

NOLAND ZOOLOGY



Fig. 1. Noland Zoology, 1994.
[Author Photo, AP-50]

Noland Zoology was built in 1969 to house the offices and teaching spaces for the zoology department. It is connected to the adjacent zoology research building. The building is named for Lowell Evan Noland, long-time zoology professor and researcher.

Zoology was the first department to solve its space problems by using federal science funding to split the research programs off into their own building. Thus it was natural that they would be among the last to get their own classroom building. Even after the researchers had left Birge Hall for the new Zoology Research Building in 1964, Birge remained a very crowded place.

As early as 1965 the construction of a zoology classroom building was discussed, as the regents in December 1965 approved several future building sites including one for zoology, as the location east of the zoology research building for the "proposed Letters and Science-zoology building". This approval of sites was part of the discussion of an elaborate pedestrian walkway system proposed for the campus area south of University Avenue. The new zoology building project probably suffered more at the hands of this pedestrian plan (later discarded) than any other project. The regents authorized the preparation of preliminary plans for the zoology building in February 1966. These plans were to include pedestrian overpasses West Johnson and North Mills Streets. Later that month the state authorized a budget for the Letters and Science Zoology Building of \$3.2 million in February 1966. Land purchase at the site began in June 1966.¹

The preparation of plans began in February, 1966. In November 1966 the University informed

the state that preliminary planning had shown the site to be inadequate for the size of building needed, and asked permission to transfer 8000 square feet of classroom space to the Educational Science Building then being planned for the site across Mills Street. The revised budget request was for \$3.19 million of which \$2.5 million would be state funds.²

The preliminary plans were approved by the regents in March 1967. The estimated project cost was \$3.19 million, including the overpasses. It was explained to the regents that a third stage of zoology, consisting of a high-rise section could later be added to the site. In October 1968 the budget was revised upwards to \$3.44 million.³

In April 1967 the state halted all work on the zoology building pending an investigation of the plans for the pedestrian walkway system. Not until March 1968 was this study finished, and the whole overpass scheme was rejected. Because the zoology building had been designed with the walkways in mind a redesign was needed. This meant that the project had to again go through the formal procedures of examination and approval by the state and the regents. Some space was lost, but an attempt was made to recover the space by partially excavating the basement. In November 1969 the regents approved the revised preliminary plans. These plans showed a five story building with an appearance that would match the existing zoology research building, and be connected to it by tunnel. In May 1970 the architect, John Sommerville of Green Bay, estimated a completion date of March 1972.⁴

The regents approved the final plans and authorized bids for the zoology building in June 1970. During August maneuvering between the state and the University resulted in the inclusion of the unfinished basement in the project specifications. The construction contracts were let on August 26, 1970. The general contractor was Gilbert Construction of Verona for \$1.48 million. Total contracted costs were \$3.44 million. The state provided \$2.9 million, and federal HEW grant provided the remainder. Ground-breaking took place immediately. The project was now more than two years late. The building was accepted as completed on August 22, 1972.⁵

The building is 115 by 134 feet, five stories and a basement sheathed with face brick. A tunnel connects the building to the zoology research building to the west. Most of the building is filled with large laboratories offices and classrooms. A zoological museum (open to the public) is reached from the Charter Street entrance on the street level.

The zoology building was named in May 1972 for professor Lowell Evan Noland, who came to the University in 1920 as a graduate assistant, was promoted to instructor in 1921, to professor in 1935, to department chairman in 1945, and retired in 1966. Professor Noland died at 75 in January 1972. No one was as enthusiastic about teaching zoology as Noland. Professor Noland especially loved to teach the introductory classes in biology and invertebrate zoology. When he began teaching his own course in 1949 he audited other sophomore courses in the department and got to know his students as a student.⁶

1) *Regent's Minutes*, December 10, 1965, June 10, 1966; Chronology of Events: L&S Zoology Building, undated, series 24/9/2-1 box 18.

2) *Regent's Minutes*, February 4, 1966, December 9, 1966, and exhibit C.

3) *Regent's Minutes*, March 10, 1967;

4) Burns to Kearn, July 31, 1968, Sites to Atwell, August 9, 1968, series 24/9/2-1 box 11; Chronology of Events: L&S Zoology Building, undated, Calculation of Area and Time and Budget, November 7, 1969, series 24/9/2-1 box 18; Campus planning committee, minutes November 11, 1969, Campus Request for Regent's Action, November 14, 1969, series 40/1/7/1 box 126; *Regent's Minutes*, January 10, 1969, November 14, 1969.

5) *Regent's Minutes*, June 12, 1970, August 26, 1970 schedule I, January 15, 1971, exhibit G; Marten to Hipp, August 25, 1970, Sites to Holmes, January 28, 1970, Exo to Lemon, August 20, 1970, series 40/1/7/1 box 126. Calculation of Area and Time and Budget, May 14, 1970, series 24/9/2-1 box 24; Final Inspection, August 30, 1972, series 83/35 box 4.

6) Faculty Document 96, April 10, 1972, Archives Lowell Evand Noland biographical file, *Regent's Minutes*, May 5, 1972.