VLR Listed: 12/3/1997 NRHP Listed: 5/8/1998

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 1024-0018

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.

on commutation specis (NPS Point 10-900a). Use a typewher, word process	sor, or computer, to complete all nems.
1. Name of Property	
historic name _Hopewell Municipal Building	
	No. 116 - 5001
	. 110 5001
2. Location	
Street & number300 Main Street	not for publication N/A
City or town Hopewell	vicinity X
State Virginia code VA county Independent Ci	ity code 149 Zip 23860
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Pr	reservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that
this X nomination request for determination of elig	
properties in the National Register of Historic Places and med	
in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X me	
recommend that this property be considered significan	t nationally statewide X locally. ( See
continuation sheet for additional comments.)	
Machen Succe	3/25/98
Signature of certifying official Date	
Virginia Department of Historic Resources	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
To any animing the manager, among door not most the	Noticeal Besister gritaria ( See continuation should
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the for additional comments.)	ie National Register Criteria. ( See continuation sheet
ioi auditional 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.	Signature of Keeper
determined not eligible for the National Register	<u> </u>
removed from the National Register	Date of Action
other (explain):	

# Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

Hopewell Municipal Building Hopewell, Virginia

5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many	boxes as apply)
private	
X public-local	
public-State	
public-Federal	
Category of Property (Check only one bo	ox)
_X_building(s)	
district	
site	
structure	
object	
Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing Noncontributing	
10 buildings	
0	
0 structures	
00 objects	
10Total	
-	ously listed in the National Register _N/A_ g (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
6. Function or Use	······································
Historic Functions (Enter categories from	n instructions)
Cat: Government	
	City Hall
	Government Offices
···	
Current Functions (Enter categories from	a instructions)
Cat: Government	
	Correctional Facility
	Government Offices
<del></del> ,	

# Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

Hopewell Municipal Building Hopewell, Virginia

7. Descript	ion
	al Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Lat	e 19th and 20th Century Revivals
Sub	: Classical Revival
Make all all of	The state of the Court in the state of the s
	Enter categories from instructions)
Iounga	tion Sandstone Sandstone
1001	Metal Brick and Concrete
walls_	_Brick and Concrete
other	Cast Stone Trim and Details
-	Cast Stone I'llin and Domins
Narrative D	escription (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9 Stateme	né of Clauffiana
	nt of Significance National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National
Register list	
veginer iin	uig)
_X_ A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of
_^_^	our history.
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
B XC	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 Con	nsiderations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
D	removed from its original location.
D	Temoved from its original location.
C	a birthplace or a grave.
	a on appeared of a grave.
D	a cemetery.
	•
E	a reconstructed building, object or structure.
F	a commemorative property.
~	lander 60 mm for a bland in Grant 1999 of 60
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Ci	gnificance (Enter categories from instructions)
, it cas of Si	Politics and Government
	Architecture
	* # ATTHEOGRAPA

# U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

Hopewell Municipal Building Hopewell, Virginia

Period of Significance1925 - 1947		
Significant Dates 1025		
Significant Dates1925		
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)		
Cultural Affiliationn/a		
Architect/BuilderOriginal Building: Fred A. Bishop/Miller Engineering Co		
Annex: J. Henley Walker Jr./Bogese, Inc		
Norrative Statement of Significance (Euplain the significance of the property on one or more continuation shoets.)		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)		
9. Major Bibliographical Reference		
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)		
(one are cooks, master, and other comes aced in proparing and form on one of more continuation shoets.)		
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		
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office		
Other State agency		
<del></del>		
Federal agency		
Local government University		
<del></del>		
Other Providence Providence CVI in in Providence CVI in Indian CVI in In		
Name of repository: _Department of Historic Resources		
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property less than 1 acre		
Acteage of Property less than 1 acte		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)		
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing		
1 17 297275 4131080 2		
3 4		
See continuation sheet.		

U. S. Department of the Interior **National Park Service** 

OMB No. 1024-4018

Hopewell Municipal Building Hopewell, Virginia

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the pr	operty on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were select	ed on a continuation sheet.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title: Jean Olstad McRae/Intern	
Organization: Department of Historic Resources	date8/30/97
street & number:P.O. Box 5082	telephone(804)782-6856
city or town_Richmond_	state_VA zip code23220
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	·
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the propert A sketch map for historic districts and properties having larg	
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any addition	nal items)
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name Clinton H. Strong/City Manager	
street & number_300 Main Street	telephone_(804)541-2243
city or townHopewell	state_VA zip code _23860
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for ap	mlications to the National Register of Historic Places to noming

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.

Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

Hopewell Municipal Building Hopewell, Virginia

OMB No. 1024-4018

#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

# 7. Summary Description

Facing the junction of Main, Broadway and Randolph, and the triangular park there, the Hopewell Municipal Building can be easily enjoyed across from the new courthouse. The building, and the parking lot behind it, take up an entire city block. The irregular block consists of approximately 205 feet along Main Street, 304 feet along West Broadway Street, 360 feet along Second Avenue, approximately 126 feet along Cawson Street, and approximately 235 feet along Randolph Street or SR 10. Small trees and shrubbery run along the base of the front and sides of the building, and a large oak stands at the front right corner of the original section, while a smaller magnolia stands at the front right corner of its annex. Finally, two flag poles stand on either side of the entrance from Main Street and a monument to Peter Francisco, Revolutionary War hero, stands in the middle of the left front lawn.

# **Architectural Analysis**

The original section of the Municipal Building, built in 1925, is rectangularly designed having three stories. One of these is a basement level partially visible above ground. The exterior is sandstone brick with six feet of cement running along the base of the walls.

The windows are proportionally balanced in number around the structure. The ones on the front and side having stone, flat or "jack" arch lintels and stone sills, with keystones on the first story windows as well. The first floor has 8 over 8 pane, double hung sashes, while the second has 12 over 8. Between the first and second story windows the bricks are recessed creating decorative panels along the front and left elevations. Fortunately, there are no impeding window details that detract from ones view of this fine example of classic patterned repetition.

Along the top portion of the original wing, on the front and left elevations and extending a few feet around two corners, is a stone entablature with a cornice and dentil band. This is capped by a raised flat roof. There are two entrances to the original building, both centered in their elevation. The main entrance is a stone framed double door with a five pane transom window and cornice above. Each door has a large window panel on top and two smaller wooden panels on the bottom. A six foot deep portico extends out over the entrance with two stone unfluted columns on either side. Each column sports a four point capital with egg and dart bands and tassels between each spiral volute, typical of Greek ionic order. Carved letters on a stone frieze above the portico proclaim this is the "MUNICIPAL BUILDING".

Extending another 12 feet from the portico is a set of cement steps with a center metal railing and solid side walls. A metal light post with a single ball-shaped fixture stands atop each of the two cement walls.

The second entrance, on the left side of the building, provides entrance between the basement and first floors. This door has one large window panel and a flat arch with keystone lintel. There is also a red domed canopy above the door.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Measurements based on the 1973 Proposed City Hall Parking Lot Improvements Plans obtained from The City Engineer.

U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service OMB No. 1024-4018

HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### Continuation Sheet

# Section \_7\_ Page 2

There is no passage to the outside through the back of the original section. The view from the parking lot is basically non-descript as the building has no detailing on this elevation. Only the brick facing, cement band, windows and an eight foot high brick chimney are visible.

#### The Annex

Similar to the back elevation of the original section, the annex, built in 1957, has little classic detailing. It is, however, rectangular in shape and possesses the same repetitive window design. It has three stories, all above ground, thus exposing three rows of windows instead of two. These are all 8 over 8 pane, double hung sashes with stone flat arches above and stone sills below.

The exterior is sandstone brick from top to bottom except for two cast stone bands running around the building. One runs between the first and second floors and one runs along the top, level with the original building's entablature.

There is a stone framed double door entrance centrally located on the front and side facades, each having a six pane transom window. The front entry has two small window panels in each of the doors and a comice above. The side doors have two small vertical window panels each with a red domed canopy above them. In the back of the annex there is a third entrance through a one story foyer extension with no decorative details.

The additional wing was built set back slightly from the original. This exposes two windows on the right facade of the original building and three windows on the left of its annex. These windows all mimic the designs of their counterparts on the front of each coordinating section.

#### Alterations

There were no alterations to the Municipal Building prior to its addition. However, when the annex was built, it caused the loss of three rows of windows and a door. This was due to the fact that it was attached to the right side of the original section. During that same year, the door facing Broadway was added exposing a patch of new brick work where part of an original window was located. Also, at some point, a first story window on the back elevation of the original section was bricked up. All other renovations since have occurred with-in and are due to maintenance and modernization.

#### The Interior.

The interior of the original building possesses some basic early 20c. detailing, but has clearly been renovated over the years. The walls are plaster and the floor is tiled. The doors have transom windows which have been either painted or replaced with wood. There is cornice, chair rail, and base board trims along the hallway walls. Small decorative light fixtures have been added to the ceiling and walls.

As for the newer addition, its design is typical of most modern office interiors. The walls are painted concrete block with metal framed doors. The floor is carpeted and the ceiling has acoustical tiles with fluorescent lighting.

The most impressive interior feature is in the original section of the building. A mural, painted by Jay Bohannon in 1989, depicts the history of Hopewell. It was painted on the wall facing the front doors and is a great introduction to the city as one enters the old city hall known as the Hopewell Municipal Building.

U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service OMB No. 1024-4018

HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### **Continuation Sheet**

# Section 8 Page 3

# 8. Statement of Significance

In the eastern part of the state during the early 20th century courthouses were built primarily out of necessity. Their designs representing traditional Roman and Greek architecture. Between 1900 and 1937, 19 court buildings added porticos to represent this typical trend. The Hopewell Municipal Building is a fine example of this classicism.<sup>2</sup> Designed by architect Fred A. Bishop, who's style is evident in several other significant structures in Hopewell, the Municipal Building expresses the beauty of clean lines and simplistic classic repetition.

Erected in 1925 as Hopewell's first official courts building, The Hopewell Municipal Building represents a people not suppressed by war, fire, flu or depression. It stands virtually at the center of the original streets of Hopewell, remains a landmark to the continued development of a "war born town".

#### Historical Background

"They tell a tale that's weird and strange, when the town was new,
A country laddie was homesick, sad he was and blue;
A smiling stranger said to him, "Hope you are real well."
And thus was named the city now where thirty thousand dwell."

These were a few of the lines from a song called *Powder Town Rag* in a book by A.V. Carey, originally printed in 1916, then added to and reprinted in 1961.<sup>3</sup>

Carey's book tells of a city called Hopewell or "The Wonder City", which is known by another author as having "the distinction of being the only war town which survived the great conflict which was responsible for its birth".

Of course, Hopewell, the city, was not officially in the picture until 1916. City Point was the big town in the area before then, being one of the three consequential towns of Prince George County due to its location.<sup>5</sup> City Point, at the confluence of the Appomattox and the James River, offered a railway terminal connecting the town to Richmond and Petersburg. The one thing City Point did not have, however, was a town government.

Beginning in 1904, the circuit court had jurisdiction in all significant legal disputes when the old county court system was abolished. Petty suits and misdemeanors were still heard by individual justices of the peace.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> John O. and Margaret T. Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, (Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1995), various pages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> A.V. Carey, A Pictorial History of Hopewell, Virginia, (Virginia: A.V. Carey, 1961), page 3.

Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey of Prince George County, (Virginia: Southwest Virginia Enterprise, 1924), page 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 224.

Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

# HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### **Continuation Sheet**

# Section 8 Page 4

justices.<sup>6</sup> Prince George County and the town of City Point were not overly concerned with many governmental or judicial issues at the time, at least, not until the question of prohibition arose. With Prince George having voted against prohibition, it was not long before liquor laws were being broken.<sup>7</sup>

In 1912, a change took place which would alter the area around City Point and its people forever. E.I. Du Pont de Nemours purchased approximately 1,800 acres of farm land from the Eppes estate for the erection of a dynamite plant.<sup>8</sup> This endeavor was soon thwarted by the onset of World War I. Du Pont was quickly persuaded to establish a munitions plant to make gun-cotton for France and England. Between the months of October and December the City Point to Petersburg Railway run became among the busiest in the nation.<sup>9</sup>

Even as Du Pont was settling in, people started flooding the area, responding to the availability of high paying jobs. Accommodations could not be raised fast enough, and tents aligned the river, while other job seekers were often forced to sleep in shifts at rooming houses.<sup>10</sup> Du Pont erected housing as fast as it could but was unable to build any other business facilities. Thus, West City Point became a disorderly boomtown.<sup>11</sup> Revolvers were popular and so were the shootings.<sup>12</sup> At any given time, 35 nationalities could be identified, with some folks not even speaking English.<sup>13</sup>

Du Pont was finally able to establish three villages for its married couples: Village A housed the officials and supervisory personnel; Village B housed the white employees; and Village South B housed the African-American employees.<sup>14</sup> The

Francis Earle Lutz, The Prince George - Hopewell Story, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 220.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> ibid, 225.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> ibid, 225.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> ibid, 226.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey of Prince George County, (Virginia: Southwest Virginia Enterprise, 1924), page 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 227.

Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey of Prince George County, (Virginia: Southwest Virginia Enterprise, 1924), page 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, The Prince George - Hopewell Story, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 227

<sup>14</sup> ibid, page 227.

U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### OMB No. 1024-4018

#### HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### **Continuation Sheet**

# Section 8 Page 5

population rose from the hundreds to 40,000 almost overnight, and authorities had difficulty maintaining order.<sup>15</sup> Du Pont had 90 trained police officers, but they were not allowed to operate off company grounds.<sup>16</sup> Justice was administered temporarily from a dry goods box in a roped off are of pine trees on Poythress Street. Female prisoners were housed in a tent, and male prisoners were handcuffed or tied to the trees. Cases were disposed of immediately, with as many as 250 heard in a day.<sup>17</sup>

Order started to return to the area when, in April of 1915, property lots were laid out and auctioned off by the National Land and Auction Company. Du Pont even laid out its property for its own utility buildings.<sup>18</sup> The railway expanded from a single to a double line, steam ships were abundant, electric lines were installed between Petersburg and the Hopewell area, and a concrete highway was under way.<sup>19</sup> The Hopewell Board of Trade, later the Chamber of Commerce, was working towards the betterment and promotion of the community.<sup>20</sup> Early business charters included bank facilities, supply companies, publishing companies, and real estate.<sup>21</sup> Finally, discussion for the incorporation of the city began.

In July of 1915, Hopewell had its administrative beginnings with a governing board appointed by the Governor. By the end of the year, it had a government of its own.<sup>22</sup> At this time City Point was still handling the postal services for both the old City Point area and the new city. The first newspaper to hit the streets was the *Hopewell Daily News*.<sup>23</sup> In October, the country turned its attention towards prohibition again. As the Virginia dry laws went into effect, the City Point, Hopewell, Carson and Disputania express offices became the popular spot. Lines formed quickly as each individual waited for their "one quart of liquor a month" shipment.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey...p.21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 228.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey of ..., page 38.

<sup>18</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, The Prince George - Hopewell Story, page 228.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> ibid, pages 228-229.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> ibid, page 238.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> ibid, page 229.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey of..., pp. 33-39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 230-231.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Francis Earle Lutz, The Prince George - Hopewell Story, page 235.

# HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### **Continuation Sheet**

# Section 8 Page 6

Then, in December of 1915, the town was devastated. A fire broke out and rapidly destroyed the ramshackle buildings in the Hopewell area. National Guardsman were dispatched and remained until a local government could be established.<sup>25</sup> The destruction of the fire, however, did not manage to suppress the spirit of the people and, within days, temporary businesses were operating.<sup>26</sup> In February of 1916, the General Assembly granted a charter to the city of Hopewell and, by June, permanent officials were voted into office.<sup>27</sup>

The first municipal building shared space with the post office. Courts were soon being held in a building on Broadway Street. 1,076 buildings had now been erected in the city of Hopewell, most being made of brick and mortar and, of course, fire safe. Du Pont contributed 1600 cottages, bungalows and apartments and 230 bunkhouses to the final tally of new construction in the area. The Hopewell Press came on the scene and ultimately merged with the Hopewell Daily News to become the Hopewell Daily Press. 30

The new year brought an onslaught of soldiers as, in June of 1917, a military post, Camp Lee, was established on 5,300 acres between Hopewell and Petersburg.<sup>31</sup> The installation was ready to receive the 80th division by August.<sup>32</sup> Complaints were soon heard of waste, extravagance, and loss of jobs on the post to the African-Americans. Soon the military police patrols became a common sight on the streets of Hopewell.<sup>33</sup>

In November of 1917, a new municipal building was built on the corner of Broadway and Hopewell Streets.<sup>34</sup> At the close of the year there was another blow to the city, as influenza swept the country. Du Pont was ready and willing to aid in the situation and regularly drained water supplies and sprayed the area. However, at one point as many as 4,000

<sup>25</sup> ibid, page 231.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> A.V. Carey, A Pictorial History of Hopewell, Virginia, (Virginia: A.V. Carey, 1961), page 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, The Prince George - Hopewell Story, page 233.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> ibid, page 232.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> ibid, page 233.

