The Quincy Mansion School was established in 1896 by Dr. and Mrs. Horace Mann Willard as a private school for girls. The school was located on the former twelve acre estate of the Quincy family. Josiah Quincy (1802-82) had built a summer home on the property after serving as Mayor of Boston in the decade of the 1840s.

In 1896 there were two buildings on the property, the Mansion and the carriage house. Elm Avenue was the private drive to the Quincy property. At the head of the avenue a drive to the right led to the Mansion and one to the left led to the home of Josiah Quincy, the Patriot, which was erected in 1770. That building still stands on Muirhead Street. Elm Avenue was an unpaved lane with no houses, but lined with triple rows of elm trees. In 1919 the property of the Quincy Mansion School was purchased by the trustees for Eastern Nazarene College and remains today, with additions, the site of that campus.

A Residential School

In addition to the public schools, there were already two private secondary schools in Quincy when the Quincy Mansion School was established. Only two years previously the Woodward School had been established for girls who were born in Quincy. The Adams Academy was a school for boys operating in the city.

The new school advertised the advantages of private over public education. "The rigid requirements made by the laws governing public schools are neither necessary nor desirable in a private institution." The Quincy Mansion School promised to offer the highest incentives to improvement, not of mind alone, but also of judgment, character, taste, and manners. In addition to its academic programs, it also served as a finishing school for young ladies. The companionship of bright, intelligent girls coming from good homes and from widely different sections of the country not only was stimulating, but tended to broaden thought, and give many of the advantages of society and travel.

This residential school for girls emphasized home life as well as educational work. Both the facilities of the school and its location were declared to be assets. A healthful, cheerful and attractive school home was provided to compensate in large measure for the pupils' absence from home, enabling them to work cheerfully and successfully. Generations of Quincys had spent much time and effort improving and adorning the grounds with shrubbery, hedges, lawns, and trees. Flower and vegetable gardens added to the attractive and homelike atmosphere. As the campus of Eastern Nazarene College, this site has continued to be developed by later
Pictures from Quincy Mansion School bulletin show the beauty of its setting and building. Above: Elm Avenue leading to the school. Right: Main entrance to the grounds.

generations of horticulturists, particularly Professor William J. Verner Babcock and David Cox, and remains one of the beautiful garden spots in the City of Quincy.

In addition to tennis courts, basketball and croquet grounds, the students took advantage of the Sailors' Home Pond for boating in the summer and ice skating in the winter. Wollaston Beach and Quincy Bay were only minutes from the school.

Also nearby were Mount Wollaston and Merrymount Park as well as several residences of historic interest, including the homes of two former presidents of the United States. Nearness to Boston as well as public transportation were assets of significant value. The Wollaston train station was only a ten minutes' walk from the school and the Quincy station was only about one mile away. There were about thirty trains a day, and the time to Boston was from twelve to fifteen minutes. Electric street cars passed the school grounds covering the distance to and from Boston in less than an hour.

The Campus

The brochures for the Quincy Mansion School depicted both the exterior and the interior of the Mansion. Words alone cannot do justice to this magnificent building. The hall of the Mansion, the parlors, the library and the dining room were high and spacious, communicating pleasantly with each other, and lighted by large French windows opening upon broad piazzas. All of the rooms on the lower floor and many of the upper rooms had open fireplaces of Italian marble. In matters pertaining to health and comfort, such as heat, light, ventilation, and plumbing, no expense was spared. The house had an inner wall of brick and double air spaces as a protection against dampness and cold. Its roof offered a view of Quincy Bay, the outer harbor of Boston, the islands and forts at its entrance and the shipping entering and leaving Boston harbor.

The first building to be added to the school was the Manchester, a classroom building erected across the drive from the Mansion. This building
The Quincy Mansion School offered young women instruction in the arts and sciences and a convivial atmosphere in the finely appointed mansion. **Above:** The art Room. **Right:** The parlors.

A well-appointed gymnasium was located on the ground floor. In the basement a furnace room provided steam heat for both the Canterbury and the Manchester.

**School Life and Activities**

The significant activities of the Quincy Mansion School were reported in the Quincy Daily Ledger. There were six graduates in the first class in 1897 and nine the following year. The students came from all over the United States. The commencement program indicates that each graduate spoke during the graduation exercises. The festivities included a dance and an ice cream social.

Other news items included the election of Dr. Horace Mann Willard as Councilman for Ward 5 of Quincy in 1897. The cornerstone laying for Canterbury Hall in June of 1901 and the dedication of the building the following October were also reported. Mary Livermore of Melrose, a suffragist and reformer, for whom the auditorium was named, was present for the dedication. She was a good friend of the Willards and spoke at the school on several occasions.

Other well-known people who visited and spoke at the school were Julia Ward Howe and Edward Everett Hale. The Quincy Historical Society has a calendar of letters to the Willards from famous Americans related to invitations to address the students.
Academics
It was the academic reputation of Dr. Willard which undoubtedly contributed to the successful start of this educational venture. Daniel Munro Wilson in *Where American Independence Began* noted that "the impression is strongly conveyed that another educational institution of a high order has been established in Quincy. . . . Horace Mann Willard, the principal of the school, is fortunate in the rapid success of his enterprise and in the helpful sympathy of the former occupants of the home." Dr. Willard had previously served as principal of Howard Seminary, superintendent of schools in Newton and Gloucester, Massachusetts, as well as being employed by Bridgewater Academy, Colby College, and Vermont Academy. In his new school he taught Latin and Greek in addition to serving as the principal.

All of the teachers were graduates of colleges, scientific schools or schools of special instruction. During the first decade, nearly half of the teachers were specialists in music. The catalogue announced that the value of the study of music had been recognized as an important factor in general mental development. Dr. Willard therefore made a special feature of music, and the school had a high standing for the quality of the work it did.

Courses of study included: mental and moral science, logic, history, mathematics, ancient and modern languages, music, art, domestic science, and gymnastics. The regular course of study was designed to meet the wants and needs of those not intending to enter college. There was a college preparatory curriculum and for those who successfully completed it, a certificate given entitling them to "enter Wellesley or Smith College, or any of the coeducational colleges of New England." There were also programs of advanced work or special studies for those who had already been graduated from secondary schools. There was even a course of study for elementary studies for younger pupils.

Mrs. Willard had charge of a Bible class which met every Sunday morning. All pupils attended prayers once a day. The endeavor in the study of the Bible was to stimulate thought and to inculcate a reverent spirit. Students were encouraged to attend the church of their choice each Sunday. Religious instruction was intended to be non-denominational.

Final Years
Upon the death of her husband, Mrs. Ruth Willard succeeded as principal for the second decade of the school's operation. A catalogue from this decade indicates a doubling of the number of faculty members, although there had been a complete turnover. Catalogues listed patrons and references for the families of prospective students. Graduates had a strong loyalty to the school and as late as 1929 established a scholarship in memory of the school's founder, Dr. Horace Mann Willard.

The Quincy Mansion School ceased to operate during the First World War. It was Dr. C. J. Fowler, president of the National Holiness Association, who called the property to the attention of the trustees of Eastern Nazarene College, which had been established in North Scituate, Rhode Island in 1918. It was in August, 1919 that the vacant school was purchased by Eastern Nazarene College for $50,000. Mrs. Willard agreed to accept a mortgage on the property of $40,000, and the college opened for classes in September of that year.