

LANDSCAPE AND SITE DESIGN

Courthouses are a cornerstone of American Democracy. They serve, singularly, to bring together citizens from every walk of life and every social stratum to seek, find and serve justice. The landscape that welcomes citizens here must remind each visitor of the grandeur of this democratic experiment while offering a functional and beautiful setting for the building.

The landscape design meets the SITES v2 Silver Certification criteria addressing sustainability, first and foremost through site-appropriate plant selection and proper placement. The plant palette consists of species native to North Carolina's Piedmont geological province and adapted to the U.S. Hardiness Zone 7b and 2-3 zones south. Native plants require less maintenance in their indigenous environment than non-native plants, therefore

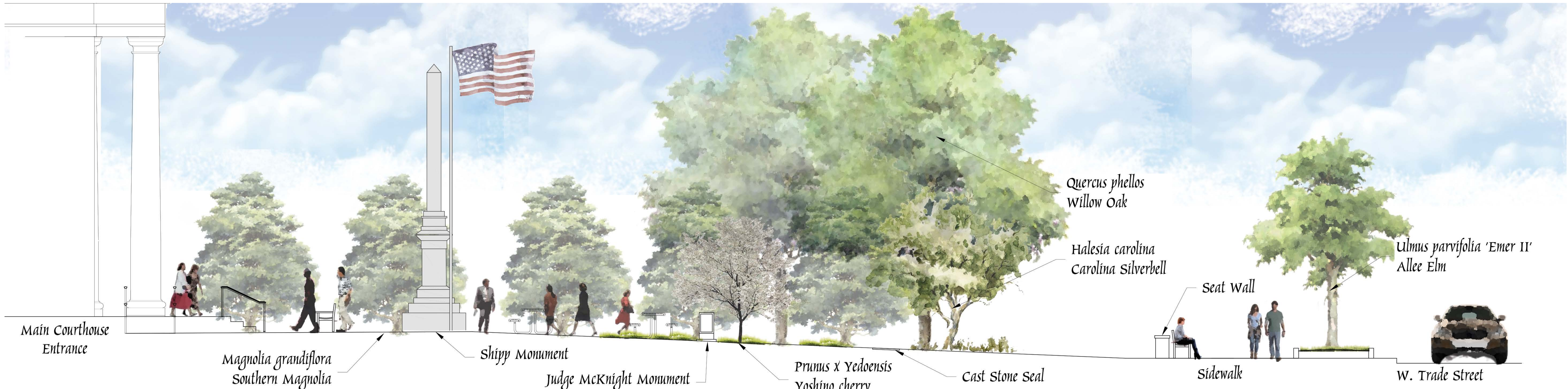
naturally reducing irrigation needed. Smart soil sensor irrigation systems and a reliance on plants adapted to these hardiness zones further reduce irrigation requirements. To diminish the urban heat island effect, seven large canopy trees and eight smaller, flowering ornamental trees shield the building from cold north winds in the winter and shade surfaces from the hot southern sun in the summer.

The planting beds serve as shallow rain gardens, capturing and retaining storm water runoff and filtering pollutants carried along with it. The rain gardens can hold over 16,000 gallons of water during a single storm event.

Additionally, during times of drought (expected to increase due to global climate change), the rainwater captured on the Jonas roof irrigates the rain gardens. The captured

rainwater is filtered, sanitized with UV radiation, and then pumped into an underground cistern (located in the front yard) until needed. Additional educational elements focus on the native vegetation of the site. A plaque positioned along the easternmost rain garden speaks to the importance of capturing rainwater/urban runoff and the benefit of using appropriate plants to address the stormwater management needs of a site.

An additional plaque positioned within the pocket part at the corner of 4th and Mint Street discusses the importance of wildlife-friendly plants and invites users to explore the rest of the landscape at the north end of the site. Furthermore, small plaques will denote particularly beautiful, interesting, or ecologically important species throughout the landscape.



