NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

239

RECEIVED 2280
MAR 21 2014
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cavalier Hotel

Other names/site number: VDHR #134-0503, Cavalier Hotel, Cavalier on the Hill

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 4200 Pacific Avenue

City or town: Virginia Beach State: VA County: Independent City

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide __X__local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

__X__A ___B __X__C ___D

Julie Langan 3/27/14

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson M. Beall 5-19-14

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
2	0	sites
0	1	structures
3	1	objects
6	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/ hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/ hotel
VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE: Limestone, METAL: copper, CONCRETE

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Cavalier Hotel was completed in 1927 at the height of the Roaring Twenties and is an architectural representation of that era. Located at the north end of the commercial portion of Virginia Beach's beachfront, the hotel is sited on a prominent, terraced hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean where Pacific Avenue and Atlantic Avenue merge. The seven-story hotel is constructed in a rare 'Y' form offering maximum views of the ocean from public areas and individual rooms. Every possible aspect of the design was chosen to reflect the relationship of the hotel to the ocean including views of the ocean from many public areas, a salt water swimming pool, salt water bath spigots in each room, and even the central cupola invoking a light house. The exterior evokes Classical Revival design and Jeffersonian concepts, many directly inspired by elements from Monticello and the University of Virginia, and echoed in the name of the hotel itself. The hotel is approached from walkways up the terraced hill or along a boulevard driveway from the side and, despite nearly eighty years of large scale hotel development in Virginia Beach, still offers the most commanding position on the ocean front. With the exterior much the same as when it was built, and the prominent interior public areas retaining much of their historic features and character, The Cavalier Hotel has strong historic integrity. The property's contributing resources include the hotel

building, sunken garden (site), terraced lawn (site), serpentine walls (2 objects), and entry gateway (object), while non-contributing resources are the driveway boulevard (structure) and a flagpole (object).

Narrative Description

The Cavalier Hotel site has changed throughout its existence, with areas changing between lawn and woods and vacant or dotted with outbuildings, but several features have remained largely the same since around the time of its construction: the entry onto Cavalier Drive from Atlantic Avenue; the side driveway off of Cavalier Drive; the terraced hill down to the ocean; and the sunken garden abutting the south side of the hotel. The entryway still features brick, Jeffersonian inspired serpentine walls broken up by two pairs of brick, Flemish bond piers with concrete bases and decorative urn caps. The historic serpentine walls are echoed along both sides of the entry drive and form a boundary for the driveway which has seen some changes in its configuration over time. The driveway features a rectangular traffic pattern with a central dividing green space forming the boulevard and a newer flagpole in front of the entrance. The terraced hill, on the eastern side of the hotel, retains its same shape and configuration as when it was built, as well as the two parallel walkways running from the hotel to Atlantic Avenue. The hill is highlighted by a more recent grass and gravel relief of the "Cavalier" name in the slope of the top terrace. The sunken garden, though not as extensive as when originally created, is still present between the hotel and the southern boundary of the property with historic brick walkways and stairs.

The hotel building is constructed in a 'Y' with the long leg of the building extending east towards the ocean and seven stories in height, while the two branches of the hotel extend northwest and southwest and are six stories. The exterior of the hotel is Flemish bond brick with numerous cast stone decorative elements. There is a belt course with dentils between the fifth and sixth stories as well as a classical balustrade along the roofline. Ionic pilasters link the cornice to the balustrade along the eastern end, while alternating quoins highlight the corners and link the cornice with the balustrade on the two wings. The corners are capped at the roofline by decorative capped piers which echo the piers at the Cavalier Drive entry. The upper façade of the hotel facing the ocean features a classical temple format on the top two levels with the quoins and two central pilasters echoing the entry pavilion on the north end. There is a pediment filled with the familiar garland and swag theme along with a heraldic type shield element.

The center of the roof features the large Water Tower with four finished sides featuring triple arcaded windows, which echo those along the entire first floor, and a pediment highlighted by a round cast stone element. The hotel is topped by a cast stone cupola serving as a bell tower and features round arches, pilasters at the corners, and a copper roof. There is also a large brick chimney abutting the interior of the northwest wing of the hotel.

The main entrance on the northern facade features a classical four column portico inspired by the east portico of Monticello and accessed by three stone steps. The columns are smooth and capped with Egyptian styled capitals; these capitals, along with several other elements of the entry, are painted gold, a likely modern choice. Above each column in the cornice is a garland and swag element and the pediment is pierced by a round window surrounded by undulating plaster elements.

Under the porch is an arched entryway with a central pair of doors and paired single doors on the two sides. Twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash with cast stone sills and lintels flank the entry doors. Above theses side windows are two stone reliefs again featuring garland and swag elements.

The arched entry window and doors are echoed around the three public sides (north, east, south) by a nearly continual arcade of windows behind which are the swimming pool, porches, and verandas. Each corner of the first floor has a single bay entry pavilion with an arched entry, simple pediment, and a domed copper roof. The windows on the rest of the building, serving the individual rooms, are six-over-six double-hung wood sash with cast stone sills for the bedroom and small one-over-one windows for each bathroom. The two shorter rear wings are eight bays long, while the longer ocean side main leg is eleven bays long.

The rear exterior of the building features a large one-story, non-historic brick addition which houses mechanical elements and the ballroom. Behind the hotel are areas of grass and parking.

The interior of the hotel features several largely intact, elaborately decorated public areas while the mechanical areas below, and hotel rooms above, have been altered over the years. The entry lobby, or 'Rotunda,' features its historic cast terrazzo stair with iron railings which has a central section gaining access up to the main lobby area, and two side wing flights down to the Hunt Club, restrooms, and service areas below. The floors are carpeted, but the original terrazzo is intact underneath. The wood paneling on the round walls is historic but has been painted and is broken up by Ionic pilasters. The plaster ceiling and molding is also historic and in good condition featuring screeded plaster with applied fret work and a bas relief on the ceiling. Over the entry, opposite the stairs, is a blind balcony with a decorative iron railing and statuary niches. The main lobby, up the central half-flight of stairs, has plaster ceilings, terrazzo floors, and the same paneling as in the Rotunda entry but without the pilasters. A double multi-light glass doorway to the left in the Rotunda offers access to the indoor swimming pool.

The swimming pool and attached loggia feature a historic floor plan with some historic materials and some World War II era and later restorations. The two balconies, the shape of the pool, and the metal roof support system all appear in early postcards. The large frame and gypsum board soffit which surrounds the pool and encases the modern lighting and HVAC system covers the historic wood trimmed post-and-beam system. Judging from photographs, the tile likely dates from the post-World War II renovations.

The pool loggia feeds into three long runs of enclosed porches of equal proportions before turning southwest on the rear end of the hotel, where it becomes an enclosed dining porch attached to the traditional formal dining room, the Pocahontas Room, on its southeast and southwest sides. The porches have irregular, broken pattern red tile floors, painted brick walls on the hotel side, and ten-light fixed wood windows on the exterior, except on the ocean side open porch. The windows are in groups of four separated by engaged Doric cast stone columns with concrete ceiling beams above. Evenly spaced twelve light double-doors allow regular access from the porches to the inner hotel areas. These arcaded and colonnaded porches were in part inspired by the Jefferson designed covered walkways connecting the pavilions on The Lawn at the University of Virginia.

The Pocahontas Room has served as the formal dining room since The Cavalier was constructed. It currently retains its historic doorways and arched transoms, leading out to the dining porch areas, along with its plaster walls. The floor is covered with newer carpet and the ceiling is dropped acoustical tile to accommodate the modern lighting and HVAC system. The Pocahontas Room is attached to the completely modernized kitchen, though in its original location, which then leads to the historic ballroom.

The ballroom is in its historic location but non-historic partition walls have altered the layout somewhat and it is currently used as an entry area for the non-historic ballroom addition. The original ballroom area does retain substantial historic woodwork and paneling, though the walls are covered with newer wallpaper and. the floors with newer carpeting.

The most prominent historic room on the main floor, and the most intact room, is the Raleigh Room, or Lounge as it was called originally, located opposite the Pocahontas Room at the end of the lobby hallway and running parallel to the pool area. The Raleigh Room retains its checkerboard terrazzo floor, its large, square support beams with historic plaster capitals, the historic chair rails, and fluted pilasters along the porch wall. The historic plaster walls and the large support beams do have newer wallpaper applied. The plaster ceiling cornices are intact, though in need of some repair.

Throughout the first floor are historic metal radiator grates, though many historic fixtures were auctioned off in the 1970s.

The hotel originally featured 200 guest rooms, each twelve by twelve feet. These rooms were appointed with hot water, cold water, sea water, and ice water spigots. The corridors were carpeted and the walls papered when the hotel opened. Replacement carpet and wallpaper now cover these public hallways, with dropped ceilings installed as well. During renovations which spanned the 1940s through the early 2000s, the upstairs sleeping rooms were gutted to the concrete studs and completely renovated, including combining some of the historically small rooms into larger suites. However, six historic rooms on the ocean side of the hotel originally did have attached sitting rooms.

The lower floors are dilapidated but structurally sound. They hold the mechanical and service areas for the hotel. The lowest, partial basement area has a large boiler room and pool equipment. Above the true basement area is a full lower level with men's and women's locker rooms for the pool, and mechanical, physical plant, and service departments: electrical, plumbing, paint shop, maintenance shop, and laundry areas. There are also various sections which served as retail shops or service areas, such as the barber shop.

Also in the lower area is the Hunt Room, which retains its historic plan and much of the historic wood trim along with modern gypsum wall board. The floor is covered with newer modern carpet. The bar and fireplace in particular retain good integrity and character.

Inventory

Cavalier Hotel 1 contributing building

Sunken Garden	1 contributing site
Terraced lawn	1 contributing site
Serpentine walls	2 contributing objects
Entry gateway	1 contributing object
Driveway boulevard	1 non-contributing structure
Flagpole	1 non-contributing object

The driveway boulevard and flagpole postdate the Cavalier Hotel's period of significance, making them non-contributing.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE
RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance
1927-1942

