



1796

EDGEMONT

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

“Jefferson’s enthusiasm for ancient architecture arose in part from his conviction that the newly formed United States should develop an architecture to suit its politics: forthright, well balanced, moderate, and proportional.”

-K. EDWARD LAY, *The Architecture of Jefferson Country*





EDGEMONT

A Jeffersonian Jewel in the Foothills of the Blue Ridge

Edgemont is one of America's architectural gems. It is also one of the earliest examples of Thomas Jefferson's influence on the architectural style of his neighborhood in the Virginia Piedmont. Standing at the foot of Fan Mountain about 15 miles south of Charlottesville, it is reputed to be the last remaining private residence whose design is attributed to Jefferson.

Without question, Edgemont exemplifies the symmetry and classical proportions Jefferson championed for the young nation he helped establish. Displaying a hipped roof and pedimented porticos on all four sides, the

rusticated frame house is fifty feet square and is based on the Villa Capra (La Rotonda) in Vicenza, a masterwork by the 16th-century Italian architect Andrea Palladio. Jefferson considered Palladio's *Four Books of Architecture* his architectural bible and used the Villa Capra as the model for his anonymous—and unsuccessful—submission to the design competition for what would become the White House. Earlier, the Villa Capra provided the inspiration for Lord Burlington's Chiswick House in west London, which helped give rise to the Palladian revival in England in the 1720s.



Today, Edgemont overlooks a farm estate comprising 572 acres of formal gardens, rolling pastures, and mature hardwood forest on the South Fork of the Hardware River. Like Jefferson's Monticello, the home is encompassed by a carefully planned landscape that abounds in exquisite ornamental plantings and enchanting spaces. To these have been added a tennis court, swimming pool, pool house, and guest quarters that harmonize perfectly with the historic grounds.

Among Albemarle County landmarks, Edgemont is unmatched in its combination of history, scenic beauty, livability, and design elegance inside and out. Moreover, it reflects the legacy of a Founding Father for whom architecture was a lifelong passion and delight.



*In 1936, Edgemont was found in a dilapidated state by the restoration architect Milton L. Grigg and the photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston, who took the black-and-white photo above. In his book *The Architecture of Jefferson Country*, author K. Edward Lay describes Grigg's extensive work on the house as a masterpiece in its own right.*

HISTORY

Edgemont was built around 1796 by James Powell Cocke (1748-1827) on a tract he acquired from Robert Nelson. Born at Malvern Hill, he served as a justice for his native Henrico County before moving first to Augusta County and then to Albemarle County in search of a healthier climate free of malaria. At Edgemont, he operated a 1,600-acre farm and a nearby gristmill and is buried in a small family cemetery on the site. In 1825 he sold the dwelling and 875 acres to Martha Ann Cocke, the widow of his son James Powell Cocke, Jr.

Although Jefferson's role in the design of Edgemont is uncertain (alas, no drawings survive), this sophisticated structure clearly bears his stamp. It shares many similarities with other houses he designed, including the home of William Madison, brother of James Madison, at Woodberry Forest in Orange County. A 1796 letter from Jefferson to Wilson C. Nicholas provides a clue to his involvement:

"I now enclose you the draught you desired, which I have endeavored to arrange according to the ideas you expressed, of having the entry, not through the principal room as in Mr. Cocke's house, but at the cross passage."





It is likely that “Mr. Cocke’s house” is Edgemont, where the main entrance opens into a reception hall.

Edgemont also bears the mark of another distinguished architect: Milton L. Grigg (1905-1982). After working in Williamsburg and serving as restoration architect for Monticello, he would restore and embellish Edgemont for two owners, Dr. Graham Clark in 1938 and William Snead in 1946.

Among other alterations, Grigg completed Edgemont’s Palladian design scheme by adding two of the house’s four Tuscan-columned porticoes. On a foundation discovered at the two-level east facade, he built a striking colonnade-over-arcade entry that echoes those of two other Jeffersonian landmarks, Pavilion VII at the University of Virginia and Poplar Forest.

Edgemont is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register and is part of the Southern Albemarle National Register Rural Historic District.



EDGEMONT'S INTERIORS

The ingeniously efficient layout of Edgemont's interiors is quintessentially Jeffersonian. Also, this two-level structure appears to be a single-story home from the front, another Jeffersonian device. The main entry is on the upper floor and opens into a reception hall graced with a modillioned cornice and a Palladian archway installed during Milton Grigg's restorations, as well as the original mantel. The walls are covered by a sweeping panorama of a hunting scene by Zuber & Cie.

Across from the archway is Grigg's pedimented entry into the octagonal drawing room, the centerpiece of the house. This light-filled space is rimmed by an egg-and-dart cornice over an ornate swag motif and features an Adamesque mantel and other details added over the years. At the east end, French windows open onto a portico that looks out upon the terraced gardens and the river below. Flanking the octagonal salon are a master bedroom and a guestroom with molded cornices, wainscoting, mantels, and other details original to the house. Much early hardware survives as well. Also on this level are the master dressing room and a paneled library.

A narrow, hidden stairway—yet another design feature Jefferson favored—leads to the garden level below. At its center is the sun-drenched dining room, dominated by a wide stone fireplace outfitted with cranes and pothooks. Arched French windows open onto a patio and the terraced landscape beyond. To one side of the dining room is a kitchen with granite countertops and updated appliances, as well as a breakfast room with the remains of a stone fireplace. To the other side are a sitting room and an office. Timbered ceilings add to the rustic flavor of these charming and eminently convenient spaces.





GARDENS AND GROUNDS

The two acres of lovingly maintained gardens at Edgemont reflect one of its most prominent Jeffersonian qualities: the integration of the building into a well-planned landscape. As part of his restoration work, Milton Grigg designed the terraced gardens at Edgemont based on the outlines of old beds and brick paths. Lined by rock walls and bisected by brick walkways, these grounds encompass formal parterres, a rose garden, a water garden, and a bowling green, among other features. At two corners are rubblestone outbuildings, one original and the other replicated by Grigg as a dovecote. The sum is a tranquil setting that provides abundant visual delights throughout the year.







PAVILIONS AND OTHER DWELLINGS

Milton Grigg seamlessly incorporated many Jeffersonian elements into his renovations and additions at Edgemont. Among them are two underground passageways with lunette windows that lead to a pair of dependencies he designed. They contain sitting rooms, bedrooms, baths, and kitchen areas. Sheltered from the elements, the symmetrical links between the main house and its outbuildings borrow a design concept Jefferson employed at Monticello and on the Lawn at the University of Virginia.





In addition to the twin dependencies attached to the main house, other dwellings on the property include a stone and weatherboard farm manager's house, a cabin on a wooded lot, and a restored two-story log house. These structures are set against a backdrop of forested mountain terrain that rises to an elevation of nearly 1,000 feet.





FARM AND IMPROVEMENTS

Edgemont Farm is in the Green Mountain district of southern Albemarle County, a rolling landscape that is renowned for its well-preserved and productive farm estates. Currently supporting a cattle operation, Edgemont Farm includes extensive and well-maintained pasturage and a barn complex with new and historic structures that house a full complement of up-to-date improvements.

Edgemont is an early and stellar example of Jeffersonian classicism, an architectural style that would be adopted by its neighbors over the decades and that would be woven into the historic fabric of rural Albemarle County and the Virginia Piedmont.





EDGEMONT

— 1796 —



3392 Edgemont Farm, North Garden, VA 22959



To make an appointment please contact:

STEPHEN T. MCLEAN
McLean Faulconer Inc.

Office: 434-295-1131
Cell: 434-981-1863

smclean@mcleanfaulconer.com





·MCLEAN·
FAULCONER INC.
Farm, Estate and Residential Brokers

503 Falconer Drive, Suite 5, Charlottesville, VA 22903
mccleanfalconer.com



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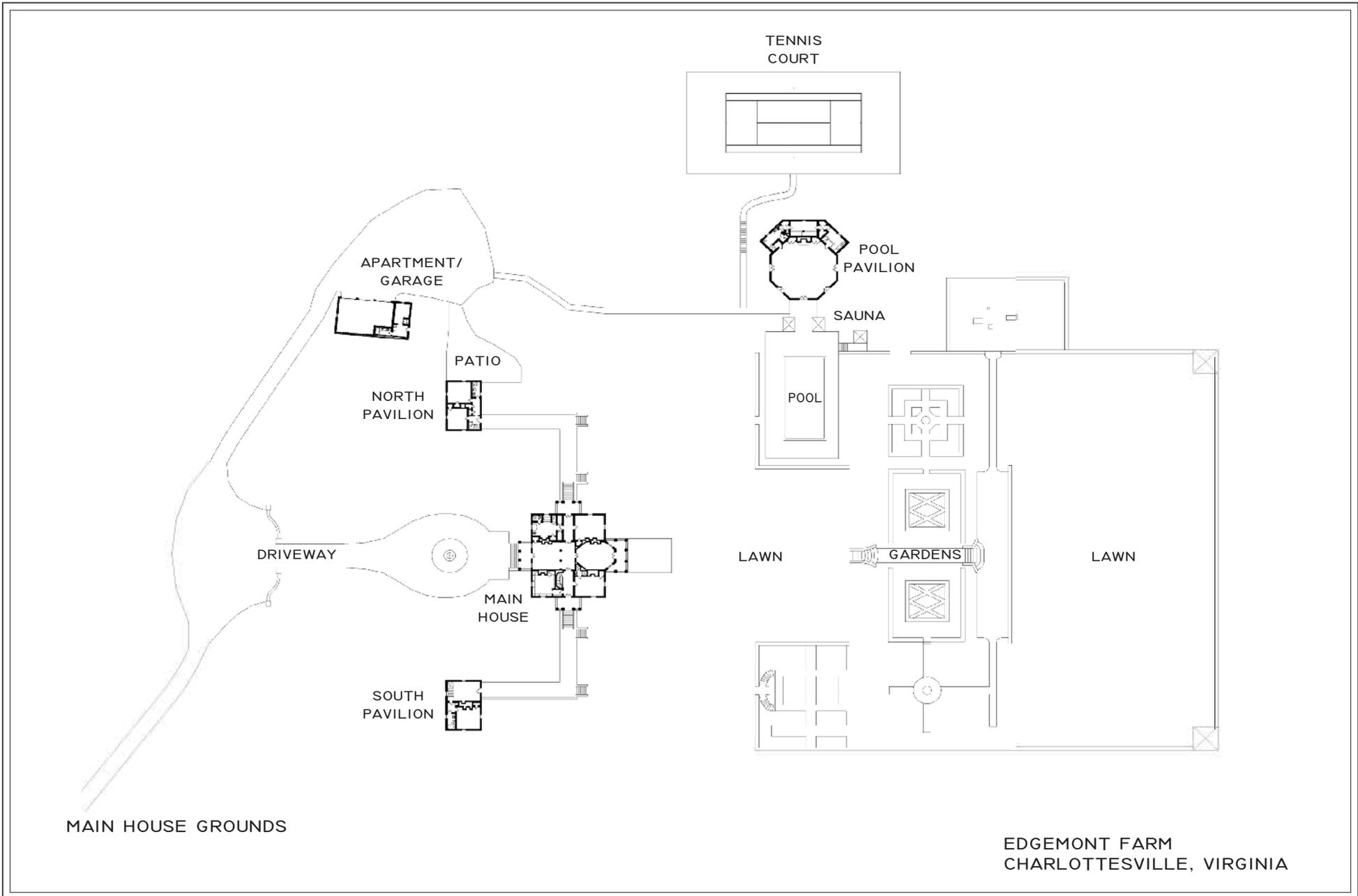
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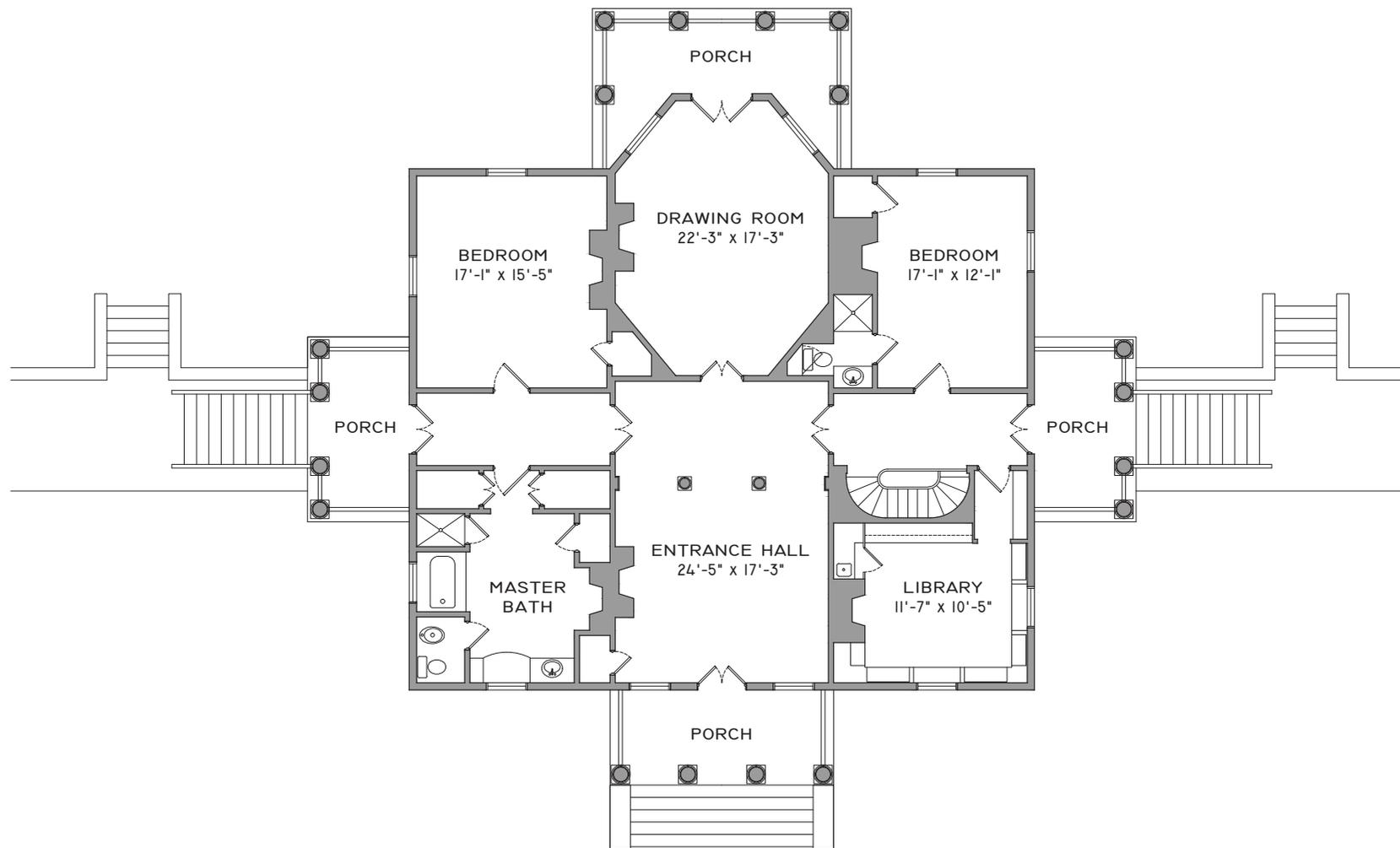
EDGEMONT



MAIN HOUSE GROUNDS

EDGEMONT FARM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

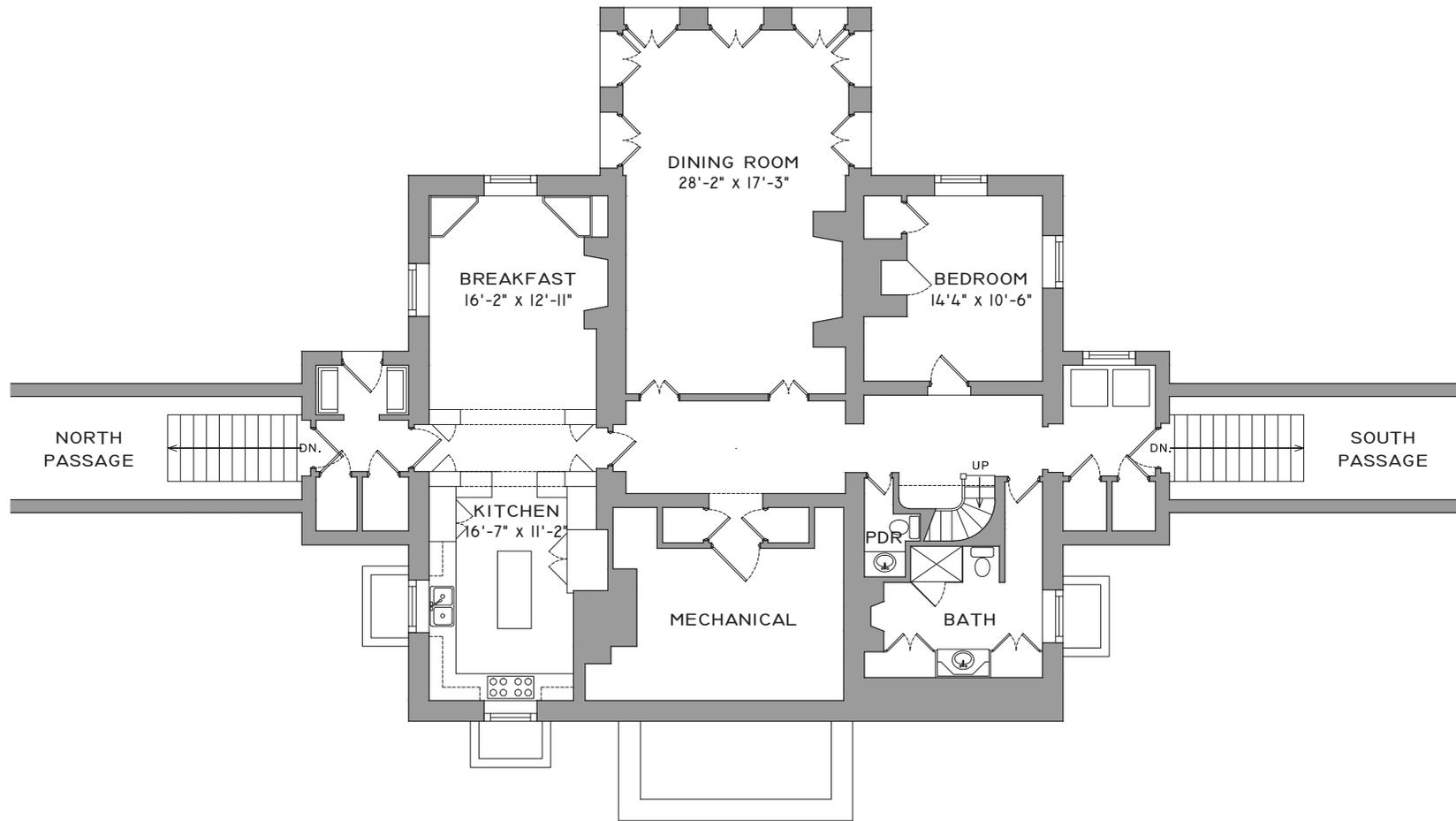
EDGEMONT



MAIN LEVEL PLAN

MAIN HOUSE
EDGEMONT FARM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

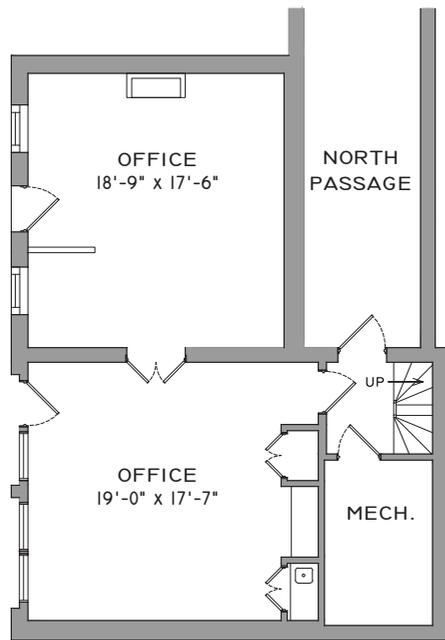
EDGEMONT



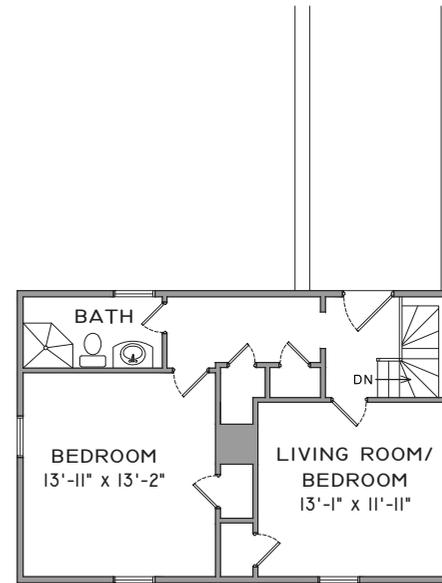
GROUND LEVEL PLAN

MAIN HOUSE
EDGEMONT FARM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

EDGEMONT



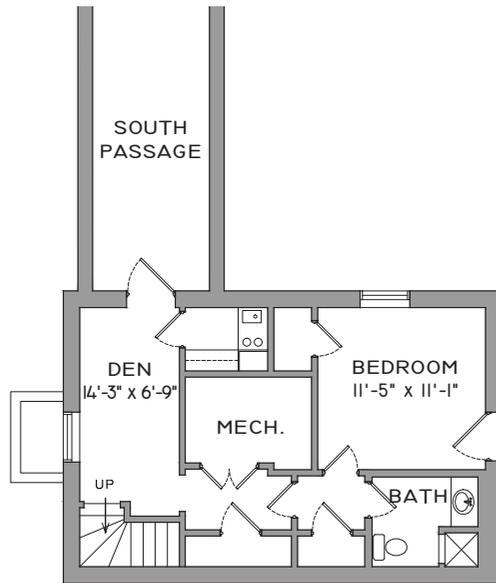
GROUND LEVEL PLAN



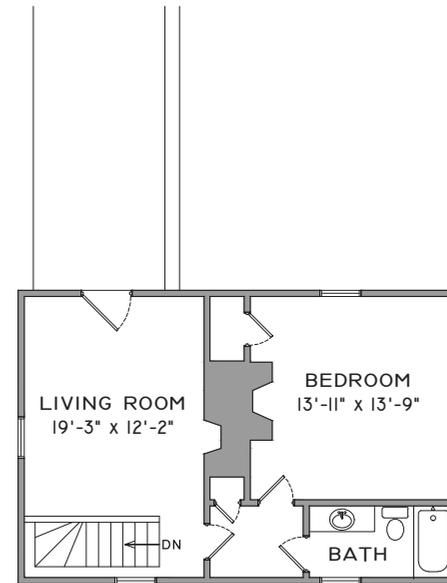
MAIN LEVEL PLAN

NORTH PAVILION
EDGEMONT FARM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

EDGEMONT



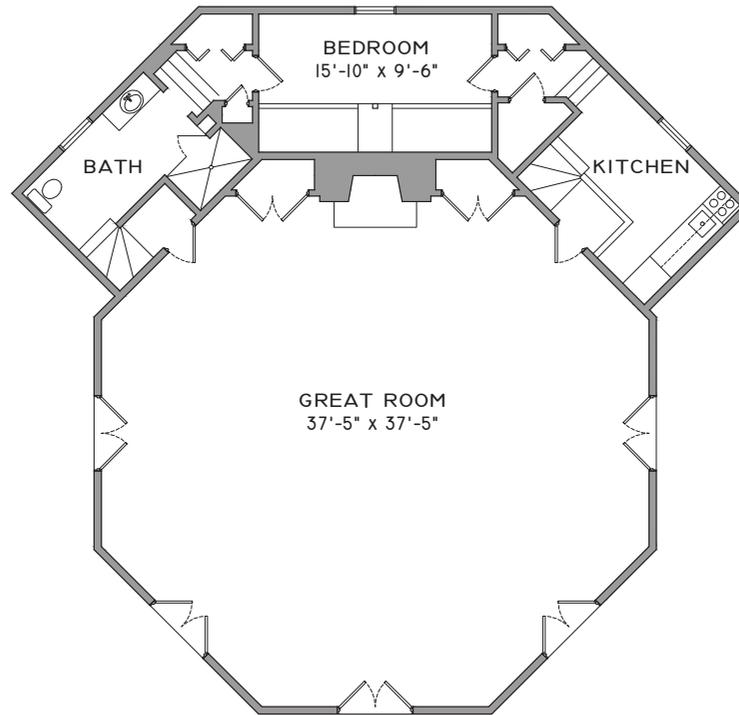
GROUND LEVEL PLAN



MAIN LEVEL PLAN

SOUTH PAVILION
EDGEMONT FARM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

