

Oakland University Campus Views August 1963

Introduction

These photographs were taken by Tom McAllister, OU Charter Class. Except as noted, all were taken in August, 1963.

The last three academic years at Michigan State University Oakland (as it was known then), I had a part time job working for the Physical Plant Department. In the winters, I was part of a group of boys whose weekend job was to operate the boilers in the power plant then located in North Foundation Hall. In the summers, I worked as the University's representative on several underground construction projects installing water mains, heating pipelines, sanitary sewer lines, etc. My responsibilities were 1) to make sure the contractor performed his job according to the plans and specifications, and 2) to document on blueprints the elevation above sea level for each pipeline wherever it crossed a road or sidewalk (or future road or sidewalk). Because of my job, I had a sub-master key which would allow me into any mechanical room on campus which contained heating, ventilation or air conditioning machinery.

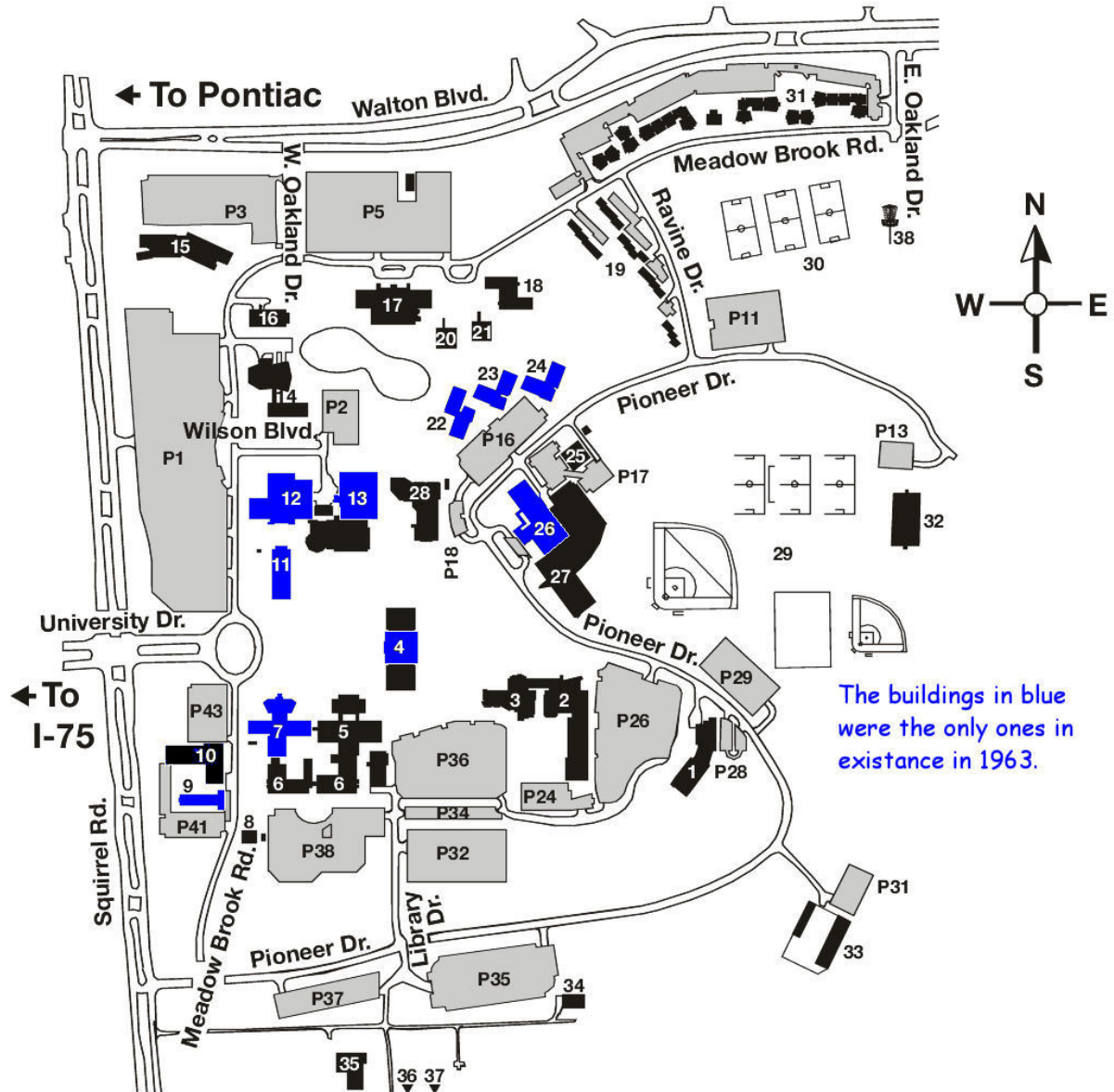
I fulfilled the requirements for my degree in August of 1963. On the day before I turned in my key, I took my 35mm camera up onto the roof of every major building on campus and took pictures in every direction. These pictures are what I saw.

