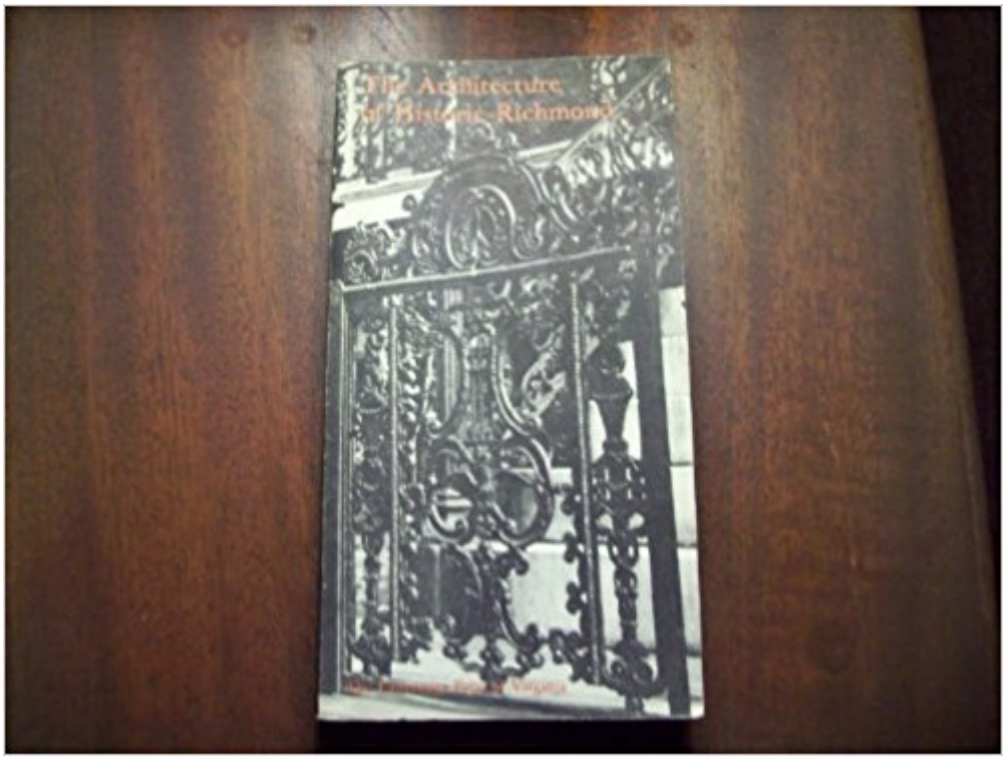
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The Architecture Of Historic Richmond



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Synopsis

Richmond’s architectural cast iron is second only to that of New Orleans, yet it is hardly recognized. Over 130 porches and balconies, hundreds of yards of elaborate fencing, as well as scores of cast iron front buildings remain in the city today and make up the bulk of the city’s architectural metalwork.

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Customer Reviews

RichmondÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s architectural cast iron is second only to that of New Orleans, yet it is hardly recognized. Over 130 porches and balconies, hundreds of yards of elaborate fencing, as well as scores of cast iron front buildings remain in the city today and make up the bulk of the cityÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s architectural metalwork.

Even though UVA Press released this book as a second edition in 1988, it was originally published in 1968, and that is the date readers should understand when considering this material.Don’t let the fact that this publication is dated put you off. First, it’s very well done, and the entries are exceptionally well chosen. Coverage is limited to downtown Richmond and its inner neighborhoods. There is no coverage of outer limits or suburbs.The format is typical for guides like this. Organized into tours by geographic area, each entry includes a small photograph and a brief descriptive essay. This book features about 100 of Richmond’s best buildings, but there’s more. The book includes, as an appendix, a complete street-by-street survey of existing structures (as of 1968) that offers an address and date of construction for each structure! It’s basically just a list of addresses and dates,

but it includes almost 1,000 sites. Wonderful!Perhaps the best thing about this book (and about Richmond) is that almost every single structure featured in the catalog still stands. That makes this guide useful even today, when many cities destroy their historic fabric making outdated architecture guides truly outdated. This one is not that way. Richmond has an old and strong preservation community. It also has a large and important building stock that will impress even the most turgid of architectural historians. Many people mistakenly make the assumption that Richmond was "burned to the ground" during the Civil War, and that nothing remains from before 1860. This book will prove to you that this is simply not the case.This is a lovely little book that will help you appreciate Richmond's rich and remaining history. Try to find one in at least "very good" condition, because it is a fragile volume.

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