

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Gallison Hall (2020 Update)
Name of Property
Albemarle County, VA
County and State
90002013
NR Reference Number

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X additional documentation    move    removal  
   name change (additional documentation)    other  
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.

  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title:

9-29-2020

Date of Action

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
   entered in the National Register  
   determined eligible for the National Register  
   determined not eligible for the National Register  
   removed from the National Register  
   additional documentation accepted  
   other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Gallison Hall, located in the Farmington area of Albemarle County, was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. The property was listed under Criterion C in the area of Architecture with a broadly defined period of significance of 1931-1933, coinciding with the property’s design and construction.

In the original nomination’s Section 7, the primary dwelling’s distinctive staircase with molded handrail, corkscrew newel post with square cap, and corkscrew balusters is alleged to be based on a staircase at Gadsby’s Tavern in Alexandria, Virginia.

Gallison Hall’s architect, Stanhope S. Johnson, has been quoted in various places that he had reproduced the tavern’s staircase design for Gallison Hall (as well as for his own house, Brookside, built in 1926 in Lynchburg, Virginia) and that the Gadsby’s Tavern staircase was on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Research conducted by Carolyn Gills Frazier, author of *Stanhope, Chronologically: The Work of Stanhope Spencer Johnson, AIA, 1881-1973* (privately published, 2018), has ascertained that the Met’s staircase had been acquired from a property in New England, but the Met’s display in question also featured a mantelpiece from Gadsby’s Tavern, thus likely accounting for Johnson’s error in recollection (Figure 1, below).

Architectural drawings by Johnson, however, demonstrate that the design of the staircases at Gallison Hall and his own dwelling, Brookside, are his work as inspired by the New England staircase display at the Met (Figures 2-3). The staircase at Gallison Hall is very similar in character, although grander in scale and execution (Figures 4-5).

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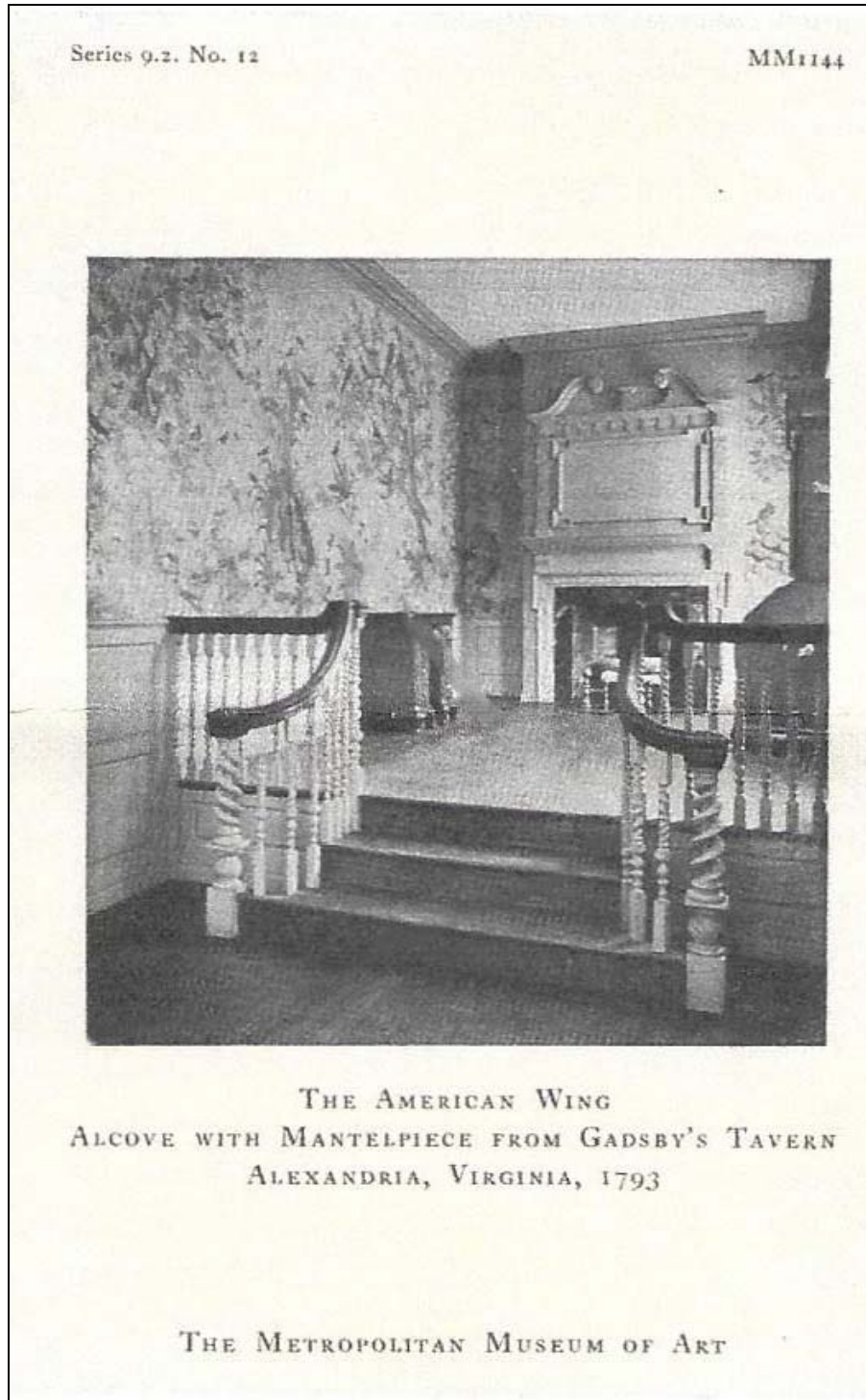


Figure 1. Image from *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art* (Volume XIX, New York, November 1924, Number 11), p. 258.

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Figure 2. Undated photo of staircase at Brookside, Stanhope S. Johnson's home in Lynchburg.

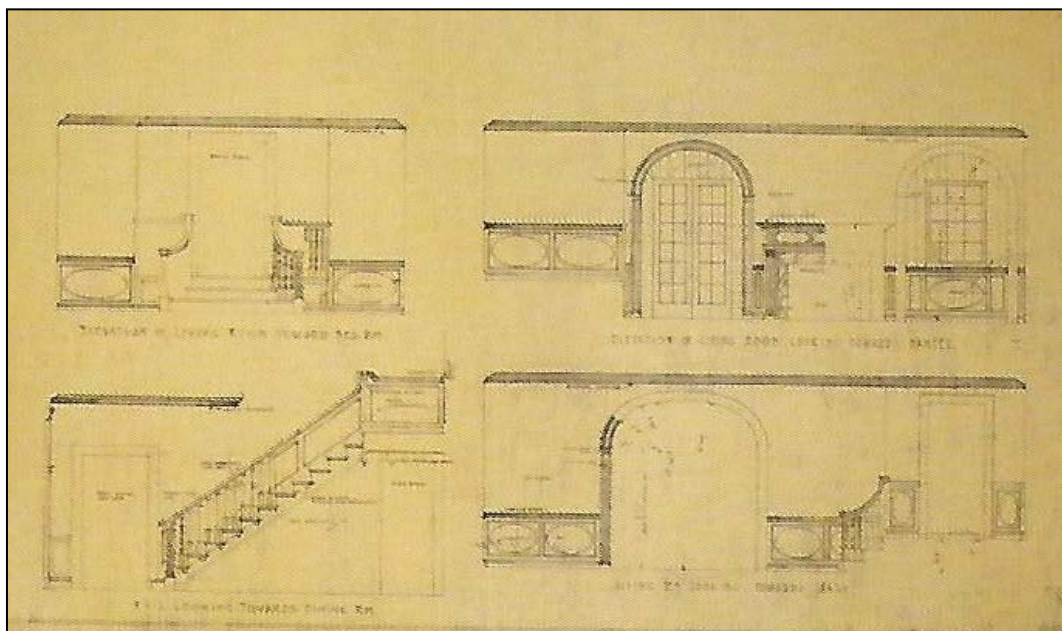


Figure 3. Architectural drawing by Stanhope Johnson of Staircase and Living Room at Brookside (original drawing held at the Lynchburg Architectural Archive, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Virginia)



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Figure 4. Staircase at Gallison Hall (1981 photo by Jeffrey M. O'Dell, collection of the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA)

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Figure 5. Detail of Staircase Newel Post and Balusters at Gallison Hall (1981 photo by Jeffrey M. O'Dell, collection of the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA)