

VLR- 9/16/80
NRHP- 1/28/80

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Edgemont

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 712 not for publication
city, town Powell Corner vicinity of congressional district Seventh
(J. Kenneth Robinson)
state Virginia code 51 county Albemarle code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L. Dreyfus
street & number Edgemont Farm
city, town North Garden vicinity of state Virginia Zip Code 22959

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albemarle County Courthouse
street & number
city, town Charlottesville state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

title (1) Historic American Buildings Survey ^{Inventory} has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1969 federal state county local
depository for survey records Library of Congress
city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Edgemont occupies an elevated site at the base of Fan Mountain in the Green Mountain neighborhood of Albemarle County between Keene and North Garden. The Jeffersonian-style building overlooks a terraced garden which descends to the Hardware River bottom lands.

The 50' x 50' frame building is a single-story, three-bay structure covered by formal shiplap siding with quoined corners. The whole is set upon a stucco-covered stone basement sited so as to make the house two stories on the rear (east) elevation. The hipped roof is covered with concrete shingles, imitating wood shakes, surmounted by four slender interior chimneys. Nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash windows with architrave trim and torus molded sills are used throughout the building's main floor. The windows are flanked by louvred shutters. The double-door front (west) entry is framed by molded architrave trim topped by a cornice, while the side entries are distinguished by double doors topped by four-light transoms. The rear (east) doorway also consists of paneled double doors topped by a multiple-light transom. Sheltering each of the entrances is a pedimented Tuscan portico that consists of Tuscan columns supporting a full entablature, the tympanum pierced by a semicircular fanlight with intersecting tracery. The north and west porticos are original to the building. A kitchen addition, visible in a 1936 Francis Benjamin Johnston photograph of the north elevation, was removed during restoration and replaced by the present portico. At the same time a section of foundation of what was believed to be for an east portico was found, and a portico was built that encloses the octagonal end. The Chinese lattice railing is conjectural.

The main (west) entry opens to a large reception hall, while the side (north and south) entries provide access to a transverse corridor that runs the width of the house. An octagonal drawing room is positioned opposite the reception hall; the corner rooms contain the master bedroom, guest bedroom, study, and dressing room. The basement on the garden level is divided into an equal number of rooms that serve as dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms.

The reception hall is entered through its original doors. The modillioned cornice, the pedestal chair rail and the Palladian screen were added in 1948 by the restoration architect, Milton Grigg. The hall mantel is original to the house, but the coat-of-arms in the frieze was added by a former owner. A 1936 interior photograph shows the octagonal room with a late 19th-century mantel and cornice. The mantel was relocated in a south dependency, and the present ornate Adamesque mantel was installed in 1978. An egg-and-dart cornice, chair rail, and plaster ceiling medallion were added to the room during the Grigg renovation.

The dressing room and two rooms flanking the octagonal room have the original molded cornice, wainscot, and architrave door and window trim. The mantels in the master bedroom and opposite bedroom are original to the house. The study has been extensively renovated.

A narrow curving stair centered beneath an arch with scrolled brackets is in the location of the original single-flight stair. The rooms on the lower level retain their original partitions, with the exception of the dining room, where the east wall was extended to meet the porch. Much early hardware, notably brass drop latches and wooden locks, survives throughout the house.

One early outbuilding remains at the northeast corner of the garden. The uncoursed rubble building is covered with a high hipped roof. While the garden was under renovation,

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1796 Builder/Architect Attributed to Thomas Jefferson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

(Built ca. 1796 for James Powell Cocke, Edgemont is significant as a very early example of a country residence in the combination Palladian and French manner promulgated by Thomas Jefferson. Although the design of the house has been credited to Jefferson for several decades, precise documentation of the authorship remains yet to be established. The character of the compact and sophisticated dwelling is uniquely Jeffersonian, however, and exhibits the influence he had on the architecture of his region.)

The house stands on land that was acquired by James Powell Cocke from Robert Nelson sometime between 1770 and 1782. The tract was originally part of Nicholas Merriwether's patent and was sold by his heirs to Nelson's father, William Nelson. A Virginia Mutual Assurance Society policy written in January 1797 positively dates Cocke's residency in Albemarle County. His property is identified as "'Hardware Mill'...Now occupied by myself..." The insurance policy plan is that of Edgemont. Another policy, written in July 1805, identifies his property as "my farm." Finally in 1815 a renewal policy refers to "my two buildings on my plantation called Edgemont now occupied by myself..."

Little is known of Edgemont's owner, James Powell Cocke. He was born at Malvern Hill, Henrico County, in 1748 and died at Edgemont in 1827, where he is buried. He is recorded as a justice for Henrico County in 1770. Poor health and malaria forced Cocke to seek a better climate, first in Augusta County and later in Albemarle County.

Jefferson's actual role in the design of Edgemont is unclear. (A letter from Jefferson dated August 19, 1796, to his friend Wilson C. Nicholas hints at involvement:

I now enclose you the draught you desired, which I have endeavored to arrange according to the ideas you expressed, of having the entry, not through a principal room as in Mr. Cocke's house, but at the cross passage.

It is probable that "Mr. Cocke" was James Powell Cocke and that the house was Edgemont, as it has a transverse corridor and a main entrance opening into a reception hall. A letter from Jefferson to Cocke also exists in which Jefferson thanks Cocke for sending him fish to stock his pond at Monticello.)

(Edgemont, a small, pavilion-like structure, combining Palladian and French elements, is similar in style to The Residence, a one-story, wood-frame house designed by Jefferson for William Madison, brother of President James Madison. It exhibits Jefferson's interest in giving his houses a formality and classical correctness devoid of monumentality. Typically Jeffersonian features include the one-story appearance, the octagonal room, and de-emphasized stair. The existence of five terraced levels to the rear of the house suggests yet another Jeffersonian characteristic: the integration of the building into a carefully planned landscape.)

In 1825 Cocke sold 875 acres and the dwelling to Martha Ann Cocke for \$7,375. She

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albemarle County: Deed Books 25, 27, 60, 63; Land Tax Books 1782-1850, 1860-1870, 1930; Order Book 1792; Will Books 5, 9, 24, 25.
 Cocke, Leonie Doss and Cocke, Virginia Webb. Cockes and Cousins. Ann Arbor, Mich., 1967.
 Henrico County Land Tax Books 1799-1800.
 Rothery, Agnes. Houses Virginians Have Loved. New York, 1954.
 Woods, Edgar. Albemarle County, Virginia. Bridgewater, Va.: Carrier and Co., 1964.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 30 acres

Quadrangle name Alberene, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1,7	709910,0	411917714,0	B	1,7	70992,0	411917419,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,7	70938,0	419758,0	D	1,7	70948,0	419781,0
E	1,7	70962,0	419790,0	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on W side of route 712, about 3550' NW of intersection with route 719; thence extending about 1100' SE along said side to intersection with approach drive; thence extending about 1800' WNW along N side of said drive to northward bend in drive and continuing about 500' NNE to end of drive, then continuing NE for about 100' to 500' contour; thence following said contour for about 400' ENE, then curving N, E, then S, all for about 600' along said contour; thence extending about 400' ESE to W side of route 712, point of origin.

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1980

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia Zip Code 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Tucker Hill, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date SEP 16 1980

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Edgemont, Albemarle County, Va.

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6, 7, 8

Page 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
 1967, 1979, 1980 State
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 221 Governor Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION:

the architect, Grigg, designed an identical building for the southeast corner of the garden.

The terraced boxwood gardens cover approximately two acres to the rear (west) of the main house. Milton Grigg designed the gardens based on what he considered outlines of old beds and brick paths. The pool house dates to 1967 and was also designed by Grigg. A handsome view of Edgemont can be seen from route 712 across the river and up the terrace, toward the house, with the mountain forming a backdrop.

MM/RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

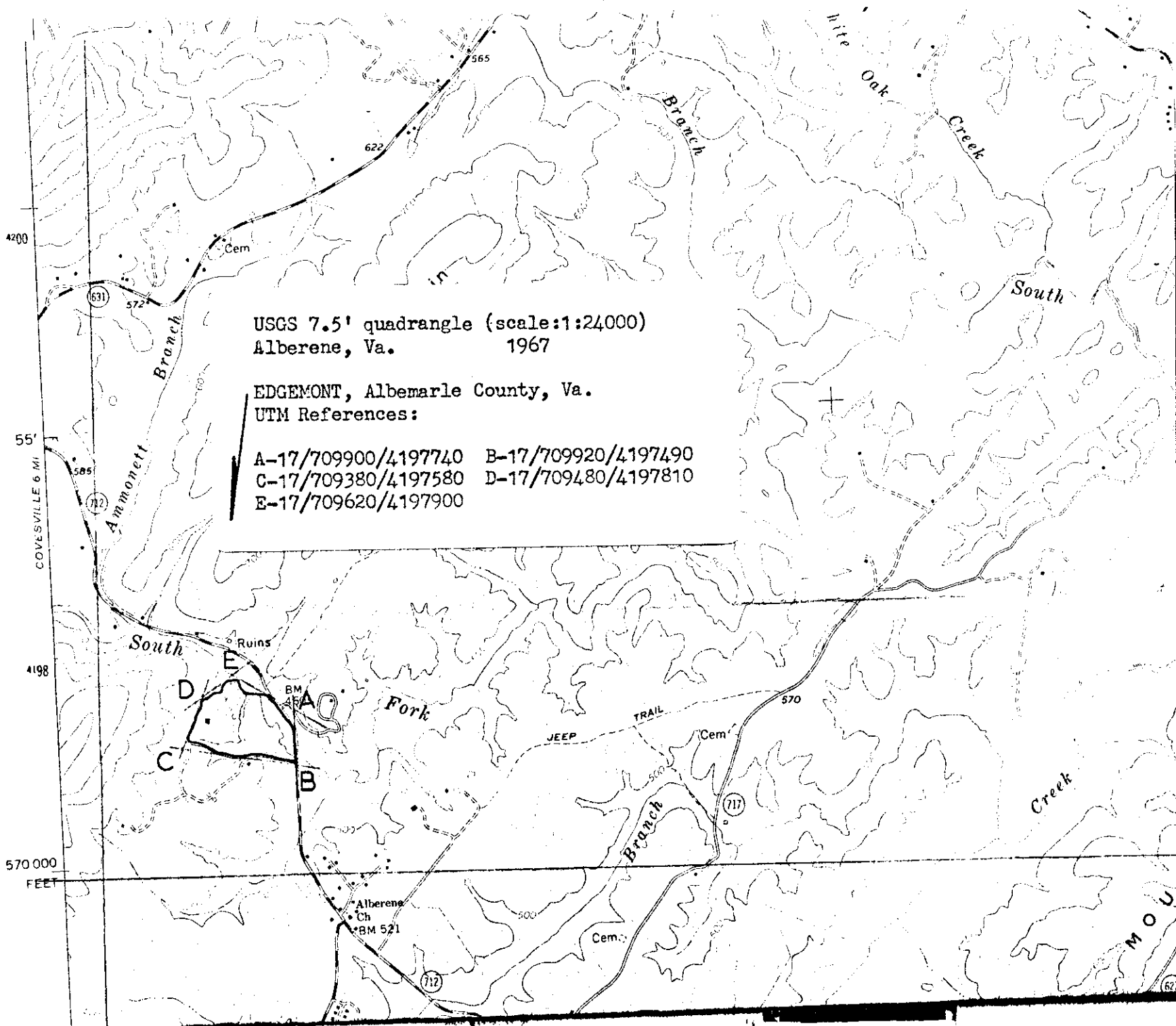
The nominated property of thirty acres is a fraction of the original 1600-acre estate of James Powell Cocke, the builder of Edgemont. The boundary is drawn to include the outbuildings, a two-acre garden and the elevated slope on which the house sits, as well as the bottom lands of the South Fork of the Hardware River to route 712. A handsome view of the property is to be had from the road.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

was his only daughter-in-law and the widow of his son, James Powell Cocke, Jr., who had died in 1812. She remained at Edgemont until her death in 1856. The property then passed to her sister, Mrs. Judith A. Randolph. The estate was then sold in 1862 to James H. Yates by the executor of Mrs. Randolph's estate.

Regarding its more recent history, the house was "rediscovered" in a dilapidated state by the Charlottesville architect Milton Grigg and photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston while they were on a photography expedition in Albemarle County in 1936. Grigg has been the architect for all subsequent renovations and modifications done on the house through its 20th-century succession of owners. These owners include the Snead family who rebuilt the overseer's house, slave cabin, gardens, and pool house. The property is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L. Dreyfus.

VDS/RCC



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Alberene, Va. 1967

EDGEMONT, Albemarle County, Va.
UTM References:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A-17/709900/4197740 | B-17/709920/4197490 |
| C-17/709380/4197580 | D-17/709480/4197810 |
| E-17/709620/4197900 | |