

Appendix B
Agency Correspondence



February 28, 2014

Hon. Carl Weisbrod, Chair
New York City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Kenneth Knuckles, Vice Chair
New York City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: ULURP Nos. C140157ZSM, C140068MMM, C140068(A)MMM,
M821257(D)ZAM, N140158CMM, N140159CMM
The Rockefeller University Expansion
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Chair Weisbrod and Vice Chair Knuckles:

I represent the Rockefeller University, the owner and applicant in the above land use applications. Rockefeller University requests a special permit and bulk modification pursuant to ZR Section 74-682, zoning authorization pursuant to ZR Section 79-00 for modification to a Large Scale Community Facility Development (LSCFD), certifications by the City Planning Commission (CPC) and Director of City Planning (DCP) relating to compliance with the 1973 Agreement (Article 12A and 12B), and a city map amendment (and revised city map amendment) involving the elimination, discontinuance and closing of volumes of the FDR Drive between East 64th and East 68th streets. The University seeks to obtain approval for the above land use actions in order to facilitate the construction of a two-story state-of-the-art research building, one-story interactive conference center and one-story recreational facility. The project would allow the University to continue to attract first-rate scientists and to remain in the forefront of biomedical research.

Following the CPC's certification of the project on November 4, 2013, several issues have been raised by Community Board 8, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and at the Commission's public hearing. This letter addresses the issues raised during the public review of the application and provides additional context concerning our continuing dialogue with the community.

On July 10, 2013, November 13, 2013, December 11 and 19, 2013 and January 8, 2014, the University met with Community Board 8 to present the project and engage in an open

dialogue. On January 8, 2014, the University – in response to community concerns - committed to revising its project in the following ways:

- Raising the height of the sound barrier from 5 feet to 8 feet to address noise concerns

The University agreed to raise the sound barrier to 8 feet pending sign-off by the Public Design Commission and Department of Transportation

- Engaging the community in an on-going design process of the esplanade

The University held a design charrette on February 20, 2014 with our design team, community board representatives, other local residents and representatives from the Department of Parks and City Planning in order to hear the community's ideas on the esplanade design. The schematic design is being prepared with this input and a review meeting has been scheduled with Parks and City Planning for March 6. After that review, a follow-up meeting will be scheduled with the community people who attended the February 20 charrette.

The University has committed to providing amenities, such as additional seating, water fountains, new flood- and drought-resistant plants and additional trees. We expect to be able to show a proposed design to City Planning by March 31. The proposed schematic design will then be submitted to the Public Design Commission, Parks and City Planning for final approval.

- Increasing the maintenance contract for the esplanade landscaping from two to four years,

The University has committed to maintain the new esplanade plantings for a period of four years.

- Donating a sum of money to an authorized group for further maintenance on the esplanade

The University will continue to work with the Departments of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and City Planning (DCP) to identify an appropriate entity to receive funds and carry out the maintenance of plantings on the Esplanade beyond the four-year period to which it has committed.

In addition to the above, the University is committed to continuing to work with the community board to respond to its conditions:

Condition 1. The University expands the program for special events and various activities for the residents of the Community to attend.

Rockefeller University is committed to providing a variety of special events and activities for community residents to attend. Currently, the University runs a number of programs to which the public is invited.

Some examples: It sponsors approximately 40 free concerts per year, which account for about 17,000 visitors, as well as a for-pay concert series that brings in several hundred more. The University's program for high school students brings in many more. Additionally, the University has participated in the Open House New York program (which provides access to sites of architectural, design, engineering and cultural interest) in the last several years and will continue to do so.

We are in the search process for a new director of our Communications and Public Affairs (CPA) office. A high priority for the new director will be increasing the number of campus events that are open to the public.

Borough President Brewer further recommended that the campus be open to the general public from noon to 3:00 p.m. on Fridays during the spring, summer and fall, and find other than Friday for a similar program. The University will create a program to open the campus gardens to the public at certain times during the temperate months. The new CPA director will develop this program.

Condition 2. The University tries to make a portion of the campus open to the residents of the Community for their enjoyment.

The University seeks to increase public access to the campus grounds through development of additional programming opportunities including opening the campus gardens at certain times, as described above. The proposed project will include an open-air amphitheater on the roof of the River Building that will serve as a new venue opportunity for events open to the public.

Borough President Brewer further recommended that the University develop a plan to create publicly accessible open spaces by moving the perimeter fences along York Avenue and East 68th Street or by other methods.

The University understands that Community District 8 currently has a low open space-to-population ratio and believes the repair and renovation of the - esplanade with the community's input – will greatly enhance the quality of the existing esplanade and improve its utility to the community.

The University is characterized by its open culture. The scientific community on campus has cultivated an atmosphere of collaboration and free-flowing interactions within a highly secure biomedical research facility. Unlike other urban campuses, most of the University buildings are not individually secured, which is essential to enabling the University's open culture to thrive. There are no academic departments, and all faculty report directly to the president. These elements promote collaboration and interdisciplinary research among our scientists and have been essential to our continued success. Allowing unregulated public access would require locking individual buildings, significantly increasing security, and implementing usage regulations that would restrict the collaborative scientific research that is fundamental to Rockefeller's mission. Nonetheless, we are committed to enhanced public programming in a controlled environment.

Condition 3. The University will study the water pressure and availability and help facilitate the use of water on parts of the esplanade that is not part of this project.

The University's landscape architects have determined that there is a city-owned water pipe beneath the Esplanade adjacent to the project. Esplanade design plans include seven couplers allowing hoses to be connected to that pipe for the purpose of irrigating plants. The University will conduct a study determine if there is sufficient pressure to extend the water pipe to the north beyond the midline of 68th Street.

Condition 4. The University will commit to having many of the structural elements hoisted over the FDR Drive, which will occur at night.

The University's representatives have met with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding those aspects of the project that will be constructed from barges on the East River. The DOT has advised the University that it will limit closings of the FDR Drive for the purposes of lifting construction materials over the Drive (principally pre-assembled support girders). These closings will take place at times approved by the DOT.

Condition 5. The University will commit to having available at least an 8-foot walkway on the esplanade during construction.

The University's consultants on the construction process have stated that it will be possible to maintain a minimum eight-foot-wide passageway at all times during construction. This will be committed to in a restrictive declaration.

On behalf of The Rockefeller University, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to the comments heard during the public review of the application. We are committed to being a good neighbor and look forward to continued open dialogue with the community.

Sincerely,

George Candler

*Associate Vice President, Planning & Construction
The Rockefeller University*

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / 77DCP101M
Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM
Date received: 2/28/2014

Comments: as indicated below. Properties that are individually LPC designated or in LPC historic districts require permits from the LPC Preservation department. Properties that are S/NR listed or S/NR eligible require consultation with SHPO if there are State or Federal permits or funding required as part of the action.

Comments:

The LPC is in receipt of the FEIS dated 2-27-14. The text is acceptable for architectural resources.

Regarding archaeology, the text in the construction chapter should note that an unanticipated discoveries plan for archaeological resources has been created and will be used as part of the construction plan. The other text pertaining to archaeological resources is acceptable.

Gina Santucci

3/6/2014

SIGNATURE
Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_ALS_03062014.doc

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / 77DCP101M
Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM
Date received: 10/31/2013

Comments:

LPC is in receipt of the revised Historic and Cultural Resources chapter dated 10/30/13. The text is acceptable for Historic and Cultural resources.

Gina Santucci

10/31/2013

SIGNATURE
Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_GS_10312013.doc

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / 77DCP101M

Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM

Date received: 10/23/2013

Comments:

The LPC is in receipt of the draft Historic and Cultural Resources chapter of the DEIS dated 10/22/13 and the Mitigation chapter of 10/29/13. The LPC is also in receipt of revised vent stack drawings and additional research regarding physical changes to Flexner Hall and the Hospital, both dated 10/23/13. Comments are as follows.

DEIS Chapter

Page 5-3, bottom paragraph: Remove sentence: "The proposed fitness center would replace a structure that has previously had its materials and design intent compromised, as described below."

New sentence starting with "Because", modify as follows: "Based on the original Kiley Plans and the National Register criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60 and 63), LPC has determined that..."

Page 5-15. Remove sentence: "The canopy structure was not identified as a contributing element of the Rockefeller University Historic District in OPRHP's 2007 Resource Evaluation for a previous Rockefeller University project (see Appendix B, "Historic and Cultural Resources")."

Sentence "LPC comments continue.." is a fragment and should be completed: "...appears S/NR and LPC eligible as part of the Rockefeller University Historic District."

Page 5-24, second paragraph. Include new text: "LPC has determined that the addition of vent stacks to both Flexner and the Hospital building will constitute a significant impact to these S/NR and LPC eligible properties due to their location, size and direct physical connection to the buildings. However, LPC is in receipt of revised stack drawings indicating that the stacks have been redesigned in terms of their materials and surface articulation to better harmonize with the historic properties. LPC finds these design drawings to be acceptable and partial mitigation for the significant impact."

Last paragraph: Revise first part: "The proposed fitness center would replace an original Dan Kiley designed parking structure. "LPC has determined..."

LPC notes that the restoration plan of the Dan Kiley Philosopher's Garden will be implemented within a Restrictive Declaration (RD). Upon LPC review and preliminary acceptance of the plan, it is recommended that a presentation of the restoration plan to the Community Board and other interested parties be included in the terms of the RD in order to receive comments on the plan. LPC should be provided with a copy of the community responses and an opportunity to comment before the final signoff on the plan.

Mitigation Chapter

To be added on page 3-13, highlighted text: "LPC is in receipt of revised stack drawings indicating that the stacks have been redesigned in terms of their materials and surface articulation to better harmonize with the historic properties. LPC finds these design drawings to be acceptable and partial mitigation for the significant impact."

AKRF Memo of 10/23/13 regarding physical changes to Flexner Hall and the Hospital

Regarding the changes to Flexner Hall and Flexner Hall extension, LPC notes that these changes were approved by the SHPO in its 11/20/07 Letter of Resolution (LOR) for construction of the CRC building (attached). This includes the rooftop additions and the new windows.

Regarding the changes to the Hospital, LPC notes that the color and design of the rooftop mechanical penthouse are similar to the original penthouse, and that the materials and design of the penthouse relate harmoniously to the penthouses on Flexner Hall.



10/30/2013

SIGNATURE
Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_GS_10242013.doc

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / 77DCP101M

Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM

Date received: 9/25/2013

Comments:

The LPC is in receipt of the Historic and Cultural Resources chapter of the DEIS dated September 25, 2013. Comments are as follows.

Pertaining to archaeological resources, the LPC recommends that the chapter be revised to include the text about the unanticipated discovery plan that is on page 5.18 into the other sections that discuss the cemetery site.

Regarding architecture:

Page 5-13, third paragraph. Remove sentence: "This structure has been altered...Resources."). Replace with sentence: "The LPC notes that the OPRHP's 2007 Resource Evaluation does not call out specific elements in the landscape design as contributing or non-contributing but flags the entire landscape design as contributing." Replace the sentence "However" to read as follows: "Based on its examination of the original Kiley plans for the campus, specifically drawing #S-1, entitled "Site Improvements and Pavilion, Structural Plans and Sections", dated 8/16/57, and that the structure has retained historic integrity, LPC has determined that the Kiley designed pavilion appears S/NR and LPC eligible as part of the Rockefeller University Historic District."

Page 5-15, second paragraph. Remove sentence: "These alterations...original landscape element." Replace the sentence "However" with: "LPC notes that although some elements have been removed, the structure retains the aspects for which it is significant, and the essential physical features remain present and visible. These include its location, design, and materials, as well as feeling and association. (See the CEQR Technical Manual: 2012, pp. 9-4 and 9-5). Based on its examination of the original Kiley plans for the campus, specifically drawing #S-1, entitled "Site Improvements and Pavilion, Structural Plans and Sections", dated 8/16/57, and that the structure has retained historic integrity, LPC has determined that the Kiley designed pavilion appears S/NR and LPC eligible as part of the Rockefeller University Historic District."

Page 5-22, third paragraph, "Fitness Center Site". Amend first sentence: "The proposed project would remove the existing Dan Kiley designed elements, including the existing concrete canopy structure...the parking lot."

The mitigation chapter, including the garden restoration plan, should be submitted to LPC for review and comment. The garden restoration plan should be included in the DEIS to allow for public review and comment.

[to page two]

The LPC is also in receipt of the Alternatives Analysis of the Laboratory Building Stack Locations dated September, 2013. In order to complete the review, the LPC requests that further figures of the proposed stack locations be provided showing the following:

1. Pedestrian view from Founder's Hall toward the proposed stack on Flexner Hall. This should illustrate the view of the proposed stack from the vantage point of a pedestrian walking towards the stack.
2. Pedestrian view from the new platform towards the stack on Flexner Hall.
3. Pedestrian view from the Hospital toward the proposed stack on the Hospital.
4. Pedestrian view from the Nurses' Residence toward the proposed stack on the Hospital.
5. Pedestrian view from the new platform towards the stack on the Hospital.
6. Pedestrian view of both stacks from the new platform.



10/10/2013

SIGNATURE

Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_GS_10072013.doc

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / 77DCP101M

Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM

Date received: 8/12/2013

The LPC is in receipt of additional material as requested regarding the original Dan Kiley landscape plan for the campus, plus the existing and proposed conditions for the demolition of the Kiley designed parking canopy and lot at the north end of the campus for the construction of the new Fitness Center. The new Fitness Center will be located within the S/NR and LPC eligible Rockefeller University Historic District. The S/NR Resource Evaluation also flags the Dan Kiley landscape design as a contributing element to the district.

Consequently, the LPC requests the applicant to prepare and implement a restoration plan for the Philosopher's Garden, which is immediately adjacent to the project site and a significant element within the landscape design. The plan shall be submitted to LPC for review and comment prior to construction. Implementation of this plan will serve as partial mitigation for the demolition of the S/NR and LPC eligible Kiley designed canopy structure and parking lot area.

The restoration plan should be partially based on the material uncovered by Katrina Nugent, historic preservationist, who states in her blog entry on the Rockefeller Campus landscape design:

"Philosopher's Garden

This area of campus, situated across from the Lasker fountain and Caspary Auditorium is perhaps the most eloquent expression of Kiley's design intention of creating a "soothing sense of calm seclusion," similar to the Japanese walled-gardens that Kiley admired.²⁷ The garden and terrace area is slightly sunken, and one section is paved with the same marble slabs used in the pathways above, and given the same treatment: placed in a bed of crushed marble so as to float above the ground surface. The terrace is lined with five marble benches, and Kiley's original design for the patio was to enclose the space with "double rows of European hornbeams," however, these were removed as recently as five years ago in order to increase the amount of sun that is able to filter into the terrace area through the ever-denser canopy of trees overhead.²⁸ The second element of the garden is an articulated orthogonal pool with four vertical water jets, semi- enclosed on the campus side by a row of five trees, and on the street side by an eight-foot wall covered in Boston Ivy."¹

Additionally, Nugent states that the University retains an in-house horticulturalist, that the campus landscape receives partial funding from the Mary Lasker Charitable Trust for long term maintenance, and that the University has commissioned and received an evaluation of the history and growth of the campus from Boston architectural firm Payette and Associates. According to the blog referenced in footnote 1, this evaluation supports the historic significance of the campus and landscape design.

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¹Nugent, K. (2013, April 23) Re: Rockefeller University Modern Campus Landscape: Daniel Kiley, 1958 [Web blog post]. Retrieved from: <http://ephemeralurbanity.wordpress.com/2013/04/23/rockefeller-university-modern-campus-landscape-daniel-kiley-1958-kristina-nugent/>



8/12/2013

SIGNATURE

DATE

Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

File Name: 28116_FSO_GS_08122013.doc

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / 77DCP101M
Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM
Date received: 8/5/2013

The LPC is in receipt of the draft scope of work for EIS dated 7/9/13. The text is acceptable for architecture and archaeology, however, please clarify the following as requested.

