

= Geology Hall =

Geology Hall , formerly Geological Hall , is a building located in the historic Queens Campus section of Rutgers , The State University of New Jersey 's College Avenue Campus in New Brunswick , New Jersey , United States . As part of the Queen 's Campus , Geology Hall was included on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 . When Rutgers was selected as New Jersey 's only land grant college in 1864 , the college began to expand its curriculum to include instruction in science and agriculture . Rutgers president William Henry Campbell raised funds to construct a building to accommodate this expansion , and Geology Hall , designed by architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh , was built in 1872 .

At present , the building houses administrative offices and the university 's geological museum . The museum , one of the oldest collegiate geology collections in the United States , was founded by state geologist and Rutgers professor George Hammell Cook in 1872 . Its exhibits showcase the natural history of New Jersey ; focusing geology , paleontology , and anthropology . Exhibits include fluorescent zinc minerals from Franklin and Ogdensburg , a mastodon from Salem County , a dinosaur trackway discovered in Towaco , and a Ptolemaic era Egyptian mummy .

= = History = =

In 1864 the State of New Jersey named Rutgers College as their sole land grant college . Pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862 , this designation gave federal lands to the state that the state could then sell to raise money to develop practical education in agriculture , science , military science and engineering .

George Hammell Cook (1818 @-@ 1889) , a professor of chemistry and natural sciences , influenced the state to select Rutgers over the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) . Cook was appointed state geologist in 1864 and later became the college 's vice president . With the college 's land grant status and new funding for scientific studies , Cook expanded his research and teaching into geology and agriculture .

Six years later , the college 's board of trustees decided to erect a building to house the college 's new scientific programs . At this time , Rutgers was celebrating the centennial anniversary of its second charter (1770) and college president William Henry Campbell (1808 ? 1890) solicited donations from alumni and other supporters in an extensive fundraising effort aimed at supporting these new programs . With these funds , the trustees commissioned a design for a Geological Hall from Henry Janeway Hardenbergh (1847 ? 1918) , a young architect from New Brunswick . Hardenbergh received these contracts through family connections , as several members of his family were graduates , trustees , or associated with the school . His great @-@ great @-@ grandfather , the Rev. Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh (1736 ? 1790) , was Rutgers ' first president and one of its founders , and his grandfather , Rev. Jacob Janeway served as vice president of the college and had turned down the post of president in 1840 .

Hardenbergh 's design was described as employing both Gothic elements and classical forms that preceded the extreme eclecticism that was to mark a later Victorian Gothic Revival period . The original plans called for the building to be constructed out of red brick , but the final execution was mostly in sandstone quarried in Connecticut , with some examples of stone from Newark . Geology Hall , built on the south side of Old Queens , was the second of three projects that Hardenbergh designed for the college , following an addition to a building (now Alexander Johnston Hall) that housed the college 's grammar school (now Rutgers Preparatory School) the year before . The third project , Kirkpatrick Chapel (1873) , was designed to complement the simple Gothic Revival style of Geology Hall and was erected on the north side of Old Queens .

The building was completed in 1872 at a cost of US \$ 63 @, @ 201 @. @ 54 (2013 : US \$ 1 @, @ 215 @, @ 365) . Geology Hall 's first floor provided the college with rooms for laboratory and lecture instruction and housed the college 's armory . The first @-@ floor classrooms would accommodate the college 's physics , military science , and geology departments . Geology Hall also provided instruction space for courses in agriculture , chemistry and engineering for several years , until

Rutgers built New Jersey Hall (1889) to house the Agricultural Experiment Station , and buildings for the Chemistry and Engineering departments (1909 and 1910 respectively) across Hamilton Street on land that became the college 's Voorhees Mall . Geology Hall 's second floor was designed to provide sufficient space to house the college 's natural history artefacts and geological specimens as a museum .

Today , Geology Hall houses some of the offices of the university 's administration and the Rutgers Geology Museum . Previously , it housed the offices of the Rutgers geology department , now called the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences , from 1872 until 1979 , when it moved to the university 's Busch Campus in Piscataway . This was the last of the university 's science department to move across the Raritan River to the Busch campus . In 1973 , Geology Hall was included with six other buildings on Rutgers ' Queen 's Campus on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places .

= = Rutgers Geology Museum = =

Cook established the university 's geology museum in 1872 with specimens collected during the New Jersey Geological Survey which he directed as New Jersey 's state geologist . Since then , the museum has operated on the building 's second floor , offering free tours to small groups , schools , and to the general public . The museum 's collections , of which only a small portion is on display , feature exhibits on geology , natural history , paleontology , and anthropology , with an emphasis on the natural history of New Jersey .

The museum 's earliest collections began to coalesce in 1836 through the work of Lewis C. Beck (1798 ? 1853) , a physician , botanist , entomologist , chemist and geologist , who taught at Rutgers in the mid @-@ nineteenth century from 1830 until his death in 1853 . Many of the exhibits feature items that are unique to New Jersey , including Native American artifacts , minerals , and fossils . These exhibits include a set of fossilized dinosaur tracks believed to belong to the carnivorous *Grallator* , from the Jurassic @-@ period discovered near Towaco in Morris County , and the skeleton of a 10 @,@ 000 @-@ year old mastodon (*Mammuth americanum*) discovered in Salem County in 1869 . The mastodon , found in a marl pit near Mannington , was sold by a local farmer to a travelling circus before it was acquired by Rutgers for display .

A collection of around 2 @,@ 400 specimens (including some fluorescent minerals) was donated to the museum in October 1940 by George Rowe , a mine captain with the New Jersey Zinc Company . The collection is rich in rare minerals , many of which found during twentieth @-@ century zinc mining operations in Franklin , New Jersey . This museum 's holdings were augmented with the donation of 6 @,@ 000 fluorescent mineral specimens collected by Anne and Milton Hershhorn . This exhibit opened to the public in October 2002 .

The museum displays a 2 @,@ 400 @-@ year @-@ old female Egyptian mummy on loan from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary . The mummy , which dates to 320 or 330 B.C. in the Ptolemaic era , was discovered in Northern Egypt and brought back to the United States by a Dutch Reformed missionary who served there in the early 1700s . Little else is known about the mummy 's origins , but it was stored in a closet at the seminary until 1968 when it was first put on display .

In 2013 , rumors suggested that the university administration was planning to place the museum 's exhibits in permanent storage , close the museum and renovate Geology Hall for use as an auditorium . A letter @-@ writing campaign from alumni and the general public persuaded the administration to commit towards continuing the museum and expanding its mission .

= = Gallery = =