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## History of the State University of Iowa : aspects of the physical structure

Katherine V. Bates  
*University of Iowa*

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HISTORY OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:  
ASPECTS OF THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

by  
Katherine V. <sup>alentine</sup> Bates

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OF IOWA  
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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of Master of Arts  
in the Department of History in  
the Graduate College of the  
State University of Iowa

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Ben

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## INTRODUCTION

The writer proposes to prepare this thesis in two sections. Part One will contain a general history of the physical plant dealing with land, buildings, equipment and total plant value, together with information pertaining to the building appropriations, building programs, control of buildings and grounds, and the main physical developments under each presidential administration.

In Part Two, a detailed study will be made of the major buildings on the University campus, including preliminary planning, factual data of construction, and later repairs and modifications. Minor structures will be mentioned only briefly.

Since many of these buildings such as East Hall, the Library Annex, Old Dental Building, and others have had a checkered history, have been used for different purposes, and have been built, repaired, remodeled and expanded in different periods, it would be difficult to include them within the scope of Part One. On the other hand, to limit this study to a technical discussion of the buildings alone would be to disregard the social aspects of physical plant operations. Therefore, this plan of organization is set forth.

Most of the materials are to be found in the University Archives, the State Historical Library, and the University Business Office. Among the primary sources are the Minutes of the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees, Records of the Building Committee, Building Register, Legislative Records, Notes on University Buildings procured in the University Archives, and the Financial Reports. In addition, newspapers, periodicals, books, theses, pamphlets, addresses, and correspondence relating to university affairs have been consulted.



**PART ONE**

## Chapter I

### THE EARLY YEARS, 1847-1878

In the days when Iowa was still a Territory, the Federal Government gave impetus to the establishment of a university by making a generous grant of lands to be used for the support of education. The text of this Act, dated July 20, 1840, stated:

That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to set apart and reserve from sale, out of any of the public lands within the Territory of Iowa, to which the Indian title has been or may be extinguished, and not otherwise appropriated, a quantity of land, not exceeding two entire townships, for the use and support of a university within the said territory, when it becomes a state, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever, to be located in tracts of not less than an entire section, corresponding with any of the legal divisions into which the public lands are authorized to be surveyed.<sup>1</sup>

Two townships of land equalled seventy-two sections, each of which contained 640 acres. Thus, from this grant, the University was to gain 46,080 acres. In the process of land selection, however, some fractional portions were deemed more desirable, with the result that the University actually received 46,052.61 acres, slightly less than the proposed amount.<sup>2</sup> These lands were to be sold and the proceeds used for investment to provide a permanent fund for the support of a University following

organization as a State.

With the admission of Iowa into the Union in December, 1846, the State University was formally established by an Act of the First General Assembly on February 25, 1847.<sup>3</sup> Section One located the University at Iowa City and provided for the establishment of branches as might be required.<sup>4</sup> Section Two donated the Capitol Building and the ten acres of land on which it stood to be used by the University for educational purposes.<sup>5</sup> Control of the University was vested in a Board of Trustees, consisting of fifteen members, with the Superintendent of Public Instruction serving as President of the Board.<sup>6</sup> James P. Carleton, H.D. Downey, Thomas Snyder, Samuel McCrory, Curtis Bates, Silas Foster, E.H. Lyons, James H. Gower, George G. Vincent, William G. Woodward, Theodore S. Parvin, George Achison, S.G. Matson, H.W. Starr, and Ansel Briggs were appointed to constitute the first Board of Trustees.<sup>7</sup> These names loomed large in the early activity of the University. Authority to dispose of the University lands was granted to the Board of Trustees, who were to be responsible to the General Assembly.<sup>8</sup>

A second major factor which gave the University its initial start was the Saline Land Grant, made by Congress in an Act approved March 3, 1845.<sup>9</sup> According to this Act,

Iowa was granted the use of the salt springs therein, not to exceed twelve in number, and six sections of land contiguous to each.<sup>10</sup> This grant embraced seventy-two sections of land containing 46,101.53 acres.<sup>11</sup> Revenue derived from the sale of the saline lands was to become a part of the University Fund. Actually, the funds accruing from the sale were placed in the State Treasury<sup>12</sup> until a later Act of the Eighth General Assembly appropriated the remaining portion of land to the University.<sup>13</sup>

Through these two grants of land, growth of the University was provided for, though as yet it existed only in the minds of men and in the written laws of the State. In the ensuing years, attention was turned to the disposition of the lands and accumulation of funds necessary for the actual functioning of a university.

Much political maneuvering centered around the proposed branches of the State University, one being contemplated at Fairfield and another at Dubuque.<sup>14</sup> The one at Fairfield emerged as a private institution, while the branch at Dubuque was never in operation. The Constitution of 1857 established unconditionally the fact that the University was to maintain no branches,<sup>15</sup> and thus the University was "left to the enjoyment of its inheritance and to the occupancy of its buildings upon removal of the

Capital to Des Moines."<sup>16</sup>

The people of Iowa City relinquished the seat of government willingly and were happy over the prospects of having a center of culture located in their midst. For the loss of the government, they were to gain a State University. In the words of Professor Benjamin F. Shambaugh, "As between professors and politicians, they seemed to prefer the professors."<sup>17</sup>

Though established in 1847, the University didn't open until the spring of 1855. Lack of preparation and inadequate facilities marked the first session which convened on March 5, 1855, with no president, no course of study, no really qualified students and only a small rented building. It was the fear of losing it if some signs of activity weren't shown that led the trustees to attempt even this feeble beginning. With an enrollment consisting largely of preparatory students, the University quickly received the appellation of "Johnson County High School." Amos Dean of Albany, New York, was elected the first President at a salary of \$1500 a year.<sup>18</sup> The presidency had been previously offered to William Larrabee and Loran Andrews, both of whom declined to accept the post.<sup>19</sup> Dean might be termed as filling the presidency by "remote control", for he made only three visits to Iowa City during his term in office.

The first University of Iowa classes met in the old Mechanics' Academy. Familiarly referred to as the "cradle of the University", it was located on what is now the site of East Hall. Formerly used as a local academy, the University had secured rental from the Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association of Iowa City,<sup>20</sup> until further negotiations transferred the title to the University.<sup>21</sup> It served the University until 1897 when it gave way to the wings of Old University Hospital.

The Old Stone Capitol, historically significant in the Territorial Government of Iowa, was the first University-owned building, having been donated by the Legislature in 1847 at the time of the official establishment of the University.<sup>22</sup> Delay in moving the Capital to Des Moines kept the University from occupying the building until 1857, from which time it has functioned as the administrative core of the University. Old Capitol, built of stone from Iowa's quarries, has achieved wide renown for its architectural grace and for the colorful role it has played in the story of the University and of the State.

President Dean, at a Board meeting on April 27, 1858, recommended that the University be suspended for two or more years to accumulate funds and provide for adequate building facilities.<sup>23</sup> As a result, in 1858, the Collegiate

Department was closed, and for the following two years, only the Normal Department remained. On September 19, 1860,<sup>24</sup> the reorganized University again welcomed students and from that time has been in continuous operation. Income for the institution has been derived from five sources: the Congressional grant of seventy-two sections of land; the State grant of a portion of the saline lands given the State by Congress; private gifts of lands; State appropriations, and tuitions. The chief source of support has been the appropriations made by the General Assembly, granted at first for specific purposes and later at regular two year intervals.

With the reopening of the University, a new Board of Trustees was created, numbering twelve men, with the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the University designated as ex-officio members.<sup>25</sup> A residence requirement was imposed on the presidential office which was filled in October, 1858, by Dr. Silas Totten.<sup>26</sup> The Constitution of 1857 provided, among other things, that education was to be under the supervision of the State Board of Education.<sup>27</sup> This group bore no resemblance to the present governing authority which was established in 1909. The Board again became directly responsible to the General Assembly, as provided

for by law in 1864.<sup>28</sup>

For several years after the establishment of the University, the problem of the selection and disposal of the Congressional grant of land took priority over academic matters with the Board of Trustees. Not until 1851 were all seventy-two sections selected;<sup>29</sup> they were located in the following counties:<sup>30</sup>

Appanoose	640.00 acres
Boone	2,613.48 acres
Davis	1,297.36 acres
Dallas	572.07 acres
Decatur	2,560.00 acres
Hardin	10,352.24 acres
Iowa	646.65 acres
Jasper	4,611.35 acres
Jefferson	1,280.00 acres
Lucas	4,547.84 acres
Polk	5,194.19 acres
Scott	645.16 acres
Story	5,221.40 acres
Union	638.20 acres
Wapello	1,920.00 acres
Warren	3,218.00 acres
Total Selected by Commissioners	<u>45,957.94 acres</u>
Selected by Governor	94.61 acres
Total	<u>46,052.55 acres</u>

Originally it was decided that the lands should be appraised at a minimum of \$5.00 per acre and offered at public sale by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.<sup>31</sup>

Disposal of the lands was entrusted to the Board of Trustees. The first sale took place on the east approach to Old Capitol on November 1, 1851, at which time 35,803.30



acres were offered for sale.<sup>32</sup> Of this amount, 645.16 acres were sold, bringing an average of \$5.05 per acre.<sup>33</sup> At a Board meeting on February 28, 1852, it was recorded that<sup>34</sup>

on motion it was ordered that the price of the University lands be raised to \$10.00 per acre provided that the lands for which application has already been made, may be sold at \$5.00 per acre, and that in all sales hereafter to be made, no more than one-fourth the number of acres sold shall be timbered lands except in cases where there is no prairie contiguous to the timber, in which case the quantity shall be at the discretion of the agent.

This increase in appraisal really amounted to withholding the lands from sale until they reached that value, for \$10.00 was a higher price than they could command at that time. This policy continued in force only until February 7, 1854, when the Board was forced to place a more accurate valuation on the property.<sup>35</sup> M.J. Morsman was appointed to the task of appraising the unsold lands<sup>36</sup> which were valued at an average of \$3.64 per acre.<sup>37</sup>

From April, 1847 to January 1, 1855, the land sale totaled 18,170.70 acres, averaging \$3.27 per acre.<sup>38</sup> The quantity of land remaining to be sold was listed at 27,195.99 acres.<sup>39</sup> This report was followed by a direction from the State Legislature regarding the sale of University Lands<sup>40</sup> which prompted the Board to hasten the process of land disposal.

At a land sale in June, 1855, 18,500 acres were sold, of which 11,036.20 were purchased by the Trustees.<sup>41</sup> This matter created not a minor scandal and brought about much anxiety and criticism, despite the fact that the Trustees had some justification in that they had paid more than the appraisal value for the land.<sup>42</sup> The whole topic of land disposal had been one of controversy from the beginning. Conflict existed between forces wanting quick and early disposal and forces working for retention of the lands until they could command a higher purchase price, thus enhancing the eventual income to be derived from the original grant.

A committee appointed to investigate the land sale defended the action of the Trustees,<sup>43</sup> but nevertheless, the Board was deprived of its right to supervise the disposal of lands, and the General Assembly declared null and void all land transactions made to the Trustees.<sup>44</sup>

The economic crisis of 1857 halted the land sales, and some of the land which had previously been sold was forfeited. Anson Hart reported on October 5, 1859, the status of the University Lands as follows:<sup>45</sup>

Acres sold	31,411.36
Acres unsold	14,519.19
To be selected	122.06
Deficient by selection	27.39
	<hr/>
	46,080.00

Total sales to that date brought an average of \$3.52 per acre.

By 1860, funds were thought sufficient to warrant reopening of the University. Land sales continued throughout the remainder of the century. One who held the opinion that the Trustees had erred in their duty was President Pickard, who took office in 1878. He noted that land of similar quality by 1865 was easily commanding \$15.00 per acre<sup>46</sup> and that the State had sacrificed a generous permanent fund through mismanagement of the University lands, which caused him to remark, "But foresight suffers loss of keenness when the eye is attracted by present necessities."<sup>47</sup>

Thomas H. Benton described the Saline Land Grant as being "the most noted for inconsiderate legislation and general mismanagement. It was made for no specific object other than to secure to the state the salt springs."<sup>48</sup> The salt springs proved worthless, the only value of the grant being in the land itself. The 46,101.53 acres constituting the saline grant were located as follows:<sup>49</sup>

Appanoose County	12,859.28 acres
Davis County	640.00 acres
Decatur County	2,560.00 acres
Lucas County	25,791.46 acres
Monroe County	1,120.00 acres
Van Buren County	640.00 acres
Wayne County	2,490.79 acres

Between 1853 and 1858, the majority of the saline lands were sold at approximately \$5.00 per acre, the proceeds being placed in the State treasury.<sup>50</sup> Of the original saline land grant, the University received only about 4,578 acres,<sup>51</sup> together with the remainder of the Saline Fund in notes and cash, after \$10,000 had been deducted for a building appropriation.<sup>52</sup> Thus, it has been estimated that the profits derived by the University from the saline grant did not exceed \$30,000.<sup>53</sup>

The first mention of need for campus buildings came from Governor Grimes in 1856.<sup>54</sup> The faculty brought to the attention of the General Assembly the fact that the University was badly in need of boarding hall and dormitory facilities in order to attract students from distant parts of the State to the University.<sup>55</sup> Samuel J. Kirkwood, Hugh D. Downey and Henry W. Lathrop from the Board of Trustees were appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of constructing such a building. As a result, the first appropriation to the University was approved March 11, 1858,<sup>56</sup> granting \$3,000 for making repairs on the Old Capitol building and an additional \$10,000 to provide for a boarding hall and dormitory. This building later became known as South Hall, described by C.R. Aurner as the "most used and perhaps the most abused structure among the

University buildings."<sup>57</sup>

During the first years after 1860, the faculty was held responsible for buildings and grounds. It was their duty to see that fuel, books, furniture and all of the essentials to maintain the University were on hand.

Livestock were prohibited from invading the campus when the president recommended the following resolution in 1862:<sup>58</sup>

That hereafter no horses, cattle or other stock shall be allowed upon the university grounds; and that until otherwise ordered the grounds and buildings of the university shall be under the control of the faculty of the university.

One of the many duties of the janitor, who lived with his family in one small room in the basement of Old Capitol, was to drive all livestock off the campus. Apparently the responsibility was not an easy one, for the faculty voted that "the janitor was authorized to purchase a dog at a cost not exceeding the sum of five dollars to assist him in keeping the yard clear of stock."<sup>59</sup>

By 1864, the University was in successful operation. Governor Kirkwood stressed the need for more room, asking for a large assembly hall, a laboratory for chemistry and an observatory.<sup>60</sup> All of these were to be included in one building. An Act of the General Assembly in 1864<sup>61</sup> provided

for a new Board of Trustees of nine members, including the Governor and the President of the University. Their first meeting in May, 1864<sup>62</sup> was devoted to making plans for the new building, Chapel Hall.

To provide for this building, the General Assembly appropriated \$20,000 in 1864,<sup>63</sup> which was supplemented by gifts of cash and land from private citizens. These lands were to be sold and the proceeds added to the fund for the Chapel Building. Some land remained unsold after the Chapel Building had been completed, the remainder eventually being sold and credited to an account known as the Donated Land Fund.<sup>64</sup> The Chapel Building, subsequently known as North Hall, was gutted by a severe lightning fire in 1897 but has survived as the oldest University-built structure on the campus today.

As the University grew, it was obvious that all matters could not be handled by the Board. Specific duties were assigned to committees or individuals, and in 1864 it was resolved that<sup>65</sup>

Except where otherwise especially provided hereafter, the general supervision of the property, buildings, and grounds of the State University are hereby entrusted to the Treasurer of the Board, to act with the advice and consent of the President of the Faculty; that he be authorized to collect all rents, make needful repairs of university property, expend appropriations made for improving or beautifying the university grounds, to supply

the contingent wants of the university in full, stationery, etc., and with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee to provide for such necessities as may occur between the sessions of the Board of Trustees.

A third appropriation from the General Assembly in 1866<sup>66</sup> allowed for a number of campus improvements. The sum of \$13,000 was granted for completing the Chapel Building, including the heating apparatus. Three thousand dollars was allowed for a slate roof on the main building, Old Capitol, along with \$2,000 for heating equipment for that building. For South Hall, \$1500 was appropriated to furnish heating facilities, and an additional \$1500 was granted for general repair and repainting of all of the University buildings. It was noted that

Great care has been observed in the construction of the heating apparatus to guard against accidents by fire, and to provide the necessary heat for the various apartments without exposing the students to the evils of an impure atmosphere.<sup>67</sup>

The total valuation of University buildings and grounds in 1867 was estimated at \$150,000.<sup>68</sup>

Describing the campus as it appeared in 1867, Benton wrote:<sup>69</sup>

What may be properly termed the college green consists of an oblong square of five acres in front of the buildings. It is covered with a rich sward of blue grass, and well studded with thrifty trees, among which are a number of large native oaks, with selections from the best

varieties of the adjacent forests. The green is inclosed with a substantial iron fence, and is destined to excel in beauty the ornamental grounds of many of the older colleges. Some of the classes who have recently graduated conceived the excellent idea of commemorating the event by planting a tree on the college grounds. Several of these trees have already attained fair proportions, and a half century hence a few gray-headed men, by whose hands they were planted, will recline under their foliage, and recall the halcyon days and pleasant reminiscences of college life.

In 1870, the Board of Trustees was abolished and was supplanted by the Board of Regents to be composed of the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the President of the University and six other members.<sup>70</sup> Their first meeting took place on June 28, 1870. By this time, the University had been the recipient of two more appropriations, one of \$20,000 in 1868<sup>71</sup> for building repairs, and \$25,000 in 1870<sup>72</sup> for general support of the University.

Not until George Thacher assumed the presidency in 1871 was provision made for cutting the grass once a month. At that time a Burlington minister wrote, "The examining committee observed with regret that no attention was paid to the care of the University grounds. No pleasant walks are laid out, nor is a shrub or flower visible."<sup>73</sup>

In 1872, the sum of \$52,300<sup>74</sup> was granted to the University, the largest appropriation yet to be made. By this time it had become evident that interest on the land



sales would not be sufficient to maintain the University and that it must depend on State appropriations for its continuance. This appropriation provided \$8,850 for contingent and incidental funds for two years, \$6,350 for an iron fence around the University grounds and a new roof on South Hall, \$4,000 for libraries and \$4,000 for fuel and printing. This liberal gift prompted a campus celebration, the Iowa City Republican reporting:<sup>75</sup>

There was a lively jollification Friday evening over the passage of the bill by the Legislature appropriating \$52,300 to the State University. It was got up mainly by the students, but many of our people joined in and helped it away....

This appropriation was followed by a grant of \$46,000 in 1874<sup>76</sup> and \$47,457 in 1876,<sup>77</sup> each providing support for a two year period. During this time, the Observatory was constructed at the north end of Clinton Street, the location now held by the President's Home. Originally it had been planned to include a tower suitable for an astronomical observatory in North Hall, but when this was not feasible, plans were made for a separate observatory. Thus, the Board appropriated \$4,600 for the erection of this structure in 1874.<sup>78</sup>

Included in the appropriation of 1876 were funds for the establishment of a Department of Homeopathy,<sup>79</sup> but

due to the financial situation at that time, the Legislature was not enthusiastic about an immediate building program. It was recognized, nevertheless, that the Medical Department was sorely in need of additional space. The Regents in 1878 granted \$1600<sup>80</sup> for a Homeopathic Medical Building which was located on Clinton Street and served the Homeopathic Department until the construction of the new hospital on Jefferson Street.

The idea of providing a permanent annual endowment for the University took ten years to materialize. Attention was first turned to the subject in 1868 when the Visiting Committee suggested a small tax for the purpose of providing a permanent income,<sup>81</sup> to do away with the necessity of annual appropriations. Governor Samuel Merrill understood the limitations of special appropriations when he recommended in his second biennial message in 1872 a bill<sup>82</sup>

providing for the revenue of the State, a permanent income for this great and important institution of learning so that the Regents and Faculty may be able to carry out every reasonable plan for its improvement in all its departments and interests, free from the embarrassments arising from the uncertainties of biennial appropriations.

Again, in 1874, Governor Carpenter recommended that a fixed income be voted and proposed a 1/10th or 1/15th mill levy to provide a permanent fund.<sup>83</sup> An act for the

endowment and support of the University, providing a \$20,000 annual income, was passed by the Seventeenth General Assembly in 1878.<sup>84</sup> This was a major triumph for the University, for it meant that it had outgrown its period of orphanage and that the State now realized its responsibility in providing support for its State University.

The close of this period, thirty-one years after the University had been established, saw a mere six buildings constituting the University plant: Old Capitol, the Mechanics' Academy, South Hall, North Hall, the Observatory, and the Homeopathic Medical Building. In the ensuing years, great material progress was to be made.

## Chapter I

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## Chapter II

## THE MIDDLE YEARS, 1879-1915

A permanent annual endowment of \$20,000 for building purposes was voted by the General Assembly in 1878,<sup>1</sup> but not until the 1900's did such financial aid become sufficient to plan a University for the future. The campus scene in 1878 did not warrant a hopeful outlook. With Old Capitol and North Hall in need of repair and a heating system which was intolerable, it was obvious that \$20,000 couldn't cover all essentials. Also, the fact that none of the University property carried insurance was a major threat. Not until 1879 were the University buildings equipped with steam heat when the Board met and passed the following resolution offered by Mr. Ross:<sup>2</sup>"Resolved that in the opinion of this Board the time has come when steps should be taken toward heating the University buildings with steam."

Soon after President Josiah L. Pickard came into office, all preparatory work was dropped by the University.<sup>3</sup> This meant that the institution could no longer be derided as the "Johnson County High School" and could turn its attention toward functioning as a true University of higher learning. Elective courses were also adopted into the curriculum at this time.<sup>4</sup>

The Visiting Committee in 1881 noted that<sup>5</sup> "The chairs, settees and furniture in all departments are old and very dilapidated, having been in active service for from ten to twenty years." The Regents were not unconcerned with the appearance of the campus, however, and agreed<sup>6</sup>

That the good of the college campus requires that some of the trees should be removed and the committee on buildings and grounds with Mr. Pickard added are hereby designated to have the trees removed that shall be so marked.

The Regents further voted an appropriation of \$500 for stone walks, \$1400 for repairing and enlarging Old University Hospital and \$1800 for heating the South Hall.<sup>7</sup> These funds were to be obtained not from the yearly endowment but from the repair fund and from interest accruing from the permanent fund of the University.<sup>8</sup>

The inspection made by the Visiting Committee resulted in the recommendation to the legislature of an additional appropriation<sup>9</sup> for two new buildings and new furniture, involving an amount of \$80,000 in addition to the annual endowment of \$20,000. Though the Visiting Committee was impressed with the administrative management, it felt that the University was operating under the handicap of inadequate quarters which were without proper means of ventilation.

Dr. J.C. Shrader, a member of the University medical faculty, secured an appropriation of \$30,000<sup>10</sup> to be used for a medical building, which was erected in 1882. An evaluation of buildings and grounds in that year was set at \$400,000, but even so, a picture of the University campus at that time showed more limitations than assets.

In spite of the erection of the Medical Building in 1882 and Science Hall (now the Geology Building) in 1885, acute shortages existed, especially in classroom, office and laboratory space. Urgent also were the needs for a gymnasium, athletic field, and assembly hall.

The inadequacy of hospital accommodations dealt a blow to the Medical and Homeopathic Departments, and the Dental Department was forced to limit admissions due to lack of space.<sup>11</sup> Some concrete achievement was discernible, nevertheless, in the nine years of President Pickard's tenure. During those years, four structures had been erected,<sup>12</sup> the Homeopathic Medical Building in 1878, a boiler house and the Medical Building in 1882 and Science Hall, which still stands today, in 1885.

By 1887, with Charles A. Schaeffer in the President's chair, the outlook seemed more promising. On the occasion of his inauguration on June 22, 1887, Schaeffer elaborated the specific and immediate needs of the

University:<sup>13</sup>

We should supply them the faculty freely with the numerous accessories which the modern methods of education require. Laboratories must be built and thoroughly equipped with the best and most recent apparatus and appliances; the library must be supplied with the books and journals which are so vitally necessary to the students in every department; charts and models must be provided for instruction in all branches of science; and additions must be made to the various collections, so well begun in our museum.

At the same time, President Schaeffer made an appeal for public funds, asking<sup>14</sup>

How are we to secure the means for further development? Certainly no one will expect that any increase in the number or the efficiency of the members of the faculty, any considerable additions to the library, the laboratories or their equipment, can be made without a material increase in the financial resources of the University. To put it plainly, in order to bring this institution into the front rank, we want more money.

President Schaeffer was not the only man to foresee the great financial needs of the University. The future development of the institution had been a subject of general concern for some time. A few years earlier, James B. Angell had delivered an address, stating:<sup>15</sup>

If this State is to have a strong and useful University, its citizens should clearly appreciate the fact that a certain stability of plan and purpose in the conduct of it is absolutely essential. It must not be allowed to drift aimlessly upon the waves, the sport and victim of every storm of political or personal

excitement. If it is to make a voyage, it must have a destination in mind. It must set distinctly before it some far-reaching general policy, and must work in accordance with that. Of course, it may often modify details of operation. It must, if it is to improve. But since a university is a growth and a life, it should not be molested by spasmodic interferences and hindrances.

The course of University affairs was in the political limelight, for the year 1888 brought an investigation concerning appropriations. In the General Assembly, it was stated that

...Grave charges have been, and are being made against the Iowa State University touching its general management, which reflect on the economy and even integrity with which its appropriations have been used; the moral character of the institution itself; the influences and moral atmosphere by which it is surrounded; the character of the State's buildings and improvements; the conduct of some of its professors; the action of its board of regents in entering into a contract to discharge a part of its professors, in consideration of certain appropriations; and the general efficiency of the University....<sup>16</sup>

At the same time, Schaeffer made a direct appeal to the Legislature for more buildings: a chemistry laboratory, a modern hospital, gymnasium and a homeopathic medical hospital.<sup>17</sup> One of Schaeffer's main endeavors was obtaining a building fund through the levy of a 1/10th mill tax for a six-year period.<sup>18</sup> This law, passed by the legislature in 1896, levied "a special tax of one-tenth of

a mill on the dollar upon the assessed valuation of the taxable property of the State for the erection of buildings for the State University."<sup>19</sup> It was to remain in effect for a period of five years. Any amount collected which exceeded \$55,000 a year would go into the State Treasury. By securing passage of this millage tax which was renewed for five-year periods several times, Schaeffer opened the way for an enlarged building program and enabled succeeding administrations to make long-range building plans. Largely as a result of his efforts, the permanent annual endowment had increased from \$28,000 to \$65,000 by 1899. When the mill tax was discontinued, it was supplanted by biennial building appropriations.

Construction of a new hospital was made possible when Iowa Citizens vacated their "City Park" and donated it to the University in 1890. This property was accepted by the General Assembly on April 12, 1890,<sup>20</sup> with the stipulation that it was to be used only for educational purposes. Work on the central section wasn't begun until 1897. Costing about \$55,000, this cream-colored brick structure accommodated seventy-five patients.<sup>21</sup>

Each new building brought increased duties and responsibilities to the Board of Regents. In addition to approving the plans and awarding contracts, these officials

were responsible for supervising construction and attending to a variety of minor details which were brought to their attention.

Misfortune came to the S.U.I. campus when North Hall, which housed the library and the Physics Department, was struck by a bolt of lightning in 1897. Library volumes numbering 24,727 were destroyed by the fire.

Shortly after the millage tax was passed, the second major building program of the University was instigated with the appointment of a building committee whose members included A.W. Swalm, Alonzo Abernethy, Frank W. Mahin, Shirley Gilliland, and W.R. Moniger.<sup>22</sup> They submitted plans for a hospital, collegiate building, an addition to Old Capitol for library and offices, and also an armory for the military department, and an auditorium. The plans for an addition to Old Capitol were never carried out. In addition, the committee recommended construction of a heating plant.<sup>23</sup>

During President Schaeffer's administration, the Chemistry Laboratory, Homeopathic Medical Hospital, Dental Building and Medical Hospital had been completed, and the foundation for the Collegiate Building, which was later to bear his name, had been laid. An estimate of the University properties had jumped to \$894,000, the buildings alone being

worth \$350,000,<sup>24</sup> and the permanent annual endowment had shown a considerable increase.

In 1899, George MacLean took over the Presidency, marking the beginning of a true era of building progress for the University. It was then for the first time that steps were taken toward beautifying and landscaping the campus. In MacLean's report to the Board of Regents in 1899, he stated:<sup>25</sup>

...The University is in the beginning of its building period. What the manufacturer calls the plant, in the main, is yet to be put in. The entire value of the buildings, exclusive of the collegiate building in process of erection, is estimated at only \$350,000.

