

Aggielife

The Academic Building stands as a symbol on A&M campus

RILEY LAGRONE
The Battalion

Every great institution has a landmark, a building that stands out as a symbol of integrity and is immediately noticeable to newcomers. No structure at Texas A&M fits this description better than the Academic Building.

The Academic Building was constructed in 1912 on the site of the Old Main building, which burned during the same year. The new building was the brainchild of Samuel E. Gideon, a professor of architecture at A&M.

With fewer than 30 buildings on campus at the time, the Academic Building was only the second to be constructed using reinforced concrete, giving it the reputation of being built like a fortress. The technique was so new the contractors

did not know how much steel they needed to support the structure. They decided the best option was to use a conservative amount and then double it.

The idea seemed to work out fine until drinking fountains were

"In order to run pipes and drains to the various floors it was necessary to cut holes in the concrete slabs," Langford wrote. "In cutting these holes the workmen exposed a veritable mesh of steel reinforcing bars — so many in fact that the only way

ignated as a bomb shelter in the 1950s — but one of the most versatile as well. During its history, the building has housed presidential and personnel offices, classrooms, academic offices, the main library and even a bookstore.

Through upkeep efforts, the Academic Building has remained not only one of A&M's strongest, but also one of the most memorable and striking buildings.

It is home to one of the University's most historic possessions, a Liberty Bell replica given to the school by former Gov. Allan Shivers in recognition of the sacrifices made by Aggies for their nation.

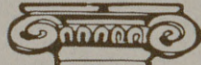
The Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue — or "Sully" — stands in front of the building. It was sculpted by Pompeo Coppini.

SEE ACADEMIC ON PAGE 4.



JALE SHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

The Academic Building has been a campus landmark since 1912.



architecture week

installed in the mid-1930s. Dr. Earnest Langford, former head of architecture at A&M, wrote about the problem in his book *Here We'll Build the College*.

they could be removed was to burn them out with a torch."

The building not only has a reputation as one of the most durable on campus — it was des-

Reed Arena offers glimpse at future of architecture at A&M

KYLE WHITACRE
The Battalion

the couple.

The Reed House, home of the chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, is named in their honor as well. The house is located off George Bush Drive.

The Reed Arena is a look at the potential and future of Texas A&M.

The University finally has a stadium arena large enough to attract entertainment acts as well as providing a new home for Texas A&M basketball and graduation.

The Reed Arena now puts Texas A&M University one step closer to its ideal of being a world-class university.

In addition to Aggie Muster and basketball games, the arena will be used to host a variety of events, including concerts, tradeshows, commencement activities, convention activities, banquets and rodeos.

The main arena can accommodate as many as 12,500 fans for basket-

ball games, 11,500 guests for concerts and other special events and 2,000 for a sit-down dinner.

Reed Arena also contains a 6,000 square-foot area that overlooks the arena, four meeting rooms of 1,200 square feet, a practice gym and 10 concession stands.

Other facilities offered by Reed Arena are lockers for athletic teams, a catering kitchen, a green room, storage areas, a first-aid treatment room and a loading dock.

The main arena, which is home to Texas A&M basketball, is 2,500 square feet and has two levels of seating.

The main level can hold 7,500 and the balcony level can hold 5,000 people.

The concourse level has 360 degree seating, while the balcony level provides three-quarters of that.

The stadium is built in a double-bowl configuration and is seven stories high from the main

exhibit floor, which is built 30 feet below ground level, to the ceiling towering above.

The ceiling is built to handle 100,000 pounds of special lighting and sound equipment.

In the early '80s when Texas A&M decided they were going to need a new arena.

Several studies were conducted to see what type of facility they would need to accommodate special events at College Station as well as hosting the basketball team.

Over the next decade several stages of planning and a more generalized focus on what was needed took shape.

A multi-purpose arena was needed to accommodate the student body of the third-largest university in the United States.



JALE SHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

The Reed Arena, which was opened in the spring, is home to many different events including Aggie basketball games and commencement.

SEE RAILROAD ON PAGE 10.



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