

August 19, 2019 – Stanley Gorski speaking with Kelsey Duinkerken at the Gutman Library, Thomas Jefferson University East Falls Campus in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Guide to abbreviations:*¹

KD: Kelsey Duinkerken

SG: Stan Gorski

{LG} laughter

{NS} noise

- partial words

-- restarts

KD: Alright. Um, so it's Monday, August nineteenth twenty-nineteen. My name is Kelsey Duinkerken, and I am here with Stan Gorski. And today we're going to be talking about the East Falls campus building history. So we've already touched on the School's expansion in Center City Philadelphia talking about those building and locations. So today I'd really like to focus on the School's growth here in the East Falls campus. Um, we could start in the nineteen-forties and go through decade by decade looking at how the School's footprint grew. Um, and so let's start at the beginning. When the School moved here to the East Falls campus, what did the campus look like and what buildings did it originally build?

SG: OK. And at that time the School um, the School was still part of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Arts. The Philadelphia Art Museum by that time. And they were not separated, but the alumni were -- there was a number of people in the School, administrators and alumni, who were interested in they thought pulling away or separating from the Fine Arts School at Broad and Pine -- the Pennsylvania Museum -- um made, made sense. There was the formation, by the alumni, of the Textile Foundation. It was a non-profit, uh, group that was separate -- I mean completely separate from the Art Museum. They started raising money with the intention of buying a piece of property where the Textile School could move into. Or move to. They looked at a number of properties, and they came across this estate. Colonel Kolb -- K O L B -- had passed away in nineteen-forty. Uh, he was a collector. He was involved in a lot of things. He was a member of the Union League. He was actually -- he received his money, or he made his money as a baker. He owned, uh, a bakery that actually became quite large, and there was branches. He was involved with Bond Breads, um, in Philadelphia. They -- his property included a mansion and twelve-and-a-half acres on Schoolhouse Lane. Uh, Henry Avenue. Henry Avenue was also -- Henry Avenue was built in nineteen-thirty-two so it was on the corner of Schoolhouse Lane and Henry Avenue. Um, besides the mansion there was a small gatehouse. The twelve-and-a-half acres, they put a bid in, and they were successful in purchasing it. Uh, before the School would move out here they felt they needed a classroom building. Uh, so that was, that was commissioned. And they started building. And in uh, I guess forty, forty-eight the cornerstone for the Hayward Hall is nineteen-forty-nine. The, the building that they built was supposed to contain everything for the college. It was classroom space, research space. Uh, there was on the lower level even a small cafeteria. There was offices for faculty and also for student organizations on the lower level. It was designed to look like a modern textile, uh, facility. Uh, in the sense that they uh -- the halls are all straight and they go straight

¹ Transcription rules are based on the University of Pennsylvania's February 2011 Transcription Guidelines:

http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~wlabov/L560/Transcription_guidelines_FAAV.pdf

through. There are uh, large doors on either end of the building. There was actually architectural features built into the roof where pulleys can be attached for the, for the uh, movement of large machinery up and down either side of the building. And then also because of the doors, large doors, they could be moved in and moved down the hallway. There was a large freight elevator that goes, um, to all the floors. I know it doesn't sound impressive now, but there was on the top floors a couple rooms that were air conditioned. Uh, mainly for research purposes so that the heat would not affect the results of various, um, textile experiments. Research. Uh, so there was only -- the only architectural features, uh, is the, uh, there's a marble floor entryway, and that's probably not what you'd find in a factory building. But besides that it was designed to look like or be an example of a, of a major factory. A textile mill. That was -- the first class graduated from that in nineteen-forty-nine in it. They came up and they -- the building had been finished and they, it had students in nineteen-forty-nine in it. At the same time that that was being finished the -- we had talked earlier about a library, and there was money that was donated by the Hesslein Foundation for uh, for the building of the Library. It was relatively a small building. Uh it was only like two major, two, two rooms. I don't know what the square footage is, but it can't be more than four or five-thousand square feet. Um, and that was built on one side of the property. The uh, the Hayward Hall was built, uh, facing Schoolhouse -- well actually it was facing the courtyard in, in, in front. In the interior piece of property of Kolb's estate. The back, uh, was to Henry Avenue. So uh, that and the administration offices moved into the mansion. Uh, the mansion had uh, had a servant's quarters. All the, all those spaces were kind of cut up so there was offices. There for a time the President of the University lived on the second floor, but I don't think that lasted more than a few years. Um, the uh, there was never any classes held in this building. The uh, it's in some ways it's kind of a shame. The woodwork is still very interesting in the building. It was built, as near as I can figure, in the early twenties, um, as a private home. So the woodwork is kind of interesting. There was no furnishings, um, when, when the School purchased it. And some of the adornments, or some of the uh, like ironwork and um some of the interiors -- artistic embellishments -- were, were sold off prior to that. There was a number of um auctions of Kolb's, um, personal effects before that time. So, that was pretty much the School for, let's see, about five, six years. Um, the um, yeah. It was Scholler Hall was built next, which was a dorm. There was no living space prior to that on, on this campus. If you were a student you had to find outside housing or you had to commute. Uh, so it was a, it was -- the administration thought it was of major, uh, importance to have, have a dorm built that allows people to actually live here or actually allow students to live here. Um, they received a loan from the federal government and a four star -- four story {LG}. I wouldn't call it star, four star.

KD: {LG}

SG: Uh, four story dorm, dorm was built. Again, there was, uh, there was an apartment on the first floor for, for the grounds -- the person who was in charge of the grounds. Um, I wouldn't just call him the groundskeeper. He was more like the person in charge of the physical plant of the whole campus. Actually he -- eventually it was Bucky Harris, and he eventually became the athletic director of the, well, the basketball team. I mean he, Bucky Harris, has a long history with the School. The um -- after Scholler, the next uh thing that they -- the next building that was on the agenda, the next they thought they needed as I just -- I was talking about basketball was the uh, a gym. Uh, the gym, which was called eventually Althouse. Not immediately. Althouse is the name, last name of a, of a dye stuffs company located in Philly. And this gentleman, who was on the Board of Trustees for the School, donated a significant amount of money to the building. And it wasn't looked at as only -- again, I mentioned that

Hayward had a cafeteria and offices and uh, student facilities on the lower level. All that was moved into this building on the lower level. At the top -- the top floor was a gym. Um, there was uh, for a -- to be used for basketball. Mainly. Mainly basketball. And the lower level there was food service and office space. Um, Althouse died. This was, was it fifty-nine? I think. Yeah. It was built in fifty-nine and I think Althouse died three years later. Very relatively soon after the building was, was completed. And they decided to name it after him. Althouse is still on campus; however it's been kind of, kind of engulfed by the Gallagher Athletic Center. Uh, in the uh, oh what is it. I think in two-thousand-and-five. Two-thousand-and-six. Two-thousand-and-six they expanded on Althouse. And actually it wasn't a small expansion. The space was one and half times the size of Althouse. Althouse is in the front. They don't call it Althouse anymore. The whole entire building is called the uh Gallagher Athletic Recreation and Convocation Center. And uh, they do -- they wanted the original basketball court af- -- is the Bucky Harris court. But the building now besides being uh, I mean the -- it has I don't know how many basketball courts. I think there's three basketball courts. And also a parking garage is underneath the uh, the building. A two-level parking garage. And there's also a gym with full facilities for training and for exercise. And showers and lockers and everything else. All the cafeteria and all the student affairs m-space that used to be in Althouse is now moved to a, to a student, student center on campus. Kanbar, which was built at the same time as the, the expansion on the uh, the gym. Uh, yeah it doesn't look much like the same at all {LG}. Except for the front. If you're in the front of the building you could see, you know, what, what the original Althouse, uh, gym looks like. But that's about it. The uh -- so that was basically took us through the uh, through the fifties. There was the acquisition of a, of a space on the corner of um, Henry Avenue and Schoolhouse Lane that uh, was three acres and they originally had planned for it to, uh, to place a building there. And actually I think it was a classroom building. But after the School took title, they purchased it. Uh, the local -- it was determined because it slopes into Fairmount, Fairmount Park that they would have to fill, uh, so it would have a firm foundation for the, for any buildings. And the local residents were, uh, very upset because they'd said that the drainage would basically come into their property. I mean not just somewhere but, I mean, they would be, um, really, really flooded out. Because by building up that corner property you're gonna make it higher than the surrounding properties. They never got zoning to build on it. Um, it's one of the reasons why it's still a softball field. I mean there, there was talk about doing other things in uh, to that space, and it just never happened. Um, the, the biggest benefit, and probably no one at the time when this was purchased in the late fifties thought that the School would eventually own all four corners of that intersection. But that has now happened. But at the time there was -- they were, they were annoyed to say the least. That they could not build on that. Um, so, we uh, we go into the sixties. The property, we're still basically looking at those twelve-and-a-half acres. Uh, the Library by that time is woefully inadequate. Um, there was a decision made to uh, to replace that with a new structure. There was also at the same time negotiations going on uh, with Daroff and Company for -- were doing research for Daroff. But they were also in touch with some of the executives. And one of the executives was Mutolese, uh, decides to donate money to the School. And that is the -- forms the basis for the Apparel and Research Center. Actually it's the Mutolese Research Center, but at the time it's built there's a lot of notoriety. At least a lot is said to the uh alumni, and others, that this is the first actually research-oriented structure looking specifically at the production of, of wearing of apparel. Uh, and the hope, and I guess the success for, for a few years was having industry ask the School to do research into more efficient methods of constructing apparel or what, what kind of fabrics and threads, would be the best to use. Um, there was a full range of machinery in this, uh, in this building. So over the years it's, it's

fulfilled a lot of other needs. At this point in two-thousand-nineteen the only thing that says Apparel Research Center is a plaque {LG} in the entrance way. Uh, it's currently named after a founder of the School. Uh, so, yeah. A R C, which is what a lot of the old-timers, or people who have been here a number of years refer to the building as is now forgotten. So, but. Then of course the Pastore Library is no longer the Library. Um, it was built in sixty-seven and it served until ninety-two when the Gutman Library was built. Uh, A, A and D. Architecture and Design now are, are housed in the building. And there's been extensive interior renovation done to the building. The building never functioned that well as a Library. Uh, for a number of reasons. Some of which are poor design, some of which are poor construction. And, so, but the A and D is, apparently has been successful in utilizing it. The uh -- but getting back to sixty-seven. So sixty-seven had those two buildings uh, the Pastore Library -- Pastore is, is uh, by the way the name of a Senator Pastore who was pushing for higher tariffs on cotton imports so the School decided to name it after him. Um, at that time the twelve-and-a-half acres was getting pretty full. We have, we have uh, uh, you have Althouse gym at one end. You have Scholler, the White House, which was what the administration building was called because when we purchased the building it was painted white, and that color never changed. So the White House, and then Hayward, and then Hesslein, and the uh, A R C. Apparel Research Center. There was also a gatehouse, a small gatehouse that uh Kolb, his groundskeeper lived in. That was basically three rooms. I mean there was a, a living room, kitchen, and an upstairs -- well there was a bathroom, but then there was an upstairs bedroom. And that was on the corner of uh, Schoolhouse Lane and uh, Henry Avenue. And that's still there. Uh, but right after that -- I shouldn't say right after -- a few years later the School was uh, was contacted by the Lankenau School. And the Lankenau School was a girls', a girls' school K through twelve, which resided next door to the uh, to their pro -- to Textile's property. Um, its entranceway was off Schoolhouse Lane. It was twenty-two-and-a-half acres. Uh, so it's almost close twice the size of, um, of the original twelve point five acres of the Kolb estate. The uh, the dividing line -- Hesslein was literally built next to a fence which kind of cut across that whole piece of property and made the border between the properties. Lankenau School at the time of its purchase -- now it was uh, it had been founded in the early forties -- actually it was downtown, and then moved out to this area. Through a period of twenty years they purchased three different estates. There was the original estate, the Warden. Um, the Warden estate. And then they purchased um, I forget. They purchased two other uh, pieces of property. Yeah, the Madeira -- OK, the Warden estate was originally eight acres and then they eventually pro- purchased the Madeira property which was another eleven acres, and that was -- the first estate was purchased nineteen-forty-two. The second was nineteen-forty-four. And then Madeira's son owned another house, and that was purchased in the late forties. So there was three estates that built that property. Um, they actually did have -- they boarded some students, uh, and they built, besides having the three mansions, they built two other buildings. Possibly three buildings. But two major buildings on the property. And they all came to the University at uh, at purchase. Um, the, the main, the main building that they received, which they immediately used for classroom space, and it was designed as a classroom, was Downs Hall. Um, Down's was actually, uh, as I said, was designed for classrooms. Lankenau had built an addition to it for even uh, for their high school students. So it has, um, it has actually two wings. Uh, the first building that they built besides classrooms also had a large auditorium area, which they used for uh, was built as a theater auditorium slash also for religious services. Uh, so that was a meeting area. The uh -- besides that building they also built -- actually right before they sold the property to us, sixty-eight, they built a girls' gym. Which eventually became -- which we used as a gym. Uh, it was named after one of the former directors of athletics here at the School. Who actually was also head of the chemistry department.

Hughes. But the gym was never -- it was too small for full size basketball games, and it had no bleachers at all. And it had no room for bleachers. And it was just, just small. So they used it as a tra- -- the School used it as a training gym for a number of years. Back in the uh, eventually, luckily, uh, in two-thousand-and-five. I think it was two-thousand-and-five. Uh, two-thousand-and-ten. I was off. Two-thousand-and-ten it was renovated and became uh, the uh, we call it -- everybody calls it, the Seed. S E E D. But what the f- regular name -- what the real name is, is Center for Sustainability Energy Efficiency and Design. Uh, by the way that they, they increased the, the uh square footage, not by expanding the walls but by actually raising the roof. The roof was raised enough to allow them to put a second floor. Um, and it, so the square footage was doubled. And it's a classroom building now. It's certainly not a, a physical activity building.

KD: What was it called originally?

SG: It, it was called Hughes.

KD: Hughes.

SG: Hughes gym. H, H U G H E S. Um, you know, it wasn't used at all. Um, so, the uh, Lankenau built that and they built Downs. They used the uh, the Warden mansion as administrative offices and also as dorm space. They used, uh, they used the Madeira mansion as the uh, again, as classroom space. Eventually Textile used the Warden mansion as a student center. They turned it into offices for uh, for student organizations. I guess there was also some offices, uh, some administrative offices in there. Uh, the first floor had a larger area where they had a -- well actually I wouldn't say a cafeteria. It was more a, more fast food, and a lot of uh, food uh, machines. Vender machines. But there was pool tables, and there were seating for, for, for groups. You could get together. Uh, Mergner -- no, I'm sorry -- the Madeira building was, was called by Lankenau Mergner Hall. {LG} And the School uh, Textile basically came -- kept the name of the building for a, for a few years. Um, I think they didn't realize -- I mean a lot of people didn't realize who Mergner was. Mergner was a principal of the Lankenau School, but had no, no connection with uh, with Textile. But they kept the name for a while. Until an alumni donated money to the School. Archer. And they changed the name. Now Archer basically has no classrooms. It's just administrative offices. Human resources are over there. Student accounts. There are some other, uh, offices there. The next building along that line, uh, if you keep on going is, let's see. That would be east. Um, well, northeast. Uh, is the uh, is another mansion, which has been turned into uh, basically the counseling center. That was, was a smaller building. I'm not sure what Lankenau -- I think they probably used it for classroom space. There is a couple of outbuildings. There's an outbuilding behind, or beside Archer, which was probably a garage. A large garage. Maybe even stables. It was probably built around the same time. All these, all these mansions were probably -- were generally built around, you know, the nineteen-twenties, nineteen-ten. So the uh, outbuilding behind Archer is now physical plant. It's where uh, the uh, there's a carpentry shop there. And there's offices for the uh, for the men who work on the various buildings. There is also another outbuilding behind the uh counseling center. And that was actually at one time the science labs for Lankenau that set up for chemistry experiments. I mean you can see if you go in the first floor where Bunsen burners and all the uh tables were for chemistry -- for science experiments. I shouldn't just say chemistry. Uh, there is also an apartment on the second floor, um, of which was used, was set up by, by Lankenau for, for faculty. They, they rented it to, to uh some teachers. And Textile has used it for visiting uh staff. Occasionally, occasionally. I've never been in that

area so I'm not sure how, how decent it is. I mean I have a feeling it's fairly small {LG}. But anyway, um, so seventy-two.

KD: Before we get to seventy-two, do would you mind if we touch briefly.

SG: Sure.

KD: On the President's House and maybe Roseneath Farms? I think those both happened.

SG: Oh.

KD: Around nineteen-seventy.

SG: Well the, uh. Yeah. Even though Lankenau certainly was an answer to the uh, uh, the space problems that the School was starting to face. They built as much as they can on the original twelve acres. Um, by, by purchasing Lankenau, you know, that added another twenty-two acres to the School. So they were very happy about that. However, the buildings -- there was some thought about one of the -- turning one of the, the mansions into a female dorm. There was, there was at this time more interest by women in coming to this School. But they had no facilities. No dorm space. Uh, I don't know if there was any thought to closing off some of Scholler. I don't know. Maybe they were ha- they were doing that. I have no -- I really don't know. Um, but there was certainly -- that was one of the topics of discussion about where should we place as more women apply. Uh, and we're also talking, late sixties, early seventies the School is not only textiles. It's textile oriented, but it's also has courses, uh, I mean I think -- I know at this time they've expanded their curriculum so that they do have a business degree. Um, so the, the thinking was that they were going to get more women. And you know, where, where should we house those. Um, they at that time Roseneath Farms came on the marketplace. Roseneath Farms was actually, um, a psychiatric treatment, um, facility. Um, it was uh -- there was a gentleman, a Dr. McCarthy who was a forensic psy- psychiatrist who lived across the street. Who had a, a farm. Well it wasn't operating as a farm. He had an, a small estate. And while he taught at the University of Penn medical school he also had a private prac- practice. So this small facility -- at one time it apparently was a f- you know, a farm. There was three, three buildings. Probably turn of the century. Maybe late, late nineteenth century. And they uh, I think the number was thirty-two beds. In-patient beds. Well, he uh, he passed away. And uh, they kept, they kept it on as a treatment facility for a while. In fact in the late sixties before it was sold it was a substance abuse facility. Um, the School bought it in sixty-seven with the idea of basically of uh, of using it for dorm space for, for women, uh, students. Now you've got to keep in mind, at that time, they owned no other buildings on that side of Henry Avenue. Now the only thing they owned was the, was that softball field. Was that corner lot. Um, it would have been a little bit of a, of a hike. It's still possible, but it would have been certainly a little bit off the beaten path. Um, I don't know how women students, or any students, would appreciate that, but, you know, {LG} that's what they were thinking.

KD: Yeah.

SG: Um, before -- there was always -- during the history of this School, raising money for renovation, and um, or finding money for renovation has always been -- was always tough. So those buildings were -- had not been converted, or were not being utilized when a fire, uh, destroyed them basically.

KD: Hm.

SG: And within two years -- between two and three years after the purchase, as I said, they hadn't been, they hadn't been utilized. Not for student housing yet but uh, that was, that was definitely the plan. That was definitely the reason why they were bought. Again, thinking about where they're located, there was a lot of talk about selling the seven acres that those buildings sat on. Um, because why do we need seven acres in the middle of nowhere. But luckily that didn't happen because it turns out that they were right adjacent to Ravenhill. And the School eventually bought, you know, acquired Ravenhill in nineteen-eighty.

KD: So did the School hold onto that property until then?

SG: Yeah.

KD: OK.

SG: Yeah, they didn't, they didn't do anything with it. I guess they paid taxes on it, but. Or no, it was an educational institution, maybe they didn't pay taxes. Um, but, you know, they maintained it. So, besides the uh -- you know actually that was, you know, I started talking about Lankenau. Yeah, this actually all occurred right before, before Lankenau School. So there was actually even more, um, you know I should have mentioned it, there actually probably was more of a push to pick up the Rose- Roseneath uh Farm. Uh, since the space here was probably getting tight. It was tight. Uh, probably with the, with the acquisition of Lankenau School, that uh, that loosened up. I don't -- I know there was talk about turning one of the buildings into a women's dorm, but the -- for all I know that didn't exactly happen. Um, oh! The uh townhouses were built in the uh, seventy-three. And that's right behind -- but you know that's on Lankenau School property. I mean that would have been -- I mean that's on the property that they acquired from Lankenau. Lankenau School. That wouldn't have been possible. The, the townhouses are basically that. It's a group of about twenty, twenty structures, and it looks like a little townhouse development. Uh, because they're all wooden. They're all basically two stories. I would assume that they're fairly easy construction. They -- their footprint, in my opinion, is fairly large considering how many students are housed there. I mean it's all, {NS} uh -- oh great -- uh it's all -- it doesn't look like right-- it's all dorms. When they were built I'm not sure what the, what the regulations or how the policy was. Now it's upperclassmen that uh, that are in those areas. And they do have parking spaces for cars and so forth. Um, you know for, for students who -- most since most of the classes are on this side of campus, students love those uh, townhouses {LG}. If they can get them.

KD: Mm hm.

SG: You know that's prime, prime dorm space. The uh, there is a handful of 'em are named after alumni. Uh, I shouldn't, I shouldn't say only alumni. Are named after individuals who have donated money to the School. Uh, I don't know how much you have to donate to get your name on one. Um, but, but that has happened. The uh, you know I forgot some of these buildings were also around this same time. But a lot, a lot of things happening in the seventies. The uh, as I said, the uh, there was nothing purchased down on Schoolhouse Lane on that end besides Roseneath Farms, but we did buy, from Matlack -- that's the family name -- we bought, bought a residence in nineteen-seventy. Uh, another one of these instances where the building stayed empty for a number of years before it was renovated. Um, it's on the corner of Schoolhouse Lane and uh Vaux. Actually, I'm sorry. I keep on calling it Vaux, and it's actually Vaux. I keep on wanting to do a French pronunciation, but it's Vaux. Vaux and Schoolhouse Lane. Um, the uh, there was a number of years, about eight years, before the School um, acquired -- well, the School

determ- decided to turn it into the President's residency. There was another home that the President lived out, lived on Schoolhouse Lane, but when they finished renovating the Matlack house, um, they sold that property. Um, actually it's the property that's right opposite the uh Gutman Library, on Schoolhouse Lane. The funny thing -- I always found this very amusing. They sold that property, the President moved into the Matlack house, the person who bought the property -- or that property when the Gutman Library was being built -- let's see, that would have been about eighty-two, eighty -- ten years later. Well, the, the President's House opened up to the President in nineteen-eighty-two. So somewhere -- I'm not sure exactly when that former President's house was sold, but with the building of the Gutman Library in ninety, one of the problems that they had with the zoning was the people who were in that house complained that the light -- they'd have light pollution because the Library would be open to all hours of the night, and they wouldn't be able to sleep and so forth. So they were ask- -- there, there was a -- there was some, um, discussions, uh, that had to be rectified. I mean had to be, you know, held before that was able to get permission to build the Gutman Library. And you guys should have kept the property, right? {LG}

KD: {LG}

SG: You wouldn't have had this problem. Um, but anyway, the President's House is an older building. Eighteen -- eighteen-fifties probably it was built. Um, the uh, {NS} um, eighteen-fifties. There has gone through a number of renovations and additions. Uh, there's, there's been some interesting people who have lived there. There was uh, one of the owners in the eighteen-sixties, uh, late eighteen-fifties, was an editor of Christian publications. Uh, editor -- actually a publisher I should say. Uh, some Christian publications in the, in Philly. He, besides doing that, he also ran a, an infant's retreat. This was always -- this area on Schoolhouse Lane, East, East Falls, was always an area where there were let's say wealthy individuals. And at that time when these individuals or families wished to travel, they would dr- -- if they had a small child -- well, not a child, had an infant that needed taken care of and they couldn't take it on the trip -- certainly on a trip to Europe would be you know, thirty days. Twenty, thirty days on a ship. Sailing ship. Um, they uh would drop off their child at this gentleman's house, and uh he would take care of it. He had I think ten or twelve beds and he'd, I'm sure he -- it wasn't him, but, you know, his uh, his family would take care of it, and then when you came back from your European vacation, or whatever, you know, a year, two years later to pick up your child {LG}.

KD: That's crazy {LG}.

SG: That's, yeah. I mean it's, it's different times {LG}.

KD: Yeah. It sure is.

SG: So. Uh there was certainly other, other uh owners of the house. There was actually -- there was a water -- there is a spring, fresh-water spring behind the house. Uh, it's not open right now. I mean there's just piping there, but apparently for a short period of time -- again, in the eighteen-fifties, eighteen-sixties, there was a, a brewery located there. Since it was a short period of time it was probably not that large. But there, there had, there is a record of that. The uh -- moving forward from that to the Matlack House we, we had to buy. And actually he was, you know, it's interesting, he was involved in the textile industry, but he hadn't gone to our School. He was University of Penn graduate. But he was involved in the textile industry, but he sold it to us. After that, around seventy-five, um, {NS} Gibbs. We acquired the Gibbs estate, eh, or house. Gibbs, the Gibbs family lived on the corner of Henry

Avenue and Schoolhouse Lane. They uh, uh, Mrs. Gibbs, uh, was actually a daughter of Colonel Kolb. And the Gibbs property was, was a gift, a wedding gift to uh, to uh -- well I couldn't remember her fir- I couldn't remember her first name. It's Elizabeth. It was a gift to Elizabeth. Uh, Elizabeth Gibbs. Her husband was uh, was a glass manufacturer. Manufactured bullet-proof or shot resistant glass. Um, around the time of the Second World War. So that was -- he was doing well during the Second World War {LG}.

KD: Yeah, I would guess so, yeah.

SG: Yeah, uh. That house -- the School was always interested in that property. Uh they attempted a number of times to purchase it. Um, Elizabeth, uh -- Mrs. Gibbs, kept on arguing about it wasn't a fair price or she wanted -- I think that there was some restriction she wanted. The School didn't want to give into. This went back and forth. Back and forth. And as I -- she died in nineteen-seventy-four, seventy-five. And in her will she gave the School the building. So. School eventually ended up with it. Uh, that property -- the building became the uh, the business school. Home of the business school. There is a small outbuilding, uh cottage on the property, which is, is, is now services. Um, is used by housekeeping services as their, as their building. Uh, I don't know what it looks like inside. I've never been inside, so. But it's right there. Next to the uh, the, the uh, turnaround. In front of the building. Besides offices for the business school there are a few -- not classroom but conference rooms. So there is been some small seminar classes in there. Um, that property was such that to have there was enough property there that eventually, uh, in uh two-thousand-and-one the Tuttleman Center was built on that property. Uh, and the Tuttleman Center is a three story building, which is completely uh -- I mean is almost all classrooms. Again, there's a few offices, but mostly it's, it's a classroom building. The uh, so what we see -- now what we see in the nineteen-seventies is a major expansion of the University in all directions really. Uh, Lankenau certainly helped the main educational, uh, focus, center. The uh, the purchases on Schoolhouse Lane gives estate Matlack. And Roseneath. Kind of expanded the reach of the uh, of the School in that direction. I guess it would be, you know, west. You know, west Schoolhouse Lane. The big -- in that direction the big purchase -- and I ought to mention there's a couple other -- there is one or two other, uh, buildings, uh, that happened during the seventies, and that was the uh, the Paley house. Well actually it's now called the Design Center. It was originally called the Paley Design Center. Uh Goldie Paley was -- well her husband in the uh, in the early uh, turn of the century was a cigar manufacturer. Uh, they, their business was bought out by another much larger manufacturer. I think nineteen-ten. Somewhere around in that, in that neighborhood. Uh and they spent, I mean I think they were, they were given eight million dollars to be bought.

KD: Oh wow.

