

The Evening Bulletin

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Brown Gets 350 Acres Of Haffenreffer Estate

Brown University has been given 350 acres of the historic Mount Hope estate in Bristol by Mrs. Rudolf F. Haffenreffer and her sons, Rudolf F. Haffenreffer 3rd and Carl W. Haffenreffer, it was announced today by Dr. Barnaby C. Keeney, university president.

King Philip, sachem of the Wampanoags, once lived on this land—and it was here he was ambushed and killed. Among the 18 buildings included in the gift is the Haffenreffer Museum of the American Indian, the largest collection of Indian relics in private hands.

Brown will use the land, which includes about a mile of shore line on the eastern slope of Mount Hope Bay, for education, recreation and other purposes.

The 350-acre tract surrounds one of the seven Nike guided missile

sites in Rhode Island. Most of the 18 buildings are summer cottages, farmhouses and barns.

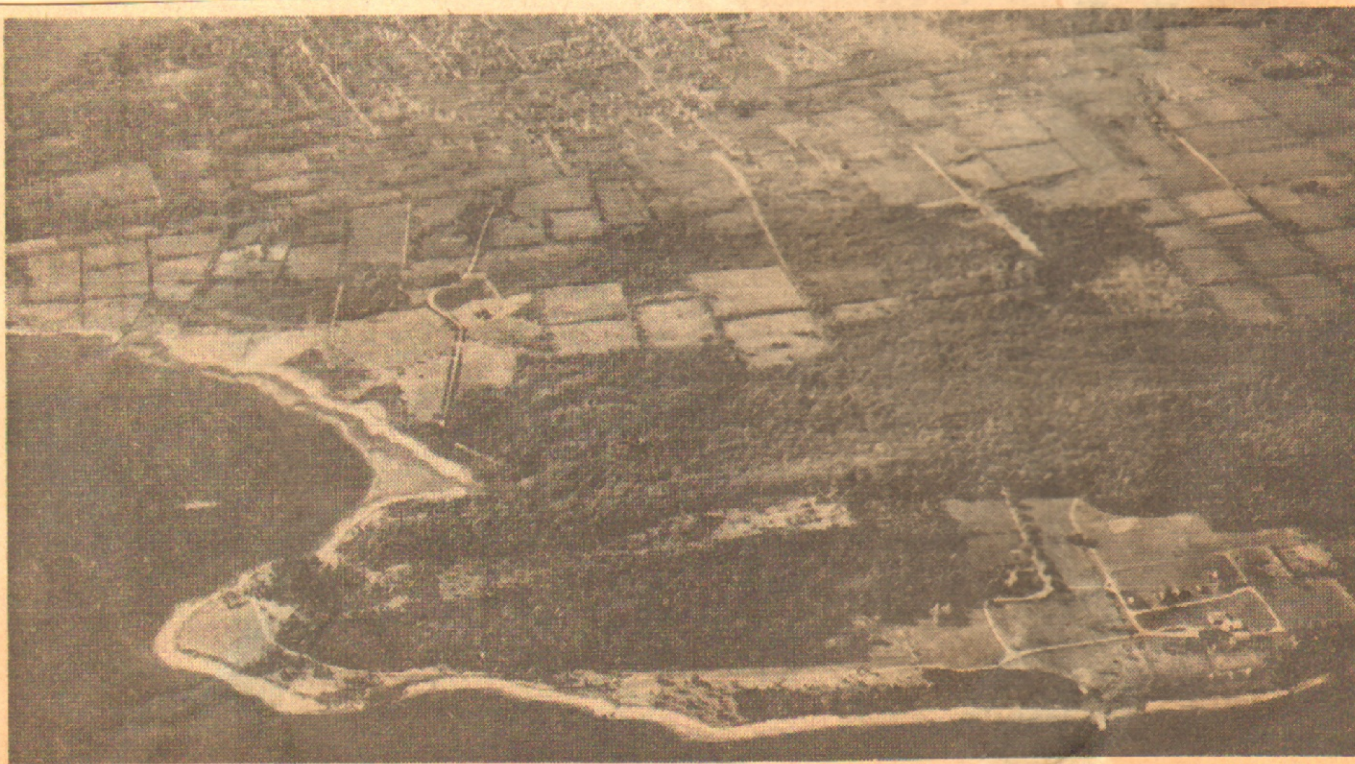
The gift to the university state hopes of acquiring the land as a wildlife preserve inasmuch as the remaining portion of the Haffenreffer property is not that on which the state was focusing its attention.

The state had negotiated for purchase of the estate for an area open to hunters, fishermen and hikers. Negotiations never reached a concrete stage, it was reported.

The Indian museum was established by the late Rudolf F. Haffenreffer after he became interested in collecting relics when arrowheads and other Indian traces

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Mt. Hope



—Brown University Photo

Haffenreffer Museum of the American Indian, on 350-acre tract donated to Brown University, is at lower right.

Mt. Hope

Continued

were found at Mount Hope shortly after he acquired the land in 1917. He collected Indian ware from South and Central America as well as from North America.

Mrs. Haffenreffer said in a letter to the university: "It is the desire of my sons and myself to give to Brown University a substantial part of our Mount Hope property.

"It would give us a great deal of satisfaction to see Brown in possession of this beautiful property, and I know that our plans would have been viewed with pleasure and approval by my husband who loved the property and spent a great deal of time and thought in beautifying and preserving it."

Other gifts have been received by the university through the R. F. Haffenreffer Foundation, a charitable trust founded in 1943, including graduate fellowships for advanced study and research in internal medicine, administered in conjunction with Rhode Island Hospital.

Praising the Haffenreffer family's generous support of education, Dr. Keeney said:

"The magnificent gift of land and buildings by the Haffenreffer family and the gift of the unique collection of American Indian objects by the Haffenreffer Foundation are an unexpected and very welcome acquisition to Brown University's resources.

"The land and the buildings can be used for education, recreation and other purposes. The museum will provide a sound basis for the development of research and teaching in anthropology.

"These gifts accomplish two things: first, they will perpetuate the memory and interests of Rudolph F. Haffenreffer, who built the museum and founded the estate; and second, they provide a notable example of private support of an educational institution.

"With the help of experts, the university plans to study the museum, strengthen other museums by assigning them unneeded duplicates and in general render the present displays more available for public enjoyment and education. In this connection, the university hopes to make an appointment in the field of American Anthropology in order that the museum may become an integral part of its instructional program. Various university departments will benefit from the collection.

"The site provides opportunities for developing summer conferences, training courses and general recreational activities. Some buildings may be utilized for summer residences."

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One of items in Indian Museum donated to Brown University is 'dugout' canoe examined by Rudolf F. Haffenreffer 3rd (left) and Dr. Barnaby C. Keeney, president of Brown.

—Brown University Photos