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The Summing Up

Editorial Staff

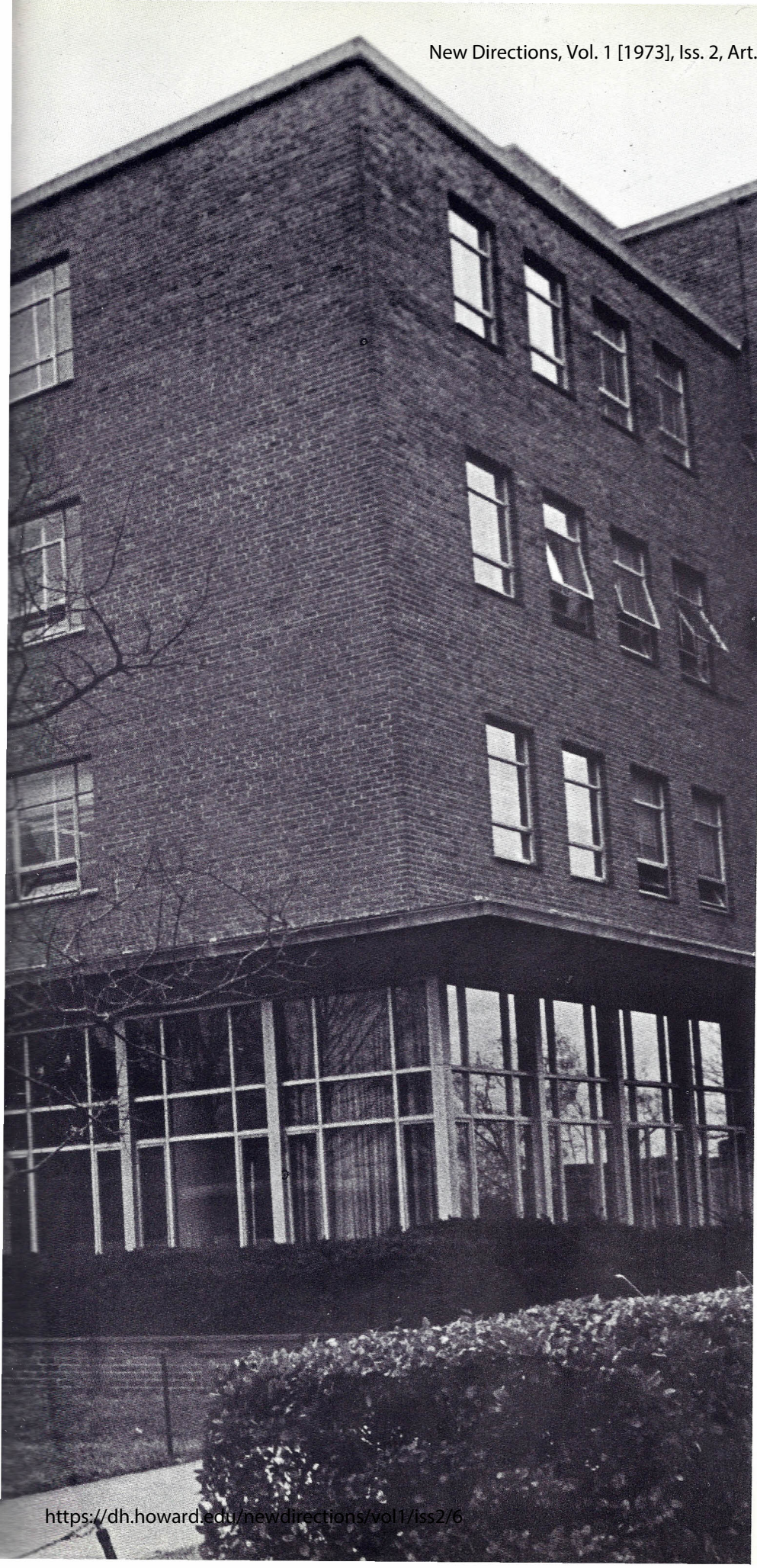
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The Summing Up

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It was a memorable event in Howard University's history. There in front of the building being named after him stood Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson speaking of a long ago past as though it were one with yesterday. There was a sense of timelessness about it all. Flashing his mahogany cane before him in the glistening sunlight of a heady fall afternoon, Dr. Johnson spoke lovingly of a black world that he helped shape as president of Howard University for a generation. The occasion was the dedication of the University Administration Building in his name. But for him it seemed to be more than that. For him, it was a summing up.

Almost prayerfully, he spoke of his parents, his friends, his colleagues, of those who helped him and of those who stood in his way. And then he wept, dabbing at his eyes with a crumpled white handkerchief. But these were tears of gratitude more than of sorrow. Indeed, one sensed that Mordecai Wyatt Johnson had at 83 come upon one of those rare moments in the lives of great men when they come face to face with their own immortality. □

The Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Building is one of several structures constructed during the period Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson served Howard University as President. Construction of the \$1,625,000 building began in October, 1954. It was occupied in December, 1956. The four-story brick structure is the heart of the University's administrative activities. Several major offices, including the Office of the President and the Trustee Board Room are located in the Building, as well as the offices of five of the University's six Vice Presidents, admissions, registration, student financial aid, personnel, payroll, purchasing, campus security and the post office.

(See more photographs on pages 22, 23, 34)

