

History Center to Be In Old Library Building

Plans are under way for a rejuvenation of the Old Library Building, R. L. White, University supervising architect, said Friday. After a general interior overhauling, the building will become the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, named for Eugene C. Barker, famed historian and professor of American history at the University.

A new coat of paint, new mill work, and new linoleum will renovate the main floor, Mr. White said. The main room of the second floor, with its beamed ceiling and rose-colored rotunda, is to have a new rubber tile floor at the north end and will house the famous Reaugh collection of paintings of the Southwest. The cases have been removed for reworking and new ones are to be added. Pastel drawings of cattle will replace the old murals on the walls of the rotunda.

The third floor's low-ceilinged rooms are being prepared to serve as individual typing rooms and a microfilm room.

Complete with fire-proof walls, the Old Library Building was built at a cost of \$280,000 by the late New York architect, Cass Gilbert, who designed the Woolworth Building in New York City and the Minnesota Capitol Building.

In 1910 it stood near old Beck's Lake and was a gem among old buildings and stacks. It was a rendezvous for sweethearts who had few places to go other than the study hall and the "perip." In the library a "silence master" stood by to tap students when they chewed gum, forgot to wear a coat, or made too much noise.

The old building is the former home of the administrative offices, the Registrar, the Auditor, the President, and deans. The Bexar Archives, the Swenson Collection of gold coins, and the Wrenn Library have been there at one time.

The Old Library Building now will serve a purpose well-suited many believe. It is appropriate to its Spanish style architecture that its ivy-covered walls and colorful tile roof should house the Texas State Historical Association and its many activities.

Offices of the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center will be occupied by The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, The Texas Handbook, The Junior Historian and related research.

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