Few states have such a rich architectural heritage as Virginia. Virginia's public and private buildings provide a testimonial to its history and traditions as well as demonstrating the progressive evolution not only of Virginian, but also of American architecture in general. The goal of this guide is to point out to the researcher the major collections available at the Library of Virginia and suggest some additional bibliographies, books, and periodicals as beginning steps in the study of Virginia's impressive architectural legacy.

**SELECTIONS FROM THE PRINT COLLECTION**

**Bibliographies**


Virginia Architecture: Selected Readings and a Guide to Collections at the Library of Virginia


**General Titles**

To find books on Virginia architecture use the following subject headings:
- Architecture—Virginia—[City or County]
- Architecture, Domestic—Virginia
- Architecture, Colonial—Virginia
- Historic Buildings—Virginia
- Historic Buildings—Virginia—[City or County]
- Dwellings—Virginia
- Churches—Virginia
- Churches—Virginia—[City or County]
- Courthouses—Virginia
- Courthouses—Virginia—[City or County]


Published as a companion to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts exhibition entitled *The Making of Virginia Architecture: Drawing and Models, 1719–1990*, this volume is a comprehensive, thoroughly researched history of Virginia’s outstanding architectural heritage, illustrated with architectural drawings and models.


This book gives a historical synopsis for every Virginia courthouse.


This work consists of 9 volumes. Volumes 3-9 were authored by E. F. Farrar and E. Hines. The volumes have various imprints. This work covers many areas of Virginia: the subtitles of the nine volumes are “The Mobjack Bay Country,” “Along the James,” “Along the Fall Line,” “The Northern Peninsulas,” “The Heart of Virginia,” “The Piedmont,” “Shenandoah,” “The Mountain Empire,” and “Harbors.”


One of the twenty-three booklets published to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Jamestown. Based on archaeological findings the author recreates the style of Virginia buildings between 1600 and 1700.


A photographic presentation of Virginia’s plantation dwellings. Some of these mansions and their gardens express the most important architectural achievements of the colonial and antebellum periods.


This book examines the significant buildings, which even though now lost, were instrumental as trend setters. It covers all aspects of architectural heritage: domestic, civic, religious and commercial buildings.


This book discusses both well-known and lesser-known Virginia buildings built prior to the Civil War.
This volume concentrates on African American contributions to Virginia’s heritage and presents significant sites previously omitted from Virginia’s general register. Homes of civic leaders, churches and universities significant to the African-American community are discussed.

This volume is a compilation of places officially designated as Virginia Historical Landmarks by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources 1968 through March 19, 1997. Each entry is accompanied by a photo or illustration and a brief description. Entries are organized alphabetically by county or independent city. Places added to the registry after March 19, 1997, are included in an appendix.

This book not only provides good explanations and illustrations for a complex terminology, but also analyzes the transfer and changing terms of English terms to the American South’s vocabulary. In addition, it provides information on the derivation of local terms and where they were first mentioned.

A selection of the twelve most creative buildings in the Commonwealth, built during times of prosperity. These distinctive buildings were not only trendsetters in Virginia, but represent major contributions in American architecture.

A list of more than 62,000 sites recording the architectural heritage of the nation.

This is a catalogue of an exhibition at the University of Virginia, which demonstrates that Virginia architects were not only interested in designing civic buildings and private residences, but their interests included diverse projects such as bridges and railway carriages.

A list of Virginia’s most important buildings, private, public and commercial, spanning a period of four hundred years.

Courthouses have served as the “meeting point” of Virginia communities from early colonial times. This book presents a photographic record of these important public buildings, an architectural history of each structure, and places them in the cultural and historical context of each county.

An in-depth description of Virginia’s forty-eight surviving colonial churches.

An in-depth treatise on the architecture and the buildings of the colonial period in Virginia.

A historic and architectural discourse on the public buildings of Williamsburg. The author recounts how and why these buildings were built, how they related to the contemporary architecture of England, and how their presence influenced the architecture of the rest of Virginia.

A presentation of six major Virginia mansions.
Virginia Architecture: Selected Readings and a Guide to Collections at the Library of Virginia


This book is part of a series on American architecture commissioned by the Society of Architectural Historians. The introduction covers the evolution and highlights of the state’s architectural traditions and then guides the reader to individual buildings in the eastern half of Virginia, which were instrumental in setting the standards of American architecture.

Virginia Localities

To locate books about a county, city, neighborhood or specific area, search the online catalog by subject, such as:
- Chesterfield County, Va.—Architecture
- Richmond (Va.)—Architecture
- Architecture—Virginia—Alexandria
- Architecture, Domestic—Virginia
- Architecture, Colonial—Virginia
- Historic Buildings—Virginia
- Dwellings—Virginia

Listed below is but a sample of books on architecture of Virginia localities.


Major Buildings

To locate information on individual buildings perform a subject search, such as:

- Historic buildings—Virginia
- Virginia—Capital and Capitol
- Stratford Hall, Va.
- Monticello, Va.


Architects

To search the online catalog for information on individual architects, use the following subject headings:

- Architects—Virginia—Biography—Dictionaries
- Architects—Virginia—Directories
- Architects—Virginia—Periodicals
- Architects—Virginia—Richmond
- Name of firm or individual

The titles below represent a sample of the material in the collection.


Annual directory of architects and firms. Continued as an annual issue of *Inform* magazine.

