

Bennington College Campus Plan

KYU SUNG WOO ARCHITECTS INC.

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Introduction

A unique educational mission and position in higher education continues to generate excitement about Bennington College. Opportunities for growth follow this making the need for a Campus Plan apparent. This document continues a process that was begun in 1999 to improve the quality of the present campus and set a direction for both expansion and renovation of College facilities. The 2004 Campus Plan for Bennington College is a strategic tool and guide for the development of the campus over the next decade. This plan establishes fundamental ideas about the physical campus while remaining flexible to allow for change, evolving ideas about growth, education and campus life.

This report has been prepared in close collaboration with Reed/Hilderbrand Associates, Landscape Architects. While much of the investigation was performed together, we have documented the results individually, loosely following the overlapping boundary between campus planners and landscape architects. KSWA has documented specific considerations for buildings, both in terms of overall siting and general programmatic and circulation issues, and where merited, documented specific building proposals. Reed/Hilderbrand has documented open space issues including, circulation, landscape character zones and lighting. These two reports should be referred to simultaneously as they are complimentary acknowledging the importance of the close relationship between building and landscape that exists at Bennington College.

Supported by the effort of many at Bennington College, this master plan report has been made possible through the vision and generous support of trustee Penelope Perkins Wilson, a member of the class of 1945.



Executive Summary

Bennington is a pioneering institution. Conventional boundaries between disciplines, people, and locales are continually transcended to allow for unfettered discovery and exploration. This Campus Plan builds upon this foundation to create a dynamic strategy for supporting Bennington's future.

Why a Campus Plan?

- To support the academic mission of the Bennington by recognizing the unique interdisciplinary character of the College.
- To capitalize on available resources for the College's best advantage.
- To anticipate change and identify a long-term strategy for growth.



Methodology

The Plan has evolved through a process of collecting information; testing ideas and developing preferred options. Our initial meetings with Senior Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students identified critical needs and opportunities. Continued discussions with these groups and presentations to the Trustees helped to bring needs into focus and to provide a clear understand of building uses, space conflicts and inefficiencies.

Campus Plan Proposal Overview

The Campus Plan first documents all the campus academic buildings and student residences. This inventory provides plan drawings of the majority of Bennington's physical plant and can be used as a resource for maintenance operations, space assignments and continued planning and development. This is a new and valuable resource for the College.



As the plan developed, issues of academic program, building efficiency and campus circulation, began to converge. This convergence resulted in proposals for major building initiatives and a new circulation system. The core of these initiatives are a proposal of a site for a new dining facility, a revitalized Commons and better utilization of the Barn, VAPA and Jennings. These proposals help shape an exciting future for Bennington, one that will continue to cultivate a self-directed education.

The plan is incremental and should be implemented and evolve over time. First steps are focused on supporting the academic program while clarifying campus vehicular and pedestrian circulation and enhancing the character of open space. Later steps involve incremental but significant improvements in building efficiency and operations, continuing to reinforce the fit between campus goals and academic programs.





Issues / Needs

Present State of the Bennington Campus / Existing Conditions Analysis

The Campus is described in the 1999 KSWA report as... "a beautiful campus setting of over 550 open and wooded acres, Bennington College is uniquely sited in the pastoral landscape of rural Vermont. Its location in the quiet foothills of the Green Mountains provides the opportunity for deep reflection and scholastic immersion in Bennington's reputable academic programs. Historically, the connection to the landscape is one of the most prevailing and memorable qualities of the Bennington College experience. Poised on a plateau in North Bennington the campus has a variety of wonderfully scaled spaces with both contained and expansive views to the surrounding landscape. The campus is divided generally north and south into residential and academic zones. Commons, with its commanding view toward the Lawn and the distant landscape beyond, organizes a residential group of student houses. Major academic buildings- the Visual and Performing Arts Center, Dickinson Science Building and the Barn- form the northern part of the campus. Jennings Music Hall marks the northern most edge of the academic campus. The College is characterized by a collection of architecturally significant period buildings- most notably Jennings and Commons- juxtaposed against modern, structurally expressive academic, studio and performing art buildings built during the 1960's and 1970's. The College has not engaged in a major building project on its campus since this expansive building project 25 years ago."

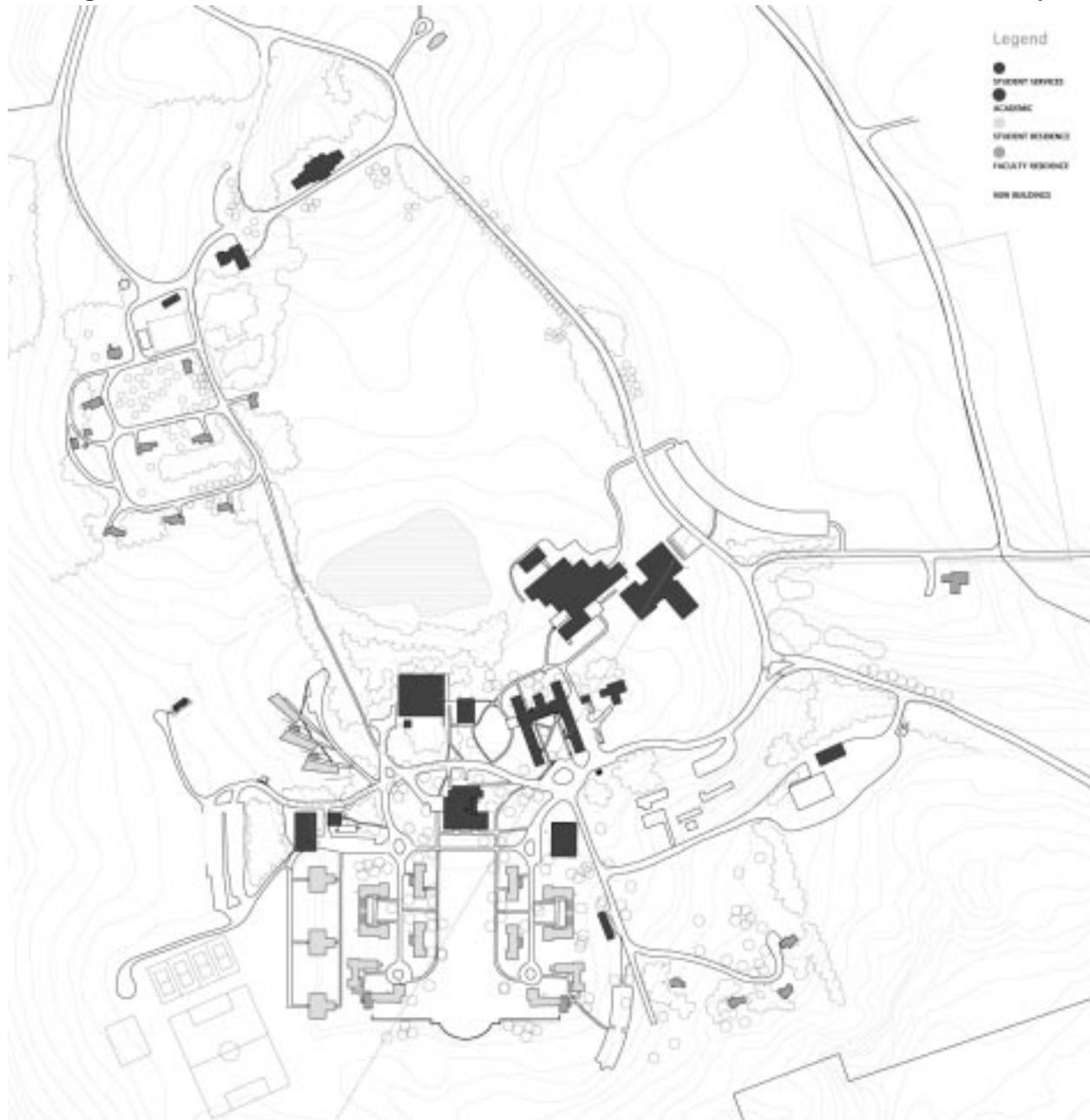
Since that report, Bennington has constructed the New College Houses, completed the Meyer Recreation Barn, made several smaller renovation improvements across campus, and is planning a new student center. A primary concern looking forward was the desire to reintegrate the campus, specifically addressing Jennings, the Deane Carriage Barn, the orchard houses and meadow and to determine what new possibilities are available for campus organization and spatial definition as the College looks forward over the next decade.

Overall Campus Organization

Support for an open interdisciplinary community is at the heart of campus needs. The desire to strengthen and reinforce the unique character of this community was a common theme throughout the planning process. Currently there are instances where this model is supported by the physical infrastructure, such as the mingling of visual arts within VAPA, but in other cases, such as music's isolation in Jennings, the campus inhibits this interaction.

Existing Site Plan

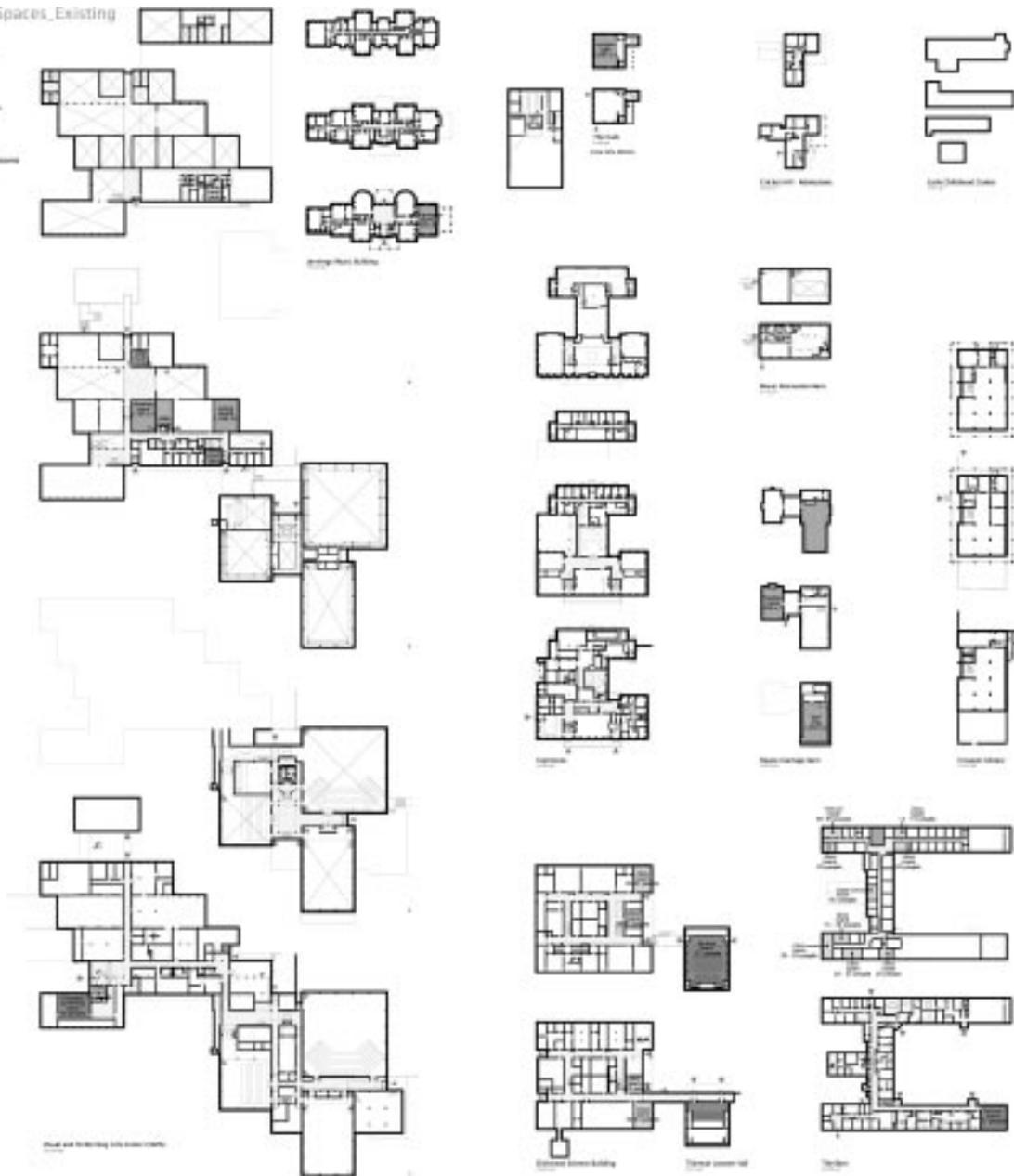
Campus Total - 464,126 s.f.



