



# History of the University of Rochester

Environmental Health & Safety Presentation

August 15, 2024

#### University of Rochester 1850-2024



November 1, 1850, classes begin in a rented hotel on West Main Street.

November 1861, Anderson Hall opens on the new Prince Street Campus



1900 Women admitted





1921-1922 Eastman School & Theatre





1930 River Campus for Men 1955 Men and Women Campuses Merge





Martin Brewer Anderson 1853-1888



David Jayne Hill 1888-1896



Alan Valentine 1935-1950



W. Allen Wallis 1962-1975









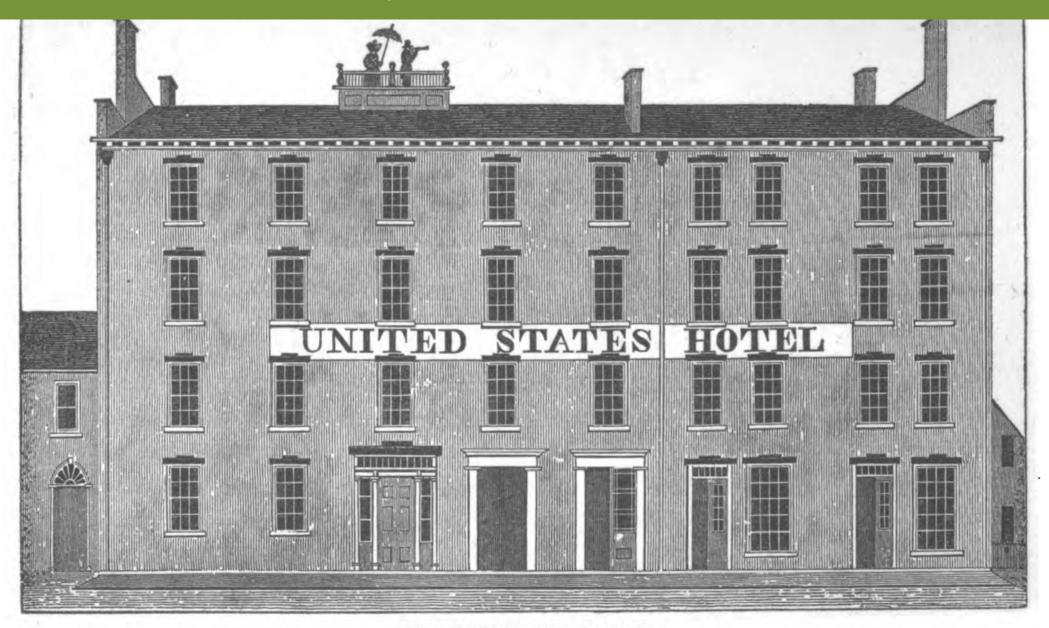








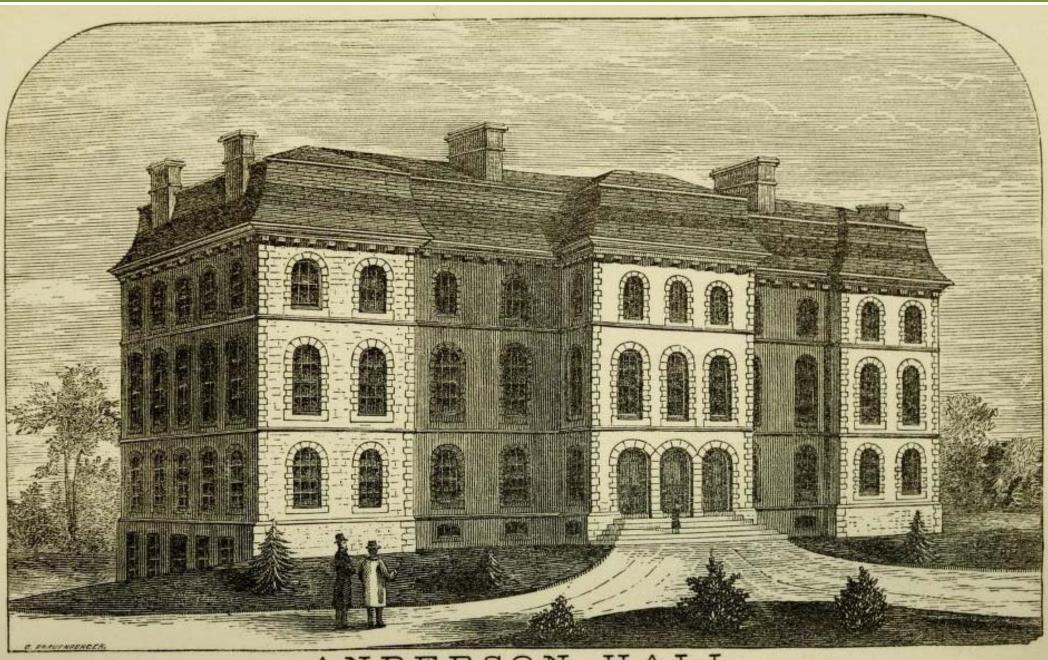
#### University of Rochester 1850



UNITED STATES HOTEL.

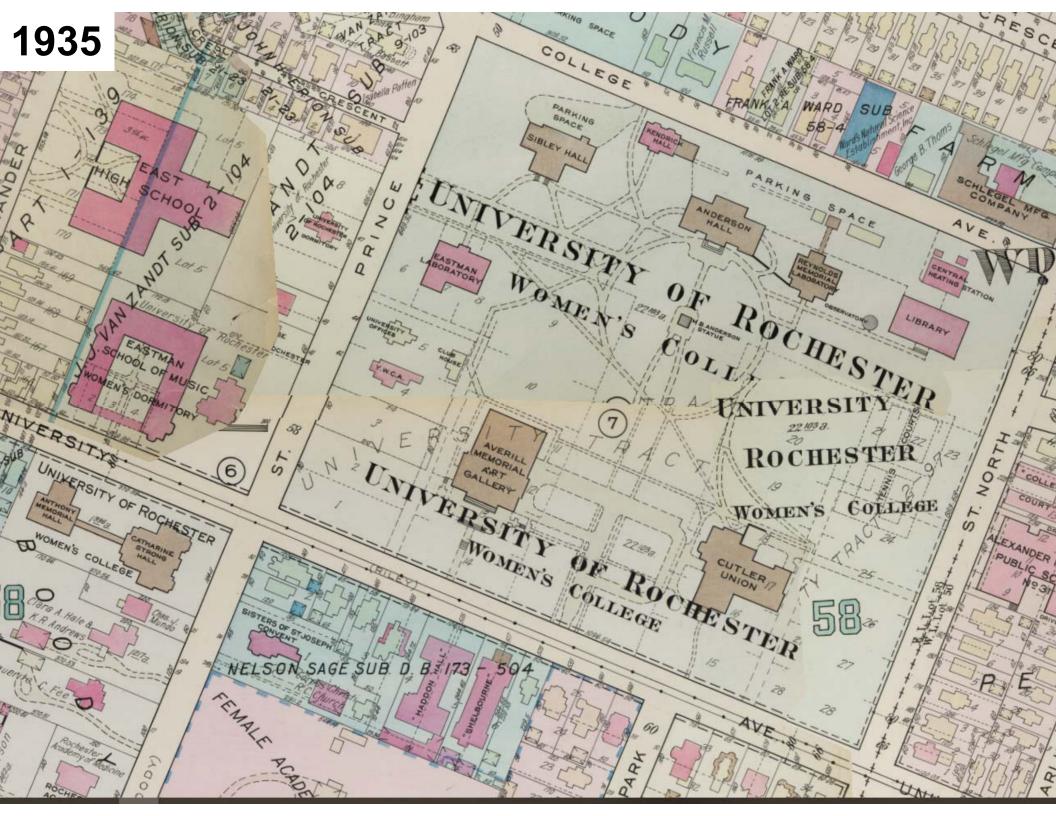
Kept by George Gates. The Tonnewanta Railroad termination and the junction of the Erie and Genesee Valley Canals are close to this Hotel. Built of brick and stone, with a wing extending to the rear.

# University of Rochester 1861

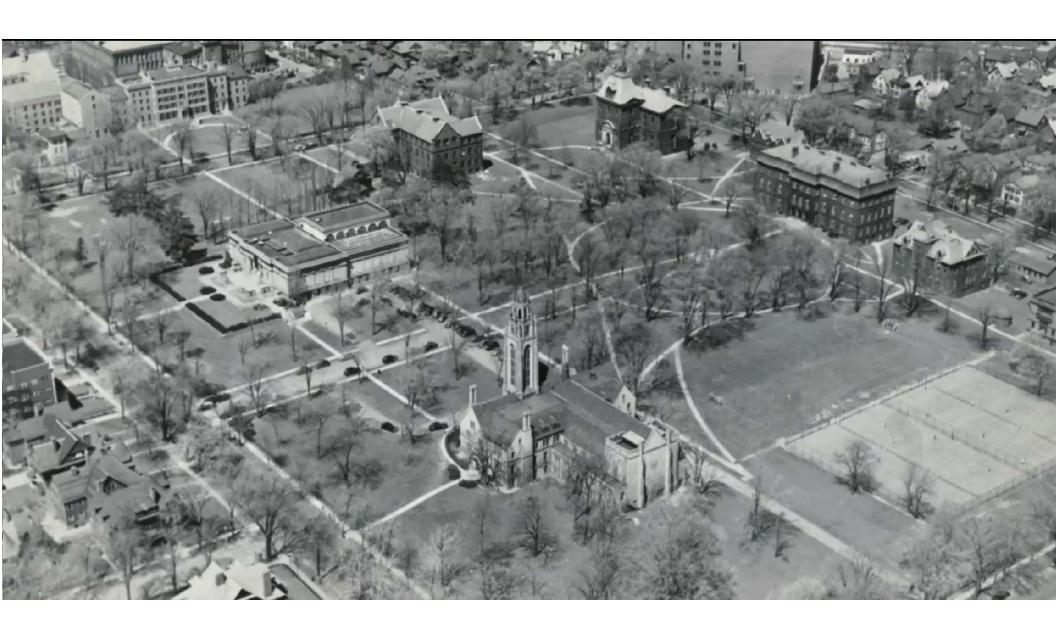


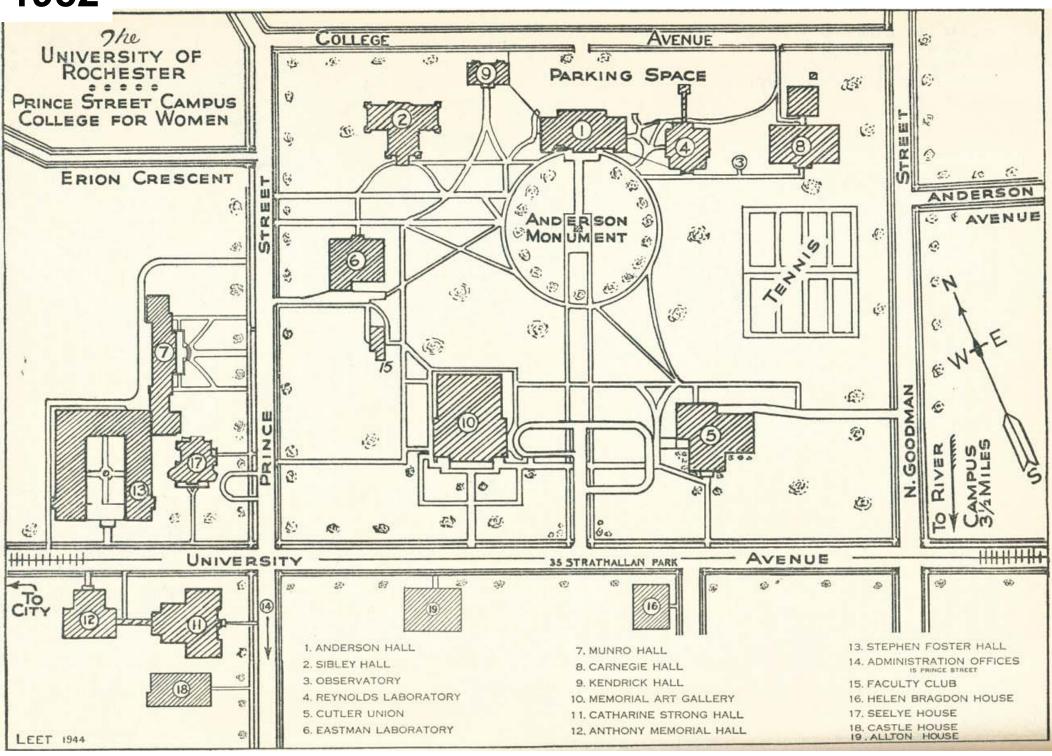
ANDERSON HALL.





# Prince Street Campus around 1950





#### Samuel A. Lattimore

- Professor of Chemistry from 1867 to 1908 and acting President of the University from 1896 to 1898. Died in 1913.
- Lattimore Hall on River Campus is named for him.
- Very active in testing local water supplies, including a well that supplied water to the River Campus and the development of Rochester's 1876 water supply from Hemlock Lake.



# Missing Information

- Although the University's records are very complete, no mention has been found about dry closets or outhouses before piped water supply and sewers arrived in the last 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Students (who were all men until 1900)
   boarded with local families although some lived in fraternity houses around the campus.
- The first dorm was built on campus in 1913 and housed twenty-four men.

#### Eastman School of Music

- Donated by George Eastman, he paid for a new building was opened in 1921 in downtown Rochester.
- The school attracted a large number of out-oftown women, who scrambled to find suitable lodgings.
- A new dormitory for women was opened in 1925, this was sold to the city in 1991 and became part of the School of the Arts.

#### Medical Education

- Several medical colleges were established by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, but their value in training physicians was debatable.
- New York had 11 Medical Schools in 1910, when Abraham Flexner was commissioned by the Carnegie Foundation to study Medical Education in the United States.
- He found that most schools suffered from an overall lack of standards and quality, and recommended that new medical schools be established rather than try to fix the existing ones.

# MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

A REPORT TO

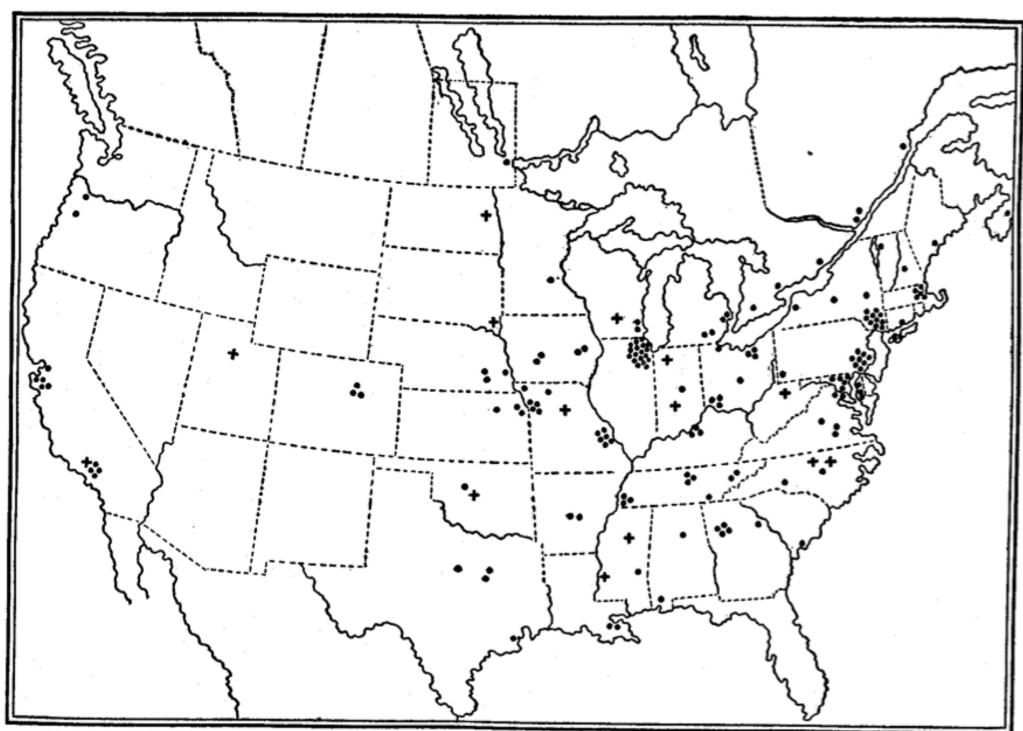
THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

BY
ABRAHAM FLEXNER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY HENRY S. PRITCHETT

PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION

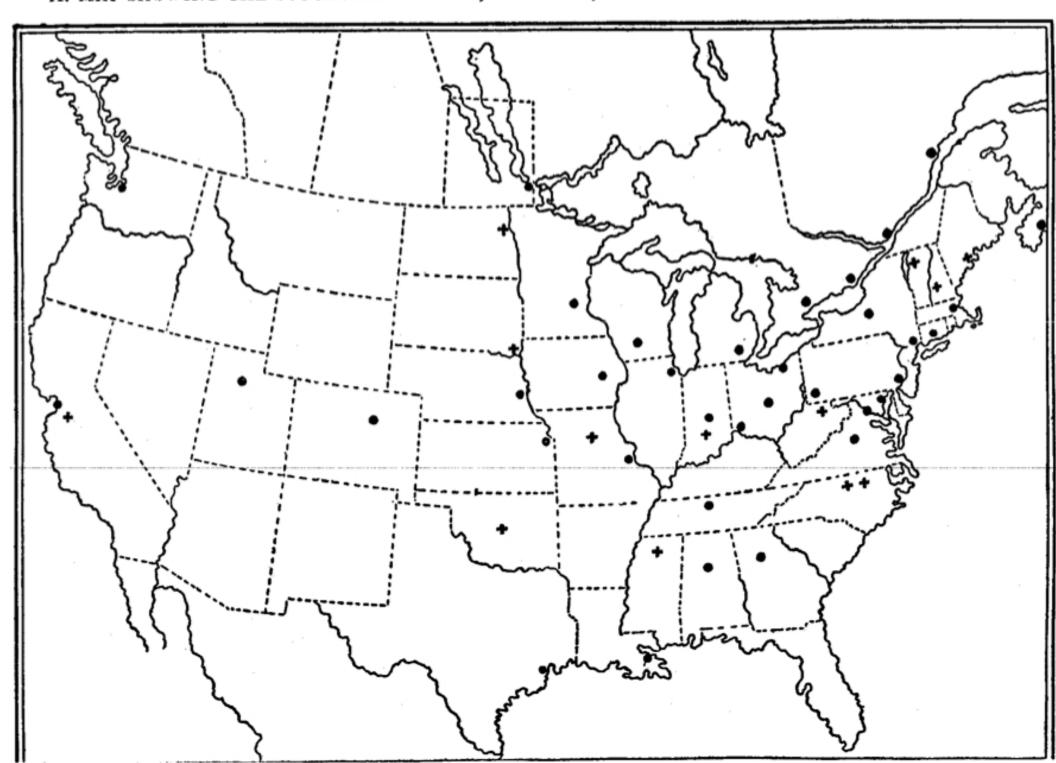
#### I. MAP SHOWING THE ACTUAL NUMBER, LOCATION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS



◆ Complete School.

+ Half-School.

Note. When two parts of a divided school are in close proximity to each other they are represented by one dot.

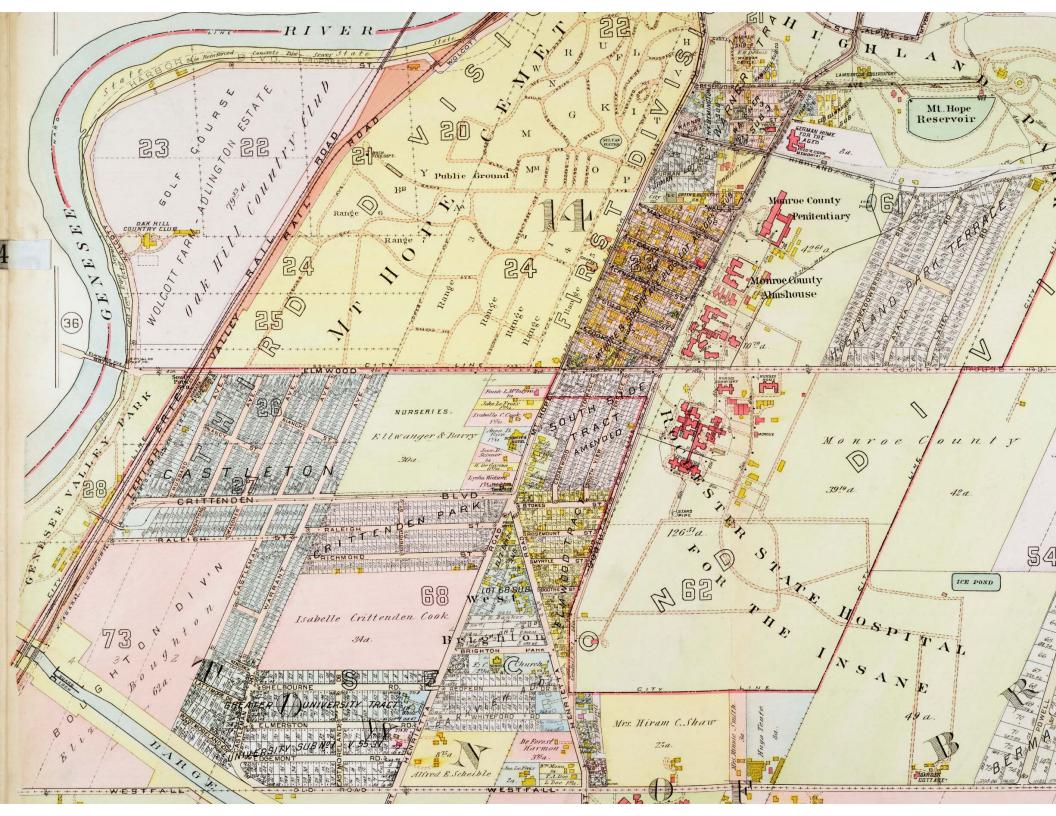


#### New Medical School

- In 1920 Abraham Flexner met with UR President Rush Rhees to propose that the University construct a new Medical School.
- Rhees suggested they meet with George Eastman, whose financial and political support would be necessary.
- Eastman agreed to provide \$4 million plus his existing Dental Dispensary if John D. Rockefeller's General Education Board would agree to donate another \$5 million.
- It was publicly announced on June 15, 1920.

# And a New Campus?

- It was clear that the existing campus on Prince Street was not large enough to house a new Medical School.
- Some University trustees had been exploring the idea of building a new campus when the new Medical Center was proposed.
- Ideally an adjacent property could be secured to house a new, larger academic campus.
- After exploring several options, the University selected adjoining sites on Elmwood Avenue, which was then "out in the country."



# Oak Hill Negotiations

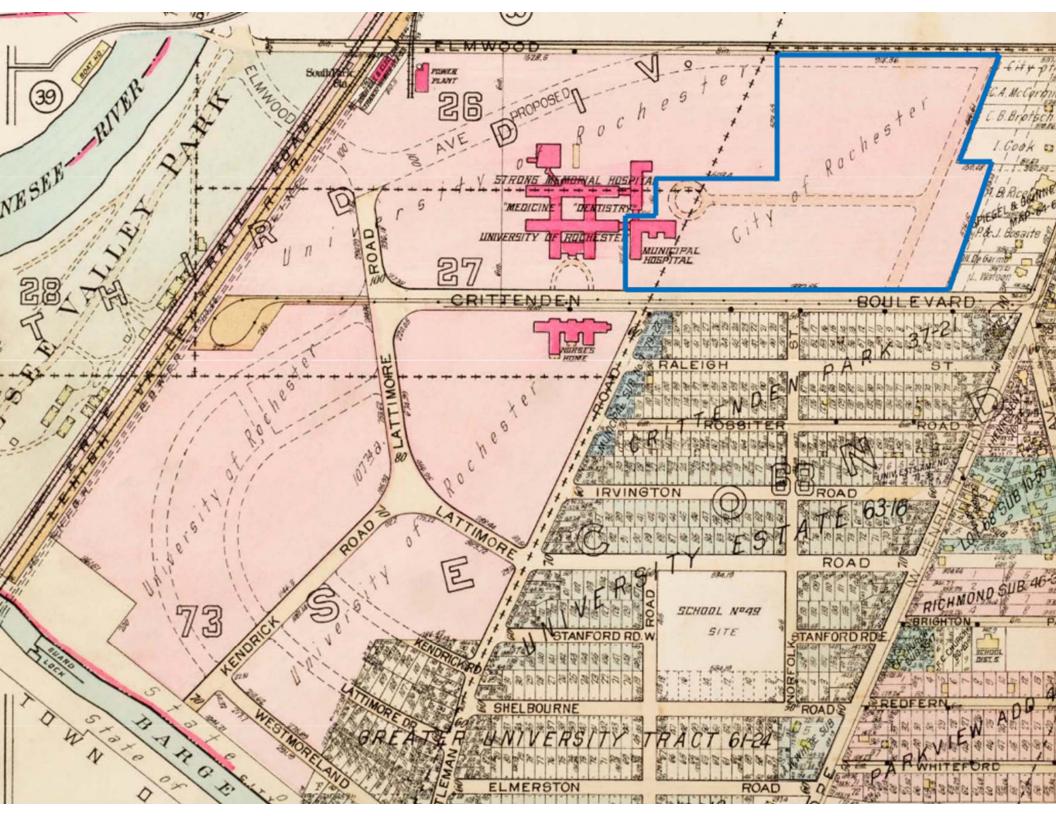
- The University wanted to build a new academic campus adjacent to the medical center and began a study of the Oak Hill site for a new campus in December 1921.
- On January 23, 1922, the golf club managers agreed to a transfer of property.
- The University then proceeded to purchase of 97 acres of land between Elmwood Avenue and the new Barge Canal for the new Medical Center in early 1922.

#### New Medical Center

- Planning for the medical center began quickly and the first building opened in December 1922 as a research building and medical library.
- The first seminar in the medical school was held on January 21, 1925 and Strong Memorial Hospital opened a year later.
- A 260-bed dormitory for nurses was built on the south side of Crittenden Boulevard and a staff house for 55 residents was built on the north side of the hospital.

# New Municipal Hospital

- The City of Rochester approached the University about co-locating a new Municipal Hospital adjacent to the University's new hospital.
- The city annexed the area in January 1923 and in April the University sold 26.5 acres to the City for a new Municipal Hospital.
- The City also agreed to reroute Elmwood and build an underpass beneath the two railroads.
- The city also opened Lattimore Road (later renamed Kendrick) and built a new bridge over the Genesee River.



#### George Eastman

- The founder of Eastman Kodak had substantial experience in building factories and was heavily involved in the design of the new medical center.
- He insisted that fire doors be installed every hundred feet along the long corridors and on two separate sources of water for fire protection.
- He also took particular interest in the safe design of the X-ray storage area.
- The corners in the stair towers were painted white to discourage spitting chewing tobacco.

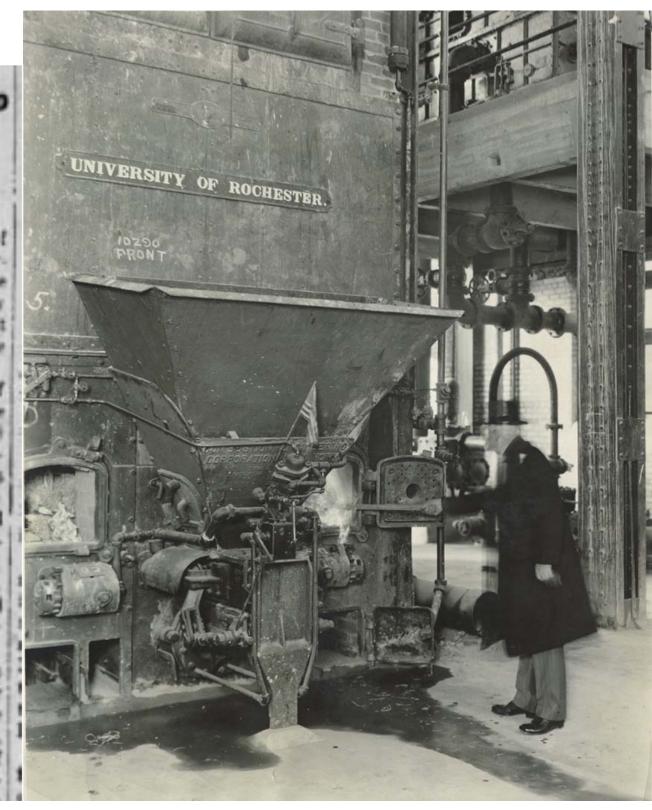
#### **November 10, 1924**

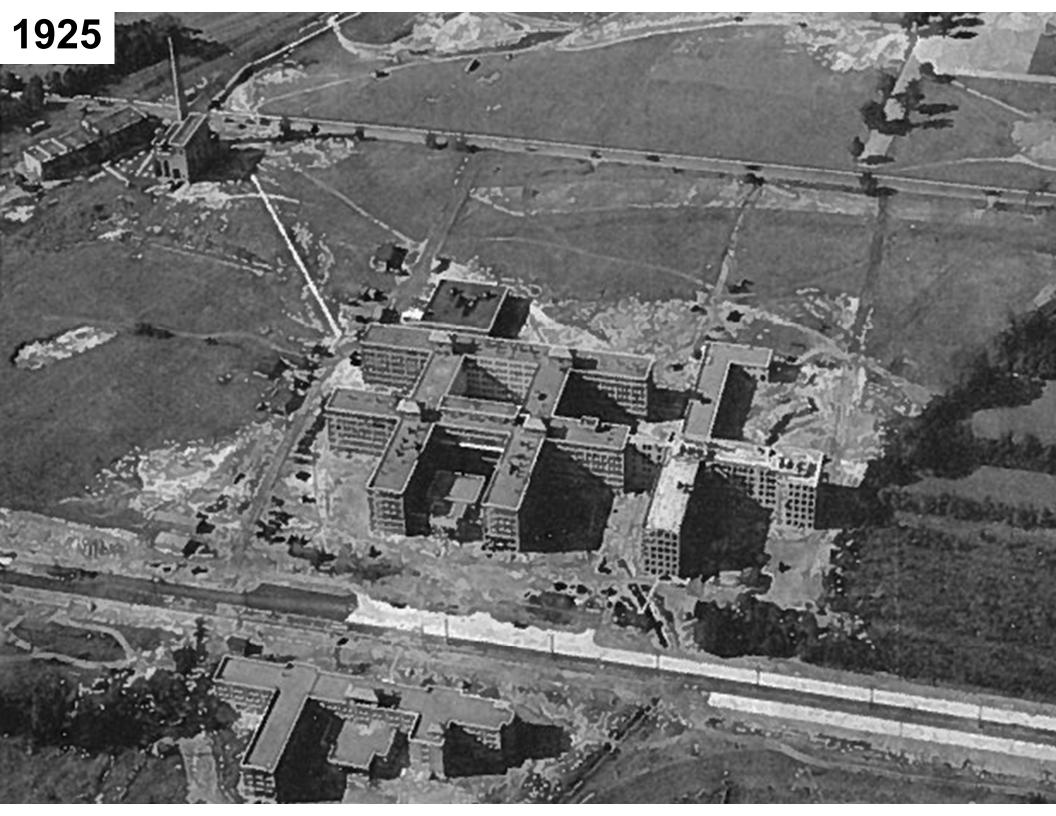
#### Dr. Rhees Applies Torch to Boiler Fuel in Presence of Small Group.

