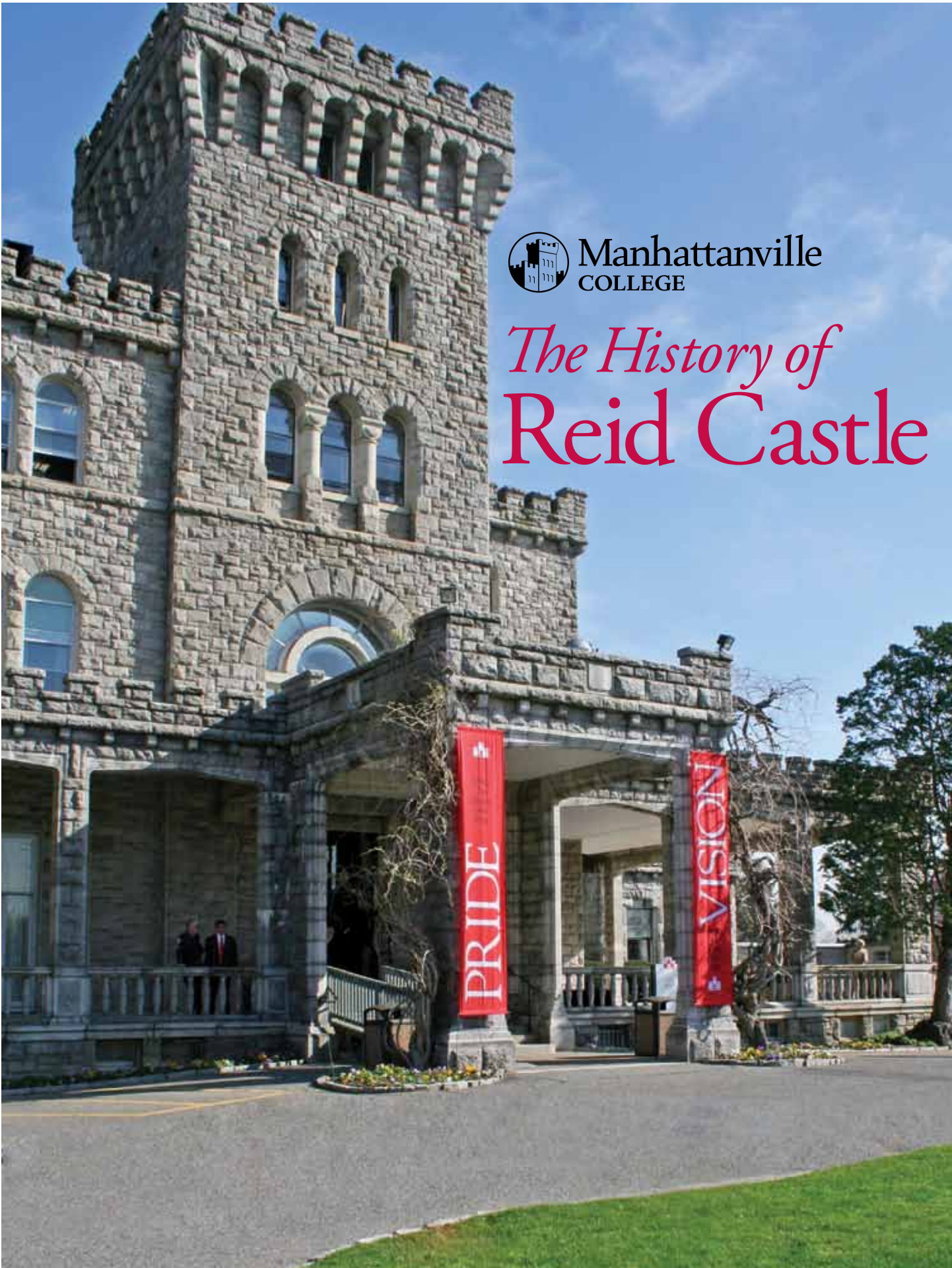
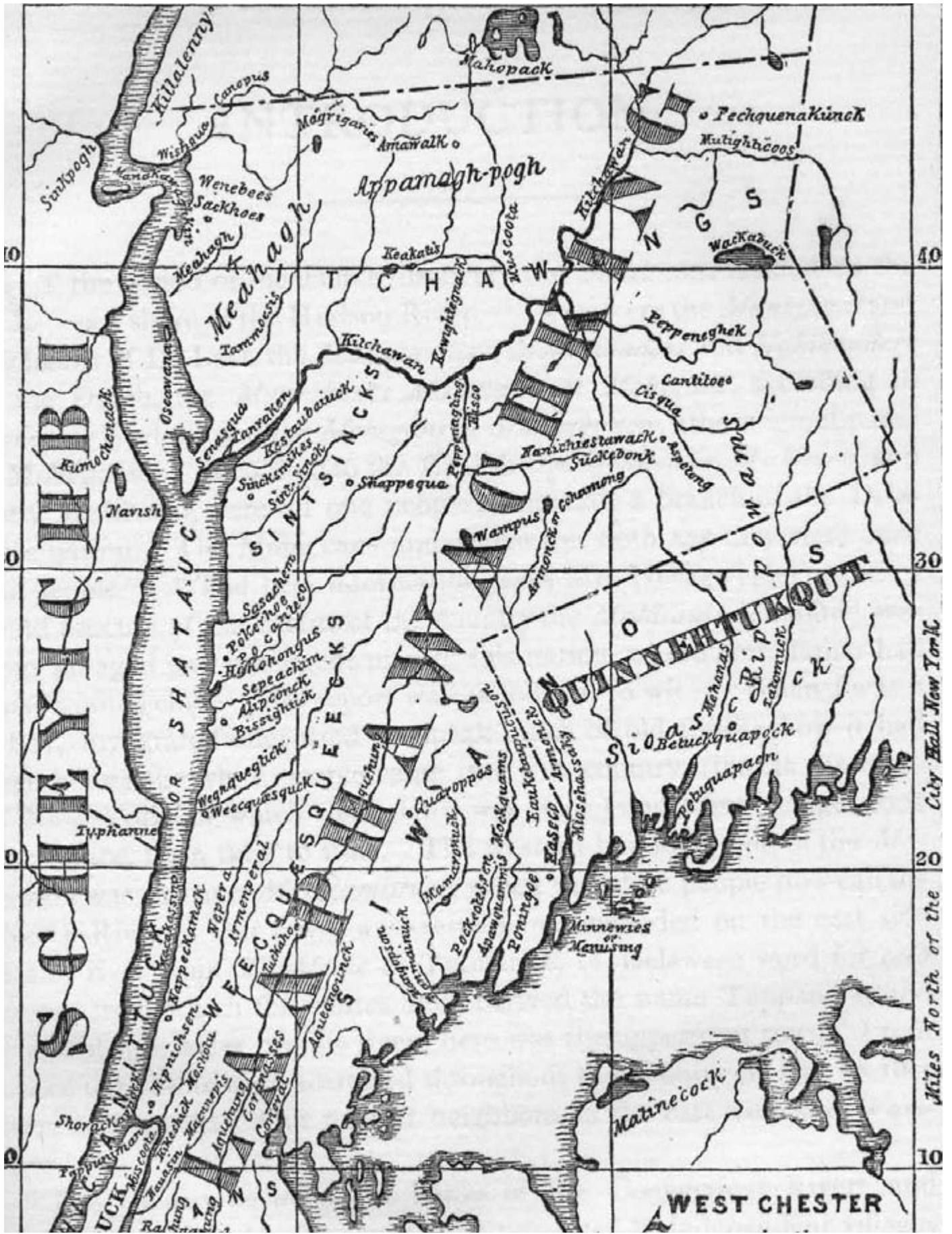




Manhattanville
COLLEGE

The History of Reid Castle





The History of Reid Castle

The history of our campus can be dated back to 1661, when Chief Shanarocke of the Siwanoy Indians (a branch of the Mohegans) sold the land to John Budd of Southold, Long Island. Though Budd built a gristmill on the east end of his land over Blind brook, no official claim was ever filed with the Provincial Governor for the land. Budd is considered one of the founders of Southold, Long Island, New Haven, Connecticut, and Rye, New York.

In 1695, another Indian, Pathungo, reclaimed the land and sold it to John Harrison of Flushing, Queens, for 40 pounds. The only restriction Pathungo set was that he be able to continue to use the whitewood (or tulip) trees for canoes. Harrison filed a claim with the Provincial Governor and an official patent was granted for the land, which became known as "Harrison's Purchase." The land was eventually sold and settled in 1724 by a group of Quakers.

1864

In 1864, Ben Holladay bought 1,000 acres in the area and began to build his mansion. Nicknamed the "Stagecoach King," Holladay was a colorful pioneer and business tycoon, who created an extensive financial empire, first around investments in the Pony Express and later by securing the U.S. Mail contracts for the Overland Express coaches. Using teams of horses, he carried passengers and mail from Kansas and Nebraska through the dangerous western territories to Utah and California. He called his estate Ophir Farm, named after the Ophir Silver

Mine in Virginia City, Nevada, which he partially owned.

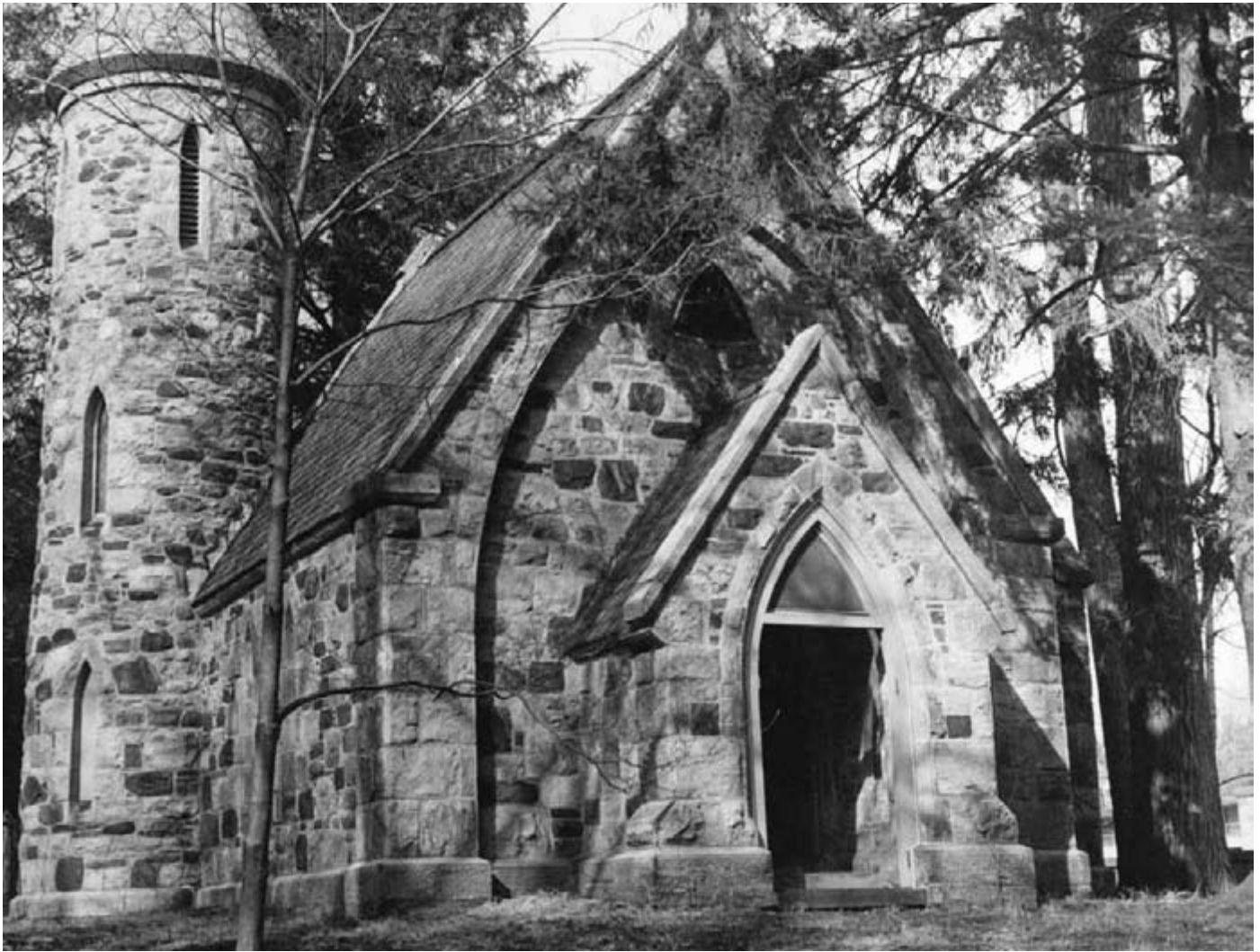
The mansion Holladay built was admired throughout the state as one of the finest homes of its type. In an effort to recreate the atmosphere of the West, Holladay shipped in bison from Wyoming and elk from Colorado. The streams were stocked with speckled trout while landscape gardeners planted trees, ferns and wild flowers brought from the West. Early maps mark the estate as "Buffalo Park."

