

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP-2/26/70

73-58

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Prince Edward	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

EDMOND:
Hampden-Sydney College Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hampden-Sydney College

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: On Rt. 692, between the intersection of Rt. 692 and Rt. 643 and the intersection of Rt. 692 and Rt. 133, in Hampden Sydney.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Prince Edward	CODE 147
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sydney College

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hampden Sydney

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Prince Edward County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Farmville

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	COUNTY: Prince Edward	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present-day campus of Hampden-Sydney College is built around College Street, the main road which runs north to south, the Via Sacra, and a curving drive, the latter two of which run west from the main street. Along the curving drive stand two of the College's oldest structures, the Alamo and Cushing Hall. The Alamo consists of a brick house built in 1817 for the vice-president of the school, combined with an adjacent two-story block added before 1835 and set at an angle to the original house with the resulting triangular void filled in. Except for porch additions and Victorian alterations, mostly on the eastern end wall of the newer part, the Alamo retains its Federalist plaster flat arches and Flemish bond brick facades. Unfortunately, Whitehouse Hall, a 1967 version of the Lawn at the University of Virginia, has been placed just to the west of the Alamo.

To the east of the Alamo is Cushing Hall, known as "The College" for many years. The east wing and center pavilion were completed by 1822 and the west wing possibly by 1830, creating a thirteen-bay, four-story brick structure with gable roof and projecting central three-bay pavilion. In 1836 Cushing Hall held forty-eight dormitory rooms, the chapel, two lecture rooms and two society halls, but now it is used almost entirely as a student dormitory with little original interior finish remaining.

Three buildings, composing the original Union Theological Seminary grouping, stand near the east end of the Via Sacra, so named because it was the old location of the Seminary before it moved to Richmond in 1898. The easternmost of these buildings is Penshurst, a two-story, three-bay house with central entranceway and hipped roof, built in 1830 as a professor's home. To the west is Venable Hall whose east end was built between 1823 and 1824 with the central and western portions added about 1831; it served as the dormitory, chapel and library of the Seminary. The broad, brick three-story facade with its central pedimented pavilion is similar in size and shape to Cushing Hall of the same period, a few hundred yards to the north. West of Venable Hall is the third Seminary building, Middlecourt, built circa 1829 as a professor's home. Although the latter has a side hall plan, it is closely similar in design to Penshurst on the other side of Venable Hall. Nearer to College Street and between the original sites of the College and the Seminary stands the original president's house, Graham Hall, now a dormitory. Built circa 1833, the brick, two-story structure with its gable roof and three-bay front was enlarged to the rear and altered in 1916.

Southeast of Graham Hall, across College Street, stands the three-story brick administration building, known as Atkinson Hall, which was built in 1850 as a residence and became part of the College in 1899. Adjacent to it is the small mid-eighteenth century law office of Nathaniel Venable, one of the original trustees of the College. In this office the Presbytery of Hanover met in 1775 to organize the school. In 1944 the office was moved from Slate Hill Plantation, Prince Edward County, to its present location.

North of Atkinson Hall and the law office is College Church, designed by Dr. Robert Lewis Dabney and built in 1860 in standard Greek Revival fashion. Unstuccoed brick walls and pilasters support a heavy entablature under a low, hipped roof. The entranceway is in the form of a di-style in antis porch under a pediment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of Hampden-Sydney College goes back to 1774 when the ministers of Hanover Presbytery suggested to their congregations in Prince Edward and Cumberland Counties that money be raised for "a public school for the liberal education of youth . . . on the southside of the Blue Ridge." Their efforts were successful, and Hampden-Sydney Academy opened its doors in 1776. In 1783 the General Assembly incorporated it as "The College of Hampden-Sydney." From 1823 to 1898 Union Theological Seminary, dedicated to educating "poor and pious" youth for the ministry, was operated as part of Hampden-Sydney College. In addition, Hampden-Sydney sponsored a medical school in Richmond from 1837 to 1854 when the school was chartered as the Medical College of Virginia.

Hampden-Sydney College has continued to flourish to the present day as one of the principal and oldest educational institutions in Virginia. The survival of most of the original buildings in their original setting has preserved the nineteenth-century rural college campus atmosphere of Hampden-Sydney.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradshaw, Herbert C., History of Prince Edward County, Virginia. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1955.
 Foote, William H., Sketches of Virginia, Historical and Biographical. Richmond: 1966 (1st printing, 1850).
 "The Preacher Who Designed Four Churches," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Autumn, 1958).
Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia, Reprint from the Farmville Herald, March 29, 1935.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 14' 50"	78° 27' 48"				
NE	37° 14' 50"	78° 27' 15"				
SE	37° 14' 19"	78° 27' 15"				
SW	37° 14' 19"	78° 27' 48"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: October 8, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Edw. P. Alexander by Jm

