

VLR-11/5/68 NRHP-6/4/69

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

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:
United States Post Office and Customs House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Customs House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1000 E. 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
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Post Office	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
United States Government

STREET AND NUMBER:
1000 E. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chancery Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Richmond City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #127-170

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 760
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As originally designed and built the Customs House was a handsome granite Italianate style building placed in the middle of the block between Bank and Main Streets, with its narrow end on axis with the State Capitol. Because of the steep grade of the site, the Main Street facade was three stories while the Bank Street facade was only two. The Bank Street facade was originally five bays wide with the center three bays spaced closely together and projected slightly forward. Its entrance was framed by a central one-story triple arch porch one bay in depth. On the Main Street side, the building sat on a rusticated basement containing five arched openings. Each side of the building contained seven wide bays with their center three bays also slightly projected. It should be noted that all the openings in the Customs House were crowned by some form of round arch. Quoins emphasized the corners of the building and the whole was crowned by a bracketed cornice and shallow hipped roof. A series of wide brick chimneys around the base of the roof gave the building's skyline an almost crenellated effect.

In 1889 short wings were added to either side of the original mass at the front and back. In 1910 the building was raised one story and a large wing was added, extending the building to Tenth Street. The building was again enlarged in 1930 by the addition of an eastern wing, thus filling out the entire block.

In spite of all the additions and renovations the Customs House has undergone, the original architectural character has been retained and incorporated into the newer sections. The building in its present form is still a most pleasing composition and possesses all the vigor of Ammi B. Young's original concept. It is unfortunate that none of the historic interiors survived, although the present courtroom is in the same location as the original one.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The original Post Office and Customs House was designed by the Boston architect, Ammi B. Young, one of the most important architects of the Greek Revival period. Captain Albert Lybrock of Richmond acted as supervising architect. The building was completed in 1858, and three years later, with the outbreak of the Civil War, it was taken over by the Confederate government. During the war years the Confederate Treasury Department as well as the office of President Jefferson Davis were located in the building. In 1867 when President Davis was returned to Richmond to stand trial for treason, the trial was held in the District Courtroom in the Customs House.

Although the building has been greatly altered and enlarged over the years, the architectural character of the building has been maintained. Its location on Bank Street makes the building an effective screen across the bottom of Capitol Square as well as a focal point for Main Street. Even in its present form, the Customs House is one of the chief architectural and historic landmarks in Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Richmond Times Dispatch, April 20, 1902, "The Customs House, Scene of Many Stirring Events."
 Richmond Times Dispatch, August 12, 1954, "Richmond's Post Office Boasts a Rich and Colorful History" by Ulrich Troubetzkoy.
 Files of Valentine Museum, Richmond, Virginia.
 Dulaney, Paul S., The Architecture of Historic Richmond. University Press of Virginia, 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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	37°	32'	17"
NE	0	'	"			
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

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: April 23, 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 Comm
 Date May 20, 1969

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Customs House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1000 E. Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 760
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Richmond, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Richmond (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Customs House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1000 E. Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 760
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Richmond, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC			
View of North front.			

