

A Thesis Presented to
the Faculty of Alfred University

"Are the Pines There Now?" An Historical Study of Pine Hill,
Alfred University, Alfred, NY

Kristin E. Sloane

In Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for
The Alfred University Honors Program

5/10/00

Under the Supervision of:

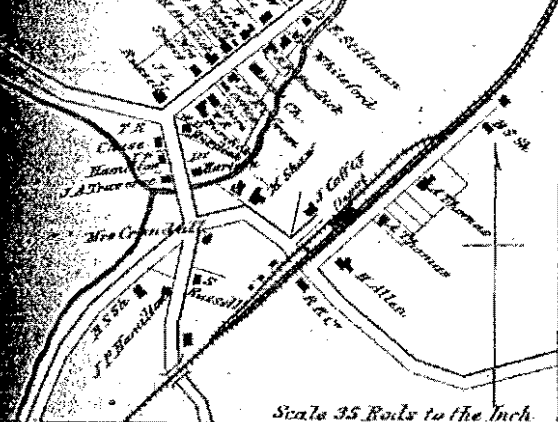
Committee:

1. Dr. Gordon Godshalk
2. Dr. Diana Sinton
3. Mr. Dean Hoover

Acknowledgments

This project could not have been completed without the assistance of many people to whom I am very grateful. I would like to thank my project advisor, Dr. Godshalk, who helped me focus and feel confident about the work that I was doing. To Dr. Sinton, for all of her help with the technicalities of GIS and GPS and also for her counsel, and help with revisions. I am extremely grateful to Laurie McFadden for her continued assistance and her willingness to answer any, and all questions that I had. To Michele and Lori, for their assistance with all facets of my senior project. To my Honor's committee, and last, but not least, I would like to thank everyone who helped contribute information to this project, and who took time out of their schedules to meet and pass along valuable information.

BAKERS BRIDGE



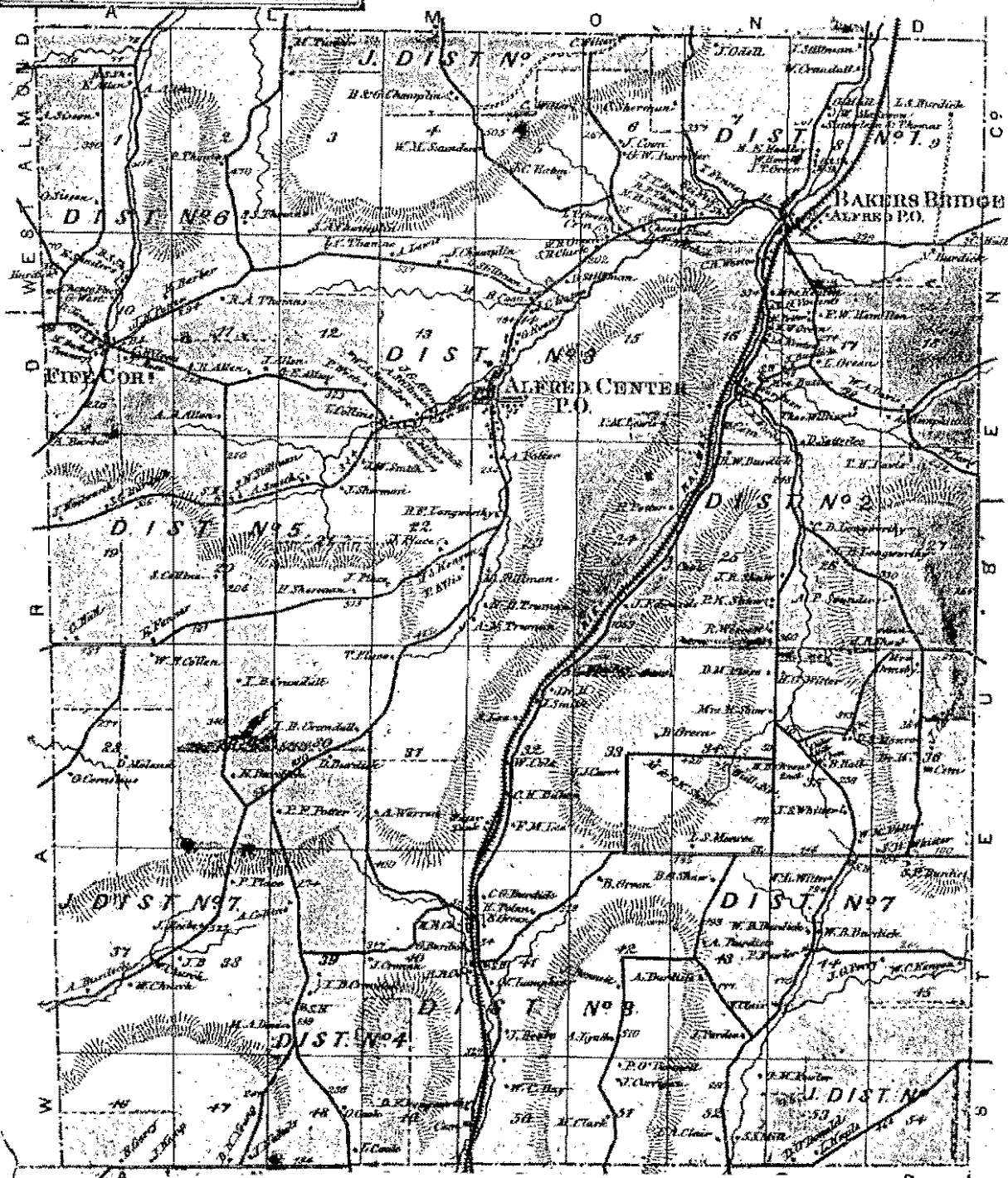
Scale 35 Rods to the Inch

ALFRED

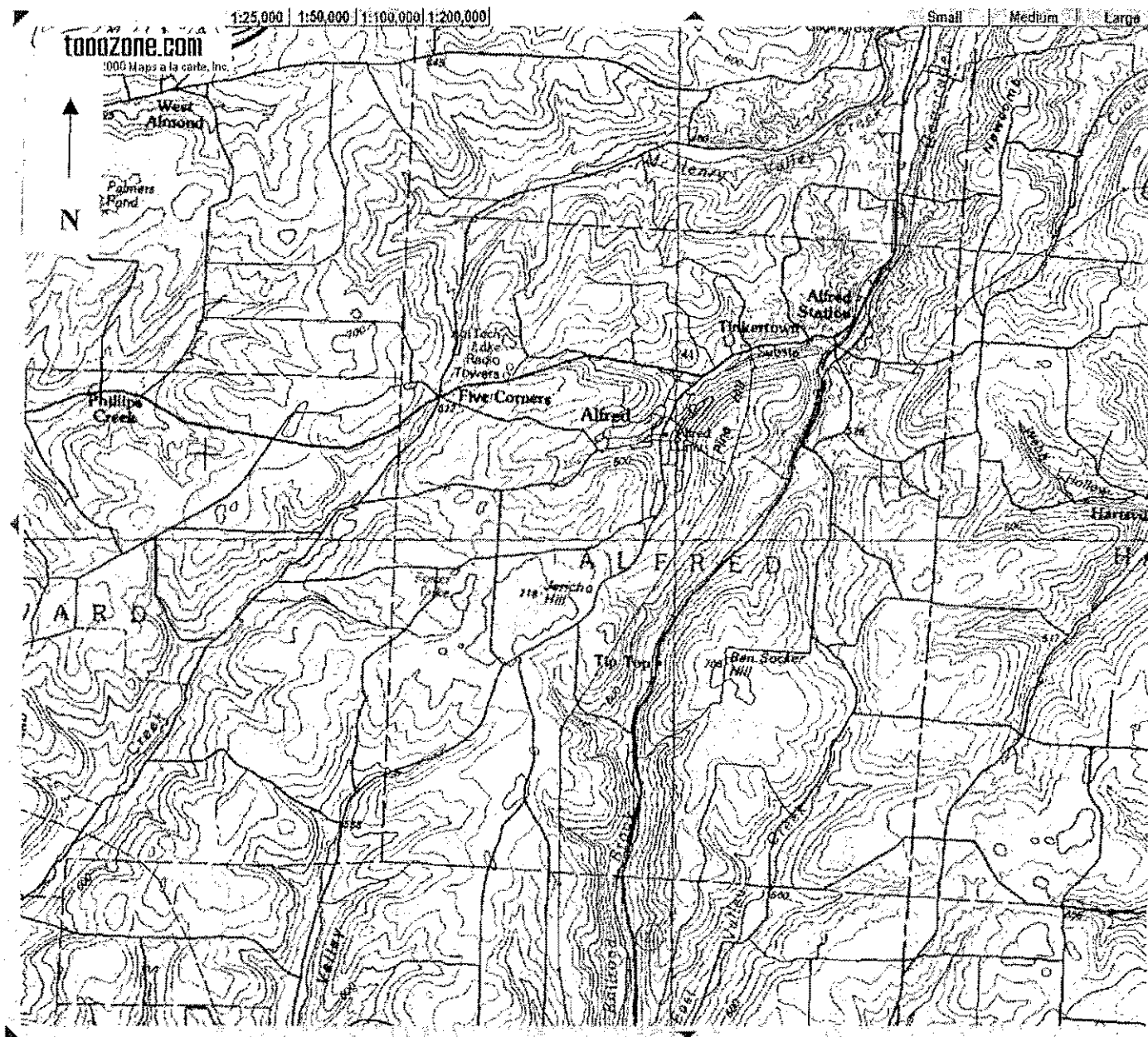
Scale 1/4 Inches to the Mile

Baker's Bridge Business Directory.

- E. O. Green...Physician and Surgeon.
- J. N. Huber...All kinds of Dentistry done to Order, with
Neatness and Dispatch.
- D. G. Vincock...Justice of the Peace.
- R. W. Hamilton...Farmer and Stock Dealer.
- W. H. Green, Jr...Farmer and Proprietor of Heat Valley Cider
Mill.
- Barn Potter...Farmer.
- W. H. Bardick..."
- Luka Green..."
- O. D. Langworthy...Farmer and Dairyman.
- A. W. Davis..."
- A. Weston...Farmer.
- S. B. Widat..."
- J. R. Shaw..."



Source: Beer's Atlas of Allegany County, 1869.



Scale = 1:100,000

Source: <www.topozone.com>

Abstract: Pine Hill is a tract of land that is used often by Alfred University students and faculty, but its history has not been well recorded. The forest has been mentioned fondly in diaries and memoirs of students and faculty, and the history of its development goes back to 1824. Records show that this acreage has changed in composition from dense forest, to farmland and grazing fields, to a reforested recreational area for the University. Past and present University leaders have shown their dedication to the environment and campus beautification through vast planting and reforestation projects on Pine Hill. Yet, the developmental history of this valued tract has not been reviewed in depth and an accurate map of the current Pine Hill has not been created. Due to the importance of this land to the University, an in-depth historical study of the management of Pine Hill would be an important tool to be used by current students and faculty. The new trail map and discoveries from this study will be presented.

INTRODUCTION

Pine Hill is located on the east hillside in Alfred, New York, within Great Lots 14, 15, 23 and 24. The University segment of the hill runs on the east side of the University, along a north-south line on the crown of the hill, beginning at Hairpin Turn, and ending behind the President's House. The remaining slope continues to the southern end of Pine Hill Drive. Pine Hill is valued as a resource by the community and University alike, yet little of its history has been recorded. Individuals are quite familiar with the site, yet a comprehensive picture of this hill has not been compiled. The objective of this study is to build a base of historical information about Pine Hill, showing how its history has been intertwined with campus and community life.

The history of Allegany County and the settlement of Alfred provides a background for the understanding of Pine Hill. Settlement of Alfred began in 1807 by Nathan and Edward Greene, and farms were established along the valley (see figure 1). Pine Hill's development began when 100 acres was purchased from the Phelps and Gorham Land Company, by Maxson Green in 1824 (Norwood, "Evolution," date unknown). Green used the land for grain production and pastureland (Norwood, 1957). In 1846, when the University obtained this land through a series of deeds and purchases, the northern side of Pine Hill evolved with the growth of the University. New buildings were carved into the hillside, and the grounds were sculpted to entice more young scholars to the University. Footpaths were established going over the hill, providing access to the University for individuals living in Railroad Valley and for those who owned farms on the south side of the hill. Some of these paths faded back into the hill through replanting efforts, while others have transformed into paved roads that exist today.

Trustees, former presidents and students have worked hard to preserve the forest resource on the hill, although there have been recent plans to develop the site by building fraternity houses and student accommodations. The site is often used by athletes, professors, hikers, bikers and community members, providing a safe, convenient area for students and faculty to enjoy the outdoors. The dual ownership of Pine Hill, with Alfred University on the north side and private residences on the south side, has allowed Pine Hill to be an evolving resource as the needs of the community have changed through time.

Much of the history of Pine Hill remains buried in oral histories within the community and this project only scratches the surface. However, here I paint a picture of Pine Hill as a village resource and as a cultural and integral part of Alfred University and the Alfred community.

EARLY HISTORY OF ALFRED AND ALLEGANY COUNTY

Before the settlement of Alfred by early pioneers, Native American tribes lived on the land. The Seneca tribe was the most populous in the Genesee Valley and would set up camp here in Alfred to hunt game. Thelma Palmiter, an Alfred resident, recalls her grandfather mentioning the Seneca tribes camping in Alfred. At that time the Canacadea was wider than it is now; therefore, they may have also fished in the creek (Palmiter, pers. comm.). The Seneca tribe was part of the Iroquois Confederacy, a group that included the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, and Cayugas. The tribe believed strongly in establishing peace, creating a constitutional government system, and diminishing violence among their people. The Senecas, called the "Great Hill People," were the largest nation within the Iroquois Confederacy. They were industrious people, growing agricultural products such as corn, beans, squashes, melons and tobacco. The women of the tribes were the main owners of the land and the property upon it, while men were the hunters, gatherers and defenders of the community (Clawson, 1926).

Efforts to maintain a peaceful society did not last for long. Between 1777 and 1779 the colonists were fighting against the London War Ministry. They had formed a military barrier along the Hudson River and intended to isolate New England and claim New York for settlement. At this time, the Native Americans were persuaded to combine

forces with the British and were placed under the leadership of Brandt, a well-known warrior of the time. This addition of Native American forces strengthened the British army, along with the local resources the natives provided. These combined forces wreaked havoc throughout the state especially in Wyoming (located south of Batavia) and Cherry Valley (located near Cooperstown), New York. George Washington worked hard to create peace with the Native Americans and dissuade them from promoting the British cause, but his efforts were in vain. In 1779, he decided to launch an attack against the Native Americans to diminish their aid to Britain. Washington ordered General John Sullivan to attack the Iroquois Confederacy, and this invasion devastated the Native American tribes. Houses were burned, crops were destroyed and over 160,000 bushels of grain were lost. This attack initiated the break-up of the Iroquois Confederacy and opened the Genesee Valley for settlement of pioneers. Although the attack was devastating, the effect on the Seneca tribe was not as drastic and some members of the Seneca tribe chose to stay in the Alfred area (Clawson, 1926).

Different portions of Western New York were owned by Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, yet the Indians still laid claim to the land. In 1788, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham bought 2 million acres from Massachusetts for about one shilling per acre. Then, during another meeting at Buffalo Creek, New York, on July 8, 1788, the Indian nations confirmed this "Gorham and Phelps" purchase, and were moderately compensated for giving up the land. Alfred was one of the towns established from this purchase (Clawson, 1926).

Prior to the Phelps and Gorham purchase, and the invasion of Sullivan, the land was in pristine condition. Forests were undisturbed apart from the pathways cleared by

Native Americans. However, these trails, along with paths carved out by buffalo, moose, and elk, barely made the land accessible to white settlers. Settlement was difficult: pioneers would travel for miles on foot, cutting through dense forests full of wild beasts. New settlers who had not constructed houses often slept on beds of hemlock needles, with the sounds of the open forest to lull them to sleep (Clawson, 1926).

Pioneers ground farms out of the Alfred soil. The trees were often burned to clear the land because it was too difficult to cut and remove them, and the potash (ash) production served as a source of small income for settlers (Clawson, 1926). Settlers throughout New England cleared their land late in the summer, by hand with an ax, and then burned the stumps early in the spring before the land “greened up.” The resulting ash was used for gunpowder and soap making (Wessels, 1997). It is assumed that agricultural land in Alfred was cleared similarly, as many of the settlers migrated from New England.

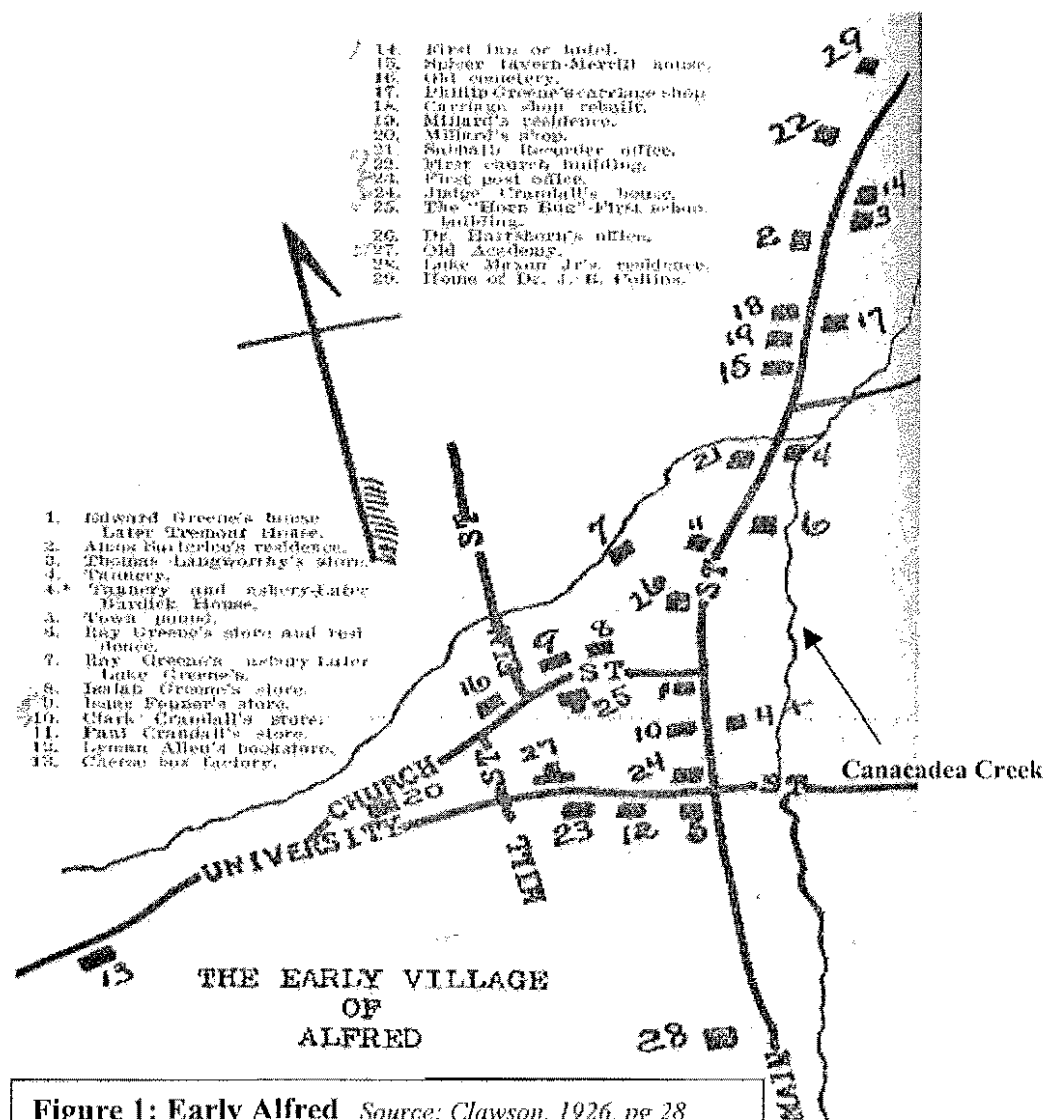
Pine trees were the most cumbersome to settlers, due to their enormous size. They were awkward to drag over the land, and access to rivers to transport the logs was limited (Child, 1926). The Alfred area had an enormous amount of harvestable pine. Those that were cut were sold for fifty cents a piece and used to make shingles; usually 8,000 shingles could be made from one log (Clawson, 1926). Intense logging of the Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) started in 17th century New England to supply the British navy with ship masts. Towards the middle of the 19th century, settlers moved westward and repeated the process of harvesting the Eastern white pines (Wessels, 1997). Other native tree species cleared in Allegany county were red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), swamp oak (*Quercus bicolor*), black

oak (*Quercus velutina*), cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), striped maple (*Acer Pennsylvanicum*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), smooth hickory (*Carya glabra*), bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) (White, pers. comm.). Several of these species still exist on Pine Hill today, such as the red oak, black oak, white oak, pin oak, red maple, silver maple, striped maple, bigtooth aspen, white ash, American beech, black cherry, and American basswood, yet none to the extent that they did years ago.

Baker's Bridge (now Alfred) and Alfred Center were the two most prominent settlements in the Genesee Valley in 1807. In 1808, Luke Greene settled on "Sugar Hill," (located approximately to the east of Baker's Bridge) along with Peter Rose, Jabish Odell, Rowland P. Thomas, Abel Burdick, Weeded Witter, Samuel Lanphear, Christopher Crandall, and Samuel Thomas. The first house was erected in 1809 by Edward Greene (see Figure 1).

Pioneer life was hard for Alfred residents. The year 1816 was especially trying; it was known as "the year without a summer." This was due to the eruption of an Indonesian volcano that altered the climate. Frost formed every month of the year, which made farming virtually impossible. Alfred's main source of food during this time was through their own farms, therefore settlers suffered from severe starvation. Many had

The population in 1836 of Alfred was small, filling only twelve, one-story houses. Alfred houses were simple; they covered a space of about twenty by twenty-six feet and were made of round logs held together with split beams. The exterior was made of clay and flooring was made of split logs while the windows were left bare (Clawson, 1926). Most early settlements and businesses in Alfred were concentrated along the Canacadea



Creek, on the valley floor (seen in Figure 1).

Life was hard for settlers. New Englanders decided to move west to find “greener pastures” because their soils were exhausted by raising sheep. In the early 1800’s there was a wool craze in Vermont and by 1824, there were over 1.1 million sheep grazing on Vermont fields. Farmers were trying to make the most of their land, so they overstocked their farms with sheep, using every piece of land possible, even the hillsides and rocky mountaintops. Forests were cleared away to create pastureland, and the stumps and logs left over were fashioned into crude fences to contain the sheep. It was required by law that these fences be at least four and a half feet high to contain the animals, otherwise they would escape and destroy other neighboring crops (Wessels, 1997). This cycle of overgrazing and soil erosion was repeated again in Allegany County: new settlers arrived, cut trees down, burned the stumps, put up fences, grazed the land, eroded the soil, and then left. Allegany soil was rocky and hard to till; after the land was destroyed, farming was even harder for the pioneer during the mid-1800’s in Alfred (Phelan, 1976). A photograph, taken on the south end of Pine Hill during the late 1800’s (see Figure 2), shows bare land, and rough fencing containing pastureland. There is a small girl in the picture, which makes the fencing look to be about 4 feet tall. Although dairying was a main industry in the Alfred area, the former president’s wife, Abigail Allen mentioned that sheep from a neighboring farm had wandered to the University during the late 1800’s to nibble on their newly planted pines. Sheep farms must have existed on some part of Pine Hill.

Alfred farmers found that the soil was not fertile enough to grow wheat, therefore, county farmers established dairy farms and raised cattle (Strong, 1995). Ash production,

**Figure 2: Late 1800's, Taken from
South End of Pine Hill**

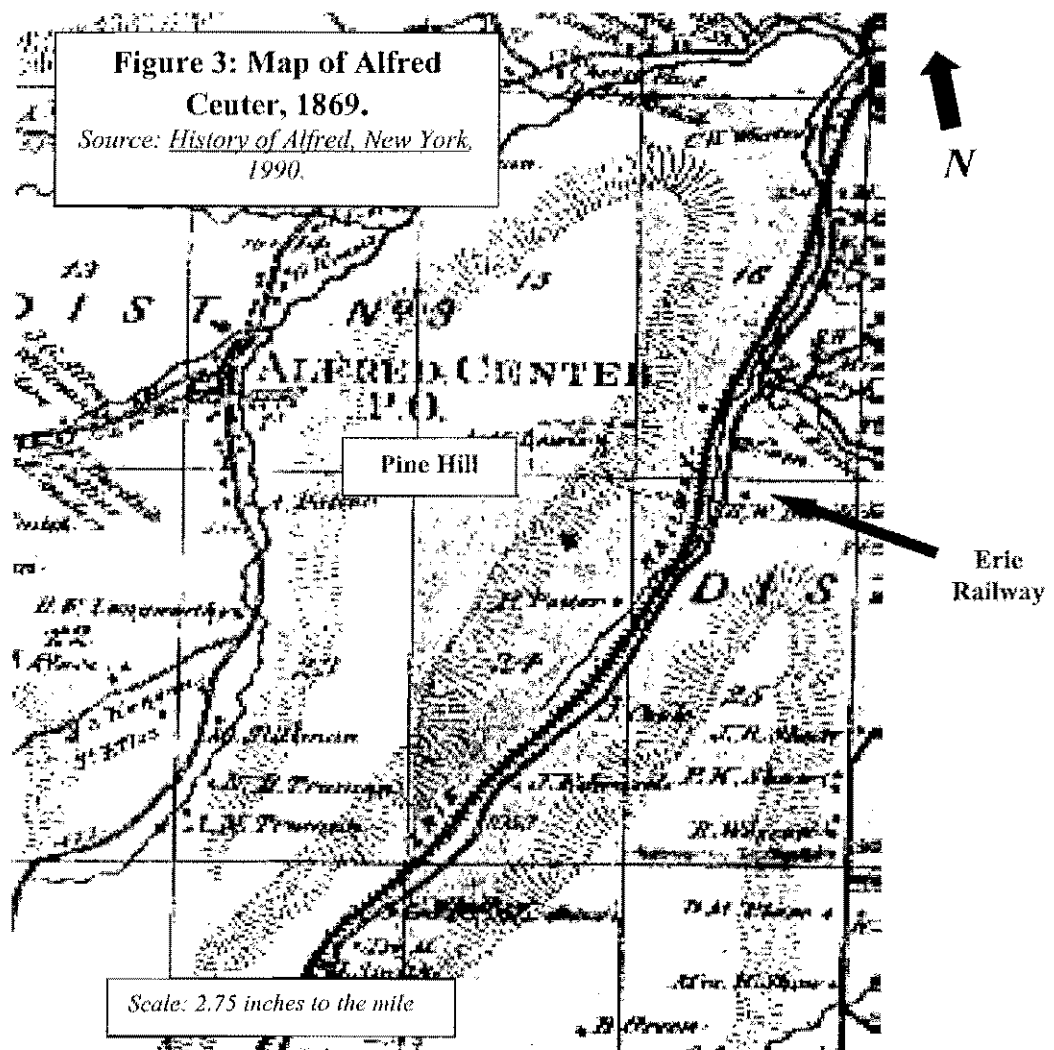
*Photograph Courtesy of Alfred University
Archives, Herrick Memorial Library*



as mentioned earlier, was what initially financed Alfred settlers, but soon cheese, sugar and lumber were sold and traded in markets in Bath and the Genesee Valley in exchange for wheat and other household necessities (Clawson, 1926).

Cheese-making became a huge industry in Alfred. Many members of the community opened cheese-box factories to construct wooden boxes for shipping. By the late 1800's the operating cheese factories that existed in Alfred were the Allegany County Cheese Factory, Wm. C. Burdick and Company, East Valley, McHenry Valley, Five Corners, Pleasant Valley, and the Home Cheese Factory of Alfred Station. Historical photographs show that Alfred land was used as grazing pasture to aid in the production of these dairy products (Clawson, 1926).

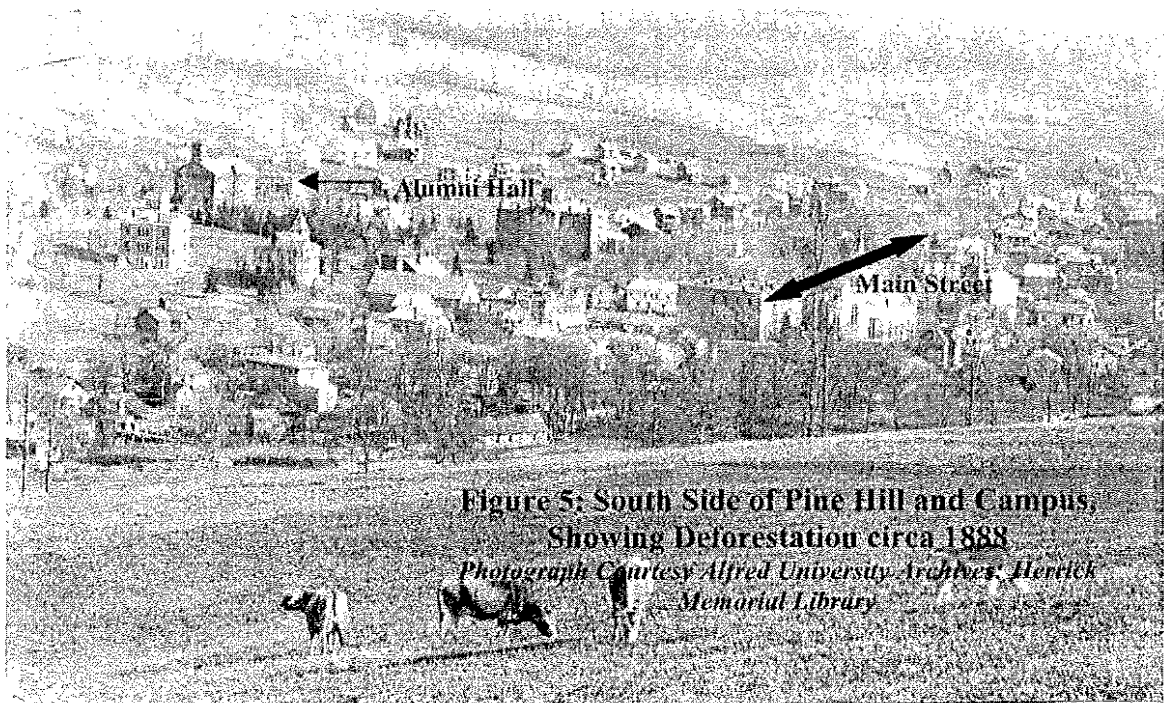
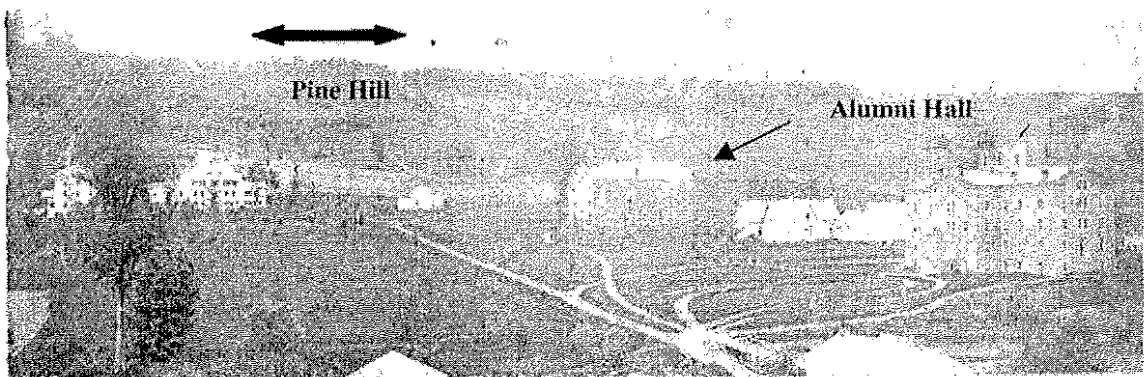
The arrival of the Erie Railroad in 1857 brought economic change to the Alfred area. The railroad ran along the eastern back-side of Pine Hill (see Figure 3) and at that time, even more trees on the hill were removed to be sold in far away markets, and to clear space for farmland. Construction of the Erie railroad was what fostered economic growth in Allegany county. Forests were cleared at a rapid pace so the timber could be shipped and sold. Settlers had not expected the railroads to be more efficient than the existing infrastructure of canals. Yet, they soon found that the railroads could run ten months out of the year, as opposed to canals, which only worked five months of the year. The accessibility of the county to the railroad and the need for farmers to make money helped change the face of Allegany County (History of Allegany County, 1879).



The removal of additional trees may have been due to the proximity of the railroad to the hill. This is shown in pictures of the south side of the hill (see Figures 4,5). The face of Pine Hill was affected by the railroad, but what really changed the land of Pine Hill was the foundation of Alfred Academy.

Figure 4: Alfred University Campus, 1868, Showing Pine Hill Deforestation

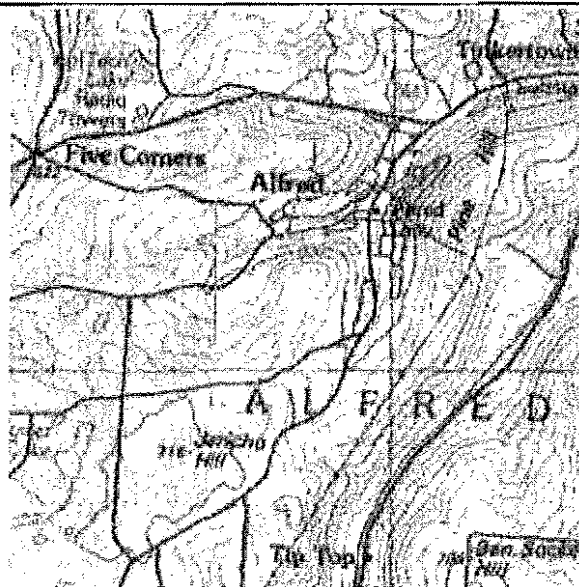
Photograph Courtesy of Alfred University Archives: Herrick Memorial Library



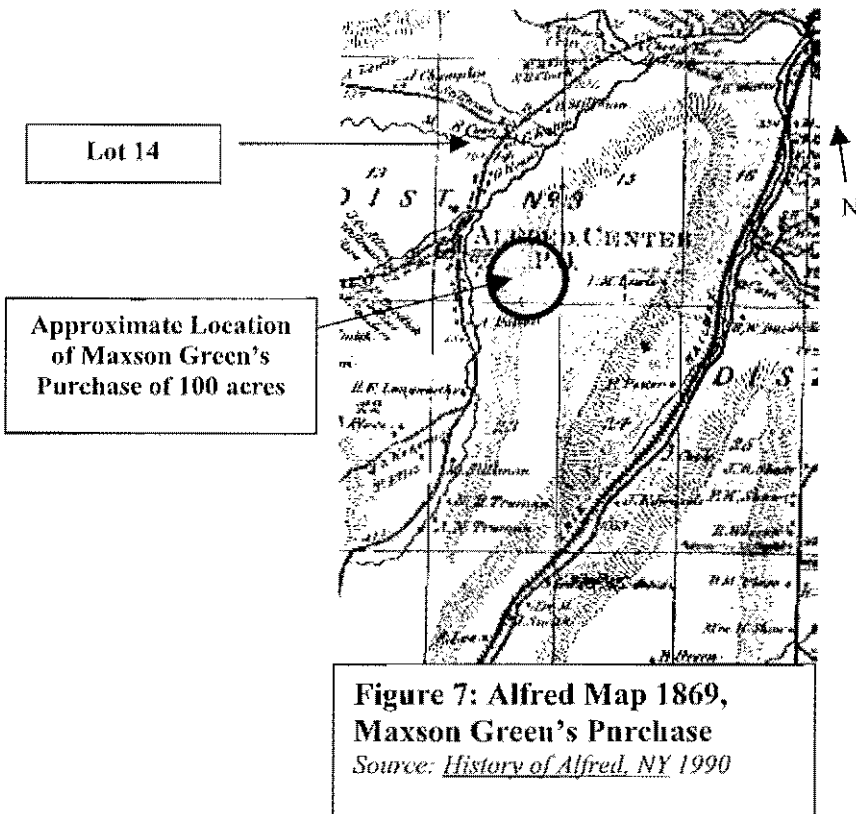
DEVELOPMENT OF PINE HILL

Pine Hill is located within four lots in Alfred; 14, 15, 23, 24, (see Figure 3) yet records of the early settlements do not specifically mention Pine Hill. History books refer to Tip-Top, Five Corners, and Jericho Hill, yet not Pine Hill (see Figure 6). It was not specifically mentioned until the expansion of the Alfred Academy and land exchanges were made.

Figure 6: Current Map of Alfred *Source: www.topozone.com*



Development of the budding Alfred Academy played an integral role in the changing face of Pine Hill. In 1824, landowner Maxson Green bought 100 acres from the Gorham and Phelps Land Company, on the South side of Great Lot 14 whose border ran up Pine Hill (see Figure 7). Looking towards the east, standing on Main Street, one would see grain fields and meadows, separated by the creek, and beyond the farmland, virgin forest (Norwood, 1957). In 1842, Maxson Green donated some land on the west side of Main Street, between Mill, Church and West University streets, to development of the Academy (Norwood, "Evolution," date unknown).



As the enrollment increased to 400 students, the small academy located on the western side of Alfred, (see Figure 8) was looking for a new home.

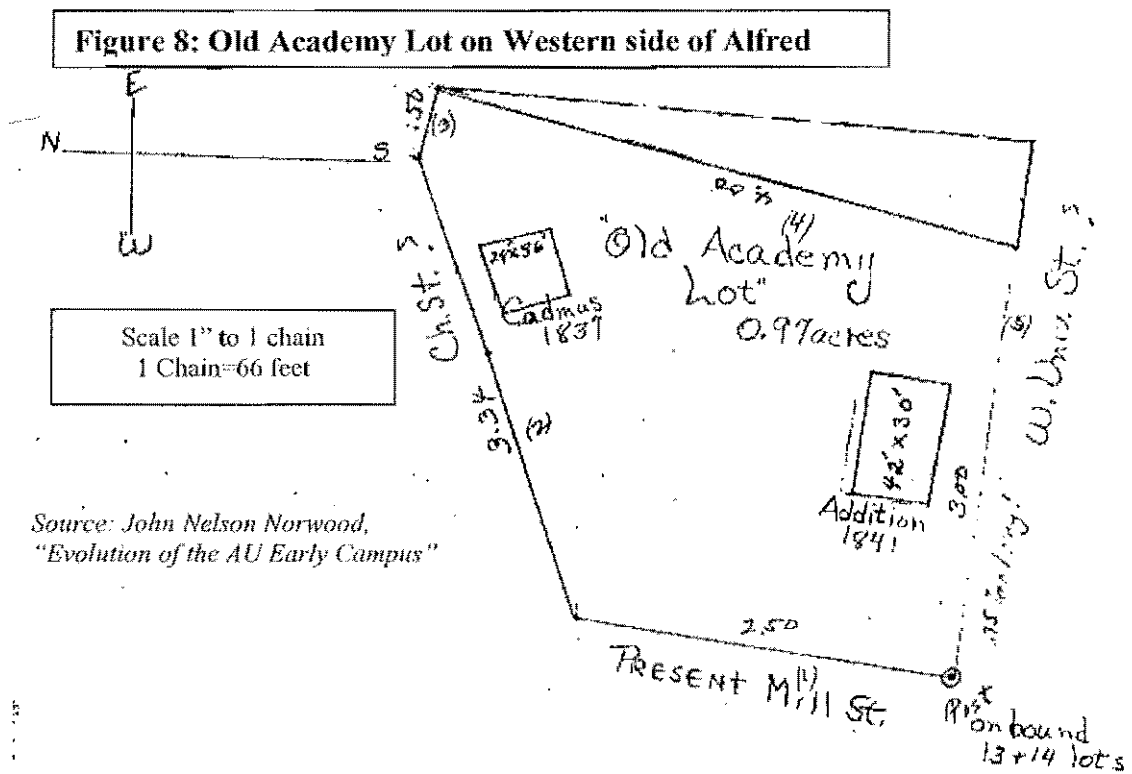


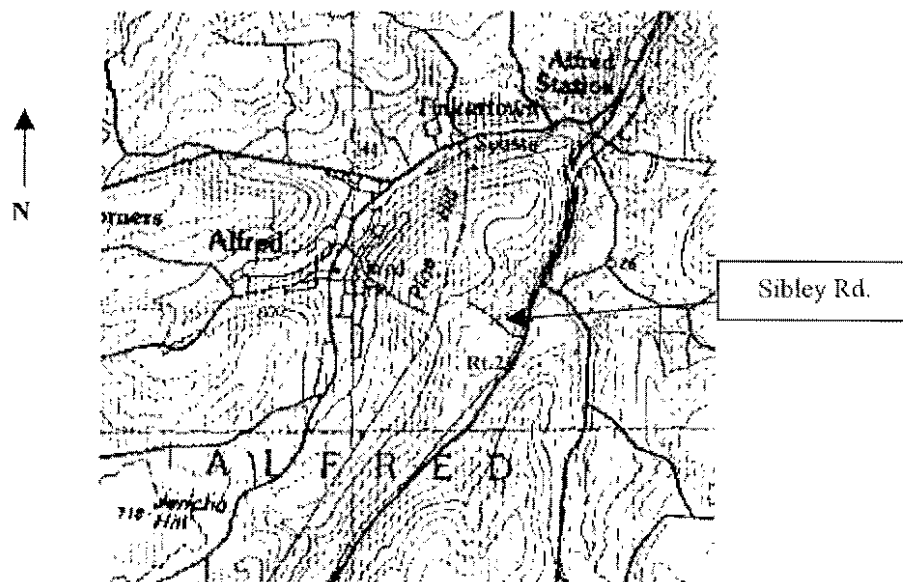
Figure 9: Early Land Acquisitions
Source: Norwood "Evolution of the AU Early Campus"



its way into the dense hillside. Construction of the new buildings was difficult due to the amount of natural springs softening the soil above the hardpan on Pine Hill (which may also account for the muddy nature of the Pine Hill trails today) (Allen, 1894). On May 1, 1846, the remaining eighty acres of Green's original purchase was deeded to Kenyon. This land cut slightly into lot 15, located on the lower part of Pine Hill, and backed up to Elijah Lewis' land (see Figure 9). Lewis' farmhouse was located on the east side of Pine Hill, at the top of the current Sibley Road (see Figure 10) (Norwood, "Evolution," date unknown).

Figure 10: Current Map of Alfred: Sibley Road

Source: <www.topozone.com>



Scale: 1 inch=1 mile

After this land was purchased, the famous "compact" was formed which helped build the strength of the Academy. The compact, formed on July 4, 1849, was initiated by William Kenyon and Ira Sayles because they were looking to increase the management responsibility of the Academy. The compact included five faculty members: Jonathan Allen, Darius R. Ford, James Marvin, Darwin E. Maxson and Daniel D. Pickett. One of

the expectations of the compact was for the members to help work on the University farm (Norwood, 1957). This farm was part of the experimental agriculture program here at Alfred, and may have been part of the farm formerly owned by Maxson Green. The exact location of this farm is uncertain. A photograph taken from Pine Hill shows crops growing on Pine Hill, which may be part of the land that was tilled behind the "white house," in other photographs.

Once the Academy owned these 100 acres, just enough timber was cut to construct new buildings. Chapel Hall (currently Alumni Hall) was the next addition to Pine Hill. On June 24, 1851, the cornerstone for Chapel Hall was placed, under the direction of Maxson Stillman, Jr. Since transportation of pine logs was so difficult, the boards for this immense structure may have come from Pine Hill, as "the massive timbers were hewn out of the surrounding forests" (Norwood, 1957; 24). Construction of the hall was an enormous undertaking for the builders. Encouragement was often needed by Stillman as he cried out to the workers, "It can be done, all together, boys, yo, heavo!" (qtd. in Norwood, 1957; 57). The weather vane that rests atop the building was a design by D.R. Ford and also fashioned out of a twelve-foot pine fence rail (Norwood, 1957).

It was also at this time, when the University was just established, that many students were looking for part-time work to help raise tuition money. These students were hired as farmhands to help chop wood and clear the trees in the area (Strong, 1995). Pictures of Pine Hill from this time, show what may be the results of these young scholar-laborers. Unusually enough, with the removal of old growth pines in the area, as mentioned earlier, there were a distinct few that were left atop Pine Hill. These pines

have shown up in several artist renderings and photographs. These may be the reason for the name "Pine Hill" (see Figure 11).

As the campus developed, residents in the Alfred area took advantage of the opportunities the Academy had to offer. Pine Hill functioned as a shortcut to Alfred

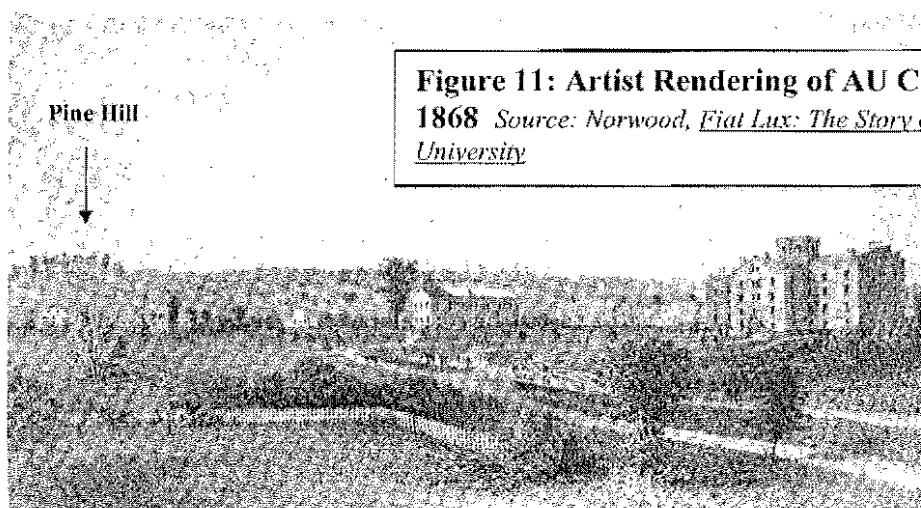


Figure 11: Artist Rendering of AU Campus, 1868 Source: Norwood, *Fiat Lux: The Story of Alfred University*

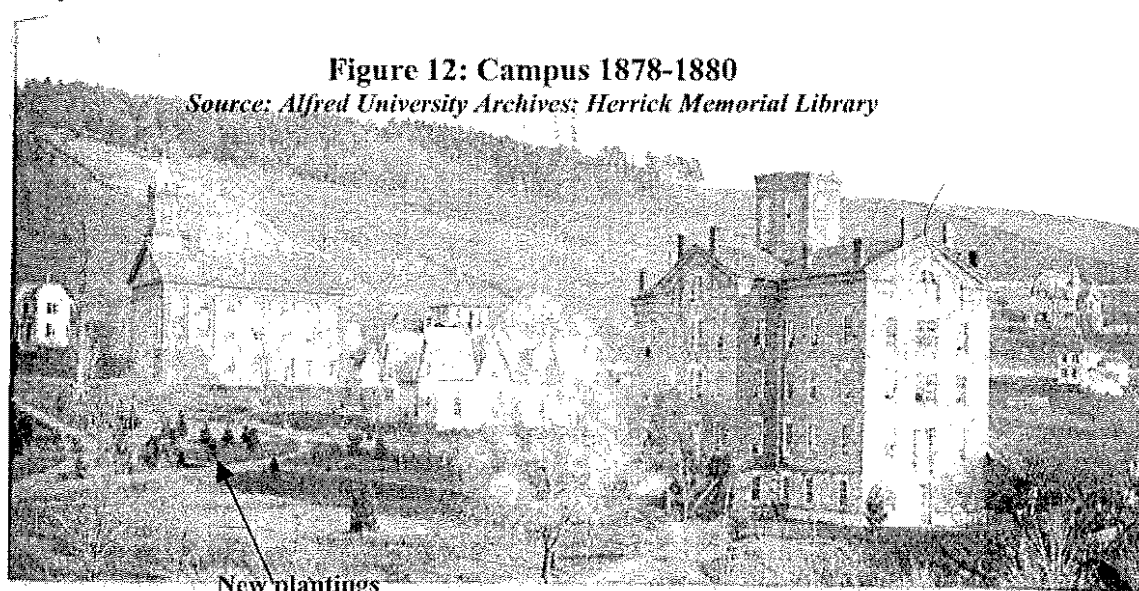
Center. Those who lived in Lanphear Valley, which is the current Railroad Valley, traveled over the hill using a pathway, which is believed to be the current Sibley Road (seen in Figure 10). This road ran through property owned by Elijah Lewis who had a farm built circa 1830-1840. This property joined up with the University property, so it was easy for travelers to take advantage of this pathway. This path would take travelers over the hill to approximately where the current Steinheim and Carillon are located (Palmiter, pers. comm.). Maria Langworthy Whitford, who lived on a farm located on Tip-Top, in Lanphear Valley, may have utilized this trail. Maria Langworthy Whitford kept a diary from 1857-1861 and described the grueling, daily life as a farmer in early Alfred. In her diary she mentioned going "over the hill" to attend church and singing school at the Academy. Her transportation consisted mainly of a sleigh in the wintertime, a horse when the weather was pleasant, or often on foot. Church activities were often neglected due to heavy rainstorms, as the pathway would become muddy and slippery,

making travel difficult. Maria and her husband Samuel would travel over the hill several times a week since Alfred Center was their main place of business. They would sell apples, cherries and other items from their farm. Maria's Uncle, Alfred Lewis, also lived over on Vandermark Road (near Five Corners), and she would often speak of going to visit him (Phelan, 1976). Besides the current Sibley Road, however, there is no evidence today of this pathway on Pine Hill. The abandonment of this trail may have been due to the reforestation of the hillside, or to the invention of the automobile, making the trail obsolete. Other pathways existed that lead to Lanphear Valley. There was another that came over the hill to the current Theta Theta Chi sorority house, while pictures show another that ran up behind Alumni Hall, which is the current Ford Street.

After eight years of the Academy existing on the hillside, the campus was described as being no better than a sheep pasture, as dirt paths and long grasses separated the buildings on campus (Strong, 1995). In 1857, the University charter was signed, and the Academy and University harmoniously existed on the hillside (Norwood, 1957). Soon however, the hillside was broken up by different purchases. Jonathan and Abigail Allen, and William Rogers obtained three acres along with Middle Hall in 1864, and William Kenyon and Jonathan Allen bought University Place (currently Academic Alley) (Norwood, 1957).

It was during this time, in 1867, that Jonathan Allen became president of the University and changes were made to the grounds and buildings. One spring, Allen hiked up Pine Hill, and uprooted several small pines, then brought them down to the campus to be planted during his lunch hour. He planted over 52 trees this way, but unfortunately, much of his efforts were in vain. Sheep from a farm on the other side of the hill nibbled

many of the young trees to bits. Despite this, Allen persisted; he labored many years after that to improve the campus grounds. He encouraged students during chapel services to contribute to the cause by fashioning the hillside into a pleasing atmosphere that the students and alumni would enjoy. During one of his sermons he commented, "You are planting for the future, and when in after years you return, these trees will sing to you, and then music of your own will be sweeter than any other," (Allen, 1894; 66). These chapel talks seemed to instill enthusiasm in the students, because in 1874, there was a planting bee and students purchased several trees to plant across campus. This established "University Tree Day," on which plantings occurred for several years afterwards (Norwood, 1957). Towards the end of the century, there were still many areas that had been cleared, but the plantings by Allen, and flower beds planted by Mrs. Kenyon (known affectionately as "Frau Kenyon") helped keep a pleasing environment for the students (Strong, 1995). These plantings show up in early photographs of Alumni Hall (see Figure 12) which chronicle the substantial growth of the surviving pines over the years.



Allen attempted to keep in harmony with nature when replanting. Elms and evergreens were often planted, because the hillside was congenial to their growth (Allen, 1894). Unfortunately, many of these majestic elms that were planted during his presidency suffered from Dutch elm disease, an exotic fungal disease that caused the demise of American elms in the 1930's and 1940's. Only a few stand on campus today, behind the Powell Campus Center, as a testament to Allen's hard work.

The Allen family played a large role in the development of Pine Hill. Their house, the "white house" (originally Middle Hall), was set up on the hillside, overlooking the campus. President Allen often conducted commencement rehearsals from the porch of his house, while students would stand in the valley and echo their oratories over the hills (Norwood, 1957).

The President and his wife were also interested in natural history and were avid collectors of natural artifacts. Their collection was stored in their home, until space became so limited that they needed another place to store their treasures. This began the idea for the Steinheim, a crowning landmark of Pine Hill. The building was begun by Mrs. Ida F. Kenyon, who wanted to build a small home to the left of the "white house." However, after the land had been surveyed and the foundation laid, Kenyon abandoned the idea. Allen decided to purchase the land and the unfinished building from Kenyon, with the idea of creating a museum for his collection. The outside walls were created using only rock specimens from the local area within a three-mile radius, consisting of approximately seven-to eight-thousand samples. Several hundred native-wood types and other species collected from Allen's travels composed the inside structure (Allen, 1894).

This new building was a distinctive addition to the hillside. In 1896, it was turned over as a gift to the University from Mrs. Allen (Norwood, 1957).

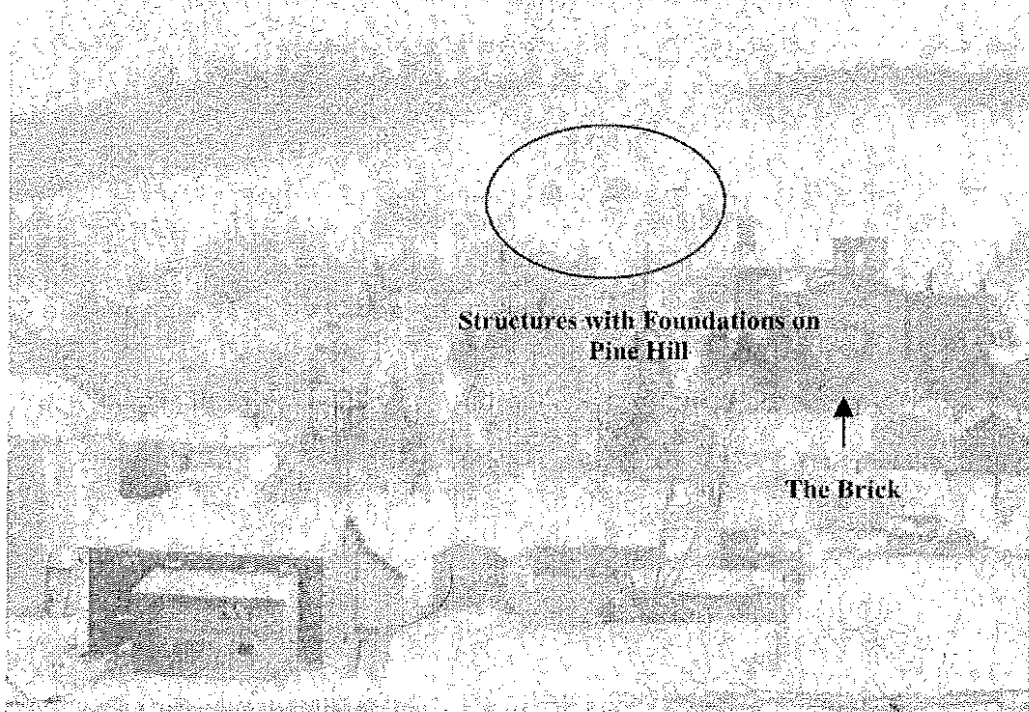
During this time of campus refinement, the land above the campus was being utilized for evening get-aways and afternoon strolls. During the spring term of 1871, Mary Emma Darrow, a University student, along with her classmates and art professor, ventured up into Pine Hill for an overnight. She remarked on the beauty of this hill; "After session one glorious moon light night two 'brick' girls with our friendly art teacher, took blankets and slipped away to spend the night on Pine Hill. Are the pines there now? Their music lulled us to sleep, and the soulful song of a hermit thrush entranced our morning hours" (Strong, 1995; 383). Pine Hill was also the location of the first encounter for Bessie Stukey, a new Alfred resident, and her soon-to-be-husband, Henry Hunting. Bessie had just moved to Alfred, because her mother wanted her to be in a healthy, strong, Seventh Day Baptist environment. It was just a few days after they had moved here when Pearl Hunting (Henry's sister) invited Bessie for a walk after Sabbath school. Pearl brought along her brother Henry, one who had actually caught Bessie's eye earlier at the grocery store. So, they went off on a walk, past the Steinheim up into Pine Hill and this was the first meeting of Bessie and Henry (Stukey, date unknown). On September 25, 1900, they were married (Mrs. Henry Hunting, 1947).

It is uncertain whether there were ever any buildings on the upper side of Pine Hill. There are no records of man-made structures on any tax maps, and no one has heard or seen any evidence of structures up there (Hall, 1995). Yet, a photograph found shows two structures located on the University side of Pine Hill (see Figure 13). This winter

scene from the mid-1800's, shows two small houses or sheds located there. These may have been structures related to the Academy farm, but the relation is debatable.

Figure 13: Structures on Pine Hill, Winter Scene Late-1800's

Source: Alfred University Archives: Herrick Memorial Library



After speaking with many residents and historians, there was no information found regarding the history of these structures. Supposedly, an Italian family previously owned land on Pine Hill, near the present Steinheim. They intended to build a house, but these plans fell through, and there are no written records of this ownership (Palmiter, pers. comm.). Local resident Harold Snyder recalls as a child (in the 1930's), finding two foundations near the current Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house. There were old beds, tub remnants and some pipe (Snyder, pers. comm.). There is a small foundation that remains currently on Pine Hill, yet no others have been located. It is constructed with slate and mortar and may have had a ceramic roof, as there are remnants of tile around the foundation. None of the current Lambda brothers are aware of foundations uncovered

when they constructed their house. The actual use of these two structures (seen in Figure 13), and who owned them, remains unknown.

New improvements were added to the University as time progressed. The cornerstone of the Brick was laid in September of 1858, to house female students. In 1899, as the need for energy on campus increased, a gas line was brought over Pine Hill, to support the Brick, Gothic and Academy Halls (Norwood, 1957). In 1903, there was a change to the University that was counted by many as an extreme loss. Under the presidency of Boothe C. Davis, the prized "sentinel pines," growing on the crown of Pine Hill, were cut down for lumber. These were mentioned often in diaries, depicted in artist renderings and included in the University's alma mater song, which was written in 1900. Lloyd R. Watson, a current student (and the future inventor of the artificial insemination of honey bees) wrote an article to the Alfred University monthly, mourning the loss of these prized pines;

" Must you go?...Must the pines which have for two hundred years so gallantly kept their vigil over the little valley of Alfred go the way of other pines? You are dear to the heart of every true son and daughter of Alfred, and a subtle, indescribable tugging at each heart will take place when it is announced that Pine Hill has been robbed of her crown, her glorious old pines. Often when wearied by books I have retreated to your dominion, old friends. I have sat under your beneficent shade and meditated upon your maker and mine... I pity the soul who, having lived and worked and played at the foot at Pine Hill, has never lifted his face toward you and taken new inspiration from your sturdy example" (Watson, 1903; 152).

Alumni also benefited from Pine Hill. This was especially true with the class of 1915. During the summer they returned, and after an "out of town feed," they hiked up Pine Hill for continued celebration with a campfire, songs, hot dogs, marshmallows, lemonade and apple pies. The class of 1918 also contributed to the ceremonial use of Pine Hill, through a series of "moving up" rituals, involving loud music, outrageous

costumes and a cap burning ceremony with a picnic feast, welcoming the freshmen into their new sophomore rank (Norwood, 1957).

The commitment to the campus beautification extended beyond the efforts of Jonathan Allen. In the 1930's, four female members of the University Board of Trustees, Mrs. William L. Ames, Mrs. Harry Bradley, Mrs. Shirley Brown, and Miss Florence Hatch, decided that they wanted to plant trees on the unused parts on campus. Thousands of Red pine and Norway spruce were planted with the help of willing students (Norwood, 1957). The possible locations of these plantings are pointed out in Figure 14. This reforestation of the campus also eliminated a road that once ran across the top of Pine Hill (Hall, 1995).

South Hall, named after the previous South Hall on the University campus, which burned in 1858, was an elementary school located on Park Street. Harold Snyder attended this school in the late 1930's. He recalls his days as an elementary school student there. During recess time, he would venture up to Pine Hill with his friends and play "king of the mountain" and explore the woods up there. He recalls that one year, his teacher told them to head up to Pine Hill and cut a Christmas tree for the classroom. Barely large enough to carry the tree down themselves, they eagerly ran up the hill, with hatchet in hand, to cut down a tree for the class to enjoy (Snyder, pers. comm.).

Pine Hill has also been used for various sports activities on campus. Pat Perry, a local resident who lives at the top of Sibley road, recalls a track that used to run along the crest of the hill (Perry, pers. comm.). Skiers have practiced among the pines, as well as University track stars such as Harold Snyder and Lester Goble (Norwood, 1957).

During the 1950's, a development of new houses was constructed on the south side of Pine Hill. Residents who live in this new development recall times spent in the

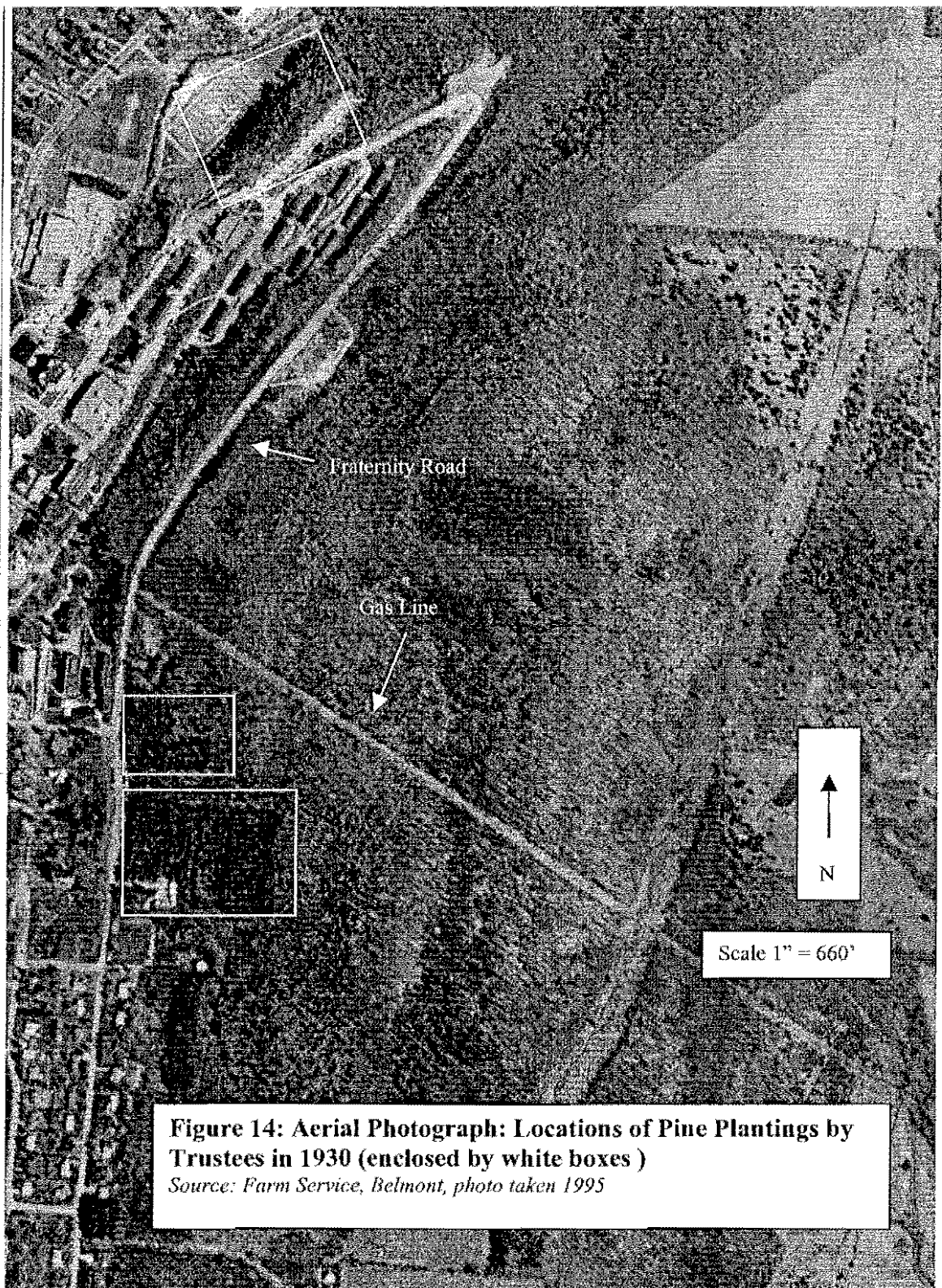


Figure 14: Aerial Photograph: Locations of Pine Plantings by Trustees in 1930 (enclosed by white boxes)

Source: Farm Service, Belmont, photo taken 1995

remaining woods on this side of Pine Hill. Pamela Scofield Creswell, who now lives on 2 Nevins Drive, recalls the summers spent on Pine Hill in an essay printed in the book, The History of Alfred, New York, compiled in 1990. "Our house is at 2 Nevins Drive now, but there was no street name then-just a dirt road that curved around, came past the house and dwindled out in front of the water tank at the bottom of Pine Hill." She speaks of picking blackberries by the bushel up on Pine Hill and camping out in the woods under the pines (Alfred, 1990; 173). Memories such as these were savored by Alfred residents.

It remains to be seen whether Pine Hill will be further developed. Within the past few decades, the development of Pine Hill has been a major topic within University Annual Reports. Spearheading the idea for development was the construction of Fraternity Road, finished in approximately 1965. The completion of this road was supposed to be first step to begin construction of Fraternity Row, that would sit on the slope of Pine Hill. Complications arose with the construction of Fraternity Road, when the construction company was struggling with the steep grade that the road was to be built on. This steep grade was also a concern with the building of new fraternity houses on Pine Hill. Plans were for the Phi Epsilon Pi and Tau Delta Phi fraternities (which do not exist today) to have new houses constructed by 1967, along with cleared land available for other fraternities to build upon (University, 1964). There had also been plans for practice fields located up on Pine Hill, and the construction of these fields had already begun, when a 1966 article in the *Fiat Lux* mentioned that the fraternity houses were to be built on the new fields. Later on in the year, construction was delayed due to the scarcity of water supply to the new buildings. The University could not pump enough water up to the new houses, due to their elevation. Administrators were trying to buy

land south of the observatory where the current water tank is located, so they could utilize the water from this tank (Fraternity, 1966). It was around this time in November 1966, when the Observatory (now Stull) was completed on the south side of Pine Hill. The plans for the Fraternity houses that were so vigorously proposed, somehow fell through. Today, the location of the observatory is a great concern when considering development of Pine Hill and especially installation of lighting systems on campus. The completion of the observatory may have been a factor in the dissolution of the 1967 plan for Fraternity Row.

Other complications occurred with Fraternity Road in 1968, when the University realized that they had built part of the road on property that belonged to the State University of New York, Agricultural and Technical School. The land was a small triangular size, located along the eastern boundary of lot 15. E.K. Lebohner, the treasurer of the Alfred University at the time, wrote a letter to the Director of Engineering at Alfred State, in February of 1968. He mentioned the land, commenting that the part was, "a hillside property with approximately thirty percent grade, wooded and of no value to anyone except that it would straighten out the property line" (Archives, Greek Row). Soon after this letter was written, the State University decided the land to Alfred University and the property line was indeed, straightened out.

It is unclear why the earlier plans for Fraternity Row fell through, but plans and environmental impact statements assembled in 1993, 1995 and 1997 demonstrate the University's continued interest in developing Pine Hill. Current President Edward Coll, has had surveyors examine the land, and has asked students to prepare reports on the feasibility of developing Pine Hill. The disturbance of the natural environment, the trail

system, and interference with the observatory's study of the night sky, have all been specific concerns with the development of Pine Hill, especially since it has been such an important place for many past and present Alfred students, faculty and residents.

There is an extensive trail system on Pine Hill that was opened up to the public in 1996. A map created for this project, with Global Positioning Systems and a Geographic Information System, is shown in Appendix 1. The trails are within close reach of students who would like to take a walk, or professors who would like to integrate the resource into their classes. There is no need to drive to get there, and once far enough into the woods, nestled beneath the pine trees, it is hard to recognize that the University exists below. Classes within Environmental Studies, Biology, Geology, and Art, among others, are held up on this hill. The following native plants that are protected in New York State also exist on Pine Hill: Wild Crabapple (*Pyrus coronaria*), Red and White Trillium, Christmas, Intermediate Wood Fern and Lady Fern, American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), Dutchmen's Breeches and Squirrel Corn (Natural, 1997).

DISCUSSION

It is important to take the information that has been gathered and fit it together to answer the question, what was Pine Hill, and what is it now? The uses of Pine Hill as a resource has evolved over the past two centuries in different ways. Pine Hill fits the definition of a "resource" according to E.W. Zimmerman, a researcher of resources and industry. He stresses that resources are "dynamic, becoming available to man through a combination of increased knowledge and expanding technology as well as changing and individual and societal objectives" (Mitchell, 1979; 1-2). Pine Hill has responded to the

needs and ideals of the humans who have interacted with it, and thus been molded into these ideals. It has evolved as a resource to the Alfred community and served as a perpetual source of diversion and relaxation.

In the 1800's Pine Hill was a thruway. The objectives of the society required an access route to the University, to other farms, to the railroad, and to trade in Alfred Center. Footpaths were created to fulfill this need as Pine Hill began its initial step towards resource evolution. As the trends in management changed with time, Pine Hill (mainly the south side) was a prime area to harvest trees that could be sold, burnt for potash, or used to construct buildings such as Alumni Hall. Since Alfred was not within close proximity to a canal, the new technology of the Erie Railway eased the removal of the pines and sparked economic growth within the area. This new addition to Alfred contributed to the change in management of Pine Hill. As time progressed and land was cleared, Alfred soil was mainly found hospitable to grazing, and the dairy industry flourished in Alfred, with cheese factories springing up across the town. The slopes of Pine Hill seemed an optimal spot for this industry. Fields were cleared on the south side of the hill, and transformed into farmland. Cheese was exported out of the small town and Allegany cheese was particularly known for its quality (Clawson, 1926). Just as the land management trends of New England were replicated in Alfred, they repeated again as settlers crept further west. The dairy industry soon took root in Wisconsin, and elsewhere in the mid-west, and resulted in the gradual reduction of dairy farms in Alfred. These changes were reflected on Pine Hill in the 1930's, where aerial photographs show the slow succession of farmland to forestland, coupled with a replanting trend. Around this time nation-wide appropriations for replanting were provided to initiate recovery of

forests. The Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 encouraged farmers to extend their wood-lots, and the Knutson-Vandenberg Act of 1920 allowed for replanting of trees in national forests (Richards, 1988). The trustees of Alfred University were likely to have recognized this national trend when they set funds aside to replant the unused places on campus.

Since Alfred University's move to the north end of Pine Hill in 1846, it co-evolved with the resource developments, mentioned above, occurring on the south end. The side of the hill located directly behind the University was not harvested as much as the south side, yet it served as a different kind of resource. A small part of Pine Hill behind the University appeared to be farmed as mentioned earlier, yet the bottom part of the hill was left for development of new University buildings and the growth of the institution. As the University developed, beneath the gaze of the pines, Pine Hill became a site for the expansion of young minds. The 'societal objective' in Alfred at the time, combined with the firm dedication of the Kenyon "compact," was the promotion of a fine educational institution, which did not allow for the complete exploitation of Pine Hill. Those who lived on the south end of Pine Hill continued their line of farm work, while the University peacefully co-existed on the other end of the hill.

As time progressed, and the dairy industry migrated westward, the land on the south side of Pine Hill that had served as farmland, was sacrificed for the housing development of the 1950's. There was a resource demand after World War II due to the "baby boom" and promotion of the suburban lifestyle. It was at this time that the housing development was built on the south side of Pine Hill.

The presence of the institution on the northern end of Pine Hill contributed to the integration of the hill into the community, which was quite different from any other slope occupied solely by private residences. The hill was appreciated by students who studied beneath its gaze, and realized its recreational use when professors took them up to camp. Pine Hill was nearby to the Seventh Day Baptist chapel, which allowed for walks after Sabbath school. During the 1930's when South Hall was built on Park Street, children of the community would share in the resource of Pine Hill. It seems that around that time, and in the future when the Pine Hill development was built, Pine Hill was a safe place for parents to allow their children to roam and explore, and establish their connection with the outdoors. Pamela Creswell Scofield mentions camping up on the hill behind their house at night, or picking berries and selling them door to door.

Since the 1960's as the resource demands of the University changed, further development of Pine Hill was proposed by constructing new University buildings and facilities. In 1996, Pine Hill was realized as a trail system and has remained a static recreational facility, with occasional suggestions for development.

Pine Hill has remained constant as a resource supplying relaxation and recreation. Zimmerman also stated that, "attributes of nature are no more than 'neutral stuff' until man is able to perceive their presence, to recognize their capacity to satisfy human wants" (Mitchell, 1979; 2). There are very few areas of land in the nation today whose "presence" has not been "perceived" by humankind. Pine Hill has been utilized for its resources ever since the settlement of Alfred. Past and present communities have "perceived the presence" of Pine Hill as a resource, yet not solely on a one-dimensional plane. It has been realized on a deeper level, as an emotional resource of diversion and

reminisce. Children have connected to these outdoors, adults have recalled the simplicity of its messages, and professors have taught lessons of the real world projected from the scope of its hill. Pine Hill has taught and provided on many levels to the Alfred community.

CONCLUSION

Currently, the University side of Pine Hill is used by many students for hiking, biking, and camping, and professors hold classes in and around these woods. The south side is home to families who take advantage of the woods behind their houses, also an important part of the hill. Evidently, Pine Hill has been a special place for many. I hope that it will continue to serve as a place of diversion and refreshment, despite suggestions to develop this hill and its resources.

Research done thus far has only captured a small amount of information that may exist. Further research into this important part of Alfred's history would add significantly to our base of knowledge about Pine Hill. An in-depth natural resource analysis would complement this project, providing information to confirm the historical research that has been done. Trees could be dated, and an under-story vegetation study on Pine Hill could provide further clues into the history of its development.

The future evolution of the Pine Hill resources will be determined by the needs and desires of the Alfred society, yet it is hopeful that this community may still be able to "lift its face towards the hill and take new inspiration from its sturdy example."

Note: A collection of photographs entitled, "Pine Hill: A Photographic Journey," is located in Appendix 2.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alfred Historical Society and Baker's Bridge Association.
History of Alfred, New York.
Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1990.

Alfred University Archives, Herrick Memorial Library
Students, Greek Row Project (box)

Allen, Abigail A.
Life and Sermons of Jonathan Allen, President of Alfred Univesity.
Oakland, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Co., 1894.

Child, Hamilton.
Gazetter and Business Directory of Allegany County, New York for 1875.
Syracuse, NY: The Journal, 1875.

Clawson, Cortez, R.
History of the Town of Alfred, NY from the earliest times to the present.
Alfred, NY: Sun Publishing Association, 1926.

"Fraternity Row Delayed; Water Tower Being Built."
Fiat Lux.
November 1, 1966,. 54:6,1.

1806 History of Allegany County, NY.
New York: FW Beers and Co., 1879.

Hall, Jaimee, Kristen Kloven, Christa Marlowe et al.
"Final Environmental Impact Statement: The Proposed Greek Row on Pine Hill, Alfred University, Alfred, NY."
May 1995.
Alfred University Archives, Herrick Memorial Library.

Hunting, Bessie.
"Memoirs or Reminiscences."
Diary Number 1. Pg. 32-33.
Western New York Historical Collection, Alfred State Campus, Hinkle Library. Alf-44 file; Henry C. Hunting and Bessie Stukey.

Mitchell, Bruce.
Geography and Resource Analysis.
New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1979.

"Mrs. Henry Hunting."

The Alfred Sun.

September 4, 1947. 1.

"Natural Resource Management Plan of Pine Hill, Alfred University: Preliminary Draft."

November 18, 1997

Norwood, John Nelson. "Evolution of the AU Early Campus." (date unknown) Alfred University Archives. Herrick Memorial Library.

Norwood, John Nelson.

Fiat Lux: The Story of Alfred University.

Alfred, NY: Alfred University, 1957.

Palmiter, Thelma.

President of Baker's Bridge Historical Society,

Personal Interview on History of Pine Hill,

Alfred Station, NY, March 21, 2000.

Perry, Pat.

Resident on Sibley Road,

Phone interview on History of Pine Hill.

Alfred, NY,

April 14, 2000.

Phelan, Helene C. Ed..

-And A White Vest for Sam'l: An Account of Rural Life in Western, NY, from the Diaries of Maria Langworthy Whitford of Alfred Station, NY 1857-1861.

Almond, NY: Sun Publishing Co., 1976.

Richards, John F. and Richard P. Tucker, ed.

World Deforestation in the Twentieth Century.

Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1988, 222-227.

Snyder, Harold.

Alfred Resident

Personal Interview on history of Pine Hill.

Alfred, NY, March 25, 2000.

Strong, Susan Rumsey.

"The Most Natural Way in the World:" Coeducation at Nineteenth Century Alfred University.

Rochester, NY: University of Rochester, 1995.

"University Reiterates Position on Fraternities Future at Alfred University."
Fiat Lux
October 20, 1964. 52:6, 1

Watson, Lloyd Watson.
"A Soliloquy."
The Alfred University Monthly.
March 1903, pg 152.

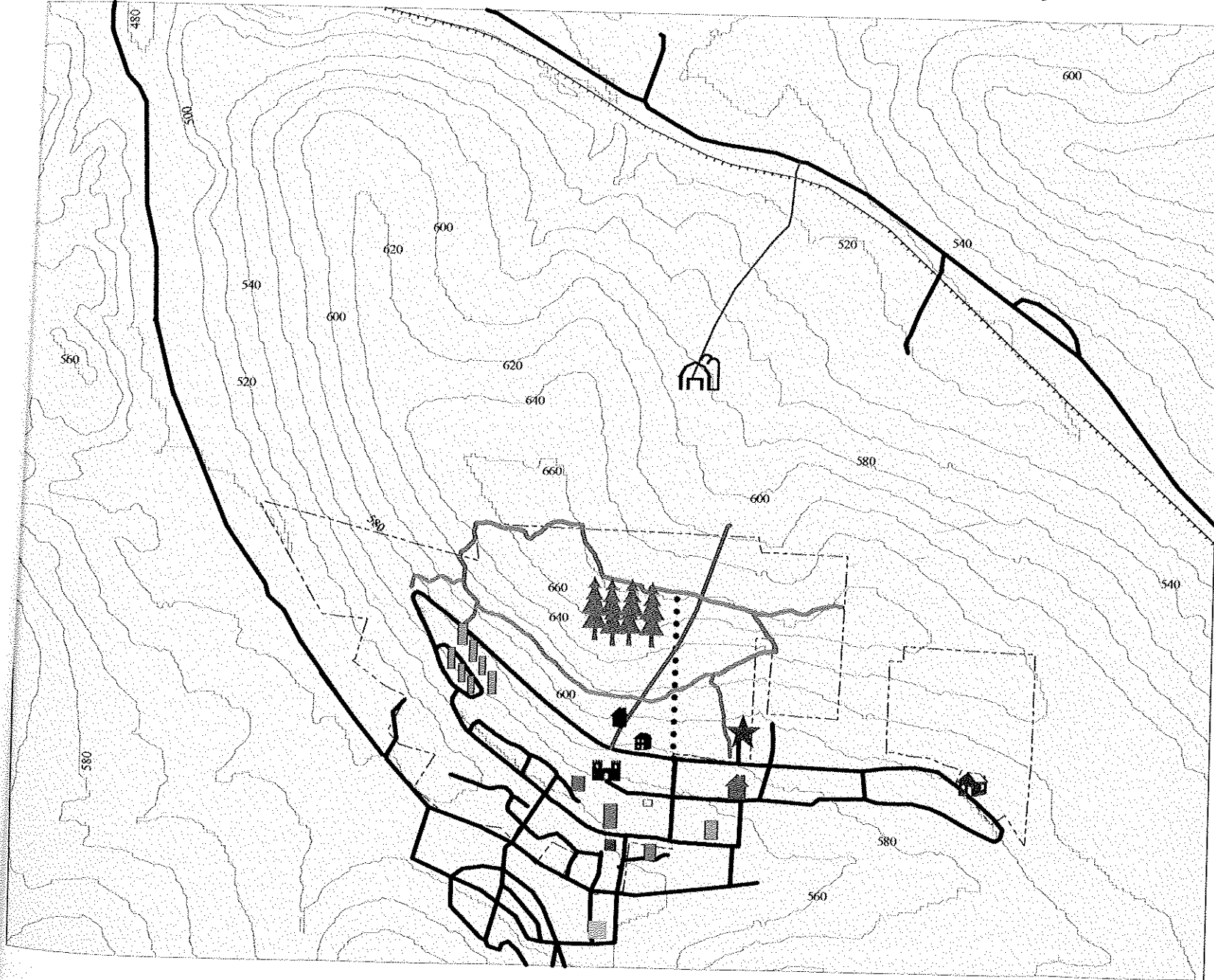
Wessels, Tom.
Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England.
Woodstock, VT: The Countryman Press, 1997.

White, Richard (pnc@netsync.net) "Native Trees in Allegany County." Email to Kristin Sloane (sloaneke@alfred.edu). February 2000.

