VLR Listed: 3/18/1975
NRHP Listed: 6/5/1975

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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: Spotsylvania
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: JUN 5 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. NAME

COMMON: St. Julien

AND/OR HISTORIC: St. Julien

### 2. LOCATION S of Fredericksburg between VA 609 and VA 2

STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mile west of southern tributary of Massaponax Creek; .5 mile west of Route 2; 1 mile southwest of intersection of Route 2 and Route 17.

CITY OR TOWN: (Fredericksburg vicinity)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE: Virginia — CODE: 51

COUNTY: Spotsylvania — CODE: 177

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ District ☒ Building<br>☐ Site ☐ Structure<br>☐ Object | ☐ Public<br>☒ Private<br>☐ Both | Public Acquisition:<br>☐ In Process<br>☐ Being Considered | ☒ Occupied<br>☐ Unoccupied<br>☐ Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br>☐ Restricted<br>☐ Unrestricted<br>☒ No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural | ☐ Government | ☐ Park | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Comments |
| ☐ Commercial | ☐ Industrial | ☒ Private Residence | ☐ Other (Specify) | |
| ☐ Educational | ☐ Military | ☐ Religious | | |
| ☐ Entertainment | ☐ Museum | ☐ Scientific | | |

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Aubin B. Lamb

STREET AND NUMBER: 1521 Sunset Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond — STATE: Virginia — CODE: 51

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Spotsylvania — STATE: Virginia — CODE: 51

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 ☒ 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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STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Spotsylvania
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | (Check One) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed | |
|---|---|---|
| | (Check One) ☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered | (Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Julien is set in a clearing in wooded Spotsylvania County near Fredericksburg. Shaded by several tall evergreen trees and surrounded by a white wooden rail fence and cultivated fields, the house retains much of its early-nineteenth-century air.

Although it is a small, two-story, single-pile house, St. Julien displays a refined composition and elegant detailing worthy of a much larger edifice. The main part of the house has a five-bay front and is set on a low basement expressed as a pedestal with a molded sandstone water table and a stone plinth. Over each of the basement windows with their three-over-three sash are rectangular stone lintels with chiselwork suggesting voussoirs. These help to set off the windows of the main body of the house, which bear rusticated, splayed sandstone lintels with fluted keystones over their architrave frames and original four-over-four sash. The walls are laid in Flemish-bond brickwork of particular refinement.

The most distinctive feature of St. Julien is its entrance bay. A pedimented portico in antis is framed by rubbed-brick pilaster strips. The balcony of the portico is faced with a smaller scale version of the modillion-and-fretwork cornice that encircles the house. At the balcony level and at eaves level, the cornices are broken around the pilaster strips. Stone steps lead to the front door which is surmounted by a semicircular fanlight with wooden mullions and flanked by detached sidelights with two-over-two sash and the same type of lintels as are found on the façade. A corresponding door and sidelight arrangement, slightly reduced in size, opens onto the balcony which has a modern Chinese lattice balustrade. The doors and sidelights, as well as the windows, all bear louvered blinds.

The dwelling's hipped roof is covered with sheet metal and pierced by interior end chimneys. A three-course American-bond brick ell, two-stories high, with a gable roof, molded cornice, interior end chimney and partial lean-to, appears to be contemporary with the main block.

The interiors of St. Julien are sparsely decorated though carefully detailed. Most elaborate of any of the rooms is the east room on the first floor. It displays a mantelpiece with Roman Doric pilasters supporting entablature blocks surmounted by a cornice having punch-and-dentil work and a molded shelf. The pilasters, entablature blocks, and a central tablet in the frieze are all reeded. Flanking the chimney breast are arched recesses framed by fluted Roman Doric pilasters carrying round-headed arches which break into the dentil cornice. Flush panels with applied molding embellish the niches, while flush wainscoting and a flute-and-punchwork chair rail encircle the remainder of the room.

The mantels in each of the other first- and second-floor rooms follow the same pattern as that in the east room, varying only in the articulation of the members. In the west room, fluted Doric colonettes set on low pedestals support deeply projecting entablature blocks. The blocks and the tablet are enriched with fluted paterae, and the whole is crowned by a fluted cornice and deep molded shelf. Flush wainscoting under a chair rail decorated with

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

applied, interlaced semicircles is carried around the room.

The east room mantel on the second floor displays pilasters, entablature blocks, and a central tablet which take the form of recessed panels with complex applied moldings. The frieze is reduced in height so far as to be cramped in appearance. Gougework is used to suggest denticulation, and other gougework in the corona emulates punch-and-dentil work and rosettes. This pattern is repeated at a larger scale in the encircling chair rail.

The west room mantel echoes that in the west room on the first floor. The colonettes here are reduced to reeded pilasters, and the paterae are much less deeply incised.

A triple-run cantilevered stair occupies the central passage. Its slender banister, attenuated round balusters, and sawn brackets are made of walnut, contrasting with the white-painted stringer. Peripheral decoration here is reduced to a chair rail.

Six-panel, raised-panel doors are found throughout the house, as are architrave window and door frames.

Among several framed outbuildings at St. Julien, the most distinctive is the former law office. It is a one-story, board-and-batten-covered structure with a gable roof and central chimney. A door and a window pierce either half of the facade. It is a building type commonly used for other kinds of outbuildings, especially kitchens and quarters, in nineteenth-century Virginia.

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1804

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic

- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [x] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Julien was the home of Francis Taliaferro Brooke (1763-1851), an important figure in the political life of early republican Virginia, who ultimately became the President of the Supreme Court of Appeals in the state. The house at St. Julian, with its recessed entry, is of a type unusual in the Commonwealth and is one of the most sophisticated examples of Federal building in the region. With its tall trees, cultivated fields and isolated woodland setting, it presents a vivid picture of plantation life in early-nineteenth-century Spotsylvania County.

Francis Brooke undertook the study of law after serving in the American Revolution. He began to practice in western Virginia in 1788, then moved to Essex County and practiced on the Northern Neck beginning in 1790. During this period, he commended his political career, serving as a delegate from Essex County in 1794-1795.

In 1796, Brooke transferred his practice again when he moved his office and his residence to Fredericksburg. At the same time, he bought 220 acres in Spotsylvania County, one-seventh of the Belvediera estate of the late William Daingerfield, from H. Bassett and Samuel Moseley, Daingerfield's daughter and son-in-law. This tract became St. Julien.

Brooke was elected to the State Senate in 1800 and appointed a Judge of the General Court in 1804. That was also the year, according to his own account in his Narrative of My Life for My Family (1849), that "I had built a small brick house with a shed to it . . . . The farm was a small one and worn out." A Mutual Assurance Society policy of 1812 supports this, for it shows the house as it now stands--"A brick dwelling two stories high covd with wood"--including the ell.

Brooke was elevated to the Appeals Court in 1811. Twenty years later, under the new state constitution, his position was confirmed by election.

He was a prominent Democratic-Whig figure of the era. He corresponded with Thomas Jefferson. Henry Clay was a frequent visitor to St. Julien. Brooke lived on the plantation from the time of the building of the house until his death there in 1851.

The property has been owned by only two families since its purchase in 1796. In 1879, the Brookes sold St. Julien to the Lamb family, who still own it.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Brooke, Francis T. A Narrative of My Life for My Family (1849).

Lamb, J. P. B., "Saint Julien", Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. Volume 45, No. 4, October, 1937.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.


## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

See continuation sheet #2

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | | | OR | 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 | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
| NE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | |
| SE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | |
| SW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 338 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |


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## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE
March 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

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 XX Local ☐

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title

Date MAR 18 1975

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/5/75

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 3 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS