The Early Years: 1855-1870

- No commuters - All students lived and ate on campus
- Food was sourced locally - CAP reports from Saints’ Rest indicate:
  - Use of kitchen gardens
  - Meat from campus stock and local butchers
- 1860 - First substantial bridge over Red Cedar River
- 1862 - Railroad connected campus directly to Downtown Lansing

World War I: 1900-1925

- 1906 - New stone road between campus and Lansing; development in East Lansing begins
- Dining Clubs continue, with at least some meat acquired from local (non-college) sources
- 1909 - Expansion of dormitory system for housing and boarding students
- Extension work increases through this period; college outreach focused on gardening and food sustainability at the household level

Campus Growth: 1870-1900

- 1879 - “Electric Railroad” (trolley) service becomes available, with a stop at what is now the Student Union
- First concrete walkways built
- MAC Cycling Club forms in response to advances in bicycle technology
- 1883 - Dining Clubs formed, allowing students to pool boarding fees and collectively purchase/prepare food, some of which was purchased from college farms

Depression & WWII: 1925-1955

- Students struggled economically, with some renting inexpensive rooms off campus
- Some “roomers” purchased meal tickets at $5 ($88 today) per week
- Others bought and prepared their own meals, and some were able to buy fresh, local foods for as little as $2 ($33 today) per week.
- 1936 - the University began to buy houses for student “Co-ops,” so students could live, budget, and cook together
- University commitment to community-wide sustainability through expanded extension work