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The William H. Grant House is a large, three-story brick townhouse in the Italianate style. Its facade is three-bays wide, and the central entrance is set off by a small, richly ornamented arched front porch supported by coupled square columns. All of the windows on the facade are enriched with elaborate half-round lintels. The modillioned cornice crowning the building is a replacement of the original.

Much of the interior was altered when the house was converted into a hospital, but the basic elements of the original floor plan survive. With the conversion, extensive additions were made to the rear of the house, and a three-story wing was erected on the west side connecting it to the house next door.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This imposing mansion was erected by the prominent tobacco manufacturer, William H. Grant, in 1857 on a lot purchased from John Wickham. In 1892, the house was acquired by the famous Sheltering Arms Hospital. Sheltering Arms was a free hospital for all white residents in the state of Virginia. The hospital moved to a new location in 1965, and the property came under the control of the Medical College of Virginia which now uses it as offices.

The Grant house is a fine example of the "architectural exuberance, and romanticism of the 1850's." It is also one of the few houses of its period and type to have survived in downtown Richmond. Its location on E. Clay Street, across from the Valentine Museum, greatly enhances this historic street.

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