

McPherson Chemical Laboratory

Herrick Archives Number 053

A. IDENTIFICATION & LOCATION

1. Name

1.1 Officially named "McPherson Chemical Laboratory" by Board of Trustees on May 12, 1952.

1.2 Alternate names noted:

1.2.1 Various names have been used for the several units of this building complex. These are noted below in relation to the units of the building as shown in the sketch in Item 3.3 below.

1.2.2 Unit A, which is the original part of the whole complex, was constructed as the "Addition to Chemistry Building," presumably meaning an addition to Derby Hall (025), which was then the Chemistry building. Unit B is also referred to as the "Chemistry Building Addition." It is quite possible that the same term was applied successively to later units as they were added.

1.2.3 The terms "Sawtooth" and "Chemistry Sawtooth" and the like refer to Unit A and that portion of B directly east of A. Currently, these terms are frequently used to include all of Units A & B.

1.2.4 Units A & B have been referred to as the "Laboratory of Chemistry Appendage."

1.2.5 Units C & D have been referred to as the "Head House," the "Chemistry Head House," and the "Head House for the Chemistry Unit."

1.2.6 The terms "Chemistry Building," "Chemical Laboratories," and "New Chemistry Building" have been noted with respect to Units A, B, C, & D collectively and individually, and in some instances maybe other units of the complex.

1.2.7 Prior to the construction of Building 145, Chemical Engineering was located in Unit B, and that unit was sometimes referred to as the "Chemical Engineering Building" or the "New Chemical Engineering Building."

1.2.8 Since this building complex was located in the University woods, the terms "Chemistry Building in the woods," and "New Chemistry Laboratory in the woods" have been noted with respect to Unit A or Units A & B. A reference to Unit A as the "old Chemistry Building in the woods" has also been noted.

1.2.9 Unit E was built as the "Underground Storage Room for Chemistry," although the receiving room portion of it is above ground.

1.2.10 Units G & I are referred to as the "Pharmaceutical Addition," the "Manufacturing Unit for Laboratory Supply," the "Addition for Pharmaceutical Manufacturing," the "Pharmaceutical Laboratory," "the 1938 Addition" (Unit G), and the "Research Storage Building."

1.2.11 Unit H was built for petroleum research and paid for by the American Petroleum Institute. It has been called "the 1939 Addition," the "Petroleum Laboratory," the "Addition for Petroleum Research," the "Petroleum Research Laboratory," the "American Petroleum Institute (or API) Laboratory," and the "Pilot Plant."

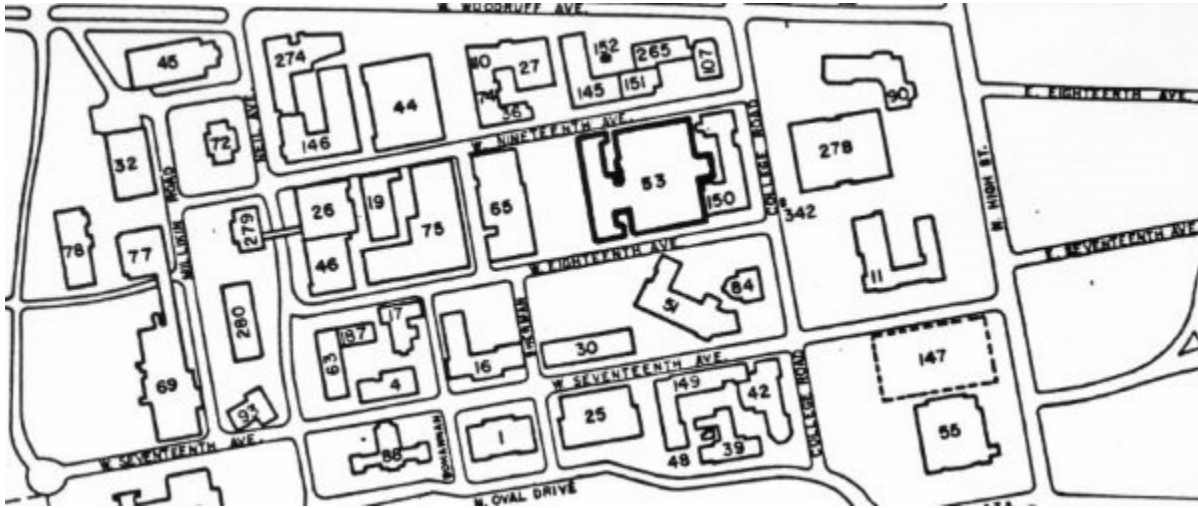
1.2.12 The term "Low Level Radiation Laboratory" refers to a portion of Unit B.

See Addenda Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6

2. Location

2.1 Located at 140 W. 18th Avenue. Other addresses for fire department use are 108 and 120 West 18th and 107, 121, and 141 West 19th.

2.2 For greater detail, see Sheet 84 in the book of campus maps in the University Archives.



For identification of other buildings show, see Appendix A.

3. General Description

3.1 Type of construction:

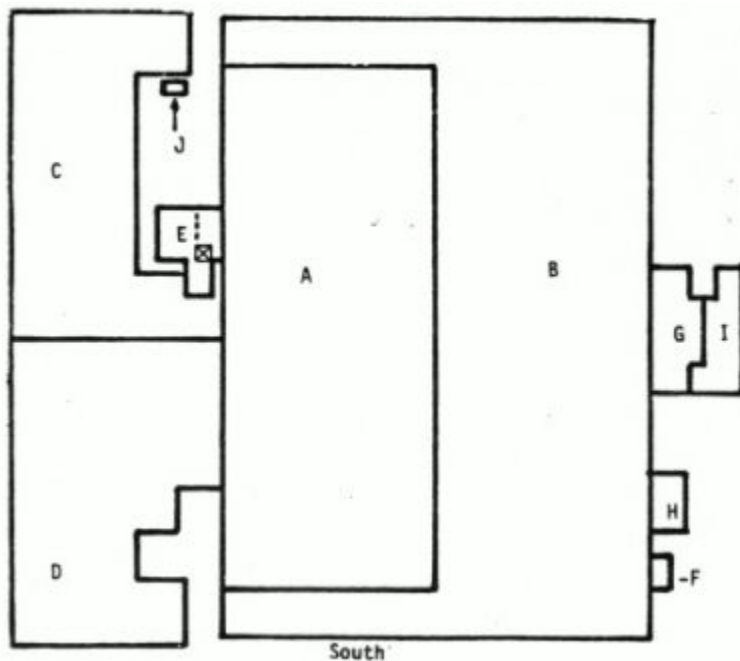
Sawtooth portion has steel frame All multistory units have reinforced concrete frame, all exterior walls are brick. Unit H, which no longer stands, was a brick and corrugated sheet metal building. Unit F, which no longer stands, was of brick construction.

3.2 Number of stories:

See 3.3

3.3 Increments of construction:

Enlarged nine times. See sketch and accompanying notes.



Unit A - Original portion. One story, factory-type building. Sawtooth roof formed of steel trusses with north-facing skylights.

Unit B - First addition. The portion east of Unit A is of the same design and construction as A. The wings along the north and south sides of A, and also B, are of two-story construction.

Unit C - Second addition. The north half of the main building consists of a basement, four stories, and a large attic used for storage and mechanical equipment.

Unit D - Third addition. Same number of stories as C.

Unit E - Fourth addition. The portion left of the dotted line is all below ground. The portion east of the dotted line is a receiving room above ground. The two portions are connected by elevator at the x.

Unit F - Fifth addition. A one story structure used as a laboratory.

Unit G - Sixth addition. Basement and two stories.

Unit H - Seventh addition. One story.

Unit I - Eighth addition. Basement and two stories plus a penthouse for stills and similar equipment.

Unit J - Ninth addition. A one-story trash room.

3.4 Area of building

3.4.1 As shown on inventory records of Division Campus Planning:

A - E, incl.-- 187,031 sq. ft. gross; 120,153 sq. ft. net assignable.

G - I, incl. -- 9,040 sq. ft. gross; 6,549 sq. ft. net assignable.

See Addendum No. 5

3.4.2 Unit F is estimated from Air View 192 to have been about 10' by 15' in outside dimensions. No records have been located.

3.4.3 Unit H was approximately 19' by 30' with a gross area of about 570 sq. ft.

3.4.4 Unit J is 8' by 10' on the outside with a gross area of 80 sq. ft.

3.5 Volume of building:

A - E, incl. — 3,202,076 cu. ft. (PP)

G - I, incl. — 136,000 cu. ft. (PP)

B. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT A, ORIGINAL BUILDING

1. On May 6, 1919 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Joseph N. Bradford and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.
2. Bids were received on June 16, 1919 (T). All bids were rejected and further advertising was deferred until building conditions were more normal.
3. On January 13, 1920 the University Architect was directed to prepare new plans to provide as much building as possible within the appropriation.
4. On July 23, 1920 the Secretary of the Board of Trustees was directed to advertise for new bids. The minutes show no approval of the revised plans.
5. Bids were received on May 3, 1921 (A).
6. On May 5, 1921 the Board of Trustees awarded contracts to the following contractors:
 - General: D.W. McGrath and Sons
 - Electrical: Electric Power Equipment Co.
 - Heating, ventilating and plumbing: Huffman-Wolfe Co.
7. Beginning of work:
 - February 26, 1921 (A).
8. Completion and occupancy:
 - 8.1 The final estimate was dated June 12, 1922 (A).
 - 8.2 The Board of Trustees on September 31, 1921 granted the general contractor an extension of time to January 1, 1922. Presumably his work was completed by that date, but the work of other contractors might have been completed later.
 - 8.3 The Lantern (October 24, 1922) reported that Labs A & B in the new buildings were in use in the autumn quarter.

C. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT B, FIRST ADDITION

1. On June 11, 1923 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Joseph N. Bradford and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.
2. Bids were received on July 25, 1923 (A).
3. On July 27, 1923 the Board of Trustees awarded contracts to the following contractors:
 - General: D.W. McGrath and Sons
 - Electrical: M.G. Beck Electric Co.

Heating and plumbing: Huffman-Wolfe Co.

4. Beginning of work:

August 3, 1923 (A).

5. Completion and occupancy:

5.1 The building was accepted by the Board of Trustees from the general contractor on July 17, 1924.

5.2 The last "final estimate" was dated December 11, 1924 (A).

5.3 Use of this addition was delayed due to lack of funds for equipment, but Chemical Engineering used some of its space in the Spring Quarter of 1925 (R 24-25:64).

5.4 The Board of Trustees on March 7, 1925 authorized installation of equipment by force account.

D. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT C, SECOND ADDITION

1. On February 14, 1927 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Joseph N. Bradford and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.

2. Bids were received on March 22, 1927 (A).

3. On April 12, 1927 the Board of Trustees awarded contracts to the following contractors:

General: E. Elford and Son

Electrical: Paul L. Gilmore Co.

Heating and plumbing: Samuel A. Esswein Heating and Plumbing Co.

Marble, tile, and terrazzo: Cleveland Marble Mosaic Co.

Flooring: Wilson Floor Co.

4. Beginning of work:

Work must have started promptly, since the first estimate was dated May 27, 1927 (A).

5. Completion and occupancy:

5.1 The final estimate was dated May 1, 1928 (A).

5.2 The building was accepted by the Board of Trustees on June 11, 1928.

5.3 The Lantern on August 18, 1928 reported that the old Chemistry Building (025) had been abandoned by all of Chemistry except physical chemistry, which would move in the fall.

E. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT D, THIRD ADDITION

1. On December 12, 1927 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Joseph N. Bradford and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.

2. Bids were received on February 9, 1928 (A).

3. On March 12, 1928 the Board of Trustees minutes indicate that contracts had been awarded to the following contractors on the basis of a February 16, 1928 mail vote:

General: Van Gundy-Beck Co.

Electrical: Electric Power Equipment Co.

Heating and plumbing: W.H. Spohn Plumbing Co.

Floors: Wilson Floor Co.

Marble, tile, and terrazzo: Wege Marble and Tile Co.

4. The Attorney-General disapproved the contract with the Wege Marble and Tile Co. and the mail ballot on this contract was rescinded on March 12, 1928.

5. On March 12, 1929 the Board of Trustees approved new plans for marble, tile, and terrazzo; elevators; and equipment, and authorized solicitation of new bids.

6. On May 14, 1928 the Board of Trustees approved Cabinet action awarding contracts as follows, based on bids received on April 25, 1928:

Marble, tile, and terrazzo: Ardit Mosaic Tile and Marble Company

Elevator: Otis Elevator Co.

7. Completion and occupancy:

7.1 The Board of Trustees accepted the building on April 8, 1929, but equipment contracts were not awarded until September 20, 1929 (T:10/4/29).

7.2 The Board of Trustees on January 13, 1930 approved an extension of time for completion of the equipment contract to March 18, 1930.

7.3 The building was occupied at least to some extent before completion of the equipment contract (R 28-29:114).

F. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT E, FOURTH ADDITION

1. On August 8, 1929 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Joseph N. Bradford and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.

2. Bids were received on September 19, 1929 (T). All bids were rejected.

3. New bids were received on October 14, 1929 (T).

4. On October 26, 1929 the Board of Trustees approved the award on October 15, 1929 of the construction contract to George W. Timmons.

5. The final estimate was dated May 16, 1930 (A).

G. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT F, FIFTH ADDITION

1. On November 6, 1936 Cabinet recommended to the Board of Trustees that an 18' by 60' addition be constructed for Laboratory Supply, with WPA assistance.

2. On November 8, 1937 the University Architect, Howard Dwight Smith, presented drawings to the Board of Trustees and stated that the project was being carried forward by WPA.

3. University Architect's records indicate only that this was a WPA project, that it contained 43,828 cu. ft., and that the cost was \$29,731. Board of Trustees minutes for November 8, 1937 indicate that the University's share of the cost was \$6200, which was released by the Controlling Board on November 3, 1937.

4. No record of the completion date has been found, but reference to this building as the "1938 addition" suggests that it was completed in 1938.

H. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT G, SIXTH ADDITION

1. On July 31, 1939 Cabinet approved sketches prepared by Howard Dwight Smith for an addition to be paid for by the American Petroleum Institute at an estimated cost of \$4,000. Cabinet approved the sketches and directed the University Architect to prepare plans for presentation to the Board of Trustees.
2. On August 15, 1939 the Secretary reported to the Board of Trustees the need for this addition and stated that the cost would be paid by the American Petroleum Institute. These minutes do not indicate approval of the plans and specifications.
3. Cabinet minutes for October 19, 1939 indicate that bids were referred to the University Architect on October 12, 1939 for study. There is no indication of when bids were received. Presumably bids were received by the Purchasing Agent.
4. On October 19, 1939 Cabinet awarded contracts to the following contractors:

 General: Trapp-Carroll Co.
 Plumbing: North Side Plumbing Co.
5. On October 19, 1939 Cabinet instructed the Purchasing Agent to get new bids for the electrical and heating portions of the work.
6. On October 26, 1939 the Purchasing Agent presented to Cabinet a new bid on the electrical work, and Cabinet awarded the contract to Clintonville Electric Co.
7. On October 30, 1939 the Purchasing Agent presented to Cabinet a new bid on the heating work, and Cabinet awarded the contract to J.F. Oelgoetz.
8. Completion and occupancy:

 Cabinet minutes for December 14, 1939 record that the University Architect reported that the project was substantially completed and ready for service connections and equipment.

I. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT H, SEVENTH ADDITION

1. No record of construction of this laboratory has been found. Professor Aldrich Syverson of the Department of Chemical Engineering states that the room was in existence when he came to the University in 1950. The addition does appear on Photograph X1010 in Photoarchives, which bears a seemingly correct date of 1930.
2. Professor Syverson states that he had graduate students working in it until the department moved to Building 145. This, however, is not probable. Unit F must have been demolished when construction of Evans Laboratory began on November 5, 1958, or before; the Department of Chemical Engineering did not move to Building 145 until about a year later.
3. It would appear then that this unit was in place from 1930, or before, until late 1958.

J. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT I, EIGHTH ADDITION

1. On December 13, 1948 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by Howard Dwight Smith and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.
2. Bids were received on January 31, 1949 (A).
3. Apparently the heating and plumbing bids were rejected by Cabinet and new bids on these two branches

of the work were received on March 1, 1949 (A).

4. On March 14, 1949 the Board of Trustees approved previous Cabinet action awarding contracts to the following contractors:

General: Trapp Construction Co.
Electrical: Fayette Electric Co.
Heating: The National Co.
Plumbing: The National Co.

5. Completion and occupancy:

Completed December 15, 1949 (A).

K. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION—UNIT J, NINTH ADDITION

1. No record of the construction of this trash room has been found. Oral testimony of several people indicates that trash was stored in a small building near the curb on the north side of W. 19th Avenue, and that this structure was demolished when the Chemical Engineering Building (145) was erected.

2. Since the old trash building (H 469) was still standing in January 1959, it is probable that Unit J was constructed soon thereafter.

L. DEMOLITION

1. Early photographs (Hooper: 134 and McC4:133) show a small canopy or shed on the west wall of Unit A just north of Unit E. As of today two pieces of lumber, presumably roof supports for this canopy, are still in place. Possibly this was a receiving dock replaced by Unit E, but no supporting evidence has been found. The date of demolition has not been determined.

2. Unit H was demolished as a part of the construction of Evans Laboratory (Building 150), contracts for which were awarded on October 18, 1958.

3. Unit F was probably demolished along with Unit H, but no documentary evidence has been found to support this conclusion.

M. COST

This entire complex was listed at \$1,581,314.40 as of June 30, 1974 (B).

N. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. In Photoarchives:

Units A & B	X1725
Units C & D	X1902; X1904
Unit E	X22759; X22760
Units G & I	X1032; Air View 208; X22758
Unit H	X1032; Air View 192
Unit J	X22757
Unit F	Air Views 189 & 192

2. Other:

Hooper: 134 & McC4:133 (Units A & B)

M 13:10 (February 1922) - Unit A

M 18:8 (October 1926) - Units A & B

O. MISCELLANEOUS

This building is the fourth Chemistry building to be erected on campus. Earlier ones were H 113, H 118, and 025. Chemistry buildings subsequently erected include Evans (150) and Chemistry Engineering (145).

John H. Herrick

November 22, 1976

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Campus Planning records list Units G and I as Building 70—Pharmaceutical Addition to McPherson.

John H. Herrick

July 24, 1979

ADDENDUM NO. 2

Inspection of old campus maps reveals the following additional name for this building:

Chemistry Laboratories

John H. Herrick

November 21, 1979

ADDENDUM NO. 3

Am. H. B. 834, now before the General Assembly, includes an appropriation of \$9.5 million for replacement of the sawtooth portion of this building. If the bill passes without deletion of this item, it is anticipated that Sections A, B, G, & I of Building 053 will be replaced by new construction.

See Addendum No. 4

John H. Herrick

December 12, 1979

ADDENDUM NO. 4

To date, no capital improvements money has been appropriated.

The following additional name for this building has been found on old campus maps:

Chemistry & Chem. Eng. Bldg.

John H. Herrick

September 21, 1981

ADDENDUM NO. 5

Units A, B, G, & I were demolished in 1983 to make way for Bldg. 371, which is now under construction. Bids for the demolition were received on August 3, 1983 and reported to the Board of Trustees on October 7, 1983. The Lantern for November 22, 1983 shows demolition of the east wall in progress.

The above-ground portion of Unit E will be removed during construction of Building 371.

See Addendum No. 7

Campus Planning records now show the following areas for this building:

111,919 sq. ft. gross;
64,963 sq. ft. net assignable

John H. Herrick

July 12, 1984

ADDENDUM NO. 6

This building is now carried in Campus Planning records as William McPherson Chemical Laboratory. The official name remains "McPherson Chemical Laboratory."

John H. Herrick

August 26, 1986

ADDENDUM NO. 7

Unit E was demolished late in July of 1985.

John H. Herrick

November 10, 1987