An aerial photograph of a university campus, showing a mix of green spaces, buildings, and roads. A prominent red banner is overlaid across the top center of the image, containing the text 'I. Towards a Planned Campus'. The campus features a central area with several large, interconnected buildings, surrounded by smaller structures and parking lots. A major road or highway runs along the bottom and left sides of the image, with several interchanges and ramps. The surrounding area includes residential neighborhoods and more greenery.

# *I. Towards a Planned Campus*

## 1.1 Introduction

The University of New Brunswick is a rich tapestry of historical firsts: founded in 1785, it is Canada's oldest English-speaking university. Its premier building, fondly known as the Old Arts Building, opened on January 1, 1829, thanks to the vision and persistence of Sir Howard Douglas. Later, Old Arts served as Chapel, classroom, cafeteria, dormitory and administration offices combined. Over the next 125 years the campus grew to occupy eight buildings. Today, while Old Arts continues to be a Canadian icon representing the clear ambitions and roots of a liberal arts education, the University of New Brunswick operates in four different cities (Fredericton, Saint John, Bathurst and Moncton) and serves over 11,000 students in over seventy buildings.

This growth has been shaped by the different, yet consistent visions of the successive leaders of the institution, rather than by a formal Campus Plan. The defining element of the on-going development of the Fredericton campus has been a commitment to a single building material — the red Chipman brick. It was deeply entrenched in the approach and work of Larson and Larson, an architectural firm responsible for the design of a majority of the buildings on campus. Although this material has been manipulated and presented in a variety of ways, a commitment to a cohesive architectural language has dominated development sequences. This Campus Plan perpetuates this tradition while suggesting ways to further stimulate the visual interest of the campus environment through an enhanced, dynamic and multi-layered approach to its open spaces.



Traditionally, University campuses have not only been designed to meet functional needs, but have also aspired to embody the ideals that characterize higher learning. Although the primary objective of the UNB Fredericton Campus Plan is to serve as a practical tool for managing growth and development of the Fredericton Campus over the long-term, it is also designed to inspire. By re-imagining the campus setting as a context for ecological health, planned and diverse green spaces, and a pedestrian culture designed to facilitate vibrant student life, academic activity will be nurtured in new and meaningful ways. Inevitably, academic excellence will thrive as students, faculty, and administration are stimulated by an exceptional environment rich in choice, comfort and beauty.

As a recruitment and fundraising tool, this Campus Plan articulates and defines the future of UNB Fredericton in a visual way for prospective students, faculty, and donors. Rooted in an understanding of the history of UNB, this Campus Plan is not embedded in pretense but seeks to honour the present institutional commitment to “promote the economic, social and cultural well-being of the Province and Atlantic Canada”, as promised by John McLaughlin, UNB’s current President in his installation address.



## 1.2 History of Campus Development

The idea of an academy in New Brunswick originated with Loyalists and came to fruition in 1785. The academy soon became an institution solidly resting on the twin pillars of the British Monarchy and Church of England and perpetuating the ideals of its Loyalist founders. In 1800, the College became the first school in Canada to receive a provincial charter, followed by a royal charter in 1828.

The institution grew slowly in the following years, fighting for funding and periodically refining its mission. In 1859, an Act was passed to create the University of New Brunswick, a secular and provincial institution. This marks the birth of the University as we know it today. Over the next few years, the University blossomed, with an expansion of its curriculum and a broadening of its student base, with female and non-white students being admitted as early as the 1880s.

The period between the two World Wars was marked by a significant physical expansion of the campus, with the construction of some key landmark buildings: Memorial Hall, the Bonar Law Bennett Library, the Forestry and Geology building, the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium, as well as the first residence, the Lady Beaverbrook Residence. Despite this growth in the physical campus, enrolment in 1941 hovered around four hundred students — a smaller population than that of modern high schools.

Returning World War II veterans contributed to a near doubling of enrolment and a significant enrichment in course offerings. Shortly thereafter, the years between 1953 and 1977 were marked by a surge of construction activity. Just between 1953 and 1969, twenty-five new buildings were added to the campus under the direction of Larson and Larson. It is also during this period, in 1964, that the Teachers' College relocated to the campus to then become the Faculty of Education in 1973. In 1964, St. Thomas University relocated to the UNB Fredericton campus, and remains a distinct institution to this day, sharing amenities where appropriate. In 1969, the new Saint John campus opened, bringing improved access to post-secondary education to other parts of New Brunswick.

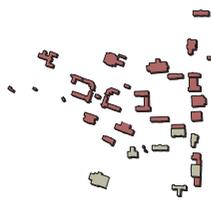
1825-1899



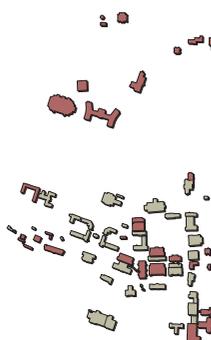
1900-1949



1950-1969



1970-2003





*The Campus in 1930*



Larson and Larson Plan, 1966

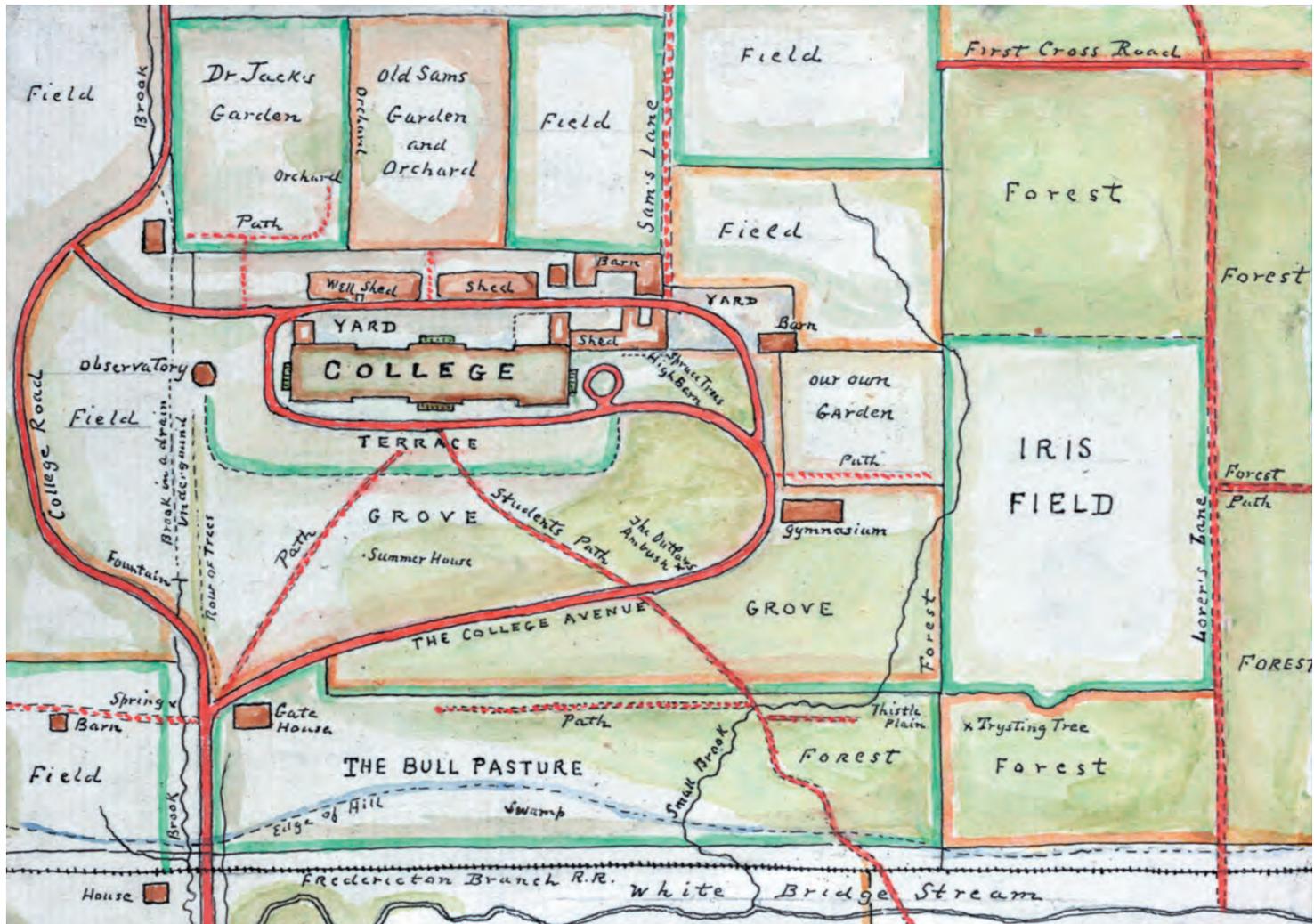


Larson and Larson Plan, 1966

## An Overview of Key Dates and Events

- The building of the Old Arts Building, then known as New College Building, was spearheaded by Sir Howard Douglas in 1825. It opened in 1829.
- Royal Assent was given in 1860 to establish the University of New Brunswick.
- Built to honour the thirty-five UNB Alumni who died in the First World War, Memorial Hall was originally designed as a science building in 1924.
- In 1949, the Maggie Jean Chestnut House became the first women's residence at UNB.
- The Bonar Law-Bennett Library was presented to the University by the provincial government in 1931, containing 25,000 volumes and room for 100,000.
- In 1953, the campus consisted of approximately eight buildings and the "Neville Farm".
- In 1955, the Alumni Memorial Student Centre was built to provide a central building for student services. It was widely considered to be the most modern and attractive in Canada at the time.
- The first building to be considered home to the Faculty of Arts — Carleton Hall — was built in 1960.
- In 1964, with the construction of three main buildings, St. Thomas University relocated to the UNB Fredericton campus. This collaboration was an outcome of the 1962 Royal Commission on Higher Education in New Brunswick which recommended the sharing of facilities among institutions.
- The Student Union Building was the result of a collaboration between UNB and St. Thomas Students and the UNB administration. Built in 1968, it was designed to provide student services that could no longer be accommodated in the Memorial Student Centre.

***"I believe a university best serves its society in the long run by taking the long view — behind and before; that is to say, by knowing its character and context and remaining***



Joseph Bailey's Map, circa 1880

*true to them. What our Loyalist founders wished us to be, we should wish to remain: a solid, useful, humane, and friendly institution of learning.”*

James Downey, University President 1988



*View of the Forestry and Geology Building and the Archives*



*View of the Bridges, Neill and Jones residences*

## *Towards a Planned Campus*

- In 1966, Larson and Larson designed a Master Plan for the Fredericton campus that included guidelines for building materials: red Chipman brick, Shediac sandstone, and New Brunswick wooden windows. It also included the creation of two symbolic spires as a gateway at the north entrance to the campus.
- From 1953-1969, the UNB Fredericton campus had grown by twenty-five new buildings.
- The Montgomery Street residences were built as a part of an expansive co-op movement between 1967 and 1970.
- In 1974, Murray and Murray Architects and Planning consultants completed a preliminary plan for UNB Fredericton, recommending a pedestrian mall at the core of the campus, multi-level parking structures in three peripheral locations, and two centralized dining locations.
- In 1987, a significant addition to Tilley Hall, Singer Hall, was made as a result of a bequest to honour Ethel Singer, the first Jewish woman to graduate from UNB, in 1935.





**T**hrough extensive consultation with a broad representation of the University constituency, the treasured aspects of the existing campus that ought to be preserved began to emerge. It soon became apparent that these treasured aspects of the campus are not only important as interesting elements — they are the defining characteristics of UNB Fredericton, which future development must respect.

**Legacy buildings.** When an old university survives the ravages of lesser trends in university building design, it is left with architecture that defines and creates its campus environment. UNB Fredericton is so distinguished. Foremost, the existing campus has evolved in relation to, and with a unique respect for, the character, siting and history of the Old Arts Building (now known as Sir Howard Douglas Hall). Characterized by limestone brick, an unusual slate roof and formal entrances on all four sides, it is perched as a beacon in grand proximity to the City of Fredericton, and for many, is the preeminent symbol of UNB Fredericton.

The Student Union Building is also celebrated for its location, beauty, and as an architectural landmark. It is even more cherished, however, because of its function as the hub of student life.

Key buildings on campus are characterized by their siting in prominent locations, and vertical roof elements. Lady Beaverbrook Residence, Memorial Hall, the Harriet Irving Library, and F. J. Toole Hall share these characteristics which are unique and defining in the overall campus environment.

**A magnificent setting.** Poised to the south of the City of Fredericton, the UNB Fredericton campus occupies the south terminus of University Avenue. Built upon a hill, the natural campus environment maintains the feel of an old country road. Grade changes add moments of surprise and wooded areas provide a reprieve from the surrounding urban context. To the

## 1.3 Treasured Aspects of the Campus

east, south, and within the campus itself (i.e. the wooded area to the south of the Student Union Building), unplanned treed areas easily integrate amid the campus landscape.

The green, treed lawn in front of the Old Arts Building, characterized by a rolling hill and mature trees, is an established symbolic space that embodies the sense of occasion associated with entering the University lands. The experience of this space, as approached from the northern gateway at Beaverbrook Street, is a defining moment that signals the uniqueness of the campus in relation to its urban context.

**Architectural continuity.** Having evolved over more than two hundred years without an explicit approach to development, the character of the campus remains intact due, in part, to an unyielding conformity to red Chipman brick and Georgian architecture. Although in reality a myriad of brick types and architectural details have been introduced to the campus setting over the last sixty years, this perceived conformity has tremendous value to UNB Fredericton.

**Breathtaking vistas.** The “Campus on the Hill” is difficult to navigate on a snowy day, and yet the steep grade throughout affords striking views of the City of Fredericton and the St. John River. Conversely, the campus can be seen from great distances and therefore has a strong presence in Fredericton.

**Defined spaces.** Early planning of the University campus indicates attention to the relationship among buildings and the importance of useful and beautiful interstitial spaces. In some areas on the existing campus these courtyards have been degraded (e.g. the parking lot in the courtyard of Tilley Hall); others, such as Jacob’s Yard and the formal space in front of the Student Union Building, embody the possibility of becoming defining aesthetic elements of the campus setting.



*a magnificent setting*



*defined spaces*



*architectural continuity*



*breathtaking vistas*