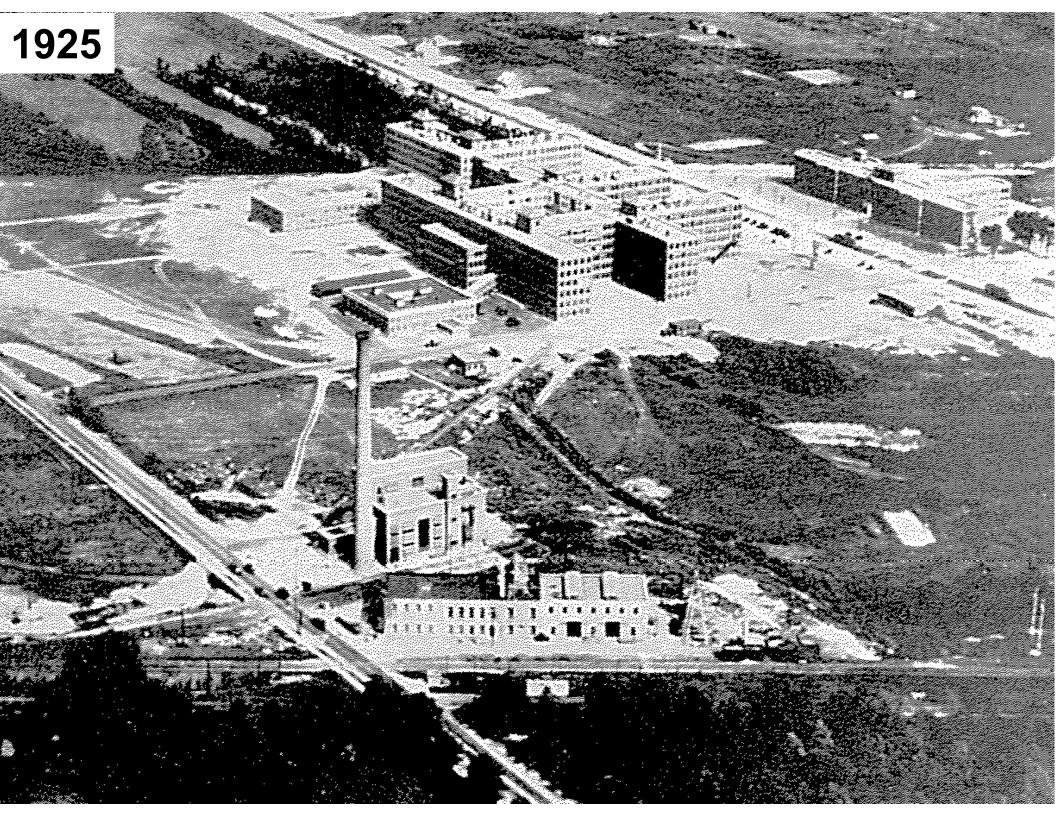
The power plant of the new School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester in Elawood avenue was the scene of an interesting ceremony yesterday afternoon, when permanent fires were started under one of the three large boilers.

In the presence of a small group of men. Dr. Rush Rhees, president of the University, applied a torch to the fuel in the fire boxes. A flashlight photograph of the ceremony was taken. In the group were Dr. George H. Whipple dean of the medical school; Dr. Nathaniel W. Faxon, director of the Strong Memorial Hospital; Raymond N. Ball treasurer of the University, and Allan S Croker, civil engineer, who supervised the installation of the plant for Gordon & Knelber, architects.

The power house is equipped with two 400 horse-power and one 200 hrose-power water tube boilers. These boilers are capable of carrying 200 per cent. loads, or 2,000 horse-power. The smallest of the three was placed in operation yes-

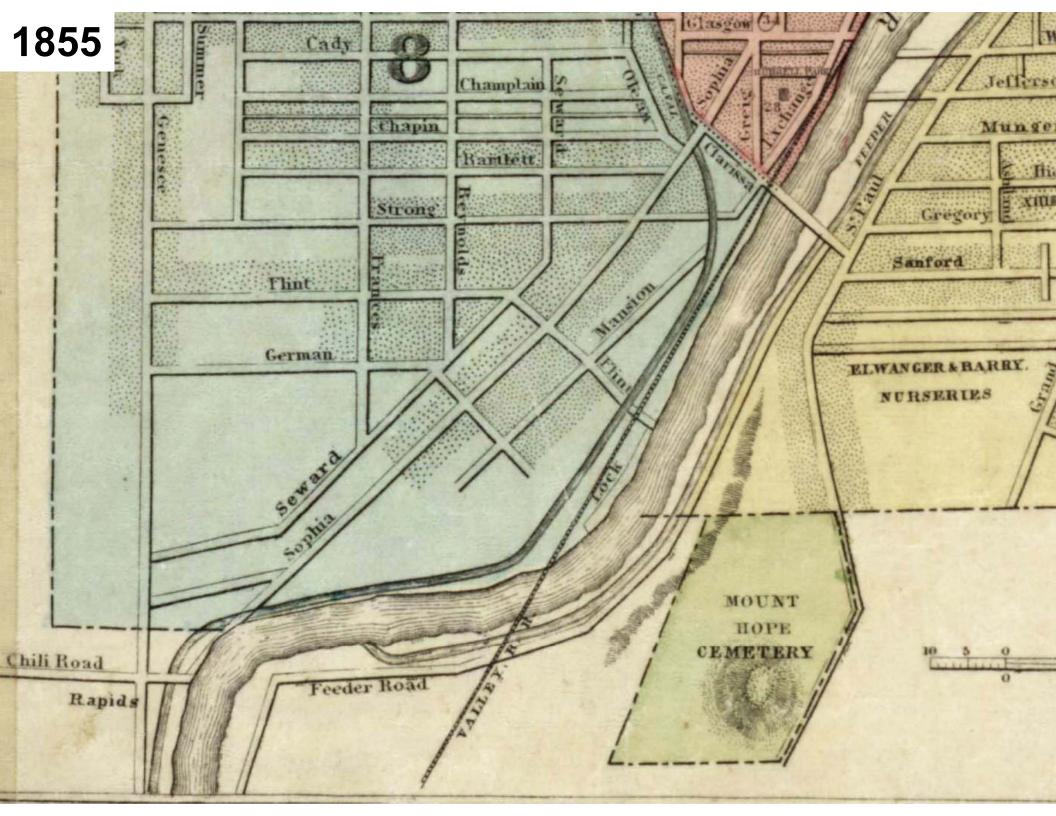






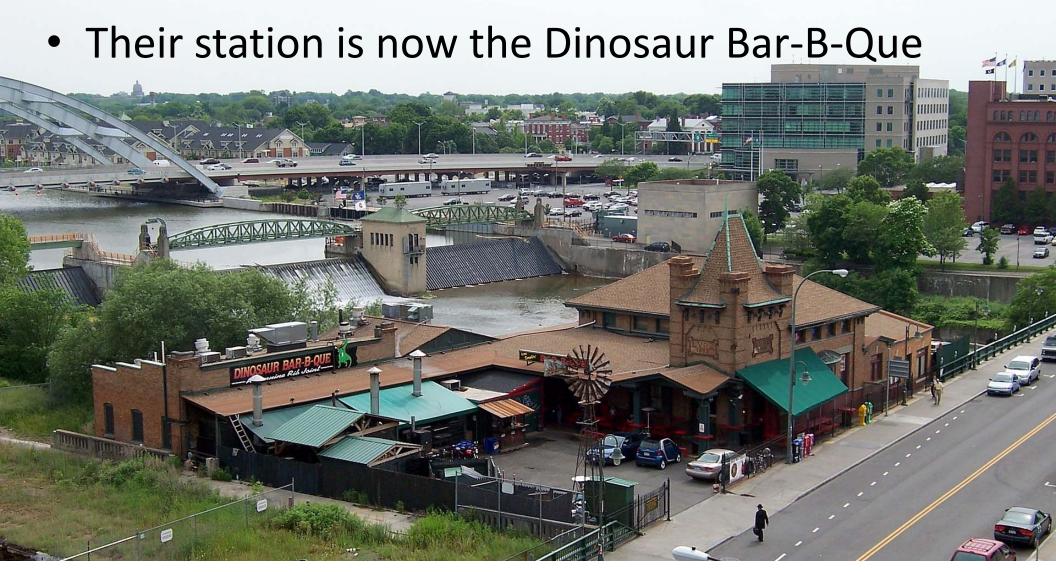
# Genesee Valley Railroad

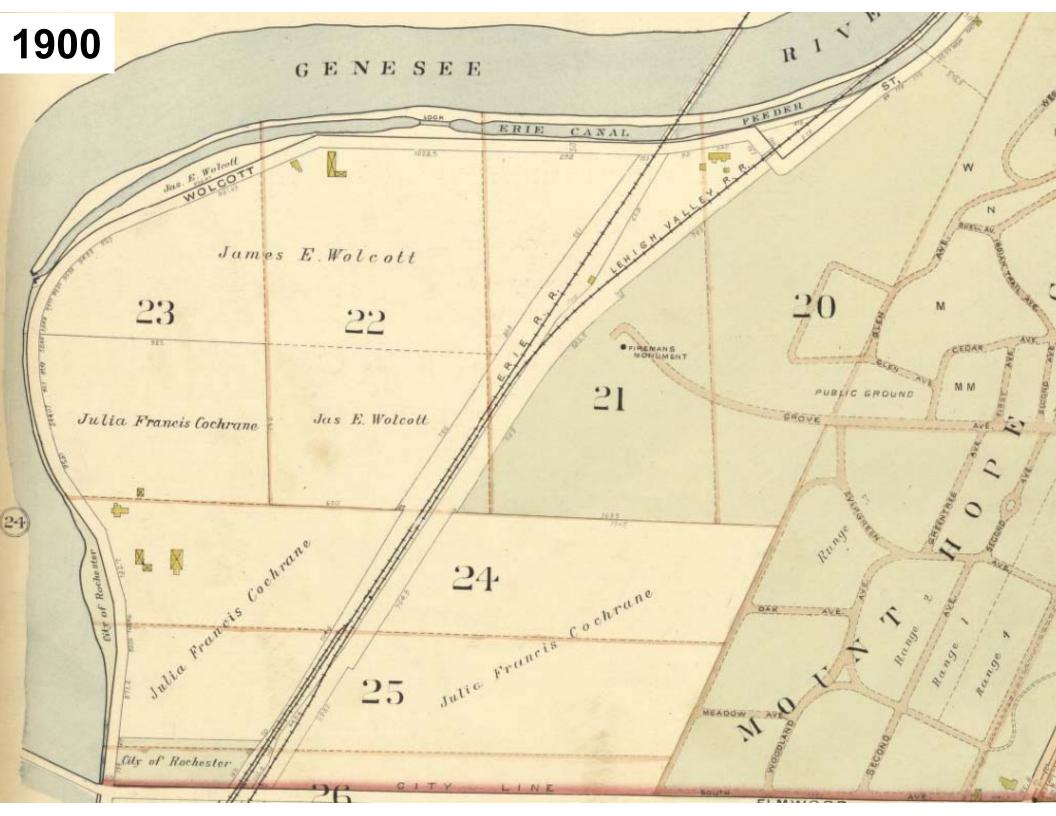
- The Genesee Valley Railroad entered
   Rochester in 1854 using a six-foot gauge, while
   most other railroads used 4 feet 8½ inches.
- The railroad passed through was became the River Campus.
- The railroad was leased by the Erie Railroad in 1856 and operated as a part of the Erie system
- On June 22, 1880, the entire trackage of the Erie was converted to standard gauge.



