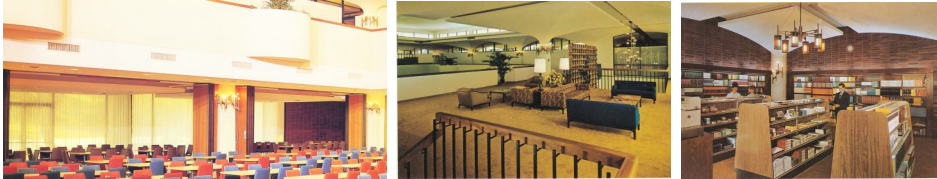


After the dedication ceremony of the new Dining Hall on May 31, 1966 the entire study body ate a meal together— a very welcome relief from the difficulties of dining in shifts in the Mayfair basement. A year later on May 18, the Dining Hall became the Student Center, because it was also the location of the barbershop, bookstore, and student lounges.

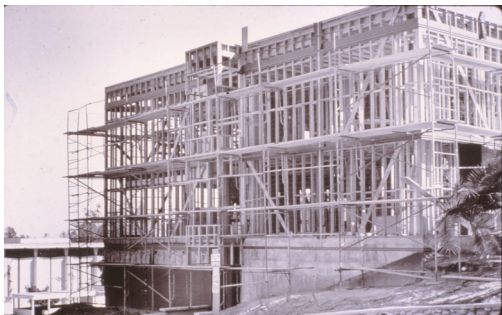


Once cleared of tables and chairs, the 6100 square foot parquet teakwood floor was the site of many memorable college dances and sing-alongs.



As Grove Terrace was nearing completion in 1968, people passing by asked if it was a new high-rise apartment complex. A few wondered about their chances of moving in and how much the rent was.

Opened to students on August 24, 1968 Grove Terrace was home to 144 men and was the only dormitory ever constructed on campus.



The two wings, both three stories high, were connected by central lounges. The West wing, shown here under construction, was the location of a 1,496 square foot weight room.

"Harry Sneider is very happy with his new facilities since he has room to expand with newer and better equipment." **Portfolio**, April 15, 1969.

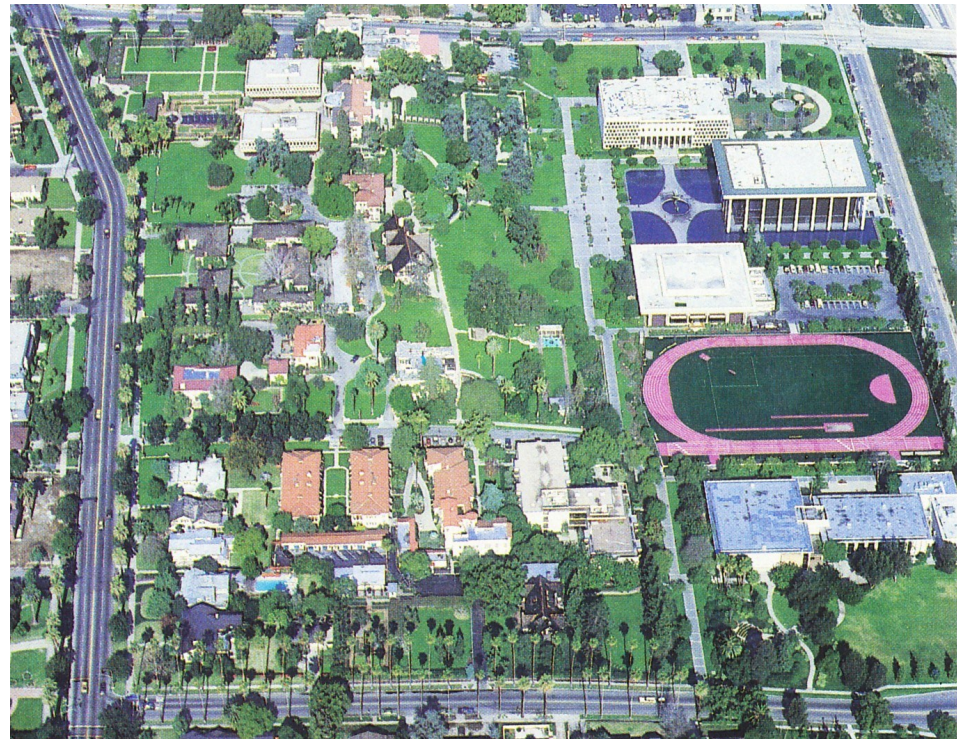
2024 AC Pasadena Reunion

"Celebrate our unique experiences and friendships as AC students"

**Ambassador College Student Center
(aka Maranatha High School Student Center)**

July 20, 2024

by Kirk Myers, Pasadena Historian, AC student 1969-1973



On May 15, 1963 the **Portfolio** reported that the architectural firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall (DMJM) had developed an abstract for all future construction being considered on the campus. A dining hall was intended to be the first new building. Students were then eating in shifts at Mayfair.

A few months later, surveyors for the proposed extension of the 710 freeway were planning a route just east of Terrace Drive which would have ruined plans for the campus. DMJM was able to design and build a gymnasium/natatorium complex in one year, in an effort to persuade the California Highway Commission to route the freeway one block east. The gym was finished in November, 1964. Three months later, construction began on a dining hall which was dedicated on May 31, 1966.

The Grove Terrace dormitory was completed in 1968. Within five years, the area around the intersection of Grove and Terrace had been dramatically transformed, from homes dating from the 19th century to modern college buildings.



Construction of the new gym begins as bulldozer wrecks home with old buildings.
Master Plan Reshapes Ambassador Campus

After existing homes were demolished, ground breaking ceremonies for the new gym were held on February 10, 1964. Nine months later, the O.K. Earl Construction Company handed over the keys to Ambassador College.
Portfolio, November 17, 1964

The massive “T” beams used in the roof are 116 feet long, weigh 54 tons each, and were the largest ever cast at the time of construction.



Shortly after the gym was completed, on December 22, 1964 Ambassador College received permission from the Pasadena Board of Directors to close Mentoria Court. The street paving on Mentoria Court was then broken up, small frame homes were removed, and ground breaking for the “much-needed and long-awaited Dining Hall” was held on February 17, 1965.



Left: An early view of the area around Mentoria Court from the Fowler home (AC Library), circa 1900.

Right: Future site of the Student Center at ground breaking in February 1965



One of the unique design features that contributes to the elegant appearance of the Student Center is the placement of concrete “umbrellas” atop the support columns.

Weighing between 24 and 26 tons each, the umbrellas were constructed in several pieces and linked together with reinforcing steel (rebar) before being hoisted into place. The foundational pillars extend 48 feet below the surface.



Terrace Drive

In 1886, nearby landowners opened up the first section of a street that would later extend from Colorado to Del Mar. Pasadena historian Hiram Reid wrote “they named it Terrace Drive because it was cut along the hill slope in terrace fashion.”

Several prominent Pasadena residents soon built Victorian homes on the crest of the hill overlooking Terrace Drive. At the same time, a neighborhood of small frame homes began to develop on the east.

In the 1890s, South Orange Grove Avenue began to attract wealthy residents from the east, and later became nationally known as Pasadena’s version of “Millionaires’ Row.” Earlier homes on the avenue were being replaced by larger mansions and gardens, and the original environment west of Terrace Drive was also transformed.

In 1895, Edward F. Claypool, “one of the wealthiest men of Indiana”, moved a home off site and built a mansion that was described by the Pasadena Daily News as “...palatial in proportions and finish. The grounds are park like and beautiful.”

He was followed by O.S.A. Sprague in 1902, and then by Hulett C. Merritt and his father Lewis J. Merritt in 1905. In 1924, Stillman B. Jamieson built the last mansion overlooking Terrace Drive.

Ambassador College began in 1947 with the purchase of the former Claypool/Fowler estate. By 1958, all five of the mansions on Terrace Drive had been acquired.

Noted landscape architect Garrett Eckbo was later commissioned to develop a unified campus landscape. Working with the architectural firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall, he merged the lawns and redeveloped the gardens of the old estates.

In 2002, Pam Waterman wrote in Pacific Horticulture magazine that “While upkeep on the campus is not as pristine as in earlier days, the Ambassador College Campus gardens remain a lovely reminder of an earlier, less frenetic time.”



The Arnold, Ball and Dodworth homes on the northern section of Terrace Drive. The Ball home in the center was removed in 1924, when Green Street was extended from Terrace Drive to South Orange Grove.



Terrace Drive in Pasadena

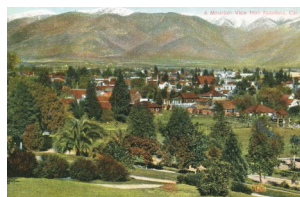
A Walk on Millionaires’ Row

May 10, 2018

Garden Club of St. Francis Wood



C. 1885



C. 1900



C. 1970



C. 1974





Hulett C. Merritt, 1905-08



Italian Sunken Garden, 1907
Photo from 1972



"Terrace Villa"
Stillman B. Jamieson, 1924



"Mayfair"
O.S.A. Sprague, 1902



Ambassador College Library
Claypool/Fowler, 1895



Fowler Garden, 1915



"Manor Del Mar"
Lewis J. Merritt, 1905-07



Lewis J. Merritt Garden



Above: This circa 1970 view looking north shows Terrace Drive in the center of the Ambassador College campus. On the east side, a Recreation Complex, Student Center and Hall of Administration were built between 1964 and 1969, to be followed by Ambassador Auditorium in 1974. On the upper campus, west of Terrace Drive, are five restored homes from the Millionaires' Row era, three of which are dormitories.

Right: In 2016, construction had begun on the development along Green Street at the north, and condominiums had replaced the Fowler home, the garden of Lewis J. Merritt, and the open space surrounding the Italian sunken garden of the Hulett C. Merritt home.

