

VLR-1/16/73 NRHP-2/16/73

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: Fairfax (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	2/16/73

1. NAME  
COMMON  
(Earp's Ordinary)  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Parcliffe-Logan-Allison House - preferred name

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 E. Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Fairfax (Tenth District Congressman Joel T. Broyhill)  
STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE: 600

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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:  
Mrs. Charles  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 E. Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Fairfax STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Fairfax County Court House  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: Fairfax STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Fairfax (in city)  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 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

This diminutive two-story, single-pile brick structure near the Fairfax County court house is in the simple early-nineteenth century vernacular style prevalent in northern Virginia towns and villages. As indicated by the distinct line near the center of the facade, the building was built in two sections. However, the close similarity of form and construction between the two sections indicates that they probably were built by the same mason, and probably were built within the same year of each other. It is possible, however, that the second section could have been built as late as 1830 when it was owned by the Allison family. The original section is believed to be the two-bay east portion as it contains an entrance hall and the only stair in the building. Also, the three-bay west section contains but one room on its first floor and thus would seem unlikely to be the earlier portion. As a unit, the two sections have a Flemish bond facade and five-course American bond rear and side walls. The facade has been given a mellow aspect by a faded coat of whitewash. A well-executed hound's tooth cornice is employed on both front and rear elevations. Projecting from near the center of the shallow gable roof is a single chimney stack which serves the whole building. The windows throughout are topped by simple brick jack arches and have unornamented wooden sills. Several of the first floor windows retain their early six-over-six sashes, but it is not certain if any of the nearly square three-over-three sashes on the second floor are original. The simple two-level porch sheltering the entrance to the west section was on the building in the late nineteenth century but it is not an original feature. The only significant exterior alteration is the relocation of a window and door on the rear wall of the west section. A two-story frame wing attached to the rear of the east section. A two-story frame wing attached to the rear of the east section by a one-story hyphen is a twentieth century addition.

The building's simple interior preserves much of its original appearance and fabric. One of its most distinctive features is the vertical board partition between the entrance hall and the adjacent room. The narrow flight of stairs, entered at the rear of the hall, is also enclosed by a vertical board partition. Both the east section's room and the stair have batten doors. The wainscot of the east section's room is old but not original to the house, although portions of the large mantel may be. The west room is considerably more spacious than the east room, and features a projecting chimney breast with a simple mantel composed of a plain shelf, frieze, and wide architrave surround. The room also has a simple paneled wainscot which like that in the east room is a later addition. The second floor rooms have quite plain trim but are more spacious than their tiny windows would suggest.

Although the road in front of the building has been widened to the extent that the curb is uncomfortably near, three trees close to the front wall help preserve a picturesque aspect. There is a handsome old-fashioned yard planted with shade trees and shrubbery in the rear.

C.C.L.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The small brick building referred to as Earp's Ordinary near the Fairfax County court house survives as an important example of early-nineteenth century northern Virginia vernacular architecture, and is a familiar landmark in this historic county seat. For many years the structure was thought to date from the mid eighteenth century and to have been built and operated as an ordinary by the Earp family who were early settlers in the area. Recent evidence, however, has shown that it was built between 1805 and 1813 on land formerly owned by Richard Ratcliffe. The confusion over its history may stem from the fact that a Caleb Earp did operate a store nearby which was standing prior to the establishment of the town. This building probably was owned by Ratcliffe as well. An old tavern and store on the site of Earp's store was demolished around 1920, and it was about that time the present early nineteenth century brick house nearby seems to have inherited the history and legend of Caleb Earp's building.

Richard Ratcliffe was one of the principal property holders in Fairfax County in his day, and it was he who donated the four acre tract for a new court house complex in 1799. The new court house became the focal point for the town of Providence (later to be renamed Fairfax Court House) which was established by the General Assembly and laid out in half-acre lots in 1805. These lots were sold to the highest bidder who had to agree to build on each lot a house at least sixteen feet square with a brick or stone chimney "fit for habitation within seven years." In 1813 sixteen of the lots were conveyed back to Ratcliffe, including lot no. 10 on which the present small brick house had been erected. Ratcliffe immediately sold the house and lot to Henry Logan. In 1820 the house was acquired by Gordon and Robert Allison who operated a postal station and stage coach stop there. The Little River Turnpike passed immediately in front of the house, and the Winchester-Alexandria Stage traveled over the turnpike by way of Fairfax Court House, Middleburg, Upperville and Paris. To serve the stage line and turnpike travelers the Allisons kept a large stable behind the house.

