The schematic site massing model is further developed by studying the individual buildings for their level of security requirements. Each building has secured areas and open areas. The function of the individual buildings determines the level and location of each type of area.

Starting with the tighter and more secure character of the new Courthouse and accompanying programmatic requirements next to the existing Courthouse, the remaining functions which are part of the county complex extend along the edge of the lawn in increasingly more open buildings. The buildings are in order from south to north: new Courthouse (off the edge of the existing lawn - across the new Courthouse Plaza from existing Courthouse), judiciary offices and grand jury chambers, sheriff’s office and jail (across from the former jail building), Department of Environmental Management (this includes Tax Collection, Water Department, Planning, Zoning, Building Inspections, Accounting and Registrar of Deeds), Education Administration, Department of Social Services (off the edge of the new public lawn - along Queen Street), and the Health Department (at corner of the new public lawn and Queen Street).

The First District of North Carolina Representative’s office, along with the Museum of Regional Artifacts at the ground floor, is separated from the rest of the complex and put on the corner of Broad Street and King Street.

The front face of the buildings are aligned with the edge of the public porch and their rear portions are allowed to extend or recess as programmatically and spatially necessary. A pathway between the rear of the new complex and the rear of the commercial buildings along Broad Street is provided as a service way.

Images:
 Floor plan and Site plan combination.

Plan Key:
1 New Courthouse
2 Judiciary offices (first floor) and grand jury chambers (second floor)
3 Sheriff’s office and new jail
4 Department of Environmental Management
5 Education Administration
6 Department of Social Services
7 Health Department
8 Museum of Regional Artifacts (first floor) and the First District of North Carolina Representative’s office (second floor)
The new Courthouse is balanced with the existing Courthouse. Both face King Street and both are set on either side of the new Courthouse Plaza. A stair and rotunda is provided at the rear of and centered on the new Courthouse. From the rotunda the new judiciary offices extend along either side of a central corridor toward the new public lawn. This organization allows for the transitioning of the parallel masonry wall construction. These parallel walls are perpendicular to King Street at the new Courthouse but change at the rotunda to be perpendicular to the public lawn at the judiciary offices.

The spaces are compressed with great concern toward providing security. This includes a great reduction in the number of exterior windows, limiting them to a majority of high clerestory-type windows.

The entry to the building from the public porch is emphasized, due to its relative importance, by a concrete paved walking surface across the lawn inline with this entryway. The building and paved portion of the lawn visually frame the existing Courthouse while not encroaching on it.

This building is next to the sheriff’s office and jail for functional reasons. It is also more directly connected to the adjacent building than the other buildings are to one another.
The new Courthouse space is drawn from the proportions and scale of the existing Courthouse. The tectonic assembly of the supporting masonry walls is a construct of concrete masonry and brick. In this case the brick is used solely as a veneer.

When comparing the new Courthouse with the existing, it is important to understand that the desire is to achieve an expression of contextual respect through contemporary building techniques. The mass of the classically Georgian existing Courthouse is copied in volume of open space at the entry to the new Courthouse. The new Courtroom is the only large open space at this end of the public lawn. The depth of its surrounding wall construction conveys a sense of importance and security.

The new Courthouse is also grandly simple. Much like the existing, the new space and form are free of perfunctory embellishment. This is in keeping with the austerity of design generally found in the community.
The sheriff's office and jail continue the idea of the enclosing, securing parallel masonry walls which march along the edge of the public porch. The sheriff's, deputy's and administrative staff spaces are in the front of the building with the holding cells in the rear. To the right, as viewed in plan, is the walled but unroofed exercise area for the prisoners.

The mass of the building steps up and back from the lawn to reduce the presence of this otherwise foreboding piece of the complex.

The entry is set across from the former jail, which is renovated and presented on the lawn as a tourist attraction. The mass, scale and materiality of the former jail is reflected in the new jail form and construction.
The Department of Environmental Management building best highlights the type of building where there is a balance between the mass of the supporting masonry walls and the large open central space.

