

VLR-3/16/82 NRHP-11/24/82

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stoneleigh

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number VA Route 606

N/A not for publication

city, town Stanleytown

vicinity of

congressional district

state Virginia

code 51

county Henry

code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	both	work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: college center

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees, Ferrum College, c/o President

street & number Ferrum College

city, town

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
vicinity of

Virginia 24088

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Henry County Courthouse

street & number

N/A

city, town Martinsville

state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Stoneleigh is set on a small hill overlooking the hilly countryside that encompasses Stanleytown and Basset Forks, two neighboring communities. The 2½-story, stone-and-brick residence was built in 1929-31 in the Tudor Revival style after the plans of Leland McBroom of the architectural firm of Tinsley and McBroom of Des Moines, Iowa. The original gardens were planned by E.S. Draper, landscape architect of Charlotte, N.C.; in 1961 they were extensively redesigned by Charles Gillette, a Richmond landscape architect.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Entrance to the fifty-six-acre estate is provided by a long drive that leads to a stone-and-brick paved circle in front of the Tudor Revival-style residence. The circle echoes the materials used to construct the house, also built of stone and brick and covered with a complementing red and gray slate roof. The facade (north) is divided into a three-bay center section with flanking wings of two bays. The main section contains a projecting entrance pavilion and abutting dining room bay. The main entrance consists of a stone-carved, Georgian-style doorway with a broken pediment. The carved multi-paneled door is framed by a simple molded architrave flanked by fluted pilasters with carved foliated capitals. Secondary entrances are found on the south, west, and east elevations and consist of carved and multi-paneled doors framed by simple architrave trim. The entrance on the east elevation is sheltered by a 1½-story stone porch covered by a gable roof. All the windows have casement sash; the smaller windows have diamond panes. The most commanding window is found above the main entrance and is divided into twelve parts. Its primary function is to light the stair hall. A half-round bay window is found on the first story of the rear elevation. Bricks laid as blind arches articulate window openings on the front and rear of the house. A four-bay garage is attached to the main house. The 1½-story structure is covered by a gable roof with red and gray shingles.

Stoneleigh has an asymmetrical plan. The house is divided by the stair hall that runs north and south. The main, open-well stair ascends to the second floor. The closed-string stair has a carved square newel, turned balusters, and a paneled spandrel. A landing breaks the stair ascent between the first and second floors. The hall is paneled with square panels that run up to the stair landing. The hall above the stair has an exposed truss ceiling. The doorway on the south wall leading to the gallery is very finely carved; the gallery is paneled. The living room is the largest room in the house and measures 20' x 40'. The room's focal point is the carved stone mantel. The east wall is paneled, and the ceiling has exposed timber beams. The library's west wall is paneled and has a stone architrave for the fireplace opening. The north and east walls have built-in bookcases that currently display Governor Stanley memorabilia. The ceiling is vaulted. The dining room and breakfast rooms are more Georgian in feeling and have painted woodwork. A modillion cornice runs the perimeter of the dining room. A portrait of Mrs. Stanley remains in place in the fireplace overmantel. The butler's pantry and kitchen retain their original cabinets and fixtures. A lateral hall used as a gallery serves to connect the more formal rooms to the service area. With the exception of the second-floor sitting room, which is embellished with a plaster cornice and Federal-style mantel, the second floor bedrooms are stark. Original bathroom fixtures and light fixtures have survived; the linen hall retains its original cupboards. Servants' bedrooms are found above the garage.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929-1931

Builder/Architect Tinsley & McBroom, Architects; E.S. Draper,
C. Gillette, Landscape Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stoneleigh is significant both as a distinguished example of the Tudor Revival style and as the former residence of Virginia Governor Thomas B. Stanley. The house was built in 1929-31 on a small hill amidst the rolling countryside of Henry County after the plans of Leland McBroom of the firm of Tinsley and McBroom of Des Moines, Iowa. Because of its antiquarian and English flavor, the Tudor style achieved considerable popularity in Virginia during the 1920s and early 30s, appealing especially to the wealthy classes seeking an established prosperous look for their dwellings. A pioneer furniture manufacturer, Thomas B. Stanley organized the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company before starting his own furniture factory at what is now Stanleytown in 1924. The completion of Stoneleigh signaled the end of Stanley's active business career and his entrance into the state political arena. From his position as a delegate in the General Assembly, Stanley rose through the ranks of the state Democratic party organization to become Speaker of the House of Delegates, a U.S. Congressman, and finally Governor of Virginia from 1954-58. The gardens at Stoneleigh, designed by E.S. Draper of North Carolina and later reworked by Charles Gillette of Richmond, are a tribute to the gardening efforts of Stanley's wife, the former Anne Pocahontas Bassett. In 1980 the house, gardens, and fifty-six acres of land were given to Ferrum College by the Stanley children for use as a educational and cultural center.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the first quarter of the 20th century, Americans developed an abiding fascination with the domestic architecture of England's Tudor and Stuart periods. This interest followed the popular Queen Anne style of the 1870s and 1880s and the Colonial Revival style of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Like the earlier Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture of the 1850s, the Tudor Revival tended to become archaeological in the extreme with some Tudor buildings actually incorporating English building parts of the 15th and 16th centuries. The style proved especially popular in Virginia, where it reflected a renewed appreciation for the values and heritage of "Anglo-Saxon" society, evidenced by the multiplication of patriotic and genealogical societies.

The Stanley House is indicative of the direction that the state's more affluent residential architecture took by the late 1920s and early 1930s. The house is set on a small hill outside of the communities of Bassett Fork and Stanleytown. The relative isolation of the residence on a large tract of land enabled its builders to develop a personal fiefdom comprised of extensive landscaped yards, gardens, and a full working farm. The house itself has fine Tudor- and Stuart-style detailing on both its interior and exterior, certainly suggestive of the period that its builders wished to evoke.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Dabney, Virginius. Virginia The New Dominion. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1971.
- Davis, Virginia Waller. "Thomas Bahnsen Stanley...of Stanleytown." Virginia and the Virginia Record. Richmond, Va., Vol. LXXVI, No. 1, January 1954, p. 97.
- (See Continuation Sheet #3)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 16 acres

Quadrangle name Martinsville West, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point at SW intersection of VA 606 and VA 754; thence extending about 1250' SE along SW side of VA 606 to S side of private drive; thence about 350' SW along said side, curving NW and continuing for about 500' along said side to intersection with 820' contour; thence NW, then NE, all for about 2,500' along said contour

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #3)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date March, 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAR 16 1982

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

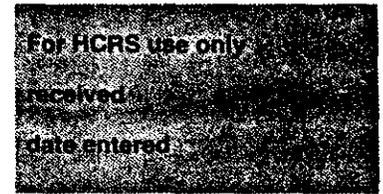
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Inventory—Nomination Form**

STONELEIGH, STANLEYTOWN, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 8

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7. Description -- Architectural Analysis

The original landscape plan was designed by E.S. Draper, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and reworked in 1961 by Charles Gillette of Richmond. The plans include a formal "Elizabethan" garden immediately to the south of the main house, followed by a wisteria and rose arbor, a rose garden and cutting garden enclosed by boxwood, and vegetable gardens to the southeast. Boxwood bushes are planted immediately around the house and the circular drive. The estate contains an outstanding variety of trees including dogwoods; Japanese, silver, and sugar maples; willow oaks and pin oaks; Norwegian rockmaple; and elms, cedar, hemlocks, and five different types of holly trees. The main entrance gates to the house are stone, the main drive extending around the main house and returning back to Route 606. On the drive are a small wood-frame, gable-roof toolshed and a small wood-frame, gable-roof caretaker's cottage.

RCC

8. Significance -- Historical Background

The architect, Leland McBroom, practiced in Des Moines, Iowa, where he was a principal in the firm of Tinsley and McBroom. The firm had built a house in Des Moines for a Mr. Vernon Clark, a partner in the firm of Penrod, Jordan and Clark, brokers of fine woods and owners of an import business in Norfolk. Thomas B. Stanley had purchased wood from the firm for his own furniture business and had become friends with Clark, on one occasion visiting him in Des Moines. There he admired the house built for Clark by McBroom whom Stanley immediately retained to build his own house in Virginia. The original landscape plan was completed by E.S. Draper, Landscape Architects, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and extensively redesigned by Charles Gillette, a Richmond landscape architect, noted for his restoration of historic 18th-century gardens.

The builder of Stoneleigh, Thomas B. Stanley, was born on a small tobacco farm near Spencer, Henry County, Virginia. Stanley attended the local schools and after graduation from high school worked for a period of time in the coal mines of West Virginia before enrolling in accounting at the Eastman Business College in Binghamton, New York. In 1913 Stanley began a seven-year banking career first as a clerk at the Bank of Ridgeway, Virginia, then as a clerk-bookkeeper at the First National Bank of Martinsville, and lastly as a cashier at the First National Bank of Rural Retreat where he remained until 1920.

Following his marriage to Arne Pocahontas Bassett in 1918, Stanley left the bank to assist in the organization of the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company in Galax in which he had already acquired an interest. At the year's end, he became vice-president of his father-in-law's company, the Bassett Furniture Company in Bassett, where he remained until 1924, the year in which he established his own furniture factory at what is known today as Stanleytown. From the beginning Stanley instituted a profit-sharing policy with his employees including a twice-a-year bonus plan, that resulted in the continued financial success of the company even through the Depression. In addition to his own furniture company, Stanley was president of Ferrum Veneer Company and secretary-treasurer of Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company. Thus, Stanley's fortune as a furniture manufacturer was well established when he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1930.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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STONELEIGH, STANLEYTOWN, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8

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8. Significance -- Historical Background

From the beginning of his service in the legislature, Stanley worked hard for the state Democratic party with the promise of the governorship as his ultimate reward. Under the Byrd political organization, he was immediately named to the House Appropriations Committee and was its ranking member when he was elected Speaker of the House in 1942. He served in this capacity for three terms. In 1946 Stanley moved on to Congress where he represented the Southside's Fifth District. Here, he was on the Committee of House Administration and the Interstate and Foreign Commerce committees and was known as "a stalwart warrior in our battle for economy."¹ Passed over for the gubernatorial nomination in 1949, Stanley received Byrd's approval as the Democratic nominee for Governor in 1953. Stanley won the election by a very close margin over Republican State Senator Ted Dalton, who proved to be a tireless campaigner, striking hard at his opponent and the Byrd machine as well.

Stanley's term as governor was overshadowed by the issue of school integration. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court handed down its momentous decision against the policy of racial segregation in public education. Although he immediately announced his intention to comply with the Court's order, Stanley, in line with Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr., soon adopted a staunch pro-segregationist position, supporting Byrd's policy of "massive resistance" throughout his tenure as governor. Stanley's position on integration was made particularly evident in the "Stanley Plan," passed by the General Assembly at the end of a special session in 1956. The^s called for the withholding of state funds from any school that sought to comply with the Supreme Court's 1954 decision. The school session of 1956-7 passed without bringing this legislation to a test, and Governor Stanley's term soon was completed. At the expiration of his term in office, he returned to Stoneleigh where he lived to his eightieth year. He died in July 1970.

Upon Mrs. Stanley's return to Stanleytown, she commissioned Charles Gillette, a Richmond landscape architect, to restore the gardens at Stoneleigh. Gillette, a native of Wisconsin, came to Richmond via Boston in 1919 where he designed the landscaping for the new campus of the University of Richmond. In addition to Stoneleigh, Gillette worked at Virginia House, Agecroft Hall, Gallison Hall, and Colonial Williamsburg. The drawings for the landscaping of Stoneleigh are preserved at the Fiske Kimball Library, at the University of Virginia. The Tinsley and McBroom plans for the house are preserved at Stoneleigh along with the firm's specifications.

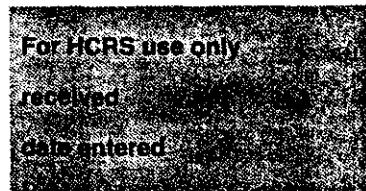
In September 1980 the house and gardens along with fifty-six acres were given to Ferrum College by the three children of Governor and Mrs. Stanley in memory of their parents' lives and accomplishments. The local landmark will be used as an educational and cultural center by the college.

VDS/RCC

¹Virginia Waller Davis, "Thomas Bahnson Stanley...of Stanleytown," Virginia and Virginia Record, Richmond, Va., Vol. LXXVI, No. 1, January 1954, p. 97.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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STONELEIGH, STANLEYTOWN, VA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 9, 10

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9. Bibliographical References

"The House of Stanley." Virginia and the Virginia Record. Richmond, Va., Vol. LXXVI, No. 1, January 1954.

"A Portfolio of Profiles. The Hon. Thomas B. Stanley." Virginia and the Virginia Record. Richmond, Va., Vol. LXXXIV, January 1962.

Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

10. Geographical Data

to S side of VA 754; thence about 150' E to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property for Stoneleigh is sixteen acres out of fifty-six acres owned by Ferrum College. The acreage includes the main house, the drive to the house, and the gardens. The large house was designed for a large expanse of lawn and different varieties of trees, and the proposed boundaries include the elevated grassy and tree-planted hillside on which the house was built and the lawn bordering Route 606, the main public road from which the drive to Stoneleigh leads.

