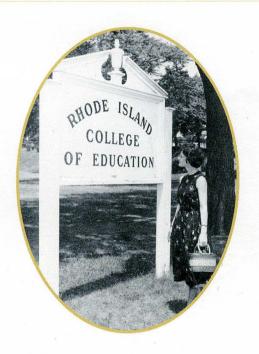
# A HISTORY OF NAMED PLACES AND ARCHITECTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

### RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, 1958-2012



Elizabeth D. Warburton



# A HISTORY OF NAMED PLACES AND ARCHITECTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

#### Rhode Island College, 1958-2012

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Design and Layout by Ellen Morais, Assistant to the Library Director

Cover photo: The original wooden Mt. Pleasant entrance sign of the Rhode Island College of Education (RICE), a gift of the Class of 1945.

"The new campus is an expression of the people of Rhode Island's faith in the importance of the education of their children. [It is] a kit of tools...unworthy of our trust if we come to take them for granted."

-Dr. William C. Gaige, President at the Dedication of the Mount Pleasant Campus September 26, 1958<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Convocation Opens Year." The Anchor, Volume XXXI, No. 1. September 26, 1958. p.1 Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

#### Dear Reader,

The Mt. Pleasant Campus of Rhode Island College started with six buildings in 1954. In a few short years the campus began to see expansion and it has been growing ever since. The growth of the campus reflects the excellence in the educational programs offered at Rhode Island College. The library would like to present *A History of Named Places and Architectural Development: Rhode Island College 1958-2012* by Elizabeth Warburton to the college community and to the community at large. This is part of Adams Library's effort to reach out through the newsletter and other publications like this one.

This project traces the historical background of our campus buildings to enrich our institutional memory and serves as a reference tool for generations to come. It is meant to contribute to our students' college experience and we are confident that our alumni will enjoy it as well. For these reasons, the library is fortunate that this task of researching the history of places and the architectural development of Rhode Island College was undertaken by Elizabeth Warburton '10. She also holds a master's degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont.

I am pleased that we embarked on implementing the research that began as a conversation during Liz's senior year while working in Special Collections and I am impressed by the result. It is no surprise that through diligence and professionalism Liz has provided a superb work. Thank you, Liz. Of course, I also thank our very able Special Collections Librarian, Marlene Lopes for her editing skills and her mentoring.

Adams Library invites you to peruse and enjoy this fine publication!

Hedi BenAicha Director of James P. Adams Library

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#### Foreword

Over the years many have come to the library seeking information about the buildings of Rhode Island College and the people for whom they are named. Whether working on class assignments, researching college history, or simply curious, they have had to sift through multiple bits of information.

This publication brings together facts and anecdotes about the college architecture that have been gathered from many sources. It identifies each building on the Mount Pleasant campus, from its inception in 1958 until today, and provides information about its history, naming, and architectural features. In doing so it highlights the development of Rhode Island College and documents its growth from a small educational college to a comprehensive public institution. At the same time it showcases the College Archives and offers a taste of its richness.

The project started with a simple idea, a buildings notebook into which we placed items of information as they were uncovered from departmental records, college publications, dedication program booklets, college catalogs, newspaper clippings, and more. The notebook became a reference tool, to be handed to researchers. Thanks to the talents of Elizabeth Warburton '10 and her willingness to return to Special Collections to take on this project, the loose leaf binder has evolved into this history of the Mount Pleasant campus, made available in digital and paper format, and accompanied by an easy to access and less detailed LibGuide edition.

I thank Liz for sharing with us her research skills, technical expertise, enthusiasm, and knowledge of architectural history. I am also grateful to Hedi BenAicha, Director of the James P. Adams Library, for providing from the beginning, the encouragement and support that enabled this project to come to fruition.

Marlene L. Lopes
Special Collections Librarian



#### Preface

Writing a history of the Mount Pleasant campus has been a many-layered project. I was first introduced to Rhode Island College as a little girl, when I joined my mother and uncle – classes of 1980 and 1982, respectively – at annual Homecoming celebrations. From playing in the knolls near the Student Union to enrolling as a student in 2006, my relationship with Rhode Island College has been present for most of my life.

I am forever indebted to Special Collections Librarian Marlene Lopes and James P. Adams Library Director Hedi BenAicha for providing me this opportunity to explore Rhode Island College's buildings and stories. I hope that my research will provide a new context for the campus that can be taken for granted or misunderstood, as modern architecture often is. In the mid-1950s, amidst continued postwar optimism and unity, the Mount Pleasant campus was designed to provide streamlined, progressive, and thoughtful spaces for students to grow and learn. The campus' continued development through the 1960s to the present day is a testament to the importance of the institution to future generations of thinkers.

In addition to the support of my family and the library, I appreciate the continued connection with my mentors in the Rhode Island College History Department. Thank you also to Thomas Visser and Robert McCullough of the University of Vermont, who trained me to read buildings and understand that if you are willing to listen, your environment will tell everything you need to know. Thank you D.J., for your love and support.

Elizabeth D. Warburton, '10

June 29, 2012

#### RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, MOUNT PLEASANT CAMPUS, 1958-2012



n 1954, a bond issue to fund the creation of a new campus for the Rhode Island College of Education passed, affording the institution \$3,500,000 to begin construction.<sup>2</sup> Development began in 1956, and the college dedicated its six new buildings two years later. The six original buildings – Alger Hall, Craig-Lee Hall, Henry Barnard School, Whipple Gymnasium, Roberts Hall, and a Student Center – were designed by the Rhode Island firm of Howe, Prout, and Ekman Architects and built by the E. Turgeon Construction Company.

Shortly after construction was complete, the college's swelling population began to test the limits of its new campus. The first residence hall, named for Mary Tucker Thorp, was erected in 1961. By 1962, a large dining complex named for Fred J. Donovan had been completed, and a year later the library moved out of the Student Center and into its own building. 1963 also saw the construction of the John Clarke Science Building. As the college continued to expand, it enticed out-of-state students with the construction of additional residence halls named for Mary Weber (1965), Rose Butler Browne (1969), and Charles Willard (1971).<sup>3</sup> Later residences would be built in 1991 (David E. Sweet) and 2007 (yet unnamed). As the college expanded and enrollment grew, additional classroom buildings were constructed. William C. Gaige Hall (1966, originally called

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Historical Development." Catalog of the Rhode Island College of Education, 1958-1959. p.20. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

<sup>3.</sup> Buildings and Named Places Binder. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

Horace Mann Hall) and Fogarty Life Science (1975) provided needed classroom space. The construction of the present Student Union in 1966 preceded the transformation of the original Student Center into the Art Center classrooms.

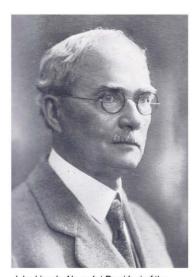
Additions to the campus have been consistent over time and continue today, with buildings like the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (2000) and extensive renovations to existing buildings. Most notably, the 1990s-2000s have seen significant alterations to existing buildings, transforming buildings like Alger Hall, originally designed in a sleek and simple mid-20<sup>th</sup> century style, into high tech centers for twenty-first century students. Additionally -- with the 1990s acquisition of the Rhode Island State Home and School/O'Rourke Center property that now composes the East Campus -- the college significantly expanded, adding another group of flat-roofed midcentury modern buildings to its stock. These buildings, along with the original campus buildings like Alger Hall, have also been targets for significant façade redesigns. Overall, the clear trajectory of construction and reconstruction on the campus reflects the priorities of changing times, from an optimistic postwar 1950s, to uncertainty and challenges to tradition in the 1970s, and an attempt to reassess the campus and create smart and sustainable buildings in the 2000s.



The 180 acre RIC campus didn't always look as it does now. Pictured above the farm-like fields of precampus days. (photo: RIC Archives)

#### ORIGINAL SIX-BUILDING CAMPUS

The original six building Mount Pleasant campus was designed as a whole by the Rhode Island architectural firm of Howe, Prout and Ekman and built by local firm E. Turgeon Construction Company, still in business today. The six buildings were designed in the International Style, all with flat roofs and four with windows dominating multiple elevations. The six original buildings were not high style, but reflected the architects' identification with broad international trends of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the influence of architectural luminaries like Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Edward Durell Stone. At the time of construction in the late-1950s, the Modern campus stood in contrast to the ivy-covered university buildings throughout Providence and represented a cutting-edge development in Rhode Island's architecture of higher education. The six original buildings — John Lincoln Alger Hall, Henry Barnard School, Craig-Lee Hall, Dennis J. Roberts Hall, the Student Center, and Lucius A. Whipple Gymnasium — housed classrooms, a laboratory school for teachers, administrative offices, student community space, and a sports and recreation area.



John Lincoln Alger, 1st President of the Rhode Island College of Education (photo: *RIC Archives*)

#### John Lincoln Alger Hall (1958)

John Lincoln Alger Hall is named for the principal of the Rhode Island Normal School who became the first president of the Rhode Island College of Education when the institution changed its name. Alger was born in 1864 in Canada and received his Bachelor's and Master's from Brown University.4 Dr. Alger was highly regarded in the education field, teaching and holding administrative positions in Vermont and Rhode Island schools and receiving regional distinctions for his service.<sup>5</sup> At the helm of the Rhode Island Normal School from 1908, through its transformation to the Rhode Island College of Education, to his retirement in 1939, Dr. Alger influenced scores of teachers and expanded the administration of the In 1921 Rhode Island State College college.

Michael Smith. "Last President, First Principal." Rhode Island College Sesquicentennial. http://www.ric.edu/ric150/memories/archv11.html. (accessed March 29, 2012).

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Dr. John L. Alger, Dead in 79" Year." The Providence Journal. January 12, 1943. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. Faculty File, 11/1.

(now the University of Rhode Island) bestowed on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Education describing him as a "scholar and educator...[leading] one of the most efficient and progressive teacher-training institutions of America."6 Alger's kindness empathy towards staff and students was noted throughout his career.7 "All good work is enjoyable," he stated in a 1932 address. "and radio brings happiness in its train."8 Alger died in 1943 in New Haven, Connecticut.

John Lincoln Alger Hall was dedicated in 1958 in honor of Alger's commitment to educational advancement and his contributions to the development of the college.



The original Alger Hall, 1960. (photo: RIC Archives)



The renovated Alger Hall, 2012. (photo: Liz Warburton)

Howe, Prout, and Ekman designed the building to serve as one of two classroom buildings; it accommodated Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, and Arts classes. A slight cantilever extends on three sides of the northern and southern façades, sheltering window walls divided by asbestos board spandrels. Reflecting on the design, Ridgway Shinn, faculty member and later the first Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, stated, "It was bright and clean. There was a freshness, an eagerness. In Alger, where I did most of my teaching, the classrooms were wonderful because you had these walls of windows. They were just lovely." In the classrooms were wonderful because you had these walls of windows.

<sup>6.</sup> Ibid

 <sup>&</sup>quot;John Lincoln Alger." Rhode Island Institute of Instruction Quarterly Journal. XVII, No. 1 (1943): 10. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. Faculty File, 11/1.

Transcript of Radio Address by Dr. John Lincoln Alger, December 13, 1932. p. 1. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. Faculty File, 11/1.

Catalog of the Rhode Island College of Education, 1958-1959. p. 4. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

Marlene Lopes, ed. Rhode Island College: On the Move. A Fittieth Anniversary Collective Memoir. (Providence, RI: Rhode Island College, 2008), p.18.

In 2006, Alger Hall was renovated by William Kite Architects, Inc. and completely transformed in order to provide a technologically updated home for the School of Management and Technology. Kite Architects reclad the building, removing the original window walls, and constructed additions to the east and west façades. The interior of the building was also transformed, providing meeting spaces for departmental or collegewide events. Dean of the School of Management and Technology James Schweikert commented, "Two years of careful design work has resulted in one of the finest teaching facilities in New England, certainly for the teaching of business and economics. <sup>11</sup>

#### Henry Barnard School (1958)



Henry Barnard (photo: Wikipedia Commons: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ File:Henry Barnard American educator.jpg#file history)

Henry Barnard was a national figure in the education field with a special connection to Rhode Island. Born in Connecticut, Barnard studied at Yale, and following his 1830 graduation, he mingled with influential people in the education and political fields. 12 Shortly thereafter, Barnard was elected to the Connecticut legislature where he prioritized educational reforms and established a school commission. Barnard emphasized social and cultural pursuits through his advocacy of education for all children and his support for museums and libraries.<sup>13</sup> In 1843, he came to Rhode Island at the invitation of the governor and conducted a census of schools. The results of Barnard's survey led to an overhaul of the Rhode Island school system and his appointment in 1845 as the state's first Commissioner of Education.<sup>14</sup> After several years in Rhode Island, Barnard returned to Connecticut where he acted as a social reformer for the remainder of his life, celebrated for his contributions to the development of the education field. He died in 1900.

Beginning in 1893, the Rhode Island Normal School maintained public classrooms and instructional spaces at its Providence campus, and in 1898 it officially dedicated the

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Alger Hall, School of Management, Rhode Island College: Project Description." William Kite Architects, Inc. http://www.kitearchitects.com/awards-portfolio/awards/alger-hall-school-of-management. (accessed March 29, 2012).

<sup>12. &</sup>quot;Barnard, Henry." American National Biography Online. http://www.anb.org. (accessed March 29, 2012).

<sup>13.</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14. &</sup>quot;Henry Barnard (1811-1900)." Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation. <a href="http://cedarhillfoundation.org/notable-residents/henry-barnard/">http://cedarhillfoundation.org/notable-residents/henry-barnard/</a> (accessed March 29, 2012).

Normal Observation School. 15 In 1920 this school was renamed for Henry Barnard, and the school built on the new Mount Pleasant Campus retained the name. As a laboratory school, it operates in partnership with the college in order to provide education students with opportunities for class-room observation.



Henry Barnard School, shortly after construction completed, 1958. (photo: RIC Archives)

The design of the school building is a complimentary part of the original campus and similar to many other midcentury buildings, especially because of window-dominated walls also used throughout the new campus. The U-shaped building separates student grades into different wings. An ell facing College Road is notable for its three windows of glass brick, a material commonly used in schools and known for its durability.

#### Craig-Lee Hall (1958/1971)

Craig-Lee Hall is jointly named for Clara Craig and Mary Lee, two significant figures in college history. Dr. Clara Elizabeth Craig's long tenure with the college began following her graduation with a Master's degree from the Rhode Island College of Education. Throughout her career, Craig served as the Principal of the Henry Barnard School, Director of Teacher Training and Practice, and Dean of the College. 16 In 1913, the State Board of Education sent Craig to Rome to study Maria Montessori's teaching methods. Upon her return, Craig recommended the adoption of Montessori methods in Rhode Island schools and spearheaded efforts to adapt the practices to local



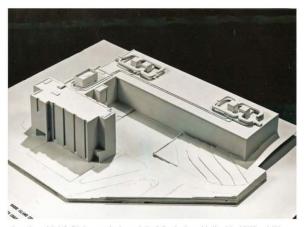
The Craig-Lee ladies L-R: Clara Craig, Mary Lee (photo: RIC Archives)

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Function of the Henry Barnard School." Catalog of the Rhode Island College of Education, 1959-1960. p. 15. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

Marlene Lopes. "This Wonderful Institution: Teaching and Learning at Rhode Island College, 1854-1958." Issues in Teaching and Learning, Vol. 5. <a href="https://www.ric.edu/fit/volume\_05\_lopes.php">https://www.ric.edu/fit/volume\_05\_lopes.php</a>. (accessed March 29, 2012).

curriculums. Craig concluded her 47-year career with her retirement in 1940 and died in 1943.

Dr. Mary M. Lee completed both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Rhode Island College. Mentored by Dr. Craig, she succeeded her as the Director of Teacher Training in 1940. Lee's love for the college was evident in her involvements as the president of the Rhode Island College Alumni Association, pres-



Lamborghini & Pipka scaled model of Craig-Lee Hall with 1970 addition. (photo: RIC Archives)

ident of the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction, and member of the Board of Regents for Rhode Island State College and Rhode Island College.<sup>17</sup> President William Gaige described Lee as a "*human milestone*" who helped the college to grow and develop its educational programs for teachers.<sup>18</sup> Dr. Lee died in 1957 at the age of 51.

Craig-Lee Hall was the direct complement to Alger Hall, sitting closely perpendicular to the building and possessing an almost identical design. In 1970, construction began on a large addition to the western façade that now faces the quadrangle. The five-story addition designed by Lamborghini and Pipka dwarfs the original two-story horizontal design, and, when viewed from the west, it obscures much of the original building. It is flat-roofed with slightly recessed vertical columns of narrow windows dividing the taught, light-colored brick façade. In 1972, a large outdoor clock was designed in consultation with Lamborghini and Pipka and added below the roofline. <sup>19</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Funeral Rites Held for Dr. Mary M. Lee," August 8, 1957. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. Faculty File, 11/1.

<sup>18.</sup> Lopes, "This Wonderful Institution."

 <sup>&</sup>quot;A College Notebook." Folio, Number 28. June 1972. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

#### Dennis J. Roberts Hall (1958)

Dennis Joseph Roberts was Governor of Rhode Island from 1951-1959. Born in 1903, Roberts graduated from Fordham University and studied law at Boston University Law School. He served in the State Senate and later as the Mayor of Providence, with a period of absence to serve in the US Navy during WWII. During his tenure as governor, Roberts reorganized the Department of Social Welfare and established the State Department of Administration as well as a development council for economic growth.

Roberts was instrumental in the development of the Mount Pleasant campus, first commissioning a study on Rhode Island College's physical needs in 1953 and later initiating the move to the new campus. Roberts supported the bond issues to finance campus construction and worked with the Board of Trustees of State Colleges to provide the necessary infrastruc-



Offical portrait of Governor Dennis J. Roberts (*artist: Germain Glidden, RI* State House)

ture for the construction. At the time of construction, Roberts was commended for the speed with which he provided the resources needed for the campus development.<sup>20</sup>

Roberts Hall was designed house administrative offices, meeting spaces, and an auditorium large enough to seat the entire student body. In 1967 Turoff and Sande, a firm known for their school and administrative buildings, presented a preliminary design study to the college detailing their suggestions for an addition at the southeast corner of the



The administrative suite at Roberts Hall (photo: RIC Archives)

building. Construction on this administrative wing began in 1969. Through the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act Rhode Island College received funding in 1976 for the construction of a Music Wing at the northwest corner of the original building. Baker and Conlon Architects, a regional firm who also designed the Warwick Ice Skating Rink, designed this wing. With these two additions, Roberts Hall became a sprawling building that still serves as the administrative nucleus of the college.

<sup>20. &</sup>quot;Roberts," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

#### Student Center, now Art Center (1958/2012)

Originally the Student Center, named in honor of the students of the college, housed the library, bookstore, cafeteria, and student lounges. The building was designed in the International Style, but with a more sprawling footprint than neighboring Alger Hall. A rectangular two-story wing faced Alger Hall, and curtain walls mimicked that building's original design. A long hallway running north to south opened onto a courtyard and connected the eastern wing, originally used for cafeteria space.

Following construction of the James P. Adams Library (1963) and the multi-phased Student Union (dedicated in 1966), the Student Center no longer served as the central location for campus community services. By the late-1960s, plans were underway to transform part of the building into a space for the Art Department. June, 1969 request to President Kauffman stated that the building would be ideal for an Art Center, as its architecture would support studios. open space sculpture displays, long hallways for galleries, and easy access to outdoor spaces for sketching and inspiration. With the help of skilled art students the Student Center was gradually transformed, and in 1976 the Art Center was complete.<sup>21</sup>



The present-day Art Center, in its original use as the college's Student Center, c. 1958. (photo: RIC Archives)



Artistic rendering of the future Art Center by RGB Associates (photo: RIC What's News)

On May 4, 2012 Rhode Island College broke ground for a \$17 million renovation and expansion of the Art Center. The refurbished 54,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility was designed specifically for students in the fine arts by Design Partnership of Cambridge/Schwartz-Silver Associates. Phase 1 is scheduled to be finished by January 2013, and by January 2014 the project will be completed.<sup>22</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Art Center Expansion: Creative Explosion." Logo: An Accent on People, Programs, and Policies from Rhode Island College. Spring 1976, p.2. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections, 7.3/3.

<sup>22. &</sup>quot;RIC Breaks Ground on Art Center Renovation and Expansion." What's News Online. <a href="http://www.nic.edu/whatsnews/details.php?">http://www.nic.edu/whatsnews/details.php?</a> <a href="News ID=1804">News ID=1804</a>. (accessed July 6, 2012).

#### Lucius A. Whipple Gymnasium (1958)

Lucius A. Whipple, the second president of the Rhode Island College of Education, emphasized student activities and involvement on pus. Whipple Gymnasium, now known as Whipple Hall, is set amidst the sports fields in the central section of campus. Whipple graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island State College, and Brown University and received honorary degrees from Providence Catholic Teachers' College, Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, Rhode Island State College, Providence College, and Bryant University. Before becoming President of the Rhode Island College of Education in 1940, he taught in Rhode Island and Maine. Dr. Whipple served on a variety of boards throughout his professional career, notably as the Superintendent of the State Home and School for Dependent and Neglected Children that now composes Rhode Island College's East Campus.



Lucius A. Whipple, 2nd President of the Rhode Island College of Education (photo: *RIC Archives*)

Originally Whipple Hall housed gymnasium space, exercise rooms, and facilities for sports events, in addition to several classrooms. Billie A. Burrill, founder of the Rhode Island College Dance Company, recalled, *The number of students at the College grew so quickly! Believe it or not, we soon outgrew the facilities of the new Whipple Gymnasium, and I had to teach folk dance in its foyer.* <sup>26</sup> Today, the building space has been converted into classrooms and a large computer laboratory.



Lucius A. Whipple Gymnasium, 1958. (photo: RIC Archives)

<sup>23.</sup> Lopes, Rhode Island College on the Move. p. 29

#### RESIDENCE HALLS:

In important part of the Mount Pleasant campus, far larger than the college's earlier homes in downtown Providence, was the addition of six residence halls between 1961 and 2007. The first, Mary Tucker Thorp Residence Hall, provided a new type of college experience and enticed out of state students to enroll. As the college population grew dramatically, so did the need for more housing. Five residence halls joined Thorp Hall at the southwestern portion of campus, with the most recent constructed in 2007.

#### Mary Tucker Thorp Residence Hall (1963)

Mary Tucker Thorp, a distinguished Professor of Education, served the college from 1926-1967. Educated at Boston University, Thorp taught in Rhode Island schools before accepting a position at the Henry Barnard School where she served as the director for over twenty years. She also authored a number of publications and was named the college's first Distinguished Professor. In recognition of her community involvement, she received the Roger Williams Medal of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce as well as commendations from Brown University and Rhode Island College.<sup>24</sup>

Mary Tucker Thorp breaks ground for construction of Thorp Hall , 1961. (photo: RIC Archives)

Thorp Residence Hall was a milestone in the College's development. As the first dormito-

ry, it symbolized a major shift away from a fully commuter school. At the building's dedication, George W. Kelsey, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of State Colleges, stated that the new residence hall would "add opportunities galore to future students."

Designed by Lamborghini, Christoph and Pipka and described by President Gaige in 1961 as "a truly brilliant piece of architectural thinking," Mary Tucker Thorp Resi-

<sup>24. &</sup>quot;Thorp," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

<sup>25.</sup> Ibid.

dence Hall is a geometric building with a central courtyard. A single story lobby faces College Road and is flanked by offset three-story wings, all together creating a square that shelters the courtyard. Light colored brick and a flat roof provide harmony with other campus buildings. Originally created to house 144 women; it is now coeducational.



Aerial view of Thorp Residence Hall (photo: RIC Archives)

#### Mary A. Weber Residence Hall (1965)

For 28 years Mary A. Weber taught mathematics at the Rhode Island College of Education. Born in rural Illinois in 1882, she attended the Illinois Normal School and began her career at the age of 18. While teaching, in several states, she took courses and also earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan and an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University. In 1922 she accepted a position at the Wheeler School in Providence, and 2 years later she joined the Rhode Island College. Known for her selfsufficiency, thrift, and emphatic approach to life, she continued to oversee from Rhode Island the operation of her farm in Illinois. During the summers of 1943 and 1944 she contributed to the war effort by operating a lathe at Browne and Sharpe. At her death in 1965, Mary Weber willed to the college more than \$125,000, the largest bequest it had yet received. Upon the recommendation of President Gaige, the College honored both her service and her generosity by naming after her its newest building.<sup>26</sup>



Mary A. Weber (photo: RIC Archives)

Weber Residence Hall was designed by Christoph Associates – led by Frank H. Christoph of Lamborghini, Christoph, and Pipka – and constructed by M.G. Allen and Associates Builders of Warwick. Similar in design to Thorp Hall, but larger, Weber is com-

M. Augusta Clay. "Mary A. Wheeler Brought 'Pioneer Spirit' to RIC." Providence Evening Bulletin. October 18, 1965, p.24; Michael Smith. "Remembering Mary A. Weber." <a href="http://www.ric.edu/ric150/memories/archv04.html">http://www.ric.edu/ric150/memories/archv04.html</a> (accessed June 29, 2012).

posed of a single story lobby area facing west with three storied residence wings encasing a central courtyard in square formation. Its 18 suites, each made up of 10 private rooms, a lounge, and bath facilities, could accommodate 180 students, and, by designating a few for men only, the College for the first time allowed men and women to be housed in a single building, though in separate and independent areas.



Weber Residence Hall (photo: RIC Archives)

#### Rose Butler Browne Residence Hall (1969)



Rose Butler Browne (photo: RIC Archives)

Rose Butler Browne, a pioneer in American education, was born in Boston and raised in Newport, Rhode Island. In 1919 she received her teaching certificate from the State Normal School, and, as the first graduate to enroll in a cooperative program with Rhode Island State College (now the University of Rhode Island), she completed the bachelor's degree program two years later. She later received a master's degree from Rhode Island College, and in 1937 she became the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate in education from Harvard University.

