Chapter 3 1900 - 1921

Brigham Young University - Lower Campus - 1902
Introduction

George H. Brimhall was appointed Acting President in April of 1900 when President Benjamin Cluff left on an exploring expedition to Mexico and South America. At this time the college student enrollment was only 40 while the precollege students numbered near 1,000 (BYU Enrollment Resume, Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, Sept. 1971. BYU Archives). President Cluff resumed the administration of the Brigham Young Academy again on his return from the expedition. Two years later he left the University permanently, and George H. Brimhall was officially appointed President on April 16, 1904 (Newbern I. Butt and T. Earl Pardoe, Brigham Young Alumnus, “In This Brief Span,” 1965, Provo, Utah. BYU Archives).

The 17 years to follow under President Brimhall were years of growth in land acquisition, in building construction, and in student enrollment. Probably one of the most significant events in the history of the school was the move to the Upper Campus beginning in 1904.

Six academic buildings were constructed during Brimhall’s term and the college enrollment increased to 438 by 1921 when his successor Franklin S. Harris took over (BYU Enrollment Resume, Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, Sept. 1971, BYU Archives).
The turn of the century saw B. T. Higgs in charge of the Physical Plant of the Brigham Young Academy. He continued in this position through President Brimhall’s term and through most of President Harris’. It was because of his confidence in young people that B. T. Higgs persuaded President Brimhall to let him try a new janitorial system, using students to do the work. This was approved in 1908. Students had been used in years past with some degree of success, but always in connection with monitors or other full-time janitors. B. T. Higgs knew that many of these students needed help to continue their work at school. The results were gratifying. There developed within the janitorial force a group of hard-working and dependable men, many of whom were married. These men had to budget and plan their time carefully. Their studies were by no means neglected, because time and time again someone on the janitorial force was listed on the honor roll. Many of these men assumed responsible positions in their communities after graduation (Karl A. Miller).

B. T. Higgs was a master mechanic and an excellent finisher of wood and furniture. He had an interest in young men and wanted to see them develop mechanical skills, so he hired them to do carpenter work and miscellaneous repairs for the University. Such men as Wayne B. Hales, Professor, BYU; Clint Larson, High Jump Champion; Carl J. Christensen, University of Utah Professor; Nephi Christensen, Lynn Wakefield, Karl A. Miller and countless others worked their way through school doing repair work (Faculty Minutes #9, 1906-1908, May 9, 1908, p. 79 BYU Archives).

The plan of working students was extended to a younger generation. Cleansing erasers each Saturday for 50 cents per week was given to a young student Karl A. Miller who was in the fifth grade. The year following the Training School teachers, Fannie McClane and Pearl Snow, induced Brother Higgs to allow the sixth grade students to janitor the 1st and 2nd floors of the Training Building. Lynn Wakefield, Rulon Biddulph, Alton Hayes, son of John E. Hayes, and Karl A. Miller assumed this task (Lynn Wakefield, grandson of B. T. Higgs, and Karl A. Miller, student under B. T. Higgs). Brother Higgs wanted his “boys” to do their best no matter what their profession might be. He instructed them to be honest and trustworthy and so talked to them in weekly meetings. These meetings were held in late afternoon, but many times at 5 o’clock Saturday morning. They were usually announced by ringing the Y bell, even at that early hour. In later years he was induced to have his speeches written. In the files of Apostle Adam S. Bennion, in the BYU Archives, are copies of B. T. Higgs speeches giving mute evidence as to the value Brother Bennion placed upon the instructions Brother Higgs gave to these young men (Hollis Scott, BYU Archivist, Speech Files, Adam S. Bennion). A photograph of the boys who assisted Brother Higgs in 1913 indicates that there were 21 at that time.
These are the boys who have been able to carry successfully their courses in school and help do the work for the University as janitors and firemen.

B. T. Higgs’ teaching experience covered a span of 20 years after which on March 15, 1921, he was awarded a “Diploma of High School Grade” not because he had finished the course outlined for High School graduation, not because of his years as a teacher of Mechanical Arts. The diploma reads in part, “...The General Board of Education, gives the holder therefore a license for life to teach any of the schools or Seminaries of the Church...” The diploma was signed by David O. McKay, commissioner, Stephen L Richards, Richard R. Lyman, and Adam S. Bennion. With a chuckle on his face he told Karl Miller about the diploma because he never taught a class of any kind after that (Faculty Files, B. T. Higgs, copy of speeches in file, BYU Archives. Original diploma in files at Archives).

B. T. Higgs was well qualified to assume the work assigned to him at the University. He was a builder by trade and as the University’s needs increased, remodeling became necessary. He was right at home when making these changes. Following are some of the projects that were accomplished by students under his direction: Construction of a boiler room for the Maeser Personnel 1900 - 1921

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Building on the Upper Campus, the relocation of the boiler from the Education Building to a permanent place west of the Training Building (White and Blue, Vol. 17, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1913, p. 24. BYU Archives), a gas generating plant for the chemistry laboratories and the Domestic Science Department, a ventilation system for the Training Building, construction of a sloping floor in College Hall, concrete steps to upper campus from Third East and Eighth North (Karl A. Miller, student), restrooms for the College Building (Karl A. Miller, Assistant Superintendent Buildings and Grounds), and when 80 years of age, he supervised the construction of shower and dressing rooms in the basement of the women’s Gym (Emma Higgs Wakefield, Life Sketch of Brigham Thomas Higgs).

On his 80th birthday a party was given in his honor at Manavu Ward. He was asked, “What makes you so young?” The answer came easily. “It’s because I work with young people” (Karl A. Miller, Superintendent Buildings and Grounds). It was most fitting and appropriate that Room 115 of the William H. Snell Industrial Education Building was designated as the “Brigham T. Higgs Wood-working laboratory” (Dedicatory Program, William H. Snell Industrial Education Building, April 13, 1960. BYU Archives).

Security

Disciplinary duties and campus security were handled by the administration and the faculty in the early years of the Brigham Young Academy. A full-time security officer was not employed until 1950. He reported administratively to the Dean of Students for the first ten years, and in 1960 the security section was transferred to the Department of Physical Plant (Leonard Christensen, personal interview. Provo, Utah, 1972). Since Security is now (1973) a part of the Department of Physical Plant, it is felt advisable to make this history complete including those years before 1960.

Early Faculty Minutes indicate that rules of conduct were established. Faculty personnel and student monitors were assigned to enforce these rules. Even though these people were assigned to cover the downtown area, there is no evidence that they were sworn in as Provo City police in the years prior to 1921.

The following excerpts are only a few of the many that are recorded in the Faculty Minutes regarding disciplinary action taken by the administration.

**Faculty Minutes**

March 2, 1903

Members were dropped from the team because of low standards in school work. Reported team members had been drinking.

