

Buffalo State College ♦ Buffalo, NY

Rockwell, Ketchum, Bacon, Theater Arts, Upton, South Wing, Twin Rise

Original architect:

- Rockwell, Ketchum, Bacon, Theater Arts: State of New York Department of Public Works, Division of Architecture (1928)
- Upton Hall: James William Kidney & Associates (1959)
- South Wing and Twin Rise: Kidney, Smith & Fitzgerald (1964)

Building owner:

- Buffalo State College

In collaboration with:

- State University Construction Fund
- DiDonato Associates Engineering and Architecture, P.C.
- Preservation Architecture
- Sienna Environmental Technologies, LLC

Building description:

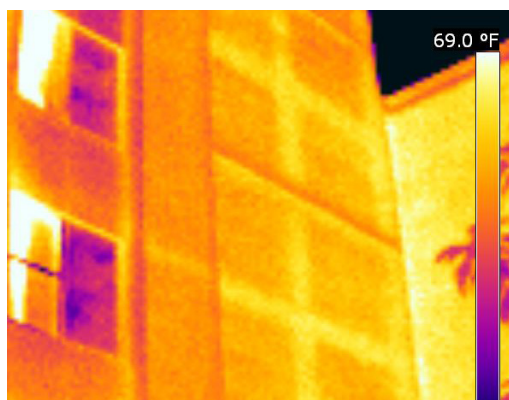
The original quadrangle of the current Buffalo State College campus is formed by Rockwell, Ketchum and Bacon Halls and the Theater Arts Building. These four buildings were designed in 1928 as the first buildings of the new campus. All four buildings have load-bearing masonry exterior walls with steel roof trusses and reinforced concrete floor slabs. The exterior façades of the four buildings are constructed of brick in Flemish bond coursing, with limestone trim used at the windows, cornice and entryway surrounds. Rockwell Hall is distinguished by a 145-foot tower that rises above the portico entryway on the east façade. The tower has a square base constructed of brick, which steps in at a balcony level. Above the balcony, the tower is clad in painted copper sheet metal, including the octagonal lantern at the top of the tower that is capped with a finial and weathervane.



Rockwell Hall



Theatre Arts Building



South Wing infrared image

Upton, Twin Rise and South Wing are newer additions campus, built to the northwest and west of the original quadrangle. Upton is comprised of three wings. The five-story west wing has brick end walls on the east and west façades and a curtain wall consisting of aluminum windows, granite spandrel panels and limestone cladding at the columns on the north and south façades. The exterior façades of the other wings are clad primarily in brick, with horizontal bands of windows at each floor and corrugated sheet metal running between the second floor windows and the edge of the roof. Like Upton Hall, Twin Rise and South Wing have a concrete structural frame. The exterior façades are comprised of brick masonry with pre-cast concrete window jamb panels and cornice units. Slate panels are used at the end walls of Twin Rise and the spandrels of South Wing.

Scope of work:

- Investigated and documented existing conditions of the exterior masonry and windows on all seven buildings using a combination of aerial platforms and industrial rope access techniques.
- As part of the investigation, VA utilized several nondestructive testing techniques and tools, including infrared thermography, a wall-tie locator, an ultrasonic thickness gauge and a borescope.
- Deliverables for the project included a condition survey report for each building comprised of photographs, annotated AutoCAD drawings and a spreadsheet of condition quantities, prepared using VA's Tablet PC Annotation System (TPAS™).

Photos by Vertical Access