

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: Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel

Other names/site number: VDHR file no. 127-0364-0009

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: 36 Westhampton Way

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

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

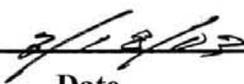
I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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:

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

 _____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	 _____ <b>Date</b>
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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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>1</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</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.)

RELIGION/Religious Facility/Chapel

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Religious Facility/Chapel

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Auditorium

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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

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE; BRICK; METAL/ Steel; STONE/ Slate

### 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

Designed by architect Charles M. Robinson, the Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel is located on the current Westhampton campus of the University of Richmond campus in Richmond, Virginia. Completed in 1929, the building is a fine example of Late Gothic Revival architecture. Cannon Chapel is a nave plan with a generally rectangular footprint. An altar area is within a telescoping gabled projection at the south (rear) end of the building. The chapel is oriented on a roughly north/south axis, with the primary façade facing north. Primary construction materials are brick, stone, and concrete. Character-defining features include a symmetrical façade highlighted by a rose window and cast concrete pinnacles, pointed arch windows, elaborate cast and molded concrete embellishments, and, on the interior, a soaring, vaulted ceiling and original woodwork. During the mid-1980s, new stained glass windows were installed as part of a renovation project. Overall, the building retains a high level of integrity. A columbarium and a memorial garden are on the east side of the chapel. Added in 2002, the columbarium and memorial garden are non-contributing resources as they were added after the period of significance.

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## Narrative Description

### Site Description

Occupying a gently sloping site, the Cannon Chapel is situated a short distance southeast of Westhampton Lake, which divides the university's campus approximately in half, and is north of Westhampton Way, one of the principal thoroughways on campus. The chapel stands at the eastern edge of University Forum, which is a circular plaza used for a variety of university activities and events. The Gottwald Center for the Sciences stands southwest of the chapel, and the Wilton Center is a short distance to the east. Mature trees and landscaped grounds surround the chapel. The chapel is accessed by a brick walkway that leads from University Forum to a circular garden directly in front of the building. The patio is encircled by manicured shrubberies and flowerbeds. A flight of brick steps leads from the garden to a brick-paved platform that leads to the primary entry. On the east side of the chapel, the columbarium and a memorial garden are enclosed by a brick wall.

### Chapel (1929; Contributing)

Rising from a concrete foundation veneered with concrete incised to look like cut stones, the walls are constructed of steel frame clad with red brick laid in Flemish bond. The entries have original doors of paneled wood with iron detailing. A large rose window highlights the primary (north) façade and Gothic pointed-arch and lancet windows are found on the remaining walls. The window openings on the east and west elevations have stained glass replacement windows with concrete tracery (installed during the 1980s).<sup>1</sup> The front-gabled roof is sheathed with variegated slate tiles. A rectangular apse at the back of the chapel also has a slate-covered gabled roof. The eaves of the roof are trimmed by brown metal gutters that drain to brown metal downspouts. Rooftop elements are restricted to parapets that mask portions of the roof on the front (north-facing) and back (south-facing) walls of the building. A rich deployment of original stone and molded and cast concrete decorative elements is a character-defining feature of the building. Pinnacles at the east and west ends of the primary façade, window and door surrounds, drip molds, belt courses, and accents on brick buttresses all were constructed using molded concrete. Concrete quoins of varying sizes are located at the edges of walls and around some windows and doors. Other concrete features include decorative reliefs and sculptural elements in foliate and other patterns above doors and windows and at the corners of walls on all sides of the building; these typically mimic quatrefoil or other designs found in Gothic tracery.

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<sup>1</sup> Historic photographs of the original stained glass windows are not available, but the original architectural drawings indicate that a rose-style window was planned for the façade, double-hung sash for the side elevations, and double-hung and casement sash for windows in the rear gabled projection. Specifications for the stained glass designs were not included in the drawings.

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On the main block, the primary (north) façade features symmetrical composition, with a centered entry block on the first story, a rose window above the entry, double foil arch and opening in the gable, and a cross on top of the gable. The projecting three-part entry block consists of a centered entry with a heavy stone parapet and flanking bays. Quoins accent each corner. The entry features double-leaf, original wood doors surmounted by a molded concrete surround and pointed arch. In the tympanum are two pointed arches, each containing cinquefoil and leaf ornamentation flanking a blank shield. Quatrefoil ornaments flank the pointed arch. Above the pointed arch, a stone carving that reads “Cannon Memorial” in stylized Gothic lettering spans the entry bay, and is flanked by trumpet-playing angel reliefs. This name block is topped with a gabled parapet that has three foil arch reliefs. To either side of the entry, recessed bays include small windows with stained glass panels and concrete drip molds and quoin surrounds. Above each window is a span of carved reliefs with two foil arch reliefs at each corner. Similar windows are on each side wall of the entry block. Extending up from the corners of the projecting central bay are two spires. Resting on two-story brick buttresses with concrete accents, the spires are cylindrical with sculpted pinnacles.

Set within a slightly projecting bay, the rose window has twelve foil arch traceries radiating from the central circle. The stained glass was installed in the rose window during the mid-1980s. Quoins define the edges of the bay. Above the rose window are two stone belt courses with a row of eleven stone foil arches between them. Each foil arch has brick infill and triangle-shaped buttresses divide them. Stone finials cap each buttress. A brick parapet with concrete coping tops the primary façade. Three concrete belt courses define the gabled peak, with the double foil arch and opening centered beneath the peak.

The east and west walls of the chapel are each composed of eight bays with a concrete water table extending the length of each wall. The northernmost bay on each wall is mostly brick with a slender single-foil arch window highlighted by a molded concrete drip mold, quoins, and sill. Each of the middle six bays contains one window with molded concrete surrounds, perpendicular tracery, and foil arches. A buttress topped with battered concrete accents separates each bay. In each window, the replacement stained glass panels were designed by Brenda Belfield of Alexandria, Virginia, who also designed windows for the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The theme for the windows is “Let All the Universe Praise Thee, O God.” From north to south, the stained glass windows on the east wall are titled “Praise” (installed 1985), “Law and Justice” (1986), “Commerce and Industry” (1986), “Creation” (1987), “Prophets” (1986), “Incarnation” (1986), and “Redemption” (1986). From north to south on the west wall, the windows are titled “Prayer” (1985), “The Sciences” (1985), “Art and Humanities” (1987), “University Window” (1986), “Hope and Renewal” (1985), “Pentecost” (1986), and “Resurrection” (1985).<sup>2</sup> On the east and west walls, the southernmost bay projects from the plane of the wall and is capped with concrete coping.

On the west wall, an entry bay projects from the fourth bay, beneath the stained glass window. Accessed via a brick wheelchair ramp, the entry is similar in style and ornamentation to the primary entry on the north façade. Double-leaf, original wood doors are surmounted by a molded

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<sup>2</sup> University of Richmond, “Chapel Windows.”

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concrete surround and pointed arch with a large cinquefoil design. Above the pointed arch, a gabled concrete parapet bears a centered blank shield flanked by leaf ornamentation. At each corner is a relief of a kneeling angel.

Extending from the chapel's south (rear) wall is a telescoping gabled extension. On the east and west sides, a one-story section extends from the southernmost bay of the chapel's main block across three-fourths of the rear block's side walls. The brickwork and concrete water table on the one-story sections match the main block. Each section has four bays, with the northernmost consisting of an entry with a single-leaf, original wood door topped with a rounded concrete arch and quoins, and a metal light fixture centered within the arch. A low concrete stoop accesses each door. South of the entry bay are three windows of various sizes, each featuring a sash with clear glass panes and Gothic style metal tracery. The second bay has a tall slender window. The third bay has a slender single window, not as tall as the adjacent opening to the north, and the fourth bay has a pair of windows. The windows feature concrete drip molds, quoins, and sills, and are connected by drip molds. At the top corner of each one-story section is a pair of single-foil arch reliefs. Concrete coping defines the roof's edge.

Above the one-story section, the east and west walls of the rear block each have a centered window opening featuring three replacement stained glass panels, each with a foil arch. The window openings are accented with concrete drip molds, quoins, and sills. Unlike the replacement stained glass windows on the main block of the chapel, the two rear windows do not appear to be titled. A brick buttress with concrete accents is at the north corner of the rear block's east and west walls. At the south corners, there are brick buttresses topped with a concrete spire. The spires are much smaller in scale but match the style of those on the north (primary) façade.

The rear (south) wall of the chapel has battered brick buttresses at each corner, each with concrete accents. A sloped, slightly projecting bay topped with concrete incised to look like stone is between the buttresses. A concrete water table extends the length of the wall. Immediately below the water table, at the ground level are two vents and one small window, each with a simple concrete surround. The window appears to be original to the building, while the vents likely were added at a later date to accommodate mechanical systems. Above the slightly projecting bay is a large, pointed arch window. The window has paneled tracery consisting of foil arches interspersed with trefoil designs, with a concrete arch, drip mold, quoins, and sill. The 1941 stained glass window has been covered with a metal panel placed beneath the tracery and attached directly to the window sash. A vent is in the top gable, with concrete belt courses running immediately above and below the opening. The parapet roof has concrete coping.

### *Interior Description*

Cannon Memorial Chapel is a nave plan with a center aisle, small side aisles, and an alter area. The narthex and small rooms to either side are contained within the entry block on the north façade. The narthex features original paneled woodwork, historic-period tile flooring, and a plaster ceiling featuring a raised geometric pattern. Double leaf, paneled wood doors lead to the

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nave. Within the nave and to either side of the narthex doors are single-leaf wood doors. The east door opens to a prayer room, while the west door leads to the chapel guild room.

The interior of the chapel features a soaring, vaulted timber ceiling supported by arch braces. Wood pews flank the aisles. Carpet covers the aisles while the remaining flooring is wood. The space is lit by stained glass windows on all sides. A cast concrete molding runs around the entire interior space just below the bottom edges of the pointed arch windows. The area below the molding has been painted to look like blocks of stone in varying shades of tan. Raised wood panels with molded surrounds are beneath each window and include a name plate with a dedication for each window. Above the molding are white plastered walls.

The chancel features a pointed arch composed of cast concrete that is incised and painted to look like cut stone. In 1941, Dr. Douglas S. Freeman and his wife donated a stained glass window that was a copy of Holman Hunt's "Christ, the Light of the World" in memory of their mothers, Mary Tyler Goddin and Bettie Allen Freeman. This window was centered on the south wall, but was removed during renovations in 1976. A raised wood platform, also added in 1976, leads to the altar, choir area, and a pipe organ that dominates the south wall. To either side of the apse, paneled wood doors lead to small closets and the groom's room and bride's room. On the west side of the apse, an enclosed straight flight of stairs leads down to a partial basement with a restroom, meeting room, and mechanical room.

### *Pipe Organ*

In 1936, a Hammond electric organ was installed in the chapel. In 1961, the present pipe organ was constructed. The German organ builder, Rudolph von Beckerath, prepared the drawings, and the University's music director, Dr. John White, and the University organist, Professor Suzanne Kidd (later, Bunting) guided negotiations. The organ pieces were fabricated in Hamburg, Germany, then shipped to Richmond in 36 crates. Three German workmen from Hamburg installed the instrument in nine weeks under White's and Bunting's supervision. Von Beckerath supervised the final installation and voiced the pipes. The third Beckerath organ in the United States, it has 1,200 pipes (40 ranks) of tin, lead and wood, the largest measuring 16 feet, the shortest being smaller and thinner than a soda straw. A direct connection between each key and each pipe creates the sound. Robert Noehren played the dedicatory organ concert on Feb. 9, 1962. Within a short time the von Beckerath organ became known to organists in Europe and America as one of the finest installations in the country. The organ is included in "A Collection of Noted Organs and Organists of the World," by H.J. Winterton.<sup>3</sup>

### *Chapel Renovations in 1976*

A major renovation of Cannon Chapel took place in 1976. Russell Bailey of the architectural firm Bailey and Gardner prepared preliminary sketches for the project. The acoustics were improved by removing felt covering from the perimeter walls and placing carpet over the tile

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<sup>3</sup> University of Richmond, "University History: Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel"; University of Richmond, "Henry M. Cannon Memorial Chapel."

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flooring. The roof, windows, front stairs, and walk received repairs. New lighting, heating, ventilation, and public address systems were installed. The renovation budget was not sufficient to install central air conditioning, but a forced air circulation system was installed. Several pews were removed from the front rows of the chapel, allowing the chancel to be reshaped by building the aforementioned wood platform in their place. At the same time, the choir loft was restructured to have a capacity of 80 people. Wood paneling was extended around the organ case that contains the pipes. In addition, on the interior, the 1941 stained glass window was left in place, but covered, during the renovation as much of it was obscured by the organ pipes. The window opening with the original Gothic tracery continues to be visible on the exterior of the building.<sup>4</sup>

### **Memorial Garden (2002; non-contributing site)**

A memorial garden is on the east side of Cannon Chapel. A brick and stone wall encloses the garden, with iron gates placed on the north and south walls. On the west wall, a wood gate leads to the neighboring Wilton Center. The landscaped area features brick and stone walkways, benches, ornamental plantings, and a central fountain. Low wing walls extend from the base of each buttress on the chapel's east wall. Each wing wall is composed of brick and stone block and is topped with a concrete planter. The memorial garden is intended for the scattering of ashes. When cremated remains are scattered in the memorial garden, the ground is prepared so that the ashes can be placed directly in the ground without a container. The decedent's name, birth date, and date of death can be engraved on a central memorial plaque in front of the garden.<sup>5</sup>

### **Columbarium (2002; non-contributing structure)**

The columbarium is contained within the brick wall that encloses the Memorial Garden. The columbarium is a burial vault for the containment of urns holding cremated human remains. It is composed of 3,000 niches that can accommodate up to two urns each. Each niche has a granite cover, typically engraved with individual names, birth dates, and dates of death. Both the columbarium and memorial garden were dedicated on April 27, 2002.<sup>6</sup>

### **Integrity**

Cannon Chapel maintains a high level of integrity on the interior and exterior. The elaborate Gothic Revival architecture has been well maintained over the years. The building continues to serve its original function as a place of worship, and also is used for meetings, concerts, academic assemblies, weddings, and other special events. The addition of the columbarium and memorial garden are in keeping with the building's original design and use, and were added in a way that did not affect the building's historic fabric. The 1980s-era stained glass panels occupy

<sup>4</sup> University of Richmond, "Henry M. Cannon Memorial Chapel."

<sup>5</sup> University of Richmond, "Columbarium."

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

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the original window openings, and the original concrete tracery was not altered by their installation.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1929

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Robinson, Charles Morrison

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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.)

Completed in 1929, the Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel is being nominated to the National Register under the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPD), *The History and Architecture of the University of Richmond, 1834-1977*. The chapel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of Late Gothic Revival architecture and as the work of architect Charles Morrison Robinson, who has statewide significance. The period of significance, 1929, encompasses the start and completion of the chapel's construction. In addition to the chapel, the property includes a memorial garden and columbarium; both were added in 2002, beyond the period of significance, making them non-contributing resources. With regard to Criteria Consideration A, the historic significance of Cannon Memorial Chapel is found in its important architectural value. The building is an architecturally significant example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival chapel designed by an accomplished architect, Charles Morrison Robinson.

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

*The History and Architecture of the University of Richmond, 1834-1977* MPD established the architectural and historic significance of the University of Richmond campus.<sup>7</sup> The original conceptual plans for the campus were conceived by Ralph Adams Cram, a Richmond architect and principal of the firm Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. Cram had extensive experience designing institutional campuses, and believed that the Collegiate Gothic style was most appropriate for college campuses.

Cannon Memorial Chapel was designed by Richmond architect Charles M. Robinson. It was dedicated to Henry Mansfield Cannon, a Richmond tobacconist who was born in 1857 and died in 1907. Robinson's design for the chapel followed the Collegiate Gothic architectural precedents set by Cram for the University of Richmond campus, but also displays Robinson's interpretation of the style, with more elaborately embellished and decorative Gothic features than the Cram buildings.

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<sup>7</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).

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**Charles M. Robinson (1867-1932)**

Born in Hamilton, Virginia, Robinson was the son of architect James T. Robinson and Elizabeth Crockett Robinson. The family moved to Canada when Charles Robinson was young. As an adult, he began his architectural studies under D. S. Hopkins in Grand Rapids, Michigan, then with John K. Peebles in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1889, Robinson formed a partnership with G. T. Smith in Altoona, Pennsylvania. A couple of years later, he married Annie Custer and the couple had their first child in 1893. After practicing in both Altoona and Pittsburgh for more than fifteen years, Robinson moved with his family to Richmond in 1906 to establish an independent practice. Most of his subsequent career was spent in Richmond, but he designed buildings throughout the state of Virginia.<sup>8</sup>

Robinson achieved considerable success with his work on public school campuses across Virginia. He completed projects for school boards in Danville, Henrico, Petersburg, Portsmouth, and Danville. In Richmond, he was responsible for the Binford, Bainbridge, Robert E. Lee, Forest Hill Grade, William Fox, and Albert Hill elementary schools, as well as Thomas Jefferson High School. Prior to beginning work at the University of Richmond, he designed buildings at Bridgewater College, College of William and Mary, James Madison University (formerly the State Normal School), Mary Washington College, Radford University, Roanoke Women's College, Virginia State College, and Washington and Lee University, among others.<sup>9</sup>

Along with individual buildings, Robinson crafted large-scale campus plans. In 1908, James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, became the first Virginia postsecondary institution to commission Robinson to prepare a comprehensive plan for the campus. Robinson developed a Beaux Arts scheme that was designed to be built in increments as the school expanded so that the original plan's intent would be preserved. In 1913, he prepared a site plan for Radford University campus, and over the course of his career, he designed eleven buildings at Virginia State College. Robinson served as the College Architect at William and Mary from 1921 to 1931, where he created a master plan in 1925 and designed over 60 buildings, generally in the Georgian Revival style.<sup>10</sup>

Robinson's other major works included sanitariums, hospitals, corporate buildings, libraries, and private dwellings, such as the Catawba sanitarium, Richmond Times-Dispatch Building, Medical Arts Building in Newport News, Charles H. Taylor Memorial Library in Hampton, Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, Richmond's Mosque of Acca Temple (now the Landmark Theatre, and designed along with Marcellus Wright, Sr.), and an assortment of private residences. By the early 1920s, Robinson formed a partnership with Charles Custer Robinson, Benjamin A. Ruffin, and J. Banford Wallord. The firm took offices in the Richmond Times-Dispatch Building designed by Robinson. In 1926, Robinson retired to his farm in Hampton, Virginia, but continued to be actively involved in his firm's operations by designing plans at

<sup>8</sup> David B. Robinson, "The Charles M. Robinson Story," <http://www.charlesmrobinson.com/history.html> (accessed June 2012); John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1997):377.

<sup>9</sup> Wells and Dalton, 377.

<sup>10</sup> Wells and Dalton, 377-278.

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home and traveling to inspect buildings during construction. In 1932, Robinson fell ill and entered a hospital in Norfolk. After his death, his firm immediately closed its doors.<sup>11</sup>

### **Robinson's Work at the University of Richmond**

Robinson's first project at the University of Richmond came in 1926 after the campus's original laboratory buildings were destroyed by fire in October 1925. The school commissioned Robinson to design a new science building, Bennet Puryear Hall, which was used for chemistry facilities. At the time of its construction, the university called the building Tudor Gothic. It is a simplified box with suggestions of Gothic buttressing, polychrome sand-finished brick with concrete trim, horizontal banding, and an elaborate Gothic embellished entranceway. Puryear Hall was the first building in what became known as Gumenick Quadrangle.<sup>12</sup>

The U-shaped complex was completed within a few years as Charles M. Robinson designed a physics building and a biology building. Completed in 1930, the physics building was named Richmond Hall and the biology building, completed in 1932, was Maryland Hall. A Gothic pointed-arch arcade connected Puryear, Richmond, and Maryland. Both Richmond and Maryland mimicked the general style of Puryear Hall, displaying blocky massing, buttresses, horizontal bands of concrete, and elaborate Gothic entrances. Distinguishing features shared by the three buildings include molded concrete surrounds and drip molds; Flemish bond red brick construction; carved concrete decorative panels and impressions; variegated brick patterning; flat roofs; and arcades with pointed arches. Each building in the science quad also prominently features checkerboard patterning, an element that was employed on several original Cram buildings and later buildings at the university. The pattern was also later incorporated into the university logo, a red and white checkerboard shield.<sup>13</sup>

### **Design and Construction of the Chapel**

Robinson's major contribution to the University of Richmond was the design of Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel, constructed in 1929. The chapel was built as a memorial to Henry Mansfield Cannon, using funds donated by his wife, Lottie Southerland Cannon. Henry M. Cannon, a tobacconist, was born in 1857 and died in 1907 of typhoid fever. In 1927, Lottie Cannon related to University President Frederic W. Boatwright, "I had been thinking for years about erecting somewhere in Richmond a permanent memorial to my husband. He left me this fortune, which had been made in Richmond, and I wished to use some of it to honor his memory. I finally decided for myself that the University of Richmond would be here as long as the city itself, and that I should place my memorial in the University campus, if you would accept it and care for it."<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Robinson, *The Charles M. Robinson Story*.

<sup>12</sup> Alley, *History of the University of Richmond*, 183.

<sup>13</sup> Hugman et al., 19-12; University of Richmond, "University History: Architecture."

<sup>14</sup> University of Richmond, "University History: Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel"; University of Richmond, "Henry M. Cannon Memorial Chapel."

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The chapel generally maintained the Collegiate Gothic tradition established by Ralph Adams Cram for the University of Richmond. Similar features to the original Cram buildings include Flemish bond red brick, Gothic tracery windows, brick buttresses, horizontal bands, drip molds, and concrete trim and quoins. Robinson's stylistic embellishments are also apparent. Cram's buildings display a more restrained Gothic Revival, with carefully placed tracery and oriel windows, pointed-arch doorways, and gargoyle-like sculptures. Robinson's chapel fully embraces the religious roots of the Collegiate Gothic through more elaborate detailing. Reliefs are not only foliate designs inspired by Gothic tracery, but also angels and leaf designs, as seen above the primary (north) entrance. The chapel's tracery windows are narrower with more dramatically pointed arches than most of Cram's tracery windows. The tracery and trefoil details on the chapel are slightly more pointed than those on Cram's buildings and the chapel uses paneled tracery patterns rather than the geometric tracery employed by Cram. Robinson also added three-dimensional quoins to the top of each brick buttress in his own interpretation of the quoins found on Cram buildings.<sup>15</sup>

The chapel's construction required some challenges and obstacles to be overcome. When site preparation began, solid rock was discovered about five feet under the surface, necessitating blasting rather than digging to build the foundation. In March 1929, one of the spires fell and was irreparably damaged. Too large to remove, it was buried where it had fallen and the general contractor ordered a new spire for installation. When finished, the chapel contained the narthex, sanctuary, prayer room, guild room, bride's room, and groom's room.<sup>16</sup>

The chapel acted as the site of the formal opening session of the University of Richmond on September 16, 1929, even though the interior of the building was not completely finished. On October 23, 1929, the chapel was dedicated during University Week. Senior students in caps and gowns followed the faculty into the chapel. At the time, the school still consisted of two colleges, Richmond College for men and Westhampton College for women. Male students sat on the left side of the chapel and female students on the right. Dr. Clarence Barbour, president of Brown University, gave the dedicatory address. Judge William A. Moncure presented the building on behalf of Lottie Cannon, who was ill at the time and never saw the chapel in person before her death. Dr. E.M. Long, Chair of the school's Executive Committee, accepted the building on behalf of the institution. As part of University Week, poet Robert Frost gave a lecture that evening in the chapel.<sup>17</sup>

When the chapel was first built, Richmond College (the men's college) and Westhampton College (the women's college) at the University of Richmond held separate chapel services. Richmond College's services were on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Westhampton's were on Monday and Wednesday mornings. The services later became coeducational. Since its construction, Cannon Chapel also hosted numerous special events at the University of

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<sup>15</sup> Hugman et al., 19.

<sup>16</sup> University of Richmond, "University History: Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel"; University of Richmond, "Henry M. Cannon Memorial Chapel."

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
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Richmond, including religious services, concerts, lectures, weddings, convocations, and academic assemblies.<sup>18</sup>

Through the ensuing decades, Cannon Chapel continued to be integral to campus life. In 1973, the University's Board of Trustees established the position of chaplain to the University. This individual reports directly to the president and serves as a senior officer of the institution. Following renovations in 1976, a rededication service was presided over by Dr. David D. Burhans, University Chaplain, and Dr. Elmer S. West, Jr., delivered the dedicatory address. To assure continuity, a \$750,000 challenge grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Religious, Charitable and Educational Fund in Jacksonville, Florida, established a \$1.5 million endowment for the chair of the chaplaincy in 1986. Four years later, the E. Carlton Wilton Center for Interfaith Campus Ministries was dedicated. Located next to Cannon Chapel, it houses the Office of the Chaplaincy, 18 campus ministries, the interfaith reception room and kitchen, and an interreligious prayer room.<sup>19</sup> As such, the Cannon Chapel remains an active part of campus life and, together with the building's architectural significance and the care with which it has been maintained, it is a landmark on the historic campus.

### Multiple Property Documentation

The Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel is being nominated to 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 Cannon Chapel is found in sections E and F of the MPD. It is recommended individually eligible in the Property Type Registration Requirements of Section F.

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> University of Richmond, "Wilton Center."

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
Name of Property

Richmond, VA  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Alley, John Reuben. *University of Richmond*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

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.

Robinson, David B. "The Charles M. Robinson Story."  
<http://www.charlesmrobinson.com/history.html> (accessed June 2012).

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<http://chaplaincy.richmond.edu/chapel/windows.html> (accessed June 2012).

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<http://chaplaincy.richmond.edu/chapel/columbarium.html> (accessed June 2012).

University of Richmond. "University History: Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel."  
<http://urhistory.richmond.edu/architecture/cannon.html> (accessed June 2012).

University of Richmond. "Wilton Center." <http://chaplaincy.richmond.edu/about/wilton-center.html> (accessed June 2012).

Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
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**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources; University of Richmond

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** VDHR no. 127-0364-0009

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 1.312 acre

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: 37.574528 | Longitude: -77.538992 |
| 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: |

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
Name of Property

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

Cannon Chapel occupies a lot on the University of Richmond campus that is recorded as Parcel no. W0230005008 by the City of Richmond, Virginia. The historic boundary coincides with the lot lines (see attached parcel map).

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

The historic boundary encompasses Cannon Chapel and its immediate environs, and follows the lot lines associated with the building since its construction in 1929.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Lena Sweeten McDonald/ National/State Register Historian  
organization: Virginia 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.

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
Name of Property

Richmond, VA  
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### Photo Log

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

Name of Property: Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
City or Vicinity: Richmond (Independent City) State: Virginia  
Photographer: Lena Sweeten McDonald  
Date Photographed: June 2012

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

1 of 10. Chapel, North Façade and West Elevation, Camera Facing Southeast.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0001.tif

2 of 10. Chapel, North Façade with Formal Landscaping in Foreground, Camera Facing South.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0002.tif

3 of 10. Chapel, North Façade and East Elevation, Camera Facing Southwest.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0003.tif

4 of 10. Chapel, North Façade, Camera Facing South.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0004.tif

5 of 10. Chapel, South Elevation, Camera Facing North/Northwest.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0005.tif

6 of 10. Chapel, Narthex, Camera Facing East.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0006.tif

7 of 10. Chapel, Nave, Camera Facing South.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0007.tif

8 of 10. Chapel, Nave, Camera Facing North.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0008.tif

9 of 10. Chapel, Stained Glass Window, Camera Facing East.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0009.tif

10 of 10. Columbarium and Memorial Garden, Camera Facing South.  
VA\_Richmond\_HMCannonMemorialChapel\_0010.tif

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
Name of Property

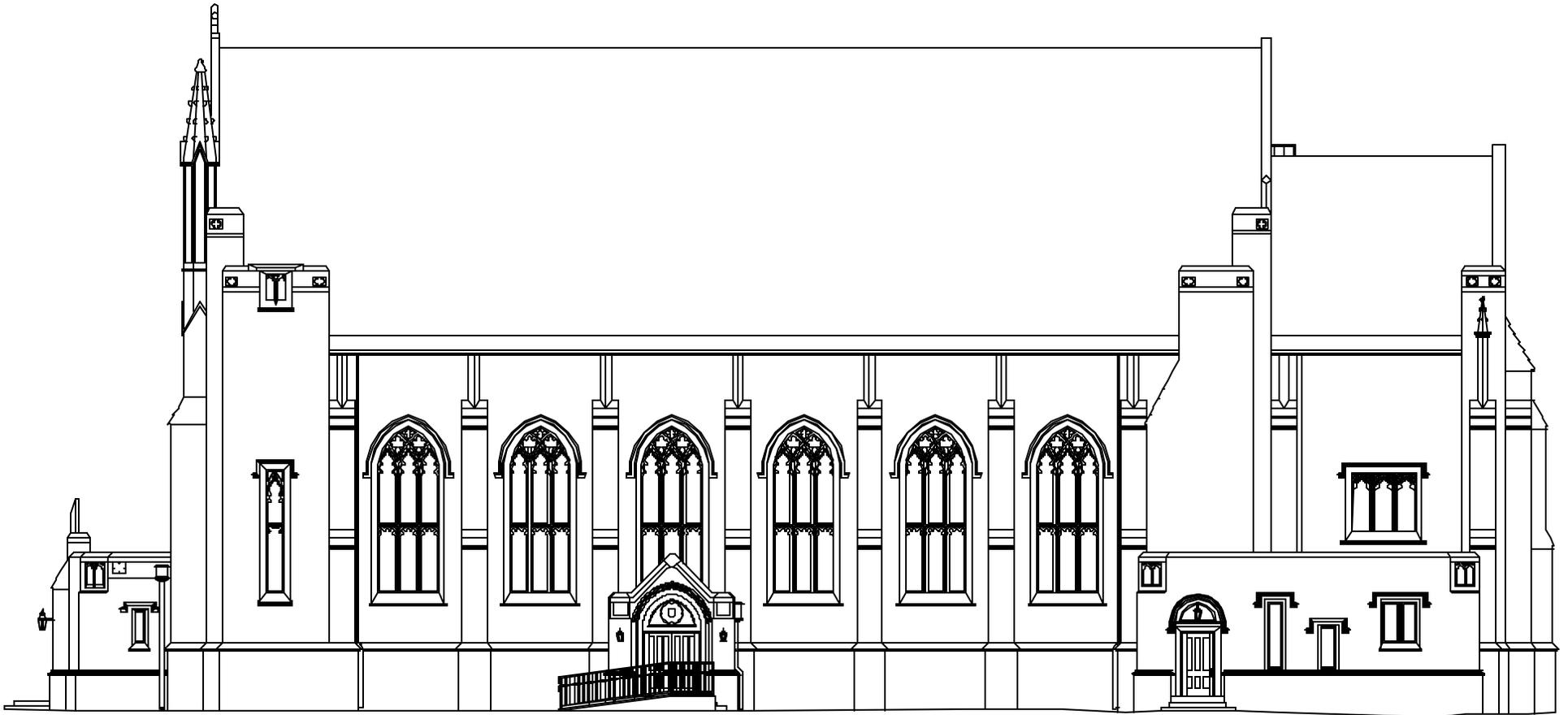
Richmond, VA  
County and State

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.

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
36 Westhampton Way  
Richmond, Virginia  
DHR #127-0364-0009

Additional Documentation: West Elevation



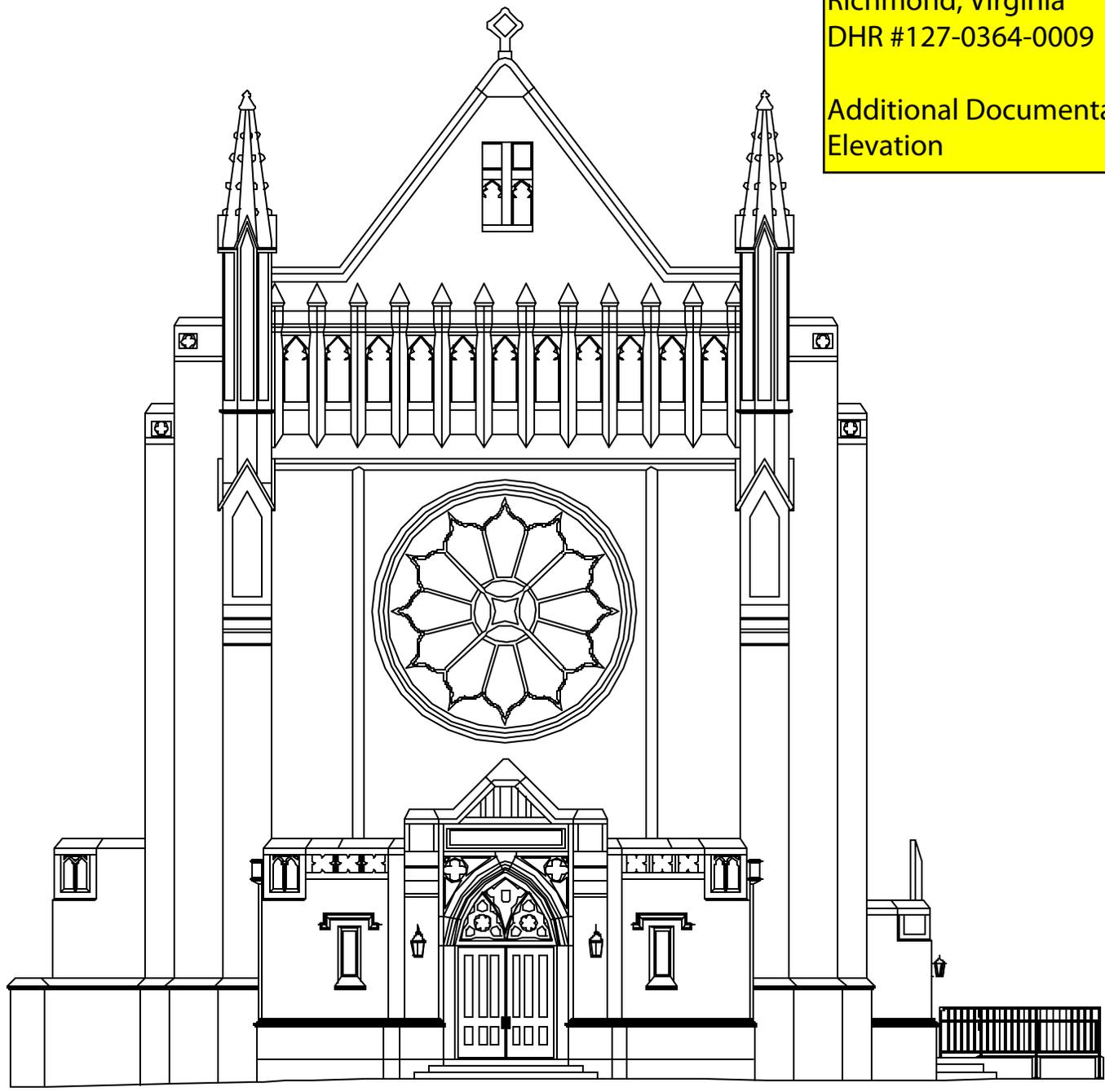
Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
36 Westhampton Way  
Richmond, Virginia  
DHR #127-0364-0009

Additional Documentation: South Elevation



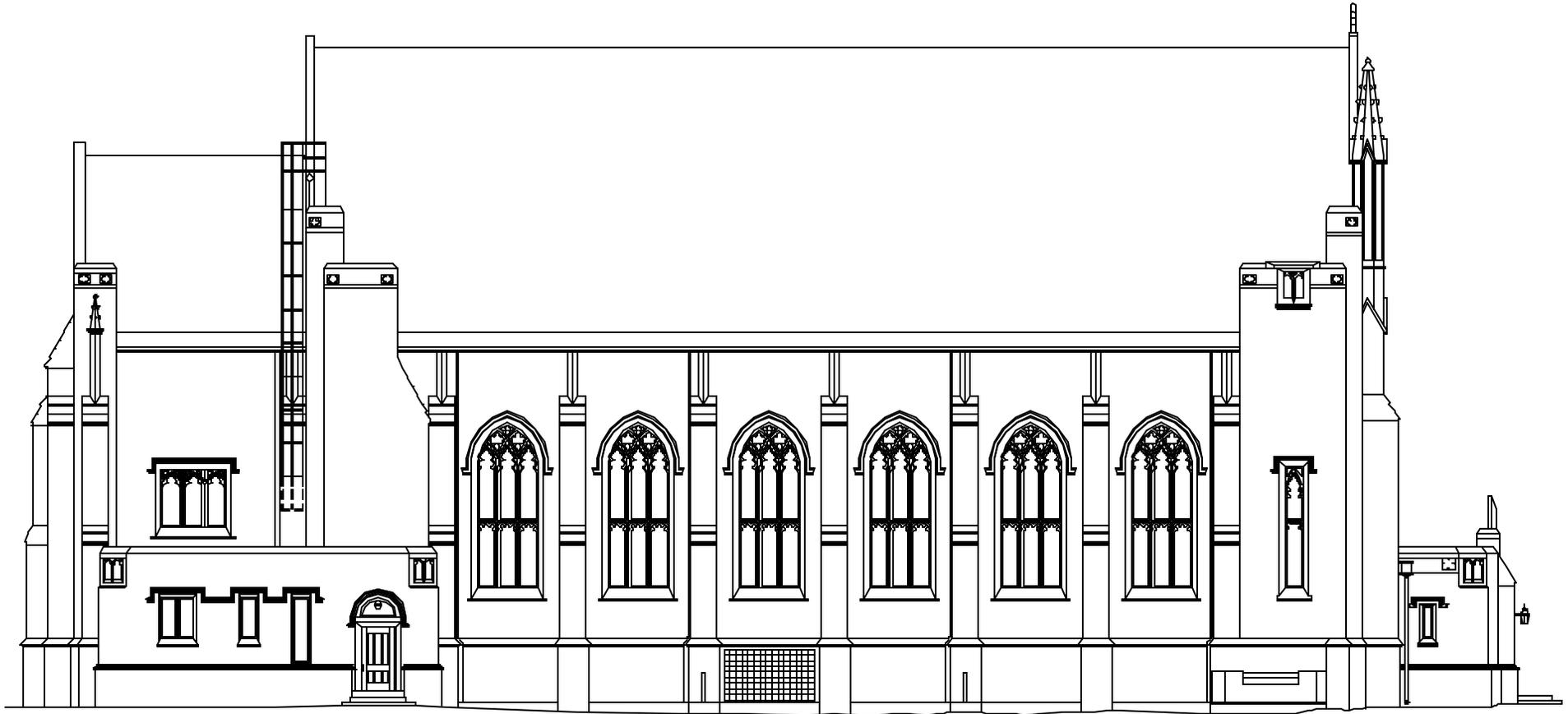
Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
36 Westhampton Way  
Richmond, Virginia  
DHR #127-0364-0009

Additional Documentation: North (Facade)  
Elevation



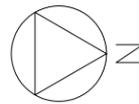
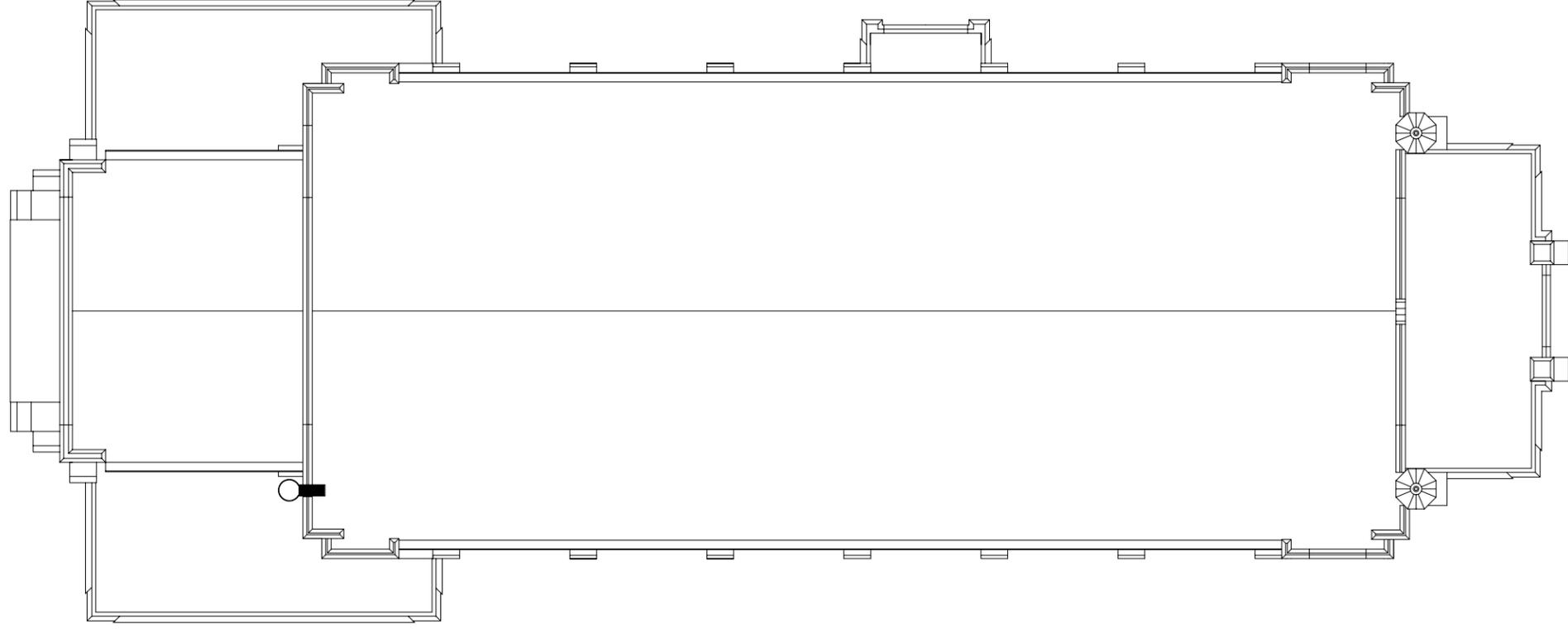
Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
36 Westhampton Way  
Richmond, Virginia  
DHR #127-0364-0009

Additional Documentation: East Elevation



Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
36 Westhampton Way  
Richmond, Virginia  
DHR #127-0364-0009

