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New Hope for Wood-Mar

An architect's conception of how a renovated Wood-Mar Hall would look with the cornice restored and a new main entrance installed on the building's west side.

Linking Wood-Mar to Science Facility May Save Historic Building

Wood-Mar Hall, George Fox College's familiar "Old Main," may be saved after all.

The Long-Range Master Plan for the College, completed a year ago, called for the demolition of the landmark structure opened in 1911.

That recommendation has caused objections from some alumni and Newberg-area residents. The College had succeeded in having the 55-foot-high Willamina brick building kept off the city's historical buildings list so it could be taken down and the site used for a new science building.

Now a new architectural study says the building can be saved, buttressed with an adjacent new science building so it will meet earthquake code provisions. The plan greatly reduces earlier-projected restoration costs.

Razing of the three-floor building had been one of the most controversial recommendations of the long-range plan. The committee of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community residents had reluctantly come to the conclusion the building would need to be replaced.

Their decision followed an engineering study that estimated it would cost $2.5 to $3.5 million to repair and renovate the 17,000-square-foot building. The study found major structural defects, with the major concern that of the inability of the building to withstand a significant earthquake. Faced with the financial costs of retrofitting Wood-Mar Hall, the committee, after months of discussion, approved replacement of the building.

But a new study and report by Contractors R. A. Gray & Company • Purcell Inc. and Soderstrom Architects says the eight-decade-old building not only can be saved but restored to its original appearance—and at $1.0 to $1.2 million, much less than first anticipated.

The new plan calls for the new science building to be built on the east side of Wood-Mar Hall, connected to it by a 15- to 20-foot-wide four-story atrium. The new building would be tied to Wood-Mar Hall at strategic points to bolster it for earthquake safety. Interior "sky-bridges" would connect the buildings across the atrium.

The first and second floors of Wood-Mar Hall then could be renovated to provide offices for the psychology faculty, now a part of the new School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences. The plan would unite the two major areas of the school into one complex. Administrative offices now in Wood-Mar are due to be relocated to a new

*(See **WOOD-MAR**, page 3)*

Growth Increases Need for New Science Building

"We're out of office space; we're out of lab space; we're out of classroom space," Paul Chamberlain, chairman of the biology and chemistry department, says of the need for a new science building.

George Fox College's current science facility, Calder Center, was built in 1964 for a student body of 336. Enrollment this fall reached an all-time high of 1,425. But lately, the need for a new science building has become especially pressing.

"We've gone from about 27 labs three or four years ago to 62 lab sections this year," Chamberlain said. "Three years ago we had 30 students in [our] general chemistry [class]; this year we had 70. It's grown so large that we have to go over to Hoover [Academic Building], which is not ideal for doing demonstrations."

The special nature of the sciences further increases the need, according to President Edward F. Stevens. Science has changed more dramatically than virtually any other discipline," he said, "and it requires a special-use facility. You can teach marketing and the philosophy of education in the same classroom, but you can't have a chemistry lab anyplace but a chemistry lab."

A full two years ago, GFC's science facilities were identified as those most stressed by the College's recent growth and most likely to hinder the development and expansion of academic disciplines on campus.

An evaluation team for the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges made the following recommendation in its 1990 accreditation report: "The college is encouraged to pursue vigorously its urgently needed new science facilities."

Enrollment growth is only one factor making the need for a new science building so critical. In 1984, the faculty realized that rapidly growing technology mandated a new emphasis on science literacy. They approved an increase in general education requirements, doubling the science requirement from one to two courses.

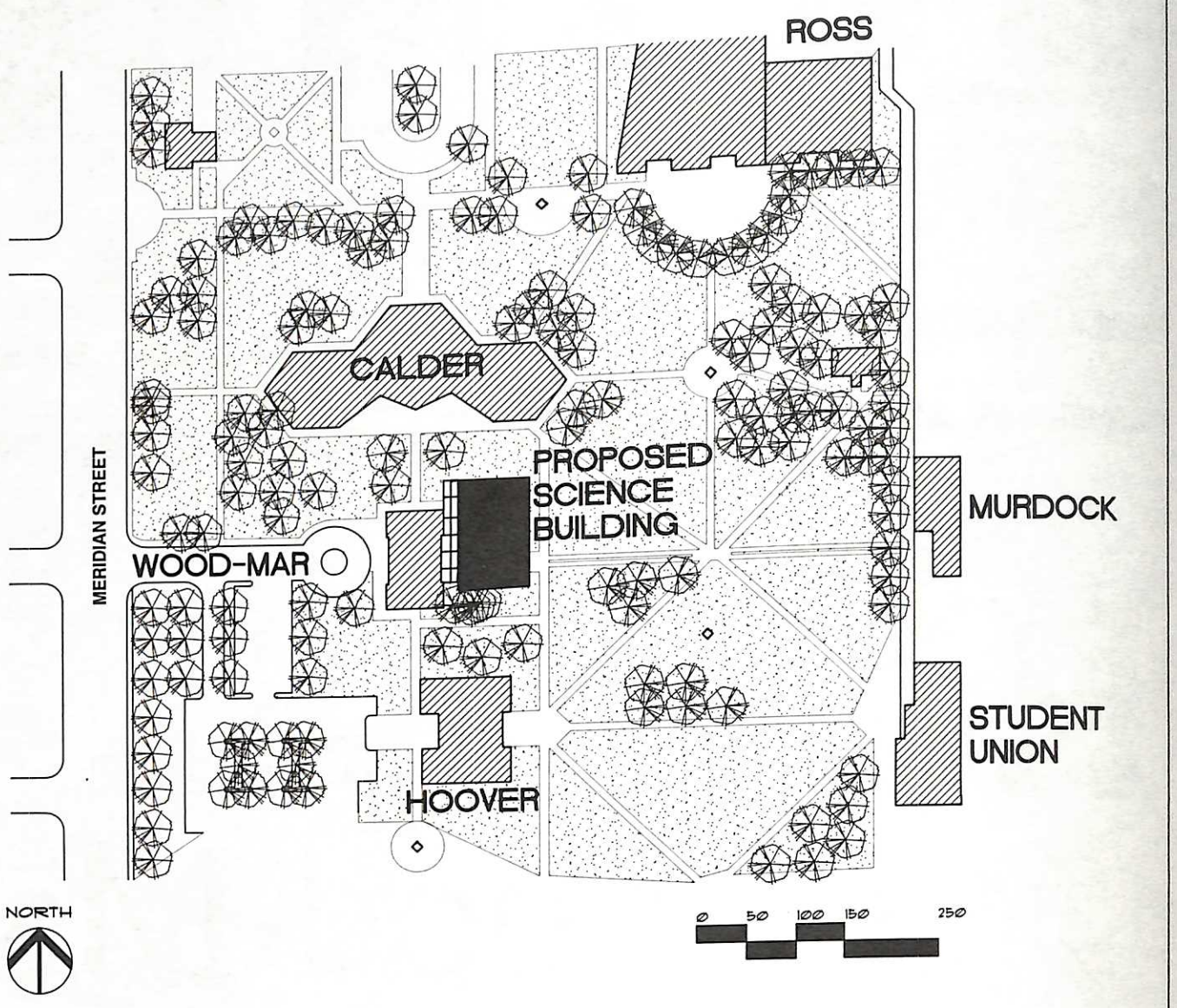
Also adding to the demand on science facilities was the addition of two new majors: computer and information science in 1985, and the engineering program in 1988. The total number of science majors has grown from 68 students five years ago to 131 last year.

Instrument storage is a consideration as well. An instrumentation room was not included in the original plans for Calder Center. Equipment and supplies have been stored above offices and hallways, in the biology museum, in a teaching lab converted to an instrument lab, and even in a professor's garage.

The amount of equipment used in science education has increased dramatically in the 30 years since Calder was built.

*(See **NEED**, page 3)*

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN



PRESIDENT'S PEN

How does God's Spirit lead in the case of building buildings? I'm not really sure, except I certainly believe He can and He does—perhaps He did!

Long-range planning committee members labored long and hard on the eventual campus master plan. They put in an enormous number of hours. They considered at least five sites for the new science building. Finally the committee decided the best location was west of historic Wood-Mar Hall. This, coupled with the early estimates of $2.5 million to $3 million to bring Wood-Mar up to the current codes and remodel it for future use, helped the committee decide the only rational thing to do would be to demolish Wood-Mar.

GFC President Edward F. Stevens

It was a reluctant decision and, at least for me, was one I never had a peace about. So when I was approached by a construction company owner (a respected Newberg citizen) and one of his project managers (who happened to be one of our graduates) with an idea about how to save Wood-Mar, I was inclined to listen.

After two or three meetings, I brought the information back to our four vice presidents, all of whom served on the long-range planning committee. The original idea proposed locating the science building west of Wood-Mar, using the new building to provide handicap access, to meet seismic code requirements, and to furnish heating and air conditioning for both buildings. The vice presidents' response to that plan was not real positive primarily because we were not comfortable with saving Wood-Mar and then not having it visible to the public.

-About six months after my first meeting with the contractors, I invited Don Millage, vice president for financial affairs, to meet with the architect, engineer, and several principal partners in the business. Don and I were not too enthusiastic about the proposal, but as we left the restaurant Don said, "Maybe it would work if we put the new building east of Wood-Mar." Since I'm not much of an abstract thinker (I need to see pictures!), I didn't have much of a response. Don returned to his office and developed some drawings—so I could see how it might fit—and I was immediately enthusiastic.

I then gave the contractors the challenge of developing the concept further and giving cost estimates. We met with the building committee, and the idea began to take hold. It is safe to say that at the present time there is considerable enthusiasm on campus for the new building and the restoration of Wood-Mar.

So how does God's Spirit lead in building buildings? I believe in this case He did not allow us to move forward as quickly as we would have liked with the new science building because He had a better idea and He was waiting for us to discover it. When I shared the new plan for Wood-Mar at a breakfast meeting with Roger Minthorne, chairman of our board of trustees and a GFC graduate, he reached across the table and took my hand and said, "This is an answer to prayer."

I'm excited now to see how God will supply the money to complete both projects. No, I'm not sitting in my office waiting for it to fall from heaven. We are working hard to present the story and the opportunity to as many folks as possible, but we also recognize that God is the ultimate source for all our needs.

God

Plans Call for Four-story Science Building

"If it all comes together, it can be an absolutely stunning addition to the campus."

That's how science department chairman Paul Chamberlain describes revised plans that would tie the College's new science building to a restoration of Wood-Mar Hall.

Instead of a two-story science building constructed west of Wood-Mar Hall with that historic building then razed, new plans being made call for a four-story complementary science building on the east side.

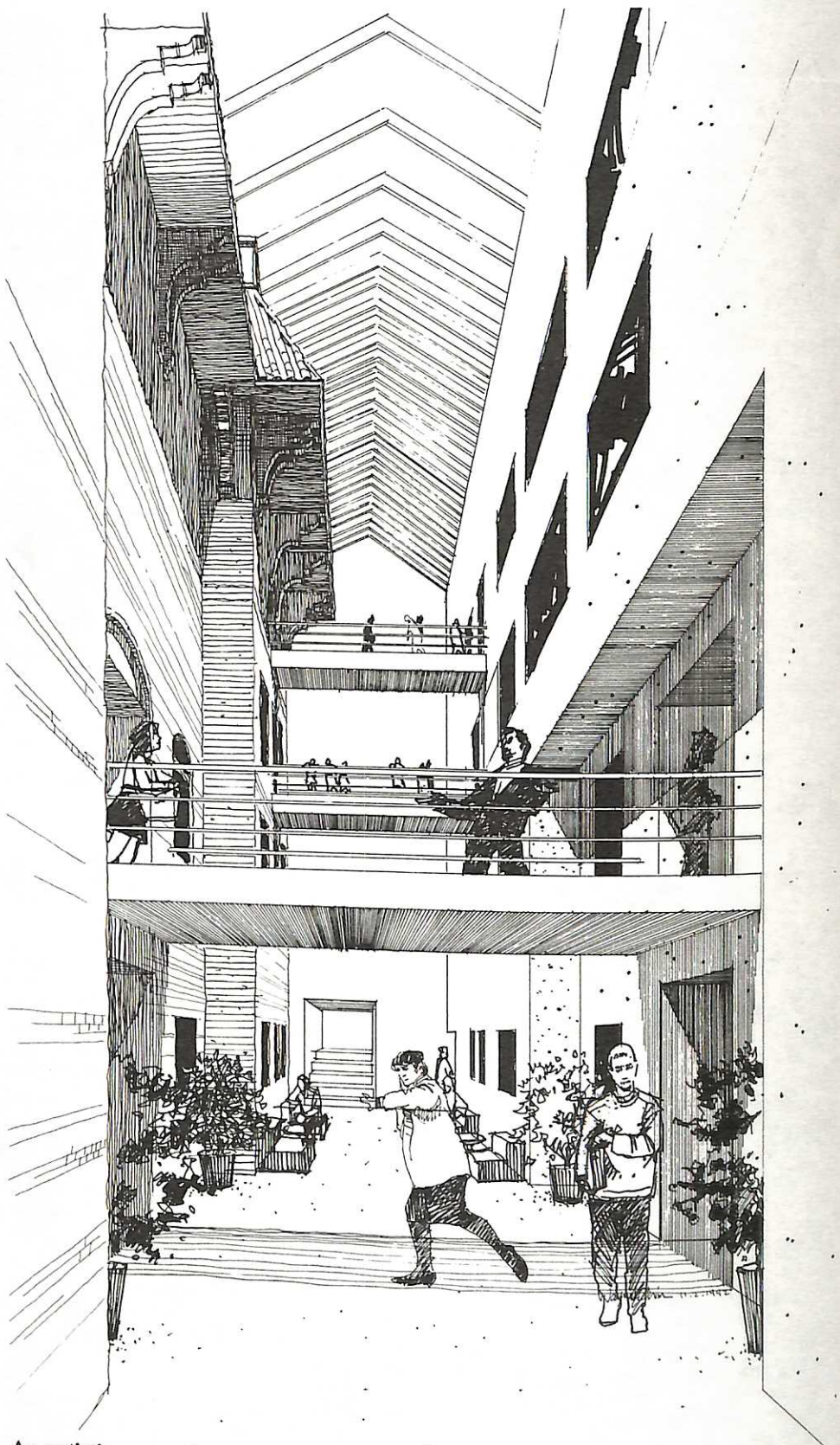
"If it all comes together, it can be an absolutely stunning addition to the campus."
Paul Chamberlain

