Andre Hall – St. Edward's University

In 1957, St. Edward's University began construction on a new men's residence hall. The hall was named after Brother André Besette from Canada, who later became known as Saint André of Montreal. The building was dedicated as Andre Hall on March 19, 1958. An old military barrack on campus was also named Andre Hall, but was demolished in the mid-1950s and has no connection to the residence hall also named Andre Hall.

San Antonio architects Julian and White designed the three-story brick building that cost $300,000 to construct. The buildings structural is a reinforced concrete structural frame with structural clay tile infill. Concrete aggregate panels, brick, and aluminum frame windows, all common construction materials for the period, clad the building exterior. The residence hall is rectangular in plan with a central hallway and dorm rooms on both sides. Andre Hall measures 46' wide by 187' long. Entrances are at the narrow ends of the building, and adjacent to these entrances are staircases that serve each level of the residence hall. These staircases were placed on the outer edges of the building to reduce noise inside the hall. The main entrance features terrazzo wall panels that incorporate the figure of Brother André and the building name.

The new Andre Hall held a capacity of 100 students. In addition to the dorm rooms, the building contained a student lounge, rector, oratory, and community porches. Terrazzo floors lined the main hallways. Dorm rooms contained built-in desks, shelves, and cabinets. Lavatories were in each room with shared shower facilities per floor. Andre Hall served as a residence hall until the mid-1970s. Students could pay $310 a semester to live in Andre Hall, at a time when tuition costs $200.

Andre Hall was soon in need of repairs and improvements. Students were asking for air conditioning, better lighting, sound proofing, carpeting, and larger storage space. It is not clear if or when these improvements were ever made. The building was later converted to offices for university staff and was no longer listed as a residence hall in the mid-1970s.

In 2002, St. Edward's School of Humanities began using Andre Hall for offices. The school's newspaper also had offices in Andre Hall. As the university grew, the dated and failing Andre Hall was in need of more renovations. Pipes burst on the first and second floor in 2008 causing flooding to the floors. Dated flooring has continually been an issue after carpet was glued down to the original \ flooring sometime in the 1990s. The university has found asbestos in the floor that has not been exposed or disturbed. Staff often complain of the nonexistent sound proofing and improper building ventilation.

ANDRE HALL HISTORIC PHOTOS

Andre Hall during construction, 1957

Andre Hall during construction, 1957

Andre Hall during construction, 1958

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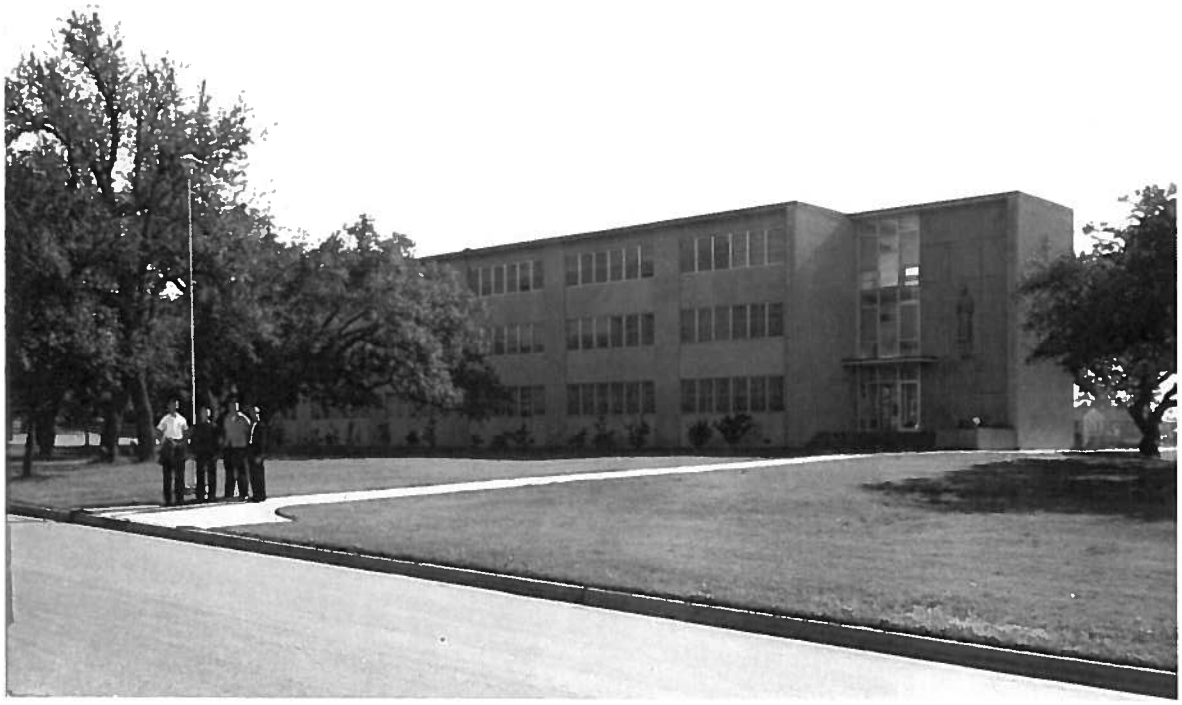
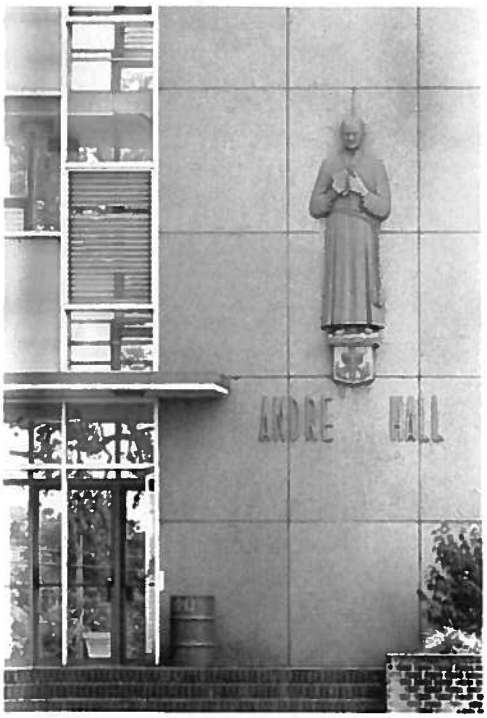
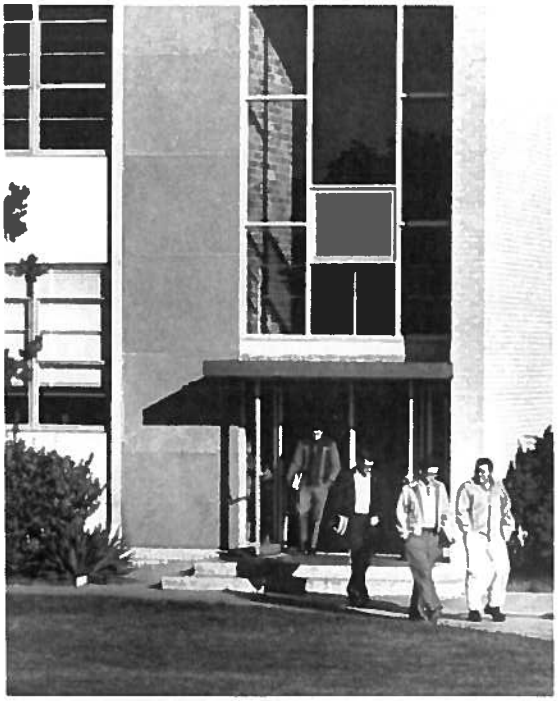


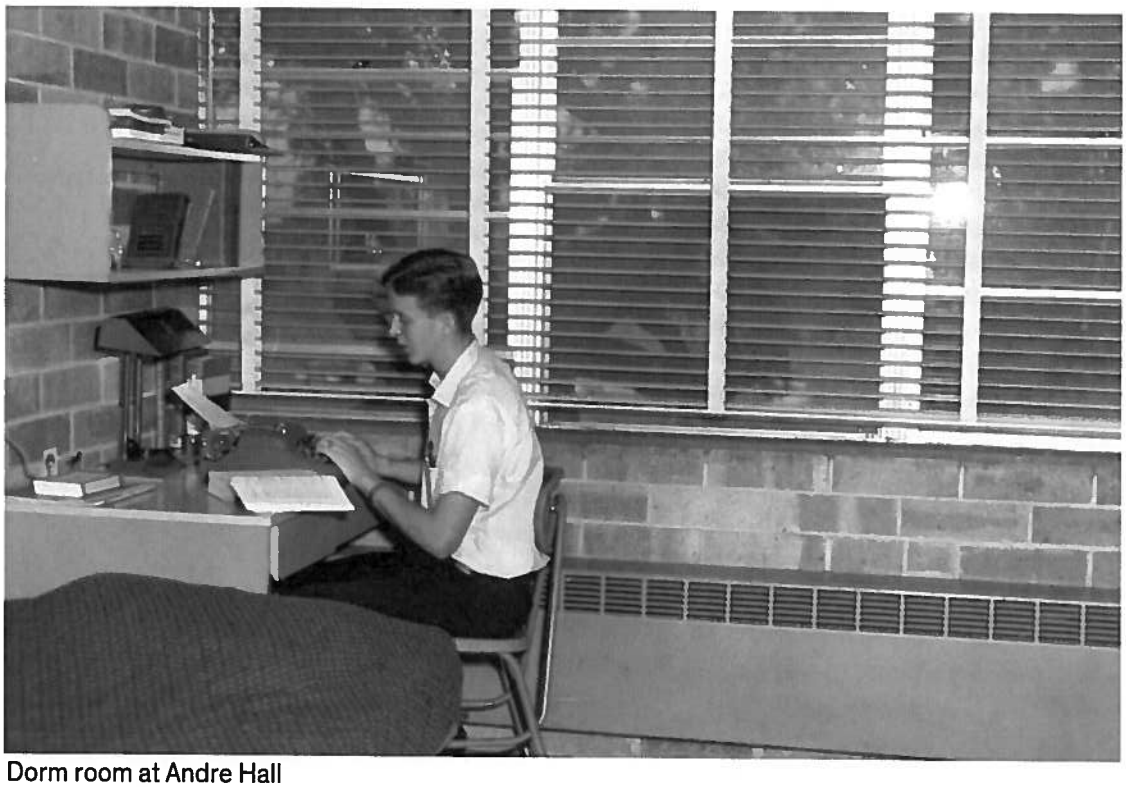
Main entrance to Andre Hall



Sculpture of Brother Andre at main entrance

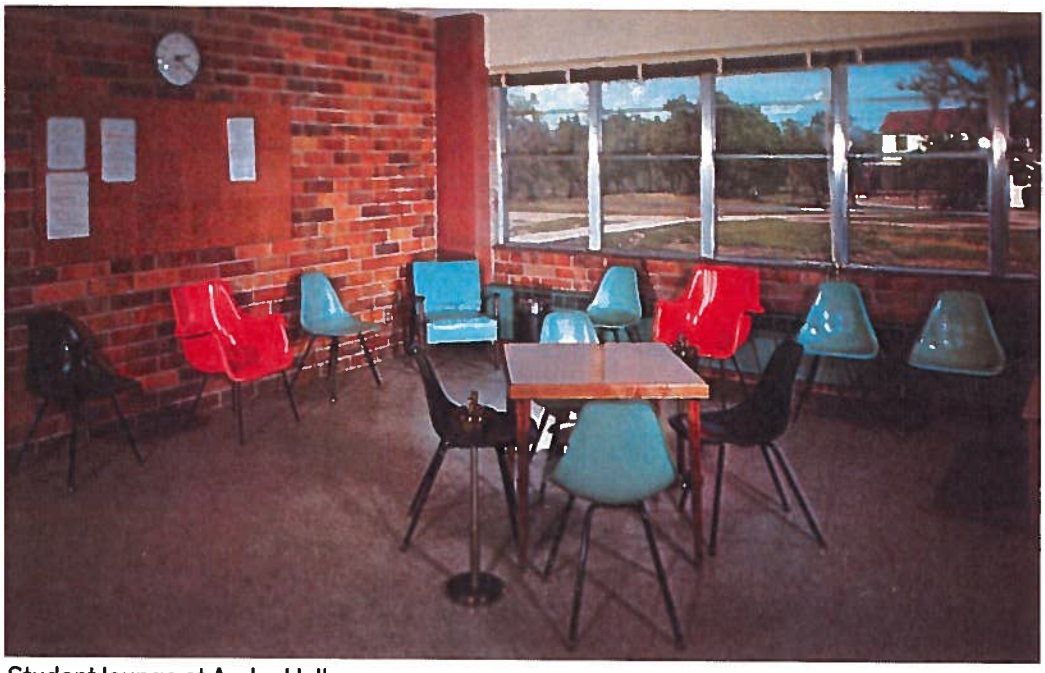


Students leaving Andre Hall



Dorm room at Andre Hall

Aerial view of Andre Hall (Building No. 9)



Student lounge at Andre Hall

Andre Hall postcard, northwest oblique

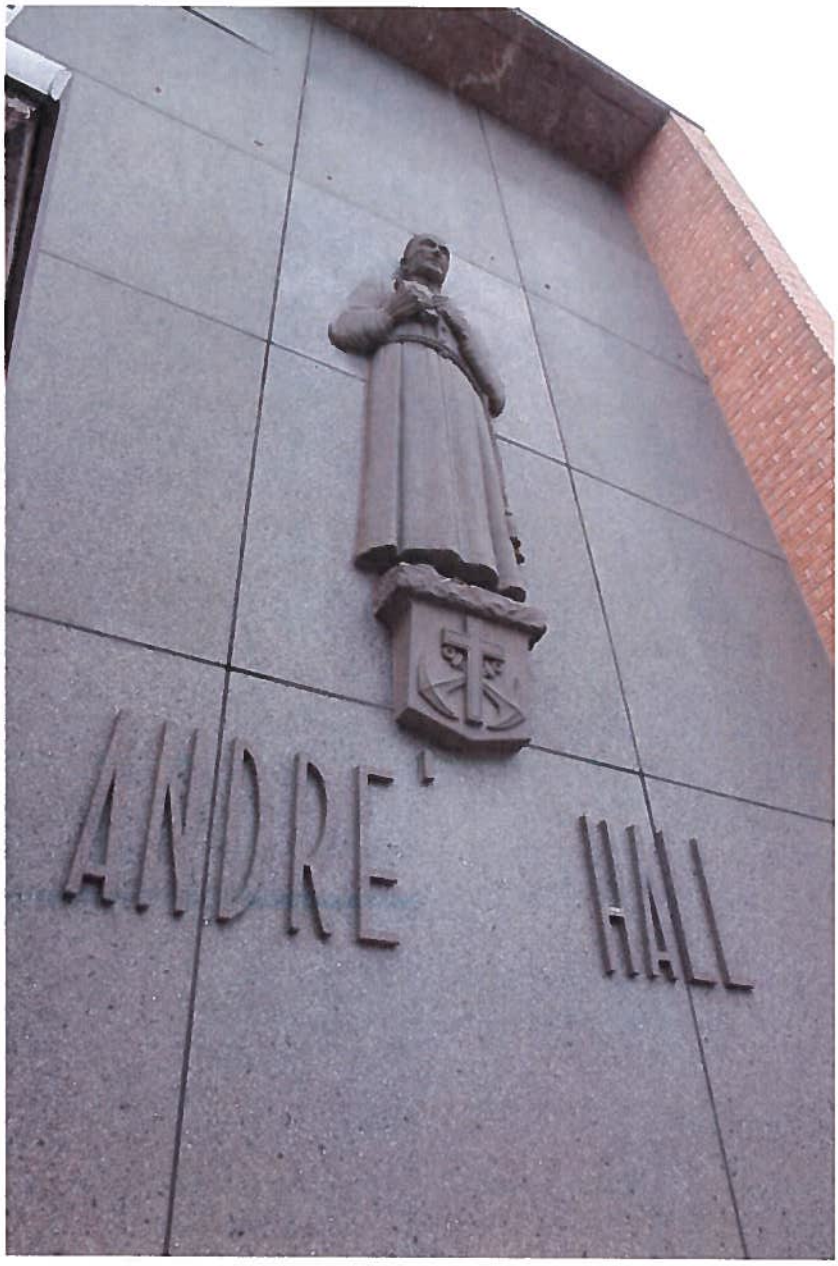
ANDRE HALL EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS

Andre Hall, northwest oblique

Andre Hall, west elevation

Andre Hall, southeast oblique

Andre Hall, southwest oblique



Terrazzo sculpture of Brother Andre