

VLR - 12/2/69 NRHP 2/16/70

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Norfolk (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Moses Myers House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Moses Myers House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SW corner of E. Freemason Street and N. Bank Street,

CITY OR TOWN:  
Norfolk

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45      COUNTY: (in cit.)      CODE: 710

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Olney Road and Mowbray Arch

CITY OR TOWN: Norfolk      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Norfolk      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958, 1959       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Completed circa 1792, the Moses Myers House is a richly embellished brick two-story Federal townhouse. Its facade features a pedimented gable end roof and a small aedicula type portico surrounding the front door. Stonework is featured in the beltcourse and in the decorative lintels and keystones over all the principal windows. In 1796, a two-story octagonal ended wing was added to the rear of the house to contain a large dining room. Also on the rear are a two-story service wing and an attached two-story kitchen. The whole house is laid in even colored Flemish bond which has been quite obviously repointed in a number of sections.

On the interior, the simplicity of the plan is disguised by the unusually rich interior decoration. The entrance hall, which extends the entire width of the house, features elaborate Adam-style ceiling decoration and a delicate staircase which ascends to the third floor. Behind the hall are two reception rooms which contain highly ornamented mantels. Beyond the north reception room is the dining room, the south wall of which has two arched recesses which contain the specially fitted original Hepplewhite sideboards. The house remarkably retains approximately fifty per cent of its original furniture, most of which is of the highest quality American Federal.

Situated on a corner, the house has a principal entrance from each street as well as from the service court. Originally the grounds covered the entire block, but they have been reduced to a fraction of their former size. Behind the house is a restored formal garden which is surrounded by a new iron fence supported by brick piers. Although the setting of the house has been significantly altered by the demolition of nearly every structure in the neighborhood, the Moses Myers House itself is in a fine state of preservation and is excellently maintained.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                               | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |                                                 |                                               | _____                                               |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Originally from New York, Moses Myers was one of the numerous merchants who settled in Norfolk following the Revolution, and he quickly became a prominent and powerful figure in the growing city. During his career he was the local French Consul, bank superintendent, and president of the Common Council. In 1828 he was appointed customs collector for the thriving port of Norfolk. During his occupancy of the house, Myers entertained such notables as President James Monroe, the Marquis de Lafayette, Daniel Webster, and Stephen Decatur. The house descended through five generations of the Myers family and is now a house museum administered by the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Completed circa 1792, the Moses Myers House was one of the first brick houses built after the British destroyed the city in 1776. Unfortunately, both the architect and builders are unknown, although the dining room addition has been attributed to Benjamin H. Latrobe. Today the house stands not only as an outstanding and virtually unaltered example of Federal architecture but as a remarkable social document as well. With the demolition, over the years, of nearly every ante-bellum house in the city, the Moses Myers House has become the symbol of a very elegant and prosperous era in Norfolk's past.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Coffin, Lewis A., Jr., and Arthur C. Holden, Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia. New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1919.

Garden Club of Virginia, Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, Incorporated, 1962.

Lancaster, Robert A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia. New York: Walker & Company, Inc., 1968.

**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	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .	36°	51'	00"	
NE	0 . .	0 . .	76°	17'	17"	
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 10 acres.**

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: **November 6, 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  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Norfolk (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Moses Myers House  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Moses Myers House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SW corner of E. Freemason St. and N. Bank St.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Norfolk

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 710
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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Norfolk South, Va.

SCALE: 1:24000

PLATE: L055

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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Norfolk

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 710
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**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT:

DATE OF PHOTO:

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)  
Norfolk South, Va. (1955)

Moses Myers House  
Latitude 36° 51' 00" Longitude 76° 17' 17"