

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

118-153

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION

VLR 07/31/80 NRHP: 10/30/80

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Jones Memorial Library

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 434 Rivermont Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Lynchburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE Virginia

CODE 51

COUNTY in City

COO= 630

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Board of Directors, Jones Memorial Library c/o Douglas A. Robertson

STREET & NUMBER 434 Rivermont Avenue

CITY, TOWN Lynchburg

VICINITY OF

STATE Virginia

Zip Code 24504

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lynchburg City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lynchburg

STATE Virginia

Zip Code 24505

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN Richmond

STATE Virginia

23219

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Jones Memorial Library is located at 434 Rivermont Avenue in the City of Lynchburg. The building is constructed in the Neo-Classical Revival style and was erected in 1906-07 after the plans of Frye and Chesterman, Lynchburg architects. The steps, terraces, and porches were designed by the Boston landscape architect Bremer Pond and were added in 1924. A three-story wing was built on the rear (east) elevation in 1968.

The main block and flanking wings of the two-story edifice are executed in stretcher-bonded, cream-colored brick on a granite foundation. The Rivermont Avenue (west) elevation is dominated by a monumental, hexastyle-in-antis, Roman Ionic portico surmounted by a full entablature and parapet. The two-story portico extends across the facade of the building and contains a frieze that bears the inscription "oratory, history, discovery, science, and poetry." The frieze runs along the perimeter of the main building and the wings where it is inscribed with the names of various classical writers. The parapet bears the inscription "The George M. Jones Memorial Library Erected and Endowed By Mary Frances Jones In Memory Of Her Husband." The central portion of the building has a dome covered with round tiles and supported on a low octagonal drum. The dome is crowned by the rim of the oculus. The main entrance is located on Rivermont Avenue and is set in a transom-light, classically embellished stone architrave with a full entablature that bears the carved Roman numerals, "MCMIV", in the frieze. On the north and south ends are engaged porticos. The original doors have wood panels at the base and glass panes on the top. The doors retain their original hardware. The transoms contain multiple leaded scallops with clear glass lights. The auxiliary and side entrances have stone architraves with glass-paned and wood-paneled doors. The doors retain their original hardware also. When built the facade contained stained-glass windows "designed to be symbolic of the nine grand divisions of human expression."¹ The work of Lamb of New York, the windows are presently in storage due to problems with lighting. They were replaced by the present 1/1 hung-sash windows previously used throughout the building.

Originally the structure had simple terraced steps that ran down to Rivermont Avenue. The present steps and terraces, with their classical balustrades and parapet walls of cast stone, were added in 1923 to complement a new landscape plan. A semicircular terrace also of cast stone was added on the south side of the library and contains a statue of George M. Jones in a Confederate uniform. Cast-iron standards with round glass globes provide light for the walks.

The main entrance opens to the lobby which contains paired, lateral, open-well stairs that lead to the second floor and to the north and south entrances. The stairs have square newels, turned balusters and molded handrails. The hall floor is tiled, and the domed ceiling is coffered. A glass screen separates the lobby from the library hall. The main hall is divided by function into a reading room, service desk, and reference area. The administrative offices are located off the main hall. Book stacks are also situated to the east of the main hall. The dome illuminates the first and second floors. The second floor includes a mezzanine formed by a balustrade that overlooks the first-floor hall. The balustrade is composed of Classical-style turned balusters, paneled supports, and a molded hand-rail. Ionic columns and a classically ornamented cornice run the perimeter of the

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906-07 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frye and Chesterman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jones Memorial Library stands as Lynchburg's finest example of the Neo-Classical Revival style that dominated the architecture of American public and institutional buildings for the first four decades of the present century. Evoking the monumental classicism of ancient Rome, these buildings made lavish use of colonnades, porticos, domes, and richly carved masonry, all of which lent the familiar weighty dignity to the civic architecture of the period. The library was designed by the local firm of Frye and Chesterman, who provided Lynchburg with a rich heritage of fine buildings. Opened in 1907, the library was given by Mary Frances Watts Jones as a memorial to her husband George Morgan Jones, a prominent Lynchburg industrialist, merchant, and financier. Still maintained as a private institution for the public benefit, Jones Memorial is comparable in its purpose and operation to the institutions set up by the Carnegie and Mellon families in larger cities and is a significant expression of the philanthropy and cultural development that followed Lynchburg's growth at the end of the 19th century.

George Morgan Jones for whom the library was named was born at Jeremy's Run in Page County on May 4, 1824, the son of Wharton and Nancy Follis Jones. After a number of early business ventures and service in the Second Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War, Jones formed a partnership with his brothers-in-law, Richard T. and James W. Watts, and began business as a wholesale and retail hardware dealer in Lynchburg. The firm was successful, and branches of the store were established in Danville, Bedford, Roanoke, and Salem. After retiring from the firm Jones became involved in the development of Lynchburg's first successful cotton mill. During his business ventures Jones was president of the National Exchange Bank of Lynchburg and served as the first president of the Lynchburg Board of Trade. He became interested in coal mining and aided the development of the mining industry in the Commonwealth.

As a noted philanthropist, Jones was instrumental in the establishment of Randolph Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg. Jones donated generously to the building fund and aided the college in its early development. Following the premature deaths of his daughters, Jones took up the cause of organizing a public library for the city with the ambition of making it the finest in the South. Lynchburg was known in the 19th century for its interest and support of the arts and education and was, therefore, most receptive to such an undertaking. "The library will be one of the greatest benefits ever conferred on the people of Lynchburg..." stated the local press commenting on the plans.¹ Jones died in 1903 before the building could be started, and the project was left to his wife, Mary Frances Watts Jones. Mrs. Jones commissioned Frye and Chesterman to design the edifice for a

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Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg

CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

hall. The dome is ornamented also with classically inspired plaster work. Stacks, offices and a museum are entered from the second-floor hall. A staircase, similar to that in the main lobby, runs to the attic.

RCC

¹"The Jones Memorial Library," The News, 29 September 1907, p.6, col. 4.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property at 434 Rivermont Avenue consists of 1 3/4 acres which includes the building, terraces and statue of the founder, George M. Jones. The 1 3/4-acre tract was landscaped extensively in 1924 by Bremer Pond, a Boston landscape architect.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

site on a small hill in the newly developed Rivermont Avenue section of the city. Mr. and Mrs. Jones had resided at 456 Rivermont Avenue, a few doors from the newly constructed library building. The Rivermont Avenue section contains many of the finest residences in the city.

Besides the library, Frye and Chesterman were responsible for a number of prominent landmarks in Lynchburg including the Aviary in Miller Park, the Municipal Building, the early buildings at Lynchburg College, and many fine churches and residences. The beauty of the building was enhanced in 1924 by the addition of terraces and steps designed by noted Boston landscape architect Bremer Pond. An early graduate of the Harvard University Master's program in landscape architecture, Pond served from 1911 to 1914 as an assistant to Frederick Law Olmstead. As Charles Eliot Professor of Landscape Architecture from 1928 to 1950 at Harvard, Pond became an outstanding educator in the field of landscape design and was responsible for the landscape designs of Dartmouth and Radcliffe Colleges and a number of other educational institutions.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Jones Memorial Library retains many of its original furnishings and fixtures, including nine stained-glass windows by Lamb of New York that are presently in storage. It serves as the depository for Lynchburg newspapers dating from 1784, early Lynchburg city government records, and substantial archives on railroad and canal transportation in the Southern Virginia Piedmont. The landscape plans of Bremer Pond in the possession of the library indicate that many of the trees and shrubs that surround the building date to the 1924 plan.

MTP/RCC

¹The News (Lynchburg), 14 May 1905.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chataigne, Lynchburg City Directory, 1896, 1899, 1905.
 Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, 1915. S.v. "George Morgan Jones."
 Gravure Illustration Company. Art Work of Lynchburg and Danville, 1903.
 Jones, Mrs. Frances. Scrapbook, Jones Memorial Library.
 National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, 1962. S.v. "Bremer Pond."
 The News (Lynchburg), 14 May 1905; 7, 16, 21 July 1905; 29 September 1907; 2 October 1907;
 7 June 1908; 19 July 1908; 2 August 1908.
 Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives. Jones Memorial Library File
 Sholes, Lynchburg City Directory 1894

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 3/4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Lynchburg, Virginia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 7 6, 2 7, 2, 0 4, 1 4, 3 1, 0, 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on the E side of alternate U.S. oute 501 approximately 2000' W of James River; thence extending 600' SSW along W side of Victoria Avenue to intersection of said street, D street, and said alternate 501; thence extending 500' NNW along E side of said alternate to intersection with Library Street; thence extending 200' NNE along S side of said street to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

