



**CARNEGIE ON CAMPUS:** Opened in 1911 on the Prince Street Campus as the first home of Rochester's engineering programs, the Carnegie Building (above) eventually became a residence hall for students in the College for Women (left). After a fire this winter, the building, owned by private developers, was torn down.

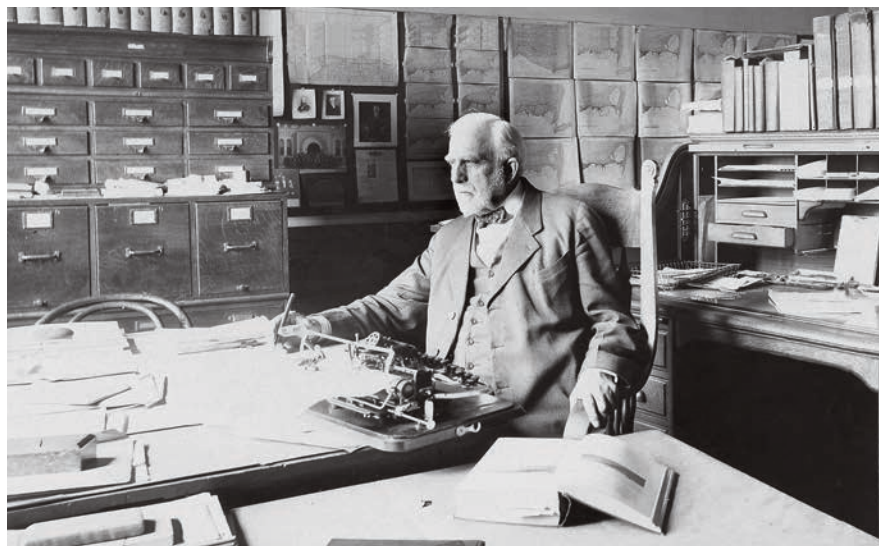
## Ask the Archivist: What's the Fate of the Carnegie Building?

*A question for Melissa Mead, the John M. and Barbara Keil University Archivist and Rochester Collections Librarian.*

**On January 27, 2015, an early morning fire gutted the Carnegie Building on the University's original Prince Street Campus. Although the building had not been University property for almost 60 years, the event was widely noted by alumni, staff, and Rochesterians for whom it had long been a familiar sight on Goodman Street between University and College avenues. A note from Deanne Molinari '58 captures the concern: "Carnegie was the dorm and first exposure to the University for many women students. For the Class of 1958, it has resonance because we were the last class of women to enter on the Prince Street Campus before the merger with the College for Men. I believe classmates and others would be interested in the building's fate."**

In 1905, Andrew Carnegie promised the University \$100,000 toward the construction and furnishing of an engineering building—the seventh building on the Prince Street Campus—if the University could raise the same amount to be added to its endowment to support a Department of Applied Sciences.

According to Arthur May's *A History of the University of Rochester*, President Rush Rhees was interested in expanding the sciences at the University. The Eastman Building, with facilities for physics and biology, was



**FAIR PLACE:** The last professor hired by President Martin Brewer Anderson in 1888, geologist Herman Fairchild was a fixture in the Carnegie Building even after retiring in 1920.

nearing completion, which meant that George Eastman was unlikely to contribute; another major donor at the time, Hiram W. Sibley, had already committed to renovate the library in Sibley Hall, which had been initially funded by his father.

Sibley suggested that Rhees contact John D. Rockefeller Sr. Previous direct appeals to Rockefeller had not borne fruit, but working with alumnus Frederick Taylor Gates, Class of 1877, who headed the Rockefeller-funded

General Education Board, Rhees and others secured a portion of the necessary matching funds—and perhaps equally important, the foundation was laid for the relationship that would culminate in a far larger grant to fund the School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1920.

Almost four years would pass before the money was in hand and plans could move forward. A front page article in the September 30, 1909, *Campus* proclaimed that Millard Ernsberger, Class of 1888, had been hired to