

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

12-20-02

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

other names/site number **Louise Freer Hall/Gymnasium**

2. Location

street & number **906 South Goodwin Avenue** _____ Not for publication

city or town **Urbana** _____ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Champaign** code **019** zip code **61801**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. Wheeler / SHPO
Signature of certifying official

12-19-02
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

University of Illinois Buildings designed by Charles A. Platt

Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Education/college

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Education/college

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Stone**

Roof **Slate**

Walls **Limestone**

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

Period of Significance **1930-1952**

Significant Dates **1930**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Platt, Charles, Architect**
 White, James, Campus (supervising) Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository **University of Illinois archives**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **less than one acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	395668	4440107	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois
Name of Property

Champaign County, Illinois
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Leslie M. Griesbaum and Jennifer M. Grobe, students**

organization **Department of Urban and Regional Planning** date **September 2002**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

street & number **111 Temple Hoyne Buell Hall** telephone **217-333-3890**
611 Taft Drive

city or town **Champaign** state **Illinois** zip code **61820**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois**

street & number **352 Henry Administration, 506 South Wright** telephone **217-333-1920**

city or town **Urbana** state **Illinois** zip code **61801**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Description

The Georgian Revival Women's Gymnasium is a two and a half story, red brick Flemish bond building, with limestone trim. The Women's Gymnasium faces west, and is located one block east of the main University of Illinois quadrangle at the corner of Gregory and Goodwin. The Women's Residence Hall (1916) and the Women's West Residence Hall (1926) are to the immediate north of the Women's Gymnasium. The modern low-rise Campus Recreation Center East and tennis courts are to the east. To the south is a new parking garage and fire station and modern Neo-Georgian Madigan Laboratory. To the west is Bevier Hall (1957), which was built to house the home economics department. These buildings all compliment the Georgian Revival style of the Women's Gymnasium. All of these buildings are constructed of a similar red brick with limestone or concrete detailing, and most have a similar roof pitch. A circular drive immediately in front of the Women's Gymnasium, adds to the formality and symmetry of the building's Georgian Revival style. The following sections describe the west, south, east, and north facades as well as the non contributing 1970 addition to the northeast corner.

Main/ West Façade

The main western façade has thirteen symmetrical bays dominated by the central entrance bay with nine dormers punctuating the roof. The two bays farthest north of the main/west facade are recessed. This recessed section is a two-story section of the building with a steeply pitched hipped roof. The main entrance to the Women's Gymnasium is the center bay of the remaining eleven main bays on the main façade. The main entrance is oversized and made of limestone. The limestone extends onto the brick looking like

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illusionary quoins¹. An oversized keystone is fashioned as a scroll. In the lower southern corner of the limestone surround the year "1930" is inscribed. The formality of the entrance is further enhanced with a molded entablature and frieze with decorative pieces. On either side of the entrance bay are oversized classically detailed copper lanterns topped with decorative pineapples. The second story window immediately above the entrance bay rests on the door surround and integrates with the entrance bay. This second story window has a limestone surround, unlike the other second story windows, which have brick surrounds. On both sides of the second story window below the fanlight and above the entrance bay there are limestone panels. The entrance bay is further detailed with a limestone swag composed of organic material above the second story window. The entrance is a formal recessed entrance. The walls and flooring of the recessed entrance are made of limestone. A molded limestone chair rail and a molded limestone cornice surround the recess. There are three, eight- light doors with tall six- light transoms above each door. A classically detailed copper light fixture hangs in the center of the recessed entrance. On the south wall of the recessed entrance is a five- light round window.

Each bay, besides the central entrance bay, follows a similar pattern providing a symmetrical appearance. The basement windows are double- hung four- over- four paired windows with a segmental arch shape and a segmental brick arch above each window. The bottom sash of each window is partially concealed by ventilated window wells that conceal the remainder of the windows. The window wells are made of concrete. The windows on the first floor are double- hung four- over- four paired windows, with lug sills and soldier brick jack arches. The second story windows are double- hung six- over-

¹ PACA Historic Property Index

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six paired windows, each pair topped with a multi- light fanlight; most of the glass is textured and frosted. These windows have a two course round arch brick frame. The sills are molded lug sills. Nine dormers are on the west façade. Each dormer is placed above the nine main bays of the west façade. The dormers are roof dormers with segmental arched windows. The windows are double- hung eight- over- eight, except the northern three dormers which have a sixteen light fixed sash storm sash to conceal vents and present a uniform look. The two northern bays are recessed, but have the same first and second story windows as the main section, but do not have basement windows or dormers.

There are two identical monumentally scaled chimneys on the north and south ends of the main section of the building. Beveled stone belt courses with recessed panels have a brick round arch mimicking the second story windows, limestone keystones detail the chimneys. The chimneys are further detailed with a limestone cornice around the top and are topped with twelve chimney pots. A limestone water table surrounds the entire base of the Women's Gymnasium contributing to the formality of the building. Between the first and second story runs a belt course immediately above the jack arches of the first story. This belt course projects six courses with the bricks placed as stretchers. Gutters are boxed within the molded limestone entablature, which extends throughout the entire west facade. The downspout and the scuppers are made of copper. The scuppers are located below the entablature and have an organic decorative design inscribed with the year 1930. The Women's Gymnasium has a steeply pitched roof and still has its original slate roof. On the roof ridge, five small cresting pieces or lighting rods are evenly placed.

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South Façade

The south façade is less detailed than the main west façade. There are three bays and an extending one-story wing. The entablature on the front of the building only wraps slightly onto the south façade, but continues on the east rear façade. The south façade is blind with brick recesses mimicking the patterns of the windows on the main façade. Each second story recess has a round arch and lug sill. There are no basement windows. The water table begins to step downward toward the rear/ east facade. The belt course continues along the south façade from the west façade. On the east end of the south façade is a one story east bay wing. The belt course continues through this wing, and the wing is topped with a brick parapet and a stone entablature wrapping slightly onto the east end of the wing from the east/ rear façade.

