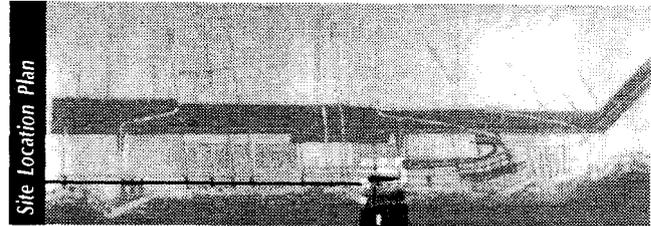


# Vidalia Historical/Interpretive Center

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The single point of contact between the old town and the new city lies in the original extension of one road, Concordia Avenue, from the heart of the old town into the residential areas of the new city. Concordia Avenue was originally the principal link between the outlying plantations, farms and communities and the River. At the termination of Concordia lay the ferry landing, the single means of passage from the western to the eastern side of the River.

Numerous recollections and anecdotes surround this point of exposure, this element of the land breaching the wall of the levee. The ferry crossing and landing were some of the most significant events in the life of this small town. This salient in the defenses of Vidalia was the rural and river equivalent of the train station, a place of action and interest. A place of education.

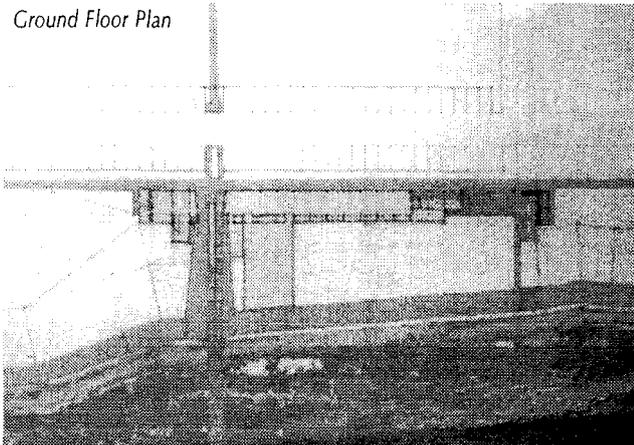
Such conditions of connection, both physical and psychological made for easy site selection for the Historical Interpretive Center: a building programmed to be something of everything — visitors' center, educational facility, exhibition space, archival storage, community meeting hall and theatre, outdoor viewing platform and tower as historical display case.

The building is intended to function as an educational core

for the rest of the site — as a mechanism for the interpretation of the history of three cities (the two Vidalia's and placid Natchez) and two centuries of changing physical and economic relationships. Rather than attempt to recreate the image of a nineteenth century river town or the comfortable hospitality of historic Natchez, the Design Team and the Committee for Riverfront Development allowed the project to take on the characteristics of an impressionist vision of building along the Mississippi. Consequently, just as the Riverwalk becomes a journey through the images of multiple pasts, we will present the project as a series of images, impressions and recollections of the process and results of design, of the old town and river, of the views of vastness and moments of intimacy in the pursuit of form.

WATER TOWERS/GRAIN ELEVATORS/STACKS  
FRAGMENT OF STREET EDGE  
SHUTTERS AND STOREFRONTS  
LEVEE/DATUM  
BREAK IN THE LINE OF ENGINEERED DEFENSE  
TRAILER/SHOTGUN HOUSE  
PROW/STERN

Ground Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan

