

FIGURE 1

*View of the Main Quad  
and Mead Chapel*

FIGURE 2

*View of Library Park  
looking east*



1



2



3. THE CAMPUS TODAY

CONTEMPORARY CAMPUS ISSUES

The four best qualities of the contemporary Middlebury College campus are inculcated within the campus’s historic core: 1) the *setting*, 2) the *spatial structure*, 3) the *landscape*, and 4) the *architectural quality* of heritage buildings.

This illustrates that, from the founding of the College until just after World War II, those charged with the development of the campus followed a set of tenets that served the campus well. These tenets produced a compact, walkable campus with a clear system of streets, walks, and quadrangles framed by buildings that were human in scale, articulate in detail, had clearly defined entrances, and were sited to create spaces and reveal views to the surroundings.

The positive and negative characteristics of the campus architecture and landscape are described in detail in Chapter 6: Built Systems.

3

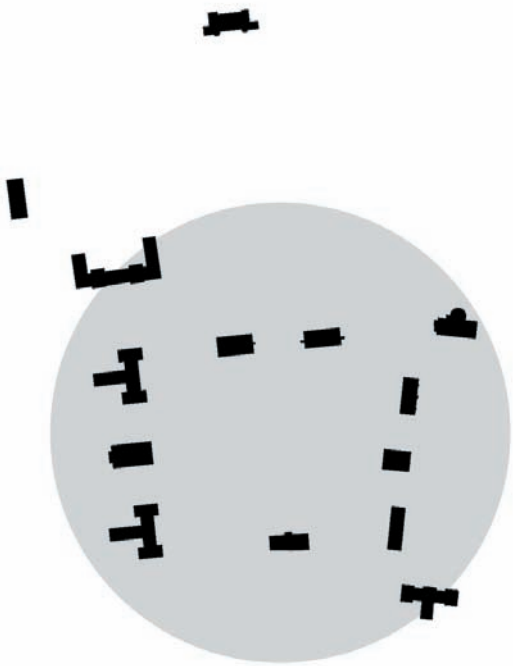
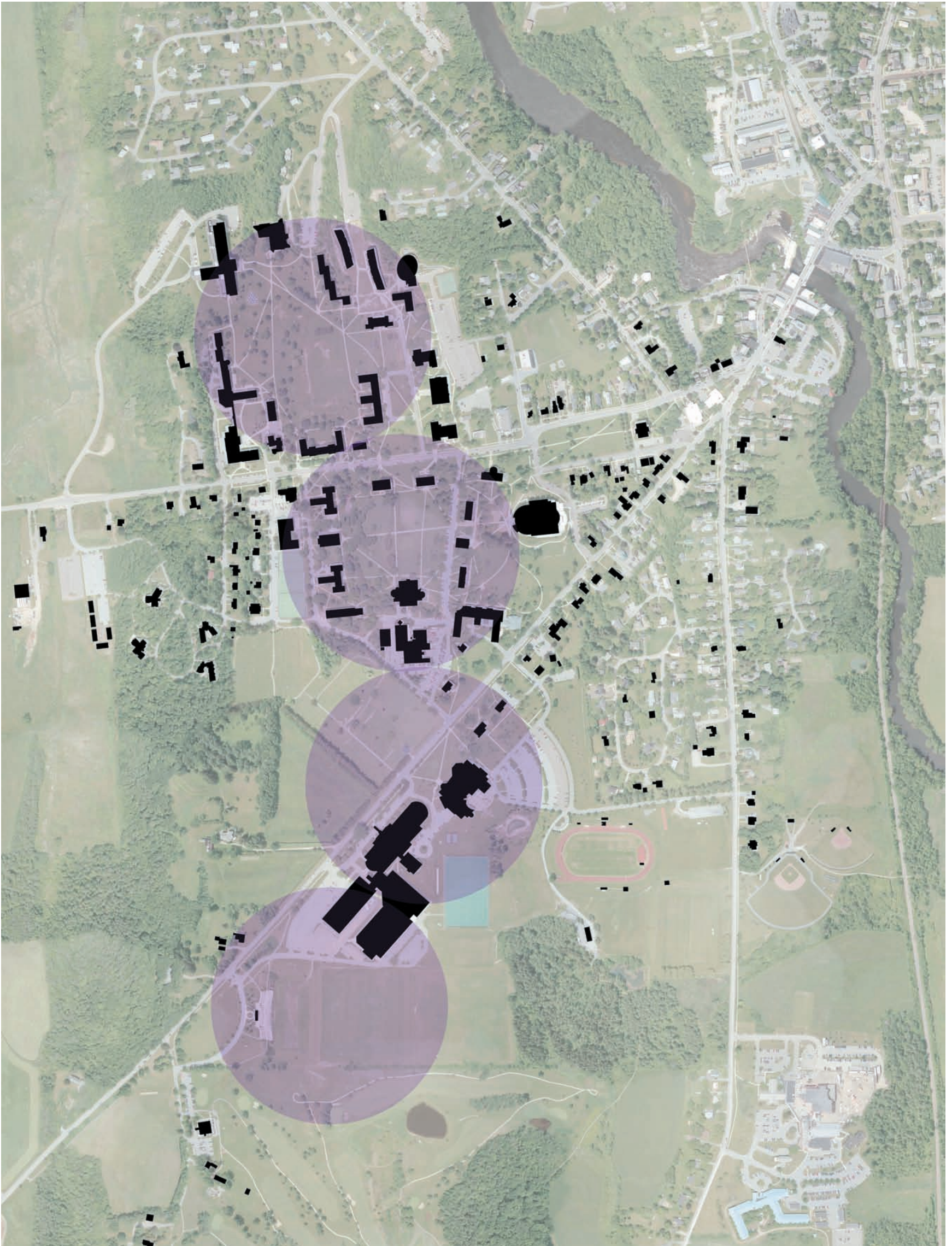


FIGURE 3  
*Plan of the Main Quad showing five-minute walking shed*

FIGURE 4  
*View of Warner Hall*









CONTEMPORARY CAMPUS PROBLEMS

Beginning soon after World War II, the Middlebury College campus expanded rapidly and generally did not adhere to the tenets of earlier periods of campus development. Buildings were developed farther and farther apart, and began to relate to each other less in their architectural language. This led to sprawl and degradation of the physical environment. Beyond the historic core the positive qualities of the physical environment diminish significantly.

Many vistas out to the surrounding landscape remain, but others have been lost due to continuous walls of buildings.

The clarity of campus open spaces—the spatial structure—has become less clear due to inappropriate landscape and buildings. In other words, neither the buildings nor the landscape define legible spaces such as quadrangles.

The level of landscape maintenance is high, but in some areas the landscape has suffered due to overuse and poor drainage. Renovation is needed.

Beyond the historic core, buildings of inappropriate type and character have also contributed to the reduction in quality of the physical environment. In some cases buildings are significantly bigger than those of the historic core, but it is not size that is crucial. Rather, it is that they are too often types that do not relate well to other buildings, or to landscape.

Distance has become another notable characteristic of the contemporary campus. It is approximately one mile from the north side of McCardell Bicentennial Hall to Kirk Alumni Center—a twenty-minute walk—and almost that far from the Materials Recycling Facility to the President’s House. Within this expansive footprint, buildings, infrastructure, landscape, and maintenance all test the limits of sustainability.

During the last half of the twentieth century, expansion was rapid and massive. It is now time to catch up, and reintegrate the campus—building on its positive qualities.



FIGURE 1  
*Campus plan showing  
five-minute walking sheds*



FIGURE 2  
*Aerial view of the North Campus  
showing undefined open space*



FIGURE 3  
*View of the library main entrance*



FIGURE 4  
*View of Mahaney CFA from Stewart  
Hill Road*

FIGURE 5  
*View of Atwater Dining entrance and  
open space*