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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 10 1984

date entered SEP 24 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common ~~First Period Buildings Thematic Group:~~ New York State College of Agriculture ~~at Cornell University~~

2. Location

street & number Cornell University Campus ___ not for publication

city, town Ithaca and vicinity ___ vicinity of

state New York code 36 county Tompkins code 29

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_x_ public	_x_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	_x_ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_x_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
x thematic group	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	NA	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of New York Office for Capital Facilities; Attn: Irving Freedman

street & number State University Plaza, P.O. Box 1946

city, town Albany ___ vicinity of state New York 12201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tompkins County Courthouse

street & number North Tioga and Court Streets

city, town Ithaca state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NY STATEWIDE INVENTORY has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _x_ no

date 12/15/78; May 1979 ___ federal _x_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Division for Historic Preservation, NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

city, town Albany state New York

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	_x_ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date NA
___ fair	___ unexposed		

* with the exception of minor additions and changes

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The thematic group, identified as the First Period Buildings of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, comprises nine structures which are linked both historically and architecturally. It was May, 1904, when the governor signed into law the bill which established the first State College of Agriculture and authorized the appropriation of $250,000 for "constructing and equipping a suitable building or buildings." (Chap. 655, Laws, 1904). Within ten years, the new endeavor had proved a resounding success. Student enrollment had increased almost tenfold, taught by an active faculty renowned in their fields and led by Liberty Hyde Bailey, the dynamic director of the college until his retirement in 1913. It was in this decade that nine primary instructional buildings were erected on the eastern portion of the Cornell campus. These structures, all planned during Bailey's tenure, share not only the early history of the State College but a common architectural character. All reflect the Beaux Arts eclecticism of the time and combine Renaissance or Neoclassical modes with "rustic," Arts and Crafts, or Prairie School features. Each building exhibits some manner of classical vocabulary, a composition governed by principles of symmetry and regularity, exterior walls of buff-colored brick, and a high hipped roof. This formal similarity was due not only to the relative contemporaneity of design and the directives given by campus planners and university officers, but also to the involvement of a limited number of architects, under the direction of the State Architect's office. Following the planning of the first three buildings by State Architect George L. Heins, the next group of structures was designed by Martin, Hebrard & Young, all members of the College of Architecture faculty. The architects responsible for the execution of these buildings, the prominent Buffalo firm of Green & Wicks, then provided the designs for the remaining three structures built in this first decade.

The nine buildings in the thematic group are located on the campus of Cornell University, dispersed within an area which is uphill from, and to the east of, the nineteenth-century core of the university. The building which is closest to the earliest part of the campus is Bailey Hall, which is situated on the west side of Garden Avenue and north of Tower Road. The most distant structure is Wing Hall, which is located approximately one-half mile east of Garden Avenue and south of Tower Road, facing the long Alumni Fields.

The remaining seven buildings in the thematic group, and in fact most of the buildings connected with what is now the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, are situated east of Garden Avenue and north of Tower Road. This relative concentration reflects the placement of the first three buildings of the college at the northeast corner of that intersection, and the roughly contemporary decision by the university to reserve land on the opposite, south, side of Tower Road for a "playground," now known as the Alumni Fields. (Much of this land remains open, though athletic facilities and, more recently, College of Agriculture buildings, have been constructed at its western end, near Garden Avenue.) Five of these seven buildings -- Stone, Roberts, East Roberts, Comstock, and Caldwell Halls -- border the most impressive space in the College of Agriculture portion of the campus. This space, known as the Agricultural Quadrangle, or "Ag Quad," measures approximately 800 feet by 250 feet, with its narrow west end open to Garden Avenue. The two other structures -- Fernow and Wing Halls -- are located farther to the east.

(continued)

The placement of the nine buildings reflects both esthetic concerns, as in the gradual formation of the quadrangle, and practical matters. During the State College of Agriculture's first decade, some of the lands adjacent to and between the major instructional buildings were set aside for important supporting functions, e.g., the rural schoolhouse, the school garden, barns, greenhouses, a stock judging pavilion, and the central heating plant. Most of these have since been removed, in some cases replaced by similar facilities and in other instances their sites occupied by larger instructional buildings.

The first three buildings erected for the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University were designed by State Architect George L. Heins and dedicated in April, 1907. Roberts Hall, the central structure in the tripartite Palladian scheme, is linked by open loggias and basement corridors to Stone and East Roberts Halls on the west and east, respectively. The formal ensemble faces Tower Road on the south from the crest of a slight knoll.

Roberts, East Roberts and Stone Halls are basically rectangular buildings, each consisting of three or two stories on a high basement, with an additional story housed within a high gable-on-hipped roof. All have hip-roofed dormers and broad overhangs with exposed rafters. The exterior walls of these buildings are finished with masonry -- primarily brick, with sandstone, terra cotta and limestone -- in a palette of off-whites and pale browns. Windows in the two stories beneath the eaves are grouped vertically.

The main, south facade of Roberts Hall, one of the longer elevations, is distinguished by the articulation of its three central bays. These are slightly recessed and interrupt the hipped roof to rise a full four stories terminating in a balustrade. It is this portion of the facade that has received the most decorative detail, primarily in the nature of exaggerated Beaux Arts motifs and culminating in the sculptural forms which mark the center axis. The plan of Roberts Hall is T-shaped, with the short stem of the "T" extending from the rear of the main block. This projection originally housed a two-story assembly room.

Stone and East Roberts Halls exhibit the same use of materials and basic fenestration pattern as Roberts Hall. They are oriented with their shorter end facades toward the south, reinforcing their subordinate position within the main elevation of the group. The treatment of the longer west facade of Stone Hall is, however, second to the main elevation of Roberts Hall in architectural importance. Here, facing Garden Avenue and the earliest part of the Cornell campus, the three central bays are greater in width and are emphasized by a basement-story projection, which is detailed with Beaux-Arts motifs.

The three buildings which form the Roberts Hall complex reflect a variety of stylistic sources. The high roofs and hip-roofed dormers are characteristic of contemporary public school architecture, and the exposed rafters which support the wide overhangs are similar to those used in Arts and Crafts domestic architecture. The composition of the group and the organization of the facades are based on Renaissance principles,

while the buildings are detailed with an eclectic mix of Renaissance and Neoclassical decorative elements, used with a freedom and originality characteristic of the Beaux-Arts esthetic.

Roberts, Stone and East Roberts Halls contain classrooms, offices and laboratories. The most distinctive interior space is the broad, open central stairway of Roberts Hall. The two-story assembly room originally located in the northern projection of that building has since been divided into separate floors.

The stylistic character and certain of the physical features found in these three buildings, especially Roberts Hall, are present in the six major instructional facilities subsequently erected for the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell. Five of these are particularly similar, as were their basic functional requirements. The sixth, Bailey Hall, was more specialized in function and therefore more distinctive in form, yet was unquestionably designed with reference to the others.

Five years after the Roberts Hall complex was completed, a second building program for the State College of Agriculture was under way. The first two of these buildings to be erected -- Comstock and Rice Halls -- were designed by Clarence A. Martin, Jean Hebrard and George Young, Jr., members of the College of Architecture faculty at Cornell. Working drawings and specifications were provided by the Buffalo architectural firm of Green & Wicks, which also supervised the construction. Like the original buildings, these two new structures contained classrooms, offices and laboratories. One, Comstock Hall, was located near the Roberts Hall complex and was in fact sited north of that group, with its central entrance on axis with the loggia between Stone and Roberts Halls. The other, Rice Hall, was located almost one thousand feet east of the earlier buildings.

In their massing, scale, materials, orientation, and style, Comstock and Rice resemble the earlier Roberts Hall. Both are rectangular blocks, three stories in height, with high hipped roofs, hip-roofed dormers, and broad eaves with exposed rafters. Both have functional basement and attic stories, although these facilities in Comstock Hall are more spacious and receive more natural light than those in Rice. The exterior walls are of rough-textured tapestry brick in tones of buff and brown, and trim is of limestone. While this range of materials is more limited than that used in Roberts Hall, its tonality is sympathetic and the use of materials is similar, e.g., all have rusticated first stories.

Each of these three buildings -- Roberts, Comstock and Rice Halls -- is oriented with its main entrance centered in the longer, south elevation. In each case this facade has a three-part composition, with the central unit emphasized by its greater height, recession or projection from the major wall plane, distinctive fenestration pattern, more elaborate eaves detail, and enframement of the center doorway. While the entrance facades of Comstock and Rice Halls thus recall that of Roberts, there are certain noteworthy distinctions. In each of the two later buildings, the central grouping of bays projects slightly from the flanking walls and is marked by large, semicircular-arched windows. This pavilion is terminated by extended eaves which rest on deep, paired brackets.

The central portion of the rear, or north, facade of each of the three structures is also articulated, although the slight projection in the case of Rice Hall is hardly comparable to the more substantial wings of Comstock and especially Roberts Halls.

Finally, Comstock and Rice Halls maintain the dual stylistic character of Roberts Hall, in which a Beaux-Arts eclecticism drawing upon the Renaissance and Classical Revival modes is combined with features associated with the contemporary Arts and Crafts movement. All three buildings display symmetrical compositions, rusticated first stories and certain classically based details, as well as broad eaves with exposed rafters. Roberts Hall is the most specific in its historical reference, while its Arts and Crafts aspects are quite modest. Comstock Hall, likely because of its relative proximity to the earlier building, is more explicit in its Renaissance vocabulary (colossal pilasters, pedimented openings) than is Rice Hall. However, it is in these two later buildings that the Arts and Crafts character is more pronounced, with their rough-textured tapestry brick and deep, paired eaves brackets.

At the time that Martin, Hebrard & Young were designing Comstock and Rice Halls, they were also preparing plans for Bailey Hall, the new agricultural auditorium building which would also house classrooms and laboratories. In the case of this structure, however, the firm of Green & Wicks not only provided working drawings, specifications and construction supervision, but was asked to make design modifications as well. Bailey Hall differs considerably from both the earliest college structures and its contemporaries, its differences associated with the special physical requirements and symbolic role related to its primary function as an auditorium for the College of Agriculture.

The distinction in the design of Bailey Hall lies in its form, scale and style. While the rear of the structure -- that end containing the stage -- is rectangular, it is fronted by a great curved form which directly reflects the horseshoe-shaped auditorium space. This, in turn, is fronted by a rectangular foyer. The curved form of the auditorium is repeated by continuous lines -- of the main roof and its balustrade, the "attic" walls, the roofs over the side loggias and, finally, the curved Ionic colonnades. This large structure is given a sense of monumentality by the use of colossal stone columns for the side loggias and the front entrance, and by elevating these on a high basement. It is the Ionic columns, coupled with the X-shaped screens of the roof balustrade, the front windows and the friezes above the side colonnades, which mark Bailey Hall as Neoclassical, specifically Roman, in stylistic character.

These distinctions seem appropriate for an auditorium planned to seat about 2,500 persons, superseding the approximately 600-seat assembly room in Roberts Hall. At the same time, however, Bailey Hall shares some characteristics with the other College of Agriculture buildings, especially with Comstock and Rice Halls, the former situated opposite the auditorium on the east side of Garden Avenue. All three of these structures which date from the second building campaign have buff-colored tapestry brick walls, with limestone trim and slate roofs. While Bailey Hall is distinguished by its Neoclassical vocabulary and character, these are complementary to the Renaissance references in the forms of Comstock and Rice. Finally, the Ionic columns and pierced friezes of the side colonnades are part of a highly articulated support system which concludes with grouped brackets and, as in the classroom buildings, broad eaves with exposed, shaped rafters. Thus in Bailey Hall, as in Comstock, Rice and even in the Roberts Hall group, classically based forms have been combined with "rustic" or Arts and Crafts features.

The final building campaign within the first decade of the State College of Agriculture at Cornell was initiated with the passage of an appropriations bill in 1912. Included in this legislation were funds which would enable the construction of Fernow, Wing and Caldwell Halls, each containing classrooms, offices and laboratories. These instructional buildings, all three of which were designed by the Buffalo firm of Green & Wicks, bear a distinct resemblance to the Roberts Hall model and to its successors, especially Comstock and Rice. The most referential of the designs is Caldwell Hall, which borders the Agricultural Quadrangle; this, like Comstock, has been sited with its central entrance on axis with one of the loggias of the Roberts group. Fernow and Wing Halls, which are located farther to the east, display somewhat more individuality.

