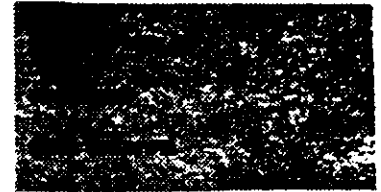


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Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 17

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME: Metal Shop  
COMMON PROPERTY NAME: Aeronautical Lab "B"

LOCATION: 102 South Burrill Avenue  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801  
UNIVERSITY BLDG. NO.: 30

OWNER'S NAME: University of Illinois  
Board of Trustees  
LOCATION: 506 South Wright Street  
CITY: Urbana  
COUNTY: Champaign  
STATE/ZIP: Illinois 61801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Office of University Counsel  
266 Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Starting at a point at the southwest corner of the structure the boundary line follows a line fifteen feet from the edge of the building walls.

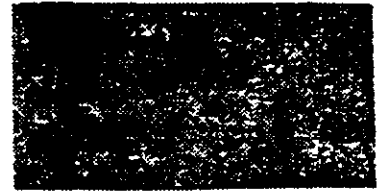
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1895  
ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER: Nathan Clifford Ricker

**DESCRIPTION:**

Aeronautical Lab "B", originally built as the Metal Shop, is a brick structure, laid in common bond, with a double "T"-shaped plan. The building is one story with a hipped roof, a brick foundation, and a limestone water table. The building is 30 feet wide by 170 feet long. The Metal Shop is located on the east side of Burrill Avenue, near Springfield Avenue and the Military Drill Hall (now Kenney Gym Annex).

The narrow main or west elevation faces Burrill Avenue, and has three bays with the center bay containing an entry loggia of three intersecting brick rowlock arches. The arches share a corbeled brick springer course.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 &amp; 8

Page 18

Recessed behind the loggia is a double door entry with a transom. Each end bay has two 1 over 1 double-hung windows with stone sills and rowlock brick arches. The cornice is laid in English bond, with corbeled header courses and a copper gutter.

The south elevation has 23 bays. The first bay from the west has one 1 over 1 double-hung window. The second bay from the west has two identical windows. The 13th bay has double wood doors with lights opening on to a loading dock and the 16th bay has a large round blind arch. The remaining bays each have two 2 over 2 double-hung windows. All windows have limestone sills and double rowlock brick segmental arches.

The east elevation has three bays capped by a gable. The end bays each have three 2 over 2 double-hung windows. The center bay has two casement windows flanking a fixed sash and topped by a round arched transom. All windows have limestone sills and rowlock arches.

The north elevation has 23 bays. The 5th and 6th bays project forward as do the 14th, 15th, and 16th. There is a blanked opening in the 5th bay and a single 2 over 2 double-hung window in each of the 14th, 15th, and 16th bays. The remainder of the elevation is similar to the south elevation.

There are skylights on the north side of the roof and conical sheet metal ventilators on the ridge.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

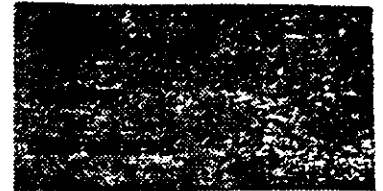
Aeronautical Lab "B" was constructed as the Metal Shop in 1895 and was designed by Nathan C. Ricker. The structure is significant for its associations with Nathan Ricker as an architect and educator, his role as Dean of the College of Engineering, and the building's design as a modern industrial structure.

Shop practice for students in the College of Engineering was not limited to the architecture department. Mechanical engineering students were required to design and fabricate machine parts and whole machines. Originally, this work was done in the Mechanical Building. As the school grew, the shop facilities became inadequate for the number of students. As Dean of the College, Ricker requested an appropriation for a new shop facility. His request was granted, and Ricker drew up plans for the metal shop.

His design reflects a need for a utilitarian structure and is his only structure on the campus without historical references. If anything, the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet U of I Ricker Buildings Item number 7 & 8

Page 19

building's brick walls, with a minimum of ornamentation and large windows, recall factory buildings of the period. The only artistic feature to the building is the entrance loggia on Burrill Avenue. For maximum flexibility in placing machinery within the building, Ricker employed steel trusses which span the entire width of the building.

The Metal Shop represents the functional and practical aspects of Ricker's teaching in built form.