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### Social Science Building Renovations

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MORRIS (2/20/76)-- Renovations begun last June on the Social Science Building at the University of Minnesota, Morris are nearly complete, UMM Plant Services Director Harold Fahl said today.

All that remains to be done is some exterior work, which includes painting and landscaping.

The building is the sixth oldest on campus. Constructed in 1920 as an agricultural classroom building for the West Central Agricultural School, it has undergone no major renovations prior to the recent remodeling since 1945 when the north wing was added.

Renovations range from new doors, doorframes, chalkboards and acoustical treatment in classrooms to the newly remodeled "Cow Palace," which was once an arena for showing animals and is now a modern auditorium complete with projection booth.

The building is now able to accommodate groups ranging in size from six to 180 persons. Stairtowers and an elevator on the southeast side of the building help provide proper safety exits in addition to providing better service for handicapped students.

Other renovations made with the handicapped in mind include sidewalks to the lower level of the south entrance of the auditorium which provide wheelchair students with easier access.

A political science simulation lab, with two-way mirrors and a control room, has been completed on the second floor as have several seminar rooms designed to accommodate small groups.

A lobby with vending machines and new restrooms also has been added.

"Total project costs," according to Fahl, "are approximately \$390,000.

"We've received a lot of comments about the design, particularly of the stairtowers," said Fahl. "Since it would have been extremely difficult to match the brick of the building, we decided to go with materials and design elements that would complement those used on some of the newer buildings.

"The renovations which were to be completed by Mid-November were held up by a strike and slow delivery of materials," he added. "Although the building interior was ready for use by the opening of Winter Quarter, exterior painting and landscaping are not expected to be complete until May or June."

-UMM-

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