

CHEMISTRY HOUSE



Fig. 1. Chemistry Tutoring House, 1993. [Author Photo AP-8]

The first recorded resident of this house was Mrs. Ella Armstrong, who appears at this address in 1902. Mrs. Armstrong, who probably built the house, lived there alone until 1921 at which time she began to take roomers. The house remained a rooming house for forty years in the hands of an assortment of resident owners. In 1955 the house was purchased by Ellen Gilder, who owned it and lived in it with her roomers until 1964, when it was appraised and purchased by the University for \$35,000.¹

At that time the house held ten rental rooms, with two bathrooms, and a first floor two bedroom caretaker's apartment on the first floor. In the early 1960s the address of the house was 307 North Charter Street because the front porch steps had been relocated to the side of the house. The house stood empty until 1969 when it began to be used by the computer science department and offices of Administration. After that time it has been in turn the home of Ophthalmology, preventive medicine, clinical Oncology, Biometrics, and in 1982 became part of the chemistry department, who used it as a home for the special student chemistry tutoring center. In 1985 the address of the house was officially changed to 1124 W. Johnson Street. The house will be demolished in 1997 to make way for Chemistry Unit 5.²

1) City directories, state historical library collection; regent's business records, in regent's vault.

2) University directories, University Archives.