

Jennie M. Conrad Hall (formerly North Hall)

Construction of North Hall began late in 1956 on the site of the greenhouse north of Ludden Hall. The greenhouse was razed in 1956. Ludden Hall was razed in 2005 and its site is now (2009) occupied by Antelope Hall. The contractor for the construction of North Hall was Beall Construction Company of Lincoln. Architects were Helleberg and Helleberg of Kearney.

The building was completed in late fall 1957 at a cost of \$305,000. It was a residence hall designed to house 105 women. All rooms but three were double-occupancy. The building also included a lobby with chairs for guests, a recreation room, the housemother's apartment, an office, a mail room, and a laundry room. To save money, it was provided with central washroom and restroom facilities; there were no individual lavatories in each room.

North Hall was first occupied on December 12, 1957, by members of the sorority Alpha Omicron Pi. The first housemother was Mrs. Gertrude Thomas. The first counselors were Janice Stone, Janette Swanson, Karen Rodine, and Irene Kennedy.

The building was known as North Hall until October 31, 1963, when it was renamed Jennie M. Conrad Hall. This renaming coincided with the naming of the new Calvin T. Ryan Library. Jennie M. Conrad was born at Oconto, Nebraska, on March 23, 1891 and enrolled at Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney on September 14, 1910. After receiving her two-year diploma, she taught in schools in Idaho before returning to Kearney to receive her A.B. degree on January 23, 1920. She then went to New York City where she attended Teachers College at Columbia University to earn her M.A. degree in 1922. She then returned to her alma mater where she taught history and social science until her retirement in 1961.

Hardly a student attended Kearney State during those 41 years who did not take a class which Miss Conrad taught. For years, a large fern which was in front of her desk was her trademark. Her five-question quizzes which preceded her daily classes will never be forgotten by her former students.

Hardly a year passed that she did not travel to some part of this planet. Trips around the world, to South America, Australia, the Holy Land, are just a few. Always, on her return, she would share her experiences and pictures with students, faculty, and Nebraska citizens.

Miss Conrad was a member of the American Association of University Women and Pi Gamma My, social science honorary.

Due to a temporary shortage of housing for men, Conrad Hall was briefly converted to a men's residence hall in 1967-1969.

Beginning in January 1968, 20 of Conrad Hall's rooms were used for Music Department faculty offices and practice rooms due to the condemnation of the Auditorium Wing of the Administration Building. When the Fine Arts Building was opened in January 1970, these rooms reverted to women students' rooms. New carpeting and drapes were installed in Spring 1969.

Conrad Hall went coed in Fall 1998; men occupied one of the three floors. Twenty-four hour visitation was also begun in Fall 1998. Conrad Hall also houses the Office of Residential and Greek Life.

Conrad Hall is reputed to be haunted. The spirit haunts only the west end of the third floor, especially Room 318. The spirit is known as Stella, the Alpha Omicron Pi founding sister who first occupied Room 318. Sounds and visions are most common during the week before students move into the dorms. "Stella" appears at night and sits on students' chairs and beds. Students sometimes wake up to find "Stella" sleeping beside them. Fans change speeds for no reason, water taps are turned on by no visible hand, and heavy pieces of furniture are heard being moved about. The only rooms involved are 301-304 and 315-319.



**Conrad Hall Under Construction, 1956
View Looks to the East**



**Conrad Hall Under Construction, Summer 1957
View Looks to the Northeast**



**Students Moving Into Conrad Hall, 1958
View Looks to the Northeast**



Conrad Hall, 1960
View Looks to the Northeast



Conrad Hall, 1963
View Looks to the Northeast



Jennie M. Conrad



**Conrad Hall Interior, 1965
Vicky Samuelson With Christmas Decorations**



**Conrad Hall in March 2006
View Looks to the Northeast
Area in Foreground Has Been Cleared for the
Construction of Antelope Hall**



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: View Looks to the East



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: View Looks to the Northeast



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: View Looks to the East-Northeast



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: View Looks to the Northwest



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: East End, Looking to the Northwest



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: North Side, Looking to the West



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: Eastern Part North Side



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: Western Part North Side



Jennie M. Conrad Hall, 2009: North Side, Looking to the East

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