SG: So it was a fairly decent amount of money. Uh, they, they moved to Chestnut Hill. He died. She, I don't know why, but she decided she wanted to live, uh, right off Fairmount Park. She built a house in the fifties. She must have been fairly old when she did this. She uh, in the fifties, um, right opposite of the School. Now I will -- her daughter Blanche Paley did marry, uh, Leon Levy, who was -- their house was on the corner of Schoolhouse Lane and Henry Avenue. So that actually might have probably been one of the reasons why uh, you know, why Goldie decided to live relative- -- almost around the corner from them. Uh, the house that Blanche and her husband bought was built in the nineteen-thirties for the Carstairs. Which, if you're familiar with families in Philly is -- they're the uh ones behind a number of uh whiskies.

KD: Hm.

SG: Uh, alcoholic liqu- liqueurs and so forth. Uh, they sold the house to uh, to the Levy's. Levy is interesting, and I always -- I almost have to, uh, look at my, my notes to get this straight. But Levy, uh, went in with one of the other, with Blanche's -- Levy was a dentist, but he, he was friendly with his brother-in-law, William Paley, who, who was interested in media. And the two of them bought a number of r- radio stations. Uh, which becomes Columbia Broadcasting.

KD: Hm.

SG: Uh, so even though Levy was a dentist he was very much involved with the entertainment industry. So much so that there is the local legend, uh, that uh, when Frank Sinatra got married to Ava Gardner. When Frank Sinatra got married in, in that building. Which they didn't. They got married in Germantown, but it -- that building, the White, White Corners was used as a decoy house. That was what led -- that information was given out to the reporters that this might be where the -- jeez.

KD: Yeah, the rain is really coming down.

SG: Um, that this is where the uh, the wedding probably would happen.

KD: Mm hm.

SG: And there was even a decoy car placed outside with pe- -- with I mean a person who was supposed to look like Frank.

KD: Hm.

SG: But it didn't happen there! {LG} It didn't happen. So, that's a nice house {LG}. So uh, White Corners. One of Blanche's children, Robert Levy went to Penn Charter. Really he liked the School. They liked him. I think he donated money. He was on the Board of Trustees for the School. Um, when Blanche passed away -- or maybe after Robert did too. I'm not actually clear on that, but the house was left to Penn Charter. Uh, Penn Charter really didn't know what to do with it. It's a little bit -- again, it's not next door to them. There was a number of properties in between so they couldn't actually build on it. Uh, they basically sold it to us in ninety-three, and uh, after a few years we turned it into the admissions. Uh, so uh, all the office of enrollment, admissions, some of the finance, student uh, student loans and so forth is, is out of White Corners. And actually they, they spruced it up so it actually makes a really nice admissions building. If you're, if you're a prospective student this is the building you go to. It's a nice way to show off the School. The uh, there was -- there's some little odds and ends about it. About the fact there used to be two pools in the backyard. It was a two acre property and there was one pool at the far end, and Blanche didn't like walking to the pool so she had one built right next door to the patio. But, sorry to say, both of them have been filled in {LG}.

KD: {LG}

SG: So OK, you know. Uh, you know that's too bad. The uh -- how much longer do you want to go?

KD: Oh, I think we're good on time. It's only been about an hour, so, it's up to you.

SG: Uh.

KD: I think we're coming up into the eighties.

SG: Yeah, yeah. I, I should -- I always find this interesting. It's, it's not a big architectural feature on campus. I just think it's curious because I -- my curious was -- I was always curious about it until I found out. And that was, there, there is a -- because of the Lankenau School property, acquiring that, we have - the University has a quad, so to speak. Has a green area in between a number of, of buildings. Admittedly, the Gutman Library built in nineteen-ninety-two kind of forms one side of it. And also the DEC building, which was built later than now definitely makes like for four sides. Part of that, there is a, a stone stage. I mean that's what it is. It's a, it's a platform area about a foot, foot-and-a-half higher than the ground around it, and it's made out of stone. And when I, when as a, as a -- early on when I started working here I always thought it was interesting. You know, why did the School build that? Uh, you know, for what reason. I mean it was certainly -- you see student -- certainly from the architecture school you see every once in a while some constructions on campus. Uh, different, different ideas and so forth there they've done. But this, I mean usually they're out of wood, and they're usually temporary and they last six months and they're gone. This is, is stone. Concrete and stone. And it's old. I mean it looks like it has some age.

KD: Yeah.

SG: To it. Um, after looking through Lankenau School records, or the records that we have, which aren't that extensive, but piecing together some, some information from two, three of the yearbooks, and also talking with some of the former students, it turns out that Lankenau did build the stage. And they built it specifically for a pageant. A one year pageant. A pageant that they had every year where the tradition was for every class to do a little presentation on {LG} on the finalization of the ownership of the property. Or the burning of the mortgage.

KD: {LG}

SG: So this would be, uh, each grade would go up there and say how great, you know, things are that we were able finally to, you know, be an independent school.

KD: That's so funny.

SG: Yeah, um, so they did this for I don't know how many years they did it. Now, you know we have rock groups going out there.

KD: OK.

SG: You know, during student, student events and so forth they hire, you know, bands, and bands play or whatever.

KD: That's cool.

SG: Yeah. It's a, it's kind of neat. And it does give a focal point to that green area between all the buildings. Uh, I doubt very much that the School would build a stone stage if it wasn't there {LG}.

KD: Sure.

SG: Yeah, so. But it is -- I, I just find it, find it, find it curious. Uh yeah, OK. Well we go into the ni- -- eighties. There is no getting around it. Besides the purchase of Lankenau the other big, big deal is the purchase of Ravenhill. At the far end of, of Schoolhouse Lane. Uh, Ravenhill is the uh -- and actually I'm not sure where the name -- it's always been called Ravenhill. The original owner, William Weightman,

I'm not sure if he gave it that name or if there was some structure or some, some building there that was called Ravenhill before that. Um, there is some indication that, that William Weightman's family -- his, certainly his grandfather. I think his father was born here, but his grandfather did come from, from, from England. And there is some indication that there is something, there is some property named Raven, but I'm not absolutely sure on that. Ravenhill, the building has an eight- eighteen-oh-two date on it, but we're not absolutely sure if that's the current structure, current mansion, or if there was a prior mansion. Or not -- a prior building that was built at that time and then this was built on its foundations or so forth. We do know in eighteen-fifty-six there was a major uh, there was uh, some major renovations. Actually, I have on my papers here there was another renovation in eighteen-eighty-seven. Um, I think the current, the current structure probably dates closer to that time period than, than anything earlier. But I guess there is possibility it does date back that far. Ravenhill was a private residence for William Weightman. Weightman. William Weightman was, was one of the founders and owners of Powers and Weightman, which was a major drug company during the nineteenth century. They're one of the major-- their major factory was at the foot of Schoolhouse Lane and Ridge Avenue. Um, and one of their products -- and not their only product -- was quinine. Um, they were selling, they were selling it during the Civil War. So there was a fair amount of money. He made out, made, made out very well. Uh, his -- at one time he was considered to be the richest man in Pennsylvania. He was certainly the largest landholder. He liked real estate. He bought a lot of real estate. The largest real estate holder in Philly, of Philadelphia property. He uh, he also liked plants. Liked flowers. I don't know if he actually grew them, but he had on his property there was a number of greenhouses. Uh, three or four greenhouses. And there was some specimen trees and so forth. The property, uh -- well there was that Roseneath Farms before it. So when you walk down there now it seems like this large area was all part of Ravenhill. There was Roseneath Farms. So the entranceway was closer to the mansion. Also, because the -- he died in nineteen-oh-three. His daughter, Anne Weightman, became the owner because his two sons had died earlier. Um, and interestingly enough Anne Weightman there for a short period of time became the only woman C E O of any major company in the United States.

