

**THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF THE CLAYMONT COURT
GREAT BARN**

AT CLAYMONT COURT, CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA.

G. A. Perry, gavarch@gmail.com, 2024 06 06



1950



1975



2018

INTRODUCTION

Raymond J. Funkhouser owned Claymont Court from March 10, 1943, until June 3, 1952. Funkhouser was a very successful businessman, agriculturist and publisher, owning many companies, including the O'Sullivan Rubber Corporation and the Blakeley Bank and Trust Company. Funkhouser purchased and restored five of the Washington family homes in Jefferson County, which at the time were run down and in poor condition and was instrumental in preserving the homes for future generations. Funkhouser lived at Claymont and meticulously restored the mansion, grounds, and gardens.

He bought the Cedar Lawn, Blakeley and Claymont estates and combined them into a 7,000-acre property, with all the estates contiguous and named the property O'Sullivan Farms. He turned his land into a thriving farm and Hereford cattle operation, used the latest agricultural and breeding techniques, including quick-freezing and the cold storage of butchered meats. The farm was self-sufficient, producing its own meats, milk and dairy products as well as produce from large vegetable gardens with seventy-five people working on the farm and in the mansion.

In the early 1940s he built a large finishing and show barn for his herd of Hereford cows and thoroughbred racehorses. The overall dimensions of the barn were 420 feet long and 36 feet wide, which included a 42 foot by 24-foot section at the west end for storage and feed processing and a 96 foot diameter octagon show arena at the east end of the barn.

The barn was constructed of concrete block walls, exposed metal structural columns on the ground with wood columns and beams on the first floor. The ground floor had a concrete floor, with a rough wood floor on the first floor. There were metal bars on the window openings and no windows. Water and electricity were provided suitable for a cattle barn, and no auxiliary heat provided in winter. Hay was stored on the second floor, which had low head room. The cattle were housed and fed in wood pens on the ground floor. The large octagonal section of the barn was used to show and sell cattle and was fitted with bleachers for the attendees of the auctions.

Later owners included:

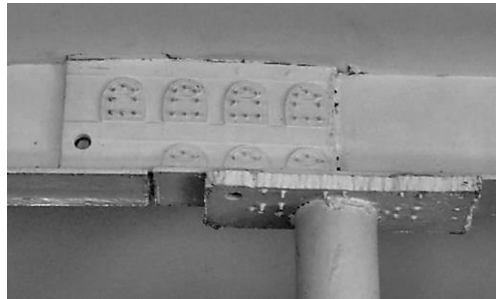
Mower Lumber Company	June 3, 1952
Dorothy H. Mower	August 31, 1960
John R., Edna B. Curtler	December 21, 1962
Claymont Investment Corporation	June 23, 1969
J. Glenn Brown, Marjorie C. Brown	April 1, 1972

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

PHOTO GALLERY – 1943 - 1952



Octagon Roof Truss details



O'Sullivan Rubber metal shoe molds used to weld beams to columns

O'Sullivan Farms Hereford Sale

By O. K. QUIVEY, Manager Agricultural Development

THE homes of the Washingtons in Jefferson County, W. Va., with their colonial loveliness restored and now collectively known as O'Sullivan Farms, were hosts to Herefordism on November 12 and 13, the occasion of O'Sullivan Farms' First Annual Hereford Sale.

By means of brochure, sale catalog, *The Jefferson Republican*, magazine articles, etc., knowledge of the Washington homes' restoration had become known far and wide, causing many persons to anticipate a visit to "Claymont Court," "Blakely," "Locust Hill," "Happy Retreat," "Sulgrave" and "Tuscawilla," colonial homes of the brothers and nephews of George Washington.

The gathering of the Hereford clan brought more than 400 dinner guests to "Claymont Court" on the pre-sale evening of November 12. A delicious buffet dinner was served by "Claymont's" hosts, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Funkhouser.

Sale day, November 13, brought additional visitors from the four corners of the country, 23 states being represented, with Hereford breeders present from such distant points as New York, Tennessee, Colorado and Texas.

Their native beauty, combined with such modern farm facilities, made O'Sullivan Farms the envy of all. Particularly impressive were the gigantic Fitting Stable

and Sales Barn with its arena and its capacity for seating several thousand people.

Starting promptly at one o'clock, the sale progressed rapidly under the hammer of Messrs. Thompson and Shaw, sale auctioneers, and by five o'clock that afternoon O'Sullivan Farms had sold 61 cows, heifers and bulls at a general average of \$630 per head, the top female bringing \$4,900 and the top bull \$1,900.

The Beef Cattle Show Window of Southern Indiana

By RUSSELL L. COLE, Agricultural Agent Indianapolis, Ind.

SINCE its inception in 1937, the Indiana Gold Medal Beef Calf Club's enrollment had grown from a mere 500 members to a record 2,700 in 1946. Organized by

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



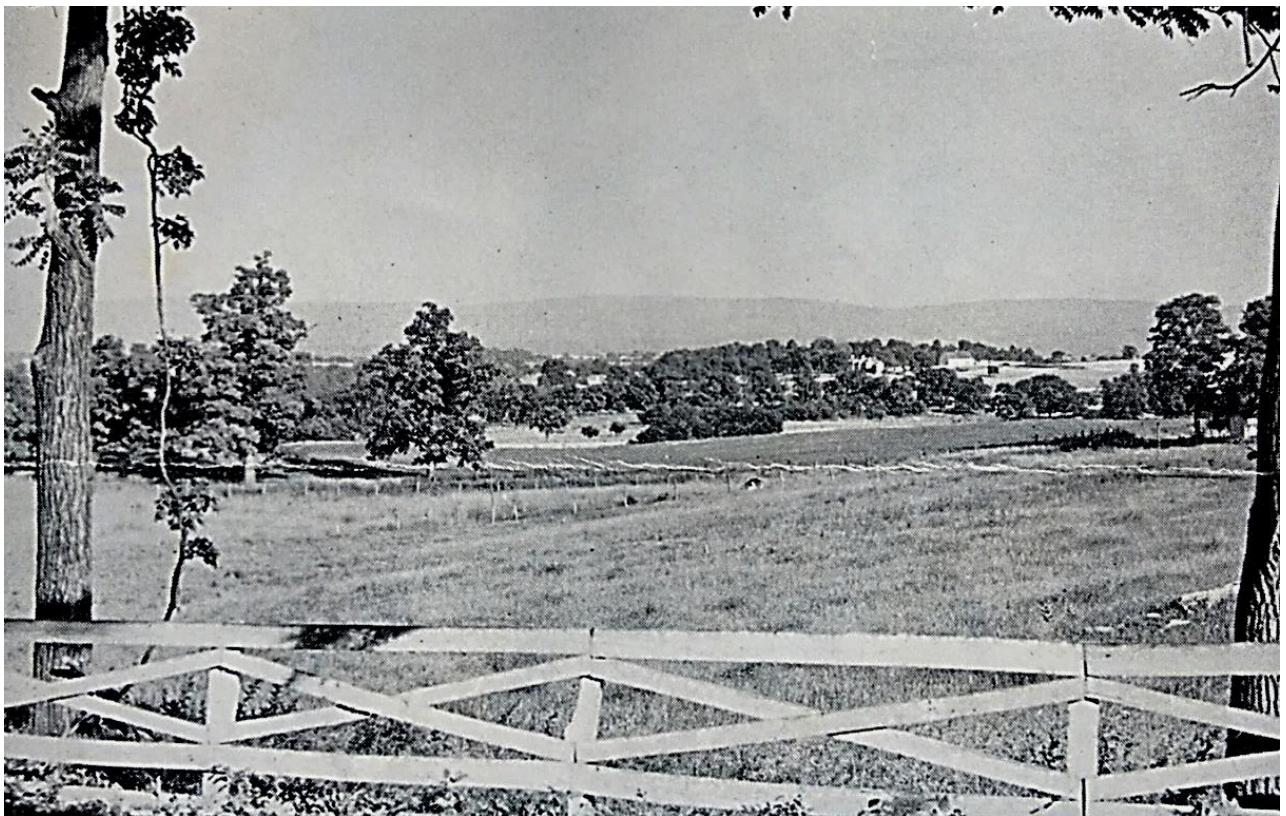
A SMALL PORTION of the sales crowd that enjoyed the comfort of the huge O'Sullivan Farms sales pavillion



ONE OF THE O'SULLIVAN SALE OFFERINGS, a Hereford mother with calf at foot

O'Sullivan Farms' First Annual Hereford Sale held in the Otogan in 1946. From the B & O Magazine 1947.

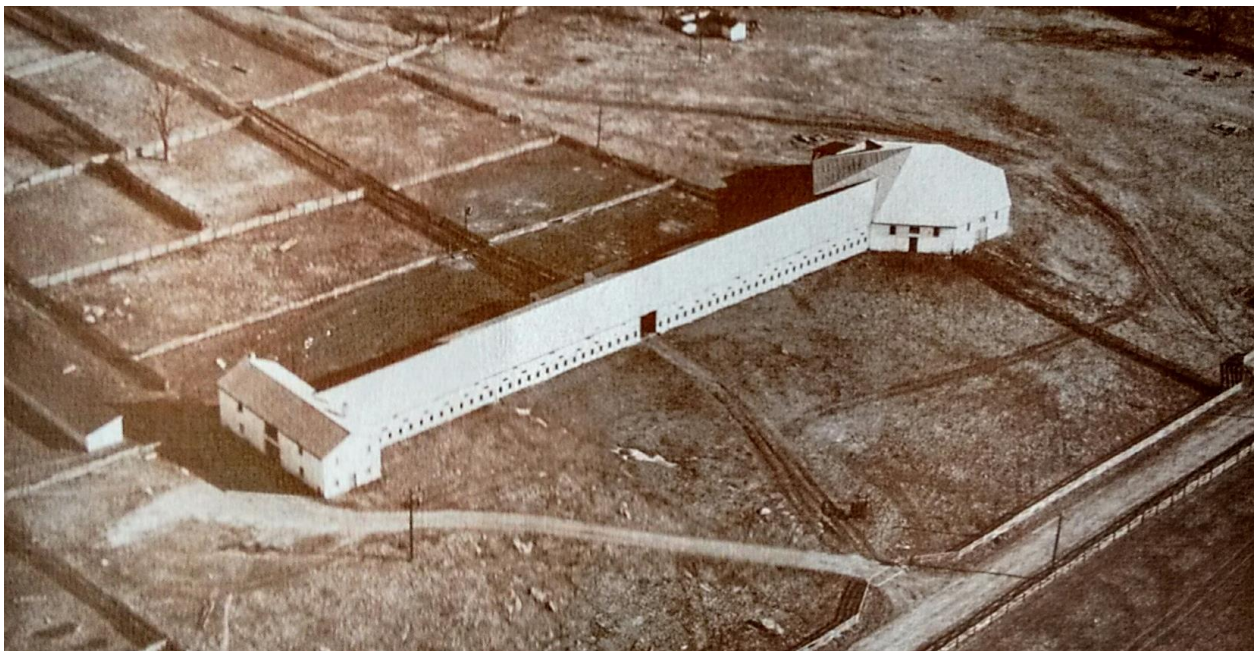
The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



O'Sullivan Farms pasture and Hereford herd

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

PHOTO GALLERY – 1960s



THE CLAYMONT SOCIETY FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION



The Claymont Society for Continuous Education bought the Claymont property on February 1, 1975. One of the aims of the Claymont Society was to provide educational courses and seminars, based on the ideas of John G. Bennett. Mr. Bennett envisioned converting the barn into a residential school for 90 students to attend 9-month courses, similar to the courses he held at Sherborne House in England from 1971 to 1975.

Mr. Bennett described the Claymont property in a talk he gave in London in November 1974, after he returned from visiting Claymont Court” *...An even more useful feature of the purposes of the society is a vast barn and auxiliary buildings 420 ft. in length and including an octagonal theatre 107 feet across that was erected for showing and selling cattle at auction. This is to be converted into living quarters, lecture rooms, studios and theatre for the Candidates’ course”.*

The PROPECTUS of the Claymont Society School for Continuous Education – 1974; provides additional information on Claymont and the Claymont School. *“...The property comprises 418 acres of land and buildings. It is situated in the fertile and picturesque Shenandoah Valley, Jefferson County, West Virginia within four miles of Charles Town and twelve miles from Harpers’ Ferry, one of the historical landmarks of the U.S.A. It is readily accessible from Washington (58 miles), Baltimore (62 miles), Philadelphia, New York and Pittsburgh. Dulles International Airport is within forty minutes by car.*

The mansion was originally built by Bushrod Corbin Washington, Great Nephew of George Washington, in 1820. It was later rebuilt along its present lines about 1838. It is a fine example of late colonial architecture with a large ballroom, six reception rooms with extensive bed and bathrooms. The house has two wings to be used for dormitories. There are three additional houses together with very extensive outbuildings. One of these is a hexagonal show barn with 100-foot diameters, which is to be converted for gymnastic and theatrical purposes...”

EXTRACTS FROM TALKS BY J.G. BENNETT

“A Call for a New Society” Sherborne House, London November 1974

“Announces the creation of a new society, sponsored by The Institute of Comparative Study of History, Philosophy and the Sciences, Ltd., of London, England., the Claymont Society for Continuous Education is being incorporated in the State of West Virginia... The task will be to create, within three to five years, a fully integrated society, the members of which will be committed to self-perfecting and to service to Nature and their fellow men. To meet the needs of the present crisis in human affairs, the Claymont Society will make itself largely self-sufficient in the provision of food, shelter, clothing and other necessities of life. It will do so partly by intensive food production and partly by the adoption of a system of diet that enables the requirements of the human organism to be satisfied with the minimum consumption of foodstuffs in short supply such as animal protein.

The property comprises 481 acres of land and buildings, all of which can be used for the purposes of the society. It is situated in the fertile and picturesque Shenandoah Valley, Jefferson County, West Virginia within four miles of Charles Town and twelve miles from Harpers Ferry, one of the historical landmarks of the USA. It is readily accessible from Washington (58 miles), Baltimore (62 miles), Philadelphia, New York, and Pittsburgh. Dulles International Airport is within forty minutes by car.

The mansion built in 1838 is a fine example of late colonial architecture with a very large ballroom, six reception rooms, eleven bedrooms and seven bathrooms. The house has two servants' wings capable of housing twenty to thirty people. There are also extensive outbuildings and three tenant houses in good repair.

An even more useful feature of the purposes of the society is a vast barn and auxiliary buildings 420 ft. in length and including an octagonal theatre 107 feet across that was erected for showing and selling cattle at auction. This is to be converted into living quarters, lecture rooms, studios and theatre for the Candidates' course.

The geological formation is a dense grey limestone that outcrops in many places. The land is partly arable and grazing and partly woodland. With ample labor available it can produce enough food for a community of 1,000 people. There are two springs on the property producing more than five hundred million gallons a year, enough to supply a town of 10,000 inhabitants. The water comes from the limestone formation and is hard, pure and suitable for all purposes. Very extensive vegetable production can be assured by irrigation. Forty-eight acres of land have been zoned and registered for fairly dense occupation to give over a hundred private dwellings.

There are, at present, no planning regulations in Jefferson County and we shall be free to undertake any kind of activity, educational, agricultural or small-scale engineering that is permitted by our own charter...”

PROSPECTUS
of the
Claymont Society
School for Continuous Education



Sponsored by

**THE INSTITUTE FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND THE SCIENCES LTD.**

**PROSPECTUS
OF THE
CLAYMONT SOCIETY SCHOOL FOR CONTINUOUS
EDUCATION**

Layout is being developed at Windfall

**Sponsored by
The Institute for the Comparative Study
of History, Philosophy, and the Sciences Ltd.**

**PROSPECTUS OF
THE CLAYMONT SOCIETY
SCHOOL FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION**

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

This prospectus is for those of all ages who care sufficiently for the future -their own and that of mankind -to contemplate spending sufficient time to train and equip themselves to live more fully and work more effectively in the critical years ahead. It is addressed especially to those who have already searched and looked for new experiences and a new way of life and have failed to find the essential 'know-how' without which every good undertaking flounders on the rocks of un-practicality and wishful thinking. In short, it is for those who are tired of being told what to do without being shown how they are to do it.

The Courses at the Society are the product of many years of research into the techniques of transformation. By this, we mean the realization of the potential latent in human beings for self-perfecting in body, mind and spirit. These researches have drawn upon methods used in many parts of the world including the principal religious and spiritual movements of East and West.

Those who are already convinced that transformation is possible and know that nothing else gives meaning to life are in search of methods of achieving it that really work. Those who are aware that there is something terribly wrong with the way human life on this earth is going -and especially their own lives -are looking for a way out. The school has something to offer them and all those who feel the need to help their fellow men and know that they must first help themselves.

BACKGROUND

The School of The Claymont Society for Continuous Education represents only one phase of the activities conducted at Claymont Court. However, this activity is basic and fundamental to all other activities. The school program is based on many years of research into the techniques of human development by The Institute for the Comparative Study of History, Philosophy and the Sciences Ltd. established in 1946. The Institute has demonstrated the successful culmination of its efforts over the past four years at The International Academy for Continuous Education at Sherborne Glos. in England involving approximately 100 students each year for a ten-month program.

The starting point of the institute's researches was Gurdjieff's System for the Harmonious Development of Man. This system is based upon a total concept of man and his destiny and is remarkable for the balance between sensory-motor, emotional, intellectual and interpersonal techniques introduced by Gurdjieff and adapted by him to meet the needs of modern man. During the twenty-five years of its existence, the Institute has very thoroughly tested a wide range of techniques derived from modern psychology, behavioral science, eastern Christianity, Hindu Yoga, Buddhism and Sufism. It has specially studied the methods of the Sufi Masters of Central Asia known as the Khwajagan, who flourished between the tenth and fifteenth centuries. Their

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

techniques gave evidence of a profound understanding of human nature and most of them are as applicable to the requirements of total self-education today as they were five hundred years ago.

The Institute has also conducted research into the integration of human knowledge. The search for a satisfying picture of man and the world led to the publication of J.G. Bennett's *Dramatic Universe* and *a Spiritual Psychology*.

In its researches, the Institute has endeavored to keep a realistic balance between the methods and modes of thought of Eastern and Western schools. To an increasing extent in recent years, it has devoted special attention to group dynamics. Its members and staff have gained valuable experience in the arts, education, science, commerce and industry. Experiments have also been made to determine the optimum duration of training to achieve an all-round development of the average man or woman. It has been concluded that with hard well-planned work, a properly balanced course can give reliable and permanent benefits. The Society Courses have been planned accordingly.

CLAYMONT COURT

The property comprises 418 acres of land and buildings. It is situated in the fertile and picturesque Shenandoah Valley, Jefferson County, West Virginia within four miles of Charles Town and twelve miles from Harpers' Ferry, one of the historical landmarks of the U.S.A. It is readily accessible from Washington (58 miles), Baltimore (62 miles), Philadelphia, New York and Pittsburgh. Dulles International Airport is within forty minutes by car.

The mansion was originally built by Bushrod Corbin Washington, Great Nephew of George Washington, in 1820. It was later rebuilt along its present lines about 1838. It is a fine example of late colonial architecture with a very large ballroom, six reception rooms with extensive bed and bathrooms. The house has two wings to be used for dormitories. There are three additional houses together with very extensive outbuildings. One of these is a hexagonal show barn with 100-foot diameters, which is to be converted for gymnastic and theatrical purposes.

SCHOOL COURSES

The early Spring and Summer Courses consist of 9 weeks each and are selected portions of the 9-month Basic Course.

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

COURSE SCHEDULES

Students may enroll for any of the following courses:

Early spring 9 Weeks' Course - March 29 to May 31, 1975.

Summer 9 Weeks' Course - June 7 to August 9, 1975.

9 Months' Basic Course - August 30 to May 8, 1975

Students are required to undergo preliminary tests and to be strong and healthy. The tests are non-academic and designed mainly to facilitate allocation to appropriate working groups, but it is emphasized that the course makes considerable demands - mental, physical and emotional - upon the students. The lower age limit is 18 and there is no upper limit. The anticipated average age of students is 32. Each 9-week course consists of 30-50 students. The 9-month course will consist of 80-100 students.

Claymont Court School works as a self-contained unit with the minimum distinction between students, teaching staff and administration. All share in the work of the house and all take their turn in filling executive responsibilities. There is a three-day cycle. One group each day is responsible for the entire running of the house, while the other two groups are engaged in practical work and studies. In principle, 'everyone does everything.' People of all races, religions and social attitudes are accepted on an equal basis. The final decision as to admission rests with the principal whose sole concern is to satisfy himself that the candidate understands what he or she is coming for and is truly committed to see it through. One must bring a strong commitment. Though there are no religious affiliations, it is to be understood that the Society is fundamentally committed to a spiritual attitude toward life.

This attitude is to be understood objectively. It is easy to have a subjective attitude that consists in "believing" that there is a spiritual reality and that various phenomena attest to it. An objective spiritual attitude is one that accepts that a spiritual action is as real as a material action and even more necessary for our well-being. The spiritual action is intelligent and pervasive, but it works within unperceived by the senses except in its results. We can experience this action in ourselves when we have learned to respond to it. Without it our own efforts of self-perfecting can give very little fruit.

