

FOULKE AND LONG INSTITUTE
205 and 209 South 34th Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6177

HABS
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SI-PHILA
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~~PHOTOGRAPHS~~

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
FOULKE AND LONG INSTITUTE

HABS
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HABS No. PA 6177

Location: 205 and 209 South 34th Street, Philadelphia County, Philadelphia, PA
USGS Philadelphia Quad, UTM Coordinates: 18:483400-442220 18-
483400-442200

Present Owner: The University of Pennsylvania, 3451 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, 19104

Present use: Vacant. The school building (#209 S. 34th Street) most recently served the University as studio space for the Graduate School of Fine Arts; #205 S. 34th Street serves as the music department. It is intended to adaptively reuse the two buildings as administrative offices for Phase II of the Institute for Advanced Science and Technology of the University of Pennsylvania.

Significance: The buildings of the Foulke and Long Institute are important examples of the early work of architects Cope and Stewardson, who were later the designers of much of the University of Pennsylvania campus. The buildings are part of the National Register University of Pennsylvania Campus District and form part of the 34th Street setting for the National Historic Landmark Furness Building. The Foulke and Long Institute, was established as a orphanage on a site adjacent to the University of Pennsylvania. Within a decade, the trustees of the Foulke and Long Institute decided that they would be better off in a suburban site, and the buildings were sold to the University of Pennsylvania. For half a century, the buildings served as the principal physics laboratories and classrooms.

Part I. Historical Information:

A. Institutional History:

The Foulke and Long Institute was established as a home and school for orphaned daughters on the model of Girard College. The school was opened in March 1887 at 224 South Washington Square, where it was reported a year later in the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide*.¹ It merged with an organization called the "Industrial Home for Girls" which had been founded a generation earlier in 1863 with a specific interest in serving the children of Civil War veterans and firemen killed in the line of duty. This growth prompted a move to 763 South 10th Street. In 1888, the directors of the enlarged organization purchased a lot at 33rd and Locust streets for \$13,000.00 but according to the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide* "... was not prepared to make any active decisions."² The president of the organization and one of the incorporators as well, was Dr. William Pepper, who was also the Provost of the University of Pennsylvania. He stated that the institution was satisfied with its present quarters and had no plans for the new site. When Dr. Pepper got the idea of placing civic organizations that could use the resources of the University of Pennsylvania adjacent to the University, the Foulke and Long Institute was a logical candidate for the location.³

The school was founded by Eleanor Parker Foulke Long and her husband Burgess B. Long to "support an industrial home for orphan girls of Philadelphia, especially for the orphan children of soldiers who served in the late Civil War in defense of their country, and for the orphan children of firemen whose lives have been sacrificed for the public benefit" It was the first industrial school for girls in the state of Pennsylvania and opened in March of 1887.⁴ The school and residence were intended to provide advanced training in the industrial, social and cultural arts as well as for conventional education in a Christian setting. On 28 September 1899, the trustees recognized the inappropriateness of the school's location adjacent to the University, and sold the building to the University. They then relocated to the northern suburbs of Philadelphia in Langhorne where they remained until 1913 when they returned to Germantown.⁵

B. University of Pennsylvania ownership and tenancy:

With their acquisition by the University of Pennsylvania, the buildings were adapted to the needs of the physics program.⁶ This work was supported by the gift of University trustee Randall Morgan whose gift was recognized by naming the large building the

Randall Morgan Laboratory of Physics, a name which has been retained to the present. The decision to locate the Physics Department in these buildings reinforced the use of the east block across 34th Street as the central science precinct. Physics had been located in College Hall which had held the entire University at one time. As laboratory sciences demanded more sophisticated equipment and buildings, one by one, each left College Hall for new quarters. With the Chemistry and Hygiene programs already on the east side of 34th Street, Physics was logically located there as well and was soon joined by the Towne Engineering School and its offshoot, the Moore School of Electrical Engineering. With its new quarters, physics joined chemistry as a basic course for training undergraduates; graduate work received additional emphasis in the twentieth century. In the late 1930s, a Van de Graf accelerator was constructed at the rear of the complex.⁷ It has since been removed.

The Physics department was located in Morgan for more than half a century. Work in the building produced significant achievements during that period, among them enhancements to x-ray technology and later in television and the electron microscope.⁸ With the construction of the Benjamin Franklin Center, later renamed the David Rittenhouse Laboratories, Morgan and its adjacent building were adapted to other uses including Fine Arts, Nursing, and Music. In recent years, the Morgan and Music buildings have housed elements of the Fine Arts program including such eminent artists as sculptor Robert Engman.

C. Original and Subsequent Owners:

References to the chain of title to the land upon which the structures stand are in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Philadelphia City Hall, Philadelphia, PA. The site was acquired from the Joseph Bennett on 20 April 1890 (Plat 19-S-18-157) by the Trustees of the Foulke and Long Institute. On 28 September 1899, the property and buildings were sold by the Foulke and Long Institute to the University of Pennsylvania which has remained the owner ever since.

