

NR 5/15/71
NR 5/21/71

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Cumberland County Courthouse, Amendment (Additional resources documented with 2006 survey)

other names/site number: VDHR #024-0005

2. Location

street & number: Courthouse Circle and Foster Road not for publication: NA

city or town: Cumberland vicinity: NA

state: Virginia code: VA county: Cumberland code: 107 Zip: 23040

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


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 for additional comments.)


Signature of commenting or other official

Date


State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Keeper 

Date of Action 

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
0	0 buildings
0	0 sites
1	0 structures
0	2 objects
1	2 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____ Sub: _____
Government Courthouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____ Sub: _____
Government Courthouse Complex
Memorial Markers

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic; Early Classical Revival (Courthouse)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof _____
walls _____
other brick wall and granite marker _____

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Politics and Government (original area)

Period of Significance 1818 – 1925 (original POS) 1925 - 1936 (added due to contributing wall construction)

Significant Dates pre-1936

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect/Builder NA

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres (original listing – staying the same)

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 744520 4153500 (original UTM point – staying the same) See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jean McRae, Register Program Coordinator _____
Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources _____ date: May 2007
street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue _____ telephone: 804-367-2323
city or town: Richmond _____ state: VA zip code: 23221

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

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

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

Name: _____
street & number: _____ telephone: _____
city or town: _____ state: VA zip code: _____

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

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

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7. Description:

Updated Site Description:

The paved lane of Courthouse Circle leads around the northeast end of the collection of buildings within the courthouse green and behind the clerk's office and courthouse. Foster Road is located between the courthouse and the old jail. A low brick wall runs along the Route 60 street front of the green.

Additional Inventory within Courthouse Complex:

Memorial Marker, ca. 1990, non-contributing:

Civil Rights in Education Heritage Marker. This marker, located on the northeastern side of the old jail parcel, commemorates the contributions of Cumberland County native Jackson Davis (1882-1947) to educational reform, which focused on improvements to the educational system in Southern states for black students. Davis was also an amateur photographer and during the first half of the twentieth century took over 6,000 photographs of black students, teachers, and schools mostly in southeastern states. After his death his photographs and many of his papers were donated to the University of Virginia library. Virginia's Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail is composed of 41 sites throughout counties in the Southside that are connected to the birth of the public education system in the state. Cumberland County has three such markers—the other two are located in Cartersville at the site of a Rosenwald School and Hamilton High School.

Brick Wall, pre-1936, contributing:

This low, brick wall surrounds the courthouse green on the east, south, and west sides. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, a board fence encircled the green. In 1891, county records record the need to have a "necessary Stile made over the C. House fence and a Suitable enclosure made in front of the same." A historic photograph shows that the fence was still in place as of 1911. However, a photograph taken in 1936 as part of the WPA report on the courthouse shows a low brick wall around the green.

Granite Marker, ca. 1990, non-contributing:

A granite marker dedicated to all county citizens who have served and died in wars is located at the front of the clerk's office.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Cumberland County Courthouse was originally listed in August 1994 in the Virginia Landmarks Register and September 1994 in the National Register of Historic Places. The courthouse complex is significant under Criterion A for politics and government, originally with a period of significance from 1818 until 1925.

In 2006, a larger district surrounding the courthouse was surveyed by Debra A. McClane and the following information was added to the courthouse complex description. The original nomination did not document the brick wall surrounding the complex built pre-1936. This addition extends the period of significance through 1936, as this is considered a contributing resource to the complex. Also surveyed in 2006 are two non-contributing markers built ca. 1990.

Additional Statement of Significance:

The Cumberland County Courthouse and its associated buildings, structures, and objects are contributing resources within the Cumberland Court House Historic District. The courthouse represents the centralized government in the county and since 1818 has served as the county's legal center. While these resources are fully documented in the National Register nomination that was prepared for the Cumberland County Courthouse (#024-0005), a brief history of the establishment of the village and the construction of the courthouse follows.

Cumberland County was formed in 1749 from lands formerly within Goochland County. In 1750, the first county courthouse was built at Deep Creek Bridge (now Powhatan County). By 1777, however, Powhatan County was formed from the eastern half of Cumberland County and a new courthouse site had to be chosen. The county court decided upon "an old field" at the plantation of Maurice Langhorne as the new county seat. Located near the geographical center of the county along a major transportation route, the new site was to include a courthouse, prison, and stocks.

Upon selection of the new courthouse site, six blocks of parcels were platted and the new town was called Effingham. The courthouse green was delineated as a 1300-foot-by-900-foot parcel and streets were to be 100 feet in width. The town was situated to either side of the Buckingham Road. The name Effingham did not gain favor among county residents who reverted to the common practice of calling their county seat "Cumberland Court House."

