

OBSERVATORY



Year Built: 1900 (addition on right – 1906)

“An Observatory, primarily for students’ laboratory work in astronomy, has just been opened at Wellesley College, built and equipped by the enlightened liberality of one of the Trustees, Mrs. John C. Whitin.” – ‘The Whitin Observatory of Wellesley College’ by S.F. Whiting in *Popular Astronomy* (November 1900)

“And to these six buildings we have today added the completion of the beautiful Observatory and the Observatory House -- the gift of our honored trustee, Mrs. Sarah E. Whitin. When we had only one dome and telescope, which were in place in 1900, we considered we had a very complete building. Now the capacity of the Observatory has been nearly doubled by the addition of a six-inch glass and a second transit instrument. The library has been greatly enlarged and added to, and a house for the observers is built in close proximity to the place of their work. When mildly remonstrated with against putting a very handsome India rug in the students’ work-room. Mrs. Whitin replied that having their feet on a good rug would not injure their science! And with the same generous care and thoughtfulness all the details of beauty as well as usefulness have been kept in mind so that in accepting to-day the keys to the seventh and eighth buildings on the Wellesley grounds, added to the equipment of the College since I came here, I have the great pleasure of expressing on behalf of the Trustees not only their gratitude for the gift itself, but for the gracious generosity and exquisite care which has been bestowed in making that gift not only useful but beautiful. May each student in the new building prove not an ‘asterisk but a sun’ in her Wellesley life.” – The Wellesley News: July 11, 1906