

# Willowbrook a campus?

By MARY ENGELS

Site planners seeking a new home for the College of Staten Island have selected the former Willowbrook complex, now known as the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The final draft of the study being prepared by the architectural firm of Edward Jurell Stone Associates will be presented to the Facilities Committee of the City University of New York by Jan. 7. If the committee approves the decision, it will then require a final vote by the full board of the City University.

College spokesman Brian Morris, the director of development, said the study commissioned by the College of Staten Island "recommends moving to the Willowbrook site as the best of four options."

**THE OTHER** sites that were under consideration included the present St. George Campus, the Sunny-side Campus, and the Ocean Breeze site in South Beach.

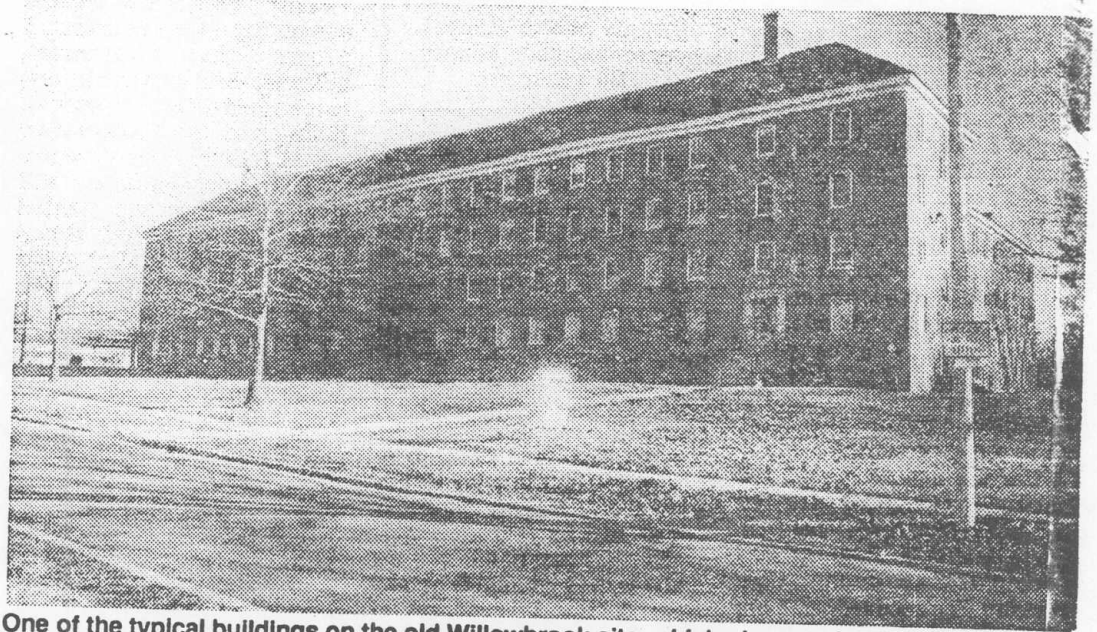
The last move would have required building a whole new campus at a cost of about \$70 million more than would be spent at the Willowbrook site.

Morris said, "The college is delighted that the consultants have been so positive in their recommendation for consolidation at the Staten Island Developmental Center site."

"We feel that the property at Willowbrook is a campus waiting to be occupied," Morris said.

"**WE WILL NOW** have to brief everyone on where everything stands and to seek their help for the much-needed money."

Edmund Volpe, the presi-



One of the typical buildings on the old Willowbrook site, which planners feel would be the ideal site for housing a new campus for the College of Staten Island.

dent of the College, met with all the Staten Island legislators last week to give them an update on the study and to seek their support in getting the funds needed for the next step—the engineering and architectural plans for the site.

Volpe, who toured the Willowbrook site recently at the request of the state Office of the Budget, was impressed with the location.

"It has many opportunities for building and rehabilitating the existing facilities, plus the most important thing: It is there. We won't have to wait as long as we would if we opted for a whole new campus at Ocean Breeze," Volpe said.

Assemblyman Robert Stranieri (R-C.S.I.) said, "I expect to be supportive of the college's Willowbrook plan."

"**IT IS A** comprehensive one and moves up by years

the ability of the college to relocate on this site which already has the infrastructure in place.

"I also feel that the setting, as it is, provides a more appropriate suburban atmosphere which better reflects the Staten Island community."

Stranieri also pointed out that since the college is seeking about 165 acres of the present 342-acre site it leaves room not only to expand but to incorporate most of the requests that have been made by the Staten Island Task Force on other uses for the property.

Stranieri noted that the college promised, "They will develop programs between the City University and ... the disabled who will be on the adjacent property under state jurisdiction."

**STRANIERE** feels, "There will be money in the budget to begin work on this

project.

"As a member of the Ways and Means Committee in the Assembly, I am confident that the Assembly will be supportive of the college's request."

Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly (D-S.I.), although supportive of the college's request, said she still will stress the concerns of the handicapped who must retain their space on the property.

The Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council recently advanced its own proposal for the Willowbrook property and called for the state and local legislators to see that the property continues to be used to serve the developmentally disabled.

"I feel there is room for both," Connelly said, "but I want to see concrete information on what the handicapped will get to keep."