

RESEARCH ARTICLE

**PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY NORMAL HALL:
BEACON OF CHARACTER BUILDING AND
SOCIAL GRACES (1913-2013)**

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ABSTRACT

Centennial anniversary is truly a feat worth recalling. The Normal Hall, the Philippine Normal University's dormitory celebrated its 100 years in 2013. This study aims to trace the historical development of the dormitory, its contribution to the formation of prospective teachers and the current challenges this edifice is facing. A historical-descriptive research revealed that the PNU Normal Hall served as a beacon of character building and social graces for the prospective teachers of the institution for the past 10 decades. At present, the centennial dormitory is facing major structural challenges – nature-caused and man-made. The Normal Hall is now an icon in the cultural landscape for its architectural design, robust structure and historical relevance, besides serving as a living testament to its involvement in the character formation and social training of its residents. It behoves the PNU administration to address the problems of the dormitory to be as relevant as ever in molding future teachers of the country.

Keywords: dormitory, character building, teacher training, social graces

INTRODUCTION

Centennial anniversary or centenary celebration of any person, object, place, or institution is no feat. The Philippine Normal

University just celebrated recently the centenary of its main building which is considered as a historic landmark in Philippine Education (Garcia and Ong, 2010). In 2013, the university's dormitory, the Normal Hall, celebrated its 100 years, another milestone not only for the institution, but for the Philippine Education as a whole.

A dormitory – an integral part of the college years of students – largely contributes in influencing the holistic formation of the students. In the field of teacher education, social training is of prime importance.

The present study focuses on the legacy of Normal Hall, not only as an architectural edifice, but also as an important component in the social training of future teachers for the past 100 years.

It is anchored on the concept that dormitory living has a great impact on the social life of the students. The experience of living in a residence hall actually fulfils four major goals of higher education: a) social awareness and responsibility, b) political awareness, c) human values, and d) self-awareness. Residence halls have numerous functions, namely: 1.) provision of a satisfactory physical environment, 2.) the adequate care and maintenance of the physical facilities, 3.) establishment of guidelines that provide structure for compatible and cooperative community living, 4.) the development of an interpersonal environment, and 5.) opportunities for individual growth and development. The first two refer to the management functions of a residence hall, while the last two refer to the educational functions. The third function serves both as a management and educational functions (Decoster and Riker, 2008). It can be concluded that dormitory living exerts a great influence in the social life of a person.

With these assumptions, it can be inferred that the Normal Hall, the dormitory of Philippine Normal University, has a crucial, sensitive role in the social training of prospective teachers of the country for the past century.

The figure below shows the façade of the Normal Hall. The legacy of the Normal Hall will be analyzed through its history, as shown in the window; challenges, and development plan. Most importantly,

its role in character formation and training of prospective teachers for the last 100 years will be interpreted.



Figure 1. The Conceptual Framework of the Study

Society expects teachers to become competent facilitator of learning with great grasp of the subject matter and paragon of good virtue. Thus, character education became intertwined with teacher education for pre-service educators as defined by some researches.

Marshall (2001) concluded that it is necessary to provide Character Education training in teacher education. This is based on the belief that 'teaching is intrinsically and unavoidably a moral act'.

The aforementioned results were further reinforced by the study of Arthur and Revell (2005) conducted in the United Kingdom. The results showed that student teachers were convinced that some sort of values education was expected from them. Most of the respondents stated that most students see themselves as future role models to their pupils and they were prepared enough to teach their students values. However, researchers suggested that there was a need to have consistency with values education in teacher training programs.

The literature is extant with regards to the history of various buildings around the world. In the study of Claassen (2009), he concluded that the neo-classical style that the British imposed on their architectural projects in South Africa, most especially for institutions of higher learning, mirrored the imperialistic aims of the westerners in that country.

Bremner (2010) found out that Supreme Court Building of Hong Kong was not merely a building where western ideals of justice and liberty are upheld rather it is a huge testament to the colonial rule of the British. Hefurther noted that the establishment of the Supreme Court building is an attempt of the British 'to unify the empire architecturally through time and space'.

The current study aimed to explore the historical and cultural significance of the Normal Hall dormitory on how it educates its residents with the proper social graces and how it develops the character of its residents in relation to their future teaching career.

This research aimed to trace and describe the history and development plans in preserving the PNU-Normal Hall.

Specifically, it aimed to

1. Trace the historical development of PNU-Normal Hall
 - a. Historical background on the need to create the Normal Hall
 - b. Legal bases
 - c. Finances/Budget, cornerstone-laying, actual construction
 - d. Design
 - e. inauguration
 - f. Post-inauguration
2. Describe the evolution of PNU – Normal Hall as a training ground for character molding and social graces of future educators in terms of
 - a. activities and social functions, trainings and professional sessions
 - b. leadership styles of administrators
 - c. illustrious normal hall occupants/ residents
3. Describe the problems or challenges experienced by the Normal Hall

- a.typhoon 'Yoling', 'Ondoy' and Habagat floods
 - b.conforming to the country's current structural code
 - c.massive urbanization and pollution
4. Enumerate the development plans of the present administration for maintenance and preservation of the Normal Hall in terms of:
- a.maintenance and repair/preservation
 - b.equipment outlay
 - c.security

This historical research is deemed relevant simply because it has always been interesting subjects of study that provide insights on local history-history by case study or specific geographical area, the landscape, architecture, archaeological artifacts, and a host of other "things" to elicit an understanding of the past.

METHODOLOGY

This research investigation utilized a historico-descriptive method. Documentary analyses were employed to trace and describe the history, role of PNU Normal Hall as a training institution in social graces, structural challenges met, and future development plans for the PNU-Normal Hall (1913-2013). Interviews were conducted with people were involved in the operation of the Normal Hall in substantiating the findings. The documents culled from archival works served as primary sources were analyzed by the researchers. In establishing the internal and external validity of the documents, the researchers sought the help of Mrs. Teresita Malihan (head of records section) and the librarians.

Procedures

The researchers toyed with the idea of writing the history of PNU's Normal Hall in time for its centennial commemoration (1913-2013) during the second semester of AY 2012-2013. The whole months of November and December 2012 was devoted in writing the research title and proposal, and reviewing the related literature. January to February 2013 marked with the data gathering using interviews as primary sources, archival documents as secondary and tertiary

sources. The whole month of March 2013 was devoted to the finalization of the write up on the findings of the study.



Map No. 1
Map of Manila

Source: <http://www.flickrriver.com/photos/johntewell/4481874026/>

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Historical Development of PNU – Normal Hall

a. Historical background on the need to create the Normal Hall

For the past 111 years, Philippine Normal University has been the acknowledged leader in teacher education in the Philippines. It has undergone many significant changes in order to cope with the challenges it is facing; the fact that this institution is as strong as ever is already a testament of its fortitude and legacy in the Philippine

education system.

One of the leading structures of PNU that shape its glorious history is the Normal Hall, the girls' dormitory. History shows that the girls' dormitory has played a pivotal role in the success of the institution.

Established in 1901, the Philippine Normal School admitted students from the different provinces of the country. In 1903, a house was rented to serve as the temporary Philippine Normal Hall located at Ambrosio Flores Street, Ermita, Manila.

In 1906, due to the increasing number of boarders, it was decided to expand the dormitory by leasing the neighboring larger three-story building at its right hand side, at Ambrosio Flores Street, corner Nebraska (present day Jorge Bocobo Street) (Nieva, 1911).

Under the management of Miss Mary E. Coleman, in order to motivate girls to live in the dormitory, she conducted classes for girls who were willing to learn the English language. She also provided entertainment and reception to girls to avoid boredom during their stay in the dorm and as part of their socialization. Social training refers to the honing of the skills needed for interaction with other people. This was one facet that was not neglected in the dormitory because the administration of PNS deemed that it is important in the formation of future teachers.

Every year, the dormitory experienced an increasing number of residents which led to the birth of the idea of constructing a 'permanent center where social training and safety of the girls could be secured (Cabrillos,1951). This would be a reinforced concrete structure and to be located on Taft Avenue (11th Annual Report, 1911).

The establishment of the Normal Hall, as part of the Philippine Normal School, was actually a vital part of a much larger plan of Americanization of Manila. According to the master plan of Daniel Burnham, Manila was to be redeveloped as the "*Washington, D.C. of the Orient*". Through this, the assimilation process of Filipinos to the American culture would be a lot easier. According to Cristina Torres (2010) in her book **The Americanization of Manila: 1898-1921**, the

area south of the Pasig River (wherein the Philippine Normal School and the Normal Hall are located) would be developed to *'bear the imprint of American rule, to establish modern infrastructure that would make life comfortable for themselves, and to show proof of American benevolence.'* As a result, a university belt was developed in that area that included University of the Philippines, Philippine School of Arts and Trades, and the Philippine Normal School. These schools, according to Torres (2010), were vital in injecting American values and ideals to the Philippine educational system. She further argued that the university belt's proximity to the nation's political center was a testament to the importance of education in the process of Americanization of Manila and of the Philippines as a whole.

b. Legal Basis

The idea of erecting a new dormitory immediately earned the support of Cameron Forbes and Sergio Osmeña, then the Governor General of the Philippines and Speaker of the Philippine Assembly respectively. The two tapped then Assemblyman Gregorio Nieva, Representative of 2nd District of Tayabas-Marinduque, to spearhead the proposed bill necessary to realize this dream. The bill that he proposed has an appropriation of Php500,000, that half of which will be for the establishment of the School of Arts and Trades. (Nieva, 1911).

