University of Michigan

Historic Resources Survey - Building Building # 0731

Current name: Weidenbach Hall, John P.	
Historic (original) name: Athletic Building	
Other names: Athletic Administration Building	Date of construction: 1955
	Date(s) of significant additions/remodelings: 1977 addition; 1993 renovation
	Address or location information: 1000 South State Street, northeast corner of Ferry Field; at the corner of State Street and Hoover Avenue
Architect (original): Giffels & Vallet	
Builder (original): Henry de Koning Construction Co.	Lot & block #: part of NE quarter of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 6 East
Architect (additions, &c.): 1977 – UM-FP&D; 1993 – UM-FP&D	Date of acquisition through purchase or gift (if applicable): N/A
Builder (additions, &c.): 1977 – unknown; 1993 – MSI	National Register or other designation: None
Original building size: 18,679 GSF	Original building cost: $378,263

Architectural Description

architectural style: Modern	orientation and form: L-shape with long end of L running north-south and shorter end running east-west; and a defining corner element for the entrance at northeast corner
# stories: 2 plus basement	materials: light orange brick and glass
chimneys/dormers: none	number of vertical divisions or bays: 3 irregular
window type: large modern units, probably fixed casements	fenestration: ribbon windows on long north-south section; wall of windows on entrance corner
entrance type/porches: flat door in glass front	door placement: stepped back on corner angle; second entrance in connector to Keen Arena
roof type: flat	roof materials: built-up
interior features contributing to character of building: none	foundation: concrete
out-buildings and important features of immediate environment: connection to Keen Arena	
decorative elements, important or visually prominent exterior features: stepped back glass corner entrance	

Narrative architectural description (give as many details as possible, clearly identify additions, note all plaques and markers on and in the building, note all named spaces, describe significant interior spaces, describe and assess special features – interior and exterior)

Survey conducted summer 2006.

Weidenbach Hall is an unadorned modern building expressed in light orange brick and glass. It straddles the northeast corner of Ferry Field, taking the place of the former entrance gates. It is a modified L-shape, with the

long side of the L running north-south along State Street and the short side of the L running east-west along Hoover Avenue. On the west side it is attached to Keen Arena. In the elbow of the L is a diagonally placed section that cuts across the corner. This provides the main face of Athletics' administration to the public. A major renovation of 1993 changed the expression of this corner section so that it is now wall-to-wall glass in a stepped pattern with the main entrance in the glass front. The glass is of a darker bronze color, as is the metal trim. The building is two-stories with a full basement under most of the structure, and a flat roof.

To the west of the entrance the building's brick façade is relieved by ribbon rows of windows at first and second floors. The window units are modern fixed casement units. To the east of the entrance, along State Street, is a section of solid brick wall. Beyond this, continuing south on State Street, the brick façade is accented again by the ribbon rows of windows at both first and second floor levels. The back or west side of the building continues the pattern of ribbon rows of windows set in the brick façade.

The interior of the building reflects a modern office layout and finishes from the 1993 renovation. Offices are located at first, second and basement levels. A section of the original outer wall is now contained within a conference room on the first floor as a result of the remodeled entrance at the northeast corner.

Plaques

There are 24 cast bronze plaques located on the walls along the corridor on the first floor. They acknowledge gifts to endowed scholarships for various athletic sports. They are in one of two formats regularly used by the Athletics Department: some are a larger format featuring a bas relief image of the donor(s), with explanatory text below; and some are in a smaller format with the M logo at top and text below. Arranged from north to south, both sides of the hall, they are:

- large format with bas relief image of a man and a women: LEO A. THOMAS AND LUCILE E. THOMAS CECIL – Leo B.A. 1908 – They enthusiastically supported Michigan for seven decades attending all home football games. Though childless, they created their own family through their enduring interest in Michigan's students. Demonstrating her loyalty to Michigan and Leo, and perpetuating their interest in Michigan football, Lucile established the "Leo A. Thomas Football Scholarship." ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- large format with bas relief of man: MYRON S. STEINBERG – All who knew him believed him to be a most kind, generous, and learned gentleman. Many did not know he never had the opportunity to finish high school. His respect for education, love for the excitement and camaraderie of football, and desire to perpetuate those interests, led him to establish a football scholarship based on athletic and academic achievement. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- small format – LOGANBERRY SCHOLARSHIP – I was taught that life should be challenging and enjoyable. This was true during my years in Ann Arbor where I was also taught that to guarantee that the University would continue to improve, we must give back by whatever means we are capable. – J. Mark Lozier – B.G.S. 1980 – M.B.A 1982 – Basketball 1977-1980
- large format with bas relief image of a man: DONALD R. SHEPHERD – B.B.A. 1958 – The University of Michigan offers an excellent education to student-athletes. Participating in athletics enhances this education by building character and teaching the virtue of always giving your best and never giving up, characteristics necessary to compete in today's world. My scholarship recognizes those who combine success on the gridiron with the desire to pursue a professional degree. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- large format with bas relief image of a man: THOMAS F. AND TRUDY A. DALY – Student-athletes must possess many qualities in order to excel in sports and academics. The most important quality is the desire to grow – in wisdom, understanding and integrity, through hard work and perseverance. The University of Michigan provides an outstanding environment for such positive growth. We feel privileged to support the academic and athletic excellence of these deserving young people through our scholarship. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL
- small format – THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CLUB OF ANN ARBOR – Many club members have achieved success directly related to their University of Michigan education. For all members, Michigan athletics provides one of life's great pleasures. We are pleased to show our appreciation for these benefits through the club scholarship. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR ATHLETICS
- small format – WALTER HARMS – Walter Harms, A Detroit businessman, was devoted to baseball his entire life. He was the youngest member of the 1910 Detroit Edison Baseball Team. For years before retirement, he spent many happy vacations attending the University of Michigan baseball games during their Spring Training trips. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR BASEBALL

- small format – SAMUEL L. WESTERMAN – Samuel (Uncle Sam) Westerman, a self-made man, was extremely proud of being a Michigander. In his youth he played semi-pro baseball and believed competing in sports helped him achieve success in the business world. he enjoyed helping young people. Michigan's baseball program represents Sam's approach to life: work hard, play hard and you will be successful. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR BASEBALL
- small format – PEGGY BAUERVIC FOUNDATION – The Peggy Bauervic Foundation focuses on the development of families and individuals. To give young women an opportunity in life through athletics, and with the memory of a beloved daughter/sister lost at a very young age, the Foundation is pleased to endow a Women's Athletic Scholarship at the University of Michigan. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
- small format – NEWT LOKEN – M.A. 1946 – ED.D. 1955 – Gymnastics Head Coach 1947-83 – I feel deeply honored by the Alumni Gymnasts and Friends of Michigan and especially Sid Wolfenson who created this scholarship in my name. I am proud to have been associated with the Department of Athletics and the Division of Kinesiology for nearly four decades and hope this scholarship will assist worthy student-athletes on future gymnastics teams. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR MEN'S GYMNASTICS
- large format with bas relief image of a man and a woman – JUDGE HENRY H. NEWLIN AND NANCY S. NEWLIN, M.D. – Henry A.B. 1958 – Nancy B.S. 1958 – Our undergraduate liberal arts education at the University of Michigan was a critical foundation for our post-graduate and professional education and experiences. We are proud to play a small role in helping dedicated young women, who are one of our nation's greatest resources, excel in academics and athletics. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
- large format with bas relief image of a man and a woman – ROBERT N. AND MARION E. BEEBE – Robert DDS 1945 – We are extremely proud of the University of Michigan's Athletic Department. Through this endowment we hope to make it possible to recruit the best scholastic football players in the country, thus maintaining Michigan's football excellence. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- large format with bas relief image of a man and a woman – KALVIN AND EILEEN GROVE – Kalvin B.A. 1958 – It is with great pride that we endow this scholarship so that some deserving student will have the opportunity to experience the finest our country has to offer in education and intercollegiate athletics. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- large format with bas relief image of a man – ROBERT A. BAUMGARTNER – B.A. 1969 – M.B.A. 1972 – Football 1967-69 – The U-M was a major influence in Bob's life. He demonstrated discipline, dedication, and responsibility as a scholarship football player and later as a devoted husband, father, and successful businessman. He loved Michigan and valued the education he received and worked hard to ensure that other student-athletes would have the same opportunity to become part of the Michigan traditions. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- large format with bas relief image of a man – CARL A. KREAGER – B.A. 1951 – Football 1948, 1949, 1950 – The University of Michigan's insistence on academic and athletic excellence in the conduct of its Mission has been a source of pride and inspiration to me since I enrolled in 1947. I am pleased to have this opportunity to help pave the way for other students who will make my finite gift infinite. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- small format – CHARLES S. KENNEDY AND CHARLES S. KENNEDY, JR. – Charles S. Kennedy – BS 1911, MD 1913 – Charles S. Kennedy, Jr. – BA 1947 – Charles S. Kennedy and Charles S. Kennedy, Jr. were dedicated followers of U of M athletics. Their support of Michigan football began in the early days of Fielding Yost and continued through the last days of Bo Schembechler. This scholarship is dedicated to their memory. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- small format – JIM AND BONNIE MANDICH – Jim AB 1970 – Football 1966-1969 – We strongly believe in the educational and instructional value of Michigan football. Football teaches leadership. It teaches team play. It teaches how to win. Where else at this great university can you find such a curriculum? Our family has been greatly enriched by Michigan football. With great pride we give back so that others might benefit as we have. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- small format – VIRGINIA S. NICKLAS – AB 1949 – Since synchronized swimming, my sport 1947-48, does not have varsity status, I have provided a scholarship for football, my favorite spectator sport. While benefiting a scholar-athlete, it recognized the coaching staff who guide young men in their pursuit of academic and athletic excellence and honors the dedicated staff and players who produced a magnificent legacy for generations of Michigan men and women to enjoy. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- small format – U OF M CLUB OF GREATER DETROIT – In keeping with our ongoing commitment to support student athletes, the members of the University of Michigan Club of Greater Detroit are proud to endow this scholarship. Since 1895 our principal goal has been to promote activities to ensure that the University of Michigan remains "The Leaders and Best." We are confident this scholarship will help achieve this goal. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- small format – DENNIS DAHLMANN – AB 1960 – The Dahlmann family, two generations of University of Michigan graduates, takes great pleasure in endowing this scholarship. It is our hope that it will enable others to follow in our footsteps, for it was here that we discovered life's bright possibilities. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL/ICE HOCKEY
- small format – GEORGE B. FOUSSIANES – BBA 1980 – Baseball 1977-1980 – Since graduating, I am often reminded of the positive effect the Michigan athletic program has had on my life. I am endowing this scholarship in the hope that it will

