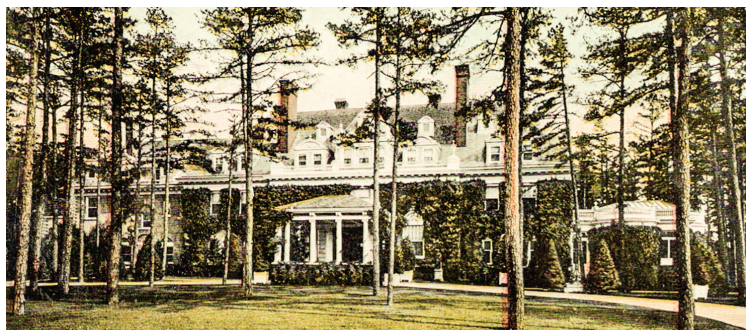


FRIENDS OF

Florham

FROM MANSION TO CAMPUS



GEORGIAN COURT, LAKEWOOD, N.J.

While many college buildings in the United States emulate the architecture of the great houses of America's wealthy, a few colleges actually include buildings that were mansions to begin with. Florham is not unique in turning a mansion into an academic building. Other examples exist throughout the country. What makes Florham unique is that its transformation includes a number of additional buildings, many acres of the original estate and the Olmsted-inspired landscaping.

The Vanderbilt-Twombly legacy also exists in the present function of Vinland, their former 13-acre Newport, R.I., summer estate, which became the source of several buildings on the campus of Salve Regina University, Newport. The estate, originally the homestead of William B. Lawrence, was purchased in 1881 by Catharine Lorillard Wolfe, heiress of Wolfe Hardware and Lorillard Tobacco. She constructed the Vinland mansion in 1882–83. Hamilton Twombly and Florence Vanderbilt Twombly became the owners in 1896 and had the mansion enlarged and remodeled a

decade later. Their surviving daughter, Florence Burden, donated the property to Salve Regina in 1955, the same year that Florham was put up for sale after the death of her sister, Ruth. The Vinland mansion was renamed in honor of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Religious Sisters of Mercy. It is now the university library.

Just a few miles away from Florham, Drew University's long-time administration building, Mead Hall, began its existence as a family mansion, built in the early 19th century for the family of Georgia-born William Gibbons, who had inherited his father Thomas' family fortune that included a steamboat ferry business in New Jersey and New York, and real estate and extensive plantations in Georgia.

Coincidentally, the Vanderbilts had a Gibbons connection long before William relocated to Madison, N.J. The Commodore (Cornelius "Commodore" Vanderbilt), after selling all of his own boats in 1818, became a captain for Thomas Gibbons from 1818 to 1829. During that period, he learned the steamship business

and acquired the finances to start his own company in 1829.

William Gibbons left Savannah, Ga., because of his passion for thoroughbred horses and desire to raise them in New Jersey. He had his agent assemble 95 acres in Madison that he named "The Forest," as well as acquiring other nearby farms for horse breeding.

Gibbons, his wife and four children moved in the mansion that became Mead Hall in 1836. When Gibbons died in 1854, the property was inherited by his one son, William Heyward, who moved back to Savannah, leaving the house vacant. In 1867, after supporting the South in the Civil War, William sold what had been "The Forest," with its mansion, to Daniel Drew for \$140,000 for the establishment of the Drew Theological Seminary. Drew named the building in honor of his wife, Roxanna Mead.

The seminary became Drew University in 1930 and continues to use Mead Hall as its administrative center. On August 24, 1989, a daylong fire caused extensive damage to the building, but after a three-year restoration project, it was reopened and rededicated in December 1992.

Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J., includes two separate mansions. The Great Hall at Shadow Lawn, designed by Philadelphia architect Horace Trumbauer and his assistant Julian Abele, the first

(continued on page 2)

FALL 2020

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

The year 2020 is like no other year in our memory. We at the Friends of Florham have paused to reflect on our future. As an organization, we are committed to preserving the historic Florham estate as when the Friends of Florham was initially founded by Emma Joy Dana and Dr. James Fraser in 1990. The Friends believed then as now that the buildings designed by the premier architecture firm, McKim, Mead and White; and the grounds designed by noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, merited serious preservation efforts.

We welcome your continued financial support; however, safety, humanitarian efforts and our communities must take precedence at this time. We remain

steadfast in the background as we continue to follow our stated mission for working on the mansion and grounds with Fairleigh Dickinson University. We will find the right balance of safe programming such as tours, lectures, luncheons and special events, and awareness of our circumstances.

That said, Dr. Gary Helm Darden, associate professor of history and chair of the social sciences and history department at FDU's Florham Campus, and an active member of the Friends board, thoughtfully developed an exciting visit to Wroxton, England, the estate of FDU, and to its surrounding areas, which was originally scheduled for summer 2020. The good news is that we plan to take our journey in summer 2021. Please join us for what will be a memorable trip.

Director Aaron Sorkin chose the Florham Campus for the setting of some of the scenes of his new movie, "The Trial of the Chicago Seven." Set in the late '60s, the film features scenes in the mansion's Hartman Lounge, the President's Office as well as other Florham locations. It is now available on Netflix — see if you recognize the beautiful wood-paneled walls of Hartman Lounge!

The Friends of Florham say goodbye to Phyllis Conway, who passed away in March of this year. Mrs. Conway was instrumental in the original grand renovations of Lenfell Hall and the Great Hall and supported the Friends of Florham.

We wish you good health and, hope to SEE you again soon.

— Lisa MacNair
President, Friends of Florham

FROM MANSION TO CAMPUS (continued from page 1)

African-American professional architect, was built in 1929 as the private residence of former F.W. Woolworth Co. president Hubert Templeton Parson and his wife, Maysie, at a cost of \$10.5 million.

It was constructed on the site of the original Shadow Lawn, a wood-framed structure built in 1903 for John A. McCall, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, and later destroyed in a 1927 fire, when it was the home of Joseph B. Greenhut, a New York department store owner. Shadow Lawn had 52 rooms, while the Parson's replacement more than doubled the size to 130 rooms on three main floors.

The second Shadowlawn came under municipal ownership in 1939. For a time, it was the site of a private girls' school. Monmouth University (then known as Monmouth Junior College) acquired the property in 1955 at a cost of \$350,000. It is an academic and administrative center.

The other mansion on the Monmouth Campus is not nearly as large, because it was the summer home of Murry and Leonie Guggenheim, which was completed

in 1905. The architects, Thomas Hastings and John Melvin Carrere, were awarded the gold medal of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for 1903 for the design of the building. They also designed the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street.

Guggenheim became chairman of the finance committee of American Smelting and Refining, a director of Kennecott Copper and, after the death of his brother Daniel, presided over the Guggenheim nitrate monopoly in Chile. A noted philanthropist, he and his wife supported a dental clinic for children in New York City and donated the central display greenhouse to the New York Botanical Gardens. Murry died in 1939, his wife 20 years later. After her death, The Guggenheim Foundation officially donated the estate to Monmouth College in 1960. After some design modifications, the next year the summer cottage became the Murry and Leonie Guggenheim Memorial Library for the university.

Georgian Court University in Lakewood, N.J., now occupies the one-time summer retreat estate of the family of George Jay Gould, son of railroad tycoon Jay Gould. Bruce Price designed the mansion on the 200-acre property in the style of England's Georgian period, the source of the estate's name, Georgian Court. Price also designed several of the four gardens that remain on the campus today, notably the Italian Garden and the Sunken Garden. When Gould died in 1923, the home was sold to the Sisters of Mercy, who relocated the College of Mount St. Mary, founded in 1908, and renamed it as Georgian Court College at the request of the estate's original owners.

While their functions have been repurposed, the continued existence of these mansions, like that of Florham, offers examples of the heritage of a significant period in American history.

— Walter Cummins
Professor Emeritus of English
and Friends Honorary Trustee

HISTORIC RESTORATION PROJECT

Ever since 1958, the Florham mansion has been home to generations of aspiring students. With our more than 150 acres of land, once owned by the Twombly family, FDU is proud to preserve the beauty of the landscape, but more importantly the mansion. Ever since Peter Sammartino, founding president of FDU, started his first renovations on the mansion, our students, staff, faculty, alumni and Friends have never stopped dreaming of the potential that our beautiful estate can be.

