

**REGULATIONS
FOR
ACCESS DRIVEWAYS
TO
STATE HIGHWAYS**



TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 1953

REVISED NOVEMBER 1963

CERTIFICATION

I certify that in accordance with instructions contained in Commission Minute Order No. 45920, dated May 1, 1959, the contents of this booklet, "Regulations for Access Driveways to State Highways, " have been drafted, and are hereby placed into effect to govern the design, construction, maintenance and State participation for access driveways to provide reasonable and adequate access, insure traffic safety and preserve the utility of the highways.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. C. Greer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

D. C. Greer
State Highway Engineer

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Prepared by

DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

FOREWORD

The Texas Highway Commission is charged with the duty of developing and perpetuating the public highways under its jurisdiction. To perform this function, the Commission has been empowered by law to promulgate rules and regulations for the free and safe movement of normal highway traffic. Physical obstructions and influence on traffic caused by the presence and use of access driveways to property along the highways make it necessary that they be controlled.

Reasonable rules and regulations governing the construction and maintenance of private access driveways have been established by the Texas Highway Commission and are published in this booklet. The purpose of these rules and regulations is not to set up unreasonable restrictions as to access to abutting property, but to accomplish a coordinated development between the highway and the abutting property which it serves. With the increased volume of traffic on our highways, it is essential that entrances and/or exits of adequate design be provided for abutting properties, especially commercial properties, in order that ingress and egress may be made as safe as possible to the traveling public, and to those who patronize the roadside commercial establishments.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION

MINUTE ORDER

WHEREAS, Commission Minute Number 43773, dated April 22, 1958, established certain principles for a departmental policy in the development of access driveway facilities on highways under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, to further emphasize the importance of traffic control for the free and safe movement of highway traffic commensurate with the Governor's Highway Safety Program and to recognize the safety principles contained in a recent study made by the Committee on Planning and Design Policies of the American Association of State Highway Officials on the subject of Driveway Connections to Major Highways, the previously adopted departmental policy on access driveway facilities has been reviewed in the interest of including all provisions which will assist in reducing highway traffic accidents resulting from the movement of traffic to and from the highway traffic lanes:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that it shall be the policy of the Department to incorporate the following principles in the development of access driveway facilities on highways under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Department:

1. Access facilities shall be for the bona fide purpose of securing access to abutting property and location of access driveways shall be selected to provide maximum safety for highway traffic and for users of the driveway facilities.

2. Principles of traffic channelization shall be applied in the design of entrance and exit driveways with their width limited to that necessary for adequate access.
3. Safety zones shall be established between entrances and exit drives, at intersections and at other places when needed to preserve lateral sight distance, channelization of traffic flow, and for safety of pedestrians; and curbs or posts shall be installed as necessary to prohibit vehicle parking and movement in or through them; and

FURTHER, that it shall be the policy of the Department to assist in the proper installation of access driveway facilities on highways outside the corporate limits of municipalities as follows:

1. The Department will assist in the construction of commercial access driveways by establishing flow-line grades for drainage structures and finished grades for driveway surfaces and by placing and backfilling culvert pipe for driveway structures across the highway ditch, or other comparable assistance, provided materials are furnished at the site.
2. The Department will assist in the construction of non-commercial access driveways by installing a culvert pipe or valley across the highway ditch and will spread gravel or stone for the driveway surface, provided materials are furnished at the site.

3. The Department will furnish, install and maintain delineator posts or barrier type curbs at commercial access driveways in rural areas where the Department finds the need for either of these two types of safety zones for the protection of pedestrians or vehicular traffic based on an engineering analysis of the requirements of each access driveway entrance to be constructed; and

FURTHER, that this Departmental Policy shall apply to all access driveways for which future permits are issued and shall apply to existing access driveways which may be destroyed or removed in the construction or reconstruction of highways, and the State Highway Engineer is directed to establish and maintain regulations in sufficient detail to administer the development of all access facilities in conformance with the principles and policies established herein.

Minute Number 45920
Passed May 1, 1959

INSTRUCTIONS
FOR SECURING AN ACCESS PERMIT

To secure a permit to construct a private driveway or to revise any existing driveway, the applicant should contact the Highway Department's local Maintenance Foreman. The Maintenance Foreman or another designated representative of the Highway Department will meet with the applicant, at which time details of the permit will be initiated. When the permit has been prepared, and statement agreeing to comply with its terms and conditions has been signed by the applicant, the signature of the District Engineer or his authorized agent shall make the permit valid.

If the applicant is unable to contact the local Maintenance Foreman, he should contact the District Engineer of the Highway Department District serving his locality. A brief description of the proposed work should be given together with the applicant's name, address, and telephone number. Upon receipt of the information the District Engineer will arrange for a meeting of the applicant with a Highway Department representative as stated above. The area and address of Highway Department Districts are shown herein.

No work shall be undertaken on the State Highway right of way until the executed permit has been received by the applicant.

LOCATION AND ADDRESS

OF DISTRICT OFFICES

Dist. No.	Address	Dist. No.	Address
1	District Engineer P. O. Box 178 Paris, Texas 75461	14	District Engineer P. O. Box 797 Austin, Texas 78764
2	District Engineer P. O. Box 6868 Fort Worth, Texas 76115	15	District Engineer P. O. Box 5250 San Antonio, Texas 78201
3	District Engineer P. O. Box 660 Wichita Falls, Texas 76307	16	District Engineer P. O. Box 7038 Corpus Christi, Texas 78415
4	District Engineer P. O. Box 2708 Amarillo, Texas 79105	17	District Engineer P. O. Box 511 Bryan, Texas 77802
5	District Engineer P. O. Box 771 Lubbock, Texas 79408	18	District Engineer P. O. Box 3067 Dallas, Texas 75221
6	District Engineer P. O. Box 3589 Odessa, Texas 79760	19	District Engineer P. O. Box 231 Atlanta, Texas 75551
7	District Engineer P. O. Box 1841 San Angelo, Texas 76902	20	District Engineer P. O. Box 3190 Beaumont, Texas 77704
8	District Engineer P. O. Box 150 Abilene, Texas 79604	21	District Engineer P. O. Drawer EE Pharr, Texas 78577
9	District Engineer P. O. Drawer 1579 Waco, Texas 76703	22	District Engineer P. O. Drawer H Del Rio, Texas 78840
10	District Engineer P. O. Box 2031 Tyler, Texas 75702	23	District Engineer P. O. Box 631 Brownwood, Texas 76802
11	District Engineer P. O. Box 280 Lufkin, Texas 75902	24	District Engineer P. O. Box 10278 El Paso, Texas 79994
12	District Engineer P. O. Box 1386 Houston, Texas 77001	25	District Engineer P. O. Box 829 Childress, Texas 79201
13	District Engineer P. O. Box 351 Yoakum, Texas 77995		

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REGULATIONS

A. GENERAL

1. APPLICATIONS. Applications for permits shall be made by the owner or lessee, who shall represent all parties in interest, and such permits shall be only for the bona fide purpose of securing or changing access to his property, but not for the purpose of parking or servicing vehicles on the State Highway right of way.

2. PRIVATE DRIVEWAY. A private driveway is an entrance to and/or exit from a residential dwelling, farm, or ranch adjacent to a State Highway for the exclusive use and benefit of the grantee.

3. PUBLIC ACCESS DRIVEWAY. A public access driveway includes all approaches to a State Highway from county or city maintained roads and streets, and approaches to schools, churches, cemeteries and other public places or buildings of a like character.

4. COMMERCIAL DRIVEWAY. A commercial driveway is an entrance to and/or exit from any commercial, business, or similar type establishment adjacent to a State Highway.

5. LIMITATIONS. These regulations shall apply on all highways and roads under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Department; except that they shall not apply to the main traffic ways of controlled access highways such as Freeways or Expressways, since direct access to them is prohibited by law, and that, within the corporate limits of municipalities, they shall be subject to concurrence by the municipality.

6. INDEMNIFICATION. The grantee shall hold harmless the State Highway Commission and its duly appointed agents and employees against any action for personal injury or property damage sustained by reason of the exercise of his permit.

7. MATERIALS. The grantee shall furnish all materials necessary for the construction of the entrances and their appurtenances authorized by the permit except that the State Highway Department shall furnish guide posts or the materials for concrete curbing where channelization is required. All materials shall be of satisfactory quality and shall be subject to inspection and approval of the State Highway Department.

8. CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION. All new access driveways, following approval of permit, shall be constructed in conformance with the applicable regulations. Any existing access driveway structures which are destroyed or removed in the construction or reconstruction of a section of highway will be replaced or reconstructed by the State Highway Department to a design within these regulations and a condition equal to or better than the original structures.

9. INSPECTION - MAINTENANCE. The State Highway Department reserves the right to inspect these installations at the time of construction and at all times thereafter, and to require such changes, maintenance, and repairs as may at any time be considered necessary to provide protection of life and property on or adjacent to the highway.

The cost of changes, maintenance and repairs of private and commercial driveways, islands and other access driveway appurtenances on the right of way will be the responsibility of the grantee, except as provided under CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION herein.

Public access driveways will be maintained by the State Highway Department.

10. CHANGES. No driveway, approach, or other improvement constructed on the right of way shall be relocated or its dimensions altered without a duly executed permit from the State Highway Department.

11. SIGNS. The grantee shall not be permitted to erect any sign, either fixed or movable, on or extending over any portion of the highway right of way.

12. DESIGN. Design requirements for access driveways are as follows:

a. All parts of entrances and exits on highway right of way, including the radii, shall be confined within the grantee's property frontage. Frontage is that portion of the right of way lying between the two most distant possible lines drawn perpendicularly from the centerline of the highway to the grantee's abutting property line.

In the event that two or more adjoining grantees agree to combine their property frontage for a combined access facility, it would be authorized under the applicable regulations. The frontage will then be the portion of the right of way lying between the two most distant possible lines of the combined frontage drawn perpendicularly from the centerline of the highway to the grantee's abutting property lines.

b. Locations of access driveways shall be selected to provide maximum safety for highway traffic and for users of the driveway.

c. At any intersection of a State Highway with another highway, road, or street, where additional sight distance right of way exists, no access driveway will be permitted within the frontage thereof. At any other intersection, access driveways shall be restricted for a sufficient distance from the intersection to preserve the normal and safe movement of traffic through it.

d. Radii for all access driveways in urban areas shall be not less than two and one-half feet, and in rural areas it shall be not less than ten feet.

e. Drainage in highway side ditches shall not be altered or impeded. When drainage structures are required, size of opening and other design features shall be approved by the State Highway Department.

f. The safety zones adjacent to access driveways may be filled in provided the requirements below are fully complied with.

