

Residence Hall History at JMU

1908 — 1930



Jackson Hall

Originally called “Dormitory No. 1,” when it was built in 1909, Jackson housed sixty-four students and the dormitory mother. The Hall was named after Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

1909 ●



The Cleveland Cottage

Built around 1900, and bought with original parcel of land for the school. Housed three of the faculty and nine students. Demolished in 1959.

● 1908

Ashby Hall



As enrollment increased (over 300 students in 1911), the school’s second official dormitory was built. Named for Confederate General Turner Ashby.

● 1911

Shenandoah Hall

Named for the surrounding valley and river, Shenandoah Hall was leased until 1948 when it was purchased by the college. Housed some of the first men on campus in the 1960s.

Demolished in 2006.

● 1922

● 1923



Spotswood Hall

Originally known as “Dormitory No. 3,” Spotswood housed seventy-six students when it opened. Named after Colonial Governor Alexander Spotswood who led the first English expedition into the Shenandoah Valley.

1917 ●

1920 ●

Zirkle House

Built in 1920 and named for the original family owners.

Demolished in 2006

1924 ●

Wellington Hall

Sixty-four students moved into the Hall in 1924 which was built by Dr. E. R. Miller and leased to the school until it was purchased in 1947.

Demolished in 2006.

1925 ●

Baker House

Named for its last resident, Bessie Stokes Spitzer Baker, the Baker house was built in 1925 and housed male students in the 1960s until men’s dorms were completed.

1926 ●

Lincoln House

Established in 1926, and first used as a dormitory in the 1930s as enrollment increased. Demolished in 2006.



Sheldon Hall

Construction began in 1923, but was not completed until 1927, when 120 students moved in. Named for Edward A. Sheldon. Now houses offices.

● 1929

Johnston Hall



Named for Professor James C. Johnston and his wife Althea. The Hall was the first completely fireproof building on campus in 1929. Used as a dormitory into the 1960s.