

By Lantern Light: Transcript

Welcome to William & Mary. This tour will dive into iconic locations around the Sunken Garden and the buildings that are so much more than the classes taught in them every day. The tour will move in a clockwise fashion. After each building, you will be offered the opportunity to pause and speak to one of our interpreters. When you're ready to move to the next location, please resume reading.

Begin the tour by making your way to Ewell Hall. Finished in 1926, Ewell Hall was the first building in the University's first comprehensive plan. It was originally known as Phi Beta Kappa Hall, after America's first fraternity. Phi Beta Kappa was founded by five William & Mary students in the winter of 1776. These students joined together to privately meet at the Raleigh Tavern's *Apollo Room* in what we now call Colonial Williamsburg. The *Apollo Room* at the tavern was a popular meeting hall for not only students, but also members of the House of Burgesses and passionate colonists during the American Revolution. And as you can imagine, between the students and the colonists, the Apollo Room held some secrets. Through the Revolutionary War the society was able to expand, move their Apollo Room to Ewell Hall on campus, and is now one of the most well-known honor societies in the nation. Ewell's Apollo Room is now home to the Dean of Arts and Sciences Office. Over the years, the building has served many roles as the main auditorium, a women-only residence hall, and home to the national headquarters of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1957, the building was reconstructed after a fire thanks to a major donation from John D. Rockefeller Jr., and the hall was renamed after Benjamin Ewell, the University's 16th president. Pause here if you have any questions or want to learn more.

– *Once you're ready, follow the lights to the next stop.*

You are now making your way to Washington Hall, named after America's first president, George Washington. In William & Mary's royal charter, the English crown gave the University permission to act as Surveyor-General of the Colony of Virginia. As a result, land surveys were a popular hobby for our founding fathers, and while George Washington did not attend William & Mary, he did hold a surveyor's license from the University ... we still prefer to think of him as an alum!

- *Pause here if you have any questions or want to learn more.*
- *Once you're ready, follow the lights to the next stop.*

As you start walking, don't forget to look left at the statue in between Washington and your next stop. You might recognize the statue as one of our more notable alumni, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson started at the University in 1760 and then later learned law under George Wythe, the first law professor at William & Mary. After learning law, Jefferson went on to develop the plans for the University of Virginia, located just a few hours from here. In 1779 Thomas Jefferson was elected the governor of Virginia. However notable Jefferson is, he was not quite as adept at managing his funds. He was able to acquire money from the University to help with his worsening financial situation, which was due in part to the establishment of the University of Virginia. In doing so, he incurred a substantial debt and was never able to fully pay off his loans before he passed, actually contributing to the University's closure due to bankruptcy in the 1880s before reopening in 1888. Over a hundred years later, William & Mary was gifted the statue by UVA in hopes of forgiving Jefferson's debt.

You're now coming up to McGlothlin-Street Hall, originally called Tercentenary Hall to honor the University's 300th anniversary when the building was finished in 1995. It took us a while, but McGlothlin-Street Hall finishes the 70-year-long "Modern Campus" Master Plan – though many students now call it "Old Campus". Our 1997 Chancellor, former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, dedicated the hall to James McGlothlin and Nicholas Street. McGlothlin is an alumnus of the University and both him and Street donated millions of dollars to support the Wren renovations, the Swem Library expansion, and the enhancement of the Marshall-Wythe Law Library.

- *Pause here if you have any questions or want to learn more.*
- *Once you are ready follow the lights down into the sprawling green space behind you. For a more accessible entrance, take a left and follow the signs around to the other side of the Sunken Garden. Keep reading as you walk!*

You are now walking through the Sunken Garden. It was first designed in the early 1920's by college architect Charles Robinson and is the centerpiece of the University's first comprehensive plan. He based his design off a landscaping piece in England by Christopher Wren. Huh, that name sounds familiar ... Before it was a sunken garden, though, it was a campground for the colonies to unite against the British. This specific campground was under the command of Colonel Patrick Henry. These days it's a multipurpose area for students to relax after class or hold club meetings when the weather is nice. If you are looking for a possible ghost encounter on our historic campus, I would look up, because the green space hasn't always been sunken. It is said that ghosts follow the blueprints of the space as they knew it, and many people have reported seeing the ghost of a young Indigenous boy running a few feet above the garden as if it were still flat.

Now, it's difficult to see this late at night, but in the woods at the back of the Sunken Garden lies Crim Dell Bridge. The bridge was a gift from the Class of 1964 and, according to campus lore, if a couple walks across the bridge, they will inevitably marry. To reverse this destiny, one half of the couple can throw their partner off the bridge. Beware of crossing the bridge alone, or you'll be destined to spend your life in solitude. As a part of the graduation tradition, all seniors will walk over the bridge together to signify the unification of the class.

- *Pause here till you make it to the other side of the lighted path and up the stairs, or once you're in front of the next brick building.*

You have now made it over to the other side of the Sunken Garden and are standing in front of James Blair Hall. It was built in 1935 and first held the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. Fun fact: America's first law school was established here, at William & Mary. Remember that Jefferson studied under George Wythe, the first Law Professor. The 'Marshall' half of the law school's name commemorates one of Wythe's proteges, John Marshall - the man we can thank for the basic duties of the Supreme Court. While Blair Hall first held the law school, it is now home to our History and Philosophy Departments. If you notice to the left side of the building, there is a little area with 3 bronze statues. This is Tyler Garden. Go take a look, you might recognize one of the Tyler busts as the 10th U.S. president. If you get the chance, stand in the middle of the statues facing the brick wall and whisper – the speaker alone will hear their whisper echo back to them.

- *Pause here if you have any questions, want to learn more, or want to check out The Tyler Garden.*
- *Once you're ready, follow the lights to the next stop.*

After Blair Hall, you'll be passing the James Blair Statue. Blair was the primary individual to argue in favor of our royal charter, and he became our very first president. He served for 50 years, from 1693 to 1743, and remains the longest serving president of the University *and* the eighth longest serving college president in U.S. history. The statue was dedicated in 1993 as part of our tercentenary celebration and was sculpted by a professor of art at the University.

The building following the statue is Chancellors Hall. Built in 1927, it was originally intended to host science programs, and it was first named after former William & Mary professor and founder of MIT, William Barton Rogers. Chancellors Hall has seen a few fires in its time – the first being in March of 1930. Most of the roof and third floor were lost in the fire, and temporary roofing was put up so classes could continue until restoration began in the summer.

Fires notwithstanding, the hall has quite a history, with a revolving door of departments leading the charge. In 1975 it housed the Development Office, the Metropolitan Criminal Justice Center, the National Center for State Courts, the Anthropology Department, the Adult Skills Program, and the Publication Office. A renovation in 1980 turned it into the original home of our School of Business. When the business school moved locations in 2009, the University renamed the building “Chancellors Hall” to honor the many chancellors of this campus like George Washington, Margaret Thatcher, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, and currently Robert Gates. The hall aptly holds the Government, Economics, International Relations, and Public Policy departments.

- *Pause here if you have any questions or want to learn more.*
- *Once you're ready, follow the lights to the next stop.*

You are now making your way to Tucker Hall! Built in 1908, it was the University’s first free-standing library. When the University built our current Earl Gregg Swem Library, the building became the new home to the law school, and now it holds the English department. Its namesake George Tucker was an author and law professor. If you ever get a chance to go inside, Tucker Hall has a unique floor design. In an effort to make the building accessible but maintain the original plans, the building has two second floors, making it feel like a bit of a maze. Beware of the third floor though, home to a well-known ghost at the University. Students have reported a ghost who will get very upset with students who are feeling confident in their late-night study habits and will try to mess up all their hard work. Just in front of Tucker is the James Monroe statue, depicting the 5th president of the United States. We’re called the Alma Mater of the Nation for a reason! Monroe enrolled in the University at 16, and though the Revolutionary War impeded his graduation, he did return to us to study law in 1780. The statue was sculpted by an alum and gifted to the University in 2015.

- *Pause here if you have any questions or want to explore the statue.*
- *Once you are ready, follow the lights to the front side of Wren.*

You are now making your way to the College Yard, or, as it's now called, Wren Yard. This makes up the extent of the original grounds of William & Mary. An important tradition we hold here at the University is the Senior Walk-Across-Campus. When students join the University, they will all collectively enter Wren from the yard during their first year at convocation, crossing through to the Sunken Garden. During Commencement, all graduating students will mirror that walk, crossing through the Wren from campus to the side facing Williamsburg, as if preparing to enter the world after their William & Mary studies.

As the oldest academic building still in use in the country, and having experienced three tragic fires in its lifetime, we take extra care to maintain our Wren Building.

- *Resume reading once you have made it just past the Wren into the Yard.*

On the left side of the college yard is the President's House, finished in 1733. It is the oldest official residence for a college president in the United States. At the tail end of the Revolutionary War, college president James Madison - not to get confused with his cousin, W&M alum and future U.S. president James Madison – was evicted by the British so they could occupy the Wren and the President's House. Fire then destroyed much of the house's interior, and both it and the Wren were taken over as a makeshift hospital for French soldiers. To this day, some professors have claimed to see apparitions of men in red uniforms slowly walking past their Wren office doors late in the night. After American colonists defeated the British at the Battle of Yorktown, the kingdom of France then donated funds to re-build the President's House.

Other less destructive fires in 1879, 1916, and 1922 — as well as various renovations — have taken their toll on the eighteenth-century interior of the building. However, the house was restored to its colonial appearance in 1931 as part of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Restoration of Williamsburg. The historic prestige of the President's House has drawn intrigue, and it has hosted almost every U.S. president from the 20th century and many foreign dignitaries like Queen Elizabeth and Winston Churchill.

- *If you follow the lighted path to the other side of the Wren Yard, you will see the Brafferton building.*

As religion was so intertwined with education in the 17th century, it was deemed necessary to educate Indigenous children in European religion and culture. The Indian School at William & Mary took its name from the Brafferton Estate, an agricultural manor in Yorkshire, England. Purchased by the executors of the scientist Robert Boyle, rents from the leased farmlands of the Brafferton Estate were used to support the Native students at William & Mary's Brafferton Indian School. Little is known about the day-to-day life at the school, but it is estimated about 125 Indigenous boys attended the school. The English crown cut off funding as a result of the Revolutionary War, causing the permanent closure of the school. The building has served many purposes over the years since the war. It has been a dining hall, various living quarters, and even classrooms. Since 1985, the Brafferton has housed the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost. The President's Office is currently occupied by William & Mary's first Female President, Katherine Rowe.

- *Pause here to look at the Brafferton building. When you're ready, head to the statue in the middle of the Wren Yard.*

This is the statue of Lord Botetourt, or Norborne Berkeley, the 4th Baron Botetourt. Berkeley was a rector of the college and a royally-appointed governor of Colonial Virginia. After his death in 1770, the Virginia General Assembly built a statue in his honor for the Capitol building in Williamsburg. When the statue was vandalized after the Capitol's move to Richmond, Virginia, William & Mary professors purchased the statue for \$100 and brought it back to campus in 1801. The original statue stood in front of the Wren until 1966 when the University transferred the statue into the bottom floor of Swem Library, where it still lives today. The current statue you see is a replica of the original 1772 statue. From the 1920s to the 1970s, campus tradition dictated that all first years had to salute Lord Botetourt as they passed the statue for good luck in their studies. Give him a salute for your student to grant them good luck on their midterms!

Our charter declares us a "place of universal study, a perpetual college of divinity, philosophy, languages, and other good arts and sciences, consisting of one president, six masters and professors, and a hundred scholars more or less." We've certainly changed a bit since then! We hope you learned something new about our historic campus throughout this tour. Feel free to talk to the interpreter if you want to learn more about the Wren Yard. Otherwise, this concludes your tour. Thank you for joining us on our journey to the past and enjoy the rest of your weekend!

End of Tour