

HI RAY HALL



Fig. 1. Hi-Ray Hall from the corner of Orchard and Dayton Streets, 1994. The building is a basement and three stories, 90 by 24 feet. Construction is of concrete block faced with brick, cast concrete and ceramic tiles. [Author Photo, AP-41]

Hi Ray Hall was built as a low cost dormitory in 1962 by the Hi Ray corporation, organized in March 1962 by regent Maurice B. Pasch. It was touted by the company as luxury accommodations (carpet, air-conditioning, and an intercom), at budget prices (\$865 per year). Unfortunately for the company it opened during an enormous expansion of University housing. Although it was used as a dormitory for a year or two, by 1965 its owners offered to lease the building to the University as office space. This was a welcome offer to the University since they had decided to raze the old wood frame houses on Linden Drive to make way for the new medical library (Middleton medical library). These houses were home to the departments of occupational therapy (O.T.) and physical therapy (P. T.), which could be conveniently moved to the Dayton Street location. The regents agreed to pay the Hi Ray corporation \$1900 per month in rent for the building.¹

The O.T. and P. T. departments stayed in the old dormitory through the 1960s as renters. Then in June of 1972 the regents agreed to buy the building from Hi Ray for a total of \$169,050. This price included the building and the 7,640 square feet of land including the abutting parking area.

After the purchase the building remained the home of O.T. and P.T. until 1980 when the bulk of those departments moved to quarters in the medical science complex on University Avenue (the old hospital). At that time the old Hi Ray building became a kind of catchall for overflow offices. It housed at various times Computer Science, grad student offices in languages, and storage space. In 1992 it became the home of the Center for Mathematical Sciences (the new name for the old Army Math Research Center) which remains there until this day (1994). Hi Ray Hall is expendable enough that when and if the proposed second phase of the Wendt Library is built, Hi Ray will be demolished.²

1) *Daily Cardinal*, April 14, 1962; *Regent's Minutes*, January 8, 1965; Dane County Register of Deeds, articles of incorporation, March 28, 1962, volume 374 of miscellaneous, p. 33.

2) *Regent's Minutes*, June 9, 1972 exhibit A; University directories. Records of the department of space management.