



National Historic Chemical Landmark

R. B. Wetherill Laboratory of Chemistry

Purdue University

West Lafayette, Indiana

The R. B. Wetherill Laboratory of Chemistry at Purdue University has served as a center for chemical education and research in the United States for more than 80 years. Named after local physician and lecturer Dr. Richard Benbridge Wetherill, the building was constructed in phases between 1928 and 1955 to accommodate a growing Department of Chemistry. Generations of chemists and chemical engineers have studied in this building under renowned faculty, among them winners of Nobel Prizes in Chemistry Herbert C. Brown (1979) and Ei-ichi Negishi (2010). Advances made here include developments in vapor-phase nitration of saturated hydrocarbons, palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling, tandem mass spectrometry, and the discovery of hydroboration and its application to numerous synthetic pathways. This work has provided versatile techniques for the creation of pharmaceuticals, agricultural chemicals, nitroparaffin-based explosives, and other products.

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