The building itself is subdivided into specific functions - Planning, Zoning and Building Permit / Inspections Department on the left; Utilities and Sanitation Regulation on the right; and employee open space in between with a large conference room. Stairs, restrooms, elevators and building services are in the front. They are at either end of the entry lobbies and become part of the large masonry chimney-like masses.

In this building the public is allowed in as far as a counter area at the lobby space. Behind the counter is a large, 2-story space for those county employees charged with directly assisting the county’s residents. Each side of the central spaces are single-story spaces occupied by private offices, private conference areas and secure filing areas.

The wall construction separating the side spaces from the central spaces is a construct of a variety of materials. Doorways in these walls are provided in several regular locations to offer free flow between the different spaces.

Providing natural lighting in the building is particularly important. The high central space roof is raised above the masonry wall and glazing is provided between the structural members in the form of clerestory lighting. In addition, translucent glass block is provided at the high intermediate wall. Both are used to provide natural lighting that is abundant but indirect, this is best for office-type conditions.

Lighting of the side spaces is more direct and is through the use of large glass panels.
The Education Administration building is much like the building of the Department of Environmental Management but with one distinct difference. The Education Administration building arrangement allows for the public to enter farther into the central space, depending on the purpose of the residents' visit. In addition to the secure side spaces, private single-story offices are provided in the rear.

This building is also divided to accommodate two distinct functions. The Education Administration Department is on the left, the Special Education Services Department is on the right and an employee open space with a large conference room is provided between them. Stairs, restrooms, elevators and building services are again at the front and becomes part of the large masonry chimney-like masses.

The structure, construction systems and lighting strategy here is much the same as that of the D.E.M. building.

Images:
(above left) Enlarged floor plan of the Education Administration building.
(above right) Early Sketch Plan of the Education Administration building.
(below) Section, parallel to the public lawn, of Education Administration building.
The Department of Social Services (off the edge of the public lawn along Queen Street) and the Health Department (at the corner of the lawn and Queen Street) complete the buildings at the end of the complex. Both of these buildings are less restrictive than any of the other buildings along the edge of the lawn. The public is allowed to access more deeply into these buildings than the others.

The corner is turned at the Health Department building in a far less direct way than the use of a rotunda stair, as is done at the new Courthouse. The parallel masonry structural walls which march along the edge of the public porch combine with masonry infill walls, of stacked bond construction, to turn the corner. This, in combination with the open space provided at the building’s lobby, allows the building to have a primary entry from the public porch and a secondary entry from Queen Street.

The two-story Department of Social Services building is open at its perimeter and secured at its core. The public is allowed to access all of the building except the core area, which is reserved for private consultation, examination and record keeping.

These buildings are of the same construction and structural systems as those along the lawn. The biggest change is in the Department of Social Services building due to the reversal of its security arrangement. The secured areas are at the interior and the open areas at the perimeter. Here the steel frame roof construction spans on either side of the mass of the core area instead of spanning an open central space.

Images:
(left) Enlarged floor plan of the Department of Social Services (off edge of the lawn along Queen Street) and the Health Department (at the corner of the lawn and Queen Street).
(above right) Photo, by author, of a house within this community. Of particular note is this house’s unique response to being positioned on a street corner.
(below right) Early sketch plan of the Health Department and Department of Social Services buildings.
Adding to and renovating buildings at the corner of Broad Street and King Streets offers the best opportunity to explore how contemporary building practices can be used in a way that bridges to the past. This main commercial street in Edenton is also the best place, programmatically, to provide for the region's representative to Congress.

The First District of North Carolina representative’s office is located on the second floor of the second building from the corner along Broad Street. It is set over the Museum of Regional Artifacts which is at street level. The roof, floors and windows of the building at the corner are removed providing an urban garden space next to the museum.

The character, scale and proportions of the buildings following renovation reflect that of the existing community bank found on the opposite corner at the street intersection.

Images:
(above left) Enlarged floor plan of the First District of North Carolina representative’s office at corner of King and Broad Streets.
(above right) Photo, by author, of a bank across the corner from the buildings to be renovated.
(below) Elevation of the Broad Street commercial buildings with the buildings to be renovated in the center.