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

*Type all entries – complete applicable sections*

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard
   - AND/OR HISTORIC: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Naval Shipyard
   - CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth
   - STATE: Virginia
   - CODE: 45
   - COUNTY: (in cit.)
   - CODE: 740

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

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - OWNER'S NAME: U.S. Department of the Navy
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Naval Shipyard
   - CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth
   - STATE: Virginia
   - CODE: 45

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - COURT HOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: U.S. Department of the Navy
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Washington, D.C.
   - CITY OR TOWN: Washington
   - STATE: D.C.
   - CODE: 08

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #124-29
   - DATE OF SURVEY: 1969
   - DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
     - STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
     - CITY OR TOWN: Richmond
     - STATE: Virginia
     - CODE: 45
Drydock Number One is constructed of large blocks of Massachusetts granite. The sides are built up in a series of stepped tiers with two flights of stairs at the land end. The overall length of the drydock is 319½ feet. It survives as originally built except for the replacement of the original caisson. Drydock Number One is still in daily use.
### 3. SIGNIFICANCE

#### PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [ ] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

#### SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, established in 1767, is the oldest naval shipyard in the United States. In 1827, in response to "An Act for the Gradual Improvement of the Navy of the United States" passed by Congress, work was begun on Drydock Number One, one of the first two built in the United States. The dock was built of Massachusetts granite at the high cost of $974,365.65 and was completed in 1834. On 17 June 1833, before its completion, it was opened and the Delaware became the first vessel to be drydocked in the United States. Since that time, it has had a long and illustrious history and is still in use. During the War Between the States, the world's first battle-tested ironclad ship, the Virginia, was rebuilt in this dock by the Confederate government from the Union steam frigate, the Merrimac. In 1862 the refurbished Virginia attacked the Union fleet with great success until her triumphs were brought to a standstill by the appearance of the Union Monitor, another ironclad.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximate acreage of nominated property: 2 acres

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name and Title: Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Organization: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: November 18, 1969

Street and Number: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

City or Town: Richmond

State: Virginia

Code: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-656), 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 [ ]

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

Date: December 2, 1969

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
1. NAME

COMMON: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard
AND/OR HISTORIC: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Naval Shipyard
CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 45
COUNTY: (in cit.)
CODE: 760

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. map
SCALE: 7.5', quadrangle Norfolk South, Va.
DATE: 1955

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

---

1. NAME

COMMON: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard
AND/OR HISTORIC: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Naval Shipyard
CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 45
COUNTY: (in cit.)
CODE: 760

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, Inc.
DATE OF PHOTO: 1908
NEGATIVE FILED AT: U. S. Department of the Navy

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
View of the Drydock looking east.
U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:1:24000) Norfolk South, Va. (1955)

Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyards

Latitude 36° 49' 14"
Longitude 76° 17' 35"