Morrill Hall was built in 1890 and is the second oldest building on the ISU campus. The building was named after Senator Justin Morrill, author of the land-grant legislation. This was significant since Iowa was the first state in the nation to accept the terms of the Morrill Act (1862) and ISU was the first institution to be called a Land Grant Institution (1864).


LEED

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED provides building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

Iowa State University is committed to incorporating LEED principles when undertaking new construction or major renovation projects with the goal of obtaining certification at the Gold Level. Currently, ISU has four LEED Building with many others in the process of applying for LEED Certification.

The Morrill Hall renovation attained a Silver LEED-NC rating.

KEY FACTS

Design Team:
Architect: RDG Planning and Design
MEP: Vanderweil Engineers
Structural: Charles Saul Engineering, Inc.
Civil: Snyder & Associates
General Contractor: HPC, LLC
Occupancy Date: March 2007
Square Footage: 22,906 gsf
Project Budget: $10,135,500
Originally built in 1890, the designers of Morrill Hall took advantage of daylight and locally available materials, from brick manufactured along side the Skunk River, to limestone from Anamosa, Iowa. The original structure demonstrated sustainability in its basic form. The building was a simple structure reflecting the need of the University for classrooms, lecture space, a museum for zoology, entomology, and geology collections, and the library. Those items are now found across the campus, but the original need for the building still remains.

Morrill Hall houses classrooms, the Christian Peterson Art Museum, the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and the Center for Visual Learning in Textiles and Clothing. Morrill allows for the display of the unique collection housed within, as well as featured in the classrooms.

First Floor
The bamboo floors in the galleries are a rapidly renewable resource. The bamboo can be grown and harvested in less than 10 years.

The classroom on the north side of the building has natural light to reduce the need for lights on most days.

The restrooms in the building used recycled plastics for the partitions and recycled glass in the countertops. Water use in the building was reduced by 20% over code design.

Second Floor
The large classroom in the original chapel space is located on this floor—large windows provide lighting, sun screens help reduce the glare but still allow for note taking during lectures without lighting assistance.

The carpet throughout the building is recycled. The manufacturer reclaims old carpet, separates the components, and reuses them in the manufacturing process.

Third Floor
From the lounge on the third floor you can look out original window openings and see the roof tiles that are made of 100% recycled rubber designed to look like slate—the original roofing material that was removed from the building in 1922.

The office suite takes advantage of large windows to provide natural daylight to the work stations.

Ground Floor
The ground floor houses the CVLTC collection and conservation lab, a second art gallery, and the building mechanical room. This floor on this level was lowered one foot on the south side to provide adequate headroom for mechanical services and lighting. The north side was lowered five feet to accommodate the equipment in the mechanical room necessary to support the building. A second accessible entrance was added on the east side.

Recycled rubber slate-like tiles are seen on the roof.