For 47 years Dr. Browne taught at traditionally black colleges in the South. She drew national attention during her tenure at North Carolina College when she refused to send her students to teaching positions in West Virginia,

a state known at the time for significant wage gaps between white and black employees.<sup>27</sup> Her actions and the publicity surrounding the cases led to policy changes in West Virginia. After retiring in 1963, Browne ran a daycare center in North Carolina, taught part time, and served as an educational consultant and board member, among other activities. Returning to Rhode Island she ran a summer school intended to enrich the lives

<sup>27. &</sup>quot;Scholarships." The Unity Center. http://www.ric.edu/unitycenter/programs\_scholarships.php (accessed June 29, 2012).

of black children. In 1969, at the age of 72, Browne published her autobiography, Love My Children, detailing the influence of her great-grandmother and her dedication to fighting prejudice and engendering change. She was the recipient of many honors, including honorary degrees from Island Rhode College (1950), Roger Williams (1977), and URI (1984). Browne died in 1986 at the age of 89.



Browne Residence Hall (photo: RIC Archives)

Rose Butler Browne Residence Hall was dedicated on September 28, 1969, and Dr. Browne, present for the occasion, said that it symbolized for her the opportunities that Rhode Island College made available to all, without regard to their status. Designed by Lamborghini and Pipka to house 156 women, Browne Hall precedes Lamborghini and Pipka's design for the Craig-Lee Hall addition, and the two buildings are similar in form. The main entrance to the building is through a two-story ell that fronts a large, seven-story residence tower. Narrow columns of windows punctuate smooth façades of light colored brick. The building's edges are clad in concrete.

#### Charles B. Willard Residence Hall (1971)

Charles B. Willard served as the President of the College from 1973-1977. An alumnus of LaSalle Academy, he graduated from Rhode Island College of Education in 1934 and went on to earn a doctorate at Brown University. During and after WWII, Dr. Willard served in the Army and Army Air Forces where he trained pilots with aircraft simulators. Following the war, he taught English, Social Studies, and French in Providence schools, then returned to Rhode Island College in 1958 as the Dean of Professional Studies. During his tenure, he also served as



Joseph Kauffman (left) with Charles Willard (right) at the dedication of Willard Hall (photo: RIC Archives)

 <sup>&</sup>quot;"Willard Hall Dedicated." The Anchor. Vol. LXIII, Issue 7. Nov. 10, 1971. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections; "Charles B. Willard dies at 74; President-emeritus of RIC." The Providence Journal. January 11, 1986. A-06.

<sup>29.</sup> Ibid.

the Dean of the College, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and acting President (1966-1968) before accepting the presidency in 1973. For his inauguration, Professor of Art Curtis K. LaFollette designed the sterling silver and enamel Willard Medallion that is now the official symbol of the Office of the President.

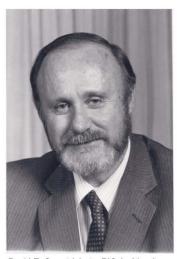


Willard Residence Hall, (photo: RIC Archives)

Charles B. Willard Residence Hall was designed by Lamborghini and Pipka to house 144 students; the residence hall was coeducational from its opening, indicative of the social changes taking place on the Rhode Island College campus. At the time of Willard Hall's dedication, President Kauffman remarked, "We say to our students that the qualities of Charles Willard are worthy of emulation and that his devotion to learning is a model for all of us."

#### David E. Sweet Residence Hall (1991)

David Emery Sweet was President of Rhode Island College from 1977-1984. Born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Sweet attended Drury College and Duke University before beginning his teaching career in political science at Ohio State University. He went on to teach at Illinois State University before being appointed Vice Chancellor of the Minnesota State College System. His career in higher education administration flourished when he became the founding president of the Metropolitan State College in Minnesota. He returned to New England to become the President of Rhode Island College, a position he held until his sudden death in September 1984. His many accomplishments included the championship of Leadership Rhode Island as well as the continued development of the College. During his presidency, Dr.



David E. Sweet (photo: RIC Archives)

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Willard Dorm." Vice President of Business Affairs materials, unprocessed. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

Sweet advocated for the construction of a new residence hall, a plan that was not carried out due to budget constraints. Following his death, his friends and colleagues created an endowed professorship in his name.



Sweet Residence Hall (photo: Liz Warburton)

In 1991 a new residence hall designed by David Presbrey Architects was named in Sweet's honor. The five-story building sits close to College Road, facing north. Significant space between the slightly recessed windows and a sunken full-length entryway give the building a horizontal quality. Speaking at the dedication, his widow Arlene stated, "David believed the best collegiate experience a student could have included living on campus...because it provides continuity and a sense of home.... David would thank you." 31

<sup>31. &</sup>quot;New Residence Hall Dedicated in 'Kind Remembrance of a Good Man." What's News at RIC? Vol. 12, No 16. Nov. 11, 1991 Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

#### New Residence Hall (2007)

Completed in 2007 but yet unnamed, Rhode Island College's newest residence hall was designed by Robinson, Green, Beretta (RGB) to house 367 students. It is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified residence hall in Rhode Island. The building is shaped in a deep-U, with light colored brick contrasted with red brick courses and recessed vertical sections of concrete.



New Hall (photo: Liz Warburton)

#### **COMMUNITY BUILDINGS:**

The Rhode Island College campus includes several buildings designed for use by the community as a whole, for dining, recreation, or events. The original six-building campus included the Student Center for this purpose, but the expansion of the campus has provided a variety of dedicated spaces for the campus community.

#### Fred J. Donovan Dining Center Complex (1962)



**Above:** Fred Donovan **Below:** the original dining hall in his name (photo: RIC Archives)

For twenty-eight years Fred J. Donovan served Rhode Island College as a member of the English faculty, while also holding the offices of Dean of Men (1940-1966), Vice President (1944-1960), and acting President (1950-1952).32 Born in Providence and a LaSalle Academy alumnus, he graduated from Manhattan College and earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Detroit. After a brief stint in elementary and secondary schools, he joined the faculty at Providence College in 1931, and in 1938 he arrived at the Rhode Island College of Education. In 1941 Catholic Teachers College awarded Donovan an honorary degree, and on October 20, 1962 Rhode Island College paid tribute to him at the dedication of its new dining center. He died in 1980 at the age of 83.



32. "Fred J. Donovan dies; was RIC Vice President." *The Providence Sunday Journal.* June 22, 1980. B-16. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. Faculty File 11/1.

The Fred J. Donovan Dining Center was designed by Lamborghini, Christoph and Pipka. The original design was an International Style building with a flat roof and window walls on every façade, providing patrons unobstructed views of the campus and allowing those outside to peer in, blurring the line between the outdoors and indoors and connecting the building with its site. Alterations in later years have obscured much of the original design, removing the midcentury modern qualities and replacing them with more contemporary features, such as brick cladding and a low-pitched hipped roof over a relocated entryway. With the additions of the Ducey Media Center and Faculty Center to the rear of the building, Donovan is now a sprawling complex with little visible of its original design.



Donovan Dining Center as it stands today (photo: www.ric.edu)

#### James P. Adams Library (1963/1979)

As chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Trustees of State Colleges, a position he held from 1955-1960, James Pickwell Adams provided leadership at the time the Mount Pleasant campus of Rhode Island College was under development. In recognition of his supportive efforts, the College named its first library building in his honor. Born in Michigan in 1895, Adams began his ca-



James P. Adams breaks ground for construction of Adams Library (photo: RIC Archives)

reer in 1919 by teaching at his alma mater, the University of Michigan.<sup>33</sup> He joined the Economics faculty of Brown University in 1921 and from 1932 to 1945 served as Vice-President. Adams then went back to the University of Michigan where he served as provost until his retirement in 1951. He returned to Rhode Island and in 1955 was appointed to the Board of Trustees of State Colleges. In Rhode Island Dr. Adams was noted for his involvement in fair housing and received the National Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.<sup>34</sup> He was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 1966. He died in 1969.

James P. Adams Library, the educational and research hub of the college, was designed by Lester J. Millman Associates in May 1963. The original design provided room for expansion, and a mezzanine designed by Lamborghini and Pipka<sup>35</sup> on the ground level was added in 1966. Millman was a New England regional architect and Adams Library was listed as one of his principal works in the 1970 American Institute of Architects Directory.<sup>36</sup> In addition to the Rhode Island College library, Millman designed other educational buildings including the Art Center at the University of Rhode Island and the Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School in Providence.



