

HOUGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL



Year Built: 1897-1899

“The announcement of the site chosen by the Building Committee of the Trustees for the Houghton Memorial Chapel, and reported last year, called forth a vigorous protest from alumnae and others, who deprecated any injury to the rare silvan beauty of the part of the grounds designated. In deference to this objection, another site was chosen. Ground was broken about August first on the broad elevation which is defined on the east by the steep side of the Stone Hall hill, and on the west by the opened space in front of Music Hall. The new chapel will face the main avenue, and will admirably vary and strengthen the group of halls which meets the view from the railroad, the lake, or the heights beyond. The design of the building is essentially ecclesiastic, and the changes made in order to adapt it to academic uses have not vitiated this design. Its form will be nearly that of the Greek cross, with a slightly lengthened nave. The walls will be of buff Amherst stone, with parapets and terrace of granite; the interior finish will be of light brick and quartered oak. The dome will be so supported as to leave the audience hall unobstructed by columns. The floor will be fireproof. The seating capacity will exceed one thousand. It is expected that the corner-stone will be laid before winter sets in.” – Annual Report of the President of Wellesley College (1897)

“The walls and roof of the new Houghton Memorial Chapel are now complete, and there is every expectation that the building will be ready for use in the early summer. The interior now shows the full effect of correct proportions, unobstructed space, and mellow wall tints.” – Annual Report of the President of Wellesley College (1898)

“The dedication of the Houghton memorial chapel of Wellesley college will take place on Thursday, June 1, at 3 p.m. The chapel, which had been so long only a dream of the alumnae and students, was made a reality in June, 1896, through the generous gift of \$100,000 from Mr. Clement S. Houghton and Miss Elizabeth G. Houghton of Boston.” – Boston Globe: May 29, 1899