

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP-2/26/70

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Leesburg Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Leesburg

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
See continuation sheet.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Loudoun	CODE 107
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Sits <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Various ownership - public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Leesburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Leesburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **c.1934, 1937** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Loudoun

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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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 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 Old and Historic Leesburg District includes "all areas encompassed by the original town as the boundaries are shown on a map designated 'Grays New Map of Leesburg,' drawn from special surveys in the year 1878 and located in the town of Leesburg Zoning Office." The exact legal description of the boundaries may be found in Article 10A, section 1, of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Leesburg as amended March 31, 1968. The district covers approximately thirty-six blocks or portions of blocks which conform to a rough grid plan and takes in the central and major portion of the modern town of Leesburg.

Near the center of the district is the court square which is surrounded by architecturally agreeable commercial and administrative structures of mostly nineteenth century origin. The court house is located near the intersection of King and Market Streets which are the principal commercial streets. The remaining streets in the district are almost entirely residential and contain a harmonious assemblage of townhouse types dating from the late-eighteenth century through the twentieth century. The visual quality and charm of the streets is enhanced by an abundance of large shade trees, brick sidewalks, and pleasant, well maintained yards. The approaches to the town from the north and west are as yet largely unspoiled, but those from the south and especially the east are badly marred by vulgar commercial development. Leesburg is surrounded by what it considered to be some of the most beautiful countryside on the eastern seaboard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 town of Leesburg was established in 1758 by an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia authorizing Nicholas Minor to sell lots from a sixty acre tract surrounding his tavern. The town was to serve as the county seat for the newly formed Loudoun County. A committee of three men had been appointed a year earlier to lay out "proper streets" and their report, which still exists, forms the basis for the present layout of the community. The settlement had been known as Georgetown in honor of King George II until the county was formed in 1758, and the name was changed to Leesburg in honor of Francis Lightfoot Lee.

The town grew significantly during its first several decades, but expansion slowed considerably from the War Between the States to the post-World War II era. As a result, Leesburg possesses an important collection of structures dating from the late-eighteenth century through the early-nineteenth century, most of which are well maintained. Especially notable structures include the following: The Laurel Brigade Inn, an early stone tavern still in operation; Osburn's Tavern, scene of a reception for Lafayette during his visit in 1825; the "Old Tavern," an architecturally distinguished structure built in the late-eighteenth century; and the County Office Building, a dignified Greek Revival building erected circa 1844 as the Leesburg Academy. The brick Classic Revival Loudoun County Court House was completed in 1895 on the site of two previous court houses. Also located in the town is the significant site of the Old Stone Church, demolished in 1900. The lot, which was purchased by the Methodists on May 11, 1766, was the first property owned by the Methodists in America.

The numerous early dwellings and commercial buildings, along with the structures cited, combine to make Leesburg one of the best preserved and most picturesque communities in Virginia. Fortunately the historic integrity and scenic quality of the town have received protection through historic zoning established in recent years.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hanson, Raus McDill, Virginia Place Names: Derivations, Historical Uses. Verona, Va.: McClure Press, 1969.
 Head, James W., History and Comprehensive Description of Loudoun County, Virginia. Park View Press, 1908.
 Templeman, Eleanor Lee and Nan Netherton, Northern Virginia Heritage. Privately published, 1966.
 "Walking Tour of Leesburg, Virginia." Leesburg, Va.: Potomac Press, 1967.

F B I N E T 1 5 7 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 3

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	39°	07'	14"	77°	34'	22"	0		
NE	39°	07'	14"	77°	33'	32"	0		
SE	39°	06'	34"	77°	33'	32"			
SW	39°	06'	34"	77°	34'	22"			

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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: October 15, 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 Edw. P. Alexander by John

Title Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date December 2, 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

(Continuation Sheet)

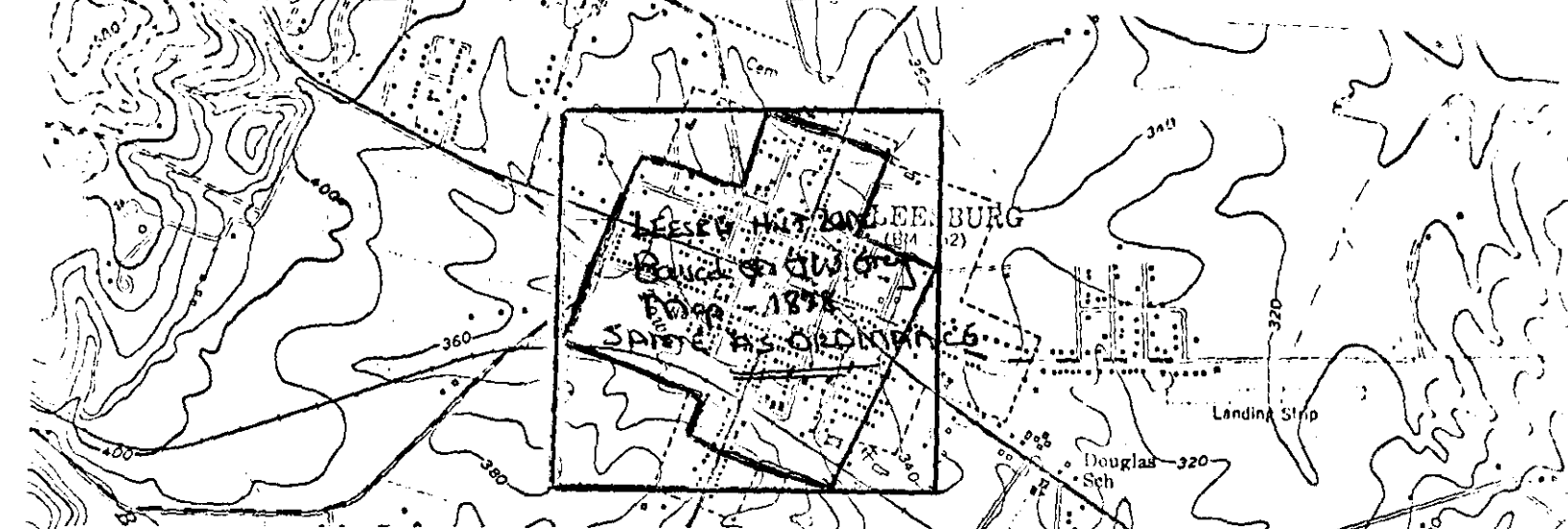
STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Loudoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

- 6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #253-1
1969 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

- 2. In order to preserve the unique cultural heritage represented by the original section of the town, there is hereby established in the Town of Leesburg a district to be known as the "Old and Historic Leesburg District" which shall include all areas encompassed by the original town as the boundaries are shown on a map designated "Grays New Map of Leesburg," drawn from special surveys in the year 1878 and located in the Town of Leesburg Zoning Office. The boundaries are as follows:
"Beginning on the east at the intersection of Loudoun and Market Streets and running northeast parallel to Church Street to the intersection of a line in projection of North Street; thence northwest in a straight line to and along North Street to the intersection of Church Street; thence northeast in a straight line parallel to King Street to the intersection of a line in projection of Union Street; thence in a straight line northwest to and along Union Street to the intersection of a line in extension of Liberty Street; thence southwest in a straight line to the intersection of Liberty and North Streets; thence northwest in a straight line in extension of North Street until intersecting a line in projection of Ayr Street; thence southwest to and along Ayr Street to a point 100 feet southwest of the intersection of Ayr Street and Town Branch Creek; thence in a straight line in extension of South Street southeast to a point 200 feet west of King Street, still on an extension of South Street; thence in a straight line southwest parallel to King Street to a point 500 feet south of the railroad; thence east across King Street in a straight line parallel to South Street for 1700 feet; thence northeast in a straight line parallel to King Street to the intersection of Loudoun and Market Streets."



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
 Leesburg, Va.-Md. (1952)

(USES GANN'S
 Map of 1878
 for Boundaries)

Leesburg Preservation Zone

Latitude	Longitude
NW 39° 07' 14"	77° 34' 22"
NE 39° 07' 14"	77° 33' 32"
SE 39° 06' 34"	77° 33' 32"
SW 39° 06' 34"	77° 34' 22"

TO: Dranning on Top Map
 PEC
 270471
 29-March

