

YLR: 12-2-69  
NRHP: 2-26-70

127-103

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Donnan-Asher Iron Front Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Donnan-Asher Iron Front Building

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1207, 1211 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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:  
Hyman Specter and Morris A. Bloom

STREET AND NUMBER:  
4610 Monument Avenue

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 Buildings Survey Photo-Data

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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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

**7. 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 Donnan-Asher Iron Front Building is a four-story structure with fourteen bays. Its side and rear walls are laid in common-bond brick, while its front facade which is approximately 75½' wide consists of cast-iron over brick. Old-if not original-doorways to the shops and stairs survive in the first and fourth ground floor bays from the west. The facade of the building is divided into three sections, each containing four bays. The divisions between each section are indicated on the facade by a Corinthian pilaster between the bays rather than an engaged column. The voids of the first or ground floor are separated by Corinthian columns supporting a Corinthian entablature. The second floor windows are separated by engaged Corinthian columns with pilasters marking the ends of the partition walls. The windows in each bay are arched and are divided into two arched sections with a central support in the Florentine Renaissance manner. All of the windows are topped by a decorative keystone, and all of the windows retain their four-over-four pane sash. The engaged columns and pilasters support an engaged balustrade, the pedestals of which are the pedestals for the engaged Corinthian columns of the third floor. The openings on the third and fourth or top floor are treated in the same manner as those of the second, but the engaged columns flanking the windows on the top floor support the building's entablature. The facade is capped by an Italianate-type entablature with relatively thin architrave and very deep frieze. The frieze is divided by very large scrolled consoles which are aligned over the engaged columns. The interior has been substantially altered to meet the various commercial needs of the occupants throughout the years.

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

Built circa 1866 by William S. Donnan and John Asher, the Donnan-Asher Iron Front Building comprises a part of one of two commercial row buildings with full cast iron fronts which were erected on East Main Street during the rebuilding of the area following the disastrous fire of 1865. The structure is one of the finest and most ornate iron-front rows surviving in the city. The four-story facade, in pure Italianate style, is reminiscent of Venetian Renaissance palaces. Until 1966 the facade survived almost completely unaltered, but at that time the central ground floor shop front was insensitively desecrated by the insertion of a modern entrance, resulting in the removal of all original architectural decoration in those four bays. Despite this unfortunate alteration, the building survives as an excellent example of the Victorian ability to give elegance and character to an essentially utilitarian structure with the use of easily and cheaply produced architectural decoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deed Books and tax assessor records, Richmond City Hall.  
 Richmond City Directories.  
 Robert Beverley Munford, Jr., Richmond Homes and Memories (Richmond, 1936).  
 Paul S. Dulaney, The Architecture of Historic Richmond (Charlottesville, 1968).

**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	° ' "	° ' "		37 ° 32 ' 10 "	77 ° 26 ' 02 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

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

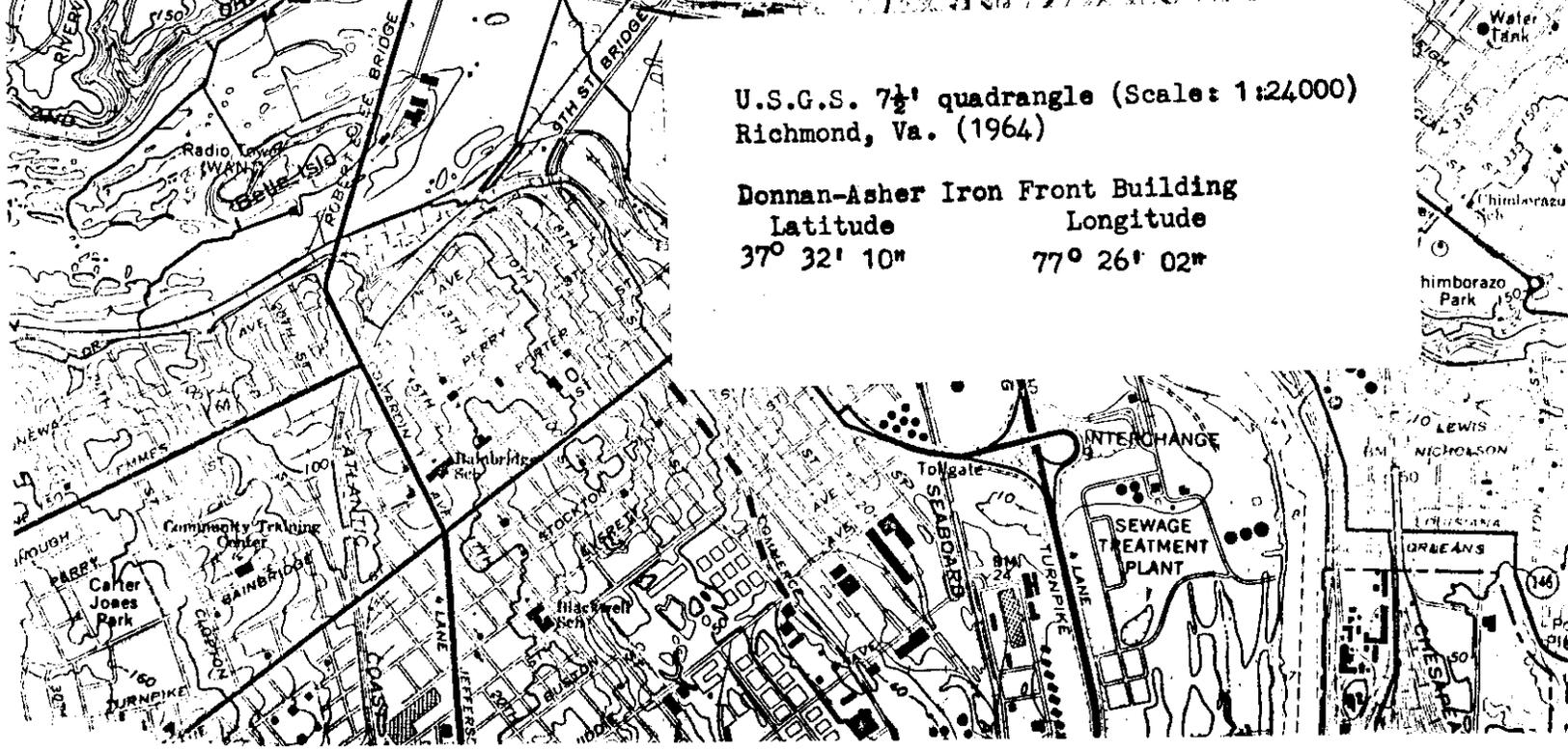
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

Donnan-Asher Iron Front Building  
Latitude 37° 32' 10"  
Longitude 77° 26' 02"