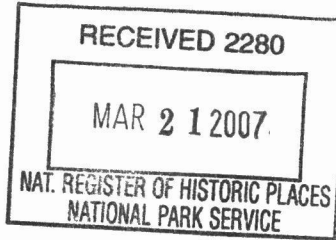


400

(Rev. 10-90)  
NPS Form 10-900



OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name St. Catherine's School

other names/site number File No. 127-5886

#### 2. Location

street & number 6001 Grove Avenue  not for publication  
city or town Richmond  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Richmond code 760 Zip 23226

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/20/07  
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper Patrick Andrews  
Date of Action 5/4/2007

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Non-contributing
<u>11</u>	<u>9 buildings</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>1 sites</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0 structures</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0 objects</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>10 Total</u>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

---

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school  
EDUCATION education-related

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school  
EDUCATION education-related

---

**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL REVIVAL, GEORGIAN REVIVAL

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
roof STONE (slate)  
walls BRICK, WOOD (weatherboard)  
other METAL (wrought iron)

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or Property represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance** 1917-1953

**Significant Dates** 1917 School moved to its present site in Westhampton.  
1920 Incorporated into the system of Church Schools and renamed St. Catherine's.  
1921 Master Plan for campus developed by Hobart Upjohn.  
1922 Ellett Hall, the first of the brick Georgian Revival style buildings, is built on the site.

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
Virginia Randolph Ellett, the school's founder and first headmistress

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Architects include: Hobart Upjohn; J. Binford Walford and O. Pendleton Wright;  
H. Coleman Baskervill; Charles H. Chamberlayne, Warren Hardwicke Associates;  
Alan McCullough; Glave Newman Anderson Architects  
Landscape Architects include: Charles F. Gillette; Wilson-Moreth

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Part 1 tax credit applications submitted to NPS
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office.
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (St. Catherine's School Archives)

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources; St. Catherine's School Archives

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 14.85 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>		<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1	<u>18</u>	<u>277193</u>	<u>4161158</u>	6	<u>18</u>	<u>277320</u>	<u>4160918</u>
2	<u>18</u>	<u>277386</u>	<u>4161172</u>	7	<u>18</u>	<u>277310</u>	<u>4160877</u>
3	<u>18</u>	<u>277381</u>	<u>4161141</u>	8	<u>18</u>	<u>277203</u>	<u>4160888</u>
4	<u>18</u>	<u>277417</u>	<u>4161131</u>	9	<u>18</u>	<u>277215</u>	<u>4161009</u>
5	<u>18</u>	<u>277366</u>	<u>4160918</u>	10	<u>18</u>	<u>277159</u>	<u>4160999</u>

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Mary Harding Sadler, Llewellyn Jewell Hensley, K. Giles Harnsberger; Tyler Bird Paul; Howard L. Pugh, Jr.

Organization Sadler & Whitehead Architects, PLC; St. Catherine's School date: 02/01/2007

street & number 800 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street telephone 804-231-5299

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia Inc

street & number 110 W. Franklin Street telephone 804-643-8451

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23220

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=====  
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia**

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**Section 7      Page 1**

**Summary Description**

The buildings nominated as St. Catherine's School form the 15-acre heart of a campus that was developed in Richmond, Virginia's Westhampton neighborhood to educate girls from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The primary grouping of buildings, constructed between 1922 and 1953 in accordance with a 1921 master plan by New York architect Hobart Upjohn, forms a horseshoe at the north end of the property. The school's main buildings front on a large tree-lined Green at the heart of the campus. The campus architecture is unified by materials, scale, symmetrical treatment of architectural elements, and consistent use of the Georgian Revival style. Seven of the contributing buildings were designed by Upjohn and most of the remaining buildings, including the most recent, are red brick with slated gable roofs and parapeted end walls. Even those few buildings designed in a modern idiom, like Turner Hall, the Moore Fine Arts Center and the Kenny Sports and Fitness Center, were carefully knit into the campus through matching materials and conformance with the ideals of the original master plan. A significant part of the campus' character is the careful landscape design that has permeated the campus since local landscape architect Charles Gillette began his work there in the mid-1930s.

The campus includes 11 contributing buildings, 2 contributing sites (the Green and the Virginia Randolph Ellett Memorial Garden), 1 contributing object (the entry gates), 9 non-contributing buildings (most less than fifty years old) and 1 non-contributing site (the new tennis courts).<sup>1</sup> The non-contributing status of later buildings should be reevaluated once those buildings reach fifty years of age.

**Initial Development of the School**

The Westhampton campus of St. Catherine's school was the fourth and ultimate location of Richmond's oldest girl's school in continuous operation. In 1890 the school, then known as the Virginia Randolph Ellett School for Girls, opened in a house on East Grace Street in Richmond where Miss Ellett and her mother rented rooms. As enrollment increased, the school moved to West Franklin Street and then on to South Laurel Street. Ellett's school moved to its present site, originally part of the 139-acre West View Farm property, in 1917 when the first buildings, Tudor Revival bungalows (built in 1917 and demolished in 1960) designed by Richmond architect Duncan Lee, were complete. The school's only other building was a 1901 farmhouse (Whitlock House; demolished in the 1960s). Both of these were on the west side of the current campus.

In 1920, the school locally known as "Miss Jennie's" was incorporated into the newly established system of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia and renamed St. Catherine's School. Like nearby St. Christopher's School, which also became a Diocesan school in 1920, development of St. Catherine's campus paralleled development of the surrounding residential neighborhood. Being part of the Episcopal Church gave St. Catherine's enough financial resources to plan future expansion (Klaus 1989: 35). Board member John L. Patterson recommended the services of New York Architect Hobart Upjohn, based on Patterson's familiarity with Upjohn's design for Roanoke Rapids High School<sup>2</sup> in North Carolina. In a move that was unusual for a small private school, the Board engaged Upjohn to prepare a long term plan of development, which he completed in 1921. The plans are now in the collection of the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia**

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Library at Columbia University.

**Section 7      Page 2**

Upjohn's concept was presented as a site plan and as a bird's eye perspective, which were published, along with plans and details of Ellett Hall and the Classroom Arcade, in the February 1925 issue of *Architecture* magazine. Upjohn's plan reoriented the school from its site along narrow side streets to a new frontage along Grove Avenue, a primary street that connected the residential suburb to the larger city. He also established the dominant school's architectural style as Georgian Revival.

Goals of Upjohn's far-reaching plan for the school's development, as described in the *Architecture* magazine article,<sup>3</sup> included the following: to provide flexible, fireproof classrooms and dormitories in a grouping of "three main buildings with connecting wings." The plan established a central axis running from a future main building (now Bacot Hall), bisecting a green and leading to a lower field at the south end of the campus. Upjohn said the buildings would be constructed with local "clinker colonial" brick laid up in Flemish bond. He also cited the importance of the school's residential scale ("a feeling of the home") and its architectural style, which he referred to as "the Southern colonial."

In 1922, Ellett Hall, the first of Upjohn's brick, Georgian Revival school buildings, was erected. A circular drive led to its west entry, which served as the school's main entry until Bacot Hall was complete. Ellett was a relatively understated building with simple symmetrical massing and openings with the scale and character of a large house. Its red brick walls, multi-light wood sash with jack arch lintels, and parapeted end walls would be echoed in the school's new buildings for the remainder of the twentieth century. The next two buildings to be constructed in accordance with Upjohn's plans were Guigon Hall, a music building, and the Classroom Arcade in 1925. Guigon Hall, whose fund-raising campaign was headed by its namesake, longtime music teacher Ellen Guigon, was sited north of Ellett Hall, away from the primary building group. A Colonial Revival style house was built for Miss Ellett on the west edge of the campus in 1929.

The school's most significant expansion occurred in the mid-1930s when Bacot Hall and the Dining Arcade were built at the north end of the campus, as well as the Power Plant and McVey Hall (a combined gymnasium and auditorium) at the south end of the Green. Completion of this group of buildings allowed the Upjohn master plan to emerge in built form. Construction of Brackett House (originally, the home of Jeffrey and Louisa Brackett, a longtime head of the school) and Jeffrey Hall (the infirmary) completed the cluster of smaller buildings along the west side of what came to be known as St. Catherine's Lane. Remarkably, all of the buildings constructed in the school's first major expansion were developed under the leadership of the school's fourth headmistress, Louise deBerniere Bacot Brackett, who led the school from 1924-1947. Most of the buildings constructed in this period were designed by Hobart Upjohn.

**Landscape Design**

The earliest recorded plans for the school by Richmond's renowned landscape architect Charles Gillette date from 1937 and illustrate a planting plan for the campus that included the central "game lawn" and "athletic field" (now the Green) framed by a brick walk lined with paired elm trees. A 1939 drawing entitled "Proposed Development of Campus" was presented to the school's Board by Mrs. John Patterson as a memorial to her husband, who had been involved with the school's development since the early 1920s.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia**

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**Section 7      Page 3**

Though March 1940 and November 1940 Board minutes reflect ongoing disagreement between Gillette and Upjohn, a number of the school's plantings were completed in accordance with Gillette's drawing. Formal plantings were developed at the north entry of Bacot and on the north and south fronts of Guigon Hall. A hedge was specified along Grove Avenue, with hemlocks grouped in front of Bacot and screening the service area in back of the Dining Arcade. Magnolias were specified for the interior curves of the Classroom and Dining Arcades.

Of the landscape materials specified in Gillette's 1937 planting plan, a number of mature trees and shrubs remain. Though the elm trees are reduced in number, more than a handful of the original trees still frame the Green along with more recent hardwoods. Magnolia trees remain planted along the arcades' interior curves, and the long hedge continues to define the northern edge of the campus. A beautiful diodora cedar specified by Gillette in the planting plan still stands southeast of Guigon Hall. Gillette's selection of familiar indigenous plants and his placement of landscape materials in symmetrical formations began a tradition of careful landscape planning in the school's development which has continued to the present. Perhaps his most public contribution to the school's aesthetic was his 1952 design of the school's Grove Avenue brick and wrought iron entry gates.

Upjohn's and Gillette's clear visions for St. Catherine's School were so powerful in establishing the school's essential character that their ideals continue to be followed. Both provided design services to the school for decades; Upjohn, as the school's architect until his retirement in 1941, and Gillette as the school's landscape architect through the early 1950s. Architects and landscape architects engaged by the school have repeated the character-defining features and plant materials chosen by Upjohn and Gillette. The most pervasive of these are the use of Georgian Revival elements, the use of symmetrical masses and openings, and the use of shaped parapets on the end walls of the larger buildings. The slate roofs and Flemish bond brick work specified in Upjohn's first building on the campus are found in most of the buildings on today's campus. Two key elements illustrated in the 1921 master plan continue to be the campus' central features: the tree-lined green and the south portico of Bacot Hall.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia

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**Section 7**      **Page 4**

**Resource Inventory**

**RESOURCE NAME:** Bacot Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (historic: offices, classrooms, dormitories; current: offices, classrooms)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1931-1938  
**ARCHITECT:** Hobart Upjohn  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Bacot Hall, a two-and-a-half-story brick building with parapeted gables, pedimented dormers and a slate roof, is the campus' most visible structure, and the location of school's main offices. Centered below the pediment of the building's central pavilion is a pair of wood and glass doors with transom, framed by a marble aedicule. This elegant doorway is the school's main entrance. On the opposite side of Bacot, overlooking the Green, is a two-story Doric portico, whose eight columns support a classical entablature with surmounting balustrade. The building's twelve-over-twelve light windows are graduated with the first floor windows larger than the second floor windows. The brick jack arched lintels have marble keystones. The red brick walls are laid up in Flemish bond.

Originally the west wing of Bacot Hall provided dorm space for seniors and a study hall on the first floor. The rest of the building, expanded in 1937, held administrative offices, a library, classrooms, and dormitory rooms. The building was officially named "Bacot Hall" in 1950, in honor of the school's fourth headmistress, Louisa deBerniere Bacot Brackett, who served the school from 1925-1947. At the center of the building's interior lies an elegant reception room, whose tall ceilings are supported by Corinthian columns and pilasters. Paired French doors topped with patterned fan lights open onto the south portico, the focal point of the campus Green.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0001

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** The Dining Arcade  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: education-related (dining hall)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1937-38  
**ARCHITECT:** Hobart Upjohn  
**DESCRIPTION:**

The single-story brick Dining Arcade curves to meet Bacot Hall's east end, and adjoins Washington Hall to the south. The building has a flat roof topped with a balustrade (the original balustrade was replaced in a recent renovation). Designed by architect Hobart Upjohn, the Dining Arcade forms the northeast quadrant of the main campus grouping. The Dining Arcade has served as St. Catherine's central kitchen and dining hall since opening in January 1938. The south wall is lit by a continuous band of multi-light wood sash and round-arched clerestory windows. The ceiling of the open interior has exposed stained wood beams.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0002

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Hannah Washington Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (historic: offices, classrooms, dormitories; current: offices, classrooms)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1952-1953  
**ARCHITECT:** J. Binford Walford and O. Pendleton Wright  
**DESCRIPTION:**

This T-shaped, seven-bay, two-and-a-half-story brick, gable-roof building, like Bacot and Ellett Halls, has parapeted end walls. Washington Hall has red brick walls laid-up in Flemish Bond and a slate roof. Its twelve-over-twelve light window sash with brick jack arched lintels and marble keystones, pedimented dormers and patterned lunettes also echo features in the earlier buildings. The building's distinctive elements include the sweeping double stair leading to the east entry, the broken pediments and classical enframements of the two west entries, and the pair of bay windows opening into the main classrooms. It is linked to the Dining Arcade at the north, and its west front opens onto the Green. Washington Hall completes the horseshoe of buildings at the north end of the Green.

Washington Hall was named after Miss Hannah Fairfax Washington, who served as the first director of the resident department from 1924-1952. "Miss Hannah" was a great-great-grandniece of George Washington.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0003

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Anne Whitfield Kenny Sports and Fitness Center  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Other  
**FUNCTION:** Education: education-related (gymnasium)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 2003  
**ARCHITECT:** Ellerbe Becket  
**DESCRIPTION:**

The two-and-a-half-story, 70,000 square foot Anne Whitfield Kenny Sports and Fitness Center opened in 2003. Its red brick walls, parapeted gable end walls, synthetic slate roofs, and multi-light windows repeat the dominant themes of the campus architecture. The building encloses a swimming pool, a three-court indoor gymnasium, and a suspended fitness track. This newest addition to the campus completes the grouping of buildings that frames the Green. The building was named in honor of Anne Whitfield Kenny, Class of 1951, past parent, and *Governor Emerita*.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0004

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia

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**Section 7**      **Page 6**

**RESOURCE NAME:**                    The Power Plant  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:**        6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:**        Other  
**FUNCTION:**                            Education: education-related  
**ESTIMATED DATE:**                1937

**DESCRIPTION:**

The walls of the two-story Power Plant building are red brick laid-up in Flemish bond. Three tall industrial bays open in the east façade, which faces Maple Avenue. The flat roof is screened by a low parapet wall with a concrete coping. The Power Plant originally supplied heat to all the campus buildings.

**DHR ID#:**                                127-5886-0005

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:**                    Scene Shop  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:**        6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:**        Other  
**FUNCTION:**                            Education: education-related  
**ESTIMATED DATE:**                2004

**DESCRIPTION:**

Behind McVey Hall at the edge of a parking lot is a one-story, gable-roofed, pre-engineered building with a brick foundation, metal walls and a standing-seam metal roof. The building has no ornamentation. It is used for constructing and storing sets used for productions in McVey Hall.

**DHR ID#:**                                127-5886-0006

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

---

**RESOURCE NAME:**                    McVey Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:**        6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:**        Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:**                            Education: education-related (auditorium and gymnasium)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:**                1937

**ARCHITECT:**                            Hobart Upjohn

**DESCRIPTION:**

The two-story McVey Hall houses a gymnasium (now used as a dance studio) and 450-seat auditorium. Made of red brick laid up in Flemish bond, the building has slated gable roofs. Students enter the gymnasium from paired doors centered in pedimented end pavilions on the north front, which is the backdrop to the south end of the Green. Three pedimented doorways set in blank arches provide access to the auditorium on the west front. The building retains many historic features, including patterned oval and lunette windows, twenty-over-twenty double-hung windows opening into the gymnasium, and a wooden cupola with a weathervane.

The building was named for Miss Margaret McVey who served as the school's first athletic director from 1922-1947.

**DHR ID#**                                127-5886-0007

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia

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**Section 7**      **Page 7**

**RESOURCE NAME:** McCue Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (lower school)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1960  
**ARCHITECT:** H. Coleman Baskervill, Baskervill & Son  
**DESCRIPTION:**

McCue Hall replaced the 1917 bungalows (demolished in 1960) as the primary Lower School building. A T-shaped building fronting on the Green, McCue perpetuated the architectural features established in the campus' earlier buildings: Flemish bond brickwork, pedimented dormers, parapeted gable end walls, and symmetrical massing. McCue Hall was named in honor of Mary Allen McCue, longtime faculty member and Upper School head. The east front of the building was expanded in 1993.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0008

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** McCue Annex  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**RESOURCE TYPE:** Building  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (lower school)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1993-1995  
**ARCHITECT:** Rawlings, Wilson & Associates  
**DESCRIPTION:**

In 1993, St. Catherine's began a renovation and expanded Lower School facilities. The McCue Annex provided new classrooms, computer, music and multipurpose rooms in a building that repeats the architectural features –parapeted gable end walls, twelve-over-twelve sash with brick jack arches, and symmetrical placement of window and door openings– articulated in the original building. The Annex fronts on the lower playing field at the south end of the campus.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0009

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Grace Branch Moore Fine Arts Center  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Other (contemporary)  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (art building)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1980  
**ARCHITECT:** Glave Newman Anderson Architects  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Designed in a contemporary idiom, the Grace Branch Moore Fine Arts Center is an anomaly on this Georgian Revival style campus. The red brick shed-roofed building is tucked into the slope of the hill at the south end of the Green and shares an entry terrace with McVey Hall. The Fine Arts Center contains studios and exhibition spaces, a darkroom, ceramic kiln, and the Lower School Library. The building was named in honor of alumna Grace Branch Moore, Class of 1964.

DHR ID# 127-5886-0010

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

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**Section 7**      **Page 8**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Catherine's School  
City of Richmond, Virginia**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Ellett Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (historic: offices and dorms; current: classrooms and offices)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1922  
**ARCHITECT:** Hobart Upjohn; renovation by Glave Newman Anderson Architects  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Ellett Hall is the oldest building on the campus and was the first building in the horseshoe-shaped grouping at the core of Upjohn's 1921 campus master plan. Named after the school's founder and first headmistress, Virginia Randolph Ellett, the building originally held offices and dormitories. Until 1952, when the Grove Avenue entrance was opened, St. Catherine's main entry was the pedimented doorway centered on the west side of the two-and-a-half-story Ellett Hall. Elements and materials used in its construction established the architectural character that dominates the campus: red brick walls laid up in Flemish bond, parapeted end walls with lunettes, slated gable roofs, pedimented dormers, modillion cornices, and twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows with brick jack arch lintels and marble keystones.

The building was last renovated in 1978 to provide new classrooms on the first floor, new faculty apartments and rooms for boarders at the two upper floors. Ellett Hall currently has classrooms on the first floor and offices on the second floor.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0011

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Classroom Arcade  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (classrooms)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1925  
**ARCHITECT:** Hobart Upjohn  
**DESCRIPTION:**

The Classroom Arcade was added to the north end of Ellett Hall to provide classroom space for the Middle and Upper Schools. Its curved hallway links Bacot and Ellett Halls and opens onto the Green through a band of paired multi-light wood casement windows. The Classroom Arcade had an open walkway on its south side until 1931, when the entire arcade was enclosed. The north wall of the arcade is brick laid up in Flemish bond with paired nine-over-nine windows. The arcade classrooms open with folding glass and wood panel doors below patterned fan lights echoed in the south wall.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0012

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Mullen Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (science building)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1984  
**ARCHITECT:** Carneal & Johnston  
**DESCRIPTION:**

The two-and-a-half-story, red brick Mullen Hall houses the science department within a symmetrical building with a rectangular footprint. Like Bacot Hall, which it faces, Mullen's entry is centered within a pedimented pavilion that projects slightly from the middle of the building. Its brick walls are laid up in Flemish bond and its nine-over-nine windows open below brick jack arch lintels. The building was named in honor of Dr. James W. Mullen, II, past parent and a former member of the Board of Governors. Mullen Hall contains four science laboratories, a marine aquarium, classrooms and facilities for independent study.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0013

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Tennis Courts  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Other  
**FUNCTION:** Education: education-related  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 2004  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Located south of the main academic buildings, these recently built outdoor tennis courts are part of the outdoor athletic facilities grouped at the south end of the campus.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0014

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING SITE (built after the period of significance)**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** The Palace  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Bungalowoid  
**FUNCTION:** Domestic: secondary structure (historic: shed; current: faculty housing)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** ca. 1930  
**ARCHITECT:** unknown  
**DESCRIPTION:**

This one-and-a-half-story cottage has had a number of uses. The walls of the building are rendered in stucco and the hipped roof is clad in composition shingles. Sanborn maps indicate that it was not originally built for the school, but was once a carriage house for a home on Cary Street. The building was moved to its current location and used as a garage. Beginning with the 1952 Sanborn Map, the structure is labeled Class Room, and according to St. Catherine's records was used for kindergarten and fifth grade classes. The upper floor was faculty/staff housing. The building has been used as a faculty apartment for several decades. It has dormers on each side of its hipped roof. Both the roof dormers and the window and door openings show clear signs of alteration over time.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0015

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (loss of integrity; no association with early history of the school)**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Turner Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Other (contemporary)  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (library, chapel, art gallery)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1971  
**ARCHITECT:** Charles H. Chamberlayne, Warren-Hardwicke Associates  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Turner Hall is one of the few contemporary-style buildings on campus. Its parapeted red brick walls and its slate roof, combined with its careful craftsmanship, echo the materials and craftsmanship found in the school's historic buildings. When it was built, this was the largest building on campus. Its siting, slightly set back from the Green, helps to maintain the school's consistent character.

Turner Hall contains the school Chapel at its north end and the Wright Library at the south end with the Rennolds Art Gallery between the two. Howard Pugh, director of library services, observed of Turner Hall that its "design concept was that of a double cruciform with a hyphen linking head and heart." Turner Hall was dedicated in 1971 in honor of Susanna Pleasants Turner, the school's fifth headmistress, 1947-1965.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0016

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Guigon Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: school (music building)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1925  
**ARCHITECT:** Hobart Upjohn  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Guigon Hall is a two-story structure with red brick walls laid up in Flemish bond and slated gable roofs. The building was named for Miss Ellen Guigon, founder of the music department and teacher at St. Catherine's for 40 years. Funds for the building were raised almost single-handedly by Miss Guigon, who encouraged friends, family and students to "buy bricks by the yard".

The building is entered through three paired glass and wood paneled doors set below blind arches in the building's south face. The first floor features a small auditorium with a raised stage. The second floor, once used as teachers' apartments, has practice rooms and offices. In Bishop William Cabell Brown's dedication, he said that he hoped "the sweet tones to be heard in this beautiful building would always be remembered and would make the lives of the hearers more beautiful." (*Quair* 1926, p. 80-81)

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0017

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Blair Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Colonial Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: education-related (faculty housing)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1967  
**ARCHITECT:** Alan McCullough  
**DESCRIPTION:**

This traditional, two-story building has red brick walls, slated hipped roofs, and a wide two-story porch on the east elevation. The six-over-six windows have brick jack arch lintels. Blair Hall has served as an eight-apartment faculty residence since its construction in 1967 and was named for Louisa Coleman Blair, a faculty member from 1892-1944.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0018

**1 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING (built after the period of significance)**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Brackett House  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: education-related (faculty housing)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1935  
**DESCRIPTION:**

The two-story Brackett House has red brick walls laid up in Flemish bond, and a slate gable roof. Its façade features a pedimented cross gable supported by four pilasters. This three-bay pavilion centered on the east elevation is frame (the original weather boards are concealed by aluminum siding), while the rest of the building's walls are brick. Brackett House sits at the west side of the campus along St. Catherine's Lane. It was built by Dr. Jeffrey Richardson Brackett, who in 1935 married Louisa deBerniere Bacot, the school's headmistress from 1924-1947. Mr. and Mrs. Brackett lived in Brackett House from 1935 until 1947, when Mrs. Brackett retired. The building has continued to be used for faculty housing.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0019

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Jeffrey Hall  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: education-related (historic: infirmary, dorm; current: junior kindergarten)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1935  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Jeffrey Hall is a two-story brick building with walls laid up in Flemish bond and a slate gable roof. Like Brackett House and Miss Jennie's House it has six-over-six windows and is sited on the west side of St. Catherine's Lane. Its primary entry is an arched doorway centered within a one-story, one-bay gable roof porch on its north side. It was built as the school infirmary and was later home to the school's youngest boarders (eighth grade and below). Since 1990 it has housed St. Catherine's Junior Kindergarten. In 1943 students who lived in the building petitioned the Board to name the building Jeffrey Hall as "an affectionate tribute" to Dr. Jeffrey Richardson Brackett, husband of Louisa deBerniere Bacot Brackett.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0020

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Miss Jennie's House  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Georgian Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Education: education-related (historic: faculty housing; current: development office)  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1929  
**ARCHITECT:** Hobart Upjohn  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Miss Jennie's House was constructed by the alumnae association as a living memorial to the school's founder and first headmistress, Miss Virginia Randolph Ellett. The house is a two-story building with red brick walls laid in Flemish bond and a slate gable roof. Centered on the front elevation is a one-story, single bay porch supported by Doric columns. The house is one of a group three adjacent buildings of similar age and scale that were built on the west side of St. Catherine's Lane.

The alumnae association specified that the building should be used as a home by Miss Ellett during her lifetime, after which the house would become the property of St. Catherine's School. Miss Ellett moved into the house in 1929 and lived there until her death ten years later. The living room was designed with a raised stage at one end, where Ms. Jennie's favorite history plays would be performed by St. Catherine's schoolgirls. Presently, Miss Jennie's House functions as the center for alumnae activities.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0021

**1 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** The Green  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Other  
**FUNCTION:** Landscape: garden  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1939  
**ARCHITECT:** Hobart Upjohn and Charles F. Gillette  
**DESCRIPTION:**

A large open Green at the center of the campus is framed by a brick walkway lined with paired trees. The tree-lined Green was part of the original Upjohn master plan, and it remains the principal organizing feature of the school campus. Until the early 1930s, as indicated by a 1931 Sanborn map, Rio Vista Avenue, a narrow dirt road, cut the campus in half. Charles Gillette's 1937 drawing, "Proposed Development of Campus, St. Catherine's School" illustrates the fully envisioned Green with Bacot Hall and McVey Hall at the north and south ends and buildings or tennis courts flanking the long sides. Gillette's 1937 drawings specify plant materials to be used throughout the 1937 campus, many of which, including a number of elms along the Green, remain in place. The Green at the heart of the campus continues to be used for ceremonial and athletic events, as well as for recreation. This landscape feature was formally named in 1956 when Headmistress Susanna Turner announced that it would be known as "the Green" in order to distinguish it from the new hockey field (sometimes referred to as the "Lower Field") at the campus' south end.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0022

**1 CONTRIBUTING SITE**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Virginia Randolph Ellett Memorial Garden  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Other  
**FUNCTION:** Landscape: garden  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1940  
**ARCHITECT:** possibly Charles F. Gillette; no drawings remain  
**DESCRIPTION:**

The Virginia Randolph Ellett Memorial Garden was dedicated in October 25, 1940, several months after Miss Ellett's death. Secluded on the south side of Miss Jennie's House, the small grassy plot is enclosed by careful plantings of indigenous trees and shrubs. The garden was intended to be a meditation garden. Senior Carolyn Coker, Class of 1940, said these words at the dedication, "Miss Jennie believed in thinking, and in this quiet place, we hope many girls will learn to think fearlessly and reverently." The carved wood benches and window boxes installed outside the parlor windows appear to be original to this garden. Although no Gillette drawings of this garden remain, he is known to have worked with the school from 1937-1952.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0023

**1 CONTRIBUTING SITE**

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**RESOURCE NAME:** Entrance Gates  
**LOCATION INFORMATION:** 6001 Grove Avenue  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Colonial Revival  
**FUNCTION:** Landscape: object: entry gate  
**ESTIMATED DATE:** 1952  
**ARCHITECT:** Charles F. Gillette  
**DESCRIPTION:**

Construction of the entry gates signaled the change in the school's main entry from the west side of Ellett Hall to the campus' north front, which parallels Grove Avenue, a primary east-west city street that terminates just west of this campus. The wrought iron gates are supported by brick piers and flanked by sloped brick walls with brick coping. The school's name and seal are incised in stone panels recessed into the brick walls. The walls' curved foot print is slightly set back from the vehicular drop-off.

DHR ID#: 127-5886-0024

**1 CONTRIBUTING OBJECT**

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**Statement of Significance**

The Georgian Revival style campus of St. Catherine's School is significant as Richmond, Virginia's oldest girls' school. The school was developed in 1890 as the result of Virginia Randolph Ellett's vision for providing rigorous academic training for girls. The school's period of significance spans from 1917, when the Virginia Randolph Ellett School for Girls moved to its present site in Westhampton, to 1953, when Hannah Washington Hall completed the group of buildings forming the north end of the campus. In 1920, the school was incorporated into the system of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia and renamed St. Catherine's School. St. Catherine's campus was laid out by Hobart Upjohn in a 1921 master plan whose formal principals have been followed since. Landscape Architect Charles Gillette collaborated with Upjohn to develop the campus green space in 1937. Although the school's earliest buildings (demolished in 1960) were designed by architect Duncan Lee in the Tudor style, the buildings designed by Upjohn, beginning in 1922 with Ellett Hall, firmly established the Georgian Revival architectural character that dominates today's campus.

St. Catherine's School meets National Register Criterion A because of its importance as Richmond's oldest private school for girls. It meets Criterion B because of its association with Virginia Randolph Ellett, a pioneer in girls' education who founded the school and was its first headmistress. The property meets Criterion C because its contributing buildings, examples of the Georgian Revival style, were designed by traditionalist architects of local and national renown. Involved in the project from 1921 until his retirement, architect Hobart Upjohn designed the first master plan for the school's campus. The district's architecture is remarkably consistent, though it has evolved. St. Catherine's principle of seeking a high quality of traditional design has been perpetuated in its restoration efforts and its newer support buildings. The integrity of Upjohn's original plan for St. Catherine's School, as executed in Georgian Revival style buildings constructed from 1922 until the recent past, is exceptional.

**The Development of Private Schools**

Primary education in Virginia was not systemized until 1869, after the Civil War had ended. Virginians' reluctance to pay general taxes for education had long stymied more progressive efforts to establish a public school system. The result was a low state-wide literacy rate and the relegation of education to the private sector, where "education was usually undertaken by family members, clergymen, tutors, and governesses and, in a few isolated cases, small private academies" (St. Christopher's NRHP nomination 2002). These early private schools were often operated from the homes of the schoolteachers themselves and served the elite families who could afford tuition.

McGuire's University School and the Chamberlayne School for Boys, later known as St. Christopher's, were two well-known private boys' schools of the era. McGuire's was first established at 5<sup>th</sup> and Cary Streets in Richmond and by the time it closed in 1947, "had enrolled more than ten thousand students...and had trained many of Richmond's leaders." (Dabney 1976: 214, 327-8). ). Dr. Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne initiated the Chamberlayne School for Boys in 1911 with the goal of teaching boys classic literature and religion. Though it opened with only sixteen students, the school grew and in 1915 moved from Grove Avenue to

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Westhampton, four miles west of downtown and a short walk north of St. Catherine's campus. Like St.

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Catherine's, the Chamberlayne School for Boys joined the Church Schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in 1920 and was renamed in honor of a saint.

In turn-of-the-century Richmond education in private academies was generally reserved for males, and "most families who patronized the schools were generally content with the educational status quo for their daughters" (Klaus 1989: 10). As noted by one of Miss Jennie's early students, Bessie Bosher Purcell, class of 1900, "I never heard of a girl going to college, but we were given a strict grounding in the culture of the day.

That consisted of proper conversation, being polite and agreeable to all ages, dancing, note writing, high-class English, etc." (Klaus 1989: 23). There were few high quality private schools for young women. Miss Jessie Gordon's School, where Virginia Randolph Ellett studied, was considered exceptional. Founded in 1855, it remained operational until the 1880s (Dabney 1976: 147). Lee Powell's Southern Female Institute, established in 1850 at Linden Row, modeled its curriculum after UVA and VMI. It ran until 1874 and its academic rigors were said to equal that of men's schools.

The school Miss Ellett founded in 1890 was among the first to prepare young women for college by giving them college entrance examinations. Educators like Miss Ellett rebelled against prevailing notions that college for women was unnecessary. In 1895, her school was recognized by Bryn Mawr for preparing girls for a college education. In 1909 the Virginia Randolph Ellett School was acknowledged by the American Association of University Women for its promotion of education for women (Klaus 1989: 22). It remains the oldest private girls' school in the city.

**Virginia Randolph Ellett**

Educator Virginia Randolph Ellett's (1857-1939) influence on girls' private school education in Richmond was profound. Known as "Miss Jennie" to her students, she undertook to "awaken, liberate, and temper the intellectual capacities of the children who, in 1890, began coming to her school in the dining room of a boarding house on Grace Street in Richmond" (Klaus 1989: 10). Over time the tiny classroom moved to a spacious campus and grew into a successful educational institution for young women. Even today Miss Jennie's legacy is manifest in St. Catherine's School campus and in the school's academic rigor.

Miss Jennie's curriculum was classical, and her methods were before her time. With an emphasis on experimental learning, pre-school education, composition, recitation, and Socratic symposia, Miss Jennie's progressive techniques cultivated talented young minds. An Anglophile, Miss Jennie taught her students European history through "history plays," and literature through recitation and composition. "We were required not only to read forward, but backwards [to improve diction]," one student recalled (Klaus 1989: 15).

In 1897, the school outgrew Miss Jennie's Grace Street dining room and moved to 112 East Franklin Street in Linden Row. Nine years later, Miss Jennie moved her school to 14 North Laurel Street, where her students enacted their history plays and played field sports in neighboring Monroe Park. By the year 1913, she had established the lower grades of the Virginia Randolph Ellett School as Richmond's first Montessori school. Four years later in 1917, ownership of the school was passed to a board of alumnae and patrons who

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incorporated the institution as the Virginia Randolph Ellett Country Day School. The board bought a 14.5  
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acre lot in the western outskirts of Richmond, where the school had room to expand. In 1919 the Episcopal Diocese of Richmond purchased the school for \$20,000, incorporating it into the Church Schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. Miss Jennie renamed it St. Catherine's, in recognition of St. Catherine of Alexandria, the patron saint of philosophers, scholars, and young women.

Miss Jennie stepped down as headmistress in 1917 but taught English and history until retiring in 1933. In 1939 the University of Richmond recognized her achievements with an award of honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa. A letter of support from Smith College President W. A. Neilson noted that she had "raised the standard of education in an important section of the country" (Klaus 1989: 27). She continued to live in the house the Alumni Association built for her on the west side of the campus until her death on April 9, 1939. Lengthy obituaries in the city's newspapers testified to her influence. The Richmond News Leader reported that Miss Jennie "had a larger influence on the higher education of women than any other individual ever exerted...For almost sixty years she served the girls of our old town, until she became a symbol, a talisman, an institution in herself" (RNL 04/10/39).

**A Carefully Landscaped Georgian Revival Campus**

New York architect Hobart Upjohn (1876-1949) descended directly from two generations of important American architects. His grandfather Richard Upjohn was the first president of the American Association of Architects. The Upjohn architectural firm was known for designing churches, (most notably, Trinity Church, Wall Street), and institutions. Hobart Upjohn designed a number of buildings in the South, including the 1921 Roanoke Rapids (North Carolina) High School (individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places), whose turreted façade so impressed St. Catherine's School Board member John Patterson that he strongly encouraged his fellow Board members to engage the firm. The school commissioned Upjohn to design a master plan and plans for the school's first academic and residential buildings. His choice of building materials and of the Georgian Revival style for classrooms and dormitories has been followed by the school for three quarters of a century. Further, the buildings designed by Upjohn and by the architects who followed him in developing the campus, were conceived as well-crafted educational facilities that have defined a consistent architectural character.

The impact of Richmond landscape architect Charles F. Gillette's (1886-1969) contributions on this campus are more difficult to quantify since records of his involvement are less complete. Prolific in the number of his residential and institutional clients, Gillette had been involved in developing university campuses since he arrived to work on the University of Richmond's campus in 1911. He was asked to collaborate with Upjohn to create a planting plan for St. Catherine's campus, and the record of Board minutes indicates a failure of the two men to agree on some points. It is clear that Gillette's 1937 and 1939 plans specify landscape treatments and plant materials that remain defining elements on today's campus. In 1952 Gillette designed the school's Grove Avenue entry gate, the most public feature of the west end campus. The high quality of the school's landscape treatments remains evident on today's campus, where mature plantings illustrated in Gillette's 1937 and 1939 drawings

remain, and are supplemented with plantings designed by a new generation of landscape architects.

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More so than other historic private schools in the city, such as St. Christopher's School, St. Gertrude School, and Benedictine High School, which do not have a central organizing feature or axis, St. Catherine's has developed and rigorously maintained a clear sense of place. The central axis running from the school's main entry, through the Bacot Hall portico, and then through the primary organizing element of the Green, combined with the consistent use of materials and architectural treatments throughout the campus results in an uncommonly unified collection of carefully designed buildings and landscapes.

**Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that, with the exception of the scene shop and The Palace, the non-contributing buildings will be considered contributing to the significance of the historic collection of buildings as soon as they are fifty years old.

<sup>2</sup> Roanoke Rapids High School, which is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places, was designed in the Gothic Revival style. It was built in 1921, contemporary with Upjohn's development plan for St. Catherine's School.

<sup>3</sup> The February 1925 *Architecture* magazine article curiously does not mention that this project is a school for girls.

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**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The St. Catherine's School boundary follows the lines of the entire property known as 6001 Grove Avenue, and shown on the City of Richmond tax parcel map as W0210381007.

**Boundary Justification**

The St. Catherine's School boundary corresponds to the perimeter of the property known as 6001 Grove Avenue. The property at this address includes the oldest and most significant buildings on the campus. Although the property includes a number of buildings which do not contribute to the significance of the historic collection because they were constructed after 1953, most of these buildings conform to the principles of the 1921 Upjohn master plan, and should be reevaluated for contributing status once they hit fifty years of age. Further, most of the buildings, both contributing and non-contributing were designed using similar scale, massing and materials. Adjacent properties with different addresses and different tax parcels, which were purchased by the school after 1953, are not included within the nominated boundaries.



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**Index to Photographs**

Photographers: Mary Harding Sadler & Llewellyn Hensley  
Sadler & Whitehead Architects, PLC  
Richmond, VA

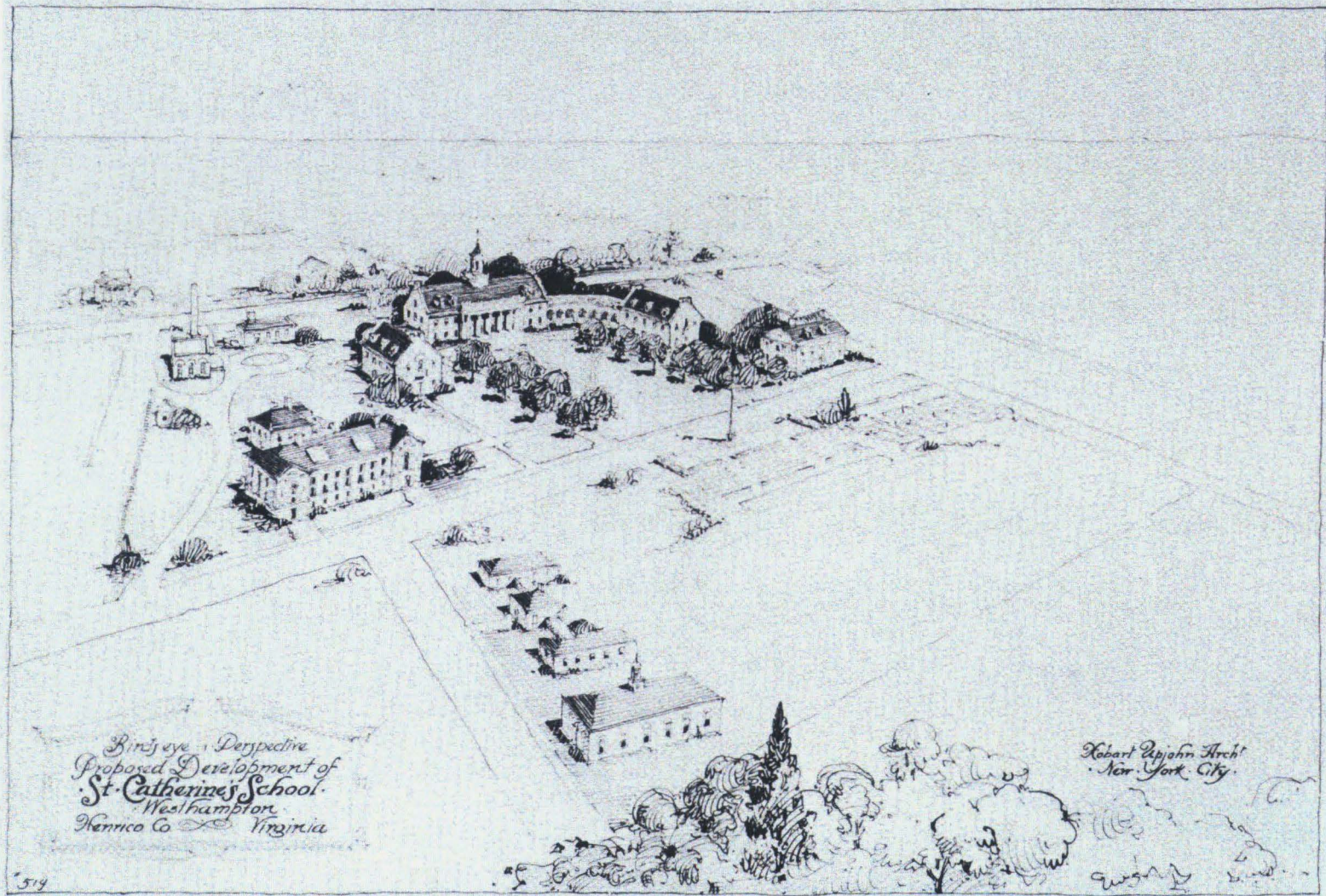
Date: Photographs taken Fall 2006  
Digital photographs stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

**Photo Number    Description**

Photo 1	St. Catherine's Campus and Green, view to north
Photo 2	St. Catherine's Entrance Gates
Photo 3	Bacot Hall, south elevation
Photo 4	Entry Gates and Bacot Hall, north elevation
Photo 5	Bacot Hall, interior conference room
Photo 6	Dining Arcade
Photo 7	Dining Arcade, interior view
Photo 8	Hannah Washington Hall
Photo 9	Miss Jennie's, Jeffrey Hall, and Brackett House
Photo 10	McVey Hall
Photo 11	McCue Hall
Photo 12	Ellett House and Classroom Arcade
Photo 13	Classroom Arcade, south elevation
Photo 14	Classroom Arcade, interior view
Photo 15	Guigon Hall
Photo 16	Miss Jennie's House
Photo 17	Miss Jennie's House, interior stage area

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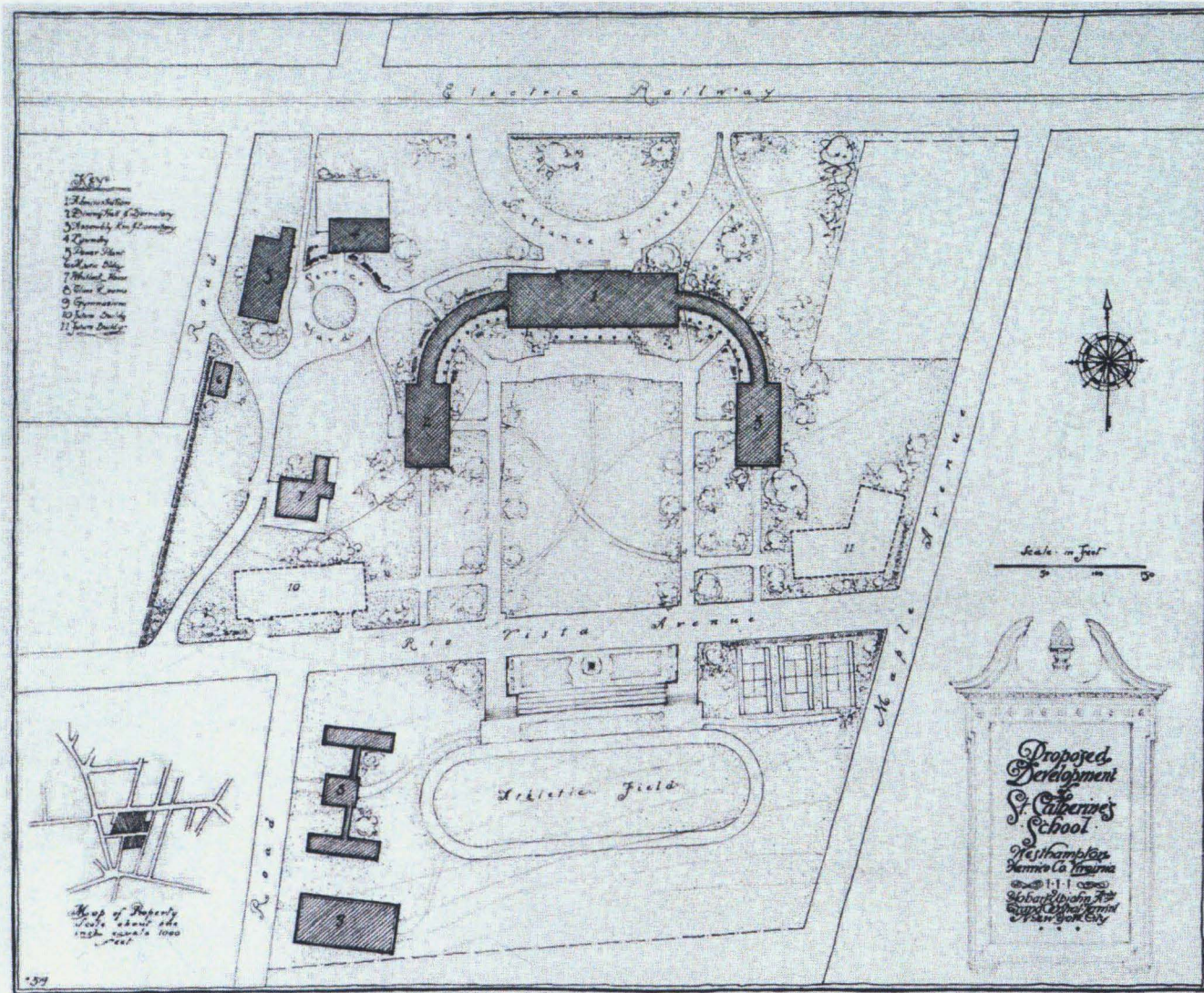
St. Catherine's School ~~Historic District~~  
Richmond, VA  
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Rendering of Upjohn's plan for the Westhampton Campus, 1921. The central horseshoe-shaped complex was built as shown. Upjohn's proposal for a formal garden at the lower end of the green and his suggestions for locating other buildings were modified. In 1939 landscape architect Charles F. Gillette collaborated with Hobart Upjohn on a landscape plan for the campus. Ron Wilson, of Wilson-Mareth Partnership, developed a new master landscaping plan in 1982. Courtesy Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

Upjohn rendering (reproduced in A Part of Us Forever)

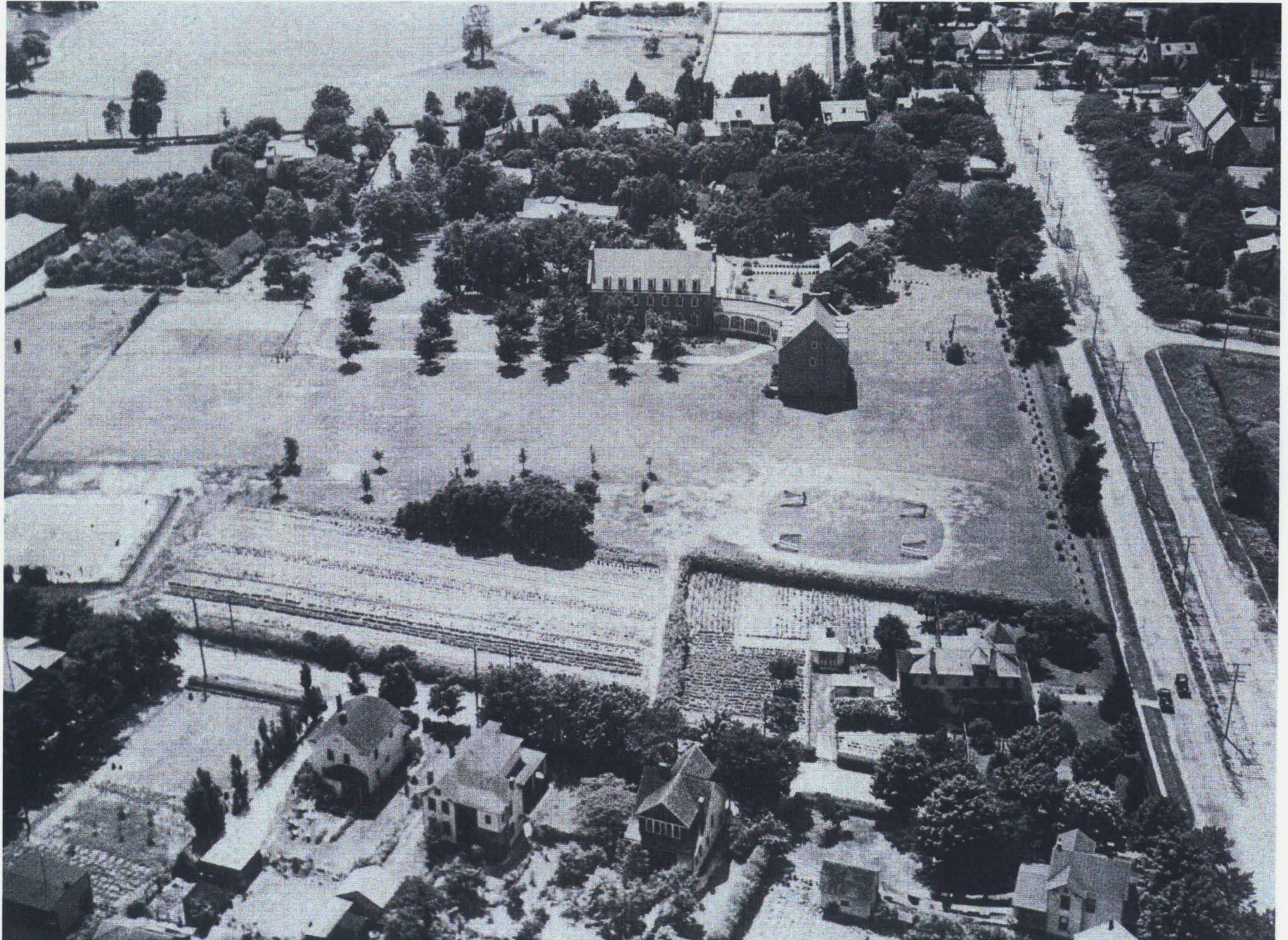
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Richmond, VA  
DHR#127-5886



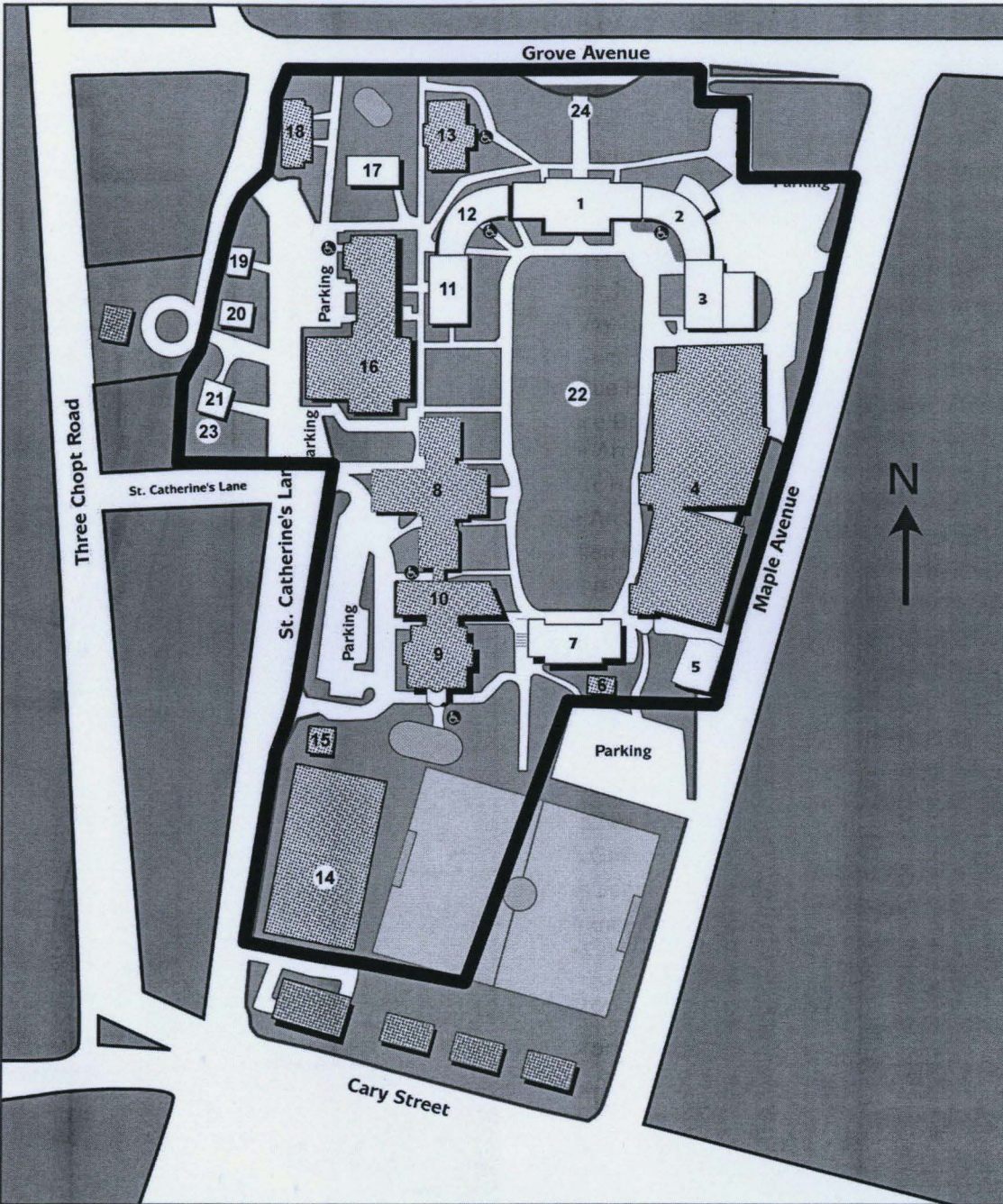
Architect Hobart Upjohn's original masterplan for the Westhampton Campus, 1921. Courtesy Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

Upjohn plan (reproduced in A Part of Us Forever).

St. Catherine's School Historic District  
Richmond, VA  
DHR# 127-5886






1936 aerial (reproduced in A Part of Us Forever)

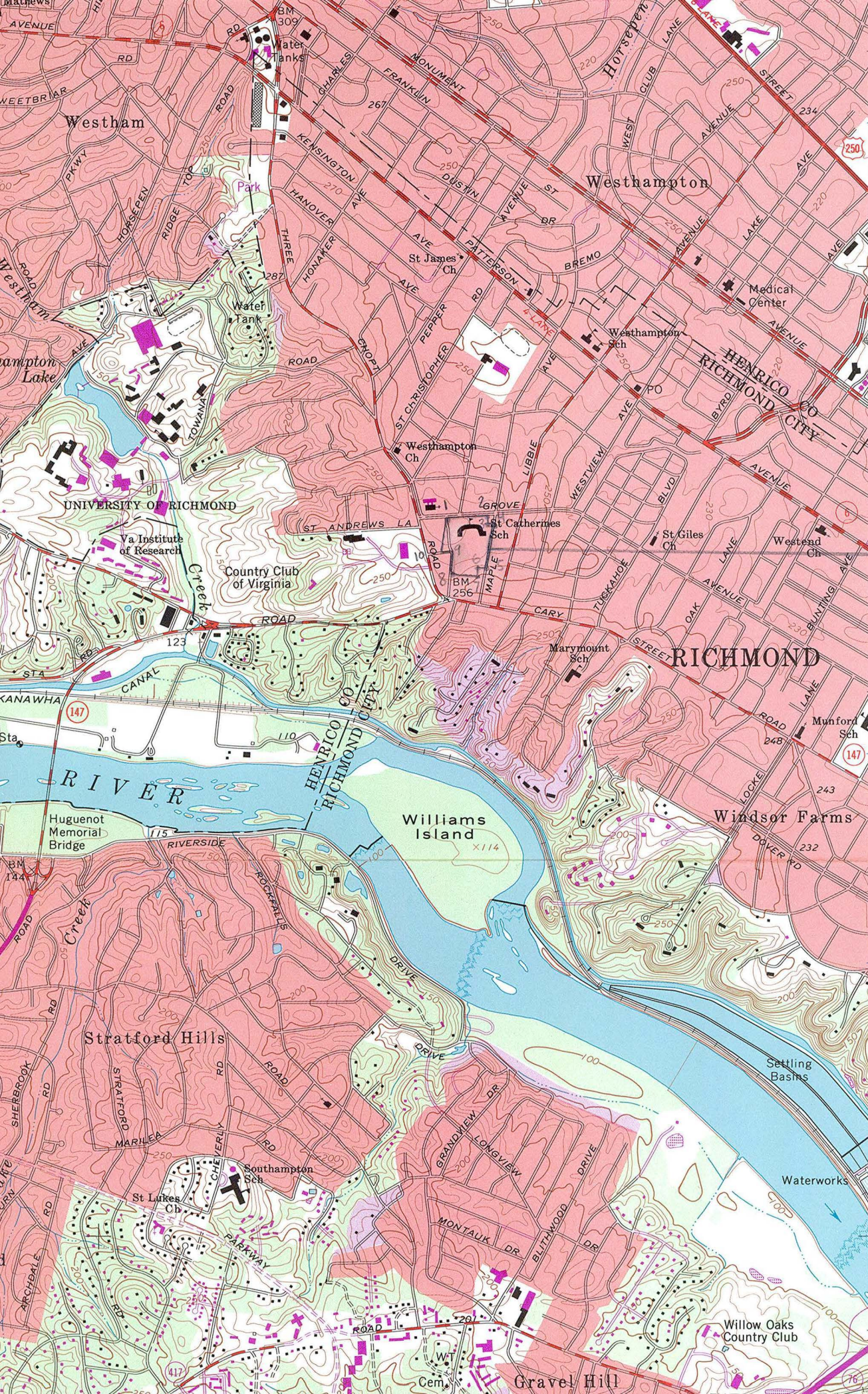


## Campus

1. Bacot Hall
2. Dining Hall
3. Hannah Washington Hall
4. Anne Whitfield Kenny Sports and Fitness Center (NC)
5. Power Plant
6. Scene Shop (NC)
7. McVey Hall
8. McCue Hall (NC)
9. McCue Hall Annex (NC)
10. Grace Branch Moore Fine Arts Center (NC)
11. Ellett Hall
12. The Arcade
13. Mullen Hall (NC)
14. Tennis Courts (NC)
15. The Palace (NC)
16. Turner Hall (NC)
17. Guigon Hall
18. Blair Hall (NC)
19. Brackett House
20. Jeffrey Hall
21. Miss Jennie's
22. The Green
23. Miss Jennie's Garden
24. Entrance Gates

### Historic District Map Key:

-  Historic District Boundary
-  Contributing Resource
-  Non-contributing Resource



STATE CAPITOL 4.9 MI

35'

4162

17 MI. TO VA. 161

ST. CATHERINE'S  
SCHOOL  
RICHMOND, VA  
DHR# 127-5886

UTMs

STATE CAPITOL 4 MI. (RICHMOND)  
5559 III SW

1. 18277193E, 4161158N
2. 18277386E, 4161172N
3. 18277381E, 4161141N
4. 18277417E, 4161131N
5. 18277366E, 4160918N
6. 18277320E, 4160918N
7. 18277310E, 4160877N
8. 18277203E, 4160888N
9. 18277215E, 4161009N
10. 18277159E, 4160999N

4159

4158

32'30"

4157