Wilson Hall

A. History

Construction on the Charles Branch Wilson Science Hall was started in 1973 and the building was dedicated in 1976 as an Academic building to house the Biology, Physical Science, Math, Psychology, Economics, and Data Processing (with their Cyber 70 Time Shared Computer) departments. Included in the construction is an adjacent green house and pond to support the Biology Department, an animal museum and a Bicentennial Garden. The restaurant on the first floor was introduced in about 1995.
Dedication ceremonies on April 24th, 1976 included the presentation of the Roscoe Scott Mineral Collection, Demonstrations of Space Satellite Communications, and the use of a PDP-8/E Mini Computer performing Mathematical Games and Learning Activities.

The building was named for Dr. Charles Branch Wilson, an outstanding scientist of the early 20th century. Born in Exeter, Maine, educated at Colby College with a Doctor of Science degree, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Johns Hopkins, he arrived at the Westfield Normal School in 1896. He became the head of the Science department in 1897 and had a long and distinguished career including Acting President from 1923-25, retiring in 1932.

As a citizen of Westfield, he took a deep interest in local affairs, and rendered outstanding service as a member of the Westfield School Committee for more than 20 years. He was also a charter member of the Get Together Club, continuing as a member from 1901 until his death in August, 1941.

His wife, Lilla Belle Turner, was also a distinguished member of the college community, serving with success in the position of matron of the State Normal School.

For his outstanding service to the State College at Westfield, his international reputation, and his many links to the City Westfield, Dr. Charles Branch Wilson was selected unanimously to be honored with the naming of the new Science Building by the Committee selected for this task.

B. Structural Facts

Construction Type	2 C (noncombustible, unprotected)
Occupancy Group:	A-3 Classroom, Offices, Auditorium
Year Built:	1973-1976
Height:	Actual 48' (includes basement)
Area:	Tabular: 61,176 sf; Actual: 160,919 sf
Superstructure Type	Reinforced concrete beams, masonry
Foundation Type	Concrete spread footings
Floor / Ceiling:	Flat concrete deck/ceiling; suspended acoustical tile
Roof:	Concrete deck, EPDM membrane replaced in Oct. 1999, fully adhered
Exterior Walls	Masonry – brick veneer
Interior Finish	Hallways, classrooms & bathrooms – concrete block and ceramic tile; Offices – combination of painted concrete block and sheetrock walls.
Fuels	None in building (Heat and hot water supplied by power plant) Natural gas used for science labs and emergency generator.
Heat	Supplied by power plant – forced hot water system.
Hot Water	Steam from power plant goes to hot water converter.
Ventilation	Mechanical throughout (AHU unit ventilators)
Electrical Service	4160 vac 3 phase supplied from power plant reduced to 277 vac
Emergency Light	Hallway and corridor lighting supplied by emergency generator.
Emergency Power	Kohler 750 kw, 480Y/277 v, 1128 amps diesel generator. Fire
Fire Alarm Equip.	Simplex fire alarm pull system, hallway pull stations, limited smoke/heat detectors.
Suppression	Hallway standpipe at fie extinguisher cabinets
Smoke Evacuation	None
Extinguishers	Fire extinguishers located in hallways, laboratories, and lecture halls. 49 extinguishers, 3 H2O, 10 CO2, 36 ABC. Inspected and tested annually by Atwood fire Equipment Co. Ongoing inspection by WSC facilities staff.
Chimneys	None
Elevator	1 passenger
Atria	None
Emergency evacuation signs:	Posted
Septic	Municipal.
Water	Municipal.
Certificate	DPS 445-7-1 through 445-7-3; Exp. 1995

C. Building Upgrades

2008

1. Lab renovations in 247, 313, 317, 322 and 329 including:
   a. New casework, ceiling tiles, wall paint, VCT flooring.
   b. New lights w/ occupancy sensor controls. Selected lights will have battery ballast w/ power pack units for emergency lighting.
   c. New sink fixtures.
   d. New eye wash stations and deluge shower equipment.
   e. New lab tables and chairs installed.
   f. Room 313 is divided into smaller classroom and 3 new offices with connecting hallway.
   g. Room 313: New forced hot air and ventilation air ducts installed.
   h. New plumbing waste lines installed for chemicals
   i. New smoke detectors, horn strobes and pull stations added.
   j. New wall mounted electrical outlets and floor outlets near lab tables installed.

2. Exterior brickwork removal and replacement competed on north side of Building.
3. Asbestos Removal on 1st floor pipes, through Quitotes, hallways, store rooms.
4. New entry carpet in front vestibule of building

2009

Carpet installed in room 415A, 415B, and 411.

2010

Plans are underway to install a 71 kW photovoltaic system onto the roof of Wilson Hall, producing electrical energy to be used in this building.