

HARVEY STREET APARTMENTS



Fig. 1. Harvey Street Apartments 1993. The picture shows the Harvey Street face of the quadrangle; there are seven buildings holding forty eight apartments. [Author Photo, AP-35]

The closing of the temporary wartime housing facilities weighed especially heavily on married students with families. Among these temporary facilities were Truax Field, The Monroe Trailer Park, Badger Village, and the University Cabin Courts.

The University Cabin Courts (originally Sullivan's Cabins) was a kind of early motel, which opened in the 2900 block of University Avenue about 1939. The court had sixteen small cabins. In 1946 a University law student suggested to president E. B. Fred that the facility be purchased by the University. In September 1946, the Wisconsin University Building Corporation (WUBC) paid \$40,000 for the Cabin Court. Permanent heat and electrical connections were made to the sixteen cabins, and the open area laid out for four private quonset huts and 25 private trailers. These facilities were occupied by married students and faculty. The residents paid \$8-\$28 per month plus an electrical charge, and governed themselves through an elected board. On June 16, 1955 the regents voted to use the site to build 48 apartments for married students. The court was closed on September 1, 1955. Financing for this project, amounting to \$380,000, was to come from the anonymous and Kemper Knapp funds.¹

Based on proposals received during September of 1955, the regents awarded contracts for construction of seven buildings containing 48 apartments, to the Grant Kittle Builders of Madison for \$297,500. This was the first time that the University had built without an architect; Kittle, the builder, designed the buildings. Construction was begun in November of 1955, and by August of 1956 all of the buildings were completed and occupied. Total cost was \$380,000. The seven buildings form a quadrangle on the north side of Harvey Street. They are frame construction, 25 by 51 feet with hipped roofs, faced with brick, each building with a mixture of one and two bedroom apartments. Their design heavily influenced the layout and design of the Eagle Heights apartments begun a year later.² In 1996 as the result of changing demands, the Harvey Street apartments were converted to single graduate student housing.

1) Summary of University Cabin Court, Lee Burns, March 8, 1947, series 24/1/1 box 213; *Madison city directories*; *Regent's Minutes*, June 16, 1955, September 14, 1946, October 1, 1955, November 12, 1955, March 9, 1957.

2) Plans in the possession of the department of Housing.