



**THE FRANCIS KIMBALL
LONG WALK DRAWINGS:
A Valuable Historic Resource**

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Among the most visually compelling materials in the College Archives are two series of architectural drawings pertaining to the Long Walk. The first series dates from 1872 to 1874 and consists of conceptual drawings and completed plans for a multi-quadrangle arrangement of buildings. These drawings are by William Burges, an eminent English architect engaged by the College Trustees to design Trinity's new Summit Campus, and it was from Burges's work that what we know as the Long Walk emerged. The second series consists of working drawings for "lecture rooms" and "students rooms," executed in 1875 by Francis Kimball, a Hartford architect whom the Trustees engaged as construction supervisor. Kimball spent a year working with Burges in London and returned in 1874 with the final designs. It soon became clear that the College lacked the funding to carry out Burges's ambitious proposal, and the Trustees authorized Kimball to adapt the plans. He reduced the number of quadrangles and prepared drawings for classroom and dormitory buildings connected by a large gateway tower. These formed the western arm of a central quadrangle and comprise the Long Walk. Designated Seabury and Jarvis Halls, respectively, the classroom and dormitory blocks were ready for occupancy in the fall of 1878. Northam, the gateway tower, was completed in 1883.

Shown opposite is the east or Quad elevation of an entry bay for one of the blocks of lecture rooms in Seabury Hall. In addition to lecture facilities, Seabury included a library, a museum, a chapel, and faculty offices. The Seabury tower incorporated faculty apartments. The smaller images below depict 1) the east elevation of the Seabury tower; 2) the basement floor plan of the library located in the south end of Seabury adjacent to Hamlin; and 3) transverse sections of Seabury through a science laboratory, "Junior Professors' Rooms" (faculty apartments), and a hallway.

The Kimball drawings recently have become the focus of considerable interest on the part of architects and engineers engaged in the Long Walk restoration project.

The drawings document the fabric and functional design of the buildings, and have provided key dimensions, thus avoiding considerable expense and time in taking measurements from the buildings themselves. More than 130 years after their creation, Kimball's drawings are proving to be a useful historic resource.

Archival is drawn from material on Trinity's history in the Watkinson Library, the special collections department of the Raether Library and Information Technology Center. Trinity alumni seeking historical information about the College are welcome to contact Special Collections Librarian and College Archivist Peter Knapp at (860) 297-2268. Additional information may be found on the Web at www.trincoll.edu/depts/library/watkinson/wat_k_intro.html.

