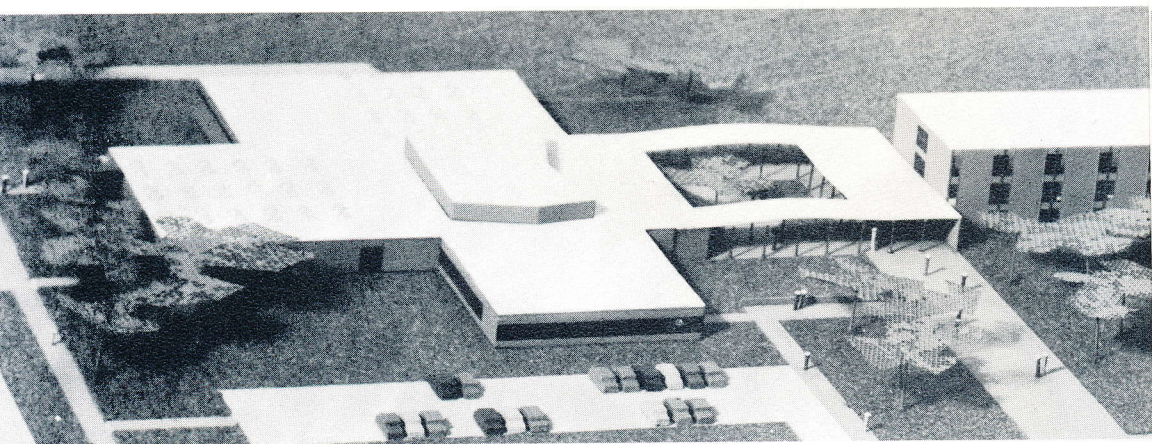


M ICHIGAN
S TATE
U NIVERSITY ***
O AKLAND

Ground-Breaking Ceremonies

May 2, 1958

2:30 P. M.



ARCHITECT'S MODEL OF FIRST BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON MSU-OAKLAND CAMPUS
SWANSON ASSOCIATES, INC.—ARCHITECTS



THE history of the development of Michigan State University-Oakland to date exemplifies the wisdom of Ovid's remark that giving calls for genius.

The need for a college in the populous Oakland-Macomb area existed, but had not been generally recognized. The hunger for learning existed, but was not fully understood or appreciated. The idea of a college was the half-formed dream of a group of enlightened citizens, but they were not able to transform it into reality. Michigan State University, veteran of 102 years of service to the state, and a respected educational pioneer, was seeking new ways to be of service. The State of Michigan was beginning to recognize that within a few short years, it would be faced with the necessity of providing college facilities for a greatly expanded number of talented young people. The situation, in short, was ripe for action.

At this juncture, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson came forward in January, 1957, with their generous offer to give their beautiful Meadow Brook Farms to Michigan State University as a site for a four-year college to serve the people of Oakland and Macomb counties, and to supplement their gift with \$2,000,000 with which to erect the first building.

Today marks the beginning of construction of this first building, but the event has a larger meaning. It marks the launching of a great new educational enterprise, for on these acres some day will stand still other buildings, forming with stately Meadow Brook Hall a unique cultural center, all dedicated to the use of the young people and adults who will find here an outlet for their intellectual ambitions, and the satisfaction of their hunger for the education with which to make their lives fuller, richer, and happier.

Truly, genius marked the gift from which all these benefits will flow.

State Board of Agriculture

THE HONORABLE CONNOR D. SMITH, <i>Chairman</i>	<i>Pinconning</i>
THE HONORABLE CLARK L. BRODY	<i>Lansing</i>
THE HONORABLE C. ALLEN HARLAN	<i>Detroit</i>
THE HONORABLE ARTHUR K. ROUSE	<i>Boyne City</i>
THE HONORABLE G. DONALD STEVENS	<i>Grand Rapids</i>
THE HONORABLE JAN B. VANDERPLOEG	<i>North Muskegon</i>

* * * *

THE HONORABLE LYNN M. BARTLETT, <i>Ex Officio</i>	<i>Lansing</i>
JOHN A. HANNAH, <i>Ex Officio, President</i>	<i>East Lansing</i>
KARL H. McDONEL, <i>Secretary</i>	<i>East Lansing</i>
PHILIP J. MAY, <i>Treasurer</i>	<i>East Lansing</i>

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Vice President for Off-Campus Education	DURWARD B. VARNER
Vice President for Academic Affairs	THOMAS H. HAMILTON
Vice President—Business and Finance—and Treasurer	PHILIP J. MAY
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FRED R. HAGGARD	WALTER K. WILLMAN
DELOS HAMLIN	MRS. ALFRED G. WILSON
GEORGE J. HUEBNER, JR.	*MRS. GEORGE E. WYMAN
MISS SARAH VAN HOOSSEN JONES	JAMES C. ZEDER

*Deceased

Program

2:30 P. M.

May 2, 1958

HAROLD A. FITZGERALD

Chairman of the MSU-O Advisory Board
Presiding

Invocation

THE REVEREND WILLIAM H. MARBACH
First Presbyterian Church, Pontiac

Remarks

MRS. ALFRED G. WILSON

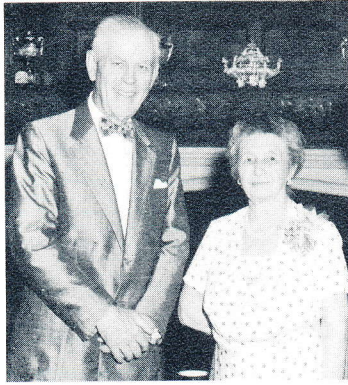
THE HONORABLE GEORGE C. STEEH
State Senator, Mt. Clemens

THE HONORABLE L. HARVEY LODGE
State Senator, Pontiac

PRESIDENT JOHN A. HANNAH

Benediction

THE REVEREND MICHAEL J. O'REILLY
St. Michael's Church, Pontiac

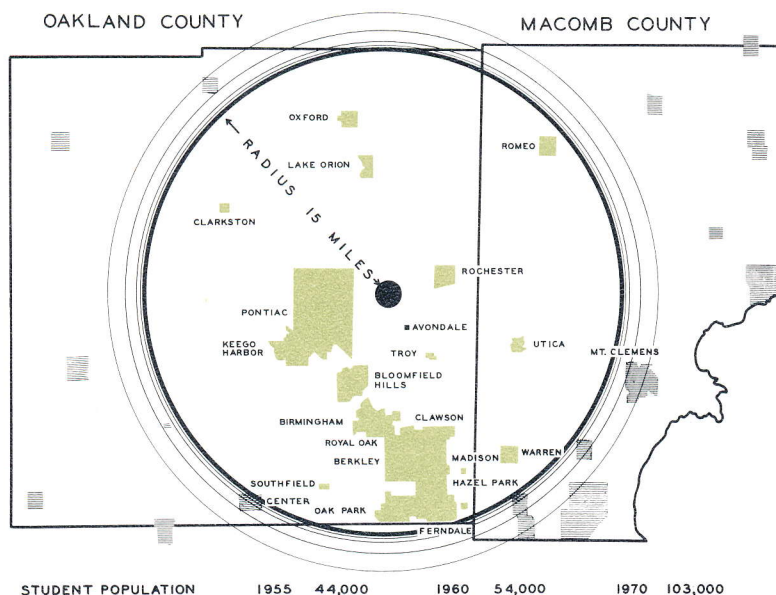


MR. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson's gift to Michigan State University of their magnificent estate, Meadow Brook Farms, offers the University an unparalleled opportunity to extend

its educational services to this important area of the state. Mrs. Wilson is a former member of the University's governing board and this generous gift, made jointly with her husband, is the culmination of many years of intensive interest in and efforts on behalf of Michigan State University and its students.

The 1400-acre Wilson property, together with the lovely 300-acre estate given earlier by Miss Sarah Van Hoosen Jones, also a former member of the University's governing board, brings the University's holdings in Oakland County to 1700 acres. The rolling hills of the area form a picturesque setting for the beautiful campus that will grow here. Meadow Brook Hall, considered to be one of the world's outstanding private residences, is itself an art treasure that will eventually become a part of the Oakland campus.





Map Showing College-Age Population Within 15-mile Radius

The site of Michigan State University-Oakland is considered ideal for a new four-year public college, being near the center of a heavy concentration of population not being served adequately by any other four-year institution. The population of Oakland and Macomb counties, it is predicted, will exceed the present population of the City of Detroit by 1980. Within fifteen miles of the site, considered to be a reasonable commuting distance, now live 516,000 persons, and an increase to 926,000 by 1970 is forecast. Within the same circle there are now 44,000 persons of college age, and this segment of the population is expected to increase to 54,000 by 1960, to 73,000 by 1965, and to 103,000 by 1970. The adults of the area are revealed by an extensive survey to be college-minded, as indicated by their own high level of educational attainment, their aspirations for their children, and their own plans to take advantage of the opportunities for college study to be afforded by Michigan State University-Oakland.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. ALFRED G. WILSON, OF MEADOW BROOK FARMS, AND A CASH ENDOWMENT TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE.

WHEREAS, With the donation of their magnificent 1400-acre estate, Meadow Brook Farms, and a cash endowment of \$2,000,000.00 to underwrite the construction of academic buildings thereon, to Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson have made feasible the establishment of the first public institution of higher learning in Oakland county; and

WHEREAS, This is the most populous area of the State not having the benefit of comparatively easy access to educational opportunity on the collegiate level for its young people; and

WHEREAS, Equality of educational opportunity is a fundamental principle of our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, The state of Michigan is singularly fortunate in having among its citizens those who are willing to give of their private means to support higher education, thus lessening the financial burden upon the resources of the State; and

WHEREAS, The enthusiasm engendered by the prospect of having an institution of higher education near at hand, prospects for support from industrial sources, and the demonstrated need for such an institution assure the success of the project beyond all reasonable doubt; and

WHEREAS, This generous benefaction testifies to the belief of the donors in the Michigan system of higher education and to their desire to see educational benefits even more widely spread under the administration of one of our finest Universities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (the Senate concurring), That the Legislature of the state of Michigan, speaking for and on behalf of all its citizens, expresses its deep appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson for the magnificent generosity which prompted this gift, the sincerity of the purpose for which it has been given, and the outstanding contribution it makes toward meeting the needs of the State for educational facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the state of Michigan affirms that the State Board of Agriculture in accepting this benefaction will be contributing significantly to the solution of the State's serious problem of providing adequate post high school educational facilities.

Adopted by the House January 23, 1957.

Adopted by the Senate January 24, 1957.