

ALL AMERICA

RESEARCH LIBRARY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE,
CITY OF SAVANNAH
P. O. Box 1027
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

REFERENCE COPY
FOR USE IN LIBRARY ONLY
DO NOT REMOVE

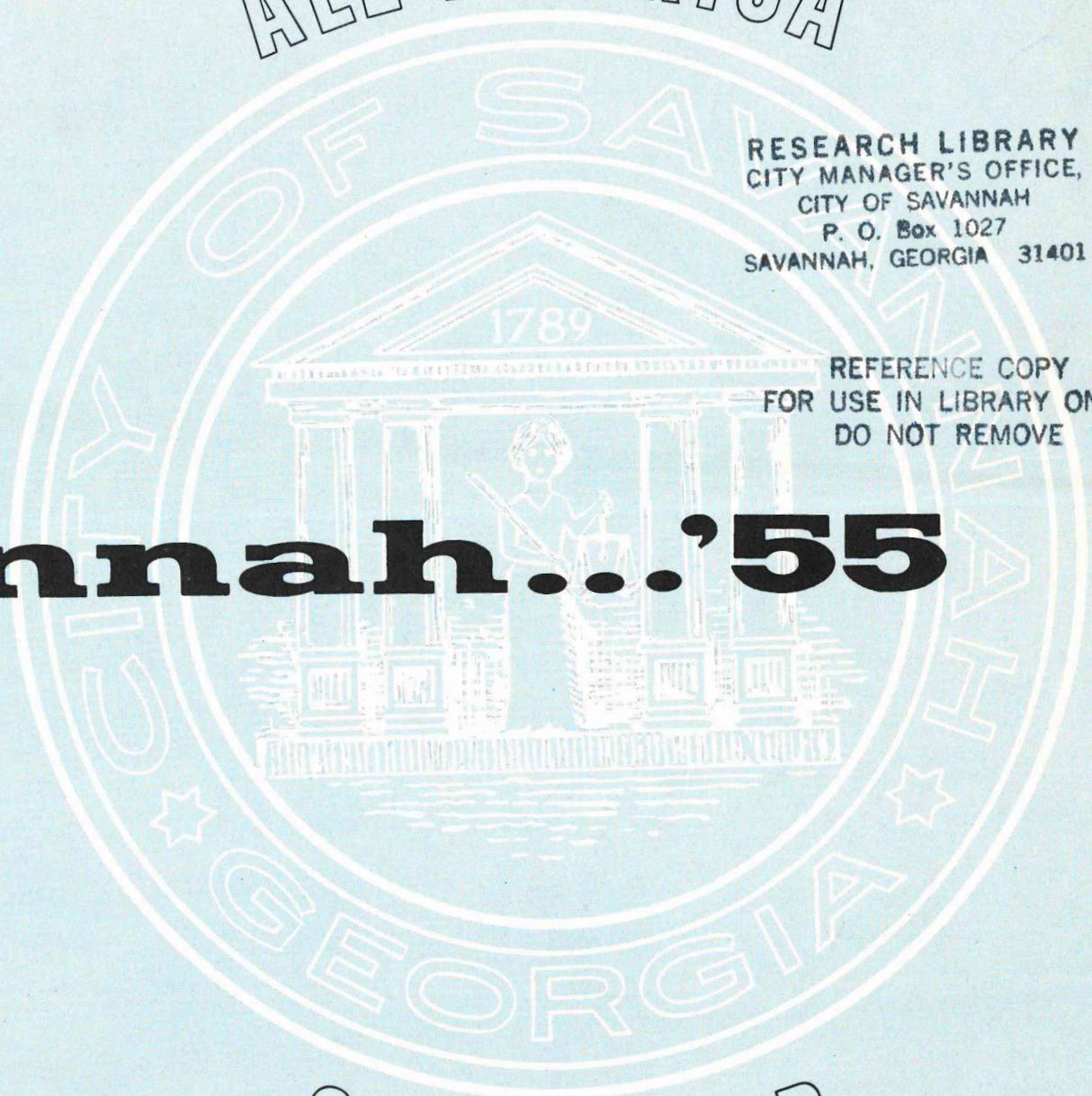
Savannah... '55

RESEARCH LIBRARY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE,
CITY OF SAVANNAH
P. O. Box 1027
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

Annual Report

CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

CITY AWARD

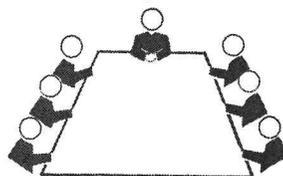


ORGANIZATION



THE PEOPLE

RECORDER'S COURT



MAYOR AND COUNCIL

LEGAL STAFF

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COMMISSIONS

COMMISSIONS

CIVIL SERVICE

RECREATION

PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARMSTRONG COLLEGE

METROPOLITAN PLANNING

COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

DISTRICT AUTHORITY

PARK AND TREE

AIRPORT

WATER

CARNEGIE LIBRARY



CITY MANAGER



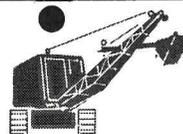
IBM



URBAN RENEWAL



FINANCE
 City Marshal
 Comptroller
 Treasurer
 Tax Assessor
 Purchasing
 Water Dept. Acct.
 Harbor and Wharves
 Hospital Service
 City Dispensary
 Custodian



PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT
 Inspection
 Engineering
 Construction and Maintenance
 City Garbage
 Carpentry Shop
 Parking Meter Section
 Sanitary Section
 Sewer Section
 Water Section
 Scavenger Section
 Highway Section



POLICE
 Patrol reliefs
 Traffic
 Detectives
 Women
 Maintenance
 Prison
 Identification
 Records



FIRE
 Battalions
 Inspection



AUDITORIUM AND STADIUM



City of Savannah, Georgia

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

W. LEE MINGLEDORFF, JR.
MAYOR

ELUSON R. COOK III M. D.
MAYOR PRO TEM

TO THE PEOPLE OF SAVANNAH

I am forwarding to you the City Manager's Annual Report for the fiscal year 1955. The Aldermen and I feel that this past year was a year of real achievement.

It has been our stated objective to provide a full dollar's worth of service for each tax dollar collected. We feel this report indicates that we have accomplished this objective. Your tax rate has not been increased - we wiped out a deficit of prior years, and have in fact, built up a small surplus without reducing services to you.

Many vital programs are just beginning to develop -- they must move forward as rapidly as possible. There is much hard work ahead for all of us. We are proud of our city and the national recognition it received with the "All America City Award"; however, we have no illusions as to the magnitude of the tasks that lie ahead.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Mingledorff, Jr.
W. L. Mingledorff, Jr.
Mayor

RESEARCH LIBRARY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE,
CITY OF SAVANNAH
P. O. Box 1027
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

REFERENCE COPY
FOR USE IN LIBRARY ONLY
DO NOT REMOVE



City of Savannah, Georgia

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

TO THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

As required by Law, I am forwarding to you the 1955 Annual Report. I feel that this report indicates considerable progress on the part of your City Government. I would like to call to your attention the fact that we were able in 1955 to eliminate the prior year's deficits and accumulate a surplus.

The highlights of the year include the establishment of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Federal approval of the Urban Renewal program, the completion of the major sewer system on the west side and, of course, the steady improvement of our governmental operations.

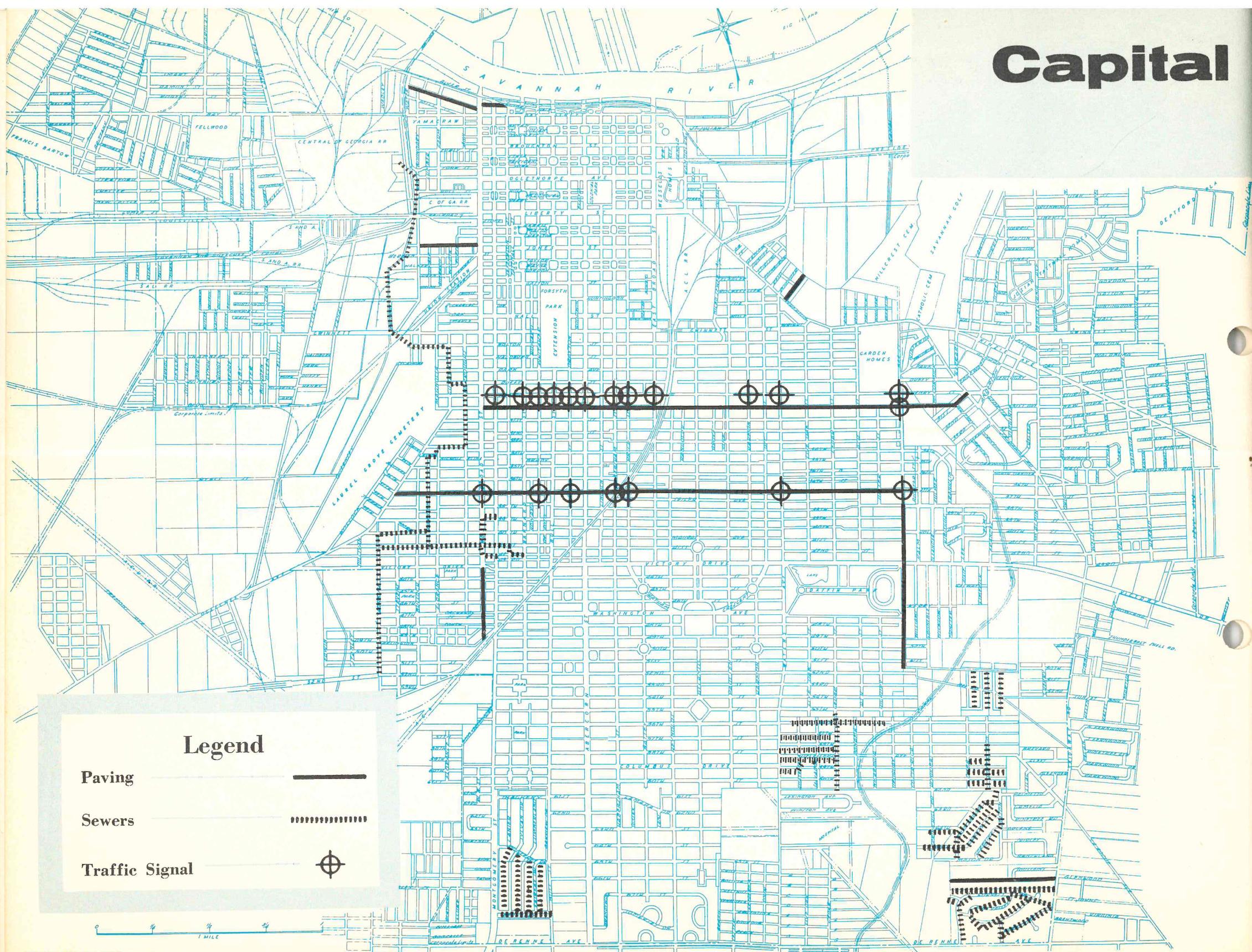
Credit for the achievements of the City Government must go to the Mayor and Aldermen for their leadership, the City employees for their devotion to duty and the people of Savannah for their support and cooperation.

The future of Savannah is very bright - there is no limit to what we can accomplish by working together. The past year's operations indicate that we are headed in the right direction and future reports will show even greater progress.

Sincerely yours,

F. A. Jacobs
F. A. Jacobs
City Manager

Capital



Legend

- Paving —————
- Sewers - - - - -
- Traffic Signal ⊕

0 1/4 1/2 1 MILE

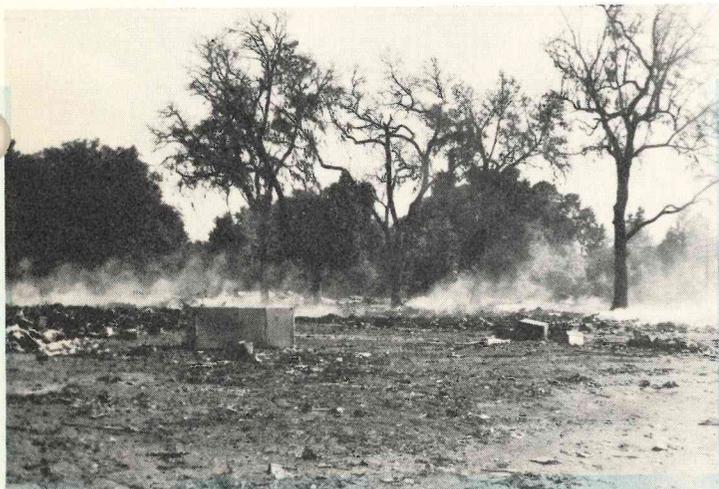
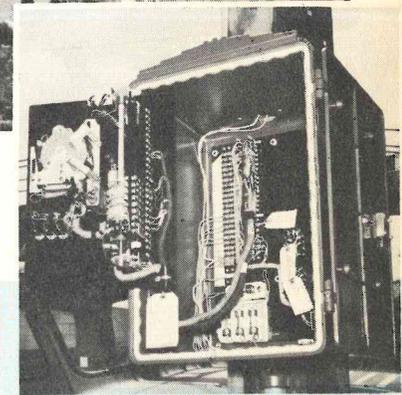
improvements:

During 1955, a realistic program of capital improvements was carried out, designed to make Savannah a better, pleasanter, and healthier place to live.

- A major addition to the program was the West Side Sewage System, costing about \$380,000; in addition to various subdivision sewage systems.
- 67.5 miles of drainage ditches were cleared and maintained.
- 31,000 feet of new sewer lines were laid by the sewage division.
- Two new pumping stations were added to the sewage system.
- The water system was greatly expanded by the addition of over 165,000 feet . . . over 27 miles . . . of water line, 55 new hydrants, and

over 1,200 new water meters, bringing the total number of meters to 30,865.

- Over 450 miles of streets were graded, and approximately 54,000 cubic yards of fill used, in addition to 6,150 sq. yds. of asphalt or concrete patching.
- Plans were completed for sanitary sewer facilities for Olympus-Dale Terrace, Chippawa Terrace, Paradise Park, Mayfair, Cresthill Gardens, and Halcyon Bluff, to be installed in 1956.
- Preliminary plans were completed for the Casey Canal Parkway—a four-lane divided highway from President St. to DeRenne Ave.; and construction drawings were completed for the widening of Skidaway Road from Victory Drive south to the City Limits.



Sanitary landfill BEFORE

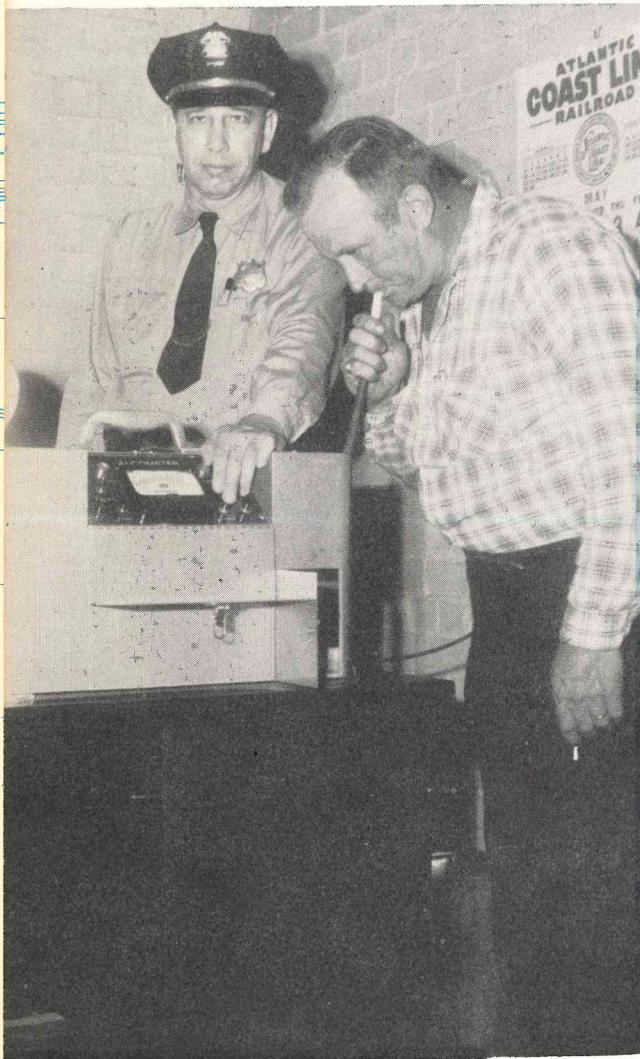


Sanitary landfill AFTER

*Above: Traffic Signal being installed
insert: the control box*

Saving life and

... by protection



POLICE DEPARTMENT

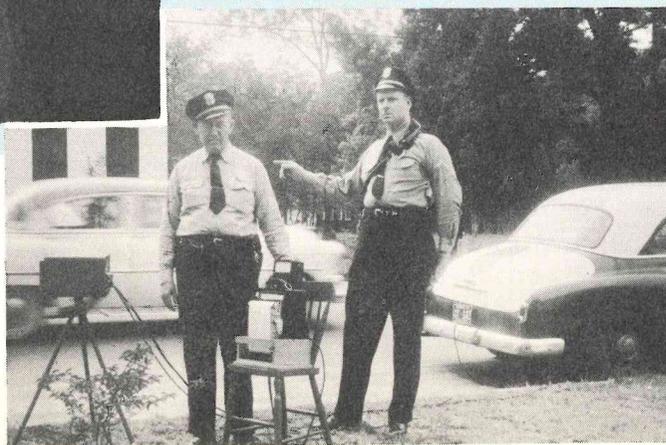
During 1955, a new Chief of Police was appointed, and the department streamlined to increase efficiency without increasing departmental costs.

Charged with responsibility of protecting persons and property, the department handled 23,136 radio calls in 1955, an increase of approximately 10% over the previous year. Almost twice as many first offenders and repeaters were fingerprinted and photographed. 8,127 arrests were made in 1955.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Of the 1,507 alarms answered by the Savannah Fire Department, 1,341 involved fires in buildings valued, with their contents, at \$3,027,132.00. Total fire losses for the year amounted to only \$221,187, a record the entire city may be proud of! In addition, the inhalator squad saved 21 lives.

The Drill Tower was rebuilt, and two-day fire-fighting classes held for all Savannah firemen, and those from surrounding areas.



Above: Alco-meter

Right: Radar Speed-meter

Far right: New Fire Station No. 8

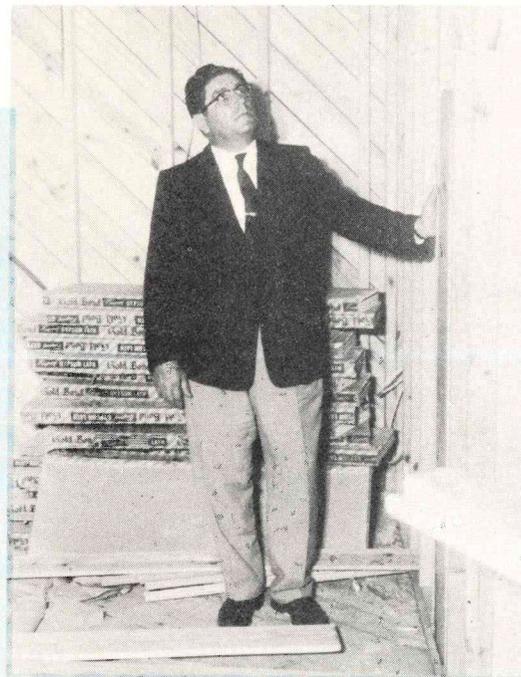
property . . .