Holladay built his wife Ann a small Norman Gothic chapel on the property for her family. Located beneath the Chapel was the family burial vault (the crypt was relocated decades later to White Plains. About a half-mile away from the mansion, towards Westchester Avenue, a natural boulder was set up midway along the carriage drive. On it was carved a cross with a heart at the center, denoting that Catholics lived on the property.)

Today, the Chapel remains in place near Purchase Street in the Ohnell Environmental Park on campus. The boulder is located outside the campus cemetery. It is the oldest of three stone chapels remaining in Westchester County.



Ben Holladay



Ann Calvert Holladay's "Lady Chapel"

The Holladays' time at Ophir Farm was short lived. Tragically, Ann died on September 18, 1873, the same day as the Panic of 1873. Shortly thereafter, Holladay lost much of his fortune. He put the mansion up for public sale to alleviate the financial burden.

1883

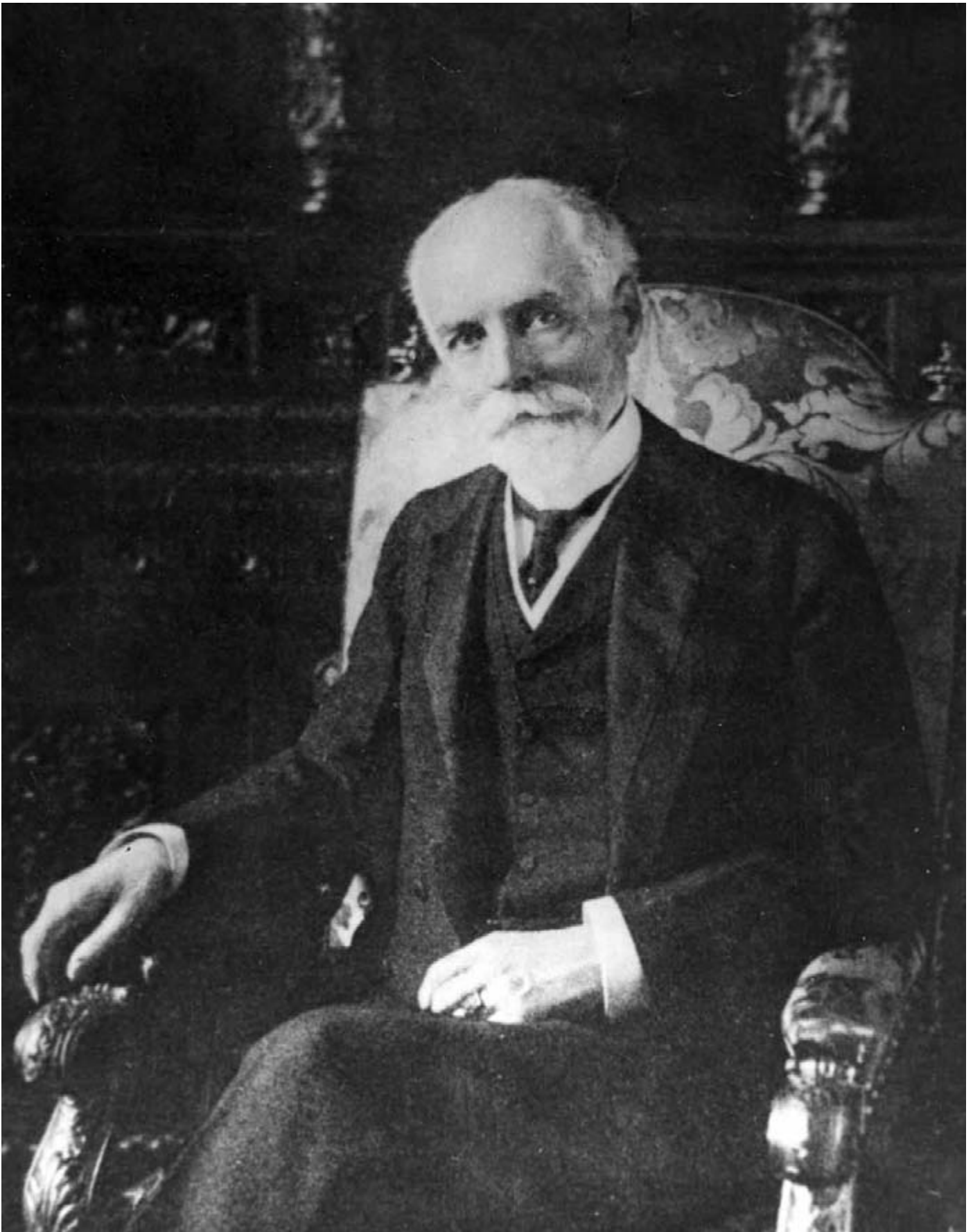
Ten years later, John Roach, the shipbuilder who constructed the *Monitor* for the Union, bought the property. Unfortunately, he never lived on the estate, for he was waiting for the completion of an important business deal before starting the restoration of Ophir Farm.

Roach lost his empire in 1885 when he was forced to put his company into receivership. He died in 1887, leaving his debts and his estate to his son, who immediately put the estate up for public auction.

1888

Ophir Farm, in 1888, became the country estate of Whitelaw Reid, owner of *The New York Tribune*. He and his wife, Elisabeth, filled their home with the finest decorations and the most modern Victorian appliances. It would become the first home in the Westchester area to be equipped with both telephone and electric wiring. Frederick Law Olmsted, noted landscape architect who achieved success in designing New York's Central Park, was chosen to plan the landscaping.

On July 14, 1888, only a month before the Reids were scheduled to move in, a fire caused by a short circuit swept through the house. Within a few hours, the mansion was in ruins. Guttled granite walls were the only reminders of its pioneer glory. (Coincidentally, that same summer, the main building of the



Whitelaw Reid



Reid Estate Fire, July 14, 1888



Ophir Hall, c. 1892

Manhattanville campus, then located on Convent Avenue in New York City, was completely destroyed by fire.)

The Reids decided to rebuild on a greater and grander scale than before. Using stone quarried on the estate for the construction, the firm of McKim, Mead & White was commissioned to assist in the plans. Appointed Ambassador to France, Reid spent most of the construction period abroad, overseeing the building of his home through correspondence. He and his wife managed to translate many of

their experiences into its design and décor. When they returned in 1892 for the grand opening, the mansion - now renamed Ophir Hall - was already acclaimed as a work of art.

The formal gardens designed by Olmsted were decorated with trees and shrubs imported from France and England. Paths led out past the farmland to the borders of the land. Designed to be the home's crowning glory, the reception hall was composed of two varieties of marble, yellow Numidian African marble



Entrance to Ophir Hall, c. 1892

and pink marble from Georgia.

Above the front staircase, an original stained glass work filtered light over the entire room. The two rooms to the right of the entrance were imported from the reception rooms for the Chateau de Billennes, the country estate of a member of the House of Napoleon III, in Poissy, France, which was being demolished.

