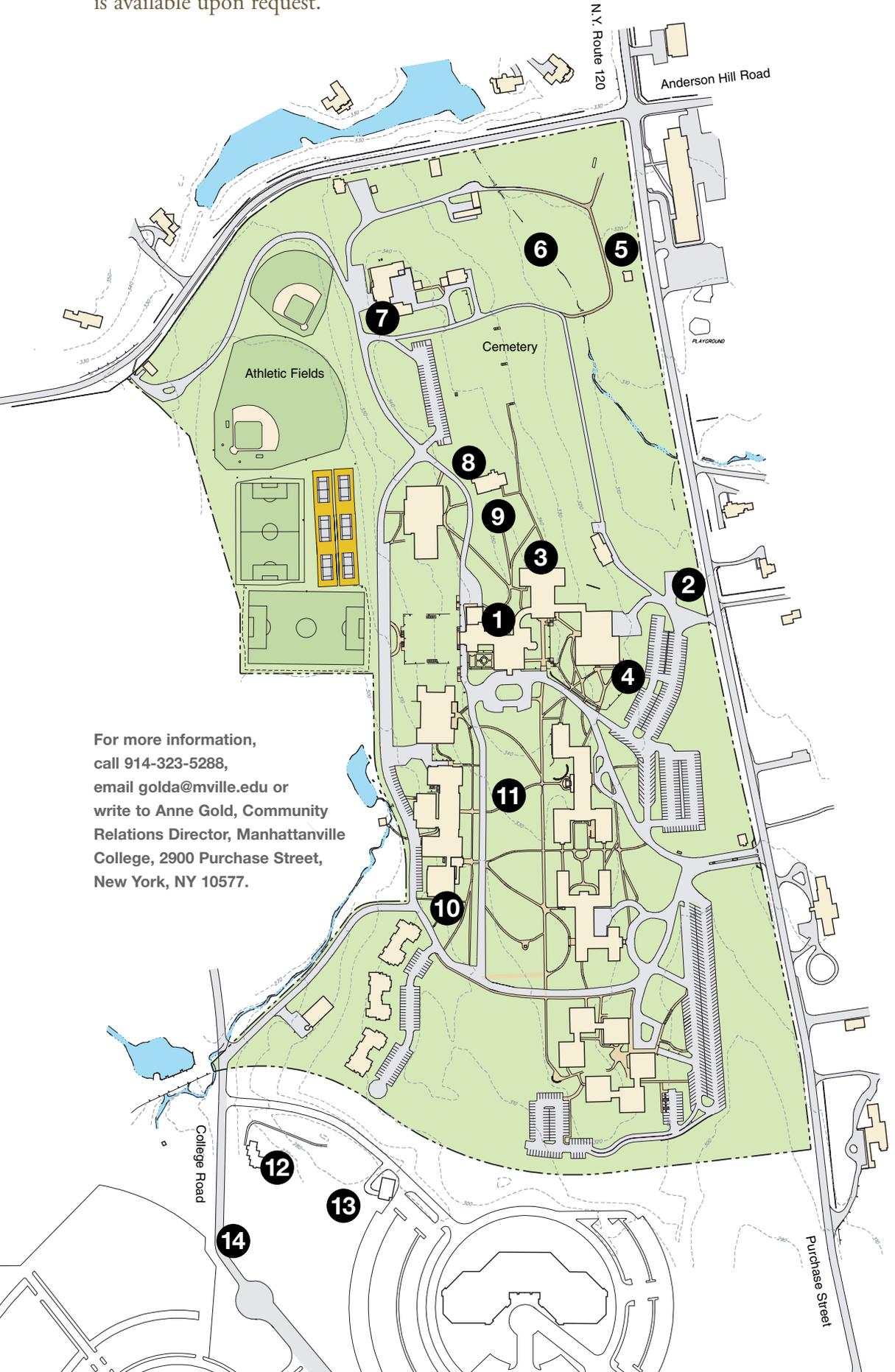


# Manhattanville College and the Ophir Farm Estate

We hope you enjoy your historic walking tour of Manhattanville College and Ophir Farm. As a supplement to this guide, a free 15-page chronological booklet is available upon request.



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## 1. Reid Castle and Grounds

Designated a national historic landmark in 1974, Reid Castle was originally built after a devastating fire at the Ophir Farm estate on July 14, 1888. The proprietor, Whitelaw Reid, owned the Herald Tribune newspaper and was the Vice Presidential candidate of Benjamin Harrison in 1892. The Castle consisted of rough granite blocks from quarries on the property, and its design is based on the architecture of Norman castles. It was built on the footprint of the original six-story, 84-room mansion, constructed by the previous owner, Ben “Doc” Holladay, a millionaire and stagecoach tycoon who ran the Pony Express and Overland Express Stage Coaches.