PROGRAM

The daily schedule begins at 6 a.m. All students and staff share in spiritual exercises until breakfast at 7:30. These exercises are a graduated series for developing finer perceptions and states of consciousness. These are mainly drawn from the Gurdjieff method, but they include Sufi, Buddhist and Yoga exercises, as well as others

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

specially developed and tested by J.G. Bennett. After breakfast 4-5 hours are devoted to practical working involving the acquisition of a wide variety of skills: cooking, bread making, carpentry, stonework, house painting, electrical and plumbing, gardening, animal and vegetable husbandry, dressmaking, house cleaning and repairs and special skills to meet special needs. All learn these skills irrespective of age or sex.

From 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., with breaks for lunch and tea, the two groups not on house duty attend classes. Everyone works at the Gurdjieff sacred gymnastics, psychology, art, history and cosmology. There are also special courses, some conducted by the Society School staff, some by visiting tutors which pay special attention to Intermediate Technology and ecology.

Personal counseling is given by the Principal and the Director of studies. In the latter part of the course students are given personal programs corresponding to their needs and potentialities.

Before dinner, the Principal, or his Assistant, reads and interprets the writings of Gurdjieff, and other works from the Masters of Wisdom. After dinner, in the early months, there are classes in sacred gymnastics. Later, the students are introduced to advanced meditation. Special methods such as fasting, days of complete silence, role-reversal and all-night vigils are used for particular purposes when the students are ready for them.

The program is designed to achieve a balance of bodily, mental and emotional functions and to awaken latent spiritual perceptions. The aim is to make the whole of life significant. Every necessary activity, however trivial, can be turned to account for developing attention, the control of energy and a balance between the inner and outer life. The course is planned so that students can make use of all activities, including enjoyment of the pleasures of life for the realization of this full potential.

A most important -perhaps the most important -feature of the entire course is a series of graduated 'decision exercises' for developing the will. The 'will' in man is his own, his true self. It is unconditioned and unlimited in its potential: but it is largely neglected and allowed to remain dormant. This neglect is the cause of most of the drab mechanicalness of modern life. The change in students, who carry through the 'decision exercises' successfully is the best evidence of the need for work in this field. So far as we are aware, these techniques have not previously been used in the West.

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

STAFF

The Principal and Director of Studies, Pierre Elliot has over 25 years' experience in the method of G.I. Gurdjieff and is especially recognized for his personal contributions to the fields of sacred gymnastics, spiritual psychology and scientific abstract art. He also demonstrates spiritual exercises in which all members of the course participate.

Saul Kuchinsky the Director of Intermediate Technology has many years of experience in senior industrial management involving scientific and human resources. He joined with J.G. Bennett in the pragmatic application of the basic structures of Systematics to creating new products and organizing group energies. He will conduct courses in Symbolic Systematics which demonstrate the laws of world maintenance and world creativity in terms of intermediate technology projects.

All other members of the Staff who have teaching responsibilities have had many years of experience in the methods of G.I. Gurdjieff and other spiritual teachings and were personally guided and instructed by Mr. John Godolphin Bennett, who for 25 years has been the Director of Research at the Institute and co-editor of the journal SYSTEMATICS. He is well known as an exponent of the systems of George Gurdjieff, the Shivapuri Baba, Subud and other Eastern and Western systems for the development of man. He is the author of THE DRAMATIC UNIVERSE, A SPIRITUAL PSYCHOLOGY, and many other books and articles on man and his place in the natural and supernatural worlds. He is also a linguist and has travelled in most parts of the world and has worked with many of the spiritual leaders of our times. He is responsible for planning all Courses and appointing of the teaching Staff.

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

Inquiries should be made to.

Until March 1, 1975.

The Registrar - c/o Mr. & Mrs. M. Blum, Box 238 Asbury, New Jersey 08802

201-689-1385

After March 1, 1975.

The Registrar - Claymont Court, P.O. Box Jefferson County, Charles Town, West Virginia

The letter should state the candidate's background and interests. If, prima facie, he or she appears suitable, an application form is sent, and the candidate is entered provisionally. He must then satisfy the Principal, or his Assistant, of the seriousness of his intentions and his ability to pay the fees. If the candidate can go to Claymont Court,

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, London (Sherborne), Paris, Cologne, Istanbul or New Delhi, he is interviewed by a representative of the Society. Failing this, he or she must obtain recommendations or give a full account of his or her reasons for wishing to take part in the course.

Fees including tuition, board and lodging for the Courses are as follows:

Spring 9 Weeks: 3/29 – 5/31/1975.

Dormitory Accommodation - \$725

Room shared by 4 or less - \$900.

Private Room - \$1,100

Family: father, mother and children by arrangement

Summer 9 Weeks: 6/7 – 8/8/1975.

Dormitory Accommodation - \$800

Room shared by 4 or less - \$1,000.

Private Room - \$1,200

Family: father, mother and children by arrangement

9 Mos. Course: 8/30/1975 – 5/8/1976.

Dormitory Accommodation - \$2,600

Room shared by 4 or less - \$3,200.

Private Room - \$3,800

Family: father, mother and children by arrangement

Fees are payable in full in advance or upon arrival. The Principal strongly advises candidates to earn as much of the cost of the course as possible by their own efforts. This is the best preparation and puts the candidate into rapport with the spirit of the Courses.

WEEK-END SEMINARS AND

MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES

These short courses are open to members of the Society and friends. These are held 5 or 6 times a year and particulars may be obtained from the Registrar.

LONG-TERM AIMS

The long-term aims of the Society are to develop into a 'Fourth Way School' and to demonstrate that a viable social structure can be founded upon the principle of continuous education. Claymont Court is large enough and has sufficiently varied resources to enable a model society to be established embodying all the main activities required for self-sufficiency and a harmonious and creative life.

The term 'Fourth Way School' was used by Gurdjieff to distinguish the type of society we are creating at Claymont. It has also been called by Bennett in his *DRAMATIC UNIVERSE*, A Psychokinetic Society, to indicate that its members believe in human perfectibility. A school of the Fourth Way exists solely to carry out an allotted task and to train people for this purpose. The task at Claymont is to demonstrate that viable, permanent societies can be organized and work on the principle of continuous education. The central aim will be to demonstrate that a predominantly food producing, and intermediate technology-oriented society can enjoy fully satisfying conditions of life on all planes: physical, intellectual and spiritual.

A. Training of Candidates

All who wish to form part of the permanent community will be required to pass through a training period. Teacher-specialists will be available both for general instruction and for private teaching. The Candidates will learn all the basic skills required in a self-sufficient community.

The purpose of the course is to help Candidates in their work of self-perfecting, to give them confidence in the reality of the spiritual world and to train them to become specialists able to teach others and to serve Nature. Once trained, Candidates can either return to ordinary life or go on to gain the experience required to undertake the responsibilities of specialists.

It must be emphasized that the course demands hard work, discipline and the readiness to sacrifice comforts and prejudices. Those who apply for admission are carefully examined to test the sincerity of their commitment.

B. Specialists

Specialists are required to direct the technical work of the society. They must combine special skill in their chosen line of activity with a thorough grasp of the method and the ability to use it to instruct others. Specialists include:

i) Administrators and Accountants.

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

- ii) Teachers in the school. The teaching includes Gurdjieff's sacred dances, psychological and spiritual exercises, the study of man and societies, contact with Nature.
- iii) Practical skills, domestic, horticulture, agricultural, construction and maintenance.
- iv) Arts and crafts, including music, drama, spinning, weaving and pottery.
- v) Health, diet, medicine and physiotherapy.

Specialists are not only highly trained but must set an example of self-discipline. Their membership of the community implies that they are committed to their own self-perfection.

C. Research and Development

Fourth Way Schools are geared to the needs of the time and place of their activity. They look at the present and future and are ready to put away traditional ideas and methods if they no longer fit the needs of the time.

At this time, we need new forms of society that will be infinitely more flexible than the large institutions that are trying to run the world. The society of the future is likely to be less dependent upon large organizations to produce and distribute the necessities of life and will produce for itself nearly all it consumes. This will create a demand for a new intermediate technology making use of the know-how of modern industry but applying it to small-scale operations. Dr. Schumacher has put forward plans for intermediate technology suitable for communities of the size that is right for a complete Fourth Way School, and we already have small teams of workers engaged on projects for alternative sources of energy. Other projects include the production of clothing and furniture efficiently without requiring large installations.

The Research and Development projects will include ecological and environmental studies. The projects to be undertaken will be chosen with regard to their potential value to other communities and to the improvement of village life in developing countries. Candidates with scientific and engineering background will have the opportunity of specializing in a branch of Intermediate Technology that interests them.

D. Families

Claymont over the next three to five years is planned to support approximately a hundred families engaged in food production and intermediate technology. The main lines will include:

I. FOOD PRODUCTION - the aim would be to establish a balanced diet based mainly upon vegetable proteins. There will, therefore, be a relatively small number of cows and

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

sheep. It is hoped to apply new technologies such as Dr. Todd's "Culture of Algae" to supply a large fish farm. The community will produce and grind its own wheat. This activity being labor intensive will occupy a considerable proportion of the population.

11. INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY - devices for using alternative sources of energy for small scale production of furniture, fabrics and paper will be developed partly from our own research and partly from exchange with other societies.

III. COTTAGE INDUSTRIES - such as spinning, weaving, furniture making and also fine crafts.

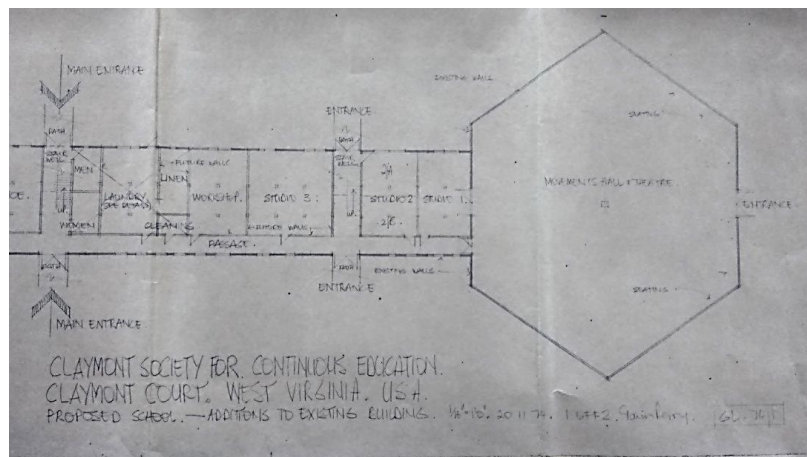
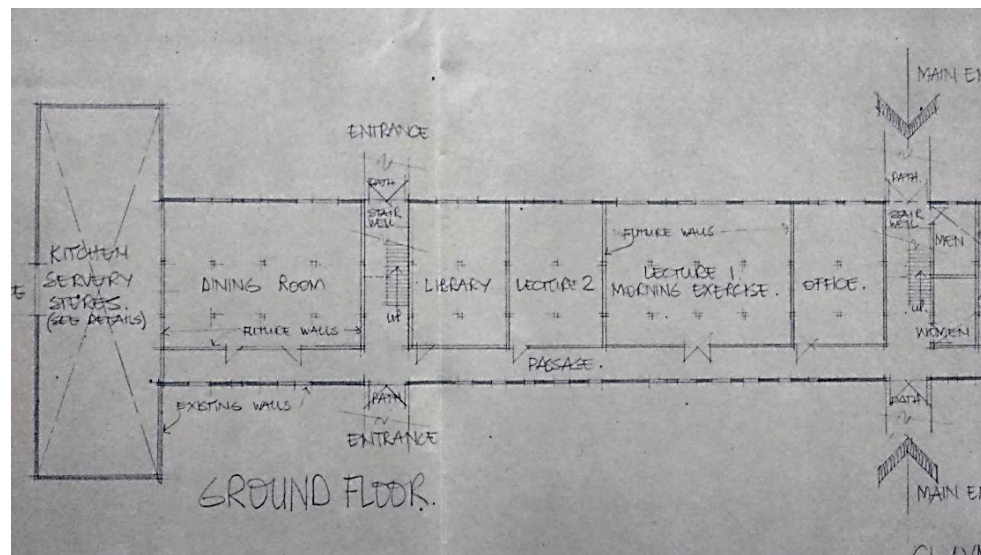
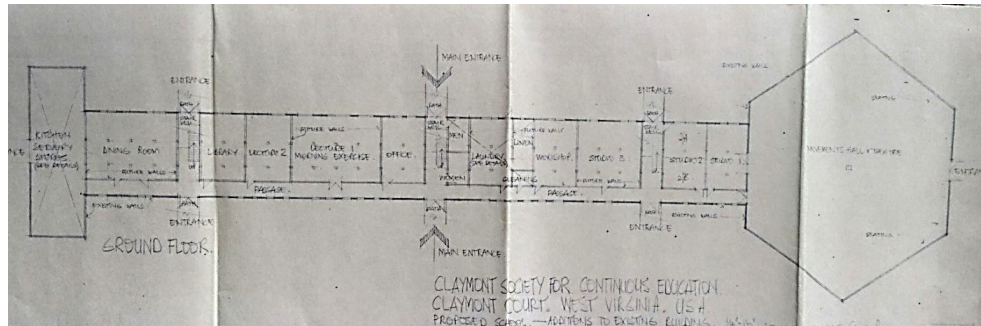
IV. PRINTING AND PUBLISHING - especially societies' own literature.

Members wishing to make their home at Claymont will be required to go through the Basic Course for Candidates and to be approved by the appropriate specialist as regards practical skill. They must be recommended by a counselor of the society at Claymont, Sherborne or elsewhere.

