

VLR-1/18/72

NRHP-5/5/72

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: STAUNTON (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
STUART HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
STUART HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Staunton (James Kenneth Robinson, Seventh District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE: 790

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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE [Check One or More as Appropriate]

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
~~Mrs. Peyton Cochran~~ Justice & Mrs. George Cochran

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Staunton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION - LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Augusta County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Staunton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 2934, 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA
COUNTY: STAUNTON (in city)
OR NPS USE ONLY
NUMBER
DATE

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

The Stuart House is set in the northwest corner of a broad terraced yard informally planted with large shade trees, evergreens and shrubbery. The main entrance to the yard is through a handsome and very rare pair of Chinese lattice gates. These gates, with their carved finials and intricately patterned panels, have long been a familiar landmark in Staunton. Immediately to the east of the house is a gambrel roof frame building, erected sometime after 1783 as Archibald Stuart's residence and law office. A two-story wing was added to this building in the nineteenth century but the original portion is still clearly evident. Other than this frame building and the main house, the only other early building on the lot is a pyramidal roof smokehouse near the northwest corner of the main house. The main house was originally served by a one-story frame kitchen that stood just to the east of the smokehouse. Sometime prior to 1831 this kitchen was attached to the house by a one-story frame wing. In 1844 both the kitchen and the frame wing were removed and replaced by a large, two-and-a-half-story brick wing which provided space for a modern kitchen and service areas, as well as for a dining room, library, and additional bedrooms. This wing is fronted by a gallery ornamented with lattice-work and supported on brick piers. The evolution of these additions can be traced in the five Mutual Assurance Society policies, on the house, spanning the years 1796-1859.

The original portion of the Stuart House, erected in 1791, is a two-story, temple-form brick structure fronted by a two-level pedimented portico supported by four very simple and provincial Tuscan-like columns. The pediment lacks both frieze and architrave but does feature a modillion cornice that is repeated around the main body of the house. In the pediment's tympanum are two double-hung rectangular windows and a curious painted-on circular window centered above them. This portico, although awkward-appearing with its obvious provincialisms, is an original feature to the house.

The body of the house, exclusive of the portico, is a thirty-five by thirty-five foot square with five bays across the front and three on the sides. The brick walls are laid throughout in very even Flemish bond, and have molded water tables on the sides and a pair of exterior chimneys on the north end. Nearly all the original exterior fabric, such as doors, sash, cornicing, and shutters are intact. The interesting frontispiece for the main entrance consists of flanking fluted pilasters on pedestals and a swan's neck pediment with rosettes and a central spiral finial above a pulvinated frieze. This pediment motif is repeated inside over the doorways from the hall into the sitting room and adjacent parlor, and on the chimney pieces in these two rooms.

The plan of the first floor of the original section consists of a hall across the entire front with the sitting room and parlor occupying the remainder of the area. An enclosed stair ascends from a door near the west end of the hall between the hall and the sitting room. The very elaborate but somewhat provincial Federal-style woodwork in the first floor rooms is one of the house's most notable features. That in the parlor is the most ornate; it includes a chimney piece with a framed overmantel topped by a swan's neck pediment, and flanked by curved vines and scrolled volutes. Framing this composition are fluted Corinthian pilasters on pedestals. The chimney piece in the sitting room is similar although it is flanked by

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) 1791

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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)
Local 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 type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Staunton's venerable Stuart House is an architecturally intriguing homestead for one of the area's most prominent families. The house was built in 1791 by Archibald Stuart on land annexed by the town just four years earlier. According to family tradition, Stuart received plans or suggestions for the house's design from his close friend, Thomas Jefferson. However, since no drawings of the house by Jefferson have been discovered, and since many of the building's architectural details contain provincialisms ordinarily avoided by the scholarly Jefferson, it is doubtful that he had any but the most indirect hand in the design. Nevertheless, with its temple form and somewhat naive two-story portico, the house stands as one of Virginia's earliest expressions of the Classical Revival, an architectural mode fostered in this country by Jefferson himself. Indeed, the Stuart House portico may be the oldest such portico on a Virginia house. In addition to its interesting exterior, the Stuart House is notable for its elaborate Georgian-style interior woodwork. Like the exterior, this woodwork is somewhat provincial in design, but its very ambitiousness makes it a testament to the imagination of the craftsmen who executed it.

Prior to the building of his house, Archibald Stuart fought in the Revolution, and in 1782 he studied law with Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Upon the completion of his study in 1783, Stuart moved to Staunton and purchased the land for his future home. In 1791 Archibald Stuart married Eleanor Briscoe of Frederick County and it was in this same year that he began construction of his house on what is now Church Street. Before the house was built, Stuart lived and practiced law in the small gambrel roof frame cottage on the same property. Archibald Stuart was a man of many achievements. As a student at William and Mary, he was elected vice-president of the newly established society of Phi Beta Kappa. He also was a member of the Virginia Convention of 1788, four times a presidential elector, a judge of the general court, and one of the Virginia commissioners appointed to establish the dividing line between Virginia and Kentucky.

Archibald Stuart died in 1832 and the house was inherited by his son, Alexander Hugh Holmes Stuart. Born in the house in 1807, Alexander H. H. Stuart returned to Staunton in 1828 after completing his law course at the University of Virginia. Like his father, he set up his residence and law practice in the gambrel roof "office" next to the main house. The year after his father's death, Alexander H. H. Stuart married Frances Cornelia Baldwin. In 1836 Alexander Stuart was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and was re-elected until 1839. From 1841 to 1843 Stuart served as a member of the Twenty-seventh Congress, and in 1850 he

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gibson, Lucy Fitzhugh, Stepping Stones, The Story of Stuart House, privately printed by Archibald G. Robertson, 1966.
 Robertson, Alexander F., Alexander Hugh Holmes Stuart 1807-1891, The William Byrd Press, Inc., Printers, Richmond, Va., 1925.
 Wayland, John W., Historic Homes of Northern Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, The McClure Company, Inc., Staunton, Va., 1937.
 Files of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	08'	50"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		79°	04'	33"
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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: January, 1972

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: Va. 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: _____

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7.

Ionic pilasters that are set on the mantel shelf rather than on pedestals. Other trim in the first floor rooms includes molded keystones set in the tops of the window frames, flat panel wainscoting, and cornicing decorated with either Wall-of-Troy molding in the parlor and sitting room or dentils in the hall. The woodwork in the second floor rooms is all intact but is less elaborate than that on the first. According to family tradition a small bedroom in the southeast corner of the second floor is the room occupied by Thomas Jefferson during his visits. The rooms in the original part of the house as well as those in the wings retain numerous pieces of Stuart family furniture as well as portraits. A number of these items have been in the house since it was first occupied.

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8.

was appointed Secretary of the Interior by Millard Fillmore. Although a loyal Virginian, Stuart strongly opposed the Southern secession from the Union, but was active in the Southern rehabilitation movement following the war's end. Towards this later aim, Alexander Stuart served as a member of the board of trustees of the southern educational fund established by George Peabody of Massachusetts. In line with his dedication to his state, Alexander H. H. Stuart held the rectorship of the University of Virginia from 1876 to 1886 and he was President of the Virginia Historical Society for a number of years.

When Alexander H. H. Stuart died in 1891, the title of the house was taken over by his granddaughter Margaret, who was married to Alexander F. Robertson. Their son-in-law, Peyton Cochran agreed to inherit the house when Mr. and Mrs. Robertson died, and in order to keep the house in the name of the Stuart family, the title was written in the name of his wife Susan. Ironically the title revealed that the Stuart House land had been originally owned by Peyton Cochran's great-grandfather, Alexander St. Clair who had sold the property to Archibald Stuart in 1791.

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(Continuation Sheet)

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6.

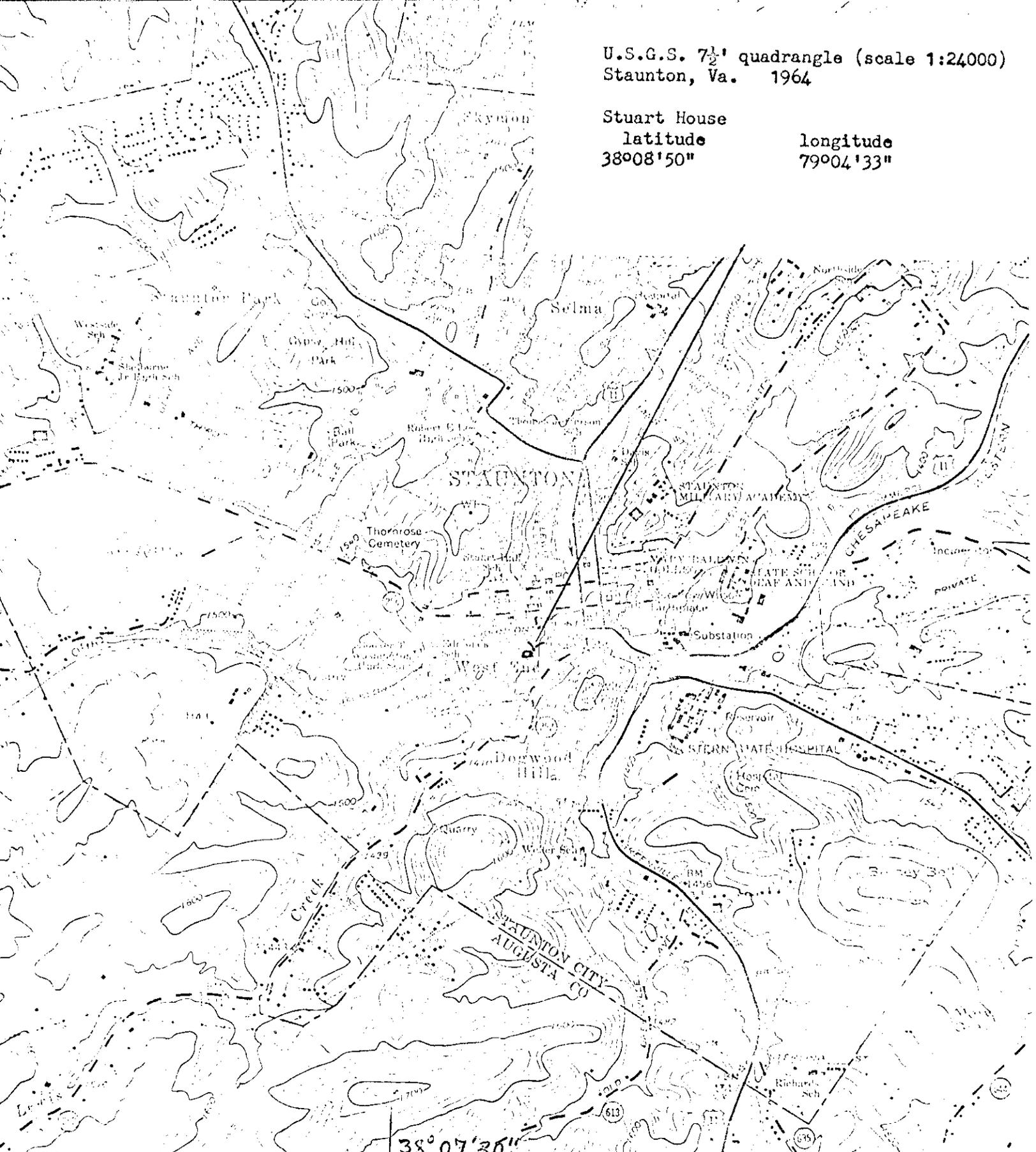
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)
Staunton, Va. 1964

Stuart House

latitude
38°08'50"

longitude
79°04'33"



38°07'30"

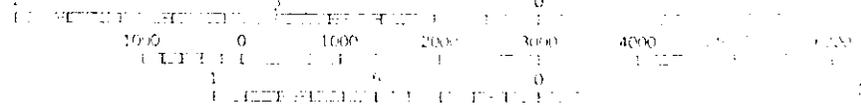
MIDDLEBROOK 8 MI
LEXINGTON VIA VA. 39 34 MI.

1 830 000 FEET

GREENVILLE 10 MI (STUARTS DRAFT)
LEXINGTON 31 MI. 5160.11 SE

SCALE 1:24 000

MN
GN



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL