

Loren B. Pope House
1005 Locust
Falls Church, Virginia

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ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.
20242

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THE LOREN B. POPE HOUSE

Location: 1005 Locust in Falls Church, Virginia

Present Owner: Mrs. Robert Leighey

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Private Residence

Significance: The Loren B. Pope House is an example of a Usonian House as designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1940. This represents the architect's efforts in low priced housing. It is one of the few buildings in the Washington, D. C., area by this architect.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Loren B. Pope House was built in 1940 in Falls Church, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D. C., by Loren Pope, a newspaperman. The building has been continuously occupied as a residence since its completion. In 1964 a State condemnation suit was filed against the house to make way for interstate highway #66. Through efforts of the owner, Mrs. Robert Leighey and the assistance of the National Park Service, attempts were launched, at the time of this writing, to disassemble and move the house to another site as a permanent monument to the architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Loren B. Pope House is an example of a Usonian House as designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, in 1940. The house represents the one floor, flat roofed, open planned middle-income houses designed by the well-known architect in the 1930's.

The house is frame construction on a concrete slab which was poured inside of a single, brick, row lock course. The siding is horizontal cedar - unfinished, as is most of the wood on the exterior. Certain areas of the exterior are exposed brick: the fireplace, the utility areas, the piers and the planting areas. The roof, which is on several levels, is flat with a built-up roof, topped with gravel.

The house is characterized by low horizontal lines and dramatic cantilevered overhangs. The carport, sun shades and entry are all protected by overhangs. Some of the overhanging areas are pierced and act as sun screens. Two low chimneys serve the fireplace, the furnace and the hot water heater. These chimneys do not show from the ground. The house is set in the woods and is surrounded by lush residential garden and lawn.

The exterior windows are of several types. In the primary living areas floor to ceiling casement panels of single sheet glass give access to the exterior living areas. Bedroom windows are also of the casement type, single sheet glass and operating. In various spots throughout the house, including the living room clear story, there occur pierced wood panels with plexi-glass inserts which operate as window vents. These have re-occurring patterned openings which reverse alternately in adjacent panels.

The entrance to the house is through the single car car-port and a pair of double glass doors. The interior consists of an entry hall with a brick floor and steps down to the living and dining areas. Adjacent to the living areas are the kitchen and utility room. On the upper level of the house are two bedrooms, a bathroom and a small study.

The interior finish is cedar as is the exterior, except for the walls of the kitchen and the fireplace wall which are brick with the horizontal joints raked back and the vertical joints flush with the brick and tinted the color of the brick. Floors of the house are painted concrete and contain heating coils.

Most lighting is by recessed, unglazed, ceiling boxes made of the same cedar as the rest of the interior trim. Most of these are simple pull chain fixtures. The house has radiant slab heat.

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Some of the interior doors, such as those to the closets and the kitchen are of the folding wood type. These are all custom built for the areas in which they are used.

The site features include a gravel drive from the road to the carport and entry as well as a pair of brick paved outdoor living areas on either side of the living room. One of these paved areas has been screened-in on its sides and roof.

Prepared by Donald B. Myer
Architect
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.
July, 1964

Pope-Leighey House (Loren B. Pope House)
9000 Richmond Highway
Mount Vernon vicinity
(moved from Falls Church, Virginia)
Fairfax County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-638

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VA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013

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Pope-Leighey House (Loren B. Pope House)
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Mount Vernon vicinity (moved from
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Addendum to

Loren B. Pope House
1005 Locust Street
Falls Church (independent city)
Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240