

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Campbell County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 501 ___ not for publication

city, town Rustburg ___ vicinity of congressional district Fifth (W.C. Daniel)

state Virginia code 51 county Campbell code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(x)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name County of Campbell, c/o Chairman, Board of Supervisors

street & number P.O. Box 100

city, town Rustburg ___ vicinity of state Virginia 24588

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Campbell County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rustburg ___ vicinity of state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond ___ vicinity of state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Campbell County Courthouse is located on the north side of U.S. Route 501 in Rustburg. The two-story, T-shaped, Flemish-bond brick edifice was erected in 1848-49. The structure is the visual focal point for this small courthouse town and overlooks the rolling hills of Campbell County.

The facade (south) is dominated by a pedimented portico that shelters the main entrance. Sitting on a high podium, the portico has four unfluted Doric columns, a Doric entablature, and an unpierced tympanum. The portico shelters the main entry which has paneled double doors framed by plain architrave trim and topped by a ramped stone lintel with a molded keystone and turned corner blocks. The building also has a number of secondary entrances which consist of both double and single doors topped by flat lintels with turned corner blocks. Fenestration consists of 9/9 hung-sash windows, also topped by stone lintels with turned corner blocks, and hung louvred shutters. The cross-gable roof is covered by standing-seam sheet metal. Two brick chimneys break the roof line. The present octagonal cupola with an eagle weather vane replaces an earlier lower one.

The circuit court is located on the main floor, and the district court is on the ground floor of the building's main block. The circuit courtroom is the most distinguished space and remains in an excellent state of preservation. The focal point of the room is the judge's bench. Behind the modern bema is a Greek Revival aedicule that has Doric pilasters and a finely ornamented entablature. The pilasters have fretwork in the shafts, possibly following plates in Asher Benjamin's popular pattern book The Practical House Carpenter. The aedicule contains the emblem of the all-seeing eye, a symbol for impartial justice, that consists of a glass eye with projecting rays. The courtroom contains a very fine Greek Revival cornice and paneled ceiling featuring elaborate plaster medallions. The room's openings are framed by symmetrical architrave trim with turned corner blocks. The original spectators' benches remain in place. A judge's chair, dating to the 1850s, is preserved in the judge's chamber located behind the courtroom. The district courtroom below has been extensively renovated and preserves no original distinguishing features. The rear ell houses the court offices and has been extensively reworked. A number of county-affiliated office buildings that date to the 20th century are located to the rear (north) of the courthouse, outside the Register bounds. These structures include the county office building, the clerk's office, and the county administration building. Private lawyers' offices are situated to the west of the courthouse. It should be noted that the courthouse has been sandblasted.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The Campbell County Courthouse is nominated on a one-acre tract of land that includes only the courthouse building. While the courthouse is part of a larger county complex, the structures in the complex all date to the 20th century and are not connected with the courthouse's historical or architectural significance.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1848- 49 **Builder/Architect** John Wills

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Commonwealth's courthouses have a significant place in the architectural history of the state and nation. Spanning three centuries, the courthouse buildings represent a variety of architectural styles and types, each possessing an important place in county, state, and national developments. The most familiar institution of republican government in the county, the Campbell courthouse is a distinguished example in the Greek Revival style and was built between 1848-1849 by John Wills. The interior, with its elaborate plasterwork and ceiling, ranks as one of the best-preserved antebellum courtrooms. Especially interesting is the rare use within the aedicule of the "annuit coeptis" symbol from the Great Seal of the United States, the only known example of its kind in Virginia. The design of the courthouse thus reflects the regard and esteem of the people of Campbell County for their court.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Following repeated requests by local citizens between 1779 and 1781 to divide Bedford County, the General Assembly finally acted upon a petition to form a new county in 1781. The county was named Campbell for Gen. William Campbell, Revolutionary War hero of the Battle of Kings Mountain, who had just fallen in the Yorktown campaign. With the drawing of the dividing line between Bedford and Campbell, New London, the county seat of Bedford, fell in Campbell's portion. The newly formed county used the buildings at New London until new county buildings could be erected at a more central location. In 1783, meeting at the house of Micajah Terrell, a committee was appointed by the court to erect a courthouse and other buildings for county use. Land, known as Rust Meadows, was given by Jeremiah Rust for this purpose. Later in the 19th century the county seat became known as Rustburg. Patrick Gibson was paid 2,356 pounds of tobacco for building the first Campbell County courthouse which was completed in 1785, whereupon the county buildings at New London were sold.

It was not until the 1840s that the present courthouse was erected to replace the original county buildings. The architect and supervisor of construction for the new building, John Wills, was paid \$200 for his services. A number of entries in the accounts of the county concern various expenses incurred in the erection of the new courthouse. In June of 1848, \$51.00 were paid to Lindsey Showalter for corner stones for the public squares as well as twelve stone steps and two pilasters for the new courthouse. In addition, funds were allocated for linseed oil to paint the exterior of the new building, carpeting and curtains for the interior, and for glass, putty, desks, chairs, windows, locks, and andirons. By 1851 there are no new entries for expenditures, indicating that the new building was probably completed and paid for by that time. When completed, the new courthouse must have been considered a stylish building as evidenced by its elaborate interior plasterwork and ceiling. The use of the "annuit coeptis" symbol within the aedicule is a unique survival in a Virginia courthouse.

The county served by the courthouse was rich agriculturally, although there were also a number of iron furnaces active in the county until the end of the Civil War. Both the Staunton

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Campbell County Order Books, 25, 26 (1845-1850).
 Early, Ruth Hairston. Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1978 (reprint of 1927 edition).
 Gilliam, Rosa. County of Campbell. Campbell County School Board, 1925.
 Martin, Joseph, ed. A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia. Charlottesville: Hoseley & Martin, 1836.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre
 Quadrangle name Rustburg, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point at NE corner of intersection of U.S. 501 and VA 838; thence extending about 175' NW along E side of VA 838; thence extending about 200' NE, just NW of the courthouse; thence extending about 175' SE, along SW side of drive located just NE of the courthouse, to NW side of U.S. 501; thence extending about 200' SW along said side to point of origin.

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date May 1981
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Tucker Hill
 Tucker Hill, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date JUN 16 1981

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Affiant	date
Chief of Property	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

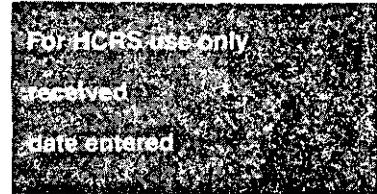
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Campbell County Courthouse, Campbell County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 8

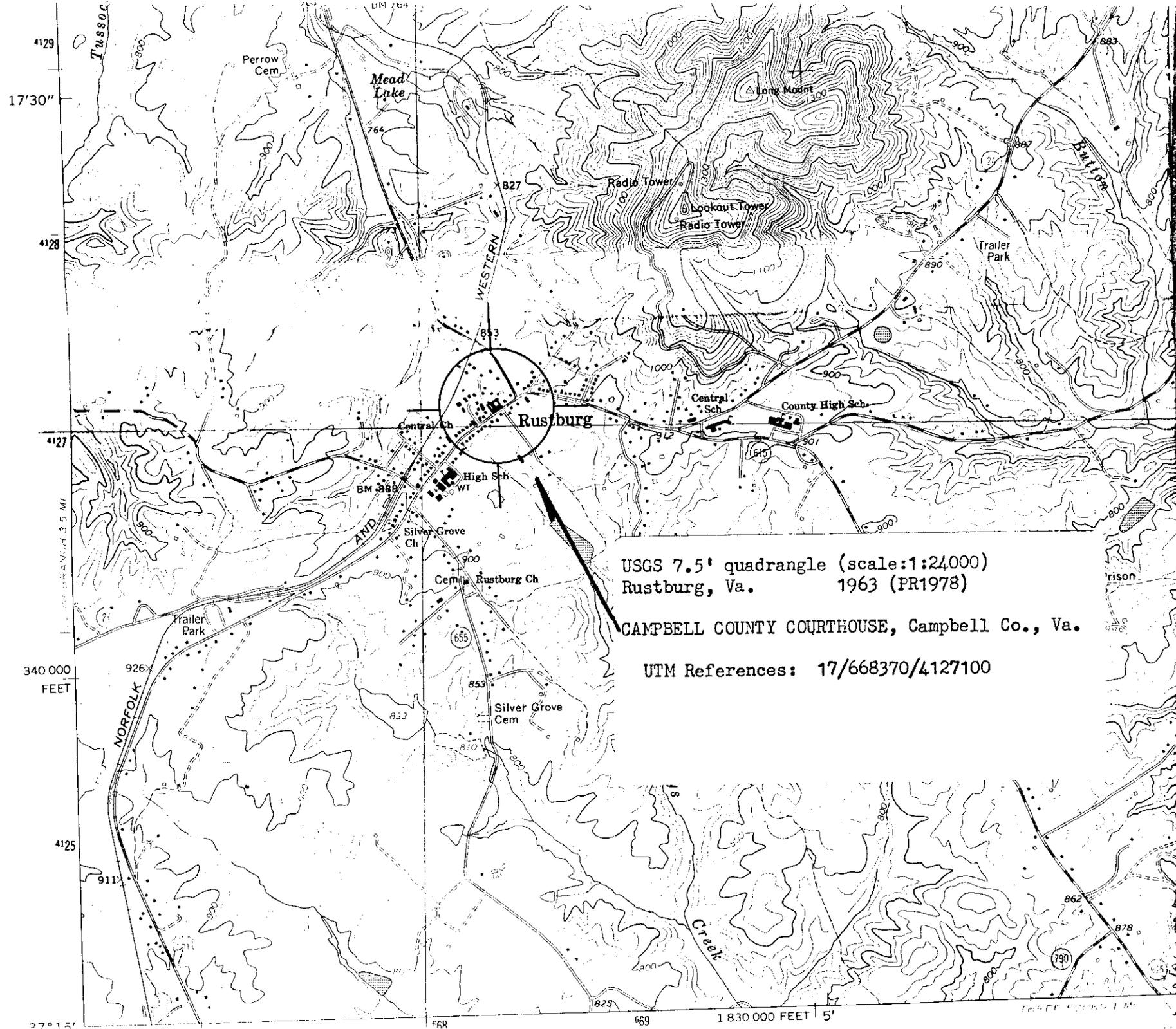
Page 1



8. SIGNIFICANCE

and James rivers were navigable to Lynchburg, allowing transportation to proceed from Campbell to both the Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle Sound. In addition, a branch of the Norfolk and Western Railroad was located at Rustburg, which provided excellent transportation ties to the western part of the state as well as to the coast. A prosperous county with such excellent means of transportation would provide substantial business and activity for its county seat and court facilities.

MTP/RCC



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Rustburg, Va. 1963 (PR1978)

CAMPBELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Campbell Co., Va.

UTM References: 17/668370/4127100