

= Davison House =

Davison House ( officially the Eliza Davison House ) is a five @-@ story dormitory on the campus of Vassar College in the town of Poughkeepsie , New York . Designed by Boston architecture firm Allen & Vance and built 1902 , it was the fourth dorm built on Vassar 's residential quadrangle . It houses 191 students of any grade or gender and it became Vassar 's first disabled @-@ accessible dorm following a 2008 ? 2009 renovation .

= = History = =

Davison House was the fourth residential quadrangle ( quad ) dormitory to be built on the campus Vassar College in the town of Poughkeepsie , New York . Construction of Davison came during a period of rapid dorm @-@ building spanning 1893 ? 1902 during which the older seminary @-@ style model of housing ? a single large hall in which all a college 's residents lived , in Vassar 's case Main Building ? was quickly waning in popularity in favor of smaller individual houses . The project began with the opening of Strong House in 1893 and continued with Raymond House in 1897 , Lathrop House in 1901 , and finally Davison in 1902 .

Davison House was built with funds provided by magnate and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller , then a trustee at the college . Named in honor of his mother as the Eliza Davison House , it was the third structure at Vassar that Rockefeller paid for , after Strong House and Rockefeller Hall .

Roofers replaced Davison 's roof in 1960 and new windows were installed in 1980 . A new staircase on the side of the dorm facing away from the quad was built in 2005 . The dorm underwent a major renovation during the 2008 ? 2009 school year , reopening at the beginning of the 2009 ? 2010 academic year . The renovation included plans for upgraded accessibility , including an elevator and disabled @-@ accessible bathrooms and doors , making it Vassar 's first dorm to offer those features .

= = Architecture and features = =

Davison was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Francis Richmond Allen and J. McArthur Vance who were also responsible for the design of its neighbor , Lathrop House , in 1901 . Formulating a design for these two buildings was not difficult as a template had already been set by way of the preexisting Strong and Raymond Houses . Frederick Law Olmsted , a consultant of design for the college , recommended that any new dorms in the area be built in an " echelon formation " in order to provide for a greater sense of openness . Allen disregarded this advice , instead opting to place the dorm , along with Lathrop , in " two long unbroken rows of buildings on the bias " . Davison was ultimately placed north of Raymond , across the quad to the west of Lathrop , and diagonally across from Strong .

Standing a total of five stories tall with an additional basement level , Davison is an Elizabethan brick building . It is capped with a pitched Pennsylvania slate roof and five chimneys , each multiple wythes thick . Several cupolas also jut from the roof , each fitted with louvers . The dorm features elements of brownstone trim and brownstone @-@ capped brick parapets . Inside the building , dorm room floors are made of wood paneling . Walls are painted cream and fifth floor rooms feature sloped ceilings and inlaid skylights . Bathrooms have tile floors and marble sinks , while communal spaces utilize motion @-@ sensing lighting technology .

The house is co @-@ ed and currently has a capacity of 191 students . Residents of Davison , which houses students of all grades , may live in either single rooms , one @-@ room doubles , or three @-@ room triples with bathrooms being shared by all members of a hall . The dorm has a kitchen , a parlor abutting the quad , and , as of 2011 , its basement was a frequent practice space for student bands . In a 2005 guide to the school published by College Prowler , Davison was named one of the three best dorms at Vassar , along with Main and Jewett .