

Stacey Hall (originally Sears Roebuck and Co.)

1957

Architect: Stevens and Wilkinson



Preservation Priority

SIGNIFICANT OUTSIDE THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY
CONTRIBUTING

Landscape

Hospital

Significance

Currently occupied by administrative offices for University Hospital, Stacey Hall was built in 1957 as a Sears Roebuck and Co. department store, marking the zenith of commercial development in the area just west of University. For the University, and indeed for the larger community of Charlottesville, the structure is a unique example of modernism in the style of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, popular during the mid-twentieth century. The attributes most admired in the Miesian style--the celebration of modern materials, clean thoughtful detailing, and expressed structure--are successfully emulated here.

Integrity

SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT. Stacey Hall is substantially intact though a number of alterations have occurred. The exterior glass panels and doors have been replaced, and the interior has been converted from an open plan into office spaces.

Character Defining Features

Exterior

- Flat roof projecting over walkway on south and east elevations
- Plate glass sidewalls with aluminum extrusions
- Exposed structural steel framing
- Black spandrel panels
- Brick foundation
- Concrete sidewalks

Interior

- Not accessible at time of survey

Critical Concerns

None

History

The building known today as Stacey Hall was built for Sears Roebuck and Co. in 1957. Its colonnade of I-beams, glass curtain wall, and rectangular masses place it firmly within the High Modernist idiom of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. The building was designed by the Atlanta-based firm of Stevens and Wilkinson, which did a number of buildings throughout the southeast in the Modern style and also at least two more Sears stores in Virginia at Roanoke and Newport News. A 1959 issue of *Progressive Architecture* highlighted the firm's designs, including its Sears stores. Notably, the building's orientation focused not on the façade along West Main Street but toward its large parking lot to the east with automotive service center, acknowledging the importance of the automobile.

The building is now named in honor of John M. Stacey, the former director of the University Hospital and the first director of the Medical Center.

Chronology

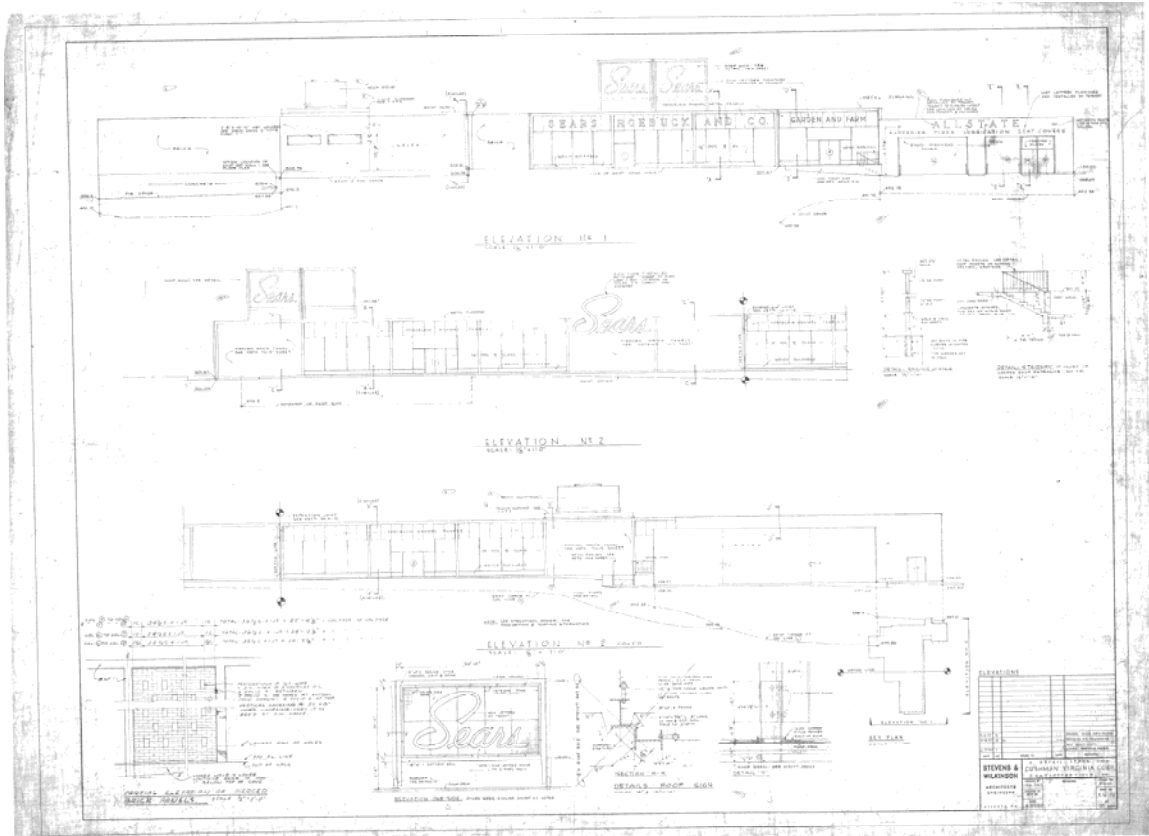
1957	Sears Roebuck and Co. opens store on West Main, becoming largest retail store in the city.
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- 1982 The University acquired the building when Sears moved to Fashion Square Mall. The Hospital was greatly in need of additional office space and parking, which the property provided. The four garage doors of the automotive wing are infilled with windows and stucco.
- 1985 Alterations by Metcalf and Associates.
- 1987 Exterior and landscape alterations by Metcalf and Associates.
- 1992-93 Renovations to building and storefront replacement by CEEG Associates. Major plumbing, electrical, and mechanical renovations.

Recommended Studies

None

Significant Photographs and Drawings



Stacey Hall (Sears and Roebuck Co. Building). Elevations and details. Dated September 3, 1957. Stevens and Wilkinson Architects. University of Virginia Facilities Management FP&C Resource Center.