

This text is from Robert Kellogg on September 9, 2012. Robert explains that he recently met the designer of Dial 253, James Rhodes, who provided the following insight on the development of this sundial.

Here are Jim Rhodes words: "In 1967 I worked with the architects Saunders and Pearson in Alexandria Virginia. Specifically a staff architect there, G. Revel (Rev) Michael, was designing the City Bank Building on the corner of Cameron and North Washington Streets, and we discussed a time and temperature clock for the wall, like those commonly seen on contemporary buildings. Since this was a building of a more traditional design, I said I could do a sundial that would be just as reliable. I researched and found that the face of a vertical dial could be declined to the street grid, and Rev and I started looking for precedent for such a dial. We found several old dials that were pulled out on one side from the wall to face south, but when I found one that was declined, and flush with the wall, Rev said, "OK, we have precedent--you can do it." I said, "Rev, I thought finding that something had already been done would discourage the incentive to create." Rev answered, ! "The opposite is true in traditional design. You don't get carried away creating something that wouldn't have been done before." I will never forget that lesson, especially since it helped bend my career toward historic preservation--demonstrating how creative preservation design can be. Hence the name of my firm, "PRESERVATION DESIGN".