

# HISTORIC HARKER HALL

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Destined For Greatness



# Harker Hall

## Rededication and Tours

October 1993

Welcome to historic Harker Hall, headquarters of the University of Illinois Foundation. The oldest major building on campus, Harker Hall's renaissance was nearly complete when the Foundation moved into the building last November. The reconstruction project, funded by substantial private gifts from the late Maybelle Leland Swanlund and former Foundation director William G. Karnes, has provided the Foundation with its first permanent home to conduct its private gift fundraising mission.

### *A TOUCH OF HISTORY*

Harker Hall was designed by renowned architect Nathan Ricker during his tenure as professor of architecture at the University of Illinois. Constructed in 1878 as a home for the Department of Chemistry, the Chemical Laboratory's original mansard roof and much of its interior were destroyed by fire in 1886. Six years later, the College of Law took over the Chemical Laboratory, converting it to classrooms and a library. The building was later renamed in honor of Judge Oliver Harker, who served as Dean of the College of Law from 1903 to 1916.

Today, Harker Hall's exterior has been essentially restored to its original appearance, preserving its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The old law building's interior, however, was radically redesigned to fulfill the Foundation's function. It's modern, efficient and aesthetically pleasing—its the new Harker Hall!

**FIRST FLOOR:** In the "English" or tall basement are the Foundation's Mail Marketing (Rm 104), Telemarketing (Rm109), and Records Management (Rm 114) rooms.

- Mail Marketing is responsible for preparing Annual Giving solicitations, telemarketing pre-call letters, Annual Meeting and Spring Gathering envelopes and RSVPs. Laser printers and an envelope printer churn out the materials.

- Telemarketing raises funds from alumni through mail and telephone campaigns. The department occupies five offices for supervisory staff, a shared secretarial room and the main calling room where student employees work at 47 carrels.

- Records Management is where the files of Foundation and Presidents Council members and major donors are maintained. Letters, news articles, and other printed communication are secured in these files.

**SECOND FLOOR:** This floor contains the reception Lobby, a conference room, executive offices (Rm 203), Gift Development Department (Rm 204), and Trust Relations and Planned Giving department (Rm 214).

- The reception Lobby is the greeting place for visitors to the Foundation. A receptionist is always present at the front desk to direct guests.



- The staff conference room on this floor is geared for small meetings and is contains a mobile television monitor for videotape presentations.
- The executive offices are home to Foundation Director Bill Nugent and his staff. Presidents Council administration is here.
- Gift Development focuses on major gifts advancement.
- Trust Relations/Planned Giving involves cultivation of substantial gifts along with administration of various legal agreements and estate provisions.

**THIRD FLOOR:** The Executive Conference Room (Rm 300), Information Systems (Rm 303), Communications (Rm 304), and University Development Information Services (Rm 314) offices are on this floor.

- The Executive Conference Room is used for fundraising, advancement and development functions. It features a rear projection screen and media room for audio-visual presentations, A-V equipment, and storage area. The Executive Conference Room is a finalist for an annual award by Presentation Magazine for the best in audio-visual conference room design.
- Information Systems personnel provide technical support in connection with fundraising information equipment. The office serves both U of I campuses.
- The Communications office is responsible for publications, scripting, research for gift announcements, invitations, newsletters, brochures, programs, and other printed material used in connection with fundraising efforts. Also handles audio-visual productions for Foundation events.
- University Development Information Services operates and maintains the university-wide information system. The system contains records of more than 1.4 million gifts and is used by 350 University employees on both campuses.

