



Western Kentucky University UA1C2 WKU Archives Building & Structures Subseries 58 Pearce-Ford Tower Photos



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Administrative History: Artificial collection created by WKU Archives to group Pearce-Ford Tower images together. The majority of the photos are from WKU sources, but some donated by individuals.

Other Names - Men's Dormitory #10

Date Built - opened 1970

Cost of Construction - \$4.3 million

Size - 246'7", 180,400 square feet

Architects - Ryan Associated Architects

Namesakes:

William Pearce served as Ogden College president from 1913 to 1920 when he resigned to become the director of WKU's Department of Extension and Correspondence. He held this position until his retirement in 1959. Pearce was WKU president Kelly Thompson's father-in-law.

M.C. Ford (1888-1940) attended Hartford College before enrolling in Western in 1909. He joined the faculty at WKU in 1913, teaching science and agriculture and becoming the chair of Agriculture and Natural Sciences. Ford obtained his PhD from the University of Wisconsin and served Western until his untimely death in 1940.

History:

The 27 story men's dormitory opened in the fall of 1970 and accommodated 920 residents. At the time, it was the tallest building in Southern Kentucky at 246 feet, 7 inches. Pearce Ford Tower is 180,400 square feet and has apartments for a dorm director and two assistants. During 1993-94 the first ten floors were reopened before renovations were completed due to an unexpected increase in the number of incoming freshman.

Additions:

1988 - repaired flaking bricks

1993-1994 - \$200,000 renovations

2007 - \$9.5 million lobby, first and second floor renovations and new fire alarm system and lighting; 3000 square foot convenience store and restaurant.

2008 - creation of Learning and Living Communities

Tower Dormitory for Western Men Opens Next Fall, Press Release 9/17/1970:

It is now under construction near the South end of the Western campus by Allen and O'Hara Inc. of Memphis, Tenn. The \$4.3 million air-conditioned structure will contain 180,400 square feet of enclosed space and accommodations for 920 men students. Apartments for dorm directors, study lounges, a lobby, and other facilities are also included.

Pearce-Ford Tower, the 17th residence hall on the Western campus, outstretches the 23-story twin dormitories on the University of Kentucky campus – Blanding Tower and Kirwan Tower. Bowling Green's tallest building at present is Western Towers, 15-story dormitories located off campus and owned privately.

W.M. Pearce served as Director of the Department of Extension and Correspondence at Western from 1920 until he retired in 1959. He also served as advisor and unofficial aid to two Western presidents, Dr. H.H. Cherry and Dr. Paul L. Garrett.

Dr. M.C. Ford was a member of the Western faculty from 1913 until 1940. He was head of the Department of Agriculture for his last 22 years at Western. He also acted as advisor to Dr. Cherry and Dr. Garrett.

Description: Images of Pearce-Ford Tower.

Dates: 1971-present

Extent: 3 folders, 3 negatives

Subject Analytics:

Dormitories

Housing & Residence Life (WKU)

Pearce-Ford Tower (WKU)

Residential facilities

Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Architecture

Photography

Accession Information: These records transferred to WKU Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials:

Images with [UA1C2/58 prefix](#)

[UA12/5 Housing & Residence Life](#)

[UA30/1/2 Planning, Design & Construction Building File](#)

Preferred Citation: UA1C2/58 Pearce-Ford Tower Photos, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory 2019.

Finding Aid Report

03/04/2019

UA1C2.58	Print, Photographic	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA1C2
Title	UA1C WKU Archives Photograph Collection	
Collection	Series 2 Buildings & Structures	
Scope & Content	Subseries 58 Pearce-Ford Tower Photos	
	WKU Archives	
	Images of Pearce-Ford Tower.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
NC	N5375-N5377	WKU Archives		Pearce-Ford Tower Subjects Negatives
PC	F1336-F1338	WKU Archives		Pearce-Ford Tower Subjects Slides Construction Architectural photographs