Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

DEPOSITORY FOR

New York

CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 2 9 1980

DATE ENTERED AUG 19 1980

STATE New York

SEE II		OW TO COMPLETE NATIONS COMPLETE APPLICATION		1S
1 NAME	TIPE ALL ENTRIE	S COMPLETE AFFEICA	ABLE SECTIONS	
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2 LOCATION				. 1.3
STREET & NUMBER	2640 Grand (Concourse	s demonstration	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DIS	
STATE	Bronx	VICINITY OF CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	New York	036	Bronx	005
3 CLASSIFICA	ATION			
NAME City De pa: STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN	The Arsenal 830 Fifth Ave	X_YES: RESTRICTED _YES: UNRESTRICTED _NO s and Recreation nue	PRE AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMEN GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY STATE New	SCIENTIFICTRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DES	SCRIPTION		9 9 7
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	Bronx Co	unty Register's O	ffice	
STREET & NUMBER	160 East	162nd Street		
CITY, TOWN	Bronx	100	STATE New Yo	ork
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EX	ISTING SURVEYS	De	65 g. mel'''
TITLE Lands	marks Preservat	cion Commission Po	oe Cottage Desig	nation Report
DATE Febru	ary 15, 1966	FEDERAL	_STATE _COUNTY XLOC	AL

SURVEY RECORDS New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

CONDITION

EXCELLENT 032 8 DETERIORATED

XGOOD PI AU_RUINS
_FAIR PI AU_UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

_ORIGINAL SITE

XMOVED DATE 1896, 1913

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
The Poe Cottage, an early nine teenth century, one and a half story frame
farmhouse, is located in a corner of the peaceful and spacious Poe Park,
in a setting which reflects its rural origins. It is adjacent to a busy
thoroughfare which contains apartment houses and commercial buildings.

Originally built a short distance from its present site, the cottage was moved twice. In 1896, the Grand Concourse, which fronted its original location, was widened, new residential buildings were erected; and the cottage was squeezed between large buildings. It was then moved back on its lot approximately seventeen feet from the road to prevent the possibility of fire and to preserve its appearance as a country cottage.

In 1913, the cottage was purchased by New York City after much public interest in Poe had been aroused by the city's original refusal to do so. It was relocated on its present site 450 feet across the Grand Concourse, between the Grand Concourse and Kingsbridge Road, in the adjacent park. This was done to protect it from the encroaching urban expansion and to preserve its original rural ambiance. When the cottage was moved to its present location in 1913, it was set on a brick foundation, and its basement was raised three feet above the ground to allow for the installation of a caretaker's apartment there. 2 An open porch, surrounded by a white wooden balustrade, runs across the length of the front facade only as far as the kitchen wing. Five rectangular posts support the shed roof which covers the porch and meets the facade just below the sills of the small horizontal attic windows. There are two entrance doors, one at each end of the porch, and three irregularly placed windows with original board and batten shutters on the front facade. A kitchen wing with a shed roof is located at the east end of the house adjacent to the porch. The gabled roof, originally covered by wood shingles, is now covered by fire-resistant shingles with a simulated wood texture. The end and rear walls retain their original shingles. A small lean-to shed is attached to the east end of the cottage. An original shed, destroyed when the cottage was moved in 1896, was reconstructed in 1917. When the cottage was moved again in 1913, the door and windows were damaged. Shortly afterwards, duplicates, taken from old homes nearby, replaced them. The porch, the steps and the balustrade were added in 1913.

Asymmetrical in plan, the first floor of the cottage contains three rooms: the sitting room (16x17) with a stone fireplace, brick hearth and a steep stairway which leads up to the attic; a bedroom $(7\frac{1}{2}x7\frac{1}{2})$; and a kitchen wing $(9\frac{1}{2}x17)$ with its separate fireplace. There are two attic rooms.

The house contains two pieces of the original furnishings: Poe's rocking chair and the frame of his wife's death bed. It also includes period furnishings similar to those which Poe might have owned. The original bookcases beside the fireplace were built into the house.

