

VLR-9/9/69, NRHP-10/15/66, NHL-10/9/60

Form 70-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mount Airy (Francis Lightfoot Lee Grave)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mount Airy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1.6-miles west of Warsaw via U.S. 360 and 0.5-miles north of highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Warsaw

STATE: Virginia CODE: COUNTY: Richmond CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Sites <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Lt. Col. Henry G. Tayloe, 11

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mount Airy

CITY OR TOWN: Warsaw STATE: Virginia CODE: 22572

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC:
Clerk's Office, Circuit Court of Richmond County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Warsaw STATE: Virginia CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (17 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1937, 1938, 1939 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The graves of Francis Lightfoot Lee and his wife Rebecca are located in the family graveyard which is situated in the edge of a wood about 300-yards northwest of the Mount Airy mansion. The graves are marked by very small markers erected by the Virginia Conservation Commission in 1950. Previous to this, the graves had been unmarked. The graveyard is maintained by the owner of Mount Airy. (Neg.No. 6495).

Mount Airy is composed of a massive two-story central block above a high basement, 69-feet long and 47-feet deep, two curving one-story passageways, and two 36-foot-square two-story end dependencies set forward; the five-part unit, 128 $\frac{1}{2}$ -feet, long, encloses three sides of a semicircular forecourt. This court is raised by a low terrace above the entrance drive and is reached by cut and molded stone steps, flanked by elaborate carved stone vases on pedestals. Set on a ridge, the house commands a wide view of the Rappanhannock Valley.

The three-foot thick walls of the central unit are made of dark-brown sandstone, carefully hewn and laid in courses of random height, with architectural trim in light-colored limestone. It is possible that the exterior may originally have been plastered though no trace remains. The north or entrance facade is approached from the forecourt by a flight of steps leading to a recessed loggia, whose square piers, faced with four Roman Doric pilasters, define three rectilinear openings.¹ The projecting central pavilion is of rusticated limestone, with three windows in the second story and a crowning pediment. The south or garden facade is almost identical in composition except that the three entrances in the pavilion are spanned by round arches with heavily marked voussoirs and keystones, and the upper windows are unframed. The other windows are framed by stone architraves and sills, and the limestone belt course and rusticated angle quoins are very prominent. The existing broad hip roof, pierced by four interior chimneys located near the ridge, is a replacement of the original roof, possibly a hip-on-hip that was destroyed by fire in 1844. The south or rear elevation was undoubtedly taken directly from Plate LVIII of James Gibb's Book of Architecture (1728) and the north elevation was less directly derived from a plate of Haddo House, Scotland, in William Adam's Vitruvius Scoticus (1750).

The two stone two-story dependencies have hipped roofs and central chimneys and their corners are given the same quoin treatment as the main house. The connecting passageways, also of stone, are quadrants covered with shed roofs that are concealed from the north or front. At the junction with the central block, the roofs of the connections are stepped up to allow entrances to the main floor of the house.

¹ The existing granite steps are replacements of the originals.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

1769, 1797

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

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

(Mount Airy was declared eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks in October 1960, under Theme X, Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775. It was also found to possess national significance under Theme XX, subtheme: Architecture - Part I (Colonial), in October 1969).

In the family cemetery at Mount Airy is the grave site of Francis Lightfoot Lee (1734-1797), a signer of the Declaration of Independence for Virginia, planter, and politician. Mount Airy, the plantation house, was also briefly the home of Lee and his bride, Rebecca Tayloe, in 1769, while their plantation house "Menokin" was being built. Mount Airy, erected 1758-1762 and attributed to the noted architect John Ariss of Virginia, was the first house in the English colonies to achieve the ideal scheme of a full Palladian villa -- a main house with quadrant passages connecting it with two balanced dependencies flanking a forecourt. Architecturally, Mount Airy is one of the finest formal mansions of the late Georgian period in Virginia.

HISTORY

Mount Airy was constructed for Colonel John Tayloe in 1758-62. The design is attributed to John Ariss (1725-99); the house is generally considered to be the finest example of this architect's work. In the spring of 1769 Francis Lightfoot Lee married the 17 year old daughter of John Tayloe Rebecca. His father-in-law built "Menokin" on a nearby plantation for them. During the period of construction Lee and his bride lived at Mount Airy. Lee's wife died only a few months before he did and they are both buried in the Tayloe family graveyard at Mount Airy. Mount Airy is still owned by Tayloe descendents and is not open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XI, 105. Article by H.J. Eckenrode. Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952), 353-355.

Thomas T. Waterman, The Mansions of Virginia (Chapel Hill, 1950) 253-260

Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill, 1950), 58, 61, 161, 177.

Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion (American Guide Series)(New York, 1947), 549.

William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: The Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles (New York, 1970), 115-17, 119, 125, 220

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	House	37	58	20
NE	° ' "	° ' "		76	47	29
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "	Grave	37	58	38
				76	47	58

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES 321 acres

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE: 5/18/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 - 19th Street N.W.

