

VLR-11/16/71 NRHP-3/16/72

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: NORFOLK (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
GENERAL DOUGLAS MacARTHUR MEMORIAL

AND/OR HISTORIC:
NORFOLK CITY HALL

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
421 East City Hall Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Norfolk

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **(in cit.)** CODE: **710**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Norfolk

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Norfolk** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Norfolk City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Norfolk** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **VIRGINIA**

COUNTY: **NORFOLK (in cit.)**

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If Known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original appearance of the Norfolk City Hall and Court House was described by William S. Forrest in his Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Norfolk and Vicinity (1853) as follows: "Its walls rest upon solid rows of piles, of sufficient capacity, in the opinion of the most experienced architects, 'to sustain any weight of superstructure that could be raised upon them. In this particular, the most important of all, especial care was taken to secure a permanent and immovable foundation.'

The length of the building is eighty feet (north and south) by sixty in width. The portico, fronting west, and seen from Bank Street, Granby Street, and the harbour, is supported by six massive columns of the Tuscan order; it is sixty feet long, leaving a recess of ten feet at each end. The cupola adds greatly to the beauty and the bold and commanding appearance of the building, being thirty-two feet in diameter, and fifty-two feet high. A passage, thirteen feet wide, extends through from the front to the rear entrance. On the north side of the passage is the courtroom; and on the south, the mayor and sheriff's offices. On the second floor, and north side, is a spacious room, in which the United States' Court, for this district, is held. The council-chambers and juryrooms are also on the second floor. The front wall is faced with granite, and the exterior of the others stuccoed in the most durable manner, and made to represent the same kind of stone. The entrance from the ground is by steps of granite, which extend nearly the entire length of the portico. The building also presents a handsome view on the eastern side, where there are, also, handsome stone steps to the entrance. The foundation walls are of granite, and rise from the piles eight feet to the surface of the ground, and thence of hewn stone five feet above. The walls are strengthened, to sustain the piers above, by reversed arches; and a cylindrical brick arch, of elaborate construction, supports the platform and pillars of the portico.

Height of the main building, fifty-eight feet; entire height to the summit of the cupola (from which there is a fine view of the harbour and surrounding scenery), one hundred and ten feet, above which is erected a tall flag-staff, from which, on public occasions, a very large ensign, with the stars and stripes, is unfurled to the breeze. Attached to the lightning-rod, a few feet above the top of the staff, is a gilt vane, five feet long, in the shape of an arrow.

Beneath the principal passage, on the first floor, there is a large cistern, holding about forty-five thousand gallons. The roof is covered with tin."

In 1961 the entire interior was gutted to convert it into museum space and tomb for General Douglas MacArthur. The original foundation now supports only the outside walls and superstructure, while a new steel foundation and piles support the new interior. The central feature is the two-story open rotunda about 40 feet in diameter and 37 feet high within the existing dome; the tombs of the general and his wife are beneath the dome. The floor is of Italian rose tavernelle marble, while the marble trim elsewhere is Italian red antique marble. The circular Italian marble walls of the rotunda are executed in Roman travertine and the five large panels in which are inscribed the general's achievements and excerpts from his speeches are done in Botticino marble. The wood paneling and doors are Philippine narra. The walls in six of the display rooms are covered by 7X14 foot murals painted on canvas by Alton S. Tobey under a \$30,000 grant from the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

Abbey Fund of the National Academy of Design in New York; the murals depict scenes from MacArthur's life. The other walls are covered by beige monk's cloth. The L-shaped building housing court rooms was renovated to provide more space for the MacArthur exhibits (1964-65). Work on the court house was begun in March, 1962, and completed late in 1963.

In 1970, a bronze statue of MacArthur was erected in front of the building. It was executed by sculptor Walter Hancock of Gloucester, Mass., and is a duplicated of Hancock's statue for the Military Academy at West Point. The statue, which weighs 900 lbs., portrays MacArthur in his uniform of the 1942-45 period.

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) 1847-1850, 1961

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Norfolk was created an independent city by Act of Assembly in 1845, and the next year a majority of the voters selected the Public Square, created in 1837 on land reclaimed from Town Back Creek, as the site for a new court house and city hall. A month earlier, on March 31, 1846, the City Council had accepted plans for the building drawn by William R. Singleton, a Portsmouth native and St. Louis architect who also designed the Portsmouth Court House. The building, as executed, reflected some modifications of Singleton's design suggested by Thomas U. Walter. The general superintendent of the work was Thomas Constable; carpenter, Isaac Smith; stone mason, O. H. Rand; plasterers, Messrs. Holmes and Tarrall; painter, John W. Belot; tin-worker, G. L. Crow. The cost of the building was approximately \$50,000. The cornerstone of the city hall was laid on Aug. 23, 1847, and the first court was convened in the new building on May 20, 1850. In 1860, Stephen A. Douglas made a speech from the steps of the court house to a large gathering.

After 1918 when the city moved its offices to another building, Singleton's structure served as a court house only. In 1958 what was to be a temporary addition was erected to make room for two more court rooms.

In 1960 General Douglas MacArthur agreed to house his papers and memorabilia in Norfolk, and the city offered the soon to be vacated court house for the purpose. Douglas MacArthur was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on January 26, 1880, the son of Arthur MacArthur (1845-1912), a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army and Mary Pinckney Hardy of Norfolk (a memorial to MacArthur's mother was erected on the site of the Hardy family home "Riveredge" in the Berkley section of the city in 1953 - thus MacArthur always felt close to Norfolk and felt it appropriate for his final resting place). MacArthur was supreme commander for the Allied Powers in the Pacific and on December 19, 1944, he became a general of the army. He later became Commander of United Nations forces in Korea, from which position he was dismissed by President Truman in 1951 for disobedience.

Architects William and Geoffrey Platt of New York City designed the new interior; Norfolk architect Finlay Ferguson was the architectural coordinator, and E. T. Gresham was the contractor. The exterior was left as it was, but the interior was gutted. The memorial opened informally in January, 1964, and was to have been officially dedicated by MacArthur in May, 1964, but he died on April 5, 1964. His body lay in state in the rotunda of the memorial on Friday, April 10; the funeral service was held on Saturday, April 11, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and the body interred under the dome of the rotunda in the Memorial.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bancroft, Raymond L., "Norfolk's Memorial to an Old Soldier," Norfolk Virginian-Pilot (Sunday, Jan. 19, 1963), Section B, p.1.
 Burton, H. W., The History of Norfolk, Virginia. Norfolk: Norfolk Virginian Job Print, 1877.
 Forrest, William S., Norfolk, Virginia, Philadelphia: 1853.
 Jenkins, John B., Jr., "Norfolk's Classic Landmark---City Hall on the 'Public Square,'" Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, (Sunday, May 3, 1953), Part 2, Page 5.
 Newspaper Files, Sargeant Memorial Room, Kirn Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia.
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, N. Y.: Walker & Co., Inc., 1968

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 50' 50"	76° 17' 20"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: August 2, 1971

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

<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>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ James W. Moody, Jr., Director Title <u>Va. Historic Landmarks Commission</u> Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: _____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS



N
7.

(NORFOLK NORTH)

NEWPORT NEWS FERRY 5.5 MI.

76°17'30"

OCEAN VIEW 6 MI.

126,000 FEET

36°52'30"

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Norfolk South, Va. 1955

GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR MEMORIAL
Latitude 36° 50' 50"
Longitude 76° 17' 20"

