



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department of General Services*  
*Division of Engineering & Buildings*

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**COURTHOUSE EVALUATION REPORT**  
Cumberland County Virginia, Courthouse Buildings

To: W. Michael Coppa. R.A. Director  
From: Darin DeBlasio, RA  
Date: April 26, 2022  
Project Code: C37-B2C37-000

Inspection Date: April 20, 2022  
Recommendation: Non-Compliance with Code of Virginia § 17.1-281

The **Cumberland County Courthouse** is a historic courthouse building located at 1 Courthouse Circle in Cumberland County, Virginia. It was built by Dabney Cosby, a master builder for Thomas Jefferson, in 1818. It is a brick, one-story, rectangular, gable-roofed courthouse. Attached to the courthouse and completed in 1821 is a small, brick, one-story former clerk's office that now serves as the courthouse building's main entrance. In addition the courthouse complex also includes in separate but adjacent buildings: magistrates offices, clerk of the court offices, Commonwealth's Attorney office, probation and other court service offices.

The Courthouse Facility Evaluation Form was received by DEB on March 25, 2022. An on-site walk-through evaluation of the parking, immediate surrounding site, and all buildings comprising the courthouse complex was performed on April 20, 2022. The site inspection was conducted in the presence of Bryan Saxtan, Director of Public Works.

The completed Evaluation form was reviewed throughout the inspection. The Evaluation Form contains 183 check list items of which 114 are compliant, with 69 non-compliant. The walk-through verified the non-compliant items. Minor revisions were made to the Evaluation Form based upon observations during the inspection.

The review of the submitted Evaluation form and on-site inspection resulted in the determination that the Cumberland County Courthouse is not in compliance with Code of Virginia § 17.1-281

The most notable deficiencies were:

- 1) Item 2.1.3: Parking:
  - a) There is not adequate parking for the public on court days.
  - b) There are no security measures for the judges from their parking spots to the building entrance.
  - c) There are no marked and dedicated jury parking spots.

- 2) Items 2.1.5.3, 2.1.5.4 Handicapped Access: There are steps to the judges' bench and court reporter stations. An accessible ramp is not provided for wheelchair access.
- 3) Item 2.1.5.8 Assistive Listening Systems: Existing system is broken/inoperable and outdated
- 4) Items 2.1.11.8, 2.1.11.10 and 2.1.11.11 Technology Standards: Assistive listening systems, public address system, and acoustics are not state of the art, or not provided.
- 5) Items 2.2.1.4, 2.2.9.1 Environmental Control: Frequent system breakdown and repair (with the potential to interrupt court proceeding) is most likely caused by the building's HVAC systems having reached the end of their life cycle. There are no vestibule entrances.
- 6) Item 2.2.1.5 Courtrooms Acoustics: Exterior noise infiltration is a disruption during proceedings.
- 7) Item 2.2.17 Magistrates Office: There is no separate soundproof hearing room for complainants. The magistrate's visitors file paper work in the building's main public entrance.
- 8) It was also observed that a secure sally port for offenders and officers does not exist.

There are no additional comments.