Appendix 1: Pine Hill Trail Map, Alfred University, cartography by Kristin Sloane 2000.
Appendix 2: Pine Hill: A Photographic Journey, Photographs courtesy of Alfred University Archives, Herrick Library

Appendix 1

Guide to the History of Pine Hill



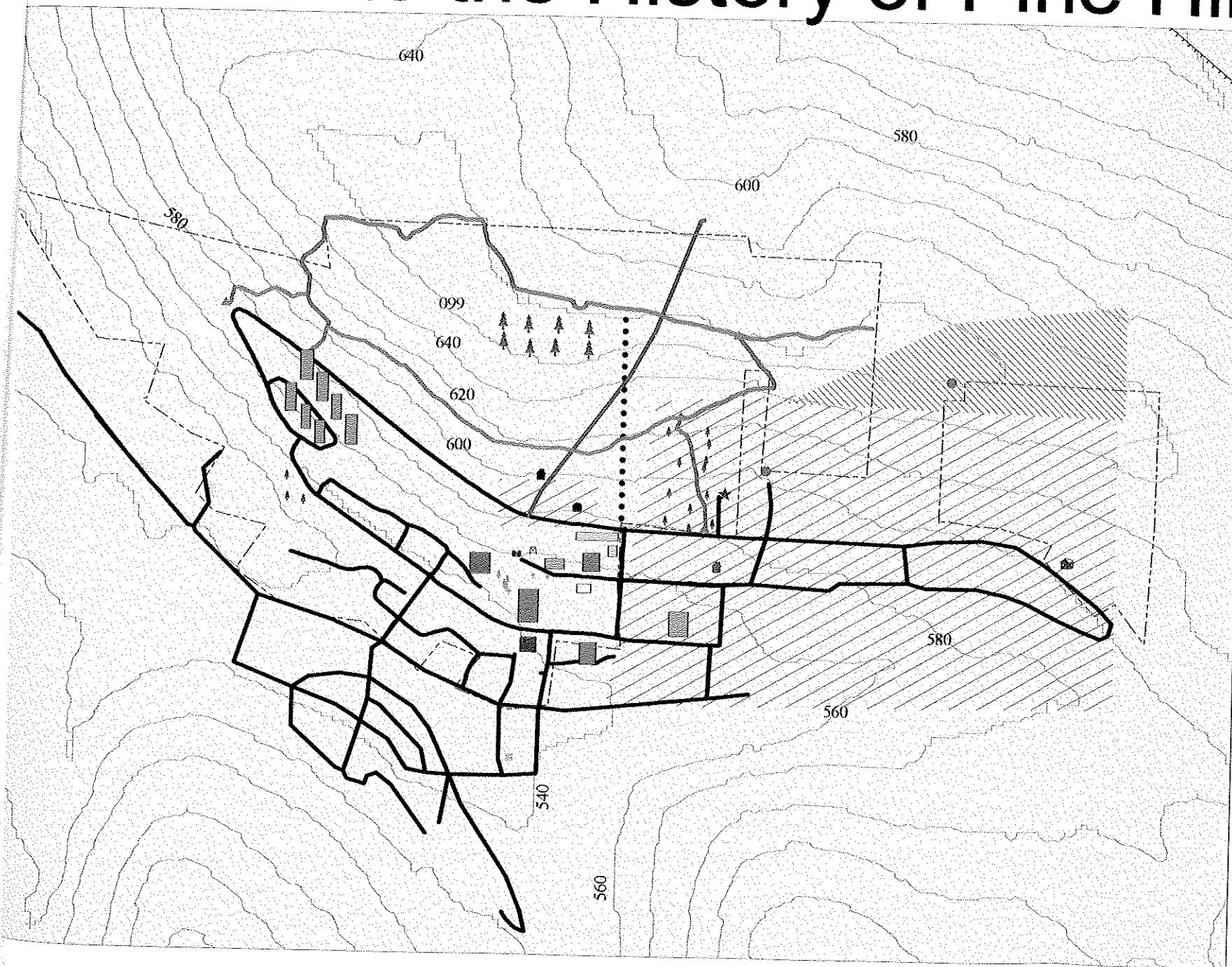
- 🌲 Eastern White pine that existed atop Pine Hill, cut for lumber in 1903
- 🏠 Ruins of unknown origin
- 🏠 Alumni Hall, built in 1851 from the pines on Pine Hill
- 🏠 Brick, built 1858
- 🏠 South Hall, former school
- 🏠 Lambda Chi Alpha
- 🏠 Science Center
- 🏠 Powell Campus Center
- 🏠 Kanakadea Hall
- 🏠 Pine Hill Suites
- ★ Observatory, built 1966
- 🏠 Theta Theta Chi
- 🏠 Allen-Steinheim Museum, built by former Pres. Allen, 1876-1890
- 🏠 President's House
- 🏠 Location of Old Cadmus (Alfred Academy), 1837
- 🏠 Former location of Elijah Lewis' barn, mid-1800's, property backed up to AU campus
- 🚶 Current Upper Trails
- 🚶 Current Lower Trails
- ⛽ Gasline
- 🛣 Sibley Road, Thruway to AU and Alfred Center, 1800's
- Alfred University Property Lines
- ⋯ Pathway that went over Pine Hill, late 1800's
- Contour lines (elevation in meters)
- 🚂 Erie RR, contributed to the deforestation of Pine Hill
- Roads

0 0.4 0.8 Miles

0 0.4 0.8 1.2 Kilometers



Guide to the History of Pine Hill, (Detailed)



- ▲ Eastern White pine that existed atop Pine Hill, cut for lumber in 1903
- * Last of the American elms, planted by former president Jonathan Allen, many died off from Dutch Elm disease
- ▲ Scotch Pines planted by trustees in the 1930's
- ▲ Approx location of Red Pine Planting in 1930's by Trustees
- Ruins of unknown origin
- Alumni Hall, built in 1851 from the pines on Pine Hill
- ▨ Ford Street Apartments
- ▩ Brick, built 1858
- ▨ South Hall, former school
- Lambda Chi Alpha
- ▨ Science Center
- ▨ Powell Campus Center
- ▨ Openhym Hall
- ▨ Howell Hall built in 1930, approximate location of the former "White House" where President Jonathan Allen resided
- Watertowers.shp
- ▨ Pine Hill Suites
- ▨ Kanakadea Hall
- ★ Observatory, built 1966
- ▨ Theta Theta Chi
- ▨ Allen-Steinheim Museum, built by former Pres. Allen, 1876-1890
- ▨ Davis Memorial Carillon, purchased 1937
- ▨ President's House
- ▨ Location of Old Cadmus (Alfred Academy), 1837
- ▲ Trail Heads
- Current Upper Trails
- Current Lower Trails
- Gasline
- Pathway that went over Pine Hill, late 1800's
- Alfred University Property Lines
- Erie RR, contributed to the deforestation of Pine Hill
- Contour lines (elevation in meters)
- ▨ Reforested/Recovered Forest early 1900's
- ▨ Farm and Pasture land (possibly for dairy cows and sheep), late 1800's
- Roads

