

the ol' barn still stands



REYNOLDS RECOGNIZED AS MOST HISTORIC BUILDING ON CAMPUS

In the 1930s, David Clark planted the seed for what would eventually become one of NC State's most historic buildings, Reynolds Coliseum. Clark suggested the college build a 10,000-seat arena that would not only serve athletics, but provide a meeting spot for farmers and an armory for State's ROTC program — and rival any building of its kind in the nation. With the support of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, Clark began his quest. The design was taken from Duke University's coliseum, but officials asked the architect to add 26 feet to the building so it would be bigger.

With an estimated cost of \$300,000, Clark went searching for funding for the coliseum. He found that funding from the niece of tobacco businessman William Neal Reynolds, Mary Reynolds Babcock. Combining her gift of \$100,000 with \$100,000 from the state budget and \$99,999 from the Works Progress Administration, the wheels began to turn. Construction began in 1940 but soon came to a halt because of World War II, and the metal shell sat idle for almost a decade.

In 1948, construction resumed under the encouragement of coach Everett Case.

The building was completed by 1949. The building's doors were rumored to be big enough for elephants to fit through, and underneath the floor sits an ice skating rink. On Dec. 2, 1949, NC State defeated Washington and Lee in the first game of the "Ol' Barn."

Since that day in 1949, William Neal Reynolds Coliseum has seen some of NC State's most memorable events. It was the home to two NCAA basketball championship teams in the 1973-1974 and 1982-1983 seasons. The Dixie Classic, a historic basketball tournament that included the Big Four, was held in Reynolds every year. In addition to basketball games, the \$2.3 million building has hosted musical concerts and public lectures from celebrities like architect Frank Lloyd Wright and presidents John F. Kennedy, Andrew Johnson, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. Thousands of students received their degrees in Reynolds.

Today, the Coliseum is home to the women's basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and wrestling teams, as well as the offices of all ROTC programs.



Place a Reynolds Coliseum memory here.