

THE JUDSON STUDENT HOUSE

From sometime around 1930 to the mid-1960s, at least part of Judson House served as a dormitory for full-time students attending various colleges and universities in New York City. Initially, the rooms were restricted to the third floor, as the rest of the building was occupied by the Judson Health Center. As long as the clinic was there, until 1950, students entered the building at 81 West Third Street, also owned by Judson Church, and entered the third floor of Judson House from the third floor of 81 West Third.

In 1950 two things happened: the house at 81 West Third Street showed signs of imminent collapse and had to be razed, and the Judson Health Center moved to Spring Street. Judson Church now had the run of Judson House. This was also a time when the church had begun to reach out to the students at New York University and initiated a program whereby students from NYU could live at Judson House at reasonable rates with the understanding that they would devote about four hours a week to community work.

For various reasons the Student House program dissolved in the 1960s. The last students left in 1967. By that time, Judson House was used for other programs: There now was an art gallery and some of the artists lived at Judson House, as did several staff members. For eighteen months, from the spring of 1968 until the fall of 1969, Judson House was home to a resident runaway program. The teenagers trashed the building so thoroughly that most of Judson House could not be used as a residence again.
