

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Old College Yard, College of William and Mary

and or common Wren Building, College of William and Mary

2. Location

College of William and Mary
street & number Intersection of Richmond Road and Jamestown Road — not for publication

city, town Williamsburg — vicinity of

state Virginia 23185 code 51 county Williamsburg (ind. city) code 830

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Commonwealth of Virginia

street & number

city, town Richmond — vicinity of state Virginia, 23219

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse

street & number

city, town Williamsburg state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HABS; NHSS has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1937-1939; 1960 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress;
National Park Service

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The old College Yard of the College of William and Mary occupies a triangular plot formed by the conjunction of Jamestown and Richmond roads with Duke of Gloucester Street. At the base of the triangle is the so called "Wren Building," probably more correctly known as the Old College. (The name Wren Building was applied after Mary R.M. Goodwin, who performed much of Colonial Williamsburg's historical research, discovered the attribution to Wren in Hugh Jones's The Present State of Virginia, published in 1724. Although Jones was referring to an earlier building that burned in 1705, and modern scholarship generally does not accept the building as Wren's work, the name has continued in common usage since the 1920s.) The site and the location of the building were key features in Francis Nicholson's original plan for Williamsburg, forming the western terminus of the town's main east-west axis, Duke of Gloucester Street, and responding to the placement of the other major public building, the Capitol, at its eastern end.

Presently the College Yard is partially enclosed by a reconstructed brick wall (c. 1930), within which is a picket fence. The yard is planted in grass with informally disposed deciduous trees. Crossing the lawn are brick paths, one continuing the axis of Duke of Gloucester Street to the front entrance of the Old College; the others paralleling Jamestown Road and Richmond Road respectively. These lead to the two other 18th-century buildings in the yard, The Brafferton and The President's House, which, with their accompanying reconstructed outbuildings, flank the forecourt of the Old College.

This general arrangement of lawn and paths appears to have existed since the early 18th century, although with varying degrees of formality in the disposition and types of trees. Early in the 18th century, the front planting was considered a garden and the grass plots were outlined with straight rows of evergreens. Behind the Old College, where there are now geometrical paths and straight rows of trees, the situation was quite different. There were several outbuildings, including one or more kitchens, laundries, and a smokehouse. There was also a large kitchen garden. By the early 19th century, the evergreens and formal plots in the yard were gone, although there were mature deciduous trees growing near the buildings. The central path had been given a strong accent by the placement of a statue of Lord

8. Significance

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

----- 1928-1930 -----

Specific dates 1697; 1716/1717; **Builder/Architect** Various (see description)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significance:

The College Yard and the buildings it contains represent the physical plant of the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. They reflect the aspirations of the Virginia colonists for higher education related to the established Anglican church. At the same time, they demonstrate concern for the education and religious enlightenment of Native Americans. In architectural terms, they are among early examples of the introduction of the rational Renaissance or Georgian style in the colonies. Finally, as the first restorations undertaken by Colonial Williamsburg, they are a watermark in the history of American preservation and restoration.

Education:

As early as 1618, the Virginia Company laid out land at Henrico for erection of a university, which was to incorporate a school for Native Americans. At this time there was no institution of higher learning in the colonies, Harvard College in Massachusetts not being founded until 1636. However, these plans were abandoned, and a subsequent proposal in 1661 also failed. Thirty years later, a scheme proposed by the clergy of the Church of England in Virginia met with more success. The Reverend James Blair traveled to England and succeeded in obtaining a charter from King William III and Queen Mary II. The General Assembly selected a site at what was then known as Middle Plantation. The name was changed to Williamsburg when the same location was chosen for the site of the Capitol in 1699.

In the 18th century William and Mary combined the functions of a school and college. The avowed purposes were to provide a seminary to train ministers, to educate youth in a pious manner, and to propagate the Christian faith among the "Western Indians." Thus, its more advanced curriculum included a division of Divinity, as well as Natural Philosophy (science) and Moral Philosophy (humanities). In addition the college housed a Grammar School and the Indian School. Native Americans began to attend the latter as small children, often as young as six or seven. Despite the founders' emphasis on religion, Natural Philosophy was of particular interest. The college awarded its first honorary degree, a Master of Arts, to Benjamin Franklin in 1756

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property +/- 6 acres

Quadrangle name Williamsburg 7.5'

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	4	8	4	4	0	4	1	2	6	0	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Constance M. Greiff/Architectural Historian
Terrence W. Epperson/Archaeologist

organization Heritage Studies, Inc.

date July 1, 1985

street & number RD 6 Box 864 Mapleton Road

telephone 609-452-1754

city or town Princeton

state New Jersey

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date

4/29/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building Item number 7 Page 1

Botetourt in front of the entrance to the Old College in 1801.

By mid-century the College Yard once more had a somewhat formal appearance, with straight rows of newly-planted trees bordering the central path. However, when the Old College was rebuilt after a fire in 1859, the grounds were treated in the prevalent Romantic taste, with rounded corners to the paths and informally disposed clumps of shrubbery. The present arrangement dates to the work carried out by Colonial Williamsburg in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The statue of Lord Botetourt was removed to a gallery in the college's library in 1966.

College of William and Mary (Old College, Wren Building)

Through the 18th century, this building was the College, housing classrooms, a multi-purpose great hall, which among other functions served as a refectory; a chapel; accommodations for the faculty, including initially the president and six professors, as well as some of the students; and, in the basement, kitchens and other service functions.

The building has been built, damaged, altered, and rebuilt several times. Construction began in 1695. Although planned as a quadrangle, only the east and north wings were undertaken. These were completed by 1697. Craftsmen and many materials were imported from England, although bricks for the exterior walls were burned on a nearby plantation. The east wing was three stories high over a full basement, with an additional attic story lit by dormers under the steeply pitched roof.

In 1705 this building burned. Although the fire was severe, the west wall survived in toto and the remaining walls also remained serviceable in varying degrees. The building was therefore rebuilt on the same footprint. The exterior, however, was different, following a design for which Governor Alexander Spotswood is believed to have been responsible. The result, not completed until 1716/1717, was a building similar to, but certainly not identical with, the original. The east facade was now two, rather than three, stories high over a full basement, with a third story incorporated in the dormer-lit attic. The formal symmetry

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building Item number 7 Page 2

and strong centrality of the design was marked by a narrow and shallow projecting pavilion, with a flight of steps leading up to the arched main entrance, above which was a balcony and steeply-pitched pediment. Centered on the roof was a slender octagonal cupola with ogee dome. On either side of the pavilion each story was defined by ranks of equally spaced windows, echoed in the roof by gabled dormers. Corners and openings were emphasized by the use of rubbed brick, contrasting in texture with the prevailing English bond sprinkled with random glazed headers.

While the wall on the east side was reduced in height by one story, the west wall remained at its original three stories. The discrepancy in height was compensated for by the design of the roof, a single steeply-pitched slope over the eastern half of the building and a series of jerkin-headed transverse roofs over the western half. The chief decorative feature of the western facade was an arcaded gallery at the level of the first floor. This gave access not only to the central hall of the east wing, but also to the north and south wings.

The north wing, which housed the Hall, was part of the original construction and was also rebuilt in 1716/1717. The south wing, accommodating the chapel was constructed between 1729 and 1732. The two wings, although markedly similar, were not identical. Both were single-story buildings of double height -- that is, the one story is equivalent to two stories of the east wing. Both had jerkin-headed roofs with dormers along the north and south slopes. The north and south walls of each were punctuated by five round-arched windows; the west facades had central entrances with arched, double-leafed doors, flanked by oculus windows, with a larger oculus above each doorway. However, the two wings had a somewhat different textural effect, because the north wing, like the east, wing was constructed predominantly in English bond, while the south wing was laid in Flemish bond. The north wing also had a higher water table and segmentally-arched windows, absent in the south wing, lighting its cellar.

In 1771-1772, Thomas Jefferson planned an addition to the College Building, which would have more than doubled its size. Like the original plan, Jefferson's scheme was for a quadrangle, extending the north and south ranges and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number 7

Page 3

providing a new west range at the rear, with an arcaded inner courtyard. Construction started in 1774 on the Jefferson plan, and the foundations and probably the basement walls of at least the north and west ranges were completed before the project was abandoned at the start of the Revolutionary War. Excavations carried out by Colonial Williamsburg in 1929-30, 1940, and 1950, and by the Virginia Center for Research Archaeology in 1977 have uncovered the remains of foundations and brick walls. The location of the south range has not been explored.

Jefferson's drawing for his scheme, located at the Huntington Library, also detailed the arrangement of the first floor of the existing building. The main entrance to the east wing gave access to a central hall that was free of stairs. These were contained in a space adjacent to the hall to the south. Beyond this stair hall were two classrooms, each with a fireplace, devoted to writing and mathematics. On the north side of the entry were a double-sized room for the grammar school and another classroom for philosophy. This plan was probably repeated on the second floor, with a long gallery above the arcade on the building's west front.

Although considerably altered on the interior in the first half of the 19th century, the 1716/1717 structure remained relatively unchanged on the exterior until it burned in 1859. Again the walls were spared for the most part. The building was rebuilt in the same year to plans prepared by H. Exall of Richmond, with exteriors designed by Eben Faxon of Baltimore. Because the walls were reused, the configuration remained the same. The roofs, however, were rebuilt as gables of shallow pitch. At the front entrance, three-story Italianate towers flanked a one-story Palladian loggia.

The building burned again in 1862, torched by Pennsylvania troops. The fire this time was evidently not as severe. The structure was usable, although it was again rebuilt in 1868/1869 to the design of Alfred L. Rives. The basic configuration again remained the same. However, the Italianate towers were removed. In their place was a central pedimented pavilion, larger than the original, with an arcaded loggia on the first floor.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number 7

Page 4

The building maintained this exterior appearance for some 60 years. In 1928 the restoration of the Old College was the first undertaken by Colonial Williamsburg's architects, Perry, Shaw & Hepburn. Because good documentation for the exterior of the 1716 building existed in the form of the Bodleian plate, this was the period chosen for restoration. (The Bodleian plate is a copper plate, from which no engraving had been struck, found by Williamsburg's researchers in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. It shows a front view of the College Yard, providing an elevation of the east facade of the College and a perspective view of The Brafferton and the President's House, as well as a perspective view of the College from the northwest.) Other evidence of the appearance of the building was derived from early descriptions, lithographs and photographs, as well as the physical evidence in the original walls. Indeed, the presence of original fabric and the history of subsequent alterations can still be discerned through careful observation of the brickwork. In the restoration, however, these original walls became in effect a curtain wall, with the actual structure supported on a new steel frame. Reconstruction of the interior was more conjectural. Although the plan was known from Jefferson's drawing, the finishes have been based on English and Virginia precedents. The interiors of the Chapel and Hall were reconstructed at this time; those of the east wing were reconstructed in 1968. These are now shown to the public as historic museum rooms.

The Brafferton

This building, variously known as The Brafferton or Brafferton Hall, was built in 1723 to house what was known as The Brafferton Indian School. The construction date is known not only from written documentation, but also from its inscription in a brick to the west of the south door. It was built by the "undertaker" -- that is, master builder -- Henry Cary, Jr., who would later construct the south wing of the College, as well as the President's House.

The Brafferton stands south and east of the College, at a slightly oblique angle to the older building and facing its forecourt. It is a symmetrical building five bays wide and two deep with a hip roof and two interior chimneys. The building is almost severely plain. The walls are

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building Item number 7 Page 5

constructed of Flemish bond, with a belt course between the first and second floors, jack arches over the windows, and cantilevered pediments over the doors executed in rubbed brick. The building's distinction derives not from elaborate decoration, but from its geometric proportions based on the Golden Section. It is 52 feet wide by 52 feet high. Its width is exactly one-and-one-half times its depth of 34 feet; the walls, 26 feet high, are exactly half the total height.

The interior has a center hall plan, with one room west of the hall and two to the east. Marcus Whiffen believes the corner fireplaces in the eastern rooms to be among the earliest in Virginia.

The exterior of The Brafferton has been little altered. The interior woodwork, however, was stripped by Federal troops during the Civil War. The current interior trim, which features chair rails and simple chimney breast paneling, was installed during the restoration by Perry, Shaw & Hepburn.

Just how the building was used in the eighteenth century is a matter of speculation. It may have served simply as a dormitory for the students and lodging for the Indian School's masters, with the Native American students continuing to attend classes and take their meals in the college. Alternatively, all the activities of the Indian School may have been transferred to this facility. Currently it houses administrative offices.

To the west of The Brafferton is a detached one-story brick kitchen with jerkin-head roof. Although this building is a reconstruction of the early 1930s, it occupies the site of a brick kitchen shown on a French map of Williamsburg in 1782, and is considered to be a contributing feature.

The President's House

Directly across from The Brafferton, to the north and east of the old College, is the building erected by Henry Cary, Jr. in 1736 as a residence for the institution's presidents, a function it has served continuously ever since. It resembles The Brafferton in appearance and detailing, but there are subtle differences. The President's House is larger, by four feet in each dimension. Its door is

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number 7

Page 6

approached by pyramidal steps, while those at The Brafferton are semi-circular. The placement also is slightly different. While The Brafferton is at an oblique angle to the College, the President's House stands at a right angle to the older building. This difference in placement was probably dictated by the fact that the College is not precisely at a right angle to Duke of Gloucester Street. Placing the President's House at the same angle would have accentuated the deviance. The actual placement instead provides a visual impression of symmetry.

The larger dimensions of the building accommodated two rooms on either side of the more generous stair hall on the first and second floors, each with a fireplace centered on the hall partition. When the house was restored by Perry, Shaw & Hepburn in 1931, the northwest room was divided to accommodate a closet, lavatory, and kitchen.

The President's House has been altered more extensively than the Brafferton. It suffered a fire in 1781 and was rebuilt in 1786. In 1849 a porch was installed on the south front, and a wing was added to the west in 1865-1866. These features were removed in the restoration, which, like that of the College, was based on the Bodleian plate. The interior woodwork is also largely a product of the restoration.

West of the house are a one-story frame kitchen, a brick stable used as a garage, and a small formal garden. These reconstructed features, with the exception of the garden, are based on documentation, and are considered contributing.

Other Features

The brick wall around the College Yard returns on a line parallel with the rear of the Old College along the back of the yard. Incorporated in the wall are two small hip-roofed utility buildings, which are not considered to be contributing structures.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number

8

Page

1

In 1723 a second building was erected for use by the Indian School. Funds for the education of Native Americans had been provided since 1700 from a bequest from Robert Boyle, the great English scientist, who instructed his executors to use the unencumbered portion of his estate "for the advancement of Christian religion." Initially the income was equally divided, with one half going to Harvard for the salary of two ministers and the other to "be laid out for the advancement of the Christian religion in Virginia." By 1697 Harvard's income from the estate had been restricted to 90 pounds per year with William and Mary entitled to the balance, to be used "towards fitting and furnishing lodgings and rooms for. . .Indian children. . .from the first beginning of letters till they should be ready to receive orders, and be thought sufficient to be sent abroad to preach and convert the Indians. . ." Because the income was derived from the Yorkshire manor of Brafferton, the building eventually erected with these funds became known as The Brafferton.

In 1705 Governor Francis Nicholson enlisted two Indian traders to recruit students, but there is no indication that they were successful. Although there was a Master of the Indian School on the payroll as early as 1706, the first record of Native American students at the college refers to the purchase in 1710, with Boyle endowment funds, of "half a Dozen captive Indian children", slaves who had been captured by Virginia's Nine Nations from distant tribes. In 1711 the tribes of the Nine Nations each agreed to send one or two boys, the sons of chiefs or leading warriors. By July of the following year there were twenty boys enrolled in the school.

The third building, the President's House was built in 1732. Its first occupant was the Reverend James Blair, who was instrumental in obtaining the college's charter and then served as its president for 50 years. During its occupancy, first by French officers and then as a hospital for French soldiers in 1781-1782, the building was gutted by fire. It was rebuilt in 1786 with funds provided by the French government.

During the 18th century the college fulfilled its promise of higher education for the sons of Virginia, as attested by

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number 8

Page 2

its roster of alumni and association with other distinguished figures. George Washington received his license as a surveyor for Culpeper County, his first public office, from the college in 1749. For the last eleven years of his life, he served as the institution's chancellor. George Wythe, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence and the man with whom Thomas Jefferson studied law, became the college's first professor of law, educating among others the future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall. Three Presidents of the United States were also alumni, Jefferson, James Monroe and John Tyler. The institution was thus succeeding in training an educated leadership. It failed, however, in its intended purpose of training Native American students as missionaries to their people. There is no record that any former student ever assumed this role. Deprived of funds from the Boyle estate by the Revolutionary War and later by a 1787 Act of the General Assembly, the Indian School was abandoned.

In 1779, Jefferson, as Governor of Virginia and a member of the college's Board of Visitors, led a move toward reorganization, creating a university. The new curriculum reflected the rationalistic views of the Enlightenment, with a stress on science, philosophy, and politics, and a bias against organized religion. Thus, the faculty of Divinity was discontinued, as was the Grammar School. The new divisions were Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, Law and Police, Chemistry and Medicine, Ethics and Belles Lettres, and Modern Languages.

Despite these reforms, the College of William and Mary declined from its position of eminence after the Revolutionary War. The reasons were several: the movement of Virginia's population westward; the removal of the seat of government to Richmond in 1780; the divestiture of fees and funds that had supported the college; the foundation in 1808 of a rival institution, the University of Virginia, to which men like Jefferson transferred their interest; and finally the economic and political dislocations attendant on the Civil War. These various difficulties caused interruption in the operation of the institution. In 1848-1849 all classes, except for those at the law school were suspended for a year; the latter division closed in 1861. The college was occupied by Union troops in 1862-1865. Finally, in 1881 the college closed for lack of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number

8

Page

3

funds, not to reopen until 1888. In 1906, its property was transferred to the Commonwealth of Virginia, instituting a period of rebuilding and growth. The college became coeducational in 1918 and the law school was reopened in 1920. Other graduate programs were also introduced or upgraded and by 1967 the institution had achieved recognized status as a university in the modern sense.

Architecture:

The buildings at the College of William Mary were among the first in the colonies to follow Renaissance design principles. More specifically, although no direct association with Sir Christopher Wren has been established, they followed the Anglo-Dutch version of the Renaissance generally associated with his name. The original Old College (1705) was, indeed, the second Renaissance building in the colonies, preceded only by the Foster-Hutchinson House in Boston. Its successor was, in its time, more monumental than contemporary buildings erected at Harvard or Yale.

The Renaissance principles embodied in the buildings at William and Mary include design based on clear and simple geometric proportions, symmetry, and balance. The exterior of the buildings offers a rational relationship to the interior, with clearly-marked central entrances and both vertical and horizontal divisions indicated by the placement of doors and windows and by such devices as belt courses. Features associated with the style included such innovations as sash windows, and classical detailing, including pediments and simple moldings.

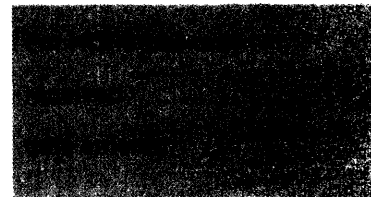
The Brafferton was also innovative, the second double-pile house in Virginia, following the Governor's Palace. Its form, and that of the President's House, were widely emulated by the low-country's wealthy planters, many of whom must have been impressed by the buildings they saw on visits to the colony's capital.

Historic Preservation:

As the first of the restorations carried out by Colonial Williamsburg, the work at the College of William and Mary had enormous impact on how the American public perceived historic preservation and the process of restoration.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number

8

Page 4

Although modern critics hold that Williamsburg employed too much reconstruction, depended too much on conjecture and too much on English precedents, and sanitized the past, nevertheless the work done there in the 1920s and 1930s established some principles that are still adhered to. Colonial Williamsburg promulgated, with the buildings at the college as their first example, restoration based on thorough historical research, on investigation of historical fabric including archaeology, and on knowledge of local practices. Because of the resources of the Rockefellers and the wide publicity the Williamsburg projects generated, these premises became embedded in public consciousness and became the basis of future restoration work in the United States.

Archaeology:

Archaeological investigations of the site have been carried out on a sporadic basis since 1929. The 1929-1930 excavations were, like the restoration, pioneering efforts in their field in the United States, a milestone in establishing historical archaeology as a distinct discipline. They yielded evidence of the successive rebuildings of the College building; remnants of a brick clamp (kiln) southwest of the College; a portion of the foundations of Jefferson's addition, although its identity was not then recognized; and outbuildings and domestic refuse associated with The Brafferton and the President's House.

Excavations in 1940 and 1950 revealed additional portions of the foundations of the Jefferson addition, the latter exposing the entire western end of the partially robbed foundations. Although it had been known that Jefferson designed such an addition, it was not until the 1950 excavations that it was established that any part of the construction had been undertaken. Comparison of the archaeological plan with Jefferson's drawing reveals that the foundation followed the plan quite closely, except in mirror image, reversed north to south. Excavations conducted by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology in 1977 located additional foundation segments, including the entryway to the north wing of the quadrangle. These excavations also revealed that the Jefferson foundation was constructed on top of about a foot of earlier fill, raising

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building Item number 8 Page 5

the possibility that deposits dating to the earliest periods of the College Building construction might be preserved beneath. Several smaller-scale construction monitoring projects have recorded additional archaeological features, including foundation remnants and midden deposits behind the President's House (site 44 WB 8); a nineteenth-century cistern behind Brafferton (site 44 WB 10); and a foundation remnant southwest of the Wren Building, possibly of an outbuilding shown on the 1782 "Frenchman's Map."

The archaeological deposits investigated to date, in conjunction with those still preserved, have the potential of addressing several important topics in American history and anthropology. Archaeological investigation has already proven an essential component in the architectural restoration and reconstruction programs of Williamsburg. The Jefferson foundations are significant because the rationalistic curriculum embodied in its plan marks an important transition between the ideals of the late 17th and early 18th centuries and those represented by the University of Virginia, designed by Jefferson c.1810-1822.

The proposed boundary also encompasses deposits pertinent to anthropological investigations of cultural transformation. For example, it appears quite likely that midden deposits from the kitchen, once located in the north wing of the College, are preserved. Remains of out-kitchens, as well as the kitchen garden that were located west of the College may also be preserved. These could provide information about the diet, consumption patterns, social status, and lifestyles of the early students and their teachers. Preliminary investigations have documented domestic midden deposits behind both The Brafferton and the President's House. The former is especially interesting because of its use as a school for Native American children. Its investigation has the potential of providing information about Anglo-Native American interaction, ethnicity, and acculturation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Wren Building

Item number

9

Page 1

Published:

Duell, Prentice. "The Excavations at Williamsburg." The Architectural Record, January 1931, 16-17.

Hosmer, Charles B. Jr. Preservation Comes of Age. Charlottesville; University Press of Virginia, 1981.

Kale, Wilford. Hark Upon the Gale. Norfolk/Virginia Beach: The Donning Co., 1985.

Kocher, A. Lawrence and Howard Dearstyne. "Discovery of Foundations for Jefferson's Addition to the Wren Building." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 10,3 (1951), 28-31.

Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1952.

Morpurgo, J.E. Their Magesties' Royall Colledge: William and Mary in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. The Endowment Association of the College of William and Mary of Virginia, Williamsburg, 1976.

Nichols, Frederick Doveton. Thomas Jefferson's Architectural Drawings. 5th ed. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society and Charlottesville: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation and the University Press of Virginia, 1984.

Rice Howard C Jr. and Anne S.K. Brown. The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army. Princeton: Princeton University Press and Providence: Brown University Press, 1972.

Rouse, Farke, Jr. A House for a President. Richmond: The Dietz Press, 1983.

Vital Facts: A Chronology of the College of William and Mary. Rev. ed., 1983.

Waterman, Thomas Tileston. The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1945.

Whiffen, Marcus. The Public Buildings of Williamsburg.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number 9

Page 2

Williamsburg: Colonial Williamsburg, 1958.

_____ and Frederick Koeper. American Architecture, 1607-1860. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981.

Unpublished:

Maps, notes, reports, drawings, and photographs, Colonial Williamsburg.

Field notes and newspaper clippings, Virginia Center for Research Archaeology, Yorktown.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Wren Building

Item number 10

Page 1

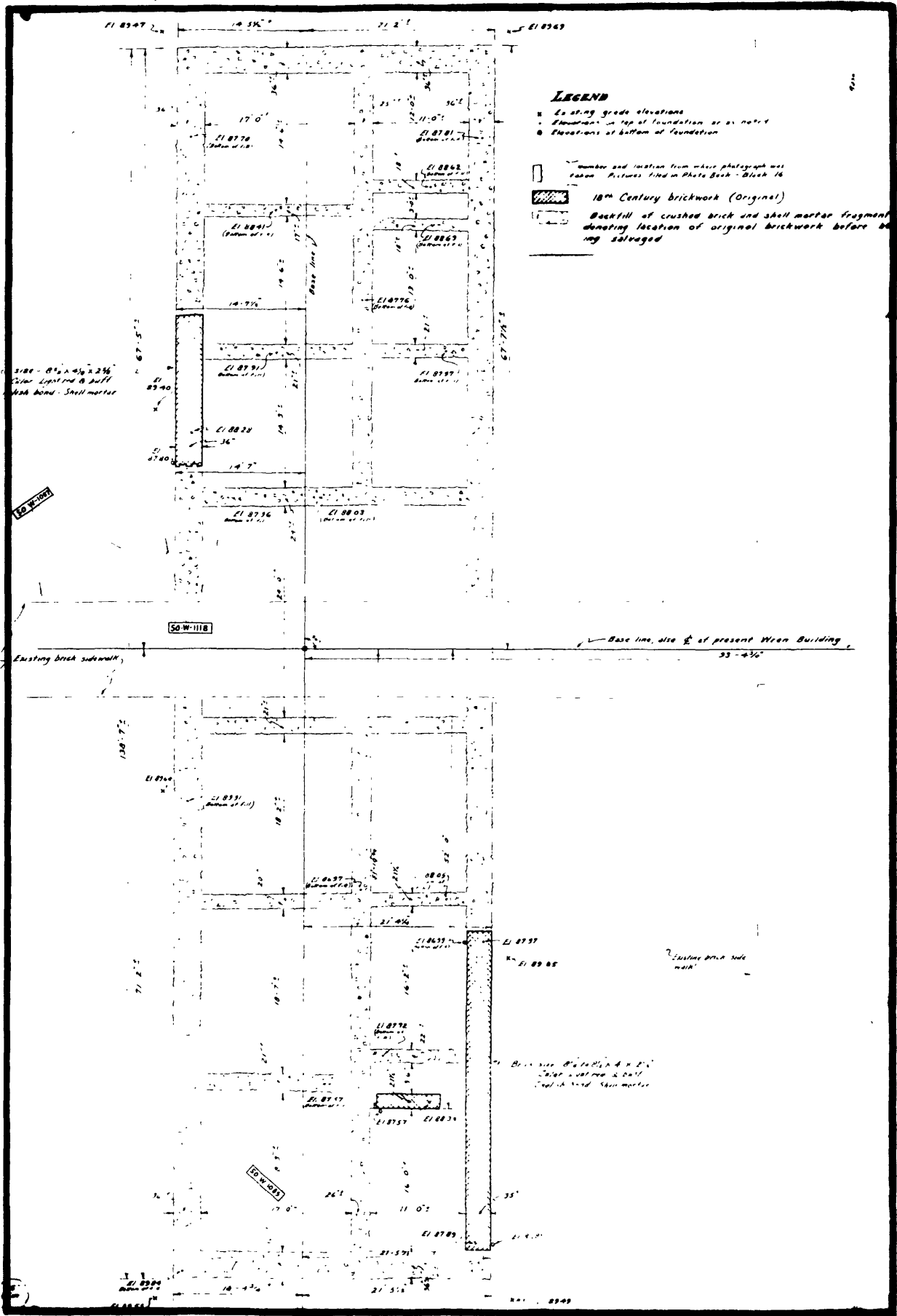
BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The proposed boundary begins on the west side of Boundary Street in the center of the gate at the primary eastern entrance to the college at the end of Duke of Gloucester Street. It then runs south 30 feet along the brick wall which bounds the college yard. From that point the boundary follows the brick wall on the edge of Jamestown Road toward the southwest for a distance of 560 feet. It then continues toward the northwest, following the brick wall to the southeast corner of a small modern outbuilding. From that point it continues along the south wall of the building due west for 15 feet, thence north 40 feet. From that point it continues west along the edge of a brick sidewalk for 260 feet thence north along a sidewalk edge for 280 feet. The boundary then runs east 260 feet, north 40 feet, east 15 feet (enclosing another outbuilding) and approximately northeast 170 feet along a brick wall to the intersection with the wall on the edge of Richmond Road, thence 540 feet back to the junction with Boundary Street, and then south 30 feet to the point of beginning.

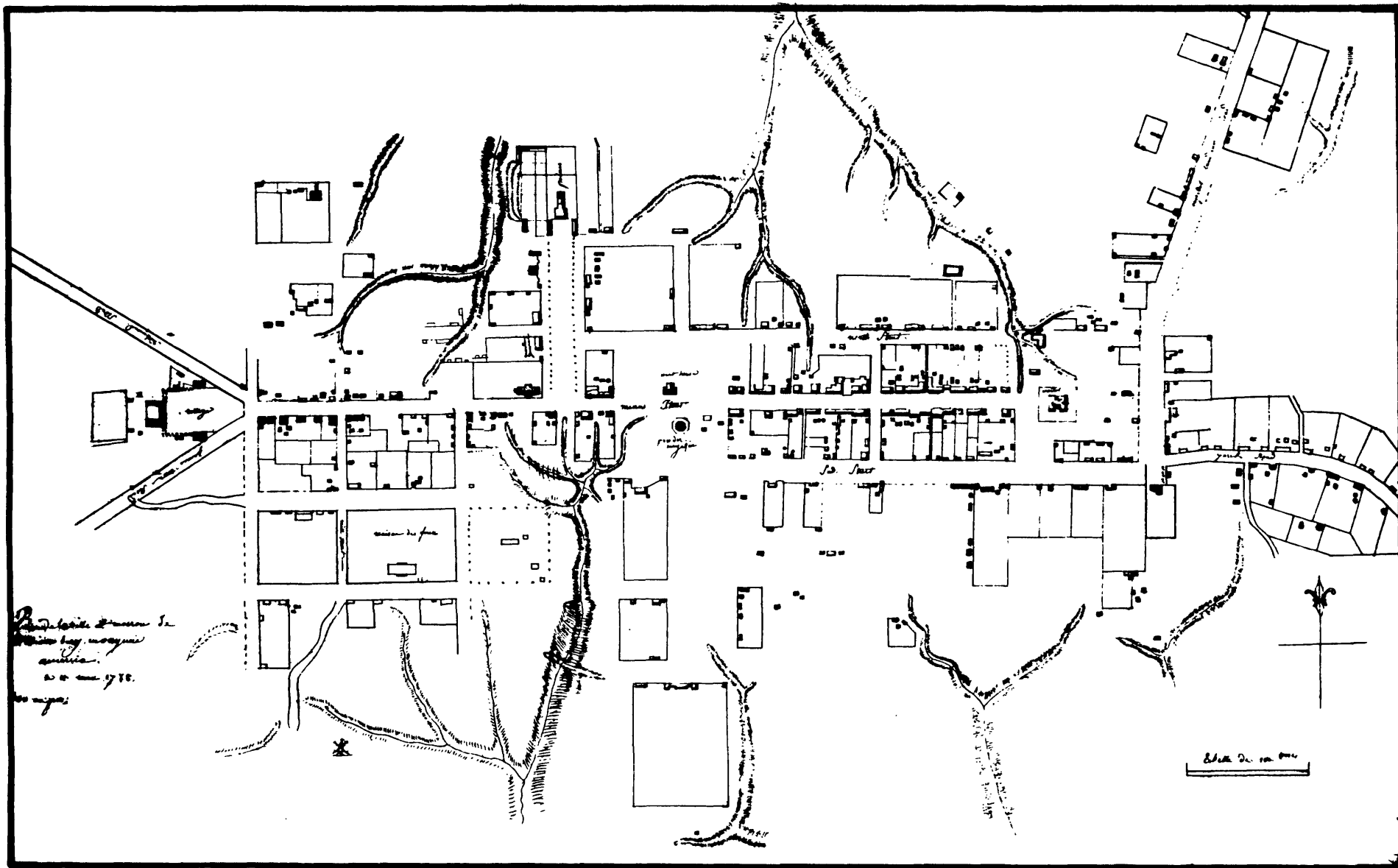
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The proposed boundary encompasses the College Building, The Brafferton, and the President's House as well as their associated outbuildings, landscape elements, and archaeological deposits, while excluding intrusive buildings and areas where any archaeological deposits would have been destroyed. Richmond Road, Boundary Street, and Jamestown Road provide ideal edges on the northeast, east, and southeast. Immediately west of the delineated area a sunken playing field has been excavated to a depth of at least five feet below existing grade, effectively destroying any archaeological evidence of outbuildings which might have been associated with the College. Whenever possible, this boundary delineation has utilized relatively permanent, easily recognized elements, especially brick walls and walks, even though they may not be precise reproductions of original features. This boundary includes the entire Jefferson addition as revealed by the 1950 and 1977 excavations, as well as the location of other identified or potential archaeological sites.

Chief Elected Official:
Mayor Robert Walker
Town Hall
Williamsburg, Va. 23185



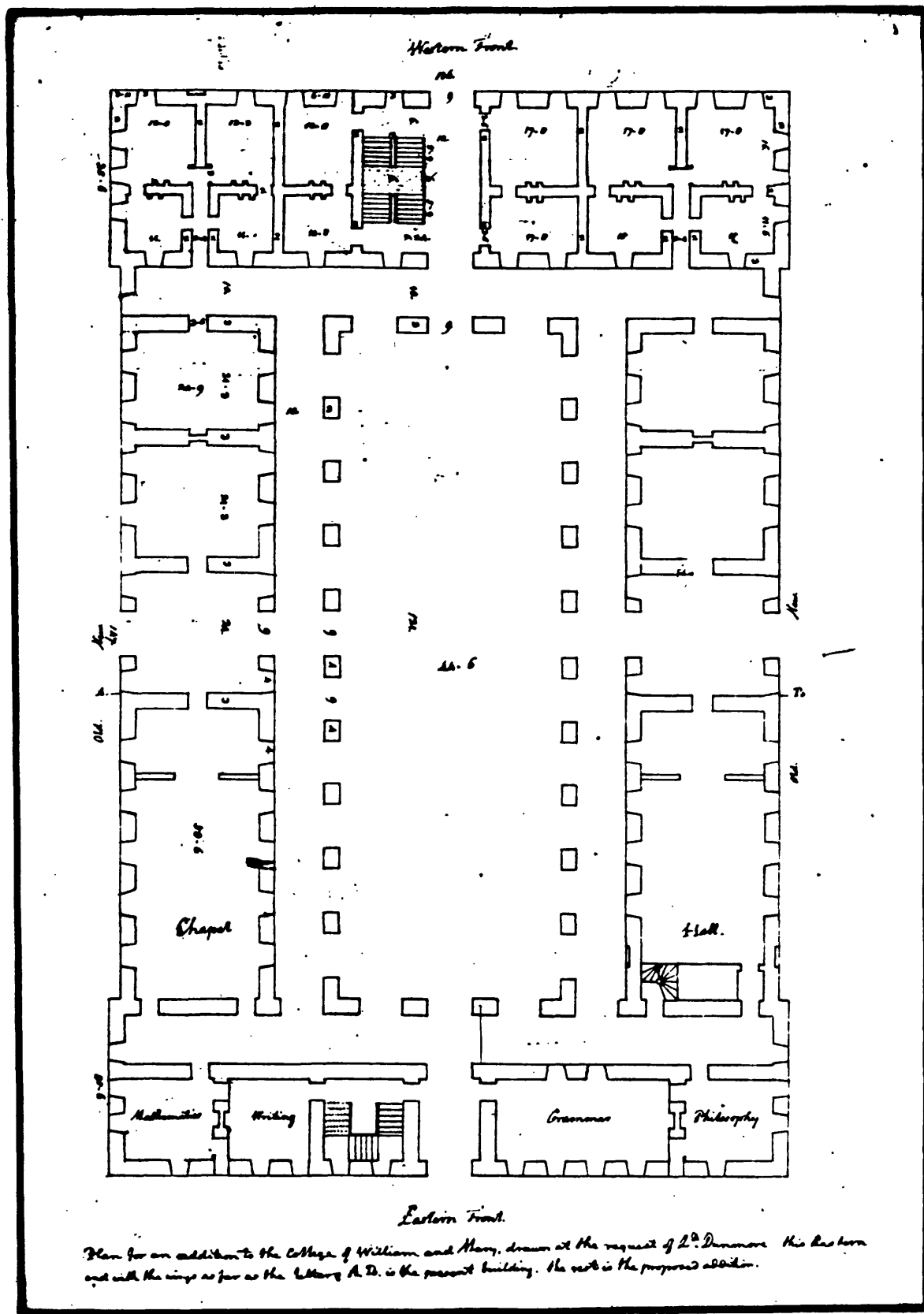
Detail of plan of view of Jefferson Foundation archaeological excavations 1950. (Source: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia Archaeological Records).



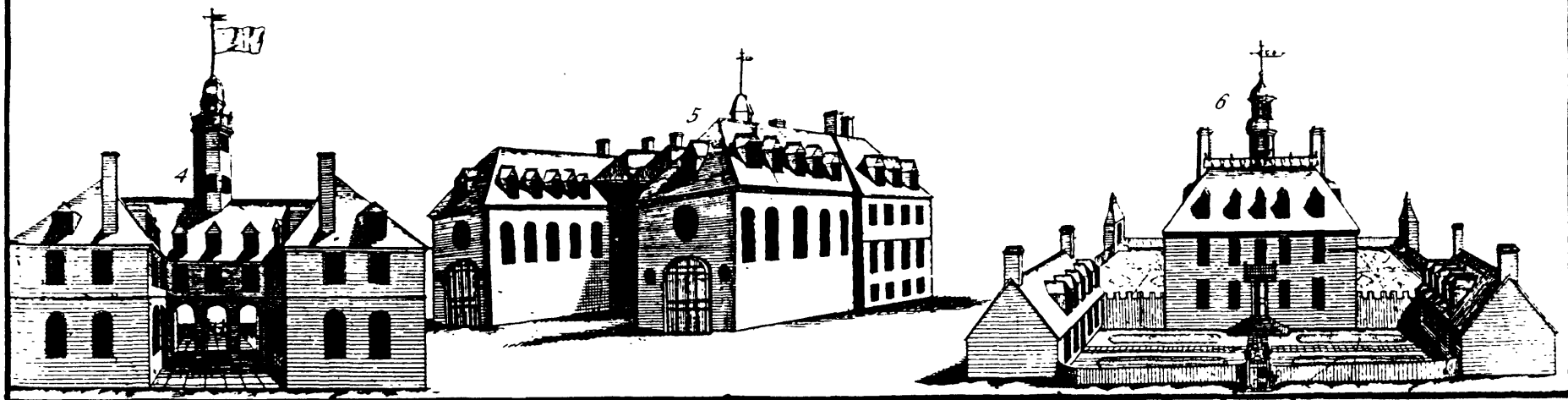
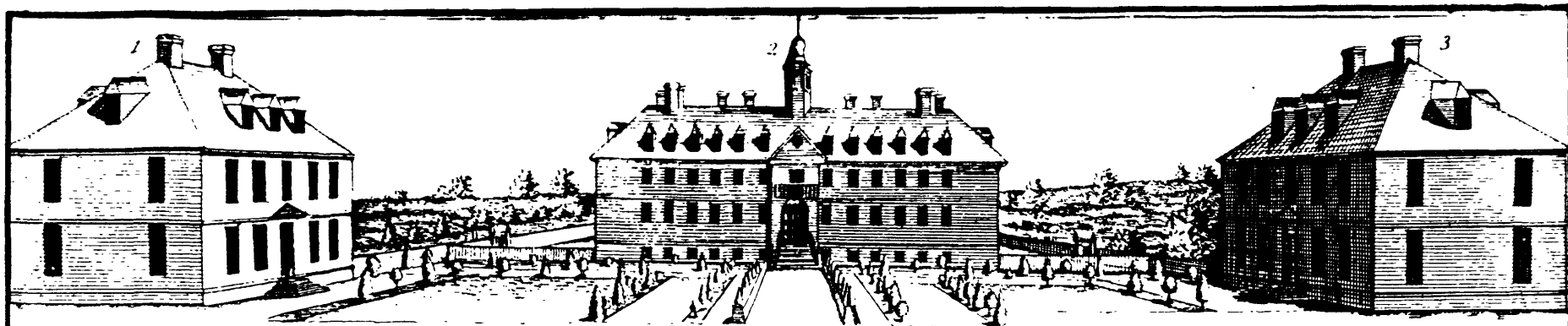
*Plan de la ville de Williamsburg
d'après les notes de
M. de la Roche
le 20 Mars 1782.*

Scale 2000 feet

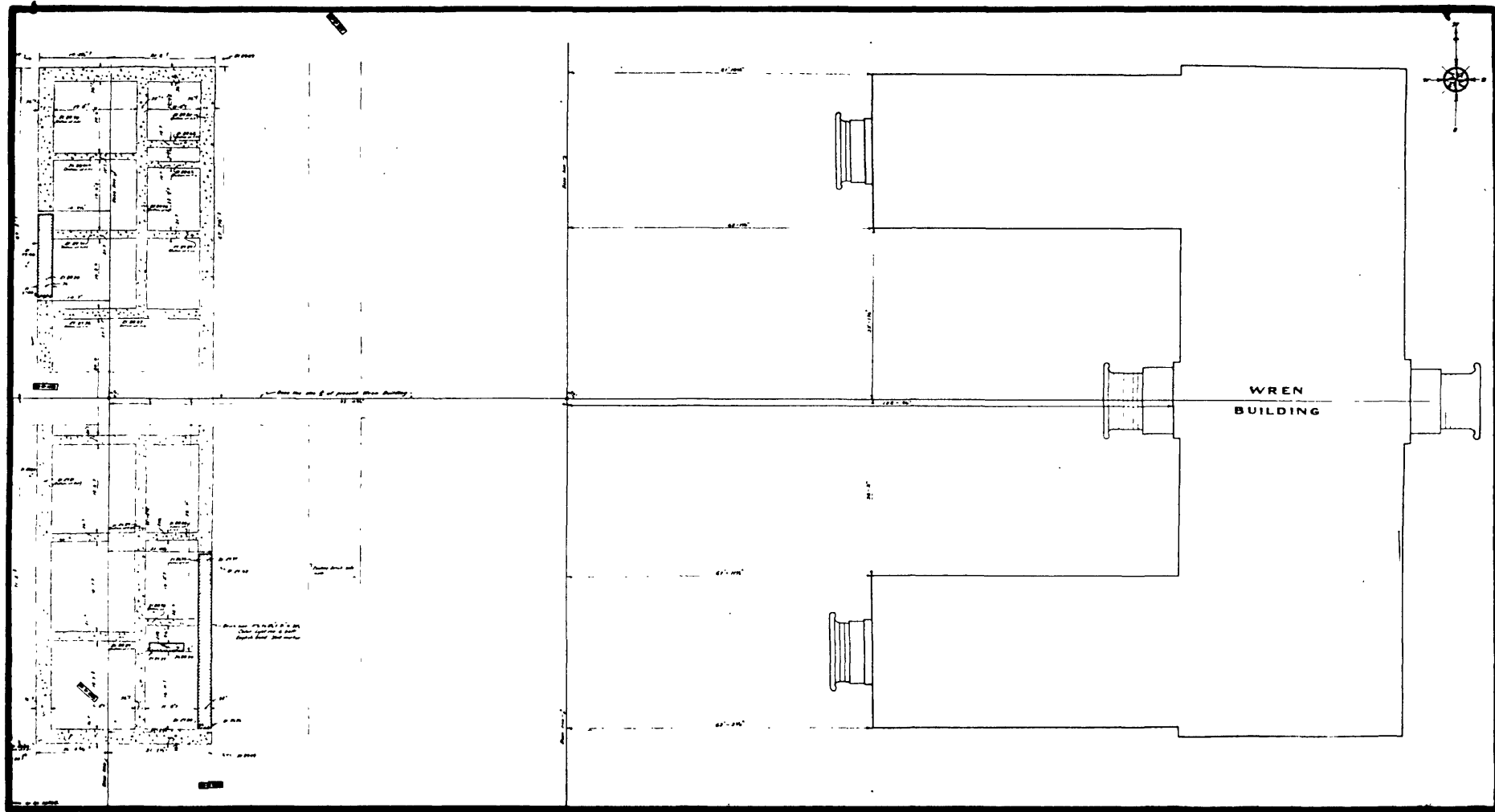
"Frenchman's Map" of Williamsburg 1782. (Source: Memorial Library, Williamsburg Virginia Manuscript Collection.)



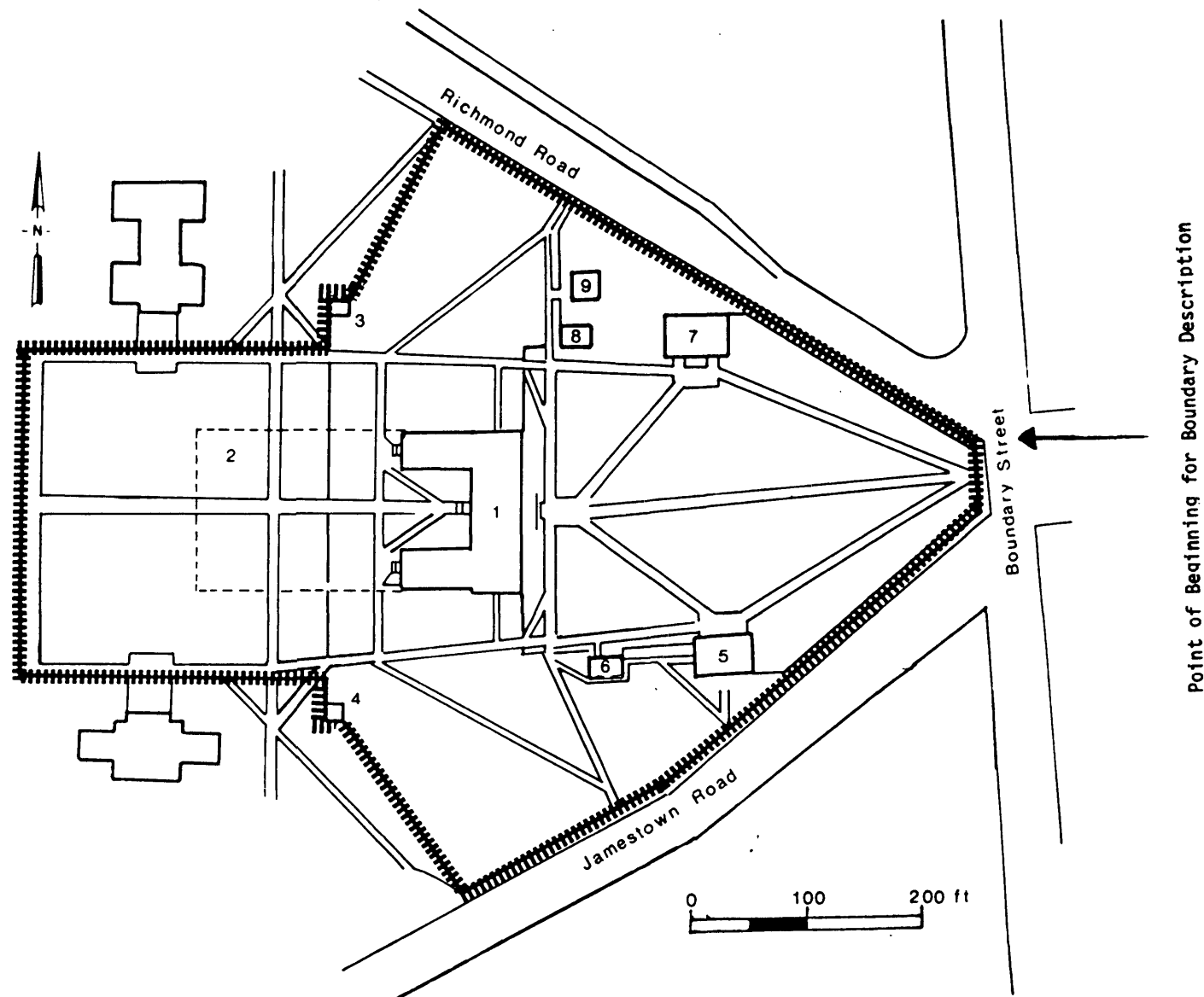
Thomas Jefferson's "Plan for an addition to the College of William and Mary..." 1771-1772. (Source: Henry E. Huntington Library, Pasadena, Ca.)



Views of the Principal Buildings in Williamsburg, Virginia: ca.1737.

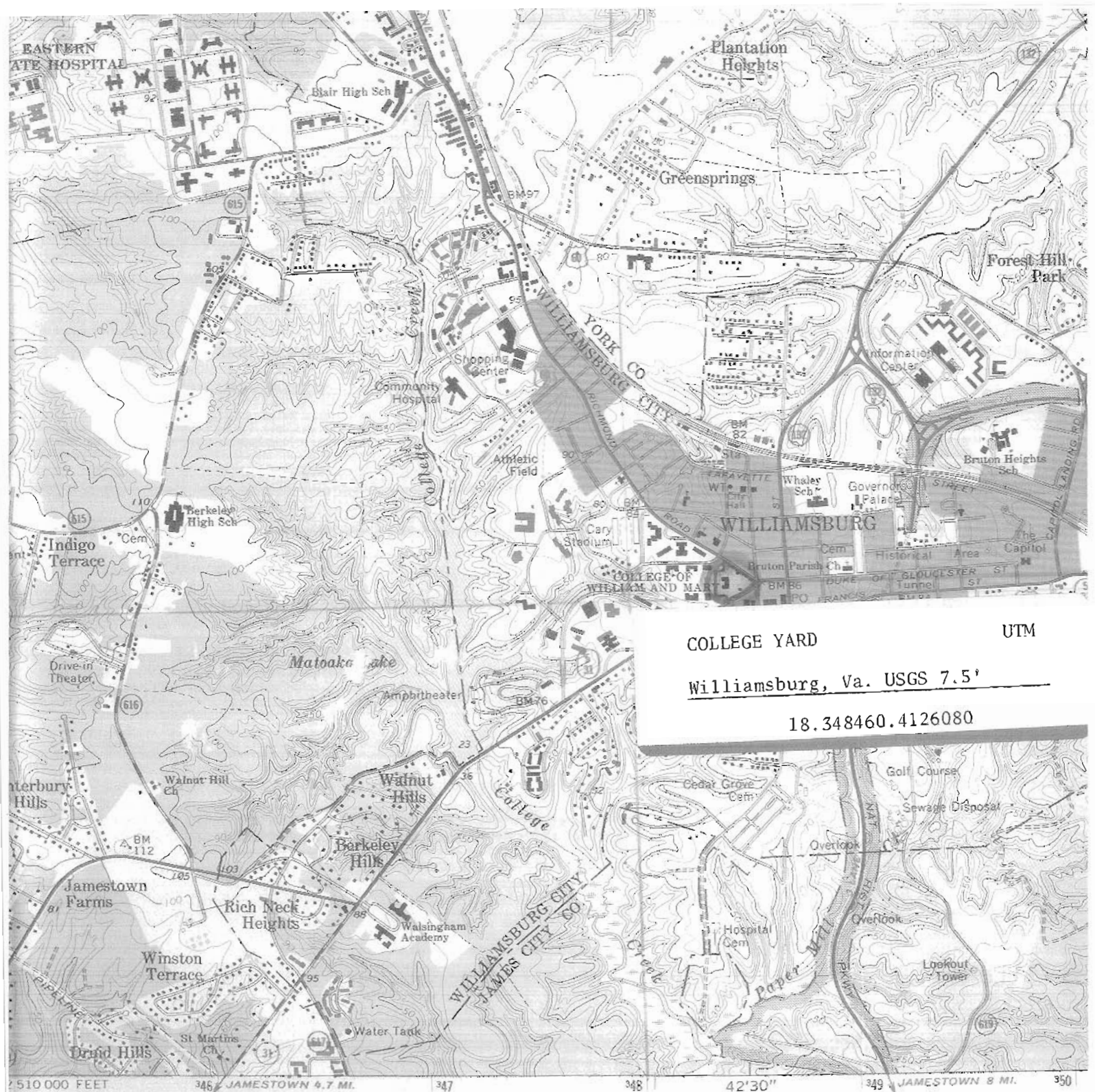


Plan view of Jefferson foundation archaeological excavations 1950. (Source: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg Virginia Archaeological Records).



Old College Yard, College of William and Mary National Historic Landmark, Williamsburg VA. Site Location Map. 1) Old College (Wren Building), 2) Outline of Jefferson foundation, 3) Reconstructed Outbuilding, 4) Reconstructed Outbuilding, 5) Brafferton, 6) Brafferton Outbuilding (Reconstructed), 7) President's House, 8) President's House Outbuilding (Reconstructed), 9) President's House Outbuilding (Reconstructed).

01220



COLLEGE YARD

UTM

Williamsburg, Va. USGS 7.5'

18.348460.4126080

Map edited, and published by the Geological Survey
by USGS and USC&GS

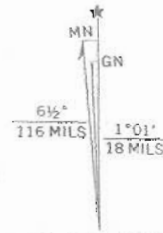
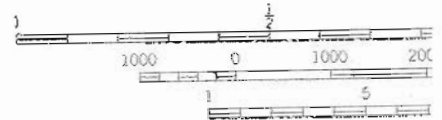
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
uses Army Map Service map dated 1952

Hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 495 (1961)
Information is not intended for navigational purposes

Map projection. 1927 North American datum
Foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
Water Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
shown in blue

Dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR
DATUM
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUND
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENT
THE MEAN RANGE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHY