

Ambler Johnston



Ambler Johnston Hall is named for **J. Ambler Johnston**. Born in 1885, he was a 1904 graduate of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute. He also earned a master of science degree in 1905 from VPI. Johnston was co-founder of the architectural firm Carneal & Johnston, which was contracted by President Joseph D. Eggleston to set new standards for campus buildings.

The firm's first building was the original McBryde Hall, completed in 1917. It "marked the beginning of a long and happy association" between Virginia Tech and Carneal & Johnston, according to Tech

historian Lyle Kinnear. The firm helped to incorporate the Collegiate Gothic style to the campus landscape.

Kinnear, author of *The First 100 Years: A History of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*, recalls an alumnus describing Johnston as "purring like a kitten" because a new building had been approved for construction.

Johnston resided in Richmond, Virginia, where he served as a charter member of the Richmond Rotary Club and was a Civil War scholar. He died in 1974.

Residence hall built: Construction started in 1967, and the building opened in fall 1969.

Construction firm: Carneal & Johnston

Ambler Johnston Hall Today

Community: Summit

Type: Co-ed, traditional-style

Theme Housing Program: The W.E.L.L.

Other: Summit Area Office, mailroom, and fitness room on the first floor

Number of residents: East: 406, West: 882

Staff: Complex director: 1

Graduate hall directors: 2

Resident advisor coordinator: 1

Resident advisors: East: 10, West: 19



References:

"Heroes and Heroines Set in Stone," by Su Clauson-Wickerand Netta Smith, in the fall 1995 issue of *Virginia Tech Magazine*.

University Archives of Virginia Tech, *Historical Data Book*, Section 6.5.

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