New Dorm Progresses- Westgate

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New dorm progresses—

Westgate

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RELIEF for the crowded women’s residences is close at hand. No longer will it be necessary to crowd women into converted recreation rooms and deserted dormitory dining rooms. Westgate, the new dormitory for Iowa State coeds, is fast becoming a reality.

Ground was broken for the new housing unit in the late fall, and if present plans go through, it will be ready for occupancy next September.

The dormitory site is the former parking lot across from the Collegiate Presbyterian church. The front of the building will face Sheldon Avenue; however, the main entrance will open on West Street.

The four-story, L-shaped structure is planned to accommodate 164 women. Graduate and transfer students and senior women will probably be the first residents of the new building. They will share two-room suites connected by a bath and small entrance hall. All of the rooms are designed for two occupants. One of the outstanding features of the new residence is the proposed built-in closets and drawers.

Plans for the first floor include a large combination lounge and recreation room, dormitory office, housemother’s suite, storage and laundry rooms and 16 student rooms. Each floor will have its own lounge at the head of the stairs. As there will be no dining facilities, the women will eat in one of the new dining rooms in Friley Hall.

The construction is unusual because no brick or plaster will be used. This new type of building has been found to be very successful on the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. It is quite inexpensive and comfortable. The exterior will consist of 4-by-6-foot panels of pre-cast concrete covered with pink granite chips. The floors will also be made of concrete and covered with an asphalt tile surface. The wall partitions will be made of prefabricated cement and asbestos.

First planned in 1946

Plans for a new women’s dormitory were drawn up as far back as 1946 by Prof. A. H. Kimball, former head of the Department of Architecture. That same year a record number of 1,125 women were packed into the limited space. Before the plans for the new dormitory had time to materialize, the campus became flooded with returning World War II veterans and all emphasis was turned toward more housing for men.

Need more residences

Now the women shall have a new dorm. Our present dormitory system is planned for a maximum 1,000 women. Last fall 1,150 women filled the residence halls far beyond capacity. Westgate will house women only temporarily, according to Dr. J. C. Schilletter, Director of Residence.

“We are still planning to build Linden Hall, with a capacity of 350, close to the other women’s dorms. But Westgate will relieve the present crowded conditions.”

With the completion of Westgate dormitory, Iowa State’s women’s residence capacity will increase to 1,164. However, according to Dr. Schilletter, “If present enrollment predictions hold true, we will need room for more than 1,350 women by 1960.