

United States Department of the Interior  
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: Daily Press Building  
Other names/site number: DHR No. 121-5563  
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: 7505 Warwick Boulevard  
City or town: Newport News State: VA County: Independent City  
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

**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:

    A     B X C     D

Julie V. Sanger  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

12/17/25  
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

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business: Office Building

OTHER: Newspaper Printing Plant

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business: Office Building

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: New Formalism

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; STONE: Marble, Slate;  
GLASS; METAL

### 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.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The *Daily Press* Building at 7505 Warwick Boulevard is located in a suburban area in the City of Newport News, Virginia. An example of New Formalism, the building was designed by local architect Forrest W. Coile and completed in 1968. The building is moderately set back from the street and is fronted by a landscaped plaza with mature trees, a grassy lawn, concrete pavers, and flagpoles. A driveway, accessed from 75<sup>th</sup> Street to the southeast, runs along the front of the building to a porte cochere at the centered, primary entrance. The three-story, nine-bay, rectangular masonry commercial-industrial building has a concrete foundation and a heavy flat, slab roof. The exterior walls are clad with a combination of slate panels and stretcher-bond brick with projecting, rectangular, stretcher-bond brick veneer wall sections between marble pilasters and multi-story vertical, fixed, aluminum window bands. On the rear elevation, cantilevered awnings shelter the loading dock near the southeast corner. On the interior, the central lobby features marble slab walls, terrazzo flooring, and a floating staircase with marble-clad risers, a wood handrail, and square balusters. The building was custom-designed to house all of the *Daily Press*'s operations. A two-story basement originally housed the printing presses. The printing equipment was moved to a neighboring building during the early 1980s; a c. 1982 steel-frame, glass enclosed skybridge was added to the *Daily Press* Building to connect its second story to the neighboring building. Beyond the utilitarian basement, the nominated building's interior finishes are typical of 1960s offices with carpeting over concrete floors, sheetrock and concrete block walls, and dropped ceilings with acoustical tiles. The executive offices on the third floor retain original classically inspired wood paneling, crown molding, and built-in shelves along with oak flooring. In addition to the contributing building, the nominated property has an original flag plaza that is a contributing structure, brick equipment enclosure that is a noncontributing structure and a satellite dish that is a noncontributing object; both resources postdate the property's period of significance. The property's

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integrity of location and setting are intact, while the integrity of the building's design has remained largely unaltered, but for the c. 1982 skybridge that occupies one bay of the second story. High integrity of workmanship and materials also are evident. The overall integrity of feeling and association for the building's significant use as a headquarters for the regional *Daily Press* newspaper is high as well.

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## Narrative Description

### *Setting*

The building at 7505 Warwick Boulevard is located in a suburban area in the City of Newport News, Virginia. It is situated on a large rectangular parcel just south of Mercury Boulevard/ State Route 17 and southwest of Warwick Boulevard/U.S. Route 60, a residential townhome development at the rear of the nominated boundary, and commercial development to the southeast.

The building is moderately set back from the street, accommodating a small front lawn. The front lawn is dotted with several mature trees flanking a central flag plaza that features large square concrete pavers and four flagpoles; the plaza is a contributing structure. A central concrete sidewalk connects the public sidewalk to the flag plaza and the porte cochere at the front entrance. A driveway extends from Warwick Boulevard and quickly splits, with one side continuing along the *Daily Press* Building's northwest (side) elevation and the other extending along the building's northeast façade to a porte cochere. A strip of parking spaces is between the driveway and the flag plaza. The driveway continues around to the building's southeast (side), where additional parking is located, as well as an egress to 75<sup>th</sup> Street. A larger parking lot is directly southwest (at the rear) of the building.

The remainder of the site largely consists of paved parking areas situated in rows with mature trees lining the site's perimeter and medians. Additionally, a collection of original streetlights, with fixtures that resemble a spaceship due to their circular form with a flattened top and a bottom cage to protect the bulb, are situated within the landscaped areas throughout the site.

### *Inventory*

*Daily Press* Building, 1968, contributing building

Flag plaza, 1968, contributing structure

Equipment enclosure, c. 1980, noncontributing structure

Satellite dish, c. 1985, noncontributing object

### *Detailed Description*

#### Exterior

This New Formalist-style building is a three-story, nine-bay, rectangular masonry commercial-industrial resource completed in 1968. Site preparation began in August 1966, with Rufus G.

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Mabe Jr. serving as superintendent of construction on behalf of W. M. Jordan Company, Inc. Construction of the building required 445 working days.<sup>1</sup> The building has a concrete foundation and a heavy flat, slab roof with metal coping and a projecting marble-clad eave that projects over the pilaster capitals along the northeast façade and side elevations. The exterior walls are clad with a combination of slate panels and stretcher-bond brick with projecting, rectangular, stretcher-bond brick veneer wall sections between marble pilasters. On the façade and side elevations, regularly spaced, beveled marble pilasters are composed of steel members clad with Italian marble and feature a modernistic geometric three-pronged capital with a T-shape. The pilasters separate the bays to formulate window bays containing multi-story vertical, fixed, aluminum window bands set within each brick wall panel. A comparison of the attached 1968 elevation drawings against existing conditions demonstrates that the building has had few alterations over time.

The primary entrance is centered on the northeast façade that is oriented toward Warwick Boulevard. The steel-reinforced, concrete porte cochere has a flat roof with a cornice that matches the building's and is supported by beveled, marble-clad columns with four-pointed star capitals. Accessed by concrete steps, the entrance features an aluminum storefront entry with a double-leaf aluminum-and-glass door topped by a single-light transom and two rows of large storefront sidelights flanking the doors. Elevation drawings show that this storefront entry likely is original to the building. At the northwest corner of the façade, a secondary entry with a single-leaf, flush metal door is accessed by two short flights of concrete steps with pipe railing that are separated by a solid brick wall roughly one-story in height. The elevation drawings indicate that the brick wall was not part of the original design, but the brickwork and mortar are very similar to the building's brick veneer.

On the building's northwest (side) elevation, a c. 1982, second-story skybridge spans the driveway that separates the *Daily Press* Building from the neighboring early 1980s industrial building that was built to house the newspaper's printing operations. The bridge is connected to the *Daily Press* Building with steel members that are affixed to the brick veneer. The door within the bridge replaced an original window. The bridge's walls are enclosed with tripartite groups of windows and metal siding; the flat roof is not visible. A diminutive, one-story, brick veneer extension supports the south end of the bridge and covers an original first-story window opening. The northwest elevation otherwise has not been altered. The original brick veneer, slate panels, vertical bands of windows, and pilasters match those of the façade. A one-story, brick-veneer extension that is original to the building spans the two southernmost bays. Its flat roof has a wide cornice that now is clad with metal siding that matches the skybridge's exterior walls. On the extension's northeast and southwest walls, brick wing walls screen the off-center entries and match the design and materials of the façade's northwest entry wall. The extension's northwest side is devoid of fenestration.

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<sup>1</sup> "Native of North Carolina: Construction Supervisor No Newcomer to Business," *Daily Press*, New Plant Dedication Section, May 11, 1968, p. 1; "New Building of Modern Design," *Daily Press*, New Plant Dedication Section, May 11, 1968, p. 1.

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The *Daily Press* Building's southeast (side) elevation has not been altered. Its materials, fenestration, and marble-clad pilasters match those found on the façade and northwest (side) elevation. A series of three metal vents is at the southwest end of the wall and just below the cornice. A small loading dock with a rolling metal overhead door occupies the first story of the adjacent bay to the northeast. Although the dock has not been changed, it no longer has vehicular access to it from the adjacent parking area.

In contrast to the formality of the façade and side elevations, the southwest (rear) elevation is simpler in design. It features an expansive, smooth brick veneer with minimal openings. At the northwest corner, a sloped concrete ramp leads down to a below-grade, covered loading dock with a corrugated metal, rolling overhead door and flush metal pedestrian door. A concrete retaining wall with a metal pipe railing borders the ramp on the southwest side. An additional, inset, at-grade loading dock is located at the southwest corner of the building and is sheltered by a cantilevered canopy with a smooth cornice that matches the main block. The platform provides access to multiple single-leaf metal-slab doors and a double-leaf door on the south end of the rear elevation, all of which appear on the 1968 elevation drawings. A one-story enclosure composed of open brickwork screens an entry at the southeast corner, which also is sheltered by a cantilevered awning. The entry has a flush metal door with metal casing. The brickwork matches that of a noncontributing equipment enclosure (described below) at the northwest end of the building. This entry does not appear on the 1968 drawings and a slight difference in the color of the brick indicates the screen was built at a later date. The entry is accessed via a brick ramp with a concrete deck and metal pipe railings. The curving ramp also leads up to the inset loading dock; the ramp is not, however, accessible from the adjacent parking lot. The limited access indicates that the ramp's purpose was to move deliveries from the loading dock to the first story's interior office area and/or to move packages for shipping from the office area over to the loading dock. At the second story of the southwest (rear) elevation, a square brick column separates the windows located at the northern end of the wall, just beneath the cornice, from the louvered vents on the southern end.

Interior

On the interior, the primary entrance opens to a modular metal-and-glass enclosed vestibule that may not be original; if so, its design makes it simple to remove. The vestibule is within the central lobby, which has a reception desk and a curved staircase that are left-of-center. The reception desk likely is not an original feature. It appears to be constructed of painted plywood and is not fastened to the floor.

The open lobby is the most decorative area of the building, with original terrazzo flooring, Italian marble wall cladding, and a textured, painted ceiling with a combination of inset fluorescent light fixtures, spotlights, and sprinklers. The custom-designed, floating staircase features marble-clad, steel stair risers with a curved wood handrail and square brushed metal balusters with strips of wood affixed to their exterior sides. The railing has end caps of brushed metal that matches the balusters. The upper landing is encircled with a railing in the same style and materials as the staircase's balustrade. A painted plywood wall follows the curve of the spiral staircase and appears to be attached to the underlying sheetrock wall

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with nails. At the southwest corner of the lobby, a low, rectangular planter with wood edging and mitered marble coping is next to double-leaf, single-light doors that lead to offices.

According to the 1968 floor plan of the building, the southwest end of the first floor included offices for advertising and sales managers, a large open area for sales and retail staff, a service counter for customers, a telephone room, a copy conveyor and clerical space, and a promotion and makeup space with adjacent storage. Square columns clad with sheetrock provide structural support. The partitions are composed largely of full-height stud walls clad with sheetrock, but some of the small offices may be enclosed with modular partitions. Other finishes in the office area consist of carpeting over concrete flooring and dropped ceilings with acoustical tiles. The remainder of the first floor was divided into a variety of smaller office, storage, and prep rooms to support the functions of the newspaper. Behind (southwest of) the lobby's spiral staircase were small offices originally for comptrollers and a payroll clerk, which were adjacent to a large open space for accounting staff. An enclosed "computer room" was next to the accounting space. The northwest side of the first floor contained an enclosed office for a credit manager, which included a service counter that originally opened to the lobby, and a personnel manager. Across the corridor were public restrooms. A small space for a credit union was shown on the plans northwest of the personnel office and alongside an enclosed staircase. A large, open-plan office space for circulation staff has small offices and meeting rooms enclosed with modular partitions along the northeast perimeter and a storage room along the southwest perimeter. Just one entry originally led from the circulation area to the adjacent mail room. Behind (southwest) of the mail room, a corridor extended from northwest to southeast to connect to the main corridor that bisects the southeast end of the building from northeast to southwest. Southwest of this corridor were a large, open "reel room" and a "roll storage" space. Northeast of the corridor were locker rooms. A lounge and a freight elevator were accessible from the south corridor. Additional rooms toward the rear of the building included a large boiler room, a locker room for custodial staff, a "cutting room," a "building superintendent's" office (later dubbed the "security office"), an office supplies room, and a "switch room" for the telephone equipment. Opposite the security office, three openings at floor level contain chutes from computer paper and waste paper. These likely were added after the printing operation was removed from the basement. At the southwest end of the south corridor are doors leading out to the at-grade loading dock.

On the second story, the main staircase's landing leads to a corridor that extends to either side, leading to the journalists' and the editors' office areas. The second floor is typical of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century open office designs with cubicles utilizing most of the open space and, along the perimeter, enclosed offices that were occupied by middle management staff. Office enclosures included those composed of modular wood-framed-and-glass walls as well as metal-and-glass walls. Also on the second floor, an interior mezzanine with single-light windows overlooks the former printing press room; a small balcony with a metal pipe railing is adjacent to the mezzanine and is accessed from an adjacent corridor. A kitchen and a large, open lunch room also occupy this level. Finishes include drywall and painted concrete-block walls, a combination of linoleum-tile and carpet flooring, and dropped acoustical tile ceilings. Interior doors include single-leaf metal slab and flush hollow-core wood doors.

The 1968 floor plans show that the second floor was devoted entirely to various aspects of the newspaper's operations. On the northwest side of the building, the main corridor from the spiral staircase leads to a large, open "composing" office area that presumably housed the journalists,



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with a series of seven small offices along the northeast perimeter. Southwest (to the rear) of the “composing” room were a small office and a larger “stereotype” room. From these, a corridor led to the “observation” room that occupied the mezzanine overlooking the printing press area. Across the corridor from “observation” were a large men’s locker room and a considerably smaller locker room for women, an indicator of the likely makeup of the newspaper’s reporting and editorial staff at the time of construction. An assortment of small rooms occupy the middle of the second floor, adjacent to and behind the staircase landing. On the original plans, these were designated for dispatch, proof reading, camera, stripping plate preparation, and etching functions. Most of this group of rooms could be accessed only from the “composing area;” the stripping plate prep room also had a door to the south corridor. Opposite the second-story landing was a small room labeled “library.” The corridor from the landing going southeast led to a large, open office area occupied by editorial staff. A morgue of past newspaper issues and a library were on the open area’s southwest side, two small offices for managing editors were along the northwest side, for proofreaders to the northwest, an enclosed “wire room” on the southeast wall likely once housed transmission equipment, and an enclosed office labeled “women’s department” was on the northeast wall. This latter space presumably was occupied by staff assigned to the newspaper’s “women’s” or features section. The south corridor extends along the northeast side of the editorial area and a women’s restroom and a freight elevator are along the northwest wall, as well as the aforementioned “stripping plate preparation” room. Southwest of the editorial area, but accessed only from the south corridor, were rooms assigned to photo journalists. These were labeled on the 1968 plans as “photo ready,” “photo print” with adjacent “color dark room,” a chemical mixing room, and a series of three small darkrooms, and a “photo office” and “studio.” A large mechanical room occupied the southwest corner of the second floor. A corridor branched off from the south corridor to access the “lunch room” and a long, narrow room labeled “press controls.” The upper part of the press room is situated between the lunch room and the “observation” mezzanine and “stereotype” room.

The third story is centered on the building and has a smaller footprint than the lower two stories. It features a large waiting room/reception area with modular desks and replacement carpeting. A frameless glass wall with double doors spans the width of the reception area from south to north and appears to have replaced traditional partitions that once enclosed a board room. The perimeter of the third floor is lined with upper management offices with primarily enclosed office spaces. Each office also was equipped with a small, original kitchenette featuring steel cabinets, a small sink, and a two-burner cooktop, all of which may be covered by a movable hood to create a smooth countertop. The restroom off each office retains original tile flooring, wainscoting, and porcelain fixtures. The third floor also provides access to a roof deck composed of concrete slabs with expansion joints laid atop the roof structure. The third floor features intact hardwood floors and some carpet flooring. The executive offices are particularly decorative with custom-made wood paneling with crown molding, built-in shelving, decorative trim, and paneled wood doors.

The building’s two-story basement was designed to house the newspaper’s printing operations. It is entirely utilitarian in terms of its design and materials, with concrete floors, exposed steel framing, painted concrete block walls, exposed mechanical equipment and ducts, and surface

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mounted ceiling light fixtures. An upper-level deck is built of steel framing members with a thick concrete floor. The deck is overlooked by the aforementioned mezzanine and balcony on the second floor. This space originally housed the printing press. The mezzanine level presumably was occupied by managerial staff overseeing the printing operation, and the balcony permitted these staff to speak to those operating the equipment without requiring use of a telephone. A catwalk extends along the perimeter of the printing press area and includes wire-enclosed storage areas. From the printing press deck, a steel-and-concrete staircase with pipe railings descends to the remainder of the basement. The lower basement includes the large area where the below-grade loading dock and associated doors are located.

*Secondary Resources*

Flag Plaza, 1968, contributing structure

The flag plaza is centered in front of the *Daily Press* Building's primary entrance on the northeast façade. The plaza is composed of large square concrete pavers and four metal flagpoles; a central concrete sidewalk connects the public sidewalk to the plaza and the plaza to the porte cochere at the front entrance. The flag plaza was part of the property's original landscape design and is a prominent feature in a historic photo of the building's grand opening in 1968 (see Figure 1 in Section 8). The tallest flagpole is at the south end of the plaza and the U.S. flag was flown here. The adjacent flagpoles held the Virginia state flag and a flag bearing the City of Newport News seal. The flag shown on the northernmost flagpole was not identifiable.

Equipment Enclosure, c. 1980, noncontributing structure

An equipment enclosure with a brick screen wall is located at the northwest corner of the building at the entrance to the loading dock ramp. The structure appears on a 1982 aerial view of the property. Because it postdates the property's period of significance, it is classified as a noncontributing structure.

Satellite dish, c. 1985, noncontributing object

A satellite dish stands a short distance north of the at-grade loading dock and the ramp leading down to the below-grade loading dock. The object is not visible on a 1982 aerial view of the property. Because it postdates the building's period of significance, it is classified as a noncontributing object.

*Integrity*

The *Daily Press* Building retains integrity of location as it remains at its original site and no noncontributing resources have been built or moved within the nominated boundary. The skybridge is separate from the 1968 building and is considered part of the neighboring c. 1982 building. The nominated property's integrity of setting also is intact, with key elements of the original landscape design retained without alterations. These include the entrance/exit

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driveways, parking lots, flag plaza, original streetlights, and landscaping. When built in 1968, the *Daily Press* Building was in a suburban location a short distance northwest of downtown Newport News. The built environment along Warwick Boulevard/U.S. Route 60 is primarily low-density, commercial and light industrial resources, with a railroad switchyard that extends from 60<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> streets now screened from view by a tree line. Residential neighborhoods are immediately southwest of (behind) the commercial resources that front Warwick Boulevard. The *Daily Press* Building was custom designed to house all of the newspaper's operations, including its printing presses, administrative staff, executive offices, and reporting staff. During the early 1980s, the printing presses were removed from the two-story basement and printing operations moved to a new, purpose-built building northwest of the 1968 building. A skybridge was added to the *Daily Press* Building to connect its second story to the new building's upper level. The addition eroded some of the original building's integrity of design but elevation drawings prepared in 1968 document the original fenestration, making the bridge a reversible alteration. The noncontributing brick equipment enclosure is modest in scale and its materials are complementary to the original building. The noncontributing satellite dish postdates the property's period of significance but its function was associated with the newspaper's operations. Consequently, although noncontributing, the two resources do not detract from the site's integrity of design.

The integrity of workmanship and materials is largely intact. The exterior has not been altered, other than the aforementioned skybridge. Interior finishes, other than the lobby and third-floor executive offices, are typical of 1960s and later offices, with carpeting intended to be replaced as needed, painted concrete block and sheetrock walls, large open-office plans with modular partitions that enclose small offices and meeting rooms, and dropped ceilings with acoustical tiles concealing mechanical systems. The lobby's marble-clad walls, terrazzo flooring, and customized spiral staircase have not been altered; the plywood enclosure beneath the stairs is not structural and was a later modification that can be easily removed. On the third floor, the classically inspired wood paneling, crown molding, paneled doors, and flooring in the executive offices also have been retained, along with original kitchenette niches with steel cabinets, a sink, and stovetop, and powder rooms with original tile and fixtures.

The high integrity of location, setting, workmanship, and materials, and good integrity of design, contribute to the property's overall integrity of feeling and association. The nominated building was custom-designed for the *Daily Press* and its integrity of association is thoroughly documented.

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## 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.)

- ☐ 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.
- ☒ 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1968

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Coile, Forrest W. (Architect)

Uhl, Hall, and Rich (Engineers)

W. M. Jordan, Inc. (Builder)

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**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 *Daily Press* Building at 7505 Warwick Boulevard is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance is 1968, coinciding with the building's completion. A rare resource type, the new building housed all of the newspaper's operations, including its administrative, reporting, and sales staff and the printing and distribution of the newspaper itself. Prior to its completion, the *Daily Press* had occupied several downtown buildings that had been acquired as operations grew. The newspaper was established in 1896 and has been in continuous operation since that time. The *Daily Press*, along with its longtime evening counterpart, *The Times-Herald*, published local, state, national, and international news for an audience primarily in Virginia's Middle Peninsula and Hampton Roads region. The engineering firm Uhl, Hall & Rich undertook construction of the custom-designed building in 1967-1968. The building's New Formalist design, completed by prolific Newport News-based architect Forrest W. Coile, is a significant example of this relatively rare Modern Movement style in the Newport News area. Coile produced hundreds of commercial, educational, and institutional buildings over the course of his career between the 1930s and 1970s. His interpretation of New Formalism incorporated character-defining aspects of the style, such as a variety of exterior cladding materials, a merging of classical design principles with modern construction methods, and classical stylistic attributes rendered in abstract geometric forms. A crowning top story with large expanses of glass and a counterbalancing flat roof with heavy cornice is an idiosyncratic feature that is thought to reflect the influence of Japanese architecture on Coile's work.

