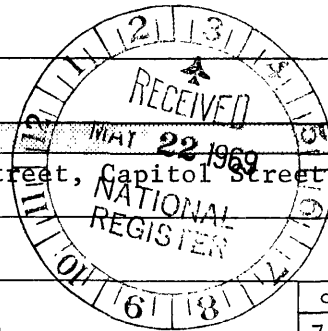


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Richmond (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
DISTRICT NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



1. NAME			
COMMON: Capitol of Virginia/Virginia State Capitol			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Capitol of Virginia			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Square. Bounded by Ninth Street, Capitol Street, Governor Street, and Bank Street.			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond			
STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 760

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐	Public ☒ Private ☐ Both ☐	Public Acquisition: In Process ☐ Being Considered ☐	Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress ☐
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
Agricultural ☐ Government ☒ Park ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific ☐		Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No: ☐	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: Commonwealth of Virginia			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	STATE: Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Henrico County Clerk's Office			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street at 22nd Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Richmond (in cit.)
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14.12 acres			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #127-2			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal ☐ State ☒ County ☐ Local ☐			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	ENTRY NUMBER DATE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent ☐	Good ☒	Fair ☐	Deteriorated ☐	Ruins ☐	Unexposed ☐
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered ☒ Unaltered ☐			Moved ☐ Original Site ☒		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Virginia State Capitol, built from designs furnished by Thomas Jefferson, consists of a two-story, stuccoed temple-form building with a hexastyle Roman Ionic portico placed on a podium. The order of the two-bay deep portico is carried around the seven-bay deep "cella" by the use of Ionic pilasters which frame each bay. The first floor windows are surmounted by plain entablatures supported by Doric pilasters. The second floor windows are framed by simple architraves. Placed between the first and second floor windows are undecorated recessed panels. The building was originally designed to have a broad flight of stairs ascend to the front portico. However, these were not built until the early-twentieth century. The interior of the building has been much changed, and little, if any, of the original fabric remains visible. The Senate chamber which originally extended across the entire front has been divided by a center hall leading from the main entrance to the central rotunda. The basic form of the original Delegates' chamber has survived. The early-twentieth century addition of two-story wings to contain larger legislative chambers has altered the character of the original building. The one-story hyphens connecting the wings to the main building were increased in depth during a mid-twentieth century renovation, causing more of the original side elevation to be hidden.

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) 1785-1798

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	☐	Political	☒	Urban Planning	☐
Prehistoric	Engineering	☐	Religion/Phi-	☐	Other (Specify)	☒
Historic	Industry	☐	losophy	☐	May 22, 1969	
Agriculture	Invention	☐	Science	☐	NATIONAL	
Art	Landscape	☐	Sculpture	☐	REGIS-	
Commerce	Architecture	☐	Social/Human-	☐		
Communications	Literature	☐	itarian	☐		
Conservation	Military	☐	Theater	☐		
	Music	☐	Transportation	☐		

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

The Virginia State Capitol was designed by Thomas Jefferson while he was in France with the assistance of the noted French architect, Charles-Louis Clerisseau. It was inspired by the Maison Carree, an ancient Roman temple, located in Nimes, France. The building for the Virginia Capitol represents the introduction of Neo-Classicism in public buildings in the United States. The building was begun in 1785, with the construction being supervised by Samuel Dobie. By 1798 the original temple-form building was complete. In 1796 the Houdon statue of George Washington in Continental uniform was placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Later were added portrait busts of the other Virginia-born Presidents, and the Houdon bust of the Marquis de Lafayette. The 1870 Capitol disaster, in which sixty-two people were killed when the courtroom gallery collapsed, was cause for some renovation, but it was not until 1904-06 that extensive renovation and alterations were made. At that time the two wings were added to the east and west ends to house new chambers for the State Senate and the House of Delegates. In 1929 the original chamber for the House of Delegates was renovated and refurbished. The Virginia State Capitol has significance both historically and architecturally. Historically, it houses the oldest legislative body in America, the present legislature growing out of the Colonial House of Burgesses. Also, the Capitol building was the place where the Virginia Convention drafted the new constitution for the Commonwealth in 1829-30. In addition, the Virginia Capitol building served as the meeting place of the Confederate Congress during the years that Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy.

Architecturally, the Virginia State Capitol is the first purely neo-classical building to be erected in this country. It is also the first instance since ancient Roman times where the temple form was employed for a public building of importance. Furthermore, it set the precedent for using neo-classical forms for American public buildings.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Capitol Square Data-Grounds", Vol. 2, unpublished manuscript, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.
 Gaines, William H., Jr., "Warehouse and Roman Temple, the Capitols of the Commonwealth, 1780-1951", Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 1, Winter, 1951.
 Hamlin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944.
 Kimball, Fiske, Thomas Jefferson, Architect, Boston, 1916.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NE	37 °	32'	26"	77 °	26'	13"		
SE	37 °	32'	15"	77 °	25'	55"		
SW	37 °	32'	15"	77 °	26'	13"		

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: April 22, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Comm.

