

PLANNING TO BEGIN

A. G. Odell Is Architect For Burke's Community College

A. G. Odell Jr. and Associates, nationally known Charlotte architects and engineers, will do the architectural work for Western Piedmont Community College, soon to be constructed in Burke County.

Selection of the Charlotte architects became official last night when A. G. Odell Jr., head of the firm, came here to sign a contract with the board of trustees of Burke's comprehensive community college.

He was accompanied here by James Hemphill, an architect with the company who will assist in the planning.

The Odell firm, which has an employed staff of 68, will begin work immediately with college officials in starting a master campus plan as the first phase. When educational specifications are completed by the middle of March, the Odell firm will begin detailed design and specification work.

Mr. Odell is currently serving as president of the American Institute of Architects and is the only Southerner ever to fill that position.

He has won many awards for his work, including such projects as the Charlotte Coliseum and Owens Auditorium and Concordia Lutheran Church at Conover.

He and his associates have done much college work. He was architect for the full campus planning for St. Andrews College at Laurinburg and Charlotte College, and has done work for Davidson College and Johnson C. Smith University where he designed buildings to be fitted into old, established campuses.

The Odell firm is doing the Baltimore Civic Center, and past projects have included such varied planning as the Charlottetown Mall and Charlotte Memorial Hospital. He was recently commissioned to draw up a master plan for the redevelopment of the entire downtown area of Charlotte.

A. G. Odell Jr. and Associates were picked for the Burke college upon recommendation of the board's building and grounds committee which devoted much time to interviewing all interested architects and making many trips to see firsthand the work done in various college projects.

The buildings and grounds committee, whose recommendation was unanimously approved by the board, is composed of trustees Robert P. Carr, chairman; Eugene M. White, assistant superintendent of the Caldwell County schools; Ben E. Hoffmeyer and Thad M. Poteat.

Odell and Hemphill coming here for the contract signing ceremony, met with the entire board at a dinner at the home of Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr., chairman of the board.

A general exchange of ideas followed the dinner in an informal question-and-answer period.

Odell said he was impressed with the site for the college, a 132-acre tract acquired from the N.C. School for the Deaf, along U.S. 64 and Interstate 40. The site, he observed, "has character."

Under the personal supervision of Mr. Odell, his entire organization will become involved in the planning, both in the overall and in detail, and will present recommendations for consideration by the board. It is too early yet to speculate on the See A. G. ODELL, Page 3-A

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course the planning will take in the desire to obtain a building and a campus fitted to the site, pleasing to the eye and functional in design for greatest educational efficiency.

The board commended the building committee for what was termed its diligent and intensive work in selecting an architect. Frequent meetings and numerous trips were involved, it was pointed out.

"We feel fortunate to have A. G. Odell Jr. and Associates as our architects, and members of our board are looking forward to working with them in this important planning stage," Chairman Phifer said.



ARCHITECT SIGNS CONTRACT—A. G. Odell of the Charlotte firm of A. G. Odell and Associates signs a contract to do the architectural work for Western Piedmont Community College while members of the college's buildings and grounds committee look on. A member of the Odell organization, James Hemphill (extreme right) accompanied him

here for a conference with the board of trustees. Standing, left to right: Robert P. Carr, chairman; Ben E. Hoffmeyer, Eugene M. White and Thad M. Poteat, who make up the committee charged with the selection of an architect; and Hemphill. (Staff Photo by F. H. Dixon).