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

### **Historic Background**

Based in Newport News, the *Daily Press* has served a regional audience in Hampton Roads and Virginia's Middle Peninsula, where the James River, Elizabeth River, and Chesapeake Bay converge, since 1896. Although the region's largest city, Norfolk, is a relatively short distance across the Elizabeth River, travel among Norfolk, Hampton, and Newport News historically was challenging enough that each city developed its own identity. Multiple local newspapers once operated in each city, reporting on events and individuals within their respective localities as well as state, national, and international news.

Into the 1880s, development of the Middle Peninsula lagged considerably behind that of nearby Norfolk, Hampton, and Williamsburg. Warwick County, one of the Virginia colony's eight original "shires," occupied a large swath of the peninsula. The numerous streams and creeks that threaded throughout the county, as well as its many wetlands, had hampered development of an overland transportation system since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Colonial-era land records included the name "Newport News Point," where present-day Newport News is located at the mouth of the

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James River, but the area remained farmland until after the Civil War (1861-1865).<sup>2</sup> During the 1870s, Collis P. Huntington, an ambitious Connecticut businessman who already had made a fortune in railroads, invested in the bankrupt Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad (C&O) with the purpose of developing a transportation network that would connect a new Atlantic port with the rapidly growing Midwestern states and farther west. Having commissioned a survey to identify the best location for the C&O's eastern terminus, Huntington began to acquire land in Warwick County through his Old Dominion Land Company in 1880 with an eye toward making the natural harbor at Newport News Point into a major port. Huntington and his business partners also accumulated about 17,000 acres in Warwick, Elizabeth City, James City, and York counties. Construction of the new rail line began at Newport News Point the same year and extended westward toward Richmond. The first improvements in what would become the city of Newport News that were constructed consisted of a series of piers and wharves, where ships began docking to receive cargo in 1882. The new industries drew hundreds of workers, speculators, and entrepreneurs to the nascent city, and the Old Dominion Land Company's original plat of 250 lots developed rapidly to comprise what is today downtown Newport News.<sup>3</sup>

In 1886, Huntington also chartered the Chesapeake Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company, with the original intention of repairing ships. He quickly realized that shipbuilding was a more lucrative industry and, in 1890, changed the company's name to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company to reflect the change in priorities, as well as the name of the nearby, newly established and rapidly growing city, the population of which quintupled from 4,449 residents in 1890 to 19,635 in 1900. By 1910, the shipbuilding operation grew to international importance as Newport News Shipbuilding became the U.S. Navy's principal supplier of warships. The C&O Railroad's shipments of millions of tons of West Virginia coal fueled further industrial development along the waterfront. Locally sourced agricultural products and seafood fed the city's new residents and provided further diversification of the local economy, while the Newport News Light and Water Company, another venture of Huntington's, brought modern infrastructure to the more prosperous neighborhoods.<sup>4</sup> Despite that Huntington's investments had such a profound impact on the founding and growth of Newport News, he maintained his permanent residence in New York City. He died suddenly in 1900, after which his widow, Arabella Duval Yarrington Huntington, and a nephew, Henry Edwards Huntington, became his principal heirs; the two married in 1913, but never visited Newport News. By that time, Newport News was leaving behind its origins as a combination boom town and company town to become

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<sup>2</sup> John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 19-21.

<sup>3</sup> "Newport News: The First Century," Newport News 1896-1996 special supplement, *Daily Press*, June 25, 1996, p. 4; L. A. Finneran, "City Forged in Heated Search for Railroad Land," Newport News 1896-1996 special supplement, *Daily Press*, June 25, 1996, p. 5; L. A. Finneran, "Shipyard Made Business Sense to Huntington," Newport News 1896-1996 special supplement, *Daily Press*, June 25, 1996, p. 6; John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 54-56.

<sup>4</sup> "Newport News: The First Century," Newport News 1896-1996 special supplement, *Daily Press*, June 25, 1996, p. 4; L. A. Finneran, "City Forged in Heated Search for Railroad Land," Newport News 1896-1996 special supplement, *Daily Press*, June 25, 1996, p. 5; L. A. Finneran, "Shipyard Made Business Sense to Huntington," Newport News 1896-1996 special supplement, *Daily Press*, June 25, 1996, p. 6; John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 56, 58.

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an important urban presence in Virginia's Hampton Roads region.<sup>5</sup> The nearby cities of Hampton (founded in 1610), Norfolk (founded in 1682), Portsmouth (founded in 1752), Williamsburg (founded in 1632), and Yorktown (founded in 1691) were far older, but the establishment of Newport News had finally filled the gap among them while also bringing major new industries to the region.

Charles E. Thacker founded the *Daily Press* and published its first edition on January 4, 1896, with financial support from bankers George and Henry Schmelz. The four-page, six-column newspaper began its operations in the basement of the First National Bank Building at 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Avenue in downtown Newport News.<sup>6</sup> Thacker also created the *Evening Telegram* in 1897, but this publication lasted just a few years. The basement soon was outgrown as circulation and content expanded. The newspaper moved to the Jones Building in the 2500 block of Washington Avenue. Thacker acquired a Linotype machine for setting type and a duplex press in order to handle increased subscriptions. The *Daily Press* continued to grow its operation and, in 1899, the newspaper moved a second time, to a new three-story building on the northeast corner of Huntington Avenue and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.<sup>7</sup>

Competition soon arrived, too, when both the *Morning Herald* and *Evening Times* newspapers were founded April 3, 1900, by the Newport News Publishing Company, of which L. P. Stearnes was president. In December 1901, S. L. Slover, a newspaperman from Richmond, took over both newspapers and merged them to form *The Times-Herald* in 1902. Harvey L. Wilson, a Washington correspondent who later founded the *Richmond News*, was hired as editor. Slover bought the *Norfolk Ledger* in 1909 and changed his publishing company's name to Norfolk-Newport News Publishing Company. Less than a month later, Slover sold *The Times-Herald* to the newly formed Times-Herald Corp., owned by the newspaper's editor, Colonel Walter S. Copeland. By this time, most American cities supported at least one newspaper that published in the morning and a second that published in the late afternoon; thus did the "morning edition" and "evening edition" phrases enter colloquial use.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 59-61.

<sup>6</sup> Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A1; John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 66.

<sup>7</sup> A 1964 newspaper article in the *Daily Press* mentioned that 8 newspapers had preceded it in publication between 1881-1896, but did not mention any by name. See "History of Peninsula's Newspapers From Meager Start in 1896 Traced," *Daily Press*, October 11, 1964, p. 71. According to the Library of Virginia's website, Virginia Chronicle, two other short-lived newspapers, the *Star* and *The Southerner*, were published in Newport News for a few years around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Labor unions in Newport News published their own newspapers during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the U.S. Army bases that were established during World Wars I and II also had modest daily or weekly newspapers. Additional information about these newspapers is at <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vnd/results.php?cities=Newport+News&submit=Search+by+City>.

<sup>8</sup> "History of Peninsula's Newspapers From Meager Start in 1896 Traced," *Daily Press*, October 11, 1964, p. 71; John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 66-67; Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A6.



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Meanwhile, in 1904, the *Daily Press* had relocated once again, this time to the Phoenix Building at 211-213 25<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Newport News, where the operation stayed until it moved in 1968 to the nominated property. Revenues at the *Daily Press* eventually proved to be inadequate for Thacker, who served as publisher and editor until 1910, when he sold his interest in the newspaper to the Daily Press Inc., a stock company of which E. S. Blanton was president; Blanton soon was replaced by L. E. Pugh. The Schmelz brothers, whose financial largesse had kept the *Daily Press* afloat since 1896, held a controlling interest in the company and are credited with saving the newspaper from bankruptcy. James L. West succeeded Thacker as editor. Newly acquired printing equipment was placed in a neighboring building at 217 25<sup>th</sup> Street in 1911. By this time, the newspaper had a daily circulation of about 1,700 subscribers, slightly less than its competitor, *The Times-Herald*. In 1913, the Daily Press Inc. and the Times-Herald Corp. were consolidated and the company thereafter went by the name Daily Press Inc., with W. S. Copeland now serving as editor of both newspapers. By that time, businessman William E. Rouse had become majority shareholder in the Times-Herald Corp., while George Schmelz, and Henry Schmelz had continued their interest in the Daily Press Inc. For the next eight decades, the two newspapers would share the same printing presses and production staff but maintain separate news staff who were “often fiercely competitive” with one another.<sup>9</sup>

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the journalism profession was in its infancy and newspaper owners were unabashedly partisan in their coverage of all types of news. Major influences of the period included newspapers owned by the legendary publisher Joseph Pulitzer, whose holdings included *The World* in New York City and crusaded against commercial and government corruption. William Randolph Hearst, a businessman turned publisher, first took over operation of his father’s *San Francisco Examiner* newspaper in 1887, then, in 1895, purchased the *New York Morning Journal*. Hearst’s newspapers provided coverage similar to Pulitzer’s and both newspapers promoted the interests of the conservative Democratic Party. Consequently, the two men engaged in a prolonged, colorful, heated competition that was, itself, subject to sensationalist coverage. The 1900 introduction of the wireless telegraph, which made it possible for international news to reach the U.S. almost instantaneously, added more fuel as journalists for Pulitzer’s and Hearst’s newspapers raced to scoop one another. In 1905, the formation of the United Press Association (UP) created competition for the fifty-year-old Associated Press (AP), which originally consisted of just five New York City newspapers that shared the costs of reporting international news. Both associations capitalized on the wireless telegraph and became “wire services,” meaning that they sold the news that they collected via telegraph to subscribers, which typically were small, local newspapers such as the *Daily Press* (an AP subscriber) and *The Times-Herald*. American newspaper readers quickly became

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<sup>9</sup> “History of Peninsula’s Newspapers From Meager Start in 1896 Traced,” *Daily Press*, October 11, 1964, p. 71; John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 66-67; Felicia L. Mason, “Peninsula’s Provider of News Evolves with the Times,” *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A6; “Daily Press,” Library of Virginia, Virginia Chronicle, 2025, <https://virginiachronicle.com/cgi-bin/virginia?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=DP&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN----->.

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accustomed to receiving news from across the country and around the world on a near-instantaneous basis.<sup>10</sup>

The immediacy of newspaper reporting factored into the outbreak of the Great War (World War I) in 1914, when the presumptive heir to the Austrian-Hungarian empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated in Sarajevo. Americans could follow the cascading declarations of war announced by the major European powers and mass mobilizations over the next several months. Editorials in both the *Daily Press* and *The Times-Herald* echoed the national isolationist mood through the end of 1914. In 1915, however, the war reached directly into the harbor at Newport News when an Austro-Hungarian steamship and a German liner sought refuge rather than risk capture on the open seas by the British navy. They were soon followed by two German raiders in need of repairs; all of the ships were interned according to U.S. neutrality laws. Just a few weeks later, in May 1915, the sinking of the civilian passenger liner, the *Lusitania*, by a German U-boat provoked sensationalist newspaper coverage that whipped public opinion against both Germany and Austria-Hungary. In Newport News, the *Daily Press* reported on the loss of Albert L. Hopkins, president of Newport News Shipbuilding, in the attack, while another shipyard official, Fred Gauntlet, had survived. Hopkins's successor, Homer Lenoir Ferguson, was appointed president of the shipbuilding company and remained at its helm until 1953. Under Ferguson's leadership, Newport News Shipbuilding ramped up operations as he correctly predicted that the U.S. must soon enter the war, too.<sup>11</sup>

Both the shipbuilder's workforce and overall population in Newport News swelled rapidly during the war years. War-related defense manufacturers sprang up throughout the Hampton Roads region, as did military installations. Camp Eustis was among the U.S. Army posts established in the Newport News area and grew to become part of the permanent military presence in the region. The sudden increase in employment opportunities drew thousands of new residents; housing shortages during the war years created numerous difficulties for everyone living in the city. The war's end in November 1918, which coincided with the worldwide flu pandemic and the shutdown of war materiel manufacturers, caused a massive recession that affected most of Hampton Roads. The local real estate market collapsed and newly unemployed defense workers moved on to other places in search of work.<sup>12</sup>

The chaotic times may account for the financial struggles that both the *Daily Press* and *The Times-Herald* experienced during the 1910s and early 1920s, with profits as low as \$50 per week. A "job printing business" helped to keep the newspapers afloat. Walter S. Copeland remained editor for both newspapers until his death in 1928. At that time, L. E. Pugh assumed the roles of president and business manager of the Daily Press Company while Lewis T. Jester

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<sup>10</sup> "A History of Journalism," *Journalism: Publishing Across Media* (Tinley Park, Ill.: Goodheart-Wilcox Co. Inc., 2021), <https://www.g-wlearning.com/journalism/9914/ch01/pdf/history.pdf>, p. 12-14; "History of Peninsula's Newspapers From Meager Start in 1896 Traced," *Daily Press*, October 11, 1964, p. 71.

<sup>11</sup> John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 83-86.

<sup>12</sup> Lena McDonald and Ashlen Stump, "Garden Apartment Complexes of Norfolk, Virginia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, March 28, 2024, on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/122-6481/>, p. 4-6.

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served as editor.<sup>13</sup> A revolutionary new competitor entered the local media scene in 1928, when the first Newport News radio station, WNEW, began broadcasting. The *Daily Press* reported that inaugural programming included live performances by local piano players and singers. Six weeks later, the station's call letters changed to WGH, reportedly standing for "World's Greatest Harbor." Despite the advent of radio, the *Daily Press*'s circulation continued to grow, reaching approximately 6,000 subscribers by the end of the decade, while *The Times-Herald* had grown to about 8,000 subscribers. Another locally significant event that occurred in 1928 was the opening of the privately financed James River Bridge, which provided the first direct route from Newport News to Norfolk and Portsmouth. The *Daily Press* reported that the new bridge included a lift span that could accommodate the all-important shipping traffic that remained the lifeblood of the local economy.<sup>14</sup> These events knit together the Hampton Roads region more closely than ever and marked a new phase in the growth of Newport News.

The regional economy finally had recovered from the postwar recession and the *Daily Press* posted its highest profits ever in 1928. Just a year later, however, the U.S. stock market crash triggered the Great Depression. Thousands of jobs in Newport News were eliminated, although the city fared better than most other places in Virginia due to its extensive industrial base. Most middle- and working-class people experienced privations due to the financial collapse, and some lost fortunes virtually overnight. The Daily Press Inc. established a loan fund for employees who were facing hardships, with a cap of \$100 per employee; some exceptional cases received \$200. In 1930, L. E. Pugh sold his interest in the Daily Press Company to businessman William E. Rouse. Rouse's son-in-law, Captain Raymond Blanton Bottom Sr., was elected president of the Daily Press Inc. and business manager of the publishing company in 1931; Bottom had wed Dorothy Rouse in 1925. Jester continued as editor of the *Daily Press* and William M. Harrison, a staff member since 1922, took on the role of editor for *The Times-Herald*. Hilda Schmelz, daughter of banker George Schmelz, and her husband, Captain William Ralph Van Buren Jr., married in 1911, and they continued to hold a controlling interest in the *Daily Press* during the 1930s. The Bottom and Van Buren families remained synonymous with the two newspapers through the early 1990s and successfully steered the Daily Press Inc. through additional rounds of modernization and expansion.<sup>15</sup>

In 1938, William Van Buren Jr., son of Hilda Schmelz Van Buren and her husband, William Van Buren, began his professional career at the Daily Press Inc., where he held a number of administrative positions. The same year, the publishing company purchased controlling interest in the Hampton Roads Broadcasting Corporation, which owned the local WGH AM radio

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<sup>13</sup> Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A6; "History of Peninsula's Newspapers From Meager Start in 1896 Traced," *Daily Press*, October 11, 1964, p. 71.

<sup>14</sup> John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 67, 109-110.

<sup>15</sup> "Daily Press," Library of Virginia, Virginia Chronicle, 2025, <https://viriniachronicle.com/cgi-bin/virinia?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=DP&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN----->; "History of Peninsula's Newspapers From Meager Start in 1896 Traced," *Daily Press*, October 11, 1964, p. 71; Patrick Lee Plaisance, "Van Buren, Ex-Daily Press Co-Owner, Dies at 84," *Daily Press*, April 3, 1999 (updated July 29, 2019), <https://www.dailypress.com/1999/04/03/van-buren-ex-daily-press-co-owner-dies-at-84/>; Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A6.

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station. WGH became a leader in the radio industry by supplementing local news coverage with Associated Press stories. An FM station was added, also with the WGH call sign. In 1939, WGH became an affiliate of the Mutual Broadcasting Company (MBC), which was founded in 1934 with four radio stations in the Midwest and New York City. By 1940, the 160 affiliates of MBC comprised twenty percent of the total number of radio stations then on the air.<sup>16</sup>

During World War II, the *Daily Press* began publishing a weekly tabloid to the region's Army camps, which grew rapidly due to the significance of Hampton Roads military and shipbuilding activities to the war effort. As the war drew men into military service, women joined the *Daily Press* reporting and administrative staff. The Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation was headquartered in Newport News during the war, and more than 772,000 servicemen and -women departed from its various facilities, while another 915,000 would pass through the port from overseas. After the war ended in August 1945, demobilization meant that the overall military population in the region decreased. The U.S. military, however, entered a period of sustained growth due to the onset of the Cold War during the late 1940s. The shipyards in Newport News and the U.S. Army's Fort Eustis both grew in importance to national defense. Every branch of the U.S. military established at least one permanent installation in the region, and the National Air and Space Administration (NASA) joined them upon its creation in 1958.<sup>17</sup>

From the 1940s to the 1960s, the *Daily Press* grew to include bureaus in Hampton, Williamsburg, Gloucester County, and Smithfield.<sup>18</sup> During the same period, the *Daily Press*'s owners also established Cablevision companies in Newport News and Danville and acquired a Muzak franchise.<sup>19</sup> Between 1948 and 1968, the *Daily Press*'s downtown building was the only Virginia-based newspaper operation that served as a volunteer weather observer for the U.S. Weather Bureau (later the National Weather Service). Staff prepared observation summaries for Newport News and the peninsula; these were sent to the Weather Bureau and published in the newspaper.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A6; John V. Quarstein and Parke S. Rouse Jr., *Newport News: A Centennial History* (Newport News, Va.: City of Newport News, 1996), p. 110.

<sup>17</sup> Lena McDonald and Ashlen Stump, "Garden Apartment Complexes of Norfolk, Virginia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, March 28, 2024, on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/122-6481/>, p. 17-18; Matt Connolly, "Hampton Roads, Virginia and the Military's Battle Against Sea Level Rise," The Center for Climate and Security, *Briefer No. 27*, October 9, 2015, <https://climateandsecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/hampton-roads-va-and-the-militarys-battle-against-sea-level-rise.pdf>, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> Advertisements for leasing office space in the Williamsburg and Hampton bureau buildings began to appear regularly in the *Daily Press* by the late 1970s.

<sup>19</sup> Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A6. Administrative offices for the Muzak franchise eventually were housed in a small, one-story, 1980s building on the same tax parcel as the *Daily Press* Building. This small building also housed a Langley Federal Credit Union branch for a time; neither of these commercial operations was associated with operations of the *Daily News* and *The Times-Herald*.

<sup>20</sup> "Daily Press Weather Station Nears 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday," *Daily Press*, January 30, 1968, p. 3. The weather monitoring equipment moved with the newspaper to its new Warwick Boulevard location in 1968.

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Raymond Blanton Bottom Sr. continued as president of the Daily Press Inc. until his death in 1953. During his tenure, he also held a term as president of the Virginia Press Association from 1935 to 1939 and, in 1944, took on the additional role of editor for the *Daily Press*. Bottom was “a tireless booster for the Hampton Roads area” and active in numerous pursuits in addition to the newspaper business.<sup>21</sup> His many roles included serving as president of the Hampton Roads Broadcasting Corporation, serving on the boards of several corporations, helping to organize the Virginia Travel Council to promote tourism, using his influence to support improvements at Hampton Institute (today’s Hampton University), and serving on a local branch of the United Negro College Fund, which was founded in 1944. The latter two roles “won him more respect from African Americans than many other editors and publishers of daily newspapers in Virginia enjoyed during the 1940s.”<sup>22</sup> Following her husband’s death in 1953, Dorothy Rouse Bottom became a vice-president of Daily Press Inc. and became the editor of the *Daily Press* despite her lack of professional experience. She continued many of the booster roles that Raymond Bottom Sr. had held; her interest in the upper crust of Hampton Roads was reflected in the newspaper’s expanded coverage of women’s organizations and “society news,” which generally referred to activities of the region’s and the state’s wealthy families. As a woman deeply involved in the traditionally male-dominated news industry, however, Rouse was a groundbreaker and received the respect of her peers in 1961 when she was elected president of the United Press International Virginia Association of Newspapers.<sup>23</sup> William Van Buren Jr., meanwhile, was appointed president of Daily Press Inc. in 1943 and became news editor following his father’s death in 1964. For a time, he dabbled in local politics while maintaining his position at the newspaper, serving a four-year term on the local school board from 1963 to 1968. He also supported the local political machine of U.S. Senator Harry Flood Byrd Jr., a conservative Democrat whose father had led Virginia’s Massive Resistance campaign against desegregation and federal civil rights legislation. Another *Daily Press* heir, Raymond B. Bottom Jr. also was active in his family’s media businesses, serving as vice-president of the Hampton Roads Broadcasting Company.<sup>24</sup>

As of 1948, combined daily circulation of the *Daily Press* and *The Times-Herald* had risen to 42,000, with Sunday editions reaching 31,670 subscribers, a 300 percent increase since 1928 that coincided with the city’s skyrocketing population during World War II, as well as its expansion into Portsmouth and Hampton. Twenty years later, daily circulation totaled 87,500 while Sunday editions stood at 72,750.<sup>25</sup> The more than 100 percent increase in the newspapers’ circulation totals occurred despite the arrival of television during the 1950s, which drew ever-expanding audiences as the cost of television sets became affordable for more people. Just as radio had, television news was a fierce competitor for local newspapers, bringing visual footage into

<sup>21</sup> Brent Tarter, “Raymond Blanton Bottom (1893–1953),” *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Library of Virginia, 2001, [http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom\\_Raymond\\_Blanton](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom_Raymond_Blanton).

<sup>22</sup> Brent Tarter, “Raymond Blanton Bottom (1893–1953),” *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Library of Virginia, 2001, [http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom\\_Raymond\\_Blanton](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom_Raymond_Blanton).

<sup>23</sup> Brent Tarter, “Dorothy Eva Rouse Bottom (1896–1990),” *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Library of Virginia, 2001, [http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom\\_Dorothy\\_Rouse](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom_Dorothy_Rouse).

<sup>24</sup> Patrick Lee Plaisance, “Van Buren, Ex-Daily Press Co-Owner, Dies at 84,” *Daily Press*, April 3, 1999 (updated July 29, 2019), <https://www.dailypress.com/1999/04/03/van-buren-ex-daily-press-co-owner-dies-at-84/>.

<sup>25</sup> “Newspaper’s Usage of Paper Staggering,” *Daily Press*, New Plant Dedication Section, May 11, 1968, p. 24A.

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people's homes with an immediacy that newspaper photographs could not match. Rapid technological developments, however, helped to offset the increased competition, enabling newspaper publishers to ramp up production and reduce lead times for printing without sacrificing timely reports. Journalism professionalized during and after the war, spurred in part by commitments to freedom of the press among the war's Allied victors, in contrast to the German, Italian, and Japanese totalitarian regimes that had launched the war. Journalists took on the role of watchdog to hold local, state, and federal governments to account. Coverage of the 1950s through 1960s Civil Rights Movement, however, revealed that personal, partisan, and parochial interests continued to inform Southern, White-owned newspapers, which overwhelmingly criticized the activists leading the movement as well as the federal government's response. The debates over civil rights and detailed analysis of other important news of the day, such as the wars in Korea and Vietnam, also continued to be a draw, although the in-depth investigative reports hosted by television journalists were in a class of their own. Broadcast news, however, could not compete with local newspapers in provision of international, national, state, and local news in a single, affordable, easily accessible format, as newspapers had been offering since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The widespread economic gains that characterized the post-World War II period contributed as well to the newspapers' success, largely due to the sustained military presence in the region, which brought thousands of workers and new jobs to Newport News and adjacent localities. Concentration of ownership of media outlets, however, also emerged as a growing trend during the postwar era. Owners of independent newspapers struggled to compete against corporate-funded publications and many would opt to sell out from the 1940s to the 1960s.<sup>26</sup>

The Van Buren and Bottom families proved to be an exception to the trend of corporate acquisitions. Instead, the Daily Press Inc. invested \$5 million to erect a new custom-designed headquarters for its operations. On April 12, 1966, the City of Newport News tax assessor's records show that the company acquired a suburban parcel located northwest of downtown Newport News in order to build a custom-designed plant that would, for the first time, bring all of its operations under a single roof. On April 23, 1968, the Newport News City Council voted to acquire the *Daily Press's* downtown building, with plans to rehabilitate it for use by the city's police division.<sup>27</sup>

During the spring of 1968, the *Daily Press* moved into its new plant at 7505 Warwick Boulevard. The plant housed the newspaper's administrative and printing operations within its approximately 86,000 square feet. At the building's dedication on May 11, 1968, Virginia Governor Mills E. Godwin Jr. delivered a brief speech and led a tour, while Robert B. Smith, general manager of the *Daily Press* and *The Times-Herald*, served as master of ceremonies. The *Daily Press* published a special supplement that documented the grand opening and provided extensive details about the building's design, technological attributes, and amenities, described in further detail below (Figure 1).<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> David Randall Davies, *An Industry in Transition: Major Trends in American Daily Newspapers, 1945-1965*, Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Alabama, 1997, p. 3-6, 11-13, 16-17.

<sup>27</sup> "City Council Approves Purchasing of Vacated Daily Press Building," *Daily Press*, April 23, 1968, p. 3.

<sup>28</sup> Scott Copeland, "New Building Dedicated," *Daily Press*, May 12, 1968, p. 1.

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Figure 1. Front page of the Daily Press's "New Plant Dedication Section," May 11, 1968. The image above includes a photograph of the flag plaza and the primary entry to the new building (Image Source: Newspapers.com).

Dorothy Rouse Bottom retired in 1981 and Walter Van Buren Jr. was appointed president of the Daily Press Inc. Bottom's son, Raymond Blanton Bottom Jr., succeeded her as editor of the *Daily Press*, while her daughter, Dorothy Bottom Gilkey Duffy, was promoted from assistant editor to become editor of the opinions page and serve on the company's board of directors. Barbara A. Bottom Forst, another of Dorothy Rouse Bottom's daughters, also worked for the Daily Press Inc. as an assistant business manager.<sup>29</sup> In 1986, the Bottom and Van Buren families sold the *Daily Press* and *The Times-Herald* to the Chicago-based Tribune Company for \$200 million. The 1980s expansion of the newspaper's printing and distribution plant may be related to this acquisition.<sup>30</sup> In 2014, the *Daily Press* began relocating its operations to the City Center at Oyster Point suburban development.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Brent Tarter, "Dorothy Eva Rouse Botton (1896–1990)," *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Library of Virginia, 2001, [http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom\\_Dorothy\\_Rouse](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom_Dorothy_Rouse); "Dorothy Rouse Bottom obituary," *Daily Press*, October 13, 2011, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailypress/name/dorothy-rouse-bottom-obituary?id=26238355>.

<sup>30</sup> Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A6.

<sup>31</sup> Felicia L. Mason, "Peninsula's Provider of News Evolves with the Times," *Daily Press*, December 28, 2014, p. A1.

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### *Rarity of Resource Type*

As a purpose-built, custom-designed plant housing the complete operations of the *Daily Press* newspaper, the nominated property is a rare resource type. Just eighteen buildings that are associated with a newspaper have been recorded in DHR's Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (VCRIS); one of the buildings later was demolished.<sup>32</sup> The majority of the buildings are located in small towns and have served multiple commercial functions over their history, including banks, offices, and stores, in addition to housing local daily or weekly newspaper offices. Several of the recorded resources were dwellings that were converted to different commercial uses. A former Coca-Cola Bottling Works (121-0033) in the Newport News Downtown Historic District also once was occupied by the *Daily Press*, and likely was among the buildings vacated when the 1968 plant was completed.

In terms of newspaper plants, the recorded property that is most comparable to the *Daily Press* Building is the *Virginian-Pilot* Building (122-0849) in Norfolk. Like the *Daily Press* Building, the *Virginian-Pilot's* was purpose-built to house all of its operations and printing facilities. The Art Deco building was constructed in 1937 and has multiple additions dating to the 1960s through the 1970s. The *Virginian-Pilot* Building is a contributing resource in the Norfolk Auto Row Historic District (122-5797) and has not been evaluated for individual register eligibility.

### *Custom Attributes for Newspaper Operations*

Intended to showcase the modernity and financial soundness of the *Daily Press*, the building at 7505 Warwick Boulevard featured an imposing façade featuring Italian marble-clad pilasters and a porte cochere as well as a dazzling lobby gleaming with custom-cut marble and a floating semicircular staircase. The economic fortune of most regional newspapers peaked during the mid- to late 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the 1980s, twenty-four-hour television news began to drain newspaper subscriptions; a decade later, the advent of the internet began to transform the entirety of the news industry, often to the detriment of the fiscal wellbeing of newspapers.

The two-story basement at the center of the *Daily Press* Building was designed for the heavy typesetting and printing equipment, conveyor belts, paper and ink supplies, and all other equipment and supplies necessary to print the newspaper six days per week (the *Daily Press* did not issue a Saturday edition). On the As-Built drawings (attached), the lower level was divided into two parts: a "reel room" and "reel storage." The upper level, identified as the "press room," included a mezzanine and small balcony that were accessible from the building's second floor

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<sup>32</sup> VCRIS was searched with the keywords "newspaper" and "press." Many of the VCRIS records had minimal information about the surveyed resource, making it possible that other significant examples of newspaper operations buildings have been recorded but are not identified as such in the records. Built in 1974, the American Press Institute Building (029-6051) in Fairfax County housed a nonprofit organization that offered training and education opportunities for journalists. The building did not house a newspaper or printing facility. Fontaine Press Printers occupied a purpose-built plant built in 1946 with a Modern Movement design (127-6136-0212), but this firm specialized in printing and was not a newspaper company. A similar resource is the c. 1900 Eddy Press Publishers building (138-0042-0099) in the Winchester Historic District.



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and, originally, included the printing presses (this equipment was relocated to a separate building during the early 1980s).

