OME L. 1.24-018

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places-Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS	use only
date ent	ered

	a -complete app	iloable se	CHOILS				
<u>1. Nan</u>	<u>ne</u>						
historic	Union Theological Saminary Quadrangle						
and/or common	Union Seminar	y (pref	erred)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
2. Loc	ation						
street & number	r 3401 Br	ook Roa	d .		N/A not for publication		
city, town	Richmond		N/A vicinity of	denga solonar disa.	-		
state	Virginia	code	51 cou	unty (In City)	code 760		
3. Clas	sificatio	n					
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X private both Public Acquisit in process being considered		X occupied unoccupied work in progre Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestric	entertainment d government	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: Seminary		
name Union	Theological S	eminary	c/o T. Hartle	ey Hall, Board of Tru	ıstees		
street & number	3401 Brook	Road					
city, town Ric	chmond		N/A vicinity of	stat	e Virginia 23227		
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depository for s	urvey records V	irginia	Historic Land	marks Commission, 221	l Governor Street		
city, town Ric	chmond			stat	te Virginia 23219		

7. Description Condition Check one Check one _X_ excellent deteriorated __ unaltered X original site __ good ruins _X_ altered moved date ___ N/A _ fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Union Theological Seminary Quadrangle is an outstanding collection of architecturally harmonious late 19th-century and early 20th-century collegiate buildings ranged around a twelve acre central lawn. In this setting the structures form an almost perfectly preserved image of a turn-of-the-century institute of higher learning. At the head of the long, narrow rectangle is Watts Hall with its semicircular chapel addition, rendered in a rich, High Victorian Gothic style. Flanking that is Spence Library on the south and Westminster Hall on the north, two equally fanciful High Victorian Gothic buildings, both of which feature outstanding cast-iron porches. The faculty houses on Westwood and Melrose Avenues are in a somewhat more restrained and modified Queen Anne style. All the buildings are executed in stretcher-bond brick. The principal academic buildings have carved-stone openings, especially elaborate on the main entrances of the academic structures. The school was first planned and designed in 1896 by the Richmond architect, Charles Henry Read, Jr. whose plan may have been influenced in part by the University of Virginia.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The original plan of Union Theological Seminary as designed by the architect Charles Herr Read, Jr. consisted of fifteen buildings. According to Read's 1896 plan, administration, classes, and a chapel would be contained in the largest building, an imposing edifice centered at the far western end of the parallelogram shaped site. Flanking the edifice would be the library and a large dormitory. Additional dormitories and professor's residences were to be constructed on Westwood and Melrose avenues. Of the proposed fifteen structures, eight were erected by Read: Watts Hall (1896), Spence Library (1897), and Westminster Hall (1897), and five faculty residences. Of the original Read buildings, an easterrmost faculty residence was razed in 1921 for Schauffler Hall, designed by the firm of Baskervill and Lambert. The northern side of the quadrangle was completed in 1908 by the additions of Richmond Hall, Smith Hall, and Moore Hall, all the work of the Richmond architect, Charles K. Bryant. In addition to Schauffler Hall, the Richmond firm of Baskervill and Lambert built Watts Chapel in 1921. In keeping with the original plan, all the buildings were built in brick with the facades executed in stretcher bond with the secondary elevations in varying courses of American bond.

Built in 1896, Watts Hall constitutes Union Theological Seminary's first building, designed after the plans of Charles Henry Read, Jr. It was intended by Read to serve as the school's chapel, administration, and classroom building. As previously mentioned, the present chapel was added in 1921. The main asymmetrical facade of the three-story building is dominated by a four-story entrance tower. Located on the first story, the building's main entrance is contained within an equilateral arch, the spandrels ornamented with floral stone carving and the words, 'Watts Hall, A.D. 1896.' The original double-entrance doors survive. Stone is also used to accent a projecting second-story oriel window and a thrid-story recessed round-arch opening that serves as a balcony. The tower's fourth story has polychromatic diapering and a stone battlement. Fenestration consists of one, two, and three-part windows with stone surrounds. The principal openings have leaded-glass transoms and 1/1 hung-sash. The building's irregular hip and cross-gable roof is broken by a number of different types of dommers and brick chimney stacks, some of which retain their original pressed caps. The rear (east) chapel

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications		landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e_X religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1896-1921	Builder/ArchitectCharle	es H. Read; Charles B	ryant; Baskervill
Statement of S	ispidiosess (in one payor)	and I	Lambert	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The quadrangle at Union Theological Seminary is an unusually distinguished collection of High Victorian Gothic, Late Gothic Revival and Queen Anne architecture, all rendered in dark red brick and all basically English in character. The original layout of the complex and the majority of the buildings were designed by the talented, but little-known Richmond architect, Charles H. Read, Jr., and were built beginning in 1896. The focal point of the complex, Watts Hall, is a bold and sophisticated adaptation of Tudor Gothic. Later buildings were designed by the Richmond firms of Charles K. Bryant and Baskervill and Lambert, the latter firm completing the quadrangle in 1921 with Schauffler Hall, a delicately rich Late Gothic Revival building. Founded in 1812 at Hampden-Sydney College as the Presbyterian Synod of Virginia's School of Theology, the Seminary moved to Richmond in 1896 after receiving a gift of a twelve-acre site on the city's North Side from the Richmond industrialist and developer Lewis Ginter. Since its relocation, the Seminary has played a leading role in religious education in the region. With its fine buildings impressively sited around a long open area, the Seminary's quadrangle remains a remarkably handsome and coherent expression of the dignity and style accorded academic buildings in the Progressive era.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Seminary originated in the moral and philosophy classes led by Moses Hoge of Hampden-Sydney College in Prince Edward County, Virginia. By 1812, Hoge's program was officially recognized by the Presbyterian Church's Synod of Virginia as its School of Theology. For five years (1822-1827) the Seminary was governed by the synod of Hanover, until the synods of Virginia and North Carolina assumed control of the school in 1827. To signify their partnership and the Seminary's expanded purview, the synods renamed the school Union Theological Seminary; however, for nearly seventy years the Seminary remained a relatively small institution affiliated with Hampden-Sydney. With declining enrollments following the Civil War, the Seminary's leadership came to feel that moving to larger facilities in a more urban location would serve the synod's best interests.

The movement to relocate began in earnest in the late 1880s. Despite the Seminary's small enrollment (in 1893 there were only sixty-nine students), its faculty was wont to note "the necessity for enlarged accommodation." But their admonition repeated almost annually, encountered a thorny economic reality best described by Dr. W.W. Moore, who later became President of the Seminary in 1905. In 1892 Moore painted a gloomy financial picture for the Seminary, attributable largely, he believed, to poor location. Donors were disappearing, partly because of the "ruinous booms which have so much cursed the country." But there was also, Moore explained, "widespread dissatisfaction with the location of the Seminary, and the consequent indisposition to contribute to the erection

9. Major Bibliog	raphical	Refer	<u>ence</u>	S (See Cor	ntinuation She	et #5)
A Trip Around the Seminary.				nl Comino	ry. Richmond:	J.W.
Corey, Charles Henry. A Hi Randolph Co., 1895.	story or the	ATCHIONG II	ieorogic	ar seimia	ty. Recinora:	J.W.
General Catalogue of Union	Theological S	eminary in	Virgini	a, 1807-19	924. Richmond	: Whitte
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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

annex of 1921 is polygonal, each bay defined by buttresses and containing two-story round-arch openings defined by lancet-arched panels. The window glass is leaded. The double-door entrance is sheltered by a one-story round-arch porte-cochere topped by battlements. The chapel is covered by a tent roof topped by an ornamental clock.

Spence Library was designed by Read and completed in 1897. A six-story stack annex was added to the original two-story building in ca. 1940. The main entrance of the original building fronts on Westwood Avenue (south). The entrance consists of an equilateral arch, the spandrel, like Watts Hall, ornamented with carved-stone florals and the words, "Spence Library, A.D. 1897." To the east of the entrance is a rounded tower of two stories that has a clock contained within a stone frame. Between Watts Hall and Spence Library is a two-level, cast-iron porch topped by a pyramidal roof. On the first level the casting is rendered in a vine and floral motif with a Gothic-style, pointed-arch rail found on the second level. The porch ranks among the finest examples of late 19th-century cast-iron work in Richmond. The old library stacks extend to the east of the building and the six-story stack annex was added to the west wall. The upper bays of the new annex are defined by buttresses which continue the flavor of the Gothic style of the earlier buildings. The annex is executed in five-course American-bond brick and has casement windows, while the original building has hung-sash.

Westminster Hall was also built in 1897 after Read's plans and was designed to be a dormitory. The structure faces the quadrangle (south) and is distinguished by two-level cast-iron porches. The two-level porch has pin-wheel brackets and vine and floral elliptical arches. The cast iron here and at Spence Library demonstrates architect Read's skill with ironwork design derived from his training as a draftsman for the Tredegar Ironworks in the 1870s. The western porch shelters the main entrance that consists of glass and panel double doors topped by a multipane transom and a stone lintel. The western elevation has a gabled pavilion flanked by semi-exterior end chimneys. The central pavilion has stone tablets, one bearing the date, "1897," the other 'Westminster Hall." The Melrose Avenue elevation (north) also has a two-story porch, similar to that found on the south elevation. The windows are hung-sash, the rectangular openings topped by stone lintels. The hip roof is broken by cross gables and dormers copped by pyramidal roofs. Semi-exterior chimneys retain their original clustered stacks.

Richmond Hall was built in 1908 after the plans of Charles K. Bryant as the school's refectory. The long, H-shape, 2½-story building is distinguished on its west elevation by a former one-story, battlement topped porte-cochere that has been glassed in. The central entrance gable has a tablet on the second story with the inscription, 'Richmond Hall, A.D. 1908." The building's quadrangle side now serves as the entrance facade and recently has been remodeled as the first floor by the addition of a glass canopy. The roof is broken by dormer windows as well as by smaller dormered vents. The original fenestration consisted of hung-sash windows.

Moore Hall was also built in 1908 after the plans of Charles K. Bryant for use as a faculty residence. The comparatively plain, 2½-story, brick structure also fronts (south) on the quadrangle, its recessed entrance framed by paired square wooden columns and pilasters.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, RICHMOND, VA Continuation sheet #2

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The building has 1/1 hung-sash windows that are topped by plain stone lintels. A corbeled brick cornice accentuates the gabled roof line broken by dormers and chimney stacks.

Smith Hall was likewise constructed in 1908 after Bryant's plans. The 2½-story brick building has its main entrance on Chamberlayne Avenue, the single entry door sheltered by a one-story porch with paired square columns. The building has 1/1 hungsash windows that are topped by stone lintels. It is covered by a large hip roof, broken both by dormers and chimney stacks. The structure was intended for faculty residences, its present use.

Schauffler Hall was constructed in 1921 after the plans of the Richmond architectural firm of Baskervill and Lambert. The stretcher-bond brick structure of two stories fronts onto Chamberlayne Avenue (east). The facade is distinguished by a three-story entrance tower, the double-door entrance surrounded by sidelights and a large transom. A stilted stone arch with a floral ornamented stone spandrel marks the recessed entrance opening. The tower's second story has a stone-carved bay window topped by a battlement which also marks the tower's roof line. The H-shape plan's central section is divided by buttresses into bays, each bay containing an equilateral arch stained-glass window divided by a carved-stone panel. The structure's gabled roof is broken by dormers. The building was intended to be used as a community center, its present function.

