

# ANIMAL DISEASE LAB



Fig. 1. Animal Disease Control Building 1994. [Author Photo, AP-18]

*Built in 1938 with WPA funds and labor, this building's original use was to house the state animal disease control laboratory. After the 1965 removal of that function from campus, the building was reassigned to the food research institute, and later the department of horticulture.*

In 1930 the University became host to the state Department of Agriculture and Markets. This was the combination of the state departments of Dairy and Foods, Markets, and Agriculture. It oversaw inspection and licensing of dairy products, crop protection efforts, and animal disease control. In keeping with the University's commitment to the residents of the state, the Veterinarian control, and Pure Foods state labs were moved into room B7 in the basement of Agriculture Hall. At the beginning of this period, the duties of the state veterinary control officer took up the half time services of one man. As the farmers of the state became increasingly aware of the service available in the diagnoses of diseases among livestock, the work by 1938 required the full time work of five pathologists. The housing in the small basement quarters, and the constant stream of dead and diseased animals coming into a busy and crowded University building, the lab created an "intolerable situation".<sup>1</sup>

In the fall of 1938, Agricultural dean Christensen, state director Ralph Ammon, and president Dykestra discussed the construction of a new building for the animal disease control lab. In December 1938, the state emergency board appropriated \$14,000 for the laboratory as a Works Project Admin-

istration (WPA) project. The emergency board was the state mechanism to fund the University during the depression. The regents voted to approve the construction of the new lab near the serum plant to be built and furnished with emergency board funds.<sup>2</sup>

The plans for the building as drawn by state architect Roger Kirchhoff, show a 40 by 97 foot wood-framed building, with a basement, one floor and attic, asbestos shingles, and a hipped roof with dormers. The resemblance of this building to a residential house of the same period is not accidental; the labor to erect the building was to be supplied by the WPA, and this is the kind of residential construction with which the WPA crews were familiar. Work began in March 1939.

University directories show the veterinary control lab at 2115 Linden Drive (later named Herrick Drive) from 1943 to 1966. A new crematorium addition was built in 1956. In the 1960s the state department moved off campus, and in 1966 the building was remodelled for the use of the Food Research Institute. It remained in this use until 1975, when Food Research moved to Elm Drive, and the building was reassigned to Horticulture, who with entomology remain there to this day.<sup>3</sup>

1) *Wisconsin Blue Book*, 1940, p. 274; Christensen to Peterson, December 27, 1939, series 24/1/1 box 145, Christensen folder; notification of emergency board appropriation, December 28, 1938, series 24/1/1 box 146, emergency board folder.

2) Regent's Minutes, January 17-18, 1939, p. 303; Christensen to Peterson, December 27, 1939, series 24/1/1 box 145, Christensen folder; Christensen to Hiestand, December 28, 1938, and Christensen to Petersen, December 27, 1938, series 24/1/1 box 145, Christensen folder.

3) Plans on file at the plans room of the physical plant; Christensen to Petersen, December 27, 1938, series 24/1/1 box 145, Christensen folder; *Wisconsin Blue Book*, 1993-1994, p. 402-407; Madison city directories, and University directories.