

VLR-12/2/69, NRHP-2/26/70, NHL-11/11/71

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: Portsmouth (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	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 740
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	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 type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

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
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
U.S. Department of the Navy

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #124-29

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

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
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Portsmouth (in cit.)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butt, Marshall W., Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia, A Brief History. Portsmouth, Va.: Public Information Office, 1960 (revised edition).

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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 49' 14 "	76 ° 17 ' 35 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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

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 Edward P. Alexander, Jr.

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title 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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Portsmouth (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	(in cit.)	740

3. MAP REFERENCE

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

SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1955

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Portsmouth (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	(in cit.)	740

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

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

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE 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 Shipyard

Latitude
 36° 49' 14"

Longitude
 76° 17' 35"

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