NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

VLR Listed: 12/4/1996
NRHP Listed: 9/4/1997

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

956

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Confederate Monument

other names/site number 124-183

2. Location

street & number Corner of High & Court Streets ☐ not for publication

city or town Portsmouth ☐ vicinity

state Virginia code VA county n/a code 740 zip code 23704

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[signature] 4/21/97

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☑ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Patrick Andrus 9/4/97

Confederate Monument
Name of Property

Portsmouth, VA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☒ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
3	1	objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture
Sub Monument/Marker

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture
Sub Monument/Marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
walls
roof
other Stone/Granite

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see continuation sheets

Summary Paragraph

The Confederate Monument stands at the corner of Court and High Streets at the town square. The monument is an obelisk of North Carolina granite just over 35 feet high and slightly less than four feet wide. It rests on a base 20 feet high and 15 feet square. At the four sides of the monument at right angles to it are four platforms upon which are four statues representing four branches of Confederate service: artillery, infantry, navy and cavalry. The entire monument sits in a small grassy park that is enclosed with a wrought iron fence. The monument stands in its original location and is in good condition.

Narrative Description

Portsmouth's Confederate Monument is located at the town square, corner of High and Court streets. Many Confederate monuments, like Portsmouth's, can be found in town squares or cemeteries.[1]

In 1876 when construction on the monument began, the square represented the city's religious, civic, financial, and social life. At the square's southwest corner is Trinity Episcopal Church. At the northwest corner is the 1846 Courthouse. Today, both of these structures are on the National Register.

At the square's southeast corner, was the U.S. Post Office, now the site of the New Kirn Building and at the northeast corner was the Ocean House Hotel, now the site of the Tidewater Community College Visual Arts Center.

The monument, an obelisk of North Carolina granite ornamented at the cap, is 35 feet six inches high and 3 feet 9 inches wide. It rests on a base 20 feet high and 15 feet square, including four platforms at right angles to each face of the obelisk. From the ground, the entire monument's height is 56 feet, six inches.[2]

The base of the monument is made of quarry faced ashlar with a drafted margin. Above this square base rests a pedestal with composite molding at its base and four sides which slope upwards to another series of moldings and a course of egg and dart molding topped by triangular pediments on all four sides. From this rugged base and classically inspired pediment rises the simple shaft of the obelisk ornamented by a series of simple horizontal bands at its base, and the dates of the Civil War inscribed near the middle of its height. The obelisk is topped by a sort of capital with a small horizontal band, a device resembling

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[1] Current, Richard N. editor-in-chief. Encyclopedia of the Confederacy. Edwin C. Bears. "Monuments and Memorials." (Simon and Schuster: New York, 1993) Vol 3. p. 1069-1074. quoted 1069.

[2] Pollock, Edward, Sketch Book Portsmouth, VA. Its People and Its Trade. (Portsmouth, VA: Edward Pollock, 1886). p. 197.

an abstracted triglyph, a series of small projecting scallops and a five pointed star housed within the monument's pyramidal peak. On the four sides just below the peak is a row of smaller stars.

Atop each platform is a bronze statue representing the four branches of Confederate service: artillery (north elevation), infantry (south elevation), navy (east elevation) and cavalry (west elevation). The statues are five feet, nine inches tall, and stand at the "at rest" position.[3]

Facing south on the monument's pedestal is carved the inscription "To Our Confederate Dead" and around the four sides of the obelisk are inscribed the dates 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865 which is directly below 1861 on the south facade. At the top of the monument also facing south, is a five-pointed star.[4] In the ground facing north at the monument's base, rests a weathered marble stone honoring Major F. W. Jett, a Confederate engineer, who was influential in constructing the monument.[5] To the left of the stone in the ground is a bronze plaque bearing the stone's inscription. Surrounding the entire monument is an ornamental iron railing with a gate on the north side. The entire monument sits on a small grassy park of approximately 545 square feet.

The monument is in good condition, stands in its original location, and has not been altered since its dedication, June 15, 1893.

The Confederate Monument includes three contributing objects: one sculpture one fence, add one commemorative stone. The bronze plaque is a non contributing object.

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[3] "The Statues." The Norfolk Virginian. December 21, 1887.

[4] Winters, Shirley, "A Tale of Sentinels in Grey." The Virginian Pilot. June 23, 1974.

[5] Blake, William, Portsmouth Confederate Monument Commemorative Program. (Portsmouth, VA: The Confederate Monument Committee), 1993, p. 3.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [x] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Art
Military

Period of Significance
1876-1893

Significant Dates
1876
1881
1893

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Charles E. Cassell

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Please see continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [ ] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [x] Other

Name of repository:
Portsmouth Public Library

Summary Paragraph

Portsmouth's Confederate Monument follows the South's tradition of honoring its Civil War dead. From 1875 to 1893, the Monument Association and the Ladies Memorial Aid Association struggled to complete a monument to the Confederate dead of Portsmouth and Norfolk County. While their efforts parallel the efforts of other Southern communities, this monument is notable for the following reasons: First, the statues mounted on the four platforms surrounding the monument are not generic. In that the statues are unique and masterfully crafted the monument should qualify for its artistic merit. Secondly, the monument is one of three in the South containing a statue of a Confederate sailor. This commemoration of the Confederate sailor and his association with the Battle of Hampton Roads should qualify the monument under military history. Thus, despite the fact that the monument is a commemorative property, its design and symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Before 1860 there were few monuments erected in the United States other than grave markers. The close of the Civil War provided an opportunity that changed the situation.[6] Soon, in the North, state governments and the Grand Army of the Republic began to raise monuments to its heroes in town squares and on battlefields. While in the South, including Portsmouth, Virginia, monuments rose more slowly in a defeated land and memorialized heroes of a lost cause.[7] Also, unlike the North, southern monuments were usually raised by public subscription and by efforts of ladies memorial aid associations, later joined by monument associations, the United Confederate Veterans, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.[8] In Portsmouth, efforts to erect a monument followed this pattern. The Ladies Memorial Aid Association led efforts to raise funds through picnics, fairs, and contests. They were later joined in their efforts by Stonewall Camp Number 380, United Confederate Veterans of Portsmouth, on April 9, 1884, nineteen years after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA.[9]

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[6] Wilson, Charles Reagan and William Ferris - coeditors and Ann J. Abaadle and Mary L. Hart, associate editors, Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, "Monuments." (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press), p. 645.

[7] Ibid., p. 645.

[8] Ibid., p. 645

[9] "History of Confederate Monument and Roster of Stonewall Camp." Virginian Pilot, March 21, 1927.

The Ladies Memorial Aid Association of Portsmouth, VA, was founded on June 12, 1886, with one of its objectives being the erection of a monument to the Confederate dead of Portsmouth and Norfolk County.[10] However, at war's end Portsmouth was $300,000 in debt,[11] and it wasn't until May 8, 1875, that progress began on a monument when the Portsmouth and Norfolk County Monument Association was formed at the suggestion of F. W. Jett, who had served with General William Mahone's Brigade.[12] Elected president of the association was James F. Crocker, adjutant of the Ninth Virginia Infantry, who had been wounded and captured during Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg.[13]

The association chose Charles E. Cassell, an ex-Confederate topographical engineer, to design the monument.[14] Within the year he came up with an acceptable sketch, and on March 9, 1876, on the fourteenth anniversary of the Battle of Hampton Roads, a committee from the monument association approached Portsmouth City Council with a petition requesting the monument be built at the present site and Council approved.[15] Whether or not the committee chose the date on purpose is open to conjecture; however, the timing could not have been better.

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[10] Confederate Southern Memorial Association, History of The Confederate Memorial Associations of The South. (New Orleans, LA.: The Graham Press, 1904), p. 295.

[11] Winters, "A Tale of Sentinels in Grey."

[12] Porter, John W. H., A Record of Events in Norfolk County, Virginia, From April 19, 1861 to May 10, 1862, With a History of The Soldiers and Sailors of Norfolk County, Norfolk City and Portsmouth Who Served in the Confederate States Army and Navy. (Portsmouth, VA: W. A. Fiske, Printer and Bookbinder). p. 36.

[13] "Communication." The Norfolk Virginian. April 30, 1886 and Porter, John W. H., p. 98.

[14] Ibid. p. 98.

[15] Minutes of the City Council of Portsmouth, VA, March 10, 1876. p. 333.

Fundraising continued through public subscription and through social affairs organized by the Ladies Memorial Aid Association.[16] Much of the financial burden was lifted, however, when the Seaboard and Roanoke and the Raleigh and Gaston railroad companies donated granite from their quarries near Henderson, N.C.[17] Frank Tynan, a stonecutter and veteran of the Third Virginia Infantry, surveyed the job and traveled to the quarries to cut the stone.[18]

On December 14, 1876, the cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies. Placed within the cornerstone were the following: a photograph of the late Colonel James G. Hodges, commander of the Fourteenth Virginia Infantry: a Confederate account of the Battle of Gettysburg; a Confederate flag, bonds, currency and postage stamps; a payroll of a Confederate company; list of officers and men of Grimes' Battery (Portsmouth Light Artillery); a fire marshal's baton used in the Centennial Parade in Philadelphia; masonic documents and articles; daily papers of Norfolk and Portsmouth; and silver currency of various nationalities.[19]

Almost five years would pass before the capstone was placed on June 15, 1881.[20] The ornamental iron fence was placed around the monument in 1882.[21] On December 15, 1887, the infantry (south elevation) and artillery (north elevation) statues were received from the Monumental Bronze Company[22] of Connecticut[23] and were placed on their platforms. The remaining statues, navy

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16 Winters, Shirley, "Shoot If You Must But Spare That Monument." The Virginian Pilot. February 19, 1961. and "Confederate Monument Center of Controversy." The Virginian Pilot. April 18, 1954.

17 Winters, "Shoot If You Must But Spare That Monument."

18 Winters, "A Tale of Sentinels in Grey."

19 "In Memoriam." The Norfolk Landmark. December 15, 1876.

20 "Completion of the Shaft of the Confederate Soldier's Monument--History, Cost and Description of the Structure." The Norfolk Virginian. December 15, 1887.

21 Winters, "Shoot If You Must But Spare That Monument."

22 "Statues of the Confederate Monument." The Norfolk Virginian. December 15, 1887.

23 Winters, "Shoot If You Must But Spare That Monument."

(east elevation) and cavalry (west elevation), were placed subsequent to the dedication of the monument.[24] The effort to complete the monument was finished on June 15, 1893, after almost 18 years and $9,236.24 in expenditures.[25]

During the Civil War, Portsmouth gave 1,242 men to the Confederacy of whom 199 were killed or died; Norfolk County gave 1,018 men to the cause of whom 280 were killed or died; and the City of Norfolk gave 1, 119 of whom 176 were killed or died.[26] Shortly after the war, Portsmouth and Norfolk County residents desired to erect a monument to her Confederate dead. While the story of Portsmouth's monument parallels the story of other Confederate monuments, it differs in several respects.

Unlike most Confederate monuments containing statues, the figures on Portsmouth's monument are not generic. Following the cornerstone laying, four local men were chosen to pose for the figures. Photographs were taken at the Davis Studio at 316 High Street, Portsmouth and were used by the Monumental Bronze Company to create the statues.[27]

To raise money to erect the statues, the Monument Association held a contest. Placed in the window of R. G. Hume and Bro. on High Street from November, 1883, to April, 1884, were four sets of pictures intended as possible designs from which to select the style of the statues.

Three sets were furnished by A. M. Turner and represented the four branches of Confederate Service: infantry, artillery, cavalry and the navy. The sets were in dress uniforms, in fighting uniforms and in overcoats. James F. Carr of Portsmouth furnished the fourth set depicting the jacket uniformed Confederate as he appeared in the field. These were finished in India Ink. A valuable heavily gold mounted and richly chased cane made from wood of the CSS Virginia was exhibited beside the pictures as a prize to the winning artist.

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[24] "The Confederate Monument." The Norfolk Virginian. December 20, 1887.

[25] Stewart, William H., "Military History of the County." History of Norfolk County, Virginia and Certain Representative Citizens. (Chicago, IL: Bibliographical Publishing Company, 1902). p. 138.

[26] Porter, John W. H., preface.

[27] Flanders, Alan. "Veterans Earned Right to be Remembered." Virginian Pilot. November 11, 1984. and "For the Monument Fund." The Norfolk Virginian. November 17, 1883.

Four boxes were placed at Hume's and for 10 cents a vote the public decided the character of the statues.[28] Turner was the winner.[29]

These men have been identified as models: J. Shirley Hope posed as the artilleryman and Frank Wonycott posed as the cavalryman. William Henry Buchanan,[30] a veteran of Grimes Battery and a grand-nephew of President James Buchanan who was wounded at the Battle of Brandy Station, posed for one of the remaining statues. James W. Nicholson honored his kinsman who was killed at the Battle of Shiloh by posing for the last statue.[31] Since Shiloh was a major land battle in the War's Western Theater of Operation, it may be that Nicholson modeled for the infantryman. Buchanan, then, may be the model for the sailor. A man named Allen has also been mentioned as a model, but there is no further information about this individual.[32]

The sailor's statue is particularly significant. It is one of three statues in the South honoring the Confederate sailor.[33]. The statue faces east toward the Elizabeth River, the route taken by the CSS Virginia in her engagement with the USS Monitor on March 8-9, 1862, during the Battle of Hampton Roads. This engagement marked the first time metal ships met in combat and the end of the age of wooden war ships.

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[28] "For the Monument Fund." The Norfolk Virginian. November 17, 1883.

[29] "Cane Presentation." The Norfolk Virginian. April 27, 1884.

[30] Crew, T. Thomas and Benjamin Trask. Grimes' Battery, Grady's Battery and Huger's Battery Virginia Artillery. (Lynchburg, VA: H. W. Howard, Inc., 1995). p. 76.

[31] "Sentinels." Virginian Pilot. June 23, 1974. and Cutchin, Alan. "Free Masonry and the Confederate Monument." Paper presented to Portsmouth Naval Lodge 100, Portsmouth, VA., June, 1980.

[32] Winters, "A Tale of Sentinels in Grey."

[33] Olde Towne Walking Tour. (Portsmouth Convention and Visitors Bureau: Portsmouth, VA).

Along the headband of the sailor's flat hat can be read the word "Merrimac." When the U.S. Navy abandoned the Gosport Navy Yard on April 20, 1861, Commodore Charles S. McCauley, who commanded the yard, ordered ships, munitions, and stores destroyed. Some histories report that among salvageable items were naval uniforms and hats that later worn by the CSS Virginia's Crew.[34]

[34] Hoeling, A.A. Thunder At Hampton Roads. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1976). p. 35.

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Blake, William. Portsmouth Confederate Monument Commemorative Program. Portsmouth, VA: The Confederate Monument Committee, 1993.

Blake, William. A Time for Remembering . . . Historic Portsmouth's Civil War Legacy A Walking Tour of Civil War Sites in Olde Towne. Portsmouth, A: 1987.

Portsmouth Convention and Visitors Bureau. Olde Towne Walking Tour. Portsmouth, VA

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The Norfolk Landmark, December 15, 1876.

The Norfolk Virginian, June 15, 1881; November 17, 1883; April 27, 1884; April 30, 1886; December 15, 1887; December 20, 1887; December 21, 1887; and June 16, 1893.

The Virginian Pilot, March 21, 1927; May 20, 1951; April 18, 1954; February 19, 1961; June 23, 1974; November 11, 1984; and May 1, 1991.

Papers/Talks

Cutchin, Alan. "Free Masonry and the Confederate Monument." Paper presented to Portmouth Naval Lodge 100, Portsmouth, VA, 1980.

Public Documents

Deed to Confederate Monument. Deed Book 103A. Pages 651-652. Clerk of Courts Office, Portsmouth, VA.

Minutes of the City Council of Portsmouth, VA. March 10, 1876.

Confederate Monument
Name of Property

Portsmouth, VA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	383965	4077170
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) Please see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Blake

organization Local Historian date October 7, 1996

street & number 3377 Brandywine Drive telephone (757) 484-5959

city or town Chesapeake state VA zip code 23321

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Portsmouth Attention: Tim Little, Assistant City Manager

street & number 801 Crawford Parkway telephone (757) 393-8641

city or town Portsmouth state VA zip code 23704

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Confederate Monument stands on grassy park surrounded by an ornamental fence, which serves as a boundary. The site is approximately 545 square feet. It is located in Court Street at the corner of Court and High Streets. The property is 17 feet from the western limit of Court Street, 18 feet 19 inches from the eastern limit of Court Street and 54 feet 2 inches from its intersection with High Street.

Boundary Justification

On March 9, 1876, a committee from the Portsmouth and Norfolk County Association approached Portsmouth City Council requesting the High and Court Street intersection as a location for the monument and council approved. This site, as described above is and has always been the extent of the physical boundary of the monument.

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the monument.

All photographs are of:
CONFEDERATE MONUMNET
Portsmouth, Virginia
VDHR File Number: 122-45
All negatives are on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources
All photographs are by M. R. Viles.

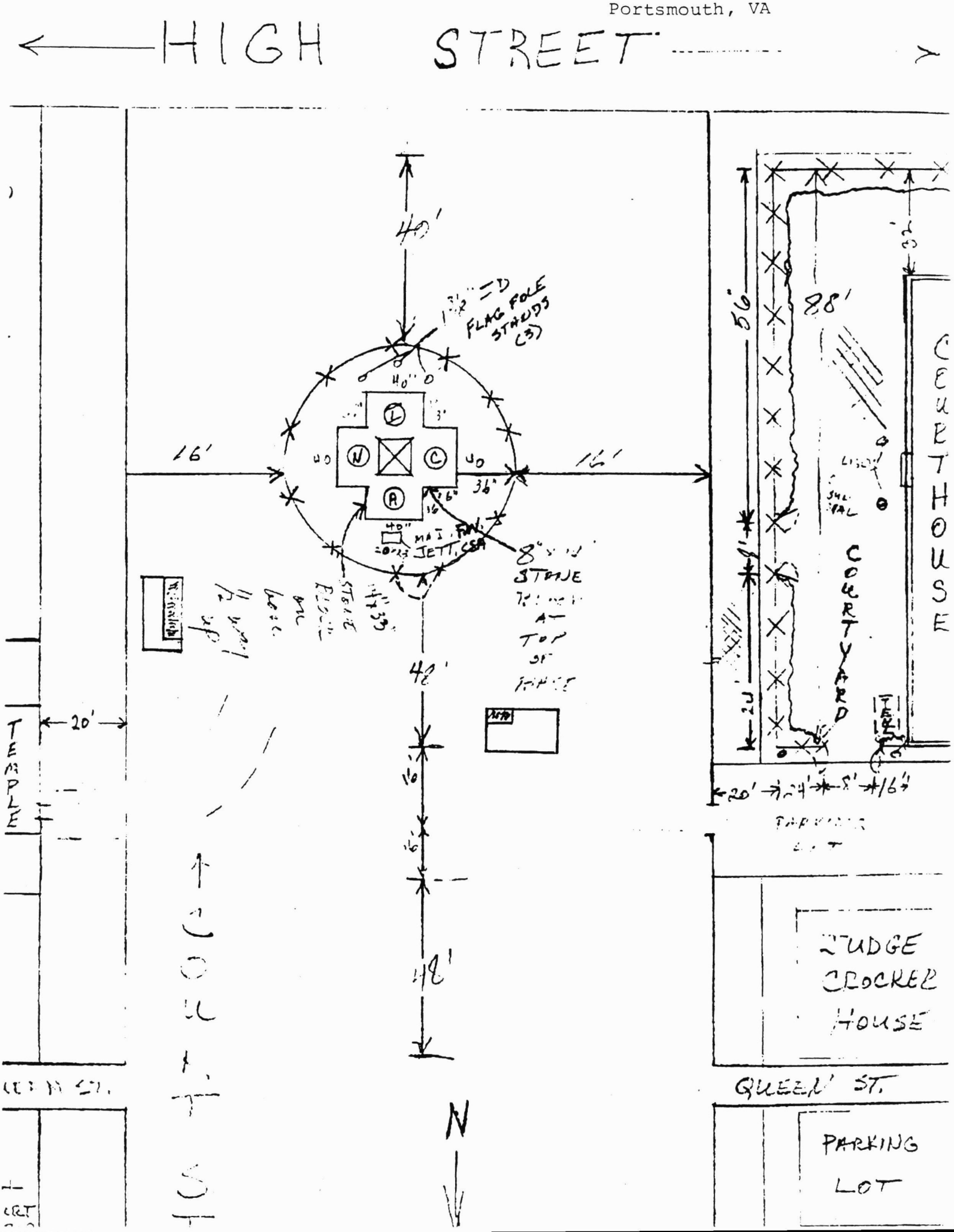
Date: 11/96
View of: monument from the southwest
Neg No.:14981
Photo 1 of 4

