

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Approved:
NHL 12/23/2016

Historic Name: Virginia State Capitol

Other Name/Site Number: Confederate Capitol

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Capitol Square

Not for publication:

City/Town: Richmond

Vicinity:

State: VA County: Independent City Code: 760

Zip Code: 23219

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Private: ___

Building(s): ___

Public-Local: ___

District: X

Public-State: X

Site: ___

Public-Federal: ___

Structure: ___

Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

2

3 buildings

1

sites

1

2 structures

2

6 objects

6

11 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ Entered in the National Register
- ___ Determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ Determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ Removed from the National Register
- ___ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Government Sub: capitol

Current: Government Sub: capitol

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Early Republic: Early Classical Revival

MATERIALS:

Foundation: Brick
Walls: Stucco
Roof: Metal
Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Virginia State Capitol stands on a hillcrest site selected by Thomas Jefferson with Palladian principles in mind to command the view over the James River and project a majestic image when seen from afar. The site is now at the center of the City of Richmond. The building sits in the center of a large public park called Capitol Square, a historic designed landscape with shade trees, paved walks, fountains and commemorative statuary. An iron fence erected in 1818 separates the property from Governor Street on the east, Ninth Street on the west and the grounds of the Old City Hall (NHL) and the former Virginia State Library (NR) immediately to the north. The designated property includes buildings, structures, objects and sites that were not accounted for in the original nomination and are incorporated into this draft. On the south, Capitol Square slopes down toward the river where it terminates on Bank Street. During the restoration and expansion initiated in 2004 and completed in 2007 to coincide with the quadricentennial of the founding of Jamestown, a small portion of the hill facing Bank Street was cut-away to accommodate the entrance to the new underground visitor's center and legislative hearing rooms. The retaining wall supporting this entrance consists of ashlar sandstone blocks capped by an iron railing. In the center is the public entrance framed by a sandstone Doric portico with two columns in antis supporting a full entablature (non-contributing structure). The approach to this entrance is marked by a stone plaza with a medallion compass in the center. The setting adjacent to the boundaries of Capitol Square is composed of a mixture of nineteenth and twentieth century properties, including the aforementioned Old City Hall and Library, Morson's Row (NR) on Governor's Street, St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Ninth Street (NR), the Ninth Street Office Building (former Hotel Richmond) on Ninth Street (NR), the Virginia State Library Building (now Patrick Henry Building) on East Broad Street (NR), and the U.S. Customs House (U.S. Courthouse Building) on Bank Street (NR) opposite the visitor's entrance. Within the grounds of Capitol Square stand the Virginia Executive Mansion (NHL), the Bell Tower (NR), the Virginia Washington Monument (NR), and a collection of commemorative statues (detailed in the list of non-contributing resources).

Virginia State Capital (contributing building)Exterior: Summary

Jefferson's eighteenth-century Capitol, modeled on the Roman temple form, is at the heart of the current Capitol complex. The 1904-06 flanking wings are set back from the original building, and are designed in a sympathetic Classical revival mode. One-story hyphens, constructed in the 1904-06 expansion to connect the wings to the main block, were expanded in 1962-64.

Exterior: Original Building

The original portion of the building, now the center pavilion of the complex, was constructed of brick and covered with stucco. It features a two-story *cella* (the second and third stories) seven bays deep and five bays wide with a hexastyle portico two bays deep, all of which rises from a high podium (the first story). The three bays near the northern edge of the east and west faces of the original building were obscured at the first and second levels by the construction of the adjacent hyphens. (The basement or first story, *piano nobile* or second story, third story and attic will be referred to as levels one through four for ease of description: basement is level one and attic is level four.)

The ashlar-faced first level of the central pavilion forms the podium for the original building. It features a plinth course capped with stepped freestone water tables (1816). An 1816 stone course caps the podium. The portico steps - a key element of Jefferson's design that was not executed due to budget constraints - were constructed during the 1904-06 renovations. The steps obscure the first level of the south elevation. The center bay of the first level at the north elevation features one of two primary entrances to the original building.

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The second and third levels of the central pavilion form the cella and portico and are unified by the use of giant orders, where Ionic columns or pilasters define each bay. The columns and pilasters feature concrete bases, stucco shafts, and terra cotta capitals. They support a stone frieze and terra cotta cornice.

The hexastyle portico, five bays wide and two bays deep, dominates the south elevation. Stone steps extending the full width of the building lead to the portico, flanked by stuccoed cheek walls. At the top of the steps, Ionic columns line the portico. The original eighteenth century wood structure of each column remains encapsulated within an outer layer of cladding, applied to provide entasis during the 1904-06 renovations. The columns feature 1904-06 concrete bases and terra cotta capitals and support a 1904-06 stone frieze and terra cotta cornice ornamented with dentils. The pediment is stuccoed. The floor features 1904-06 flagging, and the portico ceiling and soffit are paneled.

Although all elevations of the building have been stuccoed since 1798, most, if not all, of the existing stucco dates from a later period. The stucco was repaired in 1816 and 1846, entirely replaced in 1904-06, and further repaired in 2007 with minor repairs made during repainting in 2015.

The roof has been replaced a number of times. A gable cement and shingle composition roof was installed at the end of the eighteenth century. In the 1840s, a new copper roof replaced the 1816 slate roof. When the building was renovated in 1904-06, a new tin roof was installed at the central block. Today, batten-seam, sheet metal roofing dating from 1962-64 covers the roof.

Exterior: Hyphen and Wings

Two-story wings were added to the east and west of the central pavilion in 1904-06. Each wing extends five bays in the north-south direction, and three bays east-west. Two-story hyphens, each one bay wide, connect the wings to the original central pavilion. Like the original building, the wings and hyphens are constructed of brick and covered with stucco.

Added in 1904-06, the wings and hyphens adopt the lines of the plinth and podium of the original building at the ground level. Similarly, the windows at the first story conform to the height established at the first story of the main building. As in the main building, a portico occupies the center of each of the three main elevations and pilasters mark each corner. The pilasters and columns are of the Ionic order. All elevations of the wings and hyphens have been stuccoed since their construction. Although most of the stucco on the wings dates from 1904-06, the stucco on the hyphens dates from 1963-64, when the hyphens were expanded (widened).

When the hyphens and wings were originally constructed, red roof tile with tin gutters were used to cover the hyphens, asphalt roofing was used at the Senate and House roofs, and skylights capped the penthouses of the wings. Today, a batten-seam, sheet metal roof, installed during the 1963-64 renovation, covers the penthouses. The hyphens and wings were re-roofed with built-up membrane roofing in 2001.

The wooden sash windows found throughout the main building and hyphen are all wooden and date to the 1904-1906 renovation. The first level features a three-over-three double-hung configuration. Levels two and three feature six-over-six double hung style windows. The fourth level is an attic without any fenestration in the gable ends. The hyphens only have one upper level of six-over-six sash windows.

Interior: Summary

The central block of the Capitol largely reflects the eighteenth century layout, although the entire interior, with the exception of the south end of the first level, was reconstructed in 1904-06. A significant amount of original

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fabric, considered completely lost by 1906, was uncovered during the 2004-07 renovation. The basic arrangement of space within the Capitol conforms to this period of renovation, with minor modifications made in the 1960s.

The main public spaces within the central eighteenth-century block include the Rotunda, the Jefferson Room (formerly the Supreme Court of Virginia that was long used as the clerk's office and restored to its original configuration in 2004-07), the Old Senate Chamber, and the Old Hall of the House of Delegates. Public corridors lead east-west from the Rotunda through the hyphens to the 1904-06 Senate and House Chambers.

When the Capitol was renovated in 1904-06, the interior was substantially remodeled and rebuilt, essentially replicating the nineteenth century floor plan spaces. New fireproof floors and walls were introduced, but decorative elements were reapplied. The 1904 drawings and specifications called for the salvage of a number of elements of interior woodwork. Items to be reused included "trim of openings on the first floor of rotunda; door trim and arch trim, gallery balustrade and cornice on the second floor of rotunda; cornices at ceiling and around base of dome in rotunda; face of gallery, gallery balustrade, cornice and bases and caps of pilasters in Museum, pilasters and cornice from present Senate chamber in large committee room on first floor."¹

The finishes of the eighteenth-century building were updated throughout the nineteenth century, resulting in an eclectic blend of decorative treatments by the turn of the twentieth century. As the interior was reconstructed in 1904-06, most eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plaster and paint was obscured or lost, and the majority of plaster and finishes in place today date from 1906 or later.