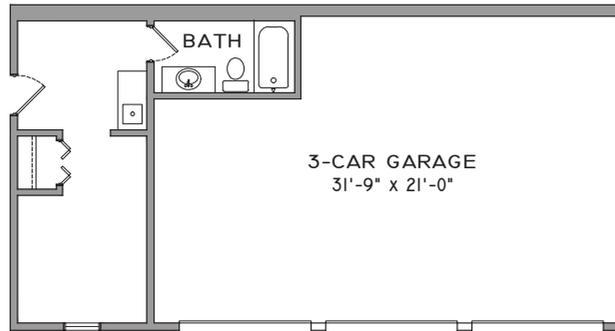
EDGEMONT



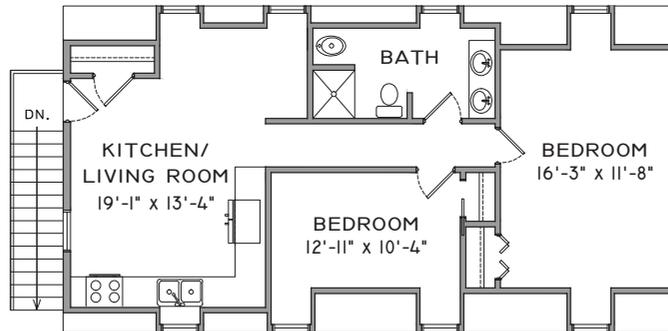
POOL HOUSE PLAN

POOL HOUSE
EDGEMONT FARM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

EDGEMONT



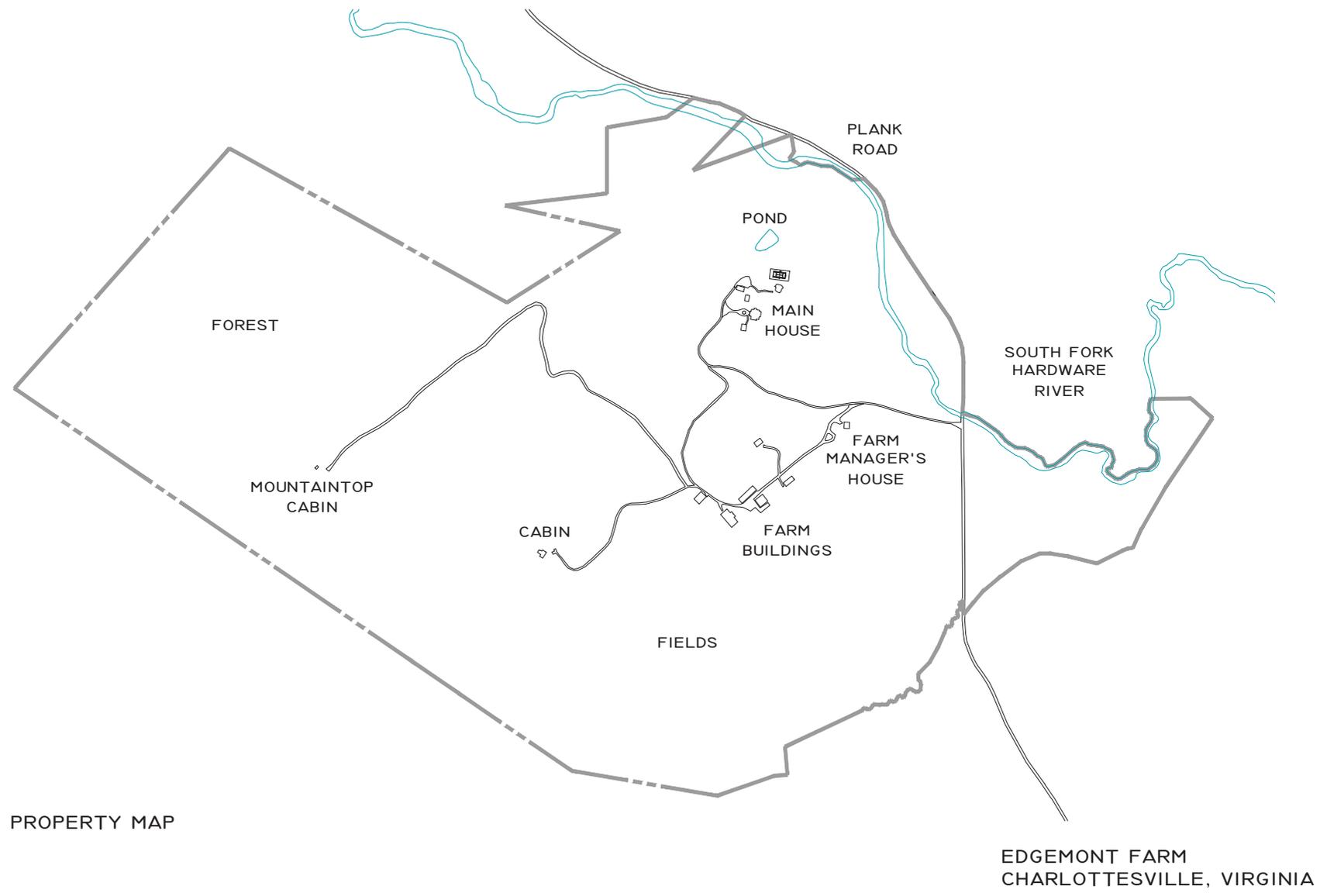
GARAGE PLAN



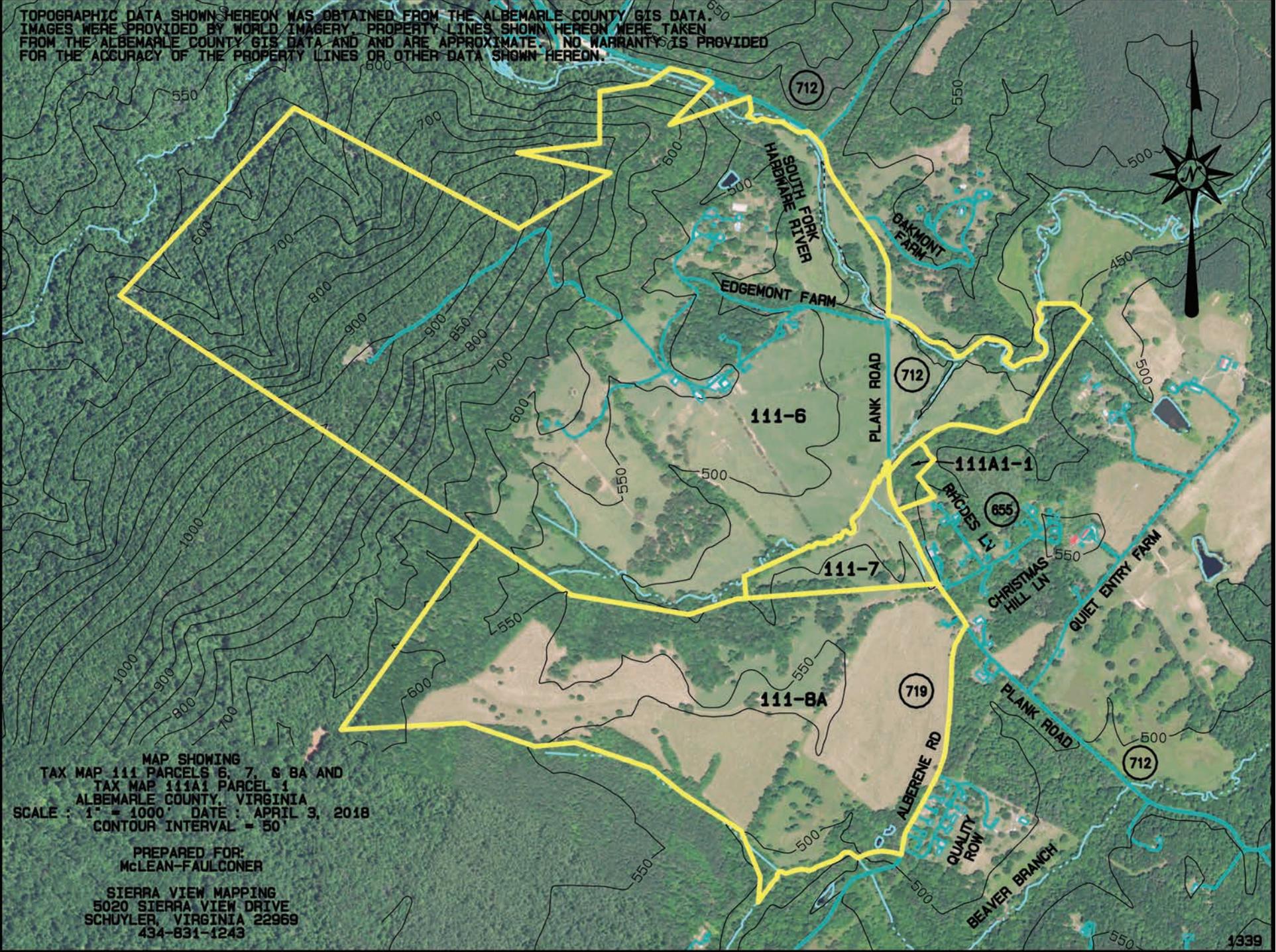
APARTMENT PLAN

GARAGE & APARTMENT
EDGEMONT FARM
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

EDGEMONT



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MAP SHOWING
TAX MAP 111 PARCELS 6, 7, & 8A AND
TAX MAP 111A1 PARCEL 1
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
SCALE : 1" = 1000' DATE : APRIL 3, 2018
CONTOUR INTERVAL = 50'

PREPARED FOR:
McLEAN-FAULCONER

SIERRA VIEW MAPPING
5020 SIERRA VIEW DRIVE
SCHUYLER, VIRGINIA 22969
434-831-1243