

VLR-6/18/74 NRHP-7/22/74

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Lynchburg (city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Western Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC:
JOSEPH NICHOLS' TAVERN

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Southeast corner of Fifth & Madison Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Lynchburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE: Virginia CODE (COUNTY): 51 Lynchburg (city) CODE: 680

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"/> 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 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) Vacant

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Beverly R. Cosby

STREET AND NUMBER:
4405 Boonesboro Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Lynchburg,

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lynchburg

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958
Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

CITY: Lynchburg

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

The Western Hotel is a two-story brick building erected in two sections. The original section has its fifty-foot facade situated on the front edge of its lot on Madison Street, while the later ell is set back about three feet from its property line on Fifth Street. The Madison Street front is laid in five-course American bond, and has simple brick flat arches over the windows. An interesting architectural detail is the very refined round-arch center doorway with symmetrically molded trim, turned corner blocks, reeded soffit, and early stone steps. Early sash survives in all the windows -- the six-over-nine sash on the second floor appears to be original. The first floor windows to the left of the entrance are set slightly lower than those on the right, although this does not appear to have been the result of a later alteration. One of the original window openings on the east end has been bricked up while another has been lowered.

The building is covered by a shallow hipped roof sheathed with standing-seam sheet metal. Surrounding the eaves is a simple but refined molded cornice. A somewhat unusual feature is the two chimney stacks projecting above the facade cornice, framing the middle three bays.

The two-story brick ell appears to have been built at least two decades after the original section, and differs architecturally in only slight details. Of chief interest is the handsome three-part doorway with its carved consoles. The doorway is sheltered by a simple Doric porch.

Much of the building's original interior trim is intact, although the rooms on either side of the central hall in the original section have had their mantels replaced with mid-nineteenth-century ones of black marble. Most of the original baseboard, flooring and paneled doors survive. The stair newel is later but the rest of the stair is early, if not original.

The second floor rooms are largely unaltered, and two of them preserve their handsome Federal mantels. Both mantels have reeded pilasters and molded cornice shelves.

Although the building is vacant and has had no maintenance in several years, it generally is in sound structural condition. An exception is the south wall of the ell which has a serious crack. Also, some unimportant later rear porches are badly decayed. Plans are underway to have the building renovated for adaptive use.

C.L.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

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 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

Lynchburg's Western Hotel stands as the last of the city's many ante-bellum taverns and ordinaries, and is an important example of early commercial architecture. The refined Federal-style structure has long been a familiar landmark on what was for many years the western entrance to the city. It was this geographic location that gave the establishment its name.

The building's date of construction is uncertain, but it is known to have been operated as a tavern as early as 1815 by Joseph Nichols. An advertisement for a blacksmith shop appearing that year in the Lynchburg Press states that the shop was located "on Lynchburg Hill on West Street opposite Joseph Nichols' tavern." That Joseph Nichols lived there is confirmed by an 1818 reference stating that he was issued a license to operate an ordinary "at his house on Cocke Street." (West Street and Cocke Street both were early names for Fifth Street.) By 1826 the establishment was owned and operated by John F. Johnson. The first reference to the building under its present name appears in 1833 when a license issued to John Etzler "... to keep a tavern at Western Hotel" was transferred back to John F. Johnson.

In recent decades the building was used for apartments, although it is now vacant. Consideration currently is being given to its restoration and adaptive use.

C.L.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blunt, Louise A., "Ordinaries in Lynchburg in 1816," Lynchburg Historical Society Museum, Vol. VI, #3.
 Cabell, Margaret, Sketches and Recollections of Lynchburg by the Oldest Inhabitant, Richmond, 1858, p. 171.
 Christian, W. Asbury, Lynchburg and Its People, Lynchburg, 1900, p. 77.
Lynchburg Press, March 23, 1815.
Hustings Court Records, 1816, 1833 (ordinary license).
Lynchburg Deeds, Book E, pp. 232, 456 (1818).
Lynchburg Deeds, Book 9, p. 239 (1823).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 24' 56"	79° 08' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 ORGANIZATION

DATE
June, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE
Richmond Virginia 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name _____
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date June 10 1974

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

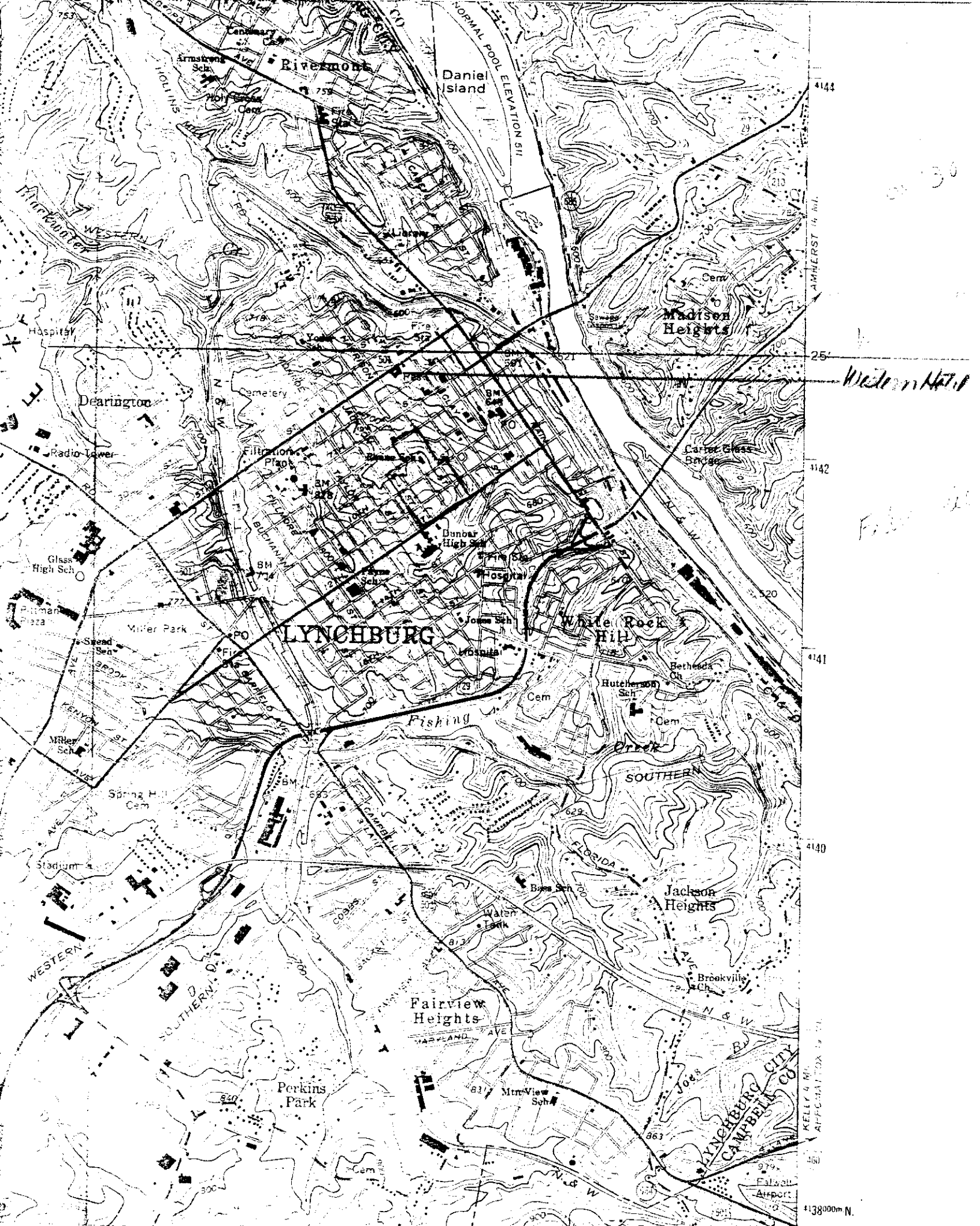
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



100 30
 Western Hill
 Fisher Hill