

002-5056

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

VLR-2/15/77
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lewis Brooks Hall of Natural History

AND/OR COMMON

Brooks Hall, University of Virginia (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

50 yards NE of the Rotunda,

STREET & NUMBER

University of Virginia Grounds

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

(In City)

CODE

540

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME University of Virginia c/o Dr. Frank Hereford, President

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

STATE
Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE
Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brooks Hall is a three story structure with a basement and partial attic. At the front is a vestibule/stair hall with its original walnut stair intact. Behind, incorporating the majority of the interior, was a large exhibition hall originally open through two stories with projecting balconies on the second level. The third floor held another exhibition space. Recently (c. 1958) the second level was filled in, and all three stories divided to create classrooms and offices. The original cast-iron columns are still visible but the infilling of the second floor has necessitated the introduction of exposed structural steel in the first floor and basement. The basement retains its original division but it, like all areas, has received cosmetic changes.

On the exterior, the building reveals itself as a fine example of the Second Empire Style. The materials are brick with stone trim. There are three bays on the front and rear, and six on each side. The front has a projecting entrance pavilion topped by a steep mansard roof with a cast-iron cresting at the top; the sides have projecting end pavilions flanking the four-bay recessed center. The first- and second-story windows are united under semicircular arches flanked by pilaster strips. Each of the stone archivolt in the corner bays have keystones carved in the shape of an animal head. The entrance doorway has a semicircular arch supported on two pink granite columns. Approach to the building is by massive curving stone steps. The third floor line is marked by a stone band embossed with the names of famous natural scientists. The third-story windows are set under segmental stone arches, again with brick pilaster strips and animal-head keystones in the corner bays. There is a brick cornice with dentils, and two brick chimneys on each side. The whole building is topped with a steep hipped roof.

A complete set of presentation and working drawings is available in the University of Virginia archives.

MR

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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

1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John R. Thomas (1848-1901)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brooks Hall occupies a unique place in the history and fabric of the University of Virginia. It was donated to the University as a museum of natural history by Lewis Brooks (1793-1877), a Rochester philanthropist. Brooks left the coordination of the project to Henry A. Ward (1834-1906), a well known authority on natural history collections. Brooks Hall was one of the earliest natural history museums in the United States. The museum illustrates a central preoccupation of the age, an interest in Darwinian evolution and the new world of science.

Further, the building is one of two university structures (the other is the Chapel) that is in a late nineteenth-century eclectic style: here a freely interpreted example of the Second Empire Style. Its architect was John R. Thomas (1848-1901) from Rochester, New York. He built many eclectic styled buildings, and was called, in the 1899 edition of the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, "America's leading architect." Three of his most famous buildings are the Squad A 8th Regiment National Guard Armory, New York City (1890); the Hall of Records, New York City (1896); and the Calvary Baptist Church (1882) also in New York. If his fame has been eclipsed it is mostly because of the disfavor in which Victorian architecture has been held until recently.

Finally, Brooks Hall occupies an important physical place on the University Grounds. It is the focal point for the northeast section of the Grounds, being the first university building that is seen coming west on University Avenue. The building forms, with its surrounding trees, a pleasant boundary to this thoroughfare. The selection of the site for Brooks Hall indicates that the north approach to the Rotunda and Lawn was becoming the dominant entrance to the University in the late nineteenth century. Although there is considerable interest in its preservation, the building is slated for demolition by 1980.

MR

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Brooks Hall Stands Vacant Awaiting Fate", Cavalier Daily, University of Virginia, September 12, 1975.
- James, Anthony O. "Brooks Museum at the University of Virginia: An Architectural, Historical, and Adaptive Use Study." Paper. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia, 1975.
- Leslie, Frank. "The Lewis Brooks Museum of Natural Sciences." Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. 1878, p.29. University of Virginia Manuscripts Department.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	7 1 9 2 0 0	4 2 1 2 5 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

NAME / TITLE

(1) Mark Reinberger, Undergraduate Student of Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

University of Virginia School of Architecture

DATE

December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Campbell Hall

TELEPHONE

(804) 924-3715

CITY OR TOWN

Charlottesville

STATE

Virginia 22903

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

2/15/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 9, 11 PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Students Design Brooks Museum Uses", Cavalier Daily, University of Virginia,
November 19, 1975.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission February 1977
221 Governor Street (804) 786-3143
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Phordon

Farmington

Edman Forest

Cem.

Round Top

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)
Charlottesville West, Va. 1973

BROOKS HALL, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA,
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

UTM References:

A - 17/719200/4212520

Buckingham Circle

McComick Observatory

SOUTHERN STRAHLING AVE

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Johnson (Sch)

CHESAPEAKE

Institute of Textile Technology

Hollick Self

ALBEMARLE CO
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY

University Hall

Lumber Field

Athletic Field

UNIV OF VIRGINIA

Cent

BM 515

Scott Stadium

2'30"

4213

4211

SHADYVILLE 14 M.
MADISON 27 M.
16 MI. TO U.S. 15

4211