

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

LISTED:  
VLR  
12/13/2012  
NRHP  
05/07/2013

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: North Court

Other names/site number: VDHR No. 127-0364-0003

Name of related multiple property listing:

The History and Architecture of the University of Richmond, 1834-1977

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 40 Westhampton Way

City or town: Richmond State: VA County: Independent City

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

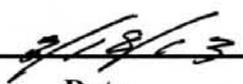
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national x statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A \_\_\_ B x C \_\_\_ D

	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/ College  
EDUCATION/ Education-related/ College Dormitory  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/ College  
EDUCATION/ Education-related/ College Dormitory  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/ Late Gothic Revival/ Collegiate Gothic

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE; CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Architect Ralph Adams Cram designed North Court, located on the current Westhampton campus of the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, in 1911. The large, elaborately detailed building exemplifies the Collegiate Gothic style popularized by Cram in the early twentieth century. North Court encloses a courtyard with one open corner on the northwest end. A large wing extends from the southwest corner of the building. Primary construction materials are brick, stone, and concrete. The building varies between three to four stories with organically arranged windows and openings characteristic of its Collegiate Gothic style. The building retains a high level of integrity that is reflective of Cram's design aesthetic for the University of Richmond.

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### Narrative Description

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

North Court is located on the southwest side of Westhampton Lake on the University of Richmond campus. Occupying a gently sloping lot, it is one of five buildings bordering a large open courtyard. South Court lies southwest of North Court's southern wing to form a side of the

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courtyard. Across the courtyard, Booker Hall connects to the Modlin Center for the Arts by a bridge over Keller Road to form the southeast edge of the courtyard. Westhampton Way and Keller Road outline the area and provide a boundary to the open northeast corner of the courtyard. North Court is set back from campus roads on a landscaped parcel with mature trees, shrubbery, and ornamental plantings. Brick walkways approach the building.

### **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

North Court is a Collegiate Gothic academic building that encloses a courtyard, with one open corner on the northwest end. A large wing extends from the southwest corner of the building. Rising from a concrete foundation, the walls are composed of Flemish bond brick. Variegated slate tiles cover the multiple gabled roofs. Cast and molded concrete embellishments are used extensively throughout the building. The main block has a parapet and projecting pediments, dormers, and an additive quality characteristic of Gothic Revival styles. North Court originally housed all spaces needed for students in the women's college including a dormitory, dining room, kitchen, administration offices, reading room, chapel, and classrooms. Programmatic changes to interior spaces and additions to North Court's building fabric reflect periods of fluctuation during Westhampton College's history.

#### *Central Tower:*

The main block and southern wing are joined by a four-story rectangular tower with a crenellated roof line, extruded corner piers, and geometric tile work. Concrete horizontal banding breaks up the large brick facade and extends into the interior of the passageway. Buttresses flank pointed arches on the first floor of the corner piers. The tile detailing above the two smaller pointed arches echoes the tiling on the central arch. Two smaller windows mark the landings between each floor. Above the main arch, a double height oriel window punctuates the facade and is flanked by one smaller window on each side. The rectangular tower includes a large pointed arch that provides access to a double height passageway and brick walkway that connects the eastern and western sides of the building. A triple groin vault constructed of brick in a herringbone pattern with concrete detailing forms the ceiling above the walkway. A metal lamp hangs from the center of each groin vault. Pointed arches with concrete detailing inside the walkway provide access to the adjoining wings of the building.

#### *Central Tower Interior:*

On the tower's interior, enclosed brick staircases can be accessed from the southern and western corner piers of the tower. The southern staircase is the only access to the tower's interior space. Extra storage space is located near the staircase on each floor. The third floor of the tower consists of a two-tiered student lounge with continuous seating located on the lower tier. The fourth floor of the tower is an open space divided by piers that run along the wall and ceiling.

#### *South Wing:*

The west facade of the south wing is divided into two sections by a smaller gabled bay. On the north side of the center gable is a set of three bays of aligned windows defined by a dormer. A similar composition is repeated twice on the southern side of the center gabled bay. An end gabled bay caps the composition and is extruded from the central mass.

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The southern end façade of the south wing consists of the end of the gable that caps the eastern and western facades. Three dormers with double windows extend from the gabled slate roof. Three sets of two double windows united by concrete surrounds and quoining run along the ground floor and are directly aligned under the dormers. The large auditorium on the northwest side of the central tower is visible from the southern end facade. Tall, thin triple windows line the sides of the auditorium with smaller triple windows at the basement level.

The east façade consists of three organically composed bays and six repeated bays separated by a smaller gabled bay. The use of double, triple, and quatro windows provide variety in the southern end of the facade. Six bays are repeated with a pointed arch arcade on the ground level, windows above, and dormers on the roof level. Concrete horizontal banding in varying widths divides the brickwork below the windows, which rest on a concrete cornice. A second concrete cornice runs above the windows.

*Southern Wing Interior:*

On the basement level, the hallway is pushed to the east side. Two staircases provide accessibility to four large classrooms that occupy the basement. The arcade on the ground floor leads to a small entryway which precedes three classrooms. The staircase located in the southeast pier of the central tower supplies accessibility to the men's and women's restrooms. The long ramp in the arcade provides ADA accessibility with a door at the end that leads to an entryway with access to stairs, mechanical room and a secondary hallway with two closets. At the end of this hallway, a small entryway space leads to a third staircase, another mechanical room, and two classrooms. On the second floor, the staircase in the southeast corner of the tower opens into a central hallway and men's and women's bathrooms. Nine faculty offices line the east side of the hallway with two faculty offices at the end of the hall, and two reading rooms on the west side of the hallway. A small history museum is located on the west side of the hallway. On the third floor, eight offices, an annex of four offices, and three rooms for storage border the periphery of the hallway, which is offset to the east side of the wing. Men's and women's bathrooms lie adjacent to the staircase at the end of the hallway.

*Main Block East Outer Facade:*

The main block's east outer facade is marked by a large asymmetrical gable, a multi-faceted section, and a larger end gable. Double, triple, and quatro windows are arranged organically throughout the facade. The gutter to the north acts as a vertical band making the gable section asymmetrical. The multi-faceted section with three gables, multiple windows and an elaborate passageway abuts the asymmetrical gable. A gable with parapet contains the pointed arch entrance to the passageway with decorative tile work that echoes that on the central tower. Just above, an oriel window on the second floor juts out from the central mass. A large chimney next to the third gable adds to the organic composition. A smaller chimney caps the end of the facade.

*Main Block North Outer Facade:*

The east portion of this facade is divided into two segments by a central gabled bay. A pointed arch wooden door is on the first floor with a large chimney on the east side that juts back. To the

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east of the central gabled bay, windows are arranged both singularly and in pairs united by a horizontal concrete banding to provide variety in the composition. A large space between the first and second bay further reflect the organic composition of the entire building. Below the west dormers, the windows are spaced irregularly and vary in type and composition. A wooden door on the ground floor surrounded by quoining is directly adjacent to the second gable which caps the end of the facade. Under the last gable a double window on the fourth floor is aligned with two double windows united by concrete horizontal banding on the second and third floors and a triple window on the first floor.

The west portion of the north outer facade is marked by a large, wide gable on the north end. The uneven topography reveals a basement level that is hidden in other areas of the building. The basement level includes an exterior staircase down from ground level to an offset wooden door and two double windows, one on either side of the door. A concrete cornice divides the facade into two at ground level. A double height window divided into seven is on axis with the center of the gable. Horizontal concrete banding begins at the roof line and extends up under the gable. A small pointed arch lancet window directly under the gable breaks up an expanse of brick. Adjacent to the large gable, a basement and one-story extension forms a corner of the courtyard. This extension is set back from the façade's plane and has five windows.

*Main Block South Outer Facade:*

The south outer facade is divided into two portions by a central rectangular stair tower that is pulled forward out of the central mass. Windows alternate up the stair tower, lighting each landing with additional windows on the third and fourth floor and two chimneys on the roof level. Five bays of windows are situated on the west side of this central stair tower, each defined by a dormer jutting out from the gabled slate roof. Double and triple windows are arranged on each floor. Oriel windows in this section supplement the additive quality of the building. To the east of the central stair tower is a pointed arch passageway which, although smaller in scale, echoes the geometric tile work and use of buttressing on the central tower. This passageway leads to the interior portion of the courtyard. Above the pointed arch passageway, three lancet windows with decorative concrete work above are on the second floor. A concrete horizontal band runs under the third-floor double window, which is offset from the center. To the east of the stair tower, a section with six bays abuts the pointed arched passageway. The section is divided into two by a central gabled bay. Each of the three bays to the east and two bays to the west of the gabled bay are defined by dormers. These bays are irregularly spaced along the facade. The gabled bay is further defined by drainage that runs from the third floor, near the roof line, down to the ground. An oriel window on the first and second floors of the easternmost bay caps the end of the facade.

*Main Block Courtyard Facades:*

The interior of the courtyard has four sides. Each side has additive features with jetting, gables, and dormers. The windows throughout the courtyard include single, double, triple, and double row windows. There are also parapet gables, oriel windows, horizontal banding, and a three bay arcade. Throughout the courtyard are pathways in a diagonal and square pattern with herringbone patterns on most of the walkways and diagonals, diamonds, and other geometric patterns in some of the intersecting squares.

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*Northwest Courtyard Facade:*

Four pointed arches form an arcade to connect office space and a performing arts hall to the dining hall. The dining hall facade consists of five tall windows. Two wooden double doors with a smaller window above cap the dining hall facade. Multiple steps up to the double doors with a landing and handrail are necessary due to the change in topography.

*Southwest Courtyard Facade:*

On the southwest portion of the interior courtyard facade, a shorter central gable divides the facade in half with three gabled bays to the southeast and northwest. Each of the six gables to the side of the central gable has a smaller single window dormer between two windows under each gable. The central gable is defined by a double height oriel window situated below a concrete cornice and subtle geometric tile work. Horizontal concrete banding extends under the gable to the bottom of the roof line. Each of the six gables varies in its composition. Throughout the facade, individual windows are united by decorative concrete surrounds. The gable directly adjacent to the southeast of the central gabled bay recalls some of the characteristics of the central tower. The first floor has a pointed arch passageway with checkered geometric tile work above and buttressing on either side of the pointed arch. A window on the second floor rests on top of the concrete banding above the tile work.

*Northeast Courtyard Facade:*

The northeast facade features a prominent gable on the northwest end with four bays to the east. A chimney to the northwest of the gable caps the end of the facade. Three windows under the gable provide light on each floor while two smaller windows light the landings of the staircase on the interior of the adjacent section to the east. Four dormers jut out from the roof to define each bay located east of the staircase. Each of the bays varies in composition, utilizing different groupings of windows on the first and second floors. A concrete cornice extends above the second floor windows and below the roof line. A concrete horizontal banding runs in two parallel lines across the bottom of the facade along the entire length of this facade.

*Southeast Courtyard Facade:*

A central gable, housing a pointed arch entryway and an oriel window on the second level, divides the southeast facade into two portions. The north portion has two gables, three dormers and a chimney. Five dormers break up the portion located south of the central gable. An oriel window on the second floor of the north portion and an extruded block adds an element of dimension to the facade. Window sizes differ and are arranged organically below the roof line.

*Main Block Interior:*

*First Floor:*

Adjacent to the passageway in the building's central tower, North Court's recital hall is accessible by an enclosed hallway. The recital hall is complete with audience seating, a raised stage with piano lift and a small mezzanine level. This enclosed hallway also provides access to dormitory rooms, southeast of the recital hall, and staff offices, northeast of the recital hall. One double and eight single dormitory rooms line the southeastern hall. A shared men's and a

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women's restroom serves all those residing in rooms along the hallway. The Blue Room, which has been used as a lounge and reading room throughout the building's history, and a staircase are at the end of this hallway. A glassed-in arcade leads to an annex of seven staff offices and a dining hall. Seven staff offices are currently in the annex with a men's and women's restroom. An interior staircase, which is accessible in the annex, provides the only means of accessing the recital hall's mezzanine. The reception hall at the end of the arcade has a segmental barrel vaulted ceiling with five circular chandeliers providing additional light overhead. The office annex was originally built as a kitchen to serve those eating in the dining hall.

Across the courtyard, thirteen single rooms and seventeen double rooms are arranged along a U-shape hallway. Five bathrooms are interspersed throughout, complete with shower or tub stalls. A passageway cuts the U-shaped hallway down the middle. Four staircases punctuate the floor plan and provide access to specific areas on the second floor.

#### *Second Floor:*

On the second floor, nine double and three single dormitory rooms are situated directly adjacent to the mezzanine level of the recital hall. One men's and one women's bathroom are located at the north and west ends of the recital hall. Six other bathrooms are shared among the residents on the rest of the hallway. Twenty-three double rooms and eight single rooms are organically arranged around the u-shaped hallway. Double and single rooms are defined by their number of closets. Some of the double rooms also contain historic (although non-functional) fireplaces. A lounge on the northwest side of the hallway provides an extra study space for residents.

#### *Third Floor:*

The lounge space in the central tower connects to the six double dormitory rooms and single bathroom on the third floor. The three double rooms and a bathroom are adjacent to the gabled roof line of the recital hall. These rooms are only accessible via the recital hall's staircase. Seventeen double rooms and six single rooms are situated along the u-shaped hallway. On the southern end of the hallway, the rooms are on both sides. Along the western and northwestern portions of the u-shaped hallway, all dormitory rooms are on the interior of the courtyard. A small storage space lies on the exterior of the courtyard.

#### *Fourth Floor:*

An open lounge is situated on the fourth floor of the central tower and connected to dormitory rooms by a narrow hallway. Five single rooms and four double rooms are directly adjacent to the central tower. Each of these rooms utilizes a dormer on the outer southern facade of the courtyard. One bathroom serves all residents living on the fourth floor.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1912-1963

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1948

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Cram, Ralph Adams

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

North Court is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A (Education) for its association with the development of Westhampton College (which together with Richmond College became the University of Richmond in 1920) and for offering higher education opportunities for women at a time when institutions primarily catered to men. The building also is significant at the statewide level under Criterion C (Architecture) for its Collegiate Gothic architecture at the hand of prominent architect Ralph Adams Cram of the Boston and New York firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson. Cram, the head architect for the university's new Westhampton campus during the early twentieth century, employed the Collegiate Gothic style that had gained national popularity at other campuses such as West Point, Princeton University, and Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve). While Cram's original campus plan was never fully realized due to financial constraints, Cram's legacy remains in the original seven buildings built to his designs and his Collegiate Gothic aesthetic that has guided campus architecture to the present day. The period of significance begins in 1912, the year construction began on North Court, and ends in 1963, the traditional fifty-year cutoff date for historic properties that continued to have importance. North Court continues to be a landmark building in the heart of the University of Richmond campus today.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The University of Richmond's roots extend back to the mid-nineteenth century and the establishment of Richmond College, an all-male institution. During the early twentieth century, as Richmond College expanded and prepared to relocate to a new campus, college officials began considering the creation of a women's college. The new campus was located in suburban Richmond and its name, Westhampton, was derived from a nearby real estate development. In 1914, the women's college took the same name. Richmond College and Westhampton College combined to become the University of Richmond in 1920.<sup>1</sup> Originally, Westhampton College was housed entirely in the building now known as North Court. The building included dormitory, classroom, administrative, and dining facilities.

Higher education opportunities for women at the University of Richmond extend back to the late nineteenth century. Almost immediately after being appointed Richmond College president in 1895, Frederic W. Boatwright advocated expanding the school to include women students. He had witnessed the level of inequality between men's and women's higher education in his time as a professor at the Woman's College, a junior college in Richmond, and publicly supported quality education for women throughout his career. Boatwright allowed non-matriculating

<sup>1</sup> Claire Millhiser Rosenbaum, *A Gem of a College: The History of Westhampton College, 1914-1989* (Richmond, Virginia: William Byrd Press, 1989), 12-19.

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female students to attend classes at Richmond College during the late 1890s and urged the Board of Trustees to allow women to pursue degrees. The Board of Trustees hesitated, as many people found higher education for women to be controversial. Boatwright, however, was not alone in his opinion of the value of women's education. In 1903, the Baptist General Association of Virginia adopted a resolution instructing the newly created Baptist Education Commission to begin planning for the establishment of a women's college. In 1904, the Education Commission conducted a campaign for \$250,000 which the Commission would use to establish a college for women and give financial relief to existing Baptist schools. Many schools put in offers, including Rawlings Institute in Charlottesville and Bristol's campus of Southwest Virginia Institute, but Richmond College's proposal was the one selected by the Education Commission in 1906.<sup>2</sup>

With the addition of a women's college, Boatwright saw an opportunity both to expand women's education and to enhance Richmond College. Planning soon began to relocate Richmond College to a new location and to find an appropriate location for the women's college. In 1910, the Board of Trustees voted to move Richmond College to a 293-tract in Richmond's western suburb, Westhampton, and to erect, on adjoining ground, buildings for the women's school.<sup>3</sup>

During planning for the new campus at Westhampton, Boatwright traveled through the Midwest looking for a model college that educated both men and women. In the process, he was exposed to the Gothic Revival architectural style, which would later be adopted for the Westhampton campus. Gothic Revival style (also referred to as Collegiate Gothic when used on institutions) had its roots in British schools such as Oxford and Cambridge. Of the many colleges Boatwright visited, he favored the suburban campus of Western Reserve University, now Case Western University, in Cleveland, Ohio. He found that the women's and men's colleges shared several buildings, such as the library, auditorium, and science laboratories, but each also retained its own buildings and identity as a separate college.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the coeducational campus organization, Boatwright may have been attracted to the Gothic style architecture of the women's college, which was housed in a large, multi-purpose Gothic building.

Boatwright and the Board of Trustees enlisted prominent architect Ralph Adams Cram of the Boston and New York-based firm Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson to design the Westhampton campus. After his conversion to Anglo-Catholicism in 1887, Cram asserted that the Gothic style, and its inherent moral truths, had been lost and needed restoring.<sup>5</sup> Cram had used the style at institutions including Princeton University, the United States Military Academy at West Point, Williams College, and religious buildings including the chapel at St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island, and the cathedrals at St. Albans in Washington, D.C. and St. John the

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<sup>2</sup> Rosenbaum, 12.

<sup>3</sup> Jennifer Hugman, Peter C. Luebke, Amy Moses, and Marc Wagner, *The History and Architecture of the University of Richmond, 1834-1977*, Multiple Property Documentation Form (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, December 2011), 4.

<sup>4</sup> Edwin J. Slipek, Jr., *Ralph Adams Cram: The University of Richmond and the Gothic Style Today* (Richmond, Virginia: Marsh Art Gallery, 1997), 22.

<sup>5</sup> Slipek, 21.

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Divine in New York.<sup>6</sup> The Collegiate Gothic style allowed him to correlate the architecture and values of the medieval past to the campus architecture of the twentieth century. Using the Gothic style in his campus designs also allowed Cram to create a unified aesthetic for a collection of buildings that differed in use. Whether the building housed science laboratories or administrative offices, the Gothic style could be adapted.<sup>7</sup>