Rear/ East Façade

The rear/ east façade has many of the same features as the main/ west façade. There are eleven bays on the east façade. The bay farthest to the north has been altered to accommodate the 1970 addition. The single story wing from the south façade extends across the entire east façade, creating the first story projection. The first story windows are similar to the first story windows on the west main façade, but they have limestone panels that extend beneath the windows to the water table. The first story windows also have keystones on the jack arches. They are not double-hung, but are paired awning sash with ten lights. These windows, however, harmonize with the double-hung windows seen on the west main façade. Every pair of windows has one air-conditioning unit. Pilasters of limestone on the first story divide the bays. A molded cornice is above the

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first story. A limestone parapet hides the flat roof of the single story wing. The scuppers on this side of the building are less detailed. The second story windows and the dormer windows are identical to the windows on the west main façade. The entrance on the east rear façade is similar to that on the west main façade, but it is less detailed. Again the entrance is recessed. However, there are no decorative pieces on the frieze and different doors are used. At the center of the recess there are three, two- over- four double- hung windows above three, two- over- two double- hung windows. On the south end of the recess is a nine light-paneled door and on the north end is a replacement fire door with a paired multi- light replacement window. Two- over- two windows are above both doors on the north and south ends of the recessed entrance.

North Façade

The north façade has another formal entrance with granite stairs, and a molded limestone door surround with a cornice. The door is an Art Deco stainless steel door. A lantern is centered above the door. The lantern is of an unknown date and is a simplified version of other classically detailed lanterns used on the main facade. A spandrel panel extends from the doorway to the second story window. The second story windows above the doorway are paired four- over- six double- hung windows with a jack arch and a rectangular lug sill. The belt course, water table, and entablature continue from the west/ main façade, and the scuppers on the north façade have the same detailing as those on the west/ main façade. From the north façade, a connector wing attaches to the 1970 pool addition. The wing is one story with four bays. The first three bays on the wing have blind recesses with round arch surrounds. A flat limestone parapet is on top of the one

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story wing. The fourth bay farthest east on the wing has a single door, concealed by a brick half wall that extends from the west main façade of the addition.

1970 Northeast Addition (Non Contributing)

The 1970 addition extends from the farthest bay north on the east rear façade and the farthest bay east on the north façade. It is a one and a half story addition, which harmonizes with the original building. The addition uses a similar red brick and continues the use of the Flemish bond pattern. The water table is continued around the addition, and a similar stone entablature with a simplified profile is used on the addition. The addition uses the same roof pitch as the main building and slate roofing material. Scuppers on the addition reflect the design of the original, but without the detail of the originals. Boxed gutters enclosed in the cornice continue on the addition, as they did on the original building. On the south side of the east/ rear façade of the addition there is a set of solid double doors with granite steps and a limestone door surround. Also by the door there is an iron lantern with classical details topped with an urn. The east façade of the addition has five bays indicated by brick piers with three dormers centered above the three central bays. A limestone belt course spans the upper one fourth of the pool addition.

Interior

The interior spaces of the Women's Gymnasium vary in quality; most of the spaces are simply detailed. On the exterior, the building appears to be two and one-half stories with

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a basement. However, the interior is divided into five levels plus a basement. The five levels include the areas not occupied by gymnasium space. The two gymnasiums extend from the second to the fourth floor. The main foyer of the building is rectangular in shape with limestone ashlar walls and terrazzo flooring. Chair rails and molded cornices with picture frame molding continue throughout the first floor. From the foyer, two pairs of French doors with original hardware open to a steep ramp that leads to lower level office space. On either side of the foyer are single loaded corridors; original marble limestone baseboard continues throughout. These corridors open to numerous offices on the west/front side. The original office doors are intact. These doors are wooden with single light patterned glass above three panels (one horizontal above side-by-side vertical). Four-light transoms rest above the doors. The molded wood surrounds framing the doors and transoms remain. The original hardware has been preserved on the doors.

The southern and northern ends of the first floor vary greatly in quality. The southern end of the first floor is heavily detailed. Piered archways with molding to create paneling add a formal feel to the mostly simple hallway. An original staircase consisting of rose colored marble stairs and a curved iron open rail leads to the second floor gymnasium area. The northern end is more utilitarian. The steel doors and stair rail give the area an industrial feel. Two simple stairwells lead to different parts of the second floor. One staircase leads to the 1970's pool addition and one leads to additional second story office space.

The second floor of the Women's Gymnasium has been sectioned to facilitate greater use of the building. Two original gymnasiums are located on the south side of the second

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story. The gymnasiums consist of hardwood floors, oversized arched windows, and concrete walls which extend to the fourth floor. Basketball hoops and painted boundaries create a basketball court in the gymnasium. The two gyms are mirror images of each other. One is used for teaching and recreation and the other is used a physical research laboratory. On north side of the second story, the original locker rooms remain. These rooms feature rose colored ceramic tiles on both the walls and floors. The locker rooms lead to the pool addition. The middle section of the second story is used for office space and classrooms for the Department of Kinesiology. This space has been completely modernized. However, the space leading to the offices features some of the original materials as found on the first story. Wooden molded cornices and chair rails continue throughout these hallways. A steep ramp leads from the second story to a laboratory.

The third and fourth stories of the Women's Gymnasium are utilitarian in treatment. Concrete staircases with iron newel posts lead to these stories. Exposed support beams are on the ceilings. The third floor consists of laboratories and office space. Original doors remain; these doors are similar to the first story office doors with the exception of the patterned glass light and transoms.

The 1970 pool addition is a wing on the northeast side of the building. The pool area is primarily for class use only. This space was originally designed as part of the building but was not constructed because of the lack in funds.

The Women's Gymnasium is an extremely complex interior spatially, yet simply detailed. The building has served the same basic functions in the years of its existence; however, today it is used by both men and women. Many original materials remain.

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8. Statement of Significance

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Women's Gymnasium is significant under Criterion A for social history and Criterion C under the areas of significance in architecture and community planning and development. It is a significant local example of the Georgian Revival style of architecture. This building was designed by Charles A. Platt and was significant in shaping the campus according to his plan. The period of significance for the building is 1931-1952. The Women's Gymnasium meets the National Register Criterion C as it pertains to the Registration Requirements for the Multiple Property Nomination of the *University of Illinois buildings designed by Charles A. Platt*. The Physical Training Department for women benefited from the Women's Gymnasium on campus as well; it allowed for adequate facilities to conduct classes, research, and recreation in the building. Furthermore, it contributed to the women's corridor previously existing with the Women's and West Residence Halls due north of the gymnasium. The Women's Gymnasium contains a significant representation of the design characteristics and siting of buildings in Platt's master plan for the University. Platt's plan called for buildings on the southern portion of campus to be visually dominating. Some of the key Georgian Revival characteristics of the building include symmetry in design of its thirteen bays, the domination of an oversized main entrance on the main façade, multi-light windows, elaborately detailed roof dormers, scuppers, and the original slate roof. The Women's Gymnasium is a two and a half story building constructed of red brick with a stone foundation, similar to the design of Platt's eleven buildings on campus. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

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History

The University of Illinois, originally called Illinois Industrial University, was founded in 1867. Women were admitted to the University in 1870. The first attempt to provide women with their own physical education building took place in March 1889, when female students petitioned the Board of Trustees for a Women's Gymnasium. The trustees sent the request off to a committee to study, but it was rejected.

