**Form 10-300**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries — complete applicable sections)

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:**
     - 45
   - **COUNTY:**
     - (in cit.)
   - **CODE:**
     - 710

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - **CATEGORY (Check One):**
     - District [ ] Building [X]
     - Site [ ] Structure [ ]
     - Object [ ]
   - **OWNERSHIP:**
     - Public [ ] Private [ ] Both [ ]
     - Subject to Public Acquisition: [ ]
     - In Process: [ ] Being Considered [ ]
     - Occupied [X] Unoccupied [ ]
   - **STATUS:**
     - Preservation work in progress [X]
     - Unrestricted [ ]
   - **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**
     - Yes: [X] No: [ ]
   - **PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
     - Agricultural [ ] Government [ ] Park [ ]
     - Commercial [ ] Industrial [ ] Private Residence [ ]
     - Educational [ ] Military [ ] Religious [ ]
     - Entertainment [ ] Museum [ ] Scientific [ ]
     - Transportation [ ] Other (Specify): [ ]
     - Comments [ ]

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - **OWNERS NAME:**
     - City of Norfolk
     - Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     -
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - Norfolk
   - **STATE:**
     - Virginia
   - **CODE:**
     - 51

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
     - Norfolk City Hall
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     -
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - Norfolk
   - **STATE:**
     - Virginia
   - **CODE:**
     - 45
   - **APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:**
     - 1½

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - **TITLE OF SURVEY:**
     - Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
   - **DATE OF SURVEY:**
     - 1958
   - **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
     - Library of Congress
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:**
     -
   - **CITY OR TOWN:**
     - Washington
   - **STATE:**
     - District of Columbia
   - **CODE:**
     - 08

**VLR Listed:** 9/9/1969
**NRHP Listed:** 11/12/1969
### 7. DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Deteriorated</th>
<th>Ruins</th>
<th>Unexposed</th>
<th>(Check One)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTENSITY</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>Unaltered</td>
<td>Moved</td>
<td>Original Site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Check One)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTE 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.
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45
### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

#### PERIOD

- **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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aboriginal</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Political</th>
<th>Urban Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Religion/Philosophy</td>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Invention</td>
<td>Social/Humanitarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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.
Henings Statutes, VII (1761), pp. 510-511.
Lower Norfolk County, *Virginia Antiquary*, I, 21-36; IV, 26-32.

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 [X]  State [ ]  Local [ ]

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

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

[Signature]

Date 10-7-69

[Signature]

Date OCT 31 1969

[Signature]
NORFOLK SOUTH QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 NEWPORT NEWS 15' QUADRANGLE

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
Norfolk South, Va. (1955)

Norfolk Academy
Latitude 36° 51' 02"
Longitude 76° 17' 08"

Latitude: 36° 51' 02"
Longitude: 76° 17' 08"

Norfolk South, Va. (1955)