While the main structural supports, the hand-hewn roof beams, the broad plank floors, the staircase and fireplace are original, the interior has undergone some minor, unobtrusive changes. In 1921, in an effort to reconstruct its mid-nineteenth century appearance, the interior was restored

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED.

CONTINUATION SHEET Poe Cottage

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

by John Hardin. This restoration included the replacement of some woodwork to what was thought to be its original appearance and the restoration of the mantelpieces above the fireplaces; bricks from the old Macomb home in the Bronx were used to rebuild the kitchen flue and the fireplace.

The basement now contains a caretaker's apartment with a kitchen, a living room and a bathroom and is entered through the lean-to shed connected to the kitchen.

Footnotes

¹The Park was given to New York City by the Shakespeare Society of the Bronx. Reginald Pelham Bolton, The Poe Cottage at Fordham. (Bronx Society of Arts & Sciences, 1921), p. 5.

²It originally sat flat on the ground with only a small cellar with a dirt floor.

3Poe's writing desk and clock were in the hands of private collectors and could not be recovered for installation in the cottage. However, a carved ivory Chinese puzzle, a Bible and a fragment of one of his manuscripts were secured. The manuscript was on exhibit in the cottage until 1973, when it was placed in the main branch of the New York Public Library for safekeeping and to prevent its destruction by vandalism.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Poe Cottage, Bronx County Item number

For HCRS use only received 5 9 80 date entered AUG 19 1980

Page 3

Poe Park is included in this nomination because it provides a setting for Poe Cottage which is reminescent of the original rural environs of the house. The park includes a 1925 bandstand, one of the oldest left in the Bronx. Near the bandstand there stood a bust of Poe. This larger-than-lifesize bust has been removed to the cottage parlor for protection. Also in the park is a comfort station dating from the 1920's. Located below ground, the comfort station is reached by steps and its roof is visible from the park. This structure is surrounded by a cast-iron fence. The open space of the park creates a green oasis in the midst of the heavily built up Fordham area of the Bronx. The cottage is representative of the vernacular cottages which once were common in this area.

	PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
	_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_	_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
_	_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	X_LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
2	_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_	_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X	1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
-	_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Wheeler

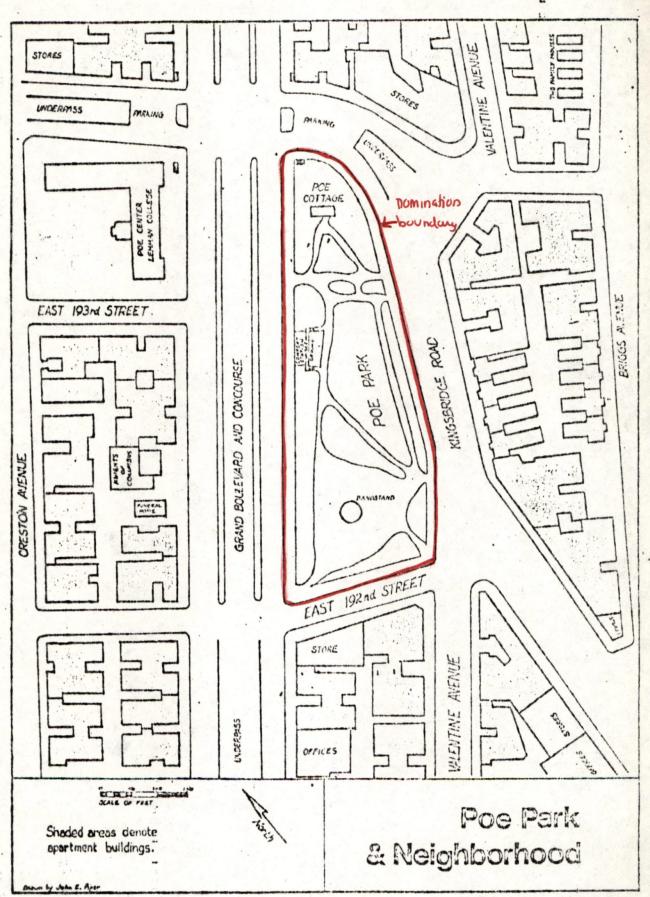
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Poe Cottage, significant because it was for a time the home of Edgar Allan Poe, one of the nation's greatest nineteenth-century writers, is one of the few good examples of a typical early nineteenth century farm dwelling to have survived in Bronx County.

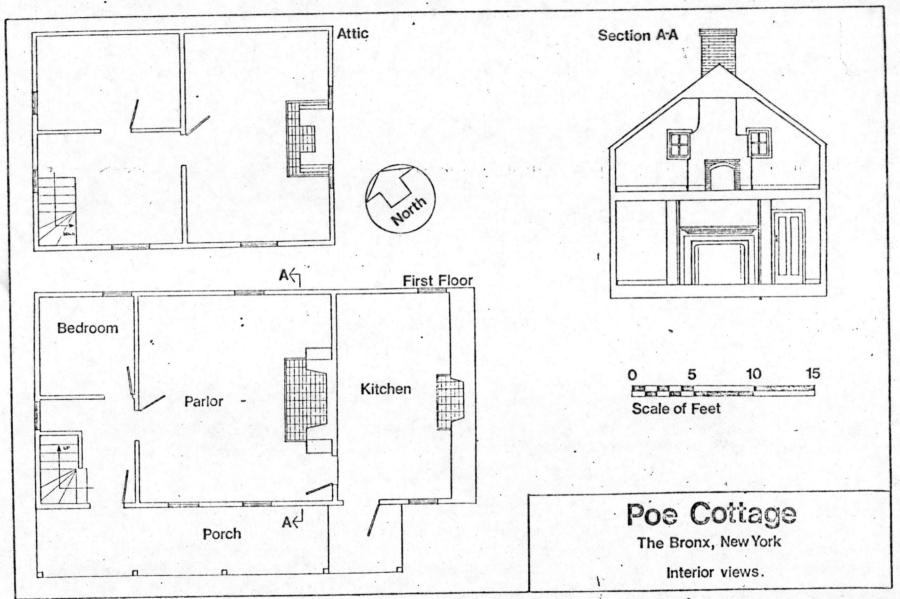
At the time of its erection by John Wheeler, about 1812, the cottage was located in the predominantly rural Westchester village of Fordham. Moving there with his dying wife, Virginia, in the hope that the quiet rural environment would have a beneficial effect on her health, he lived there were years. During the period of his residency, he wrote some of his finest poetry, including The Bells, Anabel Lee, and Ulalune, as well as his essay, Eureka. In his short story, Landor's Cottage, reference is made to a cottage of which the entrance and plan are quite similar to the Fordham cottage. Also of interest is the picture the story evokes of a typical rural dwelling of the area at the period when Poe made it his home.

At present, the cottage is maintained by the Bronx Historical Society as a historic house museum. The house is of national significance because of its association with Poe whose contribution to nineteenth-century American literature was considerable. His importance as a major American writer is well established. Today, this humble cottage reflects the environment of Poe's last years.

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Drawing from Piper. John E., Edgar Allan Poe Cottage, The Bronx. New York. A Reflection of American Culture and Society, Unpublished M.A. Thesis The University of Maryland, 1971.



Drawn by John E Piper

Drawing from Piper, John E. Edgar Allan Poe Cottage, The Bronx, New York, a Reflection of American Culture and Society. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, The University of Maryland, 1971.

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National Register Write-up Federal Register Entry Send-back Re-submit	Entered _AUG 9 1980

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



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

AUG 1 9 1980

THE POE COTTAGE 2640 GRAND CONCOURSE

BRONX, NEW YORK BRONX County

photo: Gray Bryan, III.

date: February 9,1979
location: N.Y.Landmarks Preservation

Commission

view: South side of the cottage facing

onto Poe Park.

number:1/4



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10007

THE POE COTTAGE AUG 1 9 1980

2640 GRAND CONCOURSE BRONX, NEW YORK BRONX County

photo; Gray Bryan, III date: February 9,1979

location: N.Y. Landmarks Preservation

Commission

view: Southwest corner of structure,

with view of the west elevation.

number:2/4

JAN 2 9 1980



Poe Cottage, Bronx, Bronx County Photo: E. Spencer-Ralph, 1978 Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation View: kitchen

#3/4

AUG 1 9 1980 JAN 2 9 1980



Poe Cottage, Bronx, Bronx County Photo: E. Spencer-Ralph, 1978 Neg: Div. for Historic Preservation View: upstairs bedroom AUG 19 1980

JAN 2 9 1980

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

The poe horese has been moved furice, once air 1896 and once in 1913.

Apparently, Edgar Allen for only lived there for fivo years. Therefore there is a question as to whether this house qualifies under the N.R. eviteria for moved structures. However, some of foe's most significant poetry was written while he was on Moderce at the evitage wormy of the move, the house has clear historical associations and is #1 = #10. The nomination boundary includes all of foe fark, a 3 acre fract upon which the cottage is located. The #1 extron includes no description of the fark, its terrain or any other structures there.

There is no justification for including the entire 3 acre parcel.

Conference P.S. Leed 3/24/80 · · · Teview notes: L. Beebe, 3/24/80

Agree that boundary justification is insufficient.

Normally the statement provided in #7 about

nural setting might suffice, but in this

case the blog is not on its original site of

is not related to this 3- acre tract. Also, there

is no description of the spark— a what is in

it; map indicates a bandstand (?) and smeetning

indecipherable.

Elytho state wants to offer some statement

about the park as an expression of something in 1913, may be there's a case]

Would recommend just one end of the spark the immediate vicinity of the house.

The statement of significance doesn't address!

The moved bild, cristerion.

(How many other sites are associated W/Poe? +

his productive life? How Can the arch!,

statemt. of significance be documented?)

Nessure may well be eligible, but This form needs to address the key issues related to the moved blog, criterion.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TIME OF CALL 11:25 (AM)

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)	2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)
Elizabeth Spenar-Raeph	NY Div. for Hist. Pres.
Be CoHage,	
1 asked that a continuation sheet the moved building Oviteria a thoroughly the architectural sy This beth Spencer Ralph Said the additional wife.	et be submitted for #8 to address and to express a bit more ignificance of the horese. Not she would provide the
Mas anched. Answer: It provides a quiet house, setting it apart from	rural situes appropriate for the survounding modern structures. unday festification for the part are other structures in the park are

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL	TITLE	OFFICE
Paule Reed	Arch. Hestorian	



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12238 Information 518 474-0 ** Orin Lehman, Commissioner 0479

April 28, 1980

Lynn Beebe
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
440 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20243

Dear Lynn:

Re: Poe Cottage Bronx County

I am attaching a continuation sheet for Poe Cottage, Bronx County as requested by your office.

Please let us know should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Gobrecht
National Register and Survey
Coordinator
Historic Preservation
Field Services

cb Attachment

THE NATIONAL R	EGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
DATE REC'D	MAY 9 1980
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TEL	THUNE CALL (ATTACHED)
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

June 1978

TIME OF CALL (100 AM)

TELEPHONE REPORT	PM PM
1. CALL TO: FROM (Name) 2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if n	eeded)
Elizabeth Spencer- Ralph No shy	20
3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.	
Monumetum- POE COTTAGE	
4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION	1
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present site (park) in 1913, is de	monotrated on
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Significance & Park

Park is only significant as setting a that
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commemorating Pae.

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered AUG | 9 1980

Name

Location

Poe Cottage

Bronx County

Riverside-West 105th Street Historic District

New York

New York County

Also Notified

Honorable Jacob K. Javits Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan Honorable Mario Biaggi Honorable Ted Weiss State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. Orin Lehman Commissioner Parks and Recreation Agency Building #1 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12238

NR

Byers/mjd

9/2/80