UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District contains some thirty key buildings, including fifteen pivotal structures of particular historic and architectural significance. The largest segment of the District remains within the original campus boundaries, a forty acre plot delineated by State Street and by North University, East University and South University Avenues. Since the completion of its first four buildings in 1840, the entire institution has undergone tremendous expansion, but the Central Campus Historic District still encompasses the physical and academic heart of the University.

The architectural diversity of the Central Campus reflects the stylistic preferences of a number of major architects. Perhaps the most prominent was Albert Kahn, the University Supervising Architect from 1920 to 1925 and the designer of ten key campus buildings located within the District. The classically derived designs of Kahn and other architects such as Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, Spier and Rohns, and Donaldson and Meier distinguish the northern two-thirds of the District, whereas the contrasting Gothic tastes of York and Sawyer dominate the southern sector. Despite notable similarities between some of the buildings designed by Kahn, the District as a whole exhibits a variety of styles, sizes, shapes, colors, and textures. which adds to its unique visual appeal.

The physical evolution of Central Campus open space has been shaped by two major features: the central Diagonal Walkway, a large open area which defines the core of the District, and the Campus Mall, which extends one quarter mile from the Graduate Library to the Rackham Building. Although most District buildings are located along the axes of these two significant spaces, additional structures surround the central core to the south and east.

The mass and scale of buildings within the District have been influenced by significant periods of University growth following World War One and World War Two. During the Nineteen Twenties, Albert Kahn enlarged upon the two to four story scale of the nineteenth-century campus by designing several massive four story structures to accommodate the first postwar enrollment boom. During the Nineteen Fifties and Sixties, the University responded to a second era of increased enrollment by constructing several tall eight to ten story structures.

A number of buildings, notably Chemistry, Economics, East Engineering, Museums, Graduate Library, and the President's House, have undergone alterations due to renovation or expansion. Most, however, retain their original character, and, as a whole, the Central Campus Historic District provides a significant visual record of the architectural history and physical growth of a major public university.

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SPECIFIC DATES

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District embodies the heart of the oldest university in the Big Ten, the first public university to obtain national prominence in higher education; and the only university to have benefitted extensively from the works of Albert Kahn, America's foremost industrial architect. Fifteen of the District's thirty structures have particular historic and architectural significance: the West Engineering Building, Natural Science Building, Hill Auditorium, Graduate Library, Clements Library, Angell Hall, Ruthven Museums Building, and Burton Memorial Tower, all by Albert Kahn, and the President's House, Economics Building, Alumni Memorial Hall, Martha Cook Residence, Law Quadrangle, Michigan League, and Horace H. Rackham Building, by various other architects. As a whole, this important concentration of key campus buildings provides a visual record of University growth and development from its beginnings as a small college with a total of seven students, to its present status as a major national institution with a number of leading professional schools and an enrollment of over 36,000.

The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor had its genesis as part of Michigan's Comprehensive State Education Plan of 1837. Based on a modified Prussian model, the school's success was the first proof that a university maintained by the people of a state could be made a practical reality. The Regents accepted the Ann Arbor Land Company's gift of a forty acre site, and the first four buildings were completed in 1840. These cubical stucco professor's residences and a later four story dormitory/classroom were the only buildings on campus when classes began in 1841. The University's first permanent president, Henry Tappan, moved into the southwest residence (#20) in 1852, and it has since housed all but one of Michigan's nine presidents. Significantly altered over the years, the home's present Italianate appearance bears little resemblance to its original Greek Revival design. During the 1870s, substantial renovations made it the first home in the city to have a flush toilet. Now the oldest standing University building, the President's House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

President Tappan was not only the home*s first presidential resident, but also a major shaping force in the history of university development. During his eleven year administration, Tappan collected a distinguished faculty from across the country, greatly expanded the University's research facilities, and established a science-oriented curriculum as an alternative to the classics-dominated programs advocated by Eastern schools. The 1856 Chemistry Building (#12), designed by A. H. Jordan of Detroit, provided tangible evidence of Tappan's progressive educational views. The

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A Chronological List of Buildings Contributing to the Character of the District

- President's House (#20), attributed to Harpin Lum, builder: of Greek Revival inspiration, assumed its present Italianate appearance in the 1860s following the first of numerous additions. The current composition features stucco execution, shuttered windows, bracketed eaves lines, and a hipped roof with central belvedere. The four corner chimneys and flat-roofed Doric portico are survivals of the original Classical design.
- Economics Building (Old Chemistry) (#12), A. H. Jordan of Detroit, architect: a two story painted brick building of Italianate design significantly altered over the years. Dominant features now include a combination hipped and gabled roof, brick architraves and quoined pilasters, dentilated cornice, and a central west entrance with a metal hood supported by iron brackets.
- Tappan Hall (#21), Frederick H. Spier and William C. Rohns of Detroit, architects; Detrick Bros., contractor: a two story rust brick structure with raised rock-faced masonry foundations and central Syrian arch in the Richardsonian Romanesque Style. The hipped roof is distinguished by four rectangular dormers and a plain box cornice.
- West Engineering Building (#16), George D. Mason and Albert Kahn of Detroit, architects; Hoertz and Sons, contractors: a pivotal L-shaped building with a vaulted central arch placed at the intersection of the building's two pilastered wings. Serving as the southeast entrance to the Diagonal Walkway, the "Engin' Arch" is framed on the campus side by two copper domed cupolas. A red tile hipped roof distinguished by dormers and an overhanging eaves line caps the three and one half story reddish-brown brick building.
- Natural Resources Building (New West Medical) (#11), Spier and Rohns, architects; Koch Bros., contractor: a four story Renaissance Revival Style building with a rock-faced masonry base topped by a two story piano nobile of smooth and coursed grey brick. Highlights of the open court quadrangle design include a pedimented roof line and an ornamental cornice with ocular windows in the frieze. Contrasting pale buff brick panels and a central Doric portico add further interest to the main east facade.

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- Chemistry Building (#7), Fred L. Smith, Theodore H. Hinchman, and H. J. Maxwell Grylls of Detroit, architects; H. I. Vanderhorst, contractor: basically a four story buff brick block with two inner light courts, this building features Chicago windows on the central bays, brick pilasters on the top three stories, and a crowning ornamental cornice supported by brackets. An undistinguished brick addition was designed by L. C. Kingscott and constructed in 1948 by Bryant and Detwiler (#7a).
- Museum of Art (Alumni Memorial Hall) (#24), John M. Donaldson and Walter R. Meier of Detroit, architects; Koch Bros., contractor: stylistic elements of Beaux Arts Classicism are evident in the symmetrical five-part composition of the main facade and in the paired Doric columns of the central portico block. The yellow sandstone massing is characterized by a marked absence of fenestration. A full entablature, placed below the actual roof line, encircles the building and two sculpted wreaths ornament the extended roof line above the portico.
- Hill Auditorium (#4), Albert Kahn and Ernest Wilby, architects; Hugh Tallant of New York, consulting acoustical engineer; John T. N. Hoyt, chief structural engineer; J. L. Stuart, contractor: a three story reddish-brown brick building with a dominant south facade highlighted by four large Doric columns separating five entrances with large mullioned windows above each, all within a stone enframement. The simplicity of the design is relieved by a decorative band of tapestry brick and tilework and a richly ornamented entablature with copper cornice work and a terra cotta frieze. A wide plaza and staircase to the south and a circular entrance drive to the east form the principal approaches to the building.
- 1914 <u>Key Office</u> (Substation) (#8), Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, architects; Jas. Stuart, contractor: a one story rectangular painted brick structure with a hipped monitor roof. Major additions were built in 1930 and 1957.
- Natural Science Building (#6), Albert Kahn, architect; Erwin and Leighton, contractors: a three story maroon brick building designed in the unit system of concrete construction, distinguished by bands of tapestry brickwork and an abundance of window space.
- Martha Cook Residence (#26), Edward P. York and Philip Sawyer, architects; George A. Fuller, contractor; Samuel Parsons, landscape architect, all of New York: a three and one half story, L-shaped dormitory for women executed in garden wall bond maroon brick with stone trim and a gabled slate roof. The facades exhibit a variety of window shapes---rectangular, pointed arch, and bay. Roof lines are punctuated by chimneys, gabled dormers, and, on the

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west facade, two towers topped by embattlements. A statue of Portia, heroine of Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice, crowns the elaborate Gothic arch portal of the main north facade.

- Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library (General Library) (#19), Albert Kahn and Ernest Wilby, architects; Sheldon Brack, contractor: a four story reddish-brown brick structure with a red tile hipped roof. An ornamental entablature composed of an elaborate copper cornice, a tapestry brick frieze, and a variety of terra cotta trims, dominates the exterior decor. Large rectangular windows, many topped by decorative metal panels, fenestrate the facades. A wide entrance stair and a row of academic medallions placed above the first story windows further distinguish the main north facade. The structure designed by Kahn and Wilby encompassed fire proof stacks constructed in 1883; other stacks were added in 1957 and 1970 (#19a). Horizontal bands composed of concrete, red brick, and ribbon windows counter the vertical thrust of the most recently completed eight story addition which also features supporting pilotis.
- William L. Clements Library of Americana (#18), Albert Kahn, architect;

 Owen, Ames, and Kimbell, contractors: a two story rectangular limestone block fronted by a wide stair and balustraded plaza. The Corinthian three-arch arcade of the main south facade encloses an elegantly tiled loggia and a pedimented entrance with bronze doors. A prominent ornamental cornice surrounds the structure. Two winged reliefs are incorporated into the otherwise plain frieze which bears the inscription, "William L. Clements Library." The flanking bays also contain inscriptions placed directly above the classically framed windows.
- East Engineering Building (#15), Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, architects; H. G. Christman Co., contractor: a four story reddish-brown brick building of Neo-Classical inspiration. Corinthian brick pilasters delimit the windows, and the full ornamental entablature features terra cotta molding and a tapestry brick frieze. Doric stone jambs frame the doors of the main west entrance. Originally U-shaped in plan, a 1947 addition added an extra wing to the south.
- School of Education Building (#28), University High School (1924),

 Dwight Perkins, William K. Fellows, and John L. Hamilton of Chicago,
 architects; H. G. Christman Co., contractor; University Elementary School
 (1930), William G. Malcomson and William C. Higginbotham of Detroit,
 architects; Spence Bros., contractor: this maroon brick quadrangular

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complex features an irregular roof line, stone stringcourses, brick pilasters, and an inner courtyard. Window treatment varies from stone lintels with brick voussoirs to ornamental architraves composed of brick and stone pilasters and decorative tilework. Large Gothic windows and pinnacled buttresses highlight the north end of the west facade.

Randall Laboratory for Physics (East Physics Building) (#13), Albert Kahn, architect; University of Michigan Building and Grounds Department, contractor: designed in an L-shaped plan with four stories above grade, three below, and an entire two story brick laboratory completely enclosed within the main building. Classical influences are visible in both the ornamental copper cornice and in the Doric brick pilasters which articulate the top three stories. Heavy stone bandcourses and decorative panels contrast with the building's predominantly reddish browh brick composition.

Angell Hall(#23), Albert Kahn, architect; University of Michigan Building and Grounds Department, contractor; Pitkin and Mott of Cleveland, landscape architects: the imposing State Street facade forms the physical frontispiece for the original campus square. A good example of the Neo-Classical Revival Style, the four story limestone and brick edifice is topped by a central fifth story observatory. The composition focuses on the massive central portico with eight Doric columns which support a triglyph and metope frieze. The frieze, with its crowning ornamental cornice, encircles the entire structure. A secondary ornamental cornice caps the portico block and bears the following inscription from the Ordinance of 1787:

Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and means of education shall forever be encouraged.

The secondary frieze features sculptural details of various academic motifs. The flanking wings, thirteen bays long, are articulated by Doric pilasters, which extend to the base of the entablature, and by decorative metal spandrels. The rear east facade, never completed, is still faced with brick.

The Law Quadrangle (#25), York and Sawyer, architects; Starret Bros. and James Baird Company, contractors; Pitkin and Mott, landscape architects: an imposing Gothic Revival complex facing a central, tree shaded courtyard and characterized by rock-faced granite and limestone facades, slate roofs, gables, dormers, stringcourses, and quoinwork. The 1924 Lawyers' Club (#25a) features a loggia with timbered ceilings on the courtyard side and a semi-detached dining hall in a Gothic chapel style. The L-shaped John Potter

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Cook Dormitory wings (#25b), completed in 1930, are conceived in an English row house design. A variety of pedimented doorways and a combination of rectangular, semi-elliptical, oriel, and bay windows distinguish each wing. Large chimneys with decorative pots add interest to the irregular roof line as do the four Byzantine domes which crown the central archway. All three north facade arches feature vaulted ceilings and unique stone gargoyles. The 1931 rectangular Law Library (#25c) is the focal point of the quadrangle. Its large stained glass windows, embraced by Gothic tracery, contain the crests of various universities. Four square buttressed towers define the corners of the building. In 1955, new three story stacks were added to the south. The fireproof addition incorporates metal panels with granite, limestone, and Gothic tracery. It is connected to 1933 Hutchins Hall (#25d) by a glass catwalk. Hutchins features salient buttresses, ornamental shields, Gothic windows, and a secluded inner courtyard.

- C. C. Little Science Building (East Medical) (#9), Albert Kahn, architect; University of Michigan Building and Grounds Department, contractor: a four story reddish-brown brick building with stone base and trim. The main west facade of the V-shaped plan features four engaged Ionic stone columns framed by paired Doric brick pilasters. A similar motif, employing two Ionic stone pilasters, highlights both the north and east facades. Other classical details include the Doric brick pilaster articulation of the windows, and the ornamental cornice and frieze.
- The Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building (#10), Albert Kahn, architect;

 Spence Bros., contractor: a slightly more elegant version of the C. C. Little design. The major difference occurs on the Museums' main north facade, the short end of the V-shaped plan, which features an ornamental stone entrance block accented by two dark stone pumas, by two Ionic engaged columns, and by an inscribed quotation from Louis Agassiz. Carved stone reliefs of the heads of famous American naturalists highlight the facades. In 1964, the Architects Collective built a four story brick addition to the east.
- Architecture and Design Building (#27), Emil Lorch and Associates, architects; Weber Construction Company, contractor: an L-shaped building executed in maroon brick and stone with a slate roof. The three and four story wings are dominated by a central six story tower. The fenestration, which includes both trabeated and round arch window enframements, is highlighted by either decorated metal architraves or looped stone stringcourses. Ornamental shields, medallions, and brick pilasters articulate the facades.
 - Michigan League and Lydia Mendelssohn Theater (Women's League Building) (#5), Allen B. Pond and Irving K. Pond of Chicago, architects; Lovering (continued)

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and Longbotham, contractors: a three story reddish brick and stone building distinguished by a gabled slate roof, roof dormers, stone stringcourses, and large round arch windows with stained glass panels and ogee transoms. The main west entrance block features stone ornamentation on the front and oriel windows on the sides. Entrance drives serve both the north and south side doors.

- Burton Memorial Tower and Charles Baird Carillion (#3), Albert Kahn, architect; University of Michigan Building and Grounds Department, contractor: an eleven story Art Deco tower capped by a belfry, clock, and copper hipped roof. The smooth limestone facades are articulated by narrow pilasters and rectangular windows. The Thomas M. Cooley Fountain highlights the central Mall area across the street from Burton Tower. Created by Swedish sculptor Carl Milles in 1940, the copper sculpture depicts the Greek god Triton playing with his children.
- Horace H. Rackham Building (#1), Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, architects; W. F. Wood, contractor; Pitkin and Mott, landscape architects: a classically influenced Art Deco structure prominently situated at the north end of the Campus Mall. The symmetrical geometric design features a copper cornice, copper hipped roof, and a monumental staircase approach. The central rectangular block which dominates the composition is fenestrated by five large rectangular windows and highlighted by reliefs which portray various academic disciplines. Three massive bronze and glass doors provide access to the interior.
- Haven Hall (#22), Mason Hall (#22a), Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, architects; Bryant and Detwiler, contractors: a complex of undistinguished red brick and concrete buildings connected on the west to Angell Hall. Access to the complex from the Diagonal side is provided by a one story glass-fronted lobby known as "The Fish Bowl."
- Undergraduate Library (#17), Albert Kahn Associates of Detroit, architects; Spence Bros., contractor: a red brick block with varying patterns of blue porcelain and clear glass panels on the north, southwest, and southeast facades.
- Pharmacy Building (#9a), Bennett and Straight, architects: a four story red brick building connected on the northwest to the C. C. Little Science Building. The main southeast facade fronting Church Street features a rubbled cement finish threaded by parallel bands of ribbon windows.

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Physics and Astronomy Building (#14), Albert Kahn Associates, architects: an L-shaped red brick, steel, and concrete complex composed of one two story wing and one ten story block. The first two floors of the south wing consist of one level of glass curtain wall and another of brick fenestrated by thin vertical openings. The ten story north block features vertical ribbon windows and horizontal brick stringcourses.

Modern Languages Building (#2), Albert Kahn Associates, architects: a four story rectangular building with facades dominated by alternating horizontal bands of red brick, concrete, and ribbon windows.

Nonconforming Intrusions

227 Thayer (#29): a two story red brick residence with a hipped roof, round arched windows, and a one story wood porch.

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Revised List of Non-conforming Intrusions

Building #2 - Modern Languages Building

Building #14 - Physics and Astronomy Building

Building #17 - Undergraduate Library

Building #29 - 227 Thayer

Note: Intrusion is here defined as a structure that does not contribute to the historic character of the District. It does not necessarily imply any judgement of the architectural quality of the buildings so listed.

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building contained the nation's first instructional chemistry laboratory, and following subsequent additions became one of the country's finest and largest facilities.5 Ninth of the early campus buildings, the structure has been extensively remodeled and currently houses the Economics Department.

By 1871, the year James Burrill Angell assumed the presidency, Michigan had achieved a national reputation for excellence in higher education and, with Harvard, was one of the two largest universities in the country. 6 Under Angell, who had a gift for obtaining legislative appropriations, the University entered a period of further growth and development, establishing separate schools of Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Engineering. Architects Spier and Rohns of Detroit designed two of the buildings erected during this period. Tappan Hall (#21), constructed in 1894 at the height of Angell's career, provided twenty-eight additional classrooms and offices. The 1904 West Medical Building, now Natural Resources (#11), housed the growing Medical Department, then one of the larger schools in the country. A third building, West Engineering (#16), was the first campus commission of Albert Kahn, a man who would have a major impact on University development for the next thirty-five years.

Although begun in 1901, delays prevented West Engineering's completion until 1910. During that time, Kahn's partner, George D. Mason of Detroit, withdrew from the commission and Kahn finished the project alone. The Engineering Building represented a challenging assignment. The plan had to be large enough to accomodate the department's rapid growth yet small enough to occupy the old Engineering site at the southeast corner of South and East University Avenues. In addition, University officials wished to preserve the Diagonal Walkway (#30),7 a circulation pattern which had begun to emerge following the completion of the Law and Medical Buildings in the 1850s.8 Because of these factors, an L-shaped plan with a central archway was developed. A model for its time, the completed building housed the entire Engineering Department as well as an experimental naval research tank located in the basement of the north wing.

In 1910 the Detroit firm of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls completed the first of their many campus commissions, the buff brick Chemistry Building (#7). That same year, Donaldson and Meier, another noted Detroit firm, finished Alumni Memorial Hall (#24). With its paired sandstone pillars, five-part composition, and inner rotunda, the design reflects the influence of l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts where Donaldson had received some architectural training. The Hall, funded by Alumni contributions, was built as a memorial to the University's Civil War dead and has since served a number of purposes, among them the storage of the University art collection. 9 Designated as the University Museum of Art in 1946, the building contains a small but distinguished collection which includes works by Whistler, Rodin, Guercino, and Beckmann. 10

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With the 1909 appointment of William L. Clements as Regent and chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, Albert Kahn began to play to play an increasingly important role in the University's architectural development. Clements, a University of Michigan graduate and prominent Bay City industrialist, had contracted with Kahn for work on the family industrial works and fireproof residence in Bay City. Impressed with his work, Clements subsequently awarded Kahn a number of important University commissions.11

Kahn's first commission during Clements' chairmanship was for Hill Auditorium (#4). The badly needed new auditorium was funded by a \$200,000 bequest of Regent Arthur Hill, a Saginaw lumber baron. For the project Kahn worked closely with associate Ernest Wilby, designer of the building's distinctive terra cotta trim, chief structural engineer John T. N. Hoyt, and consulting acoustical engineer Hugh Tallant of New York. 12 Although the building's Sullivanesque exterior ornament has drawn considerable comment, its most significant feature is the auditorium interior. (See photo #4, view 2.) The parabolic shape and double soundproof walls give Hill excellent acoustics. With a seating capacity of 4,200, the auditorium still houses many of the University's major musical events.

Not only was Hill an acoustical success, it was also relatively simple and inexpensive. Kahn, however, achieved his greatest triumph of economy and efficiency in his next project, the 1915 Natural Science Building (#6). Before drafting his final plan, Kahn consulted with representatives from the six departments to be housed in the new building. The result was a modification of his own industrial designs. Using reinforced concrete and steel framing, Kahn gave Natural Science the University's largest expanse of window space to date. The functionally expressive brick exterior has few ornamental features, the most notable being a decorative band of terra cotta and tapestry brick which blends nicely with the decor of Hill Auditorium, located just across the street. Kahn's design not only provided for an abundance of natural light; it also facilitated future expansion by the erection of interior curtain walls which could be removed by knocking out partitions between bays. The building, with its numerous laboratories and classrooms, cost only \$408,000, an economic figure pleasing to both Regents and faculty.

The Martha Cook Residence (#26), also completed in 1915, is as lavish as Natural Science is simple. One of the University's early residences for women, the building was the gift of William L. Cook, an 1882 Michigan graduate, outstanding corporate lawyer, and son of a prominent Hillsdale Michigan family.14 Cook, who named the residence in honor of his mother, broke University precedent by exercising rigid personal control over the project. University officials, fearful of offending their generous donor, maintained a discreet silence as Cook adopted a conservative Gothic

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design which contrasted sharply with the classically influenced styles previously dominant on campus. Nonetheless, the combined talents of architects York and Sawyer, landscape architect Samuel Parsons, and contractor George A. Fuller, all of New York, made Martha Cook one of the architectural highlights on campus. At Cook's request the building's attractive park-like setting incorporated the gardens of the Condon residence, which formerly occupied the site. The building itself, with its tracery windows, garden wall bond maroon brick, and elaborate Gothic arch portal, reflects English Domestic Gothic inspiration. 15 (See photo #26, view 2.) The interior decor faithfully recreates period furnishings of some of the great museums and mansions of Europe. The Red Room, for example, features butternut paneling, barrel vaulted plaster ceilings, Flemish tapestries, and furnishings modeled on originals from England's Knole House and Aston Hall. A marble replica of the Venus de Milo graces the long vaulted gallery. (See Photo #26, view 3.) The dormitory rooms themselves contain finishings of unusual richness and quality. 16 Although Cook's penchant for quality resulted in project donations totaling approximately \$260,000, he was afraid of spoiling his mental image of the undertaking and therefore never inspected the completed building.

The University's next major building project resumed the tendency toward classically inspired design. The General Library (#19), another Kahn/Wilby/Clements project, features an elaborate tapestry brick and terra cotta entablature reminiscent of both Hill and the Natural Science Building. Now known as the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, the building incorporates the fireproof stacks of the original 1883 library and features a striking second floor reference room designed by Ernest Wilby.(See photo # 19, view 2.) Highlights of the room include ceilings by the DiLorenzo studios of New York and two murals by Gari Melchers, originally painted for the Manufacturing Building at the 1893 Worlds Fair in Chicago. 17 A 1970 addition by Albert Kahn Associates provides supplemental stack space, and the entire complex now serves as the core of the University library system. Among its more significant special collections are the University Papyri Collection and the Labadie Collection of Radical Literature. 18

The year of the Graduate Library's completion, 1920, was a significant one in University history. For the first time, the University of Michigan implemented a comprehensive plan for campus development. The new program had two prime movers: one was William Clements, who organized a Committee of Five in charge of building detail and included Albert Kahn as the University's Supervising Architect; the other was President Marion LeRoy Burton (1920-25), whose energetic leadership, belief in a dynamic, expanding University, and fiscal persuasiveness with the Michigan Legislature, resulted in the biggest building boom in University history. Until this time, University development had suffered from a lack of architectural unity. Because of the small amount of money available to the building program, campus structures tended to be simple brick blocks relieved only by bands of terra cotta

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and tapestry brick. The central Diagonal space had been haphazardly preserved until the completion of the new Library which occupied a pivotal space from which all paths diverged.19 During the early Nineteen Twenties, however, increasing attention was paid to the development of a campus site plan. For some time previous, Albert Kahn had been working on such a plan, and for the next five years, he collaborated with Regents, Administration, and the Cleveland landscape architectural firm of Pitkin and Mott on its implementation. The plan envisioned a central open space surrounded by a complex of new buildings designed to accommodate the large growth in student enrollment which occurred following World War One.20 In his new capacity as Supervising Architect, Kahn himself received three choice commissions which enabled him to put his plan into action.

The first, the 1923 Clements Library (#18), is Kahn's most elegant University building. Its design reflects both Kahn's deep admiration for the work of McKim, Mead, and White, and his study of Italian Renaissance architecture, viewed during his numerous trips abroad. The building bears a close resemblance to both McKim, Mead, and White's Butler Institute in Youngstown, Ohio, and to a casino by a student of Vignola, located on the grounds of the Farnese Palace in Caprola, Italy. 21 Whatever the source, the Clements, with its broad entrance plaza, triple-arched loggia, and decorative colored tilework, has the ambiance of an Italian Renaissance chapel. Its smooth sawn limestone finish, a direct contrast to the predominantly brick construction of the earlier campus buildings, was the choice of donor Clements, who reasoned that limestone was a more unusual and costly material. 22

The Library was built expressly to house Clements' lifelong accumulation of early Americana. This rare and distinguished collection, among the finest of its kind in the world, focuses on American source material from the fifteenth through the midnineteenth centuries. Of special note are the papers of British military and political activists who participated in the American Revolution.²³ The main ninety by fifty foot exhibition room, with a richly decorated ceiling by the DiLorenzo studios of New York, houses much of the collection.(See photo #18, view 2.)

Although Albert Kahn wished to be most remembered for his work on the Clements Library, 24 he designed Angell Hall (#23) as the central, unifying campus structure in 1924. Despite its imposing 480 foot facade and prominent location on the western edge of the Diagonal, Angell Hall never fulfilled Kahn's expectations. 25 The Classical Greek temple design, chosen to harmonize with nearby Hill Auditorium and Alumni Memorial Hall, was never completed as planned. Financial problems prevented the addition of two Greek pavillions, which were originally planned for the ends of the wings, and in 1952 those wing ends were faced with limestone to match the rest of the building. The rear east facade remains unfinished to date. 26 Nonetheless, Angell Hall was still the major achievement of Burton's vigorous building campaign. Constructed to house the expanding College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, the building features a massive west portico with eight great Doric columns. The DiLorenzo Studios designed the elegant lobby

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ceilings, and Pitkin and Mott planned the building's setting and monumental approach.27

In 1924, the same year that he completed Angell Hall, Kahn also finished the Randall Laboratory for Physics (#13), his third major commission under the direction of Clements and Burton. Kahn's position as the University Supervising Architect, however, did not preclude the award of contracts to other firms. Perkins, Fellows and Hamilton of Chicago were chosen to design the 1924 University High School (#28), and Smith, Hinchman and Grylls were responsible for the East Engineering Building (#15). York and Sawyer, architects of Martha Cook, worked on the largest project begun during the Burton era, the \$8.5 million collegiate Gothic Law Quadrangle (#25) funded by William Cook. After the construction of the Law buildings, the area just south of the Diagonal became predominantly Gothic in character, as both the School of Education Building (#28), finished by Malcomson and Higginbotham in 1930, and Emil Lorch's 1928 Architecture and Design Building (#27), incorporate some of the Gothic stylistic elements dominant in the two Cook gifts. 28

Modeled after the Tudor-Gothic colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, the Law complex is characterized by slate roofs, stained glass windows, marble floors, and a rock-faced masonry exterior of Massachusetts granite and Indiana limestone. Carved seals and inscribed legal texts add further architectural unity to the buildings. The centerpiece of the quadrangular plan is a flagstone courtyard designed by Jacob VanHeiningen, landscape architect with the firm of Pitkin and Mott.²⁹ The Lawyers' Club, the western component of the Quadrangle, includes a clubhouse, dining hall, kitchen, and dormitory. Patterned after English clubs, the building features a vast lounge space with arched plaster ceilings and paneled wood walls in an Elizabethan style. The adjoining dining hall, modeled after chapels at Eaton and King's College, Cambridge, has fifty foot high ceilings beamed with old ship timbers. The Quadrangle's most striking interior space, however, is the main reading room of the Law Library, decorated by craftsmen from the Rockefeller Church of New York.³⁰ (See photo #25c, view 2.)

Constructed of large plaster medallions paneled and decorated in blue and gold, it has heavy tie-beams running across it at the ends of which are carved figures which hold escutcheons bearing coats of arms of various heraldic designs. The stone walls are paneled in a carved oak to the height of fifteen feet, above which high windows of tinted glass, bearing seals of the colleges and universities of the world, cast a soft light. 31

The Quadrangle, completed in 1933, houses the University's prestigious Law School. As with the Martha Cook Residence, William Cook never saw the Law complex, even though his total legacy represented a gift of over \$16 million. Although the University has received many generous gifts over the years, William Cook retains the distinction of being the institution's largest single donor.

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After President Burton's death in 1925, the most intensive building boom in University history drew to a close. His successors, Clarence C. Little (1925-29), and Alexander Ruthven (1929-51), did not enjoy the favorable economic conditions necessary for soliciting sizable legislative appropriations, and for the next twenty years, most new construction was privately funded. Before his death, however, Burton had prepared his last request to the legislature, and two of his four proposed buildings were funded; they were Emil Lorch's Architecture and Design Building (#27) and Kahn's Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building, both completed in 1928.32 During the fiscal year 1925-26, the Committee of Five disbanded, and although Kahn no longer served as Supervising Architect, the museum was one of several additional University commissions he completed before his death in 1942.

Again consulting with University staff members, Kahn designed the four story brick Museums Building in a Renaissance style highlighted by carved reliefs of noted American naturalists.³³ The V-shaped plan, very similar to that of neighboring C. C. Little, provides space for exhibit display, preparation, and storage as well as research and instructional facilities for the departments of zoology, anthropology, and paleontology.³⁴

During the Nineteen Twenties and Thirties, the Central Campus area expanded northward beyond the limits of the original University acreage. A 1927 site plan developed by Pitkin and Mott resulted in the creation of the Campus Mall, a quarter mile long avenue extending north from the Graduate Library to Washington Street. The mall concept was an adaptation of Lorch's "Double Driveway" plan conceived in 1906. The construction of the Law Quadrangle had blocked plans for a southern driveway, but the 1913 construction of Hill Auditorium accommodated the creation of the present north mall.

In 1929 the Regents took an important step in the north mall's development by choosing a block long site between North University and Washington Streets for the Women's League Building (#5). The Women's League, established in 1890, sought to provide University women with the same sense of solidarity and social outlet as had always been experienced by men.³⁷ Following the 1919 construction of the Michigan Union, Alumni donations funded a similar building for women, completed in 1929. Pond and Pond of Chicago, architects for both buildings, developed the League's five story Tudoresque plan which contains dining, conference, lodging, lounge, and study rooms, as well as the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater.

In 1936 completion of Burton Memorial Tower (#3) just north of Hill Auditorium further developed the mall plan. Albert Kahn's last University commission, the tower's geometric Art Deco design reflects the influence of Saarinen's 1922 plan for the Chicago Tribune Tower.39 President Burton had given considerable support to the proposal for a bell and clock tower during the Twenties, but the suggestion that the

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campanile should honor Michigan's World War One dead received lackluster support. It was not until 1925, after his own death, that the tower project revived, this time as a memorial to Burton himself. Kahn's eleven story limestone building houses the University Musical Society, classrooms, offices, and a fifty-three bell carillon given by Charles Baird, Michigan Alumnus and former athletic director.⁴⁰

The final major component of Pitkin and Mott's mall plan was completed in 1938 with the construction of the Horace H. Rackham Building (#1). Rackham, located at the northern end of the mall which stretches south to the Graduate Library, is a pivotal structure not only in terms of its site but also in terms of its function as the administrative headquarters for the University Graduate School. The building's namesake and donor, Horace H. Rackham, bequeathed one of the largest single research grants ever made at an American university --- \$10 million for University publications, research, and fellowships. His immense fortune resulted from membership in the Detroit legal firm which drew up the articles of incorporation for the Ford Motor Company; an initial \$5,000 investment in Ford stock was sold in 1908 for \$12.5 million. Rackham's University endowment also included funds for a building in his honor. Architects Smith, Hinchman and Grylls received the commission, with William Kapp serving as chief designer. The monumental limestone building occupies a two block site landscaped by Pitkin and Mott. The elegant interior features wood wainscoting, bronze and pewter chandeliers, leather covered doors and cushions, and a 1,200 seat auditorium with ceilings decorated in gold leaf and polychrome.41

The completion of Rackham marked the end of an era. The 1930s witnessed the death of both Regent Clements and the final University commission of Albert Kahn, men who had shaped campus development for nearly a quarter century. Although new individuals guided subsequent growth, the appearance of the Central Campus Historic District remains profoundly influenced by the work of these two individuals.

By the late Nineteen Thirties, the District's significant buildings were completed. The post-war work of Albert Kahn Associates---the Undergraduate Library, Graduate Library addition, and Physics and Astronomy, and Modern Languages Building---lack the architectural quality of Kahn's own University designs; Smith, Hinchman and Grylls' 1952 construction of the Mason/Haven complex does not complement the adjoining mass and style of Angell Hall; and the Pharmacy Building, and the Chemistry, East Engineering, and Museums Building additions are equally undistinguished. Furthermore, three of these buildings, the Graduate Library addition, Physics and Astronomy, and Haven Hall, are eight or more stories high. These structures reflect the University's added need for building space following the post World War Two boom in student enrollment, but their height also encroaches upon the two to four story scale of the Central Campus buildings construction prior to the Nineteen Forties.

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Despite a few modern intrusions of design and scale, the University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District contains the school's largest concentration of significant structures. Dating from 1840 to 1970, these buildings encompass the architectural and historic development of one of the most distinguished public universities in the country.

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- Cocks, J. Fraser, III, The President's House (Ann Arbor: Michigan Historical 2. Collections, Bentley Historical Library, 1974), p. 3.
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- Washo, "Albert Kahn," pp. 59-60. 22.
- Hunt, Points of Interest, p. 14. 23.
- Washo, "Albert Kahn," p. 58. 24.
- Ibid., pp. 55-56. 25.
- Ibid., p. 57. 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- Encyclopedic Survey, p. 1575. Washo, "Albert Kahn," p. 52. Encyclopedic Survey, p. 1671. 29.
- Bennett, "Building the University of Michigan," pp. 190-204. 30.
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- 35. Shaw, The University of Michigan, p. 294. 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- Encyclopedic Survey, p. 1816.

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 Washo, "Albert Kahn," pp. 81-82.

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- 40. Hunt, Points of Interest, p. 42. 41.

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John Kern, Historic Preservation Coordinator Michigan History Division Michigan Department of State (517) 373-0510 Lansing, Michigan 48918

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Clarification of Boundary Description

The University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District boundaries are defined as follows: beginning at the intersection of Huron and Fletcher Streets, proceed south along the west curb of Fletcher to the intersection with North University Avenue; then proceed east along the north curb of North University to the intersection with Geddes Avenue; then proceed due east from that intersection to the intersection with Washtenaw Avenue; then proceed south along the west curb of Washtenaw Avenue to the intersection with Geddes Avenue; then proceed northwest along the north curb of Geddes Avenue to the intersection with Church Street; then proceed south along the west curb of Church Street to a point 95 feet north of the intersection of Church Street and South University Avenue; then proceed due west from that point to the intersection with East University Avenue; then proceed south along the west curb of East University Avenue to the intersection with Monroe Street; then proceed west along the north curb of Monroe Street to the intersection with State Street; then proceed north along the east curb of State Street to the intersection with North University Avenue; 🛚 🗀 then proceed east along the north curb of North University Avenue to the intersection with Thayer Street; then proceed north along the east curb of Thayer Street to the intersection with Washington Street; then proceed to a point 60 feet due east along the north curb of Washington Street; then proceed north from that point to the intersection with Huron Street; then proceed east along the south curb of Huron Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Rationale:

The Central Campus area has always been the heart of the University as it contains many of the classrooms, department offices, museums, cultural facilities, and libraries which have been important in University history. The boundaries of the University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District were chosen to include a key concentration of buildings which reflect the physical and academic growth of the Central Campus from 1840 to 1939. While not encompassing the entire Central Campus area, the District does include both the original campus square and three extensions of that square, one each to the north, east, and south. The significance of each building and its place in the University's historic development is discussed in the nomination text; however, it is the critical building period of the 1920s which gives strong thematic unity to our choice of the District's boundaries. During this decade, the dynamic team of President Marion Burton, Regent and Building and Grounds Committee Chairman William Clements, University Supervising Architect Albert Kahn, and the landscape architectural firm of Pitkin and Mott developed and began implementation of a comprehensive campus site plan which has profoundly influenced the appearance (continued)

