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Student Publications building

Student Publications’ Conference Room

Burton Memorial Tower & Baird Carillon

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Student Residence Halls

During the University’s early history, leaders such as Tappan and Angell had adopted policies to encourage students to live independently within the Ann Arbor community rather than in the dormitories characteristic of the colonial colleges. However, rapidly growing student enrollments motivated Ruthven to set aside the earlier policies and begin to build numerous residence halls for both men and women students. The housing capacity of the University rapidly doubled in the 1930s, from 1,500 to over 3,200 students. By the 1950s, Michigan would have the largest residential student housing capacity in the nation.

Mosher-Jordan Hall, named in honor of Eliza Mosher and Myra Jordan (who both served as dean of women) housed 450 women and was completed in the summer of 1930.

In the fall of 1939 the West Quadrangle of men’s residences adjacent to the Union was opened. The houses comprising this quadrangle, except for two, Michigan House and Chicago House, were named after well-known teachers of the past: Henry Carter Adams, Alfred Henry Lloyd, Alexander Winchell, George Palmer Williams, and Robert Mark Wenley.

A residence hall for medical students on the corner of Catherine Street and Glen Avenue opened in the fall of 1939. It was named in honor of Victor C. Vaughan, faculty member and Dean of the Medical School.
A residence for interns adjoining the University Hospital opened in 1939.

A dormitory housing 390 women opened in 1940 on the corner of Observatory and North University. It was named in honor of Madelon Louisa Stockwell, the first woman to attend the University of Michigan.

East Quadrangle men’s residences opened in September, 1940. The four houses of this quadrangle were named in honor of four professors: Charles Ezra Greene, Moses Coit Tyler, Albert Benjamin Prescott, and Burke Aaron Hinsdale.
The new Student Health Services Building opened in 1940. PWA funds financed 45 percent of the building. The new facility afforded three times the space of the former Health Services Building, which was housed in the original Homeopathic Children’s Hospital. funded by the PWA and the Kellogg Foundation, the Kellogg Institute of Graduate and Postgraduate Dentistry provided facilities for the dental profession to keep up with new advances in the field. Prettyman’s Boarding House was demolished to make way for the building.

In 1943 the School of Public Health Building was opened, a gift from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Great precautions were taken to protect against contamination in designing the building, which was carefully planned to fulfill every requirement in the study of modern public health education.

In 1971 the Public Health Building was named in honor of Henry Frieze Vaughan, the first Dean of the School and chairman of the Department of Public Health Practice.
The General Services Building, later named the Administration Building, opened in December of 1948. It, too, was built under the postwar Public Works Program. It housed the Administration and the Student, Business, Extension, and Public Services. The structure was a large office building. A maximum amount of window space affording natural light was incorporated in the design. The windows and window sills were of aluminum, requiring no exterior painting, thus keeping maintenance costs low.

The students called the Administration Building the “Salmon Loaf” because of its shape and color.

Administration Building on State Street

The Business Administration Building housed a classroom and laboratory wing on the south, a library and lecture wing on the east, and an office tower on the northwest corner. The south wing, the library, and the administrative offices were occupied in the fall of 1948, and the remainder of the building in February, 1949.

Business Administration

Alice Lloyd Residence Hall

A new women’s residence hall, later named for Alice Crocker Lloyd, was opened in 1949. The building housed 500 women. The houses were named in honor of Sarah Caswell Angell, Alice Freeman Palmer, Caroline Hubbard Kleinstueck, and Mary Louisa Hinsdale. Alice Crocker Lloyd ’16, a native of Ann Arbor, served as Dean of Women from 1930 to 1950. She came to the job with a knowledge of its ideals and a sympathetic insight into the difficulties facing students.

(left to right) Sarah Angell, Alice Palmer, Caroline Kleinstueck, Mary Louisa Hinsdale

Alice Lloyd Residence Hall

University Terrace & Women’s Hospital

University Terrace opened in 1946, for married student veterans and their families. The complex consisted of twelve buildings with 276 furnished apartments. The buildings were demolished in 1996.

The Women’s Hospital opened in 1950. The Hospital combined outpatient and inpatient service with facilities for the teaching of obstetrics and gynecology. There were also well-equipped research laboratories.
The Farmland That Became the North Campus
Wilbur Pierpont played a key role in this massive expansion plan for the North Campus. Pierpont, a native Michigander, earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Business. In 1946, after the war, he returned to the University to work first with President Ruthven and then President Hatcher as the University’s chief financial officer. The early purchase and development of the North Campus can be traced to Pierpont, who saw the needs of the growing University. His contributions were honored in 1995 by the naming of the Wilbur and Maxine Pierpont Commons.

The noted Finnish architect, Eero Saarinen, the first president of the Cranbrook Institute and the son of the former University faculty member, Eliel Saarinen, was retained in 1951 to develop the master plan for the North Campus site. Saarinen was one of the most creative architects of the 20th Century, noted for his bold designs including Dulles International Airport, the St. Louis Gateway Arch, and the residential colleges at Yale.

At the time Saarinen was commissioned to develop the plan for the North Campus, he was just completing the design for the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, Michigan. There is a striking similarity between the two designs, even including an exhibition dome, typical of automobile development centers to display new models.

On January 17, 1952, the newly appointed president of the University, Harlan Hatcher, held a press conference to announce plans for a new North Campus for the University: “The increasing responsibilities and demands upon the University and the projection of necessary growth in the future have made it imperative that plans for expansion be formulated now. Of course, there must be some further construction on the present campus, but we know now that there is not adequate space for an enrollment of 25,000 students or more, which it is reasonable to anticipate in the 1960’s.” (Michigan Alumnus, 1951-52, p. 257)
The first building to be completed on the North Campus was the Cooley Memorial Laboratory in 1953. Much of the classified electronics research associated with Willow Run Research Laboratory was conducted in the Cooley Laboratory.

In 1955, the Phoenix Memorial Laboratory for nuclear research was completed. The building also housed the Ford Nuclear Reactor, the first to be built on a university campus (See page 124). The Automotive Engineering Laboratory, which had previously been in a lean-to next to the Engineering Shops (West Engineering Annex), was relocated to a new North Campus building completed in October of 1955. The Aeronautical Engineering Department moved its research activities to the North Campus in 1955. The Aeronautical Engineering Laboratories consisted of two buildings: one housed the supersonic and low turbulence wind tunnels, and the other was for propulsion research. Printing Services also moved into a new building in 1957. Engineering built a large research laboratory for fluid dynamics research which opened in 1958, first known simply as the Fluids Laboratory and later renamed the G. G. Brown Laboratory in honor of George Granger Brown, Dean of Engineering from 1951-1957. In 1963, three new buildings opened: The Institute for Science and Technology, The Earl V. Moore School of Music named in honor of the first Dean of Music, and the Research Administration Building. In 1965 the North Campus Commons gave the residents of the new campus a place to gather, and next door, the Chrysler Center for Continuing Engineering Education opened in 1967.
In 1951 the Regents selected Harlan Hatcher as Ruthven’s successor. Hatcher came to Michigan from Ohio State, where he had been vice president for faculty and curriculum, dean, English professor, and student (in fact, he had earned all three of his degrees at Ohio State). Known for his teaching, writing, and administrative skills, Hatcher moved rapidly to restructure the University’s administration to take advantage of the postwar economic boom. Hatcher’s 17-year tenure saw dramatic expansion in enrollment and the physical campus, including the acquisition and development of the North Campus in Ann Arbor and establishment of regional campuses in Flint and Dearborn to accommodate the doubling of student enrollments from 21,000 to 41,000.

Michigan continued its reputation as one of the world’s leading research universities with major activities in nuclear energy (the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Project), the space program (including the nation’s leading programs for astronaut training), biomedical research (the clinical trials of the Salk vaccine), the physical sciences (Donald Glaser’s invention of the bubble chamber), and the development of the quantitative social sciences (the Institute for Social Research and the Survey Research Center). Student hijinks (the first panty raids in 1952) were balanced by serious social issues such as the Red Scare years when two faculty members were dismissed for refusing to testify before the House Subcommittee on Un-American Activities. The university benefited from generous state support during this era, enabling important educational innovations such as the Residential College, the Pilot Program, and the Interflex program (a novel combined B.S./M.D. program).

The South Quadrangle, completed in 1951, gave students the intimacy of a small residential group within the stimulating larger neighborhood of a university campus. The Michigan House Plan incorporated seven individual houses, each containing eight families of twenty men. Each had a house director, concerned with the health and well-being of each student. In accordance with the Michigan House Plan, the houses were named in honor of former distinguished faculty: Fred Manville Taylor, Moses Gomberg, G. Carl Huber, Francis W. Kelsey, Jesse Siddall Reeves, Fred Newton Scott, and Claude Halstead Van Tyne.
The extraordinary increase in students, faculty and staff immediately after WWII made the need for additional classroom and office space acute. The initial planning assumed that the new building or buildings would replace six old structures, which had been condemned as fire hazards: Haven Hall (original Law Building), Economics Building (part of the original Chemical Laboratory), University Hall, Mason Hall, South Wing, and the Romance Language Building (original Museum).

That represented a loss of sixty-five classrooms and 42 offices. In the end, only University Hall, which included the two original buildings, Mason Hall and South College, were removed. Continuing the original Angell Hall plan was too costly, so two buildings and an auditorium wing were added behind Angell Hall. Haven Hall, Mason Hall, and the Auditorium Wing were completed in 1952.

The emphasis on undergraduate education was demonstrated once again by the construction of the air-conditioned Undergraduate Library, which stayed open until midnight. The new facility offered access to the stacks, permitted smoking, and provided seating for 2,400 students.

Another undergraduate initiative was the opening of the Student Activities Building. This new facility housed the University offices dealing with students, and gave a home to the Student Government Council, the Joint Judiciary Council, and other student services.
In response to a growing demand for higher education in Flint and assisted by buildings and land donated by the city and generous financial support from Charles Steward Mott, in 1956 the University established a two-year senior college in Flint offering baccalaureate degree programs in the liberal arts, education, and business administration through the Ann Arbor campus. In 1964, the Regents expanded this program to create a four-year institution, Flint College, offering the first UM degrees outside of Ann Arbor. In 1971 it was renamed the University of Michigan Flint and moved to its current riverfront campus adjacent to downtown Flint, with the first buildings opening in 1977.
In December of 1956, the Ford Motor Company presented to the University the former residence and grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford. The estate, known as Fairlane, was located in Dearborn. Ford also donated $6.5 million to support the establishment of a senior college operating in connection with business and industry. It would also provide opportunities for graduates of the Henry Ford Community College and elsewhere to obtain degrees. The Dearborn Center, as it came to be known, was to arrange a program of engineering and business administration courses alternating with semesters of practical experience in factories and offices. Buildings were erected with the funds given by the company, and the new branch opened in 1959.

President Hatcher and Henry Ford II met on the grounds of the Henry Ford Estate on December 17, 1956, the day they announced the gift from Ford Motor Company of the land, buildings and funding to launch what was to become the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The Henry Ford Estate was the home of the automotive pioneer and his wife, Clara, for more than 30 years. Fairlane is a national historical landmark.

The pond, located in the courtyard between the Administration Building and the Computer and Information Sciences Building.

The pond, located in the courtyard between the Administration Building and the Computer and Information Sciences Building.

Social Sciences Building

Students walking near the courtyard pond.
In May 1954, the University purchased the Ann Arbor High School Building, which had been built in 1905 at 105 South State Street. In February 1956 the building was renamed the Henry S. Frieze Building. An addition completed in December 1957 housed several LS&A departments and the School of Social Work.

There was strong reason to name the old high school after Henry Frieze. Prior to the Civil War, most public education occurred at the primary level, and colleges and universities were obliged to create associated academies to prepare students for college work. Frieze instead began the practice of certifying select Michigan public schools as capable of offering respectable college preparation, thereby freeing the university from preparatory commitments and stimulating the schools of the state to extend their responsibilities into secondary education. This was the device that unleashed the high-school movement in the Midwest and later the nation.

In 1963, the Physics & Astronomy Building was completed, and the Department of Astronomy vacated its offices, classrooms, and telescopes on the Detroit Observatory site that had been dedicated to astronomy for over 100 years. By 1963 the department’s astronomical observation was performed mostly at observatories remote from the campus, including space vehicles orbiting around the Earth.

In 1965 the Institute for Social Research Building was completed. ISR became the world leader in the development of the quantitative social sciences, economics, psychology, sociology, and anthropology through its Survey Research Center and National Election Studies.

In August of 1968 the new Administration Building opened on Thompson Street. The structure housed offices for the University’s central administration. The building was later named in honor of Robben and Sally Fleming. The Cube “Endover,” in Regents’ Plaza, was by the artist Bernard (Tony) Rosenthal ’36. The sculpture was a gift of the class of 1965.

The Pharmacy Research Building, completed in 1960, was devoted almost entirely to laboratories accommodating two to four researchers each, both faculty and graduate students. At the time of its dedication, it was the nation’s largest college building for pharmaceutical research.
The 1960s were a time of experimentation and change. Students rejected in loco parentis, pushing the University out of their private lives. The 60s generation also discarded many of the long-standing traditions of student life such as the J-Hop, Cap Night, and even fraternities and sororities for a time. Some of the residence halls became co-educational.

In the fall of 1963 Mary Markley Residence Hall opened. It was planned as a residence for 1,200 women, but it was occupied by both men and women in an effort to promote greater maturity among students. An innovation at the time was a telephone in every room. Men's and women's wings were separated, but the residents shared dining rooms and study areas, in the hope that both manners and dress would improve. The complex was named in honor of Mary Butler Markley, a faculty widow who had been extremely active in alumnae activities. Rising enrollments of women overtaxed the women's dormitories, and the University could no longer house all of the women students. Senior women were allowed to live in apartments for the first time.

During the 1960s there were numerous experiments in creating new approaches to student residential housing. One of the most interesting was the conversion of East Quad in 1969 into a small residential college within LS&A, complete with associated faculty, counselors and curricula. Students would live and attend classes in the same building, and a common core of courses would be required. A few teaching fellows and counselors would also live in. The Residential College soon became not only one of the more popular student options, attracting many students who sought a more integrated living-learning environment, but one of the most successful University experiments in undergraduate education.

In the 1950s, a new building for the School of Music was number one on the University's priority list. In 1957 a contract was let for the building, but the project was stalled for lack of appropriations, and the plans were filed away. Finally, in the early 1960s, state funding was obtained for a new building located on the University's North Campus. Eero Saarinen, who had developed the North Campus master plan, was given the commission. The new building was completed in 1963, and for the first time, all musical activities were consolidated under one roof.

As dental practice continued to evolve, the Dental School created eight new departments to add to the existing ten departments. With expanding programs and enrollments, it was clear by the 1950s that a new building was necessary, and planning was begun. Funding was not made available until the late 1960s by which time the size of the school had grown from 16 to 105 full-time faculty with staff growth from 107 to 408. Dean William Mann was able to win state support for a new Dental Building, completed in 1971.
Buildings Added to the Medical Center in the 1950s & 1960s

1. Women’s Hospital (1950); 2. Outpatient Clinic (now Med Inn) (1953); 3. C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital (1969); 4. Towsley Center for Continuing Medical Education (1969)
5. Kresge Medical Research I (1954); 6. Kresge Medical Research II (1964);
7. Medical Science I (Medical School and School of Nursing) (1958); 8. Medical Science II (Medical School) (1969)
During the 1950s and early 1960s the state regularly provided the University with funds for campus facilities amounting to 10% to 15% of its operating appropriations. But by the mid-1960s there were already several warning signs that such state support might not continue. In 1964 the state legislature proposed delegating the control of funds for planning and constructing university buildings to the state controller, including the selection of project architects. The University of Michigan challenged the state’s authority to control these projects, thereby losing the opportunity for state facilities funding throughout the remaining 1960s and into the 1970s, at a time when other state universities were expanding rapidly. The rapid post-war expansion of the University’s Ann Arbor campus was coming to an end, as it entered a period of retrenchment that would last almost two decades.

In 1964-65, with reluctance from the faculty and the administration, the two-semester calendar which had been in effect for more than 110 years was changed to three terms a year. Semester offerings were slightly shortened, and the third term—May through August—was broken in half to accommodate school teachers and students from other colleges who could attend only the second half of that term. The students who applauded the new calendar had some second thoughts after experiencing the stepped-up pace. There was no vacation period in which to write term papers or to catch up in the event of earlier illness; spring sports were upset; final examination periods were compressed; and the favored jobs at summer resorts conflicted with registering before Labor Day. The terms were later shortened still further so that registration once again took place after Labor Day.

In 1964, when President Hatcher offered proposals to the Board of Regents for the observance of the University’s founding—a Sesquicentennial celebration for 1967—his plans included a major fund-raising campaign, and a goal of $55 million was adopted. To everyone’s astonishment, a total of over $74 million was raised. No public university had ever attempted to raise such an amount. But as the University had perhaps the largest alumni body in the nation—225,000 at the time—the effort seemed worth making in conjunction with the anniversary celebration.

Following a series of symposiums and numerous ceremonies in celebration of the University’s Sesquicentennial throughout 1967, President Hatcher retired at the end of the year. He left a physical plant that had more than doubled in buildings and facilities; a student body that had nearly doubled in size and, despite the pressures and temptations of the time, had never rioted or successfully dictated to the administration; an enlarged faculty of great distinction; the largest living alumni body in the nation; and a state government convinced that its University deserved steady support. It was a brilliant accomplishment of devoted application and sound judgment.

In celebration of the University’s Sesquicentennial, two publications were produced on the history of the University: Howard Peckham’s *The Making of the University of Michigan*, and Ruth Bordin’s *The University of Michigan... A Pictorial History*. 

Howard Peckham  
Ruth Bordin