

# Why the Rabbinical College Went to Church (Rd): A Case Study of Linguistic Differentiation Regarding RRC's 1982 Relocation

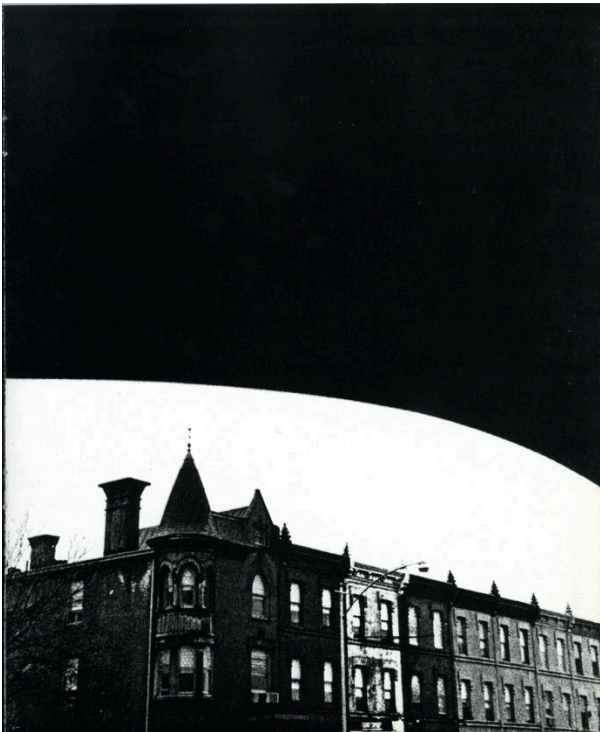


Figure 1 - RRC Fundraising Brochure, 1974

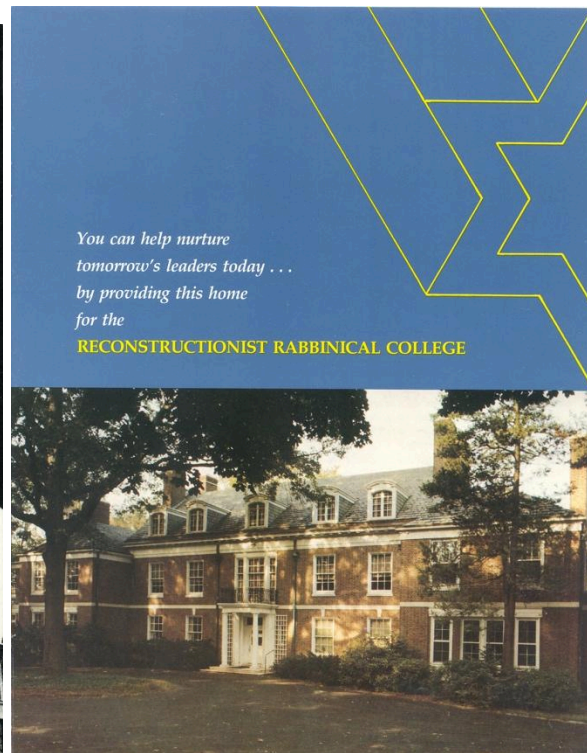


Figure 2 - RRC Building Fund Brochure, 1981

## Summary

This report is a case study of the differences in language choices, by audience, of leadership of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), regarding its move from 2308 North Broad Street in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to 1299 Church Road in Wyncote, Pennsylvania in 1982. The questions that this report aims to address are:

- 1) What were the differences in the college's public, private, and confidential language regarding both locations and the move itself?
- 2) What were the actual reasons why the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College moved from North Broad Street to Church Road?
- 3) How might these language differences impact how we consider reparations for a community doing self-analysis?\*

\*This question is not formally addressed in this report, but it is a question that permeated the research and writing of the findings.

Enclosed in this report are sections on the methods through which this report was researched and acknowledgements for how this research was made possible; an historical overview of RRC's location history, the move itself and the College's leadership; language used in public about the RRC's move; language used internally or privately by the community of RRC and its donors and friends regarding the move; language used confidentially by leadership in Board of Governors meetings and in RRC's accreditation application; the "language" described through a few visual representations of the two locations; some concluding thoughts and takeaways; some suggested next steps for this work; two image appendices highlighting both locations; and a works cited.