As shown on the As-Built drawings, advertising, sales, accounting, payroll, typing, switchboard, reception, circulation, personnel, and managerial staff members were housed in specifically designated areas on the first floor. A “machine accounting and computing” room on this floor likely was occupied by one of the period’s massive computers, which at this time were used for complex mathematical calculations. Staff in other departments used typewriters and paper records for their daily work. The first floor also included the mail room, a vault for storage of payments for advertisements and subscriptions, and a small credit union office. On the second floor, the interior mezzanine that overlooked the press room included a door that opened to a small balcony overlooking the “press room” as well as an adjacent room that housed the press controls. Journalists and editorial staff occupied large open-plan offices on the northwest and southeast ends of the building, with an assortment of rooms for specialty operations in the center of the building and a photojournalists’ warren of rooms near the southwest end, adjacent to a large mechanical equipment room. A cafeteria kitchen and a “lunch room” also were on the southwest (rear) side of the second floor.

The largely unaltered design of the interior spaces, coupled with the As-Built drawings and later floor plans, provide insight into the types of functions that went into a daily newspaper’s routine operations during the late 1960s. Due to the rapidly changing technology that characterized mass communications throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the availability of such documentation provides an important snapshot in time, during which most operations were still managed with analog technology, but space for at least limited computer operations also was provided. The relocation of the printing press equipment during the early 1980s likely corresponded to an upgrade in press technology as mechanical typesetting gave way to computerized methods. Likewise, by this time, the typewriters that once typified all office work, including journalists’ and editors’, were being replaced by desktop computers. The open office plans of the first and second floors proved to be easily adapted to the digital age. The retention of the original finishes and floor plan of the third floor indicates that executive functions maintained continuity through the *Daily Press*’s ownership of the building.

### *Finishes and Interior Spatial Arrangements*

Typical of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of the lobby and third floor, the interior finishes were selected on the assumption that they would be replaced on a regular basis. The office areas on the first and second floors were finished with linoleum flooring, wall-to-wall carpeting (at that time still something of a novelty in an office environment), sheetrock-clad walls, and acoustical tile dropped ceilings with flush-mounted fluorescent lights. Many of the extant walls that divide offices, conference rooms, and specialty spaces are modular units that could be separated and reinstalled as needs changed.

The large spaces that characterize the first and second stories are typical of the “open office” designs that had come into popular use by the 1960s. Lower-ranking staff members often were assigned to individual desks that were spaced three to four feet apart but were not separated by

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partitions of any kind. The first-floor space identified as the “Typing Pool” on historic floor plans is likely an example of such a space. For higher-ranking staff members, a variety of movable partition wall systems were available to create cubicles.<sup>33</sup> These offered visual privacy but, because the walls did not reach the ceiling and doors were not included, noise from adjacent spaces easily reached staff members. Along the perimeters of many of the first- and second-floor open spaces are enclosed offices that were occupied by middle management staff, such as the accounting department director, circulation manager, and editorial managers, as well as meeting rooms. A variety of partition systems are extant, including those composed of wood-framed walls with sheetrock cladding and metal-framed walls with sheetrock cladding, different types of large, fixed windows, and flush-panel wood or metal doors with square windows in the top half.

The smaller third story is centered on the building and setback from the perimeter walls of the first two stories. Executive offices occupied the third floor, with each office featuring custom paneling, hardwood flooring, and access to a roof deck that was colloquially referred to as “the promenade.” Each office also was equipped with a small kitchenette area and a restroom. The original steel kitchenettes, tile, and plumbing fixtures are extant in these spaces.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

The *Daily Press* Building is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its New Formalist architectural style. The building’s architect, Forrest W. Coile, was based in Newport News and he produced numerous commercial, educational, and institutional buildings over the course of his career between the 1930s and 1970s.

The New Formalist style began to appear in Virginia during the 1960s. Similar to other Modern Movement styles of the period, such as Neo-Expressionism and Brutalism, New Formalism was associated with efforts to integrate the austerity and abstractions of the International Style with elements of the highly decorative Neo-Classical/Classical Revival styles. The stylistic nods to the classical architecture of the past are the reason that New Formalism also has been dubbed Neo-Palladianism, a nod to Andrea Palladio, an Italian Renaissance-era architect who re-popularized Greek and Roman classical architecture. New Formalist buildings display the columns, entablatures, and colonnades of classicism, as well as the symmetry and monumentality of Modernism. Materials typically include a mix of brick, cast stone, natural and imitation marble, concrete, steel, and glass, along with newer construction methods, such as curtain walls, concrete-reinforced steel framing, steel trusses, and vast, open interior spaces with widely spaced columns. Character-defining exterior visual features include symmetrical elevations, smooth surfaces, flat roofs with heavy cornices, arch motifs, columns, pilasters, and ornamentation that references traditional motifs but are rendered in modern materials, such as patterned grills composed of concrete blocks or metal. The buildings are often set apart from their immediate surroundings with a raised base that refers to the classical temple form and adds to the style’s

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<sup>33</sup> For examples of different types of movable partition systems, see Mike Jackson, “The Evolution of Office Design and Pre-fab Partitions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century,” *Architect*, February 2, 2017, [https://www.architectmagazine.com/technology/products/the-evolution-of-office-design-and-pre-fab-partitions-of-the-20th-century\\_o](https://www.architectmagazine.com/technology/products/the-evolution-of-office-design-and-pre-fab-partitions-of-the-20th-century_o).

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sense of monumentality. An important aspect of New Formalism that differentiates it from classical revival styles is that applied ornament is still minimized. Structural elements, rhythm of fenestration, variegated materials, and color palettes double as ornamentation in much the same way as other Modern Movement styles, such as Miesian.<sup>34</sup> Philip Johnson is considered to have been a master of New Formalism design by scholars Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, who collaborated on a two-volume history of American architecture from 1607 to 1976. Although Koeper wrote the volume that includes the Modern Movement styles, Whiffen's other publications include post-World War II architecture. Both scholars cite the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery (NRHP 13000676) in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a particularly notable example of Johnson's take on New Formalism.<sup>35</sup> The art gallery's nomination explains that "his inspiration for the Sheldon Museum of Art ... is often credited to the Berlin Museum (1824-1828) a classical façade incorporating arches and symmetry" and that "Whiffen referred to Johnson as 'an 'architectural historian's architect, not an architect's architect.'"<sup>36</sup> Another master architect, Edward Durrell Stone, also was noted for New Formalist designs that "fuse the formalism of his early Beaux-Arts training with a romantic historicism" through "classical prototypes such as temples, coliseums and Pompeian houses as models for designs... while keeping a foot in the [M]odern camp by using the most advanced materials and structural methods."<sup>37</sup>

New Formalism most often is seen on institutional buildings such as museums, galleries, performing arts halls, banks, and government offices. Hierarchical interior design meant that principal public spaces, such as a lobby or auditorium, as well as executive offices, often continued the formal aesthetics of the exterior. Secondary spaces (corridors, conference rooms, and staff offices) are subdued and finished largely with materials that were intended to be easily replaced or updated as cosmetic tastes and/or functional needs changed.

The *Daily Press* Building displays the character-defining elements of New Formalism on its exterior and interior. Based on available architectural survey data at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the property also is the earliest and finest documented example of the style in Newport News. The three-story, nine-bay building has a concrete foundation and exterior walls clad with a combination of slate panels and stretcher-bond brick veneer. The bays on the façade and side elevations are formed by beveled, marble-clad, steel pilasters with a Modernist

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<sup>34</sup> Melina Bezirdjian and Lena Sweeten McDonald, *New Dominion Virginia Architectural Style Guide* (Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2014), p. 50; Brian Clements, "Milliken Building," National Register nomination, June 4, 2009, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/123852017>, p. 14.

<sup>35</sup> Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture, Vol. 2: 1860-1976* (Cambridge, Mass.: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1981; 3<sup>rd</sup> printing, 1987), p. 387; Melissa Dirr Gengler and Greg Munn, "Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery," National Register nomination, April 2013, available online at <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=c4c5cae95a5653950fe23141a3f6d959effa51e4>, p. 13.

<sup>36</sup> Melissa Dirr Gengler and Greg Munn, "Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery," National Register nomination, April 2013, available online at <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=c4c5cae95a5653950fe23141a3f6d959effa51e4>, p. 13.

<sup>37</sup> Brian Clements, "Milliken Building," National Register nomination, June 4, 2009, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/123852017>, p. 14, with reference to Cranston Jones, *Architecture Today and Tomorrow* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1961).

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geometric, three-pronged capital with a T-shape. A total of twelve tons of Carrara Italian marble, three tons of granite, and two tons of black slate were installed on the exterior of the building.<sup>38</sup> Within the bays are vertical bands of multiple-story, fixed, aluminum-framed windows. The heavy, flat, slab roof is defined with metal coping and features a deep marble-clad eave that projects over the pilaster capitals along the façade and side elevations. The building's varied exterior materials and color palette, coupled with the monumentality of its form and formality of its symmetrical fenestration embody the key elements of New Formalism. Another formal element is the porte cochere that fronts the primary entry. Built of steel-reinforced concrete, the porte cochere has a flat roof supported by geometric-style, beveled, square, marble-clad columns with four-pointed star capitals that complement the building's pilasters.

On the building's interior, the lobby also is characteristic of New Formalism with its combination of traditional finishes and a spiral staircase as its focal point. The airy space retains original terrazzo flooring and pristine Italian marble wall cladding (Figure 2). Each wall retains a wall clock with applied, sans serif metal numbers and straight metal hands attached to a plain



Figure 2. Marble-clad east and west walls, respectively, and terrazzo flooring in the lobby (Image Source: Commonwealth Preservation Group, 2024).

circular medallion. On the west side of the lobby, a low, rectangular planter is next to the double-leaf doors that lead to offices. The east wall retains a rectangular customer-service window that has been infilled with painted drywall. The window originally was staffed by a receptionist for the newspaper's credit manager.

The custom-designed spiral staircase is in the lobby's northwest corner. Featuring Italian marble-clad, steel stair risers with a custom wood railing and square, brushed metal balusters with strips of wood affixed to their exterior sides, the staircase leads from the first to second floor (Figure

<sup>38</sup> "12 Tons of Italian Marble in New Building," *Daily Press*, New Plant Dedication Section, May 11, 1968, p. 26A. Tony Ferlauto, a master stonecutter, supervised cutting and installation of each section of marble that was installed on the exterior and interior of the building. Ferlauto was employed by the Ajax Tile and Marble Company, located in Virginia Beach.

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3). The railings have brushed metal end caps that match the balusters. The upper landing is encircled with a railing in the same style and materials as the staircase's balustrade.

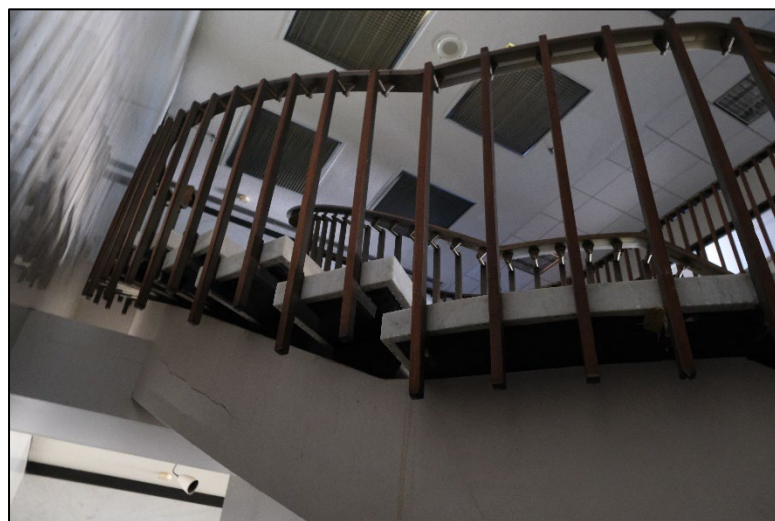


Figure 3. Detail of metal end cap and balusters on stairs (at left) and marble-clad stairs and balustrade (at right, as seen from below)  
(Image Source: Commonwealth Preservation Group, 2024).

The hierarchical interior design resulted in the vast majority of the first and second floors being finished with materials typical of 1960s offices, including dropped ceilings with acoustical tiles, walls composed either of painted concrete blocks or clad with sheetrock, and concrete floors covered with carpets or vinyl composition tile. These spaces were renovated multiple times with cosmetic changes, such as new carpeting and paint colors. Modular partitions for creating new offices also were installed, or removed, as needed along the perimeters of the open spaces. The third floor housed the *Daily Press*'s executive offices and a board room, the latter of which was altered at an unknown date with a frameless glass wall and double doors. Each of the offices retains custom-designed wood wall paneling with classical molding and cornices, built-in shelving, paneled wood doors, and original oak flooring. In contrast, the large, public reception area outside these offices has replacement carpeting, built-in metal shelving and cabinets, and modular wood desks.

#### *New Formalism in Newport News*

VCRIS does not have data categories for Modern Movement styles, instead grouping all of the styles under the term Modernist. It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain how many buildings

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recorded in Newport News are New Formalist designs. Currently, forty-seven properties in Newport News have been recorded as having a Modern Movement style and construction date between 1957 and 1973. Of these, a keyword search found that just two resources were described as examples of New Formalism. The Hause Office Building (121-5455) in the 9000 block of Warwick Boulevard is one recorded example of New Formalism. Erected in 1971, it is described as “exhibiting a distinctly Modernist approach to symmetry, geometry, and traditional architectural forms. The utilization of concrete and steel and glass curtain walls to create the building's sweeping, abstracted colonnades and minimal, symmetrical facades are further hallmarks of New Formalism's reinterpretation of Classical [*sic*] architectural principles using the language and materials of Modernism.”<sup>39</sup> The Newport News Circuit Court (121-5621-0082), built ca. 1990, is a three-story, nine-bay, building that is rectangular in plan. Rising from a concrete foundation, the exterior walls are clad with running bond brick veneer and marble panels, along with a granite water table. The flat roof has a parapet and stone coping. The center bay of the upper floors is recessed with an empty marble pedestal. The windows are primarily fixed metal frame sash with marble and brick segmental arch lintels, and the first-story windows include marble surrounds. The entrance has recessed, metal-framed double doors with transoms. Because it postdates the period of significance, the Circuit Court Building is noncontributing to the Newport News Downtown Historic District. No evidence has yet been found to indicate the building meets Criteria Consideration G.

*Forrest W. Coile, Architect*

The *Daily Press* Building's distinctive Modern Movement aesthetic and New Formalist style were the work of local architect Forrest W. Coile. Due to its high level of integrity, the *Daily Press* building is among the most intact of Coile's documented works. As noted above, New Formalism is a rarely occurring style in Newport News, with just two other examples documented to date in VCRIS, but Coile's body of work included the original campus of Christopher Newport College (now University).

Forrest Winfield Coile was born on September 20, 1905, in Johnstown, Ohio, and died on December 25, 1994, in Newport News, Virginia. As stated, Coile studied architecture at the Carnegie Institute of Technology (Pittsburgh) from 1923 to 1926 and then at France's Ecole Americaine des Beaux-Arts Academy in 1927. He was a partner in several firms before forming his own firm: Williams, Coile & Pepino (1932-1941) and Williams, Coile & Blanchard (1931-1959). By 1959, Coile was head of his own firm, Forrest Coile and Associates, and specialized in designing schools, including approximately 120 in the greater Hampton Roads area. Coile was a registered architect in Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Florida. During World War II, Coile served as a “Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Corps of Engineers for thirty-one months in Europe. He was highly

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<sup>39</sup> Austin Walker, “Hause Office Building,” DHR No. 121-5455, VCRIS record on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, September 18, 2019.

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decorated for his service, earning the Legion of Merit, the Croix de Guerre, Order of the British Empire, Order of the Couronne Belgique and the Bronze Star.”<sup>40</sup>

Examples of Coile’s commissions include the Newport News City Hall, the Bank of Hampton Roads, and a major addition to the Basic Construction Company Building, all of which are within the Newport News Downtown Historic District (NRHP SG100009200); the Basic Construction Company Building also is individually listed (NRHP SG100003614). All three were rendered in Modern Movement styles.

During the 1960s, Coile also served as the primary architect for the new Christopher Newport College (now University), which was founded in 1960 as a two-year branch campus of the College of William and Mary. His works included the John Smith Library, completed in 1967, which featured multiple sections crowned with a raised, mansard-roofed central glass-wall section with a heavy, plain cornice and tall narrow window openings (Figure 4).<sup>41</sup> The upper-story feature was a design element similar to the third floor of the *Daily Press* Building with its rooftop deck. Characterized by walls of glass, such levels have been compared to pagodas found in Japan, which have been identified as an architectural influence for Coile. The John Smith Library’s similarity to the *Daily Press* Building was evident in its form, massing, fenestration, and heavy cornice, and both buildings also were representative of Coile’s interpretation of New Formalism. Coile’s other buildings on the original campus included McMurran Hall, Gosnold Hall, Ratcliffe Gymnasium, Wingfield Hall, and the Administration Building, which had similar design attributes.<sup>42</sup> Since the 1960s, Christopher Newport University’s campus development has shifted to an emphasis on Colonial Revival design and the original Smith Library is no longer extant. Thus, today the *Daily Press* Building is the best representative example of New Formalism by Coile.

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<sup>40</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955* (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997), p.92; Rogers Dey Whichard, *The History of Lower Tidewater Virginia*, Vol.3 (New York, 1959), p.63; *American Architects Directory*, Third edition, (Chatham, New Jersey: R.R. Bowker LLC, 1970), p. 167; “Forrest W. Coile,” *The Virginian-Pilot*, December 27, 1994, <https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/VA-news/VA-Pilot/issues/1994/vp941227/12270047.htm>, p. B7.

<sup>41</sup> Over subsequent decades, Colonial Revival became the preferred style and many of the early campus buildings were replaced.

<sup>42</sup> “Founder’s Day Celebrated,” *Captain’s Log*, September 22, 1988, Vol. 20, No. 3, <https://chris.cnu.edu/files/original/29cc6ed8bdaa882bda9fd9096868abff61364093.pdf>, p. 5; *Christopher Newport College First Decaders, 1961-1971*, <http://www.cncfirstdecaders6171.com/schoolpictures/19681969.html>.



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Figure 4. *John Smith Library, Christopher Newport College, c. 1967 (Image Source: Christopher Newport College First Decaders, 1961-1971, <http://www.cncfirstdecaders6171.com/schoolpictures/19681969.html>).*



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Tarter, Brent. "Dorothy Eva Rouse Botton (1896–1990)." *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Library of Virginia, 2001, [http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom\\_Dorothy\\_Rouse](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Bottom_Dorothy_Rouse).

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Walker, Austin. "Hause Office Building." DHR No. 121-5455. VCRIS record on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, September 18, 2019.

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

Whichard, Rogers Dey. *The History of Lower Tidewater Virginia*, Vol.3. New York, n.p., 1959.

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**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:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government

Daily Press Building  
Name of Property

City of Newport News, VA  
County and State

     University

     Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 121-5563

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** approximately 2.73 acres

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: 37.014606                      Longitude: -76.449511

2. Latitude:                      Longitude:

3. Latitude:                      Longitude:

4. Latitude:                      Longitude:

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927    or    ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:                      Easting:                      Northing:

2. Zone:                      Easting:                      Northing:

3. Zone:                      Easting:                      Northing:

4. Zone:                      Easting :                      Northing:

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

The boundary is drawn to encompass the Daily Press Building, the driveways and parking lot that surround the building, the flag plaza in front of the building, and the landscaped grounds that separate the parking lot from the adjacent sidewalks. The true and correct nominated boundary is shown on the attached map entitled "Sketch Map," which has a scale of 1"=200'.

Daily Press Building  
Name of Property

City of Newport News, VA  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the Daily Press Building, driveways, parking lot, and flag plaza, all of which have been associated with the nominated property since it was erected in 1968. A neighboring building directly to the northwest was erected during the early 1980s to house the newspaper's printing operations. It is not included in the nominated boundary because it postdates the nominated property's period of significance. The property's historic setting and all known associated resources are included in the boundary.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Lena McDonald and Ashlen Stump  
organization: Commonwealth Preservation Group  
street & number: 536 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23508  
e-mail: admin@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com  
telephone: 757-923-1900  
date: April 2025

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**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.