The 1977 addition to the back side of Adams Library added 50,000 square feet Pictured above, the backside of the library prior to the addition. (photo: RIC Archives)

The Rhode Island College Campus Development Plan 1960-1980, published in 1959, had recommended U-shaped library, forming its own courtyard and facing into larger established quadrangle.<sup>37</sup> This plan suggested two stages of construction, the first

from 1962-1969 and a further addition in 1970. The additional space would serve to address the anticipated issues of high enrollment and overcrowding on the new campus. Millman's design differed from the proposal of Blair Associates in the Campus Development Plan; the first phase of the library was a rectangular, flat-roofed structure atop a knoll with a sparse colonnade facing the quadrangle. Slate cladding accentuates the

<sup>33.</sup> Buildings and Named Places Binder.

<sup>34. &</sup>quot;Adams, James P." Encyclopedia Brunoniana. Brown University. http://www.brown.edu/Administration/News Bureau/Databases/Encyclopedia/search.php?serial=A0050. (accessed February 17, 2012).

<sup>35.</sup> Vice President of Business Affairs, Box 2. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

<sup>36. &</sup>quot;Millman, Lester Joshua." The AIA Historical Dictionary of American Architects, 1970. http://communities.aia.org/sites/ hdoaa/wiki/Wiki Pages/1970 American Architects Directory.aspx. p. 626. (accessed March 29, 2012).

<sup>37.</sup> Blair Associates. "Rhode Island College Campus Development Plan 1960-1980." 1959. p.12. Campus Map Guides. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. 0.0/12.1.

<sup>38.</sup> Ibid, p. 28.

building's sleek white trim, and provides texture to the otherwise unornamented design. The building draws clear influence from the American Embassy in New Delhi, designed by noted Modern architect Edward Durrell Stone in 1954, and imitates the building's massing and colonnade.

By 1977, Donald J. Prout and Associates had designed the second phase of library construction: a 50,000 square foot addition, and major changes to the internal plan of the existing building.39 The new wing providadditional ed space for periodicals and seating. Like Lester Millman, Prout had extensive design experience in the education and public sectors. designing school buildings in Exe-



**Top:** The original Adams Library built in 1963 *(photo: RIC Archives)* **Bottom:** The American Embassy in New Delhi, designed by Edward Durrell Stone in 1954 *(photo: EDSToneArchpaper.com)* 

ter and Warwick as well as the round John E. Fogarty Medical and Rehabilitation Unit building at the Ladd School in Exeter. Among his commissions, Prout includes public libraries in Barrington, Cranston, East Providence, Scituate, and Portsmouth. His design for the Adams Library addition was influenced by the Brutalist school of architecture, with heavy concrete piers and spandrels dividing the façades into symmetrical sections. The projecting cornice contributes to the top-heavy feeling found in many Brutalist buildings.

<sup>39.</sup> As mentioned in the 1962 AIA Historical Dictionary of American Architects, Donald J. Prout worked for Howe, [Earle] Prout, and Ekman, Architects who designed the original six-building campus plan in 1958. See also: What's News at RIC, Vol. 1, Issue 8. April 1977, p. 3.

<sup>40. &</sup>quot;Previous Library Building Projects." State of Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services. <a href="http://www.olis.ri.gov/grants/construction/resources/prevproj.php">http://www.olis.ri.gov/grants/construction/resources/prevproj.php</a> (accessed March 29, 2012).

#### Student Union (1968)

The Student Union is named in honor of the students of Rhode Island College. Students actively participated in its planning, and portions of the construction were financed through student fees. Designed by Lamborghini and Pipka, the building was planned to include games and recreation areas, a ballroom to be used for special events, administrative offices for student organizations, and areas for study. <sup>41</sup> Light colored brick and a flat roof coordinate with other campus buildings, and an overhanging fourth story with narrow windows originally complimented the design of the nearby Walsh Center, also done by Lamborghini and Pipka, which was destroyed by fire in 1992.



The two entrances to the re-designed Student Union (photos: ww.ric.edu)



Since its completion in 1968, the Student Union has undergone several extensive renovations. In 1998, William D. Warner, Architects - the firm that would go on to design the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts - conducted a feasibility and redesign study of the building in collaboration with a committee composed of faculty and students. renovating the building 2002, in Robinson Green Beretta (RGB) added a new entrance facing the quadrangle, relocated elevators and staircases, expanded the restrooms, and added student mailboxes and a café to replace a former bar (the Rathskeller) and a coffee shop (the Coffee Ground).

<sup>41. &</sup>quot;Student Union Dedicated Today at 3:00 pm." *The Anchor*, Vol. XL No. 16. Feb. 28, 1968. p.1. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. 0.0/1

## Dr. Michael F. Walsh Health and Physical Education Center (1965/1992)

Dr. Michael F. Walsh served as the Rhode Island Commissioner of Education from 1947-1963 and, ex-officio, on the Board of Trustees of State Colleges. He led efforts to increase support for public education, assisted with the development of a state scholarship program, and supported the newly created special education and industrial arts programs. Born in Newport and graduating from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, he began his career at Rogers High School where he taught English, served

as coach and athletic director, and later became Dean of Boys and Assistant Principal. After retiring in 1963, he took on the position of Dean of Admissions and Professor of Education at Newport's Vernon Court Junior Col-He was awarded lege. honorary degrees of Doctor of Education by Bryant College and Catholic Teachers College as well as an honorary Doctor of Science from the Rhode Island College of Pharma-On December 9, cy. 1965, in a convocation held in the new building, Rhode Island College bestowed upon him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and formally dedicated the Michael F. Walsh Health and Physical Education Center. 42





The Walsh Health and Physical Education Center before and after the fire that destroyed the building in 1992. (photos: RIC Archives)

Designed by Lamborghini and Pipka and built in 1965, the Walsh Center was the college's first major sports arena. It included a basketball court with seating area for sports events, a main gymnasium area, ticket booths, specialized sports rooms and recreation areas, and a press box. The fortress-like building included a recessed first story,

<sup>42. &</sup>quot;"Walsh," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

with boxy concrete columns supporting the second level. Narrow windows and a geometric roof on the eastern façade facing the quadrangle provided interesting design features, while light colored brick and the building's horizontal qualities helped it blend with other campus buildings.

In 1992 the Michael F. Walsh Health and Physical Education Center was destroyed by fire, and in 1993 it was replaced with the Health, Physical Education, and Athletic Center, which was renamed in 2003 as the Murray Center.

#### The Murray Center (1995)

The loss in 1992 of the Walsh Gymnasium created an immediate need for a new physical education complex. Designed by Robinson Green Beretta (RGB) Architects and completed in 1995 on the same site, the new Health, Physical Education, and Athletic Center was as a state of the art facility for sports events and training, athletic administrative offices, and conference rooms. On April 16, 2003 Rhode Island College officially renamed the complex to honor two alumnae sisters, Mary F. Murray '33 and Catherine T. Murray '34, M.Ed. '51, in gratitude for their lifelong commitment to education.



The Murray Center named for sisters, Mary F. Murray '33 and Catherine T. Murray '34 is a state of the art sports & training facility. (photo: www.ric.edu)

Native to Woonsocket, both sisters taught for many years in Rhode Island public schools. During their time at the Rhode Island College of Education they were highly active on campus. Mary was a member of the French and Music clubs, Alpha Rho Tau, and the RICOLED yearbook staff, and Catherine's roles included Literary Editor of the Anchor, Associate Editor of RICOLED, and 1934 Class Treasurer. Both sisters also played wom-

en's basketball. As a trustee of the Murray Family Charitable Foundation their Terrance Murray, nephew, donated \$750,000 to establish two endowment funds at Rhode Island College, one to support athletics and student-athletes and the other to provide financial support for students in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development and was instrumental in naming the building in "Their lives," he said, their honor. "exemplified in the most significant ways the ideals of their profession." 43



Sisters Mary Frances Murray ('33) and Catherine Teresa Murray ('34) namesakes of the Murray Center (photo: RIC Archives)

# John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (2000)

Born in Pawtucket, alumnus John Nazarian began his fifty-eight year association with Rhode Island College in 1950 as a Rhode Island College of Education freshman and retired in 2008 as its eighth President. Following graduation in 1954 he immediately joined the faculty of Rhode Island College as an instructor of mathematics and physics. While continuing to teach, he earned master's degrees from Brown University and the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from New York University. In 1970 President Kauffman named him as the first Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, and he went on to become Special Assistant to the President for Planning, Vice President for Administrative Services, and Acting President before being appointed President in 1990.44 His many accomplishments were recognized throughout his life, with various fellowships, commendations, and awards. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2004 and received the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities' Honorary Chair Award for Lifetime Achievement.



John Nazarian, RIC's 8th Preisent (photo: RIC Archives)

<sup>43. &</sup>quot;Murray Center," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

<sup>44. &</sup>quot;A Tribute to John Nazarian." Rhode Island College. <a href="http://www.ric.edu/nazarianTribute/Bio.php">http://www.ric.edu/nazarianTribute/Bio.php</a> (accessed June 29, 2012).

Dr. Nazarian's lifelong interest in the performing arts was celebrated with the dedication of the John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts, dedicated in 2000. Designed by William D. Warner, the architect known for the Providence Riverwalk, the building is a multi-purpose facility that houses the Music, Theatre, and Dance programs and provides space for the performing arts.<sup>45</sup> Warner's design incorporates granite columns salvaged from the original Rhode Island College of Education building that was demolished in 1997 when making way for the Providence Place Mall. Light colored yellow brick pays homage to that building and compliments the midcentury modern buildings on campus. Details, such as slate roof tiles, mahogany ticket booths, and red cedar interior paneling, stand in contrast to the streamlined modern design of the buildings surrounding it.46



The John Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (photo: RIC Archives)

 <sup>45. &</sup>quot;"The Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts" <a href="http://www.ric.edu/nazariancenter/">http://www.ric.edu/nazariancenter/</a> (accessed June 29, 2012).
 46. "Growing by Design: RIC's New Arts Space Is Alive with Functionality." The *Providence Sunday Journal*., Sept. 10, 2000, p.10, Buildings and Named Places Binder.

#### CLASSROOM BUILDINGS:

Wo classroom buildings were constructed as part of the original six-building campus, but increasing enrollment created an almost immediate need for more classroom space. John Clarke Science was constructed in 1962 to meet that need and was followed by two more dedicated classroom buildings (William C. Gaige Hall and John E. Fogarty Hall) and a Professional Studies building (Horace Mann Hall) that also contains classrooms.

# John Clarke Science Building (1963)

Though less well known today than his associate Roger Williams, John Clarke played a major role in the colonial history of Rhode Island. Having fled first England and then Massachusetts because of religious persecution, he settled on Aquidneck Island, co-founded Newport, and led the second Baptist church in the colonies. As a result of his long term diplomatic efforts, King Charles II of England granted the Royal Charter of 1663 that recognized the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. This document, authored by John Clarke, guaranteed religious freedom and served until 1843 as the Rhode Island Constitution. 47



"Portrait of a Clergyman" (believed to be John Clarke; attributed to Guilliam de Ville c. 1659 photo: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:John\_Clarke\_picture.jpg#filelinks

On May 8, 1963 at the dedication ceremony for the John Clarke Science Building, Dr. William D. Metz commented that though many in attendance would have wished to name the building after a philanthropic donor, no large donation was present for the construction of the building. Additionally, the college chose not to name the building after someone associated with the college, but rather "after a person who never had any contact whatsoever with the college...one of the great founders of Rhode Island, a man whose achievements were great and whose character was worthy of emulation."

<sup>47. &</sup>quot;John Clarke Science Building," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

<sup>48.</sup> Speech, Dr. William D. Metz. July 8, 1963. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. 0.0/11. Box 2. Folder 10.

The John Clarke Science Building was designed by Charles A. Maguire and Associates. The horizontal building of light-colored brick with a flat roof complimented the original designs of Alger and Craig-Lee Halls. Two narrow sets of ribbon windows with square

panes increase the buildings horizontal qualities and provide the only ornamentation on the otherstark wise building. Small entry-ells project from the building's southern facade facing the quadrangle at the western and eastern ends. additional wing is located off the northwestern corner of the building.



Clarke Science (photo: RIC Archives)

## William C. Gaige Hall (1966)

Originally called Horace Mann Hall when it opened in February 1966, Gaige Hall provided needed classroom and office space for the overflowing campus. Designed by Donald J. Prout Associates, construction on the building's west wing began that spring. In 1971 this building which housed liberal arts classrooms was renamed for Dr. William Gaige because of his commitment to expanding the College's liberal arts curriculum. At the dedication, Dr. Gaige said, "I'm very pleased to have that particular building named after me ... I like being between James Adams and Michael Walsh." 151

William Clement Gaige was the third President (1952-1966) of the Rhode Island College of Education. He oversaw the move to the new Mount Pleasant Campus, the subsequent growth in enrollment, the change of name to Rhode Island



Above right: William C. Gaige, 3rd President of the Rhode Island College of Education with his wife (photo: RIC Archives)

<sup>49. &</sup>quot;Still More: As New Buildings Rise, Others are Planned." Folio, Number 1. March 1966. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

 <sup>&</sup>quot;R.I. College to Rename Hall for Dr. Gaige, Former Prexy, WHS Head." Greenville Observer Townsman. April 22, 1971.
 Buildings and Named Places Binder.

<sup>51.</sup> Robert Chiappinelli. "Is Mann Gaiged by name alone?" in "Gaige," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

College, and the institution's first accreditation. Under his leadership, Rhode Island College expanded its liberal arts curriculum, providing a variety of courses of study in addition to the Education program for which the school had long been known. During his tenure he oversaw the construction of fourteen campus buildings and helped to establish the Council of Rhode Island College and the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Born in Pennsylvania, Dr. Gaige graduated from Oberlin College and earned advanced degrees from the University of Chicago and Harvard University. Prior to taking office at Rhode Island College he had been a teacher, high school principal, school superintendent, and college instructor in several states. His accomplishments were well recognized, and he was awarded honorary degrees, from not only Rhode Island College (1970), but also the Rhode Island School of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences, Brown University, Providence College, Bryant College, and the University of Rhode Island.

With its light-colored brick, flat roof, and horizontal massing, Gaige Hall is consistent and complimentary to the overall campus design. Narrow vertical windows echoed the former Walsh Center that stood nearby. A two-story lobby hyphenates the wings and opens onto a small patio and steps leading down into the quadrangle.



Gaige Hall (photo: RIC Archives)

<sup>52. &</sup>quot;Gaige Hall," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

## John E. Fogarty Life Science Building (1975)

Congressman John E. Fogarty served in the US House of Representatives from 1940 until his death in 1967. Born in Providence, he attended LaSalle Academy and Providence College, was trained as a bricklayer, and led a bricklayer's union before being elected. In Washington D.C., he earned the nickname "Mr. Public Health" for his commitment to funding health initiatives. Acknowledging his many contributions, a plaque, gift of the Class of 1975, inside the Fogarty Life Science Building, indicates that the building is named in his honor "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the improvement of educational, medical, and public welfare facilities and programs in the state and nation."



Congressman John E. Fogartyl (photo: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ File:Congressman John Edward Fogarty.jpg)

In 1967 faculty from the biology and physical science departments began to draw up prelimi-

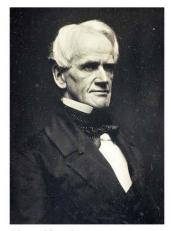
nary specifications for the construction of a new science facility that would be based upon their teaching experience and the specific needs of each discipline. Plans focused on creating a life science center and looked forward to the inclusion of future programs in nursing, medical technology, health science, and physical education. The physical sciences would remain in the John Clarke Science Building and would expand into the spaces vacated by biology. Designed by Donald J. Prout Associates, the John E. Fogarty Life Science Building was dedicated on October 19, 1975. Dr. George Hartmann, then chair of the Biology Department, observed that its design created a tremendous increase in the opportunity for interaction between students and faculty. Built of light colored brick and contrasting concrete, the rectangular building's slightly recessed windows and

horizontal massing give it fortress-like qualities. Within its two stories it housed ten biology laboratories, one nursing lecture room, one nursing self-study room, nine seminar rooms, nine laboratories, a large lecture hall, three multi-purpose classrooms, three lounge areas, three environmental chambers, and office space for sixty faculty. 54



Fogarty Life Science (photo: RIC Archives)

## Horace Mann Hall (1971)



Horace Mann (photo: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Horace Mann-paguerreotype by Southworth %">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Horace Mann-paguerreotype by Southworth %</a>
26 Hawes, c1850.jpg#filelinks

Horace Mann, often referred to as the father of public schools in America," served as a model for Henry Barnard and other educational reformers. Born in Massachusetts, he enrolled at Brown University in 1816, after graduating became a tutor at Brown, and then studied law. Becoming well known for his public speeches, he grew increasingly active in advocating for social reform, particularly in the area of education where he viewed public schools as tools for personal enlightenment. As secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education (1837 to 1848), he started a reform movement that spread throughout the country. He later served in Congress and went on to become the first president of Antioch College.

The classroom building now called William C. Gaige Hall was originally named for Horace Mann. Both the president of Antioch College and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education participated in its

dedication on April 27, 1966. Designed as the Professional Studies building by Fenton G. Keyes Associates, Architects and located close to the Henry Barnard School, the new Horace Mann Hall was dedicated on April 27, 1971 during a conference of educators from throughout the nation, and Horace Mann was once again recognized as the "prime mover in the cause of teacher education and free public education in the United States".

The looming geometric concrete building features a recessed entryway with brick accents. Jutting out from the northern side of the entrance is a windowless concrete wing that gives the building a fortress-like appearance. A square threestory tower with ribbonwindows divides the concrete and provides height to



Horace Mann Hall (photo: RIC Archives)

<sup>53. &</sup>quot;Inductee Details: Congressman John E. Fogarty." Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. <a href="http://www.riheritagehalloffame.org/inductees\_detail.cfm?iid=334">http://www.riheritagehalloffame.org/inductees\_detail.cfm?iid=334</a> (accessed June 29, 2012).

<sup>54. &</sup>quot;Fogarty Life Science Building," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

<sup>55. &</sup>quot;Horace Mann Hall dedication brochure. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. 0.0/11; "Horace Mann Hall," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

the otherwise horizontal building. Heavy concrete piers prevent the windows from circling the entire tower. The building is a good example of Brutalist architecture, popular on college campuses and elsewhere throughout the country in the late 1960s, and it is a more pure illustration of the style than the later 1979 addition to Adams Library.

#### **EAST CAMPUS:**



Building 3 houses classrooms, the Galley Café and the Financial Aid Office. (photo: www.ric.edu)

The East Campus of Rhode Island College has a long history of state usage. First developed as a farm for Providence businessman George W. Chapin, the land was in use by the state as the State Home and School for Dependent and Neglected Children by 1885. The State Home was one of the first institutions of its kind in the country, challenging traditional models of child welfare to focus on holistic care and a campuslike setting that housed children in domestic-scale buildings. In 1947, the State Home and School reorganized and became the Dr. Patrick I. O'Rourke Children's Center. The Children's Center era began a new period of construction where the wooden cottages constructed for the State Home were torn down and the modern brick buildings now in use by Rhode Island College were constructed. In the 1990s, Rhode Island College acquired these eleven brick buildings, one historic wooden cottage, and the c.1870s stone house built by George Chapin that was later used for administrative purposes by the State Home and Children's Center. The College acquired the land from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families who took ownership after the closure of the O'Rourke Center in 1979.

A National Register of Historic Places nomination for the State Home and School/Children's Center property remains under review by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

#### Buildings 1-6, 8

Building 1, 1960; Building 2, 1958; Building 3, 1958; Records and Bursar/Building 4, 1955; Accounting, Payroll, and Purchasing/Building 5, 1955; Building 6, 1959; Outreach Programs/Building 8, 1960.

The O'Rourke Children's Center constructed Buildings 1-10 as dormitories for its residents. Rhode Island College has reused each building and has since dedicated several in honor of significant individuals. Buildings 1-6 and Building 8 retain their O'Rourke Center numbers and have not been formerly renamed. Building 4 is recognized as the Records and Bursar's office, Building 5 as the Account, Payroll, and Purchasing offices, and Building 8 as the Outreach Programs office.



Building 8 dedicated to RIC Outreach Programs, provides adult education and professional training (photo: www.ric.edu)

Buildings 1-6 line the western border of the East Campus. Building 8 is the only O'Rourke Center building not yet renamed on the eastern side of the East Campus and sits to the south of the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities. Shared characteristics of the original designs included flat roofs, horizontal massing, and lack of ornamentation. Since Rhode Island College assumed ownership of these buildings, the college has added hipped roofs to Buildings 4 and 5 and remodeled the lower level and entryway of Building 3 for a more contemporary student café. Buildings 1 and 2 have had minor restoration work that has not altered the character of the original design. Building 6 remains entirely unaltered; notable features include light switches placed high up on walls, outside the reach of young children. Building 8, along the eastern border of the property, also remains unaltered and is used for administrative office space.

#### Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities (2009)

Known to colleagues as the "Father of Special Education," Paul Sherlock was a teacher, legislator, and lifelong advocate for those with disabilities. Born in 1930. Sherlock was raised in Pawtucket and educated at St. Raphael Academy, Providence College, and Boston University. Inspired by his son who had Down syndrome, Sherlock dedicated himself to advocating for those with disabilities. As Rhode Island's Director of Special Education he notably fought to close the troubled Ladd School in Exeter; he taught Special Education at Rhode Island College: and he served as President of the Trudeau Center and the Rhode Island Association of Retarded Citizens. A



Paul Sherlock pictured with colleagues L-R top: A. Antosh, T. Kochaner, R. Dickson, P. Sherlock bottom row: S. Imber, B. Larrivee, J. Dimeo (photo: *RIC Archives*)

twenty-five year tenure as a General Assembly Representative allowed Sherlock to expand his human rights advocacy to champion a higher minimum wage and assistance for working families.<sup>56</sup>



Sherlock Center. (photo: www.ric.edu)

<sup>56. &</sup>quot;Senate Resolution: Expressing Condolences on the Passing of our Colleague Representative Paul V. Sherlock." <a href="http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText04/SenateText04/Sen

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities was built in the footprint of the original Building 7, a girls' dormitory for the O'Rourke Center. The new building compliments the style and materials of the original O'Rourke buildings and other campus buildings. The building's design includes vertical columns of windows divided by rectangular spandrels, a center gable, and the brick accents found in many of the campus' International Style buildings from the 1950s and 1960s.



Building 9 The School of Social Work (photo: www.ric.edu)

# School of Social Work/Building 9 (1963/2004)

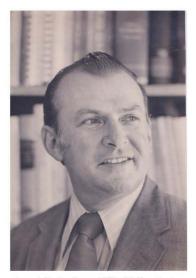
Building 9 was built in 1963 to serve as the Medical Services Building for the O'Rourke Center. The one-story brick building with a flat concrete roof was used as a residence, clinic, and infirmary in addition to the medical services unit. A character-defining feature of the original design was the open central courtyard. Building 9 was the last building constructed for the O'Rourke Center before its closure in 1979.

William Kite Architects, Inc. began the renovation of Building 9 in 2003, and the firm received numerous awards for the restoration, including the 2006 Merit Award for Adaptive Reuse and Historic Preservation from AIA/RI.<sup>57</sup> The 2004 renovations enclosed the courtyard with a large vaulted sunroof that allows Rhode Island College to use the area for all-weather study space while maintaining much of its original character.

In 2004 Building 9 became headquarters for the Rhode Island College School of Social Work. Previous homes for the program included Adams Library, the O'Rourke Center's school building (now the Rhode Island College Recreation Center), and Building 1.

<sup>57. &</sup>quot;School of Social Work: Rhode Island College." William Kite Architects, Inc. <a href="http://www.kitearchitects.com/awards-portfolio/awards/school-of-social-work">http://www.kitearchitects.com/awards-portfolio/awards/school-of-social-work</a> (accessed March 29, 2012).

# Joseph F. Kauffman Center/Building 10 (1951/2002)



Joseph F. Kauffman, RIC's 4th President (photo: RIC Archives)

Building 10 was the first of the modern brick dormitories to be constructed for the O'Rourke Center. Jackson, Robertson, and Adams, Architects designed the T-shaped one-story building in 1951 as a girls' dormitory. The original design provided space for nine bedrooms, a house-mother's room, bathrooms, and closets. The basement level was used for laundry, storage, crafts, and group space.

In 2004 Building 10 was named for Joseph F. Kauffman, the College's fourth president (1968-1973). Born in Providence, Joseph F. Kauffman earned degrees from the University of Denver, Northwestern University, and Boston University. He was involved with the development of the Peace Corps and gained recognition nationwide as an expert on leadership in higher education. <sup>59</sup>

During the turbulence of the 1960s and 1970s, Kauffman faced social unrest and the challenges of sit-ins, teach-ins, strikes, and moratoriums. He greatly extended the role of students. At the same time many significant academic programs were created, graduate



Building 10 The Kauffman Center (photo: www.ric.edu)

<sup>58.</sup> John Nazarian address. October 2006. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. Faculty File, 11/1.

<sup>59.</sup> Michael Smith. "Remembering the Presidency of Joseph Kauffman." <a href="http://www.ric.edu/ric150/memories/archv01.html">http://www.ric.edu/ric150/memories/archv01.html</a> (accessed June 29, 2012).

education was expanded, and enrollment increased 60%.<sup>60</sup> The Mount Pleasant campus experienced unprecedented growth: Horace Mann Hall, Rose Butler Browne and Charles B. Willard Residence Halls, the Faculty Center, an administrative wing to Dennis J. Roberts Hall, an addition to Craig-Lee Hall, the conversion of the Student Center into the Art Center, and the acquisition of 6.5 acres of land and the Alumni House overlooking Fruit Hill Avenue were all accomplished during Kauffman's presidency.

In 1973 he left Rhode Island College to serve as a Professor of Higher Education at the University of Wisconsin. Rhode Island College conferred on him an honorary degree in 1978 and the title of President Emeritus in 1983. Dr. Kauffman passed away in Madison, Wisconsin in 2006.

## Cottage C (1885/2004/2012)

Today Cottage C is the only remaining dormitory from the original State Home and School. Sometimes referred to as the Yellow Cottage, the building is sheathed in wood clapboard with a cross gable. The Victorian building exhibits Italianate details through its dentil molding and decorative porch surround. The cottage's most unique architectural feature is the interior staircase: the stairs are narrower than a standard staircase to accommodate the young children who once traveled up and down the steps.



The 'Yellow Cottage' (photo: Liz Warburton)

When the State Home became the O'Rourke Children's Center in 1947, the cottage became the social workers' residence and an administrative building. After the closure of the Children's Center in 1979, the Cottage became a Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) administrative building. DCYF vacated in 1997, and the property was purchased by the State for Rhode Island College, after which time it stood vacant and rapidly deteriorated.

<sup>60.</sup> Council of Rhode Island College. "Resolution Honoring the Life and Contributions of Joseph F. Kauffman, President Emeritus of Rhode Island College." December 2006. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections. Faculty File, 11/1.

The exterior of Cottage C was restored with the assistance of a State Preservation Grant from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission in 2004. Interior restoration began in 2012. Structurally, the building has remained largely unaltered throughout its lifetime with the exception of a handicapped ramp added to the rear of the building during the 2004 renovations by Rhode Island College.

## Sylvan R. Forman Center (c. 1875/1885/1887)

Sylvan Rolfe Forman was born in Providence and studied at Bryant University before becoming a regional postal worker. His wife, Helen (Ginsburg) Forman was an alumna of the Rhode Island College of Education, and the two became benefactors of the institution. At the time of Sylvan's death, Helen donated \$250,000 to the College and the Forman Center was renamed in honor of her husband. The Sylvan R. Forman Center houses the Undergraduate Admissions Office and is one of the centerpiece administrative buildings on campus.

Built for George W. Chapin in a formerly rural area, the Forman Center building is the oldest on campus, although the exact date of construction remains unknown. Architect Charles W. Hartshorn was George Chapin's brother in law; he was practicing predominantly in Providence at about the time the Chapin House was constructed, and his stylistic preferences are compatible with the Chapin House. Further research is needed to determine if he may have been the architect.



Helen and Sylvan Forman (photo: RIC Archives)

Constructed c. 1875 in the French Second Empire style, the western portion of the building stood alone until the late 1880s when an ell and second addition were added. All three segments of the building are constructed of stone with a rubble stone chimney on the western façade. The mansard roof repeats on the additions, as do wooden dormers. A decorative Victorian entry porch accents the main door.

Adapted as the Superintendent's House for the State Home and School/O'Rourke Center, it was used as an administrative building until the institution's closure in 1979. Rhode Island College acquired the building in 1991 when the Department of Children, Youth, and Families vacated the property, and Governor Sundlun transferred ownership to the College. Since then – and following a small fire – Rhode Island College has restored the building, taking care to preserve original details. Where changes were made,

the college made calculated decisions about the building's historic integrity; an example is the closing in of a small door on the rear façade but using the original framing to create a window in the same space.



The Forman Center houses the Undergraduate Admissions Office (photo: www.ric.edu)

#### Recreation Center (1954/1989/2011)

Replacing a previous multipurpose building that was destroyed by fire in 1951, the Auditorium Building was completed for the O'Rourke Center c. 1954 to serve as a multipurpose facility for school, chapel services, and assembly space. It was a tall two-story brick building with a flat roof and a one-story wing projecting from the rear. When Rhode Island College acquired the O'Rourke Center property, it constructed a large addition to the Auditorium to create a college Recreation Center. The addition overwhelms the original Auditorium but was simply attached to the southern façade, leaving the original 1954 building form largely intact. The main western façade of the original building was painted to coordinate with the Recreation Center addition, and the second-story windows were bricked in.

In 2011 the College began renovations which would completely transform the building, notably the exterior of the original O'Rourke Auditorium. The new design, by Design Partnership of Cambridge and Sgarzi Associates, removed the western façade of the original building, and replaced it with window walls on both levels. A redesigned entrance altered the 1989 addition, and the interiors of both portions of the building were completely redesigned. On September 10, 2012 a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house was held for the 80,000-square-foot facility and the adjoining and newly created Dr. Ivy Denise Locke Memorial Terrace, financed with the support of students and the family, friends, and colleagues of Rhode Island College's Vice President for Administration and Finance (2006-2010).



The newly redesigned Recreation Center after a complete renovation which included gutting the original interiors (photo: www.ric.edu)

#### OTHER BUILDINGS:

#### The President's House (1964)

At the end of the dedication year for its new campus, Governor Del Sesto signed into law a bill authorizing the expansion of the size and scope of RICE and renaming it as Rhode Island College. On March 17, 1959 the Board of Trustees of State Colleges announced that a house on Gardner Avenue, adjacent to the College, would be leased for the use of President Gaige. This marked the first time that the College provided an official residence for its leader. It was promised that "in due time" a house would be built on campus.



President & Mrs. Gaige were the first occupants of the Presidents house. (photo: RIC Archives)

In 1964, planning for the President's House began. Edward W. Burnam, was hired as the contractor for the project, and Lamborghini and Pipka designed a plan modeled on Burnam's own home in Warwick. The President's House, in the Colonial Revival style, faces College Road near the Fruit Hill entrance to the campus. The symmetrically placed double door on the main story dominates the front façade. Five shuttered windows run across the second story, and two matching windows flank the doorway on the ground level.

Previously, this spot had been the location of an early 19th century structure. Later, it became the home of the artist Hugo Breul who, among his other achievements, painted the portraits of seven of the state's governors. After the College acquired the land, this deteriorated building was used by firefighters for a practice drill, and the President's House was built on the site. The first President to live in the House was William C. Gaige. 61

<sup>61. &</sup>quot;The President's House," Buildings and Named Places Binder.

# The Physical Plant (1975)

The Physical Plant complex was constructed in 1975 and serves as the operations center for the college planner, custodial and maintenance services, signage coordinator, and managers for campus building projects. Constructed of prefabricated steel, the Physical Plant is a warehouse-style sparse utilitarian building. The building has remained unaltered since its construction. <sup>62</sup>



The Physical Plant complex (photo: Liz Warburton)

## Cooperative Preschool (late 1970s)

Described by some as a "shed behind Whipple Hall," 63 the Cooperative Preschool has provided Rhode Island College employees and faculty with preschool services since the late 1970s. Constructed with the same steel siding as the main Physical Plant, the structure is of the same era and resembles the Physical Plant on a smaller scale.



The Cooperative Preschool (photo: Liz Warburton)

<sup>62.</sup> Maintenance Building." Vice President for Business Affairs materials, unprocessed. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

<sup>63.</sup> Lori Marcotte. "RIC's Co-op Preschool gets four-star rating." What's News @ RIC. <a href="http://www.ric.edu/whatsnews/details.php?News\_ID=708">http://www.ric.edu/whatsnews/details.php?News\_ID=708</a> (accessed June 29, 2012).

# Student-Athlete Success Center (1998)

The Student-Athlete Success Center building, located behind the Murray Center, was the former home of the Sherlock Center. In January 2011 it was dedicated as a space to encourage the success of student athletes. The new Student-Athlete Success Center replaced the Marocco Family Student-Athlete Center that opened in 1998. <sup>64</sup> The building, similar in design to the Murray Center, is located adjacent to the college baseball field.



The Student Athlete Success Center. (photo: Liz Warburton)

<sup>64.</sup> Student-Athlete Development Program. "Program Overview." <a href="http://www.goanchormen.com/sa\_development.html">http://www.goanchormen.com/sa\_development.html</a> (accessed June 29, 2012).

### Entrance Markers (1964; 1987)

Rhode Island College has two primary entrances, one from Mount Pleasant Avenue and the other from Fruit Hill Avenue. The original wooden sign (see cover photo) at the Mount Pleasant entrance was a gift from the Class of 1945. In 1964 it was replaced with a concrete marker constructed as a gift from that year's graduates, with additional support from the Alumni Fund and memorial gifts from the classes of 1912 and 1937. 65

With gifts from the Alumni Board and the classes of 1961, 1984, 1985, and 1986, a second marker was added to the entrance on Fruit Hill Avenue and was dedicated in the summer of 1987. Constructed by the local Bonner Monument Company, this granite entrance marker is now one of the symbols of the college.<sup>66</sup>



RIC's grand entrance marker from the Fruit Hill Avenue entrance (photo: www.ric.edu)

<sup>65. &</sup>quot;Alumni News" October 1964. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

<sup>66. &</sup>quot;Bonner Monument Co." College Advancement and Support materials, unprocessed. Rhode Island College. James P. Adams Library, Special Collections.

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ture; she hopes that this booklet will draw attention to the original design aesthetic of the Mount Pleasant Campus and encourage advocates for its preservation. A lifelong resident of Warwick, Elizabeth now lives in Portsmouth, RI.