The Allisons gave up title to the house in 1837, and during the remainder of the nineteenth century it passed through at least six owners. The house fell into disrepair after the War Between the States, and in 1923 it was about to be demolished for a car garage. It was then that an article appearing in a metropolitan newspaper referred to the building as "Earp's Ordinary", saying that George Washington was a frequent guest there during his surveying trips. This publicity attracted the attention of Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, a prominent social worker, who purchased the building with the idea of converting it into a halfway house for girls.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Act of the Assembly, January 14, 1805.  
 Act of the Assembly, February 13, 1812.  
 Fairfax County Deed Book m 2, pp. 137-139.  
 Unpublished mms. by Jeanne Rust in archives 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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 50' 45"	77° 18' 17"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten 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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
 ORGANIZATION

DATE  
December 1972

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 STREET AND NUMBER:

Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
 CITY OR TOWN:

STATE  
Virginia CODE  
51

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 J.R. Fishburne, Director  
Virginia Historic  
 Title Landmarks Commission

Date 1/16/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 2/16/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Fairfax(in city)	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

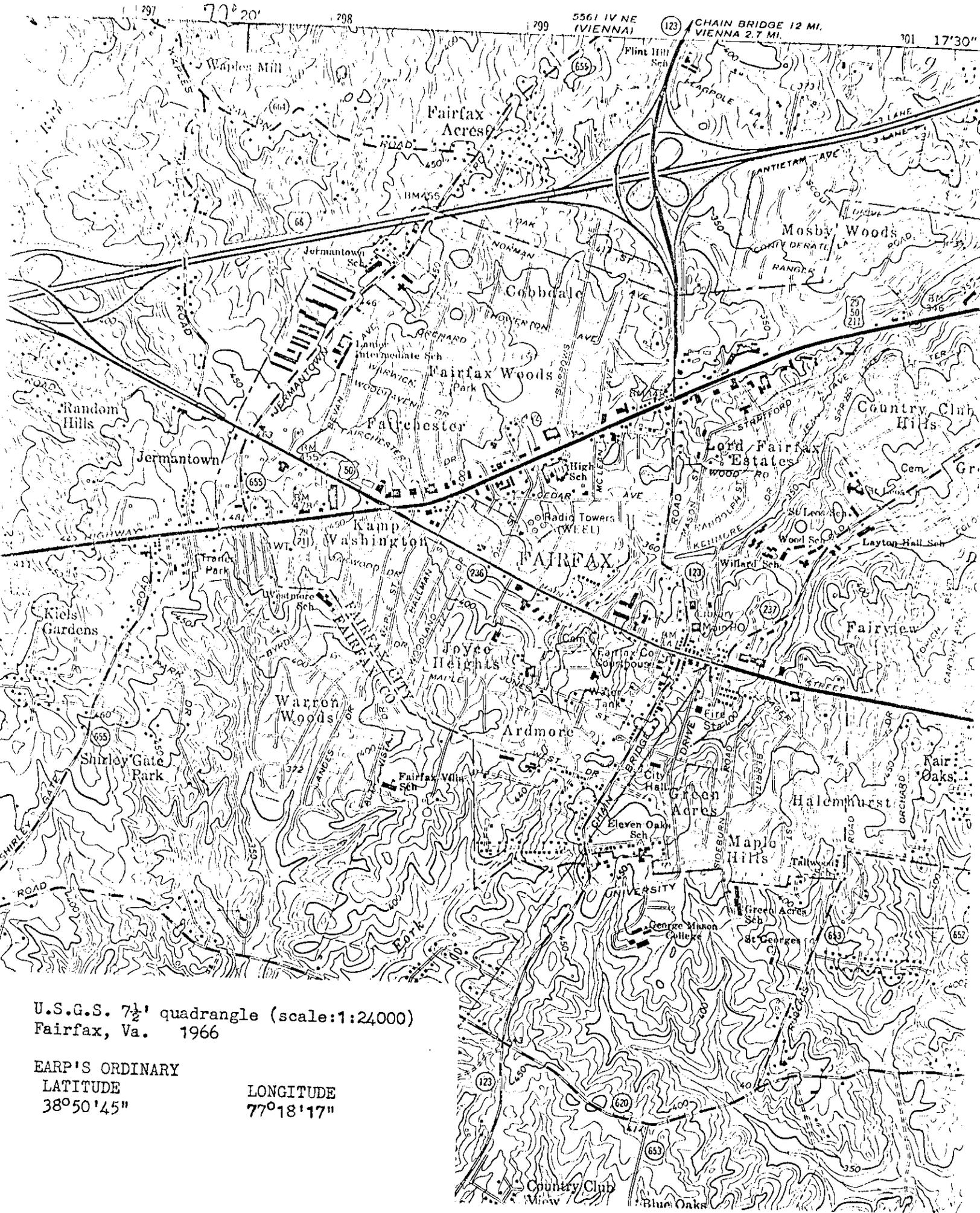
(Number all entries)

8. Dr. Barrett died before she could realize her idea and the house was then acquired by her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pozer who restored it and made it their home. Mrs. Pozer resides there today.

C.C.L.

38° 52' 30"

77° 20'



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Fairfax, Va. 1966

EARP'S ORDINARY  
 LATITUDE  
 38° 50' 45"

LONGITUDE  
 77° 18' 17"