

# Hotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings

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1890-1983



## Title Statement

Hotel Roanoke Architectural DrawingsHotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings, 1890-1983 Ms.2000.093

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## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)  
560 Drillfield Drive  
Newman Library, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
Business Number: 540-231-6308  
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2000.093

### Unit Date

1890-1983

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

The Hotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings collection includes information about Hotel Roanoke in the form of original drawings, blueprints and photocopies dating from 1890 to 1983. The collection contains foundation, floor, and framing plans, elevations; ventilation, plumbing, heating and cooling plans; external and internal details for various rooms, stairways, and features; alterations; landscaping details; and exterior features, such as swimming pool and stables.

### Extent

132 Cubic Feet

### Physical Location

**Please note:** Most of this collection is in off-site storage and requires 2-3 days notice for retrieval. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives for more information.

## Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

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## Source of Acquisition

Part 1 and 3 of the Hotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings was acquired by Special Collections at an unknown date. Part 2 was donated to Special Collections in 2001 through the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Treasurer at Virginia Tech.

## Processing Information

The Hotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings were processed at two different periods. The processing, arrangement, and description of the Part 2 accession of Hotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings commenced in October, 2003 and was completed in November, 2003. The drawings in Part 1, which were an earlier accession, were processed in 2001. Because of the size of the collection and staff limitations, it was not possible to reprocess the drawings in Part 1 so that they conform to the standards used in Part 2.

There are also unprocessed materials, which are available for patron use and listed in Part 3.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box or container], [folder], Hotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings, Ms2000-093, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

The original Hotel Roanoke was built in 1882 by the Norfolk Western Railroad for \$60,000. The hotel started with 34 rooms and quickly grew to 94 rooms in 1890. It was severely damaged by a fire in 1895 and was rebuilt. It continued to expand through wars and the depression. By the 1950s, it had over 384 rooms within its distinctive half-timber English Tudor style facade.

As the public began to use interstate highways rather than passenger rail for travel, the Hotel Roanoke experienced a decline in business. Unable to compete with the national hotel chains located near the interstate highway, the Norfolk Western Railroad decided to concentrate on the transportation aspects of their corporation and closed the Hotel Roanoke in the fall of 1989. James McComas, then president of Virginia Tech, was approached by city leaders to accept the hotel as a gift and develop a first class hotel and conference center. The Virginia Tech Foundation accepted and renovated the Hotel Roanoke, while the City of Roanoke constructed the adjacent conference center.

The \$27.8 million renovation of the Hotel Roanoke was financed through a mixture of funding sources: a consortium of local financial institutions loaned the project \$6.5 million, a \$6.0 million loan through section 108 HUD loan program with the City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the creation of 300 new jobs, \$3.0 million from the sale of land surrounding the hotel, \$4.0 million loan from the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., \$1.3 million loan from Doubletree hotels, \$1.0 million loan from a local Roanoke foundation, and \$6.0 million from local citizens and companies in a local fund drive to save the historic hotel. The Hotel Roanoke is privately owned by a for-profit subsidiary of the Virginia Tech Real Estate Foundation, Inc.

Since reopening in the spring of 1995 as the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, the 332-room facility has received many historic preservation and architectural awards. It was placed on the prestigious National Register of Historic Places and on the Virginia Landmarks register, and it received the 1996 National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award for restoration and preservation.

# Scope and Content

The Hotel Roanoke Architectural Drawings consist of an extensive set of drawings, blueprints, and photocopies. Original perspective drawings mounted on presentation boards and a file with specifications for the remodeling of 24 east wing bathrooms in the hotel are also part of the collection. The drawings in the collection span the years 1890-1983. The bulk of the drawings are from 1937-1953.

Part 1 includes blueprints for the swimming pool, motor inn, and laundry; floor plans; heating, cooling, and plumbing plans; elevations; finish schedule; kitchen, ballroom, office, beauty shop, and parking plans; details of entrance and back porch, and various interior and exterior details and alterations.

Part 2 includes structural steel drawings; heating, cooling, ventilation and plumbing systems; external and internal details for various rooms and features; floor plans, framing plans, elevations and sections; foundation plans; blueprints for alterations; and various landscape details.

Part 3 contains unprocessed materials.

## Keywords

Architectural drawings (visual works)

Architectural drawing -- 20th century

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

University History

Hotel Roanoke

Norfolk and Western Railway Company (1896-1982)

Norfolk Southern Corporation (1982-)

Norfolk and Western Railroad Company (1881-1896)

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

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## Other Finding Aids

Individual drawings in Part 1 were assigned numbers in the inventory available [online](#).

Separate spreadsheets for Part 2 are also available. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives for more information.

## Arrangement

The drawings were divided into two parts depending on the time of accession. Part 2 was further subdivided into series depending on serial numbers, overall subject matter, and chronological sequence. Part 1 was arranged somewhat chronologically. The drawings span 1890-1983.

Part 1 is arranged in thirteen series, housed in portfolios 1 to 13. Individual drawings in Part 1 were assigned numbers in the inventory available [online](#). However, these numbers indicate only the position in the portfolio relative to the other drawings. The assigned numbers have not been written on the drawings.

Part 2 is arranged in nine series by job number and subject matter. It is further arranged in chronological order. Each series is housed in a portfolio ranging from A-I.

Part 3 is unprocessed.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Part 1

**Unit Date** 1926-1980

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 50**

**oversize** 1 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 1, portfolio 1

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of proposed swimming pool, motor inn, laundry, air conditioning study, and floor plans.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 50**

**oversize** 2 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 2, portfolio 2

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of track level plan heating, site plan and riser diagram, door and window details, elevations, interior elevations, terrazzo plans, door and finish schedule.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 149**

**oversize** 3 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 3, portfolio 3

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of door and finish schedule, waiting room, coffee shop plan, preliminary floor plans, electric light, power and bell system, valve control schedules, foundation plans, and roof and penthouse machinery drawings.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 149**

**oversize** 4 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 4, portfolio 4

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of details of swimarium, gable wall column setting, sections through fiberglass and plexiglass, kitchen equipment layouts, heating and cooling risers, air conditioning study, coffee shop kitchen plans, electric lights and power circuits, ballroom plan, beauty shop office, Shenandoah room details and sections.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 72**

**oversize** 5 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 5, portfolio 5

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of floor plans, alterations and additions of basement study, fountains room, kitchen details, furring window stools, marble details, floor plans and elevations.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 56**

**oversize** 6 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 6, portfolio 6

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of office for traffic department, steel ladders and access doors, space for Pullman company in Hotel Roanoke, floor plans, and diagram for water drainage.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 57**

**oversize** 7 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 7, portfolio 7

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of elevations, wiring drawing, and fire pump and riser details.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 236**

**oversize** 8 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 8, portfolio 8

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of renovations of shops, health centers, passenger station, elevator shafts, waiting room, laundry room, penthouse plans and details, ice water circulation diagram, and foundation room counter bakery.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 70**

**oversize** 9 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 9, portfolio 9

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of service station, parking lot, pneumatic temperature and electric sequence, and roof sections.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 164**

**oversize** 10 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 10, portfolio 10

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of details of entrance vestibule, drawings of back porch, store room and refrigerating room, cigar counter, mail box and chute, cupola details, enlarged garage parking, column schedule, situation plan, electric diagram and wing wall placing plan.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 64**

**oversize** 11 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 11, portfolio 11

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of steam generating plant, exterior details, sections, AC-b and AC-p controls and restaurant details.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 89**

**oversize** 12 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 6, portfolio 12

**Scope and Contents note**

Elevations, door and window schedules, alterations and additions, piping layout plan, oriel windows, stair and station details and beam details.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 234**

**oversize** 13 (folder)

**Physical Location** B/MC/4, drawer 7, portfolio 13

**Scope and Contents note**

Details of handrails, light cove details, exhibition room plans, spandrel details, footing and foundation pans, roof and attic framing plan, toilets and exhaust ducts, room service checkers ducts, cashiers counters, telephone shelf, and location of tunnel for foundation plan.

**Part 2**

**Unit Date** 1927-1983

**Job 37.935**

**Unit Date** 1937

**oversize** E (folder)

**General Physical Description note** Total number of drawings: 12

**Physical Location** B/MC/5, drawer 5, portfolio E

**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of structural steel drawings for all floors, ranging from 08.1937-09.1937

**Job 37.935****Unit Date** 1937**oversize** A (folder)**General Physical Description note** Total number of drawings: 17**Physical Location** B/MC/5, drawer 6, portfolio A**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprint drawings for heating, ventilation and plumbing, all dated 10.5.1937

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 19****Unit Date** 1937**oversize** C (folder)**Physical Location** B/MC/5, drawer 11, portfolio C**Scope and Contents note**

drawings for external and internal details, bathroom details, beauty parlor, palm room, cigar room details, and internal details of cornice, gable and stairs.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 44****Unit Date** 1945**oversize** B (folder)**Physical Location** B/MC/5, drawer 12, portfolio B**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprint drawings for all floor plans, framing plans, elevations and sections.

**Portfolio F****Unit Date** 1945**oversize** F (folder)**General Physical Description note** Total number of drawings: 78**Physical Location** B/MC/6, drawer 6, portfolio F**Job 450-1A****Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of drawings showing details of typical bedrooms, bathrooms, and beauty parlor; footing and foundation plans; floor framing plans; column schedule; electrical plans and riser details.

**Job 450-1B****Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints of drawings showing key plans for all floors, kitchen floor base details, door schedules and room finishing schedule, pantry details, and penthouse details. Also includes drawings showing alterations and additions to the main building.

**Job 450-1B****Unit Date** 1945-46**oversize** G (folder)**General Physical Description note** Total number of drawings: 84**Physical Location** B/MC/5, drawer 7, portfolio G**Scope and Contents note**

Details of windows, floor plans, elevations, spandrel details, air conditioning systems, pipe gallery, heating venting and plumbing details.

**Job 450-3****Unit Date** 1953**oversize** D (folder)**General Physical Description note** Total number of drawings: 49**Physical Location** B/MC/6, drawer 6, portfolio D**Scope and Contents note**

Blueprints drawings of alterations and additions, including floor plans, elevations, details, floor framing plans, mechanical plans, and electrical plans.

**Job 450-1, 450-1B****Unit Date** 1927-80**oversize** H (folder)**General Physical Description note** Total number of drawings: 213**Physical Location** Set of drawers in first floor in Special Collections, portfolio H**Job 450-1****Scope and Contents note**

Original drawings of grating for paved areas, equestrian door, underground doors, installation of screens and laundry plans, fountain room details, unit enclosures, rack in engineer's office and additional stairs No. 2. Original drawings of exit stairs No 2, bench support letter rack and cashier window. Also includes original drawings of additional Exit stairs, masonry boilers, soiled linen hamper, health club, mirrors in corridor, fire protection, ventilation, deep well pump house, sprinkler system catch basin, wrought iron balcony, and garage ceiling plan.

**Job 450-1B****Scope and Contents note**

Original drawings of lifts (Otis), doors, front elevator, bath details, driveway, enclosure between ballroom and corridor, fire ladder, reflector signs, electric drawings, ventilation, marquee details, reflector signs, refrigerator for meats, water pump, external wood details, writing room, ice converter chute, locking device for accordion and original boards of diagram, display cases, tunnel details.

**Job number unlisted, total number of drawings: 26****Unit Date** 1972-83**oversize** I (folder)**Physical Location** B/MC/5, drawer 5, portfolio I**Scope and Contents note**

Copies of drawings of floor plans dated 1983. Blueprints of drawings showing fire protection, air conditioners, elevations and renovation of beauty shop.

**Part 3: Unprocessed materials****Unit Date** undated**box** 1**box** 2**oversize** 1-3 (RR16) (folder)