

The Woodward High School of today is the outgrowth of a glorious history. It is an old institution and its development through the years has been marked by four distinct architectural changes. The first Woodward building, completed in October, 1851, was a modest two-story brick edifice with two rooms on each floor. It was very plain and unpretentious, without any particular architectural design. It had a belfry which contained a bell, now one of our priceless treasures from the past. The honor of ringing this bell is reserved for the oldest graduate present at the Founder's Day program each year. In 1841, ten years later, a third story was added, in which were laboratories and class rooms. An attic room was used by the boys for their debating society. For the first time, girls were admitted to the school, and they occupied a separate room.

For fourteen years this building stood—a monument to education. Then, in 1855, a new building south and west of the old school was begun. This new school was the first to be built under the auspices of the Union Board of High Schools. The new Woodward was as beautiful and artistic in design as the old had been plain. The old building was ordered demolished when the new was completed and was torn down during the Christmas holidays of 1855. The new building had four entrances, spacious halls, and eight rooms. The north and south halls on the second floor were used as a library and laboratory respectively. On the third floor was the Assembly Hall. Some time later a three-story, one-room deep addition was built on the south, making fifteen rooms in addition to the halls. About 1890, a gymnasium in the form of a separate building was added.

For more than fifty years this beautiful building of 1855 continued its service and usefulness. Then came another Woodward—the Woodward we know and love. It was the building of 1910, much greater than any other. The cornerstone was laid in November, 1908, and President-elect William Howard Taft, '74, was the principal speaker on that memorable occasion. On the twenty-fourth of October, 1910, this building was solemnly dedicated to its sacred mission. Exercises were held and an "All Woodward" program was written and presented by graduates and students. For thirty-five years this building has stood, a new Woodward in form, but still the Old Woodward in tradition.

The only physical change of recent years has been the removal of Woodward's beautiful iron fence. During the early years of the present war, when the need for iron was very great, Woodward donated its fence to the war effort. This was done willingly but sorrowfully—a necessary sacrifice.

We, the graduating class of nineteen hundred and forty-five, know and love the Woodward of today. We have been the recipients of all she had to offer. We are grateful that it has been our good fortune to secure a part of our education in a school so steeped in sacred tradition. May we ever be worthy of our beloved alma mater.