

Appendix

Vanished Reed Buildings

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Vanished Reed Buildings

Gay Walker, Special Collections & Archives

Much delving into long unexplored archives has taken place in the Reed Library's Special Collections and Archives this past year. With the award of a Getty Foundation grant to research and create a Heritage Master Plan of the Reed campus in June of 2004, the college moved forward in its efforts to document and evaluate the architecture and landscape of the campus during its first fifty years, from 1912 through 1967, in relation to the current configuration of 2005. Two Portland firms, Fletcher Farr Ayotte (architecture), and Mayer/Reed (landscaping), along with Robert Melnick, Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Oregon and father of Garth Melnick '05, were central to this effort, working with Reed staff Towny Angell, Diane Gumz, Mike Teskey and others, and Reed faculty Charles Rhyne and Lena Lencek. Consultants from the firms took innumerable photographs, haunted the campus, and researched its history through interviews and the archives.

In early 2004, archives staff pulled more boxes from the attic of the chapel annex, Dorothy Johansen's old archives office from 1969 to 1989. Rumors about this cache of unexplored files had surfaced in 2003, and several trips were made to retrieve boxes and process them as time allowed. The serendipitous aspect of the 2004 haul was that we found nine cartons related to buildings and grounds. They contained blueprints, floorplans, proposals, correspondence, and construction details for most of the buildings being studied in the Heritage project.

Both project representatives and archives staff mined this treasure trove, and as a benefit of this intense focus, we gleaned more details about those buildings no longer standing on campus. Most such structures served as landmarks for generations of students: the gym for 52 years; the first foot bridge across the canyon lasting 32 years; the old student union for 30 years; the outdoor swimming pool for 71 years. And more flamboyant buildings came and went such as the geodesic Art Dome. They figure in the oral histories now being collected by alumni volunteers for the Oral History Project, and they are often remembered fondly by their one-time student occupants. Here they are, the vanished buildings that still reside, ghostlike, on campus for so many.

Akerman Dormitory (Cross Canyon Men's Dormitory) 1958 – 1997

Akerman was one of the three men's dorms removed in order to build Bragdon Hall on the north side of campus across the canyon. Named in honor of long-time faculty member, Clement Akerman, economics professor 1920-43, it copies the Chittick and Woodbridge dorms in layout and style.



Art Dome (Buckminster Fuller Geodesic Dome)
1963 – 1979

This 39 ft. dome made of triangular panels of prefabricated plywood and fiberglass insulation sat on a platform near the Art Studio in front of the old chemistry (now psychology) building entrance in the “Art Grove”. It served as a sculpture and painting studio for art students, who at one point painted the panels bright colors.



Art Studio (Student Co-op, Art Shack, Shack, Calligraphy Studio, Graphic Arts Studio, Ceramics Studio, Printshop)
1931 – 1979



This small rectangular wood frame building was built in front of the old Commons (now the Student Union) to house the Student Co-operative, which later became the bookstore, and the Quest Offices, at least by 1935. By 1939, when the Co-op moved into the new Student Union (see Theatre), it served as an art studio, informal lecture room, and multi-purpose space. In 1963, it was moved to the “Art Grove” just east of the Art Dome facing north towards the old chemistry building. Extended on the west for a print shop and on the southeast for a kiln and drying studio, it was the long-time home of calligraphy classes under Lloyd Reynolds and Robert Palladino.

Botsford Auditorium (Botsford Theatre/Gym)
1947 – 1964

The Theatre-Gym was placed just north of the old Gymnasium to provide a new full-size gymnasium floor for basketball and an auditorium for plays. It was the “recreation hall” part of the War Surplus buildings moved from Bagley Downs in Vancouver (the old Faculty Office Building being the other half). The Reed Theatre-Gym was renamed “Botsford Auditorium” in Charles S. Botsford’s honor in 1950; he was the P.E. Director from 1915 to 1952. Botsford Drive was named in 1965 after the demolition of this building to make way for the Watzek Sports Center.



Coleman Dormitory (Cross Canyon Men’s Dormitory)
1958 – 1997

One of three men’s dorms removed to build Bragdon Hall, Coleman was named in honor of the long-time faculty member and college president, Norman F. Coleman, English professor, 1911-1919, 1934-1939, and Reed president 1925-1934. In both layout and style, Coleman was the same as Chittick and Woodbridge dorms.



Faculty Office Building (FOB)
1947 – 1980



This War Surplus building, moved from Bagley Downs in Vancouver to southeast of the library, provided classrooms and faculty offices for many years. Its large lounge actively served the Reed community for over three decades as a meeting place and art gallery, lecture hall and reception area. The southern end was remodeled and remains on campus as Greywood.

Fish Hatchery
1913 – 1916

This fish experiment station, or experimental fish hatchery, was a small, rectangular structure where the outdoor swimming pool was later built. It was operated under the direction of Harry Beal Torrey, a biology professor at Reed from 1911 to 1920.



Foot Bridge (Cantilevered foot bridge)
1959 – 1991

The Arthur M. Churchill Memorial bridge was built in 1959 to connect the campus to the new cross canyon dorms, the first bridge to cross the canyon. Steps led down to it on either side. It featured stressed plywood girders, the first time this construction had been used on a span of this size, a straight bridge 132 feet long and 15 feet high. It remained of unique architectural interest during its lifetime.



Foster-Scholz Dormitories (Foster, Scholz, “Cardboard Castle”)
1947 – 1958

These two men’s dormitory buildings were War Surplus structures moved from Columbia Heights and set up for male war veteran students. They were temporary buildings placed close to where Studio Art is now. Configured somewhat like Griffin-McKinley, the central connecting block was not demolished in 1958 and served as storage and then the student print shop for a time.

Gymnasium
1913 – 1965

The original Reed gymnasium was a wooden building designed by A.E. Doyle in the Tudor Gothic style; it served all the indoor PE needs of the community. After 1947 and the advent of the Botsford Theatre/Gym, it was called the Women’s Gym. Its main court was 50’ x 75’ with a stage at one end, and it had squash and racquetball courts, a shooting range, and many other facilities. Located about where Kaul Auditorium is today, it formed a strong architectural element on campus with its large central Tudor block and two side wings.



Metal Workshop
1971 – 1979

Located in the “Art Grove” between the westernmost Woodstock house and the Art Dome, this was an old rectangular garage refitted for the use of art faculty and students involved in welding and metal sculpture. It was located just east of the old Faculty Office Building.

Outdoor Swimming Pool
1929 – 2000

The Reed swimming pool was the scene of many picnics, student gatherings, and summer swim programs, the only swimming pool on campus until the Watzek Sports Center opened in 1965. It was removed due to its poor physical condition.



Shop (Carpenter Shop) / Greenhouse / Bus and Storage Shed / Farm Shed
1931 – 1965 Shop

A rectangular wood frame shop, between the Old Dorm Block and the power plant, served the campus as the carpenter shop for its two maintenance personnel; it burned in 1965. There were also four small wooden paint and storage sheds, built around 1940. A greenhouse, erected next to the power plant, lasted some years in the 1940’s. A Bus and Storage Shed also existed near the power plant. An original Ladd Farm agricultural shed was sited across the canyon at the edge of the fields.

Sisson Dormitory (Cross Canyon Men's Dormitory)
1958 – 1997

One of the three men's dorms removed to build Bragdon Hall, this dormitory was named in honor of long-time faculty member, Edward O. Sisson, philosophy professor from 1911 to 1943. In layout and style, it was the same as Chittick and Woodbridge dorms.



Student Print Shop
1972 – 1979

This small building was located near the site of the current Studio Art building, probably the connecting cement block structure from the original old War Surplus dormitory called Foster-Scholz, or the “Cardboard Castle”, with a modest addition.

Student Union, see Theatre/Old Student Union

Theatre/Old Student Union
1938/39 – 1969



The original Student Union was built at the urging of the students and supported in part from student fees. It housed many student activities over its lifetime including the bookstore, the old Co-op (the first bookstore), a coffee shop, theatrical productions, and student offices. It turned into a full time theatre in 1964/65 when the old Commons became the Student Union and the new commons (Community Center) opened. It burned down in 1969.

World War I Barracks
1918-1919

Built according to blueprints from Ft. Lewis as a two-story 200-man company barracks by the War Department, it was demolished in 1919 before completion. The barracks were placed near Woodstock Boulevard to the east of the main entrance road.



You may contact Special Collections and Archives by email (walkerg@reed.edu) or phone (503-777-7782) or in writing. We are always eager to receive old photographs or college ephemera and more than happy to attempt to answer your queries. Archives staff: Gay Walker and Mark Kuestner. Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., 11am – 4pm.