THE HISTORY OF THE UMN ARMORY

[Image of a historical scene with a large building and a flag in the background]
The Coliseum and The Morrill Land Grant

• 1851 The University Opens
  • Almost closes due to financial trouble

• 1862 Land Grant (President Lincoln)
  • Gave federal land=state funds
  • Create colleges for agriculture and mechanical arts
  • Required the practice of military tactics
  • Paid for the “Coliseum” or field house

• July 24th 1894 the Coliseum burns
The Armory Construction

• Minnesota legislature grants $75,000 to Lt. Morgan
• Professor Charles Aldrich prepares plans
  • Designed to resemble old Norman castles, white brick
  • Two stories high, 220x135 ft
  • The states first indoor track, men’s gym, women’s gym
  • Shooting range
• Armory opens with a ball in 1896
The Armory Construction

- Gymnasium seated 3,000 people
  - Could hold 300 Couples on the floor
  - “The finest dance floor in the Northwest”

- Main tower was the commanders living quarters
  - Too cold and drafty

- 1st Deck
  - Basketball team
  - Football team (The little brown jug!)
  - PT and drill

- 2nd Deck
  - Classrooms
“Iron Mike”

- Located in the front of the building
- Grand revealing on Memorial Day 1906
- Sculptor Theo Alice Ruggles-Kitson
- Represents a “Hiker” in the Spanish-American War
  - 218 University students involved
  - 9 Casualties
- Official name: Student Soldier Memorial
- Common name: Iron Mike
Later Armory Construction

- Underground
  - Rifle Range
  - Later on a swimming pool

- Navy Midshipmen deck
  - 1940s
  - Closed West end of stadium seats
  - Classrooms for midshipmen

- Proposed plan for renovation in 90s mostly denied
  - Connection to the field house, and shepherd labs
  - Improved landscaping
1st Deck

Gun Shed

Rifle Range

Sonar Training

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2nd Deck

Upper Part of Gun Shed
3rd Deck

Upper Part of Visual Education Studio

Upper Part of Class Room
The UMN Armory
NROTC / ROTC / AFROTC

The History of the Armory
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http://nrotc.umn.edu/

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*The History of the Armory*

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