

The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “10/14/75 - Hirshorn Museum and Gadsby's Tavern” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DRAFT

Proposed Schedule
Mrs. Ford's Visit to Hirshhorn Museum to Unveil Calder Sculpture

Tuesday, October 14, 1975
2:00 PM

- 1:30 PM Platform guests assembled in Board of Directors Room of the Hirshhorn Museum located on the fourth floor. Refreshments will be served.
- 1:55 PM Platform guests escorted from holding room to platform.
- 2:00 PM Mrs. Ford arrives -- met at the curb by Arthur F. Sampson, Administrator of General Services Administration and Mr. Abram Lerner, Director, Hirshhorn Museum.
- 2:03 PM Mr. Sampson opens program and introduces Mr. Lerner for brief remarks.
- 2:06 PM Mr. Sampson introduces Mr. Leonard A. Robinson, Author of Light at the Tunnel End, for brief remarks. (He is speaking on behalf of blind community & blind organizations.)
- 2:08 PM Mr. Sampson introduces Senator Jennings Randolph for brief remarks.
- 2:11 PM Mr. Sampson introduces Mrs. Ford for brief remarks
- 2:14 PM Mr. Sampson asks Mrs. Ford and Senator Randolph to join him in the unveiling of the sculpture. They walk off the platform to the right where the veiled sculpture is located.
- 2:15 PM UNVEILING (Photo Opportunity)
- 2:18 PM DEPARTURE



SPECIAL INVITEES TO BE SEATED IN THE AUDIENCE

Participants

Mrs. Betty Ford
U. S. Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia
Arthur F. Sampson, Administrator, General Services Administration
Abram Lerner, Director of the Hirshhorn Museum
Leonard A. Robinson, Author of Light at the Tunnel End (and representing the blind community and blind organizations)

Invited Guests

Nancy Hanks
National Endowment for the Arts

Michael Straight
National Endowment for the Arts

Bryan Doherty
National Endowment for the Arts

Durwood McDaniel
American Council of the Blind

Irvin P. Schloss
American Foundation for the Blind

Jim Gashel
National Federation of the Blind

Hodges Parker
Blinded Veterans Association

Bruce Blasch
American Association of Workers for the Blind

S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

Joshua Taylor, Director, National Collection of Fine Arts

Carter Brown, Director, National Gallery of Art

Roy Slade, Director, Corcoran Gallery of Art



Janet Greene
(American Antigens)

Fran

Helen

Nick Pergola (UPI)

Naomi Novik

Dorothy McCaddle

Karl Schumach

Shule

Bill Matlony ASC
will join at
Frischon

DRAFTBraille Art Allows BlindTo Enjoy Genius of Calder

The artistic genius of Alexander Calder comes alive under the sensitive hands of the blind at the Hirshhorn Museum.

Today First Lady Betty Ford unveiled a miniature of Calder's spectacular 53-foot "Flamingo," a flaming red outdoor art work that thrilled Chicagoans when it was erected on Dearborn Street last October.

"The specially designed miniature is the first known effort in the United States to provide the visually handicapped with sculpture they can see through touch," said Administrator Arthur F. Sampson of the U. S. General Services Administration which had the replica constructed. "We feel sure it will bring much pleasure to the blind and hope others soon will begin providing similar scale replicas of important sculptures."

Mrs. Ford was joined by U.S. Sen. Jennings Randolph (W. Va.), Abram Lerner, director of the Hirshhorn, and Leonard A. Robinson, author of "Light at the Tunnel End," in a ceremony in the sculpture garden. The stabile eventually will go to the Chicago Federal Center where it will be placed near the original art work for the enjoyment of the blind.

Reduced to approximately one-tenth the size of Calder's original, the miniature has two sweeping arches which span eight feet and terminate in three diamond-shaped fins balanced on their points. It was fabricated by Segre Iron Works of Waterbury, Conn. A braille plaque made by the Howe Press at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Mass. is provided on a pedestal to give pertinent information on the art work and Calder.

