

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Bedford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-11-45-0093	DATE 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 vicinity (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"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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			
OWNERS NAME: Mr. and Mrs. James O. Watts, Jr.			
STREET AND NUMBER: Poplar Forest			
CITY OR TOWN: Forest	STATE: Virginia	CODE 45	STATE: Virginia COUNTY: Bedford

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 COUNTY: Bedford
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 950			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 08	FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

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6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal

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"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(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.

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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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>History</u>	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-			
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".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 21' 30"	79° 17' 00"				
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:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
VA			
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
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE
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 Edw. P. Alexander by John
Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date

10-7-69

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

Chief of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

NOV 12 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Swartz
Keeper of The National Register

Date

OCT 23 1969

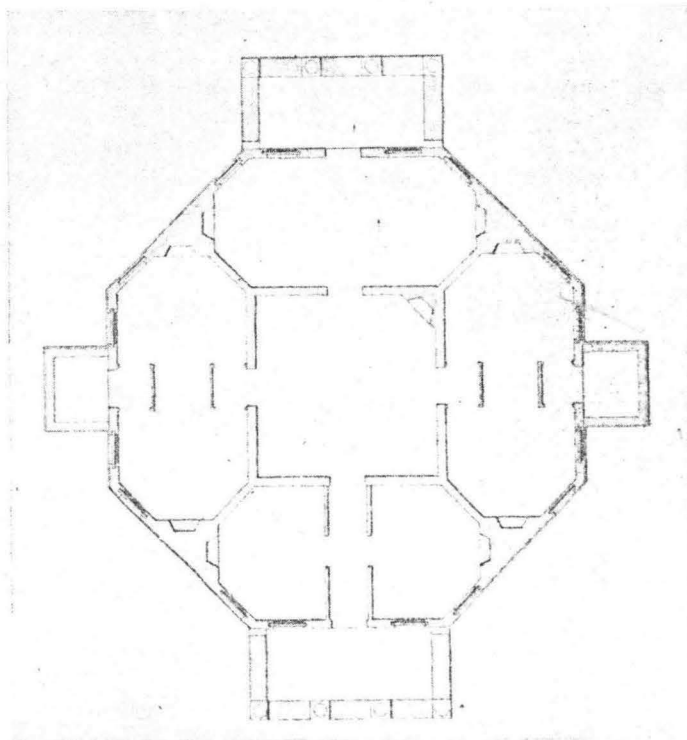
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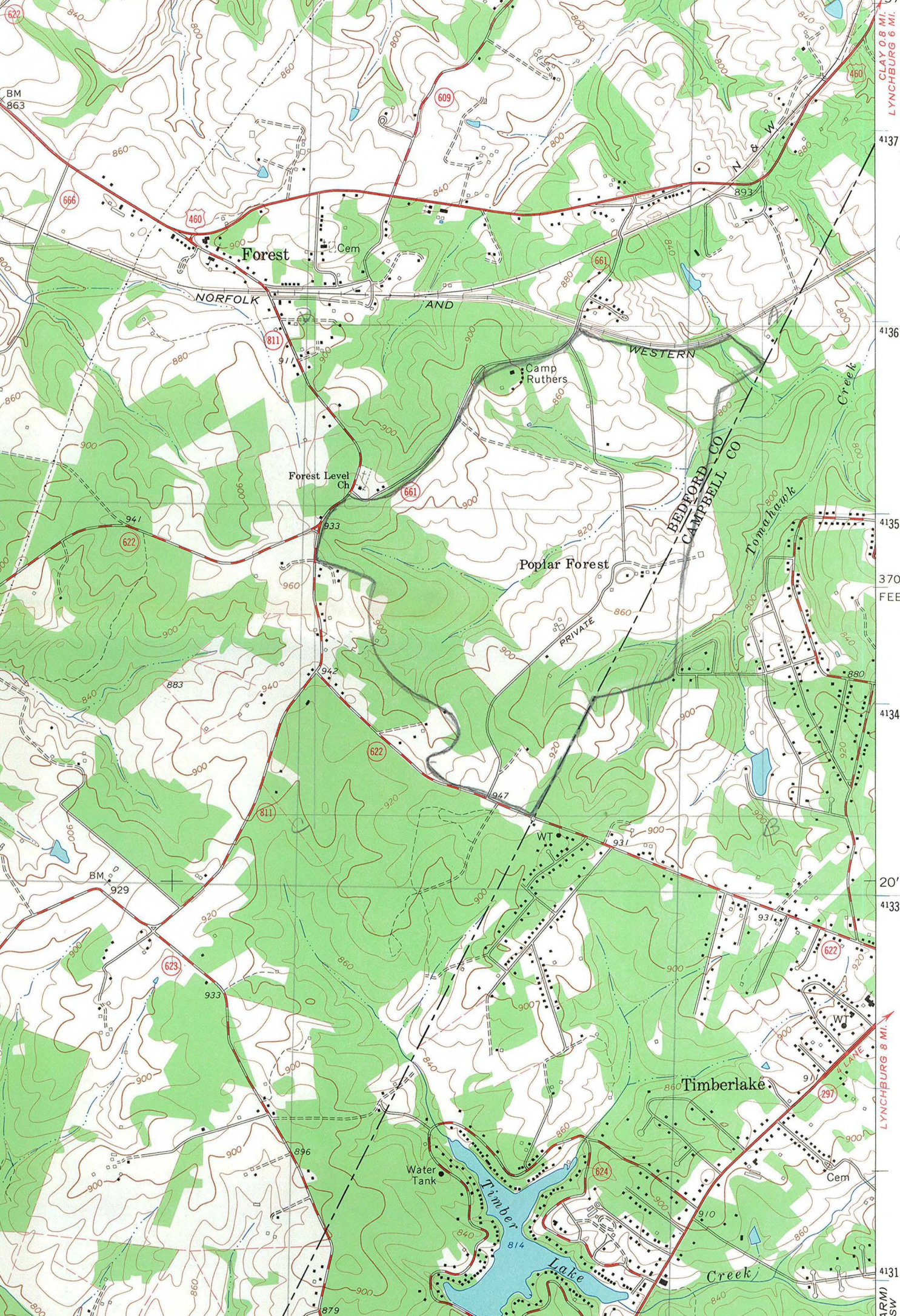
Floor plan of Poplar Forest.
Alderman Library,
University of Virginia.

POPULAR FOREST

FOREST QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 GOODE 15' QUADRANGLE

5158 1 NW
(LYNCHBURG)

651 17'30" 652 653 1 780 000 FEET 79° 15' 37° 22'30"



UTM REF
10-14-25 w m

- A) 17/654400
17/4135960
- B) 17/654440
17/4133400
- C) 17/652100
17/4133370
- D) 17/652060
17/4135940

CLAY 0.8 MI.
LYNCHBURG 6 MI.
4137
4136
4135
370 000
FEET
4134
20'
4133
4131
LYNCHBURG 8 MI.
SW