Significant Dates
1927, 1942

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Neff & Thompson (Neff, Clarence Amos Sr.; Thompson, Thomas P.): architects
Baker & Brinkley (Brinkley, Roland): builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Cavalier Hotel has stood overlooking the Virginia Beach, Virginia, oceanfront since 1927. It is the most iconic building in the city, representing its development from a sleepy seaside town to a nationally known beach resort. This excellent example of Jeffersonian inspired Classical Revival architecture is the last of the historic, pre-World War II beachfront hotels in the city, and represents an era of American history which has nearly vanished. It is locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture. The hotel was built during the Roaring Twenties and embodied that era with its luxury and elite clientele. What made The Cavalier rare, as compared to other grand, large city hotels of the era, was its site overlooking the Atlantic and its dominance over the then simple town of Virginia Beach. The embodiment of this period of American history, and this elite level of entertainment and hotel service in a unique location, as compared to other contemporary grand hotels, also makes this resource locally significant under Criterion A for Recreation and Social History. The Period of Significance runs from its construction in 1927 until 1942 when it was turned over to the Navy to serve as a radar training school.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The idea of constructing this grand hotel began soon after the burning of the late nineteenth century Princess Anne Hotel, a beach resort, on June 10, 1907. For the next twenty years there were regular reports of new hotels which were to be built to replace the Princess Anne. All of the plans entailed using the old Princess Anne site and, to prevent another disaster, utilizing concrete fire proof construction. All of these plans also involved bonds purchased by the public to fund the new hotel. First there were suggestions of a new Princess Anne Hotel, but eventually the goals changed to a larger, more upscale hotel to match the growth of Virginia Beach.[1]

The Cavalier Hotel was in many ways the culmination of several decades of rapid growth for Virginia Beach. Several factors led to the expansion of Virginia Beach from small town to resort town, culminating in the mid-to-late 1920s construction boom highlighted by The Cavalier Hotel. The first rail line to Virginia Beach was laid in 1883 and by 1885 the Princess Anne Hotel had been constructed. By 1904 the Norfolk & Southern Railroad Co. had completed an electrified railroad loop from Norfolk to Virginia Beach and a return leg via Cape Henry, which opened up Virginia Beach to expansion.[2] Seaside Park was created in 1906 and the Virginia Beach Casino opened on June 1, 1912. In 1921 Virginia Beach Boulevard opened and served as the only direct, concrete roadway between the cities for a number of years. In 1924 a daily bus service was established between Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The year 1925 saw the opening of a water pipeline from Norfolk to Virginia Beach, which alleviated the city's water supply limitations, and also brought city lights along Atlantic Avenue and the city's first fire station. Finally, in 1928 the Virginia Beach Walkway Corporation was formed by business owners and citizens of Virginia Beach to fund a concrete boardwalk which stretched from 5th Street to 35th Street and replaced the aging wood

boardwalk.[3] All of these improvements in such a short time period quickly elevated Virginia Beach to the status of resort town and brought rapid development of the ocean front area.

During this period Mount Vernon, New York, native and businessman Jacob Laskin, his sons Louis and Elmer, and partner Louis Siegal began a series of developments in Virginia Beach which would dramatically alter the landscape and economy of the town. In 1926 they leased and renovated the old Seaside Casino. Immediately thereafter c1926-27 they built the Pinewood Hotel and Traymore Apartments on 9th Street, The Broadmore Arms Apartments on 16th Street, the Roland Court office-theater complex on 17th Street, and completed a new road (Laskin Road) connecting Virginia Beach Boulevard to the Seaside Casino at 31st Street.[4] All of these improvements were impressive and changed the character of Virginia Beach, but all of them were only stepping stones towards the construction of The Cavalier Hotel.

By the time The Cavalier Hotel was constructed, the era of local, haphazardly designed and constructed hotels was coming to an end. The 1920s brought an expectation of higher end hotels being cost effective and profitable for the owners while also having a more predictable level of service and amenities for the guests. This meant design changes such as dining rooms and convention areas grouped around a central kitchen for efficiency while constructing an individual bathroom for every guestroom. Shops were also incorporated into hotels to combine profit opportunities for the hotel while offering a greater variety of services for the guests. These concepts, codified in Ellsworth M. Statler's "The Statler Idea," served as the foundation for much of modern hotel management and heavily influenced hotel design in the 1920s and 1930s. A leading national architectural firm which embodied these concepts during the 1920s was George B. Post & Sons, which served as the primary architect or as a consultant, as with The Cavalier, on many hotels across the country.[5] There were few hotels in Virginia to compare with The Cavalier in either design or amenities, with many still advertising showers down the hall and basic dining facilities. Some of the most prominent in existence the year The Cavalier was constructed were The Monticello in Norfolk, The Jefferson in Richmond (#127-0001), The Patrick Henry in Roanoke (#128-5761-0127), The Hotel Stonewall Jackson in Staunton (132-0024-0127), and the Hotel Roanoke (128-0025), but none of these offered the number of amenities and level of service comparable with The Cavalier.[6]

The architects for The Cavalier Hotel were the regionally known and prolific firm of Neff & Thompson. Neff & Thompson was active in Virginia from 1902-1932. Clarence Amos Neff Sr. (active from 1898-1952) was an architect and engineer who began his career in Norfolk in 1898 after obtaining his architecture degree from Columbia University. He also served as president of the Norfolk Federal Savings and the Princess Anne Country Club. Thomas P. Thompson (active from 1902-1932) was partners with Neff until Thompson became the Norfolk city manager. The two partners designed approximately 600 projects including many office buildings, personal residences, country clubs, and large scale commercial projects. Some of the most prominent and still extant include the Monticello Arcade (1906-07, Norfolk, #122-0066), the Country Club of Virginia clubhouse in Richmond (1907-09), Maury High School (1909, Norfolk, #122-0550), the Virginia Theater, now Granby Theater (1915, Norfolk, #122-0197), the Naval Operating Base (1917, Norfolk, 122-0410-0235) and the Seaboard Air Line Railway Building (1926-27, Norfolk, #122-0060-0210). Finally, Clarence Neff was the primary architect for the early campus of William and Mary in Norfolk (now Old Dominion University), including the main Education Building (1935, #122-0038-0001) and Foreman Field (1935-36, #122-0038-0002). He also designed Granby High

School (1939, Norfolk, #122-0951) and Center Theater and Arena Municipal Auditorium (1943, Norfolk, 122-0121). Additionally a number of prominent commercial buildings still stand, including many in Norfolk.[7] The Cavalier Hotel featured the still relatively new concept of reinforced concrete construction. Neff & Thompson pioneered this construction method in Tidewater Virginia, utilizing it as early as 1906 in the Monticello Arcade. Also, the unusual V-shape of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Building can be seen as a precursor to The Cavalier Y-shaped design just one year later. The builder of The Cavalier was Roland Brinkley of Baker & Brinkley, a builder for many years in the Tidewater area who died June 14, 1951. The Cavalier was the firm's most important project, but they completed numerous commercial projects, particularly in Norfolk. The best known of these was the now demolished City Market, which dominated an entire city block in downtown for decades. Brinkley also served for many years on the City Board of Zoning Appeals and lived in the city for over fifty years after moving from Nansemond County (now the City of Suffolk).[8]

The official process of creating this new hotel began in 1925 with the creation of the Virginia Beach Resort and Hotel Corporation and a call for suggestions from the public to name the new hotel. By this time the site and design had been selected.[9] On May 9, 1926, the cornerstone was laid with a formal ceremony attended by Lieutenant-Governor Junius E. West speaking on "Virginia in the Future." Norfolk Mayor S. Heth Tyler presided over the ceremony and Cavalier Hotel Corporation president S. L. Slover presented the copper capsule which held several hotel and local history souvenirs to be placed in the cornerstone. Thomas P. Thompson, former president of the Norfolk-Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, also spoke regarding "Norfolk's pride and confidence in Virginia Beach," and demonstrating the very different stature and relationship of Tidewater communities in the early twentieth century. Further support for the hotel was evidenced by the financial support of local developers Jacob Laskin and Louis Siegel.[10]

In early 1927 in anticipation of the opening of The Cavalier Hotel, it was announced that the radio station WSEA would be launched as the "voice of The Cavalier." The 500-watt radio station was located on the first floor of the hotel and run by the Radio Corporation of Virginia. The station could be heard initially for several hundred miles and eventually was broadcast nationally carrying the many bands that played at the hotel.[11]

When The Cavalier Hotel finally opened there was a week of events to celebrate the completion. The festivities opened with a ceremony and evening dinner and entertainment. S.L. Slover presided with Norfolk Mayor S. Heth Tyler to announce the completion of the project and the more than two million dollars raised through 1000 stockholders. J. Leslie Kincaid, President of the American Hotels Corporation, was also in attendance. There were daylight fireworks depicting life-sized Cavaliers on horseback to accompany the first official flag-raising at the hotel. Architect T.P. Thompson was toast master at the evening event which included a beefsteak dinner, elaborate decorations, a jazz band and a "display of bathing costumes by Saks' of Fifth Avenue" by New York models around the new saltwater swimming pool. Kincaid declared The Cavalier to be "the finest resort hotel in America, and I have seen them all. I have known from the start that Virginia Beach, with its natural beauty, offered an exceptional opportunity for a high-class resort hotel."[12] A dinner for the dozens of visiting reporters had been held the night before to allow them to get full access and all the information they needed to promote the hotel and opening events.

Other events planned for the week included a dinner and dance for the contractors; a formal invocation; a grand opening later in the week with the governor and other assorted guests, and a military ball on the Friday night, before opening for guests on Saturday, April 8th. Manager Fay M. Thomas saw that all of the events went according to plan.[13] The dinner for the almost three hundred contractors involved in the construction of the hotel was led by architect T.P. Thompson who gave a keynote speech entitled "The House That Norfolk Built" to honor their work and accomplishment.[14] The grand opening banquet was a major event for the state of Virginia and heralded what was to come for The Cavalier Hotel. Gov. Harry Floor Byrd and more than six hundred guests attended the event which ended the week of celebrations filling the Ballroom and Pocahontas Room. Byrd declared the hotel "a monument to the civic consciousness and progressive spirit of the people of the Norfolk and Portsmouth community…the best resort hotel in America."[15] The Cavalier was the biggest news in Tidewater in a generation with seven thousand people touring the hotel the first day[16], but at the time it was clearly as much a victory for the larger and more influential Norfolk and Portsmouth as it was for the still small but expanding Virginia Beach.

An account of the style and inspirations for the design of the hotel from the time of its opening described an exterior "in that spirit of Southern Colonial" with inspiration from locations such as Woodlawn as well as The Lawn at the University of Virginia and Jefferson's home of Monticello. The concept of the decorative water tower atop the hotel was borrowed from James Gibbs and his work at places such as the Church of St. Mary-Le-Strand at Aldwych in London. The plaster ceiling in the Rotunda lobby was inspired by the ceiling in the Moses Myers House in Norfolk. The terrazzo floors and old pine wood trim were meant to invoke Colonial era homes.[17]

The landscape design and features were also meant to invoke the Colonial period of early Virginia, specifically the plantation houses of Shirley, Brandon, Yorktown, and Westover. Specific examples of this influence are seen in the serpentine walls, tall posts, and formal landscaping at the entrance. The brick walkways, sloping front lawn, and sunken garden also harken back to early Virginia estates. Now gone, there were many old pines and cypress left around the hotel, inspired by Magnolia Gardens of Old Charleston.[18]

Brochures and other hotel materials from that period reveal that The Cavalier Hotel encompassed several hundred acres and incorporated numerous activities and events for their guests into their annual schedules. For many years the hotel hosted the Virginia Top Shooting Association Tournament as well as several hunting and shooting activities being available to all guests on a daily basis. Every spring at the end of May the hotel held The Annual Beach Club opening down below Atlantic Avenue at its club facility. The hotel also sponsored daily or weekly concerts, plays, card games, and other entertainments. A lengthy booklet published soon after opening described an incredible number and variety of activities. Dining options included the Captain John Smith Grill and the more formal Pocahontas dining room which was paired with an enclosed glass porch dining area. Relaxing in the hotel and nearby facilities might include the richly decorated and furnished Sir Walter Raleigh Lounge, the Ocean Front Sun Porch, the glass enclosed Salt-water Pool, the Ballroom, and The Cavalier Riding Club lounge. There were also barbers and hairdressers, shops, a telegraph office, and a small stock trading office. Outdoor activities included golf at The Cavalier Golf and Country Club or at the nearby Princess Anne Country Club, and there was miniature golf in the sunken garden abutting the hotel. Several holes on The Cavalier course were modeled after famous holes at well-known golf courses around the world. By 1931 The Cavalier Hotel had added a

second golf course designed by New York golf architect Charles H. Banks. Additionally there was horseback riding through many miles and numerous different trails. For the hunter there were several different bird hunts as well as the Princess Anne Hunt and Kennel Club available. Guests could also indulge in archery, trap shooting, tennis, and salt water bathing at the ocean side club or the hotel pool. And there were, of course, several boating opportunities sponsored by the hotel.[19]

"The Grande Dame of the Shore" was clearly a place for the elite, and this exclusion had several manifestations. The cost alone prohibited all but a sliver of citizens from staying at The Cavalier Hotel. But the hotel was also closed to African Americans and people of the Jewish faith. This was contrasted by the nearly ubiquitous reality during this time that most of the hotel staff were African Americans. This often behind the scenes prejudice of the day was publically drowned out at the time by the near constant presence of the leading figures of the national conscience from entertainment, to sports, to politics, to the mundanely wealthy. Former First Lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson was a regular visitor and Eleanor Roosevelt visited with the Girl Scouts. Judy Garland, Bette Davis, Jean Harlow, Betty Grable, Frank Sinatra, and Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald all visited The Cavalier Hotel. U.S Presidents visiting The Cavalier included Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Harry Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George H. W. Bush. Sam Snead won the Virginia Open at The Cavalier Golf Course in 1935. Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, and all of the nationally known band leaders came and played. The hotel was also one of the most popular honeymoon destinations in the country.[20] General manager Sydney Banks claimed that The Cavalier "became the largest hirer of bands in the United States…a different one every week." The Cavalier was the third hotel in the country to have national broadcasts and on June 10, 1927, Norfolk Mayor Tyler was the first American to greet Charles Lindbergh returning from his transatlantic flight via The Cavalier radio station, WSEA.[21]

The Cavalier Hotel continued to be a great success with few dips in its popularity or profitability for fifteen years until October 3, 1942. At this time the United States Navy commandeered the hotel to serve as a radar training school. Nearly every available space was converted into classroom space and living quarters. By the time the hotel was returned to its owners and manager Sydney Banks it required substantial renovations. The Cavalier Hotel also faced the loss of the "Cavalier" rail service to the hotel from the Midwest as a result of the surge in automobile use. Additionally, after three years of being out of service, the hotel had fallen from the top lists of wealthy travelers. The hotel eventually failed and became a private club for a time in the 1950s and 1960s before returning to service as a hotel. Through the second half of the twentieth century the hotel has remained open for most of the years, but off-and-on renovations of mixed effectiveness and the decline of the luxury beach hotel market has left The Cavalier Hotel in a precarious position for several generations. Over the same period, the acreage associated with the hotel diminished as the hotel's fortunes declined and land was subdivided for additional commercial and residential development.

The Cavalier Hotel has recently changed ownership and plans are underway for a complete renovation of the entire hotel.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"*Cavalier Vertical File*," Sargeant Memorial Room, Norfolk Public Library, Norfolk, Virginia.

Jordan, James M. IV and Frederick S. Jordan. Virginia Beach: A Pictorial History Richmond, VA: Hale Publishing, 1975.

Mansfield, Stephen S. Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach, a Pictorial History. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 2006.

The Ledger-Star.

The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

The Official Hotel Red Book and Directory, New York: 1927, p.647-64.

Post, J. Otis, "Efficient Planning For Economical Operation," *The Architectural Forum*, Vol.51: December 1929, p.667-94.

The Virginian-Pilot.

The Virginian-Pilot and The Norfolk Landmark.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. The Virginia Architects: 1835 – 1955. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

Wilson, Richard, Guy & Contributors. Buildings of Virginia: Tidewater and Piedmont New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Yarsinske, Amy Waters. Virginia Beach, A History of Virginia's Golden Shore. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2002.