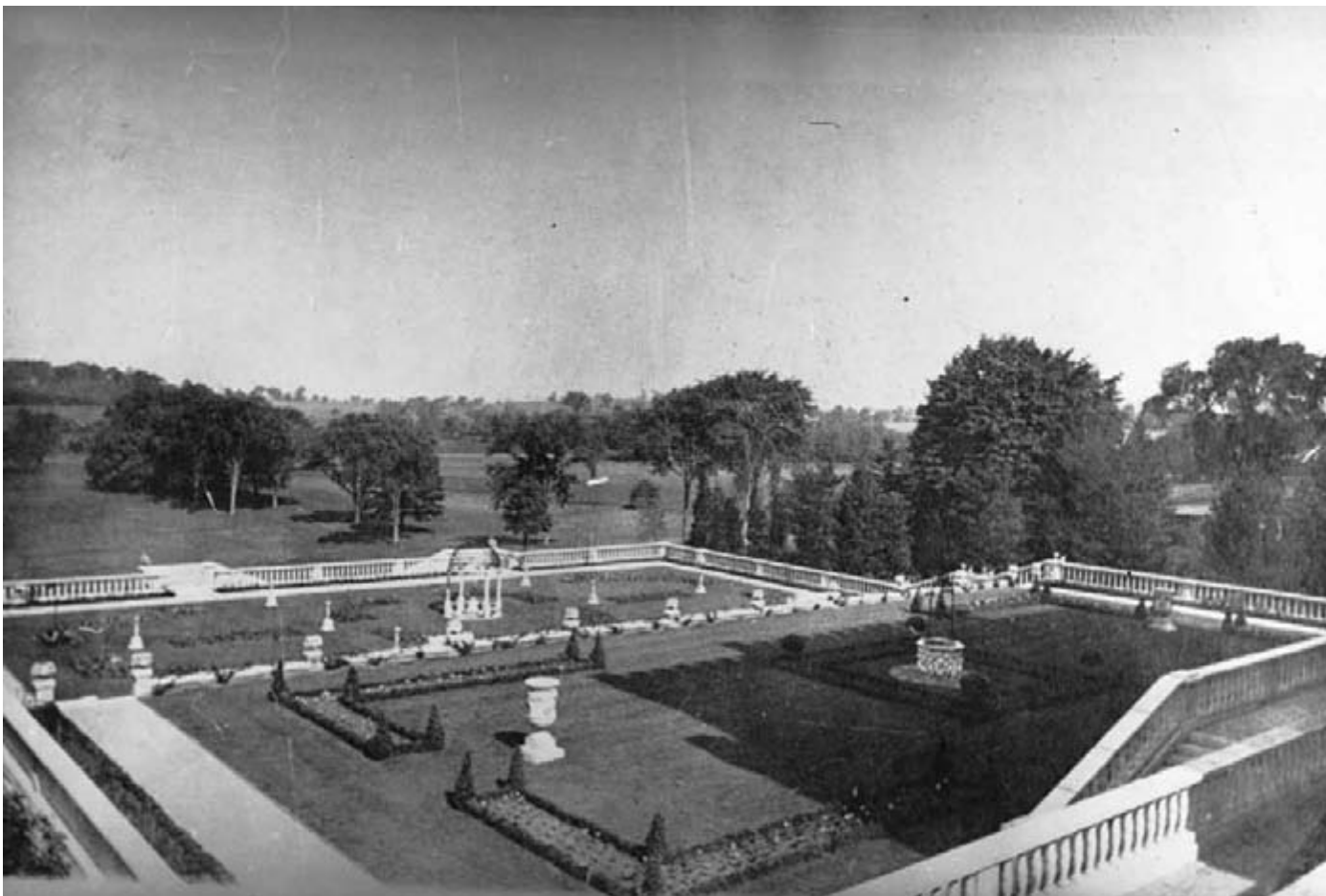
1892

Reid had been home only a few months when President Benjamin Harrison asked him to be his running-mate for the presidential election of 1892. The President traveled to Ophir Hall to deliver a speech to the people of Westchester from the mansion's south porch followed by a reception in the marble hallway. The election was lost by a slim four percent.

Shortly after the election, Reid decided to expand his home. However,

he was named Ambassador to England and forced to direct the work on his estate from abroad. In 1905, he sailed with his family to London where they became very popular in diplomatic circles.

Just as the original portion of the mansion captured the Reid family's time in France, the Jacobean Corridor reflected the unique architecture and design that formed the transition between the Elizabethan and the pure Renaissance style. Lined with paintings by Thomas Gainsborough and J.M.W. Turner, the Corridor introduced an English style to the home and reflected the Reids' affiliation with the Court of St. James. The Great Library in the West Wing was decorated in the Tudor style with pargeeted ceiling. Paneling and bookcases were imported from England, and in the great West window lancet-shaped panels and a roundel originally from the clerestory windows of Salisbury Church were installed.



Gardens, c. 1892



1912

By 1912, the wing was finished and ready to receive diplomatic visitors. But it was never used nor even seen by Whitelaw Reid. Due to increasingly tense relations in pre-war Europe, the 75-year-old diplomat's health had become very strained. On December 15, 1912, he died from a respiratory infection.

Mrs. Reid however, remained active in the affairs of her community and her nation, and Ophir Hall reflected her energetic pace. She helped establish a sanitarium and nurses' training school at Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks, a hospital in San Francisco and another at San Mateo in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Darius Ogden Mills.

One of Mrs. Reid's most ardent causes was the Red Cross. As a young bride, she had helped organize the New York Chapter and later, through her Red Cross work, was credited with instituting the U.S. Army Nursing Corps during the

Spanish-American War.

Under her guidance and that of her son, Ogden, the family's newspaper flourished, merging with the *New York Herald* to become *The New York Herald Tribune*.

Through all these years, Ophir Hall was the scene of much activity, including visits by prominent individuals, young and old, from business, government, the arts, and the world of sports. Across Purchase Street, her son and his wife, Helen Rogers, lived in Ophir Cottage, where they had taken up residence after their marriage in 1911. There, they also entertained renowned guests from many walks of life - among them Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover, adventurer heroes, such as aviator Amelia Earhart and Admiral Richard Byrd, as well as author Henry James and boxer Gene Tunney.

1931

In 1931, the State Department turned to the Ambassador's widow for





Reid Hall, 1949

help finding a residence for the King of Siam, who planned a visit to the U.S. to undergo eye surgery. During his trip, King Prajadhipok would become the first Oriental monarch to visit the White House. Mrs. Reid arranged for the royal entourage to stay at Ophir Hall and then left for one of her frequent trips to France. On board the *S.S. Leviathan*, she contracted a cold, which, two weeks later, turned into pneumonia. At the age of 73, she died while visiting her daughter's villa near Nice.

The doors of Ophir Hall were closed once again.

In 1947, when Ogden Reid died, plans were launched to place much of the estate on the market. One proposal, which was defeated by the local town board, called for the construction of a shopping center and housing development. For a

brief time, the grounds were also explored as a location for the United Nations, but that possibility was removed when the East River site in New York City was selected.

1949

Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, located in New York City since 1841, purchased 250 acres of the estate in July 1949. The decision to relocate the college followed long and numerous discussions among members of Manhattanville's Board of Trustees, President Eleanor O'Byrne, R.S.C.J., and other members of the Sacred Heart School with officials of the City of New York.

Deliberations concerning specific plans for the new campus were carried on by faculty department chairpersons,

who were asked to assist in designing the new Academic and Music Building and the Library. Mother O'Byrne herself contributed enormously in terms of both planning and leadership.

1951-1952

On May 3, 1951, groundbreaking ceremonies were held on the quiet rolling hills of the estate. In an incredibly short time, less than a year-and-a-half, the monumental effort of building a new campus and physically moving furniture, equipment, countless documents and books was completed. In September 1952 the Castle and Manhattanville College entered a new phase of history together.

Five buildings made up this new campus: the Castle as the administrative building, Founders Dormitory, Brownson Hall/Music Building, the Library and Benziger Dining Hall.

Benziger Hall

Innovative techniques were adopted during construction. Due to the Korean War, in 1950 the U.S. Government placed restrictions on building materials, including steel. Original plans for the

construction of Manhattanville's Benziger Hall required 72 tons of steel. Such an allocation of steel was simply not available.

Thus evolved the first long-span prestressed concrete girders cast in a building. Before Manhattanville, prestressed concrete was chiefly used to build tanks, pressure pipes and bridges. In the end, only eight tons of steel were needed for the new prestressed concrete design. This selection of prestressed girders shed new light on a promising new design and construction method. Following Benziger Hall, prestressed concrete girders became commonplace in nearly all building types.

Over the course of the next fourteen years President O'Byrne continued to expand the college campus to match student and academic needs.

1956 - 1957

Kennedy Gym

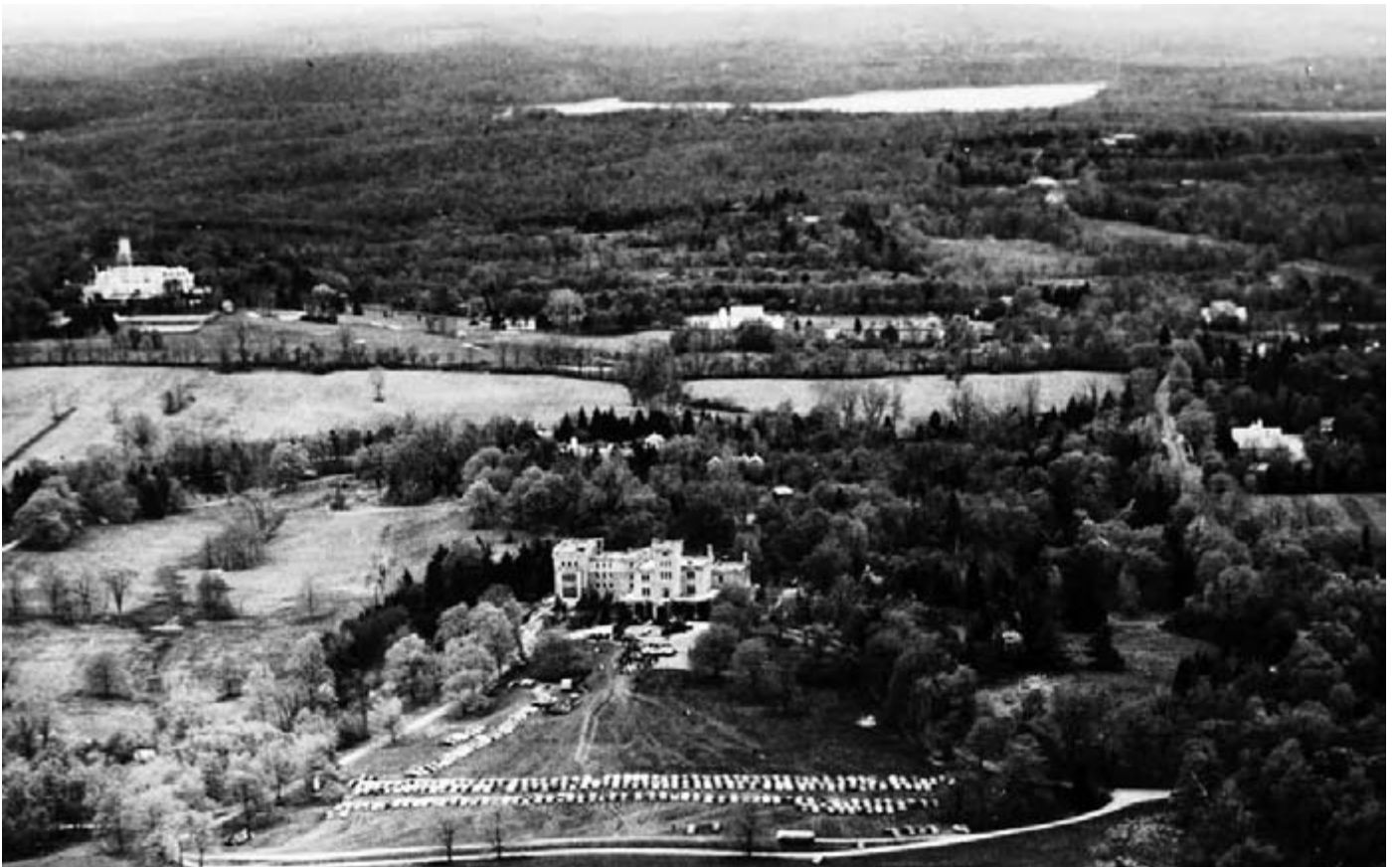
Kennedy Gym was originally included in the plans of the college for the move of October 1952, but was not built until four years later. The Kennedy Gymnasium was erected with generous funds from the Kennedy family from the Lieutenant Joseph Kennedy Jr. Foundation. The groundbreaking was held on March 11, 1956. In attendance were Miss Jean Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, President of the College, Mother O'Byrne, and Most Reverend Edward V. Dargin, Auxiliary Bishop of New York.

The Kennedy Gym was completed in under a year and formally dedicated on October 27, 1957. Cardinal Spellman led the ceremony. In attendance at the dedication were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jean Kennedy Smith (class of 1949), and Ethel Skakel Kennedy (class of 1949). Edward M. Kennedy gave the dedication speech. Mrs. Rose Kennedy (class of 1911) dedicated the gymnasium to her daughter Kathleen Lady Hartington, who died in a plane crash in 1948.

Eggers and Higgins, who designed Spellman and Founders Hall, used the

President Eleanor O'Byrne, RSCJ with Architects Eggers and Higgins.





