

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP-2/26/70

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Page	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Aventine Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Aventine Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
143 South Court Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Luray
STATE
Virginia
COUNTY:
45 Page
CODE
139

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Mrs. Clara M. Gleason Mr. Conrad Buettner
STREET AND NUMBER:
909 North Greenway Drive Aventine, 143 South Court St.
CITY OR TOWN:
Coral Gables Luray
STATE:
Florida Virginia
CODE
09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Page County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street
CITY OR TOWN
Luray
STATE
Virginia
CODE
45
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE
District of Columbia

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Aventine Hall is a frame, two-story house with flush beaded siding, stucco-covered foundation (probably brick), hipped roof with cupola (recently rebuilt), four interior end chimneys and a tetra-style portico. This portico, which runs almost the complete length of the facade, shelters a broad, three-bay front and is in the Corinthian Order based on the Tower of the Winds in Athens. The builder, in the spirit of the times, took the usual liberties with his model, and although the column caps and shafts follow the correct pattern, having square abaci, water leaves above a row of acanthus leaves, and a fluted shaft, the builder added an attic base and a Doric frieze and cornice with water leaves in the metope rectangle. Along with pilasters in the Tower of the Winds mode at the corners, the frieze and cornice were continued around the entire, almost square, structure. The large six-over-six sash windows, with their flat framings and cornice shelf lintels, reach almost to the floors on the first level but are diminished in height at the second level. The three-bay side facades have had the center bay in both floors filled in with the same flush siding and a one-story porch has been added to the rear front. The front entrance is in the form of di-style in antis using again the Tower of the Winds form, this time with an entablature more reminiscent of the original design.

Aventine Hall has a standard central hall plan with two rooms on the north and one large room on the south. The stair rises on a single flight along the north wall and features slender, turned balusters (two to a tread) and simple cut-out brackets. The hallway entrances to both sides have framings consisting of carved "Greek Ionic" caps, broad pilaster shafts cut into four bands, and a plain entablature with laurel wreaths placed along the frieze. Variations on this doorway theme occur in the two north rooms which also feature white marble mantels with arched openings and carved keystones. The large single room on the south has two marble mantels similar to those across the hall. The room is divided approximately at the center by a Corinthian "screen" of two columns with beautiful plaster-mold caps, and pilasters on the side walls, supporting an entablature, all of which is done in a reasonably academic manner. The doorways and windows reflect the motif in their use of Corinthian pilaster and frieze. This room is an important document of the effect of the Greek Revival when sensitively handled and contrasts strikingly with the rather roughly carved hall doorways. The second floor is much simpler in feeling using flat architrave door and window framings and a continuation of the marble mantel design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

S. 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 <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/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Aventine Hall was built in 1852 by Peter Bock Borst, originally a northerner who came to Virginia before the Civil War and established a law practice in the town of Luray. Borst served as Commonwealth's Attorney in 1868 and in 1870 and was one of the organizers of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, now the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Borst brought with him a knowledge of the Greek Revival which was flourishing in other parts of the country, and he himself selected the various designs used by his carpenter-builder, Mr. O'Neale, a native of Luray.

Rarely did the Greek Revival affect Virginia and other established eastern seaboard states with the effect that it had on the Midwest and upstate New York which were undergoing a building boom in the 1830's and '40's. Large homes from earlier periods seemed to suit wealthy Virginians quite nicely, who, when they built their houses, were often content to recognize the Greek spirit only in detailing and not in a radical change of the building form. Large porticoes in a form diametrically opposed to the purer forms of the Tuscan and Roman Doric, then, are unusual and look decidedly un-Virginian, a word which aptly describes Aventine Hall.

Subsequently Aventine Hill, as it was then called, served as the main building of Luray College which operated from 1925 to 1927. The house was dismantled and moved from Main Street U. S. (Route 211) to its present site when the Mimslyn Hotel was built in 1937. Built to stand on a prominence, the house has lost its commanding hilltop site, but now, at least, one can enjoy the close views of the detailing along the narrow frieze and the column caps, a feature which Borst apparently used to balance the blockiness of the building proper. The interesting classical combinations, the lightness of the slender columns on the portico, and the contrast between carved and plaster-mold ornament on the interior, make this house an unusual and valuable contrast to the wealth of Georgian and Federalist structures within the State.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fletcher, Sir Banister. A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method. Seventeenth Edition. Revised by R. A. Cordingley. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1963, pp. 140-141.

Kerkhoff, Jennie Ann. Old Homes of Page County, Virginia. Luray, Va.: Lauck and Company, Incorporated, 1962, pp. 161-163.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 IN AREA		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 38' 50"	78° 27' 52"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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: September 19, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

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, Chairman
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

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

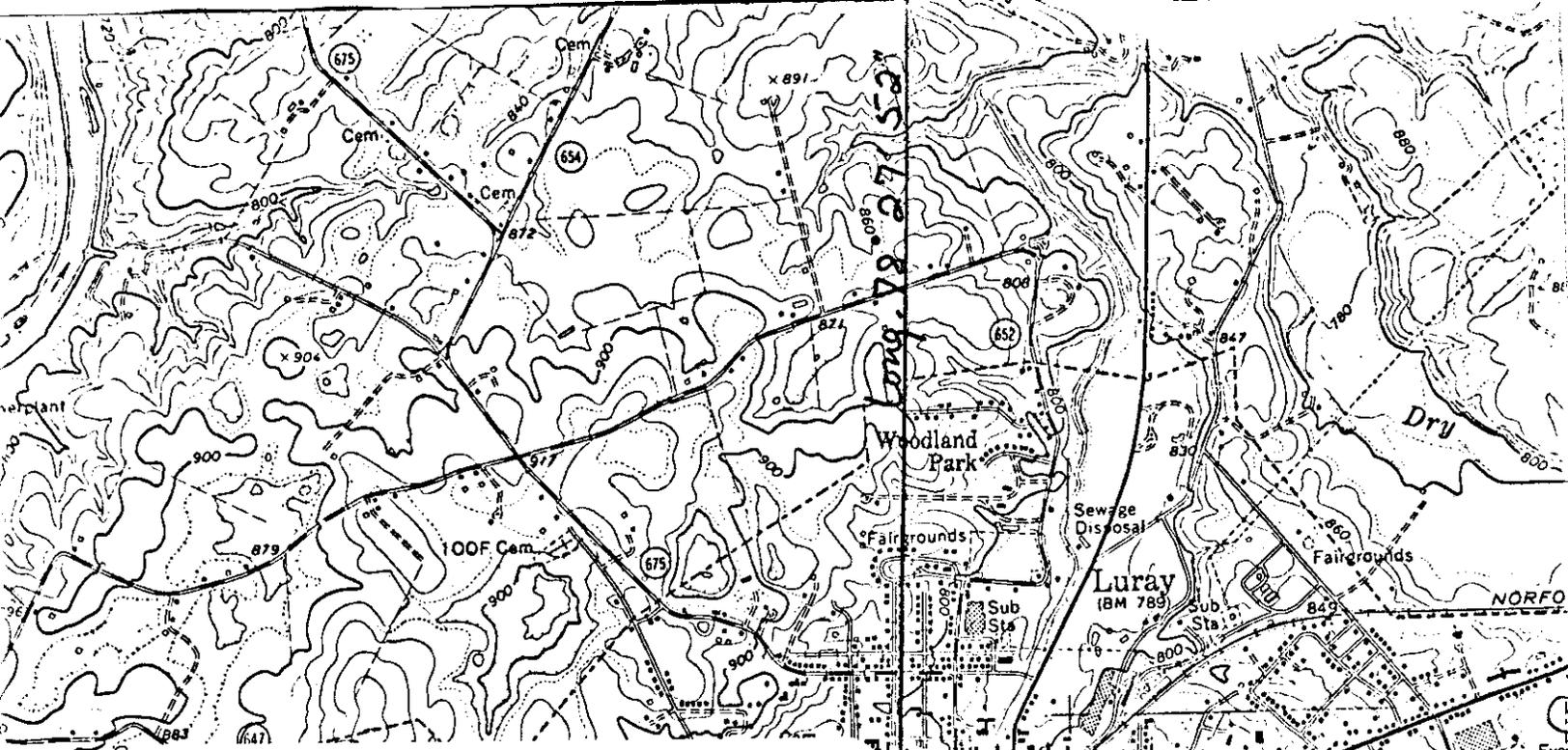
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
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(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #159-1
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)
 Luray, Va. (1965)

Aventine Hall
 Latitude
 38° 38' 50"

Longitude
 78° 27' 52"

Lat. 38° 38' 50"

