

1922

The Lawyers' Club and Dormitories

Henry M. Bates

University of Michigan Law School

Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/articles/1233>

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/articles>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bates, Henry M. "The Lawyers Club and Dormitories." *Mich. Alumnus* 29 (1922): 307-9.

This Response or Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Scholarship at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.



A CLOSER VIEW OF THE LAWYERS' CLUB
Showing the State Street Side, and the Large Hall or Commons.
York and Sawyer, Architects.

THE LAWYERS' CLUB AND DORMITORIES

By Henry M. Bates, '90, Dean of the Law School

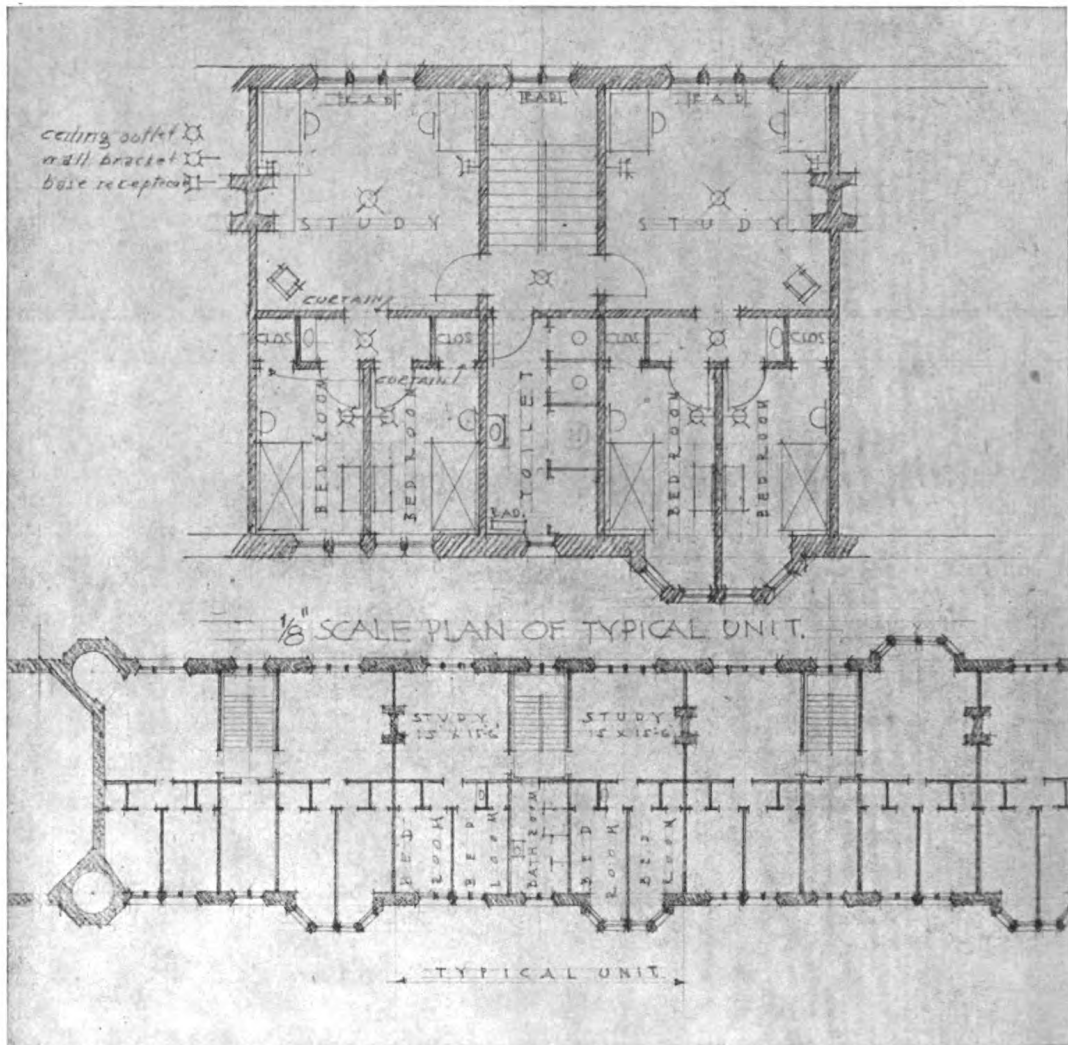
THE generous gift of an internationally known lawyer who is a graduate of this Law School has made it possible for the Law School to plan a splendid group of buildings. When the whole plan is finally realized we shall have an equipment for the professional work and the living arrangements of our law students hitherto unequaled anywhere in the history of legal education.

As was announced last spring, the present gift contemplates the immediate erection of what is in reality a group of related buildings, which shall constitute only part of what we hope will be a greater whole, to be completed in the more distant future. The present gift is of such nature that the Regents have felt justified in buying the land which will ultimately accommodate a number of buildings to form a great quadrangle. It is hoped that the gift now announced will make possible a realization of the whole plan, within comparatively few years. Early in the spring, work will be begun on the buildings to be erected from the gift of money already announced. This group will include the Lawyers' Club and Dormitory to accommodate about one hundred and

fifty students, a beautiful dining hall and a commons or general gathering place for the members of the Lawyers' Club and of the law student body. These buildings will be connected and in one sense, therefore, may be spoken of as a single unit. This group will occupy the entire frontage on South University Avenue of the two blocks of land acquired, or to be acquired, for this general purpose, and turning the corner will run south on State Street to a point about opposite the South line of Madison Street.

A Beautiful Group of Buildings

The architecture is Gothic in style and the exterior material will be a rich and varied cream-toned stone. The Lawyers' Club will be at the corner of South University Avenue and State Street, and will include a number of suites of rooms for graduates and other members of the Bar who may wish to come here to work undisturbed in the Law Library. Besides the bedroom suites, the club will contain a general living room and a small library to be used for reading and writing. The dormitory will begin at the east end of the Lawyers' Club and run to the inter-



A TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN OF THE LAW DORMITORIES
 Showing the General Scheme and the Arrangement of a Single Unit.

York and Sawyer, Architects.

section of Tappan Avenue and South University Avenue. The present Oakland Avenue will be vacated and the present site of this street where it runs into South University Avenue, will be occupied by a great, picturesque tower, under which will be a wide archway leading into the inner quadrangle.

The commons or general assembly rooms, with coat rooms and the like, will be located on the State Street side, immediately south of the Lawyers' Club, and south of the commons will be a great dining hall. This is a beautiful building,

which suggest King's Chapel at Cambridge University, England. The greatest care has been lavished by the architects, Messrs. York and Sawyer of New York, and those with whom they have advised, upon the arrangements for comfort, health and convenience, throughout these buildings. The construction will be of the best fireproof type.

Part of a Larger Plan

As has been indicated, it is hoped that this present gift will by stimulating other gifts, or otherwise, make it possible, with-

in a few years to carry the whole vision to realization. This vision contemplates building another dormitory through practically the entire length north and south on the eastern side of the eleven-acre tract which has been made available. Another dormitory would then be placed on State Street, running south from the dining hall to Monroe Street. The quadrangle would be completed by placing a new law school building on the southern part of the quadrangle, closing the gap between Monroe Street and Tappan Avenue. This would be the dominant building of the entire group and would face toward the North, looking across the inner quadrangle. The building as thus far planned would be built, in effect, around the Library, which is so placed, however, as to permit of indefinite expansion. The present plan calls for space for upwards of 200,000 volumes. Seminary rooms and work rooms for members of the Faculty would be placed in immediate contact with the Library stacks. Lecture rooms and a medium sized auditorium, a court room,

a locker room, and the other usual features of a building of this character would, of course, find place in the new building.

An Epoch-making Vision

Whether considered as an architectural monument, or as complete and satisfactory material equipment, the buildings planned would be outstanding in the history of education; but in some aspects the most remarkable and the most fruitful feature of the plan of the donor is the development, through dues to the Lawyers' Club and profits from the operation of this group of buildings, of a generous income for legal research. At present it is not permissible to say more about this feature of the plan, but it is permissible to say that a full realization of the plans now being thoroughly considered will make possible legal research on a scale hitherto unattempted anywhere, with possibilities of resulting improvements in legal education and in our system of law which will mark the donor's vision and plan as epoch-making.