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## Not Quite Ready Yet

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## *Museum co-founder expects site will open in three or four years*

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Ezell Blair, Jr., David Richmond, Joseph McNeil and Franklin McCain decided to take a stand on February 1, 1960 that impacted the civil rights movement forever.

They decided to sit at an all white section in F.W. Woolworth, which was located on Elm Street in downtown Greensboro. They challenged the concept that blacks could only be served in particular areas of the stores and not with whites.

They thought this idea was unjust and decided to make a change. This led to a series of sit-ins by other students at the Woolworth store. They protested until Woolworth withdrew their policy of segregation.

The A&T Four started a civil disobedience strategy on February 1, 1960 to fight against oppression and racial injustice by challenging Jim Crow segregation.

Earl Jones and Skip Austin, co-founders of the International Civil Rights Museum & Center, were inspired by the A&T Four to create a museum in their honor. The museum is the reconstruction of the Woolworth building.

"We are on track and on schedule," Jones said about the reconstruction of the museum.

Rumors on the museum's opening have been discussed. According to Jones, the museum will be open in three to four years.

"This will take time and effort," Jones said.

Jones set a projection goal of 12 to 14 years in order for the museum to be ready. The museum is designed to be compared to similar civil rights museums in Memphis and Alabama.

More financial expenses will be expected because the Woolworth building has structural interior problems. It will take \$6 to \$8 million for the repairs.

The actual cost of the museum

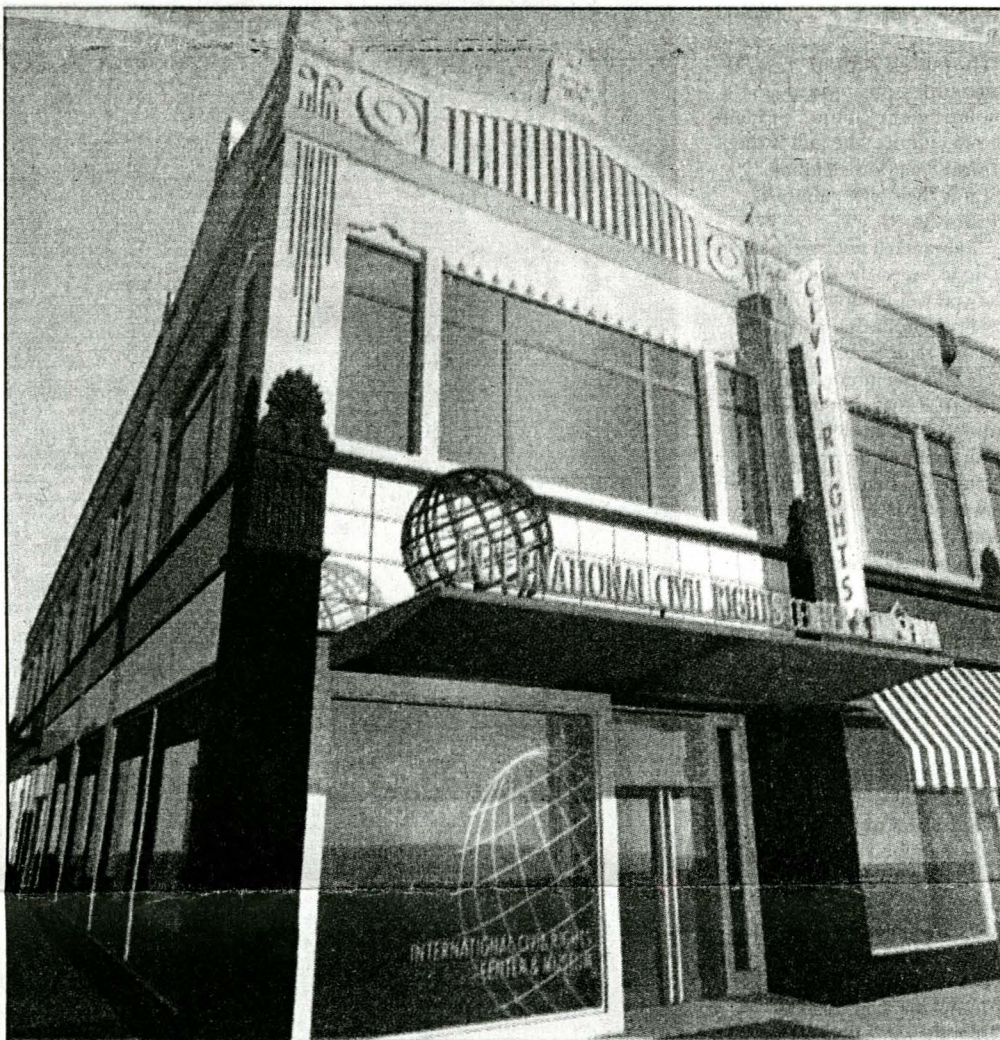


PHOTO COURTESY: INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM

This image represents the finished look of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum. The museum will be located on Elm Street where the old F.W. Woolworth building.

is \$12 million, Jones said..

Jones said the construction of the museum has several sponsors including the County Commission and Hewlett Packard.

When the museum opens, people can expect displays, archives, libraries, and an auditorium, all reflecting the sit-in movement. Also, national speakers will be invited to the museum to discuss specific concepts and conduct active workshops.

There will be a reserved space in the museum for a "Hall of Civil Rights Leaders" that will be

similar to the "Hall of Presidents" at Walt Disney World.

In addition, college students will be allowed to take classes at the museum for college credit. The topics range from human rights to civil rights.

Justin Ramey, Student Government Association president, said he was impressed by the struggle of the A&T Four and was excited to hear about the opening of the museum.

"The A&T Four give me another reason to go against the odds in the hurdles that I have

overcome in my life. If they could do it back then, I can do it now. Faith will get you anywhere," he said.

Ramey said he believes that the museum will be highly effective for A&T students because it allows them to view and embrace their history in a new light. Ramey believes that the museum will be a dramatic effect to anyone that has strong feelings about the civil rights movement.

Economically, the museum will be a tourism site for the city of Greensboro. It is expected to attract 150,000 people annually.