

OMB NO 1074-0018
EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only	
received	OCT 27 1983
date entered	NOV 29 1983

1. Name

historic ☒ Villa Virginia

and/or common ☐ Laurel-Mere

2. Location

street & number Ice Glen Road ^{rd.} N/A not for publication

city, town Stockbridge N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☒ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Kazys Varnelis

street & number Ice Glen Road

city, town Stockbridge N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts 01262

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Central Berkshire Registry of Deeds Land Court Certificate 1580

street & number Bank Row

city, town Pittsfield state Massachusetts 01201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historical Assets of the Commonwealth
title of Massachusetts #42 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Villa Virginia, Stockbridge, MA

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Villa Virginia is a formally conceived Renaissance Revival style structure built as a summer estate in 1914-1915. Located in the Berkshire town of Stockbridge on both the east and west sides of Ice Glen Road, south of the town center, the property consists of two parcels of land totalling 63 acres. The western segment is composed of nine acres of open farmland. The eastern segment, the more significant portion, contains the main house, carriage building, and formally landscaped gardens. In this section, the eastern portion of the grounds rises from an elevation of 875 feet to 1150 feet and includes a part of the south side of Ice Glen, a deep natural cleft in the west saddle of Laura's Mountain. The house, standing back 100 feet from the road, is aligned at the foot of the Mountain on a north/south axis and has a sweeping vista to the west of Monument Mountain in Great Barrington.

Villa Virginia is a well-conceived domestic example of the late Renaissance Revival style. It is symmetrically designed with a U-shaped plan consisting of a central block with end pavillions which is extended forward by one story wings (service area, north; enclosed loggia, south). Sheathed in stucco, it is articulated by such classical design elements as belt courses, quoins, and blind arches. With the exception of the one story wings, it rises two stories plus attic to a low pitched tile roof.

The facade (east) is approached by its original ellipitical drive. As previously noted, it consists of a central block with slightly projecting end pavillions. The 3 bay central block is organized around its arched entry with rusticated marble surround and Doric entablature. The entry is framed by small rectangular windows on either side, and a conventional sized window with a simple eared architrave is located at the southern end of the block. The second story contains three windows with boldly projecting architraves; a conventional sized center window is flanked by full length openings. Five square windows light the attic story. The end pavillions are framed by quoins and contain one window at each story. The one story wings placed on the northern and southern ends of the building give Villa Virginia its short, U-shaped configuration. These two extensions are flat roofed and marked by quoins, a belt course, and blind arches. The southern wing is further detailed by a tiled terrace on the roof and a low parapet wall.

The west elevation is similar in its overall appearance to the main facade, but is differentiated by its window placement and design as well as by the lack of single story additions extending from its two ends. Of particular note on this elevation are three french windows centrally placed on the main block of the building. All are similarly framed and have simply scrolled brackets which support alternating triangular or arched pediments. Another feature enhancing this elevation is the iron rail balconies which extend from the two end windows on the second floor.

The interior of Villa Virginia remains essentially intact from its date of construction and presents many impressive features.

The first floor is highlighted by a marble entry and stair hall with a highly ornate, gilded wrought iron staircase. The main drawing room (24' X 48') is also particularly noteworthy. It contains two fireplace mantels imported from Florence, Italy and a caucasian walnut floor held together by butterfly insets. The ceiling features 52 individual frescoed panels drawn by Italian artisans. Also of interest on this floor is the Gothic vaulted ceiling of the loggia which includes between each arch a frescoed sign of the Zodiac.

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National Park Service**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Villa Virginia

Item number 7

Page 1

The grounds surrounding Villa Virginia reflect the formal nature of this Renaissance Revival style building. To the east and south of the house are a lily pond, grotto, and small formal garden which is partially neglected and overgrown. In the northern section of the property lies a substantial carriage house which with its tower, roof with projecting eaves, and arched windows clearly reiterates the Italian Renaissance styling of the main building.

To the west of this structure lies a walled french garden. This one is larger than the one on the southeast end of the property and gracefully enhances the formal setting which surrounds Villa Virginia.

8. Significance

Villa Virginia, Stockbridge, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☒ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☒ art	☐ engineering	☒ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1914–1915 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Villa Virginia, constructed in 1914–1915, is an impressive estate built for summer use in the Berkshire Mountain town of Stockbridge. This community was well known in the late 19th and 20th centuries for its palatial summer homes, and was often nicknamed the Inland Newport. Villa Virginia with its formally landscaped grounds and finely articulated Renaissance Revival style main house and carriage building is a fine example of such development. Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship, Villa Virginia meets Criteria A. and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The property on which Villa Virginia is located was at the end of the 19th century the country estate of Mr. & Mrs. John Winthrop and consisted of 140 acres of land and a farmhouse.

After her husband's death, Isabel Winthrop married Dr. Henry Haven and during their period of ownership they named the farm Glenburnie and raised pedigreed Jersey Cattle as a commercial venture.

Subsequent owners in the early 20th century were Mr. & Mrs. William Clarke and it is with this family that the property is most strongly associated. During their ownership the Clarke's continued and expanded the operation of the cattle farm. In addition, they are attributed with naming the estate Villa Virginia and planning the construction of the present Renaissance Revival style main building and carriage house as well as with arranging the plans for the formal gardens. The family was also known for its participation in civic affairs and in particular William Clark was an officer of the Laurel Hill Association and a member of Stockbridge's Village Improvement Society.

In the 1930s shortly before the death of Mrs. Clarke and the sale of the farm, much of the land and improvements on it were sold. It was at this time that the property most likely assumed its present acreage and land configuration.

Later owners and tenants of Villa Virginia have also contributed to the historical significance of the property. One of note is Mr. & Mrs. John Hopkins who leased the property in the 1930s, brought deer to the estate, and for a short while made it a deer park. Another owner of interest is Mrs. George Rockwood an artist and composer of patriotic songs who wrote "Daughters of the Brave" and "Our Mayflower."

In addition to its historical associations, Villa Virginia is architecturally significant as a largely intact representation of a formally designed and landscaped estate which once was a prevalent building type in the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts. Of the 75 major mansions which existed in 1900, only a handful remain intact today, and Villa Virginia, with its finely articulated building design and formally planned grounds, is a fine example. Although the architect and landscape designer have not been confirmed to date, two names are often attributed to its construction. Harry Ellis, a local architect responsible for the redesign of the Stockbridge Town Hall in 1904, is generally thought to have designed Villa

Virginia

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cleveland Plain Dealer, December 22, 1935. "Summer Visitor to Stockbridge"
Pittsfield City Directory, 1904 "Town & Country" Magazine 1948
Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased, Henry Withey, New Age, Los Angeles, 1956.
"The American Institute of Architects" Library
Bibliography, Walker & Weeks, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 54.10 acres

Quadrangle name Stockbridge

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A

1	8
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6	3	9	5	3	0
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4	6	8	1	7	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing
C

1	8
---	---

6	3	9	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	8	1	0	2	0
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E

1	8
---	---

6	3	9	0	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	8	1	7	0	0
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G

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B

1	8
---	---

6	3	9	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	8	1	0	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing
D

1	8
---	---

6	2	9	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	8	1	1	8	0
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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Parcel 1 and 2 Land Court Certificate 1580. No. 5023 Plan 6326H, drawn by Lane Land Surveys, Inc., May 23, 1978, recorded June 1, 1978. Also shown as plot 66, 54.19 acres and Plot 55.03, Stockbridge Assessor's Map, American Air Surveys, 1960 Maps 21, 25, 26. The boundary lines are drawn to incorporate the two parcels of land which represent the remaining portion of the original Winthrop Estate.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Kubie, Preservation Planner with James N. Parrish & Gerard Chapman

