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UA1B2/1 The Geographical History of Western Kentucky University

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The Geographical History of Western Kentucky University

Ali Wright
&
Kim Tharpe

Methodology

- WKU Archives
 - Verticle Files
 - Photo Files
- Lowell Harrison's History of WKU
- WKU website
- Facilities Management
- GIS

Problems

- Difficulty in finding information
 - People did not have information
 - Did not receive the files we were looking for
- Mystery Building

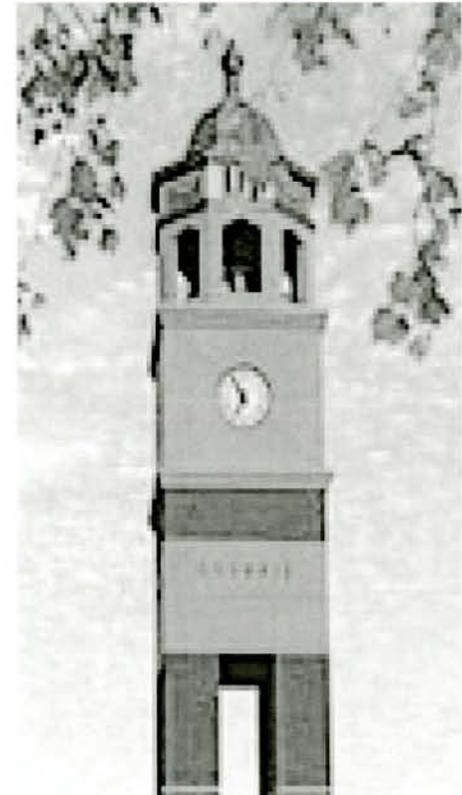
Buildings

- List of buildings that are not around anymore
 - Ogden Hall (1876-1966)
 - Potter College Building (1889-1936)
 - Cherryton (1919-1947)
- Link to virtual map with information on existing buildings:
<http://www.wku.edu/Tour/campusmap.html>
- Aerial photos from 1928, 1939, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1976, 1990, and 1995

Campus Landmarks

■ Guthrie Bell Tower

- On October 28, 1999, Lowell Guthrie gave a gift to the University of \$1.1 million, of which \$800,000 was to be used for a courtyard near what was to be the new Mass Media and Technology Hall. Included in this courtyard was to be a bell tower and statue in honor of an individual and all those associated with Western who lost their lives in service to our country. It was later revealed that the specific individual honored was Guthrie's brother, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Guthrie, who was killed in the Korean War. The donation subsequently rose from \$800,000 for the tower to \$1.5 million in order to complete the project correctly. The top of this tower architecturally unites north and south campus, as it is modeled after the cupola on top of Cherry Hall.



Campus Landmarks

■ Kissing Bridge

- Before the days of Western Kentucky University, the Hill was the site of Fort Albert Sidney Johnston, first used by the Confederate Army during the Civil War and then taken over by Union troops. The only remnant of this fort, which is on the National Register of Historic Places as "Fort Lytle" is the Old Fort Bridge, now known to most as the "Kissing Bridge." Although difficult to establish the origins of the tradition, the legend as it circulates today indicates that if a freshman kisses his or her sweetheart on the Kissing Bridge, they will be married. The bridge was rebuilt in 1969 for landscaping across the trench area occupied by soldiers during the war.



Campus Landmarks

■ Italian Garden

- In August 1929, C. Perry Snell, a Western alum from St. Petersburg, FL, donated his art collection including paintings, statuary, pottery, and tapestry to the University. Four pieces of the statuary were to be placed in an Italian Garden, built in what was then the center of campus in front of Snell Hall. The four statues representing the four seasons marked the four corners of the garden, and four flagstone paths led from the statues to a circular path of stone which surrounded a large urn in the center. Space was left for a fountain to be donated at a later date, but the fountain was never donated. In 1999, one of the statues was knocked over by vandals and in the interests of preserving the statues (worth between \$800,000 and \$1 million), they were taken out of the garden in 2000 and moved to storage. They will be permanently loaned to the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) upon its opening.



Campus Landmarks

■ Spoonholder

- Beneath a tree in front of Potter Hall, in the early part of the twentieth century, there was an octagonal grouping of wooden benches. Students came to this area to study, talk, or have fun. Since the spoonholder was so popular that there were students waiting for a seat in it, in the Spring of 1935 the old Spoonholder was torn down to build a new, concrete one with a capacity of well over 100. The students hated the new concrete spoonholder, claiming that it wasn't nearly as romantic as the wooden one had been. It was torn down to make room for Cherry Hall not long afterwards.

Relevance

- Why a geographical history of Western?
 - Shows how the university grew
 - Puts other events in perspective