

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Rockbridge
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Virginia Military Institute
AND/OR HISTORIC: Virginia Military Institute

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
STATE Virginia	CODE	COUNTY: Rockbridge	CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" 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) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Superintendent (for VMI and the Commonwealth of Virginia)	STATE Virginia
STREET AND NUMBER: Virginia Military Institute	
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington	
STATE: Virginia	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Rockbridge County Courthouse, Deedbook K, p. 74, K, p. 389.	COUNTY:
STREET AND NUMBER: Corner of Main and Washington	
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington	
STATE: Virginia	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None	FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE: Virginia	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input 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 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

The historic district encompasses a considerable area of the Virginia Military Institute. It is of varied composition, an ensemble of historic and architectural values and associations; and a complex of buildings constructed during the most historic period, 1839-1862, and continually thereafter to the present time. The buildings are mostly neo-Gothic, mixing the subsidiary styles variously known as collegiate, academic, military, cathedral, and Tudor Gothic. In nearly all buildings there is evidenced the conscious attempt to repeat such features as the battlemented parapets. The historic district is shown in the accompanying ground plan. The following buildings, the most important within the district, are keyed to that plan.

I. From the Founding until the War, 1839-62 is the most important time from the standpoint of the historical development of the school as an institute of military training. It is at this time that VMI shared with Norwich Academy the esteem of being the model for the State and private military schools forming then and to the present day. The following buildings date from that period.

1. The Barracks: Already a National Historic Landmark, the original part was designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1850-51. Bombarded and partly destroyed during the Civil War, it was rebuilt shortly afterward. It was redesigned in 1892 by Isaac Eugene Alexander Rose, added to, and completed by 1900. Central to Rose's work was the reorientation of the front facade from the original Washington Arch to the Jackson Memorial Arch looking onto the parade ground. In 1916 the Barracks was redesigned and augmented by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue. Goodhue provided for the completion of the Barracks quadrangle. In 1948, the firm of Carneal and Johnson designed a new wing for the Barracks.

2. Commandant's Quarters (Matthew Fontaine Maury House): Also designed by A. J. Davis in 1850-51, construction was completed in 1852. It is the only one of the five Davis buildings at VMI which is asymmetrical. The house consists of a basement, two stories, one room on the third story of the tower. The house is surmounted by a battlemented parapet with corbelled brick band in a serrated pattern. The central block consists of an octagonal saloon, three bays front with center door, and the 3-story tower flush to the east side of the octagonal block. An east and west wing each of two bays extend off from the central block. An octagonal bay extends off the west parlor and a side entrance hall extends from the east dining room. The tudor-arched windows and doors are surmounted by tudor-arched hood-moulding. Above basement level the wall construction is brick with stuccoed (float) finish. Although burned in 1864 as the result of General Hunter's raid, the doors and windows appear to be original. Structurally the house is intact. In 1914, Goodhue moved the building back from the historic parade ground a short distance and reconstructed the A. J. Davis design which apparently had not changed much in the interim.

(Continued)

8. 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)

(not applicable) 1818-1914

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Philosophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itarian☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Formally organized in 1839, the "West Point of the South" was the earliest and has become perhaps the best known of the State-supported military colleges. Its resemblance to the United States Military Academy at West Point is not fortuitous. During the 20 years prior to the Civil War, VMI graduated men destined to win fame in the Civil War that lay ahead. Of its faculty, the most notable was the immortal "Stonewall" Jackson. At New Market, on May 15, 1864, the cadets materially aided in the defeat of Franz Sigel's invading Union Army. In World War I, VMI gave 1,830 trained men to the armed forces, including five general officers. In World War II, the number was 4,100 including 62 officers of general or flag rank. The most illustrious of these was General of the Army George G. Marshall.

History

Colonel 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 the 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 groundwork in mathematics.

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, the 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.

(Continued)

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lyle, Royster, "Three Gothic Residences on the VMI Parade Ground,"
Unpublished, George C. Marshall Research Foundation, Lexington,
Virginia, 1973.

Wise, Jennings C., The Military History of the Virginia Military Institute
from 1839 to 1865, Lynchburg, Virginia, 1915.

Sarles, Frank B., "Inventory Data Sheets," National Survey of Historic
Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	
NW	37°	47'	31"	79°	26'	29"		
NE	37°	47'	31"	79°	25'	48"		
SE	37°	47'	18"	79°	25'	48"		
SW	37°	47'	18"	79°	26'	29"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **60 acres**

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: Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian	
ORGANIZATION Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys, National Park Service.	DATE January 14, 1974
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE District of Columbia
	CODE

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 _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, 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 Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1) Virginia Military Institute

3. Superintendent's Quarters: As with the Commandant's Quarters and Barracks this building bears the American Gothic revival stamp of A. J. Davis. Designed in 1850-51, construction was completed in 1862. Along with the Commandant's Quarters, this building was dismantled in 1914 and faithfully re-erected 104 yards northwest of its original location under Goodhue's direction. The only conspicuous structural change was the elimination of a second-floor balcony around a two-story entrance hall. The house consists of a basement, two stories, one room on the third floor of each of two towers, and two bays where octagonal rooms extend beyond the front of the building. Above basement level the wall construction is brick, stuccoed (float finish). In 1924 improvements were made under supervision of Carneal and Johnston, architects and engineers of Richmond; in 1931 the Institute's administrative offices were moved from the east wing to the Engineering Building. These rooms were converted to a guest suite. More recently the building has received further improvements, and some wooden floors replaced. Fireproofing provisions have also been added.

4. Pendleton-Coles House: The design of this faculty residence is attributed to Alexander Jackson Davis and construction dated in the early 1850's. This coincides with the period when Davis was designing faculty residences for the Institute across the Parade Ground, and it was during this period that he visited Lexington. Local folklore has it that plans for this house were adapted from those for one of Davis' cottage designs. The house, resembling the rustic Gothic cottage style of Davis, is a typical example of a style popular during the mid-19th century, though not at all prevalent in the region of the Valley of Virginia. Its outstanding features are the arched windows with diamond panes and the decorative bargeboard around the gables.

5. Old Hospital: Little is known of this building except that it was constructed in 1848 and served as a hospital at one time and a tailor shop at another. Today it is used for storage. A rectangular two-story brick building with center hall plan, it has a cedar shaked gable roof with front leanto extension above a two-tiered porch and inside end chimneys serving fireplaces at both levels.

6. "Stono": This was the residence of John Jordan, builder of VMI, Washington and Lee University's Centre Hall, contractor to the State Arsenal at Lexington, and most prominent builder of the Rockbridge region. "Stono" is Roman Revival in style and the earliest verified neoclassical structure west of the Blue Ridge. A simplified version of Jeffersonian classicism, it has a central portion of temple form, its proportions tall and slender. The portico consists of a double porch and steeply rising pediment resting on four graceful Tuscan columns. On either side of the center section are two low, one story wings.

(Continued)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (2) Virginia Military Institute

7. New Hospital: Built in the 1850s by John Jordan as a house for his son, Samuel F. Jordan, the building was taken over by VMI and used as the Institute's hospital.

8. Quarters: Two large brick quarters probably built in the 1870s flank the new hospital.

II. The "Hyphen" Area: This is the area on both sides of southern end of Letcher Avenue, so called because of the manner in which it links the two campuses of VMI and Washington and Lee University. That linkage consists entirely of faculty residences dating from antebellum years to the late 19th century. Style and materials are mixed with frame buildings interspersed with brick; and neo-Classic structures with Gothic.

The following are of particular note:

9. Archer House: Built in the 1850s the Archer House was a major faculty residence. A large two-story red- brick building of classic proportions it sits high on a slope, its porch raised above ground level and reached by a flight of stairs.

10. Faculty Residence: This structure, probably built in the 1870's sits just south and next to the Archer House. Also large and handsome with two stories and set on the same slope, it too is entered by a steep flight of stairs which rise to the first level of a two-tiered porch. The roof is hipped with dormers at both ends and double inside chimneys. The windows are elongated with semi-circular arches and the doorway is set in a Tudor-arched opening.

11. Faculty Residence: This building at the east side of Letcher Avenue and Maiden Lane is a classic brick structure with collonaded porch and pediment. It looks like the design of many of the Washington and Lee University Buildings. Indeed, it was one of them but is presently owned by VMI.

12. Faculty Residence: A simple red-brick house on the east side of Letcher Avenue flanked by two frame residences.

13. Faculty Residence: A double house, side to side, located at 313 Letcher Avenue, it is the only frame building of particular attraction and interest.

The long-range plan required by the Commonwealth of Virginia, calls for the demolition of the "hyphen" area. Nevertheless, there is no current active pursuit of this objective.

(Continued)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (3) Virginia Military Institute

III. The Goodhue Design: In 1914, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue designed three faculty residences in the Gothic tradition and aligned them in an arch extending around the north end of the Parade Ground. They demonstrate an admirable compatibility of design with the earlier quarters.

14. Goodhue-designed residences.

15. Jackson Memorial Hall: A fine rendition of compatible neo-Gothic style, designed to frame, along with a building like Scott-Shipp Hall, the original Washington Arch facade of the Barracks.

It should be observed that the boundary of the historic district contains within it buildings which have not been singled out as having special importance. The boundary is more comprehensive because, while many of the buildings included within it are not as "historic" as the ones specified, they do retain a compatibility of scale, material, design, and nexus with the older structures which is essential to the ambience of the historic district.

Boundary: As shown in red on the accompanying map, beginning at the intersection of Letcher Avenue and Maiden Lane, a line, running northwest along Maiden Lane to where it merges with the service road behind the faculty quarters and other buildings facing the Parade Ground and continuing along that service road around "Stono" (John Jordan House) and return in a southeast direction along Stono Lane to the rear property line of Cocke Hall and Annex, Nichols Hall, Preston Library, Mallory Hall, Pendleton-Coles House and the faculty residences fronting on the east side of Letcher Avenue to the conjunction with Maiden Lane, thence northwest along Maiden Lane to the conjunction with Letcher Avenue.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Virginia Military Institute

Under his six-year regime, the 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 the school 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.

During the next 20 years, as the shadow of civil war grew more threatening, the 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 her graduates and faculty, of which latter the immortal "Stonewall" Jackson was one.

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 the institution.

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, the 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.

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME	
COMMON: Commandant's Quarters	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Matthew Fontaine Maury House	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 416 VMI Parade			
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington			
STATE Virginia	CODE	COUNTY: Rockbridge	CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Superintendent, VMI (for the Commonwealth of Virginia)	
STREET AND NUMBER: Virginia Military Institute	
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington	STATE: Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Rockbridge County Courthouse (Deedbook K, p. 74, K, p. 389)	
STREET AND NUMBER: Corner Main and Washington	
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington	STATE: Virginia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <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 </div>
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div> </div>
<small>DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</small>	
<p>As with the original part of the VMI Barracks, already designated a National Historic Landmark, and the Superintendent's Quarters, the Matthew Fontaine Maury House (Commandant's Quarters) bears the American Gothic revival stamp of Alexander Jackson Davis who designed them in 1850-51. Construction of the Maury House was completed in 1852 and is of particular interest because it is the only one of the five Davis buildings originally designed for the Institute which was a symmetrical.</p> <p>The house consists of a basement, two stories, one room on the third story of the tower. The house is surmounted by a battlemented parapet with corbelled brick band in a serrated pattern. The central block consists of an octagonal saloon, three bays front with center door, and the 3-story tower flush to the east side of the octagonal block. An east and west wing (dining room and parlor; bedrooms above) each of two bays extend off from the central block. An octagonal bay extends off the west parlor and a side entrance hall extends from the east dining room. The tudor-arched windows and doors are surmounted by tudor-arched hood-moulding. Overall exterior dimensions are 58' wide and 23' deep. Above basement level the wall construction is brick with stuccoed (float) finish, plastered inside, 17" thick. The rear of the building is exposed brick, painted.</p> <p>A close examination of the woodwork and hardware of the Williamson Quarters make it difficult to believe that most of the doors and windows do not go back to the 1850 construction, in spite of the well-documented fact that the building was burned extensively following General Hunter's raid in June 1864. Structurally the building seems to be very much intact. Since the 1914 reconstruction was done by the same artisans who moved the nearby Superintendent's Quarters, the foundation and other structural forms are similar. The original chimney pots have disappeared and in recent years a front porch was removed. The double front door has been changed to a single door, and certain other minor changes have been made. A few doors have been stored in the basement, and the mantlepiece in the dining room and one upstairs have been removed and apparently lost. Nevertheless, the basic building is very much intact and has much of the same quality of the Superintendent's Quarters as far as strong Gothic features obviously of Davis are concerned.</p> <p>Of special interest is the attractive octagonal front reception room with its outstanding mantle which makes use of the octagonal column form.</p>	

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) 1868-1873

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input checked="" 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

The U.S. Navy continues to bestow its commendation "well done" on Matthew Fontaine Maury for services rendered more than a century ago. Each of the pilot charts issued monthly by the U.S. Naval Oceanographical Offices bears the words "Founded upon the researches made in the early part of the 19th century by Matthew Fontaine Maury, while serving as a lieutenant in the United States Navy." Those researches first emerged in 1847 as his revolutionary Wind and Current Charts followed quickly by his Sailing Directions. These labors alone were sufficient to crown him "Pathfinder of the Seas" and to reward him with the tribute that "no single individual has done more for his fellow man in lessening the hazards of navigation." His charts laid out the best tracks for voyagers to follow and by doing so he "raised sailing from a mere matter of tradition among seamen to a written branch of navigation."*

His study of ocean phenomena led Humboldt to write of his investigations that they had produced an amount of information sufficient to constitute a new department of science called physical geography of the seas. Regarded as the first great oceanographer, his major publication was The Physical Geography of the Sea (1855), a work in which he so effectively recorded the facts then known about the sea, the results of his research, and his theories about the phenomena of the sea that the book came to be recognized as the first textbook of modern oceanography and ran to 19 editions in England. He directed the first accurate and systematic deep-sea soundings resulting in his discovery of the "telegraphic plateau" in the Atlantic enabling the laying of the first Atlantic Cable.

*Charles Lee Lewis, Matthew Fontaine Maury: The Pathfinder of the Seas, Reprint, (New York, 1969), pp. ix and 249.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Williams, Frances Leigh, Matthew Fontaine Maury: Scientist of the Sea,
New Brunswick, N.J., Rutgers University Press, 1963.

Lewis, Charles Lee, Matthew Fontaine Maury: Pathfinder of the Seas,
New York, AMS Press, 1969.

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			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	37° 47' 29"	79° 26' 15"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Benjamin Levy, Historian

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and
Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **2/14/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, N.W.

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 **2/67**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Commandant's Quarters (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

page 1

He was the leading spirit of the Brussels scientific conference of 1853, which he urged to launch a universal system of meteorology. Within a few years, Maury was gathering the data of nations owning 3/4ths of the world's shipping and redistributing it. The resulting navigation advice served to cut voyage time anywhere from 1/4 to 1/3. The British estimated that Maury's new charts saved them \$10,000,000 in the China trade alone.

After the Civil War, during which he served the Confederacy as an inventor of naval mines, he was appointed to the seat of Meteorology at the Virginia Military Institute from where he organized and directed the geographical survey of Virginia. While there he completed his series of geographical textbooks for the public schools which were innovative rejections of then current pedagogical formats. Written in the manner of a story, they proved so entertaining that they were still being used in the 1930's.

Biography

Born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1806 and having spent his boyhood in Franklin, Tennessee, where he was educated at Harpeth Academy, Maury looked forward to a career in the navy. In 1825 he was warranted a midshipman and for nine years made three extended and valuable cruises. In 1834 he married Ann Hull Herndon of Fredericksburg and took up residence in that town. (The House is no longer standing.) Here he began his writing career with publication of a treatise on navigation.

Promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 1836, he was assigned to surveying duty in southeastern harbors. During this assignment, and until 1841, Maury published a series of letters under the pseudonyms of Harry Bluff and Will Hatch criticizing the management of the naval service. These crusading articles played a significant role in the establishment of the bureau system for naval administration and the U.S. Naval Academy.

In 1842 Maury was appointed superintendent of the Depot of Charts and Instruments and the Naval Observatory at Washington, D.C. In this position he instituted the herculean effort of charting the heavens, producing in 1846, a pioneer work in astronomical observation--the first issued by an American observatory. In the decade 1845-1855, about 100,000 stars were plotted.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Commandant's Quarters (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

page 2

Maury gave most of his attention at this time to hydrography and meteorology, two areas of his greatest contributions. His researches resulted in his Wind and Current Chart (1847), Notice to Mariners (1850), and Explanations and Sailing Directions (1851). The success of these editions led him to conceive of a universal system of oceanographic observation. His efforts here resulted in an international scientific conference in Brussels in 1853. His uniform system was adopted nearly worldwide. With a new and comprehensive flood of data, he was able to revise and expand his charts, adding the Indian Ocean to those already prepared on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Typical of the rewards netted by these new charts were vast savings in time and money in the sailing trade. In 1855, the average passage between New York and San Francisco was 180 days. The new charts reduced that to 133 days and clipper ships were doing it in 110. Maury even opposed the British Admiralty route from the west coast to Australia favoring one which was much longer but swifter due to the prevailing winds. The passage was cut by one-third.

Studies in winds and currents led inevitably to the study of ocean phenomena and the publication of Maury's The Physical Geography of the Sea, recognized as the first textbook of modern oceanography. The book received worldwide acclaim, was translated into six languages, and went through numerous editions. With the data he had collected he was able to draw a profile of the so-called "telegraphic plateau" along which the first transatlantic cable was to be laid.

His attainments by now were being recognized universally. Governments, learned societies, universities, commercial associations, and insurance underwriters heaped awards on him. In 1858, after a struggle with the Naval Retirement Board, which sought to reduce him to reserve status, the President elevated him to the rank of commander.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he followed his State of Virginia out of the service and joined the Confederate States Navy. Assigned to harbor defenses, he experimented with naval mines both here and in England where he was sent to plead the Southern cause and secure naval vessels. Following the war he joined Prince Maximilian in Mexico and directed a futile colonization effort aimed at luring southerners to a new land.

In 1868 he returned to the United States and took up the chair of meteorology at the Virginia Military Institute from where he captained the geographical survey of Virginia and led a crusade by lecture to institute universal telegraphic reporting of meteorological and agri-

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Commandant's Quarters (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

page 3

cultural data. In addition he completed his series of public school textbooks on geography which brought the number of his published works to nearly 250.

Later in 1872, Maury fell ill on one of his lecture tours and died the following year. Having asked to be interred at Richmond, he was buried at Hollywood Cemetery between the tombs of Presidents Monroe and Tyler.

(21)

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Superintendent's Quarters, Virginia Military Institute
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Superintendent's Quarters

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: VMI Parade			
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington			
STATE Virginia	CODE	COUNTY: Rockbridge	CODE

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Superintendent (for VMI and the Commonwealth of Virginia)			
STREET AND NUMBER: Virginia Military Institute			
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington	STATE: Virginia	CODE	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Rockbridge County Courthouse, Deedbook K, p. 74, K, p. 389.			
STREET AND NUMBER: Corner of Main and Washington			
CITY OR TOWN: Lexington	STATE: Virginia	CODE	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered☒ Moved☐ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As with the original part of the VMI Barracks, already designated a National Historic Landmark, and the Commandant's Quarters, the Superintendent's Quarters bears the American Gothic revival stamp of Alexander Jackson Davis who designed them in 1850-51. Construction of the Superintendent's Quarters (referred to by Davis as the Executive Mansion) was begun in 1860 and completed in 1862.

The house consists of a basement, two stories, one room on the third floor of each of two towers, and two bays where octagonal rooms extend beyond the front of the building. Overall exterior dimensions: 119' 6" wide, 28' 8" deep. Above basement level the wall construction in brick, stuccoed (float finish), plastered inside, 17" thick. The rear of the building is exposed brick, painted.

The drawing room has a dentiled classic wood cornice as does the west parlor. A classic cornice with Wall of Troy moulding in the dining room appears to be a rather recent addition. The library has an excellent Gothic cornice and wood bookcases, interior blinds, cabinets between the windows, all of which appear to be original.

The doors are generally six-panel with pointed arch top with mortised locks, white china knobs, and steel butts. The windows are double-hung sash with diamond and rectangular lights. The double front door is half-glazed, with lozenge lights, two flat panels below on each leaf, about 12' high.

There was a fireplace in every room originally. Most of them are still usable. The entire house is now heated with steam radiators.

There are no outbuildings, and there seems to be no record of the original planting.

In 1914 the house was completely dismantled and faithfully re-erected 104 yards northwest of the original location. Careful measured drawings were made under the supervision of New York architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue who also chose the new site for the building. Apparently the only conspicuous structural change had to do with the elimination of a second-floor balcony around a two-story entrance hall. There is now a beamed ceiling over the downstairs front hall.

In 1924 improvements were made under supervision of Carneal and Johnston, architects and engineers of Richmond; in 1931 the Institute's administrative offices were moved from the east wing to the Engineering Building. These rooms were converted to a guest suite. More recently the building has received further improvements, and some wooden floors replaced. Fireproofing provisions have also been added.

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) 1860-1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Together, the Superintendent's Quarters, the residence of VMI Superintendents since 1862, Commandant's Quarters, and the original portion of the VMI Barracks are the nucleus of what remains of the early military institute. With the Barracks already designated a National Historic Landmark, the significance of the Virginia Military Institute has been established. It only remains to consider the addition of the Superintendent's Quarters as an integral part of the established Landmark.

Formally organized in 1839, the "West Point of the South" was the earliest and has become perhaps the best known of the State-supported military colleges. Its resemblance to the United States Military Academy at West Point is not fortuitous. During the 20 years prior to the Civil War, VMI graduated men destined to win fame in the Civil War that lay ahead. Of its faculty, the most notable was the immortal "Stonewall" Jackson. At New Market, on May 15, 1864, the cadets materially aided in the defeat of Franz Sigel's invading Union Army. In World War I, VMI gave 1,830 trained men to the armed forces, including five general officers. In World War II, the number was 4,100 including 62 officers of general or flag rank. The most illustrious of these was General of the Army George C. Marshall.

History

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 the 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 groundwork in mathematics.

(Continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lyle, Royster, "Three Gothic Residences on the VMI Parade Ground," Unpublished, George C. Marshall Research Foundation, Lexington, Virginia, 1973.

Wise, Jennings C., The Military History of the Virginia Military Institute from 1839 to 1865, Lynchburg, Virginia, 1915.

Sarles, Frank B., "Inventory Data Sheets," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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: Benjamin Levy, Historian	
ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service	DATE: 2/9/73
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, N.W.	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.
	CODE

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 _____

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 Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Superintendent's Quarters, Virginia Military Institute.

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, the 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, the 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 the school 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.

During the next 20 years, as the shadow of civil war grew more threatening, the 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 her graduates and faculty, of which latter the immortal "Stonewall" Jackson was one.

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 the institution 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, the 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.

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:

Pendleton-Coles House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Pendleton-Coles House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

319 Letcher Ave.

CITY OR TOWN:

Lexington

STATE

Virginia

CODE

COUNTY:

Rockbridge

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Superintendent, VMI (for the Commonwealth of Virginia)

STREET AND NUMBER:

VMI Parade

CITY OR TOWN:

Lexington

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Rockbridge County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Corner Main and Washington

CITY OR TOWN:

Lexington

STATE

Virginia

CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings SurveyDATE OF SURVEY: **1966**☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:

Library of Congress (Annex)

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D.C.

