



THIS
GREAT
HOUSE



THIS
GREAT
HEART



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*An enduring landmark,
an enduring symbol,
an enduring hope*



Fire ravaged Mead Hall in August 1989, above, leaving a shattered building, right, that took months to clean out and months to rebuild

The grandeur glimpsed through towering oaks, the steep rise of sandstone steps, the reach of white columns, the polished marbled entry, the gilt-framed mirrors—everyone has marveled at Mead Hall.

And in August 1989 as flames engulfed the building, everyone felt the pain.

For 23 hours Mead Hall burned as firefighters battled

to confine the blaze to the roof and attic.

Windows blew out, and flames licked at, then consumed the 150-year-old balustrade on the roof. The attic collapsed into the second floor, and smoke cloaked the Drew forest. When the

fire finally succumbed and water no longer cascaded down Mead Hall's steps, a devastated shell of a building remained, strangely still, a heart between beats.

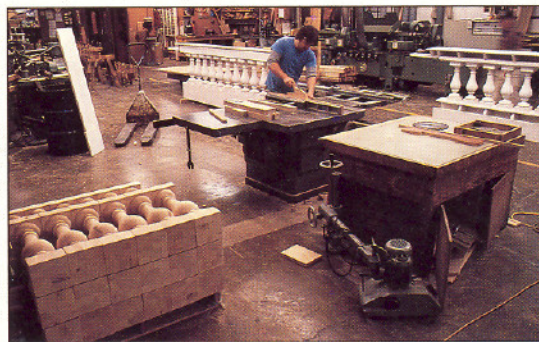


When the embers cooled enough for debris to be cleared, Mead Hall stood open to the elements, its roof pulled off, its stately rooms charred, its furnishings and art in shambles.



But through the soot and ashes Mead Hall's beauty endured.

And faith endured as well. Drew people never faltered in their affection—or in their resolve to rebuild. Like few other symbols, Mead Hall has touched the lives of every Drew graduate, professor, and worker. Every student has entered Drew through its doors or graduated from its long back porch. Tested by fire, Mead Hall's foundations remain as unshakeable as the university's belief in liberal learning, and its walls will soon resound with the clash of ideas as they once did. Here lies tradition, here futures still unfolding, here Drew's heart resurgent.



An invitation to learning; the grand foyer looking toward Founders Room, as it appeared before the fire

Mead Hall stands as an emblem of the university's commitment to preserving the best of its past. The largest Greek Revival house still left north of the Mason-Dixon Line, according to Roger Kennedy in *Greek Revival America* (1980), and one of its finest examples anywhere, Mead Hall remains a living monument of this country's first industrial expansion.

Built from 1833 to 1836 for the Gibbons family of New York and Georgia, Mead Hall's grand entry alone could have contained any other house in the area when it was constructed. Part of a 1,000-acre estate known as The Forest, Mead Hall served for over a decade as a summer home for William Gibbons until family deaths eventually led to its near abandonment. High-rolling Wall Street financier Daniel Drew purchased it in 1867 for the seminary he founded for the Methodist Church. Renamed by trustees in honor of Drew's wife, Roxanna Mead Drew, Mead Hall has since housed

Drew students and classrooms, the families of Drew presidents and professors, the library, and more recently, administrative offices.

Over the decades the university has preserved a treasure of the nation's heritage. Mead Hall was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and was already undergoing restoration when the 1989 fire struck. Since the fire, Drew has begun an extensive, historically based renovation of the building. The exterior is already completed and resplendent,

and almost all furnishings and art have undergone painstaking restoration and repair.

Plans call for returning Mead Hall to its 1836 grandeur and using its rooms for seminars, small classes, executive offices, and official and public events. Once completed, Mead Hall will again be central to every student's experience and be an exemplar of historic preservation.



The scope of the project is daunting, as the floor plans on the overleaf reveal, and this effort requires donors of vision (see reverse side of overleaf). But there is no substitute for quality in this restoration. If Mead Hall is to endure through another two centuries, the university and its many friends must act—and act decisively.

Mead Hall Renovation and Historic Restoration

(as of December 1991)

Estimated Costs

Construction	\$ 7,243,962
Architectural/Engineering	1,251,039
Equipment/Furnishings/ Communications	861,740
Project Contingency	680,035
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	\$10,036,776

Anticipated Sources of Funds

Insurance Recovery	\$ 6,914,648
N.J. Historic Trust Challenge Grant	743,500
Matching Contributions	743,500
JEC Bond (State of New Jersey)	1,200,000
Undetermined	435,128
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	\$10,036,776

