

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED ON:	
VLR	03/18/2010
NRHP	06/24/2010

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name The George Washington Hotel

other names/site number DHR File No. 138-0042-0919

### 2. Location

street & number 103 East Piccadilly Street n/a  not for publication

city or town Winchester  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Winchester code 840 zip code 22601

code VA county Independent City code 840 zip code 22601

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

~~\_\_\_ national~~ ~~\_\_\_ statewide~~ X local

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

5/6/10  
Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. 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 the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	buildings
0	0	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Hotel

Domestic: Hotel

Commerce/Trade: Restaurant

Commerce/Trade: Restaurant

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals:

foundation: CONCRETE

Sub categories: Colonial Revival;

walls: BRICK

Neoclassical Revival

roof: SYNTHETIC: Rubber  
BRICK-Chimney; METAL: Aluminum-cornice; STONE: Limestone-medallion,  
other: arches and bands

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

See Continuation Sheets

**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)

- 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.
- 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.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1924-1951

**Significant Dates**

1924, 1929, 1950/1951

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

1924- Clarence L. Harding of Washington, D.C.- architect; Wise Granite and Construction Co. of Richmond, Virginia - builder

1929 addition-Marcellus Wright of Richmond, Virginia - architect; Quigley Hafer of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania -contractor



**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries of the George Washington Hotel, City of Winchester, are those that have been historically associated with the hotel since its construction in 1924 and as recorded at the Commissioner of Revenue's Office in Rouss City Hall in the City of Winchester.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kimberly P. Burke/ member

organization G. W. Development, LLC

date November 10, 2009

street & number 2224 Wilson Boulevard

telephone 540-722-2087

city or town Winchester,

state Virginia

zip code 22601

e-mail kimberlypburke@gmail.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheets

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**City of Winchester, Virginia**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The George Washington Hotel is a five-story, U-shaped brick building with a parapet on a raised basement located in the Winchester Historic District in the City of Winchester, Virginia. The hotel was built in 1924 with an addition in 1929, remodeled in 1950/1951 and again in the mid-1970s, and underwent a complete rehabilitation from 2003-2008. The hotel is an architecturally significant building representing the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival styles and features a grand wide entrance, flanked by giant pairs of fluted pilasters, sheltered by an ornate metal awning, and topped by an in-set arched window. Original tripartite double-hung, wood-sash windows with swag decoration line the first floor, and fenestration on the remaining floors include six-over-six and four-over-four wood-sash windows topped by cast concrete or stone lintels with keystones. Friezes embedded with medallions and topped by heavy concrete cornices with modillion and dentil elements can be seen above the first-floor windows and near the top of the building. A bracketed cornice, cartouche, and rectangular panels with swag insets enhance the parapet. The interior lobby, ballroom, and dining room exhibit most original elements including door and window trim, floors, plaster moldings, large freestanding giant piers, pilasters, and coffered ceilings. Upon opening in 1924 until May 2, 1949, the hotel served as a social hub and place of commerce as nearby passenger trains serviced the area. The hotel reopened to great fanfare on May 1, 2008 after a 4 ½-year rehabilitation project following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The George Washington Hotel was constructed in 1924 of brick, concrete, and steel as one of the first fire-proof hotels in the City of Winchester. Clarence L. Harding of Washington, D.C., was the architect and Wise Granite and Construction Company of Richmond, Virginia, was the builder. The George Washington Hotel was one of the hotels developed by The American Hotel Corporation as part of "The Colonial Chain" of hotels. Other hotels operating in the chain in 1924 were: The Colonial Hotel in Gardner, Massachusetts; The Burrirt in New Britain, Connecticut; and The Pontiac in Oswego, New York.<sup>1</sup>

Originally built in an L-shape with a rear one-story kitchen wing, the hotel contained 102 rooms on the upper four floors. Only 45 of those rooms had private baths. The main floor included the lobby, kitchen, main dining room, banquet room, and lounge. The basement had a barber shop and coffee shop. The original floor plans have not been located. Other hotels in operation in Winchester in 1924 included The City Hotel located at 223-225 North Main Street (now Loudoun Street), The Fairfax Hotel at 112 S. Market Street (now Cameron St.), Hotel Evans at 182-186 N. Main Street (now Cameron Street), and the Hotel Jack at 10-24 W. Piccadilly Street which opened in 1915.<sup>2</sup>

In 1929, the hotel added 50 rooms in an L-shape brick wing. This addition gave the hotel its current U-shaped configuration. The architect of the 1929 addition was Marcellus Wright of Richmond, Virginia, and the contractor was Quigley Hafer of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.<sup>3</sup> This five-story wing matched the original hotel in detailing although the color of brick is slightly different. This addition included two retail spaces fronting on Piccadilly Street as well as a mezzanine level and rooms on the upper stories. The floor plans for the 1929 addition exist and are in the administrative office of The George Washington Hotel at 103 East Piccadilly Street in the city of Winchester, Virginia.

The hotel was first remodeled in 1950/1951. At that time the canopy above the entrance was remodeled, airlock doors were installed at the main entrance, the clerestory windows above the lobby desk were enclosed, new chandeliers

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were installed, and some walls that had originally been open were closed. A new staircase was installed in the lobby that allowed access to the basement where a Howard Johnson's restaurant was opened. The pedimented entrance on Cameron Street was closed and converted to a window to allow for an entrance off of Cameron Street into the basement where the Howard Johnson's restaurant was housed. Thirty-six new bathrooms were added in rooms that did not have them previously, which required moving some of the corridor doorways. A new rear entrance and enclosed hallway leading to the lobby were also added.<sup>4</sup>

The hotel closed in the mid-1970s and reopened as the George Washington Home for Adults in 1975.<sup>5</sup> (Section 8 mentions that the holtel closed in 1976) Before reopening, it underwent remodeling to meet fire code requirements. The staircase from the lobby to the basement was enclosed as the Howard Johnson's restaurant closed; the wall between the dining room and the lounge area on the main level was closed in; the original hotel room doors were replaced with modern metal ones; some new bathrooms were installed while others were updated; and the historic floor coverings in the hotel rooms and corridors were removed.<sup>6</sup> In 1995, the Home for Adults was closed and the hotel briefly housed Grand Home Furnishings while the store recovered from a May 1996 fire at its Braddock Street location.<sup>7</sup>

Upon the purchase of the property by G. W. Development, LLC in November 2003, the property had been vacant since 1997. Although vacant for almost seven years, the property retained a high degree of architectural integrity in the public spaces including the lobby. Much of the historic Colonial Revival-style and Neoclassical Revival-style character and ornamentation have been retained. G. W. Development, LLC obtained the services of architect Peter Fillat of Peter Fillat Architects from Baltimore, Maryland, to develop plans for the hotel to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century traveler while maintaining the architectural integrity, historical character, and ornamentation of the original building. Glen Burke, managing member of G. W. Development, LLC acted as the general contractor while Michael Binder of Ashburn, Virginia, was hired to be the project manager. During the rehabilitation, significant exterior and interior features were preserved while some significant features that had been altered were restored.

The hotel blends both Colonial Revival-style and Neoclassical Revival-style design motifs. Originally built in an L shape, the hotel was originally nine bays wide (north side of building) with the main entrance in the fifth bay. The 1929 addition added two bays to the north side of the building, making it 11 bays wide. The slightly projecting grand entrance is marked by paired giant order pilasters supporting a paneled entablature and stepped cornice with a round-arched transom above the entrance doors. The west side (Cameron Street) is seven bays wide. The second bay of the main level originally featured a pedimented entrance with exterior stairs leading up into the ballroom. This doorway was closed and converted to a window during the 1950-1951 remodeling to create a basement-level entrance into the Howard Johnson's restaurant.

The exterior brick walls are laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. The relatively plain exterior is enhanced by decorative features made of limestone, terra cotta, concrete, and steel. These include a string course below the first-floor windows and both above and below the fifth-story windows; paired giant order fluted pilasters flanking the entrance bay; and an oval medallion on the roof above the fifth bay; a bracketed cornice; rectangular panels with swag insets in the brick roof parapet; flat keystone arches on the second- through fourth-floor windows; and first-floor tripartite windows with swag decorations.<sup>8</sup>

The windows are all double-hung wood sash. The guest room windows are double-hung, six-over-six, wood sash alternating with four-over-four sash that mark the locations of bathrooms. The main-level tripartite windows are comprised of a central six-over-six sash window flanked by four-over-four sash windows. Above them and separated by a

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panel with applied swags and urns is a fixed central six-light window flanked by four-light sashes. During the 2003-2008 rehabilitation, the original windows were preserved and interior storm windows were installed for the purposes of energy efficiency and noise reduction. The storm windows are unnoticeable from the exterior of the building.

The front basement elevation on the 1924 portion of the hotel contained three storefronts, each consisting of a large plate-glass window and a single-light wooden door with transom. These are in good condition although some of the transoms have been enclosed. The building sits on a split-level brick foundation that is banked on the northeast side. The basement, visible only along the front and west side of the hotel, is accessible by exterior steps leading down to the entrances. In the 2003-2008 rehabilitation, this front basement elevation that contained three storefronts became the area containing the indoor pool, fitness center, and bathrooms. The area that housed the Howard Johnson's restaurant now contains a restaurant named, 'The Dancing Goat'. The front elevation of the 1929 wing added two storefronts at the street level. In the 2003-2008 rehabilitation, the main 1929 storefronts were maintained but the exterior hardware was removed so that they would not be functional but would retain their historic appearance. These two retail spaces were combined into one large meeting room with storage above.

The rear of the building (south elevation) was a one-story, four-bay kitchen wing. This section had two multi-light, steel-frame industrial windows as well as two metal skylights. Several of these windows had been enclosed using another type of brick. Although constructed in 1924, the kitchen wing was constructed of lesser quality brick that did not match the rest of the building, had no applied ornamentation, and was an eyesore. The latest restoration incorporated the exterior walls of the rear one-story wing into a new entrance that was faced with new brick that is compatible with the rest of the hotel. This rear entrance is the handicapped accessible entrance to the hotel.

Directly adjacent to this elevation is the hotel parking lot. Each end of the five-story hotel on this elevation featured an exterior fire escape in the center bay. The fire escape on the southwest wing was removed, as it was no longer needed. The current corridor linking the two wings of the hotel was removed and replaced with a new one that allows for handicapped accessibility between the two wings which, although technically both on the first floor, they are at two slightly different levels. The east elevation fronts on an alley directly adjacent to a neighboring building.

The hotel has a flat roof with a brick parapet on the front and sides and a flat-roofed-brick elevator shaft. The roof was in good condition and required very little work. The roof on the one-story section was incorporated into the new rear design using similar roofing material and remaining generally flat. There were two brick chimneys on the east side of the south arm of the building. The brick chimney that was added to the southeast was removed.

The lobby, ballroom, dining room, and lounge areas are located on the ground floor of the original 1924 section of the hotel and still feature their original Neoclassical Revival-style ornamentation. The walls are of plaster with painted wood and delicate Neoclassical-style plaster moldings as are the freestanding giant piers. The lobby is located up a set of stairs from the ground-level entrance. Two small rooms along the front of the hotel flank the entrance. The main desk is straight ahead and is defined by a nine-panel raised wooden front. On the wall behind the desk is a wooden key hutch. Above the main desk are interior clerestory windows. In 1950 these windows were filled in with brick.

The rehabilitation of 2003-2008 maintained these public areas except for minor adjustments in the lobby to meet modern fire codes and to allow for contemporary usage of the space. The front desk in the lobby was shifted back eight feet. The original front desk panel and key hutch were refinished and are still in use today. The bottom third of the wall of the room to the east of the entrance was removed to create a luggage room and bell stand. The bottom third of the wall

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between the lobby and the room to the east was removed to create a lobby bar as well as to create a larger area for seating aiding circulation and egress needs. All plaster walls, columns, and ornamentation were maintained and restored.

The former kitchen area off of the ballroom was reconfigured to include a banquet preparation area, a new freight elevator, public restrooms, and a front office. The rear portion of the ground-floor level of the 1929 wing now includes a service entry area and meeting rooms which open out onto a courtyard. The mezzanine level of the 1929 addition houses administrative offices and a board room. This area is serviced by a new stairway as well as by a new elevator. The new elevator goes from the basement to the fifth floor and is used by housekeeping, room service, and hotel personnel.

The interior door and window casings are relatively simple wooden architrave trim with a paneled wooden frieze with applied trim between the upper and lower sections of the large tripartite ground-floor windows. The ballroom, northwest room, and dining room each contain a large gilded mirror. All window casing and trim and chair rails have been restored and the three gilded mirrors were sent to Washington, D.C., for restoration and once again reside in the historic hotel. Original egg-and-dart ceiling cornices remain intact and outline the coffered ceilings.

The floor of the lobby and northwest room are Tennessee pink marble with a marble base. The floors in the ballroom and the dining room are narrow oak flooring. In the 2003-2008 rehabilitation, the Tennessee pink marble floors were restored. The floor in the original dining room which now houses the Half Note, a lobby bar, is the original narrow oak floor which G. W. Development, LLC had refinished. The dance floor in the ballroom was able to be restored while carpet was installed over the rest of the oak ballroom floor to help with noise abatement.

In 1924, the hotel had four floors of virtually identical double-loaded, L-shaped corridors which expanded to a U-shape with the 1929 addition. The corridors were relatively plain with minimal molding limited to door casings, chair rail, and baseboard. The 1929 guest room doors have enclosed transoms above them. The partitions between the guestrooms, closets, and bathrooms were removed during the 2003-2008 rehabilitation and new guest rooms were reconfigured to meet the requirements of the modern-day traveler to a luxury hotel. The corridors were preserved intact except for some shifting in the location of the guest room doors to coincide with the new configuration.

There were two sets of historic stairs servicing the upper floors. The grandest of these is located in the northwest room adjacent to the back of the two original elevators and is of marble and metal as seen at the first-floor level. These stairs, as seen from the first floor, were refurbished during the 2003-2008 rehabilitation. The upper portions were undecorated metal. The other stair is a plain metal service stair that led from the kitchen wing up to the guest floors. The two original elevators were mechanically refurbished while the interior of the cabs are of new design in keeping with the architectural features used in the hotel. A set of stairs from the lobby to the basement, which was enclosed in the mid-1970s, was uncovered during the latest rehabilitation.

The building originally had a hot water radiator heating system and no air conditioning. A new heating and cooling system was installed during this latest rehabilitation. So as to not detract from the original historic look of the building from the outside, no packaged terminal air conditioning units were used but rather a hot water forced air system was installed. The existing electrical system was completely removed and replaced with a code-compliant system which fits with the modern usage of the building. All new heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and electrical systems were installed to minimize any visual impact without removal or alteration of significant historic features or character.

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**ENDNOTES SECTION 7**

<sup>1</sup> Handley Regional Library Archives: Winchester, Virginia. George Washington Hotel Stockholder's Banquet Program 17 July 1924. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Winchester City Directory, Vol. IV 1921-1922, p. 231. Print.

<sup>3</sup> *Winchester Evening Star* 2 March 1929: 1. Print.

<sup>4</sup> Blueprints; Winchester City Building Office Records; *Winchester Evening Star* 30 January 1951:3. Print.

<sup>5</sup> 'Councilman Purchases Hotel'. *The Winchester Star* 20 November 2003:1. Print.

<sup>6</sup> United States Department of the Interior. National Park Service Historic Preservation Certification Application for the George Washington Hotel Part 2.

<sup>7</sup> 'Councilman Purchases Hotel'. *The Winchester Star* 20 November 2003:1. Print.

<sup>8</sup> Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks Commission. National Register Nomination: Winchester Historic District. Richmond, VA.: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, April 1979.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1924 in the City of Winchester, Virginia, The George Washington Hotel was the first southern hotel in the chain of "Colonial Hotels" managed by the American Hotel Corporation. The five-story, U-shaped, brick, parapeted, flat-roofed building constructed on a raised basement was one of the first fire-proof hotels in the city. Sited on the corner of North Cameron and East Piccadilly Streets within the state and nationally registered Winchester Historic District, the hotel is one of Winchester's tallest buildings and the surviving grand dame of the downtown. Designed by architect Clarence L. Harding of Washington, D.C., the hotel showcases distinct characteristics of the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival styles. These features include a grand entrance, topped by an in-set arched window and flanked by giant pairs of fluted pilasters, original windows including tripartite double-hung, wood-sash windows with swag decorations on the first floor, and six-over-six, wood-sash windows topped by concrete lintels with keystones on the upper floors. The parapet ornamentation is enhanced by a bracketed cornice, a cartouche, and rectangular panels with swag insets. The interior lobby, ballroom, and dining room exhibit many original architectural elements including door and window trim, floors, egg-and-dart plaster moldings, freestanding giant piers, pilasters, and coffered ceilings. A 1929 compatible addition, designed by architect Marcellus Wright of Richmond, Virginia, gave the hotel its current U-shape. Remodeling was done in 1950-51 to update the facility, and again in the mid-1970s when the hotel closed. The George Washington Hotel underwent a complete rehabilitation from 2003-2008 following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and has regained its status as a grand hotel after reopening on May 1, 2008. The period of significance begins in 1924 with the construction of the hotel and ends in 1951 when the first remodeling took place.

Locally significant, The George Washington Hotel meets National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as a significant regional example of the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival styles. The architectural integrity of the interior and exterior of the hotel has been maintained and most original features and ornamentation remain. The hotel served as a social hub and lodging facility for Winchester as nearby passenger trains serviced the area and brought guests from near and far. Passenger train service was discontinued in 1949, but The George Washington Hotel continued to provide lodging and meals for many visitors for another 26 years and served as a meeting place for various clubs and organizations in the city.

## NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Washington Hotel was strategically built across Piccadilly Street from the busy train depot. The Winchester and Potomac Railroad was the second railroad in Virginia and began operating in Winchester in 1836. In 1901, the railroad was purchased by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad which provided service between Winchester and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The Baltimore and Ohio Winchester passenger station was also used by the Winchester and Western Railroad as its terminal during the years of passenger service. The Winchester and Western Railroad provided service between Winchester and Wardensville, West Virginia enabling a large number of people to come to Winchester to transact business. By the time the George Washington Hotel was built in 1924, there were six passenger trains a day through Winchester stopping at the corner of Kent and Piccadilly Streets. The June 1931 issue of *Baltimore and Ohio Magazine* reported that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad carried between 2,200 and 3,000 passengers to the Apple Blossom Festival.<sup>1</sup> The George Washington Hotel was ideally placed to take advantage of this busy area, both during the Apple Blossom Festival and throughout the year. Its architectural stature and grand appearance made it the preferred location for many functions, making it the primary commercial hotel establishment in the city.

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Developed by the George Washington Hotel Corporation and managed by the American Hotel Corporation as part of its "Colonial Chain" of hotels, the George Washington Hotel was the corporation's first southern hotel and joined The Colonial Hotel in Gardner, Massachusetts, The Burritt in New Britain, Connecticut (listed on the National Register in July 1983), and The Pontiac in Oswego, New York (also listed on the National Register in July 1983). Many local leaders including L.F. Cooper, Stewart Bell, John Rosenberger, Fred A. Robinson, Dr. George Heist and Fred L. Glaize purchased stock in the hotel.<sup>2</sup>

On June 18, 1924, the night after the stockholder's banquet, The George Washington Hotel held its formal public opening. The Henry Seal Orchestra played while guests dined on chicken gumbo, filet mignon a la Stanley, Saratoga chips, cigars, and Pall Malls. The first chef at the George Washington Hotel was Frenchman Peter Migeot. Mr. Migeot came to the hotel from the Shoreham in Washington, D. C., and Carvel Hall at Annapolis, Maryland. George R. Burt was the first general manager.<sup>3</sup>

Other hotels open in Winchester at the time were the City Hotel, the Hotel Evans, and the Hotel Jack. The City Hotel was a two-story, low budget hotel located at 223-225 N. Main Street (now Loudoun Street). It operated as a tavern before becoming a hotel and was demolished in the 1950s. On the southeast corner of Loudoun and Piccadilly streets stood the Hotel Evans located at 182-186 N. Main Street (now Loudoun Street). Constructed of brick, it stood four stories high and was demolished by the Commercial and Savings Bank in the 1920s.<sup>3</sup> In 1914, the Hotel Jack opened at 10-24 W. Piccadilly Street. Built by Octavia Jack and her husband Charles, the hotel was a three-story, 39-room, brick building that operated as a hotel until 1955 when it was demolished by the Shenandoah Valley National Bank. Wachovia Bank's drive-up window is there now. The Hotel Jack was considered the best hotel in town until the George Washington Hotel was built in 1924. Of these hotels, The George Washington is the only one remaining today.<sup>4</sup>

The George Washington Hotel was the primary social meeting place in Winchester. The same year that the hotel opened, 1924, the City of Winchester held its first festival celebrating the apple industry, the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival. The Hotel has had a long partnership with the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, the headquarters of which was originally located in a small room in the lower level of the hotel. Tickets to all of the festival events could be purchased in the lobby of The George Washington Hotel. For a number of years, the hotel served as the Apple Blossom Princesses' headquarters. The hotel ballroom frequently hosted the Queen's Ball and many of the festival celebrities would stay as guests or speak at events in the hotel.

In April 1954, Ed Sullivan attended the joint Civic Club's luncheon held at The George Washington Hotel.<sup>5</sup> James Cagney attended a luncheon at the hotel on May 3, 1957, soon after his arrival to Winchester and right before riding in the Apple Blossom Festival's grand feature parade.<sup>6</sup> In May 1964, Lucy Baines Johnson, daughter of President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson and Apple Blossom Queen, attended an Apple Blossom Dance in the ballroom of the hotel.<sup>7</sup> On May 1965 Jack Dempsey, Apple Blossom Grand Marshall, spoke at the first annual Sports Breakfast attended by festival goers.<sup>8</sup> In May of 1969, Ed McMahon appeared at the Sport's Breakfast and was an honored guest at the Mayor's Luncheon, both at The George Washington Hotel.<sup>9</sup> In 1975, when President Gerald Ford's daughter, Susan, was the festival queen, the Secret Service also set up their headquarters inside the hotel.<sup>10</sup>

Although the hotel has had a long history with The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, it has served many others as well. The Virginia State Bar Association held its convention there in 1924. The Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs regularly met there. On January 29, 1934, a ball was given at hotel in celebration of President Franklin Roosevelt's

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City of Winchester, Virginia**