. . . by inspection

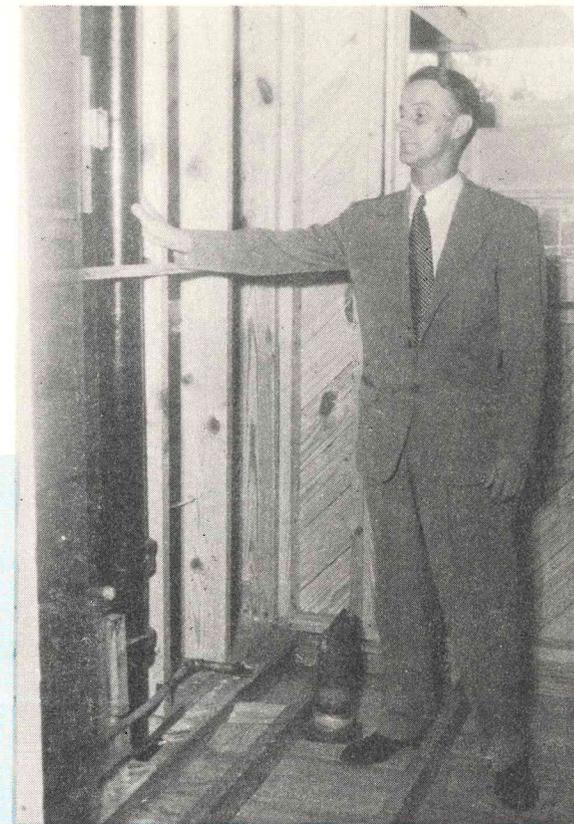
The average citizen is often unaware of the many inspectional services provided by the City, for the protection of life and property. To make this important activity self-supporting, fees are charged for performing some of these safety checks.

Building permits for new construction and improvements within the City alone were issued for structures valued at \$5,104,574. in 1955. 1,793 building permits were issued.

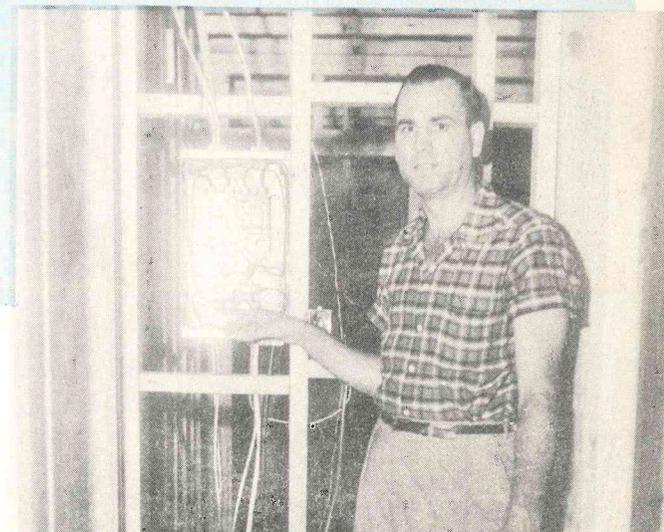
3,196 electrical inspections, 6,409 plumbing inspections, and 12,439 regular fire inspections were made in 1955. In addition, 21,763 special inspections were conducted by the Fire Prevention Bureau during Fire Prevention Week.



To insure safe buildings.



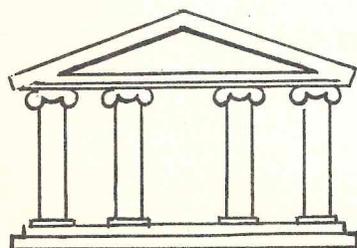
Plumbing must be right, for health and safety.



Stopping a fire before it starts.



COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
At December 31st



**Financial
Statement**

Assets

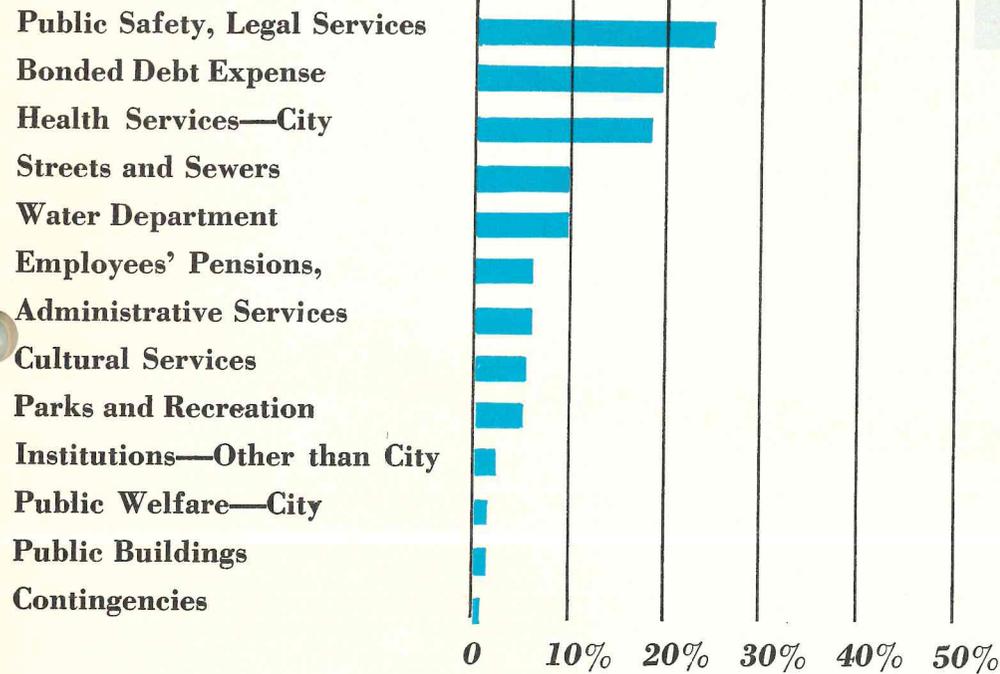
	1953	1954	1955
Cash on Deposit and With Treasurer	\$ 36,689.12	\$ 40,387.28	\$ 54,656.91
Working Funds	4,205.00	4,045.00	4,010.00
Cash With Fiscal Agents	84,868.76	141,696.01	152,847.01
Accounts Receivable — Current	189,573.89	134,680.02	120,941.61
Accounts Receivable — Delinquent	11,894.51	12,190.86	17,783.44
Taxes Receivable — Current	100,383.78	116,018.29	102,184.47
Taxes Receivable — Delinquent	99,168.92	139,673.85	181,684.61
Due From Bond Funds	53,818.69	5,715.50	19,879.89
Due From Water and Sewer Revenue Fund	4,833.36	5,064.51	5,823.80
Due From Industrial and Domestic Water Supply	26,296.31	55,193.10	11,864.29
Due From Pension Fund	330.00	367.20	360.00
Due From Savannah Airport Commission	240.00	.....	.....
Due From Water and Sewer Revenue Cert. of 1952	.....	.....	3,576.27
Due From Water and Sewer Revenue Cert. of 1955	10,271.26	10,633.87	10,305.68
Accounts Receivable From T. B. Hospital	.....	1,114.36	308.89
Due From Chatham County Board of Health	.....	.....	21.92
Due From Metropolitan Planning Commission	8,025.47	13,240.93	13,985.89
Inventory of Supplies	18,374.83	12,967.16	14,831.48
Unexpired Insurance Premiums	1,601.61	147.62	2,061.00
Unexpired Surety Bond Premiums	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 650,625.51	\$ 693,135.56	\$ 717,127.16

Liabilities at December 31st

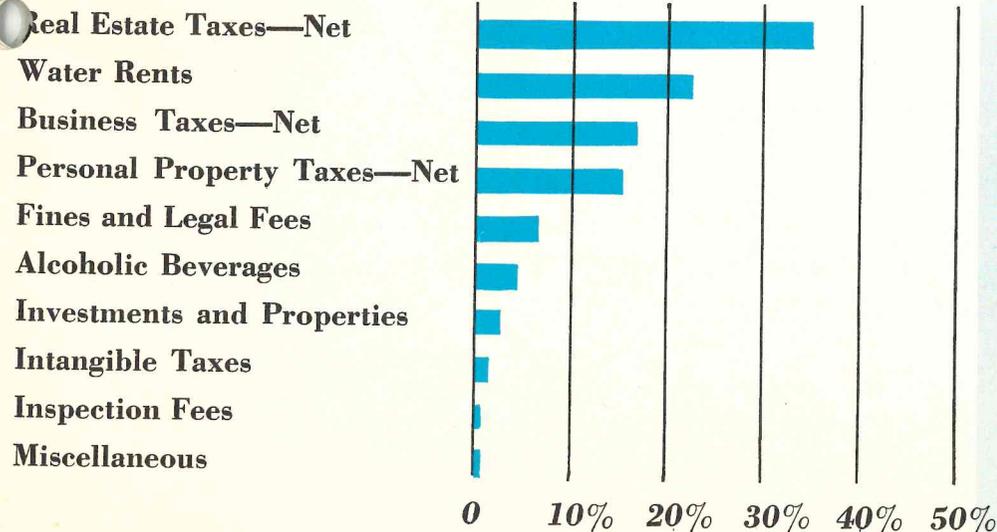
	1953	1954	1955
Vouchers Payable	\$ 284,003.27	\$ 244,227.14	\$ 105,352.34
Contracts Payable (Voting Machines)	402,236.38	250,000.00	70,125.24
Notes Payable	8,000.00	17,000.00	125,000.00
Matured Bonds Payable	173,398.75	129,969.00	11,000.00
Interest Coupons Payable	65,422.09	68,165.32	137,980.00
Interest Accrued on Bonds	139,764.45	124,159.72	66,280.43
Account Payable to Industrial and Domestic Water Supply	24,255.80	24,255.84	89,147.72
Account Payable to Sinking Fund Water & Sewer 1947	6,000.00	9,200.00	.....
Account Payable to Sinking Fund Water & Sewer 1952-53	649.08	1,008.24	1,049.23
Unclaimed Wages and Vouchers	.....	605.70	.....
Deferred Income — Care of Lots	26,206.24	27,013.61	9,153.81
Reserve For Incumbrances	.....	111,259.50	81,306.54
Account Payable — Sinking Fund 1909	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,129,936.06	\$1,085,754.96	\$ 696,395.31
Deficit For Prior Years	\$ 805,014.08	\$ 479,310.55	\$ 392,619.40
Adjustment Applicable To Prior Years	.....	96,659.03	11,295.33
Surplus For Current Year	\$ 805,014.08	\$ 575,969.58	\$ 403,914.73
TOTAL DEFICIT	\$ 479,310.55	\$ 392,619.40	\$ 20,731.85
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$ 325,703.53	\$ 183,350.18	\$ 424,646.58
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIABILITIES AND DEFICIT	\$ 650,625.51	\$ 693,135.56	\$ 717,127.16
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	\$ 650,625.51	\$ 693,135.56	\$ 717,127.16

LET'S ANALYZE THE STATEMENT:

Expenditures



Receipts



HERE'S WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU ... in terms of your morning coffee break!

Police and Fire protection for your home, your family, your person; plus the expenses of Police Court, Civil Defense, and other legal activities



cost less than 2 cups of coffee per week

City Health Services, polio shots, epidemic prevention and control, clinics, Board of Health, health education, nursing service, garbage and trash disposal, sewerage treatment and sanitation



cost less than 1½ cups of coffee per week

Paving and maintenance of streets, new construction; installation and extension of sanitary sewers, Engineers, D.P.W. Office, Street lighting and Electrical Dept.



cost less than 1 cup of coffee per week

Administrative services, including the operation of Mayor's office, City Manager's office, Finance Dept., Civil Service, registrations and elections



cost less than ½ cup of coffee per week

Playgrounds & Parks, tennis courts, swimming pool, golf course, and all the City recreational facilities for children and adults



cost less than ½ cup of coffee per week

● *These City services, and all others including library, salaries, Public Welfare, etc., cost you only slightly more than one cup of coffee per day!*

Better living

recreation

Many additional facilities and activities marked the expansion of the City Recreational Program in 1955.

Over 1,000 people participated in the "Learn to Swim" program. The new Daffin Park pool was in operation for its first full year. Eight teams, fully sponsored and equipped, were added to the Savannah Little League.

Four new hardball diamonds, 3 new softball fields and 1 concrete basketball court were added to the recreational facilities in 1955.