D. Significant Individuals Associated with the Foulke and Long Institute

1. Architects:

The architects of the Foulke and Long Institute were the firm of Walter Cope (1861-1902) and John Stewardson (1856-1896), Both were native Philadelphians who had trained in the offices of Addison Hutton and Frank Furness respectively, and who later

worked together in the office of Theophilus P. Chandler before establishing their own practice in 1886. In that year they received a commission for a dormitory at Bryn Mawr College where they first initiated the direct appropriation of specific historic motifs to establish associative links with the colleges of Great Britain. This led to a national practice that spanned the eastern half of nation from Princeton to Washington University, in St. Louis. For most of their careers, they were the favored designers for Provost Harrison of the University of Pennsylvania where they were given charge of campus design from 1896 until the 1920s.

The Foulke and Long Institute buildings represent the early institutional work of the office. Initially, Cope and Stewardson adapted historical styles with an eye less to functional association than to context. The urban setting became the locus of styles which made use of red brick, such as those of north Italy, while suburban settings were thought more appropriate for the field-stone of the Gothic and colonial revivals. The Foulke and Long Institute buildings were constructed in the brick-based Italian styles of the early *quattrocento*. The architects later used this style for a number of buildings on the Penn campus including the Pepper Clinical research Laboratory and the other facilities in the University Hospital complex. These no longer stand, giving these buildings additional importance.

2. University of Pennsylvania Faculty:

Physicists of note included Dr. George F. Barker who served as a consultant to Thomas Alva Edison in the development of the incandescent bulb, Arthur W. Goodspeed who first demonstrated the applicability of x-rays to surgical diagnosis and later, Gaylord P. Harnwell, (afterwards president of the University), who headed the department. During World War II, Harnwell provided important services in the development of sonar, services which were rewarded with a commendation from President Truman for breaking the sea-link between Japan and Asia.⁹

Part II. Descriptive Information:

A. Site:

The 1873 Smith's Atlas of West Philadelphia shows the entire block east of 34th Street as vacant with the proposed line of Locust Street depicted on the block. The position of the proposed street determined the position of the properties sold to the Foulke and

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Long Institute in 1889 and the 1890 gift to the University for the Lea Institute of Hygiene. A small alley in the rear of the row houses that were constructed along Walnut Street further delineated the land available to the Foulke and Long Institute. The earliest views taken at the end of construction of the University Library show the buildings standing in the midst of small lawns with the course of the present Smith Walk unmarked except for a low wood rail on short posts. At the end of the century, trees were planted along 34th Street beginning the modern appearance of the site.

In the 1930s, a Van deGraf accelerator, looking like an oversized milk bottle stood behind the buildings. In the mid-twentieth century, a small two-story musical practice building was constructed on the rear yard of the school (now the Morgan Building). University landscapers added low retaining walls and a grove of birch trees bordering the walk along the side of the Towne Building and the rears of the Morgan and Music Buildings in the 1980s.

B. Exterior:

The buildings of the Foulke and Long Institute stand on the east side of 34th Street south of its intersection with Walnut Street across the street from the central administrative campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The buildings are in the midst of the science precinct. The side facade of 209 South 34th Street faces the side of Smith Hall across Smith Walk (the original line of Locust Street) beyond which are the Towne Building and Hayden Hall, the buildings which house engineering, and Geology and Computer Sciences respectively.

Unlike the larger turn-of-the-century University buildings, the Foulke and Long Institute buildings are modest in size. Their functional hierarchy is made evident by the symmetry and grander entrance of the school building (#209) as distinguished from the greater setback from the street and the domestic character of the porch of the residence (#205). However, these differences notwithstanding, the buildings are linked by their use of red brick, their simple rectangular volumes and their high hipped roofs with deeply overhanging eaves and detailing derived from Quattrocento Florentine brick architecture. Windows are framed by decorative terra cotta borders and massed in groups of two or three with one over one sash. The resulting simple volumes and strong shadows give the buildings a remarkable presence that stands up even against the Furness designed library across the street.

C. Interiors:

Both buildings have been considerably altered on their interiors because of their changed uses. After their initial alteration to serve as a physics lab, they were altered again in 1968 by architects Alexander M. Ewing and Co. to serve their post-laboratory functions.¹⁰ The school building (209 South 34th Street) now Morgan) is entered up a flight of bluestone steps into a generous porch that is sheltered by a hipped roof and carried on massive octagonal piers. Pairs of wood doors open into a vestibule, and another pair opens into a central corridor that runs back to the main stair in the rear. That stair has been altered, its original balustrade replaced or covered, and has been separated by modern fire enclosures from the main hall. The remains of the administrative offices can be found on the north side of the corridor, while a large classroom occupies the south side of the building. After the initial conversion to physics usage, this room was the "Main Laboratory."¹¹ A "Small Laboratory" occupied the north-east corner. The upper stories are divided into large rooms on either side of the broad central hall. From the evidence of the plan of the building at the time that it was converted into the physics laboratory, the south side of the second story contained a two-story lecture hall. This was infilled with a floor at a later date. Because of the fear of contagion spread by large groups, most of the large spaces had a fireplace to increase the flow of air. At least four fireplaces survived into the laboratory conversion; all have since been removed. With few exceptions, the interior features and finishes have been systematically removed and replaced with modern functional accommodations for the physics laboratories, and later Fine Arts studios.

Notes:

1. Thomas Von Trott, "History of the Foulke and Long Institute," *Germantown Crier* (March 1961), p. 15 ff.
2. *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide* 23 April 1888 (3:16).
3. *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* Vol. 5: 32 (13 August 1890).
4. *Edward and Eleanor Foulke: Their Ancestry and Descendants 1698 - 1898*. (Philadelphia: Loughhead and Co., 1898), pp. 46-7.
5. Von Trott, p. 16
6. An early account of the laboratory can be found in Arthur W. Goodspeed, "Morgan Laboratory of Physics," *Alumni Register* 5 (May 1901), pp. 266-72. It also gives a plan of the building as adapted from which the original plan can be generally deduced.

7. Cornell M. Dowlin, *The University of Pennsylvania Today* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1940), pp. 25-27.
8. For a later history of the Physics department see Arthur W. Goodspeed, Ph.D. "The Department of Physics," *The Pennsylvania Gazette* (1 December 1930), pp. 140-141; more recently Professor Marvin A. Gross of Villanova prepared a paper entitled, "A History of the University of Pennsylvania Department of Physics" unpublished, 1973, University of Pennsylvania Archives which surveys the history of the department from its inception under the direction of Benjamin Franklin, through to the 1970s.
9. The Physics Department files are in the General Files, University of Pennsylvania Archives.
10. "The Penn Chemist," #2 (2 July 1969).
11. University of Pennsylvania, "Morgan Laboratory of Physics," *Alumni Register*, pp. 268-9.

Part III. Sources of Information:

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

No original architectural drawings of the Foulke and Long Institute have been found in the University of Pennsylvania records. Research undertaken on the firm of Cope and Stewardson reports that their working drawings were discarded with the closing of the successor office of Stewardson and Page. The University of Pennsylvania has numerous sheets of architectural drawings of recent alterations which are broken into groups representing various alterations. These include a group of 40 sheets of alterations to the Morgan Building by Supowitz and Demchick dated September 10, 1963 and more recent drawings for roof repairs by Francis Cauffman, Foley and Hoffman dated 1989. The principal set of drawings for the Music Building are the 16 sheets of renovation drawings by Alexander Ewing & Associates including the new Annex building. These are all filed in the print archives in the Franklin Building of the University of Pennsylvania.

B. Early Views:

Numerous exterior photographs exist in the University of Pennsylvania Archives where they are filed under the names of their various uses. They are in a professionally managed archive which would be the logical site for investigators to search. There are no early interiors in the University archives that have been filed with the buildings.

C. Interviews:

Mr. Walter Foulke of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA provided information on the original intentions of the Foulke and Long Institute and owns the privately published book on the Foulke family cited in the bibliography.

D. Bibliography:

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Cheyney, Edward Potts. *History of the University of Pennsylvania 1740 - 1940*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1940.

Cram, Ralph Adams. "The Work of Cope and Stewardson." *Architectural Record* 15 no. 5 (November 1904). pp. 407-438.

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Meyerson, Martin and Dilys Pegler Winegrad. *Gladly Learn and Gladly Teach: Franklin and His Heirs at the University of Pennsylvania 1740 - 1976*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1976.

Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' News. V no. 32 (13 August 1890).

Strong, Ann and George E. Thomas. *The Book of the School: 100 Years, The Graduate School of Fine Arts of the University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia: Graduate School of Fine Arts, 1990.

Thomas, George E. "Cope and Stewardson." James F. O'Gorman et al. *Drawing Toward Building: Philadelphia Architectural Graphics 1732 - 1986*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986. p. 162.

Thorpe, Francis Newton. *Benjamin Franklin and the University of Pennsylvania*.

Washington: Government Printing Office, 1893.

Von Trott, Thomas. "History of the Foulke and Long Institute," *Germantown Crier* (March 1961).

E. Likely Sources not Yet Investigated:

The whereabouts of the Foulke and Long Institute records have been sought, but not found. It appears to have disappeared from its last location at 307 Church Street in Germantown after 1961. If they exist, they may well offer information on the original interior disposition of spaces and functions.

Part IV. Project History:

Planning studies undertaken in 1988 for the University of Pennsylvania recommended the site along 34th Street for laboratory construction because of its central location within the science precinct. In 1991, the University was awarded a grant under Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-511) to support the construction of the Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. Phase I, consisting of a wet laboratory building, is proposed to be erected on the site of Smith Hall; the Phase II building is to be erected at the rear of the Morgan and Music Buildings. The documentation results from a Memorandum of Agreement between the United States Air Force, the Advisory Council for Historic preservation, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, with the concurrence of the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the University of Pennsylvania, dated 15 February 1995.

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