

EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE



Fig. 1. Educational Science, 1994.
[Author Photo, AP-52]

Education Science replaced scattered and aging facilities for the School of Education. It was built in 1970 and opened in 1972. It was the last high-rise building on the Madison campus.

The School of Education was the last of the traditional University subjects to make its way off the confines of the old Bascom Hill site. The sciences had gotten new facilities during the great federal grant period of the 1960s. Languages moved to Van Hise Hall in 1967; music, art and history to Humanities in 1969; English and philosophy to Helen White Hall in 1970. Education had a chance at inclusion at both the latter sites, but was dropped in favor of more needy departments.

Education had inherited its building in the 1930s when engineering left Bascom Hill for the west campus. But by 1963 the school of Education had become one of the fastest growing disciplines in the University, especially at the graduate level. In 1963 a School of Education Development Committee began meeting to discuss plans for a new facility. It became quickly clear that the Bascom Hill site could not possibly be large enough for the needed facility. Several off-Hill sites were evaluated, including the corners of Lake and Langdon Streets, and the Lake Street and University Avenue corner. These locations were rejected primarily because of their high land cost. The regents authorized the preparation of preliminary plans in February 1966. By June 1966, land purchases began in the block bounded by Johnson, Dayton, Mills and Brooks Streets for the site of Education buildings. This area was on the fringes of the core area targeted for urban renewal, and was densely populated by homes and student rooming houses.¹

Late in 1966 the Educational Science building was divided into two parts. The whole structure was to have been funded by a combination of state funds and federal grants. But when the federal funds were delayed it was decided that because of extreme need, the non-research section of the project would be built with only state money, and the research section would be added when the grant money became available. The regents and the state approved this scheme in December of 1966. The total estimated cost for both phases was \$5.2 million. Planning, preparation of plans, and land purchase proceeded during 1967, but in May 1967, the state halted work on the project pending completion of studies for an ambitious plan for pedestrian walkways and a light rail system to link all buildings on the south campus. Since all new buildings were being designed with this pedestrian system in mind, its status had to be resolved before new buildings could be approved. The state eventually decided against the pedestrian system in May 1968.²

Because of cost escalations during the delay, the University asked the state to increase the budget for Educational Science from \$5.5 million to \$6.1 million. In November 1968 the regents granted authority to prepare preliminary plans for Educational Science phase I at an estimated cost of \$6.1 million. Of this budget, \$3.3 million was of state funds.³

In January 1969 came word that the state building commission had arbitrarily cut the budget by \$313,000. The University began to make plans to reduce the project to make up this deficit. In July the University received notification that the federal department of Health Education and Welfare had approved a grant of \$4.2 million for Educational Science. This considerably reduced the budget pressure on the project. The regents approved revised concept plans (without the walkway system) in July 1969. The new budget was for \$6.45 million, and estimated completion was for May 1972.⁴

The preliminary plans for Educational Science were approved in October 1969. They showed a fourteen story tower, with a two story base, that covered almost half the block. During late 1969 the new budget made its way successfully through the increasingly hostile state building commission. The regents approved the final plans in April 1970.⁵

Construction contracts were let on July 23, 1970, with the general contract going to Orville. E. Madsen and Son of Minneapolis for \$3.4 million. Total contracted cost was \$6.3 million. The funds came from the state (\$3.27 million) and the federal government (\$3.1 million). Construction began in late July 1970. The project was enclosed for temporary heating by December 15, 1970. An elevator strike delayed progress slightly during the summer of 1972. The formal dedication of the new Educational Science Building took place on April 8, 1973.⁶

The building is 332 feet across the Johnson Street face. The west section is three stories high, 156 feet deep (north to south) with the first floor below grade. It contains lecture rooms, classrooms, offices, and observation rooms. The eastern section is a thirteen story tower containing offices, conference rooms, labs, and computer rooms. The two sections are joined by a plaza at street level. The tower rises 181 feet above the street.

As it turned out, the last of the schools to leave Bascom Hill had become the last recipient of an academic high-rise on the Madison campus.

1) *Regent's Minutes*, February 4, 1966, June 10, 1966.

2) *Regent's Minutes*, November 30, 1966, exhibit D, December 9, 1966, May 8, 1967.

3) *Regent's Minutes*, November 1, 1968; Lorenz to State Building Commission, October 25, 1968, series 24/9/2-1 box 7.

4) Sites to Atwell, January 9, 1969, series 24/9/2-1 box 7; Holt to Young, July 8, 1969, series 24/9/2-1 box 13; *Regent's Minutes*, July 25, 1969.

5) *Regent's Minutes*, October 17, 1969, April 10, 1970; Lorenz to State Building Commission, October 25, 1968, Atwell to Clodius, January 28, 1970, series 24/9/2-1 box 13.

6) *Regent's Minutes*, August 14, 1970, schedule I; Dietrich to Dorman, August 18, 1970, series 24/9/2-1 box 19; Progress of Projects Under Construction, July 14, 1972, series 83/35 box 4; *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 9, 1973.