

COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Egyptian Building, 1845



ERA

Mid 19th Century

THEMES

Architecture, Design,
Neoclassical,
Greek and Roman

CITATION

INFORMATION

Cook Photograph
Collection.
0800/PHC0047.
The Valentine,
Richmond, Virginia.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. Which parts of this building remind you of Egyptian design?
2. Why do you think the medical school decided to build this structure using classical design?
3. Notice the winged sun disk on the front of the building. What did the symbol represent for Egyptians? What does it represent on the building?

CONTEXT

The Egyptian building was designed by an architect from Philadelphia named Thomas Sommerville Stewart to be the first permanent home for the Medical College of Virginia, now Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. The building was created in the Egyptian style in 1845 because it was believed that the origins of modern medicine emerged from the Egyptian physician, Imhotep. The building, still in use by VCU, is made from brick, stucco and cast iron and in 1995 the building celebrated its 150th anniversary.

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