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FORM NO. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) VLR - 5/16/78 NRHP-11/17/80 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC

Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia (Preferred) AND/OR COMMON

Virginia Theological Seminary

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3737 Seminary Ro		NOT FOR PUBLICATION				
CITY. TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DIS			
	Alexandria	VICINITY O!	Tenth (Joseph E. Fisher)			
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE		
	Virginia	51	(in city)	510		

CLASSIFICATION

5	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
,	DISTRICT Xbuilding(s) structure site object	PUBLIC <u>X</u> PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED	X UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE X_YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED		MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE X_RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION
			NO	MILITARY	OTHER;

OWNER	OF PROPERTY	
NAME		
	Board of Trustees c/o President	
STREET & NUMBE	H	
	Protestant Episcopal Theological Sem	inary - 3737 Seminary Road
CITY, TOWN		STATE
	Alexandria VICINITY OF	Virginia 22304
CITY, TOWN		STATE
citi, touin	Alexandria	Virginia
REPRESE	INTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE		
Vir	ginia Historic Landwarks Commission Surv	ley
DATE	and a second data a second of the second second second second data and second second second second second secon	**
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DEPOSITORY FOR								and the second second
RECORDS	Virginia	llistoric	Landmarks	Commission	-	221	Governor	Street
CITY, TOWN							STATE	

Virginia 23219

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DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK (DNE
X_excellent GOOD fair	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED	<u>X</u> original MOVED	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Virginia Theological Seminary occupies a well-landscaped campus of eighty-two acres in Alexandria. A description of the site may be found in the <u>Southern Churchman</u> of February 15, 1856:

Its present site is about 250 ft. above the Potomac, which stretches for several miles in front. In the distant horizons are distinctly seen the capitol and the city of Washington. For beauty and extent of prospect it cannot be surpassed.

The seminary's oldest buildings include an academic complex which consists of Aspinwall Hall, Bohlen and Meade Halls, Francis Scott Key Hall and Immanuel Chapel. The buildings range in style and date from 1855 to 1881.

ASPINWALL HALL

The most prominent building in the early academic complex is Aspinwall Hall, built in 1858 and exhibiting both Norman and Italianate influences. The first building seen when approaching the campus from a circular drive off Quaker Lane, Aspinwall Hall is a rectangular three-story, brick building executed in common bond and set on a high foundation. A description of the building may be found in the <u>Southern Churchman</u> for June 19, 1857:

> Proposals are invited for furnishing the plan and estimate of a building at the Episcopal Theological Seminary, about three miles west of Alexandria. The building is to be from 100 to 120 feet in front, and not less than 40 feet (two rooms and passage) in depth, three stories high, with basement and attic, to include a prayer hall, to hold not less than one hundred persons; three recitation rooms, a dining room to accommodate not less than sixty persons, stewards' rooms, kitchen, pantry, cellars for fuel, a Missionary Museum and reading room, and not less than 24 rooms for students, with three or four rooms in the attic for servanta. It is expected that the building be arranged for heating by hot water, or a furnace, for lighting by gas, and for perfect ventilation. Each room to contain a fireplace.

The building will stand upon an eminence 256 feet above the Potomac River, overlooking the cities of Washington and Alexandria.

It is desired that the plan embrace a tower, cupola, or spire, arranged for a clock, and a place of observation.

The brick in the present Seminary building, (which is to be taken down, and the new one erected on the site) are supposed to be worth \$2,000 or \$2,500. Good hard brick can be had delivered at the site at \$8 per thousand. The hauling of timber will cost about \$150 per M.

The cost of the building not to exceed \$15,000 cash, and the brick and other materials of the old building.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 19th Century	BUILDER/ARCH	Charles E. Cass HTECTJ. W. Johns; Nor	sell, ris G. Starkweather

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on a hill overlooking the Potomac River Valley, the Virginia Theological Seminary is one of the oldest and most distinguished institutions for the education of priests in the ministry of the American Episcopal Church. The seminary's core of early buildings stands as a tribute to the talents of their architects and as a document of the taste of the Episcopal Church at the time of their erection in the 19th century. The focal point of the complex, Aspinwall Hall, is a major surviving work of the noted antebellum architect, Norris G. Starkweather.

The earliest movement towards theological education in the Diocese of Virginia was made in 1815, with the establishment of a theological professorship at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. When this arrangement proved unsatisfactory, it was decided to establish in Alexandria a "Society for the Education of Pious Young Men For the Ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church". The society was formed in 1818 by such church notables as Bishops McIlvaine, Henshaw, Johns, and the Reverends Tyng and Brooke and layman Francis Scott Key. Bishop William Meade, Second Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, is considered to have been the most responsible for the establishment of the seminary. The formal seminary was subsequently opened on October 15, 1823, with eleven students; the classes were held at St. Paul's Church in Alexandria. Proving somewhat successful in their efforts, the trustees of the seminary acquired by a deed dated 28 Sept. 1827, fifty-nine and one-quarter acres of land on a ridge overlooking the city. The purchase included three houses already standing on the acquired property including Oakwood and Maywood, present faculty residences. The first academic building, containing twelve rooms, was erected in 1827. In 1832 another building was constructed, and in 1835 the two were connected by a main building. This plan and method of building would be repeated in a second building campaign at mid-century, when the present seminary buildings were constructed.

As the seminary grew and prospered, the spatial needs became larger, so as to warrant the erection of additional academic buildings. A chapel was erected in 1840 and remodeled in 1855, at which time a library (Key Hall) was built under the plan of the architect J. W. Johns. This building later served as a refectory and is now used as a "preaching chapel" where seminarians can practice. Johns'stalents as a practitioner of the Gothic Revival may be seen on at least one other Virginia ecclesiastical structure, Trinity Church in Staunton. Following the completion of the library, a gift from Messrs. William A. and John L. Aspinwall, was the erection of a new college hall officially dedicated as Aspinwall Hall on October 3, 1859. The generosity of the Aspinwalls inspired subsequent gifts, the Southern Churchman noting on November 25, 1859 that, "Mr. & Miss Bohlen of Philadelphia, had promised \$10,000, to erect one wing of the seminary, provided the alumni would build the other..." This was subsequently arranged, Bohlen Hall was erected in 1859, and Meade Hall, "as an acknowledgement to the goodness of God in raising up Bishop Meade and in continuing his useful labors to the church for so long a period...", in 1860.² The complex of buildings was designed by the architect Norris G. Starkweather who had executed numerous commissions in Maryland, Virginia, and the District

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Evening Star, Washington, D. C., 1868. Goodwin, The Reverend William A. R. History of the Theological Seminary in Virginia and Its Historical Background. 2 vols. Rochester, New York: DuBois Press, 1924. Howland, Richard. "Tuscan Transplant," Arts in Virginia, Fall 1968, pp. 2-9. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Episcopal Seminary, unpublished manuscript in the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary Library. the Old Seminary on "The Hill" - Its Centennial. Richmond, 1923. (see continuation sheet #1) **OGEOGRAPHICAL DATA** ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 32 ACTES UTM REFERENCES A 1,8 3 1,8 3,5,0 4 2 9 8 6 9 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE NORTHING C D VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The three-and-one-half acres comprising the nominated area are bounded by a line beginning at a point located on the N side of seminary drive approximately 1150' NW of intersection of Quaker Lane and Seminary Road and about 50' SW of Oakwood Residence; thence extending approximately 200' N to seminary drive, crossing parking lot entrance to E side of said drive; then running about 125' N along said drive; thence extending about 350' N, following E side of parking lot for about 75'; thence extending about 200' E, following S side of drive for about 150'; thence extending about 375' S to NW edge of circular drive, then LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (see continuation sheet #1) STATE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff ORGANIZATION DATE Virginia Nistoric Landmarks Commission April 1978 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE (804) 786-3143 221 Governor Street CITY OR TOWN STATE Richmond Virginia 23219 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE_X NATIONAL_ LOCAL As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 83-665). 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. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Tucker Hill, Executive Director 1 6 1978 1 6 1978 TITLE DATE Virginia Historic Landearks Commission FOR NPS USE ONLY Resubritted to and approv I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER by State Review Board 6/17/20 DATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: DATE **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Form No. 19-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, Alexandria, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 9,10&7 PAGE1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

<u>Semi-Centennial Celebration of the Theological Seminary of The Protestant</u> <u>Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia</u>. Baltimore, 1873. Southern Churchman. Alexandria, Va., 1852-1859.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

following said drive S to parking lot entrance, crossing entrance and continuing S along E side of parking lot, then continuing S about 150' to N side of drive; thence extending approximately 200' W along N side of said drive to point of origin. (see campus map)

7. DESCRIPTION

The proposed building will be located between the Chapel and Library-all in the same range.

As built in 1858, the main (east) entrance is comprised of a massive double doorway with paneled doors, surmounted by a transom containing four lights and flanked by sidelights. The wooden casement surrounding the doors has been altered. The doorway is framed by a double arch, surmounted by a corbeled brick arch which terminates at the impost into a corbeled brick belt course broken by a pair of pilasters topped by brick pinnacles. The corbeled belt course originally ran the entire perimeter of the building but has been removed from the rear (west) elevation. Above the doorway is a two-story, round-arched window enframed by a projecting brick arch. The doorway is flanked by paired windows with arched heads, turned balusters found at the base.

The windows on the second story are separated from the third story by a denticulated lintel above which are balusters similar in execution to those found on the first floor. The windows are framed by a pronounced arch with stops. A corbeled-brick cornice runs the entire perimeter of the building, breaking up over the large center window on each facade. The corners of the building are framed by pilasters. The windows on the side elevations (north and south) are similar in treatment to the main elevation, with the rear (west) elevation duplicating the main facade.

As noted in the original building specifications, the structure is crowned by a three-stage, wood frame cupola covered by a domical roof. Finely detailed acroterions grace the observatory. The interior plan and appointments noted in the newspaper specifications have been considerably altered, with little of the

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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DATE ENTERED

Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, Alexandria, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION

original fabric remaining. The building's original crenelations and pinnacles have been removed.

MEADE AND BOHLEN HALLS

Flanking the rear (west) elevation of Aspinwall Hall, Meade and Bohlen Halls were constructed in 1859 and 1860, respectively. Similar in appearance, Bohlen Hall and Meade Hall are rectangular two-story, brick buildings executed in sevencourse American bond and set on brick foundations. The buildings are connected to Aspinwall Hall by brick archways and together with Aspinwall define the perimeter of a landscaped courtyard. The front (cast) elevations are each comprised of a central arched window flanked by pairs of smaller arched windows framed by pronounced brick archivolts. The second story of three bays consists of three arched lights, surmounted by brick hood molds with corbeled stops. Visual emphasis is placed on an elaborate brick corbel table which is continued on the south elevation of Meade and the north elevation of Bohlen. The remaining elevations contain a simple corbel table and brick parapet wall; the windows of the lower story are framed by pronounced brick arches with wooden flat banisters at the base. The upper story consists of five bays of windows containing brick hood molds with corbeled stops. Entry is provided by a double-paneled, semicircular, transom-light doorway framed by a pronounced brick arch surround.

KEY HALL

Constructed in 1855 as the seminary library, Francis Scott Key Hall is a rectangular, one-story, gable-roof structure in seven-course American bond. Designed to the Gothic Revival style, the front elevation (east) contains an enclosed, gable-roof entry porch, above which is a paired double-arch window capped by a stone arch lintel. The corners of the building are delineated by brick buttresses with stone gablets. A stone (veneer) cornice lines the gable, broken at the apex by a pinnacle with a finial.