The science building would match Wood-Mar in height, and would be set back to save fir trees near the sidewalk on the south side. Construction would involve steel and/or reinforced concrete, brick exterior, energy-efficient windows, and low-maintenance features. The interior would have concrete floors with resin/epoxy finish, exposed ceilings in lab areas, and suspended/drop ceilings in classrooms and office areas. The anticipated cost of construction, including furnishings, work stations, and equipment, will be $4.0 to $4.2 million.

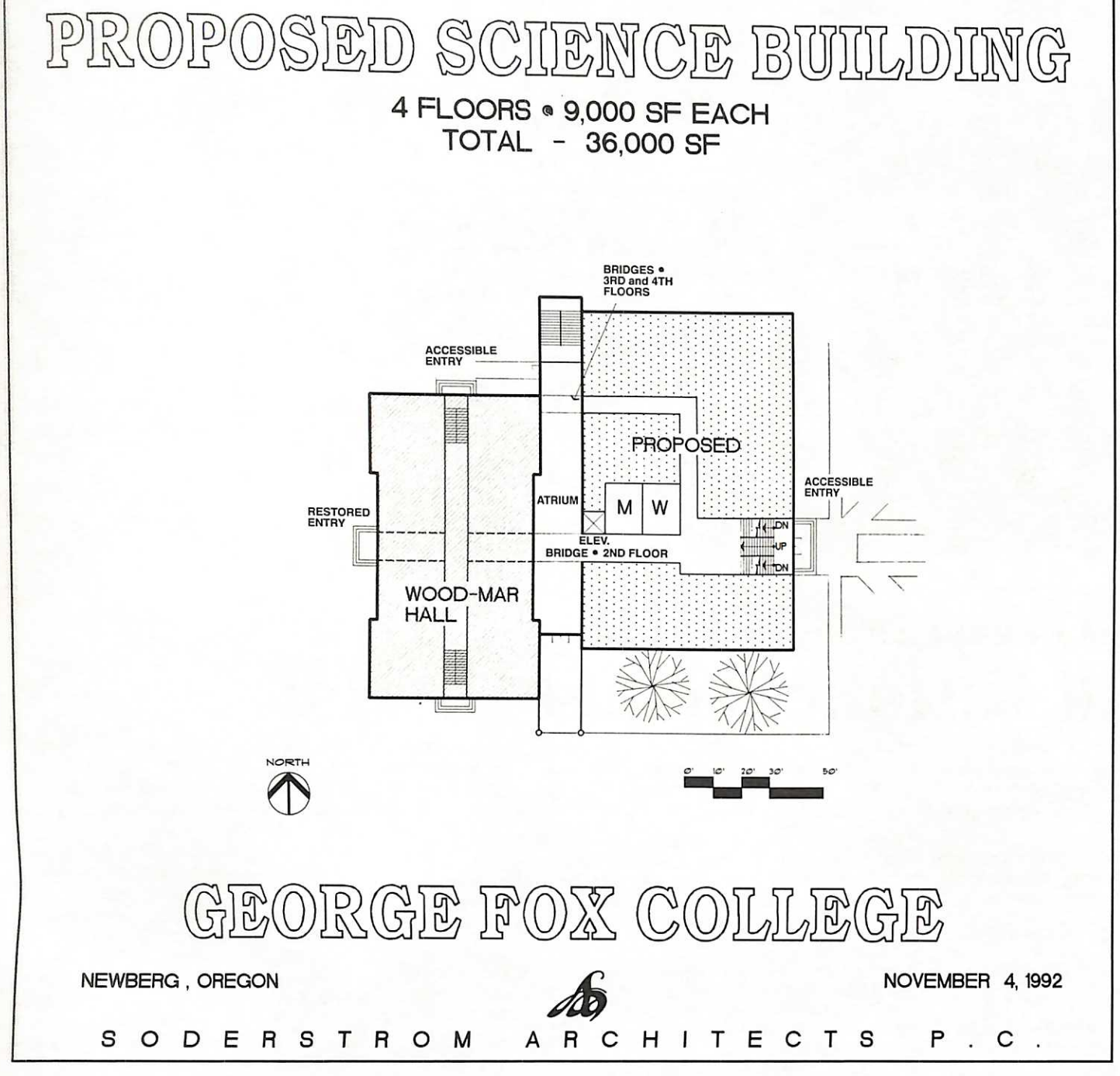
The total cost of construction and code improvements for Wood-Mar is still expected to be within the $5.3 million originally projected for the science building alone. The restoration of Wood-Mar will save $2.8 to $3 million from the master plan, since a theater-conference center that was part of the plan's third phase will not need to be built. By saving Wood-Mar, the College also saves the performance area in Wood-Mar Auditorium.

