

VLR-12/16/80 NRHP-7/8/82

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ednam

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 250 West N/A not for publication
city, town Charlottesville X vicinity of congressional district 7th (J. Kenneth Robinson)
state Virginia code 51 county Albemarle code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Ednam House Ltd., c/o Mr. Sandy H. Lambert, III, Vice President, Caleb Stowe Assoc. Partnership

street & number 141 Ednam Drive

city, town Charlottesville N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albemarle County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Charlottesville state Virginia 22901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1980 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Ednam is conspicuously located on a bluff off Route 250 west of Charlottesville, just south of Farmington Country Club. Its elevated site provides vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the north and west. The wood-frame structure is sheathed in weatherboards and is set on a low, brick foundation. As originally constructed ca. 1905, the house consisted of a center-passage plan complemented by two wings extending to the rear (south). Around 1937, the two front rooms divided by the hall were converted into a large drawing room, and the main entrance was changed to the west side, utilizing an original porte-cochère as the main entrance porch. The central block is covered by a steep deck-on-hip roof, pierced by open-tympanum pedimented dormers with intersecting tracery in the upper sash. Tall, brick, pilastered chimneys with corbeled caps project from the roof on each elevation. Attached to the main roof on the rear is a projecting clipped-gable roof; the remaining rear ells are covered by low-hipped roofs, also pierced by corbeled brick chimneys. The balustrade on the main roof's deck and the latticework rail between the dormers are missing.

The north facade is dominated by its original colossal two-story portico consisting of four unfluted Ionic columns supporting an entablature with dentils and modillion blocks. A balcony separates the first and second floors in the three center bays. On the second story a Palladian door opens onto a long balcony supported on consoles. The balcony railing consists of turned balusters with intermediate posts capped by urns. Below the balcony is the original main entrance which consists of double doors of beveled glass flanked by sidelights and transom. The original double-hung, 1/1 sash windows with beveled glass and louvred shutters are retained on the facade.

The east elevation is distinguished by a central two-story pavilion. A porch supported on square posts extends across the first story sheltering its entrance. The west elevation contains a one-story, paired-columned porch which maintains its attached porte-cochère. A round, one-story screened porch projects off the rear of the southwest wing. The fenestration of the rear elevation consists of a five-part bay window below a second-story Palladian window with diamond-paned sash.

Ednam contains elaborate interior woodwork characteristic of fine Colonial Revival residences. The central hall is dominated by a monumental open-well stair that wraps around the rear of the room and ascends to the third floor. The newels, fluted and paneled on each face, connect turned balusters and a molded handrail. The mezzanine landing with its bow-curved railing is lit by a projecting bay window; the second-floor landing is lit by the rear Palladian window.

Ionic columns act as a screen to separate the stair from the rest of the hall. The remainder of the room is decorated with paneled wainscoting. A conspicuous feature of the hall is an elaborately treated mantel which consists of stylized zoomorphic consoles supporting an ornate entablature with decorative relief.

Double doors open into the drawing room which extends across the front of the house. Matching Georgian-style fireplaces with decorative relief set into projecting chimney breasts at opposite ends of the room were added ca. 1937. Following the removal of the partitions, a narrow, molded chair rail with egg-and-dart carving and a narrow cornice were added to replace earlier paneled wainscoting.

Unlike the other rooms at Ednam, the dining room, located east of the stair hall, is fully paneled. The Tudor-style mantel has a raised-panel overmantel. Fluted pilasters

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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Ednam, Albemarle County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7,8,9

Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

outline the door and window openings. A breakfast room opening into the dining room is complete with paneled wainscoting and a mantel consisting of consoles below cherub brackets.

The southwest wing houses a single room on its first floor. It is distinguished by a Classical mantel with a hooded overmantel flanked by leaded-glass windows set in an archway supported by fluted pilasters. The room is finished with paneled wainscoting similar to the stair hall. A series of service areas retaining their original cupboards and servants' bells is located in the southeast wing.

The second-floor chambers are less elaborate than the first-floor rooms. The mantels in all of the rooms are designed in the Adamesque style with the front rooms enriched by molded chair rails.

The sloping lawn surrounding the house is bordered by clumps of shrubbery, mature shade trees, and spruces. The early drive and stone fountain shown in a sketch of Ednam by the architect are intact, although they are no longer used. The house has stood unoccupied for over a decade but has been maintained in good condition. Current plans call for developing the grounds for condominium structures but preserving the house as an architectural focal point and special activities area.

MM

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination of two and one-half acres includes the main house and the original landscaped lawn and drive surrounding the building. A residential development is planned for the remaining thirty-three acres of the estate.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

for this transfer is not clear, but Meyer remained at Ednam with the Borcherses until his death in 1917. The Borcherses sold the property in 1924, in which year Bertie Copps bought the estate. Upon the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Copps, the heirs sold Ednam in 1937 to J. L. Dryden. The house remained in the possession of Mr. Dryden's descendants until very recently.

MM

¹John Hammond Moore, Albemarle, Jefferson's County, 1727-1976 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1976) p. 271-2.

²Daily Progress Historical and Industrial Magazine, June 1906.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Trow's General Directory of the Boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx, City of New York, 1905/6.
New York, 1906.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1905 **Builder/Architect** D. Wiley Anderson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by the Richmond architect D. Wiley Anderson for a wealthy New Yorker, Edwin O. Meyer, Ednam ranks among Virginia's most ambitious examples of the early Colonial Revival style. During the late 19th century, many American architects, following the example of Stanford White, took a renewed interest in the houses of the Colonial and Federal periods. They freely interpreted forms and details and incorporated them into imaginative residential designs. With its stately portico, rich Classical detailing, and elaborate interiors, Ednam, completed ca. 1905, presents a grandiose "Southern" image thought appropriate for its location. From the standpoint of social history, the house represents the turn-of-the-century influx of rich northerners into Piedmont Virginia who, attracted by the scenic countryside and sociable lifestyle, purchased old estates or set up new ones, often building very pretentious houses in the local idiom.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Albemarle's new residents were early attracted to the Ivy, Farmington, and Greenwood areas of the county, "lured by a slower, genteel pace of life, low taxes, lovely scenery, and the heady prospect of riding to the hounds and playing lord of the manor."¹ Edwin O. Meyer was one of the new citizens who bought land near Farmington, just west of Charlottesville. However, unlike many of the new residents, who viewed the area more as a temporary resort and thus had little impact on the locality, Meyer, a New York importer, settled permanently in Albemarle. A newspaper article dated June 1906, shortly after he had completed Ednam, attests to the prominence of both the owner and his estate:

Ednam, is more like the residence of an English Country gentleman of today. It is the expression of the home life of Mr. Meyer, showing his love for nature, for hills, woods and flowers, for green fields in the pure free air of heaven. Ednam manor is doubly interesting, because the place as it stands today is typical of both the past and present regime...Ednam is the worthy home of a worthy man.²

Meyer, a bachelor, shared Ednam with Louis Borchers, a New York City painter, and his wife, Emilie. Early photographs show not only its architecturally elaborate interior but also its elaborate furnishings and decor, all carried out with typical Edwardian eclecticism.

D. Wiley Anderson, a self-taught architect who gained popularity in Virginia for his numerous, well-appointed houses, was a logical choice for the designer of Meyer's home. An advertisement from Anderson's office stated that he specialized in "fine residences". By his own account, he had designed hundreds of buildings by the early years of the 20th century, including estates in Albemarle.

In 1908 Meyer transferred Ednam to his longtime friend Emilie Borchers. The reason

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albemarle County Will Book 32, p. 402 (1917).
 Daily Progress. Charlottesville, Va., October 13, 1917, p. 1.
 Daily Progress Historical and Industrial Magazine. June 1906.
 Moore, John Hammond. Albemarle, Jefferson's County, 1727-1976. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1976. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2½ acres
 Quadrangle name Charlottesville West, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>716000</u> Easting	<u>4214210</u> Northing	B	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on S side of U.S. 250, about 3100' NW of 29-250 Bypass exit ramp; thence extending about 500' SW; thence extending about 200' WNW; thence extending about 450' N to S side of U.S. 250; thence following said side about 200' E to point of origin. (see continuation sheet # 1 for justification of boundary)

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date December 1980
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