HISTORICAL SITE ELEMENTS

Formerly located on this site, the historic U.S. Mint building represents one of the first introductions of wealth into the city of Charlotte that eventually led to the city becoming a vibrant community with strong business, artistic and cultural foundations. Commemorating this history, the cast stone seal centered on the entrance to the Courthouse landscape is an enlarged replica of the original 1838 \$5 gold coin minted at the Charlotte U.S. Mint. The granite stone band cutting through the site outlines the original footprint of the U.S. Mint Building. In addition, the Judge McKnight Monument and the refurbished William Ewen Shipp Obelisk have been repositioned from their former locations to where you see them stand today. The Charles R. Jonas Federal Courthouse landscape brings together threads of history and environmental sustainability and serves as a gracious welcome to the citizens of Charlotte.



JUDGE MCKNIGHT MONUMENT

"The just man justifies."

- Gerard Manley Hopkins, quoted by Rev. Dr. Leighton Ford at the portrait unveiling ceremony of H. Brent McKnight.

The Honorable H. Brent McKnight, a native North Carolinian, served the Western District of North Carolina with distinction as a United States Magistrate Judge (1993-2003); and as a United States District Judge from August 25, 2003, until

his untimely death on November 27, 2004. Brent earned a Morehead Scholarship (UNC), Rhode Scholarship (Oxford), and was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for service to the state of North Carolina. At his Judicial Investiture, Judge McKnight declared that becoming a federal judge was "a sacred trust, a covenant with the people and with the principles of freedom and justice which our judicial institutions are charged to express. I will do my utmost to keep that covenant, to fulfill that trust. To me that means the pursuit of justice unencumbered by agenda or prejudice, affirming freedom, individual worth and equal opportunity grounded in due process and the presumption of innocence. It means accurate application of the law and excellence in its expression. Justice is achieved case by case, person by person, treated with thoroughness, fairness, and respect. It means cutting to the heart of issues and having the strength and courage to decide. It means humility. It is the humble who are guided in the paths of justice." Judge McKnight kept his sacred trust. This monument remembers him and the ideals he so eloquently expressed and so humbly lived.

SHIPP MONUMENT

In the front yard of the Jonas Federal Courthouse stands the First Lieutenant William Ewen Shipp Monument. William Shipp was born in Asheville and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. After attending the Carolina Military Institute and West Point, Shipp was assigned, at his behest, to the Tenth Cavalry, a unit comprised of African American soldiers. As a second lieutenant, he joined his unit on the western frontier and saw hard service in the Indian campaigns. Shipp was then promoted to First Lieutenant and requested active service in the Spanish-American War of 1898. This memorial was originally located at the front of the U.S. Branch Mint off West Trade Street and repositioned to the southeast corner of the site when the

Post Office expanded in 1934. In 2018, the granite obelisk returned to the front lawn facing Mint Street as part of the Courthouse modernization project.

MINT BUILDING OUTLINE

Here stood the first branch office of the United States Mint built-in 1836. The Mint produced over five million dollars of gold currency until 1891, when North Carolina seceded from the Union. In 1891, a Post Office facility was built on the southwest portion of the site and the space between the two structures was converted to a plaza. A few years after the war, the Mint reopened as a U.S. Assay Office until 1913. At this time, the Mint functions were discontinued, and the 1891 Post Office was razed. In 1915 a new Post Office Facility (which is the first portion of what would eventually become the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building) was built on the former Post Office site. When the expansion of the new Post Office threatened the Mint, Charlotte citizens financed the meticulous relocation of the structure to the Eastover Neighborhood, where it reopened as part of the Mint Museum of Art in 1936.



c. 1930 Charlotte Mint Building

The addition to the Post Office – constructed in the Neo-Classical Revival style – tripled the size of the structure and reoriented the main axis of the building north towards Trade Street. The structure that stands here today – the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building, also known as the United States Post Office and Courthouse, is one of the few historic structures remaining in Charlotte's Central Business District.