

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: University Grounds
 Map and Parcel: 15-1
 Census Track & Block:
 Present Owner: University of Virginia
 Address:
 Present Use: State University
 Original Owner: University of Virginia
 Original Use: State University

BASE DATA

Historic Name: The "Academical Village"
 Date/Period: 1817-1899
 Style: Roman Revival/Neoclassical Revival
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories:
 Present Zoning:
 Land Area (sq.ft.):
 Assessed Value (land + imp.):

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The East and West Ranges are low one-story brick structures fronted with continuous arcades. The East and West Lawns repeat this general plan, with Tuscan colonnades in place of the arcades. The ten Pavilions on the Lawn are of scholarly Classical derivation, each exhibiting a different facade and details. The Rotunda is a three-story brick version of the Roman Pantheon, with a hemispherical stepped dome, beautifully detailed encircling cornice and monumental Corinthian porticos. Cabell, Rouss, and Cocke Halls, which close the south end of the Lawn, exhibit the stylistic freedom of their time while making use of harmonious details and materials to preserve the overall character of Jefferson's original composition.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1819 the University was chartered, to be established at the site of the embryonic Central College, for which Jefferson had provided a master plan. His concept included four parallel rows of student rooms, punctuated by more elaborate structures which were to house faculty, classrooms, and dining halls. The idea of a domed building as a focal point came from Benjamin Latrobe and was immediately adopted by Jefferson. Construction of the first building--Pavilion VII, West Lawn, began in 1817. Students entered for classes in 1825, by which time the original "academical village" was practically complete. The burning of the Rotunda in 1895 provided the impetus for the completion of the scheme as it stands today. Stanford White, the architect of the Rotunda restoration, also designed the three buildings which now close the South Lawn. Although minor alterations have been made, Jefferson's scheme survives essentially as he developed it--particularly so now that the interior of the Rotunda has been restored to its pre-1895 appearance.

GRAPHICS

168 (L)

168 (R.)

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