Groundbreaking for the women's college and Richmond College began in July 1911, and construction of the main building was completed in the summer of 1913. The two schools were separated by Westhampton Lake, which continues to be a prominent landscape feature. The name Westhampton College officially was adopted on March 8, 1914. Westhampton College (now North Court) was constructed in accordance with the architect's specifications, which included handmade dark red brick with blue, gold, and black tile inlays and the finest quality marble and slate. Substantially constructed with a framework of steel set in concrete, the building boasted floors built of reinforced concrete. The Tower stood as the dividing line between the residential and academic wings. In the residential wing, the "Blue Room" corridor was the location of reception rooms, rooms for college organizations, and the offices of the Dean of Westhampton College. The dormitory section included the structure around the court, which was turfed with sod removed from the campus. The dining hall and kitchen were in the wing across from the arch. The dining room was English style with vaulted ceilings of dark wood. The balcony which overlooked the dining room was used as a passage for the kitchen workers, who were housed upstairs in what later became known as the "Rat Hole." The third floors were left unfinished.<sup>8</sup>

Although the intent for a complete campus was demonstrated in Cram's plans, the building campaign was plagued by lack of funds and resulted in a scaled-down 1914 plan with many buildings reduced in size or eliminated completely. Cram's seven original buildings at the Westhampton campus nevertheless came to define Collegiate Gothic as a style for the campus architecture as a whole. All were built between July 1911, with the groundbreaking for Westhampton College, and August 1914, with the completion of Brunet Memorial Hall and the steam plant. Westhampton College (North Court), completed in the summer of 1913, was the closest approximation of Cram's monastic cloister ideal. The wings of the building formed a partially enclosed cloister around an English courtyard.

On opening in the fall of 1914, Westhampton College enrolled 82 women: 38 residential and 44 commuting. The building was designed to accommodate 135 students, meaning that enough residential space was available in the college for a number of faculty members to live there as well. The presence of faculty members living in the dormitory helped establish the friendly relationship between students and faculty, an important part of life at Westhampton College. The women's student body increased steadily, however, and more space soon was needed. The third

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<sup>6</sup> W. Harrison Daniel, *History at the University of Richmond* (Richmond, Virginia: The University of Richmond, 1991), 79.

<sup>7</sup> Slipek, 26.

<sup>8</sup> Rosenbaum, 22.

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floor of the building was finished as dormitory rooms, and dormer windows were added. Boatwright moved out of his quarters which were then renovated for student use.<sup>9</sup>

Women's sports arrived in 1916 at Westhampton College under the supervision of Dean Mary L. Keller and Fanny G. Crenshaw. Initially, the Tower in North Court was used by students for indoor exercises, although some students claimed they got all the exercise they needed by racing to catch the "old black bus," a cart drawn by two mules that transported Westhampton College students to the Number 9 streetcar that brought students downtown. No gym was planned for the women. Keller and Crenshaw, after surveying likely spots, decided that the top Tower room would do for calisthenics. When that proved less than satisfactory, the following year they used the barn below the power house.<sup>10</sup>

The United States entered World War I in 1917. The following June, the federal government leased the entire Westhampton campus for use as an evacuation hospital for 13 months. Wounded soldiers who had been transported from France by ship to the naval facility at Norfolk were then sent by train to Richmond. Westhampton College (North Court) was designated General Hospital #2. Cots lined every room and hallway. Other rooms were used as diet kitchens, store rooms and offices. The parlors and reading rooms were turned into wards. The chapel and old Latin classroom became operating rooms. The dining room and kitchen retained their purposes. The women's college students converted the drawing room into a reading room for the use of soldiers, and collected books and subscriptions to magazines for the soldiers' use. South of the college, near the site of the Modlin Fine Arts building, the Red Cross erected a building to use for a recreation hall for the soldiers; after the war, this building was converted to house a gymnasium and other facilities for Westhampton College. Meanwhile, during the 1918-1919 academic year, Westhampton College's operations returned to Richmond College's old campus within the City of Richmond. Students were housed in rented quarters in St. Luke's Hospital at Harrison and Grace Streets and in residences on Franklin Street and Monumental Avenue. Their classes were held at the campus on Broad and Lombardy streets. Richmond College and Westhampton College returned to the Westhampton campus for the opening of the academic year in the fall of 1919.<sup>11</sup>

In 1920, after an amendment to the charter, the name "University of Richmond" was extended to cover Westhampton College, Richmond College, and the affiliated T.C. Williams School of Law. The total number of students exclusive of the summer session at that time was over 1000.<sup>12</sup> The men's and women's colleges were not fully integrated, however, for a number of years. For example, the library in Ryland Hall on the men's campus could be used by first and second year Westhampton College students, but only at certain hours. Thus, a reading room was established in Westhampton College (North Court). The appropriate materials were kept on reserve shelves.

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<sup>9</sup> Rosenbaum, 23; University of Richmond, "North Court," (<http://urhistory.richmond.edu/architecture/northcourt.html>).

<sup>10</sup> Rosenbaum, 29; University of Richmond.

<sup>11</sup> Rosenbaum, 30-31, 36; University of Richmond.

<sup>12</sup> Reuben E. Alley, *History of the University of Richmond, 1830-1971* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977), 174, 183.

