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CAMPUS HISTORY

THE BEGINNING – INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN THE 19TH CENTURY (1820-1901)

“Education, and the universal diffusion of useful knowledge”¹

In 1816, the newly established State of Indiana outlined the need for advanced education facilities in its constitution. The document mandated that land and resources be set aside for the development of the institution, and anticipated that the educational facilities would be established within 4 years. The State Constitution reserved 640 acres for the State Seminary, the predecessor to Indiana University. A 10-acre site was selected for the campus, located ¼ mile south of the Courthouse Square in Bloomington, adjacent to the railroad tracks and near a natural spring. After the site was selected, excess land was sold to finance academic and construction programs.

On January 24, 1828, the State Seminary was renamed the Indiana College and given

¹ Theophilus A. Wylie, *Indiana University Its History from 1820, When Founded, to 1890*, (Indianapolis: Wm. B. Burford, 1890), p. 14.



Early Buildings (1825-1890)



Indiana Territory, 1818

an expanded mission by the State of Indiana. Indiana College was tasked with “the education of youth in the American, learned and foreign languages, the useful arts, sciences and literature.” Ten years later, on February 15, 1838, the institution was formally renamed Indiana University, and a law school and medical



Historical Map of Bloomington, Circa 1880

school were added to its growing academic portfolio.

Indiana University resided within the boundaries of Seminary Square throughout most of the 19th century. Unfortunately, during the summer of 1883, a fire destroyed the University library,

prompting the trustees to explore relocating the University to a new campus. After considering a number of sites, the trustees chose a 20-acre parcel located at the eastern edge of Bloomington known as Dunn’s Woods.

Construction of Wylie Hall and Owen Hall began immediately, marking the beginning of the first of three periods of significant growth for the University. The original structures at Dunn’s Woods embraced an elaborate Victorian style that was in vogue at the time of their construction. The buildings were designed to be intentionally compact in plan and boasted high ceilings and sophisticated fenestration. Building façades were rendered in red brick with large vertically proportioned openings embellished with limestone accents. Wylie Hall originally embodied a slightly manneristic Victorian expression represented by an asymmetrical finial that rose above the central stair tower. A fire in Wylie Hall led to the elimination of the tower and the reconstruction of the structure with an added fourth level.

With the completion of Wylie and Owen Halls, the University quickly began the development of Maxwell and Kirkwood Halls. These two structures flanked the original campus buildings and began the definition of the Dunn's Woods Quad. This period of construction marked a shift in primary building materials and architectural style on campus. Both structures represent a faithful Romanesque sensibility and are comprised of monolithic rusticated limestone façades, monumental towers, vertically proportioned arched openings, and slate roofs.

Throughout this period of growth, Indiana University expanded to nearly 51 acres and nine buildings, and grew its student population to 1,285.



Wylie Hall with Original Tower, 1884



Wylie Hall, Present Day



Kirkwood Hall, 1894



Owen Hall, 1884



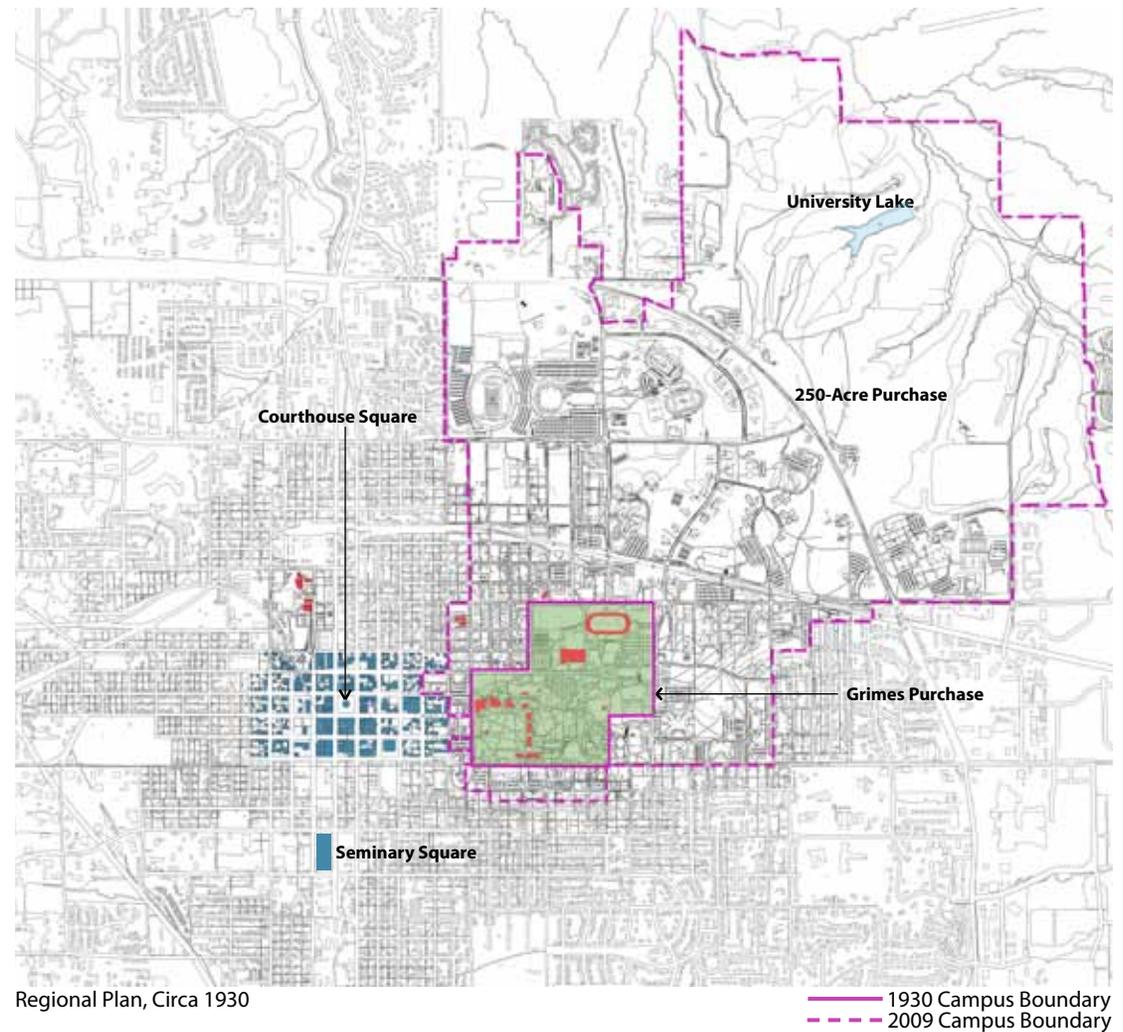
Maxwell Hall, 1890

EXPANSION DURING THE BRYAN ADMINISTRATION (1902-1937)

*“...open paths from every corner of the State through schools to the highest and best things men can achieve.”*²

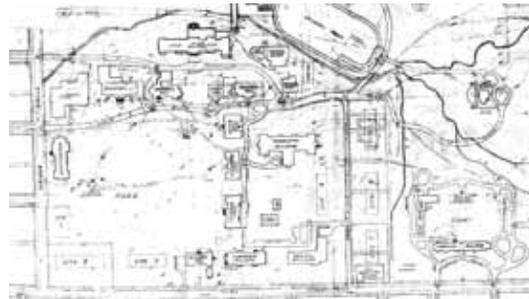
William Lowe Bryan was appointed president of Indiana University in 1902, marking the beginning of the second period of major growth and development for Indiana University’s Bloomington campus. During this period, the campus expanded dramatically and much of Indiana University’s memorable, naturalistic character was established. Significant land acquisition was directly associated with the University’s attempts to secure a potable water source as water shortages afflicted the region. Beginning in 1900 and continuing into the next decade, both the growing University and the City of Bloomington struggled to sustain adequate water resources, and in 1903, Indiana University considered temporarily closing to

² Burton Dorr Myers, M.D., *History of Indiana University Volume II - The Bryan Administration*, Ivy L. Chamness and Burton D. Myers, eds., (Crawfordsville, Indiana: Indiana University, 1952), p. 102.





Historic Kessler Plan, 1915



Historic Olmsted Plan, 1929

address the crisis. On December 2, 1908, the headline of the Bloomington Daily Telephone stated, “Water famine at last; plant closes down to await heavy rains.” In an effort to take control of its water concerns, the University acquired approximately 250 acres northeast of campus in 1909. Construction began on the University Lake Reservoir and University Waterworks shortly thereafter.

In addition to securing the 250-acre tract, the University undertook several significant land acquisitions during the first decades of the Bryan Administration. In 1905, the University acquired the first of two tracts that became known as the Grimes Purchase. The first purchase added 19 acres to the east with the second purchase adding another 21 acres.

In 1915, Indiana University hired George E. Kessler as campus planner and commissioned its first comprehensive campus master plan. Kessler’s plan defined an intentionally naturalistic campus environment that celebrated Bloomington’s unique natural features and

embraced its bold architectural infrastructure. Many of Kessler’s planning concepts live on today and form the basis of Bloomington’s distinguished character and romantic imagery. Kessler’s plan was followed through the 1920s, until the University grew beyond its vision.

The influential Olmsted Brothers assumed the role of master planner following Kessler and presented a new campus master plan in June of 1929. The Olmsted plan defined a bold new picturesque vision for the campus and outlined locations for many future buildings, quads, walkways, and drives. The legacy of the Olmsted Brothers on campus includes the East Third Street campus edge, Wells Quad, and the refinement of Dunn’s Woods.

During the 35 years of the Bryan administration, the Bloomington campus nearly tripled in land area, from 51 acres to 137. The initial structures constructed during this period continued the limestone and slate material palette and the fashionable Romanesque architectural style established by Maxwell and



Franklin Hall, 1907



Student Building, 1906



Indiana Memorial Union, 1932

Kirkwood Halls. Lindley Hall, the Student Building, and Franklin Hall, constructed in 1902, 1906, and 1907, respectively, express distinctly Romanesque characteristics with their rusticated limestone façades and tall vertically proportioned openings. The Student Building's arched openings and central monumental tower represent a faithful interpretation of Romanesque architecture. Lindley Hall's non-arched, rectilinear windows and less monolithic limestone façades express a more modern interpretation, while Franklin Hall's pointed arched windows and thin limestone window mullions convey a more hybrid Romanesque-Gothic style. This Gothic expression was a harbinger of a stylistic shift that would define much of the new campus architecture in the coming decades.



Lindley Hall, 1902



Rawles Hall, 1923

With the construction of Rawles Hall in 1923, Indiana University followed a national architectural trend and began favoring Collegiate Gothic style structures. Many of these structures were constructed during the Bryan presidency and have come to define much of the

memorable imagery of the core campus. Notable Collegiate Gothic structures constructed during this era include Memorial Hall, 1924; Indiana Memorial Union, 1932; Bryan Hall, 1936; Goodbody Hall, 1936; and Myers Hall, 1937.

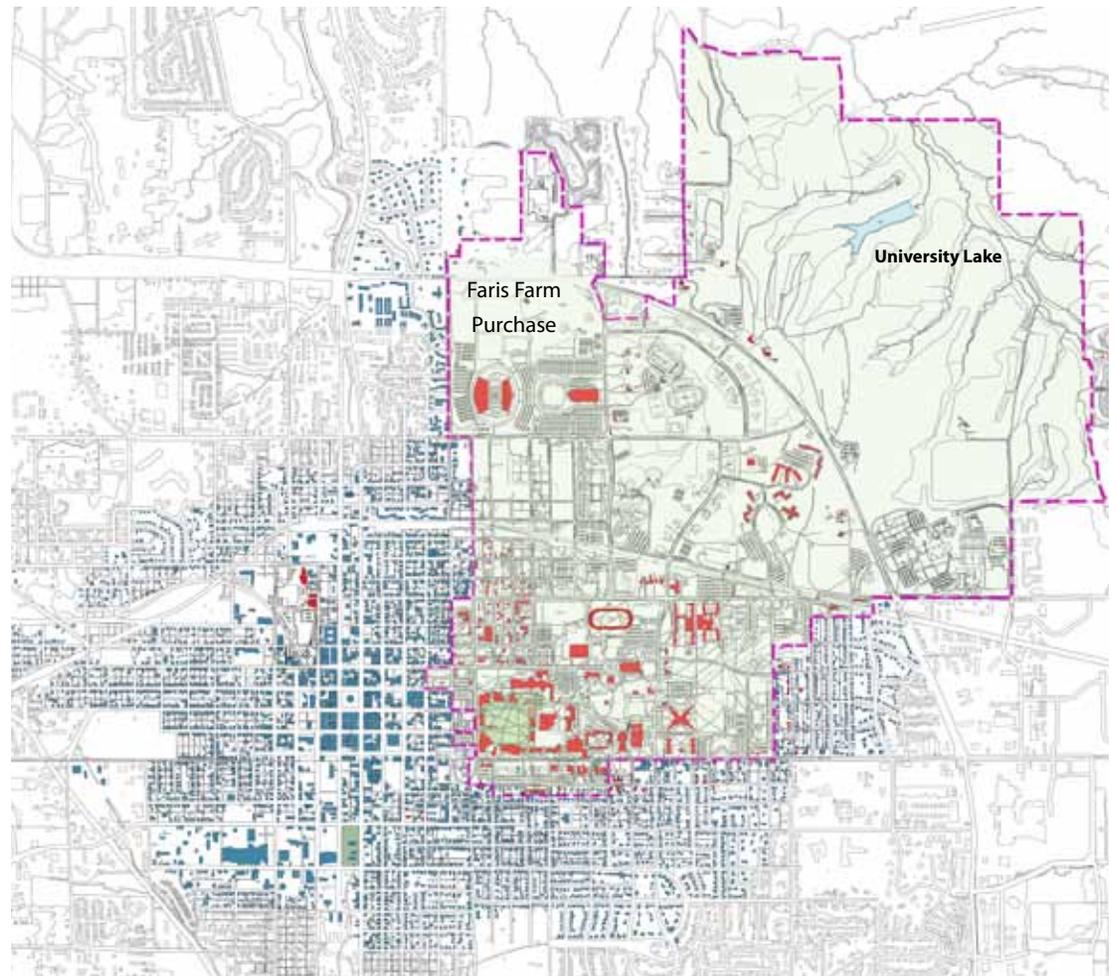
EXPANSION DURING THE WELLS ADMINISTRATION (1937-1962)

“We knew we had to move north and east because most of the undeveloped land lay there—north of Tenth and east of Jordan.”³

Herman B Wells began his tenure as Indiana University president in July of 1937. During Wells’ 25-year presidency, the campus experienced its third and most dramatic expansion, growing 137 acres to nearly its current 1,900 acres. Campus growth throughout this period is largely attributable to the influx of students that overwhelmed Indiana University after World War II. Development established during the Wells administration contributed to much of the iconic campus character and defined expansive new neighborhoods beyond the historic core of campus.

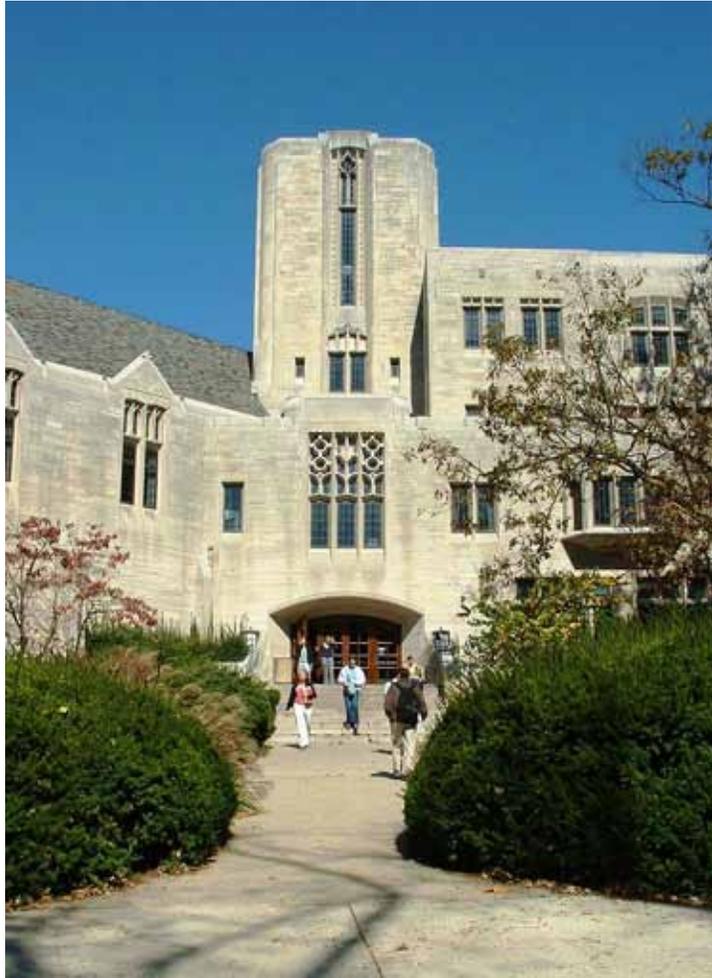
President Wells began his term during the Great Depression, and at that time nearly all of the

³ Herman B Wells, *Being Lucky: Reminiscences & Reflections*, (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1980), p. 195.

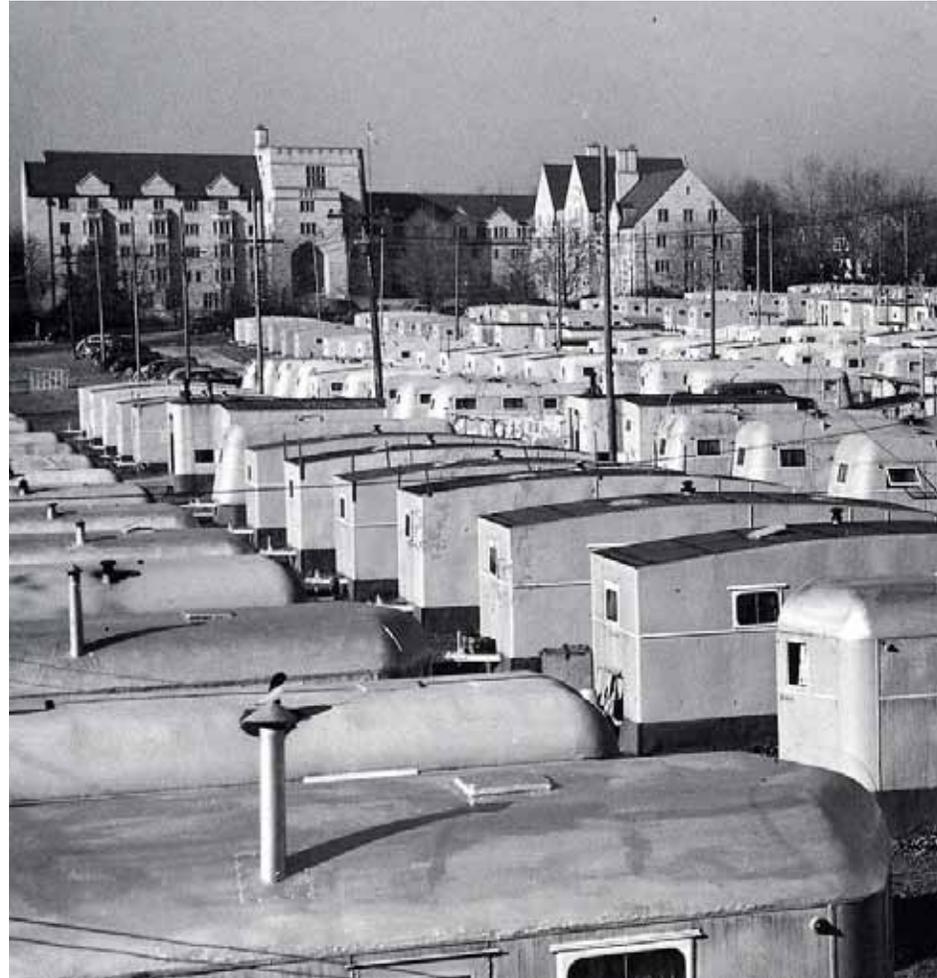


Regional Plan, Circa 1960

--- 2009 Campus Boundary



Woodburn Hall, 1940



Married GI Housing, 1946

University buildings resided between North Indiana and North Jordan Avenues and East Third and East Tenth Streets. Within his first few years, President Wells initiated an ambitious expansion plan that extended the campus to the north and east. Major land acquisitions resulting in hundreds of acres of new campus property continued through the 1940s and 1950s. The addition of Faris Farm in 1956 was especially significant, for its size and location directly north of campus. This acquisition enabled the University to own and control much of the land between the campus core and University Lake.

With land secured for growth, the Wells administration began planning a major campus expansion strategy. Campus-wide facilities were strategically located between academic and housing districts, and future sites for the main library, Auditorium, and Art Museum were established in anticipation of a future center of campus. The area between East Tenth Street and the railroad tracks was intentionally undeveloped and reserved for future expansion and campus growth. The Indiana University Golf Course was constructed on undeveloped land preserved for the University Lake watershed.

In an effort to minimize disturbances and preserve neighbor relations, the University deliberately developed new student housing in areas remote from established neighborhoods and core campus facilities.

“When I became president, I discovered that one of the most frequent complaints we received at the president’s office concerned the sleep-disturbing din from fraternity and sorority houses.”

—President Wells

In the initial years of the Well’s presidency, many of the new structures on campus embraced the Collegiate Gothic style initiated in the 1920s. Many notable structures were constructed during this period including Morrison Hall, 1940; Woodburn Hall, 1940; and Swain Hall West, 1940. As campus expansion accelerated in the late 1940s, the Wells administration embraced a bold new architectural vision that has come to define much of Bloomington’s memorable character. President Wells stated that “It is our plan from the start to try to preserve the traditional style of architecture on the old campus with as little modification as possible but, as we move outward, to allow the buildings to conform with architectural styles currently in vogue.”

The well regarded New York City firm of Eggers & Higgins was selected as principal designers and planners for the growing campus and were charged with defining an architectural vision for the rapidly growing campus. Over their nearly 30 years of service to Indiana University, Eggers & Higgins, in conjunction with various local Indiana design firms, directed all development and building construction for the Bloomington



Auditorium, 1941



Musical Arts Center, 1972



Read Hall, 1953

campus. Architectural styles evolved significantly during the period, as did the work of Eggers & Higgins. The stylistic range is best exemplified by Eggers & Higgins' first commission, the Auditorium in 1941, and their last, the Musical Arts Center in 1972.

The Auditorium, along with Woodburn Hall, represents a hybrid of Collegiate Gothic and Art Deco architectural styles, often referred to as Moderne. Beginning with the mass construction of student housing facilities in the late 1940s, Indiana University shifted stylistically again and embraced the Modern architectural style that dominated construction during this period. Many of these new campus structures expressed a simple and restrained Modern architectural style and diverged from the traditional limestone building palette. Structures of note that exemplify this period of development include the University Apartments, 1949; Read Hall, 1953; and Teter Quad, 1957. Campus buildings began to express a more monumental scale and presence in the late 1950s with the construction of Ballantine Hall in 1959. In the late 1960s, Indiana University continued this monumental trend and embraced Brutalist Modernism for many of its significant new structures. The Herman B Wells Library and the Musical Arts Center are the most notable examples of this style on campus.



Ballantine Hall, 1959

During the campus's dramatic expansion, University landscape architect Frits Loonsten maintained and championed the use of indigenous planting on campus. He embraced the naturalized landscaping direction established by Kessler and the Olmsted Brothers, and promoted the use of wildflowers and encouraged the development of natural wooded areas on campus. Loonsten also promoted the creation of three natural areas to be located east of campus. His influence prompted President Wells to write, "Much of the beauty of the campus can be attributed to [Loonsten's] taste and expertise."



Eigenmann Hall, 1971

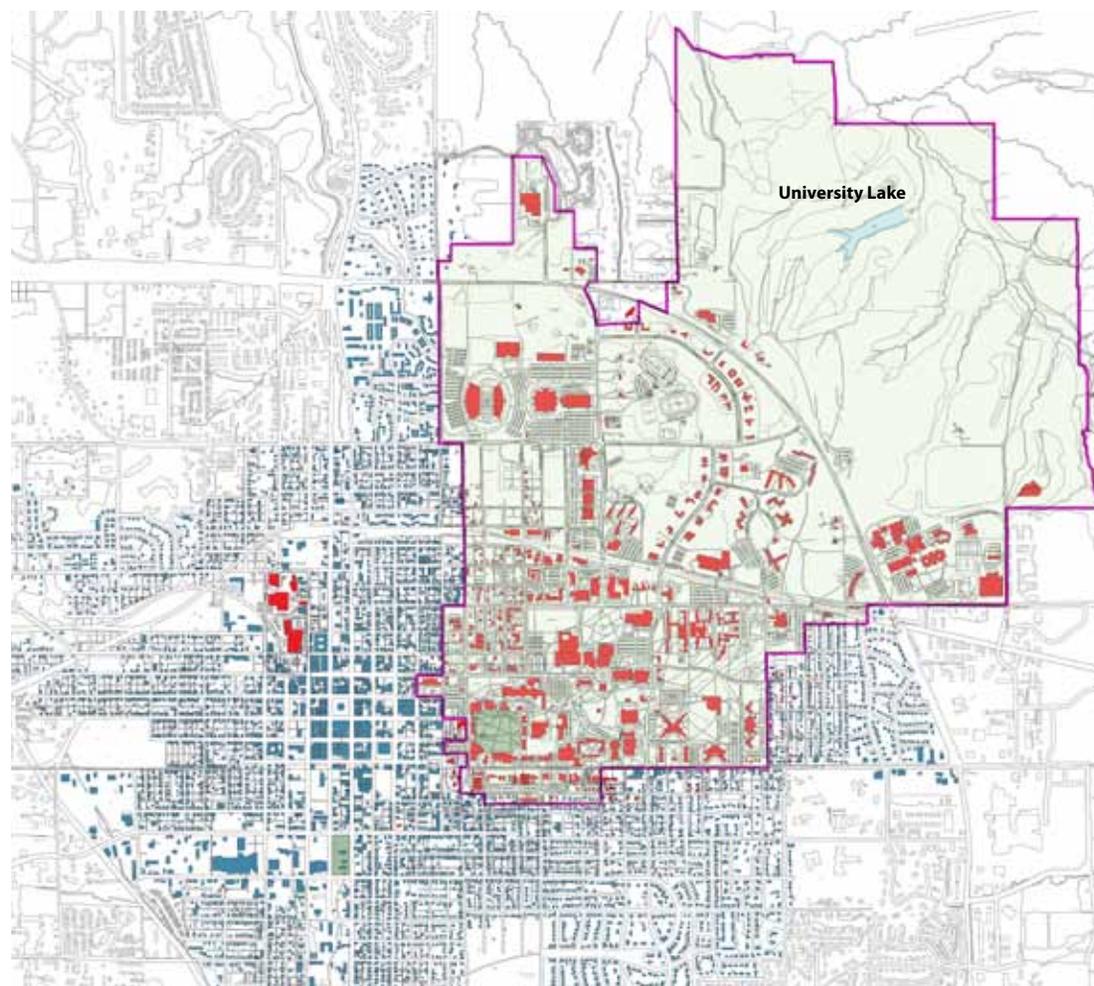


Herman B Wells Library, 1969

THE POST WELLS ERA THROUGH TODAY (1963-Present)

In the decades since the Wells presidency, the Bloomington campus has continued to grow with the vision and sensibilities established during his era. Student housing was built well outside the campus core, mostly north of the railroad corridor and east of North Jordan Avenue. Research and support buildings were built north of the SR 45/46 Bypass along with recreational facilities.

Recent master planning efforts, such as those undertaken by Beyer Blinder Belle, influenced University expansion through the late 1990s while respecting and preserving the historic core. The challenges of connecting residential districts with academic areas as well as the development of new academic buildings in the historic core remain planning priorities.



Regional Plan, 2009



Beyer Blinder Belle, 2006 Conceptual Framework Plan



Godfrey Graduate and Executive Education Center, 2000



Simon Hall, 2007



Student Recreation Sports Center, 1992

INDIANA UNIVERSITY FUTURE

The development and legacy of Bloomington's various campus planning efforts will greatly inform current planning initiatives. The new Campus Master Plan will endeavor to preserve the historic heart of the campus and emulate its aesthetic qualities and character in future development initiatives. The new plan will honor the landscape traditions and environmental sensibilities of the original planners and encourage investment in sustainable, natural resources. The plan will also re-evaluate current land use patterns to leverage future development and enhance University growth.