# 1892 Lehigh Valley Railroad

- Entered the city from the south through campus.
- Opened on September 1, 1892.







#### 



# Oak Hill Agreement

- In exchange for the existing 80-acre golf course, the University would:
  - Provide 345 acres of land in Pittsford for a new golf course, including the Spring House on Monroe Avenue which the club later sold.
  - Arrange for laying out and landscaping two 18hole golf courses.
  - Construct a new club house.
- The University's total commitment was \$360,000, which turned out to be very favorable to both parties.

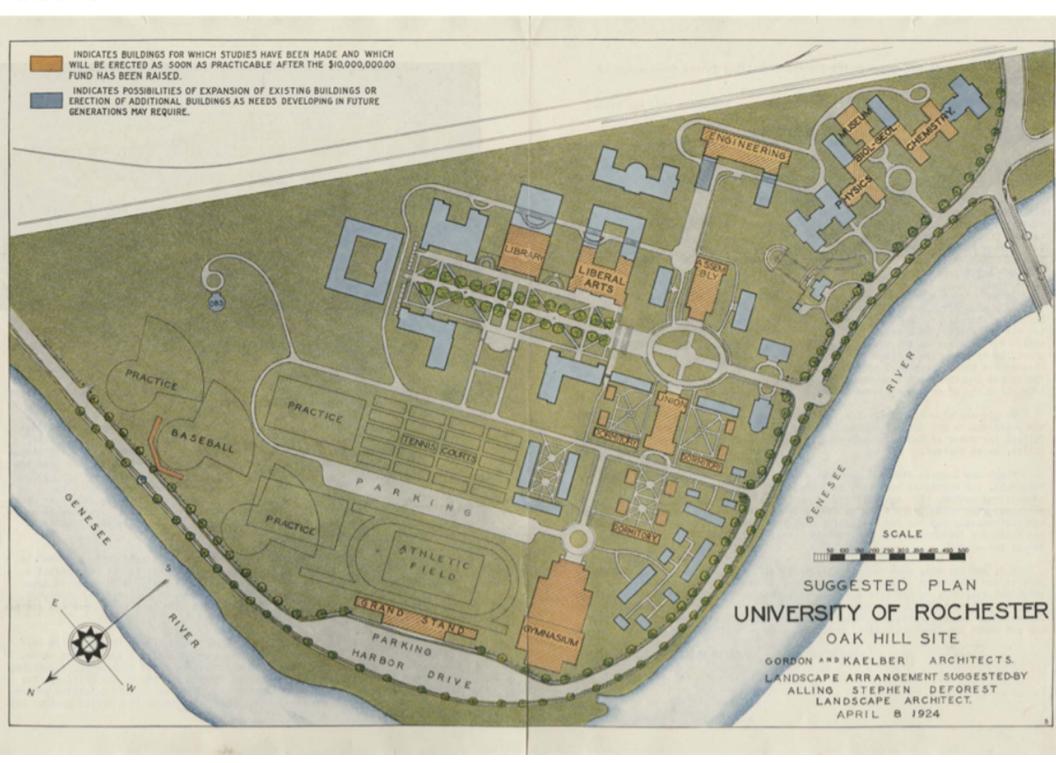
# Building the River Campus

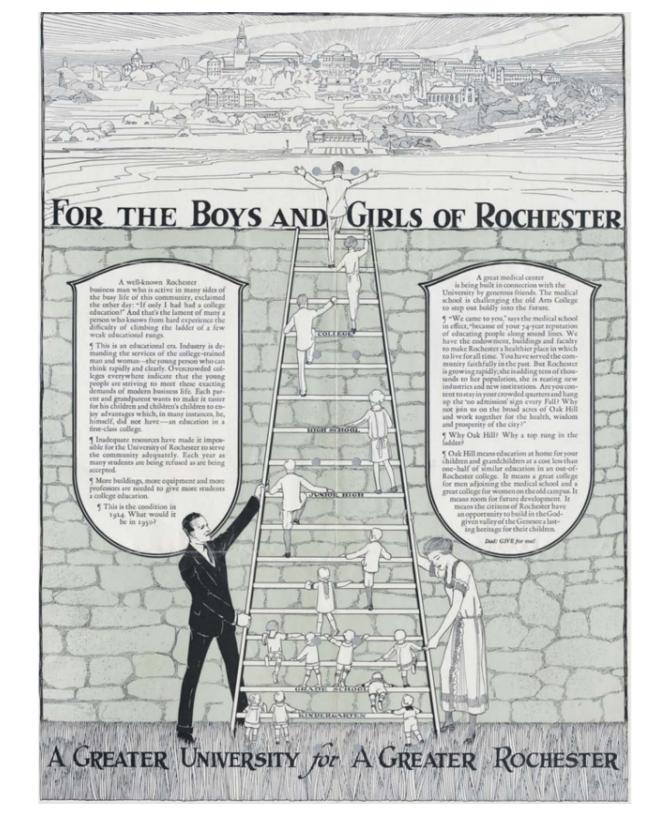
- No one was more important than George Eastman.
- At a critical meeting in July 1923, after Rhees presented options for the River Campus ranging from \$5 to \$10 million, Eastman declared, "I think we'd better run up the ten million flag and see what we get."
- Eastman pledged the initial \$2.5 million to the campaign.
- The campaign involved the entire community.
- The new campus was just for men, the women stayed on Prince Street until 1955.

# \$10 million in Ten Days

 The University then began a drive to pay for the new campus.







# SIX MILLION IN SIGHT FOR U. OF R.

#### COOLIDGE SEES NO CAUSE FOR EXTRA SESSION

President Expects Congress In Approve Farm Relief Bill in December.

TAX CUT PROBLEM

Gerermment Mant Wait Until Finest Year Closes to Determine Finances.

ALC: NO. SURPLUS, A POSSIBILITY

#### Agricultural Commission to Function: Expects to File Report by January.

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50 STOCKS RISE TO PEAK PRICE TRADING LEVEL

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City's Benefactors



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#### \$2,500,000 FROM OUTSIDE AND \$2,500,000 FROM MR. EASTMAN COME IN CONDITIONAL GIFTS

City Must Raise Its Quota to Insure Gifts: Alumni See \$1,000,000 Goal Near as Drive Opens.

#### \$25,000,000 GIVEN IN FIVE YEARS: WORKERS WARNED OF HARD BATTLE

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#### Democrati Chronicle.

92D YEAR. THREE CENTS.

ROCHESTER, N. Y. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1934.

# **ROCHESTER GIVES \$7,500,007.41** FOR U. OF R. \$10,000,000 FUND

#### PLAN FOR GREATER UNIVERSITY AT OAK HILL SITE GROWS FROM VISION OF PROMINENT CITIZEN

Possibility Suggested by George W. Todd Three Years Ago Wins Enthusiastic Support of University and City.

#### FOUNDER OF PROTECTOGRAPH COMPANY SERVES AS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE HEAD

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MARKS MIGHTY STEP FORWARD

SUCCESS OF GREAT EFFORT OWES MUCH TO THESE MEN





#### TOTAL OF 13,733 SUBSCRIPTIONS SENDS CAMPAIGN IN CITY OVER THE TOP WITH MARGIN OF \$7.41

Cheers Rock Chamber as Drive Leaders Announce Success in Raising Huge Sum for New University Plan.

#### COMNITTEE ASSUMES TASK OF GETTING \$1,500,000 FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE CITY

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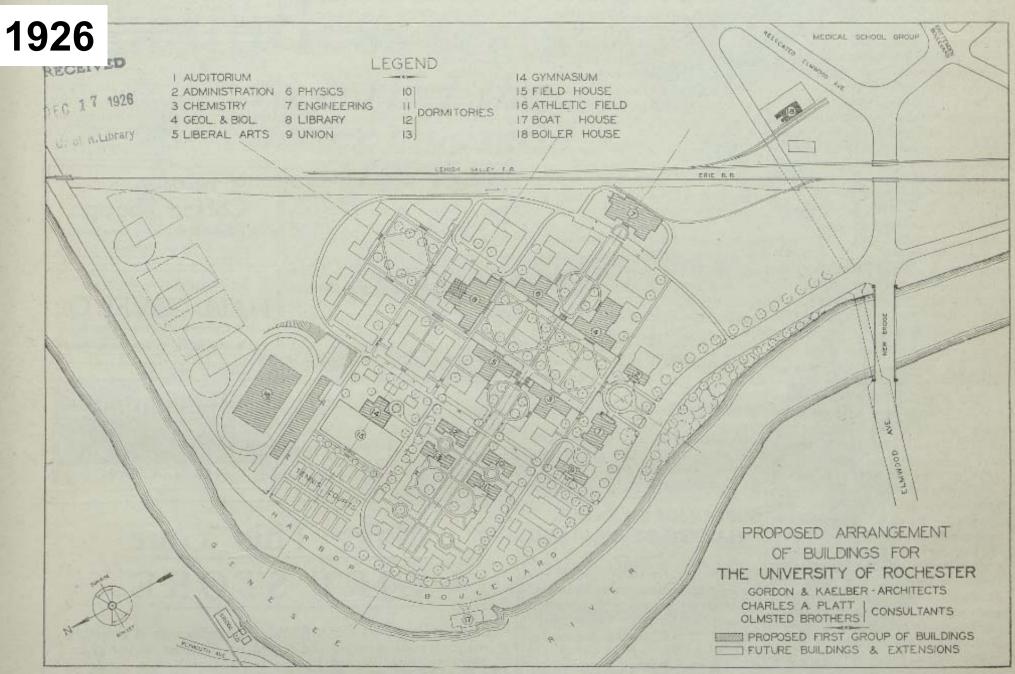
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# Oak Hill Property Transferred

- Once the University had secured the funding to build the new campus, the University and the Oak Hill Club exchanged property in early March 1926.
- The University could then begin detailed planning for the new campus.



### PLANS FOR OAK HILL ANNOUNCED



ARCHITECTS' PLANS FOR THE NEW CAMPUS AT OAK HILL

# Rendering of Proposed Campus



## Groundbreaking

- Ground for the new Chemistry Building was broken on May 21, 1927, the same day that Charles Lindberg arrived in Paris on his nonstop flight across the Atlantic.
- The golf course was very hilly, and grading the site was a major effort.
- The campus basically has three levels:
  - The highest is the Eastman Quadrangle
  - Then the area of the future Engineering
     Quadrangle, which is one floor lower.
  - The residential buildings are two floors lower.

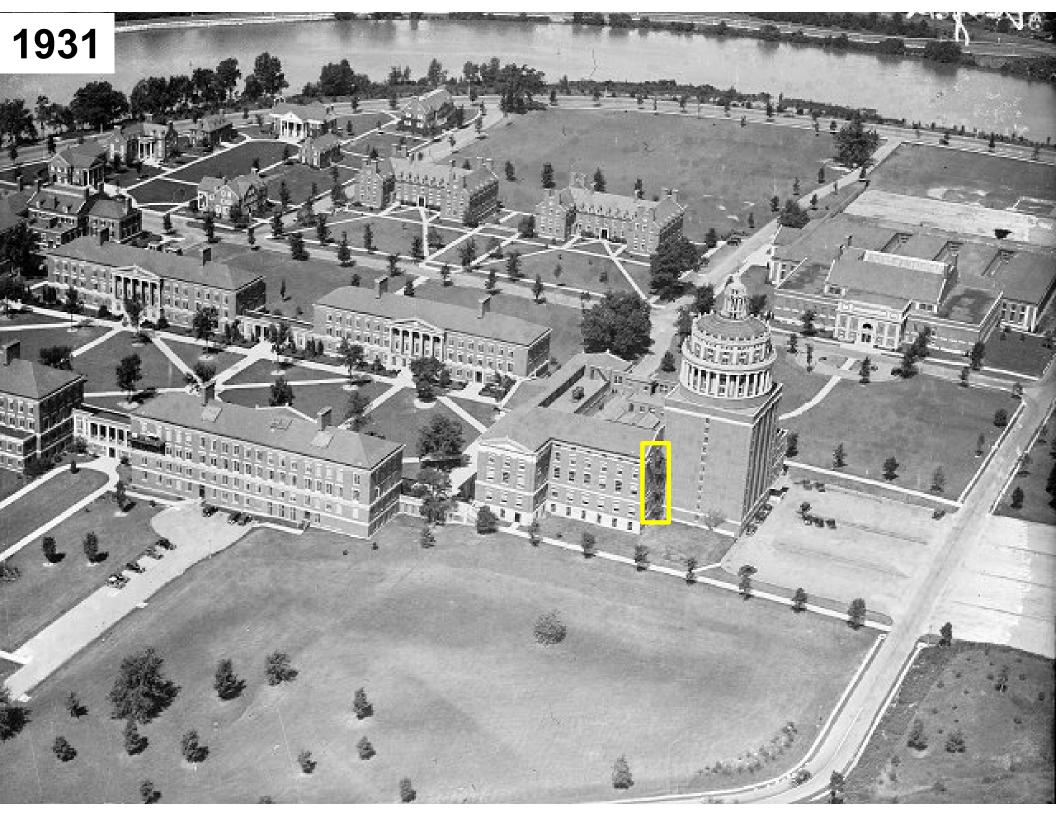
# Groundbreaking

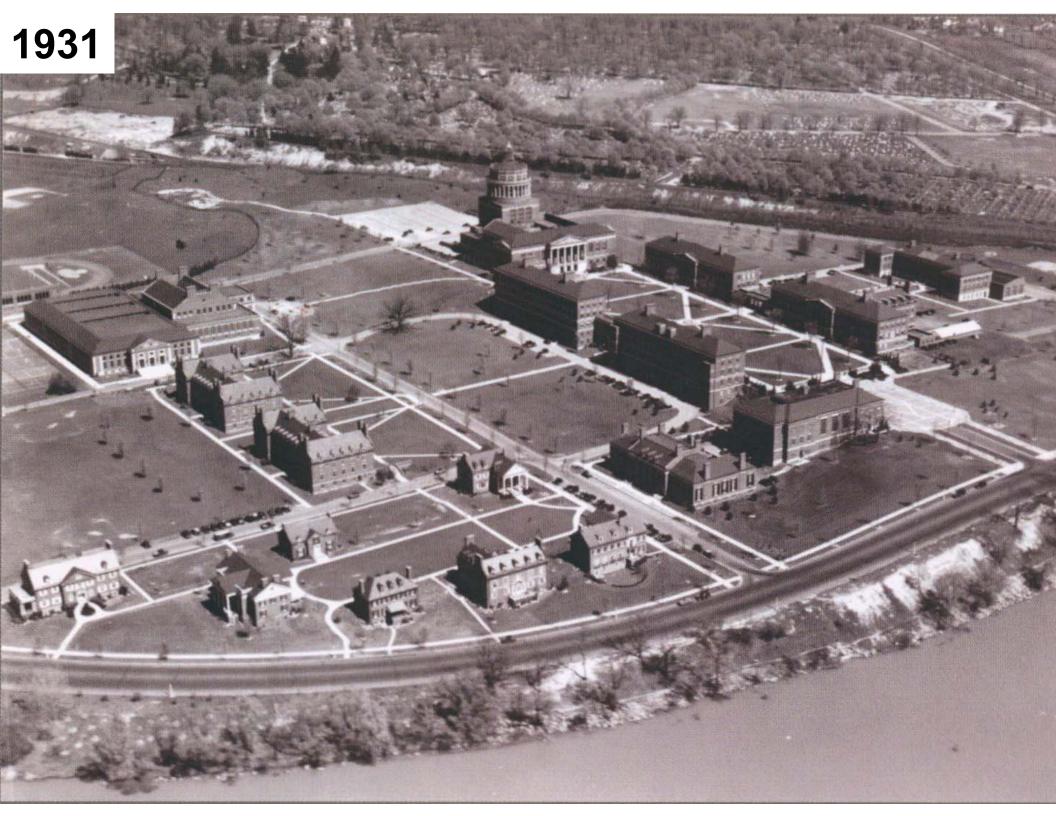


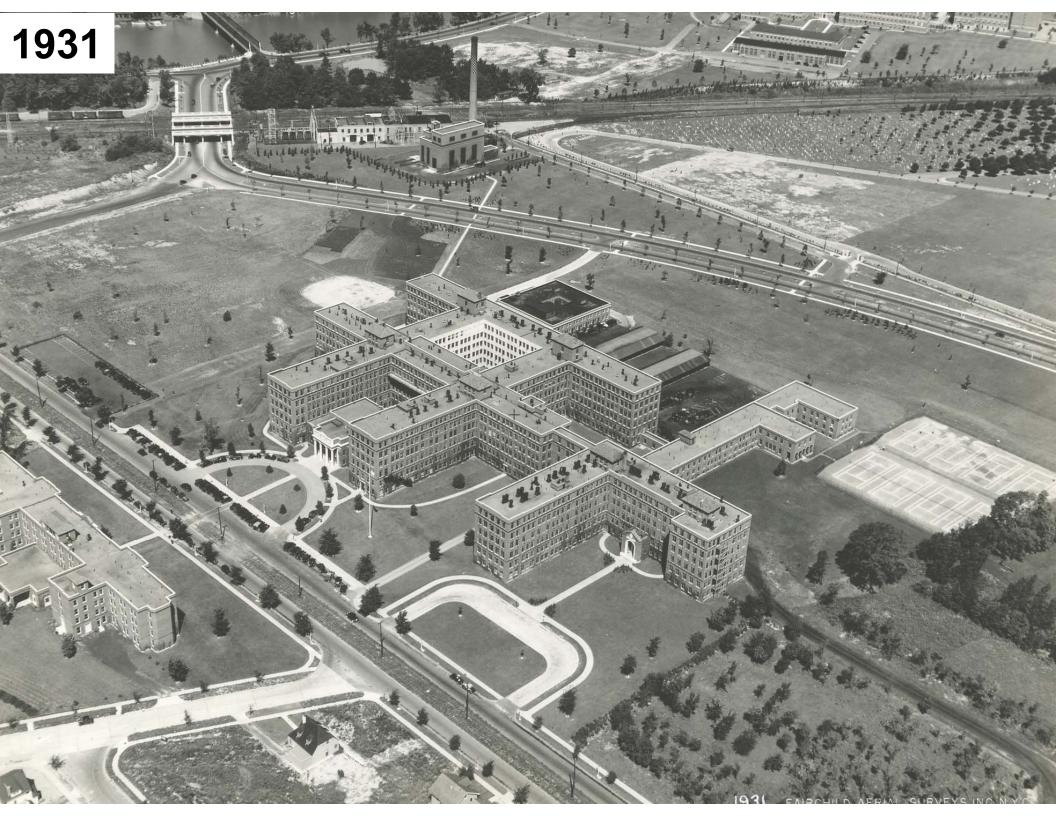
# River Campus Under Construction 1928

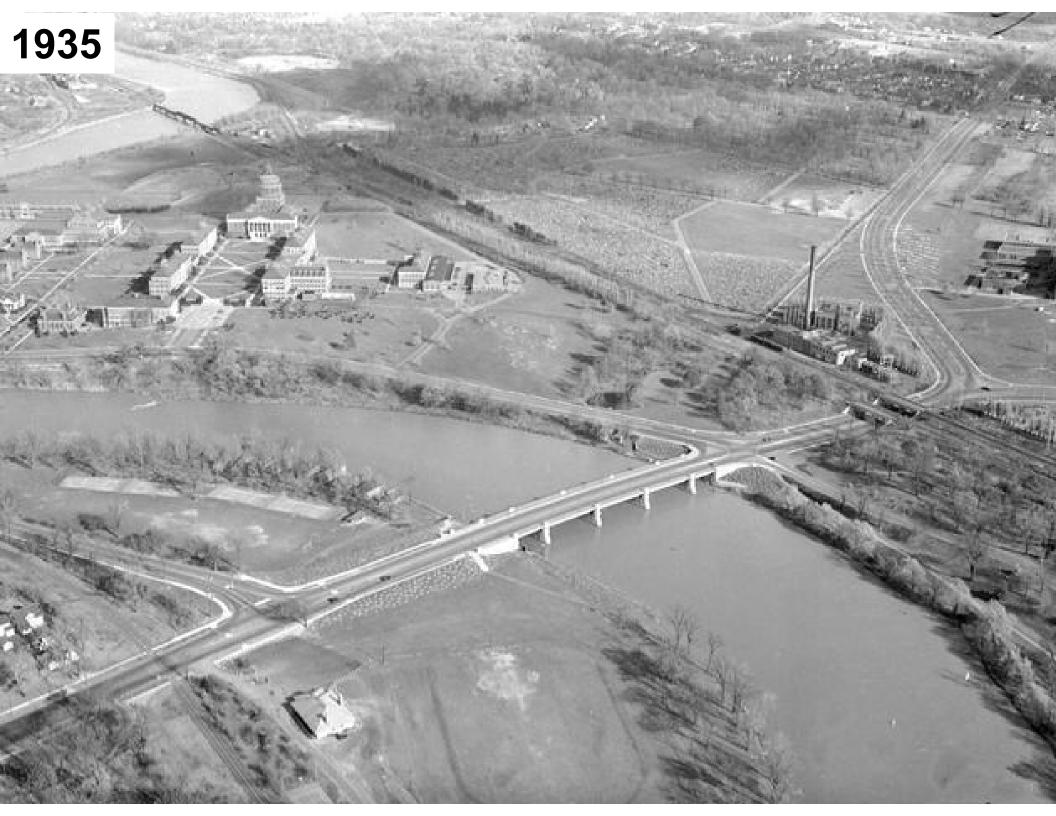


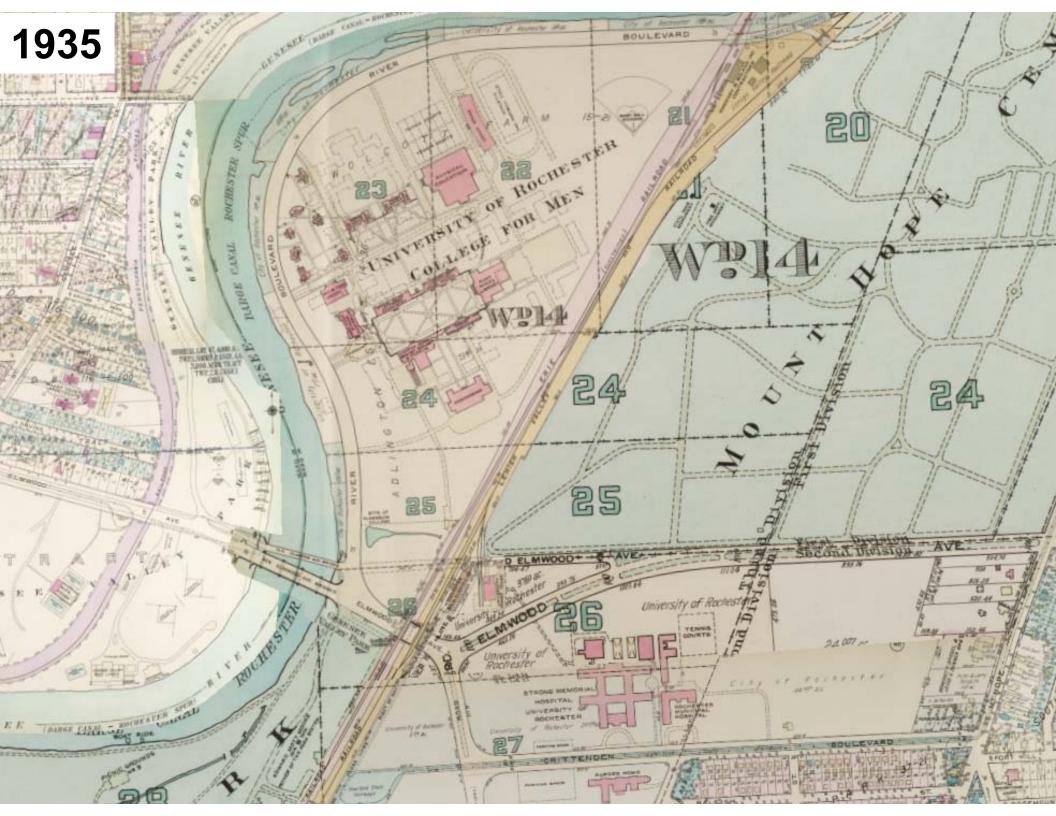






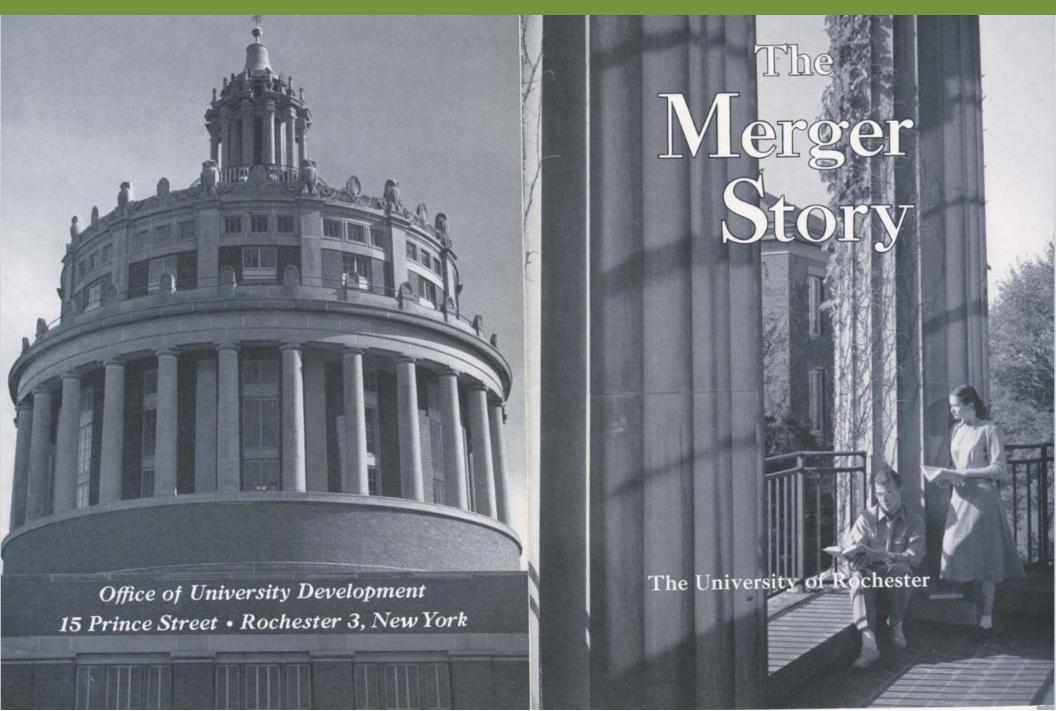




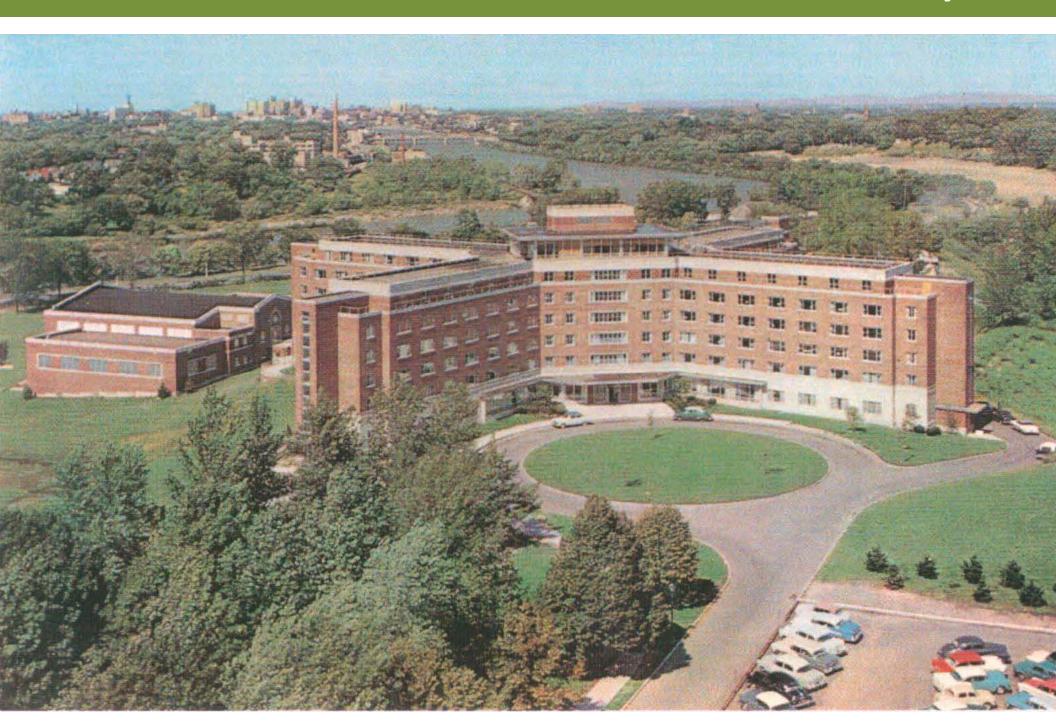




# Merger of the Campuses



## 1955 Women's Residence Hall & Gym



#### Dormitories

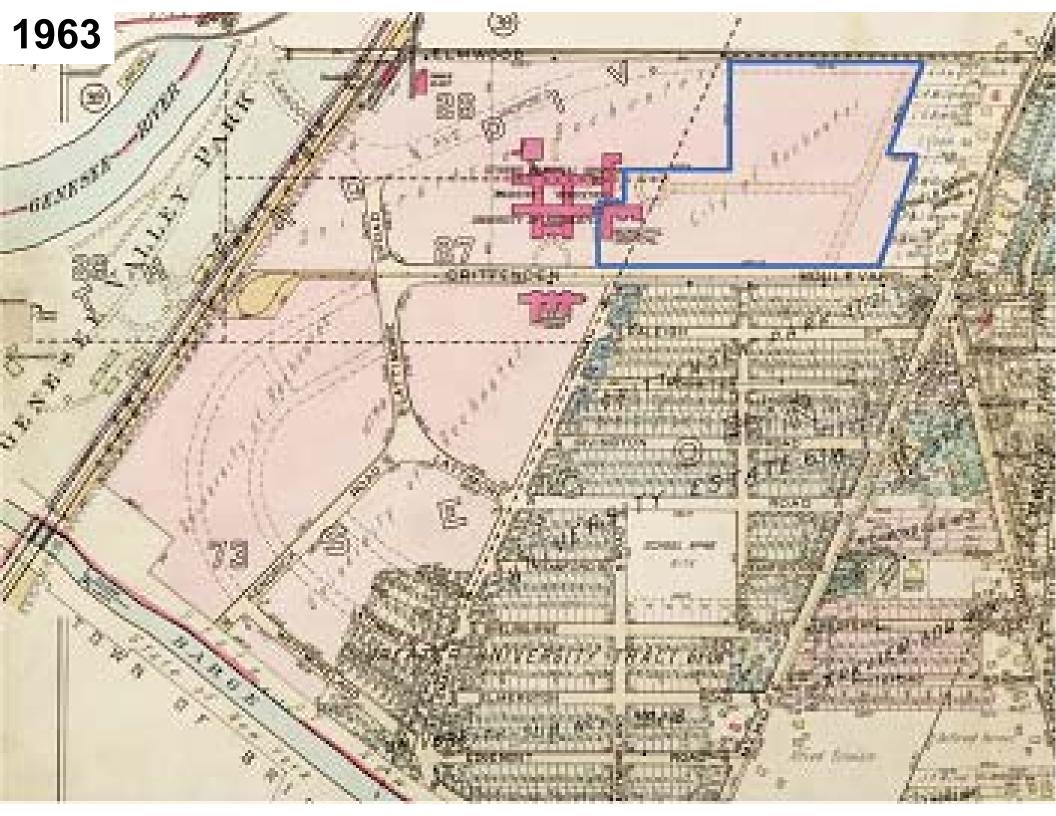
- The first dorms were reserved for either men or women.
- Later dorms had men and women on separate floors, then on the same floor but in separate rooms.
- Finally in 2017 the University gave up and said you can live with anyone you want.

## 1962 Air Conditioning

- The Eastman Theatre had been air conditioned since 1927.
- The first mechanical chiller on River Campus was installed in the penthouse of the Bausch & Lomb annex in 1962 and also cooled Hoyt Auditorium.
- Another chiller was installed in the Administration Building (now Wallis Hall) in 1963 that also cooled Hopeman Hall.
- The 1963 installation rejected heat into the Genesee River using a pumphouse that can still be seen along the river bank in front of Wallis.

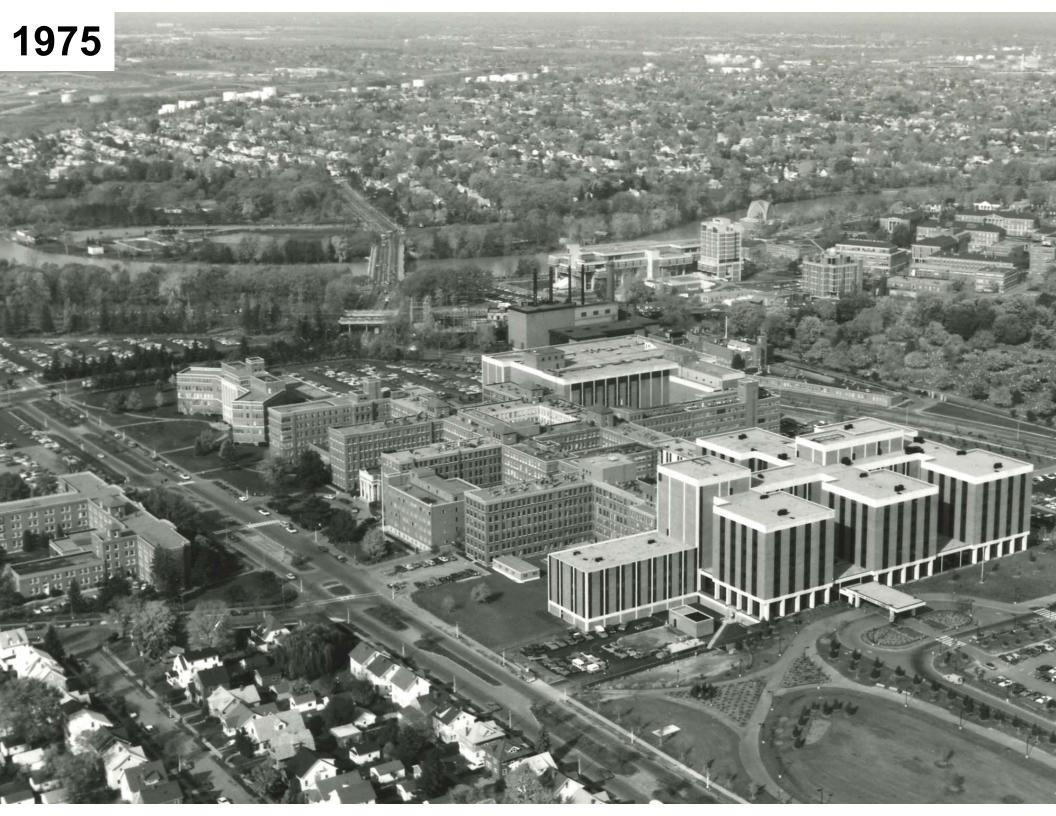
## Strong Hospital Expansion

- By the early 1960s it was recognized that additional hospital space was required.
- Planning initially focused on a small building west of the Medical Center, but in 1963 the City agreed to sell the Rochester Memorial Hospital and the associated 24-acre parcel to the University for \$39,789, the same price the City had paid for the land in 1923.
- This property allowed the new hospital to be built on the east end of the Medical Center and new research buildings on the west end.



### Medical Center Substation

- The growth of the medical center required additional electricity and a new substation was built in 1969.
- It included two 11,500-Volt to 4,160-Volt outdoor transformers mounted on pads and (unfortunately) were full of oil containing PCBs.
- The University began removing PCBs from transformers in 1985, but the oil in the two MC transformers had already leaked into the ground under the substation, creating quite the mess for the new ED construction.



### Railroads Abandoned 1981-1985

- The railroads on and near the campus were all abandoned and removed by 1985.
- The University almost bought the rail line that brought coal to the heating plant, but abandoned that idea when it was discovered that truck deliveries were less expensive.
- The abandoned railroad right of way became a Intercampus Drive and a long, narrow parking lot.
- Brooks Crossing and Riverview were built on former Pennsylvania Railroad land on the west bank.

### Coal

- The earliest buildings were heated with wood stoves until 1869, when coal was introduced.
- A coal-fired heating plant was built on Prince Street in 1904, another for the Eastman School in 1921 and finally the 1924 CU plant.
- The 200-foot CU brick stack was lowered in 1961 as it interfered with aircraft.
- The University expanded the central plant in 1972 with new boilers designed to burn #6 residual oil with coal as a backup.
- The 1973 oil shocks put a quick end to that plan.

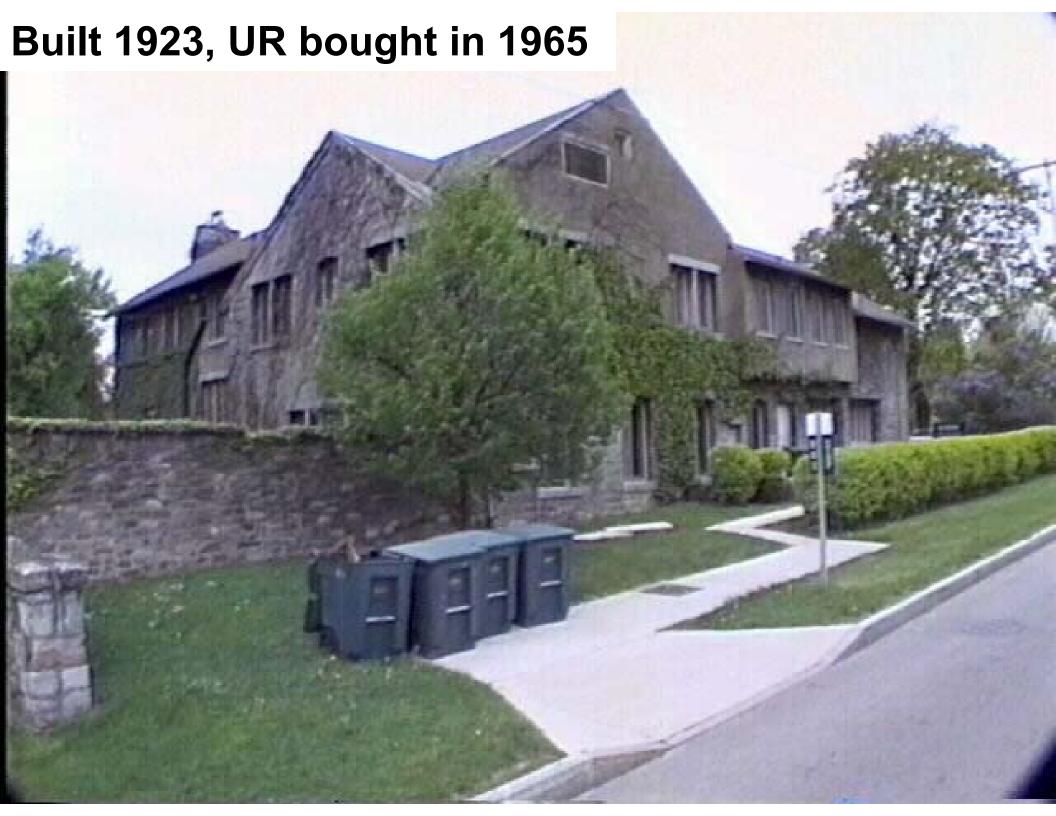
## Baghouse

- A fabric baghouse was built on top of the plant in 1981 to reduce particulate emissions.
- It never worked properly and caught fire at least once before being abandoned.
- It was removed in 1997 as part of the gas conversion.



## 1998 End of Coal Burning

- Unable to meet new pollution regulations, the University decided to end the use of coal in 1996 and the boilers were converted to burn natural gas and #2 distillate oil.
- Gas was less expensive than coal and a lot easier to burn.
- The last coal was burned in August 1998.



### Thanks!

m.pierce@rochester.edu facilities.rochester.edu/history/