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At first, the reading room was located in the office of the Dean's secretary, but by the second year, more space was needed, and it was moved to the third floor of the Tower. Elizabeth Gaines, a 1919 graduate of Westhampton College, was appointed the reading room's first librarian. Along with academics, Westhampton College students maintained academic, social, and service organizations separately from those at Richmond College. During the 1920s, a dedicated alumni network contributed to fundraising efforts to build additional facilities shared by the student bodies at both colleges, including science laboratories, an open-air theater, and a chapel. The distinctions between the two campuses were slowly breaking down.<sup>13</sup>

During the 1930s with the onset of the Great Depression, the student enrollment dropped at Westhampton College. Expenses for the 1930-1931 college year for a student residing in college buildings varied from \$515 to \$585 according to the size and location of the student's room. High prices caused students to transition to enrolling as day students. Lowered residential enrollment meant less money for the school to accommodate its students. Funds for student programs and publications also became scarce. The University of Richmond was, however, able to proceed with several construction projects for which funds already were in place, including a third science laboratory building and a gymnasium. Enrollment at Westhampton and Richmond Colleges began to rebound by the late 1930s.<sup>14</sup>

As happened during World War I, campus life at Westhampton College changed with the United States entry into World War II in 1941. Much of the male student body departed for military service, but in July 1943, 400 U.S. naval officer candidates arrived at the university for training. Westhampton College students devoted considerable effort to wartime activities, including plane spotting, Victory gardening, bandage rolling, Red Cross first aid classes, and scrap metal drives. Unlike the preceding war, campus buildings were not converted for use as a hospital.<sup>15</sup>

Improved economic circumstances meant enrollment at Westhampton College almost doubled during the war years, and plans for construction of a new women's dormitory were announced in December 1944. Located south of the original Westhampton College building, this new facility was named South Court upon its completion in 1948. At that time, the original building assumed its present name, North Court.<sup>16</sup> North Court continued to house many of Westhampton College's functions, including dormitories, classrooms, offices, a dining hall, and a refectory.

Academics at Westhampton College subsequently evolved in keeping with rapidly changing educational trends in the nation at large. Academic offerings for women students diversified, and campus facilities became increasingly coeducational through the 1950s and 1960s. In 1969, the charter of the University of Richmond was modified so that the school was less dependent on the Baptist General Association. A major financial donation from E. Claiborne Robbins substantially improved the university's financial condition. In 1972, under the oversight of university

<sup>13</sup> Rosenbaum, 24, 38-43; University of Richmond

<sup>14</sup> Rosenbaum, 49, 57.

<sup>15</sup> Rosenbaum, 66-69.

<sup>16</sup> Rosenbaum, 74.

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president E. Bruce Heilman, the school began a reorganization to begin coeducation. In 1975, a single administrative unit was established to coordinate admissions for all of the schools and colleges that comprised the University of Richmond. The separate faculties also merged, with the last being the merger of the Richmond and Westhampton College English departments during the 1978-1979 academic year. The addition of the 1976 Tyler Haynes Commons building, which stretched across the lake, linked the two campuses architecturally and symbolically as the two schools had become a single institution.<sup>17</sup>

Use of spaces within North Court changed with the times as well. The women's dining hall remained in use until the early 1980s, when a new central dining hall was constructed that brought together male and female students together for all their daily meals. The former dining hall in North Court continues to be used for special gatherings. Meanwhile, the space that had been the women's chapel when the building was completed in 1914, and then served as a refectory starting in 1919, was converted into a recital hall, a use that continues today. Refurbished in 1989, the recital hall's dark red seats are modeled after those in the Carpenter Center of Richmond. The hall was renovated again in 1989 and renamed the Perkinson Recital Hall in honor of Byrd Boisseau Perkinson and William H. Perkinson. Today Perkinson Recital Hall is home to many music department events, including student recitals, lectures, and rehearsals. The venue seats approximately 150 audience members; two pianos and one of the department's harpsichords are available for rehearsals and performances. Dressing rooms and a green room are located backstage. In 1988, North Court was renovated as part of a \$2.25 million project to upgrade heating, air conditioning, security, and the fire alarm system. New landscaping, lighting, ceilings, furniture, paint, carpet, windows, doors, and laundry facilities were installed. An exercise room was built in the North Court basement and the recital hall received an upgrade. The former kitchen was renovated in 1990 and became space for the religion department. Currently North Court also houses the classics, philosophy, and education departments, as well as the Governor's School for Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts.<sup>18</sup>

### Multiple Property Documentation

North Court is being listed in the National Register under the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *The History and Architecture of the University of Richmond, 1834-1977*. North Court is being listed in the National Register under the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPD), *The History and Architecture of the University of Richmond, 1834-1977*. A general historic context covering the educational and architectural history of North Court is found in sections E and F of the MPD. It is recommended individually eligible in the Property Type Registration Requirements of Section F.

<sup>17</sup> Rosenbaum, 11; Alley, 256-259.

<sup>18</sup> Rosenbaum, 128, 130; University of Richmond.

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City of Richmond, VA  
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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Alley, Reuben E. *History of the University of Richmond, 1830-1971*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977.

Daniel, W. Harrison. *History at the University of Richmond*. Richmond, Virginia: The University of Richmond, 1991.

Hugman, Jennifer, Peter C. Luebke, Amy Moses, and Marc Wagner. The History and Architecture of the University of Richmond, 1834-1977, Multiple Property Documentation Form. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, December 2011.

Rosenbaum, Claire Millhiser. *A Gem of a College: The History of Westhampton College, 1914-1989*. Richmond, Virginia: William Byrd Press, 1989.

Slipek Jr., Edwin J. *Ralph Adams Cram: The University of Richmond and the Gothic Style Today*. Richmond, Virginia: Marsh Art Gallery, 1997

University of Richmond. "North Court."  
<http://urhistory.richmond.edu/architecture/northcourt.html> (accessed September 2012).

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

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Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA; University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR No. 127-0364-0003

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.928 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.575934 | Longitude: -77.542358 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

Or

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

North Court occupies an irregularly shaped lot on the University of Richmond campus that is recorded as Parcel no. W0230008002 by the City of Richmond, Virginia. The historic boundary coincides with the lot lines (see attached parcel map).

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary encompasses North Court and its immediate environs, and follows the lot lines associated with the building since its construction in 1911.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Jessica Lankston and Lena Sweeten McDonald  
organization: Department of Historic Resources  
street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue  
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23221  
e-mail lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov  
telephone: 804-482-6439  
date: October 1, 2012

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

**The following information is common to all photographs:**

Name of Property: North Court

City or Vicinity: Richmond (Independent City) State: Virginia

North Court

Name of Property

City of Richmond, VA

County and State

Photographer: Jessica Lankston

Date Photographed: June 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 16. Southeast Façade of South Wing and Southwest Façade of Main Block, camera facing northwest.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0001.

2 of 16. Southeast Façade of Tower, camera facing northwest.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0002.

3 of 16. Southeast Façade of South Wing, camera facing southwest.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0003.

4 of 16. Northwest End Gable of Main Block, camera facing southeast.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0004.

5 of 16. Northwest Elevation of Main Block, camera facing southeast.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0005.

6 of 16. Northeast End Gable of Main Block, camera facing southwest.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0006.

7 of 16. Southeast End Gable of Main Block, camera facing northwest.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0007.

8 of 16. Courtyard Northwest and Southwest Elevations, camera facing east.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0008.

9 of 16. Courtyard Northwest and Northeast Elevations, camera facing south.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0009.

10 of 16. Courtyard Northeast Elevation, camera facing southwest.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0010.

11 of 16. Courtyard Northeast and Southeast Elevations, camera facing west.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0011.

12 of 16. Recital Hall Interior, camera facing southeast.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0012.

13 of 16. Dining Hall Interior, camera facing northeast.

VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0013.

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14 of 16. "Blue Room" Interior, camera facing northeast.  
VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0014.

15 of 16. Typical Dorm Room, camera facing southeast.  
VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0015.

16 of 16. Student Lounge on Third Floor of Tower, camera facing south.  
VA\_Richmond\_NorthCourt\_0016.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**North Court, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA**



North Court  
University of Richmond  
Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0003

Location Coordinates:  
Latitude: 37.575934  
Longitude: -77.542358

Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Southeast Elevation  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0003



Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Southwest Elevation within Courtyard  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0003



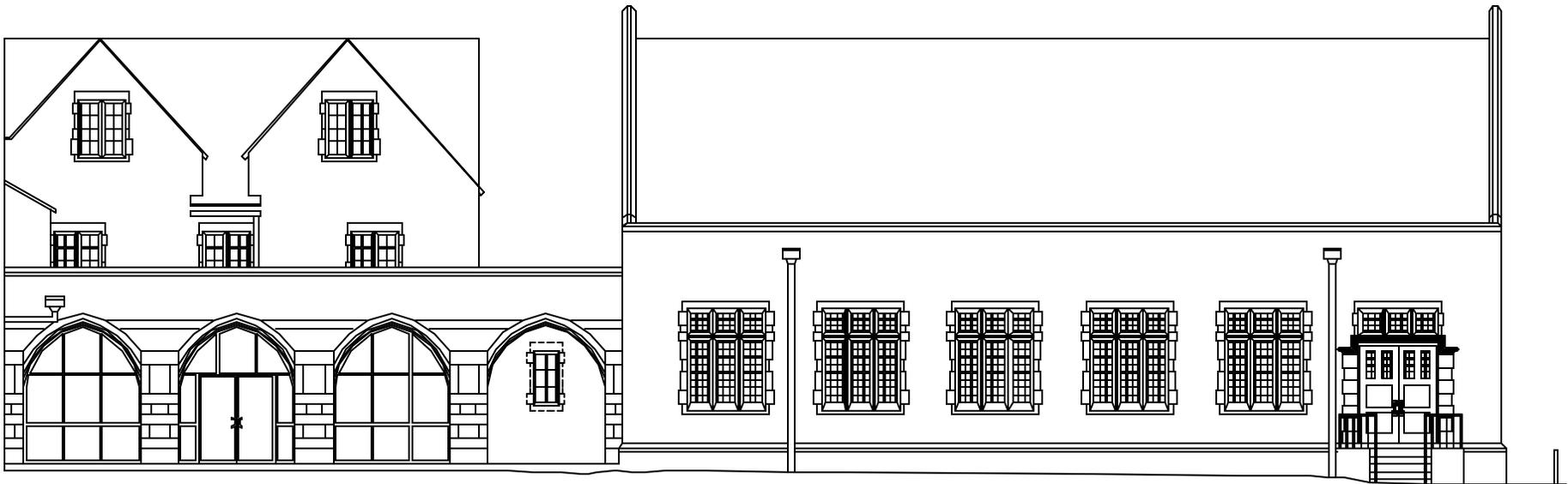
Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Northwest Elevation within Courtyard  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0003



Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Northeast Elevation within Courtyard  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0003

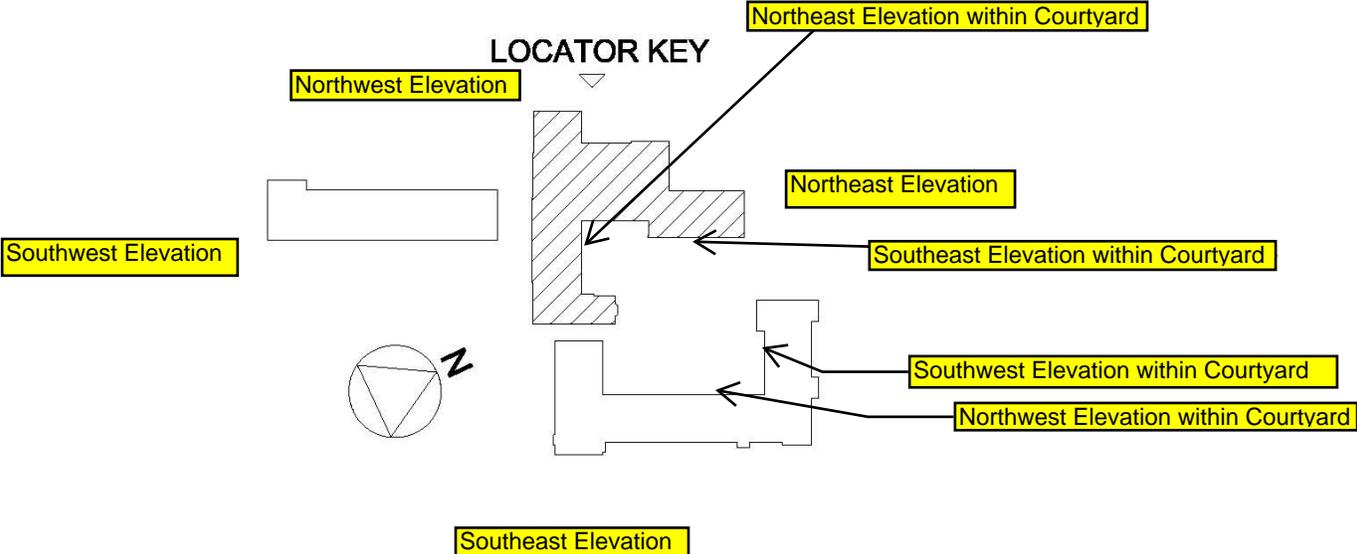


Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Southeast Elevation within Courtyard  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0003



North Court  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0003

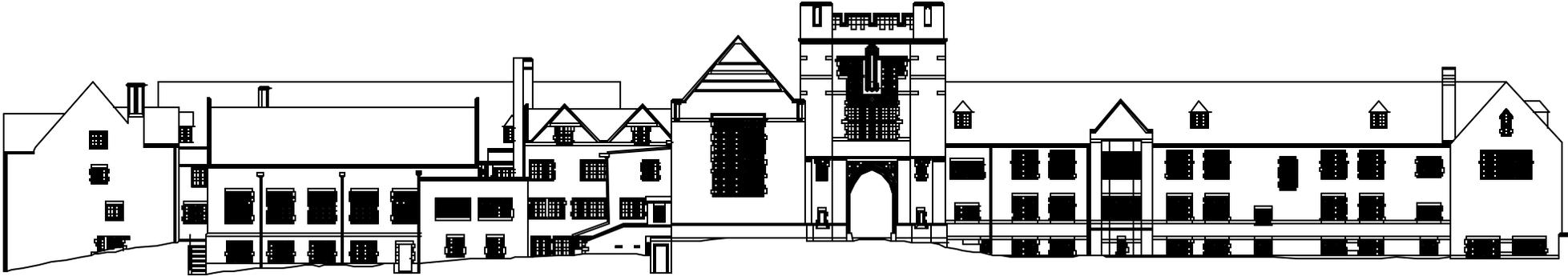
Key to Exterior Elevations



Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Southwest Elevation  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
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Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Northwest Elevation  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
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Elevation Drawing  
North Court - Northeast Elevation  
University of Richmond  
City of Richmond, VA  
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