

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Richmond (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-04-45-0008	DATE 4/16/69

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Egyptian Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Egyptian Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SW corner of E. Marshall Street and College Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE Virginia	CODE 760	COUNTY:	CODE
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
Virginia Commonwealth University (Medical College of Virginia)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
760

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Chancery Court, Richmond City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
760

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
08

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	..(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Egyptian Building is basically a temple-form structure with nearly identical facades at either end. These facades are each composed of a portico containing two palm capital columns in antis, with elongated pylons framing the porticoes at the corners of the building. The pylon motif is repeated as enframements for the windows on the sides of the building. Crowning the entire structure is a massive torus cornice and a very shallow hipped roof.

It is fortunate that such a significant building as the Egyptian Building has survived with few exterior alterations. Its carefully and precisely executed detail is a most scholarly interpretation of ancient forms. In 1939 the exterior of the building was renovated through the generosity of Bernard Baruch in memory of his father who graduated from Medical College of Virginia in 1862, and served as a Confederate surgeon during the Civil War. Unfortunately none of the original interiors survive; however, the present auditorium, installed during the 1939 renovation, contains interesting Egyptian-style decoration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1845

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>     | Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/>      | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>             |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>          | Religion/Phi- <input type="checkbox"/>  | Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/>       | Industry <input type="checkbox"/>             | Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>     | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>               |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>    | Invention <input type="checkbox"/>            | Science <input type="checkbox"/>        | _____   |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/>            | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>            | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>      | _____   |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>         | Social/Human- <input type="checkbox"/>  | _____   |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>           | itarian <input type="checkbox"/>        | _____   |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>             | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>        | _____   |
|   | Music <input type="checkbox"/>                | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

In 1838 Hampden-Sydney College established a medical department in Richmond which occupied the old Union Hotel at 19th and Main Streets. Several years later this medical department was chartered by the state as the Medical College of Virginia. The Egyptian Building, designed by the noted Greek Revival architect, Thomas Stewart, was the first building put up especially for the new college. Completed in 1845, this exotic edifice was a radical departure from the current architectural traditions of the city. Not only has the Egyptian Building become a symbol of a distinguished school, it survives as the oldest medical college building in the South. Architecturally, the Egyptian Building ranks as the finest Egyptian Revival building in the nation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dulaney, Paul S., The Architecture of Historic Richmond, Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1968.  
 Orndorff, Beverly, "Medical College of Virginia, A Pioneering Path to Maturity", Commonwealth, February, 1964.  
 Scott, Mary Wingfield, Old Richmond Neithborhoods, Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1950.  
 "The First 125 years", Bulletin of the Medical College of Virginia.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37 32 25	77 25 45	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Edward P. Alexander, CHAIRMAN

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 27, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 760

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Dr. Edward P. Alexander

Title Chairman, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date March 29, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date APR 1 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Mitchell  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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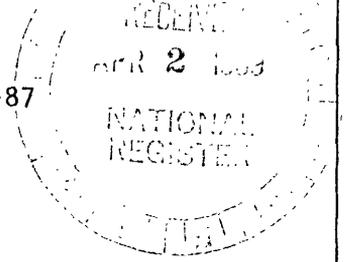
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6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #127-87  
1968  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 760



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8. Statement of Significance **NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

In the first decade of the 19th century, Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian Campaign (1798-1801) created a widespread, albeit brief, vogue for things Egyptian. This fashion was reflected in furniture, jewelery, and clothes more so than in the more expensive and permanent medium of architecture. In Europe and in the United States the architecture of the ancient Egyptians did not inspire the same emotions of cultural kinship as did that of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The Egyptian style was thought of an exotic. The Egyptian buildings best known to the public were resting places or monuments to the dead. Therefore, the style seemed also to suggest rather lugubrious functions.

In the United States the Egyptian Revival style enjoyed a limited popularity in the middle decades of the 19th century. It was often used with a certain sternness of purpose such as cemetery gateways, prisons, and obelisks to honor the dead. The two most outstanding Egyptian Revival buildings in the United States are the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville Tennessee, and the Egyptian Building in Richmond. Built in 1845 by the architect Thomas Stewart for the Medical College of Virginia, the Egyptian Building is uncompromisingly Egyptian in overall form as well as in detail. Built on a steep grassed rise above the city street, the building is surrounded on two sides by a superb cast iron fence in the same style. The gate posts are small stone obelisks and the fence posts are stylized cast iron mummy figures with rather unexpected bare feet. Despite the remodeling of the interior in 1929, the Egyptian Building remains the best example of the Egyptian Revival style remaining in the United States.