

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	12/16/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Washington and Lee University Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Washington and Lee University Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington and Lee University

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lexington

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51      COUNTY: Rockbridge      CODE: 163

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Board of Trustees

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington and Lee University

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lexington

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Rockbridge County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lexington

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934       Federal     State     County     Local

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Rockbridge

FOR NPS USE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(257)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                               |                                         |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**  
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The historic core of Washington and Lee University is composed of a collection of architecturally harmonious and spatially related neo-classical buildings that together form one of the most dignified and beautiful college campuses in the nation. The central and most significant element of this complex, the "Colonnade", along with the flanking faculty residences, gives the impression of being the product of a single architectural concept, but in reality this splendid succession of columned and pilastered buildings is an evolutionary product of a building program, extending over nearly one hundred and fifty years. As the school grew, its administrators and builders successfully used this growth as a means to enhance the visual unity of the institution without falling into monotony. The first buildings erected in 1803 by what was then Washington College, have long since disappeared. It is, however, the oldest of the existing buildings, Washington Hall, erected in 1824, which sets the architectural tone of the campus. Its builder-architect, John Jordan, was a self taught designer of much ability. Jordan was able to transform the prevailing architectural fashion of the time into a sturdy, local idiom. The principal departures at Washington and Lee from Jordan's simple classicism - the Lee Chapel and the President's House - do not detract from the unity of the area, but serve as interesting foils to it.

While the modern university plant extends well beyond the historic core, the ante bellum buildings have remained the visual symbol and psychological heart of this venerable institution. The significance of the complex to nineteenth-century American architectural development was perhaps best expressed by Talbot Hamlin when he wrote: "No more impressive expression of the educational ideals of the time could be imagined than this Classic group, its pediment and orders seen through embowering trees, over swelling American lawns, its cupola crowned with the image of the Pater Patriae". Even though the individual buildings that make up Washington and Lee have gone through extensive changes in the course of their organic growth and development the integrity of the University complex as a whole has survived. The Lee Chapel was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961 under the theme study of the Civil War. The evaluation of National significance should be extended to include all of the historic core of the University.

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The historic core of Washington and Lee University is situated along a ridge which extends through the western edge of the town of Lexington. The principal feature of this core is a range of brick buildings referred to as the "Colonnade", since the buildings are fronted variously with columns, piers, and pilasters, giving the impression of a continuous colonnade. In the center of the Colonnade is the oldest and largest building of the group, Washington Hall - a three-story, temple-form structure fronted by a provincial hexastyle Roman Doric portico. Washington Hall was erected in 1824; its present roofline and two-story flanking wings were added in 1843. The octagonal Greek-Revival cupola, topped with a wooden statue of George Washington was added in 1844. The statue, carved by a local cabinet maker, Matthew Kahle, is a fine example of American folk art. Washington Hall's flanking wings, fronted with coupled Doric pilasters link the building to two matching rectangular structures. The southern building, Payne Hall, was erected in 1831, while its compliment, Robinson Hall, was completed in 1843. Both buildings feature unpedimented hexastyle porticoes with square piers and are crowned by shallow deck-on-hip roofs. This complex of ante-bellum structures at one time contained nearly all the institution's facilities, but it now houses only administrative offices, faculty offices, and classrooms. All of the original interior fabric of the buildings was replaced in 1936 during an extensive renovation.

Aligned with this central group are two additional buildings, now considered part of the Colonnade. The south building, Newcomb Hall, is a late-nineteenth century structure, restyled in the twentieth century with a Doric portico to conform with the earlier buildings. The three-story building on the north, Tucker Hall, was erected in 1935, in the Doric temple-form to house the Law School.

Farther down the hill, towards the east, and facing Washington Hall on axis is the famous Lee Chapel, built under the direction of Robert E. Lee in 1868. In 1870, this small brick building, with its simplified Romanesque elements, became the final resting place of the institution's most famous president.

Beyond each of the terminal buildings of the Colonnade, and halfway down the hill is a pair of faculty dwellings. All four houses were completed in 1843 according to similar plans, with two-story temple forms and one-story wings, although the outermost houses have shallow hipped roofs, while the remaining two have pedimented roofs. Each of the tetrastyle porticoes on the houses displays the same provincial Roman Doric order found on Washington Hall.

South of the southernmost faculty house, is a rambling two-story brick house with a hipped roof, built in 1869 as the president's house, and first occupied by Robert E. Lee.

The collection of academic, religious, and residential buildings here described constitute the historic core of Washington and Lee University. Other structures, mostly Georgian Revival-style, have been built in the vicinity during the present century, but they are discreetly placed and detract little from the visual quality of the area.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Crenshaw, Ollinger. General Lee's College. New York: Random House, 1969.  
 Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. Reprint. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1964.  
 Ruffner, William Henry. "The History of Washington College", in Washington and Lee University Historical Papers, No. 4. Baltimore: John Murphy and Co., 1893.  
 Loth, Calder. Master Thesis. "The Ante Bellum Architecture of Washington and Lee University". (University of Virginia, 1967).

**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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 37° 47' 24"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 79° 66' 40"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		
NE	37° 47' 24"	79° 26' 24"				
SE	37° 47' 08"	79° 26' 24"				
SW	37° 47' 08"	79° 26' 40"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 60 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: October 6, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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: Edw. P. Alexander

Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 10-16-70 10/6/70

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest A. Cannally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 18 1970

ATTEST:  
William J. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 1 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

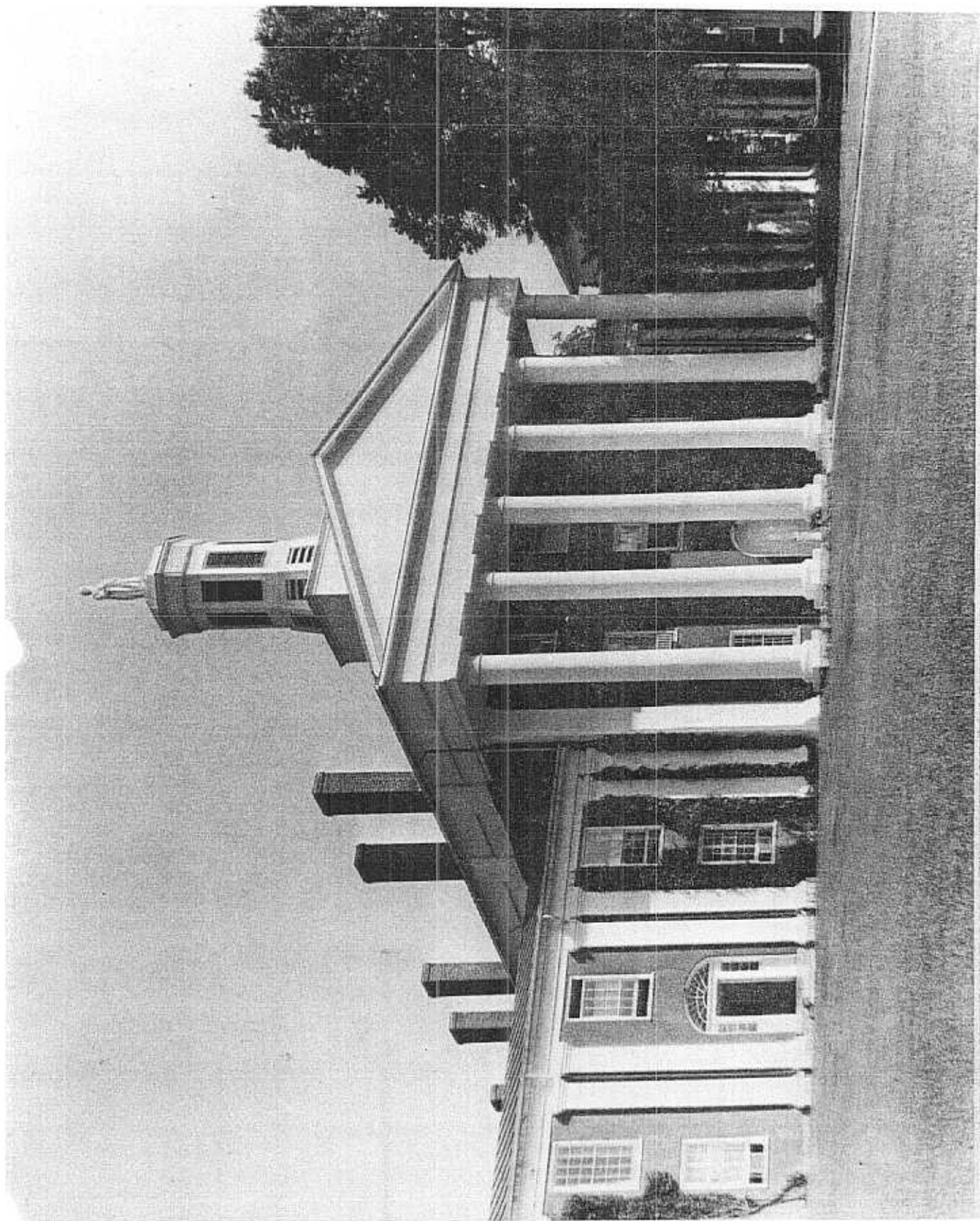
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-12,51-0070	12/18/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Washington and Lee Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Washington and Lee Historic District			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
See continuation sheet.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Rockbridge	163
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Lexington, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia  
HANS PHOTO 1060

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

2. Bounded on the northeast by Letcher Avenue, bounded on the southeast by Jefferson Street, bounded on the southwest by Washington Street, extended on the northwest behind the two northernmost faculty houses, and from there behind the Colonnade, including Tucker and Newcomb Halls, and from there behind the two southernmost faculty houses and the President's House.
  
6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1965 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. 11

7 1/2 rang. (Sea 24000  
 exingto 1967

ashington Le reserva ri

La	id	In	gi	ud
31	4	24	79°	6 4
37°	4	24	79°	26 24
37°	4	08	79°	26 24
37°	7	08"	79°	26 40

