
At the beginning of August, 1967, the new West Wing of the Milton O. Lee Building received its first occupants—the Executive Offices of the American Society for Experimental Pathology and Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology, Inc., additional offices of the American Physiological Society, and the offices of the American College of Cardiologists. Later the editorial office of Federation Proceedings moved into this new wing, consolidating the functional units. Two health-related contract activities, one in Biostatistics and one in Interuniversity Communications, will have utilized space in this wing by the time this article is in print. New lunch room and eating facilities are available in the basement of the West Wing, replacing the inadequate temporary arrangement in use up to now.

As shown in the rendition of the architect’s drawing printed herein, the Milton O. Lee Building now consists of a five story main building and two four story wings, joined by a pillared colonnade or portico, two stories high. Beneath the porch or portico are three rooms below ground, furnishing badly needed storage space for the resident Societies and for the Federation. The new West Wing adds over 11,000 square feet of office space to the Beaumont complex. While not occupied completely on opening, the past history of the Federation’s and constituent Societies’ growth gives good assurance that all available space in the Lee Building will be used completely in the near future.

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology has had a home at Beaumont in the Bethesda area since 1954. Purchased in 1954 from one of the better estates in the area were 11.4 acres of landscaped grounds, later to be named Beaumont. Included were a large fieldstone house, now known as Beaumont House, a caretaker’s house, a frame barn, a greenhouse and a four-car garage. In 1954 the picture of space requirements for the Federation and for the constituent Societies was described as follows:

“Space in the main house is thus available for any foreseeable expansion of the Federation’s activities, or for use by any of the member Societies who may wish to establish executive or editorial offices in the Washington area. Also under consideration is the possibility that organizations outside of the Federation, but closely allied to its interests, may wish to rent space.”

In 1956 the American Physiological Society established an executive office at Beaumont. In 1961 two more member Societies of the Federation, the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, set up executive offices in Beaumont House. By this time the main stone house was occupied to capacity and the space in the four-car garage was completely utilized by Federation and Society business.

A decision was made in 1961 by the Advisory Committee and Federation Board to build an additional office building, this being completed in 1962 with formal opening ceremonies on 12 October of that year (Federation Proc. 22: 152–154, 1963).

This was filled quickly and by 1969 new and additional space was required, the answer being the construction of the East Wing of the office building which was occupied in February 1965.

During 1965 the American Society for Experimental Pathology and the American Institute of Nutrition established executive offices at Beaumont, and the American Association of Immunologists opened a headquarters office with a part-time staff secretary. It soon became apparent that expanding Society and Federation activities would require even more space.

In 1966 the Executive Committee and Federation Board authorized the construction of the West Wing and portico for the office building which had by then been named the Milton O. Lee Building, honoring the long-time Federation Executive Officer who retired in 1965. Construction was begun on 25 July 1966 and completed in July 1967.

At the present time the “Home of the Federation,” as Dr. Lee aptly called it in 1954, houses a total of 144 full or part-time employees, 84 of whom are Federation employees. Located in Beaumont House are the executive offices of the Federation, the American Society of Biological Chemists, and the American Institute of Nutrition. In addition certain Federation contract activities are administered here.

At the time of this writing the original garage, now converted into office space, is rented to the National Academy of Sciences’ Committee on Research in the Life Sciences. In the Lee Building are the Federation business and editorial offices, and the offices of the American Physiological Society, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Society for Experimental Pathology, the American Association of Immunologists, and other offices mentioned earlier.

Construction and modifications of the grounds of the Federation at Beaumont have been carefully planned to maintain the integrity and beauty of the property. Large and beautiful trees, a fine planting of boxwoods and several formal gardens, one with a summer house, have been preserved intact and carefully guarded. The fieldstone and brick of the Milton O. Lee Building fit perfectly into this setting. The range of white columns across the front of the Lee Building ties together the three separately constructed units and produces a structure that does not clash with the other structures at Beaumont, rather merging harmoniously with them and with the attractive landscape.

In view of past experience one hesitates to say that the “needs for the foreseeable future” are met. The members of the constituent Societies can be sure that they have a headquarters and home that they can be proud of, a series of buildings in the proper setting appropriate to the stature of the constituent Societies and of the Federation. It is hoped that many members of the Federated Societies will have or make the opportunity to visit Beaumont.

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