

✓ LR-6/19/79 NRHP-9/10/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Prince Edward County Clerk's Office

AND/OR COMMON

Old Prince Edward County Clerk's Office (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E side of U.S. Route 15; S of intersection of U.S. Route 15 and
State Route 665.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Worsham

VICINITY OF

Fifth (W.C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

51

COUNTY

Prince Edward

CODE

147

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Prince Edward County c/o Chairman, Board of Supervisors

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 382

CITY, TOWN

Farmville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince Edward County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Farmville

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventroy

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old clerk's office is located on Route 15 in the community of Worsham. The building is situated north of the site of the former courthouse square. The one-story, Roman Revival-style building was erected in 1855 by Messrs. Guthrey and Thackston.

Executed in Flemish bond, the south elevation is dominated by a one-story portico. The portico consists of the original Tuscan columns and pilasters that support the original unstudied Tuscan entablature. A similarly executed entablature runs the perimeter of the building. The portico's flat roof shelters twin entries which consist of simply framed six-paneled doors; the upper panels have been replaced by glass. The doors are raised from the base of the portico by five wooden steps, the doorway step executed in granite. Neither the portico floor nor the steps are original. The central composition is flanked by 6/6 hung sash within three-part architraves set on granite sills. The left sash is original; that on the right is a replacement.

The east elevation was constructed in two parts, The original 1855 section of one bay is executed in Flemish bond. The fenestration is similar to that found on the south elevation. The bay is covered by a gable roof, and the pedimented gable contains the original Doric entablature with modillions in the tympanum. The entablature on the rest of the building apparently had modillions, but they have been removed. The ell is executed in common bond and was probably added when the building was converted into a school. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung sash, in an asymmetrical arrangement. The brick ell is covered by a low-pitched gable roof. A flat water table runs the perimeter of the brick sections of the building.

The west elevation was also constructed in two parts. The original 1855 one-bay section is executed in Flemish-bond brick. The treatment of the fenestration is similar to that found on the south elevation. A weatherboarded 20th-century frame addition extends to the northwest. The addition contains a four-part window with 2/2 hung sash and is covered by a low-pitched gable roof.

The north elevation is composed of the gable ends of the later additions. A Doric cornice serves as a visual connection for the two sections. The wood-frame addition contains a new porch sheltering the two rear entries. A small gable-roof boiler shed projects from the wall of the brick addition.

The original plan of the clerk's office consisted of two rooms with a central chimney. The school addition and wood-frame addition extended the plan to the north. A recent 1978 renovation has blocked off the later additions for use as an apartment. Present plans call for the restoration of the two south rooms into a museum. The original random-width pine floors are still in place, as is the original window and door symmetrical architrave trim. The original mantel survives in the east room. The original plaster walls were exposed when 20th-century paneling was removed. The original ceiling with a simple two-part flat, Greek Revival cornice survives, found when a suspended ceiling was removed.

An Italianate-style shed still stands to the rear of the property.

RCC

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Guthrey & Thackston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old county clerk's office, together with the restored debtor's jail, are reminders of the period 1754-1872 when this community was Prince Edward Court House. Built in 1855 by Guthrey and Thackston, the present structure was the third clerk's office. The edifice was built north of the early courthouse square in the Roman Revival idiom, popularized in 19th-century courthouse design by Thomas Jefferson and his followers. Clerk of the court at the time--and indeed from 1825-1870--was Branch Worsham after whom the community was later named.

At the formation of Prince Edward in 1754, the court was established here at an important crossroads situated in the geographic center of the county. The present clerk's office was built as a stylistic complement to the neoclassical court building erected in 1832, thus completing the antebellum courthouse complex. At the time of the construction of the courthouse, the pervasive mode for public buildings had become the porticoed example of the Neoclassical Revival, popularized by Jeffersonian-design influence. Although the fashion was waning by the time the clerk's office was built, the county commissioners elected to continue the noble tradition. The clerk's office was built after the specifications of the courthouse committee, consisting of Messrs. Dickenson, Anderson, Worsham, and Guthrey. It was completed in December 1855 at a cost of \$1785. The building served the county until 1872 when the court was moved to Farmville.

Following the abandonment of the buildings, Dr. Joseph Eggleston purchased the courthouse, clerk's office, and jail and established the Prince Edward Academy utilizing the buildings in 1874. By 1876 the catalogue of the academy showed an enrollment of 41 boys, the clerk's office being used as a dormitory. The buildings were later operated as a public school. The old clerk's office eventually was converted into a private home. In 1977 it was purchased by the county for use as a county museum. The restored Debtor's Prison, listed on the Virginia and National Registers, stands across the road.

MTP/RCC

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradshaw, Herbert Clarence. History of Prince Edward County, Virginia. Richmond, Va., 1955.
 Prince Edward County Order Book 27 (1854-55).
 "Prince Edward Courthouse." The Farmville Herald, 1935.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1-1/4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Worsham, Va. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	7 2 6 9 0 0	4 1 2 3 1 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Situated on E side of US Route 15, about 350' SSE of intersection of said route and State Route 665 on a lot of about 1 1/4 acres and measuring approximately 200'x 250', the 200' fronting on Route 15.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE April 1979

STREET & NUMBER 221 Governor Street TELEPHONE (804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN Richmond STATE Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director DATE JUN 19 1979
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

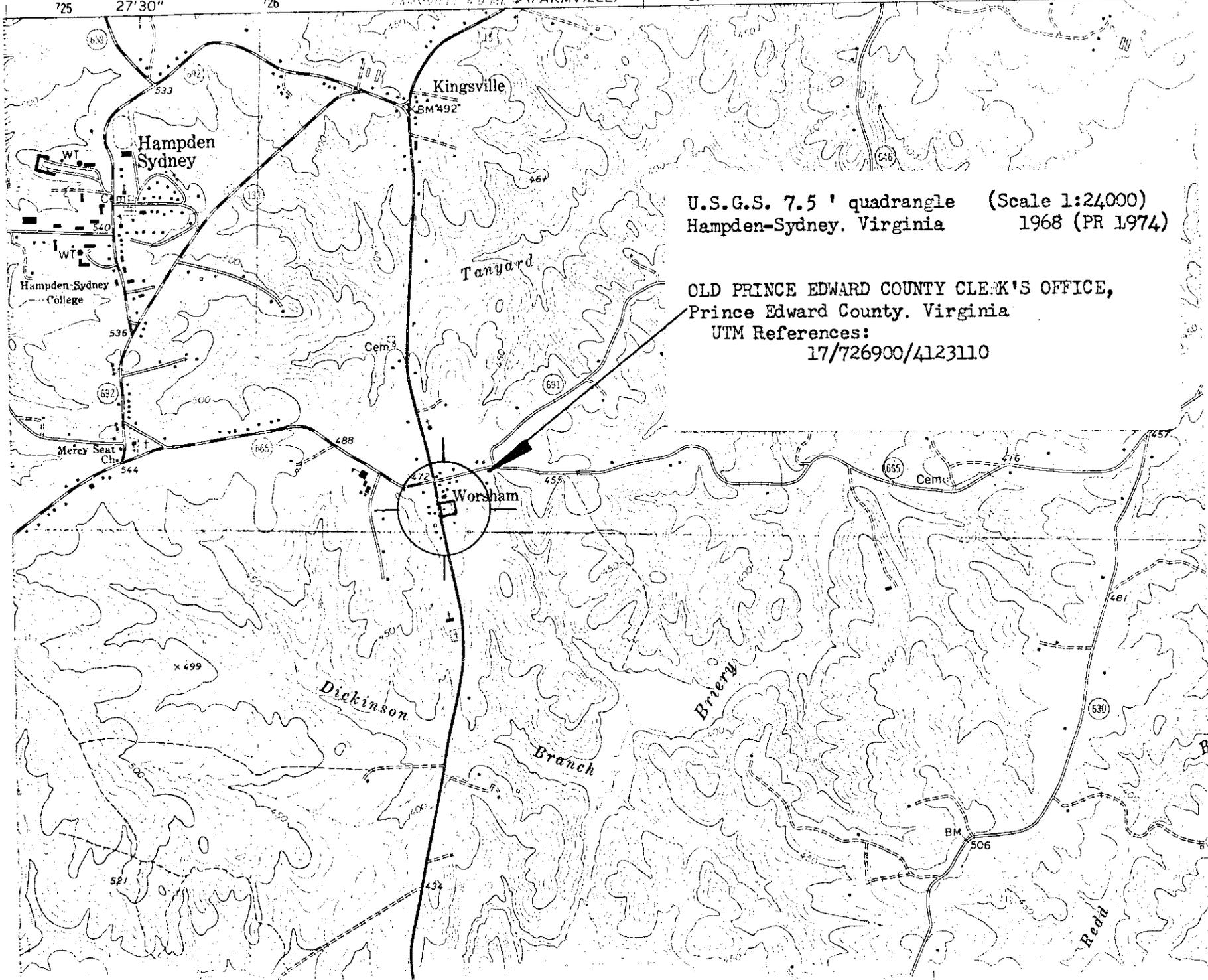
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE _____

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

5358 IV SW
(FARMVILLE)

725 27'30" 726 728 729 25' 730 2'



U.S.G.S. 7.5 ' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)
Hampden-Sydney, Virginia 1968 (PR 1974)

OLD PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE,
Prince Edward County, Virginia
UTM References:
17/726900/4123110