

The Corner Architectural Design Control District

The Corner Architectural Design Control District was created in 2003 and overlays part of the Rugby Road-University Corner National Register Historic District. This district includes properties along University Avenue, Elliewood Avenue, Chancellor Street, and Madison Lane.

As the University of Virginia grew during the mid-19th century, a small commercial area developed to the east outside the University gate. The village served both students and University employees. Only known as “the Corner” decades later, students originally referred to the community as “down by the post office,” “at the entrance gate,” or “at the railroad crossing.” The area continued to grow after the Civil War as more drugstores and African-American owned barber shops opened.

At the turn of the century, development spread west of the railroad crossing. The addition of fraternity houses along Madison Lane and Carr’s Hill initiated dynamic changes in the University area as the population grew. Thirty passenger trains created dangerous intersections as they passed through earlier pedestrian and carriage routes. In response, the City rerouted University Avenue under the railroad tracks, removing rail traffic from the pedestrian and carriage crossing at the intersection of the current University Avenue, West Main Street, and 14th Street. University of Virginia students began referring to this area as “the Corner,” at the turn of the century.

The Corner ADC District
Contributing structures are identified
on this map with black shading