How would the scope of work change if there would be State or Federal actions? The SHPO has stated that an Army Corps permit would be required for the new platform.

Gina Santucci

8/6/2013

SIGNATURE
Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_GS_08062013.doc

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / 77DCP101M
Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM
Date received: 5/10/2013

Comments:

The LPC has reviewed the Draft EAS dated December 19, 2012. The text pertaining to archaeological resources is acceptable.

The campus has been determined S/NR and LPC eligible as an historic district. Founder's Hall within the district is also a National Historic Landmark. The landscape design by pioneering and influential American landscape architect Dan Kiley adds to the significance of the campus and is a contributing element of the historic district.

Regarding architectural resources, the proposed new exhaust stack locations at the north side of the Hospital and the south side of Flexner Hall appear to constitute a direct significant adverse impact on both of these LPC and S/NR eligible structures. This is due to the placement of the stacks directly on the inner elevations of the Hospital and Flexner facing the Founder's Hall (National Historic Landmark) and by the permanent closure of windows on the elevations of each building in order to accommodate the new stacks.

LPC requests a full alternatives analysis of the proposed and preferred stack placements as part of the EAS. As an option for stack placement, stack locations at the south side of the Hospital and the north side of Flexner that are not directly attached to the elevations of the historic buildings appear to be less visually and physically disruptive to Founders' Hall and the assemblage of historic buildings flanking it on either side.

Further information regarding the proposed Recreation Building site changes is required as the proposed building appears to potentially impact the Kiley landscape. More information is needed to properly assess the potential impact.

A plan showing the existing Kiley landscape at the site and the proposed changes/removals to the Kiley plan should be provided for review and comment. The plans should include locations of paving, plantings, trees, lighting fixtures, planters and water features, if any. Materials should also be indicated—marble, gravel, etc.

If available, the original Kiley landscape plans for the University should be included in the architectural resources section and included in the impacts analysis.

Cc: SHPO

[TO PAGE 2 OF 2]

Gina Santucci

5/29/2013

SIGNATURE

Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_GS_052820113.doc

ARCHAEOLOGY

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / LA-CEQR-M
Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM
Date received: 5/1/2013

Comments: as indicated below. Properties that are individually LPC designated or in LPC historic districts require permits from the LPC Preservation department. Properties that are S/NR listed or S/NR eligible require consultation with SHPO if there are State or Federal permits or funding required as part of the action.

This document only contains Archaeological review findings. If your request also requires Architecture review, the findings from that review will come in a separate document.

Comments: The LPC is in receipt of the, "Plan for the Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains: Rockefeller University Campus Block 1480, Lots 10 and 9010, New York, New York," prepared by AKRF and dated April 2013, which was created in response to LPC's request to do so on April 17, 2013. The Commission concurs with the plan.



5/2/2013

SIGNATURE
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_ALS_05022013.doc

ARCHAEOLOGY

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / LA-CEQR-M
Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM
Date received: 4/11/2013

Comments: as indicated below. Properties that are individually LPC designated or in LPC historic districts require permits from the LPC Preservation department. Properties that are S/NR listed or S/NR eligible require consultation with SHPO if there are State or Federal permits or funding required as part of the action.

This document only contains Archaeological review findings. If your request also requires Architecture review, the findings from that review will come in a separate document.

Comments:

The LPC is in receipt of the, "Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study for Rockefeller University Campus, New York, New York," prepared by AKRF and dated November 2012.

The LPC concurs that the project as now designed is not likely to impact potentially significant archaeological resources and that if the construction plans change, the changes should be submitted to LPC for review as the site does have archaeologically sensitive areas. However, we recommend that an unanticipated discovery plan be developed in case that outlines the protocol for what to do if any human remains are found during construction.

Please submit two bound copies of the report to the LPC for our archives.