July 1980

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

Zip Code

23219

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Julius Miller

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director

DATE

JUL 31 1980

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

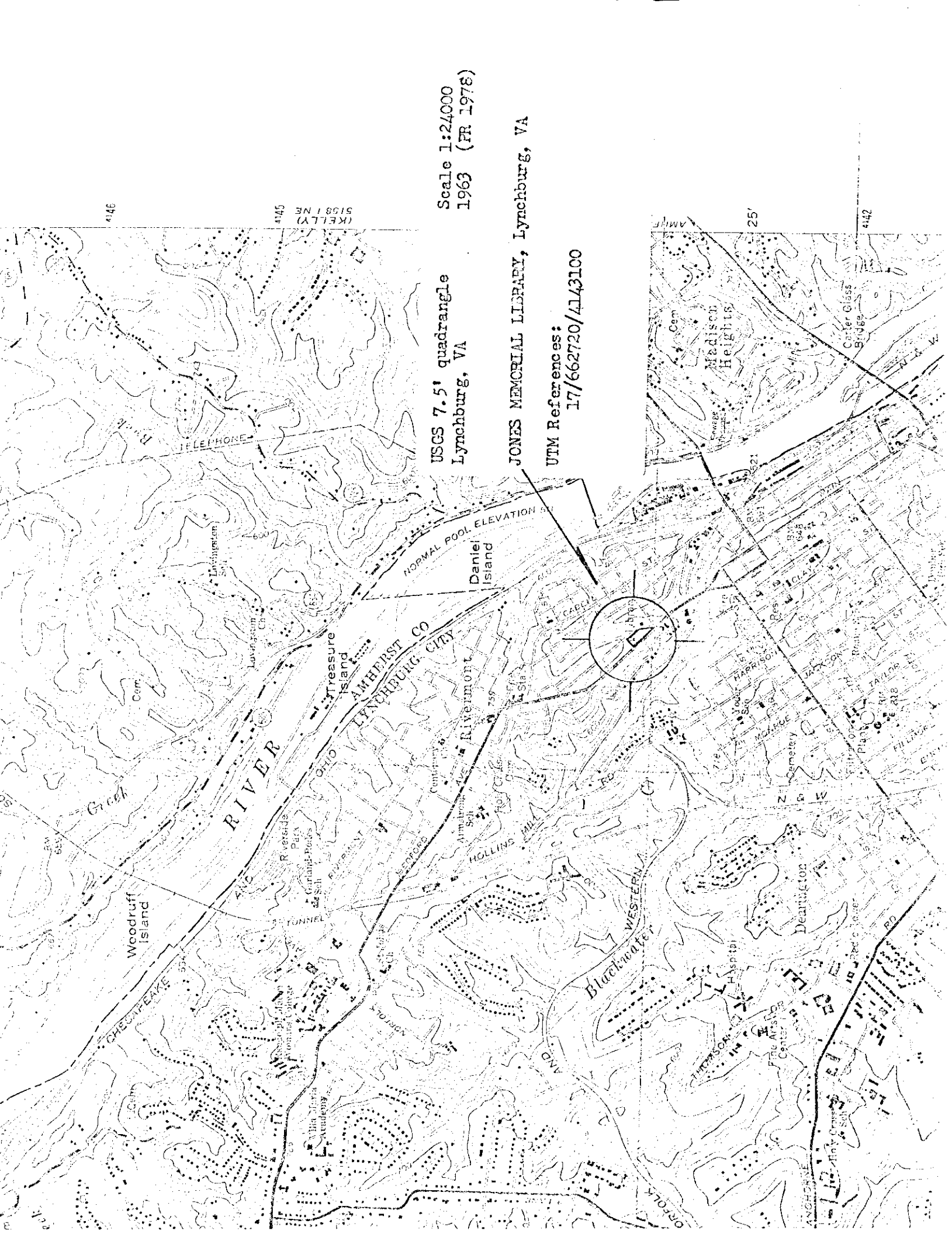
DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



4146

4145
(KELLY)
51581 NE

USCS 7.5' quadrangle
Lynchburg, VA
Scale 1:24000
1963 (FR 1978)

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY, Lynchburg, VA

UTM References:
17/662720/4143100

25'

4142