

From Fort Hospital to Forsyth Library



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
FORSYTH LIBRARY

Forward thinking. World ready.

First Day of School in June 1902

Western Branch of the
State Normal School

The library was housed
in the old fort hospital
building.

It housed 702 volumes.



Administration Building

When the Administration Building (Picken Hall) was built in 1904, the library was moved from the old fort to the new building.

The library remained there until 1916.



Gymnasium

In 1916, the library was moved to the Gymnasium (now Martin Allen Hall.)

The library moved again in 1918.



Picken Hall

Library was moved back to Picken Hall in 1918 where it remained until the new library building was built in 1926.

Students studied among museum artifacts.



Forsyth Library

Legislative appropriation of \$150,000 was made in 1925

Cornerstone laying ceremony – no specific date, but it most likely was in the fall of 1925

The new building opened in the summer of 1926

14,000 volumes, over 2,000 government materials and a western history library were moved in August 1926



Forsyth Library

Named after General George A. Forsyth, an Army officer stationed at old Fort Hays.

The building it occupied is currently McCartney Hall.



Forsyth Library 1926-1967

In 1960, President Cunningham recommended that a new library building be built.

The 1964 State Legislature authorized funds.

Construction started in the fall of 1965 on the new building located directly south of the old library.



Forsyth Library 1967-2016

When the library was built in 1967, it had two finished floors, an unfinished basement and the capacity to build a third floor.

The basement was completed in 1974.

The library has gone through many changes since 1967 including:

- Card catalog to online catalog
- Print materials slowly being taken over by electronic resources
- Typewriters to computers



One thing that has not changed is our service to the students and faculty of FHSU!

