

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

VL R: 02/26/79 NRHP: 06/19/79

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN **HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS**
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Main Hall - Randolph-Macon Woman's College

AND/OR COMMON

Main Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2500 Rivermont Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lynchburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE

Virginia

CGDE

51

COUNTY

(in city)

CODE

680

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER *Dormitory*

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Trustees - Randolph-Macon Woman's College c/o Dr. Robert A. Spivey

STREET & NUMBER

Randolph-Macon Woman's College

CITY, TOWN

Lynchburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24503

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

Lynchburg City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Lynchburg

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Main Hall of Randolph-Macon Woman's College sits majestically on a small hill at 2500 Rivermont Avenue in Lynchburg. Designed by the Washington architect William F. Poindexter, the central-hall-plan, brick edifice is an important example of the Queen Anne style as adapted to collegiate architecture.

Integral to the development of the college, the building was erected over a twenty-year period between 1891-1911. The central entrance tower and eastern wings were constructed between 1891-1893. Two additional wings were added to the west in 1896. With the erection of a wing to the west in 1899, the building was completed according to the Poindexter plan. In 1911 an annex was added to the rear (north) of the entrance pavilion. Further additions and renovations were made to the north elevation in 1936. Although not part of the Poindexter plan, an East Hall (1903) and West Hall (1906) are connected to Main Hall by arcades.

Located on the south elevation, the entrance tower's first story contains a one-story, flat-roof veranda, topped by a brick parapet. The portico is supported by six pairs of brick square columns set on high brick pedestals. The veranda shelters an outer transom-light doorway with complementing sidelights. An interior doorway contains a semicircular fan-light transom. The tower's second story features paired 1/1 hung-sash windows set below elliptical brick arches with pronounced archivolt trim. Elongated diamond-pane windows set below smaller round-arched, diamond-pane casement windows complete the tower's fenestration. The top of the tower is elaborately delineated by pronounced brick pilasters flanked by wooden volutes. The tower is topped by a parapet wall and capped by a classically inspired wooden cupola, crowned by a finial. The corners of the entrance tower are delineated by three-story bay windows which are topped by domical lanterns.

The entrance tower is flanked by four-bay wings of three stories. The facade's fenestration consists of 2/2 hung-sash windows in a variety of treatments. The wing's first story has transom- and sidelight-framed, hung-sash windows. The second story contains elliptical-arch windows with sidelights. The third story consists of flat-arch windows topped by pedimented gables which project from the roof of the structure. A single bay of three stories connects the paired wings to eastern and western wings, and the facade is executed in five-course American bond.

A part of the first (1891-93) building campaign, the easternmost wing consists of an L-shape-plan building covered by a cross-gable roof. The wing is dominated by a five-story corner entrance tower. The tower's first story is sheltered by a porch supported by brick piers and set on a high podium. The tower features flat-arch windows on the second story and round-arch windows on the third story. An observatory is located on the fifth story, defined by an iron rail and covered by a domical roof. The wing's fenestration includes transom-headed windows on the first story and flat- and round-arch windows respectively on the second and third stories. A two-story bay window projects from the south elevation.

The eastern wing comprises Main Hall's east elevation which consists of a three-part arcade with pronounced archivolt trim. The second story consists of flat-arch windows with pronounced keystones, and the third story has round-arch and flat-arch windows with pronounced keystones. A row of gables breaks the roof line. A classically inspired arcade connects the eastern wing to the Psychology Building, erected in 1903 as "East Hall".

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The western wing was built in 1896 with an addition made in 1899. The wing contains a corner entrance tower of four stories. Covered by a tent roof, the tower features a portico similar in execution to that found on the eastern wing. Fenestration is comprised of transom-headed windows on the first story and gauged-brick, flat-arch windows with pronounced keystones on the second story. The third story is composed of semicircular arched windows with pronounced keystones. A round window with pronounced keystones defines the attic story.

