

THREE-STORY STEEL

The construction project at the Pondview Apartments in Maplewood, Minn., is not just a one-of-a-kind job for Mulcahy Inc., a drywall contractor located in Oakdale, Minn., but it also is the only job of its kind in the nation.

According to Mulcahy Project Manager Mark A. Peterson, this is the first job in the country to incorporate the use of steel studs to create the entire structure of a building

greater than two stories in height. Except for the plywood subfloor and balconies made of wood (to comply with local codes), the entire structure is made of steel studs, from the load-bearing walls and interior partition to the joists and exterior wall.

"We basically converted the original plans, which showed wood



L STUD STRUCTURE

framing throughout, to steel," Peterson said.

The building consists of 23,500 square feet for each floor, and 60 living units. By changing to steel, Peterson said, it costs less than \$6 per square foot of floor area.

The pictures tell the rest of the story. □

