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News Clipping - Huggins-Curtis In Full Harness

Gardner-Webb Quarterly

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Recommended Citation

Gardner-Webb Quarterly, "News Clipping - Huggins-Curtis In Full Harness" (1956). *Huggins Curtis Building*. 25.

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HUGGINS - CURTIS BUILDING

Huggins-Curtis In Full Harness

The Huggins-Curtis building is the only structure on the Gardner-Webb campus known to every student who has attended the institution.

Through half a century of service its walls have at one time or another housed every department of study and every phase of extra-curricular activity offered by the college.

For the first 40 years of its life Huggins-Curtis was the main building; the center of college life. Indeed, at times it was the entire institution.

It housed the boarding girls, and sometimes portions were set aside for boarding boys.

On the main floor were classrooms, the library, laboratories, society halls, offices, the parlors, and for a time, the auditorium. The dining hall, kitchen, and storage rooms were in the basement, as well as the maintenance and repair shops.

With the sudden growth of the college after World War II Huggins-Curtis slipped gradually but surely from its position as center of campus life.

First, the girls moved out to their new, fireproof dormitory and all classrooms were shifted to other buildings. Boys were moved into the

building, but for only one year. Then the new dining hall was completed and Huggins-Curtis was no longer descended upon at mealtime by hungry students.

Since 1950 it has had varied uses. The basement has been taken over by the physical education department for dressing and storage rooms and office space. While the college is "between gyms" the old society hall has served for volley ball and badminton courts. Band and other classes also use the main floor.

Around 25 to 40 students have lived in the building each year, as other dormitories overflowed.

For many months the trustees have been perplexed by the problem of what to do with Huggins-Curtis. Their general conclusion might be

described as "It's too worthless and too expensive to renovate and too good to tear down."

Heavy enrollment makes its own demands, however, and this summer the interior of the building is getting a face-lifting. Ceilings and walls have been repaired, wiring and plumbing checked, screens and windows fixed, and the interior painted in beautiful pastels. The basement and first floor have been renovated to provide a half-dozen classrooms including the physics laboratory and the business education department.

Upstairs some 70 boys will be housed in rooms that look better than old timers could ever imagine.

Huggins-Curtis may or may not be fit for permanent use, but come September it will again be in full harness.

Gardner-Webb Quarterly 5/1956