

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Virginia	
COUNTY:	
Bedford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-11-45-0093	11/12/69

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Poplar Forest

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Poplar Forest

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .2 mi. N of Timber Lake, .9 mi. S of Rt. 661, .5 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 661 and Rt. 460.

CITY OR TOWN:

Lynchburg, Virginia (Forest, Va.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

45

COUNTY:

Bedford

CODE

019

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP			STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:	
Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object	<input type="checkbox"/>			Both	<input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/>
											No:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Comments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Educational	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>				

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Watts, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:

Poplar Forest

CITY OR TOWN:

Forest

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

45

STATE:

Virginia

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Bedford County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Bedford

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

45

STATE:

Virginia

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 950

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941

Federal State County Local 

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D. C.

CODE

08

STATE:

Virginia

COUNTY:

Bedford

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*(Continuation Sheet)*

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**(Number all entries)**

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #09-27  
1968 State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 760

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)				
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Poplar Forest is a brick one-story building, octagonal in shape, set on a high basement with tetrastyle pedimented Tuscan porticoes, on low arcades, on the entrance and rear facades. As a result of a fire in 1845, only the walls, chimneys, and possibly the columns are original. From a drawing, circa 1820 (now in the Alderman Library, University of Virginia), by Thomas Jefferson's granddaughter, Cornelia Randolph, the original design of the exterior can be reasonably determined. The drawing shows the house crowned by a deck on an octagonal hipped roof surrounded at its base by a balustrade. Below the balustrade is a Tuscan cornice which encircles the entire house.

The original interior plan of the house is intact, and consists of four elongated octagonal rooms around a square central hall which was originally lighted from above. Two of the rooms were divided in the middle by bed alcoves, similar to that in Jefferson's bedroom at Monticello. Unfortunately, there is almost no evidence indicating the appearance of the original woodwork.

Jefferson refers to an office wing, 110 feet long "...in the manner of those at Monticello, with a flat roof in the level of the house." While no trace above ground remains of this wing, a kitchen and smokehouse still stand. On either side of the house, the two original octagonal privies are discreetly hidden by artificial mounds.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

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

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Poplar Forest was designed and built by Thomas Jefferson on his Bedford County plantation as a "pleasant retreat" from the social pressures of Monticello. Construction on the house began in 1806 and continued as late as 1819. Jefferson visited Poplar Forest as much as four times a year, often remaining there as long as a month. Originally the house had been designed for Jefferson's daughter, Maria, to be built in Albemarle County, but she died in 1804.

Although burned and substantially rebuilt, Poplar Forest ranks among the most important of Jefferson's architectural designs. In it he was able to indulge his fancy for compact forms and geometric shapes, and stated that it was "inferior only to Monticello".

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Company, Inc., 1968.

Watson, Lucille McWane, "Thomas Jefferson's Other Home", Antiques, April, 1957, pp. 342-346.

8-110 7-1-69

8-110 7-1-69

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY (OR POINT OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE)		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 37° 21' 30"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 79° 17' 00"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 0° 0' 0"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 0° 0' 0"	
NE	37° 21' 30"	79° 15' 30"			
SE	37° 20' 10"	79° 15' 30"			
SW	37° 20' 10"	79° 17' 00"			

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

STATE: <u>VA</u>	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

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

June 2, 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

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 Ed. P. Alexander by J.D.Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

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

  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 12 1969

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTEST:

  
Keeper of The National Register

OCT 23 1969

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date 10-7-69

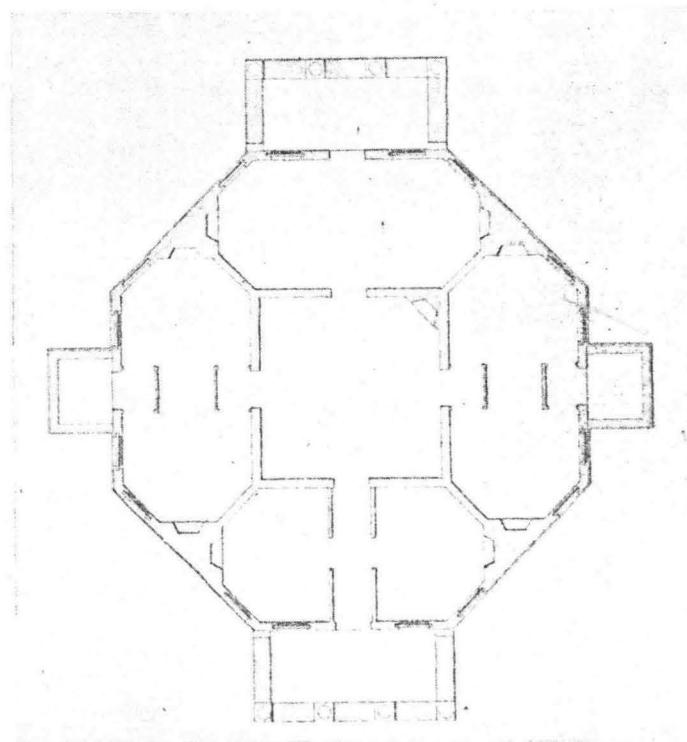
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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*(Continuation Sheet)*

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Floor plan of Poplar Forest.  
Alderman Library,  
University of Virginia.

## POPLAR FOREST

## FOREST QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 GOODE 15' QUADRANGLE

5158 NW  
(LYNCHBURG)79°15'  
37°22'30"UTM RIF  
10-14-25 W M