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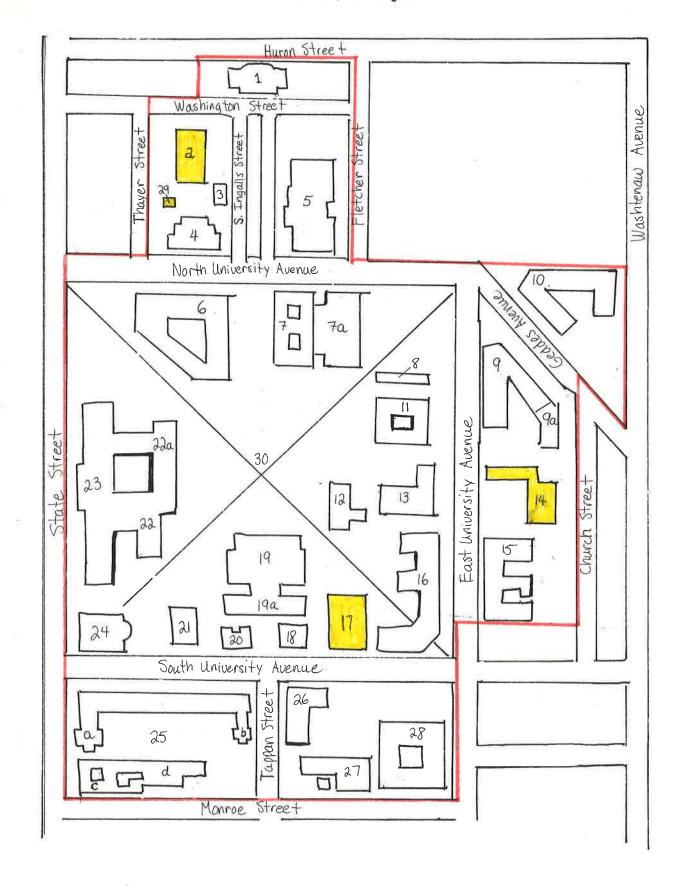
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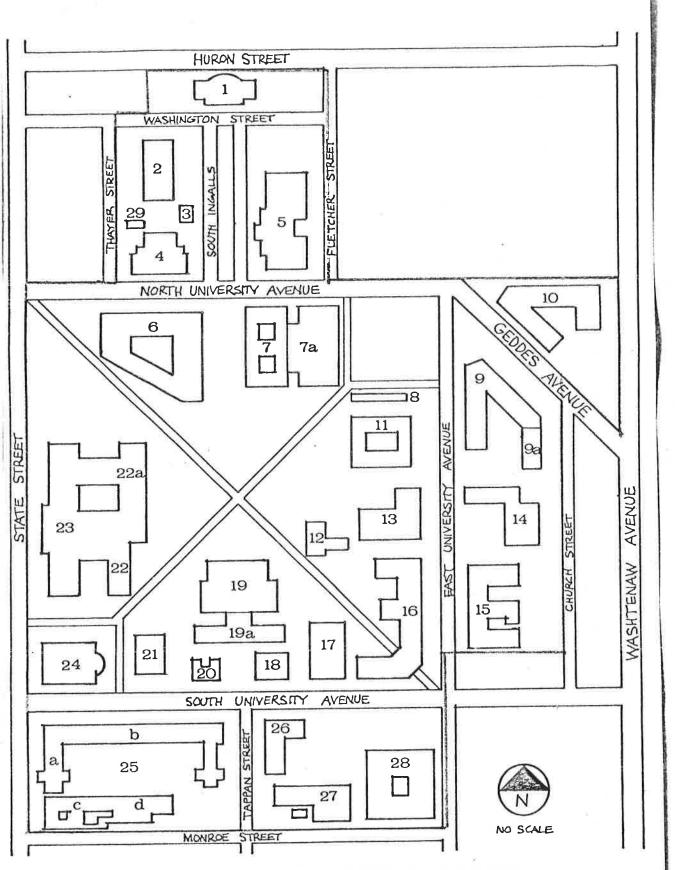
(continued) of the Central Campus to the present day. Construction of the C. C. Little Science Building (#9), the Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building (#10), the Randall Laboratory of Physics (#13), the East Engineering Building (#14), the Clements Library (#18), Angell Hall (#23), the Architecture and Design Building (#27), and the University High School (part of #28) were all in some way related to the efforts of these individuals. The Law Complex (#25), although funded by private donations, was also begun during this period. In addition, through Pitkin and Mott's Campus Mall plan, the northern sector of the District is integrally related to the whole. The landscape architects had envisioned a monumental building to head the one quarter mile vista north of the Graduate Library; however, not until the 1939 completion of the Rackham Building was the vision fully developed. With the construction of Rackham an epoch of university history came to a close. Burton, Clements, Kahn, those individuals who played particularly import roles in the Central Campus building development during the first third of the twentieth century, were replaced by a new generation of planners.

Thus, because of the importance of the Central Campus to University history, much of the institution's growth can be traced through the buildings, people, and events associated with the Central Campus Historic District; each component makes its own special contribution without which the whole would be incomplete.

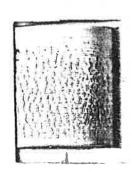
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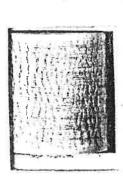


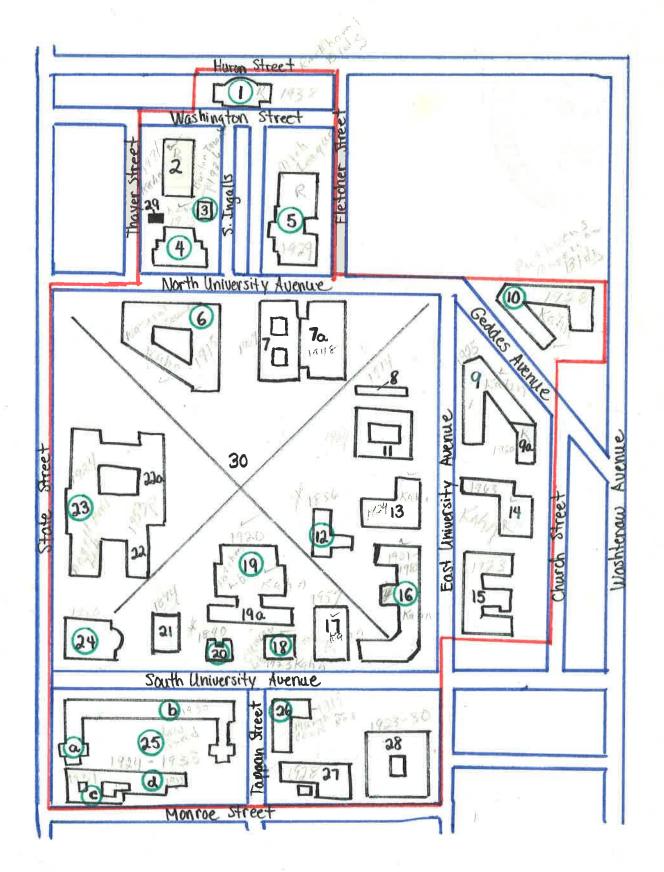
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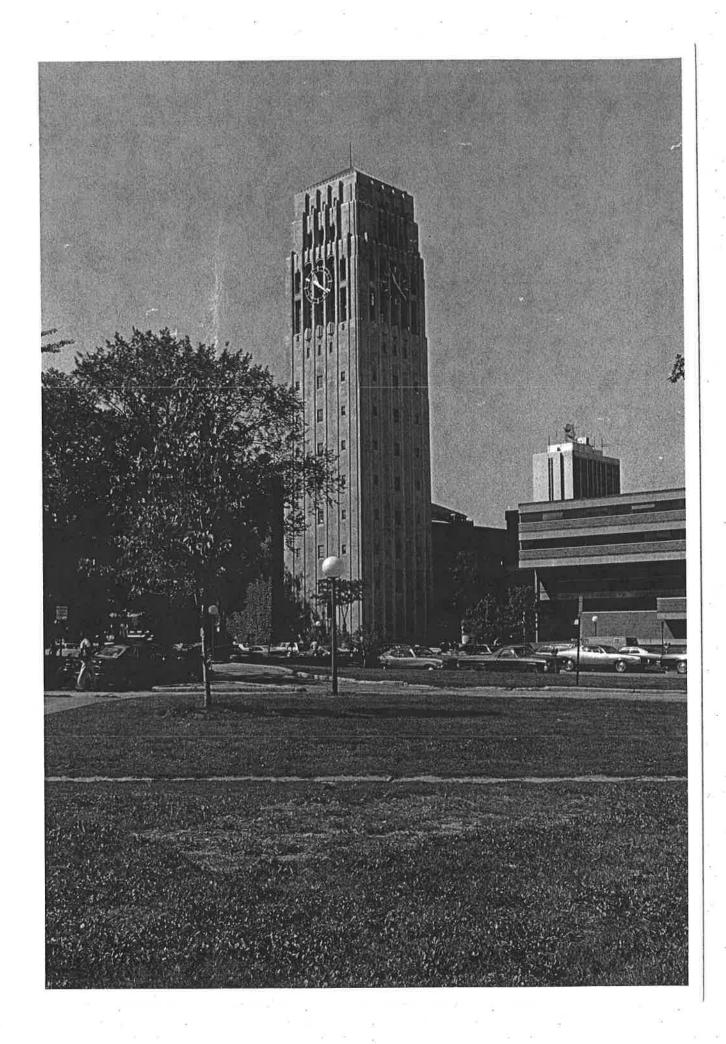


