



# Manchester University



## Administration Building

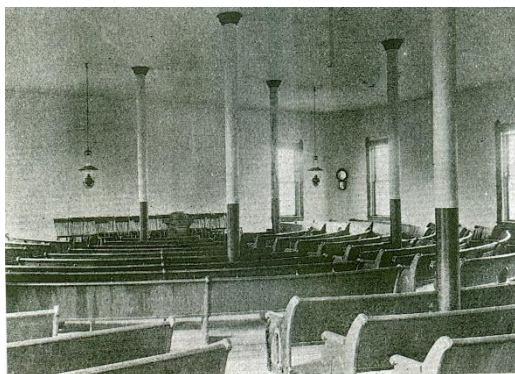
Manchester University is rich with history and that is apparent in the memories from the Administration Building. Comprised of the two original buildings from the late 1800s and bridged by an addition from the 1920s, the Administration Building was the site of many significant campus events. The building served as an iconic backdrop and represented the heart of the University.

North Manchester College was founded by David N. Howe in 1889. While living and teaching in the campus boarding house, President Howe worked on Bumgerdner Hall, often called "College Hall." Howe was as comfortable felling trees as he was instructing, and enlisted students to wield shovels, hammers, and saws.



Work Day, circa 1890

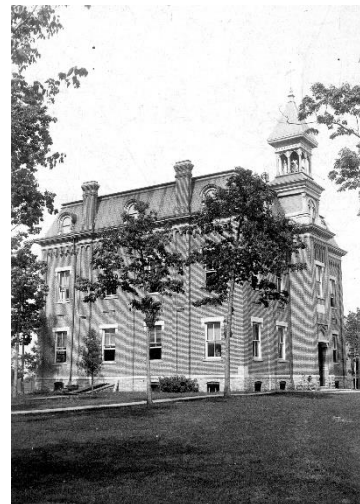
College Hall was a brick three-story building with a basement measuring 58' x 58'. The first spaces to reach completion were the chapel and recitation rooms in the northwest room of the first floor. The building also included offices, classrooms and space for athletic activities



Bible Building chapel

The first floor of the Bible Building was the chapel, attended by students five days a week. The second floor included the president and treasurer's offices, Bible room, library and classrooms. The third floor was used for the commercial department (later business). The third floor housed this department for more than 100 years.

The cornerstone ceremony was conducted on Aug. 1, 1889, and construction concluded in spring 1891. On dedication day, July 26, 1891, Howe announced that there was outstanding debt on the building and withheld picnic lunches prepared for participants until the debt had been covered and the building dedicated.



A well-remembered professor, A.B. Ulrey, the only science teacher at Manchester until 1900, taught classes in College Hall. The laboratory below was in the southeast corner of the building.



Professor Ulrey's biology class, circa 1894

In 1895, the College came into possession of the Church of the Brethren and was henceforth called Manchester College and The Bible School. President E.S. Young soon announced construction of another brick three-story building with basement, sized 60' x 70'.



The Bible Department played a key role during the early years of the college. President Young was photographed with one of the early Bible study classes on the second floor of the Bible Building.



Bible School classroom, circa 1895-1898

Back in College Hall, the first floor housed the physical and biological labs, and the museum. The basement held the chemical laboratory, manual (arts and crafts) training room, and bookstore.



Chemistry laboratory, College Hall basement, 1896



Basement bookstore, many years later



Second-story library, utilized until 1921



Third-story Commerce class

In 1895, the Excelsior Literary Society was formed and, because of its popularity, split into the Adelpia Club and the Lincoln Society. These groups became prominent enough to have their own rooms on the third floor of College Hall.



Lincoln Society room, 1896



Adelpia Club room, 1896

The 1903-04 basketball team played on the second floor of College Hall with Joe Cunningham, possibly one of the nation's first African-American athletes to play on an integrated team.



Joe Cunningham, far right, row two

Manchester alumnus and instructor of history and education, Otho Winger began his 30-year presidency in 1911. The Board made the selection during a meeting in the Bible Building.



OTHO WINGER, A. M., President

The College continued to grow during Otho Winger's presidency. It was decided that College Hall and the Bible Building should be connected, and the project began in 1920.

When complete, the Administration Building was 250 long, 50-75 feet wide, with four stories and an 80-foot-high tower. This was one of the largest college buildings in the state at the time.



Administration Building, 1921

College Hall was also the site of the North Ward School, home of the College Training school, whose program and faculty were highlighted in a 1909 bulletin supplement.



North Ward served as a "model school" allowing future educators the opportunity to learn through ongoing classroom observation. This benefitted both the college and the local school system.



Education class observing master teacher

The Administration Building was dedicated on Jan. 7, 1921. The basement housed the manual training rooms, agricultural and cooking laboratories, men's rooms, a post office, bookstore, a large meeting room, and the meditations chapel. The first floor housed administrative offices, several art, music and recitation rooms, and a chapel with more than 1,000 seats. The second floor housed the library, reading rooms, Bible department (west) music department (east), and additional recitation rooms. The third floor was home to the commercial school (west), Adelpia and Lincoln halls (east), physics and biology labs, and campus museum.



Graduation photo, 1921

The foyer and main hallway of the Administration Building served as a central location for announcements, which could be found on its bulletin boards. Many of the features of this space remained the same until the building was vacated in 2019.



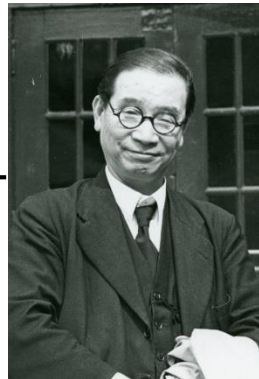
The Administration Building was often used as the backdrop when photographing events. In 1941, when Otho Winger retired, he was given an automobile that was parked in front of the building.



The outgoing president, no doubt, had plenty of memories of the Administration Building. A favorite story involves a pig that Otho Winger found in his office one day in the Bible Building. He refrained from telling anyone about it until the culprit inquired about the incident and was found out.

One of the most noted features of the Administration Building was the Manchester Chime, a collection of 10 bells, each with an inscription signifying the idea to which it was dedicated.

The bells were shipped from McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, Md. With the assistance of several hundred people, the bells (with a combined weight of more than 5 tons) were hoisted into the Chime Tower and installed. The Chime was dedicated on Aug. 11, 1922, and was played at the beginning and end of each day, as well as on special occasions. In 2021 a final concert was given by Lila VanLue '79 Hammer before the bells were removed for restoration.



The Chapel was the location for many significant campus events. In 1936, Japanese Christian world leader and social reformer Toyohiko Kagawa presented an address entitled, "The Meaning of the Cross."

The next Manchester president, Vernon Franklin Schwalm, led the college through the tumultuous years of World War II. Schwalm was also responsible for hiring Gladdys Muir and providing resources necessary to develop the Peace Studies Program, the first undergraduate program of its kind in the world.

True to form, when the College celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the Peace Studies Program, the Administration Building was the location where a segment of *Good Morning America* was recorded.



President Schwalm realized that much of Manchester's Church of the Brethren constituency was interested in maintaining the values of rural life. The Rural Life Room, on the first floor was dedicated to this effort, along with an instructor trained in rural sociology. It was hoped that more students would prepare for careers as farmers, farm homemakers, rural ministers, teachers, doctors and dentists.

In 1962, Petersime Chapel was dedicated and there was no longer a need for the Chapel in the Administration Building. This space was remodeled in 1964 and named Wampler Auditorium.



Post-renovation

In 2012, faculty offices and classroom that had been in the Administration Building moved to the Academic Center, emptying the second and third floors, and leaving about 40 administrative employees working on the first floor and in the basement.



In August 2021, the bells were removed from the old Chime Tower in preparation for a home on the Manchester University Mall. The new Chime Tower will have elements that honor the historic significance of the Administration Building. The dedication of the Chime will occur at Homecoming

2022 to mark the Chime's 100<sup>th</sup> year.

In 2021 the Board of Trustees, at the recommendation of the administration, decided to raze the Administration Building. The decision was emotionally difficult and made with deep sadness. In fact, the Board of Trustees wrestled with this decision – in some form or fashion – over the course of three decades.

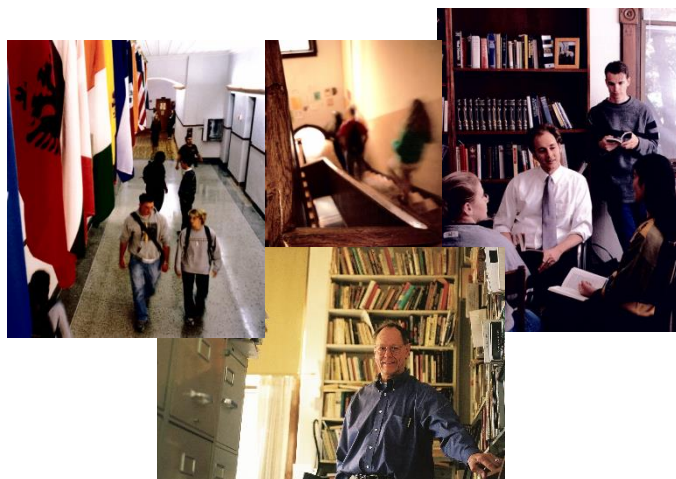
The Administration Building has served Manchester very well over the years. Her legacy lives on in the lives and work of the students who studied there.



The auditorium was named after Sadie (Stutsman) Wampler, the dedicated instructor who brought theater to Manchester College and worked for the College from 1905 to 1952. Over the years, a legend developed which claimed that Sadie haunts the auditorium.

Wampler Auditorium may well have been the most versatile space on campus. The location began as the Chapel and has since been the location of musical and theatrical productions. In later years, it was also home to the International Fashion Show and Drag Show.

In 2019, employees were moved to other buildings after bricks started falling from the façade and a major leak was discovered in the roof.



Work began in December of 2021 and the razing is projected to be completed before the end of summer 2022.

After it is gone, Manchester will plant grass and maintain the area as a green space with mature oak trees and the beloved fountain as its focal point.