The Architecture of Calvin Pollard
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In his monumental work on Greek Revival architecture, Talbot Hamlin describes Calvin Pollard as “one of the most important of the less well known New York architects.” Nearly sixty years after Hamlin wrote these prophetic words, Pollard remains an obscure figure with little known about the work of this prolific nineteenth century architect. For preservationists, the documentation of our heritage is as important as the designation and protection of that heritage. James Marston Fitch states it simply, “our dilemma is becoming that of preserving the knowledge that these artifacts even existed,” stressing the interdependence in the field of historic preservation between study, documentation, designation and preservation. How can Calvin Pollard be documented as an architect whose work is acknowledged according to accepted preservation guidelines of significance as an important architect of the period? The thesis will establish that Calvin Pollard is an important and prolific architect through knowledge and documentation of his work and designs, noting works both lost and extant, and the condition and status of existing buildings.

Readers: Paul Bentel, Zachary Studenroth