Institution  The Ohio State University

Name of Bldg.  Boiler House  Heagon

Year erected  1896

Contractor  J. D. Todd

Architect  J. M Bradford, University President, York Pedersen

Cost  $ 47,937.17

Construction:

Fireproof?  Yes

Walls  Brick

Floors  Brick cement

Roof  Steel truss, wood sheathing, lights, sheath shingles

Basement  None

Use

Chicago for heating, truck, etc.

Comments

Remodeling, Repairs and Fixed Equipment
Institution  The Ohio State University

Name of Bldg.  Laundry (Old Engineering Rooms)

Year erected  1896

Contractor  Louis & Newcomb  A. M. Farnoff

Architect  Jost Harkness

Cost  $74,790.00

Construction:

- Fireproof?  Yes
- Walls  Brick
- Floors  Concrete
- Roof  Slate shingles, wood shingles and tar felt, asphalt shingles
- Basement  Concrete ceiling, floor, sidewalks, planters

Use

Comments

Remodeling, Repairs and Fixed Equipment
Remember this building? When it was photographed, students were entering the southeast corner of the campus over the old stile astride the weatherbeaten fence that guarded the entire High Street frontage of the University... the Columbus, Hocking Valley and Toledo railway was featuring Pullman Palace Sleeping cars on its nightly runs... Rambler, Cleveland and New Mail bicycles were topics of conversation... and three faculty members who had just completed their second year of teaching were Profs. William McPherson, Joseph V. Denney and Wilbur H. Siebert. Regardless of your year, you have often seen it.
Brown Hall Annex claims title as oldest

By William F. Rounds

Once it's been conferred, taking back an Editorial Superlative (the biggest, smallest, newest, oldest and so on) is like retracting an honorary degree. It just isn't done.

So Hayes Hall may endure as "The Oldest Building Now Standing on The Ohio State University Campus." Maybe it even deserves the honor. Maybe not.

The unrelenting search for Editorial Superlatives centered on that building last Commencement Day. The attractive printed program for summer graduation featured artist Paul Morrell's sketch of Hayes Hall on the cover. Inside, a brief description traced the building's pedigree and conferred the Superlative in the "Oldest Building etc." category.


This is the central campus building on West 18th Avenue, familiar mainly to third-year architecture students who do their drafting there. It could easily rate as "The University's Most Unimpressive Building Not Containing Livestock." Still, if it's not clearly now the campus's building No. 1, it's venerable enough at least to cloud Hayes Hall's title as such.

Admittedly there are strong arguments for consideration of Hayes Hall as a prime campus landmark. It has a truly identifiable architectural style ("Richardsonian Romanesque"). It was named for a former University trustee and U.S. president (Rutherford B. ). It underwent a recent $1.8 million renovation, and it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Brown Hall Annex on the other hand began existence as the University's boiler house. Later it became the bus garage and finally, about 1952, was elevated to white-collar status as an academic building for the School of Architecture, which is headquartered next door in Brown Hall. At that point the Annex took its present name, although there was never any official christening.

The original and oldest part of the building is the east half of the north wing. It carries the scars of various additions, now long removed. To the south, it connects by shed-like structures to what was once another separate building, the old engine house.

The south elevation of the oldest part has some arched windows, and a decorative brick frieze of diamond design extends around the whole building under the eaves. As to a style, though, it's hard to put your finger on anything in particular, says a senior member of the architecture faculty.

The unprepossessing north elevation is the side seen daily by passersby on busy 18th Avenue. It shows traces of former doors and windows, now bricked and boarded up, and it's covered about equally with ivy and bird-dung. It's on no historic register, but if the campus had a list of buildings most likely to be demolished, the Annex would rank near the top.

So there's only one thing that earns it a Superlative — its age — but what else is
needed for rating as "The Oldest etc."?

Building lists carried in Ohio State histories don't even mention the old boiler house, but recent research has assigned it the date of 1892. (Just barely, though; the completion date was New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 of that year.) The history books give 1893 as Hayes Hall's date.

The authority for the age of either building is the emeritus campus planning director, John H. Herrick, who is finishing a massive historical study of the physical campus and can certify to the provenance of any Ohio State building, present or past.

He observes that Hayes Hall could have been ready in late 1892, but with the exception of parts depending on steam from the boiler house. Thus the boiler house had to be complete and in operation before Hayes could be occupied, as it was in February, 1893, Herrick believes. He just doesn't accept an old Lantern story that would have Hayes Hall in operation without heat in the dead of winter.

Still, the exact sequence of events around the Oval in the winter of 1392-93 isn't abundantly clear from the records that remain. Giving Hayes Hall or Brown Hall Annex the nod as "The Oldest etc." probably boils down to the matter of defining the word "complete," Herrick says.

At any rate, the old Annex, warts and all, stands as one of Ohio State's four remaining 19th-century academic buildings (Hayes, Orton and Townshend halls are the others). Possibly it's the oldest of them all.
'Rinso Hall' to be demolished;

By H. Gunther
Lantern staff writer

The Brown Hall Annex will be torn down next year.

The annex was originally a power plant. It was later used as a laundry building nicknamed “Rinso Hall,” and is now used by the architecture department.

It will be replaced by a larger building, said Jack Probasco, OSU facilities planner.

The new building will house the science technology library for five departments: physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering architecture, and materials engineering.

All of these departmental libraries complain of overcrowding. Two librarians said they could not update their collections because of space limitations.

The new facility will also consolidate the mathematics department. The department's offices are currently spread throughout different buildings.

Greg Smithburger, a senior from Pataskala, said there is definitely a shortage of space in the math department, especially in office

new library will take its place

space for teaching assistants.

Smithburger, who works part time for the math department, said his office is located on West Campus, which is inconvenient for him and his students.

Phil Huneke, vice chairman of the math department, said the math department is too big for current building.

Huneke said some math faculty members have offices in Archer House, making access to the current math library, located in the Math Building, difficult. He added that it is impossible for these faculty members to use their offices at night.

New classrooms and two lecture halls will also be located in the Annex replacement.

The office of campus planning and space utilization is gathering information from science library users, the math department, and a classroom pool to outline the details of the new building.

According to Probasco, the architecture department will be interviewing firms in May or June, and will probably have an architect on the job by August. Construction will not start until the end of 1987.
Lab sheds light on design

By John Wallach
Lantern staff writer

The OSU environmental simulation laboratory helps architectural students design buildings that harmonize with the environment.

Henry Brinkers, associate professor of architecture, said the lab, located in the Brown Hall Annex, is used to study and demonstrate natural phenomena in human environments because it is difficult to illustrate in a classroom situation.

"The structural formulas of buildings are relatively easy to work with, but the lab is needed for the explanation of things such as lighting and acoustics, Brinkers said.

In the lab, architectural students subject models of buildings to tests of lighting, wind resistance, acoustics, and airflow.

The students place their models in a wind tunnel which uses moving air bubbles to show turbulence and wind patterns around buildings.

They use the results of these tests to design buildings with adequate ventilation and outdoor environments free from wind problems.

The students also experiment with warm airflow patterns in models of homes. They use smoke to find areas that trap warm air.

Kenneth Lee, associate professor of architecture said, "The reason some rooms in houses are colder than others is because of inadequate warm airflow through the house."

The lab is also equipped for researching lighting techniques.

In 1985, Lee received a $2,400 grant from the university to develop a clear-day daylight simulator.

The clear-day simulator reproduces sunlight penetration into a building. It aids students in designing structures that allow sunlight in during the winter and that block sunlight out during the summer.

"What you see in the small model is what you would see in the real building because there is no scaling factor," Lee said.

Lee also builds models to study passive solar heating. Passive heating requires no mechanism to circulate the heat through the structure.

Another simulation device in the lab is the ripple tank. The tank uses water ripples to reproduce the movement of sound waves through public assembly rooms.

The tank aids students in designing auditoriums with good acoustics. An auditorium with good acoustics is free of echoes, sound-flutter, and other sound problems.

Brinkers said the architecture department would like to open the lab to other architects in Ohio, so they may improve the quality of architectural design in the state.

The lab will be moved next year to Ives Hall due to the scheduled demolition of the Brown Hall Annex. The annex will be torn down to make way for a new science technology library.
Kenneth Lee, associate professor of architecture, points out the louvers of the mock wind tunnel in the environmental simulation lab at the Brown Hall Annex. The tunnel is used by OSU architectural students to study the effects of wind resistance on building designs.
Annex to be demolished

By Lori L. Pagel
Lantern staff writer

Broken windows, walls covered with graffiti and plants growing through holes in the walls are just a few of the unique features of the soon-to-be-demolished Brown Hall Annex.

Richard Eschliman, assistant vice president of the school of architecture, said construction of a new building is scheduled to begin May 1989.

Brown Hall Annex is used primarily for architecture students. It is a place where they can work on class projects and store their class supplies.

One architecture student, who wished to remain anonymous, said he is glad Brown Hall Annex is being demolished because he is fearful of using the building.

"I'm not sure if we're really safe in here," he said.

Eschliman said students should not worry about being safe in the building.

"I'm not sure if it's up to current code, but I don't recall any safety problems," Eschliman said. "It is a fireproof building."

Rob Taylor Hamblett, a junior from Pittsburgh who is also an architecture student, agreed with Eschliman about the condition of the building.

"In general this building is a very unpopular structure, but I think it's pretty solid," he said.

Hamblett said the students have been promised Ives Hall to work in during construction of the new annex.

"Ives Hall is not much better than this though," Hamblett said.

The university will be dealing with the architecture firms of Collins, Rymer and Gordon of Cleveland, and John Burgess and Associates of New York on the project.

"We do not yet have an approved schematic design," Eschliman said. But he did have a few rough sketches of expected construction in his office.

The Brown Hall Annex replacement will be built where the existing Brown Hall is located — on the east side of 18th Avenue across from Sherman Drive.
Demolition has begun in this room in Brown Hall Annex. Wrecking crews have started tearing down the building for new construction.

Brown annex falls for new structure

By Lori L. Pagel
Lantern staff writer

Broken windows, boards covering the floors and plants growing wildly through graffiti-covered walls are just a few unique features of the Brown Hall Annex.

But not for long.
Crews will soon raze the annex to begin part of an $18 million dollar project, in which a new building will replace the annex and an addition will be added to the Mathematics Building, located at 231 W. 18th Ave.

State funding will provide $15.5 million for the project and the other $2.5 million will come from university funds, said Richard Eschliman, assistant vice president of the School of Architecture.

"My guess is construction would start probably in May of 1989," Eschliman said.

The new building will be located on the site of the Brown Hall Annex, at 1960 Bohannan Rd., across from Brown Hall.

The same architects will build the addition to the east end of the math building, Eschliman said.

"Bohannan Road will be eliminated and will be replaced by a pedestrian walkway, he said.

Eschliman said the state invited Ohio architectural firms to bid on the construction and then selected the firm of Collins, Rymer and Gordon of Cleveland.

The university suggested the Cleveland firm might want to work with an out-of-state firm to get other ideas, Eschliman said.

The Cleveland firm chose John Burgee and Associates of New York.

Eschliman said the buildings are badly needed and will be essential in three areas: additional space for math classes; additional administrative offices; and additional graduate teaching offices.

He also said the buildings will contain two large lecture halls and one building will house the new Science and Engineering Library.

The library will be consolidated for the departments of architecture, engineering, chemistry, math and physics, Eschliman explained.

The existing Brown Hall Annex was used primarily as a place for architectural students to work.

While construction is underway, the students will use Ives Hall (upon its completion) until the new annex has been built.
Renovation might cause parking problems

By Daryl Barker
Lantern staff writer

The Brown Hall Annex renovation project is scheduled to begin in February 1993 and will close portions of 17th and 18th avenues.

The new buildings will be occupied by March or April of 1993.

Some concerns have been expressed by students, faculty, and staff about the affects of the new project, according to Jack Probascos, campus facilities planner.

Parking on the south side of 18th Avenue will be banned during construction.

Since a number of parking spaces will be replaced by the library, Probascos said the University Traffic and Parking Division is studying the loss of parking spaces and is looking at alternatives.

"Several locations for a new parking garage are being considered," he said.

There will no longer be automobile access between 17th and 18th avenues from Neil Avenue to College Road. Sherman and Bohannon avenues, the two short streets connecting 17th and 18th avenues on the sides of Brown Hall, will become pedestrian passages after the project is complete.

The project includes a large addition to the Mathematics Building along 18th Avenue and a new branch library consolidation in the parking area behind Brown Hall, Probascos said.

There are two phases to the Mathematics Building addition. One phase will include the construction of seven-floor building, and the other phase will include an adjoining two-story classroom and lecture hall.

When finished, new offices for administration, faculty and graduate students, along with classrooms and lecture halls will be added. One lecture hall will contain 150 seats; the other will contain 300 seats.

A new library will also be constructed behind Brown Hall.

The library will consolidate the five branch libraries of Physics, Chemistry, Math, Engineering/Architecture and Materials Engineering, Probascos said.

It will probably be called the Science and Engineering Library, Probascos said.

At present, the separate libraries are crowded and have little room for seats.

The Brown Hall Annex renovation project, designed by internationally renowned architect Phillip Johnson, will cost more than $25.5 million. The University will cover $3 million of the costs and the state of Ohio will pay the difference.

The roofs of the new buildings will be sloped rather than flat, and the buildings will include layered brick with archways over the windows and doors.

"The arch motif is something Johnson picked up by observing other campus buildings including the Brown Hall Annex," campus architect Barbara Koelbl said.

Throughout its history, the annex has served as a boiler house, power plant, steam plant, garage, bus operation complex and university laundry facility.

The historic Brown Hall Annex dates back to 1892, and, according to university campus planner Okey Tolley, is one of the oldest parts of the OSU campus. The original building cost approximately $4,100.

Because of its deterioration, the annex is no longer used. Throughout its history, the annex has served as a boiler house, power plant, steam plant, garage, bus operation complex and university laundry facility.
Brown Hall Annex razed for math offices

By Jeffrey Shafer
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State's Department of Campus Planning has decided to replace Brown Hall Annex with a new building. Construction will begin in spring of 1991.

The project will create the Math Administration and Faculty Tower and the Science and Engineering Library, which will be built in the parking lot behind Brown Hall, said Beth DeWitt, a facilities planner for campus planning.

The seven-story tower would be connected to the existing Math Building, said Barbara Koelbl, from University Architects.

Five engineering and science libraries — chemistry, physics, engineering, math and materials engineering — that are currently in different buildings will be combined and moved into the new building, Koelbl said.

Currently, the Brown Hall Annex is not occupied, and the only thing remaining in the building are materials left behind by past occupants, Koelbl said.

Jack Probasco from campus planning said the project will cost about $25.5 million.

"The project will be mostly state-funded, with about $3 million coming from the university," he said.

Probasco said they had decided some time ago that the annex needed to be demolished.

Koelbl said the decision was made because the building currently is not usable and there is a need in the area for more space.

University Architects have contracted the architecture firm of Collins, Rimer and Gordon, from Cleveland, as associate architects and Philip Johnson, from New York, as a design consultant, Koelbl said.

She said the math tower will contain two lecture halls and four computer rooms in addition to the offices.

The tower will be built on top of the annex basement because of the steam lines and tunnels running through it, Koelbl said.

She said the road that runs between Dulles Hall and Brown Hall will also be removed and replaced with a walkway.

Before demolition can begin, the building has to be cleared of the asbestos materials that were used in the building, Koelbl said.

She said the buildings will be brick with stone trim in a post-modern style and were designed by Johnson.
Construction of complex will cause 2-year re-route

By Rebecca Gonzo
Lantern staff writer

The demolition of the Brown Hall Annex and construction of a $22.7 million office, classroom and library complex will re-route pedestrians and cars until 1993, according to Barbara Koebel of the University Architect's Office.

The demolition, which began Wednesday night, will take about three nights, but Bohannon and Sherman avenues that run on either side of the annex will remain closed to pedestrians and cars until 1993, Koebel said.

That means we'll be looking at the chain-link fence around the annex for a while, she added.

"The demolition will be done at night because it's a noisy and disruptive process. At night there's also less traffic so it's easier to haul off debris," Koebel said.

"Most people will find the construction inconvenient," Koebel said.

"People will find the construction inconvenient."

—Barbara Koebel

"They'll have to learn a new way of getting around."

The fastest routes for anyone going from the Bricker Hall area to the Robinson Lab area, for example, will be to go either to Neil Avenue or to the pedestrian path on the west side of Denney Hall, said Chuck Smith, assistant director of OSU Roads and Grounds. The other routes will be cut off.

West 18th Avenue, running east, and West 17th Avenue, running west, will remain open to cars, Smith said.

The new complex, scheduled for completion in April 1993, will include a seven-story math tower for offices and classrooms, an adjacent two-story classroom and a four-story library.

Koebel said the library will consolidate five existing science libraries.

Darryl Rogers, 1989 architecture graduate, described the Annex in 1987 as depressing.

"It seemed like the university forgot about that building," Rogers said. "It was dirty, the lighting was bad and there was little ventilation."

The building was just not maintained, said Ben Brace, special assistant to the vice president for OSU Business and Administration. At one time the Annex was used as a lab for architecture students, Brace said.

"It has been about a year since Brown Hall Annex has been occupied," Koebel said.

The parking lot and trees, some more than 100 feet tall, were torn up behind Brown Hall Tuesday.
Demolition re-routes foot traffic

Reprinted from the Aug. 8, 1991 issue of the Lantern.

By Rebecca Gonzo
Lantern staff writer

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Sinkholes likely caused by heavy rains, traffic

Reprinted from the Aug. 8, 1991 issue of the Lantern.

By Staci Patrick
Lantern staff writer

Officials think heavy construction equipment and traffic, along with heavy rains, might have led to two sinkholes near a construction site on West 18th Avenue at the Brown Hall Annex Aug. 8, 1991. Repair crews from the Physical Facilities Department were called to the scene after the first hole, about two feet in diameter, was reported by people in front of Robinson Laboratory.

Crews found broken tile beneath the surface, which was thought to be caused by heavy traffic and machinery in the area, said Chuck Smith, assistant director of Roads and Grounds.

The heavy rain in the two days previous to the discovery of the sinkholes could have weakened the strength underneath the tiles, said Larry Reed of the Physical Facilities department.

The crews filled the sinkhole with a cement mixture to absorb the weight on the road, Reed said.