

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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic DistrictOther names/site number: DHR #118-5763Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 2500 Rivermont Avenue, 155 & 139 Norfolk Avenue, 5 Quinlan StreetCity or town: Lynchburg State: Virginia County: Independent CityNot For Publication: Vicinity: **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

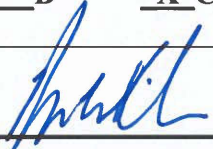
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

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:5/28/2026
DateVirginia Department of Historic Resources

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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>14</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 13

- Main Hall (DHR ID# 118-5763-0018) was listed individually in 1979 (NRIS# 79003285) and contributes to the Rivermont Historic District (NRHP 2003; NRIS# 03000224).
- Contributing resources within the listed Rivermont Historic District:
 - Presser Hall (118-5763-0025)
 - Martin Science Building (118-5763-0019)
 - Libscomb Library (118-5763-0017)
 - Winfree House/Macon Book Shop (118-5763-0036)
 - Moore Hall (118-5763-0022)
 - Psychology Building (118-5763-0026)
 - Thoresen Hall (118-5763-0031)
 - West Hall (118-5763-0034)
 - Wright Hall (118-5763-0038)
 - Smith Hall (118-5763-0027)
 - Wall (118-5763-0032)
 - Summer House (118-5763-0028)

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: college

EDUCATION: library

EDUCATION: research facility

EDUCATION: education-related

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

RECREATION AND CULTURE: work of art

HEALTH CARE: clinic

LANDSCAPE: garden

LANDSCAPE: parking lot

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: college

EDUCATION: library

EDUCATION: research facility

EDUCATION: education-related

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

RECREATION AND CULTURE: work of art

HEALTH CARE: clinic

LANDSCAPE: garden

LANDSCAPE: plaza

LANDSCAPE: parking lot

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT: Neo-Expressionism; International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: weatherboard, log; BRICK; STONE: limestone, slate; METAL; CONCRETE; GLASS; SYNTHETICS: vinyl

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District encompasses the core historic campus, approximately 53.18 acres, of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, from its founding in 1891 to the present. Located in the prominent Rivermont neighborhood of Lynchburg, Virginia, it is partially included in the Rivermont Historic District (NRHP 2003; NRIS# 03000224). Randolph-Macon Woman's College is significant as one of the earliest and longest-operating women's colleges in Virginia and in the American South, and its evolution reflects the broader changes in women's roles in society. The campus buildings, dating from 1891 to 1975, illustrate the college's steady growth and expansion of its academic programs. Designed by notable local and national architects, the buildings represent a wide range of architectural styles – including Queen Anne, Georgian Revival, Colonial Revival, Neo-Expressionism, and the International Style – yet maintain a cohesive identity through scale, setting, and red brick construction. The institution remains an active college campus, although it was renamed “Randolph College” in 2007 when the institution became co-educational.

The district includes forty-seven resources dating from 1891 through 2016. Of these, twenty-six buildings, five structures, three objects, and one site are contributing resources to the historic district. The remaining twelve resources are identified as non-contributing to the district's significance due to construction dates that fall outside the period of significance (1891–1975) or loss of historic integrity. The core brick buildings at the front of campus, along Rivermont Avenue, include academic buildings, dormitories, and a chapel, while support buildings,

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landscape features, and athletic fields are located towards the rear (north end) of the district. As most of the resources contribute to the significance of the historic district, and the setting remains relatively unchanged since the period of significance (1891-1975), the district retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Location, Setting, and Character

Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Randolph-Macon Woman's College (RMWC) campus reflects the hilly topography of Lynchburg, also known as the "City of Seven Hills." Encompassing the historic core of the RMWC campus, the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District is in the northeast section of the city, surrounded by the Rivermont Historic District (NRHP 2003), the city's first planned streetcar community. The historic district is bounded to the south by Rivermont Avenue, to the east by Norfolk Avenue, and to the west by N. Princeton Circle. A large, wooded area, also owned by the college, borders the historic district's northern boundary, with the James River flowing on the other side. Stately residences and small-scale commercial buildings line the streets around the campus. A circular drive, Main Campus Drive, extends from Rivermont Avenue to Main Hall (118-5763-0018; NRHP 79003285). Public sidewalks and a brick wall (118-5763-0032) border the historic district's east, west, and south property lines. There are large, paved parking lots along Norfolk Avenue and N. Princeton Circle.

The earliest five buildings on RMWC's campus (constructed between 1891 and 1906), including Main Hall, Jones Memorial Library/Thoresen Hall (118-5763-0031), Carnegie Science/Psychology Building (118-5763-0026), East/Moore Hall (118-5763-0022), and West Hall (118-5763-0034), are arranged in a linear row at the top of a hill overlooking Rivermont Avenue. This spine of academic buildings and residence halls is set back from Rivermont Avenue by a gently sloping, manicured lawn and brick wall. The buildings in the second wave of development (1909-1937) were mainly constructed along the front east and west sides of the sloping lawn, forming an open quadrangle. Webb Hall (118-5763-0033), erected in 1923, stands directly behind Main Hall, Jones Memorial Library/Thoresen Hall, and West Hall. Development continued more organically from 1949 through 1975, with red brick buildings in various mid-century styles constructed toward the rear of the campus. Although building construction spanned over nine decades, the district maintains a cohesive architectural character through the prevalent use of red brick construction, low-pitched roofs, and limestone or concrete detailing. Many of the buildings, particularly the ones visible from the public right-of-way, exhibit detailing inspired by Classical architecture, including monumental porticos, denticulated cornices, and distinguished bays.

The topography behind the earliest buildings slopes steeply down to the north, then flattens before sloping up again to the north. At the base of these hills are the school's modern athletic facilities. The Pines is a wooded area located at the rear west end of campus, where sororities

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and secret societies built their houses in the early 20th century. Only one cottage (118-5763-0024) remains in this area. Winfree Observatory (118-5763-0037) and the Dell (118-5763-0012) with its stone stage and terraced seating are proximate to the Pines. A network of brick and concrete paths, along with brick steps, connects the buildings near the front of the historic district. Main Campus Drive, a circular, paved drive, leads from Rivermont Avenue to the front of Main Hall. Campus Drive, split into east and west halves, is a narrow, unmarked thoroughfare that extends from N. Princeton Circle to Norfolk Avenue at the bottom of the hill, between the core academic buildings and dormitories and the school's athletic facilities. Conway Lane is another unmarked, narrow road off Norfolk Avenue that winds around the rear elevations of the front campus buildings before connecting with W. Campus Drive. At the rear of the historic district, Quinlan Street, a private road, extends from Norfolk Avenue to the Maier Museum of Art (118-5763-0006).

Campus Development

Early Campus Development

Construction began at RMWC in 1892 and continued steadily throughout the first two decades of its existence. Main Hall, the first edifice constructed on Randolph-Macon Woman's College campus, is sited impressively on a hill, overlooking the sloping, well-manicured front lawn. Designed by Washington, D.C. architect William M. Poindexter in the Queen Anne style, Main Hall was constructed in several building campaigns spanning almost twenty years, from 1892 through 1911. The building is composed of five sections, including a central entrance tower with a belfry (1893) flanked by end pavilions to the east (1893) and west (1896-99) with connecting hyphens, all constructed of hard-pressed red brick. Main Hall is the only building on campus designed in the Queen Anne style and is the largest Queen Anne-style building in Lynchburg. The Queen Anne style is on full display at Main Hall with its towers and turrets, varied window forms, cutaway bays, corbeled chimneys, and Classical-inspired ornament. Once the west wing was erected in 1899, the building was completed based on Poindexter's plans. A red brick rear annex (1911) with a side-gable roof was the last addition to Main Hall.

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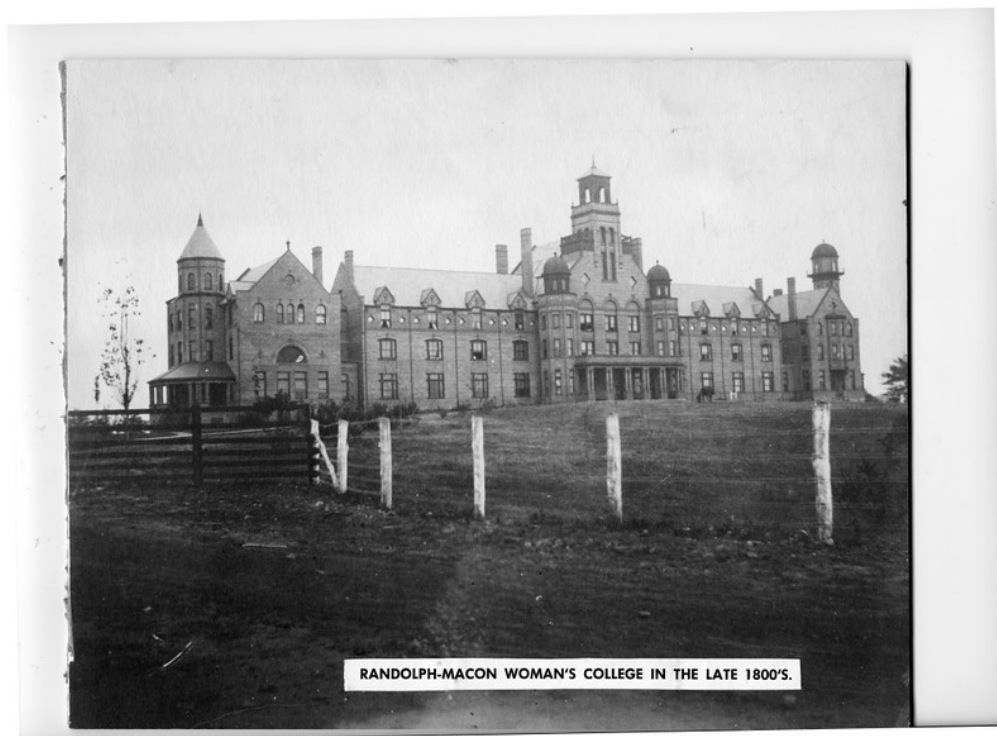


Figure 1: Late 1890s photograph of Main Hall. Courtesy of Lynchburg Museum System.

As RMWC rapidly grew in the first decade of the 20th century, four new buildings with classical influences were constructed to accommodate the expanding student body and curriculum. East/Moore Hall (1904; 118-5763-0022) and West Hall (1906; 118-5763-0034), five-story buildings designed by Edward Frye in the Georgian Revival style, were built quickly to provide increased dormitory space for the growing student body. Identical in appearance, both buildings' facades are dominated by monumental Doric porticoes and brick steps. Additional detailing includes denticulated cornices, rectangular projecting bays with chimneys and finials, gabled wall and hipped roof dormers, masonry window and door trim, and fanlights over the primary entrances.

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Figure 2: Ca. 1905 photo of East (Moore) Hall. Courtesy of Randolph College Facebook page.

The Carnegie Science/Psychology Building (118-5763-0026) and the Jones Memorial Library/Thoresen Hall (118-5763-0031), both designed by William M. Poindexter, are three-story academic buildings executed in the Georgian Revival style and completed in 1906. These buildings display more restrained architectural detailing than the previous three buildings, incorporating one-bay entrance porticoes, corbeled brickwork, and jack arches with alternating keystones. All four buildings were erected in line with Main Hall, with the Carnegie Science/Psychology Building, and East/Moore Hall (118-5763-0022) to the east and Jones Memorial Library/Thoresen Hall and West Hall (118-5763-0034) to the west. The buildings are connected by a series of arcades, known around campus as “trolleys,” which are enclosed on the upper level with Tuscan columns and segmental-arched window openings with keystones. The student body continued to grow steadily, and soon after East/Moore Hall and West Hall were completed, additional student housing was needed. In 1909, New/Wright Hall (118-5763-0038) was completed. This was the first academic building or residence hall built out of line with Main Hall, positioned perpendicular to West Hall and oriented toward the east. Designed by Edward Frye & Aubrey Chesterman in the Georgian Revival style, the building incorporates design motifs similar to those of Frye’s East/Moore Hall and West Hall. Although the five buildings vary stylistically, they all complement Main Hall in terms of materials and detailing, while remaining subordinate to the original building in size and scale.

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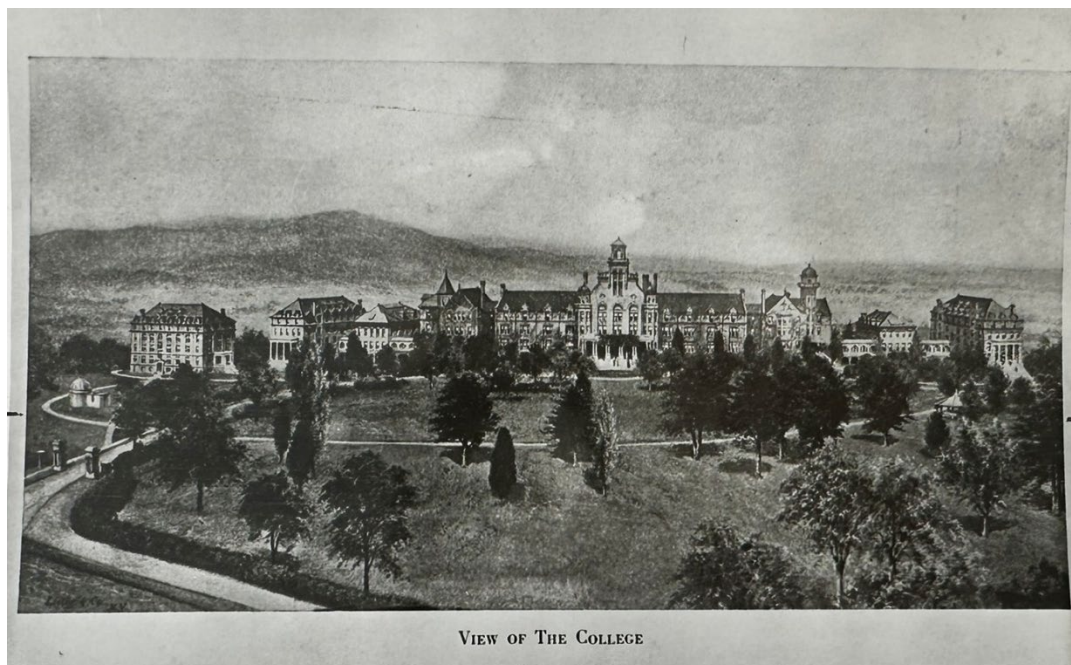


Figure 3: Ca. 1910 photograph of Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Courtesy of Randolph College.

Several small domestic buildings were built on campus behind the early academic buildings and residence halls. In 1911, a 1 ½-story house (118-5763-0036) was constructed for RMWC's treasurer, Robert Winfree. This wood-frame home features a side gable roof, shed dormers, a polygonal bay window, and an inset porch. The building remains intact behind Lipscomb Library (118-5763-0017), with some modifications to the original materials. Beginning in 1911, campus sororities began constructing houses in an area at the rear of campus known as "The Pines." Over the first half of the 20th century, about fifteen sorority and secret society houses were built in this area. Today, only one remains, the Pi Beta Phi house (118-5763-0024), currently used by the Art Department, as sororities were disbanded in 1961. This vernacular dwelling preserves its historic form, notable brick chimney, and inset porch, typical of the modest cabins built in "The Pines." Other structures and objects constructed during this period include the Winfree Observatory (1900; 118-5763-0037), a gazebo known as the "Summer House" (ca. 1900; 118-5763-0028), and a statue in honor of George M. Jones (1912; 118-5763-0014), one of the school's earliest benefactors.

1920s and 1930s Growth

Construction slowed during the 1910s; however, the 1920s and 1930s marked a period of significant growth on campus. Five new buildings, all designed by the locally prominent architect Stanhope Johnson, were added to the campus. Smith Memorial Hall (118-5763-0027), built from 1920 to 1923, continued the Georgian Revival tradition established by Poindexter, Frye, and Chesterman. Noted Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram served as a consultant for this project. Situated at the corner of Rivermont Avenue and N. Princeton Circle, this four-and-a-

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half-story building is T-shaped in plan with a cross-gable roof, cutaway bay windows, gabled wall dormers, and monumental Doric porticoes supported by brick arcades.

Somewhat smaller in scale than Smith Memorial Hall are Webb Hall (118-5763-0033), a four-story dormitory completed in 1923; Lipscomb Library (118-5763-0017), a four-story library finalized and dedicated in 1929; Presser Hall (118-5763-0025), a two-story music building completed in 1930; and Martin Science Building (118-5763-0019), a five-story academic building finished and opened in 1937. These buildings are all constructed of red brick and feature a variety of Georgian Revival elements, such as symmetrical façades, cupolas, dentilled and modillioned cornices, porticos, balustrades, Classical door surrounds and pediments, and multi-paned windows. Warren H. Manning, a renowned landscape architect from Boston, assisted with the site design for Lipscomb Library and Presser Hall. Lipscomb Library's site features brick terraces and walkways as well as a tall brick gazebo with Tuscan columns and pilasters supporting entablatures with Classical elements.



Figure 4: Ca. 1930s Aerial View of RMWC front campus. Courtesy of Lynchburg Museum System.

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Figure 5: 1954 photo of Lipscomb Hall's Front (East) Elevation. Courtesy of the History Museum of Western Virginia.

A boiler plant (118-5763-0009) was erected at the base of the hill behind Main Hall in 1930. This two-story building is more utilitarian in character, with decorative brickwork, multi-light industrial steel-sash windows, and a one-story coal pit to the rear. Around 1925, another single-family dwelling (118-5763-0002) was erected on the west side of Norfolk Avenue. This two-story brick American Foursquare is influenced by the Colonial Revival style, with its hipped roof, red brick walls, and a full-width porch supported by fluted Ionic columns.

Mid-20th-Century Expansion

Construction on the campus halted during the 1940s due to World War II and the school's financial strain. Renewed building and development on campus resumed in 1948-89 with the construction of Terrell Infirmary/Terrell Health & Counseling Center (118-5763-0090). This three-story infirmary, designed by Stanhope Johnson, is built into the hillside below Webb Hall (118-5763-0033). Terrell Infirmary closely resembles Johnson's Georgian Revival design for Presser Hall (1930; 118-5763-0025) in both form and detailing. Like Presser Hall, it features a central entrance block with a front gable roof flanked by flat-roofed wings, roof balustrades, dentilled wood cornices, a central cupola, and a Classical Revival-style entrance with engaged Ionic columns and a broken pediment. In 1951, construction began on an art gallery (118-5763-0006) at the rear of RMWC's campus along Quinlan Street, which also served as an emergency storage facility for the National Gallery of Art. The function of this building is apparent in its construction and design: concrete construction clad with brick veneer, a lack of window

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openings, a loading dock, and facilities for guards. Only the front entrance features any stylistic detailing, with a small entry portico supported by Tuscan columns.

Several large-scale projects took place between the late 1950s and the mid-1970s. The first project was the Physical Education and Recreation Center (118-5763-0001), a new gymnasium facing Norfolk Avenue that provided updated athletic facilities for RMWC students. Completed in 1962, the building is typical of the International Style, characterized by its flat roof, lack of ornamentation, and expansive window walls. In 2019, the building underwent a \$3 million renovation, with the exteriors and interiors heavily remodeled, resulting in a loss of physical integrity. The building was renamed Michels Athletic Center upon its reopening.

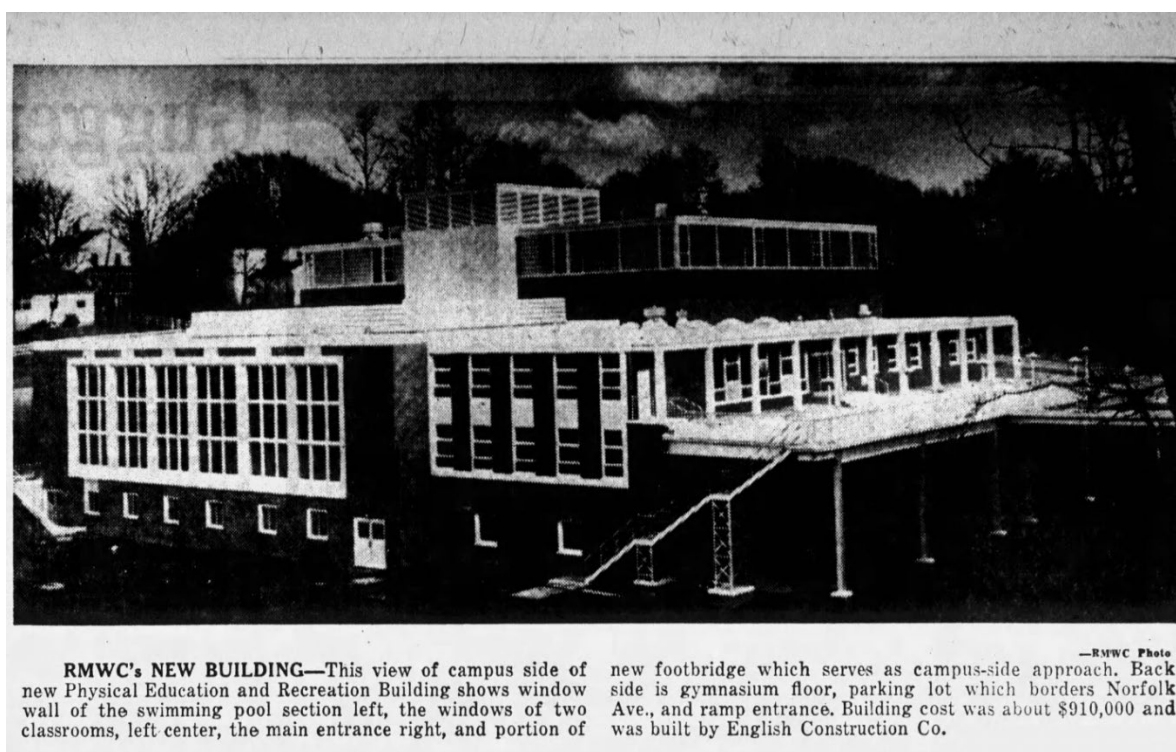


Figure 6: Photo of RMWC's Physical Education and Recreation Center. *The News & Advance*, February 11, 1962, p. 21.

The next major construction project occurred at the other end of campus, along N. Princeton Circle, behind Smith Memorial Hall. Built in 1963 and designed by Clark, Nexsen, and Owen, Bell Hall (118-5763-0007) is a five-story International Style dormitory with a flat roof, a steel-frame structure clad in brick veneer, and smooth concrete bands and awnings that provide simple detailing. The building also comprises a one-story wing that appends the north elevation of New/Wright Hall (118-5763-0038), expanding its dining room. In 1967, a substantial addition was constructed on the east (front) elevation of Lipscomb Library, facing Norfolk Avenue. The five-story brick wing is influenced by the International Style, characterized by its boxy form, full-height window banks, and cantilevered concrete balcony.

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The most notable building erected during this period is the Frances Hundley Houston Memorial Chapel (118-5763-0013), designed by Vincent G. Kling & Associates. Constructed between 1967 and 1969, the chapel is a notable example of the Neo-Expressionist style and a distinctive reflection of its time. The exterior is described by Kling as “a nearly circular building, the roof of which begins at the entrance and spirals upward to a 70-foot peak, symbolic of Christian aspiration and recalling an opening scroll. Two spires terminate the movement. The roof forms a lofted clerestory 40 feet high for a large, stained glass window.”¹ The chapel’s curvilinear form was designed to fit into the slope of the hill behind Webb Hall (118-5763-0033), as the architect was advised that the building “have a strong, but not a dominant presence on the campus, helping to express the ideal that this College seeks to sustain, that here mind and spirit are in constant and constructive dialogue.”² Although differing significantly in style from the other campus buildings, the chapel complements the older, traditional buildings with its red brick exterior and its subordinate position at the rear of campus.

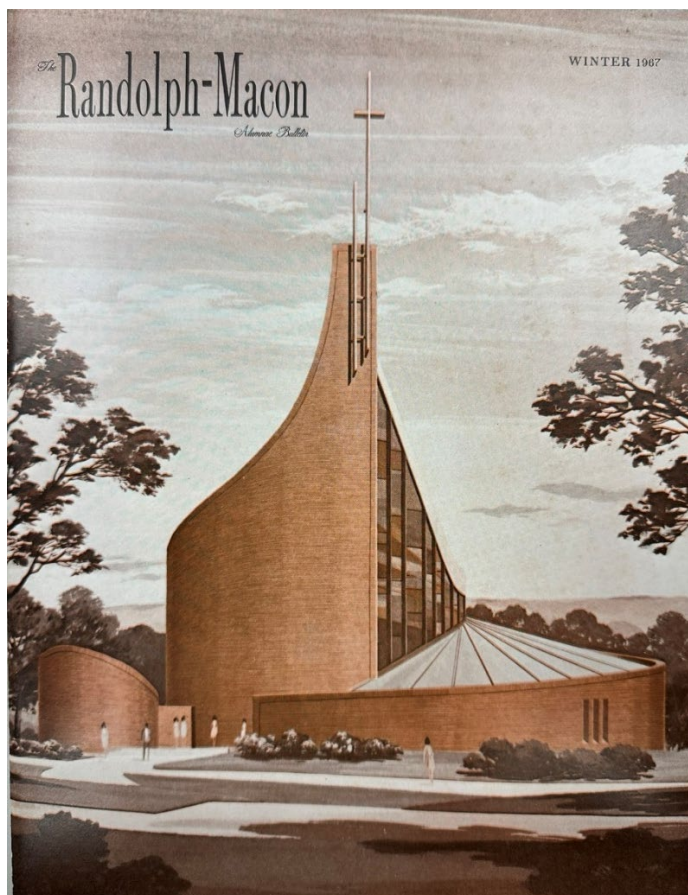


Figure 7: Illustration of Frances Hundley Houston Memorial Chapel on cover of *The Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Winter 1967

¹ "Chapel Plan Evolves," (*The Sundial*, November 3, 1966), pp. 1, 3.

² "President Quillian Outlines Plans for Ford Challenge Grant Funds," (*The Sundial*, November 10, 1966), p. 1.

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The next and most recent large building project was the Leggett Building (118-5763-0016). Standing on the slope of the hill behind Main Hall (118-5763-0018) and the Psychology Building (118-5763-0026), the six-story academic building exemplifies the International Style with its steel frame, brick walls, flat roofs, and geometric concrete ornament. The building also exhibits influences from Frank Lloyd Wright with its cantilevered roof and balconies.

Several historic landscape features contribute to the campus's historic significance. In 1930, the brick wall (118-5763-0032) was constructed to enclose the campus along Rivermont Avenue, Norfolk Avenue, and N. Princeton Circle. The wall includes brick piers, decorative concrete caps, iron gates, and decorative light fixtures. At the rear west end of campus, The Dell (118-5763-0012) comprises the Mable K. Whiteside Memorial Amphitheatre, with a flagstone stage (1940) and terraced concrete and stone seating (1962). In 1950, a formal 18th-century European-style garden known as Mary's Garden (118-5763-0020) was designed and planted between Lipscomb Library (118-5763-0017) and East/Moore Hall (118-5763-0022). The garden features manicured lawns, shrubs, bushes, trees, and various plants, including hollies, magnolias, azaleas, rhododendrons, violets, pansies, and jonquils.

Small-scale development, including additional landscape design elements and updated athletic fields, has occurred on campus over the past few decades. However, no major building projects have taken place since the completion of the Leggett Building (118-5763-0016) in 1975. Overall, the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District retains a cohesive collection of academic buildings, dormitories, and other support structures that represent the school's development and evolution from 1891 to the present. The buildings at the front of campus are unified through Classic design elements, red brick exteriors, and scale. As campus development continued into the third quarter of the 20th century, buildings constructed toward the rear of campus complemented the older buildings in terms of materials and scale, while clearly reflecting the architectural styles and massing of their own period. Although the older buildings are more formally arranged and the newer buildings follow a more organic site layout, the campus as a whole retains a harmonious character.

Statement of Integrity

The Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District encompasses the development of a private women's college from its opening in 1891 through 1975. The district retains its integrity of location, as the boundary encompasses the campus's historic physical area, surrounded by Rivermont Avenue, Norfolk Avenue, and N. Princeton Avenue. The district also retains its original siting and layout, with the oldest buildings formally arranged towards the front of the campus, and the newer buildings more organically laid out towards the rear. The stately houses and small commercial buildings of the Rivermont Historic District also remain in their historic locations nearby. Therefore, the district retains its integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The historic forms, massing, materials, and stylistic details remain substantially intact, providing integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Therefore, the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District retains its integrity to convey significance as a private college established for women at the turn of the 20th century in the American Southeast.

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Inventory

The following inventory lists the resources within the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District. Whether a resource is considered contributing or non-contributing was determined based on its physical integrity (intact historic materials) as it supports the historic district's significance under Criterion A (Education) and Criterion C during the period of significance (1891–1975). Since most resources share the same formal address, all resources are listed under their street name and then are listed alphabetically by resource name. Each entry provides the address, resource name (if applicable), date of construction, architectural style, current building use, VDHR File number, and the contributing status within the district. Resources are keyed to the Sketch Map/Photo Key by the last four digits of the eleven-digit DHR inventory number (i.e., -0001, -0002, etc.)

Norfolk Avenue

Michels Athletic Center, 139 Norfolk Ave **118-5763-0001** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: Gymnasium (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, 1962
Non-contributing *Total: 1*
Secondary Resource: Tennis Court (Structure) **Contributing** *Total: 1*

Norfolk House, 155 Norfolk Avenue **118-5763-0002** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1925
Contributing *Total: 1*

Quinlan Street

House, 5 Quinlan Street **118-5763-0003** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1957
Contributing *Total: 1*

Softball Complex, 5 Quinlan Street **118-5763-0004** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: Athletic Field/Court (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 2002
Non-contributing *Total: 1*
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

2500 Rivermont Avenue

Am Sam Cabin **118-5763-0005** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: Clubhouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1965
Contributing *Total: 1*

Bell Hall **118-5763-0007** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: Dormitory/Barracks (Building), Stories 5, Style: International Style, 1963
Contributing *Total: 1*

Boiler Plant **118-5763-0009** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: Boiler House (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, 1930
Contributing *Total: 1*

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Canto Sculpture	118-5763-0010	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Sculpture/Statue (Object), Style: Other, 1962</i>			
	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Dancing Girl Sculpture	118-5763-0011	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	118-0149-0002
<i>Primary Resource: Sculpture/Statue (Object), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Dell	118-5763-0012	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Amphitheater (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 1909</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Frances Hundley Houston Memorial Chapel	118-5763-0013	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	118-5510
<i>Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 2, Style: Modernist, 1969</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
George M Jones Statue	118-5763-0014	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	118-0334-0424
<i>Primary Resource: Monument/Marker (Object), Style: No discernible style, 1911</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Labyrinth	118-5763-0015	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Site), Style: No discernible style, 2016</i>			
	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Leggett Building	118-5763-0016	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Classroom Building (Building), Stories 6, Style: International Style, 1975</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Lipscomb Library	118-5763-0017	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Library (Building), Stories 4, Style: Georgian Revival, 1929</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Maier Museum of Art	118-5763-0006	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	118-5187
<i>Primary Resource: Museum (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1952</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Main Hall	118-5763-0018	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	118-0149, 118-0334-0425
<i>Primary Resource: School (Building), Stories 3, Style: Queen Anne, 1891</i>			
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
Martin Science Building	118-5763-0019	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Classroom Building (Building), Stories 5, Style: Georgian Revival, 1937</i>			
<i>Secondary Resource: Garden (Site)</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Greenhouse/Conservatory (Building)</i>	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Pond (Structure)</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

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Mary's Garden	118-5763-0020	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Garden (Site), Style: No discernible style, 1950</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Michels Plaza	118-5763-0021	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Plaza (Site), Style: No discernible style, 2013</i>		
	Non-contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Moore Hall	118-5763-0022	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Dormitory/Barracks (Building), Stories 5, Style: Georgian Revival, 1904</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Organic Garden	118-5763-0023	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Garden (Site), Style: No discernible style, 2003</i>		
	Non-contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Parts of Human Body Sculpture	118-5763-0008	<i>Other DHR Id#: 118-0149-0001</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Sculpture/Statue (Object), Style: No discernible style, 1981</i>		
	Non-contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Pines Cottage	118-5763-0024	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Clubhouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1915</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Presser Hall	118-5763-0025	<i>Other DHR Id#: 118-0334-0301</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Classroom Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Georgian Revival, 1930</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Psychology Building	118-5763-0026	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Classroom Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Georgian Revival, 1906</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Smith Memorial Hall	118-5763-0027	<i>Other DHR Id#: 118-5177,</i> <i>118-0334-0302</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Classroom Building (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Georgian Revival, 1923</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)</i>	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Summer House	118-5763-0028	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Gazebo (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1900</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
Sundial	118-5763-0029	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Sculpture/Statue (Object), Style: No discernible style, 1974</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>

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Terrell Health & Counseling Center	118-5763-0030	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Clinic (Building), Stories 3, Style: Georgian Revival, 1949</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
Thoresen Hall	118-5763-0031	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Classroom Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Georgian Revival, 1906</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
Wall	118-5763-0032	<i>Other DHR Id#: 118-0334-0417</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Wall (Structure), Style: No Discernable Style, 1930</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
Webb Hall	118-5763-0033	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Dormitory/Barracks (Building), Stories 4, Style: Georgian Revival, 1923</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
West Hall	118-5763-0034	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Dormitory/Barracks (Building), Stories 5, Style: Georgian Revival, 1906</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)</i>	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
WildCat Stadium	118-5763-0035	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Athletic Field/Court (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 2009</i>			
	Non-contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Restroom Facility (Building)</i>	Non-contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)</i>	Non-contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
Winfree House	118-5763-0036	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, 1911</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
Winfree Observatory	118-5763-0037	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Observatory (Building), Style: No discernible style, 1900</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>
Wright Hall	118-5763-0038	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Dormitory/Barracks (Building), Stories 5, Style: Georgian Revival, 1909</i>			
	Contributing		<i>Total: 1</i>

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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

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1891-1975

Significant Dates

1893-1894 (first academic year)

1953 (RMWC establishes a separate charter from Randolph-Macon College)

1965 (RMWC becomes integrated)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William F. Poindexter (Architect)

Edward Frye (Architect)

Stanhope Johnson (Architect)

Ralph Adams Cram (Architect)

Perry, Shaw, Hepburn, and Dean (Architect)

Clark, Nexson, and Owen (Architect)

Vincent G. Kling & Associates (Architect)

Warren Henry Manning (Landscape Architect)

John P. Pettyjohn & Co. (Builder)

Vermilya-Brown Contracting Co. (Builder)

English Building Co. (Builder)

S.R. Gay & Son (Builder)

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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.)

The Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District is eligible for National Register listing with significance at the statewide level under Criterion A in the area of Education as one of the earliest and longest-operating women's colleges in Virginia and the broader South. Over time, the college evolved to reflect the changing roles of women in society. The historic district is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a cohesive campus encompassing a full range of buildings and structures associated with a small, private, residential college. The campus buildings, dating from 1891 to 1975, reflect the college's sustained growth and expansion of its curriculum. Designed by prominent local and national architects in a variety of styles, the buildings reflect evolving aesthetics over nearly a century while retaining a harmonious character in scale, setting, and red brick construction, which gives Randolph-Macon Woman's College its unique identity. The period of significance begins in 1891, with the initial plans and land acquisition for the college, and ends in 1975 with the construction of the most recent building (Leggett Building).

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

Criterion A Justification: Education

The Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District is significant at the state level under Criterion A in the area of Education as one of the earliest and longest-operating women's colleges in Virginia and the broader South, illustrating the development of higher-education institutions for women from the late 19th through the early 20th century. Following the Civil War, higher education for women expanded beyond private academies and seminaries to four-year liberal arts colleges. Several factors contributed to this growth – including increased demand for teachers in public schools, shifting marriage prospects in the postwar era, the rise of women's literature, and broader employment opportunities created by industrialization – leading to a greater emphasis on women's higher education.³ By the late 19th century, institutions of higher education for women had emerged as Catholic colleges, private independent colleges, or public state colleges.⁴ Particularly in the South, where ideals of social status and gentility reinforced strict gender roles, private independent women's colleges were frequently affiliated with Protestant denominations.⁵ These late 19th- and early 20th-century institutions distinguished themselves from earlier academies through advanced four-year curricula,

³ Irene Harwarth, Mindi Maline, and Elizabeth DeBra, *Women's Colleges in the United States: History, Issues, and Challenges*, (Washington, DC: National Institute on Postsecondary Education, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning, U.S. Department of Education, 1997), pp. 2-3.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 6.

⁵ *Ibid*, pp. 7-8.

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governance by boards of trustees, and the creation of endowments, elevating their standing to that of comparable male institutions and supporting their long-term stability.⁶

In 1891, the Board of Trustees amended Randolph-Macon College's charter to permit the education of women. Initially founded by the Methodist Church in 1830 to educate white men, the Randolph-Macon College system expanded to include a women's college and preparatory schools for boys and girls. Upon the founding of Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg in 1891, the Board declared its mission "to establish in Virginia a college where our young women may obtain an education equal to that given in our best colleges for young men."⁷ The first academic year began in 1893 with an initial enrollment of 77, including 36 boarders. The curriculum encompassed English, Latin, Greek, German, French, mathematics, various sciences, pedagogy, music, art, elocution, and physical culture.⁸

Under its founder and first president, Dr. William Waugh Smith, the college experienced marked development in its first two decades of operation. In 1897, the first graduates established an alumnae association to support the institution and strengthen the alumnae community. By 1899, student life expanded to include a student government, sororities, and an honor code. In 1901, RMWC became the first women's college to receive accreditation from the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools in the Southern States, and in 1903, it was one of only two women's colleges in the South, alongside the Women's College of Baltimore (now Goucher College), to offer a four-year curriculum.⁹ Enrollment climbed to 300 in 1904, and in 1906, the college boasted 350 students, forty-three faculty and staff members, and an endowment totaling more than \$200,000.¹⁰ In 1909, the college likely became the first women's institution in the South to stage a Greek play in the original language.¹¹ Reflecting broader regional traditions, the college introduced May Day festivities during this period. In 1916, it further distinguished itself by becoming the fourth college in Virginia – and the first independent women's college in the South – to receive a charter to establish a Phi Beta Kappa chapter.¹²

From 1920 through 1930, the school's cultural and academic life expanded significantly with the acquisition of a permanent art collection (1920), the establishment of a Fine Arts Committee (1926), the inauguration of the college's study abroad program (1926), and the construction of Presser Hall (1930; 118-5763-0025), a music building that fully integrated the Music Department

⁶ Harwarth, *Women's Colleges in the United States*, p. 2.

⁷ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, "Main Hall – Randolph-Macon Woman's College," (DHR File No. #118-0149, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, June 1979), sec. 8, p. 1.

⁸ Roberta D. Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1951), pp. 30, 42, 44.

⁹ *Ibid*, p. 109; Amy Thompson McCandless, "Progressivism and the Higher Education of Southern Women," (North Carolina Historical Review. Vol LXX, No. 3, July 1993), p. 317, cited in Harwarth, *Women's Colleges in the United States*, p. 8.

¹⁰ "Minutes for the Virginia Annual Conference," (Methodist Episcopal Church, South, November 14-19, 1906, Portsmouth, VA), p. 91; cited in Robert A. Hohner, "Southern Education in Transition: William Waugh Smith, the Carnegie Foundation, and the Methodist Church," (History of Education Quarterly, vol 27. no. 2, 1987), p.185.

¹¹ Roberta D. Cornelius, "Greek Plays at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, (*Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, April 1954), pp. 21-22.

¹² Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, "Main Hall," sec. 8, p 3.

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into the college curriculum. These developments strengthened the college's commitment to a comprehensive liberal arts education for women.

Scientific education also advanced as part of the school's institutional growth. In 1938, the Psychology Department moved into expanded quarters in the Carnegie Science Building (118-0034-5763-0026), and the Celestia S. Parrish Laboratory was established. It is recognized as one of the first two psychology laboratories in the South, with the first established at Johns Hopkins University. The Parrish Laboratory and the construction of the Martin Science Building (1937; 118-5763-0019) reflect RMWC's commitment to advancing scientific education for women and represent a significant development in the history of higher education in the South.¹³

Despite the shifting social landscape of the second half of the 20th century, RMWC continued to expand its curriculum, faculty, student body, and physical campus while maintaining its commitment to women's education. In 1953, the college became autonomous from Randolph-Macon College with its own Board of Trustees. During the 1960s, students advocated for civil rights and gender equality, participating in sit-ins and other nonviolent demonstrations. In 1965, the college became the first institution of higher education in Lynchburg to admit Black students. The 1970s brought heightened social activism, including protests against the war in Vietnam and support of the feminist movement. During this time, more traditional groups and activities, such as sororities and the May Day festivities, were discontinued.

As coeducational opportunities became more widely available in the 1960s and 1970s, women's colleges around the country experienced declining enrollment, with many either admitting men, merging with other institutions, or closing entirely.¹⁴ RMWC responded by adapting its curriculum to meet the changing educational needs of women and expanding opportunities for international study, including a partnership with the University of Reading in England in 1968. The college's commitment to growth and improvement was reflected in one of the largest graduating classes in RMWC's history, with 207 students matriculating in 1980.¹⁵ Nationally, however, the number of women's colleges declined from a peak of 276 in 1945 to only 83 in 1993.¹⁶ After 114 years as a women's college, declining enrollment led the Board of Trustees to make the difficult decision in 2006 to transition to coeducation. With the opening of the 2007 academic year, the college admitted male residential students and changed its name to Randolph College.

Historical Narrative

Establishment and Growth During the 1890s

Founded in Lynchburg in 1891, Randolph-Macon Woman's College (RMWC) traces its history to the 1830 charter of Randolph-Macon College in Boydton, Virginia. The Methodist Church

¹³ "Founders' Prophecy Finds Devoted Champion in Dr. Jack," (*The Sundial*, May 15, 1952), p. 2.

¹⁴ Harwarth, *Women's Colleges in the United States*, p. vii.

¹⁵ Lee Kelley, "Master Plan Is Moving Along Well," (*The Sundial*, September 10, 1982), p. 3.

¹⁶ Harwarth, *Women's Colleges in the United States*, p. 17.