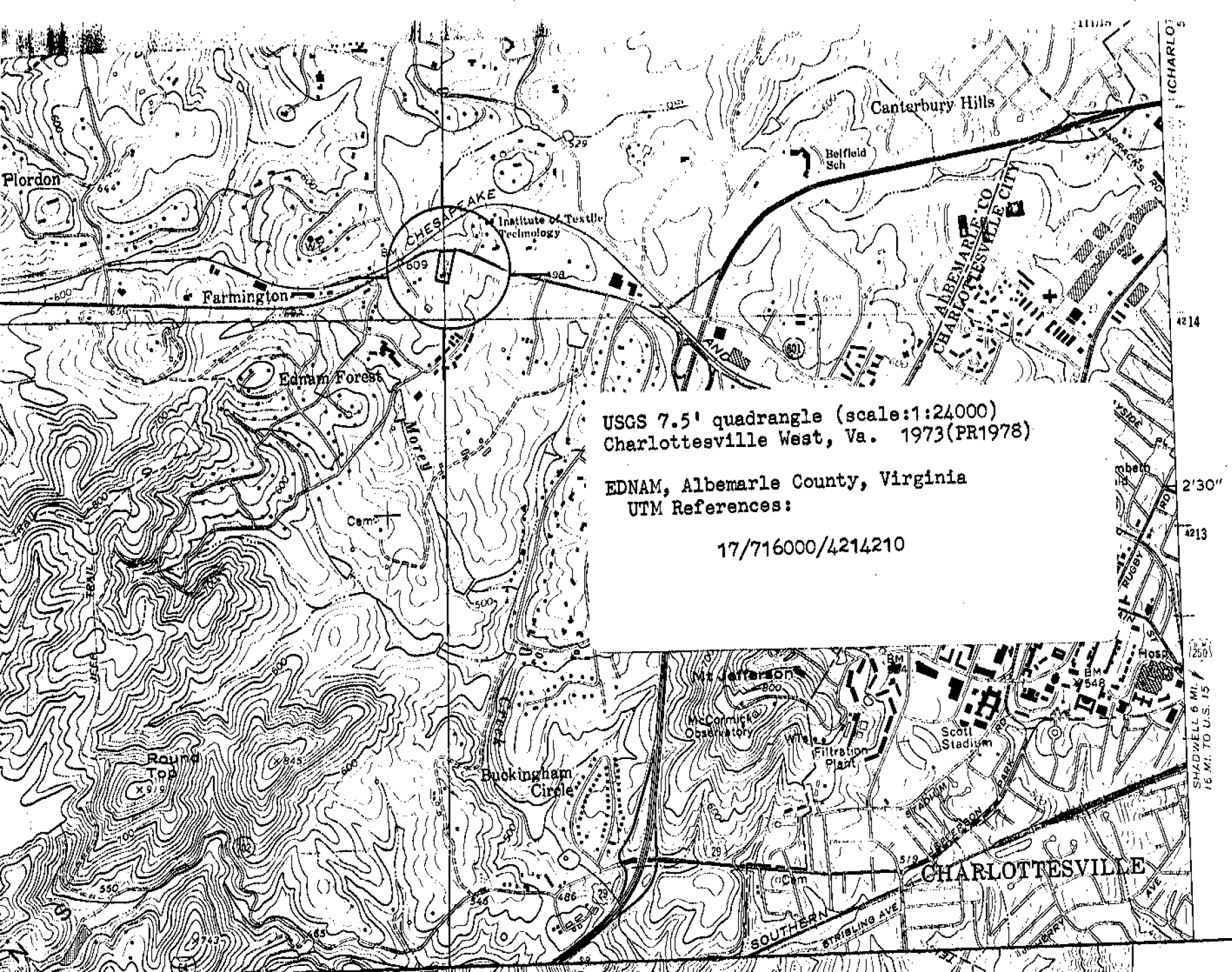
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell date 6/3/82
 title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date DEC 16 1980

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date _____
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Charlottesville West, Va. 1973(PR1978)

EDNAM, Albemarle County, Virginia
UTM References:

17/716000/4214210

(CHARLOTTESVILLE)

4214

2'30"

4213

1250'

SHADWELL 6 MI.
16 MI. TO U.S. 15