FAIR OAKS MANSION

Bus House

Built: 1879

At the November 1878 meeting of the Board of Trustees it was

Ordered, that President Welch and Professor Budd be appointed a committee with full power to grant the request of students desiring to erect houses on the college farm, to choose the location, approve plans and have full control in the matter of the erection of said houses.

Fair Oaks Mansion was built by students the following year. The house was built at a location on the east side of the present Communications Building. It appears there on the 1883 map. It is not shown there on a map prepared in 1887. On the later map there is a residence shown about 300 feet west by south of the old Horticulture Hall. This location agrees with Margaret Kooser's statement of location: "300 ft. west of south end of present library." (1) Although no record has been found relative to moving the building it seems safe to assume that such a move was made about 1884 or 1885. This is almost certainly the same building as the one referred to as the Bus House in 1892 and 1893. Two references in March 1892, one in The Aurora and one in the IAC Student report that the Bus House was being used to house students.

Herman Knapp, in 1934, attempted to obtain more information about the building through correspondence with men who had been students in the 1880's, trying to determine who built it. He wrote:

When I came to Ames in the spring of 1880, there was a frame building probably 20 x 24, a story and a half high under a large oak tree quite a little west of the present college cemetery. This building was occupied by boys and I was told at the time that these boys built the house and owned it. (2)

The reference here to "west of the cemetery" undoubtedly should have been written "east of the cemetery".

How or when title to the house may have been transferred from the student builders to the college is not recorded.

____________________
(1) Kooser, 1939
(2) Herman Knapp to Elmer Reeves, March 20, 1934 (ISU Archives)
At the May 2-4, 1893, Board meeting

Pres. Beardshear presented the following: The necessity of moving the house and barn belonging to the Steward's department from the grounds set aside for the Athletic Association. Referred to Building Committee with instructions to act at once.

It is probable that this house was moved to the south side of the road at the west gate in 1893. It is known that it was moved somewhere that year. The only map that shows a building at west gate is one dated 1896. There is no record of any buildings erected at that location.

In the Board minutes for May 1897 the following entry is made:

Prof. Curtiss has called attention to the gardener's house and barn, near the west gate. The house has never been plastered and the roof is worn out. The barn is practically a worthless shed. Your committee recommend a new roof and plastering for the house and that the little barn back of South Hall be moved out to make an addition of two rooms to this house. Also that the abandoned stable near the present club house near Morrill Hall be moved out for the services of the Gardener.

(Also see Horticulture Barn-First)

The following month the minutes report that "the barn north of the depot has been moved to gardener's house near west gate at a cost of ten dollars. We recommend it to be placed in repair."

The March 14, 1899, issue of the I.A.C. Student recorded: "The unsightly house near the west gate is also removed and one feels as relieved as though a plague had ceased."
FARM BOARDING CLUB
Horticulture Hall (or Laboratory), Garden House, Faculty Club
Built: 1879 Moved to Wallace Road 1915
Razed: 1970

Original site just east of Library east front, west side of Morrill Road.

The Horticulture Department expressed the need for a "garden-house" as early as 1871 when Professor Bessey prepared plans for a building estimated to cost $2500. By 1877 the estimated cost was $3500.

The building did not become a reality until the summer of 1878. The 17th General Assembly had appropriated $2500 for the building but those funds would not be available until January 1, 1879. Professor J.L. Budd loaned the College $2500 (at 8% interest) on July 1, 1878 and construction of the building was possible that summer. That amount was only 42% of the estimated $6000 requested. The result is summarized in the 8th Biennial Report (1878-79):

This reduction compelled the committee to plan a cheap wooden structure for class room, office, seed room, specimen room, store room, with attached propagating pits, grafting room, etc., of restricted size and cheap construction. In carrying out these modest plans, neither creditable to the College nor the State, the appropriation would still have been inadequate had not firms, in Clinton, Iowa, generously furnished the lumber, doors, sash, etc. at prices below dealers rates. Active completion also permitted letting contracts for labor at hard time prices.

The total expenditures came to $2500.

In the same report the building is further described:

The Horticulture Building is a neat structure, containing on the first floor a well-furnished lecture room, professor's room, and seed room. On the second floor is the Horticulture museum. The cellar has two spacious rooms, one for the storage of garden products, the other for the use of the nursery propagating department. A grafting neat room and propagating structure are attached, heated with hot-water pipes.

In 1894, after the Horticulture department had moved to the new Agriculture Hall (Botany Hall), Horticulture Hall was remodeled as a residence, following plans by Mr. Whiting, at an estimated cost of $850. Miss Marie Chambers, director of music, rented the house in 1895 and established it as a boarding club. Water and sewer connections were installed in 1896. The building continued as a faculty or sub-faculty club until 1906, when it was reserved for contagious hospital purposes.
Whether it was actually used for this purpose is uncertain. In 1908 the suggestion was made that it "be moved to some obscure location and used as a detention hospital."(1)

The old building remained in place until 1915 when it was moved to the south side of what is now called Wallace Road at the west end of the new addition to the Women's Gym. It was the westernmost of the five frame buildings in the group of five "employees' cottages" moved or built there between 1915 and 1924.

It was used as an employees' boarding house for some years thereafter. Later it was an employees residence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edgar P. Swanson</td>
<td>1945-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Evans</td>
<td>1954-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon Halterman</td>
<td>1962-1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was razed in 1970 to make way for the Gymnasium addition.

**THE FARM HOUSE**
Knapp-Wilson House

Construction started: 1860    Completed: 1865
Architect: Milens Burt of Muscatine
No contractor, built by day labor

The first building started on the new college land was the Farm House. Plans for it and the barn, prepared by Milens Burt, architect and builder of Muscatine, had been approved in 1859.

William G. Allen recorded that beginning:

About the year 1860, the College Farm House site was fixed by Mr. Suel Foster, of Muscatine County, and Daniel McCarthy, of Story County. Mr. Foster was one of the locating Trustees and had desired to meet Mr. E.G. Day, also a locating Trustee, on the Farm so they could select the site for the Farm House and the Barn. Mr. Day did not appear. Mr. McCarthy, I believe, had a compass and met with Mr. Foster, and they scared up a surveyor's chain or tape line and went to work fixing the site for the house. It became the arduous duty of Esq. Daniel to drive the first stake on the Farm, looking to its improvement.(2)

---

(1) Minutes, May 1908

(2) Allen, 1887
Construction of the house was primarily by day labor but there was a contract for the stone work. The bricks used were made on the farm. (See Section on "Brickyards")

The house is described in the 1862 Annual Report:

The brick work of a Farmers' House, 32 by 42 feet, two stories high, with pantries and kitchen back, 16 by 24, one and a half stories, also brick, have been erected during the past two years. There is attached to this a wash-room, milk-room and wood-shed, 24 x 24, one story of wood. The back buildings were erected in 1860 and finished; the front building was put up in 1861 at a cost of $950, besides the cellar and the brick. The inside of the main building is not finished, but it is enclosed from the weather. To finish it will cost about $650. Each story is nine feet high, of good brick on solid stone walls, with a cellar under the whole of the house.

The house was not completed until 1865. In March of that year the Executive Committee reported to the Board of Trustees as follows:(1)

Your committee desired to have reported the Farmers House finished at this meeting. The inside carpenters work has been completed also the plastering is finished. The painting should be done immediately.

Your committee would recommend the building of a neat verandah on the front of the farm house also the building of a wood house and privy also that the outside of the farm house be coated with a composition of lime.

We have divided the cellar into three departments with brick partitions and would recommend that the bottom of the cellar be paved or cemented and that a drain should be dug from the cellar. Also that there should be new lightning rods put up to the house.

Then recorded is an itemization of expenses incurred on the building in 1864, a total of $1772.67. Another $30 was spent for a cistern of 100 barrels capacity and $99 for stoves and furniture for the office. The committee additionally recommended "that the well be rewalled and dug deeper, and to put a good wellhouse and pave around the same."

That the recommendations of the committee were generally carried out can be seen in the Annual Report for 1865:

A beautiful verandah has been put up since our last meeting, in front of the farm house, at a cost of $300. It is built substantially,

(1) Minutes, March 23-24, 1865
and it relieves the bare walls of the house, and will be a protection to it.

A wood-house and workshop has been erected, east and adjoining the back part, on the lean-to of the house. It has been built of wood and put up in a substantial manner, at a cost of $646.75. It is well painted, with blinds to the windows, with a division in the center - one part for wood-house and the other for workshop, and room for the hands to spend their leisure hours. Length of building 18 x 30 ft.

A good double privy has been built of brick, 10 x 10, in a good substantial manner, at a cost of $150.

A neat and substantial smoke and ash house has been built of brick, 8 x 12 feet, got up in a tasty style, suitable for model building, at a cost of $130.

A book case has been put into the office the entire length of the north side of the office, made of good black walnut, with cupboard and solid doors below the glass doors above, with room for 2,000 volumes, at a cost of $200.

The area between the wood-house and main building has been paved, making a good dry walk, at a cost of $25.

The cellar has been drained, taking about one hundred feet of four-inch tile (the small tile were used, but would not do). The cellar is now completed, drained, and in good condition, at a cost for 100 feet of tile at 25 cents per foot, of $25; cost of labor, $21.81. Total cost, $46.81.

There is a sketch made by Herman Knapp (in the History Collection of the Library) showing a plan of the Farm House as it was about this period. It has been redrawn and is included here to clarify the dates when the several parts of the house were built.

In 1871 some modifications were made "to enlarge the kitchen, fix up the east wing or the secretary's office and reporting room and to rearrange the old office for a parlor."(1)

Maintenance of the Farm House was a continuing problem as evidence by the Superintendent's report(2) in 1877:

---

(1) Biennial Report, 1871

(2) Biennial Report, 1876-77
The farmhouse cellars were found in condition utterly unfitted for any practical use, winter or summer.

The floors have been paved with brick, the outer courses being made of hard brick, laid in cement. The walls, riddled with rat holes, were refitted and neatly plastered, as were also the ceilings. The rotted jambs and doors were refurnished, and the stairways bricked, and placed in usable shape.

This imperatively needed improvement will allow of the safe storage of potatoes and other vegetables for spring use, in place of selling such products in the fall, and buying at enhanced prices in the spring, as was done last year. The temporary use of these cellars is also kindly permitted for storing the vegetables of the Horticulture department for the spring term of school, and for the storage of stocks for winter grafting. Without this privilege, nothing could have been done in the way of commencing a nursery next spring.

