



IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: University Grounds
 Map and Parcel: 15-1
 Census Track & Block:
 Present Owner: University of Virginia
 Address:
 Present Use: Vacant
 Original Owner: University of Virginia
 Original Use: Classrooms and museum

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Brooks Museum
 Date/Period: 1876
 Style: Victorian
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 3 with high basement
 Present Zoning:
 Land Area (sq.ft.):
 Assessed Value (land + imp.):

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The basement of this building is faced with granite; the upper floors are of brick laid in 5-course American bond. Windows on the first and second floors are framed within two-story arches; those on the first and third floors have segmental heads, while those on the second floor are round-headed; all have two-over-two lights. External ornament is of granite in the form of keystones, window enframements, stringcourses, pilaster caps, and--most delightfully--animal heads gazing earthward above a band carved with the names of great scientists. The north and south facades have a six-bay arrangement with projecting end pavilions; each pavilion is topped with a pediment of decidedly un-classical proportions with a wooden cornice and projecting brick "modillions." The east end and west end have three bays each. The entrance bay in the east end is approached by a dramatic flight of stairs; the double doors are flanked by polished granite columns with caps of vaguely Romanesque derivation. The mansard roof of the eastern "tower" is capped with iron cresting. Strangely-shaped dormers appear on the east and west sides of the roof. In all, the vigorous forms of this building offer a delightful contrast to the prevalent Classicism.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

It was announced early in 1876 that "a gentleman of Rochester, an admirer of Mr. Jefferson and an earnest well-wisher of the South" wished to establish a museum of natural history at the University. The donor was later revealed as Mr. Lewis Brooks, whose gift to the University eventually amounted to about \$70,000. The remainder of the funds for the building came from the University and alumni. Architect of the building was John R. Thomas of Rochester. The structure originally housed a lecture room and laboratories in addition to extensive exhibition space for zoological, mineralogical, and geological specimens. It most recently served as the home of the Department of Environmental Sciences. Recently declared unsuitable for classroom, the building is presently vacant and in danger of demolition.

GRAPHICS

174(L)

174(R)

CONDITIONS

Average

SOURCES

Patton & Doswell, The University of Virginia (1900)

Architectural  And Historic
Survey #140

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: University of Virginia Grounds
MAP & PARCEL: 15-1
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:
PRESENT ZONING: --
ORIGINAL OWNER: University of Virginia
ORIGINAL USE: Museum and Classrooms
PRESENT USE: Offices and Laboratories
PRESENT OWNER: University of Virginia
ADDRESS:

HISTORIC NAME: Lewis Brooks Hall (Brooks Museum)
DATE / PERIOD: 1876-77
STYLE: Second Empire
HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 3 storeys
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:
CONDITION: Good
SURVEYOR: _____ / Bibb
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 / 1988
SOURCES: Patton & Doswell, The University of Virginia
Bruce, History of the University of Virginia
O'Neal, Pictorial History of the Univ. of Va.

Barringer, Pleasant It Is To Remember These Things

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Date/Period: 1876-77
Style: Victorian
Height to Cornice:
Height in Stories: 3 with high basement
Present Zoning:
Land Area (sq.ft.):
Assessed Value (land + imp.):

Date: 1977 & 1987
Surveyor: & Bebb
Sources: Patton & Roswell, The Univ. of Va,
O'Neal, Pictorial Hist of Univ of Va

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The ^{foundation} basement of this building is ^{constructed of} faced with granite; the upper floors are of brick laid in 5-course American bond. Windows on the first and second ^{storeys} floors are framed within two-story arches; those on the first and third floors have segmental heads, while those on the second floor are round-headed. All have two-over-two lights. External ornament is of granite in the form of keystones, window enframements, stringcourses, pilaster caps, and--most delightfully--animal heads gazing earthward above a band carved with the names of great scientists.

^{gargoyles} from 2nd & 3rd storey window keystones.

The stringcourse between the 1st & 2nd storeys is a granite

The building is 3 storeys tall above an English basement & has a Mansard roof covered with

are 6 bays wide

The north and south facades have a six-bay arrangement with projecting end pavilions; each pavilion is topped with a pediment of decidedly un-classical proportions with a wooden cornice and projecting brick "modillions." The east end and west end have three bays each. The entrance bay in the east end is approached by a dramatic flight of stairs; the double doors are flanked by polished granite columns with caps of vaguely Romanesque derivation. The mansard roof of the eastern "tower" is capped with iron cresting. Strangely-shaped dormers appear on the east and west sides of the roof. In all, the vigorous forms of this building offer a delightful contrast to the prevalent Classicism. ^{Small}

ends are 3 bays wide, with an entrance tower projecting from the center bay on the eastern end.

The building originally contained an exhibition hall two storeys tall with cast iron columns & ^{balustrade} railing.

Hint Descriptions

In 1876 Lewis Brooks of Rochester, N.Y., said to be an admirer of Mr. Jefferson & an earnest well-wisher of the South, offered to build a museum of natural history at the University, on ^{the} condition that the University ~~was~~ would raise the funds ~~to~~ to outfit the building with cases, mountings, etc. ^{The challenge was met,} The building was completed in July 1877. John R. Thomas of Rochester was the architect.

The structure originally housed a lecture room and laboratories in addition to extensive exhibition space for zoological, mineralogical, and geological specimens. ~~It most recently served as the home of the Department of Environmental Sciences. Recently declared unsuitable for classroom, the building is presently vacant and in danger of demolition.~~ *endangered.*
use in the 1970's *may be considered*

~~Some interior alterations were made c. 1905,~~
The 2-story ^{main} exhibition hall was divided into 2 stories of classrooms in 1949. ~~The building now houses the Dept. of Environmental Sciences.~~

From the beginning, it has been the subject of controversy, because of its divergent architectural style, ^{especially such} close proximity to the Rotunda.

Brooks Museum

~~TL 367-83~~

Bruce

148

c1908 "partly rearranged to afford facilities for
add'l lectures + lab. work" 3rd?

Patton + Dowell (1900)

pgs 42-43

3rd upper hall: main part - zoological exhibit
3rd over lobby? also - botanical hall
2nd lower hall: galleries - mineralogical specimens
1st floor - geological collection
B? also a lecture room + laboratories

D^r Neal

2nd

1st

1949 - floor in 2-storey hall w/ gallery w/
~~cast~~ cast iron railings + columns

W. ped? arcaded 3?
2/1 or 2/2?

Brooks Museum

3-5, 3 x 6 bay

Eng base. w/ moat, ashlar stone found,
stone water table

5-c am

stone stringcourse bet 2 & 3

raised letters: Rogers, Dana, Agassiz, Audubon, Gray,
Hall, ^WWarner, Pliny, Humboldt, ^HHulley, St. H. Daire,
Darwin, Owen, De Candolle, ^LLinnaeus, Aristotle,
one per bay Lyell

H-shaped hip roof, ^{hexagonal} shaped slate,
wooden cornice, brick dentils, frieze, & architrave,
painted white

4 int. chim. set to ^{bet} ~~inside of~~ end, ^{& next} bays each side -
~~brick~~ ~~stone~~
~~cap~~ ~~stringcourse~~; above stone stringcourse
all but NE ^{has} 2 joined stacks of narrow inset panels,
brick stringcourse & corbelled cap

pend bays of side elevations:

1-2 level round-arched w/ window area recessed
~~stone~~ ^{stone} arch springing fr stone stringcourse ^{midway on 2nd level}
~~stone~~ ^{stone} animal gargoyle on keystone; stone
pilaster base ^{arched}
pr seg-headed 2/1 w/ stone keystone 1st
pr ² ~~2~~ ^{circled} headed 2/2 2nd
3rd - pr seg-headed 2/2 under stone ^{arch}
fr stringcourse (midway on upper sash)
animal gargoyle
on corner pilasters w/ scalloped stone capitals
above stringcourse

basement - pr 2/2

shallow ped ^{cut} gable w/ brick dentils,
painted white

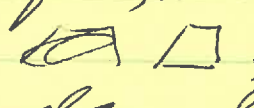
~~windows base~~

center bays, side elevations

- 1st & 2nd - pilasters of stone bases, capitals, & round arches w/ ^{plain} keystones frame each bay.
- 1st - seg-headed $2/2$, stone sill bet pilasters, moulded trim, arch w/ stone keystone
- 2nd - shorter circular-headed $2/2$
- 3rd same pilasters carry Γ arch w/ plain keystone tall seg-headed $2/2$

rear (W) elevation

- 1st & 2nd - arcaded w/ bays recessed bet round arches w/ stone keystones; pilaster treatment only at corners
- 1st - ~~no~~ seg-headed $2/2$, arch of stone keystone
- 2nd - shorter " " "
- center bay⁽¹⁾ - ~~2~~ ^(new) doors, each w/ ^{tall} seg-headed 2-l transom, over bridge over moat
- " (2) - ~~round-headed~~ ^{circular-headed} ~~pr~~ $2/2$
- 3rd - as at 1st, but seg-arched seg-headed $2/2$, ~~pr~~ in center basement door in 5 bay

~~Notes~~
sheltered skylight
doormen - 2 on W (centered), over side bays on E
hip-roofed, basically
face , 1 set in as skylight
in plane of roof
trapezoidal skylights w/ clipped gabled hoods

E facade

side bays at 1-2 level = end bays on side
center bay projects, shallow pediment

1st level - pr tall doors w/ moulded dec,
circ-headed panel above (was fan?)

set within round arched recess;

pink ~~marble~~ polished granite columns w/
variation on D capitals every stone
arch w/ simple keystone

stone steps to landing, then flights to NW
and level - stone plaque "1876"

3rd " - as side bays, w/ single wind,
scalloped pilaster, no gargoyle
tower, w/ fine iron cresting

interior

ent. hall across E end

4-fl open stair to top of 5th end

door to "2" on 1st landing & below 3rd floor
acorn sawn dec applied side, handsome V-br
balusters & newels, stair splays out at bottom,
acorn finials & pendants
winsect

trim all painted dk reddish brown, except
balustrade in natural

plaster plaque over door "Lewis Brooks
Hall of Natural Sciences"

moulded trim, windows set in rect. recesses

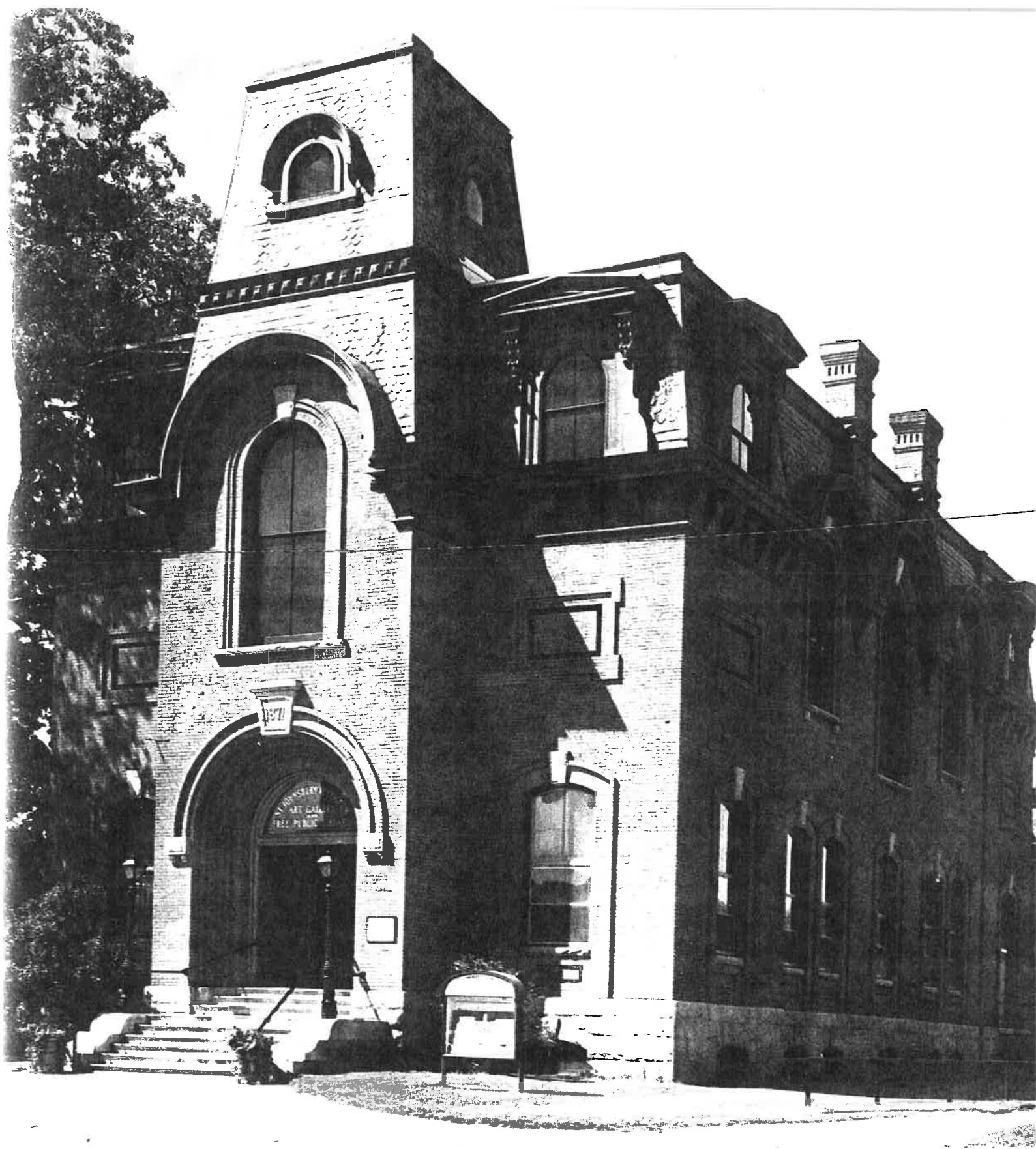
great hall - coupled fluted 7 columns still
there where supported balcony

