GUIDE TO THE FIGURES ON YOUR MTU AFGHAN

Michigan Technological University originated as the Michigan Mining School in 1885. It has operated under four names:

Michigan Mining School, 1885-1897
Michigan College of Mines, 1897-1927
Michigan College of Mining and Technology, 1927-1964
Michigan Technological University, 1964-Present

It has also had four insignia. These are located in the four corners of your afghan. The remaining designs are of buildings that have, at one time or another, been part of MTU.

Old Fire Hall
This was the original home of Michigan Tech. In September 1886, the Michigan Mining School conducted its first classes in four rented rooms on the second floor of this then almost new building (it had been constructed in 1883), even while the first floor remained in use as a fire hall. A corner of one of these rooms served as the University's first library. Located in downtown Houghton at the corner of Montezuma and Huron, the Old Fire Hall is still used by MTU for storage. Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Fire Hall is one of few examples of Second Empire-style architecture in the area.

Old Hubbell Hall
Designed by the Detroit architectural firm of Scott & Co. and erected between 1888 and 1890 using locally quarried Jacobsville sandstone, Hubbell Hall was the first building at the present campus location. Originally called State Hall and then Science Hall, in 1906 it was named after Jay A. Hubbell, author of the legislative act that created the Michigan Mining School in 1885 and donor of the land that forms the heart of the present campus. Long the heart of the campus and the symbol of Michigan Tech, the building was demolished in 1968 after it had been condemned as unsafe by state inspections and after the state legislature refused to appropriate money for its renovation. The ME-EM building (over) stands in its former location.

Old Sperr Hall
Built in 1902 by the Northern Construction Company of Houghton and designed by the Upper Peninsula's foremost architectural firm, Charlton, Gilbert and Demar of Marquette, Sperr Hall used local red sandstone on the first-floor facade and brick above; additional sandstone trimmed the upper stories. Sperr Hall was originally called the Mining Building and, later, the Civil and Mining Building, before being named after Frederick W. Sperr, long-time head of the mining department. Its central tower contained an 18,000 gallon water tank for a hydraulic laboratory, one of the best equipped in the country at the time the building was erected. Sperr Hall was demolished 1970 and replaced by the ten-story Electrical Engineering Resource Center building.

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Old Club House/Gym (ROTC Building)
Built between 1904 and 1906, this is the oldest building still standing on campus. Designed by Charlton and Kuenzli of Marquette and constructed by Paul Mueller & Co. and his partner Herman Gundlach of Houghton, the building was originally a combination gymnasium, auditorium, and club house. It was funded entirely through the contributions of students, staff, faculty, and friends of the Michigan College of Mines (including members of the Board of Control). It remained the center of student social and recreational life on the Michigan Tech campus until the construction of Sherman Gym in 1949. The building presently houses MTU's ROTC departments and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Old Library (Academic Office Building)
Constructed in 1908-1909, this building is the second oldest on the MTU campus. It was designed by Charlton and Kuenzli of Marquette and built by Herman Gundlach of Houghton to house the college's administrative offices, mineral museum, and library. Like many early Michigan Tech buildings, it made use of locally quarried Jacobsville sandstone on its facade. The building was transformed into faculty office space when new administrative and library facilities were erected in the 1960s. Presently called the Academic Office Building, it houses the Department of Social Sciences, the Department of Education, and the School of Business and Engineering Administration.

J. Robert Van Pelt Library
Situated at the heart of Michigan Tech’s campus, the present library building was erected between 1964 and 1966 to support Michigan Tech's transition from college to university status. Designed by architect Ralph R. Calder, it is named after J. Robert Van Pelt, Michigan Tech's president from 1955 to 1964.

ME-EM Building (Raymond L. Smith Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Mechanics Building)
Erected between 1969 and 1971 on the site of the recently demolished Hubbell Hall (over), the ME-EM building was designed by Linn Smith of Demiene, Adams Inc. of Birmingham, Michigan, and erected by general contractor Herman Gundlach, Inc. This thirteen-story high-rise houses the Department of Mechanical Engineering-Mechanics and the Department of Biological Sciences. It was recently named after Raymond L. Smith, Michigan Tech's president from 1965 to 1979.

Walker Center
The Walker Arts & Humanities Center was constructed in 1985 on the steel frame of the old Sherman Gym (erected in 1949 and replaced by the Student Development Complex in the 1970s). Anchoring the eastern end of the campus, the renovated structure was named after Shaw Walker, who contributed generously towards its construction. It houses the Department of Humanities, the Department of Fine Arts, and the university's art studios and theater. The renovation was designed by Dow, Howell, Gilmore, Associates, Inc., of Midland, Michigan. A Performing Arts Center will form a large addition to the eastern side.

M&M Building (Minerals & Materials Engineering Building)
Constructed between 1987 and 1991, this eight-story structure sits on the bluff overlooking Portage Lake behind the old Benedict Lab (now Dillman Hall). A world-class research facility, the building houses the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, the Department of Mining Engineering, the Institute of Materials Processing, and a number of related laboratories.

This Michigan Technological University Blanket
is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Van Pelt Library

The Friends of the Van Pelt Library is a group of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members who understand that the J. Robert Van Pelt Library is Michigan Technological University's most important resource. We are united in our determination to enrich the Library and to help it serve the University and the community.

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