Alumni Memorial Hall was built by the Alumni to honor those members of the University who had served in the wars of their country. The building was dedicated and presented to the University on May 11, 1910.

The building officially opened with an art exhibit, sponsored by Charles L. Freer, and included many items from his collection of American and Asian Art now in the Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C.

The building was the home to the Alumni Association, the Michigan Alumnus, and the Alumni Catalog Office. Alumni Hall also housed the University’s art collection. A large room in the basement was used for the University Club, a faculty organization that later moved to quarters in the Michigan Union.

Four rooms were named for the four largest donors: the main large gallery for Ezra Rust, the south upper gallery for Dexter M. Ferry, the north upper gallery for Simon T. Murphy, and the lower north front room for Arthur Hill. The south front room was called the Alumni Room.
In 1894 Albert Stanley and other members of the Musical Society met and determined that something must be done to secure an adequate auditorium for the University. By January 1895 a set of plans had been developed, and possible donors were considered. The response was discouraging.

In 1904 Arthur Hill, whose first term as Regent began in 1901, became interested in the project. Regent Hill inserted a provision in his will setting aside $200,000 to be used for such a building. He informed no one of what he had done, and his intent was not discovered until his will was made public. His bequest was received in 1910.

In the fall of 1862 Arthur Hill entered the University of Michigan in the Engineering Department. He received his degree in Civil Engineering in 1865 and the same year became engaged in railroad engineering in Minnesota. It was said that he never put off his work and even so never missed a social event. The following year he returned to Michigan where he studied the ways and procedures of law until 1867, when he entered the lumber business in eastern Michigan. He was one of the lumber magnates of Michigan, and he invested his money in manufacturing concerns throughout the nation and in shipping on the Pacific Coast.

The auditorium was constructed on the site of the octagonal Winchell house on North University Avenue. The plain brick exterior was relieved by the color scheme of dull reds and browns with limestone trim.
The parabolic interior, with its balcony and gallery and its immense platform with a seating capacity of 300, was impressive. When built, Hill Auditorium seated 4,300. On the second floor just behind the gallery was a large recital and lecture hall, which seated 400 and was ideal for use as a small concert hall.

The First Concert in Hill Auditorium - May 13, 1913
The laboratory building was a pioneer in university building construction, utilizing a newly developed system successfully used in large factories. The system used regularly placed steel and concrete piers to support the building, making all the rooms exactly the width of the spaces between the piers or multiples of that space. The space between the piers was used entirely for windows, allowing for a maximum use of natural light.

There were two connected museums of the Department of Mineralogy and Geology. The aquarium room, with its troughs and tanks, enabled the Department of Zoology to carry on experiments in aquatic life. In 1930 an animal house was erected in the central court. A greenhouse provided research facilities for the Botany Department.

In the early 1900s, the idea of a Michigan Union was born. This was envisioned as a union for all Michigan men to promote university spirit and to increase social interaction. A temporary Union Clubhouse opened in 1907. Fund raising began with the intent to build a grand facility on a scale unprecedented in American clubhouses. Because of the War, the Michigan students were unable to use their new Union until 1919. (See page 156 for a history of the Michigan Union.)
“In memory of my mother Martha Cook, I will build a Women’s Dormitory Building for the use of women exclusively, on land owned by you, on condition that the occupants shall have sole and exclusive charge of its income, expenses and management. The University shall furnish heat, light and power free of charge. Surplus income or profit from the building shall be used for furnishing, furnishings, works of art and improvements in the building; if any remains, the funds to be used in the following year to give lower or free rates to such students as the President of the University and Dean of Women may designate.” Letter to Regents from William Cook (R.P., 1910-14, p. 96)

Mrs. Henry Joy, Truman Newberry, and John Newberry gave a gift of $75,000 for a residence hall in honor of their mother Helen Handy Newberry. Newberry Residence Hall opened in 1915. On his extensive travels, Levi L. Barbour brought two brilliant Chinese women back to the University to be educated. One of them developed tuberculosis and died. Mr. Barbour found the living conditions on campus decidedly inferior, and his dream was to build an ideal dormitory. Barbour, for many years a Regent, gave $100,000 to build a residence hall in honor of his mother Betsy Barbour. Betsy Barbour Residence Hall opened in 1920.
By the early 1900s a crisis point for acquiring and housing more volumes was reached. Due to the addition to the Physics Building in 1905, the Library could not be extended to the south. However, the southern section of the stacks might be added to either side on the east, west, or both sides. The Library could not be expanded on the north because of the semi-circular reading room. The architectural rendering (below) shows plans for an addition to the west.

The final decision was to build a new library on the site of the old, incorporating the fireproof book-stacks. The problem of continuing the work of the Library while the old building was demolished and the new section of the building was being built was a difficult one. Work began on the two new stacks, one at each side of the original stack.

The new stacks were completed before the main portion of the old building was torn down. The stacks were then used as the reading and distribution centers of the Library while the main part of the building was erected. Building in two distinct projects ensured that the work of the Library could continue with minimal disturbance.
The architect for the new Library was Albert Kahn. The Librarian, William Bishop, said of Kahn:
“To his ingenuity and skill the library building owes much more than can easily be told. His great experience in factory construction is unquestionably to be ascribed the unusual size of the building in comparison with its cost; the structure being completed at about 25¢ per cubic foot, and that in an era of high prices exceeding all previous records in the building trades.” (Michigan Alumnus, February, 1920, p. 249)

Seating was provided for one thousand readers, divided between reading and study rooms, seminar rooms, and stacks. One million volumes were housed in the new facilities, with room for nearly a million more with the planned extensions.

The façade between the two tiers of windows was adorned with ten medallions designed by Ulysses Ricci of New York. They represent Religion and Philosophy, Law, Earth Science, Physical Science, Medicine, Mathematics and Engineering, Fine Arts, Poetry and Music, Drama and History. Immediately over the central door a stone slab bearing the word ‘Library,’ surrounded by the signs of the zodiac, filled the panel.

The casts of the Parthenon frieze and the Donatello and Luca della Robbia Cantorie from the old library reading room were placed on the walls above the new delivery desk, thus giving it a familiar appearance. The halls and stairs were finished with white marble wainscoting and marble floors.

Gari Melcher’s lunettes, the “Arts of Peace” and the “Arts of War,” formerly in University Hall and a gift from the authorities of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in appreciation of the University’s assistance, were placed over the windows at each end of the great reading room.
Marion Leroy Burton succeeded President Hutchins in the summer of 1920. A graduate of Carleton College with a Ph.D. from Yale, Burton had served as president of Smith College for seven years and then of the University of Minnesota from 1917 until 1920. Tall, with a commanding presence and a persuasive voice, he captivated students and legislators alike. His talent for organization and vision of an expanding university precisely fit the needs and spirit of the post-WWI years. Burton understood that following the Great War the demand for a college education would be enormous. He also recognized that “A state university must accept happily the conclusion that it is destined to be large. If the state grows and prospers, it will naturally reflect these conditions.”

Propelled by the prosperous economy of the Roaring 20s, construction on the campus boomed and enrollments increased. Burton was also an academic innovator, restructuring the Board of Regents to give the deans more authority, creating faculty executive committees as a form of shared governance at the school and department level, instituting faculty sabbaticals, and attracting visiting faculty in the arts such as Robert Frost. Unfortunately, Burton suffered a serious heart attack in 1924, and he died at the age of 49 after only five years as president.

The University began to expand outside of the original forty acres and faced the unpleasant necessity of buying up surrounding houses and closing streets.

In May 1921, Regent William L. Clements of Bay City entered into an agreement with his fellow Regents to give his collection of rare books to the University and to construct a building on the campus to house them. The new building was designed by Albert Kahn under the direction of Mr. Clements. Clements specified a style of architecture in vogue in northern Italy when Columbus left Genoa to plan his epoch-making voyage.

William L. Clements, a native of Ann Arbor, graduated from Michigan with a degree in engineering. He joined his father’s firm in Bay City and made his fortune supplying equipment, steam shovels, and cranes for the construction of the Panama Canal and other engineering projects at the turn of the century. As his fortune grew, he started collecting rare books on early American history. He served as a Regent from 1910 until 1933 and gave his collection to the University in 1923.

The William L. Clements Library opened in 1923. The building, Italian Renaissance in style, was executed in Indiana limestone. A planted terrace led to three rounded archways that opened on a loggia with vaulted ceilings in blue and gold mosaic. The Library was devoted to source materials—books, manuscripts, maps, and newspapers—related to early American history from Columbus’s discovery to the end of the War of 1812.

The University began to expand outside of the original forty acres and faced the unpleasant necessity of buying up surrounding houses and closing streets.
As enrollments in the College of Engineering continued to grow, the University purchased the old Tappan Elementary School on East University to provide some relief. However, it soon became apparent that a major new facility was needed, and funds were appropriated to build the East Engineering Building, completed in 1923. This large laboratory building, across the street from West Engineering, housed several major departments: Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Transportation Engineering, and the Engineering and Transportation Library.

A new Physics building, completed in 1924, was also in Burton’s building plan. One of the oldest departments in the University, Physics had carried on its program in very limited quarters. The original plan was to build a five-story structure in the area assigned to it, but that did not conform to the campus plan, with the lower height of the neighboring buildings. The solution was to go one story farther underground. An added subbasement provided three floors below the level of the ground.

The Model High School was to be the first unit of a group of three, including an Elementary School and a building for the School of Education. The High School was completed in November of 1923. The objectives were to give student teachers teaching experience, to demonstrate the best educational theory and practice, to provide an education laboratory for scientific experimentation, and to offer the pupils of the high school an enriched program of studies and school experiences.
One of the most important buildings constructed during the Burton years was a new complex for the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. As Burton requested, “It should be beautiful, dignified, and commanding. It should help to give unity and form to the campus.” Although there was a desire to preserve the prominence of old University Hall, site restrictions required a design in front of the old building, which was later torn down in 1950.

As costs became a concern, only the middle section of the original design was built, with eight massive columns surmounting a wide esplanade of steps. Chiseled on the limestone frieze of the new building was the founding principle of the University, taken from the Northwest Ordinance: “Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

The entrance lobby was finished in travertine marble. The rich ceiling decorations were the work of the Di Lorenzo Studios of New York, the firm that was responsible for the decoration of the General Library and the Clements Library.

At the request of the faculty of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, and the Student Council, the building was named in honor of James Burrill Angell.
The first group of buildings of the Law Quadrangle was completed in 1924. This magnificent gift of William Wilson Cook included a lounge, recreation room, offices, guest rooms, dining hall and kitchen, and the residence hall facing South University.

**William Cook** received his bachelor’s degree in 1880 and a law degree in 1882 from Michigan. He worked in the law firm of William B. Coudert in New York. He retired from practice in 1921 to do research and write. In 1924 Cook’s fortune was estimated at between twenty to thirty million dollars.

**1925**

**Hospital, Medical School, Couzens Hall & Simpson Memorial Institute**

After nearly a decade of planning and building, the new University Hospital opened in 1925. The chief cause for delay was WWI. The Medical School also opened its new building on East University in 1925.

The Honorable James Couzens of Detroit, a United States Senator, gave a building to house student and graduate nurses. The Residence was felt to be an indispensable part of the new Hospital and was ready in 1925 when the new Hospital opened.

The Medical School also received a beautiful building to house the Thomas Henry Simpson Memorial Institute for Medical Research. A gift from Christine Simpson of Detroit, in memory of her husband, the institute was to study pernicious anemia and its treatment. Other disorders affecting the blood were also investigated. Designed by Albert Kahn, the four-story granite building was dedicated on February 10, 1927.
President Burton’s tenure was cut short by his death in 1925 after a year-long illness. Alfred Lloyd, Professor of Philosophy and Dean of the Graduate School, served as interim president. **Clarence Cook Little** came to Michigan at the age of 36, after serving three years as president of the University of Maine. A biological scientist, Cook held three degrees from Harvard. Little did not think that the curriculum for men and women should be the same. He advocated a different group of studies for women, which would include physiology, general science, nursing hygiene, human behavior, heredity and genetics. His reasoning was that most of the women would become homemakers and mothers, and he thought it foolish not to prepare them for these roles.

**Little proposed to enroll all freshmen and sophomores in a separate University College.** The aim was to provide the students with some common knowledge in several fields of learning and to winnow out those who would be satisfied with two years of general courses. After completing two years, some students would be given a certificate and not encouraged to continue. The others who wished to enter another college of the University at the junior level would have to pass a comprehensive examination. Little’s educational objectives, coupled with his controversial stand on social issues such as prohibition and birth control, soon strained relations both on campus and across the state. Little left Michigan in 1929, after a brief four-year tenure.


