Saving Sutton Hall
Cori L. Woods
History

Spring 1873 to January 1875: Construction of John Sutton Hall

Architect was J.W. Drum of Pittsburgh, PA

12 acres were purchased from the Sutton family to build Sutton Hall

Contract price $180,000; actual price $180,100

In 1875: Accommodations for 400 boarders

In 1903: north and south wings added

Image of John Sutton Hall (left) and Thomas Sutton Hall (Right) in 1912
Architectural Significance

- Sutton is in the First Italianate style of the 1870s that reflects other historic buildings in Indiana including the Indiana County Court House and Breezedale.

- Constructed of heavy timber and red brick and consists of four floors and a basement.

- “Old Main” and “the Patriarch” and “eternal tree in the youthful grove.”

- “Some of us remember...the old brick yard at the corner of the campus where the bricks were burned...we watched her (Sutton Hall) walls rise story by story and it seemed a wondrous triumph.” - Jane E. Leonard
State Normal School - 1875

First Floor

Dining Room

Second Floor

Chapel
Plans to Tear Down Pt. 1

1. 1961: first campus development plans with John Sutton Hall removed are created

2. 1967: plans for Sutton and wings to be demolished to provide space for Stapleton Library

3. Department of Education allotted $1 million for estimated renovation (without building evaluation) and eventually rose to $2.5 million

4. August 1971: Foley-Kerr Report estimated $3.2 million needed to bring Sutton up to standards
Plans to Tear Down Pt. 2

- May 1973: Alumni Executive Council recommends an architectural design for the new library that would incorporate the bell tower and interior features of Sutton

- Full fund support be directed towards Breezedale instead of Sutton

- May 1974: final decision of Board of Trustees that "regretfully approved the demolition of John Sutton Hall to permit funding and construction of first phase of new building"

- December 1974: $7 1/2 million appropriated for First Plan of Library
Committee & The Campaign

- August 1973: President Hassler appoints Sutton Hall Restoration Committee to explore all feasible possibilities to save John Sutton Hall

- Committee consists of alumni, students, faculty, Board of Trustees, Legislators, and administrators who met in Sutton Hall
Plans of Action

Fund-raising Programming

- Newspaper Pledges
- News Release of newspapers, radio, TV stations, wire & press services
- Door-to-door fundraising
Plans of Action

Petitions
Plans of Action

**Letter Writing Campaign**

- Written to different businesses in the area for promotion and donations
  - Channel 11 news
  - The Penn
  - Other local newspapers

- Support Letters and donations
  - Alumni
  - Students
  - Indiana community
Plans of Action
National Register of Historic Places

Criteria for Evaluation, buildings or sites...

- That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history or;

- That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past or;

- That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent, the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction or;

- That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory to history

IUP’s Registration Form

- Basic Information
- Bibliographical references
- Geographical data
- Early Description
- Present Description
- Statement of Significance
- Photograph listing
May 23, 1975: Committee authorized Landmarks Planning Inc. to undertake a basic study of Sutton Hall

Things to fix:

- Loose and missing downspouts
- Spot point all bricks
- Reroof front porch
- Repair north and south entries
- East and West elevation
- Repaint walls and ceilings
- New carpeting
- Install gas and electric fixtures
- Sprinkler system
John Sutton Hall was accepted for inclusion on the National Register and eligible for restoration monies.

On October 3, 1975 the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support the preservation of Sutton.
Resolutions

- March 1976: Department of Labor and Industry gave permission to use all four floors of Sutton for offices and lower two floors for assembly purposes

- Wings and Thomas Sutton Hall are demolished to make room for Stapleton Library

Sutton Hall Restoration Celebration (1983) invitation and program
Indiana University of Pennsylvania - 1977