

SITES ALONG THE NORTH CHRISTIAN FIVE-MILE LOOP

(STARTING FROM THE VISITORS CENTER)

AT&T/SBC SWITCHING STATION

Architect: Paul Kennon of Caudill, Rowlett, Scott, 1978. Distinctive for its mirrored glass facade and its primary colored accents, the building houses electronic equipment. Giant pipes on the west side of the building provide a colorful accent and have become an iconic image of Columbus. (The pipes are actually functional heating and air stacks.) The majority of the trellis structure and the original pear trees, integral parts of the original design, were removed due to nuisance caused by birds attracted to them.

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Architect: Eero Saarinen, completed in 1964. The last building designed by Eero Saarinen before his untimely death in 1961. Kevin Roche and Roche Dinkeloo & Associates, the successor architectural firm, completed the building. The sloping roof of this six-sided building blends with the landscaped earth-mound which surrounds it. This low line accentuates the slender 192-foot spire, topped with a gold-leaf cross. Dan Kiley landscaped the multi-acre site, including the parking lot with "parking rooms." In April 1961, Saarinen said, "We have finally to solve this church so that it can become a great building. I feel I have this obligation to the congregation, and as an architect, I have that obligation to my profession and my ideals. I want to solve it so that as an architect when I face St. Peter I am able to say that out of the buildings I did during my lifetime, one of the best was this little church, because it has in it a real spirit that speaks forth to all Christians as a witness to their faith." (National Historic Landmark)

NORTHSIDE SCHOOL

Harry Weese designed Northside Middle School in 1961, with contributions by his brother Ben, that features repetitive use of brick arches, both inside and outside. The renowned Chicago architect has designed seventeen buildings in Columbus and is best known for his award-winning design of the Washington, D.C. metro system. An addition, in 1992, by Leers, Weinzapfel & Associates, contrasts a dramatically more modern design from its neighboring structure, as does the addition to Schmitt School, see below.

SCHMITT SCHOOL

Harry Weese designed the original school in 1957, which kicked off the Cummins Foundation architectural program. An addition to the east side, built in 1991, is by Leers, Winzapfel & Associates. The "Columbus Red" steel in both additions complement other community projects, such as Mill Race Park and the gateway bridges. Leers, Weinzapfel & Associates were The AIA (American Institute of Architects) recipients of the Architecture Firm of the Year Award in 2007.

IRWIN-SWEENY-MILLER MONUMENTS

Resting place for Irwin-Sweeny-Miller family members, including community leaders and benefactors J. Irwin and Xenia Miller.

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Architect: I.M. Pei, Pritzker Prize recipient
Pei also designed Grand Louvre in Paris and The Rock
and Roll Museum in Cleveland, among many others.
Jim Paris, a local architect, designed the expansion,
with the approval of Mr. Pei.