December 11, 1905

Charles E. Maw and Ray Partridge were appointed general disciplinarians for Sunday evening meetings. Brother Maw to have charge of the halls and around the buildings with authority to direct the special school police officers.

**Personnel, Security 1900 - 1921**

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January 15, 1906

John C. Swenson and E. D. Partridge were appointed to see that the Provo City ordinances be observed regarding seating in College Hall when used for public gatherings.

November 29, 1909

Recommendations made to suspend certain students and place on probation for violations of the regulations of the school. Two students were found to be intoxicated at a basketball game. Written apology to the faculty requested.

December 12, 1910

Two students suspended for using tobacco. Fines of $10 and $20 made with permission to return to school. The money to be returned if all regulations were kept, otherwise they forfeit their standing in school and also the money which would be used to assist worthy students working their way through school.

It was against the rules of the school to use tobacco, attend the dances held in the public dance halls such as the “Mozart” located on First West and First South. Of course it was off limits to enter either of the two saloons located in Provo or any other place. It was up to these men to watch the areas and report the names of students who violated the rules (Well-known rules of the school from students living in the Miller home, 55 West 2nd North, 1909-1918).

An early day student, Louis C. Nelson, presently (1972) 94 years old, can tell of the times he, along with others, were reported when attending the “Mozart” dance hall. He stated that such men as N. L. Nelson, Walter E. Cluff, Edwin H. Smart, and William H. Boyle were the ones who were obliged to hand his name in with the others on several occasions. Brother Nelson remembered that the students were told when leaving for Christmas vacation, “If you don’t intend to live up to the rules, then don’t come back.” He said, “That’s pretty plain.”

Other faculty members were pressed into service from time to time. Ed M. Rowe and others took the names of students who did not attend devotional exercises. The rooms inside the buildings were watched and men were stationed on the walks leading from the buildings to get the names of those who left the campus during the devotional or assembly period (Karl A. Miller, Student). According to a Y News article in 1921, it was left up to the studentbody president to select someone each year to maintain order among the students. Mr. Joseph Jarvis was chosen studentbody policeman by studentbody president A. Ray Olpin. The policeman had authority to arrest any persons who did not abide the law. If disturbances occurred at games and other activities, he had the right to act for the city as well as the school (Joseph Jarvis, The Y News, October 17, 1921, p. 8).
A master plan of the Lower Campus has not been found, nor has any reference been made to one in sources of information that have been studied. It is safe to say that the architect for the Academy Building, Joseph Don Carlos Young, located this building on the one block tract of land on Fifth North and Academy Avenue with little or no concern for future buildings. Why the Training Building is placed diagonally on the block is not known.

The following statement from the History of Brigham Young University by J. M. Jensen, BYU Archives, page 108 illustrates the rather haphazard method of locating buildings at that time.

The site selected for the building [Missionary Preparatory] was the southeast corner of the campus block. A building here would balance the Training-school building on the north. But when it was learned that the Alumni Association contemplated erecting a Karl G. Maeser Memorial Building, the Missionary and Preparatory Building was shifted to a new site north of the High School Building and the more desirable southeast corner site was reserved for the Maeser Memorial. Before the Alumni could take action, however, Temple hill had been acquired by the school, providing a new and superior site for the Karl G. Maeser memorial. It was too late [1904] to put the Missionary and Preparatory building on the southeast corner site as work had already begun on the site north of the High School.

There is evidence of concern about crowding this campus in an article in the *White and Blue* in 1904.

During the latter part of the last semester ground was dedicated for the erection of another building on the University block. The site selected was just west of the Training School building, and although there was no objection at that time, since then there has been a gradually growing sentiment against the location. This sentiment was finally expressed in the form of a petition to the school authorities requesting that if another building must be placed on this block it be placed south of the College building, corresponding in situation to the Training School building on the north. The question of location for the proposed building made prominent the fact that an addition in ground is essential before other additions in buildings can be considered (*White and Blue*, Vol. 7, Feb. 19, 1904, #14, P. 151, BYU Archives).

“Temple Hill” northeast of Provo was being considered as a future campus for the Brigham Young Academy before this time. About ten acres of land near the Fletcher Engineering Building was once a dense grove of trees, referred to by the residents of Provo as Raymond Park. This park was named after Raymond Knight, the son of Jesse Knight, who once owned much of the land on Temple Hill. Over a hundred trees of wide variety were growing in this area in about 1900. The
Lower Campus, 1902

Education Building on the right, College Building in the rear and the Training Building on the left. Construction of the Arts Building was to commence in 1903. Inside restrooms were completed and the outside facilities removed.
people of Provo used this area for picnicking and bonfire parties (Robert Allen, Grandson of Jesse Knight, personal interview by Karl A. Miller).

A concerted effort by the student body to raise money for the purchase of this land from Provo City was successful. It is reported in the White and Blue that:

Monday night, February 7, 1904, the city council of Provo voted unanimously to sell to the Brigham Young University its property on Temple hill. The consideration is $125 per acre, which, considering the location is a reasonable figure. The deed carries with it the provision that the University must erect buildings on the ground. The White and Blue, as the Student body organ, extends thanks to the council and to the citizens of Provo for the manifest interest in, and material recognition of the school (White and Blue, Vol. 7, Feb. 19, 1904, #14, p.156, BYU Archives).

Another announcement in the White and Blue at this time confirms their success, “March 8, 1904, $664.55 was collected for purchase of land on Upper Campus” (White and Blue, Vol. 7, no. 17, March 11, 1904, p. 17, BYU Archives).

A site about where the Joseph Smith Building now stands was chosen to construct a track for field events. Men with teams of horses and scrapers donated their time to level this land and develop a suitable track with banked curves (White and Blue, Vol. 7, March 18, 1904, p. 18, BYU Archives). E.D. Partridge did the survey for this banked track project (Ruth Louise Partridge, daughter of E.D. Partridge, interview by Karl A. Miller, 1973). After the teams of horses with scrapers leveled the land, several hundred students turned out with rakes and shovels for the final grading.

Lumber was purchased and a grandstand with bleachers was constructed on the south side of the track on the brow of the hill. The high school class of 1909 painted the letters “BYU” on the roof. The grandstand with bleachers was used until April 15, 1932, when it was completely destroyed by fire (Banyan, 1909, pictures on p. 39, Archives).

After the first purchase of land on Temple Hill, President Brimhall worked aggressively to enlarge the campus. In a letter to William Probert dates January 11, 1907, he expresses some of his feelings and tells of some of his successes.

Now I will tell you a family secret. I have purchased for the University three hundred and eighty acres on the face of the big mountain east of us extending clear to the top. [See Block Y, page 42] We own the point of the hill [Temple Hill], eighteen acres. We own a part east of the point of the hill, seven acres. I have cherished the policy and explained it to a very few of securing for the University a strip of ground not less than one fourth mile wide from the point of the hill overlooking Provo bottoms, clear to the top of the mountain for a campus. This would give to the Brigham Young University the greatest campus in the world. Now I have no
plea to make for myself, but I have for the school. I never asked a man for anything in my life as a charity or a gift, but I have asked for the benefit of the school. Brother Knight [Jesse] has given to us in all something like fifty thousand dollars. We have grown on the generosity of our friends. I feel impressed to write you this morning concerning that land. All I can do, Brother Probert, under the circumstances after what you have already done for the sale of that property, and I promise you one thing, that it shall never be used, while the institution is under entitled to something more than congratulations; you are entitled to a profit. You see I am perfectly frank in this matter. I leave it entirely to you.

Kindly let me know at your earliest convenience the best you can do for us, and rest assured that whatever is done will be appreciated, not only by this, but the coming generations” (Copy of letter written to William Probert, Tabor, Alberta, Canada, from George J. Brimhall, President of BYU, 1907, BYU Archives).

In 1908 at the time the “Upper Campus” was dedicated, N.L. Nelson member of the faculty and former student of BYA, wrote the following:

The fact that the temples at Logan and Manti are built on elevations prominent enough to be seen from any point in each of the respective valleys in which they are located, and the commanding appearance of these white structures in consequence of such elevation, no doubt led the people of Provo instinctively to call the eminence northeast of their own city, Temple Hill.

The name, moreover, carried with it the suggestion that there, too, a sacred building would some day loom high against the brown background of the Wasatch mountains, and flash its pure white contour southward over the splendid cities of Utah valley.

In this wish they are not, as it now appears, to be disappointed; but instead of a temple dedicated to the salvation of those who have been on earth, it is a temple of learning, in other words, a temple dedicated to those who are yet to come; a temple for spirit immigrants, not a temple for spirit emigrants.

It is here that the first administration building of the Brigham Young University proper is to be erected; and the work is to be finished in time for the opening of school next fall. It is to be named, the Karl G. Maeser Memorial Hall. The plans for this fine building and also the problem of raising the eight thousand dollars necessary for its completion are in the hands of the Alumni Association; and the committee in charge gives assurance that the funds will be on hand as needed, and that the building will be completed on time.

It promises to be a magnificent structure, and a more beautiful site for it could hardly be chosen in the entire state. Temple Hill is the culminating westward bluff of the Wasatch mountains. It was once the pebbly
shore of lake Bonneville, at the time it receded to its second level. Provo river, during later ages, scooped away a wide canyon valley on its west flank and deposited the smooth alluvial fan around its southern point. On this plain, which slopes gently toward the south and west, lies Provo. The site is almost an ideal one for a city of residences.

Nor could anything be more charming than the landscape surrounding this prominent hill. On the east and north the Wasatch rises with a ruggedness unrivaled even by the Alps. On the west, the wide canyon of Provo river, tessellated with field, meadow, orchard and farmhouse, gives delight to the eye in a long stretch of scenery from the mountains to the lake. The city with its long lines of poplar trees intersecting the hundreds of squares are variegated with lawns and gardens surrounding neat brick homes, is a never-ending problem of interest to the sight-seer. Utah lake farther west, and the group of towns in the south end of the valley, give still greater variety and picturesqueness to the scene.

Temple Hill has also a local history that is not uninteresting. On the extreme southwestern point are to be seen half-a-dozen small mounds, the graves of pioneers. Why the site was abandoned as a cemetery, does not immediately appear, unless the fact that the soil is a bed of gravel, be the explanation.

For twenty-five years after Provo was first settled, this elevation, together with the rolling hills beyond it, was an unclaimed sage brush common, along whose dusty trails the small boy drove his cows to and from the mountain benches. Then came a time when the land was taken up and farmed in patches. Today it is watered by two important canals and forms part of the finest fruit belt in the valley.

The city having acquired ownership of Temple hill proper, a tract of about twenty acres, - - let it lie still two decades longer in all its virgin wilderness. Then came the thought of what a magnificent public park it would make; accordingly a double row of trees was planted so as to form an elliptical drive, skirting the brow of the hill on the west and south and touching the neighboring fields and orchards on the east and north. But the movement was evidently premature. To put the ground in really fine shape for a park, would have meant the outlay of several thousand dollars. Public sentiment did not support the movement. For several years the appropriation served barely to keep the trees alive.

Next came a movement, started by the studentbody, for a University campus. Committees were appointed to solicit the necessary funds with which to purchase the site. Public spirit in Provo favored the sale of the land to the students at a nominal figure; part of the agreement being that sometime in the future, University buildings should be erected there.
Thus the title passed from the city to the Brigham Young University, the purchase-price being one thousand dollars - - a sum that represented hundreds of small contributions.

But before the hill could be used for athletic purposes another thousand dollars had to be expended in leveling and grading. Time and time again, the entire male portion of the school has turned out with picks and shovels, the young ladies following after with smiles of encouragement and - - lunch baskets. Each contingent of students for the last five or six years, has contributed something; until today, the institution has a splendid athletic field, walled in ten feet high, with grandstand and bleachers to accommodate nearly a thousand people, - - all paid for through the initiative of the studentbody.

A surprise, however, and one of rather dampening quality awaited this enthusiastic body of young people. The authorities of the school has been aware for a long time that the very western point of the hill, comprising about two acres, was owned by a firm of real estate dealers in Salt Lake City; but the students as a whole were blissfully ignorant of the damaging fact. The board had time and again tired to purchase the tract, but failed on account of the prohibitive price at which it was held. Finally Mr. Jesse Knight had an opportunity to buy it at $1,000 and closed the bargain.

No doubt the school might have come into possession of the land, simply by waiting, such is the well-known generosity of this good patron of the school. But President Brimhall, seeing an excellent opportunity of inculcating a lesson in altruism, proceeded to lay the situation before the faculty and studentbody. The result was an enthusiastic dollar-contribution movement to purchase this addition, just as the other and larger tract had been purchased. A few days before the holiday vacation a collection was taken, which amounted to $1,208, and so the front key to this splendid university site was given as a Christmas present to the institution.

The dedicatory services took place last Thursday morning, January 16th, 1908, the birthday of Dr. Karl G. Maeser. President Joseph F. Smith offered the prayer of dedication. The half-tone in the center of this issue may give some idea of the 1,600 students and teachers who participated in the services, but it cannot convey the enthusiasm and exultation with which the Y-point - - which will be the official name of the addition - - was made part of the site for the University in Zion, and the whole of Temple Hill dedicated to this great end.

An adjoining tract of land on the northeast, which has been laid out in artistic fashion as a public park, was donated to the institution by one of the wards of Provo City.
Replica of 1909 Ware and Treganza campus plan reproduced from memory by Fred L. Markham and Kiefer B. Sauls in 1973.

