

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

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**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

**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

**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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Prince Edward

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Edw. P. Alexander by Jm</u></p> <p>Title <u>Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</u></p> <p>Date <u>December 2, 1969</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
--	---

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.

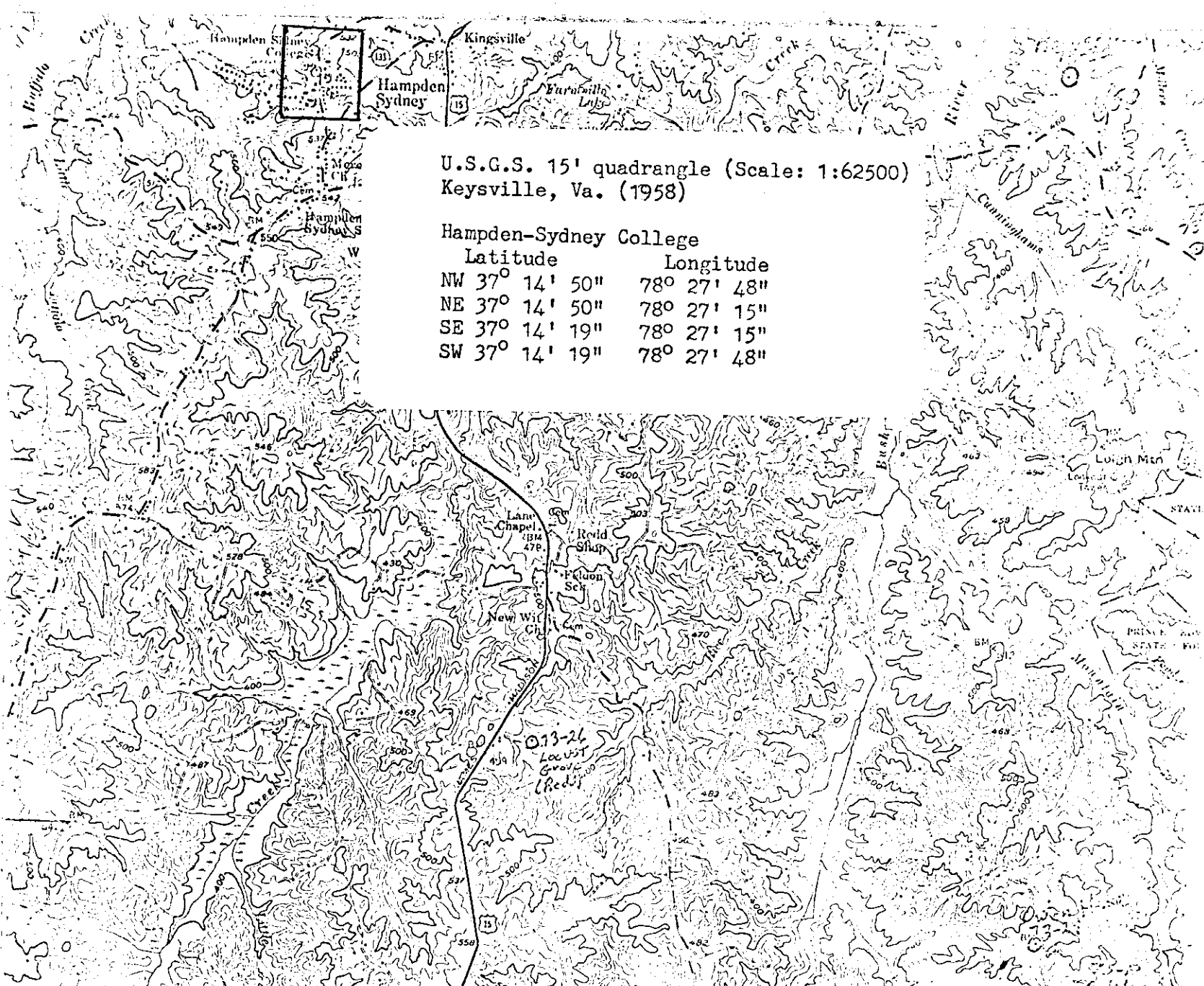
6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #73-3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.  
1969 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

NOTE: ALL RESOURCES ARE CONTRIBUTING UNLESS MARKED (NC) FOR NONCONTRIBUTING. EACH RESOURCE WAS ASSIGNED A THREE-PART HISTORIC DISTRICT NUMBER (73-58-01 THROUGH 73-58-16). CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES, HOWEVER, ALSO HAVE TWO-PART FILE NUMBER ASSIGNED FROM A PREVIOUS SURVEY (73-03, 73-04, 73-13, ETC.). THESE NUMBERS ARE INDICATED WITHIN PARENTHESIS.

- 73-58-01 1819, 2-story, Flemish-bond brick, Federal style  
(73-13) administration building ("The Alamo"), with a tin gable roof and 6/9 and 9/9 double-sash windows; 2-story Flemish-bond brick addition added in 1822.
- 73-58-02 1990, 3-story, stretcher-bond brick, Colonial Revival-style dormitory with a slate hipped roof with a central front gable, modillion cornice, and a Palladian window over the entrance. NC.
- 73-58-03 1822-1830, 4-story, Flemish-bond brick, Federal-style  
(73-14) dormitory (Cushing Hall), with a slate pedimented gable roof, with 4 1-bay Greek Revival-style entrance porches and a lunette in each pedimented gable.
- 73-58-04 ca.1990, 1-story, stretcher-bond brick, Colonial Revival-style academic building with a slate gable roof with flanking end cross gables, a 1-story, 1-bay porch with a pedimented gable roof, and a central cupola. NC.
- 73-58-05 1936, 3-story, Flemish-bond brick, Colonial Revival-style educational facility (Morton Hall), with a slate pedimented gable roof with a central front gable, 6/6 double-sash windows and modillions and dentils below the box cornice.
- 73-58-06 1940, 2-story, Garden-wall bond brick, Colonial Revival-style athletic facility (Gammon Gymnasium), with a slate pedimented gable roof, 4 interior brick chimneys, and a 3-story, 3-bay 1955 brick addition.
- 73-58-07 1935, 2-story, stretcher-bond brick, Colonial Revival-style dwelling with a composition shingle-clad pedimented gable roof, a 1-story, 1-bay porch, and 6/6 double-sash windows.

- 73-58-08 ca. 1920, 2-story, frame and weatherboard, Colonial Revival-style manse with a slate-clad gable roof, a 1-story, 3-bay porch, and an ornate fanlight and sidelights at entrance.
- 73-58-09 (73-04) ca. 1860, 1-story, stretcher-bond brick, Greek Revival-style church (College Church) with a shingle-clad hipped roof, a 1-story, 3-bay recessed Greek Revival-style portico, and brick pilasters along its side. A cemetery (contributing site) is located to the east side.
- 73-58-10 (73-16) 1833, 2-story, Flemish-bond brick, Greek Revival-style academic building (Graham Hall), with a slate-clad gable roof, a 1-story, 3-bay porch with Doric columns, and a large brick rear addition with a louvered cupola.
- 73-58-11 1922, 3-story, English-bond brick, Colonial Revival-style academic building (Bagby Hall), with a slate-clad pedimented gable roof with a central front gable, a louvered cupola, and 6/6 double-sash windows.
- 73-58-12 (73-12) 1834, 3-story, Garden-wall bond brick, Colonial Revival-style administration building (Atkinson Hall), with a tin hipped roof and 6/6, 6/9, and 9/9 double-sash windows.
- 73-58-13 1926, 1-story, Flemish-bond brick, Colonial Revival-style campus store (Cabell House), with a slate-clad gable roof with a central front gable, a frontispiece at the central entrance, 20-light and 8/8 double-sash windows.
- 73-58-14 (73-05) ca. 1737-1756, frame and weatherboard, vernacular dwelling ( "The Cradle") with a slate-clad gable roof, 9/6 double-sash windows, and an exterior end brick chimney.
- 73-58-15 1941, Garden-wall bond brick, Colonial Revival-style museum (Museum of Hampden-Sydney), with a slate-clad gable roof with a central front gable, modillions beneath the box cornice and a pedimented frontispiece at the entrance.
- 73-58-16 (73-19) 1830, Flemish-bond brick, Greek Revival-style dwelling (Penshurst), with a tin hipped roof, 1-story, 3-bay front porch, and 4 interior end capped brick chimneys.



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"	