It should be noted that Squirrel Road was a 2 lane gravel road its entire length. Walton Road was a 2 lane paved road from Pontiac to Rochester; the intersection of Walton, Squirrel, and Pontiac Roads at the northwest corner of campus was called "Five Points."

Tom McAllister, White Lake, MI
OU Class of 1963, 50th Anniversary, 2013.

Oakland University | *Campus*

2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401 | oakland.edu/map



On this 2013 map of Oakland University Campus, the buildings shaded in blue were the only buildings on campus in August of 1963 when these photos were taken. Building No. 9, the Belgian Barn, is the only Meadow Brook Farms building remaining on this part of the campus.

From the roof of the Science Building (later called Hannah Hall of Science) looking south. The Belgian Horse barn is at right. Building at left in the trees is the Dairy Barn. This was the first MSUO Theater building.



From the roof of the Science Building (later called Hannah Hall of Science) looking north. South Foundation Hall is at center. One story building to the right of South Foundation Hall is the Oakland (Student) Center. Building at extreme right is Fitzgerald House, the second dormitory on campus.

From the roof of the Science Building (later called Hannah Hall of Science) looking northeast. From left to right: Oakland Center, Fitzgerald House, Anibal House, Pryale House still under construction. Building at center in far distance is Intramural Sports and Recreation Building. At left is the Kresge Library.





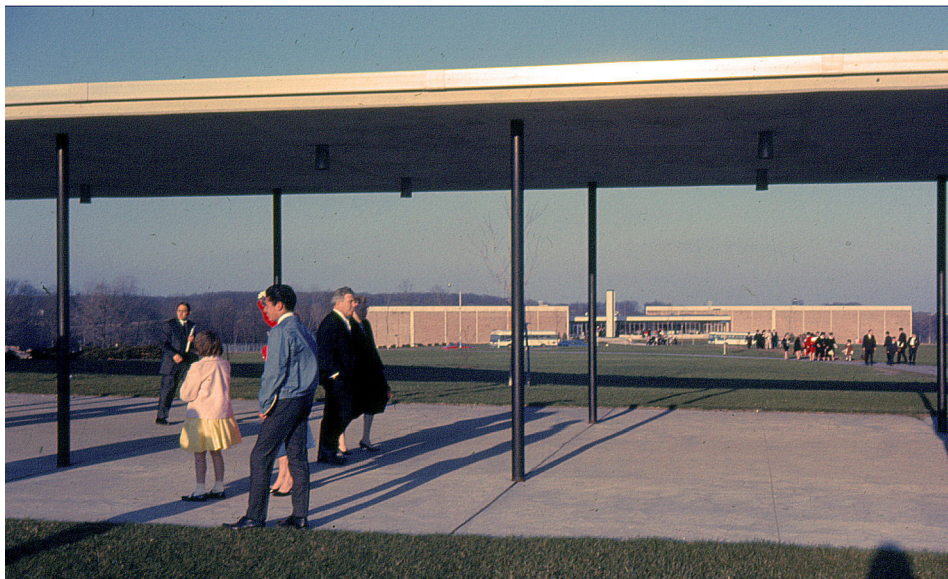
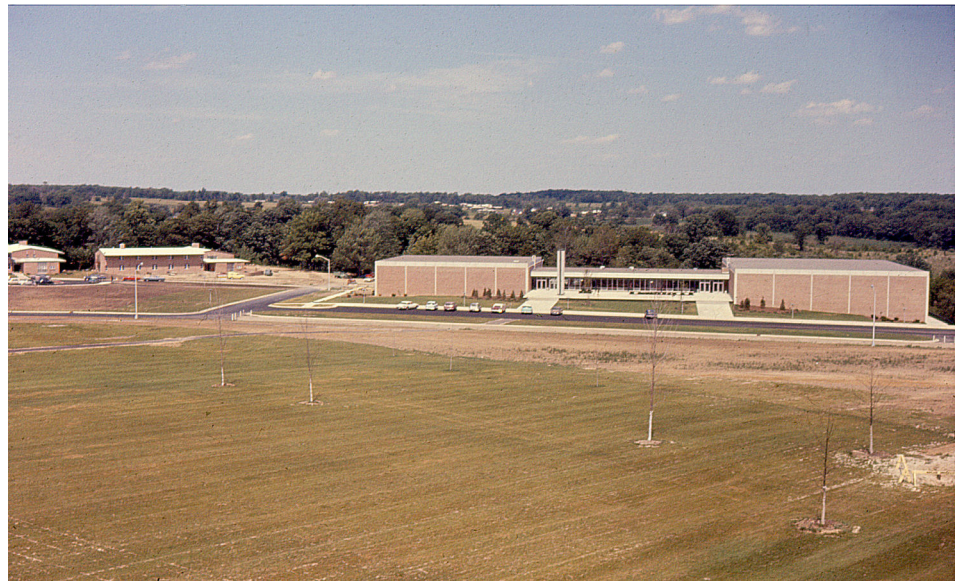
From the roof of the Science Building (later called Hannah Hall of Science) looking northeast at the Kresge Library.

This photo was taken in April 1963 after commencement. Looking South from in front of the Oakland Center. The Kresge Library at left was built after the Charter Class started school. It was built on a hill that was originally a pasture for Mrs. Wilson's Belgian horses. We used to take apples from the Oakland Center to feed to the horses up on that hill! The two trees between the camera and the library were at the corner of the pasture fence.



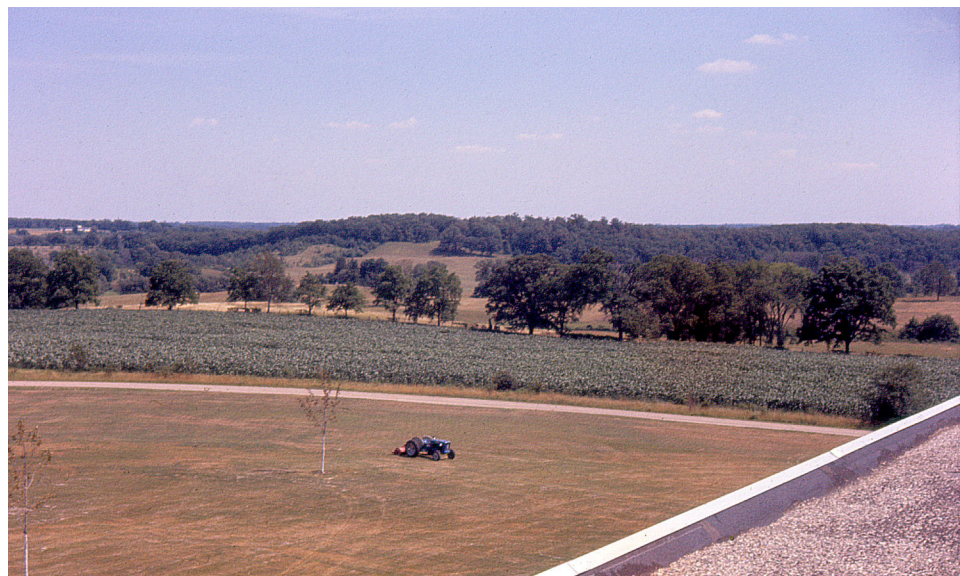
West entrance to Kresge Library before installation of the Marshall Fredricks sculptures.

