



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA  
Office of the Architect for the University

May 21, 2015

Re: Historic Designations of the Academical Village

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the proposal that the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, together with the state and national register listings of Thomas Jefferson's buildings and grounds at the University of Virginia (the "Academical Village"), foster a level of stewardship and improvement that are an innovative and unique approach to sustainability and to the presentation of the historical and cultural importance of the University.

These multiple historic designations provide a framework and a strong impetus for preserving the architecture and landscape of the University's original campus, and help to explain the history and particular culture of the institution. This focus on preservation has had collateral sustainability- and education-focused results:

- 1) Buildings of national and international consequence are preserved, with most being used as they were originally intended and some being made available to the general public. The act of preservation is, in and of itself, a significant sustainability effort.
- 2) The renovations have placed significant emphasis on making the buildings functional in a contemporary setting and on having them align with larger University goals, so their systems and fixtures have been rigorously designed for economy and sustainability. The two most recent pavilion renovations have been LEED certified; Pavilion IX was, briefly, the oldest building to have achieved that status.
- 3) The extensive research that precedes these projects – physical, archival, and archaeological – has helped to reveal the complexity of the institution's history, from Jefferson's aspirations for the school through its evolution as teaching began; and has illuminated the roles that faculty, students, staff, and, importantly, enslaved and free African-Americans played in the creation and operation of the University of Virginia.

As the Senior Historic Preservation Planner, I work to understand, document, and preserve the physical and cultural history of the University. The World Heritage Site designation that we share with Monticello, and the state and national designations, provide additional encouragement to preserve and to continue research into the buildings and people that formed the original campus, and into the history of the school as it evolved to reflect its early and ongoing success. This research will be integral in the development of a new visitors center as part of the current Rotunda Renovation project (which anticipates LEED certification). The new exhibits and interactive elements will tell the story of the University community as a whole for the first time, and one interactive module in the exhibit will feature the project's sustainability efforts.

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National and international recognition of the original campus of the University of Virginia has fostered an appreciation of the buildings and landscape that Thomas Jefferson created and of the buildings and site as they have evolved. Perpetuating the active use of the complex and its integral role in the daily life of the institution have compelled us toward thoughtful preservation of the historic fabric and landscapes, and integration of high-performing and efficient systems that make these places comfortable – and highly desirable – even as they approach their 200th anniversary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian E. Hogg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "B".

Brian E. Hogg

Senior Historic Preservation Planner  
Office of the Architect for the University