

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fairfax County Courthouse and Jail

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4000 Chain Bridge Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fairfax

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

10th

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Fairfax

CODE

059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County

STREET & NUMBER

4100 Chain Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Fairfax

STATE

VICINITY OF

Virginia

22030

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fairfax County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

4000 Chain Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Fairfax, Virginia

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D. C.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Fairfax County courthouse building was constructed in 1799, after a design by James Wren, a native of King George County, long-time resident of Fairfax County and descendent of Sir Christopher Wren. The court house can best be described as a modified town-hall type structure and was the prototype for many other Virginia court houses.

The two-story Flemish bond brick building's entrance is through the center bay of the three-bay arcaded gable end. An octagonal cupola, surmounted by a finial and weathervane, crowns the roofline. The cupola is set back behind the arcade, located between the third and fourth bays of the four bay southern facade. The roof is shingled. Three slender interior chimney stacks rise from the roof: one located at the peak of the roof on the facade; the others, are found parallel to the arcade to the north and south of the cupola. The ground floor fenestration consists of double-hung twelve-over-twelve sash while the second floor windows are double hung twelve-over-eight sash. A stone belt course girdles the arcade at the springpoints of the arches and each arch is surmounted by a stone keystone. A round fan vent graces the apex of the facade gable.

The courthouse interior was restored from 1964-1967 under the supervision of Mr. Walter Macomber, restoration architect. Only three items in the interior of the building are original - a beam and two of the columns supporting the balcony. The most important architectural features of the restored two-story court chamber include the carved paneling, blind pedimented architrave behind the judge's seat, the jury box, the fireplaces and the balcony. The brick flooring of the foyer and the wooden flooring of the spectator section and judicial area is graduated. The pinewood benches in this section are pews from the Jerusalem Baptist Church (Payne's Chapel) near Fairfax Station which were moved to the courthouse during the reconstruction era. An unadorned banister partitions off the space reserved for the counselors tables, judge's bench and witness and jury boxes. The plain, open staircases and banisters leading to the balcony and jury room reflect the Federal style. Beneath one staircase is a closet and under the other is a staircase which descends to a small barren basement which accomodates a modern mechanical equipment system.

J.L.F.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian!	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1799-1800**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>government</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Fairfax County courthouse was constructed at the conclusion of the eighteenth century, it achieved its main historical significance during the War Between the States. Designed by James Wren, the courthouse is significant architecturally as a transition from the one-story arcaded-front colonial courthouse typified by those of Hanover and King William Counties, to the later, two story Roman Revival examples such as the Madison and Page County courthouses.

The County Seat of Fairfax County was forced to move from Alexandria when that city was incorporated into the federal capital. The search for a new courthouse site was completed when in May, 1798, a group of commissioners was appointed to inspect a site consisting of four acres owned by Richard Ratcliffe at Earp's Store. The deed was recorded on June 27, 1799.

Work began on the site in January 1799, after a design by James Wren, credited with the designs of Christ Church in Falls Church, Christ Church in Alexandria and the Pohick Church. John Bogue, an immigrant carpenter and builder, and his partner, Mungo Dykes, constructed the building and the County took possession on January 27, 1800. Earp's Store was renamed Providence and a town was laid out adjacent to the Little River Turnpike, although development during the next few decades was very slow.

The war years of 1861-1865 made the operation of normal civil government in Northern Virginia impossible. The courthouse was, for the most part, on the front lines of both opposing camps. In May, 1861, a company of Warrenton Rifles established a camp at Fairfax Court House. On the morning of June 1, 1861, a body of Union Cavalry rode through Providence, and in the confused exchange of fire which followed, a captain of the Rifles, John Quincy Marr, became the first battle casualty of the War.

In the spring of 1862, the Confederate Army retired from Fairfax Court House to its line of fortifications at Centreville. From this time until the end of the War, Union troops remained in nominal control of this important crossroads and court house. Irregular Confederate troops plagued the Union Army in this area. This fact was dramatised in the famous raid on Fairfax County Court House by General John S. Mosby when, on the night of March 3, 1863, he, with about thirty men, captured and carried off Union General Edwin H. Stoughton, thirty-three prisoners, and a large number of horses and quantity of supplies. From 1863 until the end of the War, there were continuous guerrilla raids.

The task of renovating the courthouse after the War Between the

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Fairfax (in city)	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.
States was extensive. A report in the Alexandria Gazette of October 17, 1862 states that, "The interior of the courthouse of Fairfax County has been entirely destroyed. Nothing remains of the building but the walls and the roof." Gradual renovation continued until about 1900. A major refurbishment occurred in 1920.

In 1930-31, an addition was constructed on the south side at the rear of the original courthouse. In this process, the Clerk's Office, constructed in 1854, was destroyed. Twenty years later, in 1951-53, the courthouse was expanded again with the addition of a center block, and another wing identical with the original and first addition segments. Restoration of the original court house was carried out from 1964-1967.

Valuable historic records from the beginning of the court system are preserved in the Clerk's Office today. The original wills of George and Martha Washington, along with historical deeds, wills and slave manumissions are protected here.

J.L.F.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fairfax County, "Historic Fairfax Court House," November 1972.
 Netherton, Ross D., and Ruby B. W. Waldeck, The Fairfax County Court House, manuscript, October 1971.
 Rust, Jeanne, History of the Town of Fairfax, Washington: Moore & Moore, 1960.
Virginia, American Guide Series, 1937.
 Virginia Collection Files, Fairfax County Public Library.
 Washington, American Guide Series, 1937.
 Whiffen, Marcus, "The Early Courthouses of Virginia," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, March, 1959.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 50' 45"	77° 18' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **April, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date 11/20/73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

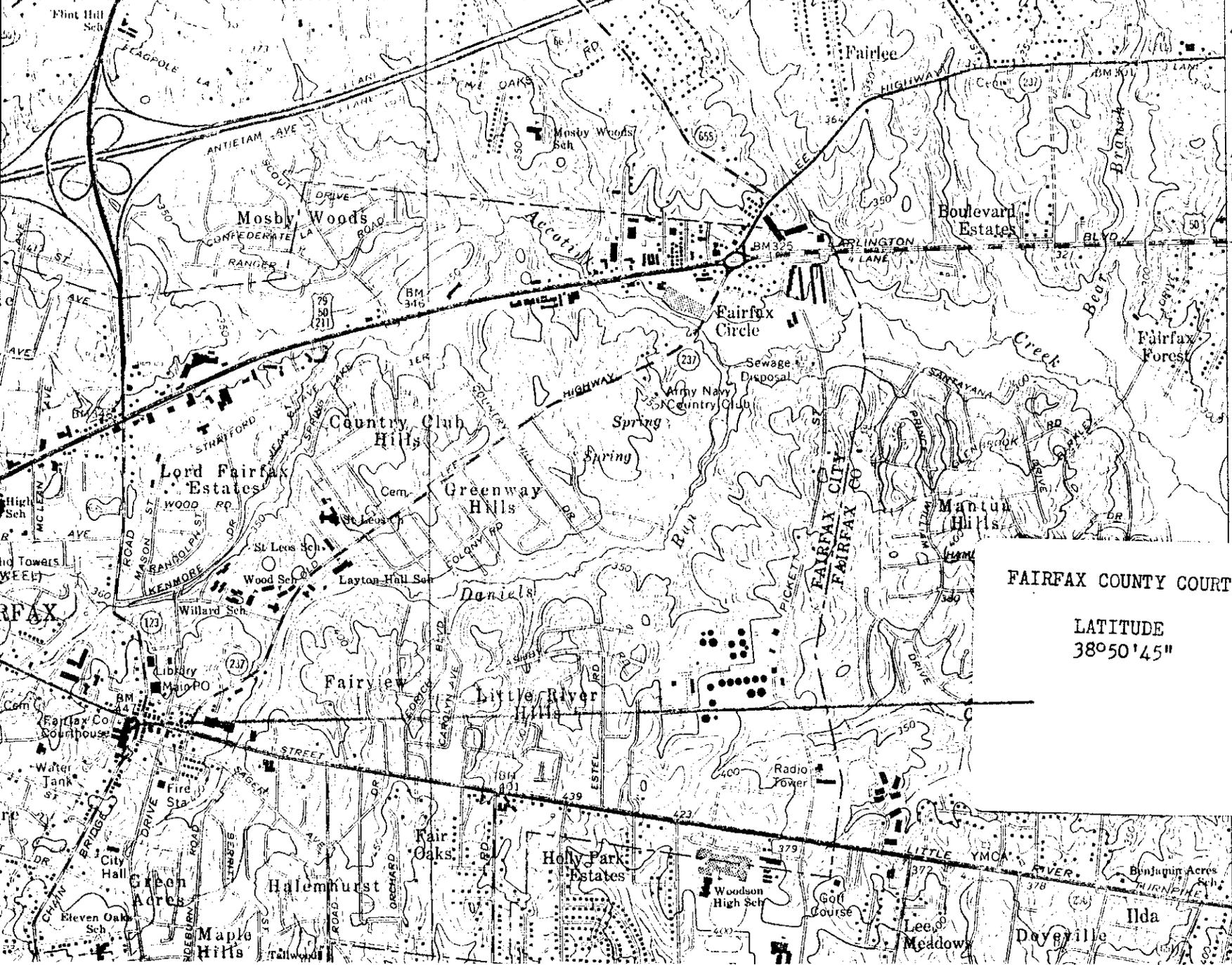
Date 5/3/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FAIRFAX QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5361 1 NW
 FALLS CHURCH

061 IV NE VIENNA (123) CHAIN BRIDGE 12 MI VIENNA 2 1/2 MI 301 17'30" 302 3 MI TO INTERSTATE 495 2 350 000 FEET 304 77° 15' 38° 52' 30"



4305
 FEET
 INTERCHANGE 8 (INTERSTATE 495) 1.6 MI WASHINGTON, D.C. (MEMORIAL BR.) 12 MI

FAIRFAX COUNTY COURT HOUSE

LATITUDE
 38°50'45"

LONGITUDE
 77°18'26"

INTERCHANG
 ALEXANDRIA
 4301