

# Anna Louise Inn renovated

By Sarah Sturmon  
Post staff reporter

Since 1909, the Anna Louise Inn has offered affordable housing for women.

Within its brick walls, several generations have found shelter — some temporarily, others for years.

Now, the finishing touches of a much-needed face lift to help it meet the needs of the next generation of women are being put on the institution, situated just off Lytle Park downtown.

Cincinnati City Council Wednesday is expected to approve a \$100,000 grant for Cincinnati Union Bethel, the owner and operator of the building and the city's oldest social service agency.

The grant, approved by council's finance committee Monday, will go toward a new roof on the building, install a new water heater and renovate nine rooms rendered unuseable because of damage.

Isabel Brown, resident director of the center, said she hopes to begin work as soon as the grant is approved. The work is scheduled to be completed by fall.

The work is the final phase of the capital program announced in 1988. During that campaign, officials wanted to raise \$450,000. To date, Ms. Brown said about \$276,000 was raised. Cincinnati



Cincinnati Post photo

The Anna Louise Inn, situated just off Lytle Park downtown.

Union Bethel also contributed \$112,000 to the drive from its own endowment fund, which was started with money from some of the city's earliest families.

The total renovation is estimated at about \$500,000.

Ms. Brown said the center is also launching several new programs to address the needs of this generation of women.

Among those is a residency program for mentally ill women

and their children. Funding for the supportive housing program was approved through the Hamilton County Board of Mental Health and New Life for Youths.

When originally built, the Anna Louise Inn was designed to provide inexpensive housing for unskilled young women arriving from rural areas.

The inn, named for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Phelps Taft, now houses about 225 residents.