

(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Poteat House

AND/OR COMMON

Forest Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side NC 62, 2.0 miles from junction with NC 86

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Yanceyville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Caswell

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Helen Poteat Marshall (See page two for further explanation)

STREET & NUMBER

Penick Memorial Home

CITY, TOWN

Southern Pines

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caswell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Yanceyville

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Caswell County Records, Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh (Subgroups: Wills, Deeds, Estates, Census).

Linder, Suzanne Cameron. William Louis Poteat: Prophet of Progress. Chapel: *fill*
University of North Carolina Press, 1966.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 619.92

UTM REFERENCES

NW	A	1,7	65,010,0	4,03,24,2,0	NE	B	1,7	65,28,5,0	4,03,24,5,0
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
SE	C	1,7	65,28,5,0	4,03,08,1,0	SW	D	1,7	65,010,0	4,03,08,1,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated acreage is the remaining 619.92 acres of the Poteat estate containing the house, associated outbuildings, lake, farmland, and woodlands. Approximately 55 acres is in pasturage and cropland while the remaining land is cultivated as a tree farm. These uses are in keeping with the traditional agricultural activities of North Carolina plantations which utilized the available woodlands for the production of lumber, building materials, and other wood products.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description prepared by David W. Parham, Survey Specialist

Significance prepared by Joe Mobley, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

N. C. Division of Archives and History

June 14, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

919-733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

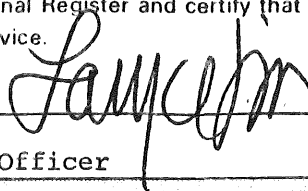
NATIONAL

STATE XX

LOCAL XX

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE July 12, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET OWNER OF PROPERTY ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Property is now in a revocable trust. Trustees are:

1. Mrs. Sylvia Lowe
304 North Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

2. Mrs. Diana Hobby
1506 South Boulevard
Houston, TX 77005

3. Mr. James E. Hughes, Sr. (Attorney for Mrs. Helen Poteat Marshall also)
Coudert Brothers
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Poteat House, named Forest Home by its first owner Captain James Poteat, is a substantial, and somewhat boxy frame Greek Revival dwelling located near Yanceyville (NR) in Caswell County, North Carolina. Sited on the remaining 619.92 acres of the Poteat family property, the Poteat House is significant as a well-preserved example of antebellum domestic architecture built in 1855-56 that has remained in the possession of a family whose members have contributed prominently to the state. The house was unoccupied from 1870 until 1928 during which time it and most of the associated dependencies suffered considerable deterioration, destruction, and vandalism. In 1928 a restoration was undertaken by Helen Poteat Stallings, a granddaughter of Captain Poteat, and her husband Laurence Stallings. At that time, the house, which had lost much of its interior woodwork and its portico, was restored and expanded and several new outbuildings were constructed. These changes will be discussed below. (See documentary photographs.)

The house, constructed on a center hall plan, consists of a two-story main block, three bays wide, with flanking one-story wings which are each one bay wide. Connected to the wings by bowed colonnaded hall passages are additions which were made at the time of the 1928 restoration, forming an informal three-sided courtyard in the rear of the house. The main block rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed in weatherboards with cornerposts carrying a low hipped tin roof; the wings are similarly sheathed but carry gabled tin roofs as do the modern additions. The fenestration of the main block and wings consists of six-over-six sash set within asymmetrically molded surrounds with louvered blinds. The passageways to the additions are lit by nine-light windows recessed behind the Doric colonnade while the additions display six-over-six sash on the facade, rear, and courtyard elevations and twelve-over-twelve sash on the exterior elevations. Two massive corbeled brick chimneys with hoods pierce the east and west eaves of the main block while the additions display central brick chimneys. In addition to the varied massing and fenestration, there are two entrances on the east and west elevations. A six-light door flanked by sidelights recessed behind the columns enters each of the passageways, while six-light doors to the north of the two nine-over-nine sash enter the outer elevations of the additions.

The facade elevation is dominated by a double pedimented portico supported by four plain Roman Doric columns and Doric pilasters on each story. The second story of the portico is distinguished by a balustrade of slender vertical and alternating diagonal members. The main entrance of the house consists of a two-leaf raised panel door surrounded by large sidelights and a transom overlight and set within a fluted surround. Sometime before 1928, the Poteat House had lost its original portico and the present one was constructed during the restoration according to family tradition, from descriptions provided by family members who remembered the original. A second phase of the facade restoration was the placement of the six-over-six sash in the wings; the original design, as evidenced by documentary photographs taken before the work was begun, displayed small gabled porticos sheltering entrances flanked by sidelights.

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The north, or rear, elevation received considerable work during the restoration with the addition of a double-tiered porch enclosed with screening. The porch roof, an extremely low hip design, is carried on a series of six square paneled columns and; an entablature with a molded cornice and a plain frieze. The second story of the porch displays a balustrade similar to that on the facade portico. The porch shelters two French doors on each story, which lead to the rooms of the main block, and the main rear entrance to the stair hall. The rear hall entrance consists of a two-leaf raised panel door beneath a paneled and fan-molded over-panel and set within a plain board surround.

The interior of the Poteat House is sheathed in plaster and displays robust, richly molded Greek Revival style woodwork, much of which was crafted during the restoration. The work was of extremely high quality, copying the remaining original examples and making it difficult to distinguish between the original woodwork and the modern replacements. The woodwork exhibits symmetrically fluted surrounds with roundel corner-blocks in the principal rooms and wide, molded baseboards reflecting the standard pattern book examples of the mid-nineteenth century. The mantels in the public rooms are well-executed Greek Revival designs with square Doric pilasters, plain friezes, and shelfbacks ornamented with acroteria. The second floor bedrooms display similar Greek Revival motifs which are executed more simply with less deeply molded fluting, plain cornerblocks, and pointed arch shelfbacks.

The wide entrance hall displays an open string stair which rises along the east wall through two quarter turns and a landing. The newel is a simple circular column surmounted by an octagonal capital member topped by a pommel; the molded rail is carried on light, turned balusters. Simple curvilinear ornamentation occurs on the string above a paneled spandrel area. Under the landing is a door recessed within a round-arched alcove with a rich symmetrically molded classical surround and a paneled keystone. The use of round-arch alcoves is continued in the parlor to the west of the hall where two alcoves flank the mantel, the right one of which contains a door of two raised panels leading to the west wing while the left contains shelves. The library and dining room, which share a common wall, display square-headed alcoves with similar functions flanking the mantels in those rooms.

In addition to the main house, the Poteat family estate includes a significant collection of outbuildings. According to family members, all of the dependencies known

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to have built with the house were destroyed during the time that the property was unoccupied except for a small slave cabin sited to the east of the main house. The cabin is a one-story gable-roofed structure of square-notch log construction with an engaged shed-roofed porch and a shed-roofed log addition on the rear. Also located on the estate are several tenant houses and tobacco barns and packhouses, one of which is a v-notch log structure which has been converted into a garage with the addition of sheds on the north and south elevations. In addition to the restoration conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Stallings, two structures were built for the convenience and leisure of the family, a storage building in the rear of the main house and a stable sited in a meadow to the west. Both are frame structures with gable roofs, box cornices, and octagonal louvered cupolas carrying bell-cast roofs. In addition, a caretaker's house was constructed, a simple frame structure with a gable roof and an engaged porch carried on plain Doric columns. A final associated site is a small cemetery in the center of the drive adjacent to the main house containing the grave of Lt. Lindsay Poteat who died in 1864.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1855-1856, 1928-1929 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Poteat House is significant in two ways: as a substantial antebellum Greek Revival house built for a locally prominent family and as the home of an important champion of academic freedom in the heat of the anti-evolution fervor. The Poteat House, also known as Forest Home, was built by James Poteat, a captain in the local militia in 1855-1856, shortly after he had married his second wife, Julia McNeill. The substantial boxy Greek Revival dwelling has continued to be the estate of the Poteats, a family of local and statewide prominence. Perhaps the most notable member of the family was Dr. William Louis Poteat, an educator, scientist, and religious leader who served as president of Wake Forest College for twenty-two years during which time he gained fame as a proponent of academic freedom in the face of severe public criticism for his stand on the teaching of evolution. Other prominent children of James Poteat were Edwin M. Poteat, president of Furman College in South Carolina, and Ida Poteat, who founded the Department of Art at Meredith College. In 1928 the Poteat House was restored and expanded by Dr. Poteat's daughter, Helen, and her husband, Laurence Stallings, a noted author and playwright. The home had been unoccupied since 1870, and the restoration, which entailed the reconstruction of the portico and much of the interior finish, brought the house to the form in which it stands today.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The Poteat House is associated with the antebellum agrarian prosperity of the northeastern Piedmont and Caswell County; and through its associations with Dr. William Louis Poteat, is a significant reminder of the successful struggle for academic freedom waged during a time when fundamental religious groups sought to control the subject matter taught in both public and private institutions of higher education.
- B. The Poteat House is associated with the life of Dr. William Louis Poteat, educator, scientist, and religious leader, who fought for academic freedom in spite of the attacks of conservative elements of the Baptist Church and the attempts of his opponents to remove him from the presidency of Wake Forest College. Largely through his efforts, such fundamentalist-inspired measures as the North Carolina "Monkey Bill," which would have prohibited the teaching of evolution in the public schools, was defeated.
- C. The Poteat House is significant as an example of the Greek Revival style of architecture as applied to a substantial dwelling that has remained in the same family since its construction. Although somewhat altered during its restoration, the house retains its original character.

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In 1838 James Poteat, a local militia captain, purchased approximately 382 acres of land on the waters of County Line Creek between Yanceyville and Milton in Caswell County.¹ Evidently it was here that he built the house which is now known as Forest Home. According to one authority on the Poteat family, Suzanne Cameron Linder, the house was complete in 1855-1856. Captain Poteat, who was a widower with five children by his first wife Isabella Roberts, had recently married the former Julia McNeill, and according to tradition, built Forest Home for his new bride. Julia McNeill Poteat was from a respected family in Caswell which had produced community leaders.

Forest Home was a prosperous plantation in the antebellum period. James Poteat expanded his holdings in Caswell County over the years. By 1860 he owned 1,200 acres of improved land and 800 acres of unimproved land valued at \$45,000, 109 sheep, 15 horses, ten mules, and other livestock--all valued at nearly \$5,000. His personal estate was valued at \$100,000. According to tradition he was one of the first farmers in the county to produce "bright leaf" tobacco. In 1860 his plantation produced 1,800 bushels of wheat, 4,000 of corn, two bales of cotton, and 40,000 pounds of tobacco. A grist mill, saw, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, and cooperage were also a part of the operation. Clothing, shoes, and other commodities were made on the premises for the use of eighty slaves. Poteat also had been one of the sixty-two earliest members of the Caswell County Agricultural Society in 1853 and was one of the three incorporators of the Yanceyville Female Seminary in 1864.⁵

A Poteat biographer, Suzanne C. Linder, described the personality and life style of the family in the prosperous antebellum years, representative of many similar plantation households. The captain was known throughout the county as "something of a sport" who "in smart clothes, driving a spanking two-horse team...cut a fine figure." When he arose each morning at Forest Home he first shaved and then went to the two-story, three-compartment bathhouse which stood in back of the main house for his daily shower. There a slave, Ruffin, climbed to the third level of the bathhouse with two buckets of water that he poured into a box with holes, and the water cascaded down on his waiting master. In winter the captain's side burns frequently were stiff with ice.

Overseeing the Forest kitchen was probably the responsibility of Julia Poteat. Mrs. Linder writes that

even in winter the brick kitchen across from the house was always warm. The mouth of its big fireplace would take in a six-foot log. The flagstone hearth reached four feet into the room. Sometimes the cooks pulled red hot coals into the flags and set pots among them. They cooked biscuits in a covered pan with coals beneath. The arms and rungs of the ladder-back were all round, lathe-turned, and it had a splint bottom.

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Mrs. Poteat supervised the work of the women slaves during the winter hog-killings when they boiled the lard out of the fat; ground sausage from the tenderloins; and prepared liver pudding, chittling, spare ribs, and hams for curing.³ The hams were stored in a brick smokehouse. The mistress of Forest Home served as hostess to the many friends and relatives who visited the plantation: neighbors like the Williamsons, the Womacks, the Graveses, the Leas, and the Robertsons. According to tradition "never a preacher passed without turning in to refresh himself at 'Sister Poteat's hospitable board," and the house was "regularly filled, the ladies using the east room upstairs, the gentlemen the west." Julia Poteat also supervised the weaving and making of clothing, tended sick family and slaves, and along with her husband, ran a plantation Sunday school in a little chapel which they had built for slaves.⁴

The Poteat plantation was hit hard by the Civil War, and the family faced the problems of a loss of capital due to the emancipation of their slaves and a shortage of ready cash. The value of James Poteat's estate decreased from \$145,000 in 1860 to \$26,000 in 1870. One son, Preston, went to work in a dry goods store in Yanceyville. In 1870 the family moved into the town and opened a hotel across the street from the county courthouse in which the Ku Klux Klan had murdered Justice of the Peace John W. (Chicken) Stevens only a short time before. Because James Poteat was almost seventy years old, many responsibilities fell on the younger Julia Poteat.⁶ Nevertheless, the family still retained possession of the family plantation, and in his will of 1888, James Poteat declared: "I give and bequeath to my darling wife my Forest Home Place..."⁷

The plantation is best remembered as the home of William Louis Poteat who was born there in 1856. Poteat spent most of his youth at Forest Home until he left for Wake Forest College in 1872. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1877, came back to Caswell County to study law, but returned to Wake Forest as a tutor of language at a salary of \$400 per year. In 1881 he was appointed a professor of science at \$600 per year, and a year later he married Miss Emma Purefoy the daughter of Addison Purefoy, a Baptist minister in Wake Forest. The couple had three children. In the summer of 1888 Poteat studied at the Zoological Institute of the University of Berlin. In recognition of his service and his German study, the trustees of Wake Forest awarded him the master's degree the following year. In the summer of 1893, he studied at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Hole, Massachusetts.⁸

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In 1905 Charles E. Taylor resigned from the presidency of Wake Forest College, and William Louis Poteat was appointed to that office. In the same year Baylor University awarded Poteat the LLD. degree. The appointment as president was to mark the beginning of Poteat's career as an educational and religious leader, a role that was to bring him fame and controversy.

During his tenure as president of Wake Forest Dr. Poteat contributed to the furtherance of education and religious principle. As a man of science and religion Dr. Billy, as he was fondly known by his students, embodied both disciplines. Among his contributions to the state and region was his leadership in forming the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, one of the South's first attempts to deal with racial problems. He also worked to improve conditions for the insane and in support of the temperance movement. He promoted better education in the public schools and a broader college science curriculum as well as the establishment of the laboratory method of scientific teaching.

Although he remained strongly religious and a devoted Baptist, his then liberal ideas concerning education, race relations, and scientific thought frequently brought Dr. Poteat into conflict with conservative North Carolinians, particularly the more traditional and fundamentalist Baptists.¹⁰

During the 1920s the teaching of the theory of evolution brought strong conflicts between the supporters of Charles Darwin's theories and religious fundamentalists throughout the South. National attention focused upon the 1925 Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tennessee, in which a teacher, John T. Scopes, was indicated for violating a state law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in the Tennessee public schools. The same opposition to evolutionary theories infected North Carolina, and religious fundamentalists led an attack on all efforts to reconcile Christian beliefs with modern scientific thought, especially the teaching of evolution.

As a professor of biology, Poteat had studied and taught Darwin's theories and reconciled his religious beliefs with accepted scientific thought. Much of Poteat's writing was concerned with this explosive issue, and particularly in his book Can a Man Be A Christian Today? he attempted to show that science and religion were not contradictory. Nevertheless many Baptists and other fundamentalists attacked him and attempted to have him removed as president of Wake Forest. Poteat successfully defended his position before the 1924 meeting of the North Carolina Baptist Convention in Winston-Salem when he spoke in favor of the principles which guided his teaching.¹¹

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At the 1925 Convention, another even more serious attack upon Poteat's teaching and his presidency was defeated, largely through the efforts of a large number of Wake Forest alumni who attended the Convention to support the president of their alma mater.¹² Poteat's long struggle for academic freedom also was seen to bear fruit in the North Carolina legislature when in 1925 the Poole Bill, which would have made the teaching of evolution illegal in the public schools and colleges of the state, was defeated. Of the twenty-one Wake Forest alumni sitting in the General Assembly, eighteen voted for the defeat of the Poole Bill, and before the vote President Harry W. Chase of the University of North Carolina said that the bill's defeat "would be in no small part because of the groundwork laid by Poteat 'in all these years of manful struggle.'"¹³

Dr. Poteat's efforts led to outpourings of praise from such figures as H. L. Mencken who called him "a sort of liaison officer between the Baptist revelation and human progress in his native state of North Carolina." Mencken further claimed that because of Dr. Poteat North Carolina was "the most intelligent" of the southern states. "They are still Christians down there," he declared, "but they no longer believe that the earth is flat, that man is not a mammal, or that Jonah swallowed the whale." For his heroic stand on behalf of educational and scientific freedom, Dr. Poteat earned the respect of many North Carolinians, especially since his stand jeopardized his place in the Baptist community of which he was such an integral part. He resigned as president of Wake Forest College in 1927, the same year that the second, and last, of Representative D. Scott Poole's attempts to pass an anti-evolution bill in the legislature was defeated in committee without reaching the floor of the House. Poteat died in 1938, the only man to serve as president of both the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the North Carolina Academy of Science.

During Dr. Poteat's years as president of Wake Forest, the Forest Home plantation was jointly owned by him, his brother Edwin M. Poteat, who was president of Furman College in South Carolina, and his sister Ida Poteat, who founded the art department at Meredith College in Raleigh. The property had been left to them jointly by their mother Julia McNeill Poteat in 1914.¹⁴ In 1928 the three sold the property to Helen Poteat Stallings, daughter of Dr. Poteat.¹⁵ She was married to Laurence Stallings, a famous playwright and author. Stallings, a native of Yanceyville, was best known for his play What Price Glory? the story of two career soldiers in France during World War I.¹⁶ Mr. and Mrs. Stallings restored the plantation house in 1928-1929 with the aid of two New York architects. Laurence Stallings died in 1968 and his wife was

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was subsequently remarried to Gordon P. Marshall. Mrs. Marshall placed the Forest Home estate in a revocable trust in 1971 with her daughters, Sylvia Lowe of Alexandria, Virginia, and Diana Hobby of Houston, Texas, and her attorney, Mr. James E. Hughes, Sr., of New York, serving as trustees.

Footnotes

¹ Caswell County Deed Books (microfilm), Archives; North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Deed Books DD:421-422; EE:63, hereinafter cited as Caswell Deed Books.

² Suzanne Cameron Linder, William Louis Poteat: Prophet of Progress (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966), 3,8.

³ Ibid, 5, 8, 13-14.

⁴ Ibid, 14, 15, 19.

⁵ William S. Powell, When the Past Refused to Die: A History of Caswell County North Carolina, 1777-1977 (Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1977), 114, 368, 475; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Caswell County, Population Schedule, 198; Linder, William Louis Poteat, 10-12.

⁶ Linder, William Louis Poteat, 19-21, 27.

⁷ Caswell County Original Wills, James Poteat, 1888, Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁸ Linder, William Louis Poteat, 29-30, 34-35, 48-51.

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⁹ Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1975), 594.

