2019

UA1C2/67 Red Barn Photos

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WKU Archives
1906 College Heights Blvd.#11092
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092
Phone: 270-745-4793
Email: archives@wku.edu
Home page: https://wku.edu/library/archive
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Administrative History: Artificial collection created by WKU Archives to group Red Barn images together. The majority of the photos are from WKU sources, but some donated by individuals.

Other Names - Big Red Barn
Built - 1920
Razed - ca. 1930
Cost of Construction - unknown

On December 30, 1919, the Board of Regents authorized "the erection of a temporary gymnasium building form the student fund, and also the purchase of physical education equipment."

Letter re: building specifications for temporary gymnasium

In his November 18, 1920 report to the Board of Regents, H.H. Cherry stated:

"The temporary Gymnasium was constructed largely with student help. Some of this help when regularly employed in summer vacations and at other times, is paid for out of funds derived from the student fund. The same thing is true with the carpenters employed. This building has a splendid Gymnasium floor and will be a success except in very cold weather. We believe, however, it will be necessary to put wall board on the inside in order to make it usable during the winter. We have decided to install two large stoves in the Gymnasium and not attempt putting in a heating plant with baths and hot water as was originally planned . . ."

In Earl Ruby's Red Towel Territory, he describes the "Little Red Barn" as having "rafters running across, hardly 18 feet above the floor" and seating 250 spectators. In the fall of 1920, the structure was first used for six weeks to house 40 male and female students until housing could be arranged. Several descriptions of men's and women's (college & Training School) basketball games state they were played in the "Teachers College gymnasium" [particularly in College Heights Herald, Feb. 26, 1925].

Harrison's Western Kentucky University and several descriptions of games after the completion of the Training School building in 1925 refer to Western games being played in the "Training School gym" or the "College High gym."
The February 1930 College Heights Herald, in describing the need for the new gymnasium stated: "Since the building of the Training School, the gymnasium did not have seating capacity for more than one-fourth of the people who attend the basketball games." Yet, I did find reference to a February 1926 women's game in the Teachers College gymnasium.

Several photographs and references indicate the title "No Man's Inn" [my theory is the sign posted late 1920s – but I'm still working on my evidence]. Thus, simply stated, a December 7, 1963, news clipping's statement that "Western played nine seasons in the original 'Barn' and the next 33 in the Physical Education Building . . ." is inaccurate.

. . . the "Pedagogues"/"Teachers"/"Hilltoppers" season from 1921-1922 through 1930-31 were usually played January through March (the coldest months of our year – thus moving to the Training School gym whenever possible makes sense).

Dedication ceremonies for the Health and Physical Education Building’s new basketball facility occurred February 9, 1931.

--Red Barn notes compiled by Sue Lynn Stone, March 24, 1999

**Description:** Images of the Red Barn.

**Dates:** 1920-ca. 1930

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Subject Analytics:**
- Athletics (WKU)
- Gymnasiums
- Red Barn (WKU)
- Western Kentucky University

**Digital Commons:**
- Architecture
- Sports Studies
- Photography

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

**Access Restrictions:** none

**Allied Materials:**
Images with [UA1C2/67 prefix](#)
[UA1C5/2 WKU Basketball Photo Collection](#)
[UA1C5/2 WKU Womens Basketball Collection](#)
[UA19 Athletics](#)

**Preferred Citation:** UA1C2/67 Red Barn Photos, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

**Processing Information:** Records processed and collection inventory created 2019.
## UA1C2.67

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### Title

**UA1C WKU Archives Photograph Collection**

**Series 2 Buildings & Structures**

**Subseries 67 Red Barn Photos**

### Scope & Content

WKU Archives

Images of the Red Barn.

### Container List

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