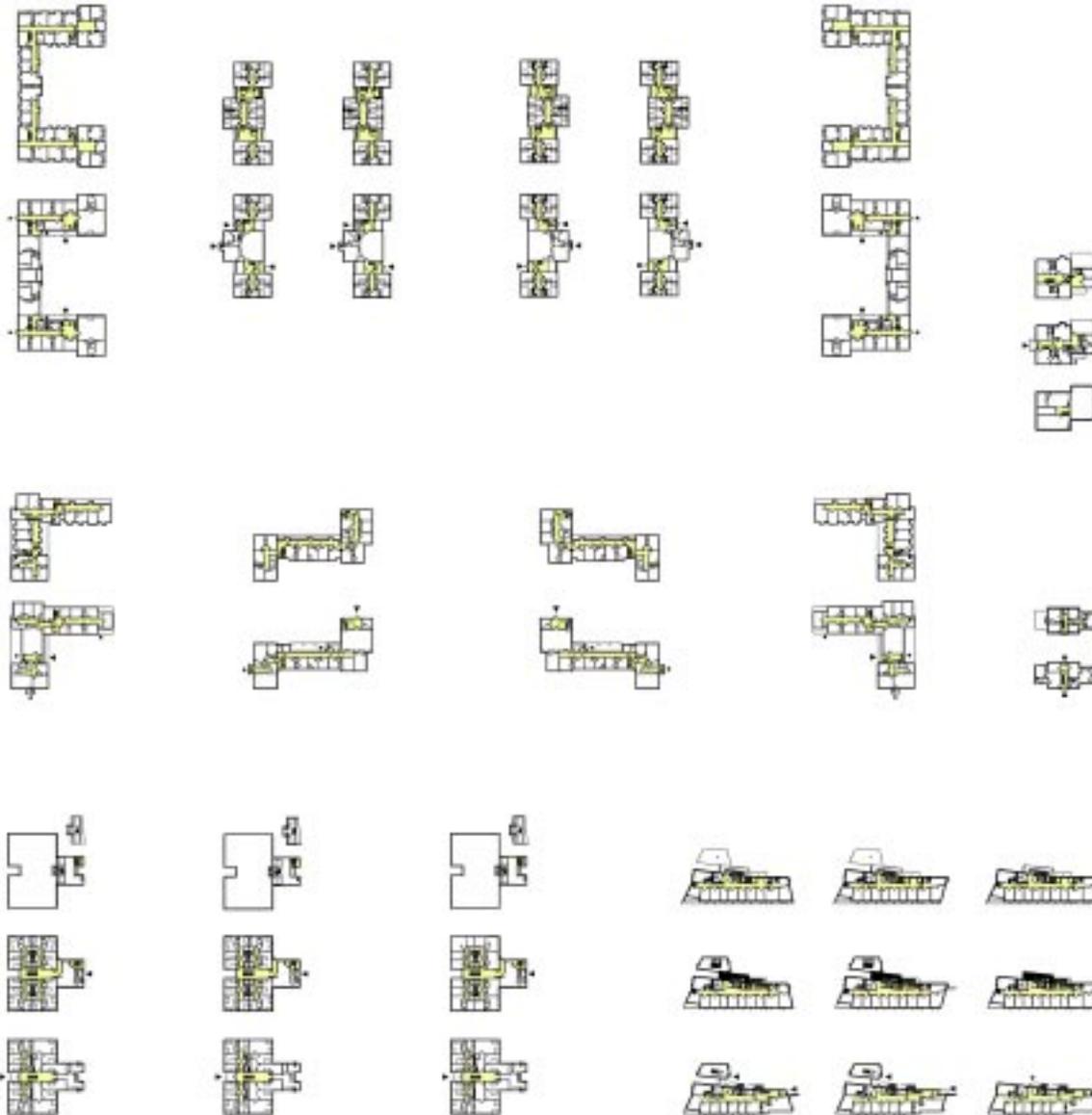
Academic Buildings - 299,300 s.f.

Classroom Spaces_Existing

- TYPE A
Flexible seminar rooms
- TYPE B
Flexible seminar rooms
- TYPE C
Fixed lecture/seminar rooms
- TYPE D
Multipurpose rooms



Residential Buildings - 164,826 s.f.



Program Needs

Flexible, Smart Classrooms

Much of the teaching at Bennington occurs in small seminar groups. This format reinforces the student/teacher exchange that is critical to the educational experience at Bennington.

Currently, seminar rooms are limited both in the quality and flexibility of student and teacher accommodation. The demand for classrooms that can accommodate 20-25 students in an atmosphere flexible and conducive to the unique learning style desired by Bennington is high. Classrooms are identified as either discipline-based classrooms or interdisciplinary classrooms. Discipline-based classrooms are classrooms that are specifically located near the focus of an academic precinct. They often have specific spatial requirements, such as projection or acoustic isolation. Interdisciplinary classrooms are used by different academic groups and can be located near the boundaries of academic influences. These two types reinforce the educational culture and mission of Bennington.



The need for additional flexible teaching space that can accommodate 20 to 25 students is clear. These spaces should be able to comfortably accommodate numerous teaching styles and seating configurations. They should be located both near and peripheral to academic focuses.

Dining Service

The Campus dining service is overloaded. Limited options are available for serving configurations and menu options. Campus dining service requirements and expectations have grown and the facility is above capacity. Service areas at the dock are unsightly and inefficient; storage areas are limited and food service is becoming an important factor in the student social experience. Significantly large and disruptive service vehicles are required to access this centrally located building for both delivery of supplies and trash/recycling removal. To reach this building these vehicles must traverse and occupy the central part of campus.





Building Efficiency

Building use at Bennington has evolved over time. The older buildings have experienced many programs. The Barn has evolved from its original use as a barn to classrooms, offices, and a bookstore; at one time it housed the library and Admissions Office. Commons has evolved from a building that once held multiple classrooms, offices, a theater, and dining hall. Jennings has evolved from a residence, (prior to Bennington ownership) to the home of the music program. VAPA follows in this tradition and was built to accommodate change. The result of this campus-wide process is that some buildings are extremely crowded, others are underutilized and some have physical spaces that do not fit well with programmatic needs. In general, there is a need to make better use of the Commons, as the third floor is not available because of code restrictions and the dining program has outgrown the structure. The music program and its home require a better fit with one another. Other facilities such as the third floor of the Carriage Barn are underutilized while educational programs such as the Early Childhood Education Center are not well housed or sited in their existing facility.

Faculty Housing / Lounge

Faculty housing is in short supply and some, within student residences, are noisy and inappropriate. Solutions to these problems must consider the desire to maintain a faculty presence on campus proximate to student housing while not subjecting the faculty directly to the lifestyles of undergraduates. The faculty would also benefit from a lounge where casual interaction or small group events could occur.

Maintenance

Many of the buildings on campus suffer from deferred maintenance. This need is significant and requires a detailed facility assessment of code compliance, maintenance needs, building envelope and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and historic preservation implications. The overall campus infrastructure including the central electrical and steam distribution should be included in this assessment. Several buildings will require upgrades to meet new ventilation, accessibility and energy consumption standards. This is especially critical in the visual arts areas.

Storage

In addition to academic space, several members of the community cited the overall lack of storage as an issue. This was the case for students in light of the Field Work Term during which students must remove their belongings during two months mid-year. Day-to-day operational needs of academic, administration, and facilities staff require additional storage space.

