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DESCRIPTION	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		(Check One)		
CONDITION	X Excellent	Good	🔲 Fair	Deteriorated	🗌 Ruins	Unexposed
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Southern Seminary's main building, originally built as a hotel, is a vast and rambling cresent-shaped structure set near the edge of a promontory overlooking downtown Buena Vista with splendid views of the surrounding mountains. The building's emphasis on color and textural variation place it in the stylistic category that is usually termed Queen Anne. However, the use of round towers with conical and domical roofs illustrate a French Renaissance influence.

The building's main body is three and a half stories on a high basement. The main or first story is brick while the upper stories are frame. The whole is covered by a steep gable roof of slate pierced at various intervals by one and two-part dormers. The upper stories are faced with both clapboarding and a variety of different type wood shingles. In some sections the shingles have straight edges and in others they have either wavy or rounded edges. The structural frame of the building is suggested on the upper stories by an overlay of boards that are painted white to contrast with the dark maroon of the clapboards and shingles.

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The building's impressive central feature consists of a three and a half story cross gable flanked by two round towers also of brick. The east tower is four stories in height and is topped by a conical roof while the west tower rises to a height of five stories and is topped by an elongated dome with finial. Wrapped about the three lower stories of the towers are threelevel wooden galleries that are joined at the third story directly over the front door by a pedimented arch with lattice-work spandrels. The first level of the galleries extends across the building's entire front. The front door and many of the windows in the central feature are topped by rough-hewn semi-circular stone arches that give this center section a Romanesque flavor.

Flanking the central feature are two additional cross gables with chamfered corners and Palladian windows in each of their gables. At the extreme ends of the building are two additional round towers; the west tower has a conical roof and the east is covered with a dome. The east end of the building extends into a large rounded projection which forms space for the ballroom on the first floor. This projection is capped by a conical roof with a flat roofed lantern. On the rear of the building's east end is a three and a half story wing whose first story has been hidden by a modern brick addition.

The main spaces and interior trim of Southern Seminary's first floor have remained relatively unchanged. The public rooms and corridors are lined with paneled wainscoting and have high ceilings and doors. Opposite the front door of the spacious entrance hall is a large but somewhat plain There are two principle staircases, one in a corridor to brick fireplace. the west of the fireplace, and the other approximately halfway down the east Both are fitted up with paneled wainscoting, molded handrail, corridor. turned balusters, and heavy ornamented newel. Those first floor rooms that are not used as reception rooms serve as offices for administration and faculty. The original guest rooms on the upper floors now serve as dormin tories for the students.

The building and its handsome informally planted grounds are maintained 1972 in excellent condition.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)	-7-11-×	
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TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period 1889-1891 saw a great land boom in the eastern part of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, a boom which spurred much of the economic development of the area. This boom was in large part brought about by the construction through the region of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the vehicle that was to make accessible the area's almost untouched natural resources. The healthful climate, beautiful scenery, expanses of timber, ample streams, and reported rich deposits of mineral ore, thus were made available to those who could organize to take advantage of them. The boom, fanned by northern investors, local entrepreneurs, and extraordinary promotion reached tremendous proportions before it finally burst as a result of the Panic of 1893. Land development companies were formed, and up and down the railroad new towns were laid out, and industrial sites were set aside.

The Buena Vista Company, headed by A. T. Barclay was one of the first such companies to go into business, and as early as February, 1889, it was able to announce that all of its \$600,000 capital stock had been subscribed. Typical of these development companies, one of the first buildings it erected was what a local newspaper described as a "Queen Anne Hotel" on a plateau overlooking the town. Such vast and often lavish hotels were built to serve the useful function of advertizing the company and providing impressive and comfortable accommodations to visitors who might be potential investors.

The Buena Vista Company received a setback in July, 1890, when a fire destoyed its hotel. Before the flames had died, however, President Barclay telegraphed his contractor, J. P. Pettyjohn in Lynchburg, "to make arrangements at once and contract for rebuilding the house . . ." The company accepted an ambitious design by the architect S. W. Foulks of Pennsylvania, assembled several hundred thousand bricks at the site, and planned to put "one hundred and fifty hands" to work immediately. Officials predicted that the new building would be "one of the most rapidly built, as well as one of the most substantial and beautiful structures of modern times."

The resulting new edifice was indeed among the most impressive of all the Valley boom hotels, and its completion had the desired psychological effect on Buena Vista. Within the next two years, some 600 structures including dwellings, churches, stores, and other buildings had been completed. Just before the hotel opened, however, it was sold by the Buena Vista Company to a group of private investors. Following the Panic of 1893 which forced its closing, the hotel was bought by Dr. Edgar H. Rowe. Dr. Rowe was a Methodist Minister who operated the Bowling Green Female Academy, founded in Caroline County in 1867 by his sister-in-law, Alice Scott Chandler. In 1901 Dr. Rowe opened a branch of the school in the Buena Vista hotel building. With the opening of this school Dr. Rowe formed the Southern Seminary System of Schools which consisted of the Bowling Green School, the Buena

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	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	BUENA VISTA (in	city)
	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONL	
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8.

Vista school and a third school in Alderson, West Virginia. By 1907 the Bowling Green school had closed and the Buena Vista school became Southern Seminary's main institution. Through the later guidance of the Durham and Robey families, Southern Seminary developed into one of Virginia's leading preparatory schools and junior colleges. The institution's appreciation and careful maintenance of the hotel as its principal building secured the preservation of this significant structure. Today Southern Seminary's main building stands as one of the last, if not the best, examples of western Virginia's "boom hotel" architecture.









Saltion Service, Beldsidy Cu-

N'S Number 4-13-72 Title: Southern SEMINARY MAIN BUILDING BUENA VISTA (IN. City)

View from south

# PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE THE NEGATIVE OF THIS PORTRATE IS KEPT ON FILE. WHEN REORDERING DE SURE YOU MENTION THE LETTER AND NUMBER ABOVE OR STUDENT AND SCHOOL.

Form 10-301 (July 1969) NATIONAL REGISTER OF H PROPERTY MAP (Type all entries - attach to or		TORIC PL	ACES	STATE VIRGINIA county BUENA VISTA (in city) FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER D	
-	(1 ype all entries - attach to or e	nclose with	map)	APR 1 3 1972	
1. NAME					
COMMON:	Southern Seminary Main Bu	ilding			
AND/OR H	ISTORIC: Buena Vista Hotel				
2. LOCATION	l		1		
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# National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2019

# 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 National Register-Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.

MAY 2 4 2019

# 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Southern Seminary Main Building

PLACES Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_Buena Vista Hotel; Southern Virginia University Main Hall; VDHR #103-0002

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1 University Hill Drive

City or town: Buena Vista S	tate: VA	County: Independent City
Not For Publication: N/A Vici	nity: N/A	

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> 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  $\underline{X}$  meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national	U	stat	ewide	X local
Applicable N	lational Reg	gister Cr	iteria:	1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.
XA	В	X	С	D

Julie Langen	5/23/2019
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resource	ces
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal	Government
In my opinion, the property meets d	loes not meet the National Register criteria
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Southern Seminary Main Building Name of Property Buena Vista (Independent City), VA County and State 72001501 NR Reference Number

## **National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register
- \_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register
- Vadditional documentation accepted
- \_\_\_\_ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

7.1.2019

# Date of Action

National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

WASO Form - 177	
("R" June 1984)	

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

72001501

			in Suiteling	Working No.
BUENE	> Vista (	IC)		Fed. Reg. Date:
Here and				Date Due:
				Action:ACCEPT
resubmission				RETURN
	son or local governmen	t		REJECT
owner objection	son or rocar governmer			Federal Agency:
appeal				
Substantive Review:	🗌 sample	🗌 request	🗔 appeal	NR decision
Reviewer's comments:				
				Recom./Criteria
				Reviewer
				Discipline
				Date
				see continuation sheet
1. Name				
2. Location				
3. Classification				
Category	Ownership Public Acquisi	tion	Status Accessible	Present Use
4. Owner of Property				
5. Location of Legal D	Description			
6. Representation in E	Existing Surveys			
Has this property been	determined eligible?	🗆 yes	🗖 no	
7. Description				
Condition			Check one	Check one
	deteriorated		unaltered	original site
excellent			altered	moved date
└── good └── fair	unexposed		altered	
	L direx posed			
Describe the present a	nd original (if known) p	physical appea	rance	
summary paragrap	h			
Completeness				

completeness
 clarity
 alterations/integrity
 dates
 boundary selection

#### 8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance–Check and	justify	below
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Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
completeness
clarity
applicable criteria
justification of areas checked
relating significance to the resource
context
relationship of integrity to significance
justification of exception

other

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property	
Quadrangle name	-
UTM References	

Verbal boundary description and justification

#### 11. Form Prepared By

#### 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

date

		1.10		0.00
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			9	

\_state \_\_\_\_local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

were .

#### 13. Other

Maps
Photographs
Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_

Signed\_

Date \_

Phone:

#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VINGINIA

Date Entered APR 1 3 1972

Name

New London Academy

Henrico

4/10/72

NRowland : mm

H

Southern Seminary Main Building

Ampthill

Berkeley :

Farmers' Bank

Portsmouth Naval Hospital

Old Donation Church

Northampton County Court House Historic District

Weston Manor

Scott-Clarke House

#### Also Notified

Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Hon. William B. Spong, Jr. Hon. Pichard E. Poff Hon. David E. Sattorfield, III Hon. J. Renneth Robinson Hon. Watkins M. Abbitt Hon. William L. Scott Hon. G. William Whitehurst Hon. Thomas N. Downing

#### Location

Forest Vicinity Bedford County

Dutch Gap vicinity Henrico County

Buena Vista

Cartersville vicinity Cumberland County

Charles City vicinity Charles City County

Potersburg

Portsmouth

Virginia Beach

Eastville Northampton County

Horewell.

Richmond

State Liaison Officer Mr. James W. Moody, Jr. Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission State Ninth Street Office Building Noom 1105 Richmond, Virginia 23210





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIANatl. Reg. of Historic Places

# **Department of Historic Resources**

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323 Fax: (804) 367-2391 www.dhr.virginia.gov

Matt Strickler Secretary of Natural Resources

May 23, 2019

Joy Beasley Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places National Park Service, National Register Program 1849 C St., NW (Mail Stop 7228) Washington, D.C. 20240

# Re: Buena Vista Hotel, City of Buena Vista, VA (newly signed cover page for main form)

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The Buena Vista Hotel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in April 1972. At that time, the property's then-current name, Southern Seminary Main Building, was included on the cover page as the "common" name.

Since 1996, this property has been owned and occupied by Southern Virginia University. The property owner requests that the National Register nomination's cover page be amended in Section 1, "other names/site number" to include the current name, **Southern Virginia University Main Hall**, and to include the current 911 street address, which is **1 University Hill Drive**.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Lena McDonald, National/State Register Historian, at 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

Julie 2 Jang

Julie V. Langan Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

Western Region Office 962 Kime Lane Salem, VA 24153 Tel: (540) 387-5443 Fax: (540) 387-5446 Northern Region Office 5357 Main Street PO Box 519 Stephens City, VA 22655 Tel: (540) 868-7029 Fax: (540) 868-7033 Eastern Region Office 2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, VA 23221 Tel: (804) 367-2323 Fax: (804) 367-2391

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Additional Documentation			
Property Name:	Southern Seminary Main I	Building		
Multiple Name:				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
State & County:	VIRGINIA, Buena Vista	······		
Date Rece 5/24/20			Date of 45th Day: 7/8/2019	Date of Weekly List:
Reference number:	AD72001501			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Nominator:	· · · · · · · · · · · ·		•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Reason For Review	r,			
X Accept	Return	Reject7/1	/ <b>2019</b> Date	
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Adds another "other name	ð"		
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept Additional Docum	nentation		
Reviewer Jim Ga	abbert	Discipline	Historian	
Telephone (202)3	54-2275	Date		
DOCUMENTATION	I: see attached commer	nts : No see attached S	LR : No	

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.