

An aerial, black and white photograph of the Hofstra University campus. The image shows a dense cluster of multi-story buildings, parking lots, and roads. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Interesting Facts about Select Hofstra Buildings

This exhibit features historical facts, statistics, photographs and miscellaneous pieces of information about buildings on the Hofstra campus.

Joan & Donald E. Axinn Library

Date constructed: 1967

Dedication date: October 22, 1987

Architect: Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde

Named for: Trustee Donald E. and his wife, Joan Axinn



Did you know?

The library won four design awards from 1966-1968 including the American Institute of Architects award, the NY State Association of Architects award, the Long Island Association of Commerce and Industry award and the Concrete Industry Board award. When it was first built, the buildings' two wings were only one story tall. The library was featured in a 1977 *Batman* comic drawn by Hofstra alum, Robert Rozakis.

Statistics

The ten floors comprised 60,500 square feet when first constructed. Alterations to the 9th & 10th floors by Angelo F. Corva; interior renovations to the main floor, Bentel and Bentel. In 1996 the Harold Yuker Reference Library was dedicated. The President's Office was relocated to the west wing in 2002.

Hofstra University Library Special Collections



Barnard Hall

Date constructed: 1937

Dedication date: October 8, 1937

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: James H. Barnard, who was a trustee for the estate of Kate Hofstra.

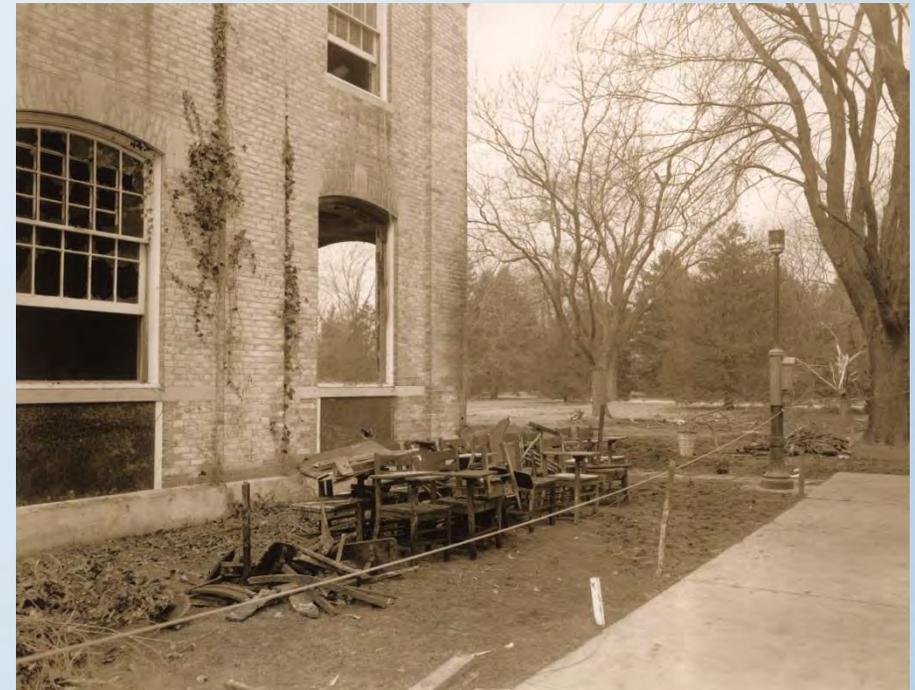


Did you know?

A Mitchel Field Air Force pilot crashed into Barnard Hall during take-off on March 23, 1943. The pilot was killed but no students were hurt as the crash occurred at 5:15 a.m. The government blamed the number of trees on the Hofstra property and removed 100 trees by court order. Later, it was determined that the accident occurred due to pilot error and the government paid Hofstra the cost of the replacement value of the trees.

Statistics

The building was constructed of Glen-gary brick.



Brower Hall

Date constructed: 1936

Dedication date: October 9, 1936

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: Howard S. Brower, who was a trustee for the estate of Kate Hofstra and a trustee for Hofstra University as well as President from 1942-1944



Did you know?

When the building first opened the fencing team had their matches in Brower Hall. In the summer of 1957, Brower Hall's "flamingo room" was home to the Arithmetic Workshop which helped local children with math skills.

Statistics

Square footage when constructed was 9,030.



Calkins Hall

Date constructed: 1938

Dedication date: January 1938

Architect: Designed by Aymar Embury with later alterations by Louis Jenson.

Named for: Hofstra President, Truesdel Peck Calkins.



Did you know?

When constructed in 1938 Calkins was a gymnasium. This lasted until Feb. 24, 1970 when the building was renovated (it took two years 1971-1972) and then it reopened as Calkins Hall. The first Shakespeare performances were held in Calkins with a replica of the Globe Theater being set up on the gym floor.



Dempster Hall

Date constructed: 1985

Dedication date: May 22, 1986

Architect: Angelo F. Corva

Named for: Trustee, George Dempster



Did you know?

Initially a teaching center for television and broadcasting, Dempster Hall soon became a state of the art site for all types of communication. In its kick-off celebration, the past president of CBS Frank Stanton along with Jim Jensen and Hofstra's own Irv Gikofsky (Mr. "G") made remarks. Hofstra produces its own promotional videos, airs radio programs and teaches every type of journalistic endeavor. Sometimes, the studios are used for other sorts of programming. In 1986, for instance, a television show called "What Every Baby Knows," was filmed in the Dempster Hall studios. The show featured a Harvard professor of pediatrics in his show he used Long Island parents and their children as guests. The show aired on the Lifetime Cable Network.

Statistics

Square footage when first built was 30,991.



Hauser Hall

Date constructed: 1955

Dedication date: October 12, 1955

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: Trustee George H. Hauser, Chairman of the Board, 1945-1955



Did you know?

The dedication of Hauser Hall coincided with the celebration of Hofstra's 20th Anniversary. The events included a boxed lunch, an ROTC review on the drill field, speeches and the dedication of the Chemistry Building. This was followed by a soccer game between Hofstra and Kings Point. In 1959 the Geology Department, which was also housed in Hauser Hall, featured a six week requirement called, "Side Camp." This survival training was to get students used to conditions that would be found when doing traditional field work. One of the trips taken during Easter vacation in March of 1959 was a study-excursion to southwestern Virginia. "A rather sleepy group of students" it was reported, gathered at Hauser Hall about 4 a.m. with bed rolls, cave ropes, hard hats and lamps. They returned on April 3rd after visiting a Harrisonburg zinc mine, collecting specimens and separating the ore from the limestone.

Statistics

The square footage when built was 22,016.



Heger Hall

Date constructed: 1951

Dedication date: Dedication Plaque installed
December 10, 1952

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: Trustee, Emil H. Heger



Did you know?

Emil Heger, a Long Island bank president gave \$250,000 for the construction of the building which bears his name. He explained that “although I only had half a dozen years of formal education and six months of night courses...” he believed in providing for secondary education. He then presided over the “tree-chopping” ceremonies in 1950 where President John Cranford Adams took an axe to a tree on the Hofstra property where the building was going to stand.

Statistics

Square footage when built was 15,174.



Hofstra Hall

Date constructed: 1904

Dedication date:

Architect: H. Wellington Ward and H. Graig Severance

Named for: William Sake Hofstra (1861-1932) and his wife, Kate Mason Hofstra (1854-1933).



Did you know?

Kate Hofstra kept her 27 cats in a steam-heated building behind Hofstra Hall. The house was known as “The Netherlands” for Mr. Hofstra’s Dutch ancestry. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hofstra died in the house, while President Calkins had a fatal heart attack in his office on the second floor. When the property was turned into a campus, all offices, the cafeteria, student lounges and activities were held in the house. The Welcome Frosh Hop and pep rallies were held on the back porch as well as plays, fraternity and sorority stunts and social gatherings.



