



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

GABRIELS SANITARIUM
1897 - 1965

The Gabriels Sanitarium opened on July 16, 1897, for treatment of Tuberculosis invalids in the Adirondacks. It was named in honor of the Right Reverend Bishop Henry Gabriels who urged the Sisters of Mercy to attempt the establishment of the much needed sanitarium.

Sister Mary of the Perpetual Help Kiernan of the Sisters of Mercy Order, used her untiring faith and energy to make her dream a reality. Sister Mary and her co-worker Sister McAuley lived in a log cabin with the gift of a donkey and cart for transportation. Within a few years, although they only had \$15 from the Mother House and a lot of determination to work with, they acquired the site and several buildings.

Dr. Seward Webb and Mr. Paul Smith donated the first 100 acres of land and the State of New York followed with their grant of 600 additional acres. Many people gave generously and donations were used to support the property in a variety of ways.

Only those with at least moderately advanced cases of Tuberculosis were admitted as patients. When they entered, they were not only treated for Tuberculosis, but also were taught every detail of prevention so they might tell others and possibly prevent other cases from developing. Fifteen per cent of the patients were treated free of charge, few paid the entire cost, and the largest number of patients paid less than the per capita cost. The average patient's length of stay was eight months.

The Sanitarium flourished through the hard work and dedication of its staff despite the destruction of several buildings due to fire over the course of its history. After World War II, the decline of Tuberculosis forced the Sanitarium staff to devote most of their facilities and efforts to the field of geriatrics. The Sanitarium treated over 5500 patients in the 68 years of operation. Sixty-Nine per cent of the patients benefited from treatment and a great number of them were able to return to their former lives of usefulness.

After a series of unsuccessful fund drives and a re-evaluation of the Sanitarium's new nursing program, the Sisters decided to sell the property. On August 15, 1965, Paul Smith's College purchased the Sanitarium for \$150,000 to satisfy its need for more housing.

PAUL SMITH'S GABRIELS CAMPUS
1965 - 1980

On August 15, 1965, Paul Smith's College purchased the Gabriels Sanitarium.

The main object which the college had in mind for Gabriels, was to establish it as an extension center for the burgeoning Forestry Program and Gabriels satisfied this need at the price of \$150,000.

Right from the start, Gabriels housed the sophomore foresters enrolled in the block program for the fall term. It was then decided to give the students their classes out there, as well, since they had to have their own transportation. Classes were taught in the basement of Rest-a-While Cottage while the Butler Building served as classrooms and a cafeteria. The Butler Building was built in the early 70s originally as a gymnasium, but it found more steady employment as the new cafeteria and more classroom space. Teachers at this time drove out to the campus and taught the "Gabs Crew" their Social Sciences.

The year of 1977 was full of crucial events for the Gabriels campus. Although students were happy there and buses provided transportation to the main campus, things were not well for Gabriels. Central heating went to individual heating because so many of the buildings stood unused due to declining enrollment. Many buildings had already started to deteriorate and as the space was not needed, the buildings were not kept up.

It was in 1977, also that the school started moving the different options of the Forestry Program back to the main campus, thus leaving only the forest technicians at Gabriels at the close of its career.

The fall term of 1980 was the last to see Paul Smith's students at the Gabriels campus. By this time, all their classes were on the main campus and they had to eat all of their meals there.

Also, in 1979-80 two new dormitories were constructed and opened to students which provided additional space on campus so that only thirty-five students went to Gabriels to live for the last time. The old campus had lost its attraction and had become such a financial liability that the administration opened up two additional cottages on the main campus, Moffet and Walker, for the Spring semester to house the thirty-five students.

And, thus, the saga of Paul Smith's Gabriels campus ends. It was then sold to the State of New York to be used for a minimum security prison.

HISTORY OF CAMP GABRIELS 1982 - PRESENT

Camp Gabriels received its first draft of inmates on August 30, 1982. These residents were transferred to Camp Gabriels from Adirondack Correctional Facility which had been upgraded from a Camp to a Medium Security Facility. The first group of twenty-five inmates were selected because of their building skills. These men were all housed on one floor in the first housing unit and proceeded to refurbish the second floor and the other housing unit areas in a systematic fashion. As the additional housing areas were reconstructed, additional inmates were received at the facility.

The Camp's maximum capacity was initially designated at 149. A year later in the Fall of 1983, the Camp experienced a modest increase; the bed space capacity was increased from 149 to 166. The next expansion occurred a full two years after the Camp's inception. In August of 1984, the bed space capacity was increased to 201 beds. In July of 1987, the population increased to 251 due to the Shock Incarceration Program at other Camps.

The Camp's population has not been the only area where changes have been evident. After the housing units were refurbished, other buildings in the Camp were systematically upgraded. A new garage was constructed to provide space to work on facility vehicles. A loading dock and crew room were added to the Mess Hall.

The first new building to be constructed and completed was a building to house the staff from Environmental Conservation. Equipment and crews were deployed each day from that area. The next major project was the construction of a Vocational Building utilizing inmate and staff labor. The Vocational Building has a lower level which serves as a storeroom for the facility.

The next building to be completed was the Visiting Room. The Visiting Room was contracted out and completed in January of 1984.

The next major upgrading in facility buildings began in the Summer of 1984. This project involved the refurbishing of an existing structure which had been used by the Sisters of Mercy for a chapel. The chapel serves many purposes. Its primary function is to serve as a religious center where religious services for all faiths are conducted. It also serves as an area where various inmate organizations and groups can meet during the evening hours. Educational classes are also conducted in the chapel.

In the fall of 1985, the Recreational complex was completed. This structure contains a basketball area as well as a shower room.

During 1986, the three bay bus garage, and Mess Hall addition, previously mentioned, were completed. The roads were resurfaced adding a finished touch to the Camp appearance.

A new Administration Building was constructed in 1986. This building houses the Superintendent, Sr. Counselor and Steward, as well as all accompanying Support Staff.

Expansion at Camp Gabriels continues. As of June 1991 a new 56-man dormitory was completed and future plans are for a similar dorm to be started in the fall of this year. These dorms will replace inmate housing, presently in a wooden structure dorm on the facility grounds. These dorms will also help to raise the population to over three-hundred inmates.

During 1991, Budgetary restraints caused a loss of ENCON personnel associated with Correctional Camps. The former ENCON Crews were changed to Community Service Crews. At present, Camp Gabriels has 15 Community Service Crews servicing communities, institutions, and non-profit organizations within a 50-mile radius of this facility.

Camp Gabriels has continued to show a progressive pattern of development since its inception. The mission of Camp Gabriels is to continue to maintain a secure environment while building and to foster positive programming for inmates, with cooperative service to the Community.

