HENRY ST. ACQUIRES NEW WELFARE UNIT

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The acquisition of a new four-story building at 305 Henry Street, the gift of former Governor Herbert H. Lehman and Mrs. Lehman, will more than double the welfare activities of the Henry Street Settlement, it was announced yesterday.

Miss Helen Hall, director of the settlement, said the new colonial-type structure would add many facilities to those now in operation.

The $250,000 building is a memorial to Peter Lehman, son of the former Governor, who was killed in England in 1944 while an officer in the United States Air Force. Dedication ceremonies will be held on Nov. 28. Those participating will include Mayor O'Dwyer; Dr. Frank Boyden, headmaster of Deerfield Academy, which Peter Lehman attended; Newbold Morris, president of the settlement; Miss Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Lehman, and neighborhood representatives.

Mr. Lehman, who led a club at the Settlement about 1900, planned the new building as a youth center. Its basement contains lockers for athletic equipment, showers and a room equipped with gymnastic apparatus. Benjamin Fielding, who specializes in exercises correcting physical faults, will supervise activities in this room. It contains punch bags, chest pulley weights, horizontal ladders and a small boxing ring.

Administrative offices, including one for a psychiatric social case worker, are located on the first floor. A large lounge equipped with record player and amplifier. Another innovation here is a completely equipped photographic dark room with developing and enlarging equipment. Instruction in photography will be given by a professional photographer.

Another new acquisition is the third-floor woodworking shop, equipped with drill presses, sanding machines and hand tools. Here the neighborhood youngsters will be taught by a skilled cabinetmaker, and they may use the shop to repair household furniture from their own homes. The third floor also contains a children's library equipped with new books on handi crafts, biography, popular fiction and inter-racial and inter-cultural relations. The collection will contain picture books for the toddlers, but comic books will not be included. Small club rooms where teen-age clubs can plan their weekly programs under the direction of their own leaders are also located on the third floor.

The fourth-floor social hall has hardwood floors suitable for floor and modern dancing, a piano, record-player and a completely equipped small kitchen where refreshments can be prepared. The roof, furnished with floodlights, is designed as a social center for summer and where dances for various age groups can be held.

Miss Hall said the acquisition was "the most exciting thing that has happened to Henry Street in years," adding that the new structure will more than double the size of the settlement's former building.