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

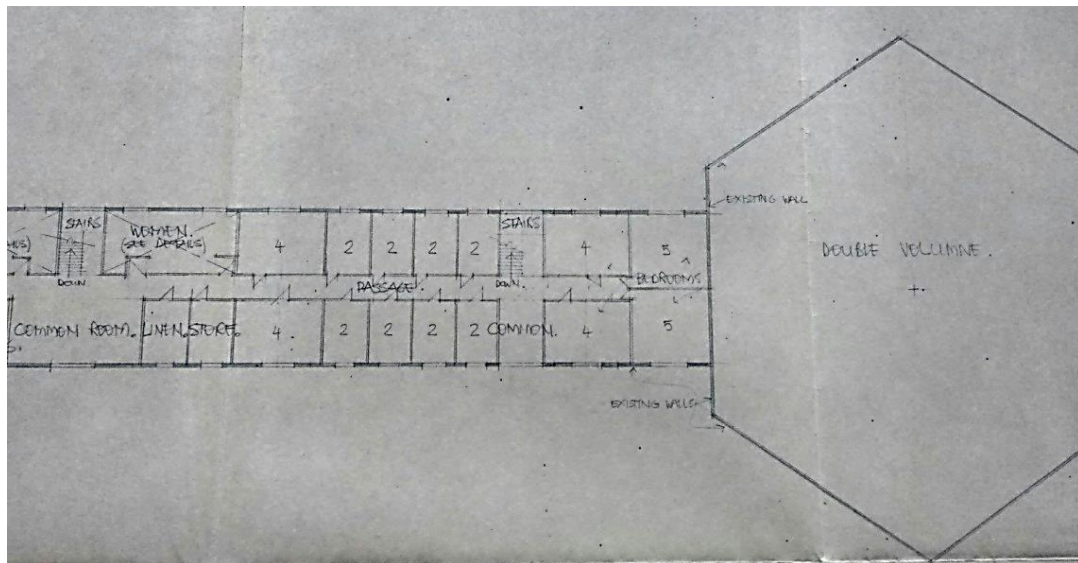
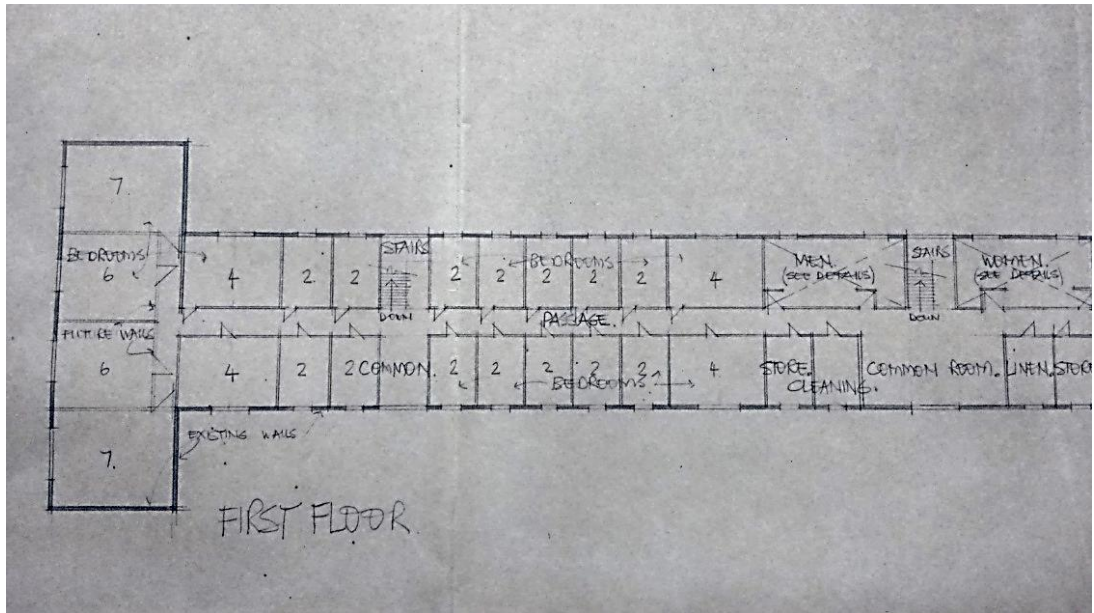
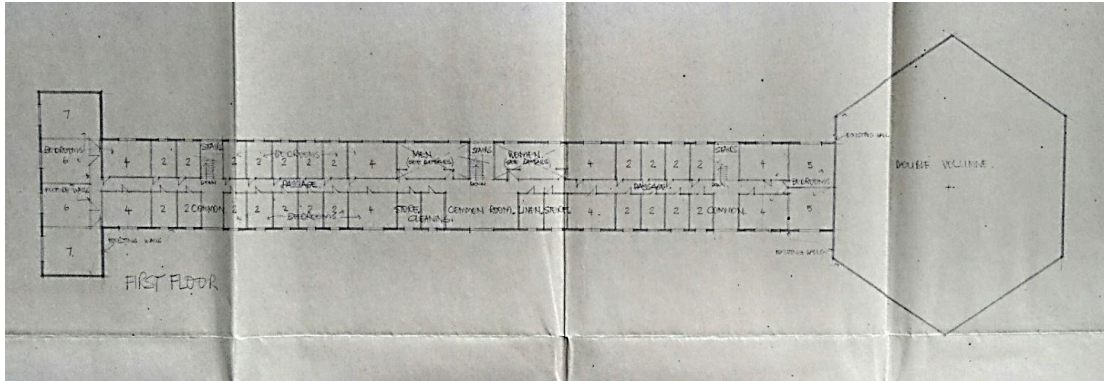
CONCEPT PLANS – NOVEMBER 1974.

Concept Plans based on Mr. Bennett's small hand drawn sketch showing the exterior dimensions and a hexagonal show area. The sketch did not show the roof or ceiling heights. Concept Plans were done at Sherborne House and reviewed by Mr. Bennett before he died on December 13, 1974.



First Floor

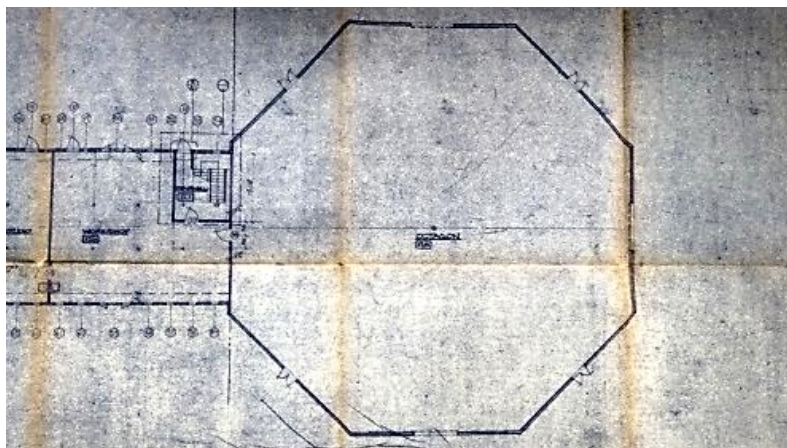
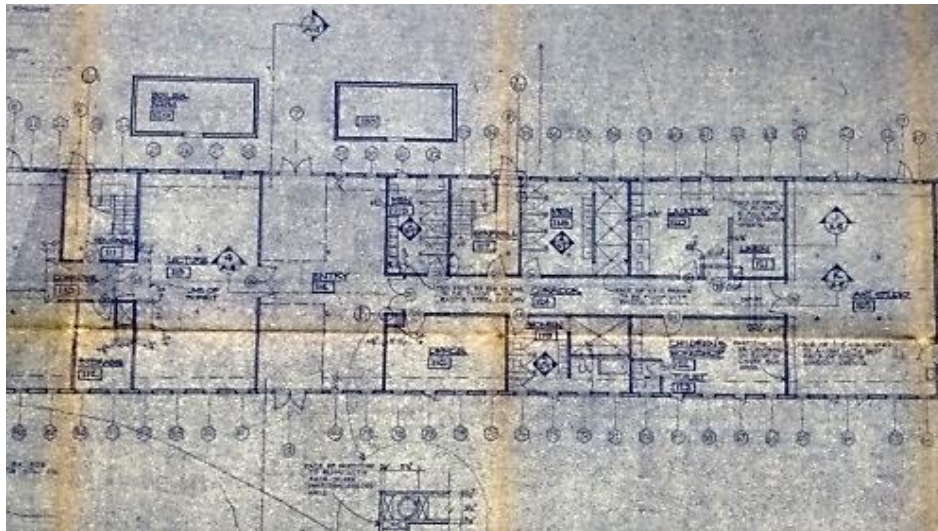
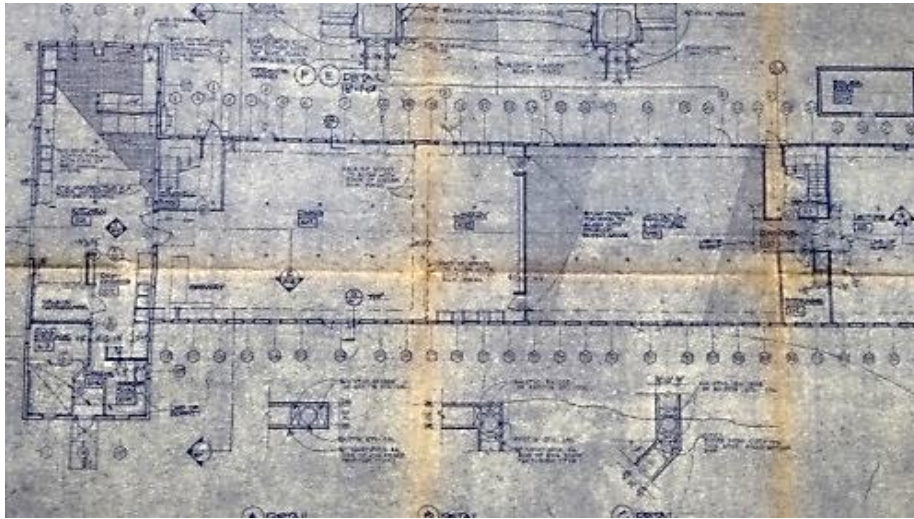
The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Second Floor