Both of Calder's "Flamingos" were commissioned under GSA's fine arts program to provide newly constructed federal buildings with the finest examples of contemporary Américan art. Early in his administration, President Ford declared, "The arts are an integral part of our better society." In dedicating the original Calder, Sampson added, "Only if the arts are alive and flourishing can we experience the true meaning of freedom and know the glory of the human spirit. No artist in America better reflects this freedom and human spirit than Alexander Calder."

"In our fine arts program we work closely with the National Endowment for the Arts, which has provided leadership for the nation's cultural endeavors in recent years, which has proved that federal art patronage can be progressive and exciting and which has, through its

(MORE)

LIBRARY

programs, touched the lives of millions around the country. We are especially proud to now reach the blind," said Sampson. GSA's fine arts director, Karel Yasko said, "Calder himself is pleased with the miniature abstract and hopes it will permit the blind to participate more directly in a visual world." Yasko said the sculpture "will provide a new set of experiences for the visually handicapped. For creators of form sculpture, the ultimate success is the viewers' tactile response rather than the visual reaction. One prominent American sculptor, measured this success by the number of finger marks on his stone sculptures."

Alexander Calder is recognized as one of the giants of 20th century American art. Merging his knowledge of science and mechanics with his artistic abilities to create animate, organic sculptural forms has been his most notable contribution. Born in Philadelphia in 1898, Calder once worked for the "Police Gazette" covering the circus. From those experiences he has created an art noted for its ebullience, wit and tightrope balance. His graceful "Flamingo" enlivens the plaza of Chicago's Federal Center, a people-oriented area and the precinct of commerce, government and corporations where brown-bagging a lunch can be a course in modern art.

#

A copy of the Braille text describing the miniature "Flamingo" is attached.

Contact: Pat Thomasson
GSA Information
(202) 343-4511



BRAILLE TEXT

FLAMINGO
by
Alexander Calder (1898-)

On your left stands a small replica of the original FLAMINGO, a stabile or static work of sculpture created for the Chicago Federal Center by the American sculptor Alexander Calder. It has been reduced from the original height of 53 feet to five feet three inches for the tactile convenience of the visually handicapped who may now discover the full impact of the original stabile which stands in the open plaza of the Center surrounded by three Federal buildings designed by Mies Van der Rohe; a one story post office, a 30-story courthouse and a 42-story Federal building.

The original stabile has an overall ground width of 29 by 60 feet in length built of steel plates three quarters and one-half inches thick with a total weight of fifty tons. Both the original and replica are painted a bright Calder red.

Calder, born in Philadelphia in 1898, is recognized as one of the giants of 20th century American art. The son and grandson of noted sculptors, he graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology as a mechanical engineer but turned to art as a career working in New York and Paris where in 1932 he invented the mobile and soon after the stabile, both the first use of such forms of artistic expression.

Calder has created major stabiles for Los Angeles, Fort Worth, Grand Rapids, New York, Hartford, Cambridge, and numerous other locations throughout the world.

The original FLAMINGO was commissioned under the Fine Arts program of the General Services Administration, to provide newly constructed Federal buildings with the finest examples of Contemporary American art.

Arthur F. Sampson
Administrator of General Services
October 1975



GUEST LIST FOR MRS. FORD'S VISIT TO GADSBY'S TAVERN-OCTOBER 14

Mr. Charles E. Beatley, Jr.-Mayor of Alexandria
Mr. Clement E. Conger, Curator, The White House
Mr. Howard W. Smith, Jr., General Chairman, The Friends of Gadsby's Tavern and Mrs. Smith
Mr. Richard Bales, Advisory Board, and Mrs. Bales
Mr. Joseph H. Hennage, Advisory Board, and Mrs. Hennage
Mrs. Anne C. Golovin, Advisory Board
Colonel Wilfred J. Smith, President, Alexandria Historical Society
Mrs. Wilfred J. Smith, Chairman, Acquisitions Committee
Mrs. Frankie Welch, Chairman, Donors Committee
Mrs. Arthur M. Dunstan, Chairman, Educational and Interpretive Programs Committee
Mr. William G. McNamara, Chairman, Social Events Committee
Mrs. Harry Councilor, House and Garden Committee
Mrs. James Flint, Chairman, Docents Committee
Mrs. Nicholas Paul, Chairman, Historic Alexandria Docents
Mr. Paul D. Scott, Director, General Services, City of Alexandria
Mr. O. Lloyd Onion-Guest
Mr. Richard C. Bierce, Resident Architect
Mr. John Armentrout, General Contractor
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Flather III-
Mrs. Marguerite Browning, ~~representing~~ The Curator's Office
Mr. Edward Plyler, Decorative Arts Advisor