Date May 20, 1969

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

Capitol of
Virginia

(Continuation Sheet)

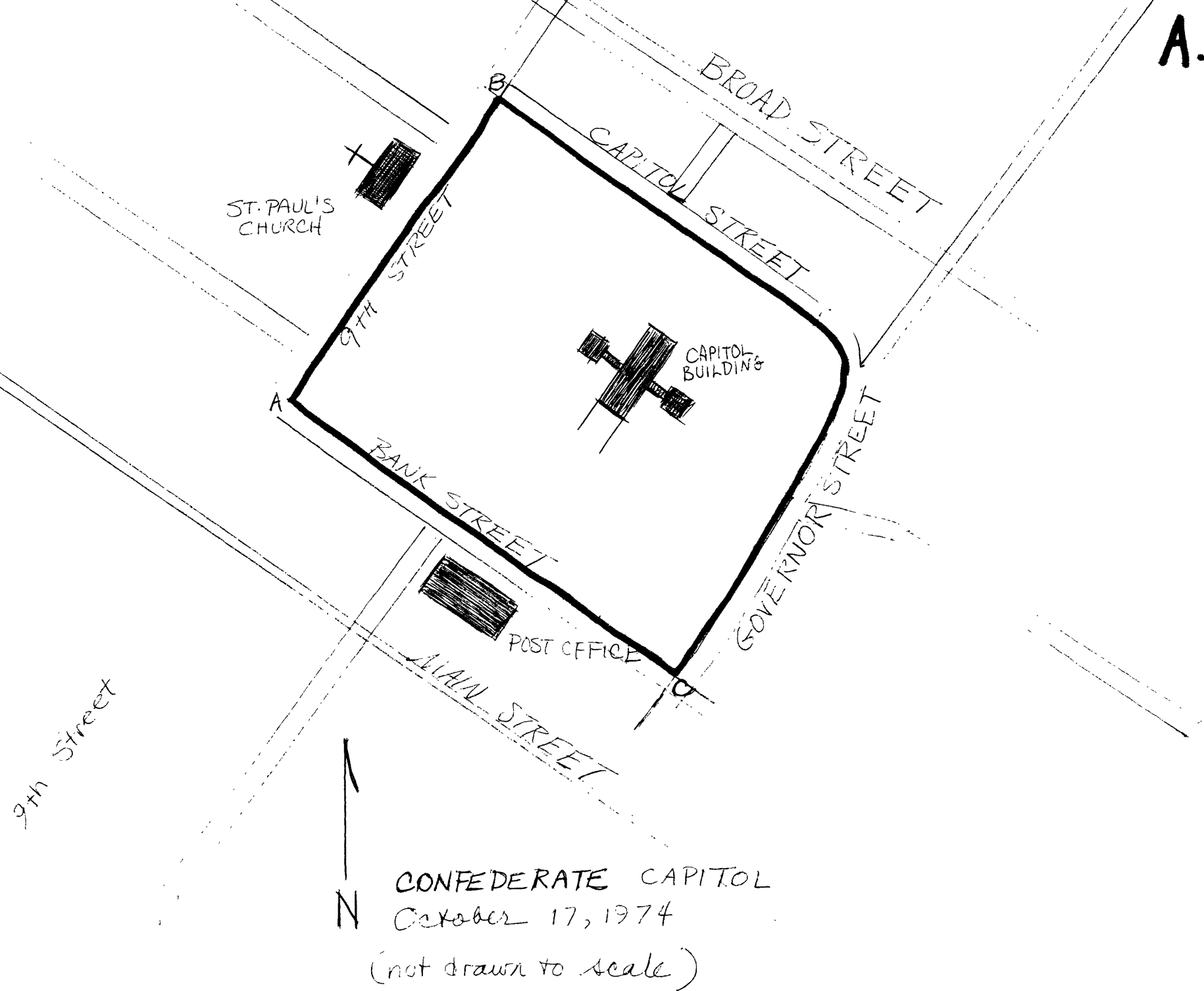
STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance

The Capitol of Virginia in Richmond was designed by Thomas Jefferson in collaboration with the French architect Charles-Louis Clerisseau during Jefferson's stay in France as First Consul (1784-1789). At this time in France the interest in Neo-classical building forms based directly on the originals from Roman or Greek antiquity was at a peak. So that when Jefferson was asked to provide a design for the new Capitol of Virginia in Richmond he chose the Roman temple at Nimes, known as the Maison Carée, for his model. Well aware of the limitations of local Virginia craftsmen, Jefferson substituted the Ionic order for the Corinthian of the Maison Carée and simple engaged pilasters for the engaged columns. The Capitol was begun in 1785, while Jefferson was still in France; however it was not finished until 1798. The resulting building was not an unqualified success in spite of its dramatic and dignified exterior. The original floor plan shows a marked disregard for the possibilities of the temple form and its function. The space requirements of the two legislative bodies, the Senate and the House of Representatives, was more or less forced to fit the exterior form as best they could. This situation prevailed until 1904 when the lateral wings were added. These additions solved the functional problems but spoiled Jefferson's intent to have a pure, uninterrupted temple. Despite these vicissitudes the Capitol of Virginia is of paramount importance in the development of American architecture because it is the first purely Neo-classical building to be erected in this country. The Capitol was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 under the Civil War Theme.

A.



ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH

9TH STREET

CAPITOL STREET

CAPITOL
BUILDING

BROAD STREET

GOVERNOR STREET

BANK STREET

POST OFFICE

MAIN STREET

N

CONFEDERATE CAPITOL
October 17, 1974

(not drawn to scale)

9th Street