

USD's Julian and Brookman Halls and Julian Addition Are No More



USD's Julian Hall in 2022, with Julian Addition in the distance, before it was razed in October.



Brookman Hall, which sat to the west of Julian Hall, was also demolished in 2022 to make room for a greenspace. Photographs by Tim Schreiner.

Introduction

Although USD's Julian and Brookman Halls were designed by the same architectural firm and built only 13 years apart, they were stylistically quite different. Julian's details epitomize Art Deco style and Brookman's A-frame lobby shouts the Mid-Century Modern trend of the 1960s.

The side-by-side dormitories that served as homes to thousands of (mostly men) students are gone. In the fall of 2022, both were razed – along with the Julian Addition, which was built in 1958 -- to make way for a new parking lot and a greenspace in the southwest quadrant of the campus.

Julian Hall and John Herndon Julian

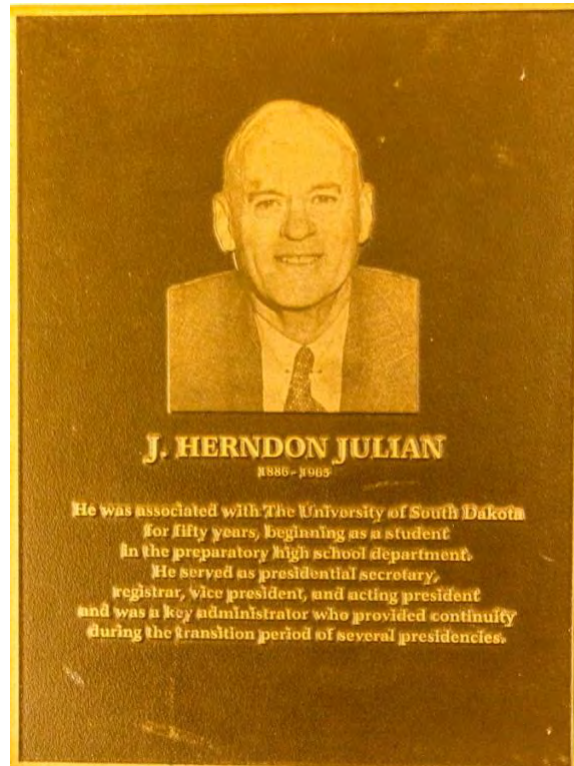
The 1967 Coyote yearbook described Julian Hall as “a low outcrop of masonry against the sky ... the home away from home for the University's freshmen men, and a handful of grouchy counselors ... a coke bottle careens musically down an empty hallway ... the chow line seems to stretch to infinity ... the intercom blats an announcement ... a dormitory is more than a structure; it is a way of life.”

Because of the age of the dormitories and the construction of the new Health Sciences building to the south across Clark Street built on the site of the Medical School parking lot, University officials opted to tear down the three buildings.



President I.D. Weeks with the men for whom Brookman and Julian Halls were named, Harold Brookman and John H. Julian. Thanks to David Gross for the photograph.

Built in the aftermath of World War II as young soldiers returned home and entered college, Julian Hall went up first – in 1950. Named for John Herndon Julian (b. 1886), a long-serving USD official, Julian Hall originally housed 180 male students.



Bronze plaque that hung in Julian Hall dedicating the building to John Herndon Julian.

John Julian's distinguished career included professor of engineering, registrar, dean of students, and in the last 1940s, business manager and vice president of academic affairs. In the wake of the death of President Robert Slagle in 1929, Julian served as interim president of the University. In addition, he founded the forerunner of the USD Foundation, he held the deed to Dakota (now Sanford) Hospital in Vermillion, and after retiring, he was director of auxiliary services, which oversaw *The Volante* student newspaper and The Coyote student yearbook.

Razing the Buildings

"The process really started several years ago when we were discussing the idea of building a new Health Science Building to house the departments that were in Julian Hall," said Brian Limoges, assistant vice president of facilities management discussing the razing of the buildings. "We then looked at potential renovation costs to update these buildings as well as the maintenance and repair costs for these buildings."

Julian dormitory has been mostly vacant for several years, but over time parts of the building were used as offices for university officials, National Music Museum staff while the Carnegie building and addition were constructed, Student health, USD Head Start, the Physician

Assistants Department, Addiction Studies, part of the Nursing program, and Social Work. But for the thousands of students who lived there, it will always be full of memories.

When Dave Carpenter ('74) showed up for classes in 1969, he was assigned to a room in Julian with three other students. As society changed and privacy (both at home and at school) became more important, the rooms in Julian and other dorms housed fewer and fewer students. By Carpenter's second semester, there was only one other student in his room with him, making "studying more feasible."

But study was only part of dorm life. "My roommate and I found an old tin tub from somewhere, filled it with ice and beer, and had our own on-demand cold beer," Carpenter remembered. "Of course, ice melted, the cans rusted, and we had a bit of a mess. The ability to think ahead, for an 18 year old, was not always all that clear."



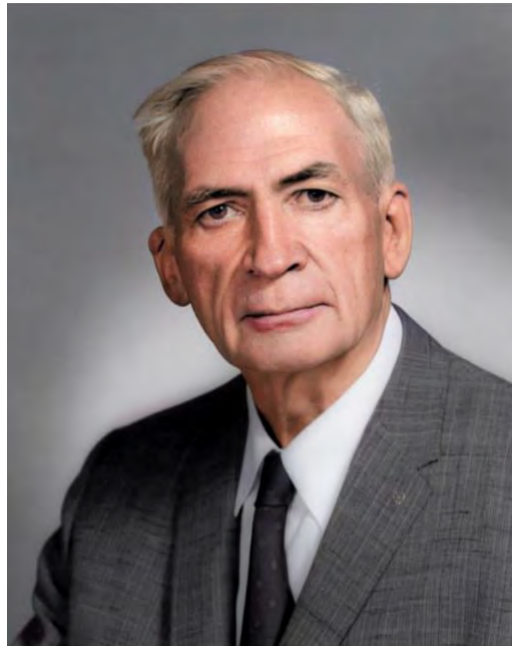
A dorm room in the Julian Addition just before it was demolished in October 2022.

A year later, Tom Nesthus (now a Ph.D. in the FAA Human Factors Research Lab) moved into Julian with two other roommates and an illegal cat named Edna. "One of my favorite memories was hearing the Bun Brothers (a sort of early version of a food truck) calling out their announcements for hot dogs and hamburger," Nesthus said. His reaction to the news that

Julian had been torn down, was befuddlement. “I can appreciate change associated with modern times and needs, but really, a parking lot?” Nesthus said.

Brookman Hall and Professor Harold Brookman

As the student population continued to grow after World War II, in 1963 USD construction of Brookman Hall for men on the west side of Julian, and the construction of Norton Hall across campus for women. Brookman Hall was named for Professor Harold Brookman (b. 1886) who taught in Engineering and developed USD’s Department of Applied Science following the termination of the College of Engineering in 1933. He also designed the school’s first tunnel system to carry warm air from the campus power plant to Old Main.



Harold Brookman
Photograph thanks to David Gross.

Brookman’s life extended far beyond the campus boundaries. He was a Vermillion city alderman, an artist who painted pictures and built replicas of stagecoaches, helped oversee the construction of the first swimming pool in Prentis Park in 1929, drew the architectural plans for Dakota Hospital, and was Vermillion City and USD engineer and served as director of job placement at USD. He lived a block west of campus in the Victorian house at 404 Cottage Street where Brookman grew up.

Both Julian and Brookman Halls, as well as Julian Addition, were designed by the Sioux Falls firm named Hugill, Blatherwick and Fritz & Kroger, which also designed Dakota Hall, the New Armory (now Neuharth Center), Norton Hall, and the 1940 addition to the Carnegie Library. Today the Carnegie building is home to the National Music Museum.



*A wall painting in the walkway between Julian (J) and Brookman (B) Halls.
Photograph by Evelyn Schlenker*



*A photograph of the lobby/recreational area in Brookman Hall.
Photograph by Tim Schreiner.*

Brookman's distinctive A-frame lobby was considered modern next to the more traditional Julian design. The three-story dormitory housed about 300 students including Thomas Mahoney ('75), who was the great nephew of Harold Brookman. One of his best friends was Dennis Daugaard, who lived on the west end of the first floor facing south and later became governor of South Dakota. Daugaard's room was the gathering spot for seven or eight "dorm rats" who regularly watched the popular television show, *Star Trek*. The *Volante* considered it enough of a phenomenon that it sent a reporter and photographer to write about it.

Conclusion

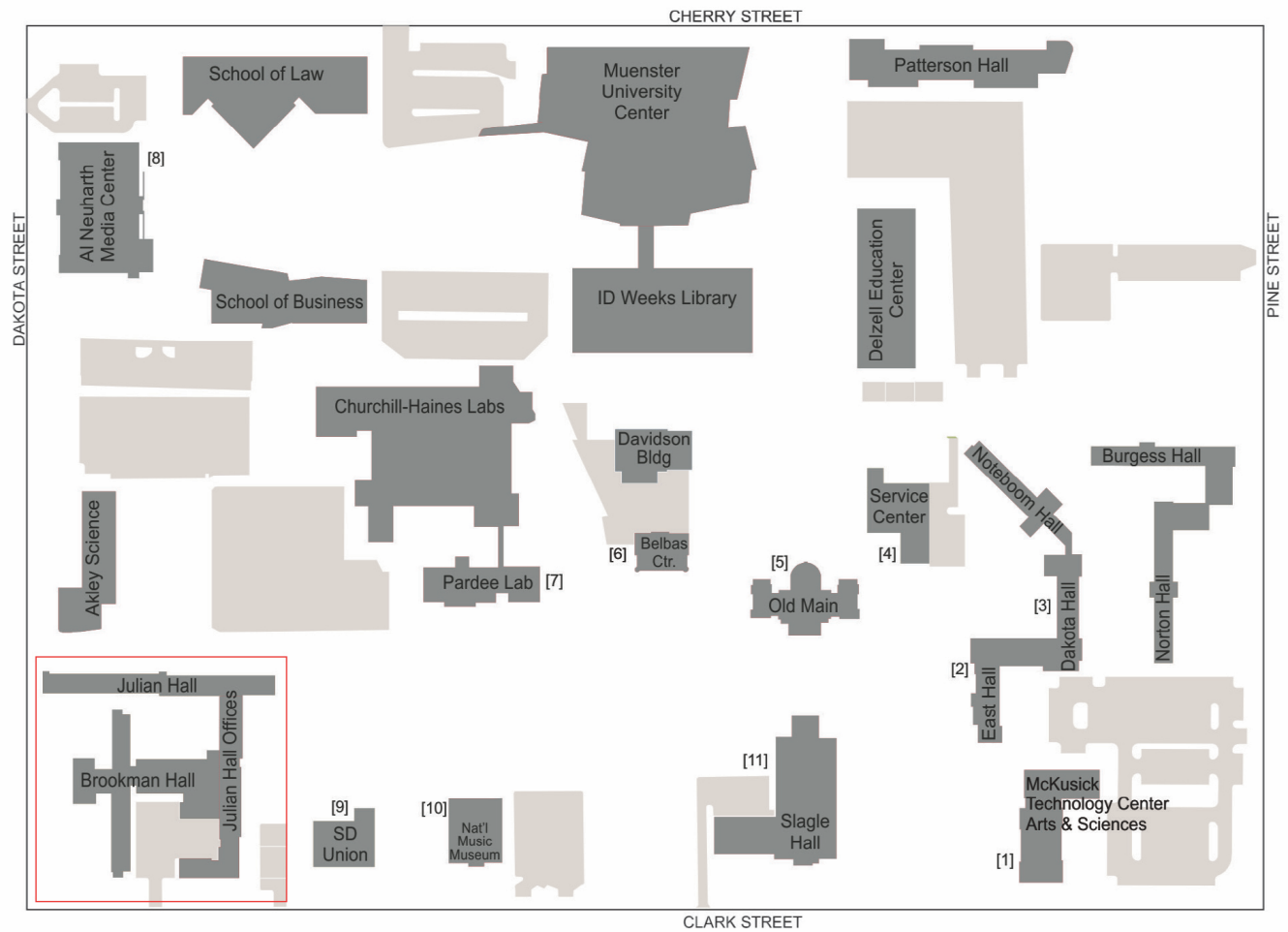
To those students and alumni who were familiar with Julian, Brookman and Julian Addition, the huge open lot in the corner of campus near Dakota and Clark Streets is quite a change. With the construction of a parking lot and greenspace, it will be open for some time to come.



A room in Brookman Hall. Photograph by Tim Schreiner.



A photograph of Brookman Hall in the years after it was constructed in 1963. Photograph from the 1967 Coyote yearbook.



The red box in the lower left hand corner (SW) of the map of the USD campus marks the building that were razed in the fallof 2022 to make way for a parking lot and a greenspace.