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Montague III,

*representing Mr. Chas. A.
Patty Morris*

Official Photographers

Ms. Carol Lottman
Mr. Frank E. Hall

Local Media Photographers

Alexandria Gazette
The Journal

Dee Williams → Dick



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alexandria, Virginia-October 14, 1975---

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford, as Honorary Chairman, The Friends of Gadsby's Tavern, today accepted an important Eighteenth Century mantel which was recently returned to the famous Alexandria hostelry after fifty eight years, from the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. It was acquired by that institution in 1917 along with the woodwork from the ballroom where George Washington celebrated his birthday in 1798 and 1799, two mantels and the doorway from which he gave one of his last military commands in November 1798.

The doorway was brought back to the Tavern in 1949 through the generosity of Colonel and Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore and the Alexandria Association to mark the two hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the City of Alexandria. On that occasion Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, widow of the World War I president was the honored guest.

It is most fitting that our present First Lady accepted the long term loan of one of the finest remaining examples of American craftsmanship of the Georgian period as a part of this community's observance of the Bicentennial celebration.

The Board of Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum made the generous decision last August to return the mantel and its accompanying cornice to this city.

Alexandria acquired the two historic Gadsby's Tavern buildings as gift ^{from} local American Legion Post No. 24 and is proceeding with their restoration scheduled for completion next year.

The Friends of Gadsby's Tavern is a volunteer group composed of distinguished preservationists, antiquarians, historians, and interested citizens at the local and national levels. They will take an active part in the restoration and perpetuation of this nationally registered landmark.

Gadsby's Tavern was the scene of many dramatic events which paved the way toward our National Independence and the drafting of the United States Constitution. At least six Presidents of the United States have been entertained in the tavern. Others have included the Marquis de Lafayette, John Paul Jones, Baron de Kalb, Alexander Hamilton,

(more)

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Aaron Burr, Francis Scott Key, Henry Clay, and many more.

After the buildings have been renovated, they will include an authentic house museum and a working tavern reminiscent of those in colonial Williamsburg.

A drive is currently underway to acquire additional furnishings for the periods of 1774 and 1790-1810.

Mr. William Robert Adam, curator of Gadsby's Tavern, was Mrs. Ford's host during her visit.

For additional information call:

(703) 750-6565



Sheila

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford will participate in two photo opportunities on Tuesday, October 14th. The information for each occasion is listed below:

Hirshorn Museum

EVENT: Unveiling of reduced duplicate of Alexander Calder sculpture (called "Flamingo") for the blind

GROUP: General Services Administration

DATE: Tuesday, October 14, 1975

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hirshorn Museum
Washington, D. C.

CONTACT: Jack Williams of G.S.A.
343-7221

COMMENTS: At this brief ceremony, a 5-foot high duplicate of the huge Calder sculpture outside the G.S.A. Building in Chicago will be unveiled. This 5-foot model has been made small in order that the blind may touch it and experience a sense of the large piece of sculpture. On it will be a plaque in Braille telling about the sculpture. The unveiling, though mainly a photo session, will include opening remarks by outgoing G.S.A. Director Arthur Sampson, comments by Director Lerner of the Hirshorn Museum, a representative of the federation of organizations for the blind, and, if his schedule permits, Senator Jennings Randolph, and Mrs. Ford. Following each person's brief remarks, they will all participate in the actual unveiling. Senator Jennings Randolph, author of the Randolph-Sheppard Act which includes provisions for the handicapped in all government facilities, has



long been interested in the blind and the handicapped. The idea for a reduced model of the Calder sculpture was originally Mr. Sampson's.

Mrs. Ford's participation reflects her interest in making the arts an important part of the lives of all our citizens.