¹⁰ Linder, William Louis Poteat, 49, 100, 111, 171, 196.

¹¹ Linder, William Louis Poteat, 123-125.

¹² Linder, William Louis Poteat, 146-154.

¹³ Linder, William Louis Poteat, 130-137.

¹⁴ Caswell County Will Books (microfilm), Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Yanceyville, Will Books C:50.

¹⁵ Caswell Deed Books 82:473.

¹⁶ Richard Walser, Literary North Carolina (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1970/70).

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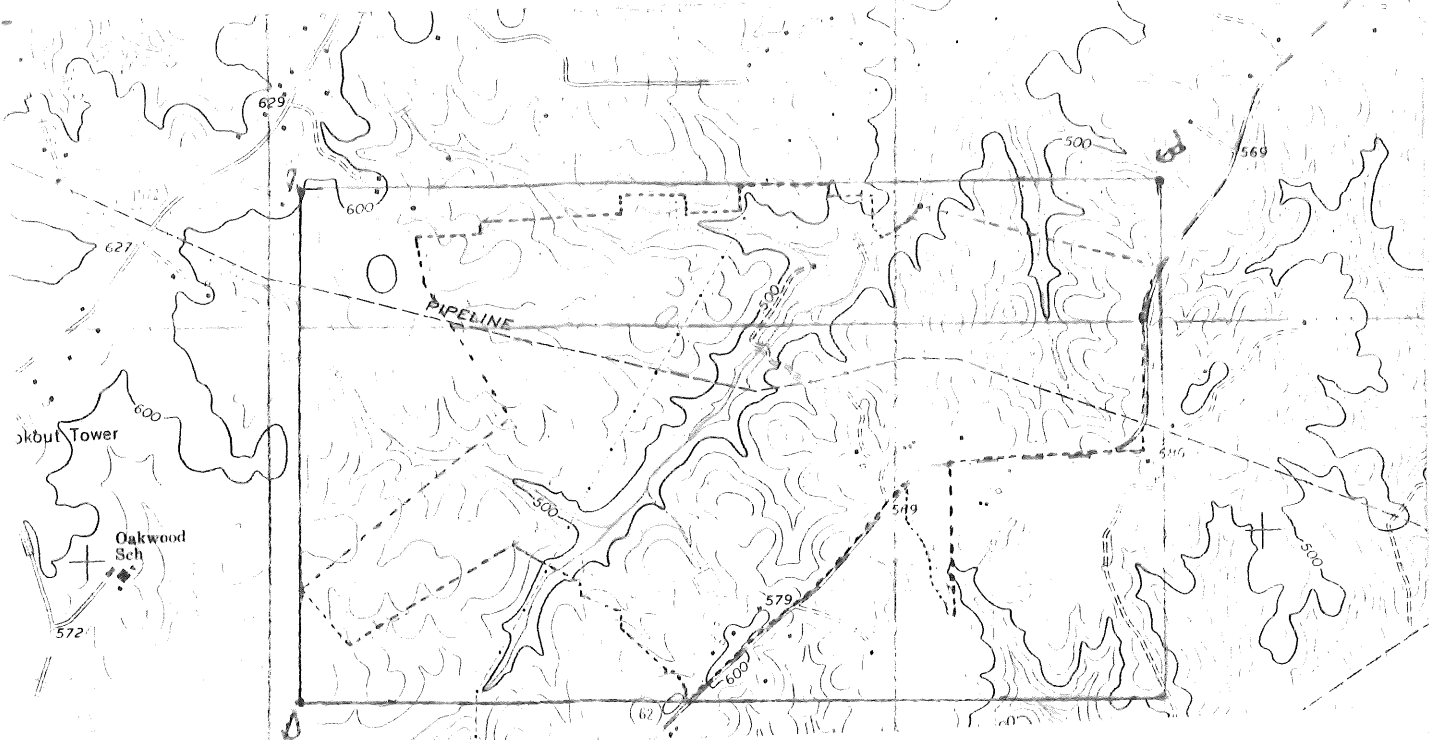
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