2010

UND Housing: Serving You for 125 Years

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University of North Dakota

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UND Housing

serving you for 125 years
Foreword

Since the founding of the University of North Dakota in 1883, the campus landscape has changed in innumerable ways. At that time, UND’s first building, The Main, constructed on 20 acres of donated land, was an isolated building in the midst of a vast open prairie. At the start conditions were meager, but over the years the growth has been dramatic, and the University has come to encompass 224 buildings and 370 acres. The campus has also demolished, replaced, and constructed several buildings, and incorporated some of the finest amenities.

To commemorate UND’s Quasquicentennial, the Housing Department has researched and prepared this booklet as an overview of the many housing buildings on campus, both past and present. Every building has a story to tell, so browse through these pages, it is a good way to find out about where students have lived and learned through these years. UND is a very special place, full of history; appreciate what we have here, it is truly unique.

Robert C. Gallagher
Vice President for Finance and Operations

Continuing the tradition and serving students for 125 years

The University of North Dakota has a long-standing history of providing student housing. Beginning in 1883 with a small number of students living in the Main, campus housing serves approximately 4,300 students today. The original student body was all students born in places like England, Norway, and Sweden, none being born in North Dakota. At present, our residents come not only from North Dakota, but also from every state in the nation, as well as from other countries. Residential life is an important part of their education, and students develop life-long friendships and are part of a special community. We have moved from “dormitories” to a community model of residence halls. They are more than just a place to sleep, they complement the academic excellence of this institution. UND has also had a long history of serving families in on-campus apartments.

This booklet is printed following UND’s 125th anniversary in 2009, and in honor of our newest building at that time, University Place. You will find a short historical background of each housing building, when it was constructed, and whom it was named after. The inclusion of pictures gives an interesting insight into some of the activities, customs, and life during the years.

The history of UND housing has been shaped by exceptional people whose energy and devotion have contributed to what we have today. Our gratitude goes out to all those who have been associated and contributed to the success of our housing programs—past and present.

Judy Sargent
Director Residence Services

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The Main Building, renamed Merrifield Hall in 1912 and "Old Main" in 1930, was the first construction at the University of North Dakota. Ground was broken on May 23, 1883, and the cornerstone was laid with grand ceremonies on October 2 of the same year. The doors opened for student enrollment on September 8, 1884. One of the first students recalled: "That one building, standing like a wonderful beacon light on the barren prairie, was a splendid institution of learning in my eyes" (The Dakota Student, November 5, 1982).

At that time, the Main Building was the largest structure in the northern part of the Dakota Territory. It was composed of a high basement and three stories, surmounted by a high pyramidal roof. It had architecturally impressive entrances through archways, at the northeast and the southeast ends. It featured a broad observation platform approximately 80 feet above the basement, and the view from it was magnificent.

In the early years, the Main Building was used for classrooms, laboratories, offices, library, museum, gymnasium, chapel, and for faculty, staff, and student housing. All study spaces were situated there, until some were moved to the Science Building in 1902. The President and his family resided in the Main Building, in the west side of the first floor, until 1887. The janitor and his family lived in the basement of this building until 1905, operating the furnaces and cooking for faculty and students.

In 1887, the western end of the Main Building was wrecked by a tornado that brought the roof down and ruined the second story, but it was immediately rebuilt. In 1889, the Main Building was temporarily closed due to a diphtheria attack, and 750 pounds of sulphur were burnt on the premises. In spite of such problems, students living in the Main had their share of school activities and entertainment. In 1929, specialists determined that the construction had inexorably deteriorated. From then on, the Main was used solely for administrative purposes. It was demolished in June 1963, after Twamley Hall's cornerstone was positioned, and some contents of Main's cornerstone were transferred to it. Memorials, a half-ton grille sphere with an "eternal flame," and granite embellishments of a plaza, were erected during the fall of 1963.

At the beginning, most students lived off campus. In 1884-1885, male and female students were housed in the Main Building (men on the second floor, and women on the third floor), under strict faculty supervision.

This arrangement was abandoned the next academic year, when only women remained there, and men had to move to town. In 1888, with the completion of a ladies' hall, the Main Building became male residence. The young men occupied two barrack-like rooms on the third floor, nicknamed Bull Pen and Ram Pasture. Room furnishings were basic, with a dozen beds arranged along one wall, scattered tables, and one or two wood stoves.

Louis G. Geiger wrote in his book University of the Northern Plains (1958): "The University charged no fees except $3.50 per week for board to those who lived in the building." Geiger described the initial living conditions: "Lacking a furnace and storm windows, the building was exceedingly uncomfortable. Until November, the only heat was supplied by three stoves in the study rooms; neither classrooms nor bedrooms were heated." A furnace was installed in the second year, and drinking water was brought in barrels from Grand Forks for many years. However, living conditions in the Main Building improved over time.

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Davis Hall was a women's dormitory, but some of its areas had other uses at times. The UND President and his family used a part of the first floor as a bedroom, study, and dining room. From 1897 until the completion of the President's House in 1903, the University kitchen and dining room occupied the basement, until the completion of the University Commons in 1911. For about half a century, the center of campus social life was the spacious sky-lit parlor in Ladies' Hall, where faculty and students attended various cultural programs.

Women students were assigned two to a room, and each room was furnished with beds, study tables, chairs, as well as carpets and Rochester lamps. The Student of January 1903 recorded an evening in Davis Hall: "Some topic of conversation is on every tongue. Generally it is the gentlemen, often the cooking, sometimes the instructors, and once in a long, long time something is said of the lesson."

In the mid 1900s, Davis Hall residents were mostly nursing and physical education majors. In 1964, when Davis Hall achieved the highest scholastic average on campus, this was attributed to its homeliness. The Dakota Student of December 11, 1964 wrote: "The average is in part accredited to their head resident, Mrs. Fred Meyer, who makes them coffee when they are keeping the night-people company."

The State Board of Higher Education declared Davis Hall unsafe for student occupancy, and the building was razed in 1965. Although the building was not a loss, the atmosphere it harbored was missed. The UND newspaper reported towards the building's end: "The spirit of the girls has been sustained in Davis Hall, wherever they live."

Mackie Hall

In November 1888, The Student advocated the construction of a new men's dormitory: "One of the purposes of The Student is to acquaint our friends and patrons with our needs, present and prospective. One that comes in both classes is a dormitory for our young men. At present they are lodged in unused recitation rooms, and all other available nooks and corners."

The building was named Davis Hall following the death of Hannah E. Davis, resident instructor in charge of women students in the late 1890s. She was born at Richmond, Indiana, in 1844, and received a degree of the University of Glasgow. He came to UND in 1892 to become ladies' preceptor, and to teach in the preparatory department. Mrs. Davis was very popular with students and professors, and her unexpected death in 1898 deeply affected the local community. The Student of April 1898 wrote: "Her life was rich in good deeds and noble thoughts, and she always gave the best in her to all with whom she came in contact."

This request voiced by the student newspaper was fulfilled several years later. In 1891, construction began for an astronomical observatory north of Davis Hall. However, before appropriations were secured, local authorities learned from experts that the location was unsuitable for this purpose, and decided to build the much needed men's dormitory. The building was finalized in the summer of 1893, and occupied by fifty male students in the fall of that year. The edifice was inaugurated in November 1893, and over a hundred students, faculty, citizens and authorities participated in the celebration. For more than a decade, the men's dormitory was not dedicated to a person connected to UND, but was known as the "Cottage" or "the prep dorm," and was called "the doghouse" by the students.

The building had two stories erected over the massive basement designed to support the observatory. In 1897, the building was lengthened, and a front door was placed on the east side in addition to the original entrance at the south end.

Male residents of Mackie Hall won league champions' titles in basketball from 1939 to 1943, and in volleyball in 1939, 1941, and 1950. Female residents of Mackie Hall earned the highest grade average on campus in 1960, 1961, 1965, and 1966. Mackie Hall also had its share of entertainment. As The Dacotah of 1953 records about its male residents, "pinochle players abide in Macnie Hall earned the highest grade average on campus in 1960, 1961, 1965, and 1966. Mackie Hall also had its share of entertainment. As The Dacotah of 1953 records about its male residents, "pinochle players abide in Macnie Hall earned the highest grade average on campus in 1960, 1961, 1965, and 1966. Mackie Hall also had its share of entertainment. As The Dacotah of 1953 records about its male residents, "pinochle players abide in Macnie Hall, members practice their trumpets, cornets, etc. As The Dacotah of 1964 mentions about its female residents, "Mackie Hall seems to be a favorite of upper class women who appreciate the atmosphere of purpose often found in small dorms - rather than the indecision found where freshmen live."

Mackie Hall was labeled a firetrap by the State Board of Higher Education in the 1940s, and was demolished in 1967 to give way to Gamble Hall.
From the foundation of the University in 1883 until the inauguration of the President’s House in 1903, UND Presidents resided with faculty and students, initially in the Main Building, and later in Davis Hall. Presidents Blackburn, Sprague and Merrifield and their families lived in small and uncomfortable rooms, and worked in spaces that served multiple purposes.

In April 1981, a fire broke out in Budge Hall, starting the sprinkler system. As a result, the building was condemned. Budge Hall was demolished in November 1981, and at the time it was the oldest edifice on campus.

The President’s House was built in 1903 in the colonial revival style, with imposing colonnades and a wide entrance. It had a high basement and three stories, and verandas all around. Inside, it featured a ballroom, three fireplaces, a stained glass window, parquet floors, velvet tapestry on walls, and modern conveniences such as plumbing and a dumbwaiter. This was the first home in Grand Forks wired for electricity. When most houses cost $3,000, this residence carried the price tag of $25,000.

The construction of the President’s House was due to the generosity of President Webster Merrifield and his wife, Elizabeth Bull Merrifield, an heiress to the “Cream of Wheat” fortune. The Merrifields loaned the University $16,000 for the mansion to the state of North Dakota at a nominal interest rate.

Between 1903 and 1954, the “Mansion on the Prairie” hosted UND Presidents Merrifield, McVey, Babcock, Kane, and West. Faculty and graduation receptions were held in this building, and over the years guests included William Jennings Bryan, William Howard Taft, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Prince Olav and Princess Martha of Norway, as well as legislators, businessmen, and academicians. In 1954, a new president’s house was built by the English Club for President Starcher, and the old president’s house was planned to be demolished.

However, due to a campus housing shortage in 1954, the building was converted to a men’s residence and renamed Oxford House. Walls were erected to separate large chambers into smaller spaces, shower stalls were built in the bathrooms, the main bedroom became a residence hall room, and the original furniture was replaced with regular residence hall items.

The residents were proud of its history. The Dacotah of 1958 mentions: “Oxford House — not a palatial, aristocratic mansion in south Worcestershire; not an exclusive Parisian dining salon — just another dormitory. But with an added distinction: tradition. In a home which has housed several University presidents, the residents of Oxford are rather proud of their small membership. It lends an air of exclusiveness.”

In 1964, Oxford House was reallocated to the Arts Department, after students were moved to Princeton Hall. In 1971, when the Arts Department was transferred to the Hughes Fine Arts Center, University officials believed that Oxford House would be demolished, since Gamble Hall had been built just 18 feet south of it. However, a group of people concerned with preserving this building asked for a chance to save it. In 1973, Oxford House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and received federal funds in addition to private donations. The building was restored to its original architecture, at a cost of $600,000, and had its grand opening as the J. Lloyd Stone Alumni Center on October 2, 1981.

The Board of Trustees announced the plans for construction in May 1899. The Student of that year wrote: “The new dormitory for young men will be a beautiful brick structure, three stories high, equipped with modern conveniences, having bathrooms on each floor, and a small sitting room where friends and guests can be received.” Although the interior was not entirely finished, male students moved in November 1899.

President Webster Merrifield, 1905

The Student of that year wrote: “Installation of a TV set in Budge Hall created a mild furor, as the sound had a nasty tendency to seep to remote corners of this brick palace.”

The Dacotah of April 1981 read: "This was the first home in Grand Forks wired for electricity. When most houses cost $3,000, this residence carried the price tag of $25,000."
World War I. Sayre Hall was a men's dormitory for 50 students and 1910. Together they formed two large brick blocks of North Dakota in Grand Forks and President Edward P. Robertson of Red River Valley University in Wahpeton. Built in 1906, the Methodist institution affiliated with UND was renamed Wesley College, and it began instruction in the basement of the Grand Forks Public Library. While its campus was under construction on an 80-acre tract of land north of University Avenue in Grand Forks. The affiliation was a friendly working agreement acting to the advantage of both schools, allowing students to take 30 hours towards a degree from either school. While UND was focused on the liberal arts, Wesley College scheduled courses in religion, music, and expression. Sayre House was dedicated to the memory of Harold Sayre, fallen during the war. Larimore Hall, completed in 1910, was dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. N.G. Larimore, who had donated the money for this construction. It was a women's dormitory accommodating 53 students. The Student of February 3, 1910 noted, Larimore Hall was designed to “in part relieve the over demand for rooms on the part of the University and College girls.”

At the time of construction, the Wesley College dormitories were considered the most modern residential areas on campus. The Student of November 23, 1910 stated: “Larimore Hall is unquestionably one of the very finest buildings of its kind in the country, and the people of North Dakota can feel justly proud in possessing a home of this kind for their daughters.” In University of the Northern Plains (1958), Louis G. Geiger stated: “Arranged in suites of two bedrooms, and a living room, the Wesley dormitories... were the most attractive housing on the University campus until the completion of Johnstone Hall in 1952.”

For over 50 years, Sayre and Larimore residents were involved in many student activities. The Dakota of 1958 mentions: “With Larimore Hall only a hop, skip... and a jump away, Sayre Hall is truly a dorm of a vision... Dakota can feel justly proud in possessing a home of this kind for their daughters...” In University of the Northern Plains (1958), Louis G. Geiger stated: “Arranged in suites of two bedrooms, and a living room, the Wesley dormitories... were the most attractive housing on the University campus until the completion of Johnstone Hall in 1952.”

Residents of Sayre Hall, 1965 of 1963 stated: “Larimore Hall is not a University-owned dormitory, but a part of Wesley College. This does not imply, however, that the girls do not enjoy traditional UND dorm activities—midnight serenades, yelling out of windows in subzero weather, and playing time-worn practical jokes.” UND purchased all the Wesley College buildings in 1965, and converted Sayre and Larimore halls into administrative buildings in 1978.

Residents of Sayre Hall 1935

Sayre resident with Wesley administrators, 1930s

Sayre & Larimore Halls

Groundbreaking for Wesley College, 1906

The core buildings of Wesley College (Sayre, Larimore, and Corwin) were constructed between 1906 and 1910. Together they formed two large brick blocks (Sayre and Larimore-Corwin) of similar construction plans. The addition of Robertson Hall to Sayre building in 1929, thanks to the munificence of UND alumnus John Hancock, achieved symmetry in this Italianate complex.

Ground was broken on October 4, 1906. The Weekly Student of October 13, 1906 reported: “If you had been present on the campus of the new institution across the road from the President’s House at 5 o’clock, you might have seen a rather rare sight—two presidents engaged in shoveling dirt...” The ceremonies were witnessed by about a hundred students, and by interested persons in town.

Sayre Hall was opened in 1908. It was named after the Sayre family, benefactors of Wesley College, and later dedicated to the memory of Harold Sayre, fallen during World War I. Sayre Hall was a men’s dormitory for 50 residents, open to both Wesley College and UND students.

In 1932, UND’s Business Manager J.W. Willikson worked out a plan to help 50 young men who were unable to attend the University unless they could secure free living quarters and some work to pay for their meals. The plan was to purchase out-of-service cabooses from the Great Northern Railway Company and set them up for student housing on University grounds. The cabooses, valued at $20 each, were paid with money donated by local businessmen. The railway cars were lifted off the tracks and placed in a quadrangle by the southern edge of the campus, between the Power House and the old Winter Sports Building. Camp Depression opened on October 21, 1933, with six cabooses used as residential units, and two others arranged as kitchen and bathroom facilities. Two more residential cabooses were added by 1935. All cabooses had brick and concrete foundations, and were reinforced to fend off the cold. Trees, bushes, and grass were added as landscaping.

Each residential caboose, with capacity for housing eight men, was equipped with four bunk beds, a built-in dresser with eight drawers, bookshelves, a study table, and a six-foot rod suspended in the rear to hang clothes. Two steam radiators heated a car. Each kitchen caboose had a table with chairs, a sink, a stove, and a refrigerator, as well as lockers for food supplies, towel racks, electric hot plates, and toasters. Residents used the bathroom sink and a clothesline to do laundry. Each resident was provided with a pillowcase, two sheets, and two hand towels when assigned to the Camp.

Residents of Larimore Hall, 1935

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Residents of Sayre Hall 1965

Residents of Camp Depression, 1935

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East Hall

The building was initially named in honor of Louis Harrington, the UND faculty director of the vocational education program. Louis Harrington was the Dean of the College of Engineering from 1932 to 1951. He was a consultant for the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and contributed to the establishment of the world's first lignite research laboratory. In 1952, when a new dormitory was dedicated to Louis Harrington, the dormitory was renamed East Hall, after its geographical placement as the only dormitory east of campus mainstream.

East Hall residents, 1958

The Dacotah of 1956 wrote: "East Hall is the ideal home for young men who long to travel. It takes a hardy constitution and a pair of long johns in order to make it to an 8 o'clock on a cold and blustery January morning."

Although considered too far from UND's center, East Hall served as a dormitory for 50 years, until 1990 when it was declared unfit for student housing. For half of its last decade of existence, the building housed some Energy and Environmental Research Center offices, "but its walls faintly reverberate the timeless vials of its century's worth of student occupants," as The Dakota Student of January 31, 1995 reported.

Princeton Hall

The end of the Second World War brought to UND, as to many universities around the U.S.A., veterans returning to civil life. The Dacotah of 1946 reported on the "No.1 Campus Problem:"

"With the return of thousands of vets to the campus of UND, the administration was faced with the serious problem of housing these veterans and their families... The situation was indeed of critical nature." Plans were urgently made to alleviate this condition.

In the 1940s, Princeton Hall accommodated mainly veterans who had been in every service of the army. In the 1950s, Princeton Hall hosted students who had not been in the military, including international students from Panama, Bolivia, and Peru. Towards the end of its existence, Princeton Hall accommodated older students. The residents of this dormitory called themselves "Princeton men" and "Princetonites.

Princeton Hall residents enjoyed student life in their dormitory. The Dacotah of 1948 noted: "Princeton Hall. That's where the boys answer the phone with 'We like it here... Seventy satisfied males in one dormitory! That's a record, isn't it?" The Dacotah of 1950 noted: "Princeton hall... Constructed in 1946, the newest dorm on the campus, is always high on the scholarship reports, and right down the road from the Pink Castle, sorority girls... quite a record... one they can certainly brag about... they all are 3-pointers, most likely to succeed..."

Although hiding in the shadow of Hancock Hall, Princeton Hall was still popular throughout the 1950s, The Dacotah of 1953 observed that the particular students living at night contributed to its casual atmosphere. The Dacotah of 1956 noted: "Whether the men of Princeton Hall participate in, be it the rifle team, intramural sports, or other University activities, they go all out for it. They may not win the biggest trophy, but they have the biggest party trying."

The deterioration of the wooden structure, combined with the planning of larger brick dormitories, led to the dismantling of Princeton Hall. In 1976, the building was demolished and replaced by new and modern residence halls.
During the 1950s, plans were made for new buildings due to the increasing enrollment at UND. Construction began simultaneously on Johnstone Hall and Hancock Hall. The Dakota Student of March 17, 1950 announced: “An easing of the University housing situation appears due next year with the proposed construction of two new super dormitories... A girls’ unit... will be built just west of President West’s home. The men’s dormitory... will be set up on the Princeton village site...”

Initially, Johnstone Complex was designed as a compound of three interconnected residence halls, Johnstone-Fulton-Smith (JFS), scheduled to be completed in three stages: Johnstone in 1952, to house 133 students, Fulton in 1956, to accommodate 192 students, and Smith in the 1960s, to host 263 students. The capacity of Johnstone Complex was further increased with the construction at UND of Swanson Hall in 1985, and the purchase by UND of the Delta Zeta Sorority House, later named Conference Center, in 1985.

Johnstone Hall was constructed in 1952, and was dedicated to Beatrice Johnstone, Director of UND’s Correspondence Division for nine years and Extension Division for 20 years. Born in McCleod County, Minnesota, in 1870, she came to Grand Forks in 1883, and attended UND from 1886 to 1891. In recognition of her sixty years of service to educational institutions in North Dakota as grade school principal, superintendent of schools, and university administrator, she was awarded by UND an honorary degree of doctor of humanities in 1951.

Johnstone Hall, built at a cost of $400,000, was received with enthusiasm by the UND community. The Dacotah of 1953 recorded: “The last hall on the avenue, the last word in luxury, the first place that girls sign for... that’s Johnstone, a terrific addition to the UND campus...”

Johnstone Hall had the most modern lounge on campus, and convenient washers and dryers. In 1963, the Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex was equipped with the most advanced telephone system at UND, with in-room extensions replacing lobby pay phones. In 1997, Johnstone and Hancock halls were connected through a covered skyway, in an attempt to “make this campus more user-friendly” during winter’s icy grip, as The Dakota Student of September 9, 1997 reported. In 2001, bathrooms in Johnstone Hall were remodeled from community baths to private baths in community clusters, thus providing more privacy to residents.

Johnstone Hall was a women’s hall from its construction until 2007, when it was converted to a co-ed hall, with men assigned to the third floor.

Johnstone residents have had pleasant experiences living here. The Dacotah of 1953 wrote: “coffee parties and cooking in the kitchenettes keeps the girls from losing all contact with good food while eating across the way...” The Dacotah of 1958 reported: “Predominantly composed of freshman women, this group of nearly 300 girls receives an unbelievable number of calls and callers... , and innumerable hosts of male serenaders every night...”

In 2000, the The Learning Community (TLC) experiential program was introduced in Johnstone-Fulton Halls, offering residents the opportunity to take classes and study together with their neighbors. Another new program available since 2003 is the Honors Housing Program, allowing students living in the Honors wing of Johnstone-Fulton Halls to participate in special scholarly activities together with faculty from the Honors Department.
Fulton Hall

Fulton Hall was one of the residential units built during the 1950s for the growing number of UND students. The groundbreaking ceremony for Fulton Hall was held in September 1955, and excavation began shortly thereafter. The first and second floors of this residence hall were completed and occupied in October 1956, whereas the ground floor and the third floor of this building were opened for occupancy in the fall of 1957. Fulton Hall was initially assigned to female students, but it has been co-ed (by floor) residence hall since fall 2003.

The building was dedicated to Ella Fulton, the first Dean of Women of the University Women's Glee Club, a commemoration of the life of Ella Fulton by Mrs. John B. Colbey, as well as speeches by Beatrice and a meeting room for women's organizations, and several service rooms with laundry and other facilities. Fulton Hall was designed as a building with modern conveniences, and has been preserved that way. In 2003, bathroom remodeling and facility renovation were undertaken to increase privacy, and to improve overall building facilities in this residence hall.

Fulton Hall was dedicated on October 11, 1957, with a public ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women. The ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women, was held in September 1955, and excavation began shortly thereafter. The first and second floors of this residence hall were completed and occupied in October 1956, whereas the ground floor and the third floor of this building were opened for occupancy in the fall of 1957. Fulton Hall was initially assigned to female students, but it has been co-ed (by floor) residence hall since fall 2003.

The Dakota Student of October 11, 1957 wrote: "The three-story building is a U-shaped structure of College Gothic architecture. The interior is contemporary...Johnstone-Fulton facilities include a large public lounge, a recreation room, a private lounge for women students, and a meeting room for women's organizations, and several service rooms with laundry and other facilities. Fulton Hall was designed as a building with modern conveniences, and has been preserved that way. In 2003, bathroom remodeling and facility renovation were undertaken to increase privacy, and to improve overall building facilities in this residence hall. Fulton Hall was dedicated on October 11, 1957, with a public ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women. The ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women, was held in September 1955, and excavation began shortly thereafter. The first and second floors of this residence hall were completed and occupied in October 1956, whereas the ground floor and the third floor of this building were opened for occupancy in the fall of 1957. Fulton Hall was initially assigned to female students, but it has been co-ed (by floor) residence hall since fall 2003. The building was dedicated to Ella Fulton, the first Dean of Women of the University Women's Glee Club, a commemoration of the life of Ella Fulton by Mrs. John B. Colbey, as well as speeches by Beatrice and a meeting room for women's organizations, and several service rooms with laundry and other facilities. Fulton Hall was designed as a building with modern conveniences, and has been preserved that way. In 2003, bathroom remodeling and facility renovation were undertaken to increase privacy, and to improve overall building facilities in this residence hall. Fulton Hall was dedicated on October 11, 1957, with a public ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women. The ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women, was held in September 1955, and excavation began shortly thereafter. The first and second floors of this residence hall were completed and occupied in October 1956, whereas the ground floor and the third floor of this building were opened for occupancy in the fall of 1957.

Smith Hall

The Dakota Student of March 3, 1961 announced plans for building a new women's residence at the cost of $1,080,000. The student newspaper quoted UND President George Starcher stating that "it will be the largest and most complete women's dormitory in North Dakota, and it will include one of the finest and most modern food service and dining areas to be found anywhere." Smith Hall was completed in September 1963. This building that joined Johnstone-Fulton Hall was officially dedicated on May 30, 1964, representing one of the highlights of the University's commencement weekend. The ceremony was presided by the Dean of Women, and included speeches and musical performances.

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The building was dedicated to Ella Fulton, the first Dean of Women of the University. She was born at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1853. After many years as public school teacher, she attended Kalamazoo College to obtain a B.A. degree. In 1906, she came to UND as professor of Davis Hall and teacher of English and German. She was Dean of Women from 1908 to 1922, and was an inspiration for the women of the University.

The lives of the first inhabitants of Fulton Hall were not much different from the lives of the current residents. The Dakota Student of 1957 wrote: "The predominantly fresher girls of Johnstone and Fulton are busy carrying on the pursuit of education and learning the ways of college life... Socially the halls are progressive with parties, open houses, and bridge lessons. High spot on the calendar for Fulton Hall were the three-story building is a U-shaped structure of College Gothic architecture. The interior is contemporary... Johnstone-Fulton facilities include a large public lounge, a recreation room, a private lounge for women students, and a meeting room for women's organizations, and several service rooms with laundry and other facilities. Fulton Hall was designed as a building with modern conveniences, and has been preserved that way. In 2003, bathroom remodeling and facility renovation were undertaken to increase privacy, and to improve overall building facilities in this residence hall. Fulton Hall was dedicated on October 11, 1957, with a public ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women. The ceremony, as part of the planned Johnstone-Fulton-Smith Complex for women, was held in September 1955, and excavation began shortly thereafter. The first and second floors of this residence hall were completed and occupied in October 1956, whereas the ground floor and the third floor of this building were opened for occupancy in the fall of 1957. Fulton Hall was initially assigned to female students, but it has been co-ed (by floor) residence hall since fall 2003. The building was dedicated to Ella Fulton, the first Dean of Women of the University Women's Glee Club, a commemoration of the life of Ella Fulton by Mrs. John B. Colbey, as well as speeches by Beatrice Johnstone and UND President George Starcher.

Henry Huntington stated "the house," then an organization named "the Women's League," which constituted the beginning of student government for women.

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The Conference Center located on University Avenue is UND's smallest residence hall. The building belonged to the Delta Zeta Sorority from 1926 until 1985, when it was purchased by UND because the Greek organization did not have enough members to maintain a local chapter. Today, the Conference Center provides accommodation for about 40 residents.

Due to the increasing enrollment of women at UND, and a strong interest in Greek life, three local women's organizations were formed in 1916. Edith and Esther Hager were the founders of one of the three associations, Alpha Sigma Epsilon. This women's organization was based on the ideas of amity, scholarship, and equality. Alpha Sigma Epsilon held its first formal meeting on December 16, 1916, and its first pledge service on March 3, 1917. Alpha Sigma Epsilon was granted charter into the Delta Zeta National Sorority in 1921 and thus became the founding chapter of the local Delta Zeta sorority. The localorganization did not have enough members to maintain a local chapter. Today, the Conference Center features double rooms, as well as study and relaxation areas.

At the beginning of the 1920s the chapter rented a space at 3000 University Avenue, and during the fall of 1926 the chapter purchased its own home at 2724 University Avenue. In 1964 this building was enlarged and remodeled. The Dakota Student of September 18, 1964 reported plans for an $85,000 two-story addition, "a Swiss Chalet type," which "will emphasize 'open living' and will feature large

Due to an increase in the number of male students in 1999, UND administrators made plans for residence hall adjustments, and the Dakota Student of April 7, 2000 announced that "there is the possibility of turning the Conference Center into a male hall." The President of the Conference Center Amy Smitz declared that "no one really wants to live where you want to live." However, it was decided that this hall would remain a women's unit.

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Annex on Swanson Hall, 1965

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swanson hall

The Dakota Student of January 20, 1984, announced the planned construction of a residence hall in the following year: "Construction of a new dormitory, which will be built in the parking lot directly east of the Memorial Union, is scheduled to begin in August and should be completed by August 1985, Terry Webb, director of UND student housing, said Thursday."

The North Dakota Legislature allotted UND $3 million worth of bonding authority for the construction of this residential building. As room and board funds were to help pay for the building, there were student concerns about fee increases. Moreover, as the building was to take up about one-fourth of the A-zone parking lot, there were faculty concerns about parking problems. UND administrators had to address these issues while construction began.

Memorial of Loren Swanson

The building was the first residence hall erected at UND since 1968. At a ceremony held on August 19, 1985 it was named Swanson Hall after Loren F. Swanson, "an individual who dedicated himself to the students and the betterment of the University," as President Thomas Clifford stated for The Dakota Student of August 30, 1985.

A native of Balfour, North Dakota, Loren F. Swanson came to UND in 1940 as a student and a National Youth Administration employee assigned to the Office of Buildings and Grounds. In 1942 he entered the US Army, and in 1946 he returned to UND as a student and an employee. In 1948, he received a B.A. in Business, and was named housing director and supervisor of veterans' housing. He became Director of Residence Services in 1957, and Director of Auxiliary Services in 1966. With the reorganization of UND's administration in 1971, Loren F. Swanson became Vice President of Operations, with the assignment of consolidating all auxiliary service departments. In 1979, at the time of his unexpected death, he supervised 11 departments, including housing, food services, plant services, transportation, and security.

It was a concern, in the early 1960s, that the North Dakota Legislature would fund an endowment to renovate UND's administration to abandon the dormitory concept of student housing in favor of residence halls. Long corridors, isolated rooms, and community bathrooms were replaced with sleeping rooms, bathrooms, corridors to room six or eight students. This successful concept was well ahead of its time. (adapted from the Residence Hall Handbook, 1935-1936)

From student input sought in the planning stages of the building, UND administrators found a preference for more privacy in rooms and more light in lounges. As The Dakota Student of August 20, 1985 reported, the five-story Swanson Hall housing 202 residents included moveable furniture allowing students to individualize their spaces, in-room air conditioning and cable television, private bathroom for each room, an atrium extending from floor to roof, a glass elevator, and a tunnel connecting the building to the Memorial Union. The basement of Swanson Hall was finished later, with some of the nicest meeting rooms on campus at the time. It was flooded and subsequently redone in 1997.

Swanson Hall, always used as a co-ed hall, has been declared by many people as impressive and modern. The Dakota Student of September 27, 1985 compared this hall with a luxury hotel, "the UND Hilton," and quoted a resident who stated: "It is like a home environment, with a lot of privacy and a cozy atmosphere." The hall's quietness and serious atmosphere were attributed to the fact that its residents were all juniors, seniors, or graduate students.

The Dakota Student of September 25, 1985 concluded: "The new building has attracted a lot of attention, according to one resident... Swanson Hall stands as a repudiation of the theory that dorms have to be institutional, simple and boring." This hall is as impressive today as it was over twenty years ago.

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Hancock Hall

In the early 1950s, planning and construction began concurrently for two new residence halls, Hancock and Johnstone Hall. The Dakota Student of April 28, 1950 wrote: “But to brighten the picture further for the new UND undergraduates, this summer will see the commencement of a $750,000 dorm project. The new program incorporates plans for both a boys and a girls dorm...” Between Wesley College and Princeton street the $350,000 boys dorm will be erected.”

Hancock Hall was the first unit to be completed of the Walsh Complex, which also included Bek Hall in 1957, Walsh Hall in two stages in 1959 and 1962, Squires Hall in 1963, and Dakota Hall, purchased in 2003. A series of tunnels connects Hancock, Bek, Walsh, and Squires halls. In 1998, an overpass was built over University Avenue to connect Hancock and Johnstone halls.

Hancock Hall was planned to be ready in the fall of 1952, but was opened for occupancy for 122 male students in January 1953, after several delays. This hall had excellent facilities for both study and recreation, from the tower study room to the basement ballroom. A recreation room with ping-pong tables, a television set, and a phonograph. Hancock Hall featured a modern ultra recreation room with ping-pong tables, a television set, and a phonograph. Photographs show the high scholastic average hung up by the men of Hancock seem like a minor miracle.”

Hancock Hall functioned as a men’s residential unit for freshmen and juniors from 1953 to 1960, as a women’s hall between 1960 and 1965, as a men’s residential unit for postbaccalaureate and graduate students from 1965 to 1990, and as a co-ed hall for graduate and older-than-average students since 1990.

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The dedication of Bek Hall was held on January 12, 1958, with an open house and a public ceremony. Hundreds of local citizens had an opportunity to see the living and learning conditions of UNO freshmen. The inauguration program included speeches of Charles Lewis, Dean of Men, and Loren Swanson, Director of Residence Services.

Bek Hall was dedicated to William Bek, long time Dean of Freshmen at UNO. He was born in Washington, Missouri, and obtained B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Missouri, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Bek came to UNO in 1911, and remained here until his death in 1948. He taught German, and in 1923 he was chosen as freshman mentor due to his tact with students. He was gifted with an unerring memory for names, and collaborated with Baruch over several critical issues. Among them... to preserve the world against the atomic bomb, and the reorganization of our entire economy from war to peace.

Bek Hall was the second building of the Walsh Complex. The foundation for Bek Hall was laid in the summer of 1955, but construction took place during the spring and summer of 1957. In August 1957, Bek Hall was occupied by 256 male students, and Bek cafeteria could feed over 600 students at each meal.

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In 1979, the State Board of Higher Education’s policy forbidding alcoholic beverages in all state-controlled dormitories caused a stir at Hancock Hall. Hancock Hall residents, most over 21 years of age, The Dakota Student of September 20, 1979 wrote that “a petition signed by 62 of 79 Hancock Hall residents in protesting loss of drinking privileges in their dormitory was sent to the State Board.” Today, the possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in all residence halls at UND.

Residents of Hancock Hall 1960

John Hancock, 1930

Bek Hall Capstones, 1958

Bek Hall’s basement originally contained the second student cafeteria on campus. In the late 1960s the space was converted into a recreation room, and in 1972, it was reconverted into a childcare facility for children three to five years of age, which provided educational opportunities for UND’s early childhood education students. In 1991, the third floor of Bek Hall temporarily became the home of Pi Kappa Phi, during a remodeling of the fraternity house. The dedication of Bek Hall was held on January 12, 1958, with an open house and a public ceremony. Hundreds of local citizens had an opportunity to see the living and learning conditions of UND freshmen. The inauguration program included speeches of Charles Lewis, Dean of Men, and Loren Swanson, Director of Residence Services.

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Walsh Hall

Walsh Hall is the largest residence hall on campus, and it occupies a portion of the former Princeton Trailer Court which was first relocated north of Princeton Street and then demolished.

The first part of Walsh Hall, a 257-bed unit, was planned in 1957, and completed in 1959. A 164-bed addition to the main building began in the summer of 1961, and was finalized in 1962. The first part of Walsh Hall was constructed at a cost of $650,000, and the addition at a cost of $550,000, the amounts being obtained as loans from the Federal Housing and Home Agency.

The rooms of Walsh Hall were constructed in suite style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had men's dorms, the largest recreation room, and the most in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line. The Dacotah style, new for UND at the time. Each furnished room had in-built closets and a private telephone line.

Walsh residents have had interests related to school and leisure. In 1961, Walsh organized a banquet emphasizing the benefits of a "complete" education, and picked its own homecoming princess.

Walsh passed through several unfortunate events: a vandalism of its doors with police intervention in 1979, a rain flood in the basement, central kitchen, and television area in 1981, a fire in the kitchen stopped by two resident assistants in 1992, and two bomb explosions in 1994. However, these accidents have not affected the structure of the building, or the spirit of the hall's inhabitants.

In April 1995, Walsh residents organized a hall program flying to Minneapolis to tour Northwest Airlines' Flight Facilities including the Aerospace Training Corporation, the Hanger Facilities, and the Systems Operations Center. In the 1980s, residents also organized Walshstock events on the lawn next to the building.

Squires Hall

The "soaring sixties" suited UND due to a great deal of construction activity. Squires Hall was intended as a replacement for an old dormitory made of wood, Princeton Hall, and as a completion to the newest residence complex on campus, Walsh Complex. The building was planned in 1961, in conjunction with the addition to Walsh Hall, and the construction of Smith Hall. Work began in 1962, and was completed by the fall of 1963. Initially named Princeton Hall, like the one it had replaced, the building was renamed Squires Hall in October 1964.

The building was erected in the College Gothic architectural style, similar to other UND campus structures. Squires Hall was praised at the time of its construction as one of the most advanced student residence hall in North Dakota. The building included a cafeteria capable of serving 1,500 persons at each meal. In 2007, this dining center was remodeled and renovated, at a cost of $16 million.

Squires Hall was dedicated during the Homecoming festivities of 1964, with a ceremony featuring speeches by Mrs. Ethel Squires and Dr. Duane Squires, the wife and the son of the building's namesake. The program featured a special presentation by the University Chorus, and tours of the building for local citizens.

Squires Hall residents were part of the growing feminist movement. In 1981, Squires Hall, known by many as "the convent," was the last residence hall on the UND campus to change the visitation policy and to abolish the practice of male sign-ins.

Students want a place where they can kick off their shoes and relax in an easy chair after a hard day at school. In most this is home — whatever home happens to be. Several options are open to students, including dorms, Greek housing, apartments, or married student housing.

Squires Hall residents in the dining center, 1966.

The men accommodated in Squires Hall in the 1960s had their share of school and entertainment activities. They won academic nominations and sports trophies. They organized artistic events and fun games. Year after year, they crowned a Squires Hall's princess to promote their image. The Dacotah of 1965 wrote: "The dorm, consisting of two-room, four-man suites, houses 248 male students, and its cafeteria provides a foundation for social and educational programs such as movies, coffee parties, and wing dances... Squires won the scholastic trophy for the men's dorm with the most improved average last spring.

The women accommodated in Squires Hall from the 1970s on also combined school and entertainment. In the 1970s, some of the hall's residents were part of the growing feminist movement. In 1981, Squires Hall, known by many as "the convent," was the last residence hall on the UND campus to change the visitation policy and to abolish the practice of male sign-ins.

Vernon P. Squires was born in New York state in 1866, received a B.A. from Brown University in 1889, and an M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1895. He came to UND as professor of English in 1897. He originated Founder's Day in 1904, and was part of the student-faculty committee which adopted the Latin motto "Lux et Lex" as the UND emblem in 1908. In 1914, he received an honorary Ph.D. from Brown University. In the same year, he became Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, a position he held until his death in 1930.

Squires Hall was originally constructed as a men's dormitory, and was occupied by male students in the 1960s. However, at the beginning of the 1970s, as the number of female students on the UND campus increased dramatically, Squires Hall became an all women's dormitory, and has remained that way ever since. During summers, Squires Hall was used as camp and conference housing. The Dakota of 1966 reported that this hall "was the home for high school students interested in engineering for a brief period in June," and "served as home base for 40 high school boys, acclimating them to University life" later that summer.
The purchase of the motel by UND and conversion to a residence hall was accomplished at a fast step. On May 9, 2003, an open house was held, and forty students chose to transfer to this hall for the fall of 2003. The name “Dakota Hall” was proposed by the University in May, and was approved by the State Board of Higher Education in June. In July, the property was purchased.

The refurbishing of Dakota Hall was also achieved in record time. The building was remodeled to feature a new computer lab and study room, a staff apartment, a laundry room, fire alarms, and wireless internet. On August 4, 2003, 1,127 pieces of furniture were brought to Dakota Hall, and were moved into residents’ rooms in two days. On August 13, seven five- in-staff members arrived for training, and by August 22, when UND students moved in, work had been finalized.

The ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony of Dakota Hall was held on August 28, 2003. Several UND administrators and state officials participated in the event.

Dakota Hall was a co-ed residence for students of all ages and class levels from 2003 to 2008. During this time, residents of this hall expressed satisfaction with their accommodation. As The Dakota Student of August 29, 2003 wrote, UND students were “living like kings” in the hotel turned into student residence, Dakota Hall.

Dakota Hall president in 2003, declared: “I love the air conditioning and the private baths. It’s nice to have lots of space and everything I need in my room.”

However, with declining occupancy in 2007, housing administration was exploring other uses for the building instead of a residence hall for the fall of 2008.

Architects designed the residence hall of brick, steel and reinforced concrete to cope with winter weather. The building was equipped with modern conveniences. The Dakota Student of October 9, 1964 reported: “Roughing it in pastel-colored suites complete with... baths and wardrobe closets, you fellows have private phones. No more uncomfortable hot days or cold nights; for each of you can regulate your own heat... Sound-proof ceilings plus fluorescent lighting means you will be able to see, but your neighbor won’t be able to hear, when you’re reading those long nights cramming... Tired of studying... — the recreation room... has a television...” West Hall was divided into suites with two double rooms to a bathroom. There were no hallways, instead rooms opened into central lounges, each functioning as a house shared by thirty people.

In an effort to build hall unity and prestige, residents created the slogan West Notion in 1986. They also designed a West Notion flag featuring a black and white checkerboard pattern in the background representing a right and wrong way of doing things, a blue crescent on the pattern representing a short time in grey time, and nine stars in the crescent representing nine hall wings; according to the hall’s website. Residents adopted a great standing for strength and perseverance as their mascot.

West Hall residents have combined school with entertainment. The Dacotah of 1966 recorded: “Typical mainstays of a student in the midst of mastering an assignment are empty cans of pop and cigarettes...” West Hall had the highest grade point average on campus in 1968, 1974, and 1978, and won many sports trophies. Steve Hurd, who directed the 1970-1971 intramural team of West Hall, said in The Dakota Student of May 5, 1972 that West teams “have come up with this formula on how to win the all-campus crown: Organization and most of all a great bunch of guys.” West Hall has been known for outstanding leadership in the 1990s and 2000s, when seven of its residents were Student Body Presidents consecutively.

West Hall was constructed during 1963-1964, at a cost of $1,050,000. The building was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1964, and was officially dedicated in October of the same year. A rededication of the complex as a whole was held in May 1969.

West Hall was dedicated to John C. West, who served as President of UND from 1933 to 1954. When he retired, he had worked as superintendent of schools in a number of Minnesota and North Dakota communities including Grand Forks before he became President of UND. His confidence carried UND through the grim years of depression and war, towards an unprecedented period of expansion.

In 1964, he served on the Board of Higher Education to use $1.2 million for the acquisition of Roadking Inn. In March 2003, in response to growing enrollment at the University of North Dakota, President Noreen波特, the University of North Dakota, President NoreenPort, was high...
The Dakota Student of December 11, 1964 reported: "Westward expansion — across the English Coulee — is becoming a common occurrence in UND's building program." The same issue of the student newspaper mentioned McVey Hall and Building 83 as residence halls to be added to West Hall, and to be occupied in 1965. Building 83 was to become Brannon Hall.

McVey Hall was planned in 1962 and Brannon Hall in 1964, yet the two residence halls were both ready for occupancy in 1965. Brannon Hall was larger than McVey Hall, and was initially assigned to male students. Brannon Hall was dedicated in October 1965, and was re-dedicated as a part of the West Green Complex in May 1969.

Brannon Hall was named in honor of Melvin A. Brannon, a professor and administrator at UND in the early 1900s. He was born at Lowell, Indiana, in 1865, and obtained B.A. and M.A. degrees from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago. He came to UND in 1894, as professor of biology and curator of the museum. He was the first Medical School Dean between 1905 and 1911, and the first Medical School Dean between 1905 and 1911, and the first president of the men accommodated in Brannon Hall in the 1960s was similar to the life of contemporary male students.

In 1971, Brannon Hall was the second building on the UND campus to become a co-ed residence, preceded only by Hancock Hall. Male students were assigned to the first and second floors, and women to the top two levels. The Dakota Student of September 7, 1972 reported: "Opening Brannon Residence Hall to both men and women students this semester has meant to protect students from the cold of the winter. In the beginning, the tunnels were not very efficient, as The Dacotah of 1966 reported: "The biggest complaint among residents concerns the lengthy distance from dorms to campus." During the winter, this problem was compounded by the failure of the tunnel to alleviate the snow problem, at times there being as much snow inside the tunnel as outside." On completion of the complex, the network of tunnels was functional.

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Selke Hall

The Dakota Student of September 27, 1966 reported: “The dormitory presently under construction in the West Green Dormitory Complex... which has carried the designation of Building No. 84 until this time, will be the fourth structure in what will eventually be a five dormitory complex west of the campus.”

Building No. 84 or Selke Hall, located east of Brannon Hall, was completed in 1967. When constructed, Selke Hall was one of the biggest residential units on campus, suitable for 306 students, and one of the most modern buildings at UND, equipped with modern conveniences. Today, it is one of the few residence halls on campus with air conditioning. Selke Hall was designed as an all women residence hall, to accommodate the increasing number of female students at the University.

For over four decades, female residents of Selke Hall have been involved in a wide array of activities. The Dakota Student of March 27, 1976 reported: “Women from the third floor of Selke Hall got out of their cubicles last week for a wing slumber party in the lounge.”

Residents of Selke Hall continue to organize and participate in special events like Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations, and the Hunger Banquet.

In 1995, a small fire broke out in Noren Hall, but it was rapidly contained by local firefighters, and life in this residence hall returned to normal. The Dakota Student of February 14, 1995 reports: “Residents were evacuated and the fire was extinguished in less than 10 minutes, according to the Grand Forks Fire Department. Although the fire was contained and only caused minimal smoke damage to a wall, Fire Captain Bob Karel says it was still a dangerous situation. ‘There’s always a danger because... everybody is in that building’...”

Noren Hall

The last residence hall constructed on the west side of the English Coulee was planned in 1967, and was occupied in the fall of 1968. The building was the fifth unit of the complex initially named West Green, and later renamed Wilkerson. A small festivity for the new building was held in September 1968, and a larger ceremony to dedicate the complex took place in May 1969.

The building, a female residence hall, was initially dedicated to John M. Gillette. A native of Missouri, he earned an M.A. degree at Princeton, and a Ph.D. degree at the University of Chicago. Dr. Gillette joined UND in 1907, and served as professor of sociology until his retirement in 1948.

When the sociology building was named after Dr. Gillette, the women’s residence hall was renamed after Ruth A. Noren. A special ceremony was held on July 13, 1983. Ruth Noren was born in Sweden, and in her childhood she came with her parents to a farm near Kulm, North Dakota. She graduated from nurses training in 1929, and was UND’s student health supervisor from her employment in 1941 until her retirement in 1969. During this time, Nurse Noren was well regarded on campus for being a mother-figure to many students. In 1976, she received the Sioux Award, UND Alumni Association’s highest honor. The Residence Hall Handbook of 1983-1984 cites UND President Thomas Clifford’s statement about Nurse Noren: “A more loyal, able, compassionate human being than Ruth Noren would be hard to find.”

During the decades from the 1960s to the present, female residents of Noren Hall have enjoyed their comfortable living areas, and have spent their time with study and entertainment. Generations of women inhabiting Noren Hall have participated in diverse learning programs on campus, and volunteer activities in Grand Forks, and have organized special celebrations for Halloween and Thanksgiving. For almost fifty years, Noren Hall has been known for its friendly atmosphere, as well as for the close community that its residents form while being at UND and preserve long after graduating from the University.

Halloween party in Selke Hall, 1963

Noren Hall lobby, 1983

Residence Halls
This mosaic view of the campus was created from 45 separate images taken by Airborne Environmental Research and Observational Camera (GROCam) in August 2007. The composite image was assembled by Clint Streeter of UND’s Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium (UMAC). Significant north-south streets include 42nd Street on the left and Columbia Road on the right, running east-west as University Avenue and 6th Avenue. The western half of the campus includes residence halls and apartment buildings.
To help alleviate this problem, UNO officials requested government-owned trailers from the Federal Public Housing Authority. In 1945, 30 trailers made available to UNO were prepared to house married veterans and their families, five trailers being reserved for veterans with children. This first trailer camp, situated north of University Avenue, was named Oxford Trailer Court. In addition, in 1946, UNO acquired 40 privately-owned trailers, and placed them near the stadium and the sports building.

As The Dakota Student of November 9, 1945 reported, the trailers came "completely furnished with screen doors, window screens, window drapes, draperies, Studio beds, dinette tables, chairs, wall mirrors, bed, rockers, playpen, ironing board with iron, oil furnace, sofa (converts into bed), light bulbs, and light fuses." The rent was $20 per month and $25 for an extra bed. Electricity and water were furnished by UNO.

In the years after World War II, veterans at UNO and their families had enjoyable and productive lives. The Dakota of 1947 showcased a "typical" housing unit, in which the veteran is "hitting the books" while "mama feeds the baby." The Dakota Student of May 4, 1951 quoted Mrs. Meredith Taylor, resident of Oxford Trailer Court, stating that she liked her accommodation "quite well," mainly because of the friendly people that surrounded her family.

Residence Hall Staff

Residence Hall Director: Justin Herget, Kat Kase, Kristin Holled, Sarah Santing, Megan Thomas, Dawn Jefferson, Jennifer Benoite, Scott Rudenoller, Cullen Riel, Trisha Brandt, Dan McCafferty, Dale Voska.

Residence Life Coordinators: John Doherty, Teresa Bach.

Residence Assistant: Bob Hall (Doherty Hall), Colin Brooks, Room DeBoer, Layne Egan, Joseph Hovland, Tony Bau, Stacie Lindgren, Brian (Brunson Hall) Cameron, Doherty Hall, Allison Bell, Steven Browk, Matt Hoffman, John Johnson, Jeni Pave, Trent Sansom.


The Dakota Student of May 24, 1946 wrote: "Ninety-two metal units, each of which will house two families, will be shipped here from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They are new structures, and were originally designed to be sent to the South Pacific for military use."

The Dakota Student of March 7, 1947 announced the arrival at UND, from Sioux City, Iowa, of six additional temporary units for married students. As the university newspaper from July 29, 1966 recollected, these prefabricated structures were grouped in three complexes: Park Village located between 59th and 69th Avenue on 208th Street, Princeton Village on Princeton Street, and Tennis Village situated in the eastern part of the University between the Winter Sports Building and the tennis courts.

Park and Princeton villages were ready for occupancy in the fall of 1946, and Tennis Village was opened to residents in the spring of 1947. Park Village was situated outside of campus on city land, and UND officials had to get permission from the Grand Forks administration to place these huts near the city park. In 1954, as city planners decided to build a school on the grounds of Park Village, the hutments were relocated to University land. In 1956, the hutments of Princeton Village were dismantled to make space for buildings of Walsh Complex, and the units were moved either to Tennis Village or to the newly constructed West Green Tin Huts.

A UND alum stated in The Dakota Student of May 28, 1981 that among the "endearing traits" of the hutments were "weeds through the cement floor, front on the walls, a huge pot-bellied stove," as well as "the fact that nut-terriers could decorate as they pleased and have dogs as pets." Rent for the apartments initially ranged from $7 to $35 per month.

The families of each village formed a close community. Bridge clubs, sewing clubs and knitting clubs flourished, and holidays were actively observed. Many residents of the villages ranked high scholastically, and were actively observed. Many residents of the hutments were "weeds through the cement floor, frost on the walls, a huge pot-bellied stove," as well as "the fact that nut-terriers could decorate as they pleased and have dogs as pets." Rent for the apartments initially ranged from $7 to $35 per month.

The families of each village formed a community. Bridge clubs, sewing clubs, and knitting clubs flourished, and holidays were actively observed. Many residents of the hutments ranked high scholastically, and were active in campus organizations.

The Dakota Student of December 16, 1955 wrote: "West Green is the name given to the new housing development west of the campus which will accommodate the two-family units formerly located at Park Village." Occupancy for the initial 16 two-family units was scheduled before January 1, 1956.

West Green Tin Huts

When completed, the site situated on Swardtrive Drive, Amber Street, and Dartmouth Street included 116 tin huts. A report on housing for married students at UND from the mid 1950s stated: "it is located directly west of the University, and within walking distance of the University. The city bus line also serves this area. With uniform housing and development according to a well-formulated plan, we have developed an area that provides space, cleanliness, safety, sanitation, and a central playground area." West Green, with its tin huts, was designated as the University's housing development exclusively for married couples.

The hutments were metal duplexes, with floors of cement finish that could be covered with linoleum or carpets. The units were equipped with oil heater and gas water heater, and were suitable for the installation of washers and dryers. The kitchens of each hutment was provided with a family-size gas range, a double sink, and built-in cupboards, but the rooms of the hutments were unfurnished. The Dakota Student of 1956 described several modern features of the West Green tin huts, including iceboxes and TV antennas. Hutment tenants were provided by Residence Services with three-gallon paint at any time following commencement of occupancy. The initial rent for a unit was $32 per month.

The demand for married student housing at UND has been increasing during the past years.

The facilities located on the campus were overcrowded in that year. As a result, there is a waiting period. Students desiring this type of housing should apply by advancing one year to reasonably ensure housing in the future. The waiting list may not be accurate, and students should apply immediately.

Several residents of the villages declared their satisfaction with the hutment sites for the campus newspaper on May 4, 1951. Mrs. Neal Fox stated: the apartments are ample and ideal for students. One can't get an apartment in town for three times the money.

From the 1950s when they were completed to the 1980s when they were dismantled, the tin huts provided comfortable and affordable housing to generations of married students. The Dakota Student of May 28, 1981 tells the story of three generations of Kolsto children who lived in the West Green Tin Huts in the 1970s and 1980s. The University newspaper reported: "Mark and his wife and daughter enjoy their tin hut since it is cheap and close to campus... He said, 'they have a class of their own... they've got their own personality.'"

West Green Tin Huts were declared unsafe in the mid 1970s, and a Tin Hut Improvement Association was created with the contribution of students and UND administrators. By 1976, the inimical disappearance of these hutments had already been announced. The Dakota Student of March 31, 1976 wrote: "A bill that would provide $3.6 million in revenue bonds to replace the tin huts and the Riverdale apartments at UND has passed the state legislature... A total of 150 housing units could be replaced by modern apartment building structures if the bill becomes law.

The Dakota Student of October 13, 1977: "It wasn't uncommon to get up in the morning and join the neighbors with a blowtorch to thaw the frozen oil pipelines." However, another alum declared: "The tin huts are what you make them. They allow a great deal of freedom as far as decorating is concerned. You can fix them up nicely or let them look like a dump." The student newspaper concluded: "Eyreton's Ole Oboloski Mike Garden-Yes. UND's infamous 'tin huts' are on their way out, and along with them will go the fond memories of those UND alumni who lived there during the 'good old days.'" The tin huts were removed between 1979 and 1981, to give way to the Chester Fritz parking lot and to West Green XII apartment buildings. The Dakota Student of May 28, 1981 reported: "The tin huts... are gradually going down, with all but one to be demolished by next June. That one, yet to be chosen, will be preserved as a reminder of the past."
Small Bricks and Split Levels

As Louis G. Geiger wrote in The University of the Northern Plains (1958), in the mid 1950s UND officials planned "a long-term college building program" west of the English Coalee. That westward expansion brought the steady replacement of the metal and wooden structures for married veterans from the post-World War II era with brick housing for married and later for single students.

UND administrators of the 1950s planned a complex of different forms of brick buildings, from one-story to multi-story structures, to be named West Green. The first type of brick building erected, called West Green I, consisted of 22 apartments located between University Avenue, Manitoba Avenue, and Swarthmore Drive (the Small Bricks), as well as of 18 apartments located along State Street south of University Avenue (the Split Tops). These apartments were built in 1957, and opened for occupancy in the fall of that year.

Each Small Brick apartment featured a living room, a dinette, a kitchenette, a bedroom, a bathroom, and a utility room. The utility room was large enough to be used as a second bedroom or a child's bedroom. Small Bricks had floors covered with asphalt tiles, and were unfinished. They were equipped with thermostat controlled gas furnace, gas water heater, and sinks, as well as gas range and built-in cupboards in the kitchen. Each apartment had facilities for installing automatic washers and dryers. The apartments were placed in a circular fashion to form a common back yard. The rent for a unit was initially $70 per month, including water and garbage, but not including gas or electricity.

Residents of Small Bricks, 1956

West Green I, the first brick construction for married students at UND, was razed in 2006, to make way for an apartment-style building for sophomore students, later named University Place. The Grand Forks Herald of February 1, 2006 wrote: "Some of the UND's oldest student housing are set to be demolished this week, making room for a four-story apartment building and multiuse student emporium, a school planner says. UND wants to replace the aging apartments... with varied living arrangements that might appeal more to modern students."

Married students are not a life of leisure; within it is one of budget making, baby training and book studying. Community spirit and effort are tips and necessary for them as they become well acquainted with the other couples and kids in the area. (from The Dakota, 1958)

Originally, the Small Bricks were allotted for married students without children or parent students with one child, and for single students who had completed 90 credit hours and were age 26 or older. For the Split Levels, priority was given to faculty and their families until the 1980s when the Gallery apartments were acquired by UND. The Split Levels were assigned to students having families with three or more children, with two school-age children of opposite sex, or with substantial age difference between children, after the 1980s.

The University Student Welfare Association will sponsor its annual theme show and tea Saturday, April 13, at 3 p.m., on the Newman Foundation slate. Spring and summer styles for women and children, as well as winter styles, will be presented. The show is open to the public. (from The Dakota Student, March 26, 1981)

Riverdale Apartments

The Riverdale Apartments were located at block 500 of Stanford Road and State Street consisting of 26 units, 24 two-bedroom ones, and two three-bedroom ones. The apartments in the duplexes had hardwood floor and a lot of storage space. Each apartment was equipped with thermostatically controlled oil furnace, electric stove, and electric water heater. Parking was located behind the units, and playground equipment was provided adjacent to the duplexes. The rent for the two-bedroom apartments was approximately $60 in the early 1960s, and had increased to about $75 by the early 1980s.

The Dakota Student of October 12, 1977 cited Loren Swanson, Vice President of Operations at UND at the time, stating that the Riverdale Apartments, "these old wooden buildings with the paint falling off," were due to be demolished in the near future. The student newspaper announced the proposed replacement of the wooden frame duplexes, whose insulation was inappropriate for the North Dakota winters, and whose maintenance price had become unfeasible, with a 24-unit brick construction. However, the plan to replace the apartments was delayed for six years due to problems regarding funding.

The actual decision to close the Riverdale duplexes was made in 1981, when residents were informed that they had two years to find alternative accommodation. The Dakota Student of September 13, 1983 wrote about Kent and Eileen Olson, who "lived in a Riverdale duplex on October 13, 1981 to June 1982," and "had mixed feelings about moving out of their home." The Olsons said that "there were a lot of drawbacks to living there," and that "in winters it would tend to get pretty breezy." However, they also stated that they missed the spaciousness and privacy of the Riverdale Apartments, and that they "used to be able to sit outside on the porch on hot nights and just relax."

The Dakota Student of October 13, 1977 wrote: "Largest project to be developed over the summer, Swanson said, was 52 new apartments for married students..." Among these, "13 duplexes bought by the University and moved from Riverdale. Eight of them have already been moved, and they have been put on new foundations and are being completely remodeled. The last of those will be ready about October 15... There are about 100 student families on the waiting list for these 52 new units."

Residents of Riverdale, 1960s

The Dakota Student of October 2, 1959 wrote: "Largest project to be developed over the summer, Swanson said, was 52 new apartments for married students..." Among these, "13 duplexes bought by the University and moved from Riverdale. Eight of them have already been moved, and they have been put on new foundations and are being completely remodeled. The last of those will be ready about October 15... There are about 100 student families on the waiting list for these 52 new units."

The Riverdale Apartments were dismantled in 1983, when UND was able to find a private contractor willing to purchase the dwellings and move them off campus. The Dakota Student of September 13, 1983 wrote: "The Riverdale duplexes... have been dealt the same fate as the University of North Dakota's old tin hats. This summer the 13 Ricky Old structures, which were home to two generations of UND students and their families, were officially shut down."

The site of the Riverdale Apartments was later used for the building of the UND Housing Office and the adjoining University Children’s Center and Apartment Community Center.
The Dakota Student of October 2, 1959 reported: “New places for students to live on the campus of the University are being pushed to completion... New, all-brick apartments for 36 families will be ready about November 1. They are built in sixplex, and each unit has two bedrooms, bath, kitchen, living room, and full basement.”

After a short delay, the first part of the Six Plexes was finished in December 1959. The Dakota Student of December 11, 1959 recorded: “The first building of six apartments will be ready for occupancy on December 15. Each week thereafter another sixplex will be open... Landscaping and sidewalks will be completed next spring.” Loren Swanson, Director of Residence Services at the time, commented: “These are the best we’ve ever made available. They contain many innovations over other housing units built on campus or in the city.”

The 36 Six Plex apartments of West Green II are located on State Street and Stanford Road. The floors of the first level rooms, initially covered with asphalt tiles, were carpeted in the 1970s. Residents often subdivided the basement to make a third bedroom, and in the 1980s the University constructed permanent bedrooms and egress windows in the basements of the Six Plexes. The apartments are unfurnished but equipped with thermostatically controlled steam heat and hot water heater, refrigerator and electric stove in the kitchen, and hookups for washer and dryer in the basement. Originally, the rent was $85 per month, including utilities except electricity, and currently it is approximately $450 per month.

The Six Plexes have large storage spaces inside the units, such as closets and utility rooms, and behind the units, for bicycles and barbeque equipment. All apartments have grass parcels with trees in the front, and some units also have grass parcels in the back. One parking space with a headbolt heater outlet is provided per apartment behind the units, and additional parking is available on State Street. The playground, situated between the buildings on State Street and those on Stanford Road, is busy with children of all ages.

Yet, married faculty and students enjoyed being neighbors in the Six Plexes. The Dakota Student of September 21, 1962 reported: “Informal, but genuine hospitality seemed to be the aim of a back-yard coffee party Saturday afternoon for faculty and student wives living in the six apartment buildings bordering State Street and Stanford Road. Mrs. Bonita Davidson, who helped plan the party, said the 16 ‘old’ residents wanted to meet and welcome the 20 new residents. A ‘come-as-you-are-with-children-and-coffee-cup’ party took place in the common courtyard shared by the apartments.”

By 1970, the Six Plexes had been assigned exclusively to married students, their spouses and their children. Since the 1980s, preference has been given to married students with two or more children. Today, these apartments continue to be popular with UND families coming from many parts of the United States, and from around the globe.
equipped with electric stoves and refrigerators. A coin-operated washer and dryer is located in the utility room of each building. Initially, the rent for the one-bedroom apartments was $75, and for the two-bedroom apartments was $85. In May 2008, these apartments were remodelled to add replacement kitchen cabinets and a breakfast bar.

An assistant professor of political science suggested a plan for married students to have a voice. He said that the married students should organize their own Student Government including an elected mayor and a council. (adapted from The Dakota Student, February 10, 1963.)

The lives of married students on Berkeley Drive have been similar to the lives of married students in other apartments on the UND campus. The Dakota Student of 1963, the year in which the eight plexes were occupied, wrote: “Some people go to college, some people support a family. Neither are easy tasks, yet many University students manage to combine the two with amazing success. Not only do married students manage to get good grades and put bread on the table at the same time, but they also appear to be enjoying their struggle. Of course, there are advantages to build “100 married student housing units,” as the University of North Dakota Housing and Home Finance Agency requested the State Board of Higher Education for the construction of new apartments for married students west of the UNO campus. The Dakota Student of May 14, 1965 reported the decision of UND officials to cancel the request “because bids received were far in excess of the loan,” and to envision another project “involving 100 lower-price units.” A UND administrator stated: “When architectural plans are completed, a new land application will be made, and bids will be re-opened.”

The construction of new apartments for married students was not abandoned. The Dakota Student of September 24, 1965 announced that UND had received a loan from the Housing and Home Finance Agency to build “100 married student housing units,” in “two-bedroom duplexes and four plexes,” north-west of the campus. The student newspaper wrote: “Construction will begin on 32 of these units as soon as possible, and they should be ready for occupancy by February of next year. The remaining 68 will be completed in segments until they are done by September next year.”

This sense of accomplishment still prevails in the eight plexes. The residents of these buildings continue to balance the time spent in school with that shared with their families, and continue to enjoy being part of the apartment community. As Sarah and Ryan Dietz, parents of Kylee and Kelsie, and residents of a Berkeley Drive apartment, stated for a recent housing brochure, “We love the convenience and the family atmosphere of living close to the University.”

The Duplexes and Four Plexes on Northwestern Drive, or West Green IV, were occupied in part in the spring and in full in the fall of 1966. The vaulted ceilings of these apartments have appealed to many residents from the 1960s on. Each apartment has a kitchen, a bathroom, a living room, two bedrooms, and a storage area. All apartments are unfurnished, but have kitchens equipped with electric stoves and refrigerators. Floors are covered in light-colored asphalt tiles, and heat is provided by a forced hot air system. A coin-operated laundry facility is located in the center of the Northwestern Drive loop. One parking space with a headbolt heater outlet is available for each apartment. A playground offers entertainment to children of the residents in these apartments.

Married students residing on Northwestern Drive in the 1960s had their share of school and entertainment. In 1966, a Student Wives Club was managing a Spring Style show, a May Dinner-Dance, a Christmas Charity project, and a scholarship program. Married students living on Northwestern Drive today continue to enjoy living in these apartments. Dusty Cline, a UND student and mother of two, declared for a recent housing publication: “I am very thankful to have moved into UND housing. My children like the idea of living in a duplex. The playground is close, and there are many children to play with. The Housing Office has been very prompt in taking care of my needs.”

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The Dakota Student of June 27, 1969 wrote, "Construction expected to begin within the year at UND will include an engineering building, an auditorium, a fine arts center, a human nutrition laboratory and completion of the fourth floor of Chester Fritz Library. It is possible that construction will also begin on a winter sports building, a residence hall, and a 100-unit complex of married student housing, according to UND President George W. Starcher." The student newspaper also reported that the married student project "would be funded by a long-term Housing and Urban Development loan, to be repaid by rental fees," and that the costs of this project "could not exceed $1.28 million."

On June 27, 1969, the Dakota Student wrote, "The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education approved contracts for construction of 100 living units, one or more children, according to a housing brochure of UND President George W. Starcher. "Plans are to construct three three-story buildings, each containing 24 one-bedroom units, and two two-story townhouses, each containing 14 two-bedroom units." The building of the Townhouses was started in the 1970s. The Townhouses are located on Tulane Court, and each of the buildings has two-story apartments in the center, and one-story apartments at the ends. Each townhouse apartment is unfurnished, but is equipped with an electric stove and a refrigerator, and with facilities for an electric washer and dryer. All floors are linoleum, except the living room which is carpeted. Heat is provided through the steam convection method. One parking place with a headbolt heater outlet is provided for each townhouse apartment.

The friendly atmosphere of the Townhouses was appreciated by the residents of these apartments in the 1970s. Among the activities recorded by a housing publication of the 1970s, the Townhouses "provide a safe environment," "like a community within a community." The students residing in on-campus housing, and a growing preference among students for off-campus accommodation.

The Dakota Student of June 27, 1970 reported: "The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education approved contracts... for construction of 100 living units at UND... Construction cost of the 100 living units is $1,261,725." The building of the Townhouses was started in the spring and completed by the fall of 1970. The Townhouses were opened for occupancy for students and families with one or more children, according to a housing brochure of the 1970s. The Dakota Student of February 27, 1970 reported: "The building of the Townhouses was started in the spring and completed by the fall of 1970. The Townhouses were opened for occupancy for students and families with one or more children, according to a housing brochure of the late 1990s, the Townhouses "provide a safe environment," "like a community within a community."
The Dakota Student of March 5, 1971 announced that the North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee had reinstated an authorization for "about $4.5 million for married student and residence hall housing that could be built at UND during the next biennium." The authorization was part of an allocation for housing construction that had been removed from a bill by House action, due to the fear that colleges in the state were overbuilding residences that could not be filled by students.

Inhabitants of the 23 and 24 Plexes have enjoyed living and learning in these modern apartments. Kory Frey, a resident, stated for a housing brochure at the end of the 1990s that these apartments are "very affordable and convenient."

Residents of Virginia Rose, 1980s

The Virginia Rose apartment building has 15 two-bedroom units. Besides the unfurnished bedrooms, each apartment has a living room, a kitchen-dining room, a bathroom, and a walk-in storage room. Bedrooms and living rooms are carpeted, and all the other areas are covered with vinyl flooring. Thermostatically controlled electric baseboard heating is located in each room, and leaseholders are responsible for the heating costs. This is the only apartment building on the UND campus where students pay for heat. In these spacious apartments, the kitchen is equipped with a refrigerator, a range, a dishwasher, and a garbage disposal system. A coin-operated laundry facility is located on the ground level of the building. One parking space with a headbolt heater outlet is provided for each apartment, in the parking lot situated south of Virginia Rose.

Residents of Virginia Rose have combined family life with school and social activities. In the 1970s, married students living in this building organized study groups during exam times, and enjoyed playing cards and going to parties. In the late 1980s, people inhabiting this building attended "Celebrate Family Week," and participated in discussions about married life, community meals, and contests. This apartment building has accommodated international students from around the world, and its residents have had numerous possibilities to be involved in cultural exchanges. Current UND students and their spouses living in Virginia Rose apartments continue to appreciate the modern conveniences of their building, as well as the opportunities available through the housing services. As Leah and Susan Benson, residents of Virginia Rose in the late 1990s, declared about their apartment for a housing publication: "We love our balcony. Grilling supper is our favorite way to eat!"

Residents of Virginia Rose, 1979

Residents of the Dakota Student of January 18, 1972 wrote: "West Green VII, an $897,000 student housing complex consisting of three 24 Plex apartment buildings, will be completed by spring, 1972." By the fall of that year, three additional 24 Plex apartment buildings were erected, under the name of West Green IX. As The Dakota Student of September 12, 1972 stated, the 24 Plexes situated at 510, 520, and 503 Tulane Drive, and at 540, 560, and 570 Carleton Court, were designed to house "a combination of married students and single students." Initially, rent for a one-bedroom apartment was approximately $100 per month, and rent for a two-bedroom apartment was in the range of $150 per month.

The 23 Plex contains one-bedroom apartments, whereas the 24 Plexes feature one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. Most floors in these apartments are carpeted, but bathrooms and kitchen-dining rooms have linoleum flooring. The walls in these apartments are paneled. The apartments are unfurnished, but they are each equipped with a stove and a refrigerator. The 23 and 24 Plex apartments are heated through a steam system. A coin-operated laundry with washers and dryers is located on the ground floor of each building. One parking space with a headbolt heater outlet is provided per apartment. Each of these apartment areas has a well-equipped playground for children of residents.

The 23 Plex, 1972

A special evening of activity and information for UND married students will be held Tuesday at Waldtown Hall. A buffet supper at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs dining hall will be followed by dancing, movies, the Vips voxes. The event is sponsored by the UND Housing Office and the Campus Ministry Association. (From The Dakota Student, March 11, 1979.)

One of the eventual happenings in these buildings was a fire reported by The Dakota Student on January 15, 1976: "Quick reaction, fire-resistant construction, and good luck combined last Friday to avert more serious damage from a fire which gutted a University apartment." The property damage was sustained from a fire in apartment 203, 560 Carleton Court, and most of the damage was limited to that apartment. No one was at home at the time of the fire, and a neighboring tenant reported the fire. Since the time of that incident, fire alarm systems have been installed and are carefully monitored all over campus.

In the 1970s, concerned women succeeded in getting UND to change from always considering the husband to be the head of the family and therefore eligible for marital housing, to accepting that any full-time student with spouse and dependents could be assigned to apartment housing. (Adapted from "A Century on the Northern Plains," 1952.)
Mount Vernon & Williamsburg

Mount Vernon and Williamsburg have 48 one-bedroom apartments, and 24 two-bedroom apartments.

The Dakota Student of April 18, 1973 cited Donald Gordhamer, Director of Housing at the time, stating that single student demand for university-operated apartments had been high, and that "the single student is becoming a first-rate competitor with the family for apartment housing. As a result, the University was considering new possibilities to accommodate graduate and undergraduate students." UND owned all the apartments, while continuing to assign undergraduates other than seniors primarily to residence halls.

By the fall of 1973, UND had opened four of the nine eightplexes on Berkeley Drive to single students. However, since these did not cover all the requests, University officials decided to purchase from a private owner two apartment buildings that were located outside what was then the western edge of the campus. UND owned all the property around these lots, and needed the land for building student housing. As a result, the University was considering new possibilities to accommodate graduate students and undergraduate seniors in a number of apartment buildings, while continuing to assign undergraduates other than seniors primarily to residence halls.

The Dakota Student of January 26, 1978 reported: "UND's own urban renewal project seems to be near at hand. The legislative approval required for 150 family housing units came during the last session, and was recently approved by the State Board of Higher Education." Gerald Skogley, Vice President for Finance at that time, commented for the student newspaper: "The authorized apartments will be going up over a period of four years... Of approximately 750 units we have on campus, the worst will be replaced as we progress..."

Mount Vernon and Williamsburg were "plagued with threats of rent boycotts," as The Dakota Student of March 1, 1974 reported. The student newspaper wrote that "tenants of the two apartment complexes have voiced that their rent is 50 to 60 dollars more, or up to 50 percent more, than tenants are paying in other University housing units." UND Director of Housing Donald Gordhamer responded that the rent for these apartments would be lowered only when "the University can operate the buildings on the same financial basis as the rest of the University housing units." He explained that UND had taken out a regular commercial bank loan with a higher interest rate until a low-interest federal loan was approved, and also that UND had not converted the units from city to University utility lines yet.

However, in March 1974 the rent for Mount Vernon and Williamsburg was lowered to be aligned with that of the other single student apartments, after negotiations between student senators and University vice presidents. As Wayne Stenehjem, a student resident, commented in The Dakota Student of October 4, 1974, "University housing is a bargain anyway from having to rent from private individuals or companies."

Residents of Williamsburg, 1980s

Residents of West Green II, 1980s

Mount Vernon, 1983

West Green 11 & 12

There are 48 one-bedroom apartments and 24 two-bedroom apartments. All apartments are equipped with a refrigerator and a gas range. Furnished apartments include a sofa and armchair set, a dinette set, beds, and dressers. Each apartment is heated by gas-forced air, is air conditioned, has the kitchen and bathroom tiled, and has the bedrooms and living room carpeted. Coin-operated laundry facilities are located in the central area on the ground floor of each building. One parking space with a headbolt heater outlet is provided per apartment.

These funds obtained by the University were used to construct five buildings, two of them in the vicinity of the 23 and 24 Plexes, and three of them replacing the tin huts. As The Dakota Student of February 9, 1979 reported, "Construction will begin this spring on two units near Carleton Court apartments. Construction of the first of the three buildings at the site now occupied by tin huts south of University Avenue and west of Stanford Road will probably begin in July... The new structures will be similar to existing apartments in the Carleton Court area. The major differences will be in features designed for the handicapped... The first floor will be at ground level, with no basement apartments."

UND is committed to providing quality, economical housing to full-time students, and strives to create an atmosphere which satisfies each individual's need for personal freedom, as well as community extension. The academic environment is enriched through the community experience and the opportunity for developing friendships. (adapted from Apartment Living, 1980s)

In May 1979, a groundbreaking ceremony was held, and in June of that year, the concrete foundations were poured for these buildings. According to UND President Thomas Clifford, quoted in the student newspaper of June 28, 1979, it would take "two years and $3.5 million" to finalize the work. However, construction was done in record time, and the new apartments were ready in the fall of 1980. At that time, it was decided that the new buildings were to be the Carleton Court residential area, and the three new buildings south-west of campus, West Green 12, would form the Loren F. Swanson Family Housing Complex.
The Dakota Student of October 30, 1981 cited Terry Webb, University of North Dakota Housing Director at the time, stating: "There's been 200 students on the waiting list for married housing for the last eight years. We've been short of rooms in residence halls for five years now." In response to the housing shortage for UND families and single students, the University administration planned to purchase from private owners a part of the Gallery Apartment Complex next to the railroad tracks, northwest of campus.

Galley Apartments

The Dakota Student of February 5, 1982 reported: "After several months of haggling, UND has finally acquired buildings H through K of the Gallery Apartment Complex. At a Tuesday press conference held in the J. Lloyd Stone Alumni Center, UND President Tom Clifford and University of North Dakota Foundation Vice President Earl Strinden announced the completion of a charitable remainder unitrust agreement with Gallery owners Fritz Mikkelson and Larry Johnson. The deal was not a simple one." Mikkelson and Johnson donated the property appraised at $2.8 million to the UND Foundation (a non-profit corporation organized for the Alumni Association), which in turn sold the property to the University for $1.95 million, the remaining amount being a gift from the former owners to University. The UND Foundation agreed to invest the proceeds of the transaction, and to pay Mikkelson and Johnson interest generated from the investment for 20 years.

In the 1980s, the UND Gallery Apartments were used for faculty and married students, and today two buildings are assigned to faculty and two buildings are assigned to students. As The Dakota Student of September 24, 1982 recorded, residents enjoyed living in these "luxurious" apartments, in spite of some concerns with the $265 to $295 rent in the Gallery, approximately $100 higher than the rent in the other UND apartment buildings. Current residents continue to live comfortably in the UND Gallery Apartments. Ken Jacocks stated for a housing brochure of the 1990s: "I like the close proximity of my apartment's location to the University's campus. Whether I decide to walk or ride the campus shuttle bus, I save a lot of time by living close to my classrooms and the library."

University Place

The four-story, 108,000 square foot building has 75 apartments for 275 residents, including seven efficiency units, eight four-bedroom apartments with single occupancy bedrooms, 58 two-bedroom apartments with double occupancy bedrooms, and two one-bedroom apartments with double occupancy bedrooms. Each apartment has a furnished living room, bedrooms, a kitchen with refrigerator, stove, microwave, and dishwasher, and separate bathrooms. All apartments have air conditioning, security, and wired and wireless internet access. University Place also has an apartment for the live-in staff, several lounge spaces, an etiopurium with a stone fireplace, a coffee shop, laundry facilities, and meeting rooms. A lottery process was initially conducted for assignment to this building, and later the assignment was opened to all students with 30 credits. A blog and web cam, posting photos of the construction, kept students updated about the progress of the project. Contracts were offered for academic year or full term, and residents were not required to purchase a meal plan. Rates for academic year ranged between $3,800 and $4,700 per student, depending on the type of apartment, and included $400 worth of dining dollars.

University Place was designed with several "green" sustainable elements, such as storm water filtration ponds and energy efficiencies. The ceiling tiles, steel columns, and floor carpets of University Place all include recycled content. UND took steps to recycle bricks, demolished material, and old street material from the former apartment buildings. Judy Sargent, Director of Residence Services at UND, commented in The Dakota Student of November 2, 2007 that the features "students have shown appreciation for" include "the large windows that let in extra sunlight," and "the individual kitchens."
Several times in its history, the University of North Dakota faced dramatic increases in student enrollment and consequently in housing requests. In addition to long term plans for constructing new buildings, UND administrators provided short term solutions to accommodation strains through temporary housing.

The University Commons, built in 1909 (hosting the University Library from 1927 to 1961, and the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department today), served as a supplementary housing facility for almost a decade after World War I, when the number of students increased from approximately 1,000 to about 2,000. As The Dakota Student of November 17, 1961 reported, between 1918 and 1927 the University Commons offered not only meals to students and faculty, but also accommodation to some students who worked in the cafeteria and stayed in small rooms on the third floor.

In 1977 and 1978, Robertson Hall was used as an emergency housing placement center, and a city-wide network seeking available housing space was created. Between 1977 and 1987, non-residential areas of West and McVey halls were adapted for additional accommodation, and rooms in Road King and Westward motels were rented (with students paying $2 a day and UND picking up the balance of a $12 fee).

In the 1970s and 1980s, UND faced another housing shortage. The Dakota Student of September 1, 1977 reported: "Housing problems are not a major problem, according to Terry Webb..." Webb states that some students in temporary housing because of a shortage of 200 spaces. However, within two weeks everyone should have a permanent place to stay," he said.

By 1985, co-op housing had been changed from overflow to permanent accommodation, as The Dakota Student from March 22, 1985 reported: "Students tired of crowded dorm rooms that are used for overflow will no longer be required to live under the hours system, but will have the option to use a key card if they wish."

In 1980, regulations regarding alcoholic beverages were loosened at UND in the 1960s, and were tightened again at the request of the State Board of Higher Education in late 1970s. A memorandum from 1981 read: "The Vice-President for Student Affairs may initiate disciplinary proceedings, against a student who possesses or uses intoxicating beverages in a University classroom building, laboratory, auditorium, library building, museum, faculty administrative office, athletic facility, residence hall, or any other public campus area."
**Amenities**

The University of North Dakota has had a long tradition of dedicated and visionary administrators. At the beginning of UND, the President was in charge of all managerial areas including housing, a superintendent of dormitories was appointed in 1910, and a housing director was named in 1950; yet when President Starcher assumed UND's presidency in 1954, "almost all paperwork, including such requests as the replacement of faucets in a dormitory room, crossed his desk." (A Century on the Northern Plains, 1980). Since then, housing operations have been gradually decentralized. After having operated from the Main, Budge Hall, Twamley Hall, Wilkinson Hall, and Robertson Hall, the Housing Office moved to its own building at 525 Stanford Road on June 13, 1986. Today, as in the past, UND housing efforts continue to be focused on responding to the needs of residents.

The Northern Plains Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary of Leaders in University Apartment Communities, ARH, is instrumental in recommending changes to housing policies, and its board consists of a representative from each residence hall on campus and eight executives. UND's Mark Hudson Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) is an organization which works closely with ARH to make residence halls a better place to live. NRHH is a branch of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH). It is designed to give national and local recognition to students making outstanding contributions to their residence halls in the educational, social, and athletic realms. Membership is limited to one percent of residence hall population, through a nomination and selection process. UND's ARH has received several awards, including the Midwest School of the Year, and the NRHH Chapter of the Year in 2001-2002.

The Association of Residence Halls (ARH) is the governing body of the campus residence halls, and has been created by and for student residents. ARH is instrumental in recommending changes to housing procedures, and its board consists of a representative from each residence hall on campus and eight executives. UND's Mark Hudson Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) is an organization which works closely with ARH to make residence halls a better place to live. NRHH is a branch of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH). It is designed to give national and local recognition to students making outstanding contributions to their residence halls in the educational, social, and athletic realms. Membership is limited to one percent of residence hall population, through a nomination and selection process. UND's ARH has received several awards, including the Midwest School of the Year, and the NRHH Chapter of the Year in 2001-2002.

**Leadership Opportunities**

The Dakota Student of November 23, 1999 reported: "One of the many opportunities to prepare for life after college is to work as a Resident Assistant (RA) in one of the campus residence halls, according to Chris Dinga, Johnstone Complex director. 'You will be more prepared when you go into the work force because the job forces you to deal with people... You test your leadership skills,' Dinga said." The position of RA requires the candidate to maintain a 2.5 GPA. RAs "point residents who need help in the right direction... academically or socially," and also "arrange activities for the hall residents so that they can get to know each other and build a sense of community." RA jobs are gratifying and inspiring. Jennifer Switzer declared for The Dakota Student on April 23, 2002: "I love my RA... We have become really good friends; she is just amazing." The Terry Webb Community Room

University of North Dakota

Dedicated June 12, 2000

Terry Webb Community Room

University of North Dakota

Dedicated June 12, 2000

In the fall of 1996, UND opened the doors of a new building which housed the Community Center and the University Children's Center. Linked to the Housing Office at 525 Stanford Road, the building has 15,800 square feet on the main floor, and 12,000 square feet in the basement. It includes a multi-purpose area with a kitchen, a computer room, and several meeting rooms. The lobby faces the south side, and the University Children's Center occupies the east half of the facility. The Community Center was designed by and for residents of the apartment community as a focal point where they can spend quality time with their families and friends. It provides a venue for programs and special activities.

In 1999, the multi-purpose room of the Apartment Community Center was named in honor of Terry Webb, at the request of UND's chapter of the International Honor of Leaders in University Apartment Communities, and with the approval of the State Board of Higher Education. Terry Webb was Director of Housing and later Residence Services between 1977 and 1998. He supervised Housing, Dining Services, the Children's Center, the ID card program, and the computer services of the Operations Division. His innovative leadership was evident in all these areas. Once a resident student in the UND tin hutments, he understood and was supportive of nontraditional students. The Terry Webb Community Room hosts a variety of activities like the monthly meal and the Children's Pow Wow.

In 2006, Mark Hudson, Residence Life Director, was given the task to get UND students involved in the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH), and its subdivision, the Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (MACURH). Since then, UND students have received several awards and held national positions. UND hosted MACURH conferences in 1989, 1995, and 2000, and the NACURH conference in 1992. UND held the NRHH National Office from 1998 to 2000, with Mike Grose as the director. Members of UND MACURH
Six years passed before the new University had a graduating class. In 1889, eight students received their diplomas. What could be more fitting to the University than to have the first graduating class in a college named after a Dakota tribe that had fought for the brotherhood of states in the following year? The University continued to prosper, and in the next two years fourteen joined the ranks of those who claim the UND as their Alma Mater. They have come and gone, but the student life they created is still in existence and doing much to encourage future graduates. (adapted from The Dacotah, 1904)

The State University
Of North Dakota
In the Oldest and Best Equipped Educational Institution in the State. It Offers the Choice of

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For the young men who desire an officer of the regular army.

Tuition Free to all Departments
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WEBSTER MERRIFIELD, President.
University, North Dakota.

The first UND yell, "Rag's Out!" originated from the practice of hanging a dinner napkin in the Ladies' Hall dining room window to signal the men in the Main Building dormitories that a meal was ready. One day, the lookout announced the welcome napkin in frontier terms: "Rag's Out!" This quickly became the standard call, and soon young men and women from campus vocalized it at other times as an expression of school loyalty. In 1891, President Merrifield, concerned with the "unseemliness" of "Rag's Out!" prohibited its use. Students responded with a protest rally, and The Student defended the yell. Merrifield imposed faculty censorship on the school newspaper, and only under threat of expulsion did the student body accept a substitute yell which had the President's blessings. (adapted from A Century on the Northern Plains, 1983)

The entry of the U.S. into World War I in 1917 interrupted the college's normal routine. Military training became a requirement for male freshmen and sophomores, and over 400 students left campus to contribute to the war effort. In 1918, most buildings on campus were converted to Army administrative and housing needs, and the few regular students on campus were offered few courses appropriate for academic credit. However, University life returned to normal after World War I, and enrollment at UND increased from about 1,000 students in 1920 to nearly 2,000 students in 1930. (adapted from A Century on the Northern Plains, 1983)

The flood of 1979, the Red River of the North crested at 48.81 feet. However, in April 1997, the worst flooding in more than a century hit the cities of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota. The flood, due to a remarkably bitter winter that saw eight blizzards and record snowfall, lifted the river to 54.33 feet, the highest mark in the 20th century. Damages at the University of North Dakota were estimated at $75 million, with 72 of its 240 buildings at the time flooded, and with 69 miles of steam and electrical distribution lines and sanitation and storm sewers affected. Classes were cancelled three weeks early and students had to leave suddenly, many leaving everything they owned behind. There was minimal damage to individual student rooms. However, all the tunnels connecting the residence halls in Walsh Complex were flooded, as well as eight residence halls, Wilkerson Hall, two apartment complexes, and miscellaneous houses.

The Return of Lake Agassiz
The Return of Lake Agassiz

Student pickets against racial prejudice, 1969

During World War II, national mobilization had a marked effect on UND. In 1942, male students began registering for the draft, and North Dakota participated in its first regional blackout drill. University enrollment sharply declined and by 1944, 75% of the 504 students on campus were men. The University once again resembled a military base, as faculty provided training for nearly 6,000 military personnel, including engineers, nurses, medics, glider pilots, and radio operators. (adapted from A Century on the Northern Plains, 1983)

In 1968, the UNO Indian Association was formed and the black population on campus increased quickly. In 1969, about 500 students, or 10% of the campus population, were contacted over the summer and encouraged to confirm their living arrangements for fall, since many properties in the city were flooded. All the buildings housing the four cafeterias were also damaged. While the city was evacuated, a small group of housing administrators stayed back and assisted with the emergency. When the waters receded, clean up activities accelerated, and emergency temporary housing was offered to displaced citizens of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks, UND faculty and staff, contractors, and small business administration. All students that could be reached by phone were contacted over the summer and encouraged to confirm their living arrangements for fall, since many properties in town were damaged. Many have described the Flood of 1997 as a "defining point" in the history of Greater Grand Forks. (adapted from The Return of Lake Agassiz by Jan Orvik and Dick Larson, 1997)
The idea for a Student Union was born in 1945. The use of the word “Memorial” reflected students' sentiments to dedicate the building to the memory of UND students who had died during World War II. In the years that followed, students and alumni worked together to raise funds and petition the State Board of Higher Education to approve a student fee of $5 per semester to help fund the building. After years of fund-raising, planning, and construction, the Memorial Student Union was dedicated on May 18, 1951. For the first time in UND's history, a central place to meet, obtain daily services, and sponsor activities was created. Since then, the Memorial Union underwent two additions (an east addition in 1964, and a west addition in 1983), and over 50 renovations and facility improvements. (from the Memorial Union history website)

The biggest change in the 1980s was the widespread use of computers and other technologies. UND expanded and updated its computer services in 1985 to include the new Bitnet system and the CMS timesharing system, as well as the previous terminals and microcomputer clusters. There are several locations across campus equipped with computer and microcomputer terminals in Upson II, the Memorial Union, the Chester Fritz Library, Gamble Hall, and the Center for Aerospace Sciences. A few terminals are also available in the residence halls. (adapted from The Dakota Student, October 4, 1985)

Students, faculty, and staff gathered around the pillars of the Old Science Hall inside the new Barnes & Noble University bookstore, as the bookstore’s official grand opening and dedication was held Monday afternoon. The bookstore will be the first “anchor” business for the University Village, which will include retail stores, restaurants, service outlets, and recreational facilities. The architecture will be distinctive while keeping the look and spirit of UND. Construction continues nearby with the new Ralph Engelstad Arena, and the new Family Practice Center. (from The Dakota Student, October 6, 2000)

Students work out at the new Wellness Center, 2006

For students looking for a place to exercise, Monday’s Grand Opening of the new Wellness Center, located on the Bronson Property, was a welcome event. After years of planning, development, and construction, the $19.7 million project was opened for business, and students finally have a real place to work out on campus. “You walk in here, and there is a sense of excitement; everything came together so nicely. This facility rocks. I’ve never been somewhere that even compares with this,” Hollie Swindler said. (adapted from The Dakota Student, September 26, 2006)
May Fete, or the Spring Festival, was the first activity at UND intended to combine sports skills with artistic aptitudes, and to showcase such student performances to an audience of University and community members. In the early years, May Fete was little more than class drills and dancing exhibitions, in which the performers appeared in "gym" suits or in imitations of gowns from Ancient Greece. (adapted from The Dakota, 1923)

Drama was another attraction for the artistically inclined students at the University. Prior to 1905, drama productions at UND had seldom risen above the level of sophomoric farces, but in 1906, when the senior class played Richard Sheridan's "The Rivals," the campus newspaper could proclaim that the days of inartistic work were past. Growing interest led to the organization in 1911 of Sock and Buskin, a drama society limited to 40 students elected for their academic and dramatic ability. The society, which staged productions on and off campus, especially encouraged students to write plays. In 1914, the Sock and Buskin Society offered to the University the Bankside Theater, an open-air stage near the English Coulee, that used the natural stream to separate the performers from the public. (adapted from A Century on the Northern Plains, 1983)

The Flickertail Follies, showcasing performances of music, dance, poetry, and theatre, was conceived during the 1920s as an exhibition of University talent presented in the city of Grand Forks for the general public. The Flickertail Follies were initiated and managed by the members of Sigma Delta Chi, a professional journalistic fraternity acquainted with the procedure of presenting amateur college revues to the community. (adapted from The Dakota Student, April 27, 1956)

In UND's early days, outdoor activities included croquet and ice skating on the English Coulee. In 1894, intercollegiate football was introduced, and games were played on the YMCA field near UND. In 1899, UND's first football field was laid out on the prairie area north of the railroad tracks. In 1907, the North Dakota Legislature appropriated $25,000 for the construction of a gymnasium, which was an ideal place for basketball, and also had provisions for men's and women's showers, dressing rooms, and staff offices. By the 1920s, UND had competitive teams in numerous sports. A Winter Sports Building was erected for ice activities in 1936, and later became the home of the hockey team. The first hockey varsity team was formed in 1946-1947. (adapted from A Century on the Northern Plains, 1983)
On a Golden Anniversary, a pioneer slowly climbs. At the commencement February 22, Founders’ Day, attracting a crowd.

Louis G. Geiger’s book, written for the occasion, a cantata “The Towering Vision” made its debut at the convocation. (from The Dakota Student, January 21, 2000)

The vault will be painted gold, and labeled UND Residence Hall, student time capsule burial, said. “We are very pleased to have reached that milestone today. The University was pleased to have reached that milestone today. The University is appropriate that we take stock and define a plan for the University. Following this each unit will be asked to develop action plans addressing those priorities in the context of the unit’s strategic plan. Message from UND President Charles Kupchella, in The Dakota Student, January 21, 2000)

Putting together a document of such nature is a challenging task that Sorin Nastasia, who earned a Ph.D. in Communication and Public Discourse at UNO in 2010, and Sharlette Seelan, Special Project Manager at Residence Services, were proud to bring to fruition. As the University of North Dakota celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2008, Residence Services marks the special occasion by publishing this book/record/chronicle the history of housing on campus.

Residence Services proudly acknowledges two key contributors to this project, Sorin Nastasia, who earned a Ph.D. in Communication and Public Discourse at UNO in 2010, and Sharlette Seelan, Special Project Manager at Residence Services. The idea of producing a historical housing document on UND’s 125th anniversary was conceived by Sharlette Seelan, who brought Sorin Nastasia on board for research, writing, photography, and production design. Putting together a document of such nature is a challenging task that Sorin Nastasia has fulfilled between 2005 and 2009. He pursued systematic research through numerous documents available in the Department of Special Collections at the Chester Fritz Library, and information gathering from The Student, The Dakota Student, The Dacotah, Alumni Review, UND directories and reports, from University of the Northern Plains: A History of the University of North Dakota 1883-1958 written by Louis G. Geiger (published in 1958), and from A Century on the Northern Plains: The University of North Dakota at 100 edited by Robert P. Wilkins (published in 1983). Sorin copied and scanned articles, news items, and photographs about past and present housing buildings, and compiled these in several binders available at the UND Housing Office. He condensed and summarized the vast amount of data, took pictures on campus, and wrote and designed this publication. Sharlette has spent endless hours brainstorming and advising for this project, as well as reviewing and editing the document.

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Our history  Your future

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