Gadsby's Tavern

EVENT: Photo session for newly-acquired mantel at Gadsby's Tavern

GROUP: Friends of Gadsby's Tavern

DATE: Tuesday, October 14, 1975

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Gadsby's Tavern
138 North Royal Street
Alexandria, Virginia

CONTACT: William Adam, Curator
750-6565

COMMENTS: In her capacity as Honorary Chairman of the Friends of Gadsby's Tavern, Mrs. Ford has been invited to come out to Gadsby's Tavern and see the newly-acquired historic mantel (from the Metropolitan Museum in New York) which will be placed in the large reception room at the Tavern.

Clem Conger considers Gadsby's Tavern to be probably the second most historic building in our country. The first in his view is Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the second is Gadsby's Tavern because of the prominent men in the early days of our history who frequented it and the importance of the decisions which were made there. Gadsby's Tavern was a vital center of life and communication during that time.

Gadsby's Tavern has been undergoing an extensive renovation partially financed by the City of Alexandria (Bicentennial funds?) and private money. Mrs. Ford's visit will convey



her appreciation for the restoration efforts and her encouragement of this project to preserve for generations to come an authentic setting of life in the 18th century.

The file is attached. Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Warren Rustand
Clem Conger
Bill Nicholson
Rex Scouten
Staircase



September 15, 1975

Dear Mr. Adam,

Your gracious letter to Mrs. Ford telling of the acquisition of the mantel to Gadsby's Tavern and inviting Mrs. Ford to participate in the acceptance is greatly appreciated. When the official schedule for the upcoming future is more firmly determined, we will be in communication with you.

With gratitude for sharing this good news with Mrs. Ford and all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter
Appointments Secretary
for Mrs. Ford

Mr. William Robert Adam
Curator
Gadsby's Tavern
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

SP/sr

c: BF Pending To Consider (Gadsby's Tavern, Alexandria)





City of Alexandria, Virginia



September 9, 1975

All-America City

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

In your capacity as Honorary Chairman of the "Friends of Gadsby's Tavern", it is a great pleasure to inform you that the restoration of the two historic buildings is progressing well and a gala opening is scheduled for early next year.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has just returned an important mantel to the Tavern which has been in the American Wing of that institution for over fifty years. Architectural historians consider it to be some of the most important 18th Century woodwork in America.

It would be most appropriate if you could come to Alexandria to accept this important acquisition for the "Friends". Your presence and the subsequent publicity would help us tremendously in an upcoming national drive for additional furnishings to complete the 1774 and 1802 inventories for the two buildings.

We are well aware of your busy schedule, but if you could come for a brief visit you would be contributing immeasurably to one of the country's most important Bicentennial projects.

Hoping to hear from you at an early date.

With best wishes to you, the President, and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in ink that reads "WILL ROBERT ADAM".

William Robert Adam
Curator

cce



For immediate release
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will unveil a reduced duplicate of the Alexander Calder sculpture "Flamingo" today at 2 p.m. at the Hirshorn Museum. The five-foot-high replica was made for the blind, to enable them to experience a sense of the original 53-foot sculpture located outside the Chicago Federal Center.

Mrs. Ford will be assisted in the unveiling by Arthur F. Sampson, GSA Administrator. Other participants in the program are Abram Lerner, Director of the Hirshorn Museum; Leonard A. Robinson, author of Light at the Tunnel End, who will make remarks on behalf of blind organizations and the blind community; and Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia.

The flaming-red outdoor art work will eventually go to the same plaza outside the Chicago Federal Center which holds the original. A plaque in Braille will be affixed to the miniature, giving information on the sculpture and the artist.

Both of Calder's "Flamingos" were commissioned under the General Services Administration's Fine Arts Program to provide newly constructed federal buildings with examples of good contemporary American art.

#



note for crews and photographers:
the ceremony is outside, near the main
entrance to the Hirshorn. You'll be shooting
from a distance between 15-25 feet.

Press pickup in press lobby at 1:35p.m. Press
needing transportation should call x2164.

