

PH0676896

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 26 1979
DATE ENTERED MAY 24 1979

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 Stone House
(Zachariah Johnston House)
AND/OR COMMON
Stone House (Preferred)

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 300' W of Lexington City limits; .2 miles S of State Route 687; (Ross Road); .3 miles SW of intersection of Woods Creek and Ross Road.
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Rockbridge CODE 163

3 CLASSIFICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Mr. Matthew W. Paxton, Jr.
STREET & NUMBER Ross Road
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF Virginia 24450

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rockbridge County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)
TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE 1957, 1965 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

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
<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

Located on a small rise amid the rolling hills of Rockbridge County, the Stone House is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roof dwelling built in 1797 for Zachariah Johnston. The central-hall-plan structure is built of irregularly coursed, quarried limestone with wooden detailing throughout.

The main (east) facade consists of five bays and contains a rough-hewn, four-columned portico with pediment. The portico shelters a simply framed, transom-lit doorway--the main entry to the house. The surrounding fenestration consists of 9/6 hung sash contained within simple architrave window frames capped by plain stone jack arches. Sophistication in detail is provided by a wood modillion cornice found on the east and west facades. The corners of both facades are framed by stone quoins.

The rear (west) facade is similar to the front facade, with the exception of the central bay. The bay contains an asymmetrically placed second-floor window and first-floor rear entrance, both capped by jack arches.

The north facade contains twin exterior end chimneys. A full attic window is positioned between the chimneys. A portico-covered side entry is located on the north-west corner of the facade.

The two-bay south facade contains a stone interior end chimney, original to the house. A noteworthy feature below the chimney is a stone on the attic story carved with the date "1797"; the name of the first owner, Zachariah Johnston; and the name of the builder, John Spear. An enclosed passageway, of modern construction, leads to a one-story stone kitchen, original to the house.

The interior contains a double-pile, central-hall plan still retained throughout the house. The hall includes an open-string stair with a simply molded newel and plain balusters. Projecting from the hall are the main rooms, which preserve their simply finished woodwork and original fireplaces. The mantels display their original fluting and carved punch-work ornamentation.

The kitchen has been converted into the family dining room and retains its massive hearth and exterior wood trim.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries have been drawn to include the house and a major portion of the approach to it. The property is bounded on the east by Woods Creek, on the west by a line roughly paralleling the creek and on the north and south by lines running from the west line to the creek -- all encompassing the aforementioned features.

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 type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1797

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the outskirts of Lexington in Rockbridge County, the Zachariah Johnston House is a handsome and well-preserved example of early stone architecture in the Shenandoah Valley. Built for politically successful Zachariah Johnston in 1797, the house reflects the prosperity of its first owner and talents of its builder, John Spear.

The land on which the house stands was once part of the Benjamin Borden tract of 1739 which consisted of 92,100 acres, "on the north-southeast branches of the James River between the Blue Ridge and the North Mountain". It was later acquired by Joseph Lapsley, Sr., in 1742 and sold by his heirs to Zachariah Johnston in 1795.

Born in Augusta County in 1742, Johnston was the son of William Johnston, a pioneer settler of the Valley. He was raised in the Presbyterian religion by his Scotch-Irish parents, who had left Northern Ireland seeking religious freedom. Johnston's vocation was farming, but he served as an officer in the Revolution and was a member of the Virginia convention to ratify the Federal Constitution. A presidential elector in 1789, Johnston cast his vote for General Washington.

Johnston served as a member of the House of Delegates, representing Augusta County for fourteen years and Rockbridge County for one term. His finest hour as a legislator came in 1785, when as chairman of the standing committee on religion, he spoke strongly for the bill to establish freedom of religion. The bill was passed on December 17, 1785. Johnston moved to Rockbridge County in 1790 and died there in 1800.

Architecturally, the house is notable as an example of formal house design rendered in the traditional stone construction. Although little is known of the builder, John Spear, the finely crafted walls are evidence of his skill as a master mason. The Johnston family homestead in Augusta County was built of stone in the 1730's, and it was to this material that Johnston turned when he had his new home erected in Rockbridge County. The pride of the new owner and builder may be surmised from the signed stone found on the south facade, bearing their names and the date of completion, 1797. This practice is rare in Valley stone houses. Noteworthy features of the interior are the simple wainscoting found throughout the house and the carved punch-work ornamentation executed on the mantels.

The Stone House has remained in the Johnston family and is presently owned by descendant Matthew W. Paxton, Jr.