From the roof of the Kresge Library looking Northeast. Buildings left to right: Anibal House, Pryale House (under construction), Intramural Sports and Recreation Building. Houses in far distance are part of a subdivision on the north side of Walton Road.



This photo was taken in April 1963 after commencement. Looking East from the portico connecting North Foundation Hall and South Foundation Hall. Commencement had been held in the Intramural Sports and Recreation Building in the distance.

Looking South East from the roof of the Kresge Library. As can be seen from the cornfield at center and the wheat field beyond the fencerow of trees, parts of Meadow Brook Estate were still being farmed. The white buildings in the distance at far left are the Meadow Brook Farms gatehouse on Adams Road later named Varner House.

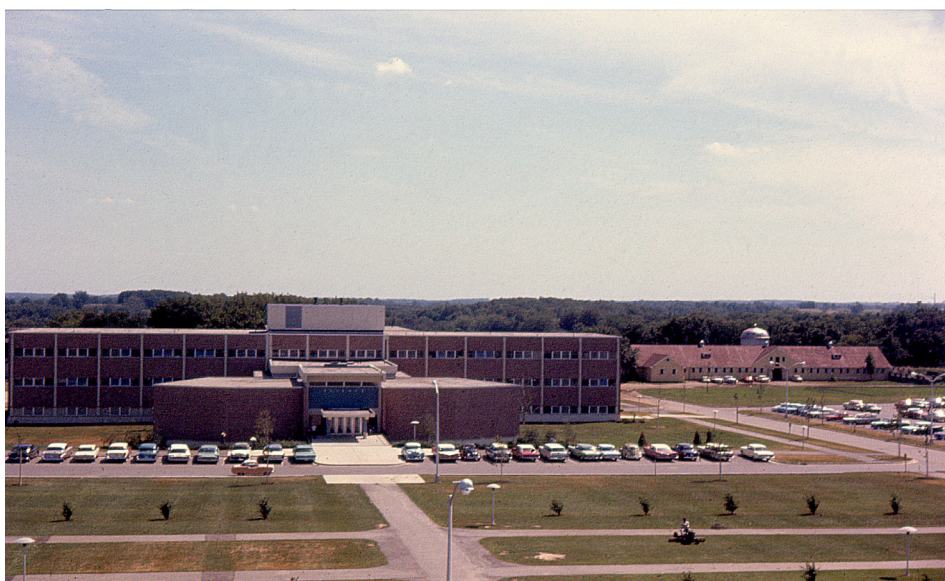




Looking South Southwest from the roof of the Kresge Library. The building seen between the two trees just right of the water tower is the Dairy Barn. The water tower originally provided drinking water and fire protection for the horse and dairy barns and the former farm manager's house, the white 2 story to the right of the barn. It continued to provide water to the MSUO campus until a water main was laid several miles south down Squirrel Road to connect the campus with the

Detroit Water System. By the time this picture was taken, farmhouse had become "Dorm-Type Pad Number 1," the first dormitory on campus and home to 6 boys.

Science Building (later Hannah Hall) viewed from the front of Kresge Library.



Looking South at the Science Building (Hannah Hall) from the roof of South Foundation Hall. Belgian Horse Barn at right.



