

VLR-4/17/90 NRHP-12/28/90

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name LOUISA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
other names/site number DHR File No. 54-81

2. Location

street & number Main Street at SR 208 N/A not for publication
city, town Louisa N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Louisa code 109 tip code 23093

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

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. See continuation sheet.

Walter C. Miller 21 Nov 1990
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

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. 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
Correctional facility
COMMERCE: Financial institution
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
Correctional facility
Government office
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Metal: lead
other Stone
Wood
Metal: bronze

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located on Main Street in the center of the town of Louisa, the Louisa County Courthouse is an imposing two-story, five-bay, porticoed Classical Revival structure built in 1905. The courthouse, which faces northeast, is constructed of brick laid in common bond with a modern three-story brick addition set to the rear. Also located within the courthouse complex are three contributing buildings: the old jail, the Crank Building, and the R. Earl Ogg Memorial Building, constructed as a bank and now used for the General District Court and as office space.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Louisa County Courthouse is the most prominent component of the Louisa County complex of public buildings. The building measures fifty-nine feet wide, sixty-three feet deep and has a brick foundation with a partially raised basement delineated on the facade by a belt course. The ground slopes in the back to reveal a full raised basement. The facade of the building measures thirty-six feet from the ground to the top of the cornice with an octagonal drum, dome and lantern continuing up another forty-six feet. The modified hipped roof and the dome are covered with lead-coated copper. The pedimented portico of the imposing facade is supported by four Ionic columns and, at the plane of the facade, by brick pilasters surmounted by Ionic capitals. Beneath the portico is a one-story balustraded entrance which projects slightly from the facade. The windows have two-over-two double-hung sash in segmental-arched openings with inset keystones made of sandstone. The octagonal drum below the dome is pierced by paired windows of diagonally divided stained glass, separated by Tuscan pilasters. The octagonal dome is topped with a lantern imitating the larger dome and drum in shape and materials, with a vented lunette in each of the lantern's eight sides. The pediment above the tetrastyle Ionic portico of the courthouse facade corresponds to the pedimented gable ends on the other three elevations. Each tympanum has a small round window divided into quadrants. The window frames on the front and side elevations have inset keystones. The modillioned and dentiled Ionic cornice that frames the tympanum continues around the entire building. The pedimented portico carries a full Ionic entablature. The one-story balustraded entrance comprises a pair of

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1830-1917

Significant Dates
1868
1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Anderson, D. Wiley

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1905, the Louisa County Courthouse is the fourth courthouse to serve the needs of Louisa County and the third to be located on this site. It was commissioned at the turn of the century to replace the courthouse of 1818, which was evaluated as beyond repair. D. Wiley Anderson, a Richmond architect who specialized in dwellings and public buildings designed for the communities of Piedmont Virginia, was engaged by the supervisors of Louisa County to execute plans for the new courthouse.

The resulting Colonial Revival structure represents a tradition of local government near this same spot since the eighteenth century. The Louisa County Courthouse is architecturally significant because it was designed by a regionally prominent architect in a consciously historical manner. Its temple form and classical detailing were chosen because of their perceived connections with the principles of rational and representative government associated with antiquity. These associations and interest in America's past combined at the turn of the twentieth century to make the classically-inspired Colonial Revival style a favorite among architects of government buildings.

The period of significance covers the period of construction of all contributing buildings at the Louisa Courthouse from the Crank Building in 1830 to the Ogg Building in 1917.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Louisa County Courthouse has its roots in the earliest history of the county. The endeavor to form Louisa County began on December 11, 1738, when the inhabitants of the upper part of Hanover County petitioned the House of Burgesses asking that Hanover County be divided and a separate county be formed. The new county, named Louisa for the daughter of King George II, actually was created by an act passed by the House of Burgesses during its 1742 session. Since a majority of the justices found the land of Matthew Jouett to be the most convenient place to hold

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources
221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 17 762980 4212560
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Louisa County Courthouse complex occupies lots 50, 50A, 62, and 63 in the Town of Louisa.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the historic limits of the courthouse complex as delineated in 1818 and confirmed in 1883.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Womeldorph

organization Center for Historic Preservation date 3 April 1990

street & number Mary Washington College telephone 703-899-4037

city or town Fredericksburg state Virginia zip code 22401

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five-paneled doors with a four-light transom and projects slightly from the façade beneath the portico. The balustraded projection forms a small balcony accessible by way of a two-panel door with sidelights and a fanlight. On the interior this projection serves as a small vestibule. Upon entering the front doors one must proceed through a second large, framed doorway (without doors) before one is actually in the central hallway of the courthouse.

Both the southeast and northwest or side elevations have six bays, four of which are set in the projection below the pediments. All have two-over-two double-hung-sash windows in segmental arched openings with brick lintels and stone keystones. The only difference between the two side elevations is the location on the north-west side of a chimney that serves the heating system for the entire building. Attached to the southwest side is a modern three-story, flat-roofed brick building used as a jail and additional office space.

The interior of the building is treated with matchboard paneling, five feet high, including an eight-inch baseboard and a four-inch chair rail, all finished with dark varnish over light wood. Above the level of the chair rail, the walls are plastered. The juncture of the walls and ceiling is marked with a plain cornice. The wooden floor is covered with modern vinyl tile.

Closed-string stairways provide access to the second floor at both the northeast and southwest ends of the building. Both stairways have plain trim with large square oak newel posts decorated in the egg-and-dart motif. The oak handrails are, in section, rounded at the top and flat on the bottom. The oak newel posts and handrails contrast with the dark painted turned balusters which are identical on both stairways. There are two balusters for each tread. Square in section at the top and bottom, the balusters have a tapering turned shaft along most of their length.

The first floor is divided by a central hallway with a vaulted ceiling. The office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, located on the southeast side of the building, is entered through double doors, each with a single glazed panel over two panels surmounted by a glazed transom. Offices for the Commissioner of the Revenue and the Treasurer are located on the opposite side of the building. Both offices are entered through single doors that match those across the hall.

The most outstanding of all the interior spaces is the second-story courtroom which is under the dome and entered through double five-paneled doors set beneath a glazed four-light transom. The interior of the dome is plain, decorated only with a simple cornice delineating the octagonal shape of the dome and lighted by the softly tinted windows in the drum. Seating for the judge and jury is set on a raised platform along the southeast wall. Seating for other members of the court is at floor level behind a balustrade composed of square chamfered columns and balusters identical to those used on the stairway. Also located on the second

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floor are three small rooms: the judge's chamber, the jury room, and the library.

On the southeast side of the courthouse is the old jail, one of the three contributing buildings of the courthouse complex. The old jail is a two-story, three-bay building made of red brick laid in common bond. It measures thirty-six feet long and twenty-one feet deep and has exterior end chimneys. The original building was constructed in 1818 and was rebuilt with old brick and hardware in 1868 after a fire. It was used as a jail until 1967 and is currently maintained as a museum by the Louisa County Historical Society. There are three batten doors on the facade and the three windows above have six-over-six double-hung sash covered with iron bars. The gable roof has a moderate slope with a bracketed overhang and is clad in shingles. The interior space of the first floor is divided into a central hall with two small rooms on each side. The stairs to the second floor are located near the entrance. The second floor is divided into cells, the current doors of which were installed in 1937.

Another contributing building is the Crank Building, built in 1830 and named for Earl Crank who for many years served as the Commonwealth's Attorney. The Crank Building is located on the northwest side of the courthouse. It is a one-story building constructed of red brick laid in three- and five- course common bond. It measures thirty-two feet by eighteen feet and was clearly built in two sections. It is a four-bay building covered by a shallow-sloped metal-clad gable roof with an overhang around the building and a small brick chimney at the center, near the seam that marks the two periods of construction. The interior treatment of the building is modern and none of the original fabric is visible. According to tradition, the building was originally used as law offices.

Located outside an iron fence which originally enclosed the courthouse square, but set within the complex bounded by Main Street and Elm Avenue is the R. Earl Ogg Memorial Building, built in 1917 and named for a County Supervisor who served the Green Springs district. Built as a bank, it now serves as county office space and as the courtroom for the District Court. This one-story rectangular building is made of brick laid in Flemish bond and has its main entrance on the narrow side. It measures thirty-six feet by sixty-four feet and is thirty-three feet high. The building, designed in the Classical Revival style, is set on a smooth stone plinth. Wide stone steps lead to a pair of double doors with glass in the upper portion and wood below. The portico is distyle in antis with attached colossal stone columns and pilasters of the Tuscan order. The entablature is formed by a stone architrave, a dentiled cornice, and a brick frieze that is interrupted on the facade by a smooth stone panel on which the name of the building is engraved. Above the entablature is a stone-capped brick parapet that conceals a flat roof. A stone tablet runs across the central portion of the parapet above the portico. Above the door frame is a tripartite window consisting of ten stationary lights above fifteen-over-fifteen double-hung sash with single-pane side lights.

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The five bays of the southeast and northwest elevations of the Ogg Building are defined by six stone pilasters also of the Tuscan order. The windows are of the same design as the window on the facade but without the side lights. They are composed of a twelve-light stationary portion above eighteen-over-eighteen double-hung sash. All the windows have inset keystones and the southeast elevation has a six-paneled transomed door. The southwest elevation, or back of the building, is divided into three equal parts by two stone pilasters flanked by eight-over-eight double-hung sash windows with a tripartite window between the pilasters. The original interior fabric of the building is not visible, since it has been completely covered or replaced with modern materials.

On the grounds of the courthouse complex is a Civil War monument consisting of a large, roughly cut granite boulder on a stone base which contains a plaque commemorating Confederate soldiers of Louisa County. Set in a stone niche on the northeast side of the boulder is a bronze bas-relief of a Confederate soldier. The worn threshold of the nineteenth-century courthouse building is also displayed within the fenced portion of the courthouse complex. Both these objects are counted as contributing.

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their court, they decided to build the courthouse there.³ The first courthouse,⁴ was built of logs and not until two years later were windows installed.⁴ Joseph Bickley, the first sheriff, built a log jail on his place, which was more than five miles from the courthouse. In 1745 the court ordered a jail to be built at the courthouse to save the expense of transporting prisoners such a distance. The first clerk, James Littlepage, serve Louisa County through his deputy, Thomas Perkins, who kept the county records at his home.

In 1746 Jouett's land, including the land on which the courthouse stood, was sold according to the terms of his will.⁶ By 1757, a new frame courthouse was built at the expense of the county and stood on land owned by Thomas Johnson close to the site of the present building. Several more eighteenth-century attempts were made to change the location of the courthouse. The last was filed in 1787 when the justices ordered the county surveyed, and the courthouse as located on Johnson's land was found to be near the center of the county. Accordingly, it was ordered to remain there.⁸

The third courthouse, a brick building, was completed in February of 1818 and survived into the early twentieth century. The land on which the new courthouse was built contained "two acres, together with the ground on which the jail stands including ten feet all around said jail and a free passage to and from any part of said jail."¹⁰ The two acres were again surveyed in 1883 and firmly established "so as not to conflict with the rights of private property holders." A plat drawn from the survey is filed in the county records.

The first indication that the county was interested in building a new courthouse appears in the 29 November 1895 meeting of the supervisors, but a decision was postponed because of general financial depression and the supervisors' reluctance to raise taxes.¹² Rather than build a new courthouse, the supervisors appointed two expert mechanics as commissioners to "examine the said Courthouse, carefully and thoroughly" and to report its condition in April 1896.¹³ Even though repairs were made, the county was greatly in need of a new courthouse by 1902 to replace the dilapidated one. Accordingly, the supervisors requested that the House of Delegates pass the necessary legislation allowing the issuance of bonds to finance a new courthouse.¹⁴ In 1904, convinced that repairs to the old structure would be a waste of money, the supervisors ordered that an advertisement be placed in the Richmond paper inviting interested architects to meet with them.¹⁵ Before building a new courthouse, however, the supervisors had to consider a request from citizens of the town of Mineral to move the courthouse to their town.¹⁶ The supervisors decided that the courthouse should remain in Louisa after the commonwealth's attorney advised them that it could not be moved without further legislation.¹⁷

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The Virginia county seats in early days were more the center of social activities for residents of each county than they are in modern times,¹⁸ and Virginians believed in making their county buildings attractive. Templeform buildings and other Classical Revival details have long been popular for public buildings because of the associations made between the monumental surviving structures of antiquity and Jefferson's Virginia State Capitol. Although other styles of architectural such as Gothic Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque, were employed for public buildings constructed between 1865 and 1915, the Colonial Revival Style became dominant by the turn of the twentieth century. This movement and design tradition involved a glorification of the Anglo-American past and thus seemed most appropriate for the designs of public buildings. Louisa County's impressive courthouse, built in 1905, is an outstanding example of the Classical Revival style.

The courthouse was designed by D. Wiley Anderson, an architect who was active from 1893 to 1931 and who practiced in Richmond, Petersburg, and Charlottesville. Anderson advertised himself as a designer of "fine residences," and by his own account, had designed hundreds of buildings by the early years of the twentieth century.²⁰ Although he was described as "slightly eccentric, but talented," he gained popularity in Virginia for his numerous, well-appointed houses, as well as his variety of public buildings.²¹ Anderson continued to design in the Classical Revival style some fifteen years after he had executed his outstanding design for the Louisa County Courthouse.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3**ENDNOTES**

¹Josephine Henderson Neal, "The Genesis of Louisa County," Louisa County Historical Magazine 1 (June 1969), p.3.

²John H. Gwathmey, Legends of Virginia Courthouse, (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1934), p.108; Neal, "The Genesis of Louisa County," p. 3; W. W. Hening, The Statutes at Large (Richmond: 1809-1823), 5:208-209.

³Journals of the Council of Virginia in Executive Sessions, 1737-1763, (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society), p.27.

⁴John H. Gwathmey, Twelve Virginia Counties; Where the Western Migration Began, (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1937), p. 264.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Neal, "Genesis of Louisa County," p.4.

⁷Gwathmey, Twelve Virginia Counties, p.264.

⁸Neal, "Genesis of Louisa County," p.4.

⁹Porter C. Wright, "Contract for Constructing the 1818 Courthouse," Louisa County Historical Magazine 3 (December 1971), p.2.

¹⁰Louisa County Deed Book O, p.80.

¹¹Louisa County Deed Book 6, p.499.

¹²Louisa County Supervisors Journal, No. 2, pp.137-138.

¹³Ibid., p.142.

¹⁴Ibid., p.266.

¹⁵Ibid., p.305.

¹⁶Ibid., p.308.

¹⁷Ibid., p.310.

¹⁸Gwathmey, Twelve Virginia Counties, p. 416.

¹⁹Laura Bryant Nolen, "Courthouses of Grayson County," Virginia Cavalcade 25 (Spring 1976) p. 163.

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²⁰D. Wiley Anderson, Short Reviews, a Few Recent Designs, n.d.;
quoted in National Register Nomination for Ednam, Albemarle County,
Virginia.

²¹Robert P. Winthrop, Architecture in Downtown in Richmond,
(Richmond: Historic Richmond Foundation, 1982), p.33; quoted in National
Register Nomination for Ednm.

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Anderson, D. Wiley. Short Reviews, A Few Recent Designs.
Richmond: n.d.

"Ednam," National Register Nomination, filed at the Virginia
Department of Historic Resources.

Gwathmey, John H. Legends of Virginia Courthouses. Richmond:
Dietz Press, 1934.

---. Twelve Virginia Counties; Where the Western Migration
Began. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1937.

Journals of the Council of Virginia in Executive Session, 1737-
1763. Richmond: Virginia Historical Society.

Louisa County Deed Book 0, 12 October 1818.

Louisa County Deed Book 6, 1883.

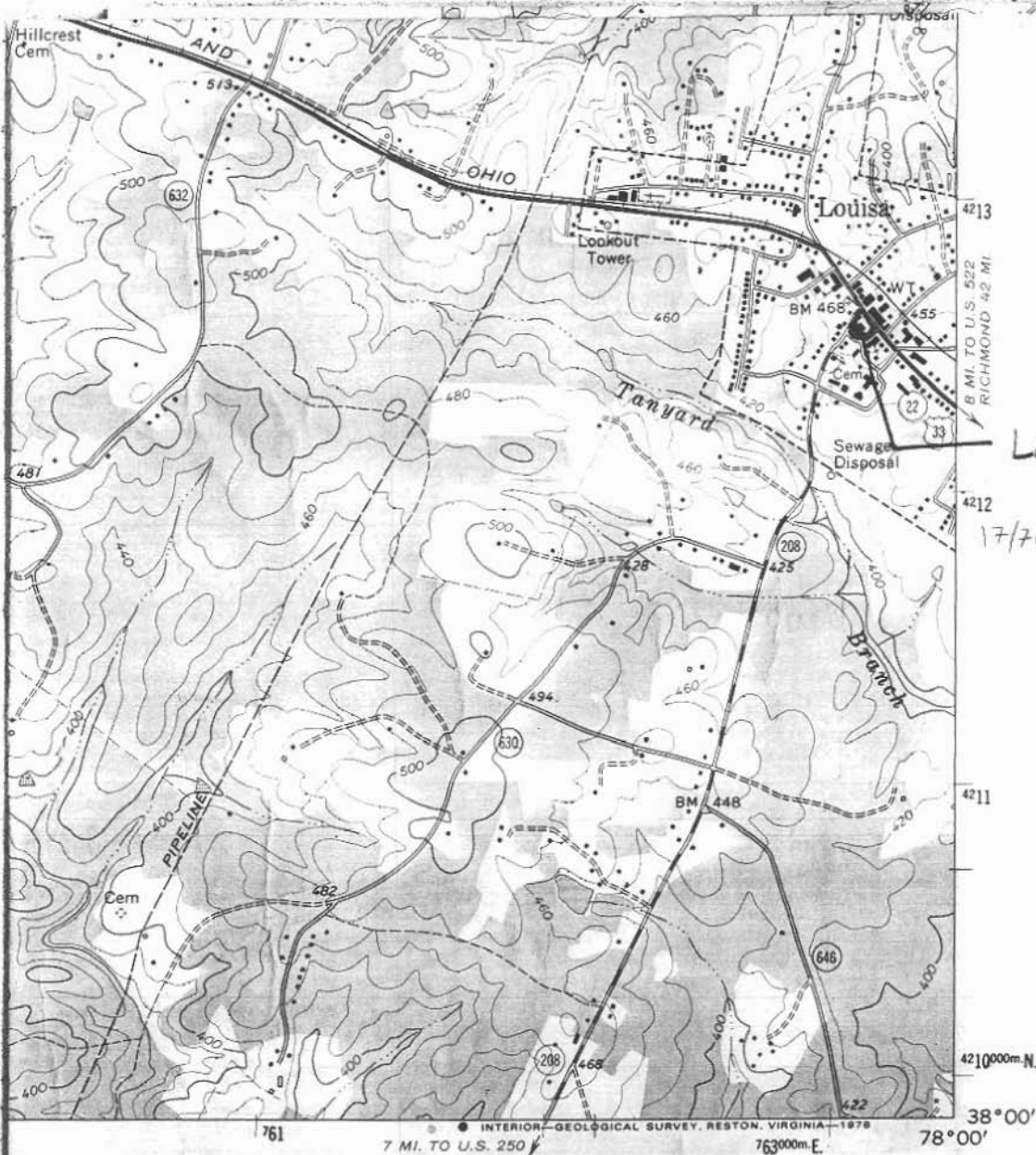
Louisa County Supervisors Journal, No. 2, 1894-1906.

Neal, Josephine Henderson. "The Genesis of Louisa County."
Louisa County Historical Magazine 1 (June 1969).

Nolen, Laura Bryant. "Courthouses of Grayson County." Virginia
Cavalcade 25 (Spring, 1976).

Winthrop, Robert P. Architecture in Downtown Richmond.
Richmond: Historic Richmond Foundation, 1982.

Wright, Porter C. "Contract for Constructing the 1818
Courthouse." Louisa County Historical Magazine 3 (December
1971).



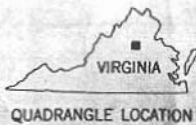
LOUISA COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
17/762980/4212560

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| Primary highway, all weather,
hard surface | Light-duty road, all weather,
improved surface |
| Secondary highway, all weather,
hard surface | Unimproved road, fair or dry
weather |

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| U. S. Route | State Route |
|-------------|-------------|

1/2 END N.W. QM
545



LOUISA, VA.
SE/4 GORDONVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3800—W7800/7.5

1970
PHD TO REVISED 1978
AMS 5360 II SE—SERIES V834