Proposals

Guiding Principles



The unique educational mission and the interaction between this mission and the natural beauty and physical organization of the campus setting shape the character of Bennington College. Academically, Bennington is focus-oriented, not boundary-oriented. Each academic area has a meaningful core and purposely-ambiguous boundaries. This structure provides a focus for students yet affords them the ability to define their own boundaries of investigation and learning. Academic departments do not exist, and self-directed education prevails. This philosophy entails reaching out and promoting exchange across disciplines and among a diverse group of people. It is critically important that the campus structure facilitate the interdisciplinary relationships inherent in Bennington's educational mission.

Overview of Proposals



Academic, administration and social space programming and campus organization were developed concurrently, as the strategies for one are dependent upon the other. The proposed program and building initiatives focused on creating interdisciplinary opportunities and more efficient use of existing buildings while reinforcing the character of Bennington's campus. The proposed circulation strategy, discussed in the Reed / Hilderbrand Landscape plan, complements the academic organization, clarifies the character of campus open space and creates new circulation patterns.

Throughout campus, we are proposing shifts in space programming. Many of these proposals will continue to evolve as the College determines the final space programming. Some of these changes are to answer direct needs, providing more classrooms, or a faculty lounge. Other changes are transformative and will alter the character of a building or even the campus.



Identify areas for potential building

This masterplan has identified three areas that could support future building, while enhancing the campus character. The first area is just above the Early Childhood Center. This is a geographically prime location, which may not be used to its best advantage with the ECC. It is on the main entry route into the campus, centrally located overall, and has panoramic views to the valley beyond. It could become either an academic or residential structure, depending upon the needs of the College.

The second area is north of the East VAPA lot, along the road to Jennings. This building site would be most appropriate for an academic or recreational building. It would help to unify the upper and lower campus, and its programming could be associated with the activities at VAPA, based upon its proximity. There is also ample space to create parking, if needed.

The third area is west of the Barnes houses, north of the playing field. This site could be suitable for either a residential or recreational building. It is a quiet, and somewhat remote location. It is likely that this site would form the outer reaches of the western portion of the campus. It could also tie into a system of walking paths around the perimeter of the Campus.



Promote a better integration between the upper and lower parts of the campus

Without Jennings, the active zone of the Bennington campus is halved. Jennings draws the community north to engage the whole campus. It would be beneficial if more students took classes at Jennings, so that it becomes a stronger part of the Bennington experience. As it stands, only students who take courses in the music program need to engage the northern part of campus. It would also be beneficial to create a better pedestrian path to Jennings, instead of either walking on the side of the road, or trudging along a dirt path through the meadow, as students must do now.



New Dining Facility

A new dining facility is proposed to replace dining at Commons. This building will be designed to accommodate current dining needs and future growth at the College. In addition to dining, the new building will contain the campus post office, bulk mailroom, a boardroom, faculty lounge, and meeting rooms.

The proposed site is the current location of the Early Childhood Center (ECC). This is a prime location on campus, near the main entry, the Barn, and Crossett Library. The topography is such that the dining building could be a single story on the campus side, and two stories on the lower, service road side. This lower level could contain the loading dock, food storage, and bulk mail. The campus level would contain the dining room, servery, kitchen, faculty lounge, boardroom, post office, and meeting rooms. There will be dramatic views from this building to the valley beyond.

This new facility also supports the broader campus organizational goals. The proposed site would allow the heavy service requirements of dining and mail distribution to be met without directing this traffic through the center of campus. A service road accessed off the main campus entry drive will provide a direct connection to the loading dock of the new facility. By locating the program elements, (dining and mail services), with intensive service requirements in this facility, the majority of the campus can be planned without needing to meet the daily needs of truck deliveries.

In addition, moving dining to the location of the ECC enlivens a prominent area of campus, previously used by a minority of the population. As a result, two new zones are formed: one focused around Commons, and one focused around the new dining building. With the traffic removed from Commons, this area can become renewed as the “old town” of Campus. This area will retain the character of historic Bennington. The new dining building creates a new “mid town.” This area will be a newer locus of energy, containing several social functions on campus. Concurrently, stronger connections are made to the upper part of campus, linking Jennings to these new zones in the lower campus.

A detailed program study for this building is required. For planning purposes this building would be approximately 31,000 total gross square feet.

New Dining Building Total 31,000 s.f.

● DINING - 10,700 n.s.f.

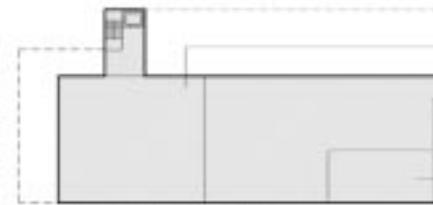
○ SERVICE - 14,600 n.s.f.

Total Dining Net - 25,300 n.s.f.

Total Dining Gross - 30,360 n.s.f.



Floor 2 - dining & post office - 17,800 s.f.



Floor 1 - service - 13,200 s.f.





Dining / Commons

Commons is the central building for the formal, Beaux Arts section of campus, forming the northern edge of the lawn and facing the expansive mountain-view, so closely associated with Bennington College. Built in the early 1930's, it is an excellent example of collegiate neo-Georgian architecture, one of the distinct styles at the College. A 1970's addition was built to accommodate expanded dining and the Commons lounge was renovated in early 2000. Currently, Commons houses the campus dining facility, the post office and campus mail center, student health and psychological services, the snack bar, and common lounge spaces. The building is not ADA accessible, code restrictions prevent the use of the third floor, and the current kitchen/servery configuration prevents passage from the entry facing Dickinson to the major rooms overlooking the Lawn. The building has significant symbolic importance for the campus.

Two studies have been initiated over the past 5 years to investigate options for better space utilization, including expanding dining, improving ADA accessibility and code compliance, restoring the third floor, and re-opening through building campus connections. (see KSWA report March 17, 1999).

Because the scope of this master plan permitted us to study the entire campus, it was possible to examine Commons and dining on a larger scale. In this study, the fundamental question arose as to whether or not dining should remain at Commons.

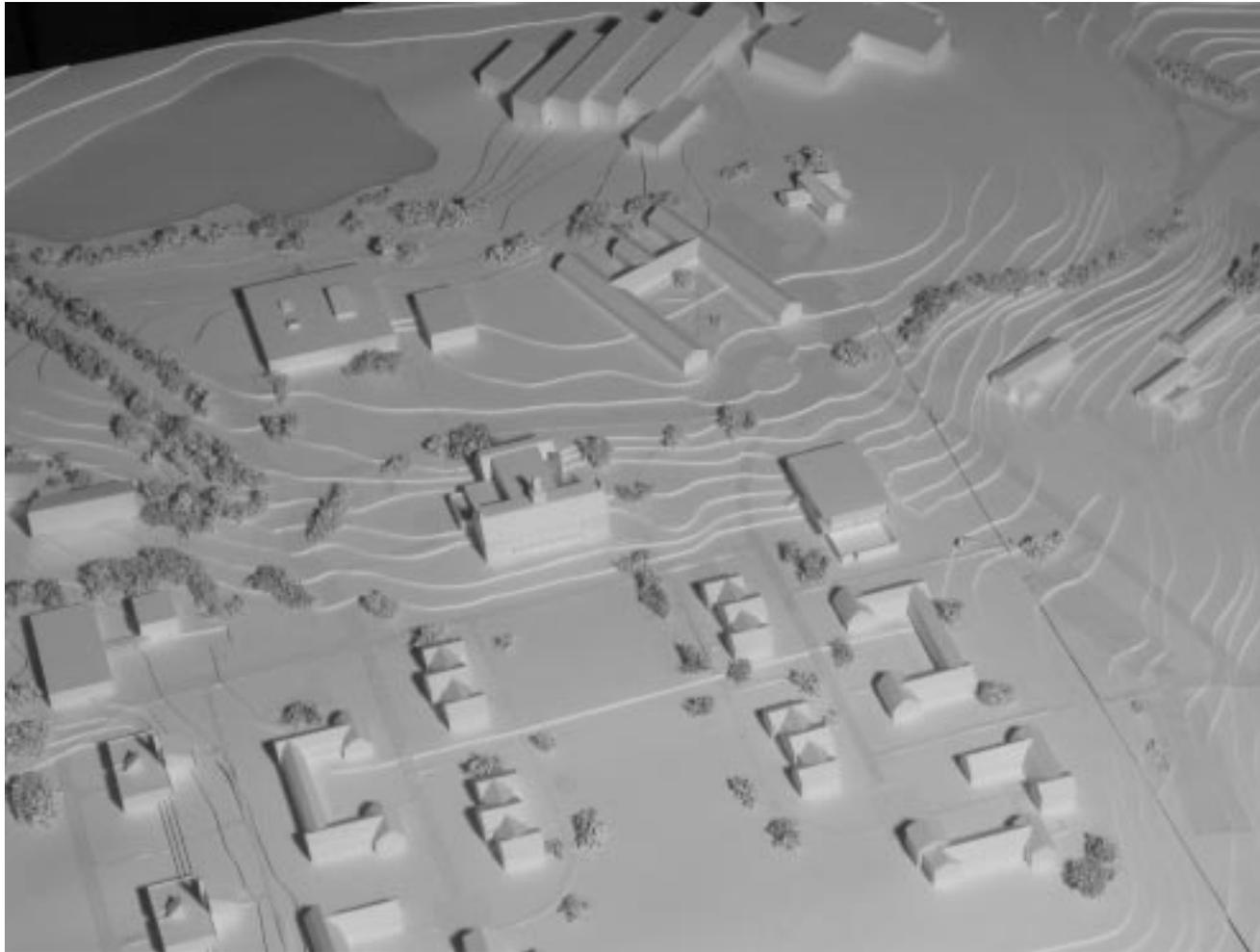
When considering removing dining from Commons, several opportunities became apparent:

Relocating dining provides opportunities to enliven a new area on campus. It also provides new opportunities for Commons within the life of the College.

Keeping dining in Commons maintains the presence of service vehicles on campus. Moving dining to a new location would mean controlling the presence of these vehicles. Currently service vehicles must move through the center of Campus, bringing them along main pedestrian routes.

Renovating Commons to accommodate dining would involve a complex series of phases. In order to avoid disrupting campus life, the task of renovating Commons could be made easier by considering removing dining altogether.

Dining - Existing





Renovated Commons

The new dining building frees Commons to become an active mixed-use presence at Bennington. Dining had occupied a significant portion of the building and caused circulation problems both within and around Commons. Removing dining opens new programming opportunities that will enliven both the building, and the entire center of campus, while serving Bennington's academic mission.

We propose converting Commons into the main interdisciplinary building on campus. The goal is for this building to become a hub for all of the Bennington community, linking social, academic and student life activities. It will be the home of a diverse group of academic disciplines and student organizations at the College.

A key component of rethinking Commons will be the removal of the existing 1970's western dining addition. This will return the building to its original geometry. It will also permit light and views that were obstructed by the addition. The landscape to the west of the building can become a new outdoor space, with the removal of the loading dock. Removing the addition results in approximately 26,500 n.s.f. available for programming. The renovation of Commons will also include an elevator and other upgrades to make the building fully accessible.

The programming for Commons must involve the many potential users of the spaces. At the time of this master plan process, the following suggestions emerged. Clearly, more study and discussion will be needed to develop a workable plan.

Ground Floor. The food storage, loading dock, and bulk mail room could be removed. This lower level of Commons is partially below grade, which lends itself to programming that does not require light and views. In essence, the north half of the ground floor will become a new computing hub on Campus. "The pod," the computing center currently in VAPA, will move to Commons and free up space in VAPA. Video could also move out of VAPA and into Commons, as well as the sound recording from Jennings, and the computer center from Dickinson. This floor could house an interdisciplinary center, which would require large teaching spaces as well.

The narrow connection to the southern half of the ground floor could contain student offices. Bennington has numerous student organizations, such as a radio station and a newspaper, which will be served by these offices.

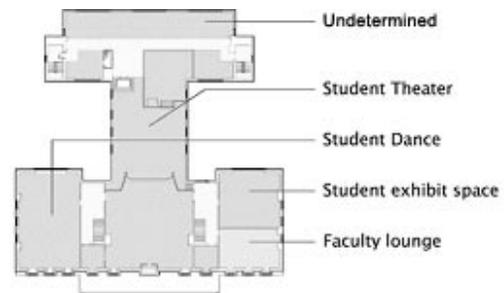


The southern half of the ground floor will contain programming related to Student Life. The Bookstore could move from the Barn into the space currently occupied by Health Services. The central lounge could become an internet lounge. The existing post office could move to the new dining building, with only the mailboxes still remaining in Commons.

Second Floor. The existing dining rooms are ideally sized and located to become multi-disciplinary classrooms for 20 to 50 students. These classrooms could be wired for information technology and have room-darkening capabilities. The narrow middle portion and north wing of the second floor could contain faculty offices. These offices are well connected to the new multi-disciplinary classrooms and have direct access to the main pedestrian spine on campus.

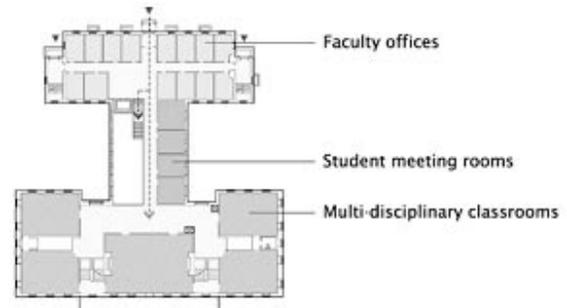
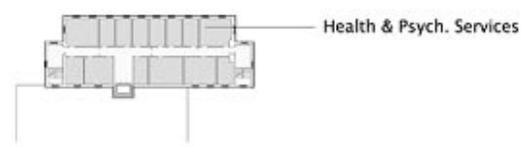
Mezzanine. The existing mechanical spaces in the mezzanine will be removed. This floor could contain Health and Psychological Services. This is an ideal location, as it provides easy access and privacy. Another option is to move both services to a house in either the Orchard or Faculty Row.

Third Floor. This space has been vacant for a significant amount of time. It contains a series of high, light-filled spaces. The southern rooms could become a dance studio, an assembly hall, and a faculty lounge. The existing theater will be refurbished to provide a proscenium stage theater for performances.



Commons Total 26,500 n.s.f

- TUDENT MEETING ROOMS / LOUNGES
- TUDENT THEATER / DANCE / ARTS
- ACULTY OFFICES / LOUNGE
- HEALTH & PSYCH. SERVICES
- MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ACADEMICS





The Barn

The renovation of Commons will create much needed space in the Barn. The bookstore could move out and the space could be converted into two, large, wired classrooms for 20-50 students. These spaces will be flexible and provide a classroom type that does not currently exist within the building. The existing classrooms on the second floor could undergo minor renovations to adjust their geometry to a more useful proportion and to provide the necessary technology for teaching.

The Barn could undergo a transformation as the Student Life Office and the Bookstore move to new locations. Much of the Barn's strength lies in its mix of faculty, students, and administration. This exchange is important and should be maintained. As space becomes available, this provides a great opportunity to create a series of flexible classrooms, to be used by all disciplines. These classrooms will contain individual student seating, to allow for flexible seating configurations. In addition to these new classrooms, existing classrooms could also be modified. Part of the existing problem lies in the long and narrow geometry of the rooms, and their enormous, boardroom-style of tables and chairs. By removing some of the program, the barn will gain "breathing room," allowing for more common social space and connections between floors.

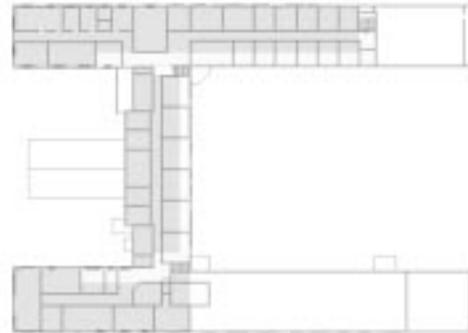
Barn- Existing- 27,000 g.s.f.

- ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES 11,615 n.s.f.
- CLASSROOM & FACULTY OFFICES 7,648 n.s.f.
- BOOKSTORE 1,514 n.s.f.



Barn- Proposed- 27,000 g.s.f.

- ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES 15,683 n.s.f.
 - CLASSROOMS - MULTI-DISCIPLINARY 7,326 n.s.f.
- ADMINISTRATION
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CLASSROOMS





VAPA

VAPA, while able to accommodate continuous change, will still benefit from the changes at Commons. Several opportunities result from freeing space for program needs. On the lower level, video will move out of its cramped location to the ground floor of Commons. On the entry level from campus, “the pod” could move to Commons. The space vacated by “the pod” can become extra seminar rooms or offices.

The facilities for the performing arts will require additional study. However, it is apparent that several areas have issues that need to be addressed. All of the performing spaces require adjustments to their support spaces in order to be fully utilized. There is much back of house confusion, poor acoustical separation from the halls to the lobby and undirected wayfinding throughout the building, especially for the public attending events. These issues make it problematic to program simultaneous events in these spaces. We propose renovations to Newman Court to acoustically isolate the performance spaces, to provide adequate signage, and to create a more hospitable reception area.

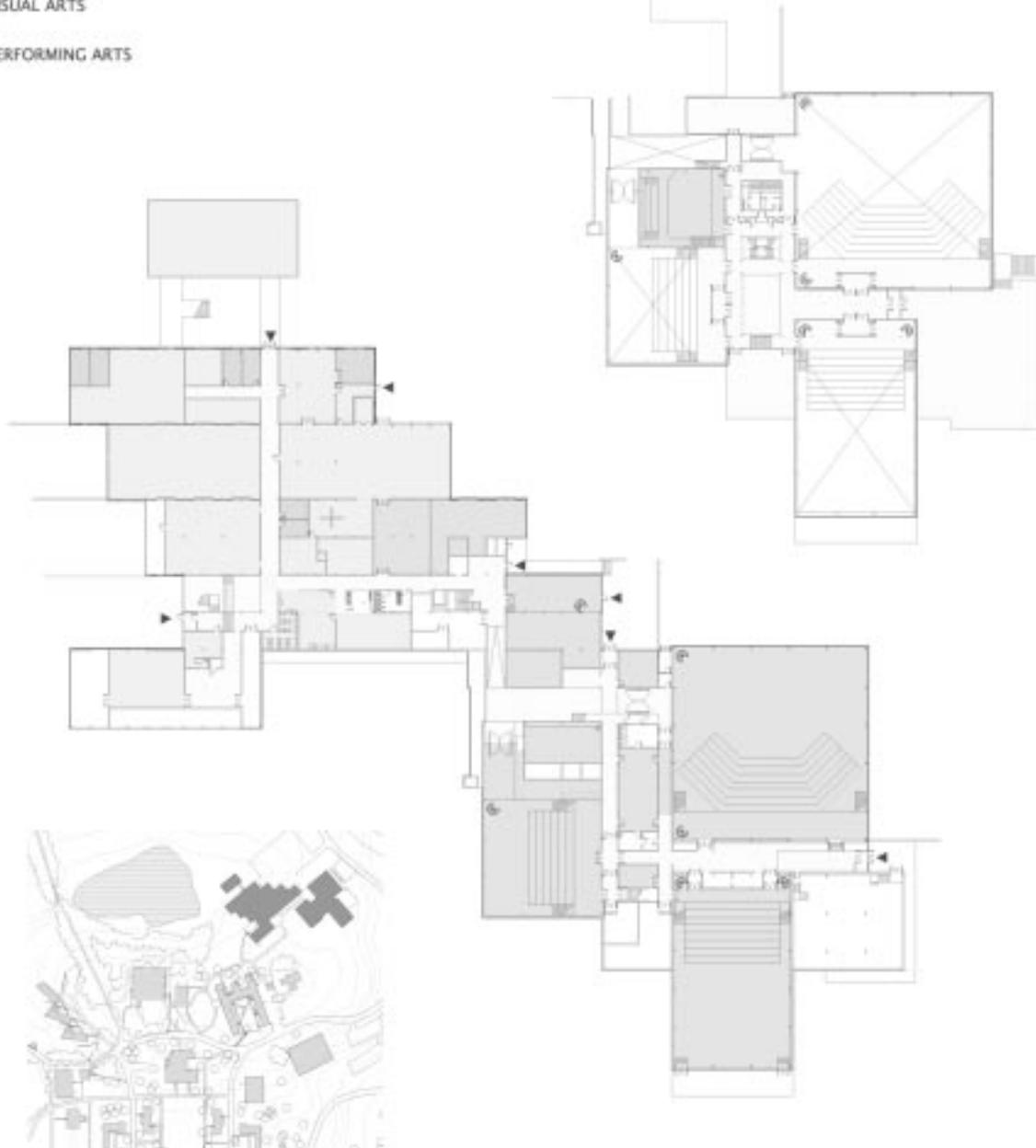


We also propose renovating each of these performance spaces to create a larger internal receiving mezzanine for performances. This mezzanine will also provide enough room for double sets of doors, to further isolate the sound in each space. Each theater requires an upgrade in HVAC, acoustics, and lighting systems.

VAPA proposed / Meadow & PA Lobby levels- 116, 000 g.s.f.

● VISUAL ARTS

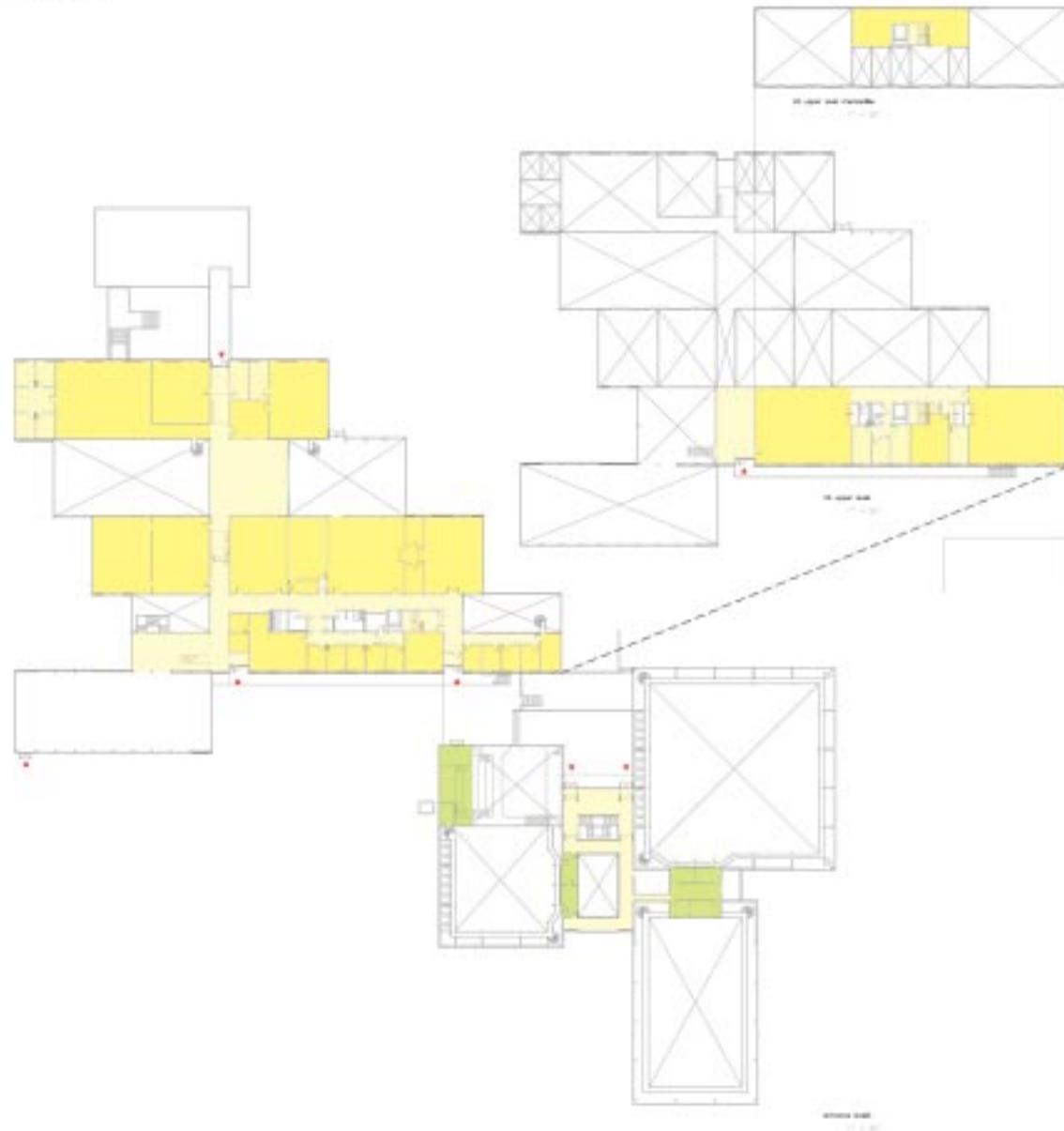
● PERFORMING ARTS



VAPA proposed / Entrance & VA Upper levels

REGAL ARTS

PERFORMANCE ARTS





Jennings

Jennings is one of Bennington's most cherished structures. For decades of students, it has been the home of the music program. Activities are distributed throughout the building with small third floor practice rooms and grand spaces for faculty teaching studios. There have not been significant alterations to the building's interior since it was used as a residence. As a result, sound migrates from room to room, and spaces such as the music library and sound studio are cramped awkwardly into oddly configured rooms.

Members of the Bennington community have asked why the music program is remotely located from the other performing arts in VAPA. Many faculty feel that this divide inhibits a natural connection among disciplines. Opera, for instance, which involves a strong mix of drama and music could be better supported by the physical facilities. In a school with a rich performing arts program, this separation is a detriment.

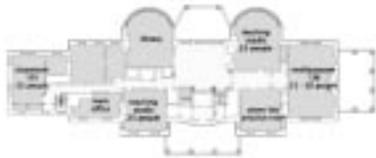


While it might be ideal for music to be located in VAPA, where the main campus performance spaces are, VAPA is at capacity and cannot accommodate the entire music program. Music is not easily incorporated with other disciplines and locations because the noise from classrooms, practice rooms, and rehearsal spaces would disrupt a nearby academic discussion or an administrative meeting.

Some reprogramming of Jennings can occur, simply to relieve the cramped conditions. This plan proposes moving the sound recording studio out of the third floor, and into the ground floor of Commons. Also, after a discussion with the music faculty, practice rooms can be relocated. The third floor of the Carriage Barn is nearby and could be renovated as practice rooms, which would free up a significant amount of space on the third floor of Jennings.

Jennings - Existing - 20,000 g.s.f.

● MUSIC 13,000 n.s.f.



Early Childhood Center - Existing





Crossett Library

Bennington College will be conducting an independent study of the library in the fall of 2004. This study will provide an assessment of the present and future needs of the College. It is clear that Bennington needs more library space than Crossett can provide. There is a range of solutions that should be explored. The most viable solution is an extension to Crossett. This extension should honor the strong character of the existing building. It should allow for Bennington's future growth and also relieve the cramped conditions to the existing building.



The Early Childhood Center (ECC)

The Early Childhood Center (ECC) occupies a significant location on the Bennington campus. It is south of Cricket Hill, on a rolling slope of land just below the main road into the center of campus. The ECC is a collection of small buildings and a playground. This plan proposes moving the ECC to better utilize an important location for programming that is critical to the heart of campus. The ECC is a highly specialized program, which is used by only a small portion of the population. The ECC would also be better suited to a quiet area of the campus, away from traffic. Currently, the ECC shares its parking lot with the maintenance building, which is not ideal for the ECC. We propose moving the ECC to a more remote location on campus, where it will not be in a high-traffic zone. Shingle Cottage is an ideal location for the ECC because it is somewhat removed from the busy center of campus, and it is accessed by its own driveway. Currently, Shingle Cottage is in need of repair, and would require extensive renovations and additions to become the new ECC.

Housing

Bennington College provides student, faculty, and visitor housing on campus:

Student Housing. Currently, student housing is at its maximum capacity. Any increases in the student body will demand new housing, either on or off-campus. This master plan proposes a new building site at the western edge of the campus adjacent to the playing field. This site meets two important criteria, keeping the students within a comfortable walking distance of the center of campus and the existing and proposed dining.

Faculty Housing. There are three, broad categories of faculty housing arrangements on campus. The first category is faculty who are full time residents with families at the College. The second category is faculty who are full-time residents, but for a discrete period of time. The third category is faculty who come to campus to teach a few days out of the week. Each of these categories requires a different housing arrangement. The College needs to study the current and future proportions in each category in order to form a strategy for faculty housing.

There are a variety of concerns regarding all faculty housing at Bennington. Maintaining a weekend faculty presence on campus while allowing the different lifestyles of faculty and students to peacefully coexist is a current challenge that is not satisfactorily met. It was suggested that one of the existing student residences, (Noyes house, for instance), be converted into a faculty residence. By designing apartment units in the building, this would create a comfortable living environment for the faculty, as they would have some privacy, but still be in a location that is integrated with the student residences.

An additional concern is the state of the existing faculty housing. Many of the faculty residences are not designed to accommodate faculty living. The majority of the residences have not been renovated in years and are starting to appear run down. This has a negative affect on the morale of the faculty, as their housing choices are limited and often in poor shape.



Visitor Housing. Some visitor housing has been converted to student housing, in order to accommodate increased demands. Longmeadow was formerly used for visitors, speakers, groups, or residences but it has now become student housing. The College must decide if it will continue to house visitors on campus or if it will rely upon nearby hotels for such purposes.

This master plan proposes that a separate, in-depth study of housing on campus be conducted. It is important to gain feedback from the students and faculty to understand the current housing situation. The College also needs to analyze future demands and what needs should be satisfied with on-campus housing.

Other Programming

We are proposing several, smaller scale changes on campus. These changes were determined both independently by Bennington College, and in conjunction with Kyu Sung Woo Architects, Inc.



Dickinson

While Dickinson is the primary location for the sciences at Bennington, it also contains several other programs. The Computing Center for the entire campus is in Dickinson. This Center has taken some much needed classroom spaces. Bennington could consider moving some of this smaller program out of Dickinson to allow for more classrooms.

Tishman

Tishman has recently been renovated. New upholstery for the seats has greatly improved the comfort of the users and the acoustics as well. Tishman would also benefit by having an HVAC upgrade. The existing system cannot always keep the auditorium within a comfortable temperature range. This master plan recommends that the HVAC system either be repaired or replaced.



Carriage Barn

The Carriage Barn is a well-used, flexible building that accommodates a variety of Bennington's needs. Important meetings for larger groups are held here. The Carriage Barn also has a performance space for music, and a majority of the upper floor functions as a practice room for percussion instruments. The building requires egress upgrades and would benefit from built-in audio/visual equipment and room darkening capabilities in the Fireplace Room to better accommodate meetings.



Orchard Barns.

There are several barns located in the Orchard. This masterplan proposes that these barns be converted to other usable spaces.

Storage Shed

Storage is always in demand. Students are required to move out of their rooms each term for Field Work Term, and many administrative and academic operations are in need of storage. The College could provide a simple storage shed built near the Maintenance facility to provide for these needs.

Maintenance

The majority of buildings on campus have not had a consistent maintenance program or major renovations. Even the “newer” structures, such as VAPA and Dickinson, are thirty years old, and much of their HVAC equipment is in need of either repair or replacement. Even functional systems are substantially less energy efficient than systems available today and replacement should seriously be considered. The exterior envelope of most buildings also requires assessment. In general, a detailed Facilities Needs Assessment would identify specific technical needs and budget parameters and would also provide a framework for resolving deferred maintenance needs and development of a maintenance plan.

There has been significant discussion regarding information technology access for the entire campus. There are select places on campus that currently are supported by this technology. A specialized information technology assessment should be undertaken to determine the specific needs and potential solutions for the College.



Phasing

Implementation of these recommendations can be phased over time considering the following sequence.

- A. Renovate Shingle Cottage to house the ECC. Move the ECC to Shingle Cottage.
- B. Demolish the old ECC buildings. Construct new dining facility on site of existing ECC
- C. Transform Commons into multi-discipline campus center.
- D. Address the cascade of changes that will result from relocating program into the transformed Commons including:

VAPA	New classrooms in place of the computer pod.
The Barn	New classrooms to replace bookstore Reconfigure existing classrooms on second floor
Jennings	Remove sound recording, practice rooms
Dickinson	New classrooms to replace computer center

- E. Other projects identified in the report that can be implemented independently of the Commons/Dining project.

New Storage Facility

Renovation of Performance Spaces and Newman Court

Renovation of Noyes for Faculty Housing

Renovation of the Carriage Barn