

VLR: 1-18-72
NRHP: 5-5-72

127-64

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: RICHMOND (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
STEWART-LEE HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
STEWART-LEE HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
707 East Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond (David E. Satterfield, III, Third District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 760
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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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 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:
Confederate Memorial Literary Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
707 East Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Once part of a group of five houses built by Norman Stewart between 1844 and 1849, the Stewart-Lee House is the solitary domestic survivor of one of Richmond's finest residential blocks. Although the house was built to harmonize with other dwellings on "Stewart's row", it was constructed as a free-standing structure flanked on the east by a three-story duplex and on the west by a row of two-and-a-half story gable roofed houses. The Stewart-Lee House ranks among the best preserved remaining examples of a three-story Greek Revival town house which was popular in Richmond in the mid 1840's. These tall, "shoe-box-shaped" buildings were generally constructed with a side hall plan, a full basement and upon relatively little ground area.

The Stewart-Lee House is a three-story town house of pressed brick laid in stretcher bond. The building's vertical strength is heightened by the subtle diminution of the fenestration, the narrow facade and the sharp outline resulting from the restraint of detail. The low hipped roof is pierced by four interior end chimneys and is skirted by a simple molded cornice with a plain frieze. Photographs taken in the 1860's show an open balustrade with solid panels crowning the roof line.

From the front the house is three bays wide with six-over-six double hung sash windows surrounded by molded wooden architraves. Each window is framed by a stone lintel, a stone slip sill and two-panel wooden shutters. A Doric portico occupies the left bay on the first floor. The fluted Doric columns and unfluted pilasters linked by cast iron grilles, support a broad band entablature. Granite stairs flanked by stepped podii with panelled fronts, lead to the granite threshold of the four-panelled front door. The door which retains its brass knob and bell-pull is surmounted by a one-light transom and bounded by four-light side-lights. The ceiling of the portico is panelled. The portico is cantilevered over an area into which the full-basement is recessed. Granite steps to the right of the portico lead down to the centrally located basement door which is topped with a one-light transom. A stone water-table appearing only on the facade, separates the first floor from the basement. Also visible from the front is a one-bay, two-story wing which is attached to the rear of the western side. The wing was taken down in 1913 and reconstructed on a foundation of concrete and with a cornice of galvanized iron to replace the wooden one.

The right side facing west is blind. In 1967 when a high-rise building was being built next door, underpinnings were placed beneath the west walls and steel beams were driven into the ground near the front of the Stewart-Lee House.

To the east or on the left side of the house the length is two bays. A brick herringbone wall follows this side and granite steps descend to the back garden.

The shallow front yard is enclosed by a cast iron fence decorated with a Greek fret in the lower border and a diamond and star pattern in the upper border. The fence is supported by fluted posts topped with pineapples and is identical except for the gate with the fence of the Barret House which was built in the same year. An iron boot-scraper with open volute ends is mounted on a stone block to the left of the front portico. In addition, a stone plaque set into the brick facade between the first and second stories reads: "The residence of the family of General Robert E. Lee 1864-1865 and to which he retired after Appomattox."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1844

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although it is a fine example of domestic architecture, the Stewart-Lee House has been preserved over the years mainly for its historic connection with General Robert E. Lee. Lot #491 as it appears on the original plan of Richmond was once a part of an entire square bounded by 7th, 8th, Franklin and Main Streets, and owned by the Secretary of the Council of State, Archibald Blair. In 1842 after the land's division into lots, Beverly Blair, heir of Archibald Blair, sold Lot #491 to James Bosher who sold it to Norman Stewart in 1843. Stewart, a tobacco merchant originally from Rothesay, Scotland built his residence on this lot in 1844. Upon Stewart's death in 1856, the house was left to his nephew John Stewart who rented it during the war to General Custis Lee and a group of young Confederate officers. In 1864 the "bachelor's mess", as it was called, was dispersed by the arrival of Robert E. Lee's ^{WIFE} mother and ^{DAUGHTERS} sisters who occupied the house after the confiscation of "Arlington".*

On April 15, 1865 General Robert E. Lee retired to 707 East Franklin Street following the surrender at Appomattox. It was here also that Matthew Brady took his well-known photographs of the general. Finally as the result of constant callers, the family left for the country towards the end of June.

An 1871 "Visitor's Guide to Richmond and Vicinity" cites a Mrs. George Davis as the occupant of 707 East Franklin Street. Between 1871 and 1876 the house was rented to Judge Anthony M. Keily, the mayor of Richmond. In 1879 the Westmoreland Club used the Stewart-Lee House. During the 1880's the house was rented by Mr. William O. English and Mr. Robert N. Gordon. Mr. English married Miss Jessie Gordon, whose renowned girls school was moved here for a short time.

In 1893 the heirs of Mary A. Stewart gave the building to the Virginia Historical Society "for the use and occupation of the Virginia Historical Society as a library and assembly rooms." The Society occupied the premises until 1959 and during that period added the two-story fireproof addition to serve as a library and manuscript depository. When the Society moved its headquarters to Battle Abbey in 1959, the title reverted to the Stewart heirs who conveyed the Stewart-Lee House to the Confederate Memorial Literary Society in 1961.

* SCOTT, MARY WINSFIELD, HOUSES OF OLD RICHMOND, p. 224.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY RICHMOND (in cit.)	
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(Number all entries)

7. The rear of the Stewart-Lee House is three bays and is sheltered by a triple tiered Tuscan porch supported by brick piers at the basement level. Only the windows on the third floor are surmounted by stone lintels whereas shutters appear on all floors but the third. In the right bay of the first and basement floors are six-panel doors with three-light side lights and on the second and the first floors there are doors into the western wing.

The fireproof annex built in 1933 by the Virginia Historical Society is attached to the west wing by a rounded corner. This annex intended for books and manuscripts was constructed on the former site of the kitchen, stable and servants quarters. The annex is made of six to one Common bond brick and is two stories high. The seven bays are filled with long windows with stone sills and protective iron bars. On the wall of the wing is a tablet to Traveller, General Lee's famous horse, dedicated by the Deep Run Hunt Club.

The side hall plan of the interior includes a hall on the left with a flight of stairs to the rear and on the right there are two rooms joined by a broad double door. On all levels but the first, there is a small room over the front of the hall. Deeply cut moldings which appear to hang from the ceiling are executed only on the first floor but the molded baseboards exist on all levels.

There is a similarity in the treatment of the windows and the doors on each floor. On the first floor the windows for instance are recessed into an architrave composed of an overhanging molded cornice with double frieze supported by panelled pilasters. The molded baseboard projects slightly to form a base for the pilaster. A roll molding immediately frames the opening. The second floor architraves have flatter molding and rosette filled corner blocks.

The floors and the stairs are made of a plain plank pine. The front stairway has a mahogany newel post with bulbous turnings. The round rail is supported by round, tapered balusters. The open stringer is cut with S-curves and there is panelling in the section below.

The house was heated by fireplaces decorated with black marble. Their design is simple having either a peaked segmental arch or a trebeated opening. Many are filled with cast iron units. Brass door knobs are used on the first floor and Bennington knobs on the other levels.

In 1897 a Mr. N. E. Ancarrow was employed by the Virginia Historical Society to strengthen the floors to support the weight of the new library. As recently as 1967 work was done to repair the porches and replace a ceiling, decking, nails and miscellaneous trim.

6. Historic American Building Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Code: 11

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chancery Will Book 2, p.108.
 Deed Books: 45 pp. 321 & 344; 150C p. 270; 604B p.401.
 Directories 1876-1894.
 Files of The Valentine Museum, Houses, Richmond; East Franklin Street(Lee House).
 Files of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Richmond, Stewart-Lee House.
Houses of Old Richmond, Mary Wingfield Scott.
 Land Book: 1845.
Old Richmond Neighborhoods, Mary Wingfield Scott.
Richmond Homes and Memories, Robert Munford.

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	32'	23"	77°	26'	14"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 10 acres.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff; James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: October, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____
 James W. Moody, Jr., Director
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks
 Commission

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

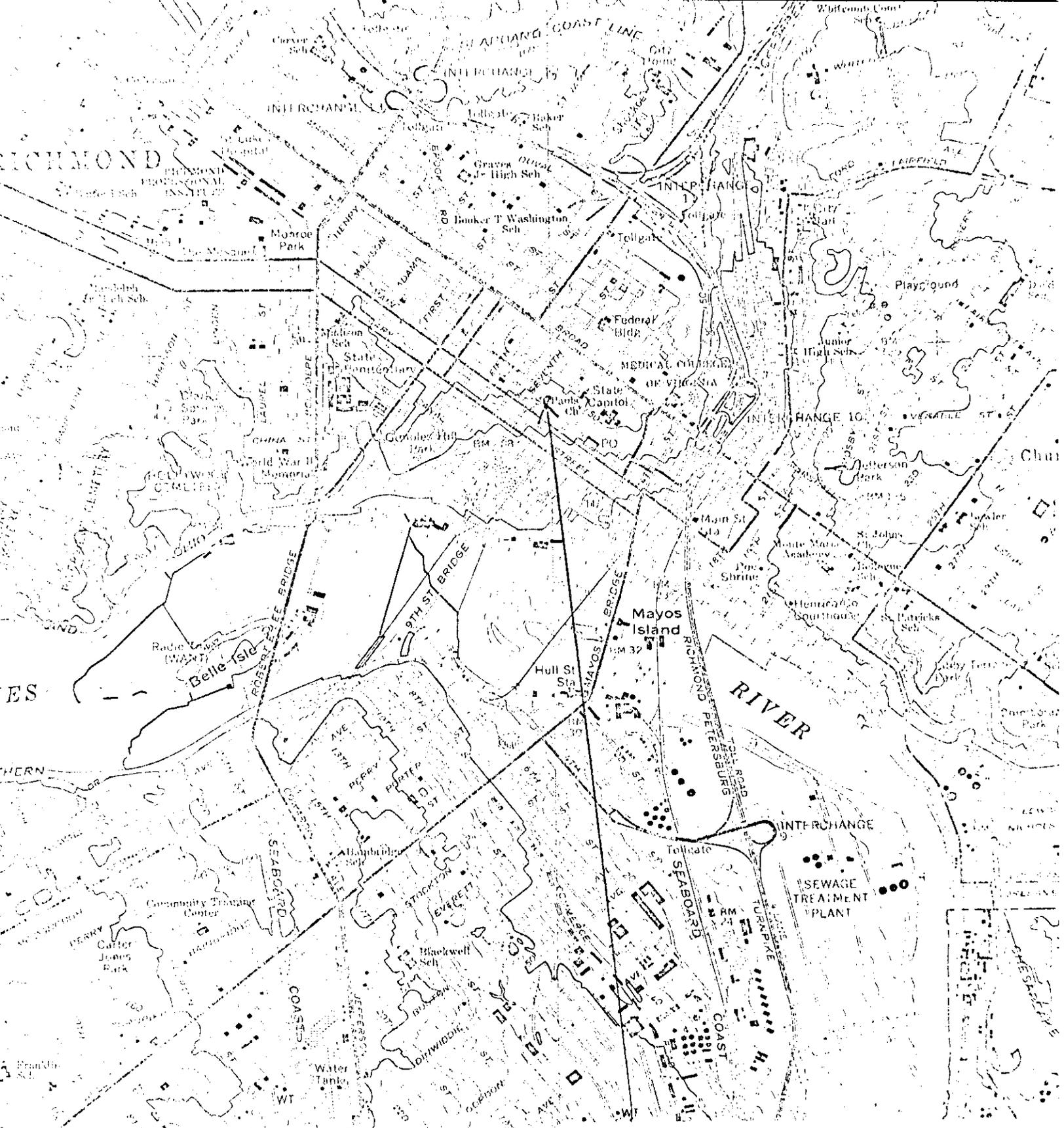
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Richmond, Va. 1964

STEWART-LEE HOUSE

Latitude
 37°32'23"

Longitude
 77°26'11"

N
 37°30'

78A (DRAWN 5550)

SCALE