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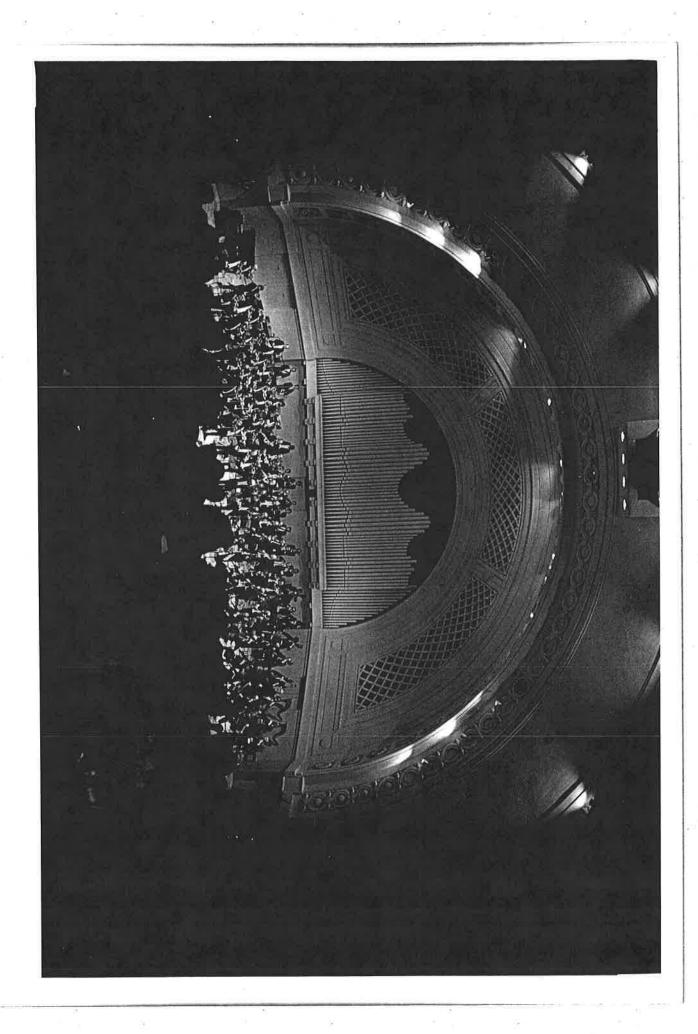
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east and north facades Michigan History Division

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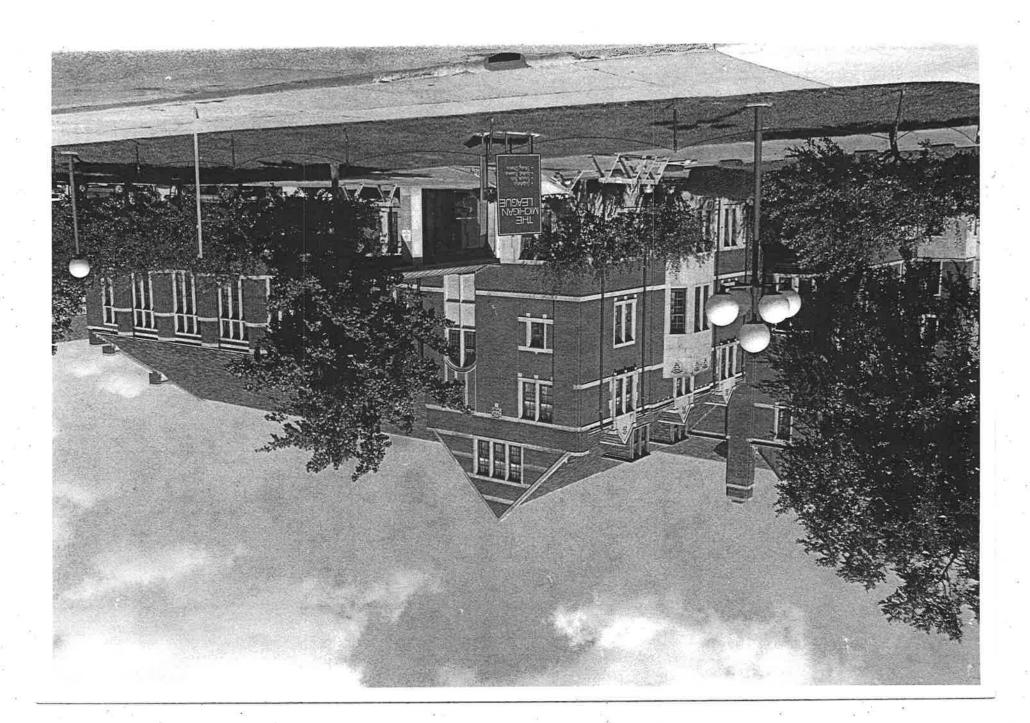
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WASHENANS COUNTY

- 1. Hill Auditorium
 University of Michigan
 Central Campus Historic
 District
- 2. Ann Arbor, Michigan
- University of Michigan Information Service
- 4. 1976
- University of Michigan Information Service, Ann Arbor
- 6. auditorium interior
- 7. #4, view 2

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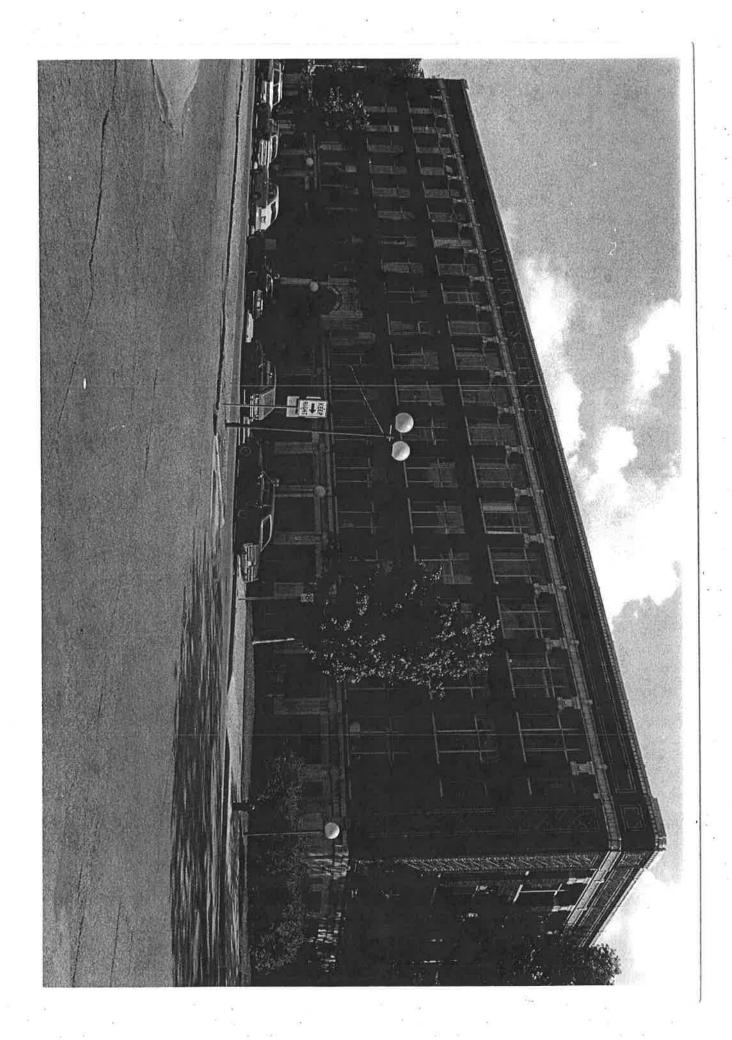
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- Michigan League University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District
- 2. Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 3. Laurie K. Sommers
- 4. 1977
- 5. Michigan History Division 6. south and west facades 7. #5127 1978

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 Laurie K, Sommers

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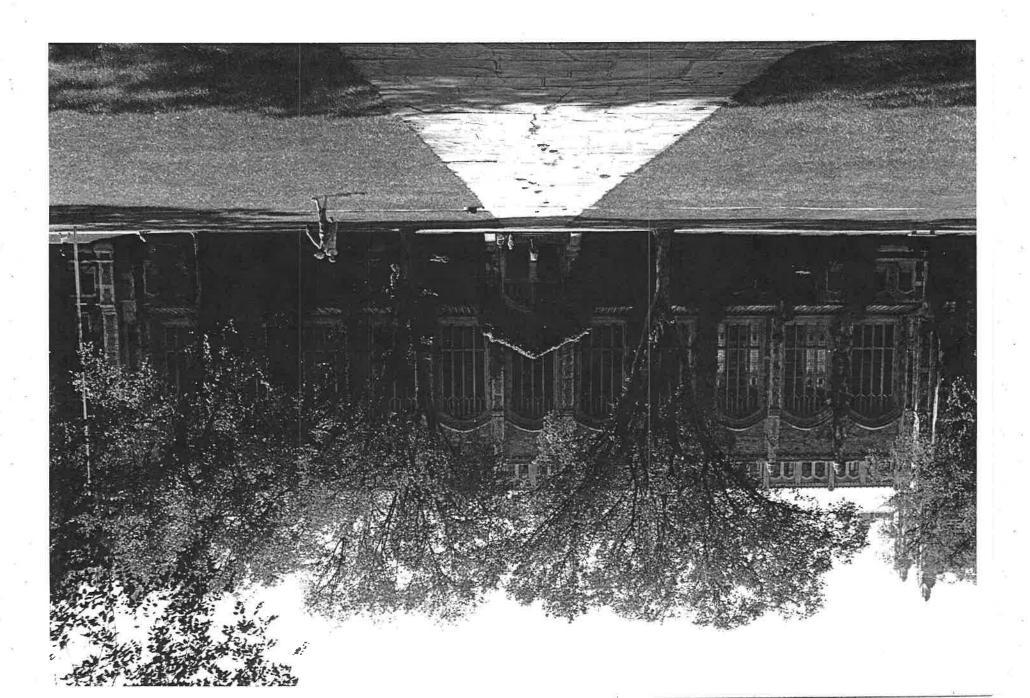
Michigan History Division
 north and west facades

7. #6 927

Washtenau Courty

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Washtenaus County

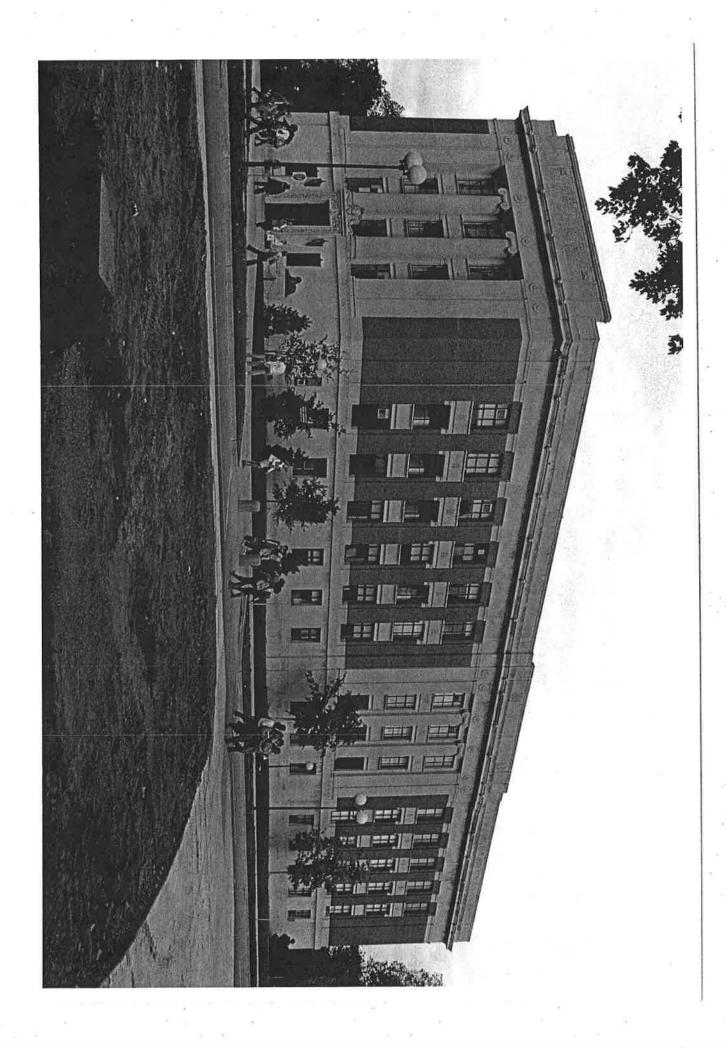
- Law Quadrangle, Law Library University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District
- Ann Arbor, Michigan
 Laurie K. Sommers

- Michigan History Division
- 6. north facade 7. #25c, view 1

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JUN 15 1978



1. Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District

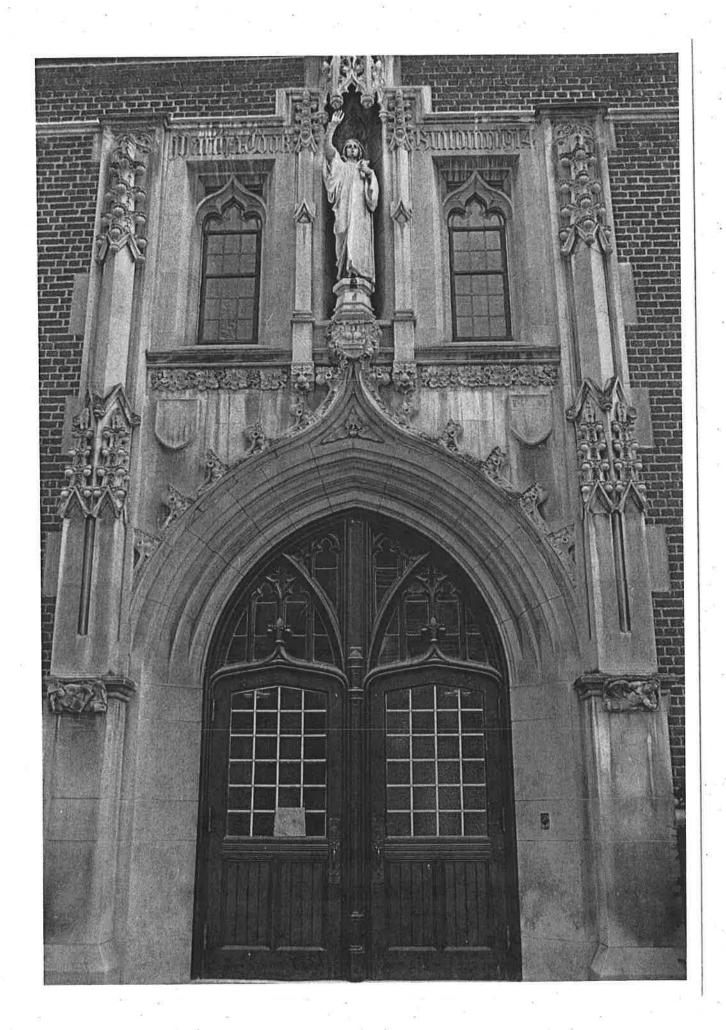
Ann Arbor, Michigan
 Laurie K. Sommers

1977

5. Michigan History Miwision
6. west facade
7. #10 27

Washtenau County

JUN 15 197DEC 14 1977



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Martha Cook Residence University of Michigan Central Campus Historic District

Ann Arbor, Michigan Laurie K. Sommers

2. Ann.
3. Laurie K. Sommers
4. 1977
Michigan History Division
6. main north entrance
7. #26, view 2
JUN 15 1978
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