

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	10/15/66

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
BARRACKS, Virginia Military Institute

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On Route 11 at north edge of Lexington

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE: Virginia 24450 CODE: 51 COUNTY: Rockbridge CODE: 163

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Commonwealth of Virginia

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia 23219 CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Rockbridge Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington STATE: Virginia 24450 CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HABSI

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

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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 type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Formally organized in 1839, the "West Point of the South" was the earliest and has become the best-known of the State-supported military institutions. Its resemblance to the United States Military Academy at West Point is not fortuitous.

Col. Claude Crozet, a brilliant French military engineer who began his military career in the service of Napoleon Bonaparte, is justly known as the father of VMI, for he, more than any other individual, moulded the character of the school. Forced out of the French military service by the downfall of Napoleon, Crozet came to the United States in 1816. On the recommendation of Lafayette and Albert Gallatin, he was appointed assistant professor of engineering at West Point on October 1 of that year, and within six months he was head of the department. Under his influence, engineering instruction became much more systematized and greater emphasis was placed on a thorough ground-work in mathematics.

Leaving West Point in 1823, Crozet served for nine years as State engineer of Virginia, returning again in 1839 after five years of work in Louisiana. Under Crozet's direction, Virginia made great strides in the field of internal improvements.

About the time of Crozet's return to Virginia, the plans for opening a State-supported military school had reached maturity. The site chosen was the State arsenal at Lexington, and there on November 11, 1839, the doors were opened for the first class. At its opening, VMI had a faculty of two men and a corps of 23 cadets. The statute authorizing creation of the institution provided for a military school to give instruction in military science and in other branches of knowledge as well, and further provided that the cadet corps should form the "public guard" of the State arsenal. Aside from those general regulations, the General Assembly left the character and the curriculum of the school in the hands of its board of visitors, of whom Crozet was chosen president.

Under his six-year regime, VMI was moulded closely after the pattern of West Point. The regulations of the earlier institution were adopted almost in toto and the uniform regulations were nearly identical. Because VMI was not primarily designed to train men for professional military careers, the curriculum was not identical with that of West Point; however, military science and mathematics were strongly emphasized at VMI as at the earlier school.

During the next 20 years, as the shadow of civil war grew more threatening, VMI continued to grow and to graduate men destined to win fame in the bloody struggle which lay ahead. The Confederacy was to gain immeasurably in military strength from the support of VMI graduates and faculty, of which latter the immortal "Stonewall" Jackson was one.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 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

Known as the "West Point of the South," VMI was formally organized in 1839, the earliest and best-known of state-supported military institutions. "Stonewall" Jackson taught there before the Civil War, and many VMI graduates served the Confederacy. The present barracks building contains a part of the original barracks, burned by Union troops in 1864. A small building erected in 1848, formerly used as a hospital and a tailor shop, also survives.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thomas M. Spaulding, "Claude Crozet," in Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IV, pp. 580-81; Jennings C. Wise, The Military History of the Virginia Military Institute from 1839 to 1865 (Lynchburg, 1915); "Guide to Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia" (pamphlet, Lexington, n.d.).

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	° ' "	° ' "	37° 47' 24"	79° 26' 8"		
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Frank S. Melvin

ORGANIZATION: Virginia State Office, National Park Service DATE: 6/30/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 10008

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia 23240 CODE: 51

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 _____

Title _____

Date 9/9/69

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 10/15/66

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(Continuation Sheet)

Virginia	
COUNTY	
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7 a. CONT'D.

During the war the institution continued in operation, though with reduced faculty and cadet corps. As the successive classes were graduated, they marched away to join the Confederate armies. At New Market, on May 15, 1864, the cadets added a glorious chapter to the VMI tradition with a charge which materially aided in the defeat of Franz Sigel's invading Union army. The following month, David Hunter's Union troops entered Lexington and burned VMI to the ground.

Reopened after the war, the school continued to grow and to graduate men who have upheld its traditions in peace and in war. Approximately one-tenth of each graduating class receives regular commissions in the Army, Air Force or Marine Corps. In World War I, VMI gave 1,830 trained men to the armed forces, including five general officers. In the Second World War, the number was 4,100, including 62 officers of general or flag rank. Among the illustrious graduates was General of the Army George C. Marshall.

The Virginia Military Institute comprises some 40 major buildings surrounding a large parade ground. As a result of the destruction of the institute in 1854, little remains of the original physical plant. Among the notable buildings are the Barracks, a Gothic-style building consisting of two connecting quadrangles, extending some 500 feet along the east side of the parade ground; Jackson Memorial Hall, an assembly hall for students, which contains a huge painting of the cadet charge at New Market, by Benjamin West Clinedinst; Preston Library, completed in 1939, which contains the VMI museum; Mallory Hall, the Physics building, completed in 1952; Nichols Engineering Hall (1931); William H. Coker Hall, the gymnasium; Scott Shipp Hall, a general academic building, named for the first commandant and second superintendent, who was associated with VMI for 51 years; Maury-Brooke Hall, occupied by the Chemistry Department; and Crozet Hall, the cadet mess hall. A part of the original barracks building is incorporated in the present barracks, and a small building which served as a hospital and as a tailor shop still remains from the period of the institute's beginnings.

b. BOUNDARIES: The Barracks is a most prominent building on the campus of Virginia Military Institute which is located off Route 11 on the northern edge of Lexington, Virginia.