

## MOVING TO HOMEWOOD

When Johns Hopkins died in Baltimore on December 24, 1873, he left \$7 million to be divided equally to found a University and a Hospital, both bearing his name. He also bequeathed his Clifton estate, in northeast Baltimore, to the University, with the assumption that it would eventually become the main campus.

Hopkins' will forbade the trustees to pay for buildings out of the endowment. A temporary site in downtown Baltimore, near the George Peabody Library, was acquired to house the University until enough capital was accumulated to construct a campus elsewhere. Two adjacent residences on North Howard Street were purchased and converted into a single structure, known as the Administration Building. The University erected another building nearby, named Hopkins Hall. These two buildings comprised The Johns Hopkins University when formal instruction began in October 1876.



*Original Campus / Johns Hopkins University ca. 1885*

Shortly after the opening of classes, a Chemical Laboratory was added west of Hopkins Hall. In 1883, the University acquired more land and built the Biological Laboratory. In 1885, another purchase on the northwest corner of Monument Street and Linden Avenue provided land for a

Physical [Physics] Laboratory.

Upon his death in 1889, John W. McCoy, a wealthy Baltimore merchant, left the University a bequest of \$500,000. This was used for the construction of a four-story building, beginning in 1892, named McCoy Hall, which

contained a large assembly hall, examination rooms, department libraries, and seminar rooms.

Other buildings erected by Hopkins on its downtown campus were a Power House and Levering Hall. Levering Hall, built in 1889 after the noted Baltimore Prohibitionist and moral reformer Eugene Levering provided \$20,000, served as a YMCA and student activities building.

With the exceptions of the Physical Laboratory and the Power House, both of which were located north of Monument Street, all of the early buildings were bounded by Monument Street on the north, Howard Street on the east, Eutaw Street on the west, and Centre Street on the south. Bisecting the campus, east to west, was a one-block-long alley known as Little Ross Street. Running north and south between Little Ross and Monument streets was another alley, Little Garden Street.

By the early 1890s, the University was out of space, and President Daniel Coit Gilman and the trustees were forced to consider a new location. The Clifton property had already been sold to the City of Baltimore in response to previous economic crises, leaving the University with no future site.

In November 1894, Gilman asked William Keyser, former president of the Baltimore Copper Company, for his assistance in securing a new site. In 1898 Keyser's cousin, William Wyman, approached him with an offer to donate sixty acres, situated west of Charles Street and south of the intersection with University Parkway (then known as Merryman's Lane). The two cousins, along with four friends, worked in secrecy over the next three years to secure adjacent tracts, and in 1901 offered 179 acres to the University. The trustees accepted the offer on February 22, 1902, and the University had a new campus.

The origins of the name 'Homewood' are obscure, but the property was known by that name as early as the Carroll ownership. Charles Carroll, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, purchased the land around 1800, and he built Homewood House as a wedding present for his son in 1805. The property was sold to the Wyman family in 1839. Today, Homewood House is known as the Homewood Museum, located adjacent to

the Milton S. Eisenhower Library. The Federal style of architecture, as embodied in Homewood House, was used as the model for most campus buildings.

Construction began on the Homewood Campus in 1908, with Homewood Field and two botanical laboratories completed by 1911. In 1910 the General Education Board, a philanthropic organization founded by John D. Rockefeller, offered to give the University \$250,000 if it could raise another \$750,000. Hopkins began a major campaign, the Endowment and Extension Fund, which raised a total of just over \$1.2 million by 1912. At the same time, the State of Maryland agreed to fund construction of two buildings for the newly created School of Engineering.

With these funds available, the University began its preparation in earnest. The campus was designed to run parallel to Charles Street, and the main academic building (Gilman Hall) was located on the west side of the main quadrangle, where it would face the University's entrance (and Charles Street). Construction began on both the Mechanical and Engineering Building (Maryland Hall) and Gilman Hall in 1913, and both were dedicated in 1915.

The School of Engineering moved to Homewood in the fall of 1914, but the administration and the School of Arts and Sciences remained at the Howard Street campus until the summer of 1916, when the decision was made to house most of the science departments in Maryland, Gilman, and the soon-to-be-completed Latrobe Hall, rather than wait for separate laboratories to be built. The only department that did not move at this time was chemistry, which remained at the old campus until Remsen Hall was completed in 1924.

In 1919, McCoy Hall and Levering Hall were devastated by fire; both were still owned by Hopkins at the time. All of the original campus buildings have long since been removed, leaving only photographs to document the original site of The Johns Hopkins University.



*Gilman Hall ca. 1920s*

Today, nearly fifty buildings comprise the 130-acre Homewood Campus. Construction continues, and Mason Hall, a new Admission's Office and Visitor's Center, and a Computational Science and Engineering building, will soon be completed on the Decker Quadrangle, near the southern edge of the campus.

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## **For Further Reading**

W. H. Buckler, *Assembling the Homewood Site*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 1941.

John C. French, *A History of the University Founded by Johns Hopkins*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1946.

Hugh Hawkins, *Pioneer: A History of The Johns Hopkins University, 1874-1889*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1960.

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