

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Ballard-Marshall House other names/site number Marshall House DHL File No. 275-1

2. Location

street & number 158 East Main Street city, town Orange state Virginia code VA county Orange code 137 zip code 22960

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: NA Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Jeffersonian Classicism

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Metal: tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary Description

The Ballard-Marshall House is located at 158 East Main St. in the town of Orange, Virginia. The original portion of the two-story structure, of brick laid in Flemish bond, and capped by a pedimented gable roof, was erected in 1832. It stands as a rare example of a late Federal Virginia townhouse constructed in the Jeffersonian idiom. Masonry additions were made to the rear of the building ca. 1900 and in 1934-35. At the latter date, the house was converted into apartments, but with the retention of most of its original fabric. Stabilization and renovation of the building was undertaken in 1986-8.

Architectural Analysis

The Ballard-Marshall House is oriented north, facing East Main St. in the town of Orange, and is slightly set back from the street. Besides peripheral shrubbery along the lot line, only a large black walnut tree and the mature English boxwood lining the side (west) walkway remain from earlier gardens.

The original section of the house, constructed in 1832, is the two-story brick structure which now forms the front (north) section of the house. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with the finely struck joints characteristic of the Jeffersonian style. The whole is capped by a pedimented roof, its gable run on an east-west axis. Each facade of the house originally featured three bays: a regular rhythm of a central door with flanking windows on the front and rear, and a slightly irregular rhythm on the sides, with doors and windows alike equipped with stone sills and chaste Jeffersonian architrave surrounds.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1832

Significant Dates

1832

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement of Significance

The Ballard-Marshall House is a rare example of an urban house form influenced by the Jeffersonian Classical style. Although the workman who designed and executed the Ballard-Marshall House remains unknown, the woodwork and brickwork in the original section of the house are similar to that of two plantation dwellings in Orange County: Berry Hill near the town of Orange (built by William B. Phillips and Malcolm Crawford, 1827) and Frascati near Somerset (by John Perry, 1823). Both of these builders previously worked under Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia, and both continued to construct buildings in the Virginia Piedmont well into the middle of the 19th century. Given the date and stylistic elements of the Ballard-Marshall House, it is possible that one of these workmen was involved in its planning and/or construction as well. Like Frascati, the Ballard-Marshall House has a traditional plan, with its Jeffersonian associations expressed in its precise brickwork, classical elements such as the pedimented gable, and correct proportions. Thomas Jefferson himself advocated a rural, pastoral existence as the American ideal; his architectural designs are primarily for substantial rural dwellings. Jefferson's few ventures into urban design were for public or educational buildings such as county courthouses, the Virginia Capitol in Richmond and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Similarly, the several master builders who employed the Jeffersonian style also tended to confine their work to plantation houses and a few public buildings, typically courthouses.¹ The Ballard-Marshall House, as an urban dwelling interpreted in the Jeffersonian idiom, has no counterpart in Orange County or the surrounding north-central Virginia Piedmont.²

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Orange County Deed Books, Will Books, Land Tax Books, Personal Property Tax Books.
Orange County Circuit Court Records, Orange, Virginia.

"Marshall Family" genealogical file, Orange County Historical Society, Orange, Virginia

King, Mrs. Alice. Interview with the author. Monrovia, Virginia, 24 March 1988.

Steck, Mrs. Mary Fielding. Phone conversations with the author, Winchester, Virginia
November, 1987.

"Taylor Family" genealogical file, Orange County Historical Society, Orange, Virginia.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # HABSI (no date)
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Va. Div. of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor St. Richmond VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.5 acre

UTM References

A

17	75	30	40	42	36	80	00
Zone	Easting		Northing				

C

Zone	Easting		Northing				

B

Zone	Easting		Northing				

D

Zone	Easting		Northing				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as the 0.5 acre lot at 158 East Main Street in the town of Orange, Virginia as recorded in Orange County Deed Book 377, p.254.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the residue of the parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann L. Miller - Consultant

organization NA date 29 April 1988

street & number P.O. Box 542 telephone (703) 923-4772

city or town Madison state Virginia zip code 22727

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This portion stands two stories high over an English basement, with entry, via slightly raised porches on the (north) front and south (rear) elevations, into the main floor of the building. The front (north) and side (east and west) facades of the Ballard-Marshall House give evidence of the house's floorplan: a single, wide front door is located in the center of the north facade; similar doors pierce the side walls near the northeast and northwest corners. All three doors originally opened into the wide passage which ran on an east-west axis across the north (front) wall of the house. A secondary, narrower transverse passage originally opened opposite the front door and ran north-south to an opposing rear door in the south wall of the house. Two spacious rooms on this level are located behind (to the south of) the front passage, with access to the east room from the secondary passage, and the west room originally reached via a door from the front hall. The two interior chimneys in the rear (south) wall of the house each serve a fireplace in one main room and in the corresponding second-floor room above it.

Although the design and location of the original stair is not known, most other features in the main level of the house remain intact. All rooms have plastered walls with deep, beaded baseboards. No cornices are present. The Jeffersonian simplicity of the exterior window and door surrounds gives way to deep, symmetrical interior architrave moldings interrupted by bulls-eyes corner blocks. The mantel in the west room has paired colonnettes on plain bases flanking the fireplace opening. Above this level the colonnettes are transformed into attached, half-round paired pilasters supporting the tiered mantel shelf. Mantels in the east downstairs and west upstairs rooms are similar, but here the colonnettes have been transformed into stylized, symmetrical moldings flanking the fireplace opening and supporting the mantel shelves. The Colonial Revival chair rails in the passage and rooms on both levels of the original section of the house were added during renovations at the end of the 19th century; there is no structural evidence that chair rails were an original decorative feature of the house.¹

The second floor has similar but simpler versions of the main floor woodwork. The fireplace in the east room on the second floor was closed in the mid-20th century, and this mantel no longer survives.

At some point during the 19th century, the house was painted red, with lined brick joints. The brickwork under the front and rear porches was whitewashed. Another coat of red paint or wash was subsequently applied to the exterior as well.²

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At the end of the 19th century, the door in the east side of the house was closed up and a stairway inserted in that end of the front passage, blocking the old doorway. The door to the downstairs west room was enlarged into a square archway between that room and the front passage. Colonial Revival chair rails were applied to the walls of the passage and both the downstairs and upstairs rooms.

Soon afterwards, around 1900, a two-story masonry addition, laid in five-course American bond, was made to the western portion of the (south) rear wall of the original portion of the house, requiring the removal of the rear porch. This addition contained a separate stairway.

Around 1910, an earlier front porch or portico was removed, and one-story Colonial Revival porticos added on the east and north facades of the house. The doors on these facades received their present Neoclassical surrounds at the same time. The porticos are identical, with paired square boxed columns with recessed panels, connected by simple Chinese lattice railings. An open promenade, defined by identical railings, once ran along the west facade of the house and turned the corner to connect with the north portico. The flat metal roofs of the porticos form the flooring for the balconies on the second levels, which are set off by the same railings, along with square wooden balustrades. Entry to the north balcony was via the second-level door, located directly above the front door on that facade. The west balcony was only accessible from a second-story window, and was primarily a decorative element.

In 1934-35, the house was remodeled into separate apartments for various members of the Marshall family who then owned it, and a second two-story south (rear) wing was added to accommodate this new use. Of brick laid in common bond, this wing is of slightly lower height than the original section and the ca. 1900 addition.

