

VLR-7/17/73 NRHP-8/13/73

3

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

, all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Nottoway
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Nottoway County Court House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West side of Route 625

CITY OR TOWN:  
Nottoway

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fifth; W. C. Daniel

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY Nottoway	CODE 135
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

TOWNSHIP NAME:  
Nottoway County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Nottoway	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Nottoway	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1938  
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: Nottoway  
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DATE

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 Nottoway County Court House is a finely proportioned and carefully crafted three-part building in the Jeffersonian or Roman Revival style. The center portion is temple-form and is fronted by a tetrastyle Tuscan portico with stuccoed columns. Flanking this are lower one-bay wings with pedimented gable ends. A full entablature crowns all but the rear of the center section while the wings employ only a cornice. The roofs of both center section and wings are covered with slate. The building's front walls are laid in even-colored thin-jointed Flemish bond, a distinguishing feature of Virginia's Roman Revival court houses. Side and rear walls are laid in five-course American bond. A typical Jeffersonian feature is the tall triple-hung sashes used on the front and side walls of the center section. Double-hung sash is used for the wings, but all the sashes contain twelve panes each. A sophisticated feature is the white marble sills and lintels ornamenting all but the rear windows of the center section. The front windows are hung with dark green louvred shutters.

The court house is entered through tall double doors set in a panelled jamb. The doors have shallow beveled panels. The courtroom occupies the whole of the center section. The judge's chamber is in the south wing and the jury room is in the north. As a result of an extensive remodeling in recent years little original interior fabric other than the window trim remains.

Providing a handsome setting for the court house is a broad lawn informally planted with shade and evergreen trees. An axial walk leading up from the front road is divided near the building for a monument to the county's Confederate dead. To the south is an early clerk's office; additional county buildings are to the north and west. Like most Southside Virginia county seats the court house village is little more than a cross-roads containing around a dozen buildings.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Nottoway	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

5.           Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
              1959                Federal  
              Library of Congress  
              Washington, D. C.                   Code: 11

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | County government                                   |
| <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 Nottoway County Court House is one of the most beautiful of the important group of some fifteen Virginia court houses in the Jeffersonian or Roman Revival style. Many of the carpenters and masons employed by Thomas Jefferson for the construction of the University of Virginia were inspired by his distinctive style, and imitated his elegant mixture of Roman and Palladian forms in houses and public buildings throughout the Commonwealth. Using the simple native materials of brick, wood and stucco, these architecturally sophisticated structures acquired an indigenous and unpretentious quality. The Nottoway Court House is one of the latest examples of the style, being completed in 1843, nearly twenty years after Jefferson's death. It has not been established if the builder, Branch H. Ellington, ever worked under Jefferson; however, he certainly must have been familiar with the several Jeffersonian court houses in adjacent counties. Two of these --- Buckingham and Charlotte Court Houses --- were actually designed by Jefferson.

Ellington's handsomely proportioned building employs many of the architectural features characteristic of Jefferson's work: a three-part Palladian plan with temple-form center section, pedimented tetrastyle Tuscan portico, and triple-hung sash. The exterior with its fine brickwork is essentially unaltered and is in a good state of preservation. Today the building remains the focal point of its tiny county seat community. Surrounded by the rolling fields and woodlands of Southside Virginia, this rural temple of justice could not be a more fitting architectural expression of Jefferson's agrarian republic.

CCL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A. B. Cummins, Nottoway County Virginia, Richmond: W. M. Brown & Son, Inc.,  
Printers, 1970.

Virginia Cavalcade, Autumn 1970.

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	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres.

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:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: July, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

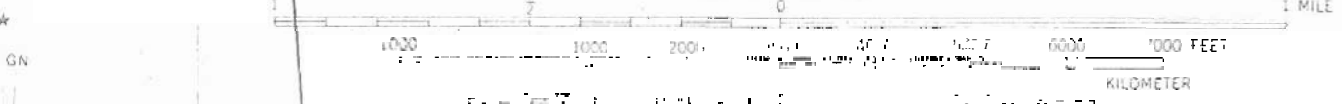
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



759 5' BLACKSTONE 6 MI. (BLACKSTONE WEST) 5358 II SE 762 2'30" 763

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

*NOTOWAY  
COUNTY  
COURT  
HOUSE*

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903