

DATA SHEET

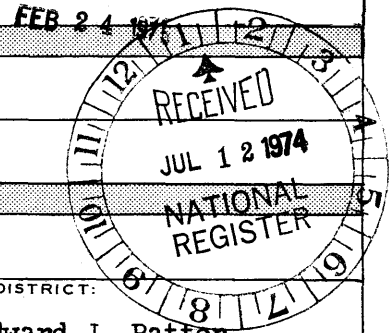
Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Middlesex
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
New Jersey Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
73 Hamilton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Brunswick

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
15th - Edward J. Patten

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE: **34**

COUNTY:
Middlesex

CODE: **023**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of New Jersey, Rutgers University

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
New Brunswick

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Middlesex County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bayard Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Brunswick

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (2155.27)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE: **34**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Middlesex
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 24 1974
DATE: FEB 24 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The following description of New Jersey Hall is provided by Professor Edward B. Wilkens, Rutgers University Planner, Michael Barr, Rutgers Graduate, and Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator for Historic Sites:

The building is Richardsonian; an American adaptation of the Romanesque. There are squat columns by the doors. The walls support themselves. The building has factory-mill construction floors with four-inch thick planking. The exterior is of strawberry-colored brick that is machine-made.

There have been substantial interior changes and some of the windows have been blanked.

George K. Parsell was the architect and the cost of the building was nearly \$40,000, although planned for thirty.

In 1903 there was a fire in New Jersey Hall. The fire originated in the basement, quickly engulfed the open wooden stairway, and eventually destroyed all the laboratories on the top floor. Fortunately, the damage on the first and second floors was confined mainly to smoke and water damage. Being of brick the walls were not seriously impaired and the building was quickly restored with little change from the original except in the placing of partitions.

Additional repairs were made to the building in the 1920's concerning general maintenance.

The building is four stories high and has two end towers on the "Mall" side of the building. One tower opens onto Hamilton Street and is entered at street level. The other tower opens onto the "Mall" and it is entered by a flight of stone steps. The entrances of both towers are surmounted by rounded archways. The archways are supported by columns with Romanesque capitals. The arches are of rough-faced stone. Each tower contains a four story stairwell. The tower that opens onto the "Mall" is topped with a weather-vane.

The roof of the building is of slate. The ornamentation along the eaves is painted white. The windows on the first three floors are topped with lintels of rough-faced stone. The foundation of the building is of cut stone.

There are six chimneys, one on the Hamilton Street side and another on the opposite side of the building. Four chimneys are in the center of the building, two in the front and two in the back, separated by the fourth story projecting dormer. Each end of the building has a large round window at the top that has been blanked. A number of windows in the towers have also been blanked.

The building is currently used for classrooms and offices by Rutgers University and, although this was the original intended purpose, modern academics have made necessary numerous and extensive interior changes. The exterior of New Jersey Hall has had only minor changes since its construction in 1889.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1889

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Congress passed the Morrill Land-Grant Act in 1862. The bill offered to each state proportionate amounts of Federal land to be used to endow a college where instruction would be offered in "agriculture and the mechanic arts." New Jersey accepted the terms of the act in 1864. In the same year the newly organized Scientific School of Rutgers College was designated the land-grant college of New Jersey.

Rutgers received the designation largely because of the efforts of George Hammell Cook (1818-1889). Cook, a native of New Jersey, was a noted geologist and educator. As a youngster he was a surveyor for the Morris and Essex and Catskill and Canajoharie Railroads. A couple of years later, in 1839, he graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, New York and stayed on as a tutor. While teaching there he completed post-graduate studies and eventually was made a Senior Professor.

From 1848 to 1851 Cook was Professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at Albany Academy. He was also principal of the school in 1851. In 1852 he was sent to study the salt deposits in Europe for New York with a view to developing those of Onondaga County.

Returning to New Jersey in 1853, Cook accepted a chair of chemistry and natural science at Rutgers College, New Brunswick. The following year he assisted William Kittell with the state geological survey.

