

VLR 11/18/80 NRHP 10/1/81

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fairfax County Courthouse and Jail (Boundary Increase) 151-0003-0001
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
4000 Chain Bridge Road
CITY, TOWN
Fairfax
STATE
Virginia
VICINITY OF
10th
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
COUNTY
Fairfax
CODE
51
CODE
059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County
STREET & NUMBER
4100 Chain Bridge Road
CITY, TOWN
Fairfax
STATE
Virginia
VICINITY OF
22030

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Fairfax County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
4000 Chain Bridge Road
CITY, TOWN
Fairfax, Virginia
STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE
1958
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN
Washington,
STATE
D. C.
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Fairfax County courthouse building was constructed in 1799, after a design by James Wren, a native of King George County and a long-time resident of Fairfax County. The courthouse can best be described as a modified town-hall type structure and was the prototype for many other Virginia courthouses.

The two-story, Flemish-bond brick building's entrance is through the center bay of the three-bay arcaded gable end. An octagonal cupola, surmounted by a finial and weather-vane, crowns the roof line. The cupola is set back behind the arcade, located between the third and fourth bays of the four-bay southern facade. The roof is shingled. Three slender interior chimney stacks rise from the roof: one located at the peak of the roof on the facade; the others are found parallel to the arcade to the north and south of the cupola. The ground-floor fenestration consists of double-hung, twelve-over-twelve sash while the second-floor windows are double-hung, twelve-over-eight sash. A stone belt course girdles the arcade at the springpoints of the arches, and each arch is surmounted by a stone keystone. A round fan vent graces the apex of the facade gable.

The courthouse interior was restored from 1964-1967 under the supervision of Mr. Walter Macomber, restoration architect. Only three items in the interior of the building are original - a beam and two of the columns supporting the balcony. The most important architectural features of the restored two-story court chamber include the carved paneling, blind pedimented architrave behind the judge's seat, the jury box, the fireplaces, and the balcony. The brick flooring of the foyer and the wooden flooring of the spectator section and judicial area are graduated. The pinewood benches in this section are pews from the Jerusalem Baptist Church (Payne's Chapel) near Fairfax Station, which were moved to the courthouse during the Reconstruction era. An unadorned banister partitions off the space reserved for the counselors' tables, judge's bench, and witness and jury boxes. The plain, open staircases and banisters leading to the balcony and jury room reflect the Federal style. Beneath one staircase is a closet, and under the other is a staircase which descends to a small barren basement which accommodates a modern mechanical equipment system.

Located directly behind the courthouse is the old jail building, constructed in 1885. Its materials and construction indicate that the original portion was added to on two later occasions. When finally completed, the jail was a two-story, T-shaped brick building, with a one-story wooden porch across the full length of the front. In the original section (facing onto the turnpike) the windows have plain wooden pediments. The cornice and chimney tops are corbelled, and there are iron cresting and finials on the ridge of the hipped roof. In the second section, which forms part of the stem of the "T," there are segmental arches over the windows and an ornamental cornice consisting of a course of bricks laid vertically. In the third section, which completes the stem of the "T," the brickwork is laid in Flemish bond (matching the courthouse brickwork in contrast to the common bond of the rest of the jail), and the windows are topped with flat arches. The second and third parts of the building are covered with a gable roof.

JLF and Elizabeth S. David

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary has been drawn to include only the northernmost portion of present courthouse lot, the original courthouse block in the old wing of the present courthouse complex, and the old jail northwest of it. The 1930 addition to the original courthouse has been excluded.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1799-1800, 1885 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Wren

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Fairfax County courthouse was constructed at the conclusion of the eighteenth century, it achieved its main historical significance during the Civil War. Designed by James Wren, the courthouse is significant architecturally as a transition from the one-story, arcaded-front colonial courthouse typified by those of Hanover and King William counties, to the later, two-story Roman Revival examples such as the Madison and Page County courthouses.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The County Seat of Fairfax County was forced to move from Alexandria when that city was incorporated into the federal capital. The search for a new courthouse site was completed when in May 1798 a group of commissioners was appointed to inspect a site consisting of four acres owned by Richard Ratcliffe at Earp's Store. The deed was recorded on June 27, 1799.