The building site opposite the Maeser Memorial would be about where the Eyring Science Center stands. Kiefer B. Sauls remembers this to be the proposed temple site. Fred L. Markham recalls the outline of a proposed building at that location, but does not recall that the name “temple” was on the plan.
The trees have been growing for ten years or more, thus furnishing that element of a park which only time can add. As soon as the drives and walks shall be properly graded, and the sod seeded into lawns, the institution will have grounds that will go far toward placing it in the rank of great schools elsewhere, so far as campus in concerned.

In the meantime, all its friends are rejoicing that so decisive a step is being taken as the Maeser Memorial Hall promises to be. It will probably be erected on the western half of the hill, the most prominent point, and will not, therefore, interfere with the present occupancy of the students’ campus (White and Blue, “Dedication of Temple Hill,” N.L. Nelson, Vol. 11, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1907, pp. 120-122. BYU Archives).

This interesting description of “Temple Hill” by N.L. Nelson was written in 1908. By this time several pieces of land had been purchased and a track and grandstand has been constructed on what was to become the “Upper Campus” and later the “Main Campus” of the Brigham Young University.

A master plan of the Upper Campus was prepared about the year 1909 by the architectural firm of Ware and Treganza of Salt Lake City, Utah. They were preparing plans at that time for the construction of the Maeser Memorial. This plan has been lost for a number of years. However, Kiefer Sauls and Fred L. Markham have reconstructed what they recall were the main features of that plan. (See page 52.) Brother Sauls has worked very closely with several presidents of the University as secretary and treasurer since 1921. Brother Markham first saw the plan when he was commissioned to prepare drawings for the Joseph Smith Building in 1939 (Interview with Kiefer Sauls and Fred Markham by Ephraim Hatch, November 1, 1973, Provo, Utah).

The Maeser Memorial was located in accordance with this first campus plan. Years later the Mechanic Arts Building was constructed on a site that did not comply with the plan, possibly because the University did not own sufficient land in that location. Later in 1925, the Heber J. Grant Library was constructed somewhat in compliance with the Ware and Treganza plan.

There was no additional construction in the area of the Ware and Treganza plan for the remainder of President Brimhall’s term (1921) when President Franklin S. Harris took over.
Dedication process to Upper Campus - 1908

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The 1600 students and teachers at dedicatory service on southwest point of Upper Campus (Temple Hill) - 1908
The block Y on the mountain was constructed in 1906 on 280 acres of land purchased for the project. Professor Ernest D. Partridge designed and supervised the laying out of this 322 x 120 foot letter, assisted by Students: Elmer Jacob, Clarence Jacob, and Harvey Fletcher (BYU 1000 Views of 100 Years, p. 71)
For fifty years, a beautiful white stone gateway stood at the southwest entrance of the lower campus on 500 North University Avenue. This project was the gift of the high school graduating class of 1912. An architect, J. E. Allen, prepared the drawings for this project which was built of oolitic limestone from a quarry in Sanpete County. This stone was a gift of Peter C. Peterson Jr., father of C. R. (Neal) Peterson, BYU Purchasing Agent (C. R. (Neal) Peterson, BYU Purchasing Agent, personal interview by Karl A. Miller). This stone is the same that was used in the Maeser Building and in the Manti Temple (Wayne B. Hales and Vasco Tanner, Professors at Brigham Young University. Personal interview by Karl A. Miller). Located in a very busy area as it was, it suffered from vandalism and from the elements. In 1962, it was necessary to remove what was remaining of this gateway and landscape the area (Construction Record, Physical Plant Planning Office, BYU).

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Manavu Townsite - 1912

In 1912 the Alumni Association launched into a fund raising project for the University. It consisted of a land development enterprise of major proportions. All of the land from about where the J. Reuben Clark Library stands north and west to Helaman Halls was divided into building lots 54.5 feet wide by 128 feet deep (Manavu Townsite plat, page 48, and a photograph, page 47). It was intended to sell these lots to friends and patrons of the University for $225 to $275. This suburb of Provo, the “Garden City,” was named “Manavu,” a name derived from the Hebrew words “ma” and “navu” meaning “how beautiful” (Manavu Bulletin, Published by BYU Alumni Association, BYU Archives, UA54, pp. 5 and 6).

As mentioned above, the Alumni Association purchased the land to resell at a profit to the Brigham Young University. The Manavu Townsite was some distance from the center of Provo at that time and the lots did not sell fast enough to meet the
taxes and make a profit. After working at it for a couple of years, it was decided to abandon the project. In 1914 the University bought 10 ½ acres of unsold land and then proceeded to acquire those lots which had been sold to individuals (*White and Blue*, Vol. 17, p. 257 and Faculty Minutes February 2, 1914, p. 35. BYU Archives).

From 1918 to 1923 the University rented 17 acres of this property with a house and a barn to Otis L. Terry for $10 per acre, per year. The house and barn were located on the brow of the hill just west of the Smith Family Living Center (Interview with Andrew S. Terry, son of Otis L. Terry by Karl Miller, October 1973).
The following statement appeared in the *White and Blue* April 22, 1913, page 341, “A fountain placed west of the High School Building would add materially to the appearance of the grounds. Who or what class would volunteer to build the fountain?” Five days later the *White and Blue* announced that the class of 1913 would build the fountain and that Andrew Brimhall, a class member, would design it around a Book of Mormon theme (*White and Blue*, April 29, 1913, page 355, BYU Archives).

The fountain was not without problems, especially water problems. It was not turned on very often as a result of these problems, according to Karl A. Miller, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

**Campus 1900 - 1921**

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President Brimhall recommended construction of a greenhouse to be erected south of the College Building. The cost of this structure was to be $500 (J. M. Jensen, *History of Brigham Young University*, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives). The Consolidated Wagon and Machinery Company had previously donated several
thousand dollars worth of harvesting and soil working machinery for student use (White and Blue, Vol. 15, Provo, Utah: BYU Student-body publication, 1912, p. 329. BYU Archives). No doubt this may have been a factor in recommending the construction of a greenhouse for agriculture students. This was one of the largest departments in the school. The approval for this project came on August 29, 1912. Construction was not complete until the following year, 1913 (J. M. Jensen, History of Brigham Young University, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives).

The building was a small structure. It consisted of a covered glass section and a 12’ by 18’ head house. The glass covered area was about 18 feet by 25 feet with louvers in the top for ventilation. Below the glass was a concrete plastered foundation. Coal was used for firing the boiler at first and later this was changed to gas. Experiments were carried out at the greenhouse by all departments and it was in constant use by someone. C. Y. Cannon from the Animal Husbandry Departments carried on some white rat experiments in the head house, but something happened to the gas-fired unit, which put an end to the rat experiment (Karl A. Miller, student of C. Y. Cannon).

A pair of cougar kittens arrived on the campus which were to be the cougar mascots. A small pen was made in the southeast corner of the greenhouse for the kittens. They remained there for some time until their living quarters became too small. It was an excellent place for them while only kittens because it was centrally located on the campus where everyone could easily see through the glass (Karl A. Miller, Assistant Superintendent Buildings and Grounds).

The greenhouse building was used as a model for students taking drafting to measure and draw in prospective. It was small and could be easily measured (Karl A. Miller, student). This building was removed in 1955 (Karl A. Miller, Assistant Superintendent Buildings and Grounds).

**Clay Tennis Court - Lower Campus - 1911**

In 1911, a recently organized tennis club constructed a clay tennis court south of the College Building and west of the Greenhouse on the lower campus. This court endured for many years (White and Blue, May 30, 1911).

**Clay Tennis Courts near Brimhall Building - 1914**

The sport of tennis became more and more popular. Prominent names at this time were Lester Taylor and Charles Schwencke. By 1914, it was decided to build three clay tennis courts on the upper campus. A location was chosen northeast of the Maeser Building and west of the athletic field and track (White and Blue, April 24, 1914, pp. 420 and 445). These courts were surrounded by chicken wire fencing (White and Blue, Vol. 21, p. 30). In 1918, when construction began on the Mechanic Arts (Brimhall) Building, it was necessary to relocate this facility closer to the Maeser Building.
The Y Bell - 1875

The name Y Bell does not refer to just one bell. Actually there have been three instruments that have gone by this name. The first Y Bell hung in the Lewis Building on Third West and Center Street. Little is known of this bell other than it went down in the fire of 1884 and for some reason was never retrieved (Faculty Minutes #4, Nov. 1883 – June 1885, pp. 56-57. BYU Archives). For several years the school operated without a bell until James E. Talmage installed battery operated electric class bells in the Z.C.M.I. Warehouse (Faculty Minutes #5, Aug. 1885 – Dec. 1891, pp. 118, 126. BYU Archives). The Academy Building (1892) did not have a bell for the first 20 years. During this time, class changes were announced by ringing a steel triangle in the hall (Faculty Minutes, Sept. 10, 1895). In 1912 a 36-inch diameter cast iron bell was purchased from the American Bell Foundry Company of Northville, Michigan (A Tale of Two Tabernacles, N. L. Christensen, 1968, BYU Archives). It had a dull sound rather than the characteristic ring of a bell.

When it was decided in 1918 to raze the Old Tabernacle, or Provo Meetinghouse as it was called, the bell that hung in its steeple was moved to the tower of the High School Building. This nickel bell was cast by the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1887 (The Old Y Bell, Ray McQuire in the “Voice of the Campus,” Dec. 1934, attached to the Y News of Dec. 12, 1934). The old cast iron bell was given to the Boy Scouts of America and mounted outdoors at Camp Maple Dell in Payson Canyon (Karl A. Miller).

The McShane nickel bell, in use to this day (1973), has a beautiful tone and a very eventful history. When it was first installed in the High School Building it was rung by a long rope which hung from the belfry down through the rooms to the second floor in the hall. Students were assigned to ring the bell for class changes. This duty fell on Lester B. Whetten and Karl Miller for a time, making it necessary for them to leave class early. The rope was replaced by an electrical ringing device designed and constructed by J. W. Sauls who was in charge of the Upper Campus Buildings and Grounds (Karl A. Miller, student).

The bell was always rung after athletic victories and other special occasions. It was on such an occasion as this that the bell was cracked. After a hard-earned basketball victory over the University of Utah in 1949, a group of overly enthusiastic students climbed the stairs to the belfry and pounded the bell with heavy hammers. They did not keep time with the natural rhythm and an unusual stress was developed within the bell. This resulted in a crack up one side very similar to the Liberty Bell of national fame. The bell was removed and the crack was repaired under the supervision of Karl A. Miller and Richard L. Bradshaw who secured the services of John Champaux, traveling instructor from the Oxyweld Company, and Frank
Hemingway, an expert welder from the Union Pacific Railroad shops who did the actual welding. At this time it was mounted on a trailer and moved to each sports event in hope that it could be rung after the game to announce a victory (Karl A. Miller).

The bell and trailer were stolen in the spring of 1958 and discovered six months later in a field west of Springville. After this the studentbody took action, and it was permanently suspended in a steel tower located on the west side of the campus near the edge of the hill. The Y Bell Tower was dedicated during the Homecoming Assembly of 1959.

This installation served well until February 4, 1973, when the bell came tumbling down as it was being rung after the dedication of the Marriott Center (The Daily Universe, February 6, 1973). The yoke which supported the bell was broken and the bell itself was cracked extensively. In fact, the top was completely broken out and a piece of the bell metal was missing when it was all gathered up and delivered to the Physical Plant shops. Another welding job was not thought possible because the damage was so severe, but an attempt was made. Ray Mortensen, a welder, Elmo Croft, a machinist, and Evan Miner, a student assistant, under the supervision of J. Petty Jones, Foreman, accomplished this difficult task. After a carefully controlled cooling-off period, the bell was again mounted in the tower. Its beautiful ringing tone is again heard after victorious athletic events. It carries a few scars and bruises, but its tone is as good as ever.
Buildings

Training Building - Lower Campus - 1902

Up to this time (1899) no gymnasium was available to the students of the Brigham Young Academy. Gym classes were held in the southeast room of the basement floor of the High School (Education) Building with no dressing rooms or showers available (Charles J. Hart, *History of Physical Education and Athletics at BYU*, 1892, BYU Archives). The need for a new gymnasium was expressed by a student, Eugene L. Roberts, who gave the reasons in a column of the White and Blue as being health-giving exercise to make study more efficient (J. M. Jensen, *History of Brigham Young University*, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, p. 106. BYU Archives).

Not long after this statement was printed, Acting President George H. Brimhall in May 1901 called attention to the necessity of reinstating the Church Normal Training School and suggested that a building be built for that purpose with the upper floor being used as a gymnasium (*Minutes of the Board*, May 14, 1901. BYU Archives).

The Board of Trustees promptly authorized the building of this new structure when a generous offer by Jesse Knight was made (J.M. Jensen, *History of Brigham Young University*, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, p. 106. BYU Archives). Contributions followed. Jesse Knight donated $15,000; David Evans, $5,000; Thomas Kearns, $1,000; David Keith, $1,000; together with many other friends and students (*General Journal*, 355-B54, BYU Archives). In the biography of Jesse Knight by his son, J. William Knight, the story is told how his father, “Uncle Jesse,” sold a “50-50 sure thing” to his friend David Evans. The proposition was to contribute $5,000 to the Training Building. The disappointed Mr. Evans, sizing up the situation, decided to “call his bluff” and wrote a check for $5,000 to match the $5,000 contribution of Jesse Knight. Later on, Mr. Evans admitted that it was the best deal he had ever made (J. William Knight, *The Jesse Knight Family*, Provo, Utah: Deseret News Press, 1940, p. 89. BYU Archives). The students contributed over $1,000 toward the erection of the gym (*Faculty Minutes #7*, Aug. 1898-June 1902, p. 159. BYU Archives).

The Training School and Gymnasium Building was built with three floors; the lower two included classrooms and offices, and the upper floor was a long anticipated gymnasium (*White and Blue*, Vol. 4, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1901, p. 252. BYU Archives). The steel girders for the roof had been shipped in from the east (*White and Blue*, Vol. 5, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1901, p. 12. BYU Archives). These were to be used to span the floor eliminating center supports leaving the entire floor open for the gymnasium.

It was hoped to be completed in the fall of 1901 (*White and Blue*, Vol. 5, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1900 - 1921
1901, p. 12. BYU Archives) but was not ready until early in 1902. Dedication exercises were conducted for this $35,000 building on February 17, 1902 (Catalog 1901-02, p. 16, BYU Archives). This building of 25,672 gross square feet (Space Utilization Office, Inventory of Buildings, BYU Physical Plant) cost $1.36 per square foot.

The opening event in the new gymnasium was not a ball game, but a Grand Ball on February 7, 1902. Among those present were President Joseph F. Smith and Apostle Reed Smoot (White and Blue, Vol. 6, No. 15, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1903, p. 7. BYU Archives).

It is interesting to note that early pictures of the new gymnasium did not show basketball backboards. There were markings on the floor indicating basketball boundary lines, however. The south wall was covered with racks to hold gymnastic equipment (Pictures 1905-06, Training Building File, BYU Archives). In the files of E.L. Roberts, it is noted that the floor was marked and the baskets were put in place by E.L. Roberts under the direction of John C. Swenson, director of Physical Education. Apparently this was only a temporary procedure for each game. Gymnastics and dancing seemed to be the main reason why so much interest and emphasis was manifest in building a structure of this kind. An orchestra balcony was built in the north end for the purpose of supplying music for dancing. The balcony was located above the gym floor to avoid interference with gymnasium class work (Files of E.L. Roberts, Box 9 UA 561, BYU Archives). The building was eventually sold in 1976.
Arts Building - Lower Campus - 1904

Arts Building (Missionary Preparatory) - 1904
Note viaduct connecting third floor with Education Building

Buildings 1900 - 1921
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The Arts Building was first called the Missionary and Preparatory Building (J. M. Jensen, *History of Brigham Young University*, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives). The need to teach young missionaries resulted in a building by that name. The students in the Preparatory School were those who had been deprived the opportunity of attending school, who were somewhat advanced in age and yet were below high school grade. Before occupying this new building, the Preparatory School had been in the High School Building (formerly Academy, presently Education) and the second floor of the Training School Building. According to the *White and Blue*, the enrollment in the Preparatory School became so large that a new building became necessary (*White and Blue*, Vol. 6, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1903, p. 234. BYU Archives).

A building site was selected at the northwest corner of the campus block on University Avenue and Fifth North (J. M. Jensen, *History of Brigham Young University*, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives). The building was planned to be three-story structure and was estimated to cost about $18,000 (*White and Blue*, Vol. 6, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1903, p. 62. BYU Archives). It was almost square and constructed from light-colored brick. Four large classrooms and an office made up the first floor. Restrooms were located on each side of the large hall. The second floor had two classrooms and one office on the east side, a large hall used for devotionals and lectures on the west. It had a capacity of 300 people (*White and Blue*, Vol. 7, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1903, p. 5. BYU Archives). The top floor had four rooms and an office. The south rooms were used for sewing, the others being used for cooking.

It was the responsibility of the surrounding L.D.S. Church stakes to finance the construction of the first two floors. Nine thousand dollars was donated by these stakes. Utah Stake donated about $5,000 – Nebo, Alpine, and Wasatch over $4,000. There were also contributions by others (General Journal, 355-B54, BYU Archives).

The Alumni Association did not wish to contribute to the Missionary Building because they already had in mind the creation of the Maeser Memorial Building (J.M. Jensen, *History of Brigham Young University*, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives). However, according to the Minutes of the Faculty and an entry in the *White and Blue*, $9,000 was donated to the Arts Building from the Maeser Memorial Fund by the Alumni Association (*Faculty Minutes #8, Aug. 1902- May 1906, P.60. BYU Archives*).

A well-known opera singer, Miss Emma Lucy Gates, a native of Utah and a granddaughter of Brigham Young, contributed $909.70 to the building (*General Journal*, 355-B54, BYU Archives). This was the proceeds of her concert and was to be used for the benefit of the Domestic Science Department, because as much as she loved music, she loved home.
more and was glad to help where home duties were concerned. This donation made it possible to finish and equip the third floor for the Home Economics Department. This third floor was to be used for domestic science instruction and artwork and was to be named in honor of Lucy B. Young, Miss Gates’ grandmother (White and Blue, Vol. 5, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1901, p. 87, BYU Archives).

Plans were prepared by Richard Watkins, an architect. Bids for the foundation were asked for with the stipulation and desire that the foundations were to be completed before freezing weather. The remainder of the building or superstructure was to begin in the spring of 1903 (White and Blue, Vol. 7, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1903, p. 4, BYU Archives). Construction began on the Missionary and Preparatory Building in the spring of 1903 and was completed in 1904. It was dedicated October 26, 1904, by President Joseph F. Smith (J.M. Jensen, History of Brigham Young University, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives).

When the Missionary and Preparatory Departments were discontinued, the building became known as the Arts Building and it was again dedicated January 16, 1908, by Apostle John Henry Smith (Faculty Minutes #9, Sept 1906- Dec. 1908, p. 63. BYU Archives). Prior to this change and before full occupancy of the Art Department could be made, the department had expanded into the Probert Building across the street west of the University Block and was to be temporarily known as the Manual Arts Building (White and Blue, Vol. 11, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1907, p. 43. BYU Archives).

Additions and changes have been made to the Arts Building over the years. In 1912 a bridge was constructed connecting the third floor of the Arts Building with the third floor of the High School Building, costing approximately $600. The money was raised by selling land on Provo Bench which had been given to the University by Jesse Knight (J.M. Jensen, History of Brigham Young University, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives). A small two-story addition was made on the east side of the building. The bottom provided a custodial area and access to the boiler room. The top was used for sewing classes.

In 1973, the Arts Building has 13,631 gross square feet. It is used for general classroom and laboratory functions (Inventory of Buildings, Space Utilization Office, BYU Physical Plant). The building was eventually sold in 1976.
Blacksmith Shop - 1905

It was April 16, 1904, that Stephen L. Chipman, a member of the Board of Trustees, suggested that a course in iron works be given (Unpublished History of BYU, Archives, 378- B76-E, pp. 59, 110, 175). A building was designed by E. D. Partridge, engineer at BYU (History of Industrial Arts 1883-1941 by William H. Snell, pp. 9 and 22). It was a two-story, rectangular brick building and was located at 50 East and 5th North, across the street south of the University block. The office was located in the northwest corner. Restrooms were in the northeast corner. A small hall opened into the large blacksmith room with ten forges located in the center of the building, an exhaust fan was used to pull the smoke and fumes away. The forges were later placed around the outside of the room (Picture in Catalogue, 1901-02, 1905-06, Archives). At the back of the room was a stairway to the floor above (Karl A. Miller, Buildings and Grounds, and a student of Hans Anderson). Jesse Knight provided the funds for the building. President Brimhall reported on January 21, 1905, that nine men had each donated a forge for the new shop (Unpublished History of BYU, Archives, 378-B76-E, pp. 59, 110, 175). With the exception of one year, from 1904 until 1921, when blacksmithing was discontinued, Hans Anderson, an immigrant from Denmark and a master of the trade, was the able instructor (History of Industrial Arts 1883-1941 by William H. Snell, pp. 9 and 22).

The Blacksmith Building has undergone several changes. In 1918 because of the war and prior to completion of the Mechanical Arts Building on Temple Hill, frame additions were made on the south and on the east of this brick building. With the aid of student help, William H. Snell, instructor in Industrial Arts, constructed these temporary shop additions at a cost of approximately $3,000 (White and Blue, Vol. 22 p. 10). Fifty-four years later, 1972, this “temporary” building still stands.

The south wing doubled the available forges and provided extra room for machinery and shop work. Access to this shop was a driveway west of the brick building. The frame addition on the east was an automotive shop to be used until completion of the Mechanical Arts Building on Temple Hill. A. E. Anderson, owner and manager of Anderson’s Garage, was the instructor (History of Industrial Arts 1883-1941, pp. 9 and 22).

The shops were moved to their new quarters on Temple Hill and the Provo Book Bindery with William H. Hiller as proprietor took over the lower part of the brick building. The east side of the building was used for one thing or another, usually storage. Alpine Summer School equipment was stored there. Later it became a classroom, then ceramics took over a large part of it. T. Earl Pardoe used the southwest part for storage of scenery of the Speech Department (Karl A. Miller, Buildings and Grounds).
After the war in 1947 a great demand was made upon the University due to the increased enrollment of veterans. It was because of the benefits of the “G. I. Bill of Rights” and the importance and realization by the veterans of science in their studies (Karl A. Miller, Buildings and Grounds), the Blacksmith Shop Building was again renovated. It was after the Provo Book Bindery moved out. The concrete was broken up and sewer, water and gas lines were installed to all the benches (Karl A. Miller, Building and Grounds). Qualitative analysis chemistry classes were conducted in the winter of 1947. J. Rex Goates and Joseph K. Nichols were the instructors. The restroom was used by Rex Goates as an experimental lab. This classwork continued for three years until the Eyring Science Building was made available the fall of 1950 (Dr. J. Rex Goates, Chemistry, BYU).

Industrial Arts for high school students had been discontinued because of the conflict in schedule and because of the distance from the Lower Campus to the Mechanic Arts Building on the hill. In 1955 the Blacksmith Building was again changed. The chemistry tables were taken out and provisions were made for a woodwork and industrial arts shop for high school students organized under the direction of William E. McKell. Two years later in 1957, he was replaced by Ross Hilton (History of Industrial Arts 1883- 1941 by William H. Snell, pp. 9 and 22). Additions were made and the shop expanded into the south “temporary” structure. After 92 years of continued service it was announced December 7, 1967 (Courtney Leishman, B.Y.High Basketball Coach), by President Wilkinson that the B.Y. High or Laboratory School would close at the conclusion of the 1968 school year and would be completely taken out of the University curriculum (Daily Universe, December 11, 1967, p. 10). In 1972, alterations were again made to accommodate the Plastics Laboratory of the Industrial Technology Department.
Maeser Memorial Building - 1911
Maeser Memorial Building - 1911

Within a year after the death of Dr. Karl G. Maeser, 1901, the students and alumni of the Brigham Young Academy expressed a desire to build something to the memory of this great teacher (The Banyan, 1911, pp. 211-214. BYU Studentbody publication, BYU Archives). It was originally intended to construct a memorial building on the southeast corner of the Lower Campus. A building at this location would balance the Training School Building on the north, it was thought. Before these plans were finalized, a tract of land located on “Temple Hill,” which is now called Upper Campus, was purchased from Provo City. This was a superior site for a memorial to Karl G. Maeser and the Lower Campus proposal was abandoned (J.M. Jensen, History of Brigham Young University, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 107-109. BYU Archives).

The site for this building had formerly served as a graveyard for the first settlement in Provo in 1849. Families of the deceased were asked to move their ancestors to a new cemetery on road to Springville. Many graves still remain on this hill, however because some preferred to leave their dead undisturbed (Emma McDowell Jadobsen, Early Provo Cemeteries, BYU Archives, MSS, 520).

The Alumni Association submitted proposals prepared by several different architectural firms to the Board of Directors. The proposal prepared by Ware and Treganza of Salt Lake City was accepted at the Director’s meeting December 9, 1909, and the building was ready for classes in the fall of 1911 (White and Blue, Vol. 13, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, 1909-10, pp. 27-28. BYU Archives).

This building of 19,335 gross square feet (Inventory of Building, Space Utilization Office, BYU Physical Plant) consisted of offices and classrooms. It served as the Administration Building from 1911 to 1961 (Construction Records, Physical Plant Department, BYU) A small auditorium was included which seats 400 people on a main floor and a small balcony. The interior of the building is finished in oak with marble on the main stairways. The exterior walls are constructed of oolitic limestone, the same stone used on the Manti Temple.

Funds for the construction of this $130,000 building (Construction Records, Physical Plant Department, BYU) were raised through the contributions of some 1,600 persons in amounts ranging from 25 cents to $25,000. The Church contributed $15,000 for furnishings. Those persons whose contributions were unusually generous include Jesse Knight and Family, Lafayette Holbrook, and Joseph F. Smith (White and Blue, Vol. 14, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody, p. 146. BYU Archives).

Over the years, numerous remodelings and alterations have been made to the interior. It has all been done, however, in a temporary manner with the understanding that someday the building would be restored to stand as a lasting memorial to Karl G. Maeser.

The building underwent a major restoration in 1985, during which everything but the original walls was taken out and the interior was rebuilt to conform with modern building codes. The building’s limestone exterior was sandblasted and repaired as well, restoring the building as nearly as possible to its original form.

Buildings 1900 - 1921

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Women’s Gymnasium (Ladies Gymnasium) Lower Campus - 1913

The Training Building, constructed in 1902, provided gymnasium space for activities of limited size. A large room on the third floor of the High School building also served in a limited way as a dance hall in the early 1900’s. By 1929 both the large room in the High School Building and the gymnasium in the Training Building were too small for many of the recreational activities being conducted. It was very often necessary to use a privately owned hall, called Mozart Hall, located on First West and First South in Provo for dances and other large social functions (Banyan, 1913, p.56. BYU Studentbody publication, BYU Archives).

Buildings 1900 - 1921

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President Brimhall obtained a Church appropriation for the construction of a large gymnasium-dance hall to be located on the northwest corner of Fifth North and University Avenue (BYU Quarterly Catalog, 1935-36, p. 3). Ground breaking took place November 6, 1912. Prayer was offered by Alfred Osmond, and the address of the day was delivered by Alice Louise Reynolds (White and Blue, Vol. 16, Provo, Utah: BYU Studentbody publication, 1912, p. 329. BYU Archives). It was later decided to relocate all ladies physical education activities from the Training Building to this new building, and it was therefore referred to as the Ladies Gymnasium (J.M. Jensen, History of Brigham Young University, Unpublished Manuscript, 1942, pp. 59, 110, and 175. BYU Archives). In the early 30’s, the name was changed to “Women’s Gymnasium.”

Every effort was made in the design of this building to make it good for dancing and gymnasium activities. Approximately 100 large coil springs supported the entire floor. It was a good idea in theory, but did not work out as expected. The movement of the floor sheared off the nails used in construction of the wood floor; and it was necessary to block up the floor, making the coil springs ineffective (Karl A. Miller, Assistant Superintendent Buildings and Grounds, BYU).

Originally, the large room included an oval shaped alcove or stage at the west end. Offices and dressing rooms were located at the east end on a second floor. The showers were always leaking into the rooms below; and a later renovation of the building included excavation at the east end and the construction of dressing and locker rooms in a basement. A later remodeling included the construction of classrooms on the stage at the west end.

During World War II, this building was occupied by the army. Neighbors report that their daily schedules were regulated by the sound of the bugle during these years (Karl A. Miller).

The building was eventually sold in 1976.
Mechanic Arts Building - Upper Campus - 1918

The Mechanic Arts Building had its beginning in 1918 as a one-story brick structure of 12,574 square feet (White and Blue, Vol. 22 pp. 21, 29, 30, Archives) costing $43,000 (Construction Records, Physical Plant Department, BYU). It was built to provide facilities for intensive vocational training in auto mechanics, blacksmithing, and woodwork for the student Army Training Corps during World War I.

A building committee consisting of Joseph B. Keeler, J.R. Murdock and B.T. Higgs was chosen. The architect was Joseph Nelson and the construction superintendent was H. S. Belmont (White and Blue, Vol. 22 pp. 21, 29, 30. Archives).

October 8, 1918, was the date set for ground breaking. School was dismissed for this occasion. The boundaries of the new building were outlined with a plow in the hands of Joseph B. Keeler and pulled by representative students of each class (White and Blue, Vol. 21, p. 30).

Very little remodeling was done until 1935 when two additional floors were added and the name changed to Brimhall Building (Construction Records, Physical Plant Department, BYU).

Note: President’s Home on the left before remodeling, and Ford bug purchased for the Zoology Department on the right.

Buildings 1900 - 1921

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Utilities - 1900 - 1921

When the Academy Building was completed in 1891, it had no “modern” restroom facilities. “Outhouses” constructed of wood were built north of the school. The facilities of the school were in constant need of repair and maintenance, and because of neglect and overuse, had fallen into dilapidation (Board of Education Papers, March 25, 1903). The old outdoor privies were becoming a disgrace to the community and Brimhall was meeting with very little success in getting indoor plumbing. Brimhall wrote to Cluff: “The Board was in good condition to take into consideration the sewage proposition as all three of the Salt Lake members were under the necessity of using our outside conveniences before the meeting” (October 30, 1900). He must have been successful in that meeting because a brick restroom addition was constructed at the north side of the Academy Building in 1901. A one-half mile long sewer line connecting these restrooms with the Provo City sewer system was constructed by students and teachers. Its completion was celebrated May 11, 1901, with a lunch served by lady teachers and students and a free ball in the evening (Faculty Minutes #7. Aug. 1898 – June 1902, pp. 153-159. BYU Archives).

A news item in the White and Blue reveals the status of electricity and the telephone in 1902, “The event of the season next Friday in the Gymnasium, Grand Ball, 1904 class, attractive decorations, electric fans, free use of telephones for the evening, Darton’s Orchestra” (White and Blue, April 5, 1902, Vol. 5, p. 172, BYU Archives). A year later, the announcement was made that lights should be placed in the High School to illuminate the dictionary (White and Blue, January 22, 1903, p. 94, BYU Archives).

The Preparatory (Arts) Building was completed in 1904 with possibly a few electric lights. November 22, 1906, it was decided by the Presidency to install electric lights in the studio and several other rooms (Faculty Minutes, 1906 - 1908, Vol. 9, p. 16. BYU Archives).

Water, sanitary sewer and electricity was extended from Provo City lines up the hill and over to the Maeser Building in 1911. Electricity was metered in the Heating Plant Building located on the hillside southeast of the Maeser Building (Karl A. Miller, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds).
Gas Plant - Lower Campus - 1906

Cooking gas was needed by the Domestic Science Department and the Chemistry Department needed gas in the laboratories. In 1906 B. T. Higgs installed a gas generating plant between the Missionary Preparatory Building and the High School Building to meet this need (BYU Catalogue 1906-07, p. 17). According to Lynn Wakefield, a grandson, this generator was a constant problem to Brother Higgs.

Boiler House - Upper Campus - 1911

A wood structure was built on the hillside below and to the east of the Maeser Building to house a hand-fired boiler in 1911. This boiler was adequate for the Maeser Building, the Mechanical Arts Building, and the Grant Library. In 1935 the Mechanic Arts Building was enlarged by the construction of two additional floors. This increased the demand for heat beyond the capacity of the boiler to the surprise of the architect. A mechanical engineer was consulted and the problem was solved by covering the boiler and piping with asbestos insulation (Buildings and Grounds, Karl A. Miller, Superintendent). Later, the boiler was equipped with a stoker; and still later, it was converted to gas. During the summer of 1934, a new concrete building was constructed around the boiler by William H. Snell (History of Industrial Education Department, 1887-1941, by William H. Snell, BYU Archives). Later in 1946, a central heating plant was completed which surplused the small boiler located south of the Grant Building on the hillside. This 2,000 square foot structure was used for general storage for many years (Space Utilization Office, Inventory of Buildings, BYU). In 1966, it was remodeled into a Nuclear Research Laboratory.

Heating Plant - Lower Campus - 1913

The buildings of the Lower Campus were independently heated, when first constructed. In 1913 B. T. Higgs supervised the construction of a central underground boiler located between the Training Building and the Arts (Missionary Preparatory) Building (White and Blue, October 22, 1913, p. 24. BYU Archives).