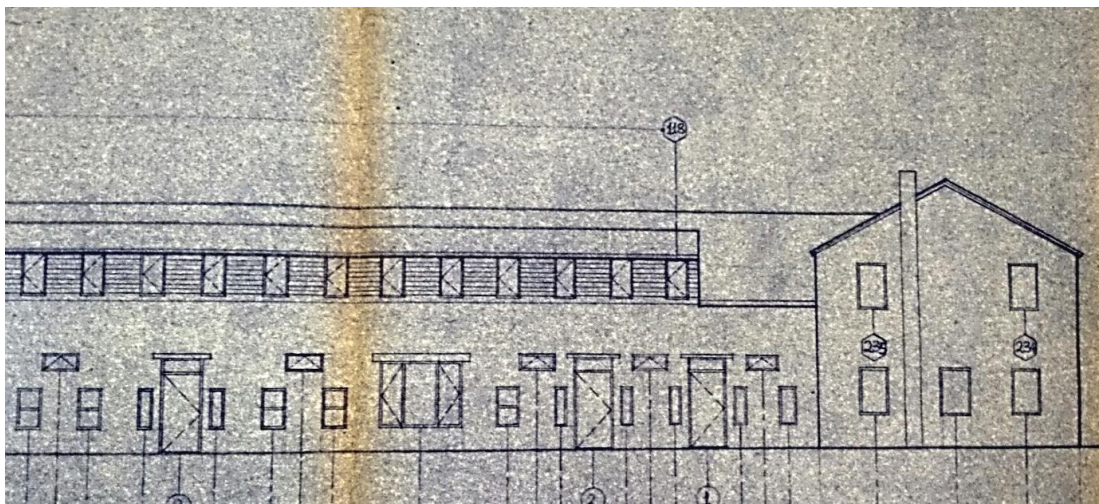
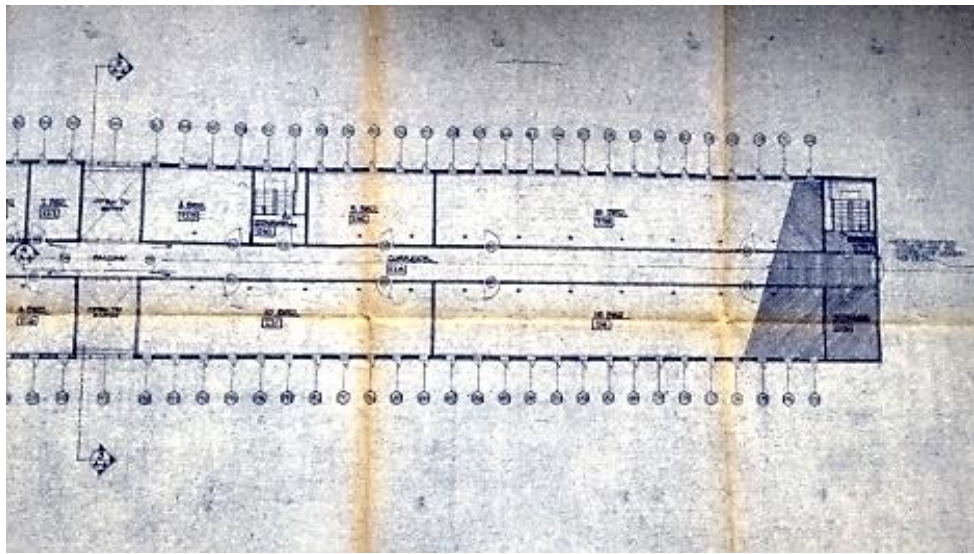
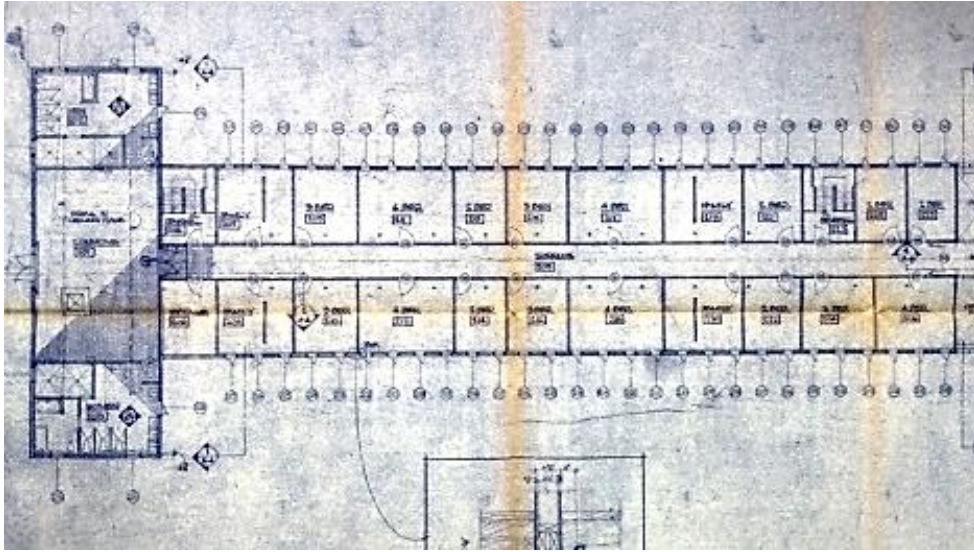
The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

WORKING DRAWINGS - MARCH 1975.



