

VLR-10/17/72 NRHP-1/26/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: VIRGINIA BEACH (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON  
PLEASANT HALL

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5184 Princess Anne Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Virginia Beach (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in city)	CODE 810
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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 checked="" 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:  
Robert E. Whitehead, Jr., and Susan W. Byars

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5184 Princess Anne Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Virginia Beach

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Virginia Beach

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939, 1940  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA BEACH (in city)

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## 7. 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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pleasant Hall is a double-pile, two-story, five-bay Georgian style house covered by a relatively shallow gable roof. Projecting from the roof are two wide interior-end chimney stacks with corbeled caps. The west stack was rebuilt following extensive damage from a recent hurricane. Along the roof's eaves is a modillion and dentil cornice. The walls are laid in even-colored Flemish bond and have a three-course unornamented belt course and a beveled water table on the front wall. The lower story of the rear wall has been hidden by an 1890's one-story lean-to addition. The nine-over-nine windows (many of which retain their original sashes with wide cyma muntins) have molded sills and rubbed brick jack arches. A crude Greek Revival porch obscures the front entrance, but the original stone pyramidal shaped front entrance steps were left in place. A much deteriorated early-twentieth century porch covers the first floor east side.

Pleasant Hall's interior is divided on the first floor by a center hall which has a central arch supported on fluted Doric pilasters. The stairwell is off to the west side in the northern end of the hall. The unusual stair features heavily turned newels and an exceptionally wide molded handrail. The handrail is supported on column-and-pedestal balusters. The stair's open string has scrolled brackets. In the first floor's southwest corner is the exceptionally fine fully paneled parlor. The room is surrounded by a modillion and dentil cornice and has a projecting chimney-piece with fluted Corinthian pilasters. In the northeast corner of the parlor is an arched cupboard with scalloped shelves and paneled doors. The remaining rooms, both upstairs and down are generally more simple than the parlor, but most have paneled end walls. Almost no original woodwork has been lost and it all remains in a good state of preservation. Much of the original hardware is intact as well. About the only alteration of any consequence is the wide Greek Revival door cut between the east first floor rooms. The attic can be reached by an interior stairway, and there can be seen the unusual roof framing composed of a series of king post trusses.

The house is located near the crossroads that once defined the old town of Kempsville, now engulfed in the modern suburban sprawl of Virginia Beach. Always a focal point for the area, the house, despite the encroachment of a four lane road, retains a broad front lawn and large shade trees. Several early but not significant outbuildings remain on the grounds.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1779

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pleasant Hall is an outstanding example of second period Georgian architecture, having an exterior of great refinement and interior woodwork of exceptional quality. The architectural significance of the house is magnified by its virtually unaltered state; few Virginia houses of its age and quality survive with so much original decorative and structural fabric intact. Especially notable is its superb fully paneled parlor with projecting chimneypiece containing full height Corinthian pilasters. The use of the Corinthian order is exceedingly rare in colonial Virginia interiors, being limited to probably less than a half-dozen structures including Stratford Hall and Tuckahoe. Also of note is the very unusual roof framing which features a rarely used and handsomely constructed king post truss system.

Pleasant Hall was erected in 1779 by a wealthy Princess Anne County landowner, Peter Singleton, on land acquired from James Tenant. This construction date is confirmed by a dated brick below the water table on the front wall. It was Singleton who gave the plot immediately behind the house for the Princess Anne County Court House, which was erected in the 1780's, and stood until its ruins were demolished in 1972. Pleasant Hall was sold by the Singletons in 1804, and it passed through numerous owners during the nineteenth century. In 1905 it was acquired by Dr. R. E. Whitehead whose heirs own it now. Today the house stands as practically the last early vestige of the old court house town of Kempsville. Set amidst its tall old trees, it has witnessed the conversion of the surrounding broad flat fields of old Princess Anne County into the vast suburban housing tracts of the modern city of Virginia Beach.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36	49	40
NE	° ' "	° ' "		76	09	45
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY **2**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INST UCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: September, 1972

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 J. R. Fishburne

J. R. Fishburne, Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date OCT 17 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

