

VLR-10/6/70 NRHP-12/18/70

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Fairfax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Pope-Leighey House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Pope-Leighey House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
.2 miles north of U.S. Rt. 1 at intersection of Rt. 619 and Rt. 235.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Mount Vernon

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51      COUNTY: Fairfax      CODE: 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
748 Jackson Place, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Fairfax County Courthouse

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: 1969       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Fairfax

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DATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pope-Leighey House is a one-story structure with neither basement nor attic, and with a broad flat roof overhanging the grooved-board walls. The roof, cantilevered carport, and grouped windows emphasize the horizontality of the house. The building rests on a concrete slab in which the heating pipes are imbedded. The plan is on two levels, reflecting the gentle slope of the site. The wall construction is a wood sandwich consisting of unpainted cypress sheathing screwed to both sides of a plywood core, thus eliminating the usual system of vertical studs. All of the ornament, both interior and exterior, is of a technimorphic nature: that is indigenous to the materials themselves--in the way they are cut, joined, and fitted together, employing their individual or juxtaposed forms, shapes, colors, and textures. The primary materials are reduced to cypress, brick, and glass.

Although the scale of the house is small--tailored, it is said, to Frank Lloyd Wright's own physical proportions--the interior is airy and spacious. The main part of the interior is not divided into separate chambers but is a whole series of spaces which interpenetrate and overlap. The bedrooms, however, are contained in a wing perpendicular to the entrance. Much of the furniture is built in for easy care and an uncluttered look. Like the exterior, the interior walls are either brick or unpainted cypress, requiring no painting or other care by the owners.

Although the house had been dismantled and moved from its original site, the present site was carefully chosen so that the house would retain the same visual relationship with the surrounding woodlands that Wright intended.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. 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)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Pope-Leighey House was designed in 1939 by Frank Lloyd Wright for Loren Pope. Construction of the house began in the summer of 1940 under the supervision of Gordon Chadwick, one of Wright's Taliesin apprentices. The house was ready for occupancy by the winter of 1941, and the Pops lived there until 1946 when the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Leighey. In 1963, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Highways, notified Mrs. Leighey of its plans to use the property in the construction of an interstate highway. It was decided that the house would have to be moved in order to be preserved, and through the efforts of the Department of the Interior, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and many other interested organizations and individuals, means for preserving the structure were secured. In July of 1964, Mrs. Leighey signed a contract with the National Trust in which the Trust agreed to provide a site for the house, reconstruct it on the site, maintain it after reconstruction as a house museum, and permit Mrs. Leighey the use of the house during her lifetime. By June 1965, the reconstruction of the house on its new site at Woodlawn Plantation was completed.

The design of the Pope-Leighey House reflects Frank Loyd Wright's concern with the problem of providing contemporary Americans with well-designed housing for a minimum cost. Wright believed that not only the elite but also the average Americans should have housing commensurate with their dignity as American citizens. Thus, Wright developed what he called the U.S.-onian, or Usonian house--a practical, economical house, yet one that contained the quality and clarity of design that Wright believed was essential to make modern American life livable.

The Pope-Leighey House is the third and perhaps the most representative of Wright's Usonian houses. The value of the house as an architectural document was summed up by architectural critic Edgar J. Kaufmann, Jr., when he wrote:

The Pope-Leighey House is great because of the principals it embodies, not because of its real portions of beauty, livability or economy, or architectural logic. These are but manifestations of its vitality. This vitality can enliven any building, from a hencoop to a country seat or a house of worship, as Wright's works demonstrate. In the Pope-Leighey House the power of this creative victory is presented, as clear as a handful of spring water.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conroy, Sarah Booth, "Wright house, wrong place", The Washington Daily News, Monday, June 29, 1970, p. 25.  
Historic Preservation, Vol. 21, Nos. 2-3, April-September 1969, Special Issue on Pope-Leighey House, National Trust for Historic Preservation.  
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Co., 1968.

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 ° 43 ' 09 "	77 ° 08 ' 11 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

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: August 25, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond 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

*Edw. P. Alexander*

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date 10-6-70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

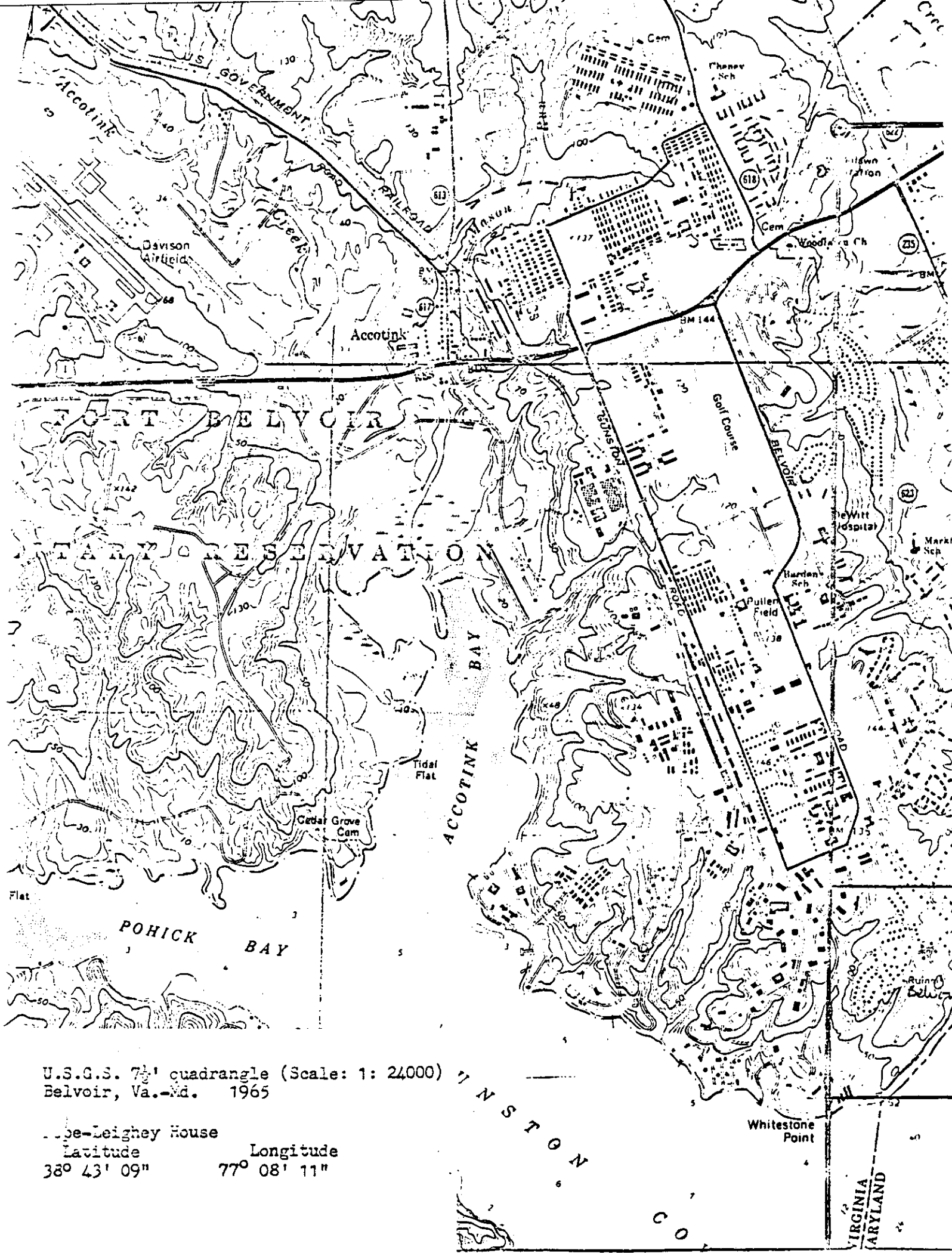
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (Scale: 1: 24,000)  
 Belvoir, Va.-Md. 1965

Robe-Leighy House  
 Latitude 38° 43' 09"  
 Longitude 77° 08' 11"

Whitstone Point

VIRGINIA  
 MARYLAND