(1) Surface drainage shall be provided so that all surface water on the filled-in area shall be carried away from the highway roadbed in a suitable manner.

(2) The drainage opening underneath the filled-in area shall be adequate to carry the design flow of water in the highway side ditches.

(3) The filled-in area shall be sufficiently delineated and, where required by the State Highway Department, curbs, guide posts, or other satisfactory methods shall be used to prevent the use of the area for parking or travel.

(4) The filled-in area shall extend from the sidewalk or, where no sidewalk exists, from the right-of-way line to the shoulder line or curbed pavement as the case may be, provided that other limits may be specified by the State Highway Department to provide conformance with proposed future improvements to the existing highway section.

(5) The grade on the driveway shall be so constructed as to conform to the slope of the roadway shoulder from the edge of the travelway to the shoulder line and thence shall be sloped downward at approximately one quarter to one inch per foot for a distance necessary to place the low point of the driveway not less than eight inches below the shoulder elevation. If valley gutters are used, the lowest point of the gutter shall be a minimum of eight inches below the shoulder elevation and a valley gutter of at least four feet in width maintained.

g. The minimum and maximum design limits herein should not be considered absolute in all instances as the State Highway Department may require a design between these limits in order to provide reasonable safety depending upon type, speed, and volume - for highway traffic and to provide for reasonable access for the grantee.

B. PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS

1. CONSTRUCTION. The grantee shall do all work and pay all costs in connection with the construction of access driveways and their appurtenances on the right of way, except that in areas outside the corporate limits of municipalities the State Highway Department will install and backfill

a drainage pipe or valley across the highway ditch and will spread gravel or stone for the driveway surface, provided materials are furnished at the site as set out under the regulations entitled MATERIALS herein.

2. WIDTH. The width shall not exceed twenty-four feet measured at right angles to the centerline of the driveway, except as increased by permissible radii.

3. ANGLE. The angle of the access driveway from the highway pavement shall be sixty to ninety degrees, except that one-way forty-five degree angle driveways will be permitted.

C. PUBLIC ACCESS DRIVEWAYS

1. CONSTRUCTION.

a. Existing Highways. Where a public access driveway is to be connected to an existing highway, the agency responsible for construction of the driveway shall be responsible for construction of the connection to the highway in accordance with the specifications of the State Highway Department.

b. New or Reconstructed Highways. Where highway construction or reconstruction requires construction or modification of connections to existing public access driveways, the State Highway Department will be responsible for the construction or the modification of such access driveway connections.

2. MAINTENANCE. The State Highway Department shall maintain all portions of public access driveways which lie within the right of way of highways which are the maintenance responsibility of the State Highway Department.

D. COMMERCIAL DRIVEWAYS

1. CONSTRUCTION. A commercial driveway grantee shall do all work and pay all costs in connection with the construction of access driveways and their appurtenances on the right of way within the corporate limits of municipalities. In areas outside the corporate limits of municipalities the State Highway Department will assist by establishing flow-line grades for drainage pipe, establishing finished grades for driveway surfaces and by placing and backfilling culvert pipe for driveway structures across the highway ditch, or such other comparable assistance which the District Engineer may agree to perform, provided materials are furnished at the site as set out under the regulations entitled MATERIALS herein. Where in the opinion of the District Engineer, curbing or guide posts are required for proper control of traffic, they will be furnished and installed by the State Highway Department.

2. WIDTH. The width of access driveways shall not exceed forty-five feet measured at right angles to the centerline of the driveway, except as increased by permissible radii.

3. ANGLE. The angle of access driveways from the pavement shall be sixty to ninety degrees, except that one-way entrances from divided lane highways or one-way frontage roads may be thirty degrees to ninety degrees.

4. SAFETY ZONES. All parts of the highway right of way between the curb or shoulder line and the right of way line along the grantee's property frontage, except the areas contained in the access driveways, shall be a Safety Zone. Safety Zones between drives shall be not less than the minimum indicated on the Typical Layout Drawings for the grantee's property frontage. Curbs or guide posts shall be installed as necessary to prohibit vehicle parking and driving

in safety zones. The barrier line nearest the highway shall be not less than twenty-four feet from the center of the pavement or on line with existing curbs or established curb line; provided the District Engineer does not require a greater distance when needed to preserve the safety and utility of the highway or provide conformance with proposed highway improvements.

5. VEHICLE SERVICE FIXTURES. The distance from the right-of-way line to the near edge of service pumps, vendor stands, tanks, or water hydrants shall be a minimum of twelve feet. To permit free movement of large vehicles and, in certain instances, to insure that they be entirely off highway right of way while being serviced, a greater distance is recommended.

6. DRIVE-IN THEATER DRIVEWAYS.

a. Design of Entrances. Normally not more than one entrance should exist for each highway, but where arrival volume is almost evenly divided by direction, individual entrances for right and left turns, separated by several hundred feet, may be provided. On two-lane roads where left turns are permitted, the entrance shall not be more than thirty feet wide. On three- or more-lane highways where left turns are prohibited, the entrance lane shall not be more than fourteen feet wide. On three- or more-lane highways where left turns are permitted, the entrance shall not be more than nineteen feet wide. Entry turn speeds of twenty miles per hour should be provided for right turn movements. Entry turn speeds of ten miles per hour should be provided for left turn movements. Not more than one exit for each highway, and no more than one lane shall be permitted for each direction of travel. Where left turns are prohibited, the exit shall not be more than fourteen feet wide. Where

left turns are permitted, the exit shall not be more than nineteen feet wide with a small island in the throat. Acceleration and deceleration lanes should be used if possible. Cuts shall not be made in the median of multi-lane highways to permit left turn movement.

b. Signs and Lighting. The entrances and exits shall be clearly indicated by signs installed off the right of way by the theater grantee, and it is recommended that the grantee install adequate lighting of the entrances and exits to assist in the safe movement of traffic.

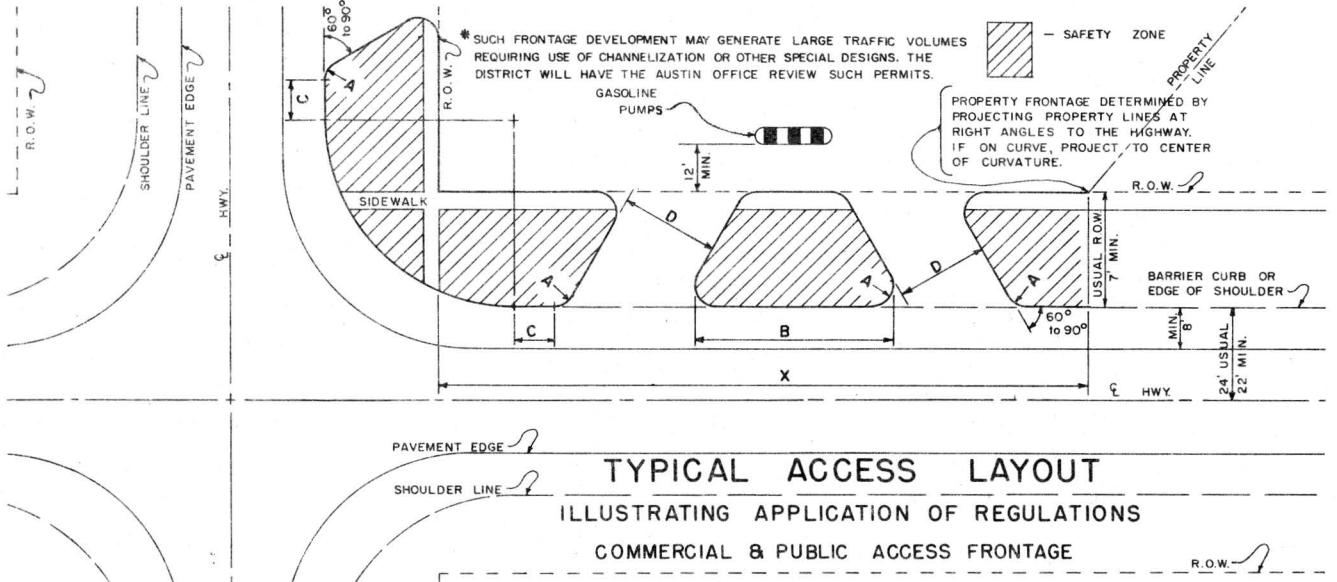
TYPICAL ACCESS LAYOUTS

The following Typical Access Layouts illustrate the various control dimensions that are to be used and the latitude permitted by these regulations.

The Texas Highway Department does not design access layouts for private property; however, the following sketches are included to show several types of layouts that can be used for private or commercial property in urban or rural areas. These sketches illustrate the freedom in design permitted by the regulations which will provide adequate access to the grantee's property and still maintain the traffic safety features of the roadway. They also indicate how attractive or inviting the appearance of the property frontage can be presented.

X FRONTAGE	A CURB RETURN RADI		B ISLAND WIDTH MIN.	C CORNER CLEARANCE DESIRABLE		NO. OF DRIVEWAYS MAXIMUM	D DRIVEWAY WIDTH DESIRABLE		MAX.
	MIN.	MAX.		MIN.	MAX.		DESIRABLE	MAX.	
UP TO 58'	2 1/2'	30'	NONE	5'	NONE	1	30'	45'	
58' TO 95'	2 1/2'	30'	NONE	20'	5'	1	30'	45'	
58' TO 95'	2 1/2'	30'	X/8	5'	NONE	2	30'	45'	
96' TO 135'	2 1/2'	30'	X/8	10'	5'	2	30'	45'	
136' TO 320'	5'	30'	X/6	20'	15'	2	35'	45'	
321' TO 600'	10'	30'	X/3	20'	20'	3	40'	45'	
601' & UP	*SPECIAL DESIGN								

- NOTES
1. All access driveways from two-way roadways shall be at an angle of from 60° to 90°.
 2. 30° to 60° ingress driveways will be permitted on frontage abutting a one-way roadway.
 3. Maximum driveway widths shall be used only where frontage is sufficient to assure minimum corner clearance, curb return radii, and island widths.
 4. It is recommended that the desirable curb return radii and corner clearance be used whenever possible. The minimum should only be used in those cases where the desirable measurements will impose an unnecessary hardship. This will normally apply to property with narrow frontage.

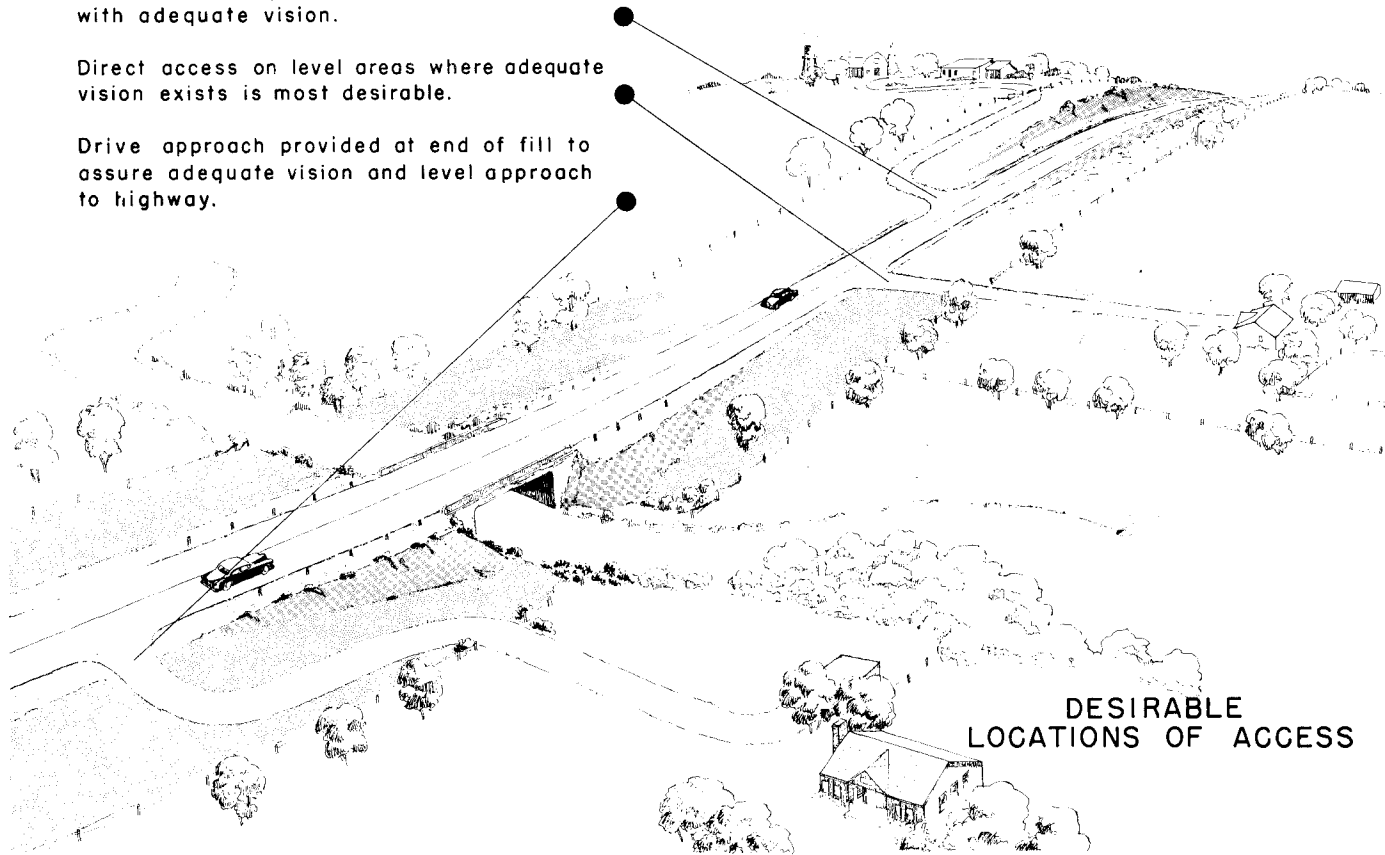


TYPICAL ACCESS LAYOUT
 ILLUSTRATING APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS
 COMMERCIAL & PUBLIC ACCESS FRONTAGE

Drive approach to highway provided at end of cut section giving a level approach with adequate vision.

Direct access on level areas where adequate vision exists is most desirable.

Drive approach provided at end of fill to assure adequate vision and level approach to highway.

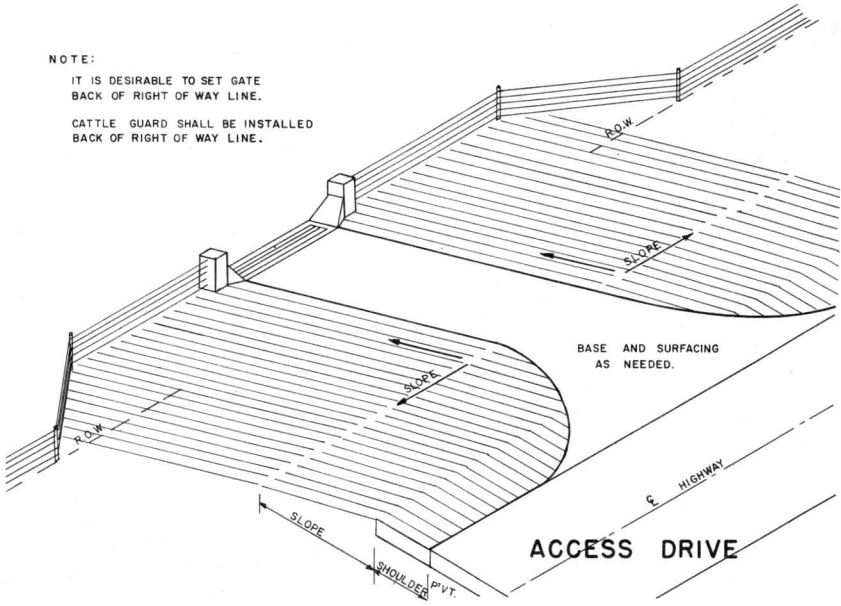


DESIRABLE
LOCATIONS OF ACCESS

NOTE:

IT IS DESIRABLE TO SET GATE
BACK OF RIGHT OF WAY LINE.

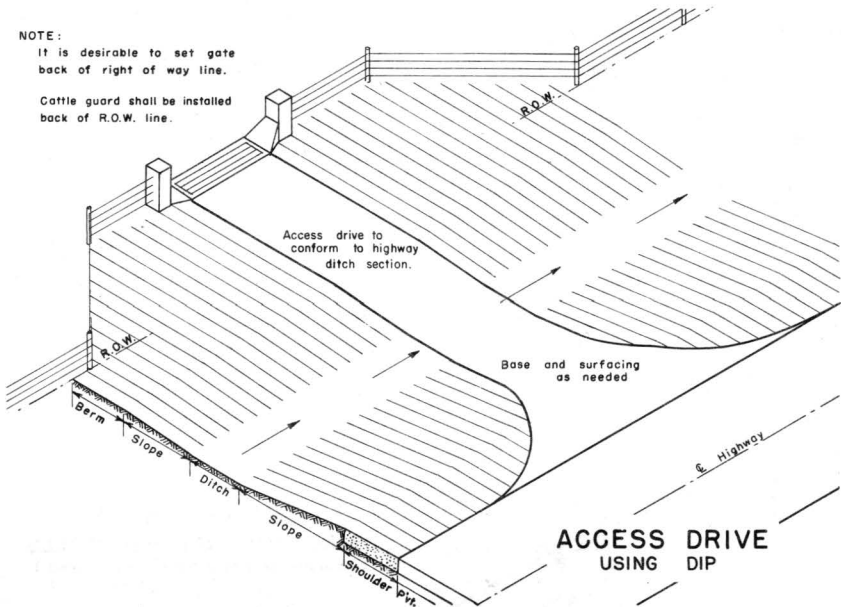
CATTLE GUARD SHALL BE INSTALLED
BACK OF RIGHT OF WAY LINE.



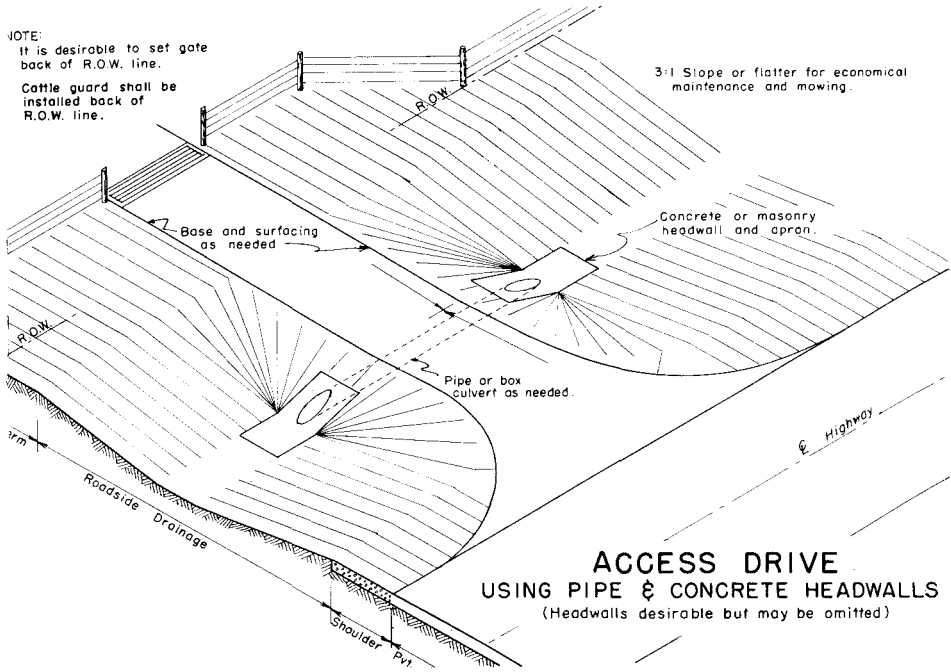
NOTE:

It is desirable to set gate
back of right of way line.

Cattle guard shall be installed
back of R.O.W. line.

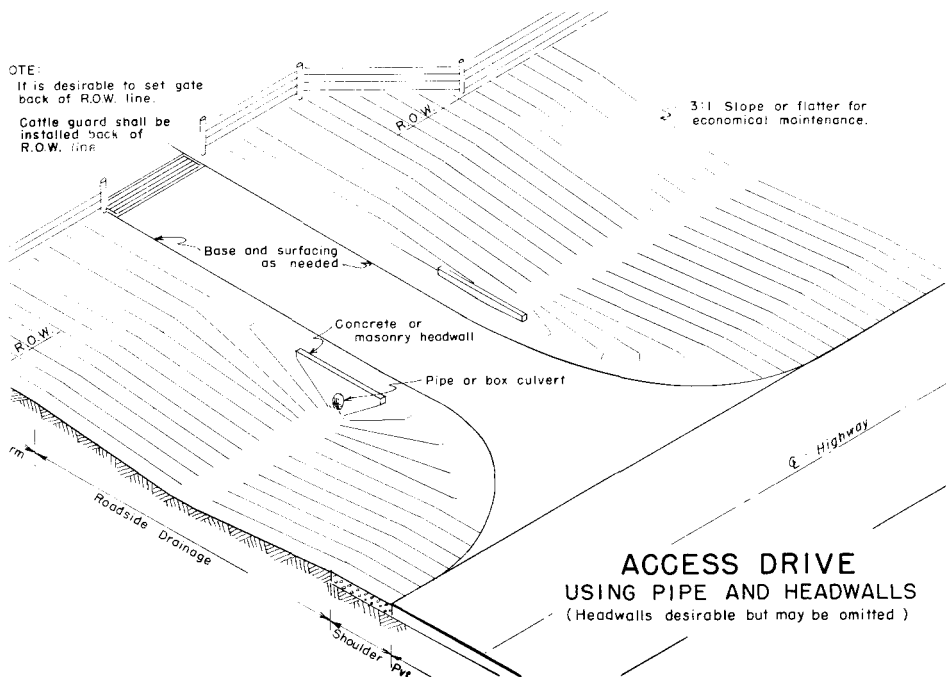


NOTE:
 It is desirable to set gate
 back of R.O.W. line.
 Cattle guard shall be
 installed back of
 R.O.W. line.

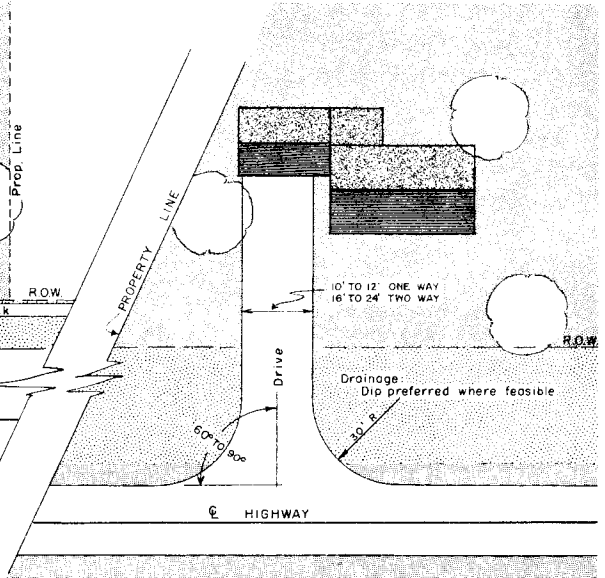
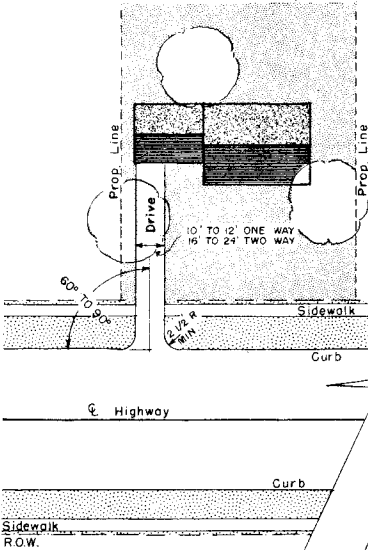
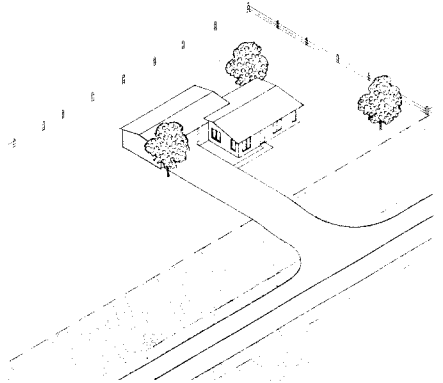
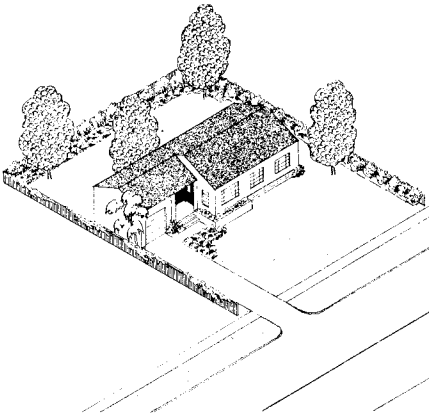


**ACCESS DRIVE
 USING PIPE & CONCRETE HEADWALLS**
 (Headwalls desirable but may be omitted)

NOTE:
 It is desirable to set gate
 back of R.O.W. line.
 Cattle guard shall be
 installed back of
 R.O.W. line.

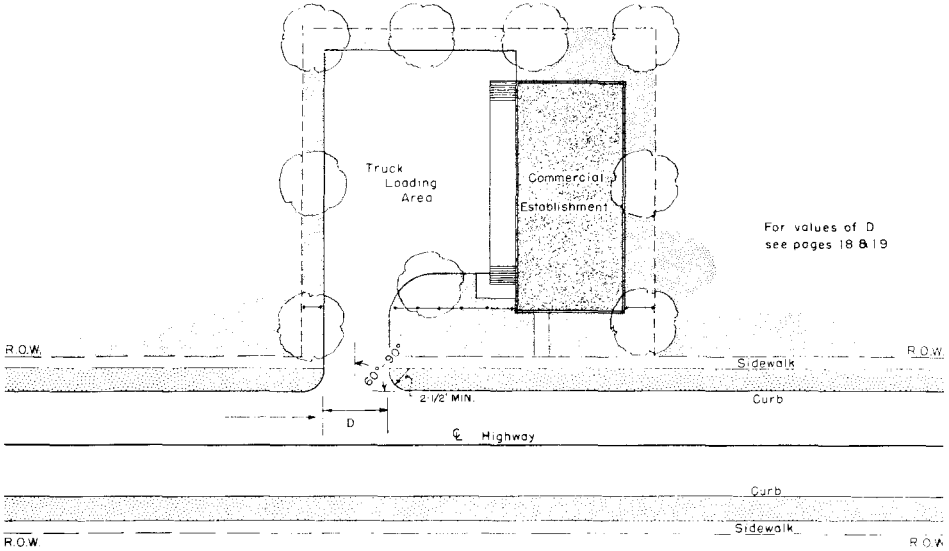
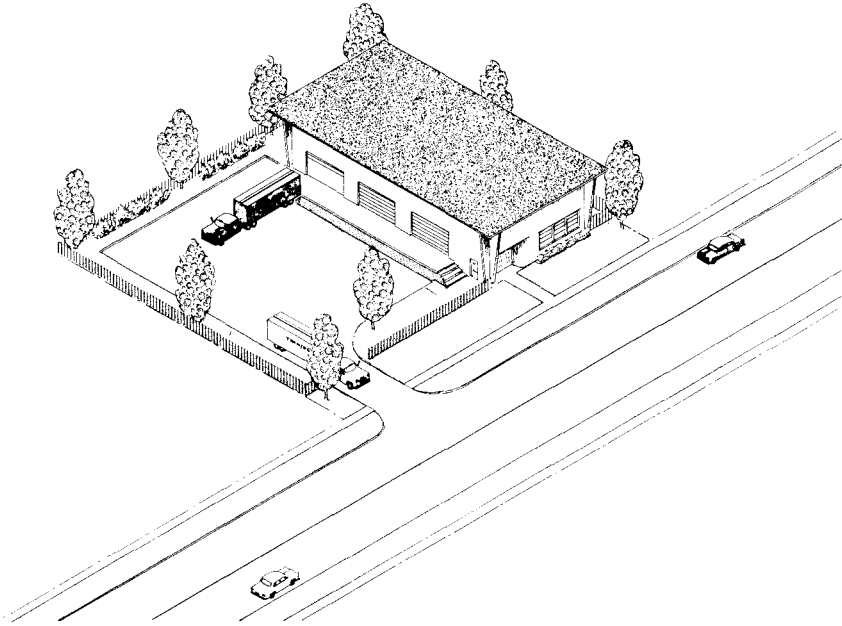


**ACCESS DRIVE
 USING PIPE AND HEADWALLS**
 (Headwalls desirable but may be omitted)

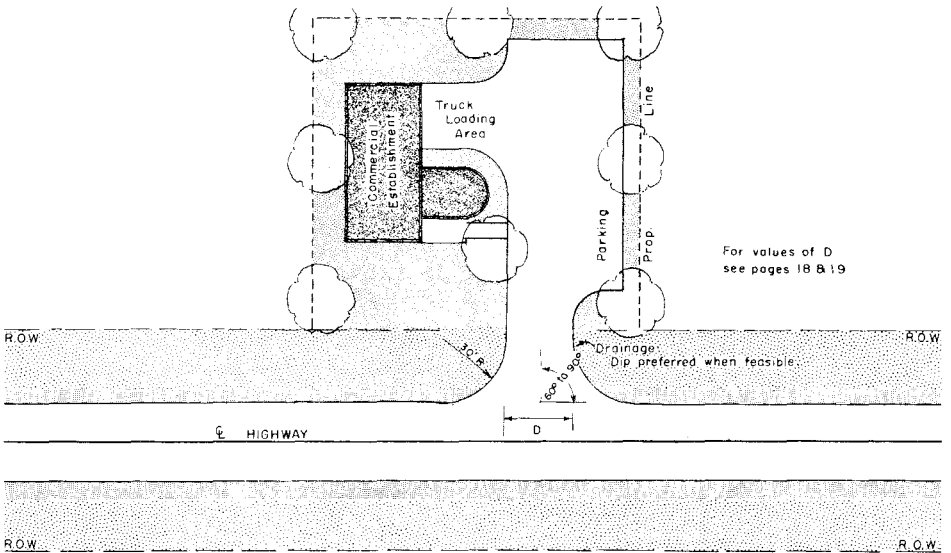
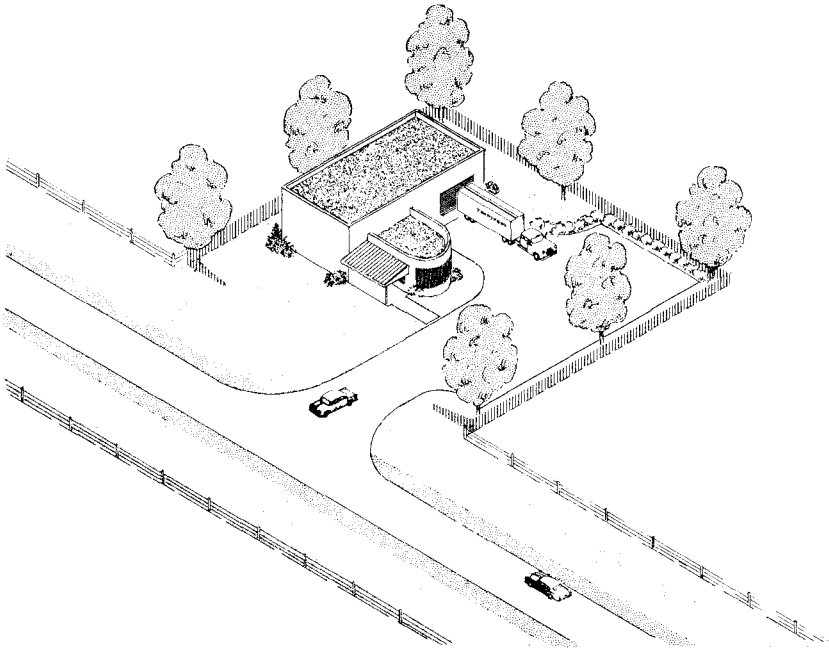


RESIDENCE IN
URBAN AREA

RESIDENCE IN RURAL AREA

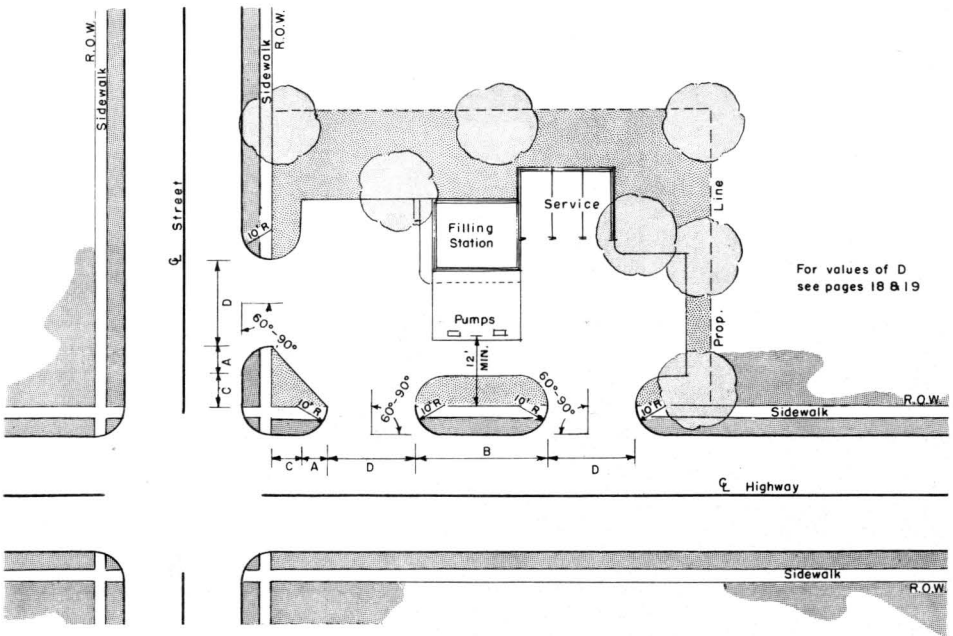
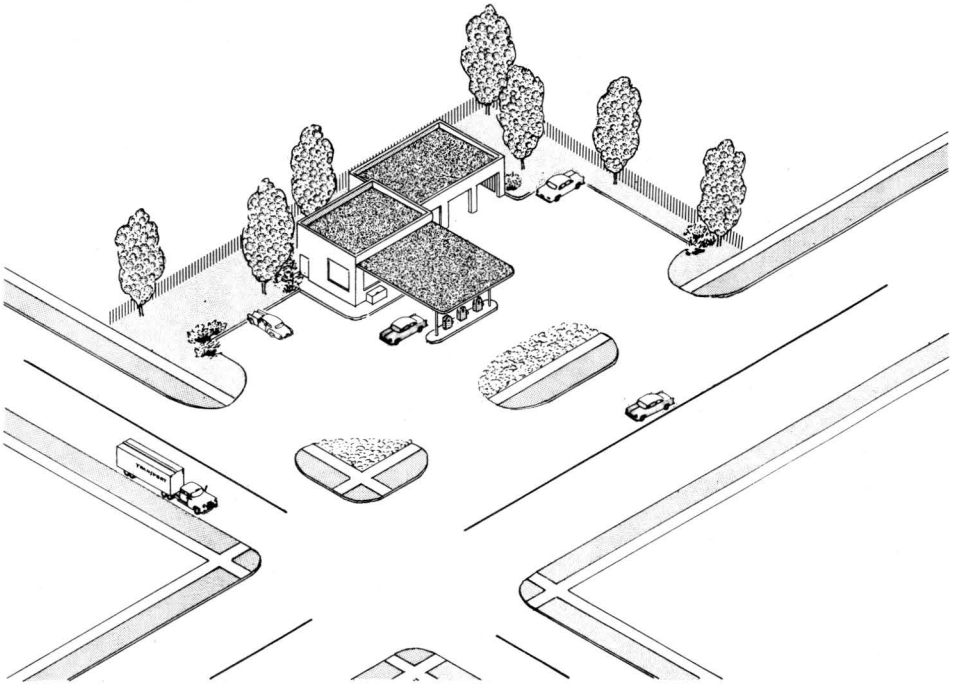


COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN URBAN AREA

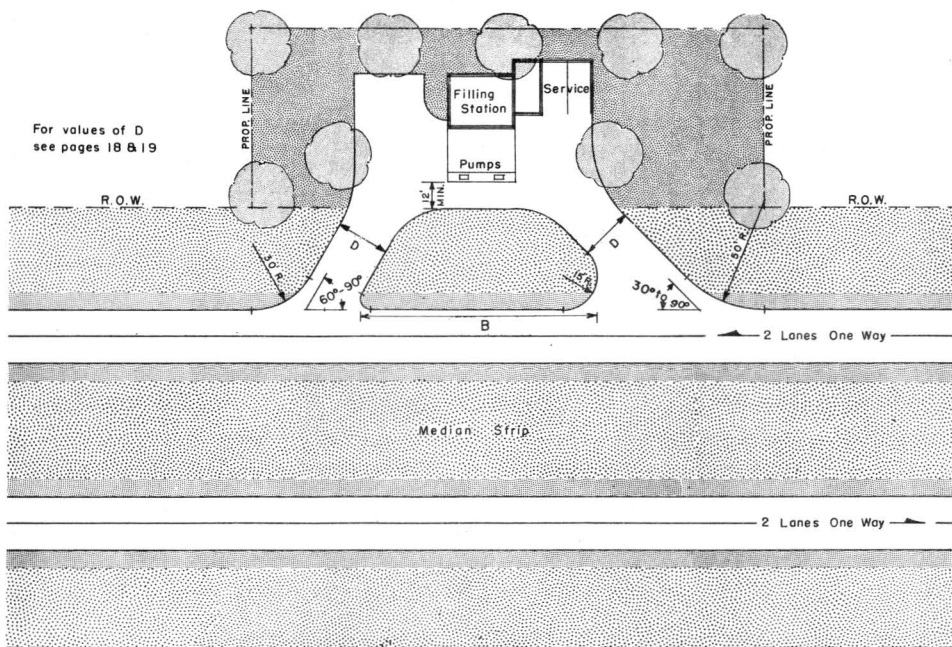
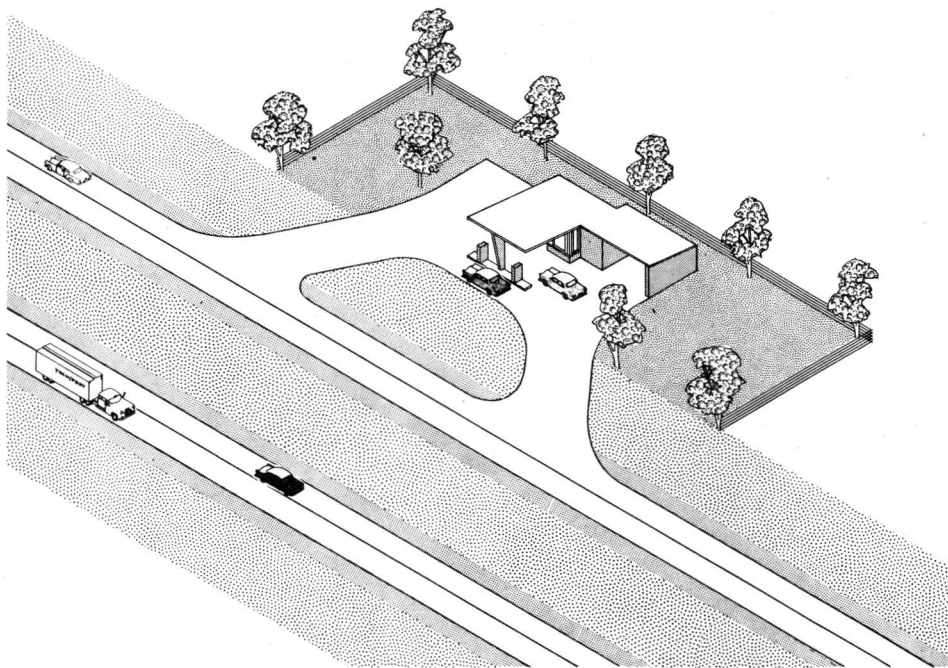


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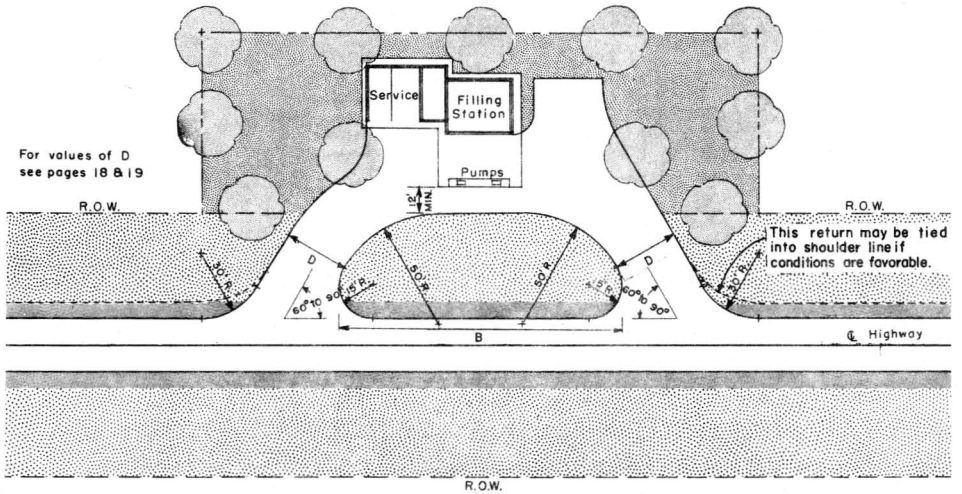
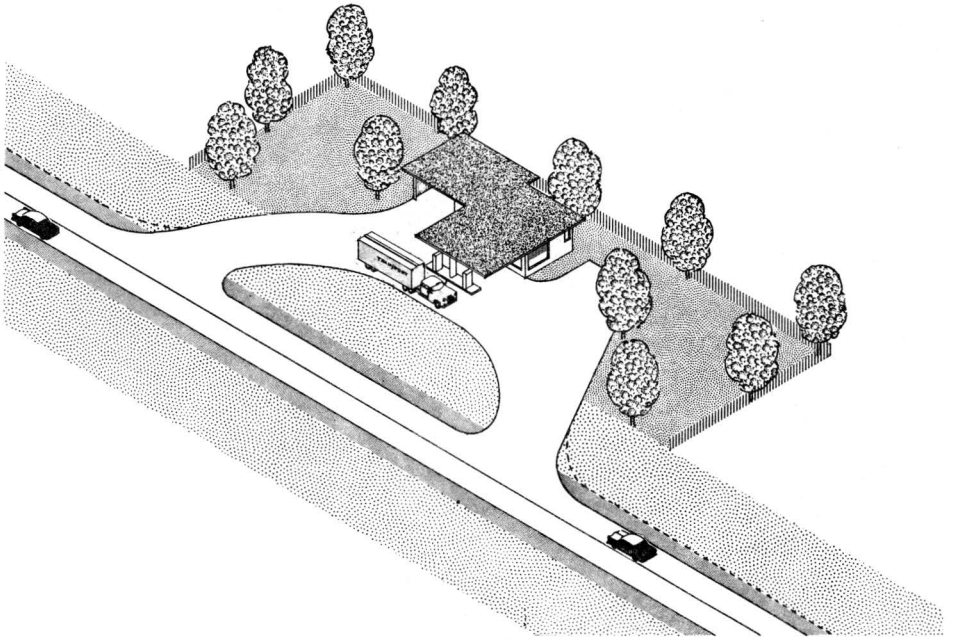
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN RURAL AREA



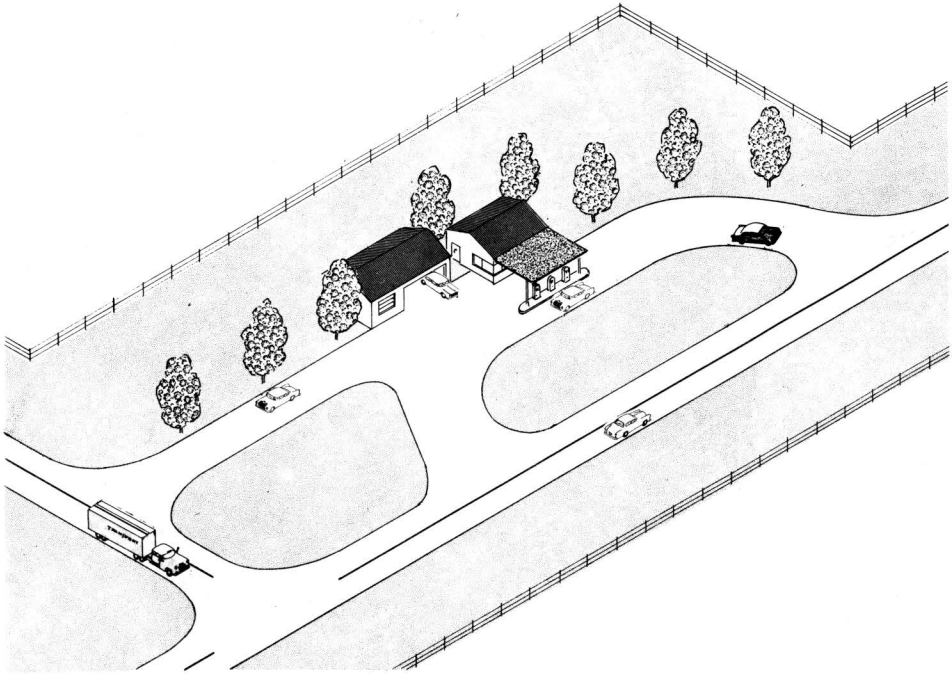
SERVICE STATION IN URBAN AREA



SERVICE STATION IN URBAN OR RURAL AREA

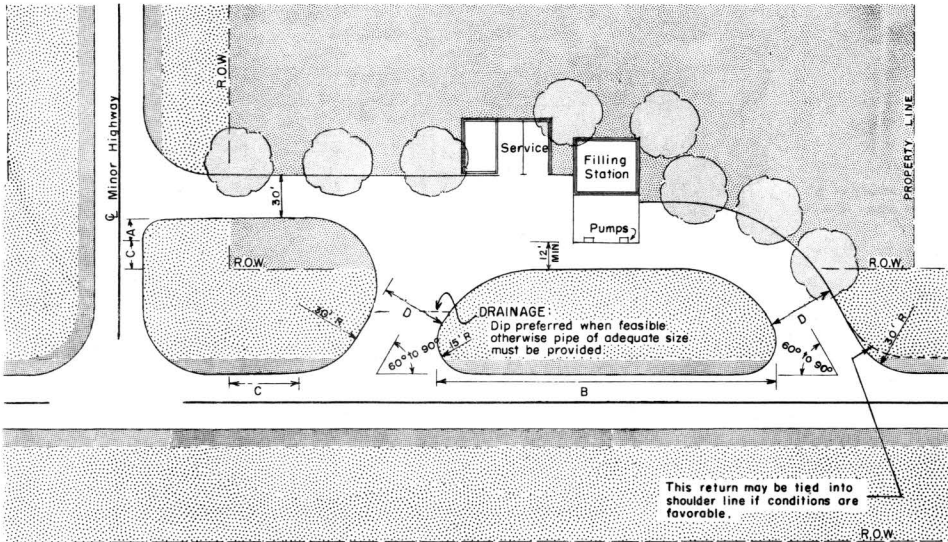


SERVICE STATION IN RURAL AREA

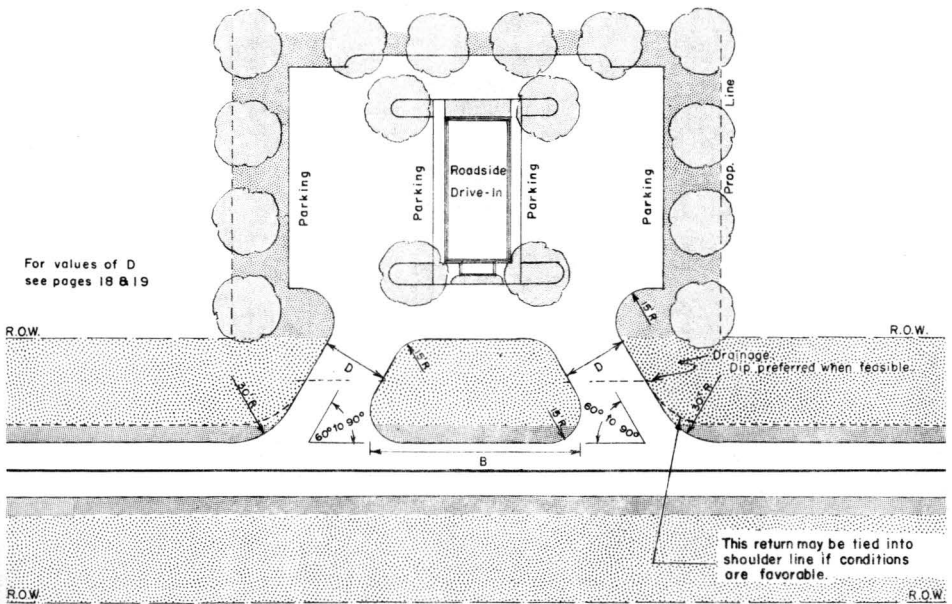
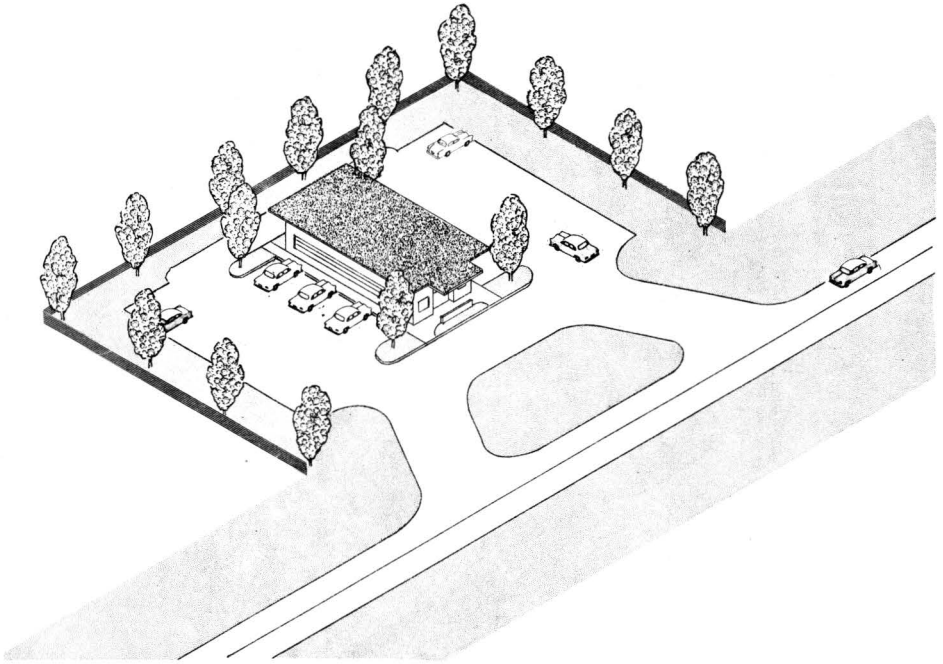


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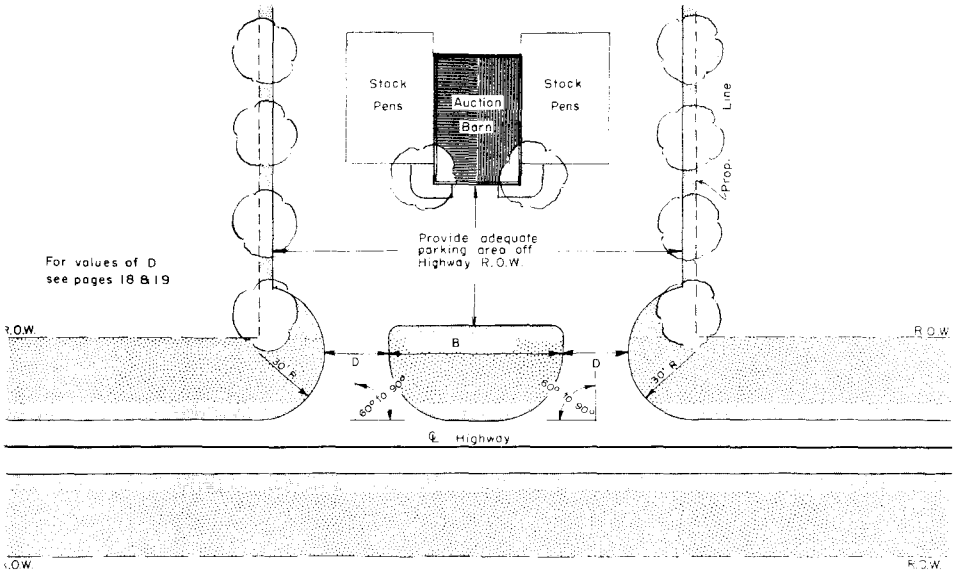
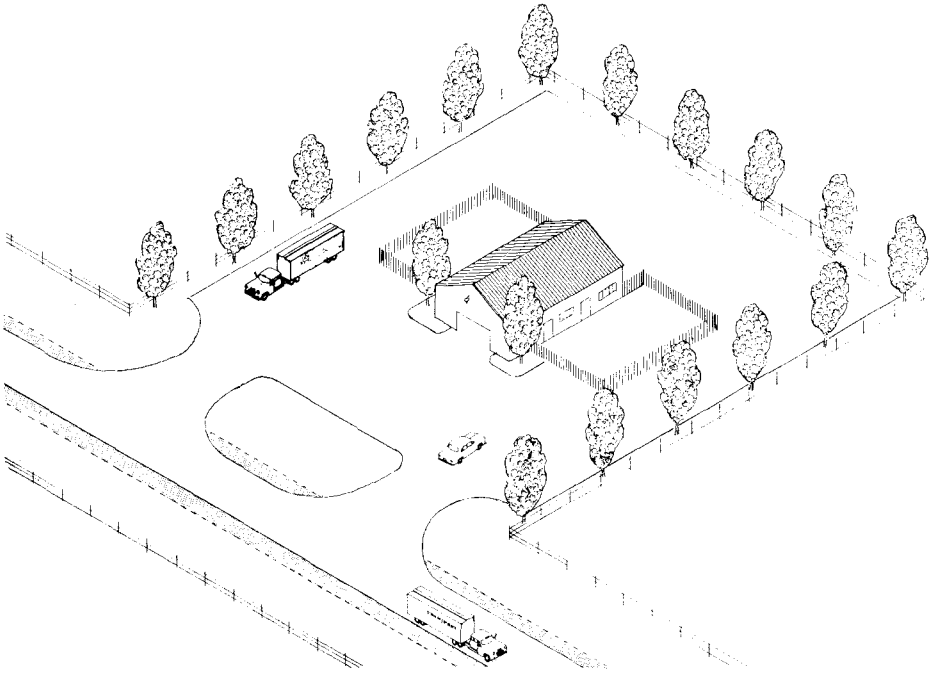
P. 2



SERVICE STATION IN RURAL AREA



COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN RURAL AREA



LIVESTOCK AUCTION ADJACENT HIGHWAY

DRIVE-IN THEATER

View of theater screen from highway should be restricted by orientation or other means.

It is desirable to select theater sites along highways having vehicle speeds less than 45 MPH.

Safer and faster discharge of theater traffic is provided when theater is located on side of highway leading to greatest source of patronage.

Theatre entrance and exit located to provide 1000' minimum sight distance along highway.

Exit shall provide only one lane for each direction of travel permitted on highway.

Ticket office placed near last ramp gives incoming patron full view of theater, provides for orderly movement of traffic, and additional traffic storage.

Storage of approximately 15% of theater capacity should be provided in the entrance drive leading to box office.

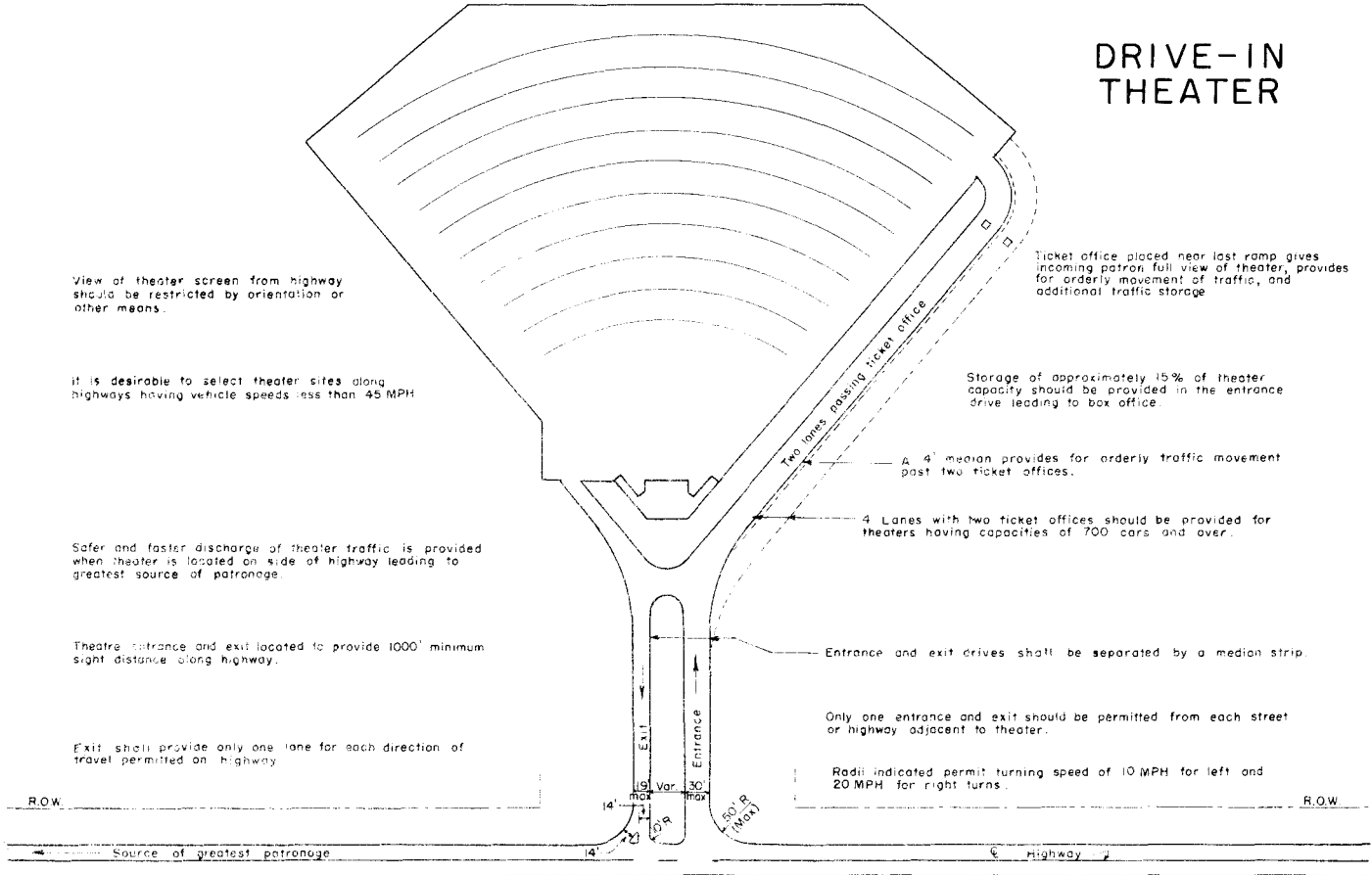
A 4' median provides for orderly traffic movement past two ticket offices.

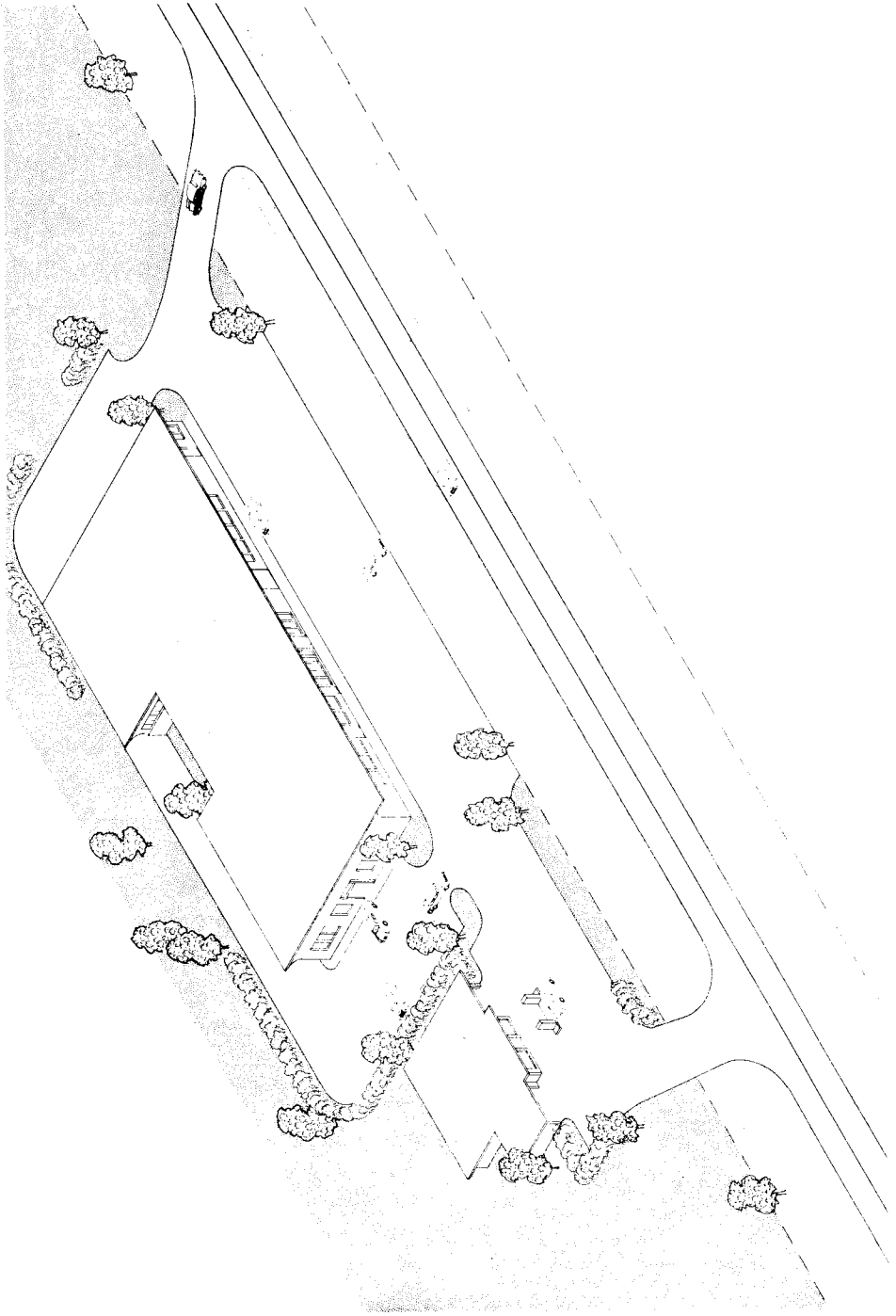
4 Lanes with two ticket offices should be provided for theaters having capacities of 700 cars and over.

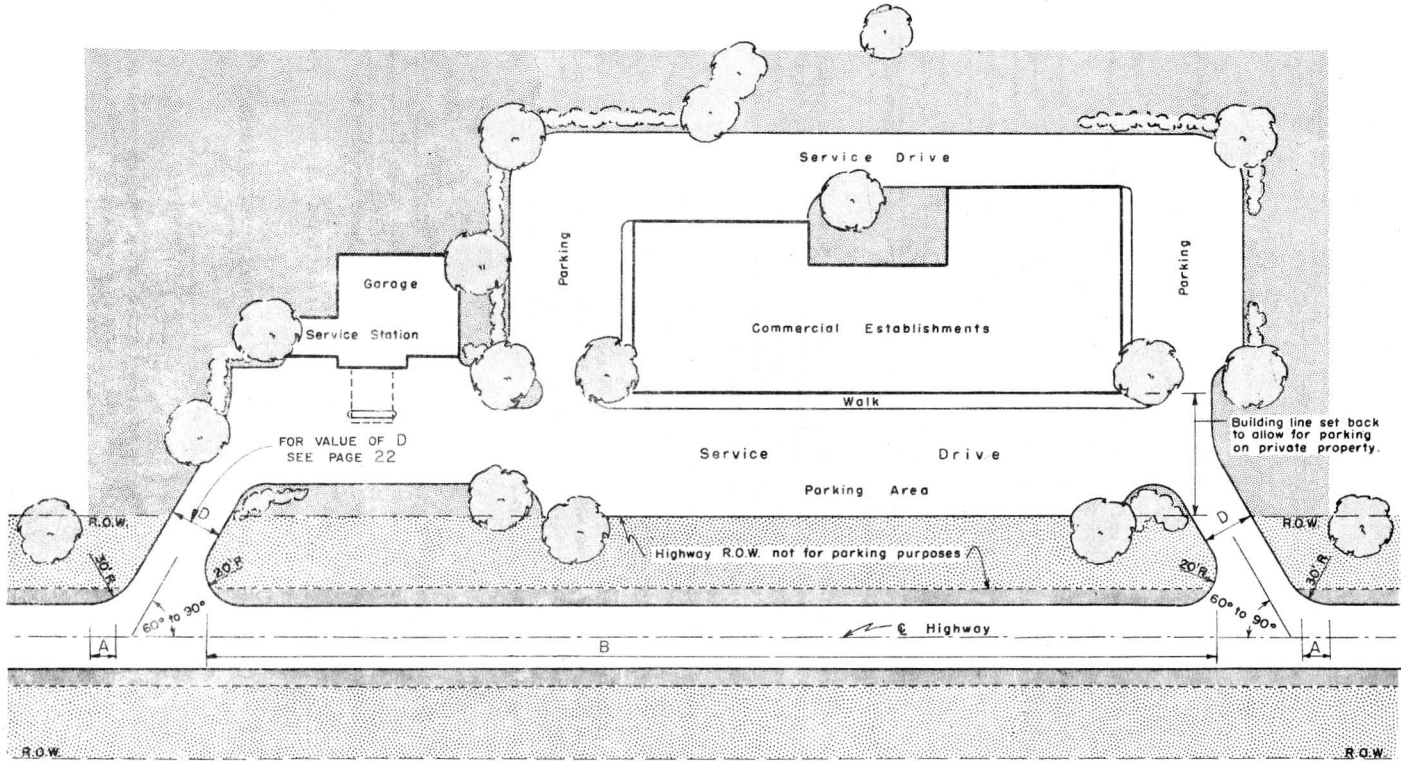
Entrance and exit drives shall be separated by a median strip.

Only one entrance and exit should be permitted from each street or highway adjacent to theater.

Radii indicated permit turning speed of 10 MPH for left and 20 MPH for right turns.







SHOPPING CENTER ACCESS

PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT ACCESS DRIVEWAY FACILITIES
ON HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY

To: _____ Hwy. No. _____ Permit No. _____
Control _____ Section _____
_____ County

Dear Sir: _____ Date _____

The Texas Highway Department hereby authorizes you to (re) construct facilities on the highway right of way for development of access to your property abutting Highway No. _____ in _____ County, located _____

provided you agree to and comply with the following conditions: _____

- 1. Design of facilities shall be as follows and/or as shown on sketch: _____

All construction and materials shall be subject to inspection and approval by the State Highway Department.

- 2. Maintenance of facilities constructed hereunder shall be the responsibility of the grantee, and the State Highway Department reserves the right to require any changes, maintenance or repairs as may be necessary to provide protection of life or property on or adjacent to the highway. Changes in design will be made only with approval of the State Highway Department.
- 3. The grantee shall hold harmless the State Highway Commission and its duly appointed agents and employees against any action for personal injury or property damage sustained by reason of the exercise of this permit.
- 4. The grantee shall not erect any sign on or extending over any portion of the highway right of way, and vehicle service fixtures such as service pumps, vendor stands, tanks or water hydrants shall be located at least twelve (12) feet from the right of way line to insure that any vehicles serviced from these fixtures will be off of the highway.

The State Highway Department will assist as follows: _____

This permit shall not be valid until grantee signs the statement in which he agrees to comply with the conditions herein. Mr. _____ should be contacted at least twenty-four (24) hours before beginning the work authorized by this permit.

STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

By: _____
District Engineer

I (We), the undersigned, hereby agree to accept and comply with the terms and conditions set out in this permit for construction of access driveway facilities on highway right of way.

SIGNED: _____

WITNESS: _____

ACCESS DRIVEWAY REGULATIONS

The State Highway Commission, in recognition of its responsibility for the safety and utility of public highways under its jurisdiction, has directed the adoption of rules and regulations to accomplish a coordinated development between highways and abutting property. For this purpose, the booklet entitled "Regulations for Access Driveways to State Highways" was published and adopted, setting our Departmental policies to regulate construction and maintenance of access driveway facilities.

SKETCH OF INSTALLATION