

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Washington and Lee University Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Washington and Lee University Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington and Lee University

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Rockbridge	CODE 163
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Board of Trustees

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington and Lee University

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rockbridge County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1934** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	COUNTY: Rockbridge	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The historic core of Washington and Lee University is situated along a ridge which extends through the western edge of the town of Lexington. The principal feature of this core is a range of brick buildings referred to as the "Colonnade", since the buildings are fronted variously with columns, piers, and pilasters, giving the impression of a continuous colonnade. In the center of the Colonnade is the oldest and largest building of the group, Washington Hall - a three-story, temple-form structure fronted by a provincial hexastyle Roman Doric portico. Washington Hall was erected in 1824; its present roofline and two-story flanking wings were added in 1843. The octagonal Greek-Revival cupola, topped with a wooden statue of George Washington was added in 1844. The statue, carved by a local cabinet maker, Matthew Kahle, is a fine example of American folk art. Washington Hall's flanking wings, fronted with coupled Doric pilasters, link the building to two matching rectangular structures. The southern building, Payne Hall, was erected in 1831, while its compliment, Robinson Hall, was completed in 1843. Both buildings feature unpedimented hexastyle porticoes with square piers and are crowned by shallow deck-on-hip roofs. This complex of ante-bellum structures at one time contained nearly all the institution's facilities, but it now houses only administrative offices, faculty offices, and classrooms. All of the original interior fabric of the buildings was replaced in 1936 during an extensive renovation.

Aligned with this central group are two additional buildings, now considered part of the Colonnade. The south building, Newcomb Hall, is a late-nineteenth century structure, restyled in the twentieth century with a Doric portico to conform with the earlier buildings. The three-story building on the north, Tucker Hall, was erected in 1935, in the Doric temple-form to house the Law School.

Farther down the hill, towards the east, and facing Washington Hall on axis is the famous Lee Chapel, built under the direction of Robert E. Lee in 1868. In 1870, this small brick building, with its simplified Romanesque elements, became the final resting place of the institution's most famous president.

Beyond each of the terminal buildings of the Colonnade, and halfway down the hill is a pair of faculty dwellings. All four houses were completed in 1843 according to similar plans, with two-story temple forms and one-story wings, although the outermost houses have shallow hipped roofs, while the remaining two have pedimented roofs. Each of the tetrastyle porticoes on the houses displays the same provincial Roman Doric order found on Washington Hall.

South of the southernmost faculty house, is a rambling two-story brick house with a hipped roof, built in 1869 as the president's house, and first occupied by Robert E. Lee.

The collection of academic, religious, and residential buildings here described constitute the historic core of Washington and Lee University. Other structures, mostly Georgian Revival-style, have been built in the vicinity during the present century, but they are discreetly placed and detract little from the visual quality of the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic core of Washington and Lee University is composed of a collection of architecturally harmonious and spatially related neo-classical buildings that together form one of the most dignified and beautiful college campuses in the nation. The central and most significant element of this complex, the "Colonnade", along with the flanking faculty residences, gives the impression of being the product of a single architectural concept, but in reality this splendid succession of columned and pilastered buildings is an evolutionary product of a building program, extending over nearly one hundred and fifty years. As the school grew, its administrators and builders successfully used this growth as a means to enhance the visual unity of the institution without falling into monotony. The first buildings erected in 1803 by what was then Washington College, have long since disappeared. It is, however, the oldest of the existing buildings, Washington Hall, erected in 1824, which sets the architectural tone of the campus. Its builder-architect, John Jordan, was a self taught designer of much ability. Jordan was able to transform the prevailing architectural fashion of the time into a sturdy, local idiom. The principal departures at Washington and Lee from Jordan's simple classicism - the Lee Chapel and the President's House - do not detract from the unity of the area, but serve as interesting foils to it.

While the modern university plant extends well beyond the historic core, the ante bellum buildings have remained the visual symbol and psychological heart of this venerable institution. The significance of the complex to nineteenth-century American architectural development was perhaps best expressed by Talbot Hamlin when he wrote: "No more impressive expression of the educational ideals of the time could be imagined than this Classic group, its pediment and orders seen through embowering trees, over swelling American lawns, its cupola crowned with the image of the Pater Patriae". Even though the individual buildings that make up Washington and Lee have gone through extensive changes in the course of their organic growth and development the integrity of the University complex as a whole has survived. The Lee Chapel was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961 under the theme study of the Civil War. The evaluation of National significance should be extended to include all of the historic core of the University.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank space for major bibliographical references.

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 TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE _____ CODE _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS