

OAKWOODS – PRESIDENT’S HOUSE (NOW THE ADMISSION OFFICE)



Year Built: 1901-02

“President Hazard is erecting a house on the knoll in front of Stone Hall. The architecture is to be domestic in style.”
– The Wellesley News: October 24, 1901

“President Hazard’s House -- Within a few weeks now, Miss Hazard’s new house will be ready for occupancy, and this is naturally [sic] an event in which the Wellesley world has a warm interest. The situation of this new ‘President’s House’ is exceptionally good -- on the wooded knoll near Stone Hall, which commands a view at once of the main highway through the town, the beautiful water of Lake Waban and the wooded highlands beyond, while near at hand are broad meadows and noble trees. The house has its entrance frontage on the same driveway which leads toward Stone Hall. In its general effect, the new house is dignified, harmonious -- in a word, suitable to place and purpose. It is gambrel-roofed, two and a half stories in height, with two wings, giving a frontage of about ninety feet, the second story being somewhat smaller. The main entrance is through an English basement on the Stone Hall side of the house, under a broad porte cochere. The square entrance hall has on the left a small reception room, on the right the stairway leading to the living part of the house. The hallway walls throughout are to be finished in a ground color of red, with a narrow border of conventionalized scallop shells below and doves above, pressed into the plaster. Vertically opposite the stairway leading is the president’s study, on the south-west corner of the house. These walls will be done in a dull Persian blue, the hangings for it are red, and the Persian floor-rug is of beautifully blended reds and blues; opposite the fireplace a Dutch door opens out upon a veranda overlooking the lake. Across the hall from the study, at the right of the stairway, is the reception room, which has an effective dull green Oriental paper and handsome Chinese hangings. At the end of the hall is the drawing-room -- of admirable proportions, twenty feet by thirty -- which, with the reception room and study room and study makes a sort of clover leaf of rooms, with the top leaf larger than the others. This room, furnished in cream color and buff, will virtually duplicate the drawing room at Miss Hazard’s home, Oakwoods, in Peace Dale, R.I. The dining room, next to the study, on the left, is eighteen by fourteen in size, will have a high wainscoting and be painted in dark, rich green. The furnishing are of mahogany, with a beautiful old Chippendale sideboard, also from the Oakwoods home, a mahogany dining table, with a handsomely carved border in place of the usual bevelled edge, and low-framed mahogany chairs in the design known as “fiddle-backed.” Beyond the dining-room, on the left, are the butler’s pantry, the kitchen, and a small kitchen dining-room. There is also a guest-room, with bath, on the ground floor, at the left of the entrance stairway landing. And in the basement are the laundry and other necessary household equipment. Up-stairs, in the second story, there are four bedrooms, linen closets and bath-rooms. The southeast room, over the dining-room is to be furnished in a charming scheme of old rose and green, the north room in red, the northwest room in soft green, with a suggestion of pink, and the southwest room with blue for its dominant color. In the third story are rooms for the house servants. Both inside and out, the new house will be attractive, dignified, homelike and elegant -- a happy combination which promises well for its future.” – The Wellesley News: May 5, 1902