

VLR: 5-15-84  
NRHP: 8-16-84

127-250

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE (VHLC File #127-250)

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1200 East Clay Street N/A not for publication

city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county In City code 760

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

Richmond Academy of Medicine  
name c/o Mrs. M. Sheffield Smith, Executive Director

street & number 1200 East Clay Street

city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of state VA 23219

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond City Hall, Tax Assessor's Office

street & number 900 East Broad Street

city, town Richmond state VA 23219

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
title (File #127-250) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1973, 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state VA 23219

# 7. Description

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

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Richmond Academy of Medicine is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Twelfth and Clay streets. Designed in the Georgian Revival style, of brick and concrete with limestone trim, the building is five bays square, measuring 64' x 69'. It is two stories in height, reaching thirty-four feet at the top of the parapet. The six-course American-bond brickwork is set off against limestone trim elements. The main facade is highlighted by an entry way that is articulated with a large broken pediment and a cartouche bearing a caduceus. The interior is in the same styles as the exterior and houses a library, dining room, auditorium, and offices.

## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The main (south) facade is five bays in width. Four of these bays are articulated by slant-brick, flat-arched window openings with carved limestone keystones and 12 over 12 double-hung sash. The central bay contains the main entrance which is reached by a short flight of seven steps flanked by railings and two lamps in the Georgian style. The entrance itself is framed by a pair of engaged Corinthian half columns en ressaute supporting a full dentillated entablature with broken pediment. The frieze bears the name of the institution and the broken raking cornice frames a cartouche emblazoned with a caduceus. The tympanum is decorated with festoons of ribbons in low relief. Above the cartouche is a blind window of cast stone.

The basement level is separated from the rest of the building by a molded brick water table in the shape of a cyma reversa which runs around the entire building. Light is provided to the basement by means of a well which runs along the south and west facades.

On the second floor, the keystones of the windows touch the slim architrave of the limestone entablature which runs along the northeast and south facades. A plain frieze above is separated from the horizontal cornice by a series of cavetto, dentillated fillet and cyma recta moldings. Surmounting the cornice is a rather tall brick blocking course capped with limestone.

The west facade of the building is similar in disposition to the main facade with four bays articulated by four windows on each level. The final bay to the north is recessed since the width of the building is reduced where it joins the Tompkins-McCaw Library. This bay is articulated with a blind window and a simple banded frieze.

On the east facade of the building the cornice makes a return and stops. The site falls away to the east and consequently no light was required. A door replaces the expected window in the fourth bay to the north. The remaining openings are undecorated and are filled with 12 over 12 double-hung sash.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>					
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	Medical History	

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**Specific dates** 1926-1932      **Builder/Architect** Baskervill & Lambert

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richmond Academy of Medicine is the physical embodiment of the progressive-era doctrine of unification and consolidation of various elements of the profession (in this case, the medical profession) and their attendant institutions. In the Richmond Academy of Medicine we see the realization of an ideal that served as the impetus to unify the local medical colleges and their hospitals into a single entity. This building and the adjacent Tompkins-McCaw Library stood as the social and academic center of the medical profession. The building's architectural significance lies in its architectural scale and style. The Georgian Revival mode was chosen to harmonize with the adjacent historic residences and the small scale of the building does not physically overpower its surroundings. Further, the Georgian was a style which evoked association with Virginia's glorious past and encouraged the members' ancestral pride. Designed specifically to house what once was a regionally significant collection of early medical manuscripts, art work, instruments and incunabula, the building possesses an intersecting relationship with the adjacent Tompkins-McCaw Library of the Medical College of Virginia wherein the library "serves as a practical working library while the Academy part with club rooms...and the priceless Miller collection...serves the social and historical side of medicine."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>E.C.L. Miller, "An Invitation to Use the New Library," Bulletin of the Medical College of Virginia, September 1932, p. 7.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The construction of the Richmond Academy of Medicine in 1931-32 represented the culminating effort of a generation of Richmond physicians who, during the latter part of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century, established the city's private hospitals, developed the University College of Medicine and the Medical College of Virginia into a unified institution, and made Richmond a medical center of national reputation. The Academy traces its origins to a group of Richmond and Manchester physicians who organized the first medical society in Richmond in 1820. Named the Medical Society of Richmond, it continued under that title until 1866 when it was changed to the Richmond Academy of Medicine. Throughout the 19th century the local medical community was divided by intense rivalries among various competing factions of physicians. Before 1893, this friction most often involved a clash between members of the Academy and various doctors at the Medical College of Virginia. In 1880 this antagonism led to the formation of a rival group

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

Caravati, Charles Martin. Medicine in Richmond, 1900-1975. Richmond: Richmond Academy of Medicine, 1975.  
Dabney, Virginius. Richmond: The Story of a City. New York: Doubleday and Co., 1976.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .25 acres

Quadrangle name Richmond, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	8	2	8	5	3	2	0	4	1	5	7	4	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point at the NE corner of the intersection of Twelfth and E. Clay streets; thence extending N along E side of Twelfth St.  
(See Continuation Sheet #5)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date 1984

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*H. Bryan Mitchell*  
H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date May 15, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

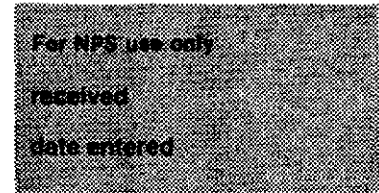
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #1

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Only one bay of the northern facade is visible and that is the one that is the furthest west. That bay is articulated in the same manner as the western and southern facades, except that the second-floor window sash is 6 over 6 rather than 12 over 12 and a small casement window pokes through the frieze.

In the interior the basement houses an undecorated dining area which is reached from the main floor by a small stair. The ground floor is axially symmetrical about a large central hall with offices to the west and the Miller collection to the east. At the northern end of the hall is an open well, symmetrical, divided stair lit by a large skylight in the ceiling of the second floor. All door openings are adorned with deeply molded architraves and full entablatures atop the lintels. At the intermediate landings of the main stair, a door (now locked) connects the Academy of Medicine with the Tompkins-McCaw Library. On the second floor, a small office to the east serves as the board room for the Academy and contains a mantel in the Federal style. The rest of the second floor is devoted to a large auditorium with Georgian dais and support facilities along the northwest corner of the building.

SB

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

called the Richmond Medical and Surgical Society, and for the next decade the city had two hostile and competing professional medical organizations. After 1893, the year in which Dr. Hunter McGuire founded the University College of Medicine in direct competition with the Medical College of Virginia, the friction largely reflected Richmond's uniqueness as the seat of two nearby active medical schools as well as the center of several small hospitals owned and controlled by prominent leaders in the profession. The competition was especially keen between the faculties of the University College of Medicine and the Medical College of Virginia. The search for order in the local medical profession ultimately led to the merger of the two medical schools in 1913 through the efforts of Dr. Stuart McGuire and Dr. George Ben Johnson. With the merger accomplished, much of the acrimony and dissension ceased, and the much-hoped-for ideal of a unified medical profession increasingly became a reality. The change became immediately apparent at the outbreak of World War I. The Richmond Academy formed a base hospital for service overseas, known as Base Hospital 45, at Toul, France. Headed by Dr. Stuart McGuire, the former president of the University College of Medicine, Base Hospital 45 included forty members of the MCV faculty on its staff.

Before the war, the Academy met on neutral ground at various places around the city such as the Traveler's Protection Association, the Westmoreland Club, and the Hotel Richmond. Upon returning to Virginia from France after the war, the same physicians who had effected the merger of the two medical schools in 1913 took up

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Continuation sheet #2

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

the task of finding a permanent home for the Academy. The obvious need for a regular meeting place was compounded by a lack of adequate space for the Academy's growing library of books and journals.

Certain changes in the Academy's organization, it is interesting to note, preceded the construction of the new building. In 1924 the name of the group was changed from the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery to the Richmond Academy of Medicine and the Academy formed its first board of trustees. That same year the Academy made an arrangement to house its library at MCV. In 1927 the State Corporation Commission granted it corporate status and it became the Richmond Academy of Medicine, Inc.

In 1926 the Academy began seriously to address the problem of a permanent home. Serendipitously at the same time, Dr. Joseph Miller of Thomastown, West Virginia, a graduate of the University College of Medicine and collector of rare medical books, manuscripts, instruments, and silhouettes, was considering an appropriate recipient of this collection. Dr. William Sanger, President of MCV, upon hearing of the availability of this collection, sought the collection for his college, perhaps seeing the collection as a rallying point to gather local support for a new library for his institution. To Sanger's request for the books Miller replied, "It is my intention and properly provided for in my will that the entire collection shall go to the Richmond Academy of Medicine; provided they have a home of their own and meet certain other minor requirements. When the time comes...I feel sure that this is best and that such a collection should be owned by an institution of broader context than any particular college can be..."<sup>1</sup> This decision led Dr. Sanger on a new course: that the Medical College of Virginia and the Richmond Academy of Medicine should unite to jointly construct a library and headquarters. The Academy agreed to this proposal, concurring with Dr. Sanger's statement that "the buildings should be physically joined in such a way that the two buildings shall constitute in reality separate units of a single plant in order that the library and auditorium facilities of the college and the Academy of Medicine may be supplementary. The Medical College of Virginia at such time as its library and auditorium can be constructed agrees to furnish both heat and personnel for the library of the Academy at a fixed sum not to exceed one dollar per year."<sup>2</sup>

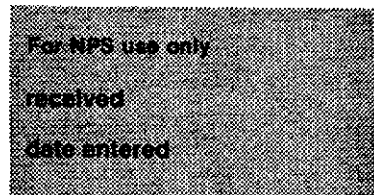
Dr. Joseph Lyon Miller was an avid reader and as a student began to collect old medical books and manuscripts. From the time he began to practice medicine in Thomas, West Virginia, he was always searching for any object pertaining to medical history. He was known to many of the foremost dealers of old books, both in this country and in Europe, and it was from them he secured many of his valuable items.

The library in 1927 was considered a regionally significant collection, consisting of about 3,000 portrait prints, silhouettes and other engravings, and over 3,000 medical books, at least one half of which were of unusual interest. According

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

to the Academy, the silhouettes composed the largest collection of silhouettes of medical personalities in the United States. The books include the first printed book on obstetrics published in 1545; Andreas Vesalius's De Fabrica Humani Corporis, published in 1453; Anthologia by Hieronymus Fracastorius, published in 1592; Chirurgia, ende alle de opera by Ambroise Paré, published in 1592; Circulation of the Blood by William Harvey, published in 1649; and the first English edition of Harvey's Anatomical Exercitations, one of only 35 copies originally offered, published in 1653; Chirurgia Magna in Duos Tomos Digesta by Aureolus Paracelsus, published in 1573 (some of the pages of this volume were blotted out by hot irons during the Inquisition); and Jason Partis's De Pariente et Partu, 1527, probably the only copy in America.

Dr. Sanger, with permission from the Academy's Board of Trustees, purchased frontage along Clay and Twelfth streets to accommodate the Academy's projected needs. By June 14, 1927 financial arrangements were stable enough to commission Baskervill and Lambert to prepare sketches for the proposed building. On December 6, 1927 the firm was authorized to prepare working drawings. The estimated cost of the Academy's portion of the building was \$60,000. Funds for MCV's portion of the building were not appropriated until 1930, delaying building dedication until September 1932. The Academy's final share of the building cost was \$92,000.

The restrained Georgian style of the Academy is typical of the work of the Baskervill firm. The firm, a prolific and highly competent Richmond enterprise, had designed several structures in the area. In each building design they reacted to the concerns of the MCV trustees that the structures be designed in the same mutually compatible styles. These structures include the Dooley Hospital (1917), St. Phillips Hall (1917-20), and Cabaniss Hall (1927), which harmonize with the style and scale of the surrounding historic structures. The Richmond Academy of Medicine is no exception to this trend, for its 3-story height and severely restrained facade provide a sympathetic streetscape for the White House of the Confederacy directly to the south and the Maury and Stevens houses to the southwest. Its brick and limestone exterior is also sympathetic to McGuire Hall, another MCV building (1912), across the street to the west.

The Georgian style was not only sympathetic to its Federal neighbors, but it is also one which Virginians often associated with their ancestral past and evoked no small degree of ancestral pride. Although the use of the Georgian as an emblem of the belief of the ancestral superiority of those of Anglo-Saxon descent had abated in the rest of the United States, this region of the south held tightly to this tradition.

The Academy building thus bespoke of the union of the Academy and the College and gave it an appropriate symbol. The furnishings were provided by the Academy's Women's Auxiliary, reactivated in 1932 upon completion of the building.

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RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, RICHMOND, VA

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

As the focal point for medical affairs and the common meetingplace for the medical profession in the city, the Academy building serves as a forum for professional and scientific programs. The members, organized into sections of subspecialties, sponsor postgraduate seminars, publish a regular bulletin, uphold high ethical standards of professional conduct, and participate actively in the Medical Society of Virginia, of which the Academy is an integral arm.

In the early 1970s there was a strong movement by a large segment of the membership to dispose of the Academy building and to move to new headquarters. A majority of the membership favored disposing of it, if adequately compensated, but the Academy's Board of Trustees decided instead to preserve it as a home and workshop for the local profession. The recent building campaign at MCV has led Academy members to become concerned about future impacts on the building and generated interest in having the Academy building officially designated as a historic landmark. Apart from its own individual merits, the Academy functions as an important visual component of the 1200 and 1100 blocks of East Clay Street, adding beauty and dignity to this historic neighborhood, which includes the White House of the Confederacy, the Wickham House, and the Valentine Museum.

RAC/SB

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<sup>1</sup>T.S.L. Miller to Sanger. May 20, 1926. MCV Archives.

<sup>2</sup>T.S.L. Sanger to Hodges. January 25, 1927. MCV Archives.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miller, E.C.L. "An Invitation to Use the New Library." Bulletin of the Medical College of Virginia, September 1932, p. 7ff.

Wertland and Williams. "A History of the Richmond Academy of Medicine 1820-1960." Virginia Medical Monthly, October 1962, V. 89, pp. 559-577.

Richmond, Virginia Medical College of Virginia Archives, Tompkins-McCaw Library.  
J.I. Miller Papers.

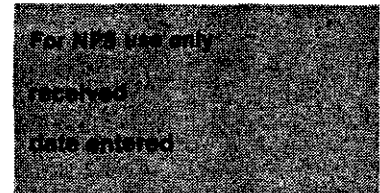
Richmond, Virginia Medical College of Virginia Archives, Tompkins-McCaw Library.  
W.T. Sanger Papers.



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RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, RICHMOND, VA



Continuation sheet #5

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

approximately 74'; thence extending E approximately 140'; thence extending S approximately 74' to N side of E. Clay St.; thence extending W along N side of E. Clay St. approximately 140' to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to conform to the land purchased by the Richmond Academy of Medicine in 1927.

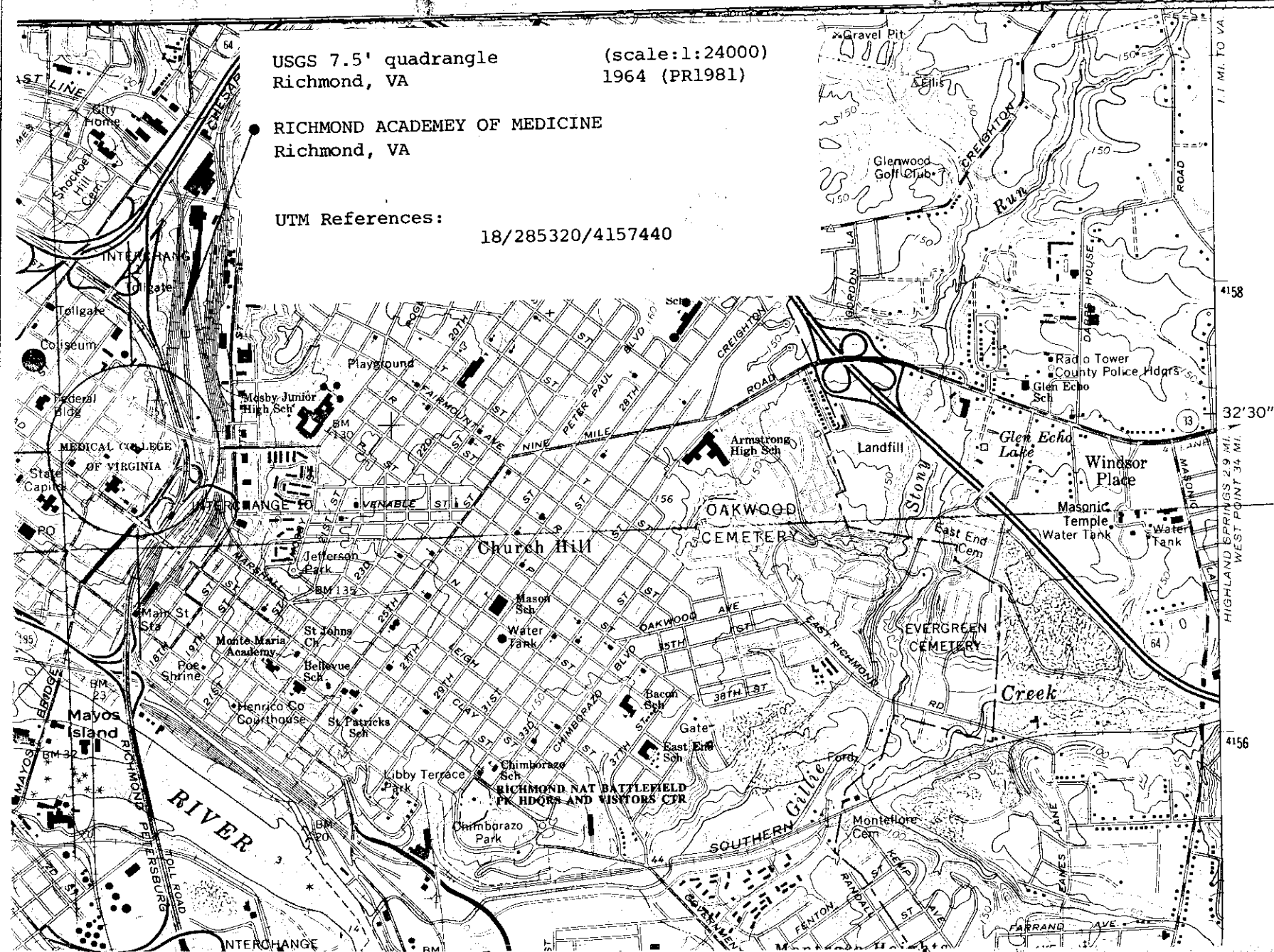
USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Richmond, VA

(scale:1:24000)  
1964 (PR1981)

● RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE  
Richmond, VA

UTM References:

18/285320/4157440



1.1 MI. TO VA

4158

32'30"

HIGHLAND SPRINGS 2.9 MI.  
WEST POINT 3.4 MI.

4156