

The George Wright Forum

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On the cover: Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, Virginia. The Virginia State Capitol (1785) was designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) as part of the commemoration of the centennial of the American Civil War. From 1960 until 2017 the official Interior Department name of this property was "Confederate Capitol," a moniker that referenced its use as a seat of government from 1861 - 1865 rather than its association with either the oldest legislative body in the United States or its architectural qualities as designed by Thomas Jefferson. At the request of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell changed the name in early 2017 as part of an effort to update the NHL documentation of the property to recognize the panorama of its historic significance. Since the 1960s only about 3% of all National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark nominations have ever been updated for content since their initial listing. Historic American Buildings Survey photo.