The first acknowledgment of a women's physical education program came in November 1892. It was then that the Board of Trustees appropriated funds to purchase athletic equipment and set up a temporary women's gymnasium at the top floor of the Natural History Building located on the main quadrangle of campus. The trustees assured women that this would only be temporary. However, it would not be until April 1904 that the long awaited women's gymnasium would find a home in the Woman's Building. This building was on the main quadrangle and still exists today as the English Building.¹

On April 22, 1914, the Board of Trustees accepted a proposal to create a Women's Athletic Area around the Women's Residence Hall. Women now had specific campus space for the long anticipated athletic fields. Progress was continuing as a second gymnasium and pool were added to the Woman's Building in 1923.

During the 1920's, the women's gymnasium facilities in the Woman's Building became inadequate and University officials felt the women's gymnasium should be housed in a

¹ Huth, Jeff. "Gym UI Women's Place for Athletics." *The Champaign News-Gazette*, November 25, 1984.

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building specifically for that purpose. University President David Kinley recognized this as well; he labeled the proposed women's gym a "bread and butter" building. He seemed to have been convincing as the Board of Trustees appropriated \$300,000 for this building in the 1929-30 budget.²

The Women's Gymnasium was completed in 1930; it was designed by Charles Platt with the assistance of Professor James White³. It was the last building designed by Platt at the University.⁴ The building was not quite as elaborate as originally planned by the architects. A lack of funds scrapped plans for two of the buildings wings, one of which included a pool.

The original floor plans included two gymnasium areas, showers, dressing rooms, offices, and a physical education laboratory. Some of the more luxurious features included an archery room, dance room, a game room, and a hair-drying room.⁵

Women's physical education director Louise Freer believed the gym should be more than just a place for recreation. She felt it could also be used for social gatherings and wanted to convert the mezzanine into a lounge area. The Women's Athletic Association authorized \$2,000 from its annual budget to make this a reality in 1932.

² O'Donnell, Thomas E. and Tilton, Leon D., *History of the Growth and Development of the Campus of the University of Illinois*. (Urbana: The University of Illinois Press, 1930) p. 168

³ Professor James White also served as campus architect from 1907 until the time of his death in 1933. He is claimed to have the greatest influence on the material development of campus; he had a hand in the design of 80 main campus buildings not including those built in the second half of the 1900's.

⁴ Weller, Allen S., *100 Years of Campus Architecture*. (Urbana: The University of Illinois Press 1968) p.22.

⁵ Huth, Jeff. "Gym UI Women's Place for Athletics." *The Champaign News-Gazette*, November 25, 1984.

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The Women's Gymnasium was renamed Louise Freer Hall on October 26, 1968. This gymnasium was intended as a place for recreation and teacher training, not coaching; its service to the University reflects this as it is used for intramural sports and classes. Freer Hall has never been the site of a major intercollegiate sports event.

In 1970 the Women's Gymnasium underwent a \$780,000 addition. The originally intended 75-by-40 foot pool was included in the amenities. Since 1973, Freer Hall has been the home of both men's and women's physical education departments and is currently the home of the College of Applied Life Studies.⁵

Significance in Social History

The Women's Gymnasium at the University of Illinois was significant in its effort to promote the welfare of women attending the University in the early 1900's. American history reveals trends linking women's entry into higher education with economic and social factors that have shaped American life. "As a result of colleges and universities shifting to coeducational policies, student services were adapted to respond to the needs of the changing student population. Deans of Women, separate dormitory and gymnasium facilities, women's organizations, and attention to male and female social interaction on campus were examples of how student services had adapted to the changes

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brought about by coeducation.”⁶ No significant change took place in the education of women until the whole social structure of the nation was changed by the beginnings of industrial production outside the home and westward expansion. Women's colleges appeared early in the 19th century, however the curriculum merely better prepared women to be housewives. The first college to fully open its doors to women was Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio in 1837. At the close of the 19th century, coeducation was gaining popularity.⁷ The passage of the Morrill Land Grant Act greatly assisted the growth governmental involvement in higher education. By enacting such legislation, Congress encouraged the growth of state universities. “Taxpayers supporting these institutions demanded that their daughters, as well as their sons, be admitted.”⁸ Presidents of universities were more inclined to admit female students in increasing numbers. The University's Big Ten counterpart, the University of Wisconsin Madison began admitting women in 1863 with a limited number of course options. The University of Minnesota and Indiana University admitted women, with full academic opportunity, from the time of their establishments in 1869. The University of Michigan followed this lead a year later, in 1870 the same year as Illinois. By 1872, ninety-seven coeducation universities were in the United States.⁹ Today, nearly ninety-five percent of all college women are enrolled at coeducational universities.

⁶ Kleszynski, Margret A., “Cultural, Economic and Social Influences on Coeducation in the United States and Implications for Student Services.” University of Portland, 1994.

⁷ *The Social Studies*, “The Education of Women: A Historical View”, Peiser, Andrew. March/April 1976.

⁸ Rosenberg, R. (1988). The limits of access: the history of coeducation in America. In Kleszynski, Margret A., “Cultural, Economic and Social Influences on Coeducation in the United States and Implications for Student Services.” (University of Portland, 1994).

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The University's part in this social movement is highly relevant as seen in the buildings constructed for the specific use as women's facilities. The Women's Gymnasium was constructed to facilitate women's physical education and recreational activities at the University. Before the Women's Gymnasium existed, the Physical Training Department for women was in urgent need of adequate space to hold classes and conduct research.¹⁰ Women at the University believed not only in a well-rounded academic education but also a physical education. A gymnasium devoted to athletics for women was the key to the success of the program. The building was equally as adequate as the existing campus buildings.

Significance in Community Planning and Development

The design and siting of the Women's Gymnasium reinforces Platt's master plan for the campus. The design characteristics that realize the plan were uniform cornice heights, roof pitch, and materials. Uniform cornice heights visually link the various buildings designed by Platt, which are typically three stories plus attic. The Georgian Revival style applied to this building was consistent to the design of previous buildings designed by Platt. Twentieth century Georgian Revival designs were not as monumental. "Historical prototypes of the Georgian Revival style were 'domestic in scale, even when their functions were not strictly domestic.' The domestic feeling was established through the detailing of the facades, cornices, and windows."¹¹ Prior to the construction of the Women's Gymnasium, women's athletic facilities were located in the Women's Building on the main quadrangle. The Women's Building, currently known as the English

⁹ Bronson, Roger B. and Kirkpatrick, Sidney D. *The Illio* (Champaign: Flanigan-Pearson Co., Inc., 1916)

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Section 8 Page 15 Women's Gymnasium, Champaign County, Illinois

Building, was constructed in 1905. As the number of women enrolled in the University increased, the facilities became increasingly inadequate. The Board of Trustees designated the space on which the gymnasium would eventually be built as Women's Athletic Fields in 1914.¹² The need for a facility for a Women's Gymnasium was recognized in the 1929- 1930 budget that allocated funding for the construction of the Women's Gymnasium. Platt's plan for University buildings followed construction along the main axis developed by the earlier Blackall plan. Around 1910, the main Quad was already full of buildings. Growth was to now move on vacant land to the south, but building organization was wide open for speculation. An east-west axis was to cut through the southern development. The Women's Gymnasium was constructed along this east-west axis. It was one of the eleven buildings designed and placed by Platt, and one of the eight buildings added on campus from the years 1925-1931. Obviously, Platt's plan was rapidly being realized. The onset of the Great Depression in the 1930's saw Platt's association with the University come to an end. The Women's Gymnasium was the last building Platt designed for the University.

Significance in Architecture

The Women's Gymnasium is locally significant and representative of the Georgian Revival style used by Charles Platt on the buildings he designed on the University of

¹¹ University of Illinois buildings designed by Charles A. Platt, NR: 2000. Section E-15.

¹² Huth, Jeff. "Gym UI Women's Place for Athletics." *The Champaign News-Gazette*, November 25, 1984.

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Section 8 Page 16 Women's Gymnasium, Champaign County, Illinois

Illinois campus. Features of the building are typical of the elements used by Platt. Some of these key characteristics include red brick, limestone ornament, an oversized elaborate entry on the main facade, and slate roofing. Platt's main focus on this particular building was given to main entrance and the bay above it. The main entrance includes a limestone surround with a projecting limestone sill. A decorative frieze and limestone entablature surrounding the above bay are formal elements applied to the main entrance. An elaborate, oversized entrance is typically of Platt's buildings and this building is no exception. However, unlike some of Platt's other buildings, attention was given to nearly all parts of the exterior. The use of limestone surround for the windows exemplifies the formality that was applied to design and construction of this building. On the interior, the main foyer, first floor office spaces, and main staircases were all planned as permanent spaces. The building becomes more utilitarian towards to south wing and the north addition. The less visible parts of the interior appear to have been finished more inexpensively. This is consistent in the range of detail applied to Platt's buildings.

Integrity

The Women's Gymnasium has not been altered in a way that detracts from its original architecture, campus planning characteristics or social history associations. Excluding the 1970 addition, the original architecture remains completely intact. The addition, however, was part of the original blueprint of the building. The building as seen today is how it was originally designed to look. All of the exterior doors and windows are original. The primary public spaces including the original classrooms, laboratories, and office spaces retain their integrity. Original doors with hardware and transoms as well as

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Section 8 Page 17 Women's Gymnasium, Champaign County, Illinois

original light fixtures still exist. The building is used in the same way as it was originally intended; therefore, the functions of the building have not changed. The plaster walls are in excellent condition and the marble baseboard throughout the building is still intact. The terrazzo and original linoleum tile are in good condition throughout the building. Minor remodeling has occurred throughout the building to facilitate more laboratory and office space. Because of the seclusion of these spaces and the original utilitarian purpose, this does not detract from the significance of this building.

Platt envisioned the Women's Gymnasium to include a pool in his original design. Due to modern renovation, this vision was fulfilled. The pool addition was placed as Platt intended. The addition was done using the same material as the existing building. The addition follows the Georgian Revival architectural scheme, and therefore does not detract from the architectural integrity of the rest of the building. Platt's ultimate plan for the University of Illinois was best realized in the buildings he assisted in designing. The

Women's Gymnasium is one of the eleven buildings at the University that exemplifies the Georgian Revival style according to Charles A. Platt.

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Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois

9. Bibliography

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Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is a polygon, generally an extension of the building's footprint. The front/west boundary line follows the extant sidewalk, paralleling the building at approximately 181' from the main facade. To the south side, the boundary once again follows the extant sidewalk and includes the hedgerow at approximately 64' from the building's south facade plane. To the rear/east, the boundary line extends 23' from the east facade plane to a line which generally follows the extant sidewalk. This boundary line extends from south to north to a point approximately 3' to the south of the connector wing and rear swimming pool addition. Here the boundary line continues east/west approximately 3' south of the connector and addition to a point which aligns with a line approximately 10' from the rear/east wall of the addition. From a line continuing north/south approximately 10' from the rear/east facade plane (of the addition), the boundary continues to a point aligned with the north boundary line. The north boundary line is a line approximately 47-1/2' north of the addition's facade plane and approximately 69-1/2' from the north end of the main building's facade plane (at the Art Deco entrance.) This boundary line extends to a point aligned with the front boundary.

Boundary Justification

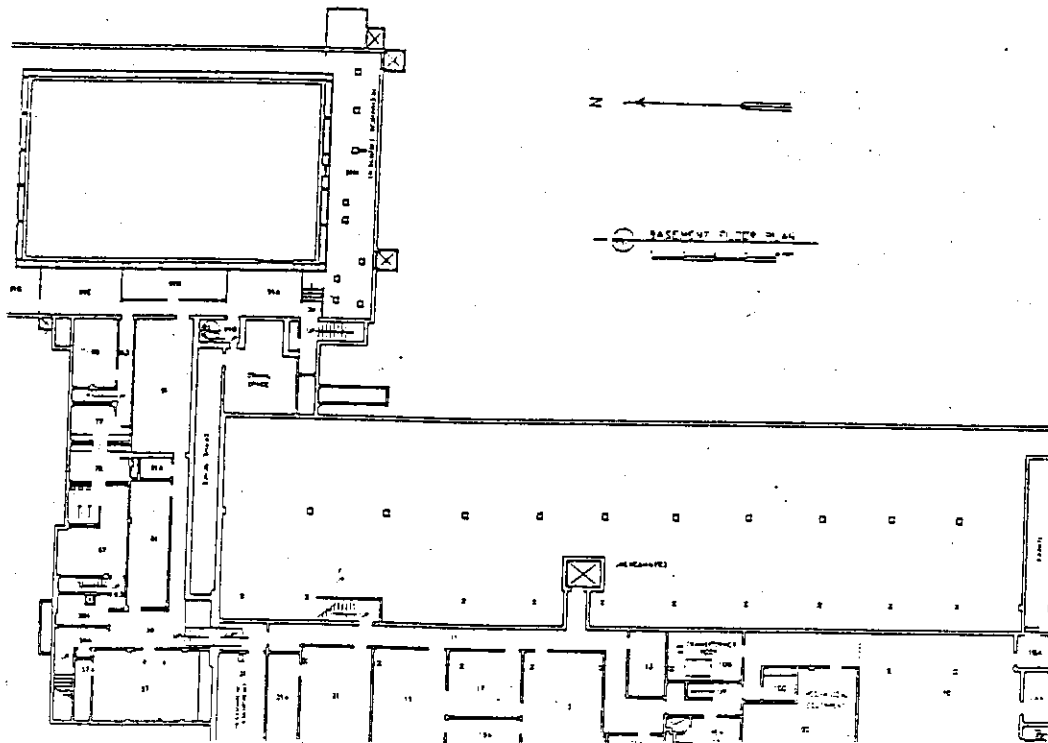
The boundary includes the significant front setback of the building, which includes a semi-oval driveway centered on the building's main entrance and a front hedgerow which lines nearly the entire front of the building's lot. The setback contributes to the building's grand facade, Georgian Revival formality, and monumental presence. The building's southern/side setback and hedgerow are also included and contribute to its secondary, Gregory Street presence. To the rear/east, the building's setback up to a rear service driveway are included. At the rear/east of the swimming pool addition, the boundary includes the extent of the granite stairs which access double doors toward the south end of that facade. To the north, the boundary extends to a major pedestrian trafficway, which separates the building from the rear lot of the Women's Residence Hall/West Residence Hall (now Busey-Evans Residence Halls) to the north.

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Section Floor Plans

Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois



BUILDING #64
FREER HALL
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION
1501 S. OAK ST., CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

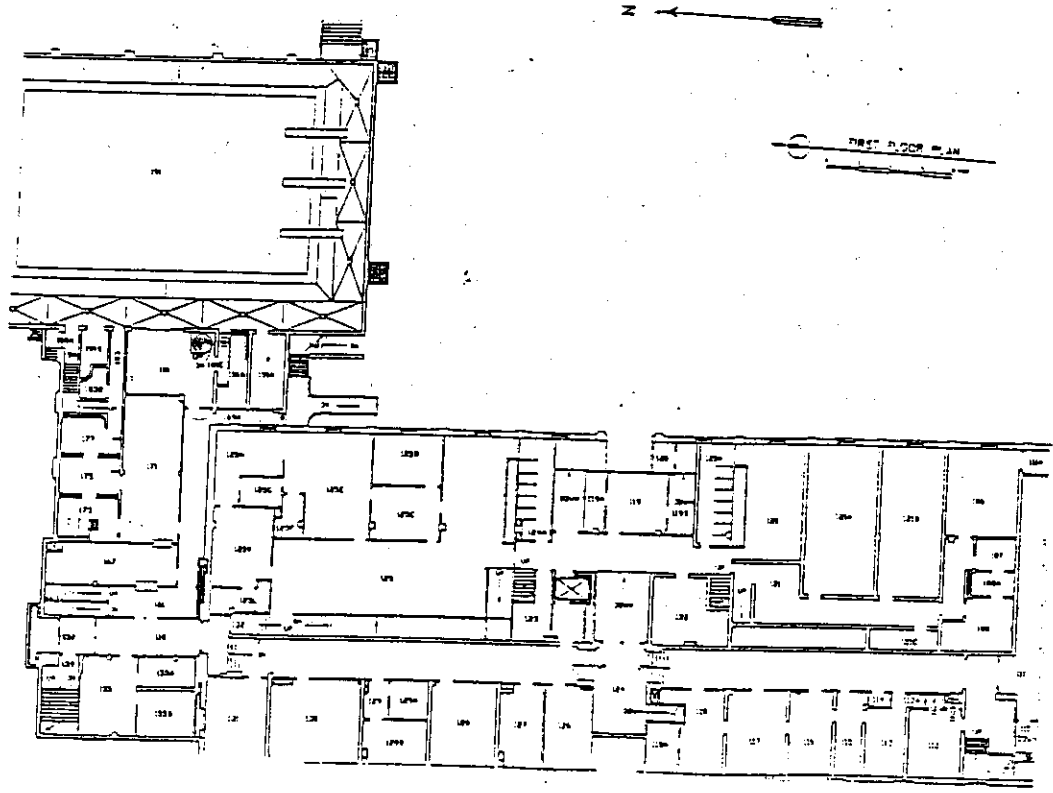
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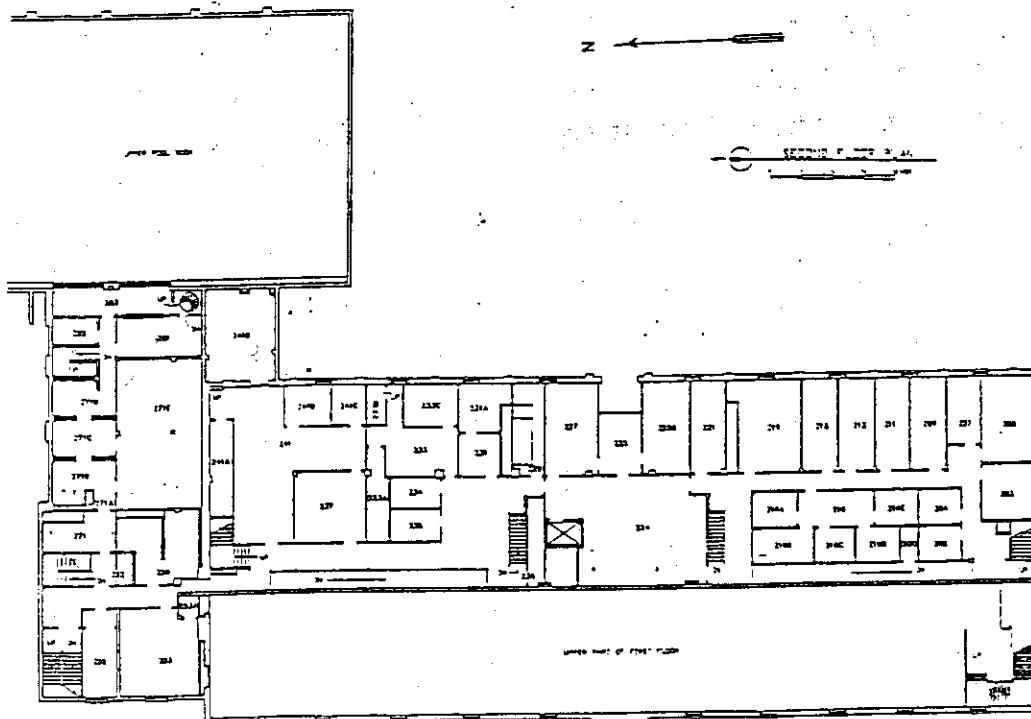


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Women's Gymnasium-University of Illinois



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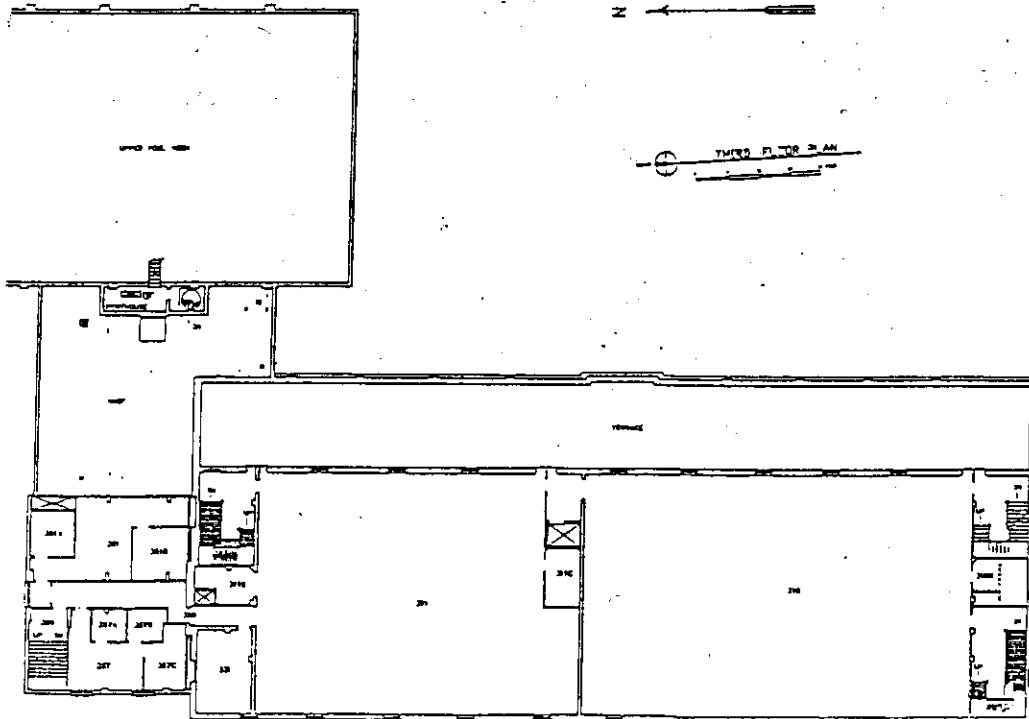
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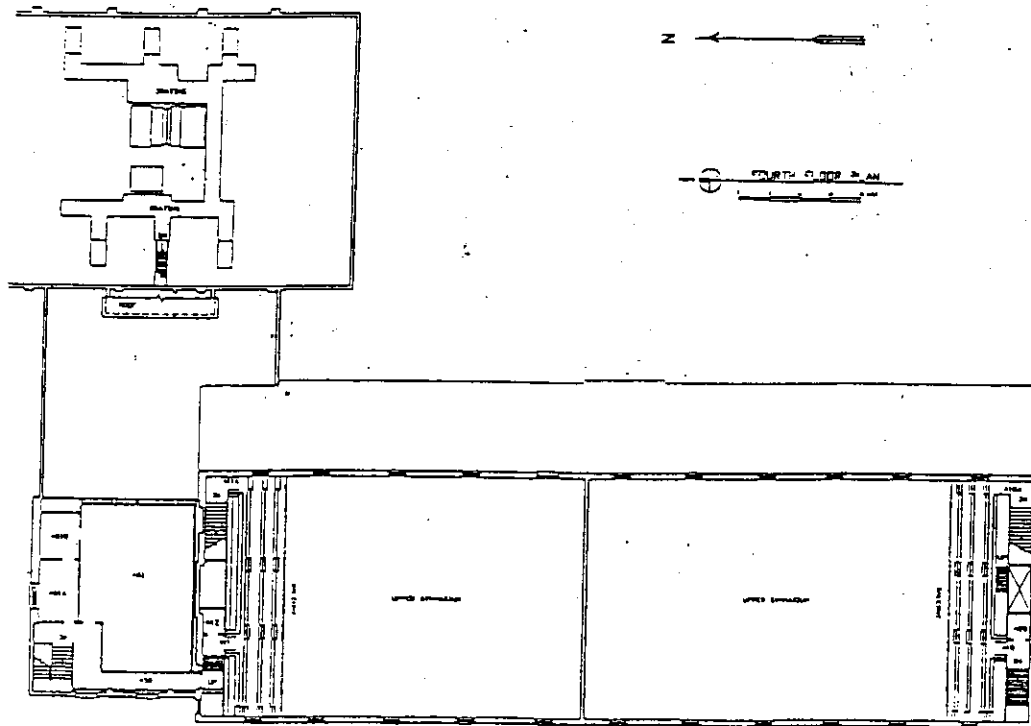
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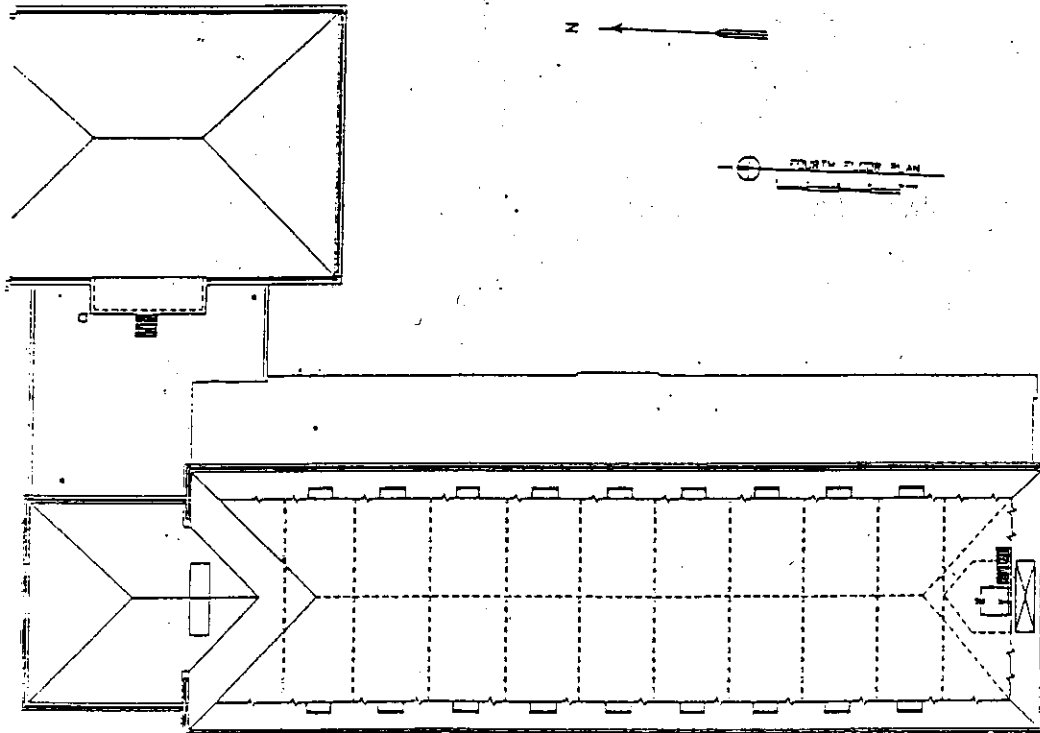


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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SITE PLAN
Section number _____ Page _____

Women's Gymnasium

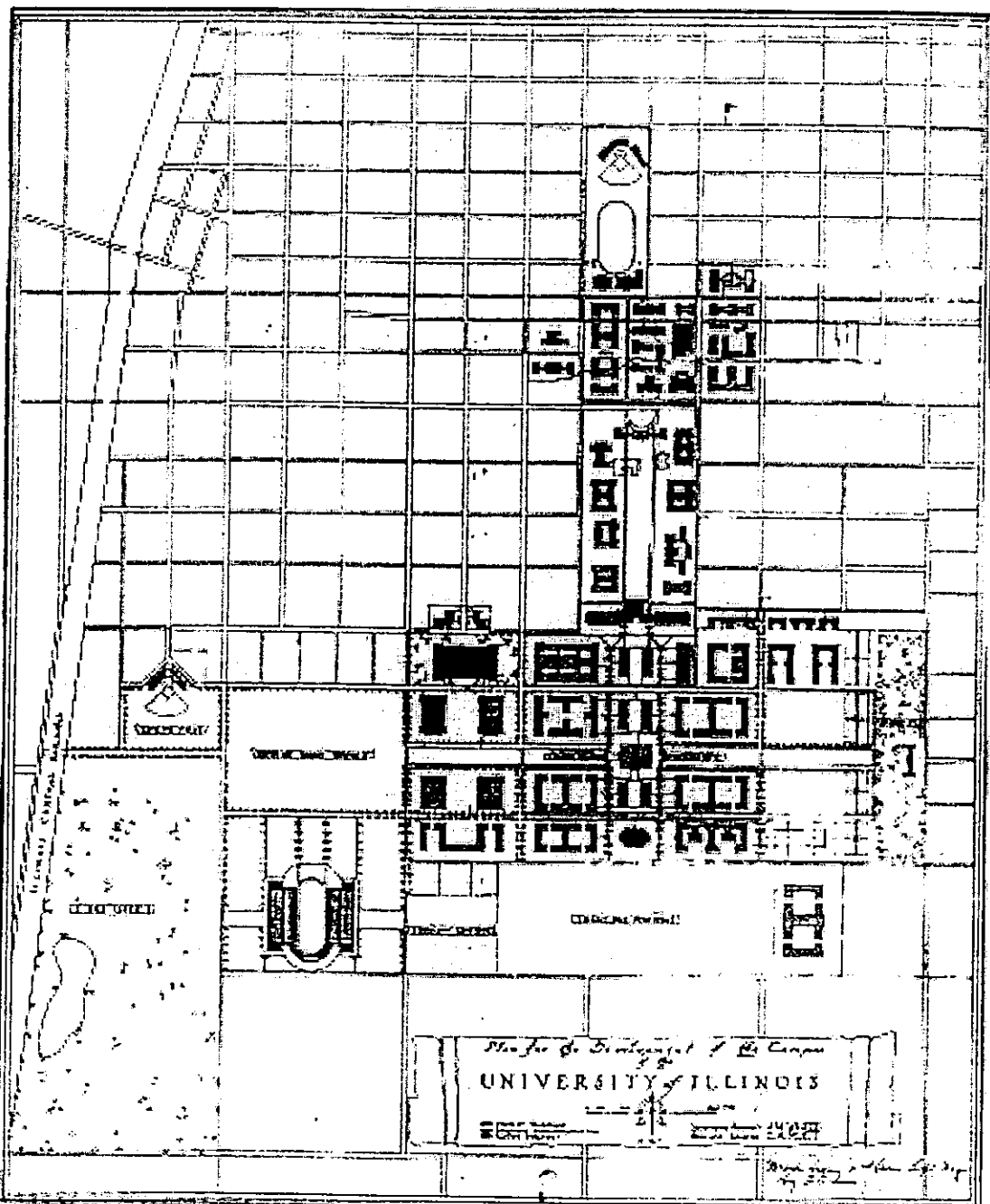


Figure 6. Charles A. Platt Plan, 1922, revised to show completed buildings as of 1927.