The four faculty residences that front onto Westwood Avenue were all built after the plans of Charles Henry Read, Jr., ca. 1897, and are all in a rather simple Queen Arme-style rather than Gothic. Known originally as Professor's Residences, Numbers 1-4, the buildings are executed in brick and are smaller in size than Bryant's residences on Melrose Avenue. Professor's Residence, "Number 1," is located at 1102 Westwood Avenue. It has been renamed Johnson Hall and presently serves as faculty offices for the Biblical Studies Department. The paneled single-door entrance on Westwood is sheltered by a one-story porch with paired square columns and a shed roof. Fenestration consists of 1/1 hung-sash windows. The hip roof is broken by dormers and brick chimney stacks. As is the case with all the houses on Westwood, a brick garage is located to the rear of the building on the quadrangle.

Residence "No. 2" is located at 1010 Westwood Avenue. It is similar in mass and style to Johnson Hall but retains its original porte-cochere on its west elevation.

Residence "No. 3" is located at 1006 Westwood Avenue. It has a hip roof with crossed gables. Like all the residences on Westwood, the residence has a corbeled brick cornice.

Residence 'No. 4" at 1002 Westwood Avenue is distinguished by a porch with square columns that are not paired. A side entrance is found on the west elevation, similar in style to the front porch.

Between 1006 and 1002 Westwood Avenue is an interesting Gothic-style stone birdbath. The quadrangle itself is planted with different varieties of trees and shrubs with ornamental cast-iron lamp standards, the whole grouping having a very collegiate quality with virtually no visual intrusions. The seminary has since expanded into other Northside streets including its 'Westwood' campus of thirty-eight acres.

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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, RICHMOND, VA
Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

of any more buildings in 'the wrong place.'" Moore further urged the synods to consider "planting our principal training school for ministers in some great center of population and business influence." And, Moore added tersely, that if "the Seminary remains in the backwoods it is doomed to inevitable decline."

By the mid-1890s a site selection committee had been formed. Several Virginia cities vied for the educational institution including Richmond, Lynchburg, and Danville. The synods were aware, aside from economic pressures, of the need to remain a place of a changing constituency. Cities in both North Carolina and Virginia were growing, and it was recognized that the training of a minister required now both theological study and practical work experience which could best be achieved in an urban setting. After inspecting sites in various places including both the Ginter Park and Barton Heights sections of Richmond and the Miller Park area of Lynchburg, it was decided to accept Louis Ginter's offer of twelve acres in Ginter Park's "highly improved suburban section of Richmond." Ginter's gift valued at approximately \$50,000 was matched by two generous donors, George W. Watts of Charlotte, North Carolina and W.W. Spence of Baltimore. Apparently the board of trustees felt that it would be easier to raise funds for carrying out the move if Richmond was selected. It was generally agreed that the Ginter Park land was healthful and that the Seminary would benefit from its close proximity to the city. The trustees then purchased thirty-four additional acres known as the 'Westwood property immediately to the south of the original parcel, and proceeded to secure the services of Richmond architect, Charles Henry Read, Jr., taking effective possession of the Richmond property in 1896. Read was especially qualified for the job of designing the new Presbyterian Seminary. Son of a well-known New York and Richmond minister, trained in engineering at the University of Virginia, and a Confederate veteran of New Market, Read had, admittedly, the right connections. In addition, he was a skilled designer with a long career and a number of excellent buildings to his credit, including the Planters National Bank (National Register, 1982) erected in 1894 in the financial district of Richmond. Shortly after the Civil War, Read joined the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department in Washington where he remained until the mid-1870s. That practice, headed by Alfred B. Mullett during Read's tenure, was responsible for a number of major government projects and doubtless afforded Read valuable experience with institutional buildings. In 1876 Read entered private, practice in Washington. For nine years, until his return to Richmond, Read was responsible for a corpus of significant buildings in Washington. Among them were: the 1884 Austrian Legation, an 1887 store for Woodward & Lothrop on F Street, NW, and a residence for Ralph C. Johnson in 1884 on I Street, MV. Following his return to Richmond, Read established his own architectural practice after a brief stint in cast-iron design. His essays in Richmond included the Masonic Orphans Home (1893), the Times Building (1893), and the aforementioned Planters Bank (1894).

The Union Theological Seminary was, however, Read's most ambitious Richmond project. The program--classrooms, dormitories, faculty housing, offices, refectory, chapel, and library--was a complex and demanding one. Read proposed a total of fifteen buildings. Administration, classes, and a chapel would be contained in the largest, an imposing edifice centered at the far western end of the parallelogram shaped site. Flanking it

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

would be the library and a large dormitory. Arrayed along Westwood and Melrose avenues were to be additional dormitories and professors' residences. Of these fifteen, eight were erected by Read: the three principal school buildings and five Westwood Avenue houses. Construction of the administration building, named for benefactor George W. Watts, cost \$50,000; the Spence Library, \$25,000; and Westminster Hall, the dormitory, \$20,000. Expenses for the general residences amounted to \$38,600. Read's superintendent of construction was E.T.D. Myers, Jr., and the contractor was N.E. Ancarrow. Many of the original drawings survive in the care of the Seminary.

The style of Read's buildings and the landscape of North Side Richmond were necessarily interdependent. The Seminary issued, naturally, the expected Victorian platitudes: "The plans for the buildings...have been universally approved for their solidity, comeliness, and convenience." The Tudor Gothic had long scholastic associations. Cobb and Frost's University of Chicago, begun in 1892, was a powerful influence on school architecture at the turn of the century, but Collegiate Gothic drew on precedents palpably Oxonian. Yet the rustic quality of suburban Richmond demanded informality, while the Seminary's new mission required ceremony and presence. Moore, writing in 1898 just after classes began in the new facilities, expressed this ambivalence: The grounds "guarantee the Seminary against the encroachment of any disturbing features of the city and secure the seclusion that is so desirable for such an institution. At the same time the site is easily accessible, being but fifteen minutes' ride by the electric cars from the business center of Richmond." Low Gothic in a Jeffersonian genre, Read's solution was thoughtful and revealing. Because the quadrangle has roughly the same dimensions as the Lawn at the University of Virginia and, like the Lawn, major academic buildings are juxtaposed with faculty houses, it has been suggested that Read, who was thoroughly familiar with his alma mater, used the Lawn as a source of inspiration.

Changes to the quadrangle since 1900 have been sympathetic to the original image. Richmond Hall, designed by Charles K. Bryant, was built in 1908 to house the new refectory. Local Presbyterians pledged \$40,000 for the hall's construction and for the Seminary's approaching centenary celebration. Smith and Moore halls, built presumably as residences, were designed by the Bryant office at about the same time as Richmond Hall. Schauffler Hall, intended to be the Seminary's community center, was the product of architects Baskervill and Lambert in 1921. It cost \$144,000 and the loss of Read's easternmost faculty residence, which was razed for the new hall. The semicircular Watts Hall Chapel was also added by the Baskervill firm at this time and in a design very similar to Read's. The most recent substantive addition, a stack wing for Spence Library completed in 1940, preserves the spirit of the ensemble.

DS/MIP

Walter W. Moore, "Historical Sketch of Union Theological Seminary," <u>Union Seminary</u> <u>Magazine 4</u>, March-April 1898, pp. 246-249.

²General Catalogue of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, 1807-1924, (Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, [1924]), p. 18.

³A Trip Around the Seminary, 1922, unpaged booklet.

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UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, RICHMOND, VA
Continuation sheet #5

Item number 8, 9, 10

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Footnotes (continued)

⁴Ibid.

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Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Richmond on the James. Richmond, 1893.

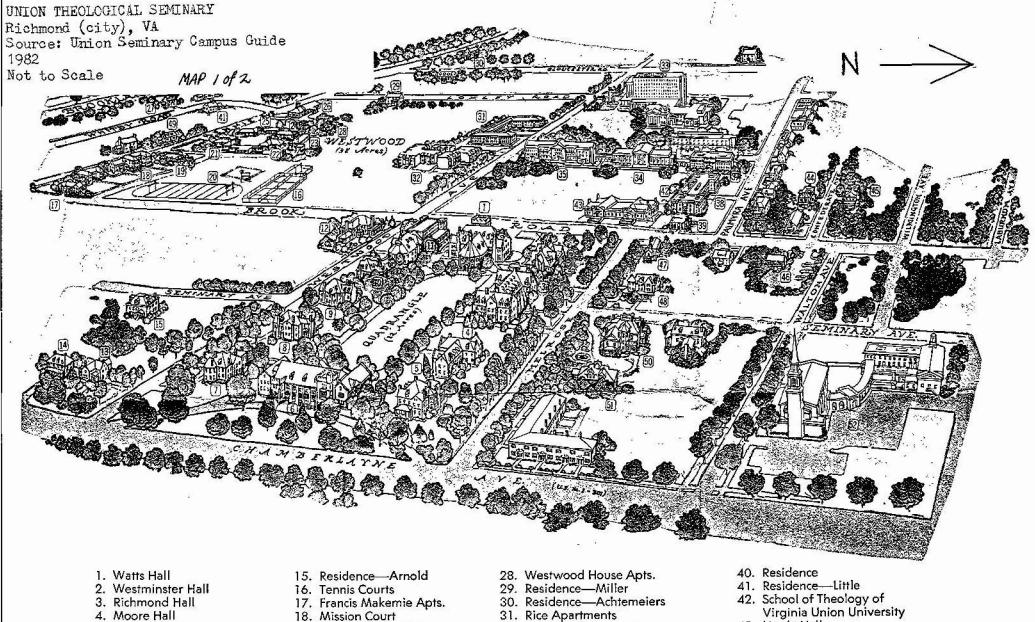
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the W side of Chamberlayne Ave. approximately 500' N of the intersection of Chamberlayne and Westwood avenues; thence extending approximately 1000' W to E side of Brook Rd.; thence extending approximately 500' S along E side of Brook Rd. to the intersection of Brook Rd. and Westwood Ave.; thence extending approximately 1000' E along N side of Westwood Ave. to a point on the W side of Chamberlayne Ave. at the intersection of Westwood and Chamberlayne avenues; thence extending approximately 500' N along W side of Chamberlayne Ave. to point of origin.

⁵ The Growth of a Great Seminary, 1917, Unpaged booklet.



- 5. Smith Hall
- Schauffler Hall
- 7. Residence—Towner-1062
- 8. Residence—Rissi 1006
- 9. Residence—Swezey—1016 10. Johnson Hall—1102
- 11. Library
- 12. Residence—Mackenzie
- 13. Residence-Martin
- 14. Residence

- 19. Samuel Davies Apts.
- 20. Athletic Fields
- Residence—Stair
- 22. Residence-Murchison
- 23. Residence-Smylie
- 24. Residence—Trotti
- 25. Residence—Hobbie
- 26. Residence-Leith
- 27. Residence-McCarter

- 32. Advance Apartments
- 33. Richmond Memorial Hospital
- 34. Presbyterian School of Christian Education
- 35. Watts Dormitory
- 36. Virginia Hall
- 37. General Assembly Dorm
- 38. Administration Building
- 39. Demonstration Kindergarten

- 43. Lingle Hall
- 44. Residence—Dawe
- 45. Residence—Turnage
- 46. Residence
- 47. Residence—Goodpasture
- 48. Dabney Hall
- 49. Residence—Carl
- 50. Neill Ray House
- 51. Reigner Apartments
- 52. Ginter Park Presbyterian Church

