

# Halfway House Will Return to UI

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Halfway House, the little bus shelter which stood in front of the Illini Union for years, will be returned to a place of honor on the campus before May 1.

The shelter will be located on Mathews Avenue between Noyes Laboratory and the Natural History Building, Robert S. Chamberlain of the UI division of campus development announced Monday.

The new location will become a "secondary campus entrance," Chamberlain said. "It will serve

as a major campus bus stop, and pedestrian traffic through this area will increase greatly with the open of the new Illinois Avenue Residence Halls and further campus developments to the east."

Halfway House was taken down from in front of the Illini Union in 1961, when Green Street was widened. It was nearly forgotten in the fall of 1963, when The Daily Illini began an editorial campaign for its return. Daily Illini Photographers took pictures of the dismantled landmark in its storage place — propped against a chicken shed on south campus.

The area on Mathews Street around the new Halfway House location will be landscaped and

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A diagram of the new Halfway House location may be seen on Page 3. For an editorial on Halfway House see page 6.

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paved to set the bus shelter in an attractive surrounding. Shrubs will screen off a bicycle parking lot to the west of the proposed site.

Chamberlain's statement said that the Mathews Street site was chosen, among other reasons, because the scale and architectural character of the surrounding buildings is "reasonably compatible." The site has some historic interest as well, because it is near the locations of the Natural History building and Harker Hall — two of the oldest buildings on campus.

History is vague concerning the origin and date of Halfway House, according to research by the University Public information office. However, there is a reference in one history which indicates that sometime between 1880 and 1890 "The street railway did succeed . . . in securing the cooperation of the Board in the erection of a waiting station on Green Street in front of University Hall."

The facility presumably served partons of the "Urbana and Champaign Electric Street Railway" at a point roughly halfway between Urbana and Champaign, leading to the name "Halfway House." The old railway was abandoned about 1908, but the structure remained until its removal in 1961.