

# WOMEN'S STUDIES



Fig. 1. The Women's Studies building, 1995. [Author Photo AP-7]

This three-flat house was built in 1902 as a home and income property by a carpenter and contractor named James C. Bitney and his wife Rosa. Due to location and the quality of the house it was nearly always rented. Bitney lived in the house until his death in 1947. The house was purchased from the Bitney estate by the Wisconsin University Building Corporation in January 1947. The WUBC rented the house to students and faculty through out the 1950s. In 1962 the WUBC transferred title to the University. The University began to use parts of the house for academic space in 1965, and by 1973 the entire house was in use by the English, art and medical departments.<sup>1</sup>

When the Women's Studies Department was formed under the American History Department in 1975, the new department was installed in the house, and has remained there until the present time (1995). The departmental administrative offices are the main users of the house, since all professors in the department have dual appointments, and therefore have offices in other buildings, principally Helen C. White Hall, and the Social Science building. Besides administrative offices, the house holds offices for the department's teaching assistants. The attic is used for departmental research space.<sup>2</sup>

The building is a 23 by 56 foot three story wood framed house with basement and attic. It has been greatly remodelled for offices, and handicapped accessibility.<sup>3</sup>

Due to the growth of the department the house has become too small, and unsuitable for its use. Plans are being made to move the departmental offices to Mark Ingraham Hall (the old Commerce building), in the near future. The future uses of the house is unknown.

1) City directories.

2) University directories, University Archives.

3) University department of planning and construction, flat files.