



1. Where are the offices and classrooms of the School of Social Welfare located these days?

An article appeared in the December 17, 1975, issue of the Sophia News to introduce the Sophia School of Social Welfare of that era, about ten years after its founding. The article admitted that the School was remarkably unknown on the Kioicho campus. Perhaps because the lectures of the specialized school started at unusual times and in classrooms that were not used at these times by other parts of the university, it is quite likely that most students and teachers had no idea that the School of Social Welfare even existed.

Nowadays, as a result of more balanced public relations activities or because the general consciousness in Japanese society about social welfare has grown, we suppose that the Sophia School of Social Welfare (abbreviated from now on as SSSW) itself is more or less well-known in Kioicho. Even so, the exact location of the SSSW activities probably still remains difficult to grasp. Indeed, from its foundation to the present day, for various reasons, the locations of the SSSW classrooms and of the supporting teachers and office staff have changed very often.

When graduates of the earlier versions of SSSW return to the Kioicho campus after a long absence, they are often surprised to discover that familiar classrooms and buildings have been torn down. Thus, this essay will trace the various locations of SSSW and its predecessors over the years. Let's try to follow the path of changing locations.

2. From the foundation of SSSW until the 1970s

Almost no printed materials or pictures have been discovered that relate to the details of the foundation of the specialized school. Some graduates of the early period and some printed materials prepared for the 25th anniversary indicate that the private office of Father Peter Heidrich on the first floor of the Jochi Kaikan was used for the office work, while the classrooms were mostly in Building 3.

When the organization changed in 1966 and the early version became the Sophia Social



This is a picture taken in 1973 of the office of SSSW.

No one remembers where it was.

Welfare Specialized School, the classrooms that were used became some of those in the (then) Building 2. Next, the exact year being uncertain, a room for music practice was created in the basement of Building 2. Such a room was needed by the program that later became the program to train nursery school specialists. Building 2 was also used for student union activities and by some student circles. The first Sophia Social Welfare Specialized School Festival in 1969 was centered as well around Building 2. Students from the time recall that there was a counter in a room in Building 2 where paperwork could be processed. So far, however, no photograph of that room has surfaced.

Records dated 1975 show that a new room for training teachers who dealt with raising small children was set up in the first floor of the Jochi Kaikan. Students who attended specialized social welfare classes during this period report that there was a kind of program office in the Jochi Kaikan, but it was quite narrow and did not really deserve the name of the office of an educational enterprise. The large room on the fifth floor of the Jochi Kaikan was used for graduation parties and other school-related functions from the early stages of the school's history.

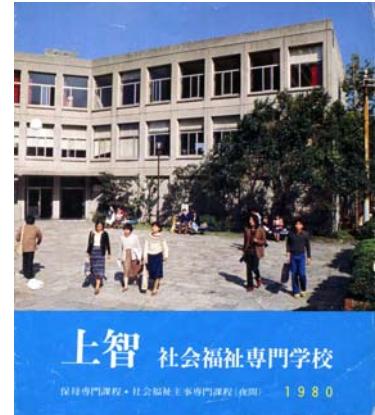


This is a picture of the original Building 2 decorated for the school festival in 1986. The building was used for student club activities as well as for classes..

3. From 1980 to 1992

From 1979, SSSW could use the large classrooms in Building 6 in addition to some classrooms in Building 2. At that time, one Course was admitting 80 students and the other Course was admitting 20 students, so the total number of school students reached close to 300. In addition, many joint classes for students from both Courses were in the curriculum, without specifying the year that such a class should be taken. Thus, the need for classrooms that could seat more than 100 students became very evident.

Records from the time show that classrooms 6-210 and 6-310 were used for joint classes, while 6-211, 6-212, and 6-311 were used for elective classes or classes aimed at students from a specified year: some classrooms in Building 2 played similar roles. Building 6 had no elevator and was hardly a barrier-free environment. However, the building was very close to Yotsuya station and



The front cover of the information pamphlet for the 1980 academic year shows Building 6 in the background.

to the north gate, so students running to be on time for their classes probably considered it convenient enough.



This 1985 picture shows a classroom during the SSSW examination.

In 1984, the SSSW office was properly set up on the first floor of the Jochi Kaikan. Simultaneously, special rooms for the Courses, for books and periodicals, and for student group use were created. These can be considered the first rooms designed solely for the convenience of the SSSW.



In 1985, the office and the specialized library were both located on the first floor of the Jochi Kaikan, under the Sophia Men's Dormitory.



4. From 1993 to 2004

In 1992, Building 2 was torn down. From the next year, new rooms were prepared in the basement of Building 9 for the needs of the new Course for Careworkers. The number of rooms for teachers on the first floor of the Jochi Kaikan increased. The music practice room that had been in the basement of Building 2 was recreated in the basement of Building 9. The SSSW school festival that had used rooms in Building 2 was moved into Building 9 classrooms, with outside tents located near the university library. During this period, the number of classes available from each Course increased. Subjects such as Philosophical Anthropology that were required for all SSSW students were held in the large classrooms in Building 6. Classes for the individual Courses: Nursery School Teachers, Social Caseworkers, and Child Guidance Workers,* were mostly held in Building 6, while the classes for the newly-established Course for Careworkers mostly used classrooms on the fifth floor of Building 3. (*In a curriculum reorganization completed in 1997, the latter two Courses were combined into a new Course that retained both of the former names.)

The locations of Building 3 and Building 6 were far from adjacent. The access out of one building and into the other required students to use stairwells. The only elevator was the narrow one in Building 3. The time schedule did not reflect the time needed to change buildings, with the result that the break time between classes pretty much

disappeared. One can easily imagine that most SSSW students were annoyed at the campus location inconveniences. Some staff members from that time unfondly remember running through the dark streets of the campus to deliver attendance cards to SSSW classrooms.

5. From 2005 to the present

As part of the Long Range Planning of the Sophia Educational Legal Person, Building 6 and the Jochi Kaikan were torn down. For these very good reasons, the SSSW offices, the offices of faculty members, and the SSSW library/reading room were relocated to the first floor of Building 1 and the immediately adjacent section of Building 3. The SSSW classes were scheduled mostly in Building 3, with other classes in Building 1 or Building 9. This comparatively convenient arrangement continues through the time when this essay was submitted.



In 2005, the office was moved from the Jochi Kaikan to the first floor of Building 1, under the theatre/small auditorium, and the library moved to the first floor of Building 3, just next door.