Fast forward to 1990 and Emma Joy Dana's dream to help preserve the exquisiteness of Florham with the creation of the Friends of Florham. We are so thankful to have such dedicated volunteers bring life to Emma's vision and preserve

the dignity and grace of Florham. It is with that vision in mind that we are proud to announce the start of our multiphase, multiyear mansion exterior-restoration project.

With the guidance of Historic Building Architects, Phase 1 officially began on October 12. Below is a list of some of the work that will be completed in Phase 1.

- Remove and replace existing cracked balustrade stones;
- Remove and reinstall balusters with new pins;
- Selective masonry retooling, dutchman repairs, patching, repointing and cleaning;
- Rake out and repoint all coping stone joints and balustrades and install new lead caps at joints;
- Install new anchors to cornice stones to secure cornice;

- Reset and anchor loose quoins and replacement of spalled quoin stones;

- Structural-steel repairs to ends of roof-truss rafters, valley rafters, jack rafters and hip rafters, as well as purlin repairs at the North and South Wing roofs; and

- Install new cold-fluid applied membrane roof flashing at all walls, edges and sills to prevent water intrusion and protect steel-roof structure.

There is no doubt in our mind that when our restoration project is complete, this historic McKim, Mead, & White English Baroque Revival home will remain for the enjoyment of future generations.

— Brian Mauro
Florham Campus Executive

'GARDENS AND ESTATES TOUR' AT WROXTON COLLEGE, ENGLAND (JULY 9–16, 2021)



The Friends of Florham have safely rescheduled its July 2020 "Gardens and Estates" trip based at FDU's historic Wroxton College in rural Oxfordshire, England, <https://www.fdu.edu/campuses/wroxton-college/>.

The 2021 program will visit key examples of English country estates and their gardens in southern England. Sites include Blenheim Palace (birthplace of Winston Churchill), Althorp Estate (childhood home of Princess Diana), Sulgrave Manor (ancestral home of George Washington's family), Chastleton House,

Broughton Castle as well as the renowned gardens at Highgrove (private home of Prince Charles and Camilla), Hidcote Manor and Rousham House.

All group lodging will be in the 17th-century abbey at Wroxton — with breakfast and dinner daily on campus, and private lunches at historic estates, inns and pubs off campus.

To secure one of the 20 spots available, those interested should make a \$500 deposit that is fully refundable if for any reason public-health circumstances prevent the group from traveling safely to

England. There are 20 total spots available and the price will be the same for single or double accommodations. Full price details will be available by the middle of December and will fill up on a first-to-deposit basis.

If you have any questions, please contact the trip director, FDU historian Gary Darden, associate professor of history and chair of the social sciences and history department at darden@fdu.edu.

— Gary Darden
Associate Professor of History and Chair, Social Sciences and History Department



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President's note: The Friends of Florham will never share your email address or other information.

SPANISH FLU IN AMERICA



While the coronavirus spirals currently in the U.S., we look back to the major impact of the Spanish flu in America in 1918. Gary Darden, associate professor of history and chair of the department of social sciences and history at FDU's Florham Campus, reported that the Spanish flu in America lasted from February 1918 to April 1920 in four successive waves. The virus hit before any knowledge of viral theory or any hope of a vaccine. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 670,000 people died in a population of 103 million. More U.S. soldiers died of the Spanish flu than on World War I battlefields.

For additional perspective on the impact of the Spanish flu, which infected 500 million people worldwide: this figure represents one-third of the world's population. More specifically, we know that the Spanish flu had a strong impact on residents of Morris County, and while we have no records indicating that members of the Twombly family were personally affected by the flu, staff likely was.

A report in the *Madison Eagle* (October 11, 1918), indicated that Orazio Sena, 37, of Madison, died on October 5, 1918, in an ambulance, which would have taken him to All Souls Hospital in Morristown. He had become ill the previous Tuesday while at work at the Twombly Estate with what was diagnosed as Spanish influenza. It is probably not too much of a stretch to suggest that other workers at the Twombly estate were also exposed to the Spanish flu.

— Carol Bere and Edward Zimmermann
Friends of Florham Board

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Join the Friends of Florham. Your efforts help to preserve the architectural history of Florham, and support our informative programs. *Your support will make a difference!*

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