

173-6

VLR-6/17/75 NRHP-7/17/75

Form 10-300
(Rev. 5-72)

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:	Mecklenburg
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

1. NAME

COMMON: Mecklenburg County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC: Mecklenburg County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Southwest of intersection of Route 58 and Route 92; west side of Route 1707; northwest corner of intersection of Route 1707 and Route 1756.

CITY OR TOWN: Boydton CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Mecklenburg CODE: 117

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input 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: Mecklenburg County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Boydton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Mecklenburg County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Boydton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see continuation sheet #1)

TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) 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: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Mecklenburg

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

The Mecklenburg County Courthouse, built 1838-42 by William A. Howard, is a large, two-story Roman Revival building which stands at the principal intersection of Boydton. The courthouse is built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the front and three-course American bond with Flemish variant on the sides. The brickwork was painted white in recent years, giving the building a more monumental aspect than originally intended. It is five bays wide and five bays deep and is lighted by large six-over-six sash. The principal entrance is in the central bay of the gable end, and there are other doorways in the central bays of the sides. A hexastyle Ionic portico, with plastered-brick piers and wooden capitals having angle volutes, marks the facade, and its modillion cornice is carried around the entire building.

The interior of the courthouse has been altered. It originally had a two-story courtroom with a rear gallery, but the space is now divided into two floors with offices on the first floor and the courtroom on the second. Little of the original trim survives except for a plain stair in the entrance hall.

A two-story Edwardian ell was added to the rear of the building early in the twentieth century. In the process, an unusual apse like that on the earlier Lunenburg Courthouse, by the same builder, was destroyed.

The courthouse is scenically set in a shaded square surrounded by nineteenth-century commercial buildings. It is complemented by a small, turn-of-the-century brick clerk's office, also painted white, and by the customary Confederate monument.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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) 1838-42; William A. Howard, Builder

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 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 Architecture | <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 Mecklenburg County Courthouse, set in its square at the principal crossroads of Boydton, is one of an important group of architecturally related early-nineteenth-century county courthouses in Virginia. Like most of the others, it is set in a small square with a separate clerk's office and a later Confederate monument, is located in a small village established as a result of the courthouse's existence, and is built in a Roman Revival style influenced by the architectural works of Thomas Jefferson.

Mecklenburg County and Charlotte County were set off from Lunenburg County in 1764. In March, 1765, the first court sessions were held at the house of Richard Swepson, about one-half mile north of the present Boydton. It was decided at that time that Swepson should erect a proper courthouse for the county, and a brick and frame building was put up near the site of the present clerk's office.

Swepson's grandson, Alexander Boyd, Jr., in 1811 donated to the county the two acres of land on which the courthouse and clerk's office stood. A year later he deeded to a group of trustees fifty acres for a town, officially chartered by the General Assembly as Boyd Town.

By the 1830s, the county had outgrown its court facilities, and William A. Howard, the builder of the earlier Lunenburg County Courthouse, began to erect a new one for Mecklenburg in 1838 and completed it in 1842. With its temple form and red brick with white trim, the courthouse followed the pattern set by the public buildings designed by Thomas Jefferson, most notably his courthouses for Buckingham (1823, now destroyed) and Charlotte (1823) Counties. The recent coat of white paint on the building highlights its particular resemblance to Jefferson's Virginia State Capitol at Richmond, with which it shares a hexastyle Ionic portico, modillion cornice, five-bay facade and side entrances.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gaines, William H., Jr., "Courthouses of Lunenburg and Mecklenburg Counties," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 20, Winter, 1971.
 Hill, William B. The Boyds of Boydton. 1967.
 Hutcheson, Charles S., "Boydton in Mecklenburg County," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 50, 1942, pp. 109-18.
 Roanoke River Branch, APVA. Land by the Roanoke. 1957.

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM References:
17/733370/4060890

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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: June 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date JUN 17 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

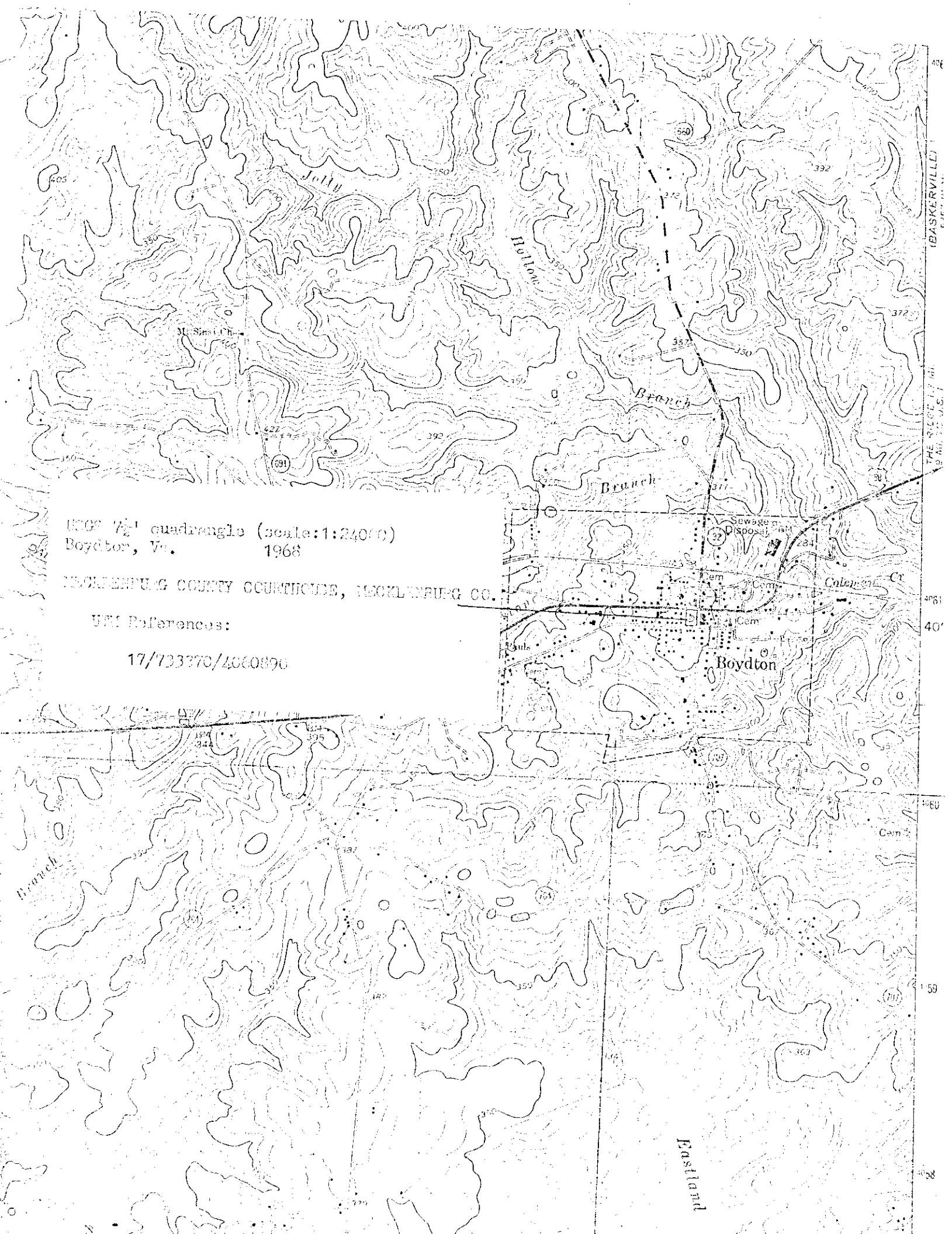
STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Mecklenburg	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1975 State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia code: 51



USGS 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale: 1:24,000)
Boydton, Va. 1968

MECKLENBURG COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MECKLENBURG CO.

USGS References:

17/73370/400890

(BASKERVILLE)
THE RECEIVED
9 AM 10 1968

40° 40'

40° 50'

77° 50'

78° 00'

Eastland