The Origin and Evolution of the Natural Resources Building

Dr. Donald E. Luman – February 27, 2017
Situated on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Natural Resources Building is the culmination of significant efforts beginning in the 1920s. Many individuals were involved in making the NRB a reality – archival correspondence and other key documents* provide historical insights into the many deliberations and negotiations that eventually led to its formal dedication in November 1940...

1926

June 8, 1926 (from Dr. William Albert Noyes, U of I Department of Chemistry (Head, 1907-1926) and Secretary, Board of Natural Resources and Conservation)

I am informed by the Secretary of President Kinley that at the meeting of the Board of Trustees which will be held here on Saturday, June 12 and Monday, June 14, he will be pleased to have a member of our Board of Natural Resources and Conservation present the question of including an appropriation for a building for the three State surveys in the next Biennial appropriation for the University.

Whom do you wish to present the matter before the Board? It occurs to me that it might, perhaps, be fully as effective if you were to do this yourself rather than that some member of the surveys or I, as Secretary of the Board, should do so. Please advise me as to your wish in the matter.

The Secretary of the President informs me that the opportunity will more likely be given on Monday the 14 than on Saturday.

Yours very sincerely,

Secretary to the Board.

W. A. Noyes

…three State surveys…” at this date include ISGS, INHS, and ISWS.

June 9, 1926 (from Dr. A. M. Shelton, Director, Illinois Department of Registration & Education and Chair, Board of Natural Resources and Conservation)

Professor W. A. Noyes,
Department Chemistry,
University of Illinois,
Urbana, Illinois.

My dear Doctor Noyes:

I wish to thank you very much for calling my attention to the fact that President Kinley is interested in the new building for our Survey, and that he is willing to have this matter brought to the attention of the Trustees.

Saturday June 12, I am having a conference with a committee from the Normal School Board at the Northern Normal, however, I believe that I will be able to come to Champaign Monday June 14 on the noon train from Chicago.

So far as I am personally concerned it is immaterial to me who presents this matter to the Board. Whoever presents the matter should, I believe, have at his command a short statement of two or three sentences showing the amount of space that every survey now has, crowded conditions, etc., and in addition thereto a recommendation from each Chief of the Survey a very short statement showing what amount of space each survey should have in this new building and the value of the new building to the three surveys housed under one roof.

I also think that Dean Thompson who represents the President, and yourself as Secretary to the Board should be present at the time this matter is presented to the Trustees. I shall make every effort to be present. I am requesting you to use whatever suggestion in this letter you see fit and make proper arrangements with the Trustees for the presentation of this matter Monday afternoon.

Thanking you for calling my attention to this important matter, and with best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A. M. Shelton

Director.
June 8, 1926 (from Dr. William Albert Noyes, U of I Department of Chemistry (Head, 1907-1926) and Secretary, Board of Natural Resources and Conservation)

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Thanking you for calling my attention to this important matter, and with best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A.M. Shelton

Director.
June 10, 1926

(from Dr. W.A. Noyes)

Undated document, written to support the June 14, 1926 Board of Trustees meeting.

General Statement Concerning A Proposed Scientific Survey Building
At the University of Illinois.

Scientific surveys, Geological, Natural History and Water Survey is inadequate and unsuitable in many respects. We believe the conditions warrant the erection of a special building to house these three Surveys and that such a building should afford 55,000 square feet of floor space in addition to a basement for storage and garage.

The Geological Survey, at present occupying 13,000 square feet of space, is badly crowded and requires six additional rooms or 20,000 square feet of floor space in order to carry on properly the investigation of mineral resources.

The Natural History Survey is unsuitable and inadequately housed in many respects. Different members of the staff are provided with working space on different parts of the campus. Some of the rooms are unsuitable for their present uses and others are overcrowded. Several lines of work required of the Department by the Civil Administrative Code call for rooms and facilities not now available. Twenty-thousand feet of floor space is required for the present and future needs of this Survey.

The Water Survey at the present occupies 8,000 square feet of floor space located in the basement of the Chemistry Building where it is impossible to get proper light for microscopic and colorimetric work. This space is already used to capacity. To provide for expansion of Water Survey activities and for additional chemical work which is continually required by the other Surveys and other State Departments an additional 4,000 square feet or a total of 18,000 square feet would be required. The above estimates...
June 10, 1926 (from Dr. W.A. Noyes)

Undated document, written to support the June 14, 1926 Board of Trustees meeting.

Professor A. M. Buswell,  
Professor S. A. Forbes,  
Professor M. M. Leighton.

Dear Sirs:

I have a letter from Director Shelton in which he says that he will be here on Monday, June 14, at the time of the conference of the Board with regard to a building for our three State Surveys.

He says that whoever presents the matter to the Board "should, I believe, have at his command a short statement of four or five sentences showing the amount of space that every survey now has, crowded conditions, etc., and in addition thereto a recommendation from each Chief of the Survey a very short statement showing what amount of space each survey should have in this new building and the value of the new building to the three surveys housed under one roof".

Please place the information which he requests in my hands on or before Saturday, June 12.

Yours very sincerely,

Secretary to the Board.
June 10, 1926

(from Dr. W.A. Noyes)

Professor A. M. Buswell,  
Professor S. A. Forbes,  
Professor M. M. Leighton.

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Please place the information which he requests in my hands on or before Saturday, June 12.

Yours very sincerely,

Secretary to the Board.
Members of the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation

Gentlemen:

Following your instructions, a conference with regard to the proposed building for minerals for the Geological Survey and the Department of Geology was arranged with Professor Chase yesterday. Dr. Leighton, Professor Buswell, Dean Babcock, Dean Daniels, and I were present. We understood from President Chase that at present the plans of the University for buildings for the next biennium are so nearly completed that he does not think it advisable to change them. Professor Chase intimates, however, that it might be possible to introduce as a separate item in the University budget in addition to the regular budget for the biennium provision for a building which should accommodate the three Surveys.

As this proposal is quite different from that presented by our Board I have consulted the Chiefs of the three Surveys and the heads of departments at the University most closely related to the Surveys, namely Professors Bayley, Ward, Hottes, Metcalf, and Adams with regard to the proposal of the building to house the three Surveys.

The Chiefs of the Surveys are unanimously of the opinion that the interests of the Surveys and of the University will be better conserved by a closer affiliation of each Survey with the corresponding department of the University than by bringing the Surveys into a single building and separating them from the departments with which they are most closely affiliated. The same opinion is shared by Professors Bayley, Ward, Metcalf, and Adams, the heads of the three University departments most closely related to the work of the Surveys. Professor Hottes does not feel this quite so strongly.

It has been suggested that if it should seem possible to secure a building in addition to the regular University budget, we might request the University to provide the building for mineral industries for the Geological Survey and the Department of Geology instead of providing it for the three Surveys as proposed by President Chase. As this action would be in accord with the action taken by our Board, I will present the suggestions to President Chase. The Board of Trustees meets tomorrow and it is not possible to call a meeting of our Board to discuss the question further before that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

W.A. Noyes,
Secretary of the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation
November 7, 1930 (from Illinois Mineral Industries Committee)

We respectfully request that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois include in the 1931-33 budget an appropriation for a State Mineral Industries Building, to house the comprehensive researches of the State Geological Survey and the teaching services of the Department of Geology, which is of the utmost importance to the Mineral Industries of the State of Illinois.

The above program has been adopted by the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Board has recommended to you as essential to its program the construction of this building, for the joint use of the teaching Department of Geology and the Survey, the advantages of which are well recognized.

Section 22 of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois provides that the functions and duties of the State Geological Survey shall be "exercised at the University of Illinois in buildings and places provided by the Trustees thereof." Prompt action is necessary, and we respectfully ask that a building sufficient to the needs outlined above, which under present building costs we believe can be constructed for $600,000.00 be included in the 1931-33 biennial budget.

Respectfully yours,

(signed) C. C. Whittier

Secretary of the Illinois Mineral Industries Committee
Request for a new building is for the exclusive use of the Illinois State Geological Survey.
1931 February 4, 1931 (from Mr. C. C. Whittier, Secretary, Illinois Mineral Industries Committee to W. A. Noyes)

Dear Mr. Noyes:

I am enclosing a list of those who attended the Mineral Industries Conference with Governor Louis L. Hammon in Springfield, January 15, 1931.

You will be interested to know that in accordance with the action taken by the Illinois Mineral Industries Committee after the conference, on last Thursday the sub-committee composed of J. Paul Clayson, President of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, George Solomon, Vice-President of the Panther Creek Mines, Inc., Springfield, and representing J. D. Zook, President of the Illinois Coal Operators' Labor Association, and Dr. H. M. Leighton, Chief of the State Geological Survey, called on the Honorable James Watson, Superintendent of the Budget, and presented to him the revised askings of the committee, which are as follows:

1. Elimination of the request for the new Mineral Industries Building, estimated to cost $600,000.00 for this new biennium. The University of Illinois will undertake to provide the necessary temporary housing for the new laboratories for the next two years. Professor James M. White, Supervising Architect of the University has already conferred with Dr. Leighton in regard to this.

2. A revised request of the State Geological Survey, reducing the original figure for operation and maintenance from $364,760.00 to $479,490.00, a decrease of $45,730.00. The deductions made were for amounts which had been included for the Hall of Exhibit in the new building, for certain other items which with temporary housing could be deleted without seriously affecting the essential requirements of the new program.

Mr. Watson expressed his interest in the matter and stated that the revised askings would be brought before the Governor in a few days.

I shall be very glad to keep you advised of the progress of this important movement.

Sincerely yours,
November 15, 1933

Dr. William A. Noyes, Director
Board of Natural Resources and Conservation
112 Chemistry Building
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Dr. Noyes:

The mineral industries of the State through the leadership of the Illinois Mining Institute are contemplating asking for an allotment from the Public Works Administration and the State to construct a mineral industries building for the State Geological Survey.

I have an inquiry from Mr. T. J. Thomas, President of the Valler Coal Company, and Chairman of the Committee of the Illinois Mining Institute, asking if the State Geological Survey's Board would oppose the mineral industries taking the initiative in this matter.

I have discussed this matter with Acting President Daniels, and I have a letter from him under date of November 15th to the effect that,

"It is also to be understood that the University is not able to extend any further facilities to the Survey in the way of room, equipment, or service, unless the expense is assumed by the Survey."

He bases this on a ruling which he recently obtained from the Attorney General of Illinois, copy of which, together with a copy of the President's letter, I am enclosing.

I have taken up this matter also with my technical advisor, Dr. R. S. Bastin, and also with Dean C. W. Thompson, and both believe that there is no objection to the mineral industries taking the initiative in securing adequate and satisfactory quarters for the proper development of the mineral research work. They do not think, however, that the Board could wisely take the initiative itself and press the matter at this time.

I shall appreciate hearing from you at your early convenience in order that I may promptly advise Mr. Thomas that there is no objection on the part of the members of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Chief.
MEMORANDUM

This is a memorandum of Professor Noyes's and my conversation this morning in my office.

Professor Noyes believes that the plan worked out three years ago, under President Chase, to house both the Geological Survey and the Department of Geology should be adhered to, if possible.

I pointed out that I had this plan in mind when I went to President Daniels last Monday. He, however, pointed out the ruling of the Attorney General (recently made and not then known to me) concerning the law requiring the University to house the Survey.

We are, therefore, forced to look after our own needs, and at this time, the present course seems to be the only one. We cannot further submit to the delays of the past and do our full duty to the industries and the people of the State.

Professor Noyes and I agreed that the desired item in the call of the Governor for the Special Session shall be a request for "a building for the State Geological Survey", with the idea that in case this is requested, there will be an opportunity to iron out the relationships and adopt the proper policy and plan.

From what President Daniels told me regarding other proposals that have come before the University Board of Trustees to ask for allotments from the Public Works Administration, the Board has adopted the policy that it will make no such applications for allotments. If the Department of Geology is to be housed with the State Geological Survey, it is apparent that they would have to reverse their action.
Background: The foregoing correspondence makes reference to the Public Works Administration (PWA). Created in June 1933 by the National Industrial Recovery Act, part of newly-elected President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal ‘Alphabet’ legislation, the PWA was a large-scale public works construction agency headed by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. Established to help revive the U.S. economy during the Great Depression, most of the PWA’s $6 billion in expenditures came in two waves, 1933-35 and in 1938. Originally called the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, it was renamed the Public Works Administration in 1935, and eventually eliminated in 1944.

The PWA will play an important role in the realization of the Natural Resources Building...

