



“A Tribute to Education”: The Bancroft Street Campus

Since its founding, the University of Toledo inhabited borrowed and shared spaces. As enrollment grew, so did the limitations of the buildings available to accommodate students. It was time to find a permanent home.

In 1926, the City of Toledo Council appointed a subcommittee to consider a new site for the university. President Henry Doermann took the helm in 1928 and as one of his first acts as president, he started planning for a new campus.

In order to pay for a new campus, the city placed a bond levy before voters. Faculty and staff campaigned heavily and the levy passed by 10,000 votes – less than a year before Black Tuesday, the stock market crash that heralded the Great Depression. A failure of the levy could have meant a dark future for the university.

With the levy money, the university considered 34 proposed locations and decided upon the 80-acre Rufus Wright farm on Bancroft Street. Construction began on its first buildings, University Hall and Field House, in 1930. The doors opened on February 10, 1931.

This exhibit documents how the “new” Bancroft Street campus has evolved since that February day more than 90 years ago. It looks at the buildings that have housed our colleges, offices, and students over time, as well as pays tribute to some of our other campuses, including those early borrowed or shared spaces, Scott Park campus, and Health Science Campus.

