

(July 1959)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Nash
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Stonewall

AND/OR HISTORIC: Lewis House, Little Falls Plantation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Falls Road Extensison

CITY OR TOWN: Rocky Mount vicinity

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
North Carolina	27801	Nash	64

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>rental</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Rocky Mount Mills

STREET AND NUMBER: Falls Road

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Rocky Mount 27801	North Carolina	32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 312

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Nashville, N. C. 27856	North Carolina	32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: East Capital and Independence Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	D. C.	51

SERIAL PRODUCTIONS

STATE: N. Carolina

COUNTY: Nash

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stonewall takes its name from the heavy granite wall which borders the front lawn along Falls Road extension. This is composed of huge rough-dressed blocks of irregular ashlar. The house is set in a superb oak grove. There is a U-shaped driveway lined with oaks and similar rows on the eastern side of the lawn and along the wall.

The late Federal house is of brick laid in Flemish bond. It is said to have been built about 1830 and, in the fashion of that time, the brick is painted red with very thin white lines representing the mortar joints. The splayed lintels of the basement and first floor windows are also painted white. The two main floors are raised over a full basement which is entered from ground level. There is a high hip roof with two simple chimneys rising out of each side wall. The five-bay north front, facing the road, features a full Ionic portico. This was constructed about 1915 and replaced the original superimposed pedimented portico which had deteriorated beyond repair. The house received a new cornice at the same time. The central entrance is composed of a typical six-panel Federal door framed by fluted Ionic pilasters. Above is a semi-circular lunette. It is framed by an architrave decorated with foliated paterae alternating with incised triglyphs. The soffit is paneled and the fan has a delicate pattern of leaded lights. At the rear or river front is a two-story wooden addition. Evidence in the brickwork indicates that originally there was a portico on this facade as well. Traditionally, this was the front of the house. This seems to be correct as the doorway is larger than the one on the north front and more elaborately treated with a large rectangular leaded transom. Further support for this view is the fact that the stair ascends from this end of the central hall.

On the interior the house has a full length north-south hall with two rooms on either side. The hall is divided into two unequal sections by a transverse elliptical arch which is framed by an architrave decorated with egg and dart moulding and rests of fluted Ionic pilasters. The north hall is long, relatively narrow, and slightly off-center making the room to the east larger than the one on the west. The south hall contains the stair. It is wider than, but not as long as, the north hall. On either side rise twin elliptical stairs which meet at the second floor level above the arch dividing the halls below. This double stair features simple moulded rails, scrolled at the newels, and plain balusters rectangular in section. There are delicate fret brackets under each tread. The soffits of the stairs are finished with rectangular panels. The rest of the interior woodwork is as fine as the stair. The six-panel doors are framed by simple architraves and have paneled reveals. The overdoors consist of cornices resting on console brackets. The windows are treated in the same way having paneled reveals and window seats. Throughout the house there is pedestal dado with flat panels. It is enriched by a beaded astragal bond beneath the chair rail. The Adam mantels of the principal rooms are extremely well executed. The most elaborate has coupled Ionic colonettes of a most curious order with spiral reeded shafts. The center block features an incised curvilinear foliated design and the pilaster blocks have vases in high relief. The deep cornice shelf is decorated with a

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7. beaded astragal band. The overmantel is framed by fluted pilasters which have the same unusual Ionic capitals on the colonettes below. Beneath the usual volutes and egg and dart moulding of the capital is a necking compound of stylized lotus. There is a modillion cornice enriched by a beaded astragal. It does not break over the pilasters and is carried around the room. This same cornice is employed in the north hall and other rooms.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built on the banks of the Tar River about 1830 by Bennett Bunn, Stonewall was the center of a typical ante-bellum plantation. The Bunn family had been long established in Nash County before Bennett Bunn began the construction of his mansion. His earliest ancestor was David Bunn, who came to Edgecombe County, North Carolina, from Nansemond County, Virginia, in 1752. By the time of the Revolution, the Bunn family was a significant segment of the growing planter class in north eastern North Carolina. Born in the late eighteenth century, Bennett Bunn became one of the largest and most prosperous of the group. During his early manhood, he began to assemble his lands through purchase and inheritance. His earliest major acquisition was Quarter Plantation which he inherited from his uncle Redman Bunn in 1809. In 1814 Bennett Bunn inherited land from his father, Benjamin Bunn, on Stoney Creek and the Tar River. On this land Stonewall was later built. During the next fifteen years Bennett Bunn's agricultural enterprises continued to grow. By 1830 he was one of the wealthiest planters in Nash county. Indicative of his great wealth is the fact that he is known to have owned at least one hundred slaves. The visible symbol of his affluence was Stonewall. It was built on so large a scale and with such a sophistication of design and detail that only a few of the great plantation houses of the state could surpass its elegance. After Bennett Bunn's death in 1849, Stonewall with one hundred acres was purchased by another rich planter, Richard J. Harrison. At his death in 1860 the property was inherited by his nephew, K. H. Lewis. The abolition of slavery and Lewis's death in 1868 brought the plantation to a final turning-point. Most of the farm land was sold to pay Lewis's debts and the land around the house was reduced to thirty acres. Its role as the focal point of a vast plantation was, thus, effectively ended. Lewis's wife remained at Stonewall until her death in 1916, when the property was purchased by Rocky Mount Mills for fifteen thousand dollars. At this time the house needed many repairs and the present portico and rear extension were constructed. The house is presently owned by Rocky Mount Mills and is rented.

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8. Waterman in his book The Early Architecture of North Carolina said, "In the great, brick, Lewis house near Rocky Mount, is a double-curved stairway, with detail as fine as that of the Montmorenci stairway." The superb stair and especially the erudite treatment of the overdoors, window surrounds, and the fine mantels indicate the presence of a master craftsman whose work is not only of the finest in the state but among the best in the nation. This high standard may also be observed outside in the beautiful romantic planting and the stone wall which cannot be the result of pure chance, but are undoubtedly the remains of a sophisticated landscape design.

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- The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

CITIAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Guin G. Ante-bellum North Carolina: A Social History.
Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1937.

Nash County Records, Nash County Courthouse, Nashville, North Carolina.
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports)

Nash County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh,
North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census
Reports)

Waterman, Thomas T. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6 1/2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John G. Zehmer, Jr., Survey Specialist, and Sherry Ingram, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina State Department of Archives and History DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

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 Local

Name H. G. Jones
H. G. Jones

Title Director, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History

Date April 27, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____
Keeper of The National Register

Date April 27, 1970



