

It Really Was a Pentagon

By POWELL A. CASEY

When it was first built, the Pentagon was not intended to be a group of only four buildings. The creation of each of the five buildings was planned but never built as intended in the original plans and documents. The Pentagon remained on Army Ground until 1995, when and after an official report written nine years earlier was released. There was originally a fifth building planned for the corner of the Pentagon but the plans changed before it was ever built. The new departmental building is the only survivor in the early century.

In 1929 Captain Samuel Galbraith, a U.S. Army engineer, prepared a plan for the proposed group of buildings and a necessary roofed atrium. The upper floors of four of the buildings were designed for use as a residence for a group of troops and as quarters for the officers as well. The ground floor was to be utilized as a library, an auditorium, a library, and a gymnasium. The fifth building, which was planned for the corner and the roof, would be used as a second library for the officers and the officers' quarters. The plans were changed before the buildings were ever built.

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A committee of the Louisiana Historical and Genealogical Society was formed to determine the possibility of clearing the building foundations and the possibility of using the building for educational purposes. The committee consisted of members of the group who had been involved in the planning and construction of the building. The committee was successful in determining the building foundations and the possibility of using the building for educational purposes.

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