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

0 0.3 0.6 0.9 Kilometers



Appendix 2

The History of Pine Hill: A Photographic Journey

Compiled by: Kristin Sloane

Down Park Street 1880's

The Brick

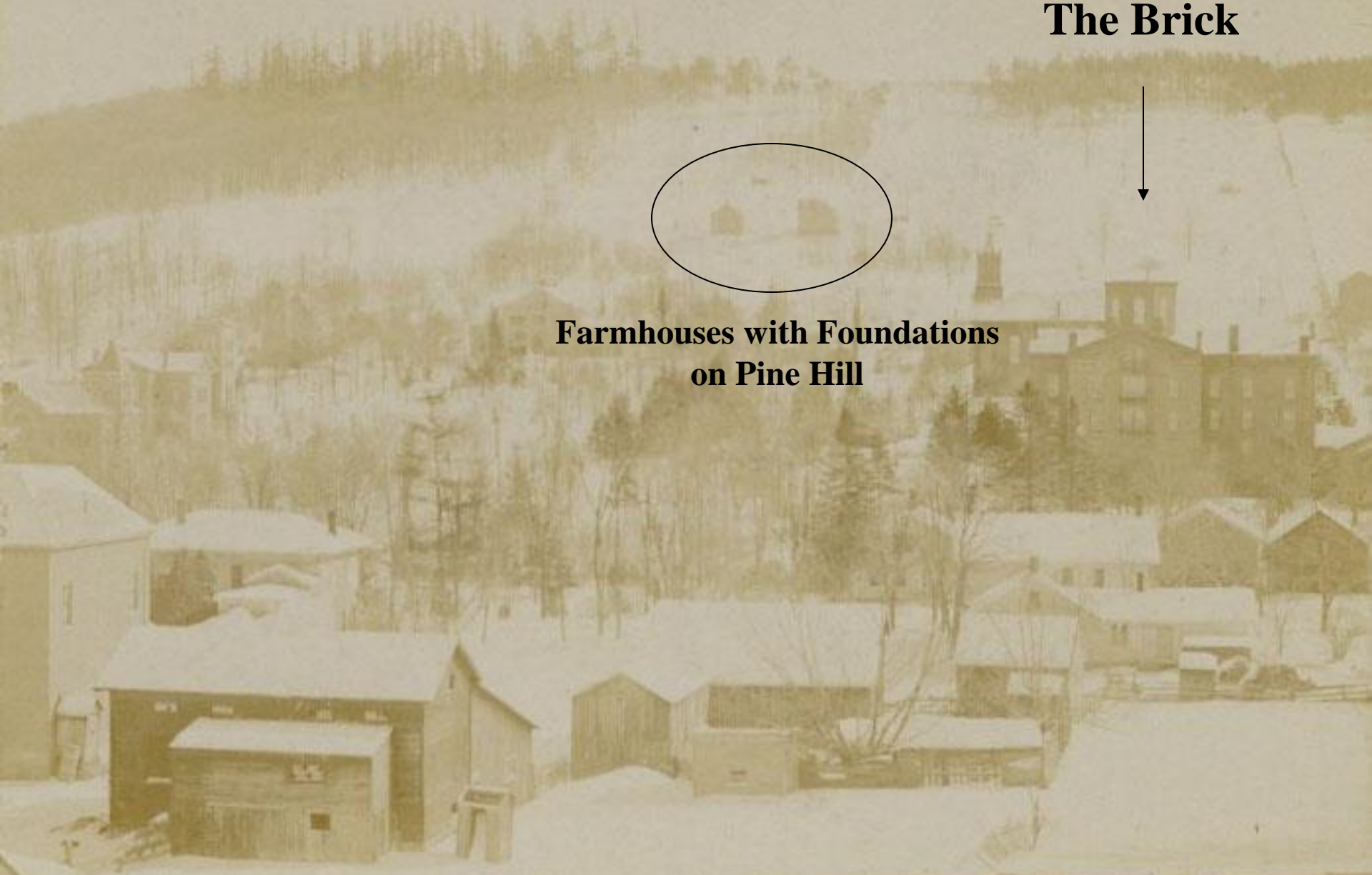


Winter Scene Late-1800's

The Brick



**Farmhouses with Foundations
on Pine Hill**

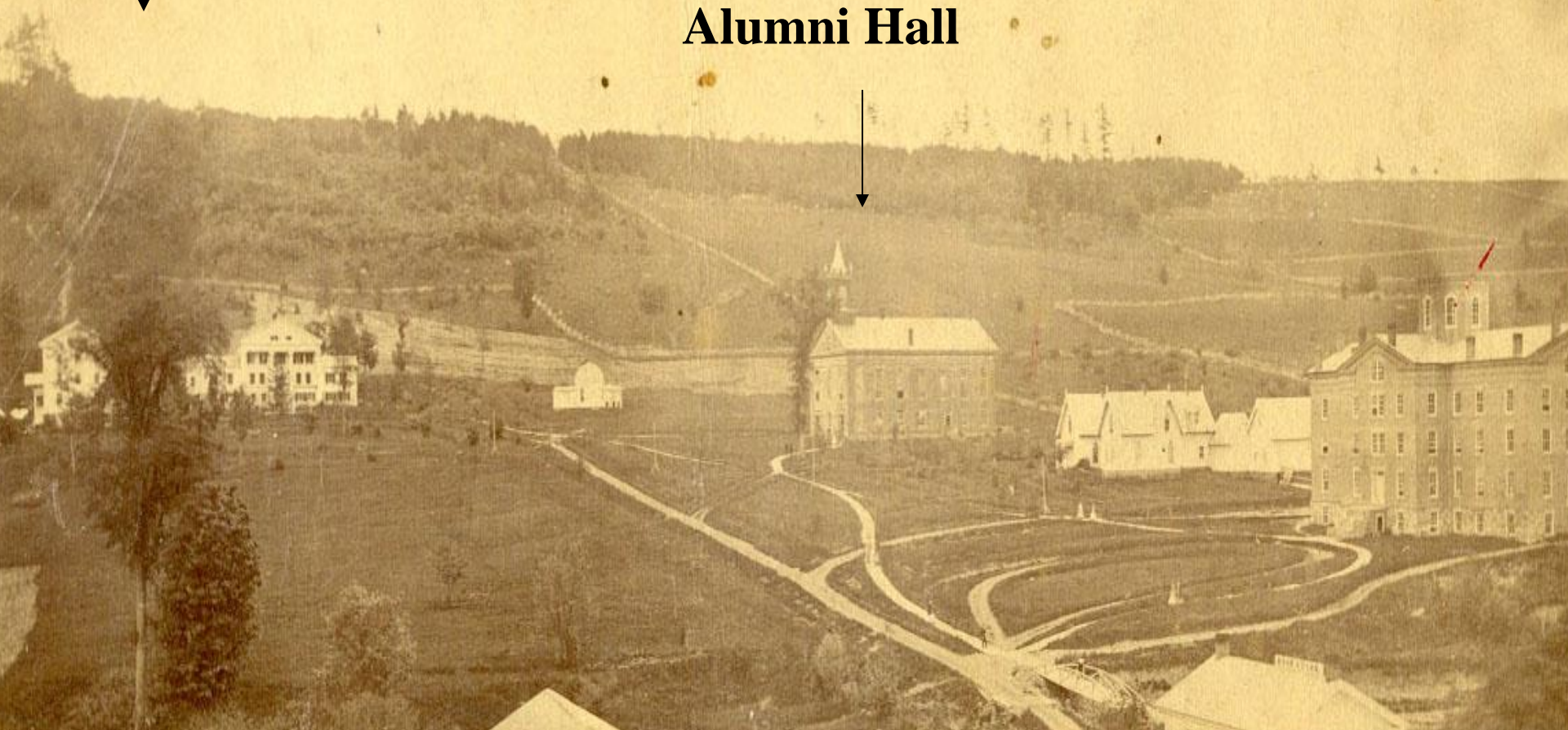


Alfred University Campus, 1868

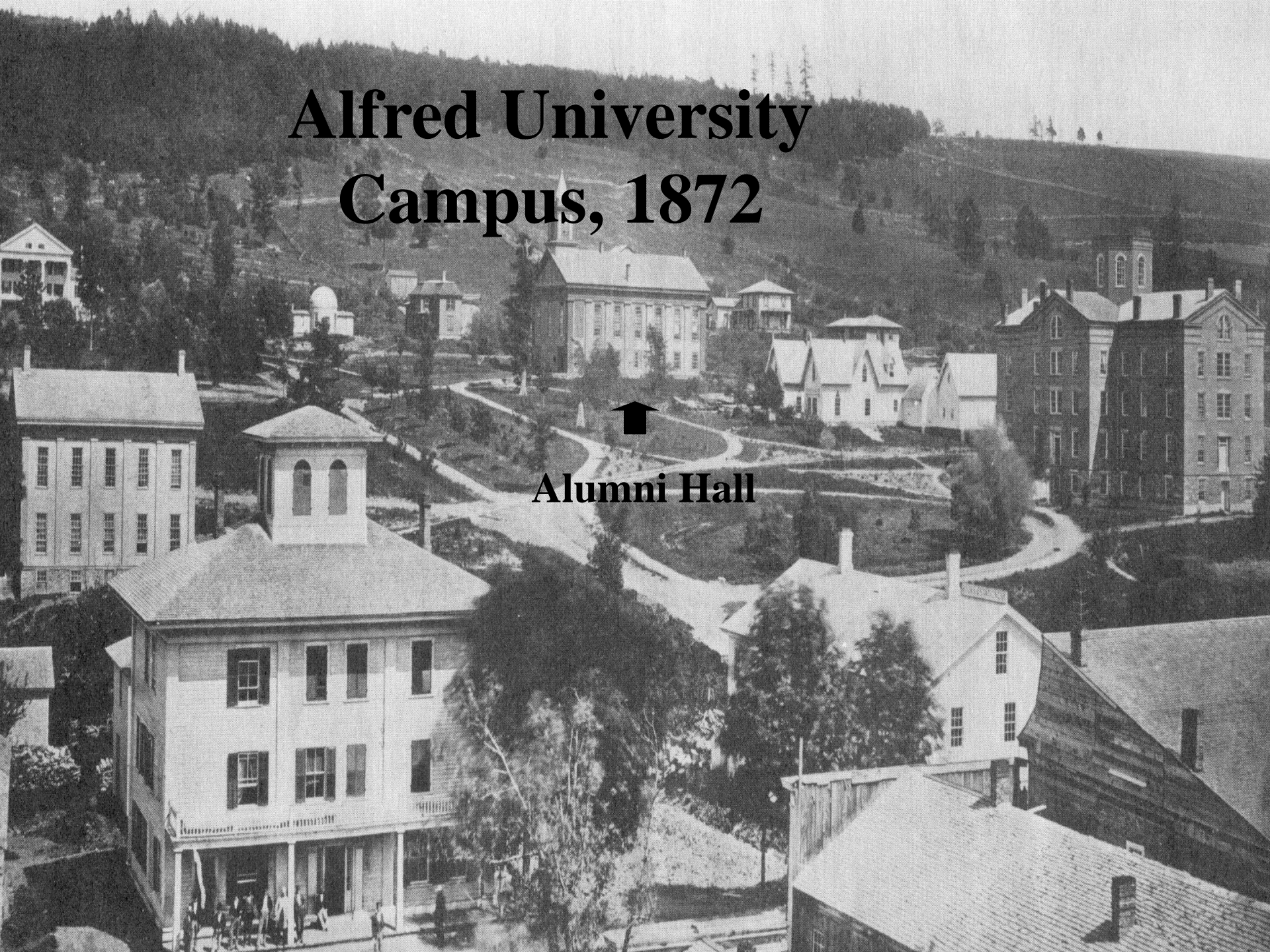
Pine Hill



Alumni Hall



Alfred University Campus, 1872

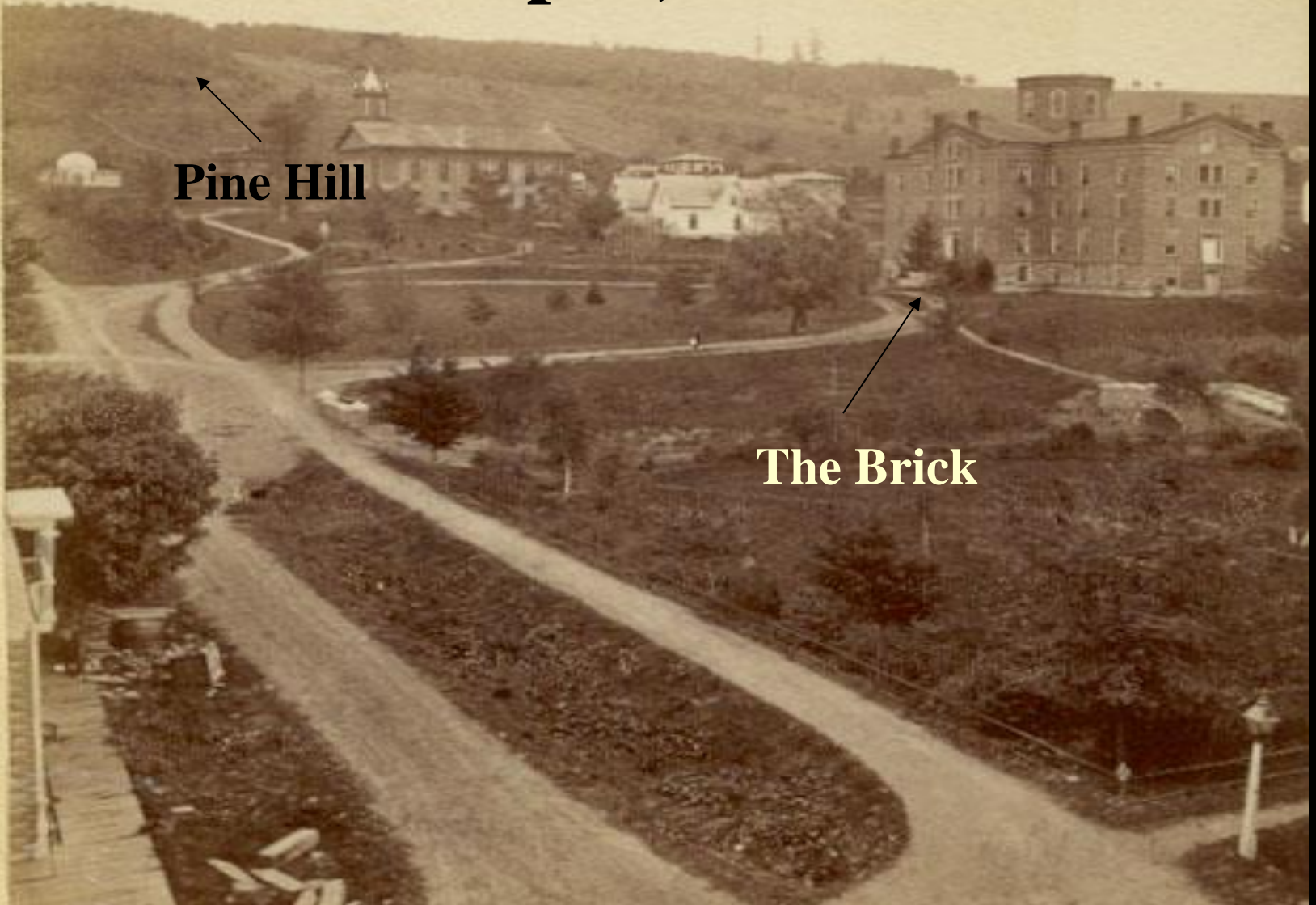


Alumni Hall

Alfred University Campus, 1875

 Pine Hill

 The Brick



Alfred University Campus, 1878-1880

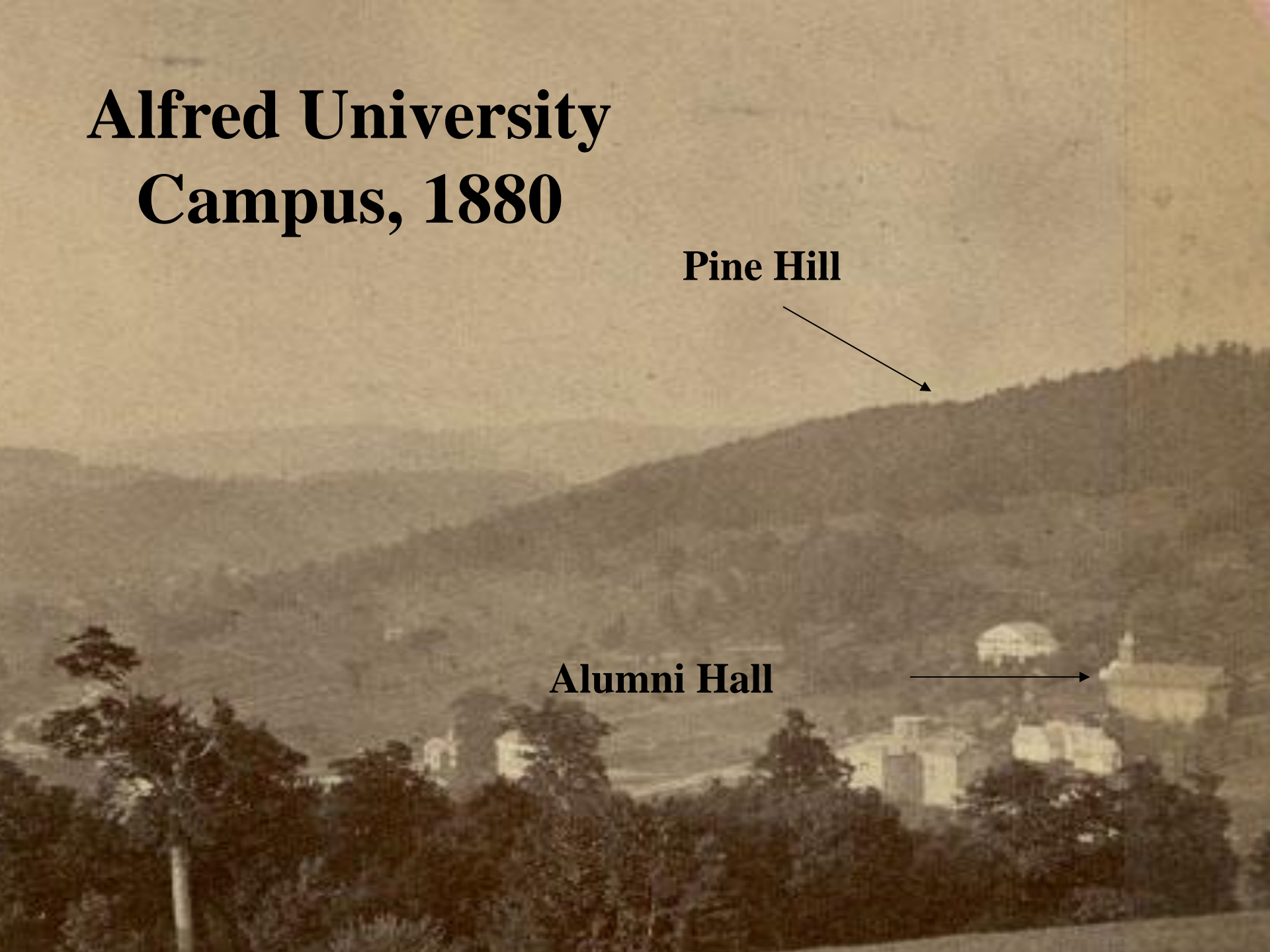


Alfred University Campus, 1880

Pine Hill

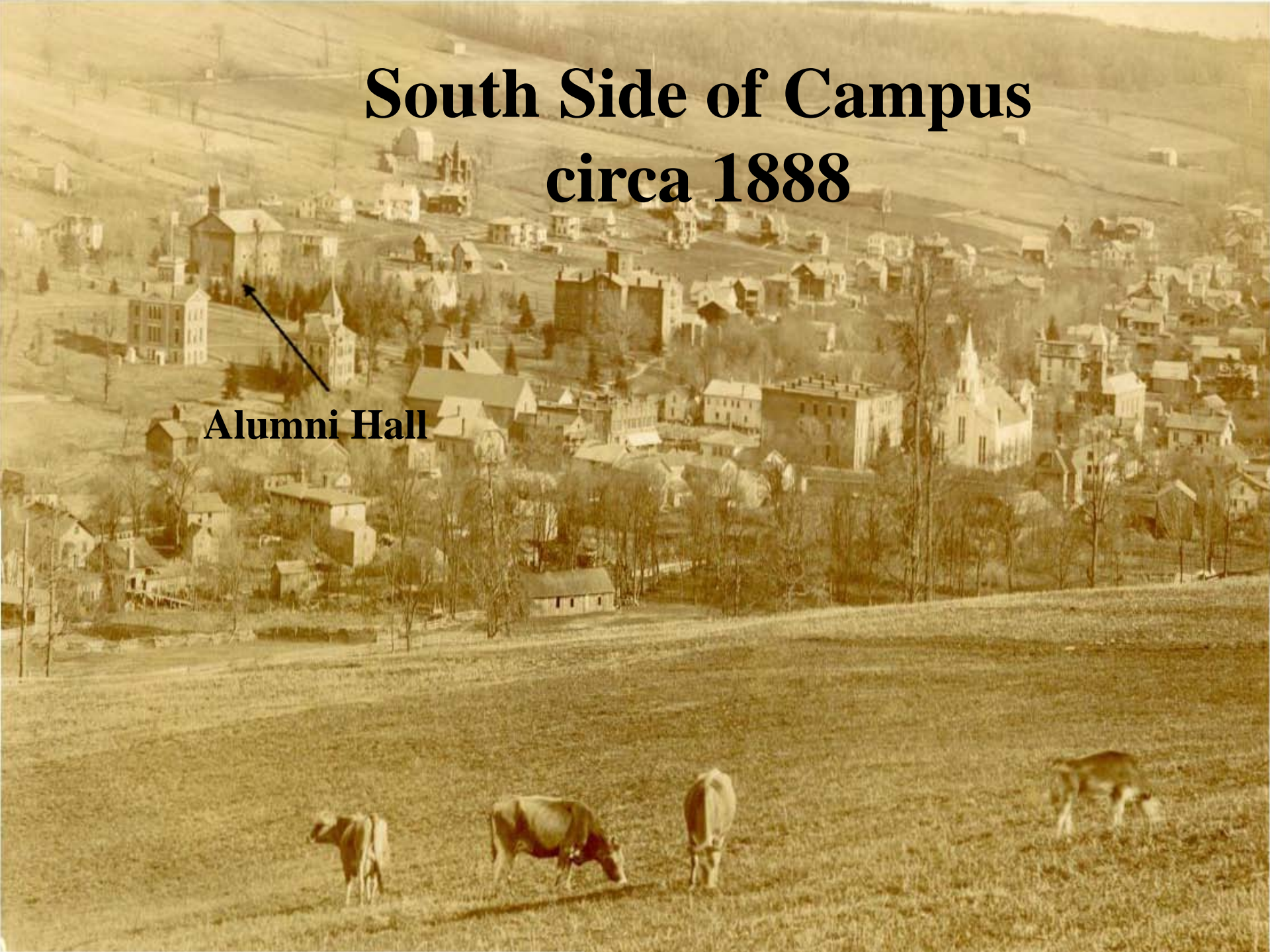


Alumni Hall



South Side of Campus circa 1888

Alumni Hall

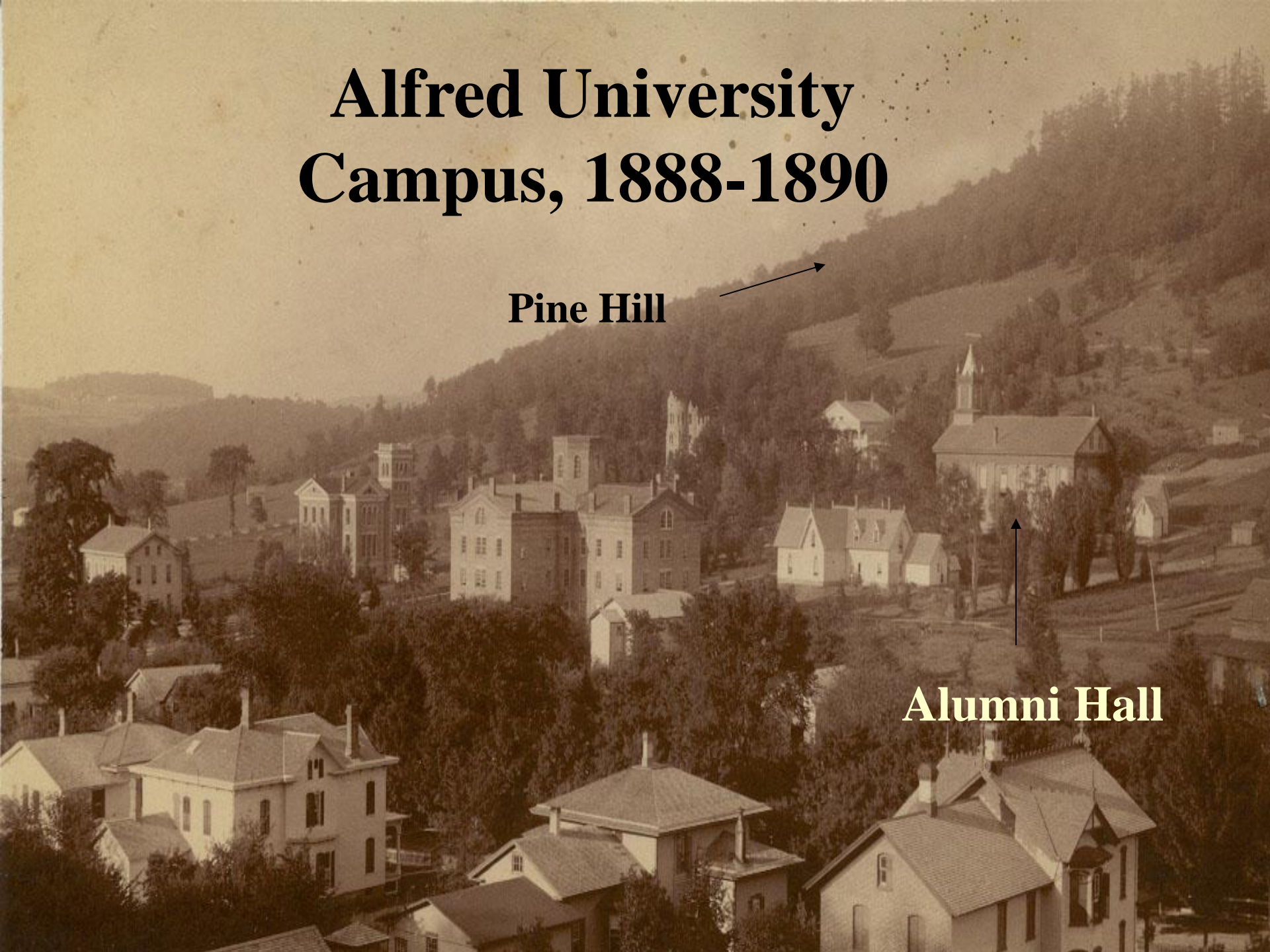


Alfred University Campus, 1888-1890

Pine Hill

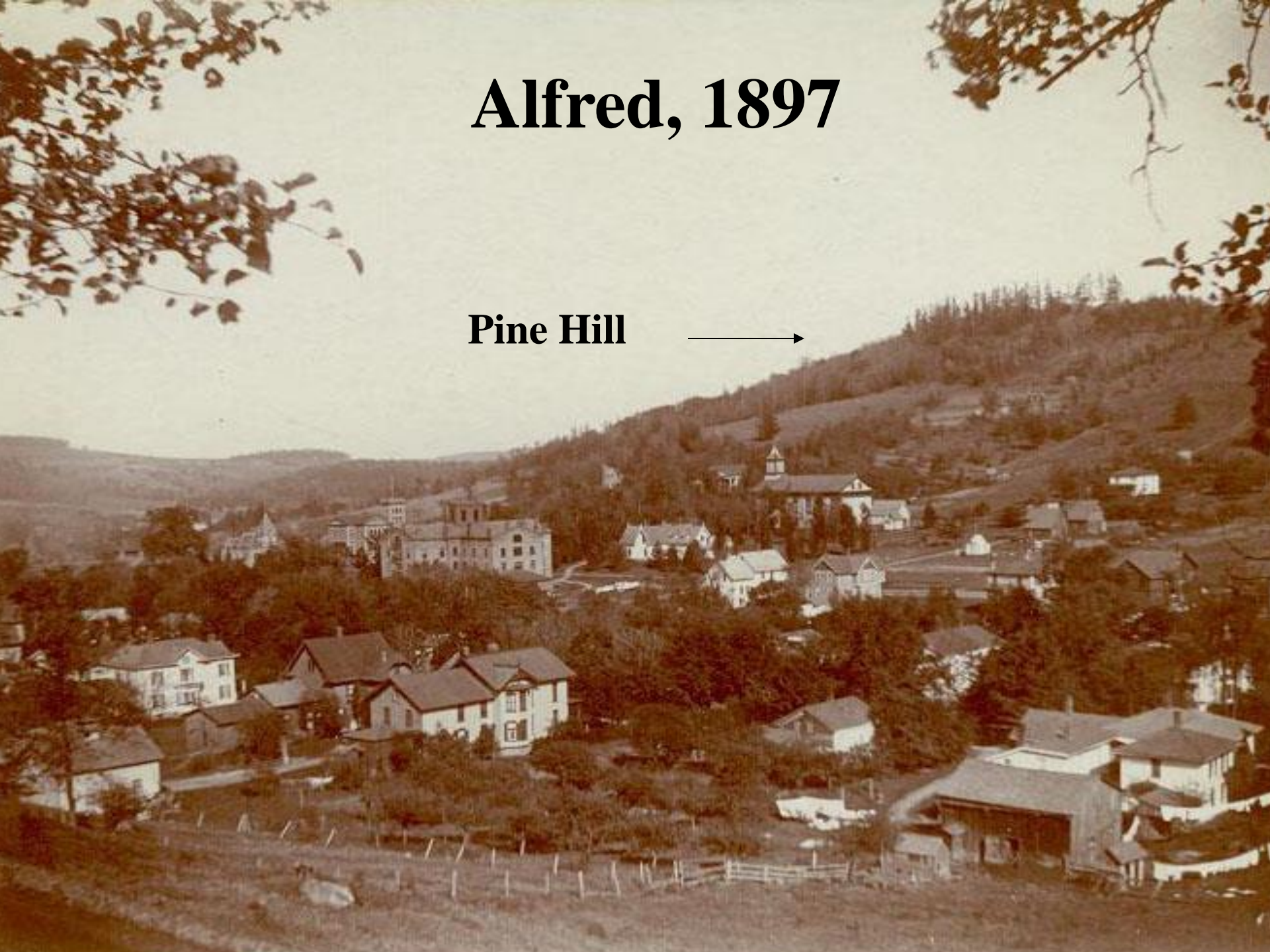


Alumni Hall



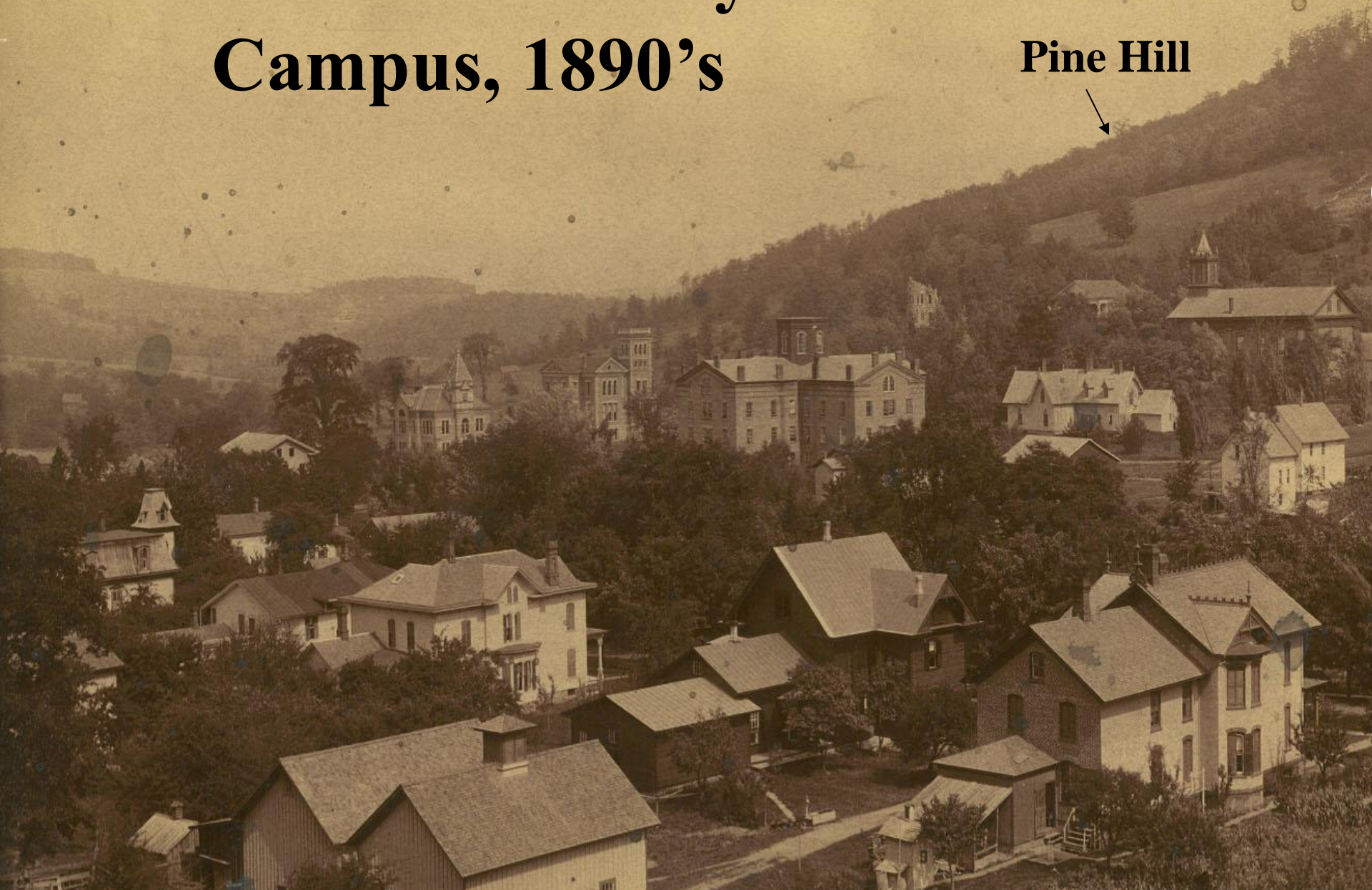
Alfred, 1897

Pine Hill →



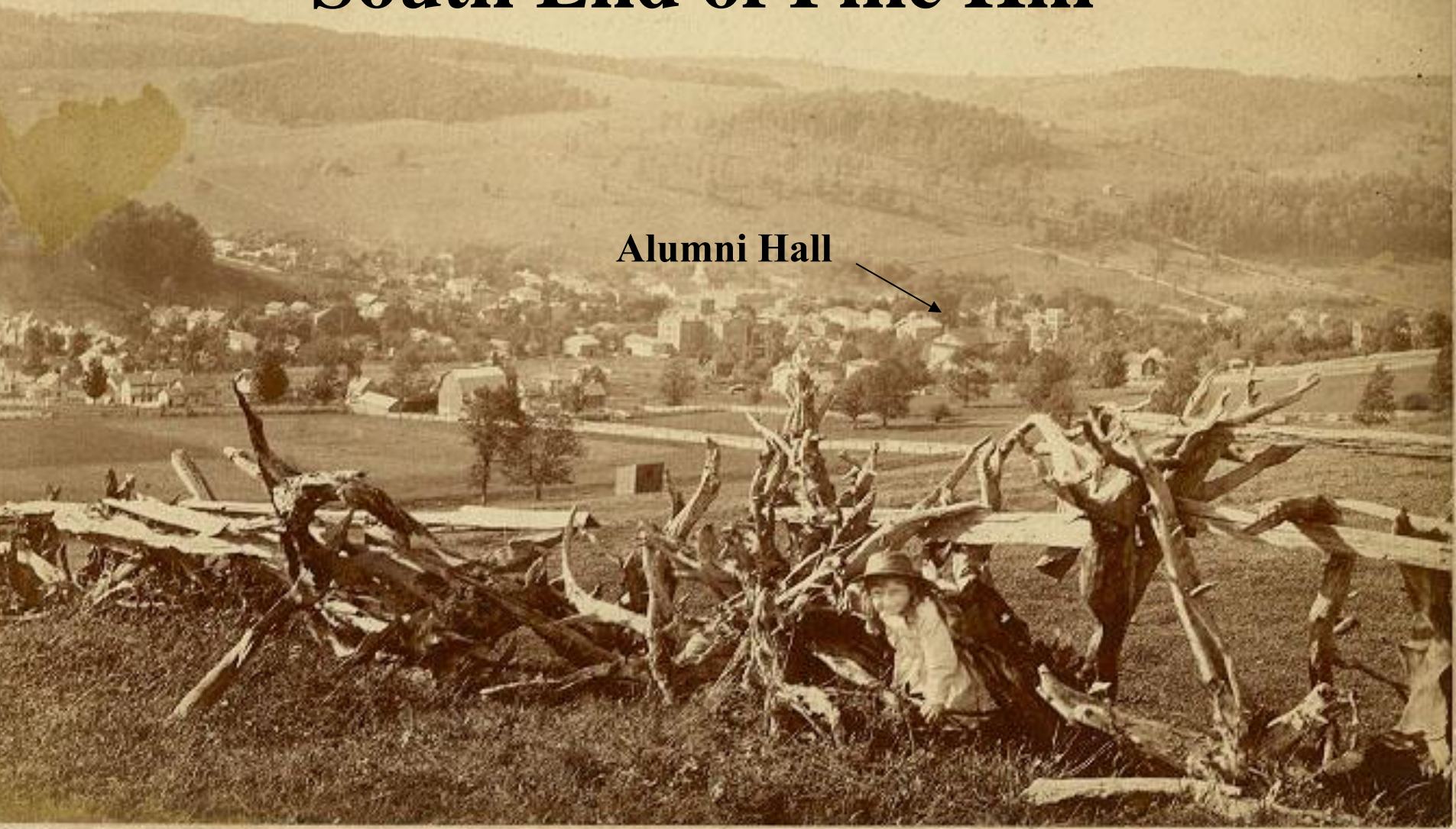
Alfred University Campus, 1890's

Pine Hill



Late 1800's, Picture Taken from South End of Pine Hill

Alumni Hall



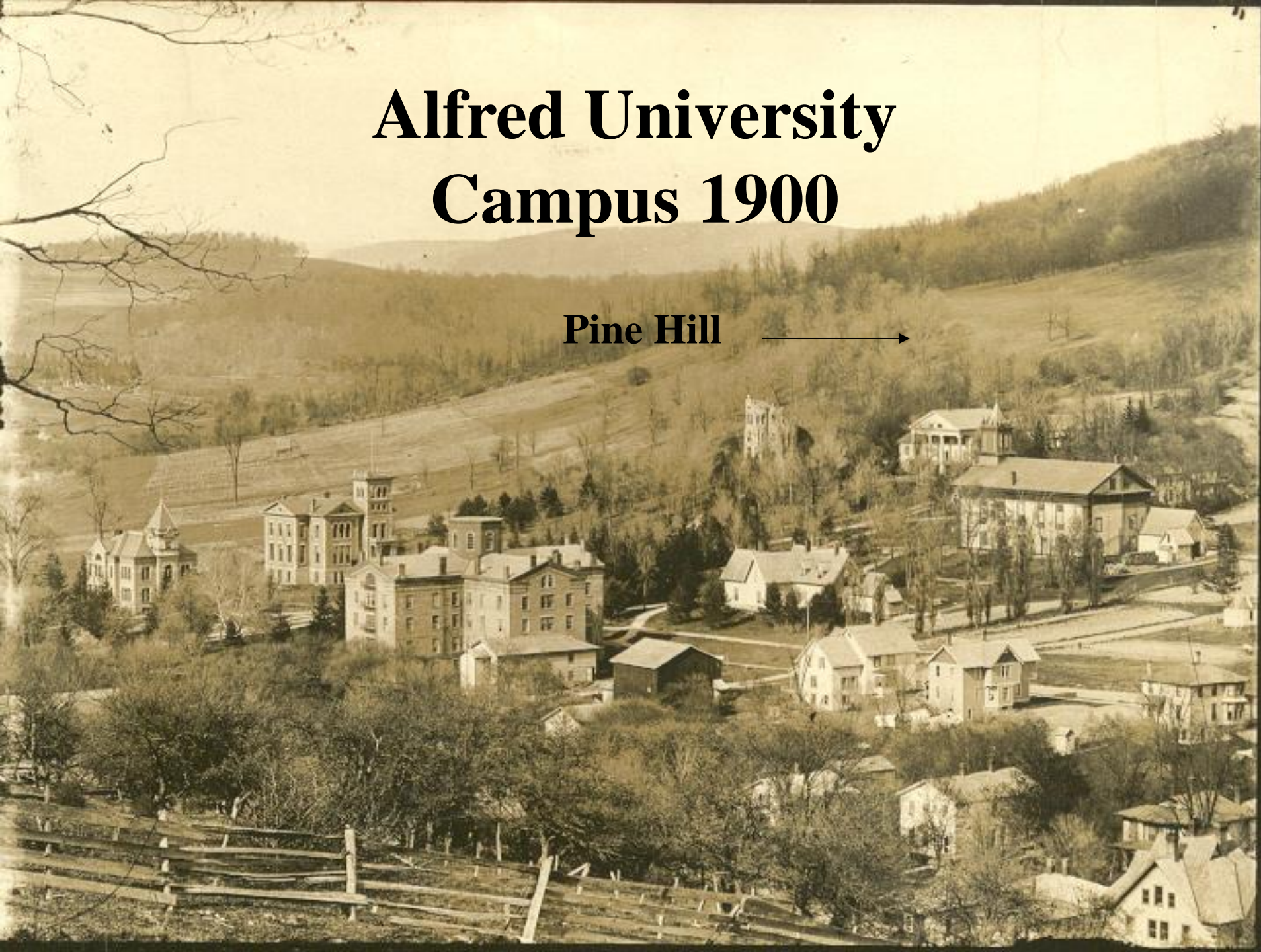
Pine Hill

Alfred University Campus Late 1800's

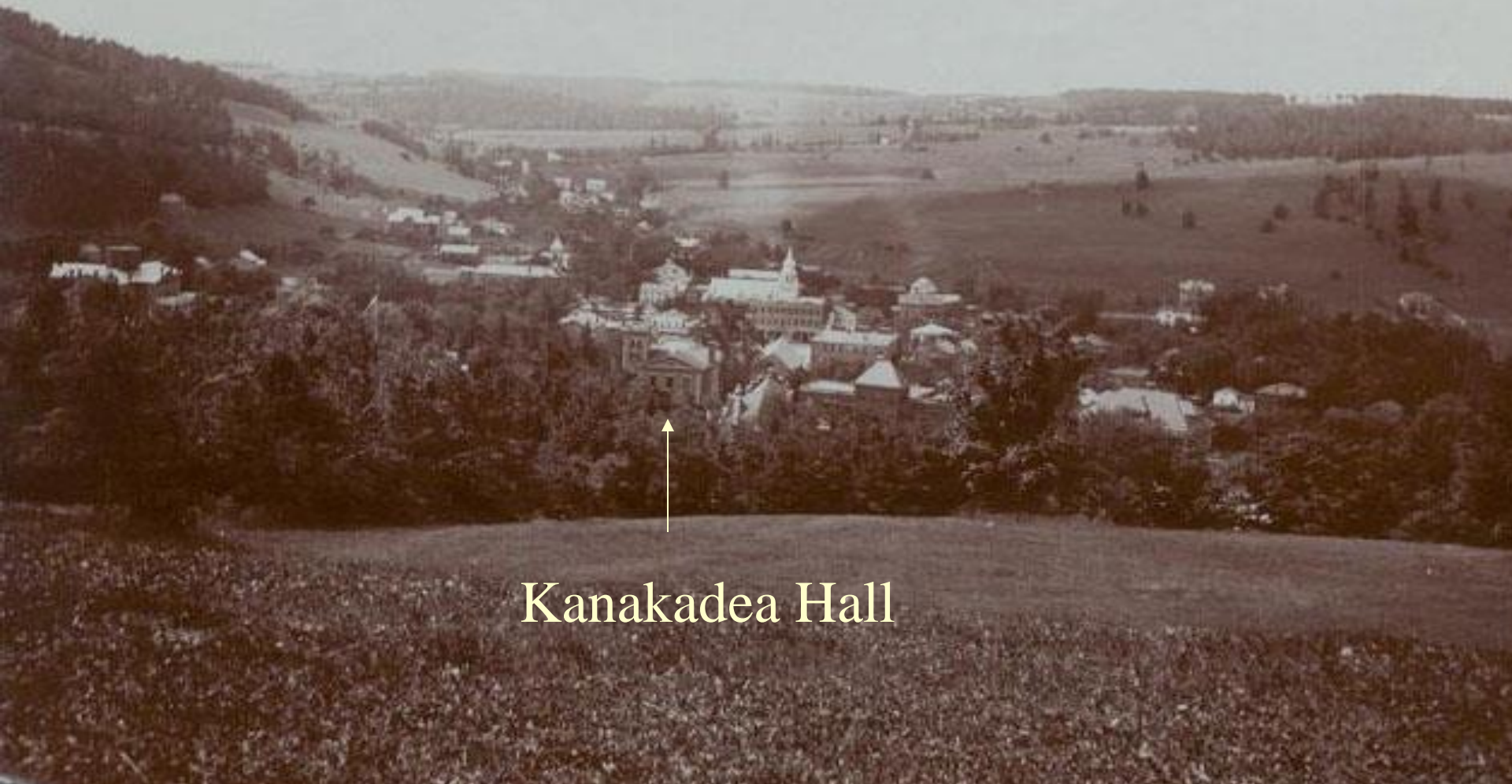


Alfred University Campus 1900

Pine Hill



Picture Taken from Pine Hill 1901, looking West



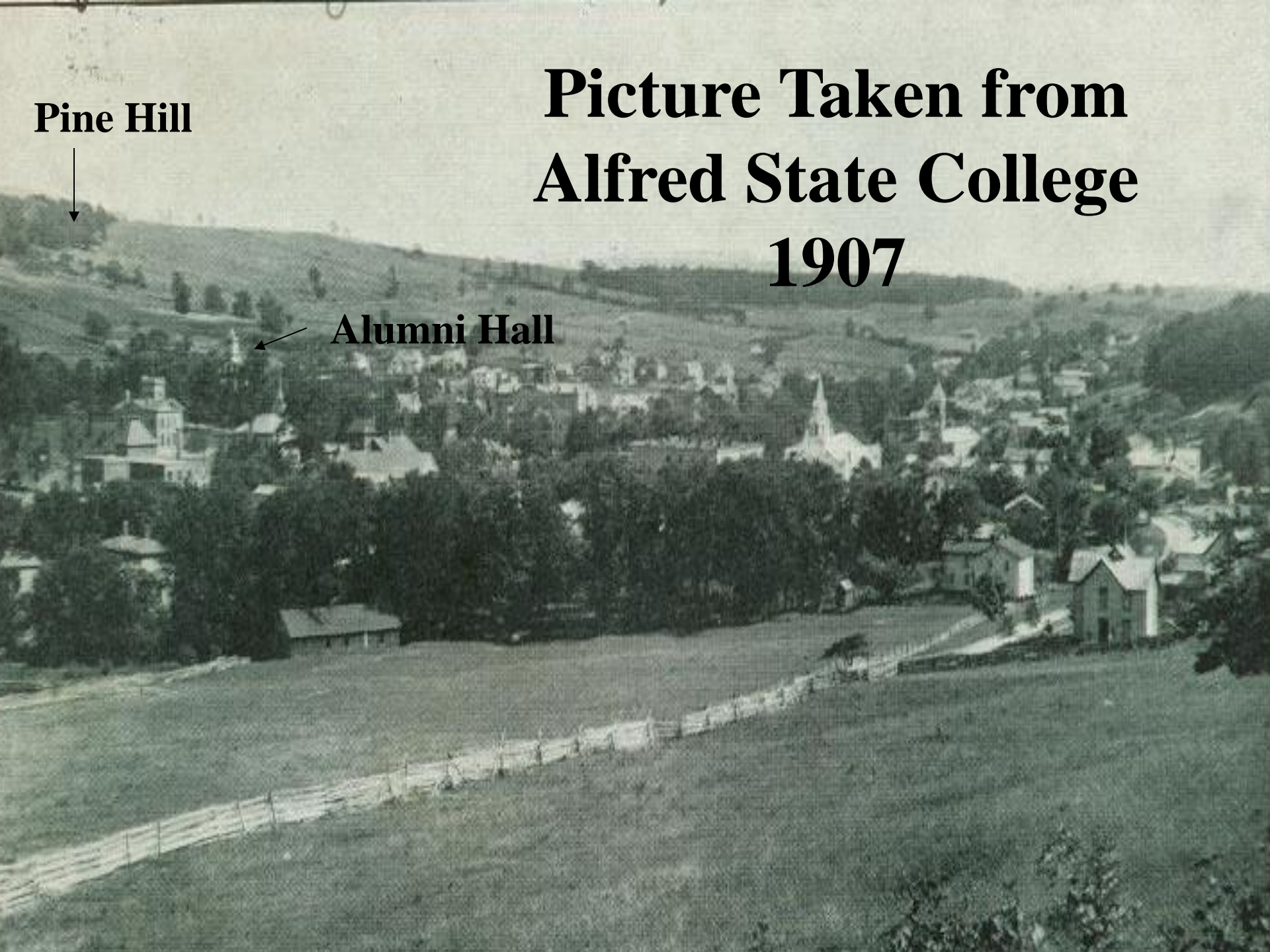
Kanakadea Hall

Pine Hill



Picture Taken from Alfred State College 1907

Alumni Hall



Picture Taken from Alfred State College Side, Looking South, circa 1910

Pine Hill



AU Campus 1913

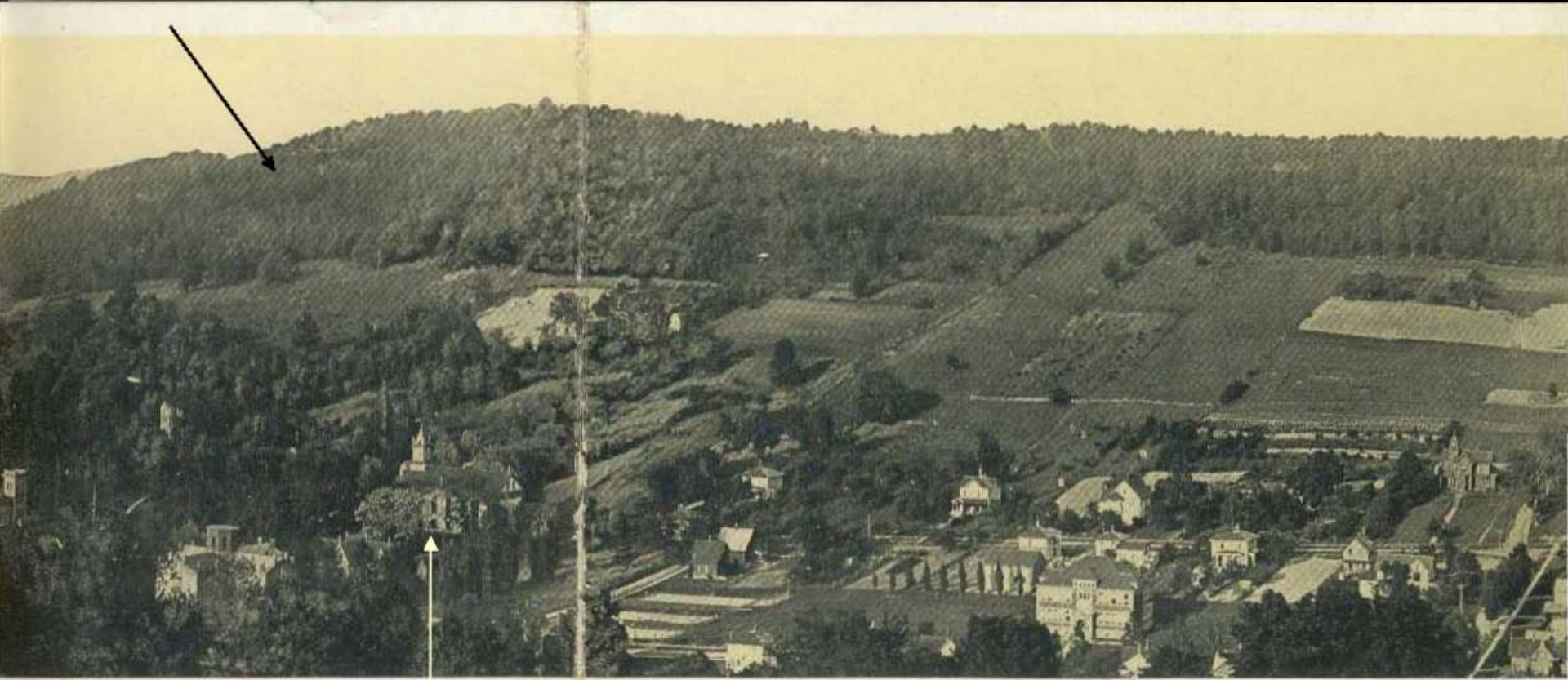
Pine Hill



Alumni Hall

AU Campus 1913

Pine Hill

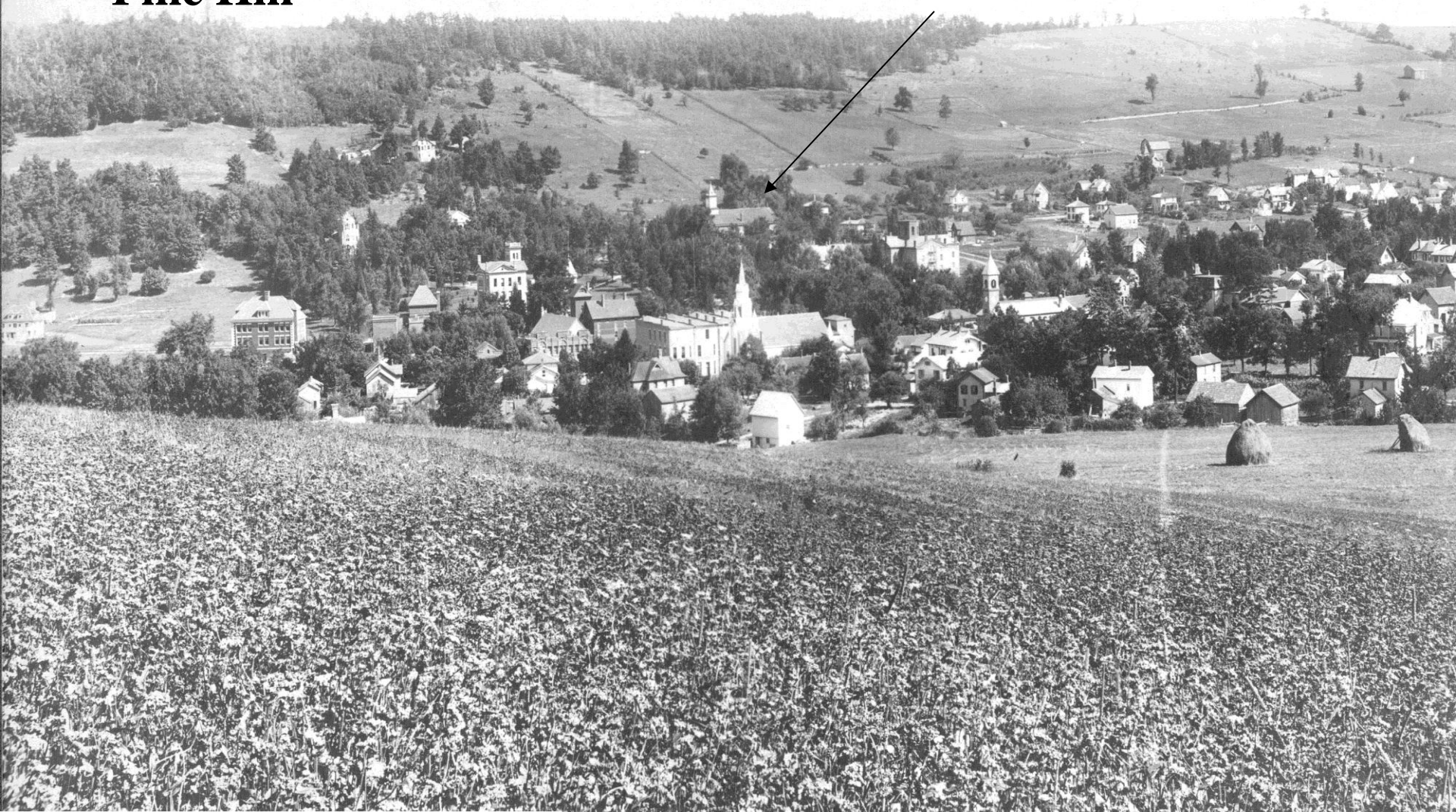


Alumni Hall

AU Campus 1920's

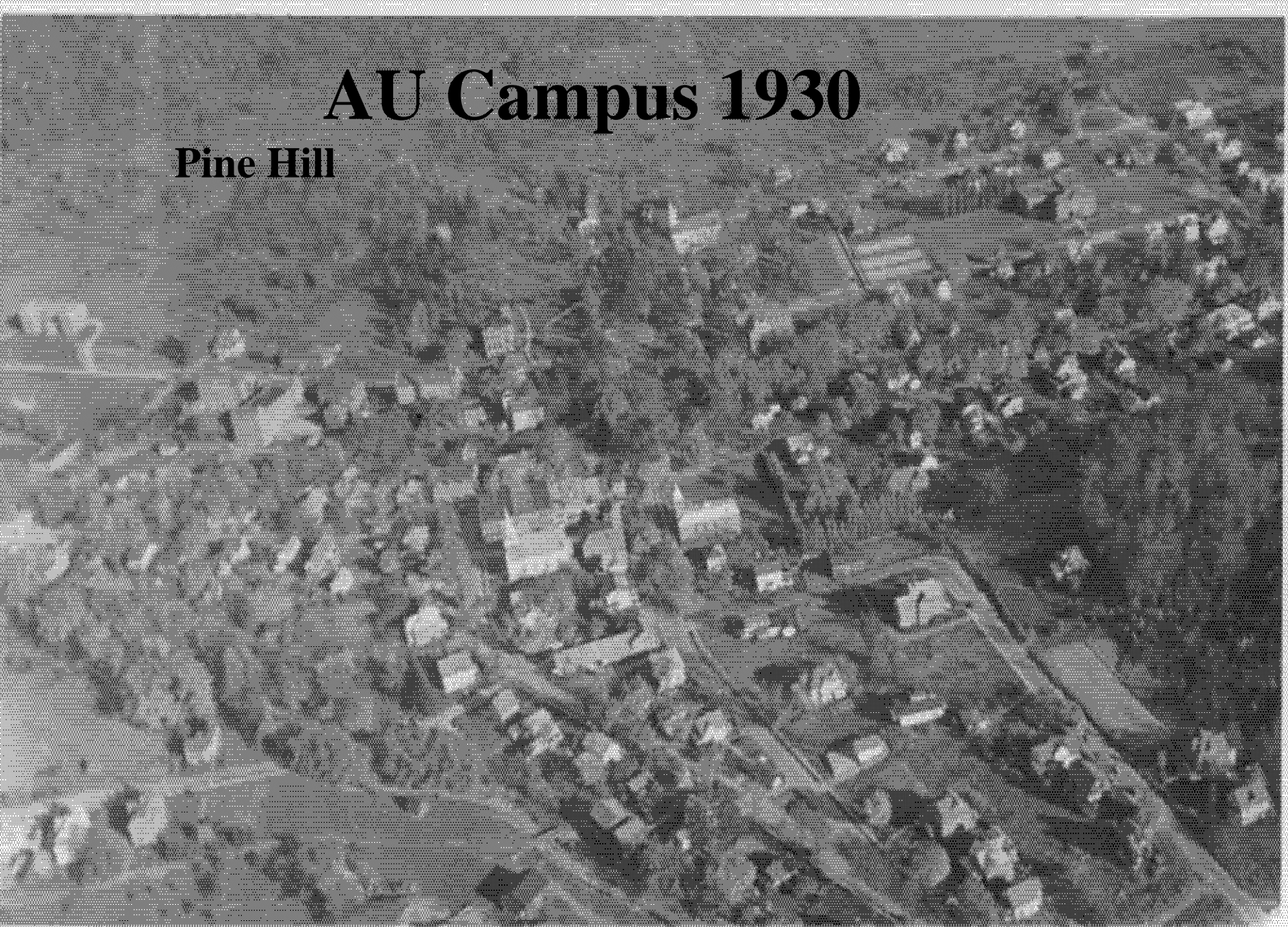
Pine Hill

Alumni Hall



AU Campus 1930

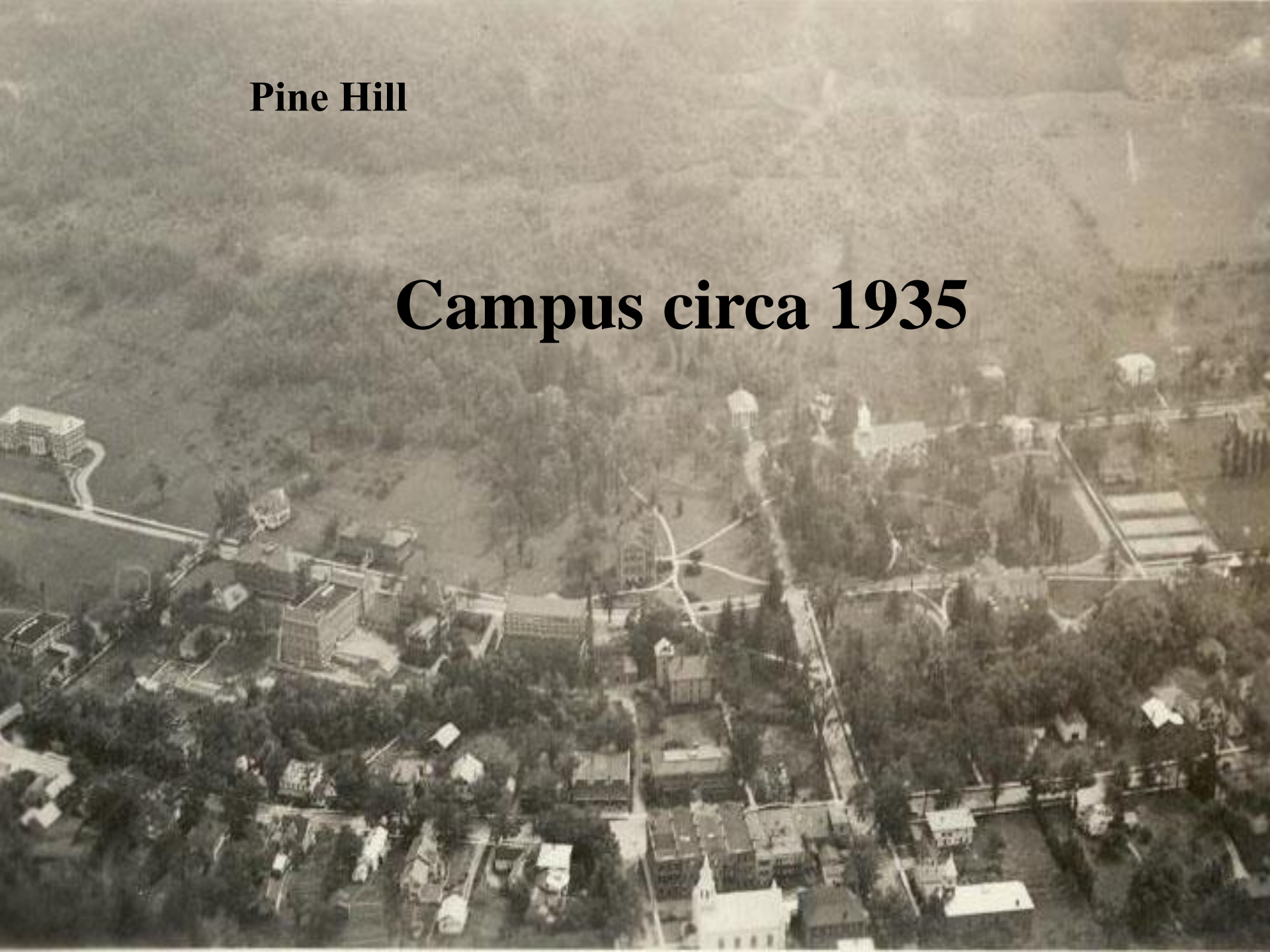
Pine Hill



Air View, Alfred, N. Y.

Pine Hill

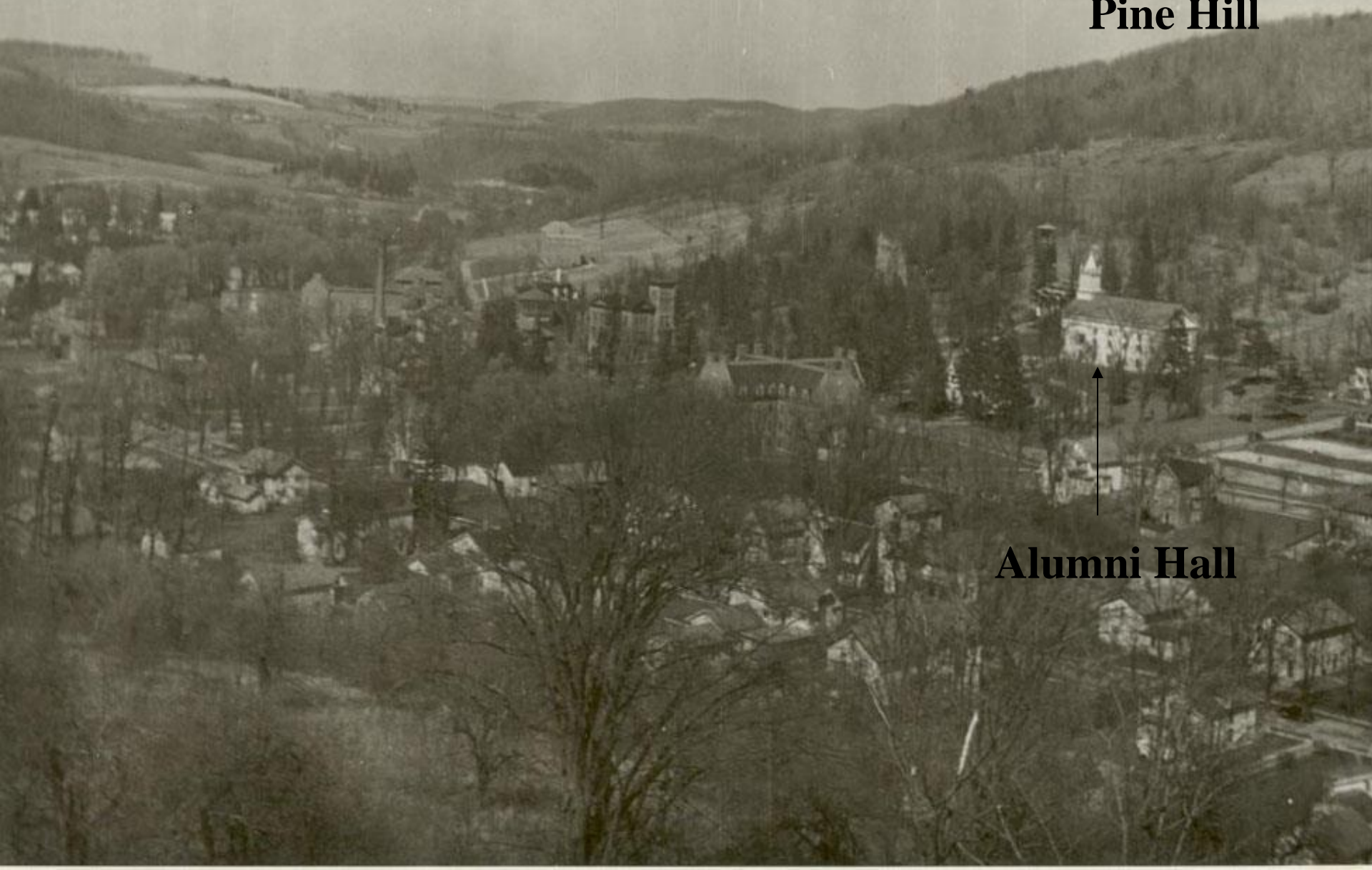
Campus circa 1935



AU Campus 1938

Pine Hill

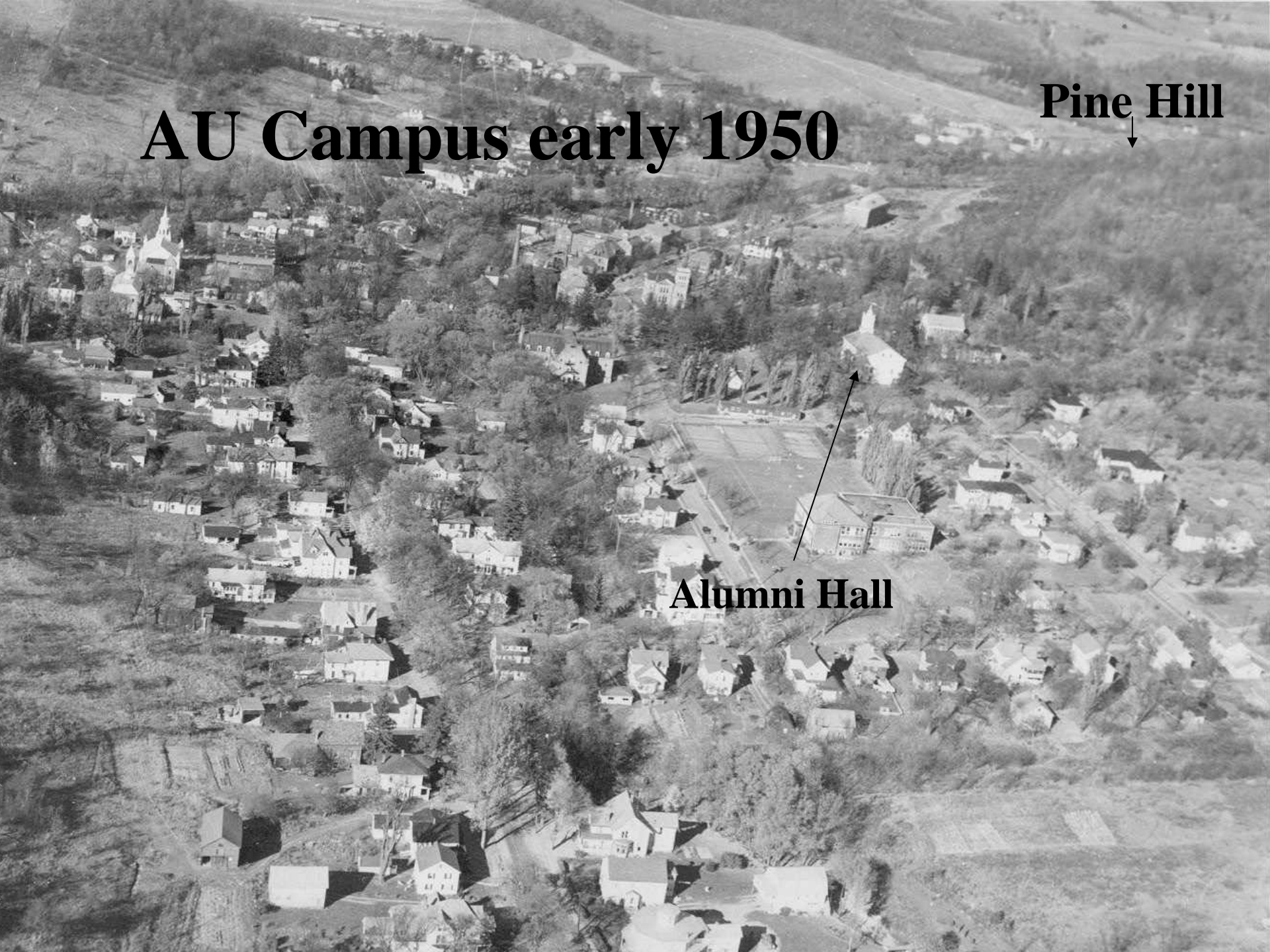
Alumni Hall



AU Campus early 1950

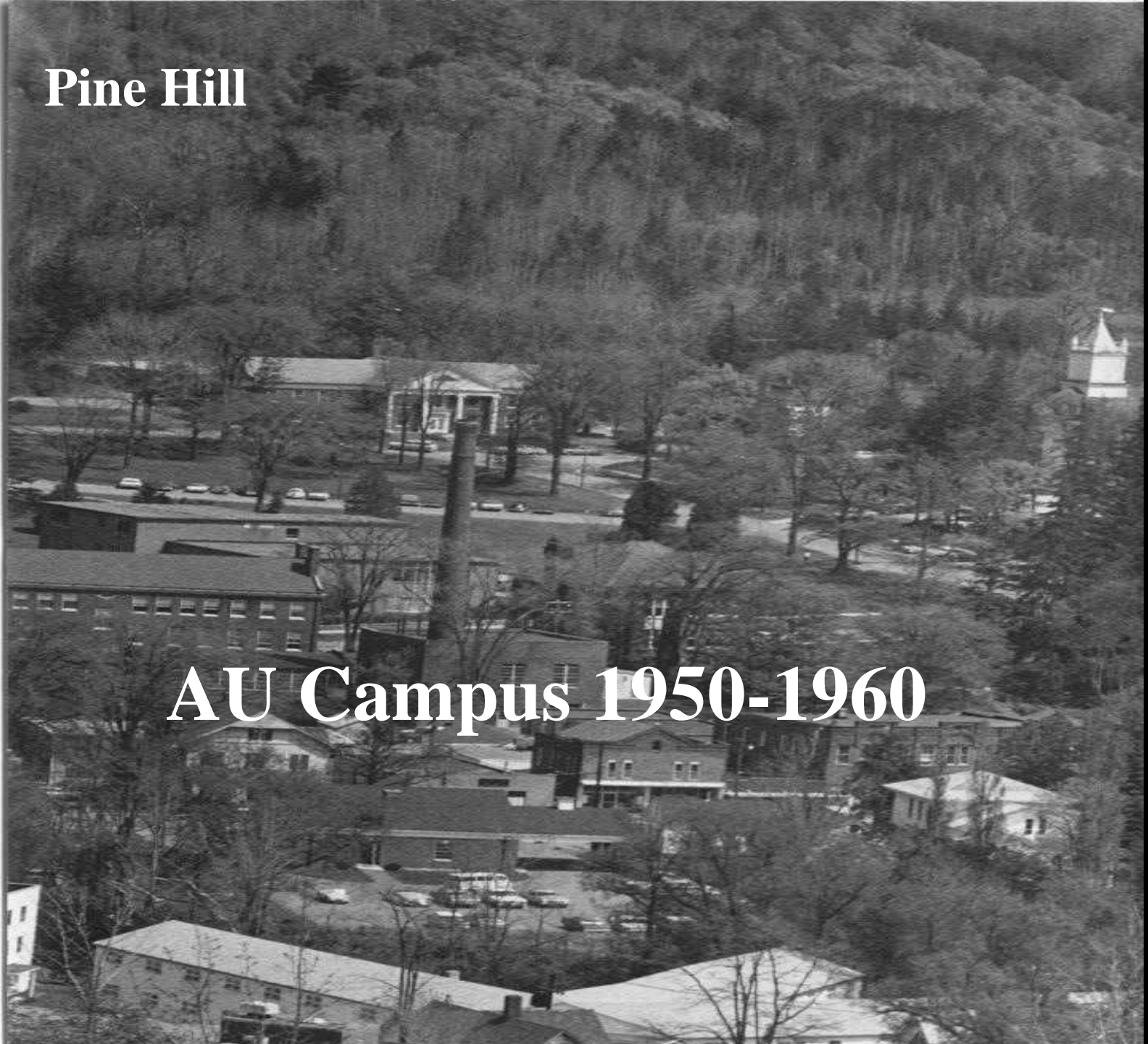
Pine Hill
↓

Alumni Hall



Pine Hill

AU Campus 1950-1960



An aerial photograph showing a rural landscape with a cluster of small, light-colored buildings, likely the AU Campus, situated in a valley. The surrounding area is densely forested with trees. A dirt road or path runs diagonally across the lower right portion of the image. The overall scene depicts a developing area in a wooded region.

Pine Hill

AU Campus and Pine Hill
Development 1967-1975

Pine Hill 2000



**Photographs Collected from Special
Collections, Herrick Library, Alfred
University, Alfred, NY**

**Special Thanks to Laurie McFadden
for helping compile these photos and
Dr. Diana Sinton**