

A Guide to the MCV Foundation/Monumental Church records 2005.Jun.13

MCV Foundation/Monumental Church records

1957-1965

Title Statement

A Guide to the MCV Foundation/Monumental Church records 2005.Jun.13

Subtitle: A Collection in Special Collections and Archives, Health Sciences Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Accession number 2005.Jun.13

Publication Statement

Publisher: VCU Health Sciences Library

Special Collections and Archives 509 N 12th St

Box 980582

Richmond, Virginia 23298

Business Number: (804) 828-9898

libsca@vcu.edu

URL: <https://www.library.vcu.edu/research-teaching/special-collections-and-archives/locations/>

2005

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-02-10 07:01:55 -0500.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

2005.Jun.13

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/19

Unit Date

1957-1965

Language

English

Creator

MCV Foundation

Creator

Glave Newman Anderson and Associates, Inc

Creator

Johnston, J. Ambler (James Ambler), 1885-1974

Extent

2.6 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU Health Sciences Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from David Bagby, Executive Director of the MCV Foundation ca. 1980.

Preferred Citation

Records of the MCV Foundation/Monumental Church, Accession #2005/Jun/13, Special Collections and Archives, Health Sciences Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

Biographical / Historical

The Monumental Church stands on historic ground. The land was first used in 1786 by the Chevalier Quesnay de Beau Repaire as the location of his Academy of Arts and Sciences. The school only lasted a few years and Quesnay returned to France. One of the buildings that survived was the assembly hall that was quickly converted into the Academy Theatre. It was there that Virginia ratified the Constitution of the United States in 1788. In 1802, the wooden theater caught fire and burned to the ground, but another was erected on its foundation.

This new theater was very popular and often drew large crowds. On December 26, 1811 the theatre was full. During a scene change, a lantern caught the stage backdrop on fire and soon the entire stage was ablaze. In the aftermath of the fire 73 people, mostly women, were killed including Governor George William Smith. The next day a town commission met and resolved to create a memorial to those who died on the theaters grounds. Monumental Church became this memorial.

Two heroes who emerged from the inferno were Gilbert Hunt, an enslaved blacksmith and Dr. James McCaw, a Richmond physician (and grandfather of Dr. James B. McCaw).

Opened in 1814 the Church was built on land "for ever kept sacred". In a vault under the church lay the bodies of those who perished that night, and several plaques and memorials line the churches walls. Chief Justice John Marshall was instrumental in the initial phases in creating this Greek revival church. And after it opened, Marshall was a congregation member. Designed by Roberts Mills, Monumental is the only surviving Church Mills designed with its dome intact. The church was known as Monumental Episcopal Church.

As the City of Richmond grew so did the Medical College of Virginia, taking up most of the city plots around the Church. Under an agreement with Virginia Commonwealth University the Church became a religious center for the student body supplementing its own congregation in 1958. After a major renovation phase of the Church that began in 1960, the Episcopal diocese found the cost too high and moved the congregation to a newer building in 1965. Ownership transferred to the University who attempted to continue the renovations. The Church was listed on National Registry of Historic Places in 1971. The University gave Monumental Church to the Historic Richmond Foundation in 1983, and they began a series of restorative projects that are ongoing.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes minutes of the Monumental Church Endowment, correspondence with J. Ambler Johnston who oversaw the early renovation. Also included are clippings and articles relating to the Church and its members. The Collection focuses on the time of its first renovation from 1960-1965. It does not cover activity of the congregation or of the years of University ownership.

Keywords

Church architecture -- Conservation and restoration -- Virginia -- Richmond.
Monumental Episcopal Church (Richmond, Va.)
Medical College of Virginia

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in chronological order.

Description of Subordinate Components

History of Monumental Church

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5124

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Historical Accounts, Rev. A. Ronald Merrick

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5131

Unit Date 1901-1981

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains photocopied Church programs, papers written about the history of the Church, and several retyped newspaper articles collected by the last rector of the Church. Also included are the following:

A Brief Historical Sketch of The Monumental Church

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5161

Unit Date 1924

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

by Mary Newton Stanard

Monumental Church Issue

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5162

Unit Date 1966

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Bulletin, Medical College of Virginia, Vol. LXII, No. 4

The First Academy

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5163

Unit Date 1966

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

by Samuel J. Gamble, The Virginia Journal of Science, Vol. 17, No. 1, 1966

Rev. A. Ronald Merrick, Contents of Envelope from W. T. Sanger's Office

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5132

Unit Date 1911-1963

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains papers, articles and clippings saved by Dr. Sanger and given to Merrick. Included are lists of parishioners in military service, clippings, a theatre bill, an artist rendition of downtown Richmond, and a Church program.

History of Monumental Church, newspaper clippings

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5133

Unit Date 1933-1966

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains newspaper clippings and other articles on the history of the Monumental Church.

History of Monumental Church, Rev. George Ossman

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5134

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains historical articles and clippings collected during Ossman's time as rector. In addition to clippings and articles, the following items are included;

"In Old Virginia"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5164

Unit Date 02 Dec, 1945

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Transcript for radio program on WLEE

"The Chaplaincy At The Medical College of Virginia"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5165

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Virginia Medical Monthly, Vol. 72

"An Address delivered in Connection with the Unveiling of the Moore, Marshall, and Fisher Memorial Windows"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5166

Unit Date 1901

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Rev. W. E. Evans.

"Monumental Church, 13th Annual Discourse"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5167

Unit Date 5 Dec. 1875

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Address given that anniversary Sunday.

Monumental Church Endowment Fund, Inc

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5125

Unit Date 1911-1965

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Board of Management Minutes

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5135

Unit Date 1911-1926, 1933-1947, 1955-1960

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Board of Management Minutes

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5136

Unit Date 1960-1965

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Correspondence, J. Ambler Johnston.**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5126**Unit Date** 1954-1965**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This series contains the correspondence concerning J. Ambler Johnston of Carneal and Johnson architectural firm. Johnston was also a member of the Monumental's congregation. These papers cover topics including bids and contracts, vendor relations, budgetary issues and other business contacts.

Folder A**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5137**Unit Date** 1954-1963**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Folder B****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5138**Unit Date** 1954-1963**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Folder A****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5139**Unit Date** 1963-1965**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Folder B****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5140**Unit Date** 1963-1965**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Folder A****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5141**Unit Date** 1965**Correspondence between Johnston and MCV Officials****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5142**Unit Date** 1926-1970**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Scope and Contents**

"Sundry Papers Incident to Transfer to Medical College Foundation."

Address given by Johnston at Monumental Church rededication**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5143**Unit Date** 1965**Correspondence by topic****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5127**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Paintings and pictures, Teusler Hall****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5144**Unit Date** 1958-1961**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

Monumental Church, handrails. A. Ronald Merrick

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5145

Unit Date 1961

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Monumental Church, windows. A. Ronald Merrick,

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5146

Unit Date 1961-1965

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Monumental Church, Restoration Fund

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5147

Unit Date 1963-1965

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Monumental Church, miscellaneous documents.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5148

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains product brochures, an outline specification, and a report on costs and objectives.

Committee Records; Religious Activities Committee, Monumental Church Property Committee

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5128

Unit Date 1976-1978

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series contains the records of these committees, correspondence and articles. Also included are the following:

"Monumental Church, A History"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5149

Unit Date February, 1976

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Scope and Contents

VCU Magazine

List of items found in the Church belonging to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5150

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Scope and Contents

Items on list included baptismry bowls, religious ornamentation and vestments.

Program from the Re-Opening Ceremony

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5151

Unit Date 5 November, 1978

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Architectural Plans and Proposals

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5129

Unit Date 1961-1977

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series contains several plans and proposals for Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Monumental Church

"Outline Specification for the Preservation of the Monumental Church"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5152

Unit Date January 1961

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

"A Study of the Architectural Preservation Potential of the VCU Academy Campus"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5153

Unit Date 1970

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains photographs and blueprints by Virginia Historic Landmark Commission.

"200 Block of Franklin Street, A Statement of Circumstances and Objectives."

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5154

Unit Date 1974

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

by Virginia Landmark Corporation

Robert Winthrop

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5155

Unit Date 1974-1978

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains files regarding Robert Winthrop, architect from Glave, Newman, Anderson.

"Adaptive Preservation Study for the Monumental Church"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5156

Unit Date 1974

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

by Glave, Newman, Anderson.

"Eleven Projects in Adaptive Preservation."

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5157

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

by Glave, Newman, Anderson.

Miscellaneous and unidentified.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5158

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Blueprints

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5130

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Folder A**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5159**Unit Date** 1966-1967**Mixed Materials** 7 (box)**Folder B****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5160**Unit Date** 1976-1977**Mixed Materials** 7 (box)