

433 N. MURRAY STREET



Fig. 1. Spring 1994: 433 N. Murray Street, built about 1910 as a replacement for an older family house, the third floor was added in 1914. The building was used as University offices, starting in 1966, and was demolished in 1994. [Author Photo AP-2]

Built as apartments about 1910 and occupied, among others, by William Ellery Leonard and Helen C. White, this building was purchased by the University in 1966, and used as offices until its demolition in 1994.

As early as 1902 there was a home at 433 N. Murray Street. After its reconstruction into flats in 1914, the building came to be occupied mainly by University staff and faculty and other public figures. These professional people included W. D. Stovall, an attorney general, aldermen, and a manager at the forest products lab. The building's most famous tenant, William Ellery Leonard, appeared at the Murray Street address in 1925. He lived there on the third floor with his wife Charlotte until his death in 1946. Leonard had developed a well-publicized phobia about crossing train tracks, and the Murray Street house gave him excellent access to the University and city without that exigency. In 1958 Professor Helen C. White moved into the first floor apartment. Professor White lived there until 1967. Her flower gardens became a striking feature of the house.¹

In July of 1964 the University needed parking space for the new Peterson building. Mrs. Miles Robinson, who had owned the house since the early 1930s and lived there since 1950, agreed to sell the property to the University for \$65,000. This money came from money for the Peterson building project and the University parking fund account. Mrs. Robinson and Helen White were allowed to live in the building rent free until June 30, 1966. When this agreement expired, the University paved most of the lot for parking and moved offices into the building. These included the housing Bureau, minority applications, international admissions, and the campus tour office. In the summer of 1994 due to parking pressure, the declining condition of the structure, and the difficulty in meeting state handicapped access codes, the building was demolished.

1) Madison City Directories, and City of Madison building permits.