

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

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

BASE DATA

Historic Name: "Monroe Hill"
 Date/Period: 1790 and thereafter
 Style: Late Georgian
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 2 with high basement
 Present Zoning:
 Land Area (sq.ft.):
 Assessed Value (land + imp.):

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The small "Law Office" in the angle of the L-shaped complex is faced with brick laid in Flemish bond; the gables of the steeply-pitched roof are faced with beaded clapboard. The main house and the arcaded wings have low-pitched roofs and are faced with brick laid in 5-course American bond; the east facade of the main house is covered with smooth stucco. The main house has a plain entablature beneath the eaves, and a small portico with paired Tuscan columns. A wooden porch with chamfered posts extends across the west (back) side of the building. The southern arcaded wing has stepped gables. Aside from this feature, ornament on both wings is confined to a row of imitation "modillions" formed by projecting bricks at the cornice line. The main house is a double-pile with center hall. Woodwork throughout is simple, although the mantels in the northeast rooms on both floors are interesting. The U-shaped staircase has heavy balusters and newel typical of the period.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

James Monroe built the first portion of the complex of buildings here and lived on this site until 1799; the small brick building to the southeast of the main house is said to have served as Monroe's law office. The University purchased the land and buildings from John M. Perry in 1817; it was probably Perry who built the main house. Jefferson had hoped to locate an observatory here, but the plan was never realized. In 1848, two arcaded dormitories --very similar to the University Ranges--were erected. At one time these house the "State Scholars," who attended the University on grants from the Commonwealth. In recent years these buildings, reflecting a wide stylistic range, have housed a variety of faculty and administrative offices. The complex as a whole is a gracious ornament to the Grounds.

GRAPHICS

173 (L)

173 (R)

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

O'Neal, Pictorial History of the University of Virginia (1968)

