

added, say, on the clearer south end and met the programmed needs there, but I think it was pretty clearly understood even at that time that certainly Gaylord Freeman wanted open space on the south half of the block

Schulze: A plaza?

Manny: Yes, and of course it fit in well with the Civic Center two blocks to the north and the Federal Plaza two blocks to the south. The First National Bank block occupies the exact center block of the so-called ironbound loop: the elevated [light rail] that circles the downtown. And it was fortuitous that the Federal Center and the Civic Center were developed in a very symmetrical way around the center block where the First National Bank would be located.

Schulze: In the entry that I wrote for the AIA guide to Chicago, I note that there is a sort of beautiful poetry about the idea of the two government plazas bowing in the direction of your private, commercial sector, which is a typical Chicago kind of poetry. But let me go back a moment because when you were talking last time there was an issue between Murphy, and Perkins and Will as to whether the old First National Bank building would be retained and, possibly, whether the Morrison Hotel would be retained.

Manny: It was the Morrison. I don't think there was ever any question that the old bank was going to go.

Schulze: So the old First National Bank would go. But that again presumed that you had the whole block, and if you were going to confine the new building to the north end, that presupposes an open space on the south end, does it not?

Manny: Pretty much so, and that was a part of this brainstorming session with these men. I think they were trying to point out—and I think all these ideas went over very well—that this could be a big community space. There was talk of a