

State U Mansion Destroyed by Fire

Old Westbury—A spectacular fire today destroyed the former mansion of F. Ambrose Clark, which was being converted into an administrative building for a State University liberal arts college scheduled to open here in 1970.

Police said the fire began shortly after 9 AM, apparently started when workmen were retarring the roof of the huge two-story brick building. Within an hour flames and billowing black smoke from the blaze could be seen five to six miles away from the 570-acre estate. Both stories were on fire and firemen from the Westbury Fire Department were hampered in fighting the blaze because of low water pressure.

Fire Chief Jay Dowling said firemen were stringing hose from nearly a mile away because there were no water outlets on the estate. The 42-room mansion, situated on a hill, was being converted by workmen to provide offices on the first floor and classrooms on the second. Police said no one was injured in the fire. The proposed \$100,000,000 liberal arts college, headed by President Harris L. Wofford, former executive director of the Peace Corps, was scheduled to open in 1970. The estate was formerly owned by Clark, an heir to the Singer Sewing Machine fortune.