The PWA is often confused with the Works Progress Administration (WPA, 1935—1943), which focused on smaller projects and hired unemployed workers; and is most remembered for it’s famous project, Federal Project Number One, in which the WPA employed musicians, artists, writers, actors and directors in large arts, drama, media, and literacy projects.
August 1, 1934

Professor William A. Noyes
Pilgrim
Michigan

Dear Professor Noyes:

I have your letter of July 30 quoting the motion passed by the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation some time ago to request the Board of Trustees of the University to consider the necessity of providing adequate quarters for the State Geological and Natural History Surveys, and I shall be glad to bring it to the attention of the Board of Trustees at its meeting in September.

Sincerely yours,

A.C. Willard
President
August 4, 1934 (from M. M. Leighton, ISGS Chief)

Professor W. A. Noyes
Pilgrim, Michigan

Dear Professor Noyes:

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter of July 30th and also a copy of your letter to President Willard, both of which my office forwarded to me here at Duluth, Minnesota.

My Assistant writes me that she called both Drs. Frison and Buswell and that both said that October 2nd would be satisfactory, although they expressed a preference for a date nearer the end of October. October 2nd is satisfactory to me, but if you should decide to call the Board meeting later in the month, that would be all right, as I have no particular preference.

Recent events have made me seriously question the desirability of considering further the question of the Geological Survey being brought under the jurisdiction of the University. Being charged specifically with duties concerning the study of the geological formations of the State and their products, and having shaped and put into successful execution a program in fulfillment of these duties and one highly pleasing to the industries of the State, the Geological Survey has vested interests under the authority of our Board which are to be conserved and nourished against disintegrating influences.

The question also arises in my mind as to whether or not the new building should be a Natural Resources Building for the Scientific Surveys rather than one which would tie us up with any one department of the University.

In view of the above, I should like to discuss the matter further with you before any conferences with University personnel are called.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Chief.
September 28, 1934 (from John J. Hallihan, Director, Illinois Department of Registration and Education)

State of Illinois
Department of Registration and Education
Springfield September 28, 1934.

Mr. Wm. A. Noyes,
Mr. "William Trelease,
Mr. Edson S. Bastin,

Members Board of
Natural Resources and
Conservation

Mr. A. M. Buswell, Chief
State Water Survey Division;

Mr. M. M. Leighton, Chief,
State Geological Survey Division;

Mr. T. H. Prinsep, Chief,
State Natural History Survey Division;

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that I have requested
Professor Edson S. Bastin, Vice Chairman of the Board

of Natural Resources and Conservation, to call a meet-
ing of sub-committee composed of the advisors of the
three Surveys to confer with the Survey Chiefs at the
earliest possible date. The purpose of the confer-
ence is to discuss the appropriation for proposed
building to house the State Surveys.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Note: Copy of my letter to
Prof. Bastin herewith attached
for your information.

John J. Hallihan, Chairman
Board of Natural Resources
And Conservation

"...to house the State Surveys."
W. A. Noyes documents that 1932 was when the idea of a "mineral industries building" was first proposed. Also notable that Noyes states, "...Dr. Leighton at the present time prefers a building which would house the three surveys.”
Nearly thirty years ago, in 1905, the State Geological Survey was organized and was provided with modest quarters by the University of Illinois on the first floor and in the basement of the northwest corner of the Chemistry Building. It remained here for five or six years. About 1910 or 1911, upon the completion of the south portion of the Natural History Building, it was moved to several rooms on the first floor and in the basement in the southwest corner of the Natural History Building. Then, when the Illinois Clay Manufacturers Association implored the Legislature to make appropriations for the construction of the Ceramics Building, the cramped quarters of the Survey and the Department of Geology were recognized and plans were made for housing the Survey on the third floor of the new building, with the exception of three rooms at the north end. There was wholesome sentiment in this, arising from the fact that the bill which established the Survey also carried an appropriation founding the Department of Ceramic Engineering, and also logic in that the research work of the two organizations was closely associated. For many years this space met the needs of the Survey.
October 10, 1934 (from Dr. M. M. Leighton, Chief, Illinois State Geological Survey)

The Building Sub-Committee:

Dr. E. S. Bastin, Chairman
Professor W. A. Hoyes
Professor William Trelease

State Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, Department of Registration and Education:


Gentlemen:

The following is offered as a contribution to your consideration of the building requirements of the Illinois State Geological Survey.

Nearly thirty years ago, in 1905, the State Geological Survey was organized and was provided with modest quarters by the University of Illinois on the first floor and in the basement of the northwest corner of the Chemistry Building. It remained here for five or six years. About 1910 or 1911, upon the completion of the south portion of the Natural History Building, it was moved to several rooms on the first floor and in the basement in the southwest corner of the Natural History Building. Then, when the Illinois Clay Manufacturer’s Association imprompted the Legislature to make appropriations for the construction of the Ceramics Building, the cramped quarters of the Survey and the Department of Geology were recognized and plans were made for housing the Survey on the third floor of the new building, with the exception of three rooms at the north end. There was wholesome sentiment in this, arising from the fact that the bill which established the Survey also carried an appropriation founding the Department of Ceramic Engineering, and also logic in that the research work of the two organizations was closely associated. For many years this space met the needs of the Survey.
1935 — 1937

These two years were critical in the evolution of what would ultimately become known as the Natural Resources Building, containing the offices and personnel of the ISGS and INHS.

1935, Regular Session of the General Assembly. In accordance with the judgment of Governor Horner, no appropriation bill for a State Natural Resources Building was introduced in the General Assembly of 1935, but an enabling act was passed authorizing the Department of Registration and Education to obtain federal funds by grant and to enter into contracts.

1935, August 10. C. Herrick Hamond, State Architect, submitted application to P. W. A. for grant to construct and equip a Natural Resources Building, the federal government's share to be $875,000 (45%), the State's share $825,000 (55%).

State appropriation required for PWA grant funds

September 10. Governor Horner wrote Director Hallihan that he would include in the call for the next special session a request for an appropriation of $300,000 for the State's share (55%).

1935-1936 Special Sessions.

The first Special Session was called on October 22, 1935 and adjourned March 6, 1936. The second Special Session was called on January 7, 1936 and adjourned December 10, 1936. The third Special Session was called on February 4, 1936 and adjourned March 6, 1936. The fourth Special Session was called May 16, 1936 and adjourned June 18, 1936. None of the calls for these Sessions included an item for an appropriation for the Natural Resources Building.