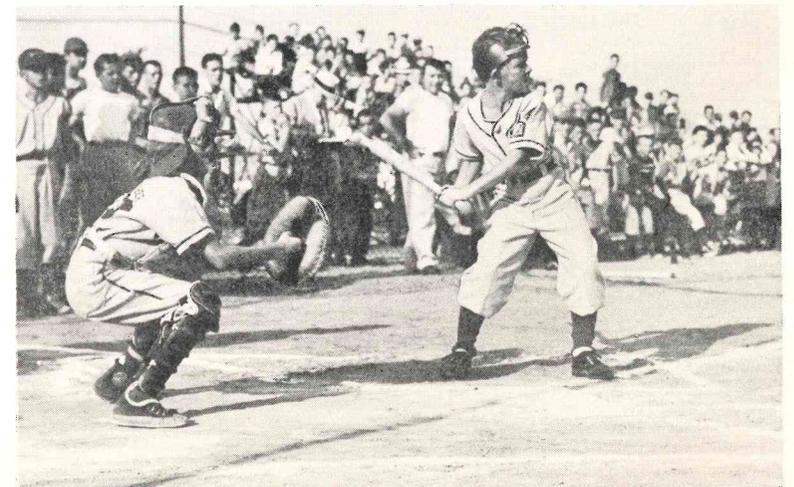
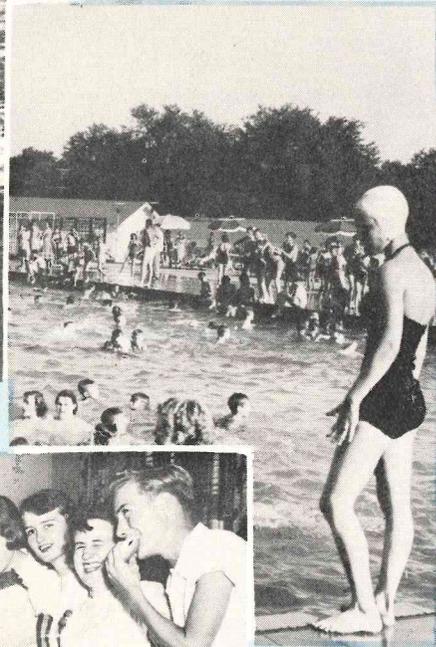
Renovation of the Daffin Park Fish Lake — a fishing pond for children — was initiated.

parks and trees

Park and Tree Commission in 1955 planted more than 375 azaleas, 100 various plants and shrubs, and over 400 trees in parks and squares.

The fountain in Forsyth Park was completely overhauled, and a number of plaques were installed for the Georgia Historical Society.

The Commission continued to maintain the City parks and squares, Bonaventure Cemetery, Greenwich Addition, and Laurel Grove Cemetery.



through:

culture

The use of a well-stocked Public Library system provides one index of the cultural growth of a city. In 1955, the Savannah Public Library system grew rapidly, as 6,888 new cards were issued and 337,000 books lent for home use. 63,005 non-fiction volumes were borrowed from the library system, and more than 18,000 reference questions answered by the Reference Services.

Much-needed improvements to the City Auditorium were approved and accomplished in 1955 at a cost of \$66,750. In almost continuous use, the Auditorium houses the Symphony, plays, orchestra, ballet, and many other activities contributing to the artistic and cultural life of Savannah.



public health

One of the most important services the City renders is that of protecting public health.

The Health Center offers pre-natal and maternal, diabetic, genito-urinary, heart medical, neuro-surgical, orthopedic, pediatric, proctology, skin, surgical, throat, mental health, and tuberculosis clinics. These clinics had a total attendance of 24,977 in 1955. All these services are given without charge to the patients. Attendance in the dental clinic for white and colored children totalled 3,081.

In 1955, over 7,300 children completed their polio vaccine (Salk) series; and 55,462 tests were completed by the Municipal Laboratories.

35 physicians give their services each week to the Health Center, thereby performing a valuable community service.

In addition to medical care, vital statistics and health education are responsibilities of the Health Center and the Board of Health.



1955 ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

Presented to
SAVANNAH

in recognition of progress achieved through intelligent citizen action

AWARD JURY



James M. Osteen *Robert C. ...*
... *...*
... *...*
... *...*
... *...*

AWARD SPONSORS

National Municipal League and LOOK Magazine

In recognition of progress . . .

The citizens of Savannah received national recognition for their achievements, when the National Municipal League and Look Magazine awarded Savannah the All-America City Award.

This national award is given in recognition of "progress achieved through intelligent citizen action", and represents the results of spectacular work by the people, the many civic groups of our city, and the City Government.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

For the first time in many years, the City ended its fiscal year with a surplus. 1955 was marked by substantial savings in the cost of operating the City, coupled with increased municipal income. This additional income was obtained by better, fairer tax collection methods, equalizing a fair share of taxes among all the citizens, rather than by increasing taxes.

Over \$7,900 was saved in the Finance Department in 1955, by the introduction of modern purchasing methods, and the prompt payment of city bills.

A program of equalization of business personal property returns was installed, and all automobiles registered in Chatham

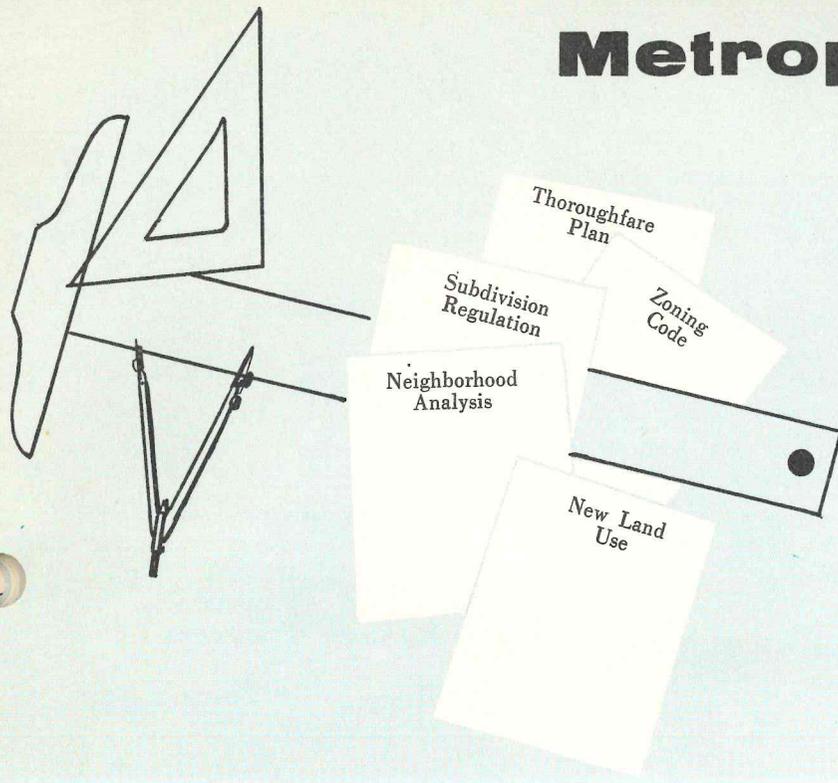
County listed; resulting in further equalization and increase in revenue.

A major reorganization of the Water Department was completed; and procedures for the collection of water bills were changed to provide equal treatment for all users.

Additional income has also resulted from diligent attention to delinquent tax collections, as shown in the table below:

	1954	1955
Real Estate	\$74,305	\$ 84,828
Specific Tax	95,816	102,888
New Licenses	27,030	35,036

Metropolitan Planning:



Realizing the need for planning Savannah's future growth and physical resources on a broad, long-term basis, your Mayor and Aldermen requested that the General Assembly establish a Metropolitan Planning Commission for Savannah and Chatham County.

