

A place  
to learn . . .

a place  
to walk . . .

**st John's**  
COLLEGE  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

## An Historic View of the Campus...

St. John's traces its beginnings to King William's School which opened in 1696 as one of the first public schools in America. King William's School and St. John's College, chartered in 1784 to serve as the western branch of the University of Maryland, were consolidated by act of the Maryland Legislature in 1785. St. John's charter was the first in the United States specifically prohibiting religious discrimination. Among students enrolled in the early years were George Washington's step-grandson and his two nephews and Francis Scott Key, who was graduated in 1796. During the Civil War, the northern forces used the campus as both a parole and hospital center. The College became a military school in 1884, a conventional liberal arts college in 1923, and in 1937 it adopted its famous New Program of liberal education. In 1951 the College became co-educational. It opened a second campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1964. The campus is a National Historic Landmark and lies within the Annapolis Historic District.

Buildings at St. John's College, with their varying architecture, embrace almost all of America's history, from the colonial era, when Lafayette danced here and Francis Scott Key was known to gallop a cow around the college green, to Civil War times, when the college was pre-empted by Federal forces, to contemporary times, marked architecturally by the addition of a building designed by the noted American architects, Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander.



• The numbers shown  
are keyed to the descriptive  
paragraphs on the following panels.

## THE COLONIAL BUILDINGS THE 18TH CENTURY

**McDowell Hall** ① Simon Duff, a Scotch architect, came to Maryland especially to construct this building as the official mansion of Thomas Bladen, colonial governor of Maryland. Begun in 1742, it was abandoned as being too grandiose and became known as "Bladen's Folly." It was admired by Thomas Jefferson, who wrote in 1766 that "They have no publick building worth mentioning except the governor's house, the hull of which after being finished, they have suffered to go to ruin." For years it was the only building on campus. It was here that Francis Scott Key, who graduated as class valedictorian and went on to organize the alumni association, attended classes. In 1824 two dinners and a ball were given in the Great Hall for General Lafayette. The Great Hall also served as headquarters of the Union Army Medical Corps from 1863 to the end of the Civil War. The building is named for St. John's first president, John McDowell. In terms of the 1742 starting date, it is the third oldest academic building in continuous use in the United States.

**Charles Carroll, the Barrister, House** ② Erected in 1722-23 by Charles Carroll, a surgeon, this T-shaped frame and brick house was moved in 1957 to its location on Main Street to the King George Street side of the campus. Carroll's son, Charles Carroll, the Barrister, was born in it in 1724. Carroll was the principal writer for the Declaration of the Delegates of Maryland adopted July 6, 1776. A building which may be described as being of the 18th vernacular type, it was possibly one of the largest townhouses in Annapolis at the time of its erection. It is notable for its beautiful interiors.

**Chancellor Johnson House** ③ A fine example of an early 18th century, gambrel-roofed dwelling, the Chancellor Johnson House also was moved to the campus. The house was purchased in 1937 by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company which gave it to the city with the provision that it be moved from Northwest Street to make room for projected offices. In December 1937, the building was placed on the St. John's Street side of the campus. It is being used now as a small dormitory.

*There are and ever will be the poor and the rich, the men of labor and the men of leisure, and the State which neglects either, neglects a duty, and neglects it at its peril for whichever it neglects will be not only useless but mischievous.*

—Francis Scott Key—



## THE VICTORIAN BUILDINGS THE 19TH CENTURY

McDowell Hall served as the single building on campus until the college's fifth president, Hector Humphreys, DD, undertook St. John's first major building program and thereupon transformed the campus. The result was to flank McDowell, on its crested position, with two new lower-lying brick buildings on either side.

**Humphreys Hall 4** The first building of this era subsequently was named for Humphreys in 1857, less than a year after his death. Located on the southern side of McDowell, it is considered an excellent example of a castellated Gothic Revival notable for its octagonal towers at the corners. It was designed by Robert Cary Long, Jr., Baltimore architect and a leading influence in the Gothic Revival movement. Known initially as "the boarding house" after its completion in 1837, Humphreys first was used as a dormitory and later as a science hall. In 1958 the interior was razed and rebuilt as a dormitory. The college bookshop in the basement displays the original center support of the building, a handsome foundation wall of salmon-colored brick pierced by a row of round-headed arches.

**Chase-Stone House 5** Built at the end of the classical renaissance period and at the beginning of the Victorian, the Chase-Stone House is considered to be a direct descendant in style of a Florentine palace. It was completed in 1857 and was used originally as a duplex residence for the president and vice-president of the college. Later it became a dormitory. In 1963 James Wood Burch, Annapolis architect, undertook the complete renovation of the building. The dormitory was named for Samuel Chase and Thomas Stone, members of the college's original Board of Governors and two of the four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence.

**Paca-Carroll House 6** Although the Paca-Carroll House was built in 1857 as another duplex to serve two faculty families, the Paca-Carroll House is a simple, well-proportioned building more reminiscent of the Federal era than that of Victorian times. The building, which now serves as a dormitory, was named in honor of William Paca, who was among those who petitioned the General Assembly for the college charter, and Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Both Paca and Carroll were signers of the Declaration of Independence. Carroll also was a member of St. John's original board.

**Pinkney Hall 7** Dedicated in 1858 as a men's dormitory, this building was named for William Pinkney (1764-1822), believed to be the only identifiable pupil of King Williams' School. Pinkney served as minister to England and Russia and as Attorney General under Madison. Chief Justice Marshall called Pinkney "the greatest man I ever saw in a court of justice." With its gothic gable, the building has Italianate overtones and bears resemblances to St. Anne's Episcopal Church on Church Circle.

## THE ST. JOHN'S CONCEPT OF EDUCATION

St. John's College seeks to teach young men and women how to think. The College believes that the skills of rational thought, of careful analysis, of logical choice, of imaginative experimentation, and of clear communication are the tools of man's understanding. Their acquisition is the principal goal of a liberal education.

The College has other goals as well. It aims to acquaint the student with his Western heritage through reading and seminar discussion of some 130 basic books — landmarks in literature, philosophy and theology, history and social sciences, mathematics and natural science. Finally, it encourages him to search for underlying principles and gain some understanding of himself, his fellows, his world, and his God — in other words, to formulate his philosophy of life.

To this end St. John's College has prescribed a single four-year course of study leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. This course is the modern equivalent of the traditional education of the founding fathers of this Republic. It is contemporary in its stress upon mathematics and the laboratory sciences, both of which are studied throughout the four years. St. John's faculty members emphasize the inter-relatedness of all fields of knowledge in their teaching.

Since 1937, when the present curriculum was undertaken, there have been no departments and no majors at St. John's College. The lecture system has been largely replaced by seminars, tutorials, and laboratories. Classes are small and informal discussion groups. There are seminars on Great Books, daily tutorials in language and mathematics, semi-weekly laboratory periods, a Friday evening lecture series, and tutorials in music during the sophomore year.

The alumni of St. John's college are the best measure of its success. Over three-fifths of all graduates have entered upon postgraduate study in fields ranging from architecture to theology, from medicine to philosophy. Most alumni report that their St. John's education is serving them well.

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## TURN-OF-THE CENTURY BUILDINGS

**Woodward Hall 8** The St. John's library, with its Georgian revival style, was erected in 1899 and extensively renovated in 1968, when the rear of the building was extended and a fourth level added. Named for Henry Williams Woodward, father of a board member and a college benefactor, the library contains 60,000 volumes, including the Bray Collection of 400 volumes believed to have comprised the first free public library in North America. The library, with its elegant King William and Hartle rooms, provides individual study carrels, making quiet areas for study for St. John's students.