Work began on the site in January 1799, after a design by James Wren, credited with the designs of Christ Church in Falls Church, Christ Church in Alexandria and the Pohick Church. James Bogue, an immigrant carpenter and builder, and his partner, Mungo Dykes, constructed the building, and the County took possession on January 27, 1800. Earp's Store was renamed Providence, and a town was laid out adjacent to the Little River Turnpike, although development during the next few decades was very slow.

The war years of 1861-1865 made the operation of normal civil government in Northern Virginia impossible. The courthouse was, for the most part, on the front lines of both opposing camps. In May 1861 a company of Warrenton Rifles established a camp at Fairfax Court House. On the morning of June 1, 1861, a body of Union Cavalry rode through Providence, and in the confused exchange of fire which followed, a captain of the Rifles, John Quincy Marr, became the first officer casualty of the war.

In the spring of 1862, the Confederate Army retired from Fairfax Court House to its line of fortifications at Centreville. From this time until the end of the war, Union troops remained in nominal control of this important crossroads and courthouse. Irregular Confederate troops plagued the Union Army in this area. This fact was dramatized in the famous raid on Fairfax County Courthouse by General John S. Mosby when, on the night of March 3, 1863, he, with about thirty men, captured and carried off Union General Edwin H. Stoughton, thirty-three prisoners, and a large number of horses and quantity of supplies. From 1863 until the end of the war, there were continuous guerrilla raids.

The task of renovating the courthouse after the war was extensive. A report in the Alexandria Gazette of October 17, 1862, states that "The interior of the courthouse of Fairfax County has been entirely destroyed. Nothing remains of the building but the walls and the roof." Gradual renovation continued until about 1900. A major refurbishment occurred in 1920.

In 1930-31 an addition was constructed on the south side at the rear of the original courthouse. In this process, the Clerk's Office, constructed in 1854, was destroyed. Twenty years later, in 1951-53, the courthouse was expanded again with the addition of a center block and another wing identical with the original and first addition segments. Restoration of the original courthouse was carried out from 1964-1967.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Fairfax County, "Historic Fairfax Court House," November 1972.
 Netherton, Ross D., and Ruby B. W. Waldeck, The Fairfax County Court House, July 1977.
 Rust, Jeanne, History of the Town of Fairfax, Washington: Moore & Moore, 1960.
Virginia, American Guide Series, 1937.
 Virginia Collection Files, Fairfax County Public Library.
Washington, American Guide Series, 1937.
 Whiffen, Marcus, "The Early Courthouses of Virginia," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, March 1959.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre
 QUADRANGLE NAME Fairfax, VA QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 1, 8	2 9, 9 7, 4, 0	4, 3 0, 2 0, 3, 0	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on the SW corner of the intersection of routes 123 and 236; thence extending about 75' SW along W side of Rt. 123; thence about 110' WNW, following the S wall of the old courthouse for about the last 50', to the SW corner of the old courthouse (in the old wing); thence about 25' NE, then about 30' WNW, then about 80' SW -- all following (and excluding) the north and west walls of the 1930 addition; thence about 175' WNW, crossing the parking lot and running along the S wall of the old jail to the E side of West St.; thence about 125' NNE along said side to S side of Rt. 236; thence about 325' ESE along said side to point of origin.

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff,
 221 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 804-786-3144
 NAME / TITLE
 (2) Elizabeth S. David,
 ORGANIZATION
 DATE July 25, 1980
History & Archaeology Branch, Office of Comprehensive Planning
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
 4100 Chain Bridge Road, 691-2643
 CITY OR TOWN STATE
 Fairfax, Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE NOV 18 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DATE	
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Fairfax County Courthouse and Jail, Fairfax County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

1

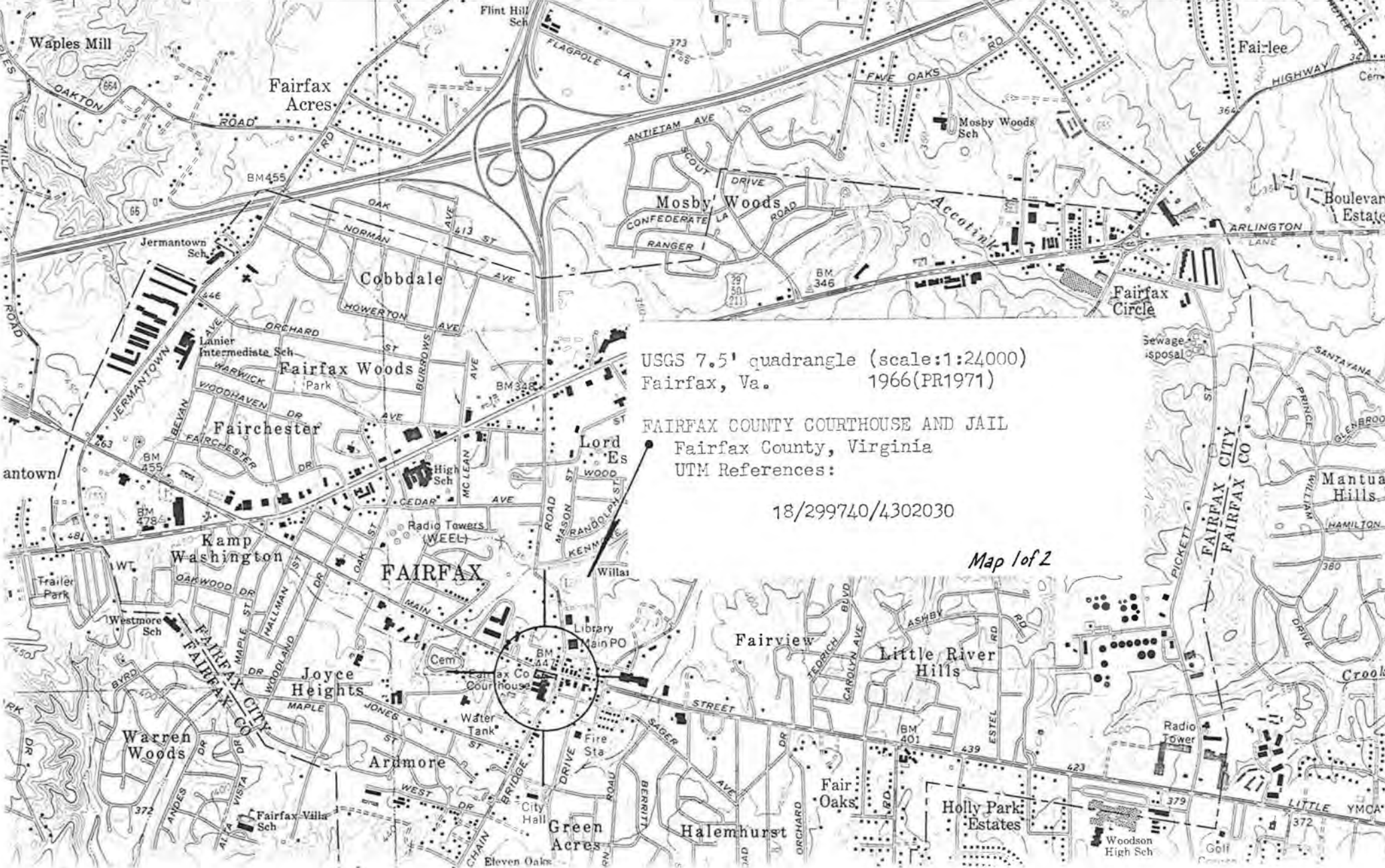
8. SIGNIFICANCE

In 1885, following a fire, a new jail was constructed behind the old courthouse. In this new building the jailer had his residence in the front part of the building. When the 1953 addition was made to the courthouse, jail facilities were incorporated, and this building ceased to be used as a jail. Since 1956 the building has been used to house offices of various County agencies including the juvenile court and probate office, fine board, police dispatch, and recreation department. The Victorian style of its architecture adds significance to the courthouse complex as a valuable architectural expression of the County's continued growth.

Valuable historic records are preserved in the Clerk's Office today. A recent search of the attic produced two volumes of early nineteenth-century registrations of free blacks, which were then required by law. The wills of George and Martha Washington, long hung on the wall of the Clerk's Office, have been removed, their condition stabilized, and are awaiting a more secure display area.

JLF and Elizabeth S. David

20' 298 299 301 17'30" 302 2 350 000 FEET



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Fairfax, Va. 1966(PR1971)

FAIRFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL
Fairfax County, Virginia
UTM References:

18/299740/4302030

Map 1 of 2

FA

Old Wing

Jail

Present
Courthouse



REVISED TO:
1-1-80