Difficulties plagued the proposal. At that time, the Bureau of Education was so eager to establish the School of Arts and Trades. So, in order to expedite the twin plans, they filed two bills in one with an appropriation of Php 500,000 which will be divided into the two projects. Several conferences were convened for the bill. According to Rep. Nieva, only two conferences were needed in difficult cases but the bill had undergone third conference. Although it was irregular, it is proven to be successful because the bill was eventually passed. He also added that the bill will not see the light of the day if not through the efforts of Governor Forbes and Speaker Osmeña, as well as Secretary Elliot of Public Works.

The problem did not cease there because as the appropriation was approved, former Assistant Director Maggie of Education tried to

have the one-half or more of the appropriation for the establishment of School of Arts and Trades. Rep. Nieva refused the proposal and firmly stressed that both projects had to be started almost at the same time.

c. Finances/budget, actual cornerstone-laying, actual construction

According to the 12th Annual Report of Bureau of Public Instruction, by 1912 the plans had been completed for the construction of the new Normal Hall dormitory. The cost of the project amounted Php 275,000. The following year, the cornerstone of the new girls' dormitory had been laid and the construction of the dormitory commenced. However, it was interesting to note that the cost of the project is now Php 295,000, based on the 13th Annual Report (1913). It had increased by Php 20,000; no reason was provided for the increase in the cost of the construction. At present, the cornerstone was nowhere to be found and its only Mr. Leonarlido Pulido, former/retired director of PPCD who knew the location of the cornerstone.

d. Design



Plate No.1

Picture of the Normal Hall

(Source: <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151541678044488&set=a.226285759487.174521.772454487&type=1&theater>)

The new Normal Hall building was designed by William E. Parsons, the consultant/architect hired by Daniel H. Burnham from 1905 to 1914. As the consulting architect, it was his responsibility to furnish all the designs, drawings, specifications for all public buildings (Alcazaren, 2003).

Thomas Hines (1979), an architectural historian, characterized Parsons' buildings to have "plain, broad surfaces of solid pastel colors and were usually topped by handsome tile roofs." His designs are hallmarks for an architecture suited to the tropical climate of the Philippines. William Parson's signature elements were to



Plate No.2
Neo-classical design by William Parsons
for tropical climate

be found here; shaded colonnades, capiz windows, deep arches, deep overhangs and hip roofs. These elements resulted from the fine mixture contemporary architecture and local environment. The dormitory stands alongside other architectural gems of that era.

The Normal Hall was an embodiment of neoclassical style in architecture, preserving the design and beauty of Greco-Roman architecture. This style is characterized for its symmetry or balanced appearance with domes, arches, geometric forms, and columns. These characteristics resonate the kind of architecture during the Greek and Roman civilizations. This style was used by the Americans to the national civic building they established here in the Philippines. Aside from Normal Hall, other buildings which utilized this architectural design are the Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines, Army and Navy Club and the Manila Hotel. These government structures followed the pattern of Greco-Roman structure used in Washington D.C. The colonial imposition of the Americans was in line with the policy of organizing the Philippines after its image. This was part of the Americanization process of the Filipinos (Cabalfin, 2005).

e. Inauguration

After a year of construction, the Normal Hall was completed. By November 1914, the dormitory had transferred from its original location in Ermita to the new Normal Hall. The dormitory consisted of well-ventilated sleeping quarters, a large dining room, beautiful reception rooms, and a fine roof garden (16th Annual Report, 1916). In order to add to the ambience of the hall, Governor Forbes donated a BECHSTEIN piano, a grand phonograph as well as

records and historical pictures had to be placed in its Social Hall.

During these times, the Normal Hall was already considered to have a pivotal role not only in the Philippine education system but to the Filipino society as well. Rep. Nieva's words encapsulated the importance of this dormitory: "No other building could have had greater importance and meaning socially to the young womanhood of the Country."

Table 1. Chronology of Events-PNU Normal Hall Centennial 1913-2013

American Period	
1903	Miss Mary Coleman served as 'dean' of dormitory – temporary Philippine Normal Hall located at Ambrosio Flores St. Ermita, Manila.
1907	An extension was added by leasing the neighboring larger three-story bldg. at its right hand side at Ambrosio Flores St. corner Nebraska, to accommodate its increasing number of girls.
1908	Miss Coleman was the 'dean of the hall,' being assisted by Miss Sofia Reyes of Arevalo, Iloilo and former Miss Francisca Tirona of Imus, Cavite, as assistant deans Mrs. Davis, assisted by Ms. Lucas, succeeded Ms. Coleman as dean of dorm.
1910	The enrollment in the dormitory had reached 170 (10 th Annual Report, 1910)
1911 (July 1, 1910-June 30, 1911)	The Normal School dormitory had accommodated 200 girls A new building for dormitory was projected, this also to be reinforced concrete structure, and to be located on Taft Avenue (11 th Annual Report)
March 25, 1911	Governor Gen. William Forbes and Speaker Sergio Osmeña supported Representative G. Nieva of 2 nd District Tayabas and Marinduque to file a bill creating a permanent building dormitory for girls. Secretary Eliot of Public Works conferred with the Philippine Commission regarding the proposal.
1912 (July 1, 1911 – June 30, 1912)	Plans had been completed for the construction of a new girls' dormitory, adjacent to the Normal School building, which will cost Php275,000. (12 th Annual Report, 1912)
1913 (July 1, 1912-June 30, 1913) –Report)	Work had begun on the new girls' dormitory adjacent to the Normal School building. This will cost Php 295,000. (13 th Annual Report, 1913)
1913	The cornerstone of the new girls' dormitory, a splendid three-story concrete building, was laid and construction commenced. William E. Parsons designed the building at a cost of Php 300, 000.