**Randall Hall 9** Randall Hall was built in 1903 and named for the Randall family which for generations had been intimately connected with the college. Its neo-classical dining room, with its sumptuous detail, is considered one of the best rooms in Annapolis. The upper rooms are used as a dormitory.

**Iglehart Hall 10** The college gymnasium, which was dedicated in 1910, is named for Lt. E. Berkeley Iglehart, an alumnus who had a distinguished military career and who helped make the building a reality.

## LATER BUILDINGS

**The Boathouse 11** The cornerstone for the boathouse on College Creek was laid in 1934. It permits the college to maintain an active program in boating.

**Campbell Hall 12** Designed as a modified Georgian building, Campbell was dedicated in 1954 and represented the first dormitory to be completed on campus since the erection of Randall. It was built for women students, first admitted in 1951. It was named for Levin Hicks Campbell, a member of the class of 1793 and grandfather of Milton Campbell, who contributed generously toward its erection. The building was designed by the Baltimore firm of James R. Edmunds.

**Francis Scott Key Auditorium and Mellon Hall 13 & 14** Designed by the California firm of Neutra and Alexander, this building on the lower campus contains the 600-seat Key Auditorium, conversation room and music library, and classrooms and laboratories named for Paul Mellon, an alumnus and generous benefactor of the college. The planetarium is named for Theodore R. McKeldin, a former governor of Maryland. President Eisenhower gave the principal address at its dedication in 1958.

**Harrison Health Center 15** The infirmary is the newest building on the campus. Built in the shape of a Greek cross, it is designed to live quietly by the Carroll-Barrister House without making use of 18th century architectural detail. Proportions harmonize. The infirmary is designed with the same roof pitch as that of Carroll-Barrister, and the projecting part of each of the infirmary's end walls is only a foot less wide than its colonial neighbor. Hand-molded Oxford brick from Pennsylvania match the coarseness of bricks of the Carroll-Barrister House. The building, designed by James Wood Burch and William H. Kirby, Jr., was dedicated at homecoming, October 1972.

## OTHER THINGS TO SEE

**French Monument 16** The monument near the college boathouse was erected on April 19, 1911, in honor of the French soldiers and sailors who died en route to Yorktown and were buried on campus. Dedicated by President Taft, it is considered the first monument to the unknown war dead of any place in the world.

**The College Cannon 17** The cannon near McDowell Hall is one of 13 cannons used in the War of 1812 and dredged out of the Baltimore Harbor to be placed in historically significant locations. It was presented to the college on September 14, 1914, by the Peggy Stewart Tea Party Chapter, DAR, and the National Star Spangled Banner Centennial Commission.

**The Liberty Bell 18** The replica of the Liberty Bell standing on the front campus is one of 48 cast in 1950 by the U.S. Department of Treasury as part of a nationwide drive to promote the sale of defense bonds. In a speech at the dedication May 13, 1953, John M. Whitmore said, "St. John's Collegè, just as the bell, is symbolic of liberty and of man's constant battle to become and remain free." The pediment of the bell was financed by pennies contributed by Anne Arundel County School children.

**Quadrant and Plinth 19** Near the dining hall entrance on the quadrangle behind McDowell is a graduated quadrant and plinth used to measure the noonday altitude of the sun. They are similar to the instruments described by Ptolemy in his *Almagest*.

**Alumni Memorial Tablet 20** This memorial erected in 1920 honors the 452 St. John's students who served during World War I. The figure on the bronze tablet depicts the Alma Mater with a drawn sword bowed in mourning over those alumni whose names are inscribed on the shield. There she crowns with a palm of eternal peace. Her shield is an adaptation of the college seal and is emblazoned with the honor roll.

**The Liberty Tree 21** The last of this country's Liberty Trees stands on the northern side of the campus near the library. Believed to be more than 400 years old, this tulip poplar during the American Revolution sheltered the Sons of Liberty and the French en route south to Yorktown for the final battle of the War for Independence. It is almost certainly the "very large tree on a fine piece of ground" under which the first Methodist sermon in Maryland was delivered.