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Inside Back Cover: Bridgewater State College's First Dorm

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Constructed in 1869, Normal Hall the first Normal School dormitory was a wooden structure forty by eighty feet, situated above a basement that contained the cellar, boiler-room, storage room, and a laundry area divided into washing, ironing, drying and linen rooms. The first floor included the family rooms, a library, sitting room, bed room and bathroom, the parlor, dining room, and cooking room. The remaining floors were divided into twenty-nine student rooms, whose dimensions were ten by fifteen feet and rooms for employees who worked in the dormitory. Each room contained two closets and was supplied with furniture and heated by steam. Students were expected to provide their own bed linen and towels. The principal and his family also moved into the building and there was a wing for male students meaning that the original Normal Hall was co-ed, although mingling between the sexes was strictly forbidden. Women were charged $3.75 for rent, fuel, light, washing and board. Men who lived in the hall paid $4 a week while those who lived in town could eat in the dining room for $2.87.

—Thomas Turner.