- 1914**
November 1914 Normal Hall was completed
The PNS dormitory was transferred to Normal Hall, a 3-story concrete dormitory built, near the Philippine Normal School, at a cost of Php300,000. It accommodates 260 girls, each of whom pays Php20 per month for food, servants' wages, laundry, light, receptions, and similar expenses. (14th Annual Report, 1914)
- October 1914** The 'new' Normal Hall/dormitory began to receive occupants with 42 well ventilated bedrooms.
- 1915(January 1, 1915- December 31, 1915)** Normal Hall accommodated 250 girls. It contains well-ventilated sleeping quarters, a large dining room, and beautiful reception rooms, living rooms for the dean and the assistant deans, and a fine roof garden. (16th Annual Report, 1916)
- 1916** Mrs. Alma H. Burton served as 'dean' of the Normal Hall. She was assisted by Ms. Rodrigo
- 1916** The Normal School and Normal Hall grounds in Manila were greatly improved by the judicious use of ornamental plants. (17th Annual Report, 1917)
- 1917** By Act No. 2704, the Legislature appropriated the sum of Php15,000 for the filling and leveling of the sites upon which are located the Philippine Normal School, Normal Hall, and the Philippine School of Arts and Trades. This work is practically finished; the grounds are now in a sanitary condition, athletic fields are provided, and the beautification of all the premises made possible. (18th Annual Report, 1918)
- 1918** Red Cross work superseded the regular work of the plain-sewing classes both in the normal school and in the training school. Many of the girls gave three hours of their time on Saturdays to the cutting out of garments for French and for Belgian refugee children.
- The boys gave much of their spare time to the making of tape and to the cutting out of pinafores. Besides making large numbers of Red Cross bandages, the girls of Normal Hall made many garments for refugee children.
- A chorus under the direction of the instructor in music gave a benefit which netted five hundred pesos for the Red Cross. In December the classes in drawing conducted a sale of some of their best productions and gave on half of the proceeds to the Red Cross.
- In 1918, all the pupils and all the teachers in the normal school were members of the Red Cross society. (19th Annual Report, 1919)
- 1920** Ms. Anne O' Malley served as dean of Normal Hall.
1935 Miss Ana Cabrillos served as 'dean' of Normal Hall.

1938 An annex was added to accommodate a total of 304 girls. Other amenities were added to meet the living standards

Japanese Period/World War II

1942 The Normal Hall became a hospice for the wounded when World War II broke out.

Post World War

May 1, 1947 Reopening of Normal Hall to Summer class students after the war and rehabilitation.

1948 first floor level was converted into the offices of the Secretary of Public Information

1950 Normal Hall underwent massive repairs due to the war period.

August 31, 1951 Open House for PNC Normal Hall was held as part of the PNC Golden Jubilee celebration

1952 Two pianos, radio-phonography, music practice room, infirmary rooms, storage room, three first-class bathrooms were added or installed at the Normal Hall

1953 The Arena Theater moved in and rented the use of its living room and other spaces for performances, rehearsal, and speech and dramatic classes.

1958 Ana Cabrillos served as 'directress' of Normal Hall

1960 Herminia V. Hernando served as 'directress' of Normal Hall

June 11, 1965 (8-12 midnight) The Normal Hall was the setting of the induction and acquaintance ball of the Summer Student Government

1967 Miss Beatriz Mejica served as 'directress' of Normal Hall and succeeded Herminia Hernando

Nov. 21, 1970 Typhoon 'Yoling' heavily damaged the 4th floor roofing of Normal Hall

Martial Law Period

September 21-25, 1972 Normal Hall was closed during the proclamation of Martial Law

1974 Miss Clarita Diñoso succeeded Miss Mejica as 'directress' of Normal Hall

1976 Mrs. Herminia Andres succeeded Miss Dinoso as 'directress' of Normal Hall.

1980 Milo, Coke and Johnson's Advertisement were shot partly at the Normal Hall

March 30, 1982 Dr. Edilberto Dagot took oath as the 5th president of the PNC with reception at the Normal Hall

1983 Atty. Lilia Garcia serves as 'manager' of the Normal Hall

Post-Edsa Period

1990s Rooftop is no longer open for reservation and utilization due to earthquake damages

1992 The Normal Hall became subsidized by the government and accommodated PNU students and faculty members only

1992 PNU Hostel was built at the back of Normal Hall

1993 Mrs. Nenita Delfino succeeded Atty. Garcia as 'manager' of PNU Normal Hall

Electric fans were installed at the Normal Hall

1995	The Normal Hall accommodated local and international delegates to the World Youth Day
1998	A position of Director of Auxiliary Services was created to oversee the operations of Normal Hall, Cafeteria and PNU Hostel
1998	Eric Matti's film "Scorpio Nights 2" was filmed partly at PNU Normal Hall
September 1, 1998	PNU launched "Restoration and Renovation Project" of Auditorium and Normal Hall as part of PNU Centennial Program with the help from Alumni Association
21st Century	
Sept. 01, 2001	Open House of PNU Normal Hall during PNU Centennial Celebration
2001	The Normal Hall's Ayala Wing was sublet and renovated to accommodate Teachers Network Resource Center (TNRC), a PNU-Ford Foundation Project that provided learning resources and networking support for teachers nationwide.
2006	Television set was installed at the Normal Hall during the term of Atty. Barbo's presidency.
2009	First unit of personal computer was installed at the Normal Hall.
September 26, 2009	The Normal Hall was submerged to flood during the height of typhoon Ondoy.
2010	Canteen was opened to concessionaires for operations
2011	Laundry Shop was set up for operations, vending machine for napkins was installed
August 2013	PNU – Geografika celebrates the centennial of the Normal Hall

2. Describing the function of the PNU Normal Hall beacon of character molding of future educators in terms of:

a. *Activities and social functions, trainings and professional sessions*

The PNU – Normal Hall has developed a reputation of beacon of social training before its inception. Based on the testament of Representative Nieva (1911), Gen. Forbes initiated in inviting the girls to the social affairs at the Malacañang Palace, in groups of six, twelve, and more, thus to give them all a fair chance to be in social functions like luncheons, dinner, dances and other social affairs at the palace. The focus of the dormitory to train the girls' socialization skills could be attributed to the need for them to be independent and self-reliant brought about by the changes in the educational landscape. During this era, girls were given a more equal role in the society than during the Spanish period (Torres, 2010).

Based on the records of Umali (1914), Balagot (1916), and De Luna (1916) it was in the Normal Hall as it officially opened for residence in 1914 that it began to be a ground in honing the girls social graces through the regular activities like the annual Rizal Day Parade, Foundation Day open house, Valentine's Day party, kick-off parties, Christmas parties opening of school year get together, Junior-Senior Dance, tea parties and entertainment days wherein visitors and friends were welcomed at the Normal Hall. In 1918, Normal Hall residents volunteered their free time to help the Red Cross in cutting garments for French and Belgian refugees (19th Annual Reports, 1919).

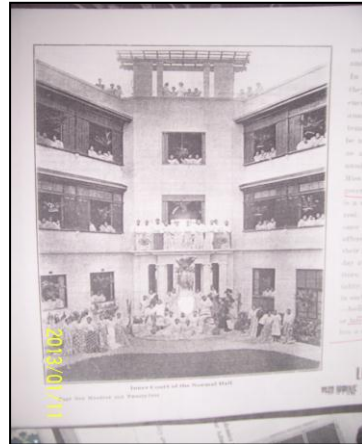


Plate No. 2

Photo session of dorm residents in 1916.
 Source: Jose Balagot. *Torchlight* 1916

According to Prof. Noemi Zulieta, former University Registrar and dorm resident, it has been a tradition since time immemorial that once or twice a year that the normal hall administration hold professional sessions on social graces and personality development, fire and earthquake drills since there was an incidence of fire in the immediate community (TUP). These professional sessions have greatly contributed in training the girls especially from the provinces in adjusting to the life in the city and the rigors of academe.



Plate No. 3

Picture of Rigodon de Honor,
 annual student activity in 1910s
 (Source: *Torchlight*, 1916)

According to Umali (1914) Mrs. Alma Burton, the dean of Normal Hall then gave a series of lecture after dinner. Topics would range from table manners and proper decorum on parties.

Not to be left out was the faith and religious life of the dorm

residents. Umali (1914) narrated that a certain Father Finegan, a Jesuit priest met with the girls every Wednesday evening after supper to discuss catechist lessons.

The girls were also exposed to a lot of transient visitors. According to Mrs. Nenita Delfino, the present manager, visitors like participants in the annual Aliwan Festival every summer, participants from the 1995 International World Youth Day have greatly influenced the social skills of the dorm residents. At present, the residents maintain an organization for the benefit of the students. This is in line with the assumption of Decoster and Riker (2008) that dormitories have the functions of developing the interpersonal environment of its residents and allowing various opportunities for individual growth and development.

b. Leadership Styles of Administrators

A strong factor that led to the successful operation of the Normal Hall was the unique 'touch' and style of administrators past and present. Even the designation of dorm administrators has evolved from "dean", "directress" to "manager."

According to De Veyra (1913) in her article for the Torchlight Annual of graduating class, she admired the social qualities of Miss Coleman who served as a dean of dormitory from 1903 to 1908. She initiated activities in the dormitory like the regular tea-parties to which the girls could invite their friends, open house to visitors for inspection, and the Annual Senior Dance. The policies of Miss Coleman in the dormitory brought "*this Americanized girls' institution gain social recognition and respect of the conservative public*" (Torres, 2010).

A certain Mrs. Davis succeeded Miss Coleman as dean of the dormitory when the latter returned to the United States in 1908. According to De Veyra (1913), Mrs. Davis introduced some innovations like the training of hostesses: wherein every week the dean chose two girls to act as hostesses either at breakfast or at luncheon on Saturdays. The hostesses were responsible for everything from the menu to make the breakfast or lunch pleasant. The dormitory girls served as visitors. Mrs. Davis later gave feedbacks

regarding the successes or failures of breakfast or luncheon.

In an article written by Mercedes L. Umali entitled "Dormitory Life" (1914), a certain Mrs. Alma H. Burton served as dean of the dormitory from 1916 to 1920. Mrs. Burton made sure to enforce dorm rules like the use of English as the only means of communication, asking permission from the dean when one wished to go out of the dorm, no bringing of food in the bedrooms, good housekeeping, proper time of meals, study session and lights out at night. After supper Mrs. Alma Burton usually gives a sermon about manners at the table, proper way of using knives and forks and proper decorum in front of visitors. The girls were not threatened by dorm rules and regulations and fined for violations since they believed in the system as part of their character refinement.

The very first local/Filipina to serve as dean and later the first directress of the normal hall was Miss Ana Cabrillos who was also an alumna and former dorm resident. As a 'home grown' talent, Miss Cabrillos had one of the longest tenure as dorm administrator from 1935 to 1960. According to Atty. Garcia, former directress and PNU President, Ms. Cabrillos was a very humble, simple and petite woman who belongs to the old school or a strict and conservative manager.

Prof. Herminia Hernandez-Andres served twice as directress of normal hall from 1960-1963 and from 1976-1983. She succeeded Miss Cabrillos who retired in 1960, and Dr. Clarita Diñoso in 1976. According to an interview conducted with Mrs. Estrella C. Macaraya and Mrs. Enguerra, Prof. Andres is soft-spoken, lenient, and "motherly-type." But she made sure that the dorm girls looked presentable when they are at the lobby and in dining area. She also served as resident guidance counselor who discouraged the girls from being 'gigly.'

From 1963-1974, Miss Beatriz Mejica served as Normal Hall directress. According to Mrs. Enguerra, Miss Mejica personally did the rounds in checking the dorm residents at night and in the morning.

Based on the recollection of Mrs. Macaraya and Ms. Teresita Santiago, who served as normal hall staff from 1976-1987, it is perhaps Dr. Clarita Diñoso who served for two years (1974-1976) as

the strictest and the most disciplinarian among the administrators. Because of the “no washing of clothes policy,” laundry women from Paco fetched the soiled clothings on Fridays and were delivered on Mondays.

Atty. Lilia Garcia, the former PNU president, also served as the first manager of the Normal Hall from 1983-1993. It was during her term as manager when the Normal Hall became subsidized by the government thus, the hall catered to PNU students only. According to Mrs. Estrella C. Macaraya, Atty. Garcia is perhaps the most ‘liberal’ and gave more ‘freedom’ to the dorm residents like allowing the washing of underwear at the dorm.

Since 1993, Mrs. Nenita Delfino has served as normal hall manager upon the promotion of Atty. Garcia as Vice President for administration during the Salandanan term as president. She is under the supervision of Dr. Glenda de Lara, the director of PNU Auxiliary Services. Mrs. Delfino is presently assisted by Mrs. Frances Enguerra. According to Prof. Noemi Zulieta, a former resident guidance counselor, Mrs. Delfino has mellowed a lot from being strict and disciplinarian. In 2011, the PNU Laundry Shopis established to cater the needs of the residents in washing their clothes.

The rules and guidelines set by the different heads of the Normal Hall are part of the functions of a dormitory. These guidelines provide structure for compatible and cooperative community living (Decoster and Rike, 2008).

Table 2. Chronology of PNU Normal Hall Administrators

Year	Administrators	Designation
1903	Miss Coleman	Dean of Dormitory
1907	Miss Coleman	Dean of Dormitory
	Miss Sofia Reyes	Assistant Dean
	Miss Lytton	Assistant Dean
1908	Mrs. Davies	Dean of Dormitory
1916	Alma H. Burton	Dean of Normal Hall
1920	Miss Anne O’ Molley	Dean of Normal Hall
1935-1958	Miss Ana Cabrillos	Dean of Normal Hall
1958-1960	Miss Ana Cabrillos	Directress of Normal Hall
1960-1963	Herminia V. Hernando	Directress of Normal Hall
1963-1974	Ms. Beatriz Mejica	Directress of Normal Hall
1974-1976	Prof. Clarita Diñoso	Directress of Normal Hall

1976-1983	Prof. Herminia Andres (former H.V. Hernando)	Directress of Normal Hall
1983-1993	Atty. Lilia S. Garcia	Manager of Normal Hall
1993-present	Mrs. Nenita Delfino	Manager of Normal Hall

c. *Illustrious Normal Hall occupants/alumni*

The following are a few of the names of girls from the Normal Hall who became illustrious alumni of PSC-PNC-PNU. These women have occupied leading positions in the society past and present; Miss Aurora Aragon who later became wife of former President Manuel L. Quezon; Miss Josefa Edralin, who later became the wife of batchmate and mother to the former president Ferdinand E. Marcos; Genoveva Edroza-Matute, who later became a famous writer-Palanca Awardee, and educator at PNC; Magnolia Antonino, a former senator of the Republic from 1968 to 1972. She graduated from PNS in 1934; Miss Sofia Reyes, who later became the wife of Jaime C. de Veyra – a resident Commissioner to the US who toured America to lecture on about the Philippines; Miss Francisco Tirona, who later married a fellow PNS graduate – Conrado Benitez, founder of Philippine Women's University; Miss Rosita Nieva, who served as secretary to Mrs. Dickinson, the wife of ex-Secretary of War of the US; Miss Purificacion Morente, who later married fellow PNS graduate and Philippine Senator Hon. Esteban Abada; Miss Rosario Montenegro, who became the wife of War Damage Commissioner; Miss Consuelo Dancel, who became the wife of retired Judge of Court of First Instance Candelario Borja; Miss Pacita Marquez, who became professor of English of English at UP, an accomplished writer and wife of Dean Francisco Benitez; Miss Ana Cabrillos who later became the dean and directress of Normal Hall; Dr. Dalisay Brawner, the former dean of College of Education and president of Marikina Technical Institute; Dr. Marivic V. Diaz who later became the dean of College of Sciences; Dr. Gina Gonong, presently serving as faculty at the Department of Humanities; Prof. Noemi Zulieta, who later became the resident guidance counselor of the Normal Hall and later served as University Registrar; Mrs. Nenita Delfino, batch 1974 and presently serving as Normal Hall Dorm Manager since 1993. Dr. Adelaida Gines, who is presently serving as VP for Academics; Miss Carmencita Gabilo, batch 1985 now a principal of Batanes General Comprehensive High School; Prof. Rosana Diana, now serving as faculty at the Department of

Physical Education; and, Prof. Glinore Santiago-Morales, a faculty at the Department of Humanities.

3. Problems and Structural Challenges experienced by the PNU Normal Hall Building

a. Typhoon 'Yoling', 'Ondoy' and Habagat Floods

Being a tropical country, the Philippines has been regularly visited by seasonal monsoons and typhoons. In an interview conducted with Mrs. Nenita Delfino, presently serving as manager of Normal Hall, typhoon Yoling (Nov. 21, 1970) made a strong impact in destroying the roofing that later were requested for repairs from DPWH.



Plate No.4
Dilapidated roofing at the 4th floor.
It was destroyed by Typhoon
Yoling in 1970.

The researchers personally experienced the destructive floods caused by Ondoy (Sept. 26, 2009), which destroyed the Normal Hall's appliances and furniture like the piano, which was submerged in the flood.

b. Conforming to the country's current structural code

According to a report intended for the AACCU Accreditation in 2011, the building was in a sorry state that needs serious repairs. The report cited the study conducted by then honorable Undersecretary Raul C. Asis of DPWH which showed the Normal Hall as one of the twenty-nine (29) old buildings of PNU that failed to comply with the country's current structural code.



Plate No.5
Caracks at the rooftop caused by
time, rains and earthquakes

Due to aging, the building's weakened beam began to expose corroded bars on the 3rd floor, what used to be a venue parties and functions being

reserved by schools and organizations in the city, according to Mrs. Delfino (the manager), the rooftop is now closed for use since the time of Atty. Lilia Garcia's term as manager. Multiple cracks on the deck roof slab was aggravated by the strong earthquake in July 1990 which measured 7.7 magnitude on the Richer scale.

Another problem that was noticed by the researchers is the basement now being filled by soil or earth. This could be a case of subsidence or the continuous fall of the ground due to the vacuum or space being created in the ground.

c. Massive urbanization and pollutions

Due to the massive urbanization which started in the 1930s a lot of edifices were built. According to the accreditation report (2011), the normal hall being located in the heart of the city, is exposed to all types of pollution; air pollution from vehicles; water pollution from the unsanitary creek, and every noise pollution from city dwellers and vehicles. These pollutions contribute to the rapid deterioration of the building's aesthetics and structure.



Plate No. 6
Evident cracks in the stairs.



Plate No.7
Water pollution and garbage floating at creek (right side of normal hall)

4. The Development Plans of the Present Administration for the Maintenance and Preservation of Normal Hall

The much needed data and information for the maintenance, repair and preservation of Normal Hall were generously provided by Dr. Rebecca C. Nueva España, Vice President for Administration,

Finance and Development, Prof. Nelson Gracia, Director, Physical Plant and Campus Development, Ms. Estrella Macaraya, Chief of Civil Security.

a. Maintenance and Repair/ Preservation

The repair/renovation of Normal Hall is the priority of the capital outlay projects of the present administration of the University. The first option involves the reconstruction of defective roof deck slab using steel decking and waterproofing of the PNU Hall. Secondly, the construction of new steel trusses and G.I. sheet roofing in lieu of the existing roofdeck slab. In both options, there would be repairing works, waterproofing and concrete topping.

b. Security

To ensure the safety of the residents in the Normal Hall, Ms. Estrella Macaraya mentioned the task of the security officers like: maintaining the records of the incoming and outgoing borders; enforcing the Dormitory House Rules and report violation to the Manager thru the Security Officers; checking the clearance of checking out boarders or disallow otherwise, conducting inspection around the area of responsibility.

The plan of the administration of Philippine Normal University to improve the facilities of the dormitory is also part of the functions of a dormitory: provision of a satisfactory physical environment and the adequate care and maintenance of the physical facilities (Decoster and Riker, 2008).

Table 3. The Development Plans of PNU Administration for the Normal Hall

Reconstruction of Defective Roofdeck Slab Using Steel Decking and Waterproofing	Construction of New Steel Trusses and G.I. Sheet Roofing in Lieu Existing Roofdeck Slab	Security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilization/Demolition -Demolition, hauling and disposal of debris -Reconstruction of defective slab using steel decking -waterproofing and concrete topping -Repainting works -Finishes -Replacement of doors and installation of new aluminum, framed windows/provision of lockers -Repair of toilets and repiping works -Rehabilitation of electrical system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mobilization/Demolition -Demolition, hauling and disposal of debris -Concrete works -New trusses and Roofing works -Repainting works -Finishes -Replacement of doors and installation of new aluminum, framed windows/provision of lockers -Repair of toilets and repiping works Rehabilitation of electrical system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintains the records of incoming and outgoing borders -Enforces the Dormitory house rules and report violation to the Manager through the Security Officers -Checks the clearance of checking out boarders and disallow if no clearances -Conducts inspection around the area of responsibilities

Source: Interview with Mr. Nelson Garcia, then Head of Physical Plant and Campus Development (PPCD)

CONCLUSIONS

1. Built in 1913, the PNU Normal Hall Dormitory is now an icon in the cultural landscape for the past 100 years. Ever since it has been appreciated for its architectural design, robust structure and historical relevance.
2. The PNU Normal Hall Dormitory is a living testament to its colorful history and responsibility in character building and social training of residents, as evidenced by illustrious alumni.
3. Though it had withstood structural challenges for the past 10 decades, the building is not free from hazards like fire, typhoons,

earthquakes/seismic activities, and deterioration aggravated by pollutions.

4. The development plan of the PNU Administration on the iconic building will enable it to be functional in the coming years for future students-dorm residents as quality teachers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The researchers recommend that a historical landmark in Normal Hall be installed to commemorate the significance of this building in teacher formation for the past 100 years. Also, further research be done to look into the role of the Normal Hall in actualizing of the imperialistic aims of the American regime to “Americanize” Filipinos.
2. Revisit the character building program of the Normal Hall Dormitory as its offering to the residents. The evaluation of the program should focus on whether it answers the needs of the students based on the changing educational landscape in the Philippines. Likewise, evaluate the leadership of the Dorm Manager by the various stakeholders to update or improve the program offering.
3. Repairs on the damaged parts of the dormitory be done with utmost urgency to preserve its beauty and prevent further accidents.
4. It is high time that the over-all development plan of the Normal Hall be implemented. Necessarily, this historical landmark of national significance needs to be preserved for teachers formation.

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4. Mrs. Florencia Enguera – presently serving as staff
5. Mrs. Estrella Macaraya – head of the security units, once assigned at the PNU-Normal Hall
6. Prof. Noemi Zulieta- former resident counsellor
7. Dr. Glenda de Lara – presently serving as director of Auxiliary Services
8. Dr. Rebecca Nueva-España – presently serving as Vice-President for administration
9. Prof. Nelson Garcia – former director for Physical Plant and Campus Development

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