**University Museum**

In 1928 the University Museum opened. The Museums of Anthropology, Zoology, Paleontology, and the University Herbarium were housed in the building. In 1929 an Animal House was erected in the courtyard of the Museums Building. An alumnus who gave the little zoo was interested in out-of-door activities for children. A truly Michigan menagerie was set up in the neat little animal house, which was populated with wild animals found in the state: two bears, a coyote, a fox, a pair of oppossums, several raccoons and skunks, and a porcupine. The courtyard was laid out with walks and shrubbery and a pool in which several varieties of turtles made their home.

**Architecture Building - Lorch Hall**

In 1929 the Michigan League opened, giving the University women a “home” of their own and the Women’s League a center for all its activities. (See page 164 for a history of the Michigan League.)

**University Elementary School**

In 1928 the new Architecture Building opened, providing a home for the Architecture Department, still a part of Engineering.

In 1929 the University Elementary School provided a laboratory for the study of elementary and preschool education.

**School of Music on Maynard Street**

In 1929 the University Musical Society transferred the building on Maynard Street, which had been used by a private School of Music, to the University. The school was consolidated with the University.
In the 1920s an exhaustive study was undertaken to determine student access to athletics, physical education, and recreational activities. With the goal of providing athletic opportunities for all, the University embarked on a building program to create the necessary facilities. The result was the Michigan Stadium, the Intramural Building, the women's athletic field and the Women's Athletic Building.
Michigan Stadium was completed in the fall of 1927. It was an amphitheater of bowl-type construction, rising only slightly above the ground level on the east side, which took advantage of the natural characteristics of the terrain. The site for the stadium included sixteen acres and 119 city lots, purchased by the Board in Control of Athletics for $239,000, including the cost of some lots that were taken under condemnation proceedings. The right of the Board in Control of Athletics to acquire land by this means was upheld by the state Supreme Court during the course of the negotiations. The site formed a gentle slope rising from the valley of Allen's Creek near the Ann Arbor Railroad to the level of South Main Street.

The stadium was not designed in the form of a perfect ellipse, like the Yale Bowl, but provided for sides parallel to the playing field, bringing the spectators much closer to the sidelines. This proximity of the seats to the playing field made Michigan Stadium one of the best in the nation for its 85,753 spectators. A press box was built over the west side of the stadium; it provided room for five radio booths and 250 newspaper correspondents.
The entrances were placed around the entire upper edge and in the center of the east side, making it possible for crowds to disperse rapidly; the time for emptying the stadium was thirteen minutes. To accommodate the fans coming to Ann Arbor on football days, parking was provided on all sides of the stadium, and special city traffic regulations permitted street parking during the games. Locker and shower room facilities for home and visiting teams were provided under the east side of the stands.
Following C. C. Little’s resignation in 1929, the Regents moved quickly to name as his successor Alexander Grant Ruthven, the University’s dean of administration and second-ranking administrator. Ruthven was a long-standing and distinguished member of the Michigan faculty, receiving his Ph.D. in zoology from Michigan in 1906 and serving as a faculty member and later director of the University Museum. After a perfunctory search, the Regents selected Ruthven as president just weeks before the stock market crash of 1929. Ruthven led the university for two decades through the traumas of the Great Depression and World War II.

Ruthven was already very experienced in both university administration and state relations, and he felt that “It is absurd to think that a lay board can handle the details of the modern university, or that the president is a headmaster, capable of directing all financial, academic, and public relations activities.” Instead he created a corporate administration, in which the Regents served as “guardians of the public trust and who functioned as custodians of the property and income of the university,” while the president was viewed as the chairman of the faculties, just as the deans were chairmen of their faculties and administrative heads of their schools.

Ruthven managed to protect the university from serious cuts in state appropriations during the Depression, although the mill tax was eventually replaced by the process of annual appropriations from general state revenues in 1935. He understood well the dangers of wartime priorities, and he was skillful in protecting the core education and research missions of the university, even as it served the nation in exemplary fashion during World War II. In 1951, when Ruthven finally retired, the university had grown to over 21,000 students, including 7,700 veterans enrolled under the G.I. Bill.

Completion of the Law Quadrangle

Between 1929 and 1933 the final elements of the Law Quadrangle were completed: the John P. Cook Residence Hall, the William W. Cook Legal Research Library, and Hutchins Hall, which contained the offices and classrooms of the Law School.