

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 24 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic (VIRGINIA BANK AND TRUST BUILDING) (VHLC File #122-78)
and or common Auslew Gallery Building (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number 101 Granby Street N/A not for publication
city, town Norfolk N/A vicinity of
state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 710

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Donald S. Lewis
street & number 101 Granby Street
city, town Norfolk N/A vicinity of state Virginia 23510

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse - City of Norfolk
street & number 100 St. Paul Boulevard
city, town Norfolk state Virginia 23510

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
title (File #122-78) has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1979, 1982, 1983 federal state county local
depository for survey records 221 Governor Street
city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Auslew Gallery (formerly Virginia Bank and Trust) Building is located at the corner of Granby and Main streets. This was the commercial heart of Norfolk. The building was erected in 1908-1909 after plans drawn by the Baltimore firm of Wyatt and Notting, Architects, with the Norfolk firm of Taylor and Hepburn, Associate Architects. The four-story structure's architecture is derived from Greek and Roman elements featuring engaged Ionic columns and Doric pilasters on the Main (north) and Granby (east) street facades. The south wall was a party wall adjoining the Atlantic Hotel. The west wall faced an alley and was unadorned, consisting of stucco over brick. At the time of its erection the structure was hailed as "one of the finest bank buildings in the state."

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The general design could be typified as an excellent example of Beaux-Arts neo-classicism; an eclectic mix of classical forms. The entry facade on Granby Street consists of a three-story engaged fluted Greek Ionic order of three-quarter columns distyle in antis, resting on a low plinth. The flanking pilasters are dark and enressaut. The central intercolumniation was widened to accommodate the main entry which is distinguished by highly carved antepagments supporting a triangular pediment surmounted by antefixes with anthemion moldings. A short, curved iron railing with an "S" curve motif (for Southern Bank of Norfolk) accents the two steps leading to the doors which are recessed bronze four-panel pocket doors with egg and dart molding.

At the level of the doorway cornice, the flanking stone walls are topped by coping stones that give way to a two-story glass facade linking the engaged columns. The metal frames of this glass area are highly decorated. The glass terminates at the architrave. The entire facade is surmounted by an Ionic entablature whose somewhat narrow frieze is decorated at the corners with rinceau moldings and whose center formerly contained the banks name. An Ionic horizontal cornice replete with dentil course completes the composition. A setback stone parapet crowns the entire building.

The south facade is five bays in width and is articulated in the same manner as the Granby Street facade with Doric pilasters enressaut and engaged Ionic quarter-columns flanking four engaged Ionic three-quarter columns in antis. The entire facade rests on a plinth that curves toward the facade in the intercolumniations. At the ground level the intercolumniations are spanned by stone walls pierced by windows that are articulated as aediculae and protected with decorative iron grilles. The pediments of the aediculae are supported by consoles. Above the stone walls rises a two-story glass facade whose metal frames are articulated as colonnettes and whose spandrels are decorated with Greek key moldings and fretwork. Two balconnetes occur on the second and third levels. Their balustrades consist of metal work in a Greek key motif. As on the entry facade, the fenestration terminates at the level of the Ionic capitals and is topped by a continuation of the entablature from the entry facade. The frieze decoration is similar also for only the area above the pilasters is decorated with a rinceau motif. Above the horizontal cornice, a stone parapet terminates the composition.

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

Specific dates 1909 **Builder/Architect** Wyatt & Nolting, Baltimore, Architects
Taylor & Hepburn, Norfolk, Associate Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Auslew Gallery Building lies in its architecture. It is an exceedingly well-preserved structure which reflects the aims and aspirations of the financial institutions at the turn of the century. It was a period when banks tried to cultivate an image of being "Temples of Finance" by using classical architectural motifs to make manifest their ever more important role in the economic development of the country as well as to reassure their clients as to their soundness and seriousness of purpose. The architectural motifs of Greece and Rome were felt to somehow provide an element of historic stability when applied to a 20th-century bank. The design of two well-known architectural firms, Wyatt and Nolting of Baltimore as prime architects, and Taylor and Hepburn of Norfolk as associate architects, fully reflects this preoccupation with classical design elements. The building, though no longer used as a bank, stands today, largely unaltered, as one of the best-preserved structures of its type and period and one of the very few structures representative of the work of what was then Norfolk's leading architectural firm. The building's close relationship to the Knickerbocker Trust and Safe Deposit Company in New York by McKim, Mead and White (1904) demonstrates the dissemination of a building type from New York prototype to a popular form through its interpretation by an architect of secondary importance. This type of form for a bank became very popular in many northern urban centers but extant examples are rather rare in the South.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Norfolk, by 1900, had entered a period of great economic growth. To take advantage of this development, new financial institutions arose including The Virginia Bank and Trust Company, Inc., which was founded in 1902 with a capital of \$100,000.00. By 1908 the bank's capital had grown to \$600,000.00, and it was ready to move from its quarters under the old YMCA Building on Main Street. The new location was to be on the corner of Main Street and Granby Street in what was the center of an emerging financial district. This was the area where Norfolk's most important banks were located including the Bank of Commerce, the Norfolk National Bank and the Marine Bank, as well as other institutions, such as the U.S. Customs House and the Cotton Exchange. The focal point was the seven-story Citizens Bank Building, the tallest building in Norfolk until 1904, when the Bank of Commerce announced that it would build a thirteen-story building in the area.

One of the key sites in the area was the corner of Main and Granby streets, which became available after a fire had destroyed part of the Atlantic Hotel in 1902. The Virginia Bank and Trust Company acquired the site measuring approxi-

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #2)

- Walker, Carroll & Faber, Linda G. Editors. Norfolk, A Pictorial History. Norfolk: The Donning Co., 1975.
- Wertemberger, Thomas J. & Schlegel, Marvin W. Editors. Norfolk, Historic Southern Port, (2nd Ed.) Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1962.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/12 acre (4190 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name Norfolk South, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>38461910</u>	<u>40718380</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is a rectangular lot 49.1' x 100' at the NW corner of W. Main St. and Granby St. fronting 100' on Main St. Norfolk Assessors Records: Plate 729.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

1) Frederick Herman, Architect &
name/title 2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization 2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date April 1983

street & number 1) 420 W. Bute Street telephone 1) (804) 625-6575
2) 221 Governor Street 2) (804) 786-3144

city or town 1) Norfolk state 1) Virginia 23510
2) Richmond 2) 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

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date January 17, 1984

For NPS use only

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

J. Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/23/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

AUSLEW GALLERY BUILDING, NORFOLK, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7,8

Page 1, 1

For NPS use only
received
date entered

7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The west wall, which faced a ten-foot alley, lacks any ornamentation with the exception of a brief return of the cornice. The wall finish is stucco over brick. There are several window openings without any decorative elements in which the original sash has been replaced.

The east wall was a former party wall and consists in part of rough and broken brickwork left when the adjacent building was demolished, and, the remaining part is stucco over brick. Recently window openings have been cut into this wall and modern metal windows installed.

On the interior, the banking lobby retains its coffered ceiling with egg and dart and labyrinth key cornices which follow the beam line and elements of the original Ionic pilasters. The vault wall with its three massive vault doors remains intact as does the board room above it with its Ionic pilaster and Greek key cornice facing the banking lobby.

The entrance lobby retains its original pink marble facing with a bronze egg and dart anthemion cornice. A handsome stair featuring a heavy cast-iron railing in a Greek motif featuring an elaborate labyrinth fret design with vertical uprights leads to the upper floors.

On the upper floors the office layout has been changed and new partitions have been installed without, however, affecting the exterior of the building. Other changes include new elevator doors and electrical fixtures as well as the installation of updated mechanical and electrical systems.

¹"Bank Opened Today In Its New Home," Ledger-Dispatch, Norfolk, VA, July 19, 1909, p.14.

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

mately 42' x 100' in December of 1907, plans were prepared in 1908, and the bank formally opened its doors on Monday, July 19, 1909, an event hailed by the press who found:

The structure is one of the finest bank buildings in the State and compares favorably with any in the country. The exterior of the building is ornamental and a creditable addition to the business section of the city, giving an impression of strength, security and stability.

The building was subsequently the home of various banks as changing economic times, the Depression, and the consolidation of financial institutions took their toll. In 1943, the building was acquired by the Southern Bank of Norfolk. This institution was to play a major role in the development of Virginia banking. In the 1950s it became the First Virginia Bank of Tidewater and subsequently it became a major component in one of Virginia's largest bank systems -- The First Virginia Bank Corporation. In the early 1970s, the Virginia Bank Corporation built a high-rise office building nearby and the old bank building was left vacant

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

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

AUSLEW GALLERY BUILDING, NORFOLK, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8,9 , 10

Page 2, 1, 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

for several years. It was acquired by Donald S. Lewis in 1977 who established Tidewater's leading art gallery, Auslew Gallery, on the premises. This adaptive reuse of the building was achieved without in any way affecting the exterior of the building which stands today as an elegant reminder of Norfolk's past and as one of the very few classical design financial structures surviving in the area. It is one of the best-preserved structures of its type in the state -- fully the equal of the former First National Bank of Roanoke, another classical bank structure built at about the same time.

In exterior design, the bank bears a close resemblance to at least two banks that had recently been built in New York City: the Importers and Traders National Bank (1908) by Joseph Freedlander, and the Knickerbocker Trust and Safe Deposit Company Building (1904) by McKim, Mead and White. These two banks, with giant engaged orders or pilasters and vertical separation of banking departments served as prototypes for small bank design throughout the country. The Auslew Gallery is an excellent example of a secondary architect's interpretation of the New York paradigms for a small southern bank. This bank form proliferated throughout the northern urban centers, but relatively few seem to have been built in the South. This fact alone increases the Gallery's significance.

¹"Bank Opened Today In Its New Home," Ledger-Dispatch, Norfolk, VA. July 19, 1909, p. 14.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "To Invest Big Sum in Building," Ledger-Dispatch, Norfolk, VA. May 30, 1908, pp. 1-12.
- "Imposing Bank Building Now Nearing Completion," Ledger-Dispatch, Norfolk, VA. May 17, 1909, p. 17.
- "Virginia Bank and Trust Co. Moving Today," Ledger-Dispatch, Norfolk, VA. July 17, 1909, p. 7.
- "New Bank Opens Tomorrow For Inspection," Virginian Pilot, Norfolk, VA. July 18, 1909, p. 3.
- "Bank Opened Today In Its New Home," Ledger-Dispatch, Norfolk, VA. July 19, 1909, p. 14.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to coincide with the above described lot which is identical with the lot at the time the building was erected in 1908-1909 and does not include any additional area.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Auslew Gallery Building (Virginia Bank and
Trust Building)
Norfolk (Independent City)
VIRGINIA

Working No. JAN 24 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85

Date Due: 2/23/84 - 3/9/84

Action: ACCEPT 2/23/84
 RETURN
 REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



AUSLEW GALLERY FROM S.E.

AUSLEW GALLERY BUILDING
Norfolk, VA

Credit: Frederick Herman

Date: 1983

Negative Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

View of Auslew Gallery from SE

Neg. No. 7507

File No. 122-78

1 of 4



VIEW FROM S.W.

AUSLEW GALLERY BUILDING
Norfolk, VA

Credit: Frederick Herman

Date: 1983

Negative Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

View of Auslew Gallery from SW

Neg. No. 7507

File No. 122-78

2 of 4



INTERIOR Auslew Gallery
LOOKING EAST - TO MAIN ENTRANCE

AUSLEW GALLERY BUILDING
Norfolk, VA

Credit: Frederick Herman

Date: 1983

Negative Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

View of interior looking E to main entrance

Neg. No. 7507

File No. 122-78

3 of 4



IT

AUSLEW GALLERY

INTERIOR GROUND FLR. LOOKING WEST,

AUSLEW GALLERY BUILDING
Norfolk, VA

Credit: Frederick Herman

Date: 1983

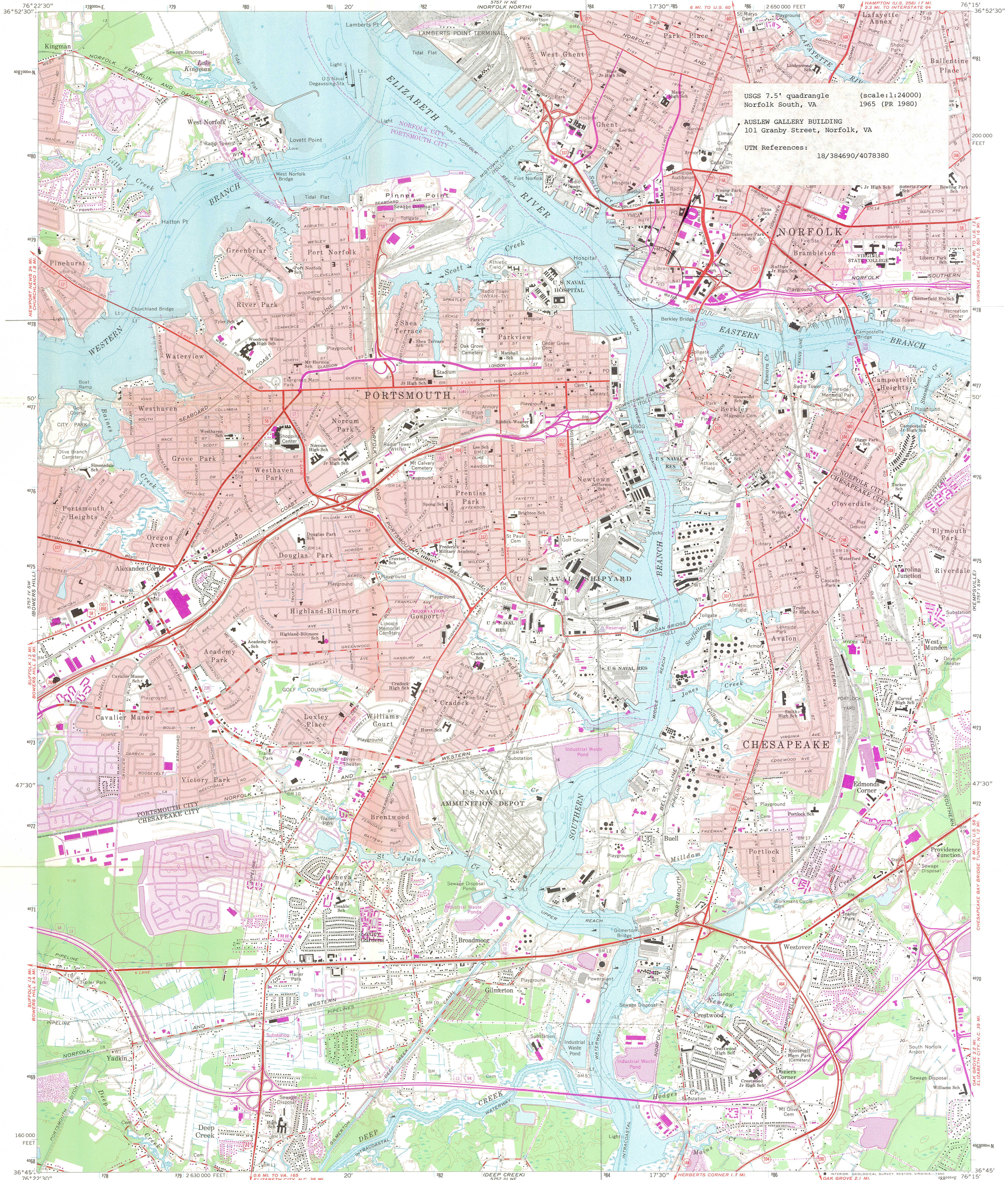
Negative Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

View of interior ground floor looking W

Neg. No. 7507

File No. 122-78

4 of 4



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Norfolk South, VA (scale: 1:24000)
1965 (PR 1980)
AUSLEW GALLERY BUILDING
101 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA
UTM References: 18/384690/4078380

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE

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

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 452 (1965). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 11 meters south and 30 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1978 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1980 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

1:42 MILS 0°47' 14 MILS

SCALE 1:24000

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.7 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

NORFOLK SOUTH, VA.

N3645—W7615/7.5

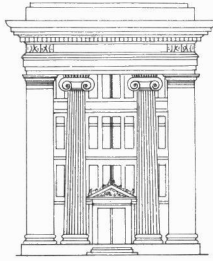
1965

PHOTOREVISED 1980

DMA 5757 IV SE—SERIES V834

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

AUSLEW



GALLERY

January 3, 1983

Mr. Richard C. Cote
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Cote:

I have received your letter of December 14, 1982 informing me that the State Review Board has approved our request for placement on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

We are preparing to have the building registered in the near future.

Very truly yours,

Don S. Lewis

DSL/lc



City of Norfolk
Virginia

Office of the Mayor

January 6, 1984

Ms. Susan W. Alexander
Acting Registrar
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Ms. Alexander:

In response to your letter of December 16, 1983, this is to advise that the City of Norfolk supports the nomination of the Auslew Gallery to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

This structure is listed in Norfolk's "Historic and Cultural Resources Inventory," a copy of which is on file in your office (see page B-20).

To keep our records up to date, please send a copy of your nomination form on this structure and any supporting documentation to Philip A. Stedfast, Director of City Planning, 508 City Hall Building, Norfolk, Virginia 23501.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Vincent J. Thomas
Mayor

cc: Director, Department of City Planning
Executive Director, Norfolk Redevelopment &
Housing Authority