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Despite the hardships caused by the ongoing American Revolution, the county determined to build a new courthouse. Maurice Langhorne, who was a member of the Cumberland County Court, also obtained the contract to build the new courthouse, the log prison, and the new stocks and pillory. The courthouse, which was erected on the north side of the roadway adjacent to a spring, was completed in 1778. The court had directed that the courthouse be the same dimensions and of the same materials as the courthouse located at Deep Creek Bridge.

In 1817, the county commissioners contracted with William A. Howard to construct a brick courthouse to replace the late-eighteenth-century, frame courthouse. The new courthouse was built near the site of the 1778 courthouse on land owned by Peter B. Foster. The contract between the county and builder contains specific language on the architectural character of the new building, which Howard was able to complete by 1821. Later, he would also build the classically inspired courthouses for Lunenburg County (VDHR #055-0014) and for Mecklenburg County (VDHR #173-0006).

The courthouse and its associated square is the central organizing feature of the proposed historic district. The courthouse is a one-story, temple form building with a Tuscan-order portico on the long side (facing Route 60). The portico carries a full entablature and a moulded cornice that surrounds the entire building. The courthouse is located at the southwest end of the square, which is surrounded by a low brick wall. The Cumberland courthouse square also contains the historic clerk's office, the Confederate monument, the public well, a Civil Rights in Education marker, and a modern office building. (This modern office building is not within the original boundaries listed in 1994 for the Cumberland County Courthouse, so is not being added to the description as an additional resource. It is however, considered part of the "courthouse complex" in the larger 2006 district survey.)

National Register of Historic Places
National Park ServiceCumberland County Courthouse, Amendment
Cumberland, VirginiaSections 10 and Photographic Data Page 4**10. Geographical Data:****Original Verbal Boundary Description from 1994:**

The boundary for Cumberland County Courthouse, Clerk's Office, Jail, Confederate Civil War Monument, and Courthouse well is shown as a dark line on the accompanying map entitled "Map derived from Ralph P. Hines, C.L.S. plat of 4 parcels of land surveyed for Cumberland County, September 22, 1964."

Copy of detail map included with additional resources shown, and copy of original quad map provided from 1994.

Original Verbal Boundary Justification from 1994:

The boundary includes the Cumberland County Courthouse, Clerk's Office, Jail, Confederate Civil War Monument, and Courthouse well, all of which have been associated with the Cumberland County Government activity since the first half of the nineteenth century. The new Cumberland County Office Building, built in the 1960s, which is sited about 10 feet east of the Clerk's Office, has been excluded since it is not a contributing building.

Additional Justification:

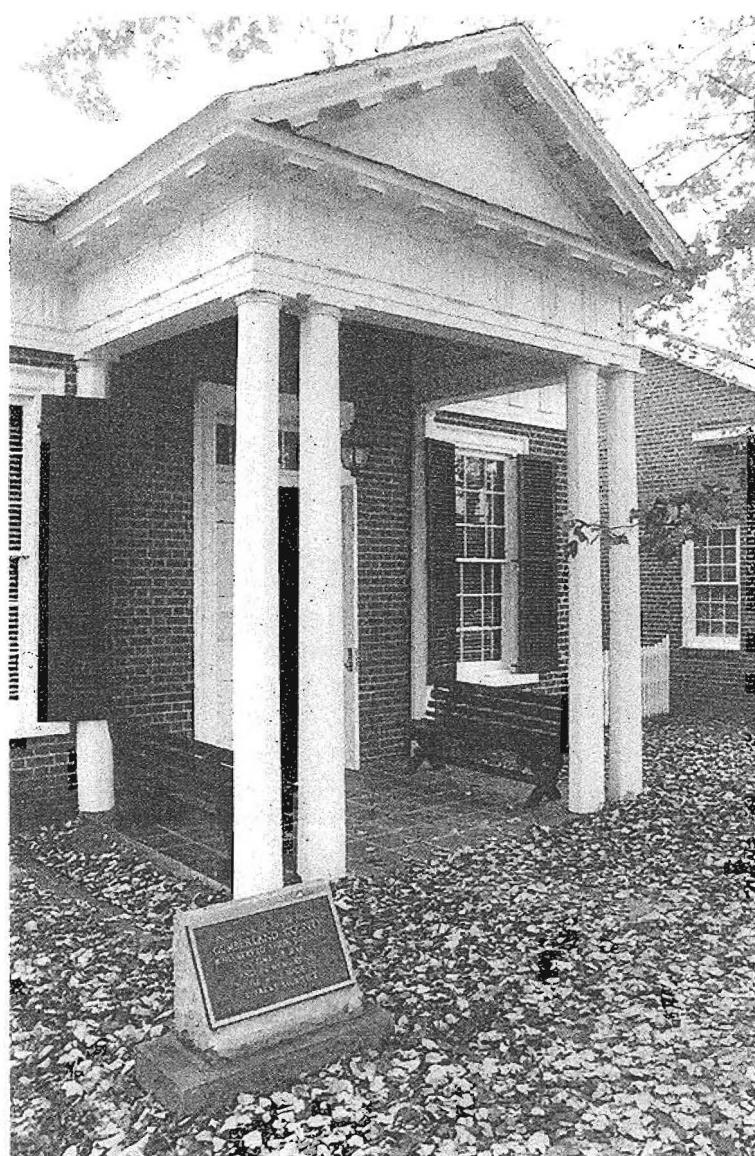
The boundary also includes the pre-1936 brick wall which replaced earlier fencing around the courthouse, and two markers added in the 1990s.

