

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUL 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Rutgers Preparatory School

AND/OR COMMON

Alexander Johnston Hall

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

101 Somerset Street, Corner of College Avenue

CITY, TOWN New Brunswick

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

STATE New Jersey

CODE 34

COUNTY Middlesex

CODE 023

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Trustees of Rutgers College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN New Brunswick

VICINITY OF

STATE New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Bayard Street

CITY, TOWN

New Brunswick

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There is a mixture of styles in the building. The wall patterns are Italian as are the two towers; the one facing Somerset Street, the other facing College Avenue. The roof is of French origins being Mansard and it is of slate. The structure is built of brick and it is painted yellow. The wood trim is painted brown as are the window sills. The brick at the base of the building is also painted brown.

The building is three stories in height; the third story is the mansard roof. Windows on the third floor are encased in dormers.

There are two towers; one faces onto College Avenue and it is four stories in height. It contains a stairwell. This tower delineates the addition to the building.

The tower on Somerset Street is three stories in height. It is part of the original structure. Unlike the College Avenue tower, there is no stairwell.

The foundation of the building's original section is of rough stone. The foundation of the newer section is of smooth-cut stone.

There is a fire escape in the rear at the second floor level. It is a metal platform with two poles leading to the ground, similar to a firehouse.

The side of the building that is opposite the College Avenue tower has a three-story fire escape. It leads out from a dormer. There is a noticeable crack in the wall of this side that indicates where the addition was placed.

The exterior of the building has remained virtually the same since it was added to. However, the interior has undergone extensive change as partitions have been added and replaced.

Original section 30' x 50'

Addition 40' x 42'

The original unit is basically a 5 bay center through hall plan which carries through from basement to third floor. The original plan probably had two rooms on each side of the hall, as apparent from the present plan, though somewhat altered.

The new wing extending off the rear of the original unit has a connecting stair tower.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES 1830, 1870                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1830-Nicholas Wyckoff;  
1870-Henry J. Hardenbergh

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Education:

Alexander Johnston Hall originally housed the Rutgers Preparatory School. The school was founded in 1768 by six prominent residents of the Raritan Valley, inspired by the successful securing of a charter for Queen's College (Rutgers University) in 1766. The school was to prepare students for the college. This was part of a general educational phenomenon as such schools existed for Harvard, Yale and Brown. Columbia and Princeton also formed such schools but these have not survived to the present day as has Rutgers Preparatory School.

When the college settled into Queen's, the first building on the Rutgers campus, the preparatory school shared in the use of this structure. Space was limited to Queen's and it became necessary to build a separate home for the preparatory school. In 1830 the original part of what is now Alexander Johnston Hall was built by Nicholas Wyckoff. This makes it the second oldest building at Rutgers. It was two stories high and the first floor was used by the preparatory school while the second floor was used by the college literary societies.

Due to a mistake concerning the year of the granting of the college's charter, Rutgers celebrated its centennial in 1870. At that time a fund drive was conducted among the alumni and friends of the college. Money from this fund was allocated for an addition to the preparatory school. The cost of the addition was \$17,000. The building's exterior has since remained unchanged.

The architect for the addition was Henry J. Hardenbergh. A two story wing was added to the north side of the building with a third story over the entire structure which was to serve as a gymnasium. A tower and stairwell were also built on the College Avenue side of the building.

The building was used by the preparatory school until 1957 when it moved to a new site. The University uses it for office and classroom space.

(cont.)



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The building is named for Alexander Johnston who graduated from Rutgers in 1870. He taught classics at the preparatory school for ten years. William Demarest, the only graduate of Rutgers to ever be its president, studied under him there. Johnston became professor of jurisprudence and political economy at Princeton in 1883. He remained in that position until his death in 1889. He was succeeded by Woodrow Wilson.

Architecture:

Biography of the architect Henry J. Hardenbergh  
(1847-1918). He was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, the great-great-grandson of the Rev. Jacob Hardenbergh and studied architecture under Detlef Lienau in New York City. He began to design large city buildings in the eighties. These include the Dakota Apartments, done in 1884. Despite its size, this structure is intimate and homelike. Hardenbergh also designed the original Waldorf Hotel in 1891. This put him in the forefront of hotel designers and his style became known as "Dutch Renaissance." He was also to design the Astoria in 1896 and the Hotel Manhattan. The Fine Arts Building, also of 1896 building, is another of his designs. In 1907 he designed the Plaza in New York City. Other buildings designed by him included many homes in New York City during the eighteen eighties and nineties. Other important hotels designed by him were the New Willard and the Raleigh in Washington, the Martinique in New York, and the Copley Plaza in Boston, and the French Renaissance additions to the Windsor in Montreal.

(Please note: From all my researches, I have come to the conclusion that the earliest designs of Hardenbergh are located on the Rutgers campus. These are Kirkpatrick Chapel, Geology Hall and Johnston Hall. - Michael Barr)

NOTE: Dr. Edward B. Wilkens of Rutgers served as the architectural consultant for this project.