4/16/2013

SIGNATURE
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_ALS_04172013.doc

ARCHAEOLOGY

Final Sign-Off (Multiple Sites)

Project number: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING / LA-CEQR-M
Project: ROCKEFELLER UNI FDR PLATFORM
Date received: 10/4/2012

Comments: as indicated below. Properties that are individually LPC designated or in LPC historic districts require permits from the LPC Preservation department. Properties that are S/NR listed or S/NR eligible require consultation with SHPO if there are State or Federal permits or funding required as part of the action.

This document only contains Archaeological review findings. If your request also requires Architecture review, the findings from that review will come in a separate document.

Properties with Archaeological significance:

1) ADDRESS: 1230 YORK AVENUE, BBL: 1014800010, TIME PERIOD: Colonial (17/18 c) to 1820

Comments: LPC review of archaeological sensitivity models and historic maps indicates that there is potential for the recovery of remains from 18th and 19th century farms and the 19th Century Schermerhorn Family Burial Ground on the project site. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that an archaeological documentary study be performed for this site to clarify these initial findings and provide the threshold for the next level of review, if such review is necessary (see CEQR Technical Manual 2010).



10/11/2012

SIGNATURE
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology

DATE

File Name: 28116_FSO_DNP_10112012.doc



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com

Elliot Spitzer
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

RESOURCE EVALUATION

DATE: October 19, 2007

STAFF: Kathy Howe

PROPERTY: Rockefeller University Historic District

MCD: Manhattan

ADDRESS: Bounded by York Ave, E. 68th St., FDR Dr.,
& E. 64th St. (see attached map)

COUNTY: New York Co.

PROJECT REF: 07PR05157

USN: 06101.016485

- I. Property is individually listed on SR/NR:
name of listing:
- Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:
name of district:
- II. Property meets eligibility criteria.
- Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria.

Pre SRB: Post SRB: SRB date

Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:¹

The Rockefeller University Historic District (see attached district map for boundaries) in New York City meets NR Criterion A in the areas of science, health, and medicine as one of the nation's foremost biomedical research centers. The district meets Criterion C for its distinguished collection of buildings including Classical Revival buildings from the early 1900s by Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge and by its successor firms of Coolidge and

¹ Much of the research and the text for the Statement of Significance was prepared by Amy Diehl of AKRF as part of "Attachment 3: Historic Resources," Rockefeller University Modernization Project, September 2007.

Shattuck and Coolidge, Shepley, Bullfinch, and Abbot, to the International Style buildings of the late 1950s expansion by Harrison & Abramowitz. The campus has additional significance for the extensive landscape design by landscape architect Dan Kiley.

Rockefeller University was founded in 1901 by John D. Rockefeller as the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. The university initially functioned as a grant-giving institution to support scientific research. Led by Simon Flexner, its first director, it became the nation's first biomedical research institute.

The university and its hospital have been the site of important developments in diverse areas: the identification of human blood groups, the production of antibiotics, the discovery of viral cancers and of the first effective treatment for African sleeping sickness, and research into vision, taste, and smell, methadone-based drug rehabilitation, aging, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, yellow fever, heart disease, diabetes, leukemia, arthritis, AIDS, alcoholism, parasitic diseases, and genetic disorders.²

The institute was first located on Lexington Avenue at East 50th Street. The Schermerhorn estate – land on a rocky plateau between the current FDR Drive, current York Avenue and East 63rd and 68th Streets – was purchased by John D. Rockefeller in 1903. It was here where the campus developed in various stages.

By 1935, the institute's early focus on infectious diseases was expanded as new inroads were made in biological research. By 1950, the institute was recognized as one of the leading research facilities in the nation. It first awarded a graduate degree in 1954 and four years later a Ph.D. The institute officially changed its name to Rockefeller University in 1965.

The Rockefeller University Historic District includes the buildings and landscaping north of and including Sophie Fricke Hall. The district is bounded by York Avenue to the west, East 68th Street to the north, and the FDR Drive to the east. (The southern portion of the campus, roughly from East 62nd Street to just north of East 64th Street was developed between the mid-1970s to early 2000, and is excluded from the district boundaries.) Built between 1906 and 1959, the buildings in the historic district reflect two architecturally distinct building programs that recall the architectural development of a leading research institute and its later expansion as a graduate university. The buildings erected when the campus was a medical institute are architecturally distinguished Classical Revival brick buildings designed by Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge and by its successor firms of Coolidge and Shattuck and Coolidge, Shepley, Bullfinch, and Abbot. These earlier campus buildings are unified through the use of rough hewn stone bases, tiled roofs, and stylistic features that include cupolas, porticoes, cornices, and balustrades. Contributing buildings from the earliest period of development of the campus are located in the eastern portion of the campus overlooking the East River and include **Founder's Hall** (1906; an individually designated National Historic Landmark), the **Hospital** (1910), the **Isolation Pavilion/Nurse's Residence** (1910), **Flexner Hall** (1917), **Welch Hall** (1929), and **Theobald Smith Hall** (1930). The **Smith Hall Annex** though built in 1985, incorporates the stone base of the former East 67th Street Animal House. The iron fence with brick piers at the north end of the campus and along York Avenue also contributes to the district and appears to date from the early period of development.

The Rockefeller University expansion buildings, designed by Harrison & Abramowitz and built in 1958-1959, form a cohesive group of International Style buildings. Contributing buildings from this period include **Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall/Casparly Hall**, **Casparly Auditorium**, the **Graduate Students Residence**, the **President's House**, **Bronk Laboratory**, and **Sophie Fricke Hall**. These buildings were placed on the campus in a Beaux-Arts plan, primarily utilizing the unbuilt land between the original buildings near the East River and the campus's York Avenue boundary on the west.

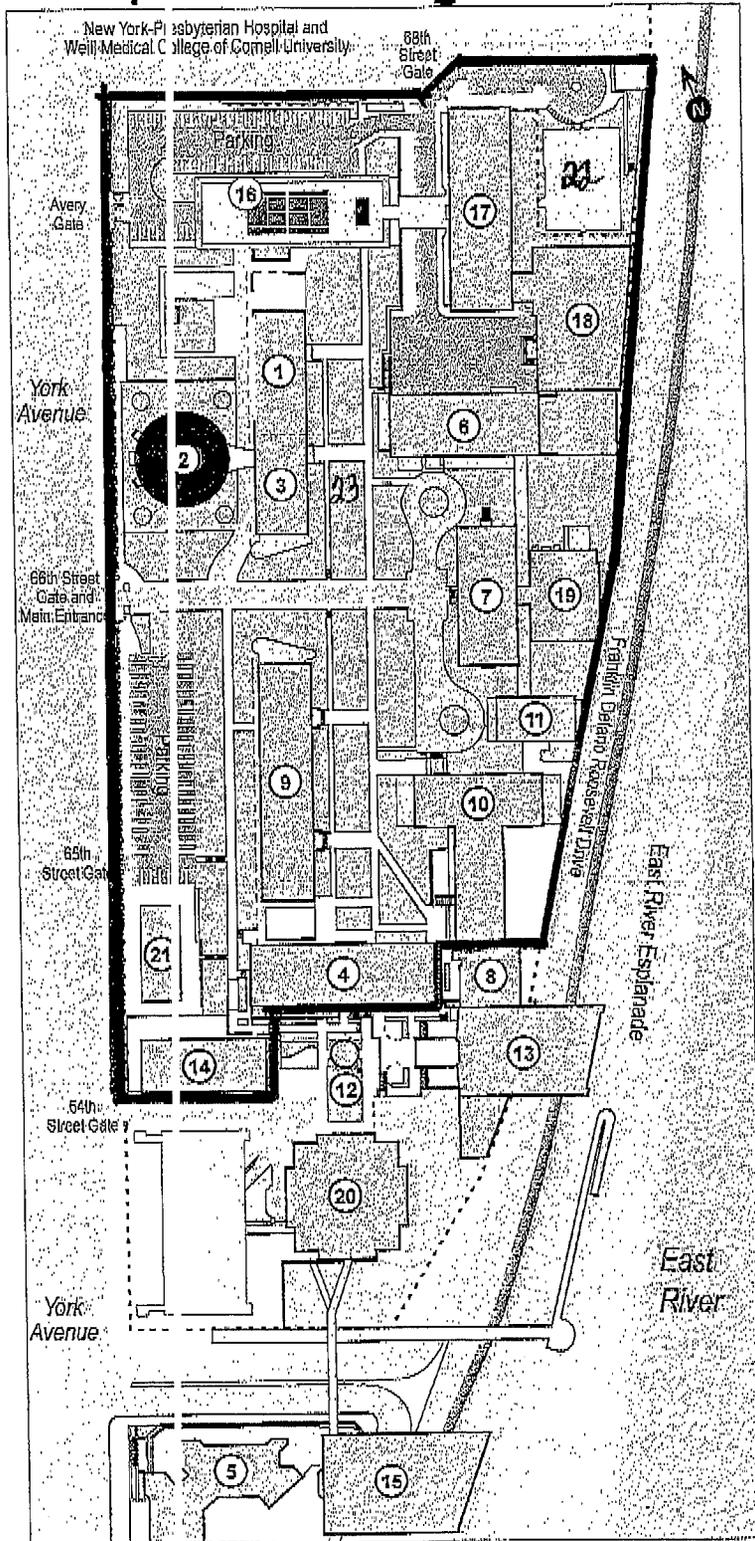
Incorporating the use of rough fieldstone and limestone cladding, the expansion buildings echo the materials of the earlier Institute buildings, while reflecting a modern approach to architectural design through the use of features such as ribbon windows, curtain wall facades, pilotis, and the blurring of indoor and outdoor space through the creation of atriums and patios. The expansion buildings also incorporate sculpture qualities such as rounded corners, cut out atriums and patios, and hemispheric shapes that create prominent geometric designs. The 1958-59 **landscape design** of the campus was by landscape architect Dan Kiley who was responsible for paving materials, plantings, and design of an esplanade that extends from the center of the campus to the north, paved with marble and slate. The landscape contributes to the design significance of the campus.

² Kenneth T. Jackson, ed. *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995), p. 1016.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Campus Map

Rockefeller University Historic District* - boundaries indicated by dark line.



1. Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall (contributing)
2. Caspary Auditorium (contributing)
3. Caspary Hall (contributing)
4. Detlev W. Bronk Laboratory (contributing)
5. Faculty House (not in district; not NR eligible)
6. Flexner Hall (contributing)
7. Founder's Hall (NHL; contributing)
8. Gasser Hall (not in district; not NR eligible)
9. Graduate Students Residence (contributing)
10. Hospital (contributing)
11. Nurses Residence (contributing)
12. The Peggy Rockefeller Plaza (not in district; not NR eligible)
13. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and David Rockefeller Research Building (not in district; not NR eligible)
14. Sophie Fricke Hall (contributing)
15. Scholars Residence (not in district; not NR eligible)
16. Tennis Court
17. Theobald Smith Hall (contributing)
18. Smith Hall Annex (non-contributing)
19. Welch Hall (Library) (contributing)
20. Benjamin and Irma G. Weiss Research Building (not in district; not NR eligible)
21. IT/Telecom Pavilion (non-contributing)
22. President's house (contributing)
23. Landscape Design (contributing)

* District is State/National Registers - eligible; determined by SHPO, 11/2007.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
1 Centre St., 9N, New York, NY 10007 (212) 669-7700

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

DCP	/07DCP093M	07/17/07
PROJECT NUMBER		DATE RECEIVED

PROJECT

ROCKEFELLER U. LSCFD: BLOCKS 1480 AND 1475

- No architectural significance
- No archaeological significance
- Designated New York City Landmark or Within Designated Historic District
- Listed on National Register of Historic Places
- Appears to be eligible for National Register Listing and/or New York City La Designation
- May be archaeologically significant; requesting additional materials

COMMENTS

The LPC is in receipt of the 7/13/07 assessment of potential historic resources. The LPC concurs with the determinations of eligibility of the historic resources analysis.

	08/15/07
SIGNATURE	DATE