

122-18

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME			
(COMMON) Norfolk Academy Building			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Norfolk Academy			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 420 Bank Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Norfolk			
STATE Virginia	CODE	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 710
3. CLASSIFICATION			

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District 3	Public ☒	Occupied ☒	Yes:
Site ☐	Private ☐	Unoccupied ☐	Restricted ☒
Object ☐	Both ☐	Preservation work in progress ☐	Unrestricted ☐
			No: ☐

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural ☐	Government ☒	Park ☐	Transportation ☐	Comments ☐
Commercial ☐	Industrial ☐	Private Residence ☐	Other (Specify) ☐	
Educational ☐	Military ☐	Religious ☐		
Entertainment ☐	Museum ☐	Scientific ☐		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: City of Norfolk			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Norfolk	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	STATE: Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Norfolk City Hall			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Norfolk	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Norfolk (in cit.)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2

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	CODE 08	FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTION 9

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent ☐	Good ☒	Fair ☐	Deteriorated ☐	Ruins ☐	Unexposed ☐
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered ☐ Unaltered ☒			Moved ☐ Original Site ☒		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Norfolk Academy building is a two-story temple-form structure with stuccoed walls. Although the building employs an unfluted Greek Doric order, it is actually in the form of a Roman Temple, being supported on a podium and having pilasters between the bays on the side walls rather than free standing columns. The sides are eight bays deep with the first and second floor windows separated by unornamented recessed panels. Both the front and rear facades feature hexastyle pedimented porticoes with plain friezes. The front wall is pierced only by the central door, but the remaining surface is ornamented by pilasters corresponding to the portico columns.

Little of the original fabric remains on the interior except possibly a staircase located to the left of the main entrance. The landing of the stair is supported by simple wooden Doric columns which may be original. The remaining interiors were probably very plain as were most educational buildings of the period.

While the building is not large in scale, the careful handling of its elements by the architect and its now almost isolated location in downtown Norfolk contribute to making it a monumental and imposing structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) 1840

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☒Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☒Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

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

The origins of the Norfolk Academy date as early as 1728 when "one lott of half acre of land ... being on ye. s.e. side of ye street ..." was conveyed to the Norfolk Borough authorities for the expressed purpose of building a school. The school was first called Norfolk Academy in 1787, and was incorporated by the General Assembly in 1804. By 1840 there was need for a new school building. A new site for the building was chosen on Bank Street, and the designs for it were provided by the famous architect, Thomas U. Walter of Philadelphia. The cornerstone for the temple-form structure was laid on May 25, 1840. It is said that Edgar Allan Poe delivered his last public lecture in the Academy building in September, 1849.

In 1915, the school vacated Walter's structure, and it was subsequently converted into Norfolk's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. In 1919 plans were made to make the Academy building a focal point for a health center but these plans never materialized. The building is presently occupied by the Juvenile Court only, and it is expected that it will be converted into the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce.

Architecturally, the Norfolk Academy building stands as one of the important monuments of the Greek Revival period by virtue of both the quality of its design and the fame of its architect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forrest, William, Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Norfolk and Vicinity ..., Philadelphia: 1853.
Henings Statutes, VII (1761), pp. 510-511.
Lower Norfolk County, Virginia Antiquary, I, 21-36; IV, 26-32.
Norfolk Academy - A Trial List of the Alumni to 1927, Norfolk: 1927.
O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, 1968.

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		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36°	51'	02"	76° 17' 08"	
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: July 24, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

Title Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Virginia Historic Landmarks
Commission

Date _____

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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Norfolk (in cit.)	
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(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #122-18
1967
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

NORFOLK SOUTH QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 NEWPORT NEWS 15' QUADRANGLE

(SEE VIEW)

NEWS FERRY 5.5 MI.
17°30"

OCEAN VIEW 6 MI.

2650000 FEET

76°15'
36°52'30"



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
Norfolk South, Va. (1955)

Norfolk Academy

Latitude
36° 51' 02"

Longitude
76° 17' 08"

200000
FEET

5.8 MI. U.S. 80