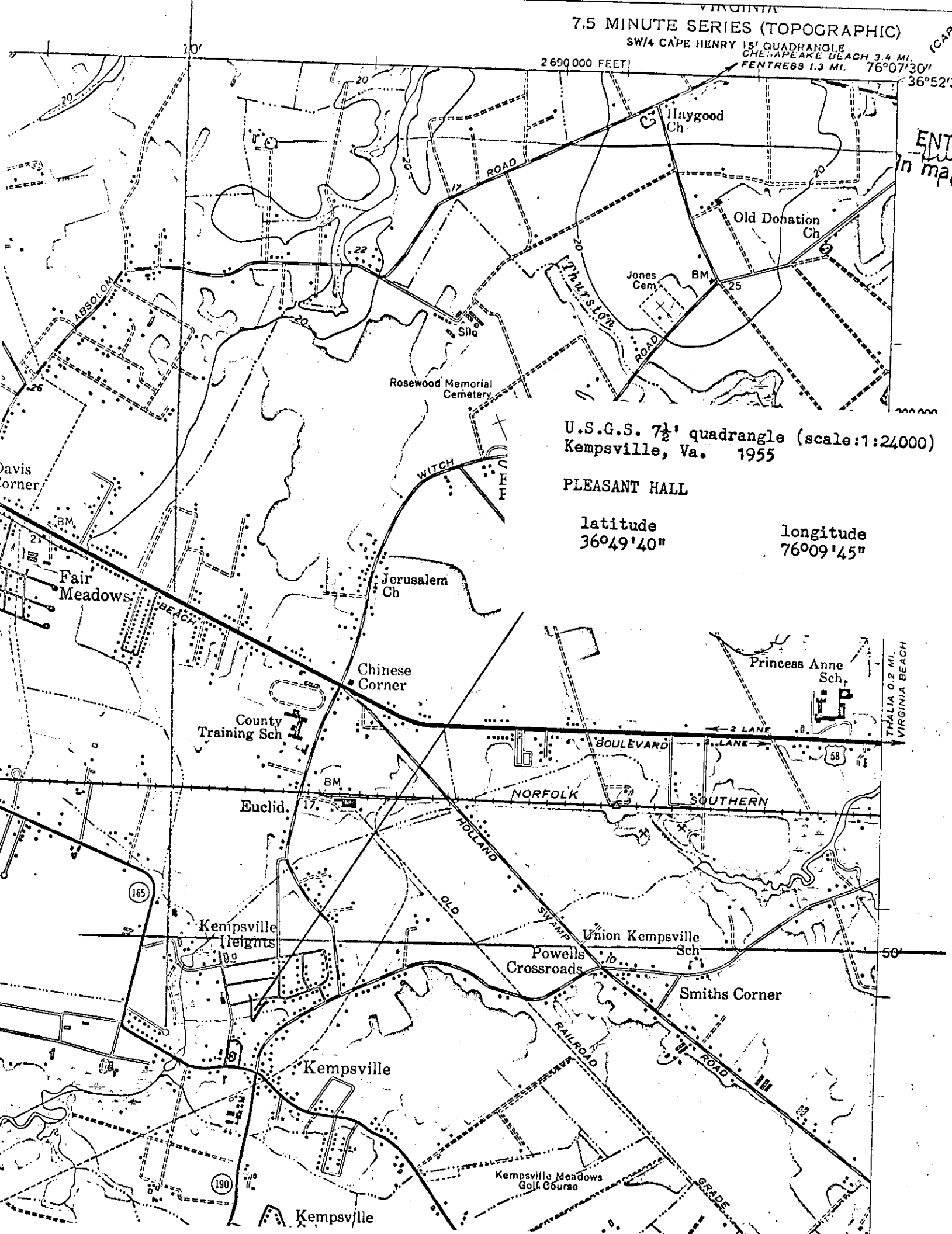
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 CAPE HENRY 15' QUADRANGLE  
CHESAPEAKE BEACH 3.4 MI.  
FENTRESS 1.3 MI. 76°07'30" 36°52'

2 690 000 FEET



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Kempsville, Va. 1955

PLEASANT HALL

latitude  
36°49'40"

longitude  
76°09'45"

THALIA 0.2 MI.  
VIRGINIA BEACH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

6.

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

1958

Federal

Library of Congress

Washington, D. C.

Code: 11