

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Richmond (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Stearns Block

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Stearns Iron Front Building

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1007-1013 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 760
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Ten O Seven, Inc. (owns 1007 E. Main St.)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 1580

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond,

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Richmond City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad and Eleventh Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey - Photo-Data Study

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 Nineteenth Street, Northwest

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08
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**DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 Stearns Block is a four-story building, fourteen-bays wide, and measures 107' wide by 64' deep. The building has a cast-iron facade, with its side and rear walls being laid in common bond brick. The two original exterior sets of doors survive on the facade in the fourth and tenth bays from the west, with the original architectural decoration around them intact. This consists of two engaged Corinthian columns framing an arch outlined by a rounded molding embellished by a spiraling vine. The arch is topped by a garland and rosebud. Separating all of the ground floor bays, except where removed, are engaged Corinthian columns supporting a Corinthian entablature. The windows throughout the facade are treated uniformly. The engaged Corinthian columns which frame each window stand on a pedestal base which also acts as an engaged balustrade beneath the windows. This engaged balustrade is embellished and decorated with panels and central roundels beneath each window. Each of the semi-circular arched windows is surrounded by a round molding decorated by a spiraling vine as in the doorways. The windows are crowned also by a garland and rosebud decorated keystone. The facade of the building is crowned by a deep Italianate entablature. Directly beneath the entablature and supported by the engaged Corinthian columns of the fourth floor is a decorative band featuring intertwined vines. The architrave of the entablature is standard. Extending from beneath the cornice through the frieze are large, highly ornate brackets. The spaces between the brackets in the frieze are decorated with roundels with rosettes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art      | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____                                    |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

In 1865 Franklin Stearns, a Richmond businessman, purchased 1007-13 East Main Street from the President and Directors of the Farmer's Bank for \$32,100, being a parcel of land "whereon the banking house ... recently stood." The Farmer's Bank, with many other Richmond commercial buildings, had gone up in flames during the evacuation of the Confederate government in 1865. By 1869 Stearns had completed the construction of his new building, the ironwork having been purchased from Hayward, Bartlett of Baltimore. Since that time the four sections of the building have been used by various commercial establishments in Richmond, with the Stearns family still retaining ownership in two of them.

The Stearns Iron Front Building is a splendid example of a cast-iron row and is one of the most important examples of surviving Richmond commercial buildings from the latter part of the nineteenth century. Though architecturally inspired by the Renaissance palaces of Venice, the building makes maximum use of its modern material by having a minimum proportion of solid to void. The building is in reality a glass-fronted structure with the thinnest yet richest embellishments acting as the supports.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deed books and tax assessor books, Richmond City Hall.

**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	0 . .	0 . .		37 ° 32 ' 15 "	77 ° 26 ' 09 "	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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: November 18, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)  
Richmond, Va. (1964)

Stearns Block  
Latitude 37° 32' 15"      Longitude 77° 26' 09"

