

VR 6/8/16
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name R.L. Stone House
other names/site number: VDHR # 044-5174; Ithica

2. Location

street & number 3136 Fairystone Park Highway not for publication NA
city or town Bassett vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Henry code 089 Zip 24055

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 4/24/06
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register Signature of Keeper _____
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register Date of Action _____
 other (explain): _____

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

R.L. Stone House
Bassett, Virginia

The R.L. Stone house is two stories with a full raised basement and a full height partially finished attic. The house is constructed of the original Flemish bond rowlock brick and the foundation is parged cinderblock. The house retains its original hipped slate roof but has modern gutters and downspouts. There is a flat metal roof on the rear porch and a modern shingle roof over the side porch. The soffit and dentils are encased in aluminum. The original shutters are on the front of the house, with no shutters ever being present on the sides or rear. The original wood six-over-one double-hung sash windows and wood doors are intact. There are also two small pairs of four-over-four double-hung sash windows on the sides of the second story. There is some original landscaping with mature trees and shrubs including magnolias and boxwoods **(Photo 1)**.

The façade is three bays wide with a full height entry porch with a pediment in the center bay flanked by one bay on each side consisting of brick wall pierced by two windows on each floor. The entry porch pediment has a single lunette window and the four colossal two story columns are slender, smooth surface with less common Egyptian papyrus style capitals. The back of the porch is framed by two pilasters and has a parged wall containing three second floor windows and two first floor windows with the door in the center **(Photo 2)**. The door is framed in wood with a common format of pilasters on the side and an entablature on top. Directly above the door is a lunette window with leaded glass, echoing the lunette window in the pediment.

The floor plan of the house is a square largely symmetrical except for the exterior porches. The first floor has a large entry hall with a dining room to the left and a formal parlor with a fireplace to the right. A curving stairway dominates the entry hall and leads to the second floor **(Photo 3)**. Through the entry hall towards the back of the house is a central hall with access to the entire back of the house as well as another turning stair, this one not curved, to the second floor **(Photo 4)**. Clockwise from the left are doors to the kitchen, the back sitting room, a bathroom, the library, and a side hall which leads to a side porch and out to the driveway. Off of the library is a back office with its own entrance for Mr. Stone to greet clients. Off of the back sitting room is a small back entry hall for the servants with a separate entrance and a small stair up to a servant's bedroom and bathroom. There are also doors to a back porch off of the sitting room and the back office.

The interior consists of entirely plaster walls with painted wood trim, except where noted. Some rooms have c.1960s wallpaper. All floors are finished oak, some overlaid with carpet. The main stair railings in the front and rear halls are painted except for the handles which are still stained. There is a mixture of original and new light fixtures. All bathrooms have original tile and mostly

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

R.L. Stone House
Bassett, Virginia

original tubs, sinks, commodes, and even plumbing access hatches (**Photo 5**). There are working, recessed radiators throughout the house. Some halls have interior rounded arch openings.

The dining room has a chair rail with a recently added cloth wall covering above it. The parlor has its original painted wood and marble mantel with classical decorative detailing. Above the parlor mantle is an original portrait of R.L. Stone (**Photo 6**). The library has its original stained shelves while the doors and trim in the library are also unpainted, unlike the rest of the house (**Photo 7**). The wood and marble mantel in the library is painted and has classical decorative detailing, but of a different style than the parlor mantle (**Photo 8**). The office behind the library has unpainted doors and trim as well as the original brick and painted wood fireplace and original safe built into one of the two closets. The plantation blinds in the office also appear original (**Photo 9**). On the other side of the house the kitchen has a large nine pane window overlooking the garden and c.1960s cabinets, floors, and counters (**Photo 10**).

The second floor consists of a large central hall sitting area running the nearly the length of the house from front to the back. Both the front and back formal stairs from the two first floor halls enter into this large sitting area (**Photo 11**). The rooms of the second floor form a horseshoe around the central hall. Clockwise from the left front of this large hall are the following rooms: bedroom, bedroom, bathroom/laundry room, bedroom, bedroom, sitting room, bathroom, master bedroom and bath (**Photo 12**). Behind the laundry room, and inaccessible from the second floor, is the servant's living area. The master bedroom and the sitting room have painted wood and brick mantles (**Photo 13**). The master bedroom has built-in bookshelves (**Photo 14**).

The attic of the house is accessed by an original permanent stair and is largely unfinished with only a few small storage rooms built with cedar. The basement has its original poured concrete floor, cinderblock walls, numerous rooms, original built-in wood storage areas, a boiler room, original work sinks, and a metal door which leads to a room which may have been for cold storage (**Photo 15**).

The land around the house still has much of the original landscaping with stone and brick walkways, low walls, shrub lined paths. The southwest front yard has a gazebo with a stone foundation and shingle roof; the gazebo may have had some restoration, but appears original to the house and may even predate the R.L. Stone house to an earlier house on the site belonging to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

R.L. Stone House
Bassett, Virginia

the Bassett family (**Photo 16**). Behind the house to the southeast is the original garage and an original workshop shed behind that. The garage matches the house with Flemish bond brick walls and chimney and a slate roof, but the windows on the sides and dormers are six-over-six double-hung sash windows, instead of six-over-one. The foundation of the garage is poured concrete. The doors on the garage bays are older replacement wood doors with six glass panes in a line across the top of each (**Photo 17**). The interior of the garage bays have concrete floors and parged walls and the far left bay has a brick closet at the back. The interior of the second floor of the garage is finished with painted wood floors and original linoleum in the kitchen and bathroom. The walls and ceilings are original bead board. The doors are original five-panel wood. The kitchen cabinets are a mixture of original built-in and modern and the sink is original (**Photo 18**).

The workshop behind the garage is also original with corrugated siding, a metal roof, and a nine pane wood door (**Photo 19**). The sides and rear of the workshop are on a raised pier foundation, as the hill slopes down behind it, with the sides covered by lattice but the rear open. The back of the workshop has a two-pane double-hung sash window. To the east of the house is a raised c.1980s swimming pool with the hillside sloping down behind it. At the bottom of the hill to the east is an original stable which may predate the house. The stable is board and batten with a standing seam roof and an open lean-to on the side. The small enclosed portion has a one-over-one window. An original water pump is next to the stable (**Photo 20**).

The R.L. Stone house has remained a private residence since its construction in the 1930s and only left the Stone family in 2005. The exterior has had few alterations and none of them significant or irreversible. The interior also remains almost entirely intact with very few alterations and much of the original built-ins, fixtures, and decorative elements. Overall the interior and exterior retain their original appearance and character from the prominent full height porch, to the grand entry staircase, to the unique and varied mantels, to the grand second floor sitting area pierced by two stairways. The house is an excellent example of the Classical Revival Style.

The current owners are planning to rehabilitate the building using the Virginia Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program. The R.L. Stone house has been an important part of history for Bassett, Virginia and Henry County since the 1930s.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**R.L. Stone House
Bassett, Virginia**

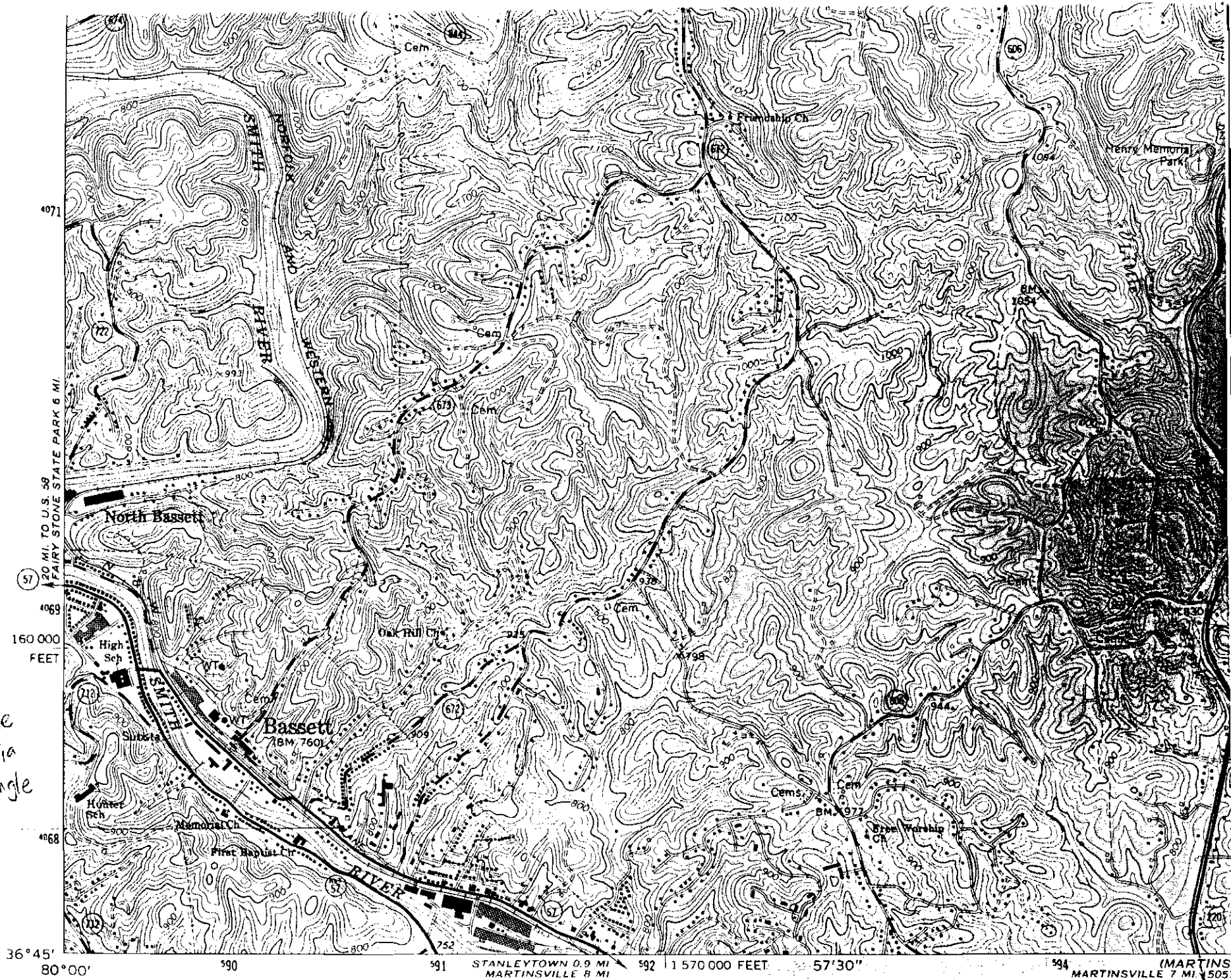
Reed Stone's early career consisted of farming and a mercantile business which he ran in Bassett, Virginia. Stone met J.D. Bassett through Stone's business and soon joined the Bassett brothers in their sawmill company, forming the early foundation for what would become Bassett Furniture. The Bassett sawmill supplied the wood for the section of the Norfolk and Western railroad line which passed through Bassett, Virginia.¹ The Bassett brothers and Stone also shipped their Appalachian oak to Jamestown, N.Y. and Grand Rapids, Michigan where it was turned into furniture and sold across the country, including in Virginia. The four men quickly decided that, with the control of so much raw material, they could operate a furniture business from Bassett, Virginia, rather than shipping their wood across the county.

The three Bassetts and Reed Stone used \$27,500 in personal funds and bank loans to form Bassett Furniture Company in 1902. By the third year of operation Bassett Furniture had paid off all of its debts and expanded sales several fold. The Bassett Furniture Company continued to grow steadily through out the first half of the twentieth century, never having a year without profit during the lifetimes of the four original founders.² Bassett Furniture became so large that eventually the Bank of Bassett, Inc. was created by J.D. Bassett to offer a convenient local bank for the company. As business grew the four founders created several subsidiary companies such as Bassett Mirror Company, Bassett Chair Company, Bassett Table Company, and Bassett Fiberboard. They also bought other companies, such as Valley Veneer Company, to fill the needs of Bassett Furniture.

In 1930, in order to consolidate the businesses, and avoid internal competition among the various Bassett companies, all of the Bassett entities were linked under the larger corporation of Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. Each subsidiary still maintained its identity and original purpose, and this combined furniture corporation became the largest manufacturer of furniture in the United States. The four original founders rotated between various leadership roles among the subsidiaries and the parent company for the rest of their lives. By 1960 Bassett Furniture became the largest producer of wood furniture in the world.³

It was during the year of Bassett Furniture's transformation into a giant conglomerate in 1930 that R.L. Stone purchased the land for his final home from Anne Bassett Stanley, a relative of his wife. The commencement of construction of his own family home seemed to signify R.L. Stone's reluctant acknowledgement that he had succeeded in life and business. The reserved nature of Reed Stone, the relatively early demise of the other Bassett brothers, and the long life of

HL Store House
Bassett, Virginia
Bassett Quadrangle
7 590633E
4068245N



(SANVILLE)
1997 II NE

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