1937, July 15. Director Hallihan wrote State Director Kennicott, P. W. A., in reply to his letter of December 23, 1936, informing him that an appropriation of $300,000 had been passed by the General Assembly, (on June 20), signed by the Governor, and is now in effect.

August 19. Administrator Ickes wrote in reply to Governor Horner's letter stating that the case was rejected on July 19, 1936 and its status has remained unchanged to date.

State's $300,000 appropriation was not in time to meet the 1936 PWA deadline; therefore, the funds were not granted.

September 17. Governor Horner wrote in reply to Administrator Ickes' letter, reviewed thoroughly the history of the matter, emphasized that "our application had been approved by examining divisions prior to the time of the enactment of the law of June 20, 1937, and had been suspended subsequently merely as a method of your office procedure of handling such conditionally approved applications, pending the fulfillment of the condition, viz: the formal State appropriations."

September 1937 ends after 11 years of discussions and negotiations with a reduced state appropriation of $300,000 (from $825,000), as well as no PWA funding, for construction of the Natural Resources Building.
November 22, 1937 (Letter from President A. C. Willard to the U of I Board of Trustees, Building and Grounds Committee)

Honorable H. M. Adams, Chairman
Committee on Buildings and Grounds
509 Illinois Building
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Adams:

On November 12 I wrote each member of your Committee concerning the statement and resolution of the State Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, which had been presented to the Board of Trustees of the University on November 10, relative to the proposed Natural Resources Building to house the State Natural History and Geological Surveys. The question of the site of this building was referred to your Committee, and the question of the proposed agreement to be entered into by the University and the State Department of Registration and Education for the operation of the building (if it is built upon the campus of the University) was referred to the Committee on General Policy.

I assume that your Committee and the Committee on General Policy will have recommendations to make to the Board at its next meeting on December 3. It is very important from the point of view of the State Surveys that these questions be decided as soon as possible. The Department of Registration and Education has an appropriation of $300,000 for this building, and if it is to be constructed during the present biennium work must get under way as soon as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

A. C. Willard
President

November 22, 1937 (Letter from President A. C. Willard to the U of I Board of Trustees Committee on General Policy)

Honorable James M. Cleary, Chairman
Committee on General Policy
310 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Cleary:

On November 12 I sent each member of your Committee a copy of the statement and resolution from the State Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, which was presented to the Board of Trustees on November 10, relative to the proposed Natural Resources Building to house the State Natural History and Geological Surveys. The Board referred to your Committee the question of the agreement to be entered into between the University and the State Department of Registration and Education for the operation of this building if it is constructed on the grounds of the University.

The Chiefs of the two Surveys were in to see me this afternoon to inquire when it will be possible for the Board to give them a decision on this matter. They are naturally anxious to get this settled as soon as possible. The Department of Registration and Education has an appropriation of $300,000 for a building and if it is to be constructed during the present biennium work on it should get under way immediately. The following Building Committee of the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation and the two Survey Chiefs stand ready to appear before your Committee to supply such information and advice as may be needed:

Dr. Edson S. Bastin, Department of Geology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (Chairman of the Committee)
Professor William Trelease, 206 Natural History Building, University of Illinois, Urbana
Professor W. A. Noyes, 112 Chemistry Building, University of Illinois, Urbana
Dr. T. H. Frison, Chief, State Natural History Survey, 219 Natural History Building, University of Illinois, Urbana
Dr. M. M. Leighton, Chief, State Geological Survey, 306 Ceramics Building, University of Illinois, Urbana

23
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS IN RELATION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING FOR THE STATE SCIENTIFIC SURVEYS ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Whereas, Section 62, Chapter 127, Illinois Revised Statutes of 1937, requires the trustees of the University of Illinois to provide buildings and places where may be performed the functions and duties formerly exercised by the State entomologist, the State Laboratory of Natural History, the State Water Survey, and the State Geological Survey, and which functions and duties since 1917 have been and are now vested in the Department of Registration and Education, and

Whereas, the University has been housing the Scientific Surveys since 1917 and prior thereto since their organization, in various buildings and places, and also supplying maintenance including light, heat, water, power, and janitor service, and

Whereas, the present buildings and places provided by the University for such purposes are inadequate therefor, Section 2 of Senate Bill 444, hereinafter described was introduced and enacted authorizing the construction of a Natural Resources Building on the campus of the University, and also providing that cooperative agreements may be entered into with Federal agencies by which additional funds may be secured from the Federal government, and further providing that any agreement may be entered into between the Department of Registration and Education and the Trustees of the University of Illinois that the University shall in consideration of the cooperation of the Surveys with the University, maintain such buildings in good repair and condition inside and outside, maintain the grounds and furnish light, heat, power, and water and janitor service at no expense to the Department of Registration and Education, thereby carrying out the present agreement that the University of Illinois house such Surveys;

Therefore, the following agreement, made and entered into this fourteenth day of May, 1938, between the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, hereinafter called the University, and the Department of Registration and Education of the State of Illinois, hereinafter referred to as the Department, is hereby made for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the physical property of a State Natural Resources Building for the scientific Surveys, pursuant to Section 2 of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the ordinary and contingent expenses of certain divisions of the Department of Registration and Education until the expiration of the first fiscal quarter after the adjournment of the next regular session of the general assembly," approved July 1, 1937, and pursuant to Section 62 aforesaid:

1. In consideration of these premises, the University agrees to provide a site for the construction of a Natural Resources Building of the most suitable and complete type possible within the appropriation made available by the Legislature and funds received from the Federal government, either or both, for such purpose and which may be provided by the Department, upon the terms and subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth:

a. The site for the building, proposed by the University and offered for the purposes of this Agreement, is described as follows: An area bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, Sixth Street, South Drive and Broadwalk, the latter three all extended, approximately 270 feet by 600 feet, immediately West of the Stock Pavilion.

b. Such of the above described area as is necessary for immediate construction purposes is now released.

2. Additional tracts of the said area will be released as work progresses and as the space, in the opinion of the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation of the Department and of the Board of Trustees of the University is required for the aforementioned purposes.

3. The University will remove the Animal Pathology Building and the Military Stables and clear the ground at as early a date as reasonably may be done.

4. All future buildings and improvements to be used by the Surveys and constructed on this area will also be subject to this agreement.

b. The Department will design, prepare plans and specifications, and supervise the construction of the Natural Resources Building; in doing this the Department will meet the needs, aims, purposes, and objectives of the Surveys, and such plans, specifications, and design will be best calculated to further such ends and objectives, and will be subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works in the event that a loan or grant be forthcoming from said agency. Plans and specifications for the building shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval before the Department advertises for bids. Contemplated contracts shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval before contracts are awarded. Such contracts shall be awarded only to the lowest responsible bidder. As provided in Section 2 of Senate Bill 444, the expense of extending all service lines to said building shall be paid out of the appropriation made in said Section.

c. The program and activities of the Surveys, as determined by the Statutes, in the buildings shall be determined by the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation of the Department.
1938 — August 25, 1938
1938 – Future site of the Natural Resources Building (note the excavation in the foreground). The Stock Pavilion, constructed in 1914, is at the left, with Mount Hope Cemetery in the distance. View is to the south.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

September 24 and 30, 1938

FOUNDATION CONTRACT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING

(3) The agreement between the Department of Registration and Education and the Board of Trustees in relation to the construction of a Natural Resources Building provides that plans and specifications for the building shall be submitted to the Board for approval before the Department advertises for bids. Contemplated contracts must also be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval before they are awarded.

The State has received a PWA grant for this building under the terms of which construction must begin not later than October 19. This means that bids must be received and a contract awarded before that date. To meet this condition the Department plans to award a foundation contract separate from the general work.

Plans and specifications were received by the Physical Plant Department yesterday afternoon (September 29) too late for examination of them in time for presentation at this meeting. Consequently, I recommend that the Buildings and Grounds Committee be authorized to act for the Board in this matter.

On motion of Mr. Karraker, this matter was referred to the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, with power to act.
September 26, 1938 - Bid proposal for construction of NRB 'Sub-Structure'
Joseph Booton was recognized in 1990 by the American Institute of Architects Committee on Historic Resources as a prominent architect in the field of preservation. He joined the Illinois Department of Public Works, Division of Architecture and Engineering in 1930 as a state architect, and eventually was promoted to Chief of Design for the Division. Booton directed many restoration and renovation projects on state-owned land, including the following:

J. F. Booton, 1944
The Supervising Architect of the Natural Resources Building was Joseph Francis Booton (1897[Urbana, IL] – 1983), Illinois Department of Public Works (1930–ca. 1955)

Joseph Booton was recognized in 1990 by the American Institute of Architects Committee on Historic Resources as a prominent architect in the field of preservation. He joined the Illinois Department of Public Works, Division of Architecture and Engineering in 1930 as a state architect, and eventually was promoted to Chief of Design for the Division. Booton directed many restoration and renovation projects on state-owned land, including the following:

- Development of New Salem into a state park containing replicas of houses and shops that existed when Lincoln lived there from 1831—1857. Booton documented the project in, *Record of the Restoration of New Salem* (1934), an innovation that at the time neither the National Park Service nor Colonial Williamsburg had envisioned.

- The home of Ulysses S. Grant in Galena (1931),

- Early Illinois capital at Vandalia (1932),
The Supervising Architect of the Natural Resources Building was Joseph Francis Booton (1897[Urbana, IL] – 1983), Illinois Department of Public Works (1930–ca. 1955)

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- Early Illinois capital at Vandalia (1932),

- Fort de Chartres in Prairie Du Rocher (1933),

- Pierre Menard (1st Illinois Lt. Governor 1818—1822) Illinois Historic Site in Ellis Grove, Randolph Co., IL (early 1930s),

- Mount Pulaski and Cahokia courthouses (late 1930s). Illinois Governor Henry Horner launched a statewide search in the 1930s for surviving public buildings with which Lincoln had been familiar. Mount Pulaski gave the old brick courthouse building to the state of Illinois in 1936, and the state extensively restored it in 1936–1939 to resemble its function as the county courthouse,
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- Booth Library Building at Eastern Illinois University, completed in 1950, new construction in modified Gothic architectural style,

- Natural Resources Building (1939-1940, modified Georgian architectural style). Because the Scientific Surveys were administered under the Illinois Department of Registration and Education, not the University of Illinois, Joseph Booton was designated the supervising architect. To the Natural Resources Building project he brought his perspective on preservation and his collective experience in the development of architectural designs for state building projects.
The architectural style for the Natural Resources Building is modified Georgian, likely modeled after 17th century English estate homes. Architect Joseph Booton was required by the University of Illinois Architect's Office to emulate the Georgian architectural style, but he imprinted his own preservation style for the design of the NRB, likely using models such as Coleshill House (1660), for the external design. Striking similarities can be seen between the Natural Resources Building and Coleshill House, located 50 miles west of London in Berkshire, England – specifically, the Italianate proportions with symmetrical rows of large sash windows, the semi-basement story to lower the total elevation of the structure, strong cornices, the hipped roof with dormer windows, large chimney stacks, classical moldings, and other architectural details.
1938 – Architectural drawing of the approved design for the Natural Resources Building
February 3, 1939 - Bid proposal for construction of NRB 'Superstructure'

May 9, 1939 - Proposal Deadline

**MARBLE, TERRAZZO AND ILLINOIS STONE**

**SAMPLES:**

8005. Samples of each kind and grade of marble, Illinois stone and terrazzo as specified and proposed to be used shall be submitted in duplicate to the Supervising Architect for approval before any construction work is done under this contract.

8006. Each sample shall be approximately 10x12x7/8” with one face finished and all marked and approved samples shall be retained by the Supervising Architect.

**MARBLE:**

810. All marble used shall be sound and free from spalls, shakes, sand holes, or other defects that would impair its strength, durability or appearance and any marble that is cracked or broken either before or after delivery at the building except as noted herein for certain kinds of marble will be rejected.

**KINDS OF MARBLE:**

811. All marble for toilet wainscots, showers, toilet stalls and window sills shall be Ozark Flurid.

812. Marble for the base and trim in the Foyer shall be Plattin St. Clair cut across the grain.

813. Marble for the steps, cheeks and border shall be Neroli Dark.

814. Marble for the trim at exterior of main entrance shall be Ozark Clear Face.

**FINISH:**

815. All floors, treads, risers and window sills shall have a fine honed finish, all other marble shall have highly polished exposed surfaces.
ILLINOIS STONE

8090. All wall surfaces of Main Foyer, adjoining rooms and as otherwise shown on “Room Finish Schedule”, shall be faced with stone.

QUALITY:

8091. All stone shall be Joliet or Kennebec stone, warm toned with a smooth planer finish to match, in the opinion of the Supervising Architect, the sample in office.