For immediate release
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UNVEILING OF "FLAMINGO"

HIRSCHORN MUSEUM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1975

- 1 -

ONE OF MY VERY GREAT INTERESTS
HAS BEEN IN HAVING
THE ARTS IN AMERICA LIVE,
TO BE A PART OF PEOPLES' EVERYDAY LIVES.



IT'S IMPORTANT THAT ART BE UNIVERSAL,
THAT IT REACH OUT
THROUGH ALL KINDS OF BARRIERS---
WHETHER THEY BE ECONOMIC
OR CULTURAL OR PHYSICAL.

THE SCULPTURE WE WILL UNVEIL IN A FEW MINUTES
GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY
TO OVERCOME THE PHYSICAL BARRIERS
CAUSED BY BLINDNESS.



- 4 -

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE BLIND
BE ABLE TO SHARE IN THE GREAT SATISFACTION
THAT IS UNIQUE TO ENJOYING A PIECE OF ART.

#



UNVEILING OF "FLAMINGO"

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#

For immediate release
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will participate in a photo session unveiling a newly acquired mantelpiece at Gadsby's Tavern in Olde Towne, Alex., today at 2:45 p.m. (The Tavern is located at 138 N. Royal St.).

Mrs. Ford is accepting the mantel as Honorary Chairman of The Friends of Gadsby's Tavern. The mantel, which was a part of the original Tavern, has been in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The Museum recently returned the mantel after 58 years for the Tavern's restoration project, which it hopes to have completed by February, 1976.

The mantel is of the Eighteenth Century, and along with its accompanying cornice is considered a good example of American craftsmanship of the Georgian period.

Participating in the unveiling with Mrs. Ford will be William Robert Adam, curator of Gadsby's Tavern; and Alexandria Mayor Charles Beatley.

When the Tavern buildings have been restored, they will include an authentic house museum and working tavern reminiscent of those in Colonial Williamsburg. The City of Alexandria owns the buildings and is restoring them, with the support of American Legion Post No. 24 (which presented the buildings to the city in 1972) and the Friends of Gadsby's Tavern, a volunteer group of historians and other interested citizens.

Gadsby's Tavern is generally considered to be one of the important historic sites in the area because of the prominent men who frequented it and the importance of decisions discussed there. It was the scene of many dramatic events which paved the way toward Independence and the drafting of the US Constitution. At least six Presidents were entertained there, and such figures as Lafayette, John Paul Jones, Alexander Hamilton, Henry Clay, Francis Scott and Key.

Another important acquisition came in 1949 when the doorway from which George Washington gave one of his last military commands in November 1798 was returned. Also a part of the Metropolitan Museum since 1917, it was donated to Gadsby's by Col. and Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore and the Alexandria Association to mark the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the City of Alexandria. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was the honored guest at that ceremony.

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note; the ceremony is inside. No power is available. Photographers and crews will be at a distance of about 10-20 feet.



The Story of GADSBY'S TAVERN

By DOROTHY H. KABLER



The Story of
Gadsby's Tavern

By Dorothy H. Kabler



WITH DRAWINGS BY BERTHA H. DOUGHERTY



NEWELL-COLE COMPANY :: PRINTERS :: ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

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DOROTHY HOLCOMBE KABLER

Type composition courtesy of
THE ALEXANDRIA (Va.) GAZETTE

Printed in the United States of America



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Material for this history of one of the most famous landmarks in Virginia comes almost entirely from original sources. Early copies of The Alexandria Gazette have yielded a wealth of information. This has been supplemented by a study of state and court records in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Documents at the Alexandria Library and the Library of Congress have helped to round out the story.

The author is particularly grateful to Mr. Oliver Wendell Holmes for making available the data he has compiled in years of research on stage lines and taverns, and to Mr. Worth Bailey for directing attention to manuscripts in the library of Mount Vernon. The interest shown by Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman in this history is very much appreciated.

To Joseph William Bartlett for his care in setting the type, to Bertha H. Dougherty for her illustrations, to Joseph Huxley Bell, Jr., for the engravings and to Joseph H. Newell for the great interest he has taken in the publication of this booklet the author expresses her thanks.

This history was requested by the owners of Gadsby's Tavern represented by F. Clinton Knight and George M. Giannittorio in 1949 and completed in 1952.



