Contact: Keith Saunders

LAKESIDE LABORATORY PROPOSED NAMING

Committee Action Requested: Recommend the Board approve Iowa Lakeside Laboratory's request to name the new Innovation & Discovery Laboratory the "Ada Hayden Laboratory" in honor of Dr. Ada Hayden.

Executive Summary: Iowa Lakeside Laboratory requests approval to name its new laboratory building in recognition of Ada Hayden's contributions to botany, prairie conservation, and the study of Iowa's natural history. The building is scheduled for completion in December 2026.

Dr. Hayden (1884–1950) earned a bachelor's degree in botany from Iowa State College (now Iowa State University) in 1908 and became the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from the institution in 1918. Her career at Iowa State combined botanical research, education, and efforts to document and preserve Iowa's remaining prairies, with particular attention to the Iowa Great Lakes region.

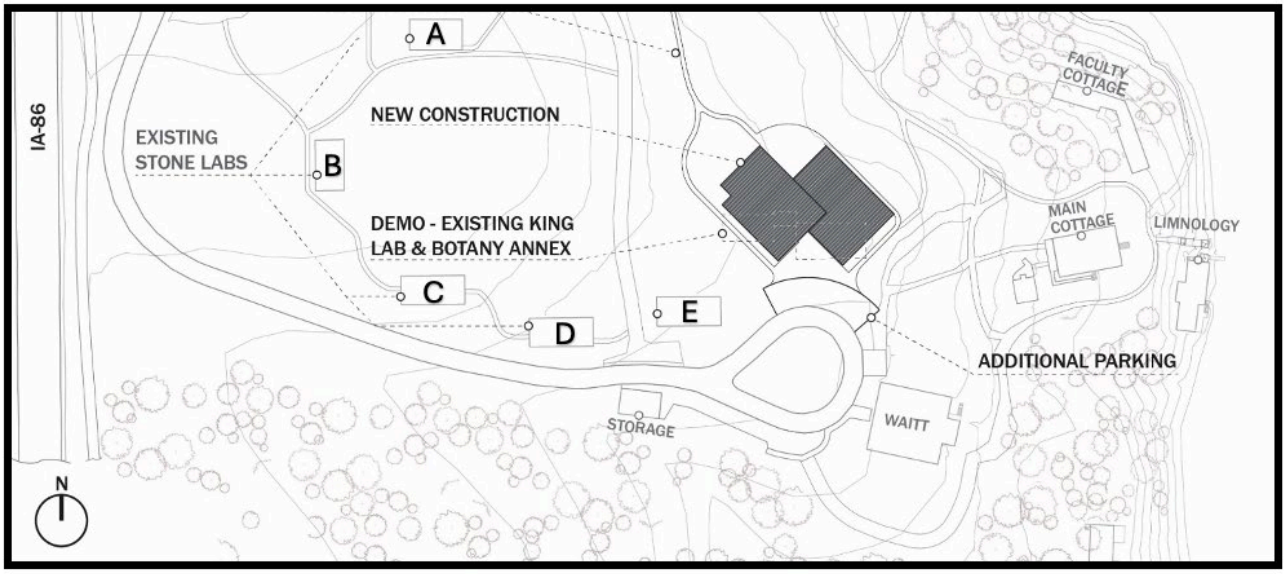
In 1945, Hayden and J. M. Aiken, chair of the Iowa Academy of Science's conservation committee, issued a report identifying remaining prairies that should be preserved. The research provided a scientific basis for the State Conservation Commission's land acquisition decisions. Hayden also served as curator of the Iowa State College herbarium, now the Ada Hayden Herbarium, and collected more than 40,000 botanical specimens during her lifetime.
Hayden's work has a direct connection to Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. She collected botanical specimens at Lakeside and in the surrounding area, and in 1948 published "The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory – A Prairieless Field Laboratory," examining the site's environmental and educational significance in the context of prairie loss. Lakeside now includes prairie areas used by students studying ecology, biology, and sustainability.

Specimens collected by Hayden remain part of Lakeside's teaching herbarium. The new laboratory will allow students and researchers to compare botanical specimens collected today with those she preserved a century ago.

The new building is near the five Civilian Conservation Corps stone laboratories named for Thomas Macbride, Samuel Calvin, Joseph Bodine, Bohumil Shimek, and Louis Pammel. Pammel mentored Hayden beginning when she was a high school student and later at Iowa State College. The proposed naming would recognize Hayden alongside these figures in Iowa's natural history and honor her contributions to prairie conservation.



Proposed "Ada Hayden Laboratory"



Proximity of the proposed “Ada Hayden Laboratory” to the five stone laboratories named after Macbride (A), Shimek (B), Pammel (C), Calvin (D), and Bodine (E)