Daily Press Building

Name of Property

City of Newport News, VA

County and State

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Daily Press Building

City or Vicinity: Newport News

County: Independent City

State: Virginia

Photographer: Commonwealth Preservation Group/ Lena McDonald

Date Photographed: December 2024

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

1. East façade, custom-designed lamp posts, and setting, looking NW
2. East façade with porte cochere, looking W/SW
3. East façade entry, porte cochere marble-clad columns, and pilasters, looking W/SW
4. East façade, looking SW
5. C. 1982 pedestrian bridge and north (side) elevation, looking SW
6. Entry at northwest corner of façade, looking SW
7. Northwest (side) elevation, looking SE
8. Below-grade loading dock on southwest (rear) elevation, looking SW
9. West (rear) elevation, looking E/SE
10. Brise soleil at left and partial south (side) elevation, looking NE
11. Partial south (side) elevation, looking NE
12. Lobby, first floor, looking SE
13. Lobby, first floor, looking SW
14. First floor, typical modular office walls assembly
15. First floor, typical open office for staff with modular offices in background
16. First floor, typical corridor at rear of building, looking NE

Daily Press Building

Name of Property

City of Newport News, VA

County and State

17. Typical staircase and windows, looking NE
18. Second floor, typical corridor, looking E
19. Second floor, typical open office and modular office
20. Printing press room with 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor mezzanine at left, looking NW
21. Printing press room, former newspaper conveyor assembly, looking SE
22. Second floor, cafeteria, looking N
23. Second floor, dining area, looking SW
24. Second floor, typical open office with windows, looking NW
25. Third floor, entry to reception area for executive offices, looking W
26. Third floor, reception area, looking NW
27. Third floor, typical finishes in executive offices, looking SW
28. Third floor, typical built-in, original kitchenette off executive offices
29. Third floor, typical powder room with original tile and fixtures off executive offices
30. Third floor terrace accessed from within two chief executive offices, looking NE
31. Opening in north (side) wall that was created for c. 1982 pedestrian bridge, looking S
32. Detail of pedestrian bridge attachment to north (side) wall, looking SE
33. Basement lower level, looking toward at-grade loading dock doors on southwest elevation, facing SW
34. Basement lower level, looking NE
35. Noncontributing brick enclosure for mechanical equipment, looking NW



## Legend

 County Boundaries

### DAILY PRESS BUILDING

7505 Warwick Blvd.

Newport News, VA

DHR ID# 121-5564

 Nominated Boundary

 Current Parcel Boundary

### Location Coordinates:

1. Latitude: 37.014606

Longitude: -76.449511



Feet

0 50 100 150 200

1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet



**Title:** 7505 Warwick Boulevard - LOCATION MAP

**Date:** 12/2/2024

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*





*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*

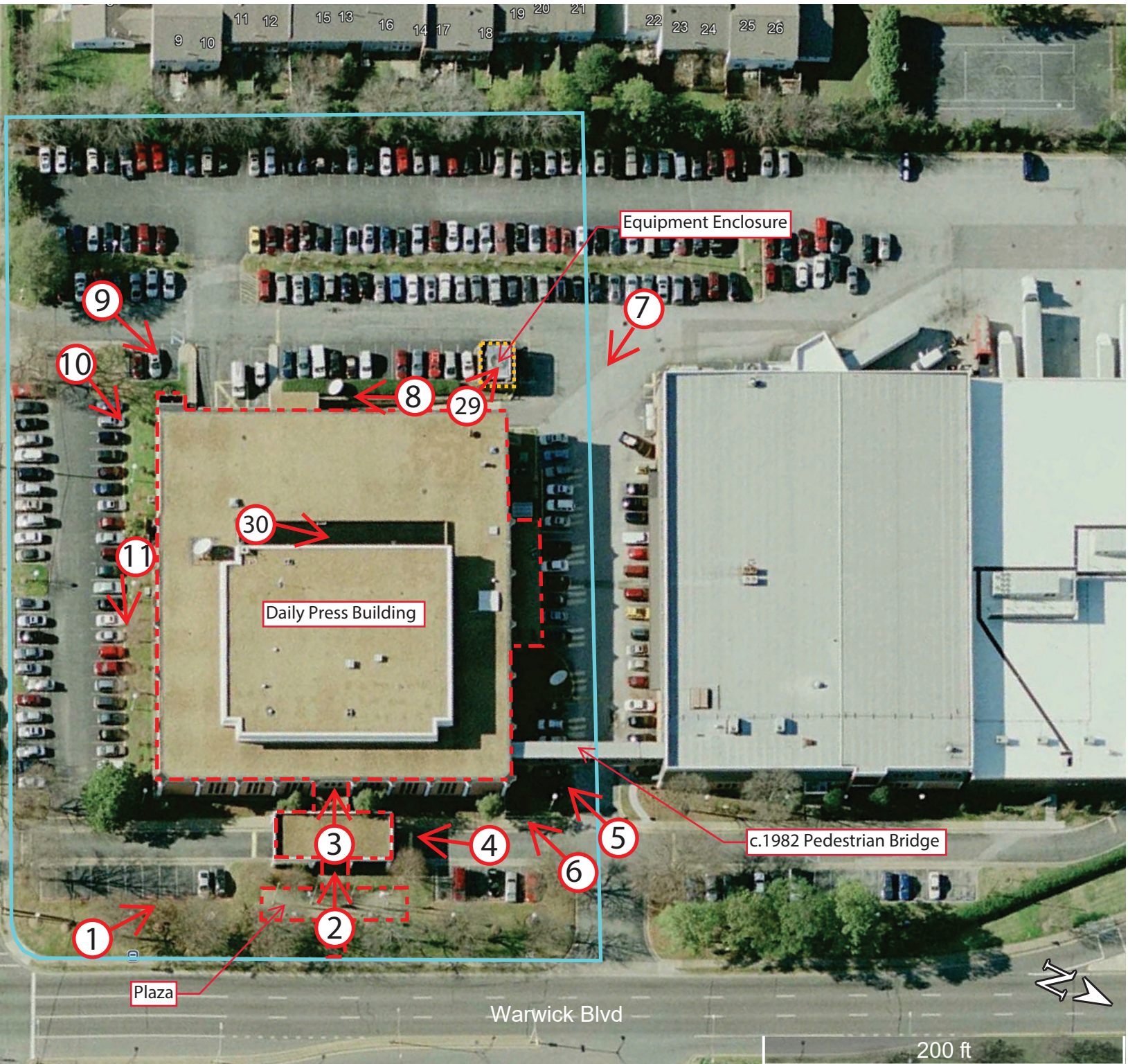


# Sketch Map

Daily Press Building  
7505 Warwick Boulevard  
Newport News, VA  
December 2024

DHR ID# 121-5564

-  Nominated Boundary
-  Contributing Resource
-  Non-contributing Resource
-  Photo Location and View Direction

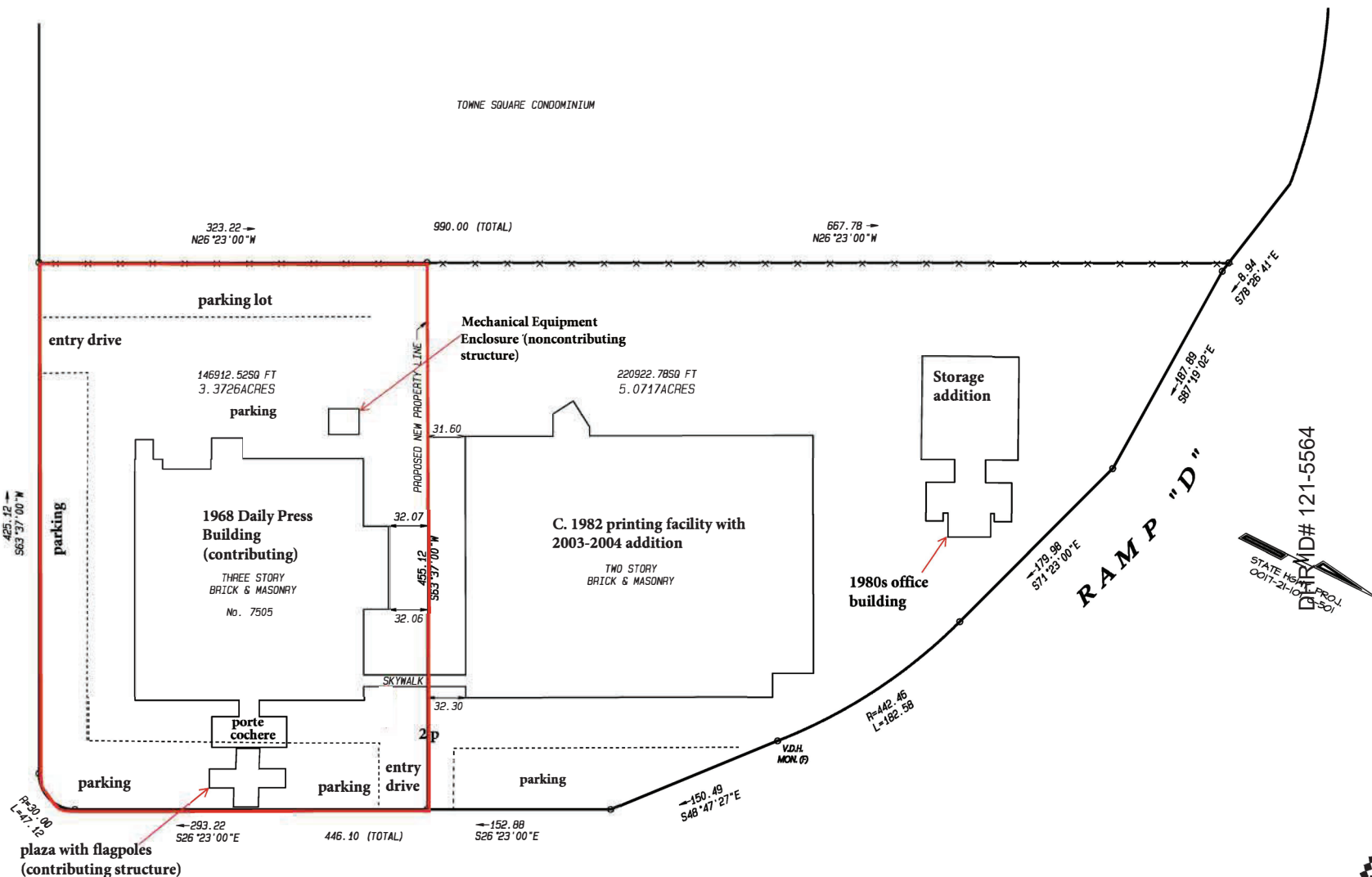


Google Earth

Image © 2024 Maxar Technologies



75 TH STREET



WARWICK BOULEVARD  
U.S. ROUTE 60

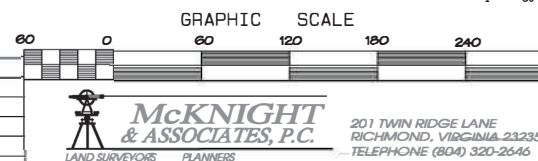
PROPOSED DIVISION  
7505 WARWICK BOULEVARD  
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA.



Daily Press Building  
7505 Warwick Blvd.  
Newport News, VA

Nominated Boundary

CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS  
VIRGINIA  
SHEET 1 OF 1  
DRAWN BY: T. V. B.  
CHECKED BY: J. E. M.  
DATE: NOVEMBER 27, 2024



REVISED:

JOB NUMBER: 88021305