"There will be significant cost savings by doing the two projects together," President Edward F. Stevens said. "We are working on a detailed budget so we can report accurately to current donors to the science building and to future donors of the Wood-Mar project."

*(See **SCIENCE BUILDING**, page 3)*



An artist's conception of how the atrium between Wood-Mar Hall and the new science building would appear.



Pieces of Cornice to Help in Restoration

Roy Hiebert is a self-described pack rat, a fact that came in handy recently during discussions about the possibility of restoring Wood-Mar Hall. Hiebert began working at George Fox College as an electrician in 1975, the same year the building's Spanish-style cornice was removed due to safety considerations.

Until the early '80s, pieces of the cornice were stored on campus, but when the storage building was sold, Hiebert inherited them for firewood. Some of the pieces he burned, but some he saved, thinking he could use them as the ends of benches he wanted to build.

They were still in his backyard when Tim Voth, a 1976 graduate of George Fox College, called. Voth is the project manager for the general contracting firm of R. A. Gray & Company • Purcell Incorporated, which discovered a cost-efficient way to save Wood-Mar Hall.

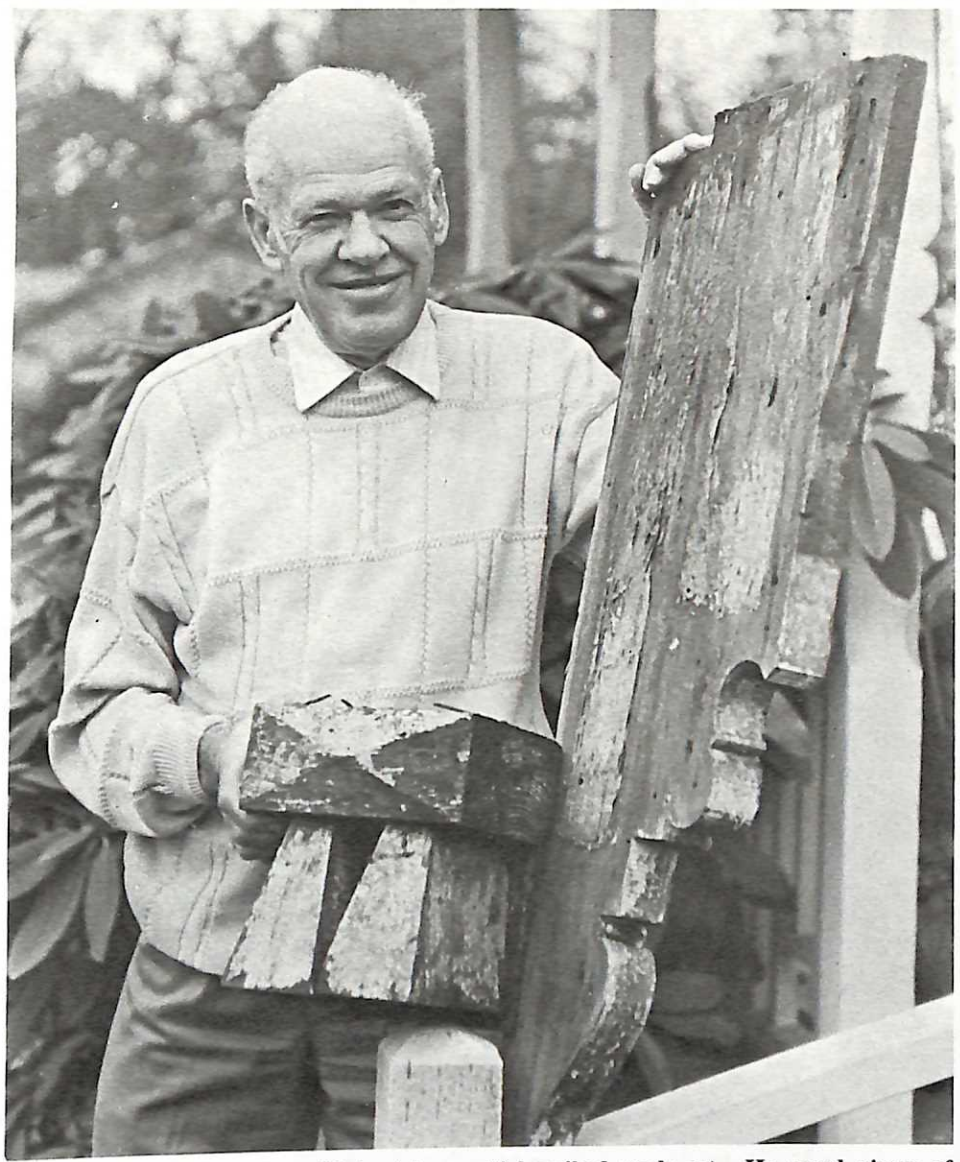
In making plans to restore the eight-decade-old building, Voth and his employers were trying to reconstruct what Wood-Mar's original cornice looked like. That's where the pieces Hiebert saved became invaluable. R. A. Gray & Company now had samples of two of the components that were used in the cornice.

"I took two of the pieces to work and we analyzed them to see how they went back together," Voth explained.

Using old photographs of Wood-Mar Hall and a magnifying glass, they studied how the cornice was originally constructed. They also talked to people familiar with the building's original appearance, including John Lyda, GFC's superintendent of new construction.

"[He] told me that the 'tiles' were actually made out of pieces of metal that had just been bent to look like tiles," Voth said. "It was sheet metal that had been bent, and not really terra cotta tiles, that gave the cornice its over-and-under appearance."

Thanks to the efforts of Voth, Hiebert, and others, Wood-Mar Hall may once again look as it did when it was originally built in 1911. The dreams of people who believed the building should be saved both for its historic value and for its original beauty may be realized.



The College is lucky Roy Hiebert is a self-described pack rat. He saved pieces of Wood-Mar's original cornice, which the architect found useful in making plans to restore the building.

Science Building

(Continued from page 2)

A projected construction timetable allows eight months for planning, two months for permits, 10 months for construction, and one month for move in—a total of 21 months, with occupancy in September 1994.

This assumes successful fund raising in the next 10 months to raise $5.3 million for the total project.

A building planning committee composed of faculty and administration already is at work with architect representatives. The master-plan change to switch the science building location and save Wood-Mar Hall was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees Executive Committee at its November meeting on campus.

Wood-Mar

(Continued from page 1)

administration building, another project in the master plan.

Wood-Mar Auditorium on the top floor would be renovated in a separate project for about $200,000 to $250,000.

The building restoration project would return the long-familiar Spanish-style cornice removed in 1975 because it was disintegrating and a safety hazard. All building windows would be replaced with new ones in the old style. New electrical, heating, and cooling systems would be included.

A primary advantage of the plan is the installation of a large passenger elevator to serve both Wood-Mar Hall and the science building. That would solve one of the major problems with Wood-Mar Auditorium—the lack of adequate access for the handicapped.

New restrooms in the science building also would serve Wood-Mar Hall and the auditorium.

To the general public passing the campus, Wood-Mar Hall would look as it did in 1911. Because the science building would be set back on the south side to save large fir trees, Wood-Mar Hall would appear as always from three sides. The view from the campus side would be of a building the same height as Wood-Mar and of a complementary design. The look of the new science building would be more compatible with the rest of the campus, which has mostly newer construction.

The science building location would encroach slightly into campus quad green space and require removal of some fir trees. However, the building will not extend further into the quad than Hoover Academic Building immediately to the south and not as far as Calder Center immediately to the north.

Loss of green space will be made up with the removal of Brougher Hall, due to be eliminated at the time the Wood-Mar project is completed. Removal of Brougher Hall, a World War II surplus building with brick facing, will open up a campus rectangle that eventually will extend to Sheridan Street on the south.

"This new plan seems to offer us the best of both worlds—a new science facility and the restoration of a historically significant structure," said President Edward F. Stevens.

Need

(Continued from page 1)

"Science has become much more instrument-intensive," Chamberlain says, "and we don't have any room even to put any more instruments."

While the College has invested more than $300,000 the past three years in instruments such as an electron microscope and a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, further equipment can't be purchased until space is available.

"Plus we need a lot more hood space (for venting fumes) and storage space for solvents and chemicals," Chamberlain adds.

Plans for the new science building will increase the biology teaching labs from two to four and the biology research lab from one to three. They also will add an instrument lab and an animal room to the currently existing electron microscope lab.

Proposals for the chemistry department involve another teaching lab, another research lab and a second instrument lab, while the engineering/physics program will get a second teaching lab and add a research lab.

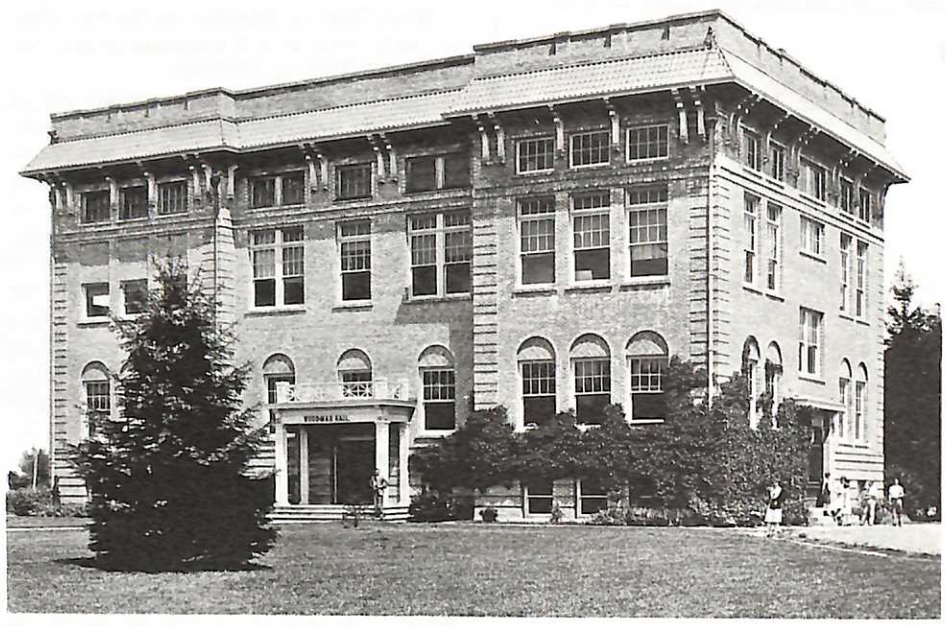
The building also will include a computer science lab, a general science/classroom lab, a lecture hall, another two to four classrooms, and possibly one or two student study rooms.

According to Chamberlain, the labs will be bigger than the ones in Calder Center, capable of serving from 16 to 24 students.

Chamberlain is excited about the potential of linking the science building to Wood-Mar Hall.

"The thing that sells me on it is the atrium," he said. "I think the atrium will be a community space that's very needed on campus, a place for people to gather, for students to relax. It's so early to know what's going to go on there in that space, but the atrium tying it together is the thing that excites me about it."

That and the building's location. "I think it's good for science in the sense that we're going to be in the center of campus. The Wood-Mar/science building complex will, in some respects, become the academic center between Calder and Hoover."



Wood-Mar Hall as it appeared in the 1920s

Restoring Wood-Mar Hall Will Require Generous Giving

by **MAURICE CHANDLER** (G60)
Executive Director of the Centennial Campaign

Picture with me Wood-Mar in a heap! Bricks, timbers, glass, auditorium seats, etc., ready to be loaded and carted off. Many memories each of us has would be in that scrap heap. For me, Wood-Mar has been a place to work, study and worship—and yes, I have even cleaned Wood-Mar. It has been a part of my life since 1956, and I am thankful for the new plan to preserve it for future generations.

Wood-Mar can remain a part of the George Fox College campus and be restored to its original architectural design. Review again the drawing of the restored building on the front page. This is great news for me personally. I'm excited about the restoration of Wood-Mar and the construction of the new science building. I will do my part to help fund this effort. Won't you join me and give Wood-Mar another 100 years of service?

There are giving programs available that each of us can consider to support the cost of restoring Wood-Mar and constructing the new science building. Consider a one-time cash donation; a gift of appreciated stock, bonds or real estate; a multiyear pledge; an annuity; or a charitable trust (which would give you a lifetime income).