In 1962, the house was sold out of the Marshall family and became a tenement housing low-income apartments. Minimal maintenance was done during this time, and roof leaks and tenant vandalism damaged interior walls and woodwork, and destroyed the stairway in the ca. 1900 addition. Repairs to this stairway were made with plywood and 2 by 4s. The Ballard-Marshall House was sold again in 1986, and

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following renovation of the badly deteriorated and damaged structure in 1986-8, is still used as an apartment building. During the 1986-8 renovations, the remains of the stair in the ca. 1900 wing were removed and replaced with the stair from the front hall, itself a turn-of-the-century addition to the original portion of the house. The transverse hallway of the original section was fitted as utility and storage closets, and the original south (rear) door was closed. The exterior of the building was repainted, and vandalized exterior and interior woodwork was replicated.

ENDNOTES

¹ The chair rails were constructed of machined millwork, and were fastened to the walls with wire nails; the absence of other nail holes or molding ghosts on the walls confirmed that the chair rails were a comparatively modern addition.

² Portions of the rear exterior wall still retaining the original paint and subsequent washes were preserved under later plastering in the ca. 1900 rear addition, and were exposed during the renovations of ca. 1986-1988.

³ See note 1, above.

⁴ The chronology for the late 19th and early 20th century changes to the house was supplied by Mrs. Alice N. King, Monrovia, VA, and Mrs. Mary Fielding Steck, Winchester, VA, both in their 70s. Their grandparents, Fielding L. and Mary Marshall, resided in the house at the time these changes were made.

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Historical Background

The lot where the Ballard-Marshall House now stands was included in a five-acre tract purchased in 1826 by Orange merchant Garland Ballard from the estate of Dr. William Shepherd.³ The deed to Ballard specified that "land and appurtenances" were being transferred: an older frame residence and store, constructed by William Shepherd's father Andrew Shepherd, a merchant there in the second half of the 18th century, were already standing on the property, probably with additional subsidiary buildings.⁴ Orange County Land Tax book entries for the late 1820's note a valuation of \$2950 for the buildings on the property.⁵

An entry in the 1832 Orange County Land Tax book raised the total building valuation on the tract to \$5950, "\$3000 added on account of Improvements". This, along with a foundation brick inscribed "1832", indicate that Ballard completed his new brick house, the original portion of the Ballard-Marshall House, early in that year.⁶

Due to Ballard's default on a deed of trust on the old Shepherd property, the land was divided and sold at auction by the trustees in 1843. By deed of 27 December 1843, "the lot upon which a brick house is built", the Ballard-Marshall House and reduced acreage, was conveyed to Robert Taylor.⁷

Robert Taylor, a cousin of President Zachary Taylor, resided at "Spring Garden" on the northern outskirts of the town of Orange. He was a leading Republican in Virginia, serving on the first Corresponding Committee in 1800, and appointed by Governor James Monroe to supervise the Federal election in Orange County. He served in the Virginia State Senate from 1805 until 1815, and was Speaker in those years. Running as a National Republican, he was elected one of Virginia's representatives to the Nineteenth Congress (1825-27),⁸ after which he retired from political life and returned to Orange.⁸ Taylor did not purchase the house as a primary residence, but rather as a dwelling for his daughters, Mildred Taliaferro and Lucinda Shepherd, and devised them the property by his will, probated in Orange County 28 July 1845.⁹ By deed of 1 January 1848, Mildred Taliaferro purchased her sister's share in the "house and lot, in the village of Orange" to become sole owner of the property.¹⁰ Under the terms of Mildred Taliaferro's will, probated 22 May 1854, her real estate and slaves were to be sold and the proceeds divided among her five children.¹¹

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On 8 August 1854, Mildred Taliaferro's brother Jaquelin P. Taylor simultaneously purchased the house and put it in trust for his niece, Ellen Stanard, a daughter of Mildred Taliaferro.¹² Following Ellen Stanard's death, the trust was revised by an instrument¹³ of 4 June 1867 in favor of her daughter, Mary E. Chapman.