The construction of the Collegiate Building or Hall of Liberal Arts was the major project during this period. The city wanted a building of beauty, for the Chemistry Laboratory had been constructed on a purely functional basis, without regard for architectural grace. A contest was sponsored for the best drawing of the proposed building, with the requirement that it must harmonize with Old Capitol.<sup>26</sup> Cash prizes were to be awarded for the five best plans. The Hall of Liberal Arts, constructed at a cost of over \$191,000, was dedicated on January 23, 1902,<sup>27</sup> and now bears the name of Schaeffer Hall, in honor of the president who promoted the millage tax which made its erection possible.



Before the dedication of this second oldest building in the Old Capitol pentacrest, the medical building and old South Hall were demolished by fire, leaving the Medical College homeless. A temporary structure erected over the remains of South Hall housed it temporarily until a rush order provided for the laying of the cornerstone for the Medical Laboratory in 1902.

Accepting a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Euclid Sanders in 1903, the University fell heir to the Terrill Dam property located north of town. The following year, however, \$10,000 was allocated for a new dam and power plant near the campus.<sup>28</sup>

In this same year, the University leased space in Close Hall from the trustees of the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Association of the University of Iowa; it was to be used as a women's gymnasium. In 1891, the trustees had purchased a tract of land for \$4,000<sup>29</sup> and had begun the task of soliciting contributions for the erection of this building. Contributions eventually totalled \$30,000, of which \$10,000 was donated by Mrs. Helen Close.<sup>30</sup> It was decided to name the building "Close Hall" in honor of Mrs. Close, who had made such a generous contribution.

Plans for the third building in the campus pentacrest, the Hall of Natural Science, necessitated

moving Old Science Hall to a new location in the summer of 1904. The expert work done in transferring this building, already twenty years old, to its new location on the corner of Capitol and Jefferson Streets, received wide acclaim.

This Hall of Natural Science which was begun in 1904 from funds created by the millage tax was a twin to Schaeffer Hall. Built of Bedford stone, its total cost came to over \$275,000.<sup>31</sup> The Iowa State Board of Education voted in 1934 to change the name of the building to Macbride Hall, honoring former President Thomas H. Macbride.<sup>32</sup>

By this time, functional design was not the only consideration in erecting campus buildings. The Olmstead Brothers in their report on future building, stated,<sup>33</sup>

This University in common with almost every other important University...has rendered itself open to criticism on the score of appearance by erecting buildings of various styles of architecture, including buildings without style, and of all sorts of building material on the exterior. We believe one of the most important subjects for the University to consider and determine is the idea of harmony in style and material of all future buildings...it certainly seems as though particular bodies of men placed in control of institutions involving the erection of numerous buildings, should adopt such rules as will insure a reasonable degree of harmony and dignity in groups of buildings devoted to important purposes.

The year 1905 saw completion of the Men's Gymnasium at the foot of Old Capitol hill. Commencement

exercises were held there in the spring of that year. As early as 1887, President Schaeffer had requested a gymnasium, saying:<sup>34</sup>

...we must not forget that it is our duty to train the body as well as the mind. Let me complete the list of our wants by mentioning the gymnasium....A well-equipped gymnasium is, in my opinion, not the least important addition to the list of our present needs.

The University was in the midst of a program of building construction which far exceeded any of its former building endeavors. With the Olmstead Report came the plan for the remainder of the campus pentacrest, including the Physics Building, to be completed in 1912 and later University Hall. The report stated:<sup>35</sup>

...Four important buildings are already constructed or are under construction in one of the classic styles, and of which the exterior walls are made of Bedford limestone. This being the case, it seems to us obvious that not only the two proposed buildings southwest and northwest of the Old Capitol should be erected of the same material, and in the same style, but that all other important buildings recognized to be permanent, should also be built of the same material and in the same style. If particular cases arise in which it should be thought that this rule would involve too great expense, we believe that the proposed building should either be reduced in size to bring it within the appropriation while conforming to the rule, leaving opportunity for additions in the same style and material, or else that the building should be made frankly temporary in appearance with respect at least to its exterior walls....

The year 1909 was an eventful one, for it marked the establishment of the Iowa State Board of Education as the governing force of the University, as well as the beginning of construction of the Law Building and the Physics Building. Instigation of a modern dormitory system came with the beginning of work on Currier Hall in the same year.

Enrollment had passed the 2,000 mark by this time, and eighteen buildings had been erected mainly from the proceeds of the millage tax. Replacing the millage tax in 1910 was an annual building appropriation.<sup>36</sup>

During the administration of President MacLean, which ended in 1912, the University had shown marked development. The University could add to its building inventory the Hall of Liberal Arts, the Medical Laboratory, the Men's Gynmasium, the Engineering Building, the Hall of Natural Science and the Law Building.

John G. Bowman succeeded MacLean in the presidency, and the building program made rapid progress. It was evident that the University would soon outgrow its limited area, and the problem of securing more land loomed before the Regents. The Olmsteads advised that motives other than cheapness and convenience be kept in mind in the acquisition of more land. Moreover, they strongly urged a suitable grouping of buildings in relation to the central

point of the campus, which would always be the Old State Capitol.<sup>37</sup>

Governor Warren Garst recognized that the inadequate campus prevented physical development and recommended an appropriation of \$110,000 for the purchase of land west of the Iowa River.<sup>38</sup> The Regents finally requested \$75,000, but the General Assembly granted only \$35,000 at that time.<sup>39</sup> The west side campus, as well as the University Hospitals, had been an ideal for many years in the minds of those who planned the University's development. The Olmstead Brothers suggested the purchase of eighty to 160 acres on the west side<sup>40</sup>

partly for the preservation of the landscape and partly as reserve sites for such state institutions as can be desirably affiliated with, or located near the University, and which, being self contained, would not necessarily as a matter of convenience, need to be located in the midst of the city.

They also advised the location of a building with a tower to serve as a balance for the stately Old Capitol building.<sup>41</sup> This structure was to be located on the new campus across the Iowa River.

With the close of the middle years, the student body had grown to approximately 5,000. Already the campus had added ten new buildings since the turn of the century. In but a few years, Iowa farm land was to be transformed into

a beautiful west side campus for the University in the coming Jessup Administration.

## Chapter II

## FOOTNOTES

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5. Iowa Legislative Documents, 1881, Report of the Visiting Committee, p. 6.
6. Minutes of the Board, Book B, June 17, 1880, p. 155.
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10. Laws of Iowa, Nineteenth General Assembly, Chapter 84, p. 82.
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12. Minutes of the Board, Book B, March 1, 1887, pp. 417-419.
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15. James B. Angell, Commencement Oration Delivered at Iowa City, Iowa, June 21, 1886, State University of Iowa, p. 13.

16. Journal of the House of Representatives, Twenty-Second General Assembly, 1888, p. 930.
17. Iowa Legislative Documents, 1888, Vol. II, Report of the State University, pp. 15, 18, 19.
18. Laws of Iowa, Twenty-Sixth General Assembly, Chapter 144, p. 117.
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26. Notes on University Buildings, Schaeffer Hall, Archives, State University of Iowa.
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28. Laws of Iowa, Thirtieth General Assembly, Chapter 156, p. 146.
29. Close Hall, unpublished manuscript, Business Office, State University of Iowa, p. 8, copy of warranty deed.
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31. Building Register, Building #8, Machride Hall, University Business Office.
32. Minutes of the Iowa State Board of Education, July 10, 1934, Board Record, 1934-35, p. 15.
33. Report of the Olmstead Brothers, pp. 9-10.



34. Schaeffer, op. cit., pp. 10-11.
35. Olmstead Report, pp. 10-11.
36. Laws of Iowa, Thirty-First General Assembly, Chapter 183, p. 140.
37. Olmstead Report, pp. 3-4.
38. Laws of Iowa, Thirty-Seventh General Assembly, Chapter 281, p. 306.
39. Laws of Iowa, Thirty-Third General Assembly, Chapter 244, p. 225.
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41. Ibid., p. 8.

Chapter III  
THE JESSUP PERIOD, 1916-1934

Walter A. Jessup came to the University of Iowa as Dean of the College of Education in 1912. Four years later, just shortly after the opening of World War I, he was chosen President of the University and served in that capacity until June, 1934. Great physical and academic changes marked his eighteen-year period of tenure, the longest term of office held by any of the University's presidents to date.

In this period of less than two decades, the expansion of the University could be seen not only on paper but in its material being. Year by year new buildings were added, more properties were acquired, and generous grants were received which brought the University to a new position of importance by the end of the period in 1934. Under Jessup's steady influence and leadership, the following buildings were added to the campus during his administration:<sup>1</sup>

Music Building	1916
Dental Building	1916
Children's Hospital	1917
Quadrangle	1919
Westlawn	1919

Psychopathic Hospital	1919
Armory	1920
Chemistry Building	1923
University Hall	1924
Observational Schools	1925
Memorial Union	1927
Field House	1927
Medical Laboratory	1927
Power Plant	1928
General Hospital	1928
Stadium	1929
Mechanical Engineering Building	1931
Law Commons	1934

At the beginning of this period, the Board of Education reported on the use of funds obtained from the mill tax and building appropriations:<sup>2</sup>

Practically every building constructed out of these funds is fireproof, and all are substantial and scientifically adapted to the purposes for which they were erected. The style of architecture adopted for lighting is especially good and increases materially the educational efficiency of laboratory, lecture and classrooms. While ornamentation and decoration have been reduced to the minimum, the buildings are beautiful, harmonious and impressive. There has been no false economy.

The purchase of land and development of a new campus on the west side of the river; the building of a great medical center for the State University; a complete new athletic plant, and the systematic planning of a dormitory system were all aspects of this great period of physical expansion under President Jessup. In addition, plans for the Fine Arts campus, consisting of art building, art studio, and theatre, were well under way. In

summarizing the progress which took place during Jessup's presidency, the Iowa City Press-Citizen commented, "His eighteen years in the presidency was a time of growth without equal in the history of the University."<sup>3</sup>

W. Earl Hall, a member of the Iowa State Board of Education, noted that under Jessup's able administration occurred the greatest growth in physical plant facilities.<sup>4</sup>

One of the first responsibilities of the newly-inducted president was the consideration of plans for an enlarged campus. The campus at that time consisted of a meager forty-two acres, and future plans called for expansion only to the north as far as the President's Home, and eastward, a matter of a few blocks. In and around this scant area were scattered small business establishments of the Iowa City community and some residence property. Eastern expansion, it was readily seen, would culminate in collision with the Iowa City business district. President Jessup was one of the first to see the wisdom of dismissing this plan and, instead, considering the potentialities of the land which lay on the west side of the Iowa River as the campus of the future. With this in view, he prepared maps showing the proposed campus of the University extending to the west across the Iowa River, land which at that time was largely unplotted prairie,

and none of which was in the possession of the University.<sup>5</sup> Francis A. Folsom, a landscape architect, was employed by the Board to draw up a plan for the future development of the campus,<sup>6</sup> and the Thirty-Seventh General Assembly responded with an appropriation of \$100,000 for the purchase of west-side land.<sup>7</sup>

"In 1916," remarked the local press, "the President looked from Old Capitol across a crooked, neglected Iowa River to rolling farm land west of the river. When he had been in office less than a year, the first purchases of land on the west side were made by the University."<sup>8</sup> Thus began the westward movement of the University which, by 1934, had developed into an east and west campus, separated by the Iowa River.

In 1916 the University had but one dormitory, accommodating only 200 girls. With a rapidly-growing enrollment, already well beyond the 3,000 mark, the President foresaw an even further student increase, which did indeed double itself within the next four years. The Thirty-Eighth General Assembly granted \$180,000 for new buildings on the State University campus, \$150,000 to be used for a nurses' home, and \$30,000 set aside for a men's dormitory.<sup>9</sup>

In 1918, with World War I still in progress, the United States Government requested the University to construct barracks for the purpose of housing soldiers enlisted in the Student Army Training Corps. Instead of wooden barracks which at best could be of only temporary service, Jessup advised the erection of barracks of a more permanent type which could be used for a men's dormitory after the war. The government agreed to the proposal for the University to pay the difference between the cost of construction of the proposed building and that of temporary barracks. These negotiations proved fortunate for the University, for the war ended before the new dormitory was ready for occupancy by the soldiers. This arrangement with the Federal Government resulted in the first unit of the Quadrangle Dormitory for men, which housed 300 men and cost about \$160,000, the expenses being divided on an approximately equal basis between the Federal Government and the University.<sup>10</sup>

Westlawn, home for nurses, which cost over \$500,000 and houses 700 nurses, was added to the campus in 1919. In 1925, the state legislature approved a plan and enacted legislation which enabled the University to borrow money for the erection and equipment of dormitories, the debt to be paid from dormitory earnings. The text

of this legislation reads as follows:<sup>11</sup>

262.35. Dormitories at state educational institutions. The state board of education is authorized to:

1. Erect from time to time at any of the institutions under its control such dormitories as may be required for the good of the institutions.

2. Rent the rooms in such dormitories to the students, officers, guests, and employees of said institutions at such rates as will insure a reasonable return upon the investment.

3. Exercise full control and complete management over such dormitories.

262.36. Purchase or condemnation of property. The erection of such dormitories is a public necessity and said board is vested with full power to purchase or condemn at said institutions, or convenient thereto, all real estate necessary to carry out the powers herein granted.

262.37. Title to property. The title to all real estate so acquired and the improvements erected thereon shall be taken and held in the name of the State of Iowa.

262.38. Borrowing money and mortgaging property. In carrying out the above powers, said board may:

1. Borrow money.

2. Mortgage any real estate so acquired and the improvements erected thereon in order to secure necessary loans.

3. Pledge the rents, profits, and income received from any such property for the discharge or mortgages so executed.

262.39. Nature of obligation -- discharge. No obligation created hereunder shall ever be or become a charge against the State of Iowa but all such obligations, including principal and interest, shall be payable solely:

1. From the net rents, profits, and income arising from the property so pledged or mortgaged,

2. From the net rents, profits, and income which has not been pledged for other purposes arising from any other dormitory or like improvement under the control and management of said board, or

3. From the income derived from gifts and bequests made to the institutions under the control of said board for dormitory purposes.

262.40. Limitation on discharging obligations. In discharging obligations under section 3945-a5 the dormitories at each of said institutions shall be considered as a unit and the rents, profits, and income available for dormitory purposes at one institution shall not be used to discharge obligations created from dormitories at another institution.

262.41. Exemption from taxation. All obligations created hereunder shall be exempt from taxation.

262.42. Limitation on funds. No state funds shall be loaned or used for this purpose. This shall not apply to funds derived from the net earnings of dormitories now or hereafter owned by the State of Iowa.

By the time of President Jessup's resignation in 1934, the dormitory capacity had increased to 1,082 persons. An examination of the University Financial Reports since that date will serve to verify how successfully this plan for the financing of dormitories has operated. Much tenant property was also acquired during these years, as Jessup introduced the cooperative dormitory plan to the campus.

During the decade of 1920 to 1930, buildings arose at a rapid rate. At the beginning of the period



the campus was far from being an imposing spectacle, and the University was lagging behind its sister members in the Big Ten association from the standpoint of building progress. The Board authorized the Building and Business Committee to organize a definite plan for the grouping of buildings on the State University campus, and instructed the President to prepare "well studied and fairly settled programs of the additional buildings needed during the next ten years."<sup>12</sup>

In 1921, architects Proudfoot and Bird prepared a sketch showing the proposed buildings for the campus<sup>13</sup> which the Daily Iowan published.<sup>14</sup> Most of the buildings, it will be seen, arose according to description, but not in the same location as the drawing indicated. The hospital was to appear overlooking the river to the north of the Iowa Avenue Bridge, while the Quadrangle was shown along the edge of the river to the south of the bridge.<sup>15</sup>

The Cedar Rapids Gazette quoted William R. Boyd's statement regarding campus conditions in 1923:<sup>16</sup>

At the University they have rented all sorts of space temporarily, vacant store rooms and church basements, and they have constructed temporary wooden shacks in order to house the students and take care of them....It would take \$5,000,000 to provide the actual present need in recitation rooms and laboratory space.... to say nothing about dormitories. To get all this at once is of course out of the question....

The Iowa State Board of Education appealed to the Legislature in 1923 for increased appropriations for land and buildings:<sup>17</sup>

....With the great growth in the University in recent years, there has been such an insistent demand for money to meet the cost of additional instruction and equipment....that the actual meeting of the building needs has been deferred from biennium to biennium. We are now at the saturation point in a number of departments. We have been forced, within the last twelve months, to build two wooden buildings with their attendant fire hazards. In addition to this, we have leased store buildings, dwelling houses, and the basement of a church, for classroom purposes. Added classroom space must be provided to care for the demands, or students will be turned away....

The ground upon which the University is situated has been purchased piecemeal - the most expensive manner possible. That is, we have constantly enhanced the value of adjacent ground and have been forced to pay outrageous prices for such ground. It would be a source of great economy to the state if provision could be made to purchase immediately all the ground needed, and certainly any private corporation would do this; but, at the minimum, we should be authorized to expend any balances that may be saved from time to time, and to have an additional appropriation of \$50,000 for each year of the biennium.

It was said that two classes sometimes met at the same time in one classroom. The Quadrangle was able to house only 10% of the male enrollment, and Old Capitol was overrun with various administrative offices and their

employees.<sup>18</sup>

Little time was lost in taking steps to alleviate these crowded conditions, beautify the entire campus, and provide the necessary space and equipment to meet the demands of a growing University.

Restoration and fireproofing of Old Capitol, with the duplication of the east front columns on the west, took place in the early 1920's. The following year saw improvement of the grounds surrounding Old Capitol, and a sidewalk was placed between Schaeffer and Macbride Halls.

Plans were first discussed in the spring of 1919 for the Memorial Union building, and a campaign was held to raise \$1,000,000 for its construction. By 1924, the sum had reached \$600,000, and in February, 1926, Unit I, the low sections of the present building, was dedicated.<sup>19</sup> The contract for Unit II was let in the same year, the project being finished in March of 1927. The total cost of the Memorial Union came to over \$500,000, with equipment valued at around \$75,000. The Dining Service alone, which averages 1300 customers daily, is worth close to \$50,000. Fire insurance of \$360,000 is carried on this building.<sup>20</sup>

Close Hall, long in use by the University on a rental basis, was purchased in 1924 for \$32,500<sup>21</sup> and turned over to the School of Journalism, the basement being leased to the Daily Iowan.<sup>22</sup> To the students of today, this building is more popularly known as the Old Journalism Building.

During President Jessup's tenure, the University received more than \$4,000,000 from educational foundations for buildings and programs. Largest of these grants was \$2,225,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the 925-bed General Hospital and Medical Laboratory.<sup>23</sup> To make possible this medical center, in addition to the funds derived from the Rockefeller grant, the Fortieth General Assembly appropriated \$450,000 annually for a period of five years.<sup>24</sup> Together with the Children's Hospital, Psychopathic Hospital, and Westlawn, the addition of the new hospital and medical laboratory made up an extensive hospital plant which is valued at over \$4,500,000. The completion of these buildings and the transfer of the Medical College to its new home across the river was climaxed with an impressive dedication ceremony in November, 1928, lasting for three days and featuring lectures and demonstrations by eminent physicians throughout the country.<sup>25</sup>

Paying tribute to Dr. Jessup, builder of the west-side campus, William R. Boyd, former Finance Chairman of the Iowa State Board of Education, described the development as follows:<sup>26</sup>

The Iowa river...its course changed somewhat, flowing between rock buttressed banks; the west side hilltop, in 1916, farm land, - now crowned by beautiful buildings, one of them, next to Old Capitol, the most beautiful building in the state;...and devoted - some of them day and night - to the relief of the crippled, the deformed, the sick and the poor - together with dormitories, fields and buildings devoted to athletics and recreation, - all are realizations of our dear friend's vision and foresight, and his ability to transform vision into reality.

Athletics, too, was not to be overshadowed. The Armory and Field House made Iowa the host to many Big Ten sports events. Replacing old Iowa Field, which had a seating capacity of 22,000, was the new Stadium in 1929. With a capacity of 50,000, even now it barely accommodates Iowa's growing multitude of football devotees.

On National Iowa Night, set for February 23, 1929, President Jessup broadcast the following message to alumni and friends of the University throughout the country:<sup>27</sup>

....From your distant point in time and space you may be interested in knowing something of the campus of today. Physically, it has expanded so that the river runs through the heart of the campus. The completion of the

University Hospital has given new unity to the west campus. The proposed stadium on Finkbine Field will also add new emphasis to the West Side. Eastlawn has been converted into an additional girls' dormitory. The Quadrangle, on the West Side, has been full to overflowing all year. This is the largest men's dormitory in the country. This has been a source of great strength to the intellectual and social life of the University. Many new fraternity and sorority homes have been built on the hills flanking the Iowa River on both sides. With the completion of the power plant and the hydraulics laboratory at the Burlington Street bridge and the gradual filling of the lowland west of the river north of Iowa Avenue to the vineyards, the campus begins to take form....

One of the major projects of the early 1930's was that of river improvement and construction of the footbridge near the Memorial Union. The four existing bridges: the City Park Bridge, Iowa Avenue Bridge, Burlington Street Bridge and a small railroad bridge, tended to obstruct the flow of the river. When the decision was made to locate the Fine Arts Building and the University Theatre on the riverbank, it became almost imperative to protect this area from possible flood damage. The construction of a levee was done under the Civil Works Administration and included banks on both sides of the river north to the Park bridge, a distance of about 3,000 feet.<sup>28</sup> The University agreed to furnish tools and machinery for the project, while the C.W.A. was

to furnish hand labor and materials. It was decided to widen the river to about 350 or 400 feet and construct a stone wall three or four feet above the normal water level.<sup>29</sup>

In 1935, an F.E.R.A. Project continued the work between the Iowa Avenue and Burlington Street bridges, an area of approximately 1200 feet. Stone was purchased at a nearby quarry and was to be fashioned and loaded by F.E.R.A. labor. The University allowed \$4,000 for truckage.<sup>30</sup>

A. A. Smith, Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings, reported on the river development project, stating:<sup>31</sup>

To those who might not know the University Campus, I would say the Campus is about equally divided on either side of the river....With due respect to other Universities the ultimate of this campus with the river between will be surpassed by none.

There are still a few buildings in what we would call our front yard which were placed in the wrong location many years ago. These will later be removed and the true value of the river improvement will then be both seen and appreciated.

Total expenditures on river improvement up to June, 1935, excluding the University's portion of the bill, came to \$80,222.11. For tools, machinery and materials, the University had spent a sum of \$25,274.95.<sup>32</sup>

The Carnegie Corporation, of which Dr. Jessup was later to assume the presidency, gave \$100,000 to the University in 1930 for construction of a fine arts center. This structure and the University Theatre, situated on the river's edge, were completed shortly after his departure from the University of Iowa. Continuing his description of these later developments, Mr. Boyd noted:<sup>33</sup>

....Up the river a short distance, are two buildings on a peninsula-like plot of ground, with an artificial pool of rare beauty, devoted to art. Then there is the beautiful foot bridge which spans the river. These are largely the product of Dr. Jessup's genius and foresight and his ability to obtain gifts for such purposes.

During President Jessup's administration, the extent of the University campus increased from forty-two to 390 acres, 84% of which was west of the Iowa River. About twenty-five buildings composed the total campus.<sup>34</sup> Growth of the University during this eighteen-year period was attributed largely to Dr. Jessup's foresight, careful planning, and cooperation with the Iowa State Board of Education. Since 1916 when he entered office, the total value of the physical plant had jumped from approximately \$8,000,000 to around \$19,000,000, only about \$4,000,000 less than the present figure.<sup>35</sup>



At the Memorial Services held at the Iowa Memorial Union on July 14, 1944, following the death of Dr. Jessup, then President Emeritus of the University, W. Earl Hall honored his service to the University and the State of Iowa by proclaiming; "Today we're gathered in that Jessup dream come true....That dream....has evolved through blueprints into stone and mortar - into magnificent reality....The physical plant of which we're so proud stands as a monument to Walter A. Jessup...."36

## Chapter III

## FOOTNOTES

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26. In Memory of President Jessup, p. 23.
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## Chapter IV

### WAR DAYS AND AFTER, 1935-1949

The trend toward expansion which was instigated in the Jessup administration was continued under President Eugene A. Gilmore. The latter took over the presidency in June of 1934, following President Jessup's resignation. Dormitory construction was continued on a self-liquidating basis; the Law Commons appeared on the campus in 1935; and Hillcrest, the newest of the men's dormitories, was completed in 1938.

During this period, the Fine Arts Building and the Dramatic Arts Building emerged, as well as the foot-bridge crossing the Iowa River to the Memorial Union. President Gilmore's regime of almost six years saw, in addition, the completion of another unit of Currier Hall, the erection of the Botany Laboratory and the Pharmacy Manufacturing Building.

The decade and a half following 1934 could hardly be expected to match the building achievements of the Jessup period. Soon after Walter Jessup left the University, President Gilmore found himself beset by the distress of national depression. The nature of events

compelled curtailment of expenditures in every area of University activity. Dr. Gilmore's task was the extraordinarily difficult one of keeping the Institution on a level of subsistence in the face of scant legislative nourishment during these years. Appropriations were slashed in drastic measure, and only the barest essentials were allowed in the University budget. One of the main developments of this period, the Fine Arts campus, came about through the beneficence of the Rockefeller Foundation, supplemented by P.W.A. grants. The erection of the Law Commons and Hillcrest, as in the case of other dormitories, was made possible by the fact that dormitory rentals and earnings would make them self-supporting projects.

Dr. Gilmore was made Acting President on April 30, 1934, the appointment being made permanent in June of that year. His inauguration followed on October 4, 1934.<sup>1</sup> In June of that year, University accounts showed a total physical plant value of \$18,735,971.98.<sup>2</sup> By June, 1939, just a few months before Gilmore's resignation, this figure had shown an increase of over two and a fourth million dollars, having jumped to the sum of \$21,165,431.10 in just five years.<sup>3</sup> This was indeed a good record for depression years. In accordance with the University's

retirement age policy, President Gilmore submitted his resignation from the office of President in December, 1939, and returned to his former professorship in the College of Law.

Although building was of necessity curbed during this period, the physical plant was not to be completely forgotten. The fountain near the Iowa Memorial Union was the unique and beautiful gift of the graduating class of 1936. Though termed a fountain, this was "in reality, an architectural development and improvement including a fountain for the east end and approach of the bridge joining the new Fine Arts campus with the east campus."<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Abraham Flexner presented the address at Commencement exercises that year and took occasion to plead with the authorities of the State of Iowa

not only to spare, but to improve the State University...at whatever temporary sacrifice and inconvenience in other directions. For your State University is not only the most important agent in the culture and civilization of this state, but more than this, through its medical school it is the cornerstone of public health, and through its physical and chemical and biological laboratories it may well prove to be the most effective influence in promoting the health and well-being of every citizen. The State University is therefore...not a luxury. On the contrary, it is the most necessary and indeed the essential agent in preserving and extending the intelligence and the prosperity of the people of Iowa.<sup>5</sup>

February 25, 1937, marked the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the State University of Iowa. A large anniversary dinner was held at the Memorial Union to celebrate the occasion.<sup>6</sup> A four-tiered birthday cake with ninety candles was made especially for the event. President Gilmore tolled the old Mechanics Academy bell which had summoned many of the University's first students to their classes. Oil portraits of George T. Baker of Davenport, a member of the Iowa State Board of Education since its establishment in 1909, and William R. Boyd of Cedar Rapids, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board since 1909, were unveiled.<sup>7</sup> To the Board of Education which had directed the University for a period of twenty-eight years, President Gilmore paid the following tribute;

One of the indispensable needs of a university is to be able to carry on its work under a governing board composed of those who sympathetically and intelligently understand its nature and mission and who govern according to a principle that enables it to perform its duties free from improper interference and control and untrammelled by the pressure of those who would exploit it for material gain, personal advantage, or partisan purposes....Gradually we are coming to recognize that an intelligent, impartial and independent university is society's only assurance against ignorance, prejudice, demagoguery and propaganda.<sup>8</sup>



That evening Benjamin F. Shambaugh revived cherished memories for those who attended the anniversary celebration:

Ninety years have passed, gone by, and left their mark. And I can imagine that to-night when the lights are out, the Old Stone Capitol, enriched with a thousand memories, will dream the dreams of ninety years of higher education....dreams of campus growth, of the erection of buildings.... dreams of the establishment of departments, schools, colleges, a child welfare station, a music hall, a fine arts building and a little theatre....dreams of libraries, laboratories, and museums....dreams of governing boards, appropriations and futile legislative investigations....<sup>9</sup>

The years since 1934 have been by no means idle ones for the University. All of this time, much activity was going on in the new buildings erected during the Jessup Period. Essential repairs and modifications were being carried out. Almost every summer saw a thorough clean-up around the campus in preparation for returning students in the fall. A glance at the campus in August, 1939, would indicate that it had been a busy summer. An addition to Hillcrest was being completed, while Currier Hall and the Quadrangle were being repainted.<sup>10</sup> The Memorial Union had closed down for a month, and the cafeteria in that building was undergoing a complete redecoration. The Daily-Iowan carried the following notation:<sup>11</sup>

Some of the other buildings are having their windows washed, their walls cleaned, in some cases, and other necessary repairs made. It is difficult for us to get an idea of the almost Herculean task of housecleaning such a large institution as the University of Iowa. These improvements and renovations about the campus and buildings will give the University a new face to present to the students when they begin to arrive toward the middle of September.

In spite of all this, expenses for building repairs during the preceding year, according to the President, were the lowest in fourteen years. Replacements were necessary in many buildings, but they had to be postponed. Only those alterations which were deemed absolutely essential to keep the plant running efficiently were allowed. President Gilmore reported that

Only three major buildings have been constructed here in the past ten years - the Botanical Laboratory, the Art Building and the Dramatic Arts building. There also have been small additions to existing buildings.

The money for these buildings has come very largely from gifts and PWA grants. Some money for the additions to existing buildings came from legislative funds.

The two dormitories built in the last four years and the two additions to existing dormitories now under construction are self-sustaining and self-liquidating projects, and no tax money has been spent for them. They will eventually pay for themselves out of dormitory income....<sup>12</sup>

The Daily Iowan kept alive a constant interest in physical developments and the names which serve to

personalize a campus: Finkbine Field, Old Capitol, Schaeffer, Macbride, and Currier Hall, as well as others.<sup>13</sup> The fact was lamented that the term Pentacrest, as the original campus square had been designated, was so infrequently used, and the suggestion was offered that it would cost little in effort or expense to give suitable names to other buildings and places on the grounds that would lend warmth and familiarity to the campus.<sup>14</sup>

The University News Bulletin carried a pictorial description of the campus as it then existed and declared, "These buildings make a campus. They represent the skill of the artist, the planning of the landscaper and architect, the ingenuity of the engineer, the knowledge of the historian...."<sup>15</sup> To this, President Gilmore had made valuable contribution. He had led the University safely through a period of depression. Ground was actually gained instead of being lost. Enrollment in the 9,000's was surpassing all previous registrations. This was an admirable record for the President in the light of economic adversity and the uncertainty of the times.

By 1940, with President Virgil M. Hancher in charge, the campus had added another \$3,500,000 to its total value.<sup>16</sup> Iowa born and an Iowa graduate, President Hancher assumed his duties in Old Capitol on November 2,

1940, entering office on the eve of a world war.

During the conflict, the University played its part in giving wartime training to 32,879 persons.<sup>17</sup> The Navy Pre-Flight School took over a large section of the west side campus. Hillcrest and the Quadrangle were used as barracks, in addition to serving for office space and mess quarters. Athletic training was carried on in the Field House, and Finkbine Field contained the Navy's famed obstacle course for pre-flight trainees. In practically record time the Navy Administration Building was constructed, and devoted to classrooms and offices. After the war, this building was converted into a dormitory for men and became known as South Quadrangle. The present valuation of the building is \$100,823.89.<sup>18</sup>

From April, 1942, to December, 1945, 21,014 Navy men received training on the University of Iowa campus.<sup>19</sup> The uniform was a familiar sight during the war years, with approximately 10,000 students of the Army Specialized Training Corps receiving various types of academic instruction.

An addition to the University in 1946 was a residence located at 219 North Clinton Street, the gift of Bertha M. Shambaugh, whose husband, Professor Benjamin F. Shambaugh, was a well-known personality on the campus

for many years. Mrs. Shambaugh donated this home for the purpose of housing official guests of the University. It is known as the Shambaugh University Guest House and is valued at \$17,500.<sup>20</sup>

The onset of the post-war period found the University somewhat inadequately prepared to meet the tremendous influx of veterans, but emergency measures brought the rapid construction of temporary dwellings to the campus. Trailer villages, quonset huts and barracks were developed on both sides of the river. University-owned trailers numbering 249, together with fifty quonset huts and 632 barracks apartments house the married students and their families.<sup>21</sup> For the women, three groups of cottages have been constructed, accommodating 332 women. The west side dormitories: Hillcrest, the Quadrangle, South Quadrangle, and the Law Commons are surrounded by barracks, in which 696 men are housed.<sup>22</sup> Classroom and library space is also furnished by barracks along Iowa Avenue and around the Law Building. Eventually these temporary structures will, presumably, be replaced with permanent buildings. Dormitory expansion and apartment projects are high on the list of immediate building plans.

The Centennial anniversary of the University on February 25, 1947, was observed with fitting and

appropriate ceremony.<sup>23</sup> The Daily Iowan, Iowa City Press-Citizen and University News Bulletin all published centennial issues, giving the story of the University's first one hundred years in pictures with explanatory comment. President Hancher said:<sup>24</sup>

We are at the end of the University's first century. What of the second?....

Anyone who has read the history of the University must reflect on the fallibility of human foresight. Great as was the faith of the founders, it seems clear that they would be astonished, if they should return today, to see the scope and variety of the activities of the institution which they established on February 25, 1847.

A glance at the future building program indicates that the culmination of the first century of the University's existence marks only a stage in its development and that it will aspire to even greater goals in the years to come. The future holds much for the University of Iowa, with a \$28,000,000 building program hopefully charted.<sup>25</sup> Of this amount, approximately \$12,000,000 is expected to be expended in the next ten years. Much depends, however, on the degree of support extended by the Legislature of the State.

A major project just off the drawing board is the new library, for which \$1,500,000 has already been allocated,<sup>26</sup> an amount which will provide for the first

unit of the structure. On the first floor will be located the Benjamin F. Shambaugh Heritage Collection.<sup>27</sup> The new library, replacing the present departmentalized system, will eliminate a trip to each of three or four buildings in search of a needed reference book. A crowd of 3,000 persons attended the ceremony on May 12, 1949, to witness the lifting of the first shovel of dirt in preparation for construction of the long-awaited library building.<sup>28</sup> President Hancher recalled that requests for a library dated back to 1891. In 1904, provision was made to house the General Library temporarily in Macbride Hall, where it has remained ever since, a period of forty-five years.<sup>29</sup>

In the process of organization, also, are plans for a Communications Center, to be located west of East Hall. President Hancher reported to the faculty on January 28, 1949, that a total of \$2,642,500 had become available in 1945 to provide for a library, communications center, physical education building for women, an addition to Children's Hospital, and a new footbridge. But, he added:<sup>30</sup>

General conditions prevailing since 1945 have made actual construction impractical and these funds except for expenditures for utilities, general campus improvements and acquisition of needed property, have remained earmarked but unused.

Looking backward to 1897, we see a campus of only twelve buildings, valued at about \$350,000. A dream of the next half century foreshadows a campus expanding westward and northward beyond its present boundaries, with thirty-eight additions and new structures valued at \$28,000,000, more than the present total valuation of the entire campus. The Law College and the College of Dentistry will move to the west side of the river. Hospital facilities will be greatly enhanced, and new dormitory projects will provide space for hundreds of additional students.<sup>31</sup>

Starting with a gift of ten acres, the immense University of Iowa campus has been acquired by purchase and condemnation until it now embraces 450 acres with an inventory value of \$26,667,307.04.<sup>32</sup> In the words of President Hancher, the past century has witnessed the University "turn its face toward the west, absorb the Iowa River as a part of the University campus, and move on to the....distant hills and fields where now stand the medical laboratories and hospital, Hillcrest, the Quadrangle, the Field House, the Stadium, and Finkbine Field."<sup>33</sup>

President Hancher has visualized and labored for this great post-war development. Though during the



past ten years building plans have been in abeyance, administrators have been looking to the future. These were years of long-range planning. Preparations were being made for the time when funds would be available and building costs lowered. If these plans are carried out according to specification, it is probable that physical expansion will equal or even surpass that of the Jessup Period. It is a wise administrator who realizes the duty of providing adequate equipment to maintain a great university, and the necessity of keeping physical facilities in step with academic progress.

## Chapter IV

## FOOTNOTES

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PART TWO

Chapter I  
SURVEY OF BUILDINGS

Old Capitol

Old Capitol stands at the heart of the central campus pentacrest, overlooking the Iowa River which divides the campus of the University of Iowa. Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh pays the following tribute to Old Capitol:<sup>1</sup>

...today it is the most significant monument of the early history of Iowa. The story of its erection, its financial history, the legislative, judicial and educational memories that cluster around its walls, lend it a reverential distinction unparalleled by any other public building ever erected in the State.

Johnson County pioneers, with their Indian neighbors as guests, gathered in celebration of their territorial recognition on July 4, 1838. Not far from the spot where Old Capitol now stands, Chief Poweshiek spoke his parting words:<sup>2</sup>

Soon I shall go to a new home and you will plant corn where my dead sleep. Our towns, the paths we have made, and the flowers we love will soon be yours. I have moved many times and have seen the white man put his feet in the tracks of the Indian and make the earth into fields and gardens. I know that I must go away and you will be so glad when I am gone that you will soon forget that the meat and the lodge-fire of the Indian have been forever free to the stranger and at all times he has asked for what he has fought for, the right to be free.

Soon after this ceremony took place, workmen began breaking the ground for the construction of Old Capitol, the most historically significant building in the State of Iowa. Two years later, on July 4, 1840, Governor Robert Lucas came from Burlington to dedicate the cornerstone.<sup>3</sup> A few Indians remained in the vicinity and attended the festivities. Following the ceremony, a public barbeque was held in the City Park with speeches by leading citizens.<sup>4</sup>

Legend attributes the original design of Old Capitol to Father Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli, a Dominican missionary priest, who designed churches in the Territories of Iowa and Wisconsin. Although no verification has been made of this claim, the following passage appears in his Memoirs, dated in 1843, describing Old Capitol as a

structure whose dimensions are 120 feet long by 60 feet wide, with three stories, the whole built of stone. This building situated upon a beautiful eminence on one side looks down upon the Iowa River, and from the other commands a view of the Capital City; it rises from the center of a great square; it towers above the ancient oaks surrounding it, under whose shade but a few months ago, the savage pitched his poor wigwam.<sup>5</sup>

Apart from this, however, the name of John F. Rague has been recorded on the cornerstone as supervising architect. The contract for the erection of Old Capitol was let to Rague and Company who had just constructed the

Illinois Capitol building at Springfield.<sup>6</sup>

From the limestone strata along the banks of the Iowa River was obtained most of the rock which has gone into Old Capitol. The first stone was taken from the site on which the President's Home is now located.<sup>7</sup> A quarry, ten miles up the river, furnished stone which was floated down the Iowa River on rafts.<sup>8</sup> Known as the most desirable of all the Devonian limestones, the quarries of the North Bend, sometimes referred to as the old state quarry or the Old Capitol quarry, provided material for the upper fourth of the walls.<sup>9</sup>

Old Capitol, 120 feet north and south by sixty feet east and west, has foundation walls six feet in thickness and basement walls with a uniform width of four feet.<sup>10</sup> The greater portion of the first and second floor outer wall is three feet thick. Doric columns adorn the portico entrance to Old Capitol, and Corinthian columns sustain the dome. Each portico is supported by four massive pillars. Stone pilasters nearly four feet wide ornament the east and west fronts. Inside the building, the swinging chandeliers with scores of crystal glass pendants are imposing to the visitor. The spiral stairway has gained fame for its unique reverse curve. "There it stands..." wrote Benjamin F. Shambaugh, "the Old Stone Capitol - a work

of art, radiating the spiritual values of simplicity and dignity, proportion and harmony, poise and tranquility."<sup>11</sup>

By act of the First General Assembly on February 25, 1847, the Old Capitol had been given to the University of Iowa with the provision that the sessions of the General Assembly and the offices of the state officers should be retained in the building until otherwise provided for by law.<sup>12</sup>

It was in Old Capitol that the territorial legislature became the state legislature when Iowa was admitted to the Union, on December 28, 1846. Before that assembly had adjourned, it had created the State University of Iowa by constitutional enactment. The date of the University's founding is February 25, 1847, only two months later than the beginning of Iowa statehood.<sup>13</sup>

Actually the building was not officially turned over to the University until 1857, seventeen years after it had been built, and even at that late date, a few rooms were kept for use by the United States District Court.<sup>14</sup> In 1857, the Commonwealth bequeathed an unfinished building to the State University.

Congress had, at the beginning, appropriated \$20,000 to be used toward the construction of Old Capitol.<sup>15</sup> The commissioners in charge of its erection were originally limited to an expenditure of \$51,000.<sup>16</sup> Since that time, its value has grown to almost a quarter of a million dollars.



As early as 1857, the faculty requested repairs for Old Capitol. In their memorial to the General Assembly in that year, they mentioned that,<sup>17</sup> "It is hardly necessary to state that the University building, formerly Old Capitol, needs thorough and extensive repairs. In brief, it needs a complete overhauling from base to dome."

The Second General Assembly had appropriated \$3,000 to be used for repairs and modifications on Old Capitol,<sup>18</sup> and in 1860, when the saline lands were donated to the University, \$5,000 of that fund was to be used for improving the building.<sup>19</sup> Included in the miscellaneous material on Old Capitol in the University Archives is an insurance receipt, showing fire insurance coverage of \$5,000 by the New England Fire and Marine Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut.<sup>20</sup>

The Normal, Collegiate, and Preparatory Departments, as well as the Model School and the State Historical Society, were all housed in Old Capitol at various times. Following is a comment on the uses of Old Capitol in the early 1860's:<sup>21</sup>

What are now the offices of the President used to be one big room which was used by the Normal School. Directly beneath, in a basement room of the same size, was the Model School. In the other end of the basement lived the janitor and his family. In the northeast corner of the first floor where the Secretary's office is now

located, history was taught; the northwest room was used by the mathematics department and as a meeting place for some of the sub-literary societies. The room to the left of one coming in at the west entrance was the Latin recitation room. The south-west room was used as a political economy room, and the outer office as a modern language room.

On the second floor, the south or Senate [sic] chamber was for many years used as a chapel room until changed to the upper floor of what is now known as the old Physics Building.

When the University moved into the Capitol building, the first floor was devoted to administrative offices, while the College of Law set up quarters on the second floor. Later expansion brought a new building for the College of Law, and space was provided in University Hall for some of the administrative offices. Eventually, Old Capitol was used only for administrative purposes. Of this venerable building Benjamin Shambaugh wrote,

With the passing of years the Old Stone Capitol has come to be looked upon as something more than a building, something more than stone and mortar moulded into forms that are pleasing to the eye. Somehow through the alchemy of time it seems to have acquired a kind of spiritual personality that speaks to us of memories - memories of bygone days - days when our Commonwealth was young and our people were pioneers.... All this and much more the Old Stone Capitol remembers.<sup>22</sup>

To preserve these cherished memories, attention turned in the 1920's to restoring Old Capitol. Until that time when the famous building was entirely reconstructed,

its stately columns had existed only on the east side. At an expense of approximately \$100,000, the building was completely rejuvenated, beginning in 1921. The Thirty-Seventh General Assembly appropriated \$50,000, and the Fortieth General Assembly duplicated the former appropriation.<sup>23</sup> The first appropriation included a fire-proof roof and floors and levelling and terracing of the ground west to Madison Street.<sup>24</sup> Structural steel replaced decaying wood in construction. Reconstruction did not alter the original design in any way. At the time, numerous pictures were taken of the intricate designs on the tower columns. In the event that disaster should ever strike this building, it could be restored with faithful precision. General repairs, redecoration, and fireproofing were included in this reconditioning program. The following figures show the expenditure which has been made on Old Capitol to bring the total valuation to almost \$250,000.<sup>25</sup>

Original value.....	\$140,000.00
Expended in 1921-1922.....	21,235.26
1922-1923.....	42,439.44
1923-1924.....	43,325.88
1925-1926.....	256.84
1932.....	1,369.23
	<u>\$248,626.65</u>

In the early autumn, old students returning and new students coming to the campus for the first time gather at Old Capitol for the final ceremony of Induction Day. Here they renew the

annual pledge to loyalty to the traditions of  
Old Capitol and the founders of Iowa.<sup>26</sup>

To students, faculty, and alumni, Old Capitol  
remains the symbol of all the memories and traditions of  
the University.

### Mechanics' Academy

The first instruction at the University of Iowa was given in mathematics and languages in the old Mechanics' Academy, a two-story brick building, which was located in what was then the City Park and now occupied by East Hall. The cornerstone was laid on June 14, 1842,<sup>27</sup> with Rev. John Libby, a Protestant Methodist minister, giving the address at the ceremony.<sup>28</sup> The Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association of Iowa City constructed this building to serve as a school for Iowa City youths. Labor and materials were largely donated by members of the group so that an actual cash expenditure of only \$50 was required, though the building was supposed to represent a \$1,000 investment.<sup>29</sup>

The Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association was organized January 6, 1841, by a group of Iowa City mechanics.<sup>30</sup> The original members were James N. Ball, A.H. Haskell, A.G. Adams, L.S. Swafford, E. Lanning, Thomas Combe, Thomas Record, Francis Thompson, and Abraham Burkholder.<sup>31</sup> Within one year, membership had increased to sixty. The land known as the "School Reserve" east of the City Park had been donated by the State to the Association to be used exclusively for educational and

literary purposes.

Lumber was obtained from Henry Felkner's mill at Rapid Creek, three miles north of Iowa City.<sup>32</sup> Carpenter work was done by A. H. Haskell, L. A. Swafford, Thomas Combe, Thomas M. Banbury, Robert Hutchinson, Seth Williams, S. M. Wadley, H. P. Sexton, Hugh V. Gildee, J. B. Hollingsworth and George Bowman. Charles E. Sangster and Thomas B. Anthony served as brick masons. Francis Thompson was the stone cutter. Plastering was done by James M. Hawkins and Asa Beckwith, and E. J. Lork and C. Cartrett did the inside painting.<sup>33</sup> When completed, it was the finest school building in all the Territory.<sup>34</sup>

With both a male and female department, the Academy was in operation for about two sessions, boasting an enrollment of 120 pupils.<sup>35</sup> Gradually the mechanics lost interest in the school, the Association disbanded, and lack of financial support forced the school to close.<sup>36</sup>

Since the Old Capitol had not yet been vacated by the Legislature, some arrangements had to be made for classroom space before the University could convene. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on May 8, 1854, the Building Committee was instructed to secure the Mechanics' Academy on a rental basis.<sup>37</sup> Classes were held there until 1858 when the University temporarily closed its doors.

With the reopening of the University in 1860, the Trustees voted to rent the Academy for a period of five years, for use by the Normal Department, provided that the rent did not exceed \$300 annually.<sup>38</sup> In 1862, the State Historical Society took over the quarters occupied by the Normal Department, with the Model School remaining in the basement<sup>39</sup> until June of 1865 when the Board voted to remove the Model School to a new location.<sup>40</sup>

Permanent use of the building was secured in 1866 when arrangements were made with Chief of Police Robert Hutchinson, owner of the building, to trade a house and lot which the University owned on College Street in return for the Academy.<sup>41</sup>

Since the Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association was no longer active, and since the building was not being used for educational purposes as called for originally, the property reverted to the State and was officially donated to the University by an act of the Eleventh General Assembly on March 26, 1866.<sup>42</sup>

At this time, it was converted to dormitory use. The larger rooms were to be divided into smaller ones to accommodate two students to a room. The work in this remodeling was not to exceed \$500.<sup>43</sup> Authorization was also given to insure the building.<sup>44</sup> Dormitory preference

was given to members of the Syntrapazone Club, one of the bachelor living clubs on the campus, and thus the old Mechanics' Academy acquired the nickname of "Syntrap." It continued to be used as a dormitory until March of 1873 when the medical faculty was authorized to take over the building for a hospital.<sup>45</sup> The University Reporter printed the following description of the University's first hospital:<sup>46</sup>

...This hospital is old "Syntrap" reconstructed and much modified. Glancing at the building as we walked down the 'Avenue',...we were quite favorably impressed....The old, dingy, battered walls of "Syntrap" have been repaired and nicely painted. Good substantial steps, leading to the doors at either end of the main building, have been substituted for the old rickety ones so promiscuously carved by the penknives of 'the boys.' The rear, or frame part of the building, has been raised to an equal height with the main part, and a broad covered stairway connects the upper story of this to the first floor of the main building....

The floor of this entrance is covered with scrupulously clean oil-cloth; a valuable clock hangs upon the nicely tinted wall, while a table with a chair or two complete the furniture of the room. A door at the east of this room opens into the

#### RECEPTION ROOM

This room is, in size, about 14 x 24 feet. The walls are ornamented with pictures. A nice substantial carpet is upon the floor. A table stands at either side of the room, upon one of which rests a Bible and upon the other a visitors' register...Adjoining this room, at the south, is a small room partially furnished, but



not yet assigned in specific use. We pass from this room again into the entrance, and, passing through a door at our right, enter the

#### MALE WARD

This ward, although quite narrow, is very long, and gives abundant space for the six beds it contains. The bedding upon these beds, was laid so smoothly and perfectly, the walls of the room so spotlessly white, the floor so thoroughly scrubbed and clean, and the stove so well blacked and polished, that we concluded that the ladies having it in charge were experienced hands at the business. This ward, at present, has but one patient. From this room a wide door-way at the east side, opens to the stairs which lead to the clinical

#### LECTURE HALL,

which measures about 25 x 40 feet. The walls are sixteen feet high at either side, while the ceiling in the center rises a number of feet higher. This hall, when finished, will be exactly what our medical department has long needed. It is abundantly lighted by several large windows, while on the south side is also a large bay window and an outside entrance for the students. The operating table will be placed directly in front of the bay-window, around which the seats will be arranged in amphitheater style....

The dispensary is not yet completely furnished with the conveniences such a room requires, but will be shortly. A stairway from this room leads to the

#### BASEMENT,

which is divided into two equal divisions by an east and west hall through its center. One of these divisions is used exclusively as a kitchen. It is furnished with a fine, large cook-stove, cupboards, tables and a large variety of utensils necessary for the full equipment of such a room. The other side of the basement, on the south side of the hall, is again divided into two fine rooms by a partition passing from north to south. One of these rooms is used as a dining-room, the other as a store-room. From the east end of the hall is an entrance to the first floor of the frame building, directly under

clinic hall. This floor is divided into several rooms, for the occupancy of the 'sisters', and a small chapel, also for their exclusive use....

The female ward...has about the same dimensions and accommodations as the male ward. There are also...four moderately sized rooms for private patients. Two of these are nicely finished and furnished, and one of them occupied. The floor of the hall from which these rooms open, is covered with heavy matting, thus doing away with the greater part of the noise occasioned by the passing to and fro of physicians, nurses and visitors....

On January 20, 1897, the University advertised for the sale and removal of the "Old Medical Hospital",<sup>47</sup> and soon after, the old Mechanics' Academy - the cradle of the University - gave way to construction of the wings of Old University Hospital, now East Hall.

### South Hall

On the State University of Iowa campus, South Hall will be remembered as the many-chimneyed, brick building which stood directly southwest of Old Capitol. It served the University for forty years, first as a dormitory and boarding hall and later as a classroom building, providing a meeting place for students and faculty alike.

When the University opened its doors in March of 1855, its only home was a small rented building, the old Mechanics' Academy. The Old Capitol building had not yet been vacated by the Legislature. It was in response to serious need that South Hall was constructed, the first campus building to be financed from University funds. It was obvious that the University couldn't function in the intended manner without provisions for classroom facilities. This handicap brought an urgent appeal from the faculty to the Board of Trustees for the first appropriation for a campus building.<sup>48</sup> The faculty reported that the work of two departments had to be carried on in a single room. Other rooms were separated only by board partitions, with the resulting noise and confusion proving great hindrance to an academic atmosphere.<sup>49</sup>

As an even more important consideration, the faculty emphasized that the University must be made accessible to those people of limited financial means.<sup>50</sup> As things stood, most of the students were from Johnson County. Throughout many parts of the state, this situation gave rise to prejudice, and the University had been derisively described as the "Johnson County High School." Rates for board and room in private homes were considered prohibitive. Until provisions were made which would allow young men and women throughout the state to obtain a college education at a moderate expense, the institution was serving merely as a local institution and not in its true sense as a State University.

This was not the first indication that state officials had received in regard to structural needs. Earlier in the same year, James Eads, Superintendent of Public Instruction, in his report to the General Assembly, had suggested an appropriation for a new building. In a special message to the General Assembly in December of 1856, Governor Grimes stressed that proper functioning of the University demanded suitable accommodations for students.<sup>51</sup> These requests apparently were not heeded, for no immediate action resulted.

To get even a meager appropriation required two

years of pleading. Since the first faculty request was unsuccessful, the petition was renewed in 1857. This time the General Assembly was asked for a boarding hall with study rooms and dormitories, the cost of which it was estimated would come to between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The faculty specified a building large enough to house one hundred students.

South Hall became more than a fond hope when Senator Samuel Kirkwood of nearby Coralville introduced an act on February 16, 1858, appropriating \$27,000 to the University, \$20,000 of which was to be used for the construction of the new building.<sup>52</sup> After going through various channels, the act was amended, reducing the building appropriation to \$10,000, but finally, on March 11, 1858, it was written into law.<sup>53</sup>

The Board of Trustees met immediately and appointed a building committee of five members: E. C. Lyon, Hugh D. Downey, Morgan Reno, William Burris and Edgar Wright.<sup>54</sup> Details of construction were left entirely to the discretion of the building committee. Thomas Banbury was employed as superintendent of construction, with his salary fixed at \$4.00 a day. The committee met on June 28, 1858, and turned over \$1,000 to Mr. Banbury for the purchase of materials and the hiring of workers.<sup>55</sup>

The ground-breaking ceremony occurred Monday morning, June 7, 1858, at 7:00 A.M., attracting a large crowd to the University campus in spite of the early hour. The local newspaper, the Iowa Weekly Republican, reported:<sup>56</sup> "The designs are very beautiful, and if built in accordance with these the building when finished will not only be an ornament to University Square, but will subserve the higher good of the State University."

By August, with construction in full speed, it became apparent that the funds were insufficient to allow completion of South Hall. The board voted to borrow \$5,000 from the University fund, the loan to be paid from future appropriations.<sup>57</sup> At a later time, this matter became the object of much criticism. February of 1859 saw South Hall still far from completion. Accounts showed that \$16,000 had been expended already and that an estimated \$10,000 would be required to finish the structure.<sup>58</sup> Again the Board of Trustees appealed to the General Assembly for a second appropriation. After much bickering and reprimanding for mismanagement of funds, the legislators solved the problem by appropriating the remaining saline lands to the University, with the provision that no more than \$10,000 of the proceeds of this fund could be used in completing South Hall.<sup>59</sup>

Measuring 108 feet north and south by forty-five feet east and west, South Hall lacked uniformity in style, for the scarcity of funds necessitated the modification of plans at several intervals during the process of construction. Its most conspicuous feature was the row of ten chimneys, as viewed from the east approach.

In 1861, rooms in the boarding hall were available for occupancy by men students at the rate of \$3.00 a term for single rooms and \$6.00 a term for double rooms.<sup>60</sup> A section of the south end of the building was rented to Professor Theodore Sutton Parvin for living quarters at \$150.00 a year.<sup>61</sup> A Mr. Jordan was employed in 1865 to manage the boarding hall, to be operated on the "European plan."<sup>62</sup> This arrangement lasted only a short time, for with both enrollment and curriculum expanding, the scarcity of classroom space became more acute, and South Hall was taken over for recitation rooms.

During the following years, the University students maintained an interest in the welfare of South Hall. The newspaper, the University Reporter, contained many notations regarding its condition. In 1870, comment was made on the need of a new roof,<sup>63</sup> an improvement which came two years later.<sup>64</sup> The students were pleased with the construction of a new walk between the stone steps of

Old Capitol and South Hall, which, they noted, was "much more pleasant than the alternate brickbat heaps and mudholes that were formerly found there."<sup>65</sup> Twenty-four years before South Hall was destroyed by fire, the students labelled the building a fire hazard. Revolving chairs were apparently an innovation at that time, for the campus newspaper in 1885 carried an account of the refurnishing of rooms in South Hall for use by the Board of Regents. The rooms had been outfitted with twenty-four new chairs, eighteen of which were the revolving type.<sup>66</sup>

In the 1860's and 1870's, the chief source of social life for the University students was centered in the activities of the literary societies. To provide a permanent home for these organizations, in 1863 the Board voted to spend \$1200 for finishing the third floor of South Hall.<sup>67</sup> This amount was later increased to \$1500,<sup>68</sup> and in 1865, \$500 was granted to the Zetagathian Society to furnish their room and a like amount to the Irving Institute for the same purpose.<sup>69</sup> In 1870, the Erodelphian Society for women moved into the north room on the third floor of South Hall to share quarters with the Irving Institute. Much rivalry abounded among the literary clubs as each endeavored to decorate its hall in a fashion considered elegant for the times.



For many years, South Hall was the scene of the Friday evening literary programs, which brought students and faculty together to hear debates, orations, essays, and see dramatic productions sponsored by these groups. To promote social life in the early days of the University, parties, socials, oyster suppers, and other festivities were frequently on the entertainment schedule.

