

**Architectural Survey of Proposed WAC357A
Located at Aspinwall Hall within the Protestant
Episcopal Theological Seminary (100-0123)
3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Virginia**

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*Architectural Survey
WAC357A
Episcopal Seminary
3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Alexandria County,
Virginia, 22304*

The proposed T-Mobile telecommunications facility to be installed within the steeple and structure located at Aspinwall Hall, a building located within the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary also known as the Virginia Theological Seminary, will have no adverse effect upon Aspinwall Hall or upon the Seminary complex of which Aspinwall Hall is an integral part. The sole resource within the APE for direct effects is Aspinwall Hall within the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary also known as the Virginia Theological Seminary. The sole resource within the visual APE that is estimated to extend approximately 250-feet from the subject building includes only Aspinwall Hall and the surrounding grounds of the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary also known as the Virginia Theological Seminary. T-Mobile is proposing to delicately remove, using a specialty contractor, whatever existing historic materials need to be removed (namely existing windows and trim) and to have these materials stabilized and stored. They are also proposing to replace the removed historic materials with historically accurate, telecommunications-viable substitutes (namely windows and trim) and to fully camouflage and hide from view the proposed inserted telecommunications equipment. All proposed historic materials removals and replacement materials installations are proposed to be monitored by a qualified architectural historian monitor. In sum, these proposed steps will ensure that the historic character of the Seminary will be retained.

The Seminary complex, including Aspinwall Hall is located at 3737 Seminary Road in the City of Alexandria in Alexandria County, Virginia. The developments proposed to take place within Aspinwall Hall include the installation of antennas at approximately 71-feet and 77-feet above the ground surface, inside the existing steeple. These antennas are proposed to be mounted behind proposed historically accurate replacement, concealment window units that are proposed to replace existing historic window units following the monitored removal of the historic windows by a specialty contractor. The proposed historically accurate replacement window units are to be installed by the specialty contractor in order to camouflage the proposed antennas and to allow the antennas to function adequately. In addition, original trimwork is proposed to be reused or replaced with historically accurate replacements. Trim that cannot be reused will be stored. The installation of the replacement window units is also proposed to be

monitored by an architectural historian. Each of the two sets of antennas are proposed to be mounted behind two replacement concealment window units upon metal pipe stands that are to be secured to both the existing wood floor and existing wood ceiling using screws. One separate set of antennas is proposed to be mounted on a metal pipe stand supported with strut brackets that connect to existing wood walls with screws. This set of wall-mounted antennas is proposed to be installed in this fashion in order to preserve the existing, functional and historic Seminary bell. All telecommunications equipment cabinets are proposed to be mounted on a wood and metal framing system that is proposed to be attached to existing metal stair guardrails, existing wood flooring and to existing interior walls using screws and proposed overhead tie-back support struts. Electric and telco utility cables are proposed to travel from the locations of the proposed equipment mounted in the steeple through a proposed interior conduit pipe corridor to existing electrical panel boards located in the current Aspinwall Hall basement.

*Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary (100-0123).
Aspinwall Hall (Meeting/Fellowship Hall)*

The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary complex, also known as the Virginia Theological Seminary, is located in Alexandria County, at 3737 Seminary Road in the City of Alexandria. Aspinwall Hall, a contributing element of the Seminary is located in the proposed area of direct effect. Aspinwall Hall and much of the Seminary complex are located and within the approximate 250-foot visual APE.

In 1978 the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary complex was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. The complex was nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and in 1980 it was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places (VDHR DSS, 2009).

The date of initial Seminary complex construction is unknown but when the land was purchased by the American Episcopal Church in 1827 two Federal-style dwellings known as "Oakwood" and "Maywood" stood within the tract. An additional dwelling may have also stood upon the tract at the time of acquisition but it was likely razed sometime after purchase. Construction of the original portions of the current Seminary complex neared completion following the raising of Aspinwall Hall, in 1858. The remaining portions of the original complex consist of Oakwood and Maywood, that were built prior to 1827, a church/chapel built ca. 1840, a library (Francis Scott Key Hall) built in 1855, two dormitories or barracks (Meade Hall and Bohlen Hall) built ca. 1859, a meeting/fellowship hall (Aspinwall Hall) built in 1858 and one Colonial Revival dwelling that was probably completed sometime between 1870 and 1920 (VDHR, DSS 2009).

Aspinwall Hall was designed by Norris G. Starkweather, a regionally prominent architect of the antebellum period. Starkweather was contracted to build the Hall after the Seminary received donations from William A. and John L. Aspinwall. Aspinwall Hall is a massive vernacular structure that exhibits aspects of Gothic Revival, Italianate and Norman architectural influences (NRHP 2009, VDHR 2009). This ornate, three-story, five bay, common-bond brick building features a rectangular footprint and a high brick foundation. The north and the south elevations of this building were probably once nearly symmetrical to one another as were the east and the west elevations but currently this is not the case. The central-bay entryway on the east elevation may have once served as the main entry and this elevation may have once served as the functioning front of the building. At some point, probably during the 20th century, this situation changed and currently the central-bay entryway on the west elevation serves as the main access point to the interior and the west elevation serves as the functioning front of the structure. A three-story, centrally located, single-bay, slightly projecting gabled pavilion that features decorative entries and fenestration is located on both the front and the back elevations. Fenestration throughout the building includes; 4/2 light, 6/6 light and 8/3 light, sash windows that often involve decorative elements such as arched tracery, rubbed and gauged brick arches, and dentilated, corniced window heads.

The north and south elevations of the hall feature a wide, belt course that is not included on the east and west elevations and building corners feature squared pilasters constructed of rubbed and gauged brick. Cornices feature decorative, corbel-like brick work and the roof is hipped, low-pitched and covered with red, standing-seam metal. The roof is penetrated by a tall, centrally-located, very ornate, wood steeple that features a balustrade, brackets, round arches, arched window tracery and other aesthetic styling that is somewhat consistent with the main block of the structure. This steeple is capped with a somewhat squat, conical spire that appears to be covered with metal sheeting and that terminates with a cross as the finial.

In 1859 and 1860 the two Dormitory/Barracks (Bohlen Hall and Meade Hall) were constructed immediately northwest and southwest of the west elevation of Aspinwall Hall (VDHR DSS, 2009). These two buildings were both connected to Aspinwall Hall by pass-thru arches just after the turn of the century (Library of Congress, 2009). Very recently, the north hall was permanently connected to Aspinwall Hall with a modern brick addition that includes an elevator but the previously constructed arch remains intact.

The installation of the new telecommunications facility within Aspinwall Hall will have no adverse effect on Aspinwall Hall or on the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary (100-0123) due to steps proposed to be taken by T-Mobile to; delicately remove, using a specialty contractor, whatever existing historic materials call for removal prior to telecommunications equipment installation, to have these materials stabilized and stored, to replace the removed historic

materials with historically accurate substitutes and to fully camouflage and hide from view, inserted telecommunications equipment and any other modern additions. In addition, all proposed historic materials removals and replacement materials installations are proposed to be monitored by a qualified architectural historian monitor. In sum, these proposed steps will ensure that the historic visual character of Aspinwall Hall and the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary complex, also known as the Virginia Theological Seminary will be retained and that the proposed telecommunications facility will not detract from the significance of these resources and that in the case of the future removal of the proposed telecommunications facility equipment the original historic materials can be effectively reinstalled.

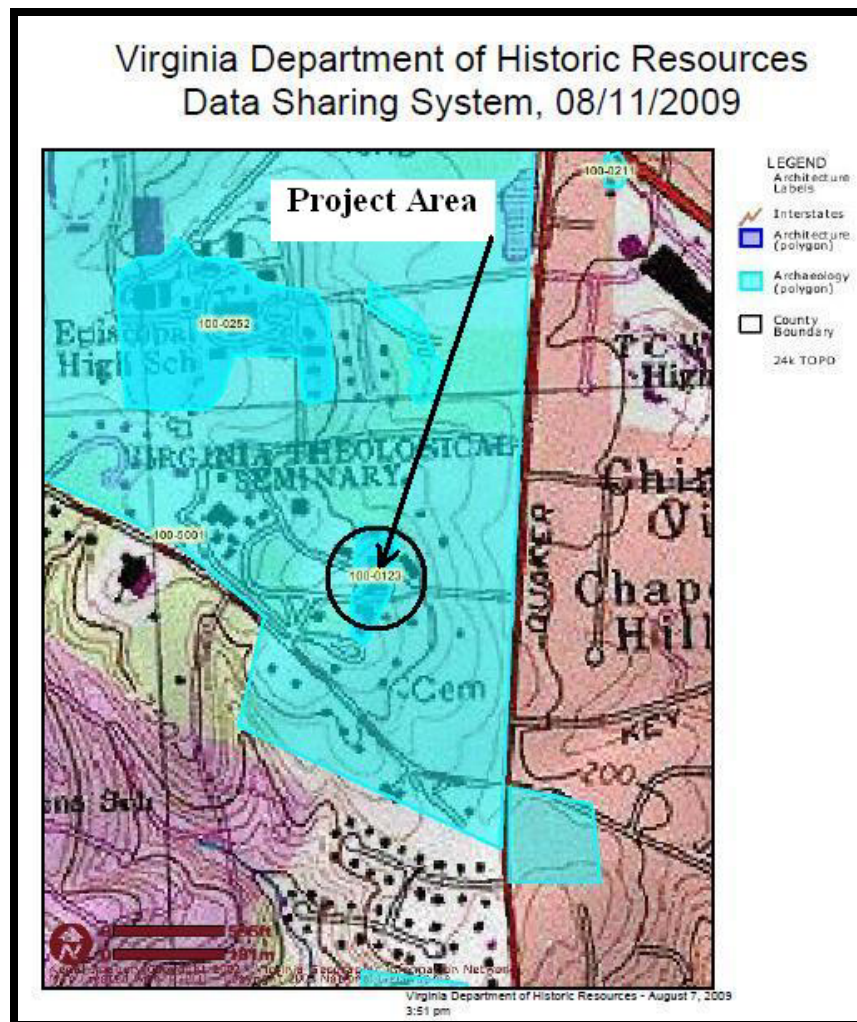


Figure 1. Project location on VDHR DSS GIS Report overlaid (VDHR DSS, 2009). Black circle is 250-foot visual APE. Previously recorded cultural resources information located on Table 1.

Table 1.

Historic Resources within 250-foot Visual APE of Project Area (Data recovered from VDHR DSS, 2009 and NPS, 2009)				
Site ID	Description	Distance and Direction From Proposed Site	Determination of Eligibility	National Register
100-0123	Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary complex/Virginia Theological Seminary complex	Subject site, Aspinwall Hall is located within APE and complex.	Listed	Yes

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References:

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