have a similar impact on the lives of current and future student athletes. It is enormously fulfilling to give back to the University and program that have given so much to me and my family. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR BASEBALL

- small format – BENNY FRIEDMAN – AB 1927 – Football 1924-1926 – Baseball 1925 – This scholarship, in honor of Benny Friedman and everything he stood for, is made possible in part by the generous donations of the following: Brian Foltyn, J. Ira & Nicki Harris Foundation, Ira J. & Brenda Jaffe, Jim & Judy Kamman, Ellsworth Levine, Richard & Susan Rogel, David Saginaw, Sara & David Rontal, and Leo M. Volpe. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL
- small format – JACOB W. HAAS – BARCH 1927 – We have endowed this hockey scholarship in recognition of Coach Red Berenson and the entire coaching staff for their commitment and dedication to the student athletes who participate in the University of Michigan Hockey Program. These coaches require each student athlete to perform to the best of his ability on the ice, in the classroom and in the community. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR ICE HOCKEY
- small format – THE DEKERS BLUE LINE CLUB – The respect and admiration the Dekers Blue Line Club has for the University of Michigan Ice Hockey program are reflected in its funding of a Men's Ice Hockey scholarship. This will provide a deserving student-athlete with the opportunity to experience the ultimate in education and athletic activities. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR ICE HOCKEY

Narrative description of historic background

In the early 1950s plans were underway for the improvement of Athletic facilities. Athletic director Herbert O. "Fritz" Crisler announced an ambitious building program in May 1954. A top priority was a new building to house the Athletic administration, since the facilities at the old administration building (now Hartwig, see survey for 0201) had become woefully inadequate. The new administration building was to serve as the public face of Athletics and so a prominent location was chosen. The building was placed at a diagonal across the northeast corner of Ferry Field, straddling the State Street – Hoover Avenue corner. At this location had been the main entrance gates to Ferry Field, dating from 1906 when the football stadium was at this site. The new administration building, at the time simply called the Athletic Building, would replace the old stone, brick and wrought iron gates.

At the same time, a building to house appropriate pool facilities for varsity swimming and diving was planned and it was to be located on the west side of the administration building and attached to it. The design of the administration building was by the Detroit firm of Giffels and Vallet with L. Rossetti. It was a simple modern design of orange brick with large areas of glass. Construction was begun in August 1954 and paid for by Athletic receipts, mostly from football. The total cost was just over $378,000. The contractor was Henry de Koning Construction Company of Ann Arbor. When the old gates were taken down, the main central tall decorative wrought iron gate that had "Ferry Field" in large letters on it was removed and relocated. It was placed on the south side of the new administration building, connecting to the old administration building (Hartwig), where it remains today.

Construction was completed in the spring of 1955 and the building contained offices for Athletics' administration and staff, plus the ticket office, and coaches' offices. The former administration building (Hartwig) was then given over to the Men's Physical Education Department, who until that time were squeezed into old Waterman Gymnasium.

In 1977 a small addition was made to the south side. After the relocation of football coaches and staff to Schembechler Hall in 1991, the administration building received a major renovation. The renovation was carried out in 1992-93 at cost of $3 million. Its public face at the corner was reconfigured to feature a wall of glass. It continued in use as the administration building with offices for Athletics administrators as well as coaches for sports other than football. In February 1994 the regents named the building for John P. "Jack" Weidenbach, former director of Plant Extension and director of business operations, who in 1988 became athletic director.

Deed research - list all deeds pertaining to this property and the contents of the deeds. Be sure to note any and all restrictive covenants, liens, encumbrances, easements, etc. Identify all other restrictive terms which may have been part of gift agreements, etc.

Located on Ferry Field (part of NE quarter of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 6 East), so no other deed is involved. Ferry Field acquired through deed #22A, dated 1904. The deed specifies that the land is to be used "for athletic purposed of the University of Michigan to and in connection with the adjoining grounds heretofore known as Regents' Field."

Statement of significance: describe how the property achieves significance, as per in "areas of significance." Follow National Register criteria, paying close attention to local level significance, especially as relates to the university community. If categorized as contributing or non-contributing (rather than significant), explain why.

Weidenbach Hall is considered a non-contributing resource with no historic significance of note. It does not meet any of the criteria for significance – not notable architecture, not associated with noted architect, and not associated with significant persons or events, except in that some important varsity coaches and athletic directors have had their offices in this building, but this association alone is not enough to raise the building above a low level of significance.

Summary of architecture, history & significance:

Weidenbach Hall is an unadorned modern building constructed in 1955. It is a two-story building clad in orange brick and large glass panels. It is an L-shape that straddles the corner at State Street and Hoover Avenue and provides the main face to the public of Athletics administration. It was remodeled in 1993 to include a curtain wall of glass at the corner entrance section. The other parts of the building feature ribbon rows of windows that relieve the solid brick façades. It was built as the Athletic Administration building and renamed in 1994 for former Athletic director John P. "Jack" Weidenbach. The building has a low level of historic significance as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation, expect insofar as it has housed the offices of some notable coaches and athletic directors.

Historic evaluation (1 is the highest value)

Level of significance: 4
1 = high - significant - meets or exceeds National Register criteria
2 = contributing/complementary - not significant on its own, but adds to fabric
3 = non-contributing due to age but will gain significant classification at 50 years
4 = non-contributing due to factors other than age

Category of significance: 4
1 = irreplaceable architectural value
2 = highest local significance
3 = noteworthy
4 = lacking sufficient architectural value

Note effect on significance of property if acquired through gift/purchase rather than UM built n/a

Criteria/area(s) of significance (list all that are applicable): _____
a = architecture - individually noteworthy
b = architecture - noteworthy example of style; contributing to neighborhood/district
c = associated with significant architect and/or builder
d = associated with person(s) who've made significant contribution to university, city, state or nation
e = associated with event(s) which are significant to the history of the university, city, state or nation

Historic designation (check all that are applicable):

_____ Local date listed: _____ name as designated: _____
_____ State date listed: _____ name as designated: _____
_____ National Register date listed: _____ name as designated: _____
_____ National Register eligible, but not listed yet
_____ HABS documentation

Architectural value as example of style: 3
1 = Superior
2 = Good
3 = Fair

Incidence of style: 3
1 = Rare
2 = Moderate
3 = Common

Effect of the surroundings on the building: 1
1 = Good
2 = Moderate
3 = Detrimental

Value to the neighborhood: 3
1 = Significant
2 = Moderate
3 = Minor
4 = None

Potential for adaptive reuse: 1
1 = Good
2 = Fair
3 = Poor

Potential for moving to new site: 2
1 = Good, moveable
2 = Poor, not moveable

Additions and alterations:
None or Minor _____ - appropriate
_____ - inappropriate
Moderate X - appropriate (1977 addition)
_____ - inappropriate
Extensive X - appropriate (1993 renov.)
_____ - inappropriate

Demolition potential: 4
1 = None - retain at all costs due to historic signif.
2 = Low - retain if economically feasible
3 = Moderate, but move if possible
4 = High - can be demolished if necessary, following detailed documentation and salvage of significant features

Special features - describe each individually in narrative description section and select appropriate category:
(e.g., leaded windows, decorative details, lantern towers, door/window surrounds, etc.)
1 = significant - retain at all costs, do not replace
2 = important - retain if economically feasible
3 = important - replace with replica OK
4 = moderate importance - replace with alternates with same visual characteristics

References: documentary sources of information

Bentley Historical Library:
Board in Control of Intercollegiate Athletics Records
Athletic Department Records

Regents' Proceedings

University of Michigan, An Encyclopedic Survey, Vol. 4, p. 1581.

Article in *Michigan Alumnus*, June 5, 1954, pp. 345-346.

Historic maps the property appears on, such as Sanborn maps, bird's eye-view maps, campus plans (include copies of that section of the maps): None

Location of drawings/photos of the property:

Construction drawings at AEC-FIC
Historic photos at Bentley
Recent photos at AEC-UPO
Survey photos at UPO/survey file

Survey conducted by: Julie Truettner	Date survey form completed: February 2008
For more information contact: AEC-University Planner's Office	Miscellaneous: field survey completed April 2006
Survey with digital photos filed at: Architecture, Engineering & Construction – University Planner's Office	
Photos, historic: Bentley Historical Library	