VLR-9/16/82 NPS Form 10-900 (7-81)

NRHP-2/10/83

OMB NO. 4524-0018

EXP. 12/31/84

For NPS use only

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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3. Clas	sification			
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7. Description Condition — excellent — y good — ruins — fair Check one X unaltered — altered — moved date N/A — moved Check one X original site — moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Augusta Military Academy is situated on 19 acres of rolling land north of Staunton in Augusta County. The Augusta Military Academy complex is distinguished by the Main Barracks designed by architect T.J. Collins in 1915. The large, battlemented Gothic design and the materials of the building follow the example of the Main Barracks at the Virginia Military Institute designed by Alexander Jackson Davis. The Academic Hall/Gymnasium unit, in the neo-Gothic style, further complements the property. The Academy's buildings are grouped in three units, the Main Barracks, Mess Hall/Library/ Deanes Castle Dormitory, and the Academic Hall/Gymnasium, around a wide circular drive forming a cohesive academic and residential complex.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Main Barracks

The imposing Main Barracks is the focal point of the Augusta Military Academy complex. The building which serves as the cadets's residence stands at the north end of the entrance drive facing the parade field. Constructed in 1915 by Staunton architect T.J. Collins, the building is inspired in its design and choice of materials by the Main Barracks at the Virginia Military Institute. The three-story structure is composed of rough stuccoed walls above a limestone-faced first story in the tower. The rectangular building with an interior quadrangle is dominated by an off-center, four-story entrance tower. Balancing the tower are the projecting east and west ends of the facade. A battlemented parapet roof crowns the building. Fenestration throughout consists of 6/6 double-hung sash.

Entrance to the quadrangle is provided through a broad recessed elliptical arch containing wide double doors with the words "AD ASTRA PER ASPERA" cast in concrete overhead. Centered above the arch is a large curved eagle supporting a semi-hexagonal bay window.

Balconies with iron railings and octagonal shaped columns circle the courtyard and provide access to the cadets's rooms. The interior rooms are treated with concrete floors and terrazo, stucco walls.

Mess Hall/Library/Deanes Castle Dormitory

Directly east of the Barracks is the Mess Hall/Library/Deanes Castle Dormitory grouping. Originally two structures, the Mess Hall and Library have been joined by a two-story hyphen. This wing is undistinguished with the exception of a cupola at the center of its gable roof. The Mess Hall is a simple one-story frame building with its primary entrance in the gable end. The Library is the earliest of the Academy's buildings. Constructed in 1879 as a residence for Charles Summerville Roller, the founder of the Augusta Military Academy, the two-story, double-pile building is sheathed in German siding and covered by a hipped, slate shingle roof decorated with a paired bracket cornice. Intersecting the roof along the facade is a center peak gable. A paneled door flanked by sidelights in the center bay serves as the main entrance. Directly above in the second story is a Palladian-type window. A single story porch which has been enclosed on its east and west bays stretches across the facade sheltering the entrance. Fenestration on all elevations consists of 1/1 double-hung sash.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X 1900-	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — X architecture — art — commerce — communications	community planning conservation economics X education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature X military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1897, 1910, 1915, 1929	Builder/Architect Main	Barracks by T.J. Col	 Llins

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Founded by Confederate veteran and state delegate Charles Summerville Roller in 1879, Augusta Military Academy is the oldest military preparatory school in the Commonwealth. The dominant architectural feature of its interesting complex of early-to-mid 20th-century institutional buildings is the imposing Main Barracks, designed by T.J. Collins and Sons of Staunton in a battlemented Gothic style and completed in 1915. Collins's design closely follows in both its materials and proportions its prototype, Alexander Jackson Davis's Main Barracks at Virginia Military Institute. In the wake of World War I and General John J. Pershing's report to Congress in 1920 recommending the early military training of American youth, the Academy formed the first Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in the nation and subsequently achieved an international reputation for excellence in the field of secondary military education.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Charles Summerville Roller, born in the Shenandoah Valley village of Mt. Sidney on May 8, 1839, secured his early education at Parkins Classical School and Mossy Creek Academy before entering the University of Virginia in 1859. At the outbreak of the Civil War he left his undergraduate studies and joined the Confederate forces, serving for much of the duration of the war with Company E, 1st Virginia Regiment under the command of General J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry.

When the War was over, a most pressing need in the Fort Defiance community was for the resumption of some form of schooling. Four years or more had passed since most of the area's youth had seen a school book or blackboard. Mr. Roller, aware of the situation, promptly went to work teaching boys, many of them veterans of the war, in a simple, red brick structure (now demolished) which formerly stood on the property of Old Stone Church (NRHP August 18, 1977).

Roller's services to the community did not go unrewarded; he was elected to serve in the Virginia Legislature from 1871-1873. In his absence, education in the Fort Defiance area came to a standstill and he returned to Augusta County with renewed determination to establish a proper school for boys, soon to be denominated the "Augusta Male Academy."

In 1878 Roller chose a site three hundred yards above the west side of the toll road adjoining the Old Stone Church (now U.S. Route 11) as the place upon which to build his residence and Academy. In selecting this site for his residence, which was completed in 1879 as the Academy's first building, he broke with the prevailing custom of building as close to the toll road as possible. He made no apologies for his choice, stating emphatically that it was impractical to build a school for boys so close to the road.

9. Major Bi	bliographica	l Refer	ences	See Cor	ntinuation Sheet #	:5)
Augusta Military Ac Curry, Charles. '' Augusta Milita	cademy, <u>Catalog</u> (1883) The Founder of Augus ary Academy, May 8, .T.C. Manual. Harri	8-89; 1911- ta Military 1930.	I2). Academy.'	' The Bay	onet, Fort Defian	ice,
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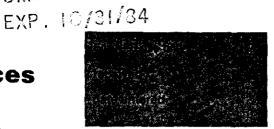
United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY, AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The interior of the building has been altered, however, the center hall retains its original quarter-turn, open-string, stair with heavy turned newel and molded handrail.

Deanes Castle Dormitory, east of the library, is connected to that structure by a single-story hyphen. The two-story weatherboarded building stands on a raised basement and terminates in a stepped parapet roof. A two-level porch with squared posts and balusters runs the length of the facade, opening off of the rooms of the lower school students.

Standing a few feet further east is the Davis Dormitory completed in 1965. The utilitarian design of the two-story concrete building with brick veneer does not contribute to the complex.

Gymnasium/Academic Hall

The eastern border of the Augusta Military Academy complex is defined by the Gymnasium/Academic Hall. Built in the neo-Gothic-style, the design of the buildings reflects the design of the Main Barracks. This grouping consists of three sections, the original gymnasium (north) now the Academic Hall built in 1910 and the present Gymnasium built in 1929, connected by a swimming pool which was originally open but has been enclosed and covered with a classroom. The buildings are constructed of brick on concrete foundations. Both the Academic Hall and the Gymnasium have buttresses between the multi-paned sash window openings. The Gymnasium has limestone quoins accenting its corners. Parapet roofs complete the compositions. The entrance of the Gymnasium is the most elaborate with three double doors set into Tudor arches below cast concrete ornamentation. All the other entrances in the unit consist of single doors. The interior of the Gymnasium displays a hardwood floor with a stage on its east wall and a viewing balcony containing simple folding seats on the opposite wall. A nine-point rifle range and dressing rooms are located on the lower level.

The interior of the Academic Hall is finished with a wainscoting composed of narrow vertical panels. The original gym has been converted into a classroom but its exposed beam and truss roof and tongue and groove paneled ceiling are intact.

The buildings are connected by numerous paved walks and a circular drive which cut across the well-shaded lawn. The entrance drive and parade field define the western perimeter of the grounds.

MPM/RM

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Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Over the next eighteen years Professor Roller constructed additional units for **the** Academy's programs and by 1897, a group of frame buildings stood in a line parallel to the Valley Pike occupying the same space now filled by the brick collegiate structures which replaced them. The original frame buildings were specifically designed for Academy use, and for their time, were quite satisfactory. On the left side of the Roller home was constructed a large wooden tower which served as an armory. A two-story wing was added to the right of the Roller home; the first floor of which was designed to serve as the Academy dining room. Although it has been enlarged and completely remodeled numerous times, the Roller home with its original Academy dining room is still in use today.

Because many of Professor Roller's first students were veterans, a military-type discipline for the classroom offered the simplest means of control, success with which encouraged the founder to introduce a complete military system between 1880 and 1882. The only precedent for such a venture in Virginia was the operation of Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, which itself followed the system of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. In the Academy's early years all the instructors at Augusta were V.M.I. graduates, and for classes in military instruction the prescribed War Department manuals were used. By 1888 the name Augusta Classical and Military Academy was adopted and then again in 1890 the name was changed to the present Augusta Military Academy.