Interior: Rotunda

The Rotunda, a triple-height space capped with an internal dome, is located at the center of the building. The focus of the space at the second level is the Jean-Antoine Houdon statue of George Washington. A paneled soffit with supporting console brackets and an ornamental cornice defines the balcony area above. The two niches on each wall currently contain busts. The north rotunda wall has President William Henry Harrison on the left and President John Tyler, on the right. The east wall features President Zachary Taylor, on the left and Woodrow Wilson, on the right. The south wall has the Marquis de Lafayette, on the left and Thomas Jefferson, on the right. The West wall features James Madison on the left and James Monroe, on the right. The Washington statue is surrounded by a highly stylized wrought iron fence.

The Rotunda gallery is located at the third floor. The east and west walls feature large arched openings, while the north and south walls hold three openings framed with architraves. The marble floor pattern and wainscot found on the second level repeats at this level. The dome features twenty painted panels that rise in a rib-like pattern to the flat clear glass skylight above. Currently, portraits of former Virginia Governors hang on all four sides of the gallery.

Interior: Old Senate Chamber (Second Level)

The room referred to as the Old Senate Chamber is the western portion of what was originally the Supreme Court Chamber. The existing configuration of the double-height room dates from 1904-06, when the room was renovated as a committee room, and a separate passage was provided from the Rotunda to the portico, making the room smaller. Square in plan, the room features two windows on the south and west walls and two doors at the east wall.

¹ "Specifications for Fire Proofing and Additions to the Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, Va.," Capitol Enlargement Correspondence Bills, and Receipts, 1902-1906. Virginia Governor (1902-1906): Montague), Executive Papers.36710. State Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia.

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Interior: The Old Hall of the House of Delegates

The Old Hall of the House of Delegates (or informally, the Old House Chamber), partially reconstructed after the Capitol Disaster of 1870, was again reworked in the 1904-06 renovation when the stairs and galleries were reconfigured. The chamber retains its historic proportions. Windows and paired pilasters punctuate the north, east and west walls. The center of the south wall features a double-leaf door flanked by niches. Galleries overlook the room from the east and west walls. According to the 1858 Lybrock drawings, historically the galleries gently curved out toward the south wall. While the curved galleries were reconstructed after the 1870 collapse, in the 1904-06 renovations the galleries were widened and the curve eliminated. Prior to the renovation the stairs leading to the galleries were located outside the chamber. When the chamber was reconstructed in 1904-06, two spiral stairs were located within the chamber to provide access to the galleries. The gallery stairs were again reworked in 1927-29, when the space was returned from its function of the Old Hall. Currently, the room features ceremonial artwork, busts and statues. Included in this collection is a statue of Robert E. Lee. The busts that are arrayed around the room include Jefferson Davis, J.E.B. Stuart, Andrew Lewis, Thomas J. Jackson, George Wythe, Patrick Henry, John Marshall, George Mason, Richard H. Lee, Sam Houston, Cyrus McCormick, Meriwether Lewis, Fitzhugh Lee, Alexander Stephens, Joseph Johnston, and Mathew F. Maury. The House of Delegates' official mace is also on display in the central area.

Interior: The Jefferson Room (Second Level)

The Jefferson room, which served as the office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates during the 20th century, now serves as a gallery and meeting space containing a large full-length portrait of Thomas Jefferson painted by George Catlin after the Thomas Sully original on display at the United States Military Academy at West Point. The room is now equal to the size of the old Senate Chamber.

Interior: Senate Chamber (Second Level)

The Senate Chamber in the west wing was built in 1904-06. Its configuration has remained largely the same since that time. The focus of the room is the Speaker's podium at the center of the west end of the room. The double-height space is entered through a pair of doors in the east wall, and windows punctuate the north, west, and south walls. A semicircular balcony overlooks the space, facing the west wall. The historic paint finishes from 1906 were restored in 2004-07.

Interior: House Chamber (Second Level)

The House Chamber is similar in configuration and appearance to the Senate Chamber. Differences include the size of the first floor chamber, the curvature of the back wall, and the use of slender Doric columns that support the balcony.

