

VLR-3/2/71 NRHP 2/23/72

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: Lunenburg	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lunenburg Court House Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Lunenburg Court House Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Boundary extending .2 mi. W of intersection of Rt. 40 and Rt. 49, extending .2 mi. N of the same intersection, extending .4 mi. E of

CITY OR TOWN: intersection of Rt. 40 (Rt. 49) and Rt. 675, and extending .4 mi. S of the same intersection

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Lunenburg CODE: 111

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT WSC (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify Village)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Various ownership - public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lunenburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lunenburg County Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lunenburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958, 1969

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Lunenburg

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

The small village of Lunenburg has changed little in size or appearance since ante-bellum times. The present population is still around forty. Dominating the village is the imposing court house -- a two-story, brick temple-form building fronted by a tetrastyle Roman Doric portico. As originally built, the court house was only four bays deep, but in 1939 it was extended back two additional bays to accommodate the clerk's office. The interior of the court house originally was arranged similar to other court houses of the period, having a two-story courtroom with a rear gallery. Around 1850, the courtroom was divided into two floors and the double flight of stairs leading up to the second floor was placed under the portico at that time.

To the west of the court house is a colonial style story-and-a-half brick structure built in 1938 that now houses the county office of the State Health Department. This building is one of many similar structures built at court houses throughout the State through the generosity of Mr. David K. Bruce. On the east side of the court house is a large, hipped-roofed frame house which was once a tavern known as the Lunenburg State Inn. Portions of this building were built as a residence before the town was laid out. Directly across the road from the court house is an early-nineteenth-century frame structure known as the Hotel Gary. Now in poor condition, this building has at various times accommodated a store, inn, post office, and residence. In addition to these chief structures the village also contains a sprinkling of other nineteenth-century buildings and outbuildings.

In its situation on high ground with surrounding cleared lands, the village presents a picturesque scene, especially from the south where the court house and its gleaming white pediment can be clearly seen above the smaller structures clustered about it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | 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

Under the authority of an act of the Lunenburg County Court of May, 1782, the location of the court house was designated to be in a "convenient place at or near the center of the county". Shortly afterwards, the exact site was selected and the plans were approved, but the two-room frame court house was not completed until 1787. Despite earlier fears that the geographical center of the county would be remote from the majority of the inhabitants, the new location of the court gained enough in importance so that in 1816 the place became an incorporated village named Lewiston in honor of Captain Lewis L. Taylor, who fell in the War of 1812. The new name did not last, however, for the village continues to be called Lunenburg Court House. Some thirty lots were laid out around the court house square and were sold off by the town's trustees.

By 1823, it was decided that the 1787 court house should be moved and replaced by a more substantial building. The citizens of Lunenburg seemed to be envious of neighboring Charlotte County's handsome new Roman Revival court house, for the commissioners appointed to supervise the construction of a new building were ordered "to advertise in the public papers that they will until the 20th day of December meet at Lunenburg Courthouse to receive proposals for building a new courthouse at this place which courthouse is proposed to be built after the plan of the new courthouse in Charlotte County". The new court house was completed by 1827, for in March of that year the Court was ordered to "hold its sitting therein".

Unfortunately neither the designer nor the builders of the court house were recorded, but the academic quality of the building's classical proportions and detail clearly indicates that the designer was knowledgeable in architecture and was familiar with Thomas Jefferson's Roman Revivalism. One of the handsomest of Virginia's numerous Roman-style court houses, the temple-form Lunenburg Court House stands as visible evidence of Jefferson's influence on the architecture of the State's public buildings. The architectural quality of the court house is much enhanced by the maintenance of its historic setting. The conservative growth of the village of Lunenburg has resulted in the preservation of one of Virginia's most picturesque court house communities. The court house still visually dominates the tiny community and the surrounding countryside as it has for nearly a century and a half.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, Landon C. The Old Free State, 2 vols. Richmond: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1927.
 Lunenburg County Order Book 24, 1821-1823, p. 408.
 Whiffen, Marcus. "The Early County Courthouses of Virginia." Journal of Society of Architectural Historians. Vol. XVIII, No. 1, March 1959.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36 °	57'	49"	78 °	16'	21"
NE	36 °	57'	49"	78 °	15'	39"
SE	36 °	57'	23"	78 °	15'	39"
SW	36 °	57'	23"	78 °	16'	21"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 140 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:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December 16, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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

Title: Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 3/2/71

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.C.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:1:24000)
Lunenburg, Va. 1966

LUNENBURG COURT HOUSE PRESERVATION ZONE

Latitude	Longitude
NW 36° 57' 49"	78° 16' 21"
NE 36° 57' 49"	78° 15' 39"
SE 36° 57' 23"	78° 15' 39"
SW 36° 57' 23"	78° 16' 21"