Identical in appearance, the side elevations consist of five bays, the windows framed by a raised-brick impost course interrupted by the buttresses. The rear elevation contains a restored doorway and a paired arched window, similar to that found on the front elevation. An enclosed passage connects Key to Meade Hall. The interior retains its Gothic feeling, although much of the fabric dates to 1923, when the building was rededicated as a refectory.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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

DATE ENTERED

Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, Alexandria, Virginia

ITEM NUMBER 7 CONTINUATION SHEET #3 PAGE 3

7. DESCRIPTION

IMMANUEL CHAPEL

Located adjacent to the main seminary complex is Immanuel Chapel, a one-and-ahalf-story brick structure with a two-story entry tower designed in the Ruskinian-Gothic Revival style. The main entrance to the cruciform-plan chapel consists of a double doorway, the paneled doors surmounted by a paneled transom above which are paired lancets. The top of the tower contains, on all sides, a large, open flat arch divided into three smaller arches. The main facade is dominated by a large recessed arch, divided into a multiple clear-glass paned window at the top and a series of five stained-glass lancets at the base, separated by four columns with carved stone capitals. Bricks laid in a herringbone pattern fill the central spandrel. The west elevation is dominated by a flat-arch tracery window which lights the chancel. Stained glass is found on both the north and south elevations, including the gable transept. The interior of the chapel retains most of its original fabric, with minimal modifications having been made to the sanctuary to accommodate changes in church liturgy. The original oak pews as well as a gallery in the east end of the chapel have been preserved.

MAYWOOD AND OAKWOOD

In the area of the nominated property are two faculty residences, both of which were part of the original seminary land purchase of 1827. Maywood is a two-and-a-half-story, gable-roof brick residence containing a demi-octagonal wing set on a high brick foundation. The interior of the Federal-style house has been considerably altered to accommodate the changing needs of the resident faculty member and family.

Oakwood is a two-and-one-half-story, brick, gable-roof residence distinguished by a handsome, semi-elliptical fanlight entry with sidelights and flat-arch windows. A small dormer projects from the four-chimney roof. The interior has been altered to accommodate changing needs of faculty families who occupy the wellrespected residence.

The seminary grounds of the nominated acreage are informally landscaped and preserve a 19th-century flavor. Numerous varieties of trees complement the brick architecture.

The area being nominated includes those buildings on the Quaker Lane side of the seminary including: Aspinwall, Meade, and Bohlen Halls, Immanual Chapel, Francis Scott Key Hall, and Maywood and Oakwood residences. All of the nominated buildings are in line with each other on the crest of Seminary Hill.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, Alexandria, Virginia

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER		PAGE		
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8. SIGNIFICARCE

of Columbia including the remodeling of St. John's Church in Georgetown. Starkweather is best remembered in Virginia for designing Camden, the Italian Villa residence of W.C. Pratt on the banks of the Rappahannock River near Port Royal.

The grounds of the Seminary are significant as the only documented example in the Commonwealth of the work of A.J. Downing, the noted landscape architect and theorist. A description of the yard is contained in the Southern Churchman of November 25, 852.

The road as designed by the late and lamented A.J. Downing, Esq., and surveyed by a gentleman of scientific acquirements, has been completed, describing in its course a semi-ellipse with serpentine terminations. The road is bounded by a five plank fence, consisting of 360 panels, and though of great durability, is but temporarily erected, until the hedge, which is to consist of the Osage Orange, be sufficiently grown to need no protection...two new gates have been erected, of fine proportion and durability, and will fully answer the purposes intended.

In 1879 the Board of Trustees at their annual meeting held on June 29 adopted a resolution appointing a committee to erect a chapel at a cost of \$5,000, the old chapel proving unsafe for services. The new Immanuel Chapel was built in 1881 by the Baltimore church architect Charles E. Cassell at a cost of \$11,000. The chapel contained such exoticisms as a chancel rail of rosewood, "brought by Bishop Penick from Africa." The chapel stands as an excellent example of Ruskinian Gothic architecture as built on the collegiate scale.

One of the most famous graduates of the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia was Right Reverend Phillips Brooks, who later became Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts and is recognized as a leading theologian and philosopher of the 19th century. Many of the Seminary's graduates went on to become prominent missionaries throughout the world.

As in its past, the Seminary has maintained a well-landscaped campús, a practice continued to the present day.

RCC/MTP

²²Ibid., November 18, 1859.

¹Southern Churchman, Alexandria, Va., November 25, 1859.



