Larkins Hall was located at 337 W. 17th Avenue. The Natatorium portion had previously been listed at 321 W. 17th Avenue. This structure was officially named "Richard C. Larkins Hall" by the Board of Trustees on June 4, 1976. In the same action the Board named major areas in the building the "Hike Peppe Aquatic Center" and the "Paul S. Benedem Recreation Center". This structure was originally built as "Physical Education Building" and "Natatorium" and was also known as Hen's Gym, Gym, University Activities Center, Hen's Physical Education Bldg, Natatorium & Physical Education Bldg, and Natatorium & Gymnasium for Hen. The first addition was called "library Annex" or "library Storage Building". The second addition was built under the title "Recreation, Physical Education, Intramural Facilities--Central Facility". For many years, the Physical Education and Natatorium portions of the original building were considered as two separate buildings (Numbers 64 and 57, respectively).

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Larkins Hall history. Originally called the Men's Gymnasium and Varsity Natatorium, the building opened in 1931. In 1971, the Larkins Hall addition was dedicated, adding a 50-meter pool, fitness space and an office suite. It was named for Richard Larkins, director of Ohio State athletics from 1947-1970. The facilities were heavily used over the years and by the early 1990s they were inadequate in size to serve the university community and also in need of significant repair and updating. Planning for RPAC began in 1994. Newsroom.