The addition of 1899 is Main Hall's west elevation. Fenestration on the first story consists of transom-headed windows framed by segmental arches. The second story has flat-arch windows with pronounced keystones. The third story contains segmental-arch windows. A classically inspired arcade, similar to that on the east elevation, connects Main Hall to the English-Art Building of 1906.

The building's north elevation is dominated by four parallel wings which extend to the north. A wooden porch shelters a rear first-story entrance. The wing's hip-roof line is broken by dormer windows along the eaves course. A Colonial Revival-style tower of three stories projects between the western wing and a middle wing. Fenestration between the wings consists of segmental-arch windows with transoms on the first and third stories. Pedimented gables line the eaves course.

The middle wing, original to the Poindexter plan, was first modified in 1906-07 by the enlargement of the chapel to seat approximately 800 persons. In 1911 the "Annex" was built, which enlarged the middle wing to the north and provided for additional dormitory and classroom space. The chapel's fenestration is Colonial Revival in style and consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows topped by semicircular fan lights. Parallel to the middle wing is a six-bay wing added during a 1934 renovation. The wing is used as a dormitory and administrative offices.

The eastern wing was constructed as part of the first building campaign of 1891-1893. A one-story, shed-roof addition projects to the north. Fenestration consists of hung-sash, segmental-arched windows. A row of gables breaks the roof line.

The plan of Main Hall is a simple one. A long passage runs east-west through the center of the building and intersects with another central passage entering from the south front. The central passage contains paired lateral stairs that ascend to the third floor. All subsidiary rear wings run off to the north of the east-west passage.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION

Main Hall's first floor contains administrative offices to the east and classrooms and lounges to the west. The main college dining room is located in the central wing off the main entry hall. The entrance hall contains a large formal parlor, the result of a 1934 renovation which opened the space formerly occupied by a small parlor, narrow entrance hall, and business offices. Dormitory space is provided on the second and third floors. The old college chapel, currently used for storage, occupies an auditorium on the second floor. The original organ is still in place, although the original seating has been removed.

The front lawn has always been landscaped by the college and retains a number of original trees and plantings. The front entrance, a circular drive with a complementing brick sidewalk, continues to serve the college. A small brick wall defines the perimeters of the college along Norfolk and Rivermont Avenues.

Although not part of the original Poindexter plan, the present Psychology Building (1903) and English-Art Building (1906), are connected to Main Hall by arcades and provide a complement in material and scale to the college's first building. Both buildings are constructed of brick and covered by a hip roof with a row of dormers on the east and west elevations.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Main Hall, along with the English-Arts Building and Psychology Building, is located in the center of the Randolph-Macon Woman's College campus. They are bounded by Rivermont Avenue to the south; Presser Hall, Martin Science, East Hall and a college walkway to the east; Smith Memorial, West Hall, the college drive, and the college Chapel to the west; and Webb Hall and the Leggett Building to the north. Main Hall and its dependencies constitute the academic and residential heart of Randolph-Macon Woman's College. The lawn surrounding the Hall has represented the college campus since the hall was begun in 1891. The boundaries are drawn to exclude 20th-century buildings erected after West Hall in 1906 and those out of line with and not connected to Main Hall.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-1936 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William F. Poindexter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Main Hall was the first building erected as Randolph-Macon Woman's College after it was established on Rivermont Avenue in Lynchburg in 1891. The building constitutes the principal architectural element in a complex of buildings that serves as the academic and residential heart of the campus. Erected over a twenty-year period from 1891-1911, the building was designed by the Washington, D.C. architect William E. Poindexter.

Randolph-Macon Woman's College, the first college for women admitted to membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, was founded in 1891 under the original Randolph-Macon College charter of 1830 as amended. In 1820, and again in 1824, the General Conference of the Methodist Church meeting in Baltimore recommended to the various conferences that they establish "literary institutions" within their respective areas. In 1825 the Virginia Conference followed this recommendation and a charter was granted by the Virginia legislature in 1830 with specific provisions that the chartered institution not have theological professorships and that there be non-Methodists on the Board of Trustees. The operation of the college was to be by the Trustees, not the Methodist church. The institution, established at Boydton and later moved to Ashland, was named for two statesmen, John Randolph of Virginia (1773-1833) and Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina (1758-1837).

In 1890 the original charter was amended to permit the establishment of related institutions of learning. Dr. William Waugh Smith, then president of the men's college at Ashland, founded the woman's college in Lynchburg as a member of the Randolph-Macon system of educational institutions. The mission of the college was "to establish in Virginia a college where our young women may obtain an education equal to that given in our best colleges for young men." The Rivermont Land Corporation, which was developing the new Rivermont section of Lynchburg, gave 19.8 acres on Rivermont Avenue and pledged \$100,000 for the college with the proviso that an equal amount be raised to match the gift. Through the efforts of Dr. Smith and the generosity of the people of Lynchburg, \$104,000 was raised in thirty-four days. Dr. Smith served as president of both institutions from 1893 to 1897 after which time he devoted his full attention to Randolph-Macon Woman's College which he served until his death in 1912.

The building committee chose William Poindexter of Washington, D.C. as the architect. Poindexter received his early training as a draftsman in the office of the U.S. Supervising Architect in Washington. He established his own practice in 1878 and designed several important buildings in the capital city and throughout the South. Among his more important buildings are the State Library (now Finance Building) at Richmond, the Marine Hospital in Washington, and the Hall of History at the American University. Before rendering his plans for Randolph-Macon, he visited other women's colleges including Bryn Mawr, Goucher, Wellesley, Smith and the Renwick complex at Vassar. These led him to design a single dormitory and classroom building that could be expanded in future years. The rapid growth of the college required new facilities, and Poindexter's original plan was completed in 1899.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

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PAGE 3

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Poindexter's structure stands as one of the purest and most prodigious examples of the Queen Anne Style in the state. Developed in England in the 1870s under the leadership of Philip Webb and R. Norman Shaw, the Queen Anne was a freely interpreted revival of the architecture of the late 17th and early 18th centuries. In America it was used chiefly for residential structures, and so loosely did it follow historical precedent that the houses usually bore only the vaguest resemblance to the original models. Randolph-Macon, on the other hand, closely parallels contemporary English expressions, particularly in its use of red brick, Classical motifs, and picturesque massing and illustrates Poindexter's skill in adapting an otherwise intimate style to an enormous collegiate structure.

The college was officially opened in September of 1893 with 78 students. By the second year of operation, it was one of only sixteen institutions included in Division "A" of women's colleges in the country by the U.S. Commissioner of Education. Under Smith's direction, the college attracted an eminent faculty from many parts of the United States and Europe. It is believed to be the first college in the South to have had a psychology department laboratory. In 1916 Randolph-Macon became the fourth college in Virginia and the first independent woman's college in the South to receive a charter for a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter.

Among the college's most distinguished graduates was the Nobel Prize Winner, Pearl S. Buck. The school numbered 811 students in 1978.

It is a tribute to the planning of the first president, Dr. William Waugh Smith, and designs of the architect, William Poindexter, that Main Hall still continues to serve as the heart of the college.

MTP/RCC

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1978-79 Admissions Catalogue. Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, 1978.
 Book of Views. Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Lynchburg, 1914.
 Catalogue, 1978-79. Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, 1978.
 Cornelius, Roberta D. The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Chapel Hill, NC, 1950.
 Home Life at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, 1913.
 The Saga of a City - Lynchburg, Virginia. 1786-1936. Lynchburg, 1936.
 Students, Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Our College Home. Lynchburg, 1897.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

QUADRANGLE NAME Lynchburg, Va.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7	6	6	1	6	8	0	4	1	4	4	6	9	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 800' N of alternate U.S. Route 501, 3700' SE of the intersection of said route and U.S. Route 501 and 3200' S of James River; thence extending 500' ESE; thence extending 650' SSW to alternate U.S. Route 501; thence extending 400' NNW along N side of said route; thence extending 550' NNE to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

February 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 26 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

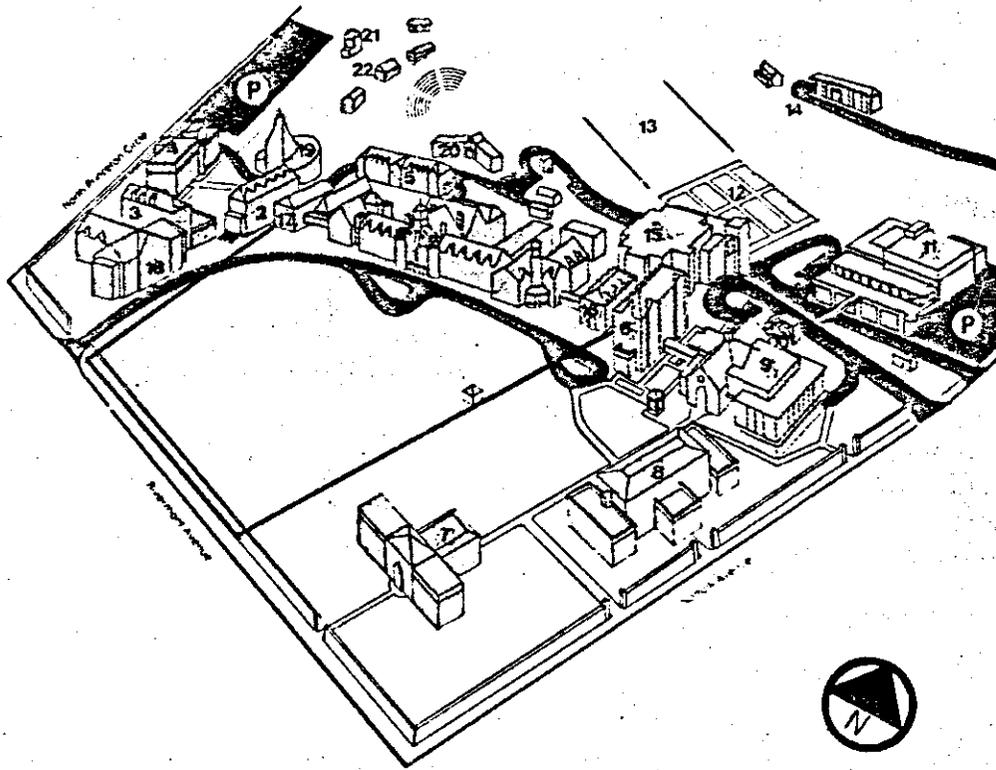
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

THE CAMPUS



— REGISTER BOUNDARIES

CAMPUS MAP INDEX

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 Main Hall | 12 Tennis Courts |
| 2 West Hall | 13 Athletic Fields |
| 3 Wright Hall | 14 Art Gallery |
| 4 Bell Hall | 15 Leggett Building |
| 5 Webb Hall | 16 Psychology Building |
| 6 East Hall | 17 English-Art Building |
| 7 Presser Hall | 18 Smith Memorial Building |
| 8 Martin Science Builgin | 19 Houston Chapel |
| 9 Lipscomb Library | 20 Terrell Infirmary |
| 10 Macon Bookshop | 21 Winfree Observatory |
| 11 Physical Education and Recreation Building | 22 "The Pines" Houses |
| | P Parking Areas |

SOURCE: RANDOLPH-MACON WOMAN'S COLLEGE
1978-79 Catalog
NOT TO SCALE

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24,000)
Lynchburg, Virginia 1963(PR1968)

MAIN HALL, Lynchburg, Virginia
UTM References:
17/661680/4144690

