Sims reveals mid-spring opening for million-dollar office structure

By MIKE BERMAN
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The New Office Building for Rice University, being erected on the lot between Cohen House and the old wing of Baker College, is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy sometime in mid-spring.

Dr. James Sims, Rice Business Manager, reports the cost of the building to the university as just under one million dollars. This includes expenditures for landscaping, tunnels, a central cooling plant, and furnishings. Also in the plans is a parking lot located off Main Street exclusively for visitors to the building.

The structure will have three stories and a basement. Although modern in design, the building will fit the general pattern of campus architecture with a sandstone and brick exterior featuring archways and cloisters. The edifice is designed to have a future capability of five stories.

The basement will contain the campus mailroom, currently located in the Fondren Library basement, and larger, more efficient switchboard, replacing the one in Lovett Hall.

The first floor will house the treasurer's and cashier's offices, and the second floor will contain the accounting department.

According to Sims, the development office is now wondering what to do with the space that will become available in Fondren and Lovett Hall when the office building opens.