A prominent social event until 1873 was the annual Thanksgiving celebration which followed a social program in the chapel building; it occurred in the traditional manner in the dining room of South Hall. In 1869 the student newspaper reported that "At ten o'clock, refreshments were announced and all invited to repair to the South Hall, where we found tables nicely arranged and decorated and supplied with a great variety of good things pleasing to the palate...."<sup>70</sup>

The trend in college humor at that time is indicated in the following student description of the Thanksgiving party in 1870:<sup>71</sup> When supper was announced, "the assembled wended their way...to South Hall, where a magnificent supper was served. Cold roast turkey, pies, cakes, apples, etc., in abundance. The committee from the Medical Department did the carving scientifically, and the lawyers picked the bones of contention."

Tragedy fell upon South Hall on March 10, 1901, when, along with the adjoining Medical Building, it was completely destroyed by fire.<sup>72</sup> On the night of the disaster Iowa City was afflicted with a raging storm of ice and sleet. At 2:45 A.M. the fire alarm was sounded, and within fifteen minutes a crowd had gathered at the building, already in flames. Two hours later, South Hall lay in ruins. Out of a library of 1200 volumes housed there, only seventeen books were salvaged.<sup>73</sup> The literary societies, with quarters on the third floor, had been able to rescue a good share of their belongings. Damage to the second floor was slight, and some of the engineering equipment in the basement was saved, but in spite of this, destruction by the fire was estimated at \$100,000.<sup>74</sup> Windows in the neighboring Liberal Arts Building (now Schaeffer Hall) were damaged to the extent of \$500.<sup>75</sup>

Irving H. Hart, now on the staff of Iowa State Teachers' College, who was a student at the time of the fire, described the incident as follows:<sup>76</sup>

...My roommate and I were awakened sometime after midnight on the night of the fire by the glare of the flames. When we reached the campus, the Medical Building, which then stood south of South Hall at the head of South Capitol Street, was a roaring caldron of flames. South Hall was a three-story brick-veneer building with a wooden cornice, and when we reached the scene of the fire, South Hall was not yet in flames. Soon

after, however, the cornice of the south end of South Hall burst into flames....

Dr. W. C. Wilcox, Head of the Department of History at that time and later Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, had his office on the third floor of South Hall. I was one of four or five students who endeavored to remove as many of Dr. Wilcox's books and possessions as possible from his office before the building was abandoned to the flames. We had just come down from what we considered our last possible trip from the third floor where the smoke was absolutely stifling when we met Dr. Wilcox at the north entrance of the building. He was quite breathless in the haste with which he had come from his home some distance away. (I remember that he told us that he had ridden his bicycle.) When we told him that we had been able to save a good many of his books, he still insisted that he must himself go up to his office in order to secure his class records, lecture notes, and other personal belongings from his desk. This desk which was a large roll-top desk we had found too wide to be pushed through the door of the office, so we had left it there. We students dissuaded Dr. Wilcox from attempting to go up to his office and two of us volunteered to make the trip again and get what we could. In our excitement we did not ask Dr. Wilcox for the keys to his desk. When we reached the third floor, the smoke was so thick that we had to crawl on our hands and knees to get to the office. When we reached the office we realized that we had no keys, but we broke the roll-top, ripped the pidgeon holes out of the desk and released the mechanism which automatically locked the desk drawers, and each of us took two of the desk drawers in his arms and started back for the lower regions.

On the way down the stairway, we met the volunteer fire department coming up with a line of hose with the water in full stream. So we got a thorough drenching. We finally got down, however, and delivered what we had rescued to Dr. Wilcox...

Built originally as a dormitory, in which capacity it served for five years, South Hall was later remodeled for recitation rooms and at various times played host to the majority of the University departments. The basement and first floor were given over to the College of Engineering. The first classes in dentistry were held there in 1882. On the second floor were housed the departments of English, languages, history and public speaking. The literary societies occupied two large halls on the third floor. The College of Medicine and the College of Liberal Arts had their birthplace in South Hall.<sup>77</sup>

It was with regret that all who held the early University in affection watched this historic landmark, old South Hall, pass into memory and history. Those who gathered about the ruins of the two buildings no doubt recalled the fire which had swept North Hall on June 18, 1897, destroying a large part of the University Library. Now rebuilt, North Hall looked trim and serviceable. The Old Capitol still stood serene and beautiful upon the hill above the Iowa River, looking down upon the ashes of South Hall. Few of the curious onlookers that Sunday morning realized that the old era of buildings had ended, and that both the physical and spiritual University was

entering upon a new age.

### North Hall

North Hall, which stood directly between the Old Capitol and the Old Dental Building, was constructed in 1865, to be used in part as a University Chapel. The original recommendation, made by Governor Kirkwood, requested funds for a chemistry laboratory, chapel and astronomical observatory. Lecture rooms on the campus were still not available in sufficient quantity, and space was particularly needed for chemistry and philosophy.

Governor Kirkwood devoted a major portion of his Second Biennial Address to the needs of the University, stating that:<sup>78</sup>

There are no suitable rooms for the Chemical Laboratory...This, to our agricultural State, is, perhaps the most important department of our University. Chemistry is becoming daily a more liberal contributor to agricultural knowledge and success; and the advancement of chemical science in our State, through the State University, should be especially encouraged...Our University will not be complete until it shall have an Astronomical Observatory connected with it. This has already become a prominent feature of the University of Michigan, and the demands of our more western location will soon require it of us. A building may be erected to answer all these purposes at much less cost than to provide for them separately.

Acting on Governor Kirkwood's proposal, the Board recommended that the Legislature<sup>79</sup>

make an appropriation of \$20,000, or \$25,000 to be applied, under the direction of a judicious committee, to the erection of such building - on the University square - the main part of which shall be used for a chapel, and the basement divided into lecture rooms, and such other purposes as the necessities of the University might demand.

The Legislature appointed a committee, made up of A. B. F. Hildreth and R. Sears from the House and J. B. Young from the Senate, to investigate the need for a new building at the State University.<sup>80</sup> It was agreed that the request for a chapel and chemistry laboratory was a reasonable demand.

By an act of March 24, 1864, a sum of \$20,000 was appropriated from the Tenth General Assembly for the new college building.<sup>81</sup> It was to provide, according to the law, for a chapel, chemical laboratory, and astronomical observatory. Plans for the observatory tower were abandoned when it was found that it would necessitate an additional expenditure of approximately \$3500.

Like many of the other building appropriations, the original grant proved insufficient for completion of the building. Governor Stone put his signature to a bill in the following year appropriating an additional \$13,000 to finish the building, including the installation of heating apparatus.<sup>82</sup> Even then, individual donations of

land and materials amounting to \$7,000 were required to finish the building.

At the May meeting of the Board in 1864, it was decided to ask for individual donations as official funds were obviously insufficient.<sup>83</sup> Due to high prices of labor and materials, construction was delayed, and Rush Clark and Oliver M. Spencer were designated to solicit bids for further work.<sup>84</sup>

Bids remained high, and it was thought that some of the expense could be defrayed by appointing a committee to supervise construction. This committee consisted of President Spencer, Samuel J. Kirkwood, Rush Clark, and E. C. Lyon.<sup>85</sup> Between April, 1865, and November, 1866, \$555 was received from individual donations.<sup>86</sup>

Robert S. Finkbine was employed as superintendent at a salary not to exceed \$5 a day.<sup>87</sup>

According to the original specifications, North Hall was to measure sixty-one feet east and west by ninety feet north and south, the first story being fifteen feet and the second story twenty-seven feet from floor to ceiling. The basement walls were to be of limestone with the upper walls made of brick. In a letter to the Building Committee from Robert S. Finkbine, dated June 26, 1865, he recommended the installation of a Lawson Furnace for heating.<sup>88</sup>



Thomas Hart Benton, Jr. commented in reviewing the condition of the University at that time:<sup>89</sup>

No pains were spared in the selection of materials and the execution of the work, to make it as permanent and as well adapted to the objects named, as the means appropriated for its construction would admit, and the Trustees have reason to congratulate themselves upon their success in this respect.

By the fall of 1865, the building had been enclosed at a cost of \$22,150. The executive committee was authorized to procure insurance on the building itself in the amount of \$20,000 and on the apparatus and furniture in the sum of \$10,000.<sup>90</sup>

The Iowa City Republican noted that<sup>91</sup>

We understand the means in the hands of the building committee will entirely enclose the building, putting in the stained glass windows, and making the outside complete. The north and south circular windows are to be highly ornamental. The south window will be ornamented with the great Seal of Iowa. The north one will have various devices, illustrative of the arts and sciences. This building, when complete, will be an honor to the State and will do great credit to those who had charge of its erection.

The cornerstone for North Hall was laid on July 4, 1865. Slightly more than a year later, on October 6, 1866, at 2:30 P.M., the dedication program was held, with Rev. Hebard of the Congregational Church officiating. The State Press commented:<sup>92</sup>

The new chapel is one of the most complete in the State; the ornamentation is elegant, and the acoustic arrangement is perfect. We visited the chemical laboratory which has been arranged under the supervision of Prof. Hinrichs, and is most complete in all its appointments.

This expression of approval could be considered a triumph for the University, for the same paper had been hypercritical on two former occasions, writing on December 6, 1865:<sup>93</sup> "The new building at the University erected, we believe for a chapel and laboratory, is enclosed. It is the most barnlike public structure we ever saw; it looks like a cross between a dog kennel and a country church."

Again on May 6, 1866, the State Press wrote:<sup>94</sup> "The workmen are engaged in finishing the mill in the University grounds which is to be used for a chapel. We have seen logboards and clapboard school houses, but never yet was it our fortune to see such an abortion in the shape of a public building as this."

The main entrance to the building had a vestibule thirteen feet wide. The chapel room itself measured fifty-eight by seventy-four feet, with a gallery twelve feet wide across one end. Benton noted:<sup>95</sup>

It is neatly finished and well ventilated, and is indispensable to the comfort and convenience of the students, and the proper administration of the rules and regulations of the University. As a whole, the north hall is a valuable accession to the University buildings, and will fully remunerate the state for the amount expended upon it.

Part of the first floor and basement were set aside for a chemical laboratory which was approached by a separate entrance on the east side of the building. In the basement were

"the lathes, planer, drill press, etc. of a fairly complete machine shop, also a number of dynamos. Power is furnished by a gas engine. One room contains a battery of some 45 accumulators. There is also a photometer room, an electrical laboratory, and a wood-working room."<sup>96</sup>

The first floor contained lecture rooms, laboratories and offices of the department of physical sciences. The physics laboratory continued its residence in North Hall until 1912 when the Home Economics Department established headquarters there. Later the School of Music and the Department of Speech made their offices in North Hall until it was vacated and given over to storage purposes in 1942.

Until 1892, daily chapel exercises with singing, scripture reading and prayers were conducted in the second floor chapel room. Attendance at these exercises was compulsory for both students and faculty. Due to the unpredictability of the heating apparatus, some campus humorist suggested that "In Greenland's Icy Mountains" would be an appropriate hymn.

Cinder walks and locust trees adorned the campus surrounding North Hall in those early days of the University. Commencement exercises were held in North Hall in 1867. The Baconian Club, one of the early faculty organizations, held its meetings in North Hall, the faculty members taking turns attending the wood burning stoves. Rhetoricals were frequently held in the chapel room, as well as Friday evening "sociables" with promenading by the students and faculty. These "walkarounds", as they were termed, were one of the popular activities on the student schedule. G. T. W. Patrick has given the following description of them:<sup>97</sup>

I...attended the University Walk Arounds several times. This was an institution to provide the students with an 'innocent' form of social entertainment. The walkarounds were held in the second story of the North Hall, where the chapel exercises and other University assemblies were held. A young man asked a young woman to walk and the couples marched around the whole extent of the room.

The student newspaper advertised the sociables in verse which, though of doubtful poetic worth, give a vivid description of the activities at the party.<sup>98</sup>

Let's have a sociable next Saturday night,  
And come out early with the customary delight.  
Professors, teachers, new students and all,  
Let us mingle together in Chapel Hall.

We hope the introductory committee will attend  
to the diffident,  
So that all new students will not feel indifferent.  
Let the order be marching, singing, and  
conversation  
Though the latter is most pleasant in our  
estimation.  
And when the evening is well spent with much  
wordology  
Let the Dr. dismiss us with the usual doxology.

Writing on the social worth of these get-togethers, one student editor commented:<sup>99</sup>

Our sociable seems to be an indispensable part of our exercises. Students are apt to, and indeed do neglect, to a great extent the cultivation of their social natures, from which they must derive the real enjoyments of life. During the school days, we meet only in the capacity of teachers and pupils in the classroom, and necessarily, know but little of each other. It is indeed pleasant to have the floor of our beautiful and spacious Chapel cleared of the settees and spend the Saturday evening on once or oftener, each month. The old organ sounds no less reverently at our Chapel exercises, for having furnished an accompaniment for some gleeful quartette or a schottische or quick step for the promenades. Come out teachers with your families, and students with your friends, on Saturday evening, February 20, and let us have another pleasant time together.

An almost fatal blow was dealt North Hall when it was struck by a lightning fire early in the morning on June 18, 1897, which completely burned out the second floor, caused heavy damages to the physics department, and destroyed a major share of the University Library. "In about three hours," wrote the Vidette-Reporter, "the largest

and most comprehensive Library in the State was reduced to 4,500 volumes, that were saved from the conflagration.<sup>100</sup> Many rare and costly works were lost that can never be replaced.

Only one book, a visitors' register, was saved from the main room before the roof fell on the main floor. An Iowa City fireman lost his life while attempting to remove the card index trays. Miss Mary E. Barrett, reference Librarian, was credited with saving the accession registers.<sup>101</sup> Nothing was saved from the card index trays or shelf list, and only about two-thirds of the treasured Talbot Collection was left unharmed. History volumes numbering 3,150 and worth \$5946 were totally destroyed. Approximately 23,227 books were completely destroyed, plus an estimated 1500 books from the Talbot Collection, bringing the total to 24,727 books lost, plus about 12,000 to 15,000 pamphlets.<sup>102</sup> This made a large dent in the working libraries of the departments of languages, English literature, history and political science, and left the University without encyclopedias, dictionaries or bound periodicals.

The Board of Regents met in Des Moines in Governor Drake's office on June 29, 1897, to consider the damages of the fire to the library, physical laboratory

rooms and apparatus. Present at this meeting in addition to Governor Drake were Superintendent Henry Sabin, Hon. Albert W. Swalm, Hon. C. A. Stanton, Hon. Shirley Gilliland, Hon. Charles E. Pickett, Hon. Parker W. Holbrook, Hon. W. R. Moninger, Hon. J. W. Garner, Hon. Alonzo Abernethy, Hon. J. D. McCleary and William J. Haddock, Secretary of the Board of Regents.<sup>103</sup> Representing the University at the meeting were President Charles A. Schaeffer, Prof. A. A. Veblin, Director of the Physical Laboratory, and Hon. J. W. Rich, University Librarian.<sup>104</sup>

At this meeting, it was proposed to ask the Legislature at the coming session to levy a special 1/10th mill tax on property for a four year period to finance the restoration of the University Library, to provide for the erection of a fireproof building for the library and museum, and to ask an immediate appropriation of \$1500 for library books.<sup>105</sup> A committee of six, consisting of Messrs. Swalm, Abernethy, Gilliland, Pickett, Holbrook and Ingham, were appointed to approach the Legislature with this request.

The loss of the Talbot collection was a major blow to the University. When Mr. Talbot was notified of the loss, he replied, "What I have long feared comes to me as news in your telegram today. A shock to me you can

appreciate, I have no doubt."<sup>106</sup> Talbot's gift had been equal in value to all the appropriations made for the general library since the founding of the institution. Librarian Rich pointed out the fact that the State owed protection and care to these gifts. A special appropriation of \$1500 was recommended to help restore the Talbot Library.<sup>107</sup> To that date, total library appropriations had been only \$15,250.

The Physics Department suffered heavy losses of equipment, with great damage being done by water and by the hurried removal of fragile instruments.<sup>108</sup>

Plans were made for the immediate restoration of North Hall, with Josselyn and Taylor of Cedar Rapids handling the repair work. Frank Novak, carpenter and builder, was employed to rebuild the damaged sections at a cost of \$3,800.<sup>109</sup> The original gable roof with chimneys which was destroyed in the fire was replaced with a flat slate roof.

Over eighty years of service to the University have seen changes in North Hall. The latter day observer noticed missing window panes and fallen plaster. In the former chapel room on the second floor stood a high-backed chair, its leather upholstery worn and ripped; it was, perhaps, used by the presiding officer at those early



chapel services. Surplus material from World War II occupied the main floor: mattresses, filing cabinets, desks, textbooks, even a washing machine. The west door had been boarded up, leaving only the east door accessible.

Until 1942, when the Speech Department moved out, North Hall served for curricular purposes. From that time forward, it was used solely as a storage depot. No longer did students gather there for daily chapel services. No more did it serve for classes, lectures, or experimental plays. It had lost all the glory of its pioneer days. Few students recognized the description written in 1866:<sup>110</sup>

the finest audience room in Iowa...few superior in the Northwest. Its spacious dimensions, frescoed walls, stained glass windows, with emblematic representations, make up a hall that is a credit to the great State that has erected it.

North Hall has had a varied and colorful history. Few other University of Iowa buildings have housed as many departments or could boast of as many activities as North Hall witnessed. Until it was demolished and removed during the summer of 1949 its greatest distinction was that of being the oldest existing structure actually built for the University's use.

### Observatory

The University's first observatory, a small brick building, was located at the north end of Clinton Street where the President's Home now stands. At the time that the construction of North Hall was under consideration, Governor Kirkwood mentioned the need for an observatory.<sup>111</sup> Although the request brought no satisfactory results at that time, the issue again arose in a few years.

The ground on which the observatory was located was acquired partly by purchase and partly by act of the Fifteenth General Assembly. The Legislature donated two lots for the observatory,<sup>112</sup> and a deed dated August 17, 1874, gives evidence of the transfer of Lot 4, Outlot 32, from the possession of Jacob Samm and wife to the University, for which the owners received the sum of \$800.<sup>113</sup>

The Board requested Professor Leonard to submit plans for the observatory and lecture rooms to the architect, R. S. Finkbine, and to obtain an estimate of the cost of erecting such a building.<sup>114</sup> Professor Leonard stressed the need for more space for the physical sciences. One large hall was used as a lecture room, recitation room, chemical laboratory and physical laboratory. In order to provide better facilities for instruction and laboratory

equipment, and also to preserve the apparatus, he asked for a lecture hall, a physical laboratory and an observatory.<sup>115</sup> His report reads:

Of all these really pressing wants, the physical observatory is the most needful to the University, and when properly constructed and managed will prove the most useful to the State at large; at the same time it can be erected in a substantial manner and of sufficient dimensions for a comparatively small amount. For these reasons I would most earnestly urge the immediate construction of such an observatory.

That a physical observatory is required at a University is apparent; for physics.... has always constituted an essential part in the curriculum of every University, and it is manifestly impossible to practically instruct in this science without giving the students an opportunity to observe the facts of nature in regard to light, heat, electricity and magnetism....In the library of this observatory a complete record of all meteorological observations made in the State, should be kept, and with the standard instruments of this observatory all meteorological instruments used throughout Iowa should be carefully compared, so that the results obtained in our State will be truly reliable, and furnish data by which to determine the effect of human actions on the climate....

That the sum required for this observatory is not excessive is apparent from the estimates for the same reaching \$6500 only.

The detailed drawings of the physical observatory on which this estimate is based, represent a tower, 21 feet square, four stories high, each of 15 feet, with readily accessible, nearly flat roof. Each story of the building to be divided by a north and south wall into a (west) staircase, six feet wide, and an (east)

room, 14 by 21 feet. The ground floor to be used as magnetic observatory; the first story or optical observatory and laboratory; the second story for the working of the self-registering instruments or meteorography and the keeping of the record of observations, the third story for the meteorological observatory proper, while finally on the roof are exposed the wind vane, anemometer, rain and snow gauges, radiation thermometers, and kindred instruments.<sup>116</sup>

In response to Professor Leonard's proposal, the Board resolved on June 29, 1874:

that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of \$4,600 to be expended under the direction of the executive committee for the purpose of erecting an observatory building and fitting the same up in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted to the Board and to Mr. Finkbine by Prof. Leonard. The work in all its parts to be done under the contract that shall be made by the Executive committee to the satisfaction and under the supervision of Dr. Thacher and Prof. Leonard.<sup>117</sup>

Two weeks later, work was already in progress, and the University Reporter carried the following story:<sup>118</sup>

The foundations of the Astronomical Observatory will soon be laid. Work has already been commenced and ere many moons the students of the Iowa State University will view the starry dome through one of the finest telescopes, from one of the best observatories in the North West. Prof. Leonard is superintending the work. He is enthusiastic to have it finished in time to see the next if not the present comet.

The observatory was in charge of Mr. J. D. Wolfe, a graduate of the science and engineering departments of the University. The building was open for student

inspection every Saturday night, and Mr. Wolfe served as guide, explaining the intricacies of the observatory instruments and answering any questions the students might raise.<sup>119</sup>

In 1891, when a small wooden observatory was erected on the central campus, the old observatory on Clinton Street stood idle. The committee on Buildings and Grounds, represented by D. N. Richardson, J. W. Rich and C. A. Stanton, recommended:<sup>120</sup>

that the Secretary be instructed to take necessary steps to protect the building from damage and that the vacant building be examined by some competent person with a view to converting it into a dwelling for rent, and if thought advisable to so convert the building to have estimate made of the approximate cost of such change.

The Secretary is also instructed to examine and report upon the question of the legality of such conversion.

The Secretary's report in regard to the observatory did not support the idea of converting the building. Instead, it recommended that the building be repaired and equipped for the purpose for which it was originally intended, namely, as an observatory.<sup>121</sup>

The question of removing the observatory arose at various intervals. In 1894, the committee on Buildings and Grounds was authorized to remove the observatory if

necessary.<sup>122</sup> Apparently, the need was not too urgent at that time. The following year, the carpenter shop was moved from the Science building to the former observatory. The Vidette-Reporter commented:<sup>123</sup>

At last some use has been found for the old observatory building which has stood so long deserted on the hill at the end of Clinton Street. It has long been deemed inadvisable and injudicious to have the University carpenter shop in the basement of the Science building because of the inflammable materials which necessarily accumulate. The structure is unsafe enough as it is, for such a valuable museum, without having a tinder-box in the basement. Yet the location was a convenient one, and the carpenters were not the only ones who objected to a change. However, not only the dangerous risk, but the lack of room necessitated the removal, and the old observatory seemed most available....

In 1899, Governor Larabee called the attention of the Board to the matter of obtaining authority from the Legislature to use the observatory lot for some other purpose than that of an observatory in order that some other University building could eventually be erected on that site.<sup>124</sup> Accordingly, when the President's Home was built there, in 1906, the observatory was moved to the central campus, but was torn down in 1924 to make room for University Hall.

### Homeopathic Medical Building

Upon a small lot on Clinton Street which was obtained through the foreclosure of a mortgage stood the Homeopathic Medical Building, a two-story brick structure with dimensions of forty by sixty feet.<sup>125</sup> Dr. Allen C. Cowperthwait, Dean of the Homeopathy Department, made the initial request for a building to be used by his department in June, 1878.<sup>126</sup> The matter was turned over to the committee on Buildings and Grounds, D. N. Richardson, C. W. Slagle and John W. Henderson, who reported as follows:<sup>127</sup>

In the matter of the petition of the Dean of the Homeopathic Department of the State University, for a building to be erected on a vacant lot on the East side of Clinton Street belonging to the University, for the sole use and occupation of said department your committee would report that they favor such proposition and would recommend an appropriation therefor of not exceeding sixteen hundred dollars provided about eleven hundred dollars of unappropriated funds belonging to the Homeopathic Department may be used as a part of said appropriation. Said building to be erected under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The Sixteenth General Assembly had previously appropriated \$4100 for the use of the Homeopathic Department,<sup>128</sup> and the committee felt that some of the building expense should be defrayed by using department.

funds. The finished building represented an expenditure of \$1559.65.<sup>129</sup>

An additional appropriation of \$1500 in 1890 brought improvements to the building. Built in 1878, it remained in use by the Homeopathic Department until 1894 when the new Homeopathic Hospital was ready for occupancy.<sup>130</sup> From that date until 1904, it was turned over to the Chair of Philosophy and the Chair of Pedagogy. Remodeling for use by the School of Music took place in 1907 at a cost of \$1320.21.<sup>131</sup> The building remained in use by the School of Music until the summer of 1932 when it was torn down.



### Geology Building

Old Science Hall, as the present Geology Building was formerly known, was a three-story brick building, 114 by 74 feet, built in 1884 for the purpose of housing the sciences.<sup>132</sup> The original cost of the structure was around \$50,000.

The Board agreed at a meeting on June 15, 1883, to ask the Legislature for an appropriation of \$30,000 for a science building.<sup>133</sup> The Twentieth General Assembly more than satisfied their demands by appropriating \$45,000 for "one new building for the better accommodations of said University in the school of Science" and \$5,600 for "steam heating, plumbing and gas fitting in said building."<sup>134</sup> The Visiting Committee made trips to other campuses for the purpose of inspecting their science buildings and was granted \$200 to pay travelling expenses.<sup>135</sup> The student newspaper reported on the results of these visits:<sup>136</sup>

The Board of Regents of the University met last Thursday, for the purpose of deciding upon the department to occupy the new University building. The visiting committee whose duty it had been to inspect other buildings of a similar character in neighboring states, made an elaborate report to the effect that they had visited the scientific schools at Madison, Wisconsin, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and other

places, and they had arrived at the conclusion that the building could not be constructed to hold both the Physical and Natural Science Departments comfortably, nor did the amount of money at the disposal of the Board make it advisable to attempt the construction of such a building; indeed they are barely enough to conveniently quarter one branch of the sciences. After full consideration and discussion of the question, the building committee was instructed to secure plans, specifications and estimates for the new building and submit them at the next meeting of the Board, which will be held in June. The selection of an architect was left with the building committee. The Board then decided that the new building should be devoted to the Natural Sciences and that quarters should be temporarily provided in it for the Engineering department.

R. S. Finkbine of Des Moines was employed as architect to draw up plans and specifications, for which he received payment of \$700.<sup>137</sup> Opening of bids occurred on June 20, 1884, and Sheets and Company of Iowa City won the contract at a bid of \$39,955.<sup>138</sup>

The Burlington Hawkeye on February 7, 1886, devoted its entire issue to the State University and made the following remarks in regard to Science Hall, which once had been designated as "the deserted Palace."<sup>139</sup>

....Its design shows care and forethought, directed to a practical purpose, and its workmanship and materials are excellent. Taken as a whole, within and without, it is neat, substantial and convenient, and presents the nearest approach to elegance to be found in any of the University buildings; yet it everywhere bears evidence of having been constructed with an eye to economy.

The Board was frequently confronted with trivial matters in regard to keeping the University buildings equipped. Thomas H. McBride, at that time a professor of botany, wrote the following message to Secretary William J. Haddock, dated August 22, 1891:<sup>140</sup>

"We need five window curtains for windows on the second floor of the science building. The material is not expensive, and I believe the entire cost will fall within ten dollars. What can you do for us?"

Again in 1894, Samuel Calvin, Thomas H. McBride, C. C. Nutting, B. Shimek and Gilbert Houser, all of the faculty of the Science Department, together made the following plea to Secretary Haddock:<sup>141</sup>

The engine in the basement of the science building is to us the source of unceasing annoyance. During the time it is in motion no work with the finer microscopes can be done on the second floor and none with any microscope on the third. Besides, the soot and dirt from the engine-room and sometimes the smoke permeates the whole house and makes it impossible to keep our collections clean. In addition to this, our valuable collections are constantly endangered by the shops in the basement. It is needless to say that our collections are in many ways unique and could not be replaced.

To make room for the Hall of Natural Science, now Macbride Hall, Old Science Hall was moved in 1905 a distance of 150 feet to its present location on the corner of Capital and Jefferson Streets. "Specially

trained crews manipulated jacks and timbers so expertly that not a major crack appeared in the fragile brick walls."<sup>142</sup> Displacement of this 300 ton structure without mishap was a remarkable engineering feat and cost the University about \$18,000.<sup>143</sup>

At the time the building was moved to its new location, the Iowa Alumnus carried an article giving details of its usage:<sup>144</sup>

The basement rooms of Science Hall are now used as laboratory and preparation rooms, the space being equally divided between botany and geology. First floor is given wholly to the needs of geology. Professor Calvin retains his lecture room, laboratory, and office on the east side of the hall way. To the west are the laboratories for mineralogy, petrology, and economic geology.

Second floor is given over to the botanists. West of the hallway are Professor MacBride's laboratory, lecture room, and office. In the southeast corner of this floor are Professor Shimek's office and lecture room. In the northeast corner, the old herbarium rooms are being used as laboratories of morphology.

The third floor was given over mostly to museum purposes.

