

6. Massachusetts Hall

Bowdoin students, faculty, and staff have a long history of journeying north and returning with stories and artifacts. Constructed in 1802, Massachusetts Hall was home to the first campus museum, the Cleaveland Cabinet. This “cabinet of curiosities” housed early Arctic artifacts, including the Labrador sealskin kayak now displayed in the Arctic Museum.



7. Ham House

Built in 1846, Ham House was home to Professor Leslie A. Lee from 1900 to 1908. In 1891, Lee led an expedition of Bowdoin students and alumni to Labrador. Members of the expedition named Bowdoin Canyon and measured the Grand Falls of the Hamilton River. The “Bowdoin Boys in Labrador” expedition endures as an example of Maine’s Arctic connection. The falls and river were renamed after Winston Churchill in 1965.



8. Bowdoin Pines

Austin Cary, one of the “Bowdoin Boys” on Professor Lee’s expedition, faced danger and triumph as one of two men in the company to reach Grand Falls. After returning to Bowdoin, Cary became one of the country’s first professional foresters. He is said to have planted thousands of saplings to form the Pines; he tirelessly petitioned the College to defend its surrounding natural beauty.



9. The Bowdoin Bear

To honor Bowdoin’s Arctic connection, the Bowdoin Alumni Association in 1913 declared the polar bear to be the mascot of the College. Before the Crocker Land Expedition (1913-1917), they asked MacMillan to bring back a polar bear. MacMillan obliged. On his return from the north, he had a polar bear skin mounted and shipped to Bowdoin, arriving in time to be presented to President Sills at the 1918 Commencement Dinner. It still stands today as the official mascot of the College.



10. The Polar Bear Statue

The class of 1912 presented this statue to the college as a 25th reunion gift in 1937. To this day, the polar bear mascot serves as a fitting reminder of Bowdoin’s Arctic connections and of all Bowdoin students who truly strive “to be at home in all lands and places,” no matter how far from Maine.



The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum
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Bowdoin College’s Path to the Pole



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What is Bowdoin’s connection with the Arctic?

Which Bowdoin faculty and students were involved in Arctic exploration?

Where on campus can you see their legacies today?

Bowdoin College has a long tradition of Arctic exploration, from Professor Paul Chadbourne’s 1860 expedition to the present day. This 1.2-mile guided tour highlights locations around campus that tie Bowdoin to the Arctic.



The Peary-MacMillan
Arctic Museum
& Arctic Studies Center

Bowdoin

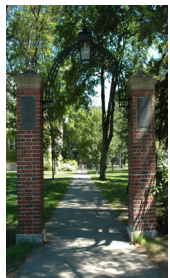
1. Arctic Museum, Hubbard Hall

In the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum you can learn about the past and contemporary Arctic. Located on the first floor of Hubbard Hall, the museum occupies a large reading room of Bowdoin's former library, built in 1903 with support from Gen. Thomas Hubbard (Class of 1857), one of Robert E. Peary's financial backers. In the foyer of the building, you can see the Hubbard Sledge, one of the five sledges Peary used to reach the North Pole. Peary later gave the sledge to Hubbard in recognition of his support.



2. Alpheus Spring Packard Gateway

Leaving Bowdoin's central quad you pass through an arch that honors Professor Alpheus Packard's 65 years of service. His son, Alpheus Packard, Jr. (Class of 1861), voyaged with Professor Paul Chadbourne on Bowdoin's first Arctic expedition in 1860. He also journeyed up the Labrador coast with with marine artist William Bradford in 1864, and wrote a seminal book about Labrador.



3. Admissions Office (Burton-Little House)

Built in 1901 as the Delta Kappa Epsilon house, this building was the home of Peary's fraternity. As a member of ΔKE, Peary formed lifelong bonds with both his peers and Bowdoin. The chapter honored Peary upon his successful return from the Pole—and he remained a loyal alumnus for the rest of his life.



4. MacMillan House

Constructed in 1904 as the fraternity Theta Delta Chi, this is now one of eight College Houses on campus. As the historic home of Donald MacMillan's fraternity, it was renamed in his honor in 2002. "Mac" began his career in Arctic exploration in 1908 on Peary's last expedition the North Pole. Between 1921 and 1954 he traveled north aboard his schooner *Bowdoin*.

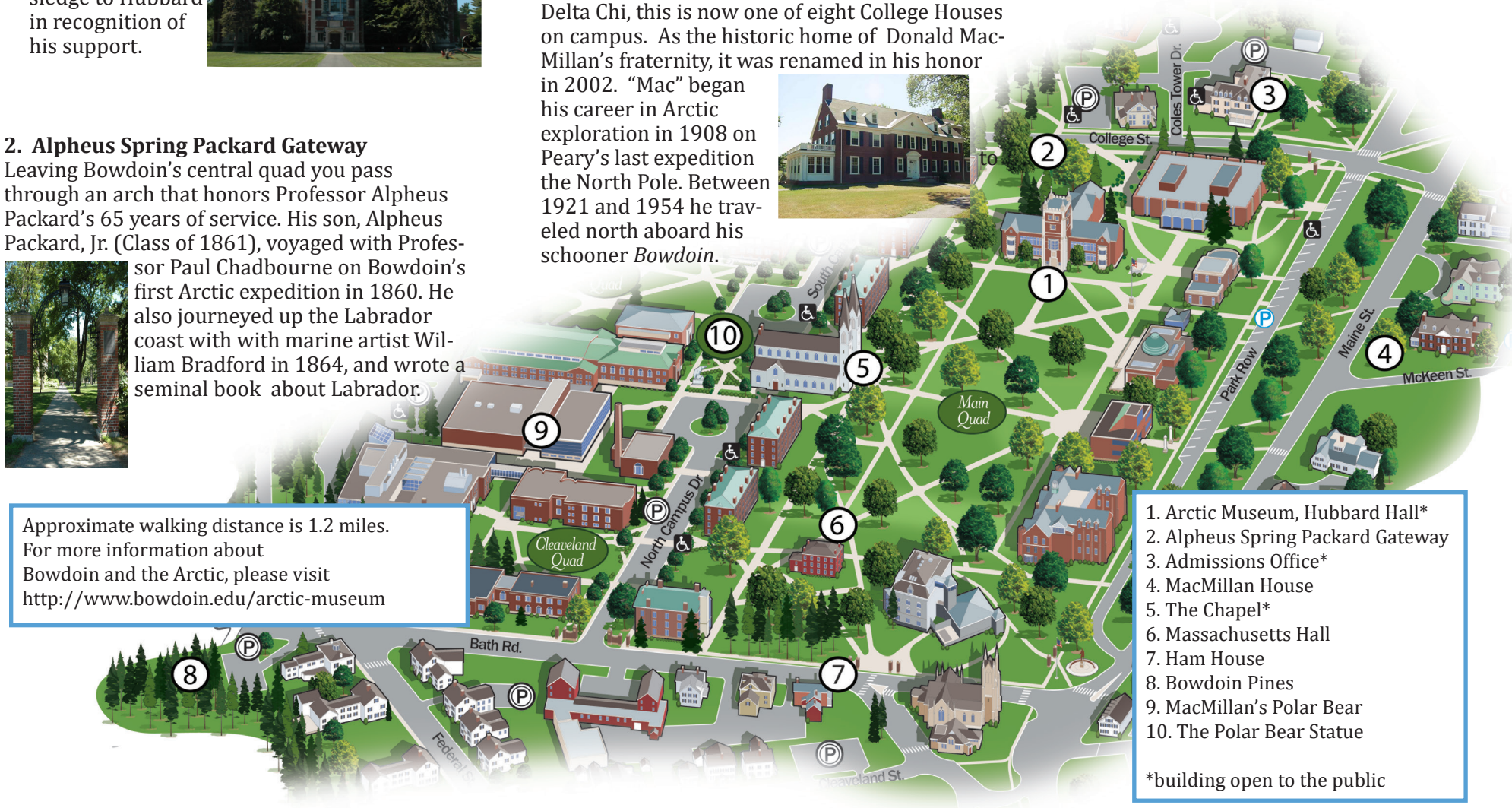


5. The Chapel

Since 1855, the Bowdoin Chapel has been a place for deep reflection and student misadventures. In 1894, sophomore Donald MacMillan climbed a Chapel spire to capture the freshman Class of 1898 flag. Ironically, he eventually graduated with the class of 1898, having missed a year



of college due to illness.



Approximate walking distance is 1.2 miles.
For more information about
Bowdoin and the Arctic, please visit
<http://www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum>

- 1. Arctic Museum, Hubbard Hall*
- 2. Alpheus Spring Packard Gateway
- 3. Admissions Office*
- 4. MacMillan House
- 5. The Chapel*
- 6. Massachusetts Hall
- 7. Ham House
- 8. Bowdoin Pines
- 9. MacMillan's Polar Bear
- 10. The Polar Bear Statue

*building open to the public