

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-11/12/69

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Barboursville

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Barboursville

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mi. E of Blue Run, .4 mi. NW of Rt. 777, .5 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 777 and 678.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Orange CODE: 137

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> ruins
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:
~~C. Francis Smithers~~

STREET AND NUMBER:
Barboursville Farm

CITY OR TOWN: Barboursville STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Orange County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Orange STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 558 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
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(Check One)
Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

INTEGRITY

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Until it burned on Christmas day, 1884, James Barbour's house at Barboursville stood essentially as completed circa 1822 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Only two one-story side porches appear to have been later additions. Though large in scale, the house contained only eight principal rooms, the hall, drawing room, and dining room being two-story chambers. The entrance facade featured a projecting Roman Doric tetrastyle portico which covered the recessed front wall of the entrance hall. On the garden front the walls of the octagonal drawing room projected into a similar portico, as at Monticello. The octagonal dome which Jefferson proposed in his drawing was omitted during construction; it is uncertain whether the Chinese lattice railing which appeared in Jefferson's drawing around the base of the roof was ever installed. Although the dining room had no chamber over it, Jefferson indicated a false window on the second floor level in order to keep the garden front symmetrical. This feature was omitted and consequently gave that side of the house an unbalanced appearance. Unfortunately, there is little evidence as to the appearance of the original interior architectural trim. One might assume that the two-story rooms were crowned by full entablatures as at Monticello.

During the fire of 1884 everything except the exterior brick walls, the interior masonry partitions, and the columns of the porticoes perished. Now much overgrown by vines, the ruins are maintained and are in generally sound condition.

To the north of the house are the two curious service buildings which now serve as the main residence for Barboursville. It is believed that these structures were built circa 1790 and were lived in by James Barbour until the main house was completed. As they are built on the slope of a hill, they appear as one story on the front with two-story columned galleries on the rear.

Barbour's estate has been known for its unusually large and fine boxwood, which flourish on the grounds. A portion of the gardens were once surrounded by a serpentine wall similar to those designed by Mr. Jefferson for the University of Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Literary <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
		Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

In a letter dated March 29, 1817, James Barbour thanked his friend Thomas Jefferson for supplying him with designs for his new house. The designs were returned to Jefferson along with the letter by James Bradley, a carpenter, and Edward Ancel (?), a bricklayer, both of whom Barbour had employed to erect his house. Barbour intended the two workmen to study Monticello while on their errand and acquaint themselves with the character of Jefferson's architectural work.

As designed, Barboursville more nearly resembled Monticello than any other of Jefferson's works. However, the most striking parallel, the octagonal dome, was omitted (as Jefferson said it could be) during construction. Although in ruins, enough of Barboursville's walls remain so that they can be studied and compared with Jefferson's drawings. Had it survived as designed, Barboursville would undoubtedly rank as Jefferson's most important residential work beside Monticello, but even in its present state its significance as a relic of one of America's most distinguished architects is not diminished. Jefferson's drawings for Barboursville which include a plan and elevations of the entrance and garden front are preserved in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Barboursville's architectural significance has often tended to overshadow the distinguished career of its first occupant. James Barbour (1775-1842), besides being an obvious patron of architecture, was a member of the Virginia Legislature from 1796 to 1812, and was Governor of the Commonwealth from 1812 to 1814. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1815, where he served until 1825, then becoming Secretary of War until 1828. From 1828 to 1829 he represented his country in England as Minister Plenipotentiary. He was chairman of the Whig National Convention which nominated William Henry Harrison in 1839, and for many years served as president of the Orange Humane Society. He is credited with having founded the Literary Fund of Virginia which long supported popular education in Virginia. Barbour lies buried in the family cemetery at Barboursville.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Tracy, Inna Thayer. Thomas Jefferson, Architect and Builder. Richmond: 1939.
- Scott, W. W., A History of Orange County, Virginia. Richmond: 1907.
- Lancaster, Robert A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches. Philadelphia: 1915.
- Garden Club of Virginia, Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia, 1962.
- Nichols, Frederick Doveton, Thomas Jefferson's Architectural Drawings. Boston: 1961.
- Kimball, Fiske, Thomas Jefferson, Architect. Boston: 1916.

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	38° 10' 06 "	78° 17' 28 "				
NE	38° 10' 06 "	78° 16' 23 "				
SE	38° 09' 22 "	78° 16' 23 "				
SW	38° 09' 22 "	78° 17' 28 "				

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:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: July 31, 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 _____

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

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

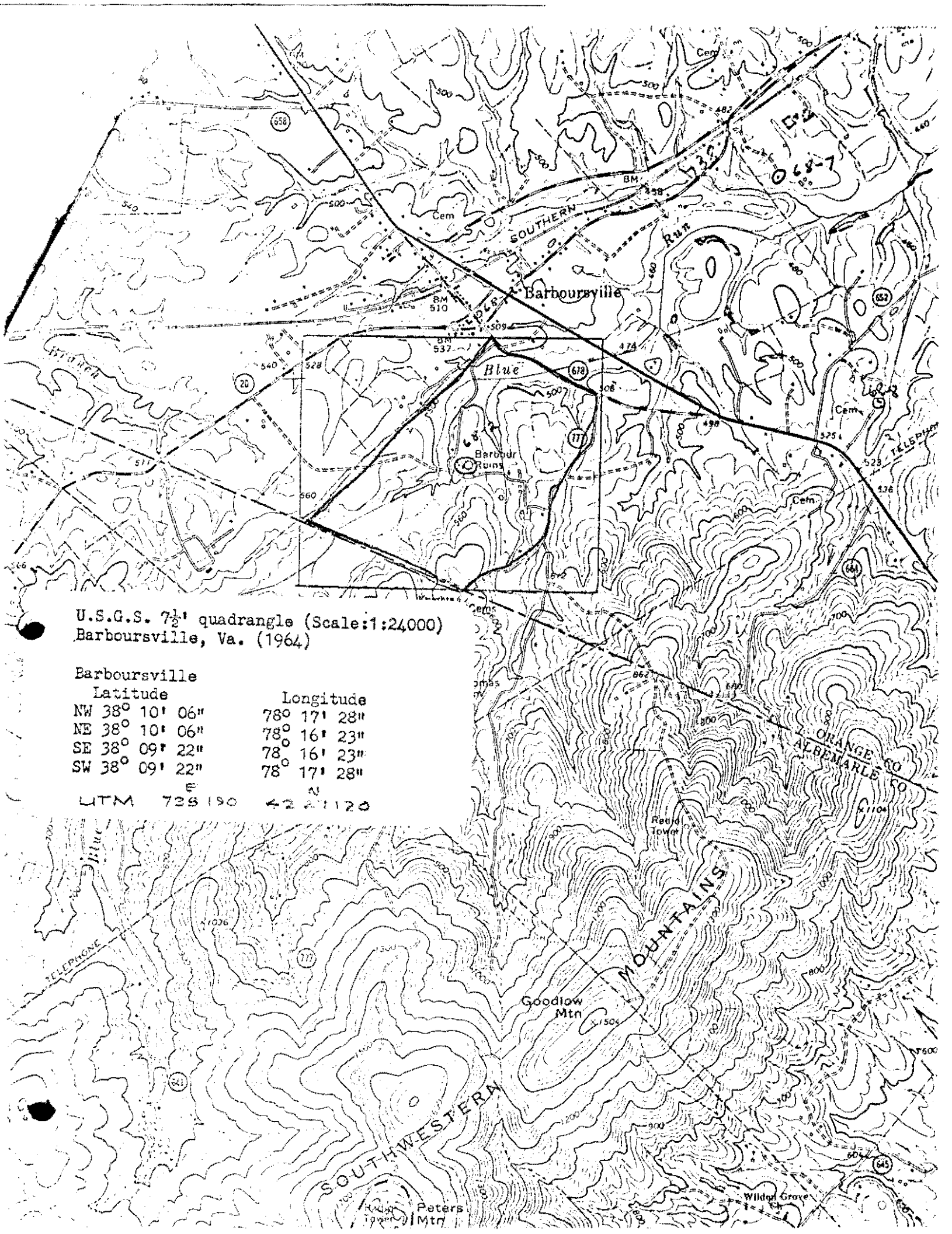
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:1:24,000)
 Barboursville, Va. (1964)

Barboursville

Latitude	Longitude
NW 38° 10' 06"	78° 17' 28"
NE 38° 10' 06"	78° 16' 23"
SE 38° 09' 22"	78° 16' 23"
SW 38° 09' 22"	78° 17' 28"

LTM 729 190 42 2 120