## Methods & Acknowledgements

This case study was created as a research project tied to *1299 Reckoning: Research And Reflection On RRC's Move From The City To The Suburbs* coursework in the summer and fall semesters of 2024. This special class included current RRC students, alumni, faculty, staff, board and committee leadership, and other dedicated partners interested in learning more about RRC's move as a case study, both in determining RRC and other institutions reparations agreements, as well as modeling this critical introspection and acknowledging the harmful ways in which organizations and individuals have acted in their own interests over the interests of indigenous and local community members. The summer class was created through the organizing efforts of Rabbi Dr. Mira Wasserman, Rabbi Micah Weiss, Rabbi Dr. Armin Langer, and Rabbi Asher Sofman, and the fall class was managed and organized by Dr. Amanda Mbuvi. Without them and their creation of a community, syllabi and supervision, this research and its broader takeaways would not have been possible. In addition to materials from the course itself, this report is based on research at The Ira and Judith Kaplan Eisenstein Reconstructionist Archives, held at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Archival research would not have been possible without the organization and support of

the archives by Erin Hess. Some of the additional materials in compiling this report are from the RRC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary materials available online, for which this report is indebted to Rabbi Dr. Deborah Waxman, Rosa Cohen, Rabbi Michael Fessler, Bryan Schwartzman, and all of the contributors to the myriad projects therein. This case study is also made possible by all of the teachers and students in the summer and fall classes, the alumni of RRC and others who have shared stories about the two buildings, and the leadership of the people involved at RRC, JRF, FRCH, and other affiliated institutions since Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan began publishing his ideas about Reconstructionism in 1920. This case study looks exclusively from the perspective of RRC and its leadership, and although they are absent from this study, this research is in gratitude to the primarily Black and African-American community and residents in the area of North Philadelphia, who resided and worked alongside the students, faculty, and staff of RRC in its initial location from 1968-1982, and with students and faculty who also attended Temple University and Dropsie College. Finally, this case study has been compiled in acknowledgement and in thanks to the Lenni-Lenape (Lenapehoking) indigenous peoples whose unceded territory on which both structures are located.

## **A History of RRC's Locations & Leadership, 1968-1982**

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College was founded from the ideas of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, who began publishing works describing Reconstructionism in 1920 and "the possibility of a rabbinical training curriculum that emphasizes a civilizational approach to Jewish life"<sup>1</sup> in 1936. Originally intended as an outgrowth of the Conservative movement, when it became clear that there was desire for a rabbinical program dedicated to Reconstructionism and that it would have to be separate from other existing rabbinical colleges, Kaplan left his post at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1963. By early 1968, the new movement, under the auspices of Rabbi Dr. Ira Eisenstein, Kaplan's son-in-law, had created a joint program of dual affiliation with Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, creating the impetus for the rabbinical college to be located in that vicinity. Then they had to find an inexpensive building, ultimately purchasing a former funeral home at 2304-08 North Broad Street, at the corner of Broad and Dauphin Streets in North Philadelphia. "A somewhat rundown building located near both Temple University and Dropsie College was purchased for \$25,000<sup>2</sup>, and a supporter provided funds to purchase basic furniture."<sup>3</sup>

In 1981, Rabbi Dr. Ira Eisenstein retired, and Ira Silverman took over as President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College from 1981-1986. One of Silverman's primary agendas from the outset was to find another home in Philadelphia for RRC's activities.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College: The First Half Century - RRC." Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 13 Nov. 2018, rrc.edu/50th/timeline/.

<sup>2</sup> In 2024 US dollars, this is \$226,647.27 (<https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>)

<sup>3</sup> Waxman, Deborah. "The Founding of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College - Reconstructing Judaism." Reconstructing Judaism, 29 Aug. 2018, [www.reconstructingjudaism.org/article/founding-reconstructionist-rabbinical-college/](http://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/article/founding-reconstructionist-rabbinical-college/).

<sup>4</sup> "Minutes of the Board of Governors." Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 8 December 1981, New York.

He quickly scouted for another building and came across the former mansion of John Charles Martin, the stepson-in-law of wealthy publisher Cyrus Curtis, at the corner of Church Street and Greenwood Avenue in Wyncote, part of Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania. In April 1982, the Board of Governors toured the residence and approved the purchase, and by the fall of 1982, RRC had officially moved out of Philadelphia proper and into the suburbs. Despite significant financial concerns more broadly for the movement, and the need to renovate the home into a school and administrative space, RRC purchased the home for \$725,000<sup>5</sup> in April 1982.<sup>6</sup> By November of 1982, the new building had been dedicated and the Broad Street building was in the process of being sold, for \$30,100.<sup>7</sup> The former location of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, aside from its stained glass windows, which were sold separately, was sold with the intention of the space becoming a boarding house.<sup>8</sup> The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College has continued to be housed at 1299 Church Road in Wyncote since this purchase in 1982.

### **External Language: Public Language Regarding the Move**

When the RRC moved locations from North Broad Street to Church Road, there were a few local news articles published about the move, from various considerations. Before RRC could formally close on purchasing the building, Cheltenham Township's local Planning Commission needed to approve the sale because of a zoning use exemption, and the Commission struggled to accept that a tax-exempt organization would take over the property, even though as of 1982, it was currently vacant and they believed that a "religious and educational institution would benefit the community."<sup>9</sup> Both President Silverman and the real estate attorney representing RRC commented on these concerns. "The college wants to move into the vacant building, owned by the Ritter Financial Corp., because it needs more space for classrooms," he [RRC attorney Jim Price] said."<sup>10</sup> Ira Silverman also "acknowledged" that the college has outgrown its space and must find larger quarters, but declined to comment on future enrollment."<sup>11</sup> In this moment of consideration for Cheltenham to approve the sale, these representatives for the interests of RRC indicated that the pending move was exclusively to have additional space.

Even after the move had been officially approved by the town and RRC had moved into 1299 Church Road, the public language about the move was that it was particularly for space, as well as pivots to discuss the beauty of the new campus. In an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in November of 1982, journalist Linda Loyd described the move

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<sup>5</sup> In 2024, US dollars, this is \$2,370,284.20 (<https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>)

<sup>6</sup> Agreement of Sale of 1299 Church Rd, Wyncote, PA to RRC, 15 Apr. 1982.

<sup>7</sup> In 2024, US dollars, this is \$98,407.66 (<https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>)

<sup>8</sup> "Minutes of the Board of Governors." Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 17 November 1982, Pennsylvania.

<sup>9</sup> Brizzolara, Kim. "Rabbis' College Welcome, but Not Tax-Exempt Status." *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 29 Apr. 1982, p. 10N.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

thusly: “The college was founded in 1968 with 13 students and a faculty of eight in a Victorian brownstone on North Broad Street at Dauphin Street. From its modest beginnings, the college has grown, and now outgrown its North Philadelphia home.”<sup>12</sup> Loyd also describes Silverman’s role and thoughts on the new space. When Ira Silverman, 37, “became president a year ago, he made his first priority relocating the college. The purchase, for \$725,000, of the former Curtis mansion, with its mahogany staircases, marble fireplaces and four acres of lush grounds, has made faculty and students unanimously happy.”<sup>13</sup> In an article for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency around the same time, similar language described the move and the new location. “The seminary opened this semester in its new home, a 36,000-square foot mansion built in 1922 for Cyrus Curtis, the publisher. The campus will provide the RRC with the facilities and growing room it needs, Peter Kessner, chairman of the RRC Board of Governors and of the dedication, told Reconstructionist Jewish and civic leaders at the ceremony.”<sup>14</sup> All of this public language being shared about the move is dedicated to the notion of having needed more space.

### **Internal/External Language: Private Communal Language Regarding the Move**

Community members, like students and personal correspondents with RRC President Ira Silverman, were offered mostly the same picture as that of the public, and they were not privy to internal leadership decisions. Rabbi Mordecai Liebling, who was a student at RRC during the move, shared during a panel for the summer 2024 *1299 Reckoning: Research And Reflection On RRC’s Move From The City To The Suburbs* course that he was aware as a student that a condition of Ira Silverman’s acceptance of the role as RRC President was the move out of Philadelphia and into Wyncote.<sup>15</sup> Liebling emphasized that the additional space that the new building offered, and the proximity to nature, were major benefits of the new building, as well as the possibility for growth – they needed to grow and expand the institution to become financially solvent, and in doing so, required a larger space. The Broad Street building lacked even space for faculty offices. The most significant con against moving was that any existing relationships from the RRC’s 14 years in North Philly were completely lost.<sup>16</sup> Other rabbis in attendance who had studied at RRC before and during the move agreed with Liebling’s assessment.

Reviewing some of Silverman’s personal correspondence, evidently typed by the same typist assisting him,<sup>17</sup> yielded much of the same type of language about the move to Wyncote. On June 2, 1982, Silverman sent a letter to a Richard Altman in Princeton, NJ, in which he outlined why he was excited to share about the move. “I am also

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<sup>12</sup> Loyd, Linda. “Seminary and Its Female Rabbis Celebrate a New Home, a New Era.” Philadelphia Inquirer, 16 Nov. 1982, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> “Reconstructionist College Dedicates Its New Campus.” JTA, 2 Dec. 1982.

<sup>15</sup> Liebling, R. Mordecai, Holtzman, R. Linda, Fuchs-Kreimer, R. Nancy and Stroiman, R. Steve, panelists. “Early RRC Panel.” 30 May 2024, Leon H. Sullivan Human Services Center, Philadelphia, PA.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> All letters referenced here, and the majority of those reviewed indicated an “E.G.” as the typist.

including a brochure about the exciting prospective move of the College to a beautiful new campus. As you will see, the brochure is intended for fund raising purposes, but that is not what I have in mind in sharing it with you, although of course, any support is always welcome. I simply am pleased to share with you this information about our growth.”<sup>18</sup> Here, Silverman is framing his correspondence as a discreet development pitch while describing the language about the summer 1982 change out of North Philadelphia and into Wyncote as “the exciting prospective move of the College to a beautiful new campus.”

“Beautiful” and “new” were the operative adjective that was often deployed in what was reviewed of Silverman’s personal correspondence. In similar letters, especially in donor correspondence, using “beautiful” and “new” appears to have been Silverman’s standard language. Even in 1983, when thanking a group for a prior donation, Silverman was still using “beautiful” and “new” as his key descriptor. “The College has begun its second year in our beautiful new facility...”<sup>19</sup> Although there were some necessary alterations made on the building for it to operate as a school, the building was hardly new construction and “beautiful” seems to be a euphemistic adjective to describe not only the building, but also its surroundings, and by extension, its suburban location.

In correspondence with a rabbi that Silverman knew personally, Jacob Agus, Silverman uses only slightly different language. “This year at the College has been most exciting, as we have moved into our new campus, which permits us to expand our activities and develop our sense of community *rauch* [sic].”<sup>20</sup> Here, Silverman used “new” and “campus” to describe the move to Wyncote, but framed through the subsequent expansion and growing a collective sense of *ruach* (spirit). Rabbi Agus, a professor at Temple at the time of the creation of RRC and one of RRC’s first faculty members, inherently had an intimate knowledge of the movement and the first building, and yet Silverman still communicated with him through the lens of “private” language.

### **Internal Language: Confidential Language Regarding the Move**

Although some of the public and private language that was used in the early 1980s regarding the move from Broad Street to Church Road overlaps with the language used in confidence by the RRC’s Board of Governors in their meeting minutes, some key differences are noteworthy.

In December 1981 at the Harvard Club in New York City, new RRC President Ira Silverman

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<sup>18</sup> Silverman, Ira. “Letter.” Received by Richard Altman, 2 June 1982.

<sup>19</sup> Silverman, Ira. “Letter.” Received by Dr. & Mrs. William Adelson and Tsedakah Collective, 14 December 1983.

<sup>20</sup> Silverman, Ira. “Letter.” Received by Jacob Agus, 22 February 1983.

“reminded the Board that he had outlined four principal areas of emphasis for his work this year, and said that they remain foremost on his agenda those areas are:

1. The relocation of the College to another Philadelphia site, one which would provide greater security and more space for required college functions;
2. The development of the faculty through some key additions and changing of some part-time positions to full-time;
3. The enhancement of the college’s lay support system, both through additions to the membership of the Board of Governors as well as more substantive use of Board members. ...
4. The expansion of College fundraising. ... He also reported that the endowment campaign had reached its goal of fulfilling the financial requirement for approval by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On the negative side, he reported that there had been serious cash flow problems in recent weeks and that redoubled effort would be necessary to collect pledges and to expand fundraising generally. He distributed for the board's review a draft list of suggested items for donations to the College.”<sup>21</sup>

This list does describe some of the same language used elsewhere regarding the move, namely, that the move would allow for additional space, more significant faculty presence, and for additional development efforts to help keep the RRC afloat, even though they were navigating “serious cash flow problems.” However, citing that a new site elsewhere in Philadelphia would offer “greater security” has a dramatically different tone than the other language about needing another building.