KD: Hm.

SG: Um, she also became a very rich woman. The estate was estimated to be sixty-million dollars in nineteen-oh-three.

KD: Yeah.

SG: Is a lot of money. Um, the -- she was, uh, she wasn't married at the time. However, she had been friends or there was a, a gentleman. They eventually decided to move to New York. She did get married in the later part in nineteen-oh-eight, nineteen-oh-seven. And uh she moved to New York. By that time she had become a Roman Catholic and was friends with Cardinal Dougherty. Um, so when she moved she gave him Ravenhill. Or gave the Catholic Church Ravenhill. Cardinal Dougherty wasn't -- didn't know -- well, I shouldn't speak for exactly what {LG} his feelings were, but it was another -- they weren't really sure what to do. I mean the Church wasn't, what to do with it. But he had been -- he was very impressed with a religious order um, that had taught schools in the Philippines. And he asked the religious Order of the Assumption if they would, uh, if they might be interested in teaching school here in the United States. And he said he'd give them a piece of property, and they said, "OK." They were, they were a French order, but they, they hadn't -- they didn't have anything in the United States at that time. Um, so in nineteen -- I think nineteen-eighteen, nineteen-nineteen they opened up the Ravenhill Academy. Um,

a private girls' school focusing mostly on high school. I think in the last few years of the school they did go into the lower grades. Um, actually I think the last ten years of the school they also opened a Montessor- -- a Montessori school. Um, they, they taught basically children of wealthy families. Uh, I mean the most famous person -- and she didn't graduate -- was Grace Kelly. She went to school there for a few years. Um, her uh, her father renovated one of the outbuildings, which is one of the garages. In my opin- -- it seems to be one of the garage stables.

KD: Mm hm. 1:18:03

SG: Slash stable slash garage. Um, now it's the Weber Design Studios. But he renovated it and turned it into a theater because his daughter liked acting. Uh, it was called the Kelly Theater. Uh, so Ravenhill was active up until the late seventies. Private girls' schools were not doing real well. Um, or I guess society had changed when there wasn't as much interest. Expenses were high. The school decided to close. There was, uh, there was interest from this school regarding uh, the property. The nuns wanted a fair amount of money. But, they were also not thrilled about selling to someone who was going to turn it into townhouses.

KD: Mm hm.

SG: Um, back and forth. Eventually they reduced their sales price to the point where the School could afford to uh -- it was a very reasonable price for the School. And uh, you know, the nuns were happier it would be used for educational purposes rather than as I said turned into a mass land development. Um, we -- they had built a number of buildings on the property besides an addition to uh, Ravenhill. Ravenhill became uh, I guess basically where the nuns had living quarters. And it was also some classroom spaces in it on the lower level. Uh, but they had -- they kept on expanding, uh, as the years went on. Uh, so besides Ravenhill Academy right now we have, we have the Mott Hall. Uh, you have -- we have Partridge. You have Fortress. Um, you have the chapel. Though admittedly there's no, no classroom space in the uh, in the chapel. It's used as an exhibition space. Actually Mott Hall, there is -- that was where some of the -- there was uh nuns lived so that's basically dorms. Partridge was the high school. Uh, that's basically dorms. I don't think there's any classrooms in Partridge at all. As I mentioned the Kelly Theater became Weber Design Center Studios. So most of the -- there is no greenhouse -- there are no greenhouses now.

KD: Mm hm.

SG: The grounds -- there was a groundskeeper slash gardener slash landscaper. That's the security building now for the, for the campus. And that's in the far back. That's right before the playing fields. Um, major -- the Ravenhill does have all the offices for the humanities in that, in that building. Um, on the same property, that was open for building. It was open in eighty-two. The uh -- because of the acreage in the late eighties they were able to uh, build the uh, a dining hall and another dorm. Ronson. It's another dorm. And the major dining hall, even though there's a, in the new student center that was built much later, Kanbar, there's dining facilities. The major dining hall is still for the campus is the one that's located next to Ravenhill. Um, and Ronson Hall is one of the major dorms. Uh, but the uh -- so they would be able to built then. And of course what I was saying earlier about Roseneath. Uh, Roseneath, now because of that, you know that adds kind of to the whole, the whole space. I, I'm not absolutely sure, but some of Ronson might be actually on, on the seven acres that was part of Roseneath. Um, I'm not, you know, having never seen the original plot plan I'm not so sure about that.

But that could, that could be the case. The um -- along a little bit later, but in the same decade the uh, the Smith House was acquired. The Smith House is the last house before you come to Ravenhill on that side of the road. Uh, you know, I'm trying to remember if we purchased that or if that was bought. No we, we purchased it in eighty-eight. That's also the same year that basically Ronson and the dining hall were built. Uh, Smith House is interesting. There's been a number of people who have lived in there. Um, one of the former mayors of Philadelphia, in the nineteenth century lived in there. But the uh, it was built for the chief chemist of Powers and Weightman. Um, so I mean -- and when I -- you know I didn't mention Weightman. I mentioned Ravenhill was Weightman's estate. There used to be another mansion next door going, going east further down the hill that used to be Powers's mansion. So you had both Powers, Weightman, and then their chief chemist living like, you know, within walking distance. And they were all within walking distance of the old chemical factory.

KD: Yeah.

SG: You know, so. It's pretty convenient. Besides uh, besides uh the uh chief chemist, uh, living in that building, uh, there -- as I mentioned the mayor of Philadelphia. There was also uh, Biddle. Uh, Franklin Roosevelt's -- Biddle, well Biddle, the Philadelphia Biddles are well known. They had the estate in Andalusia, but they -- there was one of the Biddles lived in that house. He was a lawyer, and he lived there until Franklin Roosevelt asked him to be his attorney general. Then he moved to Washington D C. Uh, and he sold the house. So, you know, there's been a few interesting people. Uh, the house is, I think now is basically being used as the offices for uh, and studios for industrial design. Some of the design classes. I think it used to be industrial design. I'm not absolutely sure if they have any connection now. So, eighties with Ravenhill. Then there's been, um, we get into the uh, the nineties when uh -- you know, I'm just trying looking at the dates here. There's, there's expansion but, um, what is being built, except for the Gutman Library. Gutman Library was built in ninety-two. That's the biggest uh, biggest building, uh, and it's also, you know, President Gallagher's, uh, he wanted that as somewhat as a, as a monument to his presidency. There was, as a, as a building to exemplify what, what he was as President. And he gave a lot of thought and a lot of uh, a lot of uh, emphasis to the, to the building. The Middle States said that the old Library was, was inadequate. We needed a new library. So the, the planning for the uh, Paul J Gutman Library involved, besides the architect, who, who was involved in building libraries. I mean who had done other libraries. Shepley Bulfinch. The company was -- had, had a record of working on libraries. Also being involved -- or he allowed librarians to be involved in the design of the interiors. Of what they would like to see. So there's, there's maybe some more thought was going into this building than maybe some of the other buildings {LG} on campus.

KD: Sure.

SG: I like to think so.

KD: {LG}

SG: Certainly more than the old -- I mean the Pastore Library. So, um, and, you know here we are, you know, thirty-seven years later, and it's still, I think, you know, it looks like it'll last for another, I don't know, thirty-seven years. But it'll last for a number of years longer. I mean it's still very usable, and, you know, it's still a center-point of the campus. Um, but we've talked extensively about, about the libraries so there's no need for me to go on and on about it. The uh, at this -- in ninety-two there was a few other acquisitions, so to speak. Uh, as I mentioned earlier White Corners was purchased by the School, uh,

maybe a year -- within a year or two of the Gutman Library opening up. Um, there was a building across the street. Across from the Library literally, uh, a bed and breakfast. In fact some of the uh -- when we, when they brought in people, speakers and so forth, sometimes the School would have people stay at, uh. That building came up for -- in a sheriff's sale at auction. Um, the School was more mindful about space. When I say space, more mindful about property. And when property became available on Schoolhouse Lane they were more open to acquisition for expansion. For the possibilities of expansion. So they bought the property. The building, in everybody's mind was not very usable. There was talk about turning it into offices, but after some inspection the amount of money that would have to be sunk into it was, was prohibitive. Of course it couldn't be torn down because it had a -- it was a historic -- I mean Philadelphia had a historic marker on it. Uh, so OK. You know, we own it {LG}.

KD: Yeah.

SG: They didn't, didn't plan on -- let's say it was put on the back burner. Nobody was going to do anything with it right away. Um, however, which was more useful was Independence Plaza, which was an apartment complex also across the street, uh, became available. Independence Plaza was built in the early sixties. The School had looked at it before. Uh, I would assume that the owners of it thought, you know, that the amount that the School was offering, or the amount that they needed to -- that they wanted was, was, was prohibitive. And I guess as all things get older, things get cheaper. Finally it reached a point where the School {LG} could afford.

KD: {LG}.

SG: Um. There was three buildings. I mean there's three uh, sections over there. Apartment complex. And they were retrofitted to make uh, more student uh, uh, student uh, dorms. Uh, sad to say that the swimming pool that was over there was filled in {LG}. So again, there was no swimming pool. Uh, but they did have a large parking lot, so. The parking for at least the students that were living in those dorms could uh -- was, was taken care of. Um, dorm space on this campus, ever since they moved here has never been adequately met. Or at least not to, as much as the students would like. There has always been a shortfall trying to find space. Um, but Independence Plaza certainly helped. And it is right across from the School so it's very convenient. The uh, so we go into two-thousands. And now we start to uh, actually look at the building, uh, of various -- I mean actually new construction. Uh, besides uh, as I said the major, major construction in the nineties was the, the Gutman Library. An office -- not an office, I'm sorry. A classroom building, Tuttleman, which I mentioned was on the Gibbs property was built in two-thousand-and-one. Uh, that was donated by Tuttleman. And Tuttleman has donated money to like a number of schools in this area. So we're not unique in that fashion, but it's a -- certainly helped with the classroom space. Then there was a uh, the Kanbar, uh, student center. Uh, while all through this time up until two-thousand, two-thousand-five the student center was the Warden building, which was an old mansion. And it really wasn't that great of a student center. I mean it didn't have a lot of the facilities. Uh, didn't have a lot of room. Uh, so and there was also office space that was needed for student activities. Uh, meeting spaces. They would have liked the idea of having a, uh, a School uh -- a cafeteria or food service on this side of the campus. The bookstore by this time is basically operating out of the old Hesslein Library building. Which by, again, we're talking two-thousands. We're talking about a lot -- a number of courses, programs. Certainly not two or three majors. I don't know, must have been about forty or fifty majors at this time. Maybe more than that. Certainly we had an architectural program. We had, you know, physician's assistant. Um, the bookstore was inadequate. Uh, so there was a major

donation by an alumni. Um, and the design for the Kanbar student center, you know, came to fruition. To do that building there was some major reconfigurations on the School property and also demolition of some properties. The uh, the Hesslein Library, the old Hesslien Library, which is actually now would be called the -- it was called the College Bookstore, was torn down. There was another ancillary building, Art Store One. I say Art Store. Art, uh, Art Building One. Which was like an outbuilding for one of the mansions. That was torn down. There was another-- -- there was also the Wallenberg Center, which was a careers was torn down. And I'll be honest, I don't know what Wallenberg, what that building was before it was used as a -- I don't know if the School built that or if it came along with one of the mansions.

KD: Sure.

SG: Um, Wallenberg. That building was named after, um, Wallenberg, who was the Swedish diplomat who saved a number of Jews during the Second World War.

KD: Mm hm.

SG: Um, the President, he was very -- he thought this was a good example, a good model, for students. The only remnant of that now is there is a Wallenberg Square, like a little patio, in front of the Gallagher gym that says Wallenberg.

KD: And that is Raoul Wallenberg?

SG: Yeah. Raoul Wallenberg. Thank you for that. I forgot the first name {LG.}

KD: {LG}

SG: Uh, yes, that's who it is. The uh, so those buildings were torn down and Kanbar Student Center was built. It has all those facilities. The bookstore is like, you know, it's almost two-and-a-half times the size of the original one {LG}. Uh, you know. And of course as soon as they had more room they got more knick-knacks and clothing {LG} and stuff.

KD: Yeah, that's {LG}.

SG: So, but uh, you know, that definitely important -- I mean it's definitely, the building Kanbar was definitely an important, uh, building. Along -- since they were, there was another fundraising campaign for a, for an expansion. There was also a change in the, in the curriculum. A focusing in on cross-disciplinary studies, collaborative working among students. Trying to make our programs here more distinctive. That led to the planning of the DEC Building. And DEC actually stands for Design, Engineering, and Commerce. Bringing those all together in one area, and also in, in certain programs. Uh, not only do you design the product, you figure out how to build it, and then how to market it and how to sell it. You know, so the, the business component isn't completely divorced from the design. You're all working together. Uh, the idea, that was very appealing to donors. It made a lot of sense. And it does make a lot of sense. Um, so, the uh, there was enough money -- I mean money was acquired for the construction of uh, of DEC. Which I think was what, that's two-thousand, uh, yeah. Two-thousand-and-twelve. Actually goes into two-thousand-and, uh two-thousand-and-ten. I was talking about earlier, the two-thousands. This goes into two-thousand-and-ten. Oh, I should, going back. And I had already mentioned this part, but also when they built Kanbar they expanded Alt- Althouse gym. It became the Gallagher. And it's another instance where it was just an expansion of the gym, and then a year later when Gallagher

retired, uh, they basically named it after him. Uh, it's appropriate. The uh, the uh, DEC Building was though the other major -- to do that they did tear down Warden. Uh, well the student center. The old student center. They tore that building down. And there was also -- they tore down -- they also had to -- I'm just trying to remember exactly what they had to take down. That was the big building. They took down four of the townhouses. And there was a, there was a wall. Probably nobody noticed, but I think goes back to the eighteen-fifties.