2nd floor now miserably bland & makeshift

{ windows on 2nd upper landing, & 4th flight
open on both sides

3rd & 2nd - i.e., re-done

1-fl basement stair under, encl.



Pl. I. St. Johnsbury (Vermont) Athenaeum; designed by John Davis Hatch (1826-1875). The library was completed in 1871 and the art gallery, at the rear, in 1873. Color photographs are by Helga Photo Studio.

ample, might have attracted him for the depiction of the sort of wagons that were weighed on his patented scales. And the fact that he was president of the Vermont division of a railroad that ran from Portland, Maine, to Ogdensburg, New York, could

have spurred his interest in Jasper Cropsey's *Autumn on the Ramapo River* (see Pl. III), which had been entitled *Autumn on the Ramapo—Erie Railway* when it was exhibited at the National Academy in 1876.⁷

Worthington Whittredge's *On the Plains, Colorado* (Pl. V) is recorded in the Athenaeum's catalogue as having been painted to order. The artist was a close friend of Fairbanks and nominated him for membership in the Century Association in New York City.

Located northeast of the Rotunda, it faces east, away from the University.

~~Arch Design~~

Brooks Museum

(officially Lewis Brooks Hall)

The Brooks Museum is a roughly rectangular structure with end pavilions projecting slightly beyond the central block on the side elevations

3 stories tall + 3 bays wide by 6 bays ~~long~~ ^{long}

~~It is set on an English basement
excavation around the ashlar stone foundation
leaves the English basement room~~

It is set on an English basement of ashlar granite with a stone water table.

Wall construction is of brick laid in 5-course American bond.

The H-shaped hipped roof is covered with hexagonal slate. ~~The slopes of~~ ~~over~~ the steepest pitch is steep over the end pavilions, but low over the large central block. There are shallow pedimented gables over the entrance in the central bay of the ~~eastern~~ ^{facade} (eastern end) & over the projecting end pavilions on the side elevations. The roof has a wooden cornice & brick dentils, frieze, & architrave, all painted white. Two small ~~skylights~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~roof~~ dormers on each end of the building prove, on closer inspection, to be trapezoidal skylights sheltered by clipped-gabled hoods.