During the 19th century the War Department took no interest in Academy proceedings other than to threaten prosecution of anyone who impersonated an officer. The Academy was very careful to substitute the initials "A.M.A." for the official "U.S." wherever it appeared on a uniform. In all other forms, the uniforms of Academy officers and cadets prior to 1900 closely resembled the uniforms worn by the Union Army in the Civil War. The rifles were furnished by the Commonwealth of Virginia and were an exact pattern of the infantry musket used by the Confederate Army. The uniforms and rifles constituted "full equipment" for the military department.

The majority of cadets in the early days were day students, who either walked or rode to the Academy for morning classes and returned to their homes in the evening after drill. A round trip might exceed eight miles on foot and double that distance on a horse or mule. Thus, only a small minority at first enjoyed the advantages of barracks life. The total number of cadets in attendance at Augusta never exceeded eighty-nine during the years of Professor Roller's principalship. As time went by, it became obvious that the only way in which the school could exist or expand was to build up the number of boarding students, and each June as the academic year ended, Professor Roller would ride through the valley and surrounding highlands of Virginia and West Virginia in search of new recruits.

Early Academy catalogs such as the one of 1888-89 listed expenses in dollar and cents:

For board, washing, fuel, lights and instruction in all branches taught in the school, \$225 per session, payable strictly in advance, or, if preferred, \$125 at entering and \$100 on the 15th day of January 1889.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Special arrangements could be made, however, to pay part or all the fees in farm products or animals, particularly for boys coming from the hills of West Virginia whose communities lacked both money and schools. It was not uncommon for mountaineers and farmers to drive livestock or haul produce over a hundred miles to pay for their sons' schooling.2

Upon the death of Professor Roller on August 26, 1907 at the age of sixty-eight, it was disclosed that he had died intestate, with the property descending to his four children, each of whom received a 25% share of the Academy. The Roller family soon came to an agreement which provided for the two youngest Roller boys to remain at Augusta and to develop it as a memorial to their father. Control of the Academy was placed in the hands of Thomas J. Roller and Charles S. Roller, Jr., with Dr. William C. Roller relinquishing his 25% interest for certain terms agreeable to him, and Maggie Bell Roller waiving her interest for certain terms, including life-long possession of the Roller home on the Academy grounds.

With the problem of family control thus settled to the satisfaction of all concerned, it remained for the two to prepare a plan for the modernization and expansion of the Academy. The first task to be accomplished was the assignment of duties to the coprincipals according to their respective abilities. Thomas J. Roller (1877-1946) assumed the rank of Colonel, and the duties of Headmaster and Business Manager. Charles S. Roller, Jr. (1879-1963) assumed the rank of Major and the duties of Commandant and Director of Athletics. The brothers next sought to double the school's enrollment, beginning with the revision of the school catalog, which until then consisted of a small pamphlet of some fitty pages with few exceptions. By 1911 the catalog had grown to eighty-five pages and was printed on expensive paper with many illustrations. With no electric lighting and no centralized system of heating or plumbing, the third and most important phase of the expansion was the modernization of the Academy's physical plant, including the construction of all new buildings of brick.

The first new building was ready for use by September, 1910 and provided for a gymnasium and large assembly hall seating the entire Corps of Cadets, while housing the new electric lighting system and a swimming pool. The A.M.A. Catalog of 1911-12 described the structure as:

> ...one of a kind, containing not only elaborately equipped class rooms, but also in the third story a splendid gymnasium and dancing hall, and on the lowest floor a swimming pool, shower baths, a hundred lockers and a bowling alley. Here also are located the electric light plant and the boiler room, which heats the building and the entire barracks. Around and above the gymnasium floor is the running track (22 laps to the mile) so perfect in design and construction as to be a veritable monument to the builders art. The gymnasium itself has been pronounced by competent judges to be the best in the State. The floor is of No. 1 maple, the very finest obtainable. The entire interior of the building is beautifully finished in yellow pine carefully selected and ordered from various Southern States, and abundant light is furnished by the most modern acetylene gas and electric equipment. The exterior dimensions are seventy six by fifty feet. The appearance from without is very imposing

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

and picturesque, the alternating concrete work, brick and cement blocks producing a red and white effect far prettier than a solid color would be. The walls are massively substantial, those of the concrete foundation especially so.

