

STATE:  
**Virginia**

COUNTY:  
**Lexington (City)**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

VLR: 12/17/74 NRHP: 04/01/75  
(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Stono**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Jordan's Point**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**North side of intersection of Route 303 and Route 11.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lexington**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE: **51** COUNTY: **(In City)**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin G. Locher**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Stono**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lexington**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE:  
**51**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Rockbridge County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lexington**

STATE:  
**Virginia**

CODE:  
**51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
**1965**

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D.C.**

CODE:  
**11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Virginia**

COUNTY: **Lexington (City)**

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stono is sited on a bluff, Jordan's Point, overlooking the Maury River, at the north end of the Virginia Military Institute campus in Lexington. The property is approached from the rear by a winding lane to the east. Three of its early outbuildings remain, including one which is now incorporated in the fabric of the main house.

The original portion of the house is cruciform, having a two-story central section and one-story wings and is laid in Flemish bond. The façade is dominated by a two-story Roman Doric portico with a modillioned pediment and lunette and a gallery at second-floor level. Typical of its builder's work, the columns are very thin and closely spaced. The two-story portion is three-bays wide with a leaded semi-circular fanlight over the central entry, and a similarly treated door leads to the porch above. Each of the wings is two-bays wide, and the entire house, except for the portico, is encircled by a four-course, molded-brick cornice. All of the windows have six-over-six sash with unadorned openings and rowlock heads.

Behind the large entry hall in the main block is a narrow transverse stair hall with its own exterior door, and behind this is a parlor. The east wing is given over to a library, and the west wing is the dining room.

The house was extended 60 feet to the rear (south) around 1870 by the construction of a one-and-one-half story connection to a one-story loom house in the rear. Two other rooms have been added to the rear of the west wing.

The woodwork at Stono is elegant but restrained. Flush wainscoting and a plain denticulated cornice encircle the entrance hall. The original mantel, now in the library, has robust Doric colonnettes surmounted by architrave blocks with carved vertical, elliptical sunbursts on three sides, and a bold shelf is broken around these architrave blocks. A central tablet has a larger, horizontal sunburst like those over the colonnettes. Enclosing the firebox is a cast iron surround with circular and elliptical panels, made by the house's builder, John Jordan, at his ironworks. A pair of fanlight doorways, one leading to the stair hall and the other to the outside, complete the woodwork in the entry. Both have reeded casings with corner blocks, molded keystones, and wooden mullions.

Flush wainscoting, topped by a chair rail, less elaborate than that in the hall, decorates the library. The original mantel here is now in the entrance hall. It has reeded Doric pilasters with incised elliptical sunbursts over them and in the central tablet. The library fireplace is outfitted with an iron stove made by Jordan himself. The woodwork in the dining room and parlor resembles that in the library, but with minor differences of detail such as the use of paneled rather than reeded pilasters in the parlor mantel.

The stairs with their flush dado, plain banister, rectangular balusters, and attenuated newel are enlivened by a curious detail. The banister passes over the newel and terminates in a delicately carved dog's head which is said to represent Jordan's favorite hound.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Lexington (City)	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

An early summer kitchen stands in the southwest angle of the house. To the west is a circular limestone rubble icehouse with a conical roof, and to the east is a square brick office with a low pyramidal roof and a high stone basement on the rear, downslope side.

DTU

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1818-19

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stono with the buildings of the Virginia Military Institute forms the impressive river aspect of Lexington. Its brickwork, three-part Palladian plan, refined interior woodwork, and eccentric proportions make the house one of the most distinctive works by John Jordan, an early Lexington builder and industrialist whose architectural ideas were shaped by the architecture of Thomas Jefferson. Jordan had been employed on the 1806 remodeling of Monticello and in the later construction of the University of Virginia.

John Jordan (1777-1854) was born in Goochland County, Virginia, and later lived in Halifax County before emigrating to Lexington in 1802. He gradually built up a flourishing industrial and construction empire which included iron smelting and grist mills, a blacksmith shop, cotton and woolen textile manufacturing, and building and architectural work. For fifty years, he dominated building construction in Lexington and was responsible for nearly every important building erected there during that period. The first structure with which he was associated was Mulberry Hill, a large house erected around 1803. Shortly thereafter he worked for Jefferson at Monticello then returned to his own activities at Lexington. Little Stono (1816) was probably the first building which was entirely his own work. During the 1820s, he constructed the Balcony Falls section of the James River and Kanawha Canal and the Washington Building at what is now Washington and Lee University.

Stono, originally called Jordan's Point, was built by Jordan for his own residence in 1818. His use of the so-called three-part Palladian scheme with a colossal Roman Doric portico and the hilltop siting of the house recall Jefferson's work. In addition Jordan used a plan consisting of a central block with front and rear rooms and single-cell wings, with a de-emphasized stair, reminiscent of Jefferson's early plans for Monticello.

Except for the defoliation of the site by Union gunboats during the Civil War, Stono has had an uneventful history since Jordan's time. Its present owners acquired it in 1958.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Boley, Henry. Lexington in Old Virginia. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1936.  
 Donovan, Jerry J., "John Jordan, Virginia Builder,": Journal of Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. IV, No. 3, 1950.  
 Isley, Willard, "John Jordan, Builder," Proceedings. Rockbridge County Historical Society, Vol. VII, 1966-69.  
 Loth, Calder, "The Ante Bellum Architecture of Washington and Lee University," unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Virginia, 1967.  
 Major, Howard. The Domestic Architecture of the Early American Republic, 1926. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		37 47 . 25 .	79 0 25 . 50 .	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: December 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

DEC 17 1974

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Lexington, Va. 1967

STONO  
Latitude  
37° 47' 25"

Longitude  
79° 25' 50"