8092. Stone shall be sound and durable and be free from seams, and shall be of a quality, color and texture, characteristic to stone from the above mentioned locations.

MATERIAL:

8093. Stone shall be 1-1/4” finished thickness, unless otherwise shown or noted.

8094. External angles, pilasters and carved stone shall be cut from pieces of sufficient thickness so that no joints are exposed on the sides of pilasters, etc., except as shown. All exposed headers shall show 3” wide return.

8095. The two large panels with ornament and lettering shall each be in one piece approximately 3” thick.

GOLD LEAF WORK:

10069. All incised letters in stone panels in Foyer as shown shall be gilded with XX Gold Leaf.

10070. All surfaces to be gilded shall be thoroughly clean.

10071. This contractor shall build up the base for incised letters in stone work to receive the Gold Leaf.

10072. All Gold Leaf work shall be given a heavy coat of clear lacquer of approved manufacture.

10073. Gold Leaf shall be 23 karat fine. Size or base for gilding shall be of a grade that will not stain or discolor any stone adjacent to lettering.

BRONZE WORK:

10074. The ornament on grilles in Foyer and also on main door transom shall be painted in bronze as directed. This shall be a heavy coat of approved bronze powder and vehicle.
CONVERSION BETWEEN PERCENTAGE OF PURE GOLD AND KARATS:

95.83–99.95% = 23K
99.95–100% = 24K

DEDICATION PANEL IN THE NRB FOYER

GOLD LEAF WORK:

10069. All incised letters in stone panels in Foyer as shown shall be gilded with XX Gold Leaf.
10070. All surfaces to be gilded shall be thoroughly clean.
10071. This contractor shall build up the base for incised letters in stone work to receive the Gold Leaf.
10072. All Gold Leaf work shall be given a heavy coat of clear lacquer, of approved manufacture.
10073. Gold Leaf shall be 23 karat fine. Size or base for gilding shall be of a grade that will not stain or discolor any stone adjacent to lettering.

BRONZE WORK:

10074. The ornament on grill door transom shall be painted with a heavy coat of approved bronze powder and varnish.

ILLINOIS STONE

8090. All wall surfaces of Main Foyer, adjoining rooms and as otherwise shown on "Room Finish Schedule", shall be faced with stone.

QUALITY:

8091. All stone shall be Joliet or Kennekeee stone, warm toned with a smooth planer finish to match, in the opinion of the Supervising Architect, the sample in office.
8092. Stone shall be sound and durable and be free from seams, and shall be of a quality, color and texture, characteristic to stone from the above mentioned locations.

MATERIAL:

8093. Stone shall be 1-1/4" finished thickness, unless otherwise shown or noted.
8094. External angles, pilasters and carved stone shall be cut from pieces of sufficient thickness so that no joints are exposed on the sides of pilasters, etc., except as shown. All exposed headers shall show 3" wide return.
8095. The two large panels with ornament and lettering shall each be in one piece approximately 3" thick.

CONVERSION BETWEEN PERCENTAGE OF PURE GOLD AND KARATS:
95.83–99.95% = 23K
99.95–100% = 24K
The two limestone, engraved dedication panels at the NRB main entrance are bordered with what appears to be columns capped by eagles. These are referred to as fasces (meaning "bundle"), each representing a bundle of birch wooden rods. Etruscan in origin, by the time of the Roman Republic, fasces had developed into a thicker bundle of birch rods, tied together with a leather ribbon and fashioned into a cylinder. The symbolism of the fasces suggests strength through unity—a single rod is easily broken, while the bundle is very difficult to break. In modern western cultures, the fasces may be surrounded by leaves of the olive tree (a symbol of peace) and oak leaves (a symbol of justice).
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Fasces are commonly used in governmental buildings in the United States – for example, the chair in which Lincoln is sitting within the Lincoln Memorial is engraved with fasces.
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Fasces are commonly used in governmental buildings in the United States – for example, the chair in which Lincoln is sitting within the Lincoln Memorial is engraved with fasces.
1940 – Natural Resources Building during construction (rear view). Note the Public Works Administration sign.
1940
Illinois
Mineral Industries Conference
and
Dedication of the
State Natural Resources Building

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
November 14, 15, and 16
Urbana-Champaign

Friday, November 15

3. The Devonian System in Iowa
   M. A. Stetson, Professor of Geology, Texas
   Technological College
   A. C. Trowbridge, State Geologist of Iowa, will
   present this paper.

4. Subsurface Stratigraphy of the Devonian in
   Illinois
   L. E. Workman, Geologist, Illinois Geological
   Survey

5. Devonian Rocks in the Centralia Area
   G. W. Caut, Geologist, Shell Oil Company

12:15-1:45 p.m.
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS LUNCHEON
Please purchase tickets in advance
at the registration desk.
Ladies are invited.

Auspices of the Industrial Minerals Division A.I.M.E.
Chairman, W. M. Wyers, Mineral Technologist, Mis-
souri Pacific Railroad
Secretary, R. H. Reed, Chief Chemist, Illinois Geologi-
cal Survey

Address
C. M. Thompson, Dean, College of Commerce, Uni-
versity of Illinois

2:00 p.m.
University Auditorium
DEDICATION OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING
Under official State auspices
President Isaiah Bowman of The Johns Hop-
kins University will give the address

RECEPTION
Foyer of the Natural Resources Building
The reception will be held immediately
after the dedication ceremonies.

7:00 p.m.
DEDICATION BANQUET
Please secure tickets in advance by writing George E.
Emkaw, Natural Resources Building, Urbana, or if
necessary, at the registration desk. Price $1.50. Informal.
Ladies are invited.
Reservations accepted in order of receipt up to capacity.

1940 - ISGS Chief Leighton (left) and INHS Chief Frison
1942 – Natural Resources Building two years after construction was completed
The main foyer of the Natural Resources Building is adorned with ornamental plaques depicting the scientific disciplines of the Illinois State Geological Survey and Illinois Natural History Survey.

As part of the interior decoration of the Natural Resources Building, six ornamental plaques were specifically commissioned for the main entrance foyer. Created in yellow and white bronze, the plaques were designed and fabricated by the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Founded in 1893, Flour City produced intricate artistic works in iron, bronze, and other metals that graced many buildings in the United States, including the Drake Hotel and Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.
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Artist’s original drawing for plaque
(note the handwritten edit)
Completed bronze plaque

Illinois Natural History Survey
Designed for the Illinois State Geological Survey, this white and yellow bronze plaque depicts the ancient world of the **Pangaea protocontinent** and **Panthalassa Ocean**. Fossils representing ancient sea life decorate the lower panel. **Poseidon**, the Greek god of the sea, rivers, flood and drought, and earthquakes, holds his trident, which he uses to shatter rocks and shake the earth. The lamp he holds may be a reference to ‘Poseidon’s light’ or his brother Zeus, the Greek God of light. On the left holding a cornucopia brimming with fruit stands the Greek goddess **Demeter**, a sister to **Poseidon**. Demeter’s emblem is the flowering poppy, which she is seen holding in her left hand. Demeter’s name evolved from the words for “Earth Mother.”

Designed for the Illinois Natural History Survey, this white and yellow bronze plaque denotes the modern world, depicting the present-day continents and oceans. Examples of modern life decorate the lower panel. On the left, holding a wreath made from her sacred myrtle tree is **Aphrodite**, daughter of Zeus and the Greek goddess of all fruitfulness in the human, animal, and vegetable worlds. She is described as influencing all living things in heaven, earth, and the sea. At the right holding a bow and arrow, a present from her father Zeus, is Aphrodite’s sister **Artemis**, the Greek goddess of hunting, wild animals, and the wilderness, who is closely associated with the natural world. Artemis was born under a palm tree on the Greek island of Delos, which is seen next to her companion dog.
A mural created with WPA funding by U of I artist LaForce Bailey was displayed at the 1933 Century of Progress World’s Fair in Chicago. The Illinois State Geological Survey assumed the responsibility for planning and construction of the Mines and Minerals Exhibit in the Court of States Building at the 1933 Century of Progress World’s Fair in Chicago (May—November, 1933; reopened May—October, 1934). A prominent element of the exhibit was an 8 × 54-foot mural titled **The Mineral Kingdom and Its Effect Upon Society** painted by University of Illinois artist LaForce Bailey (seen standing in the middle of the photograph below) over a period of six weeks, with the assistance of six senior art students. Bailey stated that a great deal of time was spent in arranging the colors to visually radiate the process of heat as the transforming medium between the raw minerals and the fabricated products. An equal amount of time was spent studying the equipment used in the mines and factories, and Dr. Morris Leighton, Chief of the Illinois State Geological Survey, provided detailed descriptions to ensure scientific accuracy. After the Fair, the mural was remounted in the Natural Resources Building.
May 1933 – Century of Progress World’s Fair
Chicago, Illinois – Burnham Harbor and environs

Enlargement area (following slide)

Adler Planetarium (1930)

Shedd Aquarium (1930)
May 1933 – Century of Progress World’s Fair

Federal Building

Adler Planetarium

Court of States Building, the location of the ISGS exhibit and mural.

Sky Ride
1933 – Century of Progress World’s Fair
ISGS Wall Mural and Exhibit in the Court of States Building
November 26, 1934

Professor W. A. Noyes
1114 W. Oregon St.
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Professor Noyes:

Following the closing of "A Century of Progress" exposition at Chicago, the Illinois Mines and Minerals display has been dismantled and removed to the Survey, with the exception of certain items which were loaned to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

I am sure you will be pleased to learn that the display was conspicuously successful in every respect. It was viewed by several million people, of whom approximately 6,000,000 extended the courtesy of registering their names and including complimentary remarks. The registration books show every state of the Union represented, as well as at least thirty foreign countries and possessions. We have received thousands of requests for information from such sources as mineral operators, purchasing agents of manufacturers and consumers, teachers, land owners, prospective investors, etc. Teachers especially highly complimented the educational value of the exhibit. Many made inquiry about obtaining a duplicate of our automatic mineral encyclopedia for school use.

We feel that probably most of these people have come to realize for the first time, that Illinois is an outstanding mineral-producing state, and that the Geological Survey and its cooperating agencies are playing an important part in bringing it to the fore.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

Chief.
Present Day — Century of Progress World’s Fair location
Chicago’s Burnham Harbor as it appears today
1940’s – NRB Expansion

1945 – Architectural drawing of approved design for the Natural Resources Building East Wing and West Wing additions
ISGS Circular No. 126
1945 – Architectural drawing of approved design for the Natural Resources Building two Wing additions (rear elevation)
194? – Architectural drawing of approved design for the Natural Resources Building two Wings and Center additions (rear elevation)

Center addition (blue rectangle) was never constructed, but later became the design for the Applied Research Laboratory (ARL)
1946 - Morris Leighton (center), ISGS Chief, during groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the NRB East and West Wing additions.
1947 – Natural Resources Building during construction of the East and West Wing additions
1947 – Natural Resources Building during construction of the East and West Wing additions

Close-up of the East Wing during construction
1949 - Natural Resources Building after completion of the East Wing and West Wing additions
1939

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

April 27, 1939

DEMONSTRATION-TEST PROGRAM BY STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR DETERMINING COMMERCIAL FEASIBILITY OF BRIQUETTING, COKING, AND BURNING ILLINOIS COAL

(25) There has been introduced in the General Assembly of Illinois a bill appropriating $300,000 for a two-year demonstration-test program for investigation and experimentation with Illinois coal products. (See Exhibit A.) One item in this bill is “for construction of applied research laboratory adjacent to the new Natural Resources Building,” to cost $95,000. Other items in the bill provide for experimental briquetting machines, preheaters, ovens, stokers, boilers, and other equipment, and a technical staff.

Architectural drawing showing proposed NRB Center addition, but which later became the design for the future Applied Research Laboratory building constructed in 1941
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

April 27, 1939

DEMONSTRATION-TEST PROGRAM BY STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR DETERMINING COMMERCIAL FEASIBILITY OF BRIQUETTING, COKING, AND BURNING ILLINOIS COAL

(28) There has been introduced in the General Assembly of Illinois a bill appropriating $300,000 for a two-year demonstration test program for investigation and experimentation with Illinois "for construction of applied Natural Resources Building," to cost $100,000, briquetting machines, preheating facilities, and a technical staff.

The University is concerned over the proposed location because of the following considerations:

(a) The architectural appearance will be anything but an asset to that part of the campus. The four chimneys rising to a height of four to six feet above the ridge of the Natural Resources Building, and 45 feet above the top of the parapet wall of the Applied Research Laboratory, will be very unattractive until east and west wing additions to the Natural Resources Building shield it from view.

(b) The fumes, dust, and smoke normally exhausted from such chimneys will create a public nuisance in that section of the campus due to the fact that the prevailing winds are in the main from the southwest. In considering this problem, the Board should recall that the University, in locating the new Power Plant adjacent to the Illinois Central Railroad, has made a sizeable investment to see that such a nuisance will not be created by the new Power Plant.

(c) Even though the University is assured that the program which the Geological Survey has outlined will not be objectionable, it may later start a program which might be even more of a nuisance than that now proposed.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

[April 27]

your letter was wise, but in this particular instance the Committee feels there is a critical need for such a special program at this time.

It was recommended to Acting Governor Stelle that an appropriation in the amount of $250,000 be requested to execute the program for the study of Illinois coal as outlined by the State Geological Survey.

Yours very truly,

JOHN J. HALLIHAN
Director

On motion of Mrs. Plumb, the President of the University was requested to secure an amendment to this bill to eliminate the provision that the laboratory should be constructed adjacent to the new Natural Resources Building and to provide for the location of such a structure on the campus of the University at a point to be designated by the Board of Trustees.
The Larkin Building was an early 20th century building, designed in 1903 by Frank Lloyd Wright and built in 1904-1906 for the Larkin Soap Company of Buffalo, New York. It bears a remarkable resemblance to the ARL.

The Applied Research Laboratory, construction completed in 1941, as it appeared in 1953
Aerial view of the Natural Resources Building showing original landscape plantings. Animal Pathology Building is at upper right.
August 18, 1966

Office of the Governor
Springfield

Otto Kerner
Governor

August 18, 1966

Dr. Jack T. Spencer
National Science Foundation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Doctor Spencer:

This is to inform you that I have given my approval to the Illinois Department of Registration and Education for the proposed construction of an addition to the Natural Resources Building at Urbana, Illinois. The building is utilized by the Illinois Natural History Survey and the Illinois Geological Survey. The two agencies are divisions under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Registration and Education.

Plans for the proposed addition have received the approval of the State Supervising Architect.

It is my understanding that an application for a grant of $1,250,000 from the National Science Foundation will be submitted by the Illinois Department of Registration and Education to cover approximately one-half of the cost of the proposed addition. A bill seeking an appropriation of $1,250,000 to match the grant from the National Science Foundation will be introduced in the next session of the Illinois General Assembly which convenes in January, 1967.

I hope that this application will receive favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Governor
November 30, 1966 (from George Sprugal, INHS Chief, & and John Frye, ISGS Chief, to the University Architecture Office)

1. It is our understanding that the University of Illinois wishes our ideas concerning the potential use of the space within the confines of the lot "bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, Sixth Street, South Drive (now Peabody) and Broadwalk, the latter extended, approximately 270 feet by 600 feet, immediately west of the Stock Pavilion."
November 30, 1966 (from George Sprugal, INHS Chief, & and John Frye, ISGS Chief, to the University Architecture Office)

3. The present building is highly inefficient for the space needs of the Geological and Natural History Surveys from the standpoint of both its narrow form and high ceilings. Considering the problems inherent in obtaining financial support for capital expenditures, it would therefore seem desirable to erect future buildings that are more efficient from the standpoint of use and cost than is the present one.
1. The proposed addition to the west wing of the Natural Resources Building recently designed by the University Architects office combines more economical use of space and still maintains the Georgian design of the parent building required by the University. The increased efficiency from the standpoint of Survey functions is achieved by (1) obtaining an extra floor and (2) making the building wider and therefore more efficient for subdivision into collection and laboratory space. This addition might furnish a model of what could be done later.

5. Because of problems in getting money for new buildings, it seems likely that future additions may need to be of moderate size, at a guess about the same size as the proposed addition to the west wing of the Natural Resources Building now being planned. It would be desirable for future additions to be continuations of present space.

6. The suggested future extensions of the building outlined in the attached scheme, kindly prepared for us by your office, represent our best estimates concerning future building needs in this complex. The contemplated east and west additions would be contiguous with related space and form a logical extension of present and contemplated research programs. They also appear to be realistic from the standpoint of obtaining funds.

7. Before Unit 3 could be built, adequate greenhouse space would need to be available. It is contemplated that this would be situated adjacent to the additional greenhouse space now being requested for the area assigned to us just east of St. Mary’s Cemetery.
1966

November 30, 1966 (from George Sprugal, INHS Chief, & and John Frye, ISGS Chief, to the University Architecture Office)

9. It would need to be understood that the order in which Units 2 to 5 were added would be dictated by need, availability of funds, and the solution of such problems as those listed in items 7 and 8 above.

Yours truly,
/s/
George Sprugal, Jr., Chief
Illinois Natural History Survey

/s/
John C. Frye, Chief
Illinois Geological Survey

See next five slides for site plans of NRB additions 1-5
November 30, 1966

Natural Resources Bldg

Site Develop
Scheme C
Programmatic Project Scope Statement
Fiscal Year 1993
Date: 08/30/91

The Illinois Natural History Survey and the Illinois State Geological Survey lack 170,000 gross square feet of having the amount of space deemed necessary to house their current programs. Furthermore, approximately 150,000 gross square feet of current space is obsolete for research purposes, and priceless collections are at risk because the Natural Resources Building has no sprinkler system or climate-controlled collection rooms.

Three wings will be added to the Natural Resources Building – a center wing of 60,220 gross square feet and two end wings of 29,945 gross square feet. A 40-car parking lot and a 4,000 square foot greenhouse addition at the Natural Resources Studies Annex are necessary to replace facilities lost to the end wings, and supplemental lighting will be installed in the remaining greenhouses to compensate for shading by the new additions to the West Wing.

Funding Previously Requested (not funded):
Has project been requested previously?
(Yes, FY91-FY92 including previous efforts, all of which were unsuccessful.)
Budget estimate for 3 NRB additions:
Programmatic Project Scope Statement
Fiscal Year 1993
Date: 08/30/91

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>NASF</th>
<th>GSF</th>
<th>Unit cost (dollars)</th>
<th>Estimated cost (dollars)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Offices and similar</td>
<td>12,616</td>
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<td>Add 3% for extra utilities</td>
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(See two following slides for comparison of original 1938 Plot Plan and 2007 Campus Plan.)
NRB Plot Plan

‘NRB Group’ composed of main building (constructed) and 5 planned additions.
As of 2018, none of the 5 planned additions have been constructed.