An addition to the building in 1927 at an expense of \$22,271.54 and another in 1929 costing \$15,229.60, together with later improvements of built-in equipment, has increased the present building inventory to \$132,728.09.<sup>145</sup> The following account summarizes the remodeling procedure which took place in the late 1920's:<sup>146</sup>

The remodeling and re-equipping of the geology building, started three years ago, is now complete. In 1927 the central portion of the building from the basement to attic was fire-proofed by the construction of a modern steel stairway, and a fire-proof addition was built containing a model lecture room seating 265 students and an up-to-date repository for the more valuable collections of the geology department.

In 1928 the second floor was completely remodeled and equipped for elementary courses and research in general geology. Three laboratories are used in the beginning courses for freshmen, together with service rooms and instructors' offices. At the same time the departmental library, with a main reading room and stack room, and adjoining periodical and map rooms was completely reorganized and equipped.

In 1929 the third floor was reorganized for the use of elementary and advanced students in mineralogy, petrology, economic geology, and Pleistocene geology, and space on the first floor assigned to paleontology was also modernized.

Last summer complete and up-to-date sedimentation laboratories were established in the basement and a permanent plant was completed that compares favorably with any department of geology in America.

When Old Science Hall was first completed, a mere seven students reported for work in the laboratory.<sup>147</sup> At that time it was the finest building of its type in the Middle West. Today it has moved into the background to give way to one of the University's major structures. "Its story is at once an illustration of the rapid evolution of science study in our time, and of the material expansion of the University of Iowa."<sup>148</sup>

### Electrical Engineering Laboratory

The Electrical Engineering Laboratory, a three-story brick structure with dimensions of 146 by 85 feet, was built in 1890, the original cost being estimated at \$50,000. This amount was part of a larger appropriation of \$125,000 set aside by the Twenty-Third General Assembly for the State University.<sup>149</sup>

The need for a chemistry laboratory, for which purpose the building was originally erected, had been stated at various times by President Schaeffer. Again in his annual report for 1888, he listed this need as urgent.<sup>150</sup>

Soon after the appropriation was secured, plans were under way for the new laboratory. Professor Charles D. Jameson was chosen to assist with the negotiations,<sup>151</sup> and it was decided to locate the building in the City Park area.<sup>152</sup> This property, consisting of one city block bordering on Dubuque, Jefferson, Linn Street and Iowa Avenue, had recently been given to the University by the city to be used for educational purposes only.<sup>153</sup>

Earlier a group of students had petitioned the Building Committee to locate the laboratory nearer the

main campus, complaining of the distance involved.<sup>154</sup>  
 This was in the days when even a block seemed remote.  
 Today, of course, the building seems itself a part of  
 the central campus.

Harry C. Smith of Iowa City was awarded the  
 contract in the amount of \$41,983 on August 20, 1890.<sup>155</sup>  
 Bids had been opened in July, but building plans had to  
 be altered to decrease the cost, due to the fact that all  
 of the bids which had previously been received exceeded  
 the \$50,000 allotment.<sup>156</sup>

Added to the original cost of \$50,000 were the  
 following expenditures which brought the present inventory  
 value to \$96,940.86:<sup>157</sup>

Original cost	\$50,000.00
1903-1904	112.14
1913-1914	7,931.55
1914-1915	10.73
1915-1916	9,915.76
1922-1923	154.79
1923 (Library)	10,120.62
1923	3,561.53
1924	9,242.40
1928-1929	4,587.12
1929	1,304.22
Total:	<u>\$96,940.86</u>

Until 1922, the building was used by the  
 Chemistry Department and the College of Pharmacy. At that  
 time, it was remodeled into a library. It was in 1930  
 that the Electrical Engineering Department moved in to

make its headquarters there, requiring another remodeling program.<sup>158</sup>

The Electrical Engineering Laboratory has stood on the corner of Iowa Avenue and Dubuque Street and served the University for fifty-five years. It is one of the few old buildings remaining on the campus today. A few years after its occupancy in 1892, some anxiety was expressed over the fact that the floors had fallen several inches. This was reported due to faulty workmanship, according to W. N. Chalfant, who was appointed to examine the structure.<sup>159</sup> It was believed that this condition might prove hazardous. Nevertheless, with its floors still sagging, the building endures. It has weathered the strain of thousands of footsteps since its construction in 1890. Building plans of the University show that its future may be short-lived and that it is apt to be retired from active duty in a few years to give way to bigger and better buildings in the University of the future.



### Old Dental Building

The Old Dental Building, as it is now called, is one of the least impressive structures remaining on the central campus today. This three-story brick structure was built in 1894 on the north side of Old Capitol Square by a special appropriation of \$25,000 from the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly.<sup>160</sup> Up to this time, the basement of South Hall had furnished quarters for the dental school. With that small amount of space and limited equipment, much remained to be desired. The Building Committee assumed supervision of construction, accepting the bid made by P. H. Wind for \$21,175 on June 13, 1894.<sup>161</sup> This appeared to be well within the limits of the appropriation. However, with a change in construction plans, it became apparent that more funds would be needed. To the original amount was added \$2,546.38 from the Income Fund,<sup>162</sup> and the Twenty-Sixth General Assembly granted an additional appropriation of \$2500.<sup>163</sup>

When finished, the main building measured eighty by seventy-two feet, with two wings on the west side each measuring fifty-four by twenty-eight feet.<sup>164</sup> It contained, in addition to clinic, demonstration,

lecture rooms and offices, a well-equipped dental laboratory accommodating 150 students.<sup>165</sup>

An addition to the Dental Building was made in 1906, the work being done by the University Department of Buildings and Grounds, with funds coming from the Building Tax Fund.<sup>166</sup> The cost of this work was listed as \$5,495.40.<sup>167</sup>

Until 1917, the Dental College was housed in this building, after which time it was used by the University Experimental Schools, and from 1927 to the present day by the Department of Buildings and Grounds. It was necessary to tear down the west part of this building in 1923 to allow room for the construction of University Hall, thus reducing the inventory value from \$35,541.78 to \$25,000.<sup>168</sup>

Although officially listed as the Physical Plant Administration Building in University records, the building is generally referred to by faculty and students as the Old Dental Building.

### East Hall

Located between Iowa Avenue and Jefferson Streets on the former "City Park" lot, the central portion and southwest wing of this structure were built in 1897 from the proceeds of the millage tax which had been approved a year earlier.<sup>169</sup> A Building Committee consisting of A. W. Swalm, Alonzo Abernethy, Frank W. Mahin, Shirley Gilliland, and W. R. Moniger, had recently been appointed,<sup>170</sup> and one of their first tasks was to make arrangements for this new hospital.

With the dismantling of the Mechanics' Academy in order to allow room for the new hospital, the old University vanished, and a new University emerged. The construction of East Hall marked the beginning of a long program of building development which went forward with rapid progress for a period of thirty-five years.

Buff colored brick trimmed with stone formed the main section of this building, consisting of four stories measuring 128 by thirty-eight feet. The southwest wing, which was built at the same time, measured ninety-nine by fifty-eight feet.<sup>171</sup> The firm of Josselyn and Taylor was appointed as architect, and the bid for contractor went to James Howie for \$43,915.<sup>172</sup> The central

section was to provide offices, lecture rooms and reception rooms, while the southwest wing was to be used as hospital wards for patients.<sup>173</sup>

As with many of the early buildings on the campus, the contractor failed to carry on the work according to specifications. Because of faulty workmanship, the walls had to be torn down and rebuilt. Again, financial quibbling with the contractor caused much delay. A new roof was needed, for it was found that the original roof leaked. The Knisley Brothers of Chicago accepted the contract for the new roof on September 13, 1898, for \$2,400.<sup>174</sup> The cost of the central section and southwest wing was computed at \$49,121.63.<sup>175</sup> Minor changes, including partitioning in 1906, required an expenditure of \$2,246.24, bringing the entire cost of this portion of the building to \$51,367.87.<sup>176</sup>

Additions to this building came in several installments, the southeast wing being completed in 1908, the northwest wing in 1912 and the northeast wing and an addition to the central portion being built in 1914.<sup>177</sup>

The Thirty-First General Assembly appropriated \$20,000 for the construction of the southeast wing, built in 1908, with the remainder of the funds coming from the Building Tax Fund.<sup>178</sup> Measuring approximately 130 by

twenty-nine feet, this three-story wing was built of the same materials: buff colored brick trimmed with stone.<sup>179</sup>

Proudfoot and Bird of Des Moines were architects, with James Rawson and Son doing the contracting.<sup>180</sup> Without equipment, this section cost \$62,901.63, expended as follows:<sup>181</sup>

Rawson contract	\$51,127.75
Proudfoot plans	1,378.26
Electrical work and Mat	1,135.99
Steam Fitting	837.02
Gas Fitting	114.50
Lighting	308.80
Hardware	613.00
Telephones	101.90
Tunnel and Sewer	431.38
Miscellaneous	200.36
Plumbing	2,703.11
Heating and Ventilating	3,949.56
	<hr/>
	\$62,901.63

Remodeling of this section in 1908 at a cost of \$6,663.31 increased its value to \$69,564.94.<sup>182</sup>

The Building Tax Fund again furnished funds for the northeast wing, constructed in 1912. This section comprised eight stories and three stories, the entire wing measuring ninety-four by sixty-two feet.<sup>183</sup> Approximately \$100,000 was spent on this section, excluding equipment. Proudfoot and Bird were architects, and C. W. Ennis was the contractor, with J. M. Fisk of the University supervising the construction.<sup>184</sup> The cost was itemized as follows:<sup>185</sup>

Plans	\$ 2,014.91
Contract	73,977.46
Foundation	4,327.44
Heating	6,685.47
Electric Work	311.70
Plumbing	4,019.50
Lighting	3,105.08
Temp. Control	13.51
Gas	65.45
Elevator	4,200.88
Screens	566.02
Painting	431.03
Miscellaneous	281.55
	<u>\$100,000.00</u>

Another wing on the northwest side was added in 1914, along with an addition to the central part. These new sections had eight stories and three stories with dimensions of 111 by forty-two and thirty-nine by forty-seven feet.<sup>186</sup> Funds were obtained from the Building Tax, the total cost, exclusive of equipment, coming to approximately \$115,000.<sup>187</sup>

Charles Franklin, Contractor	\$89,691.67
Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson Plans	2,690.42
Plumbing	6,496.20
Heating	6,440.28
Lighting	3,467.71
Electric Work	1,041.87
Sewer	535.25
Signal Station	861.45
Refrigeration	1,132.97
Painting	255.30
Elevator	3,005.73
Kitchen	21.25
Miscellaneous	941.83
	<u>\$116,581.93</u>

Until the completion of the west side hospital, this building was used as the University Hospital. Immediately following the vacation of the hospital, it was remodeled at a cost of \$73,594.59 and made into a classroom building.<sup>188</sup> The years 1941 and 1942 brought a two story addition for the School of Journalism costing in the neighborhood of \$25,000.<sup>189</sup> Frank Zabor and Sons handled the contract, plumbing was done by Wagner and Connell, and electric work by W. P. Russell.<sup>190</sup> In 1946, the attic was remodeled at a cost of \$1,780.13.<sup>191</sup>

East Hall, as this building is now called, has served the University well. Its present inventory value is listed as \$437,581.35.<sup>192</sup> It houses at the present time various departmental offices, including the College of Education, the School of Journalism, the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of Psychology.

### Schaeffer Hall

Built from the proceeds of the millage tax, construction on the Hall of Liberal Arts was begun in 1897. It is built entirely of Bedford stone and measures 126 by 218 feet. Following a plan presented by President Schaeffer in 1897, a circular was sent to a number of architects asking them to submit designs for the new Collegiate Building, under the condition that the entire cost of the building, including lighting, ventilation and plumbing, should not exceed \$150,000.<sup>193</sup> Funds accruing from the millage tax over a three year period were to be set aside for this purpose, according to a vote of the Board on June 10, 1897.<sup>194</sup>

Prizes were offered for the five best designs, the first prize consisting of an appointment as architect with the acceptance of plans at a compensation to be agreed upon, and cash prizes of \$100.00, \$75.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00 for the remaining four awards.<sup>195</sup> On January 20, 1898, the Board examined the plans and requested eight architects to re-submit plans, approving an individual allowance of \$25.00 for their expenses.<sup>196</sup> Henry Van Brunt, an architect from Kansas City, Missouri, was employed to select the winning design and was



accorded \$500 plus expenses for special services.<sup>197</sup>

In a letter to Van Brunt dated March 11, 1898, William J. Haddock, Secretary of the Board of Regents, wrote in regard to these layouts:<sup>198</sup>

Some were high peaked roofs and steeples and they were called French Renaissance--others had no visible roof at all and were pure Greek Renaissance--others were called for other nations, but all were renaissance. I think in fixing on the central building as a model that what the Board wanted was a good square turn of Iowa Renaissance for a change.

First prize and a contract as architect were awarded to Proudfoot and Bird of Des Moines on March 29, 1898.<sup>199</sup> Second prize, in the amount of \$100, was given to Brainerd and Holm, third to George E. Hallett, fourth to M. E. Bell and fifth to the firm of Smith and Gutterson.<sup>200</sup> David Stephens' bid of \$16,810 for the foundation and basement was accepted by the Board on August 23, 1898.<sup>201</sup> Charlton Wright of Davenport was elected to fill the post of Superintendent of Construction at a salary of \$125 a month.<sup>202</sup> The bid of Warren Roberts and Company of Chicago for completion of the building was accepted on March 25, 1899, at \$161,000, the high bid being over \$215,000.<sup>203</sup> It was decided to locate the new building on the southeast corner of Old Capitol square, facing Clinton and Washington Streets.<sup>204</sup>

The cornerstone dedication took place on June 7, 1899, with Governor L. M. Shaw officiating.<sup>205</sup>

A year later the new Collegiate Building, as it had heretofore been called, was officially named the Hall of Liberal Arts by the Board of Regents.<sup>206</sup>

Conflict between architect and contractor interfered with the progress on the new building. The Warren Roberts Company was charged with negligence, their contract rescinded, and the completion of the building was left in the hands of the Building Committee. Under agreement with the Warren Roberts Company, which had gone into receivership, the Building Committee took over the sub-contracts.<sup>207</sup>

On June 7, 1901, rooms in the new hall were assigned to faculty members in anticipation of its being ready by the opening of school in the fall.<sup>208</sup> However, the doors did not open to the students until January 23, 1902. In the process of completion, the building was described by the Iowa State Press as "elegant and dignified, classic and beautiful."<sup>209</sup> The final dedication ceremonies, held at Iowa City's Opera House, attracted 250 spectators. Almost immediately, the Hall of Liberal Arts began to play an important role in serving the various needs of the University. Shortly after it was

was occupied, William J. Haddock wrote:<sup>210</sup>

In the year 1902 when the audience room in the new hall of Liberal Arts was finished the 'New University', after popularity, undertook to establish weekly assemblies to be held there. The assemblies should be attended by all the students and were to be held on Wednesday forenoon of each week. It was claimed that this would only occupy an hour at most each session. The faculty opposed this as a waste of time, as an hour of the forenoon broke up the established programme and practically spoiled the day's work. The President stood on the theory that 'meat and mass never hinder work.' The assemblies prevailed.

On April 24, 1934, the Iowa State Board of Education approved a plan presented by President Jessup to change the name of the Hall of Liberal Arts to Schaeffer Hall in honor of President-Emeritus Charles A. Schaeffer.<sup>211</sup> President Jessup publicly announced this change at an alumni luncheon during Commencement Week festivities that year.

University accounts show a total expenditure of \$245,594.46 on Schaeffer Hall to date, itemized as follows:<sup>212</sup>

1897	\$ 38,736.34
1899	145,161.88
1901-02	47,696.24
1931-32	9.98
1932-33	18,990.02
	<u>\$245,594.46</u>

Today, Schaeffer Hall is still a center of

activity on the S.U.I. campus and houses several departments in the College of Liberal Arts, as well as the offices and library of the State Historical Society.

### Zoology Building

The Medical Laboratory, now known as the Zoology Building, was built in 1902 from an appropriation of \$50,000 made by the Twenty-Ninth General Assembly.<sup>213</sup> The remainder of the cost was obtained from the mill tax for building purposes.

Along with the Medical Laboratory, the Anatomy Building was erected, the two buildings being constructed under the same contract which went to James Rawson for \$129,369.00.<sup>214</sup> The high bid came to almost \$150,000.

Looking to the future of the Medical College, the Board had planned on an approximate allotment of \$125,000 for outfitting the school with the necessary medical buildings. President MacLean had been in favor of several buildings to compose a medical campus. C. E. Pickett of Waterloo advised him in a letter dated April 29, 1902:<sup>215</sup>

...I am very much afraid that such policy...will tend to dwarf the University.

If we have \$125,000 to expend in a medical building...and should divide this into two or three buildings, they will not be such buildings as would constitute an ornament to the University, nor add to its dignity nor furnish sufficient facilities for the medical department in the future.

It seems to me that if we would appropriate \$125,000 for one good medical building...we would at least have one good building which would stand as the center of the medical department, and in a few years could carry out your plan.

With the new building being erected on the corner of Dubuque and Jefferson Streets, it would appear that the square block bordering on those streets and on Iowa Avenue and Clinton Street was the contemplated site for the future medical campus.

At commencement activities in 1902, ground was broken for the laboratory, and on January 15, 1903, the ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone took place. The newspaper recorded:<sup>216</sup>

Yesterday at 4 o'clock occurred the laying of the cornerstone of the new medical laboratory building....The stone a huge granite block was set on the southwest corner of the building, and within it, in a few places specially prepared for it was placed a copper box hermetically sealed and containing current numbers of the Daily Iowan and other college and local publications.

The impressive ceremony...was conducted by Dr. Shrader, ex-dean of the medical college, who,...with words appropriate to the occasion laid the first course of cement for the bed of stone, and brought to an end the first epoch in the construction of the new building to be used by the medical department of Iowa....

Both buildings were constructed of Bedford stone, the larger laboratory measuring sixty-five by 150 feet and the smaller one sixty-five by fifty feet.<sup>217</sup>

Proudfoot and Bird served as architects with G. H. Ellsworth supervising the construction.<sup>218</sup> An animal house was added to the top floor of the medical laboratory in 1913.<sup>219</sup>

Upon completion of the new Medical Laboratory across the river, the Zoology Department moved into these two buildings, a location it has held ever since. Together, the buildings show a total cost of \$196,121.85<sup>220</sup> and are referred to today as the Zoology Building and the Zoology Laboratory.

### Macbride Hall

The plans for the five building campus pentacrest called for a building to house the natural sciences, a structure similar in outward appearance to the Hall of Liberal Arts and erected directly adjacent to it on the northeast side of Old Capitol Square. The Natural Science Building Fund, which was created from the millage tax, allowed for the construction of this building.

Plans for the Hall of Natural Science were considered in detail at a meeting of the Board of Regents held on January 8, 1904. At this time, W. I. Babb, Alonzo Abernethy, Parker K. Holbrook and Carroll Wright, who constituted the building committee, presented to the Board their report, part of which concerned the recommendations for the Natural Science Building. The structure was to provide for the University a modern museum, a spacious assembly hall and quarters for the library which had far outgrown its rooms in North Hall. The building committee advised:<sup>221</sup>

...That we proceed at once to the erection of the central portion and one wing of a fireproof museum building, of the general size and style of the Hall of Liberal Arts, in which will be provisions for an assembly hall to accommodate at least 1800 persons, the contract for said building to be let so that at least the foundation for same shall



be put in during the present year and the whole of said central part and one wing to be completed in 1905, the remaining wing to be constructed as early as practicable thereafter.

The primary object of said building is to be for museum, with assembly hall located therein but that provisions be made in the same, as far as possible without too much encroachment on the museum, for the library, until a proper home can be erected for it.

Accepting the recommendations of the committee, the Regents decided on the location of the new building, to serve as a balance to the Hall of Liberal Arts.<sup>222</sup> Proudfoot and Bird were directed to prepare plans to be presented at the April meeting of the Board.<sup>223</sup> Taking into consideration the prevailing prices of building material, the cost of the central section and one wing was estimated at \$155,000 or \$160,000.<sup>224</sup>

Bedford stone furnishes the material of this 126 by 218 foot building. The contract for the central portion and south wing was let in June, 1904, to James Rawson and Company for \$165,800, the high bid being \$215,600.<sup>225</sup> To this contract was added the construction of the north wing at \$66,589.00, the contract being let in September of the same year.<sup>226</sup> This was the lowest bid received, the high bid being \$89,850.<sup>227</sup> Supervising the construction was G. H. Ellsworth. The building was not completed until 1909, although it had been occupied

for some time. The original cost totalled \$275,432.05.<sup>228</sup>

The following changes since the date of completion have increased the inventory value to \$299,739.76.<sup>229</sup>

Original Cost	\$275,432.05
1908-09	461.68
1926-27	8,371.67
1927-28	2,958.10
1928-29	6,371.56
1930-31	3.24
1931-32	5,034.56
1933-34	678.00
1934-35	428.90
	<hr/>
	\$299,739.76

In 1934, to honor Thomas H. Macbride, this building was given the official title of "Macbride Hall" by the Iowa State Board of Education.<sup>230</sup> This was done in conjunction with a plan made by President Jessup to name certain campus buildings after men who had made a great and lasting contribution in their service to the University. The President's plan was approved with enthusiasm by the Board.

It is interesting to note that the University Library moved into the second floor of Macbride Hall in 1907, a home it has occupied ever since. As far back as the 1870's, requests had been made for a library building, a need which is soon to be remedied with the University's future building plans which include a modern, fully-

equipped, central library building.

While the Natural Science Building was still on the planning board in 1904, the building committee commented that:<sup>231</sup>

As the needs and requirements of the museum increase, as they will very rapidly, the library and assembly hall will have found a permanent home of their own, and the whole of this building can be devoted to the cause of natural science.

Apparently their notation was made with unwarranted assurance, for after a period of forty-five years, this building still accommodates the auditorium and the library, as well as the Museum of Natural History, the School of Religion and the Department of Home Economics.

### Men's Gymnasium

This brick building trimmed with Bedford stone was built in 1904 at a cost of slightly over \$30,000 to be used as a gymnasium for men. In those early days it was referred to as the Armory and Athletic Pavillion, a name quite outdated in modern terminology. With the building measuring only eighty by sixty feet, it was evident that athletics at the University of Iowa was still in its infancy. Located on the river's edge, near old Iowa Field, this constituted what was in those times an admirable athletic plant. Here was the scene of thrilling athletic events in the early 1900's. Few could have visualized it as now serving as a study room for students. Who could have realized that athletics would become so popular and so much a part of the student curriculum that a bigger plant would be needed in a mere sixteen years when the Armory was started, followed later by the Field House and the Stadium on the west side campus?

The Building Committee recommended in 1904 the construction of<sup>232</sup>

a permanent brick building to be completed early in the fall of this year, to cost not exceeding \$25,000, for an athletic pavillion and armory, same to be so constructed that when no longer required for these purposes it will be available for other University needs.

With the acceptance of this proposal, the Board at its June meeting awarded the contract to James Rawson and Son for \$28,550, the high bid being \$38,557.<sup>233</sup> Additional expenditures on the main unit brought the original cost to \$33,330.82.<sup>234</sup> G. H. Ellsworth was Superintendent of Construction on the original unit of the building, the costs of construction being provided from the Building Tax Fund.

The swimming pool was included in an addition which was built in 1915, costing \$47,411.68.<sup>235</sup> W. F. Kucharo of Des Moines handled the construction, his contract being set at \$38,280,<sup>236</sup> with the plumbing, heating and lighting being done by the University.

Again, in 1916, the part of the building which had been used for an armory was remodeled at a cost of \$12,882.75.<sup>237</sup> This alteration work was carried on by the University, Superintendent Fisk having communicated to the Board:<sup>238</sup>

I believe it will be to the advantage of the University if my Department should carry on the changes and alterations contemplated in the old part of the Armory, this being part of the Men's Gymnasium addition, and for which the money has been set aside in the Building Tax Fund.

The work is of such a nature that the contractor could not well figure intelligently on the matter and I feel that we can save considerable if we do the work.

In 1923, the gymnasium was refloored at a cost of \$1,361.68.<sup>239</sup> Still, this was not the last of alterations to be made. Until 1928, when the west side Field House was completed, this served as a gymnasium for men. At that time it became the fate of the University Library staff, their building long discussed and delayed, to answer to the Regents' mention of "other University needs" and inherit the old gymnasium for their quarters. The reconversion for use as a library cost the University \$14,041.26.<sup>240</sup> Today the building is known as Library Annex, containing reserve books, periodicals, and government documents.

A former gymnasium doesn't offer all that is desired in the way of a study room. The Cedar Rapids Gazette recently printed an article quoting the sentiments of the library staff as set forth in the Librarian's Annual Report. Although slightly exaggerated perhaps, their observations are none the less true in many respects, stating that:<sup>241</sup>

Probably the best proof of the complete apathy and unconcern on the part of the University staff for the welfare of the University libraries and its staff is the continued use of the antiquated, inadequate and unhealthy firetrap that is officially known as the Library Annex.

During the summer months the unbearable heat in the main reading room is unrelieved by a large number of gusty overhead wall fans. The months of September and October are chiefly noted for hordes of flies which keep librarians employed in such unprofessional tasks as arranging new sheets of fly paper, spraying, etc. At all times during the year the slightest shower of rain causes the roof to leak in a countless variety of places.

Although frequent paintings have kept the appearance of the building in good shape, it is well worn and has served its purpose. Even though it is of brick construction, it is a hazardous location for the valuable documents contained therein. An encouraging note is sounded, however, in the plans for the new library building which are now on the drawing board. This new building will eliminate the threat of fire as well as unpleasant study conditions. It will be a relief to those concerned with the preservation of the library when Reserve Annex is abandoned in favor of a more modern library building and converted to some other use.

With its various repairs and modifications, this building, which was originally to cost only \$25,000, already shows an inventory of \$109,964.35.<sup>242</sup>

### Hall of Engineering

After the completion of the two main buildings in the central campus pentacrest, the Hall of Liberal Arts and the Hall of Natural Science, the building committee was ready to make plans for campus expansion to accommodate specialized fields such as engineering, law, physics and athletics. One of the first of these buildings to come after the beginning of the new century was the Hall of Engineering, built in 1905 on the corner of Washington and Capitol Streets, adjacent to the main campus. The main section of this building, constructed of Bedford stone and measuring seventy-five by eighty-five feet, was made possible through an appropriation of \$50,000 by the Thirtieth General Assembly,<sup>243</sup> the balance of the cost being financed from the Building Fund.<sup>244</sup>

Architects Proudfoot and Bird of Des Moines submitted plans for this new building to be considered by the Board of Regents. The Board met on January 26, 1905, and adopted the motion of Regent W. I. Babb to accept the architects' plans and to open bids at the April meeting of the Board.<sup>245</sup> William Grace and Company was awarded the contract for \$59,595.87, the high bid being close to \$65,000.<sup>246</sup>



On completion of the main section, the Regents further approved the construction of a wing on the west side of the building, to be financed from the millage tax fund and costing \$60,000 or less.<sup>247</sup> Bids were called for the following summer, under condition that the work to be completed in the fall of 1907 be limited to the foundation and sub-basement, the remaining part of the building to be completed in the spring of 1908.<sup>248</sup> The new addition was to measure fifty-five by eighty feet and be constructed of Bedford stone to blend with the main section of the building. The contract for this five-story addition went to James Rawson and Son on September 17, 1907, for \$50,624.60.<sup>249</sup> G. H. Ellsworth supervised the construction of both sections. The cost of these two sections totalled \$126,915.12 at the time of construction, computed as follows:<sup>250</sup>

	Main Building	Addition
Contract	\$59,595.87	\$50,624.60
Plans	1,847.82	1,265.61
Electric Work and Lighting	1,443.06	2,306.60
Steam Heat and Plumbing	4,566.54	1,874.77
Blackboards	217.87	410.75
Hardware		317.24
Flue Screens		49.75
Sewer		12.00
Shades		99.64
Miscellaneous	2,172.58	110.42
	<u>\$69,843.74</u>	<u>\$57,071.38</u>

From the time that this section was completed until 1940, only \$785.92 was expended on improvements for the Hall of Engineering. A radio extension wing was added in 1940 at a cost of \$74,821.73.<sup>251</sup> A P.W.A. gift of \$33,620.00 partly defrayed this expense, with the remainder coming from state appropriated funds, expended in the following manner:<sup>252</sup>

General Contract, More-head Frederickson	\$52,071.44
Excavation, William Horrabin	696.00
Plumbing and Heating, Carsten Brothers	14,496.48
Temperature Control, Johnson Service Co.	1,082.00
Electric Work, William Russell	5,742.88
Miscellaneous Expenditures	732.93
	<hr/>
	\$74,821.73

The completion of the radio extension wing raised the inventory value of the Hall of Engineering to its present day value, a sum of \$202,522.77.<sup>253</sup> This building, in addition to housing the University-owned-and-operated radio station, WSUI, houses all departments in the College of Engineering with the exception of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, which each have separate buildings for their respective uses.

### President's Home

As early as 1906, consideration was given to the construction of a home for the President. Meeting on September 24, 1906, the Board approved Regent Babb's motion to request Architects Proudfoot and Bird to prepare plans for the house, which was to cost not more than \$15,000 and was to be erected on property already owned by the University at the north end of Clinton Street.<sup>254</sup> The necessary funds were to be obtained from the millage tax.

In October the Board increased the allowance for the President's Home to \$25,000. This was to include costs of construction, decoration, preparation of the grounds, and all miscellaneous details connected with the plan.<sup>255</sup>

By January of the following year, the Board had turned the matter over to the Building Committee, giving it power to act on all transactions.<sup>256</sup> The Building Committee advertised for bids which were scheduled to be opened at the June meeting. This time the figure was set at \$18,000 and was to include grading of the lot, sidewalks, house fixtures, heating and lighting.<sup>257</sup> On June 10, 1907, the Board met, received

bids and placed them on file with the Secretary of the Board.<sup>258</sup> Again the cost was reconsidered and \$25,000 substituted in place of \$18,000, which had been set at the last meeting.<sup>259</sup>

The problem of securing the desired type of residence at a cost within their means caused the Building Committee considerable difficulty. No bids were offered which were within the price limit set by the Board. It was decided to delay letting the contract until the entire Board could meet. Meanwhile, B. H. Wickham, the lowest bidder, was asked to hold his bid until the date of the next Board meeting.<sup>260</sup> The committee also requested him to<sup>261</sup> "agree to substitute whatever variety of brick may be selected in place of that called for by the specifications, giving the University the benefit of the difference in price, if any."

Several months were spent in deliberating the situation, and in November, bids were again brought before the Committee. It was found that B. A. Wickham was still the lowest bidder, and the contract was his for the sum of \$21,257.00.<sup>262</sup> A range of almost \$6,000 existed between the high and low bid, as shown in the following list:<sup>263</sup>

B. A. Wickham, Iowa City	\$21,257.00
C. W. Ennis, Toledo, Iowa	22,300.00
R. H. Fisher, Cedar Rapids	23,050.00
F. X. Freyder, Iowa City	24,297.00
Hansen and Hewitt, Des Moines	24,787.00
James Rawson and Son, Iowa City	24,953.00
J. J. Hotz, Iowa City	27,000.00

A slight change was made in specifications for the residence, thus reducing Wickham's contract by \$1,841.19.<sup>264</sup> G. H. Ellsworth supervised the original construction, and an itemized account shows the following expenditures:<sup>265</sup>

B. A. Wickham, Contract	\$19,273.94
Proudfoot and Bird, Architects	481.84
Plumbing	1,581.02
Heating	1,138.18
Electric Work	335.56
Steam Fitting	18.33
Sewer	80.67
Water	26.89
Lighting Fixtures	461.29
Hardware	433.91
Shelving	140.68
Mantel Facings	81.00
Laundry	18.00
Attic	80.92
Grading	498.02
Basement Floors	132.61
Miscellaneous	284.90
	<hr/>
	\$25,067.76

In 1917, \$835.32 was expended for construction of a garage, and an additional \$5.67 for repair on that structure the following year. In 1925, improvements were made on the residence at a cost of \$5,574.00.<sup>266</sup> These items brought the total cost of the structure since

its construction in 1908 to \$31,482.84, the figure at which the home is valued today.<sup>267</sup>

That the board had found frugality necessary is in no way evidenced in the finished product. The result was an imposing structure of red brick with two large white pillars at the entrance. Some of the presidential families have made minor alterations in rooms and furnishings to suit their varying needs and tastes. Situated on a hilltop high above the Iowa River, this imposing residence has been the home of six of the University's presidents. It is now occupied by President Virgil Hancher and his family.

### Law Building

One hundred thousand dollars was allocated by the Board of Regents in 1906 for the purpose of constructing a new building for the ever-growing College of Law.<sup>268</sup> Previously the law students had been receiving instruction on the second floor of Old Capitol. Like Schaeffer and Macbride Halls, the new building was to be composed of Bedford stone and was to be financed from proceeds of the millage tax.<sup>269</sup> Proudfoot and Bird, architects who had designed many of the campus buildings, were requested to prepare a sketch of the proposed structure. Their plans were accepted by the Board on January 23, 1907.<sup>270</sup> Although many of the campus buildings, due to limited funds, were outlined with the idea of constructing additions to them at a later date, the Board insisted that the Law Building was to be a complete structure in itself.<sup>271</sup> They wanted a building that would suffice to house the College of Law for many years. Their planning, it would appear, was quite accurate, for the building has served the Law College satisfactorily to this date.

The northeast corner of Capitol and Jefferson Streets was decided upon as the best location, providing

that the Legislature would consent to appropriate money to purchase that real estate for the University.<sup>272</sup> The Board also increased the original amount of the allocation to \$125,000.<sup>273</sup>

The Building Committee met on July 24, 1908, and considered the twelve bids which had been submitted.<sup>274</sup> They awarded the contract to the Collins Brothers of Rock Island, Illinois, whose bid was the lowest received. This was set at \$102,448.20, the high bid made by Peter Peterson of Moline, Illinois, coming to \$129,870.<sup>275</sup>

The finished building consisted of four stories, measuring fifty-seven by 144 feet. The complete original cost, including contract, architectural plans, cost of land, plumbing, electrical work, steam fitting, heating, heating regulation, hardware, blackboards, shades, grading and other miscellaneous items, came to \$119,687.86, and is considered worth that price today.<sup>276</sup>

The dedication program was held on February 22, 1910. Dean George W. Kirchway of the College of Law at Columbia University delivered the address, copies of which were printed for distribution. President MacLean presented the Dean of the Law College with a set of keys, saying:<sup>277</sup>



It is my privilege to commit to you and your faculty these keys as a symbol of authority and of open doors in this magnificent building for the use of the students and teachers of the college of law. You worthily represent a line of distinguished predecessors from the cultured Hammond through Ross and Love to McClain....With the devotion of yourself and faculty and students we feel sure of a glorious future for the best if not the biggest college of law in the west.

With the following words, the Dean expressed his gratitude: 278

On behalf of the entire University, alumni, faculties and students, I accept this Hall of Law. Through you we thank the Board of Education, the former Board of Regents, the legislatures making the appropriations and the people of the state of Iowa who with high intelligence cheerfully tax themselves for a public school system, crowned by the State University.

### Physics Building

A part of the campus Pentacrest is the Physics Building, built of Bedford stone in 1910. The Building Tax Fund furnished the expenses of construction. On September 24, 1906,<sup>279</sup> the architects were asked by the Board of Regents to draw up plans for the building, which was to be constructed of stone and was to cost not more than \$150,000.<sup>280</sup>

The Board of Regents was nearing the completion of its tenure, and plans for the Physics Building were not executed as rapidly as desired. The new State Board of Education again brought the matter to the foreground on July 21, 1909, requesting Proudfoot and Bird to prepare the design.<sup>281</sup> Their plans were accepted by the Board on December 10, 1909, with only slight moderations.<sup>282</sup> These changes still had to come within the original appropriation.

No ceremonies were held in connection with laying the cornerstone of the new Physics Building. This, it was felt, would only cause delay, and there had been no funds set aside for this purpose.<sup>283</sup>

By the time the building was ready to be occupied, computed costs had far exceeded the amount of

the original allowance, reaching the sum of \$225,000, which was itemized as follows:<sup>284</sup>

Plans, Proudfoot and Bird	\$ 4,978.32
Contract, James Rawson and Company	186,549.91
Heating	11,143.32
Plumbing	6,333.83
Special Conduit	6,721.62
Lighting	3,389.71
Blackboards	159.97
Switchboard	43.42
Electric Laboratory	50.86
Miscellaneous	369.72
Superintendence	864.44
Tunnel	330.98
Removing Vaults	128.50
Electric Work	2,524.95
Gas Piping	247.28
Compressed Air	280.05
Temperature Control	883.12
	<hr/>
	\$225,000.00

In 1938, an improved roof was provided. To date, the Physics Building has cost the University a total of \$249,953.18.<sup>285</sup>

Appearing in the Iowa Alumnus was an article about the new Physics Building which reported:<sup>286</sup>

The design of the interior, made under the direction of the Department of Physics, is very simple. One of the principal aims has been to construct a building which, although made solid and permanent by its concrete construction, yet might at the same time be sufficiently flexible to continue to meet the changing needs of a rapidly growing science. The flexibility has been secured by the use of 'units.' Within each part further division is made by tile partitions, which can be changed without interfering with the support of the structure.

With the completion of the Physics Building, the Pentacrest was nearing completion. It now lacked only one building to effect the design: University Hall; yet this was to take another fourteen years to materialize.

### Currier Hall

Requests for a dormitory and boarding hall for women date back to 1871 with President Thatcher's Report to the Board of Regents.<sup>287</sup> Although the erection of such a building was recommended in 1871, it was not realized until forty-one years later when the Women's Building, as it was then called, was constructed to house approximately 150 girls.

Outlining the conditions which existed and the urgent need for constructing a suitable home for women, President Thatcher reported to the Board:<sup>288</sup>

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the speedy erection of a building for this purpose. If the co-education of the sexes is to be continued in the University every inducement should be offered to young women to come to it from all parts of the state. At present many are deterred from coming by the difficulty of finding suitable homes.

Should all come who desire to do so the difficulty would be to be an impossibility. It is a well known fact that the families of Iowa City who are disposed to accommodate students with room and board very generally give the preference to young men. The result is that the number of young women in the University is comparatively small and in many instances their apartments are extremely ill-adapted to their wants.

To remedy this evil of poor accommodations a building should be erected exclusively for young ladies, in a retired spot, at a convenient distance from the University, rooms

and bed rooms for fifty students and apartments for superintendent and matron besides dining hall and parlors.

During the school year 1873-1874, there were 161 women in attendance at the University, while the following year showed a female enrollment of 122.<sup>289</sup> The State University issued a report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1875 stating that there was reason to anticipate a decrease in enrollment of women unless some provisions for suitable housing were arranged for them.<sup>290</sup>

This appeal went unheeded until 1912 when plans were made for a women's dormitory and a contract for construction was awarded to James Rawson and Son in the amount of \$96,767.<sup>291</sup> To complete the first unit, having a capacity of 187 girls, took \$150,484.66, expended as follows:<sup>292</sup>

Plans	\$ 3,066.86
Contract	96,767.91
Miscellaneous	4,712.10
Plumbing	11,202.64
Electric Work	1,635.65
Lighting	3,584.17
Heating	3,442.45
Grading	883.04
Bells and Phones	436.05
Painting	165.91
Refrigeration	1,786.38
Courts	546.44
Tunnel	21,209.58
Superintendence	1,035.48
	<hr/>
	\$150,484.66

On the recommendation of President John G. Bowman, the Iowa State Board of Education voted on February 5, 1913, to name the building "Currier Hall", honoring the late Dean Amos Noyes Currier and his wife, Celia M. Currier.<sup>293</sup> Mrs. Currier, who was then making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Roy Cook, of Independence, was notified of this tribute in a letter from President Bowman on February 26, 1913:<sup>294</sup>

For some time I have desired to write to you concerning the action of the Iowa State Board of Education in naming the new women's dormitory in honor of yourself and your late husband. The name of Currier Hall for this building which will be the center of University life among the women students is, in my judgment, most fitting. Your many years of close association with University students and your influence upon them have gone far to make the University what it is. In some measure the Board wished to recognize this service by its action. I trust that the decision of the Board is agreeable to you, and that I may have some talk with you concerning the matter before the building is dedicated....

The University's plan for financing dormitories was outlined in a pamphlet entitled "Dormitories Without Cost to the State."<sup>295</sup> Though undated, it is judged to have been written about 1923. It presented a financial report concerning dormitories for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1922. Currier Hall was listed as accommodating 237 girls, and together with the Quadrangle, showed an

operating surplus of \$27,606 that year.<sup>296</sup> Room rates were given as ranging from \$9 to \$14 (assumed to be by the month) for girls who shared a double room. To provide for more dormitories, the State Board of Education asked the Fortieth General Assembly to

consider a plan for lending a sum to be used annually...for building and operating dormitories, with the understanding that the earnings at the rate of 4% per annum...be paid back to the State, thus wiping out the entire cost of the principal sum within a period of twenty-five years....

Facilities for handling the student situation have been hopelessly inadequate. The students themselves have arranged scores of housing clubs, fraternity and sorority houses...The demand for desirable rooms in private houses has been so great that rental prices have become very high...

In view of present congestion...there seems to be but one solution for the State, and that is to build more dormitories. These dormitories, if constructed and furnished modestly as in the case of those already built, can be operated at a reasonable cost to the students and at the same time earn a fair return on the investment, as may be seen from last year's fiscal report of the dormitories (Currier Hall, for women; Quadrangle, for men) operated at Iowa City.<sup>297</sup>

The Forty-First General Assembly passed a law stating that the Board of Education could borrow funds, mortgage real estate, and pledge dormitory rents and profits to offset these mortgages, thereby paving the way for the dormitory expansion program.<sup>298</sup> The State



would not be responsible for these obligations, but they would be tax exempt. The law further stated that the dormitories of an institution would be considered as a single operating unit, rather than as separate units.<sup>299</sup>

When the law was passed enabling the University to borrow funds for dormitory erection, the debt to be paid from dormitory earnings, Currier Hall was not to be neglected. Expansion to accommodate 110 more girls came in 1927. Again, in 1939, an addition was completed, thus bringing the capacity to 535 girls. With the 1948 addition, the capacity was again increased to about 700.

Almost every year, the University issued a bulletin describing facilities in Currier Hall for women students. An undated booklet entitled "Currier Hall and Eastlawn", written probably in the 1920's, advertised:<sup>300</sup>

The advantages of social and intellectual contacts with other girls, the pleasure of attractive surroundings, and the indescribable feeling of 'going to college' that dormitory life can give are extended to University women in...Currier Hall....

Currier Hall, a fireproof building of brick and limestone three blocks north of Old Capitol campus, has singles, doubles and suites for three hundred girls.

Rooms are equipped with telephone, electric lights, and hot and cold running water. Kitchenettes placed conveniently on the different floors contain gas plates, sinks, cupboards, ironing boards, and irons.

In addition, the bulletin stated that there were living rooms and dining rooms on the main floor for entertainment purposes and that each bedroom was equipped with rugs, shades, beds, dressers, study tables and chairs.

By 1927, the hall could boast of accommodations for 300 girls.<sup>301</sup> The dormitory was well within walking distance of all the buildings on the main campus and was close to the churches of Iowa City and the business district.

A University publication bearing the title "Living Accommodations at Currier Hall" described the new improvements and residence facilities offered for the 1940 summer session.<sup>302</sup> The recent addition included new dining rooms, kitchens and rooms for students. That summer the University was offering room and board in Currier Hall to 500 women. A description of the rooms appeared quite different from the one set forth in 1927, and stated:<sup>303</sup>

Comfortable modern light wood furniture and innerspring mattresses have been placed in all student rooms. Each room is equipped with a lavatory and telephone, and maid service is scheduled every other day with the exception of Sunday. For the convenience and economy of residents, laundry, pressing, sewing and shampooing rooms are provided. There are also study and typing rooms available.

With its various improvements and additions, Carrier Hall is now inventoried at \$714,819.24.<sup>304</sup> The construction of Carrier Hall marked the beginning of the University's modern and expansive dormitory system. This was followed by the Quadrangle, Law Commons, Hillcrest and South Quadrangle, as well as numerous additions at various intervals to these buildings to provide better living facilities and increased dormitory capacity. Future building plans of the University at present date include further expansion of Carrier Hall.

Women's Gymnasium

This brick building trimmed with Bedford stone was built in 1915 at a total cost of \$74,811.96.<sup>305</sup> The Board had at first voted to expend \$125,000 for the gymnasium which it wanted to be used by both men and women for a time and later limited to use by one or the other.<sup>306</sup> The Board authorized the Building Committee on February 11, 1914, to select a site for the building and to confer with the architects concerning the arrangement of plans.<sup>307</sup>

When it was found more practical to construct a gymnasium for women only, the Board decreased the allotment to \$75,000.<sup>308</sup> With the remaining \$50,000 they would build an addition to the Armory which would serve as a gymnasium for men. They recorded in the minutes:<sup>309</sup>

The Building and Business Committee recommended that a Women's Gymnasium be erected and that the same be of permanent construction the cost not to exceed \$75,000 and that an addition to the present Armory be built, the construction of the addition to be similar to the original building and to be used as a gymnasium, the cost of this building not to exceed \$50,000.

The gymnasium for women was to be of permanent construction and located on the corner of Madison and Jefferson Streets, just west of Old Science Hall.<sup>310</sup> Bids for construction were received, and the Board voted

to award the contract to Theodore H. Stark and Company of Cedar Rapids for the price of \$61,490.<sup>311</sup> Proudfoot and Bird were architects, and J. M. Fisk supervised construction. Production brought a few minor changes which reduced the amount of Stark's contract somewhat. The final and complete cost was computed at \$74,811.96, disbursed as follows:<sup>312</sup>

Contract	\$59,644.42
Plans	1,857.83
Excavation	43.73
Heating	4,909.15
Painting	1,661.95
Plumbing	3,999.94
Lighting	1,779.47
Electric Work	96.55
Bells and Phones	48.44
Tunnel	16.02
Grading	72.25
Elevator	22.85
Superintendence	309.62
Miscellaneous	349.74
	<hr/>
	\$74,811.96

The building, when completed, measured seventy-three feet wide by 141 feet long, containing three stories, and was constructed of red brick with a red tile roof. In the basement was the indoor swimming pool which measured sixty feet long and twenty-four feet wide, lined with white enameled brick. At the shallow end, the pool was three and one-half feet deep and eight and one-half feet deep at the deep end.<sup>313</sup> A balcony for spectators was provided on the south side. The swimming pool water

was specially purified with chemicals, and the University provided filter equipment worth about \$2500. A description follows:<sup>314</sup>

Adjoining the swimming pool is a room in which is located a gravity type of filter which is capable of filtering the water in the pool every ten hours. The filtering process goes on continually, the water being circulated through the pool and filters with electrically driven centrifugal pumps, during which process alum, copper sulphate and liquid chlorine are introduced to provide for the proper sterilization of the water.

In addition to the pool, the basement also contained the filter room, a shower room, dressing room, rest room, remedial room, supply room, laundry, hair drying room and abundant locker space. The second floor consisted of offices, an examination room, study room, remedial room and a small exercise room. On the third floor were two large exercise rooms and a kitchenette.<sup>315</sup>

In 1922, a two-story frame annex to this building was constructed at a cost of \$7,856.57, the University Department of Buildings and Grounds handling the work of construction.<sup>316</sup> This brought total expenditures on buildings for women's physical education training to \$82,668.53. For almost thirty-five years, this main gymnasium building has served the department. In the near future, according to present plans, a new building will be provided.

Eastlawn

Built as a home for nurses, this structure is of brick trimmed with Bedford stone. It stands on the corner of Iowa Avenue and Gilbert Streets, directly across from East Hall, which was formerly the University Hospital. Prior to the construction of Eastlawn, the nurses lived in houses which were rented by the University for their use.<sup>317</sup> This arrangement was not entirely satisfactory and led to action by the Iowa State Board of Education to erect a dormitory in which the nurses would reside.

The Board voted on February 11, 1914, to secure a site for the nurses home and to make the necessary arrangements for its construction.<sup>318</sup> A sum of \$50,000 was set aside to be expended on the home, which would furnish a residence for 100 nurses.<sup>319</sup> A few months later, the Board asked Proudfoot and Bird to prepare plans for the building and at the same time authorized J. M. Fisk of the University Department of Buildings and Grounds to remove the buildings from the proposed site and to begin excavation and sewerage.<sup>320</sup> It was specified that old building materials should be used inasmuch as was possible.

The plans submitted by Proudfoot, Bird and

Rawson were accepted by the Board, and bids for construction were solicited.<sup>321</sup> Mr. Fisk was to arrange for a contract for excavation, the price to be set at 54¢ per cubic foot or at 35¢ if the contractor was allowed the dirt.<sup>322</sup>

On July 1, 1914, the contract for construction was awarded to W. F. Kucharo for \$39,380.<sup>323</sup> Because the University did the work of excavation, Kucharo reduced the amount of his original bid to \$37,788.71.<sup>324</sup> An itemized statement of original costs of construction, which totalled slightly over the \$50,000 allowance, follows:<sup>325</sup>

Contract	\$37,788.71
Plans	1,151.69
Plumbing	3,134.09
Heating	2,129.78
Lighting	847.17
Painting	1,022.31
Electric Work	427.83
Elevator	151.14
Excavation	914.65
Tunnel	2,114.78
Floors	3.97
Sewer	17.29
Superintendence	200.00
Miscellaneous	356.92
	<hr/>
	\$50,260.33

Funds for construction of Eastlawn were obtained from the Building Tax. J. M. Fisk supervised construction. Eastlawn continued in use as a home for nurses until 1929 when it was remodeled at a cost of \$9,271.18 to be used as a dormitory for women students.<sup>326</sup> This increased the



inventory value to \$59,531.51. In 1939, however, \$2,114.78 was deducted from the inventory, which makes its present value \$57,416.73.<sup>327</sup>

Soon after the completion of Eastlawn in April, 1915, the Iowa Alumnus stated:<sup>328</sup>

The building as it now stands is complete in itself except that wise provision has been made for its enlargement in case of need. If additions are made it is so constructed that a wing can be run to the west and another to the north so that the final structure will be in the form of the letter U.

Eastlawn, a four story brick building, is situated three blocks east of the main campus. It offers accommodations similar to Carrier Hall, although most of the rooms are smaller and the rental is somewhat less expensive. The basement contains a recreation room, sewing room, laundry, trunk room and kitchenette. On the main floor are two living rooms, chaperone's quarters and some additional rooms for head nurses.<sup>329</sup> When Westlawn was completed, the nurses moved across the river, leaving Eastlawn to be occupied by other students.

## Chapter I

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Chapter II  
SURVEY OF BUILDINGS (Continued)

Music Building

The Department of Buildings and Grounds constructed this edifice in 1916 from funds provided by the Building Tax Fund. The structure now known as East Hall was then serving as the University Hospital. This new building, erected on the same square as the main hospital, was to be the Isolation Hospital. Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson were architects on the original structure, the cost of which was \$44,962.27.<sup>1</sup>

Until 1931, this building was used as Isolation Hospital. At that time, it was remodeled and turned over to the Music Department. An addition to the building was included in the remodeling program. The Tafagar Construction Company handled the contract for the new addition in the amount of \$18,448.15.<sup>2</sup> A total of \$39,853.32 was expended in preparing the building for use by the Music Department, as seen in the following list of expenditures:<sup>3</sup>

Contract	\$18,448.15
Brick and Tile	7,358.93
Plumbing and Heating	4,283.56
Electric Work	3,534.09
Painting	837.62
Hardware	530.10
Weatherstripping	453.28
Shelving	189.09
Platforms	2,564.99
Freight on Material	772.86
Miscellaneous Jobs	880.65
	<hr/>
	\$39,853.32

Although costing less than the original building, the addition would appear to be the main unit. It provided two large rehearsal halls with a corridor passing to the main unit which was given over to practice rooms and offices of the Music Department. These two units of construction brought a total inventory value of \$84,815.59 on the Isolation Hospital building.<sup>4</sup> The construction of the new addition in 1931 brought a change in title, as well, and recent records refer to the structure as the Music Building.<sup>5</sup>

### Dental Building

By 1915, the Old Dental Building, constructed in 1894, had seen slightly over twenty years of service. The College of Dentistry was expanding at a rapid rate and felt that the need of more space and better equipment was imperative. The Board of the Education took up the matter of a new dental building early in 1915, authorizing the architect to draw up tentative plans and specifications and deciding on the location of the building, which would be on the west side of North Capitol Street, about a block north of the former dental building.<sup>6</sup> Dr. Breene, Dean of the College of Dentistry, was to be consulted about the arrangement of the interior of the building.<sup>7</sup> Dimensions of 89 by 176 feet were agreed upon, and the Building and Business Committee was empowered to open bids and award the contract at a cost not exceeding \$175,000.<sup>8</sup> This it did, in the favor of Charles Franklin, who accepted the contract for \$130,000, agreeing that the building would be completed and ready for occupancy by December, 1916.<sup>9</sup> Specifications called for a fireproof building, composed of brick and consisting of three stories and a basement. The Iowa Alumnus

wrote in October:<sup>10</sup>

The state board of education has awarded the contract for the construction of the dentistry building at the State University at Iowa City to Charles Franklin of Iowa City on a bid of \$124,200. With two alternatives added, the contract price is increased to \$130,800....The board of education recently condemned land at Iowa City as the site for the new dentistry building....

Some further changes were made in Franklin's contract, bringing his final bill to \$134,253.87. The following list will show the expenditures which the University has made on the Dental Building from the time of its construction to the present:<sup>11</sup>

Contract	\$134,253.87
Plans	4,023.08
Plumbing	11,986.01
Heating	10,977.61
Lighting	3,751.76
Electric Work	4,311.91
Superintendence	792.40
Miscellaneous	580.22
Tunnel	301.81
Painting	440.33
Elevator	1,522.72
Anatomy Annex	510.34
Building	134.95
Remodeling, 1929	510.00
Repairs, 1948	2,132.00
	<hr/>
	\$176,279.01

The Iowa Alumnus followed closely the construction of the Dental Building and made comments at frequent intervals regarding its progress. The

publication commented in February, 1916:<sup>12</sup>

Work on the construction of the new dental building is progressing as fast as the winter weather will permit. Already the steel girders are reaching skyward so that a good idea may be had as to how the completed building will appear. Like the Hall of Engineering the building will face the east and extend down the hill which fronts the Iowa River. As soon as the weather conditions are favorable the work will be rushed. Dean Frank T. Breene hopes that the College of Dentistry may be in its new home by January 1, 1917.

The fact that the building was not ready for occupancy on schedule is not surprising in view of the delay caused by a severe Iowa winter. When completed, the building was three stories high on the east side and five stories on the west side, due to the fact that it sloped down the hill. It cost around \$175,000 unequipped, and an additional \$100,000 was spent on equipment.<sup>13</sup> The sub-basement contained laboratory rooms for research. On the ground floor were a freshman laboratory, lecture room, library and supply room. Offices and a junior laboratory were contained on the street floor, and the fourth floor was given over to the infirmary for dental practice, along with a reception room, examination room, and radiograph room. The top floor featured a mezzanine overlooking the infirmary and also held operating,



sterilization and demonstration rooms. The infirmary was equipped with 140 dental chairs.<sup>14</sup>

On February 22, 1918, the new Dental Building was dedicated, with President Jessup presiding on the occasion.<sup>15</sup> Hon. D. D. Murphy of Elkader, then President of the Board of Education, presented a set of keys, and Dr. Breene responded for the dental faculty. Invitations were issued to prominent men in the field of dentistry throughout the state. That evening a dinner was served in the Women's Gymnasium. On the following day the College of Dentistry held an Alumni Clinic for the visitors, dealing with various types of dental technique and problems.

The students in dental training are provided with ample material for their laboratory practice. Costs for clinic work have been kept at a minimum. The students of the University, as well as other Iowans, are fortunate to have available for them the services of the Dental Clinic.

### Children's Hospital

The first unit of the University's modern and expansive hospital plant which covers an area of eighty acres was the Children's Hospital, built in 1918 from a special appropriation by the Thirty-Seventh General Assembly. In response to the Perkins Law which had granted state care for indigent, diseased and crippled children of the State, the General Assembly granted \$150,000 for the construction of a Children's Hospital.<sup>16</sup>

On July 7, 1917, the Board recorded that:<sup>17</sup>

...the contract for the construction of the children's hospital not including heating, plumbing, light, etc. was awarded to Theodore Stark and Company of Cedar Rapids, Iowa at \$98,675.00 with the understanding that the contractor is to give a personal bond, the amount of the bond to be fifty per cent of the contract price; and the Committee reserved the option to include Alternate No. 14, slab doors, at an additional cost of \$475.00

The first unit of the hospital required an expenditure of \$158,927.29, itemized as follows in University accounts:<sup>18</sup>

Contract	\$87,926.52
Plans	3,309.54
Plumbing	11,637.76
Heating	21,006.65
Lighting	2,638.22
Electric	5,517.55

Painting	\$ 2,172.11
Tunnel	754.42
Sewer	708.38
Grading	52.76
Sidewalks	40.70
Hardware	2,203.81
Superintendence	42.07
Equipment	11,936.45
Miscellaneous	115.74
Completing Unit	8,864.61
	<u>\$158,927.29</u>

The Children's Hospital is located on West Newton Road on what is known as the Folsom Tract. The center section of the building has two floors, while most of the rest of the building has just one story. The exterior of the building is of red brick. Linoleum covered concrete floors and terrazzo corridors cover an area which constitutes 63,784 square feet of space.<sup>19</sup>

Another wing was added to the Children's Hospital in 1923, this one costing \$189,072.46.<sup>20</sup>

Facilities of the Children's Hospital have been improved at regular intervals. Some of these include a \$20,000 addition in 1932, the construction of an indoor therapy pool at a cost of \$117,539, and partial air-conditioning of the building.<sup>21</sup> Through the years, much equipment has been charged off the inventory. A deduction of over \$11,000 was made in 1938 when the heating plant connected to the hospital was torn down. Thus, its present value is placed at \$377,046.37.<sup>22</sup>

The Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Pediatrics is housed in this hospital, which is able to treat about 300 bed patients at a time. Facts and figures do not adequately tell the story of the Children's Hospital. More impressive are the case histories of patients and the comparative pictures which show deformity transformed into normality.<sup>23</sup> These will speak louder than words to show what the University and the State of Iowa have done to relieve suffering and bring happiness to thousands of children unable to pay the price of private medical care.

