



# FACT BOOK

## BICENTENNIAL EDITION 1793 – 1993

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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL  
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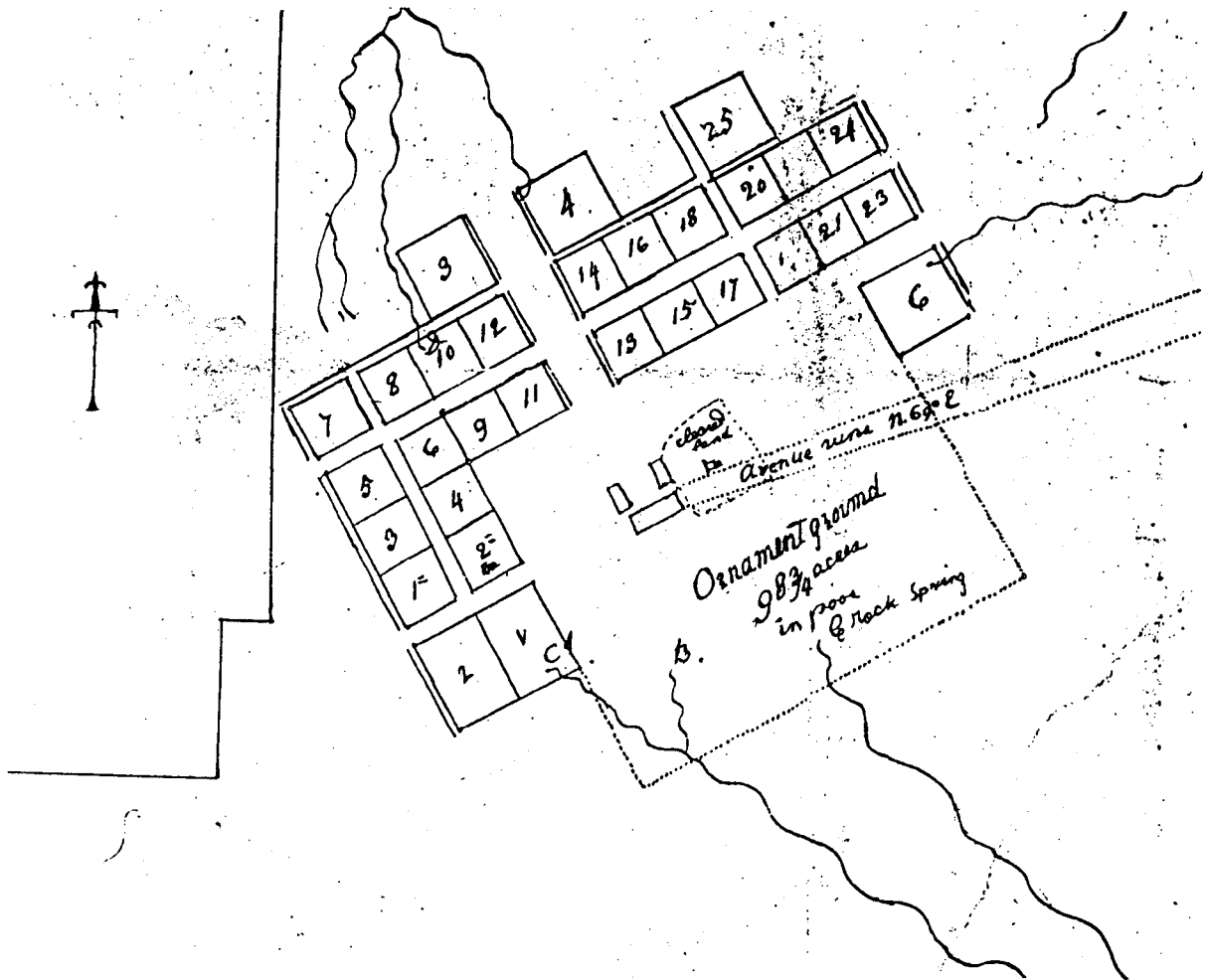
The Staff of University Archives  
The Staff of The North Carolina Collection  
The Staff of the Alumni Association

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# 1795

This 1795 map of the UNC campus illustrates the position of Old East, the first building on campus, and the anticipated locations of Old West and the South Building. Although the cornerstone of Old East was laid in 1793, the University did not open its doors to students until 1795. The University's first matriculant was Hinton James who walked all the way from Wilmington, NC to enroll in the nation's first public university. During that first year enrollment totaled forty-one students who were instructed by three faculty members. Tuition that year was \$15.00.



Map provided by University Archives, The Library of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

When this chart appeared in the Bicentennial Factbook in October 1993, it omitted Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson and Chancellor Paul F. Sharp from the listing of Chancellors of UNC-Chapel Hill. While this omission was completely unintentional, the Office of Institutional Research sincerely regrets the error.

**UNC PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS**  
1795-1993

**PRESIDENTS**  
of the  
University of North Carolina

1795	↑	From 1795 to 1804 a succession of presiding professors directed the University
1804		Joseph Caldwell
1812		Robert H. Chapman
1817		Joseph Caldwell
1835		David L. Swain
1868		Solomon S. Pool
1871		Closed during reconstruction 1871-1875
1876		Kemp P. Battle
1891		George T. Winston
1896		Edwin A. Alderman
1900		Francis P. Venable
1913		Edward K. Graham
1918		Marvin H. Stacy
1919		Harry W. Chase
1930	↓	Frank P. Graham

**PRESIDENTS**  
of the  
Consolidated University and UNC System

1932	Frank P. Graham
1947	William D. Carmichael, Jr.
1950	Gordon Gray
1955	J. Harris Purks
1956	William C. Friday
1986	C.D. Spangler, Jr.

**CHANCELLORS**  
of the  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

1934	Robert B. House
1957	William B. Aycock
1964	Paul F. Sharp
1966	J. Carlyle Sitterson
1972	N. Ferebee Taylor
1980	Christopher C. Fordham
1988	Paul Hardin

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL  
1795-1993**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENT GROWTH</u>
1795	41	-----
1805	57	39.02%
1815	83	45.61%
1825	122	46.99%
1835	104	-14.75%
1845	156	50.00%
1855	324	107.69%
1865	128	-60.49%
1875	68	-46.88%
1885	204	200.00%
1895	351	72.06%
1905	680	93.73%
1915	1,059	55.74%
1925	2,734	158.17%
1935	3,052	11.63%
1945	2,480	-18.74%
1955	6,575	165.12%
1965	12,419	88.88%
1975	20,615	66.00%
1985	22,021	6.82%
1993	24,299	10.34%

Sources: 1795-1894 History of North Carolina by Kemp O. Battle  
 1804-1855 DeBow's Review, March 1856  
 1856-1936 Student Catalogues  
 1937-1993 Registrar's Office



## FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The table on the following page shows the tremendous growth in the number of faculty the University has seen in the past two hundred years. What it does not show is the enduring legacies of so many of its dedicated and loyal members. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been fortunate to have numerous outstanding professors on its faculty. There are far too many to include them all in this short article, but three professors out of a two hundred year history are especially notable: Elisha Mitchell (1793-1857), professor of mathematics and chemistry; Francis P. Venable (1856-1934), professor of chemistry and later president of the University; and Howard W. Odum (1884-1954), professor of sociology.

Mount Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi, bears the name of its discoverer, Elisha Mitchell, who was on the faculty of the University for thirty-nine years. Besides discovering this peak, it was also Professor Mitchell who measured its imposing height of 6,684 ft. But, Professor Mitchell left another legacy to the University as it was his interest in botany which led President Swain to call on Professor Mitchell to help landscape the University grounds. The stone walls which are an integral part of the University's campus were started by Elisha Mitchell, who convinced President Swain of their superiority over the rail fences which had been used previously to keep livestock off the University's grounds.<sup>1</sup>

Francis P. Venable is probably best known as the scientist who identified the product calcium carbide, produced in the aluminum production plant owned by J. Turner Morehead. This was to become the primary product of Union Carbide founded by John Motley Morehead and William Rand Kenan, both alumni of the University. Professor Venable also helped to refine the Bunsen burner, but he received no financial recompense for either of these developments.<sup>2</sup>

Howard Odum founded the Institute for Research in Social Sciences and the School of Public Works which later became the School of Social Work. A strong social reformer, he brought to light child labor abuses and chronicled the plight of the poor not only in North Carolina but throughout the South. He also encouraged the organization of a research institute to be located near the Raleigh-Durham Airport. This idea was later taken up and bore fruit as the Research Triangle Institute.<sup>3</sup>

From three professors in 1795, the faculty of the University has grown to over 2,249 now, including 613 women and 183 members of various ethnic groups. These faculty are specialists in a variety of fields ranging from the esoteric to the practical. They are teachers, researchers, artists, and practitioners whose work has helped mold and develop the University into the successful institution it has become, an integral and contributing part of the State of North Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup> Powell, *The First State University*. p. 68

<sup>2</sup> Snider, *Light on the Hill*. pp. 140-141

<sup>3</sup> Snider, *Light on the Hill*. pp. 178-180, 262

**FACULTY  
1795 - 1992**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Faculty</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Faculty</u>
1795	3	1895	18
1800	4	1900	20
1805	2	1905	49
1810	3	1910	57
1815	4	1915	57
1820	8	1920	70
1825	10	1925	169
1830	8	1930	212
1835	7	1935	264
1840	7	1940	312
1845	8	1945	414
1850	7	1950	399
1855	11	1955	570
1860	11	1960	783
1865	8	1965	1149
1870	0	1970	1469
1875	7	1975	1745
1880	13	1980	1891
1885	19	1985	1911
1890	14	1990	2180
		1992	2249



Sources: Student Catalogues  
 EPA Faculty Benefits  
 Register of the Officers & Faculty of the University of North Carolina, compiled by the staff of the  
 North Carolina Collection (1954)



## CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY DURING RECONSTRUCTION

The University closed from 1871 to 1875 despite the best efforts of President Swain to keep the University going. The Civil War which ended in 1865 managed to decimate the ranks of both students and faculty. Even when the Confederate side was obviously lost, Swain could not contain the exodus of young students and instructors to the cause.

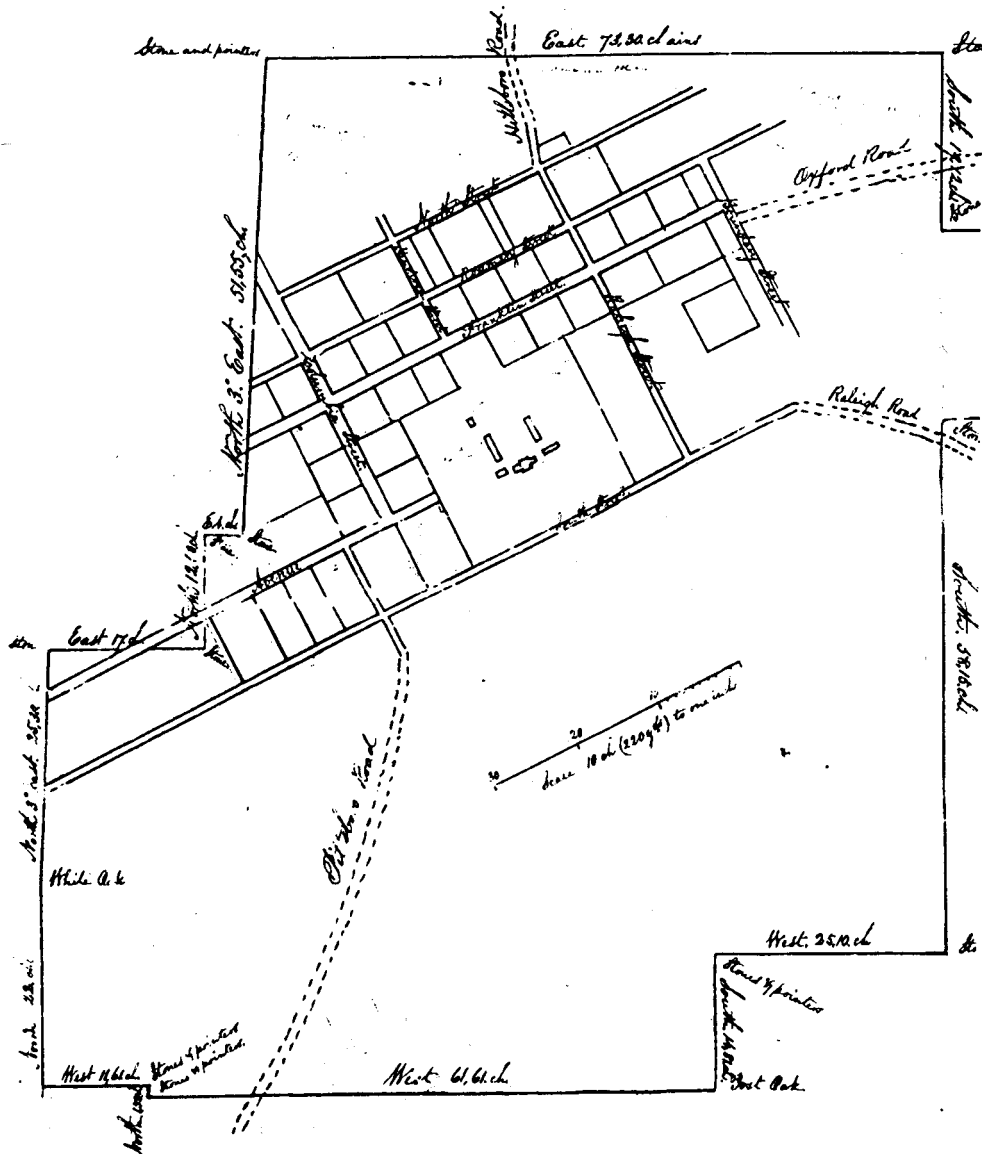
Swain also played an important role in negotiating the surrender of Raleigh and Chapel Hill to General Sherman and his Union forces. He managed to ensure that the capitol and the University would not be damaged, but his role in these proceedings did considerable damage to his reputation among keen Confederates. This damage was extended when his daughter, Eleanor, married Union General Atkins who had captured the town of Chapel Hill.

The University had fallen into considerable debt during the Civil War partly as a result of holding worthless stock and Confederate bonds. The financial condition of the University was further exacerbated by a lack of students and their tuition revenues. Another situation which threatened the University was the lack of support it received from the provisional government after the war. Governor Holden perceived the University as an aristocratic and elitist institution, embodying the worst of the ante-bellum period. He was determined to bring about changes to the University and to that end appointed an almost entirely new Board of Trustees and replaced President Swain with Solomon Pool.

President Pool faced strong opposition to his administration. This opposition was embodied by Cornelia Spencer who immediately launched a letter writing campaign to the state's newspapers. This campaign successfully ensured that no students showed up for classes when the University reopened for the spring semester in 1869. Three students did eventually attend, but these were related to President Pool or his staff. Mrs. Spencer's attacks against Pool and his administration continued through 1869. These, combined with the downfall of Governor Holden who had appointed Pool, succeeded in bringing an end to his administration and the closing of the University in 1871. The University remained closed until 1875 when it reopened under the leadership of Kemp Plummer Battle.

# 1880

By 1880 the campus had a few more buildings. The University had survived the civil war but was closed during reconstruction from 1871 to 1875. Enrollment in 1880 had increased to 191 students taught by 13 faculty. Tuition had also increased to \$87. It was in this year that Dr. Thomas W. Harris established the School of Pharmacy at UNC. A year earlier, the University formally established the first university sponsored medical school in the nation. It would be seventeen more years before the University began admitting women.



Map provided by The North Carolina Collection, The University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill

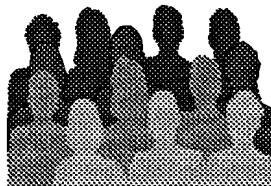
## DEGREES AWARDED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The University has awarded over 190,000 degrees during its first 198 years. The 160,000 degrees it has awarded since 1925/26 are a testament to the incredible growth the University has enjoyed in the past seventy years. The magnitude of this growth is especially obvious when the cumulative number of degrees awarded are examined. Between 1795 and 1975, the University conferred 95,323 degrees on various baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral candidates. In the eighteen years since 1975, it conferred 95,224 degrees, only ninety-nine fewer degrees than it awarded in the first one hundred and eighty years of its existence.

### DEGREES AWARDED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL SINCE 1795



YEARS	# OF DEGREES AWARDED	CUMULATIVE # AWARDED
1795 - 1799/1800	19	19
1800/01 - 1824-25	350	369
1825/26 - 1849/50	597	966
1850/51 - 1874/75	812	1,778
1875/76 - 1899/1900	652	2,430
1900/01 - 1924/25	3,161	5,591
1925/26 - 1949/50	18,641	24,232
1950/51 - 1974/75	71,091	95,323
1975/76 - 1992/93	95,224	190,547

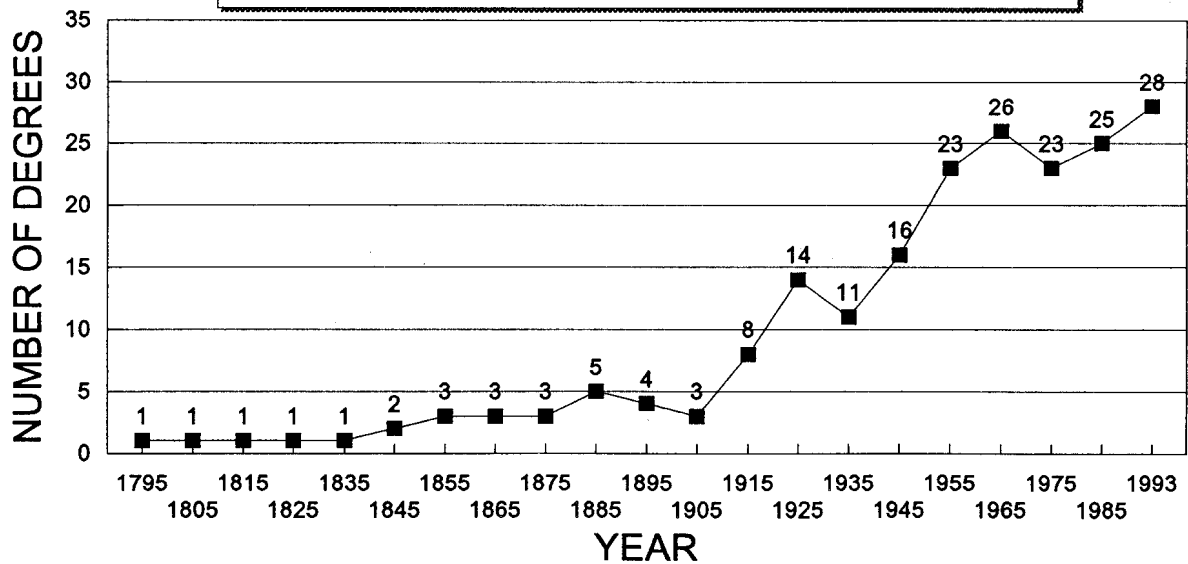


**NUMBER OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES OFFERED\***  
1795 - 1993

<u>Year</u>	<u>Degrees Offered</u>
1795	1
1805	1
1815	1
1825	1
1835	1
1845	2
1855	3
1865	3
1875	3
1885	5
1895	4
1905	3
1915	8
1925	14
1935	11
1945	16
1955	23
1965	26
1975	23
1985	25
1993	28

\* Not number of majors but different baccalaureate degrees such as BA, BS etc.

**UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES OFFERED**  
1795 - 1993



Source: Student Catalogues

## WOMEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Although the University opened its doors to men in 1795, it was not until 1897 that the University began admitting women, and then only in advanced classes. The first female students were Mary McRae, Lulie Watkins, Cecye Roanne Dodd, Dixie Lee Bryant, and Sallie Walker Stockard, with Sallie Stockard becoming the first woman to receive a degree from The University of North Carolina in 1898.

Although women who lived in the Chapel Hill area were permitted to enroll as freshmen, it was University policy only to admit women as junior transfers until 1951, at which time the School of Nursing began accepting women as freshmen. However, it was not until 1963 that women were admitted to the fine arts program, and shortly thereafter women were permitted to enroll as freshmen in other programs as well. Originally women were subjected to a more rigorous academic standard than men because of the limited dormitory space allocated for women; however, this policy changed in 1972 with Title IX which mandated the elimination of sexual discrimination.

Although not admitted until 100 years after the University opened its doors, today women account for more than 57% of the total student enrollment and are represented in every academic field. The University has an established Women's Studies Program offering interdisciplinary study through eighteen different departments enabling students to pursue either a major or a certificate in the Women's Studies program.

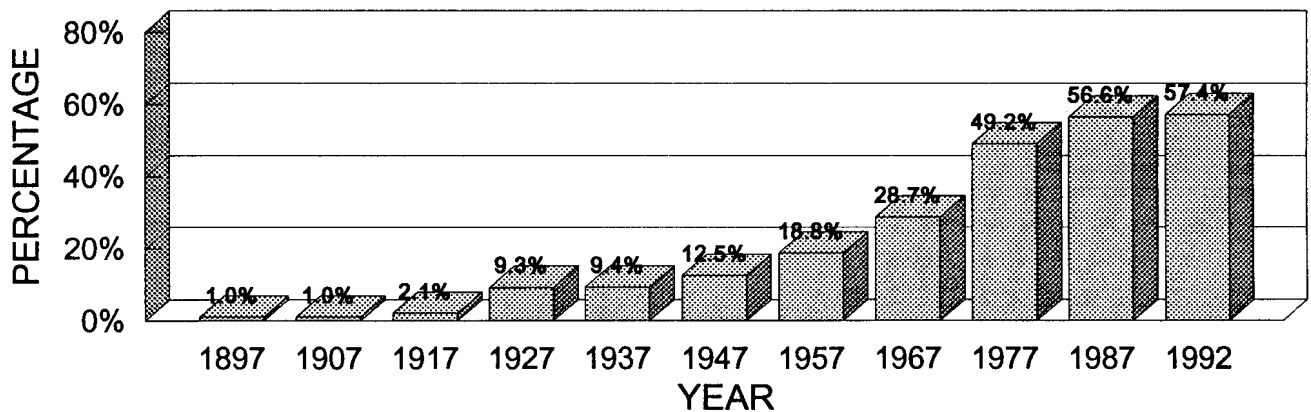
Source: *Women on the Hill* by Pamela Dean

## WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL 1897-1992

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>WOMEN ENROLLED</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN</u>
1897	508	5	1.0%
1907	788	8	1.0%
1917	855	18	2.1%
1927	3,155	293	9.3%
1937	3,240	306	9.4%
1947	7,670	958	12.5%
1957	7,038	1,320	18.8%
1967	15,601	4,478	28.7%
1977	19,954	9,808	49.2%
1987	22,921	12,978	56.6%
1992	23,944	13,733	57.4%



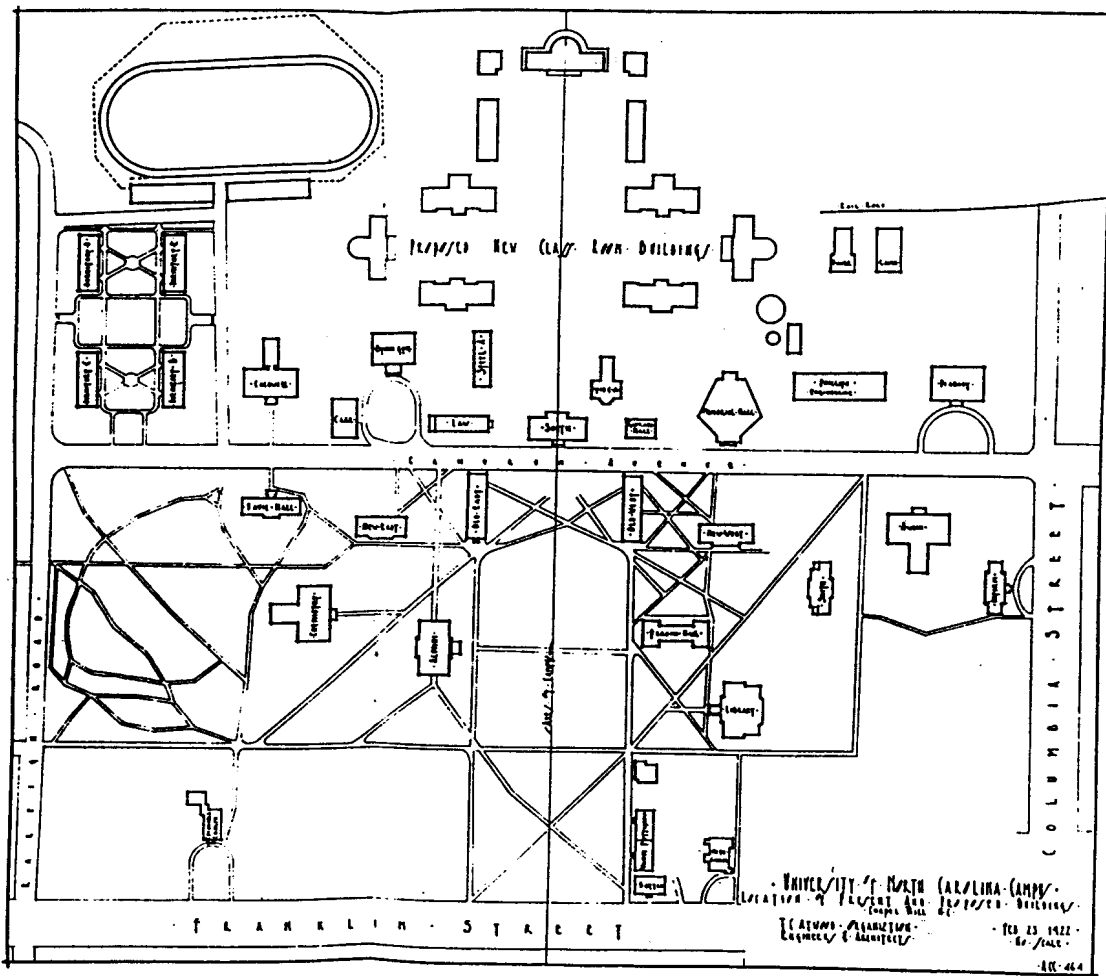
### WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT 1897 - 1992



Sources: Women on th Women on the Hill by Pamela Dean  
1897-1936 Student Catalogues  
1937-1992 Registrar's Office

1922

The 1922 map shows the campus with over thirty existing buildings and plans for at least eleven more. The University had 1,944 students enrolled, 68 of whom were women. Tuition and fees during this year were \$96, and there were 135 faculty in residence. 1922 was the year the UNC Press was founded, making it the oldest state university press in the south and one of the oldest in the nation. Two years earlier the School of Public Welfare, now the School of Social Work was established, and one year prior to that the North Carolina General Assembly founded the School of Commerce at UNC, now the Kenan-Flagler Business School.



Map provided by The North Carolina Collection, The University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill

## SELECTED RECIPIENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL HONORARY DEGREES

Since 1799, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has awarded 714 honorary degrees "by reason of eminent achievement in scholarship or in public affairs or in service to the University or the State or the Nation through activities recognized as significant." Over the years, the University has given honorary degrees to statesmen, poets, writers, dancers, actors, scientists, and educators as well as to many benefactors of the University.

Four U.S. Presidents have received honorary awards: James Polk (Class of 1818), James Buchanan, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin Delanor Roosevelt. FDR's wife, Eleanor, also received an honorary degree from the University, three years before her husband did. Other notables are William H. Seward who was responsible for the purchase of the Alaskan Territory; Sam Ervin, Jr., (Class of 1917) Special Prosecutor for the Watergate investigation, and Terry Sanford, US Senator emeritus.

On the side of the arts, honorary degrees have been given to poets Robert Frost and Carl Sandburg, writer Eudora Welty, actor James Earl Jones, and dancer Katherine Dunham.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has also been generous in awarding these honors to patrons of the University as appreciation for their contributions of time, zeal, and financial support. Some of these recipients have been: Joseph Caldwell, first President of the University; Cornelia Phillips Spencer, who fought so hard against the political forces of her time to maintain the University's integrity and spirit during the Civil War and Reconstruction, and was also the first woman to be awarded an honorary degree; Julian S. Carr, who donated the funds for Carr Building; Paul Cameron, who donated money and land to the University and for whom Cameron Avenue is named; John Motley Morehead who provided the necessary funds to build the first planetarium on a university campus; his Foundation awards approximately 60 scholarships to students every year; William Rand Kenan, Jr., who endowed 25 professorships as well as donated funds to build the football stadium; and George Watts Hill, Sr., who donated 3.5 million dollars for the recently completed Alumni Center.

Sources: 1990 Bicentennial Alumni Directory  
Light on the Hill by William Snider  
Carolina Alumni Review-Summer 1991, Summer 1992, Summer 1993



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

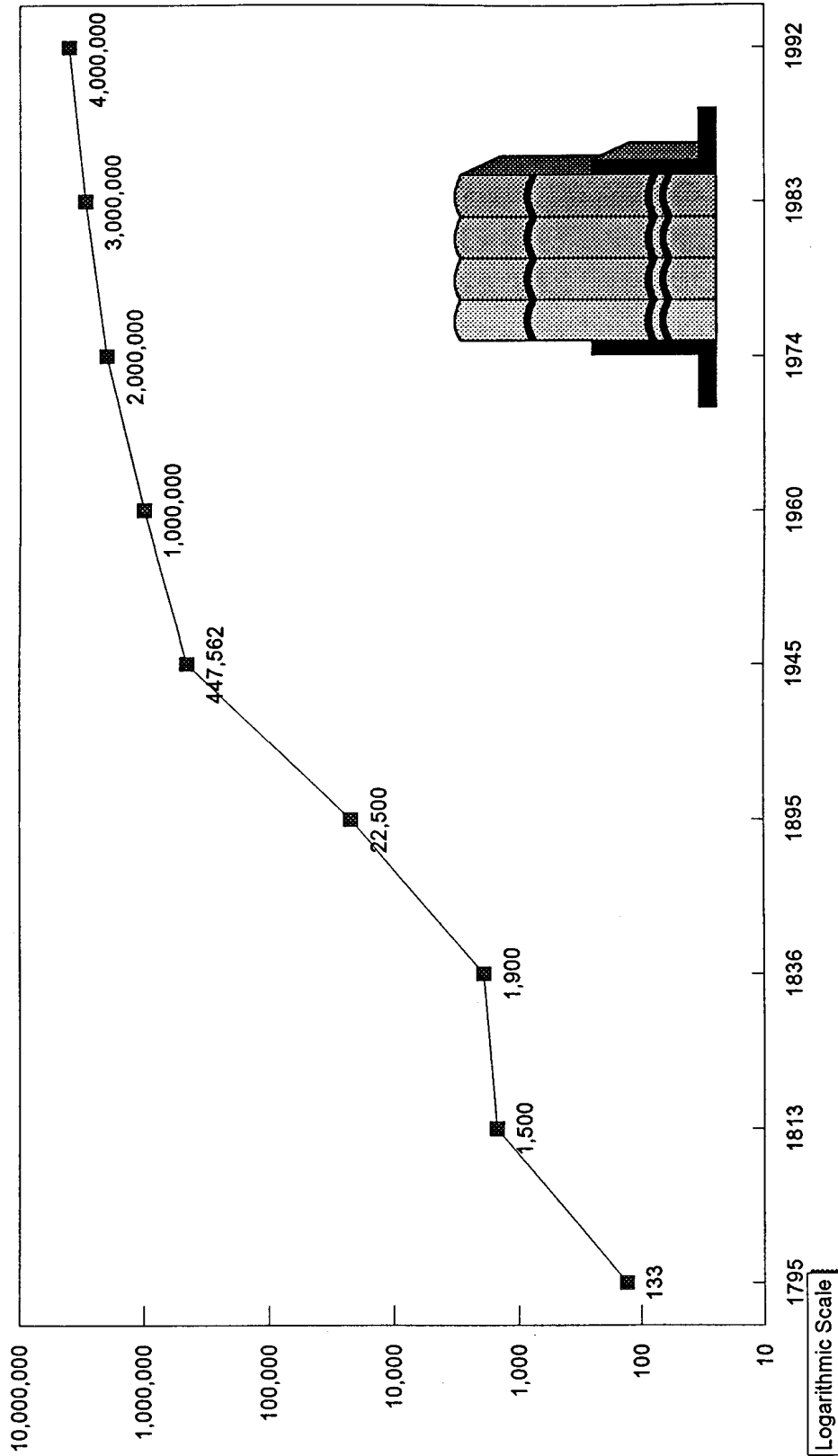
Resources for books were notably scarce in the very early years of the University. The first additions to the University's library were donations from benefactors such as General W.R. Davie who donated fourteen volumes in 1795 and Richard Bennehan, Esq. of Orange county who gave 28 volumes. However the University's collection did not grow substantially until Joseph Caldwell, the University's first president, went on a tour of Europe in the mid 1820's where he purchased over seven thousand dollars worth of books and scientific apparatus.

During the first twenty years of President Swain's administration (1835-1868), not one additional book was purchased for the Library. The only saving grace to this situation was the collection of books maintained by the Philanthropic and Dialectic Societies which were formed in 1795. One of their first orders of business was to purchase books for the use of their members, and by the 1840's these societies had amassed over 7,000 volumes each.

The core of the University's present collection was comprised of donated books, books acquired by President Caldwell, and the generous donations of the Philanthropic and Dialectic Societies' collections, which in 1906 brought the University's total number of volumes in the collection to over 22,000.

By the end of the 1992 fiscal year, the combined holdings of the academic and health science libraries numbered nearly four million volumes. The libraries of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have also become the regional depository for official United States publications. Besides Davis, House, and the Health Sciences libraries, the University also has Wilson Library, home of the North Carolina Collection, the Southern Historical Collection, and the Rare Book Collection, as well as numerous small departmental and school libraries located throughout the campus.

# The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries Growth in Number of Volumes



Sources: University Librarian  
Library Resources of The University of North Carolina edited by Charles E. Rush  
The Library of the University of North Carolina by Fisk Brewer