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birthday. Tickets to the dance were \$1.00 per couple and all receipts were turned over to the national committee of the Roosevelt Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.<sup>11</sup> On October 4, 1947, Johnnie Woods, a.k.a. "The Human Fly" scaled the Cameron Street side of the George Washington Hotel without safety devices.<sup>12</sup>

The George Washington Hotel has been the site of many happy wedding receptions including that of State Senator and Mrs. H. Russell Potts in 1965. The hotel closed in 1976 with the last social affair held there being the Regional American Bicentennial Ball.<sup>13</sup>

### **ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

Built in 1924, The George Washington Hotel contributes to the Winchester Historic District which was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and 1980, respectively. The five-story, U-shaped brick hotel is constructed of concrete and steel and was one of the first fire-proof hotels in the City of Winchester. Designed by architect Clarence L. Harding of Washington, D.C., the original L-shaped building containing 102 rooms on the upper four floors was constructed by Wise Granite and Construction Company of Richmond, Virginia. In 1929, the hotel added 50 rooms, and the architect for this addition was Marcellus Wright of Richmond, Virginia, with Quigley Hafer of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, serving as the contractor.<sup>14</sup>

Though the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Styles are well represented throughout Winchester, the majority of examples are residential. Of the commercial or other non-residential examples, none rise to the level of sophistication, both inside and out, of the George Washington Hotel. The hotel significantly represents the Neoclassical Revival and Colonial Revival styles on the exterior and the interior. The brick walls are laid in a stretcher-bond pattern enhanced by decorative features made of limestone, concrete, and terra cotta. The double-leaf entrance bay is flanked by paired giant order fluted pilasters. The rectangular panels with swag insets in the brick roof parapet, flat keystone arches on the second through fourth floor windows, and first-floor tripartite windows with swag decorations are indicative of the craftsmanship of the late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century revivals.

Inside The George Washington Hotel the Tennessee pink marble floor in the lobby is the same floor on which all visitors have walked since the hotel opened. The hardwood floors in the Half-Note lounge and the ballroom are original and today's visitors walk on the same floors as have celebrities Jack Dempsey, James Cagney, and Ed McMahon, to name a few. The original front desk and key hutch are obvious upon entering the lobby. The same desk is used for check-in where many in previous years have stood. Significant architectural details on the interior include egg-and-dart plaster moldings, Chinese key molding, and freestanding columns and pilasters with decorative trim. With its recent rehabilitation, The George Washington Hotel will continue to play a significant role in the history of Winchester, Virginia.

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National Park Service

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National Park Service

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All photographs are common to:

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** The George Washington Hotel

**LOCATION:** City of Winchester, Virginia

**DHR FILE NUMBER:** 138-0042-0919

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Kimberly P. Burke

**DATE PHOTOGRAPHED:** November 19, 2009

**ALL IMAGES STORED AT:** Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

**Photo 1 of 9**

Northwest elevation, view looking southeast

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0001.tif

**Photo 2 of 9**

North elevation, view looking south

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0002.tif

**Photo 3 of 9**

West elevation, view looking east

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0003.tif

**Photo 4 of 9**

South elevation, view looking north

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0004.tif

**Photo 5 of 9**

Lobby, view looking west

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0005.tif

**Photo 6 of 9**

Architectural detail in lobby

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0006.tif

**Photo 7 of 9**

Grand ballroom, view looking south

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0007.tif

**Photo 8 of 9**

Architectural detail in grand ballroom

VA\_CityofWinchester\_TheGeorgeWashingtonHotel\_0008.tif

**Photo 9 of 9**

Interior of hotel room

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National Park Service

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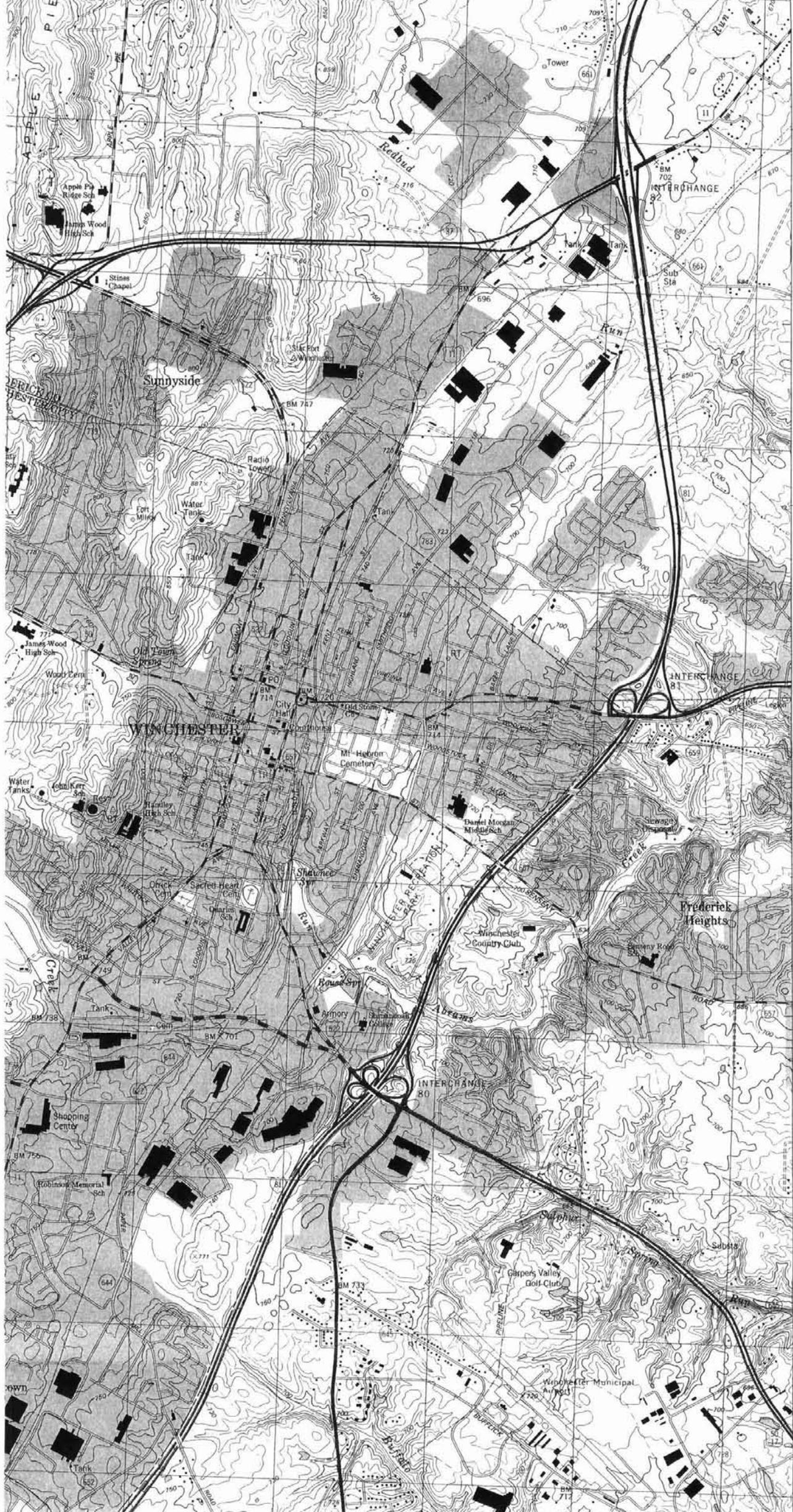
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12°30' 00" N  
79°10' 00" W

THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON HOTEL  
CITY OF WINCHESTER  
VIRGINIA  
DHP FILE NUMBER  
138-0042-049  
LITHO REFERENCE:  
17/745010/4341200  
QUAD: WINCHESTER, VA  
NAD 1983