

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HOME FOR NEEDY CONFEDERATE WOMEN (DHL FILE #127-785)

and or common HOME FOR CONFEDERATE WOMEN (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number 301 North Sheppard Street N/A not for publication

city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 760

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Nursing Home

4. Owner of Property

HOME FOR NEEDY CONFEDERATE WOMEN  
name c/o Mrs. Robert D. Burhans (Home)

street & number 1111 Princess Anne Street

city, town Fredericksburg N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Commonwealth of Virginia (Land)

c/o Mr. H. Douglas Hamner, Jr., Department of General Services  
street & number 209 Ninth Street Office Building

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
title Survey File #127-38 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Home for Needy Confederate Women is located at 301 North Sheppard Street in the city of Richmond. Completed in 1932 after the plans of Merrill Lee, the home is a copy of the north facade of the White House. Constructed in limestone, the two-story, multiple-bay structure consists of a two-story central block flanked by one-story hyphens connected to two-story pavilions. A north-south lateral passage runs through the structure. The nominated acreage includes one contributing building.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The main (west) facade consists of an eleven-bay, two-story central block flanked by one-story hyphens joined to two-story, five-bay pavilions. The facade of the main block is distinguished by a two-story, tetrastyle pedimented portico. The portico has Ionic columns and a full entablature. The pediment is topped by a balustrade which extends around the perimeter of the roof. The portico shelters the main entrance which consists of a single paneled door framed by a molded architrave topped by a pediment. The frieze above the door bears the inscription, "Home for Confederate Women." A blind, half-round fan contains a metal relief medallion depicting the seal of the Confederate State of America. All first-floor openings on the facade are framed by molded architraves topped by alternating triangular or elliptical pediments. The second-story openings are framed by molded architrave surrounds and lack the pediments of the first story. All windows in the main block have hung sash. The one-story hyphens are fronted by Doric columns. Behind the columns are 12/18 hung-sash windows. Double doors provide access to the hyphens. The five-bay, two-story twin pavilions are distinguished by pediments above the central three bays. The bays are defined by Ionic pilasters. Balustrades run the perimeter of the pavilions' roofs. With the exception of the portico, the rear elevation mirrors the front. In place of the portico, a one-story, three-bay wing projects from the rear. The wing contains the main parlor. The rear elevations of the one-story hyphens consist of a central door flanked by windows. The rear elevations of the pavilions are similar to the facade. The north and south (side) elevations have double door entrances sheltered by one-story Roman Doric porticoes topped by balustrades. The side entrances are flanked by windows with pedimented heads. The windows on the second story have molded architraves.

The interior plan of the Home consists of a formal entrance hall in the main block and a lateral passage running north-south through the entire building. The most formal woodwork is found in the public rooms which comprise the entrance hall, parlor, and dining room. The entrance hall has crossette door surrounds topped by pediments. Doric pilasters are found throughout the hall and a Doric frieze runs the perimeter of the room, together with a pedestal-type wainscot. The parlor is similar in its execution to the wall. The focal point of the room is the chimneypiece that consists of a mantel and pedimented overmantel. The firebox has a marble surround. The woodwork in the dining room is similar in execution to the parlor. All rooms retain their original lighting fixtures. The main stair is located to the south of the entrance hall. It is a dog-leg, open-string stair distinguished by turned balusters and a molded handrail. A paneled wainscot runs the length of the stair. The lateral hall corridors and second floor of the main block contain the rooms of the residents. The rooms are plain and have not been structurally altered since their execution.

(See Continuation Sheet # 1 )

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1932

Builder/Architect Merrill Lee

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by a locally prominent architect, Merrill Lee, the Home for Needy Confederate Women is an excellent example of Federal Revival architecture in Virginia. The building, with its fine exterior and interior detailing, is based on James Hoban's design for the White House, the inspiration for a number of architectural works in the Federal Revival style associated with women. Chartered by the General Assembly in 1898, the Home was the first institution of its kind to be founded in the state in recognition of the loyal women of the Confederacy. The present Home, completed in 1932, has served for half a century as a memorial to the wives, widows, daughters, and female descendants of Confederate veterans.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Following the close of the Civil War in 1865, several destitute widows of Confederate soldiers living in Richmond decided to live together and pool their small resources. In 1897, the Ladies Auxiliary of Camp Pickett of the Confederate Veterans became aroused by the plight of these widows and organized a bazaar which raised \$1,000. This success provided the impetus for an effort to form a home for destitute women who were related to Confederate veterans. In 1898 the General Assembly granted a charter to "provide a home for needy wives, widows, sisters and daughters of Confederate Sailors, Soldiers, and Marines."

In 1900 funds from another bazaar and the assistance of a \$1,000 appropriation from the state led to the purchase of a house at 1726 Grove Avenue, allowing the Home to open on October 15 with eleven women residents. The Home's inmates led a precarious existence and operated on a very tight budget. In 1901 assistance came from the city of Richmond, which donated a lot in Riverside Cemetery and \$150 to be used for the Home's operating expenses. In 1902 the legislature appropriated an additional \$5,000 to the ladies of the Home. Further local philanthropic efforts, including a bazaar with entertainment by a debutante drill team, netted the Home \$8,000 in 1903. The Home continued in operation at 1726 Grove Avenue until 1904, when the trustees purchased 3 East Grace Street, a former boarding school that had also been used as the office of the Confederate Treasury.

The driving force behind the subsequent improvement of the Home was one woman, Mrs. Andrew Jackson Montague, wife of the Governor. Mrs. Montague virtually dedicated her life to the Home and its cause. To fund the house's operating expenses, Mrs. Montague sponsored annual Flag and Button days. These fund raising efforts were insufficient to keep up with costs and in 1915 Mrs. Montague went to the Assembly to seek annual support. The legislators obliged with state support that continued until 1982.

Following a fire in 1916, Mrs. Montague became determined to build a fireproof home for her charges and began a campaign for a new home. In 1924 Mrs. Montague convinced Lee Camp #1 of the Confederate Veterans to donate land in western Richmond to the Home for the construction of a new facility. They agreed, but found that the land was not theirs to give because it belonged to the state. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Stewart and Weisensale, "Merrill C. Lee in Retrospect."  
Trustees of the Home for Needy Confederate Women. Minutes Book, 1917-32.  
Trustees of the Home for Needy Confederate Women. The History of the Home for Needy Confederate Women 1900-1904. Richmond: J. Hill, 1905.  
(See Continuation Sheet # 2 )

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres  
Quadrangle name Richmond, VA Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>281280</u>	<u>4159350</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
E	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	F	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
G	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	H	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on E side of Sheppard St. approx. 200' NNE of intersection of Grove Ave. with Sheppard St.; thence extending approx. 450' NNE along E side of Sheppard St.; thence approx. 200' ESE to W side of  
(See Continuation Sheet # 2 )

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS STAFF  
organization DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS date 1985  
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144  
city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director  
title DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS



date September 28, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

HOME FOR NEEDY CONFEDERATE WOMEN, RICHMOND, VA

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 8

Page 1, 1

7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The grounds around the building are well landscaped with trees and shrubs dating to the 1930s. The Home is bounded immediately to the east by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts parking lot and to the south by the Confederate Memorial Chapel.

RCC

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

In spite of this apparent difficulty, arrangements were made in March 1925 with the New York firm of Goodrich and Moran to prepare drawings. In April 1925, the Board of the Home, in a display of southern chauvinism, announced that they wanted to hear from some southern architects and then opened up the commission to other architects besides the New York firm.

While negotiations for architects continued, the Board of the Home arranged for the passage of a bill giving the Home eight acres of the Lee Camp's grounds. On an appropriately sentimental day, January 19, 1926, Lee's birthday, the bill was placed before the Assembly and passed, only to be vetoed by lame duck Governor Trinkle on the grounds that too much valuable land was being given away; that the Home's use should be restricted to those women who were widows, wives, daughters and sisters of Confederates; and that there should be provisions in the bill governing the size of the building and the completion date of the structure. These amendments were placed in a new bill which was signed into law by Governor Byrd. The state's gift of the land carried the proviso that the new Home should cost at least \$250,000 to construct; that it should be open only to wives, widows, daughters, and sisters of rebel veterans; and that the structure should be completed in eight years.

After several abortive attempts a fund raising effort for the Home finally got under way in 1929 and possession of the site was ensured by a \$200,000 bequest from Dr. Spiers George.

In 1929, the Home secured the services of Mr. Merrill Lee of Lee, Smith, and Vandervoort. Lee was a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology who had worked in the office of Cram, Ferguson, and Goodhue before coming to Richmond.

Lee's initial proposal was for a three-story, seventeen-bay structure whose facade was based on the south facade of the President's House, one of Mrs. Montague's favorite structures. The final design, in a scaled-down reversal, is the north facade. Work was begun in 1931 and the building completed in 1932. There is insufficient documentary evidence to explore the reasons for this change. The initial design was rather large and overambitious for a Home that always had difficulty meeting its financial obligations. The scaled-down realities of the final project may have influenced this decision to reverse facades. At any rate the choice of model for the Confederate memorial is not without irony. As James Rhoades has noted, however, the style of the White House was associated with feminine pursuits. For example Sweet Briar College was designed in that

(See Continuation Sheet # 2 )

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

HOME FOR NEEDY CONFEDERATE WOMEN, RICHMOND, VA

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8, 9, 10

Page 2, 1, 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

style by Ralph Cram and the style was chosen intentionally because it was felt that it better suited a feminine disposition. The choice of the White House as a model also implied that society should impute to the occupants of the structure prestige and importance, thus providing inmates with a pride of place of residence.

SMB

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Trustees of the Home for Needy Confederate Women. In Memory of the Heroes in Gray.  
Richmond: Home for Needy Confederate Women, 1929.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts parking lot; thence approx. 450' SSW following western boundary of said parking lot; thence approx. 200' NW to a point on E side of Sheppard St., the point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The nominated acreage of the Home for Needy Confederate Women consists of two acres. This includes only the building and a small parcel of land located to the rear of the building. The land extends from the rear wall of the building to the beginning of the Virginia Museum parking lot. The land is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the building by the Home for Needy Confederate Women. The small portion of land contains some original landscaping and is therefore included.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Richmond, VA

(scale:1:24000)  
1964 (PR 1981)

HOME FOR NEEDY CONFEDERATE WOMEN, 301 N.  
Sheppard St., Richmond, VA

UTM References:

18/281280/4159350

