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Sherman Gym / Walker Arts and Humanities Building Renovation Records MTU-256

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Materials are in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

copper@mtu.edu

URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Sherman Gym / Walker Arts and Humanities Building renovation records
ID:	MTU-256
Date [inclusive]:	1959-1983
Physical Description:	0.27 cubic feet 4 folders
Language of the Material:	English .
Mixed Materials [sc_box]:	MTU 3
[folder]:	8-11
Abstract:	Records, 1959-1983, documenting the renovation plans for the Sherman Gym / Walker Arts and Humanities Building at Michigan Technological University.

Preferred Citation

MTU-256, Sherman Gym / Walker Arts and Humanities Building Renovation Records, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Historical Note

The Sherman Memorial Gymnasium (aka "Sherman Gym") was built on the Michigan Technological University (at the time, Michigan College of Mining and Technology) campus in 1949 to replace the college's former club house, now being utilized by the ROTC. Designed by Malcomson, Calder, and Hammond of Detroit, the building was constructed out of brick by A.H. Proksch of Iron River and featured distinctive, high windows. Ground breaking began in 1946 and upon completion the new facility was named in honor of the university's former

athletic director, Don Sherman, who had recently and unexpectedly passed away earlier that year from a heart attack.

For its first forty years on campus, the original building served as the campus sports facility and included racquetball courts, a wood gym, and swimming pool. According to newspaper clippings from 1948, the building also included laundry facilities in the basement, dressing rooms for visiting and home teams; as well as private lockers for faculty and coeds. Other highlights included a training room, fastenings for a portable boxing ring, and a special varsity club room complete with easy chairs and couches. Offices for the athletic department and a lecture room were also included in the building's original plans.

By the late 1970s, the Michigan Tech student body had exceeded the capacity of Sherman Gym. In 1980, a new sports complex was established on campus and with the opening of the Student Development Complex (SDC), replacing the Sherman Gym as a sports and training facility. The unoccupied building was remodeled in the 1980s by architects Dow, Howell, Gilmore & Associates and contractor Herman Gundlach, Inc. into what is now the Walker Arts and Humanities Center, which currently houses the College of Sciences and Arts, Department of Humanities, and the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. The building was named in honor of Shaw Walker, a retired chairman and CEO of Shaw-Walker Company and president of the Shaw-Walker Foundation. Despite not having any formal affiliation with Michigan Tech, Walker helped secure funding for the building renovation. The building opened on August 2, 1985 at a public dedication ceremony attended by Governor James Blanchard.

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Scope and Contents

Records, 1959-1983, documenting the renovation plans for the Sherman Gym / Walker Arts and Humanities Building at Michigan Technological University. Contents of the collection include records documenting the project cost for phases I and II, funding, architects and engineering services, notations from the 1959 survey about the building's structure, condition, use, and location; as well as reduced photocopies of architectural drawings of the building as surveyed in 1959. Also included are 92 black and white photographs of the building, including interior views of offices and other spaces, as well as exterior aerial views of the building and surrounding campus area.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

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- Universities and colleges -- History -- Michigan -- Houghton
- Houghton (Mich.)
- Photographs
- Records (Documents)
- Michigan Technological University