

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 12/6/6
NRHP 3/29/7

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Margaret E. Poague House
other names/site number DHR File No. 081-7070

2. Location

street & number 4907 South Lee Highway (US 11) N/A not for publication
city or town Lexington X vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Rockbridge code 163 zip code 24450

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/14/2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ___ removed from the National Register.
- ___ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Margaret E. Poague House

Rockbridge County, Virginia

Name of Property

County and

State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Stone
Walls	Brick
roof	Metal
other	Wood
	Glass
	Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Margaret E. Poague House
Name of Property
State

Rockbridge County, Virginia
County and

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 3.913 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 17 631350 4169150 2

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni date September 26, 2006
organization Landmark Preservation Associates telephone (540) 464-5315
street & number 6 Houston Street city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Delos D. Hughes
street & number PO Box 196 telephone (540) 460-6719
city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Description

The Margaret E. Poague House, located at 4907 South Lee Highway in south-central Rockbridge County, is a Greek Revival farmhouse built about 1847. The brick house is built into a bank so that its front (northwest) elevation is two stories in height and its rear elevation rises above a full basement story. The house has a metal-sheathed gable roof, interior gable-end chimneys, a brick and stone basement level, and mostly six-over-six windows. The front entry porch was created in the mid-twentieth century from a ca. 1900 or early twentieth century one-story porch that formerly extended across the full front. The two-tier back porch, which serves the basement and first stories, incorporates nineteenth and twentieth century fabric. The interior has a modified center passage plan with a wide stair that entirely fills the center passage on the first floor, a large room on the southwest side of the stair, and two smaller rooms on the northeast side. The plan is repeated on the second floor, although there is a narrow center passage on this level. The interior is distinguished by mantels and other details modeled on designs in Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) as well as well-preserved graining and marbling that survive in the second-floor north room. Adjoining the house are a two-story cinder block secondary dwelling built in 1955, a frame garage believed to date to the early 1960s, and a single early twentieth century brick gate pillar on the road frontage. Other buildings such as a large bank barn historically associated with the house are now located on a separate parcel. The Margaret E. Poague House was rehabilitated in 2004-06.

Inventory

1. Margaret E. Poague House. Ca. 1847; ca. 1900. Contributing building.
2. Secondary Dwelling. 1955. Noncontributing building.
3. Garage. Early 1960s. Noncontributing building.
4. Gate pillar. Early 20th c. Contributing structure.

Detailed Description: House Exterior

The front elevation of the Poague House is constructed of brick laid in modified garden wall bond with five courses of stretchers (occasionally six courses) separated by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. The gable ends and rear elevation have irregularly coursed American-bond brickwork. There are two or more generations of penciling on mortar joints, with the earliest penciling most apparent on the house wall under the back porch. At the top of the front and rear elevations are simple three-course corbelled brick cornices. The limestone foundation extends above grade on the rear and end elevations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Description (continued)

The one-story front entry porch has a shed roof and a beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling. It stands on a concrete foundation across the front (the back side of a concrete step that ties into the front walk). The porch has slender classical columns and half-column pilasters painted white. These were reused from an earlier full-façade front porch, probably constructed about 1900 or in the early decades of the twentieth century. Turned balustrades were also reused from the earlier porch, however these have been placed in storage and new balustrades with square-section balusters inserted in their place. The two-tier full-façade back porch has chamfered posts on the lower or basement level tier and square columns on the upper tier. The upper tier formerly had turned balusters that have been replaced with square-section balusters like those of the front porch. The lower tier was screened in at some point in the twentieth century (new screening has been installed in place of the old). The upper tier has a beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling. There are no ceiling boards in the lower tier, although there may be evidence that they formerly existed. The upper tier has replacement tongue-and-groove floor boards whereas the lower tier has a concrete floor scored into large squares. The newly constructed two-run stair at the northeast end of the back porch occupies the location of what appears to have been a small porch room on the upper tier. Seams in the floor, ceiling, and porch column show the location of the partition that once enclosed this room and a complicated pattern of red washes on the house wall are also associated with the former room. It is possible the room was also the location of an earlier stair. Filled mortises in the brickwork at the ends of the back porch may indicate attachment points for a nineteenth century full-façade porch. The surviving chamfered posts may have come from this earlier porch.

The front entry has a transom and a four-panel door with decorative panels. The transom has a gridded muntin pattern that is almost identical to that of the transom pictured in Plate 27 of *The Practical House Carpenter*. The three rear entrances—two to the lower tier of the back porch and one to the upper tier—also have four-panel doors, although they are more simple in form. One of the basement doors has had its two upper panels replaced with panes of glass. The majority of the house's windows have six-over-six double-hung wood sashes. In the southwest gable are two square four-pane windows flanking the chimney. In the northeast gable is a single window with replacement storm window sashes. Most door and window surrounds are beaded and have small blank corner blocks. Most windows were formerly hung with shutters. A small wrought iron shutter dog survives next to at least one window, that to the right of the front porch.

Detailed Description: House Interior

The interior has plaster on brick or plaster on split lath walls and ceilings and wood floors, except for the basement which has a concrete floor and several walls and ceilings that were recently refinished with plaster on blueboard. Most doors are four-panel with butt hinges and porcelain knobs. The front entry has an iron lock box and iron staples for a bar to secure the door from forced entry. Baseboards

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Description (continued)

are typically molded or beaded. Door and window trim in most rooms has complex symmetrical sections and blank corner blocks that are similar in overall character to designs published by Asher Benjamin in the 1830s. The trim in the first floor entry hall, first floor southwest room, and the second floor center passage has an ogee section; that in the first floor north and east rooms has a convex section; and that in the second floor southwest room has a triple fluted section. The window trim on the first floor is cut off at the top where it abuts the ceiling. The window reveals on the first and second floors are splayed except for the two windows at the ends of the second-floor center passage, which have right-angle reveals.

As with other features in the house, the mantels share varying degrees of similarity with designs in *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and possibly also in Asher Benjamin's later pattern book, *Practice of Architecture* (1833). The mantel in the first floor southwest room (historically the main parlor and today the living room) is virtually identical to the "chimney piece" pictured in Plate 51 of the 1830 volume. It features a Greek key frieze and an inner or fireplace surround with recessed panels and blank corner blocks. The frieze is supported by fluted Doric pilasters with narrow incised necking bands and plain plinths. The mantel departs from the published design only in the proportions of the pilasters, which are less robust, and in the fact that they are engaged, rather than full round as in the book. The mantel in the first floor east room (the present kitchen) is very similar to one depicted in Plate 47 in the 1833 volume. Like the published design it has a tripartite form with faceted tablets at the center and ends of the frieze and a pointed or faceted section in the recessed faces of the frieze and vertical elements. It lacks (at least at present) the peaked overmantel backboard shown in the design. The mantel in the first floor north room (the present dining room) appears to be modeled on Plate 49 in the 1830 volume. Like the published design it has pilasters and friezes with recesses in the form of successively narrower nested rectangles. Unlike the published design, which brackets the frieze between the tops of the pilasters, the frieze and pilasters of the north room mantel meet at corner blocks which have the same nested recesses (square instead of rectangular).

The two surviving second floor mantels share similarities with Asher Benjamin designs but are not close imitations. In both cases the inspiration may be Plate 47 in the 1833 volume, the same source as the mantel in the first floor east room. The mantel in the second floor southwest room (the present master bedroom) is closest in form to Plate 47 in that it shares the tripartite form, symmetrically molded frieze and pilaster faces, and faceted center frieze tablet. Its end tablets have recessed panels with complex designs pieced together from molding sections, and its frieze and pilaster sections have an ogee section like that of the center passage trim rather than the peaked or faceted section shown in the Benjamin design. Also, whereas Benjamin mantel designs typically lack bed molds, the southwest room's mantel has a relatively substantial one. Of all the mantels in the house, the one in the second floor north room appears to be most distantly related to Benjamin prototypes. Its principal similarity is the use of faceted panels like those in Plate 47, although the panels extend the entire lengths of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Description (continued)

frieze and pilasters rather than being treated as tablets. This mantel also has a bed molding. Both upstairs mantels dispense with the peaked backboards shown in the Benjamin design. The mantel in the second floor east room, which was converted to a bathroom in the twentieth century (a use it retains), was removed prior to the present rehabilitation and a utilitarian shelf installed in its place.

The second floor north room, the small front room on the northeast side of the center passage, preserves nineteenth century marbling and graining in good condition. The mantel and baseboards are painted in imitation of gold-veined black marble. The graining on the closet doors that flank the mantel and the hallway door and window trim evokes maple, with rich orange, red, and brown colors. The door panels are lighter than the trim. It is possible these painted finishes are not the original since areas of wear and flaking appear to reveal other colors underneath. At the bottom left corner of the mantel, for example, three colors appear: dark brown, brick red, and a dark grayish red. The brick red may be paint from the former brick hearth and the dark brown may be paint from an earlier floor color (the floor boards here and throughout the house now have a natural finish). Where upper areas of the mantel have been nicked, a lighter color, possibly white, may be present under the marbling. The room has several other features of note. The door and window surrounds are unmolded and have plain corner blocks. The right-hand closet has a narrow single-panel door and the left-hand closet has a double-panel door. The left-hand closet formerly had shelves that were cutnailed in place and the closet's floor boards are painted dark brown (evidence that the floor boards in the room were once painted the same color). Doors in and to the room are hung on butt hinges stamped or cast with the inscription "Baldwin Patent."

The stair between the first and second floors had a pipe handrail that was replaced by a wood handrail in the present rehabilitation. A jamb at the foot of the stair has the ghost of a former sconce, perhaps for a lamp. The partition on the northeast side of the stair appears to have been built out, perhaps a change associated with widening of the center passage above. In that passage is a stairwell railing with a square newel, rectangular-section balusters, and a circular-section handrail (the newel and handrail are pegged together). Rising above the stairwell is the enclosed attic stair, entered through a two-panel door with a wood lockbox. Under the stair is a small closet accessed through a two-panel door. The attic has one continuous space interrupted only by the top of the stair enclosure. This enclosure and the knee walls had thin rough plaster applied over laths. The plaster and lath have been mostly removed from the knee walls but they remain on the stair enclosure. The roof structure consists of common rafters butted at a ridge board. These were covered by foam insulation during the rehabilitation. The only legible graffiti observed in the attic is the date May 16, 1928, appearing on the stair jamb.

The basement, which probably served historically for chores including food preparation and also possibly dining, has a three-room plan not unlike that in the floors above. The basement has a concrete floor, which was covered with composition tiles in some rooms, and modern plaster ceiling

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Description (continued)

finishes. The main southwest room (presently a study) has a mid-twentieth century brick mantel with a wood shelf and a terra-cotta tile hearth. The east room (presently a guest bedroom) formerly had a fireplace which was bricked up during historic times. The small north room (presently a bathroom and water heater enclosure) formerly had shelving and may have served for food storage. The boards supporting the hearth of the room above this space appear to have been vertical sawn by water power. Doors throughout the basement are four-panel and door and window trim is plain. Some trim has blank corner blocks. At the foot of the stair, opening under the front porch, is an opening with vertical square-section wood bars and a six-light casement window. The two-panel door of the closet under the stair preserves traces of what appears to be nineteenth century green paint.

Detailed Description: Secondary Buildings and Landscape Features

Off the south rear corner of the main house stands a two-story building constructed of cinder blocks that are molded with a brick pattern. The building has an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof, industrial steel-frame windows with casement panels, and an interior brick flue. A bracketed shed stoop projects over two front entries, one of which opens into the first-floor living area. The second entry at the corner leads to stairs. The entries have doors with glazed panels above two wood panels. The first floor has three rooms: a front living area, a back kitchen and dining area, and a toilet. The walls are plaster over block, the ceilings are plaster over lath, and floors are finished with composition tiles (beige with a red border in the living room, green in the kitchen). Other features of the plainly finished interior include panel doors, bare bulb ceiling fixtures, a plastered brick flue with stove holes, and curtain remnants hung on wires above the two south-facing windows. The second floor has bare block walls, diagonally laid rough floor boards under patterned linoleum mats, and an exposed dimensional lumber roof structure. The bare brick flue that rises through the space has no stove hole, although a patched area of the wall near it suggests a stove pipe once may have projected through the wall.

Off the north front corner of the main house stands a one-story two-car garage of weatherboarded frame construction. The garage has an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof with exposed rafter ends. Other exterior features include cinder block footers and a small, crudely constructed, open shed-roofed addition on the north side. Inside are slatted plank floors, exposed wire-nailed dimensional lumber construction, and wooden storage racks. At the entrance to the south loop of the entry drive stands a brick gate pillar incorporating molded bricks and concrete. Large iron strap hinges survive from a former gate. The pillar or post on the opposite (north) side of the drive no longer stands.

The majority of the nominated area, the northwest two-thirds of the 3.913-acre parcel, is a grassy field that slopes down from a high point along Lee Highway (US 11). The remaining area around

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Description (continued)

the main house, secondary dwelling, and garage is maintained as a yard. Scattered around the yard area are apple and cherry trees, a white maple, and a cedar. In front of the house the lawn is terraced and rises to a concrete retaining wall that borders the end of the drive. A concrete walk and steps connects the drive to the front porch. To the west of the house is an area that may historically have served as a vegetable garden. It is bordered by a board fence beyond which, outside the nominated area, are a large bank barn and other farm buildings historically associated with the Margaret E. Poague House but now in separate ownership.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance

The Margaret E. Poague House, located in Rockbridge County, Virginia, is a Greek Revival farmhouse of considerable architectural interest constructed ca. 1847. The house was apparently built for Margaret E. Poague (1816-84), the widow of merchant John A. Poague. The two-story brick house, built into a bank so that it rises a full three stories on the rear, contains mantels and other features modeled on designs in Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830). A second-floor room preserves extensive nineteenth century graining and marbling. The house, later owned by the Reed and Moses families, was recently rehabilitated.

The Margaret E. Poague House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance for the exceptional quality of its Asher Benjamin-inspired detail and its well preserved graining and marbling. The period of significance begins with the apparent date of construction ca. 1847 and concludes ca. 1920, embracing the nineteenth century date of the painted finishes and the apparently early twentieth century dates of construction of the present back porch and modified front porch. The Margaret E. Poague House is eligible at the local level of significance.

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals assisted the preparation and review of this nomination, foremost among them the owner of the property and sponsor of the nomination, Delos D. Hughes. Assistance was also provided by Peter Sils, Jean Dunbar, Pamela Simpson, Martha Moses, Lisa McCown, Anne Taylor Tipton, and Michael Pulice, Jean McRae, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historical Background

The Poague family, originally from Ireland, is thought to have settled in what is now Rockbridge County in the 1750s. A log house that formerly stood near the house that is the subject of this nomination is said to have been built by John Poague about 1755. James Alexander Poague (1800-42) acquired ownership or part interest in the land on which the Margaret E. Poague House now stands in the early nineteenth century. In 1833 James married Margaret Elizabeth Wilson (1816-84), the daughter of James and Sallie McCorckle Wilson. With partners John Poague and Jonathan Poague, James established the mercantile firm of James A. Poague and Company, which operated stores at Oak Bank and Collierstown in Rockbridge County.¹

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

James A. Poague died in January 1842 and his property, described as comprising just over 180 acres in tax records, passed to his heirs. Although James's will was not recorded, his widow Margaret apparently received a life estate in the property. The estate was not officially settled until it was sold in the 1880s, but the family apparently made informal arrangements concerning the estate's disposition. Evidence for this is provided by the case of George, a young slave who was hired out by the estate administrators until 1847. The settlement record notes that "The hire of Slave George has been accounted for to the 4 Dec 1847 since which time he has been in the widow's possession." The construction of the Poague House is another indication. For January 4, 1848, the settlement record notes \$1,810.51 "paid for Building House," suggesting most or all of the construction work on the house occurred during the previous year, 1847. The record does not give the name of the builder.²

Census and other records provide insight into the makeup of the Poague family household and slaveholding and the operation of the farm. In 1850 Margaret headed a household consisting of herself, her sons James W. (age 17) and John A. (age 9), and her daughters Sarah M. (age 13) and Rebecca M. (age 11). She owned five slaves, a man and a woman and three children. On Poague's farm were horses, milk cows and other cattle, sheep, and swine. Crops included wheat, corn, and oats. Memorandums of agreement between Margaret Poague and her son John, who by the 1870s appears to have taken on the role of farm manager, mention crops of hay, potatoes, clover seed, and tobacco. According to the settlement record, a barn was built on the farm ca. 1852 (valued at \$594.30 on January 1, 1853). It was noted in 1851 that W. H. Crawford was paid \$28 for building a "S.h." As most of Margaret's children were then of school age, it seems likely that this building was a small schoolhouse. A will, written in pencil and signed by a William H. Crawford, was found behind door trim during rehabilitation of the house in 2004. The will appears fragmentary and may not be genuine.³

The 1883 Carmichael map of Rockbridge County shows "Mrs. Poague" as the occupant of a dwelling at the location of the Margaret E. Poague House. Margaret Poague was accompanied in her old age by her son John, who is described as a physician and widower in the 1880 census, her granddaughter Sarah M. Poague, and a white domestic servant named Mary W. Bogus. Soon after Margaret's death in 1884 the property was put up for sale as a result of litigation involving the Poague family. A sale advertisement run in the *Lexington Gazette* described the "Poague Farm" as being in a "good state of cultivation" with a "quantity of FRUIT upon it with Apples and Peaches of good variety, and in the prime of bearing." The advertisement continued: "The improvements consist of a comfortable and well built Brick House, a good Barn, Stables, Houses for Servants, a Tenant House, and other necessary Farm Buildings." Despite the property's selling points, it did not attract a satisfactory bid until May 1887 when Martin L. Reed offered to purchase it for \$3,412.50. A deed was issued to Reed in 1889.⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

Martin L. Reed (b. 1856) was described in the 1880 federal census as a farmer married to Susan C. Reed (1854-1932). The Reeds raised their children Ella Mae (b. ca. 1880) and Rudy Hulton (b. ca. 1886) in the house. After Susan Reed's death in 1932 the property went through a number of owners before it was purchased by Rosa W. Moses in 1954. The Moses family made improvements to the property including the construction of a garage, probably in the early 1960s, and a two-story cinder block building erected in 1955. The lower level of the latter building was occupied by Carrie Dixon, an elderly relative of Rosa Moses, and the upper level was used for storage. In 1955 Rosa Moses sold the property to her son Richard T. Moses. In 2003 the property was sold out of the Moses family and in 2004 a 3.913-acre parcel including the Margaret E. Poague House was sold to the present owner, Delos D. Hughes. Hughes rehabilitated the house in 2004-06.⁵

Architectural Discussion

The Margaret E. Poague House embodies many of the distinctive characteristics of antebellum domestic construction in the region. Present owner Delos D. Hughes describes it as a "prime example of early 19th century Valley building techniques, architecture, and decoration." The house's brick construction is standard for the dwellings of the more affluent farmers and merchants of the period, as are its approximately symmetrical design and Greek Revival detail. The latter is particularly noteworthy as an example of the influence of pattern books, in this case the popular 1830s pattern books of Boston architect Asher Benjamin. Another feature of the house, one that is occasionally encountered in the rolling topography of the Shenandoah Valley, is its siting on a bank so that both the basement and main floors have ground-level access. The interior has a transitional flavor midway between the enclosed-stair hall-parlor house plan and the more refined open-stair center passage house plan. The double-room arrangement on the north side of the stair on both floors is also older in character, an approach to interior planning that was eventually supplanted by the larger and symmetrically disposed rooms of the center passage plan.⁶

The Poague House shares many features with Oak Lawn, which stands (or stood) in the nearby community of Fancy Hill. According to Works Progress Administration researcher Rada Moore, Oak Lawn was built in 1849 for Nathan Moore. A photograph in the Leyburn Library Special Collections at Washington and Lee University shows this house to have been brick with a stepped or molded cornice and a limestone foundation that extended half way up the basement story. These and other architectural similarities of the neighboring and contemporary Moore and Poague houses suggest they were built by the same builder. Oak Lawn also underwent a later evolution similar to the Poague House. Its full-façade front porch with classical columns and turned balusters was probably added in the early twentieth century, as was the case with the Poague House front porch. The Poague House porch was apparently added during the Reed family ownership, also likely the period that the handsome molded brick gate pillar was constructed at the front of the drive.⁷

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

The gold-veined black marbling in the second-floor room is a popular regional style, whereas the boldly patterned and colored maple graining was less common (painters and their clients usually opted for more sedate oak and mahogany grains). Based on a cursory examination of other surfaces in the house, architectural historian Jean Dunbar believes doors in other rooms may once have been grained. It is worth noting that the unmolded door and window surrounds and relatively planar surfaces of the mantel in the second-floor north room were better adapted to decorative painting than the surrounds and mantels in other rooms, which may be evidence that this room received the most attention. There is evidence that the decorative painting is not the original painting in the room, although its style strongly suggests it was executed in the nineteenth century. This room is also the location of the Baldwin Patent door hinges, which were probably manufactured by an English hollowware firm, Baldwin Sons, Ltd. The firm apparently made hinges from the 1830s through the 1850s and probably after.⁸

Endnotes

1. Rockbridge Co. Deed Book Z p. 405, and land tax records; U.S. census; McClung, "Old home of Nathan G. Moore;" Kartak, "John Poague;" Gauldin, "Gauldin and Wilson Families of Virginia."
2. Rockbridge County Will Book 9, p. 158, and Will Book 13, p. 57; Rockbridge County land tax records; Kartak, "John Poague." James W. McClung proposed a different account of the property's ownership in the mid-nineteenth century. McClung cited an 1880 partition of Poague family lands recorded in Rockbridge County Deed Book RR p. 426 as a link in the chain of title. However, based on land tax, will, and census records, this author believes the property described in the partition did not include the Margaret E. House but instead adjoined it.
3. Rockbridge County Will Book 13, p. 57; Rockbridge County Deed Book MM, p. 281, and Deed Book PP, p. 556; U.S. census.
4. Rockbridge County Deed Book 53, p. 407; U.S. census; *Lexington Gazette*, October 9, 1884.
5. Martha Moses personal communication; Rockbridge County Deed Book 226, p. 20; Rockbridge County Will Book 47, p. 298; Rockbridge County land tax records; U.S. census; McClung, "Home of Martin L. Reed;" Tipton, "Poague House."
6. Hughes, "Hughes-Poague House."
7. Moore, "Oak Lawn."
8. Jean Dunbar personal communication; White, "Hardware and Tools in Country Stores."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 11

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Benjamin, Asher. *The Practical House Carpenter*. Boston: Asher Benjamin, 1830. Reprint, New York: Da Capo Press, 1972.

_____. *Practice of Architecture*. Boston: Asher Benjamin, 1833. Reprint, New York: Da Capo Press, 1972.

Carmichael, John. "The County of Rockbridge, Virginia." Map, 1883.

Gauldin, Catherine Leslie. "Gauldin and Wilson Families of Virginia." FamilyTreeMaker website (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/a/u/Catherine-L-Gauldin/BOOK-0001/0012-0003.html>).

Hughes, Delos D. "Hughes-Poague House." State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1, 2004.

Kartak, Joanne Merrill. "John Poague of Rockbridge County, Virginia." Report, 2003.

McClung, James W. "Home of Martin L. Reed." Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory Report, 1937. Available on line at Library of Virginia website (www.lva.lib.va.us).

_____. "Old home of Nathan G. Moore." Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory Report, 1937. Available on line at Library of Virginia website (www.lva.lib.va.us).

Moore, Rada. "Oak Lawn." Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory Report, 1937. Available on line at Library of Virginia website (www.lva.lib.va.us).

Moses, Martha. Personal communication with author, 2005.

Pezzoni, J. Daniel. "Poague House." State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 2, 2006.

Rockbridge County deed, land tax, and will records. Rockbridge County Courthouse, Lexington, Va.

Tipton, Anne Taylor. "The Poague House." Report, course in American Architecture, Washington

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 12

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

and Lee University, Lexington, Va., 2006.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 13

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

United States Census free and slave population and agricultural schedules for Rockbridge County.

White, Frank. "Hardware and Tools in Country Stores." 1973 report online at Old Sturbridge Village Online Resource Library (www.osv.org).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated area correspond to the boundaries of Rockbridge County tax parcel 106-00-03-30-000D-150. The boundaries are also shown in the attached survey dated 2003.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated area correspond to modern property lines for the parcel on which the Margaret E. Poague House stands.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 13

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are of:

MARGARET E. POAGUE HOUSE
Rockbridge County, Virginia
DHR file no. 081-7070
J. Daniel Pezzoni, Photographer

DATE: August 2006

VIEW OF: Front (northwest) and southwest sides of main house. View facing east.

NEG. NO.: 23097

PHOTO 1 OF 6

DATE: August 2006

VIEW OF: Main house and secondary dwelling. View facing northeast.

NEG. NO.: 23097

PHOTO 2 OF 6

DATE: August 2006

VIEW OF: Rear (southeast) and northeast sides of main house. View facing west.

NEG. NO.: 23097

PHOTO 3 OF 6

DATE: August 2006

VIEW OF: Garage (left), main house (center), and secondary dwelling beyond main house. View facing southeast.

NEG. NO.: 23097

PHOTO 4 OF 6

DATE: August 2006

VIEW OF: First-floor southwest room.

NEG. NO.: 23097

PHOTO 5 OF 6

DATE: August 2006

VIEW OF: Second-floor north room.

NEG. NO.: 23097

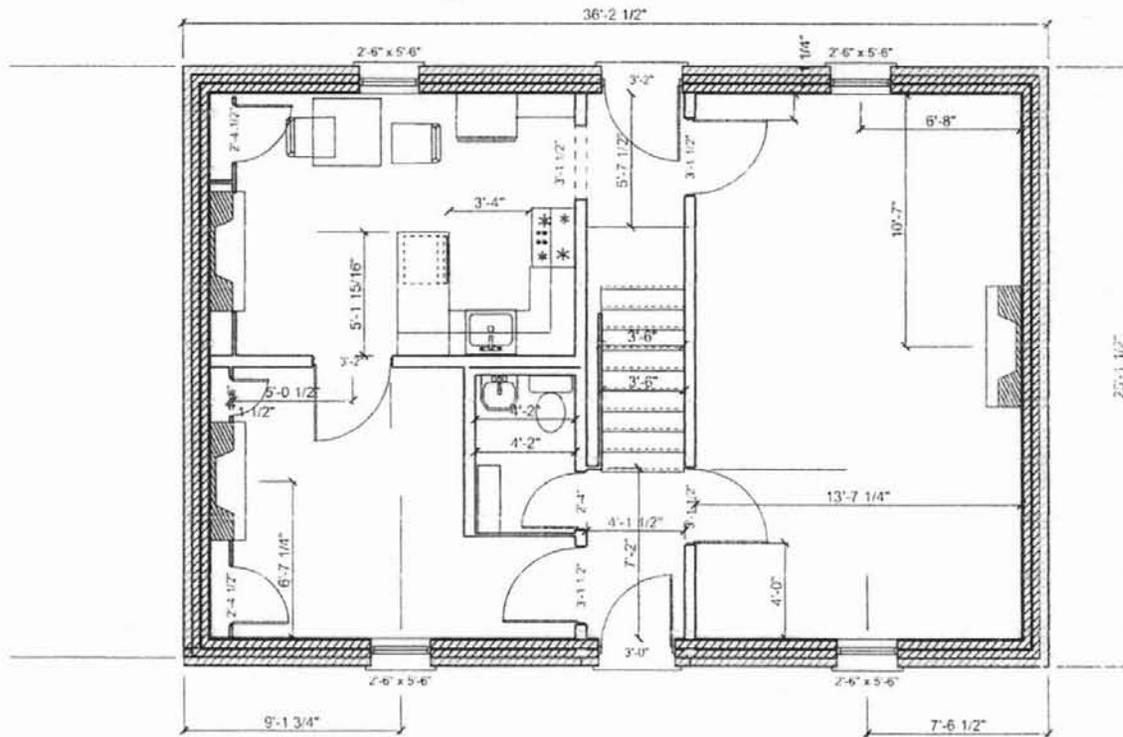
PHOTO 6 OF 6

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

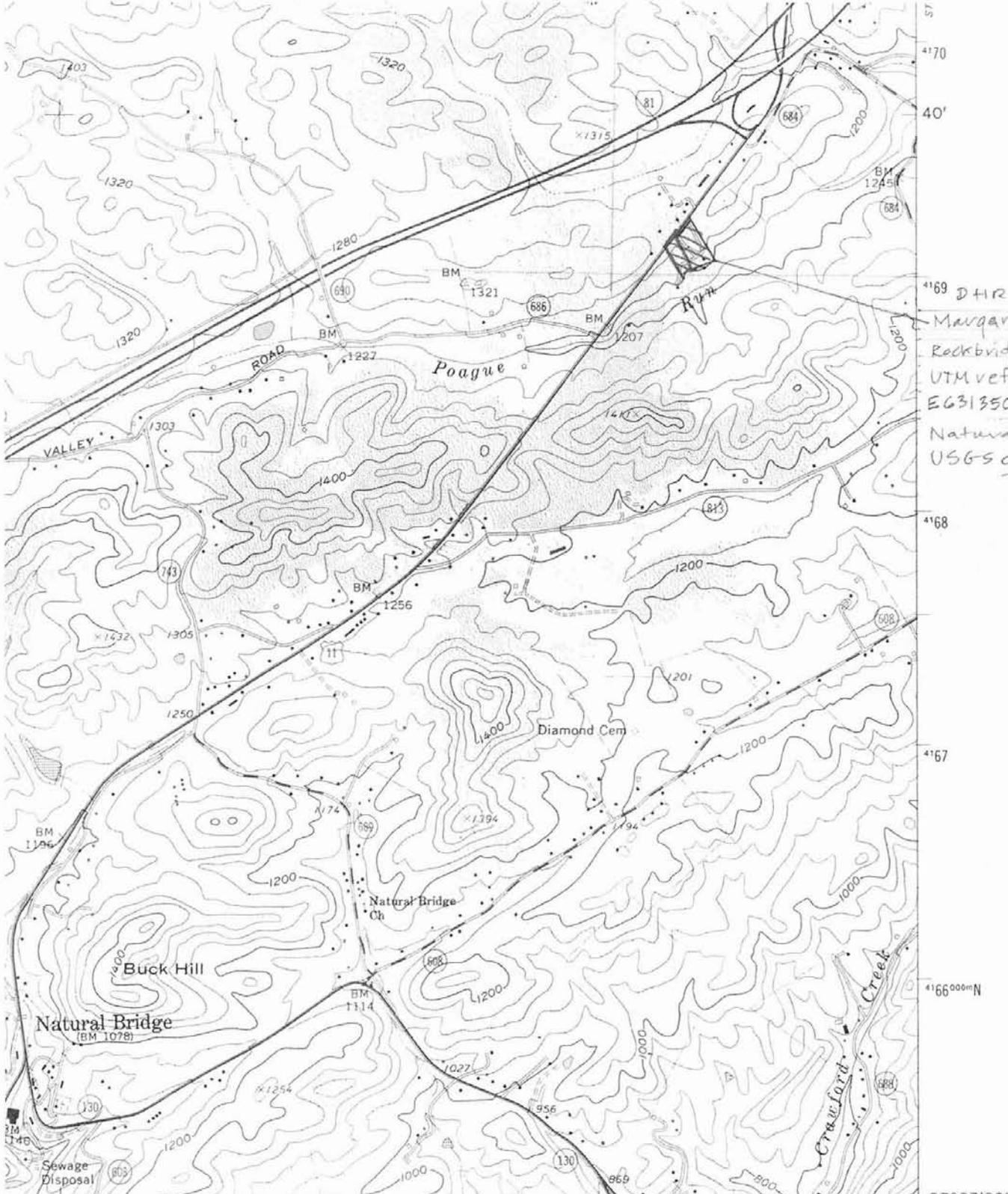
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos & Exhibits Page 15

Margaret E. Poague House
Rockbridge County, Virginia



SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"
1ST FLOOR PLAN



'69 DHR file no. 081-707
 Margaret E. Poague Houli
 Rockbridge Co., Va.
 UTM reference (zone 17):
 EG31350 N4169150
 Natural Bridge, Va.
 USGS quad

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978
 GLASGOW 4 MI.
 30 MI. TO U.S. 29

MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

(SNOWDEN)
 5159 III SW



NATURAL BRIDGE, VA.

N3737.5—W7930/7.5

1961
 PHOTOREVISED 1978