

National Registered Refused to take

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Virginia **Torn Down**

COUNTY: Portsmouth (in cit.) **7/13/70**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

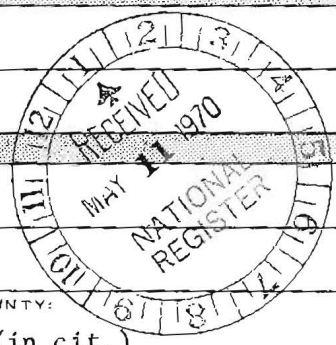
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Crawford House Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC: Crawford House



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 450-454 Crawford Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE: 740
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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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Slated for demolition</u>
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE: 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Portsmouth (in cit.)

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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Crawford House Hotel is a four-and-a-half story brick structure covered by a gable roof with four pedimented dormers on both the front and rear facades. The dormers are flanked on either side by two interior end chimneys. The brickwork of the front facade is finely laid Flemish bond, while the other three sides are in American bond. The ground floor of this facade is divided into three shops, the bays of which are separated by rectangular stone posts supporting stone lintels, thus creating the effect of a ten-bay colonnade. Except for the loss of the small pane sash and the addition of several signs, the store fronts have been little altered.

The building features diminution of the fenestration size in the three principal floors. Nearly all the windows retain their original sash with much of their old glass. The window surrounds are of the simplest form and are supported on rectangular wooden sills. Old illustrations, as well as the presence of pintles on either side of the windows, indicate that at one time there were exterior shutters. The simplicity of the window trim is matched by the simplicity of the cornice, which is merely a two-course corbel.

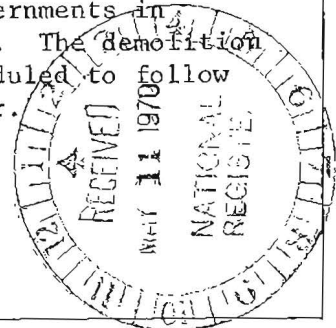
The public and guest rooms of the hotel were originally reached by an exterior double staircase on the side (Queen Street) of the building. Exterior staircases of this type were a typical feature of many Portsmouth townhouses of the early-to-mid-nineteenth century. The stairs ascended to a small landing covered by a flat roof.

Although the interior of the Crawford House has been altered by the addition of many extra partitions, the basic original layout of the floors can be detected. Surviving original interior fabric includes most of the wide board floors; interior window trim, staircases (now enclosed), and some baseboards. The simple but refined quality of the surviving woodwork indicates that the original mantels, few of which remain, also were probably quite plain.

Despite its use for a variety of functions, the Crawford House survives in remarkably good condition. There appear to be no major cracks in the walls nor sags in the floors. A two-story addition on the rear of the building is the major exterior change.

The Crawford House is located in a Redevelopment and Housing project, The Crawford Project (VA-R-53), consisting of 58 acres. The financing is being shared between the Federal and Municipal Governments in respective amounts of \$5,815,624.00 and \$3,296,911.00. The demolition of this property and others in the same block is scheduled to follow advertisement for bids sometime by the end of the year.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1835

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Crawford House Hotel was erected in 1835 by J. W. Collins and was named in honor of William Crawford, the founder of Portsmouth. The four-and-a-half story structure was not only Portsmouth's first hotel, but for a time was its tallest building as well. The impressive establishment quickly gained a reputation for being "the most fashionable place in Portsmouth." The hotel entertained many distinguished guests, including President Martin Van Buren, with his Secretaries of War and Navy in 1838; President John Tyler in 1843; President James K. Polk and Mrs. Polk in 1846; and President Millard Fillmore and Major General Winfield Scott in 1851.

The Crawford House is one of the rare surviving examples of early urban hotels, successors to the country inns and taverns. It postdates by only six years Boston's Tremont House (demolished 1894), considered to be the first modern hotel in America. Differing from eighteenth-century inns, the Crawford House's first floor contained a row of fashionable shops, with the public rooms on the second floor and three upper floors of guest rooms. The hotel is also a finely scaled example of unornamented Greek Revival commercial architecture. Its reliance on line and proportion rather than decorative motifs for aesthetic effect foreshadowed the refined, unornamented commercial and industrial structures of the early-twentieth century.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butt, Marshall W., Portsmouth Under Four Flags, 1752-1961. Portsmouth, Va., 1961.  
Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion. American Guide Series. New York: 1964.

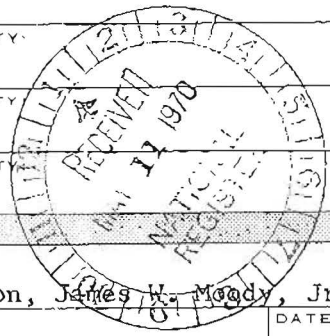
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		36	50	09
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		76	17	55
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 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: Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director  
 ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 DATE: March 12, 1970  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, Virginia  
 STATE: Virginia  
 CODE: 45

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: Ed. P. Alexander per JWM  
 Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Date: 5-5-70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Torn down July 13, 1970  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)  
 Norfolk South, Va. 1955

Crawford House Hotel  
 Latitude Longitude

36° 50' 09" 76° 17' 55"