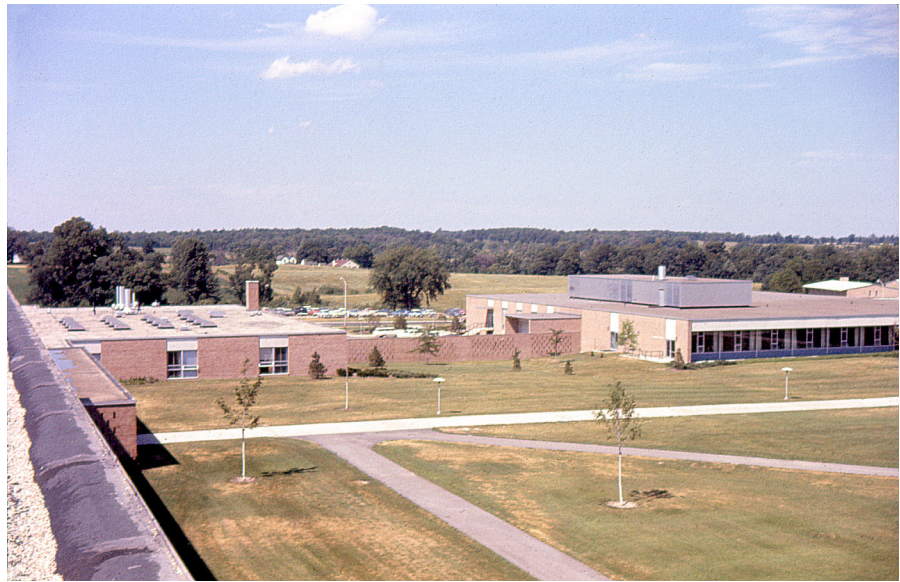
From the roof of South Foundation Hall looking South Southeast. Just right of the water tower is the corner of the Dairy Barn. East wing of Science Building is at extreme right.

Looking North West from the front of the Kresge Library. South Foundation Hall at left, connecting portico at center, North Foundation Hall at center. The original library was in North Foundation Hall, just to the right of the south entrance under the portico. The Oakland Center is just out of view at the extreme right end of the patterned brick wall.



The roof in the immediate foreground is South Foundation Hall. Looking North across the roof of North Foundation Hall. The three white chimney stacks right of center are for the boilers in the powerhouse located in the North East corner of North Foundation Hall. The road in the middle distance along the fencerow of trees is Walton Road. The white buildings at center and right center are farm homes on the north side of Walton Road.

Looking North Northeast from the roof of South Foundation Hall. The single story building left of center is the East Wing of North Foundation Hall. The original library was in this wing. The building at right is the Oakland (Student) Center. The roof of Fitzgerald House can be seen beyond the Oakland Center. The tan building with red roof beyond the parking lot is a Meadow Brook Farms barn on Walton Road. The swale with green bushes located between the parking lot and the barn with the red roof was later dredged out to become Beer Lake.



Across the (unpaved) road (later Pioneer Drive) from Intramural Sports and Recreation Building (out of view at right), where April Commencement had taken place the day this picture was taken. Anibal House and Pryale House (under construction).

Tom McAllister's private laboratory in the Science Building. We had so much excess space that several chemistry majors like me had a lab all to ourselves! Mine was on the west side of the south wing, third floor right above the loading dock.





Tom McAllister hard at work in his private laboratory/lounge/study hall, etc. Note the state-of-the-art word processor (with dust cover removed) on the table at center. The high tech, sound system is right behind my head (as indicated by the rabbit ears). It even had transistors!



In the 1960's this 6 inch long wireless, solid state computing device, commonly known as a "Slide Rule," required no battery power. It was capable of multiplication, division, extracting square roots and a whole lot more. It was very accurate to 3 significant figures. Using the 12 inch model, an experienced operator could make a good guess at the 4th significant figure! With practice, the operator could eventually determine correct placement of the decimal point. They were required for all students taking mathematics, chemistry, physics, and engineering courses. Using the belt-clip holster shown here, many students perfected the art of "quick draw." It was legal to use them during exams.