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New Building for Washington University School of Law

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NEW BUILDING FOR WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW.

The buildings of Washington University are to be ultimately arranged on the closed quadrangle plan of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. Moreover, the style of architecture of those colleges, broadly described as "English Collegiate," is the style followed in the University Group. While the Campus plan, prepared before any building was done, has been modified from time to time as the work progressed, it has been adhered to in all essentials. Nothing permanent



has been constructed which does not knit harmoniously into the scheme of future development, but the completed plan is barely hinted at, at present, on the greater part of the Campus.

On entering the first quadrangle through the archway of University Hall Tower, one who is familiar with architectural design, feels the incompleteness of the composition before him. Isolated on the western side stands Ridgley Library, while University Hall on the east, Busch Hall of Chemistry on the south, Cupples Hall of Engineering and Architecture on the north are linked together and complete. For some years the gaps to the north and south of the Library have remained unfilled. It has been necessary to await required funds, and now the period of waiting is over. By the gift of Miss Isabel Vallé January, a home for the Law School is to be erected as a Memorial to her mother, Mrs. Grace Vallé January, who died in March, 1919. The school will stand to the south of Ridgley Library, its eastern end projecting forward into the quadrangle a distance of forty-four feet. At that point an archway closing in the corner and connecting up to Busch Hall makes the plan symmetrical with the corresponding corner between Busch and University Halls. All of this is in entire accord with the original plans. A similar arrangement at the north end of Ridgley is to be carried out simultaneously in the Duncker Hall of Commerce and Finance, given by Mr. C. H. Duncker as a memorial to his son, Charles H. Duncker. Just twenty-one years, therefore, after the new University buildings were begun we shall see the completion of the first quadrangle—the first unit of the wide spread plan to be finished. Provision for future growth necessitates separation of most of the buildings or placing them with free space for extension in one or more directions, but the first quadrangle is not to be encroached upon now or in the future.

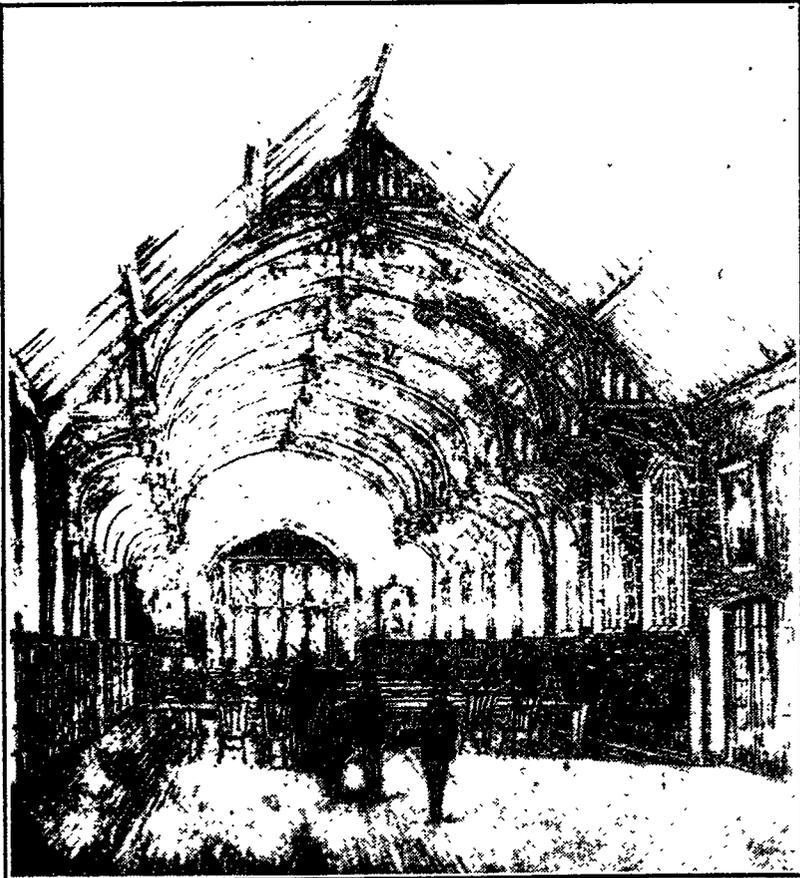
In architecture the new building is Tudor of the same period as University Hall. In material it matches other buildings on the Campus, having walls of Missouri red granite laid up in irregular broken range ashlar, with Indiana limestone corner quoins, base courses, string courses and

other trimmings and a roof of green slate. The construction of floors, etc., is reinforced concrete. A distinctive character is given the buildings by the fenestration made possible in the second story. Here the entire eastern half is occupied by the Reading Room, 112½ feet long and having a great oriel window at its eastern end. On either side is a row of mullioned windows with sills six and a half feet above the floor, clearing the book shelves which line the room. West of the Reading Room and opening from it is a three-tier book stack extending down the center of the building and lighted by a mullioned window as large as the entire end of the stack. To the north and south of the stack are eight well lighted offices for the Dean and other members of the faculty, two rooms for Students' Conferences, and one for archives and space for the Librarian. To the Librarian's quarters a book lift rises from the Unpacking Room in the basement.

Between the Law Building and the south end of Ridgley Library is an archway spanning the walk leading westward from the first quadrangle. Over this archway in the second story is a Students' Conference Room connecting the Law Reading Room with the General Stack Room of the University Library. For years the Law School has had to occupy the Library Stack Room, but on the completion of the new building the space will revert to the purpose for which it was originally intended, and with other additions to the Library there will be accommodation for some 600,000 volumes.

The first floor of the new building is occupied by class rooms and a moot court room. There are two first story entrances to the school, both on the north side. One leads to a central stair hall from which opens a business office and the court room, the latter having a seating capacity of 364. To the east of the central hall lie three class rooms, entered from a corridor having the second exterior door, which is at the end of the cloister of the Library.

In addition to these main entrances on the first floor, there is one on the south side leading to the basement. Here, besides the locker room and toilet, are a large lounging room



INTERIOR OF THE READING ROOM

for students and two club rooms, a room for unpacking and storage, janitor's quarters and space for the heating plant.

A feature of interest in the external appearance of the building is a tower over the stairway. This tower forms the division between the Reading Room wing to the east and the stack room and professors' rooms to the west, and will be prominent when viewing the University buildings from the south.

At the western end of the building on the first story is a blank wall behind the platform of the court room. A richly framed memorial tablet in stone has been introduced at this point and on it will be an appropriate inscription.

The memorial character of the building will be emphasized in the main reading room. This room is, as stated before, 112½ feet long. It is 28½ feet wide and is spanned by hammer beam trusses of oak at intervals of 12½ feet. The entire roof is of oak designed in the style of the great halls of the Tudor period in England. The main members of the trusses are elaborately moulded, the space between these members being filled in with tracery. Running horizontally from truss to truss are moulded oak purlins supporting in turn the smaller rafters on which rests the wood roof.

The extreme height of this room, measuring to the peak of the roof, is 30 feet. Book cases six feet three inches high extend entirely around the room and have a capacity of 8,700 volumes. There will be tables and chairs for 144 students, who have access not only to the volumes in the wall cases, but to 12,000 volumes in that portion of the stack room which is open to them. This also gives access to the faculty rooms, room for archives and students' conference rooms. Other portions of the stack room are closed except to those having permission to enter. The total capacity of the stacks will be a little over 55,000 volumes.

The dimensions of the new building are as follows: From east to west, 187 feet 2 inches, and from north to south, 55 feet 2 inches at its greatest width.

On all sides except the south the building stands two stories above the ground in conformity with the present struc-

tures. On the south the basement containing the men's lounging rooms, etc., is entirely out of the ground, so that here three stories show, the ground being at a lower level.

Not only is the gift of a building for the School of Law a great event for the school, but its construction, together with the School of Commerce and Finance, completing the first quadrangle, is a great step forward in the physical development of the University.

JAMES P. JAMIESON.