CAPSULE SUMMARY
Pinkney Hall (AA-674)
St. John's College, Annapolis

Pinkney Hall at St. John's College was begun in 1855 by local builders Daniel M. Sprogle and Daniel H. Caulk to the designs of architect, Nathan G. Starkweather. Named in honor of local statesman and former Attorney General of the United States William Pinkney, the building was constructed as a dormitory and faculty boarding house for 100 persons. The Gothic Revival style dormitory was one of three buildings constructed on the campus of St. John's College by the academic institution in the 1850s. Although completed by 1858, the building was not occupied until after the Civil War, when the college enrollment had increased as hoped. In 1942, the building was renovated, with the removal of the richly decorated finials that originally capped the massive brick buttresses above the roofline. In 1993 and again in 1998, the firms of Schwarz Purcell and Alt Breeding Schwarz, respectively, renovated the building.

Pinkney Hall is an imposing brick structure designed in an exuberant Gothic Revival style that was clearly inspired by (and in response to) the castellated Gothic Revival-style Humphreys Hall. Rectangular in plan, the building measures 40' x 95', rises four full stories. Seven window bays, divided by massive brick piers or buttresses, give it a vertical thrust. The walls are laid in an all-stretcher bond of pressed brick, which has since seen substantial repointing of the original fine, raised mortar joints. A molded brick watertable and belt course encircling Pinkney Hall break the predominant vertical massing. The building is covered with a low-pitched roof, with a parapet wall featuring gables on center of all four elevations, and a corbeled brick cornice. The roof and gables are sheathed with standing seam metal. The building features original 2/2 and 4/4 sashes throughout, all set within round and segmentally arched openings.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-674

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Pinkney Hall, St. John's College
other	

2. Location

street and number	60 College Street	__ not for publication
city, town	Annapolis	__ vicinity
county	Anne Arundel	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	St. John's College				
street and number	60 College Avenue, Box 2800			telephone	410/263-2371
city, town	Annapolis	state	MD	zip code	21404

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Anne Arundel County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	
city, town	Annapolis	liber	folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___X___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___X___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___X___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__X__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__X__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
__X__domestic
__X__education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
____ vacant/not in use
_____other:
_____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. AA-674

Condition

___ excellent	___ deteriorated
X good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Pinkney Hall dormitory was constructed between 1855 and 1857, a period of significant building activity at St. John's College. The building is located northeast of the Georgian-era McDowell Hall, and was built to counter-balance Humphreys Hall which was constructed twenty years earlier. With the erection of Pinkney Hall, along with the Chase-Stone House and the Paca-Carroll House, which are all in line with McDowell and Humphreys Hall, the "Yale Row" of buildings forming the nucleus of St. John's campus was complete.

Pinkney Hall is an imposing brick structure designed by Nathan Starkweather, a Baltimore architect, in an exuberant Gothic Revival style that was clearly inspired by (and in response to) the castellated Gothic Revival-style Humphreys Hall. Rectangular in plan, the building measures 40' x 95', rises four full stories. Seven window bays, divided by massive brick piers or buttresses, give it a vertical thrust. The walls are laid in an all-stretcher bond of pressed brick, which has since seen substantial repointing of the original fine, raised mortar joints. A molded brick watertable and belt course encircling Pinkney Hall break the predominant vertical massing. The building is covered with a low-pitched roof, with a parapet wall featuring gables on center of all four elevations, and a corbeled brick cornice. The roof and gables are sheathed with standing seam metal. The building features original 2/2 and 4/4 sashes throughout, all set within round and segmentally arched openings.[1]

Pinkney Hall is characterized by a fortified Medieval appearance that historically was much more pronounced and which has been greatly subdued as a result of the elimination of a series of richly decorated roof pinnacles that originally capped the building's massive brick buttresses and rose above the roofline. Despite the loss of these pinnacles in 1942, the building still retains its character-defining brick buttresses and its corbeled cornice—both architectural elements that are reminiscent of the mid-19th -century Gothic Revival style.

Exterior Description:

The southeast end elevation facing College Avenue and the City of Annapolis is the most architecturally decorative, and though it has no entry, is considered the principal facade. It is divided into three bays, consisting of the most prominent center bay or pavilion and flanking side "wings." The center bay is defined by its flanking octagonal towers, its double-height window openings set within large brick arches, and a central projecting gable, originally ornamented with a brick finial at the apex.

The double-height window bays consist of round-arched openings with drip molds and foliated label stops that span the first and second stories and the third and fourth stories, respectively. Set within these arched openings are paired windows at each of the four stories, with three narrow, double-height pilasters and their foliated capitals framing the edges and separating the pair of windows. The capitals also serve as label stops to an inner drip mold that surmounts the upper pair of windows. The upper pair of windows are round-arched with 2/2 sash; the lower ones are square-headed with 2/2 sash.

[1] Based upon the interior survey, it appears that some of the windows have been replaced, but are exact copies of the original. The window casing, however, survives intact.

To either side of the central bay and separating it from the side bays are octagonal towers. These towers are set upon a raised base rectangular in plan, becoming octagonal at a point mid-way up the first story, at the level of the molded water table. They are capped at the cornice line with concrete.

The bays to either side of the central bay have two superimposed double-height brick arched panels within which are set single windows in each of the four stories. The arch spanning the first and second stories is round-arched. Within the arch are a segmental arched 4/4 window on the first story and a 4/4 round-arched window on the second story. A recessed brick panel or spandrel with molded brick surrounds separates the first and second story windows. The upper panel is segmental-arched and located above the brick stringcourse. It has a 4/4 segmental arched window on both the third and fourth floor levels. All of the windows in the side bays have brownstone sills. Most of the building's windows were replaced in 1998-1999 under a restoration and rehabilitation program at St. John's College and executed by architect Jay Schwarz.

Above the fourth story of this elevation is the corbeled brick cornice reminiscent of a crenellated roofline, and a central projecting gable, similarly articulated with a corbeled brick raking cornice. A brick finial originally projected above the roof line at the peak of this gable further identifying this elevation as the principal facade, but has since been cut back to below the apex.

The southwest side elevation of Pinkney Hall facing McDowell Hall is divided into seven vertical bays, each being separated by the massive brick piers, and is divided horizontally by the molded brick belt course between the second and third stories. Pairs of windows on each of the four stories define five of the seven bays. The other two bays--second bays from either end--are only a single bay wide. These single-bay bays have slightly larger, single windows, rather than paired windows, and also offer entrance doors rather than windows on the first story. The central bay is given greater prominence than the others by a projecting, central gable and by double-story arched panel which surround the windows.

All of the windows are the original, 4/4 round-arched and segmental-arched wood sash with brownstone sills (the sills are either rounded or square, depending on the story). Round-arched windows are found on the second story, while segmental-arched windows define the first, third, and fourth stories. Recessed brick panels with bolded brick surrounds separate the windows of each story. The two doors, located in the second and sixth bays are both four-paneled wood doors with three-light transoms above. Recessed brick panels separate the doors from the second-story windows above. The brick landing, ramp and iron railing leading to the door towards the northern end are contemporary, as are the brick steps in front of the door closest to the southern end of the building.

A corbeled brick cornice rises above the fourth story, and continues into the raking cornice of the central gable, while a parapet wall culminates the roofline.

The northeast elevation is articulated in the same fashion as the southwest side elevation, though on this side, more of the cellar level is exposed. The only apparent difference is in the doors (at second and sixth bays) which are set within segmental arched openings, rather than square-headed ones, as found on the opposing side of the building. As with the other doors, the brick steps, stoops and railings are all contemporary. Similarly, the windows on this elevation are the original 4/4 sashes, with brownstone sills. A four-light casement window lights the cellar in the third bay from the south.

The northwest (rear) elevation is three bays wide, and though not as richly articulated as the front facade, is similarly configured with a prominent central bay flanked by side wings. The central bay has double-height window bays set within arched surrounds. However, here, there are no drip molds around the surrounds. Similarly, the windows within the arched openings do not themselves feature the engaged columns and foliated capitals/label stops found in the facade. All of the windows in the central bay of this elevation are the original 2/2 sash, while those of the side bays are the original 4/4 sash with stone sills.

This elevation is also affected by a single-story brick addition that abuts the eastern end bay. This addition was built in two phases, the first section between 1891 and 1897; the second between 1903 and 1908. This brickwork of the addition has been re-worked in many areas, and is characterized by inconsistent brick and mortar joints. The windows are generally 2/2 wood sashes with flat arch brick lintels.

Interior Description:

The interior of Pinkney Hall was historically divided into two sections--East and West Pinkney Hall. Within these two sections were corridors that ran across the width of the building off of which were dorm rooms. In 1992, Pinkney Hall was radically renovated, and the wall dividing the two sections was removed. Two transverse corridors and one long central corridor, H-shaped in plan, today provide access to the individual dorm rooms. As a result of the renovation, none of the original interior partition walls or original stairs remain. However, most of the windows and most of the trim, including the large rounded jambs are original, while most of the window sills are replacements.

8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-674

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	X education	__ industry	__ philosophy
X 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
X 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Significance dates	1855-1942	**Architect**	Nathan G. Starkweather
Specific dates	1855-1857	**Builder**	Daniel M. Sprogle and Daniel H. Caulk

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____X___not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Pinkney Hall at St. John's College was begun in 1855 by local builders Daniel M. Sprogle and Daniel H. Caulk to the designs of architect, Nathan G. Starkweather. Named in honor of local statesman and former Attorney General of the United States William Pinkney, the building was constructed as a dormitory and faculty boarding house for 100 persons. The Gothic Revival style dormitory was one of three buildings constructed on the campus of St. John's College by the academic institution in the 1850s. Although completed by 1858, the building was not occupied until after the Civil War, when the college enrollment had increased as hoped. In 1942, the building was renovated, with the removal of the richly decorated finials that originally capped the massive brick buttresses above the roofline. In 1993 and again in 1998, the firms of Schwarz Purcell and Alt Breeding Schwarz, respectively, renovated the building.

*For a detailed history of St. John's College, refer to Maryland Historical Inventory Form, McDowell Hall (AA-675).

History of Pinkney Hall

For the second time in the history of the college, the Board of Rector, Visitors, and Governors of St. John's College attempted to compensate the professors, who had been underpaid for a number of years. College principal Hector Humphreys strongly believed that by constructing staff housing and additional dormitory space, better teachers could be enticed to join the faculty and enrollment would increase. In *The Early History of St. John's College in Annapolis*, Tench Francis Tilghman revealed that a new dormitory building was not needed, but considered to be an investment in the future. "The boarding house of 1835 [Humphreys Hall] had been built to accommodate fifty students. It is very unlikely that it had ever been anywhere near full, because at no one time since its construction had there been fifty out-of-town students in the college. So a new building was an expression of hope that the student body might be increased rather than a necessity. The board figured that, if the dormitory could be filled with paying students, the money put into the building would produce more revenue through increased tuition fees that it could possibly do it if were invested in the conventional stocks and bonds."[2]

[2] Tench Francis Tilghman, *The Early History of St. John's College*, (Annapolis, MD: St. John's College Press, 1984), pp. 83-84.

As part of this ambitious building campaign, two buildings were to be constructed simultaneous to Pinkney Hall. One building (now Paca-Carroll House) was to be the promised housing for professors and faculty, while the second building (now Chase-Stone House) provided living space for the college principal and vice-principal. The three new buildings were symmetrically aligned on either side of McDowell Hall and Humphreys Hall, set within a straight line referred to as "Yale Row." Although the minutes of the Board of Rector, Visitors, and Governors for the years between 1851 and 1857 have been lost, letters to the college archived at the Maryland Hall of Records assist in documenting the siting and construction of the buildings. A letter from April 1855 to the board from Humphreys records the principal's hope that the construction of the dormitory in particular would begin in 1856 and be completed in time for the opening of the fall term in 1857. Unfortunately, on January 25, 1857, Humphreys died before the first of the three new 1850s buildings was completed.

Nathan Gibson Starkweather (1818-1885) designed the new dormitory, as well as the twin dwelling for the principal and vice-principal (Chase-Stone House, 1856) for St. John's College. The architect was born Norris Garshom Starkweather, and often signed his work N.G. Starkweather. The youngest of six children, Starkweather was born in Vermont and raised in Connecticut. He first appears as an architect in the Philadelphia city directory in 1854. Starkweather's practice focused on religious architecture; he designed the First Presbyterian Church in Norristown, PA, the First Baptist Church in Camden, NJ, and the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. By 1856, Starkweather had relocated to Baltimore, forming a partnership with William T. Murdoch. The city directory for 1860 indicates Starkweather resided in Baltimore, although his office was located in Washington, D.C. While in the nation's capital, he formed a partnership with builder Thomas M. Plowman. By 1881, Starkweather relocated to New York City, where he opened an office with Charles E. Gibbs, a native of Washington, D.C. Starkweather designed St. John's Pinkney Hall during his tenure in Philadelphia and Baltimore, where he had relocated to personally oversee the construction of the flamboyant Gothic Revival style First Presbyterian Church between 1854 and 1859.[3]

With the architect unable to supervise the construction of Pinkney Hall because of his responsibilities in Baltimore, the new dormitory was erected under the direction of local builders, Daniel M. Sprogle and Daniel H. Caulk. Sprogle (1822-1889) was a prominent citizen of Annapolis, responsible for building a number of dwellings throughout the city. Although Sprogle's contribution to the construction history of Annapolis is generally overlooked, he is often remembered for supplying the building materials from a local lumber mill that he owned and operated. In addition, he was an undertaker at the First Presbyterian Church (1846, AA-1340). Sprogle lived with his family at 2-4 Maryland Street (razed 1928), in a twin dwelling he constructed in 1852 with James R. Harrison. Daniel H. Caulk (1812-1891) assisted Sprogle in the construction of Pinkney Hall. Born in St. Michaels, Maryland, Caulk worked as a carpenter and undertaker. He lived in the early 19th century brick dwelling at 213-215 Main Street (AA-582), while maintaining a shop at 53 Fleet Street (AA-41).

[3] EHT Traceries Vertical Files, "Nathan Gibson Starkweather."

Starkweather's absence at the construction site greatly impacted the building's progress. Sprogle and Caulk displayed their dissatisfaction in May 1857 by writing a letter of complaint to the Board of Rector, Visitors, and Governors. The letter stated that the builders had already spent considerably more than their estimated cost of construction, primarily due to the lack of cooperation from the architect. Starkweather had not supplied any of the drawings on schedule, and when the drawings did arrive, they were substantially altered from the original design and material specifications from which the contractors had based their estimates. Construction of the building during the winter months also greatly impacted the construction costs, as the workmen traveled from Baltimore and required additional compensation for staying in Annapolis longer than planned.[4]

Again, because the records of the board for this period have not been located, the completion date of Pinkney Hall is unknown. J.G. Proud, in his August 5, 1857 eulogy for the deceased Hector Humphreys (died January 5, 1857), spoke of the building as "just erected and as yet nameless."[5] The new dormitory was presented in the college circular for the term 1856-1857 as "fine large edifice," not yet completed that would have accommodations for about one hundred students besides suites for assistant professors and tutors.[6] The existing documentation for 1857 records the board authorized the appropriation of "such funds as may be required to make the pavements, enclosures, and other necessary preparations for the new College Buildings out of any unappropriated money not exceeding five hundred dollars."[7] Coupled with a formal dedication ceremony at the commencement exercises in 1858, it is assumed Pinkney Hall was completed by late 1857-early 1858. As recorded in the *Maryland Gazette* on July 29, 1858, it was during the commencement that the new college building was named, being "set apart for its high purposes under the style and title of Pinkney Hall with a religious service and addresses."[8] That evening a commencement ball was held in the newly christened Pinkney Hall, the first dance of any kind ever to be held at the college.[9]

The new dormitory was named for William Pinkney (1764-1822), a native of Annapolis. Pinkney was a prominent statesman, renowned for his eloquent courtroom oratory. He served in the Maryland legislature, as minister to both England and Russia, and as the second attorney general (1811-1814) under President James Madison. Pinkney's association with St. John's College stretched back to his early education when he attended King William's School. In fact, one source indicated Pinkney was "the only documented student of the old

[4] Letter to the Board of Rector, Visitors, and Governors of St. John's College from Daniel Sprogle and Daniel Caulk, May 22, 1857. Archived at the Maryland Hall of Records, Letters to St. John's College.
[5] Tilghman, p. 84.
[6] Historic American Building Survey, "Pinkney Hall," Architectural Data Form, Prepared by Eleni Silverman, March 9, 1984.
[7] Historic American Building Survey, "Pinkney Hall," Architectural Data Form, Prepared by Eleni Silverman, March 9, 1984.
[8] *Maryland Gazette*, July 29, 1858.
[9] Historic American Building Survey, "Pinkney Hall," Architectural Data Form, Prepared by Eleni Silverman, March 9, 1984.

King William's School."[10] Additionally, as a member of the state legislature, Pinkney strongly argued against the government's withdrawal of financial support for St. John's College in 1805.

Principal Humphreys' premonition that "if you build it, they will come" was not fulfilled as enrollment scarcely reached 100 students. In fact, the new high-style Gothic Revival dormitory was essentially unoccupied for several years after its completion. During the Civil War, when Union forces commandeered the campus of St. John's College, Pinkney Hall was occupied for the first time, serving as a hospital for exchanged prisoners who were brought to Annapolis get medical attention, fresh clothing, food, and the combat pay due them. Ultimately Humphreys' foresight was applauded as the student body grew during the reconstruction period.

Between 1891 and 1897, as recorded on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*, a one-story entry portico was added to the northwest elevation. Located in the northern bay of the elevation, the addition was constructed of brick. It was enlarged to the north by 1908. The 1921 maps indicate the interior plan consisted of two entry vestibules at the northwest and southeast ends of the building. The body of the structure held six square-shaped rooms and four rectangular-shaped rooms flanking a central hall. The interior plan was extensively renovated in 1942. This work also included the removal of the stylized brick finials. In May 1993, the architectural firm of Schwarz Purcell and the contracting firm of Berliner Construction renovated the building. Work included removal of the exterior fire escape from the northeast elevation, installation of attic vents, new bathroom facilities, and the replacement of exterior stairs and landings. In October 1998, the Annapolis firm of Alt Breeding Schwarz renovated the building once again. This included repointing and repair of the brick, a new roof and windows in the rear addition, and new handicap accessible ramps. Many of the brownstone sills had to be replaced.

[10] Historic American Building Survey, "Pinkney Hall," Blue Worksheet, Prepared by Florence T. Dunbar, October 1964, and updated by Harley J. McKee, August 13, 1964.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): EDUCATION/College

Known Design Source: Nathan G. Starkweather (Architect)
Daniel M. Sprogle and Daniel H. Caulk (Builder)
Schwarz Purcell and Berliner Construction (1993)
Alt Breeding Schwarz (1998)

9. Major Bibliographical References

AA-674

"A Brief History: St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland," Pamphlet prepared by St. John's College.

Historic American Building Survey, "Pinkney Hall," Architectural Data Form, Prepared by Eleni Silverman, March 9, 1984.

Historic American Building Survey, "Pinkney Hall," Blue Worksheet, Prepared by Florence T. Dunbar, October 1964, and updated by Harley J. McKee, August 13, 1964.

Murphy, Emily A. *A Complete and Generous Education: 300 Years of Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis."* Annapolis, MD, St. John's College Press, 1996.

Riley, Elihu S. *The Ancient City, A History of Annapolis in Maryland, 1649-1887. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, Inc., 1995.*

Tilghman, Tench Francis. *The Early History of St. John's College.* Annapolis, MD: St. John's College Press, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area	1 acre		
Acreage surveyed	33 acres		
Quadrangle name	Annapolis, MD	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Pinkney Hall is located on the campus of St. John's College, established at this site in 1784. The college is recorded on Tax Map 4-6, Parcel 458. It is bounded by College Avenue to the southeast, King George Street to the northeast, St. John Street to the southwest, and College Creek to the northwest.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Laura Trieschmann and Kim Williams, Architectural Historians	April 20, 2000
organization	E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.	
street & number	5420 Western Avenue	
city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

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ARCHITECTS
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209 MAIN STREET
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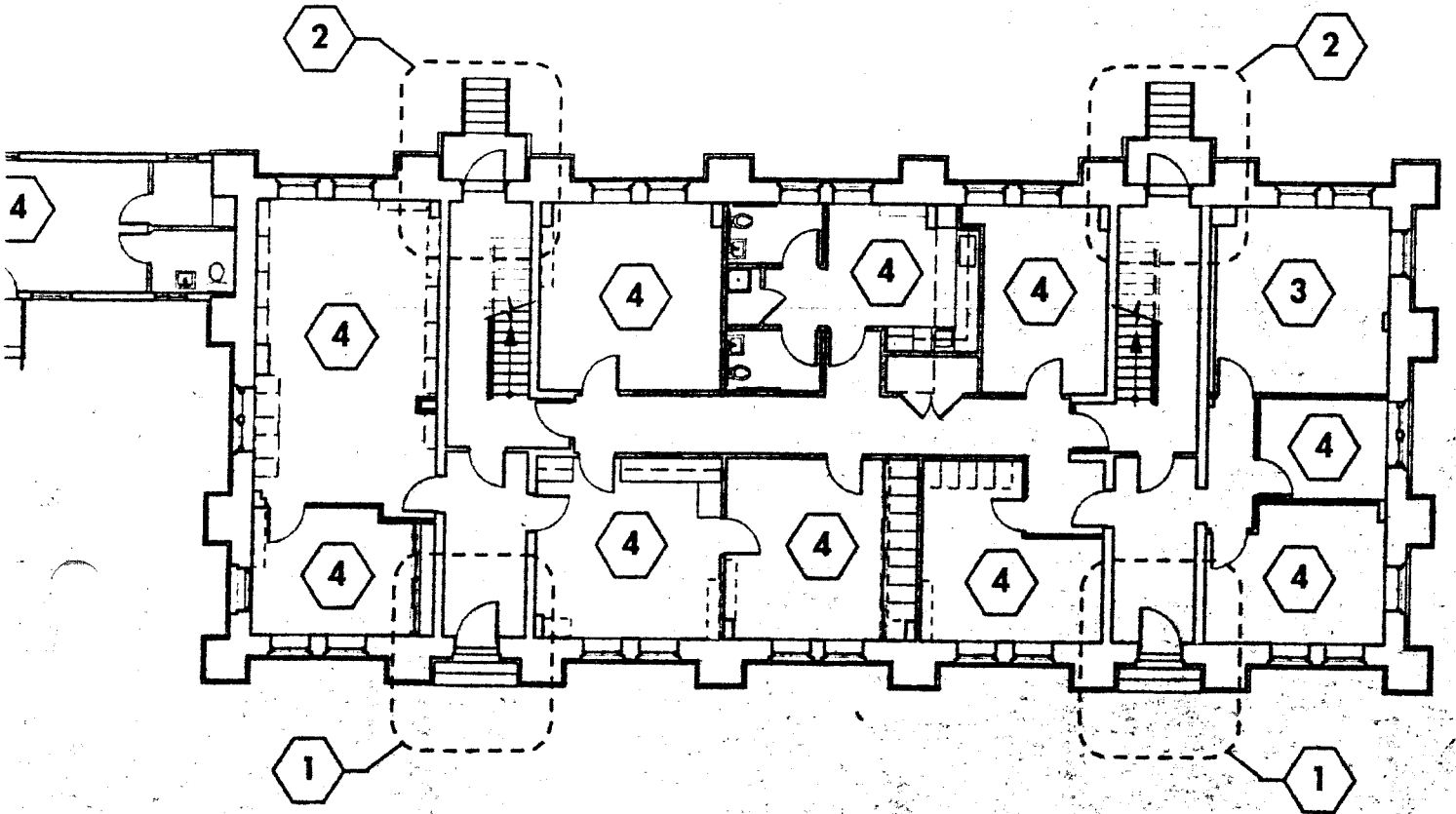
FAX 410.268.2965



C14
A001

First Floor Plan- Sequence Notes

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"

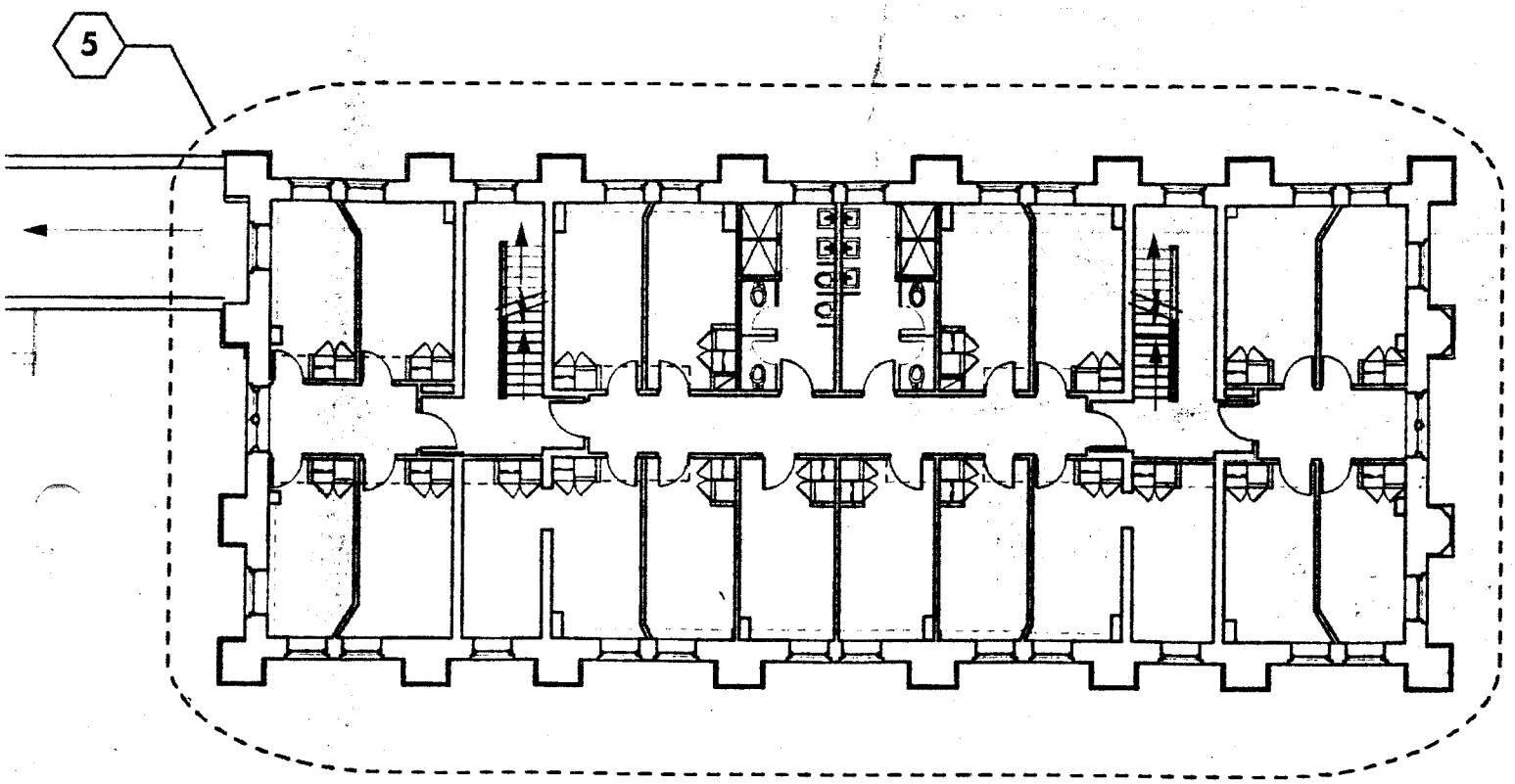
AA-674

Pinkney Hall

St. John's College

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

ALT BREEDING SCHWARZ
ARCHITECTS
Architecture • Planning
Interior Design
209 MAIN STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
410.268.1213



E14
A001

Second Floor Plan- Sequence Notes

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"

AA-674

Pinkney Hall

St. John's College

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

AA-674

HABS-EODC
Form 3B
VII.15.1959

MD 275
BLUE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Historian's Work Sheet for "Photo-data Books" (Part I)

Name of Structure Pinkney Hall

Address Maryland, Anne Arundel, Annapolis, St John's College Campus
State, county, township, locality, street address or location

Present Owner (give address) St John's College

Present Occupant Male students of St John's College

Present Use Men's Dormitory

Brief Statement of Significance (historical): Pinkney Hall was built as a dormitory in 1855-57, when the College was expanding, however it was not actually occupied by students until after the Civil War, during which time it served as part of the Union Troop Hospital at St John's.

PHYSICAL HISTORY (All statements shall be documented)

Original and subsequent owners

St John's College

Date of Erection Begun 1855, finished 1857 (letter to HBVG from Messrs. Spragle and Caulk)

Architect Nathan G Starkweather

Builder, suppliers, etc.

Daniel Spragle and David Caulk (See attached notes, Section I)

Original plans, construction, etc.

No record.

Notes on alterations and additions

The interior has been modernized to comply more readily with the demands of a twentieth century dormitory. This modernization required a near-gutting of the building. As a result, although the exterior is basically unchanged, the interior is almost totally new.

AA-674

HISTORICAL EVENTS CONNECTED WITH STRUCTURE

Pinkney Hall was named for William Pinkney, a distinguished statesman and son of Annapolis. During his career he was minister to England and Russia, Attorney-General under President Madison, and Member of the State Legislature. Pinkney's special significance for the college rests in the fact that he protested strongly the legislature's withdrawal of funds from the college in 1805, and that he is the only documented student of the old King Williams' School. During the Civil War this building was used as part of the Union Army Hospital set up on the college campus.

Important old views (with location) Forbes Collection of Photographs: #168, #846(with a battalion in front of), #181. Picture Files, St John's College, Annapolis

Sources of information (with location) Buildings file, Registrar's Office, St John's College, Annapolis
Minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors of St John's College, 1854-1858, Hall of Records, Annapolis

Likely sources not yet investigated

Prepared by Florence T Dunbar — Research Staff, Historic Annapolis, Inc.

Date October, 1964

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOCUMENTATION

Published references: Give author's full name, exact title from title page (underlined), publisher, place of publication, date, page references.

Manuscript references: Give location of manusctipt and note if long-hand or typed. Cite "from," "to," date, etc.

Interviews: If information came from a personal interview, give complete name and address of informant.

CONTINUATIONS: Any of the above entries may be continued on additional sheets. Exact transcripts in quotes from pertinent documents are especially welcomed as appendices or otherwise.

construction could begin in 1856, to be completed in time for opening of the fall term of 1857.

There is no existing record of the exact date of completion of Pinkney Hall. J.G. Proud, in his eulogy on Humphreys (dec. January 1857) delivered on 5 August 1857, speaks of the Hall as "just erected and as yet nameless". The college circular for 1856-1857 mentions the building as "a fine large edifice" that would have accommodations for about one hundred students besides suites for assistant professors and tutors, but which was not completed.

29 December, 1857: Minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors: Resolved: That the Building Committee be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for such funds as may be required to make the pavements, enclosures, and other necessary preparations for the new College Buildings out of any unappropriated money not exceeding five hundred dollars.

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AA-674

PINKNEY HALL: ADDITIONAL NOTES

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AA-674

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AA-674
HABS
MD,
2-ANNA,
63-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

St. John's College, Pinkney Hall
College Avenue
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-275

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer 1964

MD-275-1 PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

MD-275-2 SOUTHEAST END

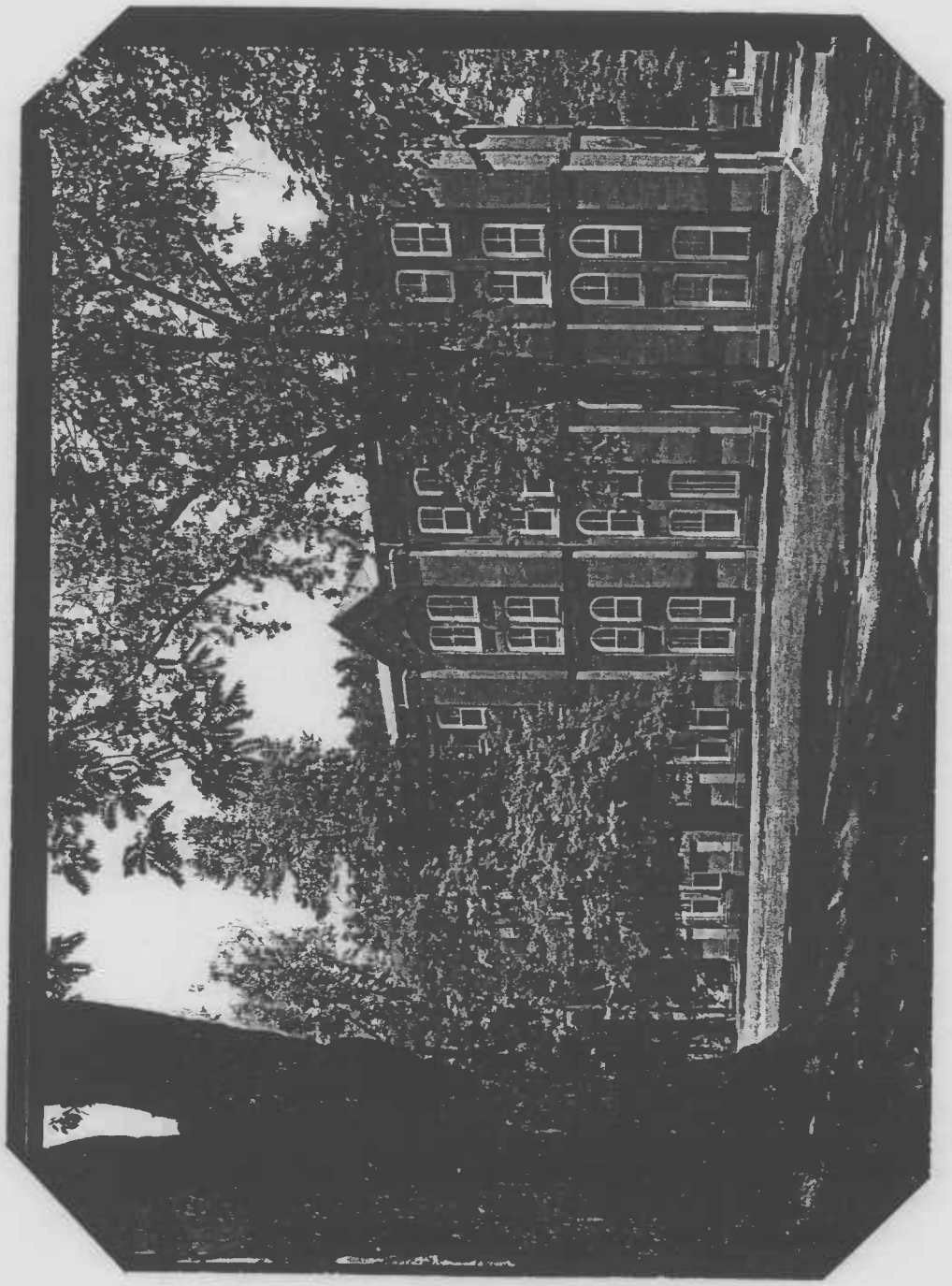
MD-275-3 SOUTHEAST END, DETAIL OF CENTRAL FIRST FLOOR WINDOW

AA-674

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. MD-275-1

HABS
MD,
2-ANNA
63-1



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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

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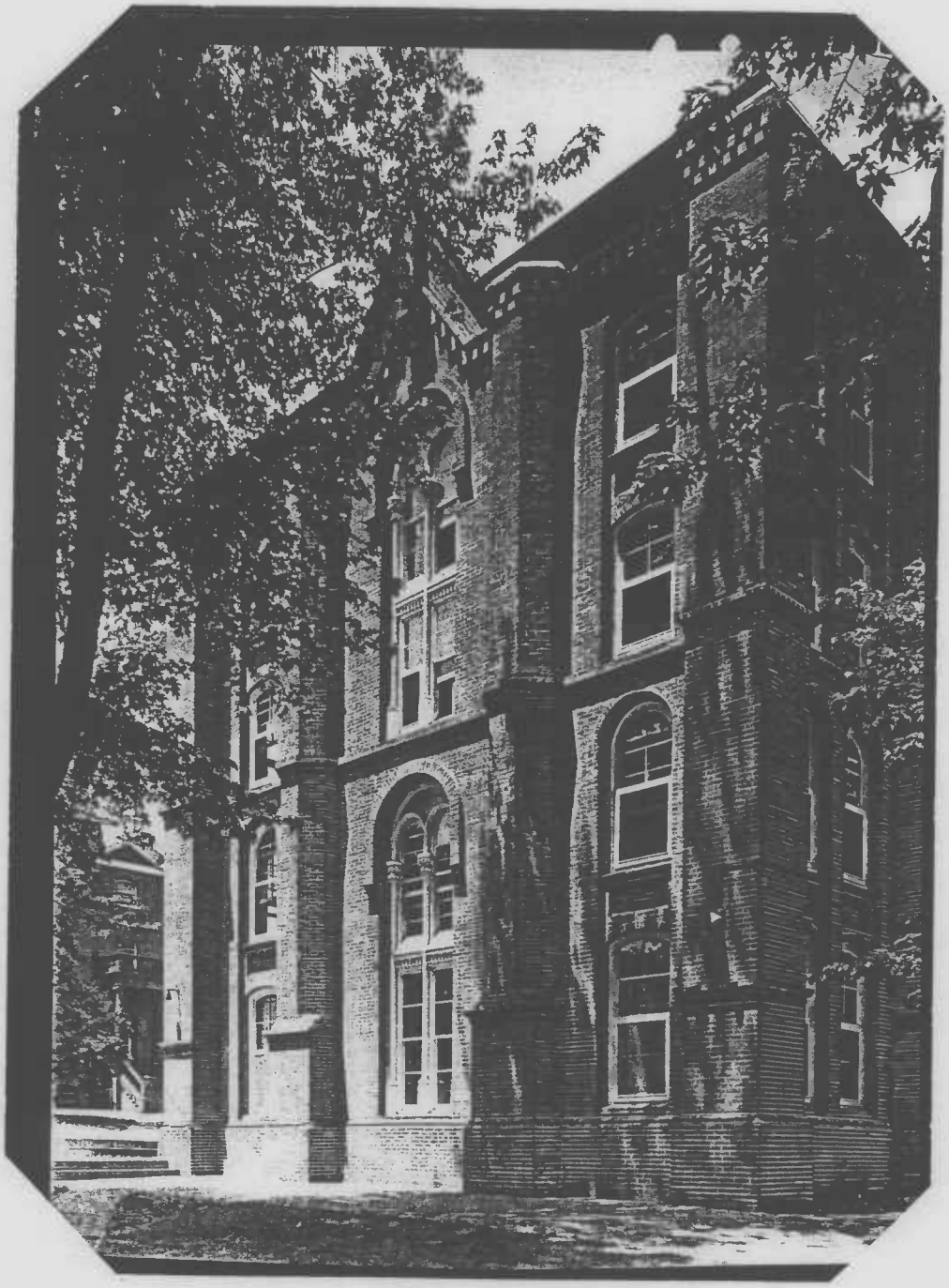
2-ANNA
63-2



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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

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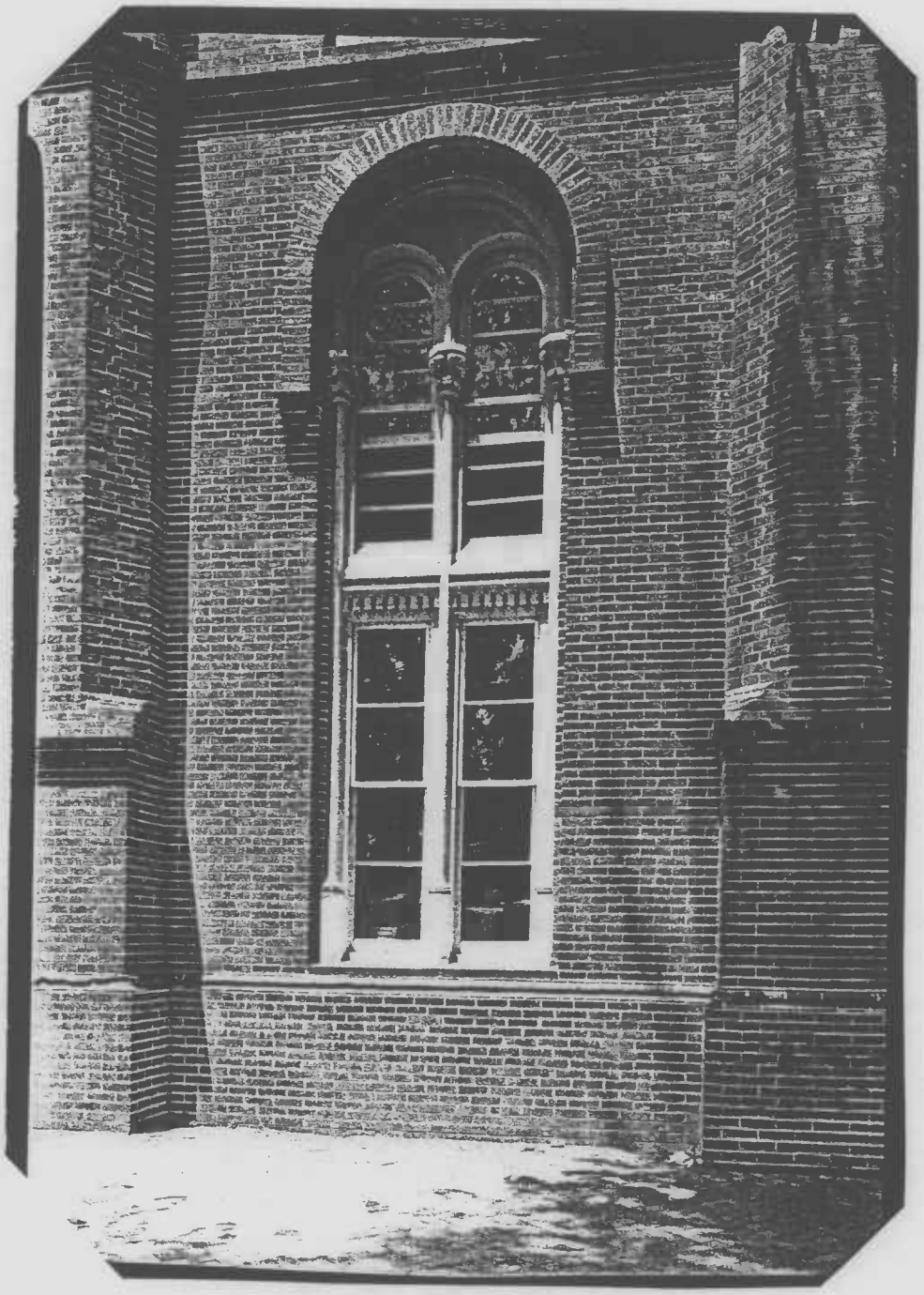
2-ANNA,
63-3



HABS AA-674
MD,
2-ANNA,
63-

Form 10-920
(June 1983)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
Maryland	Anne Arundel	Annapolis

HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE *(INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)*
St. John's College, Pinkney Hall

HABS NO. MD-275

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE

COMPLETE ADDRESS *(DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)*
College Avenue

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION *(INCLUDE SOURCE)*
1855-57

ARCHITECT(S) *(INCLUDE SOURCE)*
Nathan G. Starkweather

SIGNIFICANCE *(ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)*

A mid-nineteenth century college dormitory largely preserved in its original form.

STYLE *(IF APPROPRIATE)*
Vaguely Romanesque Revival

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION *(INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)*
Brick laid in all-stretcher bond. Brick bearing exterior walls and major partitions.

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE *(SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)*
Rectangular, four stories, about 40' x 95'. First floor; there are two lateral halls connected by a central longitudinal hall, forming an H from which rooms (cont'd. p.2)

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE
Buttresses of brick, 3'6" wide by 1'11" deep, which separate the bays; window openings which are segmental arched, except those of the second story which are semi-circular; paired windows with wood columns at the jambs and mullion, set within (cont'd. p.2)

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE *(DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)*

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES
1860-65 served as part of the Troop Hospital at St. John's.
1942 chimney tower removed.
Interior modernized to comply with the demands of modern dorm living.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE
Men's Dormitory

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE
Pinkney Hall was named for William Pinkney, minister to England and Russia, Attorney General under Madison, and member of the State Legislature. Pinkney protested the Legislature's withdrawal of College funding in 1805, an action which (cont'd. p.2)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION *(INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)*
Building File, Registrar's Office, St. John's College, Annapolis.
Minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors of St. John's College, 1854-1856, Hall of Records, Annapolis. (Cont'd. p.2)

COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE
Eleni Silverman from reports submitted by: Florence Dunbar (Oct. 1964) and Harley J. McKee (August 13, 1964).	3/9/84

AA-674

SHAPE AND DIMENSION OF STRUCTURE (CONT'D):

open toward each side. Upper floors: similar to the first in plan, except that the two halves are not connected.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (CONT'D):

semi-circular arched two story openings (central bay southeast end); hip roof; narrow gable at the center of each side; sheet metal roof; corbel cornice of brick

OTHER INFORMATION APPROPRIATE (CONT'D):

endeared him to the college.

For further historical information on the construction of the dormitory see data pages 3-5.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Including listing on National Register, State Registers, Etc. (CONT'D):

Forbes Collection of Photographs #168, #181 and #846 (with a battalion in front).

18.CONT'D! PINKNEY HALL: ADDITIONAL NOTES

Section 1: Mssrs. Spragle and Caulk, the contractors for Pinkney Hall, were dissatisfied with the progress of the building and in May of 1857 wrote a letter of complaint to the Board of Governors and Visitors of the college, stating that they had already spent considerably more than their estimated cost of construction, primarily due to the lack of cooperation from the architect.