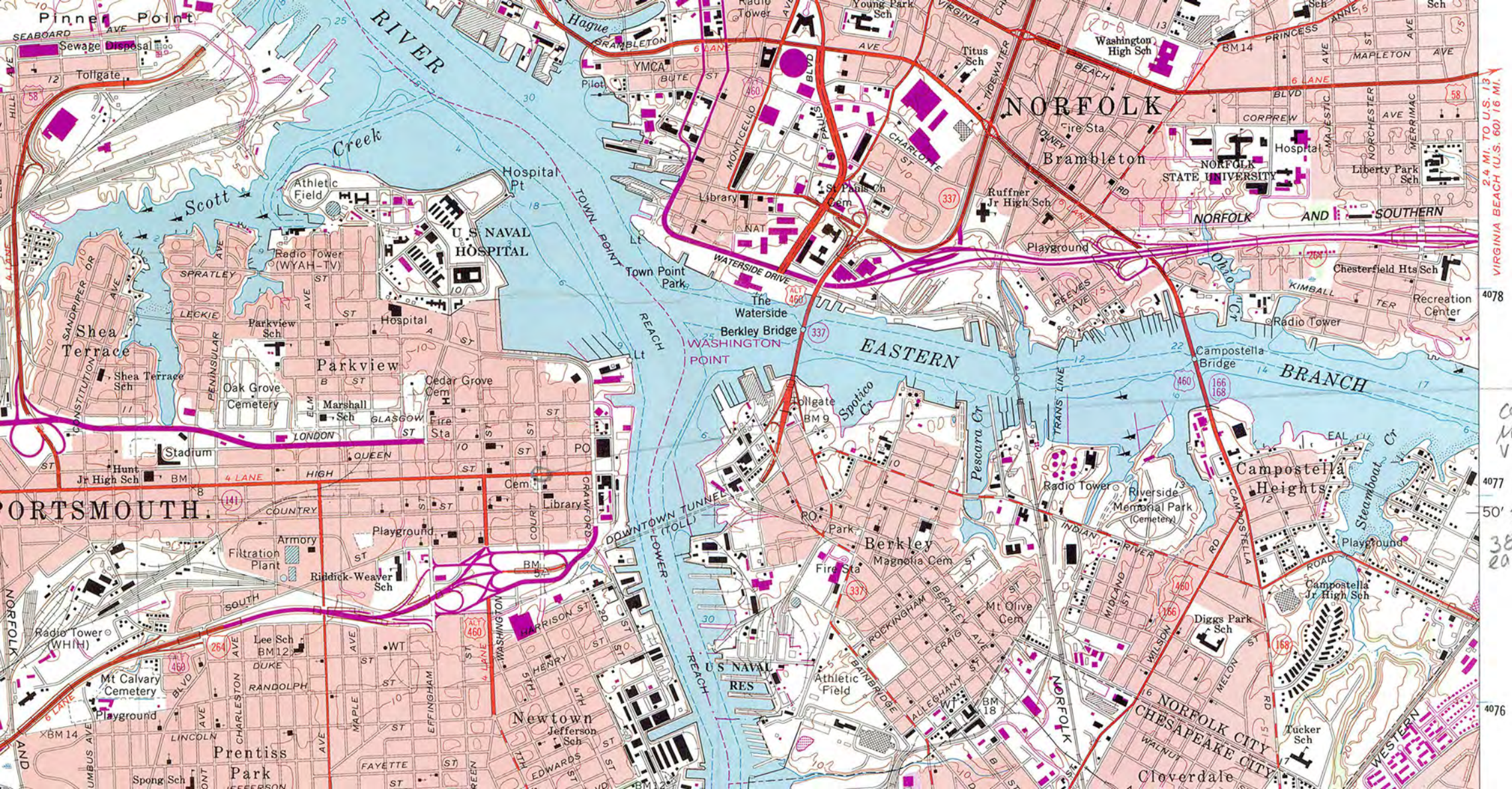
Date: 11/96
View of: monument from the southeast
Neg No.:14981
Photo 2 of 4

Date: 11/96
View of: monument from the northwest elevation
Neg No.:14981
Photo 3 of 4

Date: 11/96
View of:monument from the southwest
Neg No.:14981
Photo 4 of 4

Confederate Monument
Portsmouth, VA





Confederate Monument
VDHR file #124-183

UTM
50' zone 18
383965 easting
4077170 northing