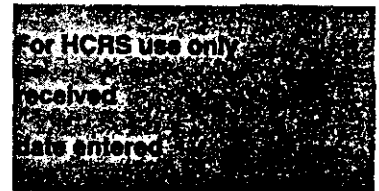


VLR: 3-16-82
 NRHP: 9-16-82
 easement 11-30-82
 127-45

**United States Department of the Interior
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
 Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Columbia

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1142 West Grace Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Richmond

N/A vicinity of

3rd (Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.)
 congressional district

state Virginia

code 51

county (in city)

code 760

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name University of Richmond, c/o Louis W. Moelchert, Jr., Vice President for Business and Finance

street & number University of Richmond

city, town Richmond

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 23173

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond City Hall

street & number 900 East Broad Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)
 title Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1957 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington

state DC

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Columbia is a Flemish-bonded brick residence that was built for Philip Haxall in 1817/18. The two-story, hipped-roofed structure is distinguished by a handsome symmetrical Federal-style exterior which belies its rather unusual first-floor, Palladian-derived plan. The finely carved interior woodwork and King-of-Prussia marble mantels contribute to its rank as one of the finest surviving Federal-period houses in Richmond. The edifice underwent exterior alterations in 1924 to expand the home of the T.C. Williams School of Law of the University of Richmond. It was at this time that the main entrance was changed to the Grace Street front and the large classroom wing was added to its north side.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Columbia is located at 1142 West Grace Street in the city of Richmond. The main entrance originally fronted on Lombardy, but in 1924 it was moved to its present Grace Street location. A former side entrance on Grace originally consisted of a single door with transom-light entry -- the paneled door framed by trim similar to that found on the windows of the Grace Street elevation. The entrance, relocated from its former off-center position to the center of the facade, now has an elliptical fanlight opening sheltered by a one-story Doric porch. When the original doorway was moved to Grace Street, the paneled double doors were discarded, and a single door with simple rectangular sidelights was added. According to the 1924 plans for the remodeling, the present porch was built, "using all good material of present porch."¹ The tetrastyle porch has fluted Doric columns and pilasters, a cast-iron balustrade and brick piers. A second-story window above the porch was bricked up for the sake of symmetry. On the Lombardy front tri-part window similar to one directly above and a stuccoed rectangular panel were installed in place of the former entrance. The remaining fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows; all principal windows are framed by symmetrical molded trim with turned corner blocks. Recessed rectangular panels separate the first and second stories. A brick water table runs the perimeter of the house. The basement windows also have 6/6 hung sash. A relatively plain box cornice distinguishes the eaves of the hipped roof.

In spite of multiple uses during the 19th and early 20th centuries, Columbia preserves its unusual floor plan. Columbia's first-floor plan consists of a large reception or assembly hall, a stair hall, and abutting parlor and dining room. While the plan is unusual, it is not unique to Virginia or Richmond houses of the period. Despite modernizations, much of Columbia's interior fabric survives in a good state of preservation. The assembly or reception hall is the most elaborate room in the house, featuring paneled wainscoting, a plaster cornice, and a finely executed composition-plaster ceiling medallion with complementing corner fans. The medallion is similar in design to plate 27 of Asher Benjamin and Daniel Raynerd's The American Builder's Companion of 1806. Entrance from the hall to the

¹Charles M. Robinson, Architects, "Addition to T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond." Line Drawings. Richmond, Va., July 1924, Sheet No. 18. Copies in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1817/18 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Columbia is significant as a landmark in Richmond's commercial, architectural, and educational history. One of about ten outstanding residences surviving from the city's early Federal period, the house was built in 1817-18 by Philip Haxall, a Petersburg native who moved to Richmond in 1810 to manage the highly successful Columbia Flour Mills from which the house derives its name. In 1834 the Haxall family sold Columbia to the Virginia Baptist Educational Society, which converted the residence into the main academic building of Richmond College, which grew to become the present University of Richmond. Except for a brief period during the Civil War, when it was used first as a Confederate hospital and then as a barracks for Union troops, Columbia has functioned without interruption for a century and a half as an educational facility, serving most notably from 1917 until 1954 as the university's School of Law. Despite the variety of educational demands placed on the structure by successive generations of university students, teachers, and administrators, Columbia retains a significant amount of original fabric.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1810 Philip Haxall, together with his brother William, purchased the Columbian Mills from the creditors of David Ross. Ross had built the large and productive mill in the 1790s; however, fluctuations in the market, particularly during Jefferson's embargo, forced him into receivership. Under its new owners, the mill once again became successful, and one of the leading flour mills in Richmond. The Haxall purchase was opportune since Richmond ultimately expanded its share of the world flour market following the War of 1812, with flour becoming second only to tobacco as Virginia's chief export crop. The Haxalls along with such other mill owners as Joseph Gallego, Thomas Rutherford, and Edward Cunningham dominated the flour milling industry in Richmond, investing their capital not only in the growth of the flour trade but also in their residences.

During the first quarter of the 19th century, the city of Richmond grew in population as well as importance. Reflecting the capital's social and cultural development, city architecture became quite stylish, rivaling the best Federal period architecture found in any other Southern city. This new sense of architectural sophistication was due primarily to the work of a number of prominent American architects working in Richmond at this time, including Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Robert Mills, Alexander Parris, and Maximilian Godefroy. By the second decade of the 19th century, the city also had its own residential architect, Otis Manson, who came to Richmond from Boston. In order to accommodate such architectural talent during a period of rapid growth, the city's directory of 1819 lists the services of seventy-six carpenters and twenty-five brickworkers. Such was the milieu in which Richmond's mill owners would build their residences.

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet # 4)

Alley, Reuben E. History of the University of Richmond, 1830-1871. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977.

Benjamin, Asher and Raynerd, Daniel. The American Builder's Companion. Boston: Etheridge & Bliss, 1806.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .4 acres

Quadrangle name Richmond, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification Occupying NW corner of Lombardy Street and West Grace Street, on a lot measuring 125' x 134.28', 125' fronting on N side of West Grace.
Boundary justification: The nominated site for Columbia consists of approximately two-fifths of an acre at 1142 West Grace Street in the City of Richmond. The nominated property include

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet # 4)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date March, 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond, state VA 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date MAR 16 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
	date
Attest:	
Chief of Registration	

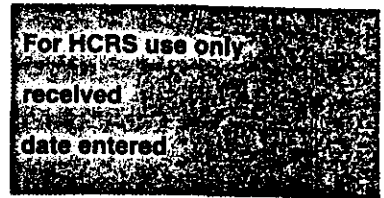
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

COLUMBIA, 1142 WEST GRACE STREET, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6, 7



Page 1

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1982 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

7. Description -- Architectural Analysis

parlor and dining room is provided through two doors, each having symmetrical architrave trim and a finely executed entablature with fluting and foliate ornamentation. The doorway connecting the stair hall to the assembly hall has a semielliptical transom that retains its original geometric mullions and some original glass. The extrados is finely carved, as is the keystone. The grape carving of the keystone, like the ceiling plasterwork, is quite possibly derived from Plate 27 of the American Builder's Companion. The original double doors are missing. The stair hall has an open-well stair with a Victorian turned newel, scroll-sawn brackets, and a molded handrail; the balusters are square. Located to the east of the stair hall and assembly hall are the parlor and dining room. The rooms' most notable architectural elements are the King-of-Prussia marble mantels, reputedly similar to those found in the contemporary but now demolished Edward Cunningham House (101 North Sixth Street) attributed to Robert Mills. Like the assembly room, the principal doors have finely carved entablatures; the window openings and a former door on the east wall have symmetrical molded architrave trim with turned corner blocks; the doorway has been blocked.

The original Federal mantels on the second floor each consist of molded pilasters supporting an entablature with shelf. Like the first floor, the doors and windows have symmetrical molded architrave trim and turned corner blocks. The second-floor hall has a small stair that ascends to the attic. The stair has a turned newel, molded handrail, and square balusters. A molded chair rail embellishes the second-floor rooms.