The S.E. Tariff Association described the light plant to its patron as a "direct current incandescent system; Westinghouse dynamo; marble switchboard; Westinghouse instruments; equipment complete and up to standard." 3

With the completion of the main Academic Hall (now referred to as the Gymnasium/ Academic complex for this report) the number of applicants for admission to the Academy began to increase. By 1913 it became obvious that the three or four small wooden buildings which housed the boarding students were inadequate. In response to the growing need for new residential facilities, plans were drawn up by T.J. Collins and Sons, Staunton, Virginia, for a fire-proof, concrete and tile barracks modeled after the main barracks at Virginia Military Institute, although on a reduced scale, capable of accommodating 300 cadets. The new barracks also made necessary the construction of a separate and enlarged centralized heating plant, to replace the boiler housed in Academic Hall. Delays in construction of the building known today as "Big Barracks" postponed completion until October 6, 1915. The parade ground and football field (or "Clay Bowl") situated in front of Main Barracks, was also graded and completed in 1915.

As annual enrollment through the 1920s reached a level consistently exceeding 250 cadets, the facilities of Academic Hall became overcrowded and the decision was made in the summer of 1928 to erect a new gymnasium with ample facilities and equipment for all types of sports, and to remodel the old gymnasium into an assembly room able to seat the enlarged Corps. Final plans called for a building housing the largest preparatory school gymnasium in the South and equipped with shower and locker rooms, a rifle range, bowling alley, athletic supply rooms, and an enclosed swimming pool with chlorinated water and steam heat. Dedication of the Charles S. Roller, Sr. Memorial Gymnasium took place on Friday evening, March 22, 1929.

Although prior to 1900 the United States Government had no connection with the military preparatory schools, the War Department from 1900 to 1920 did arrange to loan the military academies rifles and other surplus infantry equipment on bond of the owners or trustees. The first major federal involvement followed upon General John J. Pershing's report to Congress in 1920 which resulted in the major changes to the National Defense Act of 1916. Pershing's report recommended the early training of the youth of the nation, including the formation of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) to be divided into senior and junior divisions. These divisions were designed to provide a reservoir of trained officers for the Army in case of national emergency through peace time instruction at universities, colleges and in the phrase of the legislators "certain other schools."

Augusta Military Academy was the first military preparatory school in the nation to apply for and receive a Junior Division of the Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1921. By War Department interpretation, A.M.A. qualified as essentially a military school and was eligible on two other points, average age of graduates being less than 21 years and

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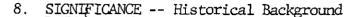
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AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY, AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA Continuation sheet #5

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non-granting of degrees. Participation in the national program caused very little change in the daily routine of the school.

Following the years of expansion, A.M.A. prospered and became a school of international repute. When Thomas J. Roller died on March 10, 1946, his brother and coprincipal Charles S. Roller, Jr., assumed all responsibilities for the school, including supervision of subsequent building campaigns. The year 1946 saw the dedication of a new science hall as part of the Academic Hall. In 1959 a new Mess Hall kitchen was built. Expansions in 1961 resulted in the completion of new classrooms above the swimming pool and in 1963 a new stairway was erected on the back of the Main Barracks.

Charles S. Roller, Jr. died on March 16, 1963 and title to the A.M.A. property passed to his wife, Janet S. Roller, his granddaughter, Linda Mooreman Roller Livick, and his granddaughter's husband, Malcolm Harris Livick. Following the death of Mrs. Janet S. Roller in October 1969, Augusta Military Academy was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1976 and received non-profit tax-exempt status from the I.R.S. in 1977.

Interest among loyal alumni in landmark registration is keen and it is hoped that official recognition of the Academy's statewide architectural and historic significance will assist in efforts to preserve the unique character of the institution.

RM/RAC

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

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Kito. Memphis: Memphis University School, (Class of 1904).
Pershing, John J. Final Report of General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief, American Expeditionary Forces. Washington, DC: The War Department, 1920.

Recall, Centennial Year. Fort Defiance, Virginia: Augusta Military Academy, 1965.

¹From the records of the Clerk, Keeper of the Rolls of the State, House of Delegates, Richmond, Virginia.

²Interviews with C.S. Roller, Jr., and Mrs. Maggie Bell Roller Robinson, June 1947.

³Kito (Memphis: Memphis University School, Class of 1904), p. 20.

⁴John J. Pershing, Final Report of General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief, American Expeditionary Forces (Washington, D.C.: The War Department, 1920), pp. 13-15.

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Continuation sheet #6

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the W side of US 11, approximately 1500' SW of the intersection of VA 616 and US 11; thence extending approximately 750' SSW along W side of US 11; thence extending approximately 750' NW to a point on the E side of private drive; thence extending approximately 750' NE, 550' along E side of private drive; thence extending approximately 750' ESE to point of origin on W side of US 11.

