

Historic Hillside Place site has condo future

Normal School

JUN 10 '87

19-22 units planned at Old Normal School

By Zeke MacCormack
HERALD REPORTER

NEW BRITAIN — Conversion of the school administration building into condominiums should begin next January and the residences will go on the market in 1989 for about \$125,000 each, Paul Gaudet said yesterday.

Gaudet is a spokesman for

the Crowninshield Corp., of Peabody, Mass., high bidder in 1985 with a \$251,500 offer for the Hillside Place school administration building. The building which was constructed to house the old Normal School — a forerunner of what is now Central Connecticut State University — is on the National Historic Register.

Gaudet said work on the project will start soon after the

school administration vacates the building, scheduled to take place in December.

At the same time, Al Hinds, director of non-instructional services in the school district, could not estimate the cost of relocating school offices to the new building now in construction at Chestnut and Elm Streets by the Tomasso Brothers.

Hinds said bids will probably be sought for new furniture for the Liberty Square building.

If the sale of the 47,000 square-foot building to Crowninshield goes through, as expected, the Hillside Place building will be the fourth local school building that Crowninshield will have renovated into residences.

The former New Britain High School on the south end of Franklin Square, the former Washington School on Washington Street and the former E.C. Goodwin State Technical School on South Main Street are the other schools refurbished and currently managed by Crowninshield.

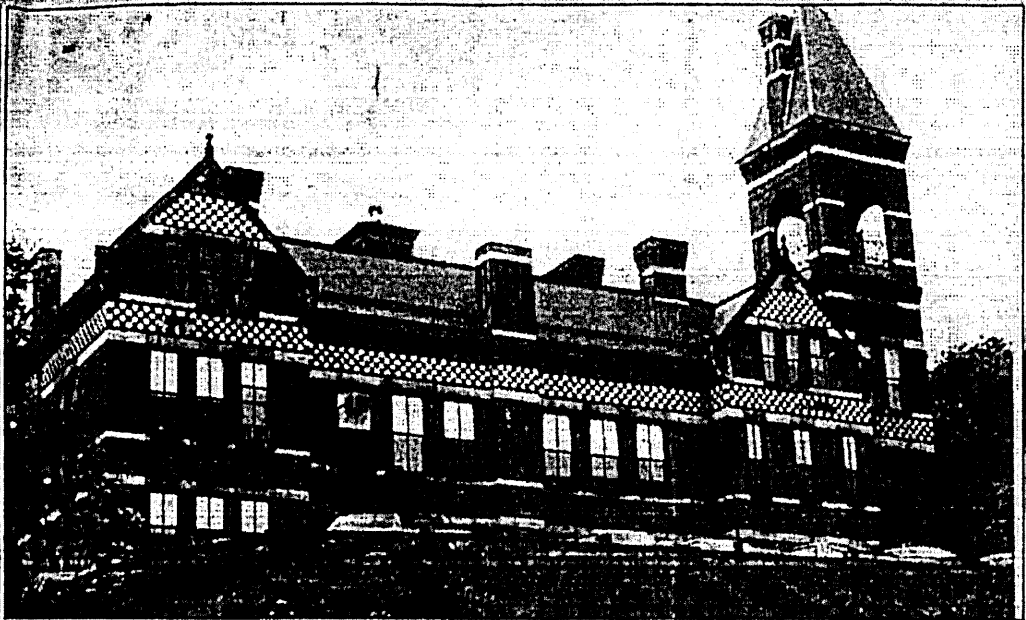
HISTORIC CERTIFICATION

Once the former Normal School on Hillside Place is purchased, Gaudet said Crowninshield will have it certified as a historic national landmark by the federal government and begin its development for "adaptive-reuse."

Gaudet said Crowninshield "has delivered more than 3,000

housing units to the marketplace" and expressed confidence about the upcoming New Britain project, which will be known as Hillside Place Condominiums.

In all, between 19 and 22 concrete SEE HISTORIC, PAGE 15



HERALD PHOTO — ZEKE MCCORMACK

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TO BECOME CONDOMINIUMS

★ Historic

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dominiums will be constructed in the former school building, which is already listed on the state's historic landmark records.

School officials decided to move to the Liberty Square building off Chestnut Street because of code violations and problems with the Victorian school building. The city has purchased about 25,000 square feet of space in the Liberty Square building for \$2.59 million and the state is expected to reimburse the city for 39 percent of that cost.