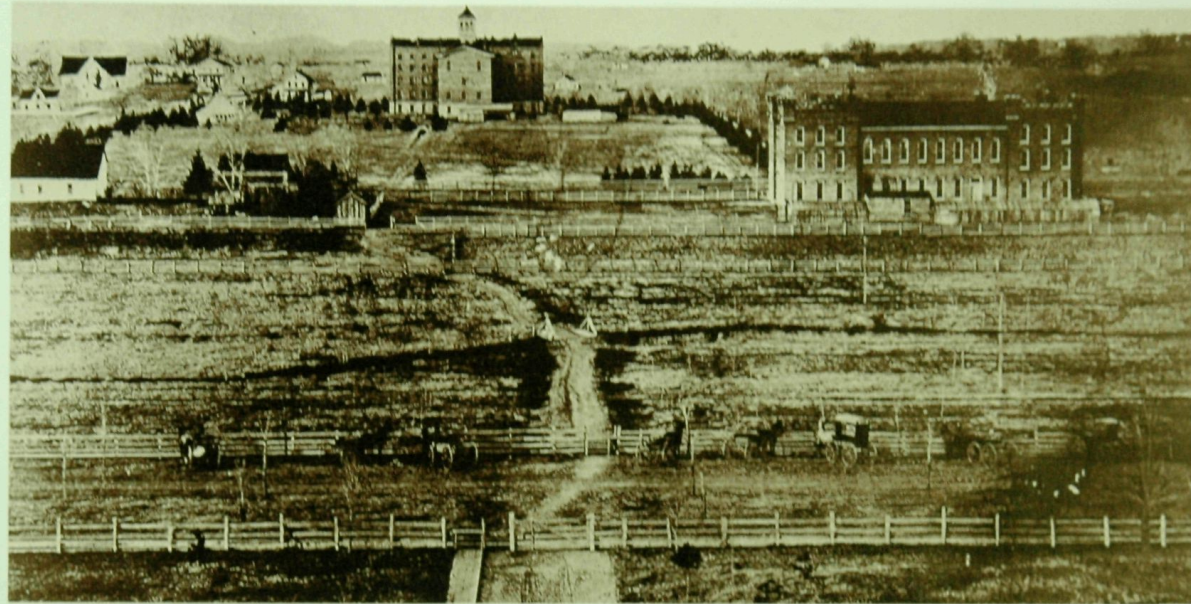
**FOURTH FLOOR:** The Gift Acknowledgment/Financial Affairs (Rm 400) and Research (Rm 414) departments, a break room and a large storage area are on this floor.

- Gift Administration/Financial Affairs is responsible for accounting, payrolls, gift acknowledgment and stewardship services.
- Research provides comprehensive research services to assist the Foundation staff as well as academic and support departments engaged in fundraising efforts. Research serves both campuses.

Again, enjoy your visit to Harker Hall and the Foundation's Annual Meeting.



*Illinois Industrial University, predecessor of the University of Illinois, enrolled 406 students when this view was taken in 1874 from University Hall.*



**I**n the beginning, one could hardly have foreseen that a little patch of empty land in central Illinois was destined for greatness. Word spread quickly among the youth of the area when a university education at an affordable cost came to Illinois. Among those young people was a transplanted New Englander by the name of Nathan Clifford Ricker. It was the early 1870s, and a start-up university, like those first students, was feeling the call to greatness.

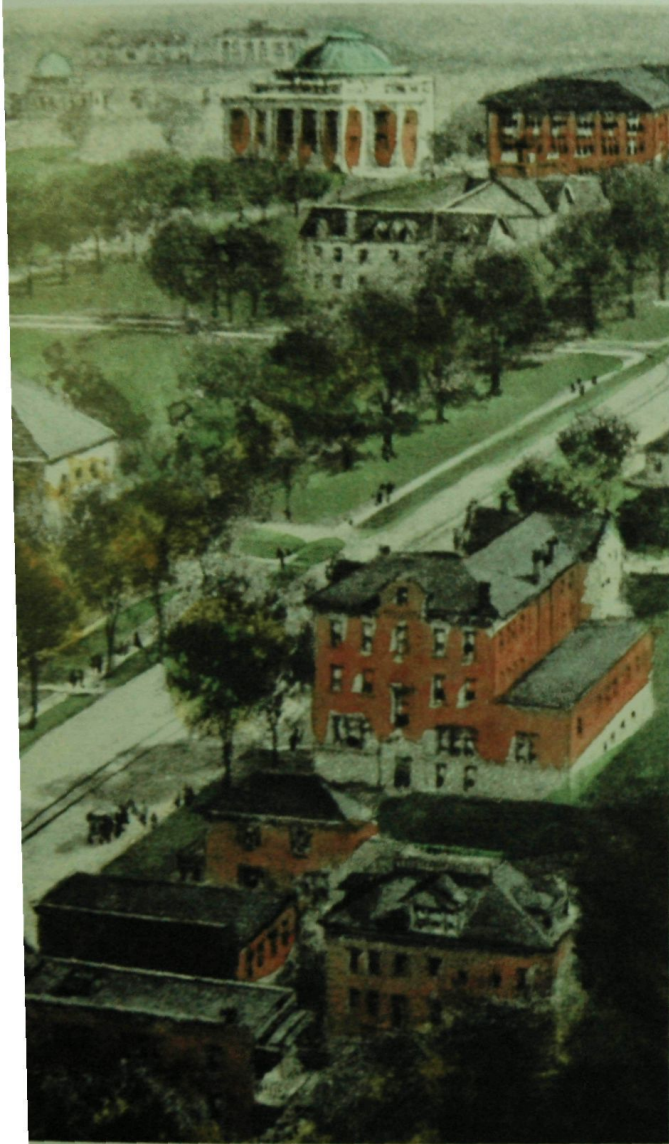
**In the Beginning:  
An Illinois Prairie**

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**I**n March of 1873, Nathan Clifford Ricker became the first student graduated from the University's architecture program. He was also the first to graduate from any school of architecture in the nation, beating out M.I.T. and Cornell University by just a few months. ♣ While still a student, Ricker was placed in temporary charge of the classroom as instructor for himself and three fellow students when the University's only Professor of Architecture fell ill. After graduation, Ricker spent six months traveling and studying architecture in Europe. Then he returned to Illinois for a permanent teaching position. ♣ While teaching, he continued his own studies and received his Master of Architecture in 1878. His was the second such degree to be conferred in the United States. ♣ The guiding principles of the Department of Architecture under Ricker were that the architect should first be a safe and economical builder, second a person of business capacity, and third an artistic designer.

*Detail from a 1910 etching of  
the Urbana campus of the  
University of Illinois showing  
Harker Hall at the upper left.*

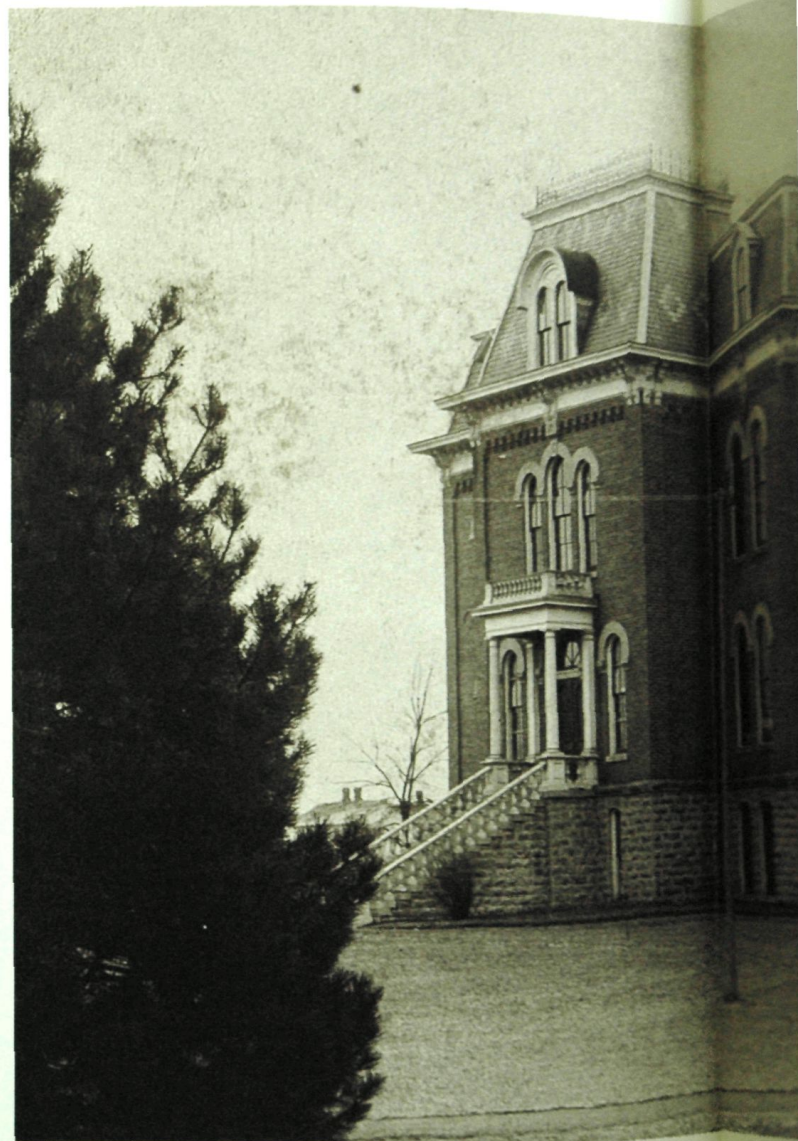
## Nathan Clifford Ricker: Architect and Educator

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**R**icker's educational methods have more than successfully withstood the test of time, barely differing from those employed in the profession today. Functional applications and sound construction technology were given priority. Students began by drawing and sketching, then moved on to a series of increasingly difficult building design problems. Their studies culminated in the design of a large building. 🍷 Ricker authored a number of original textbooks and articles in the field of architecture. He also translated more than 40 volumes including many of the finest German and French works on the subject. His *Elementary Graphic Statics and Construction of Trussed Roofs* (1885) was the first book published by any faculty member while connected with the University. 🍷 For a time, Ricker headed two University departments, Engineering and Architecture. He held the position of Dean of Engineering for 27 years while being in charge of the Department of Architecture for 44 years. He also supervised the University workshop and designed new buildings for the campus as University Architect from 1878 to 1897. He retired in 1916. 🍷 Five buildings, all established campus landmarks, remain as monuments to the memory of this great architect and educator: Altgeld Hall, the Natural History Building, Aeronautical Lab B, Kenney Gymnasium Annex, and Harker Hall. All five buildings were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

*The Chemical Laboratory, 1890.*





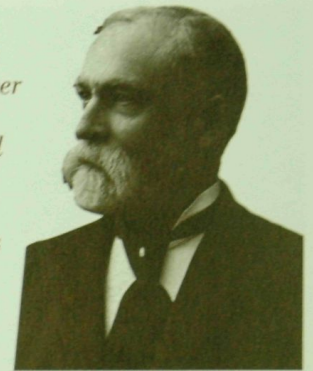


*Excerpt from Provost  
Kendric C. Babcock's  
eulogy for N. C. Ricker  
at services held in  
Smith Memorial Hall  
on March 22, 1924.*

*... As a good  
son, a graduate of its  
first class, by the  
alphabet listed as  
number thirteen  
among the alumni,  
as an active pro-  
fessor for forty-three*

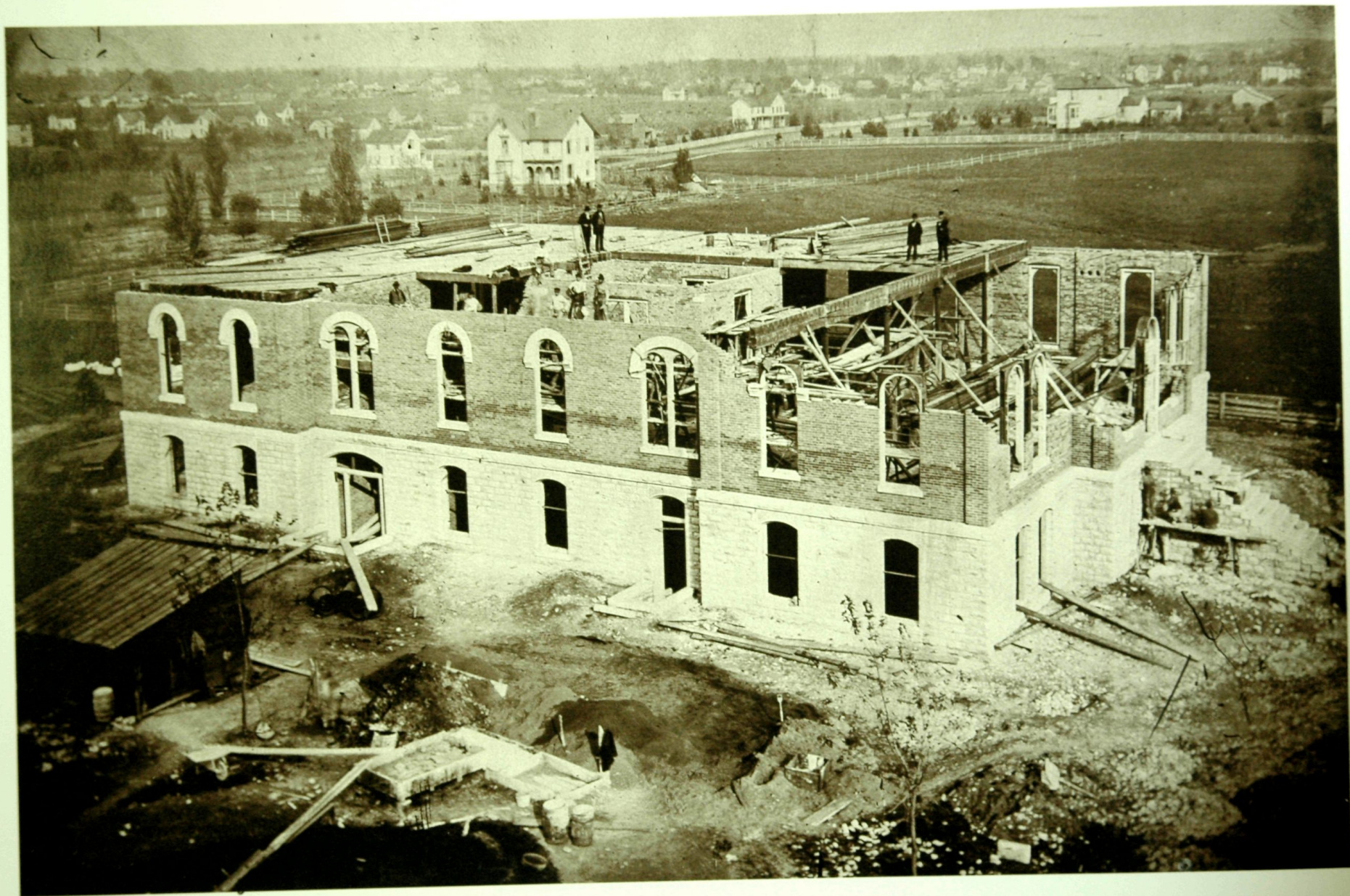
*constructive years, as Dean of the College of  
Engineering from 1878 to 1905 and as friend  
and adviser of an uncounted company of  
students and professional men ... we give him  
reverence and admiration.*

*He was both architect and builder, in the  
best spiritual sense of both words. His dreams  
of a great school of architecture came down  
out of the air and took firm, abiding, and  
beautiful shape. His plans and specifications  
were not mere paper things but were wrought  
out in stately structure on the campus, in  
widely separated communities and in the  
hearts and conceptions of his students. His  
monument will not be limited to what a man  
may see in this community; many monuments  
to his scholarship, inspiration and generous  
counsel have already risen nobly under the  
hands of his disciples to do him silent and  
permanent honor, and others will come in the  
years ahead.*



*Nathan Clifford Ricker,  
1843-1924.*









*University Hall about 1887  
with Ricker's Chemical  
Laboratory at left.*

*The Chemical Laboratory,  
1878.*

**H**arker Hall was built in 1878 as Ricker's solution to the challenge for greatness by the Chemistry Department. It was his first major built work and represents his philosophy of combining historical reference with current technological advancements. 🍷 The University Board of Trustees mandated that a Chemical Laboratory be built in the same Second Empire style and using the same type of stone as the adjacent University Hall, which at the time stood where the Illini Union now stands. 🍷 Ricker worked with Professor Weber of the Chemistry Department to make the Chemical Laboratory among the largest and best in the nation. 🍷 True to his role as a leading educator, Ricker turned the project into a learning experience for his students. He employed students as draftsmen and put others to work in the Architecture Department's woodshop making furnishings for the building. 🍷 Ricker's original building design was for an I-shaped, Italianate style structure of three stories plus an "English" or tall basement. The building featured exterior stairs that led to entrances on the raised main floor and a mansard roof to coordinate with University Hall. The basement was constructed of "Kankakee limestone, course rubbled." For the upper floors, a reddish brown brick with a "Joliet limestone trim" was used. The original mansard roof was black slate figured with red and green slate shingles.

## Historic Harker Hall: Oldest Major Building on Campus

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*College of Law Class of 1911.*

*The Chemical Laboratory.*

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n August 16, 1896, a fire destroyed the roof and much of the interior of the Chemical Laboratory. President Draper's report to the Board of Trustees indicates that the fire was believed to be caused by lightning. Charred joists can still be seen in the attic today. 🍷 Ricker's colleague in the architecture department, James M. White, was placed in charge of the repairs. White chose to replace the mansard roof with a hip roof, supported by wood trusses with metal tension rods. The trusses were a quick method of enclosing the structure. Because the trusses were supported by the exterior walls, they allowed flexibility in planning the interior repairs. 🍷 The new roof reduced the old fourth floor to an attic. Other changes included the removal of the original exterior stairs, and the reconfiguration of the north and west entrances.

### **The Chemical Laboratory Turns To Law.**

In 1902, the University's destiny for greatness led the chemistry department to move on to newer facilities, while the College of Law took over the old Chemical Laboratory, converting it to classrooms and a library. 🍷 Later, the Law Building was renamed Harker Hall in honor of Judge Oliver A. Harker, a former trustee who served as Dean of the College of Law from 1903 until 1916. 🍷 Harker Hall served the College of Law until 1927. Since then, it has filled a variety of uses to meet the University's destiny for greatness.



*Law Dean Oliver A. Harker*







*Architectural Illustration of  
Restoration of Harker Hall as  
U of I Foundation Offices.*



*Artist's Concept, Conference  
and Board of Directors Room.*

**H**istoric Harker Hall, once designated for demolition and replacement, will now undergo a renaissance that will restore the architectural integrity of the building's exterior to its original Italianate style, including the reconstruction of the slate mansard roof. The renewed Harker Hall will add back the original fourth floor space lost due to the fire of 1896. The south entrance, which faces the Quadrangle, will be restored as the main entrance. The building will feature a new plaza on the south and east, a charming setting to enhance the aesthetic appeal of both the Quadrangle and Harker Hall. ♪ The building's interior will be completely refurbished and modernized to serve as the offices and headquarters of the University of Illinois Foundation, which administers and manages the fundraising efforts of the University. ♪ Now scattered in various buildings both on and off the Urbana campus, the Foundation will consolidate its activities under one roof. This consolidation will significantly advance the Foundation's mission to increase private funding for the University.

## A New Beginning For Harker Hall

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**T**he restoration and renewal of Historic Harker Hall is being made possible solely by private gifts from alumni and friends who place a high value on providing quality workspace for Foundation efforts and on the continuity of campus landmarks for future generations to enjoy. ♣ Two leadership gifts have driven the opportunity to enhance Harker Hall. They include a \$3.5 million challenge gift by Maybelle Leland Swanlund, Class of 1932, and gifts totaling seven-figures by William G. Karnes. ♣ Mrs. Swanlund's gift was made in memory of her late husband, Brunswick Credit Corporation President Lester H. Swanlund. ♣ The Swanlund challenge for Harker Hall is being met by gifts from former and present officers and directors of the U of I Foundation and other special friends. ♣ Mr. Karnes, a member of the Class of 1933, is retired chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Beatrice Foods Company. He has been a member of the Foundation since 1954 and has served the University as a trustee, as a U of I Foundation director, vice president and president from 1969 to 1982. ♣ Through its restoration and renewal, Historic Harker Hall will provide a worthy headquarters for ongoing efforts to raise the private gifts so essential for continuing and strengthening the destiny of greatness for the University of Illinois.

*Artist's Concept, Visitor's Reception Room.*