Groundbreaking Ceremonies, May 3, 1951



Manhattanville campus, October 1952



Benziger Construction, 1951



From left, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, class of 1910, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, Jean Kennedy Smith, class of 1949, and Ethel Skakel Kennedy, class of 1949

same Norman rusticated brick exterior elements to incorporate the gymnasium into the established campus architectural style.

Spellman Hall

Groundbreaking for a second dormitory was held November 11, 1956. The groundbreaking ceremony was the first feature on the program of the annual American Education week held at the College. It was also family and guest visiting day. Spellman Hall was named for Francis Cardinal Spellman, the sixth Archbishop of New York from 1939 to 1967. Money for the dormitory was raised through the Manhattanville Development Drive and contributed to by alumnae, parents, friends of the college, and trustees. It was dedicated with the Kennedy Gymnasium on October 27, 1957.

1961 - 1963

O'Byrne Chapel

Construction on the Chapel began on April 29, 1961 with the Blessing of the Cornerstone. The work went rather quickly and incorporated numerous artists in its quest for the creation of a truly magnificent place of worship. After all, this new Chapel had to compete with its historical and imposing neighbor, Reid Hall.

Work went rather quickly, and about a year later, on June 8, 1962 the bells were installed in the bell tower. Of the three bells in the bell tower, two are from the original campus on Convent Avenue in New York City. These bells are named "Saint Joseph" and "Mater Admirabilis". The third bell, given as a gift, was named "Saint Madeleine Sophie" to honor the French foundress of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. The large and medium bells were made by Meneely and Company of West Troy, NY in 1889 and 1901 respectively. The smallest bell was made by Petit and Fritsen of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Chapel itself includes a modern design and many different artists' works. Among them is the Theodore Barbarossa limestone frieze over the main entrance to the chapel. The frieze depicts the



Students pose aside Spellman during construction, 1957

City of God and the City of Man and represents the ideals and importance of teaching and learning.

The stained glass windows were created by Stephen Bridges of the Rambush Studios. He left work on designs for three stained glass windows in the National Cathedral in Washington to create the stained glass at Manhattanville. The large window over the nave is 35 feet high and 32 feet wide, while the windows along the nave are 36 feet high and five feet wide. An abstract design and the rich reds, yellows and blues used in the glass, create different moods in the Chapel as the sun changes position.

Thirty- six plans submitted by six artists were considered for the altar decoration. Sculptor Frederick Shrady created the Crucified Christ as well as the figures of Our Lady and Saint Joseph for the side altars. Mr. Shrady had studied at Oxford and at the Art Students League in New York and won honors at the Paris Exposition of 1937. The mosaic tile behind the bronze sculpture of Christ appears at first to be gold. Upon closer inspection, it is actually composed of stones of many colors. The effect of light transmission is achieved by grading the colors from intense tones of blue, red and green at the base to pale shades of silver and gold at the top.

Today the Chapel is used for a myriad of important events such as Reunion Weekends and Annual Holiday Concerts.

The Chapel was dedicated on April 28, 1963 and named in honor of President Eleanor O'Byrne. In 1965, when Mother O'Byrne retired, *The New York Times* described her as she stood on the terrace outside the President's office. "In front of her to the south as she stood on the old gray turreted castle, was the campus she was instrumental in creating, all limestone and brick and still a-building."

1966

Dammann and Tenney

These two dormitories were completed in 1966. They are not done in the typical Norman rusticated brick like the other campus buildings, but instead

are buffed limestone. Suite style complexes are arranged in cubes in these three story buildings. These two buildings originally housed 426 students. Dammann Hall is named for Mother Grace C. Dammann, the fourth president of Manhattanville from 1931 to 1945. Tenney Hall is named for Mother Mary B. Tenney, Registrar from 1921 to 1945 and Professor of History from 1921 to 1961.

1969-1974

In 1969, the castle was renamed Reid Hall. In 1974 the U.S. Department of the Interior placed Reid Hall on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its historical and architectural significance.

1991

Faculty Housing and Campus Upgrades

The campus underwent a series of upgrades in 1991. This included improvements to the residence halls and the creation of the current bookstore, pub, and post office in Benziger. In the fall of 1991 faculty housing was completed. Forty- eight units, divided among three buildings, added a new dimension to the Manhattanville campus community.

2006

Ohnell Environmental Center

On September 26, 2006, the Manhattanville community dedicated the Ohnell Environmental Center. The Park includes a classroom housed within a LEED-compliant, non-invasive structure designed by Maya Lin, architect of the Vietnam War Memorial. This was Maya Lin's first external structure for a college campus. The structure's innovations include sustainable harvested wood, angled sunshade louvers, low-E insulated windows, recycled cellulose insulation batts, and a "living machine" filtration pool. The classroom is designed so no mechanical