Interior: Clerks' Offices (Third Level)

Adapted as the Governor's offices after the 1904-06 renovation, the suites located on the north side are now Legislative Clerks' Offices. The western rooms that house the Senate Clerk's suite today have retained the 1904-06 configurations, while the plan of the eastern rooms that house the House Clerk's suite reflects a 1956 configuration. The Executive Branch currently has a suite of offices on the south side of the third level, including a ceremonial Governor's office.

Interior: Corridors on the First, Second, Third and Fourth Levels

Two main corridors connect the main public spaces of the building and meet at right angles in the Rotunda. The center corridor in the south end of the ground floor dates from the early nineteenth century, but the finishes date from 1904-06 and later. Two new corridors to allow safe access between the original Capitol and the new underground extension run from the center of the original building to the south, one along the west side and one

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on the east side of the ground floor. The corridors in the rest of the first floor level and the entirety of the second, third and fourth levels also date from 1904-06. All the early corridors were rehabilitated in 2004-07. The upper level of the hyphen also features corridor entrances to the House and Senate room galleries.

Interior: Stairs and Elevators

There are four primary stairs in the building. A stair/elevator core is located on the north side of the east and west corridors within the main block of the building. These stairs date from the 1904-06 renovations and originally served the first through third levels, with the western stair extending to the fourth level (historically, the attic). Although the western stair historically wrapped around an elevator, the eastern elevator was not introduced until the 1962-64 renovation. The western elevator and the eastern stair were extended to the fourth level with the 1962-64 renovation. The original elevator was an open cage. Remnants of the open western elevator shaft are visible in the highly stylized ironwork that stands out in addition to the stair rail. All of the foregoing received rehabilitation in 2004-2007.

The following buildings and objects contribute to the NHL designation:Capitol Square Fence (contributing object)

Designed by Paul-Alexis Sabbaton in 1818, the distinctive cast-iron and wrought-iron fence encloses the 12-acre Capitol Square. The main posts represent fasces, a bundle of rods tied around the shaft of an axe. The rails are stylized spears.

Virginia Executive Mansion (contributing buildings)

This Federal style mansion built in 1811-1813 was individually designated an NHL in 1988. The property includes the Kitchen (Guest House), 1811-1813, and nineteenth century Carriage House/Greenhouse, that are also contributing buildings. (Gardens designed by Charles Gillette were installed in the 1950's to the south of the Mansion and just behind the kitchen/guest house. These resources are outside the period of significance.) For a detailed description, consult the National Historic Landmark nomination.

Bell Tower (contributing structure)

The brick bell tower, built in 1824, was listed in the National Register in 1969. For a detailed description, consult the National Register nomination.

Virginia Washington Monument (contributing object)

This equestrian statue of George Washington was designed in 1849-1850 and completed in 1858 except for the subsidiary statues that were not completed until after the Civil War in 1869. This statue was listed in the National Register in 2003. For a detailed description, consult the National Register nomination. A comprehensive restoration was completed in 2016.

Capitol Square Grounds (contributing site)

The landscape of the capitol grounds (1851-circa 1860) in the NHL boundary consists of a grassy lawn with curving brick sidewalks linking the various statues and fountains that originated with the 1851 design by John Notman. An initial neo-Classical landscape plan from 1816-18 by Maximilian Godefroy continues to be represented by the ceremonial "Avenue" leading east from the primary entrance into Capitol Square on 9th street to the Executive Mansion (1813).

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Notman's overlay plan coincided with work to prepare the grounds for the erection of the Washington Monument, located just inside the Ninth Street entrance to Capitol Square. A carriage drive, now restricted to foot traffic, circles the monument and extends along the north flank of the Capital on axis to the Executive Mansion (whose grounds were not part of the Notman plan). A twentieth century modification entailed expanding this driveway to envelope the Capitol, eliminating sections of curving walks established by Notman's plan. The section of driveway around the Capitol has remained closed to vehicular traffic since 2007. Portions of the 1851 plan south of the Executive Mansion were also lost in the construction of the First Virginia State Library (Oliver Hill Building) and the Washington Building.

The south and west sides of Capitol Square appear to retain much of Notman's plan (as illustrated in the 1877 Beers atlas and the 1905 Sanborn Insurance map).² There are brick walks in a herringbone configuration that are laid in a curving pattern throughout the grounds. Two straight brick walks are on axis linking the Washington Monument to an historic fountain in the southwest corner of the grounds and the Bell Tower. A second historic circular fountain is in the southeast corner in front of the Washington Building. Both cast iron fountains are surrounded by low cast iron fences.

The site plan prepared by the Historic American Building Survey in 1988 documented the plan of the walks, the locations of all buildings and objects, as well as the plant material.³ The construction of the underground Visitor's Center with its entrance on Bank Street in 2005-07 resulted in excavations of the grounds between the front of the Capitol and Bank Street. The excavated earth was carefully replaced and the area restored as closely as possible to its pre-project contours.

With the installation of the iron fence in 1818, Capitol Square became one of the earliest enclosed closed public spaces in America (after the City Commons in New York and the Pennsylvania State House grounds), and Sabbaton's fence is also the oldest surviving functioning iron fence in the country. Moreover, the implementation of Notman's picturesque overlay plan was the first use of the style in a public project in America, predating Central Park by nearly a decade. The City of Richmond was inspired by the positive public reception to Capitol Square to institute a system of small urban parks, such as Libby and Monroe parks, along with an urban reforestation program. The Square remains, as it has since the Notman plan was implemented, an important host for ceremonial milestones such as inaugurations, and a gathering place for everything from picnics to protests.

The following buildings and objects do not contribute to the NHL designation:

The formal Gardens and the Guardhouse of the Executive Mansion. (noncontributing site and building).

The formal gardens were created by Charles Gillette during the 1950s and the guardhouse with its accompanying security gate was constructed in 1961. They are outside the period of significance for the NHL nomination.

The First Virginia State Library/Oliver Hill Building, 102 Governor Street (noncontributing building)

Constructed in 1892-93, enlarged in 1910, remodeled in 1929, and rehabilitated in 2005, this building was listed in the National Register in 2008. However, it is outside the period of significance for the Virginia State Capitol NHL nomination. For a detailed description, consult the National Register nomination.

² *Illustrated Atlas of Richmond, Virginia.* Beers, F. W., Richmond, VA: F.W. Beers, 1877; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Richmond, Independent Cities, Virginia.* Sanborn Map Company, 1905, Vol.1, plate 7.

³ Historic American Building Survey, HABS VA-1254.

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Washington Building, 1100 Bank Street (noncontributing building)

Constructed in 1923-1924 as a state office building and rehabilitated in 2006, this property is outside the period of significance for the Virginia State Capitol NHL nomination.

Bank Street Deck, Bank Street (noncontributing structure)

Constructed in the late twentieth century, this four-story parking garage was built on the site of North 12th Street where it intersected Franklin Street. The discontinued sections of these streets were never historically part of Capital Square and the parking garage is outside the period of significance of the NHL nomination.

Jefferson Building, 1218 Bank Street (noncontributing building)

Constructed in the late twentieth century, this office building occupies the northwest corner of Bank Street and Governor Street that was never historically part of Capital Square and is outside the period of significance of the NHL nomination.

Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson Statue (1875), Hunter Holmes McGuire Statue (1904), Governor William Smith Statue (1906), Zero Milestone (1929), Edgar Allan Poe Statue (1959), Harry Flood Byrd Sr. Statue (1976) and the Civil Rights Memorial (2008) are noncontributing objects.

Visitor's Center Entrance on Bank Street (noncontributing structure)

The Doric entrance portico was inspired by the Temperance Temple at Bremo Plantation in Fluvanna County and the plaza provides access to the underground visitor's center as well as the Capitol. These were constructed in 2004-07 and are outside the period of significance for the NHL nomination.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National

Register Criteria: A X B C X D

Criteria Considerations

(Exceptions): A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 1, 4

NHL Criteria Exceptions:

NHL Theme(s):

- III. Expressing Cultural Values
 - 5. architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design
- IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
 - 2. governmental institutions

Areas of Significance: Politics/Government, Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1785-1798; 1861-1865

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Jefferson, Thomas

Historic Contexts:

- XVI. Architecture
 - D. Greek Revival
- VI. Civil War
 - E. Political and Diplomatic Scene

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**Significance Statement**

The Virginia State Capitol is nationally significant both historically (Criterion 1) and architecturally (Criterion 4). It was originally designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 under the Civil War Theme as the Confederate Capitol because from July 1861 to April 1865 the Confederate Congress met in the building. In 1969 a National Register of Historic Places nomination was prepared to add discussion of its architectural significance as a Thomas Jefferson designed building representing the introduction of Neo-Classicism in public buildings in the United States. In 1975, the NHL nomination was placed on a newer form with little change in the discussion of national significance from the 1960 nomination. However the name remained the "Confederate Capitol" throughout these later nominations.

