

When the school was a little more than a year old Mr. Lord reported on the need for a women's dormitory to the Board of Trustees, who included his statement in their report to Governor John R. Tanner at the close of the year 1900. Mr. Lord contended that a dormitory for women was "absolutely necessary" if the school was to "cultivate in its students the spirit that its graduates should take into their own schools, and into the communities in which they teach." He pointed out that the social advantages of a dormitory—"a well conducted dining room, the occasional reception, the example of those whose social advantages have been superior"¹⁰—would do much to help a person of intelligence and skill, but lacking in the social graces, "to attain and maintain as a teacher the position in the schools and community to which her ability entitles her." Furthermore, there were "not a few parents who hesitate to send their daughters away to school unless the school can have a greater oversight over the students than is possible where there is no boarding place under the immediate oversight of the school." Girls from such families, he added, "furnish an element in the teaching forces of the State that is of great value." Mr. Lord asked for a building large enough to accommodate one hundred students with room and board, and to furnish table board for twenty-five or thirty more. He estimated that such a building, properly furnished, would cost at least \$60,000.¹¹

There was no immediate result from the recommendation to the Governor, but Mr. Lord continued his campaign. Miss McKinney describes the next effort in Mr. Lord's words:

In the winter of 1901 I went before the Appropriations Committee of the legislature asking for money for a women's building. The House Committee took the request partly as a joke and partly as an affront, one asking if I wanted to go into the lunch counter business, another if I wanted the state to build a boarding-house. There wasn't a bit of sympathy with the request, that I could find.¹²

No other state school had a dormitory at this time, and Mr. Lord was faced with a long campaign. An essential step was to secure the active support of the local members of the legislature. How well he succeeded with Senator Stanton C. Pemberton of Oakland was acknowledged by that legislator in December 1908, when the fight had been won and the building was near completion:

I was not much taken up with the idea of a building of this nature when you first approached me on the subject. It was the confidence I had in you that caused me to be so active and so anxious to secure the appropriation. The more I studied

¹⁰Mr. Lord discussed his plans and hopes for a girls' dormitory with the students, emphasizing the social advantages. Mrs. Martha Josephine Harker Stewart, Class of 1903, recalled forty-five years later that Mr. Lord spoke of the desirability of having full length mirrors in the proposed dormitory, so that the students could get a good look at themselves, from head to toe, before going out. Statement by Mrs. Stewart to the writer, Charleston, January 16, 1948. The full length mirrors were placed in the building when completed, and are there today, serving the purpose Mr. Lord had anticipated.

¹¹*Report of the Trustees of the Eastern Illinois State Normal School, Year Ending December 1, 1900.* Springfield, 1901, pp. 4, 5. Mr. Lord's report to the Trustees, from which the above was taken, was dated December 18, 1900.

¹²McKinney: *Mr. Lord*, p. 237.