When federal funds became available under the Morrill Act, Dr. Cook helped secure a portion of that money for Rutgers, changing forever the course of the school's history. He was by then vice-president of Rutgers, a full-time professor, and the state geologist, but the State Legislature chose him to head the new college program. He gave agricultural lectures and heard farmer's complaints and problems in all 21 counties, thus inaugurating the extension program now vital in all agricultural colleges.

His delight was the college farm, purchased in 1864 and used for experimental growing. This run-down acreage gave Cook a chance to prove his theories. Within ten years this once worthless land was blooming. Dr. Cook urged in 1874 that the farm become an agricultural experiment station. At the time there was no such thing in the world, and legislators

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(cont.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Demarest, William. A History of Rutgers College: 1766-1924. Princeton, NJ, 1924.
Dictionary of American Biography. Volume 4. Edited by Johnson & Malone. 1930, (pp 373-4).
 McCormick, Richard. Rutgers: A Bicentennial History. New Brunswick, NJ, 1966.
 New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company. "They Let George Do It!" Trenton, NJ, /no date/.
 Schmidt, George P. Princeton and Rutgers. Princeton, NJ, 1964.
 (cont.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

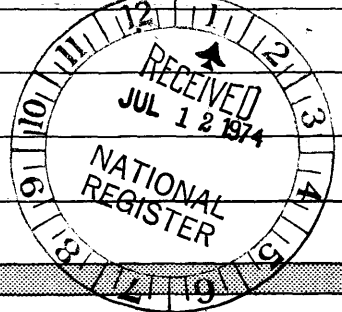
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40	29	58
NE	° ' "	° ' "		74	26	51
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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4483120
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one quarter acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Michael C. Barr , additional research by Terry Karschner, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Rutgers Alumni Association** **Historic Sites, DEP, Box 1420, Trenton, NJ** DATE: **12/73 & 02/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Trenton, NJ**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Brunswick** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: David J. Bardin
 Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
 Date: July 1, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date: 2/24/75

ATTEST:
Keeper of The National Register
 Date: Feb 20, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 24 1975

(Number all entries)

New Jersey Hall
New Brunswick
Middlesex County
New Jersey, 34

8. Significance (cont.)

"fairly laughed at the idea." It was not until six years later, in 1880, that a sum not to exceed \$5,000, was voted for his program by the state. By then both Connecticut and North Carolina had adopted Dr. Cook's idea. The laboratories, which were immediately inadequate, were located in Van Nest Hall on the Queen's Campus.

In 1887 Rutgers President Gates pressed the State Assembly for an "Agricultural Hall" to house the work of the Scientific School and the Experimental Station.

In 1888, due to the persuasion of Dr. Cook, Gates, and many others, the legislature of New Jersey passed a law providing for the construction of a laboratory for the Agricultural Experiment Station if land could be acquired at no expense to New Jersey. Shortly after, land was given to the state by the James Neilson family for that express purpose. The building was finished in 1889. Dr. George Cook died unexpectedly some six months later leaving behind him the foundations of modern scientific farming for New Jersey.

An interesting aside; the Agricultural Campus of Rutgers University was renamed George H. Cook College in 1973.

9. Bibliography (cont.)

Woodward, Carl R. and Ingrid Nelson Waller. New Jersey's Agricultural Experiment Station, 1880-1930. New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1932, (especially pps 50-2, 63-4, 135, & 558-9).



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DATE ENTERED	FEB 24 1975

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

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PAGE 2

New Jersey Hall
New Brunswick
Middlesex County 023
New Jersey - 34

8. Significance (cont.)

New Jersey Hall, built in 1889, was provided to Rutgers for the express purpose of being a laboratory for the use of the State Agricultural Experiment Station. The building, apparently never with an official name, was soon titled New Jersey Hall because it was the first educational building constructed by money directly allocated by the legislature of the State of New Jersey. At first the building was most spacious and surplus rooms were at the disposal of the Agricultural College.

Although it is certain New Jersey Hall provided offices and laboratories for all of the Agricultural Experiment Stations from 1889-1914 and for the Chemistry and Biology Departments until the late 1930's it is difficult to ascertain as to which events of agricultural science were most closely associated with the building, especially considering the character of farming. The very nature of the experiments generally required farmland; the laboratory usually being consulted intermittently for detailed study and analysis. Most research and experimentation, conducted by the various departments, consequently, appear at least indirectly associated with New Jersey Hall.

The Chemistry Department moved into the hall from the first floor of Van Nest Hall on its completion in 1889. By 1930 the department occupied three floors of the north end of the building. Research during the period advocated: the proper use of lime as a fertilizer, the feasibility of mixing fertilizers at home (perhaps the first of all the American agricultural experiment stations to advocate this practice - 1901), the intelligent use of feeding stuffs, and the use of insecticides throughout the State. These chemists also studied the eating habits of a typical New Jersey family and the contents of the foods eaten. In general, the Chemists acted as an unofficial Food and Drug Administration protecting farmers from misrepresentation or wholesale dishonesty.

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New Jersey Hall
New Brunswick
Middlesex County 023
New Jersey - 34

8. Significance (cont.)

The Soil Science Department occupied New Jersey Hall from 1889 to 1914 when they moved to the new more commodious Administration Building. During their period of tenancy Soil Science explored the further use of fertilizers and manure and made careful analysis of soil types.

Biology Department had its headquarters and laboratory in New Jersey Hall until the 1930's when it moved to offices nearer the Agricultural College. During the time biologists investigated animals' productivity and diseases (notably tuberculosis, which was carefully studied throughout the first quarter of the 20th century in New Jersey Hall laboratories). At the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893 the Department of Biology displayed an exhibit dealing with their experiments in culturing oysters - at the time the only state with such studies. New Jersey Hall biologists Thurlow C. and son Richard Nelson were responsible for maintaining a level of national prominence in oyster studies throughout much of the first half of the 20th century.

Department of Entomology. From 1889 to 1912 Entomology was housed in New Jersey Hall. During nearly the entire period Dr. John Bernhard Smith was the department head (for four years its sole member). Smith, in addition to outlining methods of mosquito control and pleading for preventive measures against the marauding gypsy moth in nearby states, was a prolific writer of articles and books of both popular and scientific natures.

The Botany Department maintained its office in New Jersey Hall from 1889-1914 and was to conduct experiments concerning the quality of seeds, the growth of staple crops, the diseases of plants and the conditions requisite for healthy growth and development. At first the department studied mainly plant diseases, however, but from 1900 on, the study of plant breeding became the major enterprise. Notable results of plant cross-fertilization were the Voorhees Red Sweet Corn, the Jersey Belle Eggplant, and the Station Yellow Tomato.

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New Jersey Hall
New Brunswick
Middlesex County 023
New Jersey - 34

8. Significance (cont.)

From the Botany Department emerged two further departments - Horticulture and Plant Pathology. Horticulture existed in New Jersey Hall from 1895 to 1913 and its most evident contribution in that period was the promoting and protecting of the peach crop. The Department of Plant Pathology, established in 1911 and housed in one small room of the Hall, remained there only three short years before moving to larger quarters.

Another offshoot of Botany was the Seed Analysis Department which quartered in New Jersey Hall from 1912-14.

Dairy and Animal Husbandry Departments. When the Hall was originally built no such departments officially existed. Even so, the chemist of New Jersey Hall was specified to analyze all samples of dairy products submitted by the state dairy commissioner. The department (later separated into two) began more formally, however, in 1896 (to 1906) and subsequent years promoted the use of forage crops (particularly alfalfa), and experimented with dairy cattle as well as other farm animals.

In addition to housing offices and laboratories for these various departments of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station an agricultural library was also provided in New Jersey Hall in 1895 for students and educators alike.

While New Jersey Hall functioned as the headquarters for the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station scientific farming in the state was enduring incubation - a period during which farms would begin to enter the industrial revolution in earnest. Growth was progressing so rapidly in fact that the spacious Hall in 1889 was unable to accomodate the department in 1914 when most office and laboratories moved into the Administration Building.

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New Jersey Hall
New Brunswick
Middlesex County 023
New Jersey - 34

8. Significance (cont.)

Sometime in the late 1930's New Jersey Hall forever lost its final tenants from the Experimental Station, but the building continues to be used by Rutgers to the present day.

- Terry Karschner