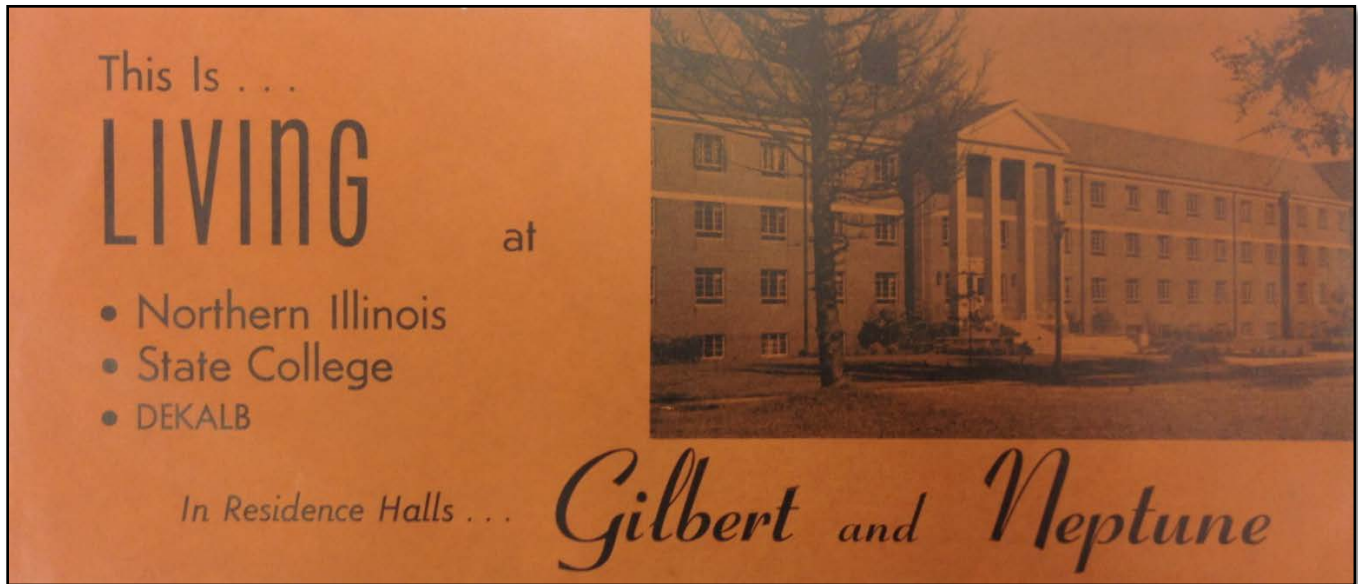
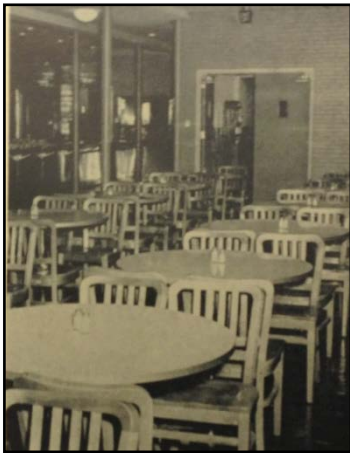


# Gilbert Hall History



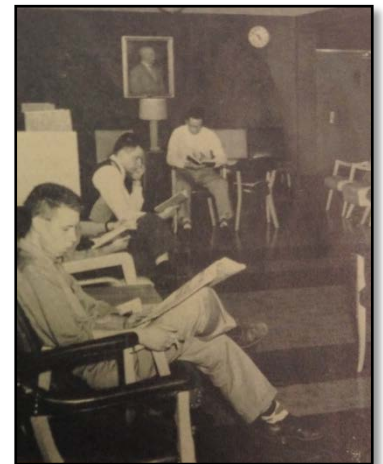
Gilbert Hall, named after Newell D. Gilbert, the first dean of Northern Illinois University, opened in October 1951 and was dedicated May 18, 1952, at an initial cost of \$1 million. The residence hall, which initially housed 374 men under “conditions of economical yet comfortable and wholesome living,” was transitioned into an all-female residence hall in 1969, and then became a co-educational residential facility in the 1970s. When the renovation of two academic buildings in close proximity to Gilbert resulted in the need for office space in 1995, Gilbert was decommissioned as a residential facility. At the time of its closing, Gilbert housed approximately 297 students on three floors with 184 double rooms and a dining facility with a full kitchen and seating for approximately 160 students. Each residential floor had one laundry facility and two bathroom/shower rooms per floor.



Prior to the renovation, Gilbert Hall provided space for a small number of offices, but stood largely vacant. The mechanical systems and fixtures dated back to 1952; the building was not insulated, was not ADA compliant and did not have a sprinkler system. The building’s roof and exterior were in need of major replacement and repair.

The “new” Gilbert Hall provides on-campus living for upperclassmen on the east campus. While other residence halls are located on the west and center of campus, Gilbert Hall allows students to live in close proximity to classroom buildings and academic buildings that house music, visual arts, physical education, engineering, and business in addition to being close to downtown DeKalb. The Gilbert Hall restoration echoes its original charge of “economical yet comfortable living” while meeting the demands of today’s college students. These expectations include privacy, particularly in the bathroom and shower areas; easy access to technology and internet both in personal and public spaces; comfortable, contemporary décor; movable and versatile furnishings; and social gathering spaces that include a grab-and-go dining facility designed in the “cyber café” style.

The Gilbert Hall renovation project restored approximately 75,000 gross square feet of space and resulted in a variety of residential and programmatic spaces that will support the initiatives and mission of NIU’s Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. The renovation created a well-suited living and learning environment for NIU students and a positive work environment for the staff members who provide support.

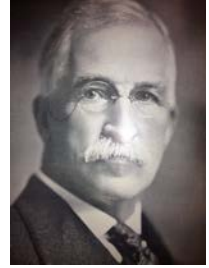


# Gilbert Hall Fact Sheet

OFFICIAL BUILDING NAME: Newell D. Gilbert Hall

NAMESAKE: Newell D. Gilbert (1854-1924), NIU's first dean

ORIGINAL BUILDING NAME: Newell D. Gilbert Residence Hall for Men



DESCRIPTION: The first-ever men's residence hall at NIU, Gilbert Hall was built in 1951 to accommodate the increase in male students, due mainly to the GI Bill. Before Gilbert was built, overcrowding forced male students to live in Still Gym and the unused top floor of the science building, Davis Hall, where students slept in cots and bunk beds.



*Newell D. Gilbert Residence Hall for Men circa 1952 from University Library Regional Archives*

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: Schaeffer, Hooten & Wilson (Bloomington, Ill.)

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Federal Constructors (Chicago)

GROUNDBREAKING: July 21, 1950

CONSTRUCTED: October, 1951

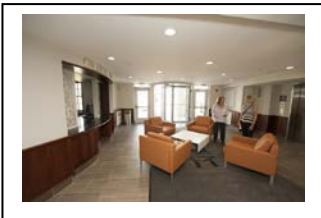
DEDICATED: May 18, 1952

ORIGINAL COST: \$1,084,752.76

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Self-liquidating bond financing made possible through legislation enacted by Illinois' 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



## RENOVATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION:



The first major renovation since the facility was constructed involved the complete abatement of asbestos-containing materials; a complete retrofit of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; student room refurbishment; upgraded meeting spaces; as well as hall council, directors', safety officer, and community advisors' offices. The east and west lobby areas were completely redesigned to include a reception desk on the second floor and the East Side Café on the first floor. Community bathrooms were fully modernized and provide individual toilet and shower rooms. Safety, security, and ADA compliance improvements were implemented, including an elevator. Yesterday's cafeteria has been transformed into a contemporary full service dining/lounge area including a grill and café offering Starbucks products and grab-and-go service. The dining room is furnished with a baby grand piano for use by residents and others for special events. During good weather, dining space is available on two terraces outfitted with outdoor amenities.

The exterior surfaces were restored respecting the building's historical significance and architecture. All new windows were installed and the original roof was replaced with a new slate roof. The building has been fully fitted with fire-suppression systems and is air conditioned, with temperature controls in every residential room. The Gilbert Hall renovation included significant upgrades in broadband connectivity for voice/data and video for every resident, and wireless technology is provided throughout the facility.

Wood paneling, granite, carpeting and porcelain tile are used as finishes throughout the facility. Energy-efficient and low-maintenance LED lighting was installed throughout the facility.

Each residential floor has four lounges; one fireplace lounge, one TV lounge and two quiet lounges.

A completely new kitchen fully outfitted with high-end equipment, along with walk-in cooler and freezer and all new serving stations, have been provided.

The loading dock was redesigned and reconstructed to provide easier and safer access for deliveries given the high traffic volume and close proximity of both Gilbert Drive and Lucinda Avenue.

Safety and security were enhanced with security cameras throughout the residence hall. Each residential room requires both a proximity card and personal code to enter.

The facility also contains a fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment for use by residents

## RENOVATION TIMELINE:

Design started in May 2011, the project was bid in March 2012 and construction commenced in April 2012. The renovation was substantially complete by August 2013.

## RENOVATION COST:

Approximately \$22.3 million

## SOURCE OF FUNDING

Build America Bonds



#### RENOVATION DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TEAMS:



Architect: Cordogan Clark Associates  
 Engineer: Cordogan Clark Associates  
 General Contractor: EVS Construction, Inc.  
 Electrical Contractor: Associated Electrical  
 Mechanical Contractor: Commercial Mechanical, Inc.  
 Ventilation Contractor: DeKalb Mechanical, Inc.  
 Fire Protection: Automatic Fire Systems  
 Plumber: Action Plumbing

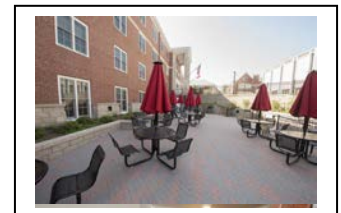
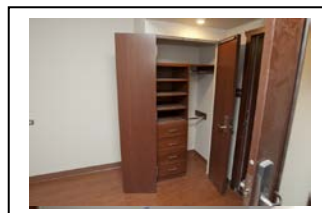
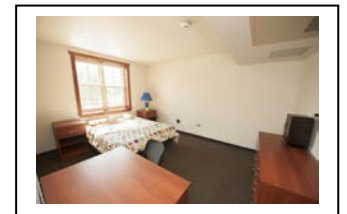
BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 75,710 sq ft external gross square footage

NO. OF RESIDENTIAL ROOMS: 187

ROOM DIMENSIONS: 14' 9" x 10' 9.5"

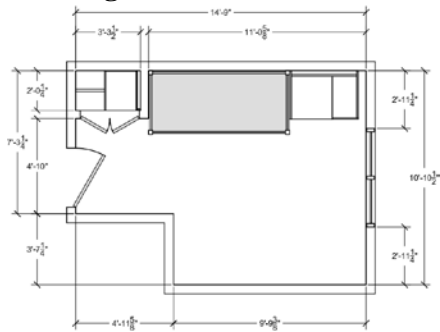
ADDRESS: 383 Gilbert Dr., DeKalb, Ill. 60115

PARKING: Reserved spaces for Gilbert residents in the newly renovated lot 2/E

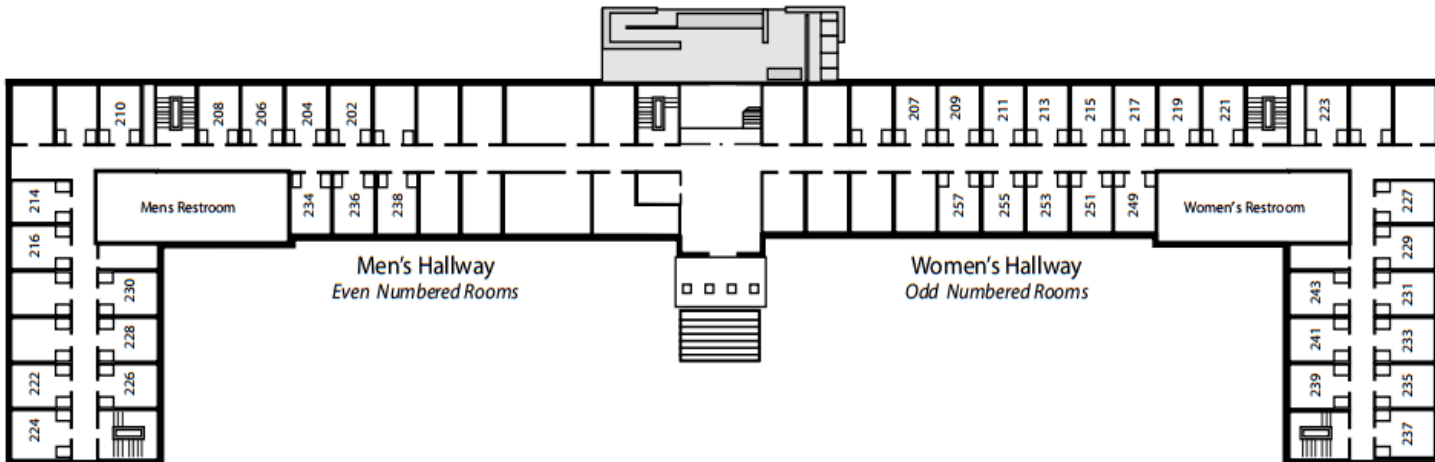
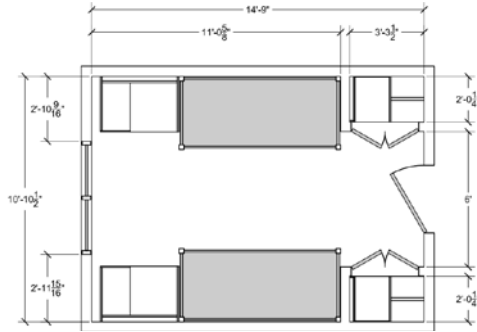


# Gilbert Hall Residential Floor Plan

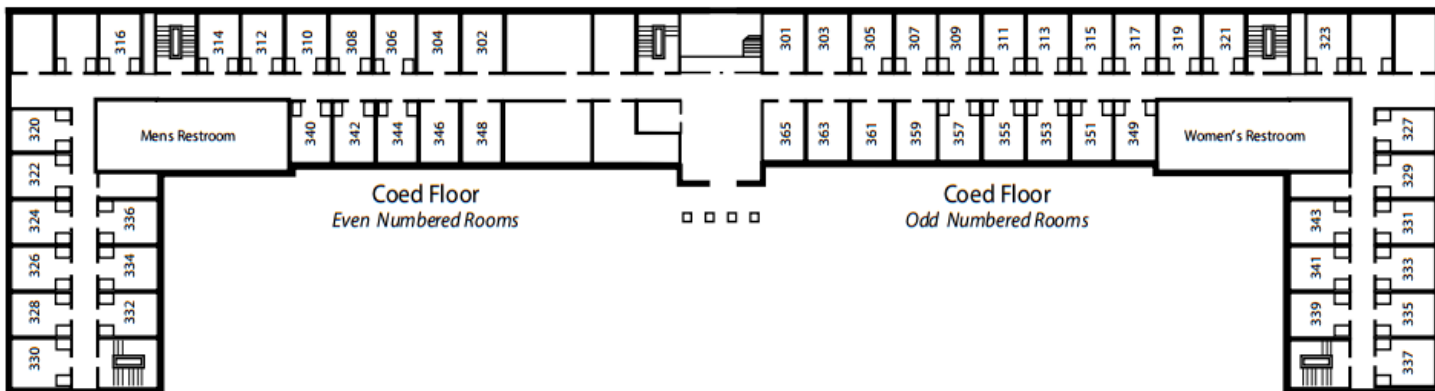
## Single Room Floor Plan



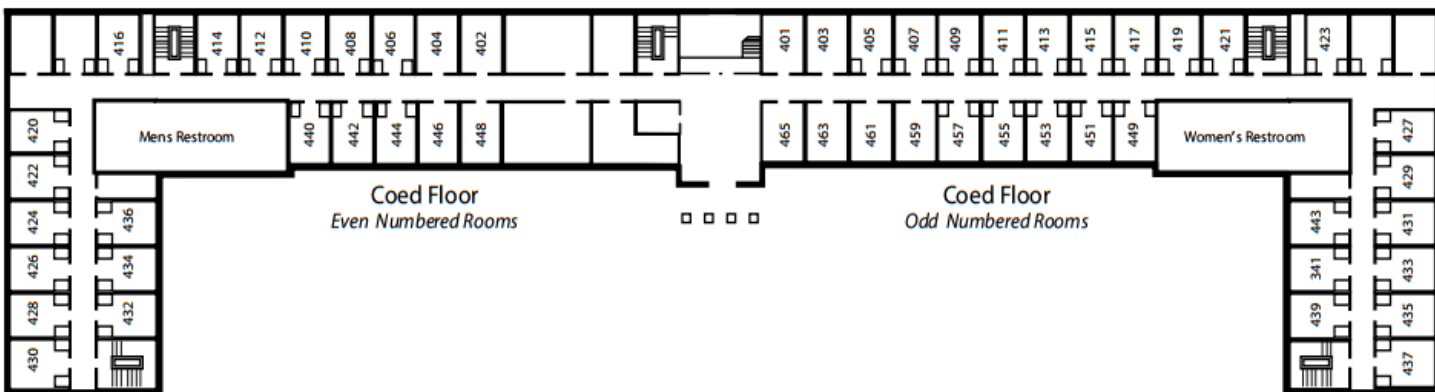
### Double Room Floor Plan



## Second Floor Layout



### Third Floor Layout



### Fourth Floor Layout