The first commission was appointed March, 1955. It has the responsibility for formulating a comprehensive city master plan, and planning for present and future traffic requirements.

In September of 1955, the Metropolitan Planning Commission made applica-

tion to the Federal Government for an Urban Planning Assistance Grant. The Federal Government responded with a grant of \$18,000., to be matched by local funds, for Metropolitan Planning for Savannah.

The Planning Commission is now at work. With the proper technical staff, and the support of the community, a comprehensive program will unfold, based on sound factual information; and leading to a happier, healthier and more prosperous Savannah.

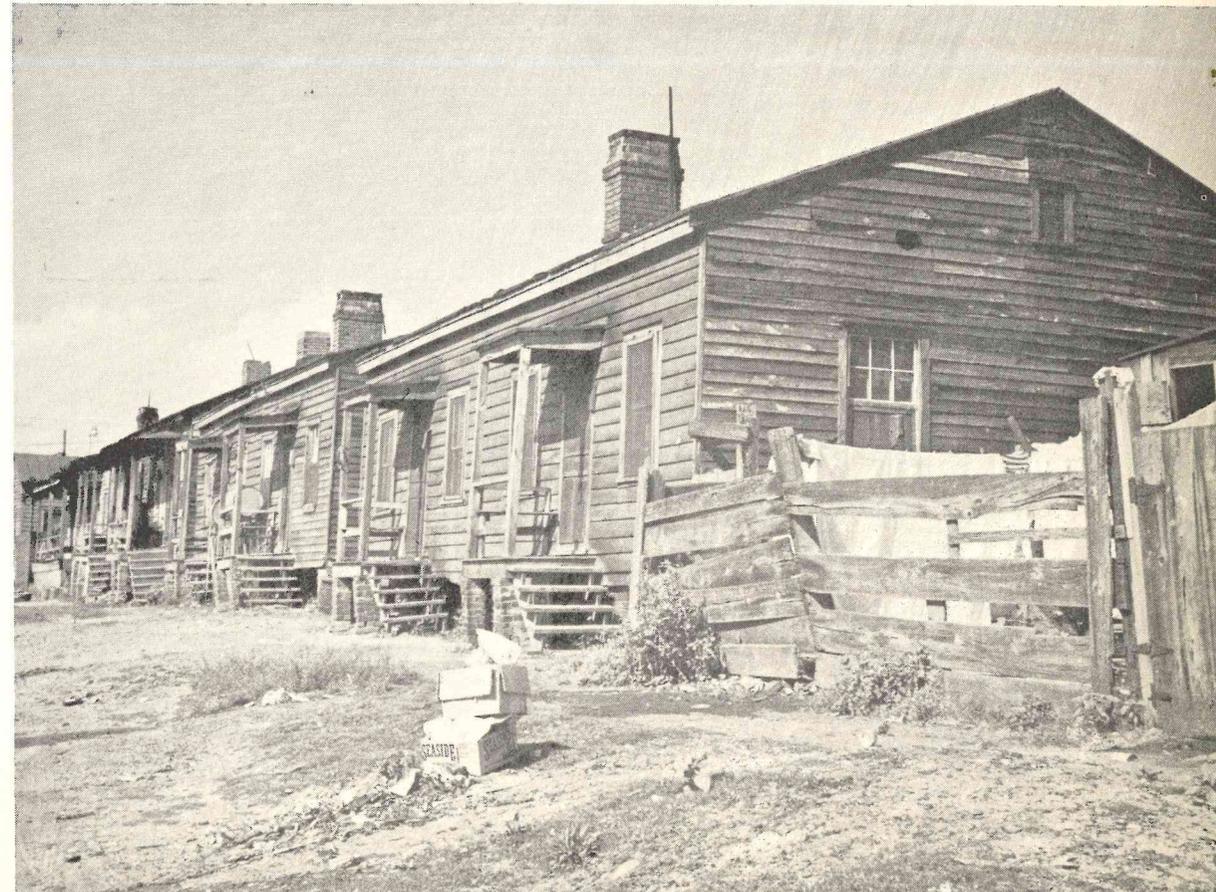
URBAN RENEWAL

Urban Renewal and Metropolitan Planning, although separate activities, supplement one another and will move forward together.

The Metropolitan Planning Program is engaged in evaluating our existing conditions, establishing standards for our future community and its growth, anticipating wherever possible the future problems of the community; and developing plans for the best way to build the Savannah of the future.

Our Urban Renewal Program will implement the Commission's plan in a specific area or areas of Savannah; through slum clearance and redevelopment where necessary, rehabilitation of slum buildings that may be sound, and by conservation of all that is good and desirable.

Urban Renewal Project I had its beginning in 1955. In July, the Mayor and Aldermen submitted an application for Project Planning Funds for Urban Renewal Project I to the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency. \$75,000 was allocated for planning the project. At the same time, a 636 acre tract on the West Side was designated as the area for initial study, conservation, and rehabilitation.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 1955:

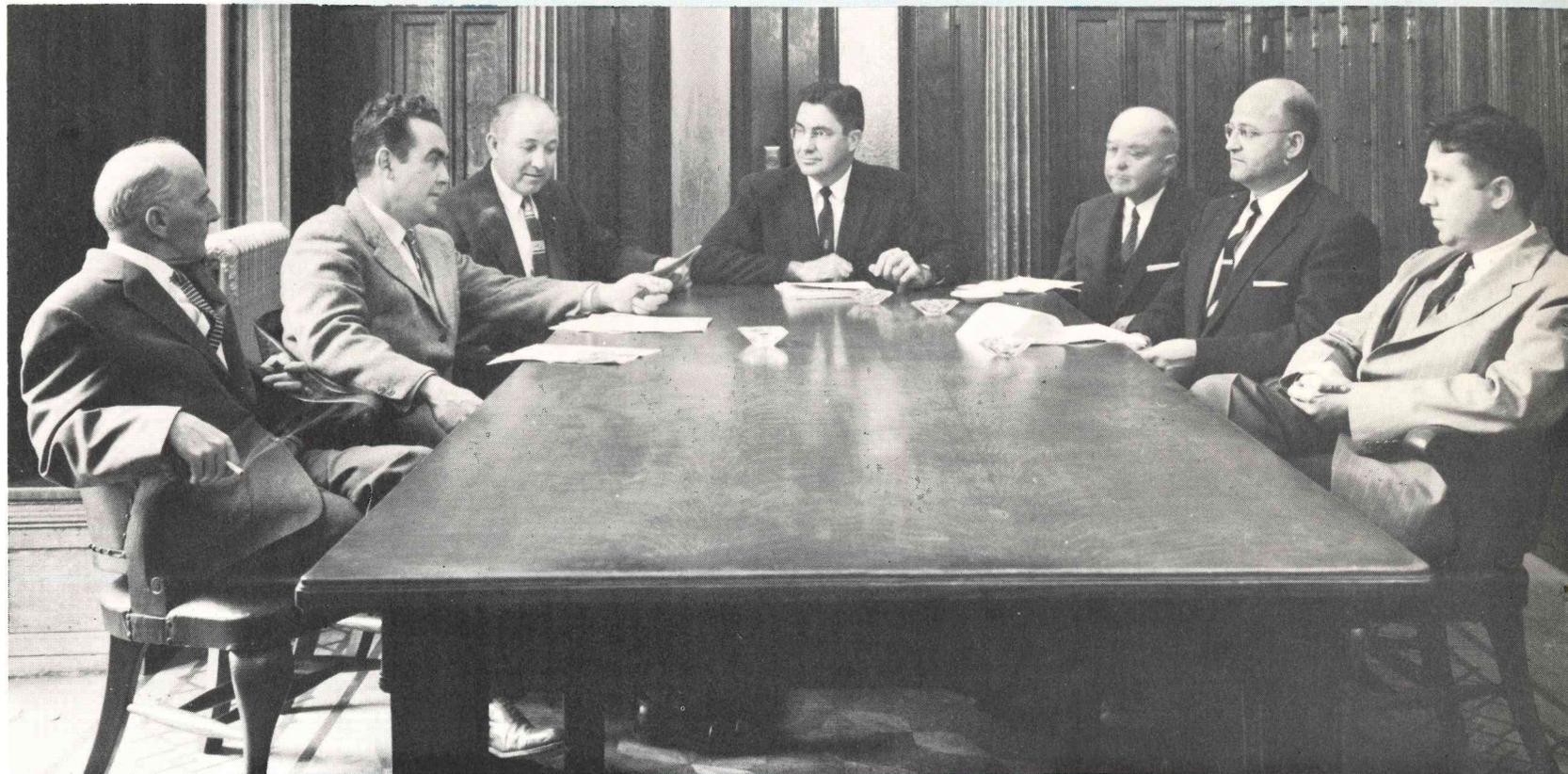
- *Establishment of Department of Finance*
- *Completion of West Side Sewer System*
- *Received All-America City Award*
- *\$1,100,000. water and sewer expansion program*
- *Approval of 636 acre Urban Renewal Program*

FOR THE FUTURE

- *Adoption of Minimum Housing Standards Code*
- *Plans for Urban Renewal Project I*
- *The Casey Canal Parkway*
- *A major East-West Parkway*

Head the list of objectives which should be accomplished by the City in the near future

YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT IN ACTION



City Manager Form of Government

On March 1, 1954, Savannah adopted the Council Manager form of city government.

Basically, the greatest advantage of the Council-Manager plan lies in the organization. This consists of a compact policy-making group—the Mayor and Aldermen—elected by and responsible to the voters for all the activities of your city government; and a professionally trained City Manager who executes and administers the decisions of the Mayor and Aldermen, and is responsible to them.

The City Manager is required to submit an annual budget to the Mayor and Aldermen, in which he sets forth proposed objectives and their costs for the year. After adoption by the Mayor and Aldermen, this program is put into effect in terms of services and improvements.

1955 . . . a year of decision

In addition to their regular activities, the Mayor and Aldermen made numerous vitally important policy decisions. Among these they adopted a \$5,765,726.00 budget . . . approved a \$1,100,000.00 Water and Sewer Certificate Issue . . . approved a \$10,000,000.00 Urban Renewal Program . . . authorized the establishment of a centralized City Finance Department, and effected other consolidations in the interest of efficiency and economy . . . authorized major renovation of the City Auditorium . . . abolished use of city auto tags . . . established a replacement

program for motorized equipment . . . undertook a study to put the City Pension Plan on a sound financial basis . . . began a program of wage and salary surveys designed to bring City employees' wages in line with industrial wages . . . instituted use of the Alcometer and Radar speed meter . . . and approved the installation of IBM Accounting Systems. Each decision has been a step forward in providing you, the taxpayers, with more efficiency, more service, and more convenience, for your tax dollar.

RESEARCH LIBRARY
 CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE,
 CITY OF SAVANNAH
 P. O. Box 1027
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

REFERENCE COPY
 FOR USE IN LIBRARY ONLY
 DO NOT REMOVE

**If you have a
 question about:**

Call:

Telephone No.

<i>Building permit</i>	<i>City Engineer</i>	AD 6-3391
<i>City Employment</i>	<i>Civil Service</i>	AD 4-6072
<i>Clinical Service</i>	<i>Hospital Service</i>	AD 2-4063
<i>Council Matters</i>	<i>Clerk of Council</i>	AD 2-8939
<i>Electrical permit</i>	<i>City Electrician</i>	AD 2-7674
<i>Garbage Collection</i>	<i>Scavenger Department</i>	AD 3-7781
<i>Health</i>	<i>Health</i>	AD 3-4771
<i>Library</i>	<i>Library</i>	AD 3-3748
<i>Licenses (all)</i>	<i>City Marshall</i>	AD 2-1616
<i>Personal Property Tax</i>	<i>Tax Assessor</i>	AD 2-1718
<i>Planning</i>	<i>Metropolitan Planning Commission</i>	AD 6-9523
<i>Plumbing permit</i>	<i>City Engineer</i>	AD 6-3391
<i>Purchasing</i>	<i>Bd. of Purchase</i>	AD 2-6101
<i>Recreation</i>	<i>Recreation</i>	AD 6-0651
<i>Street Repair</i>	<i>City Engineer</i>	AD 6-3391
<i>Storm Sewer Stopped</i>	<i>City Engineer</i>	AD 6-3391
<i>Subdivision regulations</i>	<i>Metropolitan Planning Commission</i>	AD 6-9523
<i>Tax assessment</i>	<i>Tax Assessor</i>	AD 2-1718
<i>Tax payment</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	AD 4-7244
<i>Traffic ticket</i>	<i>Police</i>	AD 2-4141
<i>Tree Removal</i>	<i>Park and Tree</i>	AD 2-1819
<i>Water bill</i>	<i>Water Dept.</i>	AD 3-4545
<i>Waterline repair</i>	<i>Water Dept.</i>	AD 3-4545
<i>Zoning Enforcement</i>	<i>City Engineer</i>	AD 6-3391

Emergency:

Police AD 2-4141
Fire AD 2-5121