AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
Virginia Section
History Committee
Proposal to:
National Historic Chemical Landmarks
(NHCL or Landmarks)
of the American Chemical Society

About NHCL
• To Promote the Appreciation of the Chemical Sciences
• ACS NHCL Subcommittee
• ACS Board Committee of Public Affairs and Public Relations
• Since 1992, Approximately 88 Sites
• One in Virginia, at Jamestown

THE ROTUNDA GROUND FLOOR
• University of Virginia
• Charlottesville, Virginia
PROPOSED BY
THOMAS JEFFERSON
Third President of the United States of America (1801)
Founder and Rector of the
University of Virginia

Facility proposed during 1841-1819 period
Virginia General Assembly granted $60 000 loan

- Part of T Jefferson's successful attempt to get
  John Emmet to UVa as first chemistry professor
- Burn wood or coal in two fire boxes
- Underground tunnels to supply air
- Flue to remove smoke and fumes
- Five student work stations

Thomas Jefferson and John Emmet both believed
that students needed to perform Chemistry
experiments to learn Chemistry

- Sealed off during 1840-1850 period
  Protected from 1895 Rotunda fire which
  destroyed interior
- Found in February 2013 by John G. Waite
  Associates architects in preparing designs for
  restoration of the Rotunda Ground Floor

ORIGINAL USE
Use of the area as a classroom and laboratory
for various levels of professors and students
for demonstrations and laboratories for
experiments in CHEMISTRY. The most unique
feature in the area was a CHEMICAL HEARTH
which was used in teaching chemistry.
**American Chemical Society, National**
Provide the Historical Marker  
Publish Booklet and Entry on the Website (National Historic Chemical Landmarks)  

**Local Section**
Sponsor Ceremony for Inclusion of the Site  
Proposed: April Virginia Section Meeting at UVa, possibly 2020, more likely 2021.  
Ceremony: as Section sees fit to be Planned with Mary Ellen Bowden, National Office and Sophie Royner, NHCLP Manager.

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**Other Resources**

- Brian E. Hogg, Senior Historic Preservation Planner, Office of the Architect, University of Virginia  
- Diana Waite, Historical Research on Thomas Jefferson’s role in the Rotunda Ground Floor design
NATIONAL HISTORIC CHEMICAL LANDMARK

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
Northumberland, Pennsylvania 1790

Joseph Priestley 1733-1804, Unitarian minister, scientist, political, and social philosopher, Freemason, and friend to Benjamin Franklin. Priestley's experiments in the combustion of gases laid the foundation for the science of chemistry. He was the first to isolate and study oxygen, using it to add to the work of Priestley in the field of chemistry. In 1772, he was one of the first to discover the properties of chlorine, which he named after his native country, Greece.

VIRGINIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS
1915-2015