



WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP ARCHIVES

Piper Hall Fact Sheet

Part of the Loyola University Chicago Lakeshore campus, Piper Hall is home to the Women and Leadership Archives and the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership. The building is one of the few remaining early 20th century mansions that once lined N. Sheridan Rd. Below are some interesting facts about Piper Hall, for more information, contact the Women and Leadership Archives.

- * Built 1909 for Albert and Cassie Wheeler by architect William Carbys Zimmerman, Piper Hall was referred to by some as Cassie's "Dream Castle."
- * Architecturally, the building is American Foursquare design also known as Prairie Box.
- * The grand staircase, constructed from cathedral oak, leads to the second floor and features a Tiffany-inspired stained glass window at the second floor landing.
- * The Wheelers sold the house in 1916 to Albert and Bessie Johnson.
- * Johnson converted the drawing room (room left of main entrance) into a library.
- * Mundelein College, a Catholic women's college founded in 1929 by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs), bought the building in 1934 and converted it into the college library.
- * In 1969, the building briefly became the College's student center (with coffeehouse) known as "Gannons," after then Mundelein College President Sr. Ann Ida Gannon.
- * After becoming the Religious Studies Center, it was renamed Piper Hall in 1975, for Kenneth and Virginia Piper, Mundelein College supporters.
- * When Mundelein affiliated with Loyola University Chicago in 1991, Loyola became the owner of Piper Hall and occasionally used the building for university events.
- * The restoration of Piper Hall in 2005 returned portions of the building to the original design, as well as provided space for the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership (2nd floor) and the Women and Leadership Archives (3rd floor).

Women and Leadership Archives

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