VLR Listed: 12/2/1969
NRHP Listed: 2/26/1970

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: 70.2.45.0014 DATE: 2/26/70

1. NAME

COMMON: Hampden-Sydney College ~~Preservation Zone~~ 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: Hampden-Sydney

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	Prince Edward	147

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☒ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

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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

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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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

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Prince Edward	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.2.45.0014	2/26/70

(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

8. 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)*

Aboriginal	☒ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ 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.

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9. 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						OR	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: 270 acres

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

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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

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 Jwm

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title ~~Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission~~

Date December 2, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 26 1970

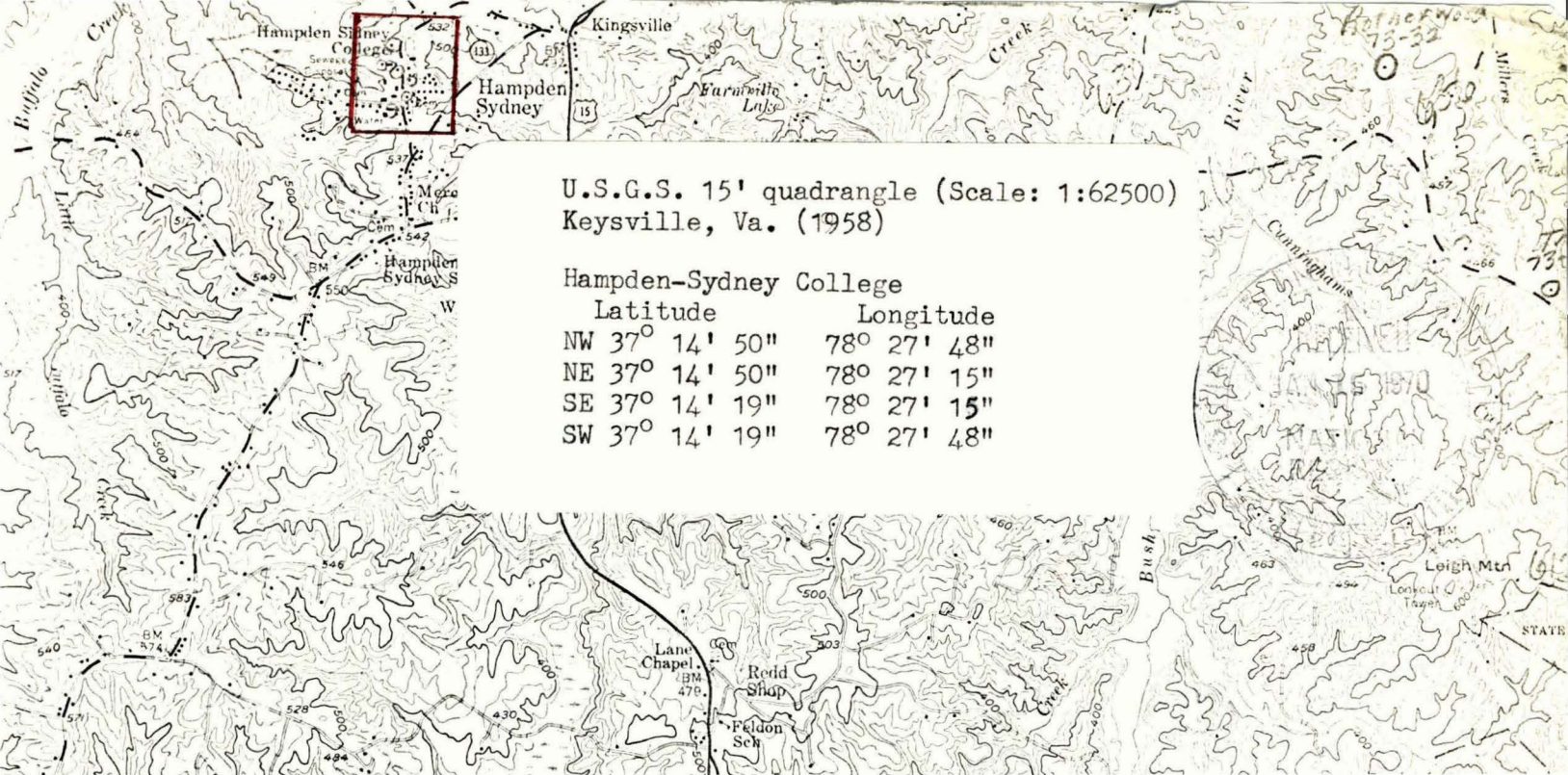
ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 12 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

A 17/725800/4125130
B 17/725880/4124060
C 17/724880/4125100
D 17/724850/4124030
E 17/724850/4124030



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"