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	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTE	DINDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATE OTHER:
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7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Middlesex County Courthouse, located on U.S. Route 17 in Saluda, is the central building in a complex of county office buildings consisting of the courthouse, clerk's office, and jail. A Confederate Civil War monument completes the classic Virginian courthouse square bounded by a low, Flemish-bond brick wall. The courthouse building, erected in 1852, is an example of the Virginia temple-form, arcaded courthouse plan.

The two-and-a-half story, rectangular structure is executed in Flemish-bonded brick, in a "T"-shaped plan. The rear section of the "T" plan was added in the 1920s. The three bays of the Tuscan pedimented-gable facade contain a first-story arcaded loggia, one bay in depth, consisting of five rounded arches. The arches are painted white, the color of the building's wooden exterior trim. Within the arcade, twin double doorways with simple architrave trim lead into the courtroom. All the windows contain this simply molded trim, and all retain the original 6/6 sashes. In addition to the Tuscan pediment on the main (south) facade, the building contains similar pediments on both ends of the lateral wing across the rear of the main block. A lunette is in the tympanum of the front pediment. An open arcade connects the original courthouse to a modern, two-story counterpart constructed in 1965. The interior of the courthouse may have originally contained a two-story courtroom with gallery, similar to that found in contemporary examples; unfortunately, the interior has been considerably renovated, and the plan has been altered to conform to present day use.

In the courthouse complex stands the county clerk's office, a one-story, gableroofed, American-bond brick structure built at the same time as the courthouse. Also in the complex, and stylistically contemporary with the other buildings, is the jail, a hip-roof, two-story brick structure laid in American bond. The main facade of three bays contains a transom-lit door surrounded by simple trim. The windows on all elevations contain segmental arches and simple trim. A corbeled brick cornice is carried around the building, broken by segmental arches of the windows.

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PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	<u>X</u> LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITABY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
L1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Middlesex County Courthouse, as built in 1852, is a late but significant example of the arcaded-plan courthouse which had its precedent in Virginia's colonial courthouses and earliest civic buildings. By adopting the arcade plan, the Middlesex County commissioners elected to continue a noble and traditional example of Virginia's brick architecture.

When the Middlesex County Courthouse was erected in 1852, the arcade plan or "townhall" type of courthouse had stylistically been replaced by the Jeffersonian temple-portico courthouse, of which those in Charlotte County (1821-1823) and Lunenburg County (1823-1827) are significant examples. Although two arcade examples, Madison County Courthouse (1829-30) and Sussex County Courthouse (1825-28), parallel in date Jeffersonian examples, the pervasive courthouse building type had become the "temple" porticoed example of the classical revival. The Middlesex County Courthouse is thus a reinterpretation of the colonial-arcade type as the form had stylistically evolved by the early decades of the 19th century.

The county seat was originally located in the colonial seaport of Urbanna. An act of the Virginia General Assembly of March 8, 1849, gave the citizens of Middlesex County the right to vote on moving the courthouse from Urbanna to Saluda. The citizens voted in favor of the move and allocated \$3,000.00 for the courthouse and \$1,000.00 for the jail.

On September 28, 1852, the county commissioners ordered the sheriff to collect a levy from the citizens and pay builder John P. Hill \$1,010.95 as partial payment for the erection of the courthouse building at Saluda. Substantial repairs were made to the courthouse building in November of 1865. William R. Jones received payment for building the jail.

While the courthouse served its appointed function throughout the 19th and well into the 20th century, the rear (north) section was added in the 1920s and the clerk's office was moved into that section in 1931. A new wing, complementing the old courthouse design, was constructed in 1965, and a new jail subsequently was built behind the courthouse complex.

RCC/MTP

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Middlesex County Court Orders (1846-1855). Middlesex County Deed Books (1846-1855).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 ACTES	1
UTM REFERENCES	
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	EASTING NORTHING
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
The 2 acres comprising the Middlesex County Courthouse	property are bounded on the NE by
State Route 674, on the SE by State Route 675, on the S NW by State Route 618. Four buildings, the courthouse	
clerk's office (ca. 1852), and the jail (1852), are inc	
with the Confederate monument.	$(1, 2, \dots, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, \dots, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2,$
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Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Sta	aff
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	March, 1978
STREET& NUMBER 221 Governor Street	TELEPHONE (804) 786-3144
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Richmond	Virginia 23219
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	PORTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY	
NATIONAL STATE	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Pr	
hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify	y that it has been evaluated according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	
STATE HETERIC PRESERVATION OFFICENCY ATURE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATAPR 18 1978
FOR NPS USE ONLY	<u></u>
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL	L REGISTER
	DATE
DIRECTOR. OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

Form No. 10-300a (Kev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Middlesex County Courthouse, Middlesex County, Virginia

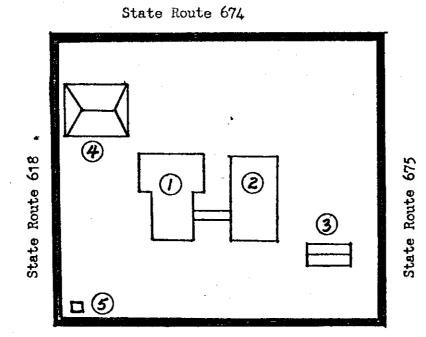
CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

- 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 - Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1970, 1978 State
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

Middlesex County Courthouse Middlesex County, Virginia

Sketch Map - Not to Scale



State Route 33

- 1
- 2
- Courthouse (1852) Woodward Building (1965) Clerk's Office (ca. 1852) Jail (1852) 3 -
- Confederate Monument (1910) 5 -
 - Register Boundaries

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1978

