

UNION COLLEGE

“The Ramée Campus”

Union’s visionary President Eliphalet Nott engaged French architect Joseph Ramée to design a campus with residences, classroom space and a chapel. Ramée designed the campus in the form of the first comprehensive plan for a campus in America, predating Jefferson’s plan for the University of Virginia by four years. Buildings were to be set at some distance from each other, but linked visually as part of a park-like setting with an open view to the west. Ramée designed eleven buildings, but only seven of the buildings were actually built. The remaining four buildings were to be located at Schaffer Library (President’s House), Becker Hall (Lecture Hall), Memorial Chapel and Reamer Campus Center (residence halls, in the approximate location of the Reamer Center and Memorial Chapel). He designed in the neo-classical style, a style best described as a restrained version of classical design, exemplified for example by the use of pilasters instead of columns.

Seven Original Buildings



Messa/Wold House
(North College)
1814



Sorum/Green House
(South College)
1814



Hale House
(South Colonnade)
1815



Taylor Music
(North Colonnade)
1815



Visual Arts
(Philosophical Hall)
1852



Old Chapel
(Geological Hall)
1856



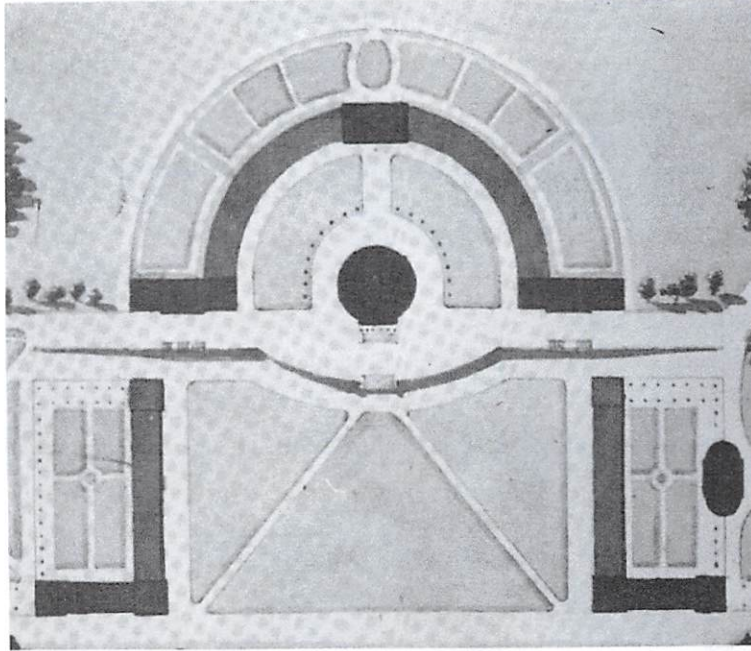
Nott Memorial
*(Graduates Hall)
1877

**The exterior of the Nott was not according to Ramée’s design, but the interior is consistent with his design. The exterior of Graduates Hall was the only one of his designs done in the classical style, as evidenced most notably by a west portico with six columns, the sort of columns seen on Memorial Chapel.

*All dates are dates that buildings were completed.

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1795

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Architectural Terms



Pediment

Arch

Capital

Pilaster