



**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Main Building at Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind is an imposing three-story brick structure on a high stone basement, with a one hundred eighty-two foot facade. All of the brickwork is of highest quality Flemish bond. The center of the building is marked by the large hexastyle Greek Doric pedimented portico. The frieze of the Doric entablature surrounding the building contains the narrow third story windows. A "piazza ten feet wide for the exercise of the pupils" fronts each of the wings which flanks the portico. The piazzas began as one level structures but were raised to two levels by the 1850's, causing the first floor windows to be sheltered. The enclosed portions of the piazzas adjacent to the portico are twentieth-century additions. On the rear of the building are two asymmetrically placed wings both of which have been enlarged. Around 1885 the westernmost of the rear wings was connected to the newly built Greek Revival chapel.

As originally designed the Main Building was to be equally divided into the deaf school and the blind school which were to share common service facilities. The first floor was to be laid out into offices, recitation rooms, parlor and library, while the second and third floors were to contain dormitories. The interior has not been significantly altered; the most conspicuous addition being the late-nineteenth century central staircase. The surviving original interior trim is very plain although original mantel shelves supported by small Doric columns survive.

Even though the school has been greatly expanded since it first opened, the later buildings do not detract from the main building. A description of the site which appeared in the Richmond Republican in October 1846 and quoted herein, is entirely appropriate today.

The site combines the advantages of a town and country residence, being far enough to avoid the noise and bustle of the streets, and near enough to permit the visits of the occupants without inconvenience. It is on the Southern extremity of a hill sloping from the building in all directions, except of the north side, where it is level and covered with large trees, which in the winter ward off keen blasts, and in summer afford delightful shady walks.

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

A bill for the establishment of a State school for the deaf was introduced as early as 1826, but was postponed as there was not a sufficient number of potential students at that time to justify such an establishment. By the 1830's a movement for the founding of a school for the blind arose and eventually merged with the advocates of the deaf school. On March 30, 1838, an act of the Virginia General Assembly provided for the establishment of a school for the deaf and blind, and provided an appropriation to pay for the site, buildings and administration of the institution. On March 27, 1839, a joint resolution was passed by the Assembly, selecting Staunton, a town "... central and accessible to all parts of the State ... and in the midst of cheap and abundant country," as the location of the school.

Robert Cary Long, Jr., the distinguished Baltimore architect was employed to "visit the site selected and furnish a complete and minute plan of the buildings to be erected." Mr. William Donoho of Albemarle County was selected to construct the buildings. Although the school had been accepting pupils since November 1839, the main building was not entirely completed until 1846, and the chapel was not added to the rear of the building until 1885.

Long's imposing structure stands today not only as one of the major Greek Revival public buildings in the United States, but also as a focal point for one of the country's oldest and most distinguished deaf and blind schools. The building's scale and quality have given dignity to the institution, and have served to symbolize the Commonwealth's tradition of humanitarian interests.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bass, R. Aumon, History of the Education of the Deaf in Virginia, 1839-1948, Staunton, 1949.  
 "Virginia School for Deaf and Blind Celebrates Anniversary", Staunton Leader, Sept. 10, 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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 09' 35"	79° 04' 06"				
NE	38° 09' 35"	79° 02' 30"				
SE	38° 08' 50"	79° 02' 30"				
SW	38° 08' 50"	79° 04' 06"				

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: August 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

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

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

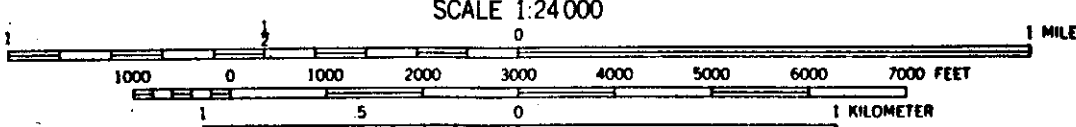
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #132-8  
1968  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45



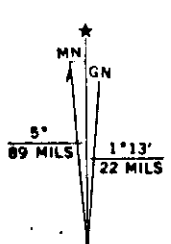
391 34 MI. 167 1 830 000 FEET 5' 671 2' 30"

GREENVILLE 10 MI. (STUARTS DRAFT) LEXINGTON 31 MI. 5160 II SE

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242