First Floor

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Second Floor

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING INTERIOR - 1975



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



THE BARN CONVERSION - 1975

In 1975 the barn was converted from a cattle barn to residential facilities for the Claymont Society's School for Continuous Education. Approximately fifty volunteers moved to Claymont, lived on the property, and worked on the construction project. Many worked full-time on the project, while others came for weekends or for longer periods. The majority were young men and women who had attended Mr. Bennett's Sherborne House courses in England or were members of his study groups in America. Most were unskilled in the construction trades. Construction started in March 1975 and the building was ready to be occupied by the First Basic Course which started on August 30, 1975, and finished on May 8, 1976.

The converted barn included bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, library, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, movements spaces, storage and utility facilities to accommodate 90 people living together for the nine-month courses.

The construction activities included:

Demolished and removed the cattle stalls, cattle paraphernalia, and accumulated debris.

Raised the roof in the central section on the first floor to provide adequate headroom.

Installed walls, ceilings, floors, doors and windows to create the required rooms.

Installed a fire detection and alarm system.

Installed a heating system.

Installed lighting system and lighting fixtures and switches.

Installed electrical distribution and outlets.

Installed septic sewage system.

Installed water distribution system and fixtures.

Installed commercial kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms.

Installed new floor materials to the ground and first floors.

Painted the interior and exterior of the building.

Built a covered concrete walk along the north side of the barn.

Installed windows and doors in the existing wall openings.

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

RAISING THE ROOF



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

EXTERIOR WALLS



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

FIRST FLOOR



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

SECOND FLOOR



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



CEILING

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

WATER, HEAT AND PLUMBING SYSTEMS



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

SPETIC TILE FIELD



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

KITCHEN GARDEN



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

PHOTO GALLERY - 1975



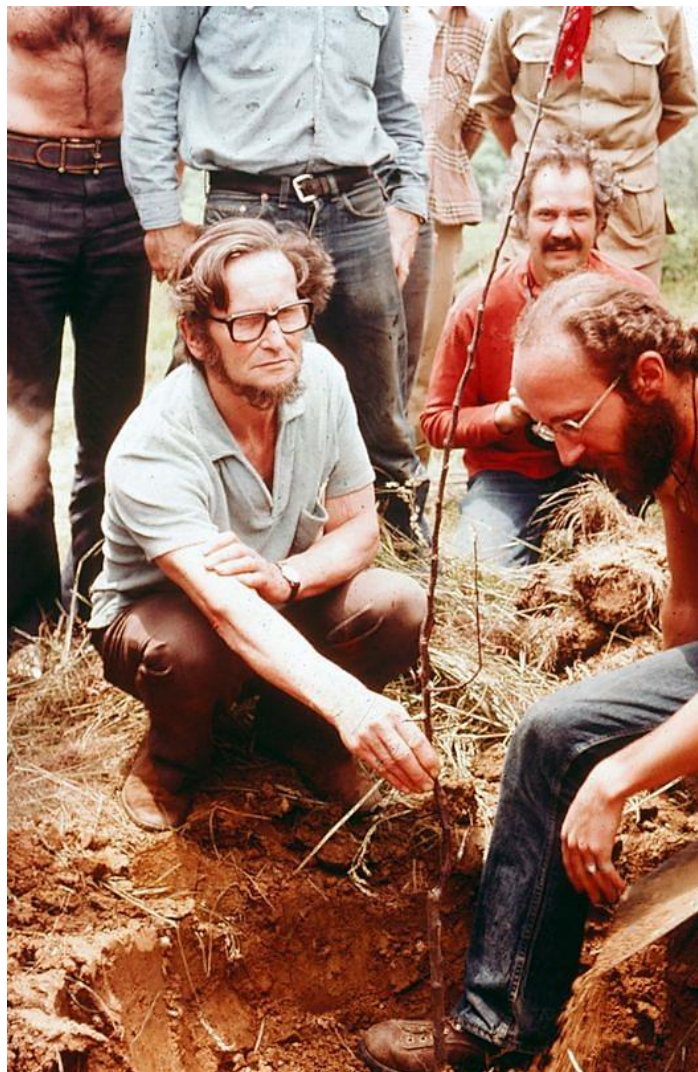
The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

PHOTO GALLERY - 2024



The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

EXTERIORS



South Elevation



South Elevation



North Elevation

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



North Elevation



East Elevation

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



West Elevation

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

INTERIORS



Entrance lobby

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Meeting room

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Dining room

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

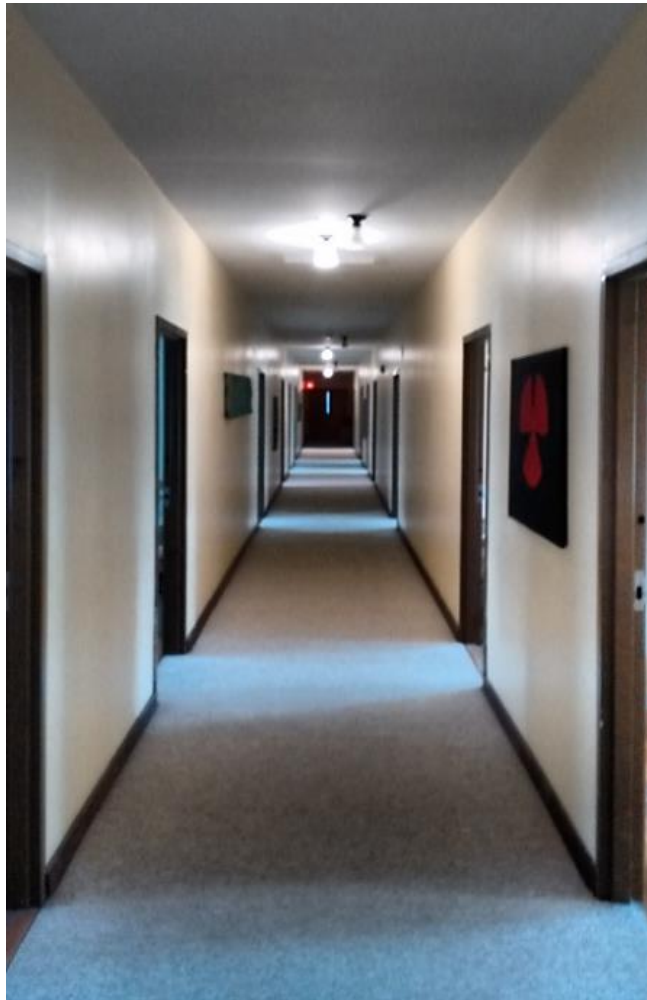


Crafts room.



Classroom

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Staircases and hallway

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Lounge



Bedrooms

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Bedrooms

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Octagon

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn



Kitchen

The Architectural History of the Claymont Great Barn

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Claymont Barn Concept Plans, 1974 by G.A. Perry. (Architect, third year Sherborne)

Claymont Barn Working Drawings, 1975 by Ken Brooks (Architect, John Allen group) and Allen Roth (Architect, first year Sherborne)

Baltimore and Ohio Magazine – January 1947

Photographs provided by G.A. Perry, B.J. Appelgren, R. Funkhouser, K. Funkhouser, the Claymont Society for Continuous Education, the J.G. Bennett Foundation, and the Jefferson County Museum. Claymont Court Sale Brochure by Roy Wheeler Realty Company, 1960s. Claymont Court Brochure, 1940s