Additional Documentation: Roof Plan



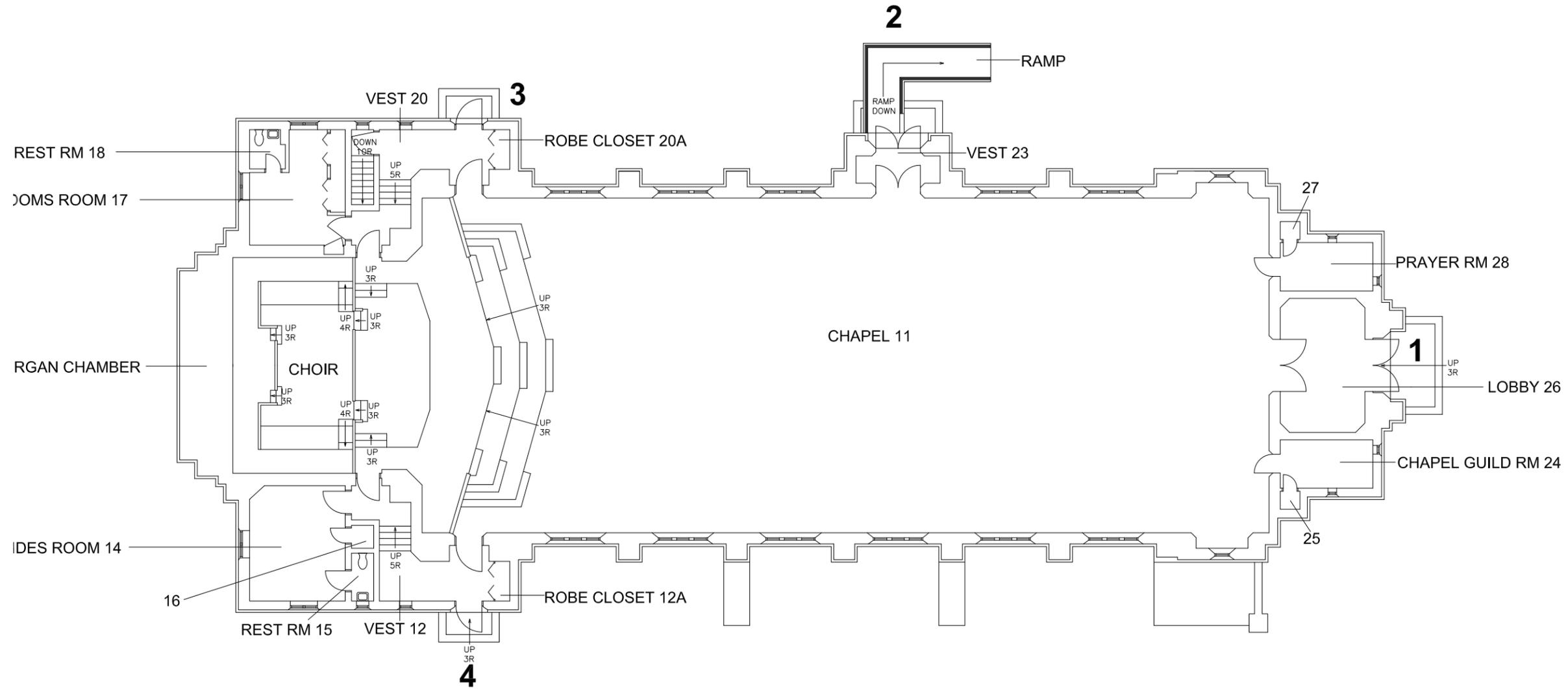
# CANNON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

## ROOF PLAN

Campus Address: 36 Chapel Circle  
Completed in 1929, Renovated in 1976  
9,314 sf  
Scale: 1/16"=1'-0"  
Summer 2004

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
 36 Westhampton Way  
 Richmond, Virginia  
 DHR #127-0364-0009

Additional Documentation: Floor Plan



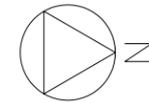
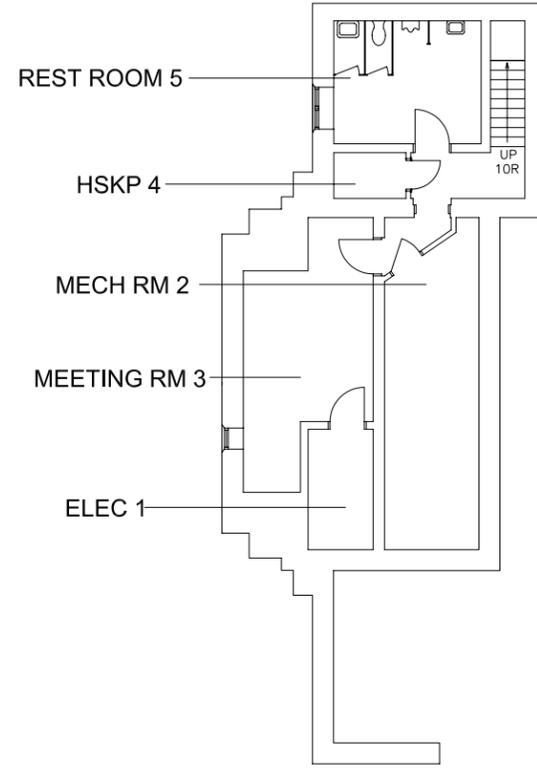
**MAIN FLOOR**  
 Campus Address: 36 Chapel Circle  
 Completed in 1929, Renovated in 1976  
 9,314 sf  
 Scale: 1/16"=1'-0"  
 Summer 2004

**CANNON MEMORIAL CHAPEL**



Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
36 Westhampton Way  
Richmond, Virginia  
DHR #127-0364-0009

Additional Documentation: Basement Plan



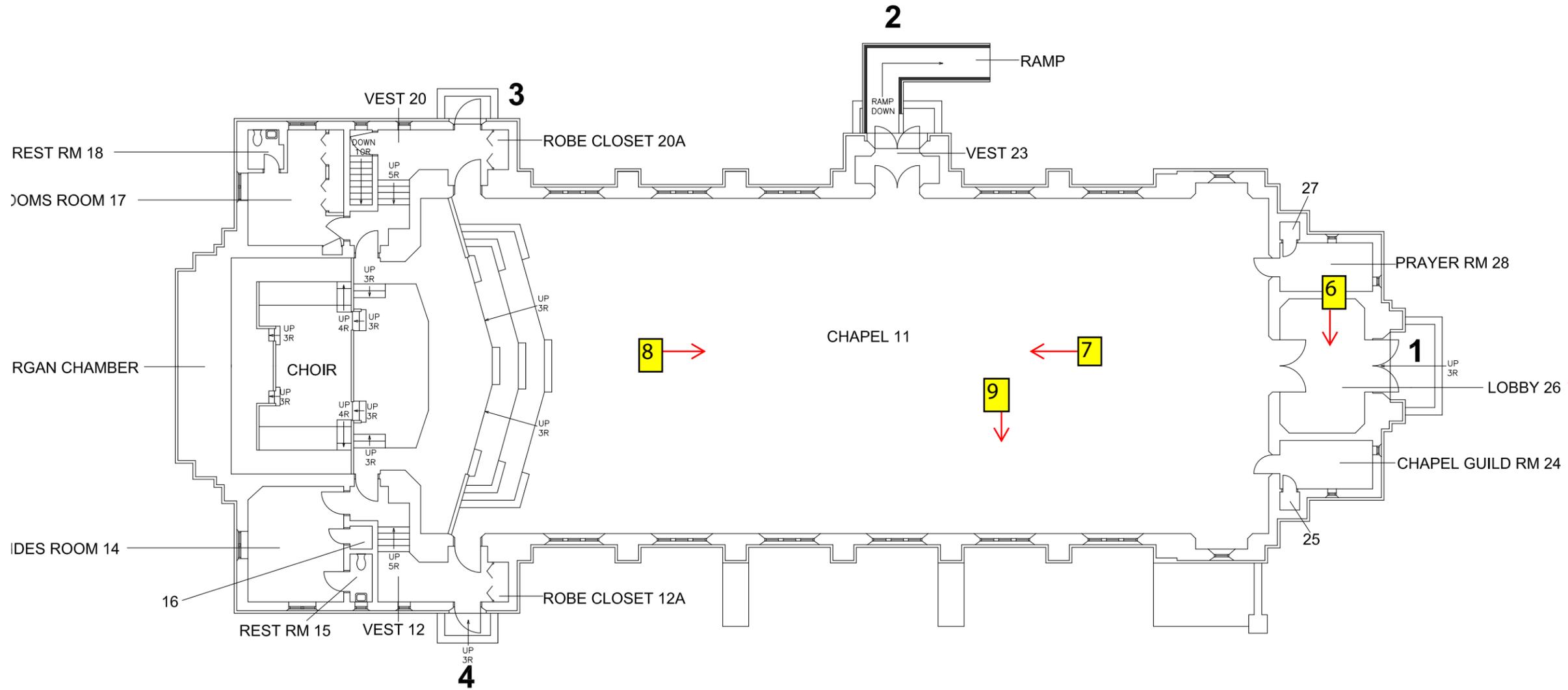
# CANNON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

## BASEMENT PLAN

Campus Address: 36 Chapel Circle  
Completed in 1929, Renovated in 1976  
9,314 sf  
Scale: 1/16"=1'-0"  
Summer 2004

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
36 Westhampton Way  
Richmond, Virginia  
DHR #127-0364-0009