### Quadrangle

One of the dreams of the University founders was to be able eventually to provide residence and boarding halls for its students. They realized the advantages to be gained through social contacts with fellow students and pleasant living conditions to promote good study habits. When the University was in its infancy, the students had to find rooms in private homes. This wrought a burden upon them financially, as well as in other ways, and kept a good many prospective students from coming to the University. In the plans of the governing board, women were given preference for the first dormitory. It took a war and the cooperation of the Federal Government to provide a dormitory for the men. The Iowa Alumnus heralded the completion of the men's dormitory in 1919 with the following words:<sup>24</sup>

The realization of a men's dormitory has come about at Iowa in a most unexpected fashion. The old St. James Hotel of blessed memory - in later years was converted into a Students' Union. It was inadequate, and was finally swept away by fire. Since then we have been waiting, waiting! Two years ago no one would have believed that by the fall of 1919 there would be a dormitory on the West Side capable of housing several hundred men.

Even to us who have witnessed the construction, the transformation of the

barracks into a suitable home for the boys has been little short of sensational....

The unusual circumstances which brought about the construction of the men's dormitory may be explained. The War Department had requested the University to construct barracks which would house 900 or 1000 of the members of the Students' Army Training Corps who were stationed on the University campus.<sup>25</sup> Of this matter, President Jessup informed the State Board of Education at a meeting on September 7, 1918.<sup>26</sup> The suggestion was offered that it might be possible to construct barracks which could be used as a part of a permanent dormitory in later years, providing the Federal Government would sanction the plan.<sup>27</sup> The Building and Business Committee was instructed to study the need for barracks and the feasibility of building barracks which would form a permanent dormitory building. The Board voted to construct a permanent building of hollow tile, measuring 274 by 450 feet, with an open court of about 200 by 400 feet.<sup>28</sup> This was to be used as barracks during the war and at a later time, a steel arched roof would be constructed. The execution of these orders still depended upon the approval of the United States Government, and it was to be understood that the Government would compensate the University at the same rate of cost per man, the

same as if the barracks were wooden and temporary in nature. If the Government failed to agree to these arrangements, temporary barracks would be constructed in accordance with their request. President Jessup was authorized to confer with the War Department concerning the building project.<sup>29</sup>

The government was willing to cooperate with the University in carrying out this dormitory plan. On October 7, 1918, a sum of not more than \$135,000 was allowed from the general building funds of the University to construct barracks.<sup>30</sup>

It happened, however, that the Armistice was declared long before the building was ready for the soldiers, and the University was faced with the problem of reconvertng it into a dormitory sooner than was anticipated. The Building and Business Committee reported on June 5, 1919, that the estimated cost of completing the barracks and transforming them into a dormitory was about \$129,270.<sup>31</sup> This would allow accommodations for approximately 300 men. The Committee was authorized to carry out the necessary alterations on the barracks, based on the plans and estimates submitted by the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and not to exceed the amount that was specified.<sup>32</sup>

Itemized costs showed that a total of \$154,054.38 had been expended on constructing the first unit of the building.<sup>33</sup>

Contract	\$132,417.40
Plans	3,000.00
Plumbing	13,296.18
Heating	915.38
Lighting	1,264.29
Painting	184.16
Roof	2,485.12
Miscellaneous	481.86
	<u>\$154,054.38</u>

The Department of Buildings and Grounds handled the work of converting the building into a dormitory, which required an expenditure of \$111,202.55, as follows:<sup>34</sup>

Building	\$53,344.12
Plans	1,409.20
Plumbing	8,988.02
Heating	19,152.26
Lighting	5,075.48
Painting	6,335.47
Miscellaneous	1,865.09
Tunnel	1,557.76
Equipment	13,575.15
	<u>\$111,202.55</u>

The building was ready by the opening of school in 1919. It measured 485 by 282 feet and stood two stories high, except in the towers, which had three stories. The walls were of hollow tile, faced with red brick and trimmed with Bedford limestone. The building surrounded an open court measuring 282 by 226 feet.<sup>35</sup> It had been constructed on a piece of land known as the



Byington Addition, opposite Grand Avenue, in a desirable location overlooking the river and the central campus.

By November of 1919, the dormitory men decided that the title of "barracks" or "dorm" would not do for their residence and voted to name the building the "Quadrangle."<sup>36</sup> All evidence pointed to the fact that rooms in the "Quad" were always in demand by the students. It was said to be the largest building of its kind in any American university.<sup>37</sup> One of the Quadrangle bulletins, published yearly by the University, stated:<sup>38</sup>

Not the least attractive feature of the building is its delightful location and proximity to lecture halls and laboratories. A few minutes will bring one to Old Capitol, the center of University activities.... Residence in the Quadrangle is greatly prized. It affords an opportunity for study under extremely favorable conditions and promotes a solidarity which of itself is of incalculable importance. The University, of course, insists upon orderly and right conduct on the part of the men living in the dormitory. To this end a few rules have been formulated. In general, however, the burden of discipline is thrown upon the men themselves.

Inside the building, on the first floor, are a spacious lounge or recreation room and a grill. The lounge measures fifty by ninety feet, has oak-panelled walls, leather chairs and davenports and a piano.<sup>39</sup> Here the men spend many of their leisure hours. The grill serves snacks and light meals throughout the day. Good

recreational facilities are provided for the men at the Quadrangle, with tennis courts, golf course and swimming pool just a short distance away. In the main lobby of the building is a sub-station of the Iowa City Post Office. The barber shop, cafeteria and service rooms are located in the basement. Substantial and inexpensive meals are served in the Quadrangle cafeteria. This is open to all students and faculty members, as well as their guests, and is a popular dining place among visitors.

Double and single rooms and a few suites are available for the residents of the Quadrangle. Double rooms measure about seventeen by fourteen feet, with the single rooms being slightly smaller. Rooms are equipped with hot and cold running water and a telephone and are furnished with a table, lamp, chair, chiffonier, bookrack and a bed with pillow, mattress and blanket for each student.<sup>40</sup> Although room preferences are given consideration, all rooms open either onto the court or on the outside, making them seem equally desirable.

The Quadrangle men are self-governed through the Quadrangle Association, of which every resident is automatically a member. The Quadrangle Council, composed of proctors chosen by the faculty and councilmen elected by the dormitory men, is the governing body.<sup>41</sup> Regularly

scheduled activities - lectures, entertainments, parties, and dances - are included in the Quadrangle social program. In all intramural sports events, the Quadrangle is usually a participant.

Several alterations have been made in the Quadrangle since its construction, among them an addition in 1925 costing \$24,303.31 and partial air-conditioning of the building which was done in 1948 at a cost of \$3,261.00.<sup>42</sup> At present, the dormitory houses approximately 700 students and is inventoried by the University at \$515,613.07.<sup>43</sup>

Westlawn

When plans were formulated to move the College of Medicine to the west side of the river, a new dormitory was also in view for the nurses, releasing Eastlawn for general dormitory use. Westlawn could be said to have been constructed in five different parts at varying intervals, beginning in 1919 with the first unit.<sup>44</sup> The Thirty-Seventh General Assembly granted \$150,000 for the nurses' dormitory,<sup>45</sup> although the actual cost of construction of the first section exceeded the grant by almost \$10,000, as a glance at the accounts will show:<sup>46</sup>

Plans	\$ 3,530.97
Foundation	16,936.39
Carpenter and Mill Work	23,611.03
Brick, Tile and Stone	25,261.83
Plumbing	10,352.06
Heating	12,906.95
Electric Work	5,920.70
Water Line, Sewer and Tunnel	3,474.02
Steel and Lumber	15,887.01
Roof	2,726.93
Floors	9,575.06
Painting	5,584.93
Hardware	2,310.93
Glass and Plastering	13,451.54
Equipment	6,944.46
Miscellaneous	781.47
	\$159,256.28

Work on this section was carried out by the University Department of Buildings and Grounds. The dormitory was erected on the Folsom Sub-Division, high on a hill northeast of the Children's Hospital, overlooking Riverside Drive. Like the other west-side buildings, the frame was of red brick.<sup>47</sup>

An addition to the dormitory was found necessary in 1927, the cost exceeding that of the first section, and totalling \$240,954.13, computed accordingly:<sup>48</sup>

Tafagar Construction Company	\$177,716.51
Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers	6,676.26
Keller Electric Company	8,632.86
Van Dyck, Plumbing and Heating	35,706.00
Hand Power Elevator	1,556.86
Lyons Metallic Locker Company	485.00
Crane Company	1,386.00
Department of Buildings and Grounds	8,794.64
	<hr/>
	\$240,954.13

Nor was this second unit to suffice. Again in 1936, \$15,286.57 was expended on improvements, the work being done by the Department of Buildings and Grounds, and in 1945, another addition was built at a cost of \$168,720.07.<sup>49</sup> The most recent attention given to Westlawn was a small remodeling project in 1948 costing \$4,513.00.<sup>50</sup> To date, a total of \$588,730.05 has been expended on this dormitory which is connected by tunnel with the General Hospital and furnishes a

home for approximately 700 nurses.<sup>51</sup> Of the entire amount expended, only \$339,290.39 has come from the State.<sup>52</sup> Dormitory earnings have served partially to finance the building. The remainder of the funds has come from gifts and Federal aid.

### Psychopathic Hospital

The Psychopathic Hospital, located on Newton Road, west of the Children's hospital, was built in 1920 and comprised the third unit of the University medical plant, the Children's Hospital and Westlawn being the first and second units respectively. An appropriation of \$175,000 had been made by the Thirty-Eighth General Assembly to be used for the erection and equipment of the Psychopathic Hospital.<sup>53</sup> The Thirty-Ninth General Assembly followed with an appropriation of \$35,000 to complete the building, and \$62,000 for the purchase of equipment.<sup>54</sup>

With a floor area of 44,354 square feet, the hospital provides bed space for about sixty patients.<sup>55</sup> The center section is three stories high, not counting the basement, while the east and west wings are one story. A pattern similar to that of the Children's Hospital was followed, the outer walls being fashioned with brick and trimmed with limestone.<sup>56</sup> The surrounding grounds have been nicely landscaped.

The tunnel in the basement connects Psychopathic Hospital with the main hospital and with Westlawn dormitory. Also in the basement are found kitchens, service rooms, some testing laboratories, and quarters for non-professional

employees of the hospital. On the main floor are the administrative offices and reception room for visitors, physicians' and nurses' offices and headquarters of the Social Service Department. All this is located in the center section. The west wing contains the women's wards, while the male patients are taken care of in the east wing. These wings are divided into two or three different wards, with separate wards being provided for the convalescing patients and also facilities for secluding patients. Thus, the patients are segregated according to the nature of their illness. Quarters for graduate nurses and occupational therapists are located on the second floor. The third floor contains apartments for the resident physicians and also houses the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Improvements have been added every few years to the Psychopathic Hospital, which bring the total current value to \$280,130.<sup>56</sup> Almost \$250,000 of this amount came from State funds.<sup>58</sup> In 1933, the P.W.A. partially financed a project consisting of an addition for a therapeutic laboratory and for new slate roofs. The Theodore Stark Building Company had charge of the construction work.<sup>59</sup> Outside of State and Federal funds, the balance of the expenditures on the Psychopathic Hospital has come from hospital earnings.



Armory

With the construction of the Armory in 1920, men's athletics and military training at the University of Iowa shifted to the west side of the river. The Thirty-Seventh General Assembly made this possible by appropriating \$125,000 to be used in the construction of an armory.<sup>60</sup> Work progressed with little delay, the steel work scheduled to be finished by March of 1929, according to the contract, and the whole building ready to be put into service by the following September.<sup>61</sup>

Costs per item on the main unit of construction showed an expenditure of \$175,639.76:<sup>62</sup>

Plans	\$ 552.63
Miscellaneous	607.31
Hardware and Glass	4,904.80
Carpenter Work, Roofing and Mill Work	29,855.86
Light and Electric	2,055.82
Grading, Concrete and Foundation	1,971.54
Painting	865.23
Steel, Lumber and Building Material	16,891.87
Heating	6,862.06
Sand, Stone, Brick and Tile	19,167.67
Equipment	144.62
Plumbing	1,797.64
Tunnel	488.10
Floors	396.93
Sewer	597.51
Construction	82,311.18
Improvement	6,168.99
	\$175,639.76

The building measured 158 by 210 feet, with one huge room for drilling purposes.<sup>63</sup> The front part had two stories to make a distinctive entrance. Offices and classrooms were contained in this section.<sup>64</sup> The Armory was built at the West end of Grand Avenue. It had a steel frame in the center part and a wood frame on the sides, with the superstructure being of brick.<sup>65</sup> Much work on the building including fireproofing, fire protection, and renewal of the side roofs has been done since the time of its construction.<sup>66</sup> To the present time, a total expenditure of \$184,165.46 has been made on this building which later became a part of the Field House.<sup>67</sup>

### Chemistry Building

Reaching the length of the entire block from Bloomington to Market Streets on Capitol Street, just two blocks north of Old Capitol, is the Chemistry Building, constructed in 1922. Steadily increasing enrollments in the Departments of Chemistry and Botany and the College of Pharmacy necessitated making provisions for more space and better equipment to satisfy their demands.

Built on a hillside, the Chemistry Building has five floors, the main entrance on the third floor being on Capitol Street.<sup>68</sup> Another entrance on the south side is half way down the hill. The departmental offices on the third or main floor are easily accessible to faculty and students whose working headquarters are on the two lower or the two upper floors. Brick and limestone constitute the outward framework of the building.<sup>69</sup> A series of additions and improvements, almost yearly since its construction, plus several deductions from the inventory, have altered its value considerably through the years.<sup>70</sup> The final inventory value arrived at is \$658,825.23 at the present.<sup>71</sup>

The Chemistry Building was completed in the spring of 1924, and shortly afterwards the University

News Bulletin commented:<sup>72</sup>

At length at last the old-time spatial problems, not only of pharmacy and botany but also of geology seen in a fair way toward solution - at least for some time. Botany and pharmacy now have a brand new building of their own, while geology is free to splash about a little and expand in Old Science Hall....

The Department of Botany occupied the third and fourth floor and shared part of the second floor. The College of Pharmacy was given the ground floor and the majority of the second floor. On the second floor also were some general offices of the two departments, research laboratories, a plant mycology laboratory and at the north end of the floor was the general botany laboratory with individual equipment and space for fifty-two students.<sup>73</sup>

This account left Chemistry out of the picture, but some time later another article was devoted to the Chemistry Department, describing its building and equipment in further detail. This account stated:<sup>74</sup>

Although it is thoroughly attractive architecturally, the Chemistry Building was designed and constructed with a view to providing large space and the highest type of convenience for scientific work. Money which might otherwise have been spent for decorative effects was used for more extensive development of classroom

and laboratory facilities. Measured from the standpoint of efficiency it is in every way a model plant.

An E-shaped floor plan was used in the construction of the Chemistry Building. One of its main features is a large lecture room with a seating capacity of 450. This is located directly off the main entrance. The unique facilities of this lecture room have been described as follows:<sup>75</sup>

Its banks of chairs extend upward the full distance from the lecture table on the second floor to the students' entrance on the third floor. This room has all of the latest equipment for the teaching of chemistry. Glass tanks and experimental devices are built into the lecture table and are elevated by pneumatic pressure for display to the class. The stereoptican machines are far away, at the rear of the room, yet the lecturer can operate the lanterns and change the slides without leaving his position near the lecture table and the screen. He merely presses buttons on the electric control board, and the various processes are then automatic. This means economy as well as convenience, for there is no need of an operator in the lantern booth. Another part of the lecture table unit provides a suction fan which prevents the escape of noxious gas and fumes into the atmosphere of the lecture room.

Other laboratories in the building are similarly ventilated.

The main lecture room in the Chemistry Building is the scene of frequent lectures sponsored by various

University organizations. In addition, many classes in other departments having large enrollments, such as Commerce, Psychology, and History have met in this lecture room.

### University Hall

In outward appearance, University Hall is almost identical with the Physics Building. It was the last building to be constructed in the campus Pentacrest, formed by Old Capitol, Macbride and Schaeffer Halls, the Physics Building, and now University Hall. Like the other Pentacrest buildings, University Hall was fashioned of Bedford limestone.<sup>76</sup> The Building and Maintenance Fund furnished money for the erection of this building which was begun in 1922 and completed in 1924.<sup>77</sup> The original cost came to over \$460,000 which, it will be noticed in comparison, was considerably more than the cost of the neighboring Physics Building.<sup>78</sup>

Computed according to yearly expenditures, the total cost of University Hall up to the present date has come to \$482,106.20 as shown below:<sup>79</sup>

1923	\$ 5,557.00
1924	285,349.14
1925	172,211.16
1926	805.87
1930	3,374.34
1932	3,855.34
1941	4,550.00
1946	6,403.35
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	\$482,106.20

It will be seen that University Hall received attention at regular one or two year intervals, with the exception of a nine year period during the late depression years and another five year interval during World War II.

"U" Hall, as it is popularly called, furnishes a good central location for the many classes that meet there. The College of Commerce, the Department of Sociology, and the Department of English make their headquarters in University Hall. Two entrances are on the east side. There is also a west approach and entrance to University Hall, entering half way between the basement and the first floor. In the basement are found various classrooms and the University Purchasing Department. The Registrar's Office is located in the south end of the first floor, while the Business Office is in the north section. On the north end of the second floor are the large quarters given to the Office of Student Affairs. This section has recently been redecorated and furnished with all modern appointments. The Department of English is housed in the south end of the second floor, and the offices of the College of Commerce are in the middle section of that floor. The Department of Sociology occupies the north section of the third floor. The



remainder of that floor and the floor above are largely used by the College of Commerce. The classrooms are sufficiently large to accommodate about fifty students to a room. University Hall is well ventilated and lighted and is considered one of the best classroom buildings on the campus.

### Close Hall

Close Hall was erected in 1891 by friends of the Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Association who organized to provide quarters for these groups. The trustees of the organization purchased a piece of real estate located on the corner of Dubuque Street and Iowa Avenue from Daniel and Elizabeth Lowenstein for the sum of \$4,000.<sup>80</sup> Among the trustees were Peter A. Dey, Josiah L. Pickard, Lyman Parsons, Amos N. Currier, Levi Robinson, Charles A. Schaeffer, and Thomas H. Macbride.<sup>81</sup> One will recognize many of these men as playing a prominent role in the history of the University.

A campaign was held to raise funds for the building, and students, faculty, alumni and local residents were solicited for contributions to the cause. The generous contribution of \$10,000 from Mrs. Helen Close won praise from the Vidette-Reporter, which stated:<sup>82</sup>

June 16, 1890, the newly elected Board of Trustees were very much pleased...to find that Mrs. Helen Close, in memory of her husband and because of her appreciation of the Association cause, was ready to make a \$10,000 subscription to the fund, making a total subscription to the fund of over \$30,000. By her generous donation, Mrs. Close has won the gratitude of every student in the University and we predict that the

very first action of the Christian Associations next September will be to vote unanimously that the beautiful \$30,000 home to be erected, shall be called 'Close Memorial Hall.'

Their predictions were correct, for in less than six months, the newspaper could report that "in appreciation of this liberal gift, we are informed that the associations have already passed a resolution, naming the building 'Close Hall'.<sup>83</sup>

Funds were thought sufficient to begin construction, and within a year's time, the results of the subscription campaign were summarized as follows:<sup>84</sup>

Citizens' subscriptions	\$10,200
Mrs. Helen Close	10,000
University Faculties	3,200
Alumni pledges	2,400
Ladies of the University	500
Students, in sums of \$5 to \$100	5,025
E. Clark, conditional subscription	1,000
Mrs. Carson, conditional subscription	200
Shrinkage, E. Clark	1,000
Shrinkage, Mrs. Carson	100
Shrinkage, students	1,000
Amount available	\$30,425
Amount required to finish building and sundry items	5,000

The original cost of the entire building had been estimated at \$30,000, but actual costs exceeded this amount, and an additional drive for contributions was necessary, this time showing a gain of \$8,000.<sup>85</sup>

The architectural design was the work of Charles D. Jameson, and Marcus M. Hall of Cedar Rapids was the contractor.<sup>86</sup> The building was ready to be dedicated on November 23, 1891. It consisted of two stories above a basement, the outer structure made of brick and stone with a wood frame. Shortly after its dedication, the University rented space in Close Hall to be used for the literary societies. An annual rental of \$500 was to be paid for this service.<sup>87</sup> In June, 1901, the rental was increased to \$600, and a further increase in June, 1904, brought the rent to \$800, with the understanding that the University would provide heat and electricity, since the building was already connected with the University heating system.<sup>88</sup> Included in this new contract was the use of the basement, to serve as a women's gymnasium. This arrangement lasted until 1915 when the new Women's Gymnasium was ready.

The School of Journalism fell heir to the building in 1924 when the University purchased it from the trustees of Close Hall for \$32,500.<sup>89</sup> The building had been appraised at that amount by the Iowa City Association of Realtors. The basement was leased to the Daily Iowan for an annual rental of \$1500, to be paid on a monthly basis, and the University would continue

to furnish heat and light. In 1931, the Daily Iowan rent was reduced from \$125 a month to \$75 a month. Back rent payments which were overdue already amounted to over \$8,000. A new lease was drawn up, providing that Student Publications would pay \$50 a month in back rent and later increasing the payment to \$75 and then \$100 monthly until the full amount of rent in arrears was paid up. Back rent payments were suspended in September, 1933, and a monthly rental of \$50.00 was established.<sup>90</sup>

On New Year's Day in 1940, the sound of fire sirens called many people to witness a good portion of Close Hall in flames. This fire left the building without a roof and upper story, thus reducing its value to a mere \$16,034.40,<sup>91</sup> the actual amount of cash expended on the building since its original purchase. This, however, was not the retirement of Close Hall. Although regarded by some as a peculiar architectural monstrosity and eyesore which should be removed forever from the campus, the building is still used to house the University Printing Service. The name of Close Hall has practically died out in current usage, and although its title has never been officially changed, most people know this as the Old Journalism Building.

### Observational School

Completed in the fall of 1925 was the Observational School, which is made up of the University Elementary School and the University High School.<sup>92</sup> The Observational School was organized as a part of the College of Education for purposes of experimentation, observation, and teacher training.<sup>93</sup> The Old Dental Building housed the school until 1924 when provisions were made for the new brick building to be located at the corner of Capitol and Davenport Streets. Built on a hillside overlooking the river, the school contains six floor levels, the third floor being the main one.<sup>94</sup> The two upper floors are devoted to the Elementary School, and the remainder to the High School.

The main floor of the building, which is shared by the High School and the Elementary School, is approached from Capitol Street. This floor contains the Director's office, faculty offices, and classrooms. The floor above this is given over to Elementary School classrooms. The High School entrance is at the foot of a set of stone steps leading downhill from Capitol Street. On this floor are located the principal's office and high school classrooms. The floor below contains, in addition

to classrooms, a library and a gymnasium, used also as an auditorium. Below this floor are the cafeteria and rooms for the Home Economics Department. Separate entrances segregate the high school from the elementary school. The Observational School covers a wide area with ample playground space and all types of play equipment. A bicycle room is provided near the elementary school entrance.

To finish the main unit of the building required a three-year period and cost \$247,063.07.<sup>95</sup> A later addition which eliminated the former play porch and provided private offices for faculty department heads, was handled as a P.W.A. project and cost \$16,802.46.<sup>96</sup> The portion of the cost paid by the P.W.A. came to \$5,042.52. Total expenditures which have been made on the Observational School to the present date are computed at \$263,865.53,<sup>97</sup> or roughly about \$10,000 for each year of its operation. This, of course, is the cost of the building alone and some of the original equipment, but does not include replacements in equipment or any operating expenses. In view of its service to the College of Education, the Observational School building, offering modern educational facilities, appears to have been a worth-while investment for the University.

### Field House

It has been claimed that the University of Iowa's giant Field House on the west side of the river is the largest building of its kind in the world. In any case, it is said to be the largest in the United States, and athletic officials at the University declared themselves unaware that a "building of its proportions, devoted to the same uses, has been constructed in any foreign country."<sup>98</sup> This building receives tremendous crowds of sports supporters each winter during the basketball season.

First authorized in October of 1925, construction was begun immediately, and in less than a year, the University News Bulletin was able to announce:<sup>99</sup>

Architects' plans are fast being translated into reality by a host of workmen as the new University of Iowa Armory and Field House, the largest of its kind in the world, rises on the west side of the river. The immense expanse of steel of the skeleton has been erected, and the brick work is going forward rapidly. Contractors promise occupancy by December 1, and the dedicatory exercises are planned for January....

A three-day athletic event marked the dedication ceremonies of the Field House, held on January 13, 14 and 15 in 1927.<sup>100</sup> Exhibitions demonstrating almost every type of physical education activity



were given on Thursday. On Friday evening, former athletic letter men at the University were honored at a banquet preceding the Field House dedication program, which took place at 7:30 that evening. Speakers included President Jessup, George T. Baker, President of the Iowa State Board of Education, Paul E. Belting, Director of Physical Education at the University, and Mayor John L. Griffith.<sup>101</sup> Following the program, spectators witnessed a basketball game with Iowa playing against Michigan. Wrestling events with Wisconsin were held on Saturday, and in the evening occurred the dedication of the swimming pool, with Governor John Hammill officiating. A swimming meet featuring Iowa versus Illinois followed.

Visitors at the dedication ceremonies were issued a 48-page program, reviewing the history of athletics at the University and picturing many outstanding athletes and teams of years gone by.<sup>102</sup> The story of the construction of the Field House, remarkable because of its immensity and the vast amount of materials needed to build it, was unfolded to the visitors, stating:<sup>103</sup>

A gigantic reality in just one year, a marvel of construction in twelve months - such is the terse story of the field house. Structural steel was purchased in December,

1925, and while this was being made up and shipped, great gangs of men were excavating the ground, frozen by the rigors of an Iowa February. Enduring footings were set during this short month and in March, when the winter began to recede, some of the sixteen hundred fifty tons of structural steel was being erected and a portion of the millions of brick was being unloaded, ready for the masons.

In April, the general contract was let to A. H. Neuman construction company of Des Moines and labor redoubled in vigor. All through the spring, summer, and fall, the workmen set a rapid pace, and so, while Iowans marvelled and were proud of the building's vastness and significance, it rose steadily.

Financial arrangements which permitted the construction of the Field House presented a different plan from that of other campus buildings. Authorization to erect the structure, which was to incorporate the Armory, was secured by the Athletic Council from the State Board of Education on October 16, 1925.<sup>104</sup> The Council then issued and sold \$300,000 worth of five per cent serial gold bonds. The sale of bonds and the net proceeds from athletic contests were completely to finance the building without any aid from state appropriations.

Materials used in the construction of the Field House were of almost inconceivable quantity. It took 500,000 face brick and 2,000,000 common brick

to cover the outer structure, plus thirty-six carloads of lumber and thousands of barrels of cement and lime.<sup>105</sup> The entire building measured 464 feet long, north and X south, by 430 feet wide, east and west, and stood sixty feet high. It covered an area of three acres. The building constituted five and one-half million cubic feet of space, whereas all of the University buildings which stood east of the river at that time contained but fourteen million cubic feet.<sup>106</sup>

The Field House is divided into four sections: a gymnasium on the north, swimming pool on the south, basketball court in the middle, and a lobby and offices across the front. The swimming pool, with dimensions of 150 by 60 feet and credited with being the largest indoor pool in the United States, has 9,000 square feet of water surface and holds 500,000 gallons of water.<sup>107</sup> Two hundred fifty swimmers can use the pool at a time. Balcony seats are provided for about 3500 spectators. The Field House proper, containing the basketball court and seating accommodations for about 16,000 basketball fans, also features a cinder track with six laps to the mile and a 100-yard straight-away on either side.<sup>108</sup> This is reputed to be the largest indoor circuit court in the country. The front lobby exhibits trophies and

awards won by University of Iowa athletes in sports contests in the past.