Yarsinske, Amy Waters. Virginia Beach: Jewel Resort of the Atlantic. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publishing, 1998.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register

____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
__X__ Other
Name of repository: _Norfolk Public Library, Norfolk, VA; Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _VDHR #134-0503_____

---

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __5.41_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 18	Easting:412645	Northing: 4080696
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary of the Cavalier Hotel nomination includes all of the land associated with the current hotel parcel (#2418-85-9710) amounting to 5.41 acres and as shown on the accompanying sketch map entitled "Cavalier Hotel #134-0503."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Cavalier Hotel nomination includes all of the land within the current legally recorded boundary lines of the parcel, all of which was historically associated with the hotel. This parcel also includes all of the land in the recorded green space and preservation easements held by the City of Virginia Beach. The boundary encompasses the property's contributing resources and their historic setting.

---

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Marcus R. Pollard
organization: Commonwealth Preservation Group
street & number: PO Box 11083
city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23517
e-mail_marcus@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com
telephone: 757-651-0494
date: 12/9/2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Cavalier Hotel

City or Vicinity: Virginia Beach

County: N/A State: Virginia

Photographer: Marcus R. Pollard

Date Photographed: 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 17: Overall view including terraced lawn, facing west
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0001.tif

2 of 17: Entry and gates to Cavalier Drive, facing west
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0002.tif

3 of 17: Driveway from Cavalier Drive, entry façade, facing south
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0003.tif

4 of 17: Overall view including sunken garden, facing NW
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0004.tif

5 of 17: Overall view, facing east
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0005.tif

6 of 17: Entry porch, facing SW
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0006.tif

7 of 17: Rotunda Lobby, facing south
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0007.tif

8 of 17: Pool and veranda, facing SE
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0008.tif

9 of 17: Porch, facing east
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0009.tif

10 of 17: Pocahontas Dining Room: facing south
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0010.tif

11 of 17: Hall from lobby to Ballroom, facing SW
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0011.tif

12 of 17: Original Ballroom, facing NW
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0012.tif

13 of 17: Ballroom addition, facing west
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0013.tif

14 of 17: Raleigh Room, facing east
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0014.tif

15 of 17: Hunt Room, facing south
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0015.tif

16 of 17: Hotel room hallway, facing east
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0016.tif

17 of 17: Hotel room suite, facing NE
VA_Virginia Beach_Cavalier Hotel_0017.tif

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ENDNOTES

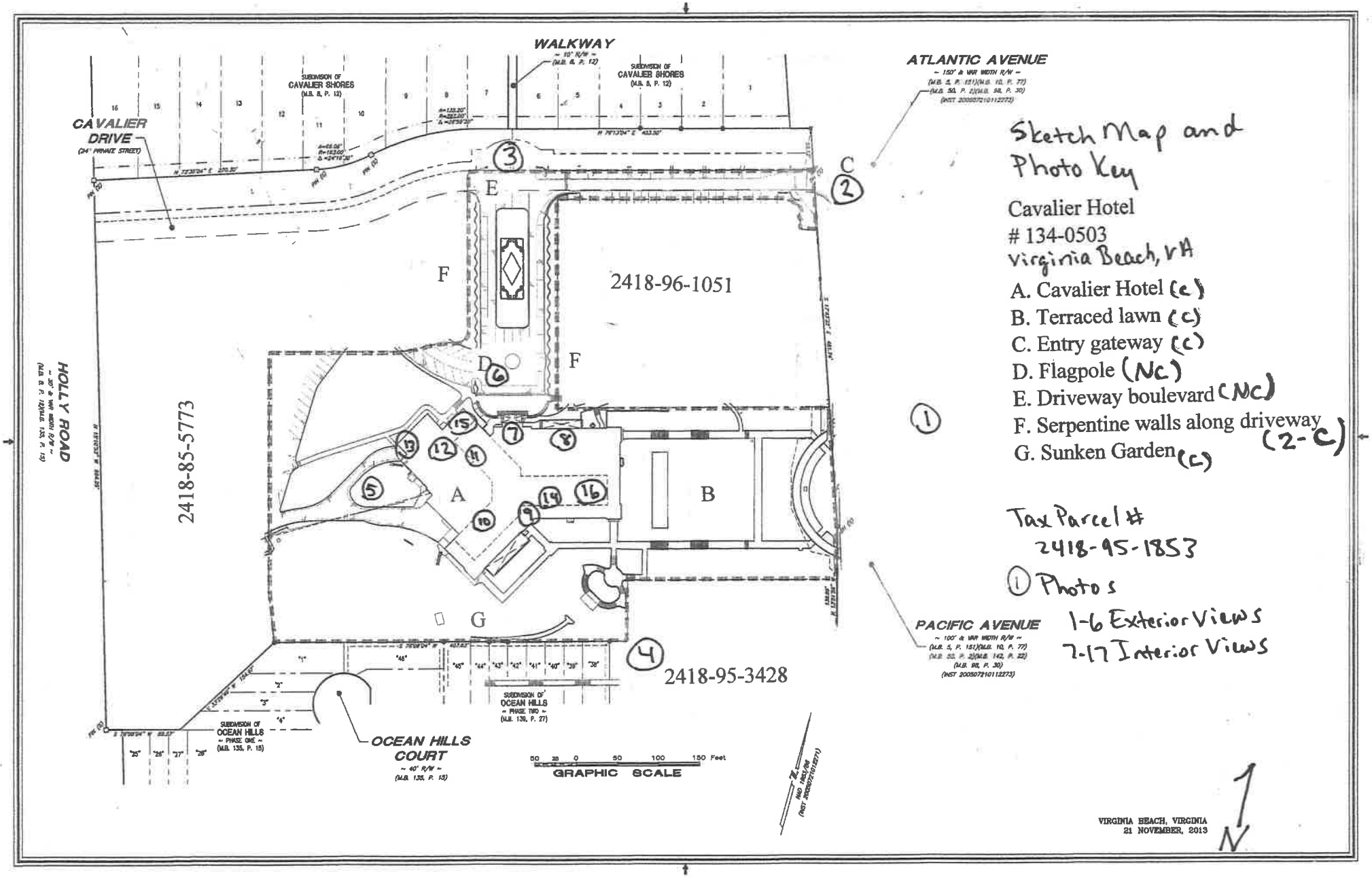
[1] "Whirlwind Campaign For New Beach Hotel," *The Virginian-Pilot and The Norfolk Landmark*, May 30, 1915, p.1.
[2] James M Jordan IV and Frederick S. Jordan, Virginia Beach, A Pictorial History, Richmond: 1974, p.39-40.
[3] Stephen S. Mansfield, Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach, a Pictorial History, Virginia Beach: 1989, p.133-34; Amy Waters Yarsinske, Virginia Beach: A History of Virginia's Golden Shore, Charleston, SC: 202, p.124-27.
[4] Mansfield, Princess Anne Country and Virginia Beach, p.134; Yarsinske, Virginia Beach: A History of Virginia's Golden Shore, p.131.
[5] J. Otis Post, "Efficient Planning For Economical Operation," *The Architectural Forum*, Vol.51: December 1929, p.667-94. Some of the comparable Post influenced hotels from this era were the Hotel Statler in Buffalo and Boston; the Hotel Roosevelt, the Hotel Beverly, and the Hotel Delmonico in New York; the Olympic Hotel in Seattle; the Hotel Syracuse in Syracuse; and the Half Moon Hotel in Coney Island.
[6] *The Official Hotel Red Book and Directory*, New York: 1927, p.647-64.
[7] John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955, New South Architectural Press, Richmond, VA: 1997, p.319-23.
[8] "Roland Brinkley Is Dead; Widely Known Contractor," *The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, Wednesday, June 13, 1951, p.2.
[9] "Hotel Corporation Seeking Name for New Beach Resort," *The Virginian-Pilot*, September 21, 1925, p.1.
[10] "Cornerstone Of New Cavalier Hotel is Laid," *The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, May 9, 1926, p.1-2.
[11] "Cavalier Hotel To Broadcast Through WSEA," *The Virginian-Pilot*, February 26, 1927, p.1.
[12] "Week of Festivities To Mark Opening of Cavalier Hotel," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 3, 1927, p.1; "Cavalier Hotel At Beach Makes Its Formal Bow To Public Today," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 4, 1927, p.1; "Handsome new Cavalier Hotel Makes Formal Bow to Public," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 5, 1927, p.1, 2.
[13] "Week of Festivities To Mark Opening of Cavalier Hotel," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 3, 1927, p.1; "Cavalier Hotel At Beach Makes Its Formal Bow To Public Today," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 4, 1927, p.1; "Handsome new Cavalier Hotel Makes Formal Bow to Public," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 5, 1927, p.1, 2.
[14] "Cavalier Hotel As Example of What Unified Effort Can Do," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 6, 1927, p.1-2.
[15] "Cavalier Makes Its Formal Bow As Dispenser of Hospitality," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 8, 1927, p.1-2.
[16] "Cavalier Hotel Is Inspected By 7,000 Persons In Few Hours," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 7, 1927, p1-2.
[17] "What Stockholders Will See At Inspection Of The Cavalier," *The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, April 5, 1927, 2nd section, p.2.
[18] "Early Virginia Atmosphere Surrounds The Cavalier By Landscape Architect's Art," *The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, April 5, 1927, 2nd section, p.3.
[19] "Cavalier Vertical File," *Sargeant Memorial Room*, Norfolk Public Library, Norfolk, Virginia.
[20] Yarsinske, Virginia Beach: A History of Virginia's Golden Shore, p.132-41.
[21] Frank Blackford, "Born to the '20s, But Reaching for the 70's," *The Virginian-Pilot*, December 15, 1974; "Queen of the Beach," *The Ledger-Star*, June 24, 1981, B5, p.1-5.

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, Virginia
DHR #134-0503

Aerial View

Cavalier Hotel - Aerial View

N



Sketch Map and Photo Key

Cavalier Hotel
134-0503
Virginia Beach, VA

A. Cavalier Hotel (c)
B. Terraced lawn (c)
C. Entry gateway (c)
D. Flagpole (NC)
E. Driveway boulevard (NC)
F. Serpentine walls along driveway (2-C)
G. Sunken Garden (c)

