



The Pope-Leighey House was designed in 1939 by Frank Lloyd Wright for Loren Pope. Construction of the house began in the summer of 1940 under the supervision of Gordon Chadwick, one of Wright's Taliesin apprentices. The house was ready for occupancy by the winter of 1941, and the Popes lived there until 1946 when the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Leighey. In 1963, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Highways, notified Mrs. Leighey of its plans to use the property in the construction of an interstate highway. It was decided that the house would have to be moved in order to be preserved, and through the efforts of the Department of the Interior, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and many other interested organizations and individuals, means for preserving the structure were secured. In July of 1964, Mrs. Leighey signed a contract with the National Trust in which the Trust agreed to provide a site for the house, reconstruct it on the site, maintain it after reconstruction as a house museum, and permit Mrs. Leighey the use of the house during her lifetime. By June 1965, the reconstruction of the house on its new site at Woodlawn Plantation was completed.

The design of the Pope-Leighey House reflects Frank Lloyd Wright's concern with the problem of providing contemporary Americans with well-designed housing for a minimum cost. Wright believed that not only the elite but also average Americans should have housing commensurate with their dignity as American citizens. Thus, Wright developed what he called the U.S. – onian, or Usonian house—a practical, economical house, yet one that contained the quality and clarity of design that Wright believed was essential to make modern American life livable.



Pope-Leighey House

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