Four months later, the RRC Board of Governors met in Philadelphia for a meeting, followed by a site visit to the proposed campus on Church Road, and then met offsite again that evening to vote on whether Silverman was allowed to complete the paperwork to purchase the building. Much of the Minutes language about this site visit is extremely generalized and lacks any description. However, when they return from the visit, the Minutes reveal a bit more.

“Upon reconvening after the visit, the meeting began with expressions of enthusiasm about the building, and continued with questions concerning projected costs of maintenance for the new building. Mr. Garfunkel expressed concerns about Fire Protection, alterations and security. Mr. Becker also questioned maintenance and carrying charges. In response to several questions, it was made clear that the college's present property at 2308 N Broad St. probably has no market value.”<sup>22</sup>

Although the Minutes continue to stay fairly generic and non-descriptive in scope, there are two things that seem to be fairly indicative of the outcome of this site visit for the Board of Governors. First, there is at least one outstanding question of “security” from a

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<sup>21</sup> “Minutes of the RRC Board of Governors.” Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 8 December 1981, New York.

<sup>22</sup> “Minutes of the RRC Board of Governors.” Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 1 April 1982, Philadelphia.

named Board Member, so the issue of security that Silverman outlined in December appears to be either unaddressed or they are referring to different definitions of the word. Second, the final line in this paragraph from the Minutes is extremely telling in its language. Using both “it was made clear” and “probably” in the same sentence suggests that they are operating on particular assumptions rather than facts. Additionally, saying that the original building “probably has no market value” is both presumptuous and telling of their thoughts on the area surrounding North Broad and Dauphin Streets. Later, in late 1982 and early 1983 when the Broad Street building does get sold, they sold the stained glass of the building separately, and longtime Board of Governors member and significant donor to the Reconstructionist movement Judge Benjamin William Mehlman, who presided over the November 1982 Board meeting, “commended President Silverman for the sale of the building.”<sup>23</sup> With the caveat that Board Meeting Minutes routinely include notes like this, wherein a presiding officer compliments the recent achievements of the staff, the fact that the Minutes indicate a sale when the same group had said a few months prior that the Broad Street building lacked market value, especially without the stained glass, is a strange juxtaposition. It suggests that either “market value” in April may have referred to a favorable market in terms of their overall purchase and sale prices for the Broad Street building, or that Mehlman’s words might have been in surprise.

In the December 1981 Minutes, Silverman mentions the endowment level having met the need for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to issue accreditation status to RRC, after all these years of temporary status. After the RRC moved to Wyncote, the College indeed applied for accreditation status with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Such accreditation reports require institutions to be transparent about their history and present activities, and this report also revealed different language than what RRC was willing to share externally elsewhere. “The limitations of space, coupled with the declining nature of the neighborhood, were negative factors in the appropriate functioning and growth of the College for a number of years prior to the move. Upon assuming the presidency of the College in September 1981, Ira Silverman made its relocation a major priority, resulting in the acquisition by the College of its new home in September 1982.”<sup>24</sup> This language, in the opening to the Facilities section of the application, is much more akin to what the RRC Board of Governors shared internally than any public or the private, restricted language used within the community. Here again they mention space limitations of the original building, but the specific phrasing of that, “coupled with the declining nature of the neighborhood,” is much more suggestive of the real picture that RRC leadership was grappling with. That is, the race and class demographics of the community around their original building (and that of 2310 N Broad St., which they renovated and combined into 2308 N Broad St.) had far more to do with their move out of the area than just a need for additional meeting and office space. This application presents the RRC’s need to grow fiscally as anathema to both the confinements of the physical building and the broader community. Even in 1969, the

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<sup>23</sup> “Minutes of the RRC Board of Governors.” Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 17 November 1982, Philadelphia.

<sup>24</sup> Application for Candidacy for Accreditation with the Commission of Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. 1983.

*Philadelphia Inquirer*, when originally announcing the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College's opening a few months earlier, titled their article "Rabbi College Set in Ghetto," so it was widely known that the area in North Philadelphia in which RRC was first situated was an area rife with racial and economic oppression, with a majority African-American population.<sup>25</sup> So to suggest a "declining nature" is particularly telling.

In the same application to the Middle States Commission, the Summary on the Facilities section concludes, "The present College facilities represent, in every aspect, a quantitative and qualitative improvement over the original building."<sup>26</sup> Here again, we see a dissonance in language, albeit more subtle, about the two buildings. A "quantitative improvement" may refer to the increase in numbers of classroom and other needed spaces, and more open space generally, given that the Church Road building lies on four acres and is across from the Curtis Arboretum. But a "qualitative improvement" suggests two things – that the building itself may be of better construction quality, as a former home for a wealthy publisher than the Broad Street's former life as a funeral home, though it was also a private home beforehand,<sup>27</sup> and that the quality of life is better, strongly hinting at the area's wealth and racial disparities.

### **Imagery and Language: Visual Representations**

In addition to written representations of the two buildings that the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College has called home, there are some images available of these locations that add to the linguistic differences as to how College leadership described the two different locations and the move between them. On development brochures like in Figures 1 and 2 (pg. 1), the RRC used the building structures in markedly different ways, even as they are both for the purposes of fundraising. In Figure 1, a brochure from 1974, there is an aerial picture in black and white of the brownstone's Victorian elements, as well as the neighboring buildings. Commonly in urban areas, brownstones denote wealth, and the other buildings captured in the image are smaller but do not appear to be run-down or signify anything distinctive about the location of the RRC, except that it is on the corner of a city block, implying that it exists within a broader local community. Figure 2 from 1981, by contrast, is a color image from a deep angle of the façade of the Church Road building, highlighting the expansiveness of space in the building and the structure of the building as a mansion. The photo also shows where the building meets the ground, and includes some of the driveway and the tree in front, signifying open expansiveness that allows for a private driveway and the trees present on the broader campus space. It also does not seem to be concerned about showing the street level, whereas Figure 1 completely avoids the street, suggesting that they may be trying to hide the reality of life on the corner of Broad and Dauphin Streets.

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<sup>25</sup> Larkin, Mary. "Rabbi College Set in Ghetto." *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 16 Feb. 1969.

<sup>26</sup> Application for Candidacy for Accreditation, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 1983.

<sup>27</sup> Barber, Margaret M. "Minerva Parker Nichols." *Minerva Parker Nichols*, 2023, [www.minervaparkernichols.com/1892-93-mrs-margaret-m-barber](http://www.minervaparkernichols.com/1892-93-mrs-margaret-m-barber).

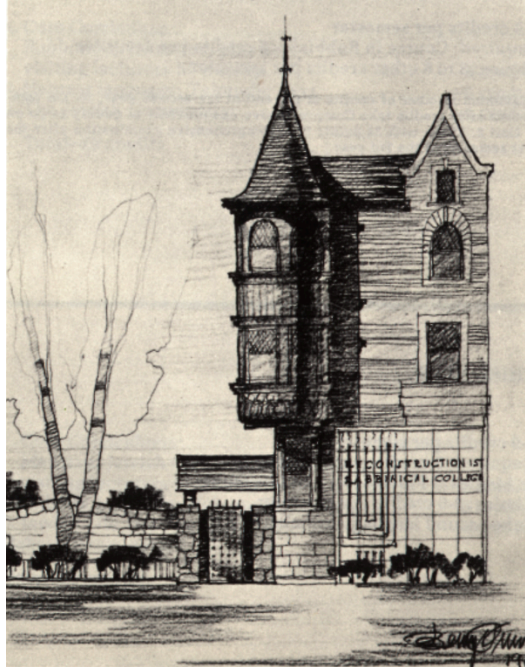


Figure 3 - Architectural Sketch of 2308 N Broad Street as RRC Home, 1968

Perhaps no other image, however, is more evident of a reimagining of the original home of the RRC than Figure 3. An architectural rendering from 1968, the details of the building itself seem to be generally accurate, but the street level road, plants, trees, gate and wall all completely misrepresent the corner of a city block. These additions suggest that the Broad Street building is not in a city at all, or is at minimum not on a city corner and that the RRC owned additional space to add special features to add architectural elements to the site. Moreover, the stone wall and opaque gate in front, even as they never appear to have existed, strongly implies that the Broad Street building, and the RRC itself, was functionally cut off from the area in which the building resided, and was planned as such from the outset.

Other actual images of 2308 North Broad Street when it was occupied by the RRC, along with some early images of 1299 Church Road, can be found in Appendix A & B, respectively, of this report.

### **Takeaways/Conclusions**

This report reveals marked differences in both written and visual language used by RRC leadership when navigating the move of the College from urban North Philadelphia to suburban Wyncote, Pennsylvania, as well as the physical facilities at both locations. There were some consistent needs shared across all forms of language, suggesting that they were truthful representations of the need for RRC to change buildings. In particular, the need for additional space for classrooms, meeting spaces, and faculty offices, in order to both sustain and grow the program to be financially viable, most clearly indicates the need to move to another building.

However, access to the “confidential” internal language reveals that “security” concerns and the “declining nature of the neighborhood” in North Philadelphia were also very much top of mind when the Board of Governors approved the move, and that they were priorities for RRC President Ira Silverman, when considering where to find alternate space for the RRC. As racist and classist language is routinely hidden from public view and coded for a white audience, this language strongly suggests that the RRC as an institution did not support the local community and that the College participated in “white flight” to a white, wealthy, suburban area outside the city. The RRC, when it sold the original building, removed the stained glass and sold those separately, further explicitly depreciating the value of the building itself. The differences in the imagery for the buildings also suggest that the RRC as an institution has been cut off from its neighbors and community in both locations, but especially the hiding of the reality of North Broad Street affirms the other conclusions that the RRC was not integrating with its majority-Black neighbors, even as it was likely that the school was impacting community relations.

## **Next Steps**

This report is a brief case study and is inherently incomplete, due to the nature of this research project. Accordingly, in order to flesh out this report further, next steps would be to continue to research on this question and update this report, both through the Eisenstein Archives and through oral histories and interviews with those who can speak personally to the life of RRC as an institution on North Broad Street and its subsequent move out of the city. In particular it would be most helpful to hear from RRC’s original neighbors on their experiences.

RRC was also not the only white, Jewish institution that moved away from North Philadelphia during this overall time frame, and it would be helpful to research comparable institutions that moved, including congregations like Mikveh Israel and institutions like Gratz College and Dropsie College (now the Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania), all of which were along the same few blocks by North Broad Street.

Finally, the broader question that this report leads into, but does not formally pose, is that of how this research and the historical realities impact actual reparation efforts and how those funds or other efforts are decided on and distributed or begun to be implemented.

## Appendix: Additional RRC Images – 2308 N Broad Street

**THE COLLEGE:  
BUILDING, FACULTY, STUDENTS**

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College is located in two attractively renovated townhouses in North Philadelphia near Dropsie and Temple Universities and the University of Pennsylvania. The faculty includes Rabbi Kaplan and other distinguished scholars who see in the College an opportunity for new, creative approaches to teaching and learning. The students come from a wide variety of colleges, having won their bachelor's degree, and having acquired a rich background in Judaism. They are selected from an unusually large number of applicants not alone for their knowledge; character and commitment are scrutinized by a panel of academicians, rabbis, psychologists and students.

In summary, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College is dedicated to the training of leaders who can

- **challenge** and stimulate the Jewish community's interest in and commitment to its unique religious heritage;
- **serve** as professors in university departments of religion, act as Hillel directors, function as administrators in all Jewish religious and secular organizations and, of course, the synagogue;
- **initiate** constructive, new programs of social action; and,
- **provide** new leadership in the interfaith dialogue.




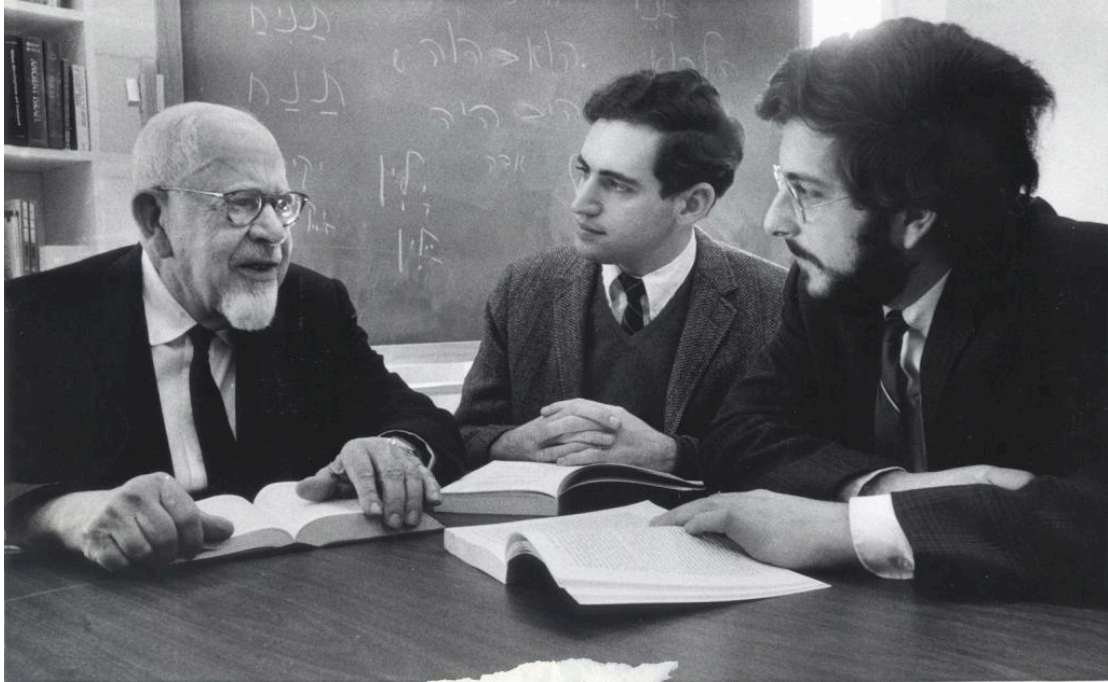
Figure 1 - Kaplan Library Brochure ca 1970



Figure 2 - Exterior of Broad Street Building







*Figure 10 - Two students chatting in the stairwell of the Broad Street Building*

**Appendix B: Additional RRC Images – 1299 Church Road**

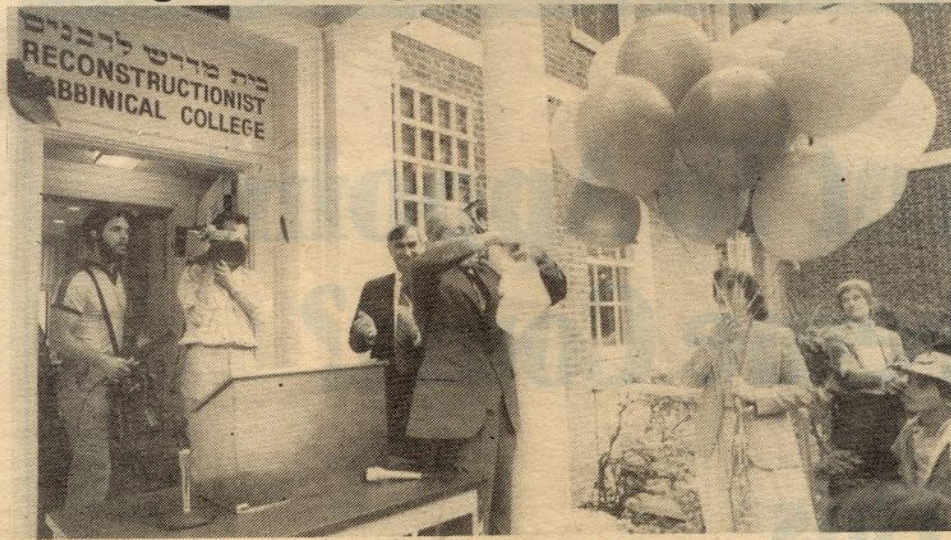


*Figure 1 - Judge B. W. Mehlman Attaching Paid Off Mortgage to Balloons*



*Figure 2 - Judge B. W. Mehlman Tearing Up Mortgage*

## Retiring the mortgage at RRC



Tearing the mortgage at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College during the school's recent celebration is Judge Benjamin W. Mehlman (center) of New York, chairman of RRC's board of governors. RRC President Ira Silverman applauds the event in the background.

*Figure 3 - Mortgage Party Footage in the Jewish Exponent 1984*



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Philadelphia Inquirer / JAMES L. MCGARRITY

Avis Miller, mother of five, commutes from Chevy Chase, Md., to study at the rabbinical college

## *Seminaru and its female rabbis*



Figure 5 - Avis Miller (left); Sue Shifron & David Lev (right) frolic