The Ordway Campus: From Victorian Mansion to “Green” Building
A half-century ago, Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

From the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.

Hilltop House, a venerable inn two miles from the village of Woods Hole, charged guests $6 a day for two, 75 cents more for breakfast. Today, the inn has undergone a transformation to a “green” building and is the headquarters of the Woods Hole Research Center.
March 2003, after completion of the sixteen-month renovation and construction project. The basic style and façade of the original Colonial Revival mansion were retained according to standards set by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, while the interior was redesigned with a large contemporary addition in the back of the building to complete the 19,000-square-foot space.

From the upper floors are vistas of Buzzards Bay to the northwest and Vineyard Sound to the southeast. Large windows in back of the building face a canopy of tall trees, with paths leading to the Peterson Farm and Beebe Woods, a 380-acre town conservation area. Landscaping in front of the building consists of a reception lawn, stone walls, a sloping wildflower field, and the original bank of rhododendrons.

In keeping with the Center’s mission of global environmental sustainability, Ordway is a “green” building that will eventually be capable of producing all of its own energy without the use of fossil fuels. The Center will monitor the energy systems to ensure their optimal function.

Allison B. White June 2003