The Field House, though devoted primarily to athletics, has been of service to the University in other respects. Frequent semester registrations have been carried on there. A major annual event also on the Field House calendar is the June Convocation, which has been held there for a number of years.

### Memorial Union

The first type of student union at Iowa was located in the St. James Hotel which developed into a residence club for men.<sup>109</sup> When that building burned, however, the students were left without a clubroom or social center for their activities.

The history of student unions dates back to 1815, originating in England.<sup>110</sup> The idea gained favor among universities in this country toward the latter part of the 19th Century, and the University of Pennsylvania opened the first student union in the United States in 1896.<sup>111</sup> The University of Michigan was the first in the Big Ten conference to boast of a student union building, which served as a model in many respects for the one at Iowa.

President Jessup was one of the chief promoters of the Memorial Union at Iowa. He outlined his concept of the Union for the Iowa Alumnus,<sup>112</sup> visualizing it as a "hearthstone" where students and visiting parents could meet and talk; a meeting place for student activities and social functions of the University. Whereas Old Capitol was the core of the official and administrative life of the University, the Union would serve as the

social and cultural center.

The Iowa alumni were enthusiastic in backing this project. Mr. Charles M. Dutcher appeared before the Board of Education and presented the alumni plan for erecting the building.<sup>113</sup> The response was in the form of a unanimous resolution<sup>114</sup>

That the State Board of Education approve the plan of the Alumni Association of the State University for the erection of a memorial building on the campus and assures the Alumni Association of the hearty and cordial cooperation of this Board in carrying out the project.

The Iowa Memorial Union, Inc. was incorporated under state law on November 22, 1919, with its stated purpose:<sup>115</sup>

To provide means of erection and to erect and maintain upon a suitable site in Iowa City, Iowa, an educational building of monumental character in commemoration of the loyalty and patriotism of the sons and daughters of the State University of Iowa who served their country in the Civil war, the Spanish-American war, or the World war, to the end that their names and memories may be perpetuated in an educational way and that Americanism may be inculcated, patriotism exalted and an educational center provided where graduates, students and friends of the University may meet together incidentally in fellowship and service and for the development and education of such persons in American principles....

Frederick W. Crone was hired to manage the campaign for funds to erect the Union building.<sup>116</sup>

Memorial Union headquarters in Old Capitol sent out materials to alumni, and the newspapers throughout the state aided in giving publicity. Homecoming Day in 1919 marked the campaign "kick-off" which was to continue for a seven-day period until November 29.<sup>117</sup> Iowa was divided into eleven districts, and regional chairmen were appointed. Alumni solicitors were also represented in Chicago, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Detroit, Boston, Washington, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Kansas City, Tacoma, Phoenix, Little Rock, Oklahoma City, in Salem, Oregon, and in southern California and South Dakota.<sup>118</sup>

Much debate centered around the topic of the location for the building. With the refinishing of the west entrance to Old Capitol, and westward expansion in view for the University, it appeared that a central location for the Memorial Union would be along the riverfront. Over a period of years, the building would be constructed in several units.

A sketch of the proposed building prepared by Architects Boyd and Moore<sup>119</sup> made it appear more like the Lincoln Memorial, with its flat roof and many stately columns across the front. The drawing had little resemblance to the finished building except for the steps leading up to it.

Construction of the Memorial Union building, only two units of which have been completed, consumed several years' time. It is valued at over \$500,000.<sup>120</sup> Unit I of the building, dedicated in February, 1926, and accepted by the Board of Education in June of that year, cost \$264,219.63, derived from the following sources:<sup>121</sup>

Gifts	\$214,865.23
Earnings	10,904.65
State Funds	24,598.44
Federal Funds	13,851.31
	<hr/>
	\$264,219.63

Boyd and Moore of Des Moines designed this unit and the contract for construction was in the hands of Theodore Stark of Cedar Rapids.<sup>122</sup> The contract for Unit II was let in April, 1926. Although completed in March of 1927, this portion of the building was not officially accepted by the Board until April 24, 1943.<sup>123</sup> Together, the first two units required an expenditure of about \$465,000.<sup>124</sup> The Triangle Club (men's faculty club), and the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations contributed \$82,000 of this sum, and in return were to receive quarters for their organizations.<sup>125</sup> Such a large building as the Memorial Union, with all the various activities carried on within its walls, could not be expected to survive on the original expenditure. On



prominent display at all times, the building had to be kept in the most modern of equipment and furnishing, and undergo frequent interior decorations. Air-conditioning of the building in 1940 cost \$18,768.16.<sup>126</sup> Insurance worth \$360,000 is carried on the building.<sup>127</sup> Total expenditures on the Memorial Union have reached \$509,100.47, with the necessary funds obtained as follows:<sup>128</sup>

Gifts	\$458,292.97
Earnings	10,904.65
State Funds	26,051.54
Federal Funds	<u>13,851.31</u>
	\$509,100.47

It had been reported earlier that funds from the subscription campaign had reached \$600,000 by 1924,<sup>129</sup> considerably more than reported in the above listing. It is possible that the difference was represented by unpaid pledges, publicity, hiring of personnel, and in other ways defraying campaign costs.

Directly off the lobby of the Memorial Union is the spacious main lounge where University concerts, lectures, and parties are held. The sunporch and soda fountain are reached through the main lounge. Along the sides of the lounge are offices, a library, and a music room. The women's lounge and offices for the

Y.W.C.A. are located to the south of the front lobby. Downstairs is the Union cafeteria, a dining place popular with students and faculty; the River Room for recreational use, and the Mark Twain Room. Rooms for the Triangle and University Clubs, faculty men's and women's organizations, are located on the top floor. A small balcony on this floor overlooks the main lounge. Another feature of the building is the roof deck which

extends around the south, north and west sides of Unit One, and affords a magnificent view of the river and campus....One of the dominating architectural features of the Union is its pitched copper covered roofs which will last indefinitely and become increasingly picturesque with age.<sup>130</sup>

The Iowa Memorial Union was popular from the start. A total attendance of 86,370 at functions held there was recorded in its first year of operation, and the Dining Service reported serving 44,720 meals.<sup>131</sup> The University of Iowa was selected for the convention of the Association of College and University Unions in December, 1927.<sup>132</sup>

Two other units were planned but never constructed. Unit III was to serve as headquarters for student activities, and Unit IV was to house a theatre and auditorium.<sup>133</sup>

The Memorial Union means much to the students of Iowa. The cultural opportunities provided through art exhibits, the music room, the library, and the high quality of public entertainments has already justified its existence. Thousands of future Iowa students will continue to receive the benefits of the Iowa Memorial Union.

### Medical Laboratory

The \$2,225,000 grant of the Rockefeller Foundation, together with state appropriations, enabled construction of the Medical Laboratory, a part of the west side medical plant. This building, constructed in 1926 and occupied in 1927, is located on Newton Road across from the Children's Hospital and the Psychopathic Hospital.<sup>134</sup> Gift funds amounting to \$344,077.77 and state funds of \$353,641.05 were expended on the Medical Laboratory.<sup>135</sup> It is valued at \$691,720.14.<sup>136</sup> Located in the building are laboratories for the State Board of Health, the medical library, and pre-clinical departments of the College of Medicine, such as bacteriology, physiology and pathology.<sup>137</sup>

The Fortieth General Assembly appropriated \$450,000 annually for a period of five years, making a total of \$2,225,000 to match the Rockefeller grant.<sup>138</sup> This was to pay the costs of construction and equipment of the Medical Laboratory and General Hospital. The Tafagar Construction Company was given the contract for the Medical Laboratory at \$495,796.34.<sup>139</sup> Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers were the architects.

Construction was begun early in 1926, and toward the end of the year the University News Bulletin carried this news item:<sup>140</sup>

The new Medical Laboratories Building is fast approaching completion. Brick work is done, and carpenters have nearly finished the woodwork. The building is about 325 by 225 feet in dimensions and four and five stories in height. It consists of a main structure with four corner wings and an interior court. The main skeleton is of concrete, with a facing of red brick trimmed with Bedford limestone. On the inside, the building is constructed mainly of concrete brick made on the grounds. It will afford accommodations for the non-clinical laboratories and the State Board of Health. Equipment is being installed, and, according to present expectations, the building will be ready for occupancy by the Christmas holidays.

When its companion building, the University Hospital, was completed, a three-day dedication event was held, with prominent medical men from all over the country attending.<sup>141</sup> With this ceremony, the University celebrated one of the greatest physical events in its history, the completion of the eighty acre medical campus which had been in the process of formation since 1917 when the first unit, the Children's Hospital, was begun.

### Power Plant

Located on Burlington Street near the Iowa River dam, the University Heating and Power Plant was built in 1926. The Forty-First General Assembly made an appropriation of \$215,000 to be used for the construction of the power plant.<sup>142</sup> Because this was estimated to be a \$700,000 plant, state funds available were not sufficient to complete the project. Consequently, some of the Rockefeller funds had to be used.<sup>143</sup> This was deemed proper in connection with their grant, inasmuch as the west side buildings, including the hospitals, were to be supplied with power from this new plant and would be connected with it by means of a tunnel. Actually, construction costs did not consume the entire estimated price.

Archie A. Alexander, a graduate of the University and a former football star, accepted the contract.<sup>144</sup> Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson designed the plant which furnishes light and power to the whole University.<sup>145</sup> A tunnel was constructed at the foot of the dam leading uphill towards the Quadrangle, Field House and medical buildings. Another tunnel connected the former heating system located below

the Engineering Building, thereby supplying power to the east campus buildings.<sup>146</sup> A concrete chimney forms a part of the heating plant. The entire structure rises 210 feet above water level and 265 feet above its rock foundation.<sup>147</sup> The University values its power plant today at \$501,611.70.<sup>148</sup> The first unit required an expenditure of \$39,391.45. Then, in 1947, an addition was built costing \$439,192.31, and major repairs and replacements again in 1948 represented an expenditure of \$501,611.70.<sup>149</sup> Of the total amount expended on the power plant since its erection, only \$53,698.60 of gift funds was used. The remaining portion amounting to \$447,913.10 was provided by the State.<sup>150</sup>

### General Hospital

The 750 bed General Hospital, which has contributed so much to the prestige of the University and the College of Medicine, was built in 1926, partly from funds derived from a grant of the Rockefeller Foundation and partly from state appropriations. The hospital, along with the Medical Laboratory, is situated on a twenty acre plot of land lying directly across from the Children's and Psychopathic Hospitals on Newton Road.<sup>151</sup>

The entire hospital building measures about 300 by 500 feet. It has sixteen large wards, each accommodating twenty patients, also smaller wards and double and single rooms.<sup>152</sup> Bed space is divided among the different departments, a small number being allotted to private patients and the remainder reserved for state cases. Administrative offices and reception rooms are located on the first floor in the center section. The east section of the first and second floors is given over to the Out-Patient Department. First floor west houses the isolation wing, and private rooms are located on the west side of the second and third floors. Hospital wards occupy the second, third,



fourth, and fifth floors in the center section, with operating rooms above on the sixth and seventh floors.<sup>153</sup>

λ The realization of this fine medical plant was not accomplished without much planning and effort on the part of the College of Medicine and the University. The College of Medicine issued a pamphlet summarizing the conditions which existed in the medical school in 1909, the recommendations made for improvement, and the resulting action.<sup>154</sup> Dr. Abraham Flexner had made a survey of medical schools throughout the country shortly before that time and had found Iowa's to be lacking in every respect. Upon investigation, the Board of Education found that most of his criticisms were well justified. The College of Medicine protested that it had "reached a point at which future progress is impossible without material assistance. This condition is the more serious in view of the opportunities which are already discernible."<sup>155</sup>

In a bulletin entitled simply Facts was published the appeal of the Iowa State Board of Education in which it asked the Fortieth General Assembly

to consider the emergency condition which exists in the medical and hospital service of the State by formulating a policy of completing within a period of five years the plant already started at the University.

This involves appropriation of \$450,000 annually through four succeeding fiscal years. In case such a policy is determined upon, the outside gift of \$2,225,000 becomes immediately available, to be expended by the Iowa State Board of Education as fast as construction proceeds.<sup>156</sup>

Already the University was treating over 5,000 state cases a year. The College of Medicine enrollment numbered over 300.<sup>157</sup> The construction of the new hospital and medical laboratory would also mean that buildings on the east side of the river which had been used for housing the medical college could be released for other University uses. The Iowa State Board of Education had already contacted the Rockefeller Foundation and the General Education Board and secured their approval, and promise of the \$2,225,000 donation, providing the State of Iowa would appropriate an equal sum.

The University could rejoice that its \$4,500,000 medical plant was approaching reality when the Fortieth General Assembly consented to grant \$2,225,000, divided into annual sums of \$450,000 for five years, all of this amount to be used in completing the medical campus.<sup>158</sup>

The University celebrated the completion of the medical plant by inviting a number of prominent medical personnel throughout the state and nation to

participate in a three day medical conclave, at which time the General Hospital and Medical Laboratory were officially dedicated.<sup>159</sup> The first day's events included an inspection tour of the two new buildings, and medical lectures in the afternoon. At a dinner that evening Dr. William J. Mayo of Rochester, Minnesota, addressed the group on "Looking Backward and Forward in Medical Education." Friday morning the physicians met in small groups to hear lectures relating to their own medical specialties. The dedication ceremony took place at 1:30 that afternoon at the Iowa Memorial Union, followed by an informal reception and tea at Westlawn. Guests were honored that evening at a dinner dance held at the Memorial Union. Saturday morning was devoted to medical lectures, and guests attended the Iowa-Wisconsin football game in the afternoon, concluding the activities of the three day meeting. Among outstanding physicians who participated in the medical program were Dr. Campbell Palmer Howard of McGill University, Dr. Charles J. Rowan of Pasadena, and Dr. William J. Mayo.<sup>160</sup>

The College of Medicine had indeed come a long way since its beginning when patients were first treated in the student lecture room. The first hospital was set up in the Old Mechanics' Academy and later

transferred to a private residence on Bloomington and Van Buren Streets, until the Old University Hospital, now East Hall, was constructed in 1897.<sup>161</sup> Just thirty years later, the new University Hospital was to arise on the west campus, a building valued by the University at \$2,083,836.38.<sup>162</sup> Its tower, a masterpiece of architectural beauty and grace, rises 143 feet above the street, overlooking the entire campus of the University and serving as a landmark for many miles around.

## Stadium

The year 1929 saw construction of the Iowa Stadium which is capable of seating 52,000 sports enthusiasts.<sup>263</sup> With additional bleachers, capacity crowds of over 55,000 have witnessed Iowa victories and defeats on the football field. The Stadium stands west of the Field House and is approached by Melrose Avenue. It measures 400 feet north and south, with a width at the top from one side to the other of 600 feet. It rises to an elevation of 50 feet, while the football field is built 30 feet below ground level.<sup>164</sup>

In April, 1929, the University News Bulletin asserted:<sup>165</sup>

Construction of the new football stadium, to be ready for use September 27, with a seating capacity of 50,000, has been begun by the Tapager Construction Company, Albert Lea, Minnesota, whose bid of \$380,000 was approved by the state board of education.

The Board of Athletics had issued \$500,000 worth of bonds to provide funds for the erection of the Stadium, the cost to be repaid from profits of athletic contests.

By September, construction was proceeding somewhat behind schedule. Another two months would be

required to complete the Stadium, but the University News Bulletin could offer some encouragement by saying:<sup>166</sup>

...the sodding already presents a seasoned appearance and the elaborate drainage system has stood every test of adverse weather conditions. This will be good news to the thousands of alumni who have seen football teams almost hopelessly mired in the mud on the old field.

One of the practical features of the Stadium as planned was that provision had been made so that the field could be entirely covered during rain and snow storms.

The Homecoming game with the University of Illinois in 1929 initiated the Stadium into activity, making that the largest Homecoming in history up to that time. Honored guests were issued the following invitation:<sup>167</sup>

The State University of Iowa through the Board in control of Athletics has the honor of inviting you to be the guest of the University at the dedication of its new stadium October nineteenth nineteen hundred twenty nine on the occasion of the football game with the University of Illinois.

The majority of the Stadium structure is concrete, although the outside walls are made of brick, harmonizing with other buildings on the west campus. Athletes' quarters are under the east stand, Iowa's at

the south and the visitors' at the north end. These are entered through private doors from the outside and have runways extending to the playing field. Eighty rows of seats for spectators deck the sides of the Stadium. There are eleven gateways on each side. At the top of each side is a press box seating 300.<sup>168</sup>

The Stadium today is valued at \$523,249.42.<sup>169</sup> Only \$11,854.94 of this sum has come from state aid. PWA funds accounted for \$4,209.30, and the bulk of the cost, \$507,185.18, was paid from athletic earnings.<sup>170</sup>

The Stadium has helped to bring Iowa to its position in the Big Ten. Great names in football have played on the Iowa Stadium field. Football game ceremonies - the intricate band drills, the cheerleaders, mascot, and the Scottish Highlanders - have become almost as much an institution as the sport. Just ten years after the Stadium was constructed, Iowa had reached the top in football glory. Nile Kinnick was named player of the year in 1939, and Dr. Eddie Anderson was named coach of the year.

Mechanical Engineering Laboratory

Below the Hall of Engineering on the corner of Madison and Washington Streets is the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, constructed in 1932. Early in 1931, the University considered the matter of remodeling the old power plant in that location into a laboratory for mechanical engineering.<sup>171</sup> Instead of carrying through with this plan, it was thought more advisable to construct a completely new building. Professor Huber O. Croft of the College of Engineering designed the new structure,<sup>172</sup> a three story building with an exterior of Bedford stone and covering an area of 150 by 72 feet.<sup>173</sup>

Theodore Stark and Company undertook construction of the laboratory.<sup>174</sup> Total expenses on the building have been accounted for as follows:<sup>175</sup>

Contract	\$44,398.96
Structural Steel	7,712.52
Fill in Basement	1,200.00
Basement Floor	3,600.00
Plumbing and Electricity	7,460.00
Grading and Lighting	1,000.00
Partitions	2,000.00
Hand Railing	250.00
Miscellaneous Jobs	14,863.10
	\$82,484.58



The Mechanical Engineering Laboratory is completely modern in every respect. The north half of the basement and first floor composes the power laboratory in which instruction pertaining to steam and gas engines is given. The manufactures laboratory is located in the south portion of the basement and first floor. The third floor is devoted to work in power transmission, woods, and the pneumatics laboratory.<sup>176</sup>

In addition to the current valuation of the building, listed as \$82,484.58,<sup>177</sup> equipment in the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory is considered worth about \$70,000.<sup>178</sup>

### Fine Arts Building and Studio

One of the most modern and distinctive buildings on the University campus is the Fine Arts Building and Studio, construction of which was made possible by a grant of \$100,000 from the Carnegie Corporation. The PWA helped to the extent of \$92,000.<sup>179</sup> The main building was designed by University Architect George L. Horner and is constructed in the form of an "H".<sup>180</sup> The interior of the building received particular consideration to adapt it to the special needs of the Art Department. It contains a lobby, foyer, and comfortable lounge, all used for exhibition purposes. In addition, there are lecture rooms and twenty-one small art studios.<sup>181</sup> The walls are made of plywood covered with burlap, providing an especially suitable background for exhibiting art work.<sup>182</sup> The ceiling is made of glass. The central section of the building reaches a distance of seventy-three feet and is three stories high. Both the east and west sections are two stories in height, the west section measuring 218 feet long and the east section 149 feet in length.<sup>183</sup> The exterior of the building is of brick.

Late in 1933, a total of \$360,000 appeared available for the building, and contracts were let shortly thereafter.<sup>184</sup> The Paulson Construction Company held the contract for \$147,112.90.<sup>185</sup> The total cost of the main building was figured at \$196,345.66.<sup>186</sup>

In 1935, two studios were built, joined to the main building on the north and south sides by cloisters. These studios represented an expenditure of \$31,183.41.<sup>187</sup> R. W. Scott was the building contractor, his fee set at \$22,076.26.<sup>188</sup> The south studio is known as the Edstrom Sculpture Studio and houses the Edstrom collection.<sup>189</sup>

The Fine Arts Building, along with the two smaller studios, is valued at \$227,529.07.<sup>190</sup> When the University Theatre was completed a few years later, the two buildings stood on a thirty acre plot of ground which constituted a complete fine arts campus for the University. This, like the development of the medical campus, was one of the spectacular events in the history of the University's physical growth. Where once lay only the dirt and rubbish of the city dump, the beautiful Fine Arts Building and Studio arose on North Riverside Drive along the edge of the Iowa River.

### University Theatre

The University Theatre is situated north of the Fine Arts Building on North Riverside Drive. The building was designed by Mr. George L. Horner, University Architect, and Mr. R. C. Sandberg.<sup>191</sup> Rockefeller funds have helped to finance this modern theatre, of which the University may well be proud. Total expenditures on the building have amounted to \$209,526.11.<sup>192</sup>

The main auditorium seats approximately 500 persons. The rows of seats are placed forty inches apart. Each row is at an elevation of more than ten inches above the row directly in front of it. This allows almost perfect vision from any location in the auditorium. Problems of acoustics have also been given careful attention.<sup>193</sup> The basement holds a comfortable lounge, dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms, locker space, and classrooms for instruction in scenic and costume design.<sup>194</sup>

Mr. Arnold S. Gillette wrote in regard to the equipment of the theatre:<sup>195</sup>

The first unit of the theatre contains the auditorium seating approximately five hundred, the lobby, the foyer, check rooms, offices and costume shops. The stage itself is 42 feet deep by 56 feet wide and adjoining it is the wagon stage area which is 42 feet deep by 75 feet wide....

The stage equipment includes a gridiron 56 feet above the stage floor, a counterweight system of 18 sets of lines, rigging for the asbestos curtain, main curtain, light bridge and cyclorama....

Explaining the intricate arrangements for lighting, Mr. Hunton S. Sellman stated:<sup>196</sup>

The unusual system of lighting... is called flexible remote control. In the rear of the auditorium is a glass-paneled control room affording a perfect view of the stage for the lighting and control operators. Here is the small control-board consisting of 48 individual dimmer circuits and eight master dimmers with finger-tip sized handles all within easy stretch of one person's arms....

As the store of lighting instruments is gradually increased the highly flexible system of lighting control should be capable of producing the most effective lighting imaginable.

The elaborate ceremony held in connection with laying the cornerstone of the theatre building was itself a dramatic performance. Professor

Edward C. Mabie was Master of Ceremonies. President Eugene A. Gilmore, Mr. George T. Baker of the Board, Professor Hallie Flanagan, Director of the National Theatre, and honored guest of the University for the occasion, and Mr. Elmer Rice, playwright, each presented brief addresses. At the close of his speech, each of the above persons was to place a trowel of mortar upon the cement bed. Representatives of different organizations and institutions would follow in order to the corner-stone and add a trowel of mortar.

Participating in this ceremonial were Mr. Harry Hopkins, FERA administrator; Mrs. Hiram Cole Houghton, representing the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs; Professor A. Dale Riley of the University of Minnesota, for institutional theatres in the Mississippi Valley; Miss Olivette Holmes, representing undergraduate students in dramatic art; Mr. Ellsworth P. Conkle, representing graduate students in the field; Professor Vance Morton, participating in behalf of alumni and staff members of the department; Dean Carl E. Seashore, Dean of the Graduate College; Dean George F. Kay, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts;

Dean Paul C. Packer of the College of Education; and  
Mr. Rufus H. Fitzgerald, Director of the School of Fine  
Arts. 197

Professor Mabie and Mr. George Horner  
supervised the lowering of the corner-stone, which was  
dropped into position in three successive stages, halted  
twice in its descent, and finally laid to rest upon  
the cement bed. Directions for the scene which followed  
read: 198

The Master of Ceremonies will  
present to Mr. George Horner, University  
Architect, a square, a level and a plumb.  
Mr. Horner will present the square to  
Mr. Hunton D. Sellman who will place  
the square in two positions upon the  
stone and return it to Mr. Horner.

Mr. Horner will present the level  
to Mr. Arnold S. Gillette who will  
place the level on the stone and  
return it to Mr. Horner.

Mr. Horner will present the plumb  
to Mr. R. C. Sandberg. Mr. Sandberg  
will apply the plumb to the stone  
and return it to Mr. Horner.

Mr. Horner returns the square,  
the level and the plumb to the Master  
of Ceremonies.

Following this, Professor Mabie spoke on  
the consecration of the corner-stone, the foundation

and the building which would rise thereon. The committee in charge of this event included Professor Vance Morton, Chairman, Mr. Rufus H. Fitzgerald, Mr. George Horner, Mr. Arnold S. Gillette, and Mr. Donald Winbigler.

A dinner in honor of the dedication of the theatre and the occasion of the Fine Arts Conference was held in the Iowa Union on the evening of November 7, 1936.<sup>199</sup> President Gilmore presided, and the featured speaker on the program was Mr. Gilmor Brown, Supervising Director of the Pasadena Playhouse. Following this main address, Mr. George T. Baker, President of the Board of Education, and President Gilmore spoke briefly to the guests. This event preceded the performance of the dedication play, "Two Hundred Were Chosen", written by Ellsworth P. Conkle. The program issued to guests that evening summarized the highlights of the University Theatre project and added this comment:<sup>200</sup>

The Regional theatre comes strongly into its own with the dedication of this new building. From the viewpoint of construction we are here equipped with a theatre unique among University



and professional units. It is architecturally poised and dynamic, the mechanical devices are designed to meet efficiently the most involved productions. The revolving stage, thirty-six feet in diameter, is a cartel for the most ambitious playwright or technician. Iowa's new theatre is to be one of the finest and most practical in the country.

### Law Commons

Situated on a high bluff, commanding a view of the Iowa River, the Law Commons, built in 1935, was constructed for the purpose of providing a separate residence for students enrolled in the College of Law. The impressive height of the building and the steep slope, reinforced with stone retaining walls, descending from the Law Commons to the river, lend an air of dignity to the surroundings. A natural stone quarry just a short distance below adds to the setting. Thirty years ago this was but undeveloped rural countryside.

The Commons has a large, comfortable lounge for social events where notable and distinguished lawyers have been entertained. The library is paneled in pine and furnished with built-in book shelves. Rooms are of generous proportion and equipped with comfortable furnishings.

Authorization to borrow money to construct the Law Commons was first secured from the Iowa State Board of Education in October, 1933.<sup>201</sup> It was estimated that the total cost of the building would approximate

\$190,000. The P.W.A. volunteered to contribute \$57,000 of the necessary amount to the project.<sup>202</sup> The remainder of the cost would be financed from the General Dormitory Fund.

Arthur H. Neumann and Brothers accepted the construction contract for \$132,184.58.<sup>203</sup> H. C. Metcalf had charge of electric work, and the Larew Company of Iowa City took the contract for plumbing.<sup>204</sup> The finished building, made of red brick and stone trimming, provided room space for 150 law students who moved into their new quarters in 1936. The law students have not had sole claim to this residence, however. During World War II, it was used as a girls' dormitory, but is now back once more in service to the Law Students.

The Law Commons is valued at \$178,583.78.<sup>205</sup> Since the P.W.A. had contributed to the cost of construction, the University's share of expense on the building came to just \$121,583.78.<sup>206</sup>

### Hillcrest

The last major pre-war building to appear on the University of Iowa campus was Hillcrest, men's dormitory, constructed in 1938 and valued at over \$400,000. The original unit of the building allowed accommodations for approximately 250 men. In September, 1938, when the dormitory was opened for student use, visitors were invited to inspect the building and found that it contained the best in modern dormitory facilities. An oak-paneled lounge, nice dining rooms, and well-equipped kitchens were features of the building.<sup>207</sup> Rooms had been constructed with a particular view to providing the best means of lighting, ventilation, soundproofing and sanitation.<sup>208</sup>

Hillcrest dormitory was designed by Architect Seth J. Temple.<sup>209</sup> The contract for construction was given to the Tunnecliff Construction Company.<sup>210</sup> The first unit of the building represented an expenditure of \$254,930.13, recorded as follows:<sup>211</sup>

Contract	\$172,050.78
Electric Work	7,650.00
Plumbing and Heating	31,816.14
Steam	19,097.76
Elevator	2,370.00
Architect	12,255.80
Built-in Equipment	7,366.21
Miscellaneous Items	2,323.44
	<u>\$254,930.13</u>

Dormitory funds provided \$247,356.46 of this amount, and the remainder was taken from rental on tenant property.<sup>212</sup>

In 1940, the second unit of Hillcrest was completed at a cost of \$181,115.52. Mr. Temple also designed this section of the building. A P.W.A. gift of \$80,240 was used to help finance this unit, and the balance was supplied from dormitory funds.<sup>213</sup> Additional improvements in 1945, 1946, and 1948 have combined to make the present total inventory \$463,957.84.<sup>214</sup> During World War II, Hillcrest was in active duty under the Navy contract with the University, housing pre-flight trainees. Since the additional improvements have been made, dormitory capacity is now figured at approximately 500 men.<sup>215</sup>

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