KD: Oh wow.

SG: It was between the two -- between the two properties. And that had to go, had to come down too. So. But anyway. Uh, a few years after the building was built, its official name now is the Field. Again, the family, or gentleman, donated money. Um, but still people still call it DEC. Um, so, and I forgot about -- well, I already talked about the SEED Center. That's interesting. I'd forgotten that that was done in two-thousand-ten. As I said, the -- as a gymnasium it wasn't really being utilized. I mean they had some, some training, some physical training for certain some of the sports teams and so forth. But it wasn't utilized at all that much. So uh, and I'll, I'll be honest, I'm not sure exactly where the money came for that. Whether that was a donation or whether that was uh, some sort of government -- I know the work that eventually happened on the Roxboro House in the two-thousand-twelve through fourteen or thirteen or fourteen was part of a government, for a state -- some money came for uh -- 'cause it was requested for Arlen Specter's library. And there was, there was some money that was given to us and uh, there was also some other money that was available that the School had acquired from some grant. The uh, the renovation of the Roxboro House, that's probably one of the reasons why it stood empty for so long was it was a wood structure. It was not stone. And to do it right, to do it historically correct, renovation was very expensive. I mean basically the building was stripped down to its, its uh, wooden framework.

KD: Hm.

SG: And then it almost had to be put back together. Uh, even though the windows -- I mean as an example, I'm certainly not a construction expert so I couldn't go into, but if you look at all the windows, all the windows look like they might be old because the glass has bubbles. And it's all new. And it's all -- you know, I mean all of the windows had to be replaced. They were all rotted out. But they tried to make it look authentic to the time period.

KD: Sure.

SG: Uh, and they did a fantastic job. But it cost a lot of money. So uh.

KD: Has there been any, I guess, architectural conservation or preservation work done on the other historic homes on campus? Or is it really the Roxboro stands out?

SG: Roxboro stands out.

KD: Yeah.

SG: I mean there was specific funding for that. The other buildings.

KD: Because there are a lot of historic homes.

SG: Yeah, well. I -- if, if -- in my own mind if you could ever acquire the money, probably the, you know, Ravenhill is the one that really should, should get the focus. Uh, I have no knowledge about -- I mean it's a three-story, four-story tall building. I mean downstairs I -- it's kept enough to make it usable, but I have no, I -- you know, they're not going beyond what is need- needed to do the daily -- I mean not daily. The, the regular maintenance. Uh, but, you know, historically I think that's really an interesting building. I mean, you know, the woodwork and so forth is just, just, just -- it's an example of, you know, mansions of that time period -- I mean if you had money and what you could -- what could be done. So. There's a few other buildings. Like you said there's a few other buildings that could be -- work could be done to them. The Smith House is one of the buildings. While I don't think it's an architectural gem, it's an interesting nineteenth century building. But over the years people have added rooms and extensions on to it that don't fit the character of the building at all. And in a perfect world, I mean, that could use, you know, it would be, it should be -- some of that, some of those extensions and those pieces that don't fit really should be removed. Um, so it has more of an integrity, a structural integrity than it does now. But OK {LG}. I don't see that happening in the near future either, so.

KD: Yeah, so it sounds like most of the current buildings. Are there any new buildings that are currently in progress?

SG: Well it's the Ronson Health Center. It's the same family that, that supplied money for the uh, the dining center back in the eighties. Um, so we have the Ronson. I am not sure if there is any money that is coming from Center City on that. Because the original plans for that building were only three floors, and now it's four floors. So there may have been a decision by downtown to expand it with, with the extra money coming in. I don't know. You know again, it's not {LG}, it's not one of those things.

KD: Sure.

SG: That I hear {LG}, you know that I'm told. You know, so. Uh, I'm trying to think if there's anything else. I mean that's certainly the major, uh -- and there's some construction that's being done around the uh, uh, Search Hall. In the parking lot. There's some major construction there. They're attempting I know to straighten out visitors' parking and so forth. Because the admissions center is right across the street. They're trying to make that all visitor parking. Um, some of the uh -- the drive, the parking lot over there was a little awkward. So I, I think they're trying to straighten that out since they're doing the construction. Doing it at the same time. I don't know where the parking -- how the parking situation is going to be. That's definitely one of the things that's going to be a little bit tighter because we're losing spots. The Ronson footp- footprint is taking over, you know, a number of parking spots. So I don't know how that's going to be handled. But then again, I'm not privy to that decision either, so.

KD: Yeah.

SG: So we'll see.

KD: Do you know if there are any other spaces in the neighborhood that the University might want to acquire in the future that it hasn't yet?

SG: I don't.

KD: It is pretty residential.

SG: Yeah. I think, since, OK. I guess I'll go out on a limb here. I think because there is more, um -- since we're basically a larger institution now and maybe the resources are certainly being expanded that probably the School would look closely at any properties that were opened up on Schoolhouse Lane. West Schoolhouse Lane. There is nothing on the uh, the side where that softball field is. There's no ownership and there's certainly properties. I mean individual homes there. Um, I would think that the School would look closely at any, any property that came up for sale. Um, I don't know. But having said that I don't know what that would involve with zoning. How difficult the zoning might be. Um, you know maybe the School -- the Kelly House, the actual uh, Grace Kelly's parents' house actually came up for sale down on Henry Avenue. Which was not that far away from the School. Only about a block, and I thought the School might be interested in that, but apparently, you know, it wasn't. Now again, I don't know if they thought that there was too much work to be done to it. Because it was poor shape.

KD: Mm hm.

SG: And maybe there wasn't enough property to make it work. I don't know. Um, I know it was purchased by, by actually by, by the family.

KD: Oh.

SG: In Monaco. Um, they purchased it. I'm not sure exactly what they're going to do, but there's some talk about a museum, or, I don't know. Something.

KD: Yeah.

SG: The uh, I -- yeah, I would think there is, there is interest. You know, how that's going to be exhibited. You're right, there isn't any large pieces of property. It's all like small residential. Penn Charter grabbed the property {LG} on, on the other side on the east side of Schoolhouse Lane. Uh, so I, you know, who knows {LG}.

KD: Yeah.

SG: You know.

KD: So. Is there anything else that we've missed or that you forgot to mention?

SG: No, I figure we've done a pretty good, pretty good overview. Uh, certainly the, the history of Ravenhill is much more extensive, uh, than what I said. And there's a few buildings that you could -- I mean Roxboro House certainly has an interesting history -- uh, you could go into a little bit more in depth. Uh, but as an overview I think I, I covered it pretty well.

KD: Great. I think so too!

SG: OK, great.

KD: OK.

[End of recording]