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

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 Patricia L. Weslow 10/19/83

State Historic Preservation Officer
title Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/29/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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date entered

Continuation sheet Villa Virginia Item number 8 Page 1

in 1914. The landscape designer for the grounds is believed to be the noted New York landscape architect Ferruccio Vitalli. Villa Virginia, the last of these major summer homes to be built, has been evaluated against similar resources and has been found significant due to the quality and intact nature of its buildings and grounds as discussed in Section 7.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Villa Virginia
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. OCT 27 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 11/24/83 - 12/11/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 11/29/83

Entered in the
National Register

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Villa Virginia
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
View Southwest of the east facade of
the Villa. Circular driveway and
entrance center. Loggia with gardens
beyond, left.

James N. Parrish, BCRPC #79-25 1982

PHOTO 1 of 3



Villa Virginia

Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Oblique view of the west facade. View
toward the south. Patio and formal
garden beyond.

James N. Parrish, BCRPC #79-22 1982

Photo 2 of 3



Villa Virginia

Stockbridge, Massachusetts
View North of the "Snuggery". Carriage
House, Stables & Apartment.

James N. Parrish, BCRPC #104-32 1982

Photo 3 of 3



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

STOCKBRIDGE QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-BERKSHIRE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Villa Virginia
Stockbridge, MA

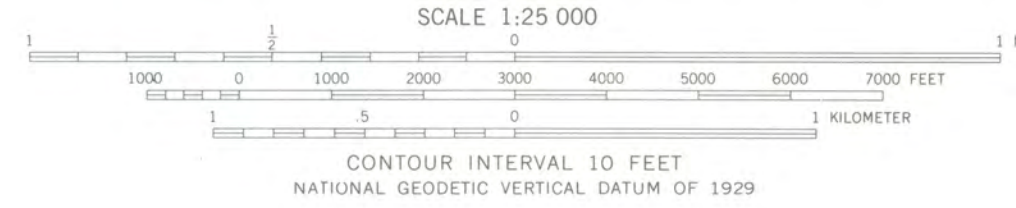
A	18 639530	4681740
B	18 639460	4681040
C	18 639010	4681020
D	18 629420	4681180
E	18 639060	4681700

CONVERSION SCALES	
Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4000
13000	3500
12000	3000
11000	2500
10000	2000
9000	1500
8000	1000
7000	2000
6000	1500
5000	1000
4000	1000
3000	900
2000	800
1000	700
500	600
200	400
100	300
0	0

Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Field checked 1944. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

STOCKBRIDGE, MASS.
N4215-W7315/7.5
1973
AMS 6368 IV SE-SERIES V814



Villa Virginia
Ice Glen Road
Stockbridge
Berkshire County, MA

Stockbridge Assessor's Map
American Air Surveys
1960
Maps 21, 25, 26

*See
map 21
for 66*

54.19 Total Acs.

63

64

65

60.02

4 Acs

58

12.6 Acs

56

8.5 Acs.

55.04

4.15 Acs.

55

55.03

7.11 Acs.

55.02

66

54.19 Acs.

85

66.03

74.00

66.04

*Stable
+ Carriage
House
The Smuggler*

*FRANK
GARDEN*

Tennis

*Small
Formal
Garden*

*Main House
Labeled Here*

*Killy Pond
+ Lagoon*



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

October 19, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th & C Streets, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Edgartown - Edgartown Village Historic District (state)
Framingham - Moses Ellis House (local)
Great Barrington - Monument Mills (local)
Peabody - John Southwick House (local)
Scituate - Captain Benjamin James House (local)
Stockbridge - Villa Virginia (local)
Westfield - United States Whip Company Complex (national)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms. Also included are the forms for Border City Mills (Fall River Multiple Resource Area) which had been returned to us for boundary justification and for Woodbridge Street Historic District, South Hadley, returned for technical corrections.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Preservation Planning Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/hi
Enclosures