By deed of 4 June 1870, the house and lot held in trust for Mary E. Chapman were purchased by Mary S. Balch, who eight years later, by deed of 17 June 1878, conveyed her "house and lot in the Village of Orange Court House" to D.S. Cates.¹⁴ D.S. Cates and Martha his wife sold the property to Maria A. Thomas of Alexandria on 15 February 1882.¹⁵

Mrs. Thomas bought the property as a residence for her son-in-law and daughter, Fielding Lewis and Mary N. Marshall. Fielding Lewis Marshall, who had recently been appointed Superintendent of Public Education in Orange, was a Confederate veteran and grandson of Chief Justice John Marshall. Trained as a lawyer, he never practiced, but instead became a tutor and schoolteacher. He had never recovered from financial reverses incurred as a result of the Civil War, and his mother-in-law kept the property in her own name to prevent it falling victim to his creditors.¹⁶ At her death in 1890, she devised a life estate in the house to her daughter, Mary N. Marshall, and then to Mary's children. Still wary of Fielding Lewis Marshall's creditors, Mrs. Thomas specified that the bequest to Mary was to be "free from all debts and liabilities of her husband".¹⁷

The changes to the original section of the house: the addition of the stair in the front hallway, the enlargement of the archway leading from the hallway into the west downstairs room and the front and side Colonial Revival porches and door surrounds, as well as the first addition to the southwest (rear) of the building, apparently date from the first three decades of the Thomas/Marshall ownership. Land Tax Book evidence is inconclusive as to the date of the addition, but a Marshall family photograph taken ca. 1909 shows the house with the rear addition in place, but without the porches, while the porches appear in a second photograph taken ca. 1912.¹⁸

Fielding Lewis Marshall died in 1902. Following Mary N. Marshall's death in 1928, the house, under the terms of her mother's will, passed in common to her children. In 1934-5 one of the Marshall sons, John Newton Marshall, a stockbroker in New York City who had

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previously developed the Marshall Heights and Burgess subdivisions in the town of Orange, returned to Orange and, determined to "make the house pay its way", enlarged the building by making the second addition to its south (rear) end, and divided the Marshall House into six apartments to serve as housing for various family members.¹⁹ By deed of 15 January 1952, the other few remaining Marshall heirs deeded their shares in the house to J. Newton Marshall.²⁰ At his death four years later he devised the house to his unmarried sister, Evelyn Lewis Marshall; in turn, upon her death in December, 1960, she left the house to her nieces.²¹ They sold the house to Richard L. Sanford by deed of 30 June 1962.²²

During the Sanford ownership, the Ballard-Marshall House was used for low income and rental-assistance housing, and suffered considerable vandalism from tenants. The present owners purchased the house in 1986, and undertook considerable stabilization of the structure and restoration of the interior woodwork. The house now contains six apartments, the same number as the Marshall family's units in the 1930s.

ENDNOTES

¹ For a concise discussion of Jefferson's workmen and their work in Virginia, see Richard C. Cote's "Jefferson's Workmen and the Virginia Landmarks Register" in the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks' Notes on Virginia, No. 28, pp.26-29.

² The only surviving comparable example of an urban structure exhibiting Jeffersonian influence is "Number Nothing" at 240-242 Court Square in Charlottesville, Virginia, located in Jefferson's home county of Albemarle. It must be noted that, however, "Number Nothing" was constructed as a mercantile duplex, not as a town residence.

³ Orange County (VA) Deed Book 31, p.301. Garland Ballard is charged with a merchant's license in the Orange County (VA) Personal Property Tax records for the mid-1820s through 1839.

⁴ Private files in the possession of J. Randolph Grymes, Jr., Orange, VA. Mr. Grymes, a descendant of Andrew Shepherd, has compiled extensive data on the family and their homes, including Mutual Assurance Society records on the Shepherd dwelling. No Mutual Assurance records exist for the Ballard-Marshall House.

⁵ Orange County (VA) Land Tax Books, 1825-1830.

