Million Dollar Facilities Provided For Music At USL

The one-million-dollar University of Southwestern Louisiana Music Auditorium and classroom building, constructed with funds provided by the State Bond and Building Commission, was completed in time for occupancy and use with the opening of the fall semester at U.S.L.

Still to be completed is installation of the sound system, lighting, stage curtains and rigging in the theatre section of the building.

The air-conditioned music building is located on the corner of St. Mary Boulevard and McKinley Street with its main facade facing on St. Mary Boulevard.

Lou Doiron, A.I.A., architect, Lafayette, was architect for the building with Weill Construction Co., Lafayette, as contractors.

There are six rooms of varying sizes used strictly as classrooms. The choral room doubles as a small recital hall and is used also for large group meetings and conferences. The orchestra room also houses the orchestra library and is used for classes for the woodwind and brass choirs, the string ensemble and the American Popular Music band.

The band room, also used by the Hamilton Training School band, has six service rooms adjacent to it, serving both the band and the orchestra, and includes the band director's office and teaching studio. A separate organ studio houses the pipe organ.

Also included in the building is a band library: an instrument repair room, which, when fully equipped, will permit the complete repair and rebuilding of all musical instruments with the exception of pianos; a cedared-lined uniform storage room; and a storage room for risers, etc.

On the second floor of the building are 25 practice rooms built around a foyer, which affords students a study area and locker space.

The record library, not yet equipped, is also on this level. It will house all records and as many music scores as possible.

Theatre Section

The size of the stage compares in size with the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium stage, according to Prof. Ducrest. There are backstage dressing rooms for male and female stars and male and female choruses.

The orchestra pit seats 60 and is built much in the style of the European orchestra pits and the newer American theatres in that a portion of the orchestra is under the stage floor. This peeps the sound from leaking back.

Upstairs there is the control room and the costume storage room.

The building is in use from 8 a.m. until past 9 p.m., according to Willis Ducres, professor and head of the Music Department.

Because of the high enrollment and congested classroom conditions at U.S.L., the classroom section of the Music Building is being used also by classes in Economics, French, Biology and Animal Husbandry.