Four ornate chimneys with ^{stone stringcourses &} coupled stacks with narrow inset panels, ~~corbelled~~ ^{corbelled} stringcourses, & corbelled caps, ~~set above a stone stringcourse~~ are set between the end pavilions & the central block.

The exterior fenestration & wall treatment reflect the original interior arrangement of a 2-storey exhibition hall with a ~~storey of classrooms above~~ ^{one-storey hall above fl.}. A stone stringcourse between the 2nd & 3rd storey levels bears the names of great scientists in raised letters.

~~Four small chimneys~~

~~Letters: Darwin, Wallace, Huxley, Lyell, Huxley, Lyell, Huxley, Lyell~~

The side bays of the eastern facade & the end pavilions on the side elevations are recessed at the 1st & 2nd storey level beneath ^{the} ground arches. ~~of stone~~ There are stone animal head gargoyles on the keystones of these stone arches, the most memorable feature of the entire building.

Beneath ~~the~~ ^{each arch,} there are a pair of segmental-headed, ~~double-sash,~~ ^{2-over-2 light} windows at the first storey level, & a ^{shorter} circular-headed pair of ~~shorter~~ ^{shorter} ~~2-over-2 light~~ windows at the second.

At the 3rd storey level, there are corner pilasters with scalloped stone capitals. ~~There is~~ ^{There is} a pair of ~~segmental-headed~~ ~~2-over-2 light~~ windows beneath a stone stilted segmental arch with an animal gargoyle.

Most of the windows are segmental-headed, double-sash, 2-over-2 light, with stone sills. Those at the 1st & 3rd storey levels are ^{about} the same height, while those at the 2nd storey & basement levels are shorter.

There are some circular-headed windows ~~at the~~ set under round arches at the second storey level.

On the side elevations of the central block, the bays at the 1st & 2nd storey levels are framed by pilasters with stone bases & capitals & round arches.

There is a single ~~segmental-headed~~ window at the ~~each~~ ~~1st storey~~ level. ~~as a shorter circular-headed window at the 2nd storey level.~~

Pilasters between the bays at the 3rd storey level carry stilted segmental arches framing tall ~~segmental-headed~~ windows.

The central entrance bay of the eastern facade projects slightly & is surmounted by a Mansard tower roof with ^{delicate} fine iron cresting, as well as by a shallow pediment.

Very tall double doors with applied moulded decoration & a fanlight (now ~~replaced with~~ closed) are set within a round-arched recess & framed by ~~two~~ polished pink granite columns with ~~capitals~~ capitals of vaguely Romanesque derivation carrying a stone arch with a simple keystone.

A dramatic stone staircase with a low moulded stone rail & flights rising from the north & south ~~to~~ a landing gives access to the main entrance.

a stone plaque above the door bears the date "1876". There is a single segmental-headed window at the 3rd storey level.

The western elevation of the building is arcaded, with the bays recessed beneath round arches with stone at the ^{1st & 2nd} storey levels ~~at the 2nd & 3rd storey levels~~ ~~at~~

keystones. ~~There~~ There are 2 doors with tall segmental-headed 2-light transoms in the ^{central} bay, with a circular-headed pair of windows above them at the second storey level.

The 3rd storey level is also arcaded, but with segmental arches.

A 2-storey entrance hall with a grand staircase occupies most of the eastern end pavilion.

The open-well stair rises ~~in 4 flights~~ to the 3rd storey in 4 flights. It has a handsome, heavy Victorian balustrade with acorn finials & pendants.

A plaster plaque over the entrance is inscribed "Lewis Brooks ~~at~~ Hall of Natural Sciences".

~~Under all interior~~ All woodwork except the balustrade has now been painted dark reddish brown.

The ~~grand 2-storey exhibition hall~~ was surrounded

^{originally} a gallery with cast iron columns & balustrade ~~was~~ ^{in the central block of the building.} ran around the 2-storey grand exhibition hall. That has now been floored over, but the columns remain in the 1st storey room.

LANDMARK



SURVEY

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GRAPHICS

174 (L.)

174 (R.)

CONDITIONS

Average

SOURCES

Patton & Doswell, The University of Virginia (1900)

