

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1922-1953

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

Wilson, Alda

Ben Cole & Co.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Statement of Significance

The Cranford Apartment building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The resource is locally significant as a rare representative of a privately developed, mixed-use property completed by an incorporated group of women for the express purpose of providing housing for the female faculty and students at Iowa State University. The project was undertaken by the Faculty Women's Housing Company, which was incorporated in 1922 "to acquire real estate, to build, construct, maintain and operate apartment houses and other similar structures, and to do and transact all business connected with or incident to any or all of said purposes".¹ The Cranford Apartment building was the first and only known building constructed by the company; the Faculty Women's Housing Company owned and operated the Cranford until 1953. The building had four retail businesses on the ground floor and thirty residential units on the second through fourth floors capable of housing fifty to sixty women.

In contrast to typical residential apartment buildings of the era, the design character of the Cranford Apartment ties it to the university residence halls, which are located in close proximity across Lincoln Way. The Cranford reflects the form and stylistic tendencies adopted by the university's architect in the design of its early 20th century residential halls. In contrast to the typical historic apartment building, which is characterized by a rectangular form, flat roof, and limited stylistic elements, the Cranford exhibits an overall design character of a traditional revival style complete with pitched roof, roof dormers, projecting pavilions with expressive gable ends, multi-story bay windows on the façade (north), and multi-story box bays on the rear (south). In this way, architect Alda Wilson, designed an apartment building with a design character aligned with that of the university's early 20th century residential halls. The architect's design is highly successful in this way, despite the fact that the Cranford Apartment building includes commercial businesses on the ground-floor.

The Cranford is the only historic apartment building in Ames with a design character that clearly reflects the influence of the university designs for residential halls. The number of historic apartment buildings in Ames is limited and those identified for comparative analysis follow the more typical design approach. Only the Cranford Apartment building expresses a character in keeping with the residential halls being constructed in the era contemporaneous to construction of the Cranford.

The Cranford Apartment building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in association with Alda Wilson who was directly involved in development of the project to build the Cranford and who was the project architect and construction supervisor. Wilson exemplifies the advancements made by women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the areas of education, the professional arena, and women's rights. Because the purpose of the Cranford Apartment building (housing for women), the development of the project by the Faculty Women's Housing Company (a predominantly female development group), and the role of Alda Wilson (a woman) as architect and construction manager, the Cranford Apartment building is the best local resource to call attention to the history of women's rights in the early 20th century. In that association, the

¹ "Notice of Incorporation of Faculty Women's Housing Company," *Ames Daily Tribune and Times*, May 03, 1922: 05.
Sections 9 – 11 page 12

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Cranford demonstrates the practical impact of women working to elevate the education and future of women at a time just after passage of the 19th amendment securing the right to vote and long before a woman was able to have a bank account or access credit.

While there are other built resources in Ames (specifically at Iowa State) with historic ties to the story of the pursuit by women to attain an advanced education, to excel in their chosen profession, or to advocate for women's rights, the known resources have transient, singular associations, whereas the Cranford Apartment building represents the coming together of a variety of exemplary women within an era that coincided with the years when women were granted the right to vote. The Carrie Chapman Catt Center, which is housed in the Old Botany building (now named for Catt) is one such example. While the building and the center that now occupies the building bears the name of one of the most significant leaders of the Women's Rights Movement, Carrie Chapman Catt is not historically associated with the building. As a result, the building does not represent her work in the area of women's rights. Additionally, although Old Botany is the building in which Prof. Julia Colpitts and Prof. Ada Hayden taught classes, there is no evidence to suggest that Old Botany is the historic resource that best illustrates the contributions made by either women.

Alda Wilson was the second woman graduate of Iowa State College's (now Iowa State University) civil engineering program in 1894. Although Alda Wilson's story and contributions in history are sometimes overshadowed by the accomplishments of her older sister, Elmina Wilson, Alda stands as the third woman in the United States to obtain a civil engineering degree, one of the rare few to work as a professional after completing her education, and she assumed an important position at Iowa State University as the first female head of the university's first all-woman drafting class. As architect and construction supervisor of the Cranford Apartment Building, Alda Wilson was responsible for designing a multiple-unit dwelling for female faculty members and female students, providing the amenities required of that demographic, and realizing the goals of the Faculty Women Housing Company to provide both affordable housing for women and commercial spaces. Finally, Alda Wilson was an active participant in the women's suffrage movement, working closely with Carrie Chapman Catt to advance a woman's right to vote. With this raft of accomplishments, Alda Wilson is a significant figure in women's history in the United States and, as an Iowa native and graduate of the Iowa State College, has direct ties to Ames. The Cranford Apartment building is the best local representative of the work and impact of Alda Wilson. The building represents her skill as an architect and serves as tangible evidence of her contributions in the areas of architecture, advancement of education for women in the late 19th century, and women in the professional workplace of the early 20th century.

Finally, the Cranford Apartment building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The resource is locally significant in association with the history of women's rights. The Cranford represents the expansion of residential housing for women on the campus of Iowa State College (now, Iowa State University), being completed as one answer to a long-term housing shortage specific to women students and female faculty members. The project was undertaken by a group of women with various associations with the university; members of the development group itself were all faculty members, some also being wives of faculty members. The architect was the second woman graduate of the school's civil engineering program with a history of involvement in the women's rights movement. Placed in service just two years after ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which assured women the right to vote, this group of women made a tangible contribution to supporting women desirous of attending or working at Iowa State. By undertaking construction of the Cranford Apartment building at a time when women were prevented from having a bank

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

account or being extended credit, a limitation solved by including a man among the incorporating members for the purpose of securing the necessary financing.

As a residential property designed for women faculty and students, the Cranford Apartment advanced the efforts of the women's movement to support education and employment in professional positions (e.g, professors, engineers, and architects). By way of evidence supporting the importance of the building's role in that regard, the Cranford became home to some of the most significant of the university's female faculty and students including renowned conservationist and Professor of Botany, Ada Hayden; Professor and Dean of the Junior College, Maria "Millie" Roberts; Professor of Botany, Julia T. Colpitts; and mathematician, Anna Helen Tappan.²

The Cranford Apartment building retains a generally good degree of historic integrity as it relates to design and materials with the historic mixed-use function retained. With historic location retained, the resource's historic association to the Iowa State University campus and to the historic Lincoln Highway is retained. Retention of the historic association with the university's residence halls is of particular importance given that the case for registration relates to the building's association with that institution and its 20th century women's residence halls.

The Period of Significance is 1922-1953, the year the building was placed in service through the year in which the Faculty Women's Housing Company sold the property. The period best embodies significance as a representative of the original function as housing for female faculty and students and during which the majority of the residents remained female. The period also includes Alda Wilson's association with the resource. The Significant Date is 1922, the year the building was placed in service.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

The Cranford Apartment building draws significance as a representative of a private residential development completed by an incorporated group of women (Faculty Women's Housing Company) for the express purpose of providing housing for female faculty and students at Iowa State University. The building was owned by the Faculty Women's Housing Company through 1953 and remained a majority occupied by women through that time. The building's general design character aligns with the university residence halls constructed contemporaneous to the Cranford with the use of the Tudor Revival style more aligned with Greek letter houses constructed adjacent to campus during the 1920s and later. As a residential property designed for women faculty and students, the Cranford Apartment advanced the efforts of the women's movement to support

² Anthony Capps, *Campustown. A Brief History of the First West Ames* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2016), 60.
Sections 9 – 11 page 14

Cranford Apartment Building

Name of Property

Story County, Iowa

County and State

education and employment in professional positions. The building continues to serve as a mixed-use property with upper story housing for Iowa State students.

As it relates to setting and association, integrity of both are very good. The resource remains situated adjacent to the historic Lincoln Highway (Lincoln Way), in Campustown (the university's commercial center), and across the street from Iowa State University (Iowa State College). The Cranford was constructed for the express purpose of providing housing for female faculty and female students of Iowa State College with retail businesses on the ground floor designed to provide services (e.g., hair salon, coffee shop) for faculty and students. The location across the street from the university campus, in an area that was evolving to fill the university's housing shortage and as part of the small area that was becoming the school's commercial core (Campustown), is directly connected to the historic context for which the building derives its primary significance.

Historical Background: Iowa State College and Women's History

Iowa State University was established by Iowa legislative action on March 22, 1858 as Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm. In 1862 the Iowa legislature accepted the provision of the Morrill Act, which was awarded to the college in 1864, establishing it as a land grant institution focused on the ideals of higher education made available to all. When the first official class graduated in 1872 there were 24 men and 2 women. The college was renamed Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanical Art in 1898 and was again renamed in 1959, at which it became Iowa State University of Science and Technology.³

Classes in engineering and liberal arts and sciences were offered beginning in 1869, with civil engineering and mechanical engineering begun in 1871. Classes in drawing, railways, sanitation (later environmental engineering), and surveying were initially offered in the civil engineering curriculum. The college's first graduating class in 1872 included three civil engineering students – all men.

The first woman to receive a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Iowa State College was Elmina Wilson, elder sister of Alda Wilson. Graduating in 1892, Elmina Wilson was not the first in the nation to receive a bachelor's in civil engineering (that honor goes to Elizabeth Bragg of California).⁴ She was, however, the first in the nation to receive a masters of science in the same field, having received the degree from Iowa State College in 1894. In that same year, Alda Wilson completed her undergraduate studies in civil engineering and received her bachelor's degree from the college. The 1894 class in civil engineering had four students: three men and Alda Wilson.⁵ Class sizes increased modestly (up to fifteen students) in the years that immediately followed. Because the first names of graduates were commonly limited to initials, identifying gender is difficult. However, class photos (which include all departments), makes it clear that the number of female students remained a very small percentage of the student population in all areas of study except home economics.⁶

³ "Iowa State Sesquicentennial: History of Iowa State." Iowa State University. <https://digital.lib.iastate.edu/online-exhibits/iowa-state-sesquicentennial>. Retrieved 06/21/2022.

⁴ "Women's History Month: Civil Engineers Alda and Elmina Wilson," Iowa State University Special Collections blog, <https://isuspecialcollections.wordpress.com/2018/03/20/womens-history-month-civil-engineers-alda-and-elmina-wilson/>. Retrieved 06/20/2022.

⁵ Iowa State University. Engineering Department History. <https://www.ccee.iastate.edu/history/>. Retrieved 06/21/2022 and *The Bomb*, Iowa State Yearbook, (Nevada, IA: Representative Press, 1894), 63. Available online at https://digitalcollections.lib.iastate.edu/islandora/object/isu%3ATheBomb_7090#page/42/mode/2up. Retrieved 06/22/2022.

⁶ *The Bomb*, Iowa State Yearbook, (Nevada, IA: Representative Press, 1894), 43. Available online at

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

The civil engineering program was officially elevated to department status in 1898 with the first degree specialization offered six years later. The “highways” specialization studied “transmissible land routes that were traversed by automobile”. Alda Wilson returned to Ames in 1918 where she assumed supervision of the college’s first, all-female class in the highway specialty program of the civil engineering department, remaining in that position through 1921. There are no built resources on the campus credited to Alda Wilson. The civil engineering program was accredited in 1936.⁷

In summary, with its first graduating class comprised of three men, the civil engineering program grew slowly in years that immediately followed. The first undergraduate degree was awarded to Elmina Wilson in 1892 with her sister Alda Wilson to follow in 1894. In that year, the department graduated three men and Alda Wilson. These numbers are generally representative of Iowa State College departments with the exception of Home Economics, which was dominated by women.

Historical Background: Iowa State University Housing

The issue of student housing at Iowa State falls into three general historical periods: 1869-1894, 1895-1946, and 1946-1969. The periods are typified by shifts in the university’s approach to housing and the pressures present during each period.

At Iowa State University (Iowa State College), the institution, by necessity of circumstance, adopted the “English plan” for the first 1868 session. That historic model considered education in a holistic manner, providing for all aspects of a collegiate life including education, housing, board, and social experiences. In that first semester, the choice was less a philosophical choice and more a matter of practicality; at the time Iowa State was established, Ames was a small town of 650, located some three miles from the new college. As a result, all 160 students and the faculty were housed, fed, and taught in one building, known as the College Building.⁸

College Building, which soon became known as Old Main (non-extant, 1902), was a four-story building housing a dining room, kitchen, and laundry in the basement; a chapel, president’s offices, cashier’s office, and library on the first-floor; classrooms and student housing on the second-floor; and student housing and a museum on the third- and fourth-floors. When the first regular session began in March, 1869 the building had housing for 160 students. Two wings added later increased the space to accommodate 220 students.⁹

1869-1894

From the spring of 1869 running through 1894, most male and female students lived in college residences under strict supervision and with official restrictions stating that no student was allowed to live outside college buildings without express permission. With such stringent rules in place, the philosophy around housing was

https://digitalcollections.lib.iastate.edu/islandora/object/isu%3ATheBomb_7090#page/42/mode/2up. Retrieved 06/22/2022.

⁷ Iowa State University. Engineering Department History. <https://www.ccee.iastate.edu/history/>. Retrieved 06/21/2022.

⁸ J.C. Schilleter, *The First 100 Years of Residential Housing at Iowa State University, 1868-1968* (Ames, IA: Self-published, 1970), 22.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 25.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

more about enforcement and less about developing the whole student. In 1887 there were 305 students enrolled with housing for about 370.¹⁰

In addition to Old Main (a.k.a., College Building), students resided in the West Boarding Cottage and the East Boarding Cottage. Completed in 1881, the West Boarding Cottage had 15 double sleeping rooms for men and one single room for the matron. The building had a variety of uses in subsequent years including student athlete housing (1901-1907) and a hospital (1908-1915). The West Boarding Cottage was razed in 1934. The East Boarding Cottage, which was completed in 1882, housed approximately 60 male students. The building's basement was renovated in 1895 to add accommodations for staff assistants and in 1897, it housed faculty members. From 1901 to 1907 the football team resided in the East Boarding Cottage, after which time the building was demolished to make way for Alumni Hall.¹¹ The Creamery Building, completed in 1892, also provided housing with room for 50 male students on the second floor. The building was razed in 1904.¹²

The need for residential housing for female students was a topic of discussion by college presidents as early as 1885 when the institution's president recommended construction of a "Ladies Hall". President Hunt noted, "If the state will furnish necessary dormitory accommodations, which was one of the conditions upon which the National Land Grant was accepted, we will guarantee that within a year after the completion of such an extension it will be crowded to its utmost capacity". Construction of a ladies' hall, specifically, would help satisfy that need.¹³

The "pressing need" for a ladies hall was again a point of discussion in 1887-88 when President Chamberlain noted that "during the past year every room suitably located and otherwise suitable for ladies was occupied, three guest chambers were pressed into service and some of the larger rooms were made to accommodate three and even four young ladies each (54). Despite the longstanding acknowledgement that housing for female students was a great need, the first women's residence hall was not completed until July of 1895. Margaret Hall brought the college's housing capacity to 228 students: West Cottage (30), East Cottage (60), Creamery Building (50), and Margaret Hall (88).¹⁴

Margaret Hall was considered modern in its incorporation of steam heat, electric lights, and bathrooms with hot and cold running water. The first floor housed a dining hall, office, and public restrooms; the second and third floors had 44 double rooms capable of housing 88 women. In 1912 there were 1,830 students with Margaret Hall and its 88-bed capacity the only residence hall for women.¹⁵ The hall housed undergraduate women until the fall of 1929 when it became the home to graduate women who had been living in inadequate off-campus housing.¹⁶ Margaret Hall was destroyed by fire in 1938.

When Old Main was destroyed by fire in 1902, the only on-campus housing was in Margaret Hall, the East Cottage, and the West Cottage.¹⁷

¹⁰ Schilletter, 19.

¹¹ Ibid., 28.

¹² Ibid., 52.

¹³ Ibid., 53.

¹⁴ Ibid., 48.

¹⁵ Ibid., 53.

¹⁶ Ibid., 50.

¹⁷ Ibid., 65.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

1895-1946

The period from 1895 to 1946 is marked by the tremendous rise in enrollments at Iowa State and “an acute need for housing women students”. Ten women’s residence halls were constructed during the period (Table 01). Although the student housing likely remained heavily monitored with regulations in place to guard the well-being of female students in particular, the period is also marked by an increase in the development and participation in social and student programs.¹⁸

In 1903 the school had beds for about 228 students, with enrollment standing at 1,334 bringing the problem of housing students to an acute level. Margaret Hall was able to accommodate only half of the women that had applied for admission. Lacking suitable room and board, many women went to college elsewhere. In 1904 the university explored the issue of inadequate housing, determining that the cost of renovating the East and West cottages to create the necessary living conditions could not be justified.¹⁹

The housing situation was alleviated by the construction of private housing (largely south and west of the campus) and Greek letter residences.²⁰ The haste in which many private houses were constructed resulted in poor quality buildings that were often overcrowded; soon unsanitary conditions, due in part to an inadequate infrastructure in the area, became the issue du jour. A cooperative arrangement between the university and the City of Ames resolved the worst of the sanitary conditions. However, the availability of suitable rooms for women, in particular, remained a problem. With the limited on-campus housing for women, off-campus housing became an absolute necessity. In an effort to provide standards for living and behavior, the “Housing Committee” created a list of rules regulating off-campus living for women.²¹

Also at this time, the university commissioned the creation of a campus plan, one result of which was a recommendation that residential housing be relegated to an “outer zone”. Further, the project report recommended that “working buildings” be constructed first with the issue of constructed dormitories to follow. When construction of dormitories occurred, the women’s residence halls should be located north of Margaret Hall with sufficient space between the buildings to allow “working space for women students”. This policy of locating residential buildings at the outer limits of the campus remained the practice for several decades.²²

Solving the issue of housing, particularly for female students, finally became a priority for the university president during the period from 1913-1936.²³ This priority was due in large part to the 1913 establishment of the Home Economics Department and the influx of female students that resulted. The College of Home Economics was established as a co-educational department in 1869, with a curriculum for women developed in 1871. The department was dominated by female students, but it wasn’t, however, until the Progressive Era in the United States (ca.1900-1920) that the home economics department at ISC grew to the degree that significantly elevated the number of female students on campus and exacerbated the housing situation. The home economics movement, with national legislative action and the establishment of the American Home

¹⁸ Schilletter, 19.

¹⁹ Ibid., 66.

²⁰ Ibid., 55 and 65.

²¹ Ibid., 67.

²² Ibid., 56.

²³ Ibid., 68.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Economics Association did much to support the growth of education in the field of home economics particularly in reaching Iowa's rural farm women. The 1906 passage of the Agricultural Extension Act established a framework for extending education, including home economics, to agricultural areas. With the reorganization of Iowa State in 1913, a separate Division of Home Economics was created. The move gave the subject of home economics the autonomy and prestige to chart its own course. Graduate level work in the department began in 1914 with the first master's degree awarded in 1915.²⁴

In 1912 enrollment at the university was about 1,830 with on-campus housing for women still standing at 88-beds. In 1913, all beds at the sole women's residence hall, Margaret Hall, were reserved for incoming freshman. This shift forced upper class women to form clubs, which later became sororities.²⁵

In the fall of 1914, the women's advisor Mrs. Cunningham, issued a statement that appeared in the *Iowa State Student* on September 15, 1914 addressing the housing conditions:

"Iowa State Co-eds are all housed. Every one of the Iowa State girls will be taken care of in spite of the crowded housing conditions said Mrs. Cunningham yesterday."

"The Beardshear House (Lincoln Way Cottage) has been taken over as an annex in addition to the Holden House (Georgia White House) and forty-four girls are living in these houses. Margaret Hall has been made to accommodate 130 girls by placing cots in Clio Hall (a room in Margaret Hall for the Clio Literary Society) and crowding things together generally. Room for about 75 girls have been made by friends of the College who have given over spare rooms until the dormitory (Lyon Hall) on the south side is ready. Mrs. Pearson is entertaining two girls at the Knoll [president's residence] until they can find permanent quarters."²⁶

Lyon Hall (first known as West Hall) was under construction in 1914 and placed in service in 1915.²⁷ The residence hall was planned as the first of a series of separate halls that would house a small number of female students.²⁸ After much wrangling among various parties, a site across from the Knoll (president's residence) and near Lincoln Way was decided upon. The two-story building, designed by the ISU board architect, was designed in the Colonial Revival style. It opened in the second semester of the 1914-1915 school year. The building was designed to accommodate 74 women, but the top floor was finished in the summer of 1915, adding beds for 26 more women.²⁹ With the exception of Second World War years, Lyon Hall operated as a women's only residential hall through 1957.³⁰

Freeman Hall (originally, East Hall) was the second residence hall completed as part of the planned series of halls. The building was located 200-feet east of Lyon Hall (still known as West Hall at that time) with a design style that matched Lyon and a similar interior layout. The arrangement of the two buildings created an interior courtyard between them. Freeman Hall was completed in 1916 and housed 93 women. The residence hall continued to house female students through at least 1969.

²⁴ <https://historicexhibits.lib.iastate.edu/20thWomen/revisedSept2005/ISUhist.html>. Retrieved 06/21/2022.

²⁵ Schilleter, 69.

²⁶ Ibid., 70.

²⁷ Ibid., 176.

²⁸ Ibid., 177.

²⁹ Ibid., 178.

³⁰ Ibid., 181.

Cranford Apartment Building

Name of Property

Story County, Iowa

County and State

Barton Hall (originally, South Hall) was completed in March of 1918. The building housed 65 women. The four-story residence was Colonial Revival in style, executed in red brick. The residence hall continued to house female students through at least 1969.³¹

Despite the expanded housing for women students from 1915-1918, Iowa State students remained skeptical about the university's ability to house the ever-increasing student population. Multiple editorials appeared in the Iowa State Student in the period from 1919-1921 which expressed concern that, despite assurances from the administration that all students would be accommodated, students might be "housed" on a cot in a hallway or atop their luggage in a city park, as had been the case on numerous occasions.³²

During this period, many temporary housing solutions were constructed, including The Lodges (1919), the Lincoln Way Cottage, the Georgia White House, North House, and the Welch Avenue Cottage.³³

In 1919 the State Legislature authorized the construction of a dormitory to house 200 female students. With time, materials, and funds in limited supply, Iowa State opted to construct temporary residences for the women. The four buildings were wood-frame structures and Colonial Revival in design style. Construction materials were obtained from army surplus stock and construction was rushed for completion with the help of student labor in the summer of 1920. To limit the expense of construction, closet doors, dormer windows, window and door trim, and transoms were all eliminated.³⁴ Despite having been conceived and constructed as temporary housing, The Lodges remained in use for nearly twenty-years. Following a visit to the Iowa State campus in 1925, humorist Will Rogers commented, "When I was shown the campus, my guides pointed out some large brick buildings saying, 'That's where we keep the cows.' Then they pointed out another group of handsome brick buildings and said, 'That is where we keep the pigs.' I inquired about the old wooden buildings on the east side of the campus and they answered, 'Oh, that's where the girls stay!'" The Lodges (Oak Lodge, Elm Lodge, et al) were razed in 1937 to make way for the new Elm and Oak Halls.³⁵

Construction of university facilities boomed in the 1920s, with the library, the Memorial Union, and the Home Economics building all completed. With the increased learning capacity came an increase in student population and a renewal of the housing shortage, which was met with a stop-gap approach similar to that employed by Iowa State over the course of much of its history. Temporary quarters for incoming female students was cobbled together in existing buildings, some of which were constructed as residences halls while others had multiple functions over the course of their existence.

Lincoln Way Cottage (previously, Beardshear House) had a variety of functions over time. From 1915-1921 it was used as an annex to the women's halls.³⁶ The Georgia White House was also used for a variety of purposes including as an annex to Margaret Hall (1913-1919) and as women's housing from 1919-1930 and, in 1956, as housing for female foreign exchange students. The Norton House (later, Gray Cottage) housed 14 women students from 1922-1934. The Welch Avenue Cottage (209 Welch Avenue) housed some 14 women in 1919-

³¹ Schilletter, 193.

³² Ibid., 70.

³³ Ibid., 72.

³⁴ Ibid., 72.

³⁵ Ibid., 74.

³⁶ Ibid., 75.

Cranford Apartment Building
 Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
 County and State

1920.³⁷ For a brief period in 1936-37, 100 women were housed in the fourth and fifth floors of the Memorial Union, intended for guests at the University and for large meetings, respectively. Use of Memorial Union as overflow housing for women students also occurred from 1938-1942.³⁸

Birch Hall was constructed in phases, extending from 1922-1925. When fully completed, the two-wing residential hall housed a total of 153 women.³⁹ Birch remained a women’s residence hall through 1969.⁴⁰

Welch Hall, the third of the planned quadrangle of women’s residence halls, was completed in 1928.⁴¹ The building was attached to Birch Hall, making the pair read as a single, building when viewed from Lincoln Way. Like its predecessors, Welch Hall was designed in the Colonial Revival style. The hall housed women students through 1969 when it was renovated for use as a men’s residence.

Table 01. Women’s Residence Halls – 1895-1946

Residence Hall	Built	Capacity	Style	Architect	Status	Notes
Margaret Hall	1895	88	Victorian		Non-Extant 1938	Named for Margaret McDonald Stanton
Lyon Hall	1915	100	Colonial Revival	ISU Architect	Extant	Women only through 1957
Freeman Hall	1916	93	Colonial Revival		Extant	Women only through ca.1969
Barton Hall	1918	65	Colonial Revival		Extant	Women only through ca.1969
The Lodges	1920	200	Colonial Revival		Non-Extant 1937	Intended to be temporary
Birch Hall	1922- 1925	153	Colonial Revival		Extant	Women only through 1969
Welch Hall	1928	TBD	Colonial Revival		Extant	Women only through 1969 Named for Mary B. Welch
Roberts Hall	1936	TBD	Colonial Revival		Extant	Women only through 1969 Named for Minnie Roberts
Elm Hall	1938	75	Georgian Revival		Extant	
Oak Hall	1940	115	Colonial Revival		Extant	

1946-1969

Major changes in housing at Iowa State occurred between 1946 and 1969 when enrollment numbers soared and the need for married student housing came into play. Initially, a housing emergency resolved by construction of both permanent and temporary housing (in excess of 7800 beds). Major changes in the organization of housing and student government accompanying this growth with students given the responsibility to govern themselves and to organize their extracurricular activities.⁴²

³⁷ Schilletter, 76.

³⁸ Ibid., 99 and 101.

³⁹ Ibid., 196.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 197.

⁴¹ Ibid., 210.

⁴² Ibid., 21.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Providing adequate housing at Iowa State remained an issue long after the Cranford Apartment building was placed in service in 1922. Roberts Hall, the fourth and final element of the women's residential quadrangle was completed in 1936. Roberts was located between Lyon Hall on the north and Welch Hall on the south, facing the Knoll. The design was adapted to fit the site and location as the center piece of the quadrangle. Its elevated site and four-story height places it above the surrounding landscape and its Colonial Revival style exerts a stately character.⁴³ The hall housed women students through 1969 when it was renovated for use as a men's residence.⁴⁴

The Lodges (Oak Lodge, Elm Lodge, et al) were razed in 1937 to make way for the new Elm and Oak Halls.⁴⁵ The halls were completed in 1938 (Elm) and 1940 (Oak) with an addition constructed in 1965 to connect the two; the addition increased the beds to 530.⁴⁶ Elm Hall was designed in a "modified" Georgian style that incorporated red brick and white stone trim. The hall had 75 student rooms. Oak Hall is a five-story, L-shaped building in the Colonial Revival style, similar in character to the other women's residence halls. Floor plans were similar to those of Elm Hall with the addition of another floor that housed another 40 women.⁴⁷

In summary, the issue of student housing at Iowa State College was a point of debate and a source of conflict beginning with the institution's establishment in 1869. The issue of housing female students remained a particular problem with the first women's residence hall not constructed until 1895. An adequate solution to housing female students, however, did not occur until the completion of a series of residence halls over the period from 1915 to 1940, with overcrowding and substandard accommodations remaining a constant issue through most of that period. It was within this context that the Faculty Women's Housing Company was incorporated for the purpose of expanding available housing for women primarily, and female faculty in particular.

Historical Background: Faculty Women Housing Company and Construction of the Cranford Apartment Building

In the early 1900s, female members of the college faculty remained small in number. That group of women, along with wives of college faculty, formed a club which, in 1907, met in the Sanitary Building, located near the current site of the Memorial Union; the Sanitary Building was briefly known as Cranford Hall.⁴⁸ Members of the group would later organize the Faculty Women Housing Company for the purpose of constructing the Cranford Apartment building.

As noted, housing for the female faculty was in very short supply in the early 1900s, a situation that grew even more challenging after the 1913 establishment of a separate Division of Home Economics and the subsequent increase of the numbers of both female students and female faculty. Iowa State had a long history of housing shortages for students and faculty, men and women alike, but available housing for women students and for women faculty specifically, was dismal.⁴⁹

⁴³ Schilletter, 214.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 215.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 74.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 218.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 222.

⁴⁸ Capp, 59.

⁴⁹ Schilletter, 52-56.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Margaret Hall, the “first ladies hall”, was constructed in 1895 to house 88 female students. By the 1920s, Margaret Hall (1895-1938) was aging, though it continued to house undergraduate women through 1929.⁵⁰ Due to the shortage of on-campus housing options for women, the area surrounding the college began a transformation to supply residential options. Houses built in the surrounding areas were typically hastily constructed and overcrowded. Poorly developed systems resulted in dangerous sanitary conditions. Although such conditions were eventually resolved between the college and the City, housing for women remained a critical point of concern. To assure proper standards and safety issues, the Housing Committee formulated a list of rules for women living off-campus:⁵¹

1. Young women shall not be allowed to board or room in houses where young men are rooming or boarding.
2. Young women shall not room in houses other than those approved by the Housing Committee.
3. All applications for rooms in off campus houses shall promptly be referred to the Housing Committee.
4. Such applicants must deposit the sum of \$10 with the Committee for advanced registration and will be assigned rooms in these approved houses in order of the payment of deposit. The sum, thus deposited, shall be held by the College Treasurer as a special fund and on order of the committee apply as part payment of the term’s rental.
5. Parties not wishing to reserve a room in advance will be assisted by the Committee in finding rooms on their arrival at the College in these approved houses.
6. All correspondence should be directed to the Chairman of the Housing Committee.

Resolving the issue of housing, particularly of housing for women, continued to be a critical issue at Iowa State, one which remained front-and-center in the years from 1913-1936. During this period, considerable energy and resources were aimed at identifying existing conditions (student population demographics versus existing facilities) and developing a plan for expanding the housing options. While these efforts benefitted women students, the shortage of housing for women faculty remained problematic.

In April 1922, five women and one man established the Faculty Women’s Housing Company, which was incorporated on April 15, 1922 at \$100,000 with authorization “to issue stock in exchange of property or surplus”.⁵² A legal notice of incorporation appears in the Ames newspaper with the expanded description of the newly formed entity’s purpose “to acquire real estate, to build, construct, maintain and operate apartment houses and other similar structures, and to do and transact all business connected with or incident to any or all of said purposes”. The named directors were R[obert] E. Buchanan, Mrs. Julia W. Stanton, Maria M. Hoberts, Julia T. Colpitts, Estelle D. Buchanan, and Mrs. James Naylor, all of Ames. Robert Buchanan was named president and Julia Stanton was secretary.⁵³

Julia Wentch Stanton (1865-1928) was the widow of Edgar W. Stanton, who had been the Dean of Education and Faculty Head at Iowa State College. Julia Wentch Stanton graduated from ISC in 1888 and was the first female “Assistant Instructor” of mathematics.⁵⁴

Julia T[ruemen] Colpitts (1875-1936) was an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at ISC, 1900-1936, was a charter member of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Society of America, and served as president of the National

⁵⁰ Ibid., 52.

⁵¹ Schilletter, 67.

⁵² *Iowa Official Register, 1923-1924* (Des Moines, IA: The State of Iowa, 1924), 611.

⁵³ “Notice of Incorporation of Faculty Women’s Housing Company,” *Ames Daily Tribune and Times*, May 03, 1922: 05.

⁵⁴ <https://historicexhibits.lib.iastate.edu/margaret/stanton.html> and *The Bomb* 1894: 54.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Women's Scientific Society.⁵⁵ Unmarried, census records document Colpitts' residence in 1920 and 1925, showing her as a lodger in a house on Ash Avenue with nine others (men and women) and then in the home of Clarence and Miriam Irion.⁵⁶ By 1924 through the time of her death in 1936 she lived in Apartment 39 at the Cranford Apartments. Colpitts died abroad while attending the Interior Mathematics Congress in Oslo, Norway with plans to attend a conference of the International Federation of University Women at Cracow, Poland.⁵⁷

Maria Mabel "Minnie" Roberts (1867-1943) received her mathematics degree from ISC in 1890. By 1894, she was an Assistant Instructor of Mathematics. In 1918 Roberts collaborated with Julia Colpitts on *Roberts and Colpitts Analytical Geometry*. In 1920 she was appointed the Dean of the Junior College and in 1933, Dean Emeritus. By 1924 through her death in 1943, Roberts was a resident at the Cranford.

Estelle D. (Fogel) Buchanan (1876-1973) was an Assistant Professor of Botany at Iowa State College, having completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees in botany from ISC. In 1913 she co-published, with husband Robert E. Buchanan, *Household Bacteriology*.⁵⁸ Estelle Buchanan served as the Women's Faculty Housing Company managing director in 1953, the year in which she, her husband, and son Joseph H. Buchanan purchased the building. In 1940 she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws.⁵⁹

Robert E. Buchanan (1883-1973) gained his B.A. from ISC in 1904 and M.S. in 1906. He founded the Bacteriology department in 1910 and served as a Professor. He also served as the Dean of the Graduate College (1918-1948) and Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station (1933-1948).⁶⁰

Robert Buchanan's role in the formation of the company was undoubtedly due to the limitations placed on women regarding finances, particularly regarding their ability to borrow. Across the country and in Iowa, specifically, property laws limited the ability of women to own property. Having evolved over time, property law in 1920 reflected Federal legislative action in the form of two types of acts enacted between the years of 1850 and 1920, the Married Women's Property Acts (MWPAs), which granted married women with the right to own and control their separate property; and the Earnings Acts (EAs), which granted married women the right to own and control their market earnings.⁶¹ The State of Iowa passed an MWPA in 1873.⁶² Despite these advances in anti-discrimination law, it wasn't until the 1960s that women could open a bank account and not until 1974, with passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, when some assurance against credit discrimination based on gender was established.⁶³

This group of women was associated with a longstanding women's club formed by wives of college faculty members in 1897. Established as the Priscilla Club, the club later became known as the Faculty Women's Club, and eventually the Iowa State University Women's Club. Initially intended as a means of providing informal

⁵⁵ "Miss Julia Colpitts, Math Instructure at Iowa State, Dead," *The Courier* (Waterloo), August 11, 1936: 02.

⁵⁶ Ancestry.com. Federal census, 1920. Iowa census, 1925 and Ames City Directory, 1936.

⁵⁷ "Miss Julia Colpitts, Math Instructure at Iowa State, Dead," *The Courier* (Waterloo), August 11, 1936: 02.

⁵⁸ Iowa State University, University Museums, Biographical Dictionary. <https://isubios.pubpub.org/pub/f38wqyyo/release/1>. Retrieved 09/24/2022.

⁵⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/69918652/maria-mabel-roberts> and 1894 *The Bomb*, p54 and <https://plaza.las.iastate.edu/directory/maria-m-roberts/>. Retrieved 09/23/2022.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Available online at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285055502_Passage_of_the_Married_Women%27s_Property_Acts_and_Earnings_Acts_in_the_United_States_1850_to_1920: 147. Retrieved 09/25/2022.

⁶² Ibid., 153.

⁶³ <https://www.oneadvisorypartners.com/blog/the-history-of-women-and-money-in-the-united-states-in-honor-of-womens-history-month>. Retrieved 09/28/2022.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

comraderie between wives of the ISC faculty, the club evolved through the coming decades; by 1910, the group became more formal in nature and had grown from a small gathering of ladies to more than 100 women. After that time, the Priscilla Club undertook a variety of social and charitable activities on campus and in the community. The group actively engaged in advocating women's issues. In 1913, they successfully lobbied to prevent the Iowa Board of Education (now the Board of Regents) from transferring the entire women's curriculum from Iowa State to the University of Iowa; in 1918, they lobbied (unsuccessfully) to elect a woman to the Ames City Council; in 1920-1921, they worked to provide dedicated restrooms for ISC female faculty members, though unsuccessfully; and the club sold scarves and towels made by the Blind Women of Iowa in 1927-28.⁶⁴ The club is perhaps most recognized for establishing the Thrift Shop, which was located in a variety of locations in the years from 1933 to 1995. The shop provided all types of necessities including clothing and household goods.⁶⁵

Typical of the era, the list of founding members of the Priscilla Club is more representative the leading men of the college and less about the accomplishments of the women themselves. The charter members were listed as: Mrs. William Beardshear, whose husband was President of ISC; Mrs. A.A. Bennett, whose husband was Professor of Chemistry; Mrs. S.W. Beyer, whose husband was Proessor of Geology and Mining Engineering; Mrs. G.W. Bissell, whose husband was the Vice-Dean of the Division of Engineering and Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Mrs. C.F. Curtiss, whose husband was Dean of the Division of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station; Mrs. W.E. Harriman, whose husband was the College Physician; Mrs. Herman Knapp, whose husband was the Treasurer, Registrar, and Recorder of ISC; Mrs. G.L. McKay, whose husband was the Professor of Dairying; Mrs. Warren H. Meecker, whose husband was the Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Mrs. Herbert Osborn, whose husband was a Professor of Zoology and Entomology; Mrs. L.H. Pammel, whose husband was a Professor of Botany; and Mrs. J.B. Weams, whose husband was a Professor of Agricultural Chemistry.⁶⁶

The Priscilla Club's early meetings were held in the homes of its members, but as mission and membership evolved, more spacious accommodations were needed. In 1907 the club met in the Sanitary Building, located near the current site of the Memorial Union. The fact that the Sanitary Building was briefly known as Cranford Hall has led to speculation that the Cranford Apartment building was named for that connection. Alternately, the building may have been named after the play "Cranford" which was presented by the local PEO chapter in 1909. This possibility makes some sense because the play, based on the Elizabeth Gaskell novel of the same name, focuses on a group of women in the small town of Cranford.⁶⁷

The Cranford Apartment building was the first and only documented project backed by the Faculty Women's Housing Company. Although other projects may have followed construction of the Cranford, no others are known. The company maintained ownership and operation of the Cranford Apartment building until 1953, when the building was sold.

Prior to construction of the Cranford Apartment building, the block upon which it would be sited was sparsely developed. Existing commercial development fronting Lincoln Way was limited to the west half of the streetscape. One residential building, a two-story wood-frame apartment building, was located on the Cranford site.⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Keepsakes. A History of the Iowa State University Women's Club 1897-1997 (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Women's Club, 1997), 19.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 33.

⁶⁶ Ibid., 03.

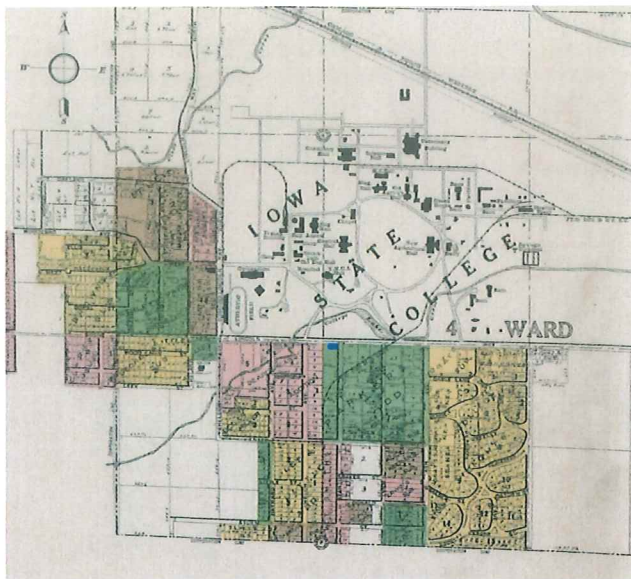
⁶⁷ Capp, 59.

⁶⁸ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1920).

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

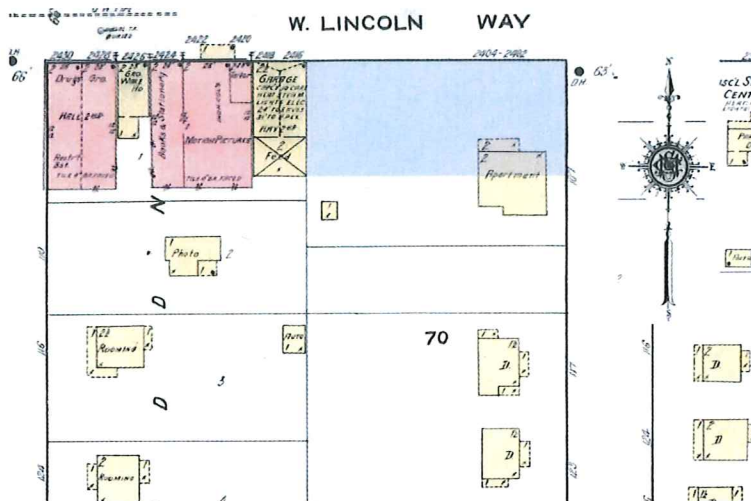
Figure 01. City of Ames – West Ames/Iowa State College Map – 1919



(Source: Ames History Museum, online map collection.)

The location of the Cranford is indicated in blue. Situated immediately south across Lincoln Way, the site was convenient to the college campus as well as to Campustown, which was developing on the west end of the block.

Figure 02. Fire Insurance Map – 1920



(Source: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1920.)

The site upon which the Cranford was constructed in 1922 is indicated in blue highlight; the site boundaries are estimated on this map and includes the existing rear yard. The apartment building (two-story, wood-frame) is likely the building that became known as the Cranford Apartment Annex. The Annex had eight units with a tenant composition in keeping with that documented in the following tables for the Cranford Apartment building.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Alda Wilson, served as both architect and construction supervisor, with the Ames firm of Cole Contractors credited as the construction contractor of the Cranford Apartment building. Cole Contractors constructed dozens of Ames buildings, including several Greek residences, university buildings, and, in the Ames downtown, the Tribune Building.⁶⁹ How Alda Wilson was chosen as the project architect and construction supervisor is speculative. Although it is not known at this time whether she was a member of the Faculty Women's Housing Company, like the women documented as the company founders, Alda was a graduate of the college and a faculty member. Additionally, her experience in architectural design was undoubtedly known. Finally, the fact that she was a woman was certainly desirable to this group whose biographies reveal their exemplary histories among the early history of women (both as students and faculty) at Iowa State.

By August of 1922, the Cranford Apartment building was nearly complete. That date relative to the incorporation of the Faculty Women's Housing Company suggests planning and design work was underway before incorporation papers were filed. Constructed at a cost of \$110,000, the building was set to be completed in time for the university's fall term. With 30 units of various sizes, occupancy was estimated at 50 to 60 persons. Although not restricted to faculty members or to women, most apartments would be occupied by faculty and nearly all were occupied by women. The Cranford was designed to maximize light, with all rooms (including bathrooms) in every unit having a window; living rooms had at least three windows. The units were equipped with Murphy-type beds located in wall recesses, gas heating plates, and a kitchenette. A freight elevator provided access from basement to the attic; the size of the building did not (at that time) require a passenger elevator. The building also had an incinerator with trash chutes in the corridors at all floors. A community storage space was located in the attic.⁷⁰

Prior to completion of the Cranford, nearly all of the units had been leased on a one year basis and tenants for the four storefronts had been arranged. The beauty parlor of Miss Mabel Dyrlund was to be relocated to the northeast corner of the Cranford from its collocation with the Lincoln Way Barbershop; the Varsity Boot Shop would relocate from 2518 Lincoln Way; the Fair Store; and the Cranford Coffee shop.⁷¹ A formal opening for the Cranford Coffee shop was held on November 10, 1922. The celebratory event included an orchestra and favors.⁷²

The 1926 fire insurance map documents the original configuration of the storefronts. Then addressed as 2400-2408 Lincoln Way, there were large storefronts in the east and west bays, with a series of four smaller storefronts occupying the two middle bays. The map also notes a small, sub-division of the east storefront which appears to have been an autonomous business. As noted, upon opening the storefronts were occupied by a beauty parlor, a boot shop, a ladies' wear store, and a coffee shop. According to city directories and subsequent fire insurance maps, occupants continued to be a mixed of retail and service businesses with a beauty shop and ladies' wear in the building in 1940. Professional offices also used the building: in 1940, the Faculty Women's Housing Company had their address in the building (2408) with a doctor and a dentist with offices in 2408-1/2. Other longtime occupants include Schafer Jewelry (2400) and Rexall Drug (2402-2402-1/2).

⁶⁹ Ames History Museum, "Businesses, Industries, & Professions: Cole Contractors," Available online at <https://ameshistory.org/content/cole-contractors>. Retrieved 05/04/2022.

⁷⁰ "Apartment House in Fourth Ward Nearly Complete," *Ames Daily Tribune*, August 29, 1922: 01.

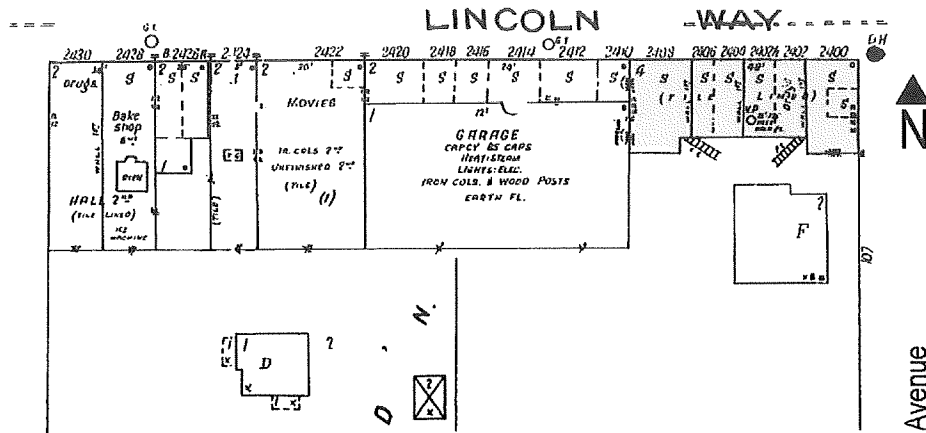
⁷¹ *Ibid.* and Capp, 60.

⁷² "To Have Formal Opening," *Ames Daily Tribune and Times*. November 10, 1922: 01.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Figure 03. Fire Insurance Map – 1926



(Source: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1926.)

The 1926 fire insurance map is the earliest version to record the Cranford Apartment Building. Note that the two-story apartment building (keyed as “F” indicating the building was a flat) was extant.

Figure 04. Historic Image – 1928



(Source: Ames History Museum, online collection.)

In the view looking east along Lincoln Way, the Cranford Apartment building is in the background at right, its pitched gable roof making it easy to identify. Note that the trees on the left are on the college campus.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

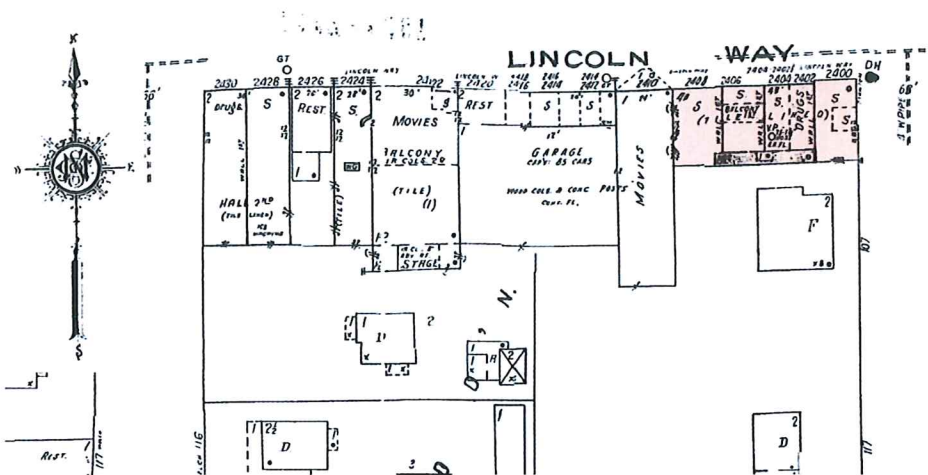
Figure 05. Historic Image – 1941



(Source: Ames History Museum, online collection.)

In the view looking west along Lincoln Way from Stanton Avenue, the Cranford Apartment building is in the foreground at left. As the image documents, Schafer's Jewelry occupied the east storefront and Rexall Drugstore occupied the next two, then numbered 2402-2404. The image also provides some understanding of the original configuration of the storefronts, documents the original windows, and illustrates the original construction materials including the checkerboard window lintels.

Figure 06. Fire Insurance Map – 1947



(Source: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1947.)

The 1947 fire insurance map records no major alterations except the renumbering of the storefronts. Note that the two-story flat (the Annex), remained extant at the rear of the site.

Cranford Apartment Building
 Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
 County and State

Constructed to provide much-needed housing for female faculty and students, the Cranford did accept male tenants. In 1924, two single men resided at the Cranford; in 1929, seven men; and, in 1936, six men including five that were married, lived in the building. Those numbers remained relatively consistent in 1939, 1940, and 1952, with increasing numbers of married couples in the 1940s through 1950s. Throughout the period from 1922-1953, which constitutes the era in which the building was owned by the Women’s Faculty Housing Company, female tenants remained the primary demographic served, with notable tenancy by female faculty members of significance in the history of Iowa State College, including Maria “Millie” Roberts, Julia T. Colpitts, Ada Hayden, and Nellie Naylor.

In the following series of tables, we gain an understanding of the demographics of the building residents and how that demographic evolved over the period from 1924 to 1953. The Cranford does not appear in the 1922 city directory, which was compiled in 1921; the first available Ames city directory after 1922 dates to 1924. Note that the format and content of information varies by directory year with the tables providing the available, relevant information.⁷³

Table 02. Known Residents of the Cranford Apartment Building – 1924

Resident	Apartment
Mary J. Sheldon	10
Fred D. Butcher	12
Josephine Arnquist	17
M.P. Baker	18
F.M. Sheldon	19
Maria “Minnie” M. Roberts	21
Mrs. D.A. Arville	22
Frances Warner	28
Julia T. Colpitts	29
Robley Winfrey	30
Gertrude A. Herr	31
W.M. Vernon	32
H.M. Capper	33
Angelina McKinley	36
Maeford McKenzie	37
Anna E. Richardson	38
Dr. K.R. Ferguson	39
Roy W. Snyder	Not noted
Anne Elizabeth White	Not noted

The 1924 city directory lacks a reverse directory with entries organized by location, making the identification of tenants difficult. Additionally, the directory does not include information about the profession of the tenants.

⁷³ Ames city directories are held by multiple online archives including Ancestry.com, Archive.org, and the Ames History Museum. In addition, the Ames Public Library houses a collection of city directories. The directories were the primary sources of the information in all tables with supplemental information derived from various online resources of Iowa State University and general name searches.

Cranford Apartment Building
 Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
 County and State

However, the sample here documents that women accounted for eleven of the eighteen known residents (assuming that names with initials are men as is typical of the era). Note that Maria “Minnie” Roberts (1867-1942), who was an incorporating director of the Faculty Women’s Club, lived in Apartment 21 by 1924 and through at least 1940; Roberts likely lived in the building until her death in 1942 (Table 03). Julia T. Colpitts (1875-1936) was likewise an incorporating director; she lived in the building in 1924, through the time of her death in 1936. Both women were members of the ISC faculty and the contributions of both are chronicled in university histories; the pair were reportedly close friends. Given that the two women are documented in the building by 1924 and both were incorporating directors it is reasonable to assert that both were original tenants in the Cranford Apartment building.

The information in following table derived from the 1929 city directory does not include apartment numbers or profession. However, from the names we can assert that of the twenty-seven known tenants, nineteen (including ISC professors, Maria Roberts and Julia Colpitts) were women. A simple online search finds that Alice Waugh was a Home Economics student (no additional information found on the other tenants).

Table 03. Known Residents of the Cranford Apartment Building – 1929

Resident
James C. Wilson
Alice Waugh
Edna Trembly
Lettie M. Taylor
J.C. Stitt
Gayland Spriggs
Ray H. Smith
Dorothy Nelson
Helena Mahnke
Angeline McKinley
Maud McCormick
Mrs. N.S. Lyman
Maria M. Roberts
Johanna F. Kirkman
Margaret C. House
H.E. Gordon
Ruth Goodrich
Gertrude A. Herr
R.E. Fothergill
Edmond C. Flynn
K.R. Ferguson
Florence Faust
Rachel Edgar
Ethel Carpenter
Florence A. Catlin
C.C. Christie
Julia T. Colpitts

Cranford Apartment Building

Story County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Table 04. Known Residents of the Cranford Apartment Building – 1936

Resident	Unit	Profession
LaVelle Boozer Ada I. Versteeg	13	Stenography, Bacteriology ISC Teacher, Welch Junior High School
Janet MacKenzie	16	Asst. Pastor, Presbyterian Church
Maria "Minnie" M. Roberts	21	Professor, Mathematics ISC
Nellie M. Naylor	22	Assoc. Professor, Chemistry ISC
Lois Diehl	23	Instructor, Foods and Nutrition ISC
Matilda C. Martinson	24	Instructor, Welch School
Larry C. and Angeline Grove	25	Research Asst., ISC Steno., Poultry Dept., ISC
Lewis H. & Gertrude Mettler	26	Traveling Salesman
Edward & Florence Tow	30	Student ISC
Edwin J. & Norma K. Seiferle	32	Student ISC
Ruth Fisher Erickson	34	Sec'y., Dean Agriculture ISC
Gertrude A. Herr	35	Assoc. Professor of Mathematics, ISC
Don P. Ayres	36	Instructor, Architectural Engineering, ISC
Sidney H. Horn	37	Staff Artist, College Bulletin Office ISC
Vera Marshall Ruth I. Potter Helen Mae Scheffers	38	Steno., Resettlement Administration Clerk, Junior College Office ISC Steno., Resettlement Administration
Julia T. Colpitts	39	Asst. Professor, Mathematics ISC

Like the previous directories, the 1936 city directory does not contain a reverse directory so it is challenging to locate all of the tenants. As a result, this table in particular should be understood as a sample. As the table reflects, the directory for 1936 includes the tenant's profession along with the name and apartment number. Note that Maria "Minnie" Roberts and Julia T. Colpitts both remained in the building. Additionally, Nellie M. Naylor (1885-1992) lived in Apartment 22. Naylor was a 1908 graduate of the University of Iowa, after which she received a M.S. in Chemistry from ISC in 1918 and a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1923. She was an Assistant Professor of Chemistry in 1909, retiring in 1955 as an Associate Professor in that department.⁷⁴ Although Naylor does not appear in the building in 1940, she was living at the Cranford in 1953 (Table 05).

The sample shows that of the twenty-three residents recorded in the directory: 1) thirteen were single women, 2) fourteen of the twenty-three residents worked at Iowa State College (ISC), 3) five of the fourteen ISC staff were female faculty members, 4) there were four married couples, and 5) in two cases, apartments were shared by two or three women.

⁷⁴ <https://digital.lib.iastate.edu/online-exhibits/iowa-state-sesquicentennial/people-of-distinction/nellie-naylor>. Retrieved 10/02/2022.

Cranford Apartment Building
 Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
 County and State

Table 05. Known Residents of the Cranford Apartment Building – 1940

Resident	Apartment	Profession
C.G. & Thelma Spray	10	Traveling Salesman
Vacant	11	
John Bowers	12	Student
Noel H. & Bernice J. Gross	13	Fellow, ISC
Sydney M. & Sophie Spatz	14	Student, ISC
Ruth F. Erickson	15	Stenographer, ISC
Janet MacKenzie	16	Asst. Pastor, Collegiate Presbyterian Church
Cornelius Gouwens	17	Associate Professor, ISC
Jay D. & Cecil F. Marrs	18	Insurance
Angeline McKinley	19	Student Counselor Collegiate Presbyterian Church
Ray & Helen Putnam	20	Student (Ray) Stenographer (Helen), ISC
Maria M. Roberts	21	Dean Emeritus, Junior College, ISC
Mabel E. Gunson	22	Technician, ISC
Ada Hayden	23	Assistant Professor ISC
William & Florence Ho Chun Wen	24	Graduate Assistant, ISC
Virginia T. Noble	25	Saleswoman
Gertrude Dieken	26	Associate, ISC
Lois W. Dale	27	Fellow, ISC
Lawrence S. Thompson	28	Assistant Librarian, ISC
Jennings B. & Agnes Frye	29	Fellow, ISC
Mrs. Helen Allen	30	Maid
Richard K. Frevert	31	Instructor, ISC
Edwin J. & Norma Seiferle	32	Not noted
Lucia Fordyce	33	College Inn
Berniece M. Beal	34	Secretary
Mary Ann Miller	35	Stenographer, City of Ames
Mrs. Pauline Rogers	36	Operator, Ladies' wear at 2406
Pauline Cammack	37	Teacher, Lincoln School
Robert B. & Ida Halpin	38	Assistant, ISC (Robert) Clerk, ISC (Ida)
C.R. Grafly & Rosemary Dougherty	39	Instructor, ISC

The 1940 directory includes a reverse directory with apartment numbers and professions noted. As the table shows, by 1940, Professor Ada Hayden (1884-1950) resided in Apartment 23 (the exact length of her residency in not currently known). Hayden received her undergraduate degree in botany from Iowa State College in 1908, master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1910, and Ph.D. from Iowa State in 1918. She was the first woman and the fourth person to receive a doctorate degree from Iowa State College. Hayden taught botany at ISC from 1908 to 1918. Beginning in 1920 she became an assistant professor in the department and,

Cranford Apartment Building
 Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
 County and State

in 1934, a research assistant professor at the Agricultural Experiment Station and the curator of the ISC Herbarium (renamed Ada Hayden Herbarium in 1988).⁷⁵

As the table of residents in 1940 documents, the Cranford continued to serve primarily ISC women faculty, ISC faculty, and ISC students (including fellows). Of the thirty-five residents: 1) fourteen were employed at ISC, 2) eight of the fourteen employed at ISC were instructors or professors, including three women, 3) there were six students, one of which was a woman and, 5) there were nine married couples.

Table 06. Known Residents of the Cranford Apartment Building – 1953

Resident	Apartment	Profession
Nettie Johnson	10	Widow
Cecil F. Marrs	11	Widow. Office Secretary.
Mrs. Velma G. Smith Bobby Rogers	12	Widow. Stenographer, ISC Clothing, @ 2406 in Cranford
Fannie Potgieter	13	Associate Professor, ISC
Mrs. Laona Underkofler	14	Widow. Clerk, Ideal Cleaners
Wayne S. & Mary E. Bollman	15	Technician, ISC
Mrs. Blanche King	16	Widow. Desk Attendant, Memorial Union
Boris & Tereza Michelsons	17	Janitor, ISC
Mrs. Irma Spriggs	18	Widow. Drug store.
Marie Harvey	19	Cook, Memorial Union
Mabel A. Fleming	20	Instructor, ISC
Elsie A. Guthrie	21	Department Manager, ISC
Nellie M. Naylor	22	Associate Professor, ISC
Mrs. Dean Rose	23	----
Hattie L. Adams	24	Clerk, ISC
Herold L. Kooser	25	Instructor, ISC
Mrs. Barbara Ellison	26	Clerk, State Highway Commission
Julia M. Rowe	27	Account, ISC
Edw. Robinson	28	Announcer
Madge Miller	29	Assistant Professor, ISC
Mrs. S. Rose Vogt	30	Cook, Memorial Union
E.R. Johnny & Marlys J. Lange	31	Traffic Safety
Mrs. Winfield Scott	32	Library Assistant, ISC
Eliz. J. Switzer	33	Saleswoman
Helen J. Boyd	34	Clerk, ISC
Mrs. Agnes Allen	35	Cook, Memorial Union
Robert Keim	36	Student
Mrs. Henrietta Taff	37	Clerk, ISC
Donald G. & Goldie R. Hartt	38	Teacher, Ames Senior High School
Richard J. & Joan L. Wilke	39	Student

⁷⁵ <https://exhibits.lib.iastate.edu/ada-hayden>. Retrieved 10/01/2022.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

The 1953 city directory documents thirty-six tenants, twenty-three of which were single women. In that year, the building housed five married couples, eighteen employees of ISC (five of which were faculty), one student, and three single men. Notably, six of the women residents were widowed, all but one with employment noted.

In summary, the Cranford Apartment building was constructed by the Faculty Women's Housing Company for the primary purpose of providing much-needed housing for women students and female faculty members. Although men, married couples, and non-ISC connected individuals are represented in the information provided by city directories, the number of women far surpassed the number of men in 1924 through 1953 (the majority of the period during which the Faculty Women's Housing Company owned the building). Although no longer focused on catering to the university's female faculty or female students – the days requiring that specialty being a thing of the past – the Cranford Apartment building continues to provide housing for the students of Iowa State University. The thirty apartment units remain a mix of studios, one- and two-bedrooms with kitchenettes. Further, the Cranford retains commercial businesses on the ground floor, leaving the functionality of the building much as it was intended by the Faculty Women's Housing Company and as designed by architect Alda Wilson.

Alda Wilson

Alda Wilson is the second woman to receive a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Iowa State College, the third woman in the nation to obtain a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, one of the few women of the era to receive a graduate degree, one of the rare few to work as a professional after completing her education, and, from 1919, Wilson assumed an important position at Iowa State University as the first female head of the university's first all-woman drafting class. In addition, she became actively involved in women's rights efforts, working closely with national activist, Carrie Chapman Catt. Although Alda's accomplishments are often overshadowed by those of her older sister, her place in history, particularly at Iowa State University, is highly significant.

Alda (1873-1960) and Elmina (1870-1918) Wilson were born in rural Keokuk County, Iowa in 1873 and 1870, respectively. The sisters were the youngest of six children born to John and Olive Eaton Wilson. The family farmstead was a center of gatherings of the extended family and a setting that encouraged learning and, specifically, the value of higher education.⁷⁶ It has been noted that several important events occurred during the sisters' formative years that may account for their interest in engineering. Alda was just a toddler and Elmina just four-years old at the time Eads Bridge at St. Louis was completed in 1874, but in a household of learners, discussion of that historic feat could have been a source of interest for some time after. Likewise, completion of Chicago's first skyscraper, the Home Insurance Building, in 1885, the selection of Chicago to host the 1893 World's Fair and the introduction of the 265-foot Ferris wheel were groundbreaking engineering feats that captured the attention of Americans across the country.⁷⁷

In 1869, the newly established Iowa Agricultural College began offering classes in engineering and liberal arts and sciences. Civil engineering started in 1871 as one of two engineering curricula – the other being mechanical

⁷⁶ ASCE Library, Richard G. Weingardt, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, "Elmina and Alda Wilson, <https://ascelibrary.org/doi/10.1061/%28ASCE%29LM.1943-5630.0000082>. Retrieved 09/25/2022.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

Cranford Apartment Building

Name of Property

Story County, Iowa

County and State

engineering. Classes in drawing, railways, sanitation (later environmental engineering), and surveying were first offered in the civil engineering curriculum. In 1872, Iowa State graduated its first class, including three civil engineering graduates. The civil engineering program was officially elevated to department status in 1898 with the first degree specialization offered six years later. The “highways” specialization studied “transmissible land routes that were traversed by automobile”. The civil engineering program was accredited in 1936.⁷⁸

In 1892, Elmina T. Wilson became the first woman to receive a bachelor of civil engineering degree at Iowa State College. Two years later, she earned a master of science from Iowa State, becoming the first woman in the nation to achieve a master’s degree.⁷⁹ Alda followed closely in her sister’s footsteps, earning her bachelor of science in civil engineering in 1894 followed by a master’s degree from MIT (1897). During their university time, the sisters had spent summers working internships at architectural and engineering firms in Chicago and Kansas City.⁸⁰ That experience laid the foundation for Alda’s professional life; after completing her graduate work, she established herself as a working architect in New York City.

Elmina and Alda were both graduate students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The school’s annual catalogue for 1896-1897 include both Alda and Elmina Wilson in the “register of students”. Both are included in the list of graduate students, with Alda noted as “B.C.E., Iowa State College” and Elmina as “C.E., Iowa State College”.⁸¹ From various sources, it appears that Elmina did not complete her graduate work at MIT, rather, she returned to her position as professor at Iowa State; Alda completed her graduate degree at MIT in 1897.

In 1903, Elmina took a leave of absence from Iowa State to travel with Alda and two female cousins to Europe where they studied “noteworthy architecture and engineering works.” Judging from ship manifests, the sisters traveled to Europe with some regularity; the pair returned from a trip to Italy in March of 1913 and, in 1925 Alda returned from France.⁸² Upon their return to the U.S. in 1903, Elmina resigned her position at the college and instead began work as a consulting engineer in New York and other cities on the East Coast. In 1910 the sisters were living on West 144th Street, Manhattan Ward 12, New York City; Alda was working as an architect and Elmina as an engineer.⁸³ While living in New York City, the sisters were active in the Women’s Suffrage Club, 23rd Assembly District, Manhattan.⁸⁴ They were likely present for the Women’s Suffrage Parade of 1915 when some 30,000 (all but about 10% were women) marched along Fifth Avenue from the Washington Square Arch to Fifty-ninth Street.⁸⁵

⁷⁸ Iowa State University, Engineering Department History. <https://www.ccee.iastate.edu/history/>. Retrieved 06/21/2022.

⁷⁹ Iowa State University, Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering. <https://www.ccee.iastate.edu/history/> and <https://news.engineering.iastate.edu/2018/03/08/elmina-wilson-pioneering-engineer-and-womens-suffrage-leader/>. Retrieved 06/20/2022.

⁸⁰ “Miss Wilson, Civil Engineer,” *The Prince George Inquirer* (Upper Marlboro, MD), December 01, 1905: 01.

⁸¹ *Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Boston. Thirty-Second Annual Catalogue* (Cambridge, MA: University Press, 1897), 157.

⁸² https://www.ancestry.com/search/?name=alda_wilson&event=1960_iowa&birth=1873_keokuk-iowa-usa_1591&birth_x=2-0-0&gender=f&location=2&priority=usa&sibling=elmina_wilson. Retrieved 06/22/2022 and “Richard G. Weingardt, P.E, Dist.M.ASCE, “Elmina and Alda Wilson,” *Engineering Legends Series, Leadership and Management*, October 2010: 192-196.

⁸³ <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/18919216:7884?tid=&pid=&queryId=3019e251018e22479d976dc7e766cc84&phsrc=wap3&phstart=successSource>. Retrieved 06/22/2022.

⁸⁴ “Richard G. Weingardt, P.E, Dist.M.ASCE, “Elmina and Alda Wilson,” *Engineering Legends Series, Leadership and Management*, October 2010: 192-196.

⁸⁵ Village Preservation. <https://www.villagepreservation.org/resources/womens-suffrage-history-map/>. Retrieved 09/25/2022.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

From ca.1914-ca.1918, the sisters worked as architects Wilson & Wilson, reportedly gaining acclaim on the East Coast.⁸⁶ During this period, the Wilsons designed the “Helmick House/Teacher’s Cottage” (1916) located in the “Settlement School Dormitories and Dwellings Historic District” in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.”⁸⁷ About the building, the National Register nomination notes, “In 1916, a 10-room residence was erected to provide living quarters for the professional teachers being recruited by the school (Pi Beta Phi Settlement School) and to serve as a demonstration of the “modern” lifestyle. The modified bungalow style house was designed by architectural engineers Elmina Wilson (1870-1918) and Alda Wilson (1873-1960), two Pi Beta Phi alumnae working in New York City. The nomination further notes that “the earlier model bungalow came from the pens of two women architects... which underscores the women-directed nature of Pi Beta Phi Settlement School during its period of significance. The Helmick House was the first known architect-designed dwelling in Gatlinburg.”⁸⁸

Figure 07. Helmick House – 1916



(Source: <https://history.pibetaphi.org/exhibits/settlement-school>. Retrieved 09/28/2022.)

The Wilson sisters’ tie to Pi Beta Phi Sorority points to another thread that ties Alda Wilson to the founding directors of the Faculty Women’s Housing Company, some of which were also sorority alumna, including the most prominent among them, Julia W. Stanton and Maria Roberts.

Following an extended illness, Elmina Wilson died at her home in New York City in the early summer of 1918. Following the death of her sister, Alda Wilson returned to Ames from their home in New York City to assume charge of the drafting courses in the engineering department.⁸⁹ In 1919 she resided at 129 Ash Avenue (non-

⁸⁶ “Returns as Ames Instructor,” *Evening Times-Republican* (Marshalltown, IA), July 16, 1918: 02 and “Is Now in New York,” *The Junction Weekly Union* (Junction City, KS), October 18, 1907: 06.

⁸⁷ Susan Knowles and Carroll Van West, “Settlement School Dormitories and Dwellings Historic District,” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2007: 7.1.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 8.6.

⁸⁹ “Returns as Ames Instructor,” *Evening Times-Republican* (Marshalltown, IA), July 16, 1918: 02.

Cranford Apartment Building

Name of Property

Story County, Iowa

County and State

extant).⁹⁰ With the country at war, women were called to fill positions long held by men; positions on the highway commission was one such opportunity. Developed by and housed at Iowa State College, a drafting course was created to train women to work for the commission. Some twenty women were enrolled in the summer course in 1918.⁹¹ Alda remained in the position through 1921, appearing in the ISC yearbook, *The Bomb*, as a faculty member through 1922.⁹² In the spring of 1921, Wilson was busy remodeling her own house at 508 Douglas Avenue (non-extant).⁹³

It is unclear how Alda became commissioned to design the Cranford Apartments. Because the incorporating members of the Faculty Women's Housing Company were all ISC faculty (Julia W. Stanton, Maria "Minnie" Roberts, Julia T. Colpitts, Estelle Buchanan, and Robert Buchanan), it stands to reason they were well aware of Wilson's skill as an architect and engineer. As a female colleague, the women of the company were undoubtedly interested in securing her for the project. The additional connection with Stanton and Roberts as fellow alumna of Pi Beta Phi was likely also a contributing factor.

In addition to their accomplishments in the field of engineering and architecture, Alda and Elmina Wilson were also strong supporters of the women's right to vote. During their time in school, both sisters were members of Pi Beta Phi, the first women's fraternity on the Iowa State campus. Their association with Pi Beta Phi connected them with like-minded women and created lifelong relationships, including with Pi Beta Phi sister, Carrie Chapman Catt. Both of the Wilson sisters worked closely with prominent women's suffrage leaders such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Susan B. Anthony, and Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1928, Alda became the professional and personal companion to Carrie Chapman Catt and, upon Catt's death in 1947, acted as executor of her estate.⁹⁴

In 1919 (published shortly after Elmina's death), an article co-authored by Alda and Elmina Wilson appeared in *The Arrow of Pi Beta Phi* (the organization's official publication), encouraging young women to pursue careers in architecture and engineering despite the discriminatory challenges to be faced as a woman.⁹⁵

"Even though disagreeable incidents such as running up against policies like 'neither minorities or women will be considered for certain technical positions' in certain offices are likely to occur, we all know that a stone much knocked about gets its sharp angles worn off and besides they are more than offset by the unselfish willingness of many to lend a helping hand. There is no door at which the hand of woman has knocked for admission into a new field of toil but there have been found on the other side of the hands of strong and generous men eager to turn it for her, almost before she knocks. So her standing will depend greatly upon herself; upon her ability to concentrate her thoughts on the subject at hand, and to gather up afresh the products of the classic past and mold them into something specifically modern; upon her devotion, tact, ingenuity and self-sacrifice, the qualities required of her sisters in whatever occupation they follow."

⁹⁰ Ames City Directory, 1919: 192.

⁹¹ "Noted Ames Woman Joins Road Force," *Ames Evening Times*. July 15, 1918: 01.

⁹² *The Bomb* (Ames, IA: Iowa State College, 1920-1921). Available online at <https://digital.lib.iastate.edu/bomb-isu-yearbook/1920s>. Retrieved 09/28/2022.

⁹³ "Ames in Brief," *Ames Daily Tribune and Times*, March 17, 1921: 03 and Alda Wilson's name appears on documents (including Western Union telegrams following Catt's death) held in the Library of Congress substantiating the claim regarding her role as executor of the Catt estate and the sometimes personal sentiment directed at Alda Wilson affirm their bond. See Library of Congress, Carrie Chapman Catt: General Correspondence, circa 1890-1947.

⁹⁴ <https://news.engineering.iastate.edu/2018/03/08/elmina-wilson-pioneering-engineer-and-womens-suffrage-leader/>. Retrieved 06/20/2022 and Archives of Women in Engineering, Special Collections, Iowa State University, Alda and Elmina Wilson papers.

⁹⁵ <https://news.engineering.iastate.edu/2018/03/08/elmina-wilson-pioneering-engineer-and-womens-suffrage-leader/>. Retrieved 06/20/2022.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

After returning to Iowa following her sister's death in 1919, Alda's friendship with Catt grew deeper and she increasingly traveled with Catt to women's suffrage meetings. At the time Catt moved her operations to New York full-time, Alda returned with her; this appears to have occurred in the early 1920s, not long after completion of the Cranford Apartment building. In New York, Alda shifted her professional focus from architecture to supporting Catt's work, so that by the time of Carrie Chapman Catt's death in 1947, Alda was largely responsible for running Catt's organization. Alda was named executor of Catt's estate, leaving her in control of an extensive collection of significant papers and records, which she donated to the Library of Congress.⁹⁶ Alda Wilson died in New York on January 25, 1960 at the age of 86 years.⁹⁷

The American Society of Civil Engineers note of Alda and Elmina Wilson, "In the long run, though, what really set the Wilson sisters apart was that they were the first women to [not just study, but] actually take up civil engineering as their life's work." The Society went further, noting, "Although Elmina passed away early, only 47 years old, she and Alda left a rich heritage of inspiration and determination for generations of other young women to emulate, not only in the structural and civil engineering field but in other scientific fields as well. In addition to encouraging women to obtain college educations and advanced degrees, they were worthy civic and community activists dedicated to advancing women's rights and suffrage."⁹⁸

Summary

In the early 1920s, during the months in which the idea of building the Cranford Apartment building to serve female faculty members and students was evolving, permanent housing for women on the Iowa State campus was limited to three dormitories designed to house 258. The remaining female students were accommodated in temporary facilities like The Lodges.

The Cranford was designed in 1921 (placed in service the following year). Its design character drew on the popularity of 20th century revival styles. The Cranford design was executed in a manner that expressed the Tudor Revival style and created a building, the character of which aligned with the existing university housing (Lyon, Freeman, and Barton Halls) rather than more typical, commercially driven apartment buildings (Figure 08).

⁹⁶ Weingardt.

⁹⁷ <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/812491:61461?tid=&pid=&queryId=3019e251018e22479d976dc7e766cc84&phsrc=wap4&phstart=successSource>. Retrieved. 06/24/2022. At Iowa State University, Carrie Chapman Catt was honored by the establishment of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics in 1992. The center is housed in the 1892 Botany Hall, which now bears Catt's name. Significant Iowa State women such as Prof. Julia Colpitts are associated with the Botany Hall, but relative to the historic association represented at the Cranford Apartment building, the resource lacks a comprehensive association with the women's rights movement. The Carrie Chapman Catt center offers leadership development, mentoring opportunities, supports research efforts related to women and politics, and encourages women and men to pursue careers in politics. <https://cattcenter.iastate.edu/home/about-us/>. Retrieved 11/28/2022.

⁹⁸ Weingardt.

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

Figure 08. Apartment Building at 2709 Lincoln Way – ca.1917



(Source: <https://maps.google.com>. Retrieved 08/31/2022.)

This ca.1917 apartment building, located on Lincoln Way just two blocks west of the Cranford, is a more typical example of the property type as expressed in the early 20th century. Note the lack of ground-floor commercial spaces and the block-like character lacking a strong design aesthetic; the absence of adjacent commercial properties; the deep eaves suggest some Prairie School influence, but the façade is otherwise absent any clear stylistic references. Certainly, the building lacks any reference to the revival style prevalent in the University residence halls.

Lyon Hall, Freeman Hall, and Barton Hall were placed in service in 1915, 1916, and 1918 respectively (Figure 09). The trio was sited near the south edge of the campus on the north side of Lincoln Way (Figure 10). The buildings were arranged in relationship to one another, thereby creating an exterior courtyard space. Each building was designed in the Colonial Revival style, which was dictated by the choice of red brick exterior cladding, a gable end roof, gable roof dormers, classically derived details (e.g., dentils), and an overall sense of order.

Figure 09. View of Freeman Hall (East Hall) and Lyon Hall – ca.1916



Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

(Source: A.KAY Consulting Postcard Collection.)

Figure 10. Aerial View Showing Proximity of the Cranford to the Iowa State Dormitories



(Source: <https://maps.google.com>. Retrieved 08/31/2022.)

The three women's residence halls constructed just prior to the Cranford Apartment building are noted, with the Cranford's location also marked. The revival style adopted in the design of Lyon Hall, Freeman Hall, and Barton Hall established the precedent for residence hall design through the coming decades; the 1957 Linden Hall, located nearby and immediately adjacent to Lincoln Way, was also Colonial Revival in expression. As a result, the use of strongly expressed, revival style architectural design became a character-defining feature of the Iowa State campus.

The Cranford Apartment building adopted the Tudor Revival style rather than the Colonial Revival expressed in the residence halls, which differentiates the apartment building from the dormitories. While Revival styles of various types are found across the campus, the Tudor Revival is more commonly associated with residential construction; a number of Greek letter houses adopted the Tudor Revival style including the 1928 Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity House. In keeping with the ISC residence halls, the Cranford's character rests on the expression of the roof line, the inclusion of roof dormers, details like corbels that typify the style, and a brick exterior. These elements align the Cranford Apartment building with the residence halls in their sense of scale, proportions, order, and expression of an architectural style revived from earlier times and reinterpreted in the early 20th century. That aesthetic alignment, along with the role played by Alda Wilson (graduate and instructor at ISC) as architect and by the members of the Faculty Women's Housing Company (graduates and professors at ISC) as developer, ties the Cranford to the University, both in its design expression and in its role to address the ongoing housing shortages for female faculty and students. The use of the Tudor Revival suggests a desire to underscore the building's function as a residential property. In that way, the Cranford Apartment building is significant as a rare representative of a privately developed, mixed-use property completed by an incorporated group of women for the express purpose of providing housing for the female faculty and students at Iowa State University. And, as a residential property designed for women faculty and students, the Cranford Apartment is significant in its role to advance the efforts of the women's movement to support education and employment in professional positions.

Archaeological Assessment

Cranford Apartment Building
Name of Property

Story County, Iowa
County and State

No assessment for the potential of historic archaeology was completed as part of the present National Register nomination. Given that the building covers the majority of the site and the remainder of the site (on the south) has been disturbed on multiple occasions, the likelihood for historic archaeology appears to be low. However, any groundwork undertaken should be completed with an awareness for that potential.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Capps, Anthony. *Campustown: A Brief History of the First West Ames*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2016.

Day, H. Summerfield. *The Iowa State University Campus and Its Buildings, 1859-1979*. Ames, IA: Iowa State University, 1980.

Faderman, Lillian. *To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done For America – A History*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1999.

Keepsakes. A History of the Iowa State University's Women's Club 1897-1997. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Women's Club, 1997.

Layne, Margaret E., P.E., ed. *Women in Engineering. Pioneers and Trailblazers*. Reston, VA: American Society of American Engineers Press, 2009.

Page, William C. "Cranford Apartment Building." Iowa Site Inventory Form, 1991.

Schilletter, J.C. "First 100 Years of Residential Housing at Iowa State University, 1868-1968." Unpublished report, 1970.

Weingardt, Richard G., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE. "Engineering Legends. Elmina and Alda Wilson." *Leadership and Management in Engineering* (Vol. 10, Issue 4): October 2010. Available online at <https://ascelibrary.org>.

Archives/Special Collections

Ames History Museum.
<https://ameshistory.org/content/archives-collections>.

Ames Public Library, Farwell T. Brown Photo Archive.
<https://www.amespubliclibrary.org/learn-explore/local-history>.

Iowa State University Special Collections.
<https://findingaids.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/arch/rgrp/21-7-24.html>.