Your special gift designated for this project is needed prior to October 31, 1993. Please join me in giving now! Call or write today. Your support will make a difference.

From 'Faithful Old Kit' to Chapel Pranks in Auditorium

Memories Fill Historic Wood-Mar Hall

To many, Wood-Mar Hall *is* George Fox College.

Although not the oldest building on campus, the 55-foot-high brick building is the tallest and the most visible to the general public.

And for generations of George Fox students, it was nearly the entire College—at least for classrooms and offices.

So commanding was its presence and so central was it to campus life, that at one time Wood-Mar Hall was the College's identity logo, used on college letterhead.

Constructed in 1910 and occupied in 1911, the three-story building is one of just two remaining buildings from the College's first decades.

It owes its existence to Newberg residents—and specifically to two Newberg women who led the campaign for its construction.

At a mass town meeting on Feb. 10, 1910, Newberg mayor N. C. Christenson presented the need for a new building at the College, then called Pacific.

Newberg residents immediately subscribed $16,335 toward the $30,000 fund drive launched by the College board.

The meeting was preceded by a parade of students. At the gathering, Newberg Graphic editor Ezra Woodward took charge and the pledges quickly rose.

Afterward, long-time Quakers and friends Amanda Woodward and Evangeline Martin canvassed Newberg businesses and individuals. They toured the country in a buggy drawn by "faithful Old Kit," spending months successfully appealing to more than 600 donors.

The city celebrated the fund drive's completion July 10, 1910. Again, Woodward and Martin drove their buggy through city streets, this time triumphantly decorated with a sign reading: "New Building for Pacific College. $30,000 subscription completed."

Within a year, builders completed their work and the new building was ready for use in the spring of 1911. To honor the two women and their heroic efforts, the College board named the building after both, using the first part of both last names: Wood-Mar.

The third-floor auditorium became the community's cultural center with recitals, plays, concerts, lectures and debates. The first and second floors became the College center. While students lived in Hoover and Minthorn Halls, they attended classes in Wood-Mar, which also contained the College's library and faculty and administrative offices.

When constructed, the building's main door was on the west side, with access from Meridian Street, down which the Red Electric train from Portland traveled. The south side doors were for use only by women students. Men used the north entrance. The main entrance was used by either sex and by the general public.

If a student was caught entering the wrong door, he or she faced punishment at the hands of a "belt line." Fellow students, and even President Levi Pennington, then "administered" belt slaps as the offending student passed by.

Reason for the door arrangement? Male students were not allowed to pass in front of the women's restroom and women could not cross by the men's restroom door on the bottom floor. Just when the door custom was abolished is unclear.

Originally, stacks of wood were a feature at the southeast corner of the building, pitched through a side entrance to fire the boilers for heat.

And the building has had other special features. In 1930 a large bronze plaque was installed in the main hallway noting: "In honor of Herbert Hoover . . . A tribute of love & esteem from his boyhood school, Pacific College."

Hoover attended classes on the campus in 1885-87 while enrolled at Friends Pacific Academy, which preceded the College.

Over the years, the building has been the site of dozens of college pranks—its main hallway at various times containing a cow, an outhouse, a Model-A car, and other surprises.

It's auditorium, serving for decades as the place for required Chapels, also has seen its share of pranks: marbles rolled down the sloping wood floors, mice set loose into the audience, odorous gas released into air vents, and the organ rigged so the "voice of the Lord" spoke during prayer service.

The fun also has been offset by the problems of age. In 1975 the auditorium was ordered closed by the state fire marshal until renovation could be made to install sprinkler and electrical systems.

Those changes allowed the Chapel/Auditorium to be used again, but enrollment growth soon forced Chapels to be held in the College's gymnasium until Bauman Auditorium was completed in 1982.

In 1975, the long-familiar Spanish-style red cornice around the building was removed when portions began to deteriorate and fall. Several times in the 1970s and 1980s the lower floor of the building was water soaked when a high water table forced water inside the basement.

Through the years, classrooms have gradually been eliminated as other buildings were added to campus. And as the College's administrative staff has grown, offices have been created. Now housed are staffs for the vice presidents for financial affairs, academic affairs, and student life. The lower floor contains the campus print shop, post office, and computer center.

Although students no longer spend long classroom hours in the building, they still feel fond of the history-filled Old Main.

In 1990, at the start of the College's centennial year, students surprised faculty and staff and gained news attention when they spent much of one night "decorating" the outside of the building with yards and yards of streamers—made from toilet tissue—and a large banner hung out front that read: "We Love You GFC."

Workers pause to have their photo taken during construction of Wood-Mar Hall in 1910.