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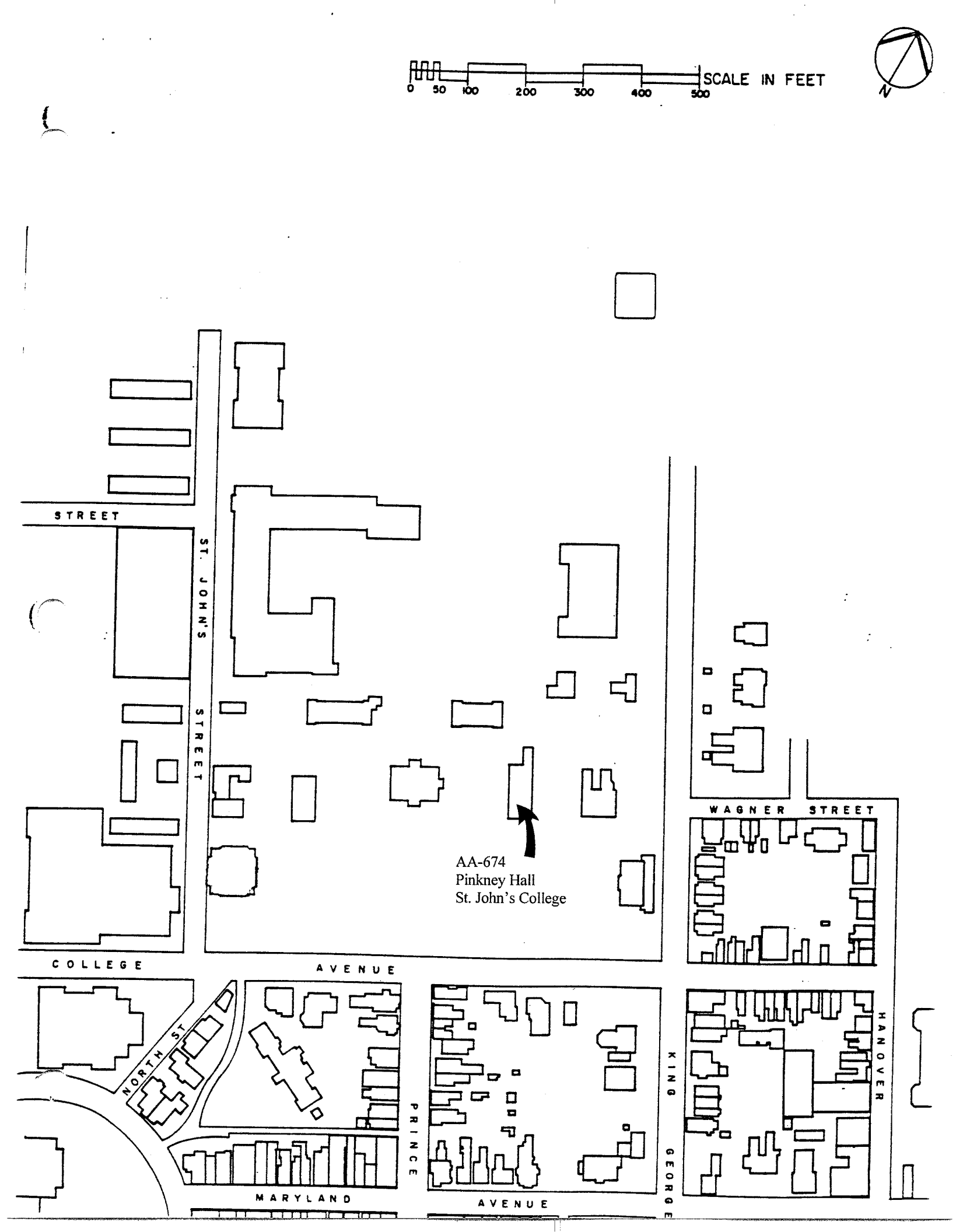
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SCALE IN FEET
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ST. JOHN'S
STREET
AA-674
Pinkney Hall
St. John's College
WAGNER STREET
COLLEGE AVENUE
NORTH ST.
PRINCE
MARYLAND
AVENUE
KING GEORGE
HANOVER

AA-674
PINKNEY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
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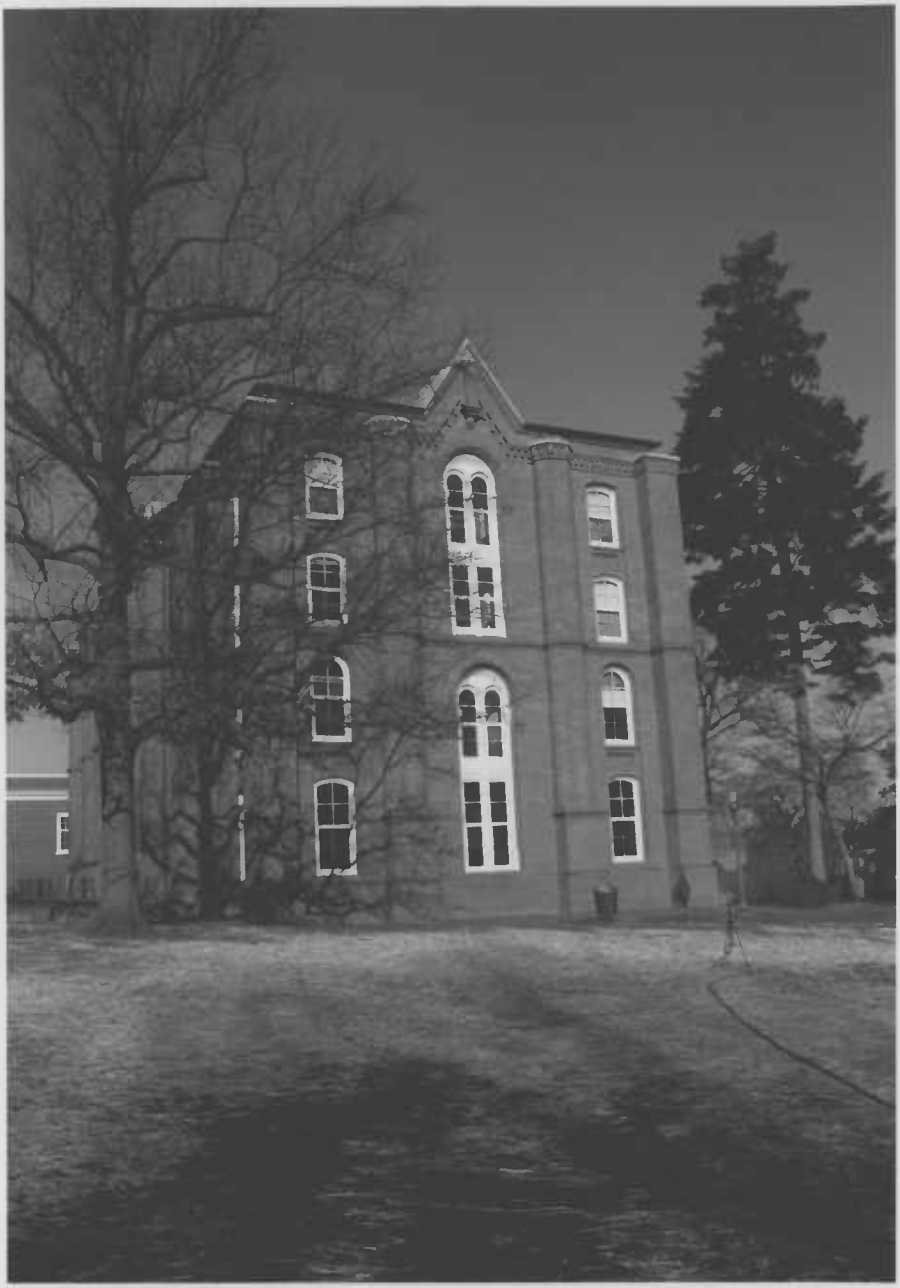
MD SHPO
SW ELEVATION, LOOKING NE
1 OF 7



AA-674
PINKNEY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
1/00
MD SHPO
SE ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH
2 OF 7

AA-674
PINKNEY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
1/00
MD SHPO
NE ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST
3 OF 7

AA-674
PINKNEY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
1/00
MD SHPO
NW ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH
4 OF 7

AA-674
PINKNEY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
1/00
MARYLAND SHPO
FIRST FLOOR, EAST CORNER, LOOKING EAST
5 OF 7

AA-674
PINKNEY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS
TRACERIES
1/00
MARYLAND SHPO
SECOND FLOOR STAIR, LOOKING NE
6 OF 7

AA-674
PINKNEY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
1/00
MARYLAND SHPO
SECOND FLOOR, LOOKING NW
7 OF 7

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: AA 674

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: St. John's
COMMON NAME: Pinkney Hall
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Map 31 Par 20
OWNER: St. John's College
ADDRESS: College Ave. Annapolis, MD 21401
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: HABS
Local ( ) State ( ) National (✓)

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: William Pinkney Hall
PRESENT USE: Classrooms-Dormitory
ORIGINAL USE: Dormitory
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent (X) Good ( )
Fair ( ) Poor: ( )
THEME:
STYLE: Italianate-Gothic
DATE BUILT: 1858

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
Structural System
1. Foundation: Stone (X) Brick ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
2. Wall Structure
   A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam ( ) Balloon ( )
   B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick (X) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
   C. Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard ( ) Board and Batten ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( )
   Novelty ( ) Stucco ( ) Sheet Metal ( ) Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( )
   Brick Veneer (X) Stone Veneer ( ) Asbestos Shingle ( )
   Bonding Pattern: Common Other:
4. Roof Structure
   A. Truss: Wood (X) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
   B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate (X) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal ( )
   Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches ( ) Towers ( ) Cupolas ( ) Dormers ( ) Chimneys ( ) Sheds ( ) Ells ( )
Wings ( ) Other:
Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip ( ) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel ( ) Jerkinhead ( )
Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( ) With False Front ( )
Other:
Number of Stories: 4
Number of Bays: 3 x 6
Approximate Dimensions: 40 x 95
Entrance Location: Cent in F + Sides

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat (X) Zoning ( ) Roads ( )
Development ( ) Deterioration ( )
Alteration ( ) Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive ( ) Negative ( )
Mixed ( ) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION: AA-674

Low roof hidden by parapet wall with peaked gables at the central bays of all walls; rich corbeled brick cornice swells around massive pilaster like butresses that define the window bays, with windows arranged invertical rows elliptical at the first, paired in the long walls, single in the end walls, round arched at the second, elliptical at the third and fourth. End walls have paired two story tall units in the central bay, each enclosed with a single round arch with brick drip mold, the spandrels between floors paneled in wood. These window units are flanked by full height semi-octagonal pilasters on square bases.

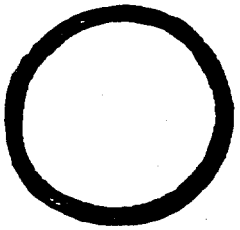
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Exceptional Gothic Revival, built to compliment Humphrey Hall. Dedicated in 1857 and named after WIlliam Pinkney, who had served as minister to England and to Russia as well as Attorney General under Madison. Critical to townscape of the campus.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
Open Lane( )Woodland( )Scattered Buildings( )
Moderately Built Up( )Densely Built Up( )
Residential( )Commercial( )
Agricultural( )Industrial( )
Roadside Strip Development( )
Other:

RECORDED BY: Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION: Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED: Aug. 1983

AA-674 ✓

020674/502

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland
COUNTY
TOWN VICINITY
STREET NO. St. John's Campus
ORIGINAL OWNER St. John's College
ORIGINAL USE Dormitory
PRESENT OWNER St. John's College
PRESENT USE Dormitory/ Administration
WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
NO. OF STORIES 4

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

2. NAME Pinkney Hall
DATE OR PERIOD 1857
STYLE Gothic Revival
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

Built as a later match to Humphrey Hall, Pinkney Hall is also a good example of Gothic Revival architecture of the Southern Military style (see St. Mary's Church) like the A. J. Davis buildings at Virginia Military Institute. Though much of the marvelous decorative pinnacles have been removed it still retains a military like quality with its double arched windows between brick buttresses. The Gothic Revival, particularly that of the South, is only beginning to be appreciated; Pinkney Hall, especially as a copy of Humphrey Hall should be preserved.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

5

Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH Sources: I.M.Pei, H.A., Inc.

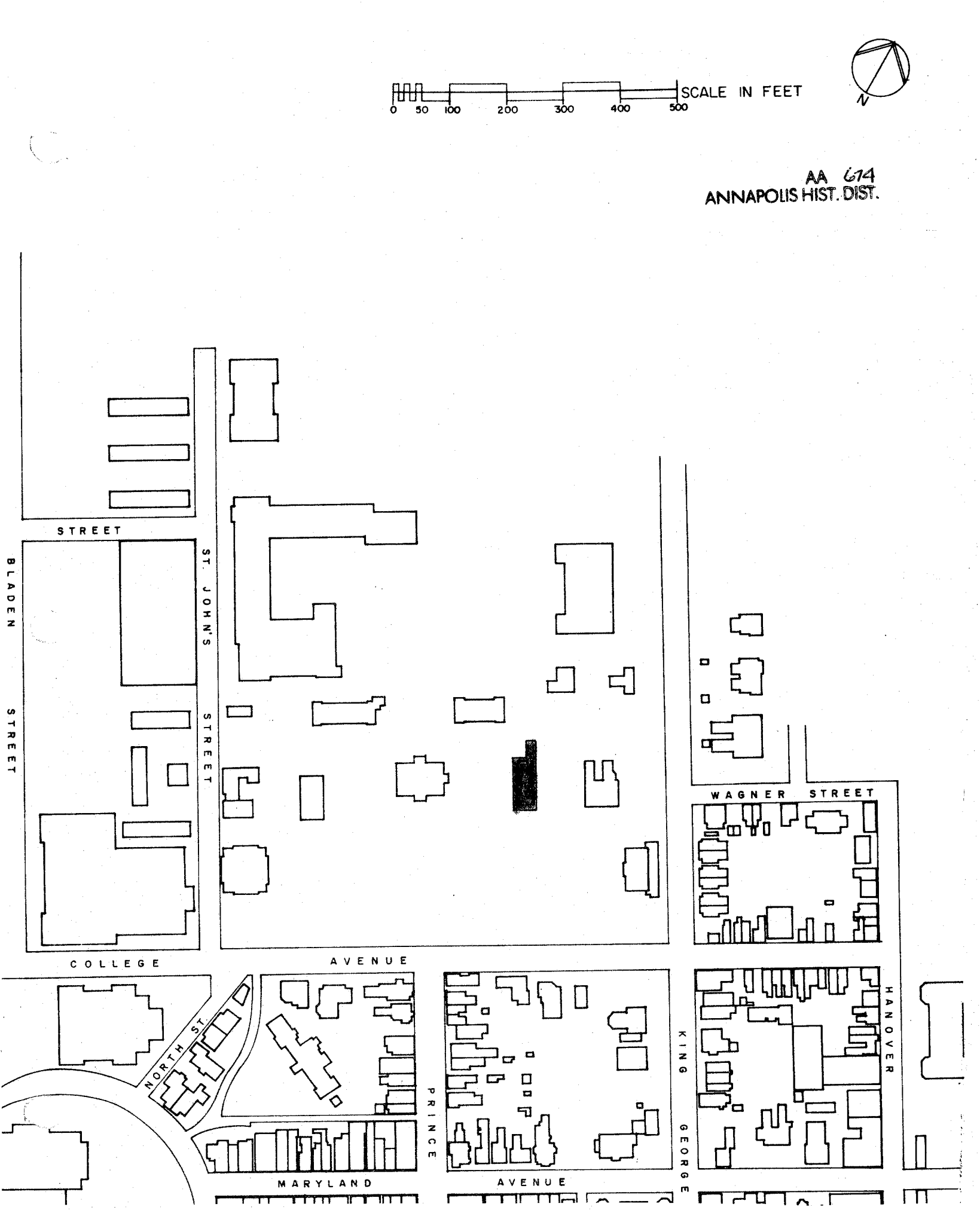
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

William D. Morgan
Columbia University
New York City

DATE OF RECORD August 22, 1967

5409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AA 614
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.
STREET
ST. JOHN'S
STREET
BLADEN
STREET
WAGNER STREET
COLLEGE
AVENUE
NORTH ST.
PRINCE
MARYLAND
AVENUE
KING GEORGE
HANOVER

Pinkney
St. John's AA 674
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
Russell Wright July, 1982
Maryland Historical Trust,
Annapolis, Maryland
SE Elevation/camera facing NW

Pinkney Hall AA 674

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

SE Elevation/camera facing NW