

The evening Missourian  
The Oldest Building To Do

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Observatory at University Will Be Torn Down In Short Time

The telescope in the Laws Observatory on the West Campus of the University is being dismantled and the historic observatory will be wrecked in a few days. Laws Observatory will be replaced by the new Journalism Building funds for which have been given by Ward A. Neff a graduate of the School of Journalism.

The part of the observatory that constitutes the cone, clock-room and transit room is the oldest structure now standing on the West Campus of the University. This section of the building was built in 1853 on the site where the Engineering Building now stands.

The observatory was moved to its present location on the north side of the Quadrangle in 1880. Shortly after the building had been moved, Dr. S. S. Laws, a former president of the University have money to purchase a telescope and to erect an octagon, the room which holds the telescope. The structure was then given the name Laws Observatory.

"The telescope is 71 years old, the first telescope of any considerable size west of the Mississippi River" said Prof. R. H. Baker this morning.

The observatory grew by sections. In 1891 an office room was added. Then classes were held in the office of the building. A class room was built in 1907.

"There is nothing at this time to announce concerning the site or erection of a new observatory" said Edward E. Brown business manager of the University, this morning.