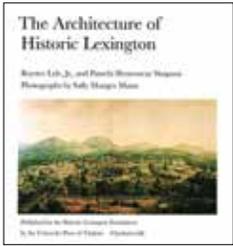


THE ARCHITECTURE OF HISTORIC ROCKBRIDGE is available now! It's a fitting companion to *The Architecture of Historic Lexington* (1977)



by Royster Lyle Jr. and Pamela Hemenway Simpson, with photographs by Sally Mann (who contributed several to the new volume as well).

The Architecture of Historic Rockbridge reflects the wonderfully rich and diverse architectural history of Rockbridge County, Virginia, including Lexington and Buena Vista. Organized thematically, the book traces the area's architecture from the 18th century through the post-World War II period.



1

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The new volume, in a

2



Photos, all from *The Architecture of Historic Rockbridge*:

- 1 R. E. Lee Hotel
- 2 Nannie Jordan House, Lexington, 1930s; Arcade Building (detail), Buena Vista
- 3 Willson House, also known as Tuckaway
- 4 Ann Smith Academy

Special Collections, W&L

3



J. D. Pezzoni

museum catalogue-quality hardbound edition, is abundantly illustrated with more than 300 images, about half in full color. It's not only exhaustively researched but also that rare literary bird: a work

of important scholarship that's engagingly written. Its 330 pages will captivate armchair readers and historians alike.

The author, J. Daniel Pezzoni, is an architectural historian and preservation consultant who has written or edited more than ten county architectural histories since 1995.



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4

TEN
Preservation

IN 1939 an "uncared-for and forlorn" house on Lexington's Main Street came under imminent threat of demolition. The Nannie Jordan House, also known at the time as the James R. Jordan House, had come to the attention of the community four years earlier when historic architect A. G. Lambert studied it while on an inspection tour of Public Works Administration activities at VMI. Lambert offered a glowing report to the community: "Lexington should prize and preserve this fine example of early American architecture. It is certainly one of the best examples of small two-story eighteenth century frame houses standing in Virginia today." Lambert admired the house's "superb" modillion cornice, its beaded weatherboards attached by wrought nails "with no attempt to conceal the heads, as we do in modern work," and a Flemish bond chimney with an unusual decorative detail: vertical lines of glazed headers which followed "both sides of the chimneys to the 'haunches' [shoulders]."

The threatened house, which was believed to date to within a few years of the town's establishment in 1778, galvanized interest in historic preservation. Among those whose interest was piqued was Ruth Anderson McCulloch, who was "fired [with] an impulse to try to hand together in this community, those interested in preserving its historical landmarks." McCulloch discussed her idea of a history and preservation society with friends at a Fourth of July party at her home Wee Dornoch (her name for the Willson House or Tuckaway, misspelled in recent years as Wee Darnock), and by the end of the year



Facing page: The Nannie Jordan House in Lexington, funded by the Wilson-Walker House (left) and a corner of the Foundry Building (right) in a 1930s photo snapped shortly before the house was demolished. Courtesy RHS, W&L

Above: Detail of the Arcade Building, Buena Vista. Photo by Dan Pezzoni

J. D. Pezzoni

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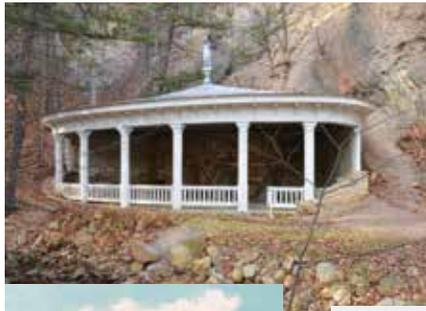
Maury Hanson



2

VMI Archives

5



Arthur Bartenstein

Library of Virginia



6



7

Sally Mann

Photos, all from *The Architecture of Historic Rockbridge*:

- 1 A. J. Davis design for VMI Superintendent's Home, 1860
- 2 Tiffany window, Bethesda Presbyterian Church
- 3 Storage building, near Effinger
- 4 Main Street, Lexington, 1860s
- 5 Pavilion, Rockbridge Alum Springs
- 6 Canal near mouth of the Maury River, by Edward Beyer, 1858
- 7 William G. McDowell House, Preston Street, Lexington

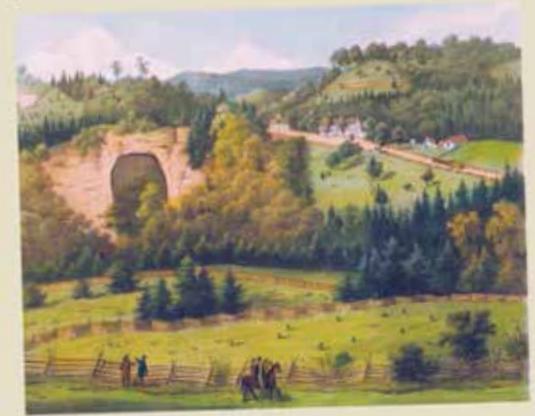
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