Tax Parcel #
2418-95-1853

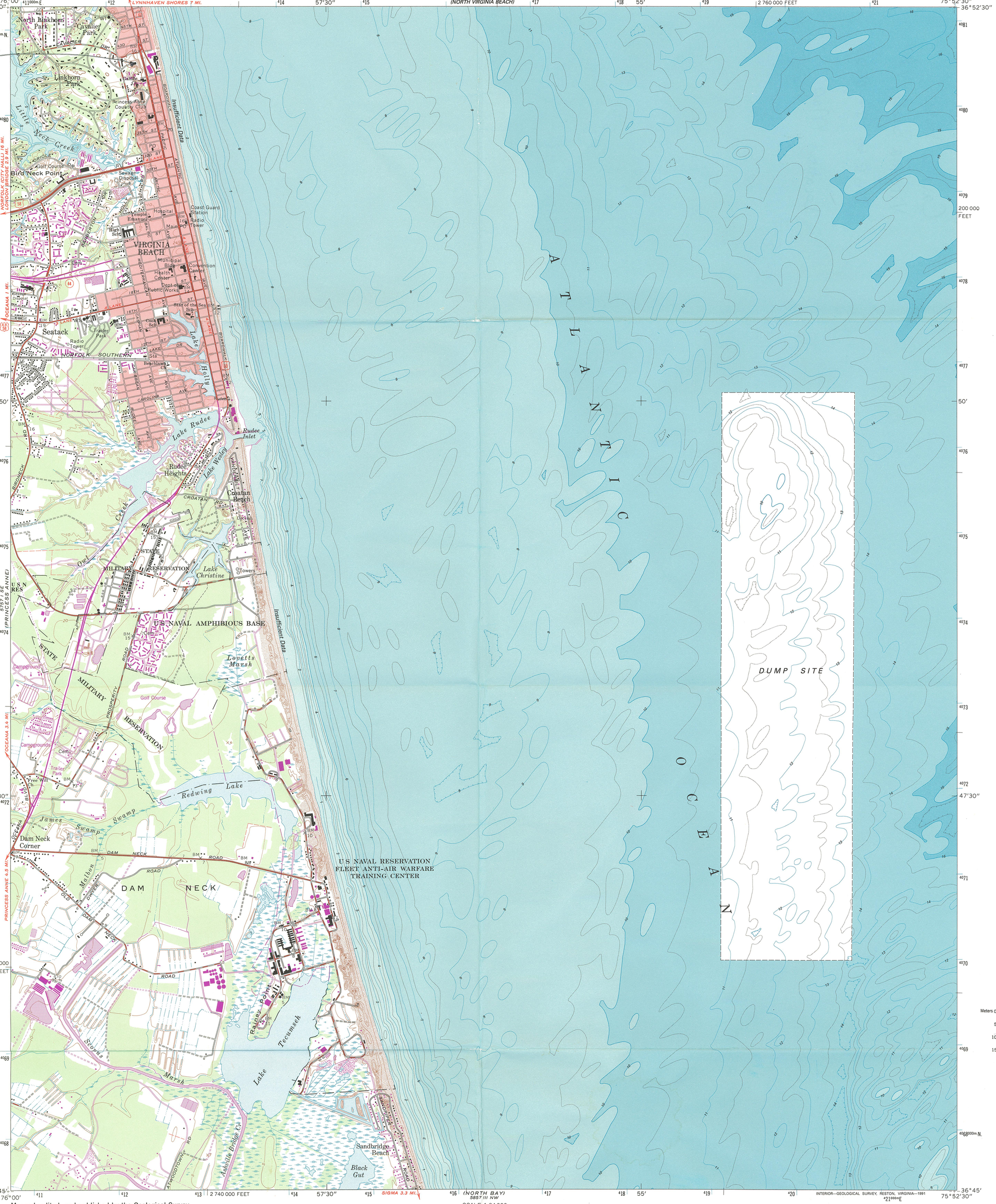
(1) Photos
1-6 Exterior Views
7-17 Interior Views

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

VIRGINIA BEACH QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA–VIRGINIA BEACH CITY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC–BATHYMETRIC)

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
VDHR #134-0503
Virginia Beach Quad
18: N 4080096
E 412645
NAD 83



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965

Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs
Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line

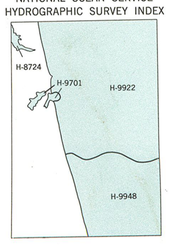
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18 shown in blue
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX



HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INFORMATION

SURVEY NUMBER	SURVEY DATE	SURVEY SCALE	SURVEY LINE SPACING (NAUT. MILES)
H-8724	1963	1:10,000	.02-.06
H-9701	1977	1:5,000	.01-.03
H-9922	1980	1:20,000	.08-.12
H-9948	1981	1:20,000	.04-.12

SCALE 1:24 000

1 ½ 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER WITH SUPPLEMENTARY
0.5 METER CONTOURS–DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

BASE MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
BATHYMETRIC SURVEY DATA COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO) SPECIAL PUBLICATION 44 ACCURACY STANDARDS AND/OR STANDARDS USED AT THE DATE OF THE SURVEY

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Map photoinspected 1989
No major culture or drainage changes observed

VIRGINIA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1986

MN GN
9° 160 MILS
0°34′ 10 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty
Light-duty
Medium-duty
Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route
State Route

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.
36075-G8-TB-024
PHOTOINSPECTED 1989
1965

BATHYMETRY ADDED 1986
DMA 5857 IV SW–SERIES V834
PHOTOREVISED 1986

ISBN 0-607-55581-0
9 780607 558128

CAVALIER

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
1/17.

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
2/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
3/17

Virginia Beach, VA
Cavalier Hotel
4/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
5/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
6/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
7/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
8/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
9/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
10/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
11/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
12/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
13/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
14/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
15/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
16/17

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, VA
17/17