CODE

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

250

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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			
<p>The design of the Pendleton-Coles House is attributed to Alexander Jackson Davis and construction dated in the early 1850's. This coincides with the period when Davis was designing faculty residences for the Institute across the Parade Ground, and it was during this period that he visited Lexington. Local folklore has it that plans for this house were adapted from those for one of Davis' cottage designs. The house, resembling the rustic Gothic cottage style of Davis, is a typical example of a style popular during the mid-nineteenth century, though not at all prevalent in the region of the Valley of Virginia. Its outstanding features are the arched windows with diamond panes and the decorative bargeboard around the gables.</p> <p>Overall dimensions of the structure are 34'3" x 65'6", excluding bay windows. The foundation is limestone, and the wall construction is board and batten, wood studding with brick noggin. There are porches front and back, and one prominent four-part chimney at the intersection of the roof. Another two-part chimney is in the rear portion of the house.</p> <p>The front door has a tudor arch transom with diamond side lights and in the transom. There are three bay windows--one on each side of the ground floor and one in front on the second floor--which have square tops with diamond lights. Two front windows on the ground floor have four-centered Gothic arch tops with four lights. The windows at the back of the house have rounded arches. There are four bull's eye windows in the attic, one on each side. The bay windows and other side windows have metal canopies. Louvered shutters are painted dark green.</p> <p>The roof design is an A cruciform; there are alternating bands of rectangular and hexagonal slate shingles; open valleys; half-round gutters; and metal roof over the front porch. Sawn bargeboard has quatrefoil cut-outs in front and spearhead on the side, painted dark green. There is a wood finial cornice on top.</p> <p>There are two small circular stairways--one in the front hall and one in the back hall. Wood spindles and newel are turned, painted white; wood handrail is stained dark. Front stairway is open on underside and is narrower than back stairway.</p> <p>The door casing is of Greek type with pointed tops and dog ears, ogee back band, throughout most of the house. Wooden doors are four-panel, flat. China knobs and rim locks are used throughout the house, machine-made, probably original. The house was originally heated by fireplaces; gas central heating has been added.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. 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) 1853

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

Together, the Pendleton-Coles House, the Superintendent's Quarters, Commandant's Quarters, and the original segment of the VMI Barracks are the nucleus of what remains of the early military institute. With the designation of the Barracks as a national historic landmark the national significance of the VMI has been established. As with the Superintendent's Quarters, it only remains to consider the possible addition of the Pendleton-Coles House to an expanded landmark designation.

The primary significance of the house is its relationship to the Institute as an instructor's quarters. As such, it participated in the primary function of the institute--military education.

Colonel Edmund Pendleton was prominent as a Virginia State legislator, a member of the Board of Visitors of the Institute and a graduate of the first VMI Class of 1842, and a former officer in the Confederate forces. His granddaughter, Miss Lily Coles, was married in this house to Second Lieutenant George C. Marshall in February 1902. Also in this house the Sigma Nu Fraternity, founded at the VMI in 1869, held early meetings that resulted in the expansion of the fraternity to nearby Washington and Lee University and ultimately to colleges and universities across the country.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lyle, Royster, "Three Gothic Residences on the VMI Parade Ground,"
Unpublished, George C. Marshall Research Foundation, Lexington,
Virginia, 1973.

Wise, Jennings C., The Military History of the Virginia Military Institute
from 1839 to 1865, Lynchburg, Virginia 1915.

Sarles, Frank B., Jr., "Inventory Data Sheets," National Survey of Historic
Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	37°	47'	24"	79°	26'	11"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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:
Benjamin Levy, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and
Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: 2/9/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional 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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Pendleton-Coles House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description

(Continued)

Page 1

The breakfast room appears to have been added later by enclosing part of the back porch. Hall across the back of the house on the second floor was added by partitioning part of the back bedroom.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE



