

VLR: 2/21/74 NRHP: 8/13/74

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

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:	Staunton (city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Stuart Mall (Main Building)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Old Main

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
235 West Frederick

CITY OR TOWN:  
Staunton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE: Virginia COUNTY: (city) CODE: 790

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Nathaniel Goddard, Headmaster

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Stuart Hall

CITY OR TOWN:  
Staunton

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Augusta County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Staunton

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: (city) Staunton

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: The Main Building at Stuart Hall is a distinguished example of Greek Revival academic architecture.

B. Condition of the fabric: Good.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. The two-story building with attic has a five-bay facade, and is seven bays deep.

B. Foundations: Brick.

C. Wall construction: Brick walls are painted a cream-yellow color. The facade is laid in Flemish bond; the rest of the walls, above and below the corbeled water table, are laid in American bond. Brick classical pilasters are employed on the east side.

D. Porches: The impressive two-story Doric portico is three bays wide, has a simple heavy frieze, and is supported by four paneled piers. The portico is set on a platform, which is approached by a series of modern brick steps framed by brick podii. The central three bays on the east side project and are framed by brick pilasters. A pair of pilasters frame the central bay which is recessed and contains the east entrance. A one-story shed porch with classical piers and turned balusters shelters the four rear bays of the east side.

E. Chimneys: Four interior chimneys with brick stacks and corbeled caps are in the side walls.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The south entrance doorway has a rectangular transom with a series of small panes flanked by a pair of consoles with a narrow sidelight between the consoles. Sidelights frame the four-panel door; and the whole doorway has architrave trim. A similar transom with one pair of consoles is over the double single-panel doors of the east doorway.

2. Windows: The windows on the first and second floor have six-over-six double-hung sash. The third floor eyebrow windows are rectangular on an horizontal axis and have lozenge panes. The center windows of the center bay on the sides have sidelights. All are surrounded by architrave trim.

G. Roof: The shallow hipped roof is covered with sheet metal. A wooden belvidere with windows rises from the central part of the roof.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor Plan: A central hall is flanked by three rooms on both east and west. A narrow cross hall leads from the center hall to the east door. Dormitory rooms occupy the second and third floor. The original kitchen and dining room were in the basement.

B. Stairway: A single-run stair with rectangular balusters ascends in the main hall. This stair is not original. The original single-run stair ascends in the transverse hall, has rectangular balusters, and a rounded rail ending in a vertical volute supported by a turned newel. Ornamental brackets are employed, and continue in a wave motif around the well; the spandrel is paneled.

C. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are plastered and either painted or papered.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Virginia
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

D. Doorways and doors: The doorways vary from room to room. The doorways in the hall and in the southeast parlor exhibit broad architrave trim with crossets. In the southwest parlor the doors are framed by plain pilasters topped with an anthemion and have a lintel in the form of a ramped blocking course. The northeast parlor doorways employ symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks featuring a stylized blossom. The north west parlor employs symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks featuring bullseyes. A wide double doorway surrounded by the same trim, with a dentil cornice on a plain entablature supported by two fluted Doric columns, and two Doric engaged piers leads to the small room immediately south of this parlor. Four panel Greek Revival doors are employed in all the rooms.

E. Trim: A simple molded cornice is used in some of the rooms.

F. Heating: The building is heated by modern central heating, but it retains its fireplaces on the first floor. The mantel in the south parlor is reminiscent of the other trim; simple pilasters are capped by anthemions and support a plain fireze and simple shelf. The hearth opening of the mantel in the southeast room is framed by symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks which is in turn surrounded by a wide architrave trim with crossets very similar to that on the doorways. This trim tapers slightly hinting at Egyptian style influence. The shelf is supported by a series of graceful moldings. The fireplaces in the two north parlors are framed by pilasters, have a course of molding bisecting the friezing and wide shelves.

IV. Site:

A. General setting: Old Main is set on a hill and has a fine view of downtown Staunton from residential West Frederick Street. The building faces south, and is surrounded by a commodious lawn dotted with numerous evergreen and shade trees. Seven additions have been made to the rear of Old Main; in style, material and color they harmonize with the original building.

G.P.H.

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input 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

The "Old Main" Building of Stuart Hall School is a distinguished example of Greek Revival academic architecture, and serves as the focal point of this historic institution. Its dignified facade with its tall white piers have long been an impressive landmark on West Frederick Street, a residential area of architectural distinction.

Stuart Hall, originally Virginia Female Institute, is the oldest preparatory school for girls in Virginia. The Institute was incorporated on January 13, 1843, a year before its nearby rival, Augusta Female Seminary--now Mary Baldwin College, was officially chartered. "Old Main," designed and built by Edwin Taylor, was completed in 1846 at the cost of more than \$15,000, including the furnishings. The school attracted numerous pupils from its first regular session of fifty students in 1844. The curriculum centered around English, foreign languages, music, and religion. By 1850 the Institute had begun to incur substantial debts, and it sought relief from its pecuniary troubles from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. By 1856 the Diocese had paid the debt and received control of the school. In this year the school had well over a hundred pupils, including Agnes and Anne Custis Lee, daughters of Robert E. Lee. The school continued to grow in both enrollment and physical plant until the War Between the States. During the war, the Institute was forced to discontinue classes, and the buildings were taken over by the nearby Virginia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind.

Virginia Female Institute reopened in October, 1865. After the war, the school's prestige was elevated by a very distinguished board of visitors, including Robert E. Lee as president, ex-governor John Letcher of Lexington, and John B. Minor of the University of Virginia. In 1880 Mrs. Flora Stuart, widow of General J.E.B. Stuart and considered by the trustees to be a capable woman in her own right, was appointed headmistress. Under Mrs. Stuart the school prospered, and the curriculum expanded, offering Spanish, Italian, and German, as well as French, Latin, English, and Anglo-Saxon, elocution, bookkeeping, sewing, typing, shorthand, sciences, mathematics, and physical education. Nine years after Mrs. Stuart retired in 1898, the school was renamed Stuart Hall in her honor. Retaining its Episcopal Diocesan supervision, Stuart Hall continues today as a girl's preparatory school of distinction.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

William H. Gaines, Jr., "Stuart Hall," Virginia Calvacade, V. XVIII, No. 3, 1969, pp. 34-40.

Martha Dabney Jones, "History of Stuart Hall," Augusta Historical Bulletin, V. 5, No. 1, 1969, pp. 5-23.

**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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 09' 01"	79° 04' 35"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than an acre.

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:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: January, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



1000 FEET

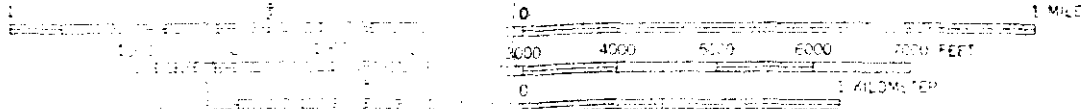
5

GREENVILLE TO WASHINGTON DRAFT  
LEXINGTON ST

971

2'30"

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATA FROM MEAN SEA LEVEL