

## **George E. Martin Hall**

Construction of Martin Hall began in 1953. It was built to house 120 women upperclassmen; the women themselves contributed suggestions for its design and furnishing. For example, Elizabeth Harris of Axtell, made a suggestion concerning the closet doors which was accepted and incorporated into the final design.

Geer Mauer Construction Company of Grand Island, Nebraska, submitted the winning bid of \$397,989 for its construction, which began in September 1953. Geer Mauer projected a completion date of September 1, 1954, which was met.

Anderson Brothers Plumbing and Heating of Kearney, Nebraska, submitted the winning bid of \$58,822 for the heating, ventilating, and plumbing work on the building.

Hudson Electric Company of Plattsmouth, Nebraska submitted the winning bid of \$17,995.50 for the electrical work on the building.

John Latenser and Sons of Omaha were the architects.

The building was completed and occupied in September 1954 and named George E. Martin Hall. Mr. Martin served as the third President of the College, from 1919 to 1936. He arrived at Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney in 1915 as head of the English Department, and was appointed Dean of Teacher Training in 1917. In 1935 he was selected president of the National Education Association, and died the following year.

The building was built to house 120 women, on three floors. Martin Hall's first officers were elected in October, 1954. The first President was E. J. Foth, the first Vice President was Helen Camarous, the first Secretary was Patsy Johnson, and the first Treasurer was Doris Hunse. Also in 1954, a Furniture Committee was created, consisting of three women from each floor, to advise on the nature and style of the furniture in the Hall. A "blond" wood style was preferred and recommended.

The first housemothers were Mrs. McCall and Mrs. Steinmeyer. Mrs. Ruby Mathews served as a housemother at the College from 1939 until June 30, 1961, and served her last five years at Martin Hall.

Martin Hall bought a new pool table for its lounge in April, 1969.

The Hall experienced a minor fire in October 1977. No injuries were suffered.

The third floor was converted to a study floor for men in 1984.

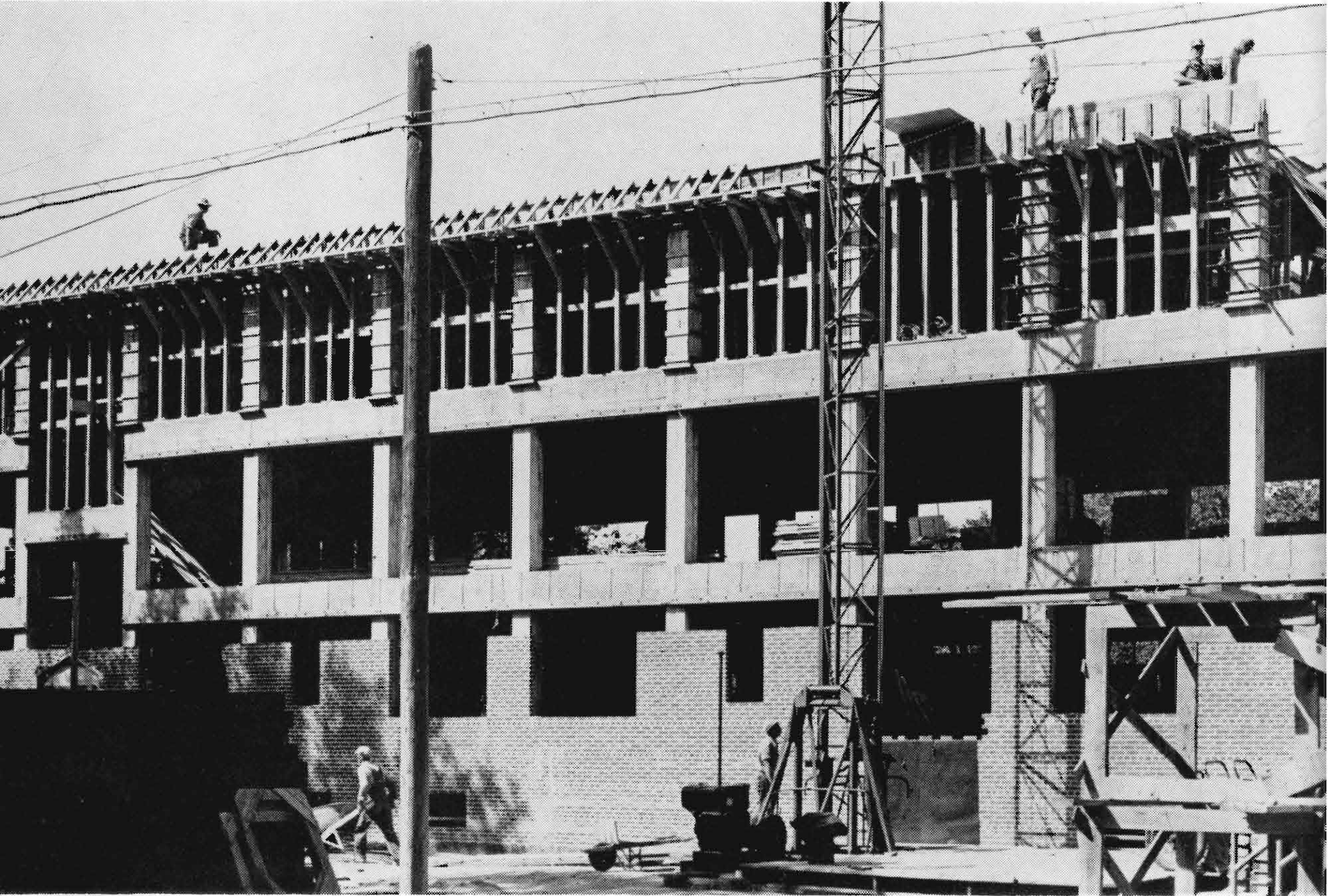
Martin Hall's grounds are noteworthy for the presence of a giant American elm over four feet in diameter.



WOMENS DORMITORY 1953  
 NEBRASKA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE KEARNEY, NEBRASKA  
 • JOHN LATENSER & SONS • ARCHITECTS • OMAHA •

DATE	PERSPECTIVE - LOOKING NORTHWEST	APPROVED
3-8-53	WOMENS DORMITORY	
JMC	NEBRASKA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE	
	KEARNEY NEBRASKA	
JOHN LATENSER & SONS		ARCHITECTS - ENGINEERS
		OMAHA, NEBR.

**Martin Hall**  
**Architect's Drawing, 1953**



**Martin Hall Under Construction, 1954**







**Martin Hall, 1955**



**Martin Hall, 1956**



**Martin Hall**  
**Students at Front Desk, 1965**



Martin Hall, 1965





**Martin Hall, 1970**



Martin Hall, 1975



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**Martin Hall, Cornerstone**





**Martin Hall, 2009, View is to the Southwest**





**Martin Hall, 2009, View is to the South-Southwest**





**Martin Hall, 2009, View is to the East-Northeast**





**Martin Hall, 2009, View is to the Northeast**





**Martin Hall, 2009, View is to the Northwest**





**Martin Hall, 2009, Fireplace in Large Lounge**

**View is to the Southwest**



**Martin Hall, 2009, Computer Lab**





**Martin Hall, 2009, TV Lounge**



**Martin Hall, 2009, First Floor Hallway**  
**View is to the West**





**Martin Hall, 2009, Residents' Mailboxes**