The farm house roof was also found in rotted, leaky condition. The roof, in part, has been re-shingled and the balance repaired, but a new roof will be necessary on the main building next summer.

Roof repairs were made again in 1880 and 1881, and the building was reported as being greatly improved by a coat of paint (in the 1890-91 Biennial Report).

Residences for faculty were always short of demand. In 1886 it was decided to alter the Farm House to permit two families to occupy it, one on the east, the other on the west side of the central hall and stairway. The sum of $200 was appropriated in May 1887 for an addition to the building, presumably to provide for the second kitchen for a second family.

In 1896 the house was connected to the sanitary sewer line. Late that same year Professor James Wilson put in a new heating plant at a cost of $220 for which he was reimbursed the following February when he left to become U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. That furnace served until 1907 when the house was connected to the central system.

The frame portion, built as the wood-shed and workshop, was removed in 1891 to be joined with the old creamery to form the building later called the Farm Foreman's Cottage.

The north 24 x 24 brick addition was apparently removed in 1897. At the May meeting of the Board of Trustees the Building Committee recommended "tearing down the north section of the farm house, which is but a harbinger for rats. Cost of tearing down, clearing brick and piling all up neatly $23.00."
The May 17, 1898 issue of the I.A.C. Student reported that "the porch along the south side of the farmhouse was torn down, and is now replaced by a smaller one."

The Board Minutes of October 1910 state:

...it was ordered: that it is not considered advisable to plaster or cement the outside of brick residence occupied by Professor Curtiss, and that when improvements to said building are completed, the outside of the building shall be painted two coats.

The following August $1,450 was authorized for remodeling and repair of the house by Superintendent Thomas Sloss. The porch on the west side of the house was almost certainly a part of this remodeling. It was built from plans prepared by Proudfoot and Bird in 1909. The repair work probably included the exterior stucco coating because in 1913 Professor Curtiss called attention to more needed repairs, including a new roof. He reported "while the roof was covered with snow, it leaked in places so as to damage the interior walls of the building. This leak, causing a saturation of the brick walls, followed by freezing, will lead to damage of the outside plaster finish."

The following month, May 1913, the Board appropriated $495 for a new asbestos shingle roof.

A garage, 20 x 19 feet, was built from a drawing by the Architectural Engineering department, dated Dec. 6, 1926. Actual construction was probably in 1927.

The Farm House, or the Knapp-Wilson House, was designated in 1965 as a Registered National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

After Dean Andre moved out in 1970 the University administration determined that the house would no longer be used as a residence nor would it serve for classroom or offices. Soon thereafter the decision was reached to preserve the house as a museum and to restore it as closely as possible to its appearance as it was about 1900-1910, when it was the residence of Dean Curtiss.

President Parks appointed a committee to direct the research, renovation and restoration of the Farm House and to seek furnishings to place in it, representative of those that might have been there prior to 1910. That committee consisted of Carl Hamilton, vice-president for information and development, Neva M. Peterson, professor of applied art, Wesley I. Shank, professor of architecture and Robert R. Harvey, associate professor of landscape architecture.

Extensive repair and restoration work was undertaken between 1972 and 1975. The roof was replaced with wood shingles and new copper flash-
ings and gutters were installed. Chimneys were rebuilt. The garage was removed. Inside, sagging floors were leveled and reinforced, damaged or fallen plaster was replaced, mechanical and electrical systems were renovated. Careful study was undertaken to ensure that final finishes - varnish and paint color, wallpaper, hardware, and lighting fixtures - were appropriate to the time portrayed.

Alumni and the public were asked to donate furniture and other objects which had once been in the Farm House or which were typical of the period to which the house was being restored. Response was good and the building now is well furnished and open, on occasions, for public viewing.

The first occupant of the Farm House was W.H. Fitzpatrick who rented the farm for two years. The following list of occupants was prepared by Mrs. Dorothy Kehlenbeck, long-time curator of the University history collections:

1861-1863 W.H. Fitzpatrick, tenant farmer and postmaster.
1864-1866 A.J. Graves, Farm manager and postmaster until 1865 when post office was moved to Ames.
1867-1868 Hugh M. Thomson, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of the farm.
1869 Norton S. Townsend (Townshend), Professor of Agriculture.
1870-1873 I.P. Roberts, Secretary and Superintendent.
1874-1878 Millikan Stalker, Secretary and Superintendent, Professor of Agriculture (and later Veterinary Science).
1879 J.C. Hiatt, Farm Superintendent.
1880-1885 Seaman A. Knapp, Farm Superintendent, Professor of Agriculture, College President 1883-84.
1886-1887 Herman Knapp, Head of Agriculture.
1887-1890 Loran P. Smith, Farm Superintendent, Professor of Agriculture, lived in east half.
C.F. Barrows, Professor of English, lived in west half.
1891-1895 James F. Wilson, Farm Superintendent and Professor of Agriculture.
1897-1946 Charles F. Curtiss, Dean of Agriculture and director of Agricultural Experiment Station.
1948-1949 Home Management.
1950-1970 Floyd Andre, Dean of Agriculture.
FARM LABORER'S COTTAGE
Leighton House, McKay House

- Located at about present main entrance to East Hall Addition.