Forbes, John Douglas. *Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott, Architects: An Introduction*. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Graduate School of Business Administration, 1958. HF5006 V8 no.3


Virginia Architecture: Selected Readings and a Guide to Collections at the Library of Virginia


*Roster of Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.* Richmond, Va.: Commonwealth of Virginia, State Board for the Examination and Certification of Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. 1940–. Annual. NA124 V8 A3

The official roster of licensees in Virginia by year. Available online at: <http://www.dpor.state.va.us/regulantlookup/>


Periodicals

Listed below are journals that may have articles on Virginia subjects. The Library of Virginia has additional architectural journals. Please check the online catalog under the subjects:

- Architecture—Periodicals
- Architecture—Virginia
- Virginia—History—Periodicals


*Inform.* Richmond, Va.: Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, 1990–. Five times a year. NA730 V8 I53


*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.* Richmond, Va.: Virginia Historical Society 1893–. Quarterly. F221 V9

*William and Mary Quarterly.* Williamsburg, Va.: Office of Admissions, College of William and Mary, 1892–. Quarterly. F221 W71

Periodical Indexes


This is a comprehensive index to several publications of Virginia history. For additional information on how to use this index go to: <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/news/swem.htm>

*Virginia Cavalcade.* Index available online at: http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/pubs/cavalcade/volumes/index.htm


This index lists includes articles relating to Virginia buildings and localities from various magazines. Compiled by the reference staff of the Library of Virginia to serve as a finding aid.
In addition the Library of Virginia provides access to the following subscription databases in the reading rooms:

- *America: History and Life*
- *Gale Infotrac*
- *Gale Expanded Academic*
- *Gale General Reference Gold*
- *JSTOR* (Journal Storage, the Scholarly Journal Archive)

The above databases index a very large number of periodicals, magazines, and scholarly journals on the discipline of architecture. In many cases, the full text of articles is available.

**Researching a Property**


A very handy booklet describing the sources that are available, where to find them, where to find records, and generally speaking how to research the history of a property.

**Preserving a Property**


Step by step information on how to begin the process of registering a house in the Virginia Historical Register.

**MANUSCRIPT AND PICTURE COLLECTIONS**

**Architectural Drawings and Plans**


**Early American History Research Reports.** Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Guilford, Conn.: OPUS Publications, 1989. Fiche 84

This collection consists of 495 microfiche, the work of scholars at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation over a period of sixty years. Each report is a thorough study of its subject, and includes bibliographies, indexes, maps and drawings. The reports are divided in five categories covering the areas of Archaeology, Architecture, Decorative Arts, History and Trades. The Architecture category not only includes architectural histories and reports for a number of restored colonial buildings, but also in-depth reports about a variety of topics, including landscape development, paint color, fencing, and window glass in the eighteenth century. There is a guide to the collection. (Ref. Z1237 C7).


In 1933, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, established the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) to provide work to architects, draftsmen and photographers left jobless by the Great Depression. The program is still active today and continues to collect drawings, photographs and descriptions of buildings, documenting the rich and diverse architectural heritage of the nation. The National Park Service administers this program, but the collection is housed at the Library of Congress. The microfiche collection at the Library of Virginia covers material received by the Library of Congress up to the end of 1979 for the state of Virginia.
In 1969, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) was also established to preserve America’s industrial and engineering heritage. Thanks to the work of HABS/HAER an archive of historic architecture has been created, which provides significant primary source material for historic preservation. The HABS/HAER collection is also available online from the Library of Congress at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml/hhhome.html>.


The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of sites of unique character and identity that provide a tangible and irrefutable testimony of America’s past. The material in this fiche collection covers the state of Virginia and includes the “Inventory-Nomination Forms” with information about each property, photographs and maps through December 1982. A searchable database on places listed or determined as eligible is available at <http://www.nr.nps.gov/>.

**Virginia WPA Historical Inventory Project. Film 509**

The Virginia Works Project Administration (WPA) Historical Inventory is a collection of photographs, maps, and detailed reports documenting many 18th- and 19th-century buildings in communities across Virginia. WPA workers in the 1930s described, assessed, and photographed early structures (many of which do not survive today), creating a unique record of Virginia’s past. The Library of Virginia’s Digital Library program has a searchable database of the project, <http://eagle.vsla.edu/vhi/> that includes digital images of pictures, maps, and survey reports.

**The Charles F. Gillette Collection**

The Library of Virginia houses the Charles F. Gillette Collection which consists of architectural landscape drawings and a collection of more than 890 photographs from the Charles F. Gillette Papers, 1918–1969, depicting Virginia houses, estates, gardens, and other private and corporate landscape projects designed by landscape architect Charles Freeman Gillette (1886–1969). The photograph collection is available online at: <http://eagle.vsla.edu/gillette/virtua-basic.html>.

**Pictures**

**School Buildings Service Photographs**

This collection consists of photographs from the Virginia State Department of Education depicting elementary and secondary school buildings across the state. The more than 3,000 photographs were taken between 1920 and 1970 as part of a school reform and consolidation movement. Available online at: <http://eagle.vsla.edu/school/virtua-basic.html>.

**Pictures, Photographs, etc.**

The Picture Collection of the Library of Virginia has a large collection of Virginia architectural images filed by county and building name. The department also houses extensive files of original Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (VHLC) nomination reports and original HABS reports, filed by county, title, and sometimes by the owner’s name. Many of these WPA photographs taken during the 1930s are part of the online Virginia Historical Inventory collection, but there are other WPA photographs housed in the files in the Picture Collection. The collections also include lithographs, engravings and other fine prints of older historic structures in Virginia, particularly Richmond, as well as photographs of hotels, churches, stores, jails, taverns, courthouses, banks, and diners.

Several indexes and databases of photograph collections from various libraries around the state are available online at: <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/photo/index.htm>.

The Picture Collection is open by appointment 9:00–12:00 and 1:30–4:30 Tuesday–Friday. (Telephone 804-692-3703)

Mary Dessypris
Reference Section
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**FRONT COVER:** Panoramic View of Capitol Square, 1909. Courtesy of Seldon Richardson. The Library of Virginia.