

CONSTRUCTING MEMORY AT DUKE



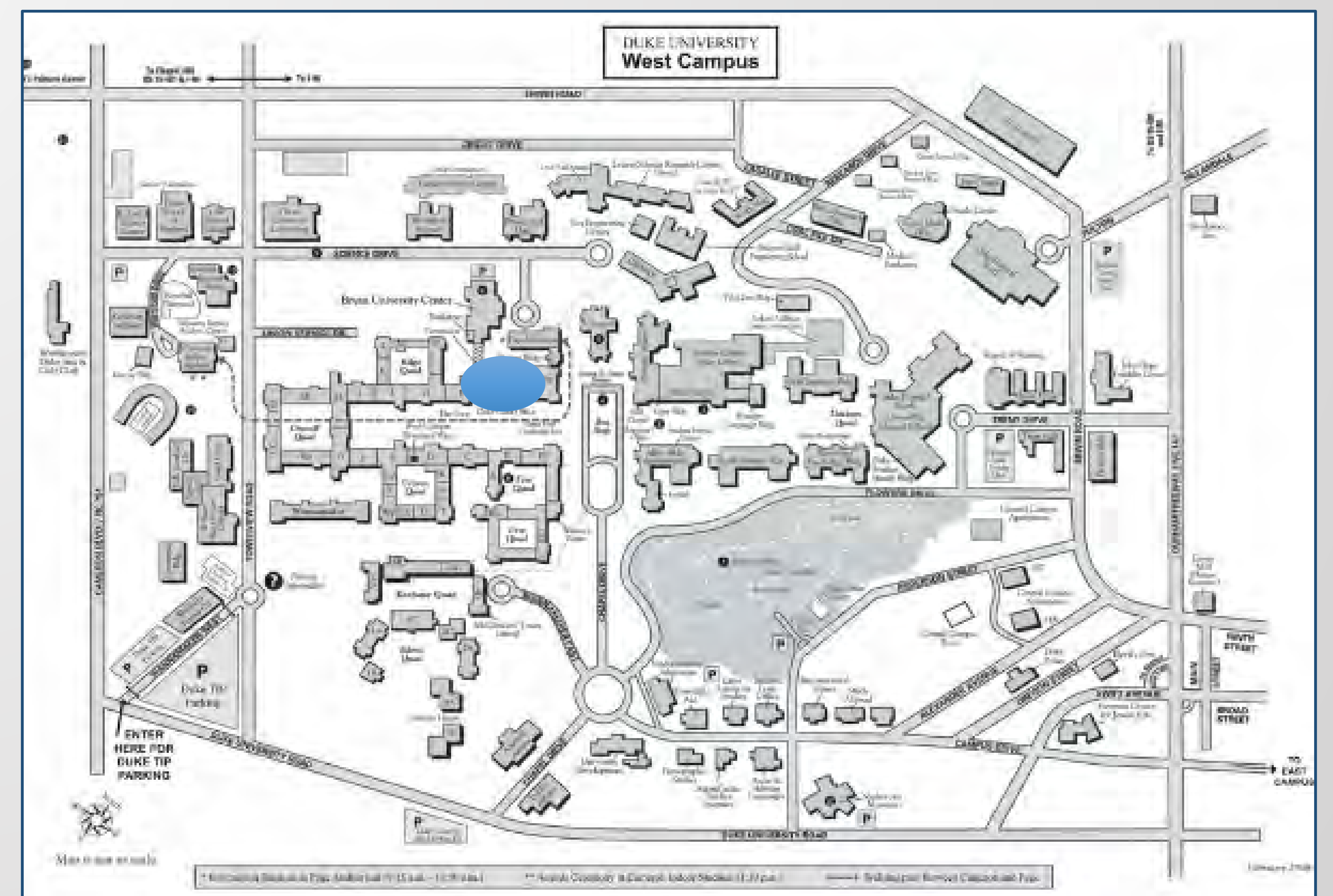
Silent Vigil, 1968



Design by Catherine Farmer

Duke's first labor union

Oliver Harvey led the Duke Employees Benevolent Society, created by workers in February 1965. Later recognized as Local 77 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the union protested Duke's refusal to pay workers the federally-mandated minimum wage. The union, largely comprised of black women, demanded wage increases, improved work conditions and medical benefits. The 1968 Silent Vigil supported AFSCME's campaign. The union was recognized in 1971. Sites dedicated to staff make up less than five percent of all markers on campus. An installation commemorating Local 77 would honor staff, recognize the important struggle for rights and teach our community about this important moment in Duke's history.



Proposed location on West Campus