Built: 1882
Architect: Professors Knapp and Budd
Removed: 1904

The Trustees acted to initiate construction of two farm cottages at their May 1882 meeting. The Board

Ordered, that Professors Kanpp and Budd be appointed a committee to construct the laborers cottages for farm and horticultural departments, making their own plans and specifications, purchasing all materials, employing the necessary labor and superintending the work. Ordered further, that the sum of $1700 or so much thereof as may be necessary be appropriated from the State Fund for the erection of these cottages, the same to be divided as evenly as possible and practicable between the two cottages and to be extended under the direction of the committee, duplicate bills of all expenditures to be made out and audited in usual form previous to payment. (1)

New siding was installed and the house was painted in 1895. "As to internal repairs, it is recommended that Mr. McKay advance money for the same, such repairs to be made under direction of the Building Committee, and to be paid from repair fund when its condition will warrant." (2)

Further repairs and improvements were made the following year under contract with E.C. Potter.

First occupant of the house was William Pierce. Fred Leighton lived there 1892-94 and from 1894 to 1904 it was the home of Professor G.L. McKay. (3)

In 1904 the house had to be moved to permit construction of the new creamery (East Hall). It was sold and removed from the campus.

(1) The second cottage is the Grounds Cottage, which is described separately.

(2) Minutes, May 1895

(3) D. Kehlenbeck, Manuscript, 1969
FEEDING BARN

Built: 1880
Architect: Prof. T.L. Smith
Contractor: F.S. Whiting
Burned: 1901

The "Feed Barn" is shown on the 1883 map in a location about 600 feet east of the Farm Barn. This is at a location just at the southeast corner of the present Agronomy Greenhouse.

This barn was built in 1880 under contract with F.S. Whiting in the amount of $725. Painting and other costs brought the total expenditure to $792.10.

In 1890 Experimental Station Director Speer was authorized to use proceeds from sale of Station products for repair of the barn.

A fire starting in this barn in October 1901 destroyed it and the Experiment Station Barn.

FEEDING SHEDS
Cattle Shed; Hog Barn

Built: 1902 (?)  Addition: 1903, 1916

These sheds were apparently started soon after the fire which destroyed the earlier Feeding Barn and the original Experiment Station Barn in October 1901. They were built at about the same location as the burned structure. The March 25, 1903, issue of the ISC Student reported that "The experiment station feed sheds will be enlarged by a forty-foot addition" and three days later stated "The contract for the feeding shed went to C.E. Atkinson, of Webster City, for $1565."(1) The building list for 1903 shows a valuation of $2500 for the Feeding Sheds.

In 1916 the Iowa State Student records that "Superintendent of Grounds, Thos. Sloss, is also adding a new experiment feeding shed....in the feed lots near the power house. This is reflected in the valuation increase to $3659 in the 1918 Financial Report.

The Feeding Sheds as shown on the 1921 map formed an L-shaped structure with a north-south leg at the west end about 150 feet long and an east-west leg on the north 280 feet long. The feed lots were on the inside of the L.

---

(1) Minutes, May 16, 1903
In 1928 the Feeding Sheds were moved to the Animal Husbandry farm on Beach Avenue south of Lincoln Way, today's Iowa State Center area, and razed in 1957.

**FEED STORAGE ELEVATOR**

*Feed Barn*

Built: 1929  
Architect: Proudfoot, Rawson & Souers  
Contractor: L.D. Anthony (masonry only) 
Razed: 1969

A fund of $22,500 was allocated for a Feed Barn in the spring of 1927.(1) According to the *Iowa State Student* of April 16, 1972, "The feed barn will be the central feed storage and feed grinding building for all the college feeds." In August of that year the preliminary plans were approved and authorization was given to prepare final plans and specifications and to advertise for bids, with the total project cost not to exceed $24,193.55 and for the building itself a maximum cost of $21,268.00.(2)

Bids were received the following April but were rejected because all exceeded the available funds. New bids were taken in April 1929 and the contract award was made to L.D. Anthony "for the brick, hollow tile, and labor on the masonry work" in the amount of $3,559.77.(3)

The building stood just east of the (old) Meat Laboratory and was described in the Dec. 17, 1929, issue of the *Iowa State Student*:

A grain storage building made of hollow tile, which has the appearance of an elevator with a silo at each of the four corners, was erected during the past summer by the Agricultural Engineering Department for the Animal Husbandry Department at Iowa State. The building is causing considerable comment among those interested in farm buildings.

The structure of the granary is such that it will easily hold 10,000 bushels of ear corn and an equal amount of small grains. Air hoists, electrically controlled, elevate the grain into the various bins. One unusual feature of the corn bins is the fact

(1) Minutes, April 12, 1927

(2) Minutes, August 31, 1927

(3) Minutes, April 17, 1929
that they have solid tile walls in contrast to the usual corn crib construction. These two bins are equipped with false bottoms to provide the necessary circulation of air through the corn.

The entire building was erected at a cost of $9,000 with an additional cost of $2,000 for equipment including hoists, electric controls, a corn sheller, a feed grinder, scales and other lesser items.

The Feed Storage Elevator was razed in 1969 when it was no longer of use or value to the university.

**Fick Observatory**

Mather Observatory

Built: 1968-70  
Architect: Norval H. Curry  
Contractor: Boone Construction Co.

This building is located off-campus in Boone County, near Moingona, on land acquired specifically for the needs of the observatory functions in 1967. In April 1968 the project description was recorded in the Board minutes:

The scope of the project has been enlarged to provide space for the radio-telescope research operations of the Department of Electrical Engineering in addition to the visual telescope research operations of the Physics Department.

When completed, the Observatory Building will contain the telescope and associated equipment provided in part by a gift to the University by Robert L. Mather and in part by an NSF Equipment Grant in the amount of $60,000, and will also contain computer equipment with an original value of approximately $1,000,000 which will be used in support of the radio-telescope research operations.

The construction contract was awarded in November 1968 and work was completed in February 1970.

In November 1970 the Board named the new building Erwin Fick Observatory, honoring Erwin Fick "who has demonstrated strong interest in astronomy and in the University. Mr. Fick, a native Iowan, now residing in Davenport, is retired from service in the U.S. Corps of Engineers. He devotes considerable time to refractor and reflector telescopes. He established a trust with Iowa State University Foundation that has grown to a substantial 5-figure amount, and he has deeded his home to the Iowa State University Foundation."(1)

(1) Minutes, November 23-13, 1970

253
FIELD HOUSE - PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN
Home Economics Annex, Chemistry Annex #1, "Little Ankeny"

Built: 1920    Moved: 1926    Addition: 1943
Architect: 1920 A.H. Kimball
Contractor: 1920 Thomas Sloss
Addition: James Thompson & Sons
Razed: 1953

Locations: Originally built just west of Home Economics Building (MacKay Hall). In 1926 moved to site just south of Press Building, now marked by a bronze tablet on a boulder there.

The large increase in enrollment in the Home Economics department in 1920 created an urgent need for additional space and the construction of a temporary frame building was authorized. It was described in the April 28, 1920, edition of the Iowa State Student:

The new building will be a wooden structure, and the rooms extend, end to end, in a half circle, beginning on the northeast corner, thirty feet from the main building. The rooms will measure 28 feet in width. The frontage on the north road will continue 125 feet to the west, and turn south in an L, 95 feet.

Five good sized laboratories will be accommodated in the new structure. In addition, a kitchen and pantry, as well as an office for the instructing staff, will be centrally located.

Construction was completed shortly after the start of the fall term.

With completion of the new Home Economics Building in 1926 the Annex was no longer needed for laboratories and was moved to the new site to become "a girl's fieldhouse and W.A.A. headquarters."(2)

When the Women's Gymnasium became available in 1941 the Field House was no longer needed by the women and it became temporarily a storage building.

In 1943 two additions were constructed to make the building suitable for "the Army's research program." Cost of the additions was financed by that program.(3)

__________
(1) Minutes, April 13, 1920
(2) Iowa State Student, April 30, 1926
(3) Minutes, February 8, 1943
Later it became known that the "Army's research program" was the development of a method for the preparation of pure uranium for use in the atomic bomb and for use in nuclear energy projects of various kinds. Over 2,000,000 pounds of uranium were produced there.

The annex became known as "Little Ankeny" during the war years as a comparison with the large ordnance plant then operating at Ankeny.

The building was completely dismantled and removed in the fall of 1953.

**FILM STORAGE**

Built: 1930 (?) Razed: 1942 (?)

The structure referred to as Film Storage is very meagerly documented and the dates shown are rather uncertain.

The Board Minutes for December 10, 1929, record this recommendation by President Hughes, which was approved:

A large number of celluloid films, which are distributed to the schools and colleges of the State by the Department of Visual Instruction, are housed in the Engineering Building. During the last two years, there have been several very serious fires, destructive to both property and lives, which originated in the room in which films were stored. We feel that we must immediately erect a small building, either in the form of a cellar or of an isolated structure on the campus, at an estimated cost of $2000 or $3000 for the housing of films.

There is no further reference to the structure in the Board Minutes but a thesis of 1954 gives some added information:

....an experimental concrete culvert, discarded by the Engineering Experiment Station, was placed at the disposal of the Visual Instruction Service. The culvert was located in the space now occupied by the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps Building on the western part of the campus and motion picture films were safely stored in that structure.(1)

The Financial Report first included Film Storage, at a valuation of $500, in the list of buildings in the 1934 edition. It was finally written off in 1948, although the structure was undoubtedly removed or razed in 1942 when construction of the Naval Armory was started.

(1) Williams, 1954
Harold Kooser, long-time director of Visual Instruction, once told this writer about the "culvert" storage structure and its location, but he made no mention of a relocation to another site.

**FIREMANSHIP TRAINING BUILDING**

Built: 1966-67  
Architect: Brown, Healey & Bock  
Contractor: Carlson-Rockey, Inc.

At the Board meeting of December 9-10, 1954, "President Hilton reported that people interested in the Short Course for Firemen at the Iowa State College have indicated a desire to construct a building on the campus which would provide needed facilities for the short course. It was the consensus that the Board's attitude would be favorable toward such a project." (1)

On May 26, 1956, the Iowa State Daily reported that "A project involving the erection of a $350,000 building on the Iowa State campus for a firemanship training and engineering extension continuation center was proposed at the Firemanship Training School here this week." By December 4 of that year the concept had grown larger as shown in the Daily's story of that date:

The Iowa Fire Chiefs Association plans to ask the 1957 legislature for a $250,000 appropriation to aid in building a $500,000 Civilian Defense and Firemanship Training Center at Iowa State.

Civilian defense officials said that the Federal Civil Defense Administration would supply the other $250,000 for the center.

Iowa State officials approved the plan and agreed to assume responsibility for maintenance if the funds are made available. The proposed center would contain a 500-seat auditorium suitable for conversion into an emergency hospital, a 100-seat classroom, four 60-seat classrooms and an equipment display room.

The center would also have a fire and materials testing laboratory, a paved training yard for rescue work and fire fighting apparatus and a fire station for Iowa State. Civil defense structure such as bomb shelter would be included. A fire training tower would be at the rear of the building.

Those elaborate plans remained dormant for almost nine years, until a state appropriation of $150,000 for the building was made by the

(1) Minutes, December 9-10, 1954
legislature in the spring of 1965.\(^{(1)}\) It would then be a much smaller structure than what had been thought about earlier as indicated in the approved project description:

The proposed structure will be one story of steel and load-bearing masonry construction with brick exterior. The building will be air-conditioned throughout. It will house a short course lecture classroom seating 90 at tables or 225 with lecture seating, a laboratory demonstration area in which sprinkler systems, pumps, extinguishers, fire detection equipment, etc., can be demonstrated, and offices for the Firemanship Training Staff of the Engineering Extension Service.\(^{(2)}\)

Construction contracts were awarded in July 1966 and the building was ready for use by the middle of 1967.

**FISHER THEATER**  
Little Theater

*Built:* 1972-73  
*Architect:* Crites & McConnell and Brooks Borg & Skiles  
*Acoustical Consultant:* Paul S. Veneklasen & Associates  
*Contractor:* Blackhawk Construction Co.

The third building at the Iowa State Center was the Little Theater. Contracts for construction were awarded February 11, 1972, those for construction were let February 11, 1972, and work began in March.

The building was completed in time for the dedication ceremony on January 19, 1974, when the contributions of J.W. (Bill) Fisher of Marshalltown were recognized by naming the building for him.

The copper and bronze statue, "The Prophet", in the second level lobby, was also a gift from Mr. Fisher.

The Fisher Theater has a seating capacity for 424 people in an attractive, intimate setting. It serves for presentation of drama, dance, music and lectures.

A freight elevator, serving the stage area and shops below, was installed in 1976.

The building was funded entirely from donations including the $325,000 gift by Mr. Fisher for a total amount of $900,000.

---

\(^{(1)}\) Minutes, June 23-25, 1965  
\(^{(2)}\) Minutes, October 14-15, 1965
FOOD TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Food Processing Laboratory

Built: 1960-62
Architect: Amos Emery & Associates
Contractor: Carlson-Rockey, Inc.

An appropriation for a Food Processing Building was requested in 1956, in the amount of $350,000. Two years later, when a new asking was presented, the cost was increased to $367,500. That sum was appropriated in the spring of 1959. (1)

In June 1959 the architect was selected and the proposed project description was given:

This building will be constructed as an addition on the east end of the north wing of the Dairy and Food Industry Building. It is planned to be of masonry construction, two stories in height. The building will be of utilitarian design, accommodating primarily research laboratories but with a minimum of office space for research personnel. (2)

A grant of $119,500 was received from the U.S. Public Health Service in 1960. Plans were completed and construction contracts were awarded in November. (3)

Acceptance of the project came on June 15, 1962. (4)

(1) Minutes, July 26-27, 1956; July 10-11, 1958; May 7-8, 1959
(2) Minutes, June 18-19, 1959
(3) Minutes, November 10-11, 1960
(4) Minutes, June 14-15, 1962
FORAGE SHED

Built: 1923
Razed: ca. 1929

This structure was just to the south of the frame Military Stables near Pammel Woods.

The only formal record occurs in the Board minutes for December 13, 1922:

$2,700.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from the Fund for Additional Construction and Equipment for the construction of a forage shed in connection with the military stable, and installing electric lights in this group of buildings. The college is under obligation to furnish buildings and up to the present time feed has been stored out of doors. The government furnishes horses, feed and men.

The Forage Shed is included in the list of buildings in the Secretary's Report for June 30, 1928, but is not included in the 1930 list, so it can be assumed it was removed between those two dates.

FOUR-APARTMENT HOUSE

Built: 1921 Moved: 1940
Sold and removed: 1967

This building was originally located on the west side of Wallace Road at about the southeast corner of the addition to the Physical Education Building (Women's Gym). There is no available record to indicate who designed it or by whom it was built.

It was first mentioned at the Sept. 15, 1920, Board meeting when President Pearson submitted tentative plans for a house of four apartments, and he suggested that such a building be constructed for the use of employees of the College, the cost to be paid from the fund for the construction of small buildings.

Construction was approved in June 1921. Presumably it was built by the Building and Grounds Department.

The Sept. 28, 1921, edition of the Iowa State Student makes this brief reference:

....new apartments have been provided for the engineers at the power plant. The apartment is located across the tracks, south of the plant. Room has been provided for four families.
The Board minutes for April 14, 1921, stated, "At least two apartments to have three rooms with bath and the other two or three rooms with bath." The minutes of the August 31-September 1, 1921, meeting added

...this building will be heated by steam from the Power Plant. Each apartment will have its own meter and occupants will pay for the heat on bills rendered....similarly, occupants will pay for water and electric current. The rental to be collected each month will be twenty-five dollars for each of the two center apartments and twenty-seven dollars for each of the two end apartments....

In 1940, just before the construction of the Women's Gym was started, the building was moved to a site on the east side of Beech Avenue, just north of the intersection with Sunset Drive. The Biennial Report for the period ending June 30, 1940, reports the cost of moving the building was $604.68.

To make way for the development of the Iowa State Center, the Board approved of the disposal of this and two other houses at the meeting of March 9-10, 1967. The Four-Apartment house was purchased and moved by a private investor and now, with a brick facing, stands on the south side of S. Fourth Street approximately opposite the south access drive to Lincoln Plaza.
FREEMAN HALL
Dormitory #2, East Hall

Built: 1915-16        Remodeled: 1967
Architect: 1915 Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson
           1967 Savage & Ver Ploeg
Contractor: 1915 J.B. Evans Construction Co.
           1967 James Thompson & Sons

Increasing enrollments of women made necessary additional housing "located in buildings that are entirely under college control."(1) Tentative plans for "two additional units to the dormitory for women" were presented to the Board at the February 1915 meeting and at the June meeting of that year the architect was instructed to prepare final plans and specifications. The construction award was made in September. Contracts for heating and plumbing equipment were approved in November.

The contractor went into bankruptcy in March 1916 and work on the building was temporarily interrupted. Construction was then resumed under the direction of Superintendent Sloss who completed work by September.(2) The building was then named East Hall.

The building "accommodates 93 young women and has a guest room for parents, an accommodation that has been greatly needed."(3) Fire escapes were added in 1918.

East Hall was renamed Alice Freeman Hall by Board action on October 9, 1928.

A major renovation of Freeman Hall was undertaken in 1966-67. The project description states:

Freeman Hall is the second oldest women's dormitory at Iowa State University, having been constructed in 1916. It is of brick masonry, fire-resistant construction with a slate roof, and structurally is in excellent condition. However, the plumbing, heating and wiring are inadequate; and particularly the plumbing piping has deteriorated to the point where maintenance costs are excessive. This type of work will require considerable patching of plaster after the mechanical work is completed and also complete redecoration.(4)

(1) Biennial Report, 1912-1914
(2) Biennial Report, 1914-1916 and Minutes, September 15, 1916
(3) Biennial Report, 1914-1916
(4) Minutes, August 11-12, 1966

261
FRILEY HALL
Including Hughes Hall

Built:  First Unit (Hughes Hall) 1927
       Second Unit (Friley Hall - north) 1939
       Third Unit (Friley Hall - central) 1941-42
       Fourth Unit (Friley Hall - south east) 1949-51
       Fifth Unit (Friley Hall - south) 1953-54
       Sixth Unit (Friley Hall - food stores) 1964-65

Architects: 1927 - Proudfoot, Rawson & Souers
            1939 - Oren Thomas and Brooks-Borg
            1941 - Oren Thomas and Brooks-Borg
            1949 - Brooks-Borg
            1953 - Brooks-Borg
            1964 - Russell and Lynch

Contractors: 1927 - Tapager Construction Co.
              1939 - Kucharo Construction Co.
              1941 - C.C. Larsen & Sons
              1949 - Lippert Brothers, Inc.
              1953 - W.A. Klinger Company
              1964 - Carlson-Rockey, Inc.

Major Remodeling: 1961 (Hughes Hall Unit)
                   Architect: Brooks-Borg
                   Contractor: Arthur H. Neumann & Brothers, Inc.

                   1964 (Plumbing Replacements)
                   Architect: Brooks-Borg
                   Contractor: King-Bole, Inc.

                   1966 (Hughes Hall Unit)
                   Architect: Brooks-Borg and Skiles
                   Contractor: James Thompson & Sons

                   1978 (North Unit Remodel)
                   Architect: Brooks-Borg and Skiles
                   Contractor: Story Construction Co.
For a quarter of a century following the burning of Old Main no provisions were made for the housing of male students on the campus. The need for action was pointed out in an editorial in the Iowa State Student on September 22, 1919:

The most important question confronting the college and community is the housing of students. Temporary housing will probably work out satisfactory but inconvenience to students will be a serious handicap in getting the right start in their college work.

Though the year is an extraordinary one, as far as college attendance is concerned, it is a well established fact that the Fourth ward has not in the past and probably will not in the future take care of all the students in the way that it should. Even in normal times students have been forced to take rooms up town owing to the scarcity of suitable quarters in the Fourth ward. Rooming a mile and a half from college is a disadvantage that cannot be overlooked. The crowded street cars with unreliable service, the time wasted riding back and forth, the necessity of having two boarding places and many other such drawbacks make living in town hard for students and especially hard for the first year men.

The college cannot depend upon the Fourth ward to house the students properly and the downtown district has disadvantages that make it lessen its value as a rooming district. It remains for the college itself to solve the question.

Dormitories for men would be the solution. This system of housing men has proven satisfactory in almost every college in the country. Iowa has just completed a large men's dormitory and expects to build more. Our own girls' dormitories have shown that a dormitory under proper supervision is the most satisfactory form of housing students to be had.

There are, of course, many arguments to be advanced against men's dormitories. The fact that men are rough on property is admitted but if these dormitories are run on a business basis as they should be, these troubles could be easily settled. The management of the dormitory would be the big problem. First year men are usually occupants of dormitories and have some respect for upper-class men. At the Washington State College, upper-class men are picked to have charge of certain sections and no trouble of any sort is experienced.

College authorities feel that dormitories will eventually come. The increase of women students has necessitated the continual building of suitable quarters for them, but when these students are completely taken care of, men's dormitories will undoubtedly be built.
On February 28, 1923, the same paper again expressed concern:

One of the most evident needs at Ames is housing facilities for the 60 or 70 per cent of the men not taken care of by organized houses. Many of them are living in attics, some of which are unfinished and many of which are unsanitary. Others are in rooms that don't permit of effective study or reasonably good living. Those familiar with the situation will affirm that this statement is not exaggerated. Freshmen men in particular have difficulty in getting located as they should and some go home every year because the housing situation is so acute. These facts are realized by some students, but by comparatively few people over the state. How can they be expected to know when no one tells them?

The state legislature, in 1925, passed a law permitting the borrowing of funds, through the issuing of bonds for the purpose of constructing dormitories at the three state colleges. Iowa State immediately took advantage of this opportunity and began consideration of kinds and possible locations of dormitories, with the emphasis on housing for freshmen. By the fall of 1926 the architect had been selected and the site chosen for the first unit of what would ultimately become Friley Hall as it stands now.(1)

Contracts for construction of the first unit of the men's dormitory were awarded in February 1927(2) and the building was occupied in the fall of that year.(3)

This unit was officially named Hughes Hall on May 28, 1936. It retained that name until 1957 when the complex became known as Friley-Hughes Hall. In the mid sixties the Hughes name was dropped and the total structure is now called Friley Hall.

At the end of 1937 a minor remodeling operation in Hughes Hall resulted in dividing two lounges into six student rooms.(4)

The second men's housing unit constructed was the north section of today's Friley Hall.

This part was built with the help of a grant from the Public Works Administration. Excavation started in November 1938 under a separate

(1) Iowa State Student, September 30, 1926
(2) Minutes, February 9-10, 1927
(3) Iowa State Student, September 29, 1927
(4) Iowa State Student, January 8, 1938
contract. The general construction contract was not executed until January 1939.(1) The building was occupied in late October of that year.(2) Acceptance of the contract work was made the following month. Total cost of the project was about $206,000 of which $93,013 came from the federal grant.

Demand for more housing resulted in steps being taken, just a year later, to initiate work to "complete the remaining unit". In November 1940 President Friley expressed the need to the Board and in January 1941 the architect was instructed to prepare plans for what was to be the east and central section of Friley Hall, although that designation was not applied to the building until May 1942.

Construction started in the summer of 1941 and the building was occupied in July 1942. In June and July of that year Hughes Hall and Friley Hall were completely assigned to navy trainees, who were in control of the buildings for the next three years during World War II.(3) Women student occupied Hughes Hall in the fall of 1945 for a period of one year, and it was used for married students the following year. From 1947 until 1969 only men were housed in the hall. Beginning in the fall of 1969 some sections were allocated to women.

During 1945 and 1946 additions were being planned for both Hughes Hall and Friley Hall. The proposed new wings appear on a campus map published in the student paper on November 2, 1945. This showed an eastward expansion of Hughes Hall and a southern extension on Friley Hall.

It was 1949 before a final decision was reached and funding arranged. This addition was then limited to a southward and southwest wing on Friley Hall. Contracts for construction were awarded in December 1949. Work started immediately and the building was ready for students in September 1951.

The next unit built connected Friley and Hughes Halls to make a single structure. That section was constructed in 1953-54. Construction began in July 1953 and was completed in time for the fall term of 1954. The next fall Beyer Court and Parking Area was paved under a separate contract with W.A. Klinger Company.

(1) Minutes, January 12, 1939

(2) Iowa State Daily Student, October 28 and 31, 1939

(3) Schilletter, 1970, p. 202

265
A major remodeling of the toilet rooms in the Hughes Hall section was undertaken in 1961 at a cost of $75,000. Similar improvements were made in other units of the building in 1964 and 1966.

The Food Stores Addition, to provide facilities for all residence halls, was erected in 1964-65.

In 1975 the East Dining Room was extensively remodeled and renovated. H. Summerfield Day, University Architect, prepared the plans and work was done by Boone Construction Company.

A major remodeling of the 1939 unit was made in 1978.

**FRUIT STORAGE SHED**

Horticulture Fruit Shed

Built: 1916
Razed: 1925 (?)

A building for fruit storage was first requested in the Biennial Report for 1912-14. In September 1915 the Board authorized its construction. At the October 27, 1915, meeting of the Board the sum of $600 was appropriated and the proposed building was described:

> It was understood that the walls of the shed will be constructed of tile and that the walls will be approximately 20 ft. high from foundation to rafters and the foundation plan will be about 12 ft. 10 inches by 30 ft. 10 inches. The exact location of the shed is left to the President of the College and the Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings for decision. (1)

The location of the building is uncertain as it has not been found on any maps. The location in the "north experimental orchard" is mentioned in the September 1915 minutes. That would place the site north of the tracks in what is now west part of west Pammel Court.

On October 28, 1916, the Minutes of the Board record the final cost of the building was $749.53. It was carried on the building list in the Biennial Reports from 1918 to 1924 at a valuation of $594. It can only be assumed that the structure was razed about 1925, since it does not appear on subsequent lists.

---

(1) Minutes, October 27, 1915