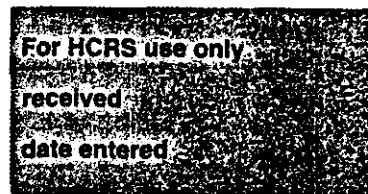
A classroom wing was built onto Columbia's north wall in 1924. Executed in Flemish-bond brick, the wing stylistically parallels the original house. The addition's main entrance on Lombardy is also similar to Columbia's entrance on Grace Street. Although in the period of the Haxall's residence Columbia was known for its formal and elaborate gardens, urbanization has taken its toll. Columbia now has only a small front yard and one magnolia tree, the sole reminder of its lush 19th-century gardens.

RCC

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

COLUMBIA, 1142 WEST GRACE STREET, RICHMOND, VA
Continuation sheet #2 Item number 8



Page 1

8. Statement of Significance -- Historical Background

While the concept of the mill village did not develop in Virginia as it had in New England, the mill owner in Richmond took as much pride in his residence as did his Northern counterpart. This was surely the case for mill owner Joseph Gallego, who purchased Moldavia in 1804 from David Meade Randolph and in 1806 commissioned the builder James Oldham to remodel the house completely. Oldham had worked for Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and was able to procure for Gallego composition-plaster ornament as fine as that at Monticello. Fellow mill owner Edward Cunningham's residence, which stood at 101 North Sixth Street, by tradition was said to have been designed by Robert Mills in 1815-16. Like Columbia, it had marble mantels in its principal first-floor rooms. Unfortunately, both Moldavia and Cunningham's house were demolished, in 1890 and 1927, respectively. Thus, Columbia remains as the only surviving mill owner's house of the period, called by one historian "the only survival of historic importance west of the Capitol on Grace Street."¹

The land on which Columbia is built first came into the Haxall family ca. 1816 when William Haxall purchased from his brother-in-law, John Bell, a one-hundred-acre land tract that included Bell's residence, Bellville, a substantial house of twenty-four rooms built after the plans of the Boston architect Alexander Parris. Parris designed in this same period the Governor's Mansion and the residence of John Wickham. On December 28, 1816, the house and twenty acres were sold by Haxall who temporarily retained the surrounding eighty-acre tract. It was through a subsequent division that Philip Haxall obtained site for Columbia on the corner of Lombardy and Broad streets.

Completed in 1818, Columbia retains both a notable exterior and interior. On its former Lombardy Street facade, the house was distinguished by a handsome fanlight doorway, since moved to the Grace Street side. As was characteristic of many of Richmond's best Federal-style residences, Columbia has recessed rectangular panels between its first and second stories, making for a symmetrical exterior. However, its exterior composition belies a most unconventionally planned interior. Columbia's first floor plan consists of a large reception or assembly hall, a stair hall, and an abutting parlor and dining room. While the plan is certainly unusual, it is not at all unique to Virginia or Richmond houses of the period.

The most typical plan of the Georgian and Federal periods was the center hall plan: a hall flanked by single or double pile rooms. The publication of Robert Morris's Select Architecture in 1757 created for a select group of Virginians an alternative to the center-hall plan by introducing the Palladian-derived plan. This plan featured a small stair hall, a large assembly room, and usually flanking wings of one room each, the parlor and dining room. In the case of a house without wings, as in Woodlands, Amelia County, or the John Marshall House, Richmond, the stair hall and assembly hall abutted a parlor and a dining room. Such was the plan of Columbia. Haxall's reasons for using such a plan within a conventional Federal exterior are not known. It is certain, however, that Haxall was a

¹Paul S. Dulaney, *The Architecture of Historic Richmond* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1968), p. 166.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

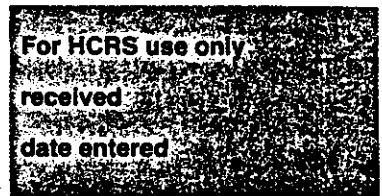
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

COLUMBIA, 1142 WEST GRACE STREET, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 8

Page 2



8. Statement of Significance -- Historical Background

great friend of Chief Justice John Marshall and a frequent guest at the Marshall House. Moreover, both Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Haxall joined with other Richmond ladies in establishing the town's first orphanage. Of course, Columbia is later in date than the Marshall House and more Federal in feeling. Its marble mantels in the parlor and dining room demonstrate the wealth of the house's first owner as well as prevailing taste among Richmond's upper class. Moreover, the carving of the woodwork and the delicately executed plasterwork in the assembly hall are tributes to the capabilities of the Richmond woodworker at this time of great building.

Philip Haxall died December 20, 1831, and his widow and heirs sold Columbia in 1834 to the Virginia Baptist Education Society. The Society was formed in 1830 in order to prepare young men to enter the Columbian College in Washington to become Baptist ministers. Originally known as the Virginia Baptist Seminary, it was first located at Dunlora in Powhatan County and later moved to a farm in Henrico County before acquiring the Columbia tract. The Baptist Religious Herald in its August 22, 1834, issue described the new location as situated in a neighborhood of "first intelligence and respectability." They described the house as "finished in the most durable and elegant style" and the garden as being "in the highest state of cultivation and furnished with a great variety of ornamental and useful trees and plants."² The house's surrounding brick outbuildings were used as dormitories. The chapel, classrooms, and dining facilities were located in the main house. The student body, composed of both ministerial and literary students, were able to earn extra money by working in the expansive gardens.

The seminary had grown sufficiently by 1840 for the Education Society to transfer its responsibilities to the trustees of Richmond College whose charter was obtained March 4, 1840. Dr. Robert Ryland became the first president of the college. Funds were raised, and a large wing for dormitory expansion was completed in 1856 to house the growing student body. With the coming of the Civil War, the college ceased to function; during the interlude, Columbia was used first by the Confederacy as a hospital and later by Union troops under Federal occupation as a barracks.

Following the Civil War, Richmond College again opened its doors to students. The house served as a residence for the professors of the college. An expanded curriculum, a growing student body, and an increased endowment characterized Richmond College during the next forty years. A decision reached by the board in 1911 was implemented in 1914 when the college in its entirety moved to a new campus in the western suburbs of Richmond. The Law School, founded in 1870, after a brief period at the new campus returned to Columbia in 1917. In 1924 substantial additions were made to the original Haxall residence to accommodate the growing number of law students. The Law School continued to occupy Columbia until moving to a new facility on the Westhampton Campus in 1954.

²The (Baptist) Religious Herald, August 22, 1834.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

COLUMBIA, 1142 WEST GRACE STREET, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #4

Item number 8, 9, 10

Page 3, 1, 1

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received

date entered

8. Statement of Significance -- Historical Background

Columbia continues under the ownership of the University of Richmond and is now occupied by a secretarial school. The former residence of Philip Haxall thus continues in its role as an educational facility, as it has done for almost 150 years.

MTP/RCC

9. Bibliographical References

- Berry, Thomas S. "The Rose of Flour Milling in Virginia." Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. Volume 78, #4 (October, 1970) pp. 387-408.
- Dulaney, Paul S. The Architecture of Historic Richmond. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1968.
- Mitchell, Alice B. "Columbia." The Messenger, April, 1906.
- Mutual Assurance Society, Fire Insurance Policies. Nos. 1060; 7099; 9543; 12,765; 20,030. Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives. Richard Burton Marlowe Askew, "The Haxall Dwelling House -- Circa 1817" in Columbia, Richmond (city), file no. 127-45; Charles M. Robinson, Architects, "Addition to T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond," line drawings, 1924.
- Scott, Mary Wingfield. Houses of Old Richmond. New York: Bonanza Books, 1941.

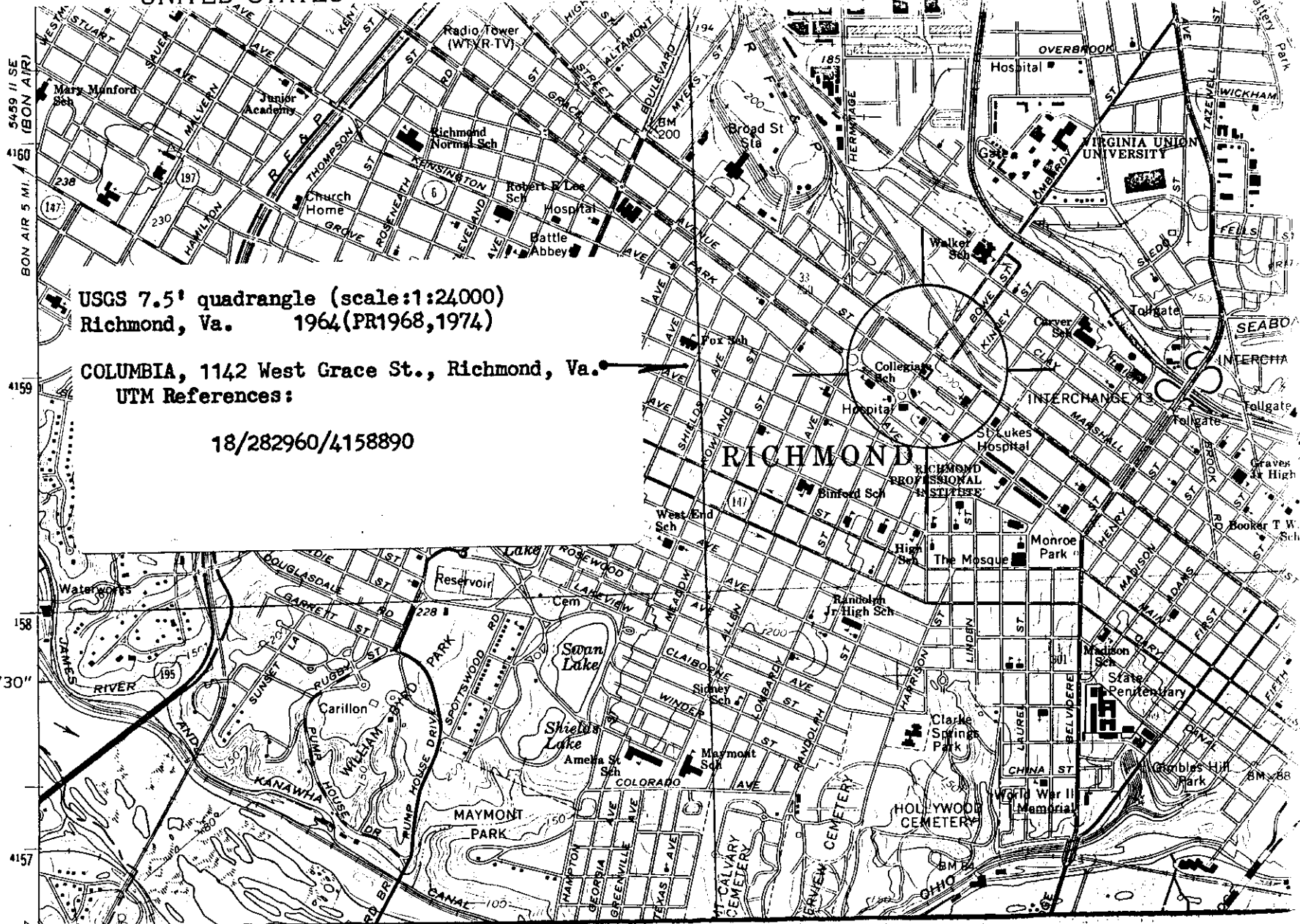
10. Geographical Data -- Boundary Justification (continued)

the main house and 1924 classroom addition on the north wall. A very small grass yard in front of the south and west elevations.

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UNITED STATES

COMMONWEALTH



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4158

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Richmond, Va. 1964 (PR1968,1974)

COLUMBIA, 1142 West Grace St., Richmond, Va.

UTM References:

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4159

32'30"

158

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