Fernow, Wing and Caldwell Halls are similar to their predecessors in their massing, scale, materials, orientation, and style. All are rectangular blocks, two or three stories in height with high hipped roofs, hip-roofed dormers and broad eaves with exposed rafters. All have functional basement and attic stories. The exterior walls are rough-textured tapestry brick in tones of buff and brown, and trim is of limestone. While the first-story walls of Fernow and Wing Halls are not rusticated as are those of the other classroom buildings, the brickwork is used to articulate certain features, such as the windows.

The main entrance to each of these buildings -- Fernow, Wing and Caldwall Halls -- is centered in one of the longer elevations, the focal point of a three-part composition. As was the case with Comstock and Rice Halls, the central bays are grouped to project slightly from the flanking walls. Beyond this common characteristic and their similar classical door enframements, however, the three later buildings differ from each other in the articulation of these entrance facades. The taller central portion of Fernow Hall, for example, is distinguished by its more complex grouping of piers and windows and by the detailing below its eaves, where deep, paired brackets of highly articulated form divide brick panels with geometric decorations of marble. Greater height and a distinctive fenestration pattern also contribute to the importance of the central pavilion of Caldwell Hall. As in the earlier Comstock Hall adjacent to the west, the fourth or attic story has large front windows. Lastly, by contrast with the other College of Agriculture classroom buildings, the central pavilion of Wing Hall does not achieve its prominence by greater height or a distinctive fenestration pattern. Instead, it is fronted by a two-story, three-bay-wide Ionic portico, while pilasters define the bays of the third story above.

The three buildings dating from the third phase of construction exhibit some stylistic diversity, from the suggestions of Prairie School influence in the repeated vertical piers and geometric decoration of Fernow Hall to the austere Neoclassicism of Wing Hall or even the tight Colonial Revival style forms of the dormers on all three buildings. Nevertheless, these structures may be generally characterized as combining principles and elements based in classical architecture with certain more "modern" detailing, whether Arts and Crafts or Prairie School in its specific nature. Thus, Fernow, Wing and Caldwell Halls stand as individuals, but are related in numerous ways to the instructional buildings previously erected for the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University.

Initial surveys of the buildings facing and adjacent to the Agricultural Quadrangle were made in December, 1978, and May, 1979. More recently, an historical survey of the early buildings constructed for the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University was undertaken by architectural historian Mary Raddant Tomlan. The findings of this historical review were checked in the field to ascertain (1) which of the early buildings were extant and (2) which of the extant structures served primary college functions and which played supporting roles.[1] Of the nine buildings constructed for major instructional use within the first ten years of the college's existence, nine remain and constitute the present thematic group. There has been attrition among the supporting structures, e.g., the Rural School House and the Central Heating Plant for the college are no longer standing, although the Stock Judging Pavilion is extant. Additional properties related to the theme remain such as livestock pens, poultry houses, experimental labs, and planting and grazing fields. However, they are scattered on and off the main campus and are not included in the thematic group at this time. The nine buildings included in this nomination represent all the major structures where instructional, laboratory and administrative activities occurred. The others are all support structures which constitute a separate and distinct set of secondary features that will require additional research to document and justify if they are to be included as part of the thematic nomination.

1. Supporting structures are those which are smaller in size, of lesser cost, single in function, and/or do not contribute to college instruction.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	_x_ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	_x_ architecture	_x_ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
_x_ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1905-14 **Builder/Architect** George L. Heins; Martin, Hebrard & Young; Green & Wicks

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The thematic group, identified as First Period Buildings of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, is historically significant as the physical manifestation of early state support for agricultural education and of the rapid success of this venture in its first decade of existence. The thematic group is architecturally significant as well, its buildings epitomizing a popular type of early twentieth century public architecture and representing the work of several prominent architects. Established in 1904, this New York State College of Agriculture was the first of a number of such institutions set up by the legislature within the ensuing decade. It marked the confluence of substantial state support with the long-standing but inadequately funded program in agriculture at the university. Within ten years, enrollment had increased almost tenfold, while the number of faculty and the value of the facilities had grown by even greater proportions. Credit for obtaining initial and continued state funding and for effectively marshalling these resources was largely due to Liberty Hyde Bailey, the renowned director of the college from 1903 until his retirement in 1913. It was during his tenure that nine major instructional buildings were planned -- Roberts, Stone, East Roberts, Comstock, Rice, Bailey, Fernow, Wing, and Caldwell Halls, the nine buildings which constitute the thematic group. With the completion of their construction in 1914, they would constitute virtually the whole of the major facilities of the College of Agriculture for about the next ten years. These buildings, which thus represent the seminal period in the growth of the college, share a common architectural character. By combining classically based stylistic features with more "rustic" or "modern" ones, they are exceptionally appropriate as public buildings for practical pursuits. In addition, the architectural significance of these nine instructional buildings rests on the importance of the persons responsible for their design. The first three structures were designed by George L. Heins, whose career combined a successful private practice and his position as the first New York State Architect. Responsibility for the design of the remaining buildings was given to College of Architecture faculty members Martin, Hebrard and Young, the first being the director of the college, and to the prominent and prolific Buffalo architectural firm of Green & Wicks.

The nine buildings which constitute the thematic group physically represent the commitment of New York State to support and further agricultural education. Established by the legislature in 1904, the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University was the first of a series of such institutions to be set up throughout the state during the early twentieth century. This initial legislation and subsequent bills passed in 1910 and 1912 authorized the expenditure of well over three-quarters of a million dollars for the construction of these nine instructional buildings, while appropriations for equipment and supporting structures raised the figure still higher. The beneficiaries of this educational venture were to be the farmers of New York, its rural society and, indeed, the agricultural and economic health of the state. With the outreach of the college from classroom instruction to the experiment station and the extension service, and through numerous publications, the benefits of its training and research have since spread across no only New York but the nation and the world, returning respect and renown to the college and the state.

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These buildings represent not only the beginnings of a major state investment in agricultural education but also the means by which Cornell University's existing program could be sustained and grow. Though Cornell was chartered by the State of New York in 1865 with funds supplied by the federal government through the Morrill Land Grant Act and was thus required to include programs in agriculture and the mechanical arts, it was from the beginning a private university. The program in agriculture therefore had to compete with other, more popular ones in engineering and the sciences for private support. Nevertheless, under the leadership of Isaac P. Roberts from 1874 until his retirement in 1903, agricultural education at Cornell made some important advances, including the establishment of the university experiment station and the initiation of the winter short-course for farmers. Although the state, in an unusual gesture, had provided funds in 1893 for the construction of a dairy building, the College of Agriculture -- established as an administrative unit within the university in 1896 -- remained without adequate instructional facilities.

It was in 1904, largely through the efforts of Liberty Hyde Bailey, that substantial state support and the needs of the Cornell program in agriculture came together. Bailey, a faculty member at Michigan State Agricultural College, had been hired as a professor of horticulture in 1888, his position generated by Hatch Act funding for the Cornell Experiment Station. Having proved himself energetic in teaching, research and field work, it was logical that Bailey be named to succeed Roberts in 1903 as the director of Cornell's College of Agriculture. Bailey had already spent considerable time exhorting New York farmers to lobby for the establishment of a state college of agriculture, and from his new position he intensified his efforts among state legislators. Success came on May 9, 1904, when Governor Odell signed into law "AN ACT to establish a state college of agriculture at Cornell university and making an appropriation therefor."

This legislation, with its appropriation of $250,000 for "the purpose of constructing and equipping a suitable building or buildings" upon the Cornell campus, would initiate a building program of substantial proportions. Within the ensuing decade, a total of nine major structures were erected to serve the college, their individual cost generally approaching or exceeding $100,000.[1] Together with a number of lesser buildings serving supporting functions, these would constitute virtually the whole of the State College of Agriculture's facilities for about the next ten years.

The need for these new facilities was dramatic. For example, with 1909-10 enrollment in the college at 967, the approximately 600-seat assembly room in the original building was inadequate, only three years after its completion. Construction of a new auditorium building was authorized in 1910, and when it was finally completed in 1913, its seating for 2,500 persons served not only assemblies of the more than 2,000 college students but Farmers' Week meetings as well.

The contemporaneous expansion of college enrollment, faculty and facilities during these first ten years is well summarized in the 1913-14 report of the acting director of the college:

> In 1904 the only class building devoted exclusively to the purpose of the College of Agriculture was the old Dairy Building, ... In addition to this,

1. The individual costs of Stone and East Roberts Halls, components of the Roberts Hall complex, probably considerably less.

the college occupied quarters in the north end of Morrill Hall and at the old forcing houses. The buildings of the College of Agriculture at that time were valued at about $60,000. At the present time the value of the buildings belonging to the College is approximately one and one quarter millions of dollars. At the beginning of this ten-year period twenty-five courses of instruction were offered in agriculture. There were six full professors, one assistant professor, and two instructors. During the year 1913-14 there have been two hundred and twenty-four courses of instruction offered in the College, and the Faculty has consisted of forty-six full professors, twenty-six assistant professors, and fifty-seven instructors. In the first year of the decade the student enrollment was two hundred and ninety-six; this year it is twenty-five hundred and twenty-six. (Official Publications. 1914. Vol V)

The programs whose growth particularly demanded new facilities were those in Home Economics, Poultry Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, and Soil Technology. It was the Department of Home Economics, established in 1907, which drew the largest single construction appropriation ($154,000) and the largest classroom building. Courses in home economics had been offered by Cornell since 1900, when Martha Van Rensselaer, the state's only female school commissioner, was hired to offer a reading course for farmers' wives. On-campus instruction followed, under the co-direction of Van Rensselaer and Flora Rose. When the program outgrew its space in the original college buildings, Van Rensselaer followed Bailey's lobbying approach, and enlisted women across the state to support the cause of a new structure. The Home Economics Building (Comstock Hall), constructed in 1911-12, housed not only the usual instructional facilities, but also an apartment for the practice of family housekeeping and a basement cafeteria (actually called by that name) for training in instutional management.

A program with a slightly longer history was that in poultry husbandry. In 1892 Cornell graduate James E. Rice began what was called "'the first systematic, practical, and scientific course in poultry culture' in the United States." (Colman, 125) Rice subsequently left the university to return to farming, but maintained his interest in education by lecturing the farmers' institutes in several states. Called back to Cornell by Bailey in 1903, Rice headed the Department of Poultry Husbandry from 1907 until his retirement in 1934. Under his leadership, winter short-courses were expanded, and poultrymen throughout the state were encouraged to campaign for the department's new building. This structure (Rice Hall) was constructed in 1911-12, providing extensive laboratory space.

The programs in dairy industry and animal husbandry, having been developed in the 1890s under the direction of Henry H. Wing, were divided into separate departments by Bailey in 1903, with Wing in charge of the latter. The importance of these studies within the new State College of Agriculture was manifested by the allotment of one of the three original classroom buildings (East Roberts Hall) solely to their use. (Dairy Industry occupied the main unit, and Animal Husbandry the lower rear wing.) As these departments expanded and became more specialized, particularly with Wing's management of the Holstein herd and his investigation of reliable measures for livestock testing and selection, the need for separate facilities became apparent. The new Animal Hus-

bandry Building (Wing Hall) was constructed in 1912-14, about one-half mile east of the original college buildings and conveniently near the recently erected university barns. It combined extensive practical laboratory space with a library "containing the herd and flock books of different breeds" and an auditorium into which live animals could be brought. (Report, 2333)

Cornell had been the home of the first College of Forestry in the nation, established by the state legislature in 1898. However, due to public and political pressures, the college was denied funding in 1903, and its faculty and students disbanded. Bailey subsequently sought to provide instruction in forestry through the College of Agriculture and was successful in 1912 in obtaining an appropriation for a new building (Fernow Hall) for that purpose, which was completed in 1914.

The organization of the various programs concerned with the study of soils into a single Department of Soil Technology in 1909 strengthened this area of instruction and experimentation, creating the need for expanded facilities beyond the space it shared in the original Agronomy Building (Stone Hall). Funds were authorized in 1912 for an addition to the existing building, although it was not until 1914 that an entirely separate structure (Caldwell Hall) was erected.

The groundwork for these various programs, as well as for the founding of the college, had been laid by Isaac P. Roberts, and his role was recognized by the naming of the main building for him in 1914. However, it was the indefatigable effort and the "remarkable leadership" of Liberty Hyde Bailey that brought the college from its establishment as a new state venture in agricultural education through a decade of intensive development and growth. This achievement was acknowledged by Bailey's former colleagues in a letter written to him upon his retirement in 1913:

> The present successful condition of this College is due to the combined efforts of many earnest men and women devoted to the cause of agricultural education; but every one of these workers realizes that the opportunity for doing this work in so successful a way is due more largely to your efforts than to any other cause.
>
> The confidence which the people of the State have in you is the chief cause of the magnificent material support that has been given the College.
>
> Your breadth of view in organizing and administering the College has enabled your colleagues to work in a much more efficient manner than would have been possible under less wise leadership.
>
> You have laid the foundation of a broad College of Agriculture and have built on this foundation an institution that stands forth as an idea of what a College of Agriculture should be. (Official Publications. 1914. Vol. V)

Given this tribute to Liberty Hyde Bailey's accomplishments, it is little wonder that the college auditorium was named in his honor the very next year.

In their design, the nine College of Agriculture buildings which constitute the thematic group epitomize a popular type of early twentieth century public architecture. By their traditional character and sense of permanence they represent the conferral of state support on the agricultural college, coupled with the prestige of Cornell University. Yet, as befits the housing of practical programs intended to attract and affect members of rural society, these structures are not luxurious or ostentatious.

The expression of this dual nature has been achieved through the combination of classically based stylistic forms with more common, "rustic" or "modern" ones. Each of the nine buildings has a symmetrical composition, a regularity of basic fenestration pattern, an essentially monochromatic color scheme, and a vocabulary of specific forms derived from Renaissance and Neoclassical sources. However, each also displays materials of common or practical character and "rustic" or Arts and Crafts eaves detailing.

Six of the buildings are particularly similar. Roberts Hall, the central unit of the original three-building group, established the model for Comstock, Rice, Fernow, Wing, and Caldwell Halls. All are of rectangular form, with their main entrances centrally located on one of the longer facades, the middle portion of which is emphasized. In spite of these similarities, there are certain differences between the buildings which contribute to their individuality. Some distinctions are more subtle, such as the treatment of spandrels or stringcourses. Others are more distinctive, such as the geometric decoration of Fernow Hall, or the colossal Ionic portico of Wing Hall.

The remaining three buildings in the proposed thematic group differ from the other six because their roles are subordinate or symbolic. Stone and East Roberts Halls are essential to the design unity of the tripartite Roberts Hall complex, while Bailey Hall is given a monumental character by virtue of its combination of the college auditorium with the lesser office and laboratory spaces. These three structures, nevertheless, share fully in the dual stylistic character of the entire group.

The earliest structures erected for the college, the Roberts Hall complex, established strong design influences for later buildings. This three-part Palladian composition was undoubtedly influential in the project for additions to Rice Hall. This was planned to have a loggia at either end which would connect with subordinate structures. Although the Rice Hall group was never completed, the Roberts Hall trio did have visible effect on the siting of Comstock and then Caldwell Halls to form the agricultural quadrangle.

Prominent New York architects were responsible for the design of the nine College of Agriculture structures, and the significance of the buildings relies in part on the importance of these professionals. The first three major instructional buildings for the new college -- Roberts, Stone and East Roberts Halls -- were designed by State Architect George L. Heins and constructed in 1905-07. Heins had established a successful private practice with his partner, Christopher Grant LaFarge, specializing in the design of churches and residences. The firm had first gained national recognition with the competition-winning design for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York (1891). Subsequent work by Heins & LaFarge included buildings for the New York Zoological Park (Bronx Zoo, 1899 ff.) and the New York Rapid Transportation Commission (1901 ff.). By that time, however, Heins had taken on additional responsibilities, having been appointed to the newly created post of State Architect by Governor Theodore Roosevelt in 1899. In this position he was charged with the design of such state-funded projects as the

contemporary Rochester Armory and the College of Agriculture at Cornell, as well as with the direction of an increasingly large staff of draftsmen, supervisory personnel and clerical workers.

By the time of the next building campaign for the College of Agriculture, initiated by legislation passed in 1910, Heins had died and had been replaced as State Architect by Franklin B. Ware. With the design and construction of an increased number of institutional buildings throughout the state coming under the purview of his office, Ware turned over the planning of Comstock, Rice and Bailey Halls to a firm composed of Clarence A. Martin, Jean Hebrard and George Young, Jr., all faculty members in the College of Architecture. Martin, director of that college, had designed an Ithaca residence for Liberty Hyde Bailey in 1899 and had provided a lesson on "The Plan of the Farmhouse" for the reading course for farmers in 1906. While these architectural professors were given responsibility for the plans and elevations of the three structures, the prominent Buffalo firm of Green & Wicks was engaged to provide working drawings, specifications and construction supervision. When initial bids for the construction of Bailey Hall were rejected, Green & Wicks were asked to make design modifications.

Apparently as a result of their involvement in the execution of these three buildings, Green & Wicks were given responsibility for the design of three additional college buildings -- Fernow, Wing and Caldwell Halls, whose construction was authorized in 1912. Edward B. Green was an alumnus of Cornell, having received his Bachelor of Architecture in 1878, while William S. Wicks had spent two years at the university before completing his architectural degree at M.I.T. Both architects had worked in Ithaca before moving to Auburn and then to Buffalo, where they obtained commissions for a wide range of buildings from many of that city's most prominent residents. Among their most noted works are the Buffalo Savings Bank (1900-01) and the Albright Art Gallery (1905), both in Buffalo, and the Museum of Art in Toledo, Ohio. These architects were familiar with the Cornell campus and known to university officials not only through their educational ties but through their previous professional work. Green had designed a chapter house for his fraternity, Kappa Alpha, in 1885.

The division of design responsibility for the new College of Agriculture facilities between three architectural offices quite expectedly resulted in some differentiation between the buildings. The early structures designed by Heins display the most eclectic Beaux-Arts detailing, yet are severe in their hard-surfaced materials and simple eaves detailing. While Comstock and Rice Halls are less ornate in their decorative motifs, they are more sophisticated in their compositions, whether in the use of historical elements or in the establishment of fenestration patterns. Finally, Bailey Hall and the three other structures designed by Green & Wicks incorporate a variety of sources with considerable design competence.

In spite of these differences, the architectural cohesiveness of the group of nine early buildings erected for the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University is of overriding significance. While such factors as the contemporaneity of design and the directives given by university officials were undoubtedly influential, the control by the State Architect's office and the close ties of Martin, Hebrard and Young as faculty and of Green & Wicks as alumni, must have underlined the desirability of sympathetic design.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property each site less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ithaca East **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	18	378380	4700435	Roberts Hall
B	18	378325	4700420	Stone Hall
C	18	378435	4700420	E. Roberts Hall
D	18	378350	4700535	Comstock Hall
E	18	378750	4700370	Rice Hall
F	18	378250	4700540	Bailey Hal
G	18	378640	4700440	Fernow Hall
H	18	378950	4700240	Wing Hall
I	18	378410	4700530	Caldwell Hall

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual inventory forms

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries NA

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janette Johnstone

organization Division for Historic Preservation **date** July 1984

street & number Agency Bldg #1 **telephone** 418 474-0479

city or town Albany **state** New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Julia S. Stokes

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation **date** 8/3/84

For NPS use only

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

See Continuation Sheet for Action **date**

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1983 0 - 419-311

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

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Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9/10/84
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name New York State College of Agriculture Thematic Resources
State Tompkins County, NEW YORK

Cover — 9/24/84

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
1. Bailey Hall	Substantive Review	for Keeper	9/29/84
		Attest	
2. Caldwell Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
3. Comstock Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
4. East Robert Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
5. Fernow Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
6. Rice Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
7. Roberts Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
8. Stone Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
9. Wing Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	9/24/84
		Attest	
10.		Keeper	
		Attest	