Both the original NHL nomination and its 1975 update and the 1969 National Register nomination did not account for the large number of buildings, structures, objects and sites within the boundary of the property that is known as Capital Square. These resources, contributing and noncontributing, are now recorded in the Description, Section 7 of this nomination. In order to reflect the extent of resources and their national significance in this NHL, the name and categorization of the designated property is recommended to be changed to the "Virginia State Capital Historic District."

Criterion 1

Historically, in addition to the Virginia Capitol building serving as the meeting place of the Confederate Congress during the years that Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy, it also houses the oldest legislative body in America. The present legislature grows out of the Colonial House of Burgesses. The Capitol building was the place where the Virginia Convention drafted the new constitution for the commonwealth in 1829-30.

Criterion 4

Architecturally, the Virginia State Capitol is the first instance since ancient Roman times where the temple form was employed for a public building of importance. Furthermore, it set the precedent for using neo-classical forms for American public buildings.

The Capitol of Virginia in Richmond was designed by Thomas Jefferson in collaboration with the French architect Charles-Louis Clerisseau during Jefferson's stay in France as First Consul (1784-1789). At this time in France the interest in Neo-classical building forms based directly on the originals from Roman or Greek antiquity was at a peak. So that when Jefferson was asked to provide a design for the new Capitol of Virginia in Richmond, he chose the ancient Roman temple at Nimes, known as the Maison Careé, for his model. Well aware of the limitations of local Virginia craftsmen, Jefferson substituted the Ionic order for the Corinthian of the Maison Careé and simple engaged pilasters for the engaged columns.

The Capitol was begun in 1785, while Jefferson was still in France, with the construction being supervised by Samuel Dobie. By 1798 the original temple-form building was complete. In 1796 the Houdon statue of George Washington in Continental uniform was placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Later were added portrait busts of the other Virginia-born Presidents, and the Houdon bust of the Marquis de Lafayette. The 1870 Capitol disaster, in which sixty-two people were killed when the courtroom gallery collapsed, was cause for some renovation, but it was not until 1904-06 that extensive renovation and alterations were made. At that time the two wings

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were added to the east and west ends to house new chambers for the State Senate and the House of Delegates. In 1929 the original chamber for the House of Delegates was renovated and refurbished.

The resulting building was not an unqualified success in spite of its dramatic and dignified exterior. The original floor plan shows a marked disregard for the possibilities of the temple form and its function. The space requirement of the two legislative bodies, the Senate and the House of Representatives was more or less forced to fit the exterior form as best they could. This situation prevailed until 1904 when the lateral wings were added. These additions solved the functional problems but spoiled Jefferson's intent to have a pure, uninterrupted temple. Despite these vicissitudes, the Virginia State Capitol is of paramount importance in the development of American architecture because it is the first purely Neo-classical building to be erected in this country.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

“Capitol Square Data-Grounds”, Vol. 2, unpublished manuscript, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

Gaines, William H., Jr., “Warehouse and Roman Temple, the Capitols of the Commonwealth, 1780-1951,”
Virginia Cavalcade 1 (Winter 1951).

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America*. New York: Dover Publications, 1944.

Kimball, Fiske. *Thomas Jefferson, Architect*. Boston, 1916.

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

Other (Specify Repository):

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 14 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18NW	284900	4157400
B	18NE	285190	4157210
C	18SE	285100	4156990
D	18SW	284760	4157220

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary follows the original NHL designation as shown on the accompanying map “Virginia State Capitol NHL Boundary (2016)” and extends inside the curb lines of Governor, Ninth, Bank and (former) Capitol Streets as they converge to form Capitol Square.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the historic Capitol Square and its resources, and it is identical to the 1975 NHL documentation, as well as the 2005 NR nomination.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: The update of Section 7 was provided by Marc C. Wagner and James K. Hare, Architectural Historians, Virginia Department of Historical Resources (DHR), working with Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, Curator of the Capitol and Capitol Square, and Executive Director of the Capitol Square Preservation Council, building on the additional documentation prepared by Bryan Clark Green, Architectural Historian, Virginia DHR, prior to the 2004-07 quadricentennial project.

Address: Virginia Department of Historical Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

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Date: 2004 and 2016

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Address: Ninth Street State Office Building, Room 1116
Richmond, VA

Date: April 1969

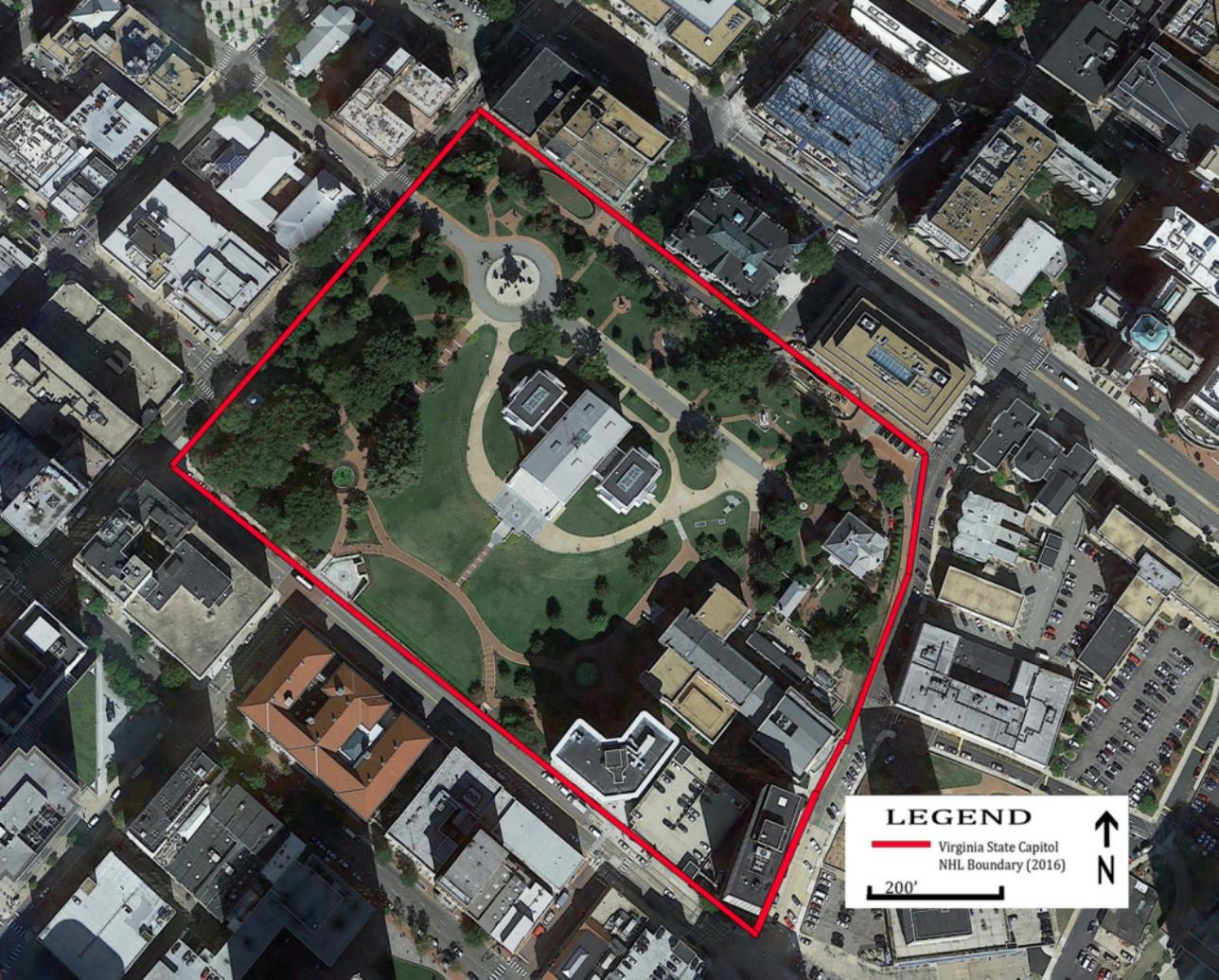
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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM

January 11, 2017



LEGEND

 Virginia State Capitol
NHL Boundary (2016)

 200'

