Domestic Science class in basement of the Administration Building (now known as East Hall); 1900’s.
1903
State of Michigan grants charter to Western State Normal School

On May 27, 1902, Governor Aaron T. Bliss signed the Michigan Legislature bill authorizing Michigan’s fourth Normal School.

The location of the new school was awarded to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in a vote by the State Board of Education on August 28, 1903. The original tract of land on which the Western State Normal School was built was donated by the City of Kalamazoo. It consisted of 20 acres on Prospect Hill, overlooking the city and accessible either by walking up from Davis Street on the east or via Asylum Road (now Oakland Drive) on the west.

A 1905 bulletin listed typical living expenses per term:

- Board, room, fuel and lights ........ $42.00
- Books ....................................... 5.00
- Tuition ..................................... 3.00
George S. Waite served as the first Director of Manual Training at Western State Normal School, from 1904 to 1917.
~ 1906 ~

Departments of the Western State Normal School:

~ Civics
~ Domestic Science
(also called Domestic Economy)
~ Drawing
~ English
~ History
~ Manual Training
~ Physical Education
~ Psychology
~ Rural School
~ Science
The Western Trolley, an alternative to the 105 grueling steps running up Prospect Hill between Davis Street and East Campus, was also known as “Normal Railroad”, and sometimes as “Toonerville Trolley”. Two cars on side-by-side tracks ran continuously from 1908 to 1948.