

= Jewett House =

Jewett House ( formally Milo Jewett House and formerly North Hall ) is a nine @-@ story Tudor @-@ style dormitory on the campus of Vassar College in the town of Poughkeepsie , New York . Built in 1907 to accommodate increasing demand for residential space , the dorm was designed by Vassar art professor Lewis Pilcher of the architectural firm Pilcher and Tachau . Early reviews looked unfavorably upon Jewett , even dubbing it " Pilcher 's Crime " and by 2002 , a host of issues plagued the dorm , leading to a \$ 21 million renovation . Up to 195 students of any gender or class year may live in Jewett , which has been purported to be haunted by several different ghosts during its existence .

= = History = =

In 1902 , Vassar College in the town of Poughkeepsie , New York , completed Davison House , the fourth dorm in the college 's residential quadrangle ( quad ) . Enrollment was limited to 1 @, @ 000 students by 1905 and the college saw a need to further expand the number of dorms available so it approved the creation of a new one . Totalling \$ 212 @, @ 500 , construction was paid for using college funds ( versus the donor funds that paid for Strong and Davison Houses ) .

The dormitory was known as North Hall upon its opening . However , by 1915 , the college 's semicentennial , no donor had stepped forward to help fund the dormitory 's construction and Vassar president Henry Noble MacCracken renamed the building Milo Jewett House after Milo P. Jewett . Jewett served as Vassar 's first president from his election to the office in February 1861 until his departure from the college in spring 1864 after a dispute with the school 's founder and namesake , Matthew Vassar . Although Jewett was instrumental in providing a vision for the college , the school did not open until 1865 meaning he never had the chance to oversee its student body .

By 2002 , Jewett hosted a spectrum of problems , highlighted in Vassar 's alumnae / i magazine as including

" an elevator that simply does not stop at the second floor ; balconies you can never reach ; a mezzanine @-@ level bathroom for residents of the third @-@ floor tower area , complete with stalls so squeezed that those of all heights bruise their kneecaps when they sit to use the facilities ; and a stairway tightly wrapped around a nine @-@ story elevator shaft that no longer comes close to meeting fire safety codes . "

The college developed a master plan in 2000 to improve campus residences and Jewett was elected as the first to undergo renovation . New Haven , Connecticut @-@ based Herbert S. Newman & Partners were selected for the 15 @-@ month project which was completed by October 2003 at a cost of \$ 21 million .

= = Architecture and features = =

Lewis Pilcher of the architectural firm Pilcher and Tachau served as an art professor at Vassar between 1900 and 1911 ; his firm was responsible for the design of the house . Jewett was built at the north end of the residential quad , northwest of Lathrop House and northeast of Davison House . Later projects saw the erection of Josselyn House ( 1912 ) to Jewett 's west and the Students ' Building ( 1913 ) to its east . It is the only building on the quad , including Rockefeller Hall , with its main facade facing inward .

The dormitory , constructed from brick and stone , consists of a four @-@ story U @-@ shaped main body with a nine @-@ story tower built ostensibly " to help campus water pressure . " Construction on the house wrapped up in 1907 . Historian Elizabeth A. Daniels notes that while Jewett 's design is " generally Tudor in spirit " , it contrasts with the rest of the dorms on the quad which are Elizabethan in style . Wooden structural support elements are minimal in the house , with the dormitory instead relying on steel and concrete . Instead of using stone for decorative exterior elements including trim and faces , as was common at the time of construction , Pilcher utilized terracotta . Other external features include a pitched copper roof with a low slope , limestone @-@

surrounded entrances , crenellations , and light red brick . According to architectural writers Karen Van Lengen and Lisa Reilly , the tower 's presence " created a more monumental and less homelike impression than that of its neighbor , Josselyn " which they speculate may have earned the dorm its nickname , " Pilcher 's Crime " .

Upon opening , the house featured two dining rooms with student rooms arranged along lengthy hallways radiating from the center of the structure . The nine tower floors were only accessible via the ground level , from the dorm 's primary entrance hall . An exterior fire escape led down the back of Jewett 's tower but was replaced with an interior stairwell during the 2003 renovation .

Jewett is co @-@ ed with a capacity of 195 residents . Students of any grade may live in the house , in either single rooms , one @-@ room doubles , one @-@ room triples , two @-@ room doubles , or suites . A college guide compiled in 2003 by the staff of the Yale Daily News identified the dorm as one of the two most popular at the college , along with Cushing House . Jewett is allegedly the site of numerous hauntings . An apartment in the dorm 's east arm has been purported to be haunted by a Panama suit @-@ clad " gentleman ghost " while claims of a wailing baby 's ghost in a disused bathtub in the building have recurred throughout its history .

= = = Cited = = =

Bruno , Maryann ; Daniels , Elizabeth A. ( 2001 ) . Vassar College . Charleston , SC : Arcadia Publishing . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 7385 @-@ 0454 @-@ 4 .

Daniels , Elizabeth A. ( 1987 ) . Main to Mudd : An Informal History of Vassar College Buildings . Poughkeepsie , NY : Vassar College . ISBN 0 @-@ 916663 @-@ 01 @-@ 9 .

Murray , Sam ; Goldsmith , Emily ; Falcone , Rachel ( 2011 ) . Vassar College 2012 . Pittsburgh : College Prowler . ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 4274 @-@ 0684 @-@ 2 .

Platt Byard Dovell White Architects ( June 15 , 2007 ) . " Vassar College Historic Preservation Design Manual " ( PDF ) . Society for College and University Planning . Retrieved October 18 , 2015 .

Rule , Leslie ( 2001 ) . Coast to Coast Ghosts : True Stories of Hauntings Across America . Kansas City , MO : Andrews McMeel Publishing . ISBN 0 @-@ 7407 @-@ 1866 @-@ 5 .

Van Lengen , Karen ; Reilly , Lisa ( 2004 ) . The Campus Guide : Vassar College . New York City : Princeton Architectural Press . ISBN 1 @-@ 56898 @-@ 349 @-@ 2 .

Yale Daily News Staff , ed . ( 2003 ) . The Insider 's Guide to the Colleges , 2004 ( 30 ed . ) . New York City : St. Martin 's Griffin . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 312 @-@ 31618 @-@ 1 .