

POULTRY RESEARCH LAB



Fig. 1. Poultry Research, just after completion 1957. The building is a one story 43 by 182 foot concrete structure faced with brick. [series 9/3, Poultry Research Lab, ns-2372]

The department of poultry science was founded in 1910 by professor James Halpin under Dean of Agriculture H. L. Russell. At that time, the house at 1800 University Avenue was built to house the new department's labs and offices. Halpin and his students built the "long houses" next to the new building which housed the chickens. After WW II, Halpin, and dean R. K. Froker, lobbied the legislature for new facilities for the poultry department. In 1955, the state building commission appropriated \$220,000 for "poultry barns". At this time the faculty of the poultry science department began to move into Hiram Smith Hall.¹

In December of 1955 governor Kohler asked the University if the poultry barn project could be combined with the planned genetics research building to form a single construction project (though separate structures). The faculty of both poultry and genetics agreed to this combination, which would save architect and utility costs. The architects for the buildings were Law, Law, Potter and Nystrom of Madison. Final plans were approved by the regents in October 1956, and contracts were awarded in January 1957. The general contract went to the J. R. Sutton Company of Madison for \$249,313 (for the combined project). The cost of the poultry building was about \$208,000. \$33,000 was donated by the Central Retail Feed Association in honor of professor James G. Halpin, with the understanding that the building would be named Halpin Hall.²

Groundbreaking took place in January 1957, and the poultry research laboratory was occupied in October of 1957. This main building contains batteries, incubators, live bird rooms, and coolers. To the rear (south) of this building is a corridor separating the main building from four metal prefabricated sheds, each 32 by 100 feet. These metal sheds contain pens for laying hens, chicks, and cages for roosters. Office and lab space for the poultry department was still at Hiram Smith Hall. In 1972 these facilities were moved to the new Animal Science building.

1) Glover W. H., *Farm and College*, p. 270; *Wisconsin Country Magazine*, November 1950, p. 5; Archives department of Poultry Science departmental folder, series 9/20.

2) *Regent's Minutes*, November 17, 1955, October 6, 1956, November 10, 1956, May 28, 1943; Executive Committee Minutes, September 8, 1956; Muckinhirn to Kirchhoff, December 15, 1955, Kirchhoff to Muckinhirn, December 8, 1955, series 24/9/2 box 8, genetics and poultry folder University directories.