<sup>30</sup> ibid, page 234.

<sup>31</sup> ibid, page 236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey of Prince George County, (Virginia: Southwest Virginia Enterprise, 1924), page 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, 237, 239.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, The Prince George - Hopewell Story, 233.

U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service OMB No. 1024-4018

## HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### **Continuation Sheet**

# Section 8 Page 7

cases were reported and many businesses were turned into temporary hospitals.35

1918 opened with Judge Thomas B. Robertson presiding over a busy court docket. He padlocked so called "immoral houses" and arrested those within, in an effort to protect the moral atmosphere of the community. Camp Lee had now grown to 90,000 military personnel and had 8,900 acres of land. Towards the end of the year racial tensions were high as 1,000 or more African-Americans left Hopewell for good.

On November 11th, the Armistice was signed and the war was over.<sup>39</sup> But the trials and tribulations of Hopewell continued. As the population plummeted due to the closure of Du Pont and the loss of military personnel, many banks and businesses went bankrupt.<sup>40</sup>

In March of 1919, Hopewell and Petersburg realized something must be done to salvage the city. They joined together in a great advertising campaign to attract new industries to the Hopewell. With the 1920's came thirteen new industries, the first being Samscott Company, later bought by Virginia Cellulose Company in 1923, and then by Hercules Powder Company in 1926. The Tubize Chatillion Corporation, buying 250 acres of the Du Pont property, was next and then, the Hummel-Ross Fibre corporation, now operated by Continental Can Company, Inc. Being the fourth to come to the area was the Atmospheric Nitrogen Corporation, a subsidiary of the Allied Chemical Corporation who now have three plants and many divisions in the city of Hopewell.<sup>41</sup>

The city's progress was up hill from then on. The Hopewell-Petersburg Road was taken into the State Highway System. 42 In March of 1923, Hopewell expanded by annexing Old City Point, the two villages of Du Pont, and the gun-cotton plant

<sup>35</sup> ibid, 241.

<sup>36</sup> ibid, 240.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey, 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 241.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Claudia Mae Hagy, Survey of Prince George County, (Virginia: Southwest Virginia Enterprise, 1924), page 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 242.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> ibid, page 242-243; Hopewell Chamber of Commerce, A Survey of Hopewell, Virginia: Presenting the Advantages offered for Manufacturing, (Virginia, 1938), page 9; A.V. Carey, A Pictorial History of Hopewell, Virginia, (Virginia: A.V. Carey, 1961), page 61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 248.

Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

# HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### **Continuation Sheet**

# Section 8,9 Page 8

site.<sup>43</sup> In 1924, a new form of government took over with the placement of a one-body council of five members. These members were responsible for electing the first mayor, D.L. Elder. *The Star* newspaper came and went, followed by *The City and Tri-County News*, which is now the *Hopewell News*, still in existence.<sup>44</sup>

When the city finally decided it was time for an official representative courts building, the Tubize Corporation sold them the land on which to build. Architect Fred A. Bishop, who designed the James E. Mallonee High School, on City Point Road, earlier that same year, submitted the plans for the Hopewell Municipal Building. Mr. Bishop, later prepared plans for the Beacon Theater, the Highland Park School, which is now the Westover, and the D.L. Elder Building on Main Street. D.L. Elder was on the city council when, on September 12, 1924, they accepted Mr. Bishop's sketches. Maller Engineering Company of Norfolk had finished the construction. For 32 years, the structure has served as the municipal hub of the city with little or no alteration.

In 1957, plans were adopted by city council for the expansion of the courts building with a new wing. Architect J. Henley Walker, Jr. submitted the design and Bogese, Inc. did the construction. The annex provided much needed space for all city officials as well as the public library.<sup>49</sup>

In 1994, a modern courthouse was erected across the small triangular park of the old municipal building and all court facilities were moved into the new building. The Hopewell Municipal Building continues today, housing all city offices and the police department. A landmark in the downtown Hopewell for over 70 years, it stands as an abiding symbol of the energy and perseverance of Virginia's only true 20th century city.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 248-249.

<sup>44</sup> ibid, page 249-250.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> City of Hopewell Clerk's Office, City Council Minutes, October 10, 1924, book 3, page 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects: 1835-1955 - A Biographical Dictionary*, (Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1997), pages 31-32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> City of Hopewell Clerk's Office, City Council Minutes, September 12, 1924, book 3, page 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Francis Earle Lutz, *The Prince George - Hopewell Story*, (Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957), page 233; City of Hopewell Clerk's Office, City Council Minutes, December 2, 1924, book 3, page 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> City of Hopewell Clerk's Office, City Council Minutes, February 12, 1957, book 12, page 67 and February 26, 1957, book 12, page 74.

U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING

OMB No. 1024-4018

HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

# **Continuation Sheet**

# Section 9 Page 9

# 9. Bibliography

A Survey of Hopewell, Virginia: Presenting the Advantages offered for Manufacturing. Hopewell, Virginia: Hopewell Chamber of Commerce, 1938.

Calos, Mary Mitchell. Old City Point and Hopewell: The First 370 Years. Virginia: Donning Company Publishing, 1983.

Carey, A.V. A Pictorial History of Hopewell, Virginia. Virginia: A.V. Carey, 1961.

Department of Historic Resources. Save Our Sculptures Survey of monuments, sculpture, and statues in Hopewell, Virginia. File #116-17.

Hagy, Claudia Mae. Survey of Prince George County. Virginia: Southwest Virginia Enterprises, 1924.

Hopewell City Clerk's Office. City Council Minutes. 1924 and 1957.

Hopewell City Engineer's Office. Blueprints and Plans for the Hopewell Municipal Building and Lot.

Lutz, Francis Earle. The Prince George-Hopewell Story. Virginia: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957.

Peters, John O. and Margaret T. Virginia's Historic Courthouses. Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1995.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. <u>The Virginia Architects: 1835-1955 - A Biographical Dictionary</u>. Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

OMB No. 1024-4018

U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

# HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

#### **Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 10

10. Geographic Data

Boundary Description:

"Beginning at the intersection of First Street and "B" Street; thence running along "B" Street in a westerly direction, for a distance of approximately one hundred and forty-eight (148) feet to an alley; thence along said alley in a northerly direction for a distance of one hundred and thirty (130) feet; thence from said alley, in an easterly direction, to First Street, along a line approximately parallel to "B" Street, for a distance of approximately one hundred and forty-eight (148) feet; thence along First Street in a southerly direction, for a distance of one hundred and thirty (130) feet, to the point of the beginning." This was the descriptive boundary lines of the parcel of land bought by the city from the Tubize Corporation on October, 10th, 1924. According to the blueprints of the proposed city hall parking lot improvements in 1973, the boundaries could be described as "Lot 10, Block 11, "B" Village." The boundaries are shown further on a 7.5 topographic map of the Hopewell Quad.

# **Boundary Justification:**

The boundary includes the Hopewell Municipal Building, its annex, and the immediate surrounding landscape of the city block the building stands upon. The boundary also includes the parking facility behind the alley of the building on the same city block. These boundaries are all based on the historical appropriations of land for the city and its municipal building.

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

# HOPEWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

# **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo page 11

Date of Photo: July 1997
Name of Property: Hopewell Municipal Building
Address of Property: 300 Main Street
Name of City: Hopewell
Photographer: Jean Olstad McRae
Negatives Filed at: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Negatives Number: 15786

Number of Photos: 10

Photo: 1 of 10

Description: Interior View; Looking left to right at the mural in the front lobby of the original building.

Photo: 2 of 10

Description: Interior View; Looking right to left at the mural in the front lobby of the original building.

Photo: 3 of 10

Description: Interior View; Standing in the lobby, looking at the steps connecting the original building to the

annex, half a floor above.

Photo: 4 of 10

Description: Interior View; Standing in the lobby, looking at the steps to the basement and 2nd floor levels of the

original building.

Photo: 5 of 10

Description: Interior View; Looking down the hallway of the offices on the 2nd floor of the annex

Photo 6 of 10:

Description: Exterior View; Standing at the triangular park across Main Street, looking east at the front of the

original building.

Photo 7 of 10:

Description: Exterior View; Close up of the main entrance into the original building.

Photo: 8 of 10

Description: Exterior View; Close up of the front of the original building, left of the entrance, looking east.

Photo: 9 of 10

Description: Exterior View; Standing at the triangular park across Main Street, looking east at the front of the

annex.

Photo: 10 of 10

Description: Exterior View, Standing across Broadway Street, looking north at the side of the original building.