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

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

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (1)

Mount Airy
(Francis Lightfoot Lee Grave)

Although the original interior and roof were destroyed by fire in 1844, the plan of the house remains of interest. This has a magnificent hall, 20 by 30-feet extending clear through the house between the loggias. At either end are center entrance doors flanked by full-height windows. A spiral stairway was inserted in the northwest corner room in the 19th-century, but the original stair may have been in a separate cross-hall between two east drawing rooms, lighted by the central arch of a Palladian window in the east wall. On the west side of the hall, a large dining room, 20 by 23-feet, was located in the southwest corner and in the northwest corner were two small rooms, first a pantry and then the hall with the spiral stairs. The location of the fireplaces on the interior partition walls was unusual in 18th-century Virginia.

Mount Airy is still owned by Tayloe descendents and is not open to visitors. In 1965 a central heating system was installed and a new kitchen built in one of the quadrants; the entire house was also put into good repair.

9. Major Biographical References:

Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J.E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 7-8.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Virginia
COUNTY	Richmond
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Mount Airy - Francis Lightfoot Lee's Grave
 AND/OR HISTORIC: (in family graveyard located about 300-yards from house)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1.6-miles west of Warsaw via U.S. 360 and .5-miles north of highway.
 CITY OR TOWN:
Warsaw

STATE: Virginia CODE COUNTY: Richmond CODE

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series, Tappahannock Quadrangle, Virginia
 SCALE: 1: 24 000
 DATE: 19 44

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

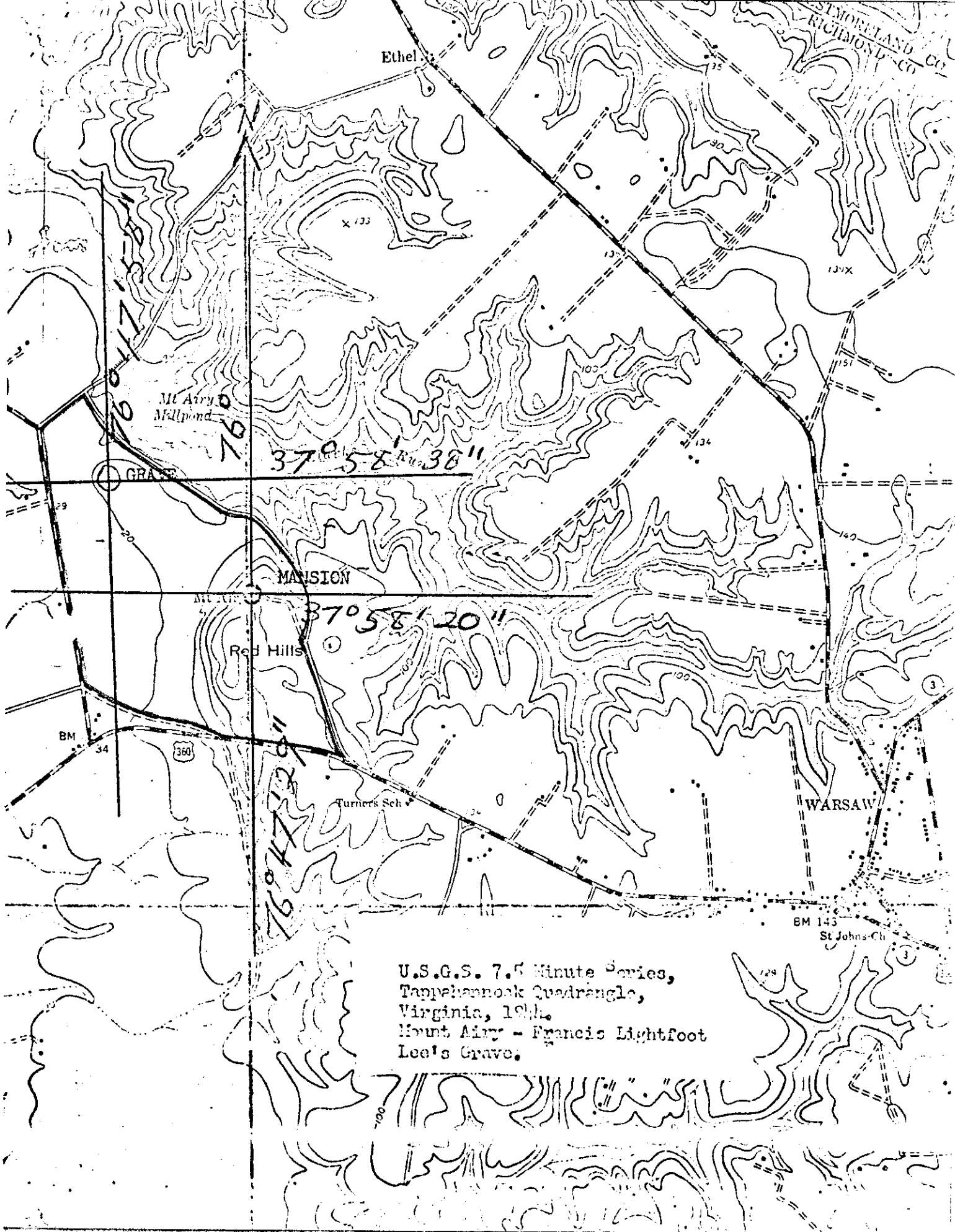
STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:
 DATE OF PHOTO:
 NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series,
Tappahannock Quadrangle,
Virginia, 1944.
Mount Airy - Francis Lightfoot
Lee's Grave.