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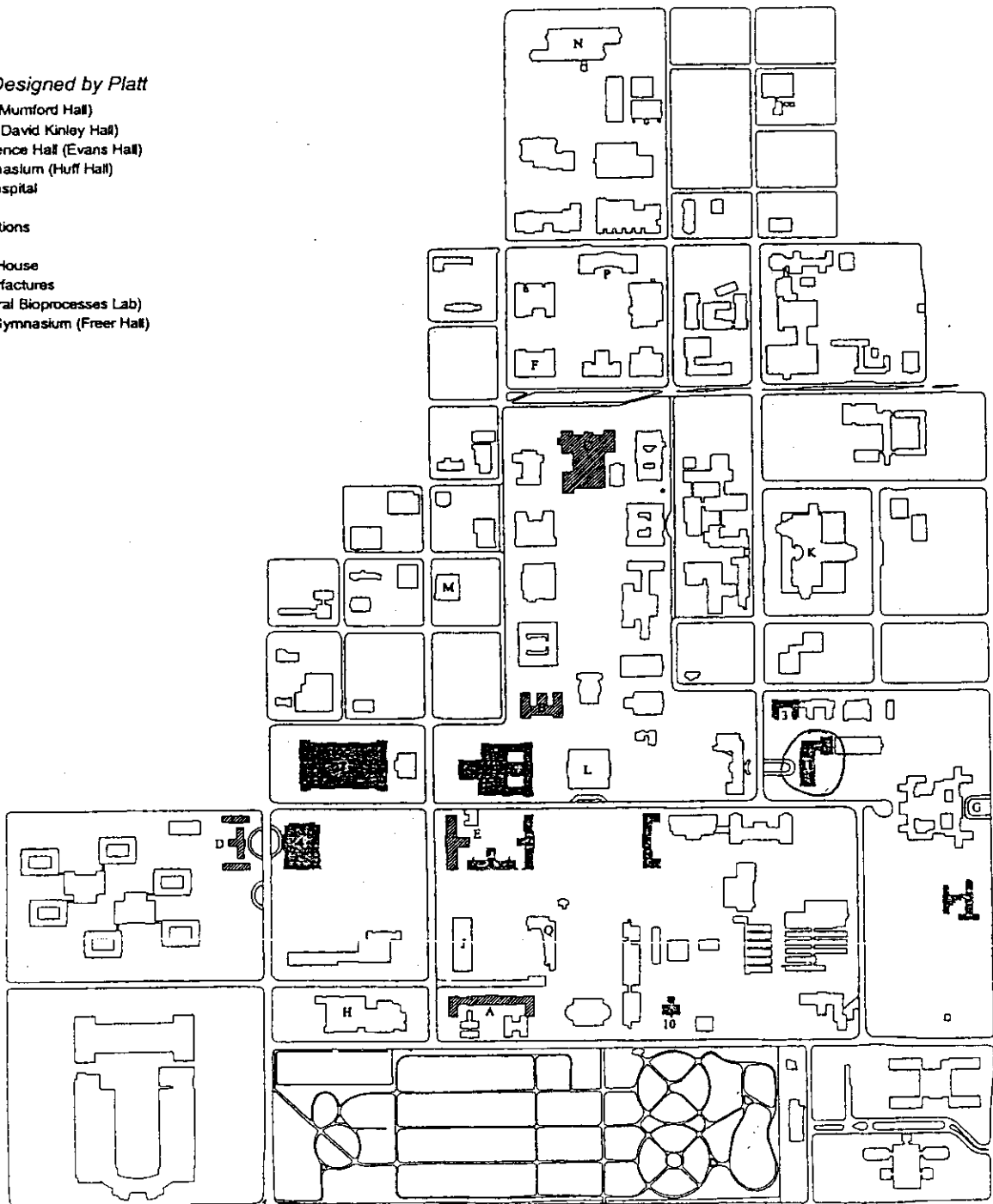
SITE PLAN

Section number _____ Page _____

Women's Gymnasium

Buildings Designed by Platt

1. Agriculture (Mumford Hall)
2. Commerce (David Kinley Hall)
3. West Residence Hall (Evans Hall)
4. Men's Gymnasium (Huff Hall)
5. McKinley Hospital
6. Library
7. Armory additions
8. Architecture
9. President's House
10. Dairy Manufactures
(Agricultural Bioprocesses Lab)
11. Women's Gymnasium (Freer Hall)



WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 2/03/03 THROUGH 2/07/03

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ALASKA, JUNEAU BOROUGH-CENSUS AREA,
Sentinel Island Light Station,
Sentinel Island,
Juneau vicinity, 02001407,
LISTED, 12/02/02
(Light Stations of the United States MPS)

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
Middough Brothers--Insurance Exchange Building,
205 E. Broadway,
Long Beach, 03000002,
LISTED, 2/05/03

CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY,
Downtown Stamford Historic District (Boundary Increase 2),
Roughly, Bedford St. between Broad and Forest Sts.,
Stamford, 02001744,
LISTED, 1/31/03

FLORIDA, PINELLAS COUNTY,
Jungle Prada Site,
Address Restricted,
St. Petersburg, 03000007,
LISTED, 2/04/03

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY,
Women's Gymnasium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
906 S Goodwin Ave.,
Urbana, 02001751,
LISTED, 2/05/03
(University of Illinois Buildings designed by Charles A. Platt MPS)

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY,
Women's Residence Hall--West Residence Hall, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign,
1111W Nevada St.,
Urbana, 02001752,
LISTED, 2/05/03
(University of Illinois Buildings designed by Charles A. Platt MPS)

ILLINOIS, CLARK COUNTY,
First Congregational Church,
202 N 6th St.,
Marshall, 02001753,
LISTED, 2/05/03

ILLINOIS, HENRY COUNTY,
West Water Tower and Ground Storage Tank,
310 11th Ave.,
Orion, 02001754,
LISTED, 2/05/03

ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY,
Griffith, John, Store Building,
103-113 E Scranton Ave.,
Lake Bluff, 02001755,
LISTED, 2/05/03

ILLINOIS, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY,