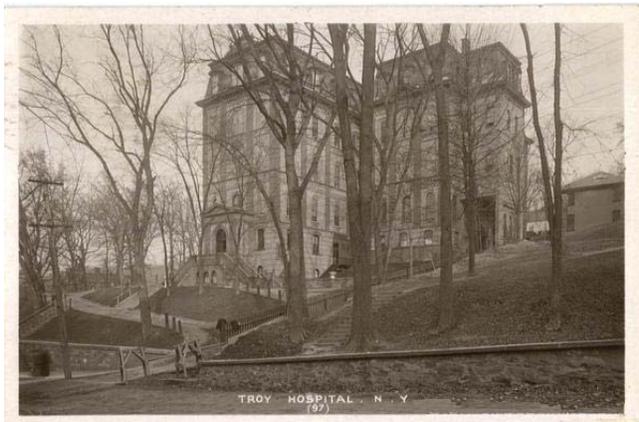


West Hall and Nurse Betsy

Quick History of West Hall

West Hall was originally built as Troy Hospital in 1871. The hospital's mission was to treat the poor and indigent of the city. In 1923, it reopened as Catholic Central High School. It is during this period that West Hall acquired many of the classroom structures we see today, including



the southernmost entrance labeled “Boys” and the northernmost entrance labeled “Girls”. West Hall became part of RPI when the Institute purchased the building in 1952. Since that time, the building has housed a wide variety of departments and has undergone many renovations. The most recent renovation included restoring the exterior to its former glory as seen in the recent picture below.

A building with such a rich history is apt to be the subject of rumors and urban legends. One of the rumors about West Hall is that it is held by cables anchored to keep it from sliding down the hill. While that one isn't true, there is another story about West Hall that keeps those of us who work here on our toes.

West Hall's Ghostly Inhabitant

Believe it or not, there is an inhabitant of West Hall that is potentially scarier than any of us Research Administrators.

You may have heard of Betsy, a nurse who supposedly worked in West Hall when it was the Troy hospital. There are conflicting reports of Betsy's past. The most often told story recounts how she lost her life attempting to save her patients during a fire. Other stories offer that Betsy went insane and killed some of her patients. All say she still roams the halls and continues to make her rounds in the basement that housed the psychiatric ward to which she was assigned. Betsy has been credited with several odd occurrences such as footsteps in empty corridors, moaning, screaming, unplugged calculators springing to life and many other strange phenomena. Records are unclear as to whether there really was a nurse Betsy. As the current occupants of West Hall, we hope that the one we have is the friendly Betsy.



The next time you visit West Hall, take some time to walk around and appreciate the history of this building. Just don't do it alone...

Links and Acknowledgements

All of the credit for the information above goes to the sources below and to several people who shall remain nameless in order to protect their identity.

For more information on West Hall and Betsy, please see the links below. The first link is a document that provides a thorough and exceptionally well done history of West Hall as part of a Getty Campus Heritage Study.

https://oneness.scup.org/asset/55742/Rensselaer_West_Hall.pdf

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Hall_\(Rensselaer_Polytechnic_Institute\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Hall_(Rensselaer_Polytechnic_Institute))

<http://theshadowlands.net/places/newyork.htm>