Shop Forge, ca. 1912 - 1915, in the basement of the old Kalamazoo Central High School on Westnedge Avenue. Manual Training Director George Waite is standing at the back of the room by the double doors.
Manual Training Department faculty and students gathered on the steps of the Administration Building. Director George Waite seated on far right, holding T-square. Future director Marion Sherwood (from 1917 to 1948) is seated upper right, looking to his right.
A portfolio of mechanical drawings made by Manual Training student Francis Lemon is housed in the University Archives. The drawings, dating from 1909 to 1913, were done at the drawing board, in ink on vellum paper.
Gas Engine Shop in the Manual Arts Building; circa 1913.
1913 ~ Western State Normal School

Courses in the Department of Manual Training
~ Beginning Wood Work
~ Cabinet Making
~ Forging
~ Woodturning
~ Pattern Making
~ Machine Shop
~ Mechanical Drawing - 4 different courses
~ Architectural Drafting
~ Organization

The term “Normal School” referred to the State of Michigan’s teacher education system. “Training Schools”, fully functioning primary or secondary schools, were affiliated with a designated Normal School to provide on-site teaching experience. Normal School graduates received teaching certificates.

The Western Normal was the only Normal School in Michigan granting a special manual training certificate.
In 1915, in a commencement speech at Western State Normal School, Michigan Governor Woodbridge Ferris announced funding for five new campus buildings, including a Manual Arts building. From Western’s inception the Manual Training shop classes were taught in leased facilities, such as in the basement or the manual training shops of the old Kalamazoo Central High School, in vacated World War I army barracks, or even roomy sheds.

Above is the architect’s rendering of the proposed new Manual Arts Building. The original cost of the building was projected at $75,000, with $15,000 available for purchasing new equipment, and with $10,000 worth of equipment already in the shops. The building was designed to be one of the best arranged and most completely equipped structures of its kind in the country. World War I interrupted construction plans and the post-war economy dictated significant scaling back of the design. The modified Manual Arts Building was completed in 1921.
Marion Sherwood succeeded George Waite as head of the Manual Arts Department in 1917.

He served as head of the department until his retirement in 1948.
Manual Arts Club

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Lloyd Hutt .................. President
Henry Geiger ................. Vice-President
Ilah Alton .................. Sec.-Treasurer
Warren Allen ............... Chairman

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