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date December 2, 1969

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

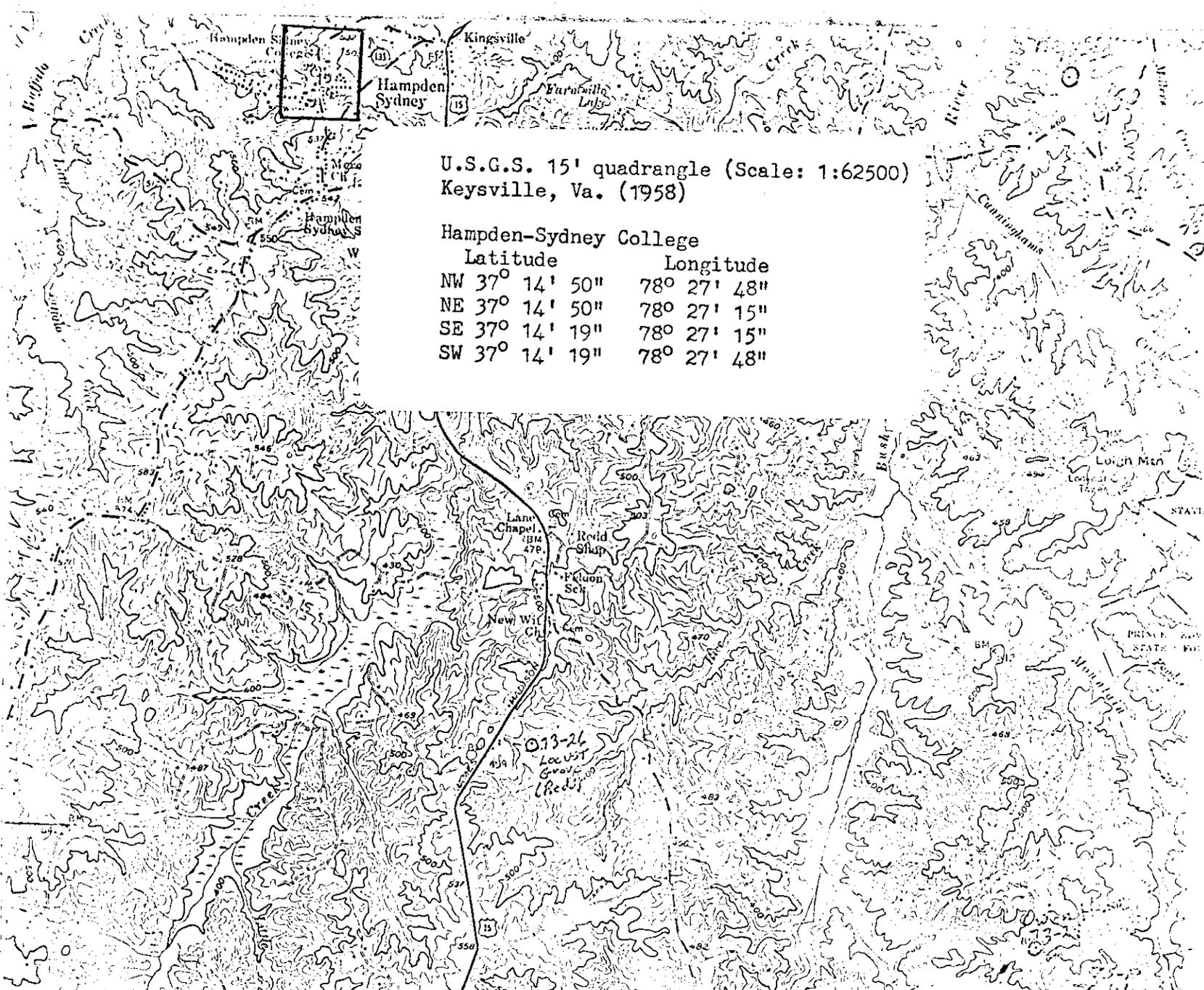
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Prince Edward	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. The remaining attractive nineteenth-century structures include Estcourt (circa 1831), Hampden House (between 1855 and 1860), Moore Infirmary (1890), and Dabney House (circa 1856). The twentieth-century structures which have been placed for the most part in the area between the old Seminary site and the original College site attempt to copy the Georgian influences of the early days of the school.

Partly because of its small size and partly because of slow growth, Hampden-Sydney College has been able to retain the uncrowded atmosphere it must have had in the nineteenth century when many of its structures were built. In spite of the irregular site, the complex of buildings, old and new, have a simplicity and directness which lends a formal air to the campus.

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #73-3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.
1969 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45



U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle (Scale: 1:62500)
 Keysville, Va. (1958)

Hampden-Sydney College

Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 14' 50"	78° 27' 48"
NE 37° 14' 50"	78° 27' 15"
SE 37° 14' 19"	78° 27' 15"
SW 37° 14' 19"	78° 27' 48"