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

- Audiovisual Unit
 Book Collection
 Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item:

15"x7" color of Alexander Calder sculpture called Flamingo outside
the GSA Building in Chicago.

18"x10" bw photo of minature of above at the Hirshorn Museum
dedicated by BF on 10/14/75 (Man not identified)

The item was transferred from:

Weidenfeld Box 6

10/14/75 Hirshorn Museum and
Gadsby's Tavern

Initials/Date

Lst 2/84

J. EVERETTE FAUBER, JR., F.A.I.A. • ARCHITECT

2309 AATHERHOLT ROAD • (804) 847 - 7754 • LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501

J. EVERETTE FAUBER, JR., F.A.I.A.
NATHANIEL P. NEBLETT, ARCH. HISTORIAN

ROBERT H. CARBEE, A.I.A.-ASSOCIATE
J. EVERETTE FAUBER, III, A.I.A.-ASSOCIATE

GADSBY'S TAVERN
Royal and Cameron Streets
Alexandria, Virginia
City of Alexandria--Owner

DESCRIPTION: The Gadsby's Tavern complex presently consists of three separate buildings: City Tavern, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories, built circa 1770; City Hotel, $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories, built 1792; the Hotel addition built 1878. The area of the courtyard was formerly occupied by wooden service buildings which included the kitchen, wash house, stable, coach house and necessities.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Gadsby's Tavern provided lodging for stagecoach passengers, riders from the south on their way to Washington City, and for itinerant performers at the theater across the street. Among those entertained at Gadsby's were George Washington (on many occasions), Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Paul Jones, and Lafayette. During the late 18th and early 19th century, the tavern enjoyed the reputation of being one of the finest taverns in America, under the proprietorship of John Gadsby.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: The City Tavern and City Hotel are fine examples of late-Georgian brick architecture. The City Tavern has stone lintels over the front windows with vermiculated keystones and a stone belt course. Both buildings have a dentil and modillion cornice and the gable end of the City Hotel displays a raked cornice pediment with a bull's-eye window. Both buildings have a moulded brick watertable.

In addition, much original woodwork remains in the buildings, particularly the pedimented entries on Royal Street and mantels in several locations. The City Hotel ballroom is the finest extant space of its type, with twin scrolled and pedimented overmantels, finely scaled fretted chairrail, and unique cantilevered musicians' gallery.

RESTORATION: When re-opened in 1976, the City Tavern and part of the City Hotel will serve as museum exhibit spaces. A restaurant featuring 18th century menus and environment will operate in the City Hotel. The 1878 addition will be modernized for use by the American Legion.

The structure and fabric of the buildings are in remarkably good condition. The current effort is aimed at preserving and upgrading the buildings to meet modern codes and to incorporate the requisite mechanical systems with minimal disturbance to the historic fabric.



By Benjamin Forgey

A new vision: public places with sculpture



Innovative constructions of shapely forms in city and country are changing how things look—and are looked at

Late-evening commuters crossing one of the Potomac River bridges from Washington to Virginia any one of 30 spring nights a year ago must have been startled to see, coming out of the gathering darkness of the Virginia hills, three green shafts of light, each of a preternatural brilliance.

Visitors to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts got an even better view. The piercing light beams, with their source atop high buildings on the Virginia side barely distinguishable, skimmed the top of the heavy thicket of trees on Roosevelt Island and, mirrored in the darkening eddies of the river below, came to rest in pale oval spots on the white marble walls of the Center.

This evocative spectacle contained more than just a touch of magic. It was created by Rockne Krebs, an audacious artist whose principal medium has become light itself (in this case harmless, beautiful, argon-ion laser beams) and whose characteristic setting is nothing less than the phantasmagoric nighttime collage presented by our 20th-century cities.

In another section of Washington, not far from the vista where Krebs created this exhilarating mark (the apposite title of which was *Irish Light*), there is a quiet, well-ordered spot that invites the stroller to sit upon a bench, and perhaps contemplate one of the more unusual architectural endeavors taking place in 20th-century America.

This is a garth (a small courtyard surrounded by cloisters) beneath the soaring buttresses of the north