John Cranford Adams Playhouse

Date constructed: 1958

Dedication date: March 23, 1974

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: The building was initially called "The Playhouse," but was dedicated to Hofstra President, John Cranford Adams in 1974

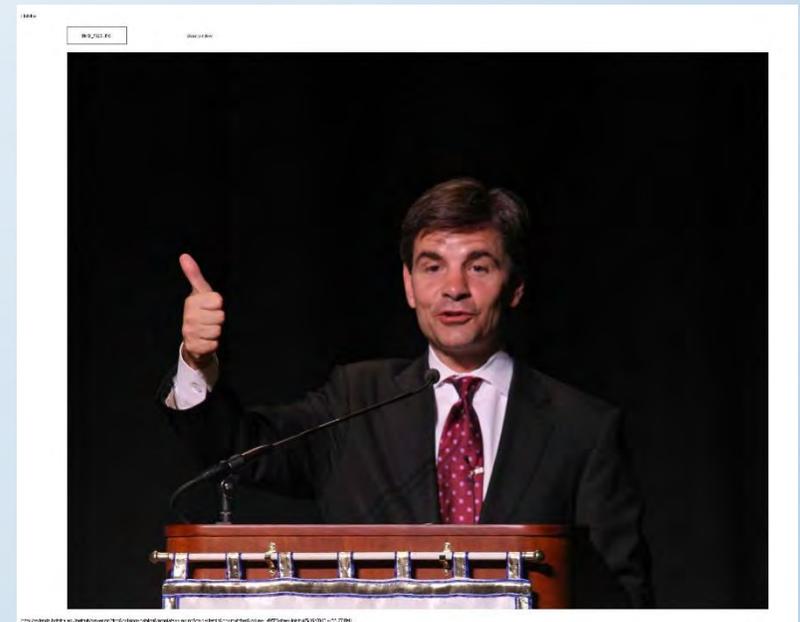


Did you know?

The Hofstra Debate Team went up against the Cambridge Team in the Playhouse in 1959 and the question they tried to settle was the greatest obstacle to world peace. Also in 1959, the Hofstra College Induction ceremony featured The Honorable Hendrik J. Hofstra, a Member of The Netherlands Parliament, who presented the Friesian Flag and addressed a convocation in the Playhouse. Francis Ford Coppola, class of '60, explained to reporters that he once sat in the excavation of the building and imagined he'd be famous one day! A variety of notables have been hosted in the Playhouse including candidate Robert F. Kennedy (who visited in 1964,) Presidents Gerald Ford (in 1989) and Jimmy Carter (in 1990,) actress Jennifer Lopez who received an award in 1998 and news correspondent George Stephanopoulos who was at Hofstra in 2008 as part of Debate '08.

Statistics

40,504 square foot building when the building was constructed. Embury also made early alterations in 1961-1963.



Mason Hall

Date constructed: 1938

Dedication date: 1941

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: Kate Mason Hofstra



Did you know?

The building was first named for Rufus D. Smith, who was dean of students in the late 1930's, but after the split from NYU the name was changed to honor Kate Mason Hofstra. Smith, an administrator who was appointed by the NYU administration, went back to NYU after Hofstra gained its independence.

Statistics

The Gallon Wing was added in 1958 and was designed by the firm of Embury, Embury & Jensen. The Emily and Jerry Spiegel Theater was also built in 1958 and renovated in 1986. The square footage at time of construction was 21, 762.



Memorial Hall

Date constructed: 1949

Dedication date: 1949

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: The students, faculty and staff who were World War II veterans.



Did you know?

In 1952 students sponsored "Operation Wing Ding" to raise \$35,000 to add a new wing for student dining and meeting space. The students planned for 1,800 Hofstra men and women to raise \$20.00 each. Students did babysitting, bake sales, auctioned off a raccoon-style coat (that Trustee Hauser bid \$1,000 for,) sat on the roof of Memorial for money, and performed other stunts to raise money. Also in 1952, Rembrandts, Renoirs and Picassos hung in Memorial Hall as the Metropolitan Museum of Art chose Hofstra as the site for an "experimental exhibit" which was supposed to bring the museum's collections to the "suburbs." A Faculty Women's Retiring Room was opened on the second floor of Memorial Hall in 1960.

Statistics

The square footage when built was 54,022.



New Academic Building

Date constructed: 2006

Dedication date: October 18, 2006

Architect: Designed by Studio A Architects of New York City and constructed by E.W. Howell Company of Westbury



Did you know?

In 1964, Herbert Deutsch collaborated with Dr. Robert Moog and created the Moog synthesizer, an invention that changed music history. A display dedicated to the prototype synthesizer and Hofstra Professor Herbert Deutsch's role in its creation is located in the lobby. The NAB was constructed with a black box theater which seats 230 audience members, as well as an acoustically isolated band rehearsal hall that seats 120.

Statistics

The building has 86,000 square feet and cost \$16 million to build.



Student Center

Date constructed: 1967

Dedication date:

Architect: Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde



Did you know?

The student center was open to the elements until 1985 when an atrium was added and enclosed the space outside the bookstore and dining areas. The Student Center played host to many significant events over the years. One of the first events to be held in the multi-purpose room was the debate between Nassau County Executive Eugene Nickerson and Town Supervisor Sol Wachtler in 1967. Other events over the years have included the journalist and one of the first female television anchors, Marie Torre in 1987; a wildlife celebration for Earth Day in 1995; and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in November of 2000.

Statistics

The square footage in 1967 was 128,060. The atrium was designed in 1985 by Angelo F. Corva.



Unispan

Date constructed: 1967

Dedication date: 1980

Architect: Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde

Named for: Clifford Lee Lord, President of Hofstra.



Did you know?

When Clifford Lord, who was President during the turbulent era of student protests, was informed that Hofstra was going to name the Unispan after him, he remarked, "This will ensure that future generations of Hofstra students will continue to walk all over me!" During student protest demonstrations, the Unispan was marred by graffiti. Legend has it, that the Unispan is so strong that it could withstand being hit by a truck, which happened when a garbage truck hit the span in 1981!

Statistics

The Unispan is 360 feet in length and the slope of the interior was intended to permit passage by disabled students who may be using a wheelchair.



Weller Hall

Date constructed: 1962

Dedication date: 1962

Architect: Aymar Embury

Named for: Trustee, Augustus B. Weller



Did you know?

Weller Hall was taken over by students who staged a sit-in on April 29, 1969, as this was the building that housed the administrative offices in those days. According to the president's report after the sit-in, the students cleaned up after themselves, even sweeping the floors of debris!



Miscellaneous Building Facts

- In 1952 as the first step toward the construction of a military science building, Hofstra began work on a six-position indoor firing range. This eventually became the basement of the ROTC building which in those days was to be found in Roosevelt Hall.
- In December of 1957 Hofstra gave two of its Quonset Huts to the congregation of St. Jude's Protestant Episcopal Church of Wantagh for use as a church building. Carman and Wood Halls were dismantled, moved from the campus and reconstructed on new foundations. A steeple was to be added later.
- In 1959 the Hofstra College Induction ceremony featured The Honorable Hendrik J. Hofstra Member of Parliament, The Netherlands who presented the Friesian Flag and addressed the convocation at the Playhouse on September 23.
- A Faculty Women's Retiring Room was opened on the second floor of Memorial Hall in 1960.
- In the 1960's there were several rooms with intriguing names such as: The Rip Van Winkle Room; the Knickerbocker Room; the Henry Hudson Room; and the Bovenaan Room.