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established Randolph-Macon College for the higher education of White men. In 1868, the college relocated its campus to Ashland, Virginia, to flee the devastation wrought on Southern Virginia during the Civil War. In February 1890, the original charter was expanded and amended, allowing the Board of Trustees to establish other “schools, academies, or other institutions of learning for the instruction of the youth of the land.”¹⁷ Under the leadership of Dr. William Waugh Smith and his staff, the Randolph-Macon College Board of Trustees voted on March 10, 1891, to establish a women’s college in Lynchburg, Virginia. Thus, Dr. Smith became the chief founder of RMWC and, soon thereafter, the school’s first president. He and his colleagues worked diligently to secure land and money for the institution. A system of Randolph-Macon preparatory schools, two for boys and one for girls, also opened in Bedford, Front Royal, and Danville during the 1890s under the expanded charter.¹⁸

In 1890, the city of Lynchburg was booming with several land companies working to expand and develop its outer limits. One of these companies, the Rivermont Land Company, laid out what is now the Rivermont neighborhood. Its 1891 plat included a 19.8-acre parcel, acquired from Mr. and Mrs. George W. Langhorne, designated as the site for a “Lynchburg Woman’s College.” The Rivermont neighborhood remained part of Campbell County until 1908, when it was incorporated into the city of Lynchburg.¹⁹ George M. Jones, an early developer of Rivermont, recognized that securing an anchor institution would lend the neighborhood prestige and attract investment. As history professor John d’Entrement explained, “The women’s college would have only women so they were not likely to be rowdy and bad neighbors, and it would be built to be beautiful and dominate the landscape so it would be attractive.”²⁰ As a result, the Rivermont Land Company donated a centrally located site along Rivermont Avenue to the Randolph-Macon College Board of Trustees for the establishment of the women’s college. The Rivermont Land Company also donated \$40,000 in cash and \$60,000 in company stock to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Smith also campaigned in greater Lynchburg to raise money for the school, and the city’s citizens, businesses, and religious congregations showed their enthusiasm by donating \$220,000 in about two months.²¹

With the land and finances in place, the Building Committee then elected William M. Poindexter from Washington, D.C. to design the building for Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. Dr. Smith and Poindexter toured small colleges along the East Coast to study their architectural designs. Poindexter then designed Main Hall (118-5763-0018; NRHP 1979), employing the Queen Anne style. Intended to operate as a seminary, the building’s interior was planned to accommodate all of the school’s functions, including administrative offices, classrooms, dormitory rooms, and a chapel.²² In 1892, John P. Pettyjohn and Company began construction, and the college was

¹⁷ Randolph-Macon College’s original charter, granted by the Legislature of Virginia on February 3, 1830, quoted in Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College*, p. 3

¹⁸ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College*, pp. 3-4, 19.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 27-28

²⁰ Margaret Carmel, “Jones Statue Removed,” (*The News & Advance*, August 26, 2017), p. 1.

²¹ Elizabeth Latta Brother, “Town and Gown: An Enduring Relationship,” (*Randolph-Macon Woman’s College Alumnae Bulletin Centennial Issue*, vol. 85, no. 1), p. 5.

²² Meta Glass, “Untitled,” “Untitled.” (*Randolph-Macon Woman’s College Alumnae Bulletin Centennial Issue*, vol. 85, no. 1.), p. 20.

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projected to open in September 1893. Soon after construction began, however, an economic depression seized the nation, and cash flow slowed. The Rivermont Land Company went into receivership in June 1893, and it was only through the tireless effort of Pettyjohn and his company that Main Hall was ready to open in the fall of 1893. However, the third floor remained unfinished until the next year. Just before the school opened in September 1893, the Rivermont Street Railway Company completed its new station in front of the school, and a brick walkway was installed from the station to Main Hall.²³

Randolph-Macon Woman's College opened on September 14, 1893, with Dr. Smith serving as president. During its first academic year, the college comprised seventy-seven students (thirty-six boarders and forty-one day students), twelve faculty members, including Dr. Smith, the college physician, two staff members from the preparatory department, and a matron. The curriculum included courses in English, Latin, Greek, German, French, mathematics, various sciences, pedagogy, music, art, elocution, and physical culture.²⁴ Dr. Alexander W. Terrell, the college's first physician, attended to students' medical needs from 1893 through 1942. Dr. Terrell was a medical pioneer in Lynchburg, known for his progressive use of vaccines and as the first physician in the city to employ X-ray equipment for diagnosing patients.²⁵

Dr. Smith served as president of both Randolph-Macon College and Randolph-Macon Woman's College from 1893 through 1897. Dr. John Kern was elected as Randolph-Macon College's president in 1897, and Dr. Smith continued to serve as president of RWMC and the chancellor of the Randolph-Macon System of colleges and preparatory schools.²⁶ On June 13-14, 1894, the first commencement was held in the chapel at Main Hall.²⁷ The college was listed in the 1893-1894 United States Commissioner of Education's report under Division A of colleges for women in the United States. At the time, RMWC was one of only fifteen women's colleges, "representing the best type of higher education being offered American women in their own independent institutions."²⁸ The school continued to thrive in its second year of operation, and the third floor of Main Hall was completed, providing additional dormitory rooms.

RMWC grew rapidly throughout the rest of the decade. In 1897, six students earned the first four-year degrees. By 1899, both the east and west wings of Main Hall were finished, adding more dormitory space, a new library with 20,000 volumes donated by George M. Jones, and a Senior Parlor. In 1893, the school's first two literary societies, the Washington and the Franklin, were founded. The Washington Literary Society disbanded in 1899, and some members of the Franklin formed the Jefferson Literary Society in 1903 to provide new competition. Both the

²³ S. Allen Chambers, *Lynchburg: An Architectural History*, (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1981), p. 309.

²⁴ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 30, 42, 44.

²⁵ "Dr. A.W. Terrell, First Physician at College, Will Be Honored for Fifty Years of Service," (*The Sundial*, September 23, 1948), p. 2.

²⁶ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 19.

²⁷ *Ibid*, p. 53.

²⁸ *Ibid*, p. 59.

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Franklin and Jefferson societies thrived until 1921, when new organizations emerged to replace them.²⁹

In 1897, eight graduates of RMWC formed the Alumnae Association. In 1899, the first RMWC Student Government was elected, and the Honor System was initiated. Dr. Smith believed the Honor System and Student Government were fundamental to student life, fostering an environment of collaboration and trust among students, faculty, and staff.³⁰ Also in 1899, the first sorority, the Sigma Chapter of Chi Omega, was established on campus. Between 1899 and 1904, five additional sororities were chartered. Dr. Smith was skeptical that sororities would play a positive role on campus. However, he eventually concluded that if given responsibility, they could contribute to student life in a "creditable and co-operative" manner.³¹ Secret societies also played a valuable role on campus, with the Am Sams organized in 1899 and chartered in 1902; S.T.A.B. founded in 1899; and Pi established in 1904.³² The Class of 1903 established the senior-sophomore and junior-freshman tradition of adopting "little sisters." In 1910, terms and mascots of Evens and Odds were established, and each group formed its own secret society.³³

Early 20th Century Growth Under Dr. William Waugh Smith

A significant milestone for RMWC came in 1901, when it became the first women's college to be accredited for membership in the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools in the Southern States.³⁴ As the school's educational and social opportunities expanded, so did interest in attending RMWC. Entrance requirements were formally laid out in 1900-1901, requiring prospective students to be proficient in English, history, mathematics, science, and one of the following languages: Latin, Greek, or a modern language. However, a student could be admitted if she was proficient in at least three of the six subjects and made up for her deficiencies in the other subjects in her first two years at RMWC.³⁵ In 1900, the Winfree Observatory (118-5763-0037) was erected on campus to house the school's new telescope. Major C.V. Winfree, a prominent Lynchburg Citizen, acquired the telescope through his subscription to the 20th Century Fund of the Methodist Church and donated both the telescope and the funds to construct the observatory.³⁶ In the early 20th century, RMWC purchased land at the back of the campus, more than doubling its original size.³⁷

²⁹ "Randolph-Macon Woman's College: Its Origins and Development," (*Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Spring 1977), pp. 9-10.

³⁰ "Randolph-Macon Woman's College: Its Origins and Development," p. 7.

³¹ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 117.

³² *Ibid*, p. 90.

³³ "Randolph-Macon Woman's College: Its Origins and Development," p. 10.

³⁴ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 109.

³⁵ *Ibid*, p. 75.

³⁶ Originally located at the campus's southwest corner at Rivermont Avenue and N. Princeton Circle, it was rebuilt and enlarged at its current location, near the Pines, when Smith Memorial Hall (118-5177) was constructed from 1920 to 1923.

³⁷ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 60, 62.

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From 1904 through 1911, extensive building campaigns expanded both dormitory and academic facilities. At a Board of Trustees meeting in 1903, the Executive Committee reported an urgent need for additional dormitory space. On March 31, 1904, the Board approved the construction of a new dormitory east of Main Hall.³⁸ John P. Pettyjohn and Company erected East Hall (118-5763-0022) in just five months, prompting the local newspaper to suggest it was likely record-setting construction time in Lynchburg. The building was lit by acetylene gas and heated by steam from the new campus heating plant. Thus, in September 1904, the college could accommodate more than 300 boarding students, nearly a tenfold increase from the original thirty-six boarders in 1893.³⁹ Shortly after the completion of East Hall, the Executive Committee for RMWC recommended that the Board of Trustees authorize a dormitory for an additional hundred students, corresponding to East Hall.⁴⁰ West Hall (118-5763-0034) was constructed in 1906 at the opposite end of the spine of early buildings. Both East and West Halls were designed by Edward Frye, and their exteriors are identical.

As the student body grew and new buildings appeared across campus, the staff and faculty expanded as well, keeping pace with the school's rapid development. In RMWC's first academic year, the only instructors were two teachers from the Preparatory Department. By the 1903-1904 academic year, there were five instructors and one assistant in the academic departments, three music instructors, and one director/instructor in physical education. The faculty also expanded in the first ten years, with two professors of science, and a professor in each of the following departments: mathematics, philosophy, pedagogy, history, economics, French, German, and English. Recitals and concerts, coordinated by the music faculty, became a regular fixture of campus life, offering the RMWC community opportunities to gather and enjoy a variety of performances. The Art Department flourished under the leadership of Sallie Manhood, Louise Smith, and Bernard Gutman, who were "generally regarded as benefactors to the city of Lynchburg through the impetus they have to creative art."⁴¹ In 1905, Mr. P.V.D. Conway purchased and donated the old bell from St. Paul's Church to RMWC. It was installed in Main Hall's bell tower and christened "Conway" to honor Mr. Conway.⁴²

In 1906, Carnegie Science Building (118-5763-0031) and Jones Memorial Library (118-5763-0026) were erected to provide expanded academic facilities for RMWC students and faculty. Designed by William F. Poindexter, the two buildings are mirror images of each other and flank Main Hall. Andrew Carnegie donated \$20,000 toward the construction of a science building on the RMWC campus, which was named Carnegie Science Hall in his honor. Additional friends of the college contributed funds to cover the remaining costs. The building opened in September 1906, providing upgraded science equipment and facilities. During this same time, Mrs. Mary Watts Jones, George M. Jones's widow, financed a new library building in memory of her late husband and their two daughters, Georgie and Lillie Jones, who had died in 1903. Jones

³⁸ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 113.

³⁹ *Ibid*, p. 60.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, p. 115.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, pp. 70-71.

⁴² *Ibid*, pp. 113-114.

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Memorial Library opened in 1906, replacing the original library in Main Hall and providing shelf space for 50,000 volumes.⁴³

RMWC maintained exceptionally high academic standards, and in 1906, the Carnegie Foundation recognized it as one of two private Southern colleges (along with Vanderbilt) “with admission standards high enough to qualify for the Carnegie pension plan.”⁴⁴ Yet this recognition came with a condition: to participate in the program, a school could not be controlled by any church denomination. This requirement sparked fierce debate between Dr. Smith and his supporters and those supporting the Methodist church, a struggle that played out both in the governance of RMWC and the broader question of ecclesiastical involvement in the governance of institutions of higher education.⁴⁵ RMWC’s only strong tie to the Methodist Church was its control of Randolph-Macon College, and the same Board of Trustees governed both schools. In the end, the Methodist supporters prevailed, and in 1909, the Carnegie Foundation amicably ended its relationship with Dr. Smith and RMWC. Dr. Smith lamented that the Carnegie Foundation affiliation “had given the college national prominence, a faculty of higher quality, and a wider constituency. With the Board’s decision, however, he feared that Randolph-Macon would be restricted largely to “Methodist Patronage and financial support,” reducing the school to what he described as “a second-class institution.”⁴⁶

Despite the tumult over the Methodist church’s role in RMWC’s administration, the school continued to develop. In 1909, a new residence hall, aptly named “New Hall” (118-5763-0038), was completed and opened for the 1909-1910 academic year. Designed by Lynchburg architects Frye & Chesterman, the building incorporates design motifs similar to Frye’s earlier designs for East Hall (118-5763-0022) and West Hall (118-5763-0034), but it is unique as the first building constructed off the central alignment with Main Hall. Also in 1909, a modern gymnasium (demolished) was constructed on campus behind West and New Halls, replacing the one located in the rear wing of Main Hall. The gymnasium boasted swimming pools, showers, and a large main floor with offices.⁴⁷

During this period, student life flourished alongside the college’s expanding campus. On May 13, 1909, students performed the first Greek play at the Dell (118-5763-0012) under the direction of Dr. Mable Kate Whiteside, a custom that remains part of campus life to this day. The students presented Euripides’ play *Alcestis*. RMWC was likely the first women’s college in the South to stage a Greek play performed in the original Greek language.⁴⁸ Also in 1909, RMWC inaugurated another long-standing tradition: the election of the first May Queen, along with a maid of honor, and eighteen court members, a festive event that combined pageantry, popularity, and celebration.⁴⁹ RMWC was one of many Southern women’s colleges that modeled their

⁴³ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College*, p. 116.

⁴⁴ Robert A. Hohner, “Southern Education in Transition: William Waugh Smith, the Carnegie Foundation, and the Methodist Church,” (History of Education Quarterly, vol 27. no. 2, 1987), pp. 185-186.

⁴⁵ *Ibid*, p.196.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*, pp. 198-199.

⁴⁷ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College*, pp. 157-58.

⁴⁸ Cornelius, “Greek Plays at Randolph-Macon Woman’s College,” pp. 21-22.

⁴⁹ Carolyn Wilkerson Bell, “Out of the Walls,” (*Lynch’s Ferry*, Spring/Summer 2006), p. 53.

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festivities on English May Day celebrations, which marked the arrival of spring. These celebrations included the Maypole dance, often seen as a symbol of fertility, the election of the May Court, and the coronation of the May Queen.

In 1911, Main Hall (118-5763-0018) was enlarged to the rear with the construction of a large Annex, which comprised new quarters for the Physics Department, six recitation rooms, four offices, and dorm rooms for approximately forty students.⁵⁰ Also in 1911, Alpha Delta Pi established the first sorority on campus, in a house nestled in the Pines at the rear of campus.⁵¹ The same year, Winfree House (118-5763-0036), then called "Lelwyn," was built as a residence for the school's treasurer, Robert Winfree, and his wife, Lellie Winfree. Robert served as the college's treasurer from 1898 and 1928 and is remembered for establishing a sound financial framework that enabled the college to thrive long after his death. After Robert died in 1928, Mrs. Winfree conveyed the house to RMWC and donated the assessed value of the cottage, \$6,000, to the Martin Science Building Fund. Various professors subsequently occupied the house, and it eventually became the Faculty Club's headquarters.⁵²

In 1912, Dr. William Waugh Smith died from sustained injuries caused by a railroad accident, leaving a legacy that would shape RMWC for decades to come. Under his leadership, RMWC surpassed his previous institution, Randolph-Macon College, in size, financial support, and academic excellence. By 1906, thirteen years after the college opened, RMWC boasted 350 students, forty-three members of faculty and staff, and an endowment of over \$200,000. RMWC's campus was valued at \$300,000 at that time.⁵³ By the time of his death, six years later, a total of seven significant academic buildings and residence halls stood at the front of campus, overlooking Rivermont Avenue. The student body, faculty, and curriculum continued to expand, with enrollment climbing to 500, and student life flourished.⁵⁴ In 1911, the senior class decided to establish a fund for building a new student hall. After Dr. Smith's death, they resolved to dedicate it in his honor, leaving a permanent mark on campus that would stand as a testament to his legacy.⁵⁵

Consolidation Under Dr. William A. Webb (1913-1919)

Dr. William A. Webb became the second president of RMWC in 1913. Under his leadership, student life evolved with the establishment of new student organizations and traditions. On March 12, 1914, RMWC celebrated the first Founders' Day in honor of Dr. Smith and the college's founding on March 10, 1891. In 1914, inspired by their participation in the Women's Intercollegiate Association for Student Government, students began planning a student-run newspaper and the first issue of *The Sundial* was published on February 4, 1915. The paper

⁵⁰ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 158.

⁵¹ *Ibid*, p. 163.

⁵² "School History, Traditional Haunt Macon Bookshop," (*The Sundial*, October 14, 1965), p. 2.

⁵³ "Minutes for the Virginia Annual Conference," (Methodist Episcopal Church, South, November 14-19, 1906, Portsmouth, VA), p. 91; cited in Hohner, "Southern Education," p.185.

⁵⁴ Roberta D. Cornelius, "Vision, Devotion, Achievement Characterize R-M's Presidents," (*The Sundial*, February 4, 1965), pp. 2-3.

⁵⁵ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 184, 168.

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became a weekly staple of campus life, continuing uninterrupted until 2022. Around this time, Nellie Powell, a faculty member in the English Department, helped students establish their own version of Lynchburg's Equal Suffrage League to promote and support the women's suffrage movement. Students and faculty established various clubs that appealed to a variety of interests, including the Literary Club, Quill Drivers, and Latin Club. Additional sororities were chartered, and corresponding houses were built in the Pines. Also active at RMWC, the YWCA provided social and religious services on campus and established the first student bookstore.⁵⁶

During his presidency, Dr. Webb worked tirelessly toward increasing the school's endowment. In March 1917, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to launch a \$500,000 fundraising campaign, with three-fifths of these funds earmarked for permanent endowment. In 1916, a charter was granted to establish a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at RMWC, which was installed in 1917. That same year, the college was placed on the approved list of the Association of American Universities. In 1919, during Dr. Webb's final year as president, RMWC graduates became eligible to join the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. Two years later, the organization merged with the Southern Association of College Women to form the American Association of University Women.⁵⁷ Dr. Webb died in 1919, and according to RMWC professor and historian Roberta Cornelius, his administration was "not a period of expansion but as one of consolidation. The internal structure of the College was made firmer, and its external relations were rendered more secure."⁵⁸

Dr. Dice Robins Anderson and the Prosperous 1920s

In December 1919, Dr. Dice Robins Anderson was selected as the next president at RWMC. Less than a year into his tenure, he celebrated a major accomplishment: in June 1920, he announced that the alumnae successfully raised \$75,000 toward the construction of the student building in commemoration of Dr. Smith. The Board of Trustees had promised to match one dollar for every three raised, increasing the funds to over \$100,000. However, construction was postponed for several years due to rising costs. In the meantime, Dr. Anderson devoted his time to building a new residence hall to accommodate the growing student body and increasing the school's endowment to strengthen the college's financial foundation.⁵⁹

In 1922, construction began on the student building, Smith Memorial Hall (118-5763-0027). The first of many campus buildings designed by notable Lynchburg architect Stanhope Johnson, it established the Georgian Revival style precedent for his subsequent work on the RMWC campus. Ralph Adams Cram served as consulting architect, and John P. Pettyjohn was hired as the builder. Completed and formally dedicated on February 8, 1923, the building centered around a 1,200-seat auditorium spanning the second and third floors of the T-stem. Additional interior spaces included a banquet hall, parlor, and offices that supported the building's social and

⁵⁶ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 184, 186-87.

⁵⁷ *Ibid*, pp. 192-193, 199.

⁵⁸ *Ibid*, p. 205.

⁵⁹ *Ibid* p. 210, 212.

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administrative functions.⁶⁰ One month later, Vice-President Calvin Coolidge delivered an address in Smith Memorial Hall as part of the Founders' Day activities.⁶¹

Later that year, Dr. Anderson reported the construction of a new dormitory in May 1923. Stanhope Johnson designed this four-story building to accommodate the influx of students in the early 1920s. John P. Pettyjohn and his company also served as the contractors for this dormitory, which cost approximately \$101,000 to build. Webb Hall (118-5763-0033), named in recognition of former President Dr. William Alexander Webb, opened for occupancy in September 1923.⁶² That same year, RWMC reached a new enrollment high of 800 students.⁶³

Cultural, social, and academic advances unfolded organically under Dr. Anderson's leadership. In 1920, Louise Jordan Smith, one of the founding members of the RWMC Art Department, established the school's permanent art collection. Several years later, in 1926, a Fine Arts Committee was formed, composed of members representing the fields of music, drama, poetry, dance, and painting. In May 1926, Pi Gamma Mu, an honorary social science fraternity, established a chapter at RMWC. The next year, a chapter of Tau Kappa Alpha, a national honorary forensic fraternity, was formed. Several other groups were organized in the 1920s, including the Debating Council, International Relations Club, and Dance Group. As these new groups were added, earlier groups were disbanded as student life evolved.⁶⁴

Towards the end of this decade, the school began planning for a new library and a music building. The new library building would replace the 1906 Jones Memorial Library (118-5763-0031), as the school's collection of volumes was rapidly outgrowing the existing building. Stanhope Johnson produced designs, and Warren H. Manning, a notable Boston landscape architect, selected the sites for both buildings. Manning suggested locating the library at the eastern end of the range, offering a dramatic site overlooking Norfolk Avenue. Smaller in scale than the library, the music building was suited to a site at the corner of Rivermont Avenue and Norfolk Avenue. Built the same year, the brick wall enclosing the front of the RMWC campus lends the building a sense of seclusion.⁶⁵ In May 1928, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee approved Johnson's designs and Manning's site selections. John P. Pettyjohn & Co. expeditiously constructed these buildings.

On November 1, 1929, the building, known simply as "the library" (118-5763-0017), opened officially at the Virginia Library Association's annual meeting. The interior comprised shelf room for up to 10,000 books, reading rooms, study spaces, and offices for faculty and staff.⁶⁶ With the relocation of the library collection from Jones Memorial Library (118-5763-0031), the 1906 building became the home Art Department. The library was renamed "Lipscomb Library"

⁶⁰ Chambers, *Lynchburg: An Architectural History*, p. 437.

⁶¹ "Vice-President Coolidge Speaks at Randolph-Macon," (*The Sundial*, March 16, 1923), p. 1.

⁶² Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 218.

⁶³ "Once Upon a Time...Whole College in Half Building Grows Up To Be R-M of Today," (*The Sundial*, February 15, 1951), p. 4.

⁶⁴ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 228, 230-238.

⁶⁵ Chambers, *Lynchburg: An Architectural History*, pp. 437-38.

⁶⁶ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 223.

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in 1959 in honor of Dr. Herbert C. Lipscomb, who had served as head of the Latin Department for forty-five years.⁶⁷ The music building Presser Hall (118-5763-0025) opened on April 17, 1930, at the corner of Rivermont and Norfolk avenues.⁶⁸ The building is named in honor of Theodore Presser, founder of the music publication *Etude*, first issued in 1883. Its construction was supported by a substantial donation from the Theodore Presser Foundation, based in Philadelphia. Presser Hall's interior originally included music rooms, offices, and an auditorium. It was dedicated on April 16 and 17, 1930, and has supported the Music Department's growth ever since. With the addition of Presser Hall, the Music Department was fully integrated into RMWC's curriculum, instead of merely serving as an extracurricular activity. Also in 1930, a brick wall (118-5763-0032) was constructed for \$25,000 to replace the earlier wire fencing that enclosed the front of the campus. The wall extends along Rivermont Avenue in front of campus, and partially along Norfolk Avenue and N. Princeton Circle. Various openings within the brick wall provide access to concrete paths and steps, as well as paved drives and parking lots. The same year, a new boiler plant (118-5763-0009) was built towards the rear of campus for \$75,000.⁶⁹

Enrollment continued to rise throughout the decade. Even with Webb Hall (118-5763-0033), there were not enough residential rooms to accommodate all applicants who met the entrance requirements. RMWC acquired neighborhood houses to provide additional rooms, as the student body often numbered over 800. However, the Student Government Association found it challenging to maintain RMWC standards and regulations at these off-campus houses. Subsequently, the decision was made to restrict student enrollment to the number that could live in the RMWC residence halls.⁷⁰ In the summer of 1926, the first group of students studied abroad in France as part of the Junior Year Abroad program. The school's study abroad program continues to the present day and was only interrupted during World War II.⁷¹

In 1931, President Anderson resigned from his post at RMWC. His years at the college were defined by broad expansion of the campus, endowment, curriculum, and student life. Three major buildings were added to the campus, faculty and staff salaries improved, and the permanent art collection took shape. The master's degree was strengthened, honors work was introduced, degree art and music courses granted degree credit, and the foreign study program was inaugurated. Following Anderson's resignation, the Board of Trustees struggled to find a new president for the college. During the interim, Dr. Pattillo served as acting president until Dr. Theodore Jack accepted the position in February 1933. Dr. N.A. Pattillo was a longtime professor of mathematics and dean of students at RMWC. When needed, Dr. Pattillo had previously served as acting president between the terms of the previous presidents; however, these appointments lasted only a few months each. During Dr. Pattillo's brief tenure in the early 1930s, the Dean's List was established.⁷²

⁶⁷ "The Library And Its Name," (*Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Jun 1959), pp. 1-2.

⁶⁸ Chambers, *Lynchburg: An Architectural History*, pp. 437-38.

⁶⁹ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 223-227.

⁷⁰ *Ibid*, p. 241.

⁷¹ *Ibid*, p. 253.

⁷² *Ibid*, pp. 245, 261, 263.

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Dr. Theodore Jack and the Tumultuous 1930s and 1940s

Dr. Theodore Jack took office as RMWC's next president in 1933 without any pomp and circumstance, as the nation was in the throes of the Great Depression. During this time of financial stress, faculty salaries were reduced by ten percent, and enrollment dropped to 566 students. In the summer of 1934, as the economy began to revive, the first major project under Dr. Jack's administration commenced, the renovation of Main Hall. For about \$160,000, exterior walls were reinforced, dormitory rooms were refurbished, several business offices were converted into a modern student lounge, and additional student parlors were created in the west wing. Additionally, the administrative offices were updated and expanded, and the entire building was fireproofed.⁷³

In 1937, the next large academic building, the Martin Science Building (118-5763-0019), was completed on the front campus along Norfolk Avenue. Stanhope Johnson once again designed this building, located between Lipscomb Library (118-5763-0017) and Presser Hall (118-5763-0025), in the Georgian Revival style, though this time with a more restrained approach than his previous three projects. John P. Pettyjohn & Co. again served as contractors. Martin Science Building was constructed at a cost of \$200,000, with an additional \$25,000 allocated to purchase updated science equipment. The building is named in honor of Dr. Fernando Wood Martin, one of the first faculty members at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and the head of the Chemistry Department until 1929. The Biology, Physics, and Chemistry departments relocated from the Carnegie Science Building (118-5763-0026) to Martin Science after its completion. Each department also has its own library, classrooms, offices, and laboratories. The Biology Department also boasts its own greenhouse and pond, which are still in use.⁷⁴ At Carnegie Science Building, the lower two floors were converted into classrooms, a laboratory, and a library for the Psychology Department. The laboratory was named in honor of Professor Celestia S. Parrish, the first professor of psychology and chair of mathematics at the school. The Celestia S. Parrish Laboratory is recognized as one of the first psychology laboratories in the South, with the first established at Johns Hopkins University. The building was thus renamed "Psychology Building."⁷⁵

Campus construction halted during World War II. Nevertheless, the RMWC Alumnae Association continued to play an active role in enhancing the campus. Between 1937 and 1940, the Alumnae Association organized and oversaw the erection of a stage for the Greek plays performed annually at the Dell (118-5763-0012). Stanhope Johnson designed the flagstone stage in the same proportions as the ancient Greek stage at Epidaurus. It was dedicated to Dr. Mable K. Whiteside on May 13, 1939, concurring with the twenty-fifth production of the play. In 1940, the support spaces under the stage, including a lavatory, dressing rooms, and storage rooms, were finished. Dr. Whiteside was a beloved professor of Latin and Greek at RMWC. She directed the

⁷³ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 272-73.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 275.

⁷⁵ "Founders' Prophecy Finds Devoted Champion in Dr. Jack," (*The Sundial*, May 15, 1952), p. 2.

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Greek plays from 1909 to 1954 and served as the school's first Dean of Students.⁷⁶ Ten years later, the Alumnae Association organized and executed the design and planting of Mary's Garden (118-5763-0020) from 1947 to 1950. Situated between East Hall (118-5763-0022) and Lipscomb Library (118-5763-0017), this formal garden drew inspiration from 18th-century European gardens. The garden is dedicated to Mary Bolling Stokes, who served for twenty-six years as the executive secretary-treasurer of the Alumnae Association. Stanford Johnson, whose wife, Elizabeth Bond Johnson, served on the garden committee, helped choose the site for Mary's Garden. By June 1950, the garden had been laid out, the brick walks had been laid, and most of the planting was complete.⁷⁷

Planning began in 1936-1937 for an infirmary for RMWC. However, construction did not start until the summer of 1948 due to World War II. Designed by Stanhope Johnson, the Terrell Infirmary (118-5763-0030) was completed in 1949 and named in honor of Dr. Alexander W. Terrell, the school's first physician. When it opened, the interior included modern medical equipment, sun bays at the outer ends of the wings, a kitchen and private dining room, and an isolation ward.⁷⁸ In addition to providing care to the sick, the infirmary served as the center of the school's health program, administered by the physician, nurses, and physical education staff.⁷⁹

In 1951, Dr. Jack entered into a cooperative arrangement with the National Gallery of Art to construct an art building (118-5763-0006) for the school that could also serve as a storage facility for the National Gallery's masterpieces in the event of an emergency during the Cold War. Known as "Project Y," construction was completed in 1952, and the art gallery opened.⁸⁰ The interior featured two long galleries, one used by the school and the other kept as emergency storage space for the National Gallery of Art's Mellon Art Gallery.⁸¹

Dr. Jack announced his retirement in April 1952. During his almost twenty-year tenure, Dr. Jack oversaw major academic and physical growth. Three significant buildings were erected during this period, and Main Hall underwent a major interior renovation. The Psychology Department was strengthened, and a nursery school was established as a laboratory for students in child psychology and education. An art gallery was constructed to house the school's prestigious art collection, while the school's assets were enlarged by about fifty percent, and the library's holdings increased by about eighty percent. Faculty salaries were raised, retirement plans introduced, the instructional staff expanded, and the curriculum revised as needed.⁸²

⁷⁶ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 238; "New Stage Dedicated to Dr. Whiteside," (*The Sundial*, May 18, 1939), p. 2.

⁷⁷ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, pp. 330-31.

⁷⁸ "Dr. A.W. Terrell, First Physician at College, Will Be Honored For Fifty Years of Service," (*The Sundial*, September 23, 1948), p. 3.

⁷⁹ Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 279.

⁸⁰ "Founders' Prophecy Finds Devoted Champion," p. 2.

⁸¹ "Construction to Begin on R-M's Art Gallery Within Several Days," (*The Sundial*, April 26, 1951), p. 1.

⁸² "Dr. Jack Announces Retirement From R-M Presidency," (*The Sundial*, April 3, 1952), p. 1; Cornelius, *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, p. 336.

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Dr. William F. Quillian and Growth during the Third Quarter of the 20th Century

In the fall of 1952, Dr. William F. Quillian, Jr., became the fifth president at RMWC. Soon afterwards, in 1953, the Randolph-Macon Board of Trustees, which governed Randolph-Macon College, RMWC, and Randolph-Macon Academy, voted to establish separate Boards for each school. Thus, RWMC became autonomous from Randolph-Macon College, with its own charter and a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. RWMC remained affiliated with the Virginia Conference of the Methodist church, as did the other schools.⁸³ In 1955, the Skeller, a campus snack bar, opened and became immediately popular among students, faculty, and staff. The Macon Bookshop opened in 1959 in the remodeled Winfree House (118-5763-0036). During the 1950s, many beloved professors retired, ushering in a period of major change for students and faculty alike.⁸⁴

The 1960s and 1970s marked a progressive period for not only the nation but also for RMWC. In 1960, two of RMWC's students, along with four other Lynchburg area students, participated in the city's first civil rights sit-in at Patterson's Drug Store on Main Street. All six students were arrested, and in January 1961, they were sentenced to thirty days in jail. Several years later, the Board of Trustees announced that enrollment would be open to all qualified students regardless of race, and RMWC became the first Lynchburg college or university to open its doors to students of all races.⁸⁵ In the fall of 1965, Ann Richards and Lois Dooley were the first Black women admitted to the school as boarding students, and in 1969, they became the first Black graduates.⁸⁶ White students, inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, joined Black students in advocating to improve working conditions, salaries, and benefits for Black employees at RMWC.⁸⁷

Opposition to the establishment was widespread. Campus rules were relaxed, allowing women to drink alcohol, permitting all students to have cars, extending curfew times, and eliminating the requirement to sign in and out of campus.⁸⁸ Discontent grew as students protested the Vietnam War. Feminist ideas gradually permeated RMWC, albeit slowly, as approximately two-thirds of the student body held more traditional political beliefs and values. Sororities were abolished in 1961, although this was more an administrative decision than a student-led one. However, many of the students banded together in 1970 to end May Day festivities as the student body rebuffed traditional female norms and racist ideology (only one Black student was elected to May Court from 1965-1969). Students advocated for more information and access to the birth control pill and rejected traditional fashion styles. By the end of the 1960s, pants and miniskirts had become a familiar sight across RMWC's campus.⁸⁹ In 1972, the first male graduate from RMWC was

⁸³ Roberta D. Cornelius, "R-MWC Gets Separate Board," (*The Sundial*, April 16, 1953), p. 4.

⁸⁴ "Randolph-Macon Woman's College: Its Origins and Development," p. 26.

⁸⁵ Bell, "Out of the Walls," p. 51.

⁸⁶ Soleil Bourdon, "Looking Back: Desegregation Through the Lens of R-MWC," (*The Sundial*, January 23, 2019). <https://sundialnews.wordpress.com/2019/01/23/looking-back-desegregation-through-the-lens-of-r-mwc/>.

⁸⁷ Bell, "Out of the Walls," p. 51.

⁸⁸ *Ibid*, p. 51.

⁸⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 49, 53-54.

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among seven men to graduate from the school between 1972 and 1979.⁹⁰ RMWC's male counterpart, Randolph-Macon College, admitted the school's first female student in 1971.

During this time, the school's architecture also became more progressive. In the late 1950s, a fundraising campaign began for the construction of a new gymnasium and recreation center. The Boston firm Perry, Shaw, Hepburn, and Dean was contracted to design the building, with Stanhope Johnson responsible for the working drawings and construction oversight. In 1960, the English Construction Company was hired to construct the building, which cost \$910,000. Designed in the contemporary International Style, this was the first major campus building to depart from the Georgian Revival style. Opened in 1962, the Physical Education and Recreation Center (118-5763-0001) featured a full-height modern dance studio, a basketball gymnasium with maple floors, and an Olympic-size pool, providing the Physical Education Department, including the esteemed Modern Dance Program, and its athletic teams with state-of-the-art facilities.⁹¹

Throughout this period, the curriculum expanded and adapted to changing needs, while RMWC upheld its reputation as a prestigious private women's college. In 1968, RMWC offered, for the first time, an optional study abroad year at the University of Reading in England. A grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation established the study abroad partnership between RMWC and the University of Reading. RMWC acquired three houses near the University of Reading for student housing and added a fourth in 1975.⁹² Unlike its previously established study abroad program, which allowed students to enroll directly in foreign universities or join approved programs run by other American institutions, this program cost roughly the same as RMWC's tuition for the semester(s) spent abroad. Students participating in the Reading program also remained closely connected with their classmates, as it accommodated a cohort of about thirty juniors each year.⁹³ The two institutions maintained the partnership until 2019. Independent study abroad opportunities continued throughout the 20th century and beyond as well.

Bell Hall (118-5763-0007) opened in 1963 as the first new dormitory since Webb Hall, with rooms to accommodate 156 students. Designed by Clark, Nexsen, and Owen in the International Style, the building cost \$1,078,000 to erect. C.L. Lewis and Company served as the contractors. The dormitory was named after Clara Cox Bell, a 1903 graduate of the school who served as the alumna advisor to the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Board of Trustees. In 1922, she became the first woman elected to the Board and served until 1953.⁹⁴ An article in the Fall 1963 edition of the *Alumnae Bulletin* described the upper floors as comprising dormitory rooms, while the ground floor consisted of lounges, study rooms, and support spaces, including laundry facilities, storage areas, and a guest room. One of the students' favorite amenities was a deck for

⁹⁰ "A Trip Through Time: Celebrating the College's 125th Anniversary," (*Randolph, The Randolph College Magazine*, vol. 7, no. 2, April 2016), p. 27.

⁹¹ "R-M Accepts New Physical Education Plant," (*The Sundial*, February 15, 1962), pp. 1,3.

⁹² "Randolph-Macon Woman's College: Its Origins and Development," pp. 29-30.

⁹³ Suzy Gordon, "R-M Purchases Land in England," (*The Sundial*, November 30, 1967), p. 3.

⁹⁴ "Board Members Name Dormitory," (*The Sundial*, May 14, 1965), p. 3

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sunbathing on the flat roof of the dormitory building. The new building also included a one-story addition to the ground floor of New Hall (118-5763-0038) to enlarge the existing cafeteria. Total enrollment increased by 125 students as rooms in older dorms were repurposed as study or laundry rooms.⁹⁵

The same year, New Hall (118-5763-0038) was renamed Wright Hall in 1963 in honor of Elizabeth Wright, a longtime English professor and head of the dormitory.⁹⁶ In 1967, a sizeable addition was built onto the front elevation of Lipscomb Library (118-5763-0017). With its contemporary design facing Norfolk Avenue, the new wing altered the library's original appearance by obscuring the prominent front elevation of the original Georgian revival structure. The wing more than doubled the library's shelf space and provided extra study areas to accommodate the expanding student body. The new wing was named in recognition of Charles A. Dana, a prominent philanthropist whose \$300,000 challenge grant facilitated the project. J. Russell Bailey, an expert in library design from Orange, Virginia, designed the wing, which cost \$1,133,000 to construct.⁹⁷

To mark the school's 75th anniversary, a \$2.7 million fundraising campaign was launched in May 1964. Over the next two years, RMWC raised money for a library addition, a chapel, renovations to Smith Memorial Hall, faculty salary increases, and a variety of small-scale projects.⁹⁸ In 1964, the first of these projects began when Wilmer Willis Houston donated \$600,000 to construct a chapel honoring his late wife, an RMWC alumna. Designed in the Neo-Expressionist style, the Francis Hundley Houston Memorial Chapel (118-5763-0013) is the most progressive building on campus. Planning for the chapel began the same year when the Board of Trustees established a building committee composed of ten members led by Edwin A. Penick, Jr., chairman of the Religion Department. Designing the building from the "inside out," the committee began by identifying the role of the chapel in providing for the school's religious, academic, and social needs. The committee selected Vincent G. Kling as the chapel's architect. Kling experimented with sculptural forms and modern materials, resulting in a curvilinear form that spirals up seventy feet to the roof's peak and features a commanding stained-glass window. The distinctive interior features a large, round sanctuary with undulating walls in serpentine waves, custom wood furnishings, tiered seating, and a small private chapel. Marco Zubar, a German artist and designer, created a large stained-glass window featuring a variety of symbols to appeal to members of various denominations and religions.⁹⁹ Since its opening in 1969, the chapel has continued to serve students of all faiths, offering a place for shared worship.

Dr. Quillian worked diligently to secure additional funds to expand and improve the campus. In November 1966, he introduced the Ford Challenge Grant of \$1,500,000 to RMWC's supporters.

⁹⁵ William F. Quillian, Jr., "A New Quadrangle," (*Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Fall 1963), pp. 2-3.

⁹⁶ Emilina Minero, "The Past Master: Residence Dorms and their Past Lives," (*The Sundial*, February 1, 2010), p. 10.

⁹⁷ "Officials To Dedicate Library Wing," (*The Sundial*, October 19, 1967), p. 1.

⁹⁸ "Anniversary Project Includes Fund – Drive," (*The Sundial*, May 14, 1964), p. 1.

⁹⁹ Sue Gray Goller, "Phoenix In Window Symbolizes Chapel's Role," (*The Sundial*, October 16, 1969), p. 3.

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RMWC was the only school in Virginia and the only women's college in the South to obtain these grant funds, which were designated for a new academic building, the addition of a tree-lined brick mall, and a rear addition to Main Hall with a glass wall.¹⁰⁰ Four years later, in 1970, school officials unveiled plans for a six-story academic building that would comprise a multi-purpose auditorium, facilities for the Art and Drama departments, classrooms, offices, and a multimedia center.¹⁰¹ Designed in the International Style by Clark, Nexsen, and Owen, the architecture of the Leggett Building (118-5763-0016) also reflects influences drawn from the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. S.R. Gay and Company, Inc. served as the contractors, and construction began in 1971. However, delays arose during site excavation when a granite shelf was discovered, and were compounded by flash floods and hurricanes. The building was ultimately completed at a cost of approximately \$2 million and opened in April 1975. The approximately 250-seat, multi-purpose Thoresen Theater occupies the third floor of the building. The rest of the building includes classrooms, studios, seminar rooms, offices, and miscellaneous spaces for the Drama, Art, and Language departments. The building is named for Harold Leggett, a notable Lynchburg businessman and civic leader, who served on the school's Board of Trustees. Mr. William and Mrs. Catherine Thoresen donated \$100,000 to facilitate the construction of the Thoresen Theater in memory of their son, Richard Ehrman Thoresen.¹⁰²

In the spring of 1978, Dr. Quillian announced his resignation from RMWC, and Dr. Robert Atwood Spivey was appointed as the school's new president. Dr. Quillian is remembered for defending academic freedom and civil liberties for students and faculty and promoting student governance. He also provided leadership in establishing the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, the Council of Independent Colleges, and the Tri-College Center, initiatives that strengthened both RMWC and liberal education throughout the Commonwealth. In 1979, Dr. Quillian received the Jackson Davis Award for Distinguished Service to Higher Education in Virginia.¹⁰³ At RMWC, Dr. Quillian oversaw the construction of three modern buildings, two major additions to prominent campus buildings, and the establishment of the study abroad program at the University of Reading. Notably, under his administration, faculty salaries were increased, the first Black students were admitted to RMWC, rules and regulations were relaxed, sororities and May Day celebrations were discontinued, and students gained access to information regarding modern contraception. Thus, Dr. Quillian is fondly remembered by the RMWC community.

The RMWC Years after 1975

Under Dr. Spivey's administration, the campus continued to evolve, although it did not undergo physical expansion. In 1979, the Martin Science Building (118-5763-0019) underwent a \$1.4 million interior renovation, which included updated laboratory equipment and furnishings, an

¹⁰⁰ "President Quillian Outlines Plans," p. 1.

¹⁰¹ "Randolph-Macon Plans Academic Building," (*The Daily Advance*, May 18, 1970), p. 25.

¹⁰² "What's Going On," (*Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Summer 1975), p. 14; "\$100,000 grant to finance proposed Thorsen theatre," (*The Sundial*, October 8, 1970), p. 1.

¹⁰³ "Quillian Honored," (*The Sundial*, April 20, 1979), p. 6.

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elevator, and air conditioning.¹⁰⁴ A botanical garden for the study of plants, insects, and birds was established in 1994 north of the building, adjacent to the pond, to facilitate additional biological studies. The student body continued to grow, and in 1980, 207 students graduated, marking one of the largest classes in the school's history. Following an expansion and system upgrades in 1982-1983, the art gallery (118-5763-0006) was re-dedicated as "Maier Museum of Art" in honor of an endowment donated to the school by Sarah and Pauline Maier.¹⁰⁵ Also, in 1982, six sorority houses in the Pines were demolished for safety reasons, and the interior of Main Hall was renovated. Additional improvements were made across campus, including planting trees and shrubs, updating exterior lighting, and refinishing furniture.¹⁰⁶ In 1986, the interior of East Hall (118-5763-0022) was thoroughly renovated and renamed "Moore Hall" to honor Edith Franklin Moore, a 1918 graduate of the school and the largest donor to the \$1.4 million renovation.¹⁰⁷

RMWC has continued to grow into the present. In 1987, Linda Koch Lorimer became the first woman to serve as president of the college. In 1991, the American Culture Program began at RMWC under the direction of Dr. John d'Entremont, Associate Professor of History. The program was presented as a "junior year at home," positioned as an alternative to the traditional junior-year study—abroad option. The program's goal, as explained by d'Entremont, was "to teach students to look at this country critically, to learn to formulate views and opinions on the events occurring here."¹⁰⁸ The program continues to provide a unique educational experience at the college to this day. In 1991, the former Jones Memorial Library (118-5763-0031), which had become known as the Art Building and English-Arts Building from 1930 to 1990, was renamed again, this time as "Thoresen Hall," in honor of the school's major donors, Catherine and William Thoresen.

From 1994 to 2006, Dr. Kathleen Gill Bowman served as RMWC's president. During her tenure, the Pearl S. Buck Award was created in 1998 to celebrate the legacy of the 1914 RMWC graduate who was famous for writing *The Good Earth*, founding an international adoption agency named Welcome House, and establishing the East-West Association to promote cultural understanding between Asia and America. The award honors women who carry forward the spirit of Buck's work and passions. Also under Dr. Bowman's leadership, the first graduate program, the Master of Arts in Teaching, was initiated in 2005.¹⁰⁹ In spite of these initiatives, enrollment at RMWC declined from the last quarter of the 20th century into the early 21st century. In 2006, enrollment had dropped from around 900 students in the mid-1960s to about 730 students.¹¹⁰ The school's Board of Trustees launched a multi-year planning process in 2004 to explore ways to reinvigorate RMWC. Following three years of discussion, research, and

¹⁰⁴ "The New Martin," (*Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Winter 1979), pp. 3-6.

¹⁰⁵ Lee Kelley, "Master Plan Is Moving Along Well," (*The Sundial*, September 10, 1982), p. 3.

¹⁰⁶ Beth Ballard, "Improvements Slated," (*The Sundial*, April 13, 1984), p. 1.

¹⁰⁷ Dot Ferguson, "East Hall Will Be Honorarily Renamed As Moore Hall Oct. 18," (*The Sundial*, October 17, 1986), p. 6.

¹⁰⁸ Jen Ponder, "Junior Year at Home": American Cultures Program In Its First Year At R-MWC," (*The Sundial*, October 11, 1993), p. 1.

¹⁰⁹ Molly MacLaren, "New Pearl S. Buck award established," (*The Sundial*, February 23, 1998), p. 1.

¹¹⁰ Ron Brown, "Area colleges release enrollment numbers," (*The News & Advance*, August 24, 2005), p. 17.

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careful deliberation, the Board voted in 2006 to transition the college to a coeducational model, and the school's name was changed to Randolph College. The first coeducational class arrived on campus in the fall of 2007, and seventy-seven men (including transfers) began attending classes.

Enrollment continued to decline even with the enrollment of male students. Many female students and alumnae were not supportive of the decision, and enrollment dropped to about 500 students in 2007. The same year, John E. Klein assumed the presidency of RMWC and focused intently on raising funds for several new initiatives aimed at attracting students to the college. In 2009, WildCat Stadium (118-5763-0035) was completed to host track and field, soccer, and lacrosse events at Randolph College. School administration hoped that this new complex, featuring concrete and brick stands with cushioned seating, a press box, an eight-lane track, and a separate restroom building, would both appeal to prospective student-athletes and provide improved facilities for current athletes.

In 2011, President Klein unveiled plans for a \$6 million renovation of Main Hall's student center, aiming to attract new students with updated amenities, including a state-of-the-art fitness room and a ninety-seat theater. The school's administration believed the project to be a "transformational" investment that would position Randolph College for future growth and increase enrollment to 1,100 students.¹¹¹ The \$6 million renovation also included a plaza with pools, a fountain, and tiered seating, added behind the renovated student center. Harvey Design Land Architects Inc. designed and built Michels Plaza (118-5763-0021), which was featured on the cover of *Landscape Architect and Specifier News*, a national publication, in 2014.¹¹²

In 2013, Dr. Bradley W. Bateman was selected as Randolph College's next president. As part of a larger movement in the American South to remove statues of Confederate soldiers and officers, the statue of George M. Jones (118-5763-0014) was removed from its base in front of Moore/East Hall (118-5763-0022) in 2017. Jones is depicted in the statue wearing a Confederate officer's uniform, even though in reality he served as a lower-ranking enlisted soldier. Furthermore, although dedicated in his memory, the statue is not modeled on Jones himself but is instead a generic representation of a soldier. At the time of the statue's removal, Dr. Bateman stated, "We [Randolph College] were founded twenty-five years after the [Civil War]. The war has nothing to do with our history, and there is no reason to have Confederate uniforms on our campus." The base remains as a tribute to Jones's role in the college's history without honoring the Confederate uniform.¹¹³ In 2019, Dr. Bateman oversaw major renovations to the Physical Education and Recreation Center (118-5763-0001), which had been renamed the Athletic and Dance Center around 2012. Following the renovation, which included upgraded athletic facilities and an updated exterior, it was renamed the Michels Athletic Center in honor of Doug and Mary Michels Scovanner, whose \$1 million donation contributed to the \$3 million renovation. Mary

¹¹¹ Liz Barry, "Time to grow," (*The News & Advance*, January 26, 2011), pp. 13, 15.

¹¹² Amy Trent, "Randolph College featured in magazine," (*The News & Advance*, July 7, 2014), pp. 6-7

¹¹³ Carmel, "Jones statue removed," p. 1.

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Michels Scovanner, a former student-athlete, played field hockey and lacrosse at the college in the 1970s.¹¹⁴

In 2022, Sue Ott Rowlands replaced Dr. Bradley as the eleventh president of the college. Under her administration, Randolph College has experienced a remarkable surge in enrollment, reaching a historic high of 930 students in 2025, the largest in college history. Other initiatives since 2022 include nine new majors, a new curriculum model known as TAKE2, and new athletic programs such as men's and women's wrestling, men's volleyball, and STUNT, a competitive cheerleading team.¹¹⁵ Though it has evolved significantly since its founding in 1891 as Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Randolph College continues to thrive, providing students with a high-quality education and vibrant campus life.

Criterion C Justification: Architecture

The Randolph-Macon Women's College Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a cohesive academic campus that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a small, private, residential college. Its period of significance, 1891 – 1975, reflects nearly nine decades of continuous development during which the institution expanded in enrollment, curriculum, and facilities while maintaining its historic architectural character. Designed by prominent local and national architects, the district's buildings, structures, and landscape features represent the evolution of academic architecture and illustrate a range of styles, from Queen Anne and Georgian Revival to International Style and Neo-Expressionism, that collectively documents the changing aesthetics and educational ideals of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Despite this stylistic variety, the district maintains a cohesive architectural character through the prevalent use of red brick construction, low-pitched roofs, and limestone or concrete detailing.

Founding president Dr. William Waugh Smith and architect William M. Poindexter toured several small East Coast colleges – including Bryn Mawr, Goucher, Wellesley, Smith, and Vassar – to study their architectural designs and campus planning models.¹¹⁶ Their research informed the design of the college's first building, Main Hall (118-5763-0018; NRHP 1979), which was constructed in multiple building campaigns spanning almost two decades from 1892 through 1911. Conceived as an expansive Queen-Anne style building rooted in the seminary tradition, Main Hall consolidated all institutional functions – including administrative offices, classrooms, dormitory rooms, dining hall, and a chapel – within a single building intended to provide a protected environment for young women. The building is a quintessential example of the Queen-Anne style and remains the centerpiece of the campus. Characteristic features – including a complex form; towers and turrets; varied window forms; cutaway bays, corbeled

¹¹⁴ Liz Ramos, "Randolph athletic center to get upgrades," (*The News & Advance*, October 19, 2018), p. 3.

¹¹⁵ "History and Legacy," (*Randolph College*, November 21, 2025, <https://www.randolphcollege.edu/about/history-and-legacy/>); "Randolph Reports Another Year of Historic Enrollment," (*Randolph College*, August 20, 2025, <https://www.randolphcollege.edu/news/2025/08/randolph-reports-another-year-of-historic-enrollment/>).

¹¹⁶ Cornelius, p. 28

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chimneys; and Classical-inspired ornamentation – clearly express the eclectic composition and picturesque massing associated with the style.

The subsequent new construction forming the historic core of the campus dates to the first half of the 20th century and is inspired by Classical architecture. Within a decade, the campus enrollment necessitated additional student housing. East/Moore Hall (118-5763-0022) and West Hall (118-5763-0034) were designed in 1904 and 1906, respectively, in the Georgian Revival style by the well-known Lynchburg architect Edward G. Frye. These identical red brick dormitories flank Main Hall and feature monumental porticos, denticulated cornices, articulated bays, and rooflines accentuated by dormers, chimneys, and finials. Poindexter followed this aesthetic in 1906 with the Georgian Revival designs for two new academic buildings – the Carnegie Science/Psychology Building (118-5763-0026) and the Jones Memorial Library/Thoresen Hall (118-5763-0031). More restrained in their detailing, these buildings feature one-bay entrance porticoes, corbeled brickwork, and jack arches with alternating keystones. Situated on a hill overlooking a manicured lawn facing Rivermont Avenue, these five buildings, connected by arcades, represent the college's initial development.

The buildings in the second wave of development (1909-1937) were constructed along the front east and west sides of the sloping lawn, forming an open quadrangle and the historic core of the campus. With his partner Aubrey Chesterman, Frye continued to employ the Georgian-Revival style in the 1909 design of New/Wright Hall (118-5763-0038). Another prominent local architect, Stanhope Johnson, designed five buildings for RMWC during the 1920s and 1930s. Smith Memorial Hall (118-5763-0027), built from 1920 to 1923, continued the Georgian Revival tradition established by Poindexter, Frye, and Chesterman with a monumental Doric portico supported by brick arcades. Johnson's other buildings from this period included the 1923 Webb Hall (118-5763-0033), the 1929 Lipscomb Library (118-5763-0017), the 1930 Presser Hall (118-5763-0025), and the 1937 Martin Science Building (118-5763-0019). All designed in the Georgian-Revival style and constructed of red brick, these buildings feature symmetrical façades, cupolas, dentilled and modillioned cornices, porticos, balustrades, Classical door surrounds and pediments, and multi-paned windows. In addition to new dormitories and academic buildings, the period also saw the construction of faculty housing, an amphitheater, and sorority houses. Together, these resources reflect the expansion of the curriculum and enrollment, as well as the development of social life at RMWC. The 1930 construction of a red brick wall (118-0334-0417) bordering the quadrangle unified the campus and established the iconic view from Rivermont Avenue that continues to characterize the college today.

Following World War II, from 1949 through 1975, campus development proceeded more organically as national enrollment rose dramatically, and women's colleges adapted to expanding opportunities for women and to increasing competition from coeducational institutions. New red brick buildings and additions in various mid-century styles were constructed toward the rear of the campus to accommodate a growing range of facilities, including a new infirmary, gymnasium, library, art gallery, chapel, and larger residence halls and academic buildings. Architect Stanhope Johnson continued the Georgian Revival style in his 1948 design for Terrell Infirmary (118-5763-0090).

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At the end of the 1950s, the International Style began to influence new construction on the RMWC campus. Celebrating the postwar advances in construction technology and materials, these buildings typically employed steel-frame construction with concrete, plate glass, and brick veneer. They eschewed the Classical ornamentation of early 20th-century revival styles in favor of simple, rectilinear forms, flat roofs, and minimal detailing. In the late 1950s, RMWC commissioned Perry, Shaw, Hepburn, and Dean to design a new gymnasium, with Stanhope Johnson preparing the working drawings and overseeing construction. Opened in 1962 and executed in the International Style, the Physical Education Plant and Recreation Center (118-5763-0001) marked the campus's first major departure from the Georgian Revival tradition and is distinguished by its flat roof, minimal ornamentation, and expansive window walls. Bell Hall (118-5763-0007), designed in 1963 by Clark, Nexsen, and Owen, is an excellent example of the International Style featuring a flat roof and smooth concrete bands and awnings that provide simple detailing. The 1967 five-story addition to the east (front) elevation of Lipscomb Library similarly reflects this modern influence in its rectilinear form, full-height glass curtain walls, and cantilevered concrete balcony.

One of the most striking buildings of the period is the Frances Hundley Houston Memorial Chapel (1967-1969; 118-5763-0013), designed by Vincent G. Kling & Associates. Its sculptural Neo-Expressionist design, featuring a circular form, a spiraling roof evoking a scroll, and a prominent stained-glass window, stands apart stylistically from all other campus buildings. The final major project of the period, the Leggett Building (1975; 118-5763-0016), continued the use of the International Style on RMWC's campus. This six-story academic building, constructed of steel frame clad in brick veneer and featuring flat roofs, simple cast-concrete geometric ornamentation, and cantilevered concrete roof overhangs and balconies, reflects the persistence of modern design principles at RMWC into the mid-1970s.

Although the buildings constructed during the second half of the 20th century depart from the Classical vocabulary that defined the earlier Queen Anne and Georgian-Revival designs, they nonetheless complement the historic core through their consistent red brick construction, contrasting yet restrained detailing, and subsidiary location toward the rear of the campus. Reflecting the modern construction materials, evolving architectural tastes, and the more organic planning practices of their time, these mid-century buildings illustrate the continued physical and institutional development of the college into the postwar era.

The Randolph-Macon Women's College Historic District – encompassing a broad range of building dates, types, and architectural styles – forms a cohesive campus that embodies the unique identity of Randolph-Macon Women's College and clearly expresses its growth and evolution from its founding in 1891 through the end of the period of significance in 1975. Although built over a span of nine decades, the district maintains a harmonious character through the consistent scale, setting, and red brick construction of its buildings. These shared qualities, along with the academic, residential, and social spaces they house, reflect the full complement of activities associated with a small, private, residential college for women in Virginia.

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Acknowledgement

Section 8 of this nomination relies heavily on Roberta D. Cornelius's *The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College*, published in 1951.

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"The New Martin." *Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Winter 1979.

Trent, Amy. "Randolph College featured in magazine." *The News & Advance*, July 7, 2014

"Vice-President Coolidge Speaks at Randolph-Macon." *The Sundial*, March 16, 1923.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff. "Main Hall – Randolph-Macon Woman's College." DHR File No. #118-0149, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, June 1979.

"What's Going On." *Randolph-Macon Woman's College Alumnae Bulletin*, Summer 1975.

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR File No. 118-5763

Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 53.18

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 37.441813 Longitude: -79.169961

B. Latitude: 37.439301 Longitude: -79.168472

C. Latitude: 37.438817 Longitude: -79.167732

D. Latitude: 37.435164 Longitude: -79.171398

E. Latitude: 37.437106 Longitude: -79.173814

F. Latitude: 37.439797 Longitude: -79.173632

G. Latitude: 37.439756 Longitude: -79.172954

H. Latitude: 37.440891 Longitude: -79.172884

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:

Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, Virginia
County and State

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

The Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District incorporates approximately 53.18 acres of the school's campus. The district includes several tax parcels owned by the college as shown on the attached Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District Sketch Map/Photo Key, which shows the district's true and correct boundaries.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary for Randolph-Macon Woman's College includes approximately 53.18 acres of the school's total land holdings. The boundary encompasses all buildings, sites, structures, and objects constructed and used by the school between 1891 and 1975. The boundary of the historic district reflects the college's founding and major expansion through the third quarter of the 20th century, when the last major building project was completed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kate Kronau, Katie Gutshall & Alison Blanton
organization: Hill Studio
street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW
city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24011
e-mail: kkronau/ablanton@hillstudio.com
telephone: (540) 342-5263
date: December 2025

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.)

Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, Virginia
County and State

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

Name of Property: Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District

City or Vicinity: Lynchburg

County: NA State: VA

Photographer: Kate Kronau

Date Photographed: April, September 2025

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

1 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0001

Front Lawn, view north

2 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0002

View northwest from behind Main Hall towards Frances Hundley Houston Memorial Chapel and Ball Hall

3 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0003

Dell, view southeast

4 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0004

Rear campus, view northeast

5 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0005

Martin Science Building and Presser Hall, view south

6 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0006

Wall along Rivermont Avenue, view southeast

7 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0007

Thoresen Hall and Main Hall, view northeast

8 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0008

WildCat Stadium, view northwest

Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, Virginia
County and State

- 9 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0009
Smith Memorial Hall, view north
- 10 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0010
Main Hall, view northwest
- 11 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0011
Winfree Observatory and The Pines, view north
- 12 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0012
View southwest from Norfolk Avenue
- 13 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0013
Mary's Garden, view north
- 14 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0014
Leggett Building, view north
- 15 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0015
Wright Hall and West Hall, view north
- 16 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0016
East Hall, Engagement Hall, and Lipscomb Library, view north
- 17 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0017
Presser Hall, view northeast
- 18 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0018
View south from N. Princeton Circle
- 19 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0019
East wing of Main Hall and Psychology Building, view northeast
- 20 of 20: VA_LynchburgCity_RandolphMaconWoman'sCollegeHistoricDistrict_0014
View southwest from Quinlan Street

Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, Virginia
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number SLR Page

Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District

Name of Property

Lynchburg (Independent City), Virginia

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100013221

Property Name: Randolph-Macon Woman's College Historic District

County: Lynchburg (Independent City)

State: VA

Multiple Name: N/A

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

James Gabbert
Signature of the Keeper

7/23/2026

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to add Criteria Consideration A to the form

The college was established and affiliated with the Methodist Church. Since its significance rests on its historic educational mission and for the district's architecture, Criteria Consideration A is satisfied.

The VA State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

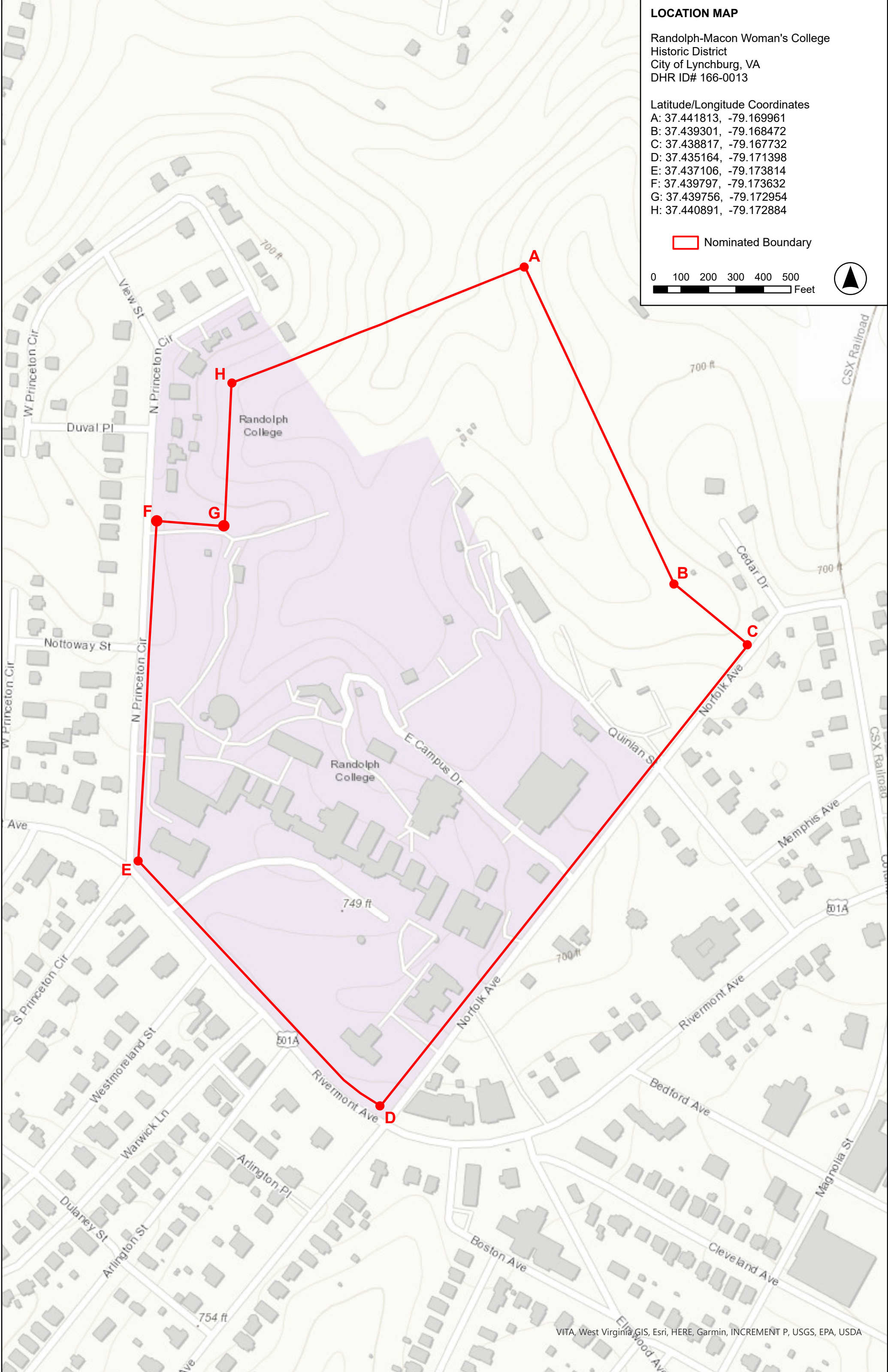
LOCATION MAP

Randolph-Macon Woman's College
Historic District
City of Lynchburg, VA
DHR ID# 166-0013

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
A: 37.441813, -79.169961
B: 37.439301, -79.168472
C: 37.438817, -79.167732
D: 37.435164, -79.171398
E: 37.437106, -79.173814
F: 37.439797, -79.173632
G: 37.439756, -79.172954
H: 37.440891, -79.172884

 Nominated Boundary

0 100 200 300 400 500
Feet



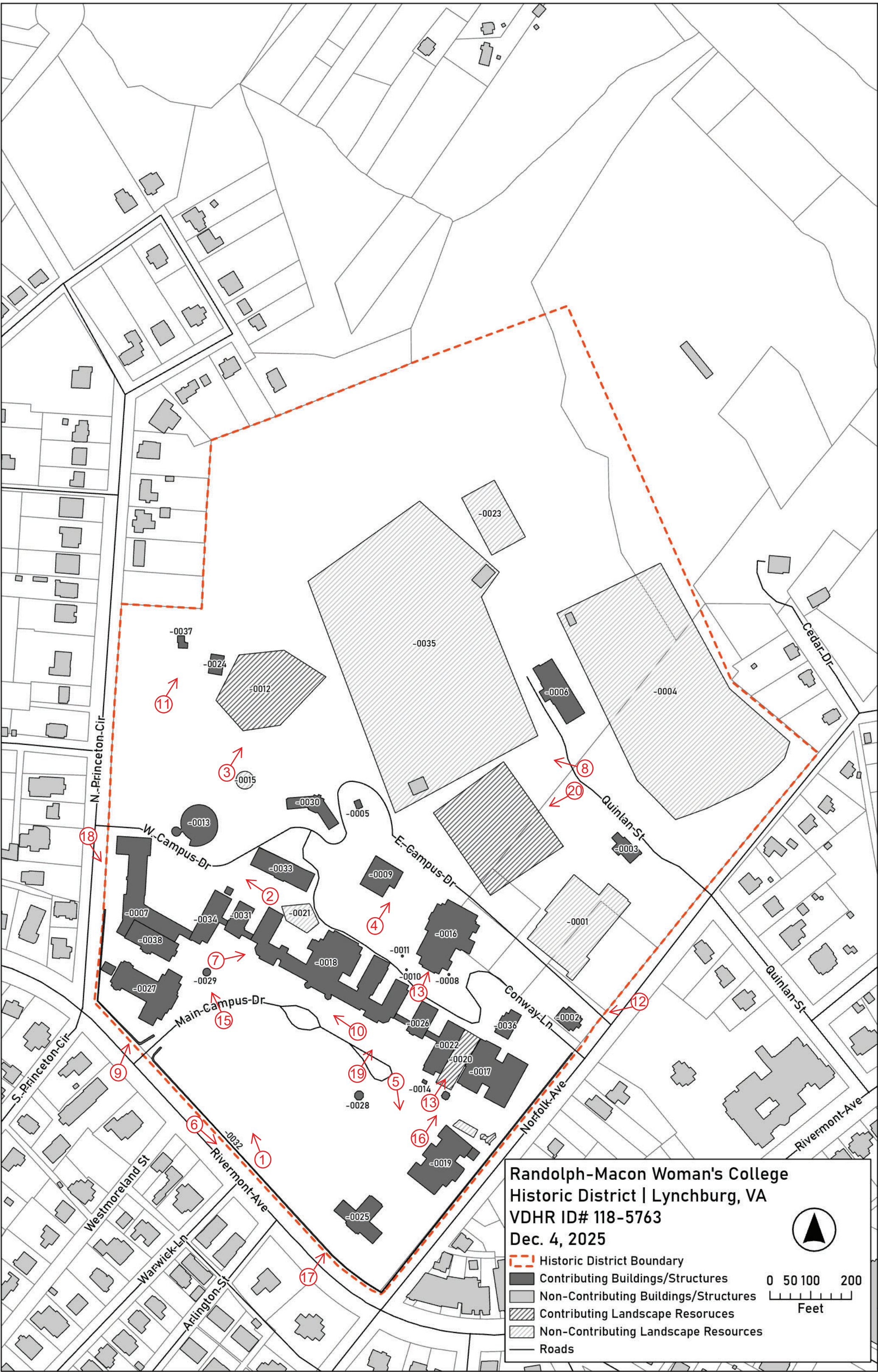
LOCATION MAP
Randolph-Macon Woman's College
Historic District
City of Lynchburg, VA
DHR ID# 166-0013

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
A: 37.441813, -79.169961
B: 37.439301, -79.168472
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F: 37.439797, -79.173632
G: 37.439756, -79.172954
H: 37.440891, -79.172884

 Nominated Boundary

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet





Randolph-Macon Woman's College

Historic District | Lynchburg, VA

VDHR ID# 118-5763

Dec. 4, 2025

Historic District Boundary

Contributing Buildings/Structures

Non-Contributing Buildings/Structures

Contributing Landscape Resources

Non-Contributing Landscape Resources

Roads

0

50

100

200

Feet