

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received OCT 9 1986

date entered

NOV 19 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic The University of Illinois Buildings by Nathan Clifford Ricker Thematic Nomination  
and or common

**2. Location**

street & number University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign not for publication

city, town Urbana vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Champaign code 019

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> group		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name University of Illinois Board of Trustees

street & number 364 Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street

city, town Urbana vicinity of Illinois state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of University Counsel

street & number 266 Administration Building, 506 South Wright Street

city, town Urbana state Illinois

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title see attached has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

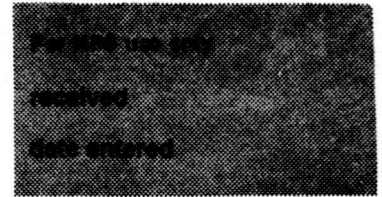
The University of Illinois Buildings by Nathan Clifford Ricker Thematic Nomination is comprised of campus buildings at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois. Each of these buildings was designed by architect and educator Nathan Clifford Ricker between the years 1877-1897, at which time Ricker served both as Dean of Engineering and as Head of the Department of Architecture of the University of Illinois. An alumnus of the University, Ricker achieved the distinction of being the nation's first graduate in architecture, receiving his diploma in 1873. The discipline and determination which enabled him to be the first to earn this degree continued throughout his academic and professional career, distinguishing him as an educator and practitioner at the University of Illinois.

Five buildings comprise this nomination, three of which are located at the north end of today's campus quadrangle facing Green Street. The fourth is on Burrill Avenue between Springfield Avenue and Green Street, while the fifth is on Springfield Avenue, terminating Burrill Avenue (see Map 1). Each of these buildings portrays a distinctly different style of architecture. They represent, both in themselves and in their location, the early stages in the development of the University campus.

The early development of the campus was somewhat sporadic, with little evidence of campus planning visible until the early 1900's. The first known campus map (1872) indicates an area of only 623 acres (see Map 2). The original university building can be seen at the top of the map, near University Avenue. At the urging of then University Regent John M. Gregory, a ridge south of Green Street was chosen for future buildings. The logical development, then, was to line up the buildings along Green street. These buildings included University Hall (John Mills Van Osdel, 1873, demolished in 1938) and three buildings designed by Ricker: the Chemical Laboratory (1877, later renamed Harker Hall), the Natural History Building (1893), and the Library (1897, today called Altgeld Hall). Collectively, this cluster of buildings defined the main body of the campus (see map 1) until 1905 when McKim, Mead and White's Women's Dormitory (now the English Building) was erected on the site of today's quadrangle, giving a new orientation for future developments. With the addition of the Engineering Building (1894) and the President's House (1896) on the north side of Green Street, the campus no longer presented a linear street facade; the group of buildings now defined an enclosed space. It was this formation which foreshadowed the eventual development of the quadrangle immediately to the south. This quadrangle formalized the development of the campus as initiated by these buildings.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U or I Ricker Buildings Item number 6

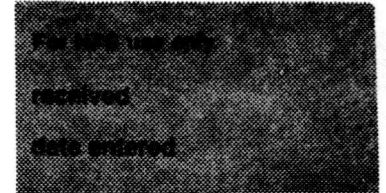
Page 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

1. Illinois Historic Structures Survey  
1975, April  
depository for survey records: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
Old State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62701  
  
All five buildings noted.
2. Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey  
April 1973  
depository for survey records: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
Old State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62701  
  
Altgeld Hall, Harker Hall listed.
3. Historic Resources of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1986  
depository for survey records: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
Old State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62701
4. Library Hall (Altgeld Hall) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



U of I Ricker Buildings

Continuation sheet Description

Item number

7

Page 1

The Metal Shop (1895, now known as the Aeronautical Lab B) was also designed by Ricker and was located on a north-south axis with University Hall. This axis, which linked the Metal Shop with the other buildings, terminated at the Drill Hall (1890, now the H. E. Kenney Gymnasium Annex). Ricker's Drill Hall was intended to serve as a focal point opposite University Hall (see fig. 1). This axis is still maintained, as the gambrel roof of the Drill Hall can be seen from the Student Union via Burrill Avenue.

Survey Methodology

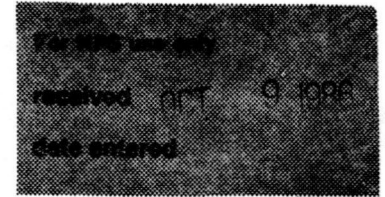
Nathan Clifford Ricker spent virtually all of his career at the University of Illinois, and existing evidence indicates that his practice was limited to work on the campus and some private residences in the Champaign-Urbana area. This thematic nomination includes all of the buildings on the university campus known to be designed by Ricker according to a survey of the campus conducted by the Preservation and Conservation Association in the summer of 1986.

The only other building in Champaign - Urbana which has been attributed to Ricker is his own residence at 612 West Green Street, east of the campus in Urbana. This structure has been excluded from this nomination for two reasons. First, it has been greatly altered and therefore has lost its design integrity. Secondly, because of Ricker's importance in the development of architectural education and his long association with the University, it was decided that his buildings on the University of Illinois campus are the most representative of his significance in education and architecture.

There are five contributing buildings in this thematic nomination. The description and significance of the individual buildings are described in continuation sheets following Section 8.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 1

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME: Chemical Laboratory  
COMMON PROPERTY NAME: Harker Hall

LOCATION: 1305 West Green Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801  
UNIVERSITY BLDG. NO.: 25

OWNER'S NAME: University of Illinois  
Board of Trustees  
LOCATION: 506 South Wright Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Office of University Counsel  
266 Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Starting at a point at the southwest corner of the structure the boundary line follows a line five feet from the edge of the building walls.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

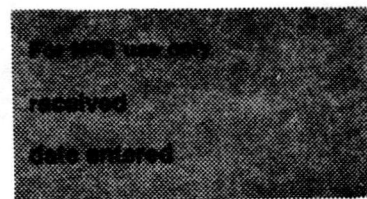
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1878  
ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER: Nathan Clifford Ricker/N. C. Terrill & Co.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Built in 1877 as the Chemical Laboratory, Harker Hall was designed by Nathan Clifford Ricker, Professor of Architecture, and constructed by N. C. Terrill and Co. of Kankakee. The millwork for the building was made in the woodshop on the campus by the architecture students. The Chemical Laboratory was the second building built south of Green Street on the campus, following the adjacent University Hall. In designing the Chemical Laboratory, Ricker was instructed to follow the Second Empire style of University Hall, (which was demolished in the 1930s). As originally constructed, the Chemical Laboratory had exterior stairs which led to the entrances on the raised main floor at the north and south ends of the building. The building was fully outfitted with up-to-date laboratory facilities and included a photographic studio and darkroom in the attic of the mansard roofed structure.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 2

On August 16, 1896, a fire destroyed the roof and much of the interior of the Chemical Laboratory. President Draper's report to the Board of Trustees indicates that the fire was believed to be caused by lightning. Charred joists can still be seen in the attic today. Associate Professor of Architecture James M. White was placed in charge of the repairs.

White designed the present hip roof as an expedient to get the building enclosed, at the direction of the Board of Trustees. When the building was assigned to the College of Law in 1902 there were numerous interior changes, including the construction of the law library on the top floor. Although it has been subdivided and is no longer used as a library, this space retains its skylight and five levels of glass-floored bookstacks which are above the north entrance. The stacks and the entrance were designed by James White in 1909 and resulted in the removal of the original exterior stairs. Ricker had designed alterations in 1888 which removed the south steps.

Although the structure has undergone several changes since its construction in 1879, it retains its integrity from the period of significance for this nomination, 1876-1927, since all of the major alterations took place during that period.

The north entrance to the building reflects the status of the campus plan in the early days of the University. Harker Hall and its contemporaries, Altgeld Hall, the former University Hall, and the Natural History Building were built to face Green Street. The Quad is a later development in the campus plan, coming in the 1900s.

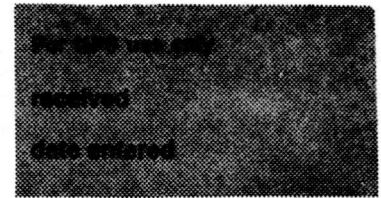
Harker Hall is currently occupied by the School of Life Sciences and is used for classrooms, instructional laboratories, and some office space.

The building is constructed of brick, laid in a common bond, and is "I"-shaped in plan, measuring 60 feet by 90 feet. It stands 2 1/2 stories plus a tall basement and is capped by a hip roof with slate shingles. The foundation and water table are of rough-faced coursed ashlar.

The main (north) elevation has 3 bays, and the center bay projects forward. The entry is an arched opening in the center bay with a limestone surround including a key cartouche which supports an entablature. Within the arched opening are two wood and glass doors with an entablature transom bar and flanked by pilasters. A stilted arch lunette window above the doors completes the frontispiece. At the basement level each side bay has two 4 over 4 double-hung windows with vermiculated segmental arch lintels. The first and second floors also have 4 over 4 double-hung windows, with round arched top, stone hoods and sills. Again, there are two in each side bay.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 3

Each bay has corner pilasters and corbel table across the top. There is a 1 over 1 double-hung triple window with continuous stone hood and sill over the entrance at the second floor level. The building has an overhanging sheet metal cornice with dentils and there is a skylight in the main roof.

The west facade has end sections which project forward and are similar to the end bays of the north facade. The center section of the west facade has an entablatured entry at the north end, with Greek Doric columns, two wood and glass doors, and a leaded glass transom. Basement windows on this facade are similar to those on the north facade. On the upper floors, the windows in the center two bays are similar to the other facades. The end bays of the center section each have paired arch top 4 over 4 double-hung windows under a single stone three-centered arch window hood with a single stone sill. There is a hip roof dormer in the center of the facade, with three 1 over 1 double-hung windows and there are brick chimneys in the center of the end sections.

The east facade is similar to the west, but without the entrance. There is a door in the south end section in an enlarged window opening and a fire escape at the south end of the facade.

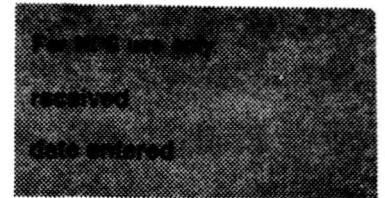
The end bays of the south facade are similar to those of the north facade. The center bay has a panel door with a transom to the east of the center line at the basement level in an enlarged window opening with exterior steps and a ramp. There is a typical basement window west of the center line. The window and door are flanked by narrow 1 over 1 double-hung windows with segmental arch lintels. At the first floor, the center bay has a 1 over 1 round arch topped window in the center with an air conditioning unit, wood spandrel panel, stone hood and sill. This window is flanked by two narrow round arch topped 1 over 1 double-hung windows with stone hoods and sills. The center bay of the second floor has two typical 4 over 4 double-hung windows.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Chemical Laboratory is significant as Nathan Clifford Ricker's first major built work. It represents his philosophy of combining historical reference with current technological advancements, which he put into writing in 1885:

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 4

"The only method of attaining success in the use of a past style is to become thoroughly imbued with it, then trying to design a modern building in the manner which would have been employed by an ancient architect placed under similar conditions, and having our building materials and methods at his command."<sup>1</sup>

The University Board of Trustees mandated that the Chemical Laboratory be in the same Second Empire style as University Hall, even requesting the use of similar stone details. The architect of University Hall, J. M. Van Osdel, from Chicago, was hired as a consultant but his role, beyond reviewing Ricker's plans, is not clear. Although he used the same style as that of University Hall, Ricker's design went beyond slavish copying. He worked with Professor Weber of the Chemistry Department to design a laboratory facility that was one of the best and largest in the country at the time of its construction.

Ricker was able to make the project a learning experience for his students, several of them being employed as drafters, while some of the furnishings for the building were made in the Architecture Department's wood shop.

When the building partially burned in August of 1896, Ricker's colleague in the architecture department, James M. White, was placed in charge of the repairs. White chose to replace the destroyed mansard roof with a hip roof, supported by wood Howe trusses with metal tension rods. The trusses were a quick method of enclosing the structure and, because they were supported by the exterior walls, they allowed flexibility in planning the interior repairs.

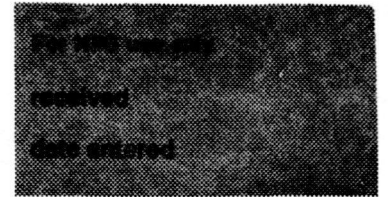
With the construction of a new Chemical Laboratory in 1902, the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees decided that the old laboratory should be devoted to the newly formed College of Law. The president of the University, Andrew Draper, requested that the Architecture Department prepare plans for alterations to suit the building's new use. Although the responsibility for this work fell to James White, the working relationship of White and Ricker undoubtedly meant that Ricker influenced the design.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Amy L. Cassens, Bret F. Johnson,  
David J. Garner, Janice A. Stein  
Graduate Students in Architecture  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 5

Endnotes

Chemical Laboratory (Harker Hall) Inventory Sheets

1. Ricker, N. C. "Possibilities for American Architecture" (paper read at the second convention of the Western Association of Architects, St. Louis, November 18, 1885), Inland Architect and Builder, 6 (1885), pp. 62-63.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1876 - 1927

Builder/Architect Nathan Clifford Ricker

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The University of Illinois Buildings by Nathan Clifford Ricker are significant physical manifestations of the theories and teachings of the first university graduate of architectural studies in the United States. Ricker founded the third institution for architectural studies in the nation, the first in the Midwest. Throughout his career with the University, he was involved in the development of modern technology and materials, actively incorporating them into his teaching as well as his campus building designs. In addition, he drew heavily from his experiences in Europe, adapting both the innovative teaching methods and the eclectic use of historical styles he studied there to architecture at the University. Combining these educational and practical resources, he single-handedly established the program of architectural education at the University of Illinois. Under Ricker's direction, a practical emphasis was placed on structure, function, and sound building techniques. His influence on architectural education at Illinois as well as nationwide still prevails. The extant buildings which comprise this nomination span Nathan Clifford Ricker's career, exemplifying his philosophies as an architect and an educator.

Nathan Clifford Ricker was born in Acton, Maine, on June 24, 1843. He moved to Springvale at the age of 13, where his father erected a mill. After school, Ricker studied surveying largely on his own, in addition to working at his father's mill. At 18 he replaced a country school teacher, using his earnings to purchase books for self-instruction in Latin, French, geology, and botany. It was then that he began translating scholarly works, a practice he continued throughout his career. He was concurrently developing his mechanical skill, as evidenced by his clever adaptation of a water wheel to the purpose of threshing grain.

After working for two and one half years in a factory making piano cases, Ricker grew restless and came to LaHarpe, Illinois, in 1866, ostensibly to visit his uncle for no more than a year. The lure of a half-interest in a wagon and blacksmith shop held him there for three years, but his desire to further his education was even stronger. He heard about the opportunities at the newly founded Illinois Industrial University and sold his interest in the business, using the \$750 profit to enroll in 1870.

Up to this time, architectural education depended primarily on the apprenticeship system, a gentlemanly arrangement by which young men gained the necessary experience by studying in the offices of the masters. Illinois Industrial University Regent John Milton Gregory had recommended to the Board of Trustees a more equally accessible program of formalized architectural education. Trustee John Mills Van Osdel, a leading Chicago architect, strongly supported the proposal, but it was Ricker who finally initiated the program by being the first to request it.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property see individual inventory sheets

Quadrangle name Urbana, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	9	5	3	7	0	4	4	4	0	8	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

1	6	3	9	5	4	4	0	4	4	4	0	6	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

1	6	3	9	5	5	2	0	4	4	4	0	4	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D 

1	6	3	9	5	3	2	0	4	4	4	0	3	9	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E 

1	6	3	9	5	4	6	0	4	4	4	0	3	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

### Verbal boundary description and justification

see attached individual inventory sheets

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy L. Cassens, Bret F. Johnson, David J. Garner, and Janice A. Stein

organization Graduate Students in Architecture  
University of Illinois

date August, 1986

street & number 110 Architecture Building  
608 East Lorado Taft Drive

telephone (217) 333-1330

city or town Champaign

state Illinois

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title Director

date 9-22-86

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Crovener

date 11/19/86

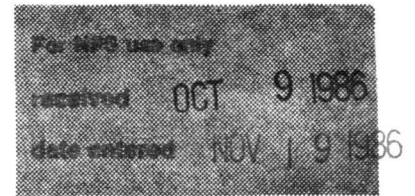
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

See Continuation sheet for Testimony  
Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 6

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME: Military Drill Hall and Men's Gymnasium  
COMMON PROPERTY NAME: Kenney Gym Annex and H. E. Kenney Gymnasium

LOCATION: 1402 - 1406 West Springfield  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801  
UNIVERSITY BLDG. NOS.: 05 and 21

OWNER'S NAME: University of Illinois  
Board of Trustees  
LOCATION: 506 South Wright Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Office of University Counsel  
266 Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Starting at a point at the southwest corner of the structure the boundry line follows a line fifteen feet from the edge of the building. (58)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1890 (Military Drill Hall)  
1902 (Men's Gymnasium)

ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER: Military Drill Hall, Nathan Clifford Ricker  
Men's Gymnasium, Nelson Strong Spencer

DESCRIPTION:

Although linked together by the later addition of a passageway, Kenney Gym and the Kenney Gym Annex were built as two separate structures. Their connection was not made complete until after 1914, at which time a hallway was added linking the two buildings, and they operate as a single structure today. The integrity of the Ricker design was not compromised in any way by the later addition of the Men's Gymnasium. On the exterior it is essentially as it was at the time of its construction.(See photographs). In addition, the interior of the Drill Hall has not been significantly altered.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet U or I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 &amp; 8

Page 7

The Military Drill Hall, now called the Kenney Gym Annex, is one story tall and was originally rectangular in plan. An addition to the east and north side in 1918 has made it "L"-shaped. The original building has a mansard roof with clay tile shingles on the steep slope and a stone foundation and water table. It is constructed of brick laid in common bond and is 60 feet by 130 feet.

The south elevation of the original building, which faces Springfield Avenue, is the main entrance. It has three bays and a rough faced ashlar foundation which comes up to the window sill line. There are lunette windows in the end bays with gauged brick arches and limestone sills. The center bay has a set of five windows capped with a fanlight. These also have a gauged brick arch and limestone sills. A pair of paneled doors with fanlight transom is at each end of this bay. The center bay is capped by a gambrel roof gable. A corbel table forms a cornice for the elevation and is stepped and arched as it follows the slope of the gable.

The south elevation of the east addition has a concrete foundation and a three arch arcade with gauged brick arches and brick header extrados. A very shallow sloped gable with concrete coping caps the addition. Three pair of 1 over 1 double-hung windows are recessed behind the arcade and each has a fanlight transom.

The east elevation of the addition is similar to the south elevation with a relieving arch arcade.

The north elevation of the east addition is similar to the south elevation. The north elevation of the north addition, which abuts the east addition, has a set of three 1 over 1 double-hung windows in the center flanked by a pair of 1 over 1 double-hung windows on each side. All windows have limestone sills and brick soldier course lintels. There are recessed panels above each set of windows and a corbeled parapet wall with limestone coping. Both additions project forward from the original building.

The north elevation of the original building had three bays. The north addition connects to the east end bay. The center bay projects and has a gable similar to the corresponding bay on the south elevation. New double steel doors have been installed in the center of the bay beneath a relieving arch. Above the doors is a set of three double-hung windows with stone lintels and sills. Windows with stone sills have been added between the center bay and the north addition. These also have stone sills. The west end bay is similar to the corresponding bay on the south facade. The west window has been removed, opened to grade, and replaced with doors.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 8

The interior has exposed wood and steel truss work.

The Men's Gymnasium, today the Kenney Gymnasium, stands two stories tall with a mezzanine in the second floor gymnasium space. The building has a hip roof, a red sandstone foundation, and water table. It is constructed of brick laid in a running bond, and is 60 feet by 100 feet.

The main or south elevation has nine bays, with the center three projecting forward. The bays in the end sections are defined by brick pilasters. The basement has one pair of 1 over 1 double-hung windows in each bay except the center one. The foundation is of rough-faced ashlar laid up in alternating wide and narrow courses. The entry, at the central bay, is at grade level and consists of one pair of wood and glass doors with sidelights and transom. The doors are set in a brick archway with a gauged brick course, two corbelled rowlock courses and a molded brick archivolt. On the first floor, the three bays at each end have three 1 over 1 double-hung windows per bay with wood mullions and using the water table for a sill. There are triple arched top 1 over 1 double-hung windows in the bays adjacent to the entrance. These have intersecting gauged brick arches, molded brick drips, red sandstone sills, and brick mullions. There are recessed panels in spandrels between the first and second floors.

On the second floor, the three bays at each end have three 1 over 1 double-hung windows with lunette windows above at the mezzanine level. These windows have wood mullions and transom bars, terra cotta sills, and springer course and triple rowlock arches. The interbay pilasters are capped by terra cotta egg and dart molding. A brick architrave and wood cornice top off these bays. The upper stories of the center section are framed by corner pilasters. The second floor windows are similar to the first floor windows in the end bays and have a terra cotta sillcourse. Stack bond headers and rowlock courses form an architrave surround for the second and mezzanine floor windows with a recessed panel in the spandrel between the second floor and the mezzanine. The mezzanine level windows are similar to those on the second floor. A large pediment caps the center section with wood horizontal and raking cornices.

The west elevation has five bays and is similar to the end three bays on the south elevation.

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation with minor differences on the first floor. The third bay in, from each end, has a door in place of one window. Wooden steps lead from the window to the ground. The center three bays have triple windows similar to the end bays although they have been boarded up. These windows have a brick surround similar to that of

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 9

the upper story windows of the center bay. The connection to the annex is at the east end.

The east elevation is similar to the west elevation. The connection to the annex is in the north three bays.

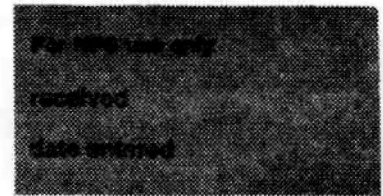
The connection to the annex is one story tall and constructed of brick laid up in common bond. It has a shed roof. The north elevation has three 1 over 1 double-hung windows. The south elevation has a double door in the center with a fanlight transom above. A set of three 1 over 1 double-hung windows is on either side of the entrance.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Ricker's second design for the University of Illinois, the Military Drill Hall, was perhaps his finest in terms of the engineering skill involved. Constructed in 1889 in response to the need for a large, unified space for military training, its interior is entirely given over to its structure, which is so trussed as to need no interior pier support. Ricker's design was for a wood and steel-trussed framework, progressive for the 1890's, which would give "strength, lightness, and symmetry" to the structure.<sup>1</sup> Ricker's competence as a designer of such technology is evident as the interior structural system stands unaltered.

The Military Department was one part of the initial curriculum proposed by President Gregory in 1867; he was of the belief that military education was advantageous to the university as well as to the young men enrolled therein. The first drill hall was on the second floor of the Mechanical building (J. M. Van Osdel, 1872, destroyed 1900). Ricker's new building, placed on the parade ground, was to be used only in the instruction of military engineering and tactics. Other than for the purpose of Commencements, beginning in June of 1890, the building was used only to fulfill its intended function until 1914, at which time it underwent repairs and improvements to make the building appropriate for the Department of Physical Education. It serves in this capacity today as the Kenney Gym Annex. The building's appearance, excluding the additions to the east and west of the early 1900s, has not been altered.

The Drill Hall's significance lies chiefly in its large, column-free interior space. Its impressive structure, especially for 1890, displayed Ricker's talent for engineering and, specifically, truss design. It is the best example of Ricker's educational theories rendered in wood and steel. The construction of the Drill Hall preceded the University's adoption of a new Architectural Engineering curriculum in the 1890s, and it must have in part

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 &amp; 8

Page 10

influenced the large increase of incoming architecture students after 1890. It was a visible demonstration of what the School had to offer in terms of advanced structural theories as taught by Ricker. Indeed, the School's catalogue of 1891-1892 announced courses for "those students preferring the mathematical and structural side of architecture to its artistic side, and for those who wish to acquire a thorough knowledge of iron and steel construction as it is now executed in architectural structure." The Drill Hall was just such a progressive structure.

In 1902 the Men's Gymnasium, designed by Nelson Strong Spencer, was constructed immediately adjacent to Ricker's Drill Hall. Spencer, in addition to emulating Ricker's style on the exterior of his building, was also able to draw upon Ricker's educational methods in designing a safe and economical building while using the most up-to-date materials and methods. The two buildings were actually joined after 1914, at which time the new Armory was built to replace Ricker's Drill Hall. It was then that the Drill Hall was renamed as the Gymnasium Annex.

The late 1890's had seen the Drill Hall's function turn to the support of physical exercise as well as military training: It was used as the university's temporary gymnasium. Aside from the fact that this inconvenienced the military department, the Drill Hall was simply too small to accommodate both athletics and military related activities. Under strong pressure from the Athletic Association and the student body, it was requested that the Administration appropriate funds for a new gymnasium. That same year the State Legislators agreed to make funds available for the construction of a gymnasium, a wood shop, and a testing laboratory.

In 1902 the Men's Gymnasium opened its doors for use. "The building was designed to yield the greatest facilities to be secured with the money available, and to do that it was necessary to expend little on ornament."<sup>2</sup> Spencer did, however, recall the Drill Hall's fine rusticated base as well as its abundance of arched window openings. He also continued Ricker's tradition of engineering, with a trussed roof and column-free space for the activity area. The facility contained many up-to-date features, such as a much needed uniform depth pool, as well as a track suspended above the large gymnasium floor. Unlike Ricker's Drill Hall, however, this feature was stabilized in the 1920's with columns for additional support.

Spencer was an 1883 graduate of Architecture at the University of Illinois and Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds from 1898 to 1902. He was serving in this capacity at the time he designed the Men's Gymnasium. As a student of Ricker's he must have held his former professor's work in great esteem, as is evident in the similarity in design between the two buildings:

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 11

Spencer continued in the same fashion of housing a modern structural form within an eclectic framework of historical reference.

In addition, Spencer's admiration of Ricker cannot be denied as he named his first-born son Clifford Ricker Spencer.

FORM PREPARED BY:

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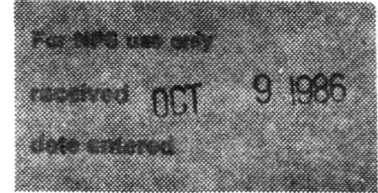
Endnotes

Kenney Gym Annex, Kenney Gym Inventory Sheets

1. Proceedings of the Board of Trustees, 15th Report, 1888-90, p. 60.
2. The Illini, vol. xxx, March 24, 1901, p. 1.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 1 12

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME: Natural History Building  
COMMON PROPERTY NAME: Natural History Building

LOCATION: 1301 West Green Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801  
UNIVERSITY BLDG. NO.: 32

OWNER'S NAME: University of Illinois  
Board of Trustees  
LOCATION: 506 South Wright Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Office of University Counsel  
266 Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Starting at a point at the southwest corner of the structure the boundary line follows a line fifteen feet from the edge of the building walls.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1892  
ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER: Nathan Clifford Ricker

DESCRIPTION:

The Natural History Building is an American High Victorian Gothic style structure constructed of red brick laid in a running bond with a rough faced coursed ashlar foundation and stone water table. The building is rectangular in plan with two interior lightwells and stands 2 1/2 stories tall. It is capped with a mansard roof clad in slate shingles. The original building was 50 feet by 90 feet. The additions have enlarged it to 90 feet by 180 feet.

The north end of the building was constructed in 1893 and as originally constructed it was rectangular in plan. In 1909, a large "L"-shaped addition was added to the southwest corner giving the building its current west and

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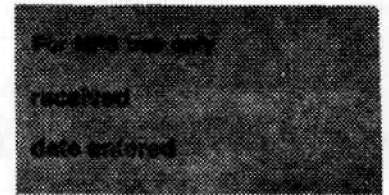
Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 &amp; 8

Page 13

south facades. The lecture hall and museum wing was added in 1910, although it had been planned as a part of the 1909 addition. This is located in the center of the current building, separating the interior lightwells. The last addition to the building was in 1923 at which time the east side was closed. Although the building we see today was constructed over a period of thirty years, it has a consistency of style giving it a unified appearance.

The north elevation, which faces Green Street, is the main facade of the original building and has five bays. The end and center bays project slightly forward. The entrance is in the center bay with a round arched opening, exterior steps, and three paneled doors with lights. An arched transom with three windows above the door openings completes the frontispiece. The basement windows are 1 over 1 double-hung sash with flat lintels of limestone. On the first floor the center bay is smooth faced ashlar. The end bays are also smooth faced ashlar from the water table to just above the window sills. The remainder of the facade is brick and has 4 over 4 double-hung windows with limestone sills and lintels. The second floor windows have segmental arch lintels linked by a stringcourse. Double brick pilasters rise from the stone entrance surround in the center bay, to either side and above the entrance, and at the corners of the projecting bay. A corbel table runs from the pilasters to the corner. Over the entry is a triple window with round top 4 over 4 double-hung sash and continuous arched lintel. The arch spandrels have molded brick with a fan-like embossed pattern. A brick string course with yellow brick and ornamental tile forms a frieze and cornice for the facade. The end and center bays are capped by steep pitched gables. The center bay has three square windows at the third floor level above the entrance with a stone sillcourse and continuous lintel, above which is a frieze and cornice similar to the other bays. The center gable has a pent roof at the bottom, fish scale shingles, a starburst ornament, and a decorative frieze with the words "NATURAL HISTORY" in bright metal cutout letters. The gables in the end bays are of similar materials but have one double-hung window with sidelights and transom in a pointed arch opening. There are flat roofed dormers in the intermediate bays, each with three 2 over 2 double-hung windows.

The west facade of the building has nine bays. The center bay projects while the first, third, seventh, and ninth bays are recessed. The center three bays go a full three stories. The north three bays are a part of the original building and are similar to the north facade, as is the entire basement of this facade. The second bay (counting north to south) has a gable similar to the end bays of the north facade. The first and third bays have flat roof dormers similar to those on the north facade. There is an entry in the center bay with four doors and a round arched transom recessed behind a stone arched opening. The fourth through ninth bays of the first floor have

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Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 &amp; 8

Page 14

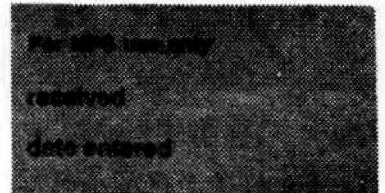
smooth faced ashlar from the water table to the stone sillcourse and 1 over 1 double-hung windows. The windows in the south three bays have flat lintels made of limestone. On the second floor the windows in the fourth and sixth bays are similar to those on the first floor except that they have individual stone sills. Paired cantilevers support a balcony over the entrance which has a stone balustrade. French doors with square transoms and a keyed-in stone surround open onto the balcony. There are 1 over 1 double-hung windows in the south three bays, with stone sills and segmental arch lintels. On the third floor the third and fifth bays have five rectangular windows set in a group with a common sill and combination lintel, transom bar, and string course of stone. There is a gable above the transoms with a stone coping. The center bay has a stone spandrel between the second and third floors and four windows similar to the adjacent bays. All of these windows have transoms and the same lintel/transom bar/string course. A stone lintel and frieze are above the transoms and the bay is topped by a stone gable with a triangular carved panel. The south three bays have a yellow brick frieze and cornice similar to the north three bays. The eighth bay has a hipped roof dormer with balcony, stone balustrade, and three 1 over 1 double-hung windows. The seventh and ninth bays have two hipped roof dormers each. Each dormer has a single 1 over 1 double-hung window.

The south facade has three unequal bays. The end bays are similar to the south three bays of the west facade and project forward. They are topped by gables which have horizontal cornice returns and a triple window in each gable end with double-hung windows and stone segmental arch lintel. There is an entry at each end of the center bay which projects forward and is flush with the end bays. Each entry consists of a stone arch opening with double wood and glass doors, round arched transom, and exterior steps. The entry is at a level between the basement and first floor. The basement and first floor of the center bays are similar to the end bays. There is a balcony with a stone balustrade over the projecting entry. Three casement windows on the stair landing between the first and second floor open on to a stone balcony. The transom bar for these casement windows aligns with the sillcourse for the short 1 over 1 double-hung windows on the rest of the second floor. Recessed brick spandrel panels separate the second and third floors. The third floor windows are similar to the second floor, but with individual stone sills. There are triple casement windows with stone sills between the second and third floors over the entrances. A stone frieze and copper cornice top all three bays. The center bay has hipped roof dormers, each with a 1 over 1 double-hung window.

The east facade has nine bays and is similar to the west facade, but lacks the entrance and balcony in the center bay. There is an entrance to the basement in the eighth bay. A fire escape and greenhouse have been added to the seventh bay.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 15

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

In the Natural History Building Nathan Clifford Ricker gave the campus a new building style while continuing his development of techniques in building ventilation and lighting. When it was erected The Illini praised it as "one of the most prominent and noticable ones in the group of University buildings"<sup>1</sup> By the use of repetitive elements and economical construction Ricker was able to give this building nicely crafted details while staying within the usual tight construction budget.

The previous buildings on the University were an eclectic mix dominated by the French Second Empire style of University Hall and Ricker's Chemical Laboratory. In the Natural History Building Ricker introduced the American High Victorian Gothic style to the campus. His use of polychromatic elements in the stone trim and ornamental brick demonstrated that Ricker had a clear understanding of the elements of the style, while the rusticated stone base recalls his earlier Drill Hall and Chemical Laboratory. The steep pitched roof supported by wood trusses allowed the full use of the attic story.

Ricker's floor plan is symmetrical about the building's north-south axis and was described as resembling a double-bladed jack-knife. He integrated engineering systems that were "the most approved methods of natural lighting and ventilation"<sup>2</sup> being used in construction at the time. The light wells which stretched vertically through the building's wide central corridor, ventilating flues in each room along with steam heat supplied from the main boiler at the University Hall allowed students and faculty to study and learn in comfort.

Although the heavy timber mill construction of the building's structure was not innovative, Ricker raised the system to an art form by turning the exposed beams into a decorative coffered ceiling. Along the same lines, the exquisite millwork in the stairwell recalls Ricker's early training in shop practice, which gave him an appreciation of fine materials and craftsmanship.

The entrances to the building are indicative of the phases that planning has gone through at the University. In 1893, the major campus buildings faced Green Street, and the main entrance of the original Natural History Building followed suit. The later additions to the building open toward the Quadrangle, which was introduced to the campus plan in 1905.

The additions to Ricker's original Natural History Building are very complementary to the style of his building and create an overall consistency of exterior appearance. The 1909 and 1910 additions by State Architect William Carbys Zimmerman gave the growing Natural History Department much

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 16

needed lecture and classroom space, as well as the spectacular museum. This large "L"-shaped addition is attached to the southwest corner of the original building and gives the edifice its present west and south facades. In its design, Zimmerman chose to make the west facade symmetrical about the new center entrance pavilion, with the south end of the facade essentially a duplicate of the original building's west facade. Although Zimmerman was not educated by Ricker, he admired Ricker's design enough to use similar materials in a sympathetic design. The final addition in 1923 by University Architect James M. White connects the east side of the first addition with the southeast corner of the original building, complementing Zimmerman's design for the center pavilion of the west facade and giving the Natural History Building the consistent appearance it has today.

FORM PREPARED BY:

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David J. Garner, Janice A. Stein  
Graduate Students in Architecture  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

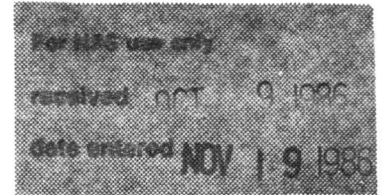
Endnotes

Natural History Building Inventory Sheets

1. The Illini, September 21, 1892, p. 13.
2. Ibid.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 17

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME: Metal Shop  
COMMON PROPERTY NAME: Aeronautical Lab "B"

LOCATION: 102 South Burrill Avenue  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801  
UNIVERSITY BLDG. NO.: 30

OWNER'S NAME: University of Illinois  
Board of Trustees  
LOCATION: 506 South Wright Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Office of University Counsel  
266 Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Starting at a point at the southwest corner of the structure the boundary line follows a line fifteen feet from the edge of the building walls.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1895  
ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER: Nathan Clifford Ricker

DESCRIPTION:

Aeronautical Lab "B", originally built as the Metal Shop, is a brick structure, laid in common bond, with a double "T"-shaped plan. The building is one story with a hipped roof, a brick foundation, and a limestone water table. The building is 30 feet wide by 170 feet long. The Metal Shop is located on the east side of Burrill Avenue, near Springfield Avenue and the Military Drill Hall (now Kenney Gym Annex).

The narrow main or west elevation faces Burrill Avenue, and has three bays with the center bay containing an entry loggia of three intersecting brick rowlock arches. The arches share a corbeled brick springer course.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 18

Recessed behind the loggia is a double door entry with a transom. Each end bay has two 1 over 1 double-hung windows with stone sills and rowlock brick arches. The cornice is laid in English bond, with corbeled header courses and a copper gutter.

The south elevation has 23 bays. The first bay from the west has one 1 over 1 double-hung window. The second bay from the west has two identical windows. The 13th bay has double wood doors with lights opening on to a loading dock and the 16th bay has a large round blind arch. The remaining bays each have two 2 over 2 double-hung windows. All windows have limestone sills and double rowlock brick segmental arches.

The east elevation has three bays capped by a gable. The end bays each have three 2 over 2 double-hung windows. The center bay has two casement windows flanking a fixed sash and topped by a round arched transom. All windows have limestone sills and rowlock arches.

The north elevation has 23 bays. The 5th and 6th bays project forward as do the 14th, 15th, and 16th. There is a blanked opening in the 5th bay and a single 2 over 2 double-hung window in each of the 14th, 15th, and 16th bays. The remainder of the elevation is similar to the south elevation.

There are skylights on the north side of the roof and conical sheet metal ventilators on the ridge.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Aeronautical Lab "B" was constructed as the Metal Shop in 1895 and was designed by Nathan C. Ricker. The structure is significant for its associations with Nathan Ricker as an architect and educator, his role as Dean of the College of Engineering, and the building's design as a modern industrial structure.

Shop practice for students in the College of Engineering was not limited to the architecture department. Mechanical engineering students were required to design and fabricate machine parts and whole machines. Originally, this work was done in the Mechanical Building. As the school grew, the shop facilities became inadequate for the number of students. As Dean of the College, Ricker requested an appropriation for a new shop facility. His request was granted, and Ricker drew up plans for the metal shop.

His design reflects a need for a utilitarian structure and is his only structure on the campus without historical references. If anything, the

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Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

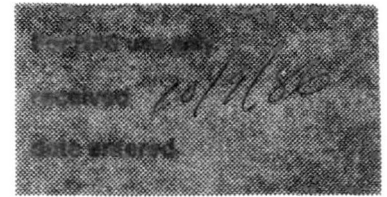
Page 19

building's brick walls, with a minimum of ornamentation and large windows, recall factory buildings of the period. The only artistic feature to the building is the entrance loggia on Burrill Avenue. For maximum flexibility in placing machinery within the building, Ricker employed steel trusses which span the entire width of the building.

The Metal Shop represents the functional and practical aspects of Ricker's teaching in built form.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 20

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME: Library Hall/Law Building  
COMMON PROPERTY NAME: Altgeld Hall

LOCATION: 1409 West Green Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801  
UNIVERSITY BLDG. NO.: 26

*Already listed  
4/17/20*

OWNER'S NAME: University of Illinois  
Board of Trustees  
LOCATION: 506 South Wright Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Office of University Counsel  
266 Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Starting at a point at the southwest corner of the structure the boundary line follows a line fifteen feet from the edge of the building walls.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1896  
ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER: Nathan Clifford Ricker & James M. White

DESCRIPTION:

Altgeld Hall, originally Library Hall, is a stone building in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Overlooking the intersection of Green and Wright Streets, its carillon tower and red clay tile roof dominate the northwest corner of the main campus.

The north elevation is divided into three sections. The east section has three bays, the center section has three bays, and the west section has five bays. The center section is topped with a gable and is bounded by a small octagonal tower to the west and a tall square tower, two bays wide, to the east. The entry is in the center of this section between the basement and

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Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 &amp; 8 Page 21

first floors, and consists of double wood and glass doors set with side lights and an arched top transom with fanlike grille work set in a gauged arch with engaged columns. Flanking the entrance are 1 over 1 double-hung windows with arched tops and bronze dedication plaques in their spandrels. A springer course with carved floral decoration connects the openings. The basement has recessed 1 over 1 double-hung windows, one per bay, except the center bay of the center section. There are two similar windows at the basement level of the east tower, and one window in each face of the west tower. The first floor windows are similar, with transoms in the end bays and west tower, and stone transom bars. A bevelled sill course aligns with the carved springer course in the center section. In the center section above the entrance there is a fascia made up of square stone blocks laid in a stack bond with a panel inscribed "LAW BUILDING." (Altgeld Hall was home of the College of Law from 1927 to 1955.) A beveled string course is continuous across the entire elevation. On the second floor each bay of the center section and the east tower has paired casement windows with engaged column mullions and jambs and arched transoms over each window. Each pair of windows is set in a larger arched opening. The end section has a pair of casement windows in each bay with stone transom bar and one arched transom per pair. The west tower has one casement window with stone transom bar and arched transom per face. The end sections and west tower have a Romanesque cornice, with dentils in the end sections. The center bay has three vertical screened openings in the center of the gable, with a small round opening above. The gable is topped by a finial.

The east tower rises three more stories above the second floor. From the string course between the first and second floor to the top there are tourelles on each corner, which are terminated with conical roofs. The third and fourth floors of the tower are enclosed by a two story tall arcade, with three intersecting arches on each side of the tower supported by bundled columns. Each arched opening is divided in half by a stone column mullion, with each half ending in an arched opening. A bevelled string course supported by mullions divides the fourth and fifth floors. The fifth floor is also enclosed by an arcade, of five intersecting arches each side. Each arch is supported by bundled columns. The tower is capped by a Romanesque cornice and a pyramidal roof with an eight sided base.

The west elevation is divided into three sections, with the center section recessed. There are four bays in the north section, eight bays in the center section, and three bays in the south section. The north section is similar to the end sections of the north elevation. The north end bay of the center section is a projecting round turret. A door with a blind arch above is at grade, and two narrow single-hung windows at the second floor are stepped to follow the interior stairs. The string course aligns with the

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Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 &amp; 8

Page 22

string course on the north section between first and second floor. The turret has five small double-hung windows at second floor level and ends in a conical copper roof. The next five bays of the center section have basement windows similar to the other elevations, and four levels of narrow vertical windows above. The third and fifth bays have arched transoms at the top level. The second bay from the south end of the center section is a projecting octagonal tower, with narrow casement windows in the east face at the basement, first, and second floors; the second floor window has an arched transom. This tower rises above the cornice line with an arched top casement window on each face at the third floor level. The cornice continues and becomes a sill course for these windows. The tower is capped by a simple cornice and pyramidal roof. The north bay has an arched entrance at grade which projects even with the face of the adjacent tower. The only doors are deeply recessed and the projection is capped by a gable with finial. The remainder of this bay does not project and has a casement window at each floor. The south section has basement windows similar to the other elevations. The first floor windows are 1 over 1 double-hung type, one per bay, and each has an arched transom. The second floor has one pair of lower double-hung windows per bay. Sill course, string course, and cornice details are similar to the end sections of the north elevation.

The south elevation has 13 bays and is similar to the south section of the west elevation.

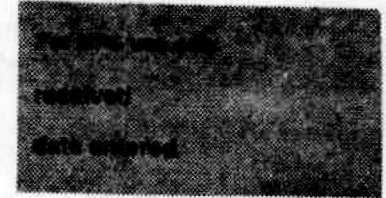
The east elevation is divided into three sections. The north and south sections are similar to the corresponding sections of the west elevation. The center section has nine bays, is slightly recessed, and has three stories, but the same cornice line as adjacent sections. The south bay of this section has an arched entry with carved springers at a level between the basement and first floor. Double doors with an arched transom are recessed behind this opening. The remainder of this bay is also recessed. The remaining bays have 1 over 1 double-hung windows in the basement and first floor. There are similar windows on the second floor with arched transoms and stone transom bars. The third floor has one pair of casement windows in each bay. Cornice, string course, and sill course details are similar to other sections.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

Altgeld Hall, originally Library Hall, is N. C. Ricker's last building at the University of Illinois and his finest. This high style example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture represents the collaboration of Ricker with James McLaren White as architects, and the patronage of Governor John P. Altgeld.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 23

Governor Altgeld was a great supporter of the University and pushed the legislature to increase funding for the institution. As a result, Altgeld's term as governor, 1893-1897, was a period of growth for the university. As enrollments increased, the need for a library building was acutely felt. Like other departments of the University, the library had been housed in the multi-purpose mega-structure, University Hall. In 1895, with the help of Governor Altgeld, the legislature passed an appropriation of \$150,000 to build a library.

A competition was held to select the design for the building. Altgeld had a decided preference for the Tudor Gothic style, and the winning entry was a combination of Romanesque and Castellated Gothic. However, the author of the winning design, Edward Bolles of Springfield, admitted to the building committee that he lacked the experience to carry out the building's design and construction. At that point, the committee rejected all of the competition entries and decided to hire D. H. Burnham and Company of Chicago to design the building. Burnham proved unable to cope with the politics of the Board of Trustees or the insistence of the Governor for a Tudor Gothic style building and resigned the commission. Finally, the university administration turned to Ricker and White, who accepted the commission. Ricker and White prepared four designs, using essentially the same plan with the facades changing according to the style. The designs were in the French Academic style, the Italianate Style, and Richardsonian Romanesque, with a fourth, less developed scheme reminiscent of the work of Sir Christopher Wren. Although the design chosen was not in the Gothic style, Governor Altgeld saw in the Romanesque design the elements he desired. The site for the building was also a source of controversy, with several members of the board wanting the structure to be located farther south. Altgeld again exerted his influence, and the placement of the building to the northwest of University Hall completed the arrangement of university buildings facing Green Street. The site was well chosen, as Altgeld Hall now overlooks the busiest intersection on the campus and provides a focal point for the main entrance to the University.

As in the design for the Chemical Building, Ricker used a historical style, but it was thoroughly suited to a modern purpose. The plan placed the circulation desk at the center of the building, with reading rooms to either side within view of the attendants at the desk. The stacks were behind the desk and of the most up-to-date steel construction with glass floors. Some of these stacks remain today, as the building houses the Mathematics Library.

Ricker's other buildings on the campus were, by function or budgetary necessity, utilitarian designs, with levels of detail consistent with classroom or laboratory buildings. In contrast, the influence of Governor Altgeld allowed Ricker and White to make the Library a showpiece for the

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 24

University. From the monumental two story delivery room rotunda to the mosaic floors in the main entry, the building shows a level of detail and embellishment not found in previous buildings on the campus.

Ricker's philosophy of using the most up-to-date materials and methods is manifested in his use of a new reinforced concrete system for the building's fireproof structure. The system consisted of concrete arches formed over arched channels and reinforced with expanded metal and was less expensive to construct than the structural steel and tile method of fireproof construction then most commonly used. The forced air heating and ventilating system was also thoroughly modern, utilizing a steam powered blower in the basement to distribute air through ductwork to all parts of the building. Ricker and White were also able to make the project a learning experience for their students, hiring several to serve as draftsmen. In addition, the architects taught a course in Romanesque architecture while the building was being constructed.

Following the completion of Library Hall in 1897, Ricker requested that he be relieved of any future design duties, choosing to concentrate on education.<sup>1</sup> The role of University Architect fell to James White.

Following his graduation from the University in 1890, White had been appointed as an assistant in the Architecture Department, becoming an Assistant Professor in 1893. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1896, and full Professor in 1901. White was appointed Supervising Architect of the university when the post was created in 1907.

As Supervising Architect, White was responsible for additions to the Library in 1915, 1918, and 1924, as well as for remodeling the building for the Mathematics Department and Law School in 1927. Because of the close working relationship between Ricker and White, the design of those additions was undoubtedly influenced by Ricker. Indeed, White spent the majority of his career working with Ricker. Yet this same close relationship makes formal written evidence scarce. On occasion Ricker did write to White, such as his 1910 letter on a proposed campus plan, but such correspondence was probably reserved for major issues and was for the benefit of others. (A copy of Ricker's letter on the campus plan was sent to the President of the University.)

FORM PREPARED BY:

Amy L. Cassens, Bret F. Johnson,  
David J. Garner, Janice A. Stein  
Graduate Students in Architecture  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 25

Endnotes

Library Hall / Law Building / Altgeld Hall Inventory Sheets

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 8

Page 1

Ricker's instructor was Swedish architect Harald M. Hansen, the first of a long line of European teachers in American architecture schools. He was strongly influenced by Hansen, who taught in the rigorous fashion of the Berlin Bauakademie. There, (in direct contrast with the Ecole des Beaux Arts) the teaching of all branches of engineering as well as architecture was, according to Ricker, "based on individual attainments and examinations...and not on pure competition of students with each other..."<sup>1</sup> Ricker was so proficient at his studies that in 1872, when illness prevented Hansen from teaching, Regent Gregory provided Ricker with the unique opportunity to direct his own studies as well as teach three fellow students. In March of 1873, the following year, Ricker became the first American graduate in architecture, just months before M.I.T. and Cornell (the only other architecture schools in the nation at the time) conferred degrees upon their first graduates.

Gregory extended Ricker's teaching role to a permanent position in that same year, provided that Ricker spend the next six months traveling and studying in Europe. Ricker headed directly to the Bauakademie. From Berlin he traveled to Vienna, where he was particularly impressed by the new development of the Ringstrasse region under Gottfried Semper. It was in Vienna, at the 1873 Exposition, where Ricker also became familiar with the Russian system of instruction in mechanical engineering through carefully arranged shop practice. He was the first to introduce this system in the United States. Ricker's version consisted of a graded series of exercises in which the students learned the uses of the different tools in succession. His system focused entirely on the training of the student and was later adapted by all but one of the school shops in America. Most remarkably, Ricker adapted this system to architectural instruction many years before the Bauhaus, or even Walter Gropius, did so.

For 37 years, from September 1873 to September 1910, Nathan Clifford Ricker was the Head of the Department of Architecture at the University, serving one year as Instructor, one as Assistant Professor, and 35 as Professor. He was the sole instructor in the Department for twelve of those years, from 1873 to 1895.

The guiding principles of the Department of Architecture under Ricker were that the architect should first be a safe and economical builder, second a man of business capacity, and third an artistic designer. His educational methods have more than successfully withstood the test of time, barely differing from those employed today. Functional applications and sound construction technology were given priority. Students began by drawing and sketching, then commenced in a series of increasingly difficult building design problems. They culminated in the design of a large building,

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 8

Page 2

approached as if it were a real problem in professional practice requiring plans, details, and specifications.<sup>2</sup>

The pervasive influence of Ricker as an instructor and a designer is attested by the additions to his buildings, the last of which was made in 1927. All but one of the additions were done by Ricker's students in styles consistent with the original designs, maintaining the integrity of the existing buildings and complementing their styles. The first addition to the Natural History Building, by William Carbys Zimmerman, was the only addition not done by a Ricker student. However, even Zimmerman, who was State Architect at the time, repeated Ricker's design across his own facades, thus emulating Ricker's original building style even more exactly than Ricker's students had. The exterior facades of Nathan Clifford Ricker's campus buildings have not been altered in any way since 1927.

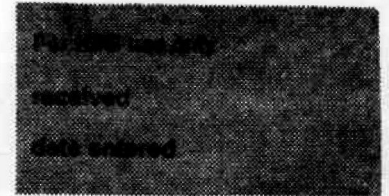
Nathan Clifford Ricker was an outstanding innovator in education, perpetually striving to ameliorate the inadequacies of the system. In response to the dearth of appropriate texts on architectural construction, history, and graphic statics he single-handedly initiated the production and compilation of over 2000 pages of notes, abstracts, and illustrations for his students. In addition, he translated over 40 volumes on architecture when English texts on particular subjects were not available for his students, including Viollet-le-Duc's Dictionnaire raisonnee de l'architecture francaise due XIe. au XVIe. siecle and the second edition (1899) of Otto Wagner's Moderne Arkitektur.<sup>3</sup>

Ricker's introduction of graphic statics and his lectures on the subject led to the publication of his Elementary Graphic Statics and Construction of Trussed Roofs (1885), the first book published by any faculty member while connected with the University. Later publications included Treatise on Design and Construction of Roofs (1912); Simplified Formulas and Tables for Floors, Joists and Beams; Roofs, Rafters and Purlins (1913) and three bulletins published by the Engineering Experiment Station.

While teaching, he continued his own studies and received his Master of Architecture (the second such degree to be conferred in the United States) in 1878, the same year he was elected Dean of the College of Engineering while continuing on as the head of the Architecture Department. He continued both administrative positions as the responsibilities grew. In addition, he served concurrently as University Architect, primarily responsible for several major university buildings as well as many smaller construction jobs. His contribution to the physical environment of the university, that is, the five buildings which comprise this nomination, remain with us today as a tribute to this great educator. They survive as a tangible reminder of the man responsible for the beginnings of architectural education as we know it today.

United States Department of the Interior  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 8

Page 3

Ricker was actively involved in campus administration and planning up until his retirement in 1916. His concern for the planning of the campus is evident from his letter to Supervising Architect James M. White in 1910 offering his own suggestions for White's plan.<sup>4</sup>

Ricker's efforts to improve the architecture profession extended beyond the classroom. It was through his efforts, combined with those of Dankmar Adler of Chicago, that the Illinois Architectural Act was passed in June of 1897. This legislative act, which requires the licensing of architects as well as provides for their registration, was the first of its type in the United States. He served as member and chairman of the Board of Examiners for nearly 20 years and served in 1911-1917 as Chairman of the Commission to codify the building laws of Illinois. His commendable participation in civic and university events spanned 50 years of service to the University.

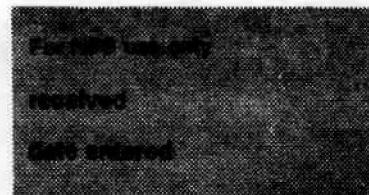
Collectively, Nathan Clifford Ricker's five campus buildings and their additions span his career, reflecting his development and influence as an architect and educator. Using his buildings as actual teaching tools, Ricker employed his students as draftsmen and shop workers in their construction. While his students studied his theories on design and construction, his buildings were actually designed and constructed around them. These buildings exemplified Ricker's philosophies; they were practical combinations of eclectic historicism and modern technology. They are the physical embodiment of Ricker's own teaching and design philosophy, symbols of the history and heritage of the University.

Significance Endnotes

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2. Kimball, Sidney F. The Department of Architecture: Development, Conditions, Ideals, Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1913, p. 7.
3. Charney, Wayne M., and Stamper, John W. Nathan Clifford Ricker, p. 5.
4. Tilton, L. D., and O' Donnell, T. E. History of the Growth & Development of the Campus of the University of Illinois, Urbana, 1930, pp. 192-193.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 8

Page 4

A D D E N D U M

CONTINUED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE  
UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS BY NATHAN CLIFFORD RICKER

In the early years of the twentieth century the University of Illinois experienced visible changes in the numbers of its faculty and student body. The late 1800's had seen a dramatic increase in enrollment as higher education became more vital to individual and social welfare. At the same time greater numbers of permanent faculty brought recognition and acceptance to more and more of the individual colleges. As the branches of higher education within the university grew they required larger, more sophisticated structures. This is where the Ricker additions clearly show their importance to the education received by University of Illinois students. Aside from their association with Ricker, they reflect the growth and maturity of the individual colleges housed within their walls.

Each of Ricker's campus buildings reflect the changing status of the university. The Natural History Building addition of 1909 provided much-needed lecture and classroom space to a new influx of students, this in response to a much greater variety of courses offered pertaining to the individual student's comprehensive training in the natural sciences. The funding of the large museum space in 1910 attests to continuing interest in the subject, as does the fact that more additional space was needed only thirteen years later in 1923.

The Drill Hall and Men's Gymnasium reflect the inflated status of physical education after 1902. Physical education had become a required subject in the university curriculum by 1898, making necessary the addition of the Men's Gymnasium in 1902. By 1914 Freshmen were required to invest in two full semesters of physical training. This is the same year the Drill Hall came into use as the Men's Gymnasium Annex, aptly fulfilling the need for additional training space. Just previous to this, in 1912, the Department of Physical Training for Men was established as an independent division of the university. It's clear that athletics had become a vital part of university life.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 8

Page 5

This emphasis on physical exercise continued and in 1924 all students were required to take four years of physical training. The men's Gymnasium and Annex continue to support the university in this same capacity today.

The growth of law studies at the University of Illinois was reflected both in the Chemical Laboratory (Harker Hall) and in the Library (Altgeld). In its early years the law school was thought to be an uncultured, alien element in the academic body, not having been immediately authorized by the state legislature. It was not until 1903, through the efforts of Dean Harker, that money was secured for the first time for the purchase of law books. This earned the respect of the campus as well as the world of legal education. In this same year the college took possession of Ricker's newly remodelled Chemical Laboratory, affording them a large and sophisticated building of their own rather than a wing of University Hall. The structure contributed in lending a certain aura of maturity to the college of law.

At the same time the university library, with its numerous volumes, had reached a bursting point so that by 1927, despite its four additions, it was forced to vacate its premises for a larger building. Perhaps the most distinctive building on the campus, Ricker's Library was turned over to the College of Law, bringing even more recognition to that college. By 1929 enrollment there had reached over 400 students, and it was decided that only graduate students could be admitted from this point on. The college had grown in size and stature with the respective Ricker buildings in which it was housed, as it now officially took its position in the family of law schools in the United States.

Along with the growth of these branches of higher education came the additions to the buildings by architect Nathan Clifford Ricker. The continued significance of the buildings is evident not only in Ricker's initial design, but in their subsequent usage and their importance to the education received by University of Illinois students.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 9

Page 1

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**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 9

Page 2

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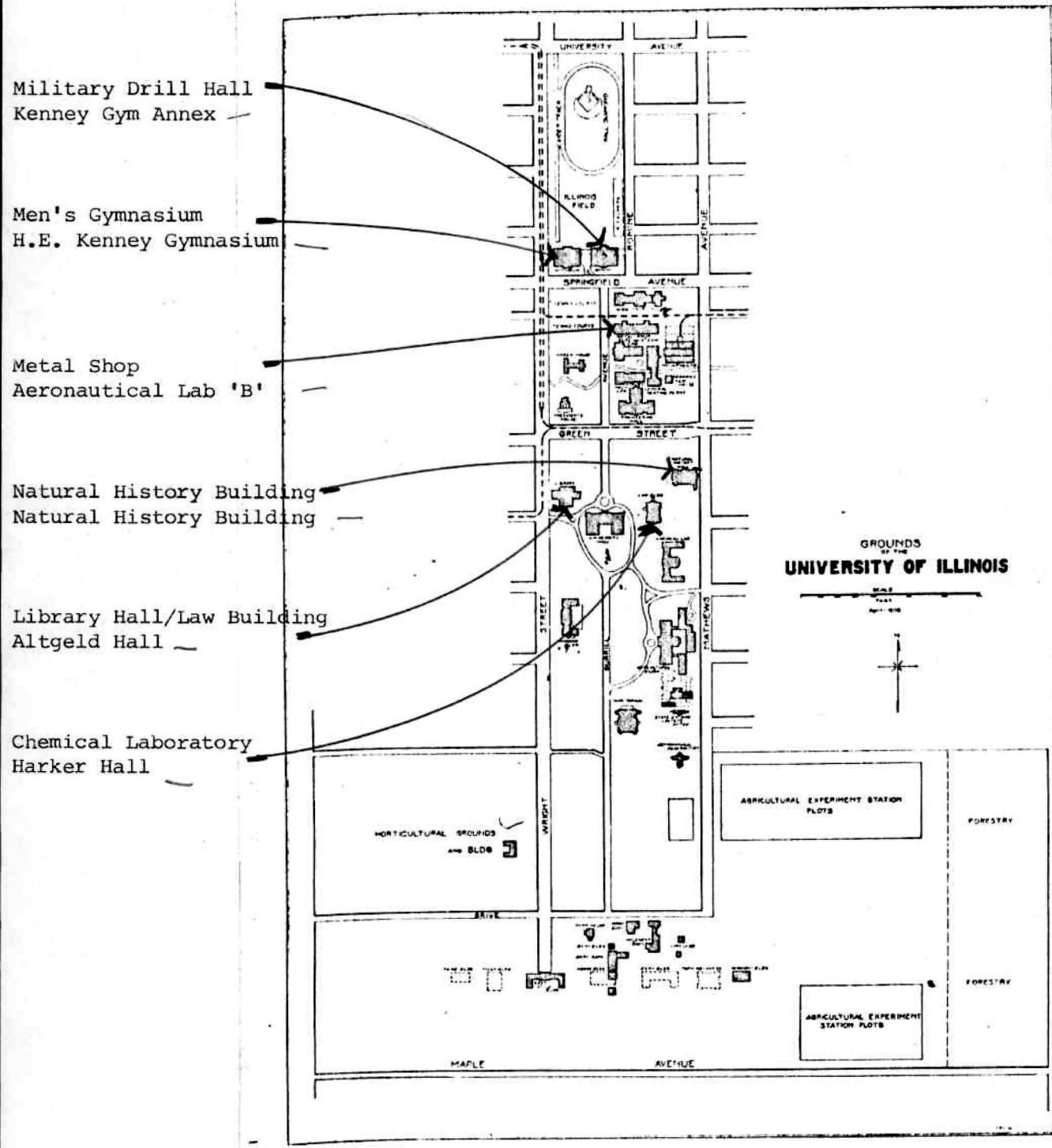
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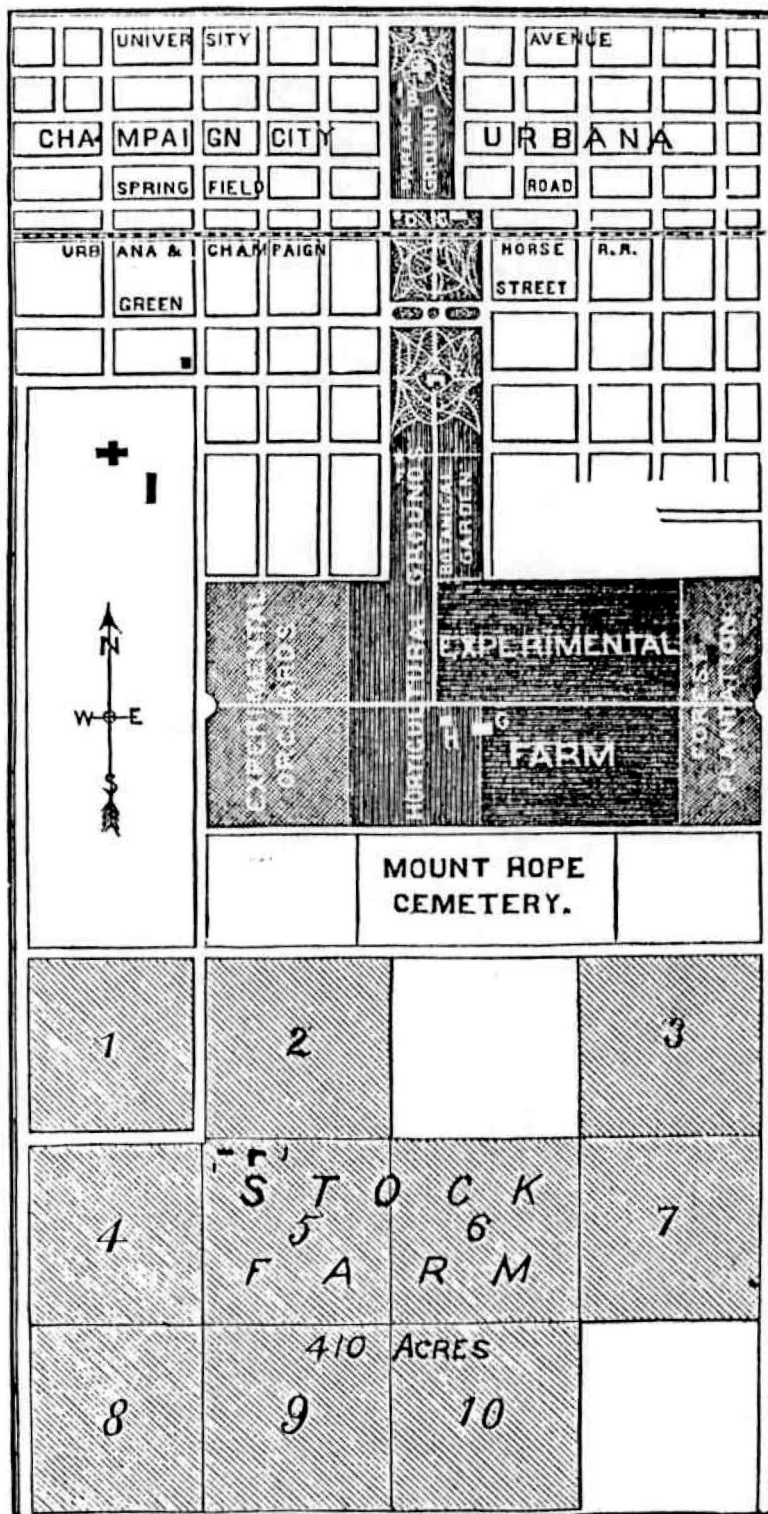


Map dated 1906

Tilton, L. D. and T. E. O'Donnell

History of the Growth and Development of the Campus  
of the University of Illinois

Urbana, 1930



Map of Farms, Buildings, Grounds, Etc.

Map dated 1872

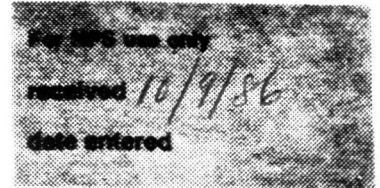
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History of the Growth and Development of the Campus  
of the University of Illinois

Urbana, 1930

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name University of Illinois Buildings by Nathan Clifford Ricker TR  
State Champaign County, ILLINOIS

*Con* 11/19/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Chemical Laboratory

*11/19/86*  
Substantive Review

*for* Keeper Melinda Byers 11/19/86

Attest

2. Military Drill Hall and Men's Gymnasium  
Substantive Review

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 11/19/86

Attest

3. Natural History Building

*for* Keeper Melinda Byers 11/19/86

Attest

4. Metal Shop

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 11/19/86

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

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Keeper

Attest

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Keeper

Attest

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Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

Cover

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

University of Illinois Buildings by Nathan Clifford  
Ricker TR (Cover)  
Champaign County  
ILLINOIS

Working No. 10/09/86  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 11/6/86 — 11/23/86  
Action: ACCEPT 11-19-86  
RETURN  
REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

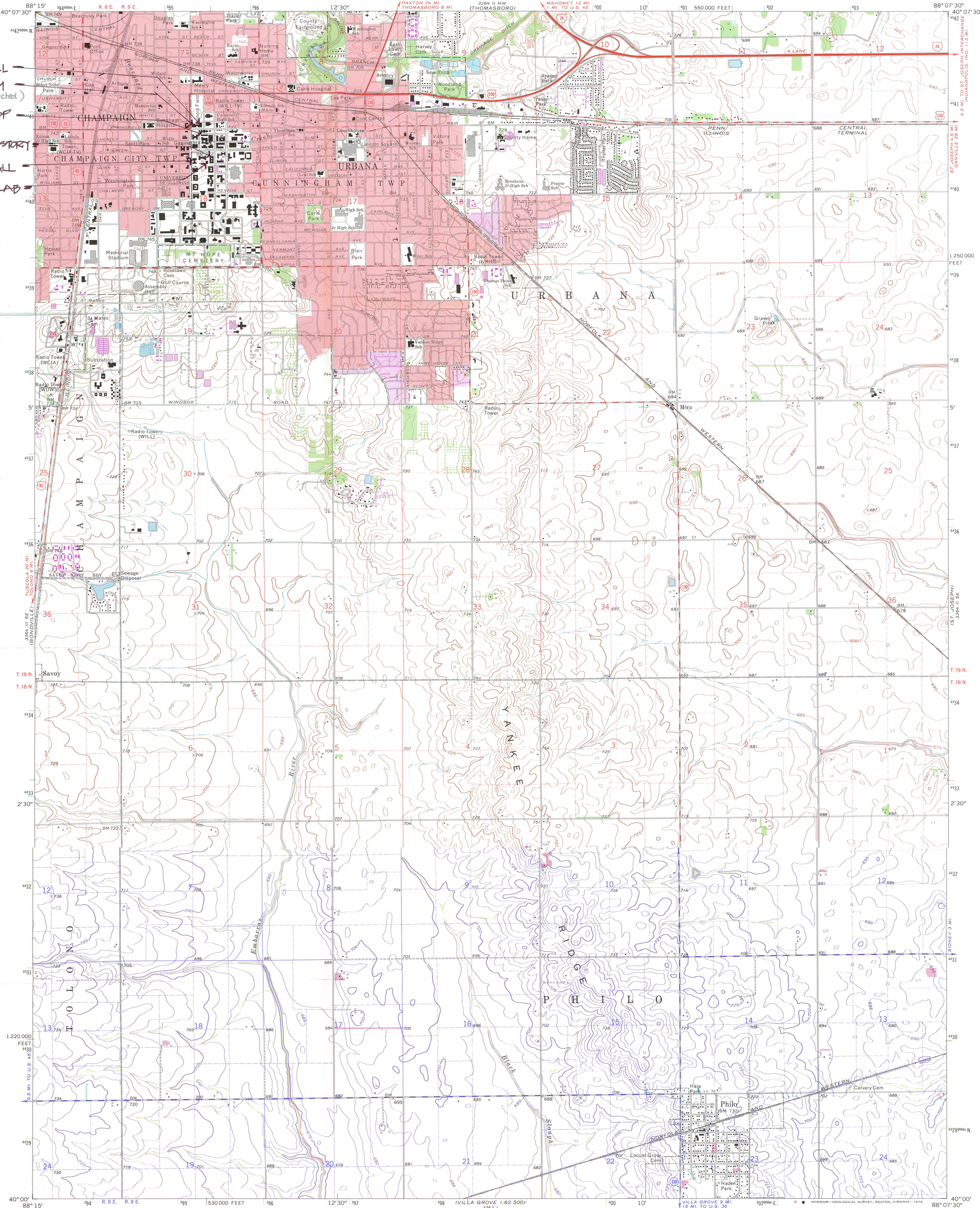
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

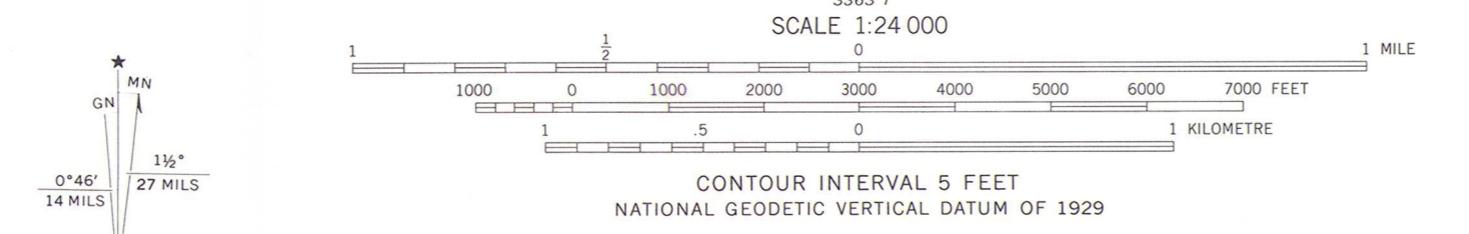


- ① DRILL HALL and MEN'S GYM (one bldg. connected)
- ② METAL SHOP
- ③ NATURAL HISTORY
- ④ ALTFELD HALL
- ⑤ CHEMICAL LAB

- 1. N 4440800  
E 395370
- 2. N 4440688  
E 395440
- 3. N 4440400  
E 395520
- 4. N 4440370  
E 395320
- 5. N 4440360  
E 395460



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Topography by planimetric surveys 1949-50 and 1957. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum, 10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1975. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Legend:  
Interstate Route (Red circle with number)  
U. S. Route (Blue circle with number)  
State Route (Black circle with number)



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

URBANA, ILL.  
SW/4 URBANA 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4000-W8807.5/7.5  
1970  
PHOTOREVISED 1975  
AMS 3364 II SW - SERIES V863



# Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Old State Capitol • Springfield • 62701

September 30, 1986

Beth Grosvenor  
National Register Program  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
1100 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the National Register nomination forms and accompanying materials for the following properties:

Lincoln Park, South Pond Refectory, Chicago, IL  
Livingston County Courthouse, Pontiac, IL  
Millhouse Blacksmith Shop, Clarksville, IL  
Morgan County Courthouse, Jacksonville, IL  
University of Illinois Astronomical Observatory, Urbana, IL  
University of Illinois Buildings by Nathan Clifford Ricker Thematic  
Nomination, Urbana, IL  
White Hall Historic District

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Ann V. Swallow  
Assistant National Register  
Coordinator

AVS;tb  
Enclosures

NAME

University of Illinois Buildings by Nathan

LOCATION

Clifford Richer TR (Cover)

STATE

Champaign County

**ILLINOIS**

*COVER*

FED. REG. PENDING

*10/21/86*

DATE RECEIVED

**10/09/86**

DATE RETURNED TO SHPO OR FED. REG.

DATE RETURNED TO N.R.

DATE SENT TO CONGRESS

DATE LISTED IN N.R.

SN    FN    NHL    NPS    HABS    HAER

REMARKS