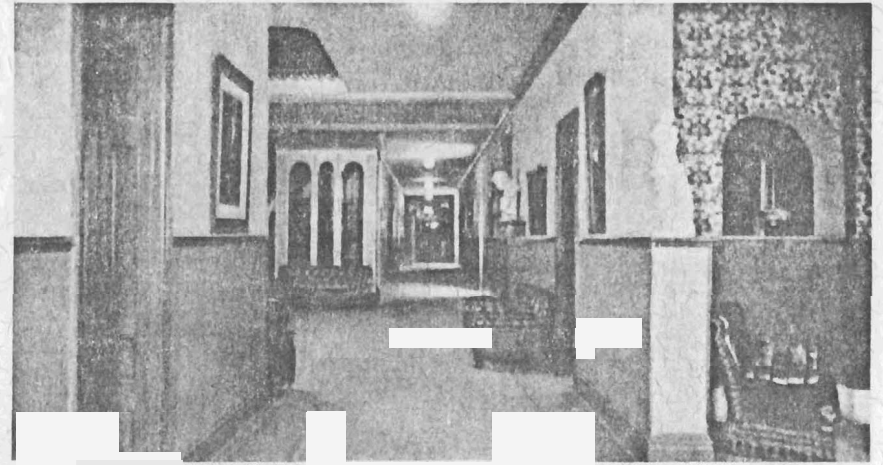




A Guidebook to John Sutton Hall



The main corridor

Introduction

Nearly every campus has a central building, an "Old Main," that serves as a focal point not only for the eye but also for the heart. At Indiana University of Pennsylvania, that focal point is John Sutton Hall.

Construction of John Sutton Hall was begun in 1873 and completed in 1875 at a cost (including furnishings) of \$141,115. The building was named (in 1903) in honor of the man from whom the Indiana Normal School's original acreage was purchased. John Sutton, an Indiana merchant, was also the first president of the school's Board of Trustees.

John Sutton Hall was designed by James Drum, architect also of the "old" Indiana County Courthouse (now headquarters of the National Bank of the Commonwealth) and of the building that once housed St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church. The latter structure stood on Indiana's North Fifth Street until it was razed in 1978.

John Sutton Hall was the school's first, and for many years its only, building. (However, the oldest building on today's campus is Breezedale, which was built in the late 1860s by James Sutton, a brother of John). The building has walls that are two feet thick (thicker still beneath the recital hall) and bricks that are bigger and harder than those used in most other Indiana County structures of its era.

Dedication

This booklet is affectionately dedicated by the Sutton Hostesses of the IUP Women's Club to the memory of Margery Potter Nix, who **herself** was dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Sutton Hall.



A Physical Culture Class

The John Sutton Hall of today is the same size as the original building. In 1303, however, the building's north and south wings were extended **westward**. At the same time, the Thomas Sutton Dining Hall, an adjacent structure, was built. In 1979, to make room for Stapleton Library, the John Sutton Hall extensions and all of Thomas Sutton Hall were demolished. John Sutton Hall resumed its 1875 proportions.

Ground Floor

Although it was not primarily a "public area" for much of its existence, the ground floor, or basement, sheltered many of the institution's vital services. The laundry, the carpenter shop, and, in early years, the kitchen, were all housed here. In the 1890s, there was even a fully equipped armory, with rifles supplied by the state.

Closer to the current day, the **basement** provided space for a home economics department nursery school and for a bookstore that was the humble ancestor of today's **Co-op Store**.

Visitors are often charmed by the exposed stone walls along the middle corridor (directly beneath the Blue Room). When renovation of the basement was undertaken in 1982, the plaster was removed from these walls; they looked so attractive that they were not replastered. The area is occupied by the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

Other offices on the ground floor include those of Human Resources, Scheduling, Payroll, and the Registrar. The university has made a deliberate effort to see that these areas, which receive heavy client traffic, are as accessible as possible. The ground floor location permits this accessibility.

First Floor

Although they have been modified to some degree, the rooms of the first floor of John Sutton Hall have not been drastically altered since the building's completion in 1875.

The best-known room on this floor is the Blue Room. First used for dining, the room was later called Recreation Hall; in the days of middy blouses and bloomers, it served as a site for physical culture classes and dances. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, the alcove that is now a coat room was called the Red Room. The other alcove, then called the Blue Room, was separated from the larger hall by a massive freestanding fireplace.



The Blue Room was once an alcove of Recreation Hall

In 1908, John Sutton Hall was redecorated in a more classical motif. The Blue Room's decor, inspired by a room in Florence's **Pitti Palace**, featured marbledized columns. When the room was restored in the **1970s**, accurate restoration of these columns was essential to the room's beauty. Almost a lost art, marbleizing begins when a base color is painted on a surface. Using feathers, brushes, and an assortment of paint colors, the artist overlays this base with a marbled effect. A sealer applied over the marbling highlights and protects the finish.

Across the long corridor from the Blue Room hangs a large oil portrait of former Sutton Hall resident Jane Leonard, first preceptress of the school and a teacher of history and geography. It is in her honor that Leonard Hall is named.



The **Green Room**, later known as the East Parlor

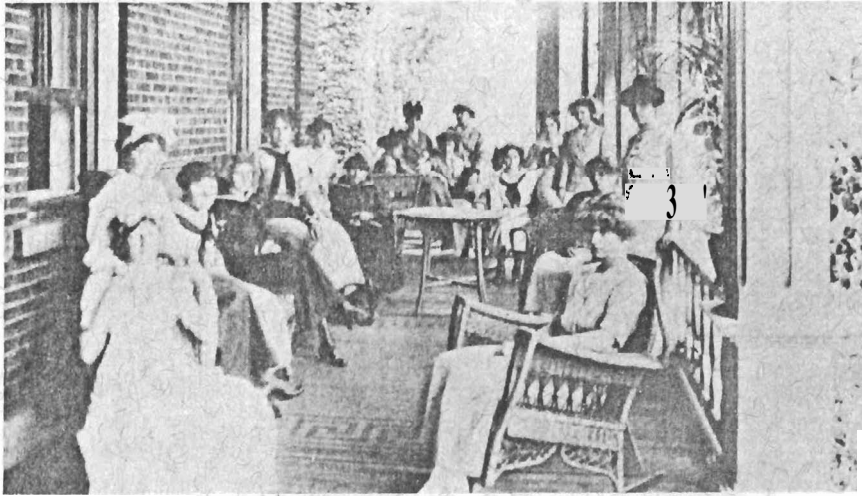
The **East Parlor**, Known as the Green Room in the early twentieth century, was where students were received when they first came to school. The restored room serves as a small private dining area, reception room, and site for such activities as Alumni Weekend registration.

The northwest section of the first floor houses the University Museum, which displays works of art owned by the university and presents special shows. It also includes a reconstruction of a typical dormitory room of the early **1900s**, a display which was a gift of the Indiana chapter of the Questers.

The northeast section of the first floor houses offices of the Foundation for IUP. In the southwest part are located the Campus Police offices and the switchboard. The President's Apartment is located in the southeast corner.

The main corridor of the first floor has the original hard maple flooring, uncovered from beneath carpeting and tile during the restoration project. The carpeting is nearly identical to what appears in a 1910 photograph of the corridor. The chandeliers are authentic reproductions of those of the Victorian period.





The East Veranda

The porches of John Sutton Hall have been completely restored to the appearance of the original ones. The exit doors resemble the original doors but afford modernday security and fire protection.

President's Apartment

When John Sutton Hall opened its doors in 1875, the principal and his family moved into what is today called the President's Apartment. The staircase, doors, windows, and woodwork in today's apartment are all original. Other rooms have been added to the quarters to meet the needs of the various families who have lived there and to make the apartment more functional. The *Indiana Democrat* for February 18, 1875, describes the first floor as containing the Principal's Office and a reception parlor, with the rooms above given over to the private living quarters.

From research, it appears that every principal or president has lived in the apartment, with the exception of Dr. William Hassler (1969-1975), who chose to remain in the home he owned in Indiana. An excerpt from a letter written by former apartment occupant Mary Keith Williams to Sandra **Worthen**, wife of Dr. John **Worthen** (1979-1984), describes the adventures of Mrs. Williams's family on their 1917 journey to Indiana. Mrs. Williams's father, Dr. John Keith, was president from 1917 to 1927.

"It had taken us over a week to drive from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in our Rambler," Mrs. Williams writer. "We had a driver meet us in Chicago because of the perils of the old Lincoln Highway. My mother feared driving up the steep hills and made my brother (aged nine) and myself (aged fourteen) walk up each of them with her. My father remained firmly in the front seat. By the time the Rambler had reached the top, the engine had overheated, so it cooled down as the rest of the family arrived. Dr. **Ament**, my father's predecessor, had been very dignified, and it took time for Indiana to become accustomed to the informality of the **Keiths**--especially the baseball games on the front campus. We had ten happy years there."

Floor plans of the original building do not show the apartment dining room, but Dr. David Waller (1893-1906) requested among other things that "...he be able to use his own dining room table and table furniture at his own discretion." (Merryman, p. 131) The lovely dining room cabinets are understood to have been added by Mrs. Keith, and the east porch adjacent to the dining room was enclosed as a sun room in the Keith era. This improved the traffic pattern in the apartment.

When Dr. Samuel **Fausold** (1936-1939) was president, his health dictated that a partition be constructed at the end of the living room, so that he could rest every day. The Pratt family removed the glass doors from the living room bookcases during their tenure, and the lovely bookcases in the piano room were added by university carpenters in 1982.

Mrs. Pratt shared her memories of the apartment, noting that when she and Dr. **Willis Pratt** (1948-1968) arrived, she learned that the apartment originally was lighted and heated by gas but had been electrified in 1895. The side wall gas lamps and overhead lights had been removed. The fireplaces held iron coals and were in use when the Pratts arrived, but shortly thereafter the chimneys were found to be caving in, and the gas was cut off to the fireplaces.

The kitchen that had been added during the course of the apartment's history had only one long serving table, a sink, and a single cupboard. It was remodeled for the Pratts and again for the Wilburns (1975-1978). A kitchen door to the porch was also added for Dr. Robert Wilburn and his family. Before there was a kitchen, food had been brought into the apartment through the warming closet, now transformed into a powder room.

Mrs. Pratt discovered furniture that had been relegated to the Sutton Hall attic. In fact, numerous pieces in the apartment have been rescued and reupholstered. Other Victorian pieces there are part of the Harte Collection, owned by the Foundation for IUP. A mahogany coffee table was crafted by faculty member Christopher Weiland especially for the apartment (1982). The large grandfather clock was found on the ground floor of Sutton Hall.

The President's Apartment, with its proximity to the University Museum, to **Gorell** Recital Hall, and to the Blue Room, continues to be a gracious place in which to live, to entertain, and to share with the many people who work and study at and visit and support the university.

Second Floor

The second floor of John Sutton houses the President's Office, the Board Room, administrative offices, and **Gorell** Recital Hall. The colors used in the corridor are Victorian; the chandeliers on this floor are not original but mirror the Victorian period.

The president's suite of offices is located to the east of the elevator. The doors that open onto the hallway are mementos of Thomas Sutton Hall. In the early 1960s, the president's offices were moved from John Sutton to Clark Hall, and this area served as a women's residence; with the restoration project, the offices were returned to Sutton Hall. Much of the furniture and decor of this floor is Victorian--either original or in reproduction.



The Principal's Office, then located on the first floor



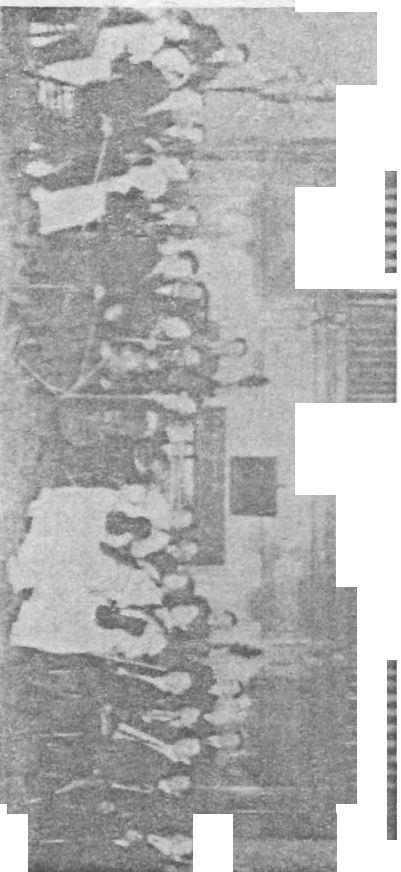
Former President Willis S. Pratt and his wife, Margaret, in the dining room of the President's Apartment

The radiator and chandelier in the foyer of the presidential suite are from Thomas Sutton Hall. The lamp, lamp table, rosewood tilt-top table, and rosewood loveseat bench are all antiques. In the president's inner office, the walls are covered with leather, and there is a tufted leather couch and a marbleized slate fireplace (now inoperable). The desk is a reproduction of the Richelieu desk made in France during the late nineteenth century.

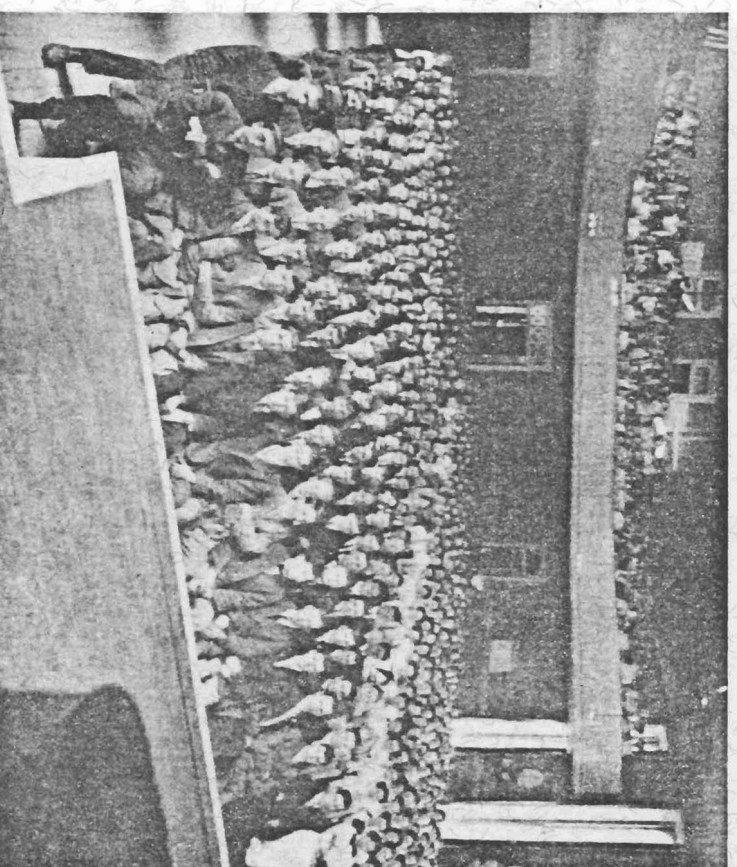
The Board Room, also on this floor, has carpeting that is reproduced from a Victorian design. Portraits of some of the principals and presidents hang on the walls. The solid mahogany table was designed and built in the 1980s by Christopher Weiland.

Originally called the Chapel, Gorell Recital Hall was used as a library reading room during the construction of Stapleton Library. In 1981, it was restored as an auditorium through the generosity of Frank and Mary Gorell. The hall's chandeliers were salvaged from Thomas Sutton Hall. A floral stencil pattern on the ceiling under the balcony was reproduced after it was exposed by layers of peeling paint that resulted from a 1980 fire.

The building's first hydraulic elevator, installed about fifteen years after the school opened and still in working order, is located on the south corridor. On one of the transoms along this corridor, the original painted design is still intact.



A 1912 recital in the Chapel, now known as Gorell Recital Hall



At Chapel

Third and Fourth Floors

An 1875 issue of the *Indiana Democrat* reported that there were eighty-seven dormitory rooms on the building's fourth floor and sixty-three on the third, as well as two large tanks that supplied the building with water.

An original radiator, still in working order, may be found in the fourth-floor corridor just east of the "new" elevator. This one and others like it in the building were made in Philadelphia by the Wood Company. Fabricated of cast iron, nickel-lined, and noncorrosive, the radiators were designed to give maximum heat. (Current occupants can attest that the design is still, sometimes uncomfortably, efficient.) Hot water and cold water were available on every floor, and the building was heated by steam. The catalog of 1888-89 mentions that the fourth floor was connected to the town's water pipes.

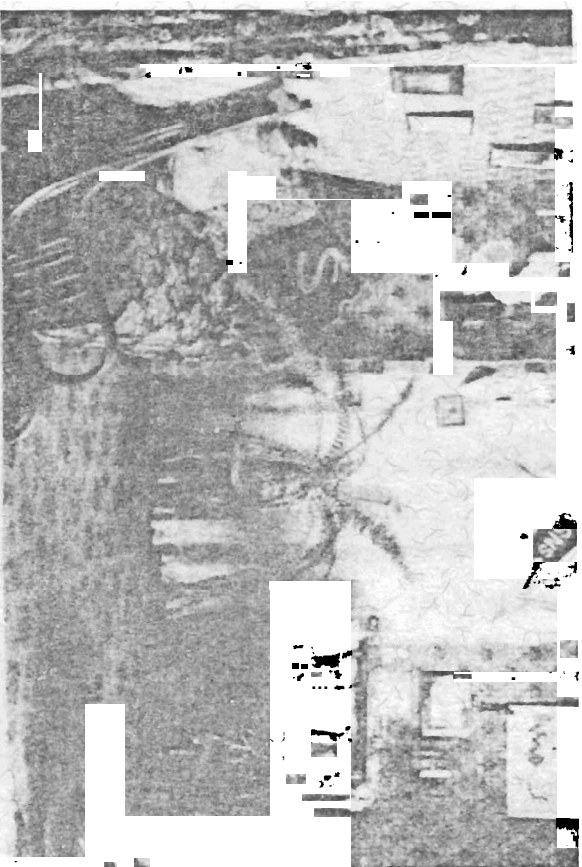
Boarding students arriving at the building in its early years usually paraded with parents and luggage through the East Parlor and up a beautiful staircase whose appearance echoed that of the staircase still seen in the President's Apartment. To the west of today's elevator on the fourth floor, directly over what used to be the Chapel, is the area once known to its loyal residents as Chapel Alley.

The fourth floor housed the College Infirmary in the southwest wing, included were the tiled bathrooms, a dispensary, kitchens, a dining room, "private quarters" for the nurses, ample closets, a ward and a private room for girls on the east end, and a ladies' privy at room for boys at the west end.

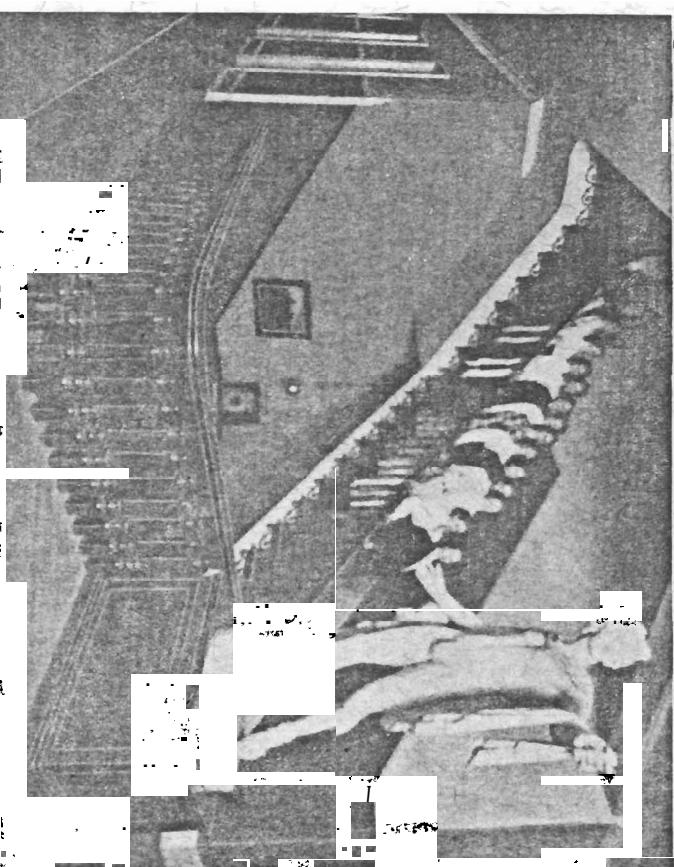
An R.N. was always on duty. There was no extra fee for care in the Infirmary, not even for the consumption of common remedies, a stock of which was always on hand. If a physician or special nursing care were needed, the student paid the cost of the service plus the cost of the physician's prescriptions.

The dormitory rooms were of Victorian school design. They had high ceilings, tall windows, and transoms over the hallway doors for air circulation in hot weather. The furniture was of oak, and the 1875 catalog states that the third- and fourth-floor dormitory rooms were furnished with "closet, table, chairs, dressing bureau, bedstead, bed, bedding, and all necessary crockery." The 1910-11 catalog adds a washstand, "necessary china," two chairs, a study table, and a neat case of bookshelves.

Catalogs of 1875 to 1889 state flatly that "Students furnish their own brooms, towels, and napkins. All articles to be washed must be distinctly marked with the full name of the owner." More than ten pieces of laundry in one week required an extra charge. Students had to sweep their own rooms daily before the halls were swept in the morning. They were not permitted to sweep dust into the halls at any other time.



A girls' room in Sutton Hall



The main landing, third floor

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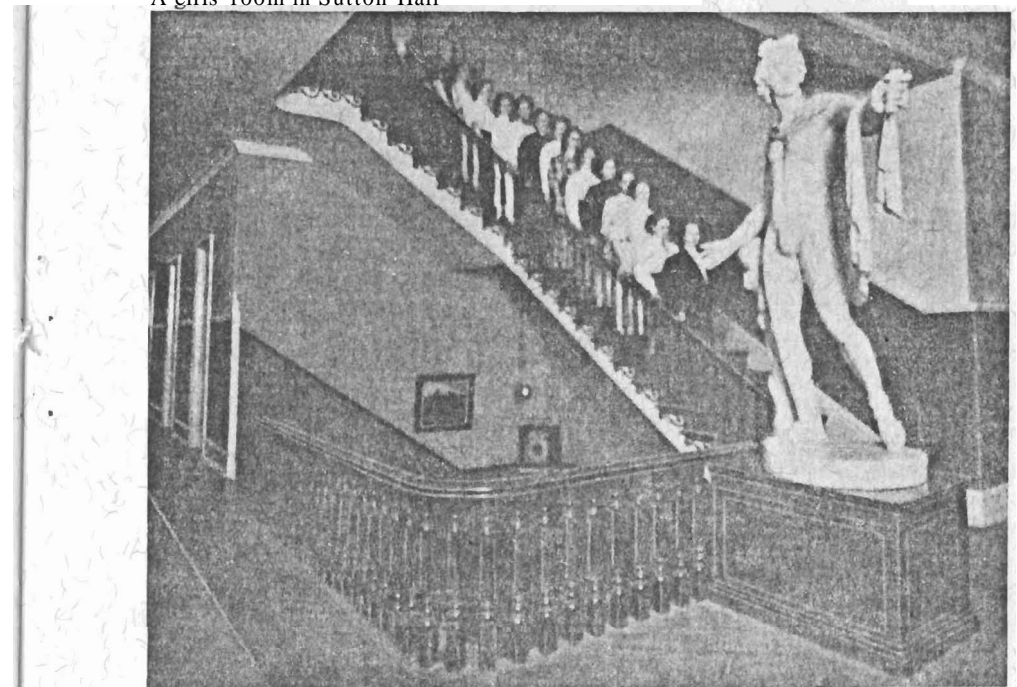
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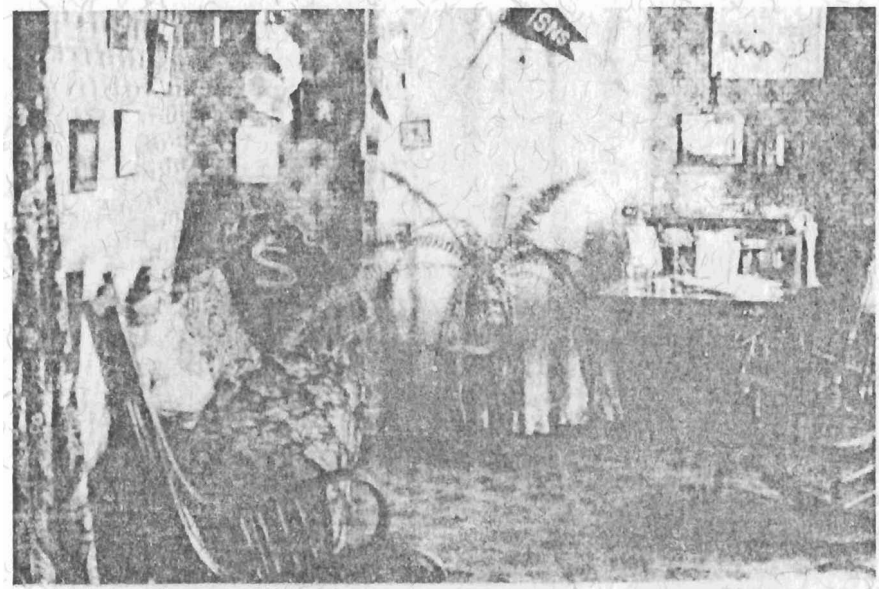
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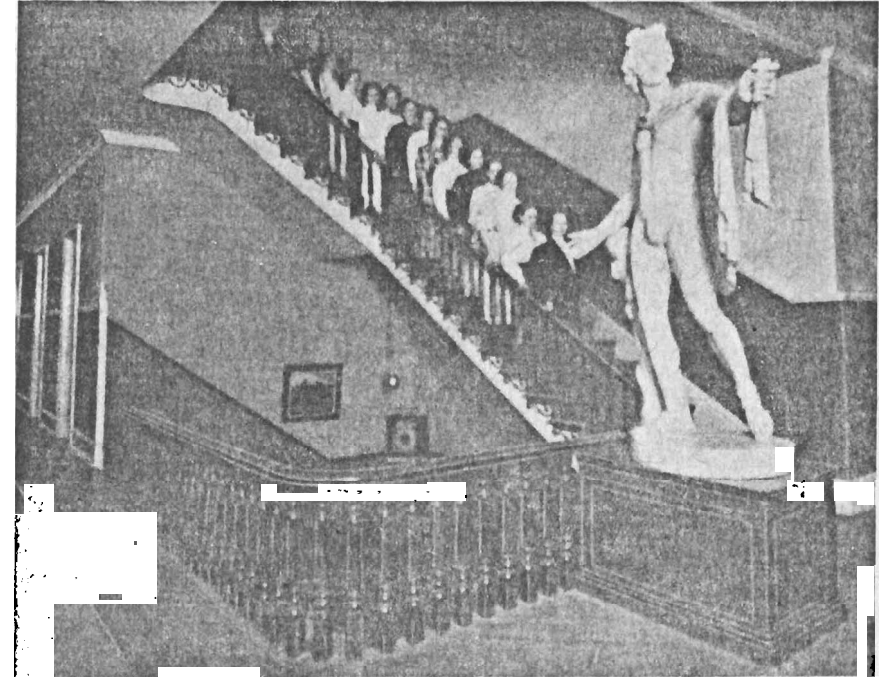
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In addition to toiletry items, students were expected to bring their own knife, fork, and spoon for private use, as school silver was not to be taken from the dining room. For the first six or seven years of the building's existence, students slept on cotton ticks. By 1882 mattresses were being provided for their beds.

The rooms' first curtains and bedspreads were made by the ladies of Indiana. Some resented being asked to do this, however, since the school fathers had purchased the building's furnishings not from local merchants but from Philadelphia.

The 1910-11 catalog lists the following Statement of Expenses:

**Total charge (including enrollment fee., board, room, heat, light, and laundry) for boarders preparing to teach. . . Full year, 40 weeks. .
.\$166.00. For boarders not preparing to teach, adding tuition . . .
5226.00.**

John Sutton Hall was last used for boarding students during the 1972-73 term. Restoration of the building, started in 1975, is still in progress. Today, the top two floors are used exclusively for faculty and administrative offices. The Office of Alumni Affairs is located in a third-floor office suite directly above that of the president but will move to Breezedale as soon as renovation of that building is completed.



John and Peggy Welty, the current residents of the **President's** Apartment, welcome alumni and townspeople to dinners, receptions, and parties in the apartment and in other areas of Sutton Hall. The refurbished East Parlor, the Blue Room, the University Museum, Gorell Recital Hall, and even the porches are the settings for many events.