

VLR: 10-16-73
 NRHP: 71-14-73
 127-100

Form 10-300
 (Rev. 6-72)

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:
 Richmond (city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
 Poe Museum

AND OF HISTORIC:
 Old Stone House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1914 E. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
 Richmond

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
 Third; David E. Satterfield, III

STATE:
 Virginia

CODE: 51

COUNTY:
 (city)

CODE: 760

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY (see continuation sheet)

OWNER'S NAME:
 Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:
 2705 Park Avenue (own stonehouse & garden)

CITY OR TOWN:
 Richmond

STATE:
 Virginia

CODE:
 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
 City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
 Richmond

STATE:
 Virginia

CODE:
 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1937, 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

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Richmond (city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

17. 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

The Old Stone House is a diminutive colonial townhouse set against the front edge of its lot. In spite of its age, it has suffered few major alterations and retains a significant proportion of its early fabric. The house is a standard form of the period, having a three-bay facade with a gable roof and dormers. The roof has three unevenly spaced gabled dormers of the south or front slope and two on the north. Simple box cornices are at the eaves. The present wood shingle roofing was put on within the past few years. All four walls are laid in coursed rubble stonework. The brown stones are quite rounded and probably are boulders taken from the nearby James River. A small brick chimney cap (apparently rebuilt) projects from each of the gable ends. The first floor windows have molded sills and are hung with early nine-over-six sash. The dormers have six-over-six sash. Both windows and doors have architrave trim. Over the front door is a cut stone lintel with keystone. The north or rear wall has had some alterations in the openings, and at present contains a center door with a door on the right and a window on the left.

The interior is laid out in a single-pile, hall-and-parlor plan. Until a recent renovation the hall was partitioned to form a central passage. An enclosed steep, narrow stair ascends to the two-room second floor from the hall's northwest corner. The walls throughout are plastered and have little wood trim. The whole interior gives the impression of stark simplicity.

Behind the house is a handsomely landscaped formal garden installed in the twentieth century. Attached to the northwest corner of the house is a twentieth century gambrel-roof annex containing an entrance foyer and a museum room. On the east side of the garden are two twentieth century buildings containing museum rooms and a gift shop. Portions of the southern building are built of materials salvaged from the offices of the Southern Literary Messenger where Edgar Allan Poe worked. These later buildings, as well as the annex, are owned by the Poe Foundation, Inc., while the Old Stone House is owned by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CL

3. 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 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/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Antiquarian</u> |
| <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 | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" 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

The Old Stone House survives as Richmond's only remaining colonial dwelling, and a rare example, for the region, of colonial-period stone construction. Located in the heart of Richmond's oldest neighborhood, Shockoe Valley, the house's date of completion and early history are uncertain, but architectural form and details suggest a date around the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The building's indefinite past, quaintness, and obvious great age have made it the subject of many popular legends, some of which still persist. An inscription, "IR," in the stonework has been said to stand for Jacobus Rex, leading to the conclusion that the house was built before James II's dethronement in 1688. Notable figures including Jefferson and Lafayette have been claimed as visitors. James Monroe is supposed to have boarded there. Claims have even been made that the house served as Washington's headquarters, despite the fact that Washington was never in Richmond during the Revolution.

Definite records of the property first appear in 1783 when the city land book of that year lists it as being the residence of its owner, Samuel Ege, a local inspector of flour. Ege may have inherited the property from his father Jacob Ege, a tailor and sometimes cooper of German origin, who owned property in the neighborhood as early as 1749. It does not appear that Jacob Ege ever lived in the Old Stone House, however.

The house passed down through various relatives of the Ege family until 1911 when it was put up for auction. Threatened with demolition, the house was acquired by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Granville G. Valentine. It was then rented as an antique shop, and following a subsequent period of vacancy Mr. and Mrs. Archer Jones conceived the idea of adapting the house as a shrine to Edgard Allan Poe whose youth was spent in Richmond. No suitable memorial to one of the city's most famous citizens existed at the time. The Poe Foundation was organized in 1921, and the house was open to the public as the Poe Museum the following year.

Unavoidably, the Old Stone House's use as a shrine honoring the famous author has led many to the mistaken impression that Poe lived in the house. As a resident of the city he probably was familiar with it, but there is no other connection. Today the house is exhibited by the Poe Foundation, Inc. as a colonial residence, and adjacent buildings house Poe memorabilia. The Foundation's dual emphasis on Poe's life and early Richmond history has made the Old Stone House one of the city's most popular museums.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.
 Smith, Edith T., Interiors of Virginia Houses of Colonial Times, Richmond, 1927.
 Scott, Mary Wingfield, Houses of Old Richmond, Richmond: Valentine Museum, 1941.

6. 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	0 0 0	0 0 0		37° 31' 56"	77° 25' 35"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre.**
 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: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: September, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

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 80-665), 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

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.
 Title: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **OCT 16 1973**

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Richmond (city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

4. Poe Foundation, Inc.
(own annex and museum buildings)
1914 East Main Street
6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