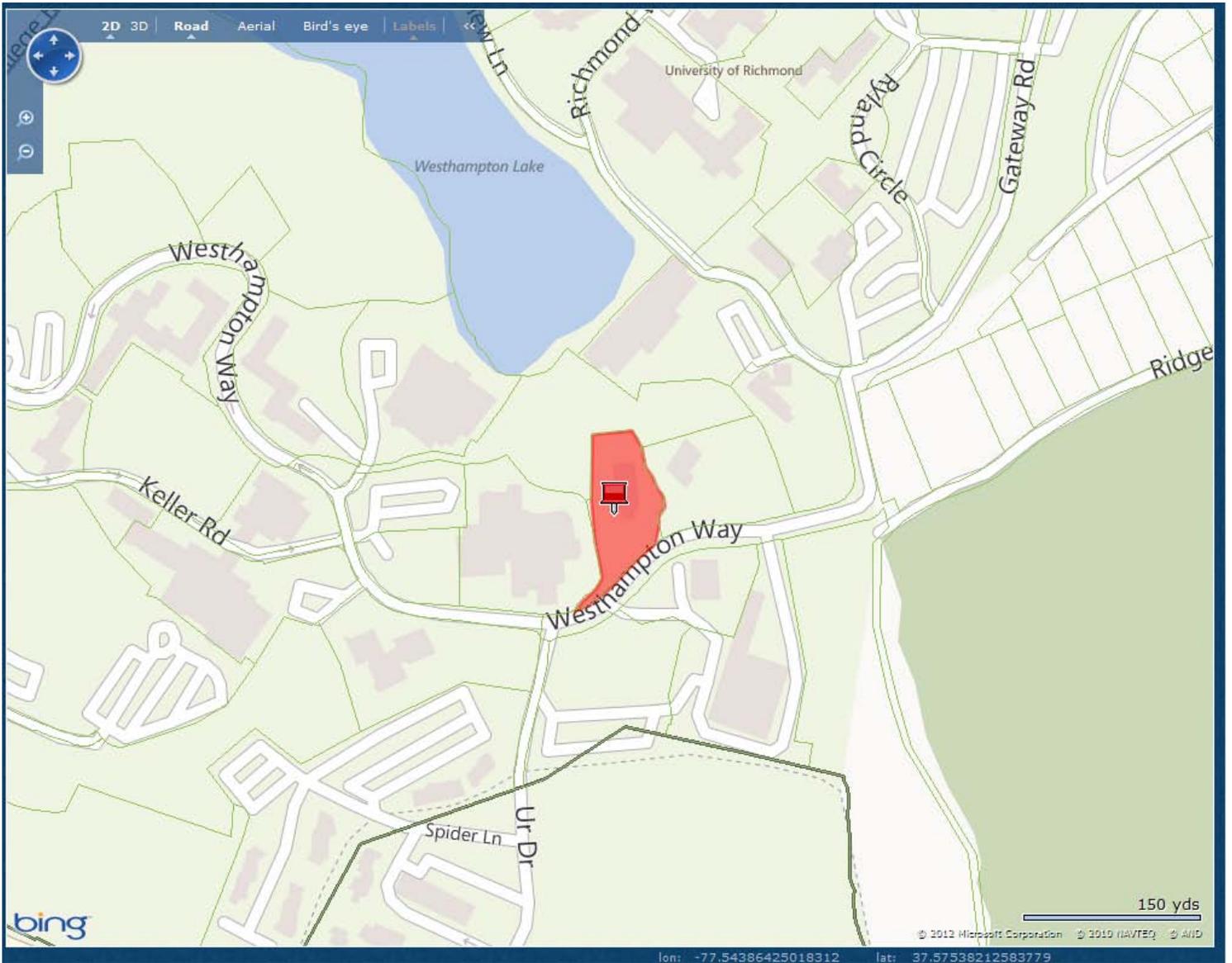
Additional Documentation: Photo Key



**MAIN FLOOR**  
Campus Address: 36 Chapel Circle  
Completed in 1929, Renovated in 1976  
9,314 sf  
Scale: 1/16"=1'-0"  
Summer 2004

**CANNON MEMORIAL CHAPEL**





PARCEL MAP

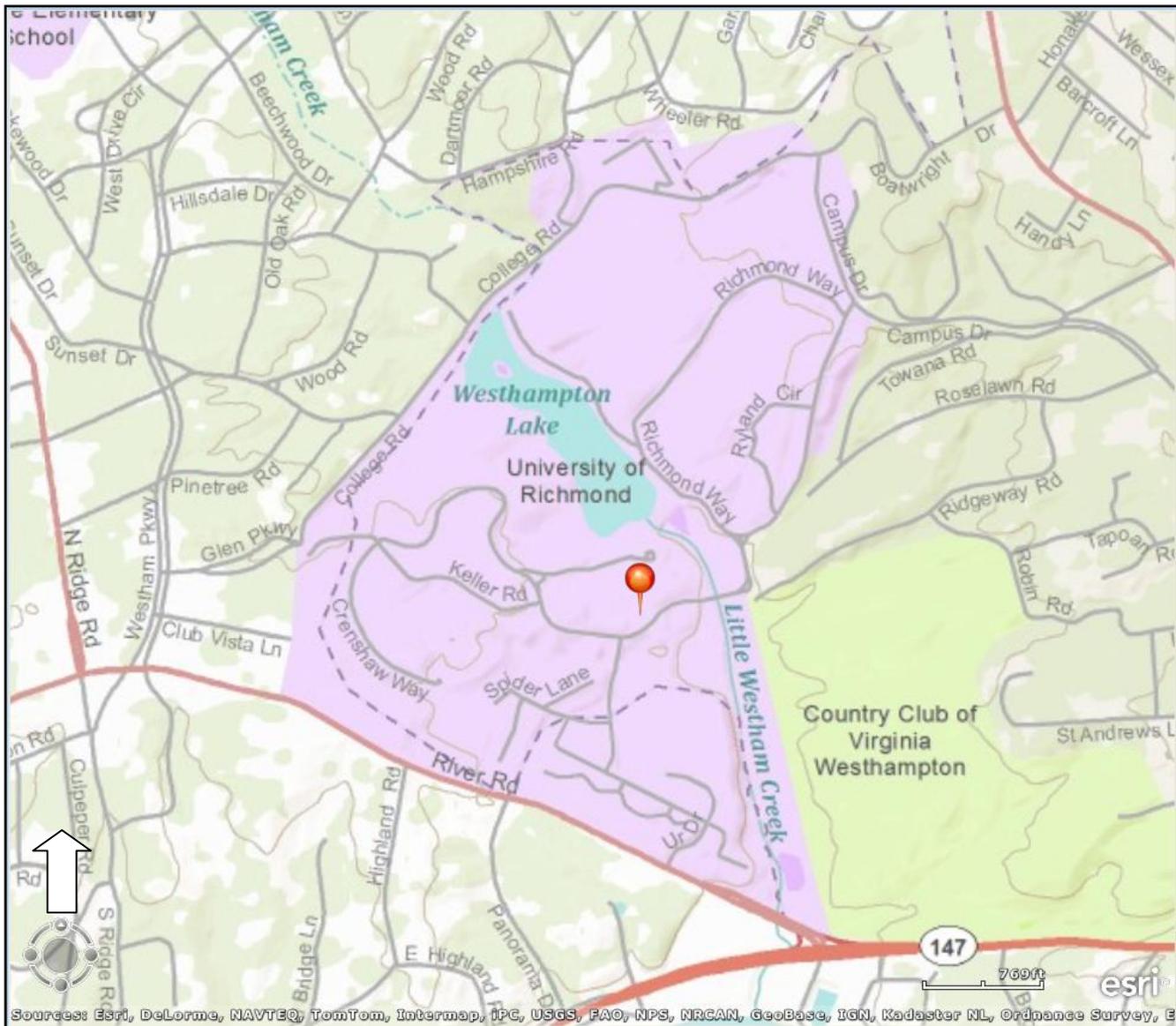
Parcel no. W0230005008

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel

36 Westhampton Way

Richmond, Virginia

DHR # 127-0364-0009



LOCATION MAP

Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel

36 Westhampton Way

Richmond, Virginia

DHR # 127-0364-0009

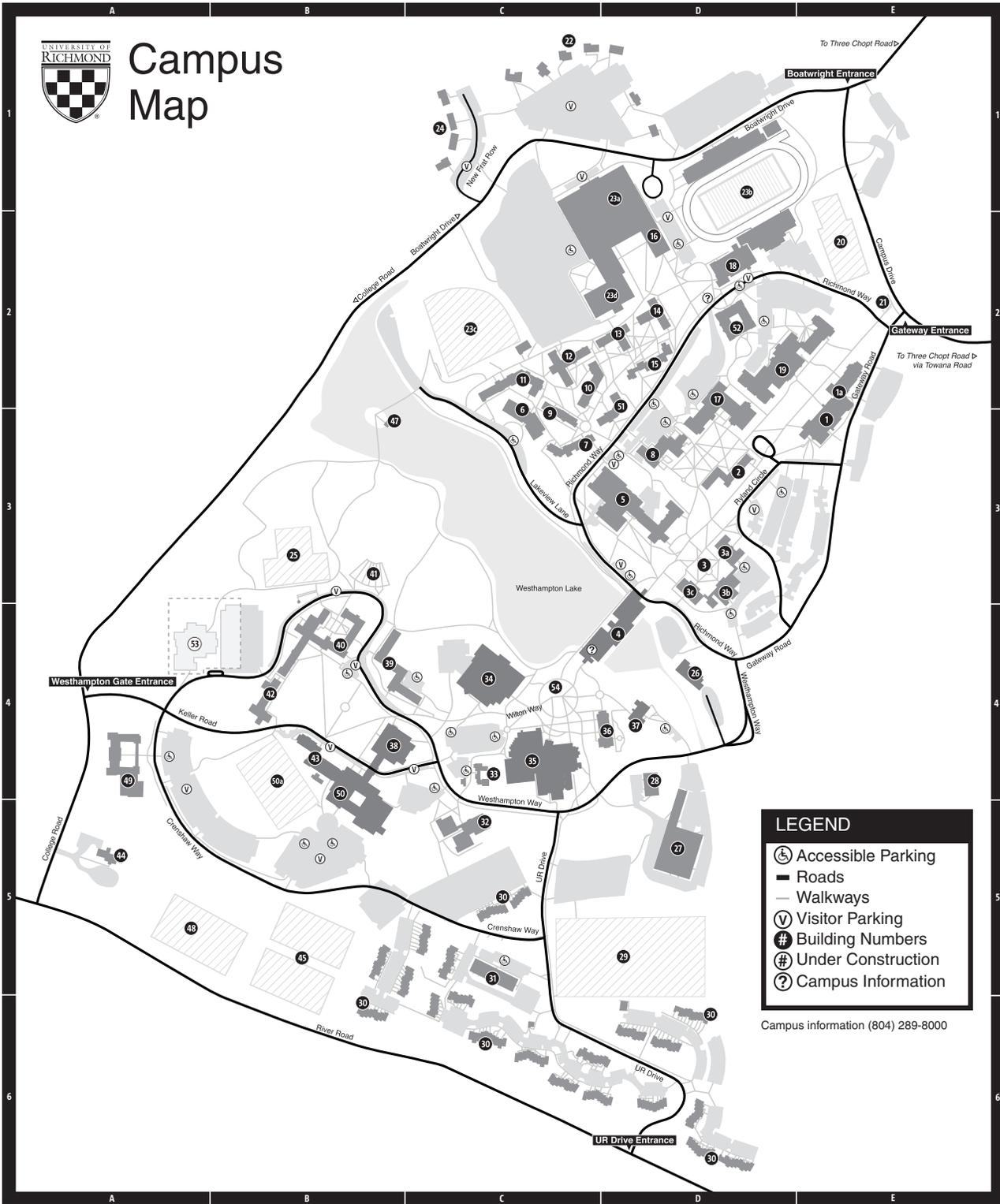
Location Coordinates:

Latitude: 37.574528

Longitude: -77.538992



# Campus Map



**LEGEND**

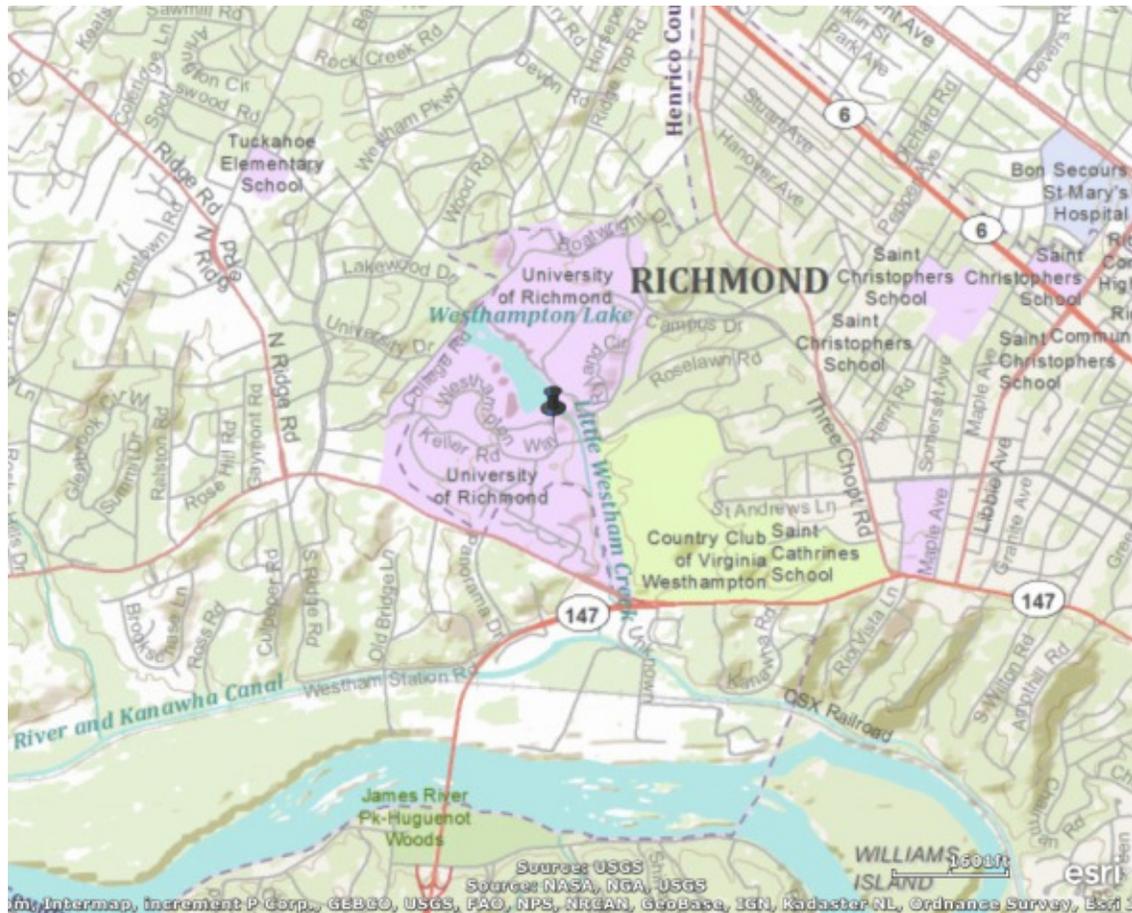
- Accessible Parking
- Roads
- Walkways
- Visitor Parking
- Building Numbers
- Under Construction
- Campus Information

Campus information (804) 289-8000

## LOCATIONS

5 Boatwright Memorial Library.. D3	26 Steam Plant..... D4
38 Booker Hall..... B4	53 Student Activities Center ..... A4
18 Brunet Hall..... D2	7 Thomas Hall..... C3
21 Bus Stop..... E2	4 Tyler Haynes Commons..... D4
36 Cannon Memorial Chapel..... D4	30 University Forest
52 Carole Weinstein International	Apartments..... B6, C5, C6, D6
Center..... D2	54 University Forum..... C4
50a Crenshaw Field ..... B4	45 Upper/Lower Grass
13 Dennis Hall..... D2	Training Fields..... B5
48 Football Practice Field ..... A5	23d Weinstein Center for Recreation
10 Freeman Hall..... C2	and Wellness..... D2
47 Gazebo..... B3	8 Weinstein Hall ..... D3
35 Gottwald Center for	33 Westhampton Center ..... C4
the Sciences..... C4	25 Westhampton College
39 Gray Court..... B4	Tennis Courts ..... B3
41 Greek Theatre, Jenkins ..... B3	51 Whitehurst..... D2
34 Heilman Center (dining hall) .. C4	37 Wilton Center..... D4
29 Intramural Fields ..... D5	9 Wood Hall..... C3
Jepson Alumni Center..... A4	
17 Jepson Hall..... D2	
15 Jeter Hall ..... D2	
43 Keller Hall ..... B4	
6 Lakeview Hall ..... C3	
32 Lora Robins Court..... C5	
11 Marsh Hall ..... C2	
3a Maryland Hall ..... D3	
16 Millhiser Gymnasium..... D2	
50 Modlin Center for the Arts..... B4	
12 Moore Hall ..... C2	
24 New Fraternity Row..... C1	
40 North Court..... B4	
22 Old Fraternity Row ..... C1	
27 Physical Plant..... D5	
23c Pitt Baseball Field ..... C2	
44 President's Home..... A5	
3c Puryear Hall..... D3	
1a Queally Hall..... E3	
20 Richmond College Tennis	
Courts..... E2	
3b Richmond Hall..... D3	
23a Robins Center ..... D1	
14 Robins Hall ..... D2	
1 Robins School of Business.... E3	
23b Robins Stadium..... D1	
2 Ryland Hall..... D3	
19 School of Law..... D2	
28 Service Building ..... D4	
42 South Court..... B4	
31 Special Programs Building .... C5	
	<b>PLACES TO NOTE</b>
	18 Admission and Financial
	Aid—Undergraduate..... D2
	4 Bookstore ..... D4
	49 Bottomley House..... A4
	38 Camp Concert Hall..... B4
	4 Career Development Center.. D4
	8 Human Resources ..... D3
	31 Department of Public Safety and
	Student Health Center ..... C5
	33 Thalheimer Guest Cottage ..... C4
	5 Virginia Baptist Historical
	Society..... D3
	<b>MUSEUMS</b>
	50 Harnett Museum of Art and
	Harnett Print Study Center..... B4
	5 Lora Robins Gallery of Design
	from Nature ..... D3
	<b>DEAN'S OFFICES</b>
	17 Jepson School of Leadership
	Studies ..... D2
	51 Richmond College ..... D2
	1 Robins School of Business.... E3
	5 School of Arts and Sciences . D3
	31 School of Continuing Studies C5
	19 School of Law..... D2
	33 Westhampton College ..... C4

## H.M. Cannon Memorial Chapel, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA



Henry Mansfield Cannon Memorial Chapel  
University of Richmond  
Richmond, VA  
DHR #127-0364-0009

Location Coordinates:  
Latitude: 37.574528  
Longitude: -77.538992