

VLR-12/21/71 NRHP-4/13/72

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: BEDFORD	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
NEW LONDON ACADEMY

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
NEW LONDON ACADEMY

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
N side of Rt. 297, .1 mi. E of intersection with Rt. 811.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Forest Vicinity (Richard H. Poff, Sixth District Congressman)

STATE VIRGINIA	CODE 51	COUNTY: Bedford	CODE 019
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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 checked="" 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:** G. Hunter Jones, Jr., Chairman

OWNER'S NAME:  
Board of Managers

STREET AND NUMBER:  
New London Academy

CITY OR TOWN: Forest	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bedford	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971     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 51
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA  
COUNTY: BEDFORD  
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DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>BEDFORD</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**NEW LONDON ACADEMY**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**NEW LONDON ACADEMY**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**N side of Rt. 297, .1 mi. E of intersection with Rt. 811.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Forest Vicinity (Richard H. Poff, Sixth District Congressman)**

STATE <b>VIRGINIA</b>	CODE <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>Bedford</b>	CODE <b>019</b>
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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 checked="" 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 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"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY** **G. Hunter Jones, Jr., Chairman**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Board of Managers**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**New London Academy**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Forest**

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE <b>51</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Bedford County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Bedford**

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE <b>51</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**     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: <b>Virginia</b>	CODE <b>51</b>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>
COUNTY: <b>BEDFORD</b>
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

New London Academy continues in operation on its original (1796-1798) site, approximately one mile to the west of the village of New London on the old Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike (Route 297). The campus includes the eighteen-and-one-half acre tract deeded to the original Academy Trustees by prominent residents of the New London community. Ten acres of this -- the Robert Alexander grant -- reverts to the grantee's heirs or assigns should the academy cease to function as a school.

The earliest buildings consisted of "a handsome and commodious academy, a president's house, and a large brick church well enclosed." Of the related outbuildings, an early frame kitchen with central chimney survives and presently serves as the academy museum. The Academy Presbyterian Church, built (1856-57) across the roadway from the school, replaced the earlier structure. By 1839, the original "commodious academy", or frame classroom-dormitory building, had been replaced by one of brick.

This circa 1837-39 building has been continued in use, in varying capacities, to the present day. Window enlargements and other evolutionary changes have affected the original three-bay symmetry of the old academy, however the basic block with its interior end chimneys, low hipped roof and Flemish bond brickwork remains. This building and the old kitchen symbolize the historic continuity of New London Academy, and provide a contrast to the dominant, post-World War II campus-style structures.

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)**

1837-39

**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             | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 | _____                                    |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Persons familiar with the history of schooling in Virginia will recognize in New London Academy a microcosm of that history from the Jeffersonian period to the present. In December of 1795, the General Assembly granted a charter to incorporate the Academy. The following year (reaffirmed in 1828) the Assembly authorized the Trustees to "raise by lottery, a sum of money for the use of the New London Academy." The Virginia Literature Lottery was an important source of revenue for Virginia's schools during this period, a time when lotteries were used to support internal improvements and other public purposes.

New London Academy was established on its present campus circa 1797 as a classical school for boys. It retained this character throughout the ante-bellum era although certain modifications in curricula were introduced. During this period, the Academy "was one of the most useful in the State. Its reputation was very high." This, the opinion of a prominent historian of education, finds ample support among such learned contemporaries as Francis Walker Gilmer. New London, according to Gilmer, provided an education comparable to that available at the better American colleges.

The older social and educational philosophy of Virginia could not survive Appomattox. During the 1870's, New London became a co-educational institution, and added an elementary department. By the latter 1880's it was affiliated with the new public school system. At the turn of the century teacher-training courses were conducted at the Academy and in 1910 New London became one of the first of the new District Agricultural High Schools. The 130-year long tradition of boarding students at the academy gave way in 1929 before increasing costs and improved transportation. School consolidation and integration affected the Academy during the 1960's and the high school division was removed from New London in 1964.

The Academy's legal status is unique. It is the only public school in Virginia to operate under a charter from the General Assembly. Its Board of Managers, by authority of the Code of Virginia, retains "control and management of the estate and administration of said New London Academy." In addition to all other powers conferred or confirmed by the General Assembly, this Board (successor to the original Board of Trustees) is "vested with all the rights, power and authority now or hereafter conferred by law upon county school boards."

New London Academy has survived since 1795 by adapting itself to the changing circumstances, educational philosophy and needs of the Commonwealth. It was founded as a community school by, and for, prominent families. It remains a community school in the democratic usage of the twentieth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See continuation sheet.

**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 ° 18 ' 34 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 79 ° 18 ' 31 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	37 ° 18 ' 34 "	79 ° 18 ' 12 "				
SE	37 ° 18 ' 20 "	79 ° 18 ' 12 "				
SW	37 ° 18 ' 20 "	79 ° 18 ' 31 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **18½ acres.**

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:  
**VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF**

ORGANIZATION: **VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**      DATE: **December, 1971**

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

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond**      STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **51**

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

**James W. Moody, Jr., Director**

Title **Va. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Page 1.

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9.

Bibliography:

Board of Managers of New London Academy, "Minutes, 1911-date," at New London Academy.

Board of Trustees of New London Academy, "Minutes, July 1, 1826 - May 27, 1881," Duke University Library. Transcript at New London Academy.

S. R. Crockett, Jr., et al., The Story of New London Academy, 1795-1945, 1945.

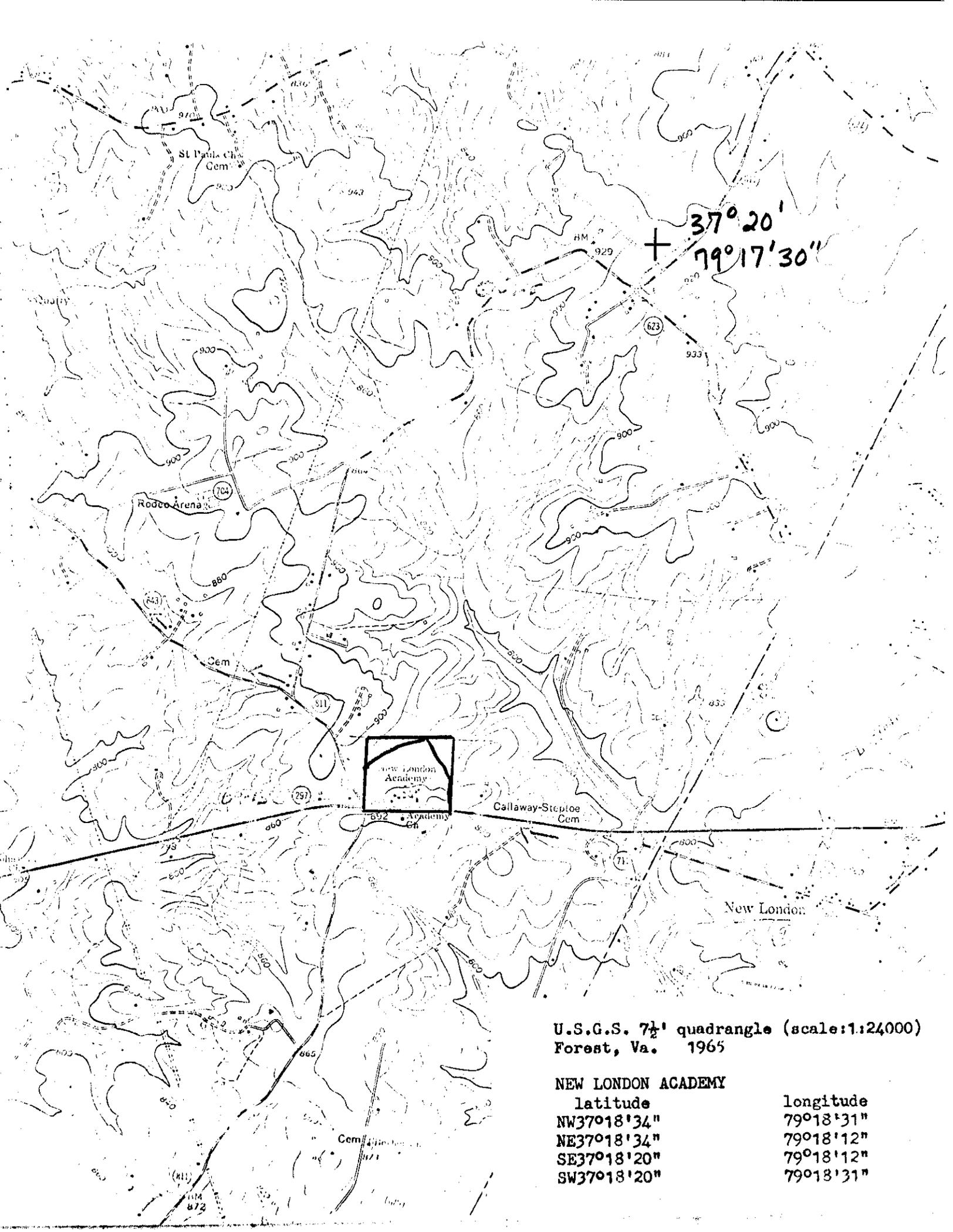
General Assembly of Virginia, Acts (concerning New London Academy) of 1795, 1796, 1828, 1842 (Chap. 152), 1887 (Chap. 174), 1910 (Chap. 86), 1926 (Chap. 475), 1954 (Chap. 106).

Samuel C. Morgan, "The New London Academy, Forest, Virginia, 1795-1941, "unpublished M. A. thesis, University of Virginia, 1941.

A. J. Morrison, The Beginnings of Public Education in Virginia, 1776-1860, 1917.

Daisy I. Read, New London Today and Yesterday, 1950.

Lyon G. Tyler, "Education in Colonial Virginia, " in William & Mary Quarterly, 1st Ser., V:219-229; VI:1-6, 71-85, 171-189; VII:1-9, 65-76.



+ 37° 20'  
79° 17' 30"

New London Academy

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Forest, Va. 1965

NEW LONDON ACADEMY  
 latitude longitude  
 NW 37° 18' 34" 79° 18' 31"  
 NE 37° 18' 34" 79° 18' 12"  
 SE 37° 18' 20" 79° 18' 12"  
 SW 37° 18' 20" 79° 18' 31"