Photographic Data:

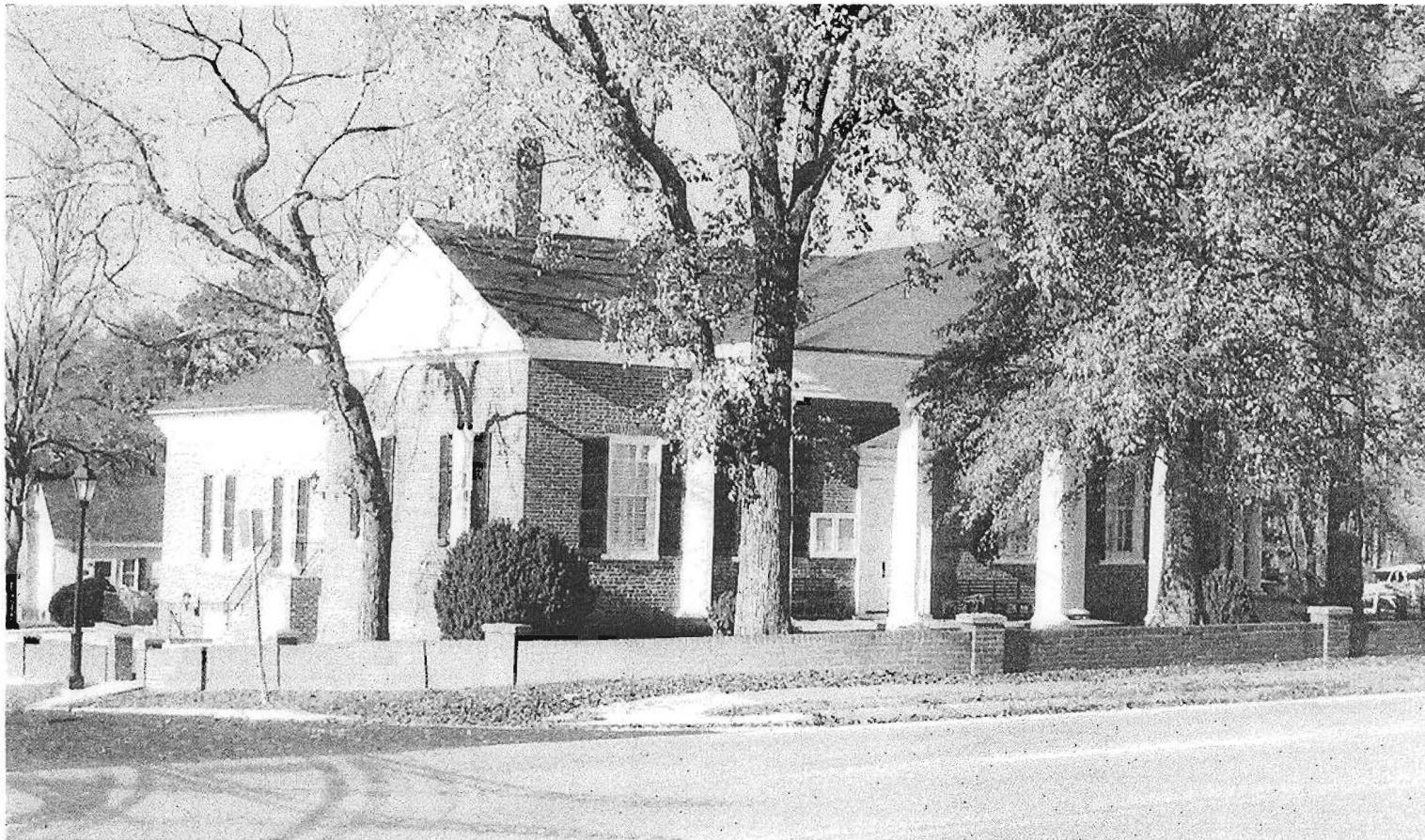
Two scanned images provided, no originals, as this is only an amendment to add three additional secondary resources to the inventory and documentation of the original nomination from 1994. No image of the Civil Rights marker available.

Image One: Front of Clerk's Office with granite marker. Negative on file at Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia.

Image Two: South Corner of Courthouse with brick wall. 2006 photo taken by Debra McClane in 2006.



CUMBERLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
IMAGE ONE



CUMBERLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

IMAGE TWO