

= Daniel S. Schanck Observatory =

The Daniel S. Schanck Observatory is a former astronomical observatory on the Queens Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick , New Jersey , United States . It is located along George Street near the corner with Hamilton Street at the side of the car park to Kirkpatrick Chapel , to the northwest of Old Queens and Geology Hall .

The two @-@ story Greek Revival building of the observatory was designed by architect Willard Smith after the Tower of the Winds in Athens and was built in 1865 . It was named after New York City businessman Daniel S. Schanck , who donated a large portion of the funds to construct and equip the observatory . Outfitted with telescopes , clocks , and other scientific equipment donated to Rutgers , the Schanck Observatory served as the university 's first astronomical observatory and was used to provide instruction to its students through the nineteenth and early twentieth century .

The observatory has not been in use since the 1960s . As part of the Queens Campus , the Schanck Observatory was included on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 . The building was renovated in 2012 .

= = History , architecture , and use = =

In 1864 , Rutgers College was named New Jersey 's sole land grant college which provided federal funding under the Morrill Act of 1862 for the development of engineering , scientific , agricultural , and military education . Previously , the college 's curriculum focused on the classics and liberal arts . David Murray (1830 ? 1905) , professor of mathematics , natural philosophy and astronomy , proposed building the school 's first astronomical observatory to the college 's president , William Henry Campbell (1808 ? 1890) , and its board of trustees . It would be the college 's fourth building .

The cost of construction and equipment amounted to US \$ 6 @, @ 166 (2013 : US \$ 86 @, @ 845 @. @ 07) , of which US \$ 2 @, @ 400 (2013 : US \$ 33 @, @ 802 @. @ 82) was donated by Daniel S. Schanck (1812 ? 1872) . Schanck , a New York City businessman with roots in Monmouth County , New Jersey , was not an alumnus of the college , but was convinced to donate after being approached by friends of the college . Several years later , his son , Daniel S. Schanck (1853 ? 1901) , would enroll in the college 's scientific course , and earn a bachelor 's degree (Sc.B) in 1875 .

In 1865 , the trustees hired architect Willard Smith who provided a plan for a small two @-@ story octagonal Greek Revival building designed after the Tower of the Winds , a first @-@ century BC structure located in the agora of Athens , Greece that housed an ancient water clock and sundial . The observatory was constructed from " painted brick , with wood cornices and entrance porch , brownstone floor and steps " and featured a " small gable roofed Corinthian entrance porch with columns at the front corners , flat pilasters against the wall , entablature , and pediment . " Rutgers equipped the observatory with " a 6 @. @ 5 @-@ inch equatorial refracting telescope , a meridian circle with four @-@ inch object glass for transit observations , a sidereal clock , a mean solar clock ... chronograph , repeating circle , and other instruments . " Some of the equipment was donated by private individuals and by the college 's two literary societies , the Peithessophian and Philoclean Societies .

The Schanck Observatory was dedicated on June 18 , 1866 with an address given by Joseph P. Bradley (1813 ? 1892) , a Rutgers College alumnus (A.B. 1836) and prominent attorney who four years later was installed as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States . The observatory would be used for the instruction of students into the early twentieth century . However , it fell out of use before 1960 . Physics and Astronomy professor Paul L. Leath indicated that the observatory very accurately measured time through precise measurements of the transit of the sun . However , in later years , as trees grew around the building , and as the light pollution was introduced from street lights and a neighboring parking deck , the building could no longer be used for observation . The university 's astronomy department operates a modern observatory ? the Robert A. Schommer Astronomical Observatory ? that is located on the roof of the Serin Physics

Laboratory (built 1963) on the Busch Campus . The Schommer Observatory houses a 0 @. @ 5 meter telescope that was installed in 1996 .

As one of the six extant buildings on the university 's Queens Campus , the oldest buildings at Rutgers , the Schanck Observatory was included on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 .

The building fell into disrepair , and its equipment was damaged after several acts of vandalism in which unknown persons illegally entered the building and stole key components of the telescope . A restoration of the observatory building by Wu & Associates of Cherry Hill , New Jersey , was completed in 2012 .