Reid Castle was designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, who completed nearly one thousand projects between 1879 and 1912, including some of the most prestigious projects of the era such as the redesign of the White House and the Mall in Washington, D.C., and the campuses of Harvard and Columbia Universities.

Much of the landscaping for the Ophir Farm grounds was created in the late 19th century by Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the finest artisans in the field, with other projects in New York City’s Central Park, and the grounds of the United States Capitol, White House and Jefferson Memorial.

## 2. Purchase Street

In 1949, Manhattanville College purchased 250 acres of the Ophir estate adjoining Purchase Street, referred to as Middle Street in a 1771 public-property record. The road was once a Siwanoy Indian path connecting Long Island Sound to a source of fresh water at Rye Lake.

## 3. O’Byrne Chapel

Dedicated on April 28, 1963, O’Byrne Chapel contains striking, multi-colored stained-glass windows, 36 feet tall by five feet wide. Dominating the interior is a sculpture of the crucifixion by Frederick Shrady who has other works in St. Patrick’s Cathedral and Lincoln Center.

## 4. Carved Boulder

Ben and Ann Holladay bought 1,000 acres in Purchase in 1864, named the property “Ophir Farm,” and placed a stone boulder at the entrance drive with a cross and a heart carved in the center to show, as Ann put it, that “Catholics lived here.” It has since been moved to the southeast corner of the Benziger Building.

## 5. Holladay Stone Chapel

The Norman Gothic-style building represents only one of three private family chapels in Westchester County. It was built by Ben Holladay especially for Ann and is currently being restored.

## 6. Holladay Stream

The stream is reviving thanks to environmental-studies students and ACT (Achieving Conservation Together) student club members. The surrounding area contains trees from the West Coast and Europe, planted by Ben Holladay and Frederick Law Olmsted.

## 7. Stable/Coach House

Designed for the Reids in the Georgian style by William Rutherford Mead of McKim, Mead & White, the Stable and Coach House contain uncoursed rubble, Bullseye windows and eyebrow louvered dormers.

## 8. President’s Cottage

Built by McKim, Mead & White, the cottage, once an annex to the Castle, was used by gentlemen guests at Reid parties for trading stories and smoking cigars.

## 9. Japan Pavilion Sculpture Garden

Now part of a sculpture garden in front of the Manhattanville President’s Cottage, specially designed lava stones come from the Japan Pavilion at the 1964 New York World’s Fair. The Pavilion, originally a gift from Japan to the College, was supposed to be an enclosure for an academic building, but it could not be rebuilt without destroying the fragile stones. Instead, as many stones as possible were salvaged and used in a decorative manner.

## 10. Pius X Music Building

Founded in 1918 by Justine Ward and Mother Georgia Stevens to teach Gregorian chant, the Pius X School of Liturgical Music moved into Manhattanville’s music building in the 1950’s. Over 13,000 teachers and students have attended the school, and even Richard Rogers consulted Mother Stevens regarding “Dixit Dominus,” the opening song in “The Sound of Music.”

## 11. The Quad

Whitelaw Reid’s prize-winning sheep once grazed on “The Great Lawn.” Reid exhibited particular interest in his Hampshiredown sheep, almost 200 strong by 1905. They were used to evoke the image of an English manor by being permitted to graze there. Referring to the care of his sheep and Kerry cattle in a letter to his farm manager in 1897, Reid said, “We want to make this herd, with the flack of sheep, quite a feature in the ornamental part of Ophir Farm, and, therefore, I am anxious that they shall have the best attention and be kept in good condition.”

## 12. Deerfield

Parts of this farmhouse, today used by Manhattanville for faculty housing, may date from the Holladays’ era. The farmhouse provided a business office for the manager, a residence for his family, and a wing for farm workers to eat and relax.

## 13. Dairy

Edward Burnett, a Harvard graduate and U.S. Congressman, designed the Dairy for Whitelaw Reid. Burnett has been called the pre-eminent farm designer of the day, and his father, Joseph, invented vanilla extract. The esteemed firm, Hoppin & Koen, created architectural plans for the Dairy based on Burnett’s design.

Dairy products were of particular concern at that time because scientists had discovered many of the diseases they could transmit. Therefore, Reid’s dairy was designed with the most modern technology known and strictly followed the principles of hygiene.

## 14. Remains of the Main Barn

Olmsted designed the Main Barn and a “Farm Group,” of 11 additional buildings. Construction of the Main Barn began in 1892 and, despite frequent delays, was completed in 1902. It had a slate roof, eyebrow vents and a line of ventilating cupolas.