President O'Byrne reviewing Chapel plans, 1961



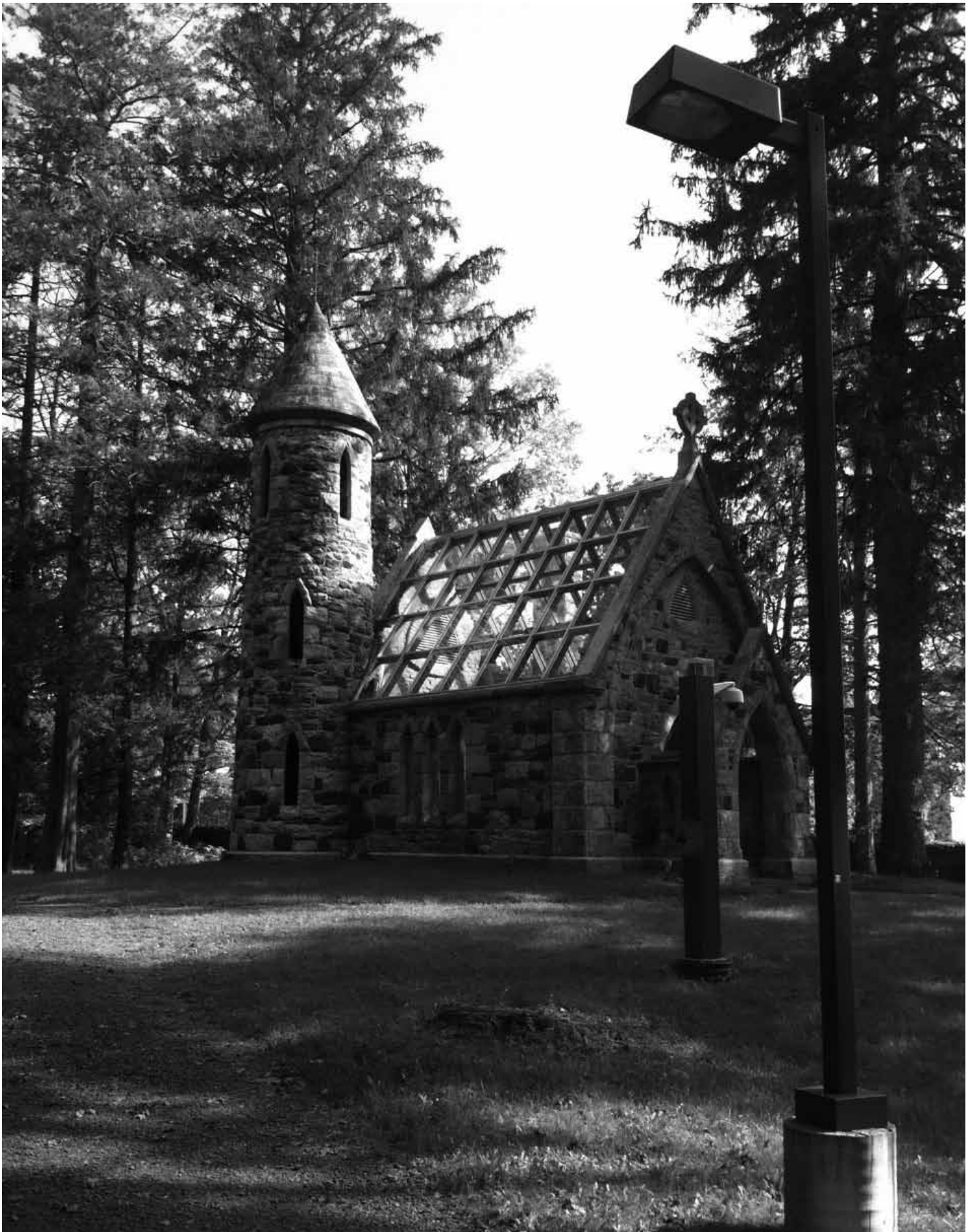
Architectural sketch of Dammann and Tenney



Faculty housing under construction, April 1991



Stained glass by Stephen Bridges



Holladay Stone Chapel

devices are required for heating or cooling.

The environmental center renovation included a restoration of the Holladay Stone Chapel. New stonework and a glass roof provide a unique reflective space on campus.

As President Berman noted at the dedication, "The Environmental Park is a sustainable way to preserve our past and present and protect our future."

2008

The Berman Center

The completion of the Richard A. Berman Students' Center in April 2008 expressed the continuing commitment to environmental sustainability. Requiring less than half the total energy of a building of the same size, the Center achieved a LEED gold rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. The building houses fitness, dance, and performance centers, the college radio station, and Student Activities Offices.

Timeline of Manhattanville Academic History

- 1841** Academy of the Sacred Heart founded as a six-year curriculum in general education with emphasis on languages and literature
- 1847** Academy relocated to village of Manhattanville in Upper West Side of Manhattan on 133rd St and Convent Avenue. Course offerings expanded to include the arts and sciences
- 1917** The College of the Sacred Heart is chartered as an independent college and empowered to grant undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- 1924** The Academy of the Sacred Heart relocates to Connecticut, leaving the college the sole educational institution at the Convent Avenue Campus
- 1937** The Charter is amended to replace the name the College of the Sacred Heart with Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart.
- 1952** Manhattanville moves to Purchase, NY.
- 1966** The Charter is altered to include the education of both men and women and simplify name to Manhattanville College.
- 1969** U.S. Department of the Interior placed Reid Hall on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1971** Student body became fully coeducational
- 1972** Portfolio System is adopted.
- 2008** Berman Students' Center is built.
- 2011** ePortfolio system is adopted.



Richard A. Berman Students' Center



Since the groundbreaking ceremonies in 1951, Manhattanville has been filling needs undreamed of by Ben Holladay and Whitelaw Reid. Reid Hall, the center of this tradition-steeped community and the values that it represents, continues to uphold the spirit of these two extraordinary men. Leaders in the global community, Holladay and Reid were creative and forward-thinking men who appreciated the arts and nature while balancing social responsibility in their daily lives.

Today, Manhattanville is a thriving global community of 1,700 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students from more than 60 countries and 30 states. Manhattanville's mission is to "educate students to become ethically and socially responsible leaders for the global community." Students are encouraged to be independent leaders and creative thinkers in both their careers and personal lives. These values are brought to life everyday in the classrooms, dorms, athletic fields, and community beyond the doors of Reid Hall.





Manhattanville
COLLEGE

Published by the Office of Communications
Manhattanville College
2900 Purchase Street
Purchase, New York 10577
www.manhattanville.edu

Archivist: Lauren Ziarko
Editor: Casey Tolfree
Editorial Assistant: Angela Gigliotti '14
Staff Photographer: Oriana Gonzalez '14

July 2012