

## JOHNSON HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

### Historic Resource Addendum

By Lee Copeland

March 31, 2003

#### HISTORY

Johnson Hall was completed in two phases, the first in 1930 and the second, the southern wing, in 1948. The concrete frame and brick veneer clad building contains 121,573 square feet. The architect for the building was John Graham.

The site for the building was conceived as a part of a 1920's Science Quadrangle plan prepared by Bebb and Gould. Johnson Hall and its partner across the vista, Physics, now Mary Gates Hall were conceived as the architectural frame for Rainier Vista after it crosses Grant lane. Their generous setbacks also provide opportunities for landscaping, enhancing the vista. Both buildings sit on raised podiums facing the vista.



Johnson Hall East Elevation, September 2001



Johnson Hall honors the versatile career of Orson B. Johnson, professor of the multiple disciplines of physiology, botany, zoology, biology, mineralogy, geology, chemistry and natural philosophy. Today the Hall houses the geological sciences and includes research laboratories, classroom laboratories, general classrooms and offices. (Source for these first two paragraphs: "the campus guide, University of Washington, An Architectural Tour" by Norman J. Johnston, page 55, Princeton Architectural Press, 2001.)

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING**

The east façade of the building frames the western side of the Rainier Vista between Grant Lane to the north and the Drumheller fountain to the south. Two wings, one at the north end and one at the south end extend west and form a courtyard on the west side of the building. While the main wing paralleling the Vista has a sloped slate roof, the two wings have flat roofs behind parapets.

Mary Gates Hall faces Johnson Hall across the Vista. Constructed in 1928, architect also John Graham; it is similar in scale, profile, roof line, materials and detailing to Johnson Hall. This building has been renovated and added to recently. The renovations adhere to the original. However, the detailing, entrances, bays and windows of the two buildings are not identical and were never intended to be. The entrances to the two buildings are designed differently and are in different locations except for the entrances at the southern corners of both buildings which are at similar places.

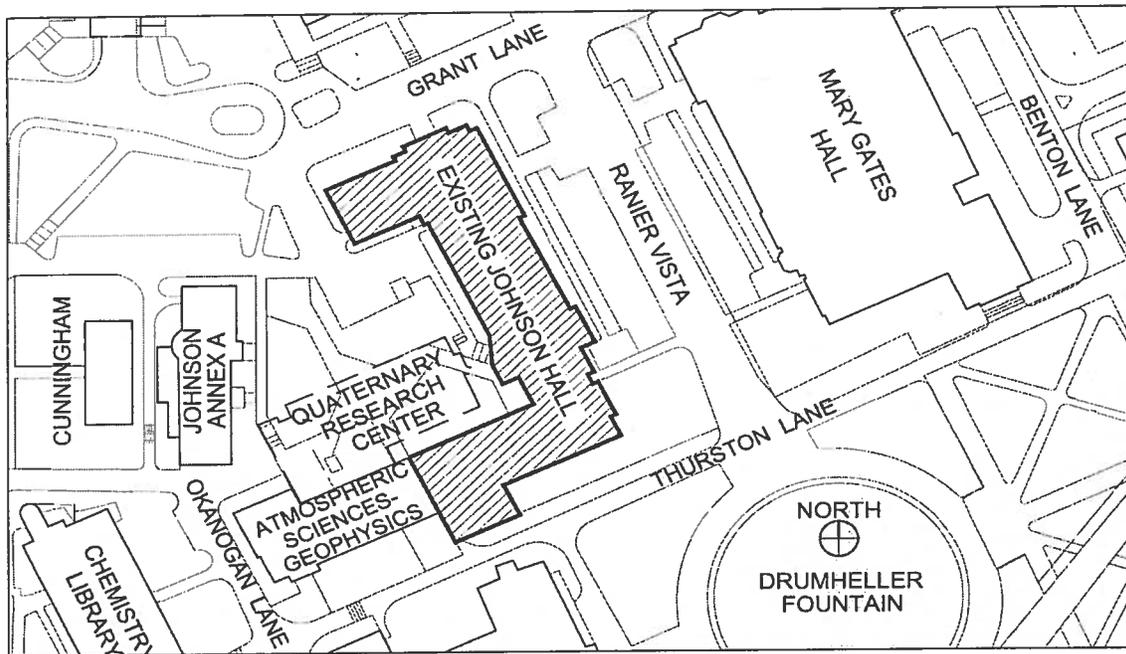
Both Johnson Hall and Mary Gates Hall are of a Collegiate Gothic style.

Attached to Johnson Hall to the west are the Atmospheric Sciences-Geophysics Building and the Quaternary Research Building (Which also extends under the courtyard on the west side.) These buildings were constructed in 1970 and 1973 and are contemporary, as is the attachment to Johnson Hall. There is an entrance to Johnson Hall at the southwest corner included in this new attachment.

There is an entrance to Johnson Hall at the southeast corner accessible from the podium and a wooden stairway leading up from a path which extends out to the Vista. This stairway was added, is of a temporary quality and is not part of the original. It may have been added when the podium which extended across the vista to the Physics was removed in 1936. This entrance is not universal accessible either from the exterior, nor the interior, as there are steps from the podium to the entrance and from the entrance lobby to the main floor.



## General Site Adjacencies



The exterior of the building is as originally designed and constructed with slate sloping roofs, brick cladding with stone detailing around all openings, windows and entrances, copings, and at the tops of the exterior walls. Unlike Mary Gates Hall across the way, the brick cladding does not include any patterning. There are occasional masonry medallions. All windows include small panes with mullions.

The interior of the building was remodeled in the late 1960's or 1970's and does not retain any of what might have been original detailing, ceilings or lighting, except at the entrance doors from the exterior.

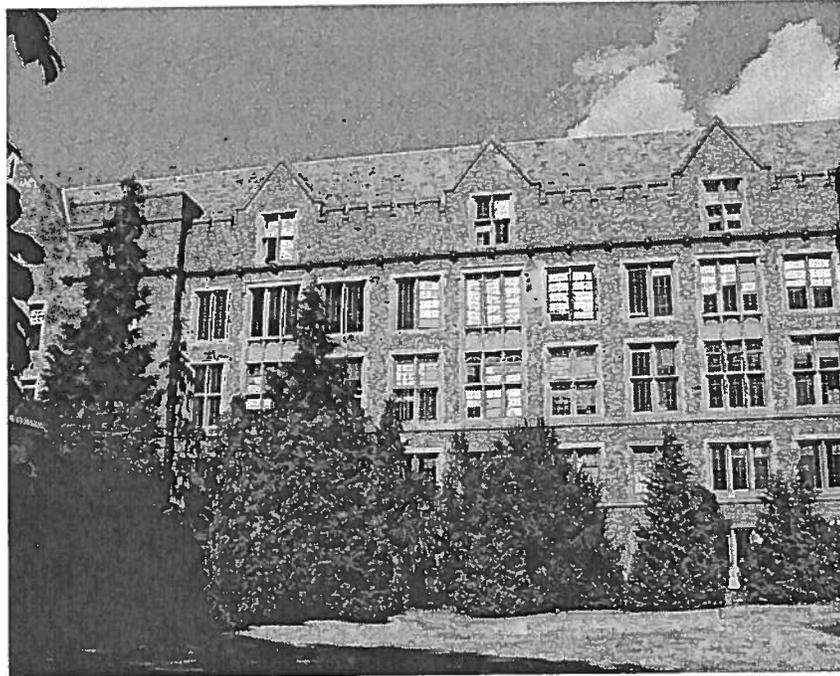
## LANDSCAPE AND OPEN SPACE

Johnson Hall is surrounded on three sides by major pedestrian pathways. Thurston Lane is a well used pedestrian pathway. The courtyard space includes asphalt surfaced pathways serving the entry to Johnson Hall, to the Quaternary Research Center and to Atmospheric Sciences, Geophysics Building. The entry to Johnson Hall at Grant Lane serves the majority of users and is universal accessible.

The existing Rainier Vista and Drumheller Fountain open space areas and view corridors are significant. The landscaping, plant materials and paving materials are not original and have been modified over the years. Site walls of brick and cast stone are compatible with the original Johnson Hall and may or may not be original.



The open courtyard space west of Johnson Hall is enclosed by the three wings of Johnson Hall, the Atmospheric Science and Geophysics Building and the Johnson Annex. The courtyard and landscape has been modified over the years and is currently divided



between passive open space uses on the south side of the area and service uses on the north side (including some service access and parking) bisected by a row of conifers. Grade changes and vegetation define the space on the north side.

### **SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED RENOVATION**

The renovation will address seismic, health, safety and code requirements and ensure the long-term preservation of the facility. Teaching laboratories will be upgraded to provide students with basic functions and access to modern equipment. Research laboratories will be provided with upgraded power, plumbing and ventilation systems. All of the building mechanical, plumbing, electrical and architectural systems will be replaced or updated to meet current code requirements and to extend the useful life of the building. Special systems will be installed to support the use of environmental chambers, lasers, mass spectrometers and perchloric fumehoods. Energy conservation measures along with sustainability concepts will be incorporated into the design to minimize long-term utility and maintenance costs. Modular and flexible layouts will be used wherever possible to allow for future modifications as teaching and research needs change.

If required, masonry will be replaced in kind. Flashing will be replaced and/ or repaired in kind. If windows are replaced it will replicate the existing. It is not anticipated to replace the existing slate roof.

### **POTENTIAL MITIGATION MEASURES**

Should it be required to replace the existing windows they will be replaced with windows of the same scale and modulation as the existing. Any replacements of exterior materials



will be the same as the existing. If a new stairway is constructed to replace the existing, not original, wooden stair in the southeast corner it will be compatible with the existing podium it is connecting to. If a new entrance is provided in the southern wing at the ground level it will be compatible with the surrounding existing materials and detailing.

The upgrading of mechanical systems and addition of new systems will require increased ventilation and roof top mechanical units. These units will be located and/ or screened to minimize visibility from surrounding open spaces and buildings.

Other renovations will not affect the exterior therefore no further mitigation measures are anticipated.

Renovation of the interior will not impact any original components as they do not exist except at the interior of entrance vestibules. In those places original materials and detailing will be preserved or replaced as necessary.



Barbara Foster

---

**From:** O. Yang [oyang@u.washington.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2003 7:32 PM  
**To:** Barbra Foster  
**Subject:** Historic Resource Addendum - Johnson Hall (fwd)



Johnson  
storic Reso

pls print for me thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 21 Oct 2003 09:20:05 -0700  
From: Jon Lebo <jlebo@u.washington.edu>  
To: 'O. Yang' <oyang@u.washington.edu>  
Cc: 'John Palewicz' <palewicz@u.washington.edu>  
Subject: Historic Resource Addendum - Johnson Hall

Hi,

Attached is the Historic Resource Addendum for Johnson Hall.

Jon Lebo

