
HARKER HALL - UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois



JLA served as consulting architect for the restoration of Harker Hall – the oldest building on the University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana – including reconstruction of a slate roof and exterior limestone staircase.



Services

- Feasibility Study
- Schematic Design
- Historic Consultation
- Exterior Reconstruction
- Historic Restoration

Issues

Built in 1878 in the Italianate style, Harker Hall suffered extensive fire damage in 1896, losing its top floor and mansard roof. It was partially reconstructed at that time – one story shorter, in a different style, with a hip roof. In 1990, the University of Illinois Foundation called on Walker Johnson, then Director of Preservation at Holabird & Root, to examine the feasibility of restoration.



Solutions

After completing the feasibility study and schematic design, Mr. Johnson formed his own firm and was retained as consulting historic architect to BLDD Architects, architect of record. Partner Larry Lasky joined the team, and the two continued to carry out the restoration. The historic work involved design and reconstruction of the decorative slate mansard roof with dormers and decorative iron cresting. Historic photographs served as reference. The limestone central entry staircase was recreated, and remaining exterior elements were faithfully restored to their original appearance.



Date

1990 - 1993

Client

University of Illinois Foundation
BLDD Architects
