



Artist's rendering of classroom building for proposed College of Staten Island campus.

New college plan is unveiled

By MARY ENGELS

Edmond Volpe, the president of the College of Staten Island, said yesterday that a new consolidated campus should be completed on the site of the Staten Island Developmental Center, formerly Willowbrook, by 1991, and that it should cost less than originally planned.

Volpe said that Peter Capone, the president of Edward Durell Stone Associates, has completed the master plan for the new campus.

The plan, unveiled yesterday, calls for using 220 acres of the Willowbrook property, about 30 more than originally requested, as well as 15 existing buildings, and razing 11 other buildings in the area.

RE-USING THE 15 buildings will cut an estimated 25% from the projected \$200 to \$230 million cost.

Capone said, "The prop-

osed project is to provide a single, unified, and expanded campus for The College of Staten Island.

"The architectural solution utilizes existing structures on the Willowbrook site for new academic facilities. The plan is for a low-rise campus within an existing park-like setting."

Capone described the design as "a walk up, walk down campus with most of the buildings being one or two-storeyed with the exception of two three-storeyed buildings which will house administration offices and student services."

THE ARCHITECT noted, "The entire campus is planned as a pedestrian-oriented space."

"Parking for automobiles will be placed around the perimeter of the buildings, thus eliminating vehicular traffic within the classroom portions of the campus in an

area to be called Ring Road," Capone said.

Estimates call for parking facilities for 2,000 cars.

New structures planned for the campus will include additional academic buildings to house classrooms, labs, and offices as well as a gymnasium and a theater that will seat 1,750.

The structures will be built in a series of "connecting links" to the old buildings and made of the same red brick.

"WE WANTED to create a quiet, restrained background for the campus environment," Capone said.

Capone said that of the 220 acres, 75% of it will be used for the campus; and the rest, including portions of the Greenbelt, will be either left in its natural state or used for athletic fields.

Volpe said that he didn't anticipate any problems getting the required acreage in the eventual transfer of property.

"We are still working things out with the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as to the exact acreage."

Volpe said that the next step will be the go-ahead from Albany to go into the bond market for \$7 million. This has already been approved by the State Legislature.

Volpe said, "We are talking about a four- to five-year period before completion."

"We got the \$500,000 for the master plan. Now the bond money must go for the next step in design. If all goes well, construction could start by 1986, with the first buildings opened by 1989, and a completed campus on line by 1991."

With the two existing campuses at St. George and Sunnyside bursting at the seams, Volpe said that the new campus will "bring much needed space, more rooms, and more service areas for students to study."