

THOMAS LODGING HOUSE

After enrolling the first pupils in November 1880, Rev. Thomas B. Berry moved the school into a private dwelling known as the Thomas Lodging House, where classes and student lodging were provided during the school's earliest months.

According to historical markers in Sioux Falls, the Thomas Lodging House was located on the east side of Main Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets in downtown Sioux Falls. The site is now across from the present-day Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science.

To support the new school, a local committee solicited funds and raised approximately \$200 to pay the rent for the building. The lodging house therefore served as the school's first classroom and residence while efforts were underway to obtain territorial funding and construct a permanent school facility.

In early 1881, the Dakota Territorial Legislature approved financial support for the school and appropriated funds for the construction of a permanent building.

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