

Walk through history

LJW - June 10
1991

Signs make KU history easy to find

By DEB GRUVER
J-W Staff Writer

Kansas University students better watch their step along Jayhawk Boulevard.

If they're not careful, they could trip over some history.

The Historic Mount Oread Fund, a Lawrence organization dedicated to preserving the history of the KU campus, has marked 10 campus buildings with bronze plaques that are designed to be noticed.

Karen Gould, past president of the Historic Mount Oread Fund, said the plaques were put in place during the spring semester. The signs indicate the year the buildings were opened and the original architects.

Katie Armitage, a past vice president of the group, said the Historic Mount Oread Fund didn't want to put too much information on the plaques. However, pamphlets detailing the building's histories are available on campus and at student orientation.

The group, which Gould said is dedicated to "preserving the architectural heritage of KU," designed a 20-minute walking tour of campus that highlights KU's oldest buildings.

THE FOLLOWING "Walk Along Historic Jayhawk Boulevard" was designed by the Historic Mount Oread Fund.

— Spooner Hall opened in 1894 as Spooner Library and was the



(Staff photo by Richard Gwin)

Bronze plaques supplied by the Historic Mount Oread Fund mark the opening dates and architects for Dyche Hall and nine other historical buildings on the Kansas University campus. The plaques were installed during the spring semester.

— Bailey Hall, built for chemistry and pharmacy classes and laboratories, opened in 1900. from 1878 to 1919. Designed by John Stanton, it was renamed in 1979. The statue in front of Lip-

Washington, D.C. Lippincott was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

— Marvin Hall, designed by John Stanton, opened in 1910. It was one of four halls under construction in 1908, the year enrollment at KU hit 2,000. Marvin originally housed the School of Engineering. When engineering moved in 1963, Marvin became the home of the newly organized School of Architecture and Urban Design. It was renovated in 1980.

— **THE EAST** wing of Strong Hall opened in 1911; the west wing in 1918; and the central section in 1923. The architects were M.P. McArdle, W. Griffith, George Chandler and Ray Gamble. It was called the Administration Building until 1938. Navy machinists were quartered on the top floor of the west wing from 1942 to 1944.

— Watson Library, designed by George Chandler and Ray Gamble, opened in 1924. The west addition came in 1941 and the southeast addition in 1950. The interior was renovated in 1982.

— Hoch Auditorium, designed by Charles Cuthbert, opened in 1927. The legislature granted \$250,000 to build a multi-use concert stage, lecture hall and a court for basketball. The interior, modeled after a University of Michigan hall, was designed to be free of view-obstructing piers. Basketball goals and movable chairs could be set up in a day.

— Snow Hall, designed by Charles Cuthbert and H.H. Lane, replaced the first Snow Hall, which was built to house Francis Snow's 100,000-specimen insect collection. The new Snow was