

The text below is from a 7/1/2013 email from Jim Roads to Larry McDavid, NASS Sundial Registrar, regarding Dial 253 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Interesting, I just located my Equation of Time for the sundial I designed in 1970 on what used to be the City Bank Building in Alexandria, Virginia, a vaguely Georgian styled brick facade. (Many new banks in those days had big clocks on the exterior--not ours!). When designing that sundial, I built a full-size cardboard model to prove to myself and others that the idea was viable--it helped that on the day of my presentation, the equation of time and the correction for meridian were approximately canceling. Since the streets in Alexandria decline just under ten degrees to the west, I also had to find precedent for mounting the vertical limestone face of the dial flush to the building wall paralleling the street. At first, all my sundial photos showed historic sundials rotated outward from the supporting wall to face true south. Finally, in one old photo... Aha--we have precedent! I found it amusing that unlike "innovative" modern design, the "creative" traditional designer celebrated the fact that someone had done it that way before!

Cheers!

Jim