VDS/RCC

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Lyle, Royster, Jr. and Pamela Hemenway Simpson. Architecture of Historic Lexington. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1977.
- Paxton, Matthew W. "Zachariah Johnston of Augusta and Rockbridge and His Time." Rock-bridge Historical Society, Vol. 5, Lexington, Va, 1961.
- Rockbridge County Deed Books B, C, Z.
Land Tax Books 1782-1850; 1876.
Will Books 1, 2. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres D E 1 7 6 3 5 5 7 0 4 1 8 1 7 4 0
 UTM REFERENCES

E A	1, 7	6, 3, 5	6, 4, 0	4, 1, 8, 1	9, 9, 0	A B	1, 7	6, 3, 5	7, 8, 0	4, 1, 8, 1	9, 7, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				
B C	1, 7	6, 3, 5	7, 9, 0	4, 1, 8, 1	8, 6, 0	C D	1, 7	6, 3, 5	7, 0, 0	4, 1, 8, 1	6, 7, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the Stone House nomination is bounded by a line beginning at a point approximately 300' S of State Route 687; thence extending E approximately 500' to Woods Creek; then following the natural boundary of Woods Creek S for a distance of about 1100'; thence turning NW approximately 500' and continuing N for 1000' to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

April 1978

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

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

MAY 10 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Emma Jane Saxe

DATE

5-24-79

DATE

5-24-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Review Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 26 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAY 24 1979

Zachariah Johnston House, Rockbridge County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6, 9 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1968, 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Waddell, Joseph A. Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871. Bridgewater, Va. 1958.
Wilson, Howard McKnight. The Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1954.

Stone House

Property

(Johnston, Zachariah, House)

State

Va. (Rockbridge)

Working Number

3.26.79.683

Ref # 79003080

TECHNICAL

Photos /

Maps /

CONTROL

OK 3.28.79

Built at the peak of Johnston's career, the house is a reflection of his political stature & family's landed wealth. The house has remained in the Johnston family ever since, typical of continuity of landownership in Va. #8 could have developed this further.

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT

5-18-79

Joe Tomme

Architecturally significant for stone masonry construction and design in the Federal style with characteristic fenestration, detailing and plan. Fine interior workmanship.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept. Same 5-24-79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept.
Same 5-24-79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

7-3-79

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

MAY 24 1979

Federal Register Entry



Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

MAY 24 1979

MAR 26 1979

STONE HOUSE

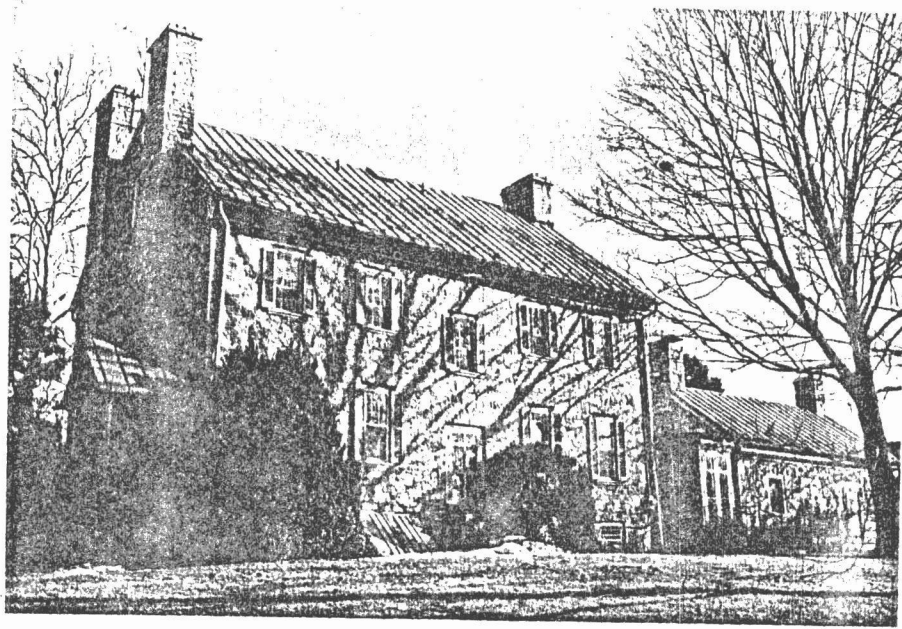
Rockbridge County, Virginia

Credit: VA Historic Landmarks Commission
1968

Negative Filed: VA State Library

Exterior view from the East 1 of 1

Stone House (Johnston, Zachariah, Housing)



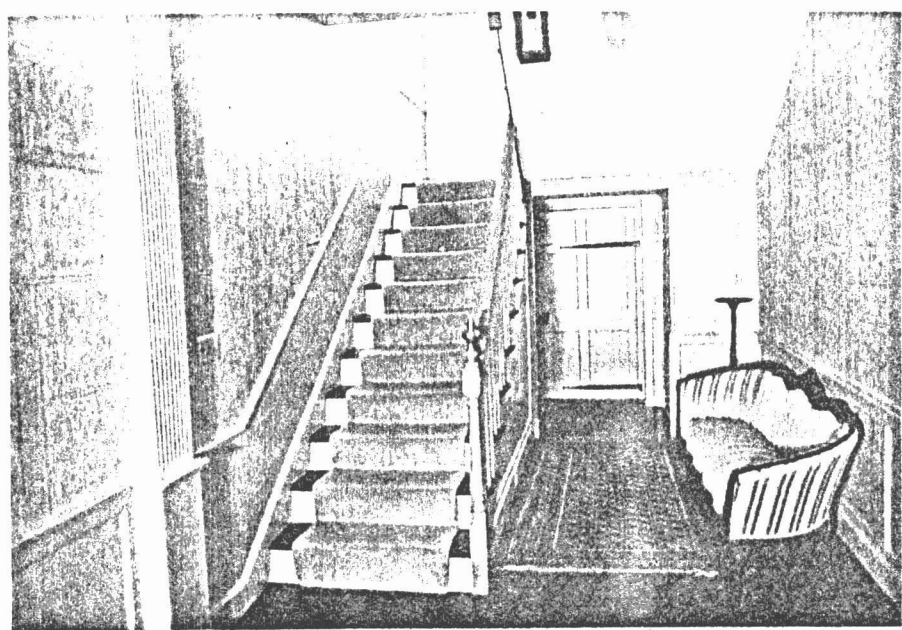
MAR 26 1979

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
REGISTER

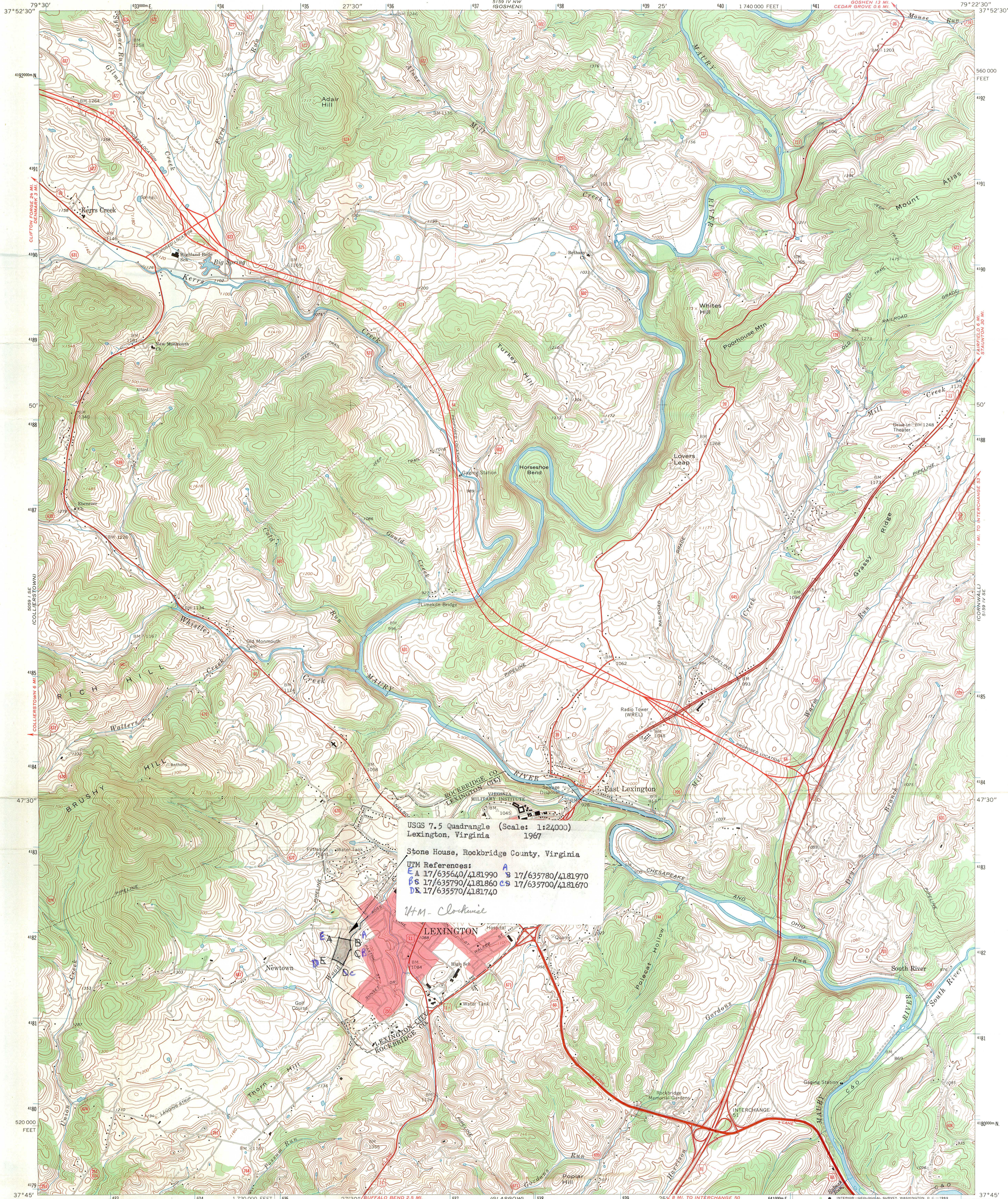
Exterior view from
the Northwest ↗

Interior View of the Hall ↘

Interior View of the Parlor (South Front) ↘



MAY 24 1979



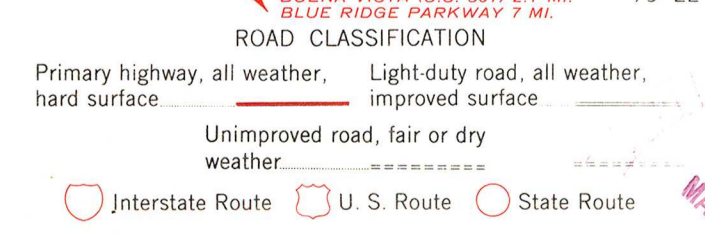
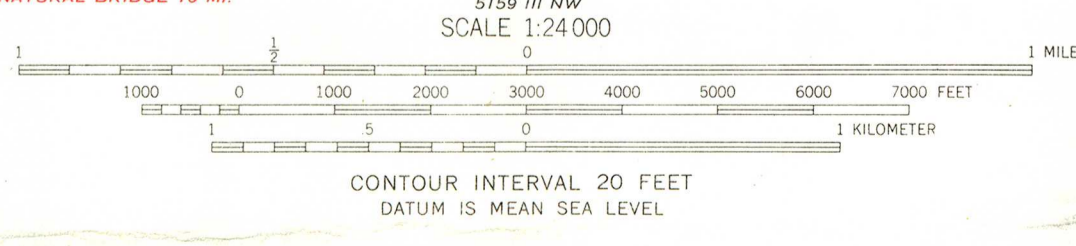
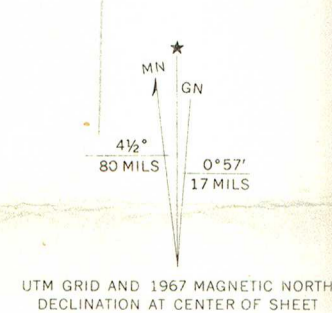
USGS 7.5 Quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
Lexington, Virginia 1967

Stone House, Rockbridge County, Virginia

UTM References:
EA 17/635640/4181990 B 17/635780/4181970
BS 17/635790/4181860 CS 17/635700/4181670
DS 17/635570/4181740

W.M. Clohessy

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



LEXINGTON, VA.
SW/4 LEXINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3745-W7922.5/7.5

1967
AMS 5159 IV SW-SERIES V834

MAY 24 1979

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1979
NATIONAL CENTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGINIA

Date Entered MAY 24, 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Lexington Presbyterian Church	Lexington (ind. city)
Miller, Hannah, House	Mossy Creek vicinity Augusta County
(Stone House (Johnston, Zachariah, House)	Lexington vicinity Rockbridge County
Glen Maury	Buena Vista vicinity Rockbridge County
Wilton, Joshua, House	Harrisonburg (ind. city)
Mount Salem Baptist Meetinghouse	Washington vicinity Rappahannock County

Also Notified

Honorable John Warner

Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
Honorable M. Caldwell Butler
Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Tucker H. Hill
Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

NR Byers/bjr 5/29/79