

MEDICAL WAREHOUSE



Fig 1. The Medical Supply Warehouse, 1995. The front (Lake Street side) is a basement and two stories of brick, and contains the main loading dock, and office space for ordering and delivery. Behind the front section is a one-story addition that connects to three 40 foot metal quonset sections of one story on a concrete slab. [Author Photo, AP-25]

The operation of a major health care institution requires the instant availability of a wide range of medical-surgical supplies, including pharmaceuticals, x-ray film, instruments, and laboratory chemicals. The stocking and delivery of this material requires a specialized facility.

Beginning in June 1966 the University hospital, in recognition of the critical need to monitor and control its inventory, leased the warehouse at 112 North Lake Street at a cost of \$13,000 per month. The warehouse was built in 1947 by F. Gordon Davie, as a grocery warehouse for Central Wisconsin Food Stores. It remained a grocery coop warehouse until it was leased by the University. When the hospital was at the University Avenue location, the warehouse was nearby, and after the hospital moved to the west side of campus, the warehouse was running smoothly and reliably and the location was of little importance. Some consideration was given to including the medical warehouse in the new Stores/Extension building erected on North Murray Street in 1984, but the volume and specialized needs of the medical facility made it impractical.

In the early 1980s Davie offered to sell it to the University. Faced with the task of relocating the medical warehouse to another location, the 1985-87 state building program authorized the purchase of the facility at a maximum cost of \$600,000. The regents approved a resolution to buy the warehouse and its 1.09 acres of land for \$587,500 to be paid by program revenues. The property transaction closed on December 23, 1985. At the price obtained by the University and the annual lease cost of \$60,000 the payback for purchasing the building was ten years.¹

The building is a 100 by 22 feet. The rear sections contain most of the actual medical supplies and project nearly through the block to Murray Street (see Fig. 1).

The front section of the medical warehouse was demolished in April 1996 to make room for the Kohl Center.

1) *Regent's Minutes*, April 1, 1966, May 9, 1969, April 7, 1972, June 9, 1978, February 5, 1982, December 7, 1984, October 